

*The  
Purpose  
of the  
Ages*

## Preface

“What is my life’s purpose?” God engineered you, therefore knows you better than you know yourself. In the Bible He explains Himself, life, you, and your purpose.

Adam made a terrible mistake, causing mankind to become selfish, prideful, and fearful, causing all your problems and dissatisfaction. But Jesus Christ freed you from what Adam imposed, allowing you to fulfill your purpose: love.

This booklet is a brief overview, and heralding, of the purpose of your life. The same truths are taught more completely, with thorough Biblical documentation, in the book *The Beginning of Knowledge* (order at email below).

Email [Beginningofknowledge@Comcast.net](mailto:Beginningofknowledge@Comcast.net) with comments, or to buy copies of: *The Purpose of the Ages*, *The Beginning of Knowledge*, or *Teaching Others To Speak In Tongues*.

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## 1. The Purpose of the Ages

God created all. Consider the stars, earth, human body, flowers, and babbling brooks. The world's perfection shows: it originated from intelligence; God is; His magnificence and love. Reverencing God is the beginning of knowledge. Considering His perfect work is the start to reverencing Him.

“God” is the Bible’s first word, not “man.” God is first.

*Ephesians 3:11 (Darby Bible)*

*according to the purpose of the ages, ...*

God created everything with a purpose: love, first to Him, secondly to others.

The truth of Genesis 1:1, based on supporting other verses, is:

**God** created [the angels, including Lucifer. Then He created] the heavens and the earth [then the angels, including Lucifer, glorified God for the magnificence of the heavens and the earth].

After God created the angels, He created the rest. These additionally created things were so magnificent Lucifer and the other angels sang Him a chorus of praise. This was His created beings' first act, and reveals the reason God created angels and humans: praise, which is love. The Father reproduced Himself in children who loved. Jesus Christ called this the first and great commandment; Solomon called it the beginning of knowledge and the conclusion of all things. Praise and love to God is *The Purpose of the Ages*, and of your life.

## 2. The Falls

By Genesis 1:2 Lucifer selfishly tried to steal God's throne. Lucifer fell from his most basic purpose of worshipping God. This started a war which ruined the first heavens and earth.

In Genesis 1:3 God started forming the second heavens and earth. On days one through five He spoke into being magnificent things (stars, plants, animals, etc.). Finally on day six He came to His purpose for restoring the heavens and earth - man, who would love.

God first formed Adam's body; secondly He put life in Adam's body (calling life "soul"). Thirdly God gave spirit, which was God's nature in man. Though God gave body and soul before spirit, He recorded spirit first. Spirit was man's greatest part. In Genesis 2 Adam and Eve loved and served each other, and tended the garden. But in Genesis 1 they loved and served God. God was first. Using spirit, man talked to and praised God, doing what God is: love. Man had fulness of joy and was satisfied, for man was fulfilling his most basic purpose - fellowship with God. Adam and Eve had five senses, but they did not rely on them. By spirit God advised and taught man. Spirit was man's greatest asset. God supplied man's need and man responded with love to God.

Loving and living by the spirit could have been the sweet story of human history, but a terrible thing happened. Adam and Eve followed Lucifer's rebellious lead and stopped glorifying and obeying God. They gave back the spirit and lived by their terribly limited five senses. In Genesis 2 they had joy, peace, and love. In contrast, in Genesis 3 Adam became prideful, selfish, and dissatisfied. "I..., I..., I..., I..." were Adam's first recorded words. Adam's rebellious, selfish forfeit of spirit triggered destructive shock waves still felt today. His decision caused every problem in your life, society, and history, including: fear, lack, conflict, dissatisfaction, intemperance, sickness, death, war, etc.

### **3. The Image of Adam**

Offspring have the characteristics of their parents (tomato seeds produce tomatoes, dogs produce puppies). Adam's descendants have Adam's characteristics. Like him we have ten fingers, two eyes, etc. More significantly, and sadly, since Adam became without spirit, we too are born without spirit. You being just body and soul was never God's plan. Being blind or deaf limits, not living by spirit handicaps you far worse. Genesis 3 reveals what Adam did, and reveals what we are. Adam caused us to be born just body and soul, which is why we all produce the "works of the flesh" listed in Galatians 5 (a list

expanded endlessly by “and such like”). We are devoted to ourselves (our needs, comforts, pleasures, problems, experiences, etc.); our focus wrongly is “I..., I..., I..., I...” “All seek their own,” Paul rightly said. But God intended man to be devoted to blessing Him and others, not self.

God says we have the “likeness and image of Adam,” warning us of our terrible condition. Our greatest problem is not the sins we commit, but our sin nature of being just body and soul, which produces our sins. Born without spirit, sin has been written with a pen of iron and the point of a diamond on our very nature. Man having a sinful nature was known by Jesus Christ and the prophets. They pointed out sinful behavior to reveal man’s terrible condition, so man would look to God’s solution, the savior. Israel’s disobedience to the Mosaic Law further exposed man’s inability to live love because they did not have spirit.

All should cry as Paul, “The good I want to do, I do not; the evil I do not want to do, I do. O wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me?” We are wretched because we are born in Adam’s image. Our spiritless, selfish nature compels us to self-devotion and dissatisfaction, causing conflicts and misery. Few realize what Adam made them to be, though they crave freedom from the destruction Adam imposed. Well-intentioned religious and social causes (food, clothing, and housing to the needy; support groups; etc.) try to free us of symptoms of Adam’s mistake, but they do not fix the root cause.

From Adam to Pentecost, God could only put spirit on a few people, in a limited, removable portion. But He planned a remedy so anyone could have a full, permanent measure of spirit. God, prophets, kings, and believers looked forward to His remedy. But since God honors freedom of will, He had to wait for a woman to accept the divine conception. Finally the savior, Jesus Christ, was born. When angels and others saw the savior they glorified God, for His solution had come. Soon anyone could again have spirit, and its fruit, to God’s glory. We will next read about God’s remedy, and its effect.

#### **4. Jesus Christ and Spirit**

Little is recorded of Jesus' first 30 years. Then, at the beginning of his public ministry, God started recording more, with many references to spirit. Jesus would baptize with purifying holy spirit; a measureless portion of the spirit descended on Jesus, allowing him to resist forty days of temptations; Jesus operated spirit as he chose disciples; by spirit he turned water into wine, then performed miracles at Jerusalem. Soon after: he taught Nicodemus about being born of spirit, then taught a woman at a well that God must be worshipped by way of spirit; he healed a boy at the point of death, then returned in the power of the spirit to Galilee. Isaiah had said of these events, "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up." At Jerusalem he healed a man who had been sick 38 years. In Nazareth Jesus quoted Isaiah, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me." All these events at the beginning of Jesus Christ's ministry show spirit was very significant in his life and ministry.

In the following months Jesus did many supernatural healings, showing what Christians would do when they got spirit. He had compassion on the troubled multitudes and responded by sending twelve of his followers, then seventy, with spirit to heal. In Jerusalem he cried, "Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water," a cry to speak in tongues.\* Later he said, "Your heavenly Father shall give you the holy spirit;" and "I am come that you might have life," the spirit life Adam lost. Spirit was central in Jesus' ministry.

Finally he came to Jerusalem to be crucified as mankind's sin substitute. After washing feet and honoring his betrayer, he said, "Love as I have loved." His followers would operate spirit and produce the fruit of the spirit of love. Having Christ's spirit they would do the works he did, and greater. (After Pentecost, by spirit, they would do something even greater than raising Lazarus from the dead!) "I give

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\* Speaking in tongues is speaking in a language unknown to the speaker by God giving you the words. When done as God instructs, it is a wonderful asset which should be wanted, not feared. More about it in the *Appendix* and *The Beginning of Knowledge* (see *Preface*).

you another comforter, the spirit of truth.” “I will be in you.” “My Father and I will make our abode in you.” “The Comforter, which is the holy spirit, shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance.” “Without me you can do nothing. Abide in me and you will produce much fruit,” fruit of the spirit. Holy spirit would cleanse people. They would glorify God by producing love, joy, and peace, all fruit of the spirit. Jesus’ leaving the earth was beneficial, for then he could send the spirit which would guide them into all truth.

Later that evening Jesus allowed himself to be arrested, the apex of selfless love. In contrast, his disciples’ self-centered behavior revealed their nature from Adam. Shortly before dying Jesus triumphantly cried, “It is finished.” The requirements were satisfied so God could offer spirit to man.

Of Jesus’ many post-resurrection words, only a few are recorded. In those few he frequently said, “Operate spirit.” His lengthy teaching about Old Testament prophecies was not recorded; but God chose to record a few words Jesus spoke later that day: “I send you to breathe in and operate holy spirit,” which was Pentecost’s speaking in tongues. He told Peter to love others by walking by the spirit, which would glorify God. Just before ascending, he said, “Cast out devils, speak in tongues, recover the sick.” His parting words as he left the earth? “Get spirit and turn it on.” His parting words! Ten days later, on Pentecost, they obeyed and spoke in tongues.

God recorded little of the countless things Jesus did and said. Look at how frequently God recorded Jesus referring to spirit.

## **5. Spirit Restored**

Fifty days after Jesus Christ’s resurrection came Pentecost, Christianity’s opening moment. What happened? “They were all filled with the holy spirit, and began to speak with other tongues.” They got spirit, then spoke in tongues. This was Christianity’s first act! Speaking in tongues was proof they had received spirit.

Adam had forfeited spirit and his descendants became spiritless.

But Jesus Christ's work allowed God to give spirit again. Speaking in tongues was speaking the wonderful works of God. Man was again singing God a chorus of praise, Genesis 1:1's first act. Man was again loving and blessing God by spirit, like in Genesis 1:27.

Before Pentecost man could love God with his heart, soul, mind, and strength; man could, "Bless the Lord all that is within me," just body and soul. But since Pentecost people can love and bless God with something else: spirit. God created all for His pleasure, including the new birth spirit. Speaking in tongues is first for God's benefit, pleasing Him; secondly for man's benefit. God says He gets blessed when you speak in tongues. He knows what He likes. History in brief: spirit, no spirit, spirit restored to God's pleasure.

After speaking in tongues the first time, Peter immediately said, "Joel prophesied of this when he said, 'I will pour out my spirit. Old, young, male, female, they will all operate spirit. On them all I will pour out my spirit.'" The multitude asked, "What shall we do?" Peter responded, "Get spirit and turn it on by speaking in tongues," for this would bless God. (Spirit is received by simply confessing Jesus as Lord, and believing God raised him from the dead.)

The early Christians consistently turned on spirit. Philip's miracles caught people's attention and they spoke in tongues. Simon wanted to assist people to speak in tongues. Jesus Christ sent Ananias to help Paul speak in tongues. (Even after ascending Jesus was still encouraging speaking in tongues!) Peter taught Gentiles about Christ and they immediately spoke in tongues. Some were very angry at Peter for going to a Gentile's house, until he said, "They spoke in tongues like we did on Pentecost." Paul visited some Christians and immediately asked, "Do you speak in tongues?" When they said, "We've never heard about speaking in tongues," Paul helped them speak in tongues.

Paul wrote: "You should all speak in tongues;" "Speaking in tongues is speaking to God and it blesses Him;" "It is giving God thanks well, and is praise to God;" "It builds up your spirit;" "It

strengthens your spirit;” “I speak in tongues more than all of you.” There are nine outward evidences of the spirit, but speaking in tongues was the first way Christians operated the spirit. God, Jesus Christ, Paul, and Peter highly encouraged it. Speaking in tongues is one of the “greater works” of John 14:12.

When God created the heavens and earth, His angel beings’ first act was singing Him a chorus of praise. The first thing recorded of Adam and Eve was they loved God by way of the spirit. Jesus Christ said, “God seeks people to worship Him by spirit. God is spirit and must be worshipped by way of spirit,” which is speaking in tongues. Christianity’s first act was praising God by speaking in tongues. “Love others” (helping the sick and needy; ministering; etc.), the Second Great Commandment, is wonderful; but “love God,” the First Great Commandment, is your greatest joy and responsibility. Speaking in tongues is man’s most basic privilege and responsibility for it blesses God. It accomplishes God’s *Purpose of the Ages*, and is the purpose of your life: loving praise and fellowship with Him.

## **6. Old Nature - New Nature**

In Genesis 1 and 2, by spirit Adam and Eve revered God and loved each other. All was well. But it did not remain so. They pridefully and selfishly gave back the spirit. Genesis 3 strongly contrasts Genesis 1 and 2. Without spirit they became lustful, critical, unthankful; they had dissatisfaction, misery, guilt, fear, sickness, and death. Since offspring have characteristics like their parents, Adam’s descendants were born in the pitiful condition of being without spirit. Few realize what a crippling handicap all people are born with. Do you scorn the blind for tripping or the deaf for not hearing? There should be compassion for people not living by the spirit for they are terribly limited, living selfishly merely by fleshly ability. In yourself, and others, do you see pride, selfishness, fear, anger, criticism, complaining, guilt, depression, unthankfulness, lust, inability, etc.? These are because of the nature from Adam, and are as natural as

breathing when people do not live by the spirit. No wonder man and the world are such a mess. People having a nature from Adam explains bad behavior, but does not excuse it, for deliverance is available, as will be explained in the following pages.

Jesus Christ said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the spirit is spirit." Moses said, "O that Jehovah would put His Spirit upon all His people!" David cried, "Renew a right spirit within me. Take not away Thy holy spirit." Jesus and the prophets knew our nature from Adam produced man's sinful behavior. So they directed man to look to the savior for the solution, rather than condemn man for what their spiritless nature produces.

Christ and the prophets knew what the savior would accomplish, and longed for that day. A new nature was going to be born within - the very nature of Christ! Man would have: the love Jesus had at the last supper and on the cross; the peace he had as he slept through the storm; the joy he had at Calvary; the patience he had with the twelve; the gentleness and forgiveness he showed sinners. Temperance would be theirs, rather than lust; compassion rather than callousness; thankfulness rather than ingratitude. What great potential for mankind. Why? Because a new nature, spirit, was going to be born within.

A crabapple tree can only produce crabapples. No matter how much you beg, encourage, scold, and coax it to produce apples, it can only produce crabapples. But if you graft on an apple branch, you now have the potential for the good fruit of apples. The branch nourished the most dominates.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and can only produce the works of the flesh. Your nature from Adam can only produce the works of the flesh, no matter how much you beg, encourage, scold, and coax it. But by God's grace people can have a second nature, a new nature, the nature of Christ, spirit. That which is born of the spirit is spirit, and it alone produces the fruit of the spirit of love, joy, peace, tolerance and patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. These can no more be pried or cried out of our flesh than

apples out of a crabapple tree. No wonder Moses said, “O that Jehovah would put His Spirit upon all His people,” for then they could produce fruit of the spirit to the glory of God.

Jesus Christ’s birth, death, resurrection, and ascension were great moments for they paved the way to Pentecost, the greatest day in history. Previously only Christ had spirit without measure to live love and power to the glory of God. But on Pentecost, Christ’s spirit nature could be born in anyone. Men spoke in tongues (spoke in languages they did not know). They were speaking the wonderful works of God, magnifying, praising, and worshipping God. What a moment! Man had a new nature. Speaking in tongues was God’s method of nourishing, building up, and strengthening their new nature. The more they spoke in tongues, the more their new spirit nature dominated, rather than the old nature from Adam. Fruit of the spirit richly happened. The Church lived in love and power. Christianity’s goal is not disciplining your flesh so you are benefited; Christianity’s goal is operation of the spirit to produce fruit of the spirit to the glory of God. Your greatest asset is your spirit, not your flesh.

A flashlight makes no light until you turn it on. Since God honors freedom of will, He will not turn on your spirit nature, you must. On Pentecost “They began” to speak in tongues, they did it; Paul said, “the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.” The Samaritans and Ephesians initially did not turn on spirit (because no one taught them how). You must choose to turn spirit on and every Christian can. You can be taught how to speak in tongues like Christ taught his disciples (see email address on *Preface* page). Do you want your nature from Adam to rule with its destructive pride, selfishness, and fear? Or do you want your nature of Christ to rule with its love, joy, and peace? Turn on your spirit, and under its aspirations and sway your destructive bodily habits will be deprived of life, and your sin nature will be dethroned. Walking in the Spirit includes many things, but initially and most importantly, it is speaking in tongues, which is worshipping God. Walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Be not

weary in the well doing of turning on the spirit and in due season you will reap the fruit of the spirit. The nature from Adam, in you and others, causes disappointing misery, groaning, and heavy labor until Jesus Christ's return. But in the midst of these troubles, we can still have fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.).

How important is speaking in tongues? "Speak in tongues" was Jesus' parting commandment; Peter's first command to the Church was, "get spirit and speak in tongues"; Peter and John went to Samaria to help people speak in tongues; Jesus sent Ananias so Paul would speak in tongues; Gentiles got born again and immediately spoke in tongues; Paul immediately said at Ephesus, "Do you speak in tongues?"; Paul said, "I speak in tongues more than you all." Speaking in tongues was very important to Jesus, Peter, John, and Paul, and should be to us. Some may say you cannot speak in tongues, but Paul said, "I would that you all spake in tongues. This is a commandment of the Lord." Every Christian can and should.

Lucifer's overthrow of God in Genesis 1 failed, but he continues to pursue his secondary goal: rob God of love and praise. No wonder he has hidden the significance of speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues has been terribly undervalued, even by those who do it.

## **7. Summary**

Blessing God with the spirit was Adam and Eve's greatest joy and responsibility. They lost spirit and man has been in trouble ever since. But because Jesus Christ fulfilled his mission, on Pentecost spirit was restored. The first thing Christians did was speak in tongues, which blesses God. *The Purpose of the Ages*, and your life, is: love, praise, and fellowship with God by spirit by speaking in tongues (followed by loving others).

## **8. Conclusion**

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 (Amplified Bible)*

*All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God [revere and worship Him (by speaking in tongues), knowing that He is] and keep His commandments (summarized in love God and others), for this is the whole of man [the full, original purpose of his creation, the object of God's providence, the root of character, the foundation of all happiness, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun] and the whole [duty] for every man.*

As you speak in tongues much (talking to Him with love and thankfulness), God is blessed. Be doers of this truth, not hearers only. He will teach you how to enjoy time with Him, like you enjoy time with other loved ones. Speaking in tongues will please Him, nourish your spirit, and produce fruit of the spirit. In His presence you will have fullness of joy. Blessing God by speaking in tongues is *The Purpose of the Ages*, and of your life.

This booklet is a synopsis of the book *The Beginning of Knowledge* (see email address on *Preface* page).



## Appendix

### Christianity's First Act: Reverence and Love

*Note: If you are opposed to, or afraid of, speaking in tongues<sup>1</sup> because you saw it done with odd behavior (embarrassing actions mixed with zeal and emotion), the odd behavior was wrong, not the speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues should be operated without odd behavior.<sup>2</sup> If you are opposed to speaking in tongues because your minister or denomination speak against it, God, Jesus Christ, Paul, Peter, and others strongly encouraged it. Speaking in tongues is a great asset, blessing God and Christians. Every Christian can speak in tongues. If you speak in tongues, this chapter may increase your appreciation of it. "The Beginning of Knowledge's" Appendix 11 supplements this chapter, addressing misconceptions and ignorance about speaking in tongues.*

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Angels, Adam, and Eve revered and loved God, initially. But Lucifer and man fell from love, and God's creation degraded to idolatrous selfishness. But in Acts 2 God provided a solution which gets man back to Genesis 1's reverence and love of God, and love to each other. Acts 2 begins showing man loving by way of the spirit.

*Acts 2:1,4 (ASV)*

*And when the day of Pentecost was now come, ... (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, ...*

Adam's descendants were born without spirit.<sup>3</sup> But a recreated spirit, "holy spirit,"<sup>4</sup> became available on Pentecost, which was the beginning of Christianity. What was the first thing the Christians did?

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<sup>1</sup> Speaking in a language unknown to the speaker by God giving you the words.

<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:40 – "Let all things [context includes speaking in tongues] be done decently and in order."

<sup>3</sup> From Adam to Pentecost, God put His spirit upon a few individuals, but it could be removed or forfeited.

<sup>4</sup> Foretold by prophets (Ezekiel 11:19; 18:31; 36:25-27; Psalms 51:10; Joel 2:28, 29; Matthew 3:11; other verses) and Jesus Christ (John 4:23,24; 7:37-39; 14:15-18,26; 16:7-14; other verses).

Acts 2:4,11 (ASV)

...began to speak with other tongues, ... (11)... the wonderful works of God.

This was Christianity's ribbon cutting ceremony. **Christianity's first act? "Began to speak with other tongues... the wonderful works of God."** God started Christianity with speaking in tongues. We should not omit it.

Speaking in tongues is speaking "*the wonderful works of God.*" God's angel beings first recorded act was singing God a chorus of praise; also, the first information about Adam and Eve was they were created with spirit to love God. On Pentecost man again had spirit and was restored to his original purpose: worshipping and talking with God by the spirit, now by a new way - speaking in tongues.

"[Reverence] ...*is the beginning,*" and speaking in tongues is reverence. After Acts 2:4 there is wonderful instruction, but why learn subsequent truths when Christianity's first truth is not carried out dedicatedly? God's first instruction to Christians: speak in tongues.

Acts 10:46

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify ["to show great, extol"] God...

Speaking in tongues shows God's greatness for it is speaking His wonderful works. It also shows His greatness for it is the proof that He elevated man from being spiritless to God's dwelling place.<sup>5</sup>

1 Corinthians 14:14,16-18

For if I pray in an unknown tongue [speaking in tongues], my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. (16) Else when thou shalt bless [Greek *eulogeo*, meaning "speak well of, praising God."] with the spirit, ... (17) For thou verily givest thanks well, ... (18) I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

Speaking in tongues is "*blessing* [praising] *with the spirit*" and "*givest thanks well.*" Though Paul had murdered Christians, God

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<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 2:22; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19

saved him and made him an able minister. No wonder Paul said, “*I speak with tongues more than ye all...*,” praising and thanking God. If Paul, a very effective leader,<sup>6</sup> spoke in tongues much, Christians should stop declining and undervaluing it.

*Ephesians 1:3 (Amplified Bible)*

*May blessing [praise, laudation, and eulogy] be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ...Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual... blessing...*

God blessed us with every spiritual blessing so we could praise, laud, and eulogize Him by speaking in tongues. It is like a parent giving their child money so the child can get the parent a gift.

Jesus Christ foretold what would happen on Pentecost.

*John 4:23,24*

*...true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

“*Worship the Father in spirit*” is speaking in tongues, based on other records.<sup>7</sup> “*Seeketh*” has a tone of intensity, like a parent seeking a lost child.<sup>8</sup> Since Genesis 3 God has passionately wanted worship by way of spirit. On Pentecost God got it (shortly afterwards Lucifer talked Christianity out of it). Why withhold what He craves? You have the ability, for every Christian can speak in tongues. Our worship “*must*” be by speaking in tongues.

*1 Corinthians 14:2*

*...he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: ... (28) ...speak [in tongues] ...to God.*

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<sup>6</sup> Ministers take note. Much speaking in tongues facilitated Paul’s ministerial success. Do I dare say it was his greatest asset? Immediately after Paul got born-again, Jesus Christ sent Ananias to help Paul speak in tongues, Acts 9:17.

<sup>7</sup> Acts 2:11; Ephesians 1:3; 1 Corinthians 14:14,16; Acts 10:46

<sup>8</sup> Greek *zeteo* means “to desire greatly,” like a parent urgently seeking a lost child, Luke 2:45; or a despot (Herod, Stalin, etc.) seeking a political enemy, Matthew 2:13.

Speaking in tongues is a conversation with God. Earthly parents love talking with their children; so too the Heavenly Father. Speaking in tongues is a loving Parent-child conversation, something our Father craves. “...*speaketh not unto men...*” Consider how much you talk with and listen to men! Conversations, texting, posting, internet, music, movies, books, etc., etc., etc. Yet your primary talking is supposed to be with God, for this is what God created you for. God would love it if you quit talking and listening to others so much and spoke in tongues to Him more. The primary purpose of speaking is praising God.<sup>9</sup>

*1 Corinthians 14:2*

*...he that speaketh in an unknown tongue... in the spirit he speaketh mysteries [divine secrets].”*

Man cannot grasp the depths of God’s wisdom. Even Paul, to whom God revealed the Great Mystery, said we are very limited, “*know in part...understanding as child.*” But when we talk with God in speaking in tongues, He is enjoying discussing divine secrets, things angels longed to see.<sup>10</sup>

*Romans 8:15*

*...ye have received [Greek *lambano*, “outwardly evidence,” speaking in tongues.<sup>11</sup>] the Spirit of [sonship], whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

The Aramaic word “*Abba*” could be translated “Daddy,” implying an intimate Father-child relationship. When we speak in tongues, we are lovingly crying “Daddy, Daddy” to God.

At times we give loved ones (spouse, child, dear friend) our undivided attention. God is more deserving of our undivided attention. With ease we spend hours talking (texting, posting, etc.) with friends,

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<sup>9</sup> See Job 38:4,7 on page 2 of *The Beginning of Knowledge*.

<sup>10</sup> 1 Peter 1:12

<sup>11</sup> Acts 1:8 “*lambano*” is Acts 2:4’s speaking in tongues. See *The Beginning of Knowledge* Appendix 11.

watching movies, or reading books. God will teach you how to enjoy undistracted conversations with Him by speaking in tongues.

*Psalms 69:30-31*

*I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. (31) This also shall please the LORD...*

“Praise ...with a song ...magnify [Him] with thanksgiving” pleases God, and is taken to a higher level by speaking in tongues. We please other loved ones, why not please Him?

*Romans 8:8*

*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Based on the context, speaking in tongues pleases God. In contrast, Eve ate because the tree was “*pleasant.*” Like Eve, “all seek their own,”<sup>12</sup> devoted to pleasing themselves. Why not please God?

*John 14:12*

*Verily, verily, I [Jesus Christ] say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

The “*greater works*” included a greater means of worshipping God, one even Jesus Christ could not do! Speaking in tongues.

Speaking in tongues gets us back to Genesis 1’s reverence and love. No wonder speaking in tongues was Christianity’s first act. No wonder Lucifer hid it from the Church. Christianity is about love, not self. Most Christians actively fulfill Jesus Christ’s Second Great Commandment, “love your neighbor.”<sup>13</sup> We should, with greater enthusiasm, fulfill his First Great Commandment, “love God” by speaking in tongues.

Initially Job “heard with his ears,” then “saw with his eyes,” implying a deeper understanding. With depth may we see how

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<sup>12</sup> Philippians 2:21. Someday watch how many of your thoughts center around your problems, needs, plans, comforts, and pleasures (causing countless health problems).

<sup>13</sup> Including: helping the needy, teaching Sunday school and serving at church, evangelizing, disaster relief, etc.

significant speaking in tongues is to God. Speaking in tongues is a Christian's first, and most significant, service.

Naaman the leper wanted the prophet to do dramatic acts.<sup>14</sup> His servant asked, "If the prophet had asked you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? Why not do the simple thing he asked?" If God asked notable works,<sup>12</sup> because you love Him you would do them. Why not do the simple thing He asks? Praise and talk to Him by speaking in tongues.

Do restaurants ignore your menu choice and cook what they think you should eat? God's menu choice: speak in tongues. Should we tell Him what He wants? He says, "I desire speaking in tongues as worship to me." We simply say, "Yes sir." Submit.

"Speak in a language I do not understand? Foolish. Useless. Surely there are more needful things to do." Putting lamb's blood on a doorway; raising a rod over the Red Sea; walking around Jericho seven days without speaking<sup>15</sup> - foolish, useless? No, humility and trust. "*I would that ye all spake with tongues*"<sup>16</sup> is as much God's command as "*lift up thy rod.*" Seeming foolish, useless, or odd is irrelevant; our emotions or experiences do not invalidate God's command. Humbly trust Him.

Some might agree speaking in tongues is God's will, yet not do it, or do it little. Are you as excited to speak in tongues as operate gifts of healing, or the other seven manifestations? As God shows you its significance, you will want to do it much.

Workmen found the Scriptures beneath the temple's rubble.<sup>17</sup> When King Josiah read them, he tore his garment to show great grief over the sinful omission of God's request. Acts 2:4 has similarly been buried beneath religion's rubble. As speaking in tongue's significance dawns, some may tear their garments in grief at its devaluation.

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<sup>14</sup> 2 Kings 5

<sup>15</sup> References in this paragraph: Exodus 12, 14; Joshua 6. There are countless other acts in the Bible which some might call foolish, but God calls them humility.

<sup>16</sup> 1Corinthians 14:5

<sup>17</sup> 2 Kings 22

What was the first response to speaking in tongues?

*Acts 2:12-13 (ASV)*

*And they were all amazed, and were perplexed, saying one to another, What meaneth this? (13) But others mocking said, They are filled with new wine.*

Some were amazed and asked about it; others mocked. God, Christ, Paul, and others urge speaking in tongues. Some ministers mock or ignore it. Amazed and asking, or mocking? Which category do you, or your minister, fall in? Who are you following: Christ or the mockers?

Genesis 1:27 placed emphasis on man's spirit part, rather than man's body and soul.<sup>18</sup> Similarly, Peter's Pentecost message (first teaching in Age of Grace) was rich in reference to man having spirit. Man without spirit is like a car without an engine or a guitar without strings.

*Acts 2:17,18,33 (ASV)*

*...saith God, I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all flesh: ... sons and your daughters shall prophesy, ...young men shall see visions, ...old men shall dream dreams: (18) Yea and on My servants and on My handmaidens ... Will I pour forth of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy. (33) ... the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath poured forth this [speaking in tongues], which ye see and hear.*

The underlined words show spirit was common in Christianity. Previously a few individuals had spirit,<sup>19</sup> but in Christianity all believers have spirit. Moses would have loved Pentecost.<sup>20</sup> Today Christianity has lost its spiritual foundation.

Jesus Christ commanded speaking in tongues after his resurrection, before his ascension, and after Pentecost.<sup>21</sup> "Speak in tongues" is Christianity's first command.

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<sup>18</sup> See *The Beginning of Knowledge* Appendix 9.

<sup>19</sup> See *The Beginning of Knowledge* Appendix 10.

<sup>20</sup> Numbers 11:29 (Young's Literal Translation) - "...O that all Jehovah's people were prophets! that Jehovah would put His Spirit upon them!"

<sup>21</sup> John 20:22; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:8, 9:17

Act 2:37,38 (ASV)

*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter ...what shall we do? (38) And Peter said unto them, [Christianity's first command:] Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive [Greek lambano, "outwardly show"<sup>22</sup>] the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*"Repent ...baptized ...remission"* are instruction to get born-again. *"[Outwardly show] Holy Spirit"* is Acts 2:4's speaking in tongues. Verse 38 in brief: "Get born-again and speak in tongues." This is Christianity's first command: get the new nature and praise God with it. *"What shall we do?"* they asked. Have you asked the same? God answered your question 2,000 years ago: speak in tongues.

*Psalms 103:1*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

Most Old Testament believers only had body and soul,<sup>23</sup> blessing the Lord only with *"O my soul... and all that is within me,"* a limited way to bless God. But on Pentecost man got something new and far greater: spirit in every believer! This allows man to "bless with the spirit," "worship truly by way of the spirit," which God craves. Speaking in tongues does many wonderful things,<sup>21</sup> but first it is praise and talking with God.

## **Nourish the New Nature into Dominance**

Apple trees only produces apples, crabapple trees only produce crabapples. When nourished, with ease each produces its own fruit. Our old nature can only produce the works of the flesh; our new nature can only produce the fruit of the spirit.<sup>24</sup> Whichever nature is nourished most will dominate, and with ease produce its fruit. As our

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<sup>22</sup> See *The Beginning of Knowledge* Appendix 11.

<sup>23</sup> See *The Beginning of Knowledge* Appendix 9 and 10.

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 7:17,18; Galatians 5:19-23

body and soul need nourishment,<sup>25</sup> so too our holy spirit, our new nature, needs nourishment. As we praise and talk with God by speaking in tongues, simultaneously our spirit is nourished.

*1 Corinthians 14:4*

*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth [builds up, makes strong] himself [the spirit part]; ...*

Speaking in tongues edifies, or builds up, our spirit, our new nature.

*2 Corinthians 4:16*

*...yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

*Ephesians 3:16*

*...to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

“*Inward*” and “*inner*” man is our spirit. Being spirit, it can only be “*renewed*” and “*strengthened*” by spiritual feeding, which I Corinthians 14:4 says is by speaking in tongues. Using the spirit by speaking in tongues strengthens the spirit like physical exercise strengthens a muscle.

*Jude 1:20-21 (Webster Bible)*

*...building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying by the Holy Spirit, (21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, ...*

1 Corinthians 14:14 says “*praying by the Holy Spirit*” is speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues “*builds up yourself,*” your spirit. It also “*Keeps yourself in love,*” for love is a fruit of the spirit.

Nourishing the new nature causes it to rule, dethroning the old Adam-nature of sin.

*Galatians 5:16*

*...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

*Romans 8:13 (Weymouth New Testament)*

*For if you so live, death is near; but if, through being under the sway of the spirit, you are putting your old bodily habits to death, you will live.*

*Romans 8:2 (Moffatt)*

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<sup>25</sup> The body is nourished by food and exercise, soul is nourished by education.

*the law [“rule”<sup>26</sup>] of the Spirit brings the life which in Christ Jesus, and that [ruling of the new nature] has set me free from the [rule] of sin and death.*

*Romans 8:3,4*

*...God, ...condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law may be fulfilled in us, who walk ...according to the Spirit.*

“Walk in the spirit,” “through the Spirit,” and “walk...according to the Spirit” includes many things, but on Pentecost the first way they walked in the spirit was by speaking in tongues. The result? “Not fulfill the lust of the flesh,” “putting old bodily habits to death,” “free from the [rule] of sin,” and “condemned sin in the flesh.” To “not fulfill the lust of the flesh,” start where the First Century Church started: speak in tongues, much, which nourishes the new nature into dominance.

John the Baptist foretold holy spirit would burn up the old nature’s chaff (worthless, bad characteristics) with unquenchable fire.

*Matthew 3:11-12 (ASV)*

*I [John] indeed baptize you in water ...: but he [Jesus Christ] ...shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire [holy spirit which purifies]: (12) whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing-floor; ...the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire.*

Next, God records Jesus getting spirit and withstanding temptation.

*3:16, 4:1*

*...the Spirit of God ...coming upon [Jesus Christ]; (4:1) Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

Holy spirit burns chaff so we can withstand temptation. But our holy spirit does not automatically operate, because God honors freedom of will. Holy spirit is only potential power. We must turn it on, most importantly by worshipping God in spirit.

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<sup>26</sup> Greek *nomos*, “rule.”

Speaking in tongues nourishes the new nature, freeing us from the old nature's destructive lusts. When the old nature rules, death is near. But under the aspirations and sway of the spirit the old bodily habits are put to death by depriving them of life. This may not make sense or seem too easy. But God regularly delivered man by unusual and easy ways: a raised rod over the Red Sea; hornets; trumpets and horns; dipping seven times in the River Jordan; a brass serpent on a pole.<sup>27</sup> Similarly, He aides our freedom from sin's rule by something simple - speaking in tongues.

*Psalm 126:1,2*

*When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. (2) Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.*

Zion's deliverance from an overwhelming enemy was so wonderful it was like a dream. Freedom from your slavery to sin by grace may seem too good to be true, but all our God does is magnificent. If freedom from sin by works has failed, logic dictates a new solution. "*O ...hearken unto this; Stand still and contemplate God's wondrous works.*"

Because leaders failed to lead, Isaiah said:

*Isaiah 1:2-3*

*Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. (3) The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.*

Ox and ass knew how to be nourished better than Israel knew. On Pentecost God provided a new, greater, nourishment – speaking in tongues. Paul's first recorded question in Ephesus was, "Have you

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<sup>27</sup> References on this page: Exodus 14:16; Joshua 24:12; Judges 7; 2 Kings 5; Numbers 21:9; Isaiah 36-38; Job 37:14 (Bullinger)

*lambanoed*, spoken in tongues, since ye believed?”<sup>28</sup> Paul highly encouraged the nourishment of speaking in tongues; ministers today should too. May God cease needing to say what He has said for the two thousand years since Pentecost: “I have nourished, but My people know not, do not consider.”

Speaking in tongues nourishes the new nature, dethroning the Adam-nature. But within a few decades of Pentecost this great asset was lost, causing the Church and societies to fight a losing battle against sin. Trying to suppress the Adam-nature without nourishing the new nature is as effective as digging the Panama Canal with a spoon. Declining the spiritual heavy equipment of speaking in tongues is a formula for failure.

*Galatians 6:9*

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

**Summary of Appendix:** The angel’s first recorded act was singing God a chorus of praise; the first thing recorded of Adam was he had spirit to talk to God. On Pentecost, God gave spirit so man could worship Him by speaking in tongues. Man was restored back to his original purpose. Also, speaking in tongues greatly helps the new nature rule, and dethrone the old nature. Ministers should teach that all Christians can and should speak in tongues, much.

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<sup>28</sup> Acts 19:2. See explanation of *lambano* in *The Beginning of Knowledge* Appendix 11.



