

Truth about Prophets and Miracles 3



Are Miracles Always from God?
5B. An In-depth look at 'Tongues'

A Challenge for the Honest of Heart



A diligent investigation by the honest of heart into the historical record concerning the phenomena of ecstatic utterances does not bring him to the Pentecostal experience of the Apostles. For all of recorded history there have been various groups of religious zealots that spoke in unknown tongues.

A Challenge for the Honest of Heart

All of the accounts of this type of religious experience predating the day of Pentecost are of pagan origin, and as such, it immediately becomes obvious that these religions were of satanic origin, as they are not recorded within the sacred pages of the Bible as coming from God. The evidence of historical incidents of *glossais*, speaking in tongues, in paganism are just too big to ignore!

A Challenge for the Honest of Heart

This type of worship style has been revived many times throughout the Christian era under various names. The recorded cases of speaking in ecstatic tongues can be traced back as far as 1100 B.C. During this period of heathen use, prior to the Christian era, it was the supreme example of demonic possession and was probably quite similar to the vocalizations of the demoniacs of Genneserat.

Ecstatic Speech

Plato, the Greek philosopher, talks about the “gift” of ecstatic speech in his time. In his *Phaedrus*, he shows us that he is well acquainted with this phenomenon; in this work he talks of several families that were engaged in ecstatic speech, praying and making strange utterances, while possessed! He pointed out that these practices even brought about physical healing to those engaged in them!

Ecstatic Speech

This should be of no surprise, as Satan will have this same power at the end: “And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” Revelation 13:14.

False Healings and Tongues

False healings and tongues are one of Satan's old tricks and John saw that they would be revitalized at the end!



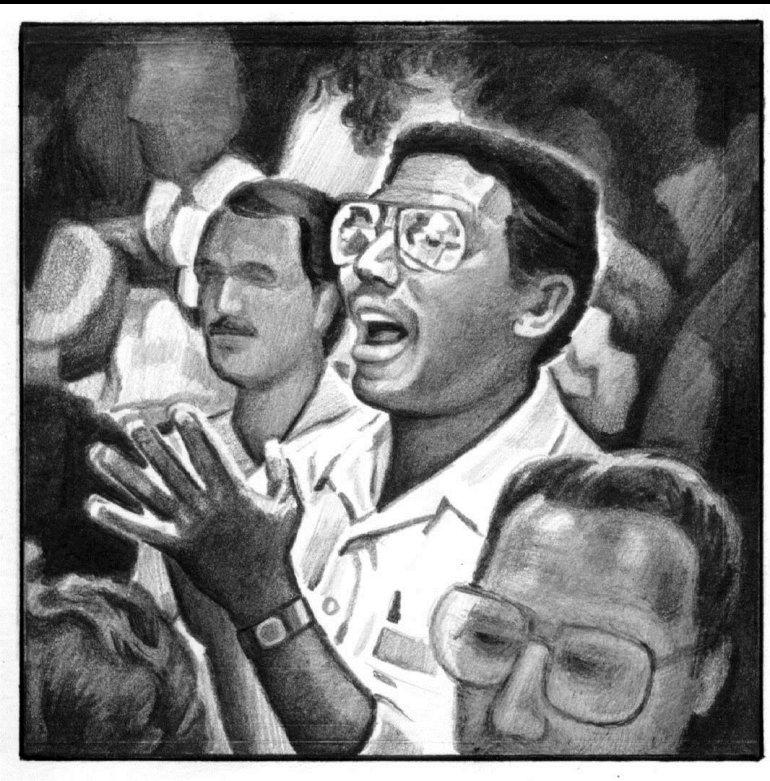
False Healings and Tongues

Another description given that predates Christianity by approximately one hundred years is found in *Aeneid* (Virgil, “Aeneid,” trans. James Rhoads, vol. XIII of *Great Books of the Western World*, ed. R. M. Hutchins, Chicago), describing the activities of the Sybiline priestess on the Island of Delos. He attributes her ecstatic utterances to being spiritually unified to the god Apollo!

False Healings and Tongues

During the Christian era, Chrysostom, in speaking of the Pythoness of Delphi wrote, “This same Pythoness then is said, being a female, to sit at times upon the tripod of Apollo astride, and thus the evil spirit ascending from beneath and entering the lower part of her body, fills the woman with madness, and she with disheveled hair begins to play the bacchanal and to foam at the mouth, and thus being in a frenzy to utter the words of her madness. I know that you are ashamed and blush when you hear these things: but they glory both in the disgrace and in the madness which I have described.” *Homilies of St. John Chrysostom on the Epistles of Paul to the Corinthians.*

A great challenge for the sincere Neo-Pentecostal or Charismatic believers would be to check the evidence in the Bible and the historical record to see which form of “glossolalia” more closely matches their style. Would it be the unintelligible utterances of the various pagan cults or a known language that would enable you to spread the Gospel to someone that spoke another language? Is there any Biblical evidence that every or any strange utterance is an expression of God?



There is no doubt of the supernatural origin of the ecstatic utterances known as talking in tongues, but the question is: Who is the originator of these spiritualistic manifestations?

Confusion and the Ecumenical Movement

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:33.

In many of the Pentecostal and Charismatic religions the worship style is more like a carnival instead of the reverent and peaceful form of worship that our Example, Jesus Christ, followed.

Confusion and the Ecumenical Movement

The loud music with its driving beat and in some cases people rolling on the floor with “holy laughter,” people vocalizing in tongues (while others are studying or trying to!) and chanting, “Yes Jesus, praise you Jesus...,” while someone else is trying to say a prayer is not in accordance with anything within the biblical record.

Confusion and the Ecumenical Movement

Two of the main parts of spiritual Babylon are: 1.) Confusion and 2.) A great religious union. Unlike the early Pentecostal movement at the beginning of the twentieth century, the Charismatics are found throughout all the mainline Christian denominations, Evangelical as well as Orthodox and Catholic.

The “interdenominational” era has arrived, but is this the way God would have it? Only if it is done in truth. Jesus said to His disciples, “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.” Matthew 10:34-36.

He came to separate a people for Himself, “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
Ephesians 5:27.



He does not want us to just to come together strictly for the sake of unity; we must stand for truth!



This great ecumenical movement, fueled largely by the non-denominationalism of the Charismatic movement, was foretold in the Bible. In Revelation 17:13, “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”



“And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”
Revelation 17:5.

Babylon the great, is the city of spiritual confusion. “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.



For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:1-4.



God is calling His people out of the great apostasy and religious confusion in the spiritual city of the end. Are you sincere enough to test your faith against the infallible word of God?

The Oracle of Delphi



The Oracle of Delphi

From around the sixth century B.C. until Christianity appeared, in their quest for information or direction, the Greeks would visit an oracle, a shrine where questions could be brought to the gods through a human medium. These temples, existed throughout Greece and were dedicated to Apollo, the Greek god associated with prophecy. None were more famous than the Delphic Oracle.

The Oracle of Delphi

Along with Apollo, at the temple of Delphi, Dionysus, the god of wine and ecstasy, was honored equally for having the ability of prophecy. During a typical ritual, while music was being played, a priestess, titled the Pythia, would go into a trance and utter strange sounds. These vocalizations were then interpreted by priests and considered the voice of Apollo or Dionysus!

The Oracle of Delphi

The interpretations given were intentionally vague, whereas a true prophet is direct, plain and to the point - God sends His prophets to warn His people; He desires their speech to be crystal clear!

The Oracle of Delphi

As we shall see, throughout the ages, down to the present, music, trances and ecstatic utterances play a key role in all Pentecostal religions. This first recorded, false gift of tongues was eradicated by the introduction of Christianity in the first century A.D.; however, it would soon be revived in the second century under the new name of Montanism.



This is a painting of the “Cult of Cybele,” known for its ecstatic utterances and sensual dance. One of its former priests introduced a false Pentecostal revival in the early Christian church.

Montanism

Montanism, also known as the New Prophecy and Cataphrygian heresy, arrived in the Christian church during the second century A.D. This movement was started by the so called, self-proclaimed, prophet Montanus.

Montanism

Montanus was formerly a priest in the Oriental ecstatic cult of Cybele. Upon his supposed conversion to Christianity, he introduced some of his previous pagan rituals under the name of “The New Prophecy” to his followers. Eusebius of Caesarea, the famed church historian, tells us that Montanus would enter into a ecstatic state, fall into a trance and begin prophesying. The interpretations were said to be the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Montanism

Montanus and his followers insisted that this was the fulfillment of the promise made by Jesus to send the Spirit of Truth, and that this Spirit was made manifest to the world through himself and the prophets and prophetesses associated with him. Most of the early Christians realized that this was a false gift, as a true prophet *never* intentionally induced any kind of ecstatic intensity nor maintained that these actions were of God.

Montanism

Throughout Asia and North Africa Montanism flourished. Termed a Pentecostal outgrowth of Christianity, it lasted from its beginnings in the second century until Emperor Justinian I enacted legislation with severe penalties against its practise in the sixth century, essentially destroying it. Some remnants of this religious practice seem to have survived until the ninth century.

The “Classical Pentecostals”



The “Classical Pentecostals”

Charles Fox Parham declared in 1901 that speaking in tongues was a sign of baptism in the Holy Spirit. The very first person to speak in tongues was Agnes Ozman, one of Parham’s students, on January 1, 1901. This new movement might have sputtered if not for William Joseph Seymour [above], a black preacher who listened to Parham through an open door in his Houston Bible school. Soon Seymour set out for Los Angeles, where his own [supposed] baptism in the Spirit in 1906 brought him an enthusiastic following. Within two years of founding a mission in an abandoned church on Azusa Street, his multicultural ministry sent missionaries to 25 countries.

The “Classical Pentecostals”

The Azusa Street movement merged the white American holiness religion with worship styles derived from African-American traditions. The Azusa Street “Apostolic Faith Mission” conducted three services a day, seven days a week, where thousands received the “tongues baptism.”

The “Classical Pentecostals”

The expressive worship and praise at Azusa Street, included shouting and dancing. The admixture of tongues and other charisms with black music and worship styles created a new indigenous form of Pentecostalism extremely attractive to the general populace in America and around the world.

The “Classical Pentecostals”

This “new” worship style was not really new. It is almost identical to the Delphic worship style and Montanism. Many have referred to this movement as “Neo-Montanism.”

The Charismatic Movement



The Charismatic Movement

The Charismatic or “Neo-Pentecostal Movement” was founded in the 1960’s. It first received attention when Dennis Bennet announced to his congregation in Van Nuys, California at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church that he had received the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues. His church divided and he was sent to a small parish in Seattle. There Bennett preached his new wave doctrines. TIME and NEWSWEEK carried Bennett’s story, giving the movement national recognition.

The Charismatic Movement

The Charismatic Movement derives its name from the Greek “charismata,” meaning “gifts of the spirit.” These gifts include speaking in tongues, prophesying, and the gift of healing. For charismatics, baptism in the holy spirit is an intensity, a spiritual breakthrough. One author relates his experience thusly:

“We are to be edified. Edify means to build up or charge up - much like charging up a battery . . . one of God’s ways to charge up your spirit is by speaking in tongues.”

The Charismatic Movement

It is this “spiritual charge up” that draws so many into the Charismatic Movement. Loud music and chanting accompany this style of worship, but is this God’s way?

The Bible tells quite a different story. When in communion with God, Christ, our Example, sought out a secluded, QUIET place for prayer. In fact, all throughout the Bible, when people sought communion with the Lord, it was in simple quietude.

The example of Elijah’s search for the Lord gives us clear example of how He communicates with us.

The Charismatic Movement

“And a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave.”
1 Kings 19:11-13.

The Charismatic Movement

God does not work in a bedlam of noise; He works in a still small voice. None of the Bible writers were “Charismatics;” they all approached their communion with God in quiet reverence on their knees. “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10.

Voodoo



Voodoo and Native Americans

Music and mystic chanting have long been associated with both the Native American religious experience and the practitioners of Voodoo. The unintelligible vocalizations uttered by the priests of these religions are interpreted by others in the same way that the various Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians do.

In fact, the Haitian Voodoo practitioners venerate many of the Christian saints and believe in the sovereign God of the Christians! For both groups, upon “conversion,” the Charismatic and Pentecostal religions are the most popular. By being so similar in their styles of worship, it is a quite natural step.

“And what concord hath Christ with Belial?
or what part hath he that believeth with an
infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of
God with idols? for ye are the temple of the
living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in
them, and walk in them; and I will be their
God, and they shall be my people.

“Wherefore come out from among them,
and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and
touch not the unclean thing; and I will
receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall
be my sons and daughters, aith the Lord
Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:15-18.