

SPEAKING IN TONGUES POSITION STATEMENT

WINDSOR ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

10/11/2017

This brief statement on tongues is the product of discussions of the Elder Leadership Team of Windsor Road Christian Church. While there may be aspects of this statement that some elders or pastors do not hold as personal convictions, we all assent to this statement as being the church guide for our teachings, and we would like all Windsor Roaders to embrace these considerations.

Our Seven Considerations Regarding Speaking in Tongues

1. Tongues is a gift that is currently given by God to some as one of the spiritual gifts. Nothing has changed in God's plans or in history that would indicate it is no longer a gift, or that it has ceased.
2. There are two kinds of expressions of tongues: 1) an actual language that is known in the world (Acts 2:5-21) and 2) an ecstatic utterance without a particular meaning in which one's heart is full and overflowing with spiritual value to self or to others (I Cor. 14:14).
3. To be given this gift by God, like every other spiritual gift, is to be considered a great honor, and the development of the gift is to be taken seriously. Yet, care and restraint regarding the use of the gift must be employed in sensitivity to the Scriptural teaching and to other believers. It appears that Paul did not use his gift in public settings (1 Cor. 14).
4. Speaking in tongues is not required as evidence either of salvation or of a second spiritual blessing subsequent to conversion. This gift is not given to all believers.
5. The typical modern speaking out in tongues in public settings is not warranted in Scripture, and we feel that it can be an uncomfortable, if not divisive, experience for those who are suspect of its purpose and proper use. Therefore, following our strong commitment to the unity of the body we feel it best to not foster the use of tongues in our corporate and group settings. (1 Cor. 14:16-17) We encourage those who feel they have the gift to practice it in private rather than in public.
6. We are comfortable with tongues not being prominent in our church because Paul indicated that it was something that should be restrained (1 Cor. 14:6-12, 26-28). We recognize that Scripture does not hold that tongues is a prominent or primary gift.
7. We deeply desire and encourage each Christian to personally and corporately seek a passionate hunger for Christ that exhibits itself amidst the body. Yet, this hunger must always be joyfully constrained by the bounds of Scriptural truth.

In summary, we hold an "open" perspective on the gift of tongues, recognizing that, although many in our leadership do not have the gift, God does give this gift to some. At the same time, we recognize that some of the theology that has historically been taught by various segments of the church, as well as some of the traditional uses of the gift, can be a point of contention and division among believers. Therefore, we proceed cautiously with this gift of God, guided by our seven considerations, and praising God for his mighty work in the lives of believers of all different persuasions in this matter.