DESTINED 4 PURPOSE

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

A thoughtful, prayerful, Bible-based course about the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts.



A FREE GUIDED BIBLE-STUDY COURSE

PURPOSE DRIVES. DESTINY FOLLOWS.

START HERE

How to use this course

This course is for people who want to explore speaking in tongues without fear, competition or pressure. It covers Scripture, prayer, church practice, interpretation and the place of love.

There is no guaranteed technique that causes a spiritual gift. You are free to ask questions, take time and seek prayer from a trustworthy leader. Your worth before God does not depend on whether you speak in tongues.

Your rhythm

Read the Scripture references in your own Bible. Reflect without rushing. Write a personal response. Pray naturally, and take one small step of love or obedience. You can complete the course alone or with a trusted Christian mentor.

LESSON 01 / 07

Begin with the Person, not the gift

SCRIPTURE: John 14:16–17, 26; Galatians 5:22–23

The Holy Spirit is not a technique to master. Jesus speaks about the Spirit as Helper and Teacher. Begin with relationship: knowing Jesus, trusting the Father and welcoming the Spirit into everyday life.

Many believers want spiritual gifts but feel unsure or afraid of doing something wrong. You can come to God honestly. You do not need impressive language or a dramatic experience to be loved by Him.

Etienne's Fuel Your Future makes a related but different point: power and spiritual gifts matter, yet the Spirit's fruit forms the character that carries our calling. This lesson applies that balance to learning about tongues.

REFLECT

- Do I seek the Spirit because I want to know God, or because I feel pressure to have an experience?
- How would love and peace change the way I approach this question?

PRACTISE

Spend ten unhurried minutes in ordinary prayer. Thank God for His presence, even if you feel nothing unusual.

PRAY

Holy Spirit, lead me closer to Jesus. Give me a teachable heart and help me love people well.

MY RESPONSE / JOURNAL NOTES

LESSON 02 / 07

What does the Bible actually say?

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1–13; Acts 10:44–48; Acts 19:1–7

Acts records occasions when believers spoke in tongues as the Holy Spirit moved among them. At Pentecost, listeners from different regions recognised their own languages; later accounts describe tongues in other settings.

The Bible shows the initiative of the Spirit. It does not give a mechanical formula that guarantees the same experience for every individual on demand.

Christians interpret some details differently. Some emphasise tongues as an initial sign of Spirit baptism, others as one of several gifts given to particular believers. Read the passages and discuss them with thoughtful Christian leaders.

REFLECT

- What is actually described in each account, and what am I assuming?
- What does the passage reveal about Jesus and the spread of the Gospel?

PRACTISE

Read the three passages aloud. Write down what they say before drawing conclusions about your own experience.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, teach me to love Scripture and to seek truth with humility.

MY RESPONSE / JOURNAL NOTES

LESSON 03 / 07

Prayer languages, public speech and interpretation

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 27–31; 14:1–19

Paul describes a diversity of gifts for one body. He asks whether everyone speaks in tongues, pointing to the fact that not all believers have the same ministry gifts.

In 1 Corinthians 14 he distinguishes speech that builds up the church from speech that others do not understand. He encourages interpretation in gathered worship so people can be strengthened rather than left confused.

Some churches speak of private prayer in tongues; others interpret the passages differently. Seek understanding, not pressure or rivalry. Love remains the way gifts are used.

REFLECT

- How do these chapters connect spiritual gifts with serving others?
- Why do order, interpretation and understandable words matter in worship?

PRACTISE

Read 1 Corinthians 12–14 in one sitting, paying special attention to the chapter about love between the gifts discussions.

PRAY

Father, give me love for Your church and wisdom in how I use every gift.

MY RESPONSE / JOURNAL NOTES

LESSON 04 / 07

How to seek God without forcing an experience

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:9–13; James 1:5; 1 Corinthians 14:15

You may ask God openly for the Holy Spirit's help and for spiritual gifts. You can pray in words you know, worship, remain quiet and listen. No special breathing pattern, repeated sound, syllable or performance is necessary to earn God's attention.

If nothing unusual happens, you have not failed. Do not copy another person's sounds to prove faith, and do not let anyone shame you. If you experience something unfamiliar, speak with a trusted Christian leader for wise discernment.

When you pray with others, consent, kindness and peace matter. It is always appropriate to step away from pressure.

REFLECT

- Am I free to say "not yet" or "I'm unsure" without fear?
- Who is a trusted, caring Christian leader I can talk with?

PRACTISE

Ask God simply for wisdom and the fullness of His Spirit; then spend time reading Scripture and thanking Him. Record observations without judging yourself.

PRAY

God, I welcome what is genuinely from You. Keep me from fear, imitation and pride.

MY RESPONSE / JOURNAL NOTES

LESSON 05 / 07

Love is the safeguard

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22–23; Matthew 7:16–20

In the middle of Paul's teaching about gifts stands 1 Corinthians 13. Without love, even remarkable spiritual experiences lose their purpose.

What would spiritual maturity look like at home? Patience in an argument, gentleness toward a new believer, honesty at work, self-control in a stressful conversation and care for those who feel overlooked.

Etienne's central insight in Fuel Your Future is that fruit is not stage performance. It is character formed in us, shaping how we treat people long after a meeting ends.

REFLECT

- Have I ever measured someone's faith by one visible gift?
- Which fruit of the Spirit would make the biggest difference in my relationships this week?

PRACTISE

Choose one concrete act of love today that nobody needs to applaud.

PRAY

Holy Spirit, help the way I live to look more like Jesus.

MY RESPONSE / JOURNAL NOTES

LESSON 06 / 07

When people pray together

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 14:26–33, 39–40; Ephesians 4:1–6

In a gathered church, gifts are to strengthen others. Paul emphasises an understandable, orderly way of worship, consideration for visitors and mutual care.

If a leader invites people to receive prayer, you may participate freely, ask questions or decline. A healthy environment allows that choice without embarrassment.

Avoid announcing claims about another person's life based only on a feeling or unfamiliar sound. Put love and accountability ahead of excitement.

REFLECT

- What makes a prayer gathering safe and welcoming?
- How can I honour people who understand the gift differently?

PRACTISE

Attend a church service or prayer gathering led by people you trust. Observe how kindness and Scripture shape the atmosphere.

PRAY

Jesus, let our worship build people up and bring honour to You.

MY RESPONSE / JOURNAL NOTES

LESSON 07 / 07

Living Spirit-filled after the meeting

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1–8; Romans 12:9–18; Galatians 5:16–26

Spiritual life is not limited to one dramatic moment. Jesus' image of the vine points to remaining with Him, allowing His life to shape ours day by day.

Whether you speak in tongues or not, you can grow in prayer, Scripture, fellowship, courageous kindness and practical compassion. A person can have a remarkable testimony and still need patience in traffic.

Gifts may help us serve; fruit helps us serve in a way that reflects Jesus. Both belong under the call to love God and neighbour.

REFLECT

- Which habit helps me remain connected to Jesus?
- Who could I champion this week without expecting anything back?

PRACTISE

For seven days, keep a brief journal: prayer, Scripture, one fruit to practise, and one way to encourage someone.

PRAY

Holy Spirit, shape my ordinary days. Let me love generously and walk humbly with Jesus.

MY RESPONSE / JOURNAL NOTES

THE NEXT STEP

Seek the Giver. Walk in love.

The deepest invitation is not to manufacture a spiritual experience, but to know Jesus and grow in the Holy Spirit's presence.

Read Acts and 1 Corinthians 12-14 with a trusted pastor or teacher. Bring your questions. Make room for prayer and discernment. There is no place for shame or pressure.

Spiritual experiences never replace character, compassion or faithfulness. We serve others through the gifts God gives and the fruit He grows in us.

KEEP GROWING

Continue with **Walking in the Fruit of the Holy Spirit** for nine lessons on love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

LET'S KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Would you like to invite Etienne to minister, ask a question about this course, or send a prayer request? You are welcome to get in touch.

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