

VI. About an over emphasis on tongues.

- A. Pentecostals have been criticized for an over emphasis on tongues, spiritual gifts, and other signs.
1. With some Pentecostal or charismatic groups this criticism is valid.
 2. In other cases this is because many non-Pentecostal believers see tongues as only one of many gifts... there is no recognition of the prayer language, the results of the initial physical evidence of the baptism with the Spirit, which is for every believer.
 3. In some cases non- Pentecostals believe that tongues and the gifts of the Spirit ended with the last of the original 12 Apostles.
 - a. There is no scriptural basis for this assertion. (*We will look at this more carefully later*)
 4. Some Pentecostal's believe one is not saved unless you speak in tongues (*this of course is not true*)
 5. Some charismatics have classes that "teach" people to speak in tongues... or they may coax them to speak in tongues.
 - a. The emphasis seems to be "getting one to speak in tongues" not "having something real from God.
 - b. We should not primarily seek signs; we primarily seek Jesus. (*This includes tongues & other signs such as healing, miracles etc.*)
 - c. The emphasis when encouraging someone to seek the baptism is "more of God" not tongues.
 6. **Some groups imply that you have arrived if you speak in tongues:**
 - a. Someone I once offered a tract to responded with, "I'm saved & then some; I speak in tongues!"
 - b. The baptism of the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is a doorway not a destination
 - c. Speaking in tongues does not mean you...
 - (1) Are more saved then someone else (*you can not get any more saved then saved*)
 - (2) Love God more then someone else.
 - (3) Are more spiritual then someone else.
 - (4) Are more sincere then someone else.
 7. Some groups have gone into error, emphasizing experiences & not emphasizing the Word of God.
 - a. Sadly today you often find more solid Bible doctrine in many non-Pentecostal churches then you do in many "Pentecostal" groups.
 - (1) Most of these groups are prone to use the term "charismatic" over Pentecostal
 - (2) Let's don't "throw out the baby with the bath water" over abuses of something that is of God.
- B. **Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit; a holy, victorious and fruitful life is the ongoing evidence of the Holy Spirit's control in your life.**

Message 9: Common Misconceptions

VII. Some common misconception regarding tongues.

- Some of the misconceptions are quoted right out of scripture, but these are misunderstood & misapplied.
- A. **"Do all speak with tongues?"** (1Cor 12:30) (*Let's look at that passage 1Cor 12:27-30*)
- 1 Cor 12:27-30 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 28 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. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?
1. Obviously Paul is speaking here about the spiritual gift of tongues.
 - a. The entire context refers to spiritual gifts, ministerial gifts, and other ways God gifts people in the body ministry, not the evidence of the baptism with the Spirit, nor ones prayer life.

b. The immediate context is spiritual gifts: (*“are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”*)

2. With regard to the prayer language Paul said, “I would that ye all spake with tongues” 1 Cor 14:5.

B. **“Tongues shall cease”** (1 Cor 13:8) (*They believe that tongues ceased with the last of the original apostles*)

1 Cor 13:8-12 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail (*become useless or be done away with*); whether there be tongues, they shall cease (stop); whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away (*become useless or be done away with*). 9 For we know in part, & we prophesy in part. 10 **But when that which is perfect is come, then** that which is in part shall be done away. 11 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. 12 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.

1. Some groups say, “That which is perfect is love”.

2. Others say, “It is the completion of the Bible”. (*This one is probably more common*).

a. To these groups saying either one seems acceptable as long as you believe tongues has ceased.

b. Most of these groups believe that prophecy is “preaching”, yet none of them claim preaching has been done away with.

c. Others believe that prophecy was the revelation of the Word of God. [*And since the Bible is now complete we do not need prophecy (or tongues) any longer*].

(1) This meaning of “prophecy cannot be correct because:

(a) Many of the Corinthians prophesied.

1 Cor 14:31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, & all may be comforted.

(b) Yet the Word of God did not come out from any of them:

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

3. Certainly “knowledge” (or the need to increase in knowledge) has not yet been done away with.

4. This passage states that prophecies and gaining knowledge will be useless and done away with, and tongues shall cease:

a. When that which is perfect is come (vs 10).

b. When we see face to face (vs 12).

c. When we know as we are known (*i.e. when we know the same way He now knows us*).

(1) At that time we will know everything so knowledge and prophecy will be unnecessary.

d. Obviously Paul is referring to the rapture (*or when we see Jesus*) as to the time when tongues shall cease.

(1) 1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.

(2) Even a well-known and respected teacher, who believes that tongues have ceased, recognizes that Paul is referring to the rapture. (*Page 459 of Wiersbe’s book “Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament*).

e. So tongues have not yet ceased! Praise God!!

C. **The Corinthians needed tongues because they were carnal / immature**(*Wiersbe seems to be saying this*)

1. If that is true then all new Christians (& many who have been saved for a long while) need tongues!

D. **“Be careful seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you might get a demon”**.

1. The following passage answers that one:

Luke 11:10-13 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

2. There is, of course a demonic counterfeit of tongues, (the manifestation of a religious spirit), but one is not going to receive that while truly seeking after God.

E. God replaced tongues with love.

1. There simply is no scripture to back that.
2. 1 Cor 13 does **not** teach that.

F. Paul was against tongues.

1. If that is the case why was he so thankful that he spoke in tongues?
 - a. 1 Cor 14:18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:
2. Why did he say "I would that ye all spake with tongues" 1 Cor 14:5?

G. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues was only for the transitional period between the Old and New Testaments (as well as all the spiritual gifts):

1. Where is the scriptural basis for this?
2. People often use 1 Cor 13:8 to support this. (*We have addressed this in "B" above*).
3. Historically: Writers lamented loss of power... contributed it to lack of commitment and holiness
4. This really requires that we based beliefs upon experience rather than vise-versa.
 - **NOTE:** *I feel we should be careful how we talk about Azusa Street as the birth of Pentecost etc... It is actually a modern day rebirth of an old time (and very Biblical) experience.*

Message 8: Why some believers aren't baptized in the Spirit

VIII. If the baptism with the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, is for all believers why do some, very sincere, Christians not have it?

A. God's timing in our lives (*For those open & actively seeking it we should say "why don't we have it yet?"*)

1. I don't think we can ever ignore the fact of God's timing in our lives; which can be affected either by:
 - a. Issues in our lives which God is working on and we may have some control over.
 - b. God's perfect timing and working in our lives in areas that may be totally beyond our control.

B. Lack of desire / hunger for it.

Ps 107:9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

C. Lack of prayer for it:

1. James 4:2 ...yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
2. Luke 11:13...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

D. Lack of surrender / need for repentance. One can be hindered from receiving by...

1. Withholding part of ourselves from God or...
2. Holding on to sin in our lives. Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

E. Lack of faith

1. Gal 3:2 ... Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
2. Matt 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

F. Lack of complete trust / Fear of letting go, or being overly concerned that it might not be God, may cause one to "quench the Spirit".

1. 1 Thes 5:19 Quench (*extinguish*) not the Spirit.

- a. Fire needs 3 things to exist: Fuel, oxygen, a source of ignition.
- b. A fire extinguisher eliminates one of those

G. Lack in the preaching of it: *(in many churches including many “Pentecostal” churches).*

1. Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

H. Lack of power in the church

1. Perhaps the results of replacing the moving of the Spirit with man-made / man controlled programs.
Jer 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.
2. Or perhaps the results of lack of preaching against sin

I. Lack of sound preaching

1. (Especially) Replacing the preaching of the finished work of Christ on the cross with preaching a message of outward personality modification through human effort *(works rather than faith)*.
 - a. Gal 3:2 ... Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
 - b. 1 Cor 2:2-5 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified... 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
 - c. Everything God has for us (including the baptism with the Spirit) is accessible only through faith in Christ and available only because of what He has done for us on the cross of Calvary.

J. Mis-conceptions / wrong teaching / blindness of heart. *(Satan doesn't want people's eyes open to the baptism with the Spirit).*

1. If one does not believe in it, they will not reach out in faith for it.
 - a. Heb 4:2 ...but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.
 - b. Matt 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.
 - c. James 4:2 ...yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

K. Pride – “if God still did this certainly I would have it!”

1. Ps 22:26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied...
2. Ps 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.