

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL TONGUE?

*“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.”  
(Romans 8:26)*

### Objectives

Knowledge of God's Will	The primary function of speaking in tongues is self-edification. The secondary function is the edification of others. All who have the Holy Spirit are able to speak in tongues.
Knowledge of God	God is Spirit.
Good Works	Ask God to sanctify us. Set our minds to seek God first, and pray with a focus.

### A. What Is the Spiritual Tongue?

The primary function of spiritual tongues is self-edification (1 Cor 14:4). It confirms that we have received the Holy Spirit, and is assurance that we have God living inside us.

### B. The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

The secondary function of spiritual tongues is the edification of others. When God intends to deliver a message in tongues through an inspired speaker, He will move someone to interpret the message to listeners (1 Cor 12:7). This interpretation is a special gift that is for the edification of the church.

### C. The Value and Significance of Speaking in Tongues

1. *To confirm that we are God's children:* Since it is evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we can be assured that we are God's children when we pray in tongues.
2. *For our spiritual edification:* The Holy Spirit is ready to strengthen our faith as we call on Him.
3. *To intercede for us:* Even if we don't have the words or strength to pray, the moment we kneel, the Holy Spirit will intercede for us (Rom 8:26).
4. *To pray in God's will:* Even if we are unsure what to pray about or cannot concentrate, the Spirit will help us to pray for God's will and His kingdom (Rom 8:27).
5. *To pray for one another and for the church:* If we seek to build up others, we need the Holy Spirit's guidance to know how and what to pray for. Praying in tongues is a sign of unity in the one body that is Jesus Christ.
6. *A sign for unbelievers:* Speaking in tongues is a testimony of God's presence, just as it served as evidence of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies for the Jews on the Day of Pentecost.

### Life Application: Rely on the Power of Prayer in the Holy Spirit

If we say we are Christians, we need to pursue holiness, because holiness is directly related to our salvation (Rom 6:12–14). But to live a sanctified life, we need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, making prayer the foundation of every Christian life. How do we learn to rely on the Spirit through prayer?

1. *Prepare our hearts*  
If our heart is not ready for prayer, our prayer may not be fruitful. One way to prepare our hearts is by finding a verse from the Bible and meditating on it before we pray.
2. *Pray with a focus*  
Having a focus based on our Bible reading, such as the desire to change our speech or to ask for God's cleansing, makes our prayers more effective.

