

Language is made up many different physical forms ranging from body language to facial expressions to verbal epithets and how something is said and / or interpreted. A barrier in the different language styles and meanings can hinder one from communicating with another through culture, gender, and profession. A person who is called to missions must be able to learn how to communicate with the people group that they are assigned to. This will help to get the proper message of the gospel across to those they minister to. Actions (works) in conjunction with The Word of God can break many barriers if the deliverer of the message is able to reach that group. According to Rynkiewich P. 63 it reads, “Though it looks like Paul is breaking new ground, and he claims that he is, in fact, he goes to cities where he can find Jews speaking Aramaic and Gentiles speaking Greek; and he knows both languages well. He gets into trouble when he goes to a place that depends more on Lycaonian (Acts 14:11), and the miscommunication there nearly cost him his life (Acts 14:19).” We must remain vigilant and be cautious and not wary of situations that we find ourselves in due to lack of understanding a person’s background, language and the society from which they are from.

Growing up I thought there to be only a few languages in the world, which were Spanish, English, Ebonics, French and Italian. I knew there were people in other parts of the worlds, however I didn’t think of any other languages spoken in the except for the ones listed. As I got older and people from other countries started to make their way to the US that is when I realized how sheltered and close-minded I was. This was a culture shock for me, which made me retreat because I didn’t understand anything about the other cultures that started to trickle into the world as I knew it. It took a long time to understand things like the story about the tower of Babel and the significance of that time in Scripture. It also took me a long time to connect with people from different cultures outside of mine. However, I have found that when one worships and praises

God they can do it together even in different cultures as we come together in fellowship with one another. Now I am a learning and active Evangelist who would like to tell the world about Christ and I want to be able to reach more people. So I will learn about others cultures, languages and backgrounds so that when I go in the field I am prepared and equipped.

1. Who determines that one language is more dominant than the other?
2. How do we come to an understanding that while the world moves toward assimilation that we must stand firm in our culture of one God, one Faith, and one Baptism?