Norvel Hayes

Why You Should Speak in TONGUES

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Unless otherwise indicated,
all Scripture quotations are taken from
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Why You Should Speak In Tongues

According to the New Testament, Jesus wants to baptize everybody on Earth with the Holy Ghost. He wants everybody on earth to speak in other tongues. That's what the New Testament says, not just in one place, but in several places. In 1 Corinthians 14 the Apostle Paul said, ... *forbid not to speak with tongues* (v. 39).

Unless you allow Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Ghost, you won't ever receive power from on High to do the works of God.

Paul said you pray in tongues to edify yourself. *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself* (1 Cor. 14:4). To edify means build yourself up. Speaking in tongues builds you to the point that you can believe God instead of circumstances.

Circumstances don't have anything to do with God. He will remove circumstances if you'll just believe Him.

The way you believe is the way you talk.

What you're believing comes out of your innermost being. The words you speak come from your heart, your inner man. The words you speak show exactly the shape that your inner man is in.

You are what you say, and you will never be anything else. The condition of your own personal life today is the result of what you said yesterday. By "yesterday" I mean your past life, your past meditation, your past attitude toward God and the Bible.

There is complete victory for you if you will read the Bible and believe it—believe those words came out the mouth of God for you! If you fight and wrestle with what God says, you will miss out on what He wants for your life.

If you never speak in tongues, Jesus will still love you. You can go to heaven and never speak in tongues. To go to heaven, all you have to do is be born again by the Spirit of God. If you have received Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life, when you die, the angels will be waiting to receive your spirit and take you to heaven.

You may be saying, "But what good is speaking in tongues? They don't teach that in my

church. Why should I want to speak in some language I don't understand?"

Let me ask you a question: "When you pray, do you pray to yourself?" No. You pray to God.

The Bible says, *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God* (1 Cor. 14:2). By speaking in tongues, you speak directly to God, bypassing all human reasonings.

Speaking in tongues gives you power to believe the Bible. Unless you have faith, you can't believe what the Bible says and you won't do what it says.

The last command Jesus gave to the Church was for her to believe the Gospel. We are to stand before the world and boldly say, "I'm a believer of the Lord Jesus Christ."

God let me know one time that some people don't get their prayers answered because they don't bow down before Him and worship Him as God. They jump over the first commandment that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai for the human race to live by. They jump over that commandment and get hung up in religion. They get busy in church,

doing this and that, but they don't take the time to bow down before God and spend time alone, worshiping Him.

God wants to be your God and He wants you to be His child. He wants you to love Him like a Father. He wants to love you through the pages of His Word, the Bible. He won't love you through your head.

Oh, how beautiful it is when you say, "God, I'm just going to read the New Testament and believe what You have told me in it. Whatever You have said, that's exactly what I'm going to believe. I'm going to act like it's true, regardless of how I feel."

When I reached that point and made that decision, my whole life changed. God changed me into a new man.

Bearing Fruit

God wants you to know who you are in Him. He wants you to know you have inherited everything in the New Testament. All of it is for you! When you stop listening to humans and start standing on the Word just because God said it, you

will become a tree that will bear fruit.

There are lots of Christians who have never won a soul to Jesus. They could win souls every week if they would just do it. It's so easy.

Do *you* want to win souls for Jesus? To do it, you need to receive power from on High.

Soulwinning won't seem easy when you first start because you haven't been used to it. You need to pray in the Spirit and get yourself built up; then doing the things of God will be normal to you.

If someone comes to you in bad shape, all messed up, the first thing you have to do is take authority over the darkness that's trying to wreck his life. You have to take authority over the Devil. With the Spirit of God in you, you have the power of God to do it.

God's Word is so powerful. It's sharper than a twoedged sword. (Heb. 4:12.) With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you have God's power and God's Word working in you.

You have to stand on God's Word for that person's salvation and break the power of the Devil in Jesus' name. Bind the power of darkness. Tell the Devil, "No, you're not taking this person to

hell. I'm not going to let you! I break your power in Jesus' name."

As you stand steadfast in faith, you'll see God's power deal with that person.

If you want to bear fruit in this life, receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Learn how to pray in the Spirit (in other tongues). Paul said, *I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all* (1 Cor. 14:18).

You might say, "But Paul also said it's better to speak five words in your own language than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." That's true, but you have to read that verse in its setting.

> *I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:*
>
> *Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.*
>
> *1 Corinthians 14:18,19*

Here Paul was talking about teaching people in the Church. You will learn much more if I say,

"Jesus loves you," than if I get behind the pulpit and speak twenty thousand words in an unknown tongue. I can't teach you anything by speaking in tongues. You have to understand what I'm saying if you're going to learn anything.

One reason Jesus wants to baptize you with the Holy Ghost and have you speak in other tongues in your personal life is so that you'll be able to bear fruit. With the Holy Ghost, you'll have the power to go out and tell people that Jesus loves them.

What happens to a person if he doesn't bear fruit?

You may think that as long as you're living a half-way decent life, you will get by. But you won't get by—not with God. You will have to answer to Him for everything.

God wants to mold you into what He wants you to be. He wants to use your mouth, your lips, your personality.

One Sunday morning I was to teach an adult class. God woke me up at six o'clock and said:

"You tell them I made Moses exactly like I wanted him and I did through him exactly what I

wanted to do. Tell them I made Samson exactly like I wanted him. I put strength and power in him because I wanted to. Tell them I made Billy Graham just like I wanted him."

"I've never made two personalities alike. I've got a job for each person to do. If he doesn't do that job, it will never get done because nobody else is like him."

It's up to you as an individual to find out what God wants you to do. Do what you can for the Kingdom of God. Nobody else is going to do it like you can. They will do what God wants them to do, but they don't have your face, your personality. They don't have it, and they never will have it.

God made you like He wants you. There are certain people in the world that only you can win. Maybe a person you can't win, I can. Maybe a person I can't win, you can.

Let God mold you. Be a tree that will bear good fruit.

The Comforter

Jesus lived His life on Earth and went into His

ministry under the power that God gave Him. He died on the cross and rose again just like God intended for Him to.

Before He went to the cross, Jesus told His disciples, *I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever* (John 14:16).

God sent the Holy Ghost—the third party from the throne of God. The Holy Ghost thinks just like God thinks. He is a divine personality sent from the throne of God to live in you.

In His first appearance for the human race, the Holy Ghost came to only the 120 people in the Upper Room.

> *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*
>
> *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak*

with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

What God did for those 120 people, He will do for anybody. It doesn't make any difference what color they are, what size they are, where they come from, or how much money they have. God doesn't care. If the thousands of people outside the Upper Room in Jerusalem had been praying like those 120, the Holy Ghost would have come on all of them!

Receive By Faith

You can receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost without an immediate supernatural manifestation.

When I tried to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, I had made up my mind that I wouldn't say anything until some supernatural power came on me and made me talk in tongues. For over a year, nothing happened.

Then I began to think something was wrong with me. Everybody else was receiving. I said, "Lord, I know the Holy Spirit is in me. I know I've

been born again. If I died today, I know I would go to heaven. But, Lord, I want to receive the power of the Holy Ghost. Then I won't be ashamed to cast out devils, pray for the sick, pass out tracts, and pray for my friends and neighbors. I can tell them the truth in love and in power, then watch You perform Your Word. Lord, I need more power."

I couldn't receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost because I was waiting for some supernatural power to take over my tongue and make me talk. It never did.

Then I began to study the Bible on the subject of faith. In Hebrews 11:1 I found God's definition of faith: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

If I expected to get the substance, I had to believe that I had already received because *now faith is.* In this case, the substance was the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking with other tongues. I had to believe that I had it, even though I couldn't see it or feel it. Faith is the answer we see when we pray.

According to Acts 2:4, **they** began to speak as the Spirit gave them the utterance. My part was to

speak. The Holy Spirit's part was to give me the utterance. My part was to speak and, according to Hebrews' definition of faith, I had to believe I had it **before** I got it.

Then I read Mark 11:23,24—my foundation scripture for believing. Jesus said:

> *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*
>
> *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

Does this mean that if I say I believe I receive the baptism in the Holy Ghost, that's what I'll get?

Jesus said, *What things soever ye desire....* I desired to have the baptism of the Holy Ghost so I could receive more power. I had sense enough to know that Jesus doesn't tell lies. He said I was to believe I received when I prayed. I had to

cooperate with the Scriptures and do my part. Acts 2:4 says the people in the Upper Room *began to speak with other tongues* as the Spirit gave the utterance. My part was to begin to speak.

I had studied the Bible and saw that it was true, so one night I just bowed down before the Lord and prayed, "Lord, Your Word says in James 4:2 that we have not because we ask not. I'm asking You tonight, Jesus, to baptize me in the Holy Ghost."

Then I had to put some action to my faith. The book of Acts says it's my responsibility to do the speaking, so I tried to speak. I spoke out some little sounds, not words, and I never did feel anything. But that was enough for me.

On the basis of the Scriptures, I received it by faith. I got up and said, "Thank You, Jesus, for baptizing me in the Holy Ghost."

I didn't feel anything, but I didn't base it on feelings. I based it on the Word of God. If I had based it on feelings, I would still be waiting for that supernatural language to come unto me.

I also followed the instructions Jesus gave in Mark 11:23 by confessing with my mouth that I

had received. I said, "Thank You, Jesus, for baptizing me in the Holy Ghost."

Before I could even get to my car that night, the Devil was saying to me, "Come on now, you didn't get baptized in the Holy Ghost. That wasn't a supernatural language you spoke. You were just mumbling. Stop saying that!"

But I just said, "Thank You, Jesus, for baptizing me in the Holy Ghost."

The Devil said, "You didn't receive anything. You're lying, and as a Christian you aren't supposed to lie. Stop saying that!"

I just turned a deaf ear to him and said, "According to Mark 11:23 I can have whatever I say. According to Mark 11:24 if I believe I have it when I pray, I will get it. I have it now, Satan, because I believed I received when I prayed!"

For a month I kept saying over and over again, "Thank You, Jesus, for baptizing me in the Holy Ghost. It was so terrible for that year when I was seeking the Holy Ghost and never could receive. But now I have received the baptism in the Holy Ghost, and it feels so good! I don't base my believing on feelings. My believing is based on

Your Word!"

Wherever I was—in my office, my house, my car—I kept saying it, still without any supernatural language coming to me. I hadn't felt a thing. But I was walking by faith, not by feelings.

There is only one way that the things of God will be manifested for you and your family: by faith, by your confession of the Scriptures. Are you willing to make God's Word the foundation of your believing? If you do, God won't fail you.

How I Received

One night God told me to go to a meeting in Chattanooga. When the preacher finished his sermon, he gave the invitation.

As I was sitting there, my body suddenly began to get warm. Every part of my body—arms, legs, back, chest, fingers, ears—began to tingle. I felt like there were thousands of little men tickling me inside with soft brushes.

The Devil said, "You're having a heart attack!"

I had never felt anything like that before. (I had been blessed before by God, but this was

something different—something supernatural.) My body began to turn from hot to warm to hot again, and the tingling sensation got stronger and stronger.

I thought, *Devil, this can't be a heart attack. It feels too good!*

I really didn't know what was happening. I felt like it was God, but I didn't know for sure. Then I thought, *I'll walk out to my car. When I get outside on the sidewalk, this will leave me.*

I walked to my car, but the feeling didn't leave me. I got in my car and started driving through Chattanooga. Then I drove onto the bypass going toward Atlanta and Knoxville. As I was driving, I just praised the Lord. The tingling sensation kept on.

Oh, God, what is this? What's happening to me, Lord?

Then as I drove along, I began to feel real hot deep down in my belly. Slowly, it began to move forward and upward, flowing throughout the rest of my body. Finally, my whole body was hot. I thought my toes were going to jump off my feet!

Then it came up into my throat. It felt so good.

I opened my mouth, let the sound come through my voice box, and turned my tongue loose. I thought, *Glory to God forevermore! Here it comes!*

The supernatural language began to come out of my innermost being. I began speaking in tongues! It was a beautiful experience! So beautiful! I had never known such a manifestation from God in all my life. It was wonderful to get saved, but this ...

Are You Ready?

Can I ask you boldly without offending you, "Are you ready to speak in tongues?"

The only responsibility of the Holy Spirit to you or anyone else is to give you the utterance like He did on the day of Pentecost. He came to give the utterance, but you do the speaking.

I want you to base your believing on the Scriptures I have given you, and receive by faith as I lead you in this prayer. By faith just speak out any sounds or syllables that rise up within you. Are you ready now? ...

Dear heavenly Father,

I come before You now with an open heart to receive all You have for me. I have already accepted the Lord Jesus as the Lord and Savior of my life, so now I open myself to receive the power of Your Holy Spirit.

You said in Your Word that if I asked, I would receive, so I ask You now to fill me to overflowing with Your precious Holy Spirit.

I receive Him now by faith and expect to speak with other tongues as He gives me the utterance ...

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Scriptures

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:16,17

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit: and they shall prophesy. (See Joel 2:28.)

Acts 2:16-18

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 2:32,33

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts 2:38,39

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:12, 14-17

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 9:17

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized?

And they said, Unto John's baptism. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Acts 19:1-3,6

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

Acts 10:44-46

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.

1 Corinthians 14:2,18

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 7:37-39

Jesus said, If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give

good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 11:11-13

Jesus said, And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Luke 24:49

Jesus said, Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Norvel Hayes shares God's Word boldly and simply, with an enthusiasm that captures the heart of the hearer. He has learned through personal experience that God's Word can be effective in every area of life, and that it will work for anyone who will believe it and apply it.

Norvel owns several businesses which function successfully despite the fact that he spends over half his time away from the office, ministering the Gospel throughout the country. His obedience to God and his willingness to share his faith has taken him to a variety of places. He ministers in churches, seminars, conventions, colleges, prisons—anywhere the Spirit of God leads.

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