

## Message #52

## Various Texts from Acts

“The Gift of Tongues in Acts”  
(Part 6)

Any person who supports the modern-day tongues movement does so, in one way or another, on the basis of the book of Acts.

For example, Dr. Gordon Fee, in discussing articles 7 and 8 of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, which suggests that every believer should speak in tongues, writes: “It will be noted that the sole biblical support for these teachings consists of passages from the Book of Acts” (Gordon Fee, *Perspectives on the New Pentacostalism*, p. 120).

The real tragedy is that those who base their views on Acts don’t have any idea what Acts is even about. They make NO attempt to understand it or to rightly divide it. They make NO attempt to understand its transitional nature or its historical significance.

**ANY PERSON WHO BELIEVES THAT THE MODERN-DAY TONGUES EXPERIENCE IS THE SAME EXPERIENCE FOUND IN ACTS IS ONE WHO MISUNDERSTANDS AND MISINTERPRETS THE BOOK OF ACTS AND BELIEVES WHAT IS FALSE.**

**QUESTION #1** – What is the purpose of the book of Acts?

Acts is a book that describes the specific acts and actions of the apostles of Jesus Christ. We can quickly see the focus of the book by the second verse of the book (Acts 1:2) where Luke informs us that this book will pick up where Luke left off and trace the orders and assignments given to the apostles.

In the first chapter, we get a list of all of the apostles (1:13), and we see the selective process of choosing a twelfth apostle (1:25). Clearly in this opening chapter of Acts we see that the focus will be on the apostolic ministry in the aftermath of Christ’s ascension. Acts traces the ministry and the message of the apostles.

As we journey through the book, we can see that the specific emphasis is clearly on the work of the apostles. In fact, the word “apostle” is used in Acts more times than in any other book of the Bible: 1:2, 26; 2:37, 42, 43; 4:33, 35, 36; 5:2, 12, 18, 29, 34, 40; 6:6; 8:1, 14, 18; 9:27; 11:1, 14:4, 14; 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23, 33; 16:4. To disregard this emphasis is to misunderstand the whole book.

As we continue to journey through Acts we discover that two key apostles are emphatically stressed and play predominant roles in the book. Chapters 1-12 have much information concerning the apostolic work of Peter, the apostle to the Jews. Chapters 13-28 have much information concerning the apostolic work of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

Clearly the book of Acts IS NOT about tongues; IT IS about apostolic ministry!

**QUESTION #2** – Can we expect the same apostolic events of Acts to occur in today's local church?

- 1) Should we expect to receive verbal messages from Jesus Christ in the church because it happened in Acts (1:4-5; 9:4)?
- 2) Should we expect to visibly see the resurrected Christ as they did in Acts (1:9; 9:1-8; I Cor. 9:1)?
- 3) Should we expect to live a communal life like we see in Acts (2:41-47)?
- 4) Should we expect to heal one crippled from birth like they did in Acts (3:1-11; 14:8-18)?
- 5) Should we expect one who lies or steals God's money to be struck dead like it happened in Acts (5:1-12)?
- 6) Should we expect our shadow to heal people like it did in Acts (5:12-16)?
- 7) Should we expect God's angels to get God's people out of jail like they did in Acts (5:18-19; 12:5-19)?
- 8) Should we expect to raise people from the dead like the apostles did in Acts (9:37-40)?
- 9) Should we expect our handkerchiefs to heal people like the apostles did in Acts (19:11-12)?
- 10) Should we expect instant deliverance from a deadly snake bite like it happened in Acts (28:1-6)?

These were all apostolic confirmatory signs given for the apostolic age and if we take one, we must take them all because all are in Acts.

These passages ARE NOT about events that would take place in a local church; the Church epistles give insight into the events that would take place in the local church. These passages are about the apostolic work in the beginning of a new age.

**QUESTION #3** – What are the tongues passages in Acts?

**Reference #1** - Acts 2:1-13

**(Fact #1)** - The place where this occurred was Jerusalem. Acts 1:4-5; 2:5

This Pentecostal event DID NOT occur in the context of any local church; it was clearly in the context of Jews in Jerusalem. In fact, there is NO tongues episode in Acts which occurs in a N.T. church service.

**(Fact #2)** - The initial baptism of the Holy Spirit featured many signs. Acts 2:1-11

**Sign #1** - There was the sign of the sound of a mighty wind. 2:2

**Sign #2** - There was the sign of visible fire. 2:3

**Sign #3** - There was the sign of a foreign language. 2:4-11

**(Fact #3)** – The interpretation of the baptism was Jewish, not Gentile. Acts 2:14, 22, 36

The Apostle Peter immediately connected the events of Acts 2 to Israel. Peter connected this event to Israel. Peter was totally convinced that Jesus Christ would soon set up His kingdom for Israel and that this was a sign to the unbelieving Jew that Christ, in fact, was the Messiah (2:36) and Peter commanded every Jew to repent and to believe on Christ and receive the baptism of the Spirit so that they could enter the kingdom (2:38-39).

**Reference #2** - Acts 10:46

Cornelius was a Gentile who loved God and who loved the Jews (Acts 10:22). He was a military man and a God-honoring man (Acts 10:1-2).

God's program would include more than just the Jews and this text was given to demonstrate that the Spirit of God would branch out beyond Israel to the Gentiles (10:34).

**Reference #3** - Acts 19:6

What is happening here is that there were some Jews who had been baptized by John, who had not truly believed on Christ.

When they heard this, they believed on Christ and Paul the apostle laid HIS hands on them and they spoke in a different language the prophetic truths of God that specifically pertained to the kingdom (Acts 19:8).

Acts 2 is saying God's Kingdom includes Jews .

Acts 10 is saying God's Kingdom includes Gentiles .

Acts 19 is saying God's Kingdom includes those baptized by John .

Acts is filled with many instances of people who believed and did not speak in tongues (4:32; 5:14; 6:7; 8:35-38; 16:30-34), but all who did believe would enter the kingdom of God.

Acts tells the amazing story that any person, regardless of nationality, regardless of sin and failure can be brought into the family of God and be justified from all things by faith in Jesus Christ.

Two verses in Acts clearly give us insight into what the book is all about:

“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses” (Acts 13:38-39).

Come to Jesus Christ today and you will be set free and will inherit the kingdom of God. That is the message of the Gospel and that is the story of Acts!