

Who Spoke in Tongues on Pentecost?

SINCE:

1. Only the Apostles were promised it – **Mark 16:17-18, Acts 1:18**...
2. The antecedent of "they" in **Acts 2:1** is the apostles, as in all of Chapter One, starting with verse two....
3. There were several days between the mentioning of the 120 (1:15) until the day of Pentecost (2:1)...
4. Those who spoke in tongues were all Galileans (2:7)...
5. Those who spoke in tongues were all men (2:13, 2:37)....
6. Peter stood up only with the eleven apostles to speak (2:14)...
7. Joel's prophecy was not all fulfilled that day in that no Gentiles received the Spirit and it is not recorded that any dreams or visions were seen, we cannot assume the handmaids prophesied that day (2:17-18)....
8. All who did it were witnesses of the resurrection of Christ (2:32) Compare 1:21-23....
9. The question of what to do was asked only of the apostles (2:37)....
10. They continued in the apostle's doctrine (2:43)...
11. The other signs and wonders were only done by the apostles (2:43)....
12. Christian women were forbidden in all the churches to exercise the gift of tongues publicly (1 **Corinthians 14:34**)...



...IT IS NOT ASSUMPTION TO SAY THAT ONLY THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE GIFT OF TONGUES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST.

This list helps us see the error of those who claim that the 120 received the gifts of tongues. The apostles, who were promised the gift, returned to where they were staying (**Acts 1:13**).

Notice that those who returned were the same as those who were staying there. Frequently the disciples assembled during the seven day period from Christ's ascension to the day of Pentecost. There certainly was not a disgraceful communal living of 120 men and women.

The 14th verse merely tells us they continued in prayer. To insist from this that all 120 lived together for those seven days is absurd. One might as well insist that the communal living grew to 3,000 for the text tells us "they continued in the apostles' doctrine" and "were together" (2:42-43). **Chapter 1** is a history of what Jesus told the apostles, what they did, and how they chose a successor for Judas. The 120 are mentioned incidentally. The apostles are the subject of **Chapter 1**. It is plain that they are the antecedent of the story as it continues on Pentecost in **Chapter 2**.

Notice number 7 in the list above. Joel did not prophecy speaking in tongues. Joel prophesied signs of the Spirit. The sound of the wind, the tongues like fire, and speaking in tongues were merely signs of the power Christ promised the apostles (1:8).

It is argued that Joel's prophecy said that handmaids would prophecy and thus the 120 all received this power, as women were among them. Obviously, not all of Joel's prophecy was fulfilled that day. There were no dreams or visions nor did all flesh receive the Spirit that day. Gentiles never received the Spirit that day, nor did they for another 10 years. Joel was saying that the Spirit would be poured out regardless of age, sex, or race. This was the beginning of the Spirit's outpouring.

Joel did not prophecy tongue speaking women, but rather, prophetic women, like Philip's daughters (21:9). It is obvious no women spoke, for the men cried out to the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

THE PRACTICE OF MODERN DAY "PENTECOSTALS" DIFFERS FROM WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. The power of the Spirit was sent and not sought.
2. Today they have no sound of a rushing wind.
3. Today, they have no tongues like fire sitting on their heads.
4. Today, they do not speak in foreign languages.

If tongue speaking is an “unknown tongue” or “angelic language” as many profess, it cannot be like the tongues of Pentecost. On Pentecost, no interpreters were needed. Everyone understood without an interpreter. “Pentecostal” tongues of today require an interpreter if they are to be understood. On the day of Pentecost, God overcame the language barrier. In “Pentecostal” churches, if a tongue speaker spoke in an unknown tongue and an interpreter gave the translation in English, the men from other nations would still not receive the revelation until an interpreter from each country interpreted the interpretation of the interpreter. Obviously, then the gifts claimed today are counterfeit.

5. Today, Pentecostals do not give the Pentecostal answer to the Pentecostal question; “What must we do?” The answer of Peter was, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” “Pentecostals” do not give the answer to a man asking the way of salvation.

CONCLUSION:

There is no precedent, need, or reason for “tongue speaking” today. “Pentecostalism” is a misnomer. Its adherents neither duplicate the phenomena nor the message of Pentecost.

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