

The Azusa Street Papers Overview – Stammering Lips
Message 15 – May 15th, 2022

As a result of the Azusa Street revival, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues spread all over America and the world. Let's read about what happened in Anaheim CA, to a group of young men.

Azusa papers says the following:

“The band of young men that the Lord is using there and in Whittier are all in one accord and keep in the unity of the Spirit. They do not preach big sermons, but simply testify and sing and pray in the spirit. Their names are Henry Prentiss, Curtis Nichols, Orly Nichols, Tom Anderson, Wm. Millson and Isaac Berg. One night recently, seven were slain under the power of God and several received their Pentecost. Many of the people in Anaheim understand German and the workers were permitted to speak and pray in that language. Some words spoken by the Spirit in German were, “God is in our midst.”

I'll repeat this; *“They do not preach big sermons, but simply testify and sing and pray in the spirit.”*

One night at about one o'clock in the morning, the Holy Ghost spoke words in Spanish through one of the young men, and a girl who was seeking her Pentecost understood that language and joyfully interpreted it, “Keep awake, do not sleep, and I will come to thy house.” This same girl in about an hour and a half received the baptism with the Holy Ghost.

I'll repeat this too; *“Keep awake, do not sleep, and I will come to thy house.”*

Can you use some rest and refreshment today? If people would be honest, deep down in their heart, no matter what they put before them to bring rest and refreshment that the world would have to offer, won't work. No matter how beautiful, perfect and great it is, it doesn't bring the rest and refreshment that's needed.

Many Christians today are trying so hard to find their rest and refreshment in everything else except the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they're pulling up to Church with their trailers full of recreational toys, boats, campers that are ready to go straight from church to their favorite campground, all in search of rest and refreshment for their tired bodies that have worked hard all week. There will never be rest and refreshment for the Christian until they are baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, for rest and refreshment can only be found by speaking in tongues. So that all-inclusive vacation can't bring it, that beautiful boat on your favorite lake can't bring it, that time-shared condo nestled in the mountains can't bring it, that hunting or fishing trip can't bring it, all the recreational fun in the sun can't bring rest and refreshing, it can only be found in speaking in tongues. This is why when Christians receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, nothing else can give them true rest and refreshment, for their total rest and refreshment is found only in speaking in tongues.

Isaiah 28:11-12 says; *“11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, 12 To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear.”*

This is a prophecy about the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, that would bring rest and refreshment to those who would hear and receive it, but to those who won't hear it and receive it, they backslide as a result.

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

Isaiah 28:13 continues by saying; “*But the word of the Lord was to them, “Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little,” That they might go and fall backward, and be broken and snared and caught.”*

In essence those who hear the tongues, are mocking it and mocking the word. How many times have you heard this mockery inside and outside churches?

There is a serious consequence that follows Christians that reject the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, and the words of the Lord spoken of thru Isaiah, John the Baptist, Jesus and His disciples. The words of the Lord become nothing more to them than a methodical way of being taught something in a textbook, but is not obeyed in the heart, for it remains to be repetitive head knowledge that is not received because of the foolishness of speaking in tongues or stammering lips which goes against mans prideful textbook wisdom.

Could this be the reason why so many Christians are not in church today, or never attend church, and are backslidden, fallen backward and broken, and snared and caught in various traps set up in their world by the devil? God delights in using the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, and this is why so many Christians’ operating in worldly wisdom are looking for rest and refreshment in everything else except the only place that it can be found, which is speaking in tongues. Another way you could read Isaiah 28:13, is to exchange the ‘line upon line’ etc., and change it for ‘blah, blah, blah.’, because it’s making a mockery of the tongues that God was going to give to Jesus’ new church.

God uses the gift of not only speaking in unknown tongues and interpretation, but also writing in an unknown, unlearned tongue of Hebrew that confounded a wise Hebrew scholar who chose not to believe that what was written was by the Holy Spirit and not someone who was skilled in the Hebrew language.

ASUZA PAPERS says;

“Bro. Junk writes the following incident of how God used the writing in an unknown tongue: “The Lord sent in a young Hebrew and he got soundly converted the other night. He sobbed and cried until you could have heard him a block. His cry was for the blood to cover him. O for old time repentance. When I pulled out my Testament to read him some Scripture, his eyes fell upon some writing I had done while under the power of God in Oakland. When he saw it, he pronounced it Hebrew? The hardest work we had to do was to convince him that I had not studied the language, but when this was clear, he trembled from head to foot and said he truly believed the Messiah was come. Oh glory. These signs are to them that believe not. He took my writing to a Hebrew scholar. It is Isaiah 55 commencing with the second verse, Ps 46:3, the Lord’s prayer, and Rom. 3:26. They told him not to believe me, for without studying Hebrew, it would be impossible to write it, for it was perfect. Praise God for He does only perfect work. -- Thos Junk, 1517 7th Ave, Seattle, Wash”

The Apostle Paul says this in **1 Corinthians 14:20-25** that tongues is a sign to unbelievers and references what Isaiah prophesied about 700 years earlier; “*20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. 21 In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord. 22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. 23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are [a]out of your mind? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 [b]And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.”*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

This is why tongues and interpretations are so important. Paul quotes from Isaiah and points out that what he said foretold the coming of the gift of tongues for the New Testament Church. He also speaks of how tongues and interpretation would be used to speak prophetically to unbelievers and reveal the reality of the supernatural gospel of salvation.

Regardless of how much Paul dedicates the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 14 to the subject of speaking in tongues and interpretation, it is amazing to see how many Christians today are fulfilling what Isaiah said about hardening their hearts and not hearing or receiving the gift of tongues that are often when first spoken, sound like stammering lips that make no sense and are deemed foolish gibberish, but in reality, is the only way to find true rest and refreshment in their lives.

The very thing that sounds gibberish to those around you and maybe to yourself, yet God is speaking through it to give you rest and refreshing.

The Dake's Bible says the following; *"The idea here is that since the drunkards of Judah regarded the messages Jehovah had sent them by the prophet as only adaptable for children, He would teach them in a manner they did not like and give them knowledge through the language of foreigners as a sign of their unbelief. Paul used this passage speaking of the gift of tongues in the church as a sign to unbelievers. The word 'stammering' is not that the language is not real and genuine but that the people hearing it would not understand it."* God was going to use stammering lips to speak supernaturally to the church, the body of Christ. That's why Jesus specifically talked about and commanded Christians to receive tongues – stammering lips – in the great commission.

Mark 16:15-17; *"15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who [a]believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;"*

It would almost seem there is a line in the sand between two types of Christians, those who speak in tongues and those who refuse to be obedient to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues, of which the latter have a sad ending. Speaking in tongues is a sign that followed the charter members of the early Church, the 120 who obeyed Jesus' command to wait in Jerusalem until they were baptised in the Holy Spirit. All the church in that day spoke in tongues.

Acts 2:1-4 says; *"2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all [a]with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them [b]divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

Christians that have rejected this commandment are fulfilling **Isaiah 28:13**; *"13 But the word of the Lord was to them, "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little," That they might go and fall backward, and be broken and snared and caught."*

Could this be one of the main contributors to the great falling away in the Church today, where they have backslid in heart and are trying to find rest and refreshment in the worlds playground instead of simply obeying what Jesus' last command found in **Acts 1:4-5**? *"4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

When you're not speaking in tongues there is no rest and refreshment and this is why so many Christians are backsliding because they have rejected the true source of rest and refreshment.

The Christians who attended the Azusa Street revival meetings were showing up with nothing but leaving with everything they needed found in being baptised in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

ASUZA PAPERS says;

“PENTECOST IN WOODLAND. Bro. G.W. Evans, who has just come from Woodland, California, reports a Pentecostal revival in that place. Thirty-two have been baptized with the Holy Ghost, thirty-one sanctified, and twenty saved. Seventeen members out of the Baptist Church are filled with the Holy Ghost including the superintendent of the Sunday School and his wife. The Sunday School superintendent of the Methodist Church is also baptized with the Holy Ghost, and the difficulty now on hand is the need of a larger building to accommodate the crowds. Fourteen were healed at one meeting. God's word is made so clear and plain that the crowds are pressing in spiritual hunger for the living truth.”

Can any secular recreational pleasure that say they guarantee rest and refreshment replace the Pentecostal experience that takes place in these meetings? Guaranteed they weren't showing up at church with a trailer full of toys, with one foot in the church and one foot in the world. No, these were not backslidden Christians, they were hungry for the Holy Spirit and were seeking rest and refreshment in the supernatural and were not satisfied with what the world had to offer, because when you are speaking in tongues and operating in signs, wonders and miracles, you are satisfied. Holidays, time-share condos, boat rides, toy haulers, daytrips to the beach, camping, fishing, hunting, etc., are to be an addition to an already rested and refreshed life that is found in speaking in tongues and is never meant to be the opposite.

Those attending the Azusa Street meetings showed up to camp at church and not leave until they had received their personal Pentecost. They were in it for the long haul, they weren't thinking about where they'd go after the meeting to get rested and refreshed, they were prepared to stay into the mid-night hours to receive the gift of tongues. There were no trailers pulling the latest toys to go 'play' after the revival meetings. They were focused to receive one thing, and one thing only; that was the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says in **Mark 10:29-31**; “29 So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother [[a](#)] or wife or children or [[b](#)]lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Your rest and refreshing comes from the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, nothing else. All the pleasures that the world offers should only be an addition to an already fulfilled and refreshed life, not the other way around. When you speak in tongues and are refreshed supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, everything else will take on a different meaning, you won't be striving after having all the toys 'to make you happy' because you're already happy and fulfilled. So, in going on a refreshing picnic or excursion or retreat, you're going already refreshed because you've been praying in tongues, you're built up and edified already and now you're going to be a blessing to whomever you're with. In making the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues your priority in life, you're not seeking for other things to refresh you. Put your priorities in order in seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit and receive the gift of tongues.

ASUZA PAPERS says:

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

“Jesus has brought me into His banqueting chamber. Oh, I am feasting upon the delicious wine of the kingdom. Hallelujah!” The above is the interpretation of a testimony given by a sister from Washington, who received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in Los Angeles and speaks several unknown languages. A brother who understands Marathi, a language of India, identified this language and interpreted. Many have spoken in the languages of India, China, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the islands of the sea, as well as the learned languages of Greek, Latin, etc. The Holy Ghost speaks any language He chooses.”

There is no exchange for this although it is foolish gibberish to many in the church world today. Like Isaiah said in chapter 28:13; *“That they might go and fall backward, and be broken and snared and caught.”* It would seem like backsliding, being snared and caught is guaranteed to those who mock the gift of tongues and stubbornly resist to receive this supernatural gift. If they continually mock the Holy Spirit’s supernatural ability to give you another tongue or various tongues it will be like childish babbling because their hearts are hardened to Jesus’ command.

As I said earlier, that all-inclusive vacation can’t bring it, that beautiful boat on your favorite lake can’t bring it, that time-shared condo nestled in the mountains can’t bring it, that hunting or fishing trip can’t bring it, all the recreational fun in the sun can’t bring rest and refreshing, it can only be found in speaking in tongues. The Prophet Isaiah and the Apostle Paul talked about it and it’s as sure today as it was with them. We see all over the world today, Christians who will not have anything to do with speaking in tongues who are backslidden, not even making it to church. If you’re a Christian and are not regularly going to church and seeking Christian fellowship, it sounds like your backslidden. If you’re prioritizing everything else to get your rest and refreshing from other than receiving the gift of tongues, it sounds like your backslidden.

If someone heard that this was them, they would probably say like Isaiah prophesied about saying, blah, blah blah....I’ve heard all that before but I don’t believe it and I reject tongues. You can see why God allows the falling backward, being broken, snared and caught – it’s by your own doing, not His doing. He’s made everything available to you, but you’ve chosen rest and refreshment to come from the world. The one who speaks in tongues moves forward and does not fall backward. Those falling backwards enter into fear, doubt, anxiety, unbelief, being snared by the world, not into rest and refreshing. When you speak in tongues, you move forward into all that God has prepared for you, to use your gifts, to enter your call and election, to prophesy, to lay hands on the sick and see them recover, to be used in all the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, tongues catapults you forward into the fullness of Christ, to establish His kingdom. Regardless what the Christian who rejects the gift of tongues thinks about you, that your going crazy, you’re going forward into all that Jesus has for you.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues is what you need for rest and refreshing.

[Click here to read](#) the prophecy by tongues and interpretation.