



VOLUME XXXVII NUMBER III
Tongues – the Path to Character I

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:1-4, Acts 2:4

The month of March begins our first study on the importance of this prayer language and what God intends us to gain by using it! 1 Corinthians 14:1-4 states, *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 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. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”* The Holy Spirit-inspired prayer language of Acts 2:4 has several distinct purposes, *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* First, when we choose to pray in tongues, we exercise communication between us and God’s Spirit, *“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...He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...”*

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:1-2

1 Corinthians 14:1-2 says, *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 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.”* Speaking in tongues has a variety of Biblical purposes that unfold in Scripture and the first one that we see here deals with the word mysteries. The Greek word translated *“mysteries”* is **moos-tay-ree-on** which means ‘To speak to God about a transcendent alternate reality.’ When we are praying in tongues, we are calling forth by the Holy Spirit all that God has ordained for us in our destiny, our equipping, our gifting and our calling, as well as praying God’s purposes for others or His purposes into various situations. It comes from the realm of the Spirit. Since we know from Scripture that one of God’s chief purposes for us is to be formed into Christ-likeness and Godly character, then we know that praying in tongues really helps develop that character and therefore is something we cannot afford to ignore.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:1, 1 Corinthians 14:2,18

1 Corinthians 4:1 says, *“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”* How can we steward what we do not know? Clearly God intended His ministers and His saints to steward His mysteries. Tongues appears to be the way we unlock those mysteries and probably accounts for Paul’s statement in verse 14:18, *“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all...”!* The mysteries of God are accessible through prayer. What are we waiting for?

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 says, *“However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”* This passage is quite clear about God's purpose for us! God's wisdom is hidden in mysteries so those who choose the world never see or grasp it! How do those of us in the church access God's mysteries so we can walk in His wisdom? When we pray in tongues, according to 1 Corinthians 14:2, we are praying mysteries, *“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.”* God gave us a path to wisdom and understanding. The question is, do we understand God's path enough to employ it as God intended? God knows what we need to finish our assignment – are we pursuing it in the Spirit?

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 says, *“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”* As we approach this season, how can we communicate the truth of this reality? Praying in the Spirit seems like the only way to approach the magnitude of this event. God knew what we needed before we even got here and He provided. Will we choose to utilize His provision?

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Scripture: Isaiah 4:1-6

Isaiah 4:1-6 is one tough passage. It says, *“And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, ‘We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; Only let us be called by your name, To take away our reproach.’ In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped. And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning, then the Lord will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.”* People can be destroyed for a simple lack of knowledge. Dismissing tongues because of a lack of knowledge is a foolish and perhaps dangerous thing. Saying no to God presents some serious repercussions in Scripture that most of us cannot afford. When God says pursue the Holy Spirit through our prayer language and also to pursue prophesy, then we need to be obedient to that pursuit. We cannot afford to be slack or loose because living that way may very well bring a curse with it. It is time to ask ourselves, why is it that we cannot make the needed connection to help our culture shift back toward truth and righteousness? Do we long for God's very best for our nation? We should want it and pursue it! In order to give the enemy no place we need to use all avenues to God's best including our prayer language! Let's start purposefully and intentionally using it and move toward God's best.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:3-5

1 Corinthians 14:3-5 says, *“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”* Verse 4 says that he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself. The Greek word translated *“edify”* is **oy-kod-om-eh-o** and means ‘to build, to embolden, to square a foundation, to restore or repair that which has been damaged or broken.’ It also means, ‘To promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue and holiness.’ It includes growing in both wisdom and knowledge. What an opportunity for blessing! If we truly want to grow, then one key avenue for growth is to pray in the Spirit. It is a vital path to character development. How many of us are not yet highly developed in the realm and power of the Spirit? Are we highly developed so that we can respond to the enemy appropriately like the warriors of old just as the prophet Elijah? Why are many of us not where we long to be in the dimension of the Spirit like some of the great men and women of Scripture? Is it possible that our prayer language is being minimized or under-developed? Are there some potential giants in faith out there that are not yet seen because a key element of growth is being passed over for lack of use? It is time for God’s great champions to emerge! These champions may very well emerge as people who have learned intercession in the Holy Spirit. Let’s do it, in Jesus’ name!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Scripture: Jude 17-23

Jude 17-20 says, *“But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,...”* There is a war in the last days. There are people who are dominated by the flesh who are sensual people who cause divisions, those not having the Holy Spirit. But we are told, *“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,...”* It is interesting that the Greek word for build yourselves up is **oy-kod-om-eh-o**: ‘To build, to embolden, to square a foundation, to restore or repair that which has been damaged or broken.’ Here we see this word again. How did God intend us to build ourselves up, to recharge our batteries in the Holy Spirit? One vital part of that is by praying in tongues! We have to look whether we have let this aspect of our spiritual empowering and growth slip or become idle. Do we invest time every single day? If not, what are we going to do about it? It is time to purpose to give an hour a day praying in the Spirit and believe for anointed fruit! Is it possible that could change many areas of our present challenges? The Word certainly indicates that we will reap benefits. Without it, we forfeit a major part of our spiritual power and development. What will we do?

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Scripture: Jude 17-22, 1 Corinthians 14:14

Jude 20-22 states, *“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction...”* Is there a definition for praying in the Holy Spirit? We are told to build ourselves up in our most holy faith. If we allow the Bible to define the Bible then we are not trying to inject something we feel or think but instead we are allowing Scripture to define itself. Does God define what praying in the Spirit actually means? 1 Corinthians 14:14 we are told, *“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays...”* So the Bible defines praying in the Spirit as praying in tongues. **Praying in the Holy Spirit means praying in tongues.** God says, do it and it will build us up, and it will empower our lives. The truth of the matter is it will begin to develop within us the character of Christ and that is worth its weight in gold! This is treasure beyond measure!

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Scripture: Colossians 1: 24:27, Jude 20

Colossians 1:24-27 says, *“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”* The same word that we find in 1 Corinthians 14 for *“mysteries”* we find here. We find the chief mystery of Colossians 1 just happens to be, *“Christ in you the hope of glory.”* This is the glorious image of Christ being formed in us! When we are praying in the Spirit we are praying out the manifestation of that mystery. According to Jude we are charging our batteries, we are growing and developing, we are building ourselves up on our most holy faith. By praying in the Holy Spirit we are praying about the manifestations of Christ in us coming to pass. A path to the character of Christ in us is what God gives us in our prayer language. Attention to this gift will help us in growing and developing into His image and likeness. The question is, are we going to do it or will we let it slide? Do we have the needed resolve to advance in the fullness of what God intended for us? That is a question each one of us has to answer! This is a clear choice. Are we willing to do it until we see the results?

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Scripture: Colossians 1:28-29

Colossians 1:28-29 says, *“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”* The Greek word translated *“perfect”* is **tel-i-os** which means, ‘Complete or mature’ as well as ‘mental and moral character.’ In Thayer’s Greek Lexicon it says **tel-i-os** means ‘Of mind and character, one who has reached the proper height of virtue and integrity.’ The picture that has been emerging is that praying in tongues means we are praying God’s mysteries. The chief mystery is Christ in us. Let’s take time to ponder what an awesome privilege this truly is! In verse 29 the promise is forming Christ in us to perfection, completion, and fullness. The fullness of Christ in us is a product of praying in the Spirit. If we are not satisfied with how much of Christ there is in us, we need to ask ourselves, how much praying in the Spirit are we doing? If we want to experience a multiplication of the image of Christ in our life, we need to increase praying in the Spirit because that is an important way it comes. If we become slack, idle and loose then we do not move into the full measure of Christian virtue and integrity. By ignoring our prayer language we miss out on fully developing Christ in us and thereby diminish a vital blessing. Perhaps we are headed toward loss. Let’s pray in the Spirit and see what God will do!

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:4-6, Jude 20

2 Corinthians 13:4-6 says, *“For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you. Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.”* Jesus was crucified in weakness and resurrected in power so that now He lives with the power in and through the church. Just as He was crucified in weakness, we also have to face weakness with Christ’s overcoming strength, knowing we grow into the power of God because of His example. Verse 5 instructs us to examine ourselves as whether we are in the faith and prove ourselves. No matter how well we think we know our own hearts, we are told to examine ourselves. Are we examining ourselves? Are we praying in the Spirit? Are we growing in the things of God? The other choice is the slackness that forfeits God’s best! In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul declared we can know that we are approved through the Blood for the fullness of the covenant. That fullness does not come without exercising in the realm of the Spirit, and that means praying in the Spirit because praying in the Spirit aids in bringing us into completion or perfection. It is very clear in both Colossians and Corinthians. The verse in Jude 20 is clear that praying in the Spirit grows our faith.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Peter 1:2-4 says, *“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”* Did God give us grace and peace? Yes! Did He say it would be multiplied? Yes! The knowledge of God is to grow within and be completed. He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him. How does God bring us into fullness? That fullness comes as we absorb the exceeding great and precious promises that through them we become partakers of the divine nature of Christ. Here is another passage in Scripture that says when we do what God says to do including praying in the Spirit, then the fullness of Christ is developed in us. An additional benefit is that we escape the corruption that is in the world. Praying in tongues not only develops Christ in us, but it also opens up avenues of escape from corruption. We may not know we are praying scriptural promises but He knows the prayers that are needed! Avenues of escape are in part a product of praying in the Holy Spirit. Do we need an avenue of escape right now? If we do, then let’s pray in the Spirit. It may very well be our path to freedom. Let’s start doing it in Jesus name and then resolve to keep doing it!

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:5-9

2 Peter 1:5-9 says, *“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”* Once again we have Scripture promising us that as we connect to and do God’s Word and exercise His covenant promises, we grow. Diligence brings faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. As we pray in the Spirit we build ourselves up and we establish these attributes in our lives and the promise is that we will abound. We will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will not be short-sighted and we will not have forgotten. We will in fact be purged from our old sins. All this comes in a greater measure by diligently absorbing and doing God's Word. The choice is ours!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:10

2 Peter 1:10 says, *“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;...”* Here we have the same point being made and diligence is addressed again. We are not to let these truths slide or be slack. Remember we do not want to open a door to a curse! God provides a way to make our calling and election sure for if we do these things the Bible says we will not stumble. We can walk in the Spirit so that we never permanently stumble or fall to the place of being disqualified. We may stumble but not to the point of disqualification. The Greek word translated *“stumble”* is **ppah-yo** and means, ‘To offend, to stumble or sometimes primarily to err or mistake but there’s always a recovery.’ We cannot be tripped into an unrecoverable fall. Praying in the Spirit will keep us from that degree of failure. This is an incredible gift we cannot afford to neglect!

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:11, John 16:13

Verse 11 says *“...for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* Praying in the Spirit and praying God’s Word can actually keep an open door to heaven available to us. This verse says an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom. God has

given us interactive gifts in the Spirit and the Word. They support each other and guarantee the promise of the Spirit activating God's Word, which leads us to an abundant entrance to the kingdom. This should be an important motivation for us to activate this vital gift that God has made available. We need to encourage each other to do this every day.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Scripture: John 16:13

Part of what is available through tongues is discerning the signs of the times. John 16:13 states, *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."* The Holy Spirit told Paul this when his race was nearly over. Paul said he knew what time it was, he had been obedient and had run his race. He was ready for his heavenly departure and wrote that he was going to continue praying in the Spirit every day because that keeps the door open to heaven. The apostles founded the church on their relationship with Christ and the Holy Spirit's revelation of Christ's anointed Words. If we follow their pattern, we will succeed in finishing our race as they did!

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Scripture: Isaiah 28:9-11

Isaiah 28:9-11 says, *"Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little. For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,..."* God makes it clear that He has a purpose and a plan for tongues. The question He asks in this passage is, whom will He teach knowledge? Whom will He make to understand the message? Babies just weaned from milk, and those just drawn from the breast? No, not babies! We have to be old enough to understand precepts and how God builds upon those precepts because God's growth for us is linear, it builds over time. We start out in one place and we build as we go. We build and we grow as Jesus did. It is linear and because it is linear, God says those precepts unfold and build as we pray in tongues. Are we doing it or have we let it fall by the wayside?

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Scripture: Isaiah 28:12

Verse 12 says, *"To whom He said, 'This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,' And, 'This is the refreshing'; Yet they would not hear."* Tongues is the refreshing that causes the weary to rest. Every person needs rest and every person needs refreshing. God says one important way He sends it to His people is through tongues. If the Lord sends it through tongues, we have to take it in the package He sends it. We must not reject it simply because we do not like the package or we find it offensive. Are we going to take it in the package that God sends or are we going to demand it come in some manner we are comfortable with? If we are not using it we are either ignoring Scripture or prioritizing other endeavors as more important. This verse also says *"...they would not hear."* God sent all of this developmental-growth blessing in a package that is strange or offensive to some and causes people to question its value. It is hard for our natural minds to see the value of tongues. That is likely the reason why Scripture says, *"...yet they would not hear."* God is saying that tongues is one of the most valuable blessings He has ever sent but He sent it in a package that is a real test to the flesh. Our flesh may not see the value of tongues, but God says there is great value, and we need to take Him at His Word! There is truly an element of faith here that requires we move forward and receive His blessings through faith and in spite of any discomfort or objections.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

Scripture: Isaiah 28:13

Isaiah 28:13 says, *"But the word of the Lord was to them, 'Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little,' That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught."* God has sent us this developmental path to the character of Christ. This developmental path will keep heaven

open and will keep us from falling. It will supply an abundant entrance to the Kingdom. Yet part of this developmental path comes in an offensive package. Many do not see the value of tongues – there is often disagreement over it among various denominations and believers. Healing and miracles are embraced but tongues is often disputed. God sent tongues as His blessing and as one of the highest-valued aspects in His school of growth and development. However it comes in a language that is foreign enough that some reject or devalue it. We must remember that the wisdom of God is far beyond the wisdom of man. God wants humility and one of the ways He gains it is by asking us to surrender to His will. He directs us to use our prayer language and it supplies an abundant opening to the fullness of His blessing. In saying yes we enter into the simplicity and childlikeness of surrendering ourselves as a vessel. By this act of obedience the Holy Spirit can move and bypass our understanding to propel us forward in our Christian walk. With many of us there is a war in our mind about our prayer language sounding crazy to us or appearing strange to others. But obedience is never crazy to God. Obedience is pleasing and a joy to God! Praying in tongues is valued and normal in God's Kingdom realm. The choice is ours – will we do it?

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Scripture: Isaiah 28:14

Isaiah 28:14 says, *“Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scornful men, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem,...”* The primary leaders in Jerusalem were Pharisees. Opposing tongues is pharisaical. Perhaps tongues comes as a pharisee-test, demanding surrender to the Spirit. Verse 14 is aimed at every person who will ever assume any role of leadership in the church. We have to bow to the wisdom of the King and choosing tongues often means rejecting tradition. Which one will we choose? Even from the early days of the Azusa Street Revival as God restored the Holy Spirit to the church, the chief criticism was tongues. The early Pentecostals were castigated, criticized and mocked by the rest of the church. Receiving anything from the early Pentecostals required great humility. Will we surrender to the Spirit and have the humility necessary to truly accept and embrace our prayer language?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Scripture: Matthew 15:1-6

Matthew 15:1-6 says, *“Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, ‘Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.’ He answered and said to them, ‘Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God’— then he need not honor his father or mother.’” Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.’”* Jesus made it clear to the Pharisees that their tradition was making the Word of God ineffective. Is our tradition making the Word of no effect? Did we grow up in a church or denomination with a tradition that was against tongues? Jesus is clear about the fruit of choosing tradition. *“For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say,...”* God commanded one thing and the Pharisees dared say another. They made the Word of God of no effect through clinging relentlessly to their tradition. Following Jesus means saying yes to the Holy Spirit. Saying yes to the Holy Spirit means praying in tongues!

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Scripture: Luke 16:10-13

Luke 16:10-13 says, *“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* He who is faithful in what is least will be faithful also in much. Where do we stand right now on God's yardstick in this matter? When it comes to the issue of tongues, where do we stand on God's yardstick? Have we been faithful in what seemed to be least? Can we expect God to put us in charge of

much? I expect we will see a transition in the last days for those who have been faithful in what is least. I trust we will see those individuals suddenly entrusted with much. I pray that suddenly the blessing of God will overtake the faithful and He will reward their longstanding faithfulness. If we live to see it, where will we stand on God's continuum regarding our faithfulness in this area of our Christian walk? If we consider tongues least and are still faithful to pray daily, then we stand ready to be in charge of much. Let heaven open and the rain of the Spirit come!

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Scripture: Luke 16:14

Luke 16:14 says, *“Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.”* We do not have to go far through Scripture to find out where people stand on the yardstick of God. He tells us right here and gives us the first application right in the passage. The Pharisees were the ones who were disqualified. Where was the promise? They were consistently teaching and doing only the superficial and what personally benefited them in the natural. Consequentially, they missed discerning the hour of their visitation! It is critical that we be positioned for what God is about to pour out. The Holy Spirit reveals His signs to those who humble themselves and become doers of the Word. The believers of God who act upon and are obedient to the Word are the ones who discern the times. If we have been affected by tradition and Phariseeism, the time to overcome it is now! Let us shake off and jettison old mindsets and pursue the mind of Christ by praying in the Spirit every single day. We accrue eternal fruit when we discern the times by having the humility and perseverance necessary to use our prayer language and do the Word!

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Scripture: Luke 16:15

Verse 15 says, *“And He said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.’”* The Pharisees misjudged because they looked with their natural understanding. They looked at how valuable something was in the natural and never saw the gold of the Spirit. Praying in tongues often reveals gold in the Spirit! Praying in tongues can reveal a spiritual bar of gold because it empowers us within and further builds our character in Christ. Christ in us is a chief mystery in the entire New Testament and when we pray in tongues we are praying the fullness of Christ in us! But if we focus on the natural or are waylaid by what the flesh wants, we miss what we would potentially see by looking in the Spirit. The Spirit brings us discernment of the times and seasons. But when we pray in the Spirit, we start to discern – we begin to see the way God sees. God's Word is clear. The question is, what are we going to do with it? If we jump into this head first, we could truly see some radical changes in the days ahead. Let's start praying in the Spirit every single day without fail. Let's build obedience and establish a habit of praying in the Spirit and let's see what God does!

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Scripture: Isaiah 28:14-16

Isaiah 28:14-16 says, *“Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scornful men, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, Because you have said, ‘We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves. Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.’”* We know who the stone is that the Most High God laid as a foundation. The precious cornerstone is Christ. But how do we build Christ in ourselves and in others? What is the way that God ordained for us to build Christ in us? One key element is praying in tongues! Isaiah 28 not only speaks about the cornerstone which is Christ, it also speaks about that cornerstone being praying in the Spirit that brings us into the fullness of Christ. How are we doing with that cornerstone? What habits have we formed to invite our Precious Cornerstone to be built in us?

MONDAY, MARCH 27

Scripture: Isaiah 28:17

Verse 17 says, *“Also I will make justice the measuring line, And righteousness the plummet(plumbline); The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place.”* When we pray in the Spirit, God establishes a judicial plumbline. He establishes a plumbline of righteousness, both in our own lives and everywhere He chooses to bring that plumbline out of us. Once it is established in us, He can drop it wherever He chooses in our life. Tongues establishes Christ in us, and as a result of that, we carry a plumbline that God can establish through us. Praying in tongues is so important because it is a significant way God will establish His plumbline inside of us.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

Scripture: Genesis 18:19

Genesis 18:19 says, *“For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness/**tsed-aw-kaw** and justice/**mish-pawt**, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”* **Mish-pawt** is the same word we see in Isaiah 28:17, *“Also I will make justice/**mish-pawt** the measuring line and And righteousness/ **tsed-aw-kaw** the plummet(plumbline); The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place.”* When God establishes a plumbline in our lives, we become the agents of judgment and salvation everywhere we go. In Genesis 18 Abraham was the agent of salvation and he prayed to postpone God's judgment until Lot was safe. Abraham carried a plumbline – he was the plumbline of God! He walked with God and the plumbline was established through him. Praying in tongues is about establishing a plumbline for salvation and judgment inside of us.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 9:6-7 says *“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment/**mish-pawt** and justice/**tsed-aw-kaw** From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”* Isaiah 9 says that King Jesus sitting on the Throne of David will order it and establish it with the very same plumbline truths of Matthew 28. Abraham became a plumbline, Jesus was a plumbline and we see Isaiah prophesying that Jesus will establish Himself as a plumbline *in us*. Christ in us, in fullness! God ordained that to happen in us by tongues. By neglecting praying in tongues, we hinder the process of Christ being established in us.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Scripture: John 16:7-11

John 16:7-11 says, *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”* When the Holy Spirit has come, He will convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. The very same thing Abraham did and that Isaiah said Jesus will do through us is exactly what Jesus said the Holy Spirit will do when He comes upon us. He will establish a plumbline of righteousness and judgment and the Holy Spirit will carry it out. One way is by praying in tongues. How developed are we in using our prayer language? If we are not very developed, our path is clear – pray in the Spirit! God ordained that Christ be established in us by praying in the Spirit, so we can make a choice to grow up in the fullness of Christ and walk in all He ordained us to be! God is no respecter of persons and it is available to everyone. This is a significant part of God's path for the development of Christ in us. Let's embrace it, walk in it and reap the rewards of the Holy Spirit!

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Scripture: Luke 11:11-13

We can all use edifying in this building process. For those of us who don't feel like we have our prayer language, Luke 11:11-13 guarantees God will give us what we're asking for. It says, "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Launch out in faith and speak, expecting God will do as promised – forming your utterances into a language that speaks God's mysteries! The Greek word in 1 Corinthians 14:4 translated "edify" is **oy-kod-om-eh-o** and means, 'To build a house; to build up from the foundation; to restore by building; to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness and blessedness; to grow in wisdom and piety; imparting strength and courage to do what is right; to embolden; to make more able.' This is a list with benefits at our disposal. Praying in the Spirit invites God to intervene in the construction process of our lives as we develop spiritually. Let's deepen our understanding of tongues and commit to grow into all that He has for us, in Jesus' name!

Though speaking in Tongues
May tweak quite a few,
There's gold waiting there
For both me and you!