

b. Uses of tongues as a gift of the Holy Spirit

(1) Devotional use

Tongues may be used as a means for praying, giving thanks, or singing. By this use of tongues one edifies himself.

(2) Congregational use

Tongues may be used in church services. When tongues are used in church services, they must be interpreted. If there is no interpreter, the tongues-speakers should keep silent.

c. Nature of tongues as the initial physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and as a gift of the Holy Spirit

(1) Foreign languages spoken by persons who have never studied these languages and who do not understand them at the time of speaking.

This view is held by Carl Brumback of the Assemblies of God. He says that though there is a difference between the tongues in Acts and those in Corinth as regards their purpose and use, there is no difference between them as regards their nature; in other words, the tongues in both Acts and Corinth were actual foreign languages spoken by people who had no previous training in those languages. Thus he concludes that tongues today are not the speaking of a heavenly language unknown to man, but the speaking of actual human languages that are unknown to the persons speaking them. He claims there are cases on record where tongues have been spoken and identified as actual foreign languages by both Pentecostal and non-Pentecostal believers. He admits that sometimes present day tongue-speaking is mere gibberish, and he classifies such instances as fraudulent attempts to imitate the genuine gift of tongues.

Note: Article 8 of the Statement of Fundamental Truths which is the doctrinal statement of the Assemblies of God says, "The Baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Cor. 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use." This clearly states that tongues as the initial physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and as a gift of the Holy Spirit are the same in nature, but it doesn't state what the tongues are. Carl Brumback, who is one of the foremost scholars of the Assemblies of God, believes they are foreign languages spontaneously spoken as mentioned above. This is also what Donald Gee, a British Pentecostal writer, believes.