

## House of Praise International Church

### WORD OF WISDOM BROCHURES

Words of Wisdom Brochures are a publication of the House of Praise International, written for the express purpose of equipping the saints for the work of ministry for our Lord, as well as the edifying of the body of Christ. We shall NO LONGER be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every doctrine, by the trickery of men, but SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, we will grow up in ALL things into Him who is the head of this body, Christ Jesus our Lord.



House of Praise International Church  
Where Christ Jesus is still Lord

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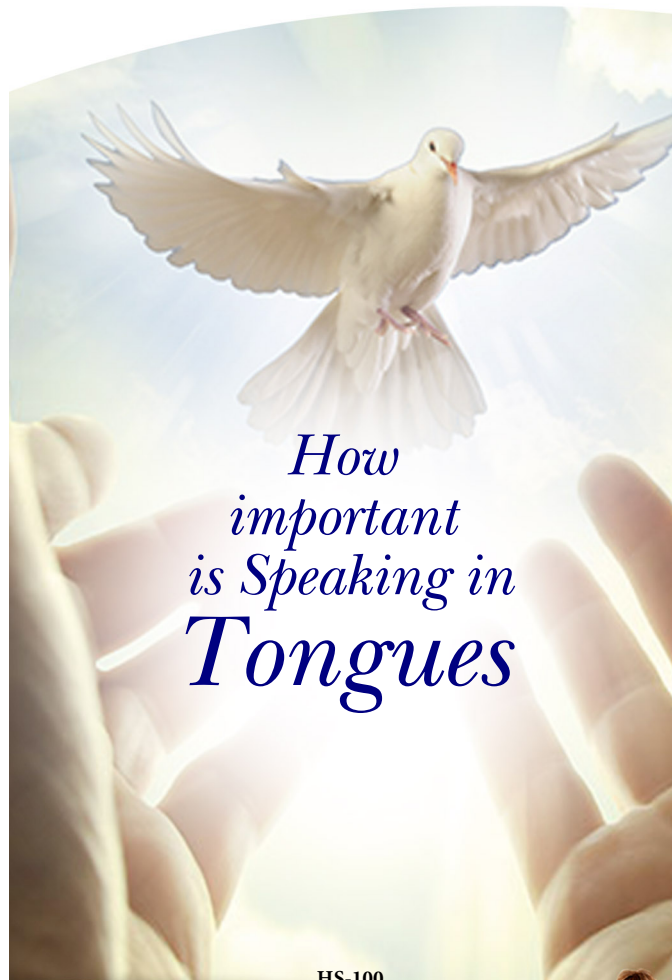
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## House of Praise International Church

Ministering the truth of God's Word in  
the power of the Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit Series



How  
important  
is Speaking in  
Tongues

HS-100

Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell Snr.



Corinthians NOT to speak with tongues at all. This couldn't have been his intention however, for he went on to say, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice that I might teach others also ..." I Cor. 14:18-19. Certainly it would be better for him to stand before the congregation and speak ten words in his own language so they can hear him and understand him, that it would be to stand there and speak ten thousand words in tongues that were uninterpreted. **But in order to correct one error Paul did not suggest we make another by abandoning speaking in tongues altogether.**

I have found in my own life over a period of more than 60 years that the more I speak in tongues—the more I pray and worship God in tongues—the more manifestation of the other gifts of the Spirit I have in my life too. And the less I speak in tongues, the less manifestation of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit I have operating in my life.

The holy Spirit knows what is coming in the future, and I am thoroughly convinced that if we will be sensitive and responsive to Him, He will show us things to come (John 16:13). He will equip each of us for what lies ahead in life, if we will yield to Him. Praying and speaking with tongues is one way to do that: it is one way to be built up spiritually in order to prepare and be ready for whatever may come in the future.

God has given each of us a supernatural means of edifying ourselves, or building ourselves up, spiritually. God has given to us a supernatural means of communicating with and worshipping Him. **Are you as a Spirit-filled believer taking full advantage of the gift of tongues?**



Jesus Christ  
Is Lord!

## HOLY SPIRIT SERIES..... HOW IMPORTANT IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES

(adapted from Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin's Study Course *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*)

There is more to being filled with the Holy Ghost than speaking in tongues, but tongues are an important and integral part of receiving the Holy Ghost, since they are the initial evidence of the infilling of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:4). Also speaking in tongues is an integral part of the believer's devotional prayer life, for as the Apostle Paul said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues ..." (I Cor. 14:18). I, too, can say with Paul, "I thank my God I speak with tongues."

In the Church world today, many people say, "Tongues have been done away with, because the Bible says that tongues will cease." The Bible does say that one day, tongues will cease (I Cor. 13:8-12), but that is not referring to this present Church Age. In Heaven, there will be no necessity for tongues because that which is perfect will have come (I Cor. 13:10).

There are those who purport to believe in speaking in tongues but do not feel that tongues are necessary for **all** believers. Its important to understand that there is a difference between the gift of tongues that accompanies the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which every believer can receive, and

the gift of tongues that is a **ministry gift** (I Cor. 12:10).

In this teaching, we are talking about the gift of tongues given *for every believer*. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all those who believe (Acts 2:38-39); therefore, speaking in tongues as an evidence of the Spirit's infilling is also for all those who believe.

Many have been robbed of the blessings God intended them to have by believing that speaking in tongues isn't for everyone. But the Word shows us that every believer needs to be filled with the Holy Ghost. And the Word says that when we get filled with the Holy Ghost, we will speak with tongues (Acts 2:4).

However, speaking with tongues does not occur as just one initial experience of being filled with the Holy Ghost, and then it ceases. Speaking with tongue is a continual experience for the rest of one's life.

Notice that in writing to the Church at Corinth, Paul very definitely encouraged the Corinthian Christians to follow the practice of speaking with tongues in their own private prayer lives. And he gave a number of reasons for it.

### -Devotional Use— Speaking Divine Secrets—

There is the devotional use of tongues. First Corinthians 14:2 says, "For he who speaks in a "tongue" addresses God, not man; no one understands him; he is talking of divine secrets in the Spirit" (*Moffatt*). Here, Paul is talking about the individual Spirit-filled believer employing the use of tongues in his prayer life. Through speaking in tongues, you can pray out the plan of God for your life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### -Spiritual Edification -

Tongues are also used as a means of spiritual edification. The Bible says, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifies himself ..." (I Cor. 14:4). The word edifies means *to build up*. Further down in the chapter, the Amplified Bible reads, "My spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive ..." (I Cor. 14:14). So praying in tongues is not for **mental** edification, but for **spiritual** edification.

### -Worshipping God -

For the believer who is filled with the Holy Ghost, his tongues are given to him to use constantly in his worship and devotion to God. The Bible says in Acts 10:46 concerning Cornelius and his household when they began to speak with tongues, "*For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God ...*" Speaking with tongues is a supernatural way to *magnify God*.

### -Doorway to the Supernatural—

Speaking with tongues is the doorway into all the other spiritual gifts. Some people want to experience all the gifts of the Spirit at once, but you have to go through the door to get into the supernatural. Also, it is as the Spirit of God wills, not as **we** will (I Cor. 12:11). In other words, you can't force or "put on" a manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.

The Bible teaches us to desire spiritual gifts (I Cor. 14:1). The Bible also teaches us to earnestly covet the best gifts (I Cor. 12:31). But remember that those words were written to people who **already** spoke in tongues. They weren't written to people who did **not** speak with tongues. The Corinthians had a super-abundance of speaking with tongues. In fact, it seemed that when they came to

church ALL of them wanted to speak with tongues at once. That isn't edifying, so Paul told them that in PUBLIC SPEAKING only two or three should speak, and the other should interpret. If an interpreter wasn't present, they should keep silent in the church.

Paul didn't say they had a WRONG thing. They had the RIGHT thing, but they were just so thrilled and exuberant that they all wanted to talk at once. IF WE ARE **ALL** praising God, IT IS ALL RIGHT for all of us to praise God in tongues at once. BUT, it would certainly be wrong if everyone started talking in tongues WHILE SOMEONE WAS PREACHING. Also it would not be right for someone to spend an hour teaching in tongues without any interpretation. The speaker would be edified but the listener wouldn't get anything out of it. It is better to speak just a few words with our own understanding so we can teach others than to speak ten thousand words in tongues unless there is an interpretation.

Some folks however, have made a mountain out of a molehill. They say that Paul was trying to tell the

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