

their feelings, and by letting the pure experience carry them along. And persons are stimulated to speak in tongues by the *example* of those around them that are producing ecstatic utterances.

What explanation of the source of this phenomenon can be given? Three major answers to this question have been suggested:

(a) It is a gift of God not directly related to the biblical phenomenon of speaking in a foreign language. It is a separate gift of the Holy Spirit given as an assurance of salvation, or as a means of power and resiliency to meet the problems of life, or as an evidence of spiritual maturity (as a second distinct work of grace). It is claimed that it is *this* gift to which 1 Corinthians 12-14 refers.

(b) Or that the phenomenon arises from hidden, dark forces, i.e., from evil spirits, who are always ready to influence those who unwittingly open themselves to unknown forces they think are good but which are really evil or Satan-inspired.

(c) Or that it arises out of the human psyche, and is triggered by some mechanism in the autonomic nervous system that is common to all human beings. It provides an emotional release from tension, frustrations, and fears, and results in feelings of relaxation, peace, joy, and elation.

Conclusions

1. In Scripture the phenomenon of supernatural speaking in a foreign language is not regarded as evidence of regeneration, or of indwelling, or of spiritual maturity, but as an evidence of the *filling* of the Holy Spirit.
2. The modern phenomenon of tongues-speaking, defined as non-linguistic ecstatic utterance, has no warrant in Scripture, either exegetically or theologically. Therefore modern tongues-speaking should not be regarded as a supernatural or a spiritual gift of the Holy Spirit.
3. Tongues-speaking, defined as non-linguistic ecstatic utterance, should not be regarded as a Satanically-inspired counterfeit to the work of God, unless it clearly turns people's attention away from Christ and the gospel and toward the seeking of an experience of escape from reality and self-gratification.