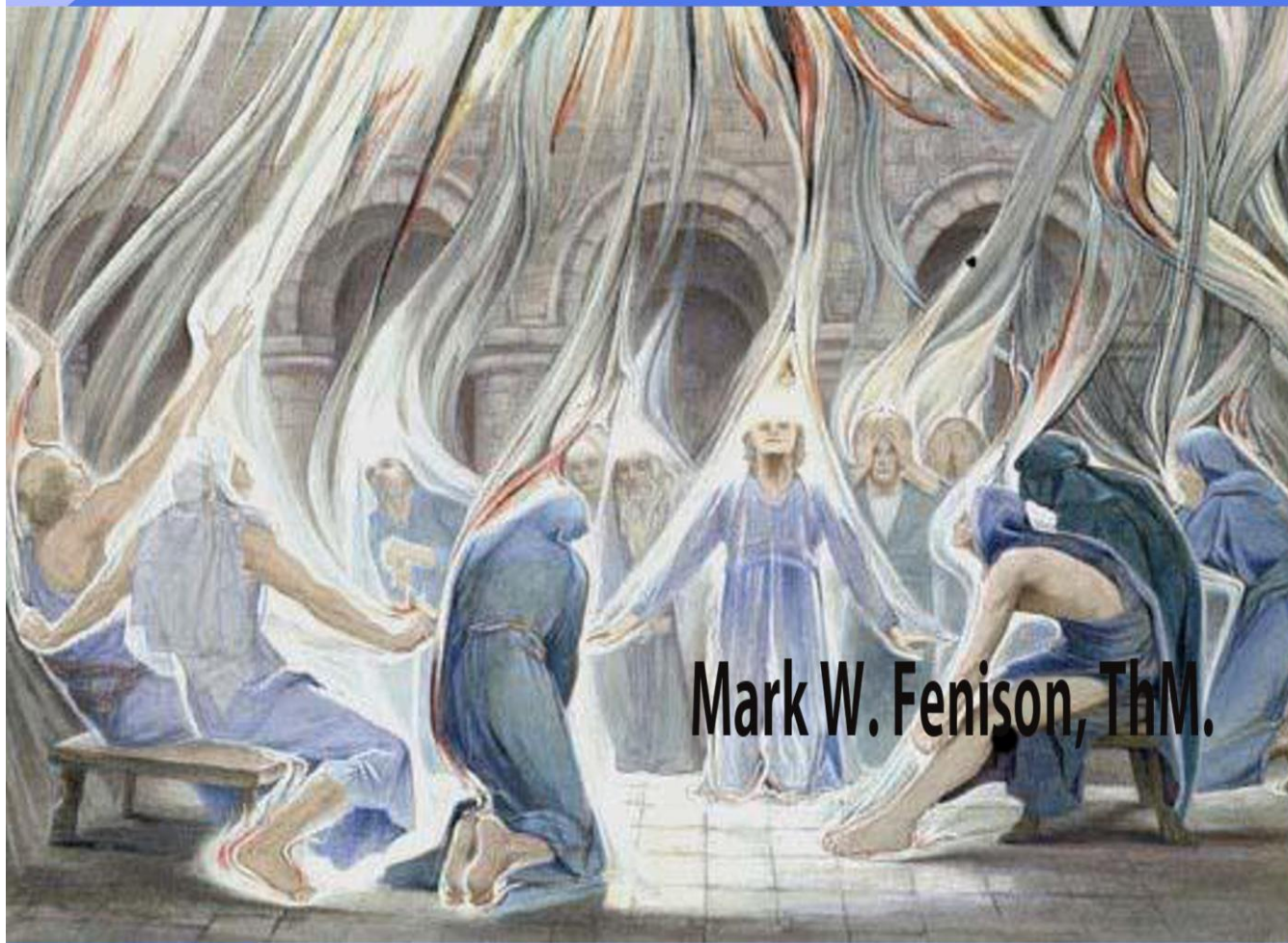


Outline Study

1 CORINTHIANS 12-14

"Tongue Speaking"



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The Biblical Gift of Tongues

Text: Acts 2:1-11

Intro: Since the early 1900's in England and America a new religious movement arose that claimed and still does claim that The Holy Spirit has revived the gift of "tongues" in these last days. This movement became known as the Pentecostal Movement. After spreading over into the Catholic church, Catholic tongue speakers identified themselves as "Charismatics" in order to distinguish them from Protestants. Today the terms are substantially interchangeable.

I. How Can You Know the Truth?

A. The Bible predicts demonic led miracle movement in the last days – Mt. 24:24; 2 Thes. 2:9

1. How do you tell the true from the false?
2. Even Charismatics have written books warning of false charismatics.
3. Other world religions speak in ecstatic utterances (Hindu's; New Agers)
 - a. Ancient mystery religions spoke in "ecstatic languages"
 - b. Priests and Priestesses in pagan temples spoke in "ecstatic languages"
4. Christian cults speak in "ecstatic utterances" – Mormon Apostles

B. Feelings often change and one person's experience differs from another

1. United Pentecostal tongue speaker demands tongues for salvation
2. Many tongue speakers demand it is the sign of baptism in Spirit
3. Others deny it is necessary for all believers

C. The Bible commands us to test all supernatural phenomena by the Word – Isa.8:19-20; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; I Thes. 5:17

II. What are Biblical Tongues According to Scriptures?

A. The Biblical principle of confirming truth – "in the mouth of two or three witnesses let every word be established"

B. The First Recorded Instance – Acts 2:1-11

1. “every man heard them speak IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE” – v. 6
2. “how hear we every man in OUR OWN TONGUE wherein we were born” – v. 8
3. “we hear them speak in OUR TONGUES the wonderful works of God” – v. 11
 - a. Here are three witnesses concerning the nature of the Pentecostal gift
 - b. The KJV term “tongue” meant “language” in 1611 AD – check dictionary
 - c. The word “language” in verse 6 translates the Greek term “dialectus” from where we get our English word “dialect”
 - d. Nothing else recorded in the book of Acts contradicts what is clearly laid down three times concerning the Pentecostal gift – known earthly languages or dialects
 - e. Today’s “tongues” are nothing but the common variety “ecstatic” utterances found in all world religions and in all ages.

D. The Problem of Spiritual Gifts at the church of Corinth – I Cor. 12-14

1. Paul is not complementing them but correcting their misuse – 12:1
2. Past pagan practices and demonic influences have entered church – 12:3
3. To say “Jesus is Lord” is not mere vocalization as any drunk can be paid to vocalize it.
 - a. He is referring to the character of speech and conduct whether it is in submission to Christ’s Lordship – under the control of the Spirit of Christ.
 - b. The character of speech and conduct in the Corinthian worship was not in submission to the Lordship of Christ but in rebellion and thus in character it was saying He is “accursed.”
 - c. The character of speech and conduct in the Corinthian worship had its source in demonic leadership (1 Cor. 12:2) as God is not the “author of confusion” and confusion and insubordination to the Lordship of Christ characterized their worship (14:33)

E. The First Correction – ch. 12 – God is in charge of spiritual gifts and placement in His churches

1. The Triune God works in UNITY in dispersing and operating spiritual gifts (12:4-6).
2. Gifts are not a matter of human preference or choice but Sovereign distribution – 12:7-11
3. Gifted members are placed in each congregational body according to how God sees fit – 12:12-18
4. God gifts each church body for mutual edification rather than self-edification – 12:19-27
5. God determines priorities of gifted persons and gifts – 12:28
6. The Spirit does not give all gifts to all saints – vv. 29-30
 - a. The literally Greek text contains the word “no” (Gr. me) in each question
 - b. The Gift of tongues is not for all saints
 - hence it is not necessary for salvation as salvation is for all saints
 - hence it is not necessary for spiritual growth as that is for all saints
 - hence it is not for praying in the Spirit as that is commanded of all saints (Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 5:18)

- hence, the Pentecostal interpretation of the baptism in the Spirit is wrong

F. The Second Correction – ch. 12:31-13:13 – The Better Way of Love

1. A translation problem with the KJV in I Cor. 12:31

- a. the words translated “covet earnestly the best gifts” can be translated one of two ways

- As an Imperative “covet earnestly the best gifts” - KJV
- As an Indicative “you are coveting earnestly the best gifts BUT I will show unto you a MORE excellent way” – the way of love

- b. The Indicative better suits the foregoing argument of Paul

- Spiritual gifts are given according to “His will” not ours – v. 11
- Each member is to seek the welfare of others first – vv. 12-27
- Not all gifts are for all saints – vv. 28-30
- Hence, it would be better to seek love than to seek gifts
- Seek gifts in the way of love – self-denial – 14:1

2. Love is better because it is the Mature Principle (way) to Pursue Gifts – Love

- a. Without love everything else is NOTHING – 13:1-3

- b. Love is the Mature way as is not self-centered – vv. 3-7

- c. Love is the Mature way because it never fails or needs replacement or completion – vv. 8-9

- (1) Revelatory gifts are Temporal and incomplete (immature)

- Love never fails but tongues will “cease of itself” (middle voice) prior to the cessation of other revelatory gifts (knowledge and prophecy)
- Love never fails but Revelatory gifts (knowledge and prophecy) will be completed (Matured) by something else (passive voice “shall vanish away”).

- (2) Revelatory gifts are Immature and will be replaced by more Mature revelation – vv. 9-10

- “that which is perfect (Mature)” replaces that which is incomplete (immature)
- “that which is perfect” – Neuter in gender – not a person – not the second coming
- Tongues has already ceased prior to knowledge and prophecy being replaced by that which is a more mature revelation

- (3) Metaphors depicting the time of immature revelation to Mature revelation – vv. 11-12

- Childish things (immature revelatory gifts) are put away (done away with) by more Mature revelation (the completion of the Biblical canon – New Testament revelation) – v. 11
- Glass mirror (completed revelation) replaces Brass mirror (revelatory gifts) as glass mirror provides a more mature revelation – v. 12
- The Word of God is likened to a mirror (James 1:12-15)

- d. The present standard for determining the MATURE use of immature revelatory gifts is Love

- (1) “now” is the apostolic age when revelatory gifts are necessary for (a) present guidance in lieu of matured (completed) revelation for N.T. church faith and practice; (b) confirmation gifts of new prophetic written revelation that completes Biblical canon (Heb. 2:4; Isa. 8:16-20; Rev. 1:3; 22:17-18; 2 Pet. 3:15-17; etc.);

- (2) “then” is post-New Testament revelation age when completed scriptures provide the completed standard for New Testament faith and practice (Isa. 8:16 with Isa. 8:20)

- (3) “Love” is the **mature principle** right now Paul uses to guide the churches in the more mature use and practice of immature spiritual gifts – v. 13 (1 Cor. 12:31-14:1). Love does not seek self-edification above the edification of the church (14:1-19). Love seeks to abide within the guidelines of scripture (vv. 20-22). Love does not violate order and create confusion (vv. 23-

40).

d. Now Faith, hope and love define spiritual maturity rather than sign gifts during the time of INCOMPLETE revelation from God for *New Testament faith and practice* – vv. 12-13

G. The Third Corrective – ch. 14:1-5 – Love seeks to emphasize Prophecy as it is better than Tongues for edifying others spiritually

1. It is better because “foreign languages” in the context of the church are not understood by anyone including the speaker without an interpreter and therefore is known only to God – v. 2 (with vv. 9-11; 19). The unknown tongue speaker, speaks only to God as no one else understands what is said.
2. Speaking a foreign language in the church context with no interpreter benefits no one but self (negative self-edification – building yourself up at the expense of others) –v. 4
3. Prophecy is better than tongues in a church context because it builds everybody up –v. 5
4. Speaking foreign dialects is for the mission field not the church (v. 19) and for unbelievers not believers – vv. 20-21

H. The Fourth Corrective – ch. 14:6-12 – Seeking Edification of all is better than speaking in foreign Languages

1. Unknown foreign languages are mere noise in the church without an interpreter – vv. 6-8
2. Unknown foreign languages only have value if they are understood by all – vv. 9-11
3. Seeking the edification of the church is BETTER than speaking gibberish – v. 12

I. The Fifth Corrective – ch. 14:13-17 – Understanding what someone is saying is BETTER than Hearing gibberish

1. It is better for the speaker’s own edification – vv. 14-15
2. It is better for others hearing you – vv. 16-17 – if not it fails the test of edification

(NOTE: Paul would not pray in tongues if his mind could not understand what his mouth is saying as there can be no positive self-edification only negative self-edification = pride)

3. Understanding with the mind is here defined as essential for edification of self and/or others.

J. The Sixth Corrective – ch. 14:18-25 – The Church is not the MATURE place to Speak with Foreign Languages

1. Paul spoke in foreign languages more than all of them but not in the church – vv. 18-19
2. The Mature use is according to the Biblical purpose for this gift – vv. 20-22
 - a. The gift of Biblical tongues is designated for the Jews and their dispersion – v. 21

- This is a quotation from Isaiah 28:11-13
 - The Jews will reject this “sign” to them – v. 21b “they will not hear”
- b. The gift of Biblical tongues is a “SIGN” gift – v. 22
- Sign gifts are not for believers therefore it is not for the church
 - Prophesying is the gift for believers
 - the Jews were learned in the Scriptures
 - the “unlearned” unbelievers were gentiles because they had no training in the scriptures and would not recognize “tongues” as a sign but think you were crazy.
- c. The confusion of using a missionary gift in the wrong place – v. 23
- d. The blessing of using the right gift in the right place – vv.24-25

K. The Seventh Corrective – ch. 14:26-31 – The Biblical use of gifts in the church

1. Every gift exercised in public worship must edify the whole church – v. 26
2. No more than three should speak foreign languages in the church – v. 27a
3. No more than one speaker at a time – v. 27b
4. No more than one person doing the interpreting – v. 27c
5. None should speak in tongues if there is no interpreter – v. 28
6. Same rule of order applies to Prophets –vv. 29-31 “one by one”
7. The spirit is subject to the speaker – meaning the Holy Spirit is not the source of loss of self-control as in “slain in the spirit” snake slithering, etc. The fruit of the Spirit is self-control.

L. The Eighth Corrective – ch.14:32-40 – Order not Confusion is the evidence of the Spirit

1. People led by the Spirit do not lose control of themselves – v. 32
2. People led by the Spirit do not cause confusion – v. 33
3. The Holy Spirit does not reverse God’s roles for men in women in the home when they enter the church as that makes God the author of confusion – vv. 34-35
4. Women speaking in the church violates the Divine order of the Sexes and submission to their husbands – vv. 34-35
4. Spiritually led people acknowledge all these things as God’s commandment – vv. 36-37
5. Those who reject these standards are IGNORANT and unspiritual v. 38
6. Tongues and prophesying should not be forbidden as long as they fit within these guidelines – v. 39

7. Everything is to be done decently and in the order commanded above – v. 40

NOTE: No other church epistle has any reference to tongues being used in the churches, because other churches used that gift according to its Biblical design – missionary gift for lost Jews outside of the church. Sign gifts were the mark of the Apostolic office (2 Cor. 12:12) which the apostles conveyed through the laying on of their hands (Acts 6; 8:15-17; 19:6; etc.). This is why no sign gifts are noted in the churches in Rome (Rom.12) as no apostle had been there yet and Paul wanted to come to convey such gifts through laying on of apostolic hands (Rom. 1:11). Tongues “ceased of itself” when the apostles died out because none others could convey them as that was the “sign” of the apostolic office (2 Cor. 12:12).

M. The Modern Day Tongue Movement is not of the Spirit of God

1. It characterizes confusion and disorder and God is not the author of that
2. Every single one of its self-proclaimed prophets have failed the Biblical tests of a prophet
 - a. Commanded to test the spirits in regard to self-proclaimed prophets – 1 Jn. 4:1
 - b. Miracles confirming false doctrine is demonic in origin – Deut. 13:1-5
 - c. Failure of prophecy to be fulfilled as predicted is a sign of false prophet – Deut. 18:20-22
3. Crosses denominational boundaries by common experience without changing heresies embraced. Protestant Pentecostal can observe the idolatrous Mass with tongues speaking Catholic Charismatics and all be slain in the Spirit – demonic worship. Gospel of works, denial of justification by faith without works (eternal security of true believers – Jn. 6:37-40). United Pentecostal preach “another Jesus” deny Trinity and teach no salvation apart from tongues, etc.,
4. Violate the Holy Spirit’s inspired guidelines for speaking in the assemblies – 1 Cor. 14:26-38

Today’s “tongues” is not the Biblical tongues but the common ecstatic utterances found in every world religion and found in all ages starting long before the coming of Christ. It can be emotionally worked up by or self engaged after some practice or it can be demonic originated. It is of the flesh and of Satan.