



# STRENGTH

A 2 Part Sermon Series on experiencing the Power of God

## **PART TWO** **Introduction**

Humanity has adapted to live with the state of brokenness, and we co-exist with many things that don't exactly work. Yet, what should we do if our lives are broken? Many Christians believe that God heals, but carry on with their broken lives. God has calls us to be restored, repaired and built up, so how do we make that transition from being broken to being OK?

In 1 Corinthians 14: 4, Paul writes that practising the gift of tongues *edifies* the believer. The verb 'edify' is associated with the structure of an edifice, which is used to strengthened the building. As our bodies are the Lord's temple, it is vital for us to draw strength from him. When we pray in tongues, we build and thus strengthen ourselves spiritually. Likewise, in Ephesians 6: 18, Paul urges the believers to 'pray in the Spirit on all occasions'. By being edified with the Holy Spirit, we receive healing and strength.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What are your own views on the importance of praying in tongues? Does it matter for all believers?
2. For those who practise this gift, how has it impacted you spiritually and equipped you to be a more effective witness? Or share any personal stories you may have of a time when praying in the Spirit was of great spiritual benefit to you.
3. The preacher mentioned the 4 expressions of tongues or reasons for using this gift:
  - i. Tongues as a sign to the non-believers (1 Cor 14:22, Acts 2:6-11)
  - ii. Tongues as a prophetic language for edification to the church body which should be followed by interpretation (1 Cor 14:13)
  - iii. Tongues as a prayer language for personal edification/building up (1 Cor 14:14-15, 1 Cor 14:2)
  - iv. Tongues as a prayer language for intercession (Rom 8:26-27)

Look up the verses and share what you have discovered about the gift of tongues.

4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.
  - i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.

ii. Read the passage aloud

iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:

- What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
- Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
- What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?

iv. Some observation questions of the passage:

- Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
- What is the main point or points?
- What surprises are there?
- What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?

v. Some leading questions of the text:

- How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
- How does the passage relate to Jesus?
- What does this teach us about God?
- How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?

vi. Some application questions of the passage:

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude I need to change?
- How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

### **What Would You Do?**

Praying in the Spirit does not come naturally to us, but it is an important gift and discipline that can restore, repair and build up our souls. The question is, are we willing to yield to the Spirit's power and draw strength from him? Christ taught us in Luke 11: 13 that our Father gives the Holy Spirit to all who ask and seek him for it. The gift of tongues is not exclusive to a handful, but is there for all to receive.

If you are in a LifeGroup, take some time to pray for one another – especially that you would be filled again with the Holy Spirit. If you have been baptised in the Holy Spirit but have not yet spoken in tongues, remember that it operates through believers in a very “natural” way. We form and speak the words in faith believing that Holy Spirit has “enabled” us. (Acts 2:4) If we wait for some kind of explosive, spectacular event, we may never fully embrace this gift. So, co-operate with the Holy Spirit by speaking out in faith whatever is there.

### **Change Your Mindset**

*<sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup>praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.’ – Ephesians 6: 16-18*