

## Interpretation of Tongues Question and Answers

1. Define, "Interpretation of Tongues."

The supernatural showing forth by the Spirit the meaning of an utterance in an unknown tongue.

2. Why is the gift of "Interpretation of Tongues," the least of all the gifts?

Because it is not a stand-alone gift, it depends upon another gift, "diverse kinds of tongues," to operate.

3. What is the purpose of the gift of "Interpretation of Tongues?"

To cause the gift of tongues to be understood by the hearers, so that the whole church congregation including the one who gave the message in an unknown tongue, to know what has been said and may be edified and uplifted.

***1 Corinthians 14: 5, Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.***

4. Why does it take more faith to operate in the gift of Prophecy than Tongues or Interpretation of Tongues?

With the gift of Prophecy, all of the responsibility for stepping out in this gift rests on one person. With tongues and interpretation, you have another person to share the responsibility with.

5. Why isn't it necessary that everything you pray in tongues be clear to your understanding?

Look at ***1 Corinthians 14: 14, For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.*** This means that when I am praying in tongues in my private prayer life, I am talking to God and He does not need an interpreter.

6. In ***1 Corinthians 14:27***, how many people did Paul say should participate in ministering publicly in tongues and interpretation in any one service?

***1 Corinthians 14:27, If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.***

7. In *1 Corinthians 14: 13*, what did Paul say was the reason a person is to seek the gift of interpretation?

***1 Corinthians 14: 13, Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.*** Evidently and apparently, there are times when God wants us to know what we are praying.

8. Again, in *1 Corinthians 14:27*, when Paul said, “Let one interpret,” what was he doing?

**If one person interprets, it greatly reduces the risk of competing interpretations.**

9. When someone speaks at length in tongues, why does an interpreter occasionally give only a short message?

**Because it is an interpretation, not a translation.**

10. What is one way to judge whether the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues is by the Holy Spirit or not?

**By being in tune with the Holy Spirit.**

Special note:

Almost the entire chapter of *1 Corinthians 14*, is devoted to the Gift of Prophecy, and Tongues and Interpretation.

In *1 Corinthians 14: 33*, it says, ***For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.***