

# Armor of God Part 8

Steve Berger

September 11, 2016

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## The supernatural power of God can offend the mind to reveal the heart

**Question** — *Have you ever noticed how unusual, even bizarre, the supernatural power of God can be?*

- **Mark 7** — to heal the man who was deaf and speech impaired, Jesus put his fingers in the deaf man's ears, and spit on his tongue
- **Mark 8** — to heal the man who was blind, Jesus spit on his eyes
- **John 9** — to heal the man who was blind, Jesus spit on dirt, made clay, put it on the blind man's eyes, and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam
- **Acts 2:2-4**  
And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rustling mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**“Offend mind to reveal heart” — uses supernatural,  
Sarah laughed at promise, revealed doubt;  
Pharisees angry at Sabbath healing, revealed lack of compassion**

**Some want miracles** — *but miracles have to look the way they want — or forget it!*

**Pastor Steve tells his personal story** — *about how his first encounter with the supernatural power of God was with speaking in tongues, and of his lifelong practice. Please watch the sermon video for his full story.*

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## Praying in the Spirit, Speaking in Tongues

**Today** — final aspect of Armor of God, praying in the Spirit, speaking in tongues...

- **Ephesians 6:18**  
...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

**Application** — *Praying in the Spirit always involves speaking in tongues, but speaking in tongues isn't always praying in the Spirit—sometimes it's not praying, its other spiritual activity, like worship or receiving revelation.*

**Goal today** — **educate to point where you see VALUE of this tremendous gift!**

## Foundation

- **Mark 16:17** — Jesus promised!  
And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;
- **1 Corinthians 12:28** — God appointed! Paul valued!  
And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.
- **1 Corinthians 14:5**  
I wish you all spoke with tongues...
- **1 Corinthians 14:18**  
I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;
- **1 Corinthians 14:39** — I was taught that stopped?  
Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.
- **1 Corinthians 13:8-12**  
Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

**Application** — *that which is perfect is the Perfect One, bringing a perfect Kingdom, He and it haven't come yet, so tongues haven't ceased, period!*

**Today, many inside and outside out of the church respond to tongues the same way people did the first time it appeared at Pentecost...**

- **Acts 2:6-13**  
confused, amazed, marveled, mocked, explained-away

**Question** — *How must we respond?*

- humbly — is there something for me to learn, grow?
- biblically — what does scripture say, ALL OF IT?
- hungrily — if something is available, beneficial, I want it!

**Question** — *What is speaking in tongues?*

- **Acts 2:4** — (Spirit ability, not man-learned)  
... as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- **1 Corinthians 12:10-11** — (Spirit gifting)  
...to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
- **1 Corinthians 14:14-15** — (Spirit praying, not man's intellect)  
For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

**Question — What are the benefits, values of speaking in tongues, praying in the Spirit?**

**Allows you to speak a known human language, you've never learned, to declare the wonderful works of God!**

- **Acts 2:6-11**  
And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."
- declaring the wonderful works of God so people can know God! "Man-ward"
- Dr. Jack Hayford wrote, "There have been occasions, both in my own ministry and that of others, in which, unbeknownst to the person praying, their spiritual language was later determined to be a language spoken by a tribe or people somewhere else in the world."<sup>1</sup>

**Allows you to speak to God about the mysteries of God — "God-ward"**

- **1 Corinthians 14:2**  
For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.
- mystery isn't the unknowable — it's what has now been revealed to us

**Application — my spirit prays beyond my intellect, declaring the revealed mysteries of God!**

- John Gill wrote, "It is a declaration of the deep things of God, the mysteries of His grace, and the most glorious gospel truths."<sup>2</sup>

**Knowing I can pray in the Spirit and declare the mysteries of God, without the limitations of human knowledge and human language is very exciting!**

<sup>1</sup> Jack Hayford, *Sorting Out Spiritual Language*, <http://www.jackhayford.org/teaching/articles/sorting-out-spiritual-language/>

<sup>2</sup> John Gill, *The Life and Thought of John Gill (1697-1771): A Tercentennial Appreciation*, (Brill, 1997)

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**Allows you to bless, give thanks and magnify God without the limitations of human thought and language.**

- **1 Corinthians 14:16-17**

Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

- **Acts 10:44-46**

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

**Knowing I can bless, give thanks and magnify God  
without the limitations of human thought and language is very exciting!**

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**Allows you to pray the will of God, when you don’t know how to pray at all.**

- **Romans 8:26-27**

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

*Application — the Spirit helps in our weaknesses when we don’t know how to pray, He makes intercession for us, beyond human words, with spiritual groanings, according to the will of God.*

**Weak, clueless, overwhelmed, not sure how to pray about a situation,  
the Spirit prays, intercedes for us, according to God’s will, awesome, exciting!**

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**MY PRAYER FOR YOU**

*I hope and pray that this wonderful supernatural gift isn’t too bizarre for you, but rather, with a child-like faith, you seek God, asking Him to give you the gift, so you can experience the benefits of it.*

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**Discussion Questions**

1. What does “offend the mind to reveal the heart” mean?
2. Discuss: “Praying in the Spirit always involves speaking in tongues, but speaking in tongues isn’t always praying in the Spirit.”
3. What theological background were you raised in regarding the view of speaking in tongues?
4. How does that affect what you think or feel today?
5. Are you ready, as Pastor Steve prayed, “with a child-like faith, you seek God, asking Him to give you the gift, so you can experience the benefits of it”?

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**JOIN US**  
**House of Prayer**

Tuesday, September 13

6:30 p.m. — Sanctuary

To submit a prayer request — <http://www.gracechapel.net/prayer>