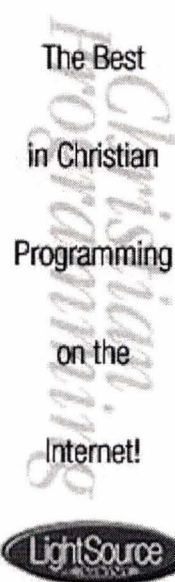


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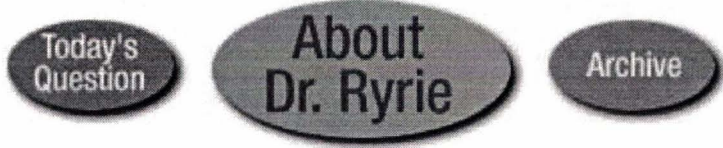


Tuesday, December 16, 1997

Subject: Is "speaking in tongues" simply speaking in another language?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: What do you feel about the biblical reference to speaking in tongues? Is this simply the giving of the gospel in another language, or is it referring to some type of heavenly utterance? --David J.

Dear David: It is undebatable that the tongues on the day of Pentecost were earthly languages because the word "language" is used in verses 6 and 8 as a synonym for "tongues" in the passage. The word for "language" is the one from which we get the English word "dialect," which is clearly an earthly language. Why, then, would one conclude that tongues in 1 Corinthians were something different? If you have a translation that adds "unknown" in 1 Corinthians, remember this word was not in the original Greek but was added by the translators.



Got a Question? -- Ask it

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