

People often ask me, **“What does your church believe?”**

They are wondering what we believe that may make us different from other churches.

So, my short answer – we believe in tongues, the power of God’s Word, and that God is ALWAYS good.

So, here is my long answer (short answer with details).

1. Well, if you check our **Statement of Faith**, then you will notice that it is not much different than others you have seen. However, the first thing that might stick out to you or may be different from what you have seen is that we believe in the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues**. Let me show you why we believe this.

First of all, the term “baptism of the Holy Spirit” comes from Jesus.

Acts 1:5 Jesus states, “for John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.”

Jesus called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit “the Promise of the Father”. In Luke 24:49, after His resurrection, Jesus appears the eleven and those that were with them – including the two that had travelled with Him on the Emmaus Road – and says to them, “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

#### **What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit for?**

1. In Acts 1:8, Jesus has this to say about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.  
“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.”

#### **Why do you believe in tongues?**

Our simple answer is - that it is how the baptism was recognized in the Bible, and there is no record of God saying that would change.

In fact, it is recorded in Acts 2:14-36 (especially verse 33,39) that after the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, Peter stood and testified that Jesus “having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear...for the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

And every example in the Bible of people receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by tongues or an inference to tongues.

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit among Jesus' disciples and followers is recorded in Acts 2:4. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."  
The disciples and those in the upper room (120 people) were baptized and spoke in tongues.
2. Acts 10:44-48 records that the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius spoke with tongues when the Holy Spirit came on them.
3. Likewise, the people at Ephesus spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit came on them. Acts 19:6
4. Although it says of Saul in Acts 9:17 that God would fill him with the Holy Spirit but does not mention tongues, the Apostle Paul, himself, told the Christians in Corinth, "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all." 1 Corinthians 14:18
5. Lastly, Jesus, Himself, told us to expect this from any believer. In Mark 16:17, Jesus said that one of the signs that would follow those who believe was "they will speak in new tongues".

#### **How do we know God still meant that for today?**

1. First of all, God never says that it would pass away or anything like that in Scripture.
2. In 1 Corinthians 14:39-40, Paul says, "Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order."
3. Paul also said in 1 Corinthians 14:5, "Now I wish that you might all speak in tongues"
4. We speak in tongues. It must be for today; it is too late to convince us otherwise.

#### **Two Bible Uses for Tongues**

This last verse is popular in most churches, at least the part on letting things be done decently and in order. So, let me explain the two uses of tongues as defined by the Apostle Paul.

1. A Personal Prayer Language  
The Apostle Paul also said that praying in the Spirit edifies or builds up the believer.  
1 Corinthians 14:18

As mentioned before, Paul said that he prayed in the Spirit more than others. In 1 Corinthians 14:2 Paul says that one who speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not to men but to God and that by praying in the Spirit we utter secret truths.

In Romans 8:26-28, Paul writes that when we do not know how to pray the Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered and He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

These scriptures line up with what Jesus called the Holy Spirit in John 14 and 16 – Our Comforter and Helper.

Sometimes we have pre-service prayer or Tuesday prayer nights where many pray in tongues at the same time. This is because they are praying to God, not before man. Each one is praying individually even though we are all in one room. This is in order and decent, just as all bowing their heads and praying in English would be expected and be proper during a time of prayer.

## 2. A Gift of the Holy Spirit

These are gifts that are given to profit more than just yourself.

In 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Paul teaches on the gifts of the Spirit. “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things,

Just as a working of miracles could happen in front of a group, so could a gift of tongues with an interpretation.

In a group setting, Paul himself said in First Corinthians 14:19 that in public worship he would rather speak five words with his understanding, that he may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. We agree.

In our church, we do a lot of praying in the Spirit individually and teach others to do it. We do this because we want God’s will to be prayed and because when you do not know what to pray, it is a comfort to know you are praying the will of God.

Occasionally, the gift of the Spirit through tongues does manifest in the services with an interpretation. But it is only as the Spirit wills, which means we do not have it routinely or on demand or in every service. Let me give you some examples of how God has used the gift of tongues in our midst or as we minister.

1. We have had the gift of tongues with an interpretation. The tongues is an amazement to those having never heard it before. They usually ask about it and it gives us the opportunity to tell them about the baptism in the spirit. The interpretation is always a comforting or encouraging word to all the believers present.
2. Our pastor has been praying in tongues overseas during the worship service, which is usually in a different language than English. During his personal prayer time, others have heard him speaking in their own foreign language. This has happened in Russian and in Hebrew.

3. One time in a church service in our home church in Michigan, we had a foreign exchange student who heard the entire message in her language, Swedish, although the rest of us heard him speaking in English.

**“Tongues creep me out.”**

1. Jesus said in Luke 11:23, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him!  
Here, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit a gift from God. A gift. And from God.  
God only gives good gifts. (James 1:17)  
And God is a gentle God; He will not force you to take anything you do not want, even when it is for your benefit.
2. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:14-15, For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays  
Don’t be creeped out. Your spirit is praying through you. However, read the rest of this verse. “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unproductive. Then what am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with the understanding;” Pray both ways. The Apostle Paul even goes on to say that you can sing both ways, too!
3. Fear is never from God. Fear is a tactic of the enemy. God will always teach you and speak to you, and even warn you but never through fear.

If you have any other questions about tongues, please feel free to contact us.

**Second, we believe in the Authority and Power of the Word of God.**

1. It is the only Truth; there is no other Truth.  
Jesus declared in John 17:17, “God’s Word is Truth”.
2. The Truth (God’s Word) will set you free.  
Jesus, Himself, declared that knowing the Truth was important, for it is the Truth that will set us free. (John 8:32)
3. God’s Word has the authority and power to work and has authority over all other words. Truth (God’s Word) trumps facts.  
The writer of Hebrews tells us that “God’s Word is alive and powerful.” (Hebrews 4:12)  
And Isaiah tells us that “God’s Word cannot return void but will always accomplish what God purposes”. (Isaiah 55:11)  
God Himself says, “I watch over My Word to perform it.” (Jeremiah 1:12)
4. You cannot separate God from His Word. And nothing can be made by God apart from His Word.

The apostle John tells us in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and without Him nothing was made that was made." and in John 1:14, "Jesus was the Word made flesh." He is the Living Word.

5. God's Word can make a difference in our lives.

Jesus told us in John 6:33, "The words that I speak to you are spirit and life." Proverbs 4:22 tells us that "His words are life and health to all who find them." "God sent His Word to heal us and deliver us from all unrighteousness."

Because of the overwhelming evidence in the Word of God about the power of the Word, we take the Word and "believe it as it is - the Word of God" (1 Thessalonians 2:13). That means we teach the Word and confess the Word expecting situations and circumstances to change and line up with the Word by the power of His Word.

For example, check out our scripture confessions in the media section.

Healing Confessions - We believe God's will is to heal because He says so.

God also declares that "He cannot lie" (Titus 1:2). So we choose to believe God's Word over what we see, how we feel, what we hear – not negating those things are real, but applying the Truth to overcome them and to obtain what God promises. "Through faith and patience we obtain the promises."(Hebrews 6:12)

We believe God means what He says.

**Third, we believe the simple principle, "Good God; Bad Devil."**

Jesus says in Matthew 12:33, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit." This comes after Jesus heals a man that was demon-possessed, yet the religious Pharisees said of Jesus, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of demons."

We believe that just as it is wrong to attribute something good to Satan, it is equally wrong to attribute something evil to God.

Jesus also said in John 10:10, "The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and they may have it more abundantly." Again, this makes it plain to us that the devil only comes to do evil. And Jesus comes to give life. It is the devil who is the thief. Any stealing of life, goods, etc is the work of the devil, not of God. And we will not attribute stealing, killing, or destroying to God.

There is *not one* instance mentioned in any of the four gospels of Jesus putting sickness on someone to teach them a lesson or of taking a life or of using anything “bad” to do good. And Hebrews 1:3 states that Jesus is the “express image of His (God’s) person”. Jesus said that it was the Father in Him that did the works and that He only did what He saw the Father do. In addition, Jesus Himself said to Philip and the disciples, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.” Jesus came to give us revelation of the Father. He also came to give us revelation of the devil, but He was manifested to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). Amen!

**Lastly, we believe that Jesus thoroughly triumphed over the devil.**

Hebrews 2:14 (Amplified Bible) “Therefore, since these His children share in flesh and blood (the physical nature of mankind), He Himself in a similar manner also shared in the same (physical nature but without sin), so that through death He might bring to naught and make of no effect (make powerless and ineffective) him who had the power of death—that is, the devil—and also that He might deliver and completely set free all those who through the haunting fear of death were held in bondage throughout the whole course of their lives.”

Colossians 2:14-15 “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

Jesus came to save us (John 3:16), to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8), and to restore us to our rightful place with God (Genesis 3:15, Acts 3:19-21,26, Luke 4:18-21) and to give us authority over the devil (Matthew 28:18-20, Mk 16:17-20, Matthew 10:1,7-8, Luke 10:19).

And this is what we preach, the good news.

What does this mean?

It means we believe that Jesus reversed the curse for those who will believe.

It means we believe that Jesus’ work at Calvary and His resurrection from the dead surpasses what Satan caused in the Garden of Eden.

It means we believe Jesus set us free and the devil has no right to rule over us and we are to enforce that.

**What else do we believe?**

We believe in following the commandments of God, not just going through the motions.

1 Corinthians 7:19 “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.”

We believe anything is possible with God.

Lk 1:37 the angel told Mary, “For with God nothing will be impossible.”

Mk 10:27 Jesus said, "...all things are possible to him who believes."  
Matthew 19:26 Jesus said, "...all things are possible with God."

We believe in healing.

One of God's names is Jehovah Rapha, God My Healer. Since God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, He is still the Healer and healing can never pass away.  
Exodus 15:26, Hebrews 13:8

We believe the words of our mouths are important to God's plans.  
Proverbs 18:21, Romans 10:17, Matthew 12:37, Ephesians 4:29

We believe if we know the Truth, the Truth will set us free.  
Jn 8:31-32, John 14:6, John 17:17

We believe every good thing that God wants to give us, including salvation, comes because He is gracious (by grace) and we believe it (through faith). Faith is to believe God is good and is a Giver.  
Ephesians 2:8, Romans 10:8-10, Hebrews 11:6

We believe true faith is to rely in, adhere to, and cling to God and His Word in every and any circumstance.  
(The Gospel of John - Amplified version)

We also believe in traditional praise and worship. Like King David did it and recorded it – with instruments, clapping, singing, dancing, lifting our hands. We love God and what He has done for us, and when we praise or worship we mean it and it probably shows. But we are unashamed, just like David. (The Psalms, 2 Samuel 6:14-22)

That is some of what we believe with some Scripture backup. Maybe that makes us different. Maybe it doesn't.

Come and visit to hear more or contact us with any questions.

Thanks for taking the time to read it!  
Nikki Deaton

