

# Understanding the Subject of Tongues

## Acts 2

### I. Introduction

-Review of Acts 2

-Purpose of studying tongues:

- 1.) One of the most controversial issues in Christianity today
- 2.) This issue is scattered throughout the book of Acts

### II. What is the Gift of Tongues?

-It's the ability to speak in a known language

-We know this because...

- 1.) Of the account in Acts 2
- 2.) Because tongues were to be translated

-Is tongues a heavenly language?

-Is tongues a private prayer language?

### III. What was the Purpose of Tongues?

-1 Corinthians 14:20-22

-Tongues was a sign of judgment to unbelieving Israel

### IV. Has the Gift of Tongues Ceased?

-Cessationists say yes; Non-cessationists say no

-1 Corinthians 13:8

-Prophecies - "they will fail" - Gr. *katargeo*

-Tongues - "they will cease" - Gr. *pauo*

-Knowledge - "it will vanish away" - Gr. *katargeo*

-Prophecies and knowledge will be abolished; tongues will stop by itself

-4 reasons to support that tongues has already ceased:

- 1.) Tongues was a sign of judgment
- 2.) Tongues was a miracle gift, and the age of miracles ended with the apostles
- 3.) Tongues are mentioned only in the earliest books of the New Testament
- 4.) Tongues are absent throughout church history

### V. What is the Source of Tongues Today?

-3 possible explanations:

- 1.) It's a learned behavior
- 2.) It's psychologically induced
- 3.) It's a counterfeit of Satan

### VI. Conclusion - 2 Peter 1:3