

The Gift of Tongues



tongues
of fire



AND IT'S SIGNIFICANCE
FOR THE CHURCH TODAY

Past > Present > Future



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**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Temperance

The Lost Virtue of Temperance

The lack of temperance was recognized as a vice in the ancient world and is linked to the worst diseases in modern nations. In reality, it is an age-old conflict, stretching back to the dawn of humankind.

Temperance: “moderation in all things healthful; total abstinence from all things harmful.” *Xenophon, 430-350 BCE.*

* **The Bible teaches temperance a gift from God 2 Peter 1:5**

Some may associate the word “temperance” with the Temperance Movement of the 1800s, which also prohibited consumption of alcohol. Temperance is much more than this

- Think of temperance as a state of mind wherein your body and your passions are under your control, instead of them controlling you. When it seems like our lives are spinning out of control, temperance can help us regain direction.

One long-standing truth remains clear: what starts as occasional, or “light” can quickly become a habit, and then habitual indulgence is clearly a health hazard. Hence, total abstinence of harmful substances is a better choice.

The virtue of prosperity is Temperance – Francis Bacon
Abstinence is the surety of Temperance - Pluto



WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR **BEHAVIOR** WHEN WE PUT SUBSTANCES IN OUR BODIES THAT ARE **INAPPROPRIATE?**



ARTIFICIAL SUGARS



FLAVOR ENHANCERS



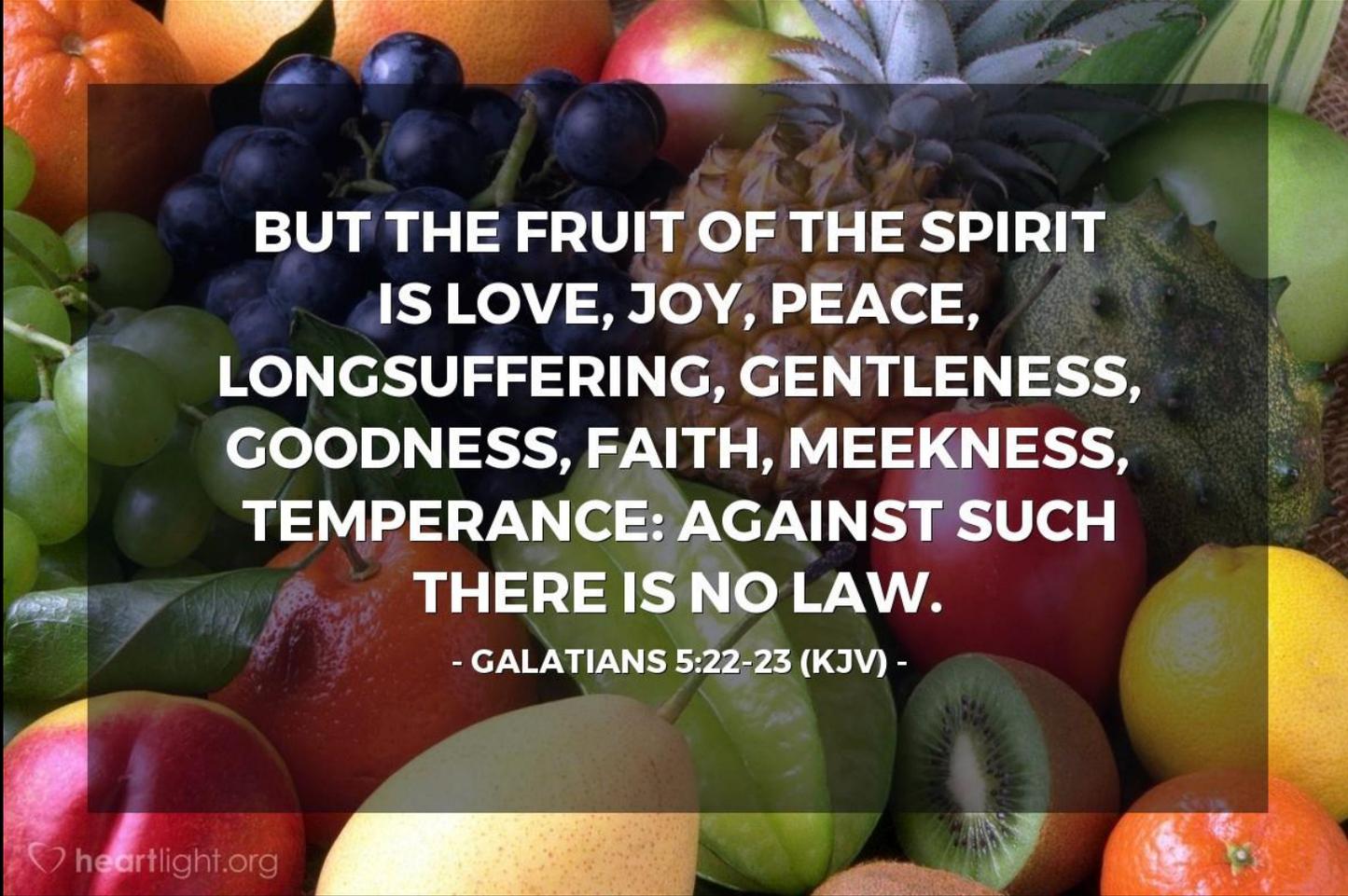
THESE CHEMICALS PRODUCE EXCITATION Y DEPRESSION IN THE BRAIN THAT IS MANIFESTED BY: **ANGER AND HATE !!!**



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!



**BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE,
LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS,
GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS,
TEMPERANCE: AGAINST SUCH
THERE IS NO LAW.**

- GALATIANS 5:22-23 (KJV) -



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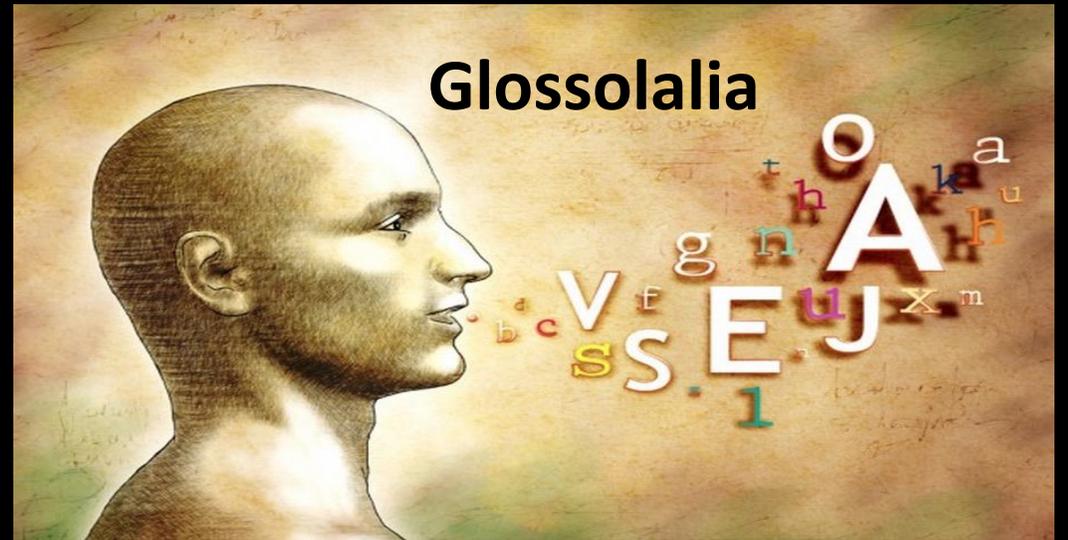


Introduction

No spiritual gift today enjoys more popularity, or harbours such inherent possibilities of deception, as speaking in tongues. So for those who have chosen to follow God, it is important to understand exactly what His word says about the gift of tongues in order to avoid being deceived or fooled by any counterfeit.

First of, here are some definitions: the act of “speaking in tongues” is differentiated into two separate entities by scholars. The first is called glossolalia, which refers to speech in “an unknown tongue,” while the second is known as xenoglossy (or xenoglossia), speaking in real human languages that are previously unknown to the speaker.

So if you find myself in a church, and see others around you “speaking in tongues” by repeating sounds like “ra-ba-sha-ba” this is glossolalia, whereas if there is a native English speaker who has never been to France, and he is praying “louange à Dieu” this is xenoglossy.



Xenoglossia



What is Speaking in Tongues - Glossolalia

Glossolalia does not sound like any of the well known languages many of us are familiar with. **It doesn't sound like French, Greek, German, or Japanese.**

In attempting to explain this some Pentecostals argue that glossolalia is likely a combination of real languages we are not personally aware of.

However the worlds leading linguists have examined these claims and concluded that glossolalia is:

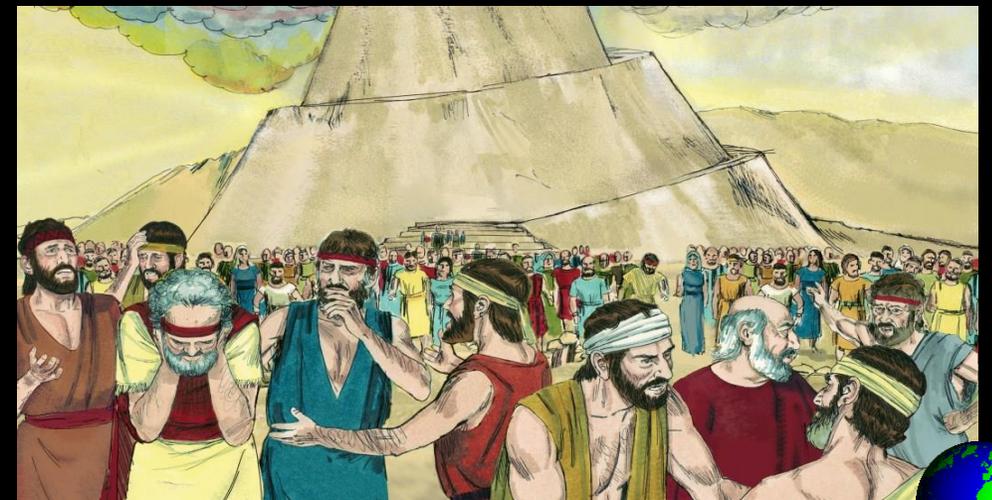
- *“a meaningless but phonologically structured human utterance believed by the speaker to be a real language but bearing no systematic resemblance to any natural language, living or dead.”*



1st Occurrence of Speaking in different Tongues – is in Old Testament

The first Biblical occurrence of speaking in tongues was at the tower of Babel (see Genesis 11:1-9). Instead of all human beings speaking just one common language, God miraculously intervened and now there were hundreds of different languages which eventually became scattered throughout the different nationalities of the world!

Out of all these nationalities, God chose the Hebrews to be His peculiar people (see Psalms 135:4). Since they were God's chosen, He desired them to follow and keep all His commandments and to spread His truths to all other nations (see Deuteronomy 26:16-19). But their history shows that they chose instead to disobey God, rejected His truth, embraced custom and tradition, were defrauding the world with a counterfeit gospel, and they would not repent—going so far as to crucify the messiah Jesus Christ! God then set them aside and chose the Gentiles to be His people (see Matthew 23:37-39; Acts 18:6; Romans 10:16-21, 11:1-28).



What Pentecostals & Charismatics Think

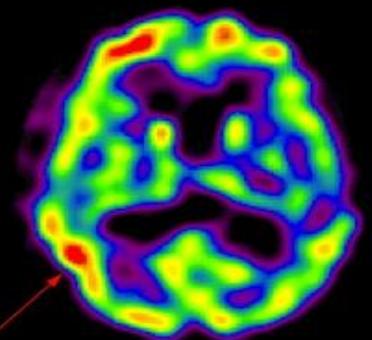
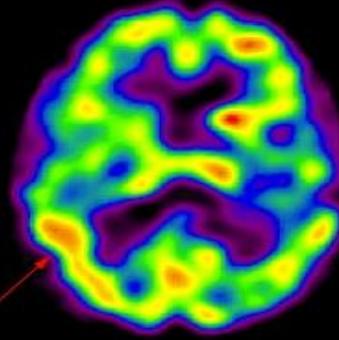
Pentecostals and Charismatics, however, fervently argue that it is a supernatural impartation of a language from God, often as evidence that the speaker has been “baptized with the Spirit.”

If evidenced by Scripture and reason, there are many hard questions that such a belief cannot effectively answer. This study will attempt to parse some of these reasons: *for how can arguments of Scripture, **Science**, or reason ever compare against the power of a meaningful experience?* **But these questions certainly deserve and may require a reevaluation of current Pentecostal doctrine.** Simple responses like “*just because there are fake versions does not prove there is no real one*” or “*it’s a spiritual thing, you can’t study it with logic*” are not consistent with an intellectually rigorous theology, something many Pentecostals claim to have.

Scan Images: Praying in Tongues

Baseline Scan

Prayer Scan

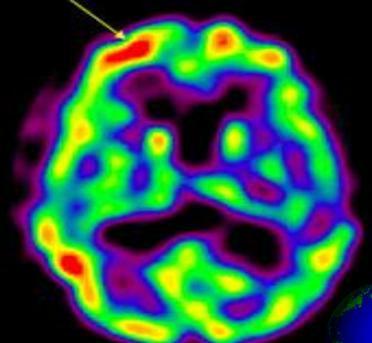
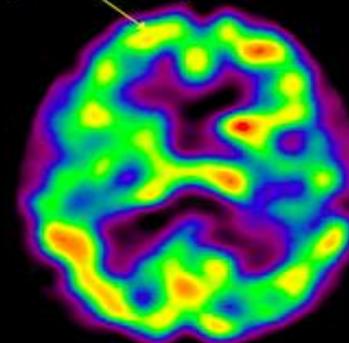


Language Center

Language Center

Attention Area (frontal lobe)

Attention Area

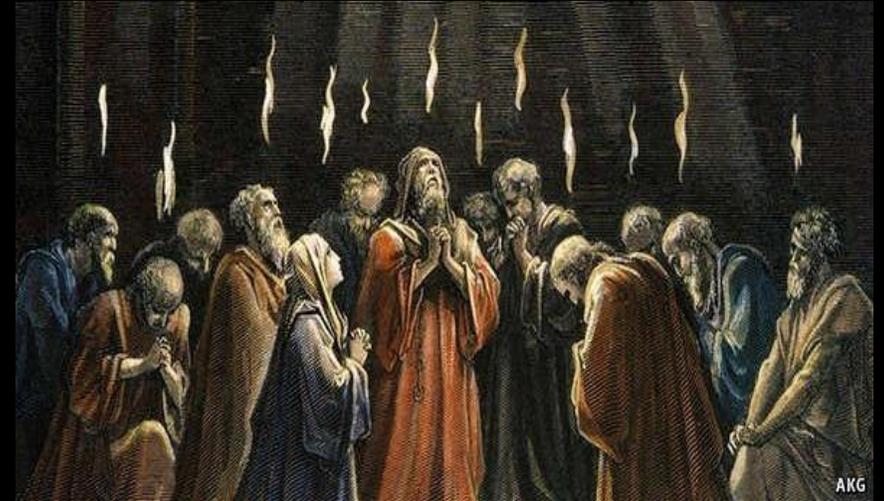


Past – 1. Tongues in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-13) – New Testament

In the spring of AD 31, just 50 days after Christ's resurrection 120 believers were gathered together in Jerusalem, waiting for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). It was the feast of weeks, and the city of Jerusalem was crowded (Acts 2:5). These believers had been together for 10 days, during which time they had worked out all their differences and were now perfectly united in the bonds of peace and love. The day of Pentecost had arrived, the Holy Spirit came upon every individual, and they "began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

With thousands gathered, the disciples began to speak: **But this was no normal speech—it was with the gift of tongues. Never before had men been able to speak a language that they had never learned. It caused such consternation to the wondering crowd.**

There were a total of fifteen: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome, Cretans and Arabs and 3000 were converted. – Acts 2:6-41.



2. Tongues in Caesarea (Acts 10:44-48, 11:15-18)

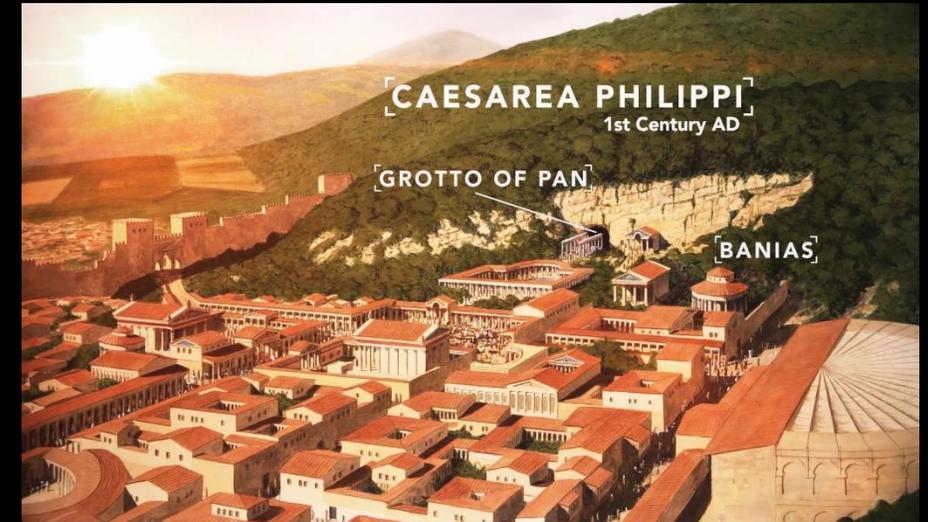
About 7 years later, in 38AD, Peter was led by the Holy Spirit to visit the home of a Gentile named Cornelius, who was a Roman Centurion in Caesarea.

As Peter was preaching the gospel truth unto Cornelius and his family and friends, they all believed and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

Then the Holy Spirit fell upon all of these Gentile believers and they began to speak in tongues.

The hearers of these Gentiles were Jewish Christians who had accompanied Peter, and they heard these “speak with tongues and magnify God” (Acts 10:46).

Peter says that “the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning” (Acts 11:15). By speaking in languages they had never learned, these Gentile believers showed their Jewish Christian audience that the Spirit of God was including them in “the family of God” as His “chosen people” (see Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 10:12). It also showed that the gospel was to be preached “to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6), **and not just to the Jews alone.**



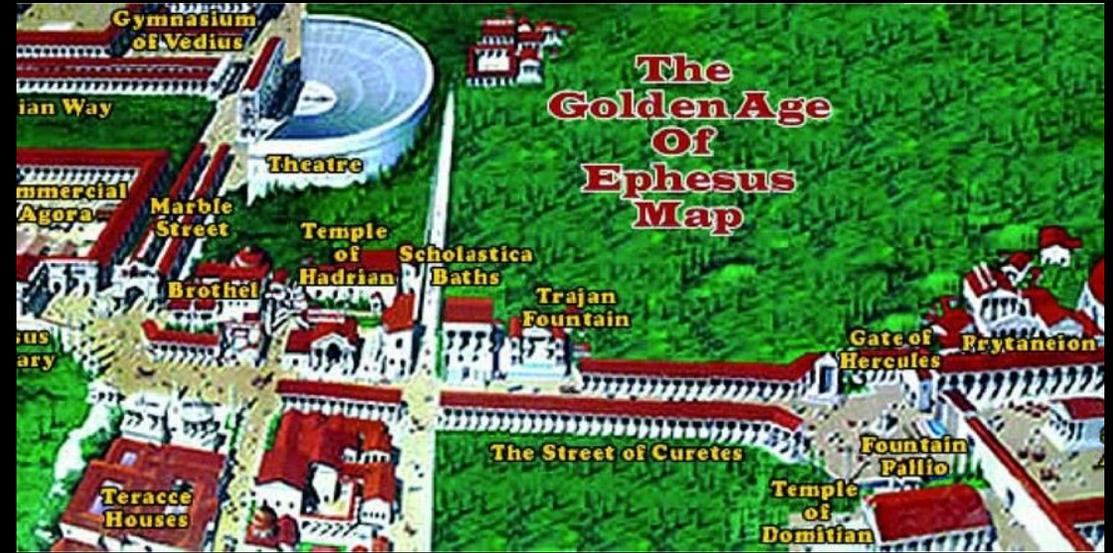
3. Tongues in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7)

In 51 AD, about 13 years after the Holy Spirit was poured out in the home of Cornelius, Paul was preaching to 12 people.

They had been baptized with “John's baptism,” but were not yet aware that the Holy Spirit had come to indwell believers in Christ.

So Paul instructed them, re-baptized them in water, laid his hands on them, and instantly “the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied” (Acts 19:6).

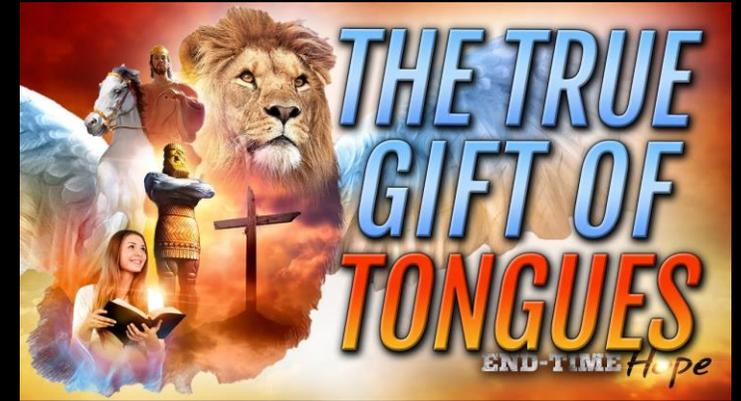
So these 12 men spoke in other languages not before learned by them, but were understood by the people who heard them.



The True Gift of Tongues

The only conclusion to tongue-speaking is the miraculous gift of being able to speak another known language to people with whom were unable to communicate. The manifestation of the Spirit in all three instances in the New Testament was not vain babbling or gibberish that could be confused for a drunken man's speech; **it was not a language that no one could understand, or that had to be deciphered by the hearers; but it was the perfectly understood use of foreign languages spoken under the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the true gift of tongues.**

The very fact that there is something true, is usually an indicator that the devil has counterfeited it in order to deceive. **This is true in the case of tongues.** **Not only can God give the miraculous gift of speaking in other languages before unknown, but the devil can also speak through people** (see Mark 1:23-26, 5:7-12). **So then there can be a false gift of tongues.** And in 1 Corinthians we learn that some kind of tongues-speaking was being practiced in a church of God among the believers in this city. **Was this the true kind of tongues, or the counterfeit?**



THE ^{WHENCE} ^{IS IT?}
MODERN
GIFT OF
TONGUES



*** *Tongues in Corinth (1 Corinthians 12-14)*

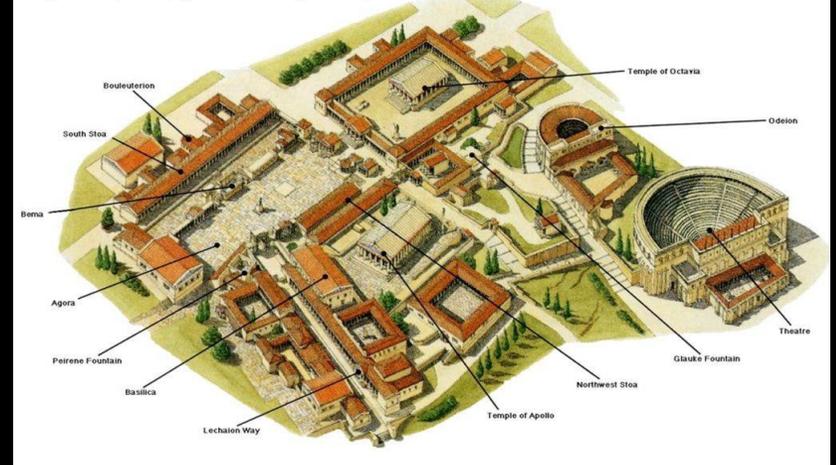
In 53 AD, about two years after the 12 disciples spoke in tongues, Paul heard that the church in Corinth was having a variety of problems. Now it is thought that the Corinthian church is a model for what other tongue-speaking churches should be.

But let's look and see what Paul said about this church:

Paul stated that the Corinthian church members were carnal and that there was strife, envying and divisions among them (see 1 Corinthians 3:1-3). There was such a severe case of fornication among them, that it was even shocking to the Gentiles (see 1 Corinthians 5:3). Brothers were going to the law and suing one another (see 1 Corinthians 6:5-7). They were doing wrong and defrauding their brethren (see 1 Corinthians 6:8). Their women were not dressing as they should, instead they were dressing like harlots (see 1 Corinthians 11:1-16). There were heresies among them (see 1 Corinthians 11:19). They were defiling the Lord's supper, and for this cause some of them had died (see 1 Corinthians 11:20-22, 29, 30). **There was confusion and disorder in the church** (see 1 Corinthians 14:33-40). There were also false apostles and unrighteous ministers among them (see 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). **Etc...**

Corinth: 1st century metropolis

image courtesy of: <http://ulearnabroadgreece.net/corinth.html>

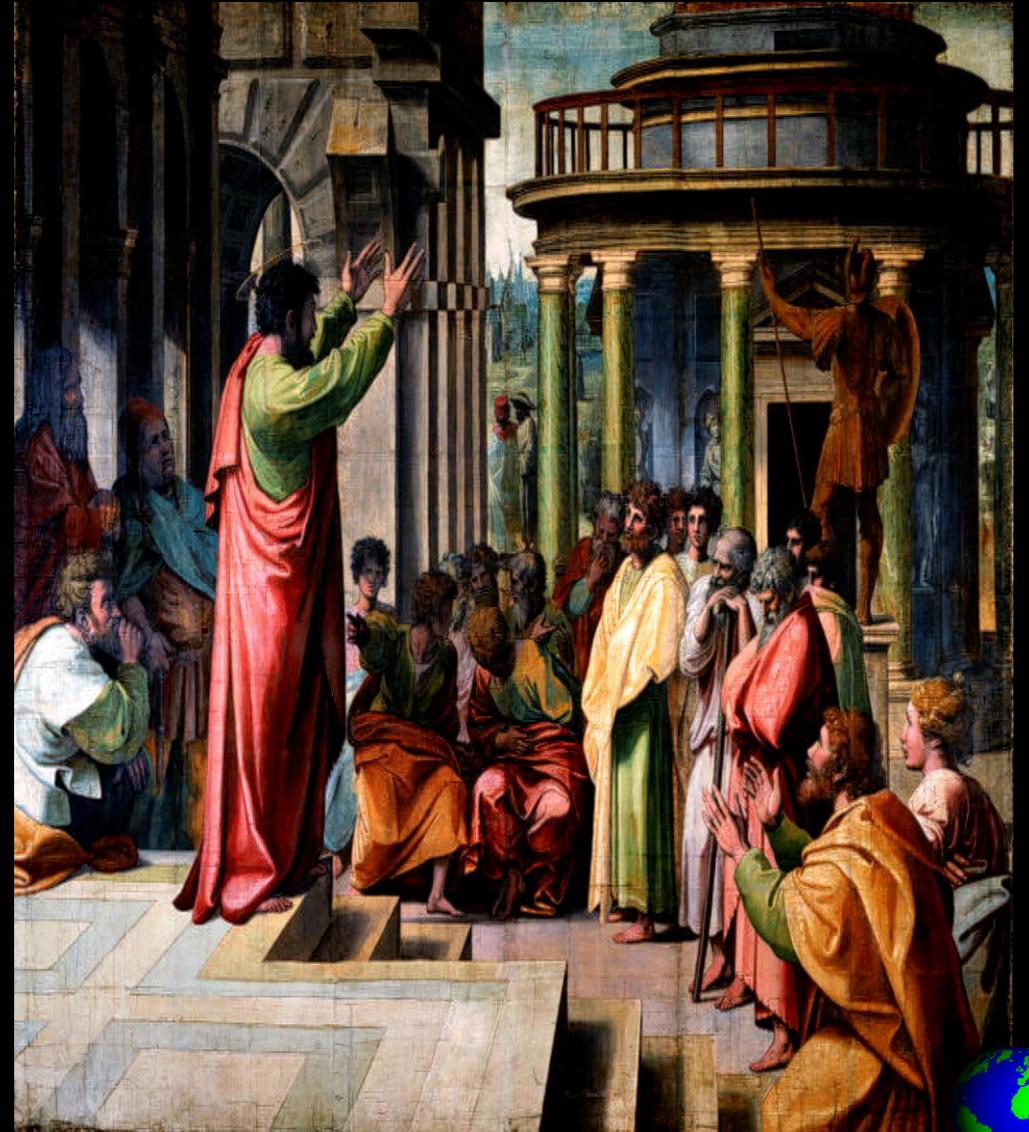


Church in Corinth: no Example to follow Today

These strong statements from Paul were far from being complimentary regarding the Corinthian church. **Certainly they were not a church to model after, but a church that was in need of conversion back to God.**

In fact, they were in danger of receiving another gospel and another Jesus, or even receiving another spirit (see 2 Corinthians 11:3-4). Thus they were far from being an example of a church that was filled with God's Spirit, but they were actually a church that was in grave danger of being deceived by a counterfeit, false spirit.

Among the issues Paul dealt with these believers in Corinth was a big problem with the gift of tongues. **It appears that the church services were being disrupted by people making sounds that neither they, nor anyone present, could understand or interpret.**



Acts 2 Speaking in Tongues: not same as in Corinth

Were the tongues in Acts different from the tongues in 1 Corinthians? **Yes.** In Acts we find only three occurrences of tongues-speaking in 20 years. But in Corinth, tongue-speaking was a regular practice during church services.

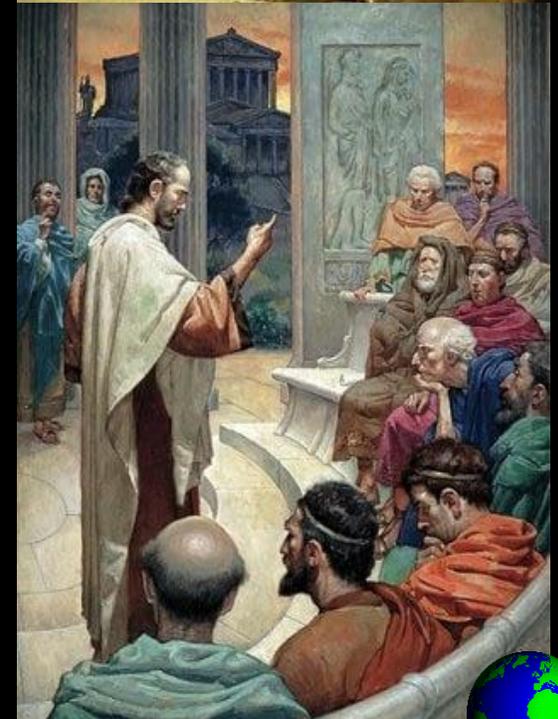
In Acts we find no indication that any one person had the gift of tongues: at Pentecost it was the whole group of disciples (about 120 of them); in the home of Cornelius it was all the new converts; at Ephesus it was all 12 who had just been instructed and re-baptized. But in 1 Corinthians 12:10 we read about there now being individual believers speaking tongues, as well as a gift of interpretation of tongues in that group.

Because of the extent of this unholy confusion taking place in Corinth, it is possible that the tongues being spoken in this church was neither a known language, nor a gift from God, and thus people were in danger of being deceived. **So Paul had to set them straight with the following guidelines.**



Paul's serious warning to the church in Corinth

1. Tongues-speaking was not the universal evidence of the baptism of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:8-11,13,30).
2. Tongues-speaking was of lesser importance than love (1 Cor. 12:31; 13).
3. In fact, tongues was not listed as one of the spiritual gifts to be received (see Ephesians 4:1-16).
4. The gift of prophecy was better, it edified the church (1 Cor. 14:1-4).
5. Unregulated speaking in tongues led to confusion (1 Cor. 14:7-12).
6. Public speaking in uninterested tongues had no value (1 Cor. 14:13-19).
7. Preoccupation with tongues was a sign of immaturity (1 Cor. 14:20).
8. Unregulated tongues a hindrance in the salvation of others (1 Cor. 14:23)
9. Since tongues could be counterfeited, public tongues-speaking had to be strictly regulated (1 Cor. 14:26-40).
10. Only two or three were allowed to speak in tongues in a service, and they were to speak in turn (1 Cor. 14:27, 30).
11. Those speaking un-interpreted or unknown tongues were to stop speaking and be quiet (1 Cor. 14:28).
12. A proper and orderly atmosphere in church services was to be maintained (1 Cor. 14:40).

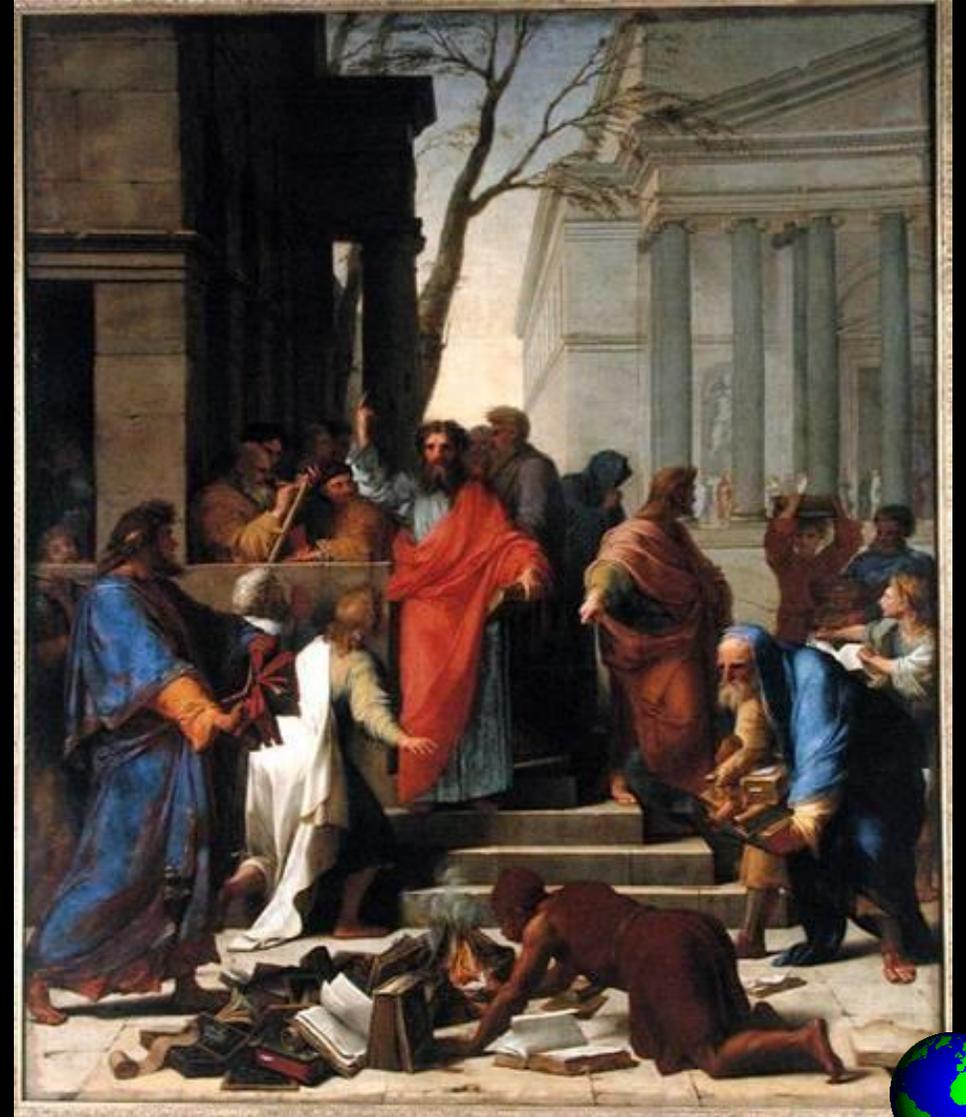


Paul rebukes and chastises the believers

We can clearly see that Paul is rebuking and chastising the believers for allowing a counterfeit tongues-speaking into their midst. He is not teaching that this counterfeit tongues is something we should desire. He is not teaching that we should speak without understanding, or that we should speak in a babbling or gibberish language that no one understands.

But Paul is trying keep this false type of tongues-speaking from continuing to be a problem in the Corinthian church, and he emphasizes again that the main purpose of tongues was a sign “not to them that believe, but to them that believe not...(to) those that are unlearned, or unbelievers” (1 Corinthians 14:22-23).

In following this counsel, tongues would then become a credential sign to these unbelievers as to who was proclaiming the real gospel truth.



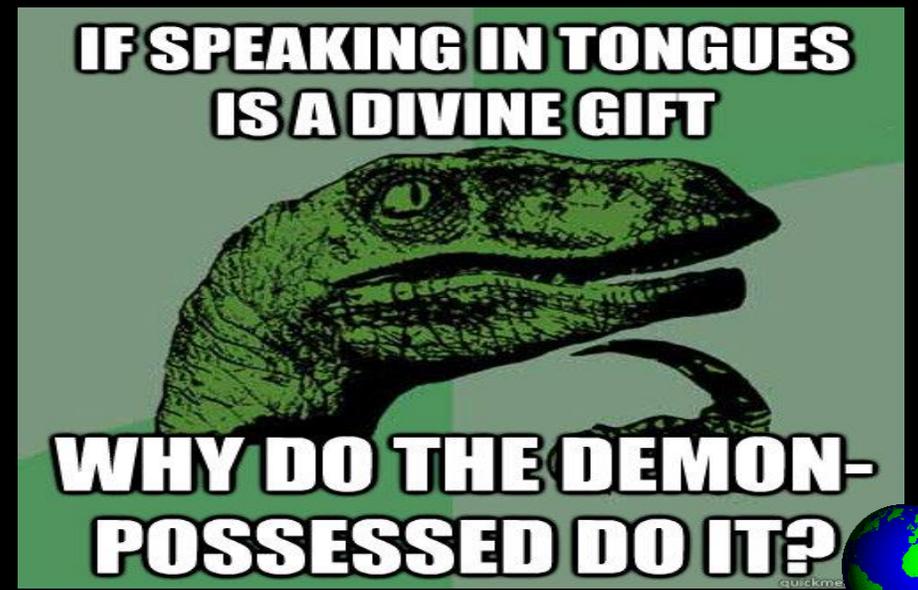
Tongue Speaking is not limited to Christianity

The incident recorded in Acts chapter 2 is the first time that the true gift of tongues was given.

But for many centuries previous to this, non-language utterances of gibberish had been observed and noted. These kind of unknown tongues had nothing to do with Christianity or the God of heaven, but were found in the various pagan, spiritualistic and occultic religions and groups.

There have been recorded and documented instances of such counterfeit tongue speaking in both ancient and modern times in the following religious circles: Egyptian priests, Greek priests and priestesses, Shamans or medicine men, African tribes, Tibetan monks, Hudson Bay Eskimos, North Borneo pagans, an Islamic saint, even by Brigham Young and other Mormons.

Tongues have also been reproduced in psychological studies.



Satan's counterfeit form of tongue gibberish!

These above occurrences were not the tongues of languages, but were mere babbling and gibberish.

In fact, here is an example of tongues-speaking recorded and transcribed from more modern times:

"prou pray proddey, pa pallassate pa pau pu pe, teli terattata taw, terrea te te-te-te-te, vole virte vum, elee lete lede luto, singe singe singe, imba, imba, ima." **All such tongue gibberish is nothing more than a clever satanic counterfeit of God's true miracle of speaking real, known and understood languages.**

The evidence above demonstrates that what is currently practiced as tongues-speaking is not a supernatural gift from God, but is more closely linked with the pagan, spiritualistic and occultic form of tongues. And even though few Christians would want to associate themselves with these satanic groups, many are involved in speaking the same counterfeit form of tongue gibberish!

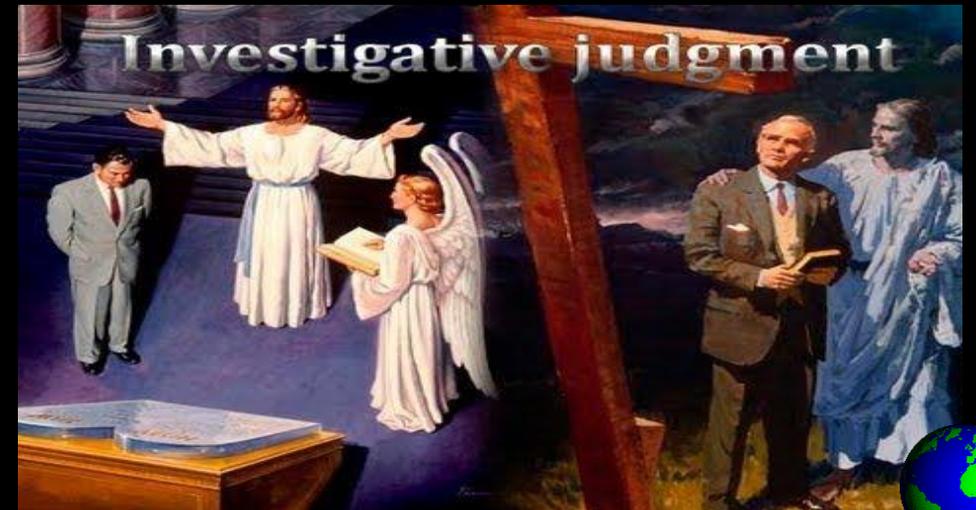
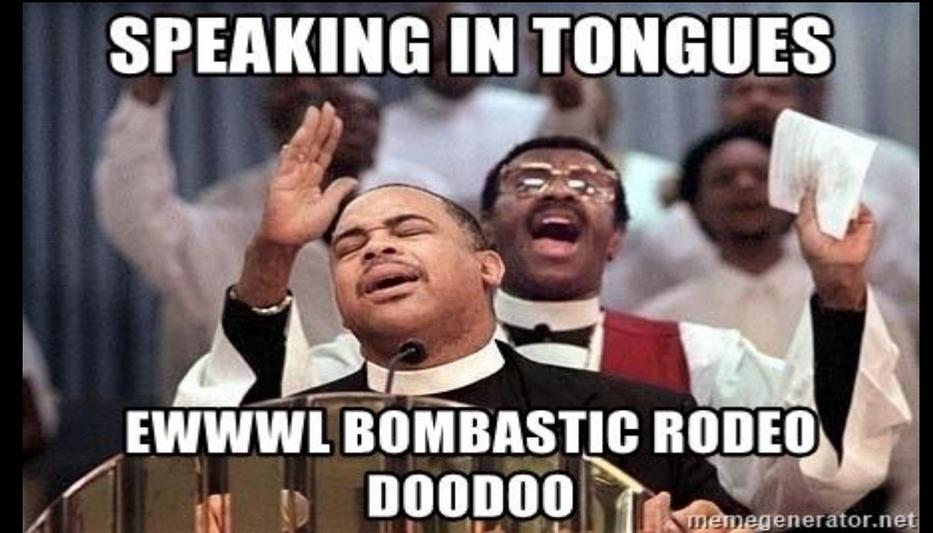
False Tongues of Fire



Honest believers should study the Bible to understand for themselves

Yet there are many sincere and honest Christians today who, just like in Corinth, have spoken in this counterfeit type of tongues. Many of these dear people do not know that this is not the true gift as spoken of in the Bible. They truly love the Lord and have thought that this is what God desired. And God, in mercy, winks at the times of our ignorance, and He therefore condemns no one for their honest mistakes, “but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

We are judged by the light that we have received and by the use we have made of that light. Mercifully, the Lord allows correction and instruction to come to His people, because He loves them dearly and does not want them to be lost (see Jeremiah 31:3; Revelation 3:19; Ezekiel 18:23). Will you allow the Lord to correct and instruct you through His word?



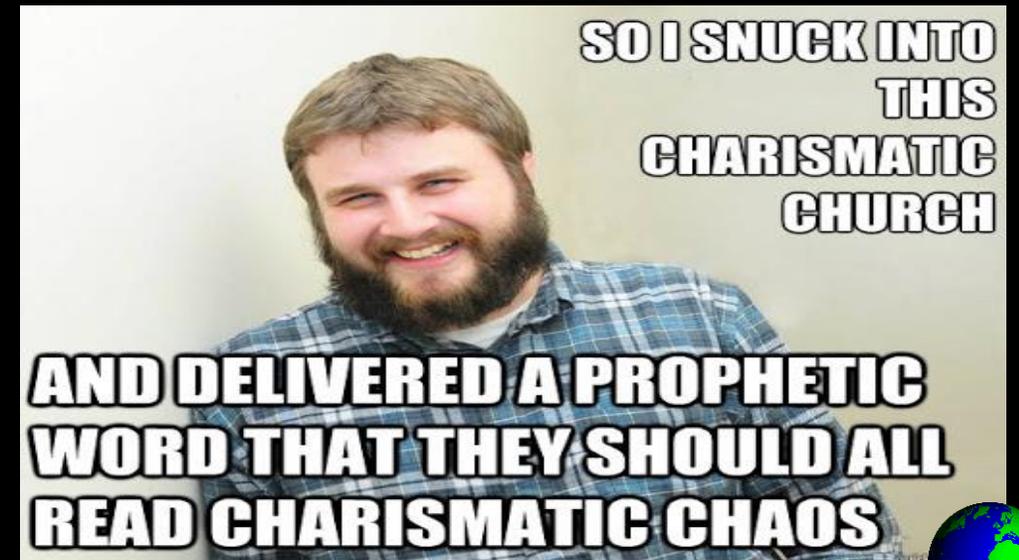
People were never taught to speak in tongues in the Bible

It is important to realize that people were never taught how to speak in “tongues.” The power came upon them suddenly and instantaneously (see Acts 2:2-4, 10:44-46, 19:6). They were “unlearned and ignorant” (Acts 4:13)

This confirms that they had not learned these foreign languages by natural means. So the true gift of tongue speaking was not learned or taught. It was not the result of training. Like miraculous healings, it came suddenly.

Generally, people had no idea it was coming, were not expecting it, and had no control over when it came. Whereas modern tongue speakers often “learn” to speak in tongues by listening to others do it and then trying to imitate them, or by being trained how to do it.

Thus they do not have the true gift.

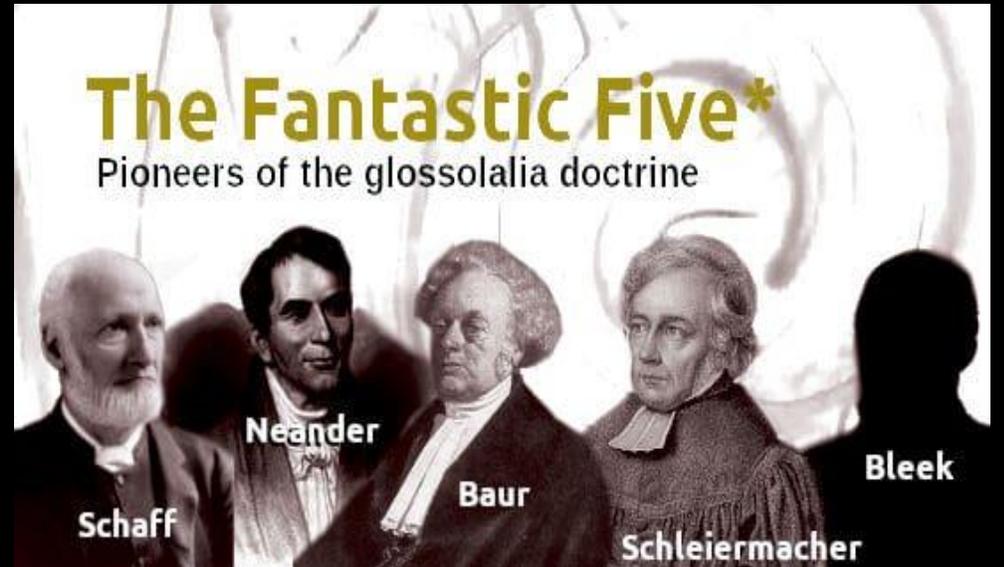


Ecstasy or Glossolalia: Origins

Catholic mysticism had defined *ecstasy* as a prerequisite state before a divine encounter – very similar but not exactly to what Renewalists today call *baptism in the Holy Spirit*. Indeed, this was a such an essential word in the late medieval vocabulary that the massive sixteenth-century Greek dictionary allowed considerable space to define this Greek word. *Ecstasy was an established religious concept that academics easily understood.*

The German academic community had taken this familiar religious symbol to express this phenomenon. However, the idea of *ecstasy* was not sufficient in the long run. It was the starting point in the evolution of the doctrine of glossolalia.

The rise of glossolalia can be traced to Germany in the late 1700s and the 1800s. This era is the apex where the Renaissance, Reformation, Humanism, Protestant, and anti-Catholic fervor all combined to produce some of the most significant historical and philosophical works from a Christian framework.



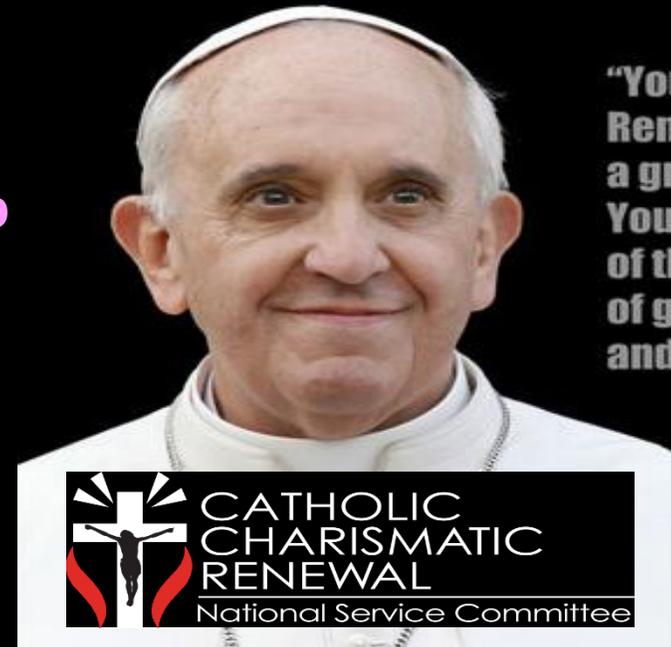
Ten hard questions about speaking in tongues (*glossolalia* and *xenoglossia*)

1. Why do different charismatic groups have different vowels and accents of glossolalia?

It is commonly argued by most Pentecostals that the reason most modern tongues do not seem to be like any known human language is because they are angelic languages, in reference to Paul's brief mention of the phrase in [1 Corinthians 13:1](#)

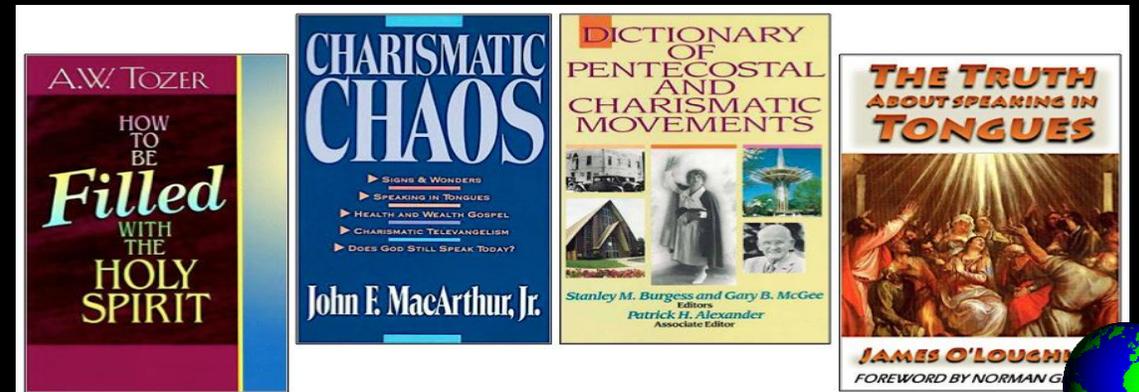
If there is a real "language of angels," why does every group have their own version? Do angels speak many different dialects? Why are these angelic languages so profoundly linked to the human speakers' primary language or distinct historic stream? Why can linguists trace the glossolalic "accents" of the speakers to human guides if the only guide is the Holy Spirit?

However, does not the fact that in each case glossolalia is composed of mixed sounds taken from the speakers' native language better suit a natural explanation?



"You, Charismatic Renewal, have received a great gift from the Lord. You were born of the will of the Spirit as 'a current of grace in the Church and for the Church.'"

-Pope Francis June 1, 2014.



10 questions about speaking in tongues (cont'd)

3. Why did Jesus forbid prayer with babbling/long repetitions if he was going to give it as a special gift?

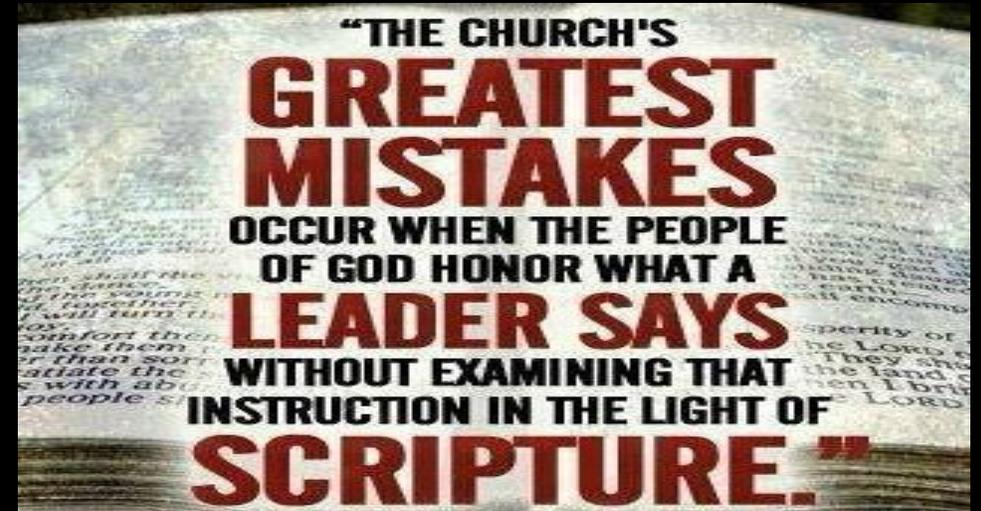
But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. – Matthew 6:7

The Greek word “meaningless repetition” in Strong’s Concordance: *“to blubber nonsensical repetitions; to chatter, using empty (vain) words.” and “to repeat the same things over and over, to use many idle words, to babble, prate.”*

If this is the case, then Jesus clearly taught against glossolalia. How could it be that Jesus taught against glossolalia, then later gave it as a gift?

It makes no sense!

The whole point of Matthew 6:7 is that prayers should not be long and repetitive, but very clear and intentional (Matthew 6:8-13). **Are not glossolalic prayers exactly the opposite?** They last for prolonged periods of time and they include hundreds of repetitions of the same phrases.



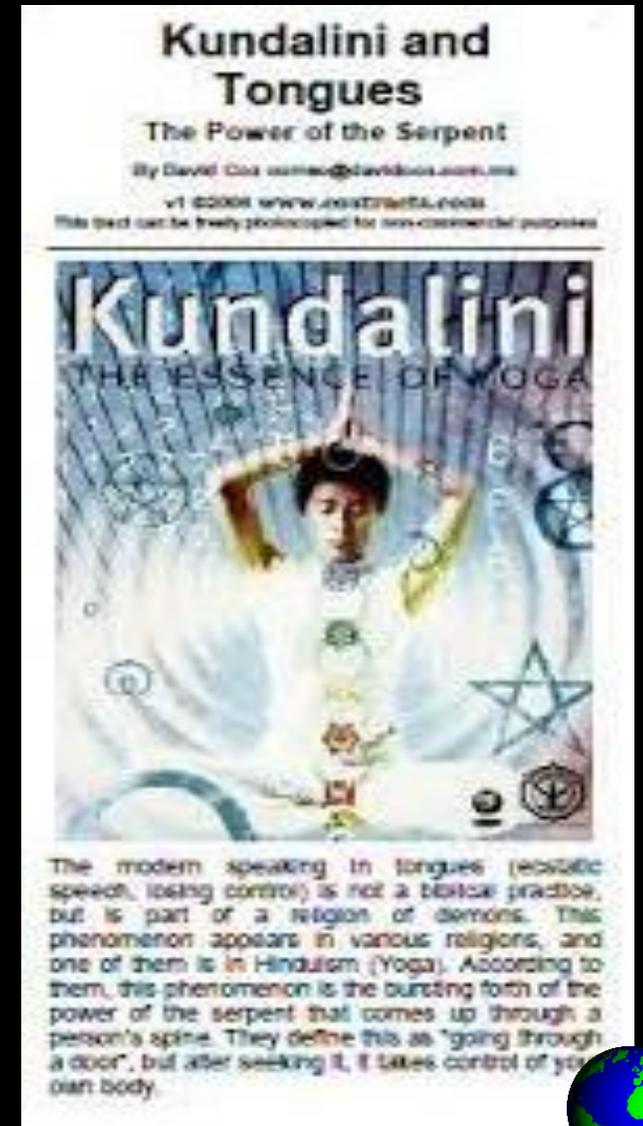
10 questions about speaking in tongues (cont'd)

4. Why do non Christian religions include glossolalia as part of their worship?

“Glossolalia is practiced among non-Christian religions: *the Peyote cult among the North American Indians, the Haida Indians of the Pacific Northwest, Shamans in the Sudan, the Shango cult of the West Coast of Africa, the Shago cult in Trinidad, the Voodoo cult in Haiti, the Aborigines of South America and Australia, the Eskimos of the subarctic regions of North America and Asia, the Shamans in Greenland, the Dyaks of Borneo, the Zor cult of Ethiopia, the Siberian shamans, the Chaco Indians of South America, the Curanderos of the Andes, the Kinka in the African Sudan, the Thonga shamans of Africa, and the Tibetan monks”* - Jennings, G. J.: An Ethnological Study of Glossolalia, J. Am. Sci. Affil. (1968)

To this most Pentecostals will again reply that these are merely counterfeits of the real thing. How can we tell between a demonic/natural counterfeit and the real supernatural deal if they are identical in a local community? Furthermore, what is the purpose of God giving his people a sign-gift that is perfectly counterfeited by other sects?

Will not unbelievers become confused?



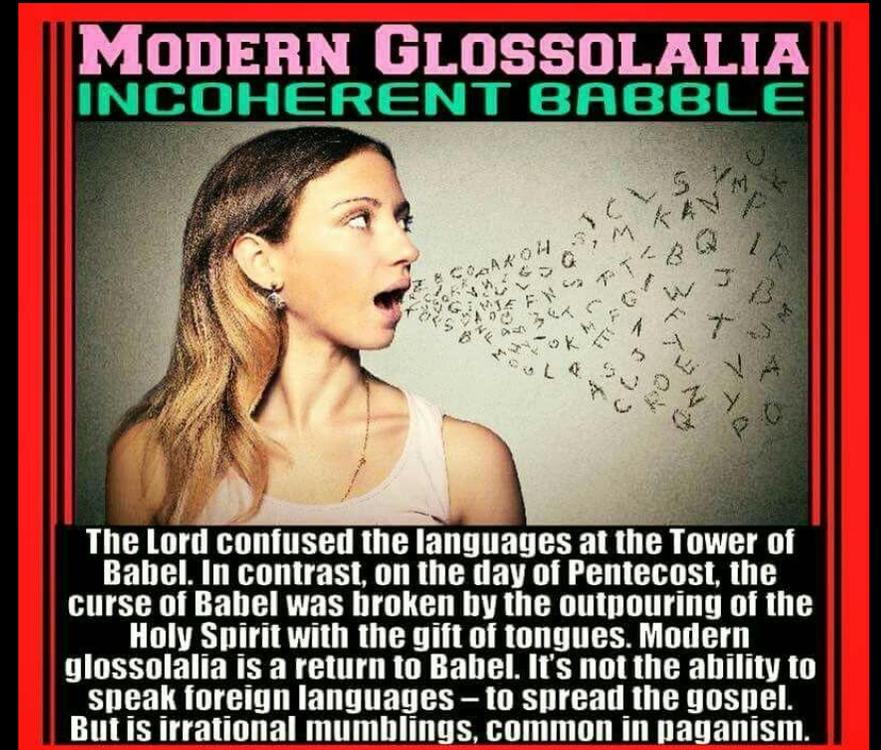
10 questions about speaking in tongues (cont'd)

5. If interpretation is the main purpose, why do we almost never see interpreted glossolalia? (Must read 1 Corinthians 14)

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. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. – 1 Corinthians 14:27-28.

However, the overwhelming majority of glossolalia occurs without interpretation. Instead it is nearly always “free-for-all prayer” with each person shouting out their own emotional glossolalic vocalizations at once. This experiential spiritual ecstasy is no excuse for what seems to be disobedience to the literal words of the Bible.

Why then is the Pentecostal experience primarily about “speaking into the air” and appearing as though they are “mad”? Why Pentecostals refuse to admit these teachings, to reinterpret this in light of personal experience? Why would God not even once clearly prescribe these loud revivals in the Bible?



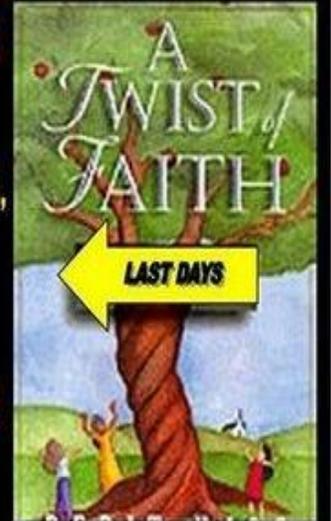
10 questions about speaking in tongues (cont'd)

6. If modern tongues are the same as those in Acts, why is there no verifiable xenoglossy?

Pentecostals and Charismatics will most eagerly identify the writings in Acts 2 as the historic and theological roots of the modern charismatic movement. There is not even one case of glossolalic prayer in the whole book of Acts! The very incident that Pentecostals point to as the foundation of their movement, Acts Chapter 2, is unmistakably a case of xenoglossy in the form of public speech. The gathering of "devout men from every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5) "we hear them in our own tongues" (Acts 2:11).

Why is there not even one example of a tongue speaker who can repeatedly utter phrases in foreign languages while being videotaped? Where are the explosions of speech that are clearly real foreign tongues in Pentecostal or charismatic churches? Where are the crowds of people that hear Pentecostals /Charismatics pray and reply with "we hear them in our own tongues"?

NOW THE SPIRIT EXPRESSLY SAYS,
THAT IN THE LATTER TIMES, SOME
WILL DEPART FROM THE FAITH,
GIVING HEED TO DECIEVING SPIRITS,
AND DOCTRINE OF DEMONS
SPEAKING LIES IN HYPOCRISY,
HAVING THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE
SEARED WITH A HOT IRON
-1 Timothy 4:1-2

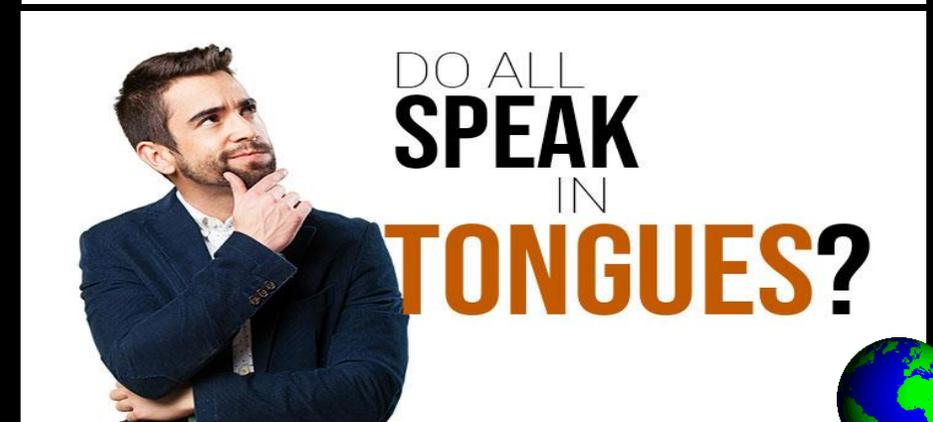


10 questions about speaking in tongues (cont'd)

7. If glossolalia is a real language, why are different interpretations given for the same phrase?

“One individual’s ecstatic speech was tape recorded and played back separately to many individuals who believed that they had the gift of interpreting tongues. Their interpretations were quite inconsistent. Those particular interpreters were unable to extract significant meaning out of the glossolalia.” The differences were as wide as one being “a prayer for the health of someone’s children,” while another interpreted the speech as “praising God for a recent and successful church, fundraising effort.” - Jeff Wehr, “Speaking in Tongues,” Our Firm Foundation, Vol. 11, #11, 1996-NOV-11.

Why do the same words give different interpretations?
Why can interpreters not interpret the same phrase in the same way?
How can we trust that glossolalia is a real language when interpretations of it fail miserably?
What is the point of God randomly giving multiple contradictory interpretations for the same exact phrase, would this not only serve to confuse genuine seekers?

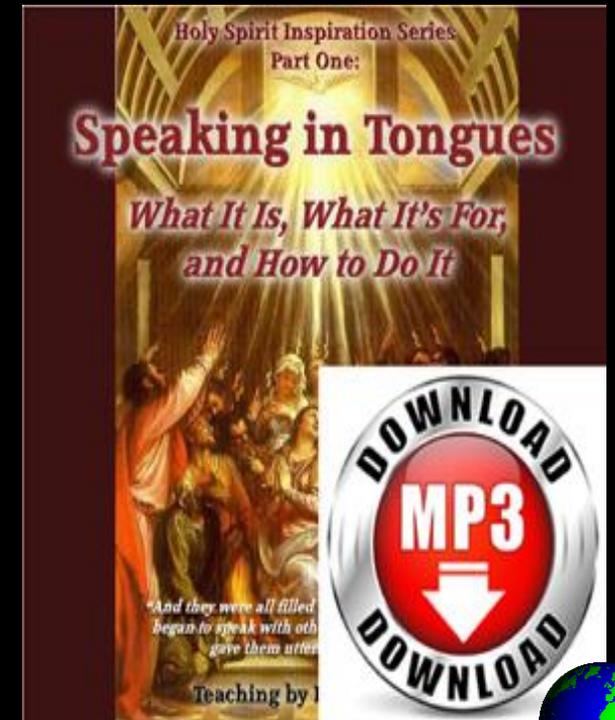
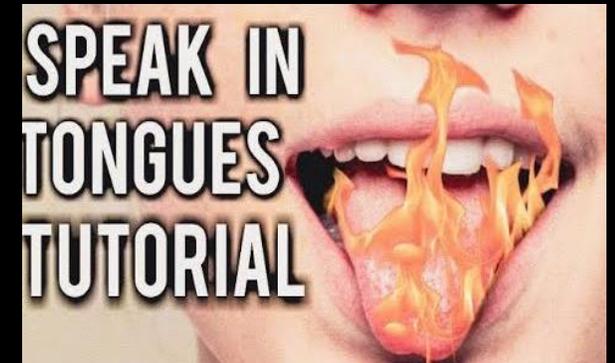


10 questions about speaking in tongues (cont'd)

8. Why can people be trained to speak in tongues, apart from supernatural intervention?

18–44 year old undergraduates listened to a 60-sec sample of glossolalia... and then attempted to produce glossolalia... Afterward, half of the [subjects] received 2 training sessions that included audio- and videotaped samples of glossolalia interspersed with opportunities to practice glossolalia. Also, live modelling of glossolalia, direct instruction, and encouragement were provided by an experimenter. Both the trained [subjects] and untreated controls attempted to produce glossolalia on a 30-sec post test trial. About 20% of [subjects] exhibited fluent glossolalia on the baseline trial, and training significantly enhanced fluency. **70% of trained [subjects] spoke fluent glossolalia on the post test.** Findings are more consistent with social learning than with altered state conceptions of glossolalia. - Kildahl, John; Paul Qualben (1971).

If glossolalia is a supernatural gift why can it be perfectly recreated by careful non-believing observers? How can people be easily taught to speak in tongues? Why do prominent Charismatics or Pentecostals who leave the faith retain the ability to speak in tongues, **should they not lose their gift?**



10 questions about speaking in tongues (cont'd)

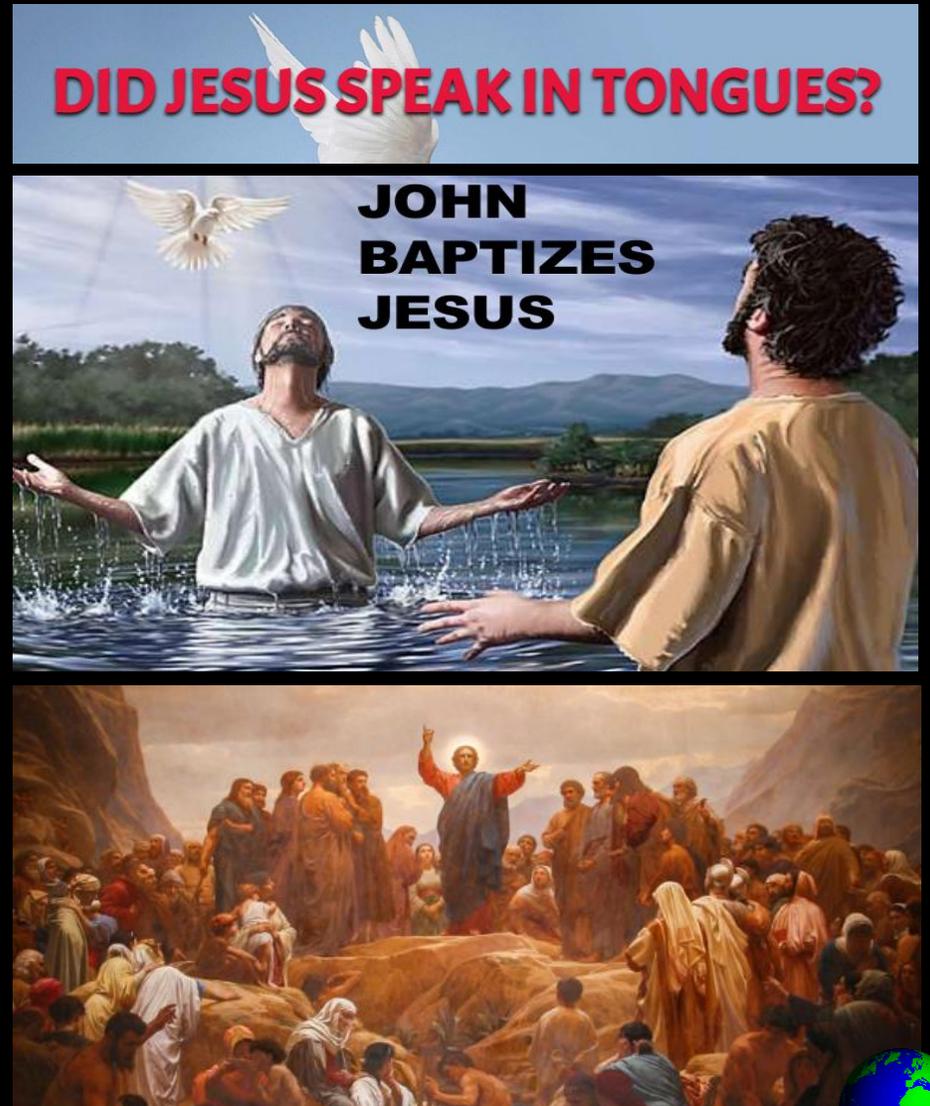
9. If glossolalia is an essential part of Christian prayer, why didn't Jesus mention it at all?

Jesus devotes time to clear teachings about prayer ([Mat 6:5-13](#)).

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; - [Mark 16:17](#) Read [Vs 9-20](#).

This verse is often touted as a silver bullet by Pentecostals and charismatics, however, it is quite the opposite. Jesus talks of (new tongues, drink poison, handle snakes) refer to events that are not normative. Paul was bitten by one snake on one occasion ([Acts 28:3-6](#)).

Why was Jesus silent on glossolalia if it is one of the most important functions (and indeed evidence) of the Holy Spirit? Why did Jesus command a specific type of prayer, if he was planning to replace it with a glossolalia, a radical departure of his command? Why would he keep this all secret? Surely these are vital questions?



10 questions about speaking in tongues (cont'd)

10. Why is Christian glossolalia almost unheard of before 1901 Topeka Kansas?

The historical case of glossolalia within the Christian world is one of the most intriguing ideas to tantalize the ears of man.

The early church historian Eusebius, writing probably around 339 CE, states the following about Montanus:

- *“He became possessed of a spirit, and suddenly began to rave in a kind of ecstatic trance, and to babble in a jargon, prophesying in a manner **contrary to the custom of the Church which had been handed down by tradition from the earliest times.**”* - Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, V,17,3

Chrysostom (344–407), who states that any mention of tongues is obscure and they *“now no longer take place”*

Also Augustine (354-430) who also discussed the Acts of the Apostles, and specifically mentions the act of speaking in tongues, saying *“it passed away.”* - Augustine, Homilies on the Gospel of John 6:10

CHARLES Fox PARHAM  

“FATHER OF MODERN PENTECOSTALISM”

Modern Pentecostalism began on January 1, 1901, when Agnes Ozman, a student at Charles F. Parham's Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas, spoke in tongues (actually, the story is that she spoke in "Chinese", and did not speak English again for several days). On January 3, Parham and a dozen other students also spoke in tongues.





Speaking in Tongues through history (cont'd)

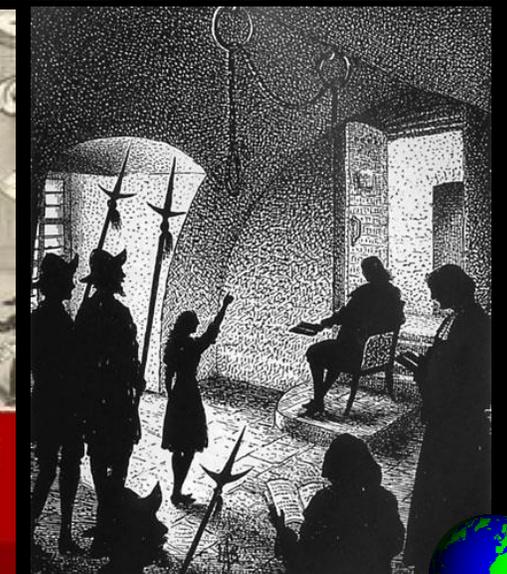
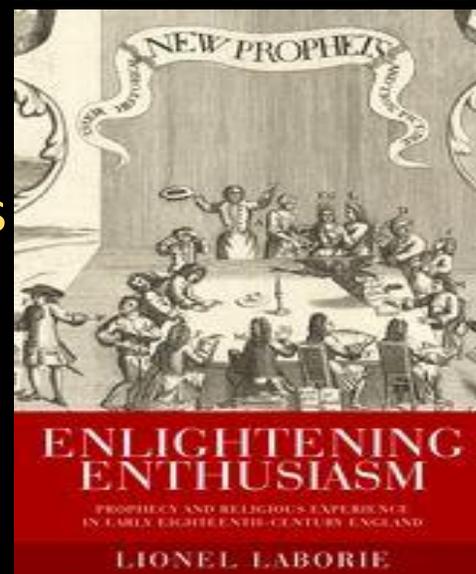
“The next time any significant tongues-speaking movement arose within Christianity was in the late seventeenth century. A group of militant Protestants in the Cevennes region of southern France began to prophesy, experience visions, and speak in tongues. The group, sometimes called the Cevennot prophets, are remembered for their political and military activities, not their spiritual legacy. Most of their prophecies went unfulfilled. They were rabidly anti-Catholic, and advocated the use of armed force against the Catholic church. Many of them were consequently persecuted and killed by Rome.”

- MacArthur, John. *Charismatic chaos*.

Why is there no evidence of the Protestant Reformers use of glossolalia?

This list of non-speakers includes all of the most important leaders within historic reformation movements:

John Huss, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, George Whitefield, John Bunyan, John Wesley, William Carey, etc...



Speaking in Tongues through history (cont'd)

So where do we see the advent of glossolalia?

“Throughout the latter half of the 19th century in the United States, Protestants from various backgrounds began to ask themselves why their churches did not seem to exhibit the same vibrant, faith-filled life as those in the New Testament [for they did not speak in tongues]. Many of these believers joined evangelical or Holiness churches, engaged in ardent prayer and personal sacrifice, and earnestly sought God. It was in this context that people began experiencing biblical spiritual gifts. One of the focal points of the emerging [but not previously existing] Pentecostal movement was known as the Azusa Street revival (1906-09). After students at his Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas, began speaking in tongues at a prayer meeting on January 1, 1901, Parham, through his Apostolic Faith Movement, had some success in promoting the restoration of the gift of tongues.” - Assemblies of God (USA) Official Web Site. <http://ag.org/top/about/History/>

Why were most historical Christians ungifted? Why is glossolalia missing from the normative practice of historic Christianity?



Handling serpents at the Pentecostal Church of God, Harlan County, Kentucky,



Healing by 'laying on of hands' Pentecostal Church of God, 1946



Tongues – They do not speak real languages!

The miracle of the true gift of tongues was that God's people could speak existing languages which they had never studied, and their foreign listeners could recognize and clearly understand the gospel message!

If people today were really speaking in tongues, as in the Bible, a person would suddenly be able to speak French, Spanish, Russian, etc., to others who understood these languages, without ever having studied the languages or practiced them at all. **But this is not what happens in modern tongues movement.**

They do not speak real languages. And what they do speak is either learned by observing others, or by being instructed on how to do it. Therefore they are being deceived by the counterfeit tongues of the devil, **and all the time believing that they are being blessed with gifts from God!**



Jesus Admonishes to Test Every Spirit

Besides this, there are some that suppose that if there is a supernatural manifestation, then it must be from God. This is actually one of the most dangerous views to hold, for it opens the mind up to the manifold deceptions of the devil. It has already been clearly shown that there have historically been supernatural manifestations among heathen religions, and that demons can speak through human beings.

For this reason, the Bible gives us very clear warnings:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try (test) the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

If we should believe that every spiritualistic manifestation is from God, we will inevitably be deceived.



Be Not Deceived: is the Word of the God

The most solemn warnings given by Jesus is that there are many false prophets in the world, and thus we cannot believe that every spiritualistic manifestation must be from God. **Mathew 7:15-20.** **Not only that**, but this is a warning specifically directed to our time, because **Paul tells us** that in the “latter times” some are going to listen to these “seducing spirits” and to the “doctrines of devils.” **1 Timothy 4:1.** **Clearly, we must test every supernatural manifestation.** Just because an event, or an occurrence—such as tongues, takes place, does not mean that it is from God: “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” **2 Corinthians 11:13-15.**

- Hence, we cannot go by feelings because the devil can so disguise himself as to appear as a glorious angel of light, and his agents can appear as the ministers of righteousness.

So the absolute last test to use is the test of feelings.

The devil can, and is playing upon the ever changing and fickle emotions of millions of sincere, but deceived people today.

- So we must test and prove the spirits.

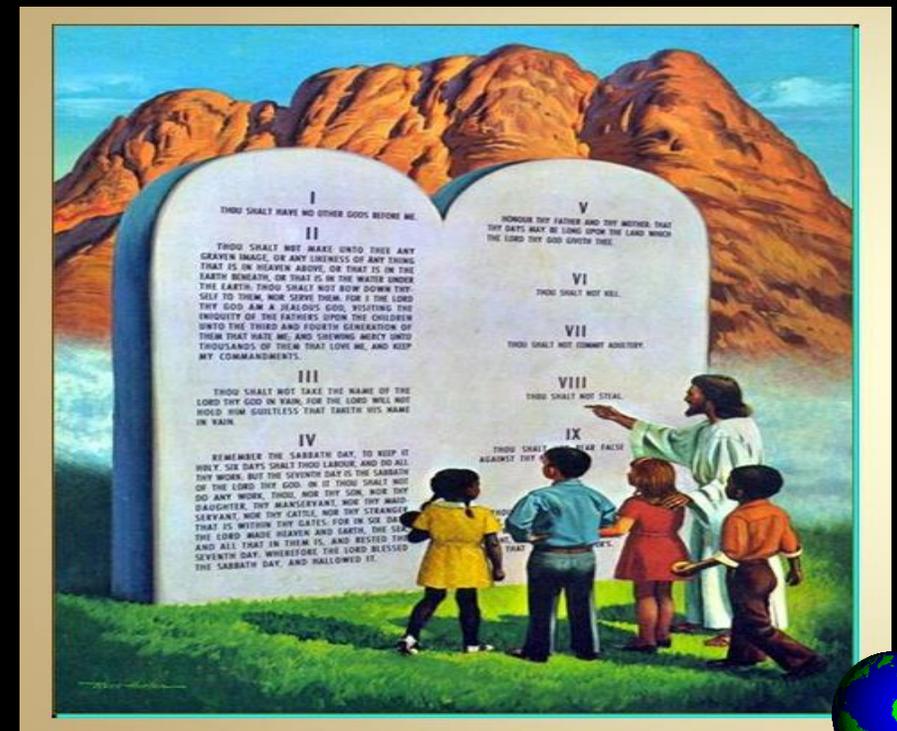
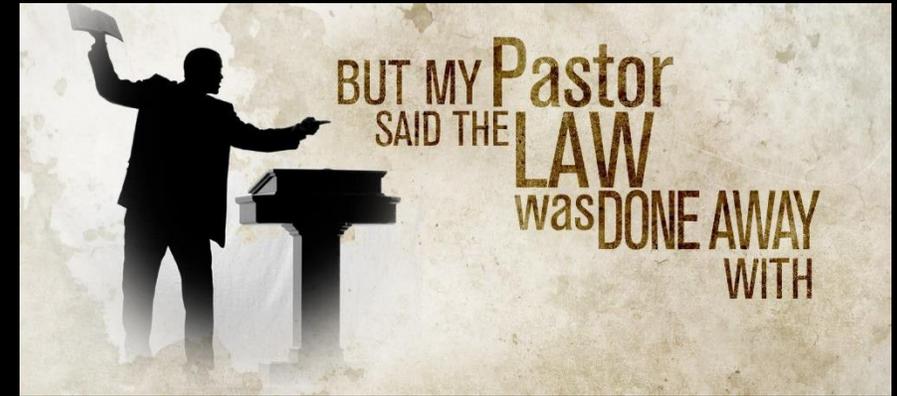
The question is, how do we test spiritualistic manifestations?



If You Don't Keep God's Law: No Truth in You

The most prominent of the tests is found in [Isaiah 8:20](#):
"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." The most unequivocal statement is made that if the law and the testimony are not adhered to, we are not to listen to them. God's Spirit will always work and teach in accordance with God's law and Bible truth. **God's law is the foundation of His government.** It is a transcript of His character, and God has declared that He will never alter it (see [Psalms 89:34](#); [Luke 16:17](#))

If a spiritualistic manifestation is not in accordance with God's ten commandment law and the rest of Scripture, then there is no light in it. **The Scripture does not say, there is some light; it says "NO LIGHT"**. So it doesn't matter how wonderful it may feel; it doesn't matter how good it may look; it doesn't matter how high the profession is; if all of God's law and Bible truth is not being upheld, then there is absolutely no light in it. **It is a false spiritualistic manifestation from the devil, and it cannot be trusted.** This one test alone actually exposes the fallacy of hundreds of spiritualistic manifestations.



Satan will work Miracles in the Last Days

But many who are really using counterfeit tongues have substantiated their claim that what they were doing was from God because of all the miracles and healings that had happened. Once again, we must investigate from the Bible to see whether this is a valid test to use. *“And then shall that Wicked be revealed...after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”* 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10. **Certainly it is not safe to trust in miracles since we are specifically told that there will be counterfeit signs and lying wonders worked among us in order to deceive.**

In fact, we are repeatedly warned that the devil will work, especially through miracles, in the last days. *“He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men...For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”* Revelation 13:13, 16:14. **Obviously, the devil will work miracles, signs, and wonders in the last days. So just because a movement exhibits these supernatural workings, does not mean that God’s Holy Spirit is involved!**



BE CAREFUL WHO YOU ARE FOLLOWING!
**PROSPERITY CANNOT
BE A PROOF OF GOD'S
FAVOR, SINCE IT IS
WHAT THE DEVIL
PROMISES TO THOSE
WHO WORSHIP HIM.**
WHAT IS YOUR PASTOR PREACHING
ABOUT?



Holy Spirit Leads All into Truth

The Bible is clear that the most important work of the Holy Spirit is not to manifest itself through miracles of healing or through the gift of tongues, as many people claim today. **One of the most important functions of the Holy Spirit is to lead God's people into all truth.** *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come."* **John 16:13.**

Jesus tells us that when the Comforter comes, He will guide us into all truth. The job and function of the Holy Spirit is to guide God's people into the correct understanding of the truths found in God's word. **This is such a major part of the Holy Spirit's work that He is called the "Spirit of truth"** (see John 14:17, 15:26). **So if there should be a spiritual manifestation from God's Spirit in our midst, it will be for the purpose of leading and guiding God's people into all truth.**



Satan brings confusion: All speaking in tongues

The Bible is also very clear that God gives the gift of prophecy to guide His people into truth. God gives the gifts of pastors, evangelists, apostles, etc., to teach His people the truth. God gives the gift of tongues to be able to communicate this truth to those who would not be able to otherwise understand. But the gifts that the devil gives would be just the opposite: they would not lead and guide God's people into all the truth, but would lead into error. Thus his counterfeit gift of tongues would not be able to communicate truth to anyone, but would be utterances that no one could understand or interpret—such as gibberish.

If what we are saying is not understood by our listeners, we are speaking to the air, and we might as well not even be talking. *“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”* (1 Corinthians 14:11).

- It does absolutely no good for us to speak with one another, if we don't know what each other is saying!

How much clearer could it be?



Don't follow Truth: Jesus says - I never knew You

Jesus has foretold the mournful words that will be spoken to those who choose to follow their own ways, instead of following the word of God. *“Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* Matthew 7:21-23.

There are going to be many who have prophesied, many who have cast out devils, many who have done miracles, many who have spoken in tongues, but Jesus says: “I never knew you.” Why? Because they were involved in the deceptive counterfeit of the devil, and they did not keep all of God's commandments, but continued to “work iniquity”. We must be following and doing our Father's will, keeping all of His commandments out of love for Him, in order to avoid hearing this terrible denunciation against ourselves and losing salvation. (see John 14:15, 21, 15:10; Revelation 22:14-15)

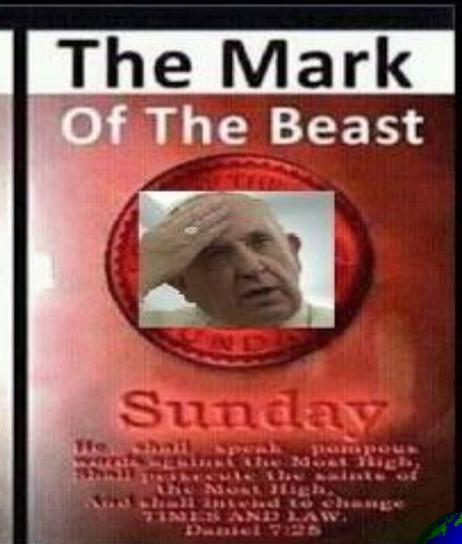
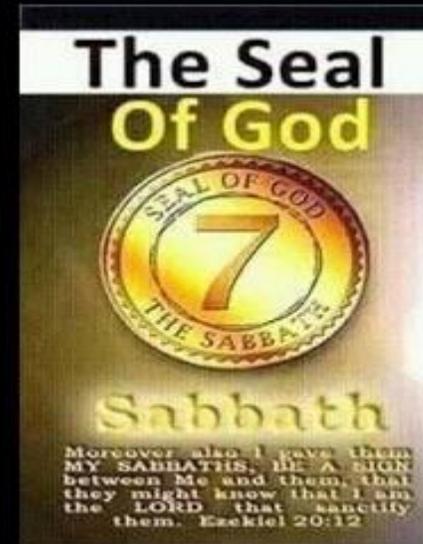


God's Last Call to all Humanity Today!

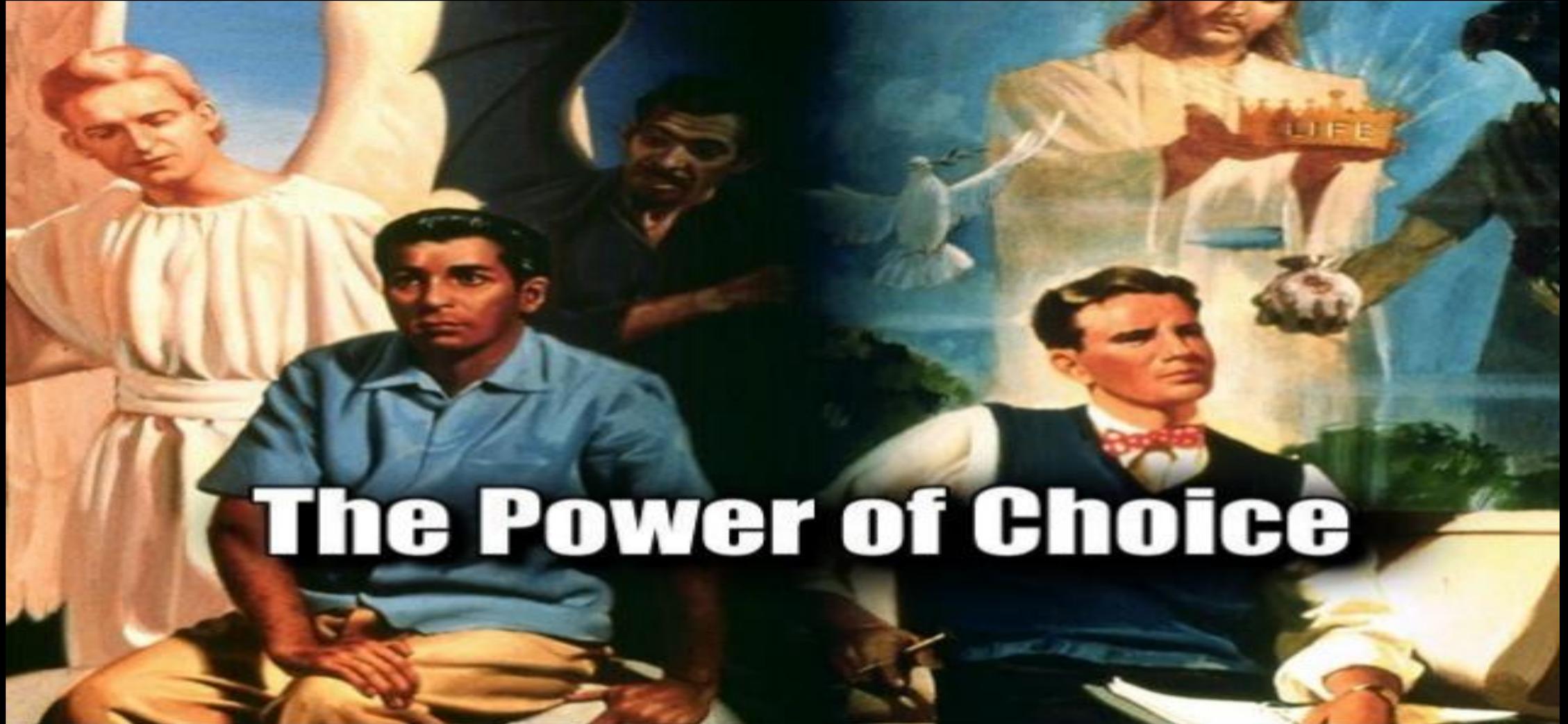
In this study, we have seen that the modern "tongue speaking" movement that many are involved in – especially among the charismatic churches and people, actually fails on every test of God's word. Thus it is a counterfeit, a fake, sent by Satan to fool people into accepting false doctrines and losing eternal life.

Yet God, in love and mercy for His honest people, does not want to see any of them deceived by a counterfeit of the devil and lost thereby. So in order to save them, God calls all of His true followers who may find themselves connected to any of these churches or groups that speak non-language tongues, or in any other movements which are breaking some or all of God's law, to follow His last message of mercy found in Revelation 18:4-5. "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."

• Will you heed God's call?

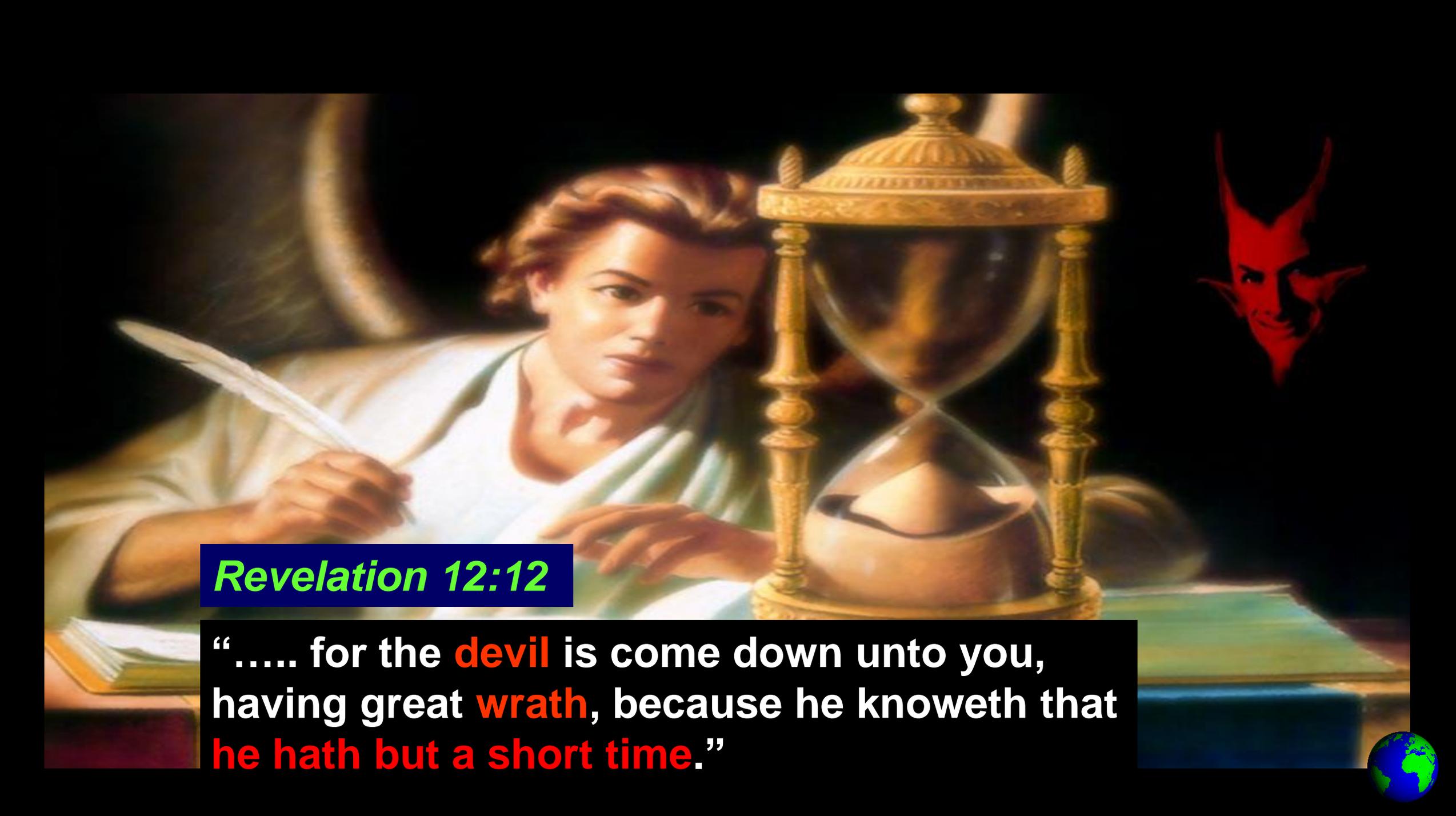


God has given all:



The Power of Choice



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?