

Samaritan, or Gentile.

5. The phenomenon of speaking in tongues recorded in 1 Corinthians 12-14, considered in itself without regard to its antecedent in Acts, *could* represent either the act of speaking in rational, meaningful languages that were foreign to the speaker but not foreign to all hearers, or the act of producing irrational, meaningless ecstatic utterances that were foreign to speakers and hearers alike. However, since the only antecedent we have for the Corinthian phenomenon is the Acts phenomenon, it is highly probably that the Corinthian phenomenon represents the same act of speaking in foreign languages as is found in the book of Acts.

6. In 1 Corinthians 12-14 there appear to be two senses of prophesying. (a) The first of these is prophecy in the sense of revelatory prediction of future events by means of the supernatural gift of enablement to speak in foreign languages, for the purpose of providing supernatural evidence of the truth-claims made by the disciples of Christ, so that nonbelievers would receive and trust in Christ and His redemptive work, and believers would be convinced that God had extended His saving grace to all mankind (12:10, 28, 30; 13:1, 8; 14:2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 39). (b) The second is prophecy in the sense of non-revelatory setting forth of various aspects of Christian doctrine or practice by means of the spiritual gift of enablement to understand and explain previously-revealed truth in an edifying manner, for the purpose of building up, encouraging, and comforting believers in their faith and life (12:10; 13:2,8,9; 14:1,3, 4, 5, 6,22,24, 31, 39).

7. What happened to this supernatural gift following the time of the apostles? It would appear that its apologetic and evangelistic purposes were fulfilled in the early church, when the message of Christ's coming and atonement had reached all parts of the inhabited world (Colossians 1:5-6, 23). The act had served its purpose by providing supernatural evidence of the truth-claims of the disciples of Christ, with the result that many nonbelievers had received and trusted in Christ and His redemptive work, and believers had been convinced that God had extended His saving grace to all mankind. Since its purpose had been fulfilled, the gift appears to have ceased.

8. What about the phenomenon of supernatural speaking in foreign languages today? The phenomenon appears to have disappeared very