

Tongues, Healing, and Prophecy—for Today?

11/6/25

In the list of spiritual gifts that we examined the past couple of weeks (from both Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12), we are comfortable with all of them still being in operation today, except healing, miracles, prophecy, and tongues. Are these gifts still active today?

Continuationism- the belief that the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit—such as prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, healings, miracles, etc.—have not ceased and are available to the believer today.

Cessationism- the view that the miraculous gifts of the Spirit, such as healing, tongues, and prophetic revelation, pertained to the apostolic era only, and served a purpose that was unique to establishing the early church, and passed away before the canon of Scripture was closed.

My position— I am a “cautious” continuationist, meaning, I believe *all* of the gifts are active in the body today, but we should cautiously recognize and endorse the supernatural gifts—as well as *all* of the gifts.

The gift of healing to the church is evidence of the curse-dam breaking. If you have every prayed for God to miraculously heal, you are exercising the gift of healing, generally. Has anyone been healed through your prayers? The gift of healing was exercised! James 5:13-16

The gift of prophecy. We usually immediately run back to Elijah and Elisha’s ministry to define what “prophecy” is, and find passages like 1 Kings 6:11-12, and instances like it in the other prophets, like Isaiah 38:5-8. These instances are strong and particular gifts from God to a particular prophet, at a particular time. **But, these instances (of supernatural knowledge) is a *small* percentage of the ministries of the prophets—especially the latter prophets.**

What were the latter prophets doing? Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea...? **They were *preaching*. They were preaching from the Word (The Book of Moses and Psalms) to the moment. Then, in their preaching to the moment, they were preaching through the moment to *THE MOMENT*.**

Examples:

- Deut. 32:41-43 *and* Isaiah 44:21-23, Isaiah 60:1-3, Isaiah 66:14-16
- Deut. 30:6 *and* Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 11:19-20
- Num. 24:7-8 *and* Ezekiel 38:1-3, Daniel 8:9-10

Now, Daniel, Moses, Isaiah, and all the prophets were different, with different ministries. Likewise, just because the gift of prophecy may exist today, this *does not mean* that we should be expecting prophetic gifting like Daniel or Moses. Those were particular men, in particular time, at particular times in their lives.

The Puritans understood modern Christian preaching to be *prophecy*.

The gift of tongues. “Tongues” means “languages.” Up until Genesis 11, there was one language. Then, after the Tower of Babel, there were a multitude of nations *and* languages. No knowledge of God, no ability to communicate with one another. God’s creation is in disarray! God *makes* a Hebrew speaking nation for Himself through Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3. Then, the nation rebelled. Therefore, Deuteronomy 32:21, Isaiah 28:11. **Our inability to understand one another as fellow image bearers is a *sign* of the curse.**

God *will* restore unity in language and unity in worship unto Him! Zephaniah 3:8-9. What happens in Acts is the first fruits of that glory—Acts 2:5-6, previewing Isaiah 2:2-3.

“Tongues” (but not the gift) happens in two other instances in Acts—Acts 10 and Acts 19. I believe the reference in each of these instances of “tongues” speaking is the worship of Jesus in **real, human languages**. Tongues serve as a redemptive sign in these ways:

1. The nations (that speak languages other than Hebrew) are beginning to be glad (Psalm 67)
2. The unified Kingdom language is being restored (Zephaniah 3/Isaiah 2)

Major point of tongues? **Babel’s power is being broken, the Powers’ jurisdiction is being infiltrated—the Kingdom is near!**

Now to Paul’s discussion of tongues in 1 Corinthians 14. My opinion—Paul’s discussion of tongues in the fellowship is **the gift of worshipping God in other human languages**. If this is to be done, *it is allowed*, but should be done with much caution for witness’s sake.

Major and summarizing points of tongues in historical redemption and church fellowship:

1. When *the gift* of tongues are given *in proclamation*, God’s ultimate plan of unifying all things and all nations under His Son in worship is rumbling forward.
2. When tongues are spoken *after regeneration and belief*, God is glorified in the advancement of His plan—that all nations will be glad in Him.
3. If the gift of tongues is to be utilized *in the church fellowship*, it comes with a condition: there must be an interpreter. Otherwise, there is *zero* usefulness of the exercise in the gift *when all the people speak a common language, anyway!*

I believe the “other” and unknown utterances are not tongues, but groaning (Romans 8:18-27).

To summarize: I believe the gift of healing is active today—in the church, generally, but some have the specific gift. That gift fleshes out as *unction* to pray for the sick, and prayers that move God toward healing.

I believe that the gift of prophecy is active today. Generally, the church prophesies Christ—His foretelling, His death, resurrection, ascension and all its eternal applications, AND His soon return and all ITS eternal implications.

I believe the gift of tongues is active today in its primary use on the mission field as real human languages.

These gifts are active today and accomplishing glory in unison with the other gifts—healing today is the first fruits of Jesus healing the nations and God's *whole* creation when He comes. Prophecy today is the first fruits of *all* knowing God and being able to speak of Him in the fullness of mystery-revealed in the Kingdom to come. Tongues today are the first fruits of *all the nations* worshipping Jesus in one language.