

# SPIRITUAL GIFT OF INTERPRETATION

## THE POTENTIAL TO ENRICH OTHERS

Last week Pastor Carlos preached about the spiritual gift of tongues.  
Paul speaks of two kinds of tongues.

The language of "angels" or prayer language is one - *glossalalia*.  
That is a language with no dictionary.

It is a language that cannot be interpreted by human wisdom.

It is more of a personal language, often referred to as a prayer language.

It is not something that is flaunted or testified to.

It does not make one person more spiritual than another.

It only edifies and enriches the individual with that *pneumatika*.

The *pneumatika* gifts are supernatural.

*Glossalalia* is also the gift of languages which speaks known languages.

These are languages that have a dictionary with defined words.

But not everyone speaks the same language as Carlos demonstrated last week.

This gift is among the *charismata* gifts, or gifts of grace.

They come from *charis* which means acceptable, benefit, grace.

So the *pneumatika* gifts enrich the individual.

The *charismata* gifts enrich others.

Paul gives us a number of reasons for the gift of interpretation.

Tongues alone, or speaking an unknown language, has no value.

Verse 6 tells us that.

No one benefits if there is not some revelation, or knowledge, or prophecy.

Verse 7 tells us there is no recognition of the message if there is no interpretation.

Verse 8 tells us that no one is moved to action if there is no interpretation.

Verse 9 tells us that without interpretation, everyone's time is wasted.

Verse 10 tells us every language has meaning.

Without interpretation, the meaning would be lost.

It becomes a perversion of language itself.

Verse 11 tells us that a lack of interpretation creates barriers between people.

We will be foreigners to each other.

We will be strangers.

Each reason seems to be growing in importance.

Verse 12 shows us another reason.

Without interpretation there is no building up of the church.

This is the reason for our existence as Spirit-filled believers.

We are here to enrich others.

God wants us to excel in building up the Kingdom of God on earth.

Without interpretation of languages, we are unfruitful in our ministry.

So Paul gives a final reason for interpretation in v. 14.

If there is no interpretation God's Kingdom becomes unfruitful.

We inhibit or limit Kingdom growth by our improper use of Spiritual gifts.

God gives His gifts so that results occur.

God's Kingdom is characterized by fruit.

That is why the gifts are given by the Spirit.

They are not for our own self-gratification.

They are given so others understand the invitation to enter the kingdom.

I have a couple of pictures to demonstrate the difference.

This first picture is a photo of Butchart Gardens in Victoria.

It was originally a barren, rocky, depleted quarry.

There was no life, in fact it was incapable of life.

But this is what that quarry looked like last weekend.

What made the difference?

That dead, barren quarry was enriched.

Fertile soil was brought in.

Chaos was ordered and mapped out.

It became an environment that could produce and sustain life.

It is now a place of beauty.

That is the impact Jesus commands His followers to have.

We are to enrich the world and each other.

We are to be an enriching presence.

The *charismata* gifts enable us to enrich others.

They take what is confusing and brings sense and order.

That is the impact of the spiritual gifts.

On the Day of Pentecost, we see that transformation happen.

On the Day of Pentecost, something thrilling is happening.

We see the New Creation of the Church emerging.

We see the merging of God's Spirit and man's spirit.

Jesus makes this possible when His Spirit is poured out on all flesh.

There are visible and audible signs of a miraculous power at work.

But the focus immediately changes from the miraculous to that of ministry.

We see very vividly the results of the days they had spent in prayer.

Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them.

When the Holy Spirit came, on the Day of Pentecost, they might have said, "Finally it has happened."

"Let's enjoy this miracle!"

"Let's just stay in this room and soak it all in."

That is not what we find happening.

Yes they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

But that is not the only reason why Luke recounted the events of that day.

Luke spent much more time telling what happened in the streets of Jerusalem.

The events in the Upper Room show us this was not of man but of God.

It wasn't a game plan the disciples strategized.

They didn't huddle then break to try it out on an unsuspecting defense.

God was the One doing something new, not the disciples.

They were simply His instruments.

The real meat of the day was not what the Holy Spirit did in the disciples' lives.

The real significance was that 3,000 were added to the Church that day. Pentecost was not the end.

Pentecost was the beginning.

This makes v. 12 jump off the page at us again.

**"So with yourselves; since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church."**

Agnes Sanford, in her book entitled *The Healing Gifts of the Spirit*, says, "The end results of Pentecost were the turning of the world upside down - the shaking of the Roman Empire itself - the founding of a worldwide church. The power of emotion was turned into action." (page 162)

But it would never have happened apart from the gift of interpretation.

It is the gift of interpretation that legitimizes all the Spiritual gifts.

It is the acid test that God is really working through our activities.

It verifies that the message we share has been given through God's love.

If it is not going to build the church, it will only destroy the church.

All the apostles realized that.

That is why John said, in 1 John 4:1-6, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist, of which you heard that it was coming, and now it is in the world already. Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world, therefore what they say is of the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

Paul had a great concern for the Corinthian Church.

His concern was that the world would be confused by what they were doing.

If they caused confusion in the world, then the world would be able to bring confusion into the church.

In this 14th chapter he is not dealing with the *charismata* or, the gracious gifts from God.

In chapter 14 Paul is addressing the *pneumatika* which includes both true and false manifestations.

Whatever was happening in Corinth, Paul was not happy about it.

This 14th chapter is not to encourage them in what they were doing.

Paul's intent was to correct their erroneous ways.

They were not demonstrating the spirit of truth.

They were displaying the spirit of error through the improper use of the *pneumatika*.

They were manifesting the wrong spirit.

He recognized in their worship the genuine working of God.

But he also saw, with great clarity, the human imitations.

Some were truly bringing glory to God by building up the church.

Others were giving emotional utterances they did not understand themselves.

The Spirit offers gifts to bring unbelievers to faith.

I do not need you to speak in tongues for me to know you are a believer.

But for someone who has never heard of God's love,

For someone who has never heard that the gospel is for them,

For an unbeliever, to hear that message of love in understandable ways, is the proper manifestation of the Holy Spirit's work.

God has given the gift of interpretation so that others can learn to trust in Jesus.

God wants to use every believer as His interpreter.

We may be called upon to interpret history, dreams, actions, values, perhaps even languages.

That is what God did through Peter on the Day of Pentecost.

He interpreted with boldness the events of history.

He revealed the significance of Jesus and His death and resurrection

Pray that the Spirit will enable you to interpret the evidence of God's immeasurable love for our world.

**Closing Song - Love Knows No End**