

Sunday, February 08, 2009—The World's Most Dangerous Doctrine—Sign Gifts—  
Tongues

### **Introduction**

- This morning we are going to be continuing with our series of studies looking at the costs in the life of the believer associated with being Scriptural but not Dispensational.
- The most dangerous doctrine you teach or to believe is the Scriptural but not dispensational.
- This morning we are going to begin a two part section in this series but looking at the sign gifts of tongues and healing. This week we will be tackling the tongues issue and when we I get back from the teen retreat in two weeks the issue of healing.
- Tongues like water baptism two weeks ago is a hot button issue. We need to not let tradition and experience determine truth, rather we need to rest in an intelligent understand of God's word to us.
- I Peter 1:16-18—We cannot go by our experiences.
- People today are taught that in order to have a real experienced in the Christina life they need to be filled with the spirit as evinced by speaking in tongues.
- The modern Pentecostal and charismatic movement has totally confused the issue of tongues in the Bible and in so doing has redefined what tongues are and clouded the reason they were given in the first place.
- This morning we are going to define the Biblical definition of tongues, identify whom they were given to, what their purpose was, and demonstrate how they are no longer functioning in the dispensation of Grace.

### **What Were Tongues?**

- Many people are taught and believe that tongues are a heavenly prayer language that God the Holy Spirit uses to commune with God on a more personal intimate level.
- James 2:5—The word “tongue,” can refer to the part of the human anatomy.
- The word can also refer to languages that people speak.
  - Genesis 11:1-9—God confounded or mixed their languages thus creating various tongues.

- Genesis 10:5, 31—God divides the gentiles according to their tongues. He groups them so they can communicate with each other.
- Acts 2:4-11—On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles to speak with other tongues. The gift of tongues in this passage is a supernatural ability to speak in a language that one had not studied.
- In this passage tongues are real discernable languages that the listeners are able to identify as their own native tongue not a gobbley guck indiscernible private prayer language.
- Pentecostals defend their position that tongues were a personal prayer language by citing I Corinthians 14 where Paul talks about speaking in an unknown tongue.
  - I Corinthians 14:27—Makes it clear that the unknown tongues is unknown from the standpoint that neither the speaker nor the audience knows the language that is being spoken thus Paul required that one interpret.

### **The People and Purpose of Tongues**

- Tongues were a part of Israel's program and were to function as a sign to the Children of Israel.
- I Corinthians 14:22—Is very clear that tongues were given to serve as a sign.
- From the beginning of the life of the nation of Israel God deals with them using signs.
  - Exodus 4:1-9
  - Deuteronomy 28:45-46
  - John 4:48
  - I Corinthians 1:27—The Jews require a sign.
  - Mark 16:15-18—According to Christ, tongues were to function as part of the validation of the 12's offering the kingdom to Israel in early Acts, in the same manner that signs worked for Moses.
- In addition, the coming of the Holy Spirit that was manifest by the Apostles in speaking in tongues was prophesied to the nation of Israel.
  - Joel 2:28—This passage is fulfilled in Acts 2:16 when Peter says this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.

### **The Cessation of Tongues During the Dispensation of Grace**

- Since tongues were for a sign and Jews require a sign what happens to the sign program when God concludes Israel with the Gentiles in unbelief and temporarily sets his nation aside so that he can form the Body of Christ?
- Galatians 3:27-28—Today in the body of Christ, there is no longer a difference between Jews and Gentiles, as a result Israel’s sign program is no longer functioning.
- Here is where the Pentecostals will stand up and point out that even Paul spoke in tongues as said the following.
  - I Corinthians 14:18
  - I Corinthians 14:39—Why don’t you followers of Paul listen to Paul and forbid not to speak in tongues?
- It is clear that during the early stages of the dispensation of Grace that the gift of tongues was still being given and functioning.
  - Acts 9:15—The Apostles Paul would naturally speak in tongues as he preached to the Jews that required a sign.
  - I Corinthians 12:4-11
  - I Corinthians 12:29-30—It is also equally clear that even during this time when the gift of tongues was functioning not everyone was given the gift of tongues.
- Paul makes it clear that for the body of Christ tongues was only a temporary situation.
  - I Corinthians 13:8-13—tongues, prophecy, and knowledge would cease, fail, and pass away when that which is perfect is come.
- That which is perfect is not the Kingdom, Jesus Christ, or when all the saints believe the same thing.
- Rather it refers to the completion of that which is only in part, namely knowledge (the word of God)
- Use illustration of Cliff Huxtable on the Cosby Show

- All three of these gifts are revelatory gifts that were part of the mouth piece of God the vehicle through which God imparted his word to the saints until the written word was complete.
- When Paul put down his pen the Scripture says that the word of God was complete at which time the gift of tongues along with all the gifts for that matter were longer need to function.
- II Corinthians 12:7—Paul received his throne in the flesh because of the revelation He was continually receiving.
- Colossians 1:25—It is Paul’s writing the completed the word of God.

### **Dispensational Differences and Problems**

- Tongues functioned differently in the life of the early church than they did during Israel’s program. We need to rightly divide the word of truth on this issue.
  - Acts 2:4-6—No interpreter was necessary
  - I Corinthians 12:10, 14:27-28—Paul instructs the Corinthians that if no interpreter is present they should refrain for speaking in tongues.
  - How many times do you see this happen in a Pentecostal meeting.
- The Pentecostals do not even follow the Biblical rules for speaking in tongues established in the Scriptures.
  - I Corinthians 12:29-30—Why are they trying to make everyone speak in tongues when Paul clearly teaches that not everyone has that gift and therefore is not going to speak in tongues.
  - I Corinthians 14:27-28—When was the last time these instructions were followed in a Pentecostal meeting?
- Anyone who believes that the gift of tongues is still functioning today must also believe that the word of God is not complete. If tongues are still being given then someone needs to recording all of these special revelations and new words from God people have been receiving and adding them to the Bible.
- If tongues are still being given then God’s word cannot be trusted.
- All of this ends up becoming a fair show in the flesh by which people attempt to demonstrate what God is doing for them. Some of these people want to speak in tongues more then they want to go o heaven itself.

- God the Holy Spirit is not doing it then what is going on?
  - Emotionalism
  - Lying wonder of the enemy
- Learned patters of speech.

### **Conclusion**

- The amount of confusion on this issue has damaged innumerable lives.
- We have something far better than tongues we have a completed Bible that capable of working effectually in us who believe.
- Let's let our faith rest in a rightly divided understanding of God's word not in our emotion or experiences.