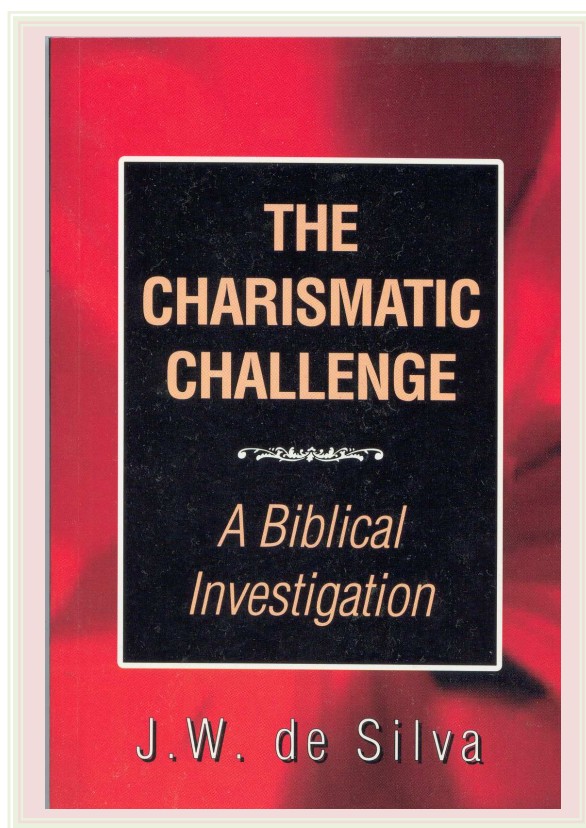


# Speaking in Tongues

## **The damage caused by modern-day tongues.**

- Denial of the all-sufficiency of the blood of Christ
- Depreciation of Christ's Lordship and Divine order
- Denial of the Holy Spirit
- Denial of the doctrine of Divine Headship
- The assault on the word of God
- Perversion of the prophetic Scriptures
- The use of tongues to minimise doctrine
- False assurance of salvation
- False assurance of sanctification
- Feigned worship
- Retardation of spiritual growth
- Ecumenicalism
- Rebellion not revival
- Spiritual casualties

The material in this article is an abridged extract from a manuscript which was published by John Ritchie Ltd, Kilmarnock, Scotland under the title, **The Charismatic Challenge**.



"Ritchie Christian Media"  
Kilmarnock, Scotland  
[www.ritchiechristianmedia.co.uk](http://www.ritchiechristianmedia.co.uk)

(Please note that the author has not and does not receive any royalties or any other form of remuneration from the sale of the above publication)

---

The “tongues” of the New Testament were actual foreign (Gentile) languages which were spoken miraculously as gifted by the Spirit of God. They were given as a temporary judicial **sign** to the disbelieving **Jews**, to signal that because of its rejection of Christ, the Messiah, the nation had been set aside and that Gentiles were now **One New Man** with them in Christ (Eph 2:15). “In the law it is written, with men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people [the Jews]; and yet for all that will they [the Jews] not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not [the disbelieving Jews]: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe” (1 Cor 14:21-22).

However, we have been told by some professing Christians that these tongues were “ecstatic” or “heavenly languages” gifted by the Spirit. The pursuit of this “gift” is a principal preoccupation among many professing Christians today. They pray for it and some even attend classes to cultivate it. In this article we note the doctrinal and spiritual damage that is associated with it.

This damage is particularly noticeable in regard to the claim that tongues are a *special prayer language* – a particular language used to *commune with God*. The biblical validity of this claim has been examined at length in the publication “The Charismatic Challenge,” noted above. It is shown there that there is absolutely no biblical doctrine or practice to support tongues as a special prayer language. Search the pages of Acts, spanning some 33 years of Christianity, where Spirit-filled believers are seen in prayer or speaking in tongues, and we will not find a single record of the Holy Spirit associating tongues with praying to God. We see miracles, mighty steps of faith and occasions of elevated praise and prayer. Yet, there is not one instance where we can say, “See, here is a believer praying or being exhorted to pray to God in tongues.” We cannot, for there was never such a purpose given to tongues by God. Therefore, no such instance will be found within this historical record of the early Church which, remember, was written under the omniscient eye of the Spirit of God.

Our intention is not to offend or vilify those who engage in tongue-speaking. However, we do have an obligation to be forthright and faithful to them, and to God and His word, by pointing out the dire consequences of such a practice. It has been and continues to be, Satan's principal objective to detract from the honour and glory of the Son of God as Lord and Saviour. He pursues this in many ways: the superstition and error of Rome; the blasphemy of the Cults and, in recent times, his seduction of many evangelical Christians through a blinding preoccupation with tongues and other charismata. May those who speak in tongues, who seek to further the honour of the Lord consider prayerfully the gravity of the error of tongues noted in the pages that follow.

As noted, the material in this paper has been extracted from a manuscript that became the basis for the publication “The Charismatic Challenge.” The material and line of investigation in this manuscript was the product of a series of in depth discussions between the author and members of a local charismatic church, along with its pastor. It was to their credit that like the Bereans, they “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). Accordingly, the Spirit of God enabled all of them to abandon their tongue-speaking. Theirs was a Spirit-led conviction to forsake an “experience” in favour of clear and overwhelming biblical evidence. If you are a tongue-speaker, may this, too, become your portion.

## Denial of the all-sufficiency of the blood of Christ

In Hebrews chapter 10, our greater blessings in Christ compared to the saints of the O.T. are heralded. No Jew (save the high priest on the Day of Atonement) under the O.T. economy could enter the holiest through the veil.

“Having therefore, brethren,  
boldness to enter into the  
holiest by the blood of Jesus”  
Heb 10:19

To do so would bring swift and sure judgment. It was, we know, the abiding place of the glory of God. But now, *every* child of God through the efficacy of the blood of Christ is not just permitted to enter the holiest, but is *invited* to enter in - to *draw near* (v.22). We can enter boldly “By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh” (Heb 10:20). “Come, for all things are ready.” To what purpose? It is

that we can as *priests* offer our praise and supplications to God – the fruit of our lips. “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Heb 13:15). No priest of the Mosaic economy could enter the holiest. But we who have been made kings and priests unto God by the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5-6), can enter that inner sanctum of God and render priestly service to Him because of His shed blood.

But, dear friend, if you are an ecstatic tongue-speaker, what do you say to me? I have heard it so often from others who speak in tongues. You will tell me that I need a special language to gain some special hearing and audience with God. In the light of the explicit teaching of Scripture noted above, let me ask you, “Is this not a flagrant denial of the truth that every saved person, no matter how feeble our faith, has been invited and can with boldness “enter into the holiest of all by the blood of Jesus?” The way *is* opened. It is through His precious shed blood - all sufficient and ever present before God, not some ‘tongue,’ that we have boldness to enter.

Further, what am I to make of the truth that not all believers were given the “gift of tongues.” This is precisely what Paul tells the Corinthians. Some believers did not have the gift of tongues and they were coveting this gift over other gifts and graces. Paul was admonishing the Corinthians – they were “yet carnal” (1 Cor 3:3). “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will” (1 Cor 12:7-11). The gift of tongues in this passage is universally interpreted by tongue-speakers to refer to their “ecstatic heavenly languages,” and to the “interpretation” of them, because they are taken as “ecstatic.” This being the case, we then have the Spirit of God perpetrating “spiritual apartheid,” because He does not bestow the gift of tongues on every believer. We have a “spiritual elite” – comprising those who, because of their ecstatic tongues can have special communion with God.

What a tragic stumbling block is placed here by Satan before the dear saints of God, who have been brought near by the precious blood of Christ, yet they are told they need a special prayer language (or some second blessing) to have communion with God. It is, too, a slight on the person and work of Christ, our Great High Priest of “good things to come;” through Whom our prayers ascend to God.<sup>1</sup>

If you are a tongue-speaker, to hear such a charge may cause you distress, for no doubt you are sincere in your belief. But may you earnestly and prayerfully consider how your tongue-speaking is being used in a subtle attack by Satan on the Person of Christ and, how it acts as a cunning deprivation upon you as a believer. What Satan has sought to deny believers through priests, religious institutions and solemn statutes, the weeping virgin Mary and patron saints as mediators, he seeks in pernicious subtlety to deny many through some notion of a special prayer language. Multiply this deception by the millions who today believe they have access to God through their

<sup>1</sup>Hebrews 9: 11; 13:15

tongues and we see something of the monstrous magnitude of Satan's attack on the Son of God and His precious work.

“Boldly our heart and voice we raise,  
His Name, His blood, our plea;  
Assured our prayers and songs of praise  
Ascend by Him to Thee.”

James G. Deck

## Depreciation of Christ's Lordship and Divine order.

All things are His in praise, worship and service. “All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he [the Holy Spirit] shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”<sup>2</sup>

The Charismatic Movement and the tongues experience exhort us to praise and pray to the Holy Spirit. This again is unscriptural, because our praise and prayers should be directed *to* the Son *through* the Holy Spirit. Our focus

**“He shall not speak of [from] Himself.....He shall glorify me.”**

must be upon the Son as Lord, as led and exhorted by the Spirit. Tongues and other modern-day charismata run contrary to the intention of Christ, “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of [from] Himself.....He shall glorify me.” And

again, “But when the Comforter [the Holy Spirit] is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me:”<sup>3</sup> The Spirit of God is to keep before us and amplify the words and work of the Son, Who is to occupy that Divinely ordained place as Lord “in our midst.” While the Lord dwelt among men they could behold “His glory, the glory as of the only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”<sup>4</sup> His saving work accomplished, the Firstborn from among the dead ascended to the Father. Who then testifies of His glory among men? Who but the Spirit of God! The Lord further declares in John 14:25-26: “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” Now dear reader, let us ask ourselves this question. Do we wish a Divine test to determine if our prayers and praises are led by the Holy Spirit? Then let us examine them by the measure they centre and confess, (see below) the Lord and His glory.<sup>5</sup> The Spirit of God will always draw us to the Person of Christ, for it is the Son (not the Spirit), who died for us and who occupies that ordained position “in the midst.”

## Denial of the Holy Spirit.

“How can this be so?” you may ask. Surely this cannot be true, because the charismatics are noted for their focus on the Spirit of God? In the first instance, there may be no outright denial of His Deity or Personality. Rather, a denial “validated” by tongues is employed in regard to His works, e.g., the incorrect charismatic doctrine that the baptism of the Holy Spirit involves the Spirit being received by individuals, and the wrongful teaching of a second blessing.

These notions are not authenticated by Scripture, but by tongues, which we are told is the sign of the reception of the Holy Spirit. It reveals another subtle maneuver by Satan to deprive believers of what we possess inalienably in

---

<sup>2</sup>John 16:15. ‘*anagello*,’ to announce or make known.

<sup>3</sup>John 16:13-14; John 15:26.

<sup>4</sup>John 1:14

<sup>5</sup>How grieved the Holy Spirit must be to hear songs of praise and prayer to Him rather than to the Son. It is, assuredly, the subtle work of Satan.

Christ. Satan has lured modern-day tongue-speakers into relying upon and teaching with great fervor, that their tongues not only enable them to have access to God, but ‘conditions’ them for it. We hear claims that the quality of communion with God is positively dependent on the frequency of speaking in tongues - citing personal experience as proof.

Such claims are in direct opposition to the work of the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit of God who moves us to draw near in to the holiest of all. He does this not only by inspiring the writer to the Hebrews to pen words of invitation, which seems to be clouded by the tongues experience, but lines that inform us of the spiritual propriety required to approach and enter the holiest - a true heart and full assurance of faith. These are not conditions to be met for the way to be opened. The veil is rent, the way into the holiest has been made clear by Christ as we noted earlier. Drawing near with a true heart and in full assurance of faith refers to necessary conditions *within* us which, if not realised, will inhibit *our* response to the invitation - denying ourselves that boldness (confidence) to enter. We are to keep in mind too, as enabled by the Spirit of God, that the preparation for us as priests has been done, effected by the Lord (the sprinkling of the blood and the and washing at the laver that was so necessary before the Levitical priests could render service to God).

As with any blessing from God, there is always our responsibility in regard to it. Now, it is the Spirit of God (not tongue-speaking) who fits us to meet such responsibility. That is why He has been given to dwell within us. To rely on a “heavenly language” in order to commune with God and “condition” us to come before His throne of grace, is to deflect our focus from the true spiritual correctness in responding to the invitation to enter the holiest, and to deny the Spirit of God and His work in us. This is why so much of charismatic ‘worship’ is not according to the Spirit of God.

### **Denial of the doctrine of Divine Headship**

Women are observed speaking in tongues alongside men during church meetings (frequently with uncovered heads, 1 Cor. 11). This is in direct opposition to the injunction given by the Spirit through Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:34, and to Timothy, regarding their proper role and behavior within the house of God, which is the pillar and ground of truth (1 Tim. 2:11). Again, liberty is sought and found in the false belief that tongues are of the Spirit, and as long as we can speak in tongues, no error exists.

### **The assault on the word of God**

Often, the so-called interpretation of tongues is said to voice new revelations from God. Tongue-speakers are thus elevated as modern-day prophets and their “revelations” vie with Biblical truth, perpetrating another error.<sup>6</sup> We need to remember that many cults owe their origin to such people and their tongues. Because tongues supposedly indicate the sanction of the Spirit, the Bible is devalued as a source of assurance. ‘Faith’ and “spirituality” are cultivated outside the fertile expanse of truth provided in the inspired word of God, and repose on a wasteland of counterfeit signs and lying wonders.

### **Perversion of the prophetic Scriptures**

Modern-day tongue-speaking is used to misinterpret Biblical prophecy, clearly apparent in the appalling mistake of ascribing (spiritualizing) prophecies which relate exclusively to Israel as referring to the Church of God, e.g.,

---

<sup>6</sup>John (Rev. 1:10) and Peter (Acts 10:10) were both given new revelations while completely under the control of the Spirit of God - i.e. they were transfixed by the Spirit in order to impart the revelation through a vision. With the completed Scriptures - ‘once for all delivered,’ this operation of the Holy Spirit no longer occurs. All modern-day instances are Satan’s counterfeit.

Ezek. 11: 19; Joel 2:28-32; 3. Amillennialism is a product of such error.<sup>7</sup> And, it is worth noting, that amillennialism (particularly the liberal form) has become increasingly popular because it allows many denominations within Christianity - Protestant and Roman Catholic, to find common ground, enhancing ecumenism. Many tongue-speaking believers are unaware that when they defend modern-day tongues as the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy, they are promoting amillennialism.

However, the major prophetic error that has been popularized by the tongue-speaking charismatic movement is not amillennialism, but postmillennialism. This doctrine asserts that the spiritual condition of the world will enter a golden age through the Church. This is the charismatic-postmillennial idea of "Christianizing" the world. The world is to be "claimed for Jesus." Peace and material prosperity are preached through a gospel of "prosperity" – which is in reality a message of spiritual poverty. Christians are told to possess the world for Christ, through the Christianizing of governments, businesses and social institutions. Its "pro-active" slogan to "name it and then claim it for Christ," is unscriptural. Christians are never told in Scripture to *claim* the world for Christ; rather, that we should *proclaim* Christ to the world while living separated from it. It is Christ who has the sole prerogative to claim the world for Himself. This He will do as the Son of man when He returns in power and glory as prophesied in Scripture. "All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name" (Psa 86:9). "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isa 6:3).

### **The use of tongues to minimise doctrine**

The prevailing rule of Biblical interpretation within the Charismatic Movement is "validation by an experience" – in this case a "tongues experience." This explains how charismatics are comfortable in many denominations and why many denominations are comfortable with charismatics - even Rome, tongues being the trademark of tolerance. Growing numbers of Roman Catholics have received the gift of tongues through a 'second blessing' - the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit,' We are told that the gift of tongues received by charismatic Catholics renews their faith in their holy sacraments. One such sacrament is holy communion, based on the grave error of transubstantiation: upon consecration during Mass, the bread and wine disappear in substance and become transformed into the body and blood of Christ. Now remember, the Spirit of God is also the Spirit of Truth. If you are a Protestant present-day tongue speaker, ask yourself how the Spirit of Truth can be party to, or enrich, a practice which is wholly pagan and blasphemous?" How can the Spirit of Truth bestow a 'heavenly prayer language' to those who pray to the virgin Mary and various so-called saints, in flagrant denial of the truth of One mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus?<sup>8</sup> Doctrine, it appears, matters little. Our common tongues experience unites us.

### **False assurance of salvation**

There is the fearful prospect that many who speak in tongues may not be saved at all, falsely regarding their tongue-speaking as evidence of salvation and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Much to do about charismata and experiences, but never actually confessed Christ as Redeemer. Satan is always seeking to charm the unwary, and this terrible prospect, in many cases, has become a grim reality. Charismatic meetings are more to do with

---

<sup>7</sup>Amillennialism (the 'A' represents the negative view) teaches that there will be no literal millennium (1000 year reign by Christ) on earth following His second coming. It holds that the promised covenant blessings God made to Israel are not literal and are being fulfilled today in the Church. Therefore amillennialists confound the distinction between the Body of Christ and Israel. We can see then why many charismatics believe we are in the end-time of great Spiritual blessing - latter rain, tongues and other charismata.

<sup>8</sup>1 Timothy 2:5. This total conversion is (erroneously) said to be taught by Christ when He declared - "this is my Body;" "this is my Blood." Conversely, we would ask Roman Catholics who speak in tongues and support transubstantiation, how can the Spirit of Truth be party to enriching those who speak in tongues and who disagree with their holy doctrine?

cultivating feelings than with conviction of sin before a righteous God. Let us mark well the principle contained in the solemn warning of our Lord concerning the counterfeit work of other spirits. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven...Many [not a few] will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you depart from me, ye that work iniquity."<sup>9</sup> I trust, my reader, you are not such a case. Are you saved? Your tongues do not mean that you are. Rest on the Scriptures, not on your experiences, your emotions, or those of religious teachers who cry "Lord, Lord" while performing counterfeit works. Our salvation rests solely on the precious shed blood of Christ. Our faith must rest on this and this only, not on some unintelligible language.

Permit me to dwell on this warning, as it occupies the heart of John in his tender concern for the children of God. He warns (with particular reference to the Gnostic heresy), "every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God."<sup>10</sup> It is not just a case of speaking the correct words, but of the words reflecting deep conviction and a submissive heart. A mere profession of the name of Christ does not mark a true confession. Is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God? 'Yes,' says Simon son of Jona 'Yes' say also the sons of Beelzebub.<sup>11</sup> The commended words of Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" compose the blueprint and foundation of the Church. However, when the demons cried, "Thou art Christ the Son of God", they were rebuked by Christ. The words of Peter were a confession born of Divine revelation and Peter's subjection to the Lord.<sup>12</sup> The cries of the demons were a mere profession, not a confession, born of knowledge, but void of honour and obedience unto Him. Have you made that all-important confession of Romans 10:9?

## False assurance of sanctification

Many tongue-speakers feel quite at liberty to frequent places of worldly entertainment and indulge in worldly pursuits, because their tongues are a sign of wholesome spirituality. As long as they can speak in tongues they live under the allusion of the Spirit's sanction of such ways.

## Feigned worship

**"Spirit"**  
**"Soul"**  
**"Body"**

We noted earlier that Satan seduced Eve by appealing to her physical senses (the flesh): the fruit was good, desirable and pleasant. What was Satan doing here? He was using the lure of a "sensational experience" - that which delights the body (physical senses) to ensnare Adam and Eve into error. His methods have not changed. Paul, in his closing words to the Thessalonians, reminds them of the tri-part nature of man - spirit, soul and body.<sup>13</sup> The order reflects the priority and supremacy of the spirit in the spiritual life of the believer.

- The body, the basest level, is our window to the world - sight, smell, taste and hearing.
- The soul is the seat of our emotions, our feelings.
- The spirit represents that inner realm which is capable of knowing God and possessing a conscience toward Him.

Therefore, it is the spirit of man that is appealed to when worshipping God. True worship can only be on a spiritual level - the body and soul are subordinated. This is because God Himself is a Spirit and we must, therefore, worship

<sup>9</sup>Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>10</sup>1 John 4:3

<sup>11</sup>Matthew 16:16; Luke 4:41

<sup>12</sup>Paul in 1 Cor. 12:3 is speaking of a confession, and not a mere declaration, of which the Lord speaks in Matt. 7:21-23.

<sup>13</sup>2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Thess. 5:23



Him “in spirit [according to His nature] and in truth [according to His word].” After all, it is His Spirit that bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.<sup>14</sup> We see the practical outworking of this in Paul’s teaching to the Corinthians - “I will pray with the spirit [the inner highest level of man] ... I will sing with the spirit” [and with the understanding when I pray and sing - understanding as from the word of God].<sup>15</sup>

Within the charismatic-tongues fraternity, we see another order in worship - body, soul and spirit, yet another reversal of God’s order. The body is the principal vehicle in worship - body swaying, hand-clapping, trembling, rolling, dancing etc. Bodily senses are also ignited through tongue-speaking sessions, seeing ‘healings’ and other ‘miracles.’ Then there is appeal to the soul where feelings are fanned by perpetual bodily motion, music and sensational sermons promoting happiness through promises of wealth and health - the so-called ‘full gospel.’ This is taken to be the ‘joy or fullness of the Spirit,’ ‘refreshing faith.’ It is nothing but a recycling of emotions, with no opportunity to hear the still small voice of God. There is little or nothing of the Spirit, for it does not engage the human spirit. There is little desire for the cool, fathomless, still waters that flow from the Great Shepherd of Psalm 23. Only there can we drink deeply to refresh the spirit and render reverent praise and worship. Instead, there is a lust for the shallow turbid tide of fevered emotion from which to gulp.

### **Retardation of spiritual growth**

Paul refers to the believers at Corinth in his first Epistle as ‘babes’ (Ch. 3) and ‘children’ (chapters 13 & 14). They had made little spiritual progress because their attitudes and desires were as babes in the natural world. That is (a) they were swayed by personal appearances (2:1-4). (b) they were more interested in having ‘experiences’ than coming to grips with doctrinal truth - chapters 12, 13 and 14. (c) they were, like infants, preoccupied with ‘gifts’ rather than with ‘graces.’ There is much of this Corinthian condition amongst believers today. A lack of spiritual advancement is evident in immature worship, the need to be constantly entertained and occupied i.e. senses - sight, hearing continually fanned and fed. Worship is not forgetting self and wholly focusing on the Lord, His person and work, but what we must do to make ourselves feel good - pleasant sights, sounds and activities - we must not become bored. Sadly, many have yet to appreciate the all-sufficiency of ‘Christ in the midst,’ the spiritual fullness He imparts in this ordained place and the reverence He demands, such that our “hearts burn within us.” How can the Lord’s presence ever make us bored? If the Lord is present, what else do we need? Immature worship also reckons that making a ‘joyful noise unto the Lord’ is to ‘entertain’ Him, supposing He can ‘be worshipped with men’s hands.’<sup>16</sup> Let us ask, “What does God want from our worship of Him?”

### **Ecumenism**

We have typified for our learning in Genesis 11, the seeds of ecumenicalism in the building of the tower of Babel (Babylon). The Charismatic Movement will help pave the way for the love-child of ecumenism, the Great Whore - the apostate world church, ecclesiastical Babylon (Rev. 17). How? There is today the growing desire for ecclesiastical unity and it will be furthered in part by the one tongue - the common ‘heavenly tongue’ espoused by charismatics within many denominations (and non-Christian religions) - a tongue which will unite a spiritual edifice designed to reach into the very ‘heavens,’ (An attempt to mitigate the judgment of God meted out in Genesis 11). The part Rome will play is, of course, central and she must fully embrace the Charismatic Movement, and all within Protestant denominations who espouse it. She already cradles the charismata. In 1995, the Pope gave charismatic Catholics (“Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities and Fellowships”) his blessing and has since then officially encouraged their active role in local churches. The

---

<sup>14</sup>John 4:24; Rom. 8:16

<sup>15</sup>1 Corinthians 14:15

<sup>16</sup>Acts 17:22-25

official Papal line is that tongues, 'second blessings' etc, renew faith in the sacraments and the liturgy and enhance understanding of the greater mission of the (Roman Catholic) Church as it moves into the next millennium.

### **Rebellion not revival**

We often hear of a 'charismatic' or 'tongues' led revival. How do we identify a true revival? Professions of salvation? Numerical increases in congregations? Increasing mission and evangelical activity? These may well accompany a revival. But the essence of a true revival is marked by a return to God's holy order. A true revival cannot be effected in disobedience. The people of Israel with much "singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets", sought to restore the presence of the ark of the covenant among them. But, alas, their zeal was not according to understanding - for they placed it on a cart and earned God's displeasure and wrought confusion.<sup>17</sup> Before the faithful second remnant from Babylon entered Jerusalem, Ezra halted the journey to bring the "ministers for the house of our God" among them.<sup>18</sup> The tongue-speaking movement however, is a total reversal of God's order, as we have seen. Further, true revival is marked by self judgment, not on a calling for 'power," Look to that mighty servant of God once again. Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel the statutes and judgments of God. This is where true revival begins, with self judgment and the expounding of the word of God, 'entrance of which giveth light,"<sup>19</sup>

### **Spiritual casualties**

Apart from the personal spiritual damage being done to those who speak in tongues, there is a trail of spiritual and emotional wreckage in the wake of many believers who have failed to speak in tongues or experience some 'second blessing," Many, who have failed, even after months or years of trying, are informed their failure is due to a lack of personal faith or some besetting sin. Because of an 'unsuccessful experience,' they fail to come into the blessing that there is now no more conscience of sins (Heb. 10:2). This leaves them vulnerable to Satan. They regard themselves as inferior Christians and, far worse, many begin to doubt their salvation.

---

<sup>17</sup> 1 Chronicles 13

<sup>18</sup> Ezra 8:17

<sup>19</sup> Ezra 7:10; Psa. 119:130