

Tongues - Are they for today?

This is one of the most controversial issues in the church today!

We shall look at it in some depth & 'finally' answer the above question, *once & for all!*

Apart from the Word of God, I have also taken information from the following, very helpful, books, leaflets & a video...

- 1) **Signs, Wonders & Miracles** – by James W. Knox (This is an excellent book & much of this study has come from this work alone!)
- 2) **All about speaking in Tongues** – By Fernand Legrand
- 3) **'Tongues'** video by Dr Peter Ruckman

Most Christians' do NOT study their Bibles! Many Christians will say things like 'Well I believe this...' without studying the issue THEMSELVES – human nature is lazy! Most Christians I have met, when it comes to serious Bible study, are lazy & do NOT search the Scriptures THEMSELVES! It is NOT a matter of what you & I believe it is what the Bible says & teaches we should be concerned with! What does God say? That's what matters!

There is a lack of 'good' Bible teachers in the church today, *especially* in the UK! Church leaders & congregation alike are no longer 'students' of the word of God as many were in the days gone by! We oftentimes rely on others to do the work for us, to tell us what we should believe! This is a dangerous position to get into!

Christians who DO 'study' their Bibles fall into 3 'camps'... - A, B & C

- A) **Camp A** - In this camp are those who have already decided what they believe & search their Bible's to find some passage or verse (even a part of a verse will do) to support their PREDETERMINED position! *I have met so many of these types of Christians!*
- B) **Camp B** - In this camp are those who spend long hours of Bible study looking for verses & passages (even a part of a verse will do) to use in disputes with those in Camp A. Their searching of the Scriptures is motivated by a desire to point out the errors & mistakes of the Camp A group. This kind of 'Christian' will always look to find fault & critique EVERY sermon & Bible study they hear! *I have met so many of these type of Christians!*
- C) **Camp C** - In this camp are those who may have strongly held beliefs & convictions but are willing to change them in a moment should they learn from the word of God that they have been in error. In camp C are those who love the Lord Jesus & His Word & place the Scriptures as their FINAL AUTHORITY on all matters of faith & practice! *I have met very FEW of these type of Christians!*

We shall be examining EVERY reference in the book of Acts to 'speaking in tongues', as well as ALL the other Biblical references to this gift i.e.

- i. Unknown tongues
- ii. Strange Tongues
- iii. Other tongues
- iv. Divers tongues

Before we get into this study we need to lay down some ground work.

There are two primary rules for Bible study set forth in the Bible itself...

- 1) 1 Cor 2v12+13 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**
- 2) 2 Tim 2v15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

These two Scriptures make it clear that in order to **understand the word of God**; we CANNOT remove any Bible verse from the surrounding context, but must compare Scripture with Scripture. God has placed dividing lines throughout His word to mark off time periods in which He deals with men at *different* times in *different* ways! (The Bible must be read 'dispensationally' otherwise many errors will occur when Christians try to apply verses to themselves that are NOT *directly* written, DOCTRINALLY to themselves!)

Nearly ALL (if not ALL!) false teaching & every Scriptural misunderstanding today is a result of either...

- 1) **Private Interpretation** – This is a man interpreting the Scriptures (*as opposed to teaching them!*) on the basis of his experience or feelings, or on the basis of his background 'training', reading, or denominational 'tradition!'
- 2) **Truth Misplaced** – This is a man setting forth genuine Bible truth but seeking to apply that truth to persons it was never directed to! Truth misplaced is ERROR! – We must RIGHTLY DIVIDE the word of truth!

So to our study...

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. – Mat 11v13

The Bible states that the law & the prophets were until John (the Baptist). So John the Baptist marks a transition! (*i.e. a change!*)

John came, & in Mark 1v4 he preached... **John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.**

Jesus said in Mark 1v15 **And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

We find that through John the Baptist's ministry he preached 'repentance & baptism for the remission of sins.'

The tradition continued through the ministry of Jesus Christ who took the OT law & expounded upon its precepts. He went beyond a strict word-for-word meaning & called upon men to go beyond quoting the law, to go beyond the letter of the law, & to live according to the life & spirit of the law!

For example, the law forbade committing adultery. Jesus carried this further & said Mat 5v27+28 **Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**

The Lord *often* said things like '*Ye have heard it said... But I say unto you...*' i.e.

Mt 5:21+22 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: **But I say unto you,** That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Mt 5:27+28 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: **But I say unto you,** That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Mt 5:31-33 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: **But I say unto you,** That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery. Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

Mt 5:38+39 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: **But I say unto you,** That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Mt 5:43+44 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. **But I say unto you,** Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

The law & the prophets were until John. His ministry was to prepare the way for the Messiah, the King of the Jews.

When Christ Jesus, the Messiah, came, He pointed to Himself as the fulfilment of the law. Having fulfilled the law Jesus went to the cross, died, was buried & rose again!

After the resurrection of Jesus Christ we find, in the first seven chapters of the book of Acts, that the believers continued to preach the message of John the Baptist, with the person & work of Jesus Christ **added**.

Read carefully the statements & sermons of the apostles in Acts 2 - 7 & this will be perfectly clear.

Prior to Acts 8, no one preached that an individual could be saved solely on the merits of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Ethiopian eunuch was taught from Isaiah by Philip we find an individual Gentile converted by preaching the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ (Isa 53). He was saved by grace, through faith, & baptised afterwards.

Saul of Tarsus is converted by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 9) & is called to be the apostle to the Gentiles (Rom 11v13). His gospel message, found in 1 Cor 15, is the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ, according to the Scriptures.

These great gospel truths of the suffering Saviour paying for the sins of the world with His own precious blood are found throughout the OT writings **BUT** prior to the conversion of the apostle Paul **they were hid from the hearts & minds of men!**

The gospel message of salvation by grace, & birth into the church of God, the Body of Christ was a MYSTERY at that time!

Col 1:24-28 **Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**

Rom 16:25+26 **Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:**

Eph 3:4+6 **Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:**

It is interesting to note that the word MYSTERY occurs 22 times in the Bible & 17 times it occurs in Paul's letters! Nearly all of the mysteries in the Bible were revealed to the apostle Paul!

1 Cor 2:7-10 **But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.**

The salvation of the soul through faith in the finished work of Christ is taught all through the law & the prophets but was not revealed until the Holy Spirit allowed Paul to unfold such truth in his epistles.

Peter writes...1 Pet 1:10-12 **Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.**

Now think about this for a moment; Until Paul wrote the NT epistles containing the doctrines of the NT church, there was nothing in the hands of the apostles & believers BUT the OT Scriptures!

Throughout the book of Acts they could NOT turn to the NT Scriptures for doctrine, reproof, correction or instruction in righteousness because there WASN'T ANY NT SCRIPTURES; there was NO NT!

Therefore, what these men preached was an OT of which John the Baptist marked the end, & of which Jesus Christ marked the fulfilment.

Along with that, they taught a NEW gospel that one can be BORN AGAIN & receive eternal life through the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ without ever bringing a sacrifice, keeping a feast day or bringing offerings to a priest in Jerusalem!

However, they had nothing IN WRITING to justify this radical change from nearly 2,000 years of God ordained worship!

Thus to CONFIRM THE WORD of the apostles, God gave the signs & wonders given to Moses (the law), Elijah (the prophets) & Jesus Christ (grace) to CONFIRM the truth of this NEW DISPENSATION!

Mr 16:14-20 **Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**

We shall look into these verses in more depth later on but note the confirming the word with signs following.

Now in the book of Acts we can see why this matter of tongues becomes so confusing, so controversial, & so dangerous. The doctrinal setting in which each occurrence of speaking in tongues is found is a TRANSITIONAL period during which men are preaching, teaching, living Christian lives & seeking to obey God WITHOUT ANY WRITTEN DIRECTION from God by which to judge their thoughts, words & actions!

They had NO INFALLIBLE WRITTEN NT, like we have, to which they might turn to for absolute statements of what is right & wrong!

This is not to say their thoughts, words & actions were wrong; it is obvious from Scripture that they were led & directed, for the most part, by the Holy Spirit.

Thus, great confusion comes from making one's DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION on an historic period of TRANSITION within the word of God when NOTHING WAS DEFINITELY SETTLED!

For example, the Bible passages on tongues are found in...

- 1) **Mark 16** – A time after the resurrection BUT before the descent of the Holy Spirit
- 2) **Acts 2** – After the descent of the Holy Spirit BUT before Israel rejects the Messiah (Acts 7) & God begins to turn to the Gentiles (Acts 8 - 10)
- 3) **Acts 10** – After the Lord begins to turn to the Gentiles BUT before the NT Scriptures are written
- 4) **Acts 19** – The gospel reaching for the first time an area which knew ONLY the preaching of John the Baptist

You would be FOOLISH to build your foundational doctrines upon the book of Acts which is a book of TRANSITION! *This is where many Pentecostal's go wrong! They spend far too long preaching & teaching from the book of Acts rather than preaching & teaching from Paul's Epistles!*

Let us go back to Mark 16v14-18 - **Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

The eleven apostles were the one's to whom the Lord Jesus gave this word! These SIGNS were divinely given signs from the Saviour to the apostles for their preaching ministry to all the world.

As previously stated; these men would be preaching a NT which was instituted & made alive by the Lord Jesus Christ but they could NOT point to any NT Scriptures yet!

The context of Mark 16v14-18 clearly shows that these signs were given to establish that these men were speaking as the oracles of God - **So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**

Note... confirming the word - **WITH SIGNS FOLLOWING!**

So, we see in this 1st mention of tongues that they were given by the Lord Jesus Christ to His apostles as one aspect of a five-fold proof that they were speaking the truth of God.

Note carefully... **these** (plural) **signs** (plural) **shall** (definite) **follow them** (plural) **that believe; In my name shall** (definite) **they** (plural)...

- 1) **Cast out devils**
- 2) **Speak with new tongues**
- 3) **Take up serpents**
- 4) **Drink any deadly thing without hurt**
- 5) **Lay hands on the sick & heal them**

From the passage we see that Jesus Christ gave the signs to His eleven Jewish apostles to confirm that they were speaking His words! These signs given were FIVE in number! Therefore, if a man was an apostle & had the apostolic signs they would be five-fold in their manifestation! To claim a 6th would be unbiblical! To say that you had the gift of 'healing' but you could not drink 'any deadly thing' would be unscriptural!

To say that one had the apostolic sign of speaking in tongues but not the other FOUR signs would be contrary to what the text of Mark 16 ACTUALLY SAYS!

This FACT has nothing to do with interpretation, this is what JESUS SAID!

Let us now look at Acts 2

Here we find 120 believers (Acts 1v15 - **And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and**

twenty,)) gathered together in an upper room. These men & women were doing what Jesus Christ told them to do. They were waiting for the promise of the Father which is the Holy Ghost. Jesus had told His apostles they would receive power after the Holy Ghost had come upon them (Acts 1v8 - **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, (the city) and in all Judaea, (the immediate area surrounding Jerusalem) and in Samaria, (the region just beyond Judaea) and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (everywhere!))**, to enable them to be His witnesses.

Thus we pick up right where we left off in Mark 16.

Having said this, the Lord ascended up to heaven.

What we find when we begin Acts 2 are about 120 believers waiting in an upper room for God to send power, brought by the Holy Ghost from on high, which would enable them to go into all the world & preach the gospel with the ability which superseded that of the flesh or human will. (SIGNS would follow to confirm the word they were preaching!)

These men would be given God's power, by God's Spirit, to be God's witnesses declaring God's gift of eternal life through God's own Son.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, (Acts 2v1), this promise was fulfilled!

This was a Jewish feast day which came 50 days after the feast of Passover. On this particular occasion the feast day marked 50 days since the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, offered Himself as the supreme blood sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. After laying down His life at Calvary, Christ visited the underworld while His body lay in a sealed & guarded tomb for 3 days & 3 nights. Following His resurrection He walked & talked among men on earth for forty days (Acts 1v3 - **To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:**). This accounted for 43 days!

So, when the day of Pentecost arrived these disciples had been waiting for the promise a full SEVEN days since Jesus ascended!

Acts 2v1...**they were all with one accord in one place.** - These were the 120 believers of Acts chapter one! They were simply waiting for God to do what He said He would do!

Acts 2v2 - **And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind,** - note the sound came from Heaven!

Acts 2v2 - **...a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind,** - Notice the Bible says nothing of a rushing mighty wind BUT 'a sound' came from heaven having this LIKENESS! It is a simile (i.e. *expressing comparison or likeness, by the use of such terms as like, as, so etc.*) There is NO rushing mighty wind!

Acts 2v2 **...and it filled all the house where they were sitting.** - *What filled the house? The sound! What were they doing in the house? Sitting! Notice there was no dancing or crying out, no loud music, no singing repetitive choruses; they were just sitting!*

Acts 2v3 - **And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.** - Note again that there were NO actual tongues of fire here; there was NO fire! It is another simile so we can understand what happened! Pentecostals often get this mixed up with the 'Baptism of Fire' in Mat 3v11 - **I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:** - But by

continuing to read on i.e. Mat 3v12 **Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.** – We see that this 'baptism of fire' is to be IMMERSED IN THE LAKE OF FIRE for rejecting the Messiah! *You certainly DON'T want to pray for the 'baptism of fire!'*

Acts 2v3 - ... **and it** (what appeared!) **sat upon each of them.** – No one present was excluded; all obeyed & all received the promise!

Note carefully that the filling with the Holy Ghost & speaking with other tongues are TWO separate statements!

James Knox writes...

Acts 2v5 - **And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.** – This day of Pentecost was one of the THREE great Jewish national festivals when all the males were required to go to Jerusalem (Deut 16v16 - **Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:**). **It was also called the FEAST OF WEEKS** (Deut 16v10 - **And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:**) because it was SEVEN weeks from the Passover; **the feast of harvest** (Exo 23v16 - **And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.**) because it was a feast of thanksgiving for the harvest...

Deut 26v5-10... **And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression: And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God:**

It was also called the feast of the first fruits (Num 28v26 - **Also in the day of the firstfruits, when ye bring a new meat offering unto the LORD, after your weeks be out, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work:**) because on this day the Jews offered to God the first fruits of the wheat harvest, in bread made of new grain (Lev 23v15-20).

The feast was also regarded as commemorating the giving of the law which was delivered from Mount Sinai on the fiftieth day after the departure from Egypt, i.e. after the institution of the Passover!

So God in His wisdom selected a day on which all the males of Israel would be present in the city of David's throne. They would be gathered to worship under the old covenant on the day the law was given. On this day the Father sent the gift of the Holy Ghost.

In the manifold wisdom of God, the preaching of the new covenant began on a day when the men of His chosen people have gathered out of every nation under heaven. But how would they all hear & understand this preaching?

Acts 2v6 - **Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.** – Now these men were not confounded because they were hearing babbling & a stringing together of nonsensical syllables; the men who heard the believers speak with other tongues were confounded because they could understand what was being said! (*Note - it was NOT a heavenly 'prayer' language!*)

Therefore the 'other tongue' received on the day of Pentecost by those in the upper room was the ability to speak in a language unknown to the speaker but known to the hearer!

Read Acts 2v7-11

So that there would never be any confusion or false doctrines about a *secret prayer language & gibber-jabber babbling* being called a work of the Holy Spirit, God told us three times in plain English that these men were speaking in a language that was KNOWN to their hearers! (*Now think upon that long & hard Mr Pentecostal!*)

And what audience was being addressed: Jews of the dispersion from every nation on the face of the earth! Within weeks of the day the Holy Ghost came to indwell the body of Christ, all the world will have heard the amazing story, with SIGNS CONFIRMING THE MESSAGE – this was from God!

Read Acts 2v14-21

So who was preaching & proclaiming the gospel to this multitude of Jews? – It was the apostles who were given the promise of SIGNS to CONFIRM the word as seen in Mark 16v20!

Note in this passage (Acts 2v14-21) it doesn't say that Joel 2 was being FULFILLED, nor did it say that the events included in Joel could have their completion on this day! It is clear that God did NOT pour out His Spirit on ALL flesh by the number of conversions (i.e. only 3000), which is far short of the number of people in Jerusalem on that day! The sun was not darkened & the moon did not turn to blood!

Why then did the Holy Ghost move Peter to cite Joel 2 in the sermon he delivered?

Because the LATTER DAYS spoken of throughout the old covenant prophetic writings BEGAN ON THIS DAY!

Who were Peter & the eleven speaking to... **Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:** (Acts 2v22)

- 1) Why in Mark 16, did Jesus promise that signs would follow the apostles?
- 2) Why did signs accompany the apostles when their public preaching ministry began in Acts 2?

Simply to equate the apostles with the Lord Jesus Christ in the minds of the men that had heard & seen Jesus & knew that the Lord worked signs, wonders & miracles; therefore the SIGNS were given these apostles to testify that they were the true spokesmen of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Read Acts 2v23-36

Twelve Jewish apostles, on a Jewish feast day, addressed a Jewish congregation & proclaimed the Jewish Messiah had been crucified by the Jews, & had risen from the dead!

They declared that God was calling the Jews to pay attention to a group of men that had the same **signs, wonders & miracles** that were wrought by the Lord Jesus Christ!

THAT WAS THE MESSAGE OF PENTECOST!

They did NOT speak about tongues nor encourage anyone to receive them! They did speak of the wonderful works of God & encouraged men to receive HIM!

Ac 2:37-40 **Now when they** (the reference is still to Acts 2v5) **heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles,** (NOT 120 believers!) **Men and brethren,** (Jews speaking to Jewish apostles!) **what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them,** (the same thing John the Baptist would have said!) **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children,** (verse 5 Jews!) **and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.** (verse 6 Jews out of every nation under heaven) **And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.** (Note – NOT save yourself from Hell!)

Peter preached & the multitude cried out 'What shall we do?' (Note it doesn't say 'What must we do to be saved!')

Remember the book of Acts is a book of TRANSITION...

- 1) From Law to Grace!
 - 2) From the old covenant to the NEW covenant
 - 3) From nations to individuals
 - 4) From Israel, to the calling out of the Body of Christ, the church!
 - 5) God begins to turn from the Jews in Acts 7 (the stoning of Stephen), saves an individual GENTILE in Acts 8, calls the 'apostle' to the Gentiles in Acts 9 (i.e. Paul), & in Acts 10 sent Peter to a Gentile house even though Peter was still clinging to a **Jewish** message!
- No one in Acts 2 was a 'Christian' – the term Christian doesn't even show up until Acts 11v26!
 - Every man, woman, boy & girl in Acts 2 is a Jew or Gentile proselyte to Judaism (see v1,5,8-11,14,22,36)
 - No one in Acts 2 is asking how to get saved! The nation of Israel is asking Peter... 'In the view of the fact that we have crucified the Messiah, what shall we do?'
 - Nowhere in Acts 2 does it mention about Christ dying for **anyone's sins!**
 - From Acts 1 to Acts 7 the 2nd Advent (2nd Coming of Christ!) is looming, & then postponed to the end of the Church Age!

Having NO NT, NO written Scriptures beyond Malachi, NO doctrine of salvation by grace through faith given freely to individual believers, Peter spoke to this crowd exactly as John the Baptist had spoken when he came to mark the beginning of a transition from the OT law & the prophets!

His word was clear...**Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** (Acts 2v38)

REPENT, be BAPTIZED in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, & ye SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST!

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (Acts 2v41)

These 3000 believers received the gift of the Holy Ghost as Peter promised!

This leads us to a very simple, very logical, & very Scriptural conclusion: from the day of Pentecost onward, speaking in a language unknown to the speaker was a gift given to some believers **& not to others**. The idea that the 'initial evidence' of receiving the Holy Ghost was speaking in tongues was NOT the case in the very first Pentecostal converts in Acts 2 & is therefore shown BY THE BIBLE to be a FALSE doctrine!

That is the complete Biblical account of the first time in NT history that anyone spoke with tongues. Just as the Lord Jesus said in Mark 16, it was a SIGN wrought by Jewish apostles as a testimony to all nations that they were indeed speaking & declaring the true word of God. We see from a very careful examination of the chapter that those present, those addressed, & those converted, were ALL JEWS! These Israelites were converted under the preaching of the doctrine of John the Baptist combined with the person & the work of Jesus Christ. A combination message was declared in a transition period & the Lord's blessing upon it was marked by **SIGNS & WONDERS!**

Before we again come across speaking in tongues there are some very important events set forth in the book of Acts...

After 5 full chapters of presenting the Messiah to Israel for a 2nd time (Acts 2 - 6) Stephen preached to the leaders of the nation & showed them FROM THE OT SCRIPTURES that Jesus was their true Messiah & declared them guilty of His murder. Rather than repent & receive this Lord Jesus Christ they confirmed the words of Stephen by stoning him.

The turning from Israel to the Gentiles, which is explained in Rom 9 - 11, began with the execution of Stephen. In Acts 8 an individual Gentile is saved by grace, through faith, upon hearing the preaching of the Cross from Isa 53. He was saved upon BELIEVING, with no mention of works! He was a believer before he was baptised & even though he was led into a saving faith by an apostle, he did NOT speak in tongues.

In Acts 9, Saul of Tarsus was converted by believing the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. By calling on the resurrected Jesus as the living Lord, this self-righteous murderer received salvation & received the Holy Ghost before he was baptised. There is no record that he spoke in tongues at his baptism, conversion, or at the time the Holy Ghost was given. This man was then called of God to be the apostle to the Gentiles!

This shift in God's dealing with Israel & the Gentiles must be understood or much of the NT will remain a mystery. *How many false teachings have arisen because of a failure to distinguish between the Jew, the Gentile & the church of God!* 1Co 10:32 **Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:**

As the Lord makes this obvious turn away from Israel to the Gentiles we must hearken back to the promise of Acts 1v8... **and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

As we examine the 2nd Biblical case of speaking in tongues we find the Lord beginning the proclamation of the good news to the uttermost part of the earth...

Read Acts 10v1-14

Peter is given a vision regarding Jews & Gentiles! He is about to learn that NT salvation was NOT a national matter based upon law, but an individual matter, based upon grace.

Read Acts 10v15-28

Peter knew what God showed him but he was still not convinced. He knew what he had seen; he knew what the Lord had told him to do; but the statement of verse 17 was still the case...**Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate...** Peter doubted in himself what the vision should mean. Peter had said... **God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.** (Acts 10v28)

Read Acts 10v29-36

Peter had not accepted the revelation God had shown him. He knew intellectually what the Lord had shown him & he could not deny that the Holy Spirit brought him to a Gentile household but he was still trying to cling to the gospel message as the exclusive property of the nation of Israel.

Acts 10:36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; (Peter was preaching John's baptism with the person of Jesus Christ)

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; (he was clinging to this gospel as a Jewish message & did not want to give up this prejudice) whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. Peter was coming around!

When Peter preached to Jews at Jerusalem he said... Ac 2:38 **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** When Peter preached to Gentiles in Cornelius' household he said...Ac 10:43 **To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

The book of Acts is a book of TRANSITION from law to grace, from the old covenant to the new covenant, from nations to individuals!

God began to turn from the Jews in Acts 7, saved a Gentile by grace in Acts 8, called the apostle to the Gentiles in Acts 9 & in Acts 10, sent Peter into a Gentile household (but he was clinging to a Jewish message!)

Ac 10:43 **To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name (the Lord Jesus Christ!) whosoever believeth in him (no mention of baptism!) shall receive remission of sins.**

44 ¶ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 **For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,**
47 **Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received**
the Holy Ghost as well as we?
48 **And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they**
him to tarry certain days.

So we see that Peter went to the household of Cornelius as God directed. There Peter preached what God told him to preach, though he did so in relative unbelief & with obvious reluctance. The Gentiles to whom he preached believed the words they heard & had the Holy Ghost fall on them WHEN THEY BELIEVED THE WORDS OF GOD! The Father sent the Spirit to save & indwell these Gentile believers & they spoke with other tongues!

Note that these tongues were a sign to the circumcision who were astonished because they did not believe that God was going to save the Gentiles with the same salvation wherewith He saved the Jews. God used tongues here in Acts 10 as a sign to an 'unbelieving' Jewish apostle to CONFIRM that the Gentiles were going to be included in this new covenant.

Note also that the NT doctrines of unity in the ONE BODY found in 1 Corinthians & Ephesians had NOT been written or revealed yet! God must CONFIRM the word of the apostles even to the apostles in this TRANSITION period!

Again here in Acts 10 the tongues could be UNDERSTOOD! Acts 10v46 **For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.** If they were speaking in some 'heavenly prayer language' they wouldn't have known this! Note also in Peter's recounting of this event to those in Jerusalem, (who did not believe that the new covenant included Gentiles), Ac 11:17 **Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us,** (i.e. Acts 2) **who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?**

So in Acts 2 & Acts 10, 'Tongues' were KNOWN languages, NOT 'jibber jabber' or a special 'heavenly prayer language!'

So let us recap & conclude regarding the second occurrence of speaking in tongues found in the Scriptures...

We find a group of Gentiles who received the Holy Ghost by believing the preaching of the death, burial & resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. They spoke with tongues & Jewish apostles & Jewish believers were astonished because they did not believe that God saved Gentiles the same way He saved the Jews! In this case (i.e. Acts 10), as in Acts 2, tongues were a SIGN to the UNBELIEVING Jews & served to CONFIRM THE WORD OF GOD & the truth of God in a TRANSITIONAL period which the doctrines which were in effect were NOT found in the WRITTEN Scriptures!

In Acts 1 we read about the person who was going to replace Judas Iscariot...Acts 1:21 **Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,**
22 **Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.**

Now read Acts 10v39-41...Acts 10:39 **And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:**
40 **Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;**
41 **Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.**

These passages clearly teach that in order to 'qualify' as an apostle a man must have accompanied Jesus from the time He was baptised of John until the time of His ascension.

That man must have beheld the works that Jesus did & been eyewitness of the resurrected Christ!

The apostle Paul, who was one born out of due time (1 Cor 15v8), certainly 'qualified!' He was among the counsel at the stoning of Stephen, & a student of the noted leader Gamaliel. Prior to that he certainly would have beheld the works of the Lord Jesus Christ at some point during the three & one half years of the Lord's public ministry! He also met the resurrected Christ on the Damascus Road (Acts 9)

The events of Acts 10 were so outstanding & important that the Holy Spirit chose to take the 11th chapter of the book of Acts & recount what took place in the 10th chapter!

Read Acts 11v13-18...

13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Knox goes on to write... It is interesting to note from these words of Peter, recorded by the Holy Spirit, that he did not remember (until God sent him to this Gentile household) that the Lord taught his disciples that NT salvation would be a matter of Spirit baptism & not water baptism. That which God gave them is said to be a gift in Acts 11v17 & you will notice that it wasn't until this time that Peter was fully convinced that the Gentiles would be saved just as the Jews. It was not until this retelling that the Jewish brethren were convinced that Peter had done the right thing & that the gospel which they were to carry to the uttermost part of the earth was to be carried to all nations, kindred's, tongues & tribes dwelling upon the face of the earth. You will note, there was still some reservation about this matter until it was finally bound on earth at the great Jerusalem meeting in Acts 15.

Acts 19 is the 3rd & final case in the Bible of someone speaking in, with other, or unknown tongues! (We shall deal with the Corinthian 'perversion' of tongues a little later!)

Ac 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Notice he was NOT in Jerusalem, Judea or Samaria. Paul had made his way into one of the 'uttermost parts of the earth' i.e. a region beyond the immediate influence of Judaism.

- 1) When the gospel was proclaimed in a NEW area i.e. Jerusalem, 'signs & wonders' accompanied!
- 2) When the gospel was proclaimed among a NEW people i.e. Gentiles, 'signs & wonders' accompanied!

In each case the gift of tongues was given as a sign to CONFIRM the spoken new covenant for there was NO WRITTEN new covenant!

Now we come to another NEW region, Ephesus...

Ac 19:2 **He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.** (obviously they had not heard the preaching of Acts 2 or Acts 10!)

3 **And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.**

When Paul got to the uttermost parts of the earth he found a people who were in the very same spiritual condition in which the Jews of Jerusalem found themselves in Acts 2. These people had no more understanding than Cornelius.

They were disciples of God to the extent of their understanding. They were believers in all they had been given to believe. But these baptised believers were NOT saved & born again for they had NOT heard the gospel message of the NEW covenant! This was made clear by their ignorance of the truth & the absence of the Holy Ghost.

Now Paul could NOT ask these people to turn to Matthew 26 or Luke 23 so that he could show them from the Scriptures the cross of Christ. He could NOT take them to the book of Romans & expound NT salvation. There was NO 'written' record of these things as yet!

These baptised converts of John needed some strong evidence that Paul & company brought them truth!

Ac 19:4 **Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.** (that is, the law & the prophets were until John, but grace & truth came by Jesus Christ)

5 **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

These people were glad of the good news; they had already responded to the announcement of the forerunner i.e. John the Baptist, & they were just as quick to respond to the good news carried by the apostle! Once they had, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ac 19:6 **And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

So when we get to the 'uttermost part of the earth', we find Jews & proselytes that are in the very same condition that Jews & proselytes were in on the day of Pentecost at Jerusalem.

They had responded in faith to John's baptism but must now respond to the good news that God sent His Son into the world to die & rise again in payment for the sins of man. They then received the Holy Ghost with 'signs & wonders' accompanying the message to CONFIRM that these were TRUE apostles who proclaimed the words of God!

EVERY TIME we find tongues in the Bible it was a CONFIRMATION of the word of God to those who had NOT previously believed the NEW covenant message!

The gift of tongues is...

- 1) A language NOT known to the speaker
- 2) Given as a gift by God to believers
- 3) **Given as a SIGN to CONFIRM the word for a witness to unbelievers**
- 4) **Connected ONLY with the apostolic ministry!**

The Corinthian use of Tongues!

First let us look at what Corinth was like as a city!

Corinth was the capital of the ancient province of Achaia. In the apostolic period, Corinth was a thriving commercial & industrial city with a population of 700,000 approx. Isa 5:8 **Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!**

Greek civilisation, with its learning & arts flourished there. Athletic games & schools of philosophy were numerous.

It was in an ideal situation for traders to come from all around the world, thus not only bringing their goods & wealth to Corinth but also their customs, religions, & their gross SINS!

Sin & immorality were the order of the day! The entire city was filled with drunkenness, gluttony, prostitution & paganism!

The Greeks in their worship of the 'love' goddess Aphrodite had reached levels of degradation seldom seen. The moral level of the city was so low that one living a wicked life in those times was said to be 'living as a Corinthian!'

Having first preached at Athens, Paul made his way to Corinth. Acts 18 verifies that God used Paul to establish a Christian church there. He ministered in that 'hell hole' for a year & a half!

Jews & Gentiles alike were saved by the preaching of the cross! Some of the leading Jews of the city were saved, including Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue. Most of the converts came from the lower classes of the Gentiles (1 Cor 1v26). There was also Erastus, a chamberlain, & Gaius, a wealthy man, who were converted (Rom 16v23), but these were notable exceptions!

We can of course compare the Corinthian church with the Laodicean church of today!

The most carnal church in the Bible was the Corinthian church!

Many of the 'members' were basing their Christian lives on their feelings & experiences rather than on the authority of Scripture – just like so many Christians do TODAY! *'If it feels good do it!'*

In the Corinthian church we find 'clicks' & divisions, men following men rather than following the word of God & the Lord! There was incestuous fornication among them, they were suing one another in courts of law, there was idol worship, people were coming to the Lord's Table in any kind of a manner, divorce was an accepted practice etc.

Although we have listed many of the problems in the Corinthian church their main problem was their lack of DIVINE AUTHORITY i.e. they had NO FINAL AUTHORITY!

Without a FINAL AUTHORITY that everybody is in subjection to, there can be NO union or Christian harmony but instead CHAOS!

1 Cor 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.** (Withal = The word 'withal', which was originally 2 words in Old English, appears 33 times in the AV. The form 'wherewithal' occurs only once. It can mean, *with it all, as well, besides, in addition, along with, with that, therewith*, or it can simply mean *with!*)

The manifestation of the Spirit is given to PROFIT WITHAL! I.e. Wherever a saved member of the body of Christ goes he is to be filled, led & controlled by God's Holy Spirit so that all with whom he comes in contact with may be benefited!

1 Cor 12:8 **For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;**

9 **To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;**

10 **To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues;**

11 **But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.**

So not 'everyone' receives the SAME gift! Therefore not everyone receives the gift of TONGUES!

1 Cor 12:12 **For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.**

1 Cor 12:13 **For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.**

Therefore...

- 1) We are placed into the body of Christ by an operation of God's Holy Spirit
- 2) The members of the body of Christ will be as different in their functions & abilities as the members of a human body
- 3) These manifestations will differ from person to person according to the dispensation of God in their lives
- 4) To say that someone is not in Christ because they do NOT speak in 'tongues' is a FALSE doctrine!

You cannot have Christ & NOT have the Holy Spirit! - ...**Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.** (Rom 8v9), **For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.** (Col 2v9), **For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.** (1 John 5v7)

In 1 Cor 12v14-27 we have a discussion of the unity of the body. The discussion of the gifts resumes in verse 28...

v28 **And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**

This list of gifts is not in the order they were given by God i.e. On the day of Pentecost when the baptism of the Holy Ghost took place, men spoke with other tongues BEFORE they prophesied. On that day men spoke in tongues BEFORE there was any gathering of believers to govern. On that day men spoke in tongues & there is no record of anyone being healed.

Therefore the above list of gifts is not in the order they were given to the church, the Lord's body!

This gives only one possible conclusion. The gifts set forth are listed in the order of their measure of IMPORTANCE to the establishment of the NT church!

This ordering of the gifts is set forth by the inspiration of the very God who gave the gifts (1 Cor 12v5). This view is confirmed by the first clause of verse 31, **But covet earnestly the best gifts:**

Therefore the gifts are NOT all of 'equal' importance as the Lord here declares some gifts are better than others! He tells us to covet earnestly the BEST gifts & NOT the LEAST of the gifts! Yet today in this Laodicean age the church is coveting the least of all the gifts in the body of Christ i.e. TONGUES!

Note in verse 29+30...

- 1) Are all apostles? – NO!
- 2) Are all prophets? – NO!
- 3) Are all teachers? – NO!
- 4) Are all workers of miracles? – NO!
- 5) Have all the gifts of healing? – NO!

We have been shown throughout the course of this chapter that a body is NOT a group of ears, feet or hands! It takes many different members to make up a human body. Even so, the Lord has shown, it takes many different spiritual gifts to make up the Lord's body, the church!

But there is another question in 1 Cor 12v30!

Do all speak with tongues? Following on IN CONTEXT the answer is obviously NO!

Yet so often we hear 'preachers' (*& I use the term loosely!*) say to their congregations that everyone should be speaking in tongues, it is the will of God!

They not only lie & 'wrest' the Scriptures (2 Pet 3v16), they deceive the people!

So often these FALSE 'teachers', tell the people that if you DON'T speak in tongues...

- 1) Then you have never really been saved; or
- 2) You've been saved but you don't have the Holy Ghost; or
- 3) You are saved but you lack the power of the Holy Spirit etc.

None of this is taught in the Scriptures it is MAN MADE & FALSE! IT is ERROR!

So in 1 Cor 12, the triune God is the giver of spiritual gifts. He not only gives these gifts to believers but empowers them to manifest these gifts. One of these gifts is the ability to speak in languages NOT known to the speaker i.e. tongues! Not every saved person is given this particular gift! Tongues is the LEAST of the gifts listed in this chapter!

Now we move on to 1 Cor 13...

1Co 13:1 **Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.**

2 And **though** I have the gift of prophecy, **and understand all mysteries**, and **all knowledge**; and **though** I have **all faith**, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And **though** I bestow **all my goods** to feed the poor, and **though I give my body to be burned**, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Now the standard handling of this passage by the Pentecostals & Charismatics is that since Paul spoke with the tongues of men & ANGELS this teaches a heavenly language!

Note – every time in our Bible that the words spoken in heaven are identified linguistically, the language is said to be Hebrew! Ruckman writes... *'In the Bible, the tongue of angels is Hebrew. When the Lord Jesus spoke from heaven to Paul in Acts 9, He spoke in Hebrew. The Holy Spirit teaches us to call God 'Abba' (Rom 8v15, Gal 4v6); that's Aramaic. (Aramaic – the language of the Jews in Palestine after the captivity & that spoken by Christ & His disciples) When the citizens of heaven rejoice over the destruction of Babylon, they cry 'Alleluia'; that's Hebrew (Rev 19v1-6). Why wouldn't Hebrew be the language of heaven?'*

Paul did NOT say that he spoke in the tongues of angels!

He is setting forth an argument so to speak...

Charity is the greatest! It is greater than faith & hope (1 Cor 13v13), it is greater than spiritual gifts (1 Cor 13v8), it is greater than our knowledge (1 Cor 13v9-12) & it is greater than good works in the energy of the flesh (1 Cor 13v3)!

The entire statement of verses 1-3 is an argument!

Did Paul...

- 1) Understand all mysteries?
- 2) Have all knowledge?
- 3) Have all faith?
- 4) Give his body to be burned?

The answer is NO!

Therefore, in the context of the passage, did he speak with the tongues of angels?

NO!

He is saying that IF HE DID DO THOSE THINGS, but did NOT do them as a genuine love offering to God for others, they would be vain works only to perish at the Judgement Seat of Christ!

If he exercised spiritual gifts, including tongues & miracles but did so for self-gratification, spiritual pride or obedience to some human authority, such use of the gifts would be nothing more than an awful noise!

The point of the verses is that no matter what we do for God, or in the name of God, no matter how good it looks or feels, if we do not have charity, it is of NO profit!

1Co 13:4 **Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,**

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

We should always want to & seek THE TRUTH!

1Co 13:7 **Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**
8 **Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.**

So tongues shall cease, but when?

1Co 13:9 **For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.**

10 **But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**

One interpretation of this passage is that when Paul wrote this epistle the NT was not complete; there would yet be knowledge & prophecy given; the full & complete revelation of Scripture would then be perfect; when this perfect Bible was finished the signs & gifts would cease! Now this is quite a good interpretation but it does have some flaws.

First, the context of the remarks is not the written Scriptures, but charity! Second, if that which is part means the Scriptures in their part & that which is perfect means the Scriptures in their fullness, the phrase '**that which is in part shall be done away**' makes no sense at all! It's like saying '*We now have the sign gifts because we only have part of the Bible, but when we have all the Bible we will do away with the part of the Bible we had before it was complete?*'

Knox writes...1 Cor 13v11 is the picture of a child... **When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.** A child is a human being as much as he will ever be but there will be growth & progression to manhood. This complete maturity is the Biblical definition of 'PERFECT' throughout the Scriptures. Perfect NEVER means sinless! In verse 12 is the picture of our understanding... **For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.** The believer has all of God, of salvation, of eternal life that he will ever have, but there is a growth & progression to greater apprehension of the truth.

In verse 13 we have faith, hope & charity with the Lord showing by these verses a progression in spiritual life unto perfection.

This is the perfect complement to the first 3 verses of the chapter! These last 3 verses conclude the teaching which has run through the chapter. Simply put, spiritual gifts are NOT to be the aim & goal of the believer's life. If we see a man occupied with prophecies or TONGUES or any other gifts of the Spirit we know that man is not yet a 'perfect' man. He may have faith or he may have hope but he is yet a child lacking clear spiritual vision!

The carnal Corinthians were given spiritual gifts by God to benefit the body of Christ (1 Cor 12). They used them selfishly because they lacked charity. As a result, their occupation with the gifts of the Spirit kept them from being mature Christians (1 Cor 13).

Moving on to 1 Cor 14...v1 **Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.** Here we see again that there are some gifts of the Spirit more to be desired than others.

v2 **For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.** In this verse there is nothing that instructs anyone to speak in an unknown tongue! Nor is there any indication that a person speaking in an unknown tongue is conversing in a heavenly or a secret prayer language!

The wording of this verse is quite plain. This is a man at Corinth misusing a gift, at worst, or using it as it was never used in all the book of Acts. He is speaking to no man! This verse does NOT say that God understands the speech, only that the man is speaking to God. 'Tongue speakers' today often say *'I was speaking to the Lord!'*

Note also the word 'spirit' (verse 2) in LOWER CASE! It is NOT referring to the Holy Spirit!

1 Cor 14v 3 **But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.**

4 **He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.**

Charity seeketh not her own! The gifts were given to profit withal NOT one's self! Tongues cannot be linked with charity. These carnal Corinthians claimed a spiritual gift & used it contrary to the way it was used when given by the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. They made it a matter of carnal self-gratification. It is clear from these verses that tongues does NOT edify the church!!!

1 Co 14:5 **I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.**

6 **Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?**

Paul didn't forbid the use, exercise or manifestation of any gift of the Spirit! However, he appealed to these believers to seek after those gifts which would be most profitable to the body. It is like Paul said... *'If I'm going to come & talk to you in order that you might be built up in the faith, why would I talk to you in some gibberish that you cannot understand? What good would that do you? How would that profit you? It might be thrilling to your carnal self but it would not edify you spiritually!'*

1 Co 14:7 **And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?**

8 **For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?**

9 **So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.**

These words make one thing clear; NOTHING made by God gives sounds which cannot be understood by their kind. There is a gift of tongues from the Holy Spirit & there is a babbling from the HUMAN 'spirit'. There is no doubt which is which!

So comparing verse 2 with verse 9 we see that when the carnal Corinthian thought he was speaking to God he was actually speaking into the air! 1 Co 14:2 **For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.** 1 Co 14:9 **So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.** God is not moved, impressed or blessed by this SHOW! Incidentally we know who is the prince & power of the air (Eph 2v2).

1 Co 14:10 **There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.**

11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. The fruit of the Spirit is NOT that we manifest ourselves as 'barbarians!'

1 Co 14:12 **Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.**

13 **Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.**

We have already been told that tongues does NOT edify but prophesying does! Prophesying is greater! Tongues must be interpreted to be of any value. So, why not just speak to men for edification, exhortation & comfort in their own language from the start???

Verse 13 does NOT say to pray that we may speak with tongues more & more but to pray that you may interpret! Find out what you are trying to say & give it to us so we can UNDERSTAND IT! This is the only way to benefit the church!

1 Co 14:14 **For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.**

Again a comparison is necessary with verse 2...**For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.**

According to the Bible this is NOT praying in the Holy Ghost, but rather the HUMAN 'spirit'.

Every case of speaking in tongues in the Scriptures was connected to the apostolic ministry & the gift was manifested to CONFIRM THE WORD to unbelievers as the NT gospel was carried into an area where its truth had not previously come. When we come to the carnal church at Corinth we find believers speaking as barbarians, speaking into the air & calling something produced by their own HUMAN 'spirits' a manifestation of the Holy Ghost!

Verse 14 continues... **my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.** In other words, if you speak in an unknown tongue, IN YOUR SPIRIT, you cannot understand what you are saying! So these people who say '*Well I just know I am praising God when I speak in tongues!*' – HOW DO THEY KNOW? You can't go on the authority of feelings i.e. it feels good! The heroin addict will tell you 'It feels good!'

1 Co 14:15 **What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.**

16 **Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?**

17 **For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.**

18 **I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:**

19 **Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.**

These are the words of an apostle with the apostolic gift! Note Paul said that 10,000 words in an unknown tongue are NOT worth 5 words that you can understand!!!

Why don't Christians TODAY put the emphasis on the FIVE WORDS with understanding rather than the 10,000 WITHOUT?

1 Co 14:20 **Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.**

So in other words let's GROW UP & face the FACTS of what the Bible says rather than what your preacher, teacher or pastor says! What does the Bible teach! That is what we should really seek for i.e. the TRUTH!

1 Co 14:21 **In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.**

Now to whom was the law given? Beginning at Exodus 19 God gave the law to Moses. Moses read that law in the hearing of the nation of ISRAEL. The nation of Israel accepted the law & confirmed/sanctioned it as their rules & guidelines for living as one nation under God. No other nation on the face of the earth was ever given that law. It was binding upon no Gentile unless he chose to become a proselyte to Judaism. And in the law it was written that God would speak to His people (i.e. Hebrews) with men of OTHER TONGUES!

1 Co 14:22 **Wherefore** (i.e. because of this Bible truth) **tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.**

Thus, by definition from Mark 16 - Acts 2, from Acts 10 - Acts 19, & from 1 Cor 12 - 14, SIGNS were given to Jewish apostles for use in CONFIRMING THE WORD. In each case this sign gift of tongues was manifest because there were Jews present who were in a state of unbelief. There is no record in the Bible of tongues being used when believers were gathered as a local church! And, if an unbeliever came into a place like the carnal church at Corinth, where HUMAN 'spirits' were leading men to 'babble' into the air, he would think he was in a madhouse, NOT the house of God!

1 Co 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?**

24 **But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:**

25 **And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.**

26 **How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.**

27 **If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.**

28 **But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.**

29 **Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.**

30 **If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.**

31 **For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.**

When these Corinthians spoke in tongues no one learned anything & no one was comforted. If some among them did speak unto men to edification, exhortation & comfort (*i.e. the definition of prophesying* - **But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.**), all could learn & all could be comforted. This is why the Lord told us earlier that prophecy was a BETTER gift!

1 Cor 14:33 **For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**

So, according to the word of God, if the above procedures are violated we may be dealing with the flesh seeking a 'feeling', or we may be dealing with the manifestation of unclean spirits, but we certainly are NOT seeing God's Holy Spirit at work!

After the authority of the Bible & the matter of tongues, the 3rd most hated subject on the face of the earth is the role the word of God gives to women for their happiness & protection... 1 Co 14:34 **Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.**

35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

How clear can you get?

If a woman speaks in the church rather than keeping silent, as commanded in both OT & NT by the Holy Spirit who inspired the Scriptures, we may be in the midst of a 'spirit' led church service, But it certainly is not the Holy Spirit leading the service!!!

God gave His word so that we would NOT be deceived & led into error by the sleight of men & cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

God has laid out in His word some clear rules for this matter of speaking in tongues & how it would be manifest if it truly was a working from God. Disobeying the word of God can never bring any joy to the person of God!

If you put a stop to every church service where more than one person is speaking in tongues at one time, or where someone spoke a word of gibberish without an interpreter, or where a woman spoke out rather than kept her God given place of silence in the assembly, this 'modern day' tongues movement would stop overnight!

Something being conducted in a fashion so CONTRARY to the plain teachings of Scripture CANNOT possibly be of God!

1Co 14:36 **What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?**

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

The Scriptures ARE the WORD OF GOD! No man wrote this Book; God did! 1 Th 2:13 **For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**

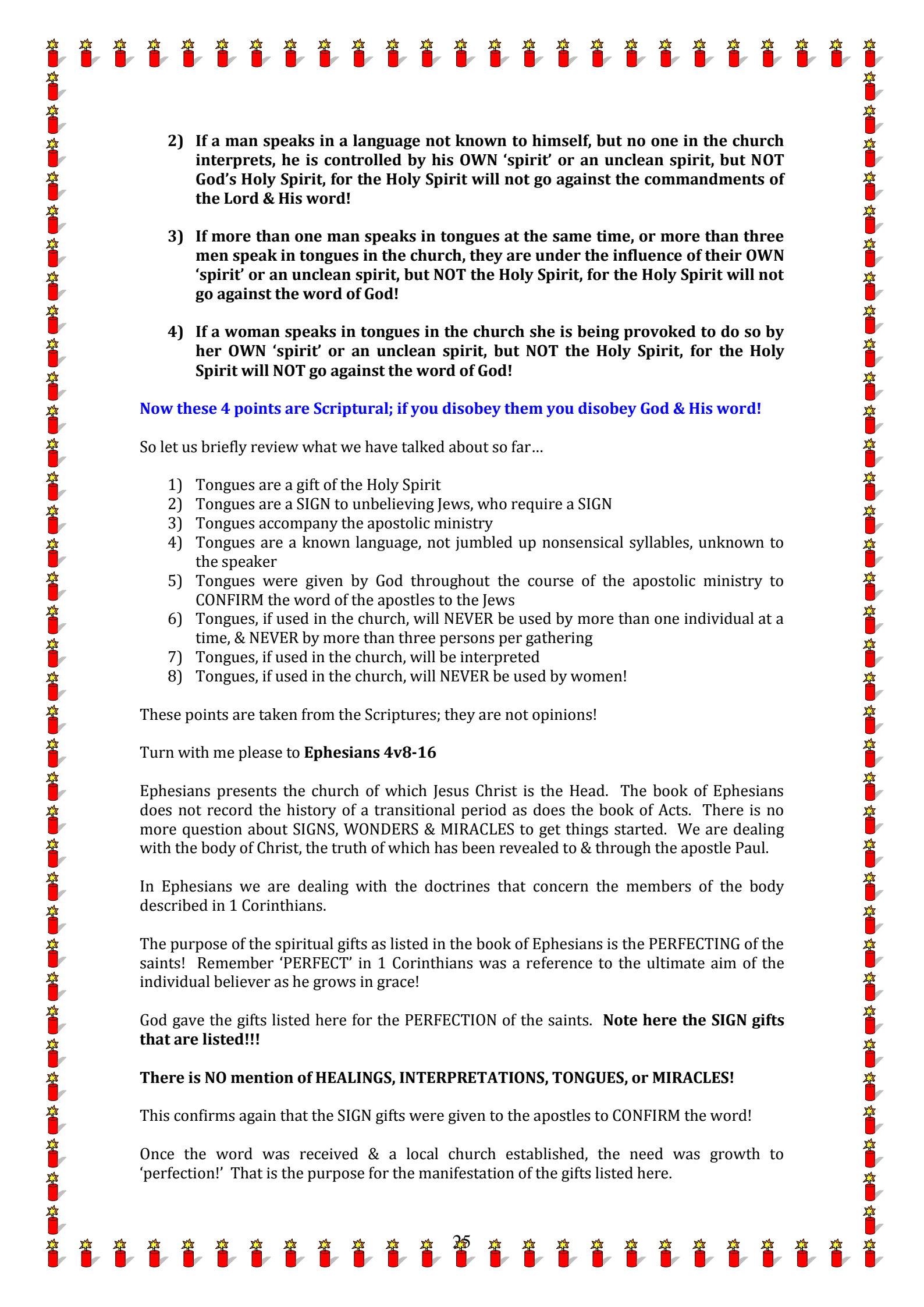
Now Christian, it is either your 'Final Authority' or it is not! You either obey the word of God or disobey it; it's your choice!

Any man or woman who thinks themselves spiritual, or Spirit filled or Spirit led will SUBMIT to the authority of the word of God!

These verse we have read are NOT suggestions or recommendations; these verses do NOT contain ideas to be debated. These Scriptural teachings are to be obeyed!

The Holy Spirit will lead us to acknowledge that...

- 1) If a man says he speaks in tongues but is merely babbling, he is controlled by his OWN 'spirit' or an unclean spirit, but NOT God's Holy Spirit, for EVERY Bible case of speaking in tongues involves a known language!**

- 
- 2) If a man speaks in a language not known to himself, but no one in the church interprets, he is controlled by his OWN 'spirit' or an unclean spirit, but NOT God's Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit will not go against the commandments of the Lord & His word!
 - 3) If more than one man speaks in tongues at the same time, or more than three men speak in tongues in the church, they are under the influence of their OWN 'spirit' or an unclean spirit, but NOT the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit will not go against the word of God!
 - 4) If a woman speaks in tongues in the church she is being provoked to do so by her OWN 'spirit' or an unclean spirit, but NOT the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit will NOT go against the word of God!

Now these 4 points are Scriptural; if you disobey them you disobey God & His word!

So let us briefly review what we have talked about so far...

- 1) Tongues are a gift of the Holy Spirit
- 2) Tongues are a SIGN to unbelieving Jews, who require a SIGN
- 3) Tongues accompany the apostolic ministry
- 4) Tongues are a known language, not jumbled up nonsensical syllables, unknown to the speaker
- 5) Tongues were given by God throughout the course of the apostolic ministry to CONFIRM the word of the apostles to the Jews
- 6) Tongues, if used in the church, will NEVER be used by more than one individual at a time, & NEVER by more than three persons per gathering
- 7) Tongues, if used in the church, will be interpreted
- 8) Tongues, if used in the church, will NEVER be used by women!

These points are taken from the Scriptures; they are not opinions!

Turn with me please to **Ephesians 4v8-16**

Ephesians presents the church of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The book of Ephesians does not record the history of a transitional period as does the book of Acts. There is no more question about SIGNS, WONDERS & MIRACLES to get things started. We are dealing with the body of Christ, the truth of which has been revealed to & through the apostle Paul.

In Ephesians we are dealing with the doctrines that concern the members of the body described in 1 Corinthians.

The purpose of the spiritual gifts as listed in the book of Ephesians is the PERFECTING of the saints! Remember 'PERFECT' in 1 Corinthians was a reference to the ultimate aim of the individual believer as he grows in grace!

God gave the gifts listed here for the PERFECTION of the saints. **Note here the SIGN gifts that are listed!!!**

There is NO mention of HEALINGS, INTERPRETATIONS, TONGUES, or MIRACLES!

This confirms again that the SIGN gifts were given to the apostles to CONFIRM the word!

Once the word was received & a local church established, the need was growth to 'perfection!' That is the purpose for the manifestation of the gifts listed here.

These gifts were given for the work of the ministry. The theme of Ephesians is the Church of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head. The ministry of this Church, once it grew beyond its infancy, was to become like the Lord Jesus; to be a visible manifestation on earth of the risen Lord in heaven. Why are the SIGN gifts NOT listed here?

Because they contribute nothing to this end! They do NOT assist in the Holy Spirit's work of fitly joining & compacting the members of the body into a Christ honouring unity!

The verses quoted teach that these gifts were given for the edification of the body of Christ. The proper use of TONGUES was to signify truth to the unbeliever & the improper use of TONGUES was the self-edification of a believer. Hence, when the Lord lists the gifts which EDIFY the body, TONGUES DOES NOT APPEAR!!!

Therefore we are told in Eph 4v14 '**That we henceforth be no more children,**' Note this links in with 1 Corinthians 13v11 '**When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**' A 'childish' Christian will remain tossed about by every wind of doctrine & will be so easily deceived by the sleight of men & will be taken in by the cunning craftiness of deceivers! (Eph 4v14) As Christians we need to mature & NOT be 'baby' Christians!

Now let us briefly look at a few verses the Pentecostals (P) & Charismatics (C) use to support their 'case' for speaking in 'babblings & gibberish' as a 'heavenly' language...

Ro 8:26 **Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

27 **And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

The P & C standard line is that '*we don't know the words to say*', so we just continue to repeat (nonsensical) syllables (Mat 6:7 **But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do:**) & soon the Holy Spirit will take over & pray to God for you in a 'heavenly' language! This argument is soon 'blown out of the water' by verse 26 of Rom 8... **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

The P & C also use 2 Cor 12v1-4... **It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.**

2 **I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.**

3 **And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)**

4 **How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**

The P & C picks up on '**heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**' Even if this passage did mention a heavenly language, WHICH IT DOES NOT, the words state clearly that these words were not beyond the capabilities of human speech, but that God had passed a law forbidding them to be spoken!

The P & C also use Eph 6v17+18... **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

The P & C tell us that praying IN THE SPIRIT means praying IN TONGUES! Does this mean that the command to WALK IN THE SPIRIT (Gal 5v16) means to 'WALK IN TONGUES?'

To pray in Jesus' name is to pray so that He may agree with us in His intercession before the Father.

The P & C also use 3 references to John being IN THE SPIRIT, from the book of Revelation...

- 1) Rev 4:2 **And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.**
- 2) Rev 17:3 **So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**
- 3) Rev 21:10 **And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,**

You've got to be desperate to try to prove from these verses a 'heavenly language!'

Note also in all 3 cases the 'spirit' is all in the 'lower case!' – *Interesting!*

There IS a Heavenly language but every time the Bible identifies it, it is Hebrew!!!

Drawing to a conclusion I want to run through a list titled...

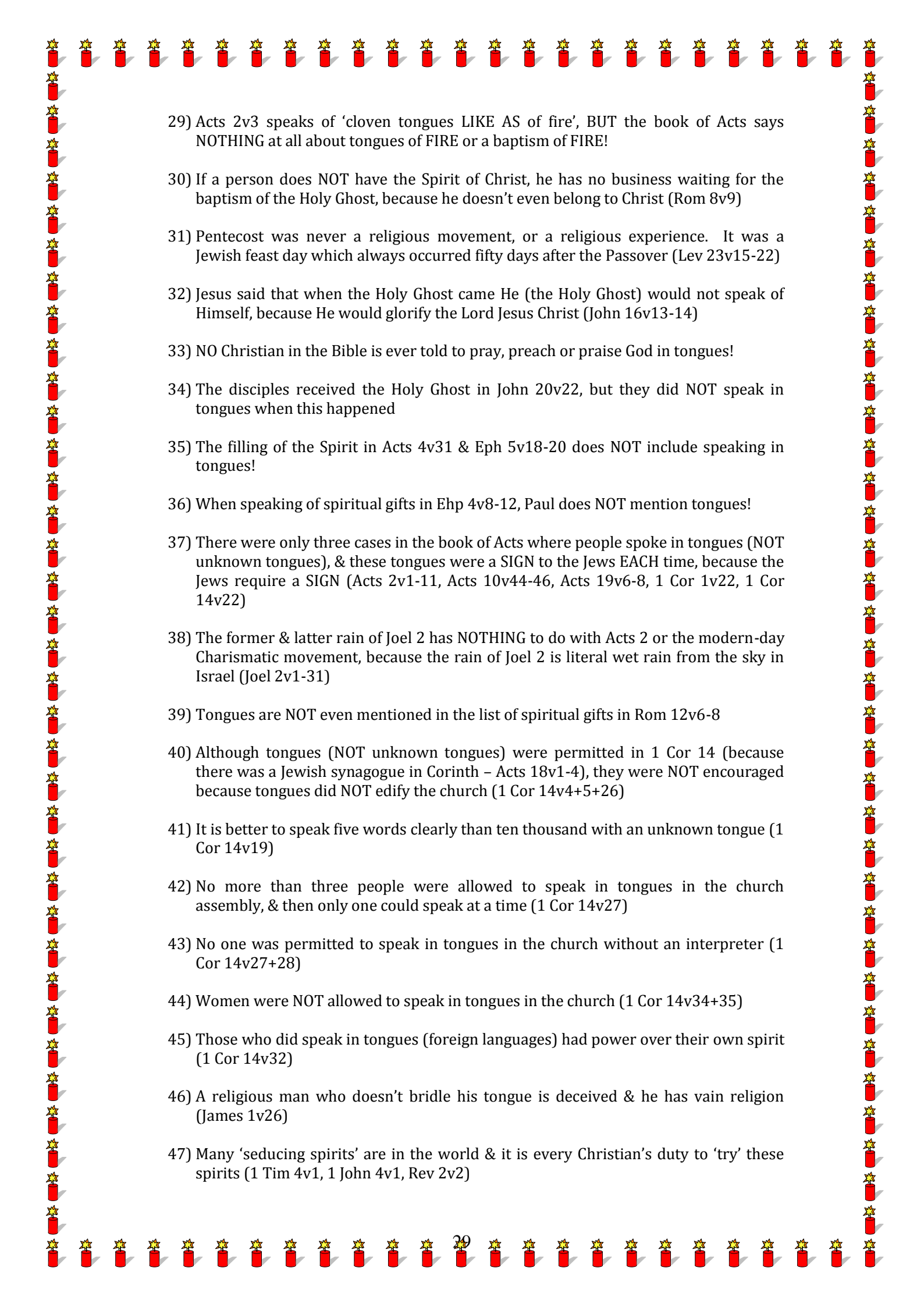
Fifty things you should know about TONGUES & healing!

(by James Melton)

(Note this list also includes information & Scriptures to do with 'healing' even though we are focusing on 'TONGUES')

- 1) The Jews, as a nation, began with SIGNS (Rom 4v11, Exo 4v8+9+17+28+30, Exo 7v3, Exo 8v23, Exo 10v1+2, Exo 13v9, Exo 31v13+17, Deut 4v34, Deut 6v22)
- 2) The OT Jews lived by SIGNS (Deut 11v18, Jos 4v6, 1 Sam 10v7, 2 Kings 19v29, Isa 7v14, Isa 38v7+22, Eze 4v3, Eze 20v12+20)
- 3) The Jews demanded SIGNS from the Lord Jesus Christ (Mat 12v38, Mat 16v1-4, Mat 24v3, John 2v18, John 6v30)
- 4) The Jews require a SIGN, not the Gentiles (1 Cor 1v22, John 4v48)
- 5) According to the Lord Jesus, the gifts of TONGUES & healing are SIGNS (Mark 16v16-20)
- 6) These SIGNS were for the purpose of CONFIRMING the word of God (Acts 14v3, Heb 2v3+4)
- 7) These SIGNS were spoken of in the PAST tense in 2 Cor 12v12 & in Heb 2v3+4, NOT in the present or future tense
- 8) Those who still look for SIGNS & WONDERS today are on dangerous ground, for the Antichrist will deceive the world with SIGNS & WONDERS (Rev 13v13+14, 2 Thes 2v8-12)
- 9) The Lord Jesus said that an evil & adulterous generation seeks after a SIGN (Mat 12v39)

- 10) The Bible speaks of various spiritual gifts to believers, but tongues & healing are NEVER emphasised more than the other gifts (1 Cor 12v4-11)
- 11) The gifts of tongues & healing were NOT considered the best gifts (1 Cor 12v28-31)
- 12) The gift of healing was a SIGN (Mark 16v17+18, Exo 4v6-8, 2 Kings 20v8+9)
- 13) It is not God's will for all Christians to be healed (2 Cor 12v5-10)
- 14) The apostle Paul could not heal himself (2 Cor 12v5-10)
- 15) Near the end of his ministry, Paul could not heal Trophimus (2 Tim 4v20)
- 16) Instead of healing Timothy, Paul gave him medical advice (1 Tim 5v23)
- 17) Contrary to the 'modern faith healers,' 'love gifts' & 'faith offerings' were NOT a part of the healing ministries of the disciples (Mat 10v8+9)
- 18) A Christian who hasn't confessed his sins & repented of them has no business expecting God to heal him of anything (Psa 6v1-4, Psa 41v4, 2 Chro 7v14, Hos 5v10-13, 1 Cor 11v29-32, Jam 5v14-16, 1 John 1v7-10)
- 19) If modern faith healers really have the gift of healing, then they should prove their ministry by visiting hospitals & nursing homes & healing the sick, rather than writing books, holding healing meetings & begging for money on television (2 Tim 4v5, Mat 10v8-16, 1 Tim 6v5-10)
- 20) Satan has the power to heal & this will cause millions to be led astray in the coming Tribulation period (Rev 13v1-4 + 12)
- 21) The gift of tongues was given as a SIGN (Mark 16v17, 1 Cor 14v22)
- 22) The gift of tongues was the supernatural ability of some Christians to speak in foreign languages in the presence of unbelieving Jews (Acts 2v7-11)
- 23) God has never caused or commanded Christians to speak in UNKNOWN tongues (Mark 16v17, Acts 2v4, 1 Cor 12v10, 1 Cor 14)
- 24) The Bible NEVER says once, that tongues is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost
- 25) There is NO baptism of the Holy Ghost in 1 Cor 14
- 26) Paul said that all true Christians were baptised INTO the body of Christ BY the Holy Ghost (1 Cor 12v13), & all true Christians were sealed with the Holy Ghost until the day of redemption (Eph 4v30), BUT all Christians did NOT speak in tongues! (1 Cor 12v29-31)
- 27) The Bible NEVER says that baptism of the Holy Ghost is a 2nd Christian experience or blessing!
- 28) The baptism of FIRE is the condemnation of the WICKED in Hell (Mat 3v11+12), NOT being 'on fire for the Lord'

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- 29) Acts 2v3 speaks of 'cloven tongues LIKE AS of fire', BUT the book of Acts says NOTHING at all about tongues of FIRE or a baptism of FIRE!
 - 30) If a person does NOT have the Spirit of Christ, he has no business waiting for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, because he doesn't even belong to Christ (Rom 8v9)
 - 31) Pentecost was never a religious movement, or a religious experience. It was a Jewish feast day which always occurred fifty days after the Passover (Lev 23v15-22)
 - 32) Jesus said that when the Holy Ghost came He (the Holy Ghost) would not speak of Himself, because He would glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16v13-14)
 - 33) NO Christian in the Bible is ever told to pray, preach or praise God in tongues!
 - 34) The disciples received the Holy Ghost in John 20v22, but they did NOT speak in tongues when this happened
 - 35) The filling of the Spirit in Acts 4v31 & Eph 5v18-20 does NOT include speaking in tongues!
 - 36) When speaking of spiritual gifts in Ehp 4v8-12, Paul does NOT mention tongues!
 - 37) There were only three cases in the book of Acts where people spoke in tongues (NOT unknown tongues), & these tongues were a SIGN to the Jews EACH time, because the Jews require a SIGN (Acts 2v1-11, Acts 10v44-46, Acts 19v6-8, 1 Cor 1v22, 1 Cor 14v22)
 - 38) The former & latter rain of Joel 2 has NOTHING to do with Acts 2 or the modern-day Charismatic movement, because the rain of Joel 2 is literal wet rain from the sky in Israel (Joel 2v1-31)
 - 39) Tongues are NOT even mentioned in the list of spiritual gifts in Rom 12v6-8
 - 40) Although tongues (NOT unknown tongues) were permitted in 1 Cor 14 (because there was a Jewish synagogue in Corinth – Acts 18v1-4), they were NOT encouraged because tongues did NOT edify the church (1 Cor 14v4+5+26)
 - 41) It is better to speak five words clearly than ten thousand with an unknown tongue (1 Cor 14v19)
 - 42) No more than three people were allowed to speak in tongues in the church assembly, & then only one could speak at a time (1 Cor 14v27)
 - 43) No one was permitted to speak in tongues in the church without an interpreter (1 Cor 14v27+28)
 - 44) Women were NOT allowed to speak in tongues in the church (1 Cor 14v34+35)
 - 45) Those who did speak in tongues (foreign languages) had power over their own spirit (1 Cor 14v32)
 - 46) A religious man who doesn't bridle his tongue is deceived & he has vain religion (James 1v26)
 - 47) Many 'seducing spirits' are in the world & it is every Christian's duty to 'try' these spirits (1 Tim 4v1, 1 John 4v1, Rev 2v2)

48) The word of God is the standard by which we are to judge all doctrines (Isa 8v20, 2 Tim 3v16+17)

49) He that is spiritual judges all things! (1 Cor 2v15)

50) Teaching the Scriptural truth about SIGNS, healing & TONGUES is NOT a matter of being mean, prejudiced, or intolerant. It is simply a matter of obeying the command to RIGHTLY DIVIDE God's word (2 Tim 2v15)

Extra notes...

Tongues, wherever you find them in the Bible ARE LANGUAGES! – Acts 2v4+6+9-11, Acts 26v14, Ezra 4v7, Dan 1v4, Rev 9v11

Tongues were for a SIGN as prophesied... Isa 28v11-13 / 1 Cor 14v21+22

Where is there ONE instance in the Bible of the use of tongues in PRIVATE devotions?

Pr 25:14 **Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.**

2 Th 2:8 **And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:**

9 **Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.**

Signs given for accreditation

Mr 16:20 **And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**

Heb 2:3 **How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;**

4 **God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?**

Isa 35v1-10

Ac 2:22 **Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:**

They either accredited God's man...

Exo 4v1-10

Joh 20:30 **And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:**

2 Co 12:12 **Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.**

...or God's message...

Mr 16:20 **And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**

Ac 4:29 **And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.**

Jews require a SIGN...

Exo 4v30+31

Exo 31v13

Num 14v11

Judg 6v17

1 Sam 10v7-9

Isa 7v11+14

Eze 4v3

Mat 12v38+39

Mat 24 v3+30

Mark 8v11+12

Luke 2v12+34

The four SIGN gifts in Mark 16v17+18...

- 1) Cast out devils
- 2) Speak in tongues
- 3) Take up deadly serpents
- 4) Healing

ALL can be found in the book of Acts...

- 1) Ac 16:18 **And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.**
- 2) Ac 16:18 **And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.**
- 3) Ac 28:3-5 **And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.**
- 4) Ac 3:6-8 **Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.**

The SIGN gifts were 'temporary'...

Directed to the Jews!

The SIGN of tongues was to be a specific warning of imminent judgement upon Israel at various times in their history...

- 1) Deut 28:49+64 **The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.**
- 2) Isa 28:11 **For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.**
- 3) Jer 5:15 **Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say.**
- 4) 1 Co 14:21 **In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.**

In AD 70 this judgement came! Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans & the nation dispersed. There is NO Biblical record of any SIGN manifested AFTER this date! When the SIGN was fulfilled the SIGN ceased!

2 Pe 1:19 teaches that the GIFT of prophecy was REPLACED by the WRITTEN word of God... **We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1 John 2:20 emphasises that the GIFT of knowledge has been REPLACED by the WRITTEN word of God... **But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.**

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

The Devil can do SIGNS & wonders...

Exo 7v10-12

Exo 7v22

Exo 8v7

Mark 13v21-23

2 Cor 11v13-15

2 Thes 2v9

Rev 13v13+14

The Biblical usage for the word 'tongue' is ALWAYS a KNOWN language...

Gen 10v5+20

Deut 28v49

Ezra 4v7

Acts 21v40

Acts 22v2

Rev 5v9

Rev 7v9

Rev 13v7

Amen.