

# **The Doctrine of Spiritual Gifts**

**A Biblical Study**

**By**

**Troy S. Welch. Th.D., Ph.D.**

**Spheres of Grace Ministries**

**6809 East Hudlow Road**

**Hayden, Idaho 83835**

# **Equipping The Saints For The Work of Ministry**

## **The Purpose of This Workshop**

**This course is designed as a workshop in order to provide assistance to each student in the identification and understanding of their spiritual gift/gifts.**

**An exploration into the doctrine of Spiritual Gifts is a necessity if the believer is to fully comprehend God's design for his or her life. A biblical examination of the identification and function of the gifts is important in these days of varied opinion and interpretations.**

**It is not our purpose to contribute to the controversy, but, to attempt to clarify many of the issues and misunderstandings.**

**The course is developed in a workshop environment providing each student with assistance in the identification of his or her gift or gifts. A primary focus of the class will be on channeling gifts into effective and functional ministry.**

**Before beginning our study it is important for each student to complete the checklists for tendencies and characteristics. It has been observed that your first and immediate response as you do the checklist is generally the most accurate. So, complete the checklists quickly and we will get an accurate assessment of your spiritual gifts.**

**Although there are differences of interpretation concerning the various gifts we will attempt to provide a careful and accurate study based on the Word of God. The main problem concerning the doctrine of Spiritual Gifts centers on whether all the gifts are operative throughout the Church Age. We will exegete I Corinthians chapter 12 in an attempt to understand the division of gifts.**

**We will complete the checklists and then study the basic doctrine of Gifts. We will briefly examine the various opinions concerning gifts but will spend the majority of our time exploring the operative gifts and the means of identification.**

## CHARACTERISTICS CHECKLIST

It is important that you complete these checklists before you begin the study of Spiritual Gifts. By completing these checklists before you study the material you will avoid prejudicing your answers with preconceived ideas as to what your gifts are.

Using a scale of 0 to 10 score each characteristic by placing the number (0-10) which correctly identifies you beside each characteristic.

Example: (9) An ability as a self starter.

(3) An ability to assume leadership.

- ( ) - An ability as a self starter.
- ( ) - An ability to see and understand needs related to organization.
- ( ) - An ability to assume leadership.
- ( ) - An ability to delegate responsibility.
- ( ) - An ability to research.
- ( ) - An ability to present truth in a systematic sequence.
- ( ) - An ability to communicate effectively.
- ( ) - An ability to detect practical needs of others.
- ( ) - An ability to serve in practical ways to provide for others.
- ( ) - An ability to motivate.
- ( ) - An ability to encourage.
- ( ) - An ability to inspire.
- ( ) - An ability to follow leadership.
- ( ) - An ability to perform skills necessary in the church.
- ( ) - An ability to perform skills necessary to para-church organizations.
- ( ) - An ability to comprehend what is read.
- ( ) - An ability to separate various doctrinal truths revealed in the Word,
- ( ) - An alertness to factual detail.
- ( ) - An ability to classify scripture into doctrinal subjects.
- ( ) - An ability to see a person's circumstances or situation.
- ( ) - An ability to understand the Bible in an applicational sense.
- ( ) - An ability to communicate applicational principles clearly.
- ( ) - An ability to see joy or distress in others.
- ( ) - An ability to console or comfort.
- ( ) - An ability to acquire assets.
- ( ) - An ability to multiply material assets.
- ( ) - An ability to understand financial needs.

## TENDENCIES CHECKLIST

Using a scale of 0 to 10 score each tendency by placing the number (0-10) which correctly identifies you beside each tendency (see example on characteristics check list).

- ( ) - A tendency to be assertive.
- ( ) - A tendency to be aggressive.
- ( ) - A tendency to lead out if there is no designated leader.
- ( ) - A tendency to go into detail when asked simple questions.
- ( ) - A tendency to want to communicate everything learned.
- ( ) - A tendency to be alert to the needs of others.
- ( ) - A tendency to take responsibility for helping others.
- ( ) - A tendency to speak out strongly on beliefs.
- ( ) - A tendency to share ideas.
- ( ) - A tendency to avoid anything which doesn't seem practical.
- ( ) - A tendency to push people to their potential.
- ( ) - A tendency to accept only simple sideline responsibility.
- ( ) - A tendency to follow rather than lead.
- ( ) - A tendency to assist others who are serving.
- ( ) - A tendency to take a clinical approach to Bible study.
- ( ) - A tendency to identify categories of doctrine in reading the word.
- ( ) - A tendency to avoid non-biblical illustrations.
- ( ) - A tendency to react sharply to error.
- ( ) - A tendency to prove or test all teachings.
- ( ) - A tendency to emphasize the importance and accuracy of words.
- ( ) - A tendency to look for application as the Bible is read or taught.
- ( ) - A tendency to identify certain people you know as Bible passages are examined.
- ( ) - A tendency to think of certain Bible passages upon hearing about a person's circumstance or situation.
- ( ) - A tendency to relate the Word to everything experienced.
- ( ) - A tendency to have compassion on others.
- ( ) - A tendency to experience the emotions others are experiencing.
- ( ) - A tendency to offer comfort and consolation.
- ( ) - A tendency to look for the material needs in a situation.
- ( ) - A tendency to assume personal responsibility for financial assistance to others.
- ( ) - A tendency to have confidence in meeting financial needs.

# Spiritual Gifts

**DEFINITION:** A spiritual gift is an unique ability given to the born again believer at the moment of salvation. It is given as a means by which the believer can serve the Lord and designates the believer's position in the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:7-11)

**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.*

**Gifts are sovereignly bestowed today by the Holy Spirit** (I Corinthians 12:11, 18). In a few passages it appears that the apostles had the ability to give gifts in the first century (Romans 1:11; I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6). However, if a careful study is made of each passage, it becomes evident that it is the Holy Spirit who bestowed the gifts. The apostles were simply the channel through which the gifts were bestowed. The channeling of gifts through the apostles appears to have been for the purpose of establishing apostolic authority in the first century church.

**Spiritual gifts are given at the moment of salvation and on the basis of grace.** I Corinthians 12:11 says “...*dividing to every man severally (idia = separately) as He will.*” Gifts are not based on human merit or preference (I Corinthians 1:7; 12:4, 9, 28, 30-31; Ephesians 4:7; I Peter 4:10).

**Each member of the Godhead is involved in administering spiritual gifts.** The Father, as the master planner, determines how many of each gift is to be given (I Corinthians 12:28). The Son provided the basis for the gifts (Ephesians 4:8-11). The Holy Spirit bestows the gifts (I Corinthians 12:11).

**The purpose of the gifts is to enable believers to do “the work of the ministry”** (Ephesians 4:12). Each spiritual gift is necessary for proper function of the body of Christ in a local congregation.

**The body of Christ (the church) is a team of believers working together to carry out the purposes of Christ.**

**It is not necessary for you to identify your gift or gifts in order to serve Christ** through the church. However, it is necessary for you to make that identification in order to be more efficient and direct your service into the areas that will be the most productive as a faithful steward.

**Each gift is given to the believer with measured precision.**

**Romans 12:3** says;

*“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

**Ephesians 4:7** says:

*“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”*

**God gives each believer exactly what He wants him to have in order for him to serve where He wants him to serve.**

### **Three Categories of Gifts**

**According to I Corinthians 12:8-10 there are three types of Gifts.**

*“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another (alloh = another of the same kind) the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

*“To another (hetero = another of a different kind) faith by the same Spirit; to another (alloh = another of this same kind) the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*

*“To another (alloh = another of this same kind) the working of miracles; to another (alloh = another of this same kind) prophecy; to another (alloh = another of this same kind) discerning of spirits; to another (hetero = another of a different kind) divers kinds of tongues; to another (alloh = another as this same kind) the interpretation of tongues.”*

**The interchange of two words in the Greek text** (alloh = another of the same kind and hetero = another of a different kind) shows that Paul divided the gifts into three categories. The first category refers to gifts that are based on the Word. These are permanent gifts. The second category refers to miracle gifts used during the apostolic era. The third category refers to sign gifts.

### **Category Three Gifts**

**The third category consisted of the temporary sign gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues** (I Corinthians 12:10). These gifts were a sign to the unbelieving Jews that they were being replaced as the custodians of God's revelation and that they were going to be dispersed (I Corinthians 14:20-22 with Isaiah 28). These gifts ceased of themselves (I Corinthians 13:8) when the Jews were dispersed in 70 A.D.

**The, so called, use of tongues today is a misunderstanding** of the purpose and use of tongues. The gifts, **Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues**, no longer exists. For forty years (one generation), the gift of tongues informed the Jews of their impending dispersal (examine passages cited in previous paragraph.). That dispersal occurred in 70 A.D. and the gift of tongues ceased.

See study on Tongues in The Appendix of this syllabus.

## Category Two Gifts

**The second category was comprised of temporary miracle gifts of faith, healings, miracles, prophecy and discerning of spirits** (I Corinthians 12:9-10). These gifts were used as the norm and standard for knowing the things of God. They were abolished as the norm and standard when the canon of scripture was completed (I Corinthians 13:8-12).

### **I. According to I Corinthians 13, these temporary gifts were phased out at the completion of the Bible.**

Look at I Corinthians 13:8-10:

*“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.”*

The word, *“perfect,”* is mistakenly interpreted as a reference to Christ. It is translated from the Greek word, *“teleion.”* It means, complete. It is also in the neuter gender and therefore cannot refer to a person.

Paul said in verse 9 *“...For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.”* All the prophecy and knowledge (doctrine) had not been given when Paul wrote this in 56 A.D. The final prophecy was given in 96 A.D. (Revelation 22:19). So, Paul said they had part of the prophecy and part of the doctrine. He goes on in verse 10 to say, *“But when that which is complete is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”* When what is complete? What did they have in part in 56 A.D.? Prophecy and doctrine!

The phrases in verse 8: *“...they shall fail...”* (prophesies); and, *“...it shall vanish away...”* (knowledge), are both translated from the Greek words, *“katargethe'sontai”* and *“katargethe'setai.”* The first is plural and the second is

singular, they both mean, be abolished as the norm or standard. See? Until the scripture was completed the gift of prophecy was the norm or standard for knowing what God wanted believers to know about the future. Until the scripture was completed the gift of knowledge was the norm or standard for receiving doctrine. However, when all prophecy and doctrine had been given these gifts were abolished as the norm and standard and the Bible became the norm and standard.

The same Greek word, ``**katargethe'setai**'' is also found in verse 10 where it is translated, ``*...shall be done away...*'' . When the Bible was completed these gifts were abolished, along with the offices of Apostle and Prophet.

**The gifts included in this category include:**

**Prophecy** - Unique ability to foretell future events received by direct revelation

**Faith** - Unique ability to trust God

**Healings** - Unique ability to heal at will

**Miracles** - Unique ability to perform miracles at will

**Knowledge** - Unique ability to receive doctrine by direct revelation

**Discernment of Spirits** - Unique ability to detect truth from error

God is still in the business of healing and miracles, but no longer gives these gifts to be exercised at will, all prophecy was completed in 96 AD with the completion of the book of Revelation (Revelation 22:18-19), Knowledge is now obtained through the Word of God, Faith now comes by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17), Discernment is provided by the Word of God, and Miracles are no longer needed as a means of establishing authority - the Bible establishes that authority.

We must not forget for a single moment that God heals the sick and works in miraculous ways every day. He is the God of Miracles and supernatural activity. But, the gifts to work in this capacity at will are no longer given to men.

## **II. The Reality of Present Day Miraculous Phenomena:**

**Beginning in the late sixties and early seventies there has been a continuing increase in the number of reports of supernatural phenomena.**

**however, it cannot be denied that there are supernatural manifestations that occur today.**

### **1. Unsubstantiated Occurrences:**

There has always been and will continue to be unsubstantiated occurrences in the religious world. Because, many of these performers are illusionists, fakes, and impostors.

## 2. Verified and Documented Occurrences:

It must be noted, however, that there are some verifiable occurrences of supernatural activity today.

### A. Some healings have been documented

### B. People are having unusual experiences

- (1). Breaking into uncontrolled laughter
- (2). Barking like dogs or imitating animal sounds
- (3). Being slain in the spirit (passing out on the floor in a service)
- (4). Speaking ecstatic utterances
- (5). Experiencing dreams
- (6). Other unusual activities and behavior

## III. What Is The Source of These Present Day Miracles?

How do we account for these ‘apparent’ present day miracles?

Before we rush out to embrace these things as being from God we must note carefully the warning of this type of activity in the Bible.

Matthew 7:22-23 says,

22 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

23 *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

**“wonderful works” (dunameis) = powerful and unusual activity**

**Noun - thing**

**Accusative Case - case of limits and boundaries**

**Feminine Gender - response**

**Plural - more than one**

**This is the same word which is used in reference to the miracles performed by Christ and the apostles in the early Church.**

**It is the same word cited by those who claim these gifts today.**

**Are miracles still being performed today by individuals in the name of Jesus?  
The answer is yes!**

**How? Jesus defined them as, “ye that work iniquity”**

**“work iniquity” (er-gadzo-menoi) (taen) (anomina)**

**(er-gadzo-menoi) = those who constantly make it a principle to be resident workers**

**Participle - principle**

**Present Tense - constant action**

**Middle Voice - subject participates in the action of being**

**Vocative Case - case of address - You!**

**Masculine Gender - initiators of the action**

**Second Person - You**

**Plural - more than one**

**(taen) = the**

**Definite Article - specific one**

**Accusative Case - limitations and boundaries**

**Feminine Gender - response**

**(anomina) = lawless one (Satan)**

**Noun - person, place, or thing**

**Accusative Case - limitations and boundaries**

**Feminine Gender - Response (Satan Too made a response)**

**This lawless one is Satan according to I Thessalonians 2:3 and The feminine gender is used of Satan to show his own rebellion in response to his former position as an angel.**

**Thus, this is translated, “*ye resident workers of the lawless one.*”**

**Why, would Satan involve others in performing these miracles in the name of Jesus?**

**The answer to that question is, in order to distract believers from the Word of God and tie them into emotionalism and experience in order to prohibit their growth and stability.**

**Isaiah 33:6 says,**

***And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.***

**It is clearly evident that Satan has been effective in this technique because the majority of believers are experience and emotionally oriented instead of being oriented in God’s Word. As a result, they move from mountain top experiences to the pits of despair. Satan loves that instability because it presents a poor testimony to the unbeliever.**

## **Category One Gifts**

**The first category of gifts is based on the Word (the Bible) and will continue through the church age.** It is among these gifts that you will discover the unique abilities given you by the Holy Spirit with which you are to serve God through the church and in para-church organizations.

**CATEGORY ONE GIFTS: BASED ON THE WORD  
AND FOR THE CHURCH AGE**

**1. GIFT OF ADMINISTRATION: I Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8**

This gift is the unique ability to assume leadership roles effectively; an ability to function in administrative capacities; to provide leadership and direction for various ministries in the church. The biblical title assigned to those who exercise this gift in an office of leadership in the church is elder. (I Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5; I Peter 5:1).

**CHARACTERISTICS:**

- An ability as a self starter.
- An ability to see and understand needs related to organization.
- An ability to assume leadership.
- An ability to delegate responsibility.
- TOTAL
- (4) DIVIDED BY
- TOTAL SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTIC

**SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- A tendency to be assertive.
- A tendency to be aggressive.
- A tendency to lead out if there is no designated leader.
- TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED BY
  
- SCORE FOR TENDENCY
- SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS
- TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

**Practical Uses Of Gift:**

- As a church business administrator
- As a department director
- As a chairperson of committee or board
- Other areas of administration

## 2. GIFT OF TEACHING: I Corinthians 12:28: Romans 12:7

The unique ability to understand and to communicate Biblical content. It includes both the ability to learn and teach the principles, promises, doctrines and techniques found in the Bible. This gift also includes the unique ability to teach skills which are related to the work of the church.

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- ( ) An ability to research.
- ( ) An ability to present truth in a systematic sequence.
- ( ) An ability to communicate effectively.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED BY
- ( ) SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTIC

### **SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- ( ) A tendency to go into detail when asked simple questions.
- ( ) A tendency to want to communicate everything learned.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
  
- ( ) SCORE FOR TENDENCY
- ( ) SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS
- ( ) TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- ( ) TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

### **Practical Uses Of Gift:**

- Pastor-Teacher
- Sunday School class teacher
- Bible study class teacher
- Teach skills

### 3. GIFT OF SERVICE: Romans 12:7

The unique ability to serve those in the body through the care of their material needs. This gift provides an awareness of needs and an ability to minister to those needs. Although several in the congregation may have this gift, there is an office through which to administer service with this gift. The word "deacon" is the English transliteration of the Greek word, "diakonos," which refers to the office for the administration of this gift.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- An ability to detect practical needs of others.
- An ability to serve in practical ways to provide for others.
- TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- TOTAL SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS

#### **SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- A tendency to be alert to the needs of others.
- A tendency to take responsibility for helping others.
- TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
  
- SCORE FOR TENDENCY
- SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS
- TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

#### **Practical Uses of Gift:**

- assist others by providing:
- food
- shelter
- clothing
- services
- transportation
- etc.

#### 4. GIFT OF EXHORTATION: Romans 12:8

The unique ability to spur people on to decision and action. This gift provides for motivation and encouragement to others. It is the ability to call others to your position.

##### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- An ability to motivate.
- An ability to encourage.
- An ability to inspire.
- TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED BY
  
- SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTIC

##### **SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- A tendency to speak out strongly on their beliefs.
- A tendency to share their ideas.
- A tendency to avoid anything that doesn't seem practical.
- A tendency to push people to their potential.
- TOTAL
- (4) DIVIDED BY
  
- SCORE FOR TENDENCY
- SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS
- TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

##### **Practical Uses Of Gift:**

- Preaching
- Evangelism
- Singing
- Visitation
- Promotion
- Etc.

#### 5. GIFT OF HELPS: I Corinthians 12:28

The unique ability to assist others who are involved in ministry. This is a support gift that manifests itself on the side lines and behind the scenes lending support and providing the man power for activities directed by those in more public leadership roles.

**CHARACTERISTICS:**

- ( ) An ability to follow leadership.
- ( ) An ability to perform one or more skills necessary to the operation of a local church.
- ( ) An ability to perform skills necessary for para-church groups.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED BY
  
- ( ) SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTIC

**SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- ( ) A tendency to desire only simple sideline responsibilities.
- ( ) A tendency to follow rather than lead.
- ( ) A tendency to assist others they see serving.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED BY
  
- ( ) SCORE FOR TENDENCY
- ( ) SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS
- ( ) TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- ( ) TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

**Practical Uses of Gift:**

- Assistance in committee work
- Performing skills:
  - secretarial work
  - custodial work
  - maintenance work
  - telephoning
  - kitchen work
  - yard work
  - etc.

## 6. GIFT OF WORD OF KNOWLEDGE: I Corinthians 12:8

The unique ability to put Bible content into categories of Bible doctrine. To be able to read a passage of scripture and sense the subject matter found there and organize it into categorical order. This gift is not to be confused with the gift of knowledge which was a temporary gift by which doctrine was revealed until the completion of the cannon of scripture as per I Corinthians 13:8-13.

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- An ability to comprehend what is read.
- An ability to separate various doctrinal truths that are revealed in the Word.
- Alertness to factual detail.
- An ability to classify scripture into doctrinal subjects.
- TOTAL
- (4) DIVIDED BY
- TOTAL SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTIC

### **SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- A tendency to take a clinical approach to Bible study.
- A tendency to identify categories of doctrine when reading or listening to the Word.
- A tendency to avoid use of non-biblical illustrations.
- A tendency to react sharply to error.
- A tendency to prove or test all teachings.
- A tendency to emphasize the importance and accuracy of words.
- TOTAL
- (4) DIVIDED BY
  
- SCORE FOR TENDENCY
- SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS
- TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

### **Practical Uses of Gift:**

- Writing
- Teaching
- Developing lesson materials
- Organizing study materials

## 7. GIFT OF WORD OF WISDOM: I Corinthians 12:8

The unique ability to understand the proper application of Bible content to experience. The unique ability to communicate the application of specific Bible passages to a person concerning his situation or circumstances. This is not to be confused with the instruction given to all believers to ask for wisdom (James 1:5).

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- ( ) An ability to see a person's circumstances or situation.
- ( ) An ability to understand the Bible in an applicational sense.
- ( ) An ability to communicate applicational principles clearly.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED BY
  
- ( ) TOTAL SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTIC

### **SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- ( ) A tendency to look for application as the Bible is read or taught.
- ( ) A tendency to identify certain people as Bible passages are examined.
- ( ) A tendency to think of certain Bible passages upon hearing of a person's circumstances or situation.
- ( ) A tendency to relate the Word to everything experienced.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (4) DIVIDED BY
  
- ( ) SCORE FOR TENDENCY
- ( ) SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS
- ( ) TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- ( ) TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

### **Practical Uses of gift:**

- Preaching
- Teaching
- Counseling
- Writing

## 8. GIFT OF MERCY: Romans 12:8

The unique ability to have compassion on those in need. A unique sensitivity to the needs of others and an ability to provide a sense of comfort.

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- ( ) An ability to see joy or distress in others.
- ( ) An ability to console and comfort.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY

- ( ) SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTIC

### **SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- ( ) A tendency to have compassion on others.
- ( ) A tendency to experience the emotions others are experiencing.
- ( ) A tendency to offer comfort and consolation.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED
- ( ) SCORE OF TENDENCY
- ( ) SCORE OF CHARACTERISTICS
- ( ) TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- ( ) TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

### **Practical Uses of Gift:**

- Visitation
- Comforting
- Consoling
- Encouraging
- Assisting

## 9. THE GIFT OF GIVING: Romans 12:8

The unique ability to acquire money and direct it into the Lord's work. This is not to be confused with normal "priestly giving" expected of every believer, but is a unique ability to acquire material assets to be used directly in the Lord's work.

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- ( ) An ability to acquire assets.
- ( ) An ability to multiply material assets.
- ( ) An ability to understand financial needs.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED BY
- ( ) TOTAL SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS

### **SOME COMMON TENDENCIES:**

- ( ) A tendency to look for the material needs in a situation.
- ( ) A tendency to assume personal responsibility for financial assistance.
- ( ) A tendency to have confidence in meeting financial needs.
- ( ) TOTAL
- (3) DIVIDED BY
- ( ) SCORE FOR TENDENCY
- ( ) SCORE FOR CHARACTERISTICS
- ( ) TOTAL
- (2) DIVIDED BY
- ( ) TOTAL SCORE FOR GIFT (transfer to worksheet pg 25)

### **Practical Uses of Gift:**

- Financial support to church.
- Financial support to para-- church organizations.
- Financial assistance to individuals.

## COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

1. **That desire alone is a sure sign!** Desire is limited by the status of the believer in respect to the filling of the Holy Spirit and his or her spiritual maturity.
2. **That all Spiritual Gifts are operative throughout the church age!** I Corinthians 13:8 teaches that two categories of these gift were to be phased out.
3. **That certain attitudes are associated with certain spiritual gifts!** Attitudes are dependent upon the filling of the Holy Spirit and the development of Spiritual Maturity.
4. **That spiritual gifts and natural talents are one and the same!** The unbeliever has natural talents. Spiritual gifts are bestowed at the moment of salvation (I Cor. 12:11).
5. **That certain personalities are reflective of certain spiritual gifts!** A careful study of Bible personalities show that this is not the case. Paul and Peter were totally different in personality, yet, had many of the same gifts.
6. **That only church staff people have been given spiritual gifts!** We are told in I Corinthians 12 that everyone has been given gifts.
7. **That believers are to pray to receive certain spiritual gifts!** This is contrary to the orderly structure of body life in the church through a variety of spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12). Paul did not command the believers at Corinth to seek the best gifts as seems to be implied based on the King James text of I Corinthians 12:31. A correct translation of that verse from the Greek text says: "But you are seeking the showy gifts:." The word covet (dzelalousin) can either be translated as an imperative, a command (as in the King James text) or as an indicative (a reality). The context and Bible harmonization insist that it be translated as an indicative. In Corinth they were coveting the showy gifts. We are to use the gifts that the Holy Spirit divides separately as He wills (I Cor. 12:11).
8. **That positions such as Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastor-Teachers, Deacons, Bishops and Elders are spiritual gifts!** These are positions which require specific spiritual gifts in order to function but are not of themselves spiritual gifts. Apostles and Prophets have been phased out according to I Corinthians 13:8. The others remain as positions in the local church throughout the church age.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

**1. KNOW THE GIFTS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS:**

Study the gifts and know what is involved in each gift and how each gift relates to the work of a local church.

**2. ASK YOURSELF TWO QUESTIONS:**

- (1). What do I desire to do?
- (2). What do I seem to have the ability to do?

The Holy Spirit provides both the desire and the ability to serve through spiritual gifts (I Thessalonians 5:24).

**3. KEEP ON PRESENTING YOUR BODY AS A LIVING SACRIFICE:**

In other words, be willing to serve wherever and at whatever God wants you to serve (Romans 12:1-8).

**4. BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO THE ADVICE OF A MORE MATURE BELIEVER:**

A more mature believer may recognize your gift or gifts before you do (I Timothy 4:14).

**5. RESPOND TO OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE OFFERED:**

When an opportunity for service comes along, take it. This may be the means of your discovering your spiritual gift. The one doing the asking would not ask if he didn't think you could do the job. That may not be what God has designed you for, but it is a good way of finding out (Romans 12:6-8).

**6. BEWARE:**

Don't get your eyes on another believer's gift and covet it. Seek the place of service God has designed you for. God will both gift, and direct you to the proper place of service.

**7. BE PATIENT:**

God will reveal your gift to you in His own time (Psalms 130:5-6).

**NOTE:** I said patient, not lazy or indifferent! Take the first 5 steps listed above and then be patient.

**8. ADMIT WHEN YOU ARE IN THE WRONG POSITION:**

Remember Phillip was elected to be a deacon in the early church. But, the Holy Spirit had designed him to do the work of an evangelist (Acts 8:5-13, 26-40). If you are controlled by the Holy Spirit and your "want to" is in the right place but you are not at ease in your place of service, you may be in the

wrong position. People are often pressed into the wrong areas of service through sincere desire or well meaning people.

If you will follow the instructions on this work sheet prayerfully you will discover your spiritual gifts. Then, you can better understand where God wants you to serve and what He wants you to do.

## **WORKSHEET TO IDENTIFY YOUR GIFTS**

(DO NOT FILL OUT THIS SHEET UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE STUDY OF THE GIFTS.)

1. **Study the spiritual gifts and their functions.** You should be able to define each gift in your own words. Then ask God to help you understand what your gift (Gifts) is.
  
2. **List 5 ways in which you desire to serve the Lord. Be specific!**
  - (1).
  - (2).
  - (3).
  - (4).
  - (5).
  
3. **List 5 abilities you think you have through which you can serve the Lord. Again, be specific!**
  - (1).
  - (2).
  - (3).
  - (4).
  - (5).
  
4. **What do other believers believe your spiritual gifts to be?**
  - (1).
  - (2).
  - (3).
  - (4).
  - (5).
  
5. **List the things you have been asked to do in the Lord's work.**
  - (1).
  - (2).
  - (3).
  - (4).
  - (5).
  
6. **Review these lists and identify the spiritual gifts which are represented in these lists.** You should see specific gifts that are found throughout this work sheet.
  
7. **Review the Characteristics and Tendencies scores of each spiritual gift:**

(Transfer scores from each gift here.)

- Administration:**
- Teaching**
- Service**
- Exhortation**
- Helps**
- Word of Knowledge**
- Word of Wisdom**
- Mercy**
- Giving**

**List the highest scores:**

- (1).
- (2).
- (3).

**8. Based on this evaluation, what do you think your spiritual gifts are?**

- (1).
- (2).
- (3).

# Appendix A

## *“The Doctrine of Tongues”*

A Biblical Study By

**Troy S. Welch, Th.D., Ph.D.**

### ISAIAH 28

Isaiah was the great prophet who announced signs, miracles, and things that would come to pass in God's plan. The prophet Isaiah was one of the greatest preachers of all time. His messages not only bore direct application to the time in which he lived, but under the concept of the dual fulfillment of prophecy, they also anticipated future things. For example, recorded in Isaiah is the sign (miracle) of the coming of Messiah, which is the Virgin Birth, the clear signs as to His death, and the signs and indications of His return. In fact, most of the major events in the Divine Plan of history are declared by Isaiah. In Chapter twenty eight Isaiah is preaching to his congregation, which apparently was always a large one, though sometimes a rather indifferent one. In this message he indicates two of the great failures of Israel in his time which would eventually lead to their discipline. Due to the great period of unrest in human history in Isaiah's day, drinking had become a common type of sublimation among the Israelites. Through verse eight Isaiah reminds the people of the woeful condition of alcoholism existing in Israel, which would lead to national disaster. When there is a maximum number of alcoholics in any nation, then of course, it is in a declining situation.

Warning the Jews of their second failure, that of not knowing and not absorbing doctrine, Isaiah continues in verse nine by saying: *"Whom shall he teach knowledge?"* The great problem in his day was that his congregation would not listen to him. He taught, but they would not learn. *"Whom shall he make to understand doctrine?"* Almost three millennia have elapsed since Isaiah preached, yet after three thousand years the problem has not changed. *"Whom shall he make to understand doctrine?"* Doctrine is always the important thing. Then Isaiah complains that he has a congregation full of babies, *"weaned from the milk, drawn from the breasts."* You will notice that I have omitted the italicized words from the King James, as they are not found in the original text. Those who are going to understand doctrine must first of all be weaned. Isaiah declares the principle in verse ten, which is the only means by which they can grow, the principle of expository preaching. *"For precept upon precept,"* means principle - principle of doctrine. Then he repeats it, because doctrine must be repeated, categories must be repeated. *"Precept upon precept, precept upon precept."* In other words, doctrine must be presented categorically. He then goes on to say, *"line upon line, line upon line,"* which means that the categorical presentation of doctrine must also be done from an expository manner (preferably through exegesis); it must be analyzed word by word and line by line. Finally, he adds, *"here a little, and there a little."* This is textual. preaching.

Then suddenly in the midst of his message, looking down the corridors of time to the future failure of Israel, Isaiah very dramatically gave one of the greatest signs in the entire history of humanity. His prophecy, while on the one hand was a judgment on Israel, yet it was also a prophecy of one of the most startling periods in the history of the human race - the early days of the Church age.

Dispensationalism is very important as far as understanding and orienting in time is concerned. The Age of Innocence started with Adam and ended with the fall on man. The Age of Conscience started at the fall and ended with Noah's family coming out of the ark. The third age, the Age of Civil Governments started with the exit from the ark. The Age of Promise Started with the calling of Abraham and marked the beginning of the Jewish nation. Until the Age of Civil Governments there was only one race in the world and only one language was spoken. All evangelism was conducted in that language. Then, following the flood Nimrod said, "Let's get together and build the first "United Nations" building, (the Tower of Babel) in order for us to remain one people and not be scattered over the face of the earth. God had told them to replenish and fill the earth but they wanted to be one people and stay together. God came down and confused their language, so that they were dispersed lest, through internationalism, the human race might be destroyed (Genesis 11:1-9). God established various nations in order to frustrate any further attempt at internationalism.

With many languages in existence, a new system of evangelism was required. Since for the first time there must be missionary activity. God called out a Chaldean by the name of Abram. He responded to the Gospel - he was born again, and he became known as a Hebrew. The word Hebrew simply means "someone who crosses over the river." He crossed over the Euphrates River and came into a land known as Canaan, a land which was alien to him, but which was to become his possession and the land of his progeny. The language was foreign to him, but using a combination of his own language, Chaldean, and some of the words of the Canaanites, he was able to begin evangelizing them, and as he evangelized, many responded, three of whom are listed in the Scripture - Mamre, Eshcol and Aner (Genesis 14:13). The Jews, though a small nation, became a peculiar nation, a nation with two responsibilities before God. Their first responsibility was the custodianship of divine revelation, their second, the dissemination of the Gospel to all the nations and languages round about them. Time after time the Jews failed in this second responsibility, and as a result of their failure, God disciplined them through dispersion. In their last dispersion, which has continued to the present hour, God called out a new "nation," a nation made up of many Gentile languages. He called people out of all nations, and these people became the Church. Today in the Church age believers from all parts of the earth, speaking many different languages, Gentile languages, are responsible for that which Israel was responsible for from Abraham to the cross. The Jews became God's stewards with the calling out of Abraham. But, they were replaced as God's stewards (except for the seven years of the coming tribulation) with the death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church Age, the age in which we now live, is one of the most unusual plans in the entire history of mankind. In this dispensation for the first time every believer would be

in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit. Every believer would be a priest. Such privileges had never been true before. For the first time in history, the baptism of the Holy Spirit would take place. No one ever before had enjoyed union with Christ. There would be a completed canon of Scripture, emphasis on the individual believer as never before, the responsibility of the individual believer, and many other marvelous and unusual things too numerous to mention in this study. In the entire economy of God and in the history of the human race, no other age has been more thrilling or spectacular - and we live in that age!

But the big problem was, how would people know when the Church age began? There were two prophetic approaches, one to the Jews and one to the Gentiles. The approach to the Gentiles, which is not covered in this passage, was the baptism of the Spirit. Jesus Christ Himself was the Prophet of the baptism of the Spirit when He said in Acts 1:5, "*John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.*" As He was about to ascend into Heaven Jesus told His followers to go back to Jerusalem and wait for Him to send the Holy Spirit. He told them they would be endued with power and become His witness (stewards) both in Jerusalem and in Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth. The sign for them would be when they became endued with power (i.e.. the in-dwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit).

The other approach, to the Jews, is portrayed in the great prophecy of Isaiah 28:11. "*For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.*" Isaiah was speaking here to Israel. The time of this prophecy, before the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity, was the first of two general dispersions. The Jews were first of all to be cursed, or to be judged, by being dispersed throughout the world, as they are today. While some Jews live in the land of Palestine today, the Jews will never be completely re-gathered in the land as prophesied in Scripture until the second advent of Jesus Christ. The Jews who are in the land at present are not there in fulfillment of Bible prophecy concerning the re-gathering of Israel. They are there because of human energy of the flesh and human volition acting contrary to divine volition. One of Isaiah's great messages concerned the re-gathering of Israel at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. At that time, He will call and they will come. Only Christ can re-gather Israel. It is God's will that the Jews be dispersed. It is God's will that the Jews are under a curse today. They were adequately warned by the Mosaic Law and by the systems of discipline which were set up, but because of their complete and total failure the Jews have been dispersed today and will continue to be dispersed until the second advent of Christ. The Jews as a nation are under a special curse during the entire Church age.

Isaiah was anticipating, first of all, the dispersion of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, but he was also anticipating the greater dispersion which includes the Church age and the Tribulation. Remember! Israel, at that point, was the custodian of the Word of God and responsible for the dissemination of the Gospel to people of other languages, as well as to those of their own Hebrew language. Isaiah, over five hundred years before its fulfillment, emphatically declared that every Jew would know that when the curse began then the dispersion would take place. The curse was to begin when Jews would be evangelized in Gentile languages. The phrase "*stammering lips*" in the Hebrew actually

means guttural or staccato type language. It is generally a phrase which describes the guttural language of many of the peoples who surrounded the Jews. Hebrew, especially Hebrew poetry, is very smooth and flowing. In fact, it is close to being a musical language, for when it is pronounced, the enunciation is very musical. It was a language of which they were rightly proud, so, God used language as a sign. How would the Jews know when discipline had come? How would they know when they were under the curse? By the great sign which God gave them through Isaiah: with staccato speech and another language will he speak to this people." "The time is coming" Isaiah warned, "when the Jewish administration will be over, and when it is, God will replace you with another missionary organization, and your national discipline will begin. You Jews are going to be evangelized - not with the Hebrew language, but with the language of Gentiles which to you is "stammering speech." The Jews would come to the place of great religious apostasy, and when they reached the saturation point God would discipline or curse them. The sign of the curse upon them would be when God speaks to them through stammering languages which they despised. God would speak to them through a strange language. Now look again at verse eleven, but with a more literal translation from the Hebrew: "for through men stammering in speech. The next phrase, which is in apposition, explains it: "and through a strange language." In other words, these men stammering in speech are going to be speaking in Gentile languages, languages other than Hebrew. The Jews were responsible for telling the Gentiles the Gospel, but when the prophesy is fulfilled the Gospel would be given to the Jews in Gentile languages. Instead of going out with the Hebrew language and evangelizing the world, which was Israel's reason for existence and their great failure, the dispersion and the curse on Israel would begin when the Jews themselves receive evangelization through the languages of the Gentiles. Now while this does not mean much to you today, nothing could be a greater insult to the Jews of Isaiah's day. "Think of it," the Jews must have said. "Imagine people coming to us with God's Word. Imagine us - we Jews, we who are the custodian's of the Word of God, we who have the Law, we who are responsible for telling others - imagine Isaiah (not a popular preacher) telling us that the Gentiles (the lowly Gentiles who do not have the Law) are going to come to us in Gentile languages. Think of it!" They just could not believe it. It was so strange, so foreign to their thinking that somehow they just could not get it into their heads that this could happen. But they never forgot the prophecy of Isaiah, for this was to be the sign to them that God had set aside Israel, that He had cursed them and dispersed them.

Verse 12: *"To whom he said, This is the rest (wherewith) ye may cause the weary to rest."* Two subjects should be clarified in this phrase: what rest are we talking about, and who causes the weary to rest? When these Gentiles come with their stammering languages and speak to the Jews, whose language flows with great euphony, they are going to say, "We come with rest." This rest, of course, is the Gospel. *"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). Their message would be one of hope, of salvation and eternal relationship with God. They would come with stammering tongues, with languages other than the Jewish language, and they would evangelize the Jews whose responsibility it was during the previous dispensation to evangelize everyone else. In other words, the Jews who should have been evangelizing would be evangelized themselves. The Jews who should have been declaring the

message of the Gospel in their language to the peoples of the world would instead hear it in the hated Gentile languages. This would be the lowest point in all the history of Israel. Israel, the servant of the Lord, responsible for disseminating the Gospel, being "Gospelitized" by Gentiles, whom they were responsible to reach! The unreachable would be reaching those who had become unreachable through religion. As Isaiah made this astounding prophecy, he declared it so forcefully that verbs are omitted and the language becomes very elliptic. What a shock and an insult to the Jews to think that they who had the Truth would have to get the Truth from others, and of all people - the Gentiles. I cannot emphasize enough what a shock this was to Israel of Isaiah's day, even now how unbelievable to those of Israel. This prophecy became one of the two great signs of the Old Testament. The other great sign, Isaiah 7:14, ". . . *Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* ('God with us')." Every Jew understood the significance of these signs, but only one of the signs would they discuss - the virgin birth. The other sign, tongues, they dared not mention. Yet in the course of time, just as the prophecy of the virgin birth was fulfilled by the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord, so there was a time when this prophecy of tongues was fulfilled, and the day it was fulfilled every Jew who understood Isaiah knew that the time had come, the curtain was going down for a long period of time on the age of Israel. Israel the nation was under divine judgment. Responsibility for the dissemination of the Gospel would now go to a new "nation," the Church.

Now the Jews must know when their curse would come in order for them to know God's plan. His plan is always to turn cursing into blessing, and this would occur by means of the content of Isaiah's prophecy. When the Jews would be evangelized in Gentile languages they would be given the Gospel, and the only way the cursing could be turned to blessing would be for the individual Jew to accept Christ as Savior. He would then be entered into the body of Christ and therefore would no longer be a Jew (Galatians 3:28), although he would still have the responsibility of dissemination of the Truth, but now as a member of the Church, the body of Christ. The moment a Jew accepts Christ as Savior, he enters into union with Christ. He is no longer a Jew. The same is true of a Gentile. Both believing Jews and believing Gentiles are now members of the body of Christ, both are said to be "one in Christ." According to I Corinthians 10:32. There are three types of people on the earth today, the Jew, the Gentile and the Church, the latter being made up of former Jews and Gentiles who have accepted Christ as Savior. The Jew is under a curse today, the curse of dispersion. He would know when this curse came, because he would be evangelized in Gentile languages. Now, how can the cursing be turned to blessing? No divine curse ever existed on the face of the earth without that curse being turned to blessing when the grace of God is appropriated. We were under a curse. We were dead because of sin. We were born spiritually dead. We were born sinners, therefore dead. We were born out of fellowship with God, without hope, and there was nothing that we personally could do about it. But Jesus Christ came into the world and died for our sins. He was made a curse for us, according to Galatians 3:13, and having become a curse for us, He provided eternal redemption, our "so great salvation." Cursing has been turned into blessing for us because Jesus Christ died on the cross and took our place. Now the Jews are under a curse. They are under a curse that began on the day of Pentecost in 30 A.D., the day that the sign of the dispersion of Israel began, and now the

only way that any individual Jew can have that cursing turned into blessing is to receive Christ as his Savior. Under the laws of discipline and dispersion, when the Jews reached the fifth cycle of discipline (Leviticus 26:27-39), the nation Israel would no longer be recognized by God, and the Jews would be scattered throughout the earth. Under divine cursing the Jew can only be blessed by turning to Christ. Wherever the Jew goes he is despised and cursed. While this anti-Semitism is not condoned, there is no let up, and it continues generation after generation. Wherever a Jew goes he is still a Jew. He does not lose his racial characteristics, he is recognized as a Jew, and he is scattered as a Jew. The only way that he can avoid that curse, the only way that it can be turned into blessing is for him to respond personally to the Gospel and believe in Jesus Christ as his Savior. The day the curse began was the day that blessing began also. The Jew was cursed, and on the very day that he was cursed, he had the opportunity of blessing. What was the cursing? His evangelization in foreign languages and impending dispersion. What was the blessing? When the Jew responded by trusting in Christ as Savior he received the righteousness of God credited to his account.

The fulfillment of this is very evident today. There are many Jews who have accepted Christ, but few were evangelized in the Hebrew language. They were evangelized in Gentile languages. You see, from the standpoint of the Jew there are two ways today to know that God's Word is true. The first is the fulfillment of the prophecy concerning their dispersal. Where are the Jews today? They are scattered all over the world, just as Isaiah predicted hundreds of years before. Furthermore they are going to remain scattered until Christ returns. Why? Because they had reached the fifth cycle of discipline, declared in Leviticus 26, and this is God's way of putting them under the curse. Only twice in the history of Israel have the Jews reached the fifth cycle of discipline - once in the Babylonian captivity which was a dispersion of 70 years, and the second time, after the crucifixion, 70 A. D., which has resulted in almost 2000 years of dispersion, and will continue until the second advent of Christ.

The second way we may know God's Word is true is that when Jews hear the Word today, they never hear it in their own language. By the time of the first advent of Christ, Hebrew was almost extinct except for the modus operandi of the priests who had learned it in one of the two theological schools of that day. The language generally spoken was Aramaic, a combination of Chaldean and Hebrew, but the pure Hebrew had all but disappeared. Now this, then, was the great sign. How would they know that the curse had come? Jews would be evangelized in Gentile languages.

## **ACTS 2**

Now turn to the second chapter of Acts for the first phase of the fulfillment. The day of Pentecost, in 30 A.D., is the day the Church began. In order to understand what really constitutes the Church, we must remember that the sign of the Church is something that never occurred before in all of the history of the Old Testament. The body of Christ concept, the believer in union with Christ, which is known as the baptism of the Spirit, is the great characteristic of the new Church age. Just before our Lord departed from the

earth, ten days before Pentecost, He gave two very important messages. One is recorded in Acts 1:5, which says, "*John truly baptized with water*" (which was consistent with the Age of The Law), "*but (conjunction of contrast) ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence*" (ten days, to be exact).

Now the baptism of the Spirit is clearly defined by I Corinthians 12:13, "*For by (means of) one Spirit are we all baptized into one body (the body of Christ) . . .*" There are many things that occur at the moment of salvation. One of them, the baptism of the Spirit, is where God the Holy Spirit takes a believer and enters him into union with Christ at the moment of his personal faith in Christ. In the Greek, the verb "*are baptized*" is in the aorist tense, meaning that the action occurs in a point of time. The verb is also in the passive voice which indicates that it cannot be experienced, nor can it be improved upon, because it is something that God the Spirit does for us. Hence, the Church began the first time the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred. The baptism of the Holy Spirit could not take place in the Old Testament for a number of reasons. Christ had not yet come in the flesh, He had not died on the cross, risen or ascended, nor was He seated at the right hand of the Father (John 7:37-39). Furthermore, it could not take place until the Jews had reached the full point of their apostasy. All of these events came at one time when the Jews, through the practice of religion over several hundred years, had reached the point of maximum apostasy. It culminated in the rejection of the Messiah when He came, the religious crowd plotting His death, and the succeeding crucifixion. When these events occurred, the Jews were to be put under the curse.

So the Jews were given a sign, and it was fulfilled for the first time in Jerusalem. In Acts two verse one we move five hundred years down the corridors of time from Isaiah to 30 A. D., the day of Pentecost. On that particular day the sign was announced in one place only, Jerusalem, headquarters for the Jews, but for the next 40 years (the length of a generation) the sign would be announced in many places - wherever there were Jews. In that generation of Jews everyone would know that they were now under the curse and that God had put a new plan into operation - the Church age.

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."* Although it is not difficult to have 120 people in one place at a given time, it is humanly impossible to have 120 people with one accord in one place at one time. For all of them to be "*with one accord*" means that every one of their minds must be free of any antagonism or hostility toward anyone else there; it means that there must not only be outward accord, but inward accord also. (Of course, outward accord depends on inward accord). The only possible way that they could be in one accord in one place is for God the Holy Spirit to control their lives. Was this possible however, when the Jewish administration was not yet over and the Holy Spirit not yet given? For the answer, we must understand certain other facts. After Christ ascended there was an elapse of ten days. From the Feast of the First Fruits (the time of the resurrection) to Pentecost is fifty days (Pentecost means fifty days after First-fruits). Since Jesus Christ was on the earth for only forty days (Acts 1:3), there were still ten days remaining in the dispensation of The Law between the ascension of Christ and Pentecost. Several times during His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ had offered His disciples the Holy Spirit under Old

Testament conditions (Cf. Luke 11:13). In the Old Testament dispensations, and specifically the age of The Law, the only way anyone could receive the Holy Spirit was from one of two sources; (1) To ask for Him and receive Him, as Elisha did (II Kings 2:9-10). Elisha wanted a double portion of the Holy Spirit, and he received the Holy Spirit because that is what he asked for; (2) the Holy Spirit was given directly to kings, prophets and priests, or someone performing a special function for the Lord whether they asked for Him or not. (Cf. Genesis 41:38; Exodus 28:3; Numbers 11:18, 25; Judges 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25). The Holy Spirit never in-dwelt or controlled more than a small fraction of the population of Israel, and those who had the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament times could lose Him when they sinned. This is why David prayed, "*Take not thy Holy Spirit from me*" (Psalm 51:11), and why Saul, through sin, lost the Holy Spirit (I Samuel 16:14). Many of the great leaders were controlled by the Holy Spirit, such as Joshua, Gideon, Samson, Jephthah, Daniel, David, and so on. But believers as a whole were not in-dwelt by the Spirit, for as John 7:39 states: "*...the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.*" The universal in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit in every believer awaited the glorification of Christ, and that meant that Christ in His humanity had to be seated at the right hand of the Father. In the meantime, however, believers might have the Holy Spirit by asking for Him. Jesus had made this clear to His disciples when He said to them, "*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him*" (Luke 11:13)? This was an invitation to the disciples to ask for the Holy Spirit, but they were apparently too ignorant to do so. I believe the eleven disciples were among the most stupid men who ever lived! They had three years of personal Bible study from Jesus Christ, and appear to have learned nothing. Jesus gave them several opportunities to receive the Spirit and they refused them all. Finally, just before the ascension, Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit, even though they were too ignorant to ask. Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit to sustain them for the ten days after His ascension. He knew that they could not stay together for ten days in "*one accord*" without the Holy Spirit. So in John 20:22 Jesus actually breathed on them and gave them the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:1 implies that all of the 120 disciples (Acts 1:5) received the temporary in-dwelling of the Spirit, for they would never have made it without Him. For ten days they operated with the Holy Spirit under the conditions of the previous dispensation of The Law, soon to be replaced by the Holy Spirit under conditions of the new dispensation of the Church. They were all in one accord in one place for one reason - not that they were wonderful people; not because they tarried or agonized, or anything of that sort, but simply because they had been given, by grace, the Holy Spirit.

Verse 2: "*And suddenly....*" when the day of Pentecost which was fully come. It was God's plan and God's time to start the curse of Israel and to change the dispensation. The feast of Pentecost marked the end of the Jewish harvest. "*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*" Verse 3: "*And there appeared unto them cloven tongues* (cloven means different or divided tongues) *like as of fire . . . .*" Fire is a type of judgment in Scripture, and the introduction of tongues speak of God's judgment upon Israel. "*And it . . . .*" (the word "*it*" is in the neuter gender simply because the Greek word for Spirit, i.e., "pneuma," is also in the neuter. The emphasis here is upon the Spirit as an instrument,

not an initiator which is manifested by the masculine gender, nor as responder which is manifested by the feminine gender). *"And it (or he) sat upon each of them."* Note carefully, tongues appeared as fire - as a judgment. This is to be the fulfillment of Isaiah 28:11. Isaiah said, "You Jews will know when you are under judgment, for you will be evangelized in Gentile languages."

Verse 4:" *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (not Ghost, but Spirit, in the Greek), and began to speak with other tongues...."* I want you to notice the word "tongues." Tongues means foreign languages, never an unknown language. There is no such thing as an "unknown language." In the year 1611, when the King James version was translated, tongues always meant a language and never referred to something which is simply ecstatic utterance. In I Corinthians 14 the word "*unknown*" occurs eleven times, but it is in italics, indicating that it was not in the original manuscripts, for it was merely an interpretation of the translators (and an erroneous one). *"As the Spirit gave them utterance."* Why was it necessary for the Spirit to give them utterance? These people were Galileans. That may not mean much to you, but it meant a great deal to the ancient world. The Bible must always be understood in the time in which it was written. There were two kinds of Jews in Palestine, the Southern Palestinian Jews who were called Judeans, the aristocracy of the Jews, and the Galileans, who lived in northern Palestine. Well trained academically, the Judeans were at least trilingual. They spoke Latin to get along with the Romans, Greek, which was a part of the culture at that time, and Aramaic. But the Galileans, who were peasants and uneducated, spoke only one language, Aramaic, and that poorly. They would say "ain't" for "isn't" or "between you and I" instead of "between you and me," and they used plural subjects with singular verbs, and so on. Yet these uneducated, unilingual Galileans were going to be the means of announcing the curse to Israel. Remember, the curse was to evangelize in Gentile languages, but there was not one of them who knew a Gentile language. All they knew was Aramaic, which is a combination of Hebrew and Chaldean. How on earth could they do it? Well, "the Spirit gave them utterance" - a spiritual gift, a temporary spiritual gift was provided for them to announce the curse and to fulfill the sign.

There was another important factor in God's plan. In Jerusalem at that time was a very special group of people. The death of Christ took place on the preparation for the Passover, which was one of the holy days. Then the next week was the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The first day of the week, after Passover, was the Feast of the First Fruits at which time Christ rose from the grave. There were four "holy days" one after another, all shadows, as it were (Hebrews 10:1), pointing to the plan of God the Father and the Person and work of Christ: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Pentecost. It was customary at this time of the year for Jews to come from all over the world to observe these holy days in Jerusalem. Who were these Jews who had come from all the nations under Heaven? They were the Diaspora - that is, the dispersed Jews under Alexander the Great. After the conquest of Tyre and Sidon, Alexander intended to invade Jerusalem, but the priests and people under Jaddua the high priest came out of the city to meet him carrying the Word of God. When they turned to the Book of Daniel and showed him that his conquests were prophesied, he was very impressed. He also noted that the Jews were excellent administrators. So, wherever He conquered a people,

Alexander would place Jews as administrators over the conquered people. He set up many cities in the ancient world, as far away as India, and these Jews became his administrators and were prominent people throughout the world. A group of these same Jews in Alexandria, Egypt, were also the ones who later translated the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek, the Septuagint. The descendants of these dispersed Jews had come back to Jerusalem for the holy days, and for this reason there were literally thousands of them in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

Verse 5: *"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven."* There were Jews all the way from India, from Asia-Minor and from North Africa. They no longer spoke Hebrew, for they had been living in other countries for three hundred years. We read, however, that they were *"devout Jews,"* religious, but not saved, just like Nicodemus. It is a negative term, and not complimentary. Nicodemus was a religious Jew. he prayed seven times a day, went to the temple three times a day and spent the rest of the day doing good. He lived by the Golden Rule, he was sincere, but he was not saved, and Jesus said to him, *"Ye must be born again."* The word *"dwelling"* means a temporary dwelling in Jerusalem, signifying that these Jews were pilgrims observing the holy days.

Verse 6: *"Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and they were confounded (they were literally astonished), because that every man heard them speak in his own language."* What is so unusual about them speaking in *"his own language?"* Look at verse 7: *"They were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?"* They had not gone to school; they could speak no other language; they could not even speak their own language properly, and now (verse 8), *"How hear we every man in our own language, wherein we were born?"* These are Jews speaking who were born outside of the land of Palestine. They had come back to the land, not knowing Hebrew, but speaking a foreign language - a Gentile language, and now they hear these Gentile languages spoken by simple Galileans. A partial list of these languages is given in verse nine through eleven.

Parthia was the buffer nation between the Roman Empire and India. It was one of the most mysterious nations of the ancient world. Alexander went through and conquered it, in a sense, and established a few cities there. It is still a very mysterious part of the world. Few outsiders spoke or understood this language. The Romans could never master it. It was a very guttural language which would fulfill the words *"stammering lips."* People actually heard fluent Parthian coming from these Galileans. In the high plateaus beyond Assyria a mysterious people called the Medes had united with the Persians and conquered the world at one time; then suddenly they had disappeared again up into their native highlands, taking with them their strange language. That language was clearly declared in Jerusalem. The Elamites were a very strange race and were known as wild people in Abraham's day. One day they came out of the high mountains just east of Chaldea and conquered the Chaldeans. Moving into the Arabian desert, they conquered there, and then just as mysteriously were driven back into the high mountains, having no communication with other people. When Alexander went through that way he left Jews to administer and control them. Now their Jewish progeny had returned to

Jerusalem in 30 A. D. to hear the Gospel declared in the streets of Jerusalem in the languages of the Elamites. The phrase "*dwellers of Mesopotamia*" meant that there were at least several languages spoken there: one of them was Chaldean and another Syrian. The Judean spoke an excellent type of Aramaic. Cappadocia is comparable today to Arthenia, in Asia-Minor, and is a mountain-valley type of country, which in the ancient world did not lend itself to communication. The Cappadocians had a very strange, guttural language, and it was now being clearly spoken. Pontus is a reference to that area on the end of the Black Sea where the Scythians had settled and where the Greeks had done some trading. The language of Phrygia was a combination of Greek and the ancient Phrygian language, as was that of Pamphylia. The Greeks had settled in Pamphylia where they found a more ancient language, and they combined the two. Egypt would be the Coptic language, while in parts of Libya a mysterious ancient language of North Africa was spoken. In Cyrene they spoke two different languages. "*Strangers of Rome*" spoke Latin. In verse eleven Cretes and Arabians are mentioned. "*...we do hear them speak in our languages the wonderful works of God.*" This last phrase, "*the wonderful works of God*" is the key which turns the cursing to blessing, for they will have a message for the Jews, a message of rest (Isaiah 28:12). "There is rest in Christ." Christ came to the earth to die for your sins. He took your place, and "*whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.*" Cursing is turned to blessing !

Verse 12: "*And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?*" But you are not surprised, for as we have seen in Isaiah 28, hundreds of years before, Isaiah had stood up before the Jewish people and preached his shocking sermon, prophesying the very thing which was fulfilled on this day of Pentecost in 30 A.D. The gift of tongues was the means of announcing cursing and blessing. The Galileans who could speak only one language were chosen to execute this miracle, this sign. The purpose of the gift of tongues was twofold. One was to announce to the Jews that the curse had begun. The other was to evangelize the Jew so that cursing would be turned to blessing. Until Christ returns personally to the earth, God would not recognize Israel as a nation, although Israel would retain their racial identification. This discipline has continued for almost 2,000 years and will continue for the entire Church age, as well as for the seven years of the Tribulation. The curse is very much in evidence today. For many years natives of Germany or France or America, as well as those who move there, are called Germans, Frenchmen or Americans. But not Jews! They have always been referred to as German Jews, French Jews or American Jews. My family background was formerly from another part of the world, Wales, and yet I am not called a Welch or a Welch American or Irish American, not at all. Neither were you labeled an English-American, or whatever you were before. You were called an American. It has only been in recent years that there has been this identification (i.e.) Mexican-American or Afro-American). But the Jews have been the exception. Why? Because they are under a special curse from God. But God had given the Jews adequate warning through Isaiah as to when the curse would begin and why. They failed in their responsibility of disseminating the Gospel, they themselves must receive the Gospel in, of all things, Gentile languages. Sometimes people want to learn Hebrew today in order to win Jews to the Lord, but I am convinced that few Jews will ever be evangelized in the Hebrew

language. There are two characteristics of the Jewish curse, (1) their dispersion, and (2) their evangelization in Gentile languages. Hebrew became a dead language until it was recovered by theologians for the study of Old Testament Scriptures. It was a liturgical language used in some of their services, but they do not speak it nor understand it generally. The answer is to know the plan of salvation and to give it to them.

Now when the Jewish curse was first announced there had to be a sign, there had to be a miracle, and that miracle was brought about by uneducated Galileans who spoke but one language, yet suddenly began to speak languages which the average person could not learn in a lifetime. They spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance. This was a gift (I Corinthians 12:11). From this point throughout the rest of the book of Acts there are at least four other occasions on which the gift of tongues was used. Why? Because it was an announcement that the Church age had begun, that Israel was under the curse. Furthermore, the content of the gift of tongues was always, without exception, a declaration of the Gospel so that Jews could have the cursing turned to blessing by responding to the Gospel that they heard.

There is another very important principle. The gift of tongues was for Jews to hear the Gospel. It was not for the Gentiles. It was for Jews to hear the way of salvation and at the same time to understand the announcement that they were under the curse, and that the only way they could ever get out from under that curse was through regeneration, to be born again, to become a member of the body of Christ. And so, until the canon of Scripture was completed, this same principle was followed. Until the dispersal came in 70 A.D., wherever there were Jews throughout the world, some believer with the gift of tongues came to them and evangelized them in the language of the country in which they lived. For a period of some 40 years (a generation) Jews heard the Gospel in Gentile languages, and from it they were to understand two things: they were under a curse as a nation, strangers and foreigners wherever they went, even in their own land; and secondly, their curse could only be turned to blessing by responding to the Gospel. However, the time of the dispersal would come, and this sign would cease of itself. This event is described in its anticipation in I Corinthians 12.

## **I CORINTHIANS 12-14**

Corinth was a great center for trade. This combined with the fact that the Jews had now captured the banking industry from the heathen priests, brought about a constant influx of Jews into the city. Up to this time, heathen temples had been the banks. However, they were being robbed regularly, as the people were no longer afraid of their "gods." Because so many Jews were in Corinth establishing a new banking system and a new money lending system, the gift of tongues was used quite extensively there.

The Corinthian Christians were probably, at the time of the writing of the epistles to the Corinthians, the most carnal of all the believers in the ancient world. Since they were out of line in many ways, you will not be surprised to learn that they were out of line with the use of the gift of tongues. Some of the Corinthians who had the gift of tongues were suddenly overtaken by ego and tried to make something out of this gift

which the Bible does not warrant. They had erroneously, concluded that they were a special type of believer. It is not unusual for believers to want to be something special in their own eyes, or in the eyes of others. It is not unusual for a believer to want to have an experience which no one else has had, or to think that because he has had a certain experience, everyone else must have it too. Certainly this was a great temptation to those who legitimately spoke in tongues in that first century. Thus, in speaking to these Corinthians, Paul makes it very clear in Chapter twelve verse eleven that this is a spiritual gift and that all spiritual gifts come through grace, not because of anything which they had done or from agonizing or tarrying. God the Holy Spirit sovereignly bestowed them. *"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man individually as He will"* - as the Holy Spirit wills.

Now this matter of tongues had become a problem in the Corinthian church, apparently because of certain individuals who had distorted the true purpose of the gift of tongues. One, who did not have the gift of tongues, we shall call Brother Foot (verse 15). I would say that Brother Foot probably had the gift of "helps." Every believer has at least one spiritual gift. The gift of helps is usually a quiet, behind-the-scenes gift. The other, whom we shall call Brother Hand, had the gift of tongues. Now Brother Hand had become very proud of some of the spectacular aspects of his spiritual gift, and this, combined with the fact that he was out of fellowship, created a problem. Verse 15: *"If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?"* Brother Foot does not have a spectacular gift like Brother Hand. Evidently Brother Hand got hold of Brother Foot one day and said, "Listen! Unless you can speak in tongues as I do, you are not spiritual. Furthermore, not only are you without spirituality, you are possibly not even saved. Therefore, if you do not speak in tongues, you just do not belong. "In great distress Brother Foot tries to become a hand; he goes in the closet and agonizes, but he still comes out a foot. Then he lives on birdseed and contemplates infinity, but he still remains a foot. He responds to an invitation to go down and get the second blessing, but he continues to be a foot. You see, no matter what he does, he is still a foot, because that is the gift the Holy Spirit gave him and it cannot be changed by anything he does. The gifts of the Spirit are irreversible. Unfortunately, because he does not know doctrine, Brother Foot concludes that he is not a member of the body. He says, "I don't belong. I can't do this thing. I've tried every system of self-hypnosis; I've sung 'Do Lord' over and over; I've tried to practice with my T.V. offer tape on learning to speak in tongues, but I'm still a foot." Once a foot, always a foot; once a hand, always a hand. Consequently, he asks the question, "What is my status? Am I really saved or not? Can I ever be spiritual if I do not speak in tongues?" The passage continues (paraphrased), "Look, we have different spiritual gifts. Your spiritual gift, Brother Foot, is helps. Brother Hand's gift is tongues, and they were both sovereignly bestowed by the Holy Spirit. They have nothing to do with spiritual life, except that the gift operates successfully when you are filled with the Holy Spirit." In fact, in verse 28 where the spiritual gifts are listed in order of merit, the last one in the list is tongues. The highest of all the gifts was apostleship, next prophecy (both of these gifts are gone today); thirdly, teachers; after that, miracles; then gifts of hearings, helps, governments, and now notice, Brother Foot is actually higher on the list than Brother Hand with the gift of tongues. Tongues is the lowest of all.

In verse 31 the King James version reads, "*But covet earnestly the best gifts...*" The word "*covet*" in its Greek form can either be translated as an imperative, as the King James translators have done, or as an indicative. The context shows very clearly that this should be translated as an indicative mood. It is in the present tense and is plural. Therefore it should read . . . "But you are coveting..." The word "best" (meidzona) should be translated "showy." Thus a corrected translation of this passage says . . . "But you are coveting the showy gifts, yet show I unto you a more excellent way." Some of my students at California Bible Institute showed this corrected translation to Dr. David Hocking, the former speaker on The Biola Hour, and after working the Greek of the passage, he has publicly stated on the Biola Hour that he is in agreement. The whole purpose of I Corinthians chapters twelve through fourteen is to show how and why tongues should or should not be used in a church service. First Corinthians chapter fourteen tells us how tongues was to be regulated during the 40 years that it was to be used as an announcement to Israel.

The last half of verse thirty one of Chapter twelve says, ". . . *and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.*" The more excellent way is the filling (control) of the Spirit. Regardless of what your spiritual gift is, the real issue is whether or not you are filled with (controlled by) the Spirit. First Corinthians chapter thirteen tells us about the more excellent way. It is not so much the "love" chapter as it is the filling of the Spirit" chapter because this type of divine love can only be produced when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. In verse 8 of I Corinthians 13 Paul indicates that while the problem of tongues was existent in the Corinthian church at that time, there was a time coming when it would no longer be a problem, as tongues would no longer exist as a bona fide activity of the church. Once the sign had been fulfilled with the dispersal of the Jews, tongues would cease of itself.

Verse 8: "*Charity never faileth...*" Charity is translated from the strongest word in the Greek language for love, and love, according to Galatians 5:22, is the primary manifestation of the filling of the Spirit. We could translate verse eight then, "Love, which is the manifestation of the filling of the Spirit, never faileth." The Greek word translated "*never faileth*" is a word used to describe an actor being hissed off the stage. Hence, "the filling of the Spirit is never hissed off the stage of life." The filling of the Spirit is the "*more excellent way,*" but there are things which are hissed off the stage. There are certain things which are temporary. The filling of the Spirit will go on during the entire Church age. There are certain things, however, which will disappear very shortly. "*...but (conjunction of contrast) whether there be prophecies, they shall fail (katarghqsontai [katargethesontai] be abolished as the norm and standard).*" The gift of prophecy is no longer an active gift. When the book of Revelation was written, the canon was closed and prophecy ended, for it contained the last prophecy). "*Whether there be tongues, they shall cease (of themselves).*" I Corinthians is one of the earlier epistles. Paul never mentions the gift of tongues in epistle other than Romans which was written in 58 A.D. "*...whether there be knowledge...*" (This was the gift of knowledge. In that day certain men had the gift of knowledge in order to teach believers the doctrines which were being revealed but had not yet been written in the New Testament canon.

The epistles and the Revelation were yet to be written). "...it shall vanish away..." (katarghghsetai [katargethesetai] shall be abolished as the norm and standard). Why? Because the canon of Scripture would be completed and would take the place of prophecies and of knowledge. When would this occur? Verse ten tells us!

Verse 10: *"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."* What is the phrase *"that which is perfect"* referring to? It is necessary to go back to the Greek to find out its meaning. The word *"perfect"* is translated from the Greek word *"teleion"* which means *"complete"*. See? They had part of the doctrine God wanted them to have, part of the prophecy God wanted them to receive, But there was coming a time when they would have it all in a completed canon of Scripture. The, these temporary gifts would be abolished as the norm and standard. This is not talking about a perfect person, for if that *were* the case, then the gender would be masculine or feminine. But the gender for the word *"perfect"* is neuter, which indicates that it refers to a thing rather than a person. We have to go all the way to James 1:25, which was one of the few epistles already written to find the answer. Two epistles were written before I Corinthians - James and Galatians. The Greek word *"teleion"* had already been used in the canon and was translated *"...perfect law of liberty..."* (James 1:25). It was a reference to the Word of God - the Bible. Paul was saying in I Corinthians chapter thirteen *"When the Bible is completed, these two gifts will be abolished as the norm and standard, Prophecy and Knowledge. And, tongues would cease of itself when the dispersal occurred."* At the time the Bible was completed six gifts were cut off: (1) Prophecy! That prophecies *"shall fail"* does not mean that any prophecy mentioned in the Bible would fail, but that there was coming a time when there would no longer be the gift of prophecy in the sense of telling of things to occur in the future. There were those who had the gift of prophecy at the time Paul wrote, but there would come a time when this amazing spiritual gift would cease. Why? Because the canon of Scripture would be completed. *"That which is perfect"* would come, and only those prophecies contained in the Scripture would be .legitimate. All other prophecies would be false. Thus the gift of prophecy would *"fail."* The Greek word which is translated *"fail"* is *"katargethesontai"*. It should be translated; *"be abolished as the norm or standard. You see, the completed Bible is now our norm and standard.* (2) Knowledge! The gift of knowledge was the unique ability to receive doctrine by direct revelation. With the completion of the Bible we now have all the doctrine God intended for us in written form. Therefore the gift was abolished as the norm or standard. (3) The gift of healing! God still heals, but the gift is not in operation today. At that this gift served as credentials establishing the authority of the Word taught by an individual before the canon was completed. For example, as an apostle, Paul had the gift of healing, which was the proof of his apostleship (Acts 19:11, 12). However, once his authority was established among the churches, the gift of healing was withdrawn. (Cf. Philippians 2:27; 2 Timothy 4:20). (4) Miracles! God still performs miracles! However, the gift to work miracles at will is no longer active. It was abolished as the norm and standard. (5) Faith! Today *"faith comes by hearing..."* the Word of God (Roman 10:17). (6) Discerning of Spirits! The completed word is now the standard by which we discern the spirits.

In I Corinthians chapter twelve the Apostle Paul identifies three types of gifts. There were temporary gifts, permanent gifts and sign gifts. Through the interchange of two different words translated, "*another*", Paul clearly identifies these three types of gifts. There are two different Greek words which are translated "*another*" in I Corinthians chapter twelve verses eight through ten. The word "alloh" means, "another of the same kind". The word "hetero" means, "another of a different kind".

I Corinthians 12:8-10

*"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another (alloh - another of the same kind) is given the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.*

*To another (heteroh - another of a different kind) faith by the same Spirit; to another (alloh - another of this same kind) the -gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*

*To another (alloh- another of this same kind) working of miracles; to another (alloh - another of this same kind) discerning of spirits; to another (heteroh - another of a different kind) divers kinds of tongues; to another (alloh - another of this same kind) interpretation of tongues."*

The first category of gifts listed here are gifts which are based on the Word (Word of Wisdom and Word of Knowledge). There is a distinction in scripture between and the gift of the Word of Wisdom (the unique ability to understand the application of the Word of God to one's circumstances or situation) and wisdom itself which all believers can ask for (James 1:5-6). There is also a distinction between the gift of Knowledge (the unique ability to receive direct revelation of knowledge - doctrine) and the gift of the Word of Knowledge (the unique ability to categorize doctrine in the Word). (It should be noted that in addition to the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge gifts in this first category also include Administration, Teaching, Exhortation, Service, Mercy, Helps, and Giving.)

Gifts of the second category were replaced as the norm and standard by the completed Bible. Those replaced by the completed canon of scripture are Knowledge, Faith, Gifts of Healing, Workers of Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits.

The third category of gifts were Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues. These ceased of themselves when the event of which they were a sign, the dispersal of the Jews, occurred in 70 A.D.

There is another passage of scripture we need to examine. Turn to II Thessalonians 2, where we will see something which is to occur in the Tribulation.

## II THESSALONIANS 2:7-11

Verse 7: *"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...."* Iniquity is a Satanic type of evil, not the ordinary evil which emanates from the old sin nature. Any evil that comes from the old sin nature is called carnality or sin. This can include everything from hatred or murder to gossip, the ordinary run of sin. However, Satanic evil is always counterfeit. An example of Satanic evil is found in I Corinthians 10:21 where Satan has a counterfeit communion table. Satan's evil is being restrained in this age. It is not allowed to be rampant today, but it will not be restrained in the Tribulation. That is why the Tribulation will be the worst period that the world has ever known. *"The mystery of iniquity doth already work."* In other words, some of this evil is in its mystery form today; it is operational, but it is restrained by the Church and the Holy Spirit who in-dwells the Church. *"Only he who now letteth (restrains), will let (restrain) until he be taken out of the way."* This refers, not to the Holy Spirit per se, but to the Holy Spirit working in the church through the in-dwelling and filling of the Spirit. Since there are ministries of the Holy Spirit which continue in the Tribulation, this refers to the universal in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit working through Spirit-filled individuals which act as a restraint upon this iniquity.

Verse 8: *"And then shall that wicked (one) be revealed"* (this is the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire in the Tribulation who will be in-dwelt by Satan), *"whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming"* (this is fulfilled in Revelation 19:15, 20).

Verse 9: *"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan...."* This great dictator of the Tribulation will be the product of Satanic evil. *"...with (a preposition of association) all power and signs and lying wonders."* Associated with Satan will be the *"...power of signs and lying wonders."* This phrase refers to the counterfeit gift of healing which is accomplished by the in-dwelling and then the removal of demons in an unbeliever. *"Lying wonders"* is achieved by ventriloquist demons, one of the category of demons who actually in-dwell unbelievers and control their vocal cords. thus, there will be the false use of tongues in the Tribulation.

Verse 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."* In other words, the purpose of these miracles in the future will be to keep people from accepting Christ. The Satanic counterfeit of the gifts of tongues and healing are going to be used in the Tribulation by Satan to keep people from accepting Christ as Savior.

Verse 11: *"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that (a purpose clause) they should believe a lie."* How will they do this? What are the mechanics of it? Turn back to Isaiah, Chapter eight, which is one of several passages in Isaiah which shows us the mechanics. In verse eighteen Isaiah gives the true signs; in verse nineteen, the false signs. Verse 18: *"Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in Mount*

*Zion.*" Isaiah says, "my children are to you for signs. Isaiah had two sons. One was named Maher-shalal-hash-baz, which means "haste ye haste ye to the spoil" a sign of the coming judgment. His second son was named Shear-jashub, which means "a remnant shall return," In other words, there was a judgment coming but a remnant would return (this was true in the Babylonian captivity and will be true in the return of our Lord at the "second advent"). Now the false sign in verse 19: *"And when they shall say unto you..."*, Isaiah in this context is warning the people about certain aspects of demonism and of the ministerial council of that day which was advising the people to go to demon possessed individuals. *"And when they (the ministerial association) shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits . . ."* The phrase *"familiar spirits"* is one short Hebrew word - "Ob" (pronounced Ahv). When this word was translated into the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament), it was translated by the Greek word "Engastramuthos." "Engastramuthos" and "Ob" refer to the same thing, a ventriloquist demon, a fallen angel who controls the vocal cords. These ventriloquist demons are mentioned in various places in the Bible. For example, in Revelation 16:13, 14, ventriloquist demons control what is said by the rulers of the earth. A ventriloquist demon talked with Jesus Christ. In Mark 5, Jesus and His disciples had just crossed the Sea of Galilee and were disembarking from the ship in Gadarea, when a man possessed of demons fell down before the Lord. The demon possessed man was unable to speak because the "Engastramuthos" demon had control of his vocal cords. Jesus began to talk to the "Engastramuthos" demon. He asked, *"Who are you?"* He knew, but He wanted the people to understand the situation. The one who answered said, *"My name is Legion."* This was not the name of the man, but of the "Engastramuthos" demon. He said, *"My name is Legion: for we are many."* He was the spokesman for 2,000 demons (a legion) dwelling within this man, and he was in control of the man's vocal cords. During the course of the conversation Jesus said, *"Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit"* (Mark 5:8). The "Engastramuthos" demon answered, *"If we come out, let us go into those pigs nearby."* Over by the mountains was a herd of pigs, over 1800 of them, for the Jews were bootlegging swine flesh. So Jesus gave permission for the "Engastramuthos" demon and his cohorts to leave this man and enter the pigs nearby. The pigs became violent and ran into the sea. Now the man could not speak until he was in his right mind (verse 15), that is, until he was out from under the control of the demon. There are many interesting modern-day illustrations of this phenomenon. One of the best documented is the case of Helene Smith in Switzerland who spoke in a very ancient language of India. At first everyone thought she had the gift of tongues, particularly when they found out that she was actually speaking an ancient language. But it proved to be a demon possession case, for when the demon would leave her she knew nothing of what had happened. This is only one of many cases of this type of thing.

Now look back at Isaiah 8:19: *Seek unto them that have familiar spirits (the "Ob") and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter . . .* " Who in this verse has an "Ob?" First of all, a wizard is a man who is demon possessed. A witch is a woman who is demon possessed. This was the original use of these two words. They have been misused, of course. Now this wizard does two things: he peeps, which is a high falsetto sound, and he mutters, which is a deep hollow tone, indicating that these wizards had two types of "Engastramuthos" demons. A missionary once told about an Indian in Arizona who was

demon possessed. Ordinarily this Indian had a very deep voice, but when he was demon possessed, he said very strange things and spoke in a high falsetto voice, which actually was not his voice at all. This is what is referred to here as "peeping." When these "Engastramuthos" demons "muttered" with a deep, hollow sound, they could throw their voices so that they sounded as if they were coming out of the ground. The Bible has many cases on record where demons came in and took control of the vocal cords of both animals and people, and they actually spoke in some foreign language. A number of years ago I did some counseling with several people who were demon possessed. In some of the cases the demon spoke separately from the person in a deep voice and I was able to converse with the possessed person and the demon in a three-way conversation. In other instances the demon spoke through the voice (somewhat distorted) of the possessed person in a high peeping sound. This is what Satan will use in the Tribulation to deceive many and to bring about that situation which is described in 2 Thessalonians 2:12 as "*strong delusion.*" It is important to note that the strong delusion is given as a result of the refusal to believe as is cited in II Thessalonians 2:10 "*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***" It is because of their unbelief that God sends the strong delusion mentioned in verse eleven.

We have seen two prophecies regarding tongues. The first prophecy, Isaiah 28:11-12, has to do with the curse which would come upon Israel whereby the Jews would be evangelized in Gentile languages. The second prophecy, II Thessalonians 2:10, concerns the son of perdition, or the wicked one, who, empowered by Satan, would be able to speak in tongues. One is a true sign which has been fulfilled; the other, a false sign, has not yet been fulfilled, but is already apparent today.

Isaiah 28:11 is quoted in I Corinthians 14:21, at the conclusion of a tongues passage. The subject actually begins in I Corinthians 14:19, where Paul says, "*Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that (by my voice) I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue*" (foreign language). The word "*unknown*" is in italics, and is not found in the original text. Ten thousand words in a foreign language that you do not know will not reach anyone. It is what I can teach you in your language that is important. Then Paul warns in verse 20: "*Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.*" The only way in which believers are to be like children is in malice. Children usually do not hold grudges, and so forth. But in understanding of doctrine we are to be men.

Verse 21: "*In the law (which has reference to the entire Old Testament) it is written (now this is a quotation from Isaiah 28:11), with men. . . .*" (note that "*men*" is italicized in your Bible and is not found in the original). It should be, "With other lips and with other languages will I speak unto this people (Israel); and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord." Verse 22: "*Wherefore tongues are for a sign, ....*" A sign to whom? A sign to the Jews. They are "*for a sign, not to them that believe ....*" The Jews who are saved are in the body of Christ and do not need it, for they are no longer Jews. "*...but to them that believe not....*" The remainder of the verse shows that the purpose of

prophesying was to inform believers and not unbelievers. The quotation of Isaiah 28:11 is to show that the gift of tongues as it was used for some 40 years after Pentecost was a fulfillment of prophecy, but once the dispersal of the Jews occurred, it was to cease.

Most of us know someone who has had an experience identified as "speaking in tongues". What about them? I have family members which are confirmed believers that the modern movement is legitimate because of their own personal experiences. Some of my relatives hold the position that if you do not speak in tongues you are not saved. They cite Mark 16:17 as the proof passage. However, any study of the ancient manuscripts will quickly reveal that the sixteenth chapter of Mark ends at verse nine in the most respected of the ancient manuscripts. If Mark 16:17 is a valid scripture it is in conflict with I Corinthians 12:30 which declares that all believers do not speak in tongues.

There are others who hold that there are two types of tongues in the New Testament. The type we have cited - a known foreign language that is unknown to the speaker and another type which is a Heavenly language which is given to the believer in order for him to pray and praise God. The proof passage often cited for this position is I Corinthians chapter thirteen where Paul says, *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...."* It is important to note that the word translated *"Though"* is the Greek word "ean" which is a third class conditional clause using the debaters technique. He is saying, "Let's suppose for the sake of our discussion that I spoke all the languages of men and even of angels, if I didn't have love I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal." Paul would have used the first class conditional clause "ehn" had he wanted to say he did speak the language of angels. He used that form repeatedly in his writings. But, here, he used the third class debaters technique for supposition.

Another proof passage which is frequently cited is I Corinthians 14:14-15 which states, *"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."* Paul is not speaking of praying and singing with the Spirit at one time and praying and singing with his understanding at another time. No. The grammar shows that as he prays and sings with the spirit he will do it with understanding in order that others might bless with the spirit.

Yet another proof passage often cited for a Heavenly language is Romans 8:26 which states, *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered."* You will notice that the groanings by the Spirit are not uttered. If they are not uttered this cannot be praying in a Heavenly language. In light of biblical study I have to conclude that the gifts of Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues ceased in 70 A.D. Therefore we must look elsewhere for an explanation concerning the modern day movement.

There are many fine, dedicated, and well meaning Christians which are involved in this modern movement. However, it is without biblical validity. Wherever you find this

so-called tongues experience today, it is one of three things: at best, it is a psychological reaction or ecstatic activity. I have participated in worship services which became very emotional and have seen individuals speak in ecstatic utterances.

The second thing to note is that it can be taught. There are many churches today that hold classes or furnish tapes to help their followers learn to speak in tongues. I have one in which the preacher says, "a new believer has to learn to speak in spiritual language in the same one as a child he had to learn to speak in a physical language." He then instructs his followers to simply start putting syllables together which do not form known words. This is unbiblical and encourages the believer to establish emotionalism as his worship foundation instead establishing a firm foundation of Bible doctrine. In I Corinthians 14:4 Paul warned that even while tongues was still a valid gift it edified self instead of the church.

At worst, speaking in "tongues" can be demon possession. For the "*mystery of lawlessness*" is already at work (II Thessalonians 2:7). In I Timothy 4:1 we are warned to beware of the doctrine of demons. A part of the doctrines of demons is the Satanic operation in the tongues movement which we see today.

The practice of tongues today has had three unfortunate results; (1) It leads believers into a "feeling" based relationship with God and prevents real spiritual growth and production which come from the study and application of doctrine; (2) It has side tracked a budding twentieth century spiritual revival from doctrinal study and stability into ecstatic and emotional experience; (3) It has created a schism in the body of Christ today just as it did in Corinth during the first century.

While pastoring in Southern California I questioned a group of people who claimed to speak in tongues, on their knowledge of salvation. Every one of them insisted that to be saved five or six steps were necessary. All had erroneous beliefs concerning the issue of the Gospel, indicating once again that confusion regarding salvation is a part of the whole pattern. It keeps the believer from finding Christ as Savior because the issue is false; it keeps the believer from getting into doctrine, for he becomes more interested in ecstatic experience than in learning the Word. We must be warned about this thing today. We must understand the falsity of it, that it is dangerous because it is not of God.

If there is no bona fide gift of tongues in our day why do people who are born again accept it? Because the church has failed in the principle of Isaiah 28:9, 10, teaching "*line upon line, precept upon precept.*" Believers have failed to learn doctrine, and when any believer does not know doctrine he always reverts to a system of rationalism, ritualism or emotionalism, which is just as Satanic as any system of modernism. Emotionalism has a great appeal today, possibly as a reaction against the ritualism and lack of in-depth biblical teaching of the last generation.

Paul enunciates this danger in II Corinthians 6:11: "*O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you (we are teaching you doctrine), our heart (functioning mind) is enlarged.*" Paul had doctrine in his mind and he taught it, but even though Paul taught them doctrine, they would not listen. Why? Verse 12: "*Ye are not straitened (limited) by us (we are*

teaching you doctrine), *but you are limited by your own bowels,*" or literally, by your own emotional pattern. *"We have not limited you,"* Paul says: "Our mouth is open to teach the Word, our minds are filled with doctrine. We are giving you correct things from God, and therefore you are not limited by us, but you are limited by your own emotional pattern." Emotion, specifically "tongues," in the context of these two epistles, had become their criterion rather than the Word of God or doctrine. The Corinthians would not accept Paul's doctrine, but they strived for the experience of speaking in tongues.

God has made us emotional creatures. He has given us emotion as the appreciator of our soul. But, He never intended for our emotions to be the basis of worship or experience. We need to be careful that we are not led around by our emotions. Beware that your desire for a great emotional experience does not lead you into false doctrine. The attempt to have an ecstatic experience, or the so-called second blessing, is based on ignorance of the Word of God.

Satan not only has a system of tongues today, counterfeiting that which occurred in the first century, but he also has a healing system. Just because these things are being done in the name of the Lord does not mean they are legitimate. Matthew 7:21-23 says, *"Not every one that saith Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* There are many strange phenomena occurring today, leading us to conclude that we are apparently very close to the Rapture of the Church after which these things will be in abundance, since the Holy Spirit will no longer restrain them. Stick with the Word of God, for you will never be limited by the Word. Power is in the Word (Hebrews 4:12) not in experience! Power is in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) not in emotion.

# Appendix B

## *“From Whence Come These Miracles”*

A Biblical Study By

**Troy S. Welch, Th.D., Ph.D.**  
**(805) 278-7040**

### **Introduction:**

There are an increasing number of programs and ministries today which proclaim themselves as ministers endowed with miracle working power. Who are today's faith healers and miracle workers and from whence do they come?

### **I. Abolition of Some Spiritual Gifts:**

According to I Corinthians 13:8-10 the apostolic era gifts were abolished upon completion of The Word of God. This category of gifts is identified in I Corinthians 12:4-10, where three categories of gifts are identified through Paul's usage of two Greek words: Hetero - another of a different kind; and, Allo - another of the same kind.

The second category was comprised of temporary miracle gifts of faith, healings, miracles, prophecy and discerning of spirits (I Corinthians 12:9-10). These gifts were used as the norm and standard for knowing the things of God. They were abolished as the norm and standard when the canon of scripture was completed (I Corinthians 13:8-12).

#### **Look at I Corinthians 13:8-10**

*“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.”*

The word, *“perfect,”* is mistakenly interpreted as a reference to Christ. It is translated from the Greek word, *“teleion.”* It means, complete. It is also in the neuter gender and therefore cannot refer to a person.

Paul said in verse 9 *“..For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.”* All the prophecy and knowledge (doctrine) had not been given when Paul wrote this in

56 A.D. The final prophecy was given in 96 A.D. (Revelation 22:19). So, Paul said they had part of the prophecy and part of the doctrine. He goes on in verse 10 to say, "But when that which is complete is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." When what is complete? What did they have in part in 56 A.D.? Prophecy and doctrine!

The phrases in verse 8: "...*they shall fail...*" (prophesies); and, "...*it shall vanish away...*" (knowledge), are both translated from the Greek words, "**katargethe'sontai**" and "**katargethe'setai.**" The first is plural and the second is singular, they both mean, be abolished as the norm or standard. See? Until the scripture was completed the gift of prophecy was the norm or standard for knowing what God wanted believers to know about the future. Until the scripture was completed the gift of knowledge was the norm or standard for receiving doctrine. However, when all prophecy and doctrine had been given these gifts were abolished as the norm and standard and the Bible became the norm and standard.

The same Greek word, "**katargethe'setai**" is also found in verse 10 where it is translated, "...*shall be done away...*" When the Bible was completed these gifts were abolished, along with the offices of Apostle and Prophet.

**The gifts included in this category include:**

- Prophecy** - Unique ability to foretell future events received by direct revelation
- Faith** - Unique ability to trust God
- Healings** - Unique ability to heal at will
- Miracles** - Unique ability to perform miracles at will
- Knowledge** - Unique ability to receive doctrine by direct revelation
- Discernment of Spirits** - Unique ability to detect truth from error

God is still in the business of healing and miracles, but no longer gives these gifts to be exercised at will, all prophecy was completed in 96 AD with the completion of the book of Revelation (Revelation 22:18-19), Knowledge is now obtained through the Word of God, Faith now comes by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17), Discernment is provided by the Word of God, and Miracles are no longer needed as a means of establishing authority - the Bible establishes that authority.

We must not forget for a single moment that God heals the sick and works in miraculous ways every day. He is the God of Miracles and supernatural activity. But, the gifts to work in this capacity at will are no longer given to men.

## II. The Reality of Present Day Miraculous Phenomena:

Beginning in the late sixties and early seventies there has been a continuing increase in the number of reports of supernatural phenomena.

However, it cannot be denied that there are supernatural manifestations that occur today.

### 1. Unsubstantiated Occurrences:

There has always been and will continue to be unsubstantiated occurrences in the religious world. Because, many of these performers are illusionists and fakes, impostors.

### 2. Verified and Documented Occurrences:

It must be noted, however, that there are some verifiable occurrences of supernatural activity today.

#### A. Some healings have been documented

#### B. People are having unusual experiences

- (1). Breaking into uncontrolled laughter
- (2). Barking like dogs or imitating animal sounds
- (3). Being slain in the spirit (passing out on the floor in a service)
- (4). Speaking ecstatic utterances
- (5). Experiencing dreams
- (6). Other unusual activities and behavior

## III. What Is The Source of These Present Day Miracles?

How do we account for these ‘apparent’ present day miracles?

Before we rush out to embrace these things as being from God we must note carefully the warning of this type of activity in the Bible.

Matthew 7:22-23 says,

22 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

23 *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

*“wonderful works”* (dunameis) = powerful and unusual activity

Noun - thing

Accusative Case - case of limits and boundaries

**Feminine Gender - response  
Plural - more than one**

**This is the same word which is used in reference to the miracles performed by Christ and the apostles in the early Church.**

**It is the same word cited by those who claim these gifts today.**

**Are miracles still being performed today by individuals in the name of Jesus?  
The answer is yes!**

**How? Jesus defined them as, “*ye that work iniquity*”**

**“*work iniquity*” (er-gadzo-menoi) (taen) (anomina)**

**(er-gadzo-menoi) = those who constantly make it a principle to  
be resident workers**

**Participle - principle  
Present Tense - constant action  
Middle Voice - subject participates in the action of being  
Vocative Case - case of address - You!  
Masculine Gender - initiators of the action  
Second Person - You  
Plural - more than one**

**(taen) = the  
Definite Article - specific one  
Accusative Case - limitations and boundaries  
Feminine Gender - response**

**(anomina) = lawless one (Satan)  
Noun - person, place, or thing  
Accusative Case - limitations and boundaries  
Feminine Gender - Response (Satan Too made a response)**

**This lawless one is Satan according to I Thessalonians 2:3 and 7. The feminine gender is used of Satan to show his own rebellion in response to his former position as an angel.**

**Thus, this is translated, “ye resident workers of the lawless one.”**

**Why, would Satan involve others in performing these miracles in the name of Jesus?**

**The answer to that question is, in order to distract believers from the Word of God and tie them into emotionalism and experience in order to prohibit**

**their growth and stability.**

**Isaiah 33:6 says,**

*And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, [and] strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD [is] his treasure.*

**It is clearly evident that Satan has been effective in this technique because the majority of believers are experience and emotionally oriented instead of being oriented in God's Word. As a result, they move from mountain top experiences to the pits of despair. Satan loves that instability because it presents a poor testimony to the unbeliever.**