

My responses are in blue with scripture passages in green. All other texts are part of the original article.

Dr. Rich Turner

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

by Rev. Len Showalter

April 17, 2003

Note: This teaching is on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues. One receives the H.S. at salvation along with Jesus and the Father God. Baptism of the H.S. with the evidence of speaking in tongues occurs subsequently when one is spiritually hungry, asks for it, and receives it. (If one desires more information concerning this outpouring consult someone who has it, not someone that does not. [A point of clarification from my perspective, I believe we should consult the Scriptures on these matters, for the Scriptures are the sole, ultimate, and final authority on all matters of faith and godliness. Because a person has spoken in tongues does not make them the theological authority, that distinction belongs to the Word of God. \[If you ask a man for water and he has none, he will likely tell you that you do not need any water.\]](#))

I believe Rev. Showalter's understanding is incorrect for a number of reasons. I will provide a few below:

- 1) We are never told in the Bible, that being spiritually hungry is in any way connected with the gift of speaking in tongues. This understanding implies that if you have not spoken in tongues, you are a substandard Christian who is really not spiritually hungry.

Yet we all know amazingly spiritual men and women who have not spoken in tongues. Equally, we can all name high profile believers who spoke in tongues and fell into gross sins but were speaking in tongues while they were involved in ongoing, continuous, unrepentant, sins.

This is the author's opinion which is not supported by the Bible or honest observation.

- 2) In the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles, we are never told to seek to speak in tongues, in fact we are told to pursue that we might prophesy.

[“1 ¶ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, **especially that you may prophesy**. 2 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. 3 On the other hand, the **one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation**.”](#) (1Co 14:1-3 ESV)

[“So, my brothers, **earnestly desire to prophesy**, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.”](#) (1Co 14:39 ESV)

Yet Rev. Showalter does not even mention the gift that we are told we should earnestly desire and seek after.

- 3) We have examples in the book of Acts of people who did not pray to speak in tongues and likely knew nothing about it speaking in tongues, yet they spoke in tongues as part of their salvation experience:

“44 ¶ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"” (Ac 10:44-47 ESV)

These Gentiles did not ask to speak in tongues, nor is it likely they even knew anything about speaking in tongues. There is no indication they asked because they became spiritually hungry. There is no indication they even knew about speaking in tongues.

“1 ¶ And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." 4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. 7 There were about twelve men in all.” (Ac 19:1-7 ESV)

Again, they had not even heard about the Holy Spirit. We have no indication that they asked to speak in tongues, we have no indication that they had knowledge of such an experience, in fact we are clearly told, they had not even *“heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”* So, it is evident they did not pray to speak in tongues for they had no knowledge of the Holy Spirit, much less His works.

- 4) Speaking in tongues is listed as a spiritual gift (I Cor 12), everyone does not have all the Spiritual gifts, nor are they meant to, the text in I Corinthians makes this point crystal clear:

“7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 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. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” (1Co 12:7-11 ESV)

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*..” *1Corinthians 14:1a*

For full impact, Rev. Showalter should have finished this quote: “1 ¶ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 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. 3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.” (1Co 14:1-3 ESV)

The O.T. Prophecy:

Joel prophesied the outpouring of the H.S. on all flesh. This was an amazing statement! Up to this point the H.S. would come only upon one or two individuals (or a few) at a time for a

specific purpose: the H.S. left King Saul and went to David; Samuel; Solomon; Joshua; Nehemiah; the Judges; etc.

Joel 2:²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹And also on My menservants and on My maidservants.”

The N.T. Prophecy:

Jesus tells his disciples the H.S. is coming.

Luke 24:⁴⁹ “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

He tells them that the world cannot receive the H.S. because they do not know Him. But the disciples know the H.S., as He is with them and soon will be in them. They are saved and have the H.S., but are not baptized in the H.S.! This will happen later (at Pentecost).

John 14:¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Of course, I agree with what I believe is the author’s main point here, this is the birth of the church. What is interesting is that at the birth of the church only the 12 or possibly the 120 spoke in tongues. But it is not even hinted that any of the 3,000 souls that were saved spoke in tongues.

Jesus’ vs. John’s Baptism:

There is a baptism in the Holy Spirit much like the baptism in water. But there is a difference: one is for the repentance of sins and the other is for power.

Matthew 3:¹¹ “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

John 1:³³ “I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 1:⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; ⁵“for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

This is the fulfillment of the promise of the Father, this is the birth of the church. I believe we are creating a false distinction when we say there are two baptisms of the Spirit. The New Testament does not tell us that.

In fact, the New Testament builds the picture that the person who does not have the Holy Spirit, does not belong to Jesus. The teaching of the apostles connect Spirit Baptism, with the new birth and salvation:

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.” (Ro 8:9 ESV)

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1:13-14, ESV).

The Purpose:

Boldness to be His witness! We need His power to be the Christians He wants and needs us to be. Power to not just to speak, but also to live it out - to know Him and hear Him better. The H.S. is also called the “Spirit of Jesus” in Philippians 1:19.

Acts 1:⁸ “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

This is again a distinction that says we can have the Spirit of God living in us and lack the power of the Spirit. **The teaching of the apostles does not ever identify a believer that does not have the indwelling Spirit.**

Again, here is what the apostles tell us:

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.” (Ro 8:9 ESV)

The teaching of the Apostle Paul says it is binary. If you have the Spirit you belong to Christ, if you do not have the Spirit, you do not belong to Christ, and he knows nothing of two levels of Spirit reception.

“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” (1Co 12:13 ESV) Again, Paul knows nothing of two levels of Spirit reception.

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1:13-14, ESV).

When a person believes they are given all of the Holy Spirit, not in part, portions, or degrees. Now a person who has been baptized by the Spirit, who is saved, who is born again, can quench the Spirit (1 Thes 5:19) and we can grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30). As you consider this you must first have the Spirit to quench or grieve the Spirit.

You do not find Jesus or the Apostles telling believers that they have the Spirit, yet need to seek the baptism of or in the Spirit. In fact, the only time we see something like this happen is with the Samaritans who come to faith under Philip’s preaching (Acts 8) and we endeavored to explain why that likely happened that way.

In His physical body, He could only be at one place at one time. But His Spirit could be where ever we are with us at all times. (Also see above John 14:15-17.)

John 14:¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”¹⁹ “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.”²⁰ “At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

Agree...

The Original Outpouring:

Pentecost, 50 days after Resurrection Sunday.

Acts 2:¹"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Who got It?:

All who were present: The twelve disciples; Mary, mother of Jesus; Jesus' brothers; Mary Magdalene (?); 120 men + ladies.

We have no indication that the 3,000 "got it." In fact, here is what Luke records of the 3,000: **"37 ¶ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. 42 ¶ And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."** (Ac 2:37-42 ESV)

No mention, at all of any of the 3,000 speaking in tongues. In fact, of the many groups who receive the gospel in the book of Acts at the point of conversion, only four are recorded as speaking in tongues as part of that experience. The (12 or 120 Jews) at Pentecost (Acts 2), probably the Samaritans (Acts 8), the Gentiles (Acts 10), and disciples of John the Baptist who had never placed faith in Jesus (Acts 19). This is the only time in the book of Acts that speaking in tongues is even recorded and, in each case, it was when a new group of people came to faith for the first time. In all four examples an apostle was present. In fact, we do not see speaking in tongues, in the book of Acts, except the first time when a new people group is preached the gospel, and an **apostle was always present**. The book of Acts is a book of transitions and I would encourage building any doctrine around speaking in tongues from the teaching of the apostles, rather than the varied examples we find in Acts.

Acts 1:¹³"And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

Later, Paul, too.

Acts 9:¹⁷And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

I Corinthians 14:¹⁸I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

We talked about this in class. Paul clearly spoke in tongues on multiple occasions. But it is important to note when he was saved (as recorded in Acts 9) there is no indication that he spoke in tongues as part of his salvation experience.

Who did not get It?

Simply, those who were not there. There are many references to many disciples. Where were they? Did Jesus just tell 120, or is it that many did not desire “more?”

Luke 19:³⁷Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen...”

This is incorrect. In fact, looking at the tens of thousands that came to faith in Jesus Christ in the book of Acts only a small minority spoke in tongues as part of that salvation experience and it was only when the gospel went to that people group for the first time.

Signs of receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Speaking in tongues is a sign that one has received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Rev. Showalter has created a distinction that is not supported in the Bible. He has a person who receives the Spirit at conversion, but it not baptized by the Spirit. There are more examples in the book of Acts of people coming to faith and not speaking in tongues than there are people who spoke in tongues. Lots more!

N.T. Perspective:

Men that had been baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues for approximately 30 years authored the New Testament. Their expected experience from the day of Pentecost forward was that if you received Salvation, you also received the Holy Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues.

Luke 16:¹⁵And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸“they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So did all believers cast out demons for the first 30 years of the church, **did all take up serpents** and handle them for the first 30 years, **did all believers drink deadly things and live** for the first 30 years. The argument defeats itself and I do not know of anyone who believes that for the first 30 years all believers cast out demons. You do not find this in the Bible.

Can the author drink deadly poisons and live? It would be easy for him to prove this point true. Yet we all know all believers cannot drink deadly poisons. We know that. I suspect the author know this as well.

The Evidence:

With Laying on of Hands:

Acts 8:¹⁴Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
Acts 19:¹And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples ²he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” ³And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Without Laying on of Hands:

Acts 10:44-46 (above)

Uniquely:

Acts 2:4 (above)

Multiple Fillings:

We can be refilled and refilled and refilled, etc.

Acts 4:²⁹“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰“by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” ³¹And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

Acts 13:⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

I have spoken multiple times about the need to be, being, constantly filled by the Holy Spirit. But no where does Paul tell us that it will be evidenced by speaking in tongues. He does provide other evidences though.

“18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 ¶ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Eph 5:18-21 ESV)**

Paul’s Exhortation:

I Corinthians 14 gives the best instructions on the H.S./speaking in tongues. One must remember that this book was written to the church at Corinth to correct their behavior in the church setting. One speaks directly to God!

²For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

One builds himself up (spiritually, mentally, & physically) as he prays in tongues.

⁴He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

The author misses what Paul is saying, as much as he wishes that they would speak in tongues, **he wishes even more that they prophesied.**

⁵I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

In the congregational setting, we need to have an interpretation. **Agree.**

⁹So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken?

Our minds do not know what we are saying when we speak in tongues. It is an unknown language (even to ourself).

¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

How should we conduct ourselves?

¹⁵What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

Do not forbid speaking in tongues in the congregation, but it is better in private. **Again, the greater gift is to prophesy.**

³⁹Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

The service must be in order and received by the unchurched.

²³Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

⁴⁰Let all things be done decently and in order.

Other Evidences:

*Ephesians 1:¹³ In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, ¹⁴ which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory. **No mention of speaking in tongues.***

*1 Thessalonians 4:⁷ For God did not call us to impurity but to holiness ⁸ Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not a human being but God, who (also) gives his holy Spirit to you. **No mention of speaking in tongues.***

*2 Timothy 1:¹⁴ Guard this rich trust with the help of the holy Spirit that dwells within us. **No mention of speaking in tongues.***

*Titus 3:⁴ But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, ⁵ not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, ⁷ so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. **No mention of speaking in tongues.***

*Jude 1:²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **The author is making an assumption that praying in the Spirit is always praying in tongues, I believe that is an incorrect conclusion.***

Contra?:

It has passed away. **Wrong.** It has not. Knowledge has not passed away neither has prophecies. And the perfect (Jesus) has not come yet.

1 Corinthians 13:⁸ Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it

will vanish away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

I do not believe it has passed away. But I do not believe it has not passed away based on my experiences (one way of the other), rather I believe that it has not passed away because the Bible does not clearly tell us that it has passed away.

H.S has not given me that gift. **Wrong.** Gifts are just that – gifts. They are not earned or deserved, but they must be received. It is His will that we have **all** the gifts that He made available to us.

*I Corinthians 12:⁴There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷**But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:** ⁸for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another **different kinds of tongues**, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

I addressed this earlier, but it is worth repeating. **I do not believe that all Spiritual gifts are given to all believers, neither does Paul: please read the verses quoted carefully:**

*“**4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** 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. **11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. **12** ¶ For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”*
(1Co 12:4-12 ESV)

So the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every single believer in Jesus. Then Paul explains the ways the Spirit can be manifest in believers.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom.

To another (this is clearly not the same as the one) **to another** the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit.

To another, once again this is clearly not the same, is given faith by the same Spirit.

To another (once again clearly not the same that received the above gift) **to another** the gift healing by the one Spirit. At this point I would ask the author about **his healing ministry**. For he is stating that all have all gifts and that is simply not true.

To yet another, the working of miracles.

To yet another the gift of prophecy.

To yet another the ability to distinguish between spirits.

To yet another various kinds of tongues,

To yet another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who **apportions (divides, distributes, hands out)** to each one individually as he wills. It is the Spirit how distributes the gifts as He sees fit and everyone does not have every gift.

How do we receive this gift?:

Are you spiritually hungry? Pray ask He who Baptizes, Jesus, to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Receive it and begin to speak with a new language!

I Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;

The Bible no where tells us this. The author is assuming or guessing that is what must be done, for he is not told that from the Scriptures.

Could it be that the Spirit of God distributes the gifts as He sees fit, thus we are all uniquely spiritually different and uniquely qualified to serve God with our unique blend of giftedness.

In closing, let's look back at Paul concluding comments in I Corinthians 12:

“**27 ¶** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **28** 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. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.” (1Co 12:27-31 ESV)

Notice the rhetorical questions, that come with the obvious answer of no:

Are all apostles? - NO

Are all prophets? - NO

Are all teachers? - NO

Do all work miracles? - NO

Do all possess gifts of healing? - NO

Do all speak with tongues? - NO

Do all interpret? - NO

God uniquely gifts each of us and that is the witness of the New Testament. Tongues was a sign that accompanied each people group the first time someone from that people group believed and it is a gift of the Spirit.

I Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;

This of course is true, but it has **nothing to do with speaking in tongues**, nor would I say that **speaking in different languages is a foolish thing**. It is actually an **amazing miracle**!

Please let me know if anything I have stated needs additional clarification.

God bless you brother,
Rich