

## “THEY SHALL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES”

### I. TONGUES SERVED A SPECIFIC PURPOSE

#### A. **Mark 16:15-20**

In the great commission, Jesus foretold the signs that would follow, including tongues. When those signs appeared, they amounted to confirmation from the Lord that the speakers were from Him.

#### B. **Acts 2:22; 14:3; Hebrews 2:3-4**

All signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit served to authenticate the speakers as having been sent by God.

#### C. **John 20:30-31**

The signs that were done got recorded so that readers can obtain saving faith.

### II. TONGUES WERE UNDERSTANDABLE

#### A. **Acts 2:1-11**

The first time the gift of tongues appeared, Jews and proselytes from 15 different countries heard Galileans speak to them in their “*own language*” (6, 8, 11). What was heard could not be mistaken for gibberish.

#### B. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1**

Excusing incomprehensible nonsense as an angelic language is unacceptable. The idea of speaking in “*the tongues of... angels*” was only ever mentioned in Scripture once and it was offered as a hypothetical situation, hyperbolically, to demonstrate that the exercise of spiritual gifts, even extraordinary ones that don’t actually exist, cannot excel love.

#### C. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:1-40**

If one was to speak in tongues that were not understandable, then interpretation was required. In the absence of interpretation, the tongue speaker was to remain silent. This gift was especially intended for unbelievers,

not believers, but if an unbeliever did not know what was being said, he would conclude the church was crazy and could not be faulted for that logic.

### III. TONGUES HAVE CEASED

#### A. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:8-10**

By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul expressly foretold the cessation of spiritual gifts. Tongues and all the other gifts would end when that which is perfect would replace that which had been in part, namely spiritual gifts. The perfect, that is complete, refers not to the second coming of Christ, as some assume, but to the completion of the written New Testament. We know this because faith would abide after the gifts ended!

#### B. **Hebrews 11:1; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:9; Hebrews 9:27-28**

Since faith is about things not seen, and since faith has its end in salvation, and since salvation is the goal of Christ's coming, we can know assuredly that faith will terminate when we meet the Lord in the air! Therefore, the perfect Paul was referring to was not that!