

## Four Basic Views of Tongues

This chart shows four of the most common positions regarding tongues. For simplicity, the focus is on *speaking* with tongues and not *interpretation* of tongues. To be concise, doctrinal differences, not agreements, are highlighted. Furthermore, only the fundamental disagreements are presented, as there are many other minor points of debate. It is also acknowledged that there could be a myriad of viewpoints that combine various attributes from each of the four columns.

Foreign languages--a sign gift not needed today	Foreign languages--one of many spiritual gifts (given to some but not all believers as a sign to unbelievers)	A heavenly language--one of many spiritual gifts (given to some but not all believers as a prayer language)	A heavenly language--evidence of the Spirit's fullness and a private prayer language for all believers
<b>Nature</b>			
<p>Earthly, human languages</p> <p>Speaker knows what he is saying</p> <p>Understood by the hearers (otherwise not allowed unless interpreted)</p> <p>A miraculous enablement to speak languages not learned</p>	<p>Earthly, human languages</p> <p>Speaker knows what he is saying</p> <p>Understood by the hearers (otherwise not allowed unless interpreted)</p> <p>A miraculous enablement to speak languages not learned and/or a special capacity to speak foreign languages</p>	<p>Angelic, heavenly language</p> <p>Speaker doesn't know what he is saying</p> <p>Not understood by the hearers without interpretation or a second hearing miracle</p> <p>A miraculous enablement to speak in the language of heaven</p>	<p>Angelic, heavenly language</p> <p>Speaker doesn't know what he is saying</p> <p>Not understood by the hearers without interpretation or a second hearing miracle</p> <p>A miraculous enablement to speak in the language of heaven</p>
<b>Purpose</b>			
<p>Not necessarily related to the baptism or filling with the Spirit</p> <p>A sign to unbelieving Israel to confirm the word before the Bible was completed (and a sign of God's pending judgment of Israel)</p> <p>A temporary sign gift given to the infant church during the foundational apostolic age</p>	<p>Not necessarily related to the baptism or filling with the Spirit</p> <p>A sign to unbelievers to confirm the word while communicating spiritual truth to people of different languages</p> <p>A spiritual gift given to some but not all believers</p>	<p>Not necessarily related to the baptism or filling with the Spirit</p> <p>A sign to unbelievers to confirm the word and a private, devotional, prayer language to edify one's self and others if interpreted</p> <p>A spiritual gift given to some but not all believers</p>	<p>The initial evidence of the baptism (filling) of the Holy Spirit</p> <p>A sign to unbelievers to confirm the word and a private, devotional, prayer language to edify one's self</p> <p>Public ministry gift not given to all believers, but the initial evidence should be sought by all believers</p>
<b>Duration</b>			
<p>Ceased after the apostolic age since its purpose as a sign of confirmation and judgment was fulfilled</p>	<p>Can function the same today as a sign to unbelievers (even if in a less miraculous way than its original use in Acts)</p>	<p>Functions the same today (heavenly prayer language gift given to some but not all believers)</p>	<p>Functions the same today (evidence of Spirit's fullness and heavenly prayer language for all believers)</p>

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