

21 Reasons Why Christians Should Speak In Tongues

1. SPEAKING IN TONGUES FORETOLD IN PROPHECIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest by which ye may cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear” (Isa. 28:11,12).

It has been well said that the Old Testament is the New concealed, and the New Testament is the Old revealed. The great truths of the New Testament all have their roots in the Old. It is not surprising, therefore, that the phenomenon of speaking in tongues is clearly foretold in Isaiah, a book, incidentally, that was written some 800 years before the Church Age.

This prophecy itself is remarkable, but not less so is the significant place in the book where it is found. Isaiah 24-28 has often been called the *little apocalypse*. In these brief chapters appears a moving portrayal of the whole scope of events of the end time. They tell of the Great Tribulation, the destruction of the gentile powers, the resurrection of the dead, the restoration of Israel, the establishment of the millennial kingdom and the binding of Satan, beside recording other lesser events. But note, the inspired writer does not complete this panoramic preview of events until he records that with these world judgments God would also send upon His people a great blessing. There would be a *rest* and a *refreshing* which, as we shall see, speaks

of the mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the attending phenomenon of *speaking in tongues*.

In considering this remarkable prophecy, let us note what has been called *the law of the first mention*. This law involves the peculiar fact that when a great truth first appears in the Scripture, the most important phases of that truth are mentioned or touched upon in the passage. In the present instance the following important points are alluded to in the prophecy:

1. That the fulfillment of the prophecy would take place in its fullness just before the end of the age. (Notice that it is associated with the great end-of-the-age prophecies.)

2. That speaking in tongues will be a special means by which God will reach the people of that day.

3. That with the speaking in tongues there would also be *stammering lips*, inferring that the utterances at first may be halting and broken, before the clear flow of the language takes place.

4. That this phenomenon of speaking in tongues will be directly associated with a special refreshing and rest that God will give to His people—a blessing which is none other than the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

5. That despite the manifestation of this divine phenomenon, many will harden their hearts and reject it, and in turn they will be rejected of God. The extreme danger of such unbelief is shown in verses 12,13:

“Yet they would not hear. But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.”

2. THE NEW TESTAMENT DECLARES THAT SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS A FULFILLMENT OF THIS OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.

“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” (I Cor. 14:21).

The prophecy mentioned in Isaiah was not overlooked in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul, when discussing the various gifts of the Spirit in his first epistle to the Corinthians, referred to that prophecy and pointed out that it foretold the coming of the gift of tongues to the New Testament Church. He added that the prophecy also mentioned one of the great purposes of the gift—that it should be a sign to unbelievers. In other words, it would be the means of arresting the attention of unbelievers to the reality of the supernatural gospel.

Paul further noted, however, that despite the startling impressiveness of the sign, there would be those who would not believe it, nor the prophecy which foretold its coming. Nevertheless, speaking in tongues was foretold in prophecy; and, therefore, it belongs to the Church.

3. IN THE GREAT COMMISSION CHRIST SAID BELIEVERS SHOULD SPEAK IN TONGUES.

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow those who believe: In my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues . . .” (Mark 16:15-17).

One of the most important passages in the Bible is Mark 16, where Christ gave the Great Commission

to the Church. These were the last words of our Lord before He went back to heaven. Their tremendous importance has been universally recognized by the Church down through the centuries.

Let us briefly note the various particulars of the Great Commission. First, the Church is to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Though the Church has lagged behind sadly in carrying out this command, it nevertheless does generally recognize the importance and urgency of fulfilling it as soon as possible.

Next, Jesus commanded the Church to make disciples of all nations, that those who believed the gospel would be saved and those who rejected it would be lost.

So far, the evangelical Church is in agreement. But observe, this is not all of the Great Commission. Christ at the same time spoke of certain signs which would identify true believers. Among these signs are those mentioned in the 17th verse. "In my name shall they cast out demons; *they shall speak with new tongues.*"

Healing the sick and casting out demons are signs which are to follow believers. But also included is the sign of speaking with new tongues. That Christ should have included the speaking of tongues in His Great Commission emphatically calls attention to the importance of the sign.

4. EVERY ONE OF THE 120 DISCIPLES WHO WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST SPOKE IN TONGUES.

The charter members of the Early Church were those 120 who obeyed the Lord's command to "tarry in Jerusalem" until they were "endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). These 120 believers included the apostles, perhaps the seventy, Mary, the mother of Jesus, and certain others.

"These all continued in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (Acts 1:14). Then came the day of Pentecost. As they were in the upper room praising and blessing God, suddenly the Holy Spirit fell upon them and each person began to speak in another tongue!

"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. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).

Notice that as they were filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostles spoke in tongues. Mary, the mother of Jesus, spoke in tongues. Besides these, more than a hundred others spoke in tongues. Here is the original pattern of receiving the Holy Spirit—with the infilling, each person speaks in another tongue as the Spirit gives utterance.

This supernatural visitation in Jerusalem drew a multitude of people together. Their wonder was turned to sheer amazement as they heard the 120 disciples speaking in various tongues, including their own native languages. This phenomenon caused them to give serious attention to the sermon preached by Peter, who explained the meaning of what had happened. A revival broke out that day and before night, 3,000 souls accepted Christ. Much could be said concerning this epochal event. But the point to be made in connection with our study is that each one of these original believers

spoke in another tongue as he received the Holy Spirit.

5. THE FIRST GENTILES TO BE SAVED RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPOKE IN TONGUES.

The story of Cornelius, of how his household was saved and how they received the Holy Spirit, holds a prominent place in Acts. Although even the apostles did not understand this; it had been God's intended plan that not only Jews but gentiles should share in the blessings of the New Testament dispensation, obtained through Christ's death and resurrection. In accordance with this purpose an angel of God appeared to Cornelius and said to him, "Thy prayers and thy alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter" (Acts 10:4,5).

God had to do some persuading to get Peter to go to this gentile home and preach the gospel to them, but He succeeded, and Peter and his friends made their way to the house of Cornelius. Even while the apostle was preaching to them, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the Word.

"While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because on the gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God" (Acts 10:44-46).

Here we see that the gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as well as the Jews. How did Peter and his brethren know these gentiles had received the Holy Spirit? The answer is, "For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."

This opening of the Kingdom of God to the gentiles and their receiving the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues thus became a pattern for other gentiles. Moreover this occurrence was exactly the same as that which happened to the Jews at Pentecost. Peter reporting back to the other apostles said, "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them as on us at the beginning" (Acts 11). Both Jews and gentiles had now received the Holy Spirit. And both groups spoke in tongues when they received!

6. THE APOSTLE PAUL SPOKE IN TONGUES.

The outstanding figure of the Early Church was the Apostle Paul. His conversion was perhaps the most unique to be recorded in the New Testament. Brought up a strict Pharisee at the feet of Gamaliel, his intellectual powers assured a brilliant future in the Jewish religion. Zealous above his compatriots, he not only participated in the stoning of the first martyr, Stephen, but he was active in a persecution calculated to wipe out Christianity altogether. But all this was before his notable experience on the Damascus road. There in a blinding light outshining the midday sun, Jesus appeared to him. At that moment his whole life was changed. Henceforth he would prove to be the Lord's most devoted follower.

Arising from the ground where he had fallen, Paul was told by the Lord to go into Damascus. Being blinded by the vision, he had to be led into the city. There for three days and nights he prayed, taking neither food nor drink. Then Ananias, whom the Lord had spoken to, came in and laid hands upon him, wherewith he received the Holy Spirit and was delivered from blindness.

In this account in Acts 9, nothing is said about Paul speaking in tongues. But in writing to the Corinthians he said, "I thank my God, I speak in tongues more than ye all" (I Cor. 14:18).

What significance has Paul's experience to us? The apostle said he was to be a pattern for all Christians who should afterward believe in Christ.

"Nevertheless, for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, *for a pattern to them who should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting*" (1 Tim. 1:16).

That Paul, whose life was to be a pattern to all believers, spoke in tongues is one more reason why all Christians should speak in tongues.

7. OVER 25 YEARS AFTER PENTECOST THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT SPOKE IN TONGUES.

Over 25 years had passed since the day of Pentecost. Paul had come to Ephesus on one of his many missionary journeys. Upon meeting some disciples of that city, he asked, "Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed?" Perhaps their lack of spiritual power prompted this question; at any rate their answer showed that they knew nothing about the experience. They replied, "We have not as much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit." Upon further inquiry, Paul found that they knew only about John's baptism.

This reply moved Paul to preach a sermon on the Holy Spirit. He pointed out that John preached only the baptism of repentance, but he spoke of One who would come after him who would "baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Matt. 3:11). These disciples, upon accepting Paul's report, were baptized in water. Then the apostle laid hands upon them, and *they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues!*

"And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and

they spoke with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:6).

We have now noted four instances, and in each case those who received the Holy Spirit spoke in tongues. Is it apparent that a pattern is emerging?

The 120 received the Holy Spirit—all spoke in tongues.

The gentiles received the Holy Spirit at the house of Cornelius—they spoke in tongues.

Paul received the Holy Spirit—he spoke in tongues.

The men at Ephesus were filled with the Holy Spirit—they spoke in tongues.

In the mouth of two or three witnesses let every word be established. Here are four instances in which people received the Holy Spirit, and in each instance the recipients spoke in tongues.

8. DID BELIEVERS AT SAMARIA WHO RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAK IN TONGUES?

There is also another instance in the New Testament where it is recorded that people received the Holy Spirit. This was at the city of Samaria. Did these people who received the Spirit also speak in tongues at the time?

Philip the evangelist went down to Samaria and conducted a healing revival.

"And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed" (Acts 8:6,7).

News of the revival reached the ears of the apostles at Jerusalem. They were, of course, pleased to hear of the revival, but they were a little

disturbed, because no one had received the Holy Spirit. Then Peter and John, who had a special ministry in this respect, came down to Samaria and "laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:17).

Nothing is directly said here about speaking in tongues, but notice what happened. A sorcerer by the name of Simon had attended the revival and had become interested—though apparently he supposed the whole thing to be just another kind of sorcery, perhaps something like his own. The healings and miracles impressed him, yet not to the point that he would part with his money. But when he saw Peter and John lay hands on the people so that they received the Holy Spirit, he considered this such great *magic* that he was willing to give money for it. Peter gave him the scathing rebuke he deserved for this gross impiety as to suppose he could secure the gift of God through payment of money.

But what did Simon see which so impressed him that he was willing to part with his money? Neither the miracles nor the healings had moved him to make such an offer. What could it have been? The only possible answer is that when the people were filled with the Holy Spirit they spoke in tongues as had occurred at Pentecost. It was this phenomenon which astonished Simon just as it had amazed the people in Jerusalem.

These five instances provide overwhelming evidence that speaking in tongues accompanies receiving the Holy Spirit.

9. SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS A GIFT FROM GOD TO THE CHURCH.

In I Corinthians 12, the apostle lists nine gifts given by the Spirit to the Church. Among these gifts is speaking in "various kinds of tongues" (I Cor. 12:10).

This is to be differentiated from the gift of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts 2:4 which is for every believer and is for his own edification (I Cor. 14:4). The gift of speaking in tongues (one of the nine gifts) is to be activated or used before the Body or the Church. And not everyone who receives the Acts 2:4 experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit is called or qualified to minister the gift in public. Instances in churches of misuse by persons, who of their own desire and volition began to speak in tongues, have occurred. These only bring reproach on themselves and cause interested, hungry-for-God individuals to react negatively.

Despite tradition to the contrary, God has never withdrawn these gifts from the Church. The only Scripture even offered in an effort to substantiate such a position is that found in I Corinthians 13:8: "Whether there be tongues, they shall cease." It is contended by some that this statement means tongues have already ceased. The context, however, clearly shows this is not the meaning. Paul is referring to the time "when that which is perfect is come" (I Cor. 13:10).

Paul adds that "prophecies shall be done away" and "knowledge shall vanish away" when that which is perfect is come. As anyone knows, we have not come to perfect knowledge, neither have we entered the perfect age. Until that time we shall need prophecy, knowledge, speaking in tongues, and all the other manifestations of the Spirit.

The gifts of the Spirit are sorely needed in the Church today. We need them just as the Corinthian Church needed them. Moreover, Paul promised that God would not withdraw them, but would through these gifts confirm His people, even unto the coming of Christ.

"So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 1:7,8).

Since Christ will confirm His Church even until His coming, this means that the gifts should be in operation now. It also means believers should speak in tongues even as Jesus said they would in His Great Commission: "These signs shall follow them that believe...they shall speak with new tongues" (Mark 16:17).

10. GOD HAS SET DIVERSITIES OF TONGUES IN THE CHURCH.

So far we have observed that all believers have the privilege of speaking in tongues, and that this sign apparently follows as the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. However, beyond this, we find that God gives to some believers a more varied manifestation of the gift—speaking in not only one tongue, but in different tongues. Thus in I Corinthians 12:10, we are told that to some are given "various kinds of tongues." Verses 7-10 show one particular gift is given to a certain individual and a different gift is given to another. The 11th verse declares:

"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (I Cor. 12:11).

Again in the 28th verse we are told God has set diversities of tongues in the Church:

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (I Cor. 12:27,28).

Although as recorded in the Scripture those baptized in the Holy Spirit spoke with tongues, it is evident not all have diversities of tongues. The special gift is for those who will reach out in faith, in the same way the other gifts recorded in I Corinthians 12:8,9,10 are received.

11. HE WHO SPEAKS IN TONGUES SPEAKS TO GOD.

"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God; for no man understandeth him; however, in the spirit he speaketh mysteries (I Cor. 14:2).

Many people wonder about God's purpose in speaking in tongues. Here is one reason, sufficient if it were the only one. He who speaks in an unknown tongue speaks to God!

At the time of conversion, God speaks to us in our language and says, "You are now a member of My family." But when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit we are able to speak, as it were, to God in His language—a language that no man understands except God.

If God chooses, He can give us a language that not even the devil can understand. Here is a means of communion with God which neither man nor demons can intercept. In time of war, nations have codes for secret communication. Sometimes the enemy is able to break this code, but we may be sure that not even the devil can break God's code!

12. THE BELIEVER WHO SPEAKS IN TONGUES EDIFIES HIMSELF.

"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself, but he that prophesieth edifieth the church" (I Cor. 14:4).

Here is something the man on the outside usually

does not understand. He hears someone speak in tongues, and he cannot see any blessing in it. This is not surprising, for the Apostle Paul declares speaking in tongues is not for the purpose of edifying the listener. (We are not referring to certain unusual manifestations of the gift as that which happened on the day of Pentecost and resulted in the conversion of 3,000.) *Speaking in tongues is a spiritual exercise designed to edify the speaker.* For this reason Paul taught that speaking in the assembly, unless accompanied by interpretation, was to be discouraged.

“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?” (I Cor. 14:6).

Naturally until a person speaks in tongues he cannot understand how it can be a blessing to him, or how he is edified by it. But once he receives the Holy Spirit, he finds the experience carries with it a rich spiritual blessing. It is a supernatural experience he never forgets.

13. PAUL SAID, “I WOULD THAT YE ALL SPOKE WITH TONGUES” (I COR. 14:5).

Not all gifts of the Spirit are of the nature that every member of the church may exercise them. The gift of miracles, for example, might result in disaster for someone who was not qualified to use this gift. Even the apostles once were ready to use the gift in a manner quite out of the will of God (see Luke 9:52-56).

On the other hand the gift of speaking in tongues is of such a nature that all who exercise it may edify themselves. Most of the gifts are directed to the edification of the Church and need to be exercised by persons having certain qualifications. But no

special qualification is needed for edifying oneself. Where an unlearned person might disturb the order of a religious service through his lack of wisdom, there is no such difficulty presented when he is edifying himself. If he feels like speaking in tongues for several hours, it is all right and no harm is done, but rather good. Indeed, Paul found the gift highly profitable in his devotions and prayer life. He said, “I speak in tongues more than ye all.” “I will pray in the Spirit, and I will pray with the understanding.” Generally, speaking in tongues is not for the edification of listeners; it is for the edification of the person himself.

14. SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS EQUAL TO PROPHECY, IF INTERPRETED.

“I would that ye all spoke with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied; for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying” (I Cor. 14:5).

Although speaking in tongues is principally for private edification, it does have some very important uses. Speaking in tongues is speaking of *mysteries* in the Spirit. This, being unintelligible to the audience, is not edifying to them, unless there is some way by which those mysteries may be interpreted. Occasionally the unknown tongue is in the native language of someone present, and he can tell what has been said. Usually, however, there is no one present who understands the tongue which is spoken. For this reason God has also placed the gift of interpretation in the Church. If either the one who speaks in tongues, or another person present is able by the Spirit to interpret the message given, then the Church is edified. These two gifts functioning together are equal to the gift of prophecy.

It is evident that the person who gives a message

in public in the unknown tongue must be very sensitive to the Spirit's leadings. Though there may be exceptions, the person will rarely find the Spirit leading him to break into a message while it is being preached. Nor will the Spirit prompt him to give a message while another person is giving one (see I Cor. 14:23). Prophets may only speak one at a time (I Cor. 14:31). They will watch for that time in the service when an appropriate moment occurs for the giving of a message. If the time is properly chosen, the whole audience senses God is speaking to them. In this way the Church is edified. And, of course, if there is no interpreter in the Church, they will remain silent.

"But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God" (I Cor. 14:28).

Those who violate scriptural order with the excuse that the Spirit of God made them do it are clearly off the track. Of this Paul says, "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (I Cor. 14:32).

How many messages may be given during a single service? Verse 27 indicates that two or three are generally sufficient. A long series of tongues and interpretations could make the gift common and weaken its effect.

Although speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues are to be exercised only according to scriptural order, those gifts do have a definite place in the Church and should be encouraged.

"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" (I Cor. 14:26).

15. ONE MAY PRAY IN THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE UNKNOWN TONGUE.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Rom. 8:26,27).

In the above Scripture the apostle tells us none of us know how to pray as we ought. But we have a powerful ally in the Spirit of God, who will, if permitted, make intercession "for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Moreover since the Spirit of God always knows the mind of God, He will always pray according to the will of God.

But how does the Spirit pray through us? We may be sure that the Spirit seeks to help us whatever is the manner in which we pray. This, however, is not what the apostle here is speaking about. It is evident he is referring to prayer in the Spirit through the unknown tongue. In such case the Holy Spirit prays through the believer. Paul says he will pray with the Spirit and with the understanding—both ways. It is good to pray with the understanding, but it also is good to pray with the Spirit. When we are at a loss for words to express ourselves in prayer, the Spirit will, in the unknown tongue, take the need and lift it up to God.

It is no accident that the great promise of Romans 8:28 follows that of Romans 8:26, which speaks of the Holy Spirit as the intercessor within us. With the Holy Spirit praying through us, all things will work for our good.

"And we know that all things work together

for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

16. SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS A SIGN TO UNBELIEVERS.

"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. 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 who believe"(I Cor. 14:21,22).

Although some resent the speaking in tongues, there are many who can testify that they were first spiritually awakened by the manifestation of this sign. They did not understand all about it, yet they sensed God was in it. Others, perhaps, heard a message in tongues with the interpretation which followed, and they knew it was God's voice speaking to them.

Paul, quoting from Isaiah, declares that speaking in tongues is a sign to unbelievers. The prophecy adds, however, that many will not believe nor accept the sign as a divine phenomenon. But as they reject it, God rejects them. So declares the prophecy. Nevertheless, there are many who have heard the speaking in tongues and through this sign have turned to God.

17. THE SPEAKING IN TONGUES HAS SOMETIMES BEEN IN THE NATIVE LANGUAGE OF ONE PRESENT, THEREBY CONVINCING HIM OF THE REALITY OF THE GIFT.

The effect on unbelievers of speaking in tongues is multiplied many times when, as sometimes happens, the language used is known to one or

more of the listeners. Such occurrences have not been infrequent. In almost every such instance the listener was amazed and astonished to hear a message in his own tongue from the lips of one who he knew had never learned the language.

It was an event of this nature which astonished the people on the day of Pentecost. Some of them had come from distant lands and spoken in languages they knew were totally unfamiliar to the Galileans. Yet here each man heard them speaking and glorifying God in his own tongue.

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because every man heard them speak in his own language" (Acts 2:5,6).

Though some of the mixed crowd who had gathered scoffed and accused Peter and the apostles of being drunk, a multitude believed as the result of what happened that day. Some three thousand accepted Christ, were baptized, and admitted into the newly formed Church.

It is to be observed, however, that the gift of languages which amazed the multitude on the day of Pentecost did not take the place of preaching. Peter preached in the ordinary language of the country, after his audience had gathered. It is necessary for the missionary to learn the language of the people, else he could not preach with the understanding. However, God may on occasion do the unusual. A few instances have been reported in which a person has been enabled to regularly preach in a foreign language without learning it by natural methods. Such instances, however, are rare.

18. GOD SAID THAT WITH STAMMERING LIPS AND ANOTHER TONGUE HE WOULD SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE.

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people” (Isa 28:11).

When the prophetic word in Isaiah 28 mentioned speaking in tongues, it also included the sign of the stammering lips. This sign has often been a stumbling block to certain people. But note the prophet admitted it would be! He declares, “That they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken” (verse 13). Verse 14 shows that religious rulers would be numbered among the scornful. They cannot understand any purpose in speaking in tongues and certainly they see no place for stammering lips. The stammering lips is a stumbling block and a snare to them.

“If it is of God,” say they, “would it not come forth perfect and in full bloom at once?” They do not realize that even as a child learns to speak, so the first utterances of those who speak in tongues may be with stammering lips. And likewise as the child learns to speak fluently so the person who stammers will, as he yields to the Spirit, come forth speaking in a clear tongue.

In this very prophecy (verse 9) the Lord likens the development of spiritual experience in a believer to that of a child. For a time the child is on the breast. He can only take milk. His first words are halting and imperfect. Later he is weaned and develops in wisdom and utterance. The scornful person sees only imperfection in the lives of those who speak with stammering lips. But God sees them not as they are, but as they will be. Though they are weak, imperfect, still on the breast, He sees them as they will be when they reach perfection.

Here we make an observation of value to those who desire to receive the Holy Spirit. Some people come close to a scriptural experience but fail to fully enter in. They hear themselves begin to speak in stammering lips and become fearful. They think, “Maybe this is just me.” They are partly right. It is their own lips and voice speaking. But it is the Spirit who is giving the utterance. That is the way it was on the day of Pentecost. They began to speak in tongues as the *Spirit* gave them utterance.

Therefore, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, do not fear. Do not quench the Spirit nor stifle the stammering lips. Let God have His way. It is God's way. As you learn to speak as He gives utterance, and as you yield to His Spirit, you will find the stammering lips change to a beautiful fluent flow of language.

19. SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS THE REST AND REFRESHING PROMISED FROM THE LORD.

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest by which ye may cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear” (Isa 28:11,12).

The Spirit of the Lord must have been speaking of something of great importance when He said, “This is the rest by which ye may cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing.” It is evident this is a reference to the preceding verse. Is therefore that *rest* and *refreshing* speaking in tongues?

Speaking in tongues in itself could not be that rest and refreshing. The Holy Spirit is a *person*. When He comes, He speaks. This manifestation and presence of the Holy Spirit thus becomes the great blessing, the great rest, the great refreshing. And this is another proof that the infilling of the Spirit is

accompanied with speaking in tongues. For the latter could not be the refreshing unless it were accompanied by the presence of the Spirit.

Thus it was that Peter, immediately after the day of Pentecost when the Early Church was in the flush of its great Pentecostal experience, called the people of God to repent and receive the blessing in "the times of refreshing . . . from the presence of the Lord."

"Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord . . ." (Acts 3:19).

Let no one minimize the experience of speaking in tongues, for it indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit, who has come to make His abode in the believer's life.

20. PAUL COMMANDED THE CHURCH THAT THEY SHOULD "FORBID NOT TO SPEAK WITH TONGUES" (I COR. 14:39).

The Apostle Paul, in summing up his instructions on speaking in tongues, charged the Church to "forbid not to speak with tongues." Paul knew there were problems connected with the exercise of the gift in the assembly. He knew undisciplined persons would sometimes misuse the gift, even as they had done in the Corinthian Church. Indeed, in his letter Paul gave several admonitions against abuses that could have an adverse effect. Yet he did not consider these possible dangers sufficient cause to rule out speaking in tongues. In doing so the Church would suffer great loss. Rather he admonished those who had charge of the services to guide them with discretion. To those who spoke in tongues he showed they must also have the love of God, else their speaking would be as "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal" (I Cor. 13:1).

Yet after giving this warning, instead of, in any way, deprecating speaking in tongues, he rather goes on to give detailed instructions on how the gift can be the blessing God intended it to be in the Church. He then closes his remarks with the final word, "Forbid not to speak with tongues." He who therefore will not allow this manifestation in the Church violates the direct commandment of the Scripture, and labels himself as an ignorant man.

"But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Cor. 14:38-40).

21. CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TOWER OF BABEL AND PENTECOST.

At the Tower of Babel God sent judgment on the builders by confusing their tongues (Gen. 11:5-9); and for their impiety they were scattered over the face of the earth.

On the day of Pentecost, God set in the Church the speaking in tongues so the peoples from the nations which had been scattered might hear and understand the wonderful works of God. Among these were "dwellers in Mesopotamia," the very land where the Tower of Babel was built! (Acts 2:9).

At Babel the builders were confounded and forced to cease building their pagan temple.

At Pentecost, God began building a new structure, the Church of the living God, Jesus being the chief cornerstone.

The Tower of Babel was left unfinished. Stones prepared for it were never set in place, and today that once vaunted tower lies in total ruin on the deserts of Babylon, a monument to the folly and presumption of man.

The edifice which was built upon what happened

at Pentecost is still being built today. And the stone (Christ) which would have been set aside "is become the head of the corner."

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner" (Acts 4:11).

On the wall of the palace of Babylon, the handwriting written in another tongue spelled Babylon's doom: "Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting." The handwriting on the wall today is the speaking in tongues, again pronouncing the doom of religious Babylon.

Thank God for this gift. It has become one of the great channels by which man is united to his God. "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God."

How To Receive The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

by Freda Lindsay

I'll give you one surefire ministry: Instruct people how to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. If you haven't found your ministry yet, then find it now. The Bible recipe I'm going to give you, added with a little faith, will give you an open door around the world. Believe me, that's true.

Everywhere I go, I preach the message of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is one that always brings results. Get this message in your heart.

The young people from all over the world who have attended Christ For The Nations Institute and have heard this message and use it, get results.

When Ezekiel Guti from Zimbabwe attended CFNI, he took back to his wife my tape on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. She didn't get to attend CFNI. She listened to my tape and said, "Well, I can do that." So she started visiting the churches instructing folk how to receive the Holy Spirit; now she has more speaking invitations than she can possibly accept. Hundreds, thousands have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit under her ministry.

Of course, we turn to the book of Acts to learn about the infilling of the Holy Spirit. We're going to see whether speaking in tongues is a necessary sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

What would you say of a person who can't pray in tongues and yet claims he's received? I'd say he is bound. It's just that simple. I notice Kenneth Hagin, Oral Roberts, Jimmy Swaggart and other leaders are fluent in tongues. Most of the men of God who

are really out there doing something for God pray very fluently in tongues. I've stood beside them on the platform or wherever. They are almost continually praying in tongues. You find a person who can't fluently pray in tongues—he's bound.

Let's begin with Acts 1:4. It says of the Lord Jesus, "And being assembled together with them (the disciples) . . ." Remember, they've been three years with the Lord. You would think He'd have taught them everything they needed to know, but apparently there was something yet lacking and that was the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Imagine studying in the Lord's Bible school for three years. Then, when He's getting ready to leave to go to heaven, He tells you there is one thing more you need. He's telling the disciples about the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and He *commanded* them to receive.

Sometimes I hear people say, "Well you know, God knows where I live. If He wants to fill me, let Him go ahead." Yes, He does know where you live. Or, "Well, when God gets good and ready . . ." God has been good and ready for 2,000 years; you are just a little late, though, following His command. Look at the word *commanded* in your Bible and circle it. He *commanded* them to receive the Holy Spirit.

My late husband lists 21 reasons why Christians should speak in tongues. Acts 1:8 gives good reasons for being filled with the Holy Spirit: "You shall receive *power* after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be *witnesses* . . ." Two good reasons: receiving power and being witnesses.

Do you think Jesus knew He was getting ready to go to heaven? Generally, folk answer "Yes." If you knew you were going to heaven, what would you say to those you love most? I know what I would say. I would call my children and grandchildren, if

they were around, and I would have something to say to Dennis. I would have something to say to Gil. I'd have something to say to my daughters-in-law and grandchildren, my daughter and her family.

I wouldn't say to Dennis, "Now, Hon, be sure after I'm gone to cut the grass." I wouldn't say to Carole (*Shira* in Hebrew, which also means *a song*), "Honey, be sure to keep the silverware polished after I'm gone." No, I would talk about very important things. I would say, "Children, I've done my best to raise you in the fear and admonition of the Lord. I want you to meet me in heaven, but I don't want you to come alone. I want you to bring as many with you as you can." I'd say something like that.

Now this was the Lord's very last message, and what do you think He was talking about? You're right—the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Verse 8 says He was speaking about the infilling of the Holy Spirit. So that shows the value, the significance the Lord placed upon Him. The very next verse, Acts 1:9 says, "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight." The very last subject Jesus talked about was receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

According to verse 15, we know there were 120 seated together in an upper room, waiting. The Lord told them to wait right there until they received the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Who all were there? Verse 14 tells us Mary, the mother of Jesus, was there and His flesh and blood brethren as well. Matthew 13:55 lists four of his brothers. They were among the 120, and of course a little later on we find all 120 received.

When I realized that godly Mary, Jesus' mother, needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit, I said, "If *she* needs Him, then who am I to resist being filled?"

There are seven instances in the book of Acts which tell us about individuals receiving the Holy Spirit. Let's see if they spoke in tongues. Matthew 18:16 says, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." We have seven examples. Let's see now if, in fact, there were at least two or three instances where the individual receiving spoke in tongues.

Acts 2:4 says, "And they were *all* filled." How many were *all* in this case? 120! Not 119—but 120. So the Lord had enough power to go around, and they were all filled. Put a "1" by verse 4. "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues." Yes, the Bible records *all* 120 spoke in tongues in this first test.

Turn now to Acts 4:31 and put a "2" by it. We are going through the book of Acts to find these seven instances. Here we have Peter and John who had just been released from prison. I like verse 23 which says, "Being let go, they went to their own company." A Christian, if he is walking in the light of the Gospel, will immediately gravitate to people of his kind. If he is spiritual, he will gravitate to the spiritual; if he is carnal, he will automatically seek out carnal companions just like himself.

Peter and John went to their own company and began to tell what God had done. In verse 29, they are speaking forth the Word. When they had prayed, the place was shaken. Then those who were assembled together were filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the Word of God with boldness. In this second instance in which it says the people were filled with the Holy Spirit, it doesn't mention they spoke in tongues. So we have one and one.

The third instance is found in Acts 8:18. Put a "3" by that particular verse, so that anytime you are instructing people to receive the Holy Spirit, you can quickly turn to your Bible and have the reference at your fingertips.

Now Philip was not a preacher; he was a deacon. He went down to Samaria and began to feel the Spirit of God moving him to preach. Peter and John, hearing of the miracles occurring under Philip's ministry, came down to assist him. There was great joy in the city.

Simon, a sorcerer, a magician, saw what was happening and in verse 13 the Bible says, "Simon himself believed also; and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip." He has gone this far: he has believed and he has been baptized.

When Peter and John arrived to help Philip, "They . . . prayed for them (the people) that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for as yet he was fallen upon none of them; only they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus." Verse 17 says, "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

When Simon *saw* that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money. It says he *saw* something. What did Simon see? If nothing had happened, why would he want this gift? So he made this offer to Peter, John and Philip: "Listen, if I can do this, I'll give you some money." He thought it would be neat to add to his bag of tricks to be able to lay hands on people, and they would burst out speaking in tongues. It had to have been that. What other interpretation could one have?

Now Peter spoke to him, "Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased." That phrase *gift of God* is very important. The Holy Spirit is a gift.

Here we see Simon who has believed, has been baptized, and now he sees when the disciples lay their hands on people, something happens. Does the Scripture say the people spoke in tongues? No, it does not say they spoke in tongues, so we won't count that. We have one instance where they spoke

in tongues; two where it does not mention the receivers did.

Turn to Acts 9:17 and put a "4" there by that Scripture. This is the story of Saul, who was persecuting the church. He was on his way to Damascus, Syria, fell to the ground, and was blind for three days. Then, Ananias was sent of God to Saul to welcome him and to pray for him.

Ananias was very excited; he seemed to have the opinion that maybe the Lord had not heard this was the same Saul who was persecuting the Christians. Nonetheless, the Lord told him to go and pray with Saul, who was later called *Paul*. "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 Spirit. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales; and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."

Does it say Paul spoke in tongues? No, but did Paul, in fact, speak in tongues? By the verse you have marked "4", note I Cor. 14:18 in your Bible. In that particular Scripture, Paul says, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." Shall we say then that Paul did speak in tongues? Yes, the Bible says he did. So we have two and two.

The fifth instance is found in Acts 10:46. Put a "5" there. We find Peter at Joppa. I have been to Joppa many times. The guides show the traditional rooftop right next to the sea where it is said Peter lived. Peter came home and was hungry. Verse 10 says he came into the kitchen, and the women were probably just chatting and not getting the food on the table.

I say a man has two choices when he comes home and that happens. He can either go into the kitchen and help get dinner on the table, or get out

of the way and get lost in the Spirit!

So Peter went up to the rooftop where he began to pray, and he got lost. There the Lord gave him a vision and told him about three men coming to see him (verse 19). The Lord had just admonished him to not call anything unclean, and almost immediately three gentiles arrived at his door.

Cornelius, an Italian, had sent them to bring Peter back. I'm sure you could have smelled the spaghetti cooking several blocks away from Cornelius' home. They were undoubtedly cooking some sort of pasta. I've never seen a clan of Italians who weren't cooking something!

I like what Cornelius did. It says that while Cornelius (verse 24) was waiting for Peter and the three men to return, he called together his kinsmen and dear friends. Can't you already taste that spaghetti and meatballs? There they were. He'd called all his friends and relatives together, waiting, because he didn't want to hear the good news alone. He wanted to share it with his family and friends. I love people who are unselfish and want to share the Gospel, the Good News!

We have the rest of the story. Peter is preaching to this group, and there were many, verse 27 says. As Peter spoke (verse 45), the Holy Spirit fell on all them that heard the Word and "they of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because on the gentiles also was poured out the *gift* of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God." So now we have how many instances where they spoke in tongues? Three; and two where it does not say.

Turn to the sixth instance: Acts 13:52. This is Antioch. Here, we have evangelists Paul and Barnabas preaching. They had been rejected by the Jews and now after shaking the dust off their feet, they decided to preach to the gentiles. They then went to Iconium, and the Bible states the believers

were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit after the evangelists ministered. Does it say they spoke with tongues? No. So in building our case, we have three and three.

Let's see what the last account of folk receiving the Holy Spirit says in Acts 19:6. Put a "7" beside that verse in your Bible. Paul is preaching at Ephesus, and verse 2 asks, "Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit."

Some of the denominational brethren believe that one receives the Holy Spirit the moment he accepts Christ as Lord. I never get into an argument. When I begin to instruct on the Holy Spirit, I never let folk ask questions. You can just completely miss it if you sit down with a group and somebody wants to ask a lot of questions. You can get into all sorts of arguments and doctrinal differences. If someone says, "I want to ask you a question," I answer, "Please, just wait until after you have received, then you may ask your questions." Rarely do they ask any question afterwards. They already have their answer from the Lord. Be in control in a godly way, in the Spirit of Christ, while you are instructing. Let the compassion and love of the Lord guide you. Remember, you are there to help people.

So here we find Paul at Ephesus asking, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" Then verse 6 continues, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied." All received—every one of the twelve men present. Does it say they spoke with tongues? Yes. Now we have four instances where the recipients spoke with tongues. They received without tarrying, without waiting, without agonizing and without exception.

Turn again to Matthew 18:16. Remember, it is by

the mouth of two or three witnesses a matter is established, and we have four instances in the Acts of the apostles. Therefore, from the Bible, I believe we have proved our case that speaking in tongues is the initial sign of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

What I am going to say to you now is very important. A lot of people who really want to receive, have hangups in the areas I am going to mention.

Acts 2:4 says, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." I ask this question, "Who began?" Sometimes people answer, "The Holy Spirit began." That is not what this Scripture says. It says *they* (the people) began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. *They* began. That is where a lot of folks have a hangup.

When I gave my heart to the Lord at age 18, I had to believe Jesus forgave my sins and wrote my name in Heaven. It took an act of faith.

When I had T.B. in both lungs at the age of 24, I had to believe when Gordon and I prayed together, the Lord heard our prayer. The doctor held my X-rays up to the window in my mother's living room and said, "Young lady, I have bad news for you. You have T.B. in both lungs." After prayer, I had to believe all was changed and that the Lord had now delivered me. It took an act of faith.

When I received the infilling of the Holy Spirit, it took an act of faith. What is an act of faith? It is like jumping off a diving board. You are never going to get wet until you actually make the leap. The leap in this case is: You begin.

When I speak in English, what do I do? I use *my* lips, *my* tongue, *my* teeth, *my* voice. When I speak in tongues, I do the same as when I speak in English. I use *my* lips, *my* tongue, *my* teeth, *my* voice. I must begin.

My little mother was Lutheran when our family came into the Charismatic Renewal. My father received the Holy Spirit instantly, as did most of the grown children. But the devil told Mother she wasn't good enough. Now what she ever did that was so bad she could not be filled with the Holy Spirit, I will never know. Because with 12 children, washing on a washboard, she did not even have time to read the funny papers. But all the while, for 35 years, the devil was telling her, "You are not good enough." The devil will cheat you out of everything God has for you. Also, she thought the Holy Spirit was going to zap her and make her speak. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He will never make you speak. You must take the step of faith; you must begin.

I have seen some who will use their lips, their tongue and their teeth only. I have seen others who will use their voice, but not their lips, tongue and teeth. You have to use your lips, tongue, teeth and voice. That is a most important piece of information you will share with those who want to receive the Holy Spirit. They must take that step of faith.

The only condition for receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and this is important, is that you must be born again. Sometimes, I have seen as many as 250 come to receive at one time. I always at that time lead them in a sinner's prayer, because I am sure that out of that group, there will be someone without salvation. And if I have any doubt whether a person is saved, I automatically lead him in a sinner's prayer. Then if he believes, he is ready. So when my mother realized she had to do the speaking, she opened her mouth and began to speak out, and for the rest of her life until she died at age 87, she prayed in tongues every day. So you, too, must begin.

A lot of friends say, "I received the Holy Spirit

when I became a Christian." I tell them, "That is fine; how long have you been a Christian?" "Three years." "Five years." "All right, what would you think if I came to your house, stayed there for five years and never said a word?" That would be very strange. The fact of the matter is, the Holy Spirit is a person. He will speak for Himself if you give Him an opportunity. But it is a joint venture. You must supply the lips, tongue, teeth and voice, and the Holy Spirit who took up residence within you when you were born again, will begin to give you the utterance. He will give you the words to say. You do not think or plan with your mind what you are going to say. This comes from the Holy Spirit.

When I start to pray with people, I ask them not to say one word in English. If they are expecting to speak in tongues, there is no point in speaking in another language. They cannot speak two languages at once.

I can speak a little German, but if I speak those few German words I know, I cannot simultaneously speak in English. I have to choose one or the other. When I am expecting to speak in tongues, I do not speak in English. I instruct the people right off, "Don't any of you speak in your native tongue—in English or whatever it is—because you cannot speak two languages at once. As you open your heart, as you reach out in faith, the Holy Spirit within you will give you the words to say." (The only reason Christians do not receive is because of ignorance, fear or prejudice.)

I would say that the greatest thing next to salvation that ever happened to me was that I was filled with the Holy Spirit.

I remember as a child in Canada, I was very, very timid. We had a large house and a big table for 14, counting Mom and Dad. The table was long, and my mom covered it with old-fashioned oilcloth in the

place of white linen. When a neighbor would visit us, I would always scoot under the table. I was afraid of people. I always wanted to hear what everyone was saying, but I did not want them to talk to me.

Our family had nothing going for it. After we moved to America we were so poor. The children at school learned my parents were German immigrants from White Russia and that neither my mom nor dad could speak English properly. As a result, I developed a sort of fear of people, afraid they would reject me, because we were poor and because Mom and Dad were not Americans as the other children's parents. So I was just naturally timid.

When the Holy Spirit came upon me, my whole nature changed. It was just wonderful. Yes, the most important event that happened in my life after salvation, was that the Lord filled me with the Holy Spirit and made me a brand-new person.

He will only make a brand-new person of you if every day you will release yourself to pray in tongues. Every morning before I leave my apartment I pray in tongues. It is just as automatic as breathing when I wake up. The first thing I do is just burst out praying in tongues.

Praying in tongues is the perfect way to pray. Praying in tongues is the way God would pray if He were standing in your place; for you are actually saying the words God would be saying when you pray in tongues.

Praying in tongues helps you pray unselfishly. When I pray in English I may pray a selfish prayer. My world is small. I pray for my children, my grandchildren, for the students, the graduates, the faculty, the staff, the board, the advisory council, for CFN outreaches in 120 nations. I pray for the 16 Bible schools we have helped to start. My world is still small in comparison with the Lord's. But when I

pray in tongues, I am available to the Lord to pray for anyone, any child of God who needs my prayers that day, for any group or any situation. Praying in tongues is the perfect way to pray.

A most important point, as I conclude, is always to remember to instruct people that the Holy Spirit is a *gift*. Study these Scriptures: Acts 2:38,39; 8:20; 10:45; 11:17 and Luke 11:13. They speak of the Holy Spirit as a gift. You cannot *earn* a gift. Suppose I offered a \$100 bill to you as a gift. How long would it take you to reach for that gift? Not very long. That is how long it should take an individual to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. You do not need to beg, cry or plead.

I remember one time I was speaking at our Christian Center on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and I held up a \$5 bill at the close of my instruction. I said, "The Holy Spirit is a gift. Here is a \$5 gift, and it is genuine. Anyone who wants it can have it." The students kind of snickered and laughed. I continued, "It will buy gasoline or groceries . . . it is genuine." I described the picture on the bill . . . that the \$5 was for anyone who wanted it. The students just looked at each other.

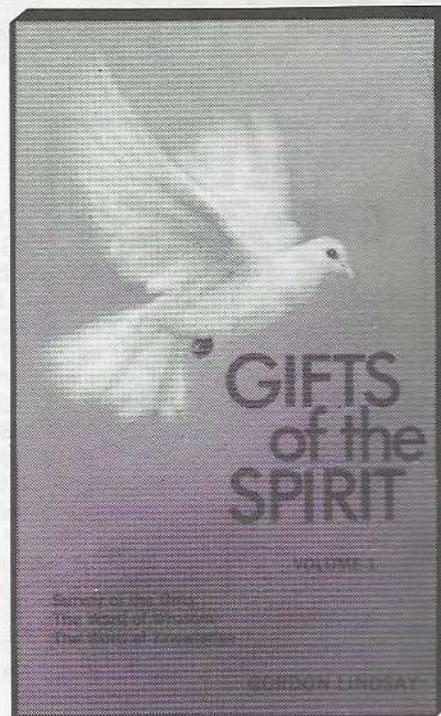
There was a great big Scotsman in the back of the room, and he watched me closely as I held up the \$5 bill and kept waving it. Suddenly, I saw him running toward the front. But there was another fellow about the third row from the front who decided he wanted it. He moved out of his seat and sort of lumbered toward me. By this time the big fellow from the back of the auditorium had some real momentum going; so he just passed up this student who was sort of lolling along, raced up and grabbed the \$5 bill out of my hand. All the students roared! The loser returned to his seat, slapped his forehead and moaned, "I needed that \$5 so badly." I chided, "Look, you were right here up front. Why didn't you

come and get it? You were not nearly as far back as the fellow on the back row."

Do you know how he answered? He said, "I just didn't think you meant it."

Many people, including some ignorant or prejudiced preachers, read the Bible and they do not believe the Lord means what He said. He does mean it, and the Holy Spirit is for you today. Remember, the Holy Spirit is a *gift*. How long does it take you to receive a gift? One moment. Now that you see from the Bible that the Holy Spirit infilling is for you, begin in faith to speak in tongues right where you are. Then release Him daily to speak through you, and watch God use you to witness in power as His Word declares.

THE HOLY SPIRIT— HIS CHARACTER, PURPOSE, & GIFTS



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