

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

I. THE GENUINE, SCRIPTURAL GIFT OF TONGUES

A. Its Mention in the N. T.

Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6; 1 Cor. 12:10, 28, 30; 13:1, 8, 14:2-39.

B. Its Limitation--Not Given to All Believers, 1 Cor. 12:13, 30.

C. Its Nature--actual earthly languages not known to the speaker. Acts 2:4, 11 compared with 2:6, 8, dialect: "language of a nation or region." Not ecstatic speech.

When was Acts written? About 62. When was 1 Cor. written? About 55. The known (Acts) should interpret the supposed unknown (1 Cor.).

Every other use of glossa refers to a foreign language (Rev. 5:9; 7:9; 10:11; 11:9).

II. THE COMPARISON OF THE GIFTS OF PROPHECY AND TONGUES, 1 Cor. 14:1-19

Do uninterpreted tongues benefit the church? (v. 5)

Do uninterpreted tongues benefit the speaker? (vv. 4, 14-15)

III. THE PURPOSES OF THE GENUINE GIFT OF TONGUES

A. To reveal truth (vv. 12-13)

B. To attest to the truth of the Christian message (vv. 21-22)

C. To judge those who reject the Christian message (vv. 21)

IV. THE REGULATIONS FOR THE GIFT OF TONGUES

A. Two or three at the most (v. 27)

B. One at a time (v. 27)

C. Must be interpreted (v. 28)

D. No confusion (vv. 26, 33)

E. No women (v. 34)

V. WHAT IS THE PRESENT DAY PHENOMENON?

A. It occurs world-wide, even in non-Christian religions

B. It may be of God or may not

C. It may be a Satanic counterfeit or may not

D. It may be a natural, made-up experience. "There is no mystery about glossolalia. Tape-recorded samples are easy to obtain and to analyze. They always turn out to be the same thing: strings of syllables, made up of sounds taken from among all those that the speaker knows, put together more or less haphazardly but which nevertheless emerge as word-like and sentence-like units because of realistic, language-like rhythm and melody. . . . All specimens of glossolalia that have ever been studied have produced no features that would even suggest that they reflect some kind of communicative system. . . . Glossolalia is not a supernatural phenomenon. It is, in fact, a very natural phenomenon. . . . In fact, anybody can produce glossolalia if her is uninhibited and if he discovers what the 'trick' is. . . . Nothing 'comes over his vocal chords.' Speech as people imagine does not originate there anyway. It starts in the brain. That is where the instructions to the vocal organs come from." William J. Samarin, Tongues of Men and of Angels, pp. 227-8.