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MANIFESTATION GIFTS

Lesson Ten: Interpretation of Tongues

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I. DEFINITION OF TERMS & THIS GIFT:

A. Defining The Terms --

1. “Interpretation” is taken from the Greek *hermenia*, which is used of an explanation of the meaning of words in a different language. 1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:26.
2. To “interpret” is *dihermeneuo* in Greek, which is a strengthened form of *hermeneuo*, formed by prefixing the preposition *dia* onto *hermeneuo*. This compound term signifies to interpret fully, to explain. 1 Corinthians 12:30; 14:5, 13, 27.

B. Definition Of This Gift --

1. First of all, this is a dependent gift: it does not stand on its own. The gift of interpretation of tongues uniformly occurs in conjunction with the gift of speaking in tongues.
2. The gift of interpretation is an ability given by the Holy Spirit to receive and communicate the meaning of an utterance spoken in tongues.

II. THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF INTERPRETATION:

- A. The Necessity Of Interpreting Tongues -- A Command. 1 Corinthians 14:27-28.
- B. The Purpose Of Interpreting Tongues -- to edify (build up) the body. 1 Corinthians 14:5, 12-13, 26.
- C. The Manifestation of Interpretation -- In addition to praise/thanksgiving, an interpretation may be in the form of revelation, knowledge, prophecy or a teaching. 1 Corinthians 14:5-6.
- D. Biblical Examples Of This Gift --
 1. There are no instances of tongues being interpreted that are explicitly mentioned in Scripture.

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2. Implied in 1 Corinthians 14, verse 26 for example.

E. Guidelines For Implementing Interpretation --

1. If you sense a prompting to speak in tongues, wait for an inner witness that your tongues-speaking is a message for the body. You should also wait for an assurance from the Lord that there will be someone to interpret your tongues-speaking.
2. Some churches provide for an interpreter, by acknowledging some one who is sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It may be an elder, or someone else recognized in some form of leadership. In any case, the congregation knows that such a provision is made. This type of arrangement seems to be implied in 1 Corinthians 14:27-28.
3. If there is no interpreter, then you may ask the Lord for the interpretation yourself, prior to speaking in tongues in the assembly. In such a situation, if you do not receive the interpretation, then you must not speak out in tongues in the assembly, but keep it between yourself and God. 1 Corinthians 14:5, 13, 28.

III. COMTEMPORARY EXAMPLES: