An Unknown Tongue

- **I Corinthians 14:14** For if I pray in an unknown tongue...
  - Unknown: the tongue is unknown to you, may not be unknown to the hearer
- **I Corinthians 13:1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling symbol.
  - When you pray in that tongue that’s unknown to you, it may be tongues of men (Italian, Chinese, Spanish) or it may be tongues of angels (heavenly language)

What is the value in praying in tongues?

- I thank my God I speak in tongues more than you all (**I Corinthians 14:8**)
- ...my spirit prayeth (**I Corinthians 14:14**)

Speaking Mysteries

- **I Corinthians 14:2-3** For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.
  - If you pray only in your understanding, you come up short, because your understanding is short (your understanding of spiritual things is not as it should be)
- **I Corinthians 14:14** For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays
  - It’s my spirit doing the praying; the Holy Ghost is giving me the utterance
- V. 2 “...*in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries*” (KJV)
  - Weymouth: “...he speaks divine secrets” (he’s talking secrets with God)
  - Sometimes the Holy Ghost gives you the interpretation of what you prayed and then your mind knows the secret

Spiritual Edification: Building Yourself Up

- A means of spiritual edification: V. 4 *he that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself* – builds himself up
- It’s spiritual edification; not mental (“his understanding is unfruitful” v. 14) or physical

Preparation for Whatever Comes Up

- “The greatest things that ever happened to me, God would prepare me for it...sometimes I would speak in tongues for hours while going about my business. ... The more I spoke in tongues, it was just like winding up a spring. Or like charging up your spiritual battery.”
- “A lot of times, those outstanding things that happened with me [praying and delivering someone from long-standing oppression]...beforehand I didn’t know it was going to happen. But it pays to be sensitive to the Spirit of God – and when you pray that way every day, then you’re ready for whatever comes up. But then God knows on these special things, you’ll have a little extra leading a lot of times to spend a little extra time getting ready.”
Power to Exercise your Faith

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

- Praying in the Holy Ghost will not give you faith; the faith is already there (faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God). But people need to be built up on their faith.

- A lot of people, without any power behind it or without building themselves up, without spiritual edification, try to exercise their faith but it doesn’t always work like it should – because they haven’t taken time to build themselves up on their most holy faith

- Edify – charge, like putting a battery on a charger

- When the storms of life and the cold winters of life come – and they come to all of us – we’re not immune to those things. The crisis of life comes to all of us. But too many times when they come, we don’t have any fire in our battery. The battery’s there, it’s in place – that’s the faith part – but there’s no fire in it.

2 Kinds of Praying: Spirit Praying & Mental Praying

- **I Corinthians 14:15** What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also

- Praying with the understanding = mental praying

- Praying with the spirit = spirit praying

- We need both of them. The reason we haven’t progressed farther in the realm of spiritual things is because we’ve tried to do it all with mental praying, with one kind of praying. But we need both of them. And every one of us needs both kind of praying in our own individual lives.

No Selfishness in Our Prayers

- Praying in the Spirit eliminates the possibility of selfishness entering into our prayers – because we’re praying as the Holy Spirit gives us utterance, not as our mind gives us utterance.

A Way to Pray for Things We Don’t Know About

- **Romans 8:26-27** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought [to know it]: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 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.

- When you pray that way, you know you’re praying according to the will of God. (If you have sufficient Word for a situation, you know you’re praying according to the will of God. But in so many areas, we still don’t know as we ought.)

Praying in tongues provides a way for things to be prayed for which need prayer, but for which no one thinks to pray, or which they know nothing about.
• A lot of lives could have been saved if folks had been sensitive to the Spirit of God and had walked over into the realm of the Spirit – instead of only having to do with mental prayers. That’s the best they could do, and God did the best He could do for them under the circumstances. But how much more could have been done? And how much more will be done as we learn to flow with the Spirit?

• We need to learn how to develop our spirits, look at the connection between our spirit and the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit dwells in your spirit, and the Holy Spirit knows things that your spirit doesn’t know. But if your spirit is yielded and susceptible, and your spirit knows the Holy Spirit as your spirit ought to know, then the Holy Spirit can communicate with your spirit.

**Persistence in Prayer: Praying Through**

• There are times that, just right away, you can pray – you find out from the Spirit of God what it is and just move out in the realm of faith and claim it and have the victory. But there are other times you’ve got to stay right in there.

• There are times when you just have to stay in there and persist. We’re too easy to give up on it.

• We need to have stamina, spiritually and physically. ... Folks who have it too easy, always have someone doing their praying for them and exercising their faith for them...and then they run up against something. Because sooner or later you’re going to run up against it.

• There are some of these things that you’re going to have to pray through. You’re going to have stay right in there until you pray through them and get the victory over them. We need to realize that every battle is a spiritual battle. It may look like it’s natural. Maybe you think you’re dealing with people, but there are spiritual forces behind it.

**The Whole Armor of God is for Prayer Warfare**

• “We wrestle not against flesh and blood...” – then Paul talks about putting on the whole armor of God. When you get the armor on, then you’re getting ready to pray. That’s what the armor is for, to enter into the prayer fight, the prayer warfare.

• *Ephesians 6:10-18* Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

• If you don’t have on the whole armor of God, you won’t be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

• We aren’t wrestling with men or with God.

• The evil day – the day the crisis comes to you

• Verse 16: quench ALL the fiery darts
• Most people aren’t even ready to pray. They’re trying to pray with no armor on. And the devil sees that, and they don’t have any shield of faith in their hand, and while they’re praying, they’re shooting fiery darts and hitting them every time.

• **Word of the Lord**

• God can’t put your armor for you. He’s provided it, it’s up to you to put it on for you. The Holy Ghost can’t pray for you. He’ll help you do your praying, but He can’t do your praying for you.

**The Call to Prayer**

• **Word of the Lord**

• **Isaiah 6:1-8** In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the **LORD** sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the **LORD** of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have see the King, the **LORD** of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

• Who will respond to the call to prayer? I want to go on record as saying, “Here am I Lord, use me.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E5cYkFOulw&feature=youtu.be