

to unanimous agreement on tongues. To further complicate the situation, large segments of orthodox Christians do not believe that this gift has been present since the apostolic age. This viewpoint includes theologians and Christians familiar with the Bible. Although many try to equate such a view with a few diehards who should be ignored, this opinion has been the position of orthodox Christians since the first century. The opinion that tongues are given today by the Holy Spirit is a modern view contrary to the accepted opinion of Christians for 1800 years. This orthodox opinion cannot be dismissed lightly. The "new" opinion of the charismatics needs to be Biblically verified.

One of the issues that Edgar raises concerns the nature of the gift. Is tongues the gift of rational, meaningful languages foreign to the speaker but not foreign to all hearers, or the act of producing irrational, meaningless ecstatic utterances foreign to speaker and hearers alike?

Before noting what some writers have said in response to this and other relevant questions, and before looking at a series of observations and conclusions, a reading of Boyce V. Blackwelder's translation of and brief notes on I Corinthians 12-14 would appear to be warranted, especially since these chapters constitute the classic passage on the gift.

b. A Translation of I Corinthians 12-14. Understanding Glossals as "Languages"

(Translation by Boyce V. Blackwelder; quoted in *The Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit* by Charles V. Carter (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1974), pp. 209-215)

Chapter 12

- 1 Now concerning spiritual manifestations, brothers, I want you to be adequately informed.
- 2 You recall that when you were pagans you used to be swept away whenever the impulse happened to seize you, to idols that could impart no knowledge.
- 3 Let me give you the criteria for testing spiritual expression: No one speaking under the influence of the Spirit of God declares "Jesus be cursed!" And no one is able to say "Jesus is Lord!" except by the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- 4 There are varieties of gifts, but they are from the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are varieties of ministries, but it is the same Lord (who enables us to serve).
- 6 And there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who energizes every person.
- 7 To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit with a view to the common good.