



A Strange Encounter

By Michael J. Burns

Some years ago I went with a group of believer's from the church I had become a Christian to Pennsylvania's northeast area known as the Slate Belt. It was a Valentine's Day trip to a Christian Camp someone had found about 2 1/2 hours outside of Long Island, New York where I lived at the time.

I had recently returned from Bible School and was not yet married. We had about 30 of us that were there at this camp. We had a bunch of fun that day!

February in the northeast is one of the coldest months of the year and this day we were not disappointed as there was snow on the ground and temperatures were below freezing. Eventually I went and sat down in the fellowship hall and as I was warming up I was spending some time reading my '*Pocket Knife!*' I am referring to my little New Testament and Psalms. **Ephesians 6:17** calls the Word of God the '**Sword of the Spirit**' I called my pocket New Testament and Psalms my '*Pocket Knife!*'

As I sat there reading this older man came in with two older women holding on to each of his arms. The two ladies went in to the Ladies bathroom and the older gentleman sat down next to me on the bench I was sitting on. I tend to be a very engaging person so I said, '*Hi*' and struck up a conversation with him.

I asked him if he had been to this Christian camp before and he told me that he had been coming to this camp for more than 60 years! I realized at that point that this man must have been a Christian for quite some time which he confirmed. He told me that he was from Southern New Jersey and I thought to myself that I could learn some things from this man who had been walking with the Lord for so many years. So I asked him what church he attended in New Jersey and he told me that it was a Baptist Church that he had been a part of for those 60+ years.

It was at this point that I asked him about the baptism of the *Holy Spirit* and *speaking in tongues*. I had some limited experience at that time and had heard that Baptists did not believe in this experience or that it was for today. He told me that he believed that speaking in tongues was a thing for the early church and we no longer needed this experience since we now had the Bible, the Word of God in various languages.

I began to suspect that I might not learn as much as I had originally thought. So I said to him that I have discovered that the reason many have rejected the baptism of the Holy Spirit is that they did not see any reason for using it today in the Christian life. He told me that is exactly the reason he was not open to receiving it. I then asked him that if I could show him a Biblical reason for speaking in tongues if he would let me pray for him to receive this blessing?

He said, *'If you can show me a scriptural reason for speaking in tongues then I will let you pray for me to receive this experience!'* Needless to say, I was excited as I turned in my little New Testament 'Pocket Knife' to **1 Corinthians 14:4** which states,

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. KJV

I then cracked a smile from ear to ear thinking that he was about to let me minister the *Holy Spirit's* baptism to him and said, *'What do you think about that?!'* He stood up, grabbed his overcoat lapels and

said in a religious sort of way, ***'Well, I most certainly wouldn't want to edify myself!'***

Then the two ladies came out of the bathroom and locked arms with him and they began to walk out. I started to say that he misunderstood what the term ***'edify'*** meant but he waved me down with his hand signifying that he was no longer interested. The word ***'edify'*** does NOT mean ***to get all puffed up with pride, but rather to build oneself up spiritually.***

Jude 1:20

20 But you, beloved, **build yourselves up** [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, **rise like an edifice higher and higher**], ***praying in the Holy Spirit***; AMP

Praying in the *Holy Spirit* is praying in other tongues and represents a place from which we pray. Can you see from this true story how people have allowed ignorance of the Bible to keep them from enjoying what God through Christ and the precious Holy Spirit intended for them? **Don't limit God today in your life but be open to receive and experience ALL that God has made available to you!**

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES

I had a Pastor friend who is now in heaven visiting mine and other churches in Long Island many years ago. This one particular church we visited had a Christian Academy. My friend and I were given a tour of this school facility because he was in the planning stages of establishing one in his church.

My Pastor friend went in to a classroom of students with the Pastor of the church and academy and was introduced to his high school math class where they were studying Algebra. He was asked to address the class and took a piece of chalk and began to ask some

questions of the students. *Have you ever wondered what the point is of going to school?* He then made a dot with the chalk on the black board. He then asked them a series of questions that ended with, *What's the point of...?* And after each question he marked another dot on the black board.

He got the students kinda riled up with all of those questions and kept stressing, *WHAT'S THE POINT?* Over and over again. Until...He began to connect the dots in a strategic way and right before their eyes an image suddenly appeared that had been there in dot form all the time but when the dots were connected it all made sense!

Speaking in tongues to some is kinda like algebra! The words make no sense to our minds which is what we are told in **1 Corinthians 14:2**, *For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding]*. AMP

What I am about to say here might be difficult for new Christian believer's to understand. All believer's need to understand this truth but unfortunately there are many who don't. ***There is a difference between the private devotional use of tongues AND the public ministry of tongues and interpretation!***

Every believing Christian can and should experience the private devotional use of unknown tongues but NOT every Christian will be used necessarily in the public ministry of tongues with interpretation. I would say that the more you utilize your prayer language the more familiar you will become with the presence of God and the hearing, in your human spirit, of God speaking to you in line with His Word the Bible.

This is why Paul said in **1 Corinthians 14:18**, *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in an [Unknown] tongue*

NKJV. Paul is clearly talking about the difference between the private and public use of this gift. When he was alone he ***spoke in tongues more than you all...*** Yet in the church assembly he would rather speak just 5 words in a known language to edify or build up the assembly.

You see when we pray or speak in tongues we are edifying or building up ourselves, but in a church service if all we did was speak in tongues, that no one could understand, only we would be built up or edified but the people would not. That's why in **V. 4** Paul said, ***He who speaks in an [Unknown] tongue edifies[builds up] himself, but he who prophesies edifies[builds up] the church.*** NKJV

Here is a powerful example of the public use of tongues. My other friend named Joe Jordan was an incredible Bible teacher who moved powerfully in the supernatural. He came to our church in Long Island several times and we became good friends. He used to be the worship leader in Pasadena, Texas at the church of Rev. J.R. & Mrs. Goodwin.

Howard Carter, a compatriot of Smith Wigglesworth and Dr. Lester Sumrall was asked where the greatest move of the *Holy Spirit* he had ever seen was in a local church. He replied that there were two. One in Hong Kong and the other in Pasadena, Texas at the Goodwin's church. This is the church where John & Dodie Osteen, the parent's of Joel & Victoria, were baptized in the *Holy Spirit* in their living room speaking in tongues. They had been devout Southern Baptists.

Joe Jordan told me of an instance where a member at the church gave a public message in tongues but there was no interpretation. Suddenly a Japanese woman came forward and told Pastor Goodwin that she wanted to give her life to the Lord Jesus Christ. When she was asked what prompted her to come forward so unexpectedly she told of how the person who gave the public message in tongues spoke perfect Japanese which she could understand.

The message said, *"I have called you many times to come and give your life to me but you have refused. This will be your last opportunity to respond to me."* No one else understood that message but she did and came forward in obedience. Thank God she did because Joe Jordan told me personally that two weeks later she was killed in an automobile accident. Had the public ministry of tongues not been in use this Japanese woman could have been eternally lost but thankfully she responded the way she did!

Remember that the gift of the *Holy Spirit* that accompanies *Divers Kinds of Tongues* is called, *The Interpretation of Tongues*. Notice this is NOT called, ***The translation of tongues!*** An interpretation is giving the gist of what was spoken where a translation is giving a word for word explanation. The Bible says though that even with the private devotional use of tongues every believer can and really should pray for an interpretation in **1 Corinthians 14:13**.

Here Are Four Bible Reasons Why We Should Speak In Tongues:

By Kenneth E. Hagin

There is more to being filled with the *Holy Spirit* than speaking in tongues. Since speaking in an unknown language is the initial evidence of the infilling of the *Holy Spirit* (**Acts 2:4**), it is an integral part of receiving the *Holy Spirit*. Speaking in tongues is also an essential part of the believer's devotional prayer life. The Apostle Paul said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (**1 Cor. 14:18**).

In writing to the Church at Corinth, Paul specifically encouraged Christians to follow the practice of *speaking with tongues* in their private prayer lives. He gave several reasons for it.

1. Devotional Use

There is the devotional use of tongues. **First Corinthians 14:2** says, "For he who speaks in a 'tongue' addresses God, not man; no one

understands him; he is talking of divine secrets in the Spirit" (Moffatt). Here, Paul is talking about the individual Spirit-filled believer employing the use of tongues in his prayer life. Through speaking in tongues, you can pray out the plan of God for your life by the power of the *Holy Spirit*.

2. Spiritual Edification

Tongues are also used as a means of spiritual edification. **First Corinthians 14:4** says, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself." The word edifieth means "to build up." Verse 14 in the Amplified Bible Classic reads, "My spirit [by the *Holy Spirit* within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive." Speaking in tongues isn't mental edification; it is spiritual edification.

3. Worshiping God

For believers who are filled with the *Holy Spirit*, tongues are used in their worship and devotion to God. The Bible says in **Acts 10:46** concerning Cornelius and his household when they began to speak with tongues, "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." Speaking with tongues is a supernatural way to magnify God.

4. Doorway to the Supernatural

Speaking with tongues is the doorway into all the other spiritual gifts. Some people want to experience all the gifts of the Spirit at once, but you have to go through the door to get into the supernatural. Also, it is as the *Spirit of God* wills, not as we will (**1 Cor. 12:11**). In other words, you can't force or "put on" a manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.

The Bible teaches us to desire spiritual gifts (**1 Cor. 14:1**). The Bible also teaches us to earnestly covet the best gifts (**1 Cor. 12:31**). But remember that those words were written to people who already spoke in tongues. They weren't written to people who did not speak with tongues.

I have found in my own life over a period of more than 60 years that the more I speak in tongues—the more I pray and worship God in tongues—the more manifestation of the other gifts of the Spirit I have in my life too. And the less I speak in tongues, the less manifestation of the supernatural gifts of the *Holy Spirit* I have operating in my life. God has given each of us a supernatural means of edifying ourselves, or building ourselves up, spiritually. God has given to us a supernatural means of communicating with and worshiping Him. *Are you as a Spirit-filled believer taking full advantage of the gift of tongues?* (This is an exert from Kenneth E. Hagin's book on *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit - Living in the Fulfillment of the Promise - Spiritual Growth Series*).

(If this teaching has helped you or if you have any questions about it, then email me personally at mjbcjf@gmail.com. PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS EMAIL FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.)

Pastor Mike Burns =^)