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SPEAKING IN TONGUES . A SURE SIGN OF THE SPIRIT?

There are whole church systems that are built on the doctrine of speaking in tongues. Many, when under the influence of this spirit, fall out in the aisles, roll on the floor, fall backwards, etc. The overall majority of these people believe that if you don't speak in tongues, then you simply don't have the Holy Spirit. Is this a correct doctrine?

By Jerry Healan

Most of these churches are called Pentecostal. Why? Because on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was sent to the apostles and it caused them to speak in tongues, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that **every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?** Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of Elohim.** And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying

one to another, What meaneth this?" Acts 2:1-12.

Notice that they were speaking in other tongues, but they were the tongues of the nations wherein the people had been dispersed unto. Did the Spirit cause them to fall down; fall backward; or roll around on the ground? Were these unknown tongues? The marvel spoken of here is the fact that these men were Galileans, and they were speaking in the various tongues of the nations, declaring the wonderful works of Yahweh.

In being Galileans, they were considered to be unlearned and ignorant. Notice how the Jews viewed Peter and John, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, **and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men**, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Yahshua," Acts 4:13. They had even considered Yahshua to be ignorant, "Now about the midst of the feast Yahshua went up into the temple, and taught. **And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?**" Jn. 7:14-15.

Later in the same chapter of John it is written, "Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Messiah. But some said, Shall the Messiah come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That the



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Messiah cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of him. And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man. Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? But **this people who knoweth not the law are cursed,**" vv. 40-49.

The giving of the Holy Spirit was a most miraculous event! The Disciples were chiefly Galileans, considered to be ignorant and unlearned by the most learned of the day. Yet, here they were speaking in the tongues of all the nations that the Jews had been dispersed to!

According to the most learned, this day of Pentecost, also called Shavuot, was the anniversary of the day that the commandments were given at Mt. Sinai in the wilderness. Is it also possible that this was the anniversary of the day that Yahweh divided the nations by confusing their tongues as reported in Genesis 11:1-9? Is it also possible that this will be the anniversary of the day when Yahweh will give his people a pure language? "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of Yahweh, to serve him with one consent," Zeph. 3:9.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Yahshua told His disciples, "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he **shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you,**" Jn. 14:25-26.

Again, He said, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you

from the Father, even **the Spirit of truth**, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me:** And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning," Jn. 15:26-27.

Notice that! The Holy Spirit was to bring to their remembrance all that Yahshua had said unto them. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth! Yahshua said that He is the truth, "Yahshua saith unto him, **I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," Jn. 14:6. So the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, will only be witnessing to the truth, which is Yahshua the Messiah!

Yahshua followed up in John 16, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for **he shall not speak of himself;** but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he **shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that **he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you,**" vv. 13-15.

Just before His ascension, "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Master, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth,**" Acts 1:6-8.

The point is that if anyone is speaking under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, then they should be speaking of Yahshua, Who is the truth. How many are doing that, or even understand how the Scriptures speak of Him?

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Yahshua told the people of His day,



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"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me**. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of Yahweh in you. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from Yahweh only? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For **had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?**" Jn. 5:39-47.

In the first place, the modern day Pentecostal movement declares that the Old Testament is done away. If this is true, then they are declaring that Moses is no longer effectively witnessing of Yahshua, and neither are the Psalms and prophets. But their problem is that the truth never changes even as Yahweh never changes, "For I am Yahweh, I change not," Mal. 3:6a. Yahshua, being the truth, never changes, "Yahshua the Messiah the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever," Heb. 13:6.

The situation is that Yahweh has inspired His word to be recorded in parables, types, metaphores, proverbs, etc. These must be studied into very deeply in order to bring the truth to the light. This certainly can't be done without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we have the Pentecostals who are in denial of the Scriptures that present the Messiah to us, but then, so is modern day Christianity, and let's not also leave out so many, many even in the assemblies who seek to establish the letter of the law, which kills, and not the Spirit, "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but **our sufficiency is of Yahweh; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth**

life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory," 2 Cor. 3:5-9.

Do you not understand that the ministration of the covenant of Moses was a ministration of death? But now we have the ministration of the covenant of Yahshua, the New Covenant, which is of the Holy Spirit and life! Does this mean that the commandments were to be done away? Absolutely not! The promise of the New Covenant is that Yahweh is going to give us a new body that will be incorruptible and immortal, able to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, which will write Yahweh's commandments on our hearts, "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith Yahweh. For **this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith Yahweh; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them an Elohim, and they shall be to me a people**: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know Yahweh: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their



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sins and their iniquities will I remember no more," Heb. 8:6-12.

The problem we have is that Christianity does not understand this, nor proclaim it, and too many of the assemblies seek to place themselves and others under Moses' covenant, and not under the grace of Yahshua's covenant.

EDIFICATION

The Apostle Paul had to deal with the tongues situation. This is what he wrote, "**Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love**, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing," 1 Cor. 13:1-2.

Isn't that what Yahshua accused the people of His day with, that is, that they had not the love of Yahweh in them (Jn. 5:42)?

Paul expounds further, "Follow after love, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto Elohim: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. **But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the assembly.** I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for **greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues**, except he interpret, that the assembly may receive edifying," 1 Cor. 14:1-5.

To prophesy does mean to foretell the future, but it can also mean to preach under the inspiration of the Spirit. Of course, when we speak about Yahshua, we would be including Old Testament Scriptures, and New Testament Scriptures, which both prophesy about things

He has done in the past, is doing in the present, and will do in the future.

Paul continues, "Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the Assembly. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. **For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.** What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. I thank my Elohim, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the assembly I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue," 1 Cor. 14:6-19.

Isn't it clear? If we are speaking with an unknown tongue, or even praying in an unknown tongue, what does that do for us? He even says that if we are praying in an unknown



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tongue, then our own understanding is unfruitful. True love is to give of oneself by edifying others, rather than edifying the self so that we can exalt ourselves above others, or declare, "Hey, look at me! I can speak in another tongue!" This is self exaltation, not true love and humility. We should love the Father and Son so much that we allow the Spirit to speak of them so that they can be lifted up and as many as can receive the truth will be edified.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Years ago when I was in the service, my name was placed on a list of those who were being transferred to Germany. I was stationed in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, and had just gone home on leave, so I took a little time and went home with another buddy who was also being transferred. He lived in Maryland. When we reached his home, we discovered that his mother was ill so I was not able to stay with his family and I had to go to a nearby boarding house instead. The lady who ran the boarding house had a young daughter and we became interested in each other.

I did not know that these people were Pentecostal, but when Sunday came I attended church with them. The services seemed to be okay, but then the minister got up to give the message. He had a few opening words, and then went into a hellfire and brimstone sermon, at least that is what it sounded like, but the problem was that I couldn't understand a word that this man was saying. On the way home, the girl mentioned to her parents that Brother so-and-so certainly gave a good message today, but I was sitting there wondering what he had said and also how in the world that she understood what he said.

I was certainly sitting in the place of the unlearned at that time and couldn't say Amen to the message since I couldn't understand it.

However, if a person is sent a message by the Spirit in another tongue, then the person

should make sure that there is someone there who has the gift of interpretation, or they should just sit and keep their peace.

Yahweh is not the author of confusion, "For Yahweh is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all assemblies of the saints," 1 Cor. 14:33. Therefore, there should be no commotions, no falling out on the floor, rolling all around, speaking out of place, etc. If a person is given a message of tongues for the brethren, then he should make arrangements with those who are conducting the services, and they should also make sure that there is an interpreter available.

THE FRUITS

How can we know whether someone is under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit or not? Are they speaking the wonderful works of Yahweh that He made through Yahshua the Messiah? Or are they coming up with some kind of gobble-de-gook that is unintelligible? Shouldn't we be able to test them according to their actions and their fruits, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them," Mt. 7:15-20.

John also encourages us to test or try the spirits, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of Yahweh: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of Yahweh: Every spirit that confesseth that Yahshua the Messiah is come in the flesh is of Yahweh: And every spirit that confesseth not that Yahshua the Messiah is come in the flesh is not of Yahweh: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should



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come; and even now already is it in the world," 1 Jn. 4:1-3.

YAHSHUA'S IDENTITY

Now, here is a key to understand who Yahshua was, is, and will be. What is so special about declaring that Yahshua came in the flesh? One of the problems that we have in the world, and even in some of the assemblies is that they refuse to believe Who Yahshua was before His human birth.

Doesn't the Apostle John declare that Yahshua is the word who was with Elohim/Yahweh and was Elohim/Yahweh? Doesn't he declare that this word became flesh, and dwelt among us and that the world was made by Him, but didn't recognize Him? (Jn. 1:1-17) Doesn't the Apostle Paul declare that He was Elohim, but emptied Himself of that glory and honor to become a man and suffer death for us? (Phil. 2:5-8) When Thomas was shown the nail holes in His hands and the hole in His side where the spear pierced it, didn't he declare, "My Sovereign, and My Elohim?" (Jn. 20:24-28)

The Pictorial Hebrew declares the truth of the matter. The name Yahweh in modern day Hebrew is יהוה, but it looks like this יהוה in Pictorial Hebrew. Remember that He-

brew reads from right to left. The first letter *yod* (י) is the picture of a hand. The *hei* (ה) has to do with revelation, lo, behold, a window, etc. The *waw* (ו) is the picture of a nail or tent peg. Therefore, the English rendering of this pictorial word would be "Behold the hand, behold the nail!"

Yahshua was, is, and always will be the great Creator Yahweh. He was not the Heavenly Father Who has always remained in the holiest place, but He was the Word of Yahweh Who was at the Father's right hand.

So here is a test; are those speaking in tongues commandment keepers? Do they keep the Sabbath, and Holy Days? Do they abide by the clean food laws? Do they understand how Moses has written about Yahshua? Are they growing in the grace and knowledge of Yahshua the Messiah? Do they accept or reject the true names? Do they speak out of turn? Do they disrupt services? Do they embrace and teach out of both Testaments? We could go on and on, but **the great majority** (NOTE: *I said the great majority*) already fail concerning these test questions. Therefore, we will have to declare that their speaking in tongues is not of the Holy Spirit, but another more sinister and deceptive spirit.

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