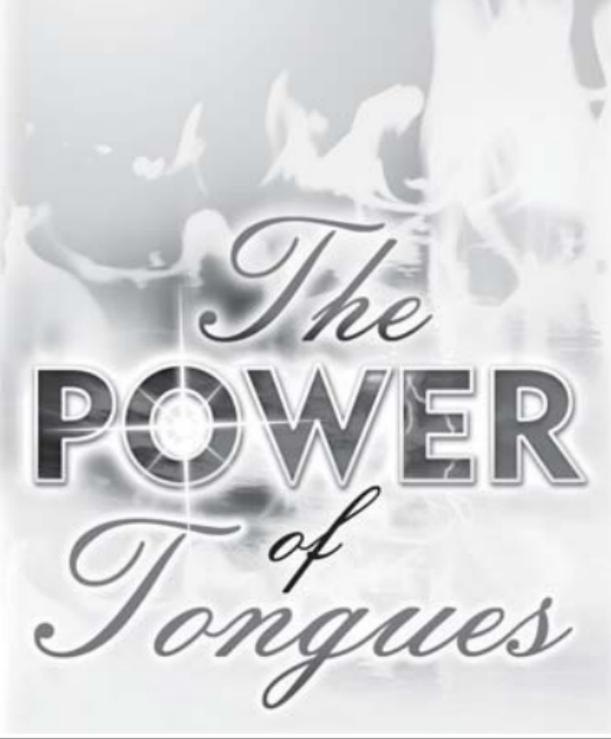


The background of the cover is a close-up, slightly blurred image of bright yellow and orange flames, suggesting fire and power. The text is overlaid on this background.

The
POWER
of
Tongues

CHRIS OYAKHILOME

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LoveWorld Publications

The Power Of Tongues

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THE LANGUAGE OF THE RECREATED MAN

Man is a spirit, but he has a soul and lives in a body. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 says, *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (NKJV). The human body is actually man’s domicile, his dwelling place.

When a person is born again, his spirit

is recreated, and that's why the Bible says if any man be in Christ he's a new creature, a new type of being that never existed before (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God, by the Holy Spirit, then gives that recreated human spirit a new language and that language is what the scriptures refer to as "tongues of angels" in 1 Corinthians 13:1.

After His resurrection and just before He was received up into Heaven, Jesus gave His disciples a rundown of the characteristic features of the new creatures by which they could be easily identified. He listed to them the many things they will be known for, things they will be able to do in His Name:

"...these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out

devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”

(Mark 16:17-18).

When Jesus said “these signs shall follow them that believe,” He wasn’t making a promise. Many people misinterpret this passage of Scripture as a promise Jesus made to the believer that these signs will follow him, but it wasn’t a promise.

You have to understand that at this point in time, Jesus was talking to His disciples about the forthcoming generation of the Church; a special breed called a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9). It was to them He was referring when He said

these signs shall follow them that believe.

If you have believed in the Name of the Lord Jesus and have been born again, then you're the one He was talking about in Mark 16:17-18. You're to be identified by these signs.

A NEW BREED OF PEOPLE

During the years Jesus walked the face of the earth, the Holy Spirit hadn't yet come to dwell on earth. He came to earth after Jesus was taken up into Heaven following His resurrection. In John 14:16 Jesus promised His disciples that He would ask the Father and He would give them another Comforter – the Holy Spirit – Who would abide with them forever.

Acts 2:1-4:

"And when the day of Pentecost was

fully come, they (120 disciples of Christ) were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

This was when the Holy Spirit came to the earth and these one hundred and twenty disciples were the first Christians to receive Him and have *tongues of fire*. The Bible records that *“they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”* (Acts 2:4).

Ever since that day when He came into the earth with a sound as of a rushing mighty wind, the Holy Spirit has never left the earth. From that day He has been filling every believer in Christ Jesus who receives Him and has been empowering us to do the works of Christ. He is in charge of God's children on earth; He's the Boss of the Church.

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

If you are born again but you haven't been filled with the Holy Ghost, the Lord wants you to receive Him today. Your salvation is the only qualification you require to receive the Holy Spirit. Now, you can simply ask by faith and receive Him into your spirit.

Say these words out loud in faith, expecting to receive:

“Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for the Gift of the Holy Spirit. As Your child, I now receive Him by faith to come and dwell in my heart. I receive Him into my soul and my body. I receive Him into every fibre of my being. I am now filled with the Holy Spirit, and according to Your Word in Acts 2:4, I speak with other tongues as He gives me utterance, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.”

You have received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Now open your mouth by faith and begin to utter those words of the Spirit that are coming from your innermost being. Praise the Lord!

The presence of the Holy Spirit in your life makes you more than a man. You may still look, talk and walk the same way but

THE POWER OF TONGUES

you have become His living tabernacle. You have become more than a man as the very life and power of God now dwells in you.

WHY SPEAK IN OTHER TONGUES?

SPEAKING IN TONGUES BUILDS YOU UP

When you're born again and filled with the Holy Ghost, the power of God comes to reside in you. This power is triggered off or set in motion when you speak in other tongues.

"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; ..."

(1 Corinthians 14:4).

The Greek word translated “edifieth” is “oikodomeo,” which means to construct or build up, to embolden or charge up like you would charge a battery. This Scripture is therefore telling us that the one who speaks in an unknown tongue builds himself up like an edifice; he emboldens himself and charges himself like a battery.

He that speaks in an unknown tongue **builds up** himself. When you spend time to speak in other tongues, you’re actually building up your spirit man.

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost”

(Jude 1:20).

When you speak in tongues, you’re

charging yourself in the spirit and stirring up the power of God resident within you. Then strength comes and the glory of God is revealed in your life. If you were weak in your Christian life, as you speak in other tongues, the power of God that has laid dormant within you would be stirred up and you'll be strengthened to do the things of God again.

Speaking in other tongues, coupled with the confessions of the Word of God, will make you a spiritual giant.

As you speak in tongues, you're building yourself up; you're recharging yourself like a battery on a charger. When you speak in other tongues, you're not just mouthing some religious gibberish but declaring mysteries in the spirit. You're speaking words that will change your whole world!

IT EMBOLDENS YOU

“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; ...”

(1 Corinthians 14:4).

Remember that one of the meanings of “edifieth” is “embolden,” so “he that speaketh in an unknown tongue **emboldens** himself.” Speaking in tongues is the solution to fear and timidity. If you ever become timid about anything, speak in tongues.

As a Christian, know that God has not given you the spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Activate the power within you by spending time speaking in other tongues; it works!

Sometime in 2001, I preached a message titled “Power For Change,” and in that teaching, I told the congregation never to

be afraid. I told them, *“You have more power inside you than everyone who’s of the world. So don’t be afraid of kidnappers. If you ever get kidnapped, don’t be afraid of them. Don’t beg. Don’t negotiate. Let them take you. Sit there with them and say, “Let’s go!”*

“As they’re taking you away, speak in other tongues. Before long, they’ll be the ones begging you. By the time you’re speaking in those tongues, you’re actually saying, “I claim these ones for Jesus Christ!” They may tell you, “Shut up or else...!” but don’t respond in English. Reply them in other tongues. As you speak, your angels will take their positions and you will be victorious!”

Shortly after I preached this message, a young lady in our church who had heard it was kidnapped. She later testified that as her

kidnappers were taking her away, she remembered this message and she just blew up speaking in tongues.

They threatened her several times to keep shut or they would kill her, but she said she couldn't contain herself anymore. She spoke in tongues even louder, and as she did, she became bolder in spite of her desperate situation. The next thing she knew, the kidnappers stopped the car, opened the doors and fled. Glory to God!

Speaking in tongues stops all fear; it emboldens you and builds up your inner man so strong that you'll have the dominion over all your adversaries.

IT EMPOWERS YOU TO PREACH

I heard a nine year old boy say, "I began speaking in tongues when I couldn't

preach the Word of God to my classmates at school.” He said, “When I started speaking in tongues, I became bold. Then when I went to school, I preached to all my mates.” Age has nothing to do with it; this was a nine year old boy speaking in tongues.

There is no limitation as to what the Spirit of God can do in your life today if you would spend some quality time to speak in other tongues. He’s not a respecter of persons; what He’s done for one, He’ll do for another under the same circumstances.

IT CHARGES YOU UP!

When you speak in other tongues, you charge your spirit. This is a “quick charge,” because your spirit responds very quickly. It’ll only take a few minutes and suddenly the anointing is stirred within you and you’re

turned into another man.

Back in the Old Testament, every time the Spirit of God (Holy Ghost) came upon Samson, he was changed from an ordinary man into a man of superhuman strength. All it took was a moment for that change to occur.

The Bible records in one instance that he *“took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron”* (Judges 16:3). Samson was so charged that he was able to do what was otherwise humanly impossible.

If this happened in the Old Testament when the Holy Spirit could only come upon a person for a period of time to enable him

accomplish a God-given purpose, how much more now that He has come to abide with us forever!

TONGUES: A NEW TESTAMENT EXPERIENCE

Speaking in tongues belongs in the New Testament. The Old Testament folks couldn't speak in tongues but we in the New Testament can, and we should. In the Old Testament, they couldn't be born again because Jesus Christ hadn't yet come to die in our place and the New Covenant hadn't been consummated.

Remember, "tongues" are imparted to

the recreated human spirit by the Holy Spirit when He fills an individual. It's a spiritual language which you cannot learn with your mind. With this spiritual language, you can communicate in the spirit realm with God and His holy angels.

The Bible says, *"he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men but unto God for no man understandeth him..."* (1 Corinthians 14:2). Remember that I said at the beginning that Man is a spirit and he lives in a body. It is through his body (his house) that he's able to contact the physical or earth realm.

However, he contacts the spirit realm with his spirit, and for the recreated human spirit to communicate effectively in that realm, he requires this spiritual language.

Sometimes when you speak in other

tongues, you're actually giving signals and instructions in the spirit, thus causing angels to start functioning on your behalf.

In the Old Testament, the only light thrown on the subject of speaking in tongues was what the Prophet Isaiah said in **Isaiah 28:10-12**:

“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.”

Though the people of the Old Testament never experienced it, what the

prophet said gives us a better understanding of what speaking in tongues does in the New Testament. He was talking about something he had never seen or experienced before and had no way of describing but by the Spirit of God.

In Verse 12 God was speaking through the prophet Isaiah that this **stammering lips and another tongue** is the rest wherewith the weary would receive rest and refreshing. But he said the people wouldn't believe it, and true to his prophecy, when it came they didn't believe it.

Sad to say, some Christians today still don't believe in speaking in other tongues. If you're one of them, let me point out here that your not believing in it doesn't make it wrong. You're actually just denying yourself of a great blessing and advantage that

God has already made available to you.

However, for the one who wants to live the authentic, dynamic and victorious Christian life, receiving the Holy Ghost and speaking in other tongues is not an option. Nobody can live the real Christian life successfully without the Holy Ghost. Without the Holy Ghost, you can only have empty religion.

WHICH IS GREATER: PRAYING IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OR PRAYING IN TONGUES?

*"For if I pray in an unknown tongue,
my spirit prayeth, but my understand-
ing is unfruitful"*

(1 Corinthians 14:14).

During one of the "Night of Bliss" meetings we held in 2002, I asked, "How many people here don't believe in speaking in tongues?" It was a large crowd of thousands

of people and just a few hands went up. I spotted a young man and a young lady among them and told them to come forward.

I asked them why they didn't believe in speaking in tongues and they both gave the same answer: "Because I don't understand it and I can't speak a language I don't understand."

"But the fact that you don't understand it is proof-positive it's from God; that's what the Word of God says!" I answered back.

Then I read this Scripture in 1 Corinthians 14:14 to them and they were convinced. I asked them to receive the Holy Spirit and the ability to speak with other tongues, and as the crowd looked on, they were gloriously filled with the Spirit and began to speak in other tongues.

When you speak or pray in an unknown tongue, you don't have to understand what you're saying because the words come from your spirit and at that time your understanding (that is, your mind) has no part in it (1 Corinthians 14:14 TEV).

The Living Bible translation says, "For if I pray in a language I don't understand, my spirit is praying, but I don't know what I am saying."

The words don't go through your mind; they come straight from your spirit and out of your mouth, and you can't understand them except the Holy Ghost opens your understanding, and He will if you ask Him (1 Corinthians 14:13).

It has been my observation that many Christians prefer to pray in the language they understand rather than in other

tongues, but that is the lesser of the two.

The apostle Paul said,

*"... I will pray with the spirit, and I will
pray with the understanding also: ..."*

(1 Corinthians 14:15).

From this Scripture, we see that praying with the understanding is the "also," but most Christians have it the other way round. They pray with their understanding and pray with their spirit also. That's the reason a lot of them face challenges that seem to overwhelm them.

Paul said, "I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding also. He also said, *"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:"* (1 Corinthians 14:18).

Praying with the understanding is the

“also,” it’s the lesser of the two. The greater one is praying with the spirit, which is praying in other tongues.

So before you pray in English or any other language you’ve learnt, pray first in the Holy Ghost. It is better to pray in other tongues than to pray in English or any other known language, for then you’re speaking forth mysteries in the realm of the spirit.

Those mysteries are the answers to your questions and the wisdom you require to deal with the situations you face. You can then bring those mysteries into your understanding where they can be profitable to you when you receive the interpretation.

TONGUES + INTERPRETATION = PROPHECY

“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying”

(1 Corinthians 14: 4-5).

Speaking in tongues includes praying, preaching or giving a message in other tongues, and that’s why you need the interpretation so you and others who’re listening to you can be blessed.

To prophesy is to speak forth God’s

Word with power; it is to speak the revelations of God's Word in the understanding of the people, so the church is edified.

The Bible says the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, except the one speaking in tongues interprets. In other words, speaking in tongues plus the interpretation of the tongues spoken equals prophecy. But if there's no interpretation and you're just speaking in tongues, prophecy is greater and better because it edifies the church.

Speaking in tongues on its own edifies only the person speaking in tongues.

"Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect (mature): yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But

we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery..."

(1 Corinthians 2:6-7.)

We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, that is, in esoteric language. The Word of God is the wisdom of God. If I say for instance, "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world," the spiritually uneducated won't know what that means. It won't make sense to the natural man because I'm speaking the wisdom of God in a mystery, and he can't understand it.

ACTIVATE YOUR SPIRIT

Praying in other tongues stimulates your spirit; it activates your spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 says, "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my under-

standing is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also ...”

Paul shows us which is the ‘also’ – Praying with the understanding. He didn’t say, “I will pray with the understanding and I will pray with the spirit also.” He said, “I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding also.” That means, “I’ll first pray with the spirit then I’ll also pray with the understanding.”

Then he said, “If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays,” which means praying in tongues is the recreated human spirit’s prayer. That is where the power is. Read the next scripture in **1 Corinthians 14:2**:

“For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God,

for no one understands {or} catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths {and} hidden things [not obvious to the understanding]" (The Amplified Version).

You see, when you speak in tongues, you're not talking to men but to God. You're speaking mysteries – secret truths, hidden things that are not obvious to the understanding. When you speak in other tongues, secret truths and realities are being revealed.

There are times when you may not know what to do. You may need an idea, a business plan, a plan for your family or a plan for your own life. You may not even know what steps to take but when you speak in other tongues, the truths will be revealed to your spirit and you would know

what to do.

Jesus said, *“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”* (John 7:38). So when those thoughts or words well up in you, you receive secret truths from God.

When you speak in other tongues, the worldly people may laugh at you because they don't understand what's going on, and they may think you're a fool. But thank God, the Bible says He has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27).

When you speak in other tongues you will have results that will amaze, confuse, and mystify the world around you. They will not be able to fathom how you came about your success. Glory to God!

YOUR MOST HOLY FAITH

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,” (Jude 1:20).

When you hear the Word of God, faith comes to you, for the Bible says, *“faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17). Your faith gets lifted as the Spirit of God teaches you the

Word; it moves up from the level it was to a new and higher level each time.

As your faith moves up to a new level, it becomes your highest level of faith for that particular time. But many Christians don't always live their lives from that peak point of faith. Most of the time, they live below the highest level of faith they've attained.

So what you're told here in Jude 1:20 is that when you've attained your highest level of faith, instead of retrogressing and operating below that level, you can build yourself up at that highest point of faith that you've attained by praying in the Holy Ghost.

By continually praying in other tongues, you can keep yourself at that peak level of faith. You'll be built up and established at

that level of faith into which the Holy Spirit has already brought you and you'll find yourself always operating at your best.

FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The more you speak in other tongues, the more you fellowship with the Holy Spirit, because you're speaking His language.

Many Christians are not aware of this. They don't recognize what they can do with what they have within them. But Paul the apostle knew what he had inside him and that's why he said, "*I can do all things through Christ (the anointing) which strengtheneth me*" (Philippians 4:13). It is by the Spirit of God.

The apostle John also said, "*Ye are of*

God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4). As a child of God, you have to wake up to the realization that there is Someone actually living in you; the Creator of eternal life lives in you – in every fiber of your being.

STIR UP THE POWER WITHIN BY SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Whatever challenge you may be faced with, what you have to do is stir up the gift of God that is in you by speaking in other tongues. As you speak in other tongues, the power of God will rise within and dominate that situation.

Don't be one of those who don't pray in tongues long enough for the power to

rise within them. They just speak in tongues for a few minutes, all the while being distracted by all that's happening around them, and then they stop without stirring up that divine energy within them.

I urge you to keep on speaking in tongues and refuse to be distracted. Bring your mind under control, and before long, as the power of God rises within you, it will flood your mind and body until you're totally inundated with it! Then you can go forth and face the world with God's divine power working in you to produce the changes you desire.

I remember the story of a brother who had one arm shorter than the other. He listened to a message I had preached on speaking in tongues and he began to speak in other tongues.

As he was speaking in tongues, he was

stretching his arms, and before long, the anointing got into his shorter arm and stretched it out until both arms were the same length. Glory to God!

A certain young man had suffered for several years from a growth in his body. The growth had grown as large as a fist. When he heard this message on speaking in tongues, he put his hand on it and he began to speak in other tongues, and as he did, faith was released from his spirit.

He went on speaking in other tongues until he became so bold that by the Spirit of God, he hit that growth and it instantly reduced! A few days later, it was completely gone from his body! There is such power in speaking in other tongues.

An eleven year old boy gave a testimony. He said he never understood math-

ematics at school, but when he started speaking in other tongues, he discovered he began to understand mathematics better and better until it became his best subject, praise God!

SPEND QUALITY TIME SPEAKING IN TONGUES

The power in speaking in other tongues is indescribable. It unlocks and unleashes the power within the Christian and causes the miraculous to happen.

Spending quality time speaking in tongues would solve that problem that has lingered on for such a long time in your life.

If you really want to see the glory of God in your life, if you want to see promotion and you want to have greater blessings

in your life than you're having presently, then speak in tongues more than you've been doing. Remember that it is *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts"* (Zechariah 4:6).

Are you born again and filled with the Holy Ghost? Then you've got all it takes to unlock that power within you and set up a fire in your spirit – speak in other tongues!

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