

Speaking in tongues

When we talk about the baptism in the Holy Spirit most people associate it with speaking in tongues.

- Some might ridicule it as crazy talk, and even say that those who practice it are mentally unstable – but actually science proves the opposite.

Contrary to what may be a common perception, studies suggest that people who speak in tongues rarely suffer from mental problems. A recent study of nearly 1,000 evangelical Christians in England found that those who engaged in the practice were more emotionally stable than those who did not.

– <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/07/health/07brain.html>

Typical God

It is not strange that God chooses to conceal something powerful, in some that seems foolish to the natural mind.

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

– 1. Corinthians 1:27

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

– 1. Corinthians 2:13-14

What is the gift of tongues

- In the original language the word used is **Glossolalia**, (from Greek *glōssa*, “tongue,” and *lalia*, “talking”).
- It is utterance in a language, unknown to the one who speaks, and that is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

– Acts 2:4

When we talk about the baptism in the Holy Spirit most people only think of speaking in tongues, but speaking in tongues is not the purpose of the gift – the tongues are just a tool.

- But the main purpose, according to Acts 1:8, is to receive power to be effective witnesses.
- But in this session, we will start to see that speaking in tongues is actually a way God has given us to release His power into our lives.
- When we study Paul's teaching on tongues, we see that speaking in tongues is a tool we can use to "charge our spiritual batteries".