

## The Modern Gift of Tongues

EXPOSED

By J. L. HINDS

*A sermon preached on the public square at Waco, Texas, immediately after the tongues people had concluded a service - condensed and edited.*

Friends, I hope you will not leave, for we are going to have a trial here this afternoon and I appoint each of you to occupy the judges' bench until the evidence is all in, then I want your decision on this tongues question.

In the first verse of the fourth chapter of the twenty-third book of our Christian laws, you will find this language: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits." Knowing something of this tongues spirit and having a Bible right to call it to trial (1 John 4:1), I do so, believing that hereby I am performing a duty to both man and God. You tongues brethren will please remain until I am through, and if at any time you or your doctrine is misrepresented, I give you liberty to call down the false accuser.

You want a fair and impartial trial, don't you? Well, stay with us and see that you get it. Understand that I am not fighting you as a people or as individuals. My purpose is simply to expose the tongues, and in doing this I must refer to tongues people. It is love for the truth and not malice which prompts me to do it.

Tongues people say that speaking in tongues is the Bible evidence of having the Holy Ghost. When they gabble, they say it is the Holy Ghost speaking through them. Now, I emphatically deny both these statements, and if you will listen to the evidence in this trial you will learn some of the reasons why I make the denial. I have asked several why they speak in tongues and they say, "Because I can't help it." Jas. 1:26 says, "If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, that man's religion is vain." If you speak in tongues and can't help it, then your tongue is not bridled and your religion is vain. At the close of a big tongues meeting on 2nd Street, someone gabbled in this so called "tongue" and the interpreter told them that the Holy Ghost had just said for two of the preachers to exchange wives and go on in the work, which they did, if human testimony can be trusted. It is blasphemy to even believe that such tongues is the Holy Ghost speaking.

One of their preachers told me that the woman who preached here in the tongues service a while ago, jabbered one time and the interpretation was about like this: "Sister J. shall become the mother of a son," etc. Now Sister L. also jabbered and when interpreted it proved a repetition of what the preacher woman had said. Through two different persons the tongues had said that Sister J. would be the mother of a son, but the stork tore down their playhouse by bringing Sister J. a fine baby girl. Now some of them seem to want to get even with the old bird by boycotting him, for their preachers publicly denounced me in the name of Jesus last night for preaching against race suicide. The tongues said that the child would be a boy, but on arrival it was a girl. Yet they still preach that the tongues is the Holy Ghost speaking through the human voice.

Let us hear from you tongues people if I am not telling the truth. Bro. S., a tongues preacher, told my mother-in-law and many others how God had showed him that he was to have a grandson who would be a great prophet of the Lord. Later his son and daughter-in-law professed to get a revelation that they were to become the parents of this prophet. Quite a sum of money was raised here in Waco to help build a temple for this coming prophet. A tongues preacher told me that the money was used to build a 4 room cottage down at Austin. Some of you tongues people here jabbered and the interpretation of it was that this prophet would be in Waco before July first. Well, a child was born and it happened to be a boy, but died before coming to Waco. Yet the tongues said he would be in Waco before July first. It being impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18) and the devil being a liar and the father of it (Jno. 8: 44), I am forced to conclude that this modern gift, which they dignify by the term "tongues," is of the devil. Bro. C. stole money from his employers, was caught up with, confessed and lost his job, but did not lose his unknown tongues which is the Bible evidence of being filled with the Spirit of God, according to their theory.

Say, this would be an ideal religion for thieves, robbers, and all kinds of crooks. It seems to satisfy the natural religious cravings of the heart and does not necessarily interfere with sinful practices. Sister W., a tongues woman, came to our meeting denouncing the tongues and seeking to be reclaimed. She would try to pray, but the devil would stop her by giving her this hateful gabbing tongue. She was living in open, willful sin, yet she had the same tongues which she received with her "baptism." Brother, if you take this tongues as evidence of your acceptance with God, you are doomed to bitter disappointment. Let me help you to see it. Tongues is a straw to which many a sinking soul is clinging, an evidence as reliable as Satan himself, and a delusive hope which only hopeless souls embrace.

Bro. M., a leader among the tongues folks here, owes some small debts of about ten years standing which he could pay and will not. He also used water for months from a hydrant which the department thought was cut off and the books showed he did not pay for it. But he had the tongues just the same, and through the tongues he received a message from his Master, saying: "Son, I am well pleased with thee." Now, the question is, who is his master that is well pleased with him? It sounds a little foolish to ask such a simple question, but honest, who was it, God or the devil?

Last night I attended their tent meeting, and in a praise service I gave my testimony to what the Lord had done for me and praising Him for a conscious experience of salvation, I concluded by saying:

Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna.

which is John 3:16 in the Spanish language. Bro. W., one of their interpreters, began at once to exercise his pretended gift of interpretation, saying very solemnly something like this: "Souls are in the balance and being weighed for eternity." I rose to my feet and asked him if that was the interpretation of what I had just said. "Yes, sir," he replied. Being only about eight blocks from my old home, I told him, as perhaps half the congregation knew that I was a returned missionary from Mexico and spoke Spanish fluently and just quoted John 3:16 in that language, which says nothing about souls nor balance. I did this to

publicly prove what I have known and preached a long time, that this tongues business is a delusion of the devil. Thank God for tearing away the pretentious cloak from this damnable heresy and for letting them and their congregation see this deceitful, devilish tongues doctrine and practice as it really is.

If we preachers would inform ourselves this subject, one could chase a thousand and two could put ten thousand to flight. Then if we would give our people the benefit of our information, many would be saved from falling into this modern delusion.

8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Ezek. 33

I quoted John 3:16 and the tongues spirit said it was about souls being weighed in the balance. Brother, what do you think about risking your soul's destiny with these tongues? Is it safe? Will it do to die by? Is it not blasphemy to say that the Holy Ghost gives these tongues and interpretations? Will not God punish those who blaspheme the Holy Ghost? As far as I can learn, all factions of the tongues movement agree on this blasphemous doctrine that "the tongues is the Holy Ghost speaking." Their unity here proves that they come from one common source. O, brother, for God's sake and your own soul's sake, never charge God with such sinful foolishness.

I have proved over and over again that these tongues and interpretations are of the devil, and we all know that the tongues folks worship the giver of the tongues. Therefore, ignorantly or otherwise, they worship the devil. You may ask a backslider about his religious experience, and if he ever was really converted, he will tell you that it was real and it was God who did the work. But ask a backslider from the tongues and he will tell you that there is nothing in the tongues or that it is of the devil. I find by experience and observation that this is the rule to which, of course, there may be a few exceptions. In itself this would not be conclusive evidence, but taken with the other evidence which we have submitted, it must form one link in the chain of truth with which we should bind this brazen monster.

Right over there in 'Two Brothers' saloon just as a fellow went to drink a glass of beer the power struck him and gave him the tongues and even the saloon keeper was ashamed of him and drug him outside, where booze held him down and tongues made him noisy until he got a free ride to jail. Someone asked Tommy L. (the main interpreter here in Waco) why the lions did not eat Daniel. Being ignorant of the Bible, he said that he did not know, but promised to tell them later. He came back saying that God had showed him that Daniel met a lion with a thorn in its foot. Daniel pulled out the thorn and the lion went on its way, but was captured and placed with others in the lions' den. When Daniel was thrown in, this lion recognized him, and remembering the thorn, he defended Daniel so that he came out unharmed.

The same spirit that gives the tongues and their interpretation gave Tommy this revelation. For the sake of charity, let us just call it impious fiction, a kind that claims the souls of men who believe in it. This morning at their service he was pretending to interpret a tongue and said: "Children if ye are divided on earth, ye shall also be divided in heaven," but seeing the inconsistency of such a statement, he quickly added "Henceforth ye cannot enter heaven because ye are divided on the earth." They read the 10th chapter of 2 Corinthians. When they were through, someone jabbered and Tommy interpreted: "Turn back to 12th chapter of the same book." This caused a confusion among them. Some turned back to 1 Cor. 12th chapter. Others turned from the 10th chapter to the 12th chapter of 2 Corinthians. Finally, their preacher explained matters by saying that the expression to "turn back" meant to turn toward the back of book.

Sister L. and Sister S. both interpreted a tongue at the same time. One of them said that they should "sing" and the other said "pray." Time and memory fail me, or I could give you many more examples of the sinful character of these harmful, hateful, foolish tongues. The reason why the tongues are so inconsistent and ridiculous in practice is because the theory is absolutely unscriptural. They say that speaking in these tongues is Bible evidence of having the Holy Ghost and that the tongues is the Holy Ghost speaking. Overwhelming proof forces them to acknowledge that the devil gives some of their people the tongues. They also acknowledge that they can not tell the difference between the devil's gift of tongues and what they call the God-given gift. That being true, according to their own statements, speaking in tongues is not Bible evidence of having the Holy Ghost, because they acknowledge that folks can get the tongues from the devil without having the Holy Ghost. For example, if we see a man wearing shoes, is that infallible evidence that he is a doctor? Why, of course not, for other men wear shoes also. We see a field of some kind of green grass in the distance. Is its color infallible proof that it is crab grass? No, because other grass is also green. Well, then, is speaking in these tongues Bible, i. e. infallible, evidence of having the Holy Ghost? Certainly not, for they tell us that the devil gives this gift to the ungodly.

When a tongues man hears another speaking in these tongues it is evidence to him that the speaker has the gift of the Holy Ghost or the gift of the devil. In other words, it proves to those who believe the tongues doctrine that all who speak in tongues are children of God or that they are children of the devil. So you see the tongues is no evidence at all unless it is evidence that they have the devil's gift. At any rate, there's Bible evidence that none of them have the genuine gift of tongues. Read Acts 2:

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene,  
and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,  
11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful  
works of God.

When the apostles got the real gift of tongues it brought a great multitude to hear them, consisting of fifteen different nationalities besides the native Jew. Verse 6 says they were confounded "because that every man heard them speak in his own language." Modern tongues folks do not have this gift.

My investigations extend over a period of more than six years in this and other states, and I have not found a single case where they spoke in other languages, although foreigners of most nations have gone and heard them try to speak in other tongues. There is as much difference in the gift of tongues the apostles had and the modern "tongues" as there is in day and night.

Right here in their service a while ago Bro. C. tried to talk to these Mexicans. He jabbered and gabbered. The Mexicans laughed and the tongues folks almost went wild, and I heard one of them say that the Mexicans were understanding him. No doubt it will go out over the country that Bro. C. spoke Spanish and Mexicans understood him. I am going to ask the Mexicans if they understood what was said to them.

Listen: Oigan entendieron Ustedes que dijo aquel cuando les habló ahorita? You saw them shake their heads and heard them say: "No, señor," which means, no sir. Now this is a fair sample of their ability to speak languages like the apostles did on Pentecost. The reason they cannot is because they have not the same gift. Modern tongues is a cheap counterfeit, a worthless imitation, and not God's real gift of tongues.

The tongues folks told me of one of their men who spoke German while here in Waco. I began investigating and it seems that he really did speak German. Then I wanted to know the man's name that did the speaking, but they refused to give any information about him, saying: "That is none of your business." Now, of course, he was a German or someone who had learned German and they did not want me to expose a man who is so useful to the cause. All leaders in this movement know that the tongues will not bear being interpreted or investigated.

My cooing baby of 11 months has jabbered a word or two in four or five languages, but he does not speak any language yet. It is impossible to produce articulate sounds for any length of time without accidentally speaking some word in some language. That explains why we sometimes hear them speak foreign words but never hear them speak whole sentences. That woman with the patent leather belt on, while jabbering in their service a while ago, spoke one word in Spanish and repeated it several times. It was "Camote," and means sweet potato. Now, according to their theory, that was the Holy Ghost trying to convert these Mexicans by saying "sweet potato, sweet potato, sweet potato, sweet potato." When I hear them charge the Spirit of God with such foolishness, I feel a dreadful chill in the region of the spinal column. Sinner, if the devil tries to disgust you with religion by this foolish tongues stuff, just remember that the religion of Jesus Christ is absolutely free from all this foolishness.

One time they read to me Acts 19:1-7, "They spoke in tongues and no one understood a word they said," the speaker added, "for the Bible does not say a word about anyone understanding them."

"Now, if that is a fair argument," said I, "you will not object to me using it. I will read Acts 8:14-17. They received the Holy Ghost, but did not speak in tongues, for the Bible does not say a word about it."

Read 1 Cor. 12:

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 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:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

There are nine gifts of the Spirit and one of them is the gift of tongues. Then tongues is a gift of the Holy Ghost. Now read Acts 10:

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 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.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

Verse 44 says that the Holy Ghost fell on these Gentiles, and Peter's companions were astonished. No doubt they had been witnesses of possibly hundreds of cases where persons had receive Holy Ghost without getting the tongues. In fact, this is the first record of a case since Pentecost where anyone had received the gift of tongues at the same time they received the Holy Ghost. Is it any wonder that it astonished the folks when such a thing had been heard of for eight years?

So, instead of tongues being a necessary evidence of having the Holy Ghost, we find it is merely a gift the Holy Ghost which he bestows or withholds according to the sovereign will of God. Another fact which we must not overlook is found in Acts 11:17. Peter, speaking of Cornelius' household says: "God gave them the like gift as He did unto us." If that be true, they spoke languages. Webster's Unabridged Dictionary defines "tongues" as language or the whole sum of words used by a particular nation.

In Acts 19:6 the Ephesian church gets the Holy Ghost and they "speak with tongues." The apostles got tongues and spoke languages. Cornelius' household got tongues and spoke languages. And the church at Ephesus got the same gift and spoke languages. The very word "tongue" means language according to Webster, and according to the Scripture. Wherever the Bible speaks of the gift of tongues, it means language. Then according to Webster and to the Good Book, our apostolic brethren are apostolic name only and strictly speaking they do not speak in tongues. They prostitute language and contradict Scripture by calling their senseless gabble "the gift of tongues." And to make myself understood, I am forced to call it what they call it, but it is a deceitful misnomer.

At their service this morning someone jabbered and Tommy pretended to interpret the message from God, saying: "Children, I am displeased with this pride and fashion and wearing of gold; henceforth pull off your gold." The leader of the meeting had a gold chain hanging from the lapel of his coat and this woman who preached here awhile ago had three pieces of gold. Did they pull them off? No. They have learned like we all are learning, that the tongues is a fraud and that only fools and new converts are supposed to take them seriously. Yet these same folks preach that the tongues is the Holy Ghost speaking.

"O Consistency, thou art a jewel," but why be troubled with thee when one has Bible evidence of having the Holy Ghost? This seems to be the tongues' version of the old adage. While preaching on the tongues one time to a congregation composed partly of tongues people, one of them spoke out and said: "No matter if it is wrong, we are going to hold on to it." After we dismissed, they lingered until midnight, confirming one another and persuading one and all that arguments, reason, facts, and Scripture were nothing compared to their Bible evidence. And there are some here who, after all this array of facts and Scripture against this wicked tongues, will not give it up.

Read 1 Cor. 12:

- 1 ¶ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.
- 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.
- 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
- 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
- 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.
- 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
- 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
- 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
- 10 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:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

We learn that the gift of tongues and eight other gifts constitute the nine gifts of the Spirit. We also learn that He does not give all these gifts to one man, neither does He give the same gift to all men, but divides them "to every man severally as He will." In the 28th verse we find that even real genuine Bible tongues is the gift of least importance.

28 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.

But the tongues folks parade their counterfeit tongues and put more emphasis on it than on all other gifts combined. Verse 31 says: "Covet earnestly the best gifts." But the tongues folks would have you covet tongues although it is not one of the best gifts. They take their text from 1 Cor. 14:1 and preach that you must "desire spiritual gifts," which, of course, means tongues according to their preaching. But Paul did not mean tongues when he said "desire spiritual gifts," for thirteen verses above in chapter 12:31, he told us what gifts he wants us to desire. Listen to him, "Covet earnestly the best gifts." And verse 28 shows that tongues are the least important of all the gifts.

It is only by perverting and wresting Scripture that tongues people prove their doctrine. They preach a different gospel than Paul did. I wonder if they ever read what he says about them in Gal. 1:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Let us go back to 1 Cor. 14:2-6.

2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

Some of the Corinthians had the real gift tongues, but instead of going to the foreign field, where this gift would be useful, they stayed at home and tried to use it among their own countrymen. Naturally, no man understood them, for when they spoke a foreign language



it was an unknown tongue to Corinthians. In verses 6-28, Paul gently reproveth them for using this gift among people who did not understand the language spoken.

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Provided an interpreter is present who will interpret what is spoken, the Scripture allows at most three persons to speak in tongues. "But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church." Notwithstanding this plain Scripture, they just must talk in tongues, whether there be an interpreter present or not. With this plain Scripture before them, another faction of this movement suppresses interpretation because they know by experience that if their "tongue" is allowed to express itself in English it will soon make a reputation of being about the biggest liar in the land. Their "tongue" is satanic in origin and sinful in practice and this they scheme to hide under the pretense of being the true tongues people. Therefore they are the most dangerous of all tongues people.

They all try to explain matters by saying that the devil gives some people the gift of tongues. And observation proves that even their interpreters cannot tell the difference between what they call the real gift and the devil's gift, as I have showed you by instances right here in Waco where they have interpreted things which later proved to be absolutely false. All their interpreters as far as I have observed, do this very thing - interpret the devil's message.

Here is how it looks in plain English. The devil gives someone the tongues and he jabbars, then God gives his interpreter the interpretation of what the devil said; then the interpreter gives the people the devil's message and they accept it, believing it was the Holy Ghost speaking. You may search the darkest corners of earth and hell but you will find nothing more perfectly adapted to the devil's work than this modern gift of tongues.

I am about through. I feel that more evidence is unnecessary. I am going to leave this question with you and your conscience for a decision. What do you think about this tongues doctrine? No doubt you think like the old professor whose students brought unto him a bug which they had made by taking different parts of different bugs and glueing them to their respective places. "Professor, what kind of a bug is this?" they asked, handing it to him. "Well," said he, after a silent examination, "this looks to me like a humbug."

It seems from reading Gen. 3:1-5 that the devil has achieved more through his tongues than in all other ways combined. In Eden, a serpent got the tongues, seduced Mother Eve, and caused trouble without end. Had it not been for the devil's gift of tongues, Paradise might not have been lost. It was tongues that robbed us of Eden's blessedness and started the race down the broad way of misery and death. It is safer to play with rattlesnakes than dally with the devil's tongues.

A sputtering live wire charged with ten thousand volts is not half so dangerous as the devil's gift of tongues. Thank God, the devil cannot give men a tongue like he gave the serpent. The best he can do is to just give a senseless gabble.

In Isaiah 8 the prophet speaks of so have familiar spirits that mutter:

19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

The familiar spirit caused them to mutter and the penalty for having a familiar spirit was death. Leviticus 20:

27 A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

No doubt that muttering was what the tongues people call Bible evidence of having the Holy Ghost. Do not let them deceive you with their signs, wonders, miracles, etc. Remember the words of Christ in Matthew 24:

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Again the Lord has warned us in 2 Thess. 2:

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

With these Scriptures before us we can not afford to believe in any doctrine merely because wonders are performed by its advocates. False religions many times abound with unaccountable phenomena. The Scripture teaches us in the strongest terms that Satan performs wonders to make folks think that he is God.

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