



89.7 Grand Rapids	93.1 Grand Haven
90.7 Harrison	93.9 Mio
90.9 Escanaba	97.3 Kalamazoo
91.3 Ironwood	97.9 Newberry
91.3 Decatur	102.7 Alpena
91.9 Cadillac	104.7 Lansing
91.9 Battle Creek	154.0 Okemos
92.3 Charlotte	

TV 23 Cadillac

Where God's Character is Proclaimed

The Gift of Tongues (Part 1)



Pastor Mabio
Coelho Neto

This is the first in a series of essays about spiritual gifts. Although the topic of this article is the biblical gift of tongues, because it is the first in the series, it is necessary to provide a brief overview of what the Bible says about the gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows on His people to lay the groundwork for studying the gift of tongues (or any other spiritual gift) in scripture.

Spiritual gifts are found throughout scripture, appearing in nearly every book of the Biblical canon, from Genesis to Revelation. In the Bible, we find four partial lists of spiritual gifts (**1 Cor 12; Rom 12; Eph 4; 1 Pet 4:10–11**), listing a total of 21 gifts (apostleship/ church leadership, prophecy, ministry/service, administration, encouragement, teaching, pastoring, evangelism, giving, ruling, showing of mercy, words of wisdom, words of knowledge/insight, faith, healing, working of miracles, understanding of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues, gift of speaking, helps/hospitality/charity). None of those lists are inclusive; they were provided as examples of the kinds of gifts the Spirit gives and used by Paul and Peter in the context of their teaching on spiritual gifts. So, let's look at them chronologically (in the order they were written) to grasp the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit.

Paul adamantly declares, "Concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant" (**1 Cor 12:1**), as he writes to a congregation struggling with social, moral, and spiritual issues. He underlines that the Spirit bestows a variety of gifts as He sees fit (**1 Cor 12:4, 12**) and that each of these gifts benefits the entire church (**1 Cor 12:7**). It is noteworthy to observe that tongues are listed as the next to last gift in 1 Corinthians 12:8–10. In 1 Corinthians 12:28–31, Paul expands on the preceding list, presenting a ranked list of gifts, with tongues appearing last. It is worth noting that between those two lists, Paul emphasizes that no individual gift is more important than the other by using an analogy of the body and its many parts (**vs. 12-27**), a teaching that he repeats whenever he discusses spiritual gifts (**Rom 12:4-6; Eph 4:16**). In this analogy, Paul wants his readers to grasp that the gifts are given to the instruction of the body of Christ (**vs. 11–12**), a concept he repeats in 1 Corinthians 14:1–4.

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David Bolduc

February Updates

Praise the Lord, spring is only a few weeks away! That's what I've been telling folks since Thanksgiving. Spring brings new life, and at STR, spring will bring new station construction.




Regarding our new station builds, this seems to be the first question I am asked almost daily, and no one will be happier than I to hear them ALL on the air. At the same time, adding eight new stations will add more to our workload as we will have to update the weekly EAS logs and quarterly FCC reports eight times more. Like I've said to many of the staff, "I wouldn't do all this if I didn't love it."

Sometimes, we run into challenging situations with our stations, and we have to make tough decisions. This was the case with our station near Camp AuSable, **93.9 FM WAVC**. The tower owners have more than doubled our rent with a new tower contract. I looked at other tower options, but I couldn't find a cheaper tower location even considering the increased rent. So, we are locked in on a new figure with the new contract.

To help offset the increased costs, we lowered the broadcast power to 20% - from about 10,000 to 2,000 watts. The FCC granted us permission to do this for the next six months. As you can imagine, this impacts our coverage. We know this station impacts people from all over the state, as many visitors to Camp AuSable tune in to **WAVC** as they drive to and from the camp.



If you listen to  one of the 15 STR stations or tune in via the web, as the Holy Spirit directs, please help keep these stations on the air as well as the new stations.



In other news, I am getting prices from various broadcast equipment installers to begin building some of our new stations. Most of the equipment needed to build **WGNP, Port Sanilac**, has been delivered to our main studio. We will be in touch with various local contractors to help us begin the building process this spring. We are waiting for the delivery of the antenna for **WJCG, Greenville**. Other pieces of equipment should be arriving in the coming weeks.

STR Conversations:



Kam Ferguson

Pastor Bob Benson recently attended the funeral of someone with numerous family members in one of the churches he serves. This person lived in another part of northern Michigan, several hours away, and had spent the last few years living with one of their adult children. During this time, they attended a local, independent Protestant church and developed a close friendship with the pastor, whom we'll call James. The family asked Pastor James to conduct the funeral in the Mio area. After the service, Pastor Bob introduced himself and began a conversation with Pastor James during a dinner that followed the service.

As the conversation progressed, Pastor Bob discovered that Pastor James lives in an area reached by a Strong Tower Radio (STR) station. He asked Pastor James if he'd ever listened to STR, and Pastor James lit up. **"Oh, I love STR, they preach the truth. We aren't affiliated with the conferences in our denomination that are doing unbiblical things, we believe in justification AND sanctification, just like STR preachers do!"**

Friends, this further illustrates STR's vast reach. All glory to God, who raised up, sustains, and grows this ministry, and through it reaches many souls of whom, as yet, we know not!



Strong Tower Radio is Hiring!



We're seeking a dedicated & organized

Office Manager

for God's team at Strong Tower Radio.

Prefer, (but not necessary), experience with a non-profit or faith-based organization, knowledge of accounting/financial budgets & familiar with media-related operations.

For more information contact
Joy.Corliss@StrongTowerRadio.org.

The Gift of Tongues (Continued from page 1)

In Romans 12:3–8, he highlights that spiritual gifts are not badges of honor—so nobody can judge their spiritual status by having or not a particular gift—as we all have different gifts "according to the grace that is given to us" and we are all parts of the same body.

Toward the close of his ministry, Paul writes to the Ephesians, and in chapter four, he revisits the question of spiritual gifts. He begins his essay by highlighting the need for church unity (v. 1–6). When he discusses spiritual gifts, he emphasizes that these are Christ's gifts to mankind, made possible only via His incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension (v. 7–10). In this chapter, he repeats and expands on what he first elaborated in 1 Corinthians 12, explaining that the purpose of spiritual gifts is "for the edifying of the body of Christ," to bring "unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God," and to make us grow "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (v. 12–13). Knowing the aim of spiritual gifting is crucial because it allows us to determine if a particular talent is from God and contributes to the church's education in the ways Paul described in Ephesians 4. Paul supports this point by employing the analogy of the body once more, emphasizing that each member, with their unique and diverse abilities, provides the many things the body of Christ needs for growth (v. 15:15–16). In this chapter, Paul emphasizes the notion that he expressly established in Romans 12:3–8: we should not ask or expect everyone to show the same talents, or even that all the faithful must display a specific spiritual gift or experience. Unfortunately, many religious organizations today seek the display of certain gifts (for example, tongues) as a sign of authentic conversion or Holy Spirit baptism.

1 Peter 4:10–11 was the last of the list to be written. The purpose of Peter's mention of the gifts is that the end is near (v. 7). That is why he only focuses on the gifts of service/ministry and speaking. The only thing Peter adds to the discussion of the purpose of the gifts is that our use of the God-given gifts should be done in a way that, in addition to refining the church, gives glory to Him who gives the gifts.

The Gift of Tongues

The gift of tongues is the ability to speak and understand a language an individual may not have previously known. It is mentioned by name only in the lists of gifts of 1 Corinthians 12 since, by what Paul says in the epistle, especially in chapters 12 to 14, part of the controversy in Corinth was the speaking in tongues, most specifically an incident that some nowadays label glossolalia. This term does not appear in the biblical text but comes from the blending of the Greek words *glossa* (tongue or language) and *laleō* (speak, to make a sound).

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It appears in dictionaries with the following meaning: "ecstatic or apparently ecstatic utterance of usually unintelligible speech-like sounds, as in a religious assembly, viewed by some as an expression of deep religious experience." [1] \Before we delve into Paul's assessment of the glossolalia phenomena of his day, let's take a deeper look at how the gift of tongues is manifested in the New Testament.

The Gift of Tongues in the New Testament

This gift of speaking in tongues was effortlessly demonstrated on the day of Pentecost when the disciples were heard speaking various languages other than their own:

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. When this sound occurred, the multitude came together and were confused because **everyone heard them speak their own language**. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language, in which we were born? *Parthians and Medes and Elamites*, those dwelling in *Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene*, visitors from *Rome*, both Jews and proselytes, *Cretans and Arabs*—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." (**Acts 2:5–11**) In this passage, the first recorded demonstration of the gift of tongues in the Bible, we see that people from over fifteen different language groups heard and understood the disciples of Jesus, who spoke some dialects of Aramaic, and the more educated ones also spoke Koine Greek and Hebrew. According to Acts 2:7–11, the visitors hear the Word being preached not in the disciples' languages but in their own native languages, the languages of their hearts. Considering that the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit is "the equipping [instruction] of the saints for the work of ministry" and "for the edifying of the body of Christ" (**Eph 4:12**), the gift of tongues in Acts 2 allowed the visitors to hear and properly understand "the wonderful works of God" (**Acts 2:11**). If, in this passage, the disciples did speak in ecstatic utterances that no one in Jerusalem could understand, that would defeat the purpose of reaching the unreached.

The next manifestation of this gift occurs in Acts 10. The Spirit led Peter to the house of the gentile Cornelius (**Acts 10:19–22**), where he shared the gospel with Cornelius' household. And all the [Jewish] believers accompanying him were astounded to see that the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles.

The Divine Samaritan

Most are familiar with Jesus' good Samaritan answer to the question, 'Who is my neighbor?' * Why did Jews in Jesus' time despise Samaritans? After Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, the Assyrians repopulated the area with other people groups. Intermarriage with Jews followed, and a blending of Bible truth and pagan error became what the Samaritans (part Jew, part something else) practiced. The Jews despised these "wannabe Israelites."



Kam Ferguson

Yet the Holy Spirit worked in Samaritan hearts, too, and many ultimately accepted Jesus as the promised Messiah foretold in Scripture. Do we look through the lenses of ethnicity, caste, culture, or creed today? Such is not the way of the Lord. In fact, *Jesus is the Divine Samaritan*. He risked His life to minister to fallen and dying humanity, leaving heaven to incarnate into the human race, becoming a blend of human and divine. He was viewed by others as a half-breed, just like Samaritans. The question, "Who is your father?" ** was often thrown in His face, yet He knew who He was and lived the truth in love.

Personal identity issues drive prejudicial vision. When we're secure in our identity as children of our heavenly Father, we view others as His children. Some need help/education in many areas of life, yet like Jesus, we view them through the lens of what they can become in Christ, not what they are now.

Jesus lived out the character of God for all to see, *** and this is the character that Strong Tower Radio proclaims throughout each day! Thanks to your prayers, testimonies, and financial support, people of all ethnicities, castes, and cultures are being drawn to God by the Holy Spirit as they listen. Thank you for investing with Jesus' perspective: lives are being transformed; praise God!

*Luke 10:29 ** John 8:19 *** John 14:6,9

SURVEY

Which STR station do you listen to? What topics would you like to hear more about? Are you interested in learning more about Jesus Christ and the Bible?

Please share with us by taking this short survey found at;

www.strongtowerradio.org

Click on "Get Involved", then "Community Survey."