

## **SPEAKING IN TONGUES HERESY**

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Recently, I met a lady whom I had not seen for 50 years, when we were at school together. We decided to meet up and go out for a meal.

During that conversation, she told me that she had been baptised in the New Testament way by immersions (Romans 6). I was thrilled, but then she went on to tell me how this came about.

She went to a Pentecostal church in Camberwell, London and was constantly told that unless she spoke in tongues she was not saved. She was literally bombarded with this. She was put under unrelenting pressure.

Before any object, I can tell you that this happens frequently in many such churches.

Many Pentecostal and charismatic churches call themselves the Full Gospel churches or preach what they call the Full Gospel. The full Gospel implies that unless you have received the second blessing which is the baptism in/with/of the Holy Spirit evidenced by your speaking in tongues you are not a complete Christian and some add that you are not saved at all.

I have heard this preached in such churches and have tape recordings of such ministry.

This is heresy since it is a belief and doctrine that is contrary to New Testament teaching.

People who believe this and teach it insist or imply, and sometimes strongly, that they are the ones with the truth and that they are superior because they have the second blessing and speak in tongues and those who do not speak in tongues, are inferior.

The apostle Paul asks a rhetoric question, Do all speak in tongues? (1 Corinthians 12. 30). If all spoke in tongues, he would not ask such a question.

Pentecostals and charismatics teach that the second blessing is the Baptism in/with/of the Holy Spirit which enables you to speak in tongues. I have heard this said many times and have tapes of ministry in which this doctrine is proclaimed.

The baptism in/with/of the Holy Spirit brings you into the Body of Christ which happens when you are saved (1 Corinthians 12. 13). The baptism of /with/in the Holy Spirit brings you into the church of Christ upon your conversion.

When I was young and foolish I attended a Pentecostal church and spoke in tongues. Someone got up and interpreted this and a blessing God was to pour out upon this church whereas I had recited the alphabet in Polish!

Another student stood up and spoke in German extolling the beauty of Bavaria. This was interpreted by someone else in the meeting as Mrs Jones, in the church, was going to give her new piano to the Sunday School being so directed by the Holy Spirit. She knew nothing about this and did not want to give up her piano, which she had purchased for her children.

The speaking of tongues is described as a gift but also as a sign. Therefore they can be called sign-gifts. And sign-gifts are not permanent. The gifts that are permanent are faith, hope and charity. And it clearly says that tongues shall cease and prophecies will fail (1 Corinthians 13. 8 and 13)

To add to this heresy there is also the heresy of prophecy in which some Pentecostals and charismatics state that there is new prophecy today which is as valid as what the Bible states. The last book of the Bible warns about those who add to the Bible or take away from it (Revelation 22. 18) and if these charismatic prophecies are as valid as the Bible then they are additions to it.

Mrs Jones to give her new piano to the Sunday School is a prophecy and as valid as Scripture. There are charlatans in the Full Gospel Men's Business association who advocate this teaching. Some have died and gone to Heaven and with a new commission from the Lord Jesus come back to earth with new messages from the Lord Himself. Usually, it is to say that the Lord Jesus confirms all Pentecostal and charismatic teaching and that such-and-such a person in their group is a prophet and must be listened to and obeyed.

On a positive note it must be said that most Pentecostals preach the Gospel but they add to it with their teachings on speaking in tongues.

One famous preacher said that Christianity was Christ plus nothing... that is to refer to His Person, His Work, His will and His teaching.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to draw attention to Christ. He is to guide us into all truth as to what the Lord has taught. With Pentecostal and charismatics emphasis on the Holy Spirit why do they not accept this clear teaching? The Holy Spirit draws attention to Christ and not to Himself.

Incidentally, I am pleased to say that Mrs Jones did not give her piano to the Sunday School and was told to leave the church because she disobeyed the Holy Spirit. She is now happy in another fellowship which is not Pentecostal or charismatic.

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