

34- TONGUES

Shared by the Living Water group on Face Book

I have a simple questions to ask. If God spoke to you one day and His message directly contradicted what a Bible teacher or a pastor had told you about the subject of tongues, who would you believe? Would you believe what the Living God told you about tongues or would your respect for your pastor or your favorite Bible teacher cause you to choose to believe them rather than the Living God? It really does not matter what we **think** about the subject of tongues. The important question is, what does God say about tongues? Do you agree?

Did Jesus Christ ever speak in tongues? Did Jesus Christ ever conduct a class on speaking in tongues? If so, where is it recorded? We have letters that were written by the pastors of the early scriptural churches. Did any of the letters record that some or all of their members spoke in tongues? Will John the Baptist and his disciples spend eternity living on the New Earth with the rest of the saved (Revelation chapters 21-22)? Had John the Baptist and his disciples ever repented of their sins? Had they ever asked that the sacrifice the promised Messiah would give one day in the future pay their sin debt? Please bear in mind that the people who lived before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ were saved by faith just as those who live after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ are saved by faith. If John the Baptist and most of his disciples were saved, did the disciples of John the Baptist receive the gift of "tongues"?

Each of us will eventually stand before the Living God. The "saved" will stand before Him at the Reward Seat following the "Catching Up" (1st Thessalonians 4:13-18) because at some time during their lifetime they asked Jesus Christ to pay their sin debt. However, most people will stand before Him at the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). The White Throne Judgment will be to decide how much punishment the person will receive through eternity in order to pay the sin debt they owe. The sin debt they owe depends upon the sins they committed while they lived on this earth. *"For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."* Romans 3:23

"23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Please note that according to the verse above (Romans 6:23), a person can avoid paying the sin debt they accumulated if Jesus Christ pays it for them. How and when does Jesus Christ pay our sin debt? When we go to Him in prayer, ask forgiveness for our sins and ask that the payment He gave on Calvary pay the sin debt we owe. Most will not take advantage of Christ's generous offer and will have to appear before Christ at the White Throne Judgment. At the White Throne Judgment books will be opened which detail every sin they committed while they were on this earth. We suggest that if a person intends to reject Christ's offer, they sin as little as possible since every sin requires a payment. ¹¹ *Next I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.* ¹² *I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and **scrolls** were opened. Then **another scroll** was opened, **the book of life**. The dead were judged according to their deeds, **by what was written in the scrolls**.* ¹³ *The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds.* ¹⁴ *Then*

*Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.)
15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire." Revelation 20:11-15 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

Yes, the disciples of John the Baptist were saved. John the Baptist insisted that they repent of their sins, look forward in faith and accept the promised Messiah as their personal Savior. In fact, he even announced the presence of the promised Messiah to his disciples one day. "29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" 30 This is the One I told you about: 'After me comes a man who has surpassed me, because He existed before me.' 31 I didn't know Him, but I came baptizing with water so He might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I watched the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He rested on Him. 33 I didn't know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The One you see the Spirit descending and resting on—He is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God!" John 1:29-34 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

"1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" 4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:1-10

The Bible establishes the fact that the disciples of John the Baptist were indeed saved. They will, indeed, live on a New Earth (Revelation chapters 21 and 22) for eternity with the rest of the saved. But not all of the disciples of John the Baptist became disciples of Jesus Christ. "14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? 15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bride chamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast." Matthew 9:14-15. Please also read Mark 2:18 and Luke 5:33.

"Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples. 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me." Matthew 11:2-6

Did Jesus Christ ever tell the disciples of John the Baptist to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with Power? We find in Acts 1:1-9 that Jesus Christ only instructed His own disciples (the local church in Jerusalem) to tarry in Jerusalem until

they were endued with Holy Spirit Power. In fact, we find in Acts, chapter 2, that only the disciples of Jesus Christ **were in the upper room** on the day of Pentecost and only the disciples of Jesus Christ were endued with Holy Spirit Power, even through those disciples who remained with John the Baptist were just as saved as the disciples of Jesus Christ. If you would like to know more about the Power of the Sevenfold Spirit of God, we invite you to read the paper we posted on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net>. So there were saved people living on the earth on the day of Pentecost (fifty days after Jesus was crucified on Passover day) who **never** received the Power of the Sevenfold Spirit of God **nor** did they speak in tongues. In fact, according to the second chapter of Acts, the only ones who received the gift of tongues **were from Galilee**.

"⁵ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? ⁸ And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ⁹ Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. ¹² And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?" Acts 2:5-12

Then what was the purpose of the gift of tongues? *"Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe." 1st Corinthians 14:22*

In your study of the Bible, did you ever find a scripture that tell us who was to (1) make disciples, (2) baptize them by the authority of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and to (3) teach their new members all the things that Christ had taught them? That's right. It is found in Matthew 28:16-20 among other places.

"¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:16-20

What was the purpose of the gift of tongues? The Lord commissioned **His disciples** to go out and make other converts and to urge them to become a growing part of the local church in order to fulfill the commission He had given them. But they had a problem that you and I do not have today. Today, we have the **completed** Word of God which provides us knowledge about what has happened in the past as the plan of our Lord has moved toward its fulfillment. Through the **completed** Word of God the Lord informs us of what will happen in the future so we do not need for someone to be given the gift of prophecy in order to foretell future events. Also, we have the **completed** Word of God to confirm the truths we are sharing with others. But the perfect, recorded, Word of God (the Bible) was not **completed** until the apostle John **completed** the Book of Revelation.

During the interval between the giving of the Great Commission and the **completion** of the Bible, the Lord confirmed the testimony of the witnesses by giving them special gifts. That way the hearer could have confidence that the message was coming to them directly from the Living God.

*"¹ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. ² For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; ³ How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; ⁴ **God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?**" Hebrews 2:1-4*

Once the Bible was **completed**, however, the Holy Spirit used the Bible to confirm the message and those special, temporary, gifts were no longer given and died when the recipient went to Paradise. Please note verse 10 printed below does not say "when **He** who is perfect is come." **Verse 10 printed below is referring to an inanimate object, that is, an object that is not alive.** The only other perfect thing that came to **completion** was the recorded Word of the Living God. It is a divine library of 66 books, written over a period of about 1,500 years by approximately 40 writers. *"⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, **they shall fail**; whether there be tongues, **they shall cease**; whether there be knowledge, **it shall vanish away**. ⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when **that** which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." 1 Corinthians 13:8-12*

We should not be surprised that the Living God choose to confirm His word by bearing His disciples witness, both with signs and wonders, with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit-Hebrews 2:4). The Lord did the same for our Master, Jesus Christ. *"²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man **approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs**, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: ²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: ²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it." Acts 2:22-24*

What was the gift of tongues that the church in Jerusalem received on the day of Pentecost? According to Acts 2:5-12, these Galileans were given the ability to share the gospel in **known languages** that were spoken by those who were present in Jerusalem.

*"⁵ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that **every man heard them speak in his own language**. ⁷ And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? ⁸ And **how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?** ⁹ Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak in our tongues the***

wonderful works of God.¹² *And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?" Acts 2:5-12*

So the ability to share the good news of salvation in the language of the hearer was given to some of the members of the church in Jerusalem as they had need and continued to be given until the Holy Word of God was **completed**. According to the apostle Paul, **not everyone received** the gift of speaking in someone else's native language.

*"⁴ Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 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: ¹¹ But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, **dividing to every man severally as he will.**" 1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

*"²⁸ 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.** ²⁹ Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Have all the gifts of healing? **do all speak with tongues?** do all interpret? ³¹ But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." 1 Corinthians 12:28-31*

The answer to Paul's questions in the scripture printed above is **NO!** Not all the members of a scriptural church were apostles. Not all the members of a scriptural church were prophets. Not all the members of a scriptural church were teachers. Not all the members of a scriptural church were workers of miracles. Not all the members of a scriptural church had the gifts of healing. Not all the members of a scriptural church received the gift of tongues (the gift of speaking in someone else's native language so that the gospel could be shared). Not all the members of a scriptural church received the gift of interpretation (the gift of interpreting the message the Lord had sent through another member when the other member delivered God's message in a known language no one else in the service understood). Please remember that until the Bible was completed, the members of those early churches were limited in their knowledge of past events and future events. As we shared earlier, we have the completed Word of God which provides us knowledge about what has happened in the past as the plan of our Lord has moved toward its fulfillment. Through the **completed** Word of God, the Lord informs us of what will happen in the future so we do not need for someone to be given the gift of prophecy in order to foretell future events. Also, we have the completed Word of God to confirm the truths we are sharing with others. But the perfect, recorded Word of God (the Bible) was not completed until the apostle John **completed** recording the Book of Revelation. During the interval between the giving of the Great Commission and the completion of the Bible, the Lord confirmed the testimony of the witnesses by giving them special gifts. In addition, sometimes the Lord had a special message that He wanted delivered to the members of one of His local churches. The Lord would send that message by having one of the members deliver the message in a known language no one

else in the service understood except the person to whom He gave the gift of interpretation. That way, the members of that scriptural church could have confidence that the message was coming to them directly from the Living God. **However**, the person who had been given the message was to remain **silent** if no one in the congregation had received the gift of interpretation. We find that the Greek word translated silent in 1st Corinthians 14:28 is "**σιγάω**"- pronounced see-gah'-o in English and means hold (one's) peace or be silent. Paul is instructing the members of the early churches that if **neither** the member with the gift of tongues or some other member had been given the gift of interpretation, they are to hold their peace or be silent!

"²⁶ *How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, **hath a tongue**, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.* 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 (**σιγάω**) in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God."* 1 Corinthians 14:26-28

Four verses later (verse 32) we find, "³⁴ *Let your women keep silence (**σιγάω**) in the churches: **for it is not permitted unto them to speak**; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."* The Living God was instructing us about speaking in tongues in the previous verses. He did not suddenly change the subject and began giving us a command on another subject. What He said was that a woman was not given the gift of tongues. In fact He said that they were forbidden to speak in tongues. **If you do not believe the word of the Lord that He spoke through Paul, you need to cut that statement out of your Bible!!!!**

At the beginning of this paper we asked the question, "Did the disciples of John the Baptist receive the gift of tongues? **No!** Those saved people who did not leave John the Baptist and become disciples of Jesus Christ when He called to them never were told to remain in Jerusalem until they were endued with power. Those instructions were only given to the disciples of Jesus Christ (the local church in Jerusalem). On the day of Pentecost, only the disciples of Jesus Christ received the Seven Fold Power of the Holy Spirit in order for them to fulfill the commission they had been given.

In other words, there were other saved people who were alive on this earth on the day of Pentecost who did not receive all seven of the gifts of the Holy Spirit unless and until they received scriptural baptism and became members of one of Christ's local churches.

"¹ *And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,* ² *He said unto them, Have ye received Holy Spirit Power (there is no Greek definite article) since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit Power (there is no Greek definite article).* ³ *And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.* ⁴ *Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.* ⁵ *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (by the authority 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.* ⁷ *And all the men were about twelve."*

Acts 19:1-7 **THE AUTHORITY JESUS CHRIST PASSED DOWN TO HIS SCRIPTURAL CHURCHES IS PASSED DOWN THROUGH SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM.**

Our last observation is very, very important. Most people do not stop to notice the word "*unknown*" is in italics in some of their Bibles. **Have you ever considered why?** It is because the publishers of some Bibles are calling your attention to the fact that the Greek text simply has the Greek word that is translated "tongues" but there is no Greek word in the Greek text that is present and could be translated "*unknown*". The English word "*unknown*" was inserted into the English text by at least the year 1611 by ex-Catholic scholars who belonged to the Church of England or the Episcopal "church". They placed the word "*unknown*" in an English translation called Authorized Version or King James Bible. The Greek text simply has the Greek word that is translated "tongues" but there is no Greek word in the Greek text that could be translated "*unknown*". When subsequent translations were made, many of them simply propagated the error by inserting the English word "*unknown*" because it was an acceptable practice and they did not want to go against tradition or "rock the boat".

⁵ *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.* ⁶ *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.* ⁷ *For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;* ⁸ *he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."* James 1:5-8 (New King James Version)