BIBLE STUDY WITH BISHOP WADDELL (Lesson 1)



 **TOPIC:** “What does the Bible Teach About Speaking In Tongues?”

**“Oh, The World Is Hungry For The Living Bread…”**

**Amos 8:11** Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: KJV

The health census in America and other westernized nations have informed us of the ever increasing waistlines of our population. Even airlines have had to adjust for the expanding “back-sides” of its passengers by enlarging the size of their seats! In contrast, while society’s waistlines increases our spiritual growth and development continues to wane by comparison. Over the years, many of our churches have become inundated with organizational bureaucracy, in-fighting, meaningless programs and endless religious rhetoric. All of which have left many Christians feeling somewhat empty and experiencing a real longing for something more from their religious experience. For many, the inner longing for a deeper and more meaningful spiritual experience has led them to the area of spiritual gifts.

**Spiritual Gifts (READ: I Cor. 12: 1 – 12)**

Spiritual gifts can be defined as supernatural endowments given by the Holy Spirit to individuals for the use and improvement of God’s kingdom here on earth. – The subject of “spiritual gifts” must have been an issue in the early church because they wrote to the Apostle Paul concerning some contentions they were experiencing in the local church of Corinth. Paul speaks of: (diversities of gifts: meaning various types of spiritual endowments. GIFTS are here attributed to the Holy Spirit 12:4), (diversity of administration: meaning various offices i.e. teachers, preachers, evangelist, bishops) – all of which originate from and attributed to Christ 12:5. Also, we read of (Diversity of Operations: meaning the actual manner in which a particular gift is actually used in ministry. – simply because two people possess the same spiritual gift does not mean they will operate identically in them; attributed to God the Father 12:6) – Take a moment to review the “spiritual gifts listing and definitions.

**QUESTIONS:**

1) What is a spiritual gift? 2) Where do spiritual gifts come from? 3) Approximately, how many spiritual gifts are mentioned in the bible? 3) What is the purpose of Spiritual gifts? 4) Who is eligible to receive a spiritual gift?

**Spiritual Gifts: Scripture References**

1 Cor 12:7 **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**

The Holy Spirit can be seen in the miraculous accomplishments of those with spiritual gifts, however these gifts are not given for the specific benefit of the individual with the gift but for the improvement of the entire body of Christ.

I Cor. 12:11 **But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will**.

All the gifts mentioned in this passage came from the same Holy Spirit and cannot be derived from human invention and ingenuity. These gifts are distributed to various individuals as God determines.

**What About the Gift Of Tongues?**

Despite the fact that this study has shown that there are over twenty spiritual gifts mentioned in the bible, the gift of tongues in particular has often managed to glean the most attention. **QUESTIONS**: Why does the gift of tongues garner more attention then the other twenty or so spiritual gifts? How would you define speaking in tongues?

**Let’s Begin with the Basics**

The Greek word for this particular gift is: Glossolalia(gloss-so-lay-lee-a) and refers to an ecstatic or euphoric speech. Besides the Christian church, such ecstatic speech is practice by various non-Christian religions and cults as well.

Within the Christian church the gift of tongues finds its origin in the initial Day of Pentecost experience. Jesus said of his followers: **Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in (1) Jerusalem, and in all (2) Judaea, and in Samaria, and (3) unto the uttermost part of the earth. KJV. The arrival of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was legitimized by the miraculous gift of “tongues” or what were actual languages. (Acts 2:8). Occurring first at Jerusalem, this extraordinary spiritual endowment enabled the disciples and their followers to proclaim the gospel to all of the spectators in their own native language! The next experience occurred with the Gentile proselytes in Palestine in (Acts 10), and finally to the naturalized Gentiles in Ephesus (Acts 19)

This pattern of the Holy Ghost announcing His arrival by the gift of tongues follows Jesus’ prophesy of the Diaspora of the Holy Spirit.

**An Interesting Observation**

**READ** (Acts 8: 5 – 17) Question: What is unusual about verse 17? What deductions can be drawn from this example? – Why didn’t these converts speak in tongues?-