



## Why Did the Tongues of Fire Touch the Apostles?

**Acts 2:1: (NASB) *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.***



Sometimes the Bible is really dramatic. Take the day of Pentecost in Acts, which was fifty days after Jesus had been crucified. The Apostles were told by the risen Jesus to hang around Jerusalem, and on the morning of this particular day there were fireworks - literally, there were fireworks which came down from heaven. Not only did fire come down upon them from above, but they then spoke in foreign languages about the gospel and converted thousands of Jews to Christianity. Why the big and spectacular dramatics with the fire from above? Was it really necessary? And what about the miraculous "speaking foreign languages" business?

Couldn't they have used translators? On rare occasions, God will do things so far out of the ordinary that we just have to stop and take notice. This particular day of Pentecost was such an occasion, so let's see what the message was.



### The event:

**Acts 2:1-3: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.***



### Introduction, Pentecost, Shift Worship

- *What happened that day when the Spirit arrived, when the Holy Spirit came? What happened then? It got loud, loud enough to be heard all over town. Fire appeared, divided and dispersed to each of them. The outsiders came running, and they heard the fire-talkers tell of God's mighty works in their own language. Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome, Jews, proselytes, Cretans and Arabians. The Spirit had come to describe the glory of God in their native tongues through those who followed Christ.*

The gospel was not yet opened to the Gentiles at this point. Those listening were Jews from surrounding countries in town for the day of Pentecost.

What was the day of Pentecost all about?

(Source: Bible commentary by Albert Barnes) Among the Jews it was applied to one of their three great feasts which began on the fiftieth day after the Passover. This feast was reckoned from the sixteenth day of the month Abib (Note: Abib is the Canaanite name for March/April. The Jewish name is Nisan), or April, or the second day of the Passover. The paschal lamb was slain on the fourteenth of the month at even; (Leviticus 23:5) on the fifteenth of the month was a holy convocation - the proper beginning of the feast; on the sixteenth was the offering of the first-fruits of harvest, and from that day they were to reckon seven weeks, i.e., forty-nine days to the feast called the feast of Pentecost, so that it occurred fifty days after the first day of the feast of the Passover.

# Passover Lamb vs. Jesus as the Lamb

14th of Nisan: Lamb killed

(Leviticus 23:5)

16th of Nisan:

Offering of the First-fruits

(Leviticus 23:17,20)



14th of Nisan: Jesus killed

(John 19:14)

16th of Nisan: Jesus raised as the "first fruit" of all who would be resurrected

(1 Corinthians 15:20)

This feast was also called the feast of weeks, from the circumstance that it followed a succession of weeks, (Exodus 34:22; Numbers 28:26; Deuteronomy 16:10). It was also a harvest festival, and was accordingly called the feast of harvest. And it was for this reason that two loaves made of new meal were offered on this occasion as first-fruits (Leviticus 23:17, 20; Numbers 28:27-31).



This time of year was incredibly important, set up when Israel first became a nation. Jesus was the fulfillment of these things.

Why was this day of Pentecost chosen for the Spirit to come upon the Apostles and followers?

- This was 50 days after Jesus' resurrection - 50 in the Bible is a symbol for restoration, such as with the Jubilee year.

## Jubilee

The 50th year at the end of seven cycles

dealing with land, property and property rights.

Slaves were freed and debts were forgiven. (Leviticus 25:8-13)

The Old Testament Jubilee was a picture of the restoration that will later be granted for the whole world because of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

- This was a "harvest" time and celebration.

**The age of favor to the Jews was ending:**

Matthew 23:38: (KJV) *Behold your house is left unto you desolate.*

A harvest pictures the transition between the ending of one era and the beginning of another.

- Being "harvested" out of the Jewish nation were those who would follow Jesus - those called-out ones.
- The two loaves made of *new meal* - perhaps the new message of the gospel from the risen Lord.
- The loaves were baked with leaven (Leviticus 23:17) - perhaps showing that the call goes to sinful men. Leaven in the Bible always represents sin.



"Baptism of the Spirit" was first introduced by John the Baptist. John's audience was a wide cross-section of the Jewish population. He prophesied the fact that all would not accept the coming Lord.

**Some would need to be cut down and some would be destroyed:**

Luke 3:16-17: (NASB) <sup>16</sup>John answered and said to them all, As for me, I baptize you with water; but one is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of his sandals; **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to thoroughly clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

This happened before Jesus' ministry started. John the Baptist predicted *he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit* - what did this mean?



**The Law established  
a clear meaning for this day  
as a feast celebrating a harvest.  
Jesus would spiritualize this meaning  
to have a broader, worldwide significance.**

The basis for the dramatics of Pentecost was all built on this particular day of a harvest feast God had set up thousands of years earlier.

**We now know what the day of Pentecost meant to the ancient Jews.  
What would it come to mean for Christians?**

With sufficient background now in place, what would happen next would be nothing short of astounding. The events that would take place on this first day of Pentecost after Jesus was crucified and raised would make that day one of the most pivotal days in all of history. It would be one of the greatest expressions of grace humankind could ever receive. Jesus knew the importance of this day.

**Jesus' eleventh and final appearance, just before his ascension:**

Acts 1:4-8: (NASB) <sup>4</sup>Gathering them together, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, Which, he said, you heard of from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

This was the second time after his resurrection Jesus instructed his apostles to stay in Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they were asking him, saying, Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel? <sup>7</sup>He said to them, It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; <sup>8</sup>but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.



The apostles wanted to know if the earthly kingdom would be restored to Israel right then. Jesus reassured them that they did not need to know when that would happen; rather, there was work ahead. Once they would receive God's power and influence they could be witnesses throughout all the world.

 **Seven years, *Praying in the Spirit aka Speaking in Tongues, Princess-Child of the Most High God***

- *It took me about seven years to receive the evidence of speaking in tongues, but I did it. I locked myself in the bathroom, and I sat down on the floor to have complete privacy. It was like the middle of the night, it was about midnight, and my husband and my four kids were off sleeping. And I began reading about what Scripture says about speaking in tongues, and when I got to the bottom of this website that I was reading, it said that you can't speak two languages at once. And so, I bowed my head, and instead of saying "Abba Father," or "Daddy," or "thank you," or something like that in English, I decided just to give utterance, and I spoke in a language I never heard before. And I cried because it was beautiful, and the fact that I felt that connection with the Lord I wanted for such a long time.*

While we do not question her sincerity, this kind of speaking in tongues is not what the Scriptures advocate.

**Now the event - the apostles were where they were supposed to be:**

Acts 2:1: (NASB) *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.*

**And now God's Spirit makes its entrance:**

Acts 2:2: (NASB) *And suddenly there came from heaven a **noise <2279>** like a **violent <972> rushing <5342> wind <4157>**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

What does this all mean?

**Noise/Sound:** Strongs #2279 *echos*; a loud or confused noise ("echo"),  
i.e. roar; figuratively, a rumor

This sound was the audible announcement of the monumental change to come.

**Violent:** Strongs #972 *biaios*, violent  
Greek Lexicon: forcible

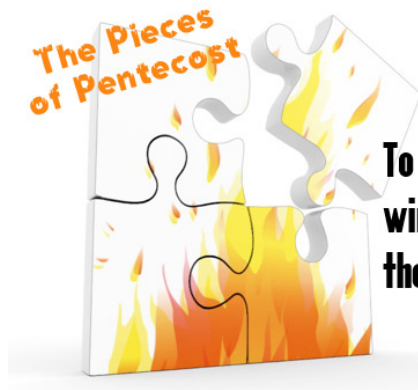
**Rushing:** Strongs #5342 *phero*; a primary verb to "bear" or carry

This *rushing* means something is being born or carried, such as rushing water.

John 15:2: (KJV) *Every branch in me that **beareth <5342>** not fruit he taketh away (better translation: lifts up): and every branch that **beareth <5342>** fruit, he purgeth it, that it may **bring forth <5342>** more fruit.*

**Wind:** Strongs #4157 *pnoe*; respiration, a breeze  
King James Version: breath, wind

Acts 17:24-25: (NASB) <sup>24</sup>*The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup>nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and **breath <4157>** and all things.*



**To those present, the "noise like a violent rushing wind" was the audible and forceful announcement of the life-giving breath of God's power and influence.**

Just as God in Genesis breathed into Adam the breath of life to become a living soul, God would now give the "new creature" breath.

2 Corinthians 5:17: (KJV) *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

This new creature must somehow be made alive, our spiritual lives must be energized. This is done through God's power and influence. Pentecost is when this energizing process first began.

Acts 2:2: (NASB) *...and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

This shows a complete immersion, their "baptism by the Spirit," just like John the Baptist predicted. Just as John the Baptist covered people with water, Jesus would cover people with the Holy Spirit to help strengthen them after his death.

The Christian world would begin from this point.

**God's Spirit arrives with a loud and almost tornado-like announcement. Why did God do that?**

The significance of this event cannot be overstated. First, it is the first major event of the Gospel Age in which Jesus was not present. Second, it was the fulfillment of what Jesus and John the Baptist had promised would happen, because without God's Spirit there could be no gospel preaching. Why not? When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove, accompanied by the voice of God (Luke 3:22). The Spirit was necessary in order to do the work before him. Jesus' followers receive a measure of the Spirit as well (John 3:34), in order to better serve God.

This is one of the greatest examples of God's grace. Why would He give His power and influence to imperfect men? He does it to show that His power can overcome sinfulness. His grace is greater than anything Satan could ever imagine. His plan will work through us who are imperfect because of what Jesus did through God's grace. This is why the day is so important!

This day of Pentecost was the birth of the true church, the "bride" of Christ.





**This baptism of the Spirit was the proclamation and proof of the separation of this "little flock" from the world:**

1 Peter 2:9: (NASB) *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

To be called out of darkness and into light means our job is to do the will of God for the rest of our lives and all of eternity. Our goal is to bring praise, honor and glory to God.

Birth is a dramatic event, filled with awe towards the miracle of life. So it was at the "birth" of the true church, the consecrated, the set-apart "bride of Christ."

Acts 2:3: (NASB) *And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.*

Fire represents purification and destruction, fitting symbols for the power Christianity was to wield. The gift of God's Spirit is pure grace, as there is nothing we can do to warrant such a blessing.

**There is definitely a sequence - the Spirit came upon them and then they spoke in tongues:**

Acts 2:4: (NASB) *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.*

*Tongue* - meaning language.

*As the Spirit was giving them utterance* - showing how miraculous this was. They were given the ability to do something they could not naturally do. They were guided to speak in foreign (understandable) languages.

**It appears that they began the speaking in tongues before or as the crowd was gathering:**

Acts 2:5-8: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>*Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. (Why the power to speak the gospel in different languages?) <sup>7</sup>They were amazed and astonished, saying, Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? (Communication! They needed to hear the message.)*

**For those who say they "speak in tongues" today, it is important to note how this was scripturally done:**

Acts 2:11: (NASB) *We hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.*

This would be unmistakable proof of something supernatural happening because they heard them speak *the mighty deeds of God*. The message was clear - there was no question as to what was said. This is not how it is done in churches today.

This is the introduction to speaking in tongues in the Bible. Why was this gift given? So the people could hear in their own languages *the mighty deeds of God*.



### **Speaking, Praying in the Spirit aka Speaking in Tongues, Princess-Child of the Most High God**

- It's not what we've done that gets us to you, Lord God. We come to you an absolute mess, a sinful wreck, and You, Father God accept us. You've already paid the price. I thank you, Lord. I thank you, Lord, that we don't have to know the right way. We just have to give our heart to You. (Speaking in tongues.)*

This is where we believe churches are going way outside the scriptural parameters of this gift.

One other very significant change occurred at this baptism of the Spirit at Pentecost. Less than two months before this, Peter was weeping bitterly about his betrayal of Jesus.

#### **Now look at him!**

**Acts 2:12-16:** (NASB) <sup>12</sup>And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, What does this mean? <sup>13</sup>But others were mocking and saying, They are full of sweet wine. <sup>14</sup>But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. <sup>15</sup>For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; <sup>16</sup>but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel. ([Joel 2:28-32](#) - see more in the Bonus Material.)

Peter was transformed from follower to leader, from questioner to teacher, from human-mindedness to spirit-mindedness.

The Spirit gave him the power to better understand Scriptures and he could announce this event was fulfilling prophecy. No wonder so many were converted at this moment!



**The baptism of the Spirit was a miraculous event, signifying the birth of the body of Christ and giving those present the ability to preach.**

**It would never again be repeated, but the Spirit would now abide with, comfort and teach Jesus' Followers throughout the entire Gospel Age.**

This was a one-time event that would change the world. This was the first tangible result of what Jesus put in place by his death and resurrection.

God made Christianity's introduction clear.

Here is where we need to be careful and specific, as human nature takes astounding one-time events such as these and tries to mainstream them. The miraculous gift of speaking in tongues on the day of Pentecost would become transferrable, *but only in a very specific way and for a specific time.*



- *We have a testimony from Eden this morning, really special, and she taught me last night, and I was just blown away.*
- *(Little girl named Eden) I heard Liz speak in tongues, and she was saying, “Yes, God, yes.”*
- *I’ll give you a bit of context. Last Sunday at Livingstone’s Kids Ministry, they apparently had scrolls where they wrote all the different spiritual gifts that according to the Bible are available for us to ask for, and I put them in a bowl. And then all the kids were able just to pick one, and Eden picked one as well, and her spiritual gift that she picked was the interpretation of tongues.*



1. Pentecost
2. At the conversion of Cornelius to Christianity
3. At Ephesus

### At the conversion of Cornelius to Christianity

Acts 10:33-35: (NIV) <sup>33</sup>Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us. <sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak: I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup>but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right...

This was a radical change with God now dealing with Gentiles! How did Peter get to this point of teaching something contrary to everything up to this point? He had a miraculous vision about eating unclean meat, (see Acts 10) with a voice saying in verse 15, *What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.*

Peter went to the home of Cornelius, as instructed, with the vision fresh in his mind. Peter realized God was calling men regardless of their background. This was the first time in history this had happened. The Holy Spirit would now be given to people outside of a Jewish heritage.





**Acts 10:44-47:** (NIV) <sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup>For they heard them speaking in tongues and **praising <3170>** God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.

### Observations:

- These Roman Gentiles were most likely speaking Hebrew, a non-native language they would have had no use for.
- Peter and the Jewish Christians immediately understood them - they were equipped to witness.
- Their communication was just like Pentecost.

**Praising:** Strongs #3170, *megalunō* (verb)

as used in Acts 10:46 above is from the same root word as we previously saw in Acts 2:11:

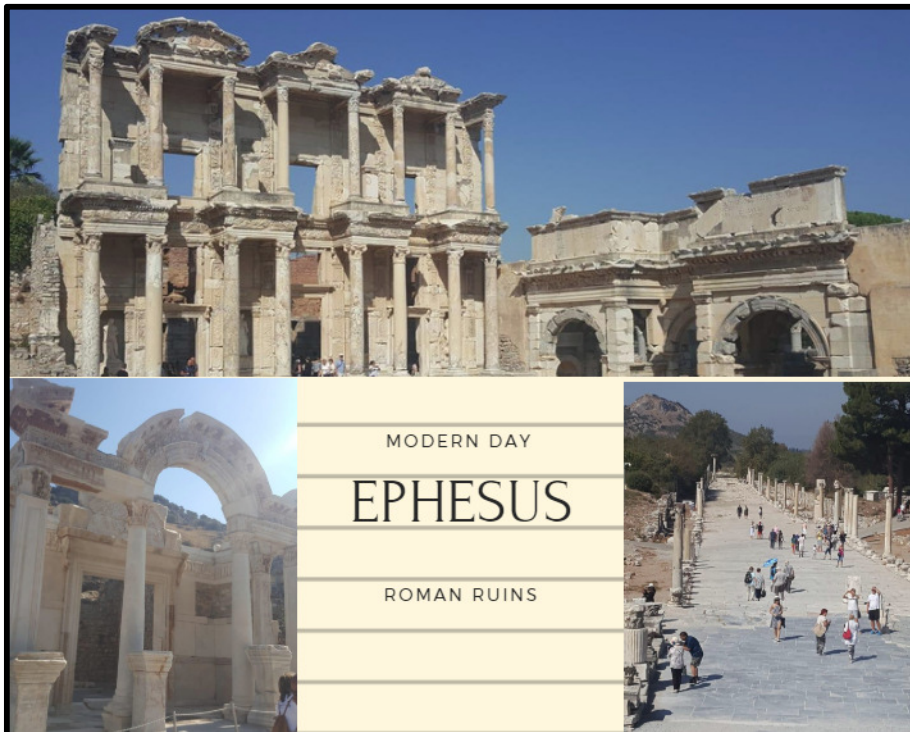
**Mighty deeds:** Strongs #3167, *megaleios* (adjective)

At this event of the conversion of Cornelius, they were communicating and understanding each other, not babbling.

- This would have been proof positive for Peter that the Gentile and Jewish Christians were equal. Peter took a seemingly chaotic situation at Pentecost and made it logical. Peter shows up again with Gentiles and again makes it logical, confirming it was God's will. The Gentiles, too, would be equipped to preach the gospel.

SHALOM  
שלום

There is no scriptural evidence of tongues being spoken in an indiscernible language



### At Ephesus:

The next event was Paul arriving in Ephesus and finding disciples who were not fully informed. Apollos had been through the area and was a wonderful orator. But he was focusing on John's baptism and not teaching correctly.



Let's drop in on the story, but keep in mind the Pentecost precedent for speaking in tongues - it was for witnessing the Good News.

Acts 19:2-7: (NIV) <sup>2</sup>They answered, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. <sup>3</sup>So Paul asked, Then what baptism did you receive? John's baptism, they replied. <sup>4</sup>Paul said, John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus. <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup>There were about twelve men in all.

Prophesying is not making something up; it is expounding upon powerful biblical truths.

We are guessing they were speaking in Hebrew. It had to be in a language Paul understood, because he knew they were prophesying.

(Source: Biblical commentary by J. Vernon McGee) There were many languages spoken there, just as there had been in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. East and West met all along that coast. It was a great city of that day. (Remember the Temple of Diana was here.) These men were now able to give the good news of Christ to the entire city.

"Tongues" equipped them to witness in languages they had not studied. This is why they were given the gift.

 Simple but meaningful, Eden, 6-years old, Interpreting a Word of Tongues, Lutheran Renewal

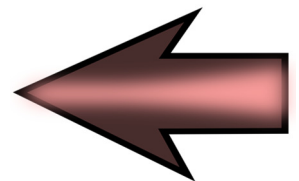
- So for those of you that may be here for the first time, there is a spiritual gift called speaking in tongues. And you may have heard it in worship just before. Some people they just pray and say things that their minds don't actually understand. It's actually the Holy Spirit giving words and moving the tongue. And so, I speak in tongues, but I don't understand what I'm saying, but it's a prayer language by the Holy Spirit. And there is a gift where some people can interpret and actually understand what is actually being said, and so you picked that gift - it was on the scroll, and then all week the family prayed into it that she would actually get the gift and have the gift. And you just overheard her pray in tongues and suddenly you knew what it meant. Can you say it again? What did it mean?
- (Little girl named Eden) Yes, God, yes.
- Yes, God, yes. So it's simple, but it's actually quite meaningful.



What do these three events have in common?

1. Pentecost
2. At the conversion of Cornelius to Christianity
3. At Ephesus

Apostolic preaching, spirit-begotten followers and an audience anxious to learn either about the gospel or how to witness the gospel.





**We MUST apply these precedents to these next verses, as they are typically misrepresented today:**

**1 Corinthians 14:1-4:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup>For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God;*

**See? When you are speaking in tongues it is a prayer language, right?**

*for no one understands, but in His spirit He speaks mysteries. <sup>3</sup>But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. <sup>4</sup>One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.*

Looking at the context of how speaking in tongues was used in every example where it happened, the Apostle Paul here is advising **AGAINST** speaking in a foreign language when no one but God understands. It is useless babbling and no good comes from it. Without someone to interpret it, it is just noise.



**"Tongues" were meant  
to equip disciples  
to witness  
the Gospel to others.**

**Is speaking to God in tongues wrong?  
Didn't Paul refer to speaking the language of angels?**

It is so easy to read a Scripture like the one about Paul speaking in the language of angels and assume, "If he could do it, I can do it!" Firmly understanding the context of Paul's experience, coupled with the precedents that the day of Pentecost established, easily answers these questions.

**1 Corinthians 13:1:** (NASB) *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

**Aha! Is he saying we can speak in the *tongues of angels*? No, it is just making noise.**

**Teenaged girls in church, *Speaking in Tongues Compilation, Truth in Genesis***

- *Speaking in tongues. In the name of Jesus you be made whole by the power of God. (Continues to noisily all speak in tongues simultaneously.)*

There is no value in what we heard in that audio clip. Speaking in tongues was to communicate the gospel to other people.

**Long before writing the letters to the Corinthians, Paul had a unique personal experience:**

**2 Corinthians 12:2-4:** (KJV) *<sup>2</sup>I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth) such an one caught up to the third heaven. <sup>3</sup>And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth) <sup>4</sup>How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*



The Apostle Paul had a unique heavenly vision of the future (the *third heaven* referring to the Messianic reign) in which he saw and heard unspeakable glory.

For more on the interpretation of the third heaven, please see September 25, 2017, CQ Episode #988: "Did Jesus and the Thief Go from the Cross to Paradise?" An excerpt is included in the Bonus Material.

We might think of the third heaven as an elevator, going up three floors, a high heaven. But *heavens* can represent periods of time, with a spiritual body governing the affairs of earth. The first "heaven" was what Peter called *the world that was* in 2 Peter 3:6, ruled by angelic influence. The second "heaven" is *the present evil world* in Galatians 1:4 under the rule of Satan. The third heaven is *the world to come* in Hebrews 2:5,6:5, 2 Peter 3:13 to be ruled by Christ.



Paul was caught up in seeing the future. He heard unspeakable words because it was not for us to know. He was brought to see incredible things about the future and God's glory. He was looking back upon his revelation.



### Back to the Apostle Paul:

1 Corinthians 13:1: (NASB) *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

...to examine the context of his reasoning previous to his one-time comment about speaking in a tongue other than an earthly language.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31: (NASB) <sup>28</sup>*And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.* <sup>29</sup>*All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?* <sup>30</sup>*All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?* <sup>31</sup>*But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.*

Paul is talking to the Corinthians about these spiritual gifts, listing some of them in order.





### Observations:

- Several gifts of the Spirit are listed here. "Tongues" is the last gift.
- A divide between the greater and lesser gifts is established. (1 Corinthians 14:3 highlights the importance of the gift of prophecy - to expound on the depth of the Scriptures, for example.)
- The path of spiritual gifts is shown to be a lesser path, as a more excellent way exists.
- Paul is teaching by giving his personal experience of seeing things no other human ever saw, and yet *I show you a still more excellent way.*

### The very next verses follow his personal experience:

1 Corinthians 13:1-3: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.*

The message here is the development of love. Jesus is our pattern who taught us to love even our enemies. We must prove we have the love Jesus taught us to have.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>*Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.*

These gifts would stop. Tongues were put in place to communicate with those who spoke another language. Paul is preaching to the Corinthians in the A.D. 60's, 30-some years after Pentecost. The gospel had been spread and there were churches in many places, established in their own local languages. Paul is saying the gift of tongues is not as important anymore because Christianity was established. They would cease entirely *when the perfect comes*. We think that means once the New Testament was written, the complete knowledge of how to be faithful unto death is available. We do not need to be able to do it miraculously anymore.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul goes on to explain the ungodly results of the misuse of the gift of tongues.



**The Day of Pentecost was a one-time miraculous event designed to introduce Christianity and give the brotherhood the gift of tongues to better witness to the gospel.**





- Speaking in tongues was always the speaking of another human language.
- Speaking in tongues was a gift - and a "lesser" gift at that.
- Speaking in tongues was always put in place for the furtherance of the gospel, to equip believers to speak the word of God.
- No one in Scripture is ever recorded speaking some heavenly language. There is no "prayer language" of tongues.

recap  
recap

Pentecost was a world-changing event because it gave the ability for the gospel to go to different countries in the Jewish realm. Once Cornelius was given the Holy Spirit, the gospel spread even further to Gentile nations. This is what the gift of tongues was about.

*So, why did the tongues of fire touch the apostles?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on November 19, 2018:  
Ep. #1048: "How Can We Be Truly Thankful?"



### Bonus Material

***The thing about perspective-changing events is that they usually don't announce themselves as such. — Andrea Goeglein***

Romans 8:26-27: (ASV) <sup>26</sup>And in like manner the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity: for we know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered; <sup>27</sup>and he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because it maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Groanings are not tongues - not a language, but an internal expression of deep need.

### **The only other use of groaning in the New Testament:**

Acts 7:34: (KJV) *I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their **groaning** <4726>, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.*

**Groaning:** Strong's #4726, stenagmos, groaning



**If we touch on 1 Corinthians 14, we will see where speaking in tongues fit as to the gospel message:**

**1 Corinthians 14:1-2:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup>For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries.*

**1 Corinthians 14:9-11:** (NASB) *<sup>9</sup>So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. <sup>10</sup>There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. <sup>11</sup>If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.*

**1 Corinthians 14:13-14:** (NASB) *<sup>13</sup>Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. <sup>14</sup>For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.*

**1 Corinthians 14:19:** (NASB) *However, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

**1 Corinthians 14:22-23:** (NASB) *<sup>22</sup>So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe. <sup>23</sup>Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?*

**One last text to sum up the tongues discussion:**

**1 Corinthians 14:26-29:** (NASB) *<sup>26</sup>What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. <sup>27</sup>If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; <sup>28</sup>but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. <sup>29</sup>Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.*

The Apostle is very firm in his instruction that our fellowship be orderly and a pure example of those who truly follow Christ, not only in his teaching, but also in his style of living.

**Let us backtrack for a moment to Jesus, prophesying about the arrival of the Spirit:**

**John 16:5-11:** (NKJV) *<sup>5</sup>But now I go away to Him who sent me, and none of you asks me, Where are you going? <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he has come, he will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>of sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>of righteousness, because I go to my Father and you see me no more; <sup>11</sup>of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

Notice Jesus says the Spirit will do three things. How was this accomplished?

**Let's go back to our context of when the Spirit came - Pentecost - reading selected verses:**

**Acts 2:14:** (NKJV) *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.*



### Here we see the Spirit convicting the world of sin because of unbelief:

**Acts 2:22-24:** (NKJV) <sup>22</sup>Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves also know - <sup>23</sup>him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; <sup>24</sup>whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that he should be held by it.

### The Spirit convicting the world of righteousness by the raising of Jesus to power with the Father:

**Acts 2:32-36:** (NKJV) <sup>32</sup>This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. <sup>33</sup>Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

### These next verses show the Spirit convicting this world of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged:

<sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, <sup>35</sup>till I make your enemies your footstool. <sup>36</sup>Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

How did the Spirit do all of these things? Through the words and explanations of the Apostle Peter regarding events and prophecies. This gives us a huge clue as to how the Spirit - the power and influence of God - was to work in the Christian age - it would work through the hearts, minds, words and actions of the begotten. The Spirit does not have a voice of its own.

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Miraculously speaking in tongues, or different languages, was first introduced on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus was raised. Just as Israel had been delivered from slavery as a result of the Passover lamb and 50 days later was given the 10 Commandments as its guide for life, so Christianity 50 days after its "Passover Lamb" had been slain was given the Holy Spirit (God's power and influence) as a light and guide. Tongues were a gift that came as a result of that spirit.

