

TONGUES

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 I think about the subject of tongues. The important question is what does God say about tongues? Do you agree?

DID THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST RECEIVE THE GIFT OF TONGUES?

Perhaps we should first ask, "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 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.

"⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

OUR DEBT

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 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.

YES, EACH OF US HAS COMMITTED AT LEAST ONE SIN

“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. I suggest that if a person intends to reject Christ’s offer, they sin as little as possible since every sin requires a payment.

“11Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done... 14Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:11-15 New International Version

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed

away.” 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true”. 6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.” Revelation 21:1-6
New International Version

EACH OF US CHOOSES WHERE WE WILL SPEND ETERNITY.

How can we drink, without cost, from the spring of the water of life? How can we have our name recorded in the Book of Life? What is God’s plan of salvation from the Lake of Fire? We can know God’s true plan of salvation if we just find the answer to one question.

HOW WERE THE PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT DAYS SAVED?

They could not have been saved by keeping the Ten Commandments because James 2:10 says if we only commit one sin during our entire lifetime, God holds us accountable as if we broke all His laws. “10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. ”

In Galatians 3:11 we find “11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith.”

They could not have been saved because they lived in a different dispensation because we are all living in the dispensation of Grace. Everyone who will be saved from Adam and Eve to the last person who will be saved, will be saved because of the grace (unmerited favor) of God. “8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD”. Genesis 6:8.

In fact, we find in Galatians 3:8, “8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed”.

In Acts 15:11 we find, *“11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are”*. This fact is also taught in Romans 3:24-31, Romans 4:1-25, Romans 5: 1-21 and Genesis 6:8, just to name a few.

Hebrews 10:1-4 says the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. It did not pay their sin debt nor will it pay our sin debt.

They did not “join a church” because there was no church to join.

They did not “get baptized” because there was no one to baptize them.

Their good works did not save them because, in God’s eyes, all their good works looked like filthy rags. *“6 But we are all like an unclean thing and all our righteousness's are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” Isaiah 64:6*

God had shed the blood of an innocent animal in the Garden of Eden in order to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). Could Jehovah have clothed their nakedness without sacrificing an innocent animal? Of course He could. However, God was giving them a reality picture of their need for the sacrifice His Son, Jesus Christ, would give one day in the future. From that day forward, every Patriarch testified about the coming Messiah each time He offered a sacrifice to Jehovah.

As the innocent animal was dying, the people of the Old Testament went to God in prayer and asked forgiveness of their sins. While looking forward in faith, they asked that the sacrifice the innocent Son of God would give one day; pay the sin debt they owed God. Every sin has to be paid for by either the Messiah or by us. Each time the Patriarch was asked by his friends and family why he was sacrificing animals and birds, he was to explain the gospel to them. He was to tell them about the death of the coming Messiah and he was to invite them to repent of their own sins and accept the coming Messiah as their personal Savior. It did not take them any more faith to believe that He would die then it takes us to believe that He has died. All are saved by faith in Christ because of the grace (the unmerited favor) of God (Romans 4:1-16).

The Age or Dispensation of Grace will last from the time of Adam and Eve to the last person who will take advantage of God’s glorious plan of salvation (before we go back into unmeasured time, that is to say, eternity).

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 Messiah as their personal Savior.

"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ)". John 1:35-41

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ³This 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.'" ⁴John's clothes were made of camel's hair and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁷But 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? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰The 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.

¹⁴Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? ¹⁵And 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. ³And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? ⁴Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: ⁵The 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. ⁶And 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 who were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost 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 Seven Fold Power of the Holy Spirit, 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 Seven Fold Power of the Holy Spirit 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 them all the things that Christ had taught them? That's right. It is found in Matthew 28:16-20.

"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 alway, 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 His 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 stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence 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 that 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 2:1-4). 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 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 someone present in the worship service 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 the Lord 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 (we find that the Greek word translated silent in 1st Corinthians 14:28 is σιγάω which is pronounced in English, "sea-gah-o") if neither he or some other member had been given the gift of interpretation.

"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, which is pronounced in English, "sea-gah-o") 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, which is pronounced in English "sea-gah-o") 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 begin 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.

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 were never 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 any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit unless and until they received scriptural baptism and they 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 since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.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.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

It really does not matter what I think about the subject of tongues. The important question is what does God say about tongues? Do you agree that God's Divine Word, the Bible, teaches the following?

- 1- Not one of the disciples of John the Baptist received the gift of tongues on the day of Pentecost even though they were saved.
- 2- The tongues referred to in the Bible was the ability to speak in a known, spoken language.
- 3- Jesus Christ only instructed His own disciples (the local church in Jerusalem) to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with Holy Spirit Power.

4- Only the disciples of Jesus Christ who were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost 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.

4- 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 Seven Fold Power of the Holy Spirit nor did they speak in tongues.

5- The only ones who received the gift of tongues on the day of Pentecost were from Galilee.

6- During the interval between the giving of the Great Commission and the completion of the Bible, the Lord confirmed the testimony of His witnesses by giving them special gifts including the ability of some members to speak in the language of the person to whom they were witnessing. That way the hearer could have confidence that the message was coming to them directly from the Living God.

7- The Lord stopped giving some of the members of His local, scriptural churches the ability to speak in the language of the person to whom they were witnessing after the perfect Word of the Living God, the Bible, was completed.

8- 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.

9- The Lord would send His 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 the Lord 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 neither he or some other member had been given the gift of interpretation.

10- The Bible says that a woman was not given the gift of tongues. In fact the Lord said that they were forbidden to speak in tongues.

11- There were other saved people who were alive on this earth on the day of Pentecost who did not receive any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit unless and until they later received scriptural baptism and they became members of one of Christ's local, scriptural churches.