

## TONGUES

Definition - Greek, glossa - means a particular language spoken by a particular people. Ex. Acts 1:19, Jn. 5:2. Note especially Acts 2:4,6-11. These "tongues" were obviously known languages of the day.

Question to ask - An experience can be genuine, but is it scriptural?

1. You can be baptized by the Spirit and not speak in tongues.  
ex. The Corinthian believers had all been baptized with the Spirit (I Cor. 12:13), but all did not speak in tongues (I Cor. 14:5).
2. We are urged to seek "the best gifts" (I Cor. 12:31) and tongues and their interpretation are last in the list (I Cor. 12:28-30).
3. Baptism of the Spirit refers to being placed into or united with Christ's body. I Cor. 12:13 and 27. The baptism of the Spirit does not refer to tongues.
4. Christlikeness does not depend on speaking in tongues. Ex. Christlikeness is produced by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and nowhere is tongues mentioned.
5. Christ never spoke in tongues.
6. Tongues were used to authenticate the Christian message to UNbelievers (I Cor. 14:22) and thus were not needed to edify believers.
7. In the same chapter on the regulation of tongues' use is the admonition to women to keep silent in church (I Cor. 14:34-35). Thus it should follow that no woman should speak in tongues.
8. Tongues are said to cease (I Cor. 13:8) when perfection or maturity comes (I Cor. 13:10-11). Books written after I Corinthians do not deal with or mention tongues. Later listings of spiritual gifts do not mention tongues - Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:7-11. From this we would suggest that tongues ceased by the end of the first century, ie, the end of the apostolic age. This would also be the time when the infant church would have come of age and have all the Scriptures they needed for maturity.
9. Where tongues were spoken:
  - a. Public - out of church, Acts 2,10,19.
  - b. Public - in church, I Cor. 14 - interpreter needed.
  - c. Private - in church, I Cor. 14:28 - inaudible and internal, no interpreter.
  - d. Private - at home - no Biblical use of tongues at home.