

glossalalia

Glossalalia is from Greek *glossa*, tongue. speaking in tongues, ecstatic utterances. One of the most interesting phenomenon has been the tremendous growth of the churches which emphasize speaking in tongues, the Pentecostal churches. They emphasize a strict Biblical authority, an austere morality, an enthusiastic faith and evidence of the Holy Ghost.

Jung came to the conclusion that there are levels of the unconscious beyond the personal, the buried memories, and the primitive impulses of the id. Speaking in tongues, Jung found, is one evidence of a breakthrough of this objective psyche or deep, collective level of the unconscious to be understood in terms of the soil from which it sprang - the 19th century holiness movement. This was a revival movement, almost exclusively Methodist in the beginning.. the holiness movement affirmed vociferously the literal inspiration of the Bible. Many strayed from the original vision confirmed by the Pentecostal doctrine and insisted that speaking in tongues was essential to any true baptism of the Holy Ghost. By their one burning desire to enter into the same supernatural experience which is described in the Book of Acts, tongues mistakenly became the only door through which they entered this experience.

There are two uses that have been taught for speaking in tongues. The first is that it a personal prayer language and the second is the gift of tongues. The tongues used in prayer is praying in the spirit, generally in your own prayer closet or when the spirit bears witness to your spirit with groaning that cannot be uttered. It can be manifested audibly or inaudibly and can be something that you may not know how to pray at that moment. This type of prayer can be manifested at will. The gift of tongues is one of the gifts (charisms) of the spirit to be used in the congregation as the Spirit leads, when there is a known interpreter present. If it is done in the spirit, not the flesh and if the congregation is in order, there will be an interpreter present. If there are more than one or two speaking in tongues at the same time or there is no interpretation, it is of the flesh.

The five-fold ministry is as much Pentecostal as it is Apostolic and that includes speaking in tongues. Many modern Pentecostals fall into the Corinthian trap and believe that tongues is the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit; even more dangerous is the absurd belief that this is the only experience a Christian needs in order to have the fullness of Christian life. They don't just say that speaking in tongues is a sign of the Holy Ghost like other spiritual gifts, including love. They think that speaking in tongues is the ONLY proof and this where satan gets the advantage to use this error to cause division, corruption and a congregation that is out of order. Many reject the five-fold ministry because of these misled brothers among them.

Many tongue speakers believe that the least of the gifts make them spiritually superior than other Christians, a kind of super-saint. The worst of them then start to think that speaking in tongues is a badge of honor. It is no longer one or two and with an interpretation, it is whole congregations speaking at once in confusion. Some forget the teachings of Jesus and only worship Paul and the Holy Ghost; conversely, they conform to the letter of the law instead of living in the spirit. They would be better off stressing a higher gift like discernment or faith rather than tongues; condemnation is the norm and love and unity for outsiders is really far from them. Being out of order has led them to a gross legalism and a babel of confusion and numbers them with the transgressors. Those churches are quite satisfied with the confusion and disorder reigning in their services and care nothing about it. Over time, more and more of these babel churches will be exposed as cults.

Fortunately the gift of tongues is still being used mightly to confirm His Spirit and rhema

word in the congregations and there has been much interpretation. Only two or three are to exercise the gift of tongues, and then only if there is someone to interpret. Otherwise take it alone into the prayer closet for your own edification.

The following paragraphs are from a topic that was discussed with the latter rain discussion group. The question was if tongues was the ONLY evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I have taken excerpts of the various responses from the group and put them into coherent paragraph order like we are speaking as one voice.

I must say that I cannot agree that you must have tongues as evidence of being filled with the Spirit. Tongues may be just a sign to us, but I do not think it a necessity to indicate we have been filled. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost comes with the power to serve God.

Tongues are important to the body, all the gifts are important but when one is used to give proof to the exclusion of the others, then that is where the error lies. Some people get locked onto a single verse and do not have eyes to see the rest of Holy Writ'.

I have been to Haiti, and while there, I personally witnessed Haitian voodoo priests speaking in tongues. I have also know of Mormons who speak in tongues. So, in what sense could tongue-speaking be conclusive evidence of the presence, let alone the baptism, of the Holy Spirit? My conclusion is that it could not possibly be. Tongues is a sign of receiving a spirit not the evidence of the Holy Ghost. Satan can counterfeit the gifts of the spirit. If we were to judge the baptism of the Holy Ghost with only the gift of tongues, we let the possibility of the counterfeit blind us to the true manifestations and open to deception. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

If these are all gifts from God, the Almighty, the Perfect One, no gift should be held as less than another. The gift of tongues was elevated to a position above the other spiritual gifts when it should not have been, placing the church out of order. Our blessed Father has many good gifts for us, His children, tongues are one of them, prophecy is another, discernment. The intimate relationship, being sensitive to His leading and a sign, not evidence, but a tool as one of the gifts. They are tools needed to accomplish the will of the Lord and just as we do not all have all the gifts (although I want them all and believe that because they belong to the Holy Spirit and He abides within us, we have access to them all), tongues is included as one of the gifts.

Are not love and prophecy and interpretation and discernment and the word of knowledge and healing and casting out demons manifestations of the Holy Ghost? Most importantly the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is something that God does. We as humans put limitations on an infinite God, who can manifest Himself anyway he chooses. The gifts were placed as "THE HOLY SPIRIT SAW FIT." Not as we saw fit. We don't pick and choose the gift and the time. The Holy Spirit supplies those as He sees fit. To be baptized with the Holy Ghost means we are immersed in or clothed with Him. The Holy Spirit is a person and is not the gift of tongues.

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit..."

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is something God does personally for us by His Holy will. What flows out of that person as the result of the Spirit coming upon is between them and God. The person receiving the Spirit will also know when He comes upon them. That tongues are an evidence of this is such a minor point. His Holy will is the major point, and some of us don't get it that His Holy will in our lives is our only real Life. The conservative hard line that there is only one Baptism, seems to me just hard heartedness and a religious spirit that wants God in a comfortable box. Don't feel that we all have to believe JUST as YOU believe, at the SAME TIME that you believe, in the SAME MANNER. Christianity isn't just walking with the Lord, but growing with him as well.

"Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."

Tongues is a gift and the least of all gifts at that, however I think for some it is needed to manifest to them that they were truly filled. It is according to their faith and some do not have the faith to speak forth as the Spirit gives them utterance. I do speak in tongues but I have found a more excellent way. LOVE to me is the real evidence of the Holy Spirit in my life. If everyone reads and accepts I Cor.13, there should be no division in the group. The greatest gift of the Holy spirit is LOVE and in love we can teach and learn from each other. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."

The main objective of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is not tongues. We should not pray for people to get tongues in praying for someone to receive the Baptism. The Apostles didn't. We should instead pray for an immersion in the Spirit to take place. Get them filled first. It is so sad that so many are seeking "tongues" and not the Christ of Calvary, neither the GIFT GIVER! We should elevate the giver, not the gift. Let us seek HIM and all things He has for us will come.

Jesus said out of your belly (heart) will flow Rivers of Living Water. The River can flow out in many different forms, and not just tongues. When I pray, I pray silently in the spirit with power, the type of prayer power that can receive interpretation in the congregation. I can ask God a question and He miraculously answers me through the voice of others. That is only a sign to me, others have no idea. The speaking in tongues is the Sign, the Evidence is the manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit thru your life. It is the Character of Jesus Christ displayed thru our life to fulfil the Word. Holiness, character, etc are evidences of the Baptism, but could not be classified as the initial evidence. It doesn't matter how much you speak in tongues if you don't have these things reflecting him in your life you don't have the Holy Ghost. I agree it is the Sign of speaking with other tongues. The evidence is the lifestyle.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

The only way we will be able to know for sure, is when we see things the way the Lord sees things. When they walk in a way that they see the world the way Jesus sees the world, it will be readily apparent to them, what the spiritual "state" is for the people they interact with. [104, 109, 116, 296, 12, The issue of if tongues is the only evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost was a topic of the latter rain discussion list]