

# Denying the power thereof

*By Evangelist Sean Bonitto*

**“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”**

2 Timothy 3:5

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century there has been a great apostasy among many churches. They are denying the power of God to save, and transform lost souls from **“darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God”** (Acts 26:18) through repentance and faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of these apostate institutions teach that if one is a homosexual they will always be a homosexual, or if they were an alcoholic they will also be an alcoholic. This teaching is blasphemous, because it is denying **“the power of God unto salvation”** (Romans 1:16), through the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Bible clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ can completely deliver, set free, and transform the homosexual, the alcoholic, or any sinner who repents and trusts the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone for their salvation (John 8:36; Acts 20:21).

However, there is another blasphemous teaching that 2 Timothy 3:5 is clearly referring to, and that is a denial of the miraculous power of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. To be point blank, I am clearly referring to the denial of the power of the Holy Ghost, in respect to the clear Bible teaching of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost with initial evidence of speaking in other tongues **“as the Spirit”** of God giveth the **“utterance”** (Acts 2:4), the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12), and the clear command by the Word of God for their presence and operation in the Church of God (1 Corinthians chapters 12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5).

Before we continue to examine this denial of the miraculous power of God, we need to examine some of the words that were mentioned previously. The word blasphemy, “means to speak evil of” or against.” Also the word, denying means, “to contradict, disavow, reject, deny, refuse.”

Many preachers, churches, and denominations have have openly rejected, and have spoken evil of the miraculous power of God by the Holy Ghost. Preachers such as John MacArthur who have rejected, and in fact speak evil against the precious power of the Holy Ghost in his strange fire conferences, over his pulpit, and through his radio, and television programs.

He and other cessationists have greatly erred, and have done so, as we shall observe, without any justification or authority from the Word of God, the Holy Bible.

To be perfectly clear, I am not writing against him or others personally, nor am I contending with them concerning the false, unbiblical manifestations that they have properly exposed as being fleshly, and in many cases demonic. I am referring to gold dust, gems falling, holy laughter, or other signs and wonders that prove to have no purpose, and that lack Biblical authority (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

However, my clear contention remains exclusively, with the rejection and blasphemy of the

clear Bible teaching of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues, and the gifts of the Holy Ghost as revealed in the pages of the Sacred Text (Acts 2:4; Acts 8:12-21; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-7; 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14; 1 Thess 5:19-21).

The word, **“power”** in 2 Timothy 3:5 is the Greek word, **“dunamis”** which means “miraculous power, or miracle power.” The word **“dunamis”** is also found in Acts 1:8, **“But ye shall receive power...”** This speaks clearly of the power of the Spirit of God, in respect to the Baptism of the Holy Ghost upon the lives of the church of God to be witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ, that is evidenced with speaking with other tongues (Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6-7).

This power of God was promised by the Lord Jesus Christ, and evidenced by the New Testament church, and believers of every church age. Unfortunately it has been denied by many today, who erroneously claim that the gifts of the Holy Ghost, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and speaking in tongues, have ceased. However, we will see by authority of the Holy Bible that they have not, and thus will prove that the teaching of cessation concerning the aforementioned power of God is not only a great error, but a major satanic deception.

### **Foundational teaching of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues**

First we must begin by laying the foundation of the evidence based on the clear teachings of the Holy Bible itself. The evidence reveals from the Sacred Text that there is not one book, chapter, or verse, or any remote teaching found any where in the Word of God that teaches that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues, or the gifts of the Holy Ghost have ceased. This teaching is no where to be found in the teachings of Holy Scripture at all.

However, the Holy Scriptures clearly teach throughout the New Testament the coming power of the Holy Ghost, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost upon the New Church of God that started in Jerusalem.

**“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”** (Luke 24:49).

**“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”** (Acts 1:8).

### **Acts chapter 2 The day of Pentecost**

The Word of God also clearly teaches the manifestation, or initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost upon the believers in Acts 2:4, **“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”** Here is the first Bible evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and it is when they **“...began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”** (Acts 2:4).

Notice the Bible says, **“...the Spirit gave them utterance”** (Acts 2:4). Therefore speaking in tongues cannot be taught by any individual, or book of men, because it is the Holy Ghost that will give the utterance and not man. Thus, any attempt to do so is deceptive, and is a counterfeit of the genuine.

## **The Samaritans receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost**

The New Testament also teaches, that the baptism of the Holy Ghost continued to occur in the lives of the believers, when the Word of God came to Samaria through Phillip the Evangelist in Acts 8:14-17.

The Bible says,

**Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**

It is clear from the context of the passage that the Samaritans “**had received the word of God**” (Acts 8:14). This clearly means they had repented of their sins, and received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and as their Lord. The Holy Ghost had regenerated them, and now lived inside of them as new born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:3-6; John 14:17; Titus 3:5).

However, it is clear from the Word of God that they had not received the power of the Holy Ghost, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost, “**For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**” (Acts 8:16-17).

Therefore the baptism of the Holy Ghost, is when the Spirit of God comes upon the believer in power to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is subsequent to salvation, or after salvation and the indwelling of the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17). However it can happen immediately after salvation, as in the case of Cornelius and the other Gentile believers.

## **The Baptism of the Holy Ghost upon Cornelius and the Gentile Believers**

Cornelius who was a Roman centurion, was a man “**...that feared God with all his house...**” (Acts 10:2). However, he was not yet saved, but was seeking after the one and only true God, the God of Israel, which is the God of the Holy Bible (Deuteronomy 4:6). God answered his prayer, and brought the Apostle Peter to preach to him, and his house concerning salvation by repentance and faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ. This of course was necessary in order for them to be saved from an eternity in hell, and to be given everlasting life in heaven (Acts 10:5; Acts 10:17-23).

This passage proves that if the ungodly, or heathen desires to know the true God of the Bible, He will reveal salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ to them in order for them to be saved (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

The Bible says,

**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. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”** (Acts 10:46-47).

It is clear from the Word of God, that Cornelius and the other Gentiles that were with him, repented of their sins, trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour by faith alone, and were immediately baptized in the Holy Ghost, **“For they heard them speak with tongues...”**(Acts 10:46).

The Apostle Peter and the other Jewish brethren did not believe that their tongues were false, nor did they utter blasphemous statements by saying they were possessed with devils.

However, they acknowledged that this was a genuine out pouring of the Holy Ghost on the Gentile Christians that was clearly evidenced when **“...they heard them speak with tongues...”** (Acts 10:46).

### **The Apostle Paul and the Ephesian Believers**

These events concerning the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues, were not isolated incidents in the book of Acts but were a common occurrence. We see evidence of this in Acts 19:1-7, where we find the Apostle Paul meeting with **“certain disciples”**(Acts 19:1). They were disciples of John the Baptist, but were not yet saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, the Apostle Paul assumed they were Christians when he said, **“Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?...”** (Acts 19:2). The words, **“since ye believed”** clearly refer to repentance and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Therefore the Apostle Paul is clearly teaching that the baptism in the Holy Ghost is a genuine Bible experience, that needs to take place in the life of the believer after salvation. For if the baptism of the Holy Ghost always occurs at the time of salvation like many erroneously believe, then this question by the Apostle Paul is completely meaningless, and contradicts other passages in the Word of God (Acts 2:4; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 10:44-46).

However, the question was not meaningless, nor did it contradict any verse of Holy Scripture, but is in complete harmony with the rest of the Word of God. The Holy Bible clearly teaches that the Holy Ghost comes to live inside the believer at the time of salvation, and regeneration(John 3:3-6; John 14:17; Titus 3:5), but He only comes upon the believer at the time of Holy Spirit baptism for the empowerment of service(Acts 1:8).

This question explicitly reveals that the baptism of the Holy Ghost was a needed, and common experience of power from the Holy Ghost, and that it was not reserved for special believers, but for all true born again Christians.

This fact is evidence not only by the question of the Apostle Paul to these disciples of John, but is also evidenced when they later believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, by the preaching of the Apostle Paul in Acts 19:4-5. It is also seen in verse six when the Bible says, **“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”**

It is evident that these disciples of John who repented of their sin, became born again Christians by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation (Acts 19:4-5), and then immediately went through the waters of baptism after being saved (Acts 19:5).

Notice from the clear teaching of Holy Scripture, that the baptism of the Holy Ghost occurs after salvation, for **“they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus”** (Acts 19:5), and then experienced the baptism of the Holy Ghost, **“...when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied”**(Acts 19:6).

There is clearly no confusion here at all. The baptism of the Holy Ghost in every circumstance was an event that occurred after salvation, and was always accompanied by the Bible evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 10:4-46; Acts 19:5-6).

Although Acts 8:12-25 does not mention speaking in tongues, after the believers in Samaria received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost, it is clearly referenced by the fact that, **“Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given”**(Acts 8:18).

Therefore the New Testament Church was not a church that denied the miraculous power of the Holy Ghost, but obeyed the Lord Jesus Christ, and recognized the power of the Holy Ghost in the life of the true church of God to fulfil world wide wide evangelism(Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).

It was a church that did not teach the cessation of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and speaking in tongues. Neither did they teach and confuse the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the regeneration of the Spirit of God, that occurs in the life of every true believer at the time of salvation, when one becomes born again by the Spirit, and when the Holy Ghost comes to live inside the Christian(John 3:3-6; John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Titus 3:5).

However, the Apostles clearly contended that the Baptism in the Holy Ghost was a separate Bible experience of power from Almighty God, to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, that was evidenced by speaking in other tongues(Acts 2:4; Acts 8:16-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-7). It is clear from the Holy Scriptures, that they taught the Baptism in the Holy Ghost needs to be experienced in the life of every true born again believer.

While it is not for necessary for salvation, for one must first be born again to receive the baptism (John 3:3; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:5-6), it is necessary for empowerment in evangelism and edification (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 14:1-3).

### **Gifts of the Holy Ghost, Tongues, Interpretation, and Prophesying 1 Corinthians Chapter 12**

The first epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian Church clearly deals with the gifts of the Holy Ghost in the church. In 1 Corinthians 12:1 the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul says, **“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”** The word, **“ignorant”** clearly means to ignore, or to be uneducated. Many churches erroneously are teaching many to ignore the gifts of the Holy Ghost. This is clear disobedience to the Word of God. The true church of God must not ignore the gifts of the Holy Ghost, but educate and teach the gifts of the Holy Ghost to believers.

It is important to point out that now where in 1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13, and 14 does it teach that the gifts of the Spirit have ceased, or will one day cease in a few short years, or that they will cease at the end of the first century, or at the death of the Apostles, or at any time during the church age. For if this was the case, why would the Holy Ghost through the Apostle, waste time writing about something that would no longer be in use in the church?

The Bible says,

**Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 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” (1Corinthians 12:4-11).**

It is clear that these gifts as recorded in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 are not demonic, nor are we told that they will cease in the life of the church during the church age, but we are told they come directly from **“the Spirit”** of God, and that they are **“the manifestation of the Spirit.”** Therefore it is blasphemous to suggest that every one who operates in the manifestation of these gifts of the Spirit are under demonic influences, or are promoting occult activity.

We are commanded to **“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment”** (John 7:24). Therefore those who teach that all who appear to manifest the gifts of the Spirit are demon possessed are deceived, and need to repent of their false doctrine, because they are not challenging the doctrine of men, but the Spirit of God(Acts 5:4).

However, this does not mean that everyone who appears to operate in the gifts of the Spirit are under the power of the Holy Ghost. An example of this is seen in Acts 16:16-18, where a young woman who seemed to be giving a word of knowledge concerning the Apostle Paul and Silas, said, **“These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation”**(Acts 16:17). However, the reality was she was clearly possessed by a demon spirit, for she was **“possessed with a spirit of divination”**(Acts 16:16). After the Apostle Paul cast out the devil out of the woman, he did not teach that any one who gives a word of knowledge or prophecy is of the devil, but instead taught the church to, **“Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”**(1Thessalonians 5:19-22).

He clearly taught contrary to the false doctrine of cessation. For he taught that the church should discern false spirits and prophets, by the gift of **“discerning of spirits”** (1Corinthians 12:10) which the Holy Ghost has given to the true church of God to profit the body of Christ.

The Bible clearly teaches that these gifts are to **“profit withal.”** The words, **“profit withal”** means, “to bring together, to profit”. This means they are to work together to profit or benefit the true Church of God.

There is absolutely no Biblical teaching at all, that these gifts have ceased operating, due to the fact that they are needed and profitable for the church. Again there is absolutely no indication, or teaching from the Holy Scriptures that they will no longer be profitable in the church, or that they will soon cease in the body of Christ.

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 13

1 Corinthians chapter 13 is the only place in the Holy Scriptures that teaches that tongues, along with the other gifts of the Holy Ghost will one day cease. However the context is clear that tongues, knowledge, and prophecies, will cease only when the church is raptured to be with the Lord Jesus Christ in the eternal state, and not during the church age.

**Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (1 Corinthians 13:8-13).**

Some who erroneously advocate that the gifts of the Spirit have ceased, suggest that the Apostle Paul was referring to the canon of Holy Scripture being perfected, and when that is accomplished then tongues will cease. They attempt to make their argument from 1 Corinthians 13:10 which says, **“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”**

However, the context never speaks concerning the completion of the canon, nor a word concerning the Holy Scriptures at all. It also does not refer to the maturity of the church on earth. For if this was the case, at what point did the church mature to perfection, and when did it mature? When did **“that which is perfect...come?”**

The Apostle Paul died before the canon was completed, and yet he said, **“now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”** Therefore it is clear that he could not refer to the canon of the Holy Scriptures being completed, for he did not experience this event, nor could he refer to the maturity of the church on earth during the church age, for he never mentioned this event being achieved in his lifetime, and the context completely rejects such an assertion.

Also other martyrs like brother Stephen who died long before Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians would have never been able to experience, **“that which is perfect”** if the context was referring to the maturity of the church on earth. The Apostle Paul never referred to the perfect maturity of the church on earth where the gifts of the Spirit would no longer be needed, but warned only about the Apostasy of the church world that will come through false teachers, and false doctrine in his day, and in the last days (Acts 20:21-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 2 Timothy 4:1-5).

However, he did refer to the maturity of the church in the eternal state, when the church is taken up to heaven in the rapture, when the Lord Jesus Christ comes back for His church (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

When this happens **“we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”** (1 John 3:2), for we shall see him, **“face to face”** (1 Corinthians 13:12). It is when, **“...this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality”** (1 Corinthians 15:53). We are **“...waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body”** (Romans 8:23).

**Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed** (1 Corinthians 15:50-52).

This is when,

**...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words”** (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18).

This is clearly the time when we will know longer **“know in part”**(1Corinthians 13:12), but will have the full knowledge of the Lord, for it is when the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ comes back for His Church, where He said, **“in that day ye shall ask me nothing”** (John 16:23).

The eternal state is the only time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, where the entire true church will finally achieve perfection, in their new glorified bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The word **“perfect”** in 1 Corinthians 13:10, is the Greek word, “teleios” which means, “to be complete, full age, perfect.” This word as recorded in the context of 1 Corinthians 13:10, clearly means to be of full age, or to come to an age of maturity and perfection. The context clearly reveals a future state of perfection that the Apostle Paul, and all the true born again believers will one day achieve in heaven and in the New Jerusalem (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 22:3-4).

This word “teleios” is also seen in 1 Corinthians 14:20. However, the context of 1 Corinthians 14:20, is clearly not referring to a future experience, as in 1 Corinthians 13:10, but a present command, **“...but in understanding be men(teleios).”**

Therefore the Greek word “teleios” must be understood within it's context. It is clear that the word clearly does not always refer to a one time future event of perfection as in 1 Corinthians 13:10, but can also refer to a present command that demands a continuous action of maturity, and holiness in Christ Jesus, that points to the responsibility of the Christian when he submits to the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 14:20; James 3:2).

Therefore it is clear that the word “teleios” in the context of 1 Corinthians 13:8-13, does not refer to the present continuous action of the believer walking in holiness, and living in perfection and maturity by forsaking sin, and walking in the Holy Ghost, but to a distinct point in time from an imperfect state, to a perfect state, that can only occur when the true church of God receives their new glorified bodies (1Corinthians 15:35-58).

The fact that the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul teaches about the rapture, and the new resurrected immortal bodies of the saints of God in the same epistle, only two chapters later in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, is clear proof that he was not referring to the maturity of the church here on earth while in their bodies of corruption, but only and exclusively to the maturity of the church in



heaven. For this is when they will receive their bodies of incorruption, at the pre-tribulational rapture (1Corinthians 15:35-58; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Therefore tongues, and all the gifts of the Holy Ghost have not ceased, but they continue to be present in the church for edification. Thus, the true born again believer is commanded not be **“ignorant”** of these gifts (1Corinthians 12:1), but to **“covet”** them **“earnestly”** (1Corinthians 12:31) and to **“desire”** (1Corinthians 14:1) the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

## **1 Corinthians Chapter 14**

As we have mentioned previously, the Bible clearly teaches that the true church must desire the gifts of the Holy Ghost. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:1, **“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.”** It is unfortunate and tragic that many churches, pastors, evangelists, and others have disobeyed the Word of God by teaching that believers do not need to **“desire spiritual gifts”** but rather reject them.

Many who teach this clear false doctrine, erroneously advocate that the tongues in 1 Corinthians 14 were false tongues, influenced by pagan ecstatic utterances that were not of God. This is not only completely false, but blasphemous, and a clear perversion of the text, and indeed the entirety of the Word of God (2 Corinthians 2:17).

The Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul never, and I repeat never told the church a Corinth that the tongues they were operating in were pagan and needed to stop. The clear purpose of 1 Corinthians chapter 14 was to correct the misuse of tongues in the church, not to condemn the use of tongues in the church.

This fact is clear when the Bible says, **“desire spiritual gifts”** (1 Corinthians 14:1), **“I would that ye all spake with tongues...”** (1 Corinthians 14:5), **“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues”**(1 Corinthians 14:39).

If the Apostle Paul believed they were speaking in false tongues, he would certainly not have encouraged them to speak in false tongues, but would have certainly warned, and commanded them to immediately stop speaking in demonic influenced tongues. However, it is clear that he did not stop them, but encouraged them to continue **“to speak with tongues”** (1 Corinthians 14:39), but only **“Let all things be done decently and in order”**(1 Corinthians 14:40).

Therefore he clearly did not believe they were operating with false pagan tongues, but only instructed them in the proper use of tongues in the church.

### ***The definition of known, and unknown tongues, “the tongues of men and of angels”(1Corinthians13:1)***

The argument that many cessationists propagate, is that when one speaks in tongues it must always be in a foreign human language. This understanding is clearly false, and only demonstrates that they choose to remain **“ignorant”** **“concerning spiritual gifts”** (1 Corinthians 12:1), and that they have not rightly divided the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15) concerning this area.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:2, **“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.”** The words, “**no man**” comes from the Greek word, “oudeis” which means, “not even one.” The word, “**understandeth**” comes from the Greek word, “akouo” which means “to understand.”

Therefore the tongues mentioned here in 1 Corinthians 14:2, clearly do not refer to known human languages, but to an unknown tongue or the tongues “**of angels**” (1 Corinthians 13:1). This is why the Bible says, “**no man understandeth him**”(1 Corinthians 14:2). This also proves that the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul does not give a hyperbole when mentioning the tongues “**of angels**” (1 Corinthians 13:1), but makes the clear distinction between the real “**the tongues of men and of angels**”(1 Corinthians 13:1).

The tongues of men is when one speaks in tongues as a sign to unbelievers(1 Corinthians 14:22). This is seen in Acts 2:4-11, and is also mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:28, as “**diversities of tongues.**” The Apostle clearly teaches that not every one operates in this gift by saying, “**do all speak with tongues?**” These tongues are “**the tongues of men**” (1 Corinthians 13:1) manifested through a born again Christian by the Holy Ghost, that are known languages to the unbeliever, but are not understood by the person operating in this gift, and are therefore a sign to the unbeliever (Acts 2:4-11).

***Tongues a sign “to them that believe not.” Both Jewish and Gentile unbelievers***

Many who erroneously suggest that the gifts of the Holy Ghost have ceased, believe that tongues are a sign exclusively to unbelieving Israel, and not to unbelievers in general. However this is a clear misunderstanding of the text, and the context of which the passage resides.

The passage is found in 1 Corinthians 14:21-22 says,

**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: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.**

While the passage referenced by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:21 was taken from Isaiah 28:11, where God was speaking to the nation of Israel through the prophet Isaiah, the application and context of the passage in 1 Corinthians 14:21-22 is not specifically or exclusively referring to unbelieving Israel, but to all unbelievers, both Jews or Gentiles. This is clear from the context of the passage which demands tongues being a sign to all, “**...them that believe not...**” (1 Corinthians 14:22), and not only to unbelieving Israel. This fact is evidenced by the following Bible truths.

First, most if not all unbelieving Jews would never attend a Gentile home, much less a Gentile church, such as the Church at Corinth.

This fact is seen when Peter was called by God Almighty to preach to Cornelius in Acts 10:28, “**And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.**”

As a result, it is explicitly clear that the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul did not refer to tongues as a sign exclusively to unbelieving Jews, due to the fact that most if not all unbelieving Jews would not attend a Gentile church. Thus it would be completely meaningless for the Apostle Paul to

mention tongues being a sign only for unbelieving Israel to a Gentile church, where no unbelieving Jew would likely enter.

Secondly, the context of the passage does not emphasize nor mention the nation of Israel at all, but uses the passage in Isaiah to clearly apply to unbelievers in general by saying, **“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not...”**(1 Corinthians 14:22).

Acts chapter 2 clearly teaches that tongues was not only a sign for unbelieving Israel, but also for the unbelieving Gentile. The Bible says, **“...Jews and proselytes...”**(Acts 2:10) were there on the day of Pentecost when they heard the Apostles, and the rest of the 120 in the upper room in Jerusalem, speak in known languages as the Holy Ghost gave them utterance as a sign to all unbelievers present.

This was evident when both Jews and proselytes **“...out of every nation under heaven”** (Acts 2:5), said, **“...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God”** (Acts 2:11).

The word **“Jews”** clearly speaks in reference to individual's who were born Jewish, and are of the blood line of Abraham. They are of the nation of Israel, to whom God has made covenants and promises (Romans 9:1-5).

The word **“proselytes”** refers to Gentiles who have converted to Judaism. They were not Jews according to the flesh and blood line of Abraham, but Gentile believers in the God of Israel. However, it is evident from the Word of God that tongues were a sign to these Gentile proselytes, as well as to Israel according to the flesh, who were both at the time unbelievers in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:37-47).

Therefore it is clear that **“...the tongues of men”** (1 Corinthians 13:1) or known tongues given by the Holy Ghost, are not only a sign to unbelieving Israel, but a sign to both unbelieving Jews and Gentiles. It is a sign to all, **“...that believe not...”** (1 Corinthians 14:22).

### *The Unknown Tongue (1 Corinthians 14:2)*

However, the tongues **“of Angels”** or the *unknown* tongue as properly translated by the King James Bible translators, is a heavenly language that **“...speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries”**(1 Corinthians 14:2).

Therefore, it is impossible for this gift of unknown tongues to be analyzed by the field of science, or linguistics, due to the fact that it is not a known human language that can be tested and understood, because **“no man understandeth him”** for **“in the spirit he speaketh mysteries”**(1 Corinthians 14:2).

Only the gift of **“discerning of spirits”**(1 Corinthians 12:10), and ultimately the authority of God's Word, which points to the evil or good fruit of an individual's life and teaching, can determine whether or not the tongues are genuine(Matthew 7:15-23; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:1-3).

As a result, many who claim cessationism have greatly erred by attempting to linguistically examine the unknown tongue, and have concluded that since there is no known human language that can be represented, it must be false. Instead, their attempt to discredit the unknown tongue, has rather confirmed its existence (1 Corinthians 14:2).

However, they have disobeyed the Lord's commandment when He said, **“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment”**(John 7:24). Their unrighteous judgement is a direct result of not **“...rightly dividing the word of truth”**(2 Timothy 2:15), but in many cases intentionally **“handling the word of God deceitfully”**(2 Corinthians 4:2), in order to justify their false and unbiblical teaching against the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

The unknown tongue is clearly supported by the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:5, when he says, **“ I would that ye all spake with tongues...”** He not only encouraged the church to speak in tongues, he also led by example, by saying, **“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all”**(1 Corinthians 14:18). It is clear that the Apostle Paul spoke with tongues even more than the believers at Corinth.

### *Corinthian Tongues were genuine Holy Ghost Tongues*

Therefore, if Mr. MacArthur, and other cessationists believe that the Corinthian church were only speaking in tongues as a result of being influenced by pagan ecstatic utterances, they must also conclude that the Apostle Paul was speaking in demonic pagan ecstatic utterances.

The reason for this is because the Apostle Paul admits to speaking in the same tongues they were manifesting, with the exception of operating more of the gift than the Corinthians. The Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul says to the believers at Corinth, **“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:”** ( 1 Corinthians 14:18).

Obviously, the teaching that the Corinthian Church was functioning in pagan ecstatic utterances is clearly in error, and violates the clear teaching of the Word of God, and the context of 1 Corinthians chapters 12 through 14. The argument that the Corinthian church was influenced by the pagan tongues of the ungodly of their time, is a fallacious argument.

There is absolutely no historical, or Biblical evidence whatsoever that indicates even in the most remote sense, that the Corinthian church was influenced by the pagan ecstatic utterances, or the tongues of the ungodly. Such an assertion is not only absurd, but total conjecture, and completely ridiculous.

Even if one could make an argument (which they cannot) in favour of the Corinthians being influenced by pagan ecstatic tongues, they certainly cannot argue that the whole church was deceived by demonic forces, for the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul knew of no such deception, but rather confirmed the tongues at Corinth, and encouraged them to continue speaking in tongues by saying, **“...I would that ye all spake with tongues...”** (1 Corinthians 14:5).

Again, it is blasphemous even to suggest such a idea, because it is essentially calling God a liar, by rejecting the clear teaching of the Sacred Text, which the Holy Ghost gave to the Apostle Paul, that fundamentally promotes the gift of unknown tongues at Corinth as given by the Spirit of God, where one **“...speaketh not unto men, but unto God...”** (1 Corinthians 14:2).

The Apostle Paul, nor the Corinthian church were operating under the influence of demonic forces, but were speaking in tongues under the power of the Holy Ghost(1 Corinthians 14:1-40).

The Apostle Paul was only correcting the misuse, and disorderly conduct of the gifts of the Holy Ghost in the church at Corinth. He certainly did not forbid the use of tongues or the gifts of the Holy Ghost, but strongly encouraged the proper use of them. This fact cannot be denied (1 Corinthians

14:39).

To make certain that he was not advocating for tongues to cease and desist, and to avoid any misunderstanding concerning the use of tongues and prophecy functioning in the church, he said under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, **“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order”** (1 Corinthians 14:39-40).

### ***Bible warning and admonition***

Therefore any church or preacher that discourages the gifts of the Spirit, and forbids speaking in tongues, are walking in disobedience to the clear commands of the Holy Ghost, and need to repent of their error.

Nevertheless, the Bible clearly commands the born again saints of God attending churches that are walking in disobedience to the Word of God, by **“...denying the power thereof:”** to **“turn away”** and leave those churches, and find a Full Gospel Church that believes the whole Bible, and the power of the Gospel of Christ unto salvation (Romans 1:16-17), as well as the power and gifts of the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14).

It is important to say that we love all cessationists, as well as some sincere and godly brethren in Christ that attend many of these churches.

However, they are sincerely wrong in regards to the gifts of the Holy Ghost, and their arguments are fallacious, based on the following fallacies (1):

1. The association fallacy, which is based on their false assumption that the pagan tongues performed by the ungodly idol worshippers in Corinth, were the same false tongues performed in the Corinthian church, when in fact they clearly were not (1 Corinthians 12:1-3; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Corinthians 14:2).
2. The argument from silence fallacy, which is based on their false assumption that since the gifts of the Holy Ghost are not mentioned in some of the latter books of the New Testament, the gifts must have ceased. Although there is absolutely no Bible teaching to support this at all.
3. The appeal to ridicule fallacy, which occurs when cessationists use words that sound like speaking in tongues in order to ridicule the Holy Ghost Bible experience as nonsense, and gibberish, which it certainly is not (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 14:2).
4. The appeal to fear fallacy, which comes as a result of cessationists using examples of individuals who are either not saved, or are presently being deceived by Satan, and are perhaps operating under demon spirits, that are manifesting ungodly or unbiblical manifestations, such as gold dust, oil proceeding out of bodies, and individuals physically acting like animals, etc. All of which, true Bible believing Pentecostals reject, and clearly do not support, due to the fact that those teachings oppose or lack Biblical authority (Matthew 4:4).

This fallacy is used to promote fear in all those who are open to a genuine move of the Holy Ghost, to reject it based on a false argument. However, the Word of God clearly

teaches that we do not need to be afraid of the genuine power of the Holy Ghost because, **“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”** (Luke 11:13).

The reason why cessationists use these fallacious arguments, is because they have absolutely no sound argument from the Holy Scriptures in favour of their erroneous position. This is due to the fact that the Sacred Text speaks against them (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4; Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-7; 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).

It is evident by these false arguments, and most importantly the absence to prove present cessation from the Word of God, that the teaching of the cessation of the gifts of the Holy Ghost are based on a Satanic lie, and are contrary to the clear teaching of the Holy Ghost as revealed in the Holy Scriptures (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4; Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-7; 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).

As a result the Holy Ghost commands the true born again believer, **“from such turn away”** (2 Timothy 3:5).

Many who advocate the cessation of the gifts have **“...condemned the just,”** by condemning the genuine work of the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4; Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-7; 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22), and as a result have committed an **“...abomination to the LORD”** (Proverbs 17:15).

They have greatly erred and have not made **“...righteous judgment,”** but instead they have tragically associated false and unbiblical manifestations and teachings (gold dust, holy laughter, oil flowing from bodies, soaking, prosperity gospel, teaching others how to speak in tongues, etc), with the genuine work of God, namely the Biblical teaching of the baptism in the Holy Ghost, speaking in other tongues, and the gifts of the Spirit in the church (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4; Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-7; 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).

They have denied, **“the power thereof”** (2 Timothy 3:5) by rejecting the Biblical admonition to, **“Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things”** and thus the Spirit filled Bible believing Christian must, **“from such turn away”** (2 Timothy 3:5).

While it is difficult in this day of apostasy and compromise to find a Bible believing full gospel classical Pentecostal church that is obeying the Word of God, it is not impossible with the Lord's help.

Nevertheless, one needs to obey the Lord, and leave these churches and ministries that deny the power of God, and ask the Lord to lead them where they **“Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil”** (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).

For concerning this truth they **“...know not the scriptures, neither the power of God”** (Matthew 12:24).

# Notes

1. **List of Fallacies.** Retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_fallacies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fallacies) on February 24, 2014

**\*All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible**

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