

Speaking in Tongues



A ctivity

Commander / Leader: If one member knows another language, ask him to repeat a common phrase and ask the boys to attempt to interpret. What was the result, confusion or understanding?

B iblical Insight

Speaking in tongues accompanies the baptism in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. The Day of Pentecost is often compared with the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19). In the Exodus experience, there was thunder and lightning; in Acts there was the sound of a mighty, rushing wind. In Exodus, God descended upon the mountain in fire; in Acts, the Holy Spirit came with tongues of fire. The Exodus experience introduced the old covenant; the Acts experience happened to those who received the new covenant through the blood of Jesus.

Pentecost can also represent the opposite of the tower of Babel. At Babel (Genesis 11:1–8), God said the people were of one accord and were able to do anything they planned (whether good or bad). So He confused their tongues and they scattered. The baptism in the Holy Spirit brought people together, and resulted in understanding of the gospel message. Therefore, the natural conclusion is that the baptism in the Holy Spirit will bring unity among people so that we can do anything He requires of us (Acts 2:1).

C omposition

The Holy Spirit was outpoured on the Day of Pentecost. In the Old Testament, this day was also called the day of firstfruits, which designated a commencement and consecration of the harvest. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit formally began His work of helping gather the spiritual harvest of Christ's finished work. Read the following Bible passages and complete the chart.

	WHAT HAPPENED?	WHAT APPLICATION IS THERE FOR TODAY?
Acts 2:4	_____	_____
Acts 2:38,39	_____	_____
Acts 9:17	_____	_____
Acts 10:44–46	_____	_____
Acts 15:8,9	_____	_____

E valuation

How are the spiritual gifts used in your life?

Are you using them to His glory or to yours?

D iscussion

How should the spiritual gifts be used today?

If the church is not being unified by the use of the gifts, is there a problem? What is the solution?

Lesson 127

A: Answers will vary.

C:

	What happened?	What application is there for today?
Acts 2:4	Believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.	Believers today may also speak with other tongues.
Acts 2:38,39	Peter said generations of believers can receive the Holy Spirit	Generations of believers can receive.
Acts 9:17	Ananias told Paul he would be filled with the Holy Spirit	Paul spoke in tongues more than others.
Acts 10:44–46	Cornelius’ family spoke in tongues when filled by the Holy Spirit.	Speaking in tongues kept occurring.
Acts 15:8,9	God gave them the Holy Spirit without distinction	Even non-Jews received the Holy Spirit.

D: To edify the church.

Yes. Answers will vary.

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