

# A contrast of tongue speaking

To show the difference between the gift of tongues in apostolic times and what masquerades as tongues in modern Charismatic churches.

Apostolic Tongues	Modern Charismatic Tongues
A gift of God (1 Cor 12:10).	Usually the result of a man passing the gift on by touch (just as occult leaders pass on mystical gifts).
The action is the result of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).	The result of emotional mysticism, peer expectation and self delusion.
Was the speaking of a unlearned language (Acts 2:6-11).	Is the speaking of gibberish or babbling. [With a tiny minority of blasphemous exceptions; see below.]
Unbelievers recognised the language spoken and even the dialect (Acts 2:6-11).	No one understands the babbling. Some claim to interpret the tongue but this has often been proved to be false. The same tongue has often been variously interpreted.
The utterance was to the glory of God and his works (Acts 2:11, 46).	Could be anything; most often it is in the form of an exhortation to the church.
Is essentially a form of prayer (1 Cor 14:2, 14).	Is basically a type of modern false prophecy.
Was given as a proof of divine authenticity to the Gospel and the church.	Is used as a proof of a Charismatic or Pentecostal experience.
Gradually died out.	Generally dead in church history with resurgences occasionally amongst heretical enthusiasts. Has continued to proliferate since the turn of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
Was unlike anything seen in pagan religions and was a sign to unbelievers (1 Cor 14:22).	Is exactly the same in appearance as pagan tongues, such as those found in oriental religions, the occult and even the gibberish spoken by maniacs.
The apostles commanded that those who spoke in a tongue in church should also interpret it for the good of all (1 Cor 14:5-19).	Rarely do Charismatics ever interpret their tongues. Corporate singing in the Spirit (mass tongues) is never interpreted and is thus disobedience.
Tongues were not a high goal but were less important than prophesying; that is edifying your brethren (1 Cor 14:5).	Charismatics are usually restricted from mutual edification and rarely have body ministry. Tongues are seen as a major expression of ministry to be expressed at every meeting.
Rational encouragement is far preferable than 10,000 words in a tongue (1 Cor 14:19).	People are denied the opportunity for rational edification in a highly controlled meeting but tongue speaking is encouraged as a supposed sign of power.
Tongues are specifically said to not edify the whole church; they edify the speaker alone (1 Cor 14:4).	Tongues are seen as a major contribution to a meeting.
Corporate tongue speaking (spoken or sung), i.e. the whole church speaking in tongues, is declared by Paul as madness and a bad testimony to outsiders (1 Cor 14:23).	'Singing in the Spirit' is considered a high point of Charismatic worship and a goal to aim at.
No more than three people ever spoke in a tongue in a meeting; and every tongue was separately interpreted (1 Cor 14:27).	In Pentecostal circles many people speak separately in tongues. In Charismatic circles fewer speak in tongues but the whole congregation sings in tongues at once.

Tongue speaking is the human spirit praying (1 Cor 14:14).	This tongue speaking is a manifestation of the human soul capitulated to mysticism.
Not everyone was expected to speak in tongues (1 Cor 12:30).	Every person 'baptised in the Spirit' is expected to speak in tongues (even if this is formally denied).
Tongues were expected to cease (1 Cor 13:8). History shows that they ceased before 70 AD (the fall of Jerusalem) and they are not mentioned in the NT after 1 Corinthians. The Greek word for 'cease' implies a complete cessation that never begins again.	Everyone agrees that they ceased in the early church but Pentecostals and Charismatics affirm that they began again in the modern church after 1904. Some affirm that they sporadically appeared in church history but, in fact, every occasion proved to be a disaster and a false movement.
Glorified God.	Is an example of disorder. A few tongues have been interpreted as speaking blasphemies in a different language.

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