

## Answers to Q&A Questions (Text Line) – Sunday April 19, 2020

By Ryan Jorgenson

- 1. Can you explain whether tongues is relevant today? My understanding from 1 Corinthians 14:2-39 is that Paul calls tongues, plural "foreign languages" but tongue, singular is "counterfeit pagan gibberish". When we hear of people speaking in tongues today, is it valid?**

To begin with, CFC takes the stance that all gifts of the Spirit, including those of tongues, interpretations of tongues and so on still exist as the Spirit leads. In other words, we do not believe they have ceased across the globe. We also believe this should not become a divisive doctrine but we should respect those who differ.

On one hand, we need to be careful to stay within what Scripture teaches while on the other hand not put the Spirit in a box He doesn't put Himself in.

There could be a few types of speaking in tongues. In Acts 2 it is clearly an ability to speak in other languages supernaturally so that people can hear the truths of God.

In 1 Cor. 12, tongues seems to be a language God is speaking a message through one person while another person will interpret it to the church for the edification of everyone.

Romans 8:26 could be referring to a "prayer-language" of tongues the Holy Spirit gives to someone who is praying or singing to God. This is the most common form claimed among Christians today. Those who speak it describe it as when they are no longer able to find the words in their native language for what they are trying to say to God, the gift kicks in and the Spirit begins to pray on their behalf to the Father. As long as people are praying and singing to God in this world, this specific type of tongues will remain relevant.

Here are some additional overarching facts about tongues:

- Tongues should not be spoken in a church gathering without interpretation. (1 Corinthians 14:27-28).
- Not every believer receives this gift. The gift of tongues is not a requirement or a necessary sign of salvation (1 Corinthians 12:30).
- Tongues are not "ecstatic speech" but are able to be controlled by the one speaking (1 Corinthians 14:27-28, 33, 39-40).
- Tongues should not be hindered by a church (1 Corinthians 14:39).

- 2. How do we tithe to the church during quarantine?**

It's great you are desiring to give to the Lord through Christian Family Chapel! Thank God we live in a period of history where we have the internet because you can give to CFC online. To give to CFC, simply [click here](#). If you have any further questions, email or call the church office.

### 3. What are some ways that I can further my relationship with God?

Jesus tells us in John 15:5 *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”* The “abide” in this statement is an ongoing action that means we are to keep on seeking, experiencing and becoming like Jesus.

Throughout the Bible God gives us a number of ways to abide in Him. The sermon this past Sunday lays out for us a number of these ways, as modeled by the first church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:42-47). Some of these are:

- **Through the Bible:** Ephesians 6:17 and Matthew 4:4 teach us to continue to meet Jesus through the pages of the Bible. This includes reading, memorizing, meditating on it and so forth.
- **Through Prayer:** Aka: talking and listening to God in conversation. It’s just like a person builds a friendship with another person. God tells us in Ephesians 6:18 *“...pray 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...”*
- **Fellowshipping with other Christians:** This means laughing, crying, rejoicing, confessing, praying, admonishing, teaching, helping one another, to name a few of the actions within Fellowship. Even with social distancing, many of these actions within fellowship can still occur through screens. As we do them, God Himself meets us through one another. We get to be the hands and feet of Jesus to others.
- **Taking the Lord’s Supper/Communion together:** Aka: “breaking bread” in Acts 2:42. Again, social distancing has caused us to do this via screens or as family units.
- **Praising God:** this is direct communication to God together of His goodness, glory and greatness. It could be in song, poetry, statements, and so forth.

### 4. Why didn’t God punish the Earth when we killed his Son? Comparatively the Original Sin pales in comparison to the murder of Jesus Christ.

God didn’t punish the Earth after Jesus’ death because He has a greater plan of bringing salvation for His elect while justice for mankind’s sins, once for all, including the murder of His Son, at a final appointed time.

Peter shares about this coming judgment in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter. 2 Peter 3:7 *“But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”*

Why didn’t God bring this judgment right after we killed His Son? Peter goes on to tell us why in v8-9. *“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*

In other words, God is delaying the just destruction and punishment of this world for our sins, including the murder of His Son, because He wants to save those He is going to save. If He did so beforehand, all Christians, including you and I, would never had been saved and have the opportunity to enjoy Him here as well as for eternity. Praise God He is being patient! But as Peter said, make no mistake about it, wrath is coming for those who do not repent of their sins. May this motivate us to go and tell the world the Good News of the Gospel before it's too late!