

early in the history of the church; and no sizable group in the church today makes a claim to the possession or exercise of this gift. A number make the claim that, although glossolalic utterances are not *given* in any known foreign language, nevertheless they are *heard* as a known foreign language by those who have the supernatural gift of interpreting tongues. Since Acts 2:4 clearly states that the disciples *spoke* in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance, this claim is not only unverifiable, but also contrary to scriptural evidence!

9. The conception of "tongues-speaking" in currency today is that of producing irrational (i.e., without the use of the mind), meaningless ecstatic utterances that are foreign to speakers and hearers alike. It is now clear that these utterances do not constitute "language" in any meaningful sense of that term. Descriptive linguists during the past twenty years have been comparing recordings of alleged glossolalia with known human languages. Although these linguists have not compared recordings of glossolalia with *each* of the three thousand or more languages in use in the world today, nevertheless those linguists know enough about representative languages of every known language family in the world to recognize whether or not tongues-speaking is similar to any of these languages. It is not. Not only are these ecstatic utterances devoid of any language structure, they are characterized by an excessive frequency of repetition, especially of one or two vowels; and when they are interpreted, the same phrases or clauses are translated to mean entirely different things! In addition, it has been noted that tongues-speaking, although not a language, is usually similar to the speaker's own language background; and that interpretations of tongues-speaking are frequently rendered in King James style, including King James vocabulary and thought-forms!

10. If modern glossolalia cannot be identified with the Holy Spirit's gift of foreign languages spoken in Acts and 1 Corinthians, then what is the source of this phenomenon? Any attempted explanation of its source must take into account the fact that tongues-speaking is not unique to Christianity, but is a universal phenomenon occurring in many religions as well as in the world of the occult; and it is quite clear that in such cases the phenomenon is *not* the expression of a gift of the Holy Spirit! In addition, any attempted explanation of the source of modern glossolalia must recognize the fact that, in a number of Christian groups, tongues-speaking is both *taught* and *caught*. Persons are encouraged to *learn* how to do it by practicing the repetition of certain sounds, by going with the flow of