

BIBLE EXPLORER

News

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But Is News"

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Online Newspaper

THINGS PENTECOSTALS DON'T KNOW

— About The Relationship Between First-Century Pentecost & Modern Pentecost —

PENECOST

#pen-4 — Online NEWSpaper "PENTECOST" series. Each article builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.

From #pen-3—

Why would the Holy Ghost grant the gift of "diversities" of tongues? Wouldn't that be to make sure that, no matter what the native language and dialect of an unbeliever who might be present, there might always be a credible sign for him—as at Acts 2?

He that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue edifieth himself.

—1 Corinthians 14:4

Paul wrote at 1 Corinthians 12:30 the rhetorical question, "Do all speak with tongues?" Given that, what is the scriptural justification for the oft-repeated exclamation, "If you haven't spoken in *tongues* within the last year you need a re-filling of the Holy Ghost!"?

Isn't it abundantly clear that the only Christians who speak in tongues after the admittedly possible, but likely impossible to substantiate with scripture initial evidence of Holy Ghost baptism are the few who receive the very rare gift of multiple languages? Paul made it clear that that is the least desirable of all the gifts.

I've known thousands of pentecostals. To them, not much is more important in church than "messages" in *tongues*." It is the practice by which they can gain reciprocal acceptance in local pentecostal peer groups.

Tens of thousands who sit faithfully in pentecostal pews,

having never experienced a personal "speaking-in-tongues" event, think there must surely be something wrong with them. I know: Several of them have come to me for counseling over the years. I offered them some terrible counsel, too...before I began studying to show myself approved unto God, a workman who has no need for shame. Wish I could take it all back!

Clearly, someone they have fully trusted has told them, "Just keep on seeking for it, my dear sister: In matters like this we just have to have faith!"

Given Paul's unmistakable position on the least-desirable of all the gifts, how do you think he might respond to the notion that one of Christ's lambs must substantially invest her *Faith Equity*SM in the aggressive pursuit of *tongues*?



The "dots" won't "connect" when the scriptures are wrongly divided. Surely, you have at least wondered about that...and kept it to yourself for fear of being labeled a "Doubting Thomas." (If the Acts 17:11 Bereans were more noble than the Thessalonians, was Thomas more noble than his fellow disciples?)

I always wondered exactly how the prophecy of 2 Timothy 4:2-5 could come to pass. That's the scripture that says men will refuse to endure sound doctrine in these last days. Who could that scripture be talking about?

Given the reminder that, per 2 Timothy 1:7, God has given each believer the spirit of a sound mind I became even more curious: How and why could people with sound minds come to ignore the clearly written words of scripture in favor of "what people I love and respect have always taught me" and/or "what 'we' believe," especially when the contrasts are so stark?

It eventually became clear to me that church people have come to trust their preachers and denominational experts far more than is biblically prescribed. There is strong evidence of that in this: "Thus sayeth the LORD; 'Cursed be the man that trusteth in man.'" —Jeremiah 17:5

The illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

—Alvin Toffler, American futurist

Rescue the Perishing!

"The perishing" of the First Century included all those who either hadn't heard or hadn't believed the Gospel message. Today, it includes another group that is as large or maybe larger.

They're the good folk who have bought-in to a sugar-coated or otherwise contaminated version of the Gospel message. Judgment Day for them will be even more traumatic.

Sugar-coated? Otherwise contaminated? Yes. Please make a note: The Gospel Message has "evolved."

Which of those two groups do you think is more deserving of compassionate evangelism? I know a few Christian people who have a genuine passion to rescue the perishing in that first group. Our passion is directed to the second group. Both of our assignments are worthy, but they're different.

Why is it so hard to rescue folk who've invested almost all their *Faith Equity*SM in religious institutions and people they can see? Because what they've come to believe about the Bible and Christianity has been dutifully instilled in them by people they love and respect.

How hard is it for them to pull away from all that? It's like tearing the flesh from one's own arm! I am intimately familiar with that pain.

Some have asked us, "Why keep trying?" You likely know how we typically answer them.

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

—Galatians 6:9