

Speaking In Tongues
Its Profit & Usage
In The
Life of a Believer

A Study in the Accuracy of the Scriptures

By
Don E. Graniero

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Table of Contents

- Preface.....iv
- What is Speaking In Tongues?.....1
- Is Speaking In Tongues Available Today?.....9
- The Profit of Speaking In Tongues.....11
- When to Speak In Tongues.....19
- How to Speak In Tongues.....22
- Overcoming Common Fears.....22
- You Can & You Shall.....25
- Conclusion.....29
- Appendix 1: True Worship.....30

Preface

In 1974 I had the blessing of sitting through a Biblical research and teaching class entitled "Power For Abundant Living". In that class I learned for the first time from the pages of the Bible of the power of God that is available to all believers. It was in the final session of that class that I manifested God's power for the first time in my life by Speaking in Tongues. As a born again believer it was the single most significant event of my spiritual life and I have been utilizing speaking in tongues in my life according to the instruction given in the Word of God ever since. This has made the difference for me in living the blessings of God's promises in my life and enabling me to worship God in spirit and in truth.

There have been countless times during these years that speaking in tongues has been my strength and lever in moving mountains through its perfect prayer. It has enabled me in interceding for others in need of a miracle. It has aided me in giving thanks to our Heavenly Father, and in sharing divine secrets with Him. It has helped me in reinforcing in my renewed mind the unalterable standing I have as a son before Him. Speaking in tongues has enabled me to magnify Him. In knowing how to speak in tongues I have known that I am never at a loss in any situation. It has given me peace when all around was turbulence, it has given me hope when all seemed hopeless, it has given me strength when all seemed too heavy to bear, it has given me words to offer Him when I stood speechless in the presence of His great grace and mercy.

Speaking in tongues has given me the unshakable and unwavering conviction that the Word of God is truth and as Jesus Christ said, not one jot or one tittle shall pass from it until all be fulfilled.

It is this same immovable conviction that I pray this work accomplishes in every heart that spends the time to engage its pages and dares to walk out on its truths.

There is nothing greater in this life than knowing that the power of God is real and that it resides within you, the born again believer.

May God bless you mightily and open the eyes of your understanding as you seek to be filled to overflowing with His power that dwells within you.

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What is Speaking In Tongues?

For many Christians today, the entire subject of the gift of holy spirit, its manifestations and their proper usage is nothing but a muddled mess of conflicting theologies and personal opinions. Most just “sweep it under the rug” not being able or willing to separate the truth from the error. Some because of ignorance or wrong teaching are afraid of it; some deride it. Others remain complacent, not wanting to rock the boat by bringing up something as seemingly out on the fringe of the Christian walk at best. But the scriptures are not unclear nor are they willing to keep silent regarding this wonderful manifestation of the spirit. There is much to learn from the Word of God about speaking in tongues that is to our benefit and blessing if we will allow the Word to speak. In this study we will endeavor to do just that.

Speaking In Tongues has had a wide variety of explanations through the years since the Christian Church began some 2000 years ago. It has been described as everything from a gift of the spirit, to the drunken babble of some unlearned and uneducated Galileans, to cursing Jesus Christ. But what *people* say about it may or may not be true. So when looking to understand speaking in tongues -- as with any spiritual matter-- we must go to the scripture because it is our only source for truth, (I Thessalonians 2:13, II Peter 1:20,21) and there alone will we find the truth about this often misunderstood manifestation of the spirit. As we search out what the Bible says about speaking in tongues and put aside what men say we find that speaking in tongues is one of the most important and exciting aspects of our lives as followers of the lord Jesus Christ. So what is speaking in tongues? To answer this question we will begin in Acts 2.

Acts 2:1-4:

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 [Greek = *pnuema hagion*],¹ and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit [Greek = *pnuema*] gave them utterance.

¹ The Greek word for “ghost” is *pnuema* and should always be translated “spirit” as in the latter part of verse 4. The word translated “holy” is *hagion*. The capitalization, being absent from the original manuscripts, must be done with the utmost caution for to capitalize “Holy Spirit” would indicate God who is Holy and who is Spirit according to scripture. To place “holy spirit” in lower case would indicate the gift that God gives, as it should be here. The context will always determine the usage.

Here we see that speaking in tongues marks the beginning of the church of the body of Christ, the church to which all born again ones belong. This is one of the things Jesus Christ told his disciples they would be able to do once they received holy spirit.

Mark 16:17:

And these signs shall follow [*or accompany*] them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

In Mark 16:17 Jesus Christ is telling his disciples what they would be able to do in the near future, once they received the gift that he referred to as “the promise of the Father” in Luke 24:49.

Luke 24:49:

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued [*clothed*] with power from on high.

Acts 1:8:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost [*holy spirit*]² is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me [*the resurrected Christ*] both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

In Luke 24:49 the promise of the Father is the power from on high. In Acts 1:8 this power from on high is the holy spirit. These are all terms describing the one gift of holy spirit which would become available on the day of Pentecost. Notice that it was not until they received the power of holy spirit that they could be witnesses of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. Just being eyewitnesses of his resurrection was not enough; they would need to have proof beyond their personal testimony. The gift of holy spirit would be that proof, and it would be indisputable! This is what they were told to wait for in the city of Jerusalem. Acts 2 is the record of the fulfillment of this great promise. At that time God could have done whatever He wanted to mark the magnitude of this great occasion; Jesus Christ’s work was accomplished, God had raised him from the dead and ascended him to sit on His right hand in the heavenlies and He made available the power of His gift to all and in all who believe beginning with the 12 apostles.³ God chose to signify the fulfillment of this original outpouring of the gift of holy spirit with the manifestation of speaking in tongues. And with it, the irrefutable proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:38,39:

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive⁴ the gift of the Holy Ghost [*spirit*].

² Ibid.

³ In Acts 2:1 where it states that “they were all with one accord in one place” the third person plural pronoun “they” relates back to it’s closest associated antecedent noun, which in this case would be the 12 apostles [Mathias and the eleven with whom he was numbered] in the preceding verse, Acts 1:26.

⁴ The Greek word translated “receive” here, and in Acts 1:8, is “*lambano*” meaning “to receive objectively, into manifestation”.

³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Here again the promise is the gift of holy spirit that would clothe them with power from on high. The speaking in tongues was the evidence in the senses realm of the receiving of the gift. It is the very thing needed to be a witness of the resurrection of Christ. This puts speaking in tongues in a class all by itself!! Furthermore, here in Acts 2:39 this promise of the Father is made available to *all* that are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call. The usage of the word “all” makes this promise to everyone who chooses to believe on the name of Jesus Christ. This agrees with “the uttermost parts of the earth” in Acts 1:8.

In Acts we find other records that deal specifically with the new birth and the receiving of holy spirit into manifestation. They are found in chapters 8,9,10 & 19. But for the sake of clarity, context and subject matter we will consider the record in chapter 10 next. Just as the record in chapter 2 shows the original outpouring to those of Israel, chapter 10 shows the original outpouring to the Gentiles making it an equally significant record.

In Acts 10 we learn that Peter received instruction from God by revelation to go meet with a man named Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, and speak to him regarding Christ. Up to this point in Acts the apostles are directing their efforts of outreach towards those of Israel only. This is the first time that an effort is made to reach the Gentiles specifically. In their culture at the time, the Jews looked down upon the Gentiles and considered them as nothing more than dogs. So nothing short of God’s direct order could motivate Peter. God gives that order and Peter goes to Cornelius and speaks of Christ.

Acts 10:44-46:

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell⁵ 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...

In spite of the revelation Peter received this was still a total surprise to them that God would include the Gentiles in the plan of salvation provided for by Israel’s messiah, Jesus Christ. Those who came with Peter were astonished to see the Gentiles receive the gift of holy spirit. But how did they know this? What did they see that convinced them that the gift was poured out on the Gentiles also? What did they hear? They heard them speak in tongues and magnify God. (To magnify God means to declare Him great!) The

⁵ The word translated “fell” is the Greek word *epiipto*; from two words, *epi* meaning “upon” and *pipto* meaning “to fall, as from a higher to a lower place”. Here (with the accusative case) it emphasizes the location of its origin and the point or position to be reached. The spirit comes from God who is in heaven above to us who are on earth below. The use of *epiipto* in the context of the gift further emphasizes the receiving into manifestation by speaking in tongues for *this* is the ultimate point to be reached. See also Acts 8:16.

manifestation of speaking in tongues was the evidence that these Gentile believers had undeniably received just as those who believed on the day of Pentecost had received! Peter established this great truth as he told of his experience with Cornelius and his household after returning to Jerusalem.

Acts 11:15-17:

And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost [holy spirit – the gift] fell⁶ on them, as on us at the beginning.

¹⁶ Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.⁷

¹⁷ Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

That gift is to *all* who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Every one who calls upon the name of Jesus Christ receives the “like gift” or the *same gift*. The gift is not speaking in tongues as so many have been led to believe; the gift is holy spirit and the speaking in tongues is the evidence. The receiving of the gift at the time of the new birth is the baptism with holy spirit. Everyone who believes receives the *same gift* and therefore has the ability to manifest it just as they did at the beginning! The question is well put by Peter, “what was I, that I could withstand (oppose or deny) God?” Who is there who loves God and respects God that could oppose or deny His will? Surely then we also, who love God would not want to deny that speaking in tongues is truly that which proves the presence of the gift in the believers life! Whether Jew or Gentile before one is born again, the gift is given and is to be manifested initially by speaking in tongues. It is the very act of speaking in tongues that declares and proclaims the greatness of God for it “magnifies” God. Let us now consider another record in chapter eight.

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

¹⁵ Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

¹⁶ (For as yet he [it] was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

¹⁷ Then laid they *their* hands on them,⁸ and they received the Holy Ghost.

The key to understanding exactly what happened here in Samaria is in the Greek words translated “received” and “receive” in verses 14, 15, and 17. In the Greek they are not the same word but two different words *dechomai* and *lambano*. The word *dechomai* means “to receive, as one would receive or accept a gift”; it is a subjective receiving.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ This is a direct reference to what Jesus Christ had told them as recorded in Acts 1:5 indicating that with the coming of the greater, the lesser is no longer needed and therefore done away with. The greater baptism of holy spirit replaced the water baptism of John.

⁸ The laying on of hands is done simply to identify the one being prayed for or ministered to. It has no special function in the giving of the holy spirit, spiritual power or blessing. Compare the records in Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-46 where no one had hands laid upon them and yet received the gift into manifestation.

The word *lambano* means “to take; to take with the hand, lay hold of, any person or thing in order to use it;” it is to receive objectively into manifestation. The words are used as follows: in verse 14 the word translated “received” is *dechomai*; in verse 15 “receive” is *lambano*; and in verse 17 “received” is *lambano*. The usages of the two Greek words indicate the details of the event as follows. The apostles at Jerusalem had heard that the people of Samaria had received (*dechomai*) the Word of God; in other words, they were born again—but they did not manifest the gift, they did not receive it into manifestation; this is indicated by the use of the Greek word *dechomai*. Upon hearing this, the apostles sent Peter and John to minister to them so that they would receive (*lambano*) holy spirit into manifestation by speaking in tongues. They did just that and, as it says in verse 17, they received (*lambano*) the holy spirit – they received it into manifestation.

The following verse says that Simon the ex-sorcerer *saw* that through laying on of hands and prayer the holy spirit was given to those believers. The record does not specifically say that he saw them speak in tongues, but he *saw* that they had received (*lambano*) the holy spirit into manifestation, and what Simon saw was proof enough for him to be convinced of its authenticity for he offered Peter and John money so that he could do the same thing. The records we have considered thus far have shown that the manifestation in the senses realm, the proof of the reception of the gift is speaking in tongues. It is axiomatic to assume that this was the case here in Samaria also. The Greek words *dechomai* and *lambano* bear out these truths. A similar incident is recorded in Acts 19 and one of the keys to understanding it fully is again the Greek word *lambano*.

Acts 19:1-5:

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 [*lambano*] 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.

When the apostle Paul came to Ephesus his first question to the believers there was “have you received (*lambano*) the holy spirit yet?” In other words, “have you manifested?” Their response was much like most Christians today, “we don’t know what are you talking about, we have never heard of holy spirit?” The reason for their ignorance was simple, they were never taught. In this case they were not instructed because Apollos, who had known enough to get them born again, did not know anything more than John’s baptism – water baptism. Apollos did not know that water baptism had been replaced with the baptism of holy spirit; the baptism in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 18:24-28:

And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

²⁵ This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

²⁶ And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

²⁷ And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

²⁸ For he mightily convinced the Jews, *and that* publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Apollos had a “mighty” or thorough knowledge of the scripture in regard to Jesus being the Christ but he knew *only the baptism of John*. But when those two wonderful believers, Aquila and Precila took him aside and showed him the way of God more perfectly he believed and went on to Achaia proclaiming how the scriptures show Jesus was the Christ, leaving behind the baptism of John.

It is unfortunate that most churches today will only go as far as John’s baptism with water. The church would do well to learn from Apollos’ example; they need to accept a more thorough knowledge of the scriptures that are available to them and move on to the “way of God more perfectly”, the greater realities of the gift of holy spirit and *it’s* baptism. It is the greater baptism that is available in the name of Jesus Christ. It is the baptism with holy spirit that Jesus Christ said would come. How does this greater baptism evidence itself in the believer?

Acts 19:6:

And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost [holy spirit] came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Here is the proof once again that they had received the gift. These believers in Ephesus spoke in tongues and prophesied.⁹

These records in Acts show quite conclusively that it was normal to expect the newborn believer to speak in tongues. In the event they did not manifest, it was cause for concern and ministering on the part of the apostles or other established disciples in order to bring the new believers to the point of receiving the gift into manifestation by speaking in tongues. The ministering of the gift to new believers does not always require an apostle as exemplified in the case of Ananias and Saul in Acts 9.¹⁰

⁹ Prophecy here is the *manifestation* of prophecy. See 1 Corinthians 12:10

¹⁰ Saul is the Apostle Paul’s Hebrew name, Paul being the Grecian or Gentile equivalent.

Acts 9:10-12,17,18:

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.

¹¹ And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

¹² And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting *his* hand on him, that he might receive his sight...

¹⁷ 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 Ghost.

¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Ananias is a certain disciple. He is given no other designation than that. He is not an apostle, but a disciple.¹¹ But he is sent by revelation to minister to Saul so that he might receive two things; his sight and become filled with holy spirit. The word “filled” is the Greek word *pletho* and is the same word used in Acts 2:4, “they were all filled [*pletho*] with holy spirit, and began to speak with tongues...” This word *pletho* means, “to fill to overflowing” as opposed to the word *pleroo* which means, “to be filled up to capacity”. It was God’s desire for Saul to be “filled to overflowing” with the holy spirit just as those on the day of Pentecost and speak in tongues.

We know that Paul was already born again at this point for Ananias called him “brother Saul”. The early believers would never call any unbeliever “brother”. A brother in those times was a fellow Christian believer. Therefore, being born again he already had the gift, holy spirit, he was “filled to capacity”; but he needed to manifest, he needed to be “filled to overflowing”. Verse 18 answers to his two distinct needs: his sight and his being filled to overflowing with holy spirit. There fell from his eyes as it were scales and he received his sight. He was baptized (in the name of Jesus Christ) and was filled to overflowing (*pletho*) with holy spirit [supplied by the figure of speech *ellipsis*¹²]. Although the record does not mention speaking in tongues it firmly indicates it with the use of the word *pletho* precisely as it is used in Acts 2:4. This truth along with his statement in I Corinthians 14 “I thank my God I speak in tongues more than you all” and the record in Acts 19 where we saw Paul minister the holy spirit to those in Ephesus getting them to speak in tongues and prophecy leaves no question concerning this record. Paul spoke in tongues! This is exactly why God directed Ananias to go minister to him.

¹¹ A disciple is a disciplined follower or one who faithfully continues in the Word as Jesus Christ said. We are all encouraged to be disciples. An apostle however, is a disciple whose ministry is a gift to the church, a “gift ministry” sent with the special task of bringing the new light of the gospel to God’s people. See John 8:31; Ephesians 4:8,11,12.

¹² *Ellipsis* is the figure of speech that leaves out or omits a word or phrase for intended emphasis; hence called *Omission* in English. Here the emphasis is on the baptism *with holy spirit* i.e. his being *filled to overflowing with holy spirit* from verse 17.

We now have examined every record in the book of Acts regarding the receiving of the gift of holy spirit and its initial manifestation of speaking in tongues. They are summarized as follows:

1. Acts 2 - The 12 were all “filled to overflowing” and spoke in tongues
2. Acts 8 - Simon *saw* them receive the gift into manifestation (*lambano*)
3. Acts 9 - Saul was “filled to overflowing” with the holy spirit being baptized in the holy spirit
4. Acts 10 - Cornelius and his household spoke in tongues and magnified God
5. Acts 19 - The believers at Ephesus spoke in tongues and prophesied

Every one of these records speaks plainly as to the reality of the gift being received into manifestation. Furthermore, each record specifically states or infers the initial manifestation of speaking in tongues. Keeping in mind what we have observed from the scriptures the following definition is set forth here.

Speaking in tongues is the external manifestation in the senses realm of the internal reality and presence of the power of the gift, which is holy spirit.

The gift is holy spirit and speaking in tongues is the initial manifestation of it. It is the believer operating the God-given ability by the freedom of his will as the spirit gives the utterance (Acts 2:4). It is one of the nine *manifestations* of the one spirit listed in I Corinthians 12:8-10. Each believer receives the one gift that has nine manifestations - nine distinct operations.¹³ With the gift comes the ability to operate all of the nine manifestations. At the moment of the new birth the believer receives the gift, and therefore has the ability to operate not only speaking in tongues but also interpretation of tongues, prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, faith (believing), miracles and gifts of healings. Some believe and therefore teach that God gives one the “gift” of speaking in tongues and another He gives the “gift” of interpretation of tongues etc., and to another He gives nothing at all. If this were true then God would be a respecter of persons. But as Peter observed in his meeting with Cornelius and as the scriptures establish, *God is not a respecter of persons*; what He gives to one He gives to all.¹⁴ The experience of manifesting the gift of holy spirit by way of speaking in tongues is available to all believers just as it was in the first century church because God has given to each one the same gift at the moment of being born again.

The manifestation of speaking in tongues is the first step in the believers walk with the power of God in his life and therefore of utmost importance to him. Once he speaks in tongues he is convinced that the power of God is in him and he can begin to walk with the other manifestations of the spirit and do just as Jesus Christ promised in John 14:12.

¹³ The nine manifestations of the spirit group themselves by their very nature into 3 groups of 3: *Utterance or Worship*; speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues & prophecy; *Revelation or Information*: word of knowledge, word of wisdom & discerning of spirits; *Impartation or Power*: faith (believing), working of miracles & gifts of healings.

¹⁴ See Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; 10:12,13; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:24, 25.

John 14:12:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

With the gift of holy spirit comes the ability to do the works that Jesus Christ did. When we look at Jesus Christ's life we see all but two of the manifestations of the spirit in operation. We see prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, faith, miracles, and gifts of healings. These are the manifestations of the spirit that he operated that enabled him to do the works that he did – heal the sick, raise the dead, calm the storms, and other works; which he said we would do also. The ability lies in the gift of holy spirit which every believer receives. But what about the “greater works”?

The scripture does not say specifically what these greater works are. But from what we see from the record of the scripture it can be concluded that the greater works can only be two in number. One of the greater works is leading people to the knowledge of Christ and bringing them to the point of the new birth; getting them born again. This is something that Jesus Christ could not do because the new birth was not available until the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. We have this blessed privilege and ministry. The other work that is greater than what Jesus Christ could do is in operating the manifestation of speaking in tongues and its companion manifestation, interpretation of tongues. Jesus Christ could not speak in tongues for it too was not available until Pentecost and the new birth.¹⁵ With speaking in tongues is the ability to pray perfectly. It also enables the believer to speak to God divine secrets among other things. This is truly greater than what Jesus could do praying with his understanding. As we continue to search out God's Word these particular truths will be seen quite clearly.

Is Speaking In Tongues Available Today?

Some of the greatest theologians of our time have said that there is no lack of evidence that the first century church utilized speaking in tongues but that it is no longer available today. This reasoning stems in part from the belief that when the original Apostles died we entered a new era or dispensation (administration) and the “spiritual gifts” did not carry on. This is only the tip of the error iceberg when dealing with this topic. But all of the problems in understanding have their roots in one fundamental error - the failure to recognize scripture as truth rather than the commentaries and the tradition of men. From what we have seen from the Word of God, if speaking in tongues is no longer available because it went out with the last of the 12 Apostles then so did the gift of holy spirit for speaking in tongues is but a manifestation of the gift. We know this cannot be true because the promise of the gift is made to as many as are afar off. Those who are afar off

¹⁵ The spirit that was upon Jesus Christ was the same that was available throughout the Old Testament. It was from God and therefore it was holy spirit. But it was different from the holy spirit available today in two respects: 1. It was “upon” *certain* believers only and *conditional* as opposed to being “in” *all* who believe and seed by birth and therefore *unconditional* as it is now (cp Matt 3:16, Num 11:17 Judges 3:10; Rom 8:10,11; Col 1:27) 2. It had all the same abilities or manifestations as the spirit we now have available to us with the exception of speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues.

would have to include those in “the uttermost parts of the earth” to which those with the gift of holy spirit would be witnesses as Jesus Christ said in Acts 1:8. The original 12 certainly moved God’s Word to a vast number of people as Acts 19:10 says that all Asia (referring to Asia Minor) heard the word of the lord. This is a tremendous outreach but it had not yet reached “the uttermost part of the earth”. It wasn’t until centuries later that Europe heard and many centuries after that that North American Natives heard etc.– people dwelling in the uttermost part of the earth had to hear and see the proof of the resurrected Christ and the *proof* is in the manifestation of holy spirit. This is still true today – those who hunger and thirst after God’s righteousness and desire to know and believe that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead can have the *proof* and they too shall be filled!

1 Corinthians 13:8:

Charity never faileth [to fall, fall out *from a position of authority*]: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail [render idle, ineffective; nullify]; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease [stop, desist]; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away [render idle, ineffective; nullify].

This verse is commonly sited to say that tongues are no longer available for they have ceased. Yes, it says they shall cease, but *when?* This verse is speaking of a time in the future when not only tongues but also prophecies as well as knowledge shall be things of the past. This will be true only when as verse 10 says, “that which is perfect is come”, and that will be when the lord Jesus Christ returns. It is the lack of willingness to break out of the traditional thinking and come back to the Word of God that continues to keep people in their error. Truth is wonderfully simple and easy to see if we will but read God’s Word in its context.

1 Corinthians 13:8-12:

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.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Knowledge in verse 8 is put for the written Word of God, the scriptures, by which we have an accurate knowledge of God, and the manifestation of word of knowledge. At the present time all of what we know of God from the scriptures and all that God may reveal by way of revelation (word of knowledge, word of wisdom discerning of spirits) and all that prophecy proclaims (whether by the manifestation of prophecy or the gift ministry of a prophet speaking by revelation) is only in part. It is just a portion of all that God is and all that God knows that He chooses to reveal to us. It is interesting to note that verse 9

does not mention tongues. It mentions knowledge and prophecy as being only “in part” but is silent as to tongues. Why? Speaking in tongues is the one manifestation of the spirit that is complete and perfect in its function and purpose in the believers life (as we will see as we consider its profit in the next section of this study). But even as perfect and complete as speaking in tongues is for us now, it is still considered but a “childish thing” and there will come a time when it too will no longer be needed and it will cease. When is this time? Verse 10 says, “When that which is perfect is come”.

The word translated “perfect” in verse 10 is the Greek word *teleios* meaning “brought to its end, finished; hence complete, perfect, whole”. The things of this administration are brought to an end, finished and all is made complete or perfect only when Jesus Christ returns. When God sends His Son back and we are gathered together with him in the sky to be with him, we shall see him face to face and we shall know even as we are known. It is at this time when we are with the lord Jesus Christ that we will no longer need prophecies, tongues, or knowledge but charity – the love of God – will always be needed. There will never be a time throughout all eternity that the love of God will not be our most needed asset and coveted attribute. Love will never fall from its position of authority. Love is now and always will be the eternal rule and standard of life. We will need the gift and its manifestations *until* Christ’s return, then they will cease, but love will never fail.

The Profit of Speaking In Tongues

There are some who say that because speaking in tongues along with interpretation of tongues are the last in the list of manifestations in I Corinthians 12:8-10 that they must be the least important. With that kind of logic we could say that because charity (the love of God) is the last of the three (faith, hope, charity) listed in I Corinthians 13:13 that it is the least important. This of course could not be further from the truth for the rest of verse 13 states that it is the greatest of the three! So being the last in a list certainly has nothing to do with its perceived value, at least as far as God’s Word is concerned.

1 Corinthians 12:7:

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

This verse along with verses 8-11 has to do with the *manifestation* of the spirit. Two great truths regarding the manifestation of the spirit are set forth here. First, it is given to *every man*. Here again we see what was so clearly set forth in the records in Acts, i.e. all get the gift therefore all can manifest it. The word “manifestation” is singular to emphasize the *ability* given in the one gift to manifest and forces us to consider each manifestation individually. This brings us to the next truth that no matter which manifestation of the spirit is being utilized there is a profit to it; it is given to *profit withal*. The words “profit withal” mean, “to be to ones advantage, to be advantageous, profitable”. We now see that we are to consider each manifestation of the spirit individually as to its unique and special profit. Each of the nine manifestations has its particular profit (its own advantage or benefit) to the believer manifesting and to the body of believers. This is the main point

being brought forward into verses 8-10. The abilities listed in verses 8-10 are not gifts but *manifestations* of the one gift and are listed for us to consider in light of their distinct advantages or profit. A more accurate translation of the Greek according to usage of words and context would be as follows.

1 Corinthians 12:7-10:

But the manifestation of the spirit is given to each man for a distinct profit.

⁸ For one *profit* is given by the spirit the manifestation of word of wisdom; for another *profit* the manifestation of word of knowledge by the same spirit;

⁹ For another *profit* the manifestation of faith by the same spirit; for another *profit* the manifestation of gifts of healing by the same spirit;

¹⁰ For another *profit* the manifestation of working of miracles; for another prophecy; for another discerning of spirits; for another *divers* kinds of tongues; for another the interpretation of tongues:

Each manifestation has a specific profit – each one important and of great value. We have considered speaking in tongues to be one of the greater works that Jesus Christ said we could do. Certainly then it will have great profit in its operation. We will need to search the Word of God to learn the accuracy of this great manifestation’s profit and benefit to us.

Acts 2:5-11:

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?

⁸ And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

⁹ Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Here, in this record of the original outpouring of the gift of holy spirit, is the first description as to one of the many benefits of speaking in tongues. Verse 11 says that these devout men from every nation under heaven who came for this yearly feast, heard them speak in their languages “the wonderful works of God”. The speaking in tongues was unknown to the apostles who were manifesting. They were Galileans who only knew and spoke Aramaic, they were not educated in other languages, but here at this time of the original outpouring of the gift of holy spirit, those who came together could hear and understand them speaking in their native languages. This has been referred to as the “Miracle of Pentecost” because they all heard them in their own languages. This was amazing to those observing because they heard these simple Galileans in their native

languages speaking the wonderful works of God! Remember, these who heard them speak the wonderful works of God were devout Jews. These devout, or very religious Jews looked down on the uneducated and inferior followers of the man from Galilee, the Nazarene. But in spite of their prejudice, it was impossible for them not to exclaim with unfettered excitement and wonder the truth that these men were not blaspheming, they were not cursing God, but were giving God the glory by speaking His wonderful works!

Psalm 106:2:

Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? *who* can shew forth all his praise?

Psalm 107:8:

Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

Here perhaps is the answer to the psalmist's question and heart's longing! Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can praise the Lord for his goodness and His wonderful work? *Now* is the time when *every* born again believer can speak the wonderful works of God by way of speaking in tongues! When you speak in tongues you are not babbling nonsense, you are not cursing, but are uttering those truths that in the past were not in your vocabulary, but now because of the God given ability in the gift, you are speaking the wonderful works of God! This truth alone should be enough for every born again believer to want to speak in tongues!

Before we move on to more of the benefit and profit of speaking in tongues it is important to clarify certain points of the record in Acts 2. The 12 apostles did not understand what they were saying but the others around them did. This is the "Miracle of Pentecost" because of its uniqueness. The gift is a promise to all who believe, and therefore the ability to manifest it via speaking in tongues and the other manifestations is part of that promise. But it is not promised that anyone standing by and hearing you speak in tongues will understand the language you are speaking. To understand this we are going to look at I Corinthians 14 where we find detailed instruction regarding the worship or utterance manifestations.

1 Corinthians 14:2a:

For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*;

In the King James Version we notice that the words "unknown" and "him" are italicized indicating that there are no corresponding Greek words in the texts.¹⁶ These italicized words were added to attempt to clarify meaning. Here they must be deleted in order for us to see the truth and understand this record and the record in Acts 2 accurately. In Acts 2:11 the devout Judeans heard them speaking in their languages so the possibility exists that the manifestation of speaking in tongues will be a *known* language on earth as it was

¹⁶ It is important to note that the King James Version does *not* use italicized words to show emphasis as we would and do use them but uses them *only* to indicate a word brought into the English translation with *no* corresponding Greek word.

in Acts 2. Therefore, it is not necessarily an *unknown* tongue to the hearers. This brings us to the next truth. When a believer speaks in tongues he is not speaking to men but to God because he does not understand the words which he is speaking – “for no man understands” what he himself is speaking. It may be that someone somewhere would understand the language brought forth in tongues as on the day of Pentecost, but this is not promised anywhere in God’s Word. God can always do more than He has promised but never can He do less! When you speak in tongues you are speaking a language of men or a language of angels (I Corinthians 13:1) but you yourself will not understand it, for if you did understand it, it would not be the manifestation of speaking in tongues. You can speak this language that is unknown to you and do it fluently from the start because it is the spirit that enables you; it is the spirit that gives the utterance.

1 Corinthians 14:2:

For he that speaketh in an ~~unknown~~¹⁷ tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth ~~him~~; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

There are two distinct ways to utilize speaking in tongues; for private prayer and for public worship when interpreted (which we will consider later). Here the manifestation of speaking in tongues is used to speak to God in the believer’s private prayer life. The word translated “mystery” in I Corinthians 14:2 is the Greek word *musterion* meaning “mystery or secret (of something formerly hid but now revealed)”. This is the same word used to describe the age in which we live today as “the administration of the mystery”. We know from scripture that *the* mystery God hid in Himself and told no one until He revealed it to the Apostle Paul and showed it to us within the Church Epistles.¹⁸ It is notable to consider that the mystery is one of the wonderful works of God for us in this day and time! In the spirit we speak mysteries, divine secrets in our private prayer time with God.

1 Corinthians 14:4a:

He that speaketh in an ~~unknown~~ tongue edifieth himself;

When the believer speaks in tongues in his private prayer life he edifies himself. To edify means to build up, to establish and strengthen. What part of you is built up or strengthened by speaking in tongues? It cannot be your physical stature. It cannot mean your intellect or your mind because you do not understand the language. It must then be referring to your spirit. If you want to walk with all the power of God that is available to you then you are going to have to build yourself up spiritually. You are going to have to speak in tongues more and more in your daily life. The apostle Paul was constantly challenged with many different things in his life as he endeavored to proclaim the good news of Christ’s accomplished work. The record in II Corinthians 11:23-28 tells of his being beaten, shipwrecked, in dangers of all kinds, and yet he came through them all with countless miracles. Most in his position would have quit after the first or second beating, but he did not! One no longer has to wonder where he found the courage to keep

¹⁷ From this point on in this study we will ~~strike through~~ italicized words that do not represent the accuracy of the scripture’s intended meaning.

¹⁸ See Romans 16:25,26; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Ephesians 3:2-9; 2:11-22; Colossians 1:26,27

moving. He most definitely needed spiritual strength in his life day to day and had it for he spoke in tongues more than all of them! Speaking in tongues edifies you spiritually.

Ephesians 3:16:

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might [*dunamis* = strength, power, ability; inherent power] by his Spirit in the inner man;

Here is an amazing truth; God has granted us the ability to be strengthened with inherent power and strength. If you are going to be strengthened, made strong with that inherent power it is going to be by the spiritual strengthening of speaking in tongues – by utilizing that spirit which is the inner man.

Jude 20:

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in [*or* with] the Holy Ghost,

As we pray in the spirit we build ourselves up in our faith, in our believing God. Prayer in the holy spirit is speaking in tongues as we see quite clearly in I Corinthians 14:14-17

1 Corinthians 14:14-17:

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.

Speaking in tongues is prayer in - or with - the spirit and even though it bypassed your understanding and therefore your understanding is unfruitful, receives no benefit, we are still encouraged to do it, for when you speak in tongues you are blessing God with your spirit (verse 16) and giving thanks well (verse 17). The word “well” in the Greek is the word “*kalos*” which means “beautifully, finely, excellently”. There is no greater way to give thanks to God than by speaking in tongues for it is the spirit that supplies the perfect words to express our praise and thanksgiving to Him. This is how we can do as David said in Psalm 34:1; “I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.” Of course we will always continue to pray with our understanding as well. But with the manifestation of speaking in tongues we can accomplish this in a perfect way every time.

Romans 8:26,27:

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he [it] maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

In the Greek text the word “infirmities” in verse 26 is singular not plural. We may have many infirmities or weaknesses in the flesh, but when it comes to our prayer life, we have but one infirmity, one weakness; we don’t know what to pray for as we ought or as we should. But the spirit intercedes on our behalf with the words that we ourselves cannot speak! In his Critical Lexicon and Concordance E. W. Bullinger defines intercession as “requests concerning others and on their behalf”. This is exactly what the spirit does for us via speaking in tongues. When we speak in tongues in our prayer life it is the spirit interceding for us. The Greek word translated “maketh intercession” here has the prefix *huper* meaning “over and above” or “super”; the intercession that speaking in tongues makes for us is “super intercession”, it is the best possible! We never have to be at a loss for words again when we go to God in prayer! We simply have in our mind’s eye the object of our need and we speak in tongues, thus we can accomplish perfect prayer for that necessity which is on our hearts. Verse 27 expands upon this truth by stating that it is making intercession for the saints according to the will of God, or literally according to the Greek, “according to God it intercedes on behalf of the saints.”¹⁹ A saint is literally “the most sacred, or holy ones” and is a term used to describe all of God’s people.

Furthermore, verse 28 adds, “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.” Many people have taken verse 28 out of it’s context to teach that you should just go along with whatever situation you find yourself in because it is for your good that you are going through it; that is to say, it is all by God’s design. That kind of thinking may be sincere but it is simply not the truth. All things working together for good to those who love God is a direct result of our ability to speak in tongues and overcome our infirmity. All things work together for good for us as we utilize the spirit to intercede on our behalf and on the behalf of others with the perfect prayer available via the spirit.²⁰ This whole aspect of making perfect intercession for the saints by speaking in tongues comes to our attention again in Ephesians.

¹⁹ There are no corresponding Greek words for “the will of” in Romans 8:27 as the italicized words in the KJV rightly indicate, however it is understood by the context.

²⁰ It may be argued that the context of Romans 8:26 would indicate that the “intercession for the saints” here stated is intercession for the individual believer as he prays in tongues. This is most certainly true, however there is a broader truth that is also inferred here. When, as in Ephesians 6:18, the believer is called upon to intercede for all saints via speaking in tongues it is then intercession for others as well. Therefore we have in Romans 8:26 what could be the figure of speech *Amphibologia* or *Double Meaning*; a word or phrase susceptible of two meanings, both of which are absolutely true. Speaking in tongues is not only intercession for the individual doing the speaking but other saints as well who are the object of our prayers and special petitions – “according to God it makes intercession for the saints”.

Ephesians 6:18:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

What a tremendous admonition! When we pray for others we are to make our prayers and supplications (our petitions to God for our specific necessities or needs) *in or with the spirit*. Prayer in the spirit is speaking in tongues. The NIV translates it, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”²¹ With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Yes, keep on praying for all the saints, (all the believers) on all occasions by speaking in tongues! Whatever situation arises making it necessary to go to God in prayer do it via speaking in tongues. The manifestation of speaking in tongues covers every eventuality in the believer’s life that requires prayer and does it well!

Romans 8:16, 17a:

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

If you ever need proof that you are a child of God it lies in the fact that you can speak in tongues. To “bear witness” literally means, “to show to be true, give evidence in support of”. Every time you speak in tongues it is the spirit that is giving evidence in support of you being a child of God, just as in I John 3:2 where it says, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God”! How do we know that we know we are sons of God? We show it every time we speak in tongues! Verse 17 goes on to say if we are children, then we are the heirs of God our Father and joint-heirs with Christ! Jesus Christ being the only begotten son of God and fulfilling God’s will throughout his life certainly has quite an inheritance wouldn’t you think? Absolutely! To be a “joint heir” means we *share fully* with him; this inheritance is not divided up among all the sons or portioned out according to merit, but we all get to enjoy all of it; we are joint participants in all that he earned! This confidence which speaking in tongues gives us is what it speaks of in I Corinthians 12:3 as one translation renders it, “no man can *really* say that Jesus is my lord except by ...holy spirit”, except by speaking in tongues! Once we have confessed him as lord and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead we are saved, born again sons of God.²² We know that we have really done this because we can speak in tongues.

Each morning we wake to face another day we find our physical bodies growing older. But, each day we wake and remember in our renewed mind that it is Christ in us, that we have the power of God resident within us and take the time to speak in tongues and magnify God something great happens. We see this truth in 2Corinthians.

²¹ There are different kinds of prayer spoken of in the scripture which emphasize different aspects of prayer. There are predominantly three Greek words used: *proseuche*- prayer in a broad sense, to God, invoking His power; *deesis*- urgent request to seek aid in special necessity; *enteuxsis*-God sought in audience on another’s behalf - intercession.

²² Romans 10:9,10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2 Corinthians 4:16:

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

It is our inward man, that which dwells in us, that new creation in Christ, which is renewed in strength and vigor day by day as we manifest speaking in tongues. Our flesh may be perishing but the inward man is spiritually alive and vital enabling us to do the works that Jesus Christ did! Not only does speaking in tongues renew us with spiritual strength day by day, but it is rest to our souls as well.

Isaiah 28:11:

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

¹²To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

Speaking in tongues is rest to the soul. Whenever you feel weary or burdened down, just speak in tongues and you will be at rest in your soul and your heart will be refreshed in the knowing that God your Father is with you. This is the source for the mental and physical energy you need to get through the day with vigor and genuine enthusiasm. It's better than all the "power naps" you could ever know!

1 Corinthians 14:21,22a;

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.

²²Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:

There are certain times that speaking in tongues is for a sign. A sign is defined as "something by which a person or thing is distinguished from others and is known" and hence authenticates the person or the thing. The fully instructed believer is distinguished from others and hence known to have the genuine power of God in him by the manifestation of speaking in tongues. This, along with the manifestations of interpretation of tongues and prophecy utilized in the believers' meetings brought forth decent and in order according to the instruction of the scripture,²³ results in the statement in verse 25; those who hear will worship God and report that the power of God is really in you! This is the same result as on the day of Pentecost when they heard them speak in tongues the wonderful works of God and about 3000 souls were born again. It is also what showed Peter and his company that Cornelius and his house had indeed received the new birth in Acts 10:46 for they spoke in tongues and magnified God! This is one of the signs that Jesus Christ said would follow (accompany) the believer in Mark 16:17.

In summary, we have seen from scripture, which is the Word and Will of God that the manifestation of speaking in tongues is profitable for:

²³ God's Word gives full instruction as to the usage of the manifestations of speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy in a believer's private life and in public in I Corinthians 12-14.

1. Speaking the wonderful works of God. Acts 2:11
2. Speaking to God mysteries, divine secrets. I Corinthians 14:2
3. Edifying you, building yourself up spiritually. I Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20
4. Strengthening you with might in the inner man. Ephesians 3:16
5. Blessing God and giving thanks well. I Corinthians 14:16,17
6. Enabling you to pray perfectly. Romans 8:26
7. Making intercession for the saints. Romans 8:27; Ephesians 6:18
8. Bearing witness that you are a child of God and a joint heir with Christ.
Romans 8:16,17
9. Renewing the inward man day by day. II Corinthians 4:16
10. Rest to your soul. Isaiah 28:11
11. A sign to unbelievers. I Corinthians 14:22

Look at all those things that speaking in tongues is for! Is it any wonder why Paul by revelation wrote in I Corinthians 14:5 “I would that you all speak in tongues” and in verse 18 “I thank my God I speak in tongues more than you all”! Certainly there can be no question left as to the validity of and the profit of this manifestation of the spirit, speaking in tongues. It then becomes the heart cry of every believer to seek to manifest so that he can benefit to the full extent in that which God has provided with His gift. How then do you begin to walk out and manifest this foundational manifestation of the spirit? The following section will aid you in your quest to manifest the power of God in your life and clarify the when and where to manifest.

When to Speak In Tongues

Before we take a look at the *how* of speaking in tongues, it is necessary to be clear on *when* we are to speak in tongues. It has already been seen in our study that the believer is to speak in tongues at the time of his being born again or shortly thereafter. This was the norm for the first century church. As seen in the book of Acts, when they believed, they manifested. If a group of believers were not taught (as in Ephesus under Apollos’ ministry) then upon becoming fully instructed they would manifest. This initial receiving of the gift into manifestation could occur in a group with others present and all speaking aloud at the same time (as with the original outpouring on the Day of Pentecost, and with Cornelius’ household). It may occur with only one other believer (as is implied in the record of Ananias and Paul) or it may occur in private with just the believer and God. But one thing is certain from the scriptures; all are encouraged to manifest. This first time to manifest is a very necessary and special occasion for the new believer, for it is the outward evidence of the internal presence of the gift.

Now, what about following that initial time, in our day-to-day lives? Are the believers instructed to continue to utilize this manifestation? Absolutely. Paul by revelation said, “I thank my God I speak in tongues more than you all”. He, knowing the many benefits,

continued to speak in tongues in his life, and said further, “I would that you all speak in tongues” and “forbid not to speak in tongues”.²⁴ The full instruction as to when and how this manifestation of speaking in tongues is to be used is in I Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 14:2:

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.

1 Corinthians 14:14-18:

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.

The manifestation of speaking in tongues is to be used in your private prayer life for it is not speaking to men but it is speaking to God; it is prayer in the spirit. As such it is to bless God with the spirit by giving thanks well. There are no restrictions or limitations given to the use of speaking in tongues in a believer’s private life. But in the church, when the believers come together, God has put restrictions or limits on its use.

1 Corinthians 14:27,28:

If any man speak in an ~~unknown~~ tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course [one at a time]; and let one [Greek =*heis*- emphatic; the same 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.

God’s Word is very specific here in I Corinthians 14:27,28. Where it says “let one interpret”, “one” is the Greek word *heis*. It is emphatic and therefore means “the same one” not just “some one” or “any one” as the Greek word *tis* would indicate if used. When you have manifestations of the spirit during the fellowship of believers, specifically speaking in tongues with interpretation, it is to be done by two or at most three believers and *the same one* who speaks in tongues is to interpret; one speaks in tongues and that same one interprets, then the second speaks in tongues and interprets, then the third. This is what is meant by the words “by course” and this is very clearly “decent and in order” as verse 40 commands.²⁵ Verse 28 goes on to say, “if there be no interpreter”. This is in reference to the same individual who speaks in tongues and implies that he may lack the will or believing to interpret, or has not been instructed. We

²⁴ I Corinthians 14:5,39.

²⁵ I Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

know this must refer to the individual who would manifest tongues because verse 13 says “let **him** that speaks in tongues pray (believe God)²⁶ that **he** may interpret” that the church may be edified as well as he!²⁷ If **he** does not believe or lacks the will or the instruction to interpret then let **him** be quiet (do not speak in tongues out loud in the meeting) and simply “speak to himself”, speak in tongues silently to himself and to God.²⁸

In summary we know quite clearly that speaking in tongues is for the believer’s private prayer life, to which aspect the Word of God gives no restrictions or limitations. We can speak in tongues silently to ourselves at any time and thus edify ourselves spiritually, give thanks and any thing else that would profit in the certain situations we find ourselves. Because speaking in tongues bypasses the understanding as the spirit gives the words, it can be done anytime and anywhere; you can speak in tongues in the morning as you are getting ready for your day, in the car on your way to work, at work, at home, at your fellowship of believers, any place you go! If you are alone, speak out loud; pray with the spirit and sing with the spirit also. If there are others present around you, then simply speak silently to yourself and to God. When in the presence of other believers, we are not to speak in tongues out loud unless it is interpreted so that the church (the fellowship of believers present) can be edified, and this is to be done only in subjection to the one who is responsible for the order of the meeting. One would never just jump up in the middle of a group and blurt out the manifestations; there is an order to how these manifestations are to be used so that their ultimate profit can be experienced by all involved. This is always the directive of God’s Word for the public use of speaking in tongues except with the initial receiving of the gift into manifestation when it is acceptable for new believers to speak in tongues for the first time out loud together in a group for all to hear. But in all these situations God’s rule is for it to be done decent and in order.

How to Speak In Tongues

Now that you know and are convinced by the Word of God that speaking in tongues is available and understand when you are to do it, you must certainly have the desire to manifest. It is simple to take the next step and speak in tongues. But only you can take this step. God will never push you or force you. The true God will never control you, for God has never at any time overstepped anyone’s freedom of will. If you desire to receive into manifestation the power of the new birth then God will be there to back up His

²⁶ Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

²⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather [more and more] that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. Here the value and purpose of speaking in tongues with interpretation is made equal with the manifestation of prophecy. For more details see verses 23-26.

²⁸ Which is what speaking in tongues is- *speaking to God* divine secrets, blessing, giving thanks, making intercession...

promise for this is His will for you and all of His children. Once you know that it is His will for you to speak in tongues then *you* can, if *you* only will. Surely you want to magnify God. Surely you want to speak the wonderful works of God. Certainly you desire to build yourself up spiritually. When you know in your heart that this is what you want - to do His will - then the rest is simple. Some of you may very well have already manifested. Isn't it exciting to experience the power of God in your life, to know that you know that it is Christ in you? But for those of you who may need a little more to go on, a little bit more encouragement and help, read on. In a moment I will show you how to speak in tongues, and if you follow these simple instructions to the smallest detail, you will be speaking in tongues and magnifying God; you will be edifying yourself spiritually, building yourself up so as to be ready for an electrifying Christian walk!

Overcoming Common Fears

We have been involved in helping people receive the power of God into manifestation in their lives for many, many years. In the least common denominator the only thing that ever holds a person back from receiving when he wants to is fear. It's certainly not God who would hold you back. Nor would He hold His gift back. Before I spoke in tongues for the first time I was a bit skeptical, a bit reluctant; in the least common denominator I was fearful even though I knew that this was the truth about speaking in tongues. I knew that to work the truth of God's word in my mind and heart would enable me to overcome those fears. I chose to do this because I knew that I so wanted to manifest God's power in my life and this, according to God's Word, was the first step. It was the first step in the book of Acts and so it is the first step now. I was determined to succeed, as you also must be determined. But you must rid yourself of any doubts or fears because no one ever receives from God if they have fear. Fear is what defeats the believer who desires to receive anything from God, it is crippling to him. This is why at those times in God's Word that are at the onset of some great spiritual event or announcement or instruction there is frequently the encouragement to "fear not!"²⁹ The only reason that believers are afraid is because of wrong teaching or ignorance. They concern themselves with what people have said about speaking in tongues or what others have done with it outside of the will of God and ignore the accuracy of what God's Word teaches. But we have seen the truth about what God's Word says about it, we are not ignoring it, and when we are focused on the truth all fears are quickly dispelled for it is an accurate knowledge of God's Word which eliminates fear and replaces it with the confidence and boldness of right believing.

There are many fears that people may have that prohibit them from receiving the holy spirit into manifestation. None of these fears are unique to any one person. Others have walked the road that you are traveling and have come upon the same obstacles. None of them are insurmountable. For instance, sometimes the sincere God loving Christian may fear that he for some reason may receive something bad or receive a counterfeit. How

²⁹ Consider the following verses: Genesis 15:1; Genesis 26:24; Joshua 8:1; Matthew 28:5; Luke 2:10; Acts 27:24; Revelation 1:17; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15; 1 John 4:18a.

can you be sure that it is the real thing? This fear is very real but it is not something new, for Jesus Christ addressed this very thing with his disciples.

Luke 11:9-13:

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

¹⁰ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

The first time I read these verses in their context I was stunned! I had heard the verse “ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock, and it shall be opened” but never did I realize that the context brings you to one of the greatest things that God has ever given to His children – His gift of holy spirit! This is the confidence we should have about receiving the gift! Isn’t that wonderful? Be blessed to know that if you have the desire in your heart to manifest and simply ask God then it is given. Your search is over for you have found what you have been looking for; this is the real thing. Knock and the door to the spiritual power within you is opened. He will not give you something else, He is your Father and certainly our earthly fathers are not greater than our Heavenly Father. You see, you already have the gift, it is given at that moment of the new birth, and whenever you are ready to manifest then so is God! You need only walk through the door.

We have seen times when a believer is afraid that he or she is not good enough to receive the power of God into manifestation. From a human, five senses point of view we all fall short of the mark. There is not a one of us who could be good enough to earn what God has given. As it says in Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” But that is the point that God’s grace and mercy abounds.

Romans 3:24:

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:4-7:

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

⁶ And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

We were not good enough to receive salvation. But by God's mercy and grace He made us alive with Christ when we were dead in sins. He made us sit together with him in the heavenlies so that He could forever show us how gracious and kind He is. We are saved, not of our own works, but by grace, it is the gift of God. Salvation was not given because we *earned* it but because we *needed* it. It was Jesus Christ who earned it *for* us so that the power of God could dwell *in* us. We may not deserve the gift of holy spirit, but if we are going to live a life which is more than abundant, a life in which we can do the works that Jesus Christ did, and be more than conquerors in any situation,³⁰ and be a glory to our Heavenly Father, then we definitely need it – so God by His grace and mercy gives it to us! Rest assured that it is never a question of you being good enough for we have a Father who is ready to deal with us according to *His* goodness not ours. It is according to His goodness that He has made us the righteousness of God in Christ and holy and without blame before Him.³¹ If you want to overcome any feelings of not being good enough, focus your heart on God's goodness, not yours.

Another problem that besets some believers is the fear of looking or sounding foolish. Some are under the wrong assumption that God would make you do something that might make you appear silly or ridiculous resulting in your embarrassment in front of people. This is just not at all what God would ever do to His children. On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 the Judeans who heard the 12 Apostles speak in tongues were astonished and what's more, the 12 Apostles were not feeling foolish or embarrassed; they were bold in the spirit knowing full well what they had received. God's desire is for things to be done decently and in order so that others who may hear will not say that you're crazy or foolish, but know that it is the power of God in you.³²

1 Corinthians 14:33:

For God is not *the author* of confusion [instability, disorder, confusion], but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

If some people through ignorance or wrong teaching have utilized the manifestations of the spirit foolishly and out of order misrepresenting the experience for other sincere believers, it was their own doing not God's. The spiritual things of God are always peaceful, always settling to the believer, never confusing or out of order. When done according to God's Word they establish and make the hearts of the believers stable and secure so they can be at peace in their hearts, so they can be settled in the knowledge that

³⁰ See John 10:10; 14:12; Romans 8:37.

³¹ 2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

³² I Corinthians 14:25,40

they have indeed been clothed with the power from on high and that they are, without question, sons of God.

Work God's Word into your mind and into your heart. This is the way you can overcome any of your doubts or fears that prohibit you from receiving. God would never prohibit you for He has promised it to you, He has promised it to as many as are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call. That call includes *you*. He desires for *you* and every born again one to know that they know that it is Christ in them,³³ the power of the holy spirit! To carry out the instruction in God's Word and walk forth with the power of God in our lives is always a glory to God and a blessing to us.

There is one more thing that I want you to consider. If you are not convinced that the Word of God is the Will of God and that God's Word says what it means and means what it says, you will never manifest. Some people never allow themselves to get to the point of fully trusting God's Word. They may acquiesce to it but they never come to the point of saying in their heart, "if God's Word says it then that settles it; I will believe it". These are the intellectuals and analysts who spend their mental energies trying to logically dispel the truth of God's Word rather than believe it and walk out on it. They will go only so far and then they stop short of the real heart of believing that is in taking the action. I have personally seen people acknowledge the truth of the Word of God and then in a relatively short amount of time completely talk themselves out of it because of a plethora of reasons. There is an old saying, "too much analysis leads to paralysis". No amount of analysis can help anyone understand the working of the spirit of God in your life but it is there nonetheless. Don't allow an overly analytical mind to paralyze you and keep you from experiencing one of the truly great spiritual realities in this life. There comes a time in life when you must simply say, "Lord I believe; help me with my unbelief".

God said it – that settles it—now believe it.

You Can & You Shall

Philippians 4:13:

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Acts 2:38:

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall [absolutely] receive [*lambano* –receive into manifestation] the gift of the Holy Ghost.

³³ Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

The Word of God is our confession and belief. All that the word of God says we can do, we can do, for it is Christ that enables us. If this is our confession, “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me” then I can do! If you believe God’s Word here when it says “you shall receive ” then you shall *absolutely* receive!

When it comes to manifesting speaking in tongues, it is can be helpful to understand *what it is not* before you move into it. Many have stumbled expecting God to take control and make them speak. He cannot do that for He doesn’t possess, He doesn’t control you. God has given us free will and He will never overstep that in our lives. The devil, when allowed by an individual, may possess to the end of controlling the individual, but God *never* does this. Remember in Acts 2:4 “they spoke” as the spirit gave the utterance. No one was possessed or controlled, the spirit did not speak *through* them, no, *they* did the speaking but it was the words that the spirit gave them. The spirit didn’t force them to speak but *gave* them the words to speak; one word, then the next, then the next, as they spoke them out.

This is not the believer knowing anything about the language that they are speaking. It is inspired utterance. It does not come by revelation were God reveals certain information by way of the manifestations of word of knowledge, word of wisdom, or discerning of spirits. The manifestation of speaking in tongues is *inspiration* not *revelation*. Revelation is God *revealing* to you. Inspiration is God *inspiring* you. Speaking in tongues bypasses your understanding, therefore it is received by *inspiration*. You just simply employ the mechanics of speech; move your lips, mouth, and breath, using your vocal chords, formulating words just as you do in speaking the language that you know. The only difference is that you do not and will not know the language that you bring forth. This is not gibberish or foolishness just because you do not know the language. Not knowing the language didn’t stop them on the day of Pentecost! Neither should it stop you. It has been said, “*What* you speak is God’s business; *that* you speak is your business.” One thing is certain; it will be a language of men or of angels unknown to you.

There are some circles that claim that speaking in tongues is cursing Jesus. They ask, “if you do not know the language that you are speaking, then how do you know that you are not cursing Jesus Christ?” Speaking in tongues is not cursing Jesus Christ. That is a lie that’s been around ever since the first century church.

1 Corinthians 12:3:

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

The Amplified Version translates 1 Corinthians 12:3 as follows; “Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking under the power *and* influence of the [Holy] Spirit of God can [ever] say, Jesus be cursed! And no one can [really] say, Jesus is [my] Lord, except by *and* under the power *and* influence of the Holy Spirit.”

John 7:37-39:

In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Are you thirsting to drink of the spirit that God has given you? Then believe on him, believe that he meant what he said and that Jesus Christ was speaking God's will. When you do you will speak in tongues and magnify God. When you speak you must get the first word, then the next and so on. As you do it will begin to flow as Jesus Christ said. It will be from out of the inner most part of your being. That is what the "belly" represents. It will flow like a river not a little trickle—a river! That's how it will be for you as you open the floodgate by your believing action and let the living water flow!

When taking the steps to speak in tongues, you must first recognize that you must believe. This is the foundation of receive anything from God. Once you have the promise of God you must believe it, then you shall receive it. Nothing ever comes from God if you are in doubt or hesitating. This is the basic thread throughout all that God has made available to receive.

Mark 11:23,24:

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

There is one more thing to consider before you walk into the greatness of the power of God in your life. No one ever receives from God if they are not at peace. You must get quiet on the inside so that you can allow it to flow like the rivers of living water. It has been said that the greatest cargoes of life come in over quiet seas. Believing God's Word is what quiets the turmoil and the strife and brings peace on the inside. Knowing that He is true to His word and that He will fulfill His promises puts a believer at ease, it takes away all the anxiety, all the apprehension, and makes you peaceful.

John 20:22:

And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive [*lambano*] ye the Holy Ghost:

When Jesus Christ said this he was instructing them on how to receive the holy spirit, the gift. The words "he breathed on *them*" literally should be translated, "he breathed in". He told them to breath in. Take a deep breath, open your mouth and breath in. The spirit

is yours; it is as much you as your breath life, so when you get ready to speak I want you to first open your mouth and breath in just as Jesus Christ said.

Galatians 3:2,5:

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

⁵ He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Remember it is not the works of the law that have brought you to this point; it is the hearing of faith, right believing. You hear the Word of God and believe and you shall receive the spirit. I minister the spirit not by the works of the law but by the hearing of faith.

If you are ready to speak in tongues and magnify God and speak the wonderful works of God then sit quietly and follow these simple instructions. First, think of the mechanics of speech for you are the one who needs to speak. You move your mouth your lips and formulate words. You do it all the time; it is quite simple. I want you to say aloud, "Jesus Christ is my lord". You see how easy it is to speak those words? Say out loud, "I love the lord Jesus Christ." You did the speaking. Say, "I can do all things through Christ". These same mechanics you will need to utilize as you bring forth speaking in tongues. Speak one word, and then the next, formulating the words as the spirit gives the utterance by inspiration. Is it a "b" sound or a "k" sound or an "s"? You speak it out. Don't concern yourself with what it sounds like just speak it out one word at a time.

Now, sit quietly and thank God for filling you. You do not need to beg Him, for the spirit is already there, just thank Him in the name of Jesus Christ for the reality of being able to manifest. Keep thanking Him quietly in your heart. Open your mouth and breathe in and breathe out, quietly, peacefully. Just as Jesus Christ instructed the disciples to breathe in and receive the spirit, take another breath in and now, as you breathe out, speak in tongues and magnify God in the name of Jesus Christ. Keep formulating the words, let them flow out of your belly one word then the next, don't stop until you know that you know that you are speaking in tongues. If you can speak one word you can speak two, you can speak ten thousand! *You* start and *you* stop, as you desire for *you* are doing the speaking. This is how to speak in tongues, this is how you speak the wonderful works of God and magnify God. This is how you give thanks well and edify yourself in the spirit.

Conclusion

Isn't God wonderful? We have the most wonderfully gracious God and He is our Father!

1 Corinthians 14:39,40:

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.

Now that you know how to speak in tongues, it is my firm conviction that God will continue to bless you and cause great growth in your life as you continue to hold His Word in your heart and walk in the greatness of this, His power. You will want to speak in tongues much in your private prayer life. In doing so you will grow spiritually. I encourage you to do this often, as often as you can think of it, speaking out loud whenever possible because you will want to become fluent and confident with it. Put up little reminders for yourself; write "S.I.T." on your bathroom mirror or in your calendar, put it on the fridge. It is a new language to you, for some it may take a little getting used to. So speak in tongues much and pray with your understanding also. Read God's Word, specifically the Church Epistles (Romans through 2 Thessalonians) for that will build you up in your renewed mind as speaking in tongues will build you up spiritually. As you grow, eventually you will desire to interpret tongues in a believers meeting and prophesy so that you may have a part in edifying that fellowship of the saints of which you are a vital part. Always remember the guidelines that are set forth in God's Word and be blessed. Be blessed walking as a son of God filled with the power of God, and know that you are a glory to your Heavenly Father and His Son, Christ Jesus the lord!

Ephesians 6:10-18:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Appendix 1

True Worship

With so many different Christian denominations in our world today one might be tempted to think that there are many different ways to worship God. It seems to be a matter of personal preference as to which way you decide to go. There would seem to be something for everyone, a kind of “spiritual smorgasbord” of worship services. If you don’t like the way they do it at one church just go to the next corner and see if that one appeals to you more. You could fill a year of Sundays jumping from church to church and still have only just begun to see the multiplicity of choices to worship. But all of these options are in reality only the product of man’s thinking on what worship should entail. What one man thinks is worship is not worship to another. But it is not important what men may like or dislike. It does not matter what men think, it matters only what God thinks; that is what is of the utmost importance. Perhaps we all would do well to stop and consider the one place where we *know* we could get God’s thinking on this subject of worship—His Word, the Bible.

Is there a way that God would have us to worship Him? If so, what is it? What is the true way in which we should worship God? For those who, in the depth of their heart want to know, there is an answer to these questions. But for the answer we must go to the Bible to a section of scripture that sheds a great deal of light on this very misunderstood area of our lives before God.

John 4:21-24:

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

²² Ye [Samaritans] worship ye know not what: we [of Israel] know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

²⁴ God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

Jesus Christ said that the Father is looking for *true worshipers* to worship Him. “True” means “real” or “genuine”. These real genuine worshipers are those who will be able to worship God “in spirit and in truth” [literal of the text is “in spirit and truth”]. In verses 23 and 24 the words “in spirit and truth” comprise a figure of speech called “*hendiadys*” in which two words are used to express one thing. Here the two nouns “spirit” and “truth” are used to express the one idea that genuine worship is “truly in spirit”. When the Greek preposition “*en*” translated “in” is used with a noun, as it is here, it can change it into an adverb thus making the noun “spirit” the adverb “spiritually”. This would then be translated, “...they that worship Him must worship Him spiritually, indeed - in a truly

spiritual way.” Jesus said “The hour cometh and now is”, or in other words, “the time is near” when the true worshippers will be those who will worship God “in a truly spiritual way”. Notice the emphasis put on what is *TRUE* or *GENUINE* by the repeated use of “true worshippers” and “in spirit and truth”. This *true* worship is what God has been seeking. Furthermore, note the use of the word “must” in verse 24. The word “must” adds force making it *absolutely necessary*. This spiritual way in which the real or true worshippers are to worship is not an *option* but a *requirement*. There is nothing left to our choice or option - our liking it or not liking it. God is Spirit and cannot be worshipped in the flesh or with the use of the five senses; seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching. To worship Him requires a worship that is not physical, not something to be carried out with the flesh but with the spirit, making it truly spiritual.

John 3:3-7:

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.** [*emphasis added*]

Just as being born again (born of the Spirit of God) is an *absolute requirement* if one is to see and enter into the kingdom of God, so the one who desires to genuinely or truly worship God is absolutely required to worship Him in or with the spirit. This is the only way to truly worship Him. Whether we like it or not God requires that worshipping Him be via the spirit.

This true worship is in direct contrast to what Jesus Christ called “vain worship”.

Matthew 15:6-9

.... Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

⁷ Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

When traditions of men take precedence over the commandments of God, God’s Word is deprived of its force and authority and the hearts of God’s people drift far from Him. When men teach their own commandments and say they are teaching the commandments of God, the worship they direct is vain; it is empty and void of purpose. This is worship but it is not *true* worship. They looked like they were so holy in their worshipping God but it was only an outward show, for their hearts were far from God because they had rejected God’s Word and replaced it with man’s word. This is not the kind of worship

that sincere God loving people desire to be a part of. Sadly, however this is still the condition of most churches today. They have incorporated all of the senses of the flesh into what they call the “worship service”. The invitations are on countless marquees, “Come worship with us”. But no matter how appealing to the ear the music or how pleasant to the eyes are the artisans works in the windows, or how entertaining the progressive demeanor of the minister, they cannot engender true worship from stimulating these senses. The Churches are steeped in the traditions and commandments of men and the worship is in vain because they too have rejected the truth regarding worshipping God “in spirit and truth”-- in a truly spiritual way.

Philippians 3:3

For we [the born again believers, the church of the body of Christ] are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Those who are of the body of Christ, the born again believers are those who can genuinely worship God in the spirit. Why then settle for vain worship! To worship God as Jesus Christ said “in spirit and truth” is to utilize that which God gives the believer, the gift of holy spirit, for worship. Without spirit it is impossible to truly worship God. To attempt to worship God in any other way is having confidence in the flesh and is in vain. Worship is not about the flesh but the spirit and goes far beyond what man does on the surface to what he does in his heart.

The churches today are filled with evidences of their putting confidence in the flesh when they should be filled with the spirit. They still hold in the highest esteem the traditions of men and bring to naught the Word and Will of God. God desires *true* worshippers not those who continue in the flesh for the flesh can be of no profit when we are dealing with the things of God.

John 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth [to make alive or give life]; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

It is the spirit that makes us alive; the spirit is that which gives us life. The words that Jesus Christ spoke are spiritual life³⁴ to us, as we believe. It is the spirit that gives true life to our worship! The flesh can be of no profit in this. We must believe that God desires true worshippers and seek to worship God by utilizing that which He has given us.

Galatians 3:3

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

³⁴ In John 6:63 the words “spirit” and “life” are put to mean “spiritual life” by the figure of speech *hendiadys*. See page 29.

“Having begun in the spirit” refers to the truth that it is not by works that we are saved for by the works of the law no flesh is justified before God.³⁵ It is by God’s grace and the spirit of life in Christ Jesus that we have life. Therefore if we started by the spirit we can only conclude that it be in the spirit that we should endeavor to walk before God. We as born again ones are never to have any more confidence in what our flesh can do for us in God’s sight but we are to rejoice in what Christ Jesus did for us and in us.

Romans 8:1-4

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, ~~who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.~~*³⁶

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

We can never expect to walk righteously in the flesh but as we walk in the spirit we indeed have the righteousness of the law fulfilled in us!

Romans 8:8-9

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you...

Those who rely on their flesh *cannot* please God. So it becomes abundantly clear why the true worshippers will not be worshipping *in the flesh* but *in the spirit*! We are not “in the flesh” because we have the spirit of God in us. When we are born again we are filled with the power of the holy spirit. It is in utilizing that spirit that dwells in us that we can please God as we worship God in a truly spiritual way. Not with our flesh for that can never please God. Not by raising our hands and waving them toward heaven –no, no, no! With the spirit! To worship by the spirit we must operate the manifestation of the spirit. The manifestation of the spirit that produces true worship is speaking in tongues.

We are truly worshipping God by speaking in tongues because it is “speaking to God” as 1 Corinthians 14:2 says.

1 Corinthians 14:2a

For he that speaketh in an ~~unknown~~ tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God:

³⁵ See Galatians 2:16-21.

³⁶ The words “who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit” here in verse 1 are not in the original Greek text and should be deleted. They do occur in verse 4 in the text.

When we speak in tongues we are magnifying God - declaring God great.

Acts 10:46

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God...

When we speak in tongues we are giving thanks well or “in a most excellent way”.

1 Corinthians 14:17

For thou verily givest thanks well...

When we speak in tongues we are praying perfectly.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities [infirmity]: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

When we speak in tongues we are praising God for His wonderful works.

Acts 2:11

Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Speaking in tongues is *true* worship for it is worshiping God in a truly spiritual way; it is to worship in spirit and truth.

Oh that all of God’s people in Christ would realize that they are the true worshipers that God has sought to worship Him and do it His way!

May we continue to keep our hearts from straying away from Him no longer having any confidence in the flesh, worshipping Him truly via the spirit that He has given us.