



Tongues



My Testimony

C. Parker Thomas

This little booklet contains two articles: the first is Bro. Thomas's testimony, especially as it relates to the question of speaking in tongues. In it he shares his personal experience and the convictions he has developed over many years of fruitful ministry.

For the second we are indebted to *The Alliance Witness* (currently *Alliance Life*). An article entitled "Tongues Should be Tested" by Dr. Gerald E. McGraw was published in May 1974 and subsequently reprinted in the *Midnight Cry Messenger*.

Speaking in tongues has certainly in the last 100 years or so been one of the most wide-spread and controversial areas of Christian experience, inspiring much emotional debate. God's people surely need some balanced truth on the subject that we might enjoy all that God truly has for us while at the same time avoiding giving any ground to the devil.

God's truth is our only defense against the flood-tide of darkness and spiritual delusion that has been unleashed in this hour. We invite you to prayerfully consider what is written here, weighing it by the word and looking to the Lord with an honest heart. He who perfectly knows your heart can bear witness to all that is of Him.

Be aware that there are many religious spirits on both sides of this question. What we want is wisdom from God in the matter. An adamant spirit cannot learn even if God Himself be the teacher. Truly we know nothing as we ought to know it and have much to learn.

May God bless you as you look to Him!

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MY TESTIMONY

More than 50 years ago when the Lord came into my life this old world lost it's beauty, glamour and riches for me. I had to say as Solomon did, "all is vanity and vexation of spirit and there is no profit under the sun." Ecc. 2:11.

The unsearchable riches of Christ became the controlling influence in my life. I began immediately to witness to every soul I met. The eternal things of God became very real while the transitory things of this life faded into obscurity. With an insatiable hunger and thirst for God, I began to pray and study the Bible. Almost immediately I became aware of the fact that the church world did not have the reality for which my heart hungered. Almost all of them were proud of their doctrinal extremes and considered themselves sound in the faith.

Although I started out in the church system and God blessed me to a degree, I continued to seek God with all my heart. I read some of the historical accounts of men like D. L. Moody, Charles G. Finney and others, which only increased my hunger for God. I was praying for reality in preaching and witnessing to people. I became almost desperate in my desire.

Finally, I asked the Lord if He would just give me five years of a fruitful ministry, I would rather have that than twenty-five years of just marking time in the church system. I believe it could be said that I bombarded heaven with my prayers.

I was pastoring a little church in the country at the time when I attended a union revival at the school house in Lake City, Florida. I got home around midnight and went to bed with my oldest child, Sherry, the elder of two children. Dan, the baby at that time, was sleeping with his mother.

MY EXPERIENCE

I was awakened from a sound sleep around 1:30 AM. All of my senses seemed to be quickened and it seemed a window was opened in heaven. A voice spoke and said, "The Power Is Down Now!" To me this was audible. At the end of those few words God's power fell on me like thousands of volts of electricity. I cried out, "Lord, it's going to kill me!" With that statement the great surge of power seemed to be lifted and the power in a much milder form rolled over me from head to toe for a short time, and then it was gone. However, I knew that God had answered my prayers. That anointing has been a very real force to me for these 45 years.

I was just starting a revival meeting in the church that I had just accepted to pastor. The first night of the meeting I could not detect any difference in my preaching. I suppose I was anticipating something different.

GREAT CONVICTION

The second night of the meeting I was not thinking of what might happen. However, as I walked to the pulpit to start my message I consciously turned my vessel, my body, and my faculties over to the Holy Spirit. That night the Holy Spirit came upon me in a most unusual way and it seemed I had great power and authority. I walked out from behind the pulpit and began walking up and down the aisles as I observed horrifying expressions on the faces of the people. I could point them out and tell which ones to come. It seemed as though I was walking about two feet off the floor. People began to run forward, church members, choir members, and others who just happened to be there.

One lady who became the post mistress in the little town was so convicted she wept all the way home. She could not sleep and didn't want anything to eat all the next day. Another man who worked for the State Forestry Division was under great conviction. He started on a trip to Tallahassee that night and thought he may never have another chance. He was so convicted until he turned around and came back to the parsonage where I was staying, to talk to me about his soul. Another man came, whom I had known before my conversion, in fact, I had sold him moonshine liquor by the load, was smitten with such conviction until he asked customers coming into his grocery store the next day if they had been down to that revival where I was preaching. His testimony was that when I would open my mouth some invisible force would hit him in the face like a hammer.

My experience was not attended with tongues. However, I knew God had answered my prayers. This has become evident throughout these many years of ministry.

MY SEARCH

It also served to inspire me to make a search of the Bible with regards to the teaching that tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This tongues doctrine has caused multitudes to seek that experience. As a result, no doubt, many do receive genuine experiences and it could be demonic, because they are seeking something as an evidence that they have received or have been filled with the Holy Spirit. However, I was simply seeking God, not specifying any kind of experience. God's response to my prayers was a genuine supernatural experience to let me know that he had heard the cry of my heart. I could have made a doctrine out of my experience, but I didn't. I personally believe you can have many genuine experiences that God designs to meet your own personal needs, but it is wrong to try to get everybody to fit into your experiences.

DOCTRINAL CONFUSION

Some believe in three works of grace, each one separate and apart from the other. Salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit (with the evidence of speaking in other tongues), some believe in just two. There are other groups that believe in a second work of grace which is called sanctification but not with tongues. Then of course, you have those who believe you can get all these and then lose it because you don't measure up to their concept of righteousness. These varied concepts have been used by Satan to bring many divisions to the body of Christ.

COMPLETE IN HIM

I personally believe we are complete in Him which is the head of all principality and power. Colossians 2:8-10 says, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."

These varied experiences are the means used of Satan to spoil many of God's children. According to 1 Corinthians 1:30 "He (Christ) is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption."

Tongues evidence believers are some of the most deluded religious people I know. This is because they have a genuine supernatural experience which they believe is from God. Sometimes they become desperate in their quest for the evidence (tongues). Around and in this spiritual atmosphere as a child I remember many times hearing of some dear old saints referring to someone as seeking the Holy Ghost. Sometimes they would come to the altar every time an invitation was given, seeking tongues as evidence that would convince them they had been filled with the Holy Ghost. It was common to hear someone say, "The Holy Spirit comes in talking," (tongues).

A GREAT PRINCIPLE

This makes void one of the greatest principles in the Bible. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Paul says, "O foolish Galatians who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you. Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish?"

Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" Galatians 3:1-3.

HOW TO BE FILLED

Paul the apostle tells us exactly how to be filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18-20. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit: Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." The key to being filled with the spirit is simply worshipping God from your heart.

SAVING FAITH

Where does faith come from? Saving faith comes from God through anointed preaching. This is what Paul meant when he said in 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

The message that is called the gospel by today's apostate church is not the incorruptible word of God. For people to be born again they have to hear the gospel. 1 Peter 1:22-23 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

People believe what their religious heritage tells them; whether true or false. The errors, traditions and heresies are all handed down by their particular religion.

MANY NAMES

This conglomeration is called by many names. "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." Today's apostate religion is not the gospel preached by the apostles. A picture of religious Babylon is also found in Genesis 11:1-9.

When you seek any kind of experience or manifestation more than God, you open up your spirit to Demons. Demons can speak in tongues and curse God without you even knowing what is being said. 1 Corinthians 12:3 says, "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."

CAUSE OF DIVISIONS

All kinds of divisions exist among the groups who make doctrines out of experiences. The group that believes in two works of grace but no tongues say all tongues-speaking is of the devil. A second work of grace is called sanctification, in which some of them say that the carnal nature is eradicated. Some of these groups don't believe that Christians sin. They say Christians don't sin, but they make mistakes.

Whatever they have makes them worship the Holy Ghost more than Christ. I heard some preacher the other day singing, "Oh, that Holy Ghost Power." I also heard another preacher, whose mother had passed away, refer to his mother as, "his little tongues talking mother." To them it's a badge of honor.

PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is not given for us to glory in or to puff us up, nor is it given to us as an evidence. The main purpose of the Holy Spirit is to guide us into all truth. In John 14:17 and in John 16:13 the Spirit of God is referred to as the Spirit of truth. The scriptures also say he will glorify Christ. Jesus said in John 16:13-14, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

SCHOOLS TEACH DIVISION

Every religious movement starts schools to teach their religious doctrines and experiences thus making void the Word of God. This is also responsible for the many divisions. They do this despite the fact that Jesus said, "When he the Spirit of truth is come he will guide you into all truth." This is also confirmed in 1 John 2:27 which says, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

I heard another one of today's most popular healing and blessings preacher say specifically in his message on the anointing, "The way to have more anointing is to pray more in tongues". Yet Paul's instruction to the church is plain, "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." 1 Corinthians 14:15.

PURPOSE OF TONGUES

The tongues evidence doctrine has made tongues a sign to the believer which is just the opposite of the truth. The purpose of tongues is for a sign to

the unbeliever. On the day of Pentecost the disciples were waiting in faith, they were not seeking tongues at all. In fact, they were just sitting there waiting as the Lord instructed them. 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 with power from on high.”

The tongues they spoke were languages which told the eighteen or more nationalities supernaturally the things of God. And they marveled because the men were all Galileans and they heard the word of God in their own tongue (language) of which they were born.

In fact, I do not know of a single instance where anyone in the New Testament was seeking tongues or was instructed to seek tongues. Whenever and wherever people spoke in tongues it was a sovereign act of God without any effort on the part of the person speaking in tongues.

DAY OF PENTECOST

Actually, it was an eight year period from the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-13, until Peter’s preaching to Cornelius and his household, Acts 10:44-48, before we have another recorded instance of speaking in tongues as they did on the day of Pentecost. This was also God’s way of showing the Jews that God was extending his grace to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

In fact, the apostles and brethren in Judaea contended with Peter when they heard about him ministering to the Gentiles. In recounting what happened at Cornelius’ household, Peter said, “and as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.” Acts 11:15.

No doubt, multitudes were saved and filled with the Spirit between Pentecost and Peter’s experience at the household of Cornelius. Yet, he had to refer back eight years and point out that the Holy Ghost fell on them as it did on the disciples on the day of Pentecost.

WHY I SOUGHT TONGUES

When I began to learn these things I had a desire to teach God’s people the truth. For that reason I knew it would be good if I had the gift of speaking in other tongues, so no one could say the reason I didn’t believe in tongues was because I had never spoken in tongues.

Motivated by this desire I asked God to give me the gift of tongues, and he did. However, I do not encourage people to seek this gift because of what Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14.

PROPHECY GREATER

1 Corinthians 14:5: “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.” My

desire is to edify God's people, by and through the gift of prophecy. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:28-31, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." And I repeat verse 29 and 30 "Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" Obviously the answer to all these questions is an emphatic NO!

Sometimes the gift of tongues is given to some believers to strengthen them because they are weak in the faith. For example, Bro. Andrew Bureau was driving back to North Carolina from a car sale in Florida and his wife Jolene was following him in another car. She had a cassette tape of one of our services playing in the car. She was worshipping the Lord when suddenly she began speaking in other tongues. She wasn't thinking about tongues and certainly wasn't seeking tongues.

In fact, they were not thinking about tongues or seeking tongues on the day of Pentecost, nor were the people at the household of Cornelius. The same is true of the twelve disciples that Paul ministered to in Acts 19:1-7.

Beyond doubt, demons are responsible for the tongues that many people speak. However, there is a true tongue as well as demonic inspired tongues.

Another great mistake that some make is in teaching that there are two different kinds of tongues, one being the evidence variety and the other the gift of tongues. This is not true. It is simply a way of confirming the false concept of tongues evidence.

Some of the phenomena that are being experienced today – barking like dogs, growling like animals, shaking uncontrollably and uncontrollable laughter breaking out – I question very seriously!

I am not anti-tongues nor anti-healing, but there is such excess in what is going on that it has brought about much confusion. Our number one priority in the ministry should be to preach the gospel in such a way that the elect will hear it and be saved. Paul the apostle says in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

However, everyone, including the cults, Baptists, Pentecostals, Mormons, etc., says they have the gospel. The only safe thing I can tell you is to will to do the will of God and he will lead you to the truth.

SIGNS FOLLOWING

In the ministry God has given me, I have not majored on phenomena, healing or miracles, but certain signs have followed this ministry according to God's word. Mark 16:15-20. In fact, I was preaching in Greenville, S.C., I believe about thirty years ago. I was praying concerning this desire to do God's will and God spoke to me and said in my heart, "you be concerned about having my word and I'll take care of the signs."

I have cast out as many as five spirits in people who have spoken in tongues. In one case the woman, who had a son just back from Vietnam who understood what she was saying, was cursing God and didn't know it.

Every time I would cast the spirit out she would start praising the Lord and would begin speaking in tongues. She did this three or four times and I finally told her I was going to cast the spirit out one more time and for her to praise God in English. I told her not to yield herself to speak in tongues, which was obviously a demon. This lady had called on the phone to tell me that she felt strongly that the Lord had a work for her to do. Needless to say, after observing her house and unmade beds and five children with dirty ears, I told her that she had a big job just cleaning her house and washing her kids' ears and making up her beds. The same demon that gave her tongues also made her believe the lie that she was to do a great work for God. This is also the inspiration responsible for the religious Babylon we have in the world today. Revelations 18:1-5.

GOD'S WILL

I hope this testimony will be a blessing to some people who desire to do God's will. I challenge God's people to do His will and they shall know whether what I'm telling you is truth or not. I don't mean will to do his will according to any church doctrine, I mean just will to do his will. John 7:17 says, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

Tongues Should Be Tested

By GERALD E. McGRAW

Man's initial contact with Satan was disastrous. No wonder Satan is called the father of lies (John 8:44), for he told Eve, "Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). Yet sin did produce death. This original encounter warns us that deception is one of the devil's prime weapons.

Satan's duplicity is directed at contemporary Christians no less than at our first parents. Paul expressed his concern to the Corinthian believers: "I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3).

Some people see the present charismatic movement as the fulfillment of prophecies that a "latter rain" will invigorate Christianity before the rapture of the church. Opponents relegate the phenomenon to spiritual delusion and psychological imbalance. But Scripture does not anticipate a total cessation of spiritual gifts within the present age. There is New Testament evidence that the gifts are divinely intended for the entire church age.

But is it safe to conclude that all contemporary tongues-speaking results from the Holy Spirit's gift? Does Satan duplicate spiritual gifts?

In testing numerous tongues gifts by scriptural criteria my associates and I have found many originating from a satanic source. This article will examine the necessity, methodology and results of such testing.

Scripture contains a number of examples of people who sought confirmation of the divine origin of supernatural communications. For instance, God did not expect the Israelites to accept Moses' mission without substantiation (Exodus 4:1-9).

As the angel of the Lord informed Gideon of his assigned triumph over the Midianites, Gideon requested, "Shew me a sign that thou talkest with me" (Judges 6:17). The angel of the Lord obliged by bringing fire out of a rock (verse 21). God did not berate him for asking confirmation.

The principle of verification is not limited to the Old Testament. At the birth of Jesus dazzling angels offered the shepherds proof of their remarkable statement of the Saviour's birth: "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12). John's gospel is filled with signs intended to lead the reader to personal faith (John 20:30-31).

The Jews were noted for demanding verification (I Corinthians 1:22). It is true that Jesus condemned such Jewish sign-seeking as arose from

deliberate unbelief. After attributing his exorcism to satanic power (Matthew 12:22-40), for example, the Pharisees were condemned for seeking an additional sign. Jesus also denounced the demand for a further sign after miraculously feeding four thousand (Matthew 15:30 - 16:4; cp. John 6:30). Yet in both cases Jesus did give the true sign of Jonah. Note also His healing of the nobleman's son (John 4).

THE SUPERNATURAL CAN BE TESTED

It is evident from the Scriptures, then, that supernatural claims can be tested. Job's earlier words on the need for discrimination (Job 12:11) are echoed by Elihu (34:3-4): "The ear trieth words, as the mouth tasteth meat. Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good."

Several gifts of the Spirit involve speech, and Scripture directly asserts the need for caution (see James 3:2-10 and Jeremiah 9: 3-8). Paul claims to have demonstrated "the signs of an apostle" (2 Corinthians 12:12). His ministry was substantiated "through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God" (Romans 15:16-19). Christ commended the Ephesian church because they "tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars" (Revelation 2:2).

Similarly the gift of prophecy must be tried. Prophecy is essentially speaking for a deity — whether or not the message includes predictions. God's people must reject the prophet who speaks in the name of false gods — even if his predictions are fulfilled (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). He must reject both the prophet who professes to speak in Jehovah's name but who speaks unbidden and the prophet who professes to speak in Jehovah's name but whose predictions fail to come to pass (18:20-22; see 2 Peter 1:21 & 2:1; I Kings 22:19-23).

Christ warned to "beware of false prophets," discoverable by their fruits (Matthew 7:15-16). Through Paul the Lord commands (I Corinthians 14:37) listeners to pass judgment when prophets speak in the church (verse 29). Prophecy can originate from satanic delusion, as illustrated at the outset of the Pauline missions by Barjesus, whom the apostle addressed as a child of the devil (Acts 13:6-12), and at the end of the age in the False Prophet, who despite miraculous works will be Antichrist's accomplice (Revelation 13:19-20).

Many charismatics insist that everyone filled with the Holy Spirit will speak in tongues. If this is the only way to know certainly one has been filled, no wonder people become desperate for this "evidence." One young man lay on the ground for hours earnestly pleading for tongues. In another instance the subject had been urged by charismatic tutors to keep repeating the word "Hallelujah" until he could break out in tongues. In both cases the

subjects did acquire the coveted ability. Later testing, however, revealed that in each case a demon had entered the victim and had imparted the glossolalia. In the latter case the tongues demon was named Hallelujah.

TWO SOURCES

If a tongue is supernatural, it must issue either from God's Spirit or from one of Satan's spirits. Since it is an anti-Biblical and satanic delusion to assert that everyone filled with God's Spirit must speak in tongues (I Corinthians 12:30), the reader can see how seeking for tongues perilously opens the human personality to demonic influences.

If God wills to give a person a tongue, this is His prerogative, for the sovereign Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts individually as He wills (I Corinthians 12:11). If, however, a man rejects the Biblical principle that God bestows "gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will" (Hebrews 2:4) and demands the showy, lesser gift of tongues, that man must suffer the consequences if he should receive a counterfeit.

Three New Testament passages not treated earlier in this article demonstrate that supernatural speaking gifts such as tongues need to be tested. Although it has been variously interpreted, I Thessalonians 5:19-22 stands in a context of spiritual gifts. Paul admonished: "Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil."

At the start of the fullest discussion of spiritual gifts in Scripture (I Corinthians 12:14) Paul contrasted the supernatural speaking gifts with the Corinthians' former idols that were unable to speak (12:2). Such Idolatry involved demonism (10:20), and Paul wanted his readers to avoid anything false in speaking. Consequently he asserted that a man speaking by the Spirit of God will not call Jesus accursed.

Again, God's Spirit speaking through a man will gladly confess that Jesus is the Lord. The implication is that if a demon underlies the supernatural utterance he will decline to confess Christ's Lordship but will rather express his hatred of Christ. Surely the tests are stated here for a reason.

The testing of spirits is directly commanded in I John 4:1-3. Again the context refers to the fullness of the Holy Spirit and utterance gifts. The reader should note the verses in context thus: "Hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God" (I John 3:24 & 4:2).

Although the Holy Spirit confesses, every spirit that refuses to confess Jesus (cp. Greek and revised versions) is not of God but of Anti-Christ. Hence the spirit (not simply the message, as The Living Bible paraphrases it) that is responsible for a tongues message or other supernatural utterance can be questioned about Jesus.

Is Jesus God's Son? Does the spirit confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh: Is Jesus Christ coming again in the flesh? Does all the fullness of the Godhead dwell in Him bodily? A spirit may be asked his purpose, since the Holy Spirit's basic purpose in the believer is clearly divulged in Scripture (John 16:14), whereas an evil tongues spirit would be present to deceive.

TESTING TONGUES

No spiritual speaking gift today enjoys more popularity than tongues and none harbors such inherent possibilities of deception. In keeping with Biblical directives (I Thessalonians 4, I Corinthians 12, and I John 4) It is proper to conduct a prayer session to test a tongues spirit. I believe that such testing is best done in a private setting, with a chairman and a small group of intercessors, and only with the full consent and intelligent cooperation of the tongues speaker.

After a period of intercession it is well — but not essential — for the counselee to speak in the tongue. Thereupon the chairman addresses his questions not to the person but to the spirit inspiring the tongue. If the chairman and the counselee normally speak English, the tongues spirit should be commanded to give all answers in English.

The chairman should be alert for deceptive answers. Judgment depends not upon the sound of the tongue nor on subjective feelings but upon answers given to the questions in God's Word (cp. Psalm 105:19).

The Holy Spirit promptly, freely and consistently confesses Christ. A demonic spirit will give one or several answers that betray his real identity, or he will stubbornly evade the question, in itself a refusal to confess (I John 4:3). A demon may give a number of favorable answers, for he hopes to preserve his deceptive hold on the victim, but persistence and faith will soon unveil his actual identity, name and purpose.

If a tongues gift is being supplied by one or more demons, Scripture gives full authority to cast them out (Mark 16:17). The victim first should verbally renounce ground given to Satan through practicing a false tongue and should declare his rejection of spirits inspiring a satanic gift. The leader should order the demons to depart to the abyss (cp. Luke 8:29, 31; Revelation 9:1-3) and should retest to make certain they have actually

departed. In all of this God can grant “the power to discriminate between the true Spirit and false spirits” (I Corinthians 12:10, Williams).

LESSONS LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE

I have learned four lessons through experiences in testing tongues in people who have voluntarily approached me and my colleagues during the past few years. First, I have been astonished at the high percentage of demonic tongues encountered. Counselees include people from virtually all sections of the United States, people from various age groups and occupations and denominations.

Many, but not all, used their tongues largely in private devotions. Some had doubts about the validity of their gift, but many were quite confident that the test would demonstrate a true gift from the Holy Spirit. But the shocking fact is that over 90 percent of those who requested a tongues test had a demonic tongue.

Some Pentecostals and charismatics admit that demonic tongues exist. Yet most feel clear that their own tongue is genuine. One young lady asked me for a demonic test since she felt evil influences in her life. Routine questioning revealed she had come from a Pentecostal church and possessed a tongues gift, but she felt confident that her gift was divine. She informed me during the interview that a lady in her home church with discernment had assured her that her tongue was of the Holy Spirit.

When the deliverance session was later conducted we encountered a spirit named Jesus. He hated the Lord Jesus Christ. I was suspicious because past experience had revealed that tongues demons often deceptively adopt the name Jesus. Upon my inquiry the demon admitted he was the spirit giving her her gift of tongues, rather than the Holy Spirit.

A second lesson I have learned is that strong Christians can be invaded by a tongues demon. In the course of a year’s Sunday School lessons on the deeper life I spent several weeks exploring the gifts of the Spirit with my adult class. I did not know of a single person in the class that day with a tongues gift. I closed my treatment of tongues with a simple statement that anyone with a gift of tongues should make certain the gift was not a satanic counterfeit, since missionaries have reported hearing tongues speakers blaspheming in the language they had used on the mission field. Tongues should be tested.

At that time I had never tested any tongues, nor had my colleagues. But soon someone asked for a test. The only person from the class who approached me was an outstanding Christian lady — capable, talented, balanced, dependable, a soulwinner. She said she never used her tongue except in private. As she related her spiritual experience of some years ago

to my wife and me I just could not imagine that this fine believer could have a tongues demon. I told her so.

But she was not satisfied. She talked with my colleague later. Upon testing we found a tongue quite manifestly of the Holy Spirit. But soon another tongue appeared in the same woman — a tongue that was bitter and hateful toward Christ, toward her and toward us. The true tongue was clear evidence to me that her sanctification was genuine. Yet it was undeniable that a demonic tongues spirit inhabited her.

GENUINE CHRISTIANS CAN BE INVADED

I already knew that some contemporary theologians had reversed their position upon discovering strong evidence that Christians can be invaded by evil spirits. I knew that stalwart Alliance teachers like professor John A. MacMillan believed that a Christian could become demon infested, as A. B. Simpson also implied in his writings. I knew that contemporary ministers such as Ernest B. Rockstad and Alliance Evangelist K. Neill Foster had tested many tongues and had found a high percentage to be demonic.

Others who have had tongues tests are utterly sincere and deeply spiritual people. The lives of several show marked evidence of conversion, spiritual hunger and growth. I do not believe that a tongues demon can sever a person from Christ's love. I have no doubt that many in the charismatic movement are earnest Christians, with more zeal and love than their anticharismatic critics. Yet my experience of testing makes me suspect that multitudes of tongues enthusiasts are deluded.

The third lesson I have learned is the extreme deceptiveness of tongues spirits. An intelligent university graduate claimed she used her tongue only in private devotions and generally felt uplifted afterwards, and yet her gift proved demonic. One of my counselees had one demon who provided her tongues gift, another demon named Real Tongues, whose purpose was to make her believe her tongue was from God, and still another demon who kept her feeling rejected because of tongues.

Soon after a young lady from a Roman Catholic home was born again she was with some friends in a parking lot witnessing. All overflowed with joy. They decided to go to the home of one of the group for a prayer meeting. Soon she was speaking in tongues. After she approached me and we had studied the Scriptures she affirmed she would not again speak in tongues until her gift had been tested. Then one day when her emotions sagged something within her seemed to say: "I gave you this gift; can't you trust me?"

As she later related these facts I asked her whose voice would likely say this, when the Holy Spirit had already told her in Scripture to "try the

spirits.” She saw the point. When she later submitted to a test, the tongues spirit answered initial questioning correctly but later was trapped in his own deceptions. He admitted giving this young lady gifts of tongues, interpretation and prophecy.

CURSING

Perhaps the most revolting thing about a false tongues experience is the horrible utterances people say in a language they cannot understand. This can be illustrated by the experience of an earnest young man who came to me after ardent charismatic involvement. When he offered public prayer or conversed about spiritual things, one could sense how deeply he loved the Lord Jesus Christ. He used his tongues gift frequently in private, and the words he spoke often formed the same line.

In our prayer session the spirit providing this gift was exposed as a demon. A missionary participating as an intercessor inquired if it would be possible to have the interpretation of the words the demon kept the counselee speaking. When the chairman commanded the tongues demon to interpret the line, the response was: “I hate you, hate you, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.” The victim was as shocked as the rest of us.

The deceptiveness of false tongues spirits is seen in the ways they take advantage of the victim, diverting him from serious spiritual exercises and centering his life around tongues, as well as in their misleading names and their tactics to fool the person who seeks to expose and dislodge them. Satan’s whole kingdom is skilled in deceit, but probably no evil spirits are more sly than tongues spirits who simulate God’s Holy Spirit.

The fourth lesson I have learned in tongues testing is the seemingly slight ground that can admit a tongues demon, particularly where an unscriptural view is entertained. An Alliance pastor became invaded when, while visiting in a Pentecostal home, he simply gave credence to the view that it would be desirable to have a tongues gift. He had neither prayed for tongues nor seriously pursued them, but a gift suddenly came upon him. One middle aged lady visited only one charismatic meeting. When a saintly looking elderly man there urged, “Just yield your tongue,” she did. She received nine different demonic spirits who all professed to provide her with tongues gifts.

There are many instances I could give. The above illustrate the methods whereby tongues demons gain admittance. God will never give a stone if we ask Him for the good gift of His Spirit (Luke 11:11-13), but experiences of many demonstrate that unscriptural views on tongues are frequently sufficient provocation for Satan to give an unsuspecting victim stones and

scorpions of false tongues at the same time. God offers no automatic protection to the unwary.

Tongues are no plaything. A properly tested tongue can provide a channel of spiritual enrichment to a Christian and to a congregation. But it appears much of the current wave of tongues-speaking is satanic delusion.

God commands believers to “forbid not to speak with tongues” (I Corinthians 14:39), but He also commands us not to believe every spirit but to put them to the test to see whether they are of God (I John 4:1).

***Editor’s Note:** We are indebted to Dr. Gerald McGraw and the Alliance Witness for this very relevant article on the subject of tongues. Dr. McGraw’s very scriptural approach to the question will certainly shed light on a most needed area.*