

MUCH MORE THAN A SIGN

17/4/11

It is not surprising that even from the days of Adam and Eve, that men and women have been looking for signs of God's existence and for the formula to have a quality relationship with him. Most of bible history is made up of men and women trying to secure a working relationship with the Lord. One of the most useful and common requirements was a sign... proof of supernatural life and relationships. God has been very obliging in this area, as he knows how confusing it can be for people to find him. The bible speaks of many signs, but there are some peculiar to the New Testament church and one in particular that occurs at salvation. This is very useful, because the religious claims made by large numbers of people are too confusing for most people to work out.

Proof that cuts through the confusion.

1COR 14:33 For God is not *the author of confusion*, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. God has provided a way that eliminates confusion for those who believe and act in faith towards his gospel.

MAR 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues**; Tongues is the sign that accompanies salvation. Which was further confirmed on the day of Pentecost and at the gentile conversion described here in Acts 10.

ACT 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 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.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues (*this was the sign*), and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Speaking in tongues is also a superior method of communication.

ROM 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also **helpeth our infirmities** (*weaknesses*): for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. Not only does the Holy Spirit speak through tongues of things that we don't understand... it also communicates in a way that God blesses and answers.

As a result of quality communications, tongues is also a superior method for building faith.

JUDE 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most **holy faith**, praying in the Holy Ghost,

A chance to do something for the Lord

1COR 14:4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

Tongues used as a voice gift also opens the door for interpretation, which edifies the whole church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. *God wants everyone to use tongues as a voice gift, then encourages all to move on to interpretation and prophecy as well.*

Tongues is also a measure of true commitment.

1COR 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a **tongue**, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. **Let all things be done unto edifying.**

EPH 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; *God expects us to use our tongue for prayer often and daily.*

1PET 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto **prayer**. Speaking in tongues also prepares us for the Lord's return. *As you can see... it is much more than a sign.*