

**BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS**  
**MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY**  
**LEADERSHIP CULTURE**

DNA







Crossway Network is a growing family of relationally connected, likeminded, interdependent churches who operate with a common mission *to plant and support healthy, reproducing churches and regional networks of churches throughout the world for the glory of God.*

As we seek to faithfully undertake this incredible mission, there is great diversity among the growing number of local bodies within Crossway Network. We celebrate the variety of ways that each church goes about carrying out Christ's gospel mission. However, there are elements of ministry philosophy shared by all of the churches that create a common ministry culture across the whole network (our "DNA"). The summaries on the following pages are a companion resource to Crossway's DNA Curriculum that covers 8 key topics in each of 3 modules:

**PART 1 - BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS**  
**PART 2 - MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY**  
**PART 3 - LEADERSHIP CULTURE**

The curriculum is designed to help Christians discover and embrace this common biblical conviction, ministry philosophy, and leadership culture firsthand as well as preserve and advance the heart of it as the Network grows by God's grace. It also our goal that the word of God through these studies will develop and multiply faithful servants and leaders throughout all Crossway Network churches for decades to come.

We trust that these summaries will give a clear and through look at the curriculum content and will create a desire to study Crossway's DNA curriculum in depth.



# BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS

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We join with the apostle Paul in believing that the gospel is THE matter of first importance in all of life (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The gospel is not simply the message we "by which we are saved," but it is also the reality "in which we stand" in our daily Christian lives. Being centered on the gospel means living each day focused on the good news of the cross of Jesus Christ so that it constantly fuels...

- **True humility**, because we are reminded of our sin and helplessness apart from Christ. It means we are continually aware of how he willingly suffered in our place to pay the penalty we deserved.
- **Fresh faith for today and tomorrow.** As we are daily reminded of God's willing sacrifice of his own son for us, then we are reminded of his promise to freely give us all things (Romans 8:32) and his commitment to work for our good in all things (Romans 8:28).
- **Genuine worship** because we are reminded of God's rich mercy and the undeserved favor he lavished on us. What a great love he has for us, and what a love welling up within us for him in response!
- **Real holiness** because we are reminded of the great price of our sin, and our striving for obedience is not an attempt to earn his love or favor, but a reflection of our love for him.
- **Passion for mission** because we are reminded of the wonder of what he did for us and we want to hold out the hope of the gospel to others.

We have purposed to bring out this broader gospel focus both directly and indirectly through each summary of our Biblical Convictions. Within our commitment to the gospel and foundational truths of historical Orthodox Christianity, we have adopted the essential Biblical Convictions covered on the following pages. These Convictions will certainly align us with many local churches but also set us apart graciously from others. While Crossway holds true to this Biblical doctrine in our teaching and conviction, we do not seek to be known for what we are against or to be set apart in spirit from some of our other brothers and sisters in the Universal Body of Christ.

## 1. GOD'S WORD – OUR AUTHORITY FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY

The Bible, as God's Word, is the ultimate authority over humanity. And because of the spiritual new birth, the believer's life and ministry testifies to the power of the living Word.

1. The Bible is both **inspired** and without error in its original copy or manuscript (Process - 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16; Product- 2 Peter 3:15, 16) and **authoritative** for us today in all areas of life (Matthew 5:18; 24:35; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 2:2).
2. Because of the inward regeneration of the Spirit, commonly known as being "born again", believers can know and obey God's Word through the **illumination** of the Spirit. (Ezekiel 11:19-20; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Titus 1:16; 1 John 2:3-4; 3:9-10).
3. We believe there is but **one true biblical interpretation** or meaning with multiple applications (2 Peter 1:20, 21). The meaning is found as one diligently applies the literal, grammatical, and historical methods of interpretation. Therefore, God's Word is **sufficient** for all of life and godliness. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)
4. It is the responsibility of every follower of Jesus to carefully discern the true intent and meaning of the Scriptures, (Acts 17:11) knowing God's truth is timeless and for all generations. The **absolute truth** of Scripture stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it (Matthew 5:18; 22:31; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; Hebrews 4:12).

## 2. SALVATION – GOD, THE AUTHOR FROM START TO FINISH

Salvation is a work of God, received by grace (unearned favor) through faith. Through believing and receiving Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in our place, we are saved and sustained unto eternal life.

1. God provided the only sacrifice needed for man's rebellion and sin. Through Jesus' life, death on the cross, and resurrection, God in his love, demonstrated his justice and ability to justify the sinner. (Isaiah 53:6; 59:2; 64:6; Romans 3:26; Hebrews 9:27; 1 Peter 3:18; 2:24; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 15).
2. Because of the lost, rebellious, darkened condition of man's heart (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-11; 2 Corinthians 4:4), no man would seek God or believe had it not been for God's gracious working and drawing of man to himself (Ephesians 2:4-10; John 6:35-40, 44; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6).
3. Because salvation is wholly of God, man cannot lose salvation. The genuine believer is eternally secure (John 6:37-40, 44; 1 Peter 1:2-5; Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; 2:4-10; Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 15:2; Titus 3:5; 1 John 2:19; 5:11-13).

## 3. SANCTIFICATION – THE FRUIT OF TRANSFORMING GRACE

The life that is genuinely transformed by the gospel will increasingly show the fruit of obedience, empowered by the Holy Spirit, who permanently indwells Jesus' followers.

1. The reality of a person's salvation will be shown through the progressive transformation of their lives into greater likeness to Jesus (Galatians 5:16-25; 1 John 2:3-4). See also: John 14:21-24; 15:8; Romans 6; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 1:16; James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:8-10.
2. The personal fruit of God's Spirit will be evidenced in the individual believer's love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness towards God and others. They will also seek to put to death fleshly and worldly desires on a daily basis. (Galatians 5:22-24; Luke 14:25-27; Romans 7)
3. The sanctifying process happens as we abide in Jesus and allow the Word to guide and change us. This involves regularly receiving the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and repenting of our sin in our continued battle with the flesh. This process leads us to a greater love and compassion for the lost, and to living for his kingdom and glory. (John 15:1-17; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; John 16:13-15).

#### **4. THE LOCAL CHURCH - A COMMUNITY ON MISSION**

God's design is for local communities of believers to be intimately involved in one another's lives and spiritual growth, and intentionally living out the mission of making Jesus known.

1. The local church is a family of believers who are growing together in genuine love and sacrificial service. This is often best facilitated in smaller groups as Jesus primarily poured into the 12 disciples, and as we see believers meeting in homes. (1 Corinthians 12:20-26; Ephesians 2:19; 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:5; Titus 2:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-24; Acts 2:41-43).
2. God's strategy in evangelizing the world is through empowering individuals in the local church to live on mission and multiply churches. The New Testament demonstrates that the Local Church is the primary vehicle of training and sending believers to live on mission. (Matthew 9:37-38; 16:13-18; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-3; Acts 1:8; 2:41-43; 8:1-3; 11:22-26; 13:1-3; 14:21-28; 15:2-4, 22-36; 18:22; 20:17, 28, 32; 21:18-19; Philippians 1:27; 2:12-16).

#### **5. THE LOCAL CHURCH - PLURALITY IN LEADERSHIP**

God's design for leadership in any local church is a plurality of biblically qualified, mutually accountable men who shepherd, equip, and oversee the spiritual health of the body.

1. The local assembly is to be led and governed by a group of elder/pastors. (Acts 14:23; 20:17, 28; Ephesians 4:11-13; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
2. These men are biblically qualified in regard to their character and competence as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
3. These men understand that they are simply under-shepherds of the chief shepherd, Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 5:1-5)

#### **6. SPIRITUAL GIFTS - SPIRIT EMPOWERED AND BIBLICALLY GROUNDED**

The Scriptures teach that the Spirit gives every believer supernatural gifts for the purpose of building up his church and expanding his kingdom.

1. God demonstrates his supernatural power through imparting spiritual gifts for the purpose of putting his glory and grace on display in advancing and affirming the gospel message and messenger. (Matthew 19:23-26; James 5:13-18; Romans 8:28; 12:3-8; Ephesians 5:).
2. God has given gifts to each believer for edifying or building up of the church body and advancing his kingdom (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; 1 Peter 4:10-11). It is important to understand that spiritual gifts are not for self-edification or self-expression but for the edification of others (1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:3, 12, 17, 20-25, 26, 31).
3. For further clarifications on sign gifts, please see the appendix at the end of these summaries on page 12.

#### **7. COMPLEMENTARY DESIGN OF MEN AND WOMEN – EQUAL IN VALUE, DISTINCT IN ROLES**

God has created men and women wonderfully different as complements, of equal value, and with differing functions in the family and in the church, for the good of all.

1. God created all men and women in his own image, and commissioned them to multiply and live in relationship with him (Genesis 1:24-29; 2:7-25; Galatians 3:23-29).

2. Men and women are distinct and complementary as seen fundamentally in the marriage relationship where the husband is called to sacrificial leadership as head of the home; as the wife is voluntarily called to follow her husband's leadership (Genesis 2:7-25; 3:1-19; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16; 14:34-35; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-19; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Peter 3:1-7)
3. God's created design is to be modeled also in the church body. Although equally valued and gifted, women are not to be in a position of authority or teaching over men. This would apply to any gathering of God's people - worship celebration, small groups, workshops, or seminars (Genesis 2:7-25; 3:1-19; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16). Qualified women who are gifted in leadership and teaching will have opportunities to utilize their gifts in women's ministries, service teams, or children's ministries, and many other vital ministries which function under the authority of the elders.

## **8. CHURCH DISCIPLINE - THE PROCESS OF RESTORATION**

God has provided instructions for church restoration to lovingly keep individual believers from being ensnared by Satan and to maintain the purity of Jesus' Church.

1. God desires us to pursue and preserve the purity of the church body, not to punish or to exclude any individual. The purpose of the discipline process is to restore any believer who is ensnared by continual sin. (Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 18:15; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:5-13; Hebrews 12:4-13).
2. The Scriptures teach that the body is to be committed to one another in love. It instructs us how we are to pursue a brother or sister trapped in a sinful lifestyle. This process could sadly result in the removal of an individual from the fellowship of believers until repentance is demonstrated. (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Hebrews 3:12, 13).



In the previous summaries, Crossway's Biblical Convictions represent essential theological positions that guide us for life and ministry. Next we turn to our Ministry Philosophy that represents the specific ways we seek to function as churches on mission for the glory of God. While there is great diversity among the churches within the Network, there are specific points of focus in the way we go about our mission that are shared by all of the churches. These shared elements create a common ministry culture among all the churches. These are designed to help Christians discover and embrace this common ministry philosophy firsthand as well as sustain and advance the heart of it as the network and individual churches grow and multiply by God's grace.

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## **1. GLORY TO GOD - DOING ALL FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE**

God is supreme (Isaiah 46:9-10). He is our entire focus. He alone is worthy of all praise and honor. He is the reason the church exists. We seek to lift up the greatness and glory of God in all that we do (Romans 11:33-36) without compromise. See also Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:6-8, 12-17, 21-26; 51:6-7; Psalm 8; 1 Corinthians 3:18-23; 10:31.

## **2. GOSPEL CENTRALITY - KEEPING FIRST THINGS FIRST**

There is only one gospel ([Galatians 1:8](#)) and it is central to all of life and ministry. It is *the* matter of first importance (1 Corinthians 15:3) The message of the gospel is timeless and unchanging. It is the focus of our daily lives and is the only message of hope for the world ([Romans 1:16-17](#), 5:1-2, 6-11; 8:28-38; 1 Corinthians 1:18-30; 15:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:14).

## **3. INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP - MAKING, MATURING, & MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES**

The church is only really growing when people are becoming Christians. Reaching, leading and helping people follow Jesus is the heart of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). As a result, our focus is on reaching people with the good news of the gospel. We desire "conversion" growth, not "transfer" growth. We realize that God, in his sovereignty, may move other Christians to serve in a Crossway Network church. We welcome these people if their hearts resonate with our vision and if they have sought to preserve the unity of the church they have come from. See also Matthew 4:19; Luke 19:10; John 17:18; Acts 2:39-42; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-22; Colossians 1:3-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:8.

## **4. EVERYDAY MISSION - REACHING YOUR WORLD**

Without changing the message of the gospel, we seek to bring it with clarity and power into the world around us. This requires understanding the culture(s) in which we live, and seeking to communicate the gospel in a way that connects with the people around us (1 Corinthians 9:19-22). We believe every follower of Jesus should be equipped and actively living out the mission of sharing the gospel and leading people to Christ. This is often best accomplished when small groups of believers work together, praying for and engaging with those in their spheres of influence. See also Matthew 4:19; 9:37-10:42; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-24; Colossians 4:2-6; 1 Peter 1:13-16.



## **5. BIBLICAL COMMUNITY - LIVING OUT THE “ONE ANOTHERS”**

We were created for relationship with both God and one another (Matthew 22:36-40). We believe that every Christian is to be experiencing genuine relationships with others in the body of Christ (Acts 2:42-47). These relationships are the primary context in which the “one-anothers” of scripture are experienced. Through these relationships, we learn to become more like Christ through serving others and being served in times of need. This is the true outworking of the New Commandment of Jesus in John 13:34-35. As we love one another, we show the world we are Jesus’ disciples. This is an important aspect of being effective as we seek to reach those around us for Christ. The world should be attracted to the love and joy that God’s people have amongst themselves. We are committed to fostering these kind of relationships through small group communities. See also John 13:34-35; 17:13-21; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 5:5-6; 12:12-31; Ephesians 2:19; 4:25-32; James 5:16; Hebrews 3:13-14; 10:19-25.

## **6. TEAM LEADERSHIP - SERVING TOGETHER IN PLURALITY**

We believe in the autonomy of the local church. We believe each church is to be led by a plurality of godly men who function as pastors (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5-9). We believe the role of pastor to be one and the same with the biblical terms overseer, elder, and bishop (see interchanging use of these terms to refer to a single role in Acts 20:28, 29 and 1 Peter 5:1-4). Among the plurality of pastors, there is recognition of differing giftedness and abilities in leadership that may set some apart from others in function, but not in authority. See also Acts 1:15; 15:13-22; Galatians 2:9; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 3; 5:19; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17.

## **7. EXPOSITIONAL PREACHING - PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**

We believe that God’s word is the best and highest that we have to offer people. We are committed to sound doctrine (1 Timothy 3:15). For this reason, we are committed to primarily preaching expository sermons through entire books of the Bible, although the local pastors will take seasons to address the needs of their body through topical sermons. In our preaching, we believe the Word of God is for our transformation, not simply our information, and as such we will strive for application and life-change (Hebrews 4:12). See also Ezra 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 4:1-6; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2:1-2.

## **8. VIBRANT WORSHIP - STIRRING OUR AFFECTION FOR GOD**

We were created to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:23), which means worship is a way of life for the Christian and involves everything about us (Romans 12:1). As a significant part of this life of worship, our churches are committed to providing gathered worship settings and congregational singing where God’s people praise Him in spirit and in truth.

**IN SPIRIT:** By cultivating a freedom of expression as God’s Spirit engages the hearts of His people and empowers them to use their gifts and voices to worship Him with excellence (John 4:23-24; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:18-20).

**IN TRUTH:** By singing songs that celebrate and declare gospel truths and promote a high view of God and His glory (Psalm 9:2; 95:1; 100:1-2; 150:1-6; Romans 15:9, 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Hebrews 2:12; Revelation 5:6-10).



The entire Crossway family of churches has adopted several biblical characteristics that we have grown passionate about in our leadership DNA. While the pastor team is obviously called to be exemplary in leading these qualities, each and every person who is in a place of service must also strive to function among their fellow servants in the same way (i.e. ministry leaders, small group leaders, children ministry teachers, worship leaders, etc.). These are the gospel qualities we long to see present in every area of leadership from our pastors to our nursery team leaders, from our deacons to our greeters and welcome teams, from our staff to our children ministry teachers ...everyone in a position of any impact must become passionate about and committed to these things to form the genuine Christ like heartbeat of our overall leadership culture.

Each church in The Crossway Network is committed to creating a leadership culture that reflects the following values.

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## **1. GLORY TO GOD –LIVING AND LEADING FOR AN AUDIENCE OF ONE**

**Driven by worship.** We desire for our leaders and influencers to be motivated by an “Audience of One.” Do they seek God’s glory alone? Do they reflect John the Baptist’s heart when he said, “He (Jesus) must increase and I must decrease” (John 3:30). We want to avoid the hazards that come with self-importance and the need for personal recognition. No one individual is irreplaceable. It’s not about personalities, but the person of Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:1-9; 2 Corinthians 5:15). See also Colossians 3:23; Hebrews 1:2; Revelation 5:11-14.

## **2. GENUINE LOVE - ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER**

**Demonstrating encouraging love.** We are committed to live out the New Commandment to love one another as we have been loved (John 13:34-35) so that all men will know we are his disciples. The greatest demonstration of true gospel faithfulness and obedience is to love our God with all our hearts, our souls, our minds, and all our strength; and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31). That love is clearly seen and described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 and it (love) is evident in every true believer’s life (1 John 3:11-18; 4:7-21).

## **3. HUMILITY IN LEADING - EXCELLING AS SERVANTS**

**Striving for selflessness.** God has given us the life and ministry of Jesus Christ to prove to us that He does not want us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. He wants us to give preference to one another in honor (Romans 12:3, 10, 16). A couple of catch phrases that have emerged within the Crossway Network that illustrate this value are, “we are all in process”, and “we have the ability to speak into one another’s lives.” The true essence of humility is not think less of yourself, but not thinking of yourself at all. See also Mark 10:41-45; John 3:30; 15:5; 1 Corinthians 3:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Peter 2:21-23; 3:9; 5:1-4.

## **4. UNITY – MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER**

**Eager for harmony.** Leaders within the Crossway Network understand and embrace principles of unity. They must honor one another in speech and be quick to forgive (Ephesians 4:29; 1 Timothy 5:19). With the scripture and its gospel message as the foundation, leaders and ministry teams must seek God’s wisdom in a spirit of love and deference. See also Acts 15, Philippians 2:1-4; Acts 10; 13:1-4, 15; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a; Ephesians 4:1-3, 29, 32; Romans 12:10.

## **5. PURPOSEFUL INVESTMENT - DEVELOPING LEADERS**

**Developing passionate leaders.** Just as Jesus chose and trained leaders to carry on the work of the gospel after his life on earth (Matthew 4:18-22; 5:1-7:29; 10:1-42; 23:1-25:46; Mark 1:16-20; 2:14; 3:13-19; 6:6-13; 13:1-37; Luke 5:1-11; 6:17-49; John 1:35-51; 13:1-17; 14:1-17:26 and many other passages) so we seek to raise up passionate leaders who desire to follow hard after Jesus. Paul chose men to come alongside of him (Silas, John Mark, Timothy, Luke, and Titus) and he taught and trained them and sent them out to serve and lead churches (1 Timothy 1:18-19; 2 Timothy 1:6-14; 2:1-2). See also 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus. See also Exodus 18:17-27; Joshua 1:1-9

## **6. EMPOWERMENT - HONORING EACH OTHER’S GIFTS**

**Fueled by encouragement.** Leaders are empowered and released for service, with a dependent but “can-do mentality.” We must strive to spur one another on as Crossway Network leaders are unleashed for service within their areas of giftedness and passion (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; Ephesians 4:11-13). There is a never ending commitment to develop more leaders to replace those who depart or are sent out. See also John 15:5, 16; Acts 8:1-4; 13:1-4; Romans 12:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 2:9-10.

## **7. MISSIONAL LIVING - LEADING BY EXAMPLE**

**Driven by God’s heart.** We are passionate to live out and train others to know that God’s heart is for none to-perish, but that all would come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus, Paul and the Twelve Apostles are our examples. As Crossway leaders, may we seek to more faithfully follow their missional lives. May we demonstrate the same passion and faithfulness as we hold out God’s heart to all those under our care, even if this involves hardship and suffering (2 Timothy 2:10). We are also convinced of the urgency of the mission we are called to serve (Mark 13:32-37; John 4:34-36; 9:4; 17:4) See also Matthew 9:37-10:42; Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-24; John 4:1-42; Acts 2:1-40; 10:23-48; 19:1-7.

## **8. MULTIPLICATION - CHURCH PLANTING CHURCHES**

**Dedicated to starting new churches.** As leaders on Jesus’ mission to make disciples we believe the best way the church fulfills its mission is through the intentional sending and starting of new churches. Every individual church, and local region of churches, seeks to plant new churches through sending teams of diversely gifted, and tested leaders, who have a heart to see many come to faith and healthy churches established. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 8:1-8; Acts 9:31; Acts 11:19-26; Acts 13:1-4, 48-49; Acts 14:19-28; Acts 16:4-5; Acts 18:22-23; Acts 19:1-10; Acts 20:27-28; Acts 28:30-31

*Also note specific references to the locations of churches in New Testament letters: 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Revelation 2 and 3.*

## **APPENDIX – PART 1, SPIRITUAL GIFTS - SPIRIT EMPOWERED AND BIBLICALLY GROUNDED**

1. Crossway Network recognizes that in the Scriptures there is a unique display of the miraculous associated with God's special servants, his apostles and prophets, and special events (Hebrews 2:3-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Acts 2:2-21; 10:44-48; 19:6). Also, contrary to what many would teach, biblical tongues are rare in the Scriptures, appearing only three times in the historical account of the first 30 years of the church (Acts 2:2-21; 10:44-48; 19:6) and once in the epistles (1 Corinthians 12-14). Also, in the limited four occasions for biblical tongues (Acts 2:4; 10:46, 19:6; 1 Corinthians 12-14), it is a known language. Even though in the Bible, these are not normal daily affairs, we understand that God is free to empower whom he wants for what he wants when he wants. Crossway Network desires all that God has for his people. Crossway Network is committed to the powerful expression of God's working through the giftedness and prayers of his people as outlined in the Bible. Although there is much to learn from many of our charismatic brothers and sisters, there is humble exception taken here with what is normative.
2. God the Spirit often works in uniquely powerful and repeated ways over the lifetime of a believer. Biblically, these are usually in times associated with unique service or renewed commitment (Acts 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9; Ephesians 5:18). In the last almost hundred years of the church, these special occasions are often linked with terminology that has become very confusing--"second blessing", or "baptism of the Spirit." For clarity, the Bible teaches there is only one baptism of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). The baptism of the Spirit takes place at salvation, where the Christian is indwelt (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19), sealed (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30), and adopted as God's child (Romans 8:9-18; Ephesians 1:5). Then subsequent to being born again or saved, there is a daily commitment to be filled, empowered, or yielded to the Spirit's control (Ephesians 5:18; Colossians 3:16, 17; Romans 12:1, 2).
3. Specifically with respect to the gift of tongues, the bible teaches that it is a supernatural enabling to speak in known languages that the individual does not know (Acts 2:2-21). There has been untold confusion in the misinterpretation of 1 Corinthians 13:1 "tongues of angels" and 1 Corinthians 14:2-4 "For the one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men". From 1 Corinthians 14 many have developed a sincere practice of tongues that is a linking together of non-decipherable syllables for self-edification. This is not biblical tongues. In the Scriptures it is a divine enabling to speak in a known language, previously unknown to the speaker, which authenticated God's unmistakable outpouring of his grace and Spirit (Acts 2:2-21; 10:44-48; 19:6). Many fail to understand the context of 1 Corinthians 14 and interpret the Apostle Paul's admonition against the misuse and practice of self-serving tongues to be an affirmation. The immediate context makes this clear (1 Corinthians 12:7; 13:1-13; 14:3, 12, 17-19, 25-28, 31-33, 40). In 1 Corinthians 12-14 there is further clarification that tongues is a sign to the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 14:20-25). Biblical tongues are not what is normative today in most churches or with most Christians who say they "speak in tongues." It is a divine enablement to speak in a language one did not previously know for God's glory.



# CROSSWAY NETWORK

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Crossway Network DNA Summaries  
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