



# The Gift of Tongues

A Biblical conclusion

By: Ben Alexander

The following is a summary of the main points made by Ben in his lecture tape series concerning the Occult. In this series of video taped lectures Ben deals with the subject of Speaking in Tongues.

Three questions which need to be answered in this matter of tongues:

1. Were tongues a part of New Testament Christianity? YES
2. Were tongues intended to be a continuing part of Christianity? NO
3. Were these supernatural gifts occurring outside of Christianity? YES

From this we can only conclude that if tongues is a validation of God's existence today... then the other occurrences are an equal validation of other deities as well.

The "Supernatural gifts" as experienced today have their roots in Paganism and the occult.

From the manual of the Association of Spiritualists of America as found in the Library of Congress in Washington. The reading of this manual quickly assures the reader that the spiritualist association claims these same "supernatural" gifts. Specifically naming 9 "gifts" which include Tongues, Healing, Visions and Prophecy.

All spiritualists strive to be mediums. A medium is the highest order of spiritualist. Mediums believe that they are being used by God to convey a message to others through the use of these same supernatural phenomena. In order to become a spiritualist medium, one must attend a series of training classes called Developing Circles. The developing circle is sponsored by a medium and typically involves the same elements of soft lighting, soothing music and the use of trance or hypnotism. In the session the medium will call "Discerning Spirits" or "Spirits of the dead" to come into and dwell with the spiritualists. These spirits are referred to as "Spirit Guides" which help to "lead" the spiritualist. The Bible refers to these as spirits of divination. One of these was mentioned in the account of the girl in the book of Acts who was able to identify who the apostles were.

Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians the passage of Isaiah 28:11. He makes mention to this because it is a direct explanation from the Old Testament... an example... of the New Testament use of tongues. This passage helps to define the purpose of tongues... to proclaim the Gospel in another language to the unbeliever so that they might be saved.

Three accounts in scripture for the gift of tongues are:

1. **Pentecost.** The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles being shown in the Gift of Tongues. Given to proclaim the Gospel.
2. **The Household of Cornelius.** This was 7 to 10 years after Pentecost and was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentile community. This was given as a sign of God's bringing the Gospel to the Gentile nation.
3. **Paul's mention** of the passage in Isaiah 28:11

Some of the arguments used by pentecostals FOR the gifts of tongues are as follows:

1. You don't understand because your mind is "unfruitful."
2. Tongues is for edifying yourself.
3. You should only speak in tongues in your prayer closet.
4. Tongues is communicating to God not man.
5. Tongues is a "Heavenly Language". (*Something which is referred to in scripture... John spoke of a Heavenly language and said that he heard words which were unlawful for man to speak and which were inexpressible.*)
6. Tongues is the language of Angels not man.
7. Tongues requires interpretation.
8. "I am praying in the Holy Spirit".

Some of the insights which Ben makes concerning tongues...

1. Matthew 22:37 makes reference to the fact that we are to love the Lord with our Heart, soul and MIND. This cannot be done when we speak in tongues our mind cannot understand.
2. Tongues are a sign to the unbeliever... why do churches speak in tongues in their prayer closets or in services which do not have unbelievers in attendance?
3. What edification can come from speaking something we do not comprehend?
4. Edification is NOT for the individual... it is for the Church as a whole.
5. In EVERY account or reference in the New Testament about praying "In Jesus" historians agree that scripture is not speaking about the method of prayer but rather the location of prayer.
6. Why are there some 40 million Americans speaking in tongues on any given Sunday and not 1 person can be found who speaks this native tongue?
7. Tongues was a language not an utterance.
8. Tongues was given temporarily as a sign to the unbeliever until the perfect Word of God... the Bible... came into existence.
9. Tongues is only shown in scripture to be given by two methods. Directly from God in a Pentecost experience (as in Cornelius' home) or directly from the laying on of the Apostle's hands.