Many Charismatics think that speaking in unknown tongues is blabbering words in a heavenly fashion to God. That is wrong. I Corinthians 14:9-11 clearly states that if no one understands what the speaker of the tongues had said, the hearer and the speaker are declared to be barbarians. I Corinthians 14:13 and I Corinthians 14:27-28 clearly states that the speaking of tongues must be interpreted to the hearers. Whenever you are going to speak in tongues at church, you have to interpret what you have just said.

If a speaker was speaking unknown tongues in the Bible, it meant that he was speaking in other languages. He was not blabbering in tongues unknowing what he was saying through the entire jargon. In Genesis 10:31, Isaiah 66:18, Revelation 13:7, and Revelation 17:5, the Bible reveals that speaking in tongues is referring to speaking in different languages from different nations. Acts 2:1-13 shows the disciples spoke in different languages when speaking in tongues. Whenever you are going to speak in tongues at church, the tongues must be spoken as different languages not as different kinds of spiritual, heavenly gibberish.

When a person drops by at your church and sees all the congregation speaking in tongues, do you think that he will be able to understand what they are saying and be able to receive edification from that? Of course not. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 14:23, “If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?” I would agree with Paul that if I dropped by at a church and see all the church members speaking in a mess of tongues, I would think that the church is a group of lunatics. If you are going to speak in tongues at church, I Corinthians 14:5 states that you must interpret what you have said; so the people can understand what you were saying and receive edification.

- Speaking of Tongues (Part 1)
- Speaking of Tongues (Part 2)