

Speaking in Tongues

David Halbrook

Understanding this subject involves three primary points, the first one being the meaning of “tongues,” which simply means *language* (ex., English tongue). The miracle called “tongues” was the ability to speak a human language never studied or learned. By this, God “gave witness” that the speaker was telling genuine, divine truth (Hebrews 2:4).

It is tragic that today “tongue-speaking” is often associated with wild antics, unintelligible speeches, and appeals for money attributed to the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2, when the apostles spoke in tongues, the hearers said, “We hear them speaking in our own tongues...” (2:11)—no one says that today when hearing someone claiming to speak in tongues.

In the Bible, the speaker knew what he was saying and could control whether he would speak or be silent. Those who spoke a language not known by any of the hearers and did not use an interpreter sinned (1 Cor. 14:4, 32, 28).

One way modern claims of tongue-speaking are proven false is by comparing the speaker’s teachings with the Bible. The Holy Spirit leads no one to teach salvation without or before water baptism (Acts 2:36-38; 8:29, 35-38). *[Part 2 next week]*

Editor’s Note: At our booth at the Water Carnival a few weeks ago, someone asked about this subject. Like baptism, the Lord’s Supper, etc., it is a Bible topic about which many people are confused, for a variety of reasons. Use our article in *Arkansas Weekly* to encourage others to search the Scriptures to find truth and life in Christ.

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

The signboard list for 2014 will be filled if someone volunteers to take October and December. Parents, consider doing this with your son(s) or daughter(s)—the process of selecting what to post is an opportunity to teach.

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

Church of Christ—Quail Valley
4104 E. Harrison St.
Batesville, AR 72501
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelist:
David Halbrook 569-4491

The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

September 28, 2014

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The Church is Not a Social Center Joe R. Price

The Faith Chapel Christian Center is a non-denominational megachurch in Birmingham, AL with 6,400 members. Earlier this month it opened an “expansive entertainment complex” called “The Bridge”. This \$26 million event center has a 12-lane bowling alley, basketball court, fitness center, arcade games and more.

“We believe we can really meet the needs of the community,” he told AL.com. “It will bridge people from the world to the kingdom.

“People may not want to come to a church, but they’ll come to a bowling alley. People have needs other than spiritual needs. There’s a need for safe, clean, uplifting, family-oriented entertainment.”

The domes also house a teen dance club, an alcohol and smoke-free nightclub for adults, a banquet hall, indoor playground, and a lookout tower. The over 70-foot-tall tower will be awe-inspiring for visitors, Pastor Moore said. (*Alabama megachurch features 12-lane bowling alley, climbing wall, basketball court and more*, Brownie Marie, christianitytoday.com)

It is not the work of the local church to be a social center. The Bible does not teach it; it is an innovation of men (Gal. 1:6-10). Many churches of Christ have followed this purely denominational example of church work. Others still object to bowling alleys and climbing walls, but not fellowship halls. We ask: What is the difference? Only the size and the cost; the intent of such work is essentially the same. These are efforts to attract people and keep them spiritually involved – by offering them material things! That is the irony of it all. Satisfying hunger and moral social activities have a place in our lives, but not as the work of the church. Filling the stomach is for the home, not the church (1 Cor. 11:22, 34). Individuals and families arrange entertainment (bowling, playgrounds, potlucks), not the local church. If the work of the local church is entertainment and social activities, then where is the Scripture that says so?

Eli: A Weak Leader

David Hartsell

Eli was the next to the last Israelite judge. He was not only a judge but he was also the high priest. As political and religious leader, Eli was in prime position to influence many to follow God. However, though Eli was personally good, he failed as a leader – first as a father and then as a judge.

Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas that were priests. They were not dedicated to God but were extremely evil. They violated the sacrificial laws and were immoral with the women who assembled at the tabernacle. Their sins were so blatant that they caused many in Israel to abhor “the offering of the Lord.” (1 Sam.2:12-22) Eli reprimanded his sons for their evil behavior. “So he said to them, ‘Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people.’” (1 Sam.2:23) They ignored their father’s warnings and continued in their sinful ways. The text says that this was “because The Lord desired to kill them.” (1 Sam.2:25) Clearly, God’s nature does not want to kill anyone or does not wish anybody to be lost. The meaning here is that they had such an irreverent, defiant manner toward all godly things that The Lord was determined to punish them. The greatest lesson is that Eli failed in raising his sons. Training children involves modeling proper behavior before them. But that’s not all. We must teach them God’s will and discipline them too. Eli refused to restrain his sons from their wickedness. (1 Sam.3:13) He did not have the moral courage to do what he knew was right. Fathers are given the enormous task of raising their children in “the training and admonition of The Lord.” (Eph.6:4) Eli did not do this but we can.

Israel needed a strong leader during Eli’s time. The Philistines were threatening and Israel greatly needed God’s help. Yet, The Lord does not bless a people whose leaders show disdain for righteousness. You might say, “Eli was good. He followed The Lord.” It is true that Eli did not participate in any of the iniquities of his sons. Yet, he did not truly follow The Lord. In fact, God sent a prophet to tell Eli that his family was going to be punished because he honored his sons more than God. (1 Sam.2:29)

Hophni and Phinehas were killed in battle with the Philistines. The Philistines captured the ark of God. Upon hearing of its capture, Eli, fell backward out of his seat and died. (1 Sam.4:18)

Too often as fathers we console ourselves by saying we don’t approve of what our children do. We are washing our hands of their evil deeds. Yet, we might not do the

difficult work of standing against their sins. When we refuse to stand against evil, we fail as a parent and as a leader of God’s people.

[http://www.aubeacon.com/Articles2014/Article_EliAWeakLeader.html]

14 *Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.* 15 *And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.* (2 Corinthians 12:14-15)

Paul loved the Corinthian Christians like parents love their children. He had preached Christ among them and through the gospel had laid up great spiritual blessings for them. Paul could say “*I have begotten you through the gospel*” (1 Cor. 4:15). But, some of them did not recognize his love and refused the truth he taught them. They loved him less the more he loved them. But, he was resolved to continue loving them the only way he knew how. He would exhaust himself (“*spend and be spent*”) seeking their salvation. That is what devoted parents do today. Teach your children the truth of the gospel, lay before them the spiritual blessings of Christ and show them the way to heaven. They may refuse your instruction, rejecting your love. But, keep on loving them “*more abundantly*” by showing them the way to heaven. That’s true love. [Joe R. Price; SWORD TIPS #268; August 31, 2014]

2 *Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: “I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me; 3 The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.”* (Isaiah 1:2-3)

The Lord God knows the pain of children choosing not to follow wise counsel. He yearned for His children to understand His guidance and to amend their ways. His every desire and provision for Israel was for their good, yet they responded with sinful rebellion. As a loving father, God “*daily rose up early*” sending His prophet to Israel to teach them of righteousness and to warn them of their sins. God ceaselessly tried to reach them, but Israel would not obey His voice (Jer. 7:25-27). Similarly, as fathers and mothers nurture their children “*in the training and admonition of the Lord*” they are likely to meet with resistance, and at times, even rebellion and faithlessness. God understands the heartache that causes. He cares. Be like God and keep showing the way of salvation. [Joe R. Price SWORD TIPS #252; August 15, 2014]