

# **Tongues**

## **A Heavenly Language?**



Emerson A. Wilson

## **D E D I C A T I O N**

To the lost that are in bondage to the false and deceptive teachings of evil men in our day.

May God lead out all honest hearts, from the darkness and confusion, to the truth that sets men free (John 8:32).

In the first chapter and the first two verses of Hebrews we read, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

In these first two verses, we are told that God spake unto the fathers by the prophets. It was God speaking through the prophets, and in these last days, He hath spoken to us by His Son. It is still God speaking through His Son.

In Deuteronomy 18:17-19 God told Moses that He was going to raise up a prophet from his brethren and He would put the words in his mouth. It would come to pass, and whoever would not hear the words of that prophet would be cut off.

We go now to Acts 3:20-23. Peter stood up, preached, and let the Jewish people know that that Scripture had been fulfilled, and that the prophet that God had sent was Jesus Christ. (20) "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: (21) Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (22) For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. (23) And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." Peter said it came to pass that whoever would not hear the words of that prophet, his soul would be cut off from the people. Jesus let us know that His doctrine was not His in John 7:16, "Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me." Also in John 14:24, He tells us that His words are not His, but the Father's, which sent Him.

Then in Acts, the first chapter and the first two verses, we read that before Christ ascended back to heaven, He gave commandments to His disciples through the Holy Spirit. (1) "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, (2) Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen."

In Matthew 28:18-20 we read that He commanded them to go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost and that He would be with them always, even to the end of the world.

The clause "In the name of Jesus" is merely a parenthetical clause that means all through the New Testament, in His authority. I want to say that Peter did not change the formula for water baptism. Peter, nor any of the apostles, baptized anyone in the name of Jesus Christ. How do I know? Well, if Peter had changed the formula for baptism and baptized in the name of Jesus, his soul would have been cut off right there. Christ had already given the formula for baptism, as well as some other things. So we need to look into this and go just a little farther.

In Luke 6:46 Jesus spoke words we are familiar with, but we need to look at them again. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Nowhere in the Bible do we find anyone teaching that the formula for baptism is to be in the name of Jesus. That is false to the very core. It is one hundred percent in refutation of the commandments of Jesus Christ. We are not to hear Peter or Paul in that sense; we are to hear Jesus.

Let us go a little farther. I want to remind you that I am not speaking against anyone, and I am not endeavoring to make anyone angry. I am only asking everyone to take the Bible and study God's Word with me. I am sorry I have to say this, but it is true; the same people that want to baptize people with a formula of "in the name of Jesus Christ" also teach that the evidence that you have received the Holy Ghost is that

you will speak in an unknown tongue. I say it in all kindness, but that teaching is just as false as the one pertaining to baptism. There is no truth in it whatsoever.

Someone says, "Why, Brother Wilson, if you were ever around, you would know that there is a spirit there." Brother, sister, I agree with you wholeheartedly that there are real; spirits working among those people. Someone else says, "If you could only feel it." I will agree with you there is feeling there. I know there is power there. I know there are real spirits working there. It is not the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit does not lead one iota contrary to the Word that He wrote.

We might just as well get settled on this and out of our confusion. I do not know what the minds of men are thinking; but, Brother, they want to make room for everything. This is the ecumenical spirit that is taking our nation—"It makes no difference what the teaching is, just move over a little and make room for it." The more they go in this direction, the more confused the mind of man is becoming, and the further the enemy of souls is leading men and women from the truth of God's eternal Word. May God help the church to arise and tell people what the truth is.

In First John the fourth chapter and the first verse, I have a good foundation for these thoughts. (1) "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into this world. So, I am not going to argue with you a minute that there is a spirit working there. In fact, I will Amen you when you say it. There is a spirit in every kind of religion. In every religious body--it makes no difference what their teaching is--there is a spirit that animates that body and keeps it going. We need to settle down and realize something. Too many people think if we get a thrill, if something warms your heart and makes tears run down your cheek, it is God. Well, we have got to do more than check it by our tears. Someone says "When I get goose pimples up my, back, I know it is God." No, we cannot tell whether or not it is God by goose bumps. Get back to where we really try the spirits.

Speaking of our very day, Jesus said in Matthew 24:24, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. In 2 Thessalonians 2:7-11, we read, (7) "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. (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, (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness. . . ." Brother, I do not know of anything that is more deceiving than this false "tongueism." It gets people to thinking they have the Holy Ghost because they rattle off some kind of jibber-jabber, all the while smoking cigarettes, drinking beer, and committing adultery.

In 2nd Thessalonians 2:10-11, we read, (10) "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." How do we get a strong delusion? My friend, just go along with a great profession of the mighty power of God when you are not living right.

I want you to look in 1 Timothy 4:1-2. This is not some strange thing; the Word of God covers all these moves that come upon us. (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; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" Let me give you another warning in Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." What does it mean "not after Christ?" It means "disregard what Christ taught." In these last days, God has spoken to us by His Spirit. Amen. He has given us a New Testament, and may God help us to, look at it and understand it as never before. Someone asks, "Brother Wilson, how are we

going to try the spirit?" There is only one correct way to try the spirits. That is by God's Word. After all we can look into all the books we want, but there is no greater authority on God's plan for mankind than the Word of God.

We can take a Scripture out of the setting and state anything you want. But leave it in the context, and it will say only one thing. Let us get some understanding of Acts, 2:38 and 39. (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. (39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Here Peter said, "The promise is unto you." I want you to study with me just a moment and see what the promise is. I want to tell you before we start that the promise was not water baptism; the promise was not speaking in tongues. There is not anyone who can find a promise anywhere before Acts the second chapter where God promised we would speak in tongues. Amen. If this is not the truth, you tell me what the truth is. We need to know what the promise is. If we do not, we are going to get way off the track before we even get away from home base.

Peter stood up and said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you (using for authority that clause) in the name of Jesus Christ." What was he talking about? He went on to say, "You will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and unto your children." I will repeat again, nowhere did God promise, from the day of Pentecost on, when He was going to give anyone the gift of tongues. Well, I know some preachers will tell you that everybody will get it, but you cannot find that in the Bible. There is too much preaching outside of the Bible. We need to preach what is in the Bible. Amen. What is the promise? Let us get it out of the Word of God. I will use Bible for every point. After Jesus had risen from the dead and He was ready to ascend back to Heaven, He said to His disciples in Luke 24:49, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

I want to say that the only tarrying they had to do was in Jerusalem until the day of Pentecost came. Then, nowhere in the Bible can anything be found where anyone had to tarry and wait for the Holy Ghost if they met the conditions. The only group that ever had to wait was this group before Pentecost. Since then, people receive the Holy Ghost instantaneously when they meet the conditions. This thing of having to tarry night after night around an altar is of the devil. This devilish doctrine throws people into a terrible shape, losing their minds, going insane trying to get religion, and all the time causing a blasphemous work to be done against the real cause of God. Let us lift up a standard against it. This very message is going to judge us in the last day. But what is the promise? He said, "Tarry in Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high." Well, someone says, "That doesn't tell us enough." In Acts 1:4 (here again, just before He went into Heaven) we read, "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father which, saith he, ye have heard of me." Now, what is the promise? Acts 1:5 tells us, "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." We read right there in that 4th verse that Jesus said, "Till ye receive the promise of the Father which you've heard of me." Where did they hear about the promise? We must know what the promise is.

Too many people are teaching that God has promised that every one of you will speak in an unknown tongue. No, no, no. John 14:15-17: "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Friend, I want you to see, by the help of God and His Eternal Word, that the promise Jesus talked about was the Holy Ghost—not some certain manifestation of Him, but He Himself. Jesus did not talk about the Holy Ghost in terms of *IT*; but as *HE*. My friend, the promise of the Father was the indwelling of the third person of the God head—the divine Holy Spirit. Someone says, "That isn't what Peter said." That is exactly what he said. He said, "Repent." The world cannot receive Him. Sinners cannot

receive the Holy Ghost. You have to repent and become converted first. You must become a child of God, be regenerated, be born again. Then you are ready to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. I want to repeat again, the gift of the Holy Ghost is the Holy Ghost in person—not some manifestation.

Someone asks, "Does the Bible say that?" Look over in Acts 8:18-20. Well, someone say "What's that got to do with tongues?" Well we will get to the tongues part shortly. We certainly believe just exactly like the Bible says about speaking in, tongues, but not this false stuff. I want you to see what the gift is. Here is old Simon, the sorcerer. He claimed to believe and was baptized, but he hit a snag. He ran into someone that had a little discernment. Acts 8:18 says, "And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money." My friend, when the other disciples came down, they laid hands on those that had repented and been converted and they received the Holy Ghost.

In the following verse, Acts 8:19, Simon said, "Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost." Well, someone said, "That does not say that is the gift." Look out. Read the next verse, Acts 8:20. "But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money." What is the gift? What is the promise? The Holy Ghost, the third person of the God-head: Someone said, "Brother Wilson, I thought when Peter said, 'You shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost,' He was going to give you some gift." No, my friend, according to the Scripture, the gift of the Holy Ghost is He Himself received through a fully sanctified experience after you have been regenerated, born again, and made a new creature in Christ. That is the gift; that is the promise. I would go back to the Old Testament if you want me to and find those Scriptures where God promised to pour out of His Spirit on all flesh. That was the promise. Not a one of them in the thought of the pouring of the Spirit even gives one thought about anybody speaking in tongues or anything else. The gift was the Holy Ghost—He Himself.

First of all, we need to understand the difference between the gift of the Spirit and the Spirit's gifts. The gift that God promised, my friend, was the Holy Ghost—the third of the God-head, He personally. Then He is the Giver of many gifts. We need to understand 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and 28-30 even before we look in Acts the second chapter. First Corinthians 12:1-3 tells us: "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 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." Note particularly 1 Corinthians 12:4-6: "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit. . . ." Now do not forget this verse because I am going to refer to it later.

Someone may ask, "What is the manifestation?" It is the way the Spirit moves or speaks through you as an individual—the manner in which He would choose to manifest Himself and make Himself known. Now let us get a picture. Here is a Bible rule. (7) "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." Now what are you talking about? The Holy Ghost never has you do one thing in a public service because it makes you feel good. Away with this old devilish stuff of going in a frenzy and no one else knows what is wrong with you: But you say, "I am feeling good." That is not the Holy Ghost. Whenever the Holy Ghost has you move in a public service it is for everyone's benefit in the service. That is why some of us that cannot sing should let the singers sing. I know that God sometimes takes the usual and makes it unusual. But if He does not see fit to use the usual and make it unusual, it is very usual: Let us let the gifts operate in the church. If you have not the gift, do not get up and try to display it because it gets very monotonous, and there is not any profit in it.

Let us look at 1 Corinthians 12:7-8 again: "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit. . . ." See when you have the Holy Ghost, you have the gift

of God, and then He passes out the gifts as it pleases Him. (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 when you receive the Holy Ghost, you do not know what you are going to get in the way of gifts. It is not going to do you any good to pray, "Now Lord, give me this, give me this." No, He is going to give it to you as He will. That is why you have to make a complete consecration to get a sanctified experience. You cannot get down and say, "Now Lord, make me jibber-jabber so I will know when I get it. I will be here till I jibber." No, you must completely consecrate—give up to God entirely. You become willing for the Lord to use you in whatever way that He wants. Then He moves into your life and gives you the gift as He desires.

In 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 we read: "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. Are all apostles? [if they were, who would there be to preach to?] are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" The answer to every one of these is no, no, no. Someone said, "Brother Wilson, that is awful." I think it is wonderful. There is not anything better than knowing the truth.

Let us back up a few verses to verse 19: "And if they were all one member, where were the body?" He took a natural body to show the different gifts and the working of the Spirit. My friend, in the 15th verse, he said, "If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?" He shows you that it takes many members to make up a body. Even so, my friend, if we are going to have a thriving congregation of the church, we must have different gifts of the Spirit, and no member can say, "Because your gift is not like mine, you are not of the body." That is exactly what false Pentecostalism said, "If you do not have the gift of 'tongues,' you are not of the body." False Pentecostalism is in one hundred percent refutation of God's Word. It is the devil's work. My friend, in 1 Corinthians 12:28-30, we are told that He accepts different gifts and all of them are necessary. We have read in verse 19 that "If they were all one member, where would be the body." Again in verse 7 we read, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 12:13 that by one spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we are Jews or Gentiles. Brother, when we are born again (born of God's Spirit), we are all baptized into one body. The body of Christ is the church--the church that the new birth makes you a member of. Now we are all baptized into one body.

Look at verse 19, "And if they were all one member, where were the body?" It takes multiplicity; it takes variety, but only the one Spirit. Thank God, just as there is one Spirit in me that works my whole body in confirmation and unison, even so the Spirit of God in the body of Christ, the church, works in the same manner. To follow with the teaching, "Every man's gift makes room for itself," I like to go back to Noah's ark because God prearranged that whole thing. He laid the plans for it and gave Noah the blueprint that sent the animals in without a rope on them. I have told people many times that the elephant would have an awful time getting in the ant's stall. This is why too many times we have ruffles in the congregations of the church; someone is misplaced. They are trying to operate in a position where they have no gift to operate. Let the Spirit of God work the thing, and just as sure as we are here, we will see it operate with smoothness. Paul talked about everyone of us having grace according to the gift God has given us. You can take it in the natural body. God gives us grace according to the functioning of that member. I am not going to throw my big toe away; I need it. If you do not think so, get it cut off and see how you have to learn to balance again. That big toe is necessary; it helps me keep my balance. It can work real smoothly and gracefully right there. But did you ever try to blow your nose with your toe? That would be quite a problem, but my hand can do it easily, gracefully. Why? It is functioning. Even as God set it in the body, the Spirit is working through it and it is functioning properly.

You may ask, "Well, Brother Wilson, where did Jesus ever talk about the tongues?" Let us turn to Mark 16 and begin with verse 15. Here Christ has already risen from the dead. He is talking to His disciples just before He left to go back to Heaven. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name (a clause of authority) shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) 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. (20) And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."

In the above Scriptures, there are five things mentioned that would follow believers as manifestations of the Spirit. After Christ went back to Heaven, they were going to go forth preaching the Word; and there would be five manifestations follow. We have no reason at all to exalt any one of these above the other. Nowhere did He say everyone would do this. He threw all believer into one group, and He said, "These signs shall follow them that believe." Signs—plural—would follow them. We are as unfair in dividing the Work of Truth as we can possibly be when we exalt any one of these signs and say, "This has to happen before you can be a believer." Brother, whenever you say, "Unless you speak in an unknown tongue, I am not going to believe that you are a believer," I have the right to walk right up and say, "Unless you handle a snake, I am not going to believe that you are a believer." Someone said, "Brother Wilson, that is terrible." I say it is, too. That is why I am denouncing it. I want you to see the old serpent's trail right on through here. I want to point out and highlight him in every move. Brother, he twists the Scripture as men do to their own damnation and destruction. Certainly Jesus mentioned five things that would follow believers. I say we are wrong as we can be if we exalt one of them.

Furthermore, believers are ahead of the signs. In Mark 16:17, Christ said that these signs would follow them that believe. Someone said, "Why even bring that up?" If you understand that, you can understand after a while when we get over in 1 Corinthians the 14th chapter. Paul said, "Tongues is not a sign to believers, but to them that believe not." The believers are ahead of all signs. The signs are following the believers. Signs are not for believers. Why? Believers do not need signs. This work here that I am denouncing is nothing more than a work of Satan that has turned people from faith to the flesh. Believers do not need signs on what the Bible says. They do not need to have a sign come along. Signs are for unbelievers, but even after unbelievers see signs, they are not going to be saved just because they saw signs. They must come to the place that they believe the Word of God if they are ever to be saved. This is why Paul said that tongues is not a sign to believers. Nothing else in the Bible is a sign to believers. Brother, you are getting in bad shape. You are heading for confusion the fastest that you have ever gone. Does the Scripture say that the just shall live by signs: No, the just shall live by faith:

Let us go back and get the words of Jesus now. Remember you are in danger of going to hell if you do not listen to His words. Acts 3:23 says, "And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." Jesus said that the words I have spoken unto you will judge you in the last days.

Now what did He say? He said, "Go and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth the Gospel, and is baptized will be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." There is where salvation lies. It makes no difference how many signs you talk about; it still lies right there. Someone may say, "Jesus said that you talk in new tongues." That is right; that is exactly what He said and it rested right in the category with four other things that believers would do. I have never handled a snake, and I am going to be sure it is God telling me before I ever handle one. Also, I can tell you this for sure: I am never going to handle it to prove to you that I am a Christian because I do not have to do anything to prove to you that I am a Christian. In every Bible, the Scripture says that we are to live without fault before God—before the throne of God. If I live pleasing to God, I will please all God's people.



Before we look at the second chapter of Acts, let me make this statement, and I will prove it. There are three instances in the Bible when people were baptized with the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost in them caused them to speak in another language (the King James says *tongues*, the Greek says *languages*). But we will use the word *tongues* if it will suit you better. In every instance in the Bible where the gift of tongues was given as one of the gifts of the Spirit, they spoke in an understandable language of the day. They needed no interpreter. We are to try the spirits by the Word of God. Let me emphasize this point—everywhere the gift of tongues is given, you need no interpreter. That is what the gifts are for. In the only three instances, there was no interpreter there. Why? They spoke in the language of the people that were there. The people there understood what they were saying. The devil can pull anything on many people. When he gets you talking in a jibber-jabber, you say yourself that you do not know what you are saying. Then another fellow pops up and he says, "I have the gift of interpretation. This is what he spoke." All that most listeners do is just believe that what the person has said is the interpretation. This is not the working of the Spirit, and I am going to show you how false that is when we come to the fourteenth chapter in 1 Corinthians.

First Timothy 4:1 says, "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." Remember whenever the gift of tongues is given, those people always speak in an understandable language of some people that are in the audience; and they need no interpreter. That is what the gift is for. I told you that I believed in Bible tongues; I do. But when God causes you to speak in a language, there is a need for it. Someone asked, "Does it say that?" Yes, 1 Corinthians 12:7 tells us that the manifestation of the Spirit is given to benefit all.

Let us go back into the Old Testament. When God could not find any man to talk to Balaam and He wanted to straighten him out, He talked through a mule and the mule spoke in the Hebrew tongue. Numbers 22:28 states, "And the Lord opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?" He did not have to get another mule to interpret it. Now if that dumb mule can do it right, we ought to.

Let me say again that there are three instances in God's Word where they spake in tongues when they received the Holy Spirit. In each of the three instances, they spake in an understandable language of the people that were there and needed no interpreter. I want to emphasize this point once more: Brother, if you have the gift of tongues, the evidence of it will be that you will not need an interpreter. You will speak in a language of someone there who needs to hear the truth, and you cannot get it to them in the English language. So God will cause you to speak in their language, and they will understand. Never does the Holy Ghost cause you to jibber-jabber when you do not know or when others there do not know what you are saying.

Acts, Chapter 2 (on the day of Pentecost), Acts, Chapter 10 (at Cornelius' house), and Acts, Chapter 19 (the Samaritans down at Ephesus) are the three instances where they were baptized of the Holy Ghost and spake with other tongues, or the Greek said other *languages*. Someone said, "I do not like to use that word 'language.'" Well, I am going to show it to you right from the King James, shortly. Now I just like to be fair. See, they tell you that when you proclaim a message like this you are being unfair, but who is being unfair? False Pentecostalism is being unfair. They will not accept anyone as possessing the Holy Ghost unless you rattle off some kind of a jibber-jabber. We (according to the Bible) accept the fact that some people (when God sees fit) may possess the gift of tongues. But not everyone does. Now who is being unfair?

There are many instances in the Bible where individuals were filled with the Holy Ghost and did not speak in tongues. The reason is that there was no need for it. I will not need to go back into the Old Testament, but we know that the prophets possessed the Holy Ghost. Now let us look at some of the instances in the New Testament: Zacharias, who was John the Baptist's father, was filled with the Holy

Ghost. "And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying . . ." (Luke 1:67). John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. Luke 1:15 states, "For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." Also, Elisabeth, John the Baptist's mother, was filled with the Holy Ghost. "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost" Luke 1:41. Another example is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Luke 1:35 tells us, "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Jesus Christ Himself was filled with the Holy Ghost. "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness," (Luke 4:1). My friend, Jesus never spoke in tongues. Why did He never speak in tongues? He came to His own. He spoke the language of His own people. How these preachers blaspheme, saying no one is ever filled with Holy Ghost unless He speaks in tongues: Well, you have not looked in the Bible lately.

In Acts 6:3-8 we read of people filled with the Holy Ghost, and they did not speak in tongues: "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over his business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people."

Acts 8:14-17 gives us another instance: "How when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received they Holy Ghost."

The Apostle Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost, and scales fell from his eyes. We read in Acts 9:17-18: "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him, said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose and was baptized."

A multitude was filled with the Holy Ghost and they did not speak in tongues. Acts 4:31 says, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." My friend, the Holy Ghost only manifested Himself in speaking in tongues where there was a need. I just want to make this clear: You can be saved, sanctified, and as filled with the Holy Ghost as you can ever be; and as long as you work among English-speaking people, you will never have the manifestation of the Spirit in speaking in another language where there is no need for it.

Let us read Acts 2:1-4: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [Now it was not a wind that blew and almost blew the windows out as preachers tell you. No, it was as of a mighty rushing wind—a noise, a power.] And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Those tongues "like as of fire" are simply showing the purifying work. Remember John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:11, "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." Let us read the Bible just as it is. Acts 2:4 says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues [or the Greek says other languages] as the Spirit gave them utterance."

The first thing that we learn from that fourth verse is this: They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, but they did not all speak in tongues. Someone said, "It does not say that." It certainly does. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, but they only spake as the Spirit gave them utterance. It does not say that they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they all spoke in tongues. I know that preachers read it that way, but it does not say that. They all possessed that third person of the God-head—the Holy Ghost. But they only moved, they only spake as the Spirit gave them utterance or told them to move. In like manner we come and worship God. There can be two hundred or more in Sunday services filled with the Holy Ghost, but we move as the Spirit directs. No, they did not all speak right here. Let us read the Bible as it is.

Paul will tell you how to speak in another language—one at a time. To boil it right down, God does not want a whole congregation of people all praying audibly at one time. That is just a whole lot of confusion. I can read it to you right out of the Bible. See, we can run off with these spirits and say most anything. I am not going to take the space to repeat what some fellows will tell you. I want you to know what the truth is. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues. The very fact that they spoke in other tongues shows that they had been speaking in tongues before. The Greek says that they began to speak in other languages. They had been speaking in the Galilean language before that. When the Holy Ghost uttered through them, they spake in another language according to the need of the hearers. That "other" part is what preachers like to leave out. We do not say, "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in tongues." They began to speak in "other" tongues different from their native tongues. The words uttered as the Spirit gave them utterance were understandable languages. Someone said, "Brother Wilson, you do not know that it was a language." If I did not know that it was a language, I would not be proclaiming it: Read Acts 2:6. If you want to stay with the King James and use tongues, I will still tell you that it was a language. Acts 2:6 states, "Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language." I am not twisting the Scripture. You cannot refute it because it is truth. All you can do is turn it down and walk on like a whipped dog with its tail between its legs. God deliver us from this confusion that people are under.

So the Word of God lets us know that when they were filled with the Holy Ghost, they began to speak with "other" languages as the Spirit gave them utterance. They spake in an understandable language before they received the Holy Ghost, and they spake in an understandable language after they received the Holy Ghost. But it was a language different from their native language. Let us read Acts 2:6-8 together: "Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together; and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" Would you tell me that they were jabbering something that no one understood? You cannot jam that down this preacher's mouth. Nowhere in the Bible do you find anything like that. Oh, you can find it in the creeds and beliefs of false Pentecostalism. But who wants to follow that? I would rather have the Bible. God does not have you to do such things as that.

Now let us study together. The Scripture said that we hear them in our own language—our native language. Let us look at Acts 2:11. It states, "Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues [we understand them] the wonderful works of God." Someone said, "Well, Brother Wilson, what was the need of tongues then? Why did he even bring it up?" We must realize that back in this period of time (A.D. 33) there was a different dialect every twenty, thirty, or forty miles; they spoke a different language. The Bible tells right here in the second chapter of Acts. There were eighteen different nationalities there that day, including the Galileans, that were in walking distance from Jerusalem.

Furthermore in Acts 2:1 it shows us that we could not call ourselves Pentecostals biblically, and I say this with all kindness, friend. The word "Pentecost" means fifty days from the resurrection, or fifty days from the feast of the first fruit. That has been over nineteen hundred years ago. There has never been and never will be another Pentecost.

It seems to me that people pass up one of the greatest miracles in the second chapter of Acts. Acts 2:14 states, "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:" This is one of the greatest miracles of all. Why? Peter spoke in his own language, and God translated it into seventeen different languages. Someone said, "Ah, now he spoke in tongues." Would you tell me that he spoke seventeen different languages all at once? No sir: He lifted up his voice, and they said in essence, "Isn't this wonderful? That Galilean is standing there preaching, and every one of us is hearing him in our own language." I do not know whether or not you have ever thought about it before, but right here is a reversal of Babel. Think with me just a moment. The Bible will name this confusion out for you; I do not have to name it.

In Genesis 11:6-7 man decided to build an independent tower to Heaven. He was going to go to Heaven independent of God's way. However, God said that they are all of one language, and they are all of one mind. They have set their mind to finish this work; and unless we confuse their language, they will never be stopped. So he went down and confused their language. Then, they could not understand one another's speech. That tower was called the Tower of Babel. The word "Babel" means confusion. There was a reversal of that on the day of Pentecost. Through the Spirit of God moving with illuminating power and understanding, one man stood and spoke and those listening understood him regardless of their nationality and their native language. Now that was Pentecost. What was Pentecost? One man speaking and everyone there knowing what he was saying. What was Babel? One man talking and no one knows what he is saying. The Bible names Pentecostalism for you; it is Babel of confusion. We need to note as we study the second chapter of Acts that they did not ask or expect tongues on Pentecost. In fact, they were waiting for the promise of the Father. They did not know how it would come, what it would look like, or how it would effect them. All they knew was what Jesus had taught them. They did not ask for tongues. Tongues came because their hearts were overwhelmed with the greatness of God. The Spirit merely allowed them to express their gratitude for God in another language so the other people there could understand and hear them magnify the Lord. The same is true in the other two instances in the Scripture where they spoke in tongues.

We need to realize that the Bible teaches basically three languages. First, there is the language of the soul. Someone said, "Well, Brother Wilson, this is it; that is what I am doing when I talk in an unknown tongue." Well, I want you to know what "unknown" is before we get through. Let us read Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise the Spirit . . ." The very fact that he started this verse with *likewise* means that it is reverting back to something. There was something else first. If you go back to verse 16, you will see what the first verse was. Romans 8:16 tells us, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;" Continuing with Romans 8:26 we read, "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." Someone said, "That is it; that is the unknown tongue." No, no, no. Acts 2:4 says that they spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance. They spoke in languages. Here is a picture of an individual praying. He is praying about something, and he does not know what the will of God is. Since he does not know the will of God, the Spirit of God will help him. Have you ever been under a burden like that; when all you could do is just groan, "Oh, God"? The Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered according to the will of God. Someone said, "Brother Wilson, that is what I am doing when I am speaking in an unknown tongue. I am groaning and making noises." Paul will tell you in 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 not to do that in the service. Do not even do that kind of groaning in the service. If you are going to pray at all in church, pray with the understanding so everyone there knows what you are saying. First

Corinthians 14:14-15 reads: "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 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."

The next language is our native language. This is the one that we were born with or learned through education. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:18, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." Did you ever study the life of Paul? He spoke nine different languages which he learned through education.

The third language that the Bible talks about is one that is not learned; but one that is given by the supernatural working of God's Holy Spirit. It was the speaking of an unknown language (unknown, or not understood by others) that caused trouble at Corinth. Church, oh, how our young people need to have these things taught until they are established in it: This false teaching is on the move. You may not believe the dragon has been loosed but he has been loosed. The first thing he did was kill the realms of Protestantism. After they became dead and cold, he then threw in the fires of false Pentecostalism with all its flesh and false power; and millions are being deceived due to the stir there and a power there that is not according to God's eternal Word.

In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 14, you will find that the confusion there in Corinth was due to languages being used that were not understood. God's Holy Spirit does do this supernatural working (give a language that has not been learned by the speaker) except for the purpose of driving away confusion, spreading the Gospel, and bringing understanding. It will be a language known and understood by others there.

First Corinthians 14:1 "Follow after charity. . . ." See if you would read 1 Corinthians, Chapters 12, 13, and 14, you would get the whole picture. He had shown them how there were many gifts, but the gifts could only operate according to the Spirit if we are going to have peace and harmony in the body of Christ. Then in 1 Corinthians 12:31 he said, "Yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." He described something better than tongues—even tongues of men and angels. He showed them a more excellent way to keep the church in harmony as a working force—charity. He put charity to the top. Tongues were the least of gifts. The first fruit of the Spirit is love. Now, when he got to the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter, he began to put an end to this confusion that was going on in the church at Corinth. If you study the church at Corinth, you will understand better what he is talking about. Corinth was a commerce city with a great populous. Men and women flocked in there from everywhere with every kind of language imaginable. Then in church these people were wanting to testify, wanting to sing, and wanting, to pray, but they spake in a language that none of the congregation could understand. This is why Paul talks here about an unknown tongue—not unknown to the one that is speaking, but unknown to the audience.

Let us read 1 Corinthians 14:1: "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." Now why did he say this? Every gift that the Spirit gives is for one purpose—the preaching and the forwarding of the Gospel. Too many people cannot understand prophesying. My friend, the only thing that they can understand prophesying to mean is the foretelling of some future event. If you will let Webster teach you, he will tell you that prophesying is preaching the Gospel in an understandable language. So Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:1-2: "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue. . . ." You will notice the word "unknown" is in italics. It is not in the Greek at all. The translators of the King James version put it in. Any word the translators put in, they must put it in italics. So we could take it out, but we will leave it in for your benefit.

Let us continue reading from 1 Corinthians 14:2-4: "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. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself. . . ." Remember we learned in 1 Corinthians 12:7 that every manifestation of the Spirit is to profit withal. Every manifestation of the Spirit profits the whole church

and edifies the whole body. Now what was Paul talking about when he spoke of an "unknown" tongue? Let us just read it right out of the Word of God: he that speaketh in an "unknown" tongue speaketh not to men. For example, suppose I enter your congregation where I am a stranger. I stand up and begin to testify in the Italian language, which you do not understand. I can just get so happy and blessed. You will say, "He must be; he must be getting happy." Now God can understand me. He understands all languages. So, I am just speaking to God and not to men, and Paul said that he did not want any just speaking to God in the congregation. The things I am saying are mysteries as far as you are concerned because you cannot understand my language. It is "unknown" to you.

We read in 1 Corinthians 14:3-5: "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself [no one gets help but him]: but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 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. . . ." Oh, some people say that there is not anything greater than speaking in tongues. That is one hundred percent refutation of the Bible: Let us read it out of the Bible: ". . . for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying."

To explain further, let us look at why they spoke in "other" tongues down at Cornelius' house that was full of Italians. Acts 10:1 says, "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band." They spoke the Italian language. When Peter came down, he was a Galilean, and he did not believe that the Gentiles could receive the Holy Ghost. So God baptized them with the Holy Ghost right in front of his eyes, and then let them speak in a language that Peter could understand. Peter and the men with him said, "We hear them speaking and magnifying the Lord." Acts 10:28 states, "And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. (46) For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." Everywhere that they spoke in another tongue, there was a need.

In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 14, Paul was dealing with a congregation—the Church of God at Corinth. He had trouble there; there was contention among them. In verse 26 we read, "When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine. . . ." But everyone cannot understand you. I do not want you to get up anymore and speak in a tongue that is unknown to the rest. Suppose a person who can speak only Italian comes into our congregation and we are all English. He should not say anything unless he prays that someone interprets because his language is unknown to the rest of us. Paul said that if you are going to speak, pray that you will have an interpreter. (First Corinthians 14:27—"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.") Now if God would give him the gift of tongues, the Spirit through him would cause him to speak in English, and we could all understand. No interpreter would be needed.

I have spoken in an "unknown" tongue. I have preached in an "unknown" tongue down in Cuba. My language was unknown to them. So I had to do just what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:27, "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." Well, that is what I did. My tongue was unknown to them, so Sister Stewart said, "You cannot preach, Brother Wilson, unless you get an interpreter." So they got an interpreter. I would speak two or three sentences, and he would interpret it. Then I would speak two or three sentences and he would interpret it. Why? Well, I could have stood up there, just rattled off, got blessed, shouted, run the aisle, and they would all have sat there and said, "Well, he must be speaking mysteries because he sure is getting blessed. We don't know what he is saying." Now, this is what Paul did not want to go on in the service. He told us in 1 Corinthians 14:28, "But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God."

Let us read right on. It is all in the Word of God. We read in 1 Corinthians 14:6-12: "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? 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? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? 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. There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. 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. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts. . . ." Now here is where the trouble was. They let their zeal for spiritual gifts run off with them, and they just had one mass of confusion at Corinth.

Let us begin by reading at 1 Corinthians 14:12-13: "Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue, [Now what is an unknown tongue? Not unknown to himself. Unknown to the congregation.] pray that he may interpret." If he had the gift of tongues, he would not need any interpretation. This shows us that it was a natural language that was unknown to the rest of the congregation. My how they twist this.

In verse 14 we read, "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful." My, how they twist this Scripture. Away they go in tongues; and they say, "My spirit is praying but I don't know what I am saying." That is not what Paul said at all. Paul was saying, "If I pray in the congregation in an unknown tongue which you people cannot understand, my understanding (I understand) is unfruitful." How does my understanding become fruitful? When you understand what I understand. There is the third place the devil twists the Bible, and lets people jibber-jabber and say, Wfell, Paul said, 'My understanding is unfruitful; I do not know what I am saying.'" Paul did not say that at all. He said that if I pray in a tongue that you people cannot understand, my understanding (I have understanding) is unfruitful if you do not know what I am saying. The only way that my understanding can become fruitful is if you understand what I understand. Nowhere in the Bible does it talk about you carrying on like people do, and they do not even know what they are doing.

Let us read a little farther, beginning with 1 Corinthians 14:15, "That 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." You should be singing a duet if you are singing a solo—sing with the Spirit. (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?" There is the way your understanding becomes fruitful when that unlearned fellow gets understanding from your understanding. (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." Remember that Paul learned nine languages in his education. Then I do not know how much the Spirit used Paul and gave him the gifts of the Spirit; but I know this: if there was any man who needed to speak in tongues more than anyone else, it was Paul. He traveled on one missionary journey right after another and passed through areas where there were different languages of every kind. Listen to him though. I want you to get this. (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." Putting five words up against ten thousand is a pretty good percentage.

In the next verse, Paul said, "Brethren, be not children." That is just exactly what lot of this is. It is just giving way to emotions and acting like a bunch of children. It is surprising how much of that has to be worked up. There is not very much of it brought from home. There has to be some singing, clapping of the hands, to get it going. Let us begin with verse 20 again, "Brethren, be not children in understanding." Certainly Paul was referring to this verse when he wrote 1 Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: [Isn't that just like a child—first, he speaks; then he

understands; and last of all, he thinks.] but when I became a man, I put away childish things." Now I think; then I understand; and then I speak. So this is what Paul meant when he said, "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men" (1 Corinthians 14:20).

Before we look at verse 21, let me say this. Brother, sister, we just need to learn some basic facts in the teachings of God's eternal Word. Corinth's mistake, which you will see before I get through with the chapter, was stressing gifts beyond true holiness of heart and Christian living. Everyone needs to realize again that all gifts of the Spirit are secondary to holiness of heart and life. You read Acts 15:8-9. It says, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Heart purity and holiness in life, my friend, is held high above all manifestations of the Spirit of God. It is always tragic when people get warped in their minds and stress any gift beyond the basic requirements of the Bible. The basic requirements of the Bible are love to all, purity of heart, and holiness in life. The modern "tongues" people admit that the devil can and does counterfeit their gift of tongues.

Just recently, I dealt with a sister that wanted to testify in one of our services. When she came forward to testify, God told me that the devil was working, so I just changed the order of the service. She got stirred. Another sister and I took her back into the office. I asked her what she wanted to do. She said that she wanted to testify. Then I asked her what she was going to testify about. She said, "Salvation." I asked, "Are you saved?" She said, "I've got the Holy Ghost." I said, "How do you know that you have the Holy Ghost?" She replied, "Because I can talk in tongues." "Well," I said, "Have you been saved from sin?" She answered, "All but the cigarettes; I still smoke cigarettes." I replied, "Smoking cigarettes and filled with the Holy Ghost? That is not the Holy Ghost in you; that is another ghost. The Holy Ghost does not live in an unclean place." She had been duped. Her heart was heavy. This is the thing that grieves me. While she was seeking help, wrong people got a hold of her and got her tarrying until she got this jibber-jabber, but there was no power in it to live a clean life. I began to teach her about the thing that Jesus came to do; first of all, to set her free from sin, to break the fetters and the habits, and to give her victory. That is just one case. I could go on, and on, and on.

Pentecostal people admit that their people backslide. It has not been very long ago that a young man came to the altar. The minute he started praying I saw what kind of a spirit that he was under because he began jerking. I went over and asked him what he needed. He replied that he wanted to get saved. Then I asked him on purpose if he was ever saved. He reared back and said, "Saved? Man, I preached the Gospel, I spoke in tongues." I said, "Yes, but were you ever saved?" He replied, "Saved? I said that I spoke in tongues." Again I asked him, "Were you ever saved?" He said, "Well, I never did get victory over my cigarettes. I did not smoke them publicly, but I still smoked them on the side." Still, he continued to speak in tongues. He told me how that spirit would wake him up in the middle of night even while he was out in sin; he would lose control of himself and go through that terrible frenzy. Friend, that is the work of Satan. That is not God. Whenever they tell you that the devil can counterfeit, you tell them about these cases. They say, "Oh, we know that the devil can counterfeit this." Well, I do not want that for any sign that I am saved, I want a sign that the devil cannot counterfeit because if he can counterfeit it, I will get fooled too. Brother, what God does, the devil cannot counterfeit. Just mark that down. What God really does, the devil cannot counterfeit.

There are two things that the devil has no match for: a pure heart and clean every day living free from sin. This is the thing that tells you whether you are a child of God or a child of the devil. You may say, "I don't believe it." Read 1 John 3:8-10 with me: "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the evil. . . ." What is the thing that tells you whether you are a child of God or a child of the devil? It is whether you sin or not. These other things the devil can fool you on.



Now let us continue our study of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 14. Paul encouraged us to desire spiritual gifts. Did he not? But he told us to seek the one that is most edifying and profitable to all. He held prophesying, which Webster said is to preach or teach publicly in an understandable language, in the highest position. Also, he lets us know, my friend, that understanding and edification is the true Bible standard for public worship in the congregation. We must not do anything that people cannot understand and that does not edify. Paul teaches us that God never inspired one to perform publicly in a language that cannot be understood by the rest of the congregation unless he has an interpreter. Let me repeat again, "If one has the gift of tongues, he does not need an interpreter."

In 1 Corinthians 14:33 Paul said, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." Also in verse 9 of the same chapter, Paul told us that when you speak in an "unknown" tongue that is unknown to the rest of the congregation, you speak into the air.

Now come back with me to verse 21, where Paul referred to the Old Testament. I am glad that he did because I would just like to clarify this point. (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." In this verse, Paul referred to Isaiah 28:11, and false Pentecostalism uses this verse. I was in Akron holding a meeting and happened to touch the thought of false Pentecostalism. A colored brother, who was really stirred up, came to the house where I was living. He went to Isaiah the 28th chapter and began to talk about this.

Let us go back to Isaiah 28:11. It tells us, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people." Paul showed us that this verse is fulfilled in 1 Corinthians 14:21: "In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people. . . ." This again proves that when God speaks through other tongues, it is not some ecstasy—just speaking unto God. But He said that with men of other lips will I speak unto this people. It was a language that was spoken unto the people.

Paul brought up Isaiah 28:11 in this 21<sup>st</sup> verse, and lets us know that it was fulfilled. Someone asked, "Where was it fulfilled?" It was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, down at Cornelius' house, and with the Samaritans over in Ephesus (See Acts, Chapter 19). God spoke to them with men of other tongues, and they still did not hear. Well, someone asked, "What did you even bring that up for?" Well, friend, people today get so stirred, and they tell you that if someone is just talking in another language, people will believe. No, God has already tried that. Unbelief is too deep-seated for signs. Verse 21 proves this to be true. ". . . 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." God spoke to them with men of other tongues on the day of Pentecost, at Cornelius' house, and with the Samaritans in Ephesus; and they still would not hear.

The next verse (22) says, "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." You should be able to see that tongues were never designed to benefit those that believe. Someone said, "You can talk all you want. I am not going to give up my tongues. There is too much of a blessing in it." I just read with you that tongues were never designed to be a benefit to the individual. Tongues were designed for you to speak in the language of some unlearned person and tell him about God. It never was to be a blessing to you. This is another place where the devil refutes the Word of God one hundred percent. Someone asked, "Brother Wilson, does the Scripture say that?" It certainly does. May God help us:

Let us read further, beginning with 1 Corinthians 14:23-25: "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? 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: 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." When? When you prophesy. Let us leave the Word of God as it is.

In verses 26-27 we read: "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 [not edifying yourself, but edifying the church], And if any man speak in an unknown tongue [a tongue unknown to the audience], let it be by two, or at the most by three. . . ." Here people say that this means two of us can talk at once, and three at the most. No, no, no. That is certainly a bad translation. You go to the Greek which the King James was taken from. I am sorry that this is translated that way because he already told us that we must speak with the understanding one at a time. Are we to say that Paul crossed himself up and said, "If you are going to speak in 'unknown' tongues, do it two or three at a time?" No. Paul said that if you come together and you have a psalm or a doctrine or a prayer and if you are going to speak in a tongue that is unknown to the rest of the church, let it be by two, or by the most, three sentences (according to the Greek). Then let it be interpreted. (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." That is exactly the way that you work with an interpreter. Read verse 28 with me, "But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God." What was Paul talking about? Someone comes in speaking a language that we do not understand. If we do not have someone to interpret, they are to keep silent; do not say anything in the church because it does not edify the church.

In 1 Corinthians 14:29-32 we read: "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." The next means of trying the spirit is whenever a spirit gets hold of you that you cannot control it is of the devil. God never does take away your free moral agency. The only spirit that takes away your free moral agency and puts you in a condition where you cannot control yourself is of the devil. Remember the spirit is subject to the prophet, as we read in 1 Corinthians 14:32.

We read in 1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." The admonition we receive in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, about the women keeping silence in the church, I do not want to get into here, now. I want to stay with, and finish this business on the tongues. However, God did not say the women could not take part. Joel prophesied the young women shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions. What was he talking about here? We need to remember that under the Old Testament there is a double standard. One for man and one for woman. Woman was put in a subjected position because of her place in the fall. She was deceived; Adam was not. Follow it right on through the Law. The man could put away his wife (under Moses' law) with a divorce for any cause. And a woman could not divorce her husband for any cause. Go back and read the Bible. Come right on up. On the day of Pentecost, there were Jews, devout men; every nation under heaven there. The only women there were Jesus' followers. Why? The women could not go to church. I know the women are running off now with their rights. Women could not even vote too many years ago. The Gospel loosed the women. Back then the women could not go to church. The men had been going to church. They understood Paul's preaching. Paul let them know that under the Gospel there is neither male nor female and that all are one in Christ Jesus. He let the women come. And when they came they caused confusion in the congregation; because they did not understand the message. They were asking questions of their husbands right while church was going on, "What does Paul mean?" So Paul, in essence, told them, "Keep silence in the church and if you want to ask your husband something, ask him when you get home. Do not be talking to him in church" (1 Corinthians 14:34-35).

Someone may say, "Brother Wilson, I did not know it worked that way." Yes, sir. "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (1 Corinthians 14:32). The Holy Ghost never rends you powerless. You get scared to death of these people that are going to touch you, and then you fall under the power.

Yes, sir. The Holy Ghost never rends you powerless. He gives you power. Amen. Nowhere in the Bible, where anyone received the Holy Ghost, did they fall on the floor; fall on the ground, powerless. If you want to read a good bedtime story; read the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Mark. It will tell you about someone that did fall on the ground, foamed at the mouth, and made noise. He was possessed with devils, and Jesus cast them out. Then he stood upright, and walked like a man. The Spirit of God will not pull you down to the floor. It will lift you up. The Spirit of God will not knock you powerless. It will give you power. Someone asks, "Well Brother Wilson, don't you think that the Spirit of God would take hold of you in such a way that you would lose all control of yourself?" No sir! My Bible teaches me that God honors man's free moral agency. God will not overstep it until we come to final judgment. Then He will tell us where to go for eternity. In this life we make the decisions. The devil will override your free moral agency. Sin will bind you. Sin takes away your freedom, but God honors your free moral agency. That is why Paul said, "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." You do not need to ever fear the tongue, my friend, running off in true religion. If your tongue runs off and you cannot handle it, you are in a false religion. James 1:26 says, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

We need to remember, as we are studying here, that in Paul's day there was no false modern tongues movement. He merely dealt with the Bible gift of tongues. Modern tongues movements were unheard of in the United States, until after the year nineteen hundred. It was unheard of in Bible times. You do not read of it in the New Testament. You do not read of it in early church history. I have shown you what it is. It is a cropping up of the Unitarianism again. Unitarianism was the first heresy the church met. The Jews were under it. They refused the person of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. Now in this evening time we have had an upsurge of Unitarianism again, a doctrine of receiving Jesus only; just one person in the Godhead. This is no new doctrine. The morning church faced it. But as far as the modern tongues movement, my friend, it cropped up after the turn of this century.

This doctrine of God's people being known by a stammering tongue is a false doctrine. False religion tells us God's people are known by a stammering tongue. Well, let us go back to Isaiah and see. Isaiah 28:11 states, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to his people. First Corinthians 14:21 says, "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." Let us go a little farther. Isaiah 32:1-4 tells us; "Behold a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken. The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammers shall be ready to speak plainly." Here is where you will find God's people. We read in Isaiah 33:19, "Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand." And he goes right on to tell you, in verse 20 to look for Zion. Isaiah 33:20 says, "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities; thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken." Look if you want to find God's people.

We have studied and found that the Bible speaks of three languages. First is the language of the soul, a language not to be used in public. The language of the soul is those words, in prayer, which cannot be uttered, and becomes groanings. Jesus was our example in all things. In John 11:42 we find Jesus at Lazarus' tomb. He had already talked it over with the Father. What did He say? "And I knew that thou hearest me always; but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me." Pray with the understanding (Isaiah 28:12). Just down a little farther. Let us get to where real salvation is. Let us read verses 11-12 again: "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear." Now, read verse 16: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay

in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." God spoke with men of stammering tongues, lips and other tongues. Still, they would not hear.

We want to get to where salvation really lies. Matthew 12:38-42. "Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas; For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." What was the trouble? They were seeking a sign. They had already heard and had already seen, and yet would not believe. We read in John 4:46-53: "So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum, When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way, thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house."

Here is the world's salvation (Romans 1:16), "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." One dear woman (she has passed on now) used to keep sending letters to my house. I tried to talk with her; but she would cry, Brother Wilson, if you could only speak in tongues, you would shake the whole city of Newark." She went on to tell me of friends that she had in foreign countries, and said, "If you could go over there, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, speak in tongues, they would all believe and be saved." I said, "No, they would not." She asked, "Why?" I asked, "Can they speak enough English to go to the supermarket and buy groceries?" "Yes." "Can they understand enough English to listen to the radio or to watch television?" "Yes." "Well," I said, "they can understand enough English to get saved." See this old spirit of always going to show them a sign. You do not get saved by signs. The Gospel is your salvation. Preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized will be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned. Signs will do no good. You show me people that build their experience on signs, and I will show you a people that if the signs do not operate just right their experience is gone. You have to build your experience by faith in God's eternal Word. Build it according to truth. The more truth you learn the stronger your foundation becomes, and the better house you can build.

Dear one, it is pitiful the things that are going on under the falsity and the garb of the workings of God's Holy Spirit. The sad part of it is, they get you under that power. Then the devil seals you with this false thought; that if you ever say that speaking in tongues is of the devil, you blaspheme the Holy Ghost. The devil wants to seal you in error.

I am not saying that everyone that gets in that frenzy are all devil possessed. Some people just get into a nervous hysteria that is worked up by those that have supposedly spoken in tongues. They work them up at an altar, getting them to repeat something real fast. Then get them into a nervous hysteria till they do not know what they are saying.

As long as they can speak in tongues only a little and even if they never do it again, they are accepted. Brother C. E. Brown wrote lots of books. He wrote a book on modern religious cults. He did not have too much to say about Pentecostalism other than his own experience with it. He being an educated man, wanted to know first-hand what was going on. So he attended many services. To convince himself and to

be able to write in a convincing manner, he took a man that could speak seven languages with him, and sat in several services. This man said, "There is not anything being said in any language that I know." This man took two others that knew a good number of languages. One of them said, "One woman said two or three words in Russian." The preacher supposedly interpreted it. (I looked this account up again; so I know that I am telling you the way that it was.) So one of these gentlemen with Brother Brown stood up and said, "Can you interpret languages?" He said, "Yes." This gentlemen then gave him a Scripture in a certain language, and asked the pastor, "Now tell me what language I spoke it in, and what Scripture did I speak?" The pastor thought that he had spoken a Scripture over in Romans; but he had quoted from 1 John. Also, he thought he had spoken in French, which was not the case. Brother Brown's companion said, "You missed it a hundred per cent." About this time a woman went into a frenzy and carried on, and one of the men with Brother Brown said, "She's speaking in Chinese." Brother Brown asked, "What is she saying?" He said, "I would not repeat the vulgar words that are coming out of her mouth." So they took her aside and looked into her case. Brother Brown realized the fact that you can pick up things that are in your subconscious mind. And when you get worked up in a hysteria, they will come out. When they began to question the woman they found that she lived in an apartment in Chinatown, Los Angeles. Day after day, year after year, she would hear the Chinese language. They were cussing and ripping at each other. She did not know what she was saying, but it made an imprint in her subconscious mind. When they got her to the altar and got her worked up she began to rattle out these Chinese words. When the linguist interpreted it, she was cussing and swearing; repeating what the Chinese were saying on the sidewalk to each other.

Now you just mark this down. When God has you move in any way there will be a need for it. God never has a preacher preach just to demonstrate his preaching ability. When God has a preacher preach, he will preach what the people need to hear, and it will be a blessing to them. God never has a preacher pray for someone that is not sick; if God is really directing. God will never cause me to speak in another tongue, if all of you can understand my native tongue.

Bible tongues were languages. The people there could understand. Friend, the devil has worked a terrible work. I feel sorry for the people that are in it. But the only way we can ever help them is to tell them the truth of God's eternal Word. In about six places we have shown you were the false teaching of



Pentecostalism refutes the Word of God. Now it just boils down to this: What are we going to do? Go our own way? Be led by some man or take what the Bible says? Someone said, "Well, Brother Wilson, I know a good person; they live right." I am sure there are hundreds—thousands that live right, pure, and good. Do not run off, just because I mentioned some people that still have that jibber-jabber and live in sin, and say that I am branding everybody in it the same. No sir. There are some good people there. But friend, just the fact that there are some good, is no proof that the teaching is right. Here is the thing we do. Try the spirits. Here is sound doctrine. Anything that is contrary to that is unsound.

Through the upsurge of Unitarianism the devil rears right up on his hind legs and refutes the command that Jesus gave to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. Consequently, many are saying we are going to baptize in the name of Jesus. Jesus Himself commands you in the name

of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. He said, "Everyone who does not heed my command, his soul will be cut off." Do not charge Peter with that. He did not do it. I showed you what, "In the name of the Lord Jesus" meant, and I cannot restate it here. These throw everybody into this one category, "Unless you speak in tongues once, we have no evidence that you have received the Holy Ghost." The Holy Ghost is His own witness. We do not need tongues, or anything else, to witness. He reveals His own witness by putting a new life within us. He gives us power over sin, the flesh, and the devil, to live according to God's eternal Word. That is the power you will receive.

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