THE GIFT OF TONGUES & INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

VOLUME NUMBER NINE
of a nine part series on The Gifts of The Spirit
The Gift of Tongues and Interpretation

by

Norvel Hayes

(Volume number nine of a nine part series on The Gifts Of The Spirit.)

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"... to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues"

I Corinthians 12:10
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1 Why Tongues?

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.
2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.
3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.
7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.
9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally
as he will."

I Corinthians 12:1-11

In this ninth book on the gifts of the Spirit, I would like to emphasize that the gift of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues have their own unique place. Nothing can take the place of these gifts in the nine gifts of the Spirit, or in the Body of Christ.

You may say, "Well, what about prophecy? I read your book on the gift of prophecy, and you said that the gift of prophecy is powerful...."

Yes: the gift of prophecy is powerful. But the gift of prophecy is a completely different gift in the nine gifts of the Spirit. The gift of prophecy is to be spoken out supernaturally—in English, to build up the Body of Christ, and to tell things.

The gift of tongues, and interpretation can be equivalent to the gift of prophecy when they are used by the Holy Ghost for the same purpose. But the gift of tongues, and the interpretation are different gifts that are given by the Spirit as He wills. The gift of tongues, and interpretation are the last of the three vocal gifts of the Spirit. If you have studied all of my books on the gifts of the Spirit, you now know that there are three gifts of power: the gift of faith, the gifts of healing, and the working of miracles. There are three gifts of revelation: the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits. And there are the three vocal gifts: the gift of prophecy, the gift of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

I hate to say this, but most churches that are built upon this earth are ignorant of all the gifts of the Spirit. The very things that God says that He would not have us ignorant of are the things that mankind is most
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ignorant of. The church is especially ignorant of the gift of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

If you do not believe in tongues, and interpretation what is your excuse?

You may say, "Well, I can't help it because I was born into a family that doesn't believe in the gifts of the Spirit. I can't help it because my relatives are a little goofed up. I can't help it because my relatives do not believe in tongues and interpretation."

I know that you can't help that, but you do not have to stay like your relatives. Why would you want to stay like them? You have a chance to be like Jesus. You have a chance to believe in tongues and interpretation. You can get in the Word and see what the Word says about these spiritual gifts. You can read 1 Corinthians 12:1, and know that God does not want you ignorant of the nine gifts of the Spirit. God said that you do not believe in the gifts of the Spirit because you are a Gentile, carried away by your relatives to dumb services. The reason why you have not believed in tongues and interpretation is because you have been taught a bunch of dumb stuff.

You may say, "Well, it may not be God's will for me to speak in tongues."

Is that right? Where did you find that? You must have found it in the funny papers! You did not get it from the Bible! The gifts of the Spirit are for you. They are for every man. Read the seventh verse of 1 Corinthians 12 again. "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." That means you.

You may say, "But I believe in the Holy Spirit."

I am not talking just about the Holy Spirit. I am
talking about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I am talking about the manifestation of the nine gifts of the Spirit that God has given to the church. They are all free gifts—as the Spirit wills. And of course He wills to give them to the people who believe in the Bible.

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit: to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (vv. 8-12).

Let's continue reading concerning the body, beginning with verse 18:

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you" (vv. 18-21).

Just because you are saved by the Spirit of God, you have experienced salvation, or you have been born again, and just because you have been healed by God's healing power, and you know God real well; just because you have had great miracles from God—great manifestations from God, God says to you, "You had
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better not say, 'I don't need to speak in tongues.'"

God says that you need to speak in tongues. Read verse 21 again. "And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." You cannot say that and be in His will. Because God is God, and He is the Head of the church. God put those things in the Bible, and He says that He would not have you ignorant of them.

If you say that you do not need the gifts of the Spirit, that is what God calls, "dumb idols; coming from a dumb human." And I do not mean intellectually. You may be a professor in a university, but that is no sign that you have any sense about speaking in tongues.

You may say, "What are tongues, and interpretation of tongues?"

When God has a message for the church, He manifests himself in your belly first. I will say it this way: When the Spirit of God manifests himself down in your belly, and it gets over to your spirit, then He wants you to give out a message in tongues—supernaturally. The gift of tongues operates supernaturally. You have it down in your spirit, and you speak those words out in tongues.

Then when God unfolds, and gets across, or shows another person, in English what you spoke out in tongues, that is the interpretation of tongues. Both tongues, and interpretation of tongues operate supernaturally—only as the Spirit wills. You cannot make God let you give out a message in tongues in a public assembly. Neither can you make Him give you the interpretation of a message in tongues that has been given. It is as the Holy Spirit wills. Both the gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues operate by the supernatural power of God being manifested inside
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of you. They have their own unique way of being manifested.

The gift of tongues is like a big brother, and the interpretation of tongues is like the little sister. A big brother can do much more than a little sister. But in the eyes of God the little five-year-old sister is just as important as an eighteen-year-old brother.

The gift of tongues does a whole lot of things for the Body of Christ, and for you personally. And although the interpretation of tongues is just as important, it does not do as many things. Like the gift of tongues, the interpretation of tongues is a gift of the Spirit. It can tell a lot of things. It does the telling forth.
2

Some Benefits of Tongues

There are many reasons why God included tongues in the nine gifts of the Spirit. We will take a closer look at some of the benefits of tongues in this chapter.

Number one: You can worship God in the spirit. Man is a spirit and God is a Spirit. We read, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

Number two: You can talk directly to God. You can pray in the spirit, and you can sing in the spirit. And as I said in number one: you can worship God in the spirit. However, just worshiping God in the spirit is not the only purpose for tongues. One of the main purposes is so you can speak directly to God, through tongues, or a heavenly language that is given to you by the Holy Spirit. The Word says, "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God ...." (1 Corinthians 14:2a).

Number three: You can speak mysteries unto God. Tongues gives you a more fluent vocabulary. In other words, you want to know what to say to God in a certain situation: but you do not have the vocabulary. You, as a normal human being, with your natural mind cannot think of what you want to say, or how to say it. Tongues makes up for your inadequacy. We read again: "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" (I Corinthians 14:2). You do not understand the
mysteries, and the sounds that come out of your spirit that are put there by the Holy Ghost. And although they are mysteries to you, they are not mysteries to God. He knows exactly what you are saying.

Number four: Speaking in tongues helps your infirmities. We read in Romans 8:26, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." You are just like me, my brother or sister, you do not know everything, and neither do you know how to do everything. In the following example you can see that the Holy Spirit made intercession with groanings that could not be uttered.

Brother Kenneth E. Hagin was going to hold a meeting in Cleveland, Tennessee. And he came to my house two or three days before the meeting started, to rest and to have fellowship. Sister Hagin had stayed with her mother, back in Texas, and was planning to join us a few days later. As Brother Hagin and I sat there in my house the telephone rang, and it was Sister Hagin. She said, "Norvel, an Assembly of God pastor friend of ours, out here, has had a severe heart attack. And they said that there is no hope for him. He is in the back of the ambulance right now, and they are taking him to the hospital. Is Kenneth there?"

I handed the phone to Brother Hagin, and Oretha told him what she had just told me. And that night, we learned something about praying, and interceding that we had not known before. We did three things that night and the Holy Spirit gave us a real assurance about our actions.

After Oretha had told Brother Hagin what she had previously told me, we did the following things:
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*Number one:* We both hit the floor, and we broke the power of the devil over the man's body, *in English*.

*Number two:* We agreed and asked the Lord to heal that Assembly of God pastor, *in English*.

*Number three:* We started praying *in tongues*. And after we had prayed in tongues just as hard, and fast as we could pray, and after we had prayed a long, long time, the glory of the Lord fell upon us.

It was then that Brother Hagin fell over on the couch, and started groaning in the spirit, before the Lord. Then God gave him the interpretation. Brother Hagin looked at me and said, "Brother Norvel, you know we got hold of something tonight that I never got hold of before in my life."

This comes straight from heaven and it is Scriptural. You will remember the Scripture verse that says, *"You have not because you ask not...."* It was when Brother Hagin fell over on the couch, and started groaning before the Lord, the glory of the Lord fell upon us, and told us that we had prayed correctly, and that the man would not die.

I want to know everything that I can know from God. We as human beings mean well, and we love Him, but sometimes we can get all mixed-up, and do wrong things.

I don't know why man wants to fight God so much. But God knows why. He said, *"You know that you were Gentiles, carried away unto those dumb idols."* God loves you so much, and He loves the entire human race so much that He doesn't want you having a bunch of dumb idols. He wants you to come to the place where you will just believe what His Word says.

Confess this: "Jesus, I love the Bible. I am a Word
person. Teach me Lord, by thy Word." The way you learn from God is through His Word.

Notice again: The Spirit helps our infirmities. In the case of the Assembly of God pastor, we first broke the power of the devil over his body: in English. Second: we agreed in English, and asked the Lord to heal him. And third: we started praying in tongues until we felt a release in our spirits. And the Holy Spirit interceded for us with groanings that could not be uttered.

**Number five:** Speaking in tongues helps you to magnify the Lord. You may say, "What do you mean, that you are supposed to magnify God in tongues? Is that Scriptural?"

Yes, it is Scriptural. Read with me: "*For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God ...*" (Acts 10:46). If you wish to magnify God, start speaking in tongues right now.

You may say, "Well, I never did magnify God in tongues before." Well, you have missed that Scripture verse then: read it again.

**Number six:** Speaking in tongues brings the wonderful works of God. "*Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God*" (Acts 2:11).

You may ask, "What kind of wonderful works?"

All kinds of them: healings and everything.

"Do you mean to tell me that if I just speak in tongues that Jesus can heal somebody?"

That is right.

"Well, how would I know that He is healing somebody, by me just speaking in tongues?"

You wouldn't know. It is none of your business
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anyway. Just go ahead and speak in tongues. The wonderful works of God come about by speaking in tongues.
In the previous chapter we looked at the sixth benefit of speaking in other tongues—how that the speaking in other tongues brings about the wonderful works of God. We read this Scripture verse: "Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11). Verse 7 says, "And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?"

You may still be wondering if speaking in tongues brings about the wonderful works of God.

Yes. This happened to me some time ago. And it can happen to you if you are available to God. He can use you to be the one who speaks in tongues. And by doing that it can bring great blessings to many people. You can speak in tongues for an hour for God when He tells you to be the one to speak in tongues. And by doing that there is no telling what kind of ministry will go forth, or what kind of blessings will fall on the human race in different parts of the world. Just by you speaking in tongues, that particular hour, because the Holy Ghost told you to do so.

I was holding a meeting some years ago in Toronto, Canada. I had one of my college mission teams up there. I had seven young people in a Winnebago Motor home. We raised up teams in that particular church to knock on doors. Then I was going to take the team, and go
with them to do some mission work in Canada. We were driving during the day, and working in the churches at night.

We were scheduled to go to a small church out in the country, called "The Crossroad Full Gospel Church." The church was sitting right in the fork of the road; way out in the country. And they had living quarters right there in the church. So the team stayed with the pastor and his family.

God had sent the man over from England to be the pastor of that church. And he had a daughter who was a rebel. That night, God gave me a chance to talk to her for a long time. She looked at me, and said, "Is everybody with you a Jesus freak?"

I said, "Honey—Little Baby Doll, I have news for you. Jesus doesn't have any freaks. The devil has freaks."

She batted her eyes about twenty times, and said, "I don't know if I am going to like you or not."

I said, "Well, I only jar you when I first meet you. You will probably like me when you get to know me. I am real nice to everything except the devil. And I have come here to throw him out. And I am going to throw him out of anything that he is in."

Of course she went, "Ugh-h-h-h!"

A few months later I was up in Canada again: over in the Saskatchewan area; speaking at a convention. That girl ran across the ballroom, and grabbed me. She had been saved, and baptized in the Holy Ghost. Her father and mother were so happy. Oh, dear Lord, I mean she was a little roughy. But that is all right! The rougher they are, the sweeter it is when they come to Jesus, and the devil has to leave.
So—that night at the little Crossroads Full Gospel Church, after we had been riding a long time, we went in and got ready for the service. We went downstairs, and there were probably from twenty-five to thirty-five people there.

I finished speaking and the Spirit of God said to me, "Walk, and pray in the spirit."

I started walking and praying in tongues; behind the pulpit. I just shut myself off from the service, and continued walking, and praying in tongues. I prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed in tongues. And after I had prayed in tongues for such a long time, all of a sudden, God's power was upon me. It was really boiling out of me. And suddenly a woman began to cry, and weep, and cry, and cry, and sob, and weep, and weep. I didn't know why the woman was weeping so. But oh, if the church could ever learn the benefits of praying tongues.

The woman said, "Brother Norvel, you don't know anything about this. But my husband and I have a daughter who is in her twenties. She is a missionary overseas, way over in some country; working with a tribe of people. And she has picked up a rare disease. We have just received word that she is not going to live. And we have no way to get her back home."

The lady had learned the language of the people from her daughter, because the daughter had been a missionary over there for such a long time. The lady went on, "While you were speaking in tongues, and walking behind the pulpit, you began to speak out the wonderful works of God, and the healing power of God for my daughter, in the same language of the tribe of people that she works with. And when the note of victory came, that is when God's healing power swept..."
over there where she is, and shot down through her body, and healed her. Glory be to God! Thank You, Jesus!"

Now, I wish to point out, I did not know the lady's daughter, and I didn't know the language of that tribe of people. But you see, I was willing to obey God. And when I began to speak out that language, as I spoke in tongues, that mother recognized the language. She knew enough of it, and she knew when I was speaking out the healing power of God for her daughter in that tribal language.

It is no wonder that God said that speaking in tongues is a mystery. It is no wonder that the eleventh verse of Acts two said, "Cretes and Abrabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God." The one hundred and twenty were speaking in tongues. But the Arabians listened to them, and said, "I hear them speaking in our language . . . . They are Galileans, and they do not know the Arabian language. But we hear them speaking in our language the wonderful works of God."

**The Holy Ghost can use you like that.**

The Holy Ghost can have you—if you will pray in tongues, to speak out another language. You will not know what you are saying. But if you will obey God when He tells you to pray in tongues, He can let you speak out another language of a tribe of people, and He will start healing the people.

God knew that those parents were good Christian people, who loved Him. He knew about their daughter who had been giving her life to that tribe of people. And He knew that she had picked up that rare disease, and was dying. And He used me to walk and pray in tongues, and to walk and pray in tongues. That was
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when the mother could not stand it any longer and she began to cry and weep, and cry and weep, and the Holy Ghost fell upon the congregation, and fell on me; and gave us a note of victory. Jesus healed her. The daughter lived.

Confess this: "Thank You, Jesus, for tongues. And for being able to pray in the spirit. Tongues are a mystery to me, but Jesus, they are not a mystery to You. You are the Healer. You are the One who does the wonderful works of God, by Your Spirit. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus."

The following prophecy came forth when I was teaching on this subject; through Reverend Buddy Harrison, as he obeyed the Lord.

"For it is entering into that time, and that place that I will show my mercy. Yes, even my grace. And you will find yourself moving forth in power. Yes, it will cause the works of God to bring forth the healing power to move into that place.

"Do not hesitate; no, do not wait, or you will be too late. But enter in and say forth all that which the Spirit would bid you to say. For it will cause you to enter into a brand new day. And you will be able to walk forth in the land. And you'll be strong, and cause others to stand.

"So be diligent to speak the wondrous works of God. For it is speaking the Word that causes it to work. So, rejoice, and know that as you speak it forth, and believe it in your hearts, it shall surely come to pass.

"For see, you are not aware of many of times, that you are standing in a place of prayer. Yes, even in the congregation, you are unaware. For your
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spirit does know because it is in harmony, and fellowship with God. But the mind does not comprehend, or enter therein. And you will find yourself even in a place of worship in congregations throughout the land, that you will sit there, and you will be able to worship the Lord. And speak in other tongues. And say, Yes, Oh, Lord, we do magnify You.' And you will find a refreshing, yes, it will be a blessing even unto you. For you will build yourself up. And you will find strength to rise within. And yes, it will cause you to be rejoicing, and to be filled within. And you will say, 'Oh, bless the Lord, Oh my soul, and all that is within me! It is well. For He hath accomplished all that thing. And He hath kept me from the pit of hell.' And you will be able to magnify, and give thanks; glorious, and well.

"So that is proper. So continue on. And do that as well. But you will find yourself coming unto a place in the many days ahead, and oh, don't think for a moment that it will be a thing that you will dread. But it will be a thing of the heart, where the Spirit will intercede. And oh, that is that moment you too will meet the need. And you will be able to enter in, and say, 'Oh, bless the Lord!' And the Spirit will sweep within. And you will cause your knee to bow, and there you will be able to enter therein. And you will stand in the gap. And you will take their place. And oh, it will be in that that you will understand mercy and the grace. For you will bow down and you will declare, 'Oh, my God! Oh, my soul! Oh, it doeth travail. I need to be made whole.' And you will see that there is in that place when you stand: fullness: fullness, that should be brought to
others in the land.

"And oh, there will be as though you are dead in weight. And oh, it seemed that the enemy hath come, and that the Lord is too late. There will be crying, and moaning, and agony there. And you'll say, 'Oh, my soul is full of despair!' And oh, it will be heavy, but as you continue on groaning there. For you see that is where the Spirit is—He lies deep within. And He will give forth unto victory in that hour. And you'll come to that place! Oh! the victory it shall shout in the air. And you'll catch yourself: 'Ah-ha! It's done!' For that which you have spoken has been won. You see, you declared it, because you believed it in your heart. And you said, 'Oh, thanks be unto God! It is not dead. But I am alive, through Jesus, my Lord! And I'm well! Oh, thanks be unto God! He hath delivered my soul from hell. Ha ha ha! Oh, glory to the Lamb! Oh ho, hallelujah! I sing it in the land!' And there will be rejoicing. Ah ha! there's victory everywhere. You see, you stood in the gap. And oh, it will not go any further that the enemy will be. You see, you have conquered him: you are what Christ has made thee."

Say with me: "Oh, thanks be unto God for His wonderful works that know no distance."
4

Do Not Neglect Praying in Tongues

Christians should thank God for the gift of tongues, and for the gift of interpretation of tongues. God has given them the nine gifts of the Spirit for their benefit. Christians need to speak in tongues, and magnify, and glorify God Almighty, and His works.

Reader, when you forget tongues that is when you get into trouble. Because you leave the gate wide open for the devil to come in.

You would be surprised at the many meetings that I have held in large churches, or state conventions, and the Holy Ghost will start dealing with me. He will say, "Oh, Son, out there in the congregation many of my children are cold and indifferent. I have saved them, and they love me, basically. I baptized them in the Holy Ghost ten-fifteen-twenty-or thirty years ago. And they have not prayed in tongues for a month. Some of them have not prayed in tongues in six months. And some have not prayed in tongues for a year. It was new, and refreshing, and glorious when they received it, but now, it is like an every day thing. It is like a meal to them."

Some Christians say, "Oh, praying in tongues is like another meal to me. I eat three meals a day, and so what? Another meal. I can take a drink of water now, or I can wait an hour from now... ."

That is sad. I belong to God, and He will deal with me about giving an invitation for Christians. Christians
who have been baptized in the Holy Ghost, but they have not prayed in tongues for a week, or perhaps a month. It has gotten to be just an old thing to them.

Understand this: You had better not ever let praying in tongues get to be an old thing to you. Because if you do this, this is when you fall off the cliff. And you will wind up in a dark valley full of dry bones. And you will wonder: "How did I get in here?"

You got there because your dedication was not what it should have been. Your dedication to God, and your dedication to your prayer language, and your dedication to your prayer life were lacking.

Remember: only people that pray get things from heaven. I love you, my brother, or sister, and I am not writing this book just in order to play games with you. The Holy Ghost requires me to tell you the truth. If you do not pray much, you are not going to get very much from heaven. I can tell you that right now. If you have stopped praying in tongues, get back into your prayer life again: I urge you.

I speak in tongues probably ten-to-twenty times a day. To me—praying in tongues is like breathing. It just comes naturally, and I want to pray in tongues every day. I want to keep my spirit in good shape. When I open my eyes in the morning, I want to tell Jesus that I love Him. And I begin to worship Him, and praise Him: right in my bed. And I continue praying in tongues when I go to the bathroom etc.

You ask, "Well, what do you do that for?"

Because that makes the devil, and his demons that are going to try to tempt me that day go, "Uh-o-o-o-o-o!"

There is no telling what I might do in a meeting if the Holy Ghost tells me to do it. I was holding a service
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one night, and the Holy Ghost said to me, after I had been speaking about ten minutes, "Call that girl up here right now. I want to show this congregation my healing power."

There was a little girl sitting there, and she had been playing the viola.

The Lord said, "Tell her that I said to play the viola, and I will heal the sick."

I said, "Well, Dear Lord. If I'll pray in tongues, You will heal the sick. Someone playing the viola, and someone praying in tongues?"

"I'll tell you, praying in tongues, anything can happen. Ask this young lady to just come up here, and start playing the viola ...."

The girl started playing the viola, and I started speaking in tongues, just as the Lord told me to do. And sick people started coming to the front, and they were just getting healed, all over the floor!

"You mean by themselves?"

No! Them, and God! You cannot get healed without God. I am telling you that the Lord is wonderful. He works in strange ways, that the natural mind cannot understand.

It is time that you start obeying the Lord and not neglect praying in tongues. That way you will not only have victory in your own life, but there is no telling how God will use you if you are a willing vessel.
Let's obey what we've been taught now.

If you have a friend or a loved one that has a need, call their name before God.

Say: "God, I bring ______________ before You right now. Father, I claim Your mighty power to bring victory to them in Jesus' name.

"Satan, take your hands off___________________.

I claim victory for them in Jesus' name."

Now, pray in tongues for them.

If you have a need, personally, Say: "Heavenly Father, I come to you in Jesus' name. I claim Your power to give me complete victory. Victory is mine, in Jesus' name."

Now, pray in tongues for yourself—right now!

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