

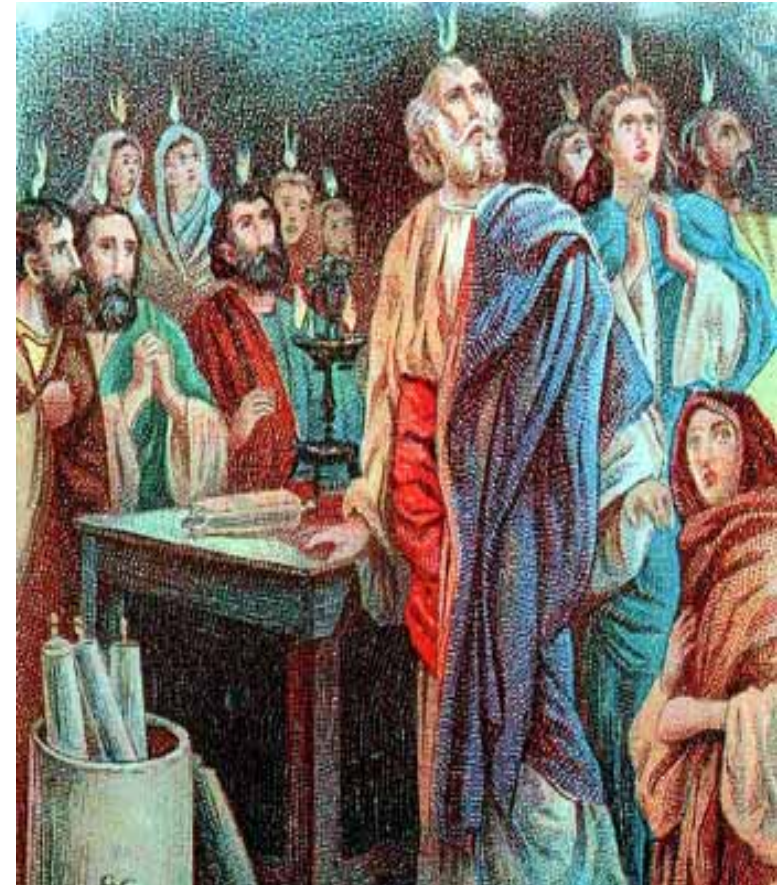
The Problem of Tongues

By David R Cox © 2003

- **CONTRAST BAPTISM WITH FILLING:** baptism, you are put into the element, filling the element is put on you, baptism is what God did based on salvation, filling is a blessing that comes from your own holy living, Eph 5:18 command to be “filled with the Spirit”, SPIRIT BAPTISM IS NEVER COMMANDED NOR SOUGHT, Quenching (1 Thess 5:19) and grieving (Eph 4:30) have to do with our actions after we are saved that affect our relationship (filling) with the Spirit.
- (5) **Characteristics of Pentecostal Movement** – (a) Restorationist in orientation (God is reviving the church who lost her power historically, restoring 1st Century apostolic authority). (b) Exalts spiritual manifestations – experience oriented life view, experience is the measure of all truth. Spirituality is measured by the number and intensity of emotional and supernatural experiences with God. (c) Highlight personalities instead of God’s Word. (d) Little emphasis on sound biblical exposition. Grab a text and twist it to defend a practice or make a novelty. (e) desires unity with other church groups, but practice and doctrine brings division.

QUESTIONS FOR PENTECOSTALS

- (1) **Missionaries and Bible Translators** – If tongues were used by God in Acts 2 (Day of Pentecost) to witness to the unsaved, why do Pentecostal missionaries that speak in tongues have to go to language school if they have the same tongues as Acts 2? Why do Pentecostal Bible translators have to study in a language school also?
- (2) **Tongues for everybody?** – If tongues are obligatory for every Christian, why does 1 Cor 12:11 say God gives His gifts to every man AS GOD WILLS? Did Jesus ever speak in tongues? Yet he had the Spirit without limit. Why didn’t he speak in tongues? 1 Cor 12:30 – Paul asks a rhetorical question with the obvious answer “no”, “Do all speak in tongues?” No.
- (3) **Loss of Control a manifestation of the Spirit** – What believer in the Bible ever manifested a loss of control as a result of the Spirit? Saul (which many doubt was saved) was taken over by a spirit and apparently fell down, but this God did or allowed to prevent Saul from killing David, bearing the seed of the Messiah. This was an embarrassment to Saul, not a great privilege and honor. Demon possession is full of just such activity, so what distinguishes this from demonic activity?
- (4) **Spirit Baptism repeated** – Was the baptism of the Spirit ever repeated on the same person in scripture? No. How about the filling? Yes.
- (5) **Who has the preeminence in your theology and practice, Christ or the Holy Spirit?** The Holy Spirit seeks to exalt Christ, John 15:26, 16:14.
- (6) **Cessation of Tongues** – Paul clearly said in 1 Cor 13:8 that tongues would cease. Nothing is ever said about a revival of tongues. Only one of the first epistles written (1 Corinthians) and the history (Acts) mention tongues. None of the other NT churches had that experience. Not even 2 Corinthians mentions tongues (good or bad). None of the church fathers refer to tongues as occurring but rather that they had ceased in the apostolic days. Why wasn’t tongues in all the NT churches?
- (7) **Sign gift** – What was the sign of tongues? It was for judgment against the unbelieving Jewish nation. How can modern tongues fulfill this sign? Tongues was a “dead end” sign for them. You do not go beyond the “dead end” sign to put another “dead end” sign do you? Once served its purpose, it no longer exists.
- (8) **Fruitless speech condemned** – 1 Tim 1:4,6; 6:4-5; 4:7; Titus 1:14; 3:9.



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Issues in Tongues

(1) **Mystery Religion/Montanus Heresy** – Salvation is an emotional experience, in which the person has an experience involving supernatural events and manifestations.

- Some people in the Bible did have such salvation experiences (Abraham, Paul), but most did not (12 Apostles, and the host of other people referred to in Scriptures).
- Our salvation does not rest in what we experience or do (works), but rather in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- The type of spiritual manifestation propounded by these types of Pentecostals typically say that you are not saved unless you speak in tongues.
- Gifts are given as God desires not as we desire, no one gift except salvation is common to ALL Christians.
- Only in God's "opening the door" to different people groups was there a repeat of the Pentecostal experience: Acts 2 (opening of Church era, Jews forming the church), Acts 10 (Gentiles equal with Jews), Acts 19 (OT believers that lived through the transition to the NT without specific knowledge of Christ, but no mention of tongues here). Outside of these representative groups, and only in the first "declarative" event in which God announces their salvation and gift of the Holy Spirit equal to Jews, there is no repetition of tongues or baptism of Holy Spirit within these groups, because the first did it for all in that group forever.
- Prophets that make sounds that are not normal communication in a known language are clearly identified as false prophets.

Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

- False Prophets will come doing miracles, showing signs, and identifying themselves as the true prophets of God. Therefore, supernatural powers in a preacher do not mean he is from God. It means he is either from God or from Satan.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. **15** Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

(2) **Holiness second grace error** – After salvation there is a second grace equal to salvation which is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, manifested by speaking in tongues.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

- If a person does not have the Holy Spirit, his problem is that he is not saved, not that he needs to speak in tongues.
- **John Wesley and the Holiness movement** began as a "renewal" within the church because people were not holy. They believed in sinless perfection, and the reality around them taught them that their own people could not attain a sinless life. (See 1

John 1:8, written to believers, present tense – we still have sin.) They sought a second work of Grace to answer this problem. John Fletcher in 1771 (first disciple of Wesley) said that this was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They believed this second work would bring sinless perfection and come with miracles and healings.

- **Edward Irving and Irvingites 1831 – Scotland** – believed that the evidence of the Spirit Baptism is speaking in tongues.
 - **Wesleyan Problem** - Assumed some people have already arrived at sinless perfection, and how does the church discern them so that they can be placed in prominent positions, leadership, teaching and preaching? Missed the obvious, (they do not sin), and said these people would have "signs of power".
 - **John Parham** (Methodist minister in 1920's & 30's) started the modern Pentecostal movement in Bethel Bible College in Topeka Kansas in 1900-01.
 - **Agnes Ozman** – Student of Parham, 1901 asked that hands be laid on her so that she could receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and she began to speak in tongues.
 - **Azusa Street Mission** – 1906 in Los Angeles, California – (run by Seymour, a student of Parham) believed that tongues is equal to entire sanctification, and that the person no longer sins and has entered sinless perfection.
- (3) **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** (where he indwells the believer) happens once at the moment of salvation.
- In the OT the Holy Spirit came on and left the believers. (Samson)
 - John 14:17, Jesus promises a change, that the Spirit will dwell in them (future).
 - John 7:39, 16:7 – **Condition for this indwelling** to happen is that Jesus must go to the Father and from there, send the Holy Spirit to earth. Future to these passages.
 - **Baptism is a union** – 1 Cor 10:2ff, 12:13 which forges a new unity. By definition then you can only be saved and unity to God once Eph 4:4-6 in one form only. Those saved have received the Spirit of God 1 Cor 2:12.
 - **Work of indwelling Holy Spirit** – John 14:16-20, 14:26, 15:26, 16:13-14 He will teach and guide them into all truth (a knowledge of God's will) by "reminding" them of Jesus' words. As a result of this activity of the Holy Spirit, there "shall flow rivers of living water" from them John 7:37-39.
 - **Reality of coming of Holy Spirit** – Acts 2:41. Note that the believing Jews identified with the church instead of with Jewish synagogue/temple/religion. They devoted themselves to apostle's doctrine (knowledge of God's will through His word), fellowship with redeemed, communion, prayer, fear of God.
 - **1 Cor 6:19-20** the Spirit now indwells all believers
 - **2 Cor 5:5** – the indwelling Holy Spirit is our guarantee (earnest) of our salvation.
 - **Assurance of Salvation** - We know we are saved because we have the Holy Spirit, 1 John 3:24 4:13
 - **Seal of our Salvation, the Holy Spirit** – Eph 1:13
- (4) **Filling of the Holy Spirit** (where he guides the believer out of sin and into holiness) happens on a level of degrees, and should increase throughout one's spiritual life.
- We should seek the filling of the Spirit as Christians. It is simply obeying God more and more. Doing righteousness (what God desires us positively to do) and refraining ourselves from sin (what God does not want us to do)