

TONGUES?

by GL Parks

Tongues can be a controversial subject within the Christian ranks. Since many speak in tongues from various Christian denominations and beliefs, we will start from the premise that tongues are for today and not just for the apostles of yesterday. If we discount an experience simply because of our beliefs or teaching then we may curtail our relationship with God. All of us are victims of our teachings in different areas and various degrees. Men really have walked on the moon although some still don't believe it. There is too much spiritual experience and evidence of tongues to deny the fact. The prime question of this article then, "Are tongues for **every** believer?" If tongues are not for everyone then is salvation available for everyone? If this experience died with the last apostle, then did salvation die too? At what point do we draw the line in the Bible and declare that this or that part was for the early church and this part is for today. This will not be a technical or lengthy study about the subject for many of those works are readily available. This will be a point paper for practical application to our lives. The goal for the Christian is to be changed into the image and likeness of Jesus and that is also God's goal for us. So, if there is any experience taught by the Bible that will aid us in reaching this goal then we should desire to gain that knowledge and walk in the experience. Pentecost is an experience and not a doctrine. Hopefully this short study will be led by the Holy Spirit without the influence of doctrines. All scriptures will be taken from the KJV and underlining is done by the author for emphasis. With that stated the following questions are asked:

1. Is there evidence within the Bible that states that people can be baptized in the Spirit without speaking in tongues?
2. Did Jesus state that his disciples would speak in tongues?
3. Is there a difference in the tongues of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) and the tongues of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12)? If so, what are the differences?
4. What are some significant New Testament statements about tongues?
5. Were there Old Testament types, shadows and prophecies about tongues?
6. (**Most important question**) Do our teachings about tongues hinder spiritual growth in people and quench the Spirit or do they promote being changed into the image of Jesus?

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Let's begin with question #1: Is there evidence within the Bible that states that people are filled with the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues? The answer is a resounding "NO." Without question the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was first given for all men and recorded in the book of Acts. So let's go through the book of Acts and see that tongues were evidence in every case of people being baptized in the Spirit:

Acts 2:4

4 And they were **all** filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other **tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This verse states that they were **all** filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues. It does **not** say that **all** were filled with the Holy Ghost and **some** began to speak with other tongues. It does **not** state that they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and one prophesied, one received the spirit of wisdom, one the gift of healing, one the gift of miracles, one divers kinds of tongues, etc. These are all **gifts of the Spirit** which are over and above the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. One must be baptized in the Holy Ghost before these various gifts can operate. This will be looked at in more depth when we address question #2.

While we are in this second chapter of Acts let's see who this baptism of the Holy Ghost is for:

Acts 2:38-39

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 receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For 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**.

We are a part of the children's children (infinity) and we are afar off. "Shall call" is one Greek word meaning to invite. God invites **everyone** for it is not His will that any should perish or miss out on this baptism. Many are called but not all answer the call. Many are called but few are chosen. We are chosen because we choose to answer the call (the free will of man). This call of speaking in tongues is **different** from the call of speaking in tongues as in the gifts of the Spirit as we will see by scripture. This call for speaking in tongues is for everyone. We continue with scripture showing that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is accompanied with tongues:

Acts 4:31

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

How did Luke, the writer of Acts, know that they received the Holy Ghost? We will see as we proceed.

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Acts 8:14-17

14 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 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, and they received the Holy Ghost.

The phrase “as yet he was fallen upon none of them” refers back to the day of Pentecost and how the Holy Ghost fell on the 120. Again, what was the evidence of them having received the Holy Ghost? Also, this scripture then dispels two popular teachings, that one is baptized in the Spirit at salvation or when baptized in water. Let’s look into this a little further.

Eph 1:13

13 In whom ye also trusted, **after** that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after** that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

This verse definitely states that the sealing with the Holy Spirit of promise comes after the salvation experience. We receive the Spirit of “adoption” at salvation but not the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is akin to an Old Testament priestly experience. To sanctify the priest a drop of blood was applied to his right ear, right thumb and right big toe (blood of Jesus applied to our lives). A drop of anointing oil was placed in the same spots (the anointing of the Spirit of adoption into God’s family). After this an entire vessel of oil was dumped on top of the priest’s head (the baptism of the Holy Spirit). We continue in Acts:

Acts 9:17

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.

This is the story of Saul (Paul) when he was baptized with the Holy Ghost. We know that Paul spoke in tongues because he said that he did so more than all the Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 14:18, “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.” We move on in Acts:

Acts 10:45-46

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was **poured out** the **gift of the Holy Ghost**.

46 For **they heard them speak with tongues**, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

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Verse 46 confirms how the disciples knew that anyone was baptized with the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is the story of Cornelius and his household, when the Holy Ghost was **poured out** on them just like the priests of the Old Testament. How did they know that they were baptized with the Holy Ghost? “They heard them speak with tongues.” As in all the cases cited thus far, that is the evidence, they heard them. The tongues are not the Holy Spirit, but the tongues are the evidence of the Holy Spirit. The evidence is very important, not for the ones standing by, but for the ones who are **receiving** the Holy Ghost. **IMPORTANT:** There are many experiences in God. There is the salvation experience and many experiences afterward where we know that we are in the presence of God. It is not important that others know that we have received the fullness of the Holy Ghost, but it is very important that we know. Without a **sign of the evidence** we might be persuaded that we have experienced the Baptism of the Holy Ghost when we actually may not have. We may flounder in life under a false premise of not having the power to overcome, yet thinking we do have that power. This is why the sign of the evidence (tongues) is most important and where wrong teaching can actually hinder a Christian walk. There is a lot of underachieving lives in churches because of bad teaching and I pray that we don’t fall into that trap.

We will let Jesus tell us of this sign or evidence a little bit later. Tongues in church can be equated to a handgun in our society. It is not the handgun that kills. It is people that kill people with handguns. It is not the tongues that are divisive. It is the teaching of tongues used by people that is divisive. We continue with the evidence of tongues:

Acts 10:47

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

This is the continuing story of the Cornelius household and again dispels some theology that we receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost at salvation or water baptism. As stated, we receive the **Spirit of adoption** at salvation. That is too long a discourse to fully discuss in this article. We continue with the evidence of the Holy Ghost. Paul coming along the coast of Ephesus finds 12 believers who have not been baptized with the Holy Ghost. Let’s see what happens:

Acts 19:5-6

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

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

The Holy Ghost came on them and they spoke in other tongues. This is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and not a sign of the nine gifts of the Spirit. Of these accounts in Acts, **I find no place that states that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost can unequivocally be received without the evidence of tongues.**

Let’s move on to question #2: Did Jesus state that His believers would speak in

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tongues? This answer need not be very lengthy, although we will go to John 14 and tie it to the day of Pentecost. The concept is contained in one short verse. This is Jesus speaking:

Mark 16:17

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

“Shall follow” in the Greek means to “conform to.” “Shall follow” definitely does not mean “might” or “maybe.” One of the signs that follow for the **believers** edification is that they **shall** speak with new tongues. “Tongues” in this verse by definition is a language not naturally acquired. According to this verse it appears that there is not a believer option if one wants to move on with God. One can believe without receiving the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, but why would we promote that powerless life.

Additionally, the New Testament **believer** has experienced the Feast of Passover. The believer who has been **baptized in the Holy Ghost** has experienced the Feast of Pentecost. The Feast of Pentecost is not the ultimate. There is another feast called the Feast of Tabernacles. I believe the Bible plainly teaches that a believer cannot move from Passover directly to Tabernacles. All believers must come through Pentecost to arrive at Tabernacles, which is an intimate relationship with the Lord. If our teaching in any way restricts Pentecostal movement then we have prohibited believers from moving into Tabernacles. This understanding is equivalent to moving from the outer court to the inner court to the Holiest of Holies. We must be very careful with what we teach about the Holy Spirit. From what I can ascertain, Jesus was not concerned about being politically correct, but He was always spiritually correct.

Verse 17 above, addresses signs. In the Old Covenant lives were governed by signs. In the New Covenant lives are governed by the Holy Spirit with signs confirming:

Mark 16:20

20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

The “signs” for conformation of the evidence, is most important. By definition, a sign is an indication that something has occurred. The sign is not the event but an indication of the event. The sign for the shepherds witnessing the birth of Jesus was important for it fulfilled prophecy that a virgin would give birth to a savior. Jesus was born whether they journeyed to the manger or not, but the sign was important for the confirmation. The star for the wise men was not the event, but was a confirmation that a new King was born. Jesus wants His disciples to know that there is a sign that will confirm the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

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The entirety of John 14 is about the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in men. We are the mansions that God dwells in. Know ye not that ye are the temple of the Holy Ghost. Lets look at a few verses in that chapter to confirm that Jesus knew that the Day of spiritual Pentecost was coming where people spoke in tongues and then we will move on to question #3:

John 14:16-18, 20-21,26

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Now we arrive at question #3: Is there a difference in the tongues of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) and the tongues of the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12)? If so, what are they? In short, there is a vast difference between the tongues of the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** and the tongues of the **gifts of the Spirit**. The 9 gifts of the Spirit are an addition to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. None of the 9 gifts of the Spirit can operate without there first being a Baptism of the Holy Spirit. That is why they are called **gifts of the Spirit**. Let's let the Bible show us the difference between these divers kinds of tongues as one of the nine gifts of the Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with evidence in speaking in tongues. In review the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all:

Acts 2:4

4 And they were **all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to **speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:39

39 For 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.

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence in speaking in tongues is for **all**. The nine gifts of the Spirit are **not for all**. Paul writes of these 9 gifts in 1 Corinthians:

1 Cor 12:4,11

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, **dividing to every man**

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severally as he will.

These verses state that once we have the Spirit then the 9 gifts are divided amongst the Body of Christ as the Spirit wills. Among these 9 gifts are different kinds of tongues. If we continue reading the remainder of 1 Corinthians we will find that these tongues of the 9 gifts are for the edification of the body of Christ and not for the edification of the individual as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is.

The Corinthian church was obviously so enthralled with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues that when they came together that is all they did. Paul taught against this manner of church service because anyone coming in would not understand and would think them to be barbarians (1 Corinthians 14:11).

Conversely, Paul never taught against any of the 9 gifts of the Spirit operating in the church which included different kinds of tongues for interpretation and edification of the body:

1 Cor 14:5

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

He that prophesies is greater than he which speaks in tongues except there is an interpretation. If there is an interpretation then the tongue and the interpretation become a prophecy which edifies the church.

1 Cor 14:26

26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, everyone of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Paul never taught against tongues being spoken in church as one of the gifts of the Spirit. He did teach against everyone speaking out loud and all at once in tongues within church that comes solely from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. His teachings in 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14 are difficult to follow unless we understand the difference between the 2 manifestations of tongues.

1 Cor 14:27-28

27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Reiterating, this tongue and interpretation are 2 of the 9 gifts of the Spirit. This is not the tongue of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

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1 Cor 12:7-10

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

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another **divers kinds of tongues**; to another the **interpretation of tongues**:

If we believe that operating in the Gifts of the Spirit **is the same** as being baptized in the Spirit then we are in great error. If this tongue of the 9 gifts is the same as the Baptism of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2) then why did all of them speak in tongues? Why weren't the diversities of the gifts divided severally on the day of Pentecost? Why didn't some of them at the receiving of the Holy Ghost perform miracles or immediately operate in the remainder of the 9 gifts instead of speaking in tongues? No, the tongues of the Baptism are for everyone and the tongues of the 9 gifts are for those whom the Spirit selects. I cannot comprehend how we can curtail the operation of some of the gifts in our church services and expect any of the other gifts to operate. The tongues of the gifts of the Spirit are a witness for the unbeliever:

1 Cor 14:22

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, **but to them that believe not**: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

If we don't understand about the 2 different manifestations of tongues then the verse above would contradict the very next verse in that chapter:

1 Cor 14:23

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, **and all speak with tongues**, and there come in those that are unlearned, or **unbelievers**, will they not say that ye are mad?

Are tongues for the unbeliever (verse 22), or not for the unbeliever (verse 23)? The tongues of the gift of the Spirit are **for** the unbeliever so that he will believe. The tongues of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost **are not** for the unbeliever for he must first believe to receive.

One more significant point needs to be made about 1 Corinthians 12. Many take one verse out of context in 1 Corinthians 12 and attempt to apply that verse to Acts 2. As the old saying goes, "You can't mix apples and oranges." The entirety of 1 Corinthians 12 is about the **gifts of the Spirit** and their application to the body of Christ. It is not about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost in Acts 2. The subject of the entire chapter is introduced in verse 1:

1 Cor 12:1

12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

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Paul does not want us to be ignorant about the **9 spiritual gifts**. The chapter ends concerning the 9 spiritual gifts:

1 Cor 12:31

31 But covet earnestly **the best gifts**: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

The subject never changes within the chapter including the application of the gifts to the body. The verse that is taken out of context and **erroneously** applied to Acts 2 is as follows:

1 Cor 12:30

30 Have all the **gifts** of healing? **do all speak with tongues**? do all **interpret**?

Since this entire chapter is about the 9 gifts of the Spirit wouldn't you imagine that this verse pertained only to the gifts of the Spirit in Chapter 12 and not to the speaking of tongues of Acts 2? The speaking in tongues of Acts 2 is for all. The tongues of 1 Corinthians 12 are not for all, neither is the gift of healing or the gift of interpretation. This often misapplied verse ties directly with verses at the first of the chapter:

1 Cor 12:4,6,8-11

4 Now there are **diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit.

6 And there are **diversities of operations**, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

8 For to **one is given** by the Spirit the word of wisdom; **to another** the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 **To another** faith by the same Spirit; **to another** the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 **To another** the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; **to another divers kinds of tongues**; **to another the interpretation of tongues**;

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, **dividing to every man severally as he will**.

Verse 30 with the question, "Do all speak with tongues," has nothing to do with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost in Acts 2. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues is for **all** as the scriptures state. The gifts of the Spirit, which include "divers" kinds of tongues, is not for all. Please don't take this verse out of context for we can greatly hinder others by doing so.

In review of question #3 we must understand the difference between the tongue of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and the tongue of the 9 gifts of the Spirit. The Bible plainly shows the difference. All of the 9 gifts of the Spirit must be free to operate in our churches as He wills or we are quenching the Holy Spirit. If we "quench" the Holy Spirit, I doubt if any of the gifts will be in operation.

1 Thess 5:18-20

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

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19 **Quench not the Spirit.**

20 Despise not prophesyings.

On to question #4: What are some significant New Testament statements about tongues? There are many but I will only use two to bring some understanding:

1 Cor 14:15

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.

Here Paul says that he will pray and sing in the Spirit with a language that he does not understand. Why would he do that and what benefit is that? Scripture must interpret scripture so lets let the scripture answer the question:

Rom 8:26

26 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.

Paul says that we don't know how to pray in every case, but the Spirit in a manifestation that comes from God can intercede for us and make prayers more effectual. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. I have heard some teach that these "groanings" are not in tongues. Let me tell you from experience they are. Experience is a great teacher. For the teachers who say this is not done in tongues, I say you will before your life is over if there is anything that really means something to you. Let's move on to another New Testament word about the tongue that we may have not considered:

James 3:4-5, 8

4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5 Even so the **tongue** is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

8 But **the tongue can no man tame**; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

James is right, **no man** can tame the tongue, but God can tame the tongue. He tames it with another tongue that we don't understand. If He can tame the tongue through **yielding to the Holy Spirit** then He has an opportunity to turn the entire being (spirit, soul and body) in the right direction just like the helm of a ship. Speaking in tongues is very important because that means we have yielded one of our most stubborn members to Him. Speaking in tongues is not the Holy Spirit nor is it the ultimate, but it is a giant step forward in making our bodies a living sacrifice.

On to question #5: Were there Old Testament types, shadows and prophesies about

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tongues? The answer is, YES. The most famous prophecy is found in one of the minor prophet's books:

Joel 2:28-29

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Peter re-quoted this scripture on the day of Pentecost as a confirmation of Joel when they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance:

Acts 2:16-18

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Of course the "last days" were the last days of that age that they were living in prior to 70 A.D. Another verse in 1 Corinthians 14 refers us back to a prophecy about tongues in the Old Testament:

1 Cor 14:21

21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

Again we see the significance of tongues as a sign from God. The times referred to in this verse were from Acts through the writing of Corinthians. The refusal to hear about the importance of tongues, are also applicable for many today. Many in the church denigrate the importance of tongues, thus they curtail their hearing from God. What verses was Paul quoting from the Old Testament?

Isa 28:11-13

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

12 To 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.

13 But the **word of the LORD** was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that **they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.**

The importance of tongues is very pointed in this Old Testament scripture. Only a

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small percentage of the Jewish nation received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and spoke with tongues at the day of Pentecost. The majority would not hear. They would never move into God's rest (Hebrews 4) if they did not receive the message of the tongues. What was the "**rest**" and the "**refreshing**"? The answer is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. Verse 13 says that they would never understand the word of the Lord without this experience. They (the Pharisees) could quote line upon line and precept upon precept, but they were still going to backslide, be snared and taken. All of those things happened to them. Is there a lesson here for us?

I would like to make just one other Old Testament analogy. What God destroyed in the Old Testament, He restored in the New Testament. Example: Three thousand fell by the sword from the hands of the priestly tribe of Levi under the command of Moses:

Ex 32:28

28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

Three thousand were restored by a spiritual priestly tribe at Pentecost led by Peter:

Acts 2:41

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

This example was used only to make a point for our subject is about tongues. In the Old Testament God was going to confound a kingdom by diversifying tongues:

Gen 11:6-9

6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all **one language**; and this they begin to do: **and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.**

7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth:

With one language man could not be restrained from that which he imagined to do. God made man that way. In the Old Testament God confounded man's language because of the evil intent. The same principle about man's language is applicable in the New Testament. If men speak one language there is nothing restrained from them? God knows that so he restored a heavenly language where all are in one accord. God ordained that the men that receive this language do not have evil intent in their heart, but restoration. God restored His Kingdom with tongues where a previous kingdom had been divided by tongues. This is just another example of that heavenly language that will bring

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restoration to mankind. Are tongues important? We will cite one last verse in the Old Testament where the intent of the people will be one through a pure heavenly language:

Zeph 3:9

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

Throughout this article we have answered question #6: Does our teachings about tongues hinder the spiritual growth in people and quench the Spirit? The Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues is for **all** people. How would they know that they were filled with the Spirit without the signs that Jesus spoke of? Could a “goose bump” experience be mistaken for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Do people struggle through life thinking they have the fullness of the Spirit because of erroneous teaching? You bet they do. Jesus said that the tongues were for a sign. We should not take verses out of context and instruct that it is not necessary. It is not necessary for redemption. It is necessary for continued spiritual growth. Why would we want to possibly hinder someone from experiencing all of God that they can? Do we quench the Spirit of God by not allowing all the gifts of the Spirit to operate in our churches? I am not for being politically correct. I am for being God correct with all things done decently, in order and for the edification of the church. We cannot learn to walk the path to unconditional love (that which is perfect) on our own. Walking the path to a more excellent way is done by the power of the Holy Ghost. In the verses below is the path that we walk as we add all these things in our maturation process:

2 Peter 1:4-7

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and **precious promises**; that by these ye might be partakers of the **divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

We must keep adding to our original faith until we arrive at the point where we can add no more. That point is charity or unconditional love. Individually or corporately we cannot arrive there under our own willpower. We must **know** that we possess the power of the Holy Ghost. How do we know? We know by the sign, otherwise known by the evidence which is **speaking in tongues**.

END