



# The Federated Church of Hyannis

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## **Weekly Message from the Pastor and Sermon Notes for October 3, 2021**

**Sermon Series:** “The Happy Church, Part III”.

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 14:1-12 (NIV)

### **INTRO:**

Over the past several weeks we have been looking at various religious movements within Christianity. Week one was the Evangelical Movement. Week two was the Revivalist Movement. This week is the Charismatic Movement. And the defining characteristic of the Charismatic Movement is speaking in tongues and spiritual gifts.

The apostle Paul is recorded in scripture as being able to speak in tongues. The Bible does talk about speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues is said in the Bible to be a spiritual gift, but it is a lesser spiritual gift than the gift of preaching, teaching, or prophesying. The concept of speaking in tongues emphasizes an ability to speak in an ancient language before the fall of the tower of Babel when the tongues of men became confused and divided. It is said that the language of tongues is to speak in the language of the angels who praise God. It is a language that is to only be used for prayer when speaking to God in private. It is not for the purpose of confusing others.

I do not speak in tongues, but I know others who do claim to speak in tongues. For me, music has always been my equivalent of speaking in tongues because through music I have always felt able to speak to God in a personal way not confused by modern language. Musical instruments often communicate what is in a person’s heart better than words I have found.

## **PART 1:**

The movement was started by Charles Parham and William Seymour in Topeka, KS on Jan 1. 1901. Charles Parham, founder of Bethel Bible College, after a sabbatical leave to study various religious movements in America returned to introduce teachings on the gifts of speaking in tongues and healing. The movement quickly began to spread after a number of people had prayed to be fully filled with the Holy Spirit and received the gift of speaking in tongues. Today the Pentecostal or Charismatic Movement is the largest and fastest growing movement of Christianity in the world. In places like India, Korea, Brazil, and Africa, the Pentecostal Charismatic Movement is rapidly spreading.

## **PART 2:**

Paul does say that he wishes for everyone in the church to be able to speak in tongues, but more importantly he desires for everyone to have spiritual gifts that would help build up the church. Last week I said Paul was a bit of a revivalist, but Paul is also a bit of a charismatic person. There are many spiritual gifts. For example, hospitality is listed as a spiritual gift. Leadership is a spiritual gift. Stewardship is a spiritual gift. Teaching is a spiritual gift. On the scale of spiritual gifts, speaking in tongues is ranked rather low and not everyone has that spiritual gift.

My friends who pray in tongues have told me various ways they received this gift. Some said they learned it from being in church from others who speak in tongues. Some say it just happened. To fully go into detail on this subject would require a great deal of time. But the Pentecostal Charismatic Movement is a movement in Christianity. They are a jump up and down for Jesus group of people that belong to a movement within Christianity.

## **Conclusion:**

Paul emphasizes in his letter to Corinth that it is good to have the gift of speaking in tongues, but it is better to have clear and intelligible words that benefit the wider church. There is a sense of joy and happiness being caught up in the spirit that sometimes leads to praying in tongues. But the focus of the church should not be to speak in tongues, but to clearly speak the message of Christ.

Next Sunday will be the conclusion of the series on “The Happy Church”. I will be focusing on the Congregational and Universalist Movement, especially as it pertains to New England. This goes back to the history of The Federated Church and how our church fits into the series of “The Happy Church”.