

TONGUES  
Interpretation  
&  
PROPHECY



TONGUES  
Interpretation  
&  
PROPHECY

Don  
BASHAM



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.  
Scripture quotations marked (rsv) are taken from the *Revised Standard Version of the Bible*, © 1952 [2nd edition, 1971] by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Publisher's note:* All emphasis in the Scripture quotations is the author's.

## **TONGUES, INTERPRETATION & PROPHECY**

ISBN: 978-1-60374-767-7  
eBook ISBN: 978-1-60374-768-4  
Printed in the United States of America  
© 1971, 2012 by Whitaker House

Whitaker House  
1030 Hunt Valley Circle  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
[www.whitakerhouse.com](http://www.whitakerhouse.com)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (pending)

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical—including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system—without permission in writing from the publisher. Please direct your inquiries to [permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com](mailto:permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com).

This book has been printed digitally and produced in a standard specification in order to ensure its continuing availability.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction ..... 9

## Section I: CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. *Why do you divide the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit into three categories of three gifts each? ..... 12*
2. *What is the difference between the gifts of the Holy Spirit that Paul listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8–10 and the ministries he listed in 1 Corinthians 12:28–30? ..... 14*
3. *What is the difference between spiritual gifts and man's talents? ..... 16*
4. *Can a person have spiritual gifts without being baptized in the Holy Spirit? ..... 18*
5. *Why do so many Spirit-baptized Christians experience only the gift of speaking in tongues? Why don't they move on into other gifts? ..... 20*
6. *A minister who is being genuinely used to minister spiritual gifts is known by some of us to be living in immorality. Why does God continue to honor his ministry with miracles? ..... 22*

## Section II: SPEAKING IN TONGUES

7. *Is everyone supposed to speak in tongues? ..... 26*
8. *Is everyone who prays in tongues supposed to have the gift of tongues? ..... 29*
9. *What is the difference between new tongues, other tongues, tongues, kinds of tongues and unknown tongues? ..... 31*
10. *Is speaking in tongues always in a known language, even though no one present understands what is being spoken? .... 37*

11. *How do you answer those people who say speaking in tongues is of the devil? .....* 40
12. *Must a message in tongues in a meeting always be interpreted? .....* 44
13. *Can you give some modern examples where speaking in tongues proved to be in a language understood by the hearers?.....* 47

### **Section III: TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION**

14. *What is the gift of interpretation? .....*52
15. *How can an interpretation of tongues be genuine when it is three or four times as long as the message in tongues that precedes it? .....* 54
16. *I speak in tongues privately but have never had the gifts of tongues where someone interpreted. How can I know when I'm supposed to do that? .....*59
17. *Should I interpret my own message in tongues or should I expect someone else to interpret?.....*61
18. *I feel I would like to interpret tongues but how can I be sure what I say will be from God? .....*62
19. *Can you tell us how your experience with interpretation of tongues began? .....*67
20. *When should one speak a message in tongues? The moment he feels prompted? I don't want to quench the Spirit. ....*69
21. *How do you know when you are going to interpret tongues? What inner indication from the Spirit do you receive?.....*71

### **Section IV: THE GIFT OF PROPHECY**

22. *What is the gift of prophecy and how does it differ from the gift of interpretation?.....* 76

23. Does the gift of prophecy always contain predictions about the future?.....	77
24. I've heard prophecies that are hard and judgmental. Are they valid? .....	80
25. If the gift of prophecy is from God, why must it be judged? ....	83
26. Why do some people who prophesy shout or wail when they speak? .....	88
27. Can you give us some examples of prophecies that had an effect on your own life? .....	90
About the Author.....	95



# INTRODUCTION

Two years ago, *A Handbook on Holy Spirit Baptism* was published, intended primarily as a help to those attending seminars where the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit were being taught. To our delight, it seemed to find a particular niche in the literary market, and its reception has far exceeded our expectations.

But *A Handbook on Holy Spirit Baptism* dealt almost entirely with the initial experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and the people helped by it began to ask why a similar handbook on questions and answers on the other gifts of the Holy Spirit could not be provided. Since the first handbook seemed a convenient size, it was decided that a second handbook would be produced, rather than enlarging and revising the first.

*Tongues, Interpretation & Prophecy* is the result. Like the first in the series, it follows a simple question and answer format and does not require reading from beginning to end to be of value. Once more we have allowed the question itself to serve as the

chapter heading. Thus, by referring to the table of contents, you can quickly find those questions of greatest interest to you.

If the Holy Spirit chooses to bless and prosper this second handbook as He did the first, I shall be more than grateful and more than satisfied.

—Don W. Basham

# SECTION I

## CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have  
you ignorant.”*

—1 Corinthians. 12:1

# CHAPTER 1

*Why do you divide the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit into three categories of three gifts each?*

**I**n 1 Corinthians chapter twelve, Paul listed the nine spiritual manifestations we have come to call the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit.

*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. (1 Corinthians 12:8–11)*

For many years, biblical scholars have recognized that by their definition as well as their function, these manifestations or “gifts” clearly fall into three categories of three gifts each. There are three gifts of inspiration, three gifts of revelation, and three gifts of power.

*Gifts of Inspiration:*  
Tongues

Interpretation of Tongues  
Prophecy

*Gifts of Revelation:*

Word of Knowledge  
Word of Wisdom  
Discerning of Spirits

*Gifts of Power:*

Faith  
Healings  
Miracles

As indicated by its title, this book addresses itself primarily to questions dealing with the inspirational gifts; tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy. Subsequent handbooks will deal with the gifts of revelation and the gifts of power.

The gifts of inspiration have also been referred to as the *vocal* gifts, since in order for their manifestation, there must be utilization of the vocal or speech apparatus of the person through whom they are being manifested. This is not necessarily the case with the gifts of revelation or the gifts of power.