

## What in the world is speaking in tongues?

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Gift of Tongues; Gifts of the Spirit / 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Corinthians 14:1–25

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# What have people told you speaking in tongues is?

## Some “But firsts”

1. Speaking in tongues is from God.

### **1 Corinthians 12:4–6 ESV**

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

## Some “But firsts”

1. Speaking in tongues is from God.
2. Speaking in tongues is one of many spiritual gifts.

### **1 Corinthians 12:8–11 ESV**

<sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

<sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

<sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

<sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.

## Some “But firsts”

1. Speaking in tongues is from God.
2. Speaking in tongues is one of many spiritual gifts.
3. Spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians do not seem to be an unchangeable list.

### **1 Corinthians 12:27–31 ESV**

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

<sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

<sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

<sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

<sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

### **1 Corinthians 14:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

## Friendship can be a spiritual gift.

### Some “But firsts”

1. Speaking in tongues is from God.
2. Speaking in tongues is one of many spiritual gifts.
3. Spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians do not seem to be an unchangeable list.
4. Speaking in tongues is not the highest gift.

### **1 Corinthians 12:30-31 ESV**

<sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

## What is a higher gift?

### **1 Corinthians 13:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

### **1 Corinthians 13:3 ESV**

<sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

**1 Corinthians 13:7 ESV**

<sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**1 Corinthians 13:8 ESV**

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

[1 Corinthians 13:13](#) (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the GREATEST of these is love.

### **1 Corinthians 14:1-5 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

<sup>2</sup> For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

<sup>3</sup> On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

<sup>4</sup> The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

<sup>5</sup> Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

## Some “But firsts”

1. Speaking in tongues is from God.
2. Speaking in tongues is one of many spiritual gifts.
3. Spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians do not seem to be an unchangeable list.
4. Speaking in tongues is not the highest gift.

## MAIN IDEA: Speaking in tongues is a way for us to give love to others!

Speaking in tongues publicly does not give love to others unless someone provides and interpretation that encourages, uplifts and comforts or instructs the people of Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 14:3-4 BE:NT**

<sup>3</sup> But the one who prophesies speaks to other people, to build them up, to strengthen them, and to console them.

<sup>4</sup> The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself or herself; but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

**MAIN IDEA: Speaking in tongues is a way for us to give love to others!**