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"WHEN TONGUES, MIRACLES AND HEALINGS CAME TO AN END"

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS
NUMBER 78
ACTS 19:5-12

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ACTS 19:5-12 "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve. And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them."

This passage begins with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, continues with a passage on speaking in tongues and ends in the performance of miracles, and none of the three is related. The speaking in tongues was a warning to the Jews that their fifth cycle of discipline was approaching.

ACTS 19:5 "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." Here we have the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We read that they, "were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus". Now this did not happen in Old Testament times as we have already seen. In the Church Age, at the point of salvation, every believer is baptized with the Holy Spirit. However, this did not occur in Old Testament times. Since speaking in tongues is one of the apostate movements of our day, let us look again at the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues is a very vicious and evil thing as it is practiced today, so we need to clearly understand these things.

The Doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit did not occur in Old Testament times.
2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was first prophesied by Christ in Acts 1:5.
(Please notice that the tense here is future tense.)
ACTS 1:5 "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."
3. The mechanics of the baptism of The Holy Spirit are given in 1 Cor. 12:13.
1 CORINTHIANS 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."
Of the many things that happen to the convert at the point of salvation, one is the baptism of The Holy Spirit. After his Ascension, Jesus was seated at the right hand of God, and from that moment on every believer is baptized with The Holy Spirit the moment he believes and is entered into union with Christ.

These Old Testament saints in our story here in Acts 19 had been converted under John the Baptist and had lived long enough to live over into the Church Age and here in this incident they are brought into the church, so in their case the baptism of The Holy Spirit occurred after their salvation. The baptism of The Holy Spirit is not emotion, or something you feel physically; just like salvation, redemption, reconciliation, propitiation or any other factor of the Christian experience is not primarily feeling. Feeling and emotion come at the proper time and in the appropriate way.

4. The baptism of The Holy Spirit is the basis for unification of believers in the Church Age.
EPHESIANS 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" The one baptism that unites all believers is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
5. The implications of the baptism of the Holy Spirit are recorded in GALATIANS 3:26-28 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Here we discover that all human distinctions are eliminated by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. God has done something for individuals through the baptism of the Holy Spirit that no human agency could do. Equality comes to individuals only through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. All born-again believers stand on equal footing at the cross.
6. The basis for retroactive positional truth is based on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In ROMANS 6:3 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" and COLOSSIANS 2:12 "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." we are told that we are identified with Christ in his death and this is accomplished by an act of the Holy Spirit. All our sins were judged at the cross and when we accept Christ we are immediately identified with Christ. At the cross all human good was rejected and Christ's good was substituted for our good works. His good work on the cross is the thing that saved us. We are identified with Christ in his death.
7. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the basis for current positional truth. Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of God and we are entered into union with him. Because he is seated at the right hand of God, we share his righteousness, his eternal life, his heirship, his priesthood, his everything. All that Christ is and has is ours.
EPHESIANS 1:3-6 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."
8. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the beginning of the Church Age.
ACTS 11:15-17 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?" You have to remember that Matthew 16:18 has a future tense which says that the church had not yet begun when Christ said to the disciples, "On this rock I will build my church". This is future. There are false systems of theology which say that the church began in Abraham's tent, that the church began with Adam, or with Moses, or with the children of Israel. Nothing is farther from the truth. The church began when Christ ascended, sat down at the right hand of God, and Pentecost came. This was the beginning of the church.

So we have here some Old Testament saints who were brought up to date. This is Pentecost for the Old Testament saints and is the last Pentecost recorded in the Book of the Acts. The Book of the Acts is the story of the beginning of the church just like Genesis is the book that tells of the beginning of the earth and man. We have four Pentecosts in Acts, and each carried with it a point of doctrine.

First Pentecost

This was the Jewish Pentecost in Acts 2. In this Pentecost we discover that Jews were brought into union with Christ.

Second Pentecost

This is the Samaritan Pentecost in Acts 8 to demonstrate that those who are half-Jew and half-Gentile are also involved in the Church Age.

Third Pentecost

This is the Gentile Pentecost in Acts 10. Here it is demonstrated that Gentiles have equal privileges with Jews in the Church Age.

Fourth Pentecost

And finally we have the Pentecost for Old Testament saints in Acts 19 which completes the Pentecost series.

In each of these Pentecosts there is a reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The tongues phenomenon is used to warn the Jews of their coming discipline. This also illustrates that this period is a bonafide part of the Church Age.

ACTS 19:6 "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." The laying on of hands by the apostle Paul shows that he was identified with them. So the Old Testament saints are now identified with Paul who is the leader in the Church Age and an apostle. These people both spoke with tongues and prophesied. Both of these gifts are temporary and are identified with the beginning of the church. This is a sign of their integration into the church. So at this point let us stop again and look at the doctrine of tongues. Speaking in tongues is truly one of the greatest signs of apostasy in our day. There is nothing about the tongues movement in our day that glorifies God. Speaking in tongues is associated with psychological ecstatic desires which are caused by the frustrations of life and demon activity. Speaking in tongues is not a bonafide spiritual activity.

The Doctrine Of Tongues

1. To understand speaking in tongues we must understand the principle of the cycles of discipline in Leviticus 26. In Leviticus 26:27 and following we have a description of the fifth cycle of discipline. The fifth cycle of discipline is that maximum discipline which came to the Jews when they were taken out of their land and scattered. This occurred first in 586 B.C. when they were taken to Babylon and it lasted for 70 years. It happened again in 70 A.D. when the Romans came into Jerusalem and the Jews have remained scattered over the earth under this fifth cycle of discipline ever since and will remain so until the Second Advent of Christ. The coming of the fifth cycle of discipline is spoken about with sharp warning to the Jews in many Biblical passages. The Church Age began in 30 A.D. which is forty years before the fifth cycle of discipline came to the Jews for the second time. So they had a period of forty years of warning to repent and get out of their legalism and get into the body of Christ. So to introduce the tongues movement you must understand the meaning of the cycles of discipline as taught in Leviticus 26.
2. Speaking in tongues is a warning to the Jews of the coming of the fifth cycle of discipline. This is found in ISAIAH 28:9-11 "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."

Here we see it is made clear to the Jews how they could detect when the fifth cycle of discipline was coming. Before the Jews suffer this discipline the Jews will actually be evangelized in Gentile languages in a marvellous way. In this passage the Jews are warned. This passage says to the Jews that they should be out evangelizing the world, but they had failed to do this. The Jews therefore would be able to tell when this discipline was coming to them for these language groups would turn and evangelize them in their own languages.

3. Isaiah 28:9-11 is quoted in 1 CORINTHIANS 14:20-22 "Brethren, be not children in understanding; howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. 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." Now 1 Corinthians 14 is the tongues passage and this quotation is used to warn the Jews of the coming of the fifth cycle of discipline.
4. The purpose of this warning is to turn cursing into blessing. In Acts 2:1-11 you have the fulfillment of this principle for the first time. Here you find people speaking in many languages to communicate the gospel. Speaking in tongues is never speaking in an unknown language, an unintelligible language, but a language which someone can understand. It would be forty years following the Pentecost of Acts 2 before the Jews would go out under the fifth cycle of discipline and they were warned of this coming disaster by the use of tongues.
5. Once the fifth cycle of discipline began in 70 A.D. speaking in tongues was over. The bonafide gift of tongues was discontinued by the discipline of the Jews and the coming of the Church Age. This is clearly taught in the Greek by comparing 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8 "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." and 1 CORINTHIANS 13:10 "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." When that which is perfect is come" is often thought to refer to Christ. But this is incorrect. For the words "The perfect" refers to scripture for it is neuter gender and the neuter gender is never used for Christ. So "The perfect" refers to the Canon of Scripture. The completion of the Canon of Scripture brings an end to speaking in tongues and miracles and healings and apostleship and such things.
6. Speaking in tongues does continue in the Church Age as a satanic operation. Speaking in tongues will continue until Christ returns the second time and Satan is chained and removed from the earth. So the tongues movement will go from 70 A.D. until Satan is removed from the earth and it is a satanic operation. 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 brings this out.
7. The mechanics of tongues as a satanic operation is found in ISAIAH 8:19. "And when they shall say unto you, seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" and ISAIAH 29:4 "And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust." and REVELATION 16:13-14 "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." These verses explain that there is a special kind of demon who gets control of the vocal cords. He is the "engastramouthous" demon, who is a ventriloquist demon who controls the vocal cords and can throw his voice.

8. Tongues is continued and perpetuated as a system of pseudo-spiritual in the Church Age among believers.

These are usually believers who rely heavily on emotionalism as their norm and standard. The scripture warns about using emotion as your norm or standard. It is legitimate to use your emotions in the enjoyment of many things in life, but when you use emotions as the norm or standard for the Christian life, such as evaluating your Christian life on the basis of your feelings, then emotion can ruin your life. This is illustrated by 2 CORINTHIANS 6:11-12 "O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels." and ROMANS 16:17-18 "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

ACTS 19:7 "And all the men were about twelve." So you see this last Pentecost involved just a small group of people but it was an important step in the change from the Old Testament to the Church Age.

ACTS 19:8 "And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God" Once before Paul had had a very great ministry in Ephesus. Now he begins again where he left off. "To speak boldly" means to speak with confidence. Paul knew doctrine and when you know doctrine it always produces confidence. Disputing and persuading is a very accurate description of Paul's ministry. This was his approach. He used syllogisms and logic very much like Socrates did in Athens. Paul presented exact and accurate information. "The thing" is often a phrase used in scripture to refer to Bible doctrine, and this is the use of these words here.

ACTS 19:9 "But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus." Some of these people rejected Paul's message. They went on negative signals and the superficial group hardened their minds and hearts against his message. "They believed not" means a total rejection of the message. This led them to speak evil about Paul and his message about Christ. So Paul left them and moved over into a medical school where they had a good auditorium. This is the school of Tyrannus. Tyrannus was a leading physician in Rome and he had always wanted to found a medical school. After leaving Rome he came to Ephesus and he founded this school which became very famous.

ACTS 19:10 "And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks." This means that people throughout the entire Roman Province of Asia came to Ephesus to hear Paul. All the seven churches mentioned in Revelation were included in this area. This was the most successful ministry Paul had in all his missionary journeys.

ACTS 19:11 "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul" It should read, "The God wrought special miracles". God gave Paul special authority and God did special miracles by the hand of Paul. They were wrought by the hand of God to focus attention on the gospel of Christ. The word "special" miracles means miracles not by chance. Each miracle was designed with a special purpose. These miracles around the medical school were to focus attention on the message of Christ. "By the hands of Paul" simply means through the instrumentality of Paul's hands. God did it, using Paul's hands. You see, miracles like this were wrought for the Canon of Scripture was not yet completed. Once the New Testament was completed, miracles like this were over.

ACTS 19:12 "So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Diseases were healed and demon possessed people were cured. These miracles were for one purpose--to call attention to the gospel. This was a temporary gift given to Paul, but after these two years this gift was taken from Paul. Later on in Phil. 2:27 when Epaphroditus was sick, Paul was unable to heal him. So healing was a temporary gift. It is not tongues or healings or emotion which counts, but rather the message of Christ. Next time we will study demon induced illness.