

The Pure Language

Focus Praying in the Spirit is a key to learning to speak in purity.

Open Do you speak more than one language? If yes, what languages?

Read On the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples. He came with power and filled each person, and they spoke in other tongues (Acts 2:1–5). Speaking in tongues, also known as our prayer language, or praying in the Spirit, is still a vital gift to the Church today.

Speaking in tongues is not gibberish; it is a language. A myth about speaking in tongues is that you speak your prayer language fluently the first day. But in the same way babies learn to talk and people learn a second language, you don't speak in tongues fluently at first. Another myth is that you can't control your prayer language. The truth is speaking in tongues is an act of your will, just as you can control a gift of teaching or prophecy. A third myth is that your prayer language will just jump out of you one day. Your prayer language comes as you learn to cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

When we pray in tongues, our spirit is praying. When we pray with our minds, we understand what we are praying, but it is also important to pray with our spirits (in tongues) in cooperation with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:14–15). Our prayer language is part of our spiritual armor (Ephesians 3:10–18).

Our prayer language is a pure, heavenly language, perhaps like the original language given to Adam and Eve (Genesis 11:1). When we pray in tongues, nothing will be withheld from us because we are praying in cooperation with the Holy Spirit and not selfish, soulish prayers (Genesis 11:5–7, Zephaniah 3:9).

Talk

- 1. What stood out to you from this message? How did it help you or challenge you?
- 2. Before hearing this message, what were your thoughts about speaking in tongues? Were you taught that it's "of the devil"? Or maybe you came from a background on the other end of the spectrum where people were out of control when speaking in tongues. Either way, share your experience.
- 3. Read 1 Corinthians 14:14–15. It takes faith to allow our spirit to pray without our mind understanding. How has praying in the Spirit built up your faith?
- 4. Read Ephesians 3:17–18. Have you ever thought of your prayer language as part of your spiritual armor before? What battles are you currently facing where you can be more intentional about praying in the Spirit?
- 5. Are you someone who has not yet spoken in tongues? Would you like to receive your prayer language? If you feel comfortable, share this with the group so they can pray with you.

Live Wherever you are in your relationship with the Holy Spirit, ask God to take you further! If you want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, ask Him. Then in faith, receive Him. If you want to receive your prayer language, ask Him. Then have the courage to try speaking in tongues. If you want to pray in tongues more, ask Him. Then make room in your life to do it.

Pray Thank You, Holy Spirit, that You give us a pure language for communicating with our heavenly Father. We praise You that You give us only good gifts, including this grace of speaking in tongues. Lord, we submit our tongues to You

today. Help us speak words of life. Help us to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in prayer.