

## Speaking In Tongues

Years ago a phenomenon known as glossolalia or tongue speaking swept the nation. Some claimed that you must speak in tongues to be saved. Others claimed that it was a sign of greater faith. In general, those who practice glossolalia agree that tongue speaking is not a language, but an unintelligible utterance known only to an interpreter who is sometimes the speaker.

In the Bible, God's word, speaking in tongues involved speaking a language not previously known to the speaker. When the apostles were together in one place, "*there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance*" (Acts 2:3-4). Luke further tells us, "*And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language*" (2:6, cf. 2:8.). Being able to speak in the language of everyone present to hear the gospel of Christ greatly assisted the apostles, and others, in teaching and convincing the lost (Acts 2; 1 Cor 14:22).

The so-called "*unknown tongue*" ("unknown" supplied by the translators) was a language unknown to the hearers unless there was an interpreter present in the assembly (1 Cor 14:2, 4-5). All miraculous ability, including tongue speaking, has ceased (1 Cor 13:8).

Tongues were never required to receive salvation. However, belief in the gospel, trust in Jesus, repentance of sin, confession of faith, water baptism, and holiness are required for salvation (Jn 8:24; Eph 1:13; Acts 17:30-31; Rom 10:9-10, Acts 2:38; Heb 12:14).

Green Meadow church of Christ  
3438 Green Meadow Dr.  
San Angelo, TX 76904; (325) 224-2848  
Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.