

The Gift of Tongues

by G.W. North

The gift of tongues is a miraculous phenomenon that is a genuine gift from God, but it must be accorded distinction and not made the exclusive sign of baptism in the Spirit.

Scripture: Acts 2:1

Topics: "Spiritual Gifts", "Baptism in the Holy Spirit"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes the miraculous gift of speaking in tongues as a genuine manifestation of the Holy Spirit, which often occurs shortly after a person is baptized in the Spirit. He argues that while tongues are a significant sign of this experience, they should not be elevated to the sole evidence of the Spirit's baptism, as this diminishes their true value. North highlights the importance of recognizing tongues as one of many spiritual gifts that can follow the baptism, rather than the exclusive indicator of it. He calls for a restoration of the gift's rightful place within the Church, ensuring it is appreciated without being misrepresented. The sermon draws on the biblical account of Pentecost to affirm the legitimacy of this experience.

Transcript

There can be little doubt that many people when baptized in the Spirit do immediately, or very shortly afterwards, speak words in a tongue which is completely unknown to them. This is a miraculous phenomenon with enough scriptural evidence to convince any but the most prejudiced heart that it is a genuine gift from God. It is also an indisputable fact that this experience is not only the initial outward manifestation resulting from their personal Baptism, but is for them also the gateway into the glorious realm of further spiritual gifts which until then they did not possess.

When viewed in context of the Acts of the Apostles, or earliest Church history, this is a most happy position to be in, and honoured is the church which is privileged to have such persons among its members; such an experience is quite genuine. A glance into Acts chapter 2 confirms the fact that the phenomenon did accompany the initiating outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. It is only when 'Tongues' is wrested from its true position, unwarrantably elevated to the position of initial evidence and given a significance never intended by God, that the mischief is wrought.

A Sign - not the sign

Honest men have no option but to believe and recognize that Tongues are a sign, and must be accorded the distinction in an official sense. But it must be allowed only as one among many; it must not be made to be the sign, as though no other existed. The tragedy and folly of elevating the gift to such an exclusive position is that instead of Tongues being enhanced and ennobled thereby, it has become unavoidably debased thereby. One of the objects of this article is to rescue and reinstate this precious gift to its rightful position in the Church.

No scripturally taught person would deny that 'Tongues' is one of several scriptural experiences which may accompany the Baptism in the Spirit, but neither would he admit that it is the one evidence which proves it has taken place. In fact he would not even allow that it is in any degree necessary to believe that Baptism in the Spirit need be accompanied by any manifestation of an outward nature at all.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/gw-north/the-gift-of-tongues/>

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