

Captive's Corner



"Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"

2 Corinthians 10:5

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TONGUES AND GROANINGS

Here is a portion of a letter which I wrote to another student attempting to answer some questions regarding the "speaking in tongues." I believe that you may find the thoughts and Scriptures presented herein of help in your search for the truth.

In today's world I personally believe tongues are not often if ever an expression of God's Spirit. They can be from God (in which case His Word will give clear direction as to the use).

"God will not withhold anything good from those who walk uprightly. See Psalm 84:11 and 2Peter1:2-4"

They can also be from ourselves as an imitation (remember that this is the primary means by which we all learn to speak). With ourselves also as the source they can simply be an emotional release (akin to a good cry and only meaningless chatter that doesn't communicate meaning to anyone). Finally, tongues may be the result of Satan (in which case the tongue will detract from the Holy Spirit's real ministry of making Jesus Christ known and honored in our world)

You can read and study through the book of Acts and 1 Corinthians 12-14 in order

"Rest assured that God will equip you as He sees fit, and that in Christ you are already complete. See Colossians 2 : 9 - 10 "

to understand the purpose and proper use of this gift according to God. To avoid much confusion, you will notice that the gospel of John and the epistles of John never

mention tongues. This is significant since the purpose of both those books are clearly addressed from within the context of the books. See John 20:30-31 and 1 John 1:4;5:13. If tongues were so important to our salvation or assurance of salvation, then John would have certainly noted that fact. Furthermore, you can be certain that God will not withhold anything good from those who walk uprightly. See Psalm 84:11 and 2 Peter 1:2-4. Nowhere in the Bible are we told to seek after the gift of tongues. So, rest assured that God will equip you as He sees fit, and that in Christ you are already complete. See Colossians 2:9-10. Those who are born again of God's Spirit and Word will find in God's Word the truth regarding the use of tongues. We should be careful to walk in the light He

has given and not seek to make "light" where there is none.

Romans 8:26-27 may seem to imply to some that the passage may be a reference to tongues. It is not. One can prove it is not by realizing that the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with GROANINGS WHICH CANNOT BE UTTERED. How clear can it be. He cannot put them into words, nor can we. If He could, then He could just as easily speak English as any other language.

Sincerely in Christ,

Set Free Instructor,
Set Free Ministries of Missouri and Illinois