

Doctrines Of The Faith - A Study in Truth



What The Bible Says About...

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

PASTOR ART KOHL



The Gift of Tongues

What the Bible Says

by Pastor Art Kohl

Scripture verses in this booklet are
from the King James Holy Bible.

Doctrine of the Faith - A Study in Truth
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The Gift of Tongues

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I. Tongues in the Old Testament

*Isaiah 28:11-13, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: **yet they would not hear.** But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."*

Paul quoted this in *I Corinthians 14:21-22*, "In the law it is written, *With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. **Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.***" *Isaiah 28:11* is the first and only mention of the gift of tongues in the Old Testament.

When Paul used this verse in *I Corinthians 14:21-22* he said that tongues were for a sign. It was for unbelievers. God loves unbelievers, especially the Jews. He sent them sign after sign after sign of His coming. Tongues was one of those signs.

*"For **the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:**" I Corinthians 1:22.* They wanted to see to believe. God catered to that need. He wanted them to know that Jesus was the Christ and that the Holy Ghost had been given. Consider some other signs:

Sign	Prophecy	Fulfillment
1. Would be the seed of a woman	<i>Genesis 3:15</i>	<i>Galatians 4:4</i>
2. Promised seed of Abraham	<i>Genesis 18:18</i>	<i>Acts 3:25</i>
3. Promise seed of Isaac	<i>Genesis 17:19</i>	<i>Matthew 1:2</i>
4. Promise seed of Jacob	<i>Numbers 24:17</i>	<i>Luke 3:33</i>
5. Tribe of Judah	<i>Genesis 49:10</i>	<i>Luke 3:33</i>
6. Heir to the Throne of David	<i>Isaiah 9:7</i>	<i>Matthew 1:1,6</i>
7. Born in Bethlehem	<i>Micah 5:2</i>	<i>Matthew 2:1</i>
8. Time of Birth	<i>Daniel 9:25</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-7</i>
9. Born of a virgin	<i>Isaiah 7:14</i>	<i>Matthew 1:18</i>
10. Infants killed in His childhood	<i>Jeremiah 31:15</i>	<i>Matthew 2:16</i>
11. Flight into Egypt as a child	<i>Hosea 11:1</i>	<i>Matthew 2:14</i>
12. Ministry in the region of Galilee	<i>Isaiah 9:1-2</i>	<i>Matthew 4:12-16</i>
13. Would be a prophet	<i>Deuteronomy 18:15</i>	<i>John 6:14</i>
14. Would be a priest like <i>Melchizedek</i>	<i>Psalms 110:4</i>	<i>Hebrews 6:20</i>
15. His rejection by the Jews	<i>Isaiah 53:3</i>	<i>John 1:11</i>
16. Would grow in wisdom in His youth	<i>Isaiah 11:1-2</i>	<i>Luke 2:52</i>
17. Would enter Jerusalem triumphantly	<i>Zechariah 9:9</i>	<i>John 12:13-14</i>
18. Would be betrayed by a friend	<i>Psalms 41:9</i>	<i>Mark 14:15</i>
19. Was sold for thirty pieces of silver	<i>Zechariah 11:12</i>	<i>Matthew 26:15</i>
20. Betrayal money would buy a potter's field	<i>Zechariah 11:13</i>	<i>Matthew 27:6-7</i>
21. Judas' office to be taken by another	<i>Psalms 109:7-8</i>	<i>Acts 1:18-20</i>
22. He'd be silent when accused	<i>Isaiah 53:7</i>	<i>Matthew 26:62-63</i>
23. Beaten and spit on	<i>Isaiah 50:6</i>	<i>Mark 14:65</i>
24. Suffer for us	<i>Isaiah 53:4-5</i>	<i>Matthew 8:16-17</i>
25. Crucified with sinners	<i>Isaiah 53:12</i>	<i>Matthew 27:38</i>
26. Hands and His feet pierced	<i>Psalms 22:16</i>	<i>John 20:27</i>
27. Mocked and insulted	<i>Psalms 22:6-8</i>	<i>Matthew 27:39-40</i>
28. Given gall and vinegar to drink	<i>Psalms 69:21</i>	<i>John 19:29</i>

Sign	Prophecy	Fulfillment
29. Prophetic words repeated in mockery at Cross	<i>Psalm 22:8</i>	<i>Matthew 27:43</i>
30. Prayed for His enemies	<i>Isaiah 53:12</i>	<i>Luke 23:34</i>
31. His side was pierced	<i>Zechariah 12:10</i>	<i>John 19:34</i>
32. Soldiers would cast lots for His coat	<i>Psalm 22:18</i>	<i>Mark 15:24</i>
33. Not a bone would be broken	<i>Psalm 34:20</i>	<i>John 19:33</i>
34. Would be buried with the rich	<i>Isaiah 53:9</i>	<i>Matthew 27:57-60</i>
35. Would rise from the dead	<i>Psalm 16:10</i>	<i>Matthew 28:9</i>
36. Would ascend	<i>Psalm 68:18</i>	<i>Luke 24:50-51</i>

God gave so many signs that no one should doubt that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The Jews, who required signs, were given all of these.

Likewise the Old Testament spoke of the giving of the Holy Spirit. Consider these Old Testament passages about the coming of the Holy Spirit:

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:” Joel 2:28.

“Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.” Isaiah 32:15.

“As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.” Isaiah 59:21.

“And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:27.

This was a new concept to Old Testament saints. The Holy Spirit came upon only prophets, priests or kings. Now it was prophesied that every single believer would be indwelt with God the Holy Spirit. This happened on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) which we will study later. Thus another “sign” was fulfilled so that Jews and unbelievers would not miss it. God confirmed His word by these signs.

Signs in the Old Testament prophesied the coming of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Tongues was a sign like all of these others. It was something Jews and unbelievers could look for. When they saw it, they would know that the truth was being confirmed. It was a “Don’t miss this” indicator that the Holy Spirit was given.

II. Tongues in the Gospels

*“Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these **signs** shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues**; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the **Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs** following. Amen.” Mark 16:14-20*

This is the only mention of tongues in the four gospels. The key word is “signs” in verses 17 and 20. As in the Old Testament, we see here that tongues was a sign. The purpose was to confirm God’s Word.

God used signs, miracles, wonders to confirm His Word because the New Testament, was not printed yet. Signs and miracles is what convinced the hearers that the truth was being preached to them. The Lord worked with preachers confirming (putting His stamp of approval on) what they said by signs and miracles afterward.

Hebrews 2:3-4 says, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”**

Today the New Testament has been completed. We do not need God’s Word confirmed today, for we can read it for ourselves. We now have a perfect completed revelation. As we will see, the completion and compilation of the whole Bible was a monumental step in the history of Christianity. *I Corinthians 13:8-10* puts it, “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; **whether there be tongues, they shall cease**; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But **when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**”

Even the Apostle Paul did not have the privilege we have to look at the complete New Testament. However, He told us when it would be completed, tongues would cease.

So tongues confirmed the word before it was written. Today we do not need the Word confirmed. The Holy Spirit confirms it as we read the completed perfected Word.

III. Historical Passages of the New Testament

There are only three stories in the Bible where men spoke with tongues. They are found in:

Acts 2:1-13; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-7

In each of these stories Jews were present to see this sign. Tongues was just one of many signs God put in the way of the Jews so they would accept Christ.

Note: Sadly, the Jews missed these signs. *Psalms 74:9* says “**We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.**”

Let us look at these historical stories.

A. The Holy Ghost comes upon Jews.

As they preach the gospel in known tongues (languages) Jews are present, convicted and converted:

*Acts 2:1-13, “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 Ghost, 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 God. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.”*

Fifty days after the crucifixion of Christ and ten days after His ascension into heaven, the day of Pentecost came to the Christian Church. There has never been a day like it since.

After ten days of prayer and tarrying for enduement of power from on high (compare *Acts 1:14* and *Luke 24:49*) divine manifestations took place while the church was in one accord. There was a sound from Heaven that sounded like a mighty rushing wind. There appeared cloven tongues of fire that sat upon each of

them. They actually heard these things and saw them. Wind and Fire are divine emblems (*John 3:8, Hebrews 12:29*). These were literal manifestations. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. This was a first in history. Today every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (*Romans 8:9*) being baptized by Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit the moment they believe. We are baptized (overwhelmed) by Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit at salvation (*Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33*).

The men who were filled with the Spirit (2:4) began to speak with other tongues. It was the Holy Spirit who gave them the utterance. The tongues they spoke in were known languages.

Note: There is no specific mention of a woman ever speaking in tongues in the Bible. We will see why in a later point.

Although the Apostles had never spoke or studied these languages, they were able to preach the gospel to those who had made their pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost. At least three thousand men would be saved and baptized that day (2:41,47). Many of them did not know Hebrew or Greek. God, loving them, enabled the Apostles to preach the gospel to them in their own language so they could be saved and then take the good news back to their countries.

The Apostles preached in known tongues. This is stated three times. First in verse 6 - "*every man heard them speak in **his own language.***" Second in verse 8- "*hear we every man in **our own tongue.***" Third in verse 11- "*we do hear them speak in **our tongues....***"

The regions they lived are also listed in verses 9-11: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamia, Judaea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Rome, Cretes, Arabians.

As Acts chapter 2 unfolds in answer to the question "*What meaneth this?*" verse 12, Peter tells them that this was a fulfillment of prophecy, a fulfillment of a sign to the Jews. Tongues was a sign from God of His approval of Jesus Christ so Jews would believe on Him.

Peter put it this way in verse 22, "*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man **approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs,** which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*" The Jews present seeing this believed on Christ, were baptized and added to the church.

Speaking of this story, Dr. John R. Rice comments:

"There is nothing here spoken about an 'unknown' tongue, except that some languages are simply unknown to other people who speak other languages. Here was no so-called 'spiritual language,' no 'heavenly language.' The languages used were normal, human languages. This was no babble of sound unfamiliar to any

human mind. It was no jabber. God simply gave the disciples power to speak in languages before unknown to them, but known to the people of the various nationalities who were present.

The word translated ‘tongues’ in *Acts 2:4* is the Greek word ‘glossa’. It is used in the New Testament fifty times. Sixteen times it refers to a literal, human tongue, the physical organ in the mouth. Once, in *Acts 2:3*, it is used of ‘cloven tongues like as of fire.’ All the other times it means languages. For example, *Revelation 5:9* speaks of people ‘*out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.*’

Not one time in the Bible does the word ‘tongues’ mean something mysterious, a language unknown to some group of mankind. At Pentecost the tongues given by the Holy Spirit were genuine languages, and the nationalities of the people in whose language they were allowed to speak is given.”

B. The Holy Ghost comes upon Gentiles (Jews are present)

The second historical example of speaking in tongues is found in *Acts 10:44-48*: “*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*”

Jews had a hard time believing that God would save and indwell Gentiles who would come to Christ. They considered the Gentiles dogs.

The Lord had, a long time before this, commanded them to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (*Mark 16:15*). They were disobedient to this command. They were going into all the world after the persecution of Stephen (*Acts 8:1*) but were preaching the gospel to the Jew only. “*Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.*” *Acts 11:19*.

Some Jews like Philip were obedient but most were not. In *Acts 8* Philip preached Christ to the Samaritans (a mix of Jews and Assyrians) and an Ethiopian eunuch, but most Jewish believers only preached Christ to Jews. This was wrong.

In *Acts 10* and *11* is the story of the conversion of an Italian named Cornelius, by the efforts of the Jewish Apostle Peter. You

will have to read the entire chapters of *Acts 10* and *11* to get the gist of this whole miracle. Cornelius and his Gentile friends and kinsmen are converted (*Acts 10:24,33*). This takes place about eight years after the day of Pentecost. That eight years was somewhat wasted towards the conversion of the Gentiles.

Peter brought Jewish witnesses with him (*10:23,45*). He knew there would be trouble among the Jews if he went into the Gentiles for this was unacceptable in their traditions (*10:28;11:2-3*). So Peter took witnesses with him. In the story quoted above (*10:44-48*), the speaking in tongues was not the main event, but a sign to the Jews- the circumcision. As it says in v45, “***And they of the circumcision (Jews) which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.***”

The Jews had to see a sign to believe that the Holy Ghost was really given to Gentiles, so God gave them the sign of tongues. This story was pivotal in Christian history for now the Jews would be convinced (*Acts 11*) that Gentiles could believe and be filled with the Spirit like them. They would now, as a nation, turn to evangelizing the Gentiles as God wanted them to do all long.

The conversion of the Gentiles was another sign, like tongues, that Jews should look to Christ as their Messiah. Consider these Old Testament passages, that they knew, which talked about how someday God would convert the Gentiles:

Genesis 22:18, “And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”

Psalms 22:27, “All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.”

Psalms 86:9, “All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.”

Isaiah 9:2, “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”

Isaiah 42:1, “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.”

Isaiah 49:6, “And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.”

Isaiah 55:5, “Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.”

Isaiah 60:3, “And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”

Hosea 2:23, “And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.”

These are just some of the prophecies. God loved the Jews and the world and gave all of these signs, like tongues, so they would believe in Him. Many did not. How sad. Even today many signs are unfolding about Christ’s second coming but so few believe or live for the Lord.

C. The Holy Ghost comes upon John the Baptist’s followers (Jews are present)

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.” Acts 19:1-7.

These were unsaved men that Paul was ministering unto. When Paul heard that these men of Ephesus were John the Baptist’s disciples, he switched the conversation from the Holy Spirit to Jesus Christ. They believed on Christ and were baptized. The Holy Ghost then came upon them and they spoke with tongues (*Isaiah 28:11*) and prophesied (*Joel 2:28*). These new Jewish believers (John the Baptist’s followers were Jews - *Luke 1:16*) saw two Old Testament signs fulfilled that day.

In all three historical passages, Jews were present to see the sign of tongues fulfilled before their eyes. This is important now as we look to the doctrinal passages in the New Testament.

IV. Doctrinal Passages of the New Testament.

A. *The least of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit*

There are two lists of spiritual gifts for us in I Corinthians 12. Let us look at the first, contained in verses 1,8-10.

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. ... For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:”

Notice the order given:

“To one is given by the Spirit...

1. Word of Wisdom (see *Proverbs 4:7*)
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Faith
4. Healing
5. Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of Spirits
8. Divers kinds of Tongues
9. The Interpretation of Tongues

Numbers eight and nine deal with the gift of tongues. They are the last on this list.

Lets notice the second list in this chapter, verses 27-31:

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

Notice this order:

1. Apostles (“one sent”- missionaries/evangelists)
2. Prophets (preachers)
3. Teachers
4. Miracles
5. Healings

6. Helps (Relief)
7. Governments (“to steer, pilot, direct”)
8. Diversities of Tongues (a distinction or variety of languages)

Now notice that tongues is mentioned last also in the facetious questions that the Apostle Paul asks in verses 29-30:

1. Are all apostles?
2. Are all prophets?
3. Are all teachers?
4. Are all workers of miracles?
5. Have all the gifts of healing?
6. Do all speak with tongues?
7. Do all interpret?

The answers to these questions are obviously “No!”

This chapter ends in verse 31 talking about a “more excellent way.” That more excellent way is charity (a fruit of the Spirit- *Galatians 5:22*.) Realize that the fruit of the Spirit is more important than the gifts of the Spirit. Covet the best gifts, but remember that charity is more important than all.

B. The end of the gift of tongues

The doctrinal passage mentioned above continues in the next chapter, 1 Corinthians 13. Verse 1 teaches that if someone had the gift of tongues, but didn’t have charity they were just making a lot of empty noise. Charity is by far superior to tongues.

In verse 2 we learn that if a person had the gift of prophecy or the gift of wisdom or the gift of knowledge or the gift of faith and did not have charity, their gifts were nothing. Charity is far superior to the gifts of prophecy, wisdom, knowledge or faith.

In verse 3 we learn that if a person has the gift of helps and does not have charity it profits them nothing. Charity is far superior to the gift of helps.

Charity is so important, it is defined for us in verses 4-7. This attribute is the most meticulously defined of all attributes in scripture. Why? Because it is the most important (verse 13).

In verses 8-10 we see the end of the gift of tongues - *“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; **whether there be tongues, they shall cease**; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But **when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**”*

From these verses we learn that:

1. Prophecies shall fail - (the gift of predicting the future would be rendered entirely idle, totally useless, abolished.)
2. Tongues shall cease - (the gift of tongues would desist, quit, come to an end, stop.)
3. Knowledge shall vanish away- (the gift of knowledge would also be rendered entirely idle, totally useless, abolished.)

When would verse 8 be fulfilled? When verse 10 would be fulfilled! “When **that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part **SHALL BE DONE AWAY.**” This verse doesn’t say “when **He** that is perfect shall come”, but rather “when **that which is perfect shall come.**” It is referring to a thing, not a person. The only perfect thing in the world is the completed Bible. The 66 book canon of scripture.**

Paul didn’t live long enough to see the completion of the New Testament and the compilation of all the books into one Bible, but we see it. We hold it with our hands. We read it all. We need no further revelation. We need no signs, miracles or wonders to confirm it. We are not to add to it nor take away from it (*Revelation 22:18-19*).

Signs once confirmed the spoken word, now the Bible confirms the spoken word. The Bible is “**that which is perfect.**” Consider these verses on the Word being perfect:

*II Samuel 22:31, “As for God, his way is **perfect**; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.”*

*Psalms 19:7, “**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**”*

*James 1:25, “But whoso looketh into **the perfect law** of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

When the Bible was completed, the need for the Gift of Tongues ceased.

C. Laws Concerning the Gift of Tongues

The 14th chapter of 1 Corinthians gives strict laws to the first-century Church regarding the practice of the gift of tongues. This gift has been “done away,” but let us look at the rules for when it was still used.

1. If a person spoke in an unknown tongue, he should pray for the ability to interpret what he said, so the whole church could be edified- verse 13.
2. Only two men, or at the most three were allowed to speak in tongues in one church service- verse 27.
3. They were to never speak at the same time- verse 27.

4. Someone should interpret for all. If there was no one there to interpret, the tongue was forbidden. They were to keep silent- verses 27-28.
5. Women were to keep silent in the churches in regards to prophesying and tongues- verse 34.
6. They were not to forbid the speaking with tongues in that day and age as long as it was done within the guidelines of these rules- verse 39

These were not Paul's opinions, but the commandments of the Lord. *I Corinthians 14:37 says, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you **are the commandments of the Lord.**"*

To disobey these rules would be to disobey the Lord God Almighty. God never led His people into disobedience nor does the Holy Spirit (who is God).

V. Conclusion.

Today we do not need God's Word confirmed by signs, miracles or wonders. We walk by faith, **not by sight** (2 Corinthians 5:7). Without faith we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). The indwelling Holy Spirit now confirms the Word in our hearts as we hear it preached, taught or do our personal Bible study. We do not need any further revelation than what God has given to us in the perfect completed Bible.

Tongues were for a sign to the Jews. We have passed that sign in history and do not need to go back.

“Study to shew thyself approved
unto God, a workman that
needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15
