



## **Gifts of the Spirit**

### **#3 Tongues**

**Sunday February 18, 2018**

**Courage Church, Detroit, MI**

**Scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 2 Corinthians 5:13-20, Acts 10:44-47, Acts 2, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Isaiah 28:11-12, Isaiah 30:15, 1 Corinthians 14:33, 1 Corinthians 14:14-15, Jude 20-21, Ephesians 6:17-19, Romans 8:26, John 17, Acts 2:47, John 14:18

Chris Hooten stopped by the church a couple of weeks ago, and we were talking about the Holy Spirit... its always great bouncing the things we are studying off of other people...

and we were talking about the purpose of the gifts.

And he was telling me about a time when he was in college, in California, he had the opportunity to go out to lunch with Dallas Willard... Dallas Willard was an author of many books including "The Divine Conspiracy" which was a resource we used for the sermon on the mount series we did... he is the one known for saying "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning"

and as they were having lunch, Chris began to ask Dallas about his view on the gifts of the Spirit... and Chris asked him "why do we have them?"

For so long, a lot of good hearted, good intentioned people thought that "tongues" was them being given another language, for the place that they were going to be missionaries too... so they went overseas relying on the

Holy Spirit to speak through them and break the language barriers without any preparation to actually learn those languages...

obviously, those efforts fell incredibly short.

During the Azusa Street revivals in California, it was said that tongues were a sign of "racial reconciliation" - something we touched briefly on last week... because God, of course, being no respecter of persons, fell on EVERYONE in Acts 2.

It didn't matter if you were a disciple, or a Jew, or a Greek... there were people there from Egypt and Asia, from Judea, Cyrene, Rome... the list goes on and on... and the Holy Spirit fell on ALL OF THEM. And they all began speaking in languages THEY DID NOT KNOW, praising God in other languages that OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE SPOKE. and they heard them speaking PERFECTLY.

Which is amazing... so many people think: that's why we have tongues... racial reconciliation.

Others believe that the MAIN reason for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is because Christ's return is IMMINENT. its coming any day, and this is the sign of that...

so there are just a wide variety of views... opinions... beliefs as to WHY this is something that even exists...

So Chris explained all that to Dallas, and then waited for Dallas's answer... and this is what Dallas said:

I suppose that the gifts were given to us, so we can use them.

The most simple, practical, obvious, "why didn't I think of that" - answer possible.

but Remember church, *charisma* - a grace gift... This is something that Jesus gives us, to empower our lives in a greater way than we could ever imagine. And the gifts DO reconcile races to one another, and the gifts do

give us the strength to share the gospel... and in miraculous moments God has used them to speak to someone in their own language by someone who doesn't speak that language...

but they don't do any of those things, EVER, if we don't put it into practice. If we don't use the gifts.

And I hope that after last weeks message, you guys all would DESIRE to be filled with the Holy Spirit... that you would earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy as we will talk about in a couple of weeks... and I hope that after last week, you don't want to avoid things like tongues... because these things are for our good... and in fact, Paul ends 1 Corinthians 14 by saying "DO NOT FORBID THE SPEAKING IN TONGUES"

But it is important that we get it right... because peoples eternities are at stake. And though a prayer language can be one the most edifying things in your entire life, enriching your walk with God tremendously... IF IT EVER is at the expense of an unbeliever, causing them to NOT come to Christ because of it, then it is out of order, and out of line... so its important that when we do it, it is done right.

and I hope you brought your Bibles today... there isn't going to be ONE main verse today, we will read several throughout... But lets start by opening to 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 -

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 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. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, *unless* someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

*Lets Pray.*

## **Example: Vill - language. Speaking in Creole.**

How awkward was it when he did that?

was anyone creeped out by it?

Was it weird?

NO! Of course not. It was not weird for you to hear Vill speak in another language because you guys all know that Vill is from Haiti. You know where he is from. It would be expected that, at least sometimes, he would speak that language.

Our church has this theme passage, 2 Corinthians 5... and in it Paul says that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation... reconciling people back to God by NOT regarding them in the flesh... by NOT counting their trespasses against them. And he uses a very interesting phrase... he says "we are ambassadors for Christ."

One thing that is very important when understanding tongues, is this... we are ambassadors in a foreign world... when you gave your life to Jesus... you became a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven... a whole new Kingdom where time is not measured on a clock... the currency of the Kingdom is generosity which is opposite of the Kingdom we live in... AND it is a Kingdom that HAS ITS OWN LANGUAGE. Now... that is NOT saying that if you don't speak in tongues you don't aren't a part of the Kingdom... please don't hear that... but the fact is, Heaven has a language. And there is a purpose for that language...

but there is also a purpose for you, here on earth.

and you are an ambassador *here*, ON A MISSION. You are HERE to bring people back to God... and that is going to look like meeting others where they are... that being said,

In that same passage in 2 Corinthians 5, Paul says "if we are beside ourselves" which literally means "to be insane" -

if it seems like we are weird - kooky... strange... not all there...

“if we are besides ourselves, it is for God... but if we are in our right minds, it is FOR YOU... For people... for the ones we are trying to reach.”

and I am doing this at the very beginning, because we will get into some hard stuff with this... and will even talk some about order... but what we are so inclined to do, in 2018 city living... AND I AM INCLUDED IN THIS... is if we even overhear someone speaking in a tongue, AT ALL, even for a moment, we rule it out as actually being PROBLEMATIC if there isn't an interpreter right there in that moment. We get super weirded out. And again, WE WILL TALK ABOUT ORDER... IT MATTERS... and we will apply the same standards that Paul called the Corinthian Church to, to our church.

But we need to understand them first... because there may be times when you hear someone speak in a tongue for a moment, hopefully respectfully, and it is not necessarily out of order the way that Paul describes it in 1 Corinthians 14.

Paul was writing this to a church who had gone off the rails... even within the church, there was no reverence for communion, there were sexual sins that Paul said even the Pagan Corinthians wouldn't tolerate... and they were VERY ABUSIVE with their use of Spiritual Gifts... it was self serving, always drawing attention to themselves and not God, and the kind of place where an unbeliever would walk in and walk right back out because they were totally nuts.

there was no order at all, and he had to reel them back in...

but there were moments in the Bible, like in Acts 10, when Peter is giving this powerful message about how Jesus truly is for Jew AND Gentile... and the Holy Spirit suddenly falls on everyone there and they all begin speaking in tongues... those things do happen.

In our cynical world, it can be easy to forget that tongues are a gift. I think that we read this sometimes... that prophecy builds up EVERYONE, but tongues only builds up the person praying... I think we read that and we

think that its something we should avoid because it sounds selfish to do something that would only build up ourselves.

But the truth is, we need the things in life that build ourselves up... we need things that add value to our own lives, and even beyond that, part of the reason the Bible encourages praying in the Spirit is because WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW HOW WE OUGHT TO PRAY. Paul wants all of us to speak in tongues... he says that he speaks in tongues more than anyone of them, and he wants them all too do it... JUST NOT at the expense of the gifts that BUILD the Body of Christ up...

We absolutely need to build ourselves up, and we will focus on that a bit later... but the purpose of all of the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT are for the edifying... the building up OF THE CHURCH.

But something that is VERY IMPORTANT that we realize is that Paul says that there are various kinds of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:28)

Because there are tongues that DO build up the church, and there are other tongues that build up the individual.

I have heard the case be made for as many as 4 different types of tongues in the New Testament, today we are just going to divide it up into two categories... the public use of tongues which is what most would consider to be "the Spiritual Gift of Tongues" - and PRIVATE TONGUES... which most people would consider to be your Heavenly prayer language.

There is a difference, and if you read the Bible thinking that they are the same, you will run into a lot of problems reconciling the things that are said about them...

Lets start with public tongues, which I find to be the most complex.

Because Paul sets some very clear boundaries there... and if this first part seems like law or rules, please hang with me because when we get to the second half of this, I am going to show you why I believe, when I read the Bible, I believe that tongues IS something that Jesus wants FOR EVERYONE.

But there is a difference between private tongues and public tongues.

and public tongues are NOT to be used by everyone.

People love to argue “NOT EVERYONE WHO IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS IN TONGUES...” and then they use the verses that are talking about the PUBLIC GIFT of tongues, to build their case.

for instance, Paul says this: We are one body, with many members... we all have different roles... an eye is not an ear, but both contribute to the overall function of the body... right?

Then Paul says: are ALL prophets? no.

Are ALL teachers? NO.

Do all SPEAK with tongues? No. (1 Cor. 12:30)

These are public posts... does everyone get up and teach? no. Does everyone stand up and give a prophetic word? no... in fact when Paul tries to set boundaries to keep the church in Corinth in order, he says let 2 or 3 people prophesy... and let everything they say them be weighed and tested... He is understanding that its important that we respect peoples time... and we don't let just anything be said to the church. He puts the same limitations on tongues... 2-3 of them at the most.

Does everyone stand up and speak in a tongue, that is then publicly interpreted so that it can be building up to the whole church? No. Not everyone does that.

But when someone does that, in a public setting like this one, if someone begins to speak out in tongues, and the attention of the room shifts to that person... then after speaking in tongues that person, OR someone else, needs to then get up and interpret what was being said...

What God was saying through that word?

That is how we know if it really is from God or not... because if God was trying to say something that was for the purpose of building up the whole

church, and the whole church hears it but has no idea what it is saying, that won't build them up.

Paul says that tongues don't edify the body of Christ, UNLESS there is someone who offers an interpretation. Public tongues are often a heavenly language, in which someone can interpret to build up the church.

There are ALSO instances in the Bible, where the tongues that are spoken in public ARE not heavenly tongues... they are actually a known, real language.

That is what happened in the church of Acts... which is so fascinating... because the Holy Spirit fell on them at Pentecost, and everyone began speaking in the tongues of OTHER LANGUAGES that they did not know. That is a MIRACLE isn't it? That someone who doesn't know God could actually have someone who doesn't speak their language, speak and declare how much God loves them, in a language they would understand... ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL MIRACLE.

But one thing that is so significant about this miracle that we have to remember, is the Bible says that people from the nations whose language they were speaking were present, and they said that they could clearly *hear* in their own languages, these people praising God.

They were able to TRANSLATE, based on their known language... based on something completely sound. There was no denying that their language was being spoken.

But here is what is so crazy about this. And this is why I believe that Paul was so careful to insist that when this happens, it must be done orderly.

Even in Acts 2, when it was obviously a miracle... the people who *saw* it happen said "these men must be drunk" - they thought they were crazy!

So even when it is obvious, and it IS GOD... and it is anointed... when someone unfamiliar with it sees that type of thing it tends to make them very uncomfortable, and so Paul is really specific about this, about the way we do this in church and corporate settings...



and he actually gives us several passages about it, and we can't get to them all, but one in particular is VERY strange... and people come to me with it, and want an explanation... and I have gone to others for an explanation, and have had difficulty finding the answer for a long time... so I want to look at it... it is 1 Corinthians 14:20-25... particularly, the difficult section is 22-25.

because it is one of the very few places in the Bible, where verse 22 says one thing, and then the verses that follow SEEM to support THE EXACT OPPOSITE of what verse 22 says.

This is what it says... and again... Paul is very clear at the end of all of these regulations, THAT WE SHOULD NOT FORBID SPEAKING IN TONGUES... so its not saying to forbid it, and after we get through this hard section, we are going to dive into the prayer language of tongues, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and how it is actually something that we believe in our church that EVERYONE can have.

(1 Corinthians 14:20-25)

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that **God is really among you.**

So verse 22 says: "tongues are A SIGN not for believers... but for unbelievers." then as far as I can tell, everything after that goes on to say what seems more logical to us... that when people come into church, if everyone is speaking in tongues, they are going to think we are out of our minds... totally crazy, and they will leave and never come back again...

Which sounds like “tongues are for Believers... NOT Unbelievers...

But here is what is going on...

Paul first quotes Isaiah 28:11-12 which is actually a judgment against Israel... it is talking about when they are taken over by Assyria.

Israel, you didn't listen when I spoke in your language... and because of that you are going to be conquered by Assyria... and you will hear them in their language... you will hear words that you don't even understand, and yet you still will not respond to God... you still will not turn your face back to God...

and this is what Isaiah says, this is what Paul is quoting, Isaiah 28:11-12

For by people of strange lips  
and with a foreign tongue  
the Lord will speak to this people,  
12 to whom he has said,  
“This is rest;  
give rest to the weary;  
and this is repose”;  
yet **they would not hear.**

now watch this, just two chapters later, Isaiah, 30:15, God continues:

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,  
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”  
But **you were unwilling**

To God's beloved people... to the ones who he proposed to on Mt. Sinai on the first Pentecost ever...

Who rebelled and rebelled and rebelled... until they found themselves slaves... God says... There is rest... I will save you. I will redeem you again.

but they don't hear Him.

in one place... it says this: you were unwilling...

in the other... he is speaking to them...

and they WOULD NOT HEAR.

and when I read that, and think on it, and pray on it... trying to connect why Paul went *there*... to the Assyria captivity... to explain why tongues are a sign for unbelievers...

I can't help but get this image in my mind of people who are just so so so lost... just like Israel was... people whose parents have given up on them... teachers have given up on them... mentors and even pastors and friends... people who have run as far away from God as possible...

and that God would love a person who was far from Him THAT MUCH... that he would send someone to speak to them, just like in the church of Acts... in their own language... that God would do a miracle on their behalf to make Himself known to the tired... to the weary... that in THIS GOD, AND THIS GOD ALONE... is rest.

Is hope... is forgiveness and reconciliation...

I know if God chose to do that for me, all I would be able to think is WOW... This God must really really REALLY LOVE ME... that after all that, he would do something so miraculous to get my attention.

Tongues are a SIGN for unbelievers.

So this first half, Paul is talking about that... tongues, Acts 2 style... real, known language.

But then he goes on in verse 23 to say this:

If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

and this one verse is the verse that backs up all of the reasons why, though we must not FORBID the speaking of tongues... it has to be done orderly. It has to be done in a way that builds up the body...

Because where a foreign language that you do not know spoken in an inspired moment would OBVIOUSLY be a sign from God to an unbeliever... if that same unbeliever entered into our assembly and everyone was screaming and yelling and saying words that were not understandable, and the entire thing was chaos... there was no interpreting, and nothing they understood... they would say to themselves: THESE PEOPLE ARE CRAZY, and they would walk right back out those doors, and never come back again.

and guys... *that person*... that would have walked out those doors, is the person that we exist for.

we don't come into this place so that we can do things that make ourselves feel good... (that doesn't mean we don't leave feeling good...) but the purpose is that ALL are edified... not just one.

And CERTAINLY NEVER ONE PERSON, at the expense of ANOTHER. We spent a whole sermon on this two weeks ago... Paul says that all of the gifts are worthless if we don't have love...

tongues without love, are just a clanging symbol, like the pagans would use to worship their Greek gods...

if it draws people away from God, and on to you, and it gets in the way of their moment with God... its no better than noise offered up to an idol who cannot hear you. The churches job is to reconcile the world back to Jesus.

Paul says it this way to solidify our orderly worship: God is not a God of confusion... but of peace. (1 Corinthians 14:33)

and we will use this next verse to transition into private tongues... tongues between you and God... TONGUES AS A PRAYER LANGUAGE.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15 - it begins by reaffirming... if you pray in tongues, unless its interpreted, its useless to the body... but yet, you will see... THAT PAUL STILL DOES IT.

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

Paul praises God in the Spirit... Paul prays in the Spirit. Because there is value in building up your own temple... which is the literal definition of the word he uses for edify in these passages... we know that an edifice is a building... and the word Paul uses means: to build up the temple.

Look at what Jude says:

Jude 20, 21:

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

So why pray in the Holy Spirit? Why pray in a language that is unintelligible, ever, under any circumstances?

You may not know this, but according to the Bible, every word that you say is tested. its in there a lot... And this is very important. Its come back to bite me many times... I say “we are going to buy a house for short term missions teams and students” and then BAM... testing... opposition... is it coming? is that guy a lunatic? I say we are going to have a short term missions department... BAM... where is it Jacob? are you sure God told you that? are you sure God’s not a liar or you didn’t just hear Him wrong?

I deal with that stuff a lot...

you pray to be less angry, you say “I am not going to get angry this week” and then that week you have 50 more things that test your anger...

that's why the Bible says all the things that it says about oaths... and how they bind and loose things over our lives, and how we should be careful with them...

Like when Peter tells Jesus, Jesus... I will never deny you! Right away, do you remember what Jesus says to Him? “Peter, you will deny me... three times before the rooster crows...” Peter responds... “I will die with you before I deny you” but of course, we know that's not true...

because the moment he said it, he set in motion a test...

it's that nasty trick of the Devil, always trying to give us reasons to not be the people that God says we are... Peter makes a promise to STAND BY JESUS... then right away he is given opportunity AFTER opportunity to DENY Jesus... and because he was weak and discouraged and scared, in his flesh... he did... he denied Jesus.

Peter was Jesus' right hand man... and he was that vulnerable to attack. If that doesn't tell you that we are at war, I don't know what will. And Paul tells us, suit up, because there is going to be a battle... most of us are familiar with the Armor of God...

look at Ephesians 6:17-19

“and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all prayer and supplication.”

Why is this included with the armor?

When you pray in the Spirit... with tongues, it is a heavenly language... and the Devil doesn't know that language... so you can worship God and pray to God, and you could be praying for things that you don't even know need to be prayed for but the Spirit is praying on your behalf...

look at this powerful passage in Romans 8:26 - and I know this is a lot of scriptures, but I want to build a Biblical case for you this morning:

“the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”

When we pray in our heavenly language, we are praying for things that we don't even know we ought to be praying for...

I could have friends in LA or or New York and they are struggling in their marriage and could be one second away from giving up on everything... and nobody knows it besides them and the Holy Spirit, and I could be interceding on their behalf not even knowing it.

When we pray like this... we are partnering with God and saying to Him that I AM WITH YOU, WHEREVER YOU ARE MOVING... even though I don't know where that is.

and I think we so are resistant to it because in our flesh we just love control so much.

but think about this... we said a couple of weeks ago, there is nothing more divisive in the church than the gifts of the Spirit, and there is no gift more divisive than tongues...

the fact is, the Devil really puts wedges between us on this subject, and we just let him do it. Remember, the Devil is the Father of lies... he knows that if you commit to something, he can use that thing against you to discourage you, and even defeat you... but all he is doing is lying to you... trying to mis-align you...

But the Devil really doesn't want us to do something that he can't touch...

and here is why its tongues are such a crucial target... the Devil knows... if he can divide us on our language, we will never be one... if he can get us to argue about this... we will always be divided... and a house divided against itself can NOT stand.

The church is a body, with many members that make it up, and when those members come together IN UNITY... they are the most powerful force for change in the entire world. But they have to be united... Remember Jesus' prayer in John 17? my prayer is that they are ONE... Think about what happened in Acts... they were ONE.

they came together, all in one accord, and the same Spirit spoke everyone's language... it was the same message to everyone... and it spiraled from there into a brand new kind of community... a group of people who understood that life was not just about them and what they could gain... but instead, everyone started serving each other... sharing what they had with others who didn't have as much...

They were adding to the church daily, having meals together... they became a people who had favor with all people, everywhere that they went (Acts 2:47)

The Holy Spirit filled them and empowered them to be a greater agent for love... and it is obvious that the church in Corinth could learn a thing or two from the church described in Acts... because Paul had to tell them... gifts are cool, but if it doesn't lead to a whole new level of love for one another and your community then its worthless.

But language unites people...

and the devil, more than just about anything... wants to divide people. So he goes after our language.

Think about what the Bible says in Genesis 11... you are probably familiar with the story of the Tower of Babel. Its an absolutely fascinating story about all of these people coming together. In fact Genesis 11:1 says that at that time, the whole entire world had ONE LANGUAGE and they had **the same words**...

but something about what God says about these people building this tower to Heaven simply can not be overlooked.



First of all, one of the materials that the Bible SPECIFICALLY says that they used in building it is Bitumen, which in that day was a mortar used for water proofing... when Moses' biological mother put him in a basket and sent him down the river, she first daubed it in bitumen, so no water would get through.

and it just so happens that the tower of Babel story falls in the Bible right after the narrative about the flood... so there was this implication in building this tower that this a response to God... them saying: we don't need you to get to Heaven, we will build our own way there... and if you think about flooding us again, it won't work, we will be ready.

To me, the story of the Tower of Babel was always a story about control... the same way that we reject tongues for a more manageable lifestyle... the way that we try and control where our money goes, and what we do in life... they were saying "we can do this ourselves"

and though it was an act of rebellion against God, and to us it would seem impossible anyway... we think: nobody can build a tower all the way to heaven... right?

but thats actually not true... Genesis says that God sees what they are doing, and this is what He says: (Gen. 11:6)

"Behold, they are ONE PEOPLE... and they have ONE LANGUAGE... and THIS... what we are seeing right now, this tower... IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF WHAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DO. (Genesis 11:6)

If this doesn't show you how valuable language is, nothing will. They weren't even doing the right thing... they were doing the WRONG THING... and yet the Bible says that because they were ONE PEOPLE... who all spoke ONE LANGUAGE... they literally had the ability to do the impossible.

God sees it, and He says THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING... what we are seeing from this united people right now, IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF WHAT THEY WILL DO... look at that last line...

NOTHING THAT THEY PROSE TO DO WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM.

so this is what God does... He says in verse 7-8:

“Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.”

if you want to divide a nation... figure out a way to divide their language. It will set them into confusion... and they will scatter... they will divide. If you want to go after a Kingdom... Go after its language.

Is it starting to make sense to you, why we have fallen prey to divisions over something that was meant to unite us... that was meant to edify us and bring us closer to God?

Because it matters. And the Devil always goes after the things that matter... and that is why our church will not be divided on something that should be uniting us... we will do everything we can to get it right, and keep it in order... but we will NOT FORBID IT.

Because it is in the Bible. and the Bible says that its good, and its for our good.

And I want to encourage you today as we close, of a very significant observation in Acts 2:4... because what it says was that AS the Spirit gave them utterance... they spoke...

People think that God is just going to take control over them and do the work for them... even in Acts... they co-operated with the Spirit... and the Bible doesn’t say that they spoke perfectly, it says that the people from other nations HEARD IT PERFECTLY.

Listen, my point to that is this... don’t be discouraged if you have prayed for a prayer language, and you know that so many others have it, and it just doesn’t feel like that is happening for you... but do know this... the Bible is extremely clear that GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS... and in

some of these moments where we are waiting on God to show up... could it be that God is waiting on us, to speak up.

To open our mouths, and cooperate with what he is trying to do... and begin to learn what it means to pray in the Spirit. If you are trying to learn Spanish, you would never expect to learn it in one day... but yet that is what we expect with the Holy Spirit. And yes, there are miracle instances of that happening... but just like everything else... just like prayer... just like discipline for reading your Bible and having quiet times... it takes doing it... practicing it... trying it... stepping out in it...

We must NOT forget that Jesus promised that He would NOT leave us as orphans when he went to Heaven (John 14:18) - sometimes, if we aren't careful, we can think that we are facing this broken world, all alone...

No... Jesus said that He would send a helper... the Holy Spirit...

Jesus says: you know the Holy Spirit, because he dwells WITH YOU...

AND WILL BE IN YOU.

He wants to fill you up, with power that is beyond anything that you can ever imagine. He will give you the words to say... and He will pray through you the things that you don't even know that you should be praying. And those prayers are perfect.

Who wouldn't want that?