

THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE...Part VII

“Have you had the baptism” continued

Reference: **miscellaneous scripture**

Pastor Larry Webb

The Greek word translated as tongues is the word “*glossa*” and “*glossa*” might mean one of three different things:

- the actual **physical** tongue in someone’s mouth
- an actual recognizable **language**
- gibberish and ecstatic nonsensical **speech** as was so prominent in pagan religions

Reference: **Acts 2:1-11**

verse four, “*and they (the beginning church) were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

verse six, “*And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.*”

verse seven, “*Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?’*”

verse eight, “*And how is it that we hear; each in our own language in which we were born?*”

verse eleven, “*...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.*”

Definition: the original biblical gift of tongues was the instantaneous enablement God gave someone to speak fluently in a known recognizable language that he (she) had never been **taught** to **speak**.

Pentecostals (and also charismatics) agree that the tongues at Pentecost were existing languages, but then argue that the gift of tongues mentioned in **I Corinthians chapters 12-14** were a different form of language: i.e. a language spoken in heaven or a language that angels speak.

But that’s not possible because both passages from **Acts** and **I Corinthians** use the same terminology to describe tongues. In **Acts** the Greek word that is translated to speak is used in combination with *glossa* (tongues) four different times (**Acts 2:4, 11; 10:46; and 19:6**)

But then in **I Corinthians 12-14** Paul uses forms of that same combination thirteen times (**I Corinthians 12:30, 13:1, 14:2, 4,5 (2X) 6, 13, 18, 19, 21, 27, and 39**).

But another argument that tongues at both Pentecost and Corinth were recognizable and rational languages is that I Corinthians required that any tongues spoken in the church had to be translated by someone that had the spiritual gift of interpretation.

(I Corinthians 12:10; 14:27)

It would be **impossible** to translate nonsensical gibberish, since translation requires concrete meaning in one language in order to be rendered correctly into another language.

Question: why did God give the church this miraculous phenomena called tongues or languages... tongues were given as a **sign**...and the reason miraculous signs were needed was in part because the Jews **wanted** a sign

Reference: **I Corinthians 1:22a**, "For Jews request a sign..."

Definition: Spirit Baptism (non Pentecostal) is the imperceptible, non emotional, non experiential, unrepeatable, invisible spiritual operation at salvation where the believing sinner is through the HS placed (first) into **Christ himself** (his spiritual position) and (second) placed into the **body of Christ** (the invisible universal church).

BIG IDEA: throughout Acts tongues (languages) documented to the earliest Jewish Christians the beginning and gradual development of the **church**

GROUP ONE... were the 120 **Jewish** (or Messianic) Christians

Reference: **Acts 2:1-4**

Date: 30 AD

Tongues were a visible and audible sign that God had formed the beginning nucleus for the church through baptizing those Jewish Christians into that spiritual body.

GROUP TWO... were the **Samaritan** Christians

Reference: **Acts 8:5-17**

Date: 32 AD

Tongues were again a visible and audible sign that God had added another people group to that emerging spiritual body. The text implies that those Samaritan Christians spoke in other languages just as the Jewish Christians did at Pentecost and those tongues acted as a miraculous sign that tied the two groups together as part of the same church.

Group Three... the **Gentile** Christians at Caesarea

Reference: **Acts 10:44-48**

DATE: 36 AD

These Gentiles received salvation and Spirit Baptism simultaneously as is the case for all Christians today and to demonstrate that God was connecting them to the same spiritual body on an equal basis with the Messianic and Samaritan Christians Cornelius and his associations spoke in tongues.

Group Four... the **disciples** from **John the Baptist**

Reference: **Acts 19:1-7**

DATE: 54 AD

These twelve men represented Old Testament saints and had not been converted to New Testament Christianity until meeting Paul. These men received salvation and Spirit Baptism simultaneously and spoke in tongues to demonstrate that they had also been added to the church.

This was the last group to be added to the body of Christ (church) and in doing so completed the transitional period in Acts.