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Let us never forget that there are nine spiritual gifts recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. Spiritual and miraculous gifts belonged to the church of my Lord in her infancy (1 Cor. 13:8-11). Those miraculous gifts (inclusive of the ability to speak in tongues), were to last until the church attained “unto a fullgrown man” (Eph. 4:13). Miracles in the early church were designed to CONFIRM the Word of God (Heb. 2:3-4). Miracles would cease when THAT WHICH IS PERFECT was come! The modern day tongue talker is forced into asserting that the church of my Lord is still an infant, that it still has not attained unto manhood, that the Word of God has not been CONFIRMED, and that THAT WHICH IS PERFECT (God’s inspired and inerrant Word) has not come!!!

Also, if one spiritual gift remains, then all nine miraculous gifts are still in vogue. Of course, that is the claim of most tongue talkers! That is why they insist the miraculous healings are still capable of being performed. In 1987 you may recall that Oral Roberts appealed to his followers, that the Lord was holding him for ransom ~ and they had to come up with 4 ½ million dollars or the Lord was going to take him “home.” Previous to that, a Letter to the Editor was circulated in the Virginia papers. Remember, Oral Roberts claims to possess miraculous powers and abilities. The letter stated: “My mother received a letter addressed to my grandmother on July 3, 1981. My grandmother passed away March 6, 1981. The letter was from Mr. Oral Roberts. In his letter, he said the Lord had spoken to him and led him to write her the letter asking her to send him \$100.00. I think that is a rotten thing, to ask a dead woman for money in the name of the Lord. I just thought you might find it interesting reading.” That is very INTERESTING!! That is something you can sink your teeth into and chew on it for awhile... The stories about his so-called “faith healer” number into the multiplied hundreds!!! Oral is one of the biggest fakes and frauds of this group in my lifetime! I once challenged Mr. Roberts to a debate on his claims; his reply (from his secretary), suggested his schedule was just to busy for the Lord to be bothered by such a waste of his time and talents!

IF one claims to speak in tongues, then he is actually affirming that he has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Study your New Testament carefully, and you will see that the ONLY ONES who were able to speak in tongues were those who had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, OR those who had an apostle to lay his hands upon them to impart that miraculous gift! Only an apostle, through the laying on of hands, could impart a spiritual gift to another (Acts 8:14-ff). However, that person could NOT impart such a gift to any other. All the apostles have died. Hence, any tongue talker today must insist that he/she has received Holy Spirit baptism. IF the baptism of the Great Commission is baptism in **WATER** (and it is), and is for **ALL MEN** (and it is), and IF Holy Spirit baptism is still in vogue, then we have **TWO BAPTISMS!** Now, let your fingers do the walkin’ and let the Bible do the talkin’... Ephesians 4:5 states in clarion tones: “**ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM.**” IF the baptism of the Great Commission is water baptism (and it is), and if this is the ONE BAPTISM (and it is) ~ then obviously there is no such thing as Holy Spirit baptism available today! Since there is no baptism in the Holy Spirit in vogue today, there can be no speaking in tongues today! If one miraculous gift has been done away, then all nine are done away!!

Jesse Whitlock, Evant, TX

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TONGUE TALKERS

The ability to speak in tongues was a miraculous gift. When the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were enabled to speak with other tongues (Acts 2:4). Being filled with the Holy Spirit is what the Lord referred to as Holy Spirit baptism (Acts 1:5). We know that only the Lord Jesus could administer baptism in the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11). At the household of Cornelius “...the Holy Spirit fell on all them that heard the Word... on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues...” (Acts 10:44-46). This gift of the Spirit – speaking in tongues – was clearly a miraculous working. In Acts 19:6 when Paul, an apostle “laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” In 1 Corinthians 12 – 14 we have Paul’s detailed discussion of miraculous gifts. He specifically mentions tongues as a spiritual gift. There are nine spiritual gifts listed; The ability to speak in tongues was a miraculous and spiritual endowment.

The church, in its infancy, was related to the miraculous element. Let us be reminded that the early church did not have the New Testament in completed written form. Divine guidance and instruction was needful. God’s answer to this need was provided by the miraculous spiritual gifts. These nine gifts were never intended to be a permanent part of Christianity, but were necessary in the infant church. When God’s written Word was completed the church would become a “full grown man” and would be enabled to put away “childish things.” This is Paul’s argumentation in 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 and Ephesians 4:8-15. When God had completed His “perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25), the miraculous gifts then ceased to exist. Remember that Paul penned plainly: “...whether there be tongues they shall cease...” (1 Cor. 13:8). When God’s PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY was complete, the miraculous elements (inclusive of speaking in tongues), would cease. God’s inspired law of liberty is THAT WHICH IS PERFECT! God’s completed divine Revelation (the New Testament of Jesus Christ) did come and miracles ceased!

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The Universal Rule

Of all the important, impressive and vital lessons which clearly emerge from the inspired record of God's dealings with His creatures through the long and eventful lapse of years from Eden to Patmos the one which is the most vivid, the most emphatic, and the most unmistakable is that only those who wholly, humbly, and unhesitatingly submit to His will and obey His commandments enjoy His approval here and have the promise of eternal bliss hereafter.

The Creator was not long in impressing this premise on the race. Cain and Abel were instructed to make an offering to their God and the details were duly outlined and specified. Abel complied therewith and the divine blessing was pronounced upon him. Cain, unwilling to follow the pattern detailed by the Lord, substituted his will for Jehovah's and the tragic consequences of his foolish and senseless act soon appeared. That narrative, from the dawn of the race, is simple, unadorned, needing neither interpretation, nor detailed exposition. It tells the story with power and utmost simplicity. (Gen. 4:2-7). God's response to Cain's displeasure, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted," has received an affirmative answer in every instance of inspired history; and the wreck and ruin of both individuals and nations bear melancholy evidence of the truth embodied in the solemn warning, "If thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."

The childlike faith and humble, unswerving submission of will characteristic of Abraham earned for that illustrious patriarch the divine descriptive, "friend of God." No higher tribute is possible. The faithful father gained for himself imperishable fame by simply taking God at His Word and doing what He said. Of him the great Jehovah was to say:

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him (18:19).

"And they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment"; this was the manner of life which resulted from the instruction which Abraham kept constantly before "his children, which he had spoken." It is ever thus. The divine blessing is always available to those who walk in harmony with His commandments and He withholds no good thing from those who faithfully do His will.

It is important for us to remember that these object lessons of former dispensations were written for our learning and admonition (Rom. 15:4), and to impress us with the realization that we enjoy the approbation of God on this basis alone (Heb. 5:8-9; 10:7; 1 John 2:4). To this fundamental fact all the sacred writers in some fashion gave utterance. And, our Lord plainly warned, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 7:21). Who shall enter the kingdom of heaven? "He that doeth the will of my Father." No other can or will.

This is the only course which leads to happiness either here or hereafter. Solomon, in his effort through experimentation to find serenity, and satisfaction, confirmed the verdict of history when he wrote, "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man" (Ecc. 12:13). He who, when day is done and evening shadows have lengthened into the sable garments of the night, can pillow his head with the realization that the day has been spent in useful service to man and unquestioning obedience to God truly enjoys that perfect peace which only heaven can give.

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

*Guy N. Woods
Deceased*

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron's sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter, and Tim Smith.

The bulletin was produced early with the Chumbleys out of town. Thus there is no "news and notes." This will resume next week.

Thanks to Ron Wilson who preached in Ken's absence last Sunday night.

BEST SERMON I EVER HEARD

As the mother was completing the purchase of two new suits for sons Charles and Arthur, Charles proudly said to his brother, "Won't I look nice in Bible school Sunday?" A friendly lady standing near overheard him and asked, "Do you go to Bible School?" And the smaller brother, Arthur, only five, giving her a withering glance, inquired, "Where else would I go Sunday morning?" Blushing, the lady remarked, "that's the best sermon I ever heard."

The most precious gift we can give our children is not a trip to the beach, a shiny new toy, or a new suit of clothes, but the opportunity to study the God in whose image they are created. Plan to be present with your children for all Bible classes; in this you can give them a gift that will neither grow old nor wear out.

Author Unknown