

# TONGUES SPEAKING & THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

**“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:  
because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1**

## *Introduction*

Tongues speaking today has spread to every corner of Christianity. This phenomenon can be observed in Pentecostal, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Methodist, Roman Catholic Church and others.

The origin of this movement can be traced to around 1900 A.D. to the Bethel Bible School in Kansas, then to Los Angeles where a heavy emphasis was placed on seeking ones Pentecost. The Pentecostal movement became a powerful religious force in America during the first half of the twentieth century, spawning new denominations such as the Assemblies of God, Foursquare Gospel Churches and United Pentecostal Churches among others.

More recently we have seen this movement move into more mainstream denominations, such as the Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian and Catholic churches. Some of these movements encourage their converts to stay in their respective Churches. This movement is more of an ecumenical movement because the converts are willing to overlook doctrinal differences, such as those between Protestants and Catholics as long as a person seemingly experienced the gifts of the Spirit - Baptism of the Holy Ghost and speaking in Tongues.

Before we get further into this article, we must understand the terms often used by those that adhere to the Charismatic Movement.

“Charisma” - This is a Greek word, it is found 17 times in the New Testament and is translated “gift or free gift”. Some examples are 1Cor. 12 and Rom 6:23

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In 1Cor 12 gifts is used 5 times, addressing gifts like healing and prophecy not just those of speaking in tongues, like those of the Charismatic Movement emphasize.

“Unknown Tongues” -The term “unknown” is not found in the original Greek, but is added in italics.

**Every tongue spoken in the New Testament was a KNOWN language.**

***There isn't any reference to a Heavenly language or babbling. Gifts.***

On the day of Pentecost the languages spoken were listed. (See Acts 2:9-11)

There are three examples of Tongues in the Bible.

### Example #1. Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

On this great day , the gift of speaking in different languages or tongues served two purposes.

The first purpose was for a sign (the Jews seek a sign 1Cor 1:22)and a fulfillment of the prophet Joel. 2:28-32

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. 32 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Peter acknowledges this fact in Acts the second chapter

Acts 2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: 15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day. **16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;** 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

### Example #2. The second purpose for this gift was that it enabled the early Church to grow very rapidly and take the Gospel to all nations.

#### 2. Three years later at the House of Cornelius Acts 10:34-48

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. 36 The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, *I* say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it

is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

This event was God's way of giving the Spirit to the Gentile as well as the Jews, again the tongues were given for a sign to the Jews who were with Peter.

### Example #3. Twenty two years later at Ephesus Acts 19:1-7

19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. 7 And all the men were about twelve.

When Paul preached in Ephesus, he realized that the disciples had only received the Baptism of John the Baptist, that of repentance . These disciples had not received the Gift of the Holy Spirit as was promised on the day of Pentecost. Upon being re-baptized, they spoke in tongues (languages), again this was a sign to the Jews present, that there is only one Baptism, which is immersion in water for the remission of sins.

Other than the abuse of the gift of tongues in Corinth, there are no other references of Tongue Speaking found in the Bible. It is unlikely that if this was to continue that there would not be any other reference made in the Bible.

## **The gift of tongues was temporary. As we read in 1 Cor. 13:8-10**

1 Corinthians 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Prophecies here are those received by an individual directly from God. These would fail or stop when the Word of God was complete. John wrote the last book of the Bible in the year 96A.D.. With the completion of the Book of Revelation, there was no need for prophets or prophecies.

*Tongues shall cease*, this is referring to the gifts of tongues (languages). Again this phenomenon ceased because the Word of God was complete.

*Knowledge shall vanish away*, this refers to special , revealed knowledge from God. With the Last Book completed, there was no need for God to give special knowledge.

The most important part of this passage of scripture is this “when *that which is perfect is come*”.

1 Corinthians 13:10 ο[ταν δε. ε;λqh] to. **te,leion** to,te to. evk me,rouj katargqh,setai

Perfect doesn't mean Jesus Christ, because in the original Greek this word translated perfect is in the neuter gender, not masculine gender as all other references to Christ are. This word is referring to a thing, not a person. This can only mean the Word of God.

**In this study we have concluded that tongues and gifts of knowledge have ceased. But when they did exist in the first century,**

**the Corinthian Church misused the gift of tongues.**

**Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians set forth rules for using this gift.**

1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but rather that ye may prophesy. 2 For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. 6 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? 7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? 8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? 9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. 10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them *is* without signification. 11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh *shall be* a barbarian unto me. 12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. 13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? 17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. 18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: 19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue. 20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. 21 In the law it is written, With *men* of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. 23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? 24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or *one* unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: 25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on *his* face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. 26 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. 27 If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret. 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. 29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. 30

If *any thing* be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. 36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. 39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Paul tries to show that prophecy is more edifying than tongues v1-6

2 He taught them that uncertain sounds from a tongue , not understood causes confusion v7-17

3 Five words understood are better than ten thousand not understood v19

4 Tongues were for a sign to the Jews and to the unbeliever not for enjoyment v22

5 Gibberish flowing from the mouth only confuses the unlearned v23

6 No more than three people were to speak in tongues at the same service, then one at a time v27

7 If no one was present to interpret they could not speak in tongues v28

8 There was to be no confusion in the Church, God isn't the author of Confusion v33

9 All things were to be done decently and in order v40

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