

**THE
CHARISMATIC
MOVEMENT**

A Biblical Approach

How to Study the Bible Series

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MOVEMENT**

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**By
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Preface

Around 1900 in America, a theology emerged based on miracles, signs and healing. This theology is commonly referred to as the “Charismatic movement” or the “Pentecostal movement”. This book is intended to analyze this movement in light of biblical truth.

By writing this, I have no desire to stir up a great controversy or enter into a series of debates on this subject. This book is written for the benefit of my people - those whom God has given me to minister to in my local church. My purpose is to teach them the word of God.

At the same time, I am making this available to anyone outside my ministry also. For you, it is intended to be a clear statement of truth in answer to questions you may have about this subject. If you have a sincere heart and desire the truth, no matter how much it may hurt - then by all means, help yourself - this is for you. However, if your intention is to try to engage in a debate about the Charismatic movement, or get ammunition for your preconceived beliefs, don't waste your time. I am not interested in debates. I am only interested in proclaiming the truth to the flock over which God has given me responsibility. If, in the process of feeding my sheep, I can be a blessing to others also, praise the Lord.

There is one more thing I have to clarify. Unfortunately, because of the timing of this book, many people will think I am riding piggy-back off the recent PTL scandal. I couldn't care less what happened with the PTL Club. When you know the Bible, those things don't surprise you. I am not writing about the Charismatic movement to magnify the fallacies of the PTL Club, or Jimmy Swaggart, or Oral Roberts, or Jim and Tammy Bakker, or any other personality in this group. I am not interested in personalities or organizations. I am only interested in truth. I have taught this material for years, long before the PTL scandal took place. I have not changed my position on the Charismatic movement since then. What you will read here has been part of my public teaching ever since I entered the ministry about fifteen years ago. We will not deal much with the Bakkers or any other personality or organization. Instead, we will deal with the master mind behind those things, Satan, in his battle against the truth of God.

The scripture quotations in this book will be from the **King James 1611 Authorized Version**. It is the word of God, and the absolute final authority in my life, my teaching, and in all matters of faith and practice in this universe.

I trust this work will be guided by the Holy Spirit of God, and that He will enlighten your spiritual understanding as you read this. May all the honor and glory go to my Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Robert D. Alexander, Pastor

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Chapter 1

The Foundation

There are two verses in the gospel of John which will form the foundation of this study; and I want to point out a very significant fact - both verses were spoken directly by the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever controversy anyone may have with this subject will have to be taken up with Him.

The first of these verses is found in John chapter 17, verse 17:

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

This verse says that the word of God separates, it sanctifies, it sets apart. The moment anyone takes the position that the Bible is the final authority in this universe, it sets them apart from 99.9% of this world, because the Bible separates. Most people think the word “sanctification” means holiness or perfection. Sanctification means simply to set apart. There is nothing in this world that will set you apart more than the word of God, because that Book is truth. Jesus Christ Himself said it was so.

The other verse of our foundation is John 7:24:

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

In Christianity today, most people buy things by how they look, and make value judgments in life based on how things appear. The Bible says right there in front of you, in John 7:24, to judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. There is only one righteous judgment found anywhere in the world, it is God's righteous judgment, and God's righteous judgment is preserved for you in the word of God.

John 7:24 tells the Christian **NOT** to look at something and make a value judgment based on how it looks, and yet that is exactly what 99% of God's people do. God's people look at some “religious” thing and if the people all have on suits and ties, use the name of Jesus, talk nicely, and “use” the Bible, they get deceived and drawn into it. They think because someone has the terminology and the dress, and all the paraphernalia we call “Christian”, that God must be in it, but the Lord Jesus Christ commanded us **NOT** to

judge after the appearance, but to **judge righteous judgment**. You must have an absolute standard or you will be in a mess in this world, and that is why most of God's people are confused. That's why the cults have exploded in America, and I include the Charismatic movement in this group. Cults thrive within a nation without an absolute standard. Everything in America is judged and evaluated by feelings, emotions, and appearances; because long ago we kicked out the word of God as our absolute authority. Unfortunately, the people who are most guilty are God's people.

In this book, as in all of my teaching, there will be **one** absolute authority - the **Authorized King James Bible**. With the help of the Holy Spirit of God we will judge the Charismatic movement by the righteous judgment of God's precious word.

Now, I want to be honest with you, some of this will be rough. It will be rough by design, because I deal with things as they are in the light of biblical truth, and as the old expression goes, "the truth hurts". A lot of weird things that I have watched over the years, and could never figure out, suddenly came into focus when I started to view things through my Bible. No doubt some of you will not finish this book because it will offend you, and go against what you have been taught or believe. Some of you will finish this book, but will reject the truth because it cramps your style, but I hope not. I sincerely don't want to purposely offend anyone, but you must understand something, I am not doing this to make friends. I am not interested in a crowd. I am not interested in results. I am interested in the **TRUTH**.

One day I will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ. You can bet I will stay as close to that Book as I can, because I will give an account at the Judgment Seat of Christ on what I taught you about the word of God. You may have a different philosophy of life, that is your privilege. I will stick with the Book, it is the only place I am safe. That Book saved me. That Book gets me through the tough times in my life. That Book feeds me and keeps me, and it if wasn't for that Book I would be in hell; so I will base this study on the word of God.

We have to start somewhere, so let's just jump in with both feet. The basic problem with the Charismatic movement is that it has the curse of God on it. Don't throw this book in the fireplace yet - I will substantiate what I just said from the word of God.

In 2Corinthians 11, verses 1-5, the Bible says this:

Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

Paul was talking to the church at Corinth, and he likened them to a chaste virgin. He said that the church has been espoused to one husband, and that husband is the Lord Jesus Christ. Then he said that he was afraid the devil, through his subtilty, (just like he beguiled Eve) would corrupt the church from the simplicity that is in Christ. He said that to the church at Corinth historically, but it applies to you, me and any saved person in any age. Now look at what he says in verses 4-5:

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

Paul talked about someone preaching another Jesus, another spirit, and another gospel. Paul then discussed that “other gospel” in detail in Galatians 1:7-9:

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

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

*As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, **let him be accursed.***

I am a Bible believer, I take the word of God as it stands and I believe what I read when I find it. It says that anyone preaching another Jesus, another spirit, or another gospel, is cursed of God. The Charismatic movement as a whole does exactly that. Sure, there may be a few isolated Charismatic preachers who deliver enough truth to get people saved; but they are the exception. The mainstream of the Charismatic movement preaches another gospel.

The gospel is defined in the book of 1Corinthians, chapter 15. It is a very interesting epistle. We will deal with many of the verses found there in a later chapter. The church at Corinth had the same problem the modern Charismatic movement has. They were messed up on Bible doctrine and preached another gospel. The church at Corinth was the most messed up bunch of Christians in the Bible, and second only in history to the modern Charismatics.

The gospel is defined in 1Corinthians 15:1-4:

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

That is the gospel, but that is not the gospel preached by the Charismatic movement. Many of them preach what they call “the full gospel”. Others will talk about the “foursquare gospel”, or the “berean gospel”, among others. Those terms and “gospels” are not found in the word of God. They are what Paul referred to as “another gospel”. The gospel in 1Corinthians 15 is the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; it has nothing to do with tongues, healing, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, or with signs and miracles.

I am a Bible believer. Anyone who is preaching another gospel is cursed of God according to the Bible.

As a young Christian, you can get drawn into false doctrine if you don't know the Bible. Just because the person smiles, uses the name of Jesus, carries a Bible and quotes scripture does not guarantee anything. If you don't stay on solid doctrinal ground, you can get fooled into thinking people like that are godly. Don't forget, the devil quoted scripture to Eve to get her to sin. Don't forget, the devil quoted scripture to Jesus Christ in the temptation. Don't forget, Judas was one of the twelve apostles, and preached the kingdom and performed all the signs and miracles that the other eleven did.

There are two kinds of people in the Charismatic movement. I have watched them and dealt with them for twenty years. I have talked to Charismatic preachers for hours at a stretch. They have come in and interrupted my Bible study classes. I have talked to Charismatics one-on-one after they started coming to my class and they have found out what our doctrine is. I have talked with them over and over again, listened to their tapes and read their material for years and years. In all my dealings with them, I have encountered two types of Charismatics.

The first kind of person in the Charismatic movement is an ignorant person. Now don't take that wrong, ignorance is not always necessarily bad. I am ignorant of many things in life, and so are you if you think about it. If you want to see ignorance displayed with a capital “I”, just put me in front of a computer and watch me try to figure the thing out. If my car won't start, my solution is to get a hammer, and if that doesn't work, get a bigger hammer. When it comes to cars, if ignorance is bliss, I am a blizzard.



Just because the person smiles, uses the name of Jesus, carries a Bible and quotes scripture does not guarantee anything.

Ignorance is not always bad, and I don't want anyone to misunderstand what I am saying. When I refer to someone as ignorant, it is a fact.

Most of God's people are ignorant when it comes to the word of God, young Christians especially. When I say they are ignorant, it doesn't mean they are not sincere. Please understand what I am saying. I believe many things go on in sincerity in a young Christian's life, even though it is in ignorance. Paul talks about people with zeal, but not according to knowledge. Paul said they have zeal - they are sincere - but it is not according to knowledge. They are

ignorant of the word of God, so they do things in sincerity that are stupid. I never question anyone's sincerity - I can't - I'm not God; but even if someone is sincere he can be sincerely wrong if what he is involved in is not biblical.

Ignorant people make up the rank and file of Charismatics. The majority of them are confused and have never studied the issues for themselves. For whatever reason, they are content to let the preacher be their final authority! instead of searching the scriptures to see if what they are being taught is so. That is really the only thing I have against them. I feel sorry for them because the devil has "corrupted their minds from the simplicity that is in Christ". For the most part, aside from their laziness, I don't really fault them very much; my problem is with the preachers who taught them.

That brings me to the second group of people. The other kind of person in the Charismatic movement is a dishonest person. This type of Charismatic **HAS** searched out what he has been taught, **HAS** been faced with the light of biblical fact, and has rejected it in favor of his own personal preferences. I have a basic rule in my own personal Bible study. I teach it to my people, and reinforce it constantly:

Always be prepared to change whatever you have been taught or whatever you have believed, when God's word shows you something contrary.

This rule guarantees that the Bible will always be **THE** final authority in your life. I hold this position because I am a Bible believer. I am accused all the time of being narrow-minded, dogmatic, or a dictator; but I am the most open-minded person you will ever meet. There is nothing I wouldn't change in five seconds if you show it to me in the Bible without compromising clear truth. You see, you think I am against tongues, you think I am against Charismatics, but that is not true. If speaking in tongues was for me, I would be like Paul, I would thank God I spoke with tongues more than all of you. I want everything God has for me, but the difference is I won't go by the appearance.

I have nothing against tongues, I have nothing against the Charismatic movement, and I believe God heals. This is not a personal thing. I am writing this book for only one reason - to teach the truth - **primarily** to my people, but also to anyone else who wants it. I am trying to get you to not judge after the appearance of something, but to judge by righteous judgment.

Now when I say these people are dishonest, I mean in the biblical sense of the word. Biblical dishonesty is not just true of the Charismatic movement, it is true of any system with a pet doctrine which has been exalted above what the word of God says. When anyone says, "I don't care what the Bible says, I still believe...", that person is dishonest with God. They have stared the truth of God in the face and rejected it because they don't like it. That is the case with most Charismatic preachers, and that is where I take issue with the Charismatic movement. I have more respect for a drunken bum or a bank robber than I do for a dishonest preacher or dishonest teacher of God's word. There are four basic characteristics of the Charismatic movement which you must remember if you intend to understand the truth.

The first characteristic of a Charismatic is a total and complete disregard for the authority of the word of God. Their authority is their feelings and their experiences. A Charismatic's "experience" is more important than what the word of God says. I have dealt with scores of people whom I have shown in the word of God that tongues were not for this age, who blinked at me like a frog in a hailstorm, and said, "But you can't deny my experience". That's true - I cannot deny anyone's experience, but my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ commanded me to judge those experiences by a righteous judgment. Your experience is nothing alongside that book. My experience or personal preference is absolutely meaningless when compared with what God said.

Look at what Peter said about his experiences in 2Peter 1:16-18:

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

Peter is recounting his experience from Matthew, Chapter 17, on the Mount of Transfiguration. In that experience he saw literally, with his eyes, the glorified form of the Lord Jesus Christ, and heard literally, with his ears, the very voice of God the Father. Talk about an experience! That is a greater experience than any Charismatic has ever had.

Yet, look at what he said about that experience in the rest of the chapter, verses 19-21:

*We have also a **MORE SURE WORD** of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Peter said the Bible was more authoritative than the audible voice of God. If God Himself appeared to me, (which He hasn't, and won't, but if He did) and spoke to me directly, (and I knew it was God and not the devil) and He gave me instruction directly through His audible voice and literal physical appearance, I would say, "That's fine, Lord, but what saith the scripture?" I am a Bible believer. Maybe you have a problem with that. If you do, I suggest you pray about it, and get your nose in the Book, and maybe God will reveal the truth to you through His word.

Charismatics judge the word of God in light of their experiences. A true Bible believer judges all experiences - his own and others - by an infallible righteous judgment, the word of God.

The second characteristic of these people is that no Charismatic is a serious Bible student. They don't know the Bible. I've never met a Charismatic in my life, ignorant or dishonest, who knew more than 20 or 30

verses of scripture. Their knowledge of the Bible is very superficial, just enough to let them hang on to their false doctrine. The reason for this is that they are taught all their lives not to question anything; instead they are taught to build what they believe upon their feelings and their experiences. I am a Bible believer. I go by the Book. I go by an absolute infallible standard - the word of God. No Charismatic I have ever met was a serious Bible student. 2Timothy 2:15 says:

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **RIGHTLY DIVIDING** the word of truth.*

That is the premier verse in the Bible telling you how to study, and it says you have to **WORK** to get the Bible down. It has nothing to do with experiences or feelings. Also, that verse says there are proper divisions to the word of God. If you don't put those divisions in the right place, you are in trouble. If you don't rightly divide the word of truth, you wrongly divide it. It is as simple as that. I have never met a Charismatic who had any concept of the proper divisions in the Bible, especially in the book of Acts.

Let me show you what I mean when I say no Charismatic is a serious Bible student. I didn't say they weren't sincere, some of them are. I didn't say they weren't honest and searching for the truth, some of them are. I just said when it comes to the Bible they are like Catholics. They buy whatever their leaders tell them without checking it out for themselves. If an honest Catholic gets saved and starts reading the Bible, he will leave the Catholic church. If an honest Charismatic begins reading and studying the Bible, he will find out some of the stuff he is being told isn't real, and he will get out. Charismatics try to convince people that everyone in the Bible spoke in tongues, but there are only three instances of tongues in the Bible, all in the book of Acts. You ask, "What about 1Corinthians 14?" Paul was trying to straighten out a bunch of messed up people; it never mentioned a specific incident of tongues. 1Corinthians 14 is what **NOT** to do. If I was a Charismatic, I would avoid that chapter like a plague.

When it comes to tongues in the rest of the New Testament - silence. The book of Romans is the greatest book in the New Testament on Christian doctrine. Wouldn't you think in all that treatise that Paul would mention tongues if it was so important? Romans deals with every doctrine and every rule of Christian conduct from A to Z, and never says a word about tongues.

Why? Romans is written to a Gentile church. Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians are written to Gentile churches. Tongues are a sign to the Jews. The Jews require a sign, **NOT** the Gentiles. The church was **NEVER** told to look for a sign, the church was told to look for a Saviour.

You better get it straight. That is a division so basic my ten year old can understand it. Yet no Charismatic I have ever met, or heard of, could see that truth because they just simply don't know the Bible.

The third characteristic of the Charismatic movement is a total ignorance of history. I have never met a Charismatic who understood the basic fundamental precepts of church history. One of the major problems with Christianity today is an ignorance of its historical roots. If you don't know where you have come from, you don't know where you are going. If you don't know where your roots are as a Christian, don't tell me you know where you are headed. And if you don't know where you have been and where you are going, don't insult my intelligence by telling me you know where you are now. The problem with most of God's people is that they have no moorings.

I will spend a little time here to detail what I mean. Let me quote from a little book I sent away for, which is a doctrinal statement on the Assemblies of God - one of the largest Charismatic denominations. This will demonstrate the Charismatic ignorance of history through their own writings.

“People, this is the story of the Assemblies of God movement. Some fifteen million people worship in Assembly of God churches around the world.”

“The Assemblies of God are people who believe in the God of the Bible.”

That's great. The devil believes in the God of the Bible - read James 2:19. I believe the Bible is the word of God. There is a difference. They go on to say:

“There are a lot of statistics we believe reflect God's blessing. For example, the Assemblies of God is the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world.”

Wait a minute, Pentecost is not a denomination. The Bible says Pentecost is an Old Testament feast given to the Jews. I am a Bible believer, remember?

Now here is where we see their historical basis.

“You may be wondering where we came from, and you will be glad to know we have been around awhile. The Assemblies of God has its roots in the religious revival that began in the late 1800's.”

That's great, they have been around “awhile”, a whopping 100 years. I would be embarrassed to print that. Bible Christianity has been around for almost 2,000 years. Let's read on:

“The Assemblies of God had its roots in a religious revival that began in the late 1800's and swept into this century with widespread repetition of biblical, spiritual experiences. During that time, many Christians in the United States and other parts of the world began to feel a need for more of God's power operating in their lives. Individually and in groups they began earnestly to pray, and to seek to conform their commitments and experiences to what they believed was the New Testament pattern. In response the Holy Spirit came on large numbers of them, prompting the joyous, spontaneous worship and an intense desire to spread the gospel.”

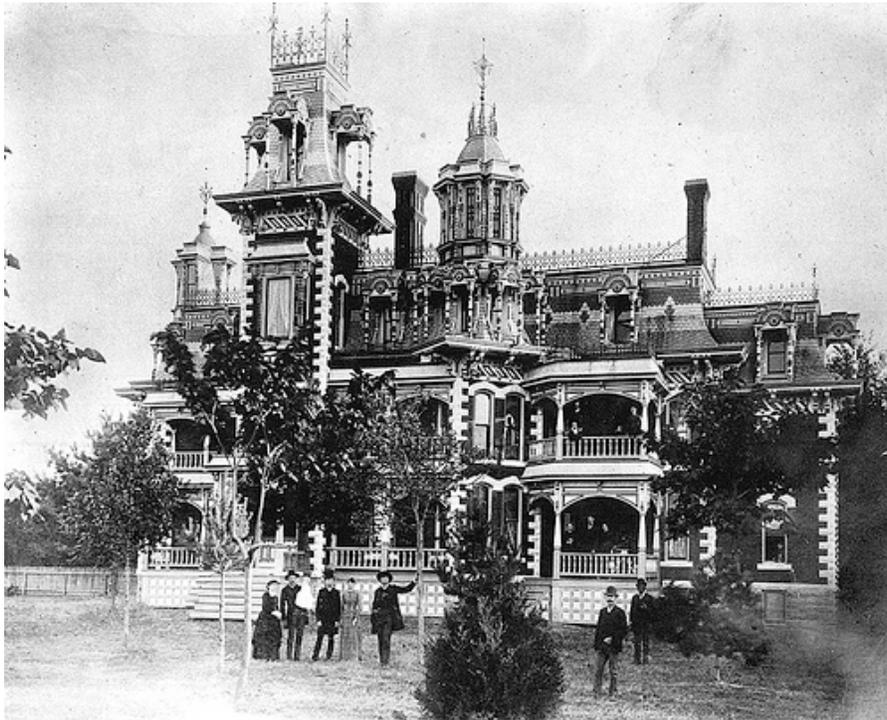
Hang on. What did we say the gospel was? The death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ - according to the scriptures. Let's see what gospel the Assemblies of God are going to spread.

“As in the book of Acts, this experience called the Baptism in the Holy Spirit [there is his gospel] was universally acclaimed by speaking in unknown languages. It is associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Jewish holiday [it wasn't a holiday, it was a **FEAST**] of Pentecost in Acts 2, and participants in the movement [here it comes] were called Pentecostals.”

I want to see that in Acts 2. Someone please show me what verse in Acts chapter 2 defines the participants as “Pentecostals”. I will give you a million dollars for it, that should be incentive enough. Show me.

Let's look at some more of their “history”:

“The beginning of the modern Pentecostal revival is generally traced to a prayer meeting at Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas on January 1, 1901. While many others had spoken in tongues previously during almost every period of spiritual revival. [Proof? None. They just tossed that statement out and expected you to believe it without any evidence. A dishonest Charismatic printed that, and ignorant Charismatics believe it.] Most researchers agree that it was here that the recipients of the experience through the study of the scriptures, came to believe speaking in tongues is the biblical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.”



Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas

Well I am sorry, I misunderstood, I thought the Bible said it was for a sign and the Jews looked for a sign. I am not making this up, I am taking it from their text.

“The revival spread rapidly to Missouri, and to Texas, then to California and elsewhere. A three year revival meeting at the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles attracted believers from across the nation, overseas, and spread as a springboard into the Pentecostal mission around the world.”



The Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles

The only thing this rascal doesn't tell you is that revival at the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles started with a woman. He just happened to leave that out to protect their credibility. He didn't tell you about the leader of that "Mission", Amy Semple McPherson, who had some real problems. He did not explain why this "revival" started with a woman - when you couldn't find a woman anywhere in the New Testament that God used in a pastoral ministry. 1st and 2nd Timothy says a pastor is always to be a man.

If you are a Charismatic, your movement is a lot like the Church of England. You don't know your own history. Recently I was watching a news documentary on the Church of England. They were going through all of this Holy Grail stuff, taking their objects of worship and bowing down to them. They were all making a big to-do, (including the King, and the Queen, and Prince Charles and Diana) and as I sat there, I started laughing so hard I fell down on the living room floor. About then, my dog came over and wanted to know what was going on. We both rolled around for awhile until the dog got to laughing. I think the dog spoke in tongues, but I am not sure.

I sat there and watched three million people take a religion seriously. Do you know how it got started? It got started because Henry VIII, who was a Roman Catholic, wanted to dump one of his wives and marry another one.

He went to the Pope, and he said, “Pope, I don't like this one anymore, she is boring. She doesn't want to go on vacations, all she wants to do is sit around the castle and knit. I want to divorce her, and I want to marry Anne Boleyn. You are the only one who can give divorces, so why don't you give me a divorce so I can marry the one I want.”

So the Pope said, “Well, let me think, who are you married to now?”

Henry said, “Catherine of Spain.”

So the Pope said, “We can't do that. If you dump Catherine of Spain, and marry someone else, then Phillip of Spain will get on my back for giving that divorce. I can't afford to lose my stranglehold on Spain. They are a good Catholic country, so you can't have the divorce.”

So Henry went back to England, lip down on the floor, because he can't marry his beloved Anne. He was moping around the castle, bumping into things a lot and not eating. Finally, one of his lords came in and said, “What is wrong with you king, you look down in the mouth. What aileth thee?”

The king looked up and said, “I am in love with the most beautiful woman in the world and I can't have her.”

The lord says, “You can't have her and you are the king? Don't you know it's nice to be the king? How can you let some pompous Pope tell you that you can't marry who you want to; you are the great Henry VIII.”

Henry's blood started boiling. Henry walked back to his room and called the Pope on the phone, got him on the “Hot Line”. He said, “Let me tell you something Popie, I am the king, and it is nice to be the king. You know what? I am going to marry who I want to marry. You can't tell me what to do anymore. Not only that, we are not going to be in the Roman Catholic Church anymore, we are pulling out. We are going to start a new religion - it is going to be called the ah, ah, ah, (what do we call it George?). Yeah, the CHURCH OF ENGLAND! It is going to be called the Church of England, and I am going to be the head.” That started the Church of England, which today is known as the Anglican Church.

Today millions of people in England go to a church that started because some guy wanted to divorce his wife and marry someone else. The real tragedy is that most of them don't even know it. But before you pick up big rocks and throw them, some of you are falling into a religion called the Charismatic movement started by a woman named Amy Semple McPherson, and you don't even know she started it. You have been fooled.

The Charismatic movement started in Topeka, Kansas. It was picked up by Amy baby in the Azusa Street Mission, and by the 1930's and 1940's it was called the "Full Gospel" - because the Charismatics had experienced the speaking in tongues, and the healing, and the apostolic signs. That is where it comes from.

Now here is where a lot of people get fooled. Perhaps you have tried to talk to someone about speaking in tongues, and all the Charismatic junk that goes on, and explain to them that it is not for this age. How many of you have heard them say, "Oh, but Jesus says He is the same, yesterday, today and forever."

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever - great. Show me a Charismatic who believed what they believe in 1700. I want his name, and don't give me Ralph Schwartz in Podunk, Arkansas who can't be found in history - the man your preacher told you believed what you believe. I want to see documented evidence in history of a line of people going back all the way to the apostles, people who did something for God, who believed and practiced the modern Charismatic teachings. I'll show you thousands upon millions who believed what I believe. I will give you one thousand to one. For every one you give me I will give you one thousand who did something for God and simply believed what the Book said.

Show me a Charismatic who did what George Whitfield did. Name one who did what Jonathan Edwards did. Those men, and thousands like them turned the world upside down without speaking in tongues. Several years ago, Jimmy Swaggart said that if you did not have speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of the Holy Ghost you will not go in the rapture of the church. I have that on tape. I am sure **I** am going. I am a little concerned about **him**.

Where was that teaching in history? Show me someone who believed that in 900 A.D., 1000 AD., or 1200 A.D. From 1600 A.D. to 1900 A.D., God literally tore the world apart by the preaching and the teaching of the word of God. It was a time most Charismatics never learned about because they are too busy worrying about their experience. It is called the Philadelphian Church Age, where three-fourths of the world was saved. This age had the greatest missionaries, the greatest preachers, the greatest teachers, and the greatest Bible men this world has ever seen, and not **one** of them spoke in tongues or believed in the apostolic power of healing. Most missionaries like John G. Paton and Adoniram Judson and David Livingstone were medical missionaries. They took the word of God and medicine to help the tribes. Judson buried several wives and children on the mission field serving the Lord Jesus Christ. I guess he didn't have enough faith to heal them, huh? You couldn't find a Charismatic anyplace before 1900 A.D., anywhere in the world. That is why the Assemblies of God are so vague when they say it is commonly believed they found their roots in the later part of the 19th century. They can't trace themselves back any further than that.

For a Charismatic to spout out the verse in Hebrews that says Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever to prove his doctrine is biblical insanity. **He has no yesterday!** That verse talks about Jesus Christ's essential nature and character - not his physical methods of operation. He healed people and dealt with people many different ways when He was on this earth. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever - true in His **NATURE**. Why, there was a time when He was a baby. Is He a baby today? If you go into a Catholic Church today, you will see Him hanging on the cross. Is He still there today? I know of a three day period when He was dead. Is He dead today? If He is, if He did not rise from the dead, what is this whole business of Christianity about? Charismatics never think of those things. They have a total ignorance of history.

The fourth characteristic of this movement is they always use the term “love” as a cop-out when they get backed into a corner.

Let me predict something. I know this is going to happen, because I have watched it happen dozens of times in the last fifteen years. This book will begin making the rounds and getting out into people's hands, and invariably it will be read by some honest young Christian involved in the Charismatic movement. That person will be searching for the truth and this book will

expose the fallacies of their “religion”. He will begin to question what they have been taught. About that time, he will take this book to his pastor and ask some pointed questions, looking for some answers. That sorry, rotten, no-good “pastor” will say something like, “that man doesn't speak in love”, or “that is just a bunch of hate literature”, or some other soft-soaped, limp-wristed, cop-out based on “love”.

Now, if that honest young Christian who is searching for the truth happens to be you, be prepared for that. When you see that, politely excuse yourself, then **RUN**, don't walk, out of his office, and go to the nearest telephone and call me. If you are looking for the truth, I will help you in any way possible. Don't worry about someone accusing me of “stealing” church members. If that so-called “pastor” of yours would feed you properly with the truth of the word of God, I couldn't “steal” you if I wanted to. I have a public standing offer to any church in town - if they can steal anyone from me, they can have them. My job is to feed my sheep, and if I do that properly, no one on the face of this earth can steal one.

A Charismatic who hides behind the cop-out of “love” is a fool. He doesn't even know what love is! He has been so involved in soap operas, and with Playboy and Penthouse, and “As Your Stomach Turns”, he wouldn't know real love if it bit him. The “Hollywood” context of love is all most American Christians know anything about, they have no concept of true biblical love.

True biblical love is defined in the word of God. John 14:15 says:

If ye love me, keep my commandments. 2John 6 says:

And this is love, that ye walk after his commandments...

In Psalm 119:97, David said,

Oh how I love thy law, it is my meditation all the day.

The word “love” has nothing to do with style. It has nothing to do with approach. It has nothing to do with high or low volume in your preaching or with a nice syrupy voice. Love, biblical love, is based on truth, the word of God. When you back a Charismatic up against the wall on his damnable false doctrine, and he knows he has no place to go, the next thing he will say is, “Well you don't have the love of God in your heart.” And he doesn't even understand that the love of God is **TRUTH**, the word of God.

John said in the book of Revelation that the church of Ephesus left their first love. They started loving something else more than they loved God's word. There are a lot of things in this life you can get involved in and love, and a lot of them are okay, a lot of them aren't. But I want to tell you something, if you are a child of God, you had better love that Book more than anything else on the face of this planet. That Book is the only thing in this vile, depraved, godless world with the fingerprints of God on it. Without the Bible, you have no absolute authority in this world upon which to anchor your soul.

A man who says he loves you, and won't teach you the word of God properly is a **LIAR**, (you can quote me on that). I prove my love for my people by investing my life in teaching them the Bible so they can have a standard to help them through the problems in their lives. Don't let anyone hide behind that cop-out of "love". Remember something - when a young man wants to take advantage of a young lady, he tells her he "loves" her. When someone tells you he "loves" you, make him prove it by teaching you the **TRUTH**.

These four characteristics are not only true of Charismatics, they are true of most Baptists. Most Baptists don't know anything about the Bible or history. Consequently, they get messed up in a bunch of other screwball ideas. That is why, although I am a pastor in a Baptist church, I don't necessarily define myself as a Baptist, but rather, as a Bible believing Christian. I take the Bible as my final authority. You will see unmistakable evidence of that in this book. Everything we will talk about will be right out of the word of God, the way it was written, without changing anything. We will not refer to the Greek or the Hebrew one time, but we will just stick with the Book.

Throughout this book we will use these four characteristics of the Charismatic movement as foundational:

- 1) Disregard for the authority of the Word of God
- 2) Lack of scriptural knowledge
- 3) Ignorance of history
- 4) Incorrectly defining the word “**LOVE**” rather than “**TRUTH**”.

Chapter 2

Getting Your Acts Together

It will be necessary in this chapter to take a mini-survey of the book of Acts. The book of Acts is where the doctrinal foundation of the Charismatic movement is built. Charismatic preachers would have you believe that all through the New Testament people are speaking in tongues, and yet, as I mentioned earlier, there are only three places in the Bible where someone speaks with tongues. All three of those places are found in the book of Acts.

For that reason, we need to lay down the building blocks of the book of Acts so you know what is happening. Acts is one of the three booby traps God has placed in the New Testament. When God put the Bible together, He did it in such a way as to confound the wise. Most people think the easiest way to go to Hell is to get AIDS, or to be a drunkard, or a dope addict, but that is not true. That is a second rate way to go to Hell. The classiest way to go to Hell is with a Bible under your arm. The greatest Book in the world to go to Hell with is the word of God, because if you don't take that Book exactly as God wrote it, you are in trouble. If you come to the Bible with your mind made up as to what you want to believe, God will give you a lie to believe right from the Bible, if that is what you want. If you don't believe me, read Ezekiel 14:4, 2Thessalonians 2:11 and Isaiah 29:13.

As a result, God has placed in the Bible some snares and pitfalls for dishonest people who do not want to believe what the word of God says. When a dishonest person comes to the word of God with a preconceived idea, God has absolutely no problem giving that person a lie to believe if they want to believe one. Most of the time, that sends the person straight to Hell.



God has placed in the Bible snares and pitfalls for dishonest people who do not want to believe what the Word of God says.

There are three books in the Bible you must be careful in: Matthew, Acts and Hebrews. Here's why.

The book of Matthew is the first book recorded in the New Testament. Matthew is a transitional book; it is a bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Acts is also a transitional book, bringing you from the Jew to the Gentile, and from the nation of Israel to the Church. We will see that in greater detail.

Hebrews is the third bone-crushing, jaw-breaking book of the Bible. It is another transitional book that transitions from the Church back to the Jew.

Those three books, Matthew, Acts and Hebrews, form the foundation for every heresy taught today. Every heresy in circulation, whether it be losing your salvation, tongues, healing, stealing the promises given to Israel (like Garner Ted Armstrong does), baptismal regeneration, or any heresy has its roots in one or all of those three books. You name the church, you name the

denomination, you name the heresy, and I will trace that heresy to one of those three books - Matthew, Acts or Hebrews. Those three books are dangerous. I didn't say there was anything wrong with them - they are just as much the word of God as any other book. All I said was that all heresy comes from those three books.

Building your foundational doctrine in Matthew, Acts or Hebrews is like trying to build a twenty-story skyscraper with cardboard boxes for a foundation. It won't work. Those books are not foundational books for doctrine. In those three books the doctrinal teaching is going through a change. They are unlike any other books in the Bible in that aspect. The doctrinal teaching in Ephesians, Joshua, Timothy, or any other book, is consistent throughout the book; but not these three. **NEVER** base a doctrine in Matthew, Acts, or Hebrews.

Now let's look at the book of Acts for a moment. Acts is unquestionably the most important book in the Bible for a Christian to understand properly.

The book of Acts makes two primary transitions, first from the nation of Israel to the Church, and second from God dealing with the Jews to God dealing with Gentiles. The book of Acts is not hard to understand once you get that fact firmly planted in your mind. Acts is a historical book. Its primary purpose is to give you a historical account of those transitions. The name of the book should tell you that. It is a record of the specific **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**. It is a history book - first and foremost.

One of the most predominant characteristics of the word of God is its consistency. The Bible, as a whole, is the most consistent thing on the face of this earth. Yet, the book of Acts is characterized by inconsistency. The only consistent thing about the book of Acts is its inconsistency. One time, the Holy Ghost comes and some people speak in tongues. Another time the Holy Ghost comes on people and they don't speak in tongues. Someone gets hands laid on him and he speaks in tongues. Another time, someone has hands laid on him without speaking in tongues. In another place, some people speak in tongues without anything beforehand, they just blurt out right in the middle of a message. Some people are baptized in the name of the Lord, others in the name of Jesus Christ, others in the name of the Lord Jesus. You can't pin anything down doctrinally in Acts, because it is a transitional book.

How do we handle the book of Acts? Since it is part of scripture, what is its purpose? Doesn't 2Timothy say that **ALL** scripture is profitable for doctrine? How can I be sure I am doctrinally straight in Acts?

I'm glad you asked.

The single most important thing to understand about the book of Acts is that it is a **HISTORICAL** account of the early church. Before **any verse** in Acts can be understood doctrinally, it must be understood in its proper historical context. If you can grasp that concept, you can handle the book of Acts.

Let me give you a historical survey of the book of Acts. Then, as we come through the major doctrinal study of the Charismatic movement, you will be able to understand what some of their problems were, and where they got off the track. The chart on page 36 will summarize this historical survey.

Acts 1:1 - Acts 1:8

The book begins with an introduction, stating its central theme. That theme is detailed in the questions asked in Acts 1:6, "Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" That issue is the pivot of the book of Acts. The apostles wanted to know if the literal visible reign of Jesus Christ would happen at that time, and that question was not answered until chapter 7.

Acts 1:9 - Acts 1:26

This section deals with the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ and the events leading up to the coming of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost. The only people in this scene are Jewish apostles and their followers. There are no "Christians" present.

Acts Chapter 2

Chapter 2 tells the story of the coming of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost. That was a unique, one-time experience, never to be repeated. The Holy Ghost came to indwell believers for the first time. This is obvious, but the Holy Ghost can only come for the first time once. I say that for a reason. It is imperative that you understand this event happened only once.

In chapter 2, the entire focus is Jewish. Jewish apostles preach to Jewish people about crucifying their Jewish Messiah in Jerusalem. The tongues spoken are for a sign to the Jews in Jerusalem.

Acts Chapters 3 thru 6

These four chapters give the history of the early church in Jerusalem as it begins to grow. Again, the focus is Jewish. Jewish apostles preach to Jewish converts in Jerusalem. The messages preached are second coming messages. The church is a communistic congregation waiting for their Messiah to return.

Acts Chapter 7

This is Stephen's famous message. Acts 7 is the most important chapter in the book. It answers the theme question in Acts 1:6. Up until this time, the literal Jewish Kingdom could have been restored had the national leaders accepted the preaching. They did not, so the answer to the question in Acts 1:6 became **NO**.

Stephen preached an Old Testament message about the second coming of Christ. He made no reference to trusting Jesus as your Saviour. Everything up to this point in the entire book is Jewish. Only after this final rejection of Jesus Christ did the gospel begin going to the Gentiles on a large scale. At this point in time historically, not one word of the New Testament had been written. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles was unsaved. There was no revelation given to anyone about the Church Age. The entire activity was Jewish, and all was in preparation for the second coming of Christ.

Acts Chapters 8 thru 9

These two chapters begin the transition from a Jewish ministry to a Gentile ministry. The first character introduced is Saul, who later became the apostle to the Gentiles. In Acts 8:5, the gospel is preached in Samaria - half Gentile. In Acts 8:37 an Ethiopian Eunuch gets saved - a Gentile. In Acts 9:15, Gentiles are listed first. The transition begins.

Acts 10:1 - Acts 11:18

Peter opens the door of the gospel to the Gentiles through the conversion of Cornelius, a Roman soldier. It is revealed to Peter in a vision that Gentiles are clean. The tongues spoken are a sign to Peter and his men (Jews) that the Gentiles received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 11:19 - Acts 11:30

The model New Testament Church at Antioch of Syria (Gentile) is introduced. It was begun by the first true cross-cultural missionaries, some Jews from the dispersion of Acts Chapter 8. The term “Christian” appears for the first time in the Bible in Acts 11:26.

Acts Chapter 12

The final accounts of Peter's ministry are given in this chapter, and the book is effectively closed on the Jews at this point.

Acts Chapter 13 thru 14

The first missionary trip in the new Testament is recorded, led by Paul and Barnabus, into Gentile territory. The Jews rejected the Message, and the Gentiles accepted it.

Acts 15:1 - Acts 15:29

The council at Jerusalem settles the issue of grace versus law. They decide that salvation is by grace through faith.

Acts 15:30 - Acts 18:22

This passage gives the account of Paul's second missionary trip, the first one with Silas. The time frame is roughly 50 - 53 A.D. The first epistles of Paul were written around this time.

Acts 18:23 - Acts 20:38

This is Paul's third missionary trip into Asia Minor and Macedonia, Gentile territory. This trip ends with Paul's arrest in Jerusalem.

Acts Chapters 21 thru 28

The book of Acts concludes with the accounts of Paul's trip to Jerusalem, his arrest and imprisonment, and his subsequent trip to Rome where his ministry ends with his death. The book then fades into Church History.

Historical Survey of the New Testament

Chapter	Approx. Dates (AD)	Historical Events	NT Book Written
Acts 1	33	Ascension	
Acts 2	33	Pentacost	
Acts 3 - 6	33 - 38	Church at Jerusalem	
Acts 7	38	Stephen's Message	
Acts 8 - 9	38 - 41	Transition Begins	
Acts 10 - 12	41 - 46	Church at Antioch begun, Peter opens door to Gentiles	James
Acts 13 - 14	47 - 49	First Missionary Trip	
Acts 15	49	Council at Jerusalem	
Acts 16 - 18	50 - 53	Second Missionary Trip	1st and 2nd Thess.
Acts 19 - 20	53 - 58	Third Missionary Trip	Rom, 1st + 2nd Cor, Gal.
Acts 21 - 28	58 - 63	Paul's Arrest and Journey to Rome	Mark, Eph, Phil, Philemon, 1Peter, Col.
Rev. 2 - 3	63 - Present	Church History	Matt, Luke, Acts, 1st + 2nd Tim, Heb, 2Peter, Jude, John, 1, 2, 3John
Rev. 4	Soon	Rapture of the Church	

This is how Acts lays out historically. Before you can understand any verse in the book of Acts, you must put it in its proper historical context, so you know where you are in the transition. As we detail the problems with the Charismatic movement's doctrine, this historical survey will be referred to constantly.

What I would like to do now is demonstrate the inconsistency of the transitional book of Acts by taking one of the Charismatic doctrines and tracing it through Acts.

We will **NOT** approach this as a Bible believing Christian, instead, we will approach this as a Charismatic. Charismatics teach that the “initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost” is speaking in tongues. They say that until you speak in tongues, you really don't have the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Their basic proof text is in Acts chapter 2, where the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and the apostles spoke in tongues. I suppose one of the premier verses of the Charismatic movement is Acts 2:38:

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Now I want you to stay with me. If you are following along in your Bible, and you have ten fingers, you will need them all here.

Almost every Charismatic church in the country takes that verse, Acts 2:38, and says that what you need to do to get the Holy Ghost is to repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. That is their format, that is their procedure. They say you must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, referring to Acts 2:38, and say, “We are doing it just like they did in the book of Acts”.

So if I want to be a good Charismatic, I am supposed to repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. They are very emphatic about being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Then I will get the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the evidence of that is speaking in tongues.

Look at Acts Chapter 8, beginning in verse 5:

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

To whom they all gave heed from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Wait a minute, Mr. Charismatic Preacher. I thought I had to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to get the Holy Ghost. But here, they didn't get it the same way they did in Acts 2. No one in this passage repented. Here it says I must have someone lay hands on me before I can get it. Also, if I want the Holy Ghost like these people got it, I must be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, instead of the name of Jesus Christ. It is not the same. I am confused.

One other thing, they didn't speak in tongues here. They got baptized, they got hands laid on them, they received the Holy Ghost, but no one spoke with tongues.

Let's keep on reading and see what else we find. Acts 8:26-39:

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Alright, this guy believes, then he gets baptized, but he gets no baptism of the Holy Ghost, no one lays any hands on him, and he doesn't speak with tongues. Philip never even messed with the message in Acts 2 about repenting, and being "bup-tized" in the name of Jesus Christ one time. He took him back to Isaiah 53, and preached a salvation message about Christ dying for your sins according to the scriptures, and being buried and rising again. These three things don't match up. What is happening here Mr. Charismatic Preacher? Please help me, I am confused.

Let me see if I have this straight. I have to repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and then I will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. That's what Acts 2:38 says. Is that right radio preacher? Is that right TV evangelist? Is that right tent man? Okay, let's see if it works that way. Let's look at Acts chapter 10, beginning in verse 44:

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

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter.

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

Whoa, whoa! Wait a minute! You are supposed to get baptized first. Peter, then you get the Holy Ghost. That is what Acts 2 says. Something went wrong here. No one laid hands on these people. Peter just started preaching his message, and right in the middle of the message, they speak in tongues. Then AFTER they get it - they get baptized. That is just the reverse of what Acts 2 says. I am confused. If I do all these things that I am supposed to do it is going to take me ten years to get this thing figured out. The Holy Ghost fell on them without laying on of hands, no one repented, and they were baptized in the name of the Lord. Yet Mr. Charismatic Preacher will make an emphatic point that I must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. But in Acts Chapter 8, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and here in the name of the Lord. Here in Acts 10 they spoke in tongues before they got baptized. If baptism in water in the name of Jesus Christ gives you the Holy Ghost, these guys got the Holy Ghost without getting in the water. Someone please help me understand.

That's not all, look at Acts 19, beginning in verse 1:

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

This is really getting out of hand. These people had to get baptized twice in order to get the Holy Ghost, once by John the Baptist, and once by Paul in the name of the Lord Jesus. They did **NOT** repent, Paul laid hands on them, and then they spoke in tongues. That is not what Acts 2 says. It says you repent in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you will get the Holy Ghost, with the “initial evidence” of speaking in tongues. Not according to the rest of the book of Acts. The events of Acts 2 never happen again just like they did at Pentecost.

Now let's look at Acts 9 and see the conversion of the greatest Christian who ever lived, and how he got the Holy Ghost, how certainly you wouldn't say that the greatest Christian who ever lived didn't have the Holy Ghost.

Let's pick it up in Acts 9:1:

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus; and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

Don't ever ask for a light on the road to Damascus. I imagine Paul riding around and asking someone to get him a light. Pluuuuuuuuuhhhh! ho Bud Light. I guess you thought somebody just made that up, didn't you. Verse 3:

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias, and He said Behold, I am here, Lord.

And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

The Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Watch very carefully, here it comes, verse 16:

For I will shew him. how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou earnest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And IMMEDIATELY [when he was filled with the Holy Ghost] there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Paul didn't repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. He got baptized **AFTER** he got the Holy Ghost, and he did not speak in tongues. If tongues is indeed the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, why would God let the most perfect example of a Christian who ever walked on the face of this earth get saved, and forget to have him speak in tongues and record it so you might know that he had the authority of God's power in his life?

Let's see if I have it down now: I've got to get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, I've got to repent, I've got to get somebody to lay hands on me - sometimes; I've got to get the baptism of the Holy Ghost - one way or the other; I've got to speak with tongues - sometimes, which is the initial evidence; and then I've got to get a second baptism in the name of the Lord and one in the name of the Lord Jesus. Sometimes I get it before I get baptized, sometimes after.

I thought God was not the author of confusion, but I am confused.

Let's look at one more; Acts 16:25:

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison door open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

Then he called for a light, [wrong thing to do - these guys never learn, do they? Don't ask for a light, you might get a Bud Light] and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

And they spake unto him. the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

Mr. Charismatic Preacher, please help me. No one in Acts 16 was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. It says nothing about repenting, nothing about speaking in tongues, and nothing about laying on of hands. And if that wasn't all, look at verse 33. The Philippian jailer took Paul and Silas and

washed their stripes. Why didn't Paul just heal his stripes? Didn't that ever bother you? Wasn't healing one of the signs Paul had? Why did this guy have to wash the stripes Paul and Silas got from being whipped?

There is no mention at all in Acts 16 of any of the things we saw in earlier passages: no tongues, no repenting, no laying on of hands, and no mention of the Holy Ghost.

The Philippian jailer asked a simple question, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer was, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." No tongues, no baptism, just believe.

Now that is seven **different** ways people got the Holy Ghost in the book of Acts. But you are led to believe by the Charismatic preachers and teachers that Acts 2:38 is the definitive passage on this subject, and every Christian who really has the "fullness" of God's Spirit gets it just like they did in Acts 2. You MUST understand something about the book of Acts, or it will break you. The book of Acts is a transitional book in which the doctrinal teaching is going through a change. It describes a transitional period of history of about 33 years in which God is changing from an Old Testament set up under the Jewish nation and the preaching of Peter to a New Testament setup containing both Jew and Gentile in one body, under the apostle to the Gentiles - Paul. God used the signs and wonders in the beginning of the book of Acts for the nation of Israel. But as the book of Acts goes on, and you move on to the rest of the Bible, those sign gifts aren't around anymore. That is why no other book in the New Testament records anyone speaking in tongues. Tongues was mentioned in 1Corinthians, but it is not a specific incident recorded. Instead, it is a criticism of a bunch of people who were using it incorrectly. But we will get to 1Corinthians in a later chapter.

Now that we are grounded in the book of Acts, let's look at the three occurrences of tongues in Acts and study to show ourselves approved unto God.

Chapter 3

Oh For A Thousand Tongues . . . But There Were Only Three

As I mentioned earlier, there are three places in the book of Acts where someone speaks in tongues - Acts 2, Acts 10, and Acts 19. Charismatics teach that a saved person can get a “second” filling of the Holy Ghost, which they call the “Baptism of the Holy Ghost”. They teach that some Christians have it and some don't, and that the evidence of this “Baptism” is speaking in tongues. Obviously the teaching is much more involved than that, but there it is in a nutshell.

For example, Charismatics say that tongues are the initial evidence of the “Baptism of the Holy Ghost”. I will give any man in this world one million dollars if they can find that phrase in the Bible.

Don't worry about me raising that kind of money, I could get it together before anyone could find the verse. Nowhere in the Bible is tongues ever defined as the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. That is something some man conjured up to prove his point; he didn't get it from the Bible. Someone once said, “It must have come out of the Bible, because it sure isn't in there.” (Think about that for a minute.)

Let's get a Bible definition of tongues. If we are Bible believers, let's go to the Bible for our terms and definitions. The Bible says in I Corinthians 14:22:

Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not...

The Bible says tongues are a sign. I don't care what your preacher says they are, God's word says tongues are for a sign.

Someone may say, “Well that's good, it is a sign of the initial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.” All right, let's judge by a righteous standard and see if it is. Look at 1Corinthians 1:22:

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

It says the Jews require a sign. That one million dollars is now available to the first person to show me where a Gentile is to seek after a sign. Someone told you tongues were for you, and you bought it, because you judge after the appearance of something instead of by a righteous judgment. You don't know your Bible.

Tongues are for a sign, and the Jews require a sign.

Not only that, it says tongues are a sign to “them that believe not” in I Corinthians 14. For a saved person to look for that sign is ridiculous - tongues are a sign to an unbeliever!

One time, I had a Pentecostal preacher ask me, “Have you experienced the experience of Pentecost?” I will offer one million dollars again: show me in the Bible where Pentecost is an experience. For those of us who believe the Bible, Pentecost is an Old Testament feast given to the Jews. That corresponds with tongues being a sign for the Jews. Pentecost is not an experience. In 33 A.D. on the day of Pentecost, an event took place recorded in Acts chapter 2 as the coming of the Holy Ghost. Do you know what happened on the exact same date the next year? Nothing. Do you know what happened on the exact same date the year after that? Not a thing. Pentecost is not an experience, Pentecost is an Old Testament feast for the Old Testament nation of Israel who were taught to look for signs and wonders.

If tongues were so important, why didn't Paul ever mention them in his writings, outside of the one place where he ripped up the church of Corinth for being so messed up on the subject?

Paul wrote the book of Ephesians to reveal the inner structure of the body of Christ, and its intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ. Did Paul just forget to mention tongues? I guess he was having a bad day - a lot on his mind. Maybe he was in a hurry because he had to go to the bathroom. In 1st and 2nd Timothy, Paul gave his son in the Lord instructions to be a good soldier for Jesus Christ, and Paul neglected to tell him to speak in tongues. Titus was Paul's son in the Lord. Paul wrote a book to instruct him on spiritual living. He encouraged him to be everything he could be for God, but he forgot to tell him about speaking in tongues.

There are no other books of the Bible describing a more intimate personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ than 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. John, a perfect type of the Church, reveals the intimacy of walking in the light as He is in the light, having fellowship, one with another. Only one thing, John, you left out tongues. If tongues is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and I am supposed to have it to have a real relationship with Him, where is it? Why did not one talk about it?

You think God is organized like you are. God doesn't lose things. If he wanted the church to have tongues, it would be in there.

Let's look at the three places where speaking in tongues occurs. Of course, you are led to believe that all through the New Testament people speak with tongues. These three places are in the book of Acts.

The first occurrence of tongues is in Acts Chapter 2. Let's look at Acts 2:1:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Charismatic preachers would have you believe that when it says they were all with one accord in one place, it refers to thousands of Christians. They teach that all the Christians are together in one place, and everyone is speaking in tongues, and it just spreads through the whole world from this point. Let's see what the Bible says. Let's not judge according to appearance, let's judge with righteous judgment. Let's let the truth sanctify us. Let's give the word of God an opportunity to speak for itself.

Acts 2:1 starts with “**AND**”. That little word “AND” is pretty important, it links something. It is like that stuff they put around sausage that holds it together. That may be a bad illustration, but you can understand it if you like sausage.

I know this is a dirty trick, it's sneaky, it's underhanded, and I almost feel like confessing. I am going to do a terrible thing; I am going to stick with the context.

Look at Acts 1:24-27:

And they prayed and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou has chosen.

That he may take part of this ministry and APOSTLESHIP, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthais; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The remaining eleven apostles were choosing a replacement for Judas. When they named Matthais as the replacement, it said he (Matthais) was numbered with the eleven. Now look at Acts 2:1 again:

AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, THEY were all with one accord in one place.

Who were the “they” in this verse? All of the disciples? No. Thousands of Christians? No. Twelve men, the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, every one of them a Jew.

Now that we have the context firmly in place, let's read the passage and see what the Bible says. Look at Acts 2:2-6

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

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

And there were dwelling AT JERUSALEM JEWS, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

*How when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak **IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE**.*

Notice how the Holy Spirit of God defines tongues in this passage. Tongues are never, NEVER, **NEVER** some unknown gibberish in a heavenly language, or some “tongues of angels”. Tongues are defined by the Bible as specific, understandable languages.

Just in case you missed it the first time, keep reading, and watch how the Holy Spirit defines it clearly. Look at Acts 2:7-8:

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

*And how hear we every man **IN HIS OWN TONGUE**, wherein we were born?*

One more time for the slow learners; he lists the nations in verses 9, 10, and 11. The Bible always takes care of itself. The Bible always will define itself without the “help” of theologians. Keep reading; Acts 2:12-14:

And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

*But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of **JUDAEA**, and all ye that dwell at **JERUSALEM**...*

Peter's message wasn't to Christians, but to Jews. There wasn't a Christian within 1,000 miles of Jerusalem when this took place.

Now look at verses 15-21:

For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

There isn't a Charismatic in the world who can go back to the Old Testament and explain the book of Joel. He cannot tell you what that prophecy is about and how it is connected with Pentecost. They think the prophecy has something to do with the church; boy, did they blow that one. It doesn't have anything to do with the church age, it has to do with the second coming of Christ, and the kingdom to Israel. In the book of Joel, as well as Acts chapter 2, there are no Christians.

Try the new translation coming out, maybe it will change it for you; but in the Bible, Joel deals with the second coming of Christ.

Just so you wouldn't think this was a church age context, look at verse 22, "Ye men of Israel..."

God has that thing sewn up. You can't get out of it unless you are simply dishonest. He keeps telling you over and over that this is directed toward Israel. The only way you could miss that in Acts Chapter 2 is by staring the truth of God directly in the face, and choosing to reject it because you don't want to believe it. If that is you - you are dishonest with God.

Look at what Peter preaches in Acts 2:22-36:

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Peter said Jesus was approved AMONG YOU. The “you” refers to Jews.

How was He approved among those Jews? Verse 22: “...by miracles and wonders and signs”. Why? Because the Jews require a sign. Have you put it together yet?

Look at Acts 2:23-29:

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye (Israel) have taken by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it

For David [King of Israel] speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

Therefore did my ear rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither will thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Thou hast made known to me the ways of life, thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Men and brethren, [talking to Jews] let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

Who is David buried among? Christians? No sir, Jews. His sepulchre is with the Jews because David was the greatest king Israel ever had.

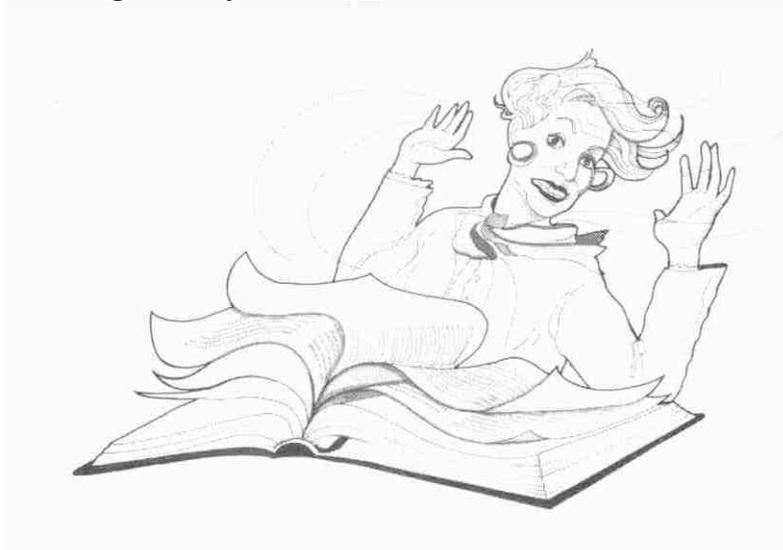
Continuing in verses 30-32:

Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Who are those witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Christians? Not on your life. One more time, this time with gusto - Israel, Jews, Judaea, Jerusalem. Got the picture yet?



Just so you wouldn't think this was a church age context,...God keeps telling you over and over that this is directed toward Israel. The only way you could miss that in Acts chapter 2 is by staring the truth of God directly in the face, and choosing to reject it because you don't want to believe it.

Look at verses 33-35:

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

Now here comes the punch line - the “invitation” - the conclusion to Peter's message, verse 36:

*Therefore let all **THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL** know assuredly, that God hath made this same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

Verse 37 gives the response of those Jews to that “invitation”:

Now when they [Israel] heard this, they [Israel] were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we [Israel] do?

Peter responds to their question in verses 38-39:

*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you [**Jews**] in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye [**Israel**] shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off...

Now here is where those sneaky, slippery Charismatics try to claim this promise for themselves saying they are the ones who are “afar off”. (They are pretty “far off” in their doctrine. That verse has nothing to do with Christians.)

This quotation doesn't come from the New Testament; it is not a promise given to the church. This promise is found in the book of Daniel. Daniel is not written to the church, in fact, you can't even find the church age in the book doctrinally. The Holy Spirit of God jumped right over it and left a gap, and then picked up with Israel in the Tribulation Period. Don't take my word for it, let's be Bible believers, let's judge by a righteous judgment. In Daniel Chapter 9 we are dealing with the reign of Darius. Let's look at the context of this "promise" Peter mentions in his message in Daniel 9:1:

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;

In the first year of his reign, I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet.

Daniel was studying the book of Jeremiah, and he figured some things out about the captivity of the Jews from 606 B.C. to 536 B.C. Daniel is in the middle of that captivity and his prayer in this chapter must be read in that context. Verse 2:

...that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them, that keep his commandments;

We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

neither have we hearkened unto thy servants thy prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel...

Doesn't that sound like Acts 2? Daniel is talking about Judah, Jerusalem, and Israel - **JEW**S. The promise is for Jews in Acts Chapter 2. Watch the Bible define itself in Daniel 9:7.

...to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, [watch, here it comes] that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou has driven them, [who - the Jews] because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

Just for good measure, let's finish Daniel's prayer so you can see what I am saying by the full context in Daniel 9:8-11:

Oh Lord, to us [Israel] belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

Yea, all ISRAEL have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

The “promise” in Acts 2 has nothing to do with Christians in the Church Age, it is dealing with the nation of Israel out of Daniel 9. If anyone tries to apply it to the church, he is a liar, and that is stated on the authority of the word of God. Revelation 2:2 tells me to try those who say they are Jews and are not, and to prove them liars.

That should clarify Acts Chapter 2 in reference to the tongues and “gift of the Holy Ghost”. The entire chapter deals with Jewish apostles preaching to Jews about crucifying their Jewish Messiah. The tongues were a sign to those unbelieving Jews to believe something.

This is a good example of one of the characteristics of a Charismatic. A Charismatic has a total and complete disregard for the authority of the word of God. No Charismatic is a serious Bible student. He doesn't know how Daniel's prophecy fits in Acts 2 or how Joel chapter 2 figures in to the events of Pentecost. He has been taught all of his life that it applies to the Christian; he was never taught to rightly divide the word of truth. I say that with kindness and sympathy in my heart for some, because I know some are very sincere, but ignorant. At the same time, I say that with sternness and a rebuke in my heart, because I know there are some who are dishonest crooks. How you deal with this material and the truth of the word of God will determine which one you are; that is entirely up to you.

Because most Charismatics have never been taught to rightly divide the word of truth, or have never been faced with what the Bible says. They are ignorant. I feel sorry for the ones who really want to know. I am coming across harder than I would if you had come in to sit down and talk with me. I want some dishonest character out there, who has confused and led astray a lot of young Christians, to get scalded. He will probably turn me off and throw this book away before he gets halfway through it; but God's word says it won't return void. He will get what he needs.

Now if some honest young Christians came in to talk to me personally and really wanted to understand, I would sit down with them over lunch or coffee, and treat them nicely. They could ask any question they wanted, and I would be just as kind and sweet as I could be. I can't afford to be that way in this book. My people need to get and understand this message.

Now let's look at the second place that someone speaks in tongues, Acts Chapter 10. This is the account of the conversion of Cornelius, a Gentile, through the testimony of Peter, the apostle to the Jews. Just that one circumstance should be a clue to you that something unusual is going to take place here. Let's look at this event, and make comments as appropriate; Acts 10:1-6:

There was a certain man in Caesarea, called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Here is a man who wanted to be right with God. He prayed, he gave his money, and the Bible says he was a devout man. So God answered his prayers and sent a messenger to him to tell him how to get saved. That messenger was Peter.

Now if you know anything about your Bible at all, you know that Peter is the apostle to the Jews, but in Acts 10 God sends him to a Gentile. Obviously, Peter is going to have a problem with this.

In verses 7-8, Cornelius sends three of his men to find Peter, then the story picks up with Peter himself in verses 9-16:

On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance.

And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four comers, and let down to the earth:

Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

God gives Peter this vision three times of a bunch of unclean animals he is not allowed to eat because he is an Old Testament Jew. God said, "Eat those things, Peter." Peter said, "I can't eat those things, Lord. I am a good Old Testament Jew waiting for the kingdom. I can't eat those things because I am still going by the Old Testament law."

Peter missed the point. God was using this vision to show Peter, who is the apostle to the nation of Israel, that God is not dealing with the nation of Israel at this time. So three times God brings down a knit cloth, like a little picnic, with BBQ ribs, lobster tail, and all the things he is not allowed to eat. Peter says, "I won't eat it, I don't eat anything common or unclean." But God said, "Read my lips, Peter, what I have cleansed don't call unclean."

Why did He give him that vision three times? Did God have some extra space in the Bible he had to fill up? There is a reason for every word in the Bible.

Peter couldn't figure it out either. Verses 17-19 say he doubted in himself what the vision meant. He woke up and said, "I don't understand this. Just three or four years ago the Lord was preaching to me about not going to the Gentiles and being a good Old Testament circumcised Jew.

And I know this vision was from the Lord. Now He is telling me that He has cleansed unclean things. What could this mean?"

No one understood what was going on. You and I can understand because we have the book of Acts and can look back with the knowledge and perspective of history. Peter didn't have anything but an Old Testament. He didn't have Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. He was going strictly by an Old Testament, and by what Jesus told them. Nothing is recorded yet in the New Testament.

Look at verses 17-19:

How while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

[Watch carefully] And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

While Peter thought on the vision, [he is still musing it over] the Spirit said unto him...

God said, "Let me help you with the vision, Peter. I showed you three times that it is okay to eat unclean things, now let me help you, dingbat. There are three men coming to see you. Figure it out, Peter?! There are three Gentiles downstairs. I showed you three times that what used to be unclean is now clean. Put three and three together and quit getting twelve. I showed you the vision three times. These three men are Gentiles. Put this together, Peter, I want you to give the gospel to the Gentiles."

Peter still doesn't get it totally, but he at least has the message down good enough to go with the men to Cornelius* house. Look at verses 19-33:

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

Cornelius has gathered a whole group of his Gentile friends together to hear God's message from the apostle to the Jews, Peter. Verse 25:

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

The Catholic Church says Peter was the first Pope, but he wouldn't let anyone worship him. You would think a Catholic could read that. I wonder when Cornelius fell down at Peter's feet, if he tried to get his lips on his big toe. Peter probably said, "What's the matter with you, are you weird or what, trying to kiss my big toe? Get away from there." You have to be weird to let somebody kiss your toes. If I had the opportunity, I'd bite 'em off. Verse 27:

And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

And he said unto them, [Peter speaking now] Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

Here is Cornelius' response:

And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing.

And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

Verse 34 begins Peter's message, but he is still confused. Peter now begins to preach a variation of what he preached in Acts 2, he is still not sure what to do. Look at the message beginning in verse 34:

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, [he was still trying to make it Jewish even though he is dealing with Gentiles] preaching peace by Jesus Christ: [He is Lord of all.]

That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

In Acts 10:38 Peter said essentially the same thing he said in Acts 2:22. Verses 39-40 are the same message as Acts 2:23-24; and again in Acts 2:32. If you carefully compare this message in Acts 10 with the one in Acts 2, you will find Peter preaching basically the same message. He still has not figured out totally what God is doing.

Look at his last words in the message in verse 43:

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

He was preaching just like he preached in Acts 2. Just about this time, Peter was getting ready to say, “Repent and be baptized...” He was going to give them the same message he gave in Acts 2, but God stepped in and said, “Peter you are a good man, but you don't understand this yet. So I am going to interrupt your message, and give you proof positive that, the gospel has gone to the Gentiles. I will give you something you cannot deny as an Old Testament Jew. I will give you a sign.” Look at verses 44-46:

While Peter yet spake these words, [God interrupts the message] the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Peter did not settle the matter about the gospel going to the Gentiles until he heard those Gentiles speak with tongues. Then he said, “OK Lord, I got it.” Verses 47-48:

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Peter finally got the message. The gospel had gone to the Gentiles. The tongues spoken in Acts 10 were a sign to Peter and his Jewish friends who did not believe that Gentiles could also get saved. If you will read Acts 11:1-18, you will see Peter recounting this incident to a group of Jews proving conclusively that the gospel had gone to the Gentiles also. The tongues were the sign God used to bring this about.

Now let's look at the last occurrence of tongues in Acts Chapter 19. Let me set the scene for you in the book of Acts so you have a context of what is happening in Chapter 19. As I have already mentioned, these people didn't have a complete Bible. They only had an Old Testament. They went by the light God gave them at the time. God was bringing this thing through a transition. That is why so many different things took place, and why you can't find God doing things the same way in two different places. The most consistent thing about the book of Acts is its inconsistency. God is working out His plan through a transition, and the people are walking by faith, not by sight. Sometimes it got confusing, but God always gave them what they needed. During this period in history, as the transition was taking place from Jew to Gentile, God was obligated to get the gospel out to all those Jews. You also have to understand, that those Jews were dispersed all over the world. When Nebuchadnezzar came down in 606 B.C. and the times of the Gentiles started, he took those Jews into captivity and ever since then, they have been scattered over the then known world, even though they have been formally restored to their homeland as a nation. Remember in Acts chapter 2 that Peter preached his message to Jews of every nation. There were Jews all over the world, and they didn't have the communication abilities we have. It took a long time for the word to get out. Throughout the book of Acts, God used tongues and healing as signs to Israel so they could understand the gospel, because Israel was told to look for those signs. Those signs were never given to the Gentiles. In Acts 2, the tongues were spoken by Jews as a sign to Jews, in Acts 10, Gentiles spoke in tongues, but they didn't speak in tongues for Gentiles' sake, they spoke in tongues for the Jews' sake. Acts chapter 10 is the only place in the Bible where a Gentile speaks in tongues. Yet the Charismatic movement builds an entire doctrine around tongues, when it only occurs **ONCE** in the entire Bible involving a Gentile. That is **NOT** sound doctrine.

This brings us to Acts chapter 19, but in order to get the context, we need to begin in Acts 18:24-25:

And a certain Jew named Apollos, [Did you get that? He was a Jew. God told you he was a Jew] born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, KNOWING ONLY THE BAPTISM OF JOHN.

Apollos was baptized under John's baptism about 25 years earlier when John was preaching the baptism of repentance. That is all he knew. Apollos heard nothing about the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was not a Christian at this point, he was an Old Testament Jewish disciple of John the Baptist, preaching about a Jewish Messiah who was to come. John 1:31 states clearly that John's baptism was for the purpose of manifesting Jesus Christ to Israel. So God stepped in so that Apollos could get new truth: the revelation that Jesus had already come and died. Apollos had a right heart attitude toward God, and God made sure he got the truth. Look at Acts 18:26:

And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: [He was preaching John's baptism] whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

More perfectly than what? The way of John. They said, “Hey Apollos, that was a great sermon, but there is only one problem. Your message is 25 years out of date. The one who John the Baptist preached about and prepared the way for has come. He died for our sins, was buried, and on the third day rose from the dead according to the scriptures. Would you like to trust him as your personal saviour and become a Christian?”

Apollos got saved at that point, and in verses 27-28 you can see the change:

And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through GRACE:

For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures [the Old Testament] that Jesus was Christ.

Now that is our context. God was taking the gospel to .the ends of the earth, as he said in Acts 1:8, and as he did, he ran into all kinds of situations. Whenever a Jew came in contact with the gospel, signs accompanied the message.

Watch what happens in Acts 19, beginning in verse 1:

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Certain disciples of who? Keeping with the context, these would be disciples of Apollos. Verse 2:

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they [the disciples of Apollos] said unto him, [Paul] We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

They were converts of Apollos, following what he had taught them, baptized under John's baptism. They were **NOT** Christians. If a Charismatic comes up to you and asks, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" don't be fooled. That question was never asked of a Christian in the Bible. That question was asked of an Old Testament Jew who "believed" John's message.

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Notice the Holy Ghost came on these people when Paul laid hands on them, not when they were baptized. Acts is a shifting, moving, changing, transitional period of history.

Here again, the Charismatic preacher would have you believe that there are about 900 million people doing this. Look at verse 7:

And all the men were about twelve.

Why twelve? Did you ever study the number twelve in the Bible? It is always connected with the twelve tribes - Israel. Do you see a pattern developing yet?

In Acts Chapter 2, tongues were used as a sign to the Jews who killed their Messiah. They were used by the apostles to the house of Israel to show them that Jesus was the Christ, because the Jew was told to look for a sign. That is why Peter and the apostles preached to them with tongues in Acts 2.

In Acts Chapter 10 Peter had a vision, and God showed him that Gentiles were no longer unclean. Peter didn't fully understand so he preached the only thing he knew to preach, and that was his message from Acts Chapter 2. So God interrupted him and confirmed what he was doing by a sign - the tongues spoken by Cornelius and his group.

In Acts Chapter 19, Jews from Alexandria who have not heard about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit got saved. What you see there probably happened a thousand times in those years, but this is the only place it is recorded. As they accept the preaching of the cross, their conversion is confirmed to the Jews by tongues, because tongues are for a sign, and the Jews require a sign.

That is it. There is no other place in the Bible where anyone speaks in tongues. There are only three places, and all three places are signs to a Jew. When a Charismatic says tongues are the “initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost” for Christians, he is either ignorant or just plain lying. Tongues are **NEVER** for Gentiles. The Bible is clear, tongues are a sign for the Jews.

Chapter 4

Healing

One of the basic fundamental doctrines of the Charismatic Movement is healing. Let me get right to the heart of the problem - this is what they use to get their money. Maybe you think that is cruel, but truth hurts. If you want to see cruelty at its worst, just watch some dirty, rotten, low-life Charismatic take advantage of a poor sick person, and use their suffering and pain to line their own pockets. You could not find any action on the face of this earth more criminal than that.

Let me say at the outset - I believe God heals. Whenever this subject is discussed, Charismatics get all bent out of shape and say that those Baptists don't believe God heals. That is a lie. I believe God heals. The last time I got a cold, God healed me. It took a couple of days, but he healed me. The last time you cut your finger, God healed you. Don't you remember watching it scab over, and eventually heal just as good as new? God heals.

Of course, a Charismatic would think I was crazy for mentioning that. He would say that colds, and cut fingers, and all minor, natural stuff isn't considered as God healing. He would say, "It is just the natural, biological, normal process of the human body taking care of itself." Who designed that natural healing process of the human body? Mother nature? Evolution? No, I believe God heals, and he does so in several ways, the most common way being through the natural self-healing process he placed in the human body.

But let me go a step further. I believe God heals through medical science. The Bible is very clear that God is the author of knowledge. The "discoveries" of medical science have all been made under God's permissive will, and I thank him for it. But when medical science "discovers" some new method or cure, it is just science catching up with the word of God. Moses in 1500 B.C. told the Jews not to wash in stagnant water, but in running water, yet millions of people died in Europe of the "black plague" in the dark ages because they did not follow that law. It got to the point where everyone started blaming the Jews for the disease because they weren't getting it, until someone finally caught up with the truth of the word of God and started washing in running water, and the plague was over. Up until about 1500

A.D. people were still being treated by “bloodletting” and were dying like flies, until someone happened to stumble across the verse that Moses wrote 3000 years earlier that says “the life of the flesh is in the blood” (Leviticus 17:11).

But those “discoveries” are of God. The benefits of medical science that we enjoy today are because God has allowed doctors to learn how to treat us. If you are sick - go to a doctor! God has given them to us to heal many of the physical problems we have.

A “real” Charismatic believes all sickness is of the devil, and only God can heal. If they take that attitude to its logical conclusion, they would never go to a doctor for anything. Occasionally you will hear stories about some preacher who has a sick child, and refuses to allow any medical treatment at all, claiming that God promised to heal the child. I've heard of people with broken arms or legs not getting medical attention, and being crippled or deformed for life as a result. Some extreme cases have even resulted in death. In severe cases like that, occasionally the law steps in and tries to force medical attention, and the crazy Charismatics start screaming about “religious persecution”. Don't ever confuse “religious persecution” with criminal stupidity.

God has given us the benefits of medical science as another form of his healing power. Even more than that, God heals supernaturally also. There is no question or argument about that. I know of legitimate cases where it has happened, but the issue is NOT whether God can heal supernaturally. The question is: Does anyone have the “gift” of healing today, like the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ had it? That is the issue.

Let's find out - what saith the scripture?

The first case of healing in the Bible takes place in Exodus chapter 4 with Moses, a Jew. God used healing as one of the signs to confirm his dealings with the Nation of Israel as they were called out of Egypt and formally established as a nation. Look at Exodus 4:6-7:

And the Lord said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.

And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.

Moses was supernaturally healed of leprosy. But look at what verse 8 calls this healing: A SIGN. Who are the signs for? Unbelieving Jews. Look at Exodus 4:29-31:

And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel:

And Aaron spake all the words which the Lord had spoken unto Moses, and did the SIGHS in the sight of the people.

And the people BELIEVED: and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Until the signs were performed, those Jews were unbelievers. The signs were performed for the purpose of confirming God to them in a visible way, then they believed. This is the beginning of Israel as a nation.

When was the last time you saw a Charismatic faith healing meeting that resulted in the conversion of an unbelieving Jew? Unless a “faith healer” uses his “gift” for that purpose, he is conducting a non-biblical meeting.

So Moses had the gift of healing as a sign to the Jews that God had sent him to deliver them, and in Deuteronomy 18 Moses makes a prophecy about the coming of the Messiah. Look at what he said in Deuteronomy 18:15:

The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Moses said the Messiah would be a prophet “LIKE UNTO ME”. If he was going to be like Moses, then he had to have the signs, and of course, he did. Look at Matthew 4:23-24:

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

All through the gospels Jesus healed people as a testimony, an object lesson, and a sign to Israel, and they rejected Him still. Jesus had the gift of healing, a sign gift, and he **NEVER HAD A FAILURE**. Matthew 4:23-24 quoted above says He healed **ALL** who were brought to him. There were no misfires and no duds. There were no healing lines, tent meetings, collections, or any of the phony junk used by “faith healers” today. Look at some more passages that detail His healing gift: Mark 1:41-42:

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

John 5:8-9:

Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

Matthew 8:1-3:

When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

And behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Luke 4:38-39:

And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house, And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her, and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

His track record was 100%. When He healed someone it was total and permanent, there were no “relapses” a few days later. When Jesus healed someone it took place IMMEDIATELY upon His spoken word. There was none of this “Hang on,...Let go...Have faith...Only believe...” kind of junk used by Charismatics. No organs played music, no long “healing testimonies” were given, no collections were taken, He simply spoke the word, and the healing took place. Show me where that happens today.

When a Charismatic fails to heal someone today, they usually put the blame and guilt trip on the sick person for “not having enough faith”. Talk about oppression! Imagine the audacity of someone claiming to be able to give healing to someone when he can't, and using the desperation and suffering of that person to get rich; then when he fails to deliver, blaming it on that poor sick person. How much more criminal can you get? I have more respect for Charles Manson and Adolph Hitler than those dishonest “faith healers”. What Charles Manson and Adolph Hitler did was wrong, but at least they were honest about it ~ they didn't try to sham people.

When Jesus Christ healed people, he did so completely, permanently, immediately, and irregardless of their faith. He raised Lazarus from the dead in John 11. How much “faith” can a dead man have? Look at Mark 6:4-6:

But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

He marvelled at their unbelief, yet healed them! He could do no mighty work among them because of their attitude, but He was still able to heal. When someone has the gift of healing, it can be exercised without regard for any outside circumstances.

The apostles were given the gift of healing as part of their commission in Matthew Chapter 10. When they healed, they did so just as the Lord Jesus Christ did. Notice in verse 8 of Matthew 10, they were told “Freely ye have received, freely give.” Let's see a modern Charismatic do that! Anyone who has the biblical gift of healing gives it freely as a GIFT. When was the last time you saw a faith healer pass out his “healing power” without getting money for it?

Again, the apostles healed immediately and completely with no failures. Look at Acts 3:1-7, and watch Peter use the gift of healing:

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

And Peter fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Look at Acts 5:15-16:

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

The gift of healing is performed Biblically when it is done freely, immediately, completely and permanently, and when it is used as a sign to an unbelieving Jew. That does NOT line up with the Charismatic methods. I am a Bible Believer, remember? I take the word of God over anything on the face of this earth. When a Charismatic performs his “healing” tricks, I judge it in light of the righteous standard of the word of God. If it does not line up with the book, I judge it as being of the devil. Maybe you don't like that. Tough apples. Go howl at the moon, you'll feel better, but it won't change the word of God.

Because a Charismatic can't rightly divide the word of truth, he can't understand how the devil operates. They think the devil is always bad, and never good. Therefore, they believe nothing bad can happen in a Christian's life; because God is good and the devil is bad. If anything bad does happen in a Christian's life, it must be of the devil. They believe all sickness is of the devil. That is not true. 2Corinthians 4 says the devil is transformed into an angel of light. Job chapter 2 says we receive both good and evil from the hand of God. God is not the direct author of evil, obviously, but He allows it to happen for some larger purpose. Paul, the greatest Christian who ever lived, was sick all of his life. His closest companion throughout his entire ministry was Luke. Colossians calls Luke "the beloved physician". If all sickness is of the devil, then Paul must have operated the greatest ministry in the history of Christianity while being controlled by Satan. Charismatics just don't think about things like that, because they don't know the Bible. Charismatics judge after appearance instead of righteous judgment.

They believe the only one who can heal is God. I don't know where they got that idea. If you think the devil can't heal, you don't understand the Bible. In Revelation 13 the Bible says that the devil can heal, but don't take my word for it, let's look at it. I wouldn't want you to miss this. I am a Bible Believer, I stick with the Bible.

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.



Because Charismatics can't rightly divide the word of truth, they can't understand how the devil operates. They think the devil is always bad, and never good.

We don't have time to go through this, but if you go back to the proceeding chapter you will find out the dragon who gave this beast his power is the devil. Revelation 13:3:

And, I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed...

Now who healed him - God? I am a Bible Believer, who healed the beast of Revelation 13? Do you know what that word is in "the Greek"? It is **HEALED**. How does he get healed? If the devil gave him his power, his seat, and his authority, why would God heal him? He doesn't - the devil healed him.

That is not all, look at Matthew 10, beginning in verse 1:

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

In verses 2-4, Jesus named the twelve apostles, and in verses 5 - 8 he gave them their commission:

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles...

Why did Jesus tell them not to go into the way of the Gentiles? Why did He say to go only to the lost sheep of Israel? Verses 7 - 8 will tell you why:

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand,

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Those things in verse 8 are signs. The Jews are told to look for signs. The Kingdom of Heaven in verse 7 is for Israel. These “Charismatic Gifts” of tongues and healing are for the Jews. Are any lights turning on yet? Are you still in darkness?

By the way, verse 8 says, “freely ye have received, freely give”. Have you ever been to a healing service where they did not take up a collection? Have you ever heard a Charismatic on TV or radio who did not ask for money? I remember a man who let God hold him hostage for eight million dollars. You see, the problem is, people judge by appearance.

Now I want you to see something about this commission in Matthew 10 that no Charismatic ever thought about. The passage names the twelve apostles, and, in verse 4, it lists Judas Iscariot. The Lord Jesus Christ commissioned those twelve men and sent them out to preach. Those twelve men healed people, they raised the dead, and they performed miracles. One of those twelve was Judas. Look at what the Lord Jesus Christ said about Judas in John chapter 6, verses 70-71:

*Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and **ONE OF YOU IS A DEVIL?***

He spake of Judas...

Do you know what the devil did through Judas? He healed the sick, he raised the dead, and he gave eyesight to the blind. Don't miss it, don't think the devil can't heal. No Charismatic on earth can grasp that truth. Therefore, because they miss that simple truth in the word of God, they see people get healed and automatically think God did it. Not necessarily so! Because of that, they teach that when you are sick, it is of the devil, but they missed the verses where Paul talks about glorying in his sickness and infirmity. Because a Charismatic is spiritually immature, he believes everything "good" and "nice" must be of God, and everything "bad" must be of the devil. A more tragic mistake could never be made. As a result, no Charismatic can discern whether God is working in their life or the devil is working. In the process they end up being deceived and used by the devil.

Don't judge after appearance. Without a righteous standard, you are in the same danger.

Look at Revelation 12:9-10:

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of **HIS** Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

Did you see that clearly? The Bible specifically singles out **HIS** Christ: **GOD's** Christ - as opposed to the devil's christ. I bet you didn't know Satan was a christ, did you? You missed that on the PTL Club. Swaggart forgot to tell you that. The word "Christ" means "anointed one". In the Bible there are two anointed ones, Lucifer and Jesus. Lucifer is called the "anointed cherub that covereth" in Ezekiel. He is called an angel of light in 2Corinthians. There are two Christs in this world. You had better make sure you have the right one, because one of those Christs transforms himself into an "angel of light". He will heal, he will preach, he will quote scripture, he will smile; he won't dance, he won't chew, or go with girls that do, and he will damn your soul to hell. He is the devil himself.

There is nothing like the Bible to clear up a confused doctrine. Let me give you something here that has helped me discern some of this in my life. What follows is a listing of the similarities in the word of God between Jesus Christ and Satan. This is only a partial listing because I have not found all of them, but this should open your eyes a little to how the devil operates. He uses the word of God and “religion” as his base, and **counterfeits EVERYTHING**. He is so close to the Lord Jesus Christ that you cannot tell them apart without an absolute authority. Most people picture the devil as a man in a red suit with a tail and a pitchfork. Nothing could be further from reality. Just review this list and look up the verses for yourself, and see how close the devil can get to Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ

Isaiah 11:1
 John 15:1
 Matt. 11:29
 John 10:14
 Psalms 44:3
 Psalms 26:6
 Revelation 19:15
 Zechariah 4:10
 Revelation 1:7
 Revelation 19:16
 1Thessalonians 5:2
 Matthew 4:1
 Luke 8:53
 Psalms 112:9
 Psalms 7:12
 1Timothy 4:14
 1Kings 18:38
 2Samuel 24:1
 Psalm 18:8
 Matthew 2:2
 Exodus 15:3
 Revelation 12:17
 1Timothy 3:16
 1Peter 2:4
 Acts 4:26
 Revelation 19:11
 Isaiah 9:6
 Genesis 22:15
 Hebrews 1:7

called a “branch”
 called a “vine”
 called a “yoke”
 called a “shepherd”
 called “right hand”
 washes his hands
 sword in mouth
 runs “to and fro”
 associated with cloud
 “King of kings”
 thief in the night
 driven into wilderness
 laughed to scorn
 called a “horn”
 have a bow
 laid hands on
 calls fire from heaven
 Israel numbered
 smoke from nostrils
 a “king”
 man of war
 has a remnant
 called “God” (god)
 called a “stone”
 titled “Christ”
 rides white horse
 prince
 angel
 has ministers

Satan

Isaiah 14:19
 Jeremiah 2:21
 Jeremiah 28:14
 Zechariah 11:17
 Psalm 109:6
 Psalm 59:7
 Psalm 59:7
 Job 1:7
 Ezekiel 38:9
 Ezra 7:12
 Job 24:14
 Luke 8:29
 2Kings 19:21
 Dan. 7:8
 Revelation 6:2
 Acts 5:18
 Job 1:16
 1Chronicles 21:1
 Job 41:20
 Job 41:34
 1Samuel 17:33
 Zephaniah 1:4
 2Corinthians 4:4
 Exodus 15:5
 1John 4:3
 Revelation 6:2
 John 16:11
 2Corinthians 11:14
 2Corinthians 11:15

Jesus Christ

Revelation 19:12
Hebrews 3:1
Joshua 5:14
Deuteronomy 32:31
1Kings 10:9
Psalms 44:3
Genesis 22:17
John 8:12
Revelation 21:2
Revelation 5:5
Exodus 28:17-20
Matthew 4:4
John 20:28; Luke 24:52
Matthew 8:20
Proverbs 11:30
Ps. 119:160; Pr. 8:8
Deuteronomy 32:11
Psalms 2:4
Luke 3:23
Acts 2:22
Luke 17:24
Psalms 119:103
Matthew 28: 19
Job 42: 10
John 6:33 - 48
John 4:14

crowned
apostle
captain
rock
Solomon is a type
arm
“the sand of the sea”
light
has a bride, a city
lion
breastplate
quotes scripture
desires, accepts worship
Son of man
fruit
words
eagle
laughter
preaches 42 months
signs and wonders
lightning
words like honey
trinity
double rewards for followers
bread
spring

Satan

Revelation 6:2
2Corinthians 11:13
Judges 4:2
Deuteronomy 32:31
1Kings 10:14
Psalms 44:3
Joshua 11:4
2Corinthians 11:14
Revelation 17
1Peter 5:8
Ezekiel 28:13
Matthew 4:6
Matthew 4:9
Psalms 146:3
Proverbs 1:31
Proverbs 2:16
Obadiah 1:4
Job 41:29
Revelation 13:5
2Thessalonians 2:9
Luke 10:18
Proverbs 5:3
Revelation 16:13
Revelation 18:6
Proverbs 20:17
Proverbs 25:26

Any “power” these faith healers use comes from the wrong source, the wrong Christ, his majesty the Devil.

Now let's look at how this “healing” doctrine really operates.

When Oral Robert's son blew his brains out Oral couldn't bring him back.

You say, “You shouldn't talk like that.” What's the matter, facts bother you? Do you get upset by plain talk? When Orals' kid sprayed his brains all over his front room, why didn't he use his “healing power” to bring him back to life? What is the matter, didn't he have enough faith? I don't deal with appearances. I deal with truth.

If Oral Roberts is a great healer, what in the world is he doing building a hospital to train doctors? If he is such a great healer, when he had to have surgery on his eyes, why in the world would he go to a hospital to have it done? **AND HE DIDN'T EVEN GO TO HIS OWN HOSPITAL!!** You have been fooled. You have been fooled.

I have watched Jimmy Swaggart on television many times. I have seen him “pray” for God's healing power to heal those in his audience, and then put on his glasses to read the Bible, (just like he had good common sense). What's the matter, Jimmy? Not enough faith?

A lady by the name of Kathryn Kuhlman was on the radio every night for over twenty-five years with her “healing” message. She got calls and letters from Mexico, Puerto Rico, California, and all over the place. She would say something like, “There is somebody out there in California with Spinal Meningitis, and I am praying for you”. Big deal. It really takes a lot of spiritual discernment to say that “someone” in California (population about 50 million people) is sick. Then somebody out in California would call and say, “Yeah, I have been healed.” And everybody would send in the bucks.

She did that for over twenty-five years, but when she got sick in 1978, she never even followed her own advice. She went to Tulsa, to a hospital, and never stopped in to see Oral Roberts or T. T. Osborne to have them pray with her. When she got sick, she wanted to get to a doctor, but she died anyway. She did that right in front of God's people, and they just looked at that and said, “So what, here is some more money.” Do you know why? They judge after appearances not after righteous judgment. You have been fooled, you have been fooled, **YOU HAVE BEEN FOOLED.**

So when it comes to healing, as with the other tenets of the Charismatic Movement, we have to go right back to our basis. We have to let the word of God stand on its own merit and sanctify us through its truth. Then we have to judge the physical manifestations by the righteous standard of the Book.

Obviously, God heals - supernaturally as well as by other methods, but the devil can heal also, and he will use anything he can to deceive people into following him. Your only safe place is to rest in the absolute authority of the clear statements of the word of God, understood in its full context without changing any of its words.

Chapter 5

1Corinthians, the Book of “What NOT to Do”.

Several times in this book I have alluded to passages in 1Corinthians. This chapter will detail and clarify those passages.

When a Charismatic gets chased into a corner on his doctrine, many times he will run to 1Corinthians to try to escape. This is a tragic mistake. One of the worst books in the Bible upon which to base a New Testament doctrine is 1Corinthians. Paul wrote that epistle for one basic reason: to straighten out the most carnal, immature, messed up church in the New Testament. Every single chapter in 1Corinthians is a scathing rebuke to a group of people who were **NOT** right with God. I cannot understand how anyone would run to this book for their basic doctrines.

The church at Corinth was very similar to the modern Charismatics, and in Chapters 12 - 14 Paul takes them to task for being messed up on tongues and spiritual gifts. In this chapter, I want to survey 1Corinthians, and show you how Paul dealt with that church and their spiritual problems. When I get to Chapters 13 and 14 we will take them verse by verse, and show you the clear teaching of them. From that you should see why the Charismatic movement is so non-biblical and unstable.



When a Charismatic gets chased into a corner on his doctrine, many times he will run to 1Corinthians to try to escape.

In **Chapter 1**, the church at Corinth was criticized for arguing about their spirituality among themselves, based on who baptized them. Paul accused them of having unnecessary contentions and divisions, and thinking they were right with God in the process.

In **Chapter 2**, he continued that criticism. He chewed them out for acting like unsaved people. He told them “the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God”.

In **Chapter 3**, Paul came right out and called them spiritual babies. Paul took them to task on their bragging and divisions; and called their attention to the Judgment Seat of Christ to straighten them out.

In **Chapter 4**, they were messed up on the mysteries of God. They were not being good stewards of the Bible truth they had been taught.

In **Chapter 5**, they were criticized for condoning fornication in the church.

In **Chapter 6**, they were taking each other to court over trivial matters, instead of being mature enough to handle these minor problems themselves. Paul said, "I speak to your shame". He criticized them for not understanding that they had the Holy Spirit of God living inside of them enabling them to handle these problems.

In **Chapter 7**, they were messed up on marriage, divorce, separation and remarriage.

In **Chapter 8**, they were criticized for being off balance concerning meat offered to idols.

In **Chapter 9**, Paul ripped them up for being so immature that they didn't even have the sense to take care of their ministries, himself included.

In **Chapter 10**, they were messed up on the Old Testament illustrations of New Testament truths. He used the Nation of Israel as an example, then warned them to "take heed lest ye fall". They were messed up on the Lord's Supper, and he corrected them on that error.

In **Chapter 11**, they had a problem with authority structures, and Paul again tore them up for their false teachings.

In **Chapter 12**, they were messed up on spiritual gifts, and the actual function of the Body of Christ.

In **Chapter 13**, they had lost charity, the bottom line of Bible Christianity.

In **Chapter 14**, they were corrected for their misuse of tongues.

In **Chapter 15**, they had no concept of the truth of the resurrection of the dead.

In **Chapter 16**, they were accused of not giving.

The church at Corinth was an absolute mess. It was filled with a bunch of spiritual babies. Any person with sense can read the book of 1Corinthians and see in every chapter, without fail, that the church at Corinth was messed up on some Bible doctrine. But suddenly Jimmy Swaggart, Oral Roberts, and the whole crowd comes to Chapters 13 and 14 and teaches that the church at Corinth had the answer when it came to tongues. That is not true. They were just as messed up on Chapters 13 and 14 as they were in every other chapter in the book. They were doing the same thing with tongues that they were doing with their baptism and their salvation. They were setting up false plans and false standards of spirituality.

Now let's look at Chapters 13 and 14 of 1Corinthians and study in detail what Paul is saying in these two chapters. First and foremost, we must establish the historical context. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth during Acts Chapter 20. They were still in that transitional period. Just one chapter before, we saw Apollos, a Jew of the dispersion, get his Bible doctrine straightened out; and some of his disciples get saved and speak in tongues as a sign to the Jews. In Acts 20, when Paul writes to the church at Corinth, there are legitimate tongues still taking place. In Acts 20, God was still using tongues as a sign to the Jews, but the church at Corinth was misusing those signs. They had done with tongues as they had with baptism and soul-winning and everything else, they placed a special spiritual significance to it that God never intended. In Chapter I they were bragging about who baptized who, as if there were more spiritual power based upon it. In Chapter 3 they were saying, "Well I was won to Christ by the Apostle Paul, and you were won to Christ by Cephas, therefore I am more spiritual than you". In Chapters 13 through 14, Paul chewed them out for inventing what they called "an unknown tongue". There is no place in the Bible where anyone ever speaks in an "unknown tongue". We have already seen that every place in the Bible where tongues appears, it is a specific language.

Let's study Chapters 13 and 14, and, in order to get the context, we will start with the conclusion of Chapter 12. Paul says in 1Corinthians 12:28 - 31:

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

In verse 28 Paul lists the gifts God has given to the church. Notice which one is last - tongues. Remember also, Paul was writing to an infant church in a time when tongues were still in legitimate use. Compare this verse with Ephesians 4:11.

And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

In the book of Ephesians Paul went into detail describing the inner structure of the church, and he lays out the exact authority structure of the local church. He described every detail of the operation of the church, and did not once mention tongues. In 1Corinthians, he was correcting a wayward church, and he listed tongues last.

Then Paul asks a series of rhetorical questions. The answer in every case, is **NO**. In verses 29 - 30 he asks:

Are all apostles?

Are all prophets?

Are all teachers?

Are all workers of miracles?

Have all the gifts of healing?

Do all speak with tongues?

Do all interpret?

The implied answer to every question is **NO**. If any Charismatic tries to tell you that all Christians are to speak in tongues, he is crazy. Paul said they don't. Remember me? I am a Bible believer.

Then in verse 31 Paul told them to covet earnestly the **BEST** gifts. He said that after listing tongues **LAST**. You would think that any Christian with an IQ above sub-plant life could understand plain English, and not be fooled. Then he said, "Let me show you **A MORE EXCELLENT WAY**". More excellent than what? More excellent than everything he just listed! That brings us to Chapter 13, verse 1.

Let's look at this more excellent way:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Most Charismatics will take verse 1 as their proof text that there are tongues of angels, but Paul was not teaching about tongues of angels. Paul was dealing with the church of Corinth in this chapter just like he had in every other chapter - he was dealing with their heresy. The tongues of men are legitimate, you find that defined in the book of Acts as exact specific languages. Then he mentions the tongues of angels, and they are not legitimate. The church at Corinth had elevated the sign gift of tongues from a foreign language, as defined in Acts 2, and began to attach some spirituality and mysticism to it.

They were doing basically the same thing as the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church for centuries did their Masses in Latin. For years and years and years the average Catholic could not read the Bible. It was kept from them. The only Bible they had was a Latin Bible, and the priest was the only one who could have one or read one. They built their big cathedrals in a style of architecture that was designed to stimulate the senses. They saw the light coming through the colored windows, hitting the pews at just the right spot. They saw the candles, and smelled the incense. It all appealed to the senses, and it was designed that way.

When a Catholic walked into his church and heard someone say, “My father plays dominoes better than your father”, or some other high sounding Latin, he would say, “Doesn't that sound holy?”

Someone might ask, “What did he say?”

“I don't know, but it sure was holy, wasn't it?”

That is why when you walk into one of those places, maybe in Europe, or an old church here in America, which is patterned after the ones in Europe, you immediately feel like you ought to shut up and whisper. You don't feel like you can shout, “AMEN, GLORY TO GOD” at the top of your lungs in that place. It is out of character.

For centuries people went there and heard something in Latin they didn't understand and came away believing they had worshipped God. Do you know why? Because the mysticism that held their attraction was in not knowing what the guy was saying. That made them dependent on the priest, since he was the only one with a score card who knew what was going on.

With Vatican 2, around 1960, the Pope said, “We gotta keep up with the times, so let's put the Mass in the common language of the people”.

Of course, all the Catholics thought that was a great idea until the priest got up one Sunday, and what he had said for years in Latin he now said in English. Everyone said, “Is that all you were saying for all those years?” Up until then people had to come to them to find out what they were saying. By that system, those in charge could boast of greater spiritual power and influence. That is **EXACTLY** what the church at Corinth was involved in with their use of tongues.

I have taken several missions trips with my people over the years. We have been to El Salvador, Kenya, and all over Europe. It's odd, but I've discovered that not everyone speaks English. You walk in there and say, “Hi, how are you doing?” Suddenly you realize you are there with your big bare face hanging out because some guy over there is saying, “Mumba, jumba, zaba baruba.” Everyone else in the room is talking back and forth and you are sitting there like an idiot.

I will never forget how helpless I felt when I took my first trip to El Salvador. Here is Bible Bob sitting in a church where they are all speaking Spanish, and I can't understand a word. About the time the preacher got started, I picked up the word Numero, and I figured that was the book of Numbers. So I opened to Numbers, but had no idea what chapter. Then the guy next to me smiled and turned my page and pointed to the right passage. Of course, I thought I had it down then. I tried to stay up with the flow of the words, but I realized that it's not the same in Spanish as it is in English. I was really intently trying to keep up, when the next thing I know, this guy looks over and smiles again and takes my finger and puts it over here. So I said, "Thank you, ah 'mucho gracias' ". Here I am, Bible Bob, and I can't even find what they are talking about. I felt so inadequate and helpless. If you want an even better example, try having to go to the bathroom so bad you can't stand it and not know the word for "bathroom" in the country you are in. You feel like a two year old trying to tell your mommy that you need to use the potty! The baño. El Baño, BAÑO, BAÑO, **BAÑO!**

You are helpless. You are vulnerable. Someone can take advantage of you when they have something that only they control. You need to understand that - whether it is Greek or Hebrew, or whether it is the Roman Catholic Church with their mysticism and secrecy and Masses in Latin, or whether it is the Charismatic Movement where spirituality is based on some ecstatic utterance you can't understand. When they get into their "heavenly" ecstatic language or "the tongues of angels" only they and God can understand, they automatically elevate themselves over the common individual. Then when someone else wants to get it and tries and fails, they feel superior. God HATES that system according to Revelation 2.

So when Paul opens 1Corinthians 13, he is dealing with this issue, and he says:

Though. I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

The Charismatics say, "See, Paul spoke with the tongues of angels". That is **NOT** what Paul is saying. He is saying, "You guys are supposed to have this ecstatic utterance, but if you or I speak with the tongues of men or even some ecstatic utterance that doesn't even exist, and lose charity, we have

wasted our time. You guys are a bunch of spiritual babies. You are putting all the emphasis on outward manifestations and have forgotten what makes you truly spiritual – charity”. Paul was criticizing them. Chapter 13 is not a chapter on “how to”, it is on “how come”. “Why are you messed up on this?” Look at verse 2:

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

Paul was tearing them up because the church at Corinth was claiming to have this great spirituality because of their “tongues of angels”. They were claiming to have the mysteries, they were claiming to be prophets, they were claiming to have knowledge, yet Paul chastised them for not having **true** Christianity, which isn't any of those things - **true** Christianity is charity.

He blasted them again in verse 3:

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I glue my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Now, all the new Bibles take the word “charity” and change it to “love”, and tell you the word “charity” is a mistranslation. Whoever said it was a mistranslation is a mistranslation himself. God knows how to translate. The word is **charity**. The word charity is the epitome of love. Charity encompasses all the aspects of Christianity. Charity is to give, freely, without any strings attached, expecting nothing in return. Isn't that what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross? John 3:16 says that “God so loved the world that he **GAVE** his only begotten son”. 1John 4:10 defines love:

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

True Biblical love is charity. It is giving to others as God has given to you. The word “love” today in the 20th century vocabulary doesn't mean that. Hellywood has prostituted that word to mean sex. So the way it is translated

in a King James 1611 Authorized Version is the right way for the 20th century “modern” man.

In verses 4-7 Paul lists all the characteristics of charity:

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Implied in those verses is the scathing rebuke that this should be the fruit of your ministry, not what you are producing. Paul ripped that church apart in 1Corinthians. Every single item in the list in those four verses was the subject of some criticism Paul leveled against them somewhere else in the book.

Watch what happens in the rest of the chapter, verse 8:

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.

Paul said charity is a constant, it will never fail. Charity is internal, an attitude of heart. He said if you have the proper attitude of heart, regardless of external circumstances, you will be right with God. In verse 8 he said prophecies shall fail, tongues shall cease, and knowledge shall vanish away. Here again, don't get out of the context. The context of 1Corinthians 13 is during Acts 20, where apostolic sign gifts are still in effect to bring in the Jews. Paul rebuked the Corinthians for going after these spiritual gifts and counterfeiting them - making them some great spiritual thing when they are the lowest on the list. He said the thing you ought to be going after is charity. Trying to be what God wants you to be on the inside instead of the outside, because these external things are temporary.

At that time in history, people were running around saying they were apostles and prophesying, and their prophecies were coming true. Paul said there was a time coming when a guy is going to get up and say, “I am an apostle”, and it would **NOT** be true. A Bible example is the church at Ephesus in the book of Revelation. God commended that church for trying those who said they were apostles and finding them liars. Why? Their prophecies failed. Tongues will cease because the tongues are for a sign to the Jews that are dispersed all throughout Asia Minor - because the Jews were told to look for tongues as a sign.

Why will these things fail? Verse 9:

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

They did not have the complete Bible yet! All they had was an Old Testament. All they had was part. They had the first part, the Old Testament. “For we know in part” - Old Testament, “and we prophesy in part” - Old Testament. Verse 10:

But when that which is perfect is come, [the complete Bible] then that which is in part shall be done away.

Then in verse 11, he stops to take another shot at them, a left hook out of their blind spot:

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Then he finishes them off in verses 12 - 13:

For now we see through a glass darkly; but then [when the word of God comes] face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

At that time, they were operating under the guidelines God had given dealing with the nation of Israel: the Old Testament. When they got the completed Bible, and the complete revelation of God, they would have everything they needed; and the sign gifts, the temporary gifts, the things the church at Corinth was majoring on, would not be in effect anymore. There are no prophecies alongside the completed word of God.

Here is the foolishness of tongues. If someone came into my Bible study and said, "I have a message from God, and I want to speak in tongues". Let's say I agreed and said, "Go ahead". He could get up and speak in tongues for twenty minutes. Then someone could say, "I want to interpret the brother's tongues". I could say, "Okay, go ahead". And he could interpret perfectly what the guy just said, and all sorts of people would think something truly spiritual and significant happened.

But here is the problem. If the guy said something from God that is not in the Bible, that would mean the Bible is not complete. Are there any added revelations not contained in the word of God? I am a Bible believer. I believe the "whole" Bible as the Charismatics say. I believe it is complete, accurate, and perfect as God wanted me to have it.

Let's examine another possibility. What if the man comes up, and says something contrary to the word of God. Which do I take, the Bible or the man? Do you think I would have to flip a coin? Remember me? I am a Bible believer. I take the Bible over anything anyone on earth says.

What if he says something that is in the Bible already? Why do I need him to say it in tongues? I have it in English. There is no need for tongues - I have the completed part. The reason they needed it back in Acts 20, and in 1Corinthians was for the Jews, because they only had part. They only had an Old Testament. They didn't have a New Testament. No Charismatic on earth ever knew his Bible well enough to understand that.

Now that Paul has completely destroyed them in Chapter 13, he uses Chapter 14 to help them get their priorities in the right place - look what he says in verse 1:

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

He said get charity down, and follow after it. He also said there is nothing wrong with desiring spiritual gifts, but keep the priorities straight. Much more important than the gifts is prophecy - preaching the Bible. New look at verse 2:

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God;

No Charismatic in the world ever understood that verse. When Paul made reference to the tongues of angels, they totally misunderstood what he was saying and thought Paul spoke with the tongues of angels. Then they look at verse 2 and actually believe there is such a thing as an “unknown tongue”. I have already clearly established the fact that every legitimate tongue in the Bible is a specific earthly language. Let's look at this “unknown” tongue for a minute.

First of all, the word “unknown” is in italics throughout the chapter. The words in the Bible in italics are different from the other words. No Charismatic knows that, and what's more, no Charismatic cares! He wants to have an experience and to rattle off in some gibberish - he is not a serious Bible student.

When the King James translators took the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts and translated them into English, they could not produce a strict word for word translation. That is true of any translation, because languages have different structures and idioms. So when they found a passage that did not flow smoothly and line up exactly, God guided them, and they added words. But they were honest about it (not like the new translations); they put those words in italics so the paragraph would make sense. A Charismatic thinks the “unknown tongues” are something God approved of and wanted them involved in, when it is something the translators put in to show you that this is not the same tongues talked about in Acts 2.

Not only that, remember again that Paul was writing in a time when legitimate tongues were still in use. When they were used, they were unknown to someone in the crowd. That's why they needed an interpreter. But in every case, a legitimate tongue was a specific language, not some unknown, random gobbledygook.

The Corinthians were engaging in wild ecstatic gibberish just like the Charismatics do today. Verse 2 says when that happens the man speaks not unto men, but unto God, and speaks mysteries in the spirit. Immediately the Charismatics take that verse and try to prove that those “unknown” tongues elevate a man to a higher spiritual plane because only God can understand them. But Paul was criticizing them for this. Sure, God understands them, but why shouldn't He? God knows everything. But the verse says no man understands. How does anyone know what the man is saying? He might be cussing God out for all anyone knows.

New look at verse 3:

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

Paul said he that prophesies speaks unto men for edification. Let's compare scripture with scripture. Look at Ephesians 4:11:

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists, and some pastors and teachers;

Do you see what he left out of this list? Paul wrote to the church at Corinth at a time when God was still dealing with Jews, and he listed healing, tongues and interpretations. They are sign gifts. When he wrote to the church at Ephesus, he left out those gifts, because those gifts aren't for the church. What is the church supposed to do? Ephesians 4:12:

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

The job of the Gentile church is perfecting the saints and edification of believers. The church at Corinth is a Gentile church. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers, specifically Jews. The Gentile church at Corinth was taking something given to the Jews and elevating it to some spiritual plateau where those who spoke in the “heavenly tongue of angels” have something the others don't. This was not God's plan.

Look at verses 4 - 5:

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

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

Paul said, “I don't care if you speak in tongues, because there are still Jews out there, and when you have a church service you will probably have some Jews there who don't understand what is going on. When they hear tongues they will recognize it as a sign, because tongues are for a sign, and the Jew requires a sign. I have no problem with that, but just make sure someone interprets, because the purpose of the church is edification”.

Paul listed tongues last because, if someone does use tongues and nobody can interpret, nobody gets edified but yourself. Of course, that was just like the church at Corinth. All they thought of were themselves, just like the modern Charismatics. Paul went on to say in verse 6:

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

He said, “If I talk to you in tongues, what good am I going to do unless I teach you something about God?” Paul said there were four ways he could teach them about God: by revelation (something God had shown him), by knowledge (something he had learned from God in the past), by prophesying (taking a passage of Old Testament scripture and preaching it), or by doctrine (doing some specific structural teaching of the Bible). He said, “I will profit you if I teach one of these four things, but I will not profit you by going off on some rampage of words that nobody understands...I just edify myself.” A Christian is never told to edify himself.

Then he uses an example in verses 7-8:

And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

Imagine the confusion if, on the battlefield when it is time to blow the charge, the guy picks up the bugle, blows, and out comes organ music playing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". There won't be much confidence in the troops because it gave the wrong sound. If inanimate objects that don't even have life give a right sound, how much more should you that have life and have the spirit of God give the right sound? If a clarinet is smart enough to obey God, so that every time someone blows on it, it sounds like a clarinet - you would think that God's children would follow the priority of God and speak with a certain sound. That is what the Pharisees hated about Jesus Christ. He gave a right sound. The Bible says he spoke with authority, and not as the scribes. This is what many of you have trouble with. I am a Bible believer. I speak from a position of authority - not my own - but God's final authority - the Bible. You may not like the tone of this book, you may not agree with the material; but there is a **CERTAIN SOUND** coming from this Book.

My dog never meows; he barks. I have a cat that never stops meowing. They follow the natural order. Now you may think that is a stupid illustration, but it is not. Animals obey God. There is only one being on the face of the earth - the human being - who disobeys God.

You find men who want to become women, and you find women who want to become men; but you never find a dog going to the hospital saying, "Make me a cat". "I am tired of being a German Shepherd, I want to be an elephant." You won't find the vet putting an air hose on him and blowing him up about 400 pounds per square inch and putting a trunk on him and sending him home. Man does that. Animals are satisfied with the way they are. Animals are satisfied, and they obey God's natural law, and do what God tells them to do.

Psalm 145:15-16:

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Psalm 104:27:

These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

Man is the only one who can't obey God (the church at Corinth's problem). Paul said if a harp and a pipe, two inanimate objects that don't even have life, give the right sound - then how much more should you with life be able to discern the priorities of God and give the right sound.

Then he makes the comparison of the illustration in verses 9 - 11:

So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

Charismatics say you just have to have tongues, because if you don't have tongues, you are missing the fullness of what God has for you. Not according to Paul. Paul says if you can get up and preach the word of God, you have accomplished more than if you get up and rattle off for twenty minutes with nobody understanding.

Then in 1 Corinthians 14:12, he brings up the issue again:

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

You see, edifying the church is not exciting and stimulating. Edifying the church doesn't involve a lot of emotions - getting worked up into a hot lather where you go off half-cocked into some wild ecstatic experience. Edification is studying the Bible. It is applying the Bible to your life and solving everyday problems.

New look at verses 13 - 14:

Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

When a Charismatic goes off on some gibberish, how does he know what he is saying? I heard of a case in which someone was talking about a tongues episode he witnessed. He said someone got up and started blubbering some nonsense, when right in the middle of it, they started speaking Japanese. This man had spent some time in Japan during World War II, and understood what the Charismatic was saying, and he said it was some of the most vulgar, profane language he had ever heard.

Now either that Charismatic knew what he was saying, or he didn't. If he did, he was a con-artist. If he didn't, then whose spirit gave him that utterance, God's or the Devil's? Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment! The Bible says in this very chapter that God is not the author of confusion. If you have been saved any length of time, your understanding of God's plan should never be unfruitful. If you don't understand God's will for your life and what God wants you to do, it is not God's fault, it is your fault. You should always understand what God is doing with you. You may not have all the pieces, but even when you don't, you should rest in the fact that God is not the author of confusion. Even when there are times you don't see clearly all the details, there should never

be a time when God's general direction for your life is not clear. Paul said if someone is going to speak in tongues, there must be an interpreter so that confusion does not abound.

In verses 15-17 Paul straightened them out some more. He said, "What is it then?" How is it supposed to be Paul? Look at the verses:

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.

Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

When you sing songs, do you sing songs you don't understand? He used a common illustration. If I got up and sang, "Fleeby ifby lu fi sing ie off to lubine..." You would say, "Boy that is really good, Bob, what is it"? "I don't know, but it sounded real spiritual, didn't it?" Now if I got up and sang, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so...", you could understand that.

He used prayer for the same illustration. When I pray, I say something like, "Now Lord I love you; Father you mean so much to me, and I love you and I thank you for all you have done for us; please bless us tonight." But if I said, "Areba dabba debba dabba beep boop, amen", who would get anything out of it? How could anyone agree with that and say "Amen"?

When you sing, you sing with your spirit. You sing from the inside. Singing and praying are right side by side. On Sunday morning when the song director gets up and leads you in:

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth.
It sounds like music in my ears,
The sweetest name on earth.
Oh, how I love Jesus...

you are communing with the Holy Spirit of God inside you. Maybe you are not taking the words seriously - He is. Maybe your attitude of heart isn't just right when you sing, but His is. When you sing or pray, you commune to God with your spirit. That is why Paul used the examples he did.

I am sure everyone has heard someone get up and lead a prayer that was just a canned, previously prepared speech. They pray that way at the beginning of every session of Congress; but I promise you, no one is getting ahold of God. Up steps Reverend Mushroom for the opening invocation: "Shall we pray, our most gracious God of almighty fathers, we thank thee for the beautiful sky, we thank thee for the beautiful brooks, we thank thee for the beautiful birds. We thank thee for the beautiful babbling brooks, we thank thee for the night time, and we thank thee for the friends we have. And let us be mindful that we thank thee for the things that we forgot to thank thee for, and we especially thank thee that we are not as the publicans and sinners..." Don't laugh. Their "prayers" are read. If you were invited to pray at the opening session of Congress, you would be required to send your written text in for approval before you were invited to pray. They want to be sure you don't actually get ahold of God in your prayer. They also want to be sure you don't mention the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in your prayer either, if I ever get invited to pray at something like that (which I never will) I will send in a mushroom prayer and get it approved, then show up at the appointed time and **PRAY**. That ought to get some response.

Paul used this illustration because, when you sing, it is the same as when you pray. You can tell when somebody is just reading a manuscript, or when he is actually praying. If you really believe what you are saying, your soul lights up. When you sing something like "When I survey the wondrous cross" and really mean it, you are praying. So Paul said to sing with the spirit, and sing with understanding. So we should pray with understanding also.

Now look what he says in 1Corinthians 14:16:

Else when thou shalt bless with, the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say "Amen" at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

When you don't know what you are saying, and have no control over your spirit, how will someone else say “Amen”, or get anything from that, or agree with that?

Then he goes on in verse 17 to hit them between the eyes with the issue again:

For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

Paul used those tongues in the proper situations, that is why he was an authority on what he was saying.

Paul spoke in tongues more than anyone in the church at Corinth. Notice he didn't say UNKNOWN tongues. Notice that the King James translators didn't put “unknown” tongues in so you could differentiate between the two. Paul used the sign gift of tongues frequently, yet look what he said about that in verse 19:

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.

Paul said he would rather speak five words with understanding in order to teach others than ten thousand to five. When I get up on Sunday morning and preach to my people for forty-five minutes, I accomplish more in their lives than if they would sit through any ecstatic angel-tongue service that lasted thirty days straight. At those odds (ten thousand to five) it would take forty years of Sundays in tongues to accomplish in the lives of my people what I can do by preaching the plain, clear truth of the word of God to them once. How can anyone say tongues are important to me when you consider that?

After criticizing them, Paul stops to deal with their childish behavior in verse 20:

Brethren be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

He said, "Come on, kiddies, come on." They were upset, they were mad because he pulled a dirty, dastardly trick on the church at Corinth - he used the Bible. God forbid! He wrote them a letter straightening them out, then chided them for their attitude and immature behavior. He told them to go ahead and be children in malice. Get mad if you want, throw your bottle out of the crib, stomp your feet if you must, but in understanding, be MEN. Get mad, but get the point!

In verse 21 he went back into the Old Testament to confirm what he was teaching them. Paul was a Bible believer.

In the law [Old Testament] it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips [other tongues, not unknown tongues] will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that they will not hear me, saith the Lord.

This quotation is from Isaiah 28:11, written to the Nation of Israel. This verse says that God will speak to "this people" through other languages. He did exactly that in Acts 2. "This people" were JEWS, yet for all that, they did not hear him, the verse says. They didn't hear him; they rejected him in the early part of the book of Acts. All through the book of Acts you see Jews rejecting the message, and Gentiles accepting it. Look at verse 22:

WHEREFORE tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

"**WHEREFORE**" - because of verse 21, tongues are a sign to the Jews. There are no Christians in Isaiah 28, but the church at Corinth had taken tongues to a place of spiritual significance in the Gentile church. This sounds like the modern Charismatics. They had taken something given to the Jews and applied it to themselves.

Look at verse 23:

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues; and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

If you have ever been to a good Charismatic meeting, you will identify with that verse. You think you are going to a church service when all of a sudden, they start swinging on the chandeliers, foaming at the mouth and flip-flopping all over the place. They make jokes about them, and call them “Holy Rollers” or “Pew Jumpers”. Down south they call them worse than that.

Now there isn't anything wrong with getting excited about God. I have a good friend who pastors a church in New York, and those people get excited about the word of God. They have a church-wide Bible conference every year that would make the average Pentecostal church look like a morgue, but that church is doctrinally sound. For the most part, it is legitimate excitement about the word of God, but even in that, you run into occasional problems. One time I was there and during the song service, some guy walked down the front waving his Bible and shouting “Glory to God! Glory to God!” Everyone was ‘Amening’, when the pastor leaned over and said to me, “Yeah, ‘glory to God’, my foot. He hasn't been in church all year. He shows up at the Bible conference every year doing that, then goes right back where he was before.”

It was all done in his flesh, and the flesh can be “plugged in”. People say, “I want to have a feeling for God.” I have a better idea. Stand in a bathtub full of water and plug in a radio and throw it in the tub. Light up for Jesus!

“How are you doing, Bob?” “I'm smoking for Jesus! Oh I feel it friends; put your hand on the radio friend, and feel the power of God. Better yet, put you hand BEHIND the radio and feel the power of “God”, 440 volts worth! You will see all kinds of things. Your watch will go backwards, friends. You can step into the tub age sixty-five and come out twenty-five. Experience Bible Bob's Fountain of Youth!”

Those people are crazy. That is why I thank God I have a Bible I can believe. I have an absolute standard that cuts through all of this junk, and exposes these Charismatics for what they really are - crazy. Paul said they were mad.

Now look at verses 24 - 25:

But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

Paul said, if an unbeliever comes into the church and hears a bunch of nonsense blubbing and gibberish, he will leave thinking you are all crazy. However, if he comes into the church and hears the plain, clear preaching of the word of God, he will get convicted and worship God. Hebrews Chapter 4 says the Bible is sharper than any two edged sword and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Isaiah 55 says the word of God will not return void, but accomplishes the purpose God has for it when he sends it out. When an unsaved person comes into your church, He should hear a clear presentation of God's word; as Paul said, a **CERTAIN** sound, not an uncertain sound.

Now at this point, Paul gives instructions as to how the Corinthians were supposed to use tongues. Again, remember, legitimate tongues were in use at this time in history because of the transition from Jews to Gentiles. Look at verse 26:

How is it then, Brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

He keeps coming back to the issue: edification. If you are going to persist in using tongues, let me tell you how to do it biblically. Look at verses 27 - 28:

If any speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

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

If you want to know if these tongues are of God, then don't do it unless someone can interpret. That eliminates "unknown" tongues immediately. Because if it is unknown, no one can interpret it. But it didn't take long for the church at Corinth to get the bright idea to elevate "interpreting" to the same spiritual level as tongues. When someone who wanted to prove his spirituality would get up and say, "let me interpret", off he would go into some lengthy "interpretation" that had nothing to do with anything. I heard of someone who went to a Charismatic meeting who could speak Spanish. At an opportune time, he stood up in the middle of the crowd and "spoke in tongues" in Spanish. Some crazy Charismatic jumped up and "interpreted the tongue". This guy blew the meeting apart by explaining to everyone what he had really said, and what language it was. The church at Corinth, and the modern Charismatics, will invent anything to try to pass themselves off as being "spiritual".

Paul said if they were going to speak in tongues, it should be one, maybe two, but no more than three, and only if someone can interpret.

Here is how they should have been handling tongues...

When the church at Corinth met and the service was open, perhaps someone would get up and say, "I have a message in tongues, and I want to speak it." The pastor would say, "Do you have anyone to interpret? If it is some 'unknown tongue' or some 'tongue of angels', can it. We don't need it."

Someone else would say, "Brother, I have a message in tongues, for the Jews. God impressed on my heart that there are some Jews in our service tonight that aren't from our country, and I want to speak God's word to them."

The pastor would ask, "Do you have someone to interpret it?" "Yes I do, so we can all be edified." "Okay, go ahead and let it fly."

Then the guy would speak in a foreign language and the message would be interpreted, and everyone there would hear from God.

Then someone else would get up and say, "I have a message also, pastor."

“Do you have an interpreter to edify the church?” “Yes I do.” “Alright, go ahead.”

After he was finished, someone else says, “I want to speak in tongues, and I have an interpreter.”

“Does he speak the language you are going to speak?” “Yes, he is bilingual, he can speak two languages.”

After he is finished, the pastor would say, “Okay, boys, that is enough, we had three. Let's open your Bibles, I am going to preach to you now. The reason we are here is for the edification of the church.”

Now look at verses 29-31:

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

Paul said that once the preaching begins, if someone gets something out of the message, “share time” is over. Don't interrupt the guy when he is preaching. You can set a time aside by course; one, two, maybe three times you can use tongues for the benefit of the Jews of the dispersion which need to have that sign. But when the tongues are over and the man starts to preach, if someone gets a revelation, or a “word from God”, let him hold his peace. Let the guy preach.

Verse 31 says the bottom line of the church is the edification of the saints, not speaking in tongues.

Verses 32-33:

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Paul said that you are to control your emotions and your spirit in the church. That does not mean you can't enjoy the preaching of the word of God. That does not mean you can't let out a good hearty "Amen". Just don't think there is anything special in your relationship with God because you get up and act like a fool in the church. Why? Verse 33 says God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. The last verse in this chapter says everything is to be done decently and in order. The church service is to be conducted in this manner, and that cannot happen when everyone is running around acting crazy.

Now we come to a controversial passage; look at verses 34 - 35:

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

Suddenly the Charismatics go into spasms at this point, and they develop an acute case of biblical insanity. When we come to verse 34 in the same chapter (without a paragraph mark, or without changing the context) suddenly the Charismatics get off track and think this means that a woman is supposed to sit in church and never say anything. Then they go even further and bring up the fact that historically in the early church, the women all sat on one side, and the men all sat on the other side, and the women couldn't speak inside the building.

There are some real problems with that mentality and teaching. There are women mentioned all through the New Testament. In Romans 16, Phoebe is mentioned as a servant of the church. How can she serve the church if she never spoke? Romans 16:2 says she had business to conduct with the church at Rome in the course of her mission. Paul had sent her to Rome to minister to the saints there. Did she use sign language? Romans 16:5 says Priscilla and Aquilla had a church in their home. Was Priscilla not permitted to say anything in her own home? Nonsense.

Let's go one step further. Let's assume this was true; that women were not permitted to say anything in the church. Why are they allowed to speak today? Someone may say, "Well, they were wrong to not let women speak then, and we have corrected that error." Wait a minute. Paul wrote that verse. It is contained in the word of God as inspired scripture. Did God let something get in there that does not belong? If 1Corinthians 14:34-35 is wrong, how do you know John 3:16 is right?

One of the fundamental basic rules of Bible study is to **always** consider the context of the passage. This is true in the world, also. How many times have politicians complained about being misquoted with words taken out of context. **NEVER** take a passage out of its context to try to prove something. Peter warned us about that in II Peter 3:15-16:

And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

As also in all his epistles speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures unto their own destruction.

If Paul said women were not permitted to speak in the church in a chapter in which the context is speaking in tongues, then that simply means women are **not** to speak in tongues. They are certainly permitted to sing or talk to people. The context of the passage makes it absolutely clear that **TONGUES ARE NOT FOR A WOMAN!**

We have a problem now. The Charismatic Movement began in 1900 with a **WOMAN**. Here is the problem: you must either take what the Book says, or what the Charismatics say. You cannot have both! This is what I mean when I say a Charismatic has a total disregard for the authority of the word of God. If you take the women out of the Charismatic Movement, you wouldn't have a Charismatic Movement. The hardest person in the world to deal with is a woman who is messed up on tongues. The only thing you can do is run over her with a gospel cement roller. (In Jesus' name).

A woman is never called to pastor. The Bible is very clear on this. A woman is never to usurp the authority of the man. That does not mean she cannot teach other women, she just cannot have a position of authority over a man. Of course, now I am accused of being a “male chauvinist” (whatever that means). I usually don't respond to the fools who say that. Men and women are different, folks. I know the world hates that truth. The world hates anything connected with Bible truth and the Lord Jesus Christ. God has given women a special unique ability and position that men cannot have. Yet you ladies have let the world steal it from you. God gave you the privilege of bringing forth life. God has given you a unique capacity for love and tenderness toward a young life that no man can possibly understand.

American women have let the world rob them as a young lady, and a mother, and a woman. They have let the world rob them of the most beautiful and precious thing God gave them that He did not give a man. He gave women the privilege of bringing forth life. He gave them the emotions, the feelings, and the ability to be something tender and sweet; and they want to trade it in for a worldly substitute.

The two greatest jobs or professions on the face of this earth are a preacher of the word of God for a man, and a housewife for a woman. If that sounds “degrading” to you, it is only because you have no concept at all of the precious role of a mother and wife.

There are more people in heaven tonight because of praying grandmothers than praying grandfathers. There are more preachers in the ministry because of praying mothers than praying dads. A woman has a sensitivity that a man doesn't, and you have let somebody steal that from you. What a waste.

When Paul said, “Let your women keep silence in the churches”, he was saying a woman is not to speak in tongues. Tongues were given to a man along with preaching; the tongues as a sign gift, and the preaching for the edification of the body of Christ. There is not **ONE** case in the word of God where a woman speaks in tongues, or has pastoral authority; yet the modern Charismatic Movement is filled to the brink with women in leadership roles.

Look at verse 36:

What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

Paul really took a shot at them in verse 36. He said in essence, “Who do you think you are? Do you have a corner on the word of God? With this ‘ecstatic language’, this ‘utterance’, this ‘heavenly tongues of angels’, do you think you have the corner on the market for the Holy Spirit of God and the word of God? Who do you think you are? Did the word of God come out from you? Did it come to you only?” The implied answer is: **certainly not!**

In verses 37 - 38, Paul finished them off with the clincher. After laying out their problems, and the Bible's clear teaching out of the Old Testament, he winds up for the haymaker, verses 37 - 38:

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

I will take the same approach Paul took - Hey big shot! If you think you are so spiritual, let's find out. What is your authority: your **feelings** or the **Book**?

If you think you are so spiritual, then acknowledge that the things Paul wrote unto you are the commandments of the Lord. This is where the problem rests - with authority. Your problem is not with me, your problem is with Him.

This book began with the authority of the word of God. Remember me, I am a Bible believer. The King James Bible is the absolute authority in the universe. It is the word of God and the standard for all matters of faith and practice. If you are a Charismatic, and you have made it this far without throwing this book in the fireplace, I have a question for you: What is the final authority in your life? Is it your feelings? Is it your experiences? Is it your pastor or those who have taught you what you believe? Are you like most Charismatics who have no regard for the authority of the word of God? Or do you believe the Bible is God's word? If you believe the word of God,

then open your eyes and get out from under the false teaching you have been fooled by, and get into a true, mature New Testament church that believes and teaches the word of God.

If you won't, verse 38 is for you:

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

If you want to tell me how spiritual you are, and about your close relationship with God, then let's take the true test: take the Book over your feelings. The things Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 13-14 are the commandments of the Lord. If you don't like that, and you want to stay ignorant, then stay ignorant. It won't change the word of God; and it won't stop me from believing it, living by it, and teaching it.

Then Paul concludes in verses 39 - 40:

Wherefore, brethren covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

Let all things be done decently and in order.

The church at Corinth was in existence in Acts 20, during a time when legitimate tongues were in use. Paul had started that church on one of his missionary trips, but they had gotten off the track. Paul wrote them a letter to correct their errors, saying, "Yes, there are tongues still for now, but you are coveting the wrong gifts. You need to covet the best gifts, and yet I am going to show you a more excellent way." He then told them about the coming word of God. He told them there was nothing wrong with using tongues as a sign to the Jews, but this "unknown tongues of angels" is not in the Bible. It is recorded in the law that men with other tongues would speak to the Jews because the Jews require a sign. So when he closed the passage, he said to forbid not to speak with tongues, because you are living in that time period when tongues exist. However, keep in mind, where there are tongues, they shall (future tense) cease. If you are going to use tongues, do it right.

Today you can't get that admonition; you can't do it right today. Do you know why? Because tongues have ceased. Tongues are no longer in effect for this age, because it was a sign gift to the Jews. When God finished dealing with the Jews through the transitional book of Acts, and the gospel went to the Gentiles, the sign gifts became obsolete. God said that tongues would cease, and they have ceased. The sign gifts were replaced by “that which is perfect”, the completed revelation of the word of God, which you now have in your hands in your own language, preserved infallibly for you in the Authorized King James Bible.

Chapter 6

Wrapping It Up

Much more could be written (and has been written) on this subject, but this will give you the basics. As I have said before, the Charismatic Movement has the curse of God on it. The reason is that it is based on a bunch of non-biblical terms and doctrines, and a “gospel” that is different from the one Paul preached, the gospel of the grace of God in salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 2Corinthians 11 calls those who preach another gospel, “ministers of Satan.” Don't get mad at me. Read the chapter and get mad at God - He wrote it.

There are a lot of good people confused over this. Maybe in reading this book, I have your dander up right now. Give me one last chance to get your attention. Just stop and think the thing through for a second. Don't take it personally. You are trying to defend something that the Bible doesn't defend. You couldn't find “four square” gospel, or “full” gospel in the Bible if you tried. You couldn't find “Slain in the Spirit” if you stayed up all night with one of those big World War II aircraft searchlights on your Bible. It is **NOT** there. It is something someone made up. You couldn't find the “tongues of angels” (other than an expression Paul used to chastise a wayward church). No one in the Bible ever spoke with the “tongues of angels”. These terms and dozens like them are man-made terms of the Charismatic Movement. They have nothing to do with the word of God.



2Corinthians 11 calls those who preach another gospel “ministers of Satan.”

I don't know how many times I have heard someone ask, “Have you received the full gospel?” (Like there is something missing from the gospel Paul preached of the grace of God.) I've never seen the “full gospel” in the Bible. I hope I haven't received it because I don't want to be cursed. I am a Bible believer, remember me? When someone talks to you about the “full gospel”, get out your crucifix and hold them back. It is **NOT** in the word of God! You can't judge after appearance. You **MUST** judge after righteous judgment.

Because Charismatics don't really know their Bible and really aren't serious about studying it, they have two main callings in life. I am opposed to both. The first one is to confuse young Christians, and make them afraid they can lose their salvation-which they can't. They get them to believe that they don't have all that God has for them when they get saved, and as a result, it keeps them confused and in spiritual infancy. Their movement keeps them from growing because instead of getting into the word of God and feeding off the sincere milk of the word, they keep looking for something they don't need and can't get. The Bible says that when you get saved you are complete in Him. I am a Bible believer; I will take the Bible over what your preacher says. The Charismatics' first big calling in life is to confuse people, and that is why they always move in on young Christians.

Years ago, when I was working in a factory (before I got into a full-time ministry) I led some of my co-workers to Christ. About a week later, almost every time, some old Charismatic idiot would get ahold of them and say, "You have been saved; ah, that's great. Have you gotten the Holy Ghost and spoken in tongues as the initial evidence?" And he would confuse the young Christian. God sent me to him; I won him to Christ; and the end result is that the Charismatic turns him against me because he tells him he doesn't have everything.

That is why I am writing this book for my people. A Charismatic could get away with that in the factory because I worked for them, but this is my turf. You are on my ground. I believe that book. I am not interested in your beliefs. I don't care what your preacher says. I am interested in what the **BOOK** says, the way it says it.

Most cults in America grow by preying on young Christians, because they are so susceptible to bad doctrine. Do you know how a Church of Christ grows? They find baby Christians and confuse them into believing if they aren't baptized by an official Church of Christ elder according to Acts 2:38, they aren't saved. Pentecostal churches grow the same way. A Charismatic will find a new Christian and ask, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" The baby Christian then gets confused into thinking he is not saved unless he speaks in tongues.

In my ministry, I have a two hour open forum question and answer Bible study every Thursday night. Every so often, one of those demon possessed cult members comes to the Bible study. I see them as soon as they come in; I can spot them a mile away. They sit in the back and won't say a thing-just smile a lot. They will come two or three weeks in a row with a large crowd of Christians, just sit back, and watch them. They will sniff out young Christians just like the wolves with the sheep. Pretty soon I see them get one of the sheep off in the corner and try to put them up against the wall with the Bible. That's how they work.

Now, I believe in being a gentleman as much as possible. But when it comes to something like that, I pull no punches. I will be just as cruel and ruthless as any person you ever saw. If necessary, I will get a few of my biggest guys to escort him to his car and advise him: "If you ever show up again, you will definitely be in the tribulation." Maybe you don't appreciate that, but I am not about to let anyone get my sheep like that. If one of my members wants to go off on their own and get messed up in the world or a cult, I do everything I can to stop them, but if they go, ultimately that's their business. But for a wolf to come in like that is an entirely different story.

Parents, you just can't let them get your kids that way. Pastors, you can't let them get your sheep like that. God will hold you accountable for them. You must understand that, because they are not out to convert people. Their "ministry" is not one of conversion, it is one of confusion. They will confuse baby Christians or people who don't really take their faith seriously.

The second thing they do is infiltrate into a place in Christianity where the Bible is not taken seriously. They do this instead of trying to confuse someone and draw them away. This second tactic is designed to take over an existing work through the "leavening" of their doctrine. They will find out where the Bible studies are being held, just float in there and talk about the "gifts" or the "Spirit", and all the nonessentials. No one there takes anything seriously, no one knows the Bible, no one cares about the Bible; all they talk about is experiences. They thrive where the Bible is not taken seriously.

I have a missionary friend in Germany who credits the Charismatic Movement in Germany as being the most disruptive force in the country. He said they come into a small, young, existing work and draw it away by their deceit. Then, they report back to their “mission board” about all the churches they started. He said they have more problems with this than with the Roman Catholic church.

If you are a Charismatic and you are past ignorance, and just plain dishonest - you will never survive here. We don't put up with any heresy. We believe the Bible. **We are Bible believers!** God has given me a whole host of young men and women who believe the word of God and are saved doctrinally. Don't waste your time with my people-most of them would eat your lunch in 30 seconds in the word of God. Once we bring you through the Bible point by point, tie up your doctrine, and give you nowhere to go, don't bother to resort to your last tactic: “Well, you just don't speak with love.” No, I speak the truth. Your problem is not love, pal, your problem is truth.

One last time, let's resort to the Bible and finish the Charismatic off with the absolute righteous standard of the word of God. When Paul wrote the book of Ephesians, he put the final coffin nails in the casket for the Charismatic. God has a unique way of tripping a man up who rejects the word of God for his own personal opinions. God has a unique way of letting a guy like that put himself on a limb and then sawing it off behind him. Jesus Christ asked the Father to “Sanctify them through, thy truth; thy word is truth.” (John 17:17) Jesus told us not to judge by “the appearance, but judge righteous judgment”. God has given us an absolute standard by which to judge everything we see. The book of Ephesians explains what the mystery of the body of Christ is all about. It is the premier book in the Bible describing the job of the church, and the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and His bride, the church. **BUT PAUL NEVER MENTIONED TONGUES ONE TIME.** Now, do you think he just forgot? Or maybe he was just in a hurry. Instead of tongues, look at what he said in Ephesians 4:1:

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worth of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”

Ladies and gentlemen, what you see in Christianity today is a sham 99% of the time. He says, "I [Paul] therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worth of the vocation wherewith ye are called." If you are saved, God has called you to a vocation. That vocation is to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ. A true prisoner of the Lord wouldn't be caught dead living in a million dollar home. Wouldn't you find it a little strange if you went to San Quentin, or Joliet, or Leavenworth for a tour of the prison and every prisoner had a big mansion with maids all around him? Who says crime doesn't pay! Imagine all the prisoners being fanned by their harem while popping grapes in their mouth and having big piles of money all over the place. Imagine a prisoner saying, "Well, I can't get out today, but we are shipping in a load of girls tonight for a big party. Yea, I'm in jail, but I just put \$20,000 on Ajax in the first race down in Tampa. I am in jail, yeah, I am suffering." (What can I do to get arrested? I would like going to a jail like that.)

Since when is a prisoner supposed to live like a king? I am asking a question. **Since when is a prisoner supposed to live like a king?** I cannot tolerate the audacity of a so-called man of God begging for money to keep his empire going and living like he is in the Millennium reigning with the Lord. Imagine the gall of someone claiming that if he doesn't get eight million bucks God is going to kill him, when he is living in a house that costs over a million dollars and driving a Cadillac or a Rolls Royce. What kind of a prisoner of the Lord has a multimillion dollar empire in South Carolina with a second home in Palm Springs, California, and an air-conditioned doghouse? How can a bond servant of the Lord Jesus Christ pay himself and his wife an annual salary of 1.6 million dollars, and be able to face himself in the mirror?

I love God's people, but God's people are stupid. God's people have been taught to judge by appearances, instead of judging by the Bible. The greatest Christian who ever lived says you are to be a prisoner - a bond slave of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The book of 2Corinthians says the key to the ministry is **SUFFERING**. Boy, would I like to "suffer" like some of the brethren are "suffering" tonight.

“How was your day at the office today honey?”

“Oh it was terrible. The air conditioner broke and we all had to sweat.”

I love God's people. I love you with all my heart, but you don't know what a real man of God looks like. You have been so overwhelmed and bombarded with these paper preachers that you can't discern when someone **really** has the power of God in his life. I want to see Jimmy Swaggart stand next to Adoniram Judson at the Judgment Seat of Christ. I want to see how some of these so-called modern “men of God” fare alongside some of those old boys like David Brainerd and others who gave their lives on the mission field. I want Jim and Tammy Bakker to stand next to John Patton, missionary to the hew Hebrides Islands. John Patton took his wife and three children, and tried to win the natives to Christ. One by one, his wife and children died. When he buried them, he had to dig their graves with his own hands. Then he had to cover them up and sit on the graves for four days, so the natives wouldn't dig them up and eat them. As he sat there on their graves, he prayed: “God, I don't know how I could get through this without your grace, you are just so good to me. Lord, I really love you, and I thank you for all the blessings you have given me.”

Tell me about your problems, little fella. Tell me about your heartaches, sweetheart. Tell me about your tough day, and then tell **HIM** at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Who let you out of your cell, prisoner?

The apostle Paul was the greatest Christian who ever lived or ever will live. How could anyone in their right mind read the New Testament and line up Paul's life with a modern Charismatic preacher? In 1Corinthians 11:1, the Holy Spirit of God, through Paul, **commands** the New Testament believers to be followers of Paul, as he was of Jesus Christ. Let's look at Paul's example of suffering that we are to follow. In Acts 9:16, God gave Ananias testimony about Paul's life and he was told:

For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Watch Paul's record of suffering for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:

In **Acts 14:19**, Paul was stoned and left for dead by some Jews at Lystra who didn't like what he was preaching.

In **Acts 16:22-24**, Paul and Silas were arrested in Philippi for preaching the word of God. They were beaten with whips and thrown in jail with their feet locked firmly in stocks. I guess Paul and Silas forgot to watch Oral Roberts on TV that day. (Something goooooood is going to happen to you today!) What do you suppose would be the response of a Charismatic to that? Look at Paul's response in **verse 25**:

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

In **Acts 18:12-17**, Paul was apprehended by a bunch of Jews and brought before Gallio for judgment. Gallio refused to hear the case; then the Jews beat Paul in front of the judge and he didn't even stop them.

In **Acts 21:30-32**, Paul was cornered by a bunch of Jews in Jerusalem, beaten, and would have been killed, had not the law stepped in. At that point, Paul was taken into custody by Rome, and spent the rest of his life in jail (or in guarded custody of Rome).

In **Acts 21-28**, he was passed from one jurisdiction to another, and treated like a common criminal the whole time. In **Acts 27**, he was shipwrecked on Melita for 3 months in the dead of winter.

By **Acts 28**, he ended up in Rome and never left.

The theme of the book of 2Corinthians is ministry. After rebuking the church of Corinth for their many problems in 1Corinthians, Paul wrote a follow-up letter to restore that church to a proper Biblical pattern of ministry. In chapter one he told them the key to the ministry was **SUFFERING**.

Then, throughout the book, he gave them numerous personal examples of his sufferings for Jesus Christ. Just read what he said:

For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: (2Corinthians 1:8-9)

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

So then death worketh in us, but life in you. (2Corinthians 4:8-12)

But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

*As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.
(2Corinthians 6:4-10)*

For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. (2Corinthians 7:5)

Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I bum not?

If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with, a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands. (2Corinthians 11:23-33)

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2Corinthians 12:9-10)

Paul was a bond slave of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Philippians, chapter 1, **WHILE IN JAIL**, he said this:

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:19-21)

Oral Roberts held himself hostage for 8 million dollars and begged people to give money to “save his life”. Paul said to die is **GAIN!** Look at Philippians 1:29-30 and see what else Paul said about suffering:

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Paul said we were appointed unto suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter said the same thing in 1Peter 2. Tell me how this generation of Christians has suffered. After listing his credentials in Philippians 3, look at what Paul said in verses 7-8:

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

All of his physical provisions, education, heritage, everything he had, he regarded as **dung** alongside his personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. A relationship that was based on suffering.

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; (Philippians 3:10)

When Paul finally made it to Rome, he remained under their bondage and captivity until Nero finally cut his head off. When he died, he had **no** bank account, **no** retirement plan, **no** social security, he owned **no** property, had **no** life insurance, and all of his “friends” had forsaken him except Luke. All he had was a strong personal relationship with his Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a Christian, you are to be a follower of Paul: a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ. If God blesses you materially along the way-Great-Praise the Lord. But God never promised a Christian material blessings. We live in the New Testament, where the promises of God are primarily **SPIRITUAL**. God has promised to provide for your **NEEDS** physically (not your “wants”) and he will do so. But when it comes to claiming promises for victories and blessings, these should be in the area of souls saved and lives transformed through your ministry; through your personal testimony of a proper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Always remember something, Christian. You have been given an absolute final authority from God, in writing, upon which you are to anchor your soul. That final authority is the King James Authorized Version. **EVERYTHING** in this universe operates according to the principles of the word of God, and is to be evaluated in light of that book. If you will judge by righteous judgment the Charismatic movement, as well as any other doctrines which come along, you can be sure that God will reveal the truth to you, and preserve you blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE END