

# BIBLE EXPLORER

News

"Featuring News That Shouldn't Be News

But Is News"

[www.Link1.info/news-1](http://www.Link1.info/news-1)

Online Newspaper

## THINGS PENTECOSTALS DON'T KNOW

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

#pen-6 — Online NEWSpaper "PENTECOST" series. Each article builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.

candid chats with pentecostals

### Stammering Lips And Other Tongues

A sincere lady approached me in person: "I think you're mistaken about tongues having to always be known languages. Didn't Paul say that God would speak to the Corinthians with stammering lips and other tongues?"

I responded, "You may be thinking about 1 Corinthians 14:21. What is the significance of that passage to you?"

"God speaks to us with stammering lips and in tongues, too!"

"But are you aware that he never wrote anything about stammering lips? And did you know that he also made it really clear that God never speaks to believers 'in tongues'?"

"Oh, really?" she blushed, "Then where did I get that?"

"You may have heard a preacher paraphrasing what Paul said. But let's take a look at the actual scripture—first, in your Bible [NIV] and, then, in mine [KJV]. But let's also read the verse that precedes it and the one that follows it to make sure we both understand the context; okay?" I listened as she read from her NIV...

> "Brothers, **stop thinking like children**. In regard to evil be infants, but **in your thinking be adults**. In the law it is written: *Through men of strange tongues and through the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me*, says the Lord. Tongues, then, are a sign, **NOT** for believers but for unbelievers."

—1 Cor. 14:20-22a [NIV]

I reviewed with her the phrases that are in bold, there, before I read from the KJV:

> "Brethren, be not children in understanding, howbeit in malice ye be children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, *with [men of] other tongues and other lips will I speak to this people; and yet for all that they will not hear me saith the Lord*. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, **not for them that believe**, but to them that believe not..."

—1 Cor. 14:20-22a [KJV]

"Wow! That has a totally different meaning from what I had thought! So...ummm...do you think my preacher made up that 'stammering lips' thing?"

"No, he didn't make it up; but did you know that human nature is the Sin nature?"

"I've never heard that, but it does make sense."

"Human nature often gets us to try to make the Bible say what we want it to say...to support our denominational beliefs and such. Your preacher

probably got that from the Old Testament, at Isaiah 27. Shall we do what we did before?"

"I'd like that." She appeared to really appreciate the nature of our exchange.

> "Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, 'This is the resting place, let the weary rest;' and 'This is the place of repose'—but they would not listen." —Isa. 28:11,12 [NIV]

> "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This [is] the rest [where-with] ye may cause the weary to rest; and this [is] the refreshing: yet they would not hear."

—Isa. 28:11,12 [KJV]

"Okay! so that's where the 'stammering lips' thing is!"

"Pentecostal preachers often choose to use Isaiah's KJV text instead of what Paul wrote... well, because it fits better with the prescribed *tongues* narrative.

"It behooves us to always remember that Paul's message to those extremely immature believers at Corinth was not intended to edify them as you may've heard but to chastise, scold and even rebuke them.

That's precisely why he referred to Isaiah 27:11,12, because Isaiah's intent was also to chastise, scold and rebuke. Do you suppose your preacher knows that?"

"Well, we pay him to know stuff like that, so I hope he does!" she blushed again.

"Isaiah was warning Israel (not Judah) of their upcoming defeat and captivity by the Assyrians – people of a foreign language for whom stuttering and stammering were possibly a genetic characteristic. But, you see, our pentecostal preachers are prone to embellish what Paul wrote by substituting selected parts of what Isaiah wrote."

"My goodness!" Why would they do that?"

"That's the kind of question pentecostal churchgoers should start asking their preachers. It's precisely why we must study the scriptures for ourselves. It's also why we are repeatedly warned about the danger of trusting others – any others – to do our diligent studying and critical thinking for us."

"Oh! And you're not alone in thinking that God speaks to believers 'in tongues.' Most pentecostals believe that; it's what they've been taught to believe. But the scriptures say that can never happen."

> "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God."

—1 Cor. 14:2a [NIV]

> "For he that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue speaketh not unto men but unto God."

—1 Cor. 14:2a [KJV]

Continued in the next editorial...

