

THE HOLY SPIRIT

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portance now being given to it in certain quarters, why was it not mentioned more than this once? They mention "love, joy and peace" again and again — the gift of tongues once. So the gift of tongues was not the working emphasis in the early church. It was silently relegated to the rear, and changed character became, rightly, the working emphasis.

If the answer is given that Jesus mentioned it in the passage in Mark 16:17: "And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

All the recent versions say that the Gospel of Mark was broken off and lost from verse 8 on and that a number of second century attempts were made to fill out this lost portion. Among these attempts the above verse appears. It is the kind of verse man, unaided by inspiration, would insert. For every single one of these "signs" is a semi-magical quality — not one of them a moral quality: cast out devils, speak in new tongues, pick up serpents, drink any deadly thing and lay hands on the sick. If these had been the "signs" of believing Christians, then Christianity would have died as a wonder cult. Only two of these signs were found in Jesus: He cast out devils and laid hands on the sick. The other three: speaking in tongues, picking up serpents and drinking deadly poisons, were not found in Him. What kind of a list of "signs" is this when only two would apply to Jesus and three would not?

Alongside of that list of "signs" of a Christian put this verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22) Every one of them is a moral quality. Which of the two lists shows signs of authentic Divine inspiration? The Christian conscience will unhesitatingly say that the list beginning with "love" and ending in "self-control" is the Divinely inspired list. And every single one of them would apply to Jesus. He embodied them all.

This raises the question. Did Jesus have the Holy Spirit? The answer is yes. Did He speak in tongues? The answer is no. Would it add anything to Him to have Him speak in tongues? I want Him just as He is! Then if Jesus had the Holy Spirit and did not speak in tongues, I want to be like Him so I can have the Holy Spirit and not speak in tongues. Suppose you embodied these nine fruits of the Spirit, what kind of a character would you be? The best type. Suppose you embodied the five signs of Mark 16:17; what kind of a character would you be? A religious showman type — picking up serpents to show they wouldn't bite you and drinking deadly poison to prove it wouldn't hurt you. And why take one sign — speaking in new tongues — and leave out picking up serpents and drinking deadly things? Why not all five of the signs? It would kill it!

Can we doubt that some people today are filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues as a part of one experience? I believe this happens. But not necessarily. Millions have been filled with the Spirit and never speak in tongues. And moreover, this must be said; only where it is taught that tongues accompanies the coming of the Holy Spirit does this phenomenon occur. I have been in a revival where a whole college was converted, every single student, and people coming in from the surrounding countryside would be stricken by the power of the Holy Spirit before they entered the auditorium, stricken as they

entered the campus and converted. And yet no one spoke in tongues. Why? It wasn't taught. It was taught that the signs that accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit were "love, joy, peace," etc., resulting in changed character.

In these modern manifestations of speaking in tongues it is not only taught—it is often induced. A group will gather around the seeker and lay their hands on his head and the seeker is sometimes urged to use some foreign words he may know to start the flow. Or he is instructed to hold his jaw loose and to let his tongue be limp. Or he is asked to repeat the name of Jesus over and over and then urged to go faster and faster until he goes so fast that he begins to stammer. "Now," he is told, "you are getting it. For the Scripture says: 'I will speak to them by men of stammering lips.'"

No wonder then, the use of tongues has always been divisive. It will divide any group into which it is introduced. In the great Uganda, Africa, revival Dr. Church, a medical missionary, was the moving spirit, greatly used of God. Thousands were converted, whole villages and sections transformed. Dr. Church went off to another group which spoke in tongues, came back and began to speak in tongues in the Uganda revival. The African leaders took him aside and said, "This has made you proud. You will divide the people over this." He saw they were right. He gave up the speaking in tongues and gave himself to the main business of creating changed people and the revival went on with power and unity.

So our attitude in the Christian Ashrams is this: We welcome to our fellowship those who speak in tongues, as we would welcome all Christians, for instance, the immersed and the non-immersed, provided they speak to themselves in privacy and provided they do not introduce it into the fellowship as an issue.

For our pattern of the Spirit-filled person is Jesus. We would be filled with the Spirit and be made like Him. He is the center of our unity and our pattern of the Spirit-filled life.

—The Herald

CHERYL HUDSON

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way but finally the man tells us that we have gone as far as possible and he goes off on foot for another mile. We sit down in the shade to wait.

Off again, back over the same road. Up over that bad hill, then—stop. The car refuses to go. Guess we just sit and wait until someone from the Mission decides we have had trouble and comes looking for us. Oh, for a drink and something to eat. Wait, we were given a big watermelon so — break it against a rock and we have both water and food.

At 7 p.m. Gene arrived with Uta's Land Rover, couldn't find the trouble so decided to tow us home. Tow rope in place, all set? No sir, Uta's car refused to take the challenge. Under the hood we find her fuel pump is broken so there is nothing to do but sit and wait for another car to come.

So now the two cars sit and wait. One of the Africans gets a fire going and we all sit around it. 8 p.m., no one, then at 8:30 we hear a motor and Dr. Emmett arrives. Can his car tow both? Surely, we are assured, so we form a train and off we go the the Africans singing and making sounds like a train. Up hills, around ditches, ropes untie, stop, off again. Slowly, then at last at 11:30 we see the Mission lights, also find a very worried Uta.

How nice to have a hot bath and a late supper. To bed quickly, tomorrow will be another routine day.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Hudson

The King's Highway