

S.H.A.P.E.D. to serve



1

Part 7: Why not tongues today?



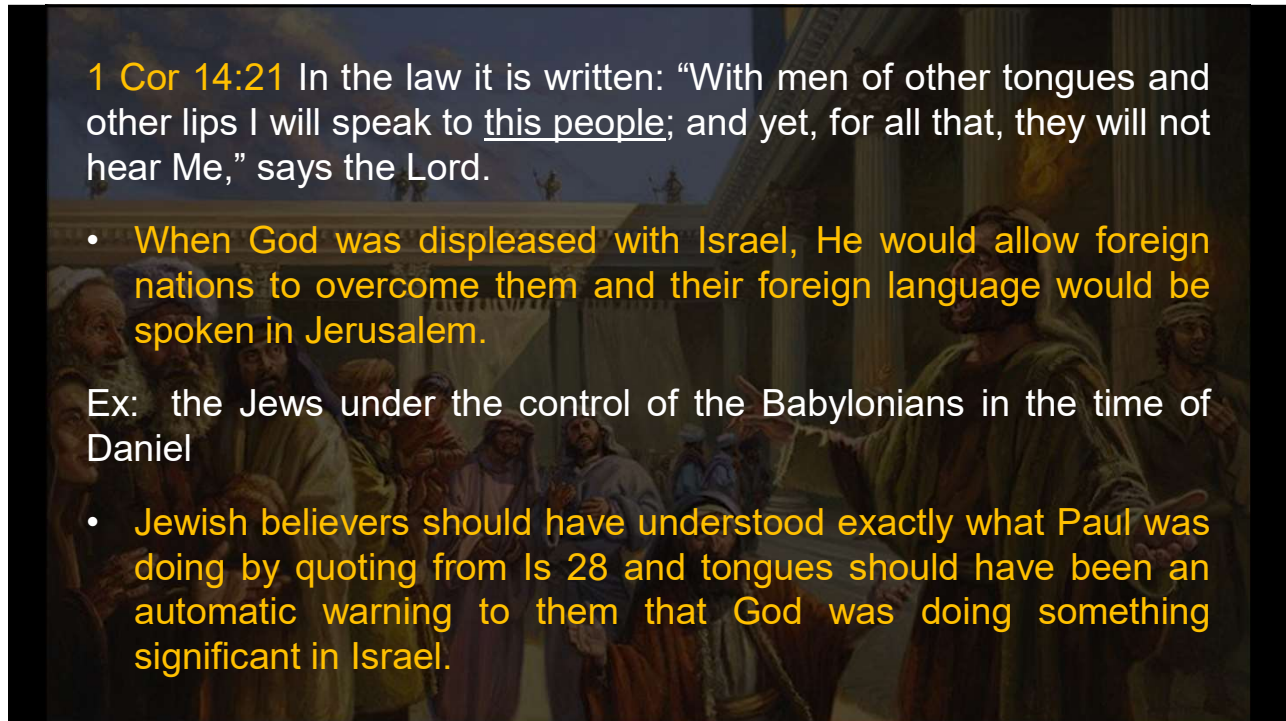
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1. **Spiritual gifts are not all equal.** (1 Cor 12:28,31)
2. **Everyone does not receive the same gift – including tongues.** (1 Cor 12:29-31, Rom 12:6)
3. **The gift of tongues is normally listed in the *lower tier* of gifts.** (1 Cor 12:10, Rom 12:6-8)
4. **Tongues edifies self – not others.** (1 Cor 14:4)
5. **The gift of tongues was a sign gift.** (1 Cor 14:22)

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4



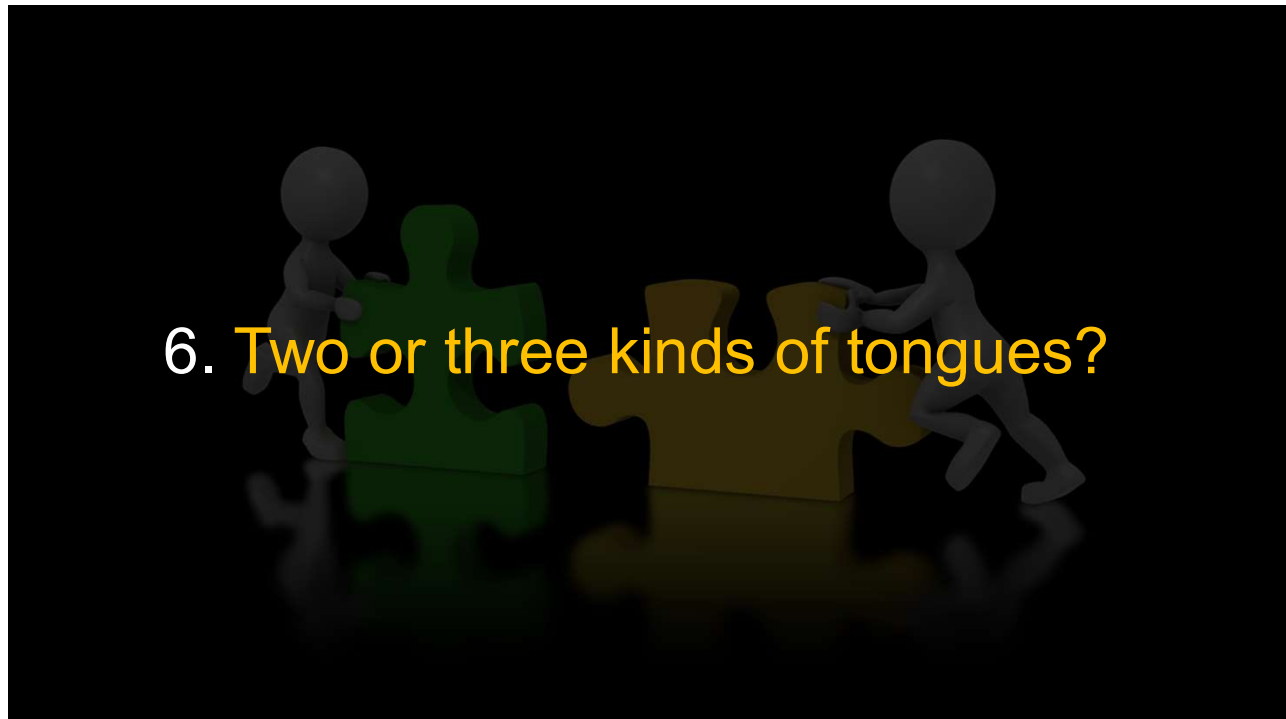
1 Cor 14:21 In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord.

- When God was displeased with Israel, He would allow foreign nations to overcome them and their foreign language would be spoken in Jerusalem.

Ex: the Jews under the control of the Babylonians in the time of Daniel

- Jewish believers should have understood exactly what Paul was doing by quoting from Is 28 and tongues should have been an automatic warning to them that God was doing something significant in Israel.

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6. Two or three kinds of tongues?

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- Tongues of Pentecost

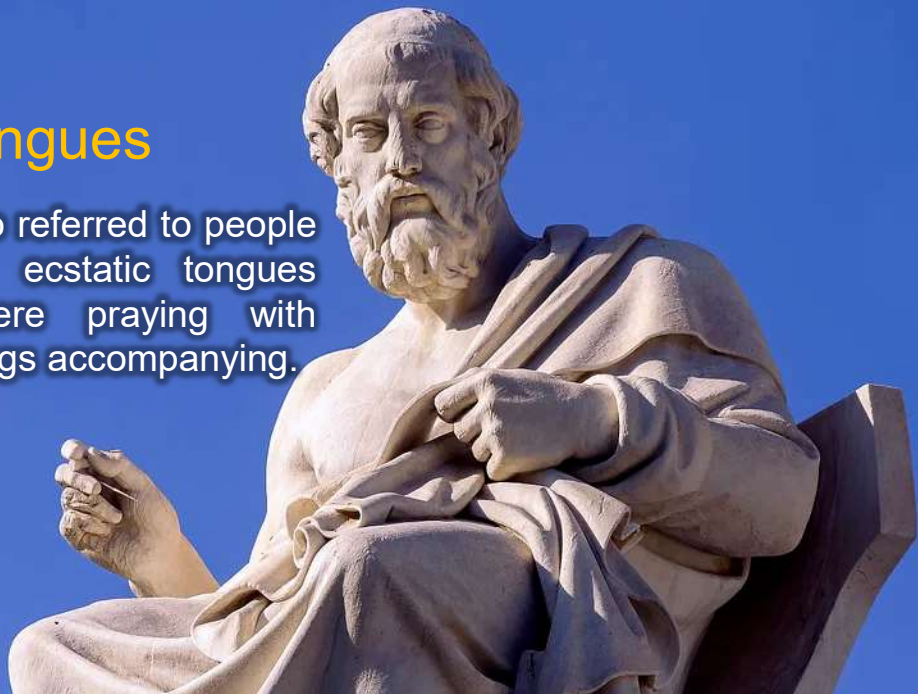
Believers on the Day of Pentecost spoke identifiable, human languages:

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Rome, Cretans, Arabs (Acts 2:8-11)

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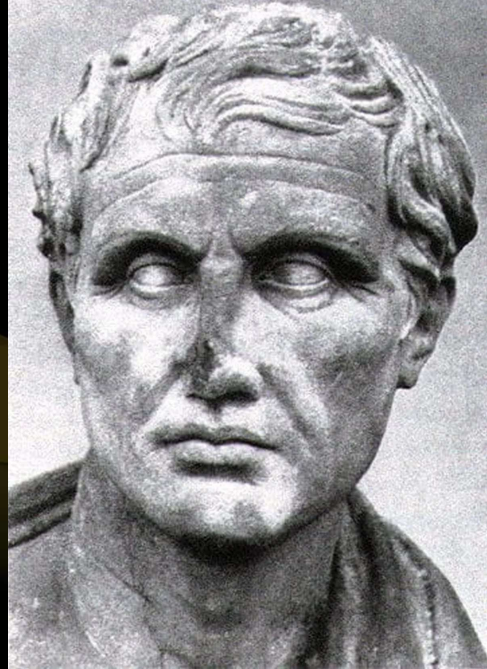
- Pagan tongues

In 400 BC, Plato referred to people who spoke in ecstatic tongues while they were praying with purported healings accompanying.



8

In the 1st cen. BC, Virgil wrote of a Sybilline priestess on the Island of Delos speaking in ecstatic tongues as the result of her being unified with the god Apollo.



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The same phenomenon of “speaking in tongues” (glossolalia) is found in the pagan religions of the Mithran cult of the Persians, the Osiris cult of the Egyptians, the Dionysian, Eulusinian, and Orphic cults of Macedonia, Thrace, and Greece.

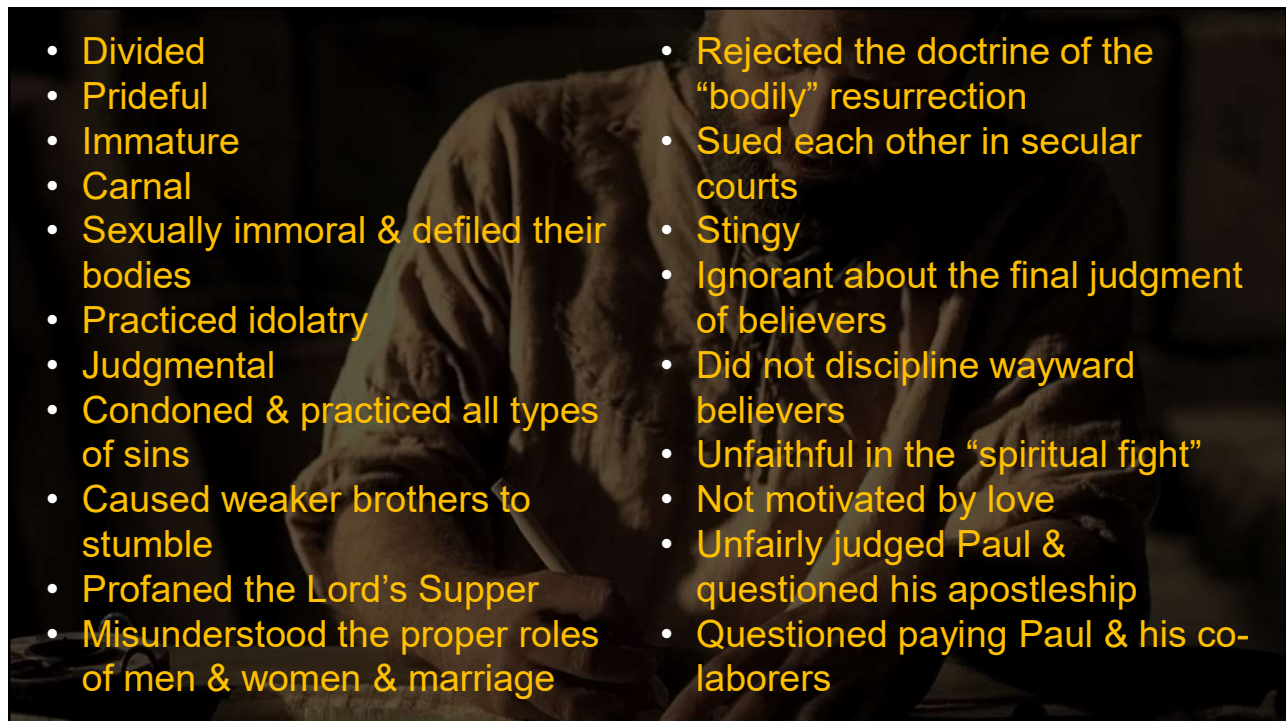
Ecstatic utterances (glossolalia) are also practiced today by many non-Christian religions all over the world – in China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Siberia, Arabia, Burma, Africa, Haitian Voodoo worshipers, and Eskimos in the Arctic regions.

10



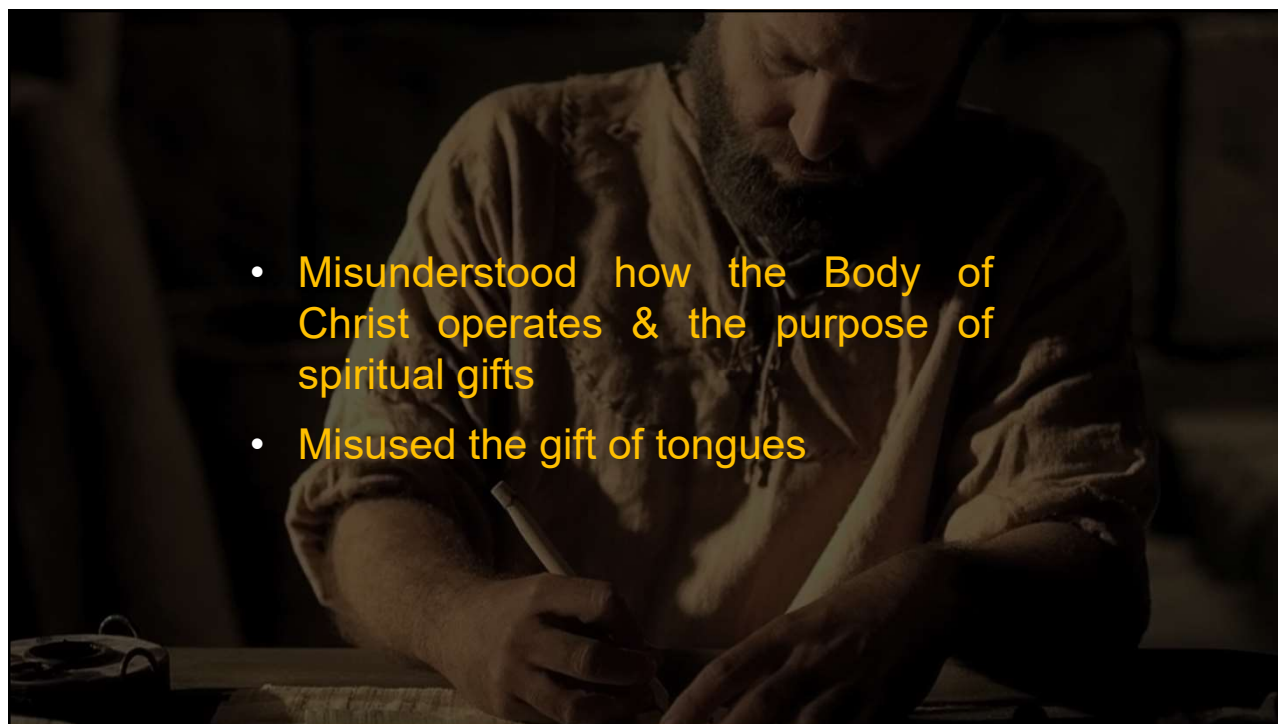
The letter to the
Corinthian church is
a **condemnation** —
not a **commendation**.

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- Divided
- Prideful
- Immature
- Carnal
- Sexually immoral & defiled their bodies
- Practiced idolatry
- Judgmental
- Condoned & practiced all types of sins
- Caused weaker brothers to stumble
- Profaned the Lord's Supper
- Misunderstood the proper roles of men & women & marriage
- Rejected the doctrine of the "bodily" resurrection
- Sued each other in secular courts
- Stingy
- Ignorant about the final judgment of believers
- Did not discipline wayward believers
- Unfaithful in the "spiritual fight"
- Not motivated by love
- Unfairly judged Paul & questioned his apostleship
- Questioned paying Paul & his co-laborers

12



- Misunderstood how the Body of Christ operates & the purpose of spiritual gifts
- Misused the gift of tongues

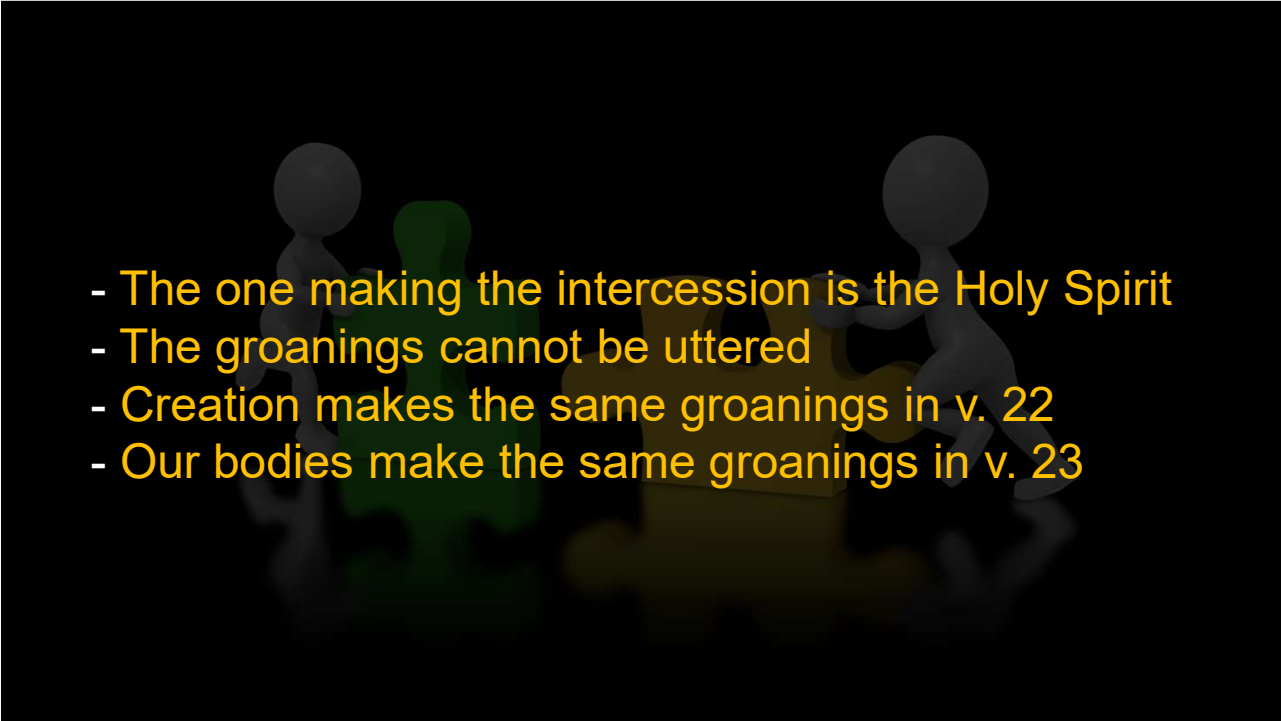
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- A heavenly language?

1 Cor 13:1 tongues of men and of angels

Rom 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. ²⁷Now 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.

14

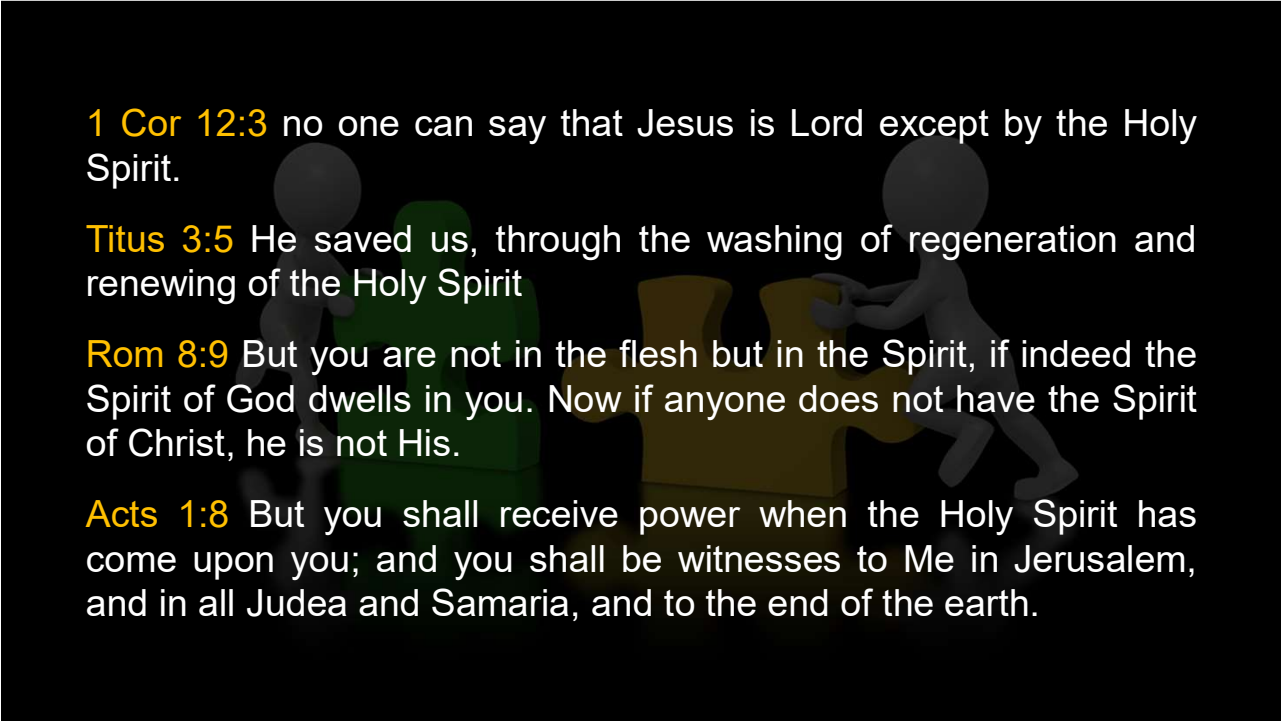
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- The background of the slide features a dark, almost black, textured surface. In the center, there are two stylized, grey, 3D human-like figures. They are positioned on either side of a large, glowing green puzzle piece. The figures appear to be interacting with the puzzle piece, possibly placing or moving it. The overall aesthetic is mysterious and symbolic.
- The one making the intercession is the Holy Spirit
 - The groanings cannot be uttered
 - Creation makes the same groanings in v. 22
 - Our bodies make the same groanings in v. 23

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The background of the slide is identical to the one above, featuring a dark, textured surface with two stylized grey figures and a large glowing green puzzle piece in the center.

7. But aren't tongues proof that a believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit?

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1 Cor 12:3 no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

17



8. **Why not tongues today?**

18

- **Prophecy is superior to tongues**

1 Cor 14:1-5 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. ²For 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. ³But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵I 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.

19

- **No one understands tongues unless it is their native language (or they have the gift of interpretation)**

1 Cor 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.

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1 Cor 14:9-11,14,16-17 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. ¹¹Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me. ... ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. ... ¹⁶Otherwise, 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? ¹⁷For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

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- **The only way tongues makes sense in the church is if it is interpreted**

1 Cor 14:5 for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

1 Cor 14:13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

1 Cor 14:27-28 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. ²⁸But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

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- Our understanding is paramount

1 Cor 14:6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?

1 Cor 14:19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

1 Cor 14:24-25 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person [gentile] comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.
²⁵ And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

1 Cor 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

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We are spiritually transformed by the renewing of our minds

Rom 12:2 be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

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Prov 1:7 fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov 2:10 knowledge is pleasant to the soul,

Prov 14:18 the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

Prov 18:15 The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Rom 15:14 filled with all knowledge,

1 Cor 1:5 thankful that you were enriched in all knowledge,

Eph 1:17 that God may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

Phil 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

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Phil 3:8 I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ

Col 1:9-10 For this reason we ... ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ... being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

2 Pet 1:5,8 add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ... you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Rom 10:2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

1 Cor 15:34 for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

1 Cor 14:20,37-38 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. ... ³⁷ If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. ³⁸ But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

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9. What are we to conclude about the use of tongues today?

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- Paul was fluent in speaking languages he did not know naturally

1 Cor 14:18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

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- Paul allowed the limited use of tongues

1 Cor 14:27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.

1 Cor 14:34-35 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. ³⁵And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

1 Cor 14:39-40 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. ⁴⁰Let all things be done decently and in order.

30

- Praying in a language we understand is just as spiritual (“with the Spirit”) as praying supernaturally in a language we do not know

1 Cor 14:15 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.

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- We do not need supernatural “signs” to know that God is supernatural and is at work in/among us
- The tendency to crave the supernatural is a sign of spiritual immaturity
- Because believers “are” supernatural, the absence of the miraculous is no sign that we are any less supernatural

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