



# sermon notes

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
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## Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2.

The language & imagery is important:

*“Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.”*

Not exclusive pyrotechnics show...but a shift in how & where divine fire burns. It's this fire that truly lights & awakens our life to become & fulfil all we are created to be

- Fire = presence & life of God

The imagery - a single fire multiplying itself among the people. The Manifestation That Still Creates Contention.

One of the manifestations or signs associated with the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. It **bewildered** people in the beginning — and it still creates contention today.

From the day of Pentecost ... people struggled to process what they were witnessing.

- Some were amazed. Some mocked. Some dismissed it because it did not fit their framework.
- Religion has often misinterpreted or bent Scripture in an attempt to shut it down, reduce it, or even make a mockery of it.... there's a spirit behind that.

At the same time, some believers have misused it:

- using tongues to imply spiritual superiority
- acting as though it proves someone is “more saved” or “closer to God”
- using it without wisdom or discernment in certain settings
- Those distortions create confusion around something that was actually given as a gift and expression of the Spirit.

### The Western Mindset Problem

Our Western world is deeply intellectual and logical in nature.

Western life is often measured by:

- what can be counted
- what can be quantified
- what can be explained
- what fits inside human comprehension
- Anything outside of that framework is often labelled irrational, nonsensical, or rejected

But human beings are not merely “thinking machines.”

*That view reduces the expressions of God and His Kingdom down to a very limited dimension of living.*

Biblically, people are described as integrated beings:

- spirit
- soul
- body
- mind
- emotion
- communion
- mystery
- encounter

### Jesus Completely Disrupted Limited Living

Jesus constantly demonstrated a dimension beyond human limitation. How much did He do that did not fit natural logic?

- healing with mud
- walking on water
- multiplying food
- speaking to storms
- discerning thoughts
- raising the dead
- transfiguring before people
- appearing after resurrection in glorified form

He totally flipped limited human living upside down and revealed what becomes possible when life flows from the dimension of the Kingdom.

*Then He said something even more confronting: “Greater works than these shall you do...” John 14.12*

He never once implied that the dimension He walked in would stop.

He never hinted that this dimension would fade after the apostles died. The opposite is true — the Spirit was poured out to continue and expand what Jesus started.

*So, after everything Scripture records about Jesus — before and after resurrection — people still get completely jammed on speaking & praying in tongues?*

### What Tongues Actually Is:

Tongues = Glossa = Languages - “naturally unacquired” - not obtained through normal human learning,

In Scripture, tongues function in several ways:

#### 1. A Supernatural Expression of Communication

- In 2, people heard the disciples speaking in their own languages.
- What sounded strange to some became understandable to others.

#### 2. A Prophetic Expression in Gatherings

- Tongues can function publicly with interpretation — becoming a prophetic communication to the church.

### 3. A Personal Prayer Language

- This is the most common use today. Paul describes it clearly: **1 Corinthians 14:2 TPT**  
[2] *“When someone speaks/prays in tongues, no one understands a word he says, because he’s not speaking to people, but to God—he is speaking intimate mysteries in the Spirit.”*

- It lifts the speaker’s own spirit (1 Corinthians 14:4) and allows prayer beyond the limits of our natural understanding.

Paul prayed in tongues extensively: *“I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you”* (1 Corinthians 14:18)

### Music: A Parallel

Think about music. What is music? Music is a language of the soul. Some music has words. Some do not...just sounds.

Yet every culture on earth understands its power.

Music can:

- communicate without words
- create atmosphere
- motivate
- calm
- heal
- move emotion
- stir courage
- release grief
- unite people

Most people cannot fully explain why music affects them so deeply — but they know it does. There is something intangible happening.

Music carries:

- energy
- atmosphere
- emotional movement
- resonance

A skilled musician often “hears” the arrangement before it exists...begins to put sound to it

They can sense:

- sound
- movement
- atmosphere
- emotion
- tension and release

The mystery exists before manifestation.

Then suddenly something unseen becomes tangible:

- an atmosphere shift
- a song moves millions
- an entire culture change

### Tongues Is Similar

Tongues is an expression or language of the spirit. When we pray in tongues:

- the spiritual realm understands perfectly
- even when our mind does not fully comprehend it

*It is mystery. Much like music. Not irrational. Not meaningless. Not empty. Mystery.*

*Something spiritual is being expressed beyond the limits of ordinary language & logic.*

### What Happens in Prayer

When we give ourselves to praying in tongues, something begins to move internally and spiritually. It has the power to affect atmosphere. Not merely external atmosphere — internal atmosphere.

For many believers, it:

- lifts oppressive spiritual heaviness...like a cloudy day
- strengthens inner life
- opens sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
- energizes the spirit
- creates clarity
- releases peace
- deepens communion with God

*Personal Experience* - In my own prayer life, probably 50% would be praying in tongues.

It does something I cannot always logically explain. But I know its effects.

- lifts oppressive spiritual atmosphere pressing against me
- opens my inner life to hear and commune with the Holy Spirit
- energizes my spirit for what I need to do
- strengthens me internally

### Final Thought

The Kingdom of God contains dimensions that cannot always be reduced to pure human logic. Not everything spiritual can be dissected intellectually before it is experienced.

Some things are understood:

- in encounter
- in communion
- in participation

*Tongues is not about spiritual superiority. It is about surrendering expression beyond the limitations of natural language and allowing the Spirit of God to move through the inner life of a person.*

Impact:

- Peter & the other men stood up
- The fire falls, the Spirit fills them, and almost immediately:
- "Then Peter stood up...lifted his voice"
- This is resurrection language

Peter standing up is more than posture — it is transformation becoming visible.

*This was the man who had failed ...needed healing & restoration...but now rising to his calling*