

Speaking in Tongues

Speaking in Tongues is Bible Evidence of Holy Ghost Baptism

JESUS CHRIST, Son of God, author and finisher of our faith, says believers will speak with new tongues (MK 16:15-18):

1. *Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature;*
2. *He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved;*
3. *He that believeth not shall be damned;*

And these signs shall follow them that believe -

4. *In My Name shall they cast out devils;*
5. *They shall speak with new tongues;*
6. *They shall take up serpents;*
7. *If they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them;*
8. *They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.*

1. *"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature ..."*

What Gospel? A Gospel that will bring people to believe, to be baptised, to speak in tongues, and to work miracles? Or another Gospel? A Gospel described in both Old and New Testaments as one of Holy Ghost fire and power, or the insipid apology for a so-called Gospel the professing church has foisted on to the unwary today?

2. *"He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved ..."*

He that believeth what? The Gospel! The Gospel identifies a living Christ, one who died and rose again. One who calls us to personal repentance and to the waters of separation - to our burial with Him in baptism. The Gospel also promises "signs following" - something our modern theologians know nothing about.

3. *"He that believeth not shall be damned ..."*

Any Greek concordance will assure us that to believe (pisteuō) is to "adhere to", "trust", or "rely on". In short, to believe embraces placing oneself in the hands of God. To believe the Gospel is to accept the fact that it will be by obeying the commands we are now considering that our salvation will be effected.

"... and these signs shall follow them that believe ..."

4. *"In My Name shall they cast out devils ..."*

Jesus did, the disciples did, and the discerning of spirits was one of the gifts God set into the Church (1.COR 12:10). Today, in the 20th century, men and women are being delivered from the powers of darkness, from spirits of oppression and possession, by the word of command by Spirit-filled believers. The critics contest this claim, but this is understandable. After all, these signs follow the believers of the Gospel, not the critics of it.

5. *"They shall speak with new tongues ..."*

Could any more direct reference be made here to the gift of the Holy Spirit? It was not until Pentecost and subsequent records that we find the evidence of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Peter identified the "promise" with the words: *"He (God) hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear..."* (ACTS 2: 33). And again, the gift of the Spirit was identified among the Gentiles: *"For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."* (ACTS 10:46). We are reminded that, despite the reprimand Paul brought to the Corinthian Church, he addressed an assembly where all had the ability to speak in tongues (1.COR 14:23).

6. *"They shall take up serpents ..."*

There would seem to be only one record in the New Testament of an encounter with a serpent. It was at Melita, after being shipwrecked, that Paul shook a viper from his hand. Jesus said of believers: *"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* (LK 10:19).

7. *"If they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them ..."*

This statement was not given as a challenge, but as a promise. Again, it was not meant as a feat of initiation into the joys of salvation, but as a reiteration of the countless promises of God to those who put their trust in Him.

8. *"They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover ..."*

To delete personal healing from the Gospel is to cut the Bible to ribbons. Thousands of promises in Old and New Testaments tell of God's healing nature and of His mighty power to set free from sickness and sin. It was through the healing Christ that the Gospel first found converts as miracles followed the preaching of the Word.

What, then, is the Gospel we preach?

Even if we were unable to substantiate the authority of these verses from Mark, the signs promised are part and parcel of the ministry and message of Jesus Christ: The Gospel must be preached, believers must be baptised, unbelievers will be damned (judged by the Word), and the signs we have listed will be in the midst of the Church of the Bible.

Repentance and baptism will bring the mighty infilling of the Holy Spirit to all, with the same evidence or proof now as then (ACTS 2:37-39).

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