

**PREMINISTERIAL AND CHRISTIAN WORKERS'  
BIBLE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES  
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**COURSE NO. 2. THE HOLY GHOST BAPTISM--**

**AND THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

**LESSON 4**

**GIFTS OF UTTERANCE:**

**TONGUES, INTERPRETATION AND PROPHECY**

This is a Bible Course and you will never know much about the Bible until you read it. "Eat this roll" Ezekiel 3:1, we are admonished in one place. From now on I am going to ask you to read large portions of the Bible. As a matter of fact this ministry is not for the purpose of teaching the Bible academically BUT rather it is to help you "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, . . . ". We are not so much interested in having you know mentally what the literal Word of God says as we are in having you "endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49.

When I was meditating and praying for divine guidance in preparing this lesson for you, the Lord Jesus spoke to my heart to tell you that this is the greatest thing in the universe. What you are holding in your hands is bigger than United Nations. It is the cure for the world's ills and if you embrace it you will be made mighty to the "pulling down of strongholds;" II Corinthians 10:4b. I don't care if you can't read or write; for your own convenience I hope you can, BUT even if you have to get someone to read this to you, don't be discouraged for Jesus said:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:12.

He didn't say "if you are an Apostle, Prophet, or Teacher:" He said if you are simply a BELIEVER. Are you a BELIEVER? Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God? Do you believe that God raised him from the dead? Then you can do the works that He did!

Don't downgrade the Gospel because of the low spiritual level on which the so-called Church is existing. If you are looking around mentally at the lives of the great preachers of this day saying to yourself "Why nobody, but NOBODY, is doing the works that Jesus did. For Acts 10:38 says, ". . . 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."

In the fullest sense of the word, you are right: NOT ONE OF US is doing the works that Jesus did, BUT WE COULD. Some would argue that the great ministries are preaching to more people and laying hands on more sick people than Jesus did, but there is an area which none of us are touching. Jesus broke up every funeral that He passed by. Of course, you are familiar with how he delivered Lazarus from the grave after he had been dead four days, and you will recall that He had perfect power over the elements: He rebuked the winds and calmed the sea during a storm. (Mark 4:39).

NOW, it was for this very purpose that the baptism of the Holy Ghost, promised by Jesus Christ to His believing disciples, was given; namely, to endue them with power for service. No amount of education and organization will ever convert the world because it is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict of sin, righteousness and judgement, and it is HIS ANOINTING THAT BREAKS THE YOKE.

Isaiah 10:27, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing. "

Small wonder that the Apostle Paul says, "NOW concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." I Cor. 12:1. Read carefully and prayerfully the entire twelfth chapter and concentrate on:

8. "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
9. "To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
10. "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;
11. "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

Talk about talents! Every mother can tell you at great length about her talented

youngsters, but in these few verses of scripture are listed the greatest enabling powers the world has ever known, and also the ones it so badly needs. Here are the only gifts that can solve the sinners' needs.

One great preacher closes his testimony with his efforts to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit in these words:

“A whole year went by, and at times I was greatly tempted to give up and declare that there was nothing to the claims of these people. But one night when I was about as discouraged as a man could be, I went to a Pentecostal prayer meeting, and with no one near me, I made a full surrender to my Lord. The Lord saw that I was ready, and He mightily filled me with the Holy Ghost and fire. The experience is real, and no tongue can explain its wonders. It can only be manifested.

“In spite of all the misunderstanding and ignorance regarding the marvelous experience of being baptized with the Holy Spirit, the experience is real and wonderful. God's Word testifies to this fact. Millions of believers have found it so. This glorious Baptism is available to all that will surrender themselves completely to Him, allowing themselves to be His channel of power and blessing here on earth.”

In our last lesson we discussed TONGUES - THE EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the waiting disciples of Christ in the Upper Room they began to speak with other tongues so that all the Jews from every nation under heaven heard them speak in the language of their own nations. These were languages that the Galileans had not learned and caused the unbelieving Jews to say, “. . .What meaneth this? ” Acts 2:12b. This brought forth the reply from Peter, “This is that . . . ” Acts 2:16, which was not original with Peter but had been prophesied by Joel years before.

In the Old Testament the Holy Ghost moved upon people as He saw fit. He caused them to prophesy, heal the sick, raise the dead, write the scriptures, build the Ark, close the mouths of lions, and quench the violence of fire. HOWEVER it wasn't until He was poured out in baptismal proportions did He cause them to speak with tongues they had never learned, to interpret tongues that they did not know. God had said He would do a new thing and this was one of the new things.

Although this gift of the Spirit was not manifested in the Old Testament, it was prophesied.

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and

this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear.” Isaiah 28:11, 12.

Paul refers to this prophecy in I Cor. 14:20-22.

“Brethern, be not children in understanding: . . . In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: . . .”

Therefore, we understand that God did a new thing on the Day of Pentecost and He gave tongues as a sign of the new operation of the Spirit. Hence, the baptism of the Holy Ghost is always accompanied by speaking with tongues. However, all that have the evidence of having the baptism do not necessarily receive the gift of tongues. I read about a woman who spoke with tongues for several hours in an effort to convince some of our skeptical brethern that the gift is real. She spoke in 70-odd different languages. She had the genuine gift of tongues.

People who do not believe in speaking with tongues say that the only reason the gift was in operation on the Day of Pentecost was that the Jews from other lands might hear the gospel. However, this is in error for when Peter preached to them and the several thousands were added to the church, there is no evidence that he spoke in tongues. It can only be thought that he spoke in Aramaic that was the language that was used generally by the Jews of that day. Yet they all seemed to understand him.

Another time recorded in the Book of Acts was when Peter was sent to Cornelius, the Gentile, and he and his household were filled with the Spirit.

“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 . . . .” Acts 10:44-46.

One additional example cited in Acts 19:6 was when the men of Ephesus were filled with the Spirit.

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

We have been speaking particularly about the teaching that tongues is the evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Many who spoke in tongues when they were filled with the Holy Spirit find that they have gone for long periods of time without this manifestation. Often they speak in tongues only when in deep travail in prayer or when greatly moved by the Spirit to worship and to praise. Some have never spoken in tongues since.

On the other hand many Spirit-baptized believers find that they can speak in tongues at will. The vocal gifts of tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy, are the only spiritual gifts that can be operated at the will of the believer. Probably that is the reason so much confusion is caused by these vocal gifts. Man's will is often so carnal.

The ones who can speak in tongues at will are those who have the gift of tongues and are used to give messages in tongues for the benefit of the church. They are not necessarily any more spiritual than those who have had only the evidence of tongues. But they do have the gift of tongues just as some have the gift of discerning of spirits, or of faith, etc.

The interpretation of tongues is the supernatural showing forth by the Spirit through a believer of the meaning of utterance in other tongues. It is not necessarily a translation of the message although it can be. That is the reason that sometimes the interpretation is shorter or longer than the message.

The gift of tongues plus the gift of interpretation is the equivalent of prophecy and edifies the church the same as the gift of prophecy. However, the gift of tongues edifies the person who is speaking in his or her personal worship and builds him or her up in the most holy faith. This gift is priceless for praying; the Spirit because the Bible says that the natural man does not know for what he should pray but that the Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.

For edifying the church interpretation is necessary as explained in I Cor. 14:12,13.

“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.”

We believe and teach that every Spirit filled believer should be so yielded to God that the Spirit could use him with any or ALL of the nine gifts of the Holy Ghost. Certainly, no Christian could hope to attain to the fulness of God who was not so yielded. In other words, the Christian should live and the LIFE of God should be shown forth.

Let us consider the scriptures set forth in I Cor. 14:1-5:

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

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

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

“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.”

Such depth of spiritual life is spoken of here that it would require an entire 20-page lesson just to touch on Chapter 14. In verse 1 the Apostle advises us to follow after divine love. In Chapter 13 there are listed nine ingredients of divine love. Patience - love passive; no hurry; suffers long; bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things (v. 4,7). Kindness - love in action: never acts rashly or insolently; not inconsistent, puffed up, or proud (v. 4).

Generosity - love in competition: not envious or jealous (v. 4). Humility - love in hiding: no parade: no airs: works then retires (v. 4). Courtesy - Love in society; does not behave unseemly; always polite: at home with all classes; never rude or discourteous (v. 5).

Unselfishness - love in essence: never selfish, sour, or bitter; seeks only good of others; does not retaliate or seek revenge (v. 5). Good temper - love in disposition: never glad when others go wrong: always gladdened by goodness to others; always slow to expose; always eager to believe the best; always hopeful, always enduring (v. 6-7).

Sincerity - love in profession; never boastful and conceited; not a hypocrite; Always honest; leaves no impression but what is strictly true; never self-assertive; does not blaze out in passionate anger, nor brood over wrongs; always just, joyful, and truthful; knows how to be silent; full of trust; always present.

A great many of us who think that we are especially pious Christians make a very poor showing against this list of attributes embodied in Divine Love. All of these things are embodied in just three words "Follow after charity."

Covet earnestly the gifts. Covet prophecy more than tongues.

Turn to I Cor. 14:6-39 and read it out of your Bible in order that I may save the space in this lesson for explanations. You will see that the Apostle is contrasting tongues with prophecy. It has already been pointed out that one purpose for the gift of tongues is to build up the individual, also that tongues and interpretation are equal to the gift of prophecy and bring edification, exhortation and comfort to the church.

Tongues are spoken to God; prophecy is spoken to teach men (v. 2-3).

Mysteries or things not understood are spoken in tongues; all things spoken in prophecy are clear (v. 3-4).

Tongues edify the speaker; prophecy edifies the speaker and others (v. 3-4).

Tongues enable one to commune with God; prophecy speaks to men to edification, exhortation and comfort (v. 2-4).

The prophet is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless the tongues are interpreted and understood (v. 5).

Tongues are no profit to the public unless interpreted; all prophecy is profitable to the public (v. 5-13, 27-28).

The speaker in tongues may pray for the interpretation; the prophet need not, for his message is in his own tongue (v. 3-13).

Tongues make one a barbarian to others; prophecy does not (v. 3, 11).

In all gifts the main purpose is to excel in edifying the church (v. 12). In this, prophecy is greater than tongues (v. 1-6, 27-28).

The human spirit of the speaker is the thing edified by tongues; prophecy benefits all men (v.1-5, 14-15, 24-25).

Tongues are a great personal blessing, but five words of prophecy are more important in public services than 10,000 words in tongues (v. 17-19).

Tongues are a sign to unbelievers; prophecy to believers (v. 17-19).

All speaking in tongues at once causes mockery by the unsaved whereas with prophesying the unsaved are convicted of sin (v. 23-25).

Every gift must be used to edify the church (v. 26). Prophecies do this better (v. 1-5, 23-25).

On the first page of Lesson I of this course, I said “In order to know God’s Word one must first know God. If you are not born again please be born of the Spirit before you proceed further.” Some misunderstood my statement and returned the Lesson, which, of course, was not my purpose in admonishing them to be born again.

In the first place, unless a person is born again, he is dead in trespasses and sin; possessed of a carnal mind that is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be. Furthermore, such a one need not read the Word of God except to find out how to be saved, as he simply cannot understand it. The Word is spiritually discerned (I Cor. 2:14-16).

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” I Cor. 2:14.

The notes in one of the better known reference Bibles says, “The natural man may be learned, gentle, eloquent, fascinating, but the spiritual content of Scripture is absolutely hidden from him: and the fleshly, or carnal Christian is able to comprehend only its simplest truths, “milk”. (I Cor. 3:2)

All the promises of God are to believers, people who believe that God is and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. This includes the “promise of the Father,” which is the Holy Ghost. God gives the Holy Ghost to those who obey Him and who obey his command to “Have Faith in God.” (St. Mark 11:22b.) Specifically the promise occurs in Joel 2:28-29:

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.”

We simply must worship God in spirit and in truth. (Remove as) The Lord himself told the woman at the well in St. John 4:23, 24, "But the hour cometh, and

now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

On the same occasion the Lord Jesus had already told her, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” Any reasonable person would assume that this refers to the Holy Ghost, though he was not yet given for, John the Baptist had previously said:

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:” St. Matt. 3:11.

After all these scriptures surely no one can deny that God intends that all - ALL - Christians have the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Every converted child of God naturally has a measure of the Spirit for it was He who drew the individual to God and in Romans 8:9, we read: “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”

And of course, if any desire further proof we can cite St. John 7:37-39, which is the great prophecy concerning the blessed Holy Spirit for power:

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

In St. John 16:7 when the disciples were sorrowing because the Lord had just told them that he was going away he said unto them:

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”

Let us now return to our subject of Tongues, Interpretation and Prophecy. Tongues for the present time was prophesied in Isaiah 28:11, which says, “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.” This came to pass on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost was poured out in the upper chamber and they all began to speak with tongues both of men and of angels (Unknown

tongue). This was after the cloven tongues of fire sat upon each one as they awaited the “promise of the Father.” Read it yourself in Acts 2:4-36.

We have said before during this course that tongues and interpretation are equal to prophecy.

Now, prophecy according to Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary is  
(1) the vocation of a prophet; the inspired declaration of divine will and purpose.  
(2) An inspired utterance of a prophet. (3) A declaration of something to come: Prediction.

You can see from this definition that anything God uses to reveal future events to mankind is prophecy. While the term is usually applied to utterance, a future event may be revealed in dreams, or visions, or tongues and interpretation, or the Word of Wisdom, or the Word of Knowledge.

Pentecostal people have formed the habit of speaking of utterance as the ‘word’. Many of them say, “I went to the service, hoping that God would give me a ‘word’ through Brother So-and-So. In modern language, ‘utterance’ might be a more meaningful term to use, Utterance of Wisdom, or Utterance of Knowledge,

All of the gifts of the Holy Ghost are strictly supernatural. Natural wisdom and knowledge are not referred to in-this manner but always apply to divine utterance beyond the wisdom or knowledge of man.

Rev. 19:10b, “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

A Christian is a partaker of the divine life of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost and the gifts thereof are the means by which the Christian partakes of the life of our Lord.

Some so-called Christians simply give assent to a code of ethics. Many of them sum their faith up in the golden rule. This is not sufficient. One word used in the Old Testament and translated “sin,” simply means to fall short. It is not enough to believe that the Lord was on earth. Unless one believes “into the anointing,” or puts on Christ, he is none of His.

Another common error among Pentecostals is to think that Jesus, when on earth, was used with the gifts of the Spirit. This is entirely erroneous, Jesus had the Spirit of God WITHOUT measure. “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Col. 2:9.

Jesus is the great Baptizer for John the Baptist said, in prophesying his first coming:

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:” Matt. 3:11.

To be used with the gifts of the Spirit is to have the Spirit by measure for He gives His gifts to man, severally, as He will. Most of us have a very much smaller measure of the Spirit of God than He would like to give us but we must earnestly desire and seek after the gifts of the Spirit, or as the word says, “covet earnestly the best gifts.” And PROPHECY is one of the best gifts, being for exhortation, edification and comfort. What could be better than that?

Much of the BIBLE has been given us through the gift of prophecy and many Bible Scholars believe that prophecy will play a big role in gathering together the last day church and getting her ready.

Also the scripture indicates that many more mysteries will be revealed for some more “sealed” things will be opened at the time of the end.

However, be very careful to know what the Bible teaches about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and especially the Gift of Prophecy. Nearly all Bible scholars believe that this is the end time; hence, we can only assume from the following scriptures that this is the time for the revealing of things reserved for the end time.

“For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. ” Matthew 10:26b

“Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.” Rev. 10:4b.

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: ” Dan. 12:4a.

“Go thy way Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end,” Dan. 12:9.

“Wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.” Dan. 8:26b.

This caution is not given to make you afraid to prophesy, only to make you

know that the gift of Prophecy should be universally received by the Church--IT IS FOR ALL.

Spoken by the Prophet Joel and repeated by the Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost,

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of 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 PROPHECY: ” Acts 2:17,18.

Again:

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.” I Cor. 14:1.

“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 . . . ” I Cor. 14:5a.

“For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and ALL may be comforted.” I Cor. 14:31.

From these scriptures we see that ALL may have the gift of prophecy who “covet it earnestly.” However, when you receive the gift of prophecy, keep your life HOLY and stay PRAYED UP. When you have met these two conditions, speak forth boldly the WORD OF THE LORD when the Spirit of God comes upon you to prophesy.

There are scriptural instructions in many of Paul Epistles, such as:

“Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings.” I Thes. 5:19,20.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Ephe. 4:29-32.

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. I Tim. 4:14-16.

“Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. II Tim. 1:6.

If you have been Pentecostal long you know that the foregoing scriptures have to do with your consecration and devotion to the Lord and the gospel. The degree to which you will ever be able to prophesy is limited only by the degree that you can abandon yourself and yield yourself to the Spirit of God.

Everything we receive from God comes by FAITH. Your salvation came by faith and the Holy Spirit baptism came by faith and you will be able to prophesy by FAITH.

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of FAITH;” Romans 12:6.

Let us also remember that we have been talking about and quoting scriptures about the simple gift of prophecy for there are also ministry gifts set in the Church. About these we read:

“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, (Christ) he lead captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men . . . And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:” Eph. 4:8 and 11, 12.

These ministry gifts involve a great deal more than the gifts of the Holy Ghost received by believers. They are callings of God. Therefore, when you receive the gift of prophecy, do not presume yourself to be a PROPHET. Every gift of prophecy could and should become a ministry of prophecy, or the office of PROPHET BUT one has a lot of dying out to self and sitting at the feet of Jesus, before he attains to a ministry gift.

The Spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus; therefore, it is reasonable to say that prophecy is a flow of the divine life—word from God, and that word is unifying, creative, life—giving, and faith— imparting. So, if you know a real true

prophet, sit under his ministry, because the manifestation of his office of prophet will create the same thing in those he ministers to. Like begets like in all of creation, both physically and spiritually; and even in the vegetable and lower animal kingdom. God's word is true on all levels in the universe.

In the space below list all other scriptures in connection with this lesson which you wish to add to your memory verses.