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## **IS IT OF GOD?**

**By D. W. Matter**

A Digital Publication From  
The Booklet Entitled:  
"Gibber-Jabbers,  
Tongue-Talkers  
And  
Snake Handlers,  
Is It Of God?"

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There is a doctrine being spread abroad by some who claim to preach true Bible Holiness. They are known by many names, such as full gospel, Pentecostal, and others. As a rule they will not use the word "Pentecostal" unless it serves their purpose best. This group's main theme is the baptism of the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues as the evidence. They use the Book of Acts and I Corinthians as their main scripture background for this tongues doctrine. In some parts of the Southland and mountain country they will pass rattle snakes from one to another in the service and some have deliberately let the serpent bite them to prove that the Holy Ghost baptized folks who speak in tongues have power over the serpent as in Mark's Gospel. However, they misinterpret that passage; the snake handlers believe in speaking in tongues.

Mark 16:18 "They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Acts 28:1-6 "And when they had escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita. And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he

shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god." The second scripture is the fulfillment of the first. Those who try to prove their holiness by handling vipers are only tempting God, making fools of themselves and endangering their lives and the lives of others.

Paul did not pick up this viper to show the barbarous people of the island of Melita that he was filled with the Holy Ghost. The Bible states the viper came out of the heat and fastened on his hand. Paul did not know there was a snake near there. He shook it off and suffered no harm. To deliberately pick up a poisonous serpent is to tempt God and Jesus said, it is written, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Snake handling is unscriptural whether it be tongues people or someone else who practices it.

The more refined tongues peoples or Pentecostal folks do not like to own them, but they are still tongues people and advocate that unless you have spoken in tongues you do not have the Holy Ghost. The tongues people declare that they received the baptizing of the Holy Ghost as they did on the day of Pentecost but that is not so. They claim that the evidence of the Holy Ghost was the 120 speaking in tongues and they demand that evidence. They base their theory on Acts 2:4, but to fail to stress verses 2 and 3 which go right along with verse 4.

Acts 2:1-4 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance."

If we are to accept the tongues why not demand the rushing mighty wind sound from heaven, and also the tongues of fire to sit on our heads? Why accept one third of the witness and leave two thirds out. Their doctrine declares that all spake with tongues on the day of Pentecost but there is no scripture to prove the statement for the scriptures say "behold are not all these that speak Galileans?" There were some who spoke in other tongues, not UNKNOWN TONGUES. They needed no interpreter. There were at that time either thirteen or fourteen different languages spoken by the Galileans according to Acts 2:9-11. Notice it does not say that all spoke in tongues but ALL THAT SPOKE.

We have read and also heard tongues preachers as well as laymen declare that everyone who ever received the Holy Ghost spoke in tongues as a witness, and we challenge anyone to give us the chapter and verse proving that when Paul received the Holy Ghost, he spoke in tongues as the evidence or where he declared that he spoke in tongues at the time he received the Holy Ghost.

We are reminded that the Holy Ghost descended on Jesus Christ when He was baptized by John in the Jordan river but not one word is mentioned about Him speaking in tongues. Either speaking in tongues is not the evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost or Jesus Christ never had the Holy Ghost while on earth. Matt. 3: 16:17 declares. "Lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." That sounds as if Jesus received the Holy Ghost, does it not? The Bible declares that "He gives the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him." If God said He was well pleased with Jesus, He certainly must be obeying the Father. If He was obeying Him, then the Father gave Him the Holy Ghost.

There are still others who were filled with the Holy Ghost that did not speak in tongues. Luke 1:67 "Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied." Not a word is said about tongues. Luke 1:41 "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women." Notice there was no speaking in tongues as evidence when Elisabeth received the Holy Ghost. Someone might say that was before the day of Pentecost. Turn to Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and **THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST**, and they spake the Word of God with boldness." That was after Pentecost and no tongues in that meeting.

Let us look at Acts 9:17-18 "Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, and immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized." Paul received sight and was filled with the Holy Ghost and there was no report of tongues as evidence. Read Acts 8: 14-17 "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." Not one word is mentioned concerning speaking in tongues as the evidence. Again Acts 13:52 "And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost." Nothing there about speaking with :tongues.

The Bible declares that He gives the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him. It also tells us that "God purifies our hearts by faith," not by speaking in tongues. The Pentecostal folks make a great clamor about the tongues as the evidence, but they apparently overlook the fact that tongues is listed as a gift of the Spirit and not the evidence. Read I Cor. 12:7-11. This scripture ends with these words, "dividing to every man severally as he will." In other words, as God sees fit to give, not as some preacher demands, but as God wills. The tongues people will always turn to I Corinthians to help support their theory but fail to recognize that this book does not teach the doctrine of tongues as the evidence of the Holy Ghost. I Cor. 12:28-30 "And God hath set some (not all) in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." Then He goes on to ask some questions. "Are all apostles? are all prophets?" We all know there were only twelve apostles. Even the tongues folks will not all claim to be prophets. "Are all teachers?" They will not claim to all be teachers. "Are all workers of miracles?" There isn't one in a hundred who would dare to try to produce that gift. Many profess it but fail to produce the results. "Have all the gifts of healing?" They do not all profess the gift of healing, only one here and there will claim that gift but many they pray for fail to get healed. "**DO ALL SPEAK WITH TONGUES?**, Pentecost folks say yes, but to all the rest they say no. To say that all speak with tongues is to make God out a liar, for I Cor. 12:8-11 declares that to one He gives one gift, to another He gives another, and then only as He sees fit.

Advocates of Pentecostal tongue-ism insist that tongues is the evidence of the Holy Ghost. They declare that they do not seek tongues, but they will not believe the Holy Spirit is come unless they speak in tongues. Therefore they seek a sign rather than the Spirit. If He would see fit to come as in the case of the Apostle Paul in Acts 9:17-18 or in the case of Elisabeth and Zacharias in Luke 1:67 and Luke 1:41 or as in the case of Jesus in Matt. 3:16-17 where there was no mention of tongues, they would declare He was not there and thus make God a liar and sin. Why? Because there were no tongues. Thus they may just as well look God in the face and say, "I want a sign, or I don't believe."

Tongues people try to make one of the nine gifts of the Spirit the evidence of the Spirit. The word "unknown" is used eight times in the Authorized King James Version. It might be interesting to know that the word "unknown" is used in the New Testament in the original Greek only three times. Once in Acts 17:23 in reference to the unknown God the Greek word AGNOSTOS is used and literally means unknown. Two other places in II Cor. 6:9 and Gal. 1:22 the word AGNOEO meaning not known through lack of information is used. You will note that the word unknown referring to unknown tongues in Corinthians is printed in italics which means that it has been placed there by the translators and is not in the original Greek text. There is no such thing as UNKNOWN TONGUES. This word "tongue" comes from the Greek word GLOSSA, the tongue by employing a language. Also HETEROGLOSSOS meaning a man of other tongues or languages. The Corinthian text should be read without the word "unknown".

On the day of Pentecost the people who were present out of some sixteen nations understood in their own tongue or language. The Corinthians were poor people to pattern after for Paul had more trouble with that church than any other church mentioned in the whole Bible. It was the only church mentioned in the epistles that emphasized tongues and was also the most immoral group mentioned in the New Testament. Paul wrote to them I Cor. 1:11 "there are contentions among you." In I Cor. 3:3 "Ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" I Cor. 4:18 "Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you." I Cor. 5:1 "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife." I Cor. 6:8 "Ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren."

What a church that Corinthian tongue church must have been. Look at the catalogue of sin and still talking in tongues. They had contention in the church, one said I'm of Paul, another I'm of Apollos, I'm of the Trinity crowd, I'm of the Jesus Only crowd, I'm of the snake-handling crowd. But that is only the beginning. There were envy and strife, division, puffed-up pride, and Paul denounced it all as carnal. They would not trust each other, one would pull a deal and defraud another, and their moral state was so low that some of the men had sexual relations with their own mothers.

Some one may pop up and say, "Wait a minute, that scripture says, 'his father's wife'." That is correct. My father's wife was my mother, and if yours was not, she certainly should have been. But you say that man's mother died and his father married again, so it was not his mother but his stepmother. We declare that the man is equally guilty for Lev. 18:7-8 declares, "The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy

mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness." Whether it was their own mother or step-mother, it was wrong; the Bible forbids it.

Some one else may make a desperate effort to defend the fornicators and declare that the father was dead and the woman was his step-mother. We declare to you that regardless, they committed the sin of fornication and were in the Corinthian tongues church. The fact remains that the word "fornication" is used and gives us positive assurance that they were not lawfully married at the time of the act. If it were not his mother by birth, it was by law or marriage, so it was still his mother and the wife of his father.

That was the Corinthian tongues church and we have given you chapter and verse to substantiate our statements. What is a carnal person but one filled with the world. If you want to see a puffed up people as a whole, take a look at the tongues people (not all of them, some of the Corinthians were saved folks and we believe there are some folks who attend the tongues church that are saved people). However, most of them, as a rule, can buy or sell on the Sabbath, go to shows or any place of amusement, pull shady deals, dress almost immoral, smoke, paint their faces, bob their hair, wear jewelry by the bushel basket, live with their second, third or fourth living companion, and even swear, and still continue to speak in tongues. They claim it's the Spirit speaking through them but we prefer to say a spirit instead of the Spirit. Someone may say that we do not know what we are talking about but we would like to remind our readers that we have observed the lives of many tongues people. We have attended many of their services and seen with our own eyes. We have preached from their platforms and we have attended their meetings from the little missions to the big super-duper healing campaigns. We know whereof we speak.

We have seen and heard them speak in tongues, and another rise and interpret the so-called message and the church accept it as from God; and that same person who spoke in tongues step out of the meeting and light up a cigar on the street in front of the church. Yes, that man called himself a Pentecostal preacher. We were present in one Pentecostal gathering where a man smoked a cigar and blew the smoke out the window while the preaching service was going on, and the preacher who preached the sermon was later discovered in his sin for the woman he was living with was not his wife. On one occasion we were invited to hold a meeting for what was represented to us as a Baptist church but after our arrival we found it to be a tongues church. They evidently knew that if we were told the truth that we would not accept the call.

It is not uncommon to have some tongues people declare that you are blaspheming the Holy Ghost when you declare them false in doctrine. We have had it told to us many times. Some people who do not live close enough to God to discern the spirit fear they will resist the Spirit of God and by denouncing the tongues doctrine will cross the dead-line and be eternally lost and soon find themselves deep in the deception. Few people seem to remember that God said in I John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." God has also warned us that in the last day many will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. He also declared they would come with all power and signs and lying wonders. Yes, they would say, here is Christ, and deceive many. Satan would have ministers transformed into angels of light. Every false doctrine

has a spirit, that is why we are exhorted to try the spirits whether they be of God. If that be the case, then there is another spirit not of God but that will impersonate the Spirit of God. That spirit will come and dwell in people and deceive them into believing they have the Holy Ghost. That spirit will permit people to be saved, then deceive them after that. Such spirits have great drawing power and once that spirit has its influence over you, it will take all there is of you to break its hold upon you.

There are many who attend tongues meetings who were drawn by their music and enthusiasm and their low standards and emotionalism, who will never talk in tongues and neither will they ever be able to throw off that spirit that has bound them hand and foot. We have noticed that tongues people are great sign people. They must have an outward sign of tongues, dreams, visions, strange impressions, revelations, jerkings and shakings, trances, lying under the power, etc. but they fail to remember that Jesus said there would be no sign given. In referring to His Coming -- Tongues people claim they have the latter day sign Gospel. Another outstanding characteristic of tongues people is the bold way that many of them will attend another service and take it over. Their superior attitude and unteachable spirit that manifests itself displays a spirit not of God. They tell us we have not gone far enough. They refuse to accept anyone's experience as genuine unless they have spoken in tongues, yet, they cannot produce one verse (yes, we said one verse of scripture where we are told that we must speak in tongues as evidence that we have received the Holy Ghost. Paul said, and I quote I Cor. 14:18-19. "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." The word unknown is not in the original text and Paul declared that he talked in languages or tongues more than all the Corinthians put together. Why? Paul was a missionary to the Gentiles, He preached to the Romans and the Greeks. He preached at Galatia, Macedonia, Corinth, Philippi, Colosse and Ephesus and others. Can you see why he spoke in tongues more than all those folks and he did not have an interpreter. Read I Cor. 14:21-22.

The writer has been present at tongues meetings and seen those under the so-called power run across the church and strike their heads on the opposite wall. We have seen them fall to the floor in embarrassing positions and lie there until someone would take a coat and cover up their nakedness. There is not one single scripture in the Bible that suggests that such things ever happened to spirit filled Christians, not even in the Corinthian church. We challenge anyone to produce one scripture. There is not one place in the scripture where anyone receiving the Holy Ghost was ever thrown to the floor in a senseless or a prostrate position. Yet, we can produce scripture where people who were possessed of the devil were thrown, by a spirit that possessed them, upon the ground. Mark 9:26 "And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead: insomuch that many said, He is dead." Note too the demon spirit that possessed the boy and threw him to the ground in Luke 9:42. "And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him." Matt. 17:15 declares this boy would fall under the power of this indwelling spirit at times into the fire and often into the water, and when the demon was cast out of the boy, he was cured, and did not fall under the power of this demon spirit any more.

Some of the Pentecostal people will tell us that they do not advocate such action and denounce it in their church. Yet, they believe that one must speak in tongues as the evidence of receiving the Holy Ghost. The answer to that is that some are more refined which makes the

doctrine that much more deceptive for some will not embrace the "falling under the power" or the "snake handling" but will accept the same doctrine refined and become equally deceived as those who handle snakes.

Religious demons are the most dangerous of all to the Christian for they imitate real Christianity. They will counterfeit the Holy Ghost and deceive the very elect if it is possible. Jesus warned that this very thing would happen in the last days. Unless you have studied demonology and taken time to make some research on this subject it may be difficult for the reader to even imagine what we are about to state about demons. Many times a devil will imitate the Holy Ghost and lead one to believe they are being led by the Holy Ghost when they are actually being led by a demon transformed to appear as an angel of light. An individual under this delusion will yield to this spirit from the regions of darkness and actually feel as if he is surrendering to the Holy Spirit, and become demon possessed. If this could not be possible, the scripture would have no need to say "Try the spirits to know whether they be of God." Once this demon enters he will make his presence known to the individual. It may demonstrate in a religious manner, it may cause one to fall under its power into a trance or as one dead. It may speak through the individual. Its presence is felt by the person possessed and they will insist it is God.

Some who have been delivered from the Pentecostal tongues movement have declared this to be true of their own experience. They have further stated that when they left the movement and denounced the doctrine that some accused them of crossing the dead line, blaspheming the Holy Ghost, and thus tried to force them to continue lest they commit the unpardonable sin and be lost forever. Others who have been delivered from the Pentecostal movement declare that the same spirit that entered their body at the time of their baptism was the same spirit that threw them to the floor under the so-called power, it was the same spirit that would speak through them in unknown tongues. Those who had the gift of interpretation declared that when they were yielded to this spirit, their minds were blank, then this spirit would speak through them. They further claim that should they refuse to yield to this indwelling spirit, they would feel as if they would burst and feel sick and have pain. The Holy Spirit of God does not force anyone. The Holy Spirit does not drive anyone. Therefore, this spirit that enters at the so-called speaking in tongues baptism cannot be of God.

Once an individual receives this other spirit it is almost next to impossible to get them out of this tongues movement. People who attend these meetings will soon find themselves drawn to this ism, almost like spiritualism, and will find it difficult to break away from it. Some one may say that many of these Pentecostal tongues people are very zealous and enthusiastic toward the work of the Lord. Yes, most people who are tangled in some ism are very enthusiastic about their particular church and doctrine but as a rule they are very prejudiced toward anyone but their own group. It might be well to remember that Judas Iscariot was one of the twelve but Jesus said in John 6:70-71 that one was a devil and named Judas. You see being zealous and seeming spiritual is no sign of real spirituality. Judas had everyone fooled except the Son of God. If the devil could work through Judas and fool the disciples, don't think for one minute that the same devil could not fool you unless you live close to God.

Remember Paul warned the Corinthians in II Cor. 3-4 "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth ANOTHER JESUS, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive ANOTHER SPIRIT, which ye have not received, or ANOTHER GOSPEL which ye have not accepted." Now let us read verses 13-15 of this same chapter. "For such are FALSE PROPHETS, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." Paul in these scriptures warned of some who would declare themselves to be apostles and ministers of Christ preaching another Christ, possessing another spirit, and preaching another gospel. They would be deceitful, workers of the devil, but transformed as ministers of righteousness. Paul was afraid for them and was interested in warning them of this terrible deception. Some may ask if Pentecostalism is another spirit and not the spirit of Christ, how do you account for people getting saved in their meetings. To answer that we remind you that God honors His Word even if the devil preaches it. He does not honor the speaker, but His Word. As soon as they are converted, the other Jesus and the spirit with all the false teachers and ministers transformed into angels of light begin to deceive the new convert as Eve was deceived by the serpent. Someone else may say that they preach under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. You mean they preach under the direction of another spirit. These demons, remember, are religious demons; they are not only deceiving you but also the one they possess. That spirit is imitating the Holy Ghost. It must counterfeit a blessing, it must counterfeit unction, he must have a counterfeit discernment, and all gifts of the spirit must be counterfeited. Some one asks does the devil heal. No, the devil is the cause of all sickness and pain. His ministers pray for an individual and Satan withdraws the affliction and the individual recovers. And many are faked believers. You say it was done in the name of Jesus. Look at Matt. 7:22 which reads, "Many will say to 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." Is that plain enough?

If you are considering attending any tongues church regardless what name or banner they are flying under, we urge you to reconsider. If you are attending even occasionally the tongues meeting large or small we trust you will consider our message and flee from it for your soul's sake. Should you already be entangled in the tongues doctrine and have spoken in unknown tongues, we plead with you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the only begotten Son of God who shed His blood on Calvary's cross to deliver you from the shackles of the devil; who rose from the dead with the keys to death, hell, and the grave that you might not go to hell, but be free from sin, lust, unrest, doubts and fears. This Christ who sits at the right hand of the Father just now to make intercession for you, in His Name we plead for you to denounce this false deception and flee to the lamb of God for your soul's sake. We plead with you to get alone, pray, ask God to show you. Be honest. Are you speaking in tongues and still doing things the Bible condemns. Are you saying things that the Bible condemns and still you speak in tongues. Friend, if that be true, on the authority of God's Holy Word, that spirit that possesses you is not God's Spirit and must be cast out for it is the spirit of the devil.



There is a way that seemeth right to man but the ways thereof are the ways of death. If you are in Pentecostalism, you will not get deliverance by attending, but by forsaking it. Find a good spiritual church that believes in old-fashioned Bible holiness repentance for sin, restitution for sin and sanctification as a second work of grace. Ask these folks to pray for you, seek God, denounce this doctrine, have God's people lay hands on you and pray for you until you are delivered from the bondage of hell and the devil's deception. We do not desire to be unkind but we must be faithful. Our commission from God is to cry aloud and spare not. When you have received the blessed Holy Ghost, you will have peace in the very depth of your heart, you will not doubt one moment and feel an assurance of a spirits presence the next. You will not feel a compulsory spirit that drives or forces you but you will have a blessed assurance that this spirit is Holy. Your desires will be holy, your motives holy, your desires will not be worldly. Your speech will be that which becometh holiness.

Regardless whether it is a mild respectable and refined tongues church or one that carries snakes, the doctrine is all the same, and the same spirit operated it.

Emotional, lively song service, friendliness, and demonstration are not necessarily signs that God is present. Many people who are not willing to pay the price of old-fashioned salvation will run to the outward demonstration believing it to be God and be taken up with it and soon be deceived. The prophets of Baal had a big meeting. There was plenty of noise and a lot of emotion. They even cut themselves until the blood gushed out upon them, but friend, there was no God in it. They claimed to be the ones who had the power but the supreme test came and the old prophet mocked them saying, "Cry a little louder, your God may be on a journey," and after a long time of emotional stir, the big meeting proved to be just a lot of noise. Many people are willing to seek for power who are not willing to confess their sin and forsake sin. I suppose some of the prophets of Baal stuck their finger in Elijah's face and said, "You'd better be careful about putting your hand on God's anointed. I would be afraid to talk about the working of the Holy Ghost like that. You better be careful." No doubt some of the tongues crowd are saying the same about the writer. The scripture commands us to try the spirits. We have done that. The scripture warns us that all spirits are not of God. We have found that to be so. That is why we warn you about gibbering, jabbering, talking in tongues, or handling snakes, and urge you to have nothing to do with it.

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THE END