Do We Seek the Gift of Tongues from the Holy Spirit Part 1 (Pt.2)

By Charles Feinberg

Now we'd like to inquire what is the meaning of these strange words in Isaiah chapter 28 verses 9 to 13. The background is the ministry of that incomparable prophet Isaiah who preached to them but they wouldn’t hear. The 6th chapter of Isaiah where god told him he would be his messenger to Israel. He told them that their ears would be deaf and their eyes would be blind, their hearts would be over spread and hardened and they wouldn’t hear. And he found that out after he'd ministered to them for a while. They said to him what does he think we are? To whom would he teach knowledge? Whom is he teaching these things? To whom would he interpret the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just taken from the breast? Does he think were babies? Doesn’t he think we understand what he's saying? Does he have to keep repeating these prophesies of judgement? Why can’t he give us credit for some kind of understanding? What he says is always as you would teach a baby? A B C and so on. The simplest things. Line upon line. Precept upon precept. This version says order on order. Order on order. Line on line. Line on line. A little here a little there. Don’t you think that we have enough intelligence to grasp more advanced things? And they were laughing at his language in the original. You can just see the ridicule [inaudible]. You see. Line upon line, precept upon precept. He, god said is that the way you’ve been mocking my prophet. I’ll tell what I’m gonna do. The lord is going to speak to you. I the lord will speak to you Israel. Through stammering lips and a foreign tongue if you don’t like the Hebrew of Jerusalem, that beautiful language which Isaiah has been using with you. I will yet through foreigners speak to you. In other words, you better get ready. As in the first
chapter of Isaiah. The land left desolate as a field after the harvest. As a watch tower in a cucumber field. That first chapter of Isaiah. And the 6th chapter too. Gonna leave the land waste and so on. And here all the time Isaiah has been telling you here's rest. Here’s rest for the weary. Here’s repose. But they wouldn't listen. All you keep saying is line upon line, precept on precept. Little here little there. He says that is going to be their undoing. They’re going to go and stumble backward and be broken, snared and taken captive? He outlines it in so many words. What is the picture here then? Strange languages were introduced into the national life of Israel because they were in unbelief. Strange languages would be a judgement upon them. Now what about it was this ever fulfilled in unbelieving Israel? Oh yes. In Joel 2:28 scripture says it'll come about after this that I will pour out my spirit on all mankind and your sons and daughters will prophesy. Old men will dream dreams. Young men will see visions. Just as there is a first coming of Christ and a second coming of Christ. Why do there have to be two comings of the lord Jesus Christ? Didn’t he do the right thing the first time? Does he have to come back and correct things? Oh no, god forbid. That’s a blasphemy to think that. No, there was a first coming of Christ because he fulfilled just so much in the coming and the rejection. There’s going to be a second coming when he comes and there will be an acceptance of him. So there’s a second coming to finish what was begun in the first coming. So my dear friends, there is a first coming of the Holy Spirit, and we find that in acts 2. It’s the fulfillment in part of Joel 2:28. Yes there’s a first coming of the Holy Spirit. But there is a second coming predicted. Why? Because it will be on the sons, daughters, old men, young men, that he goes on to mention other things. There will be signs in heaven. And if you read the passage carefully in acts, you will see that not all by a long way, not all of Joel 2:28 to 32 was fulfilled in the first coming of the Holy Spirit. It remains for a second coming of the Holy Spirit. Which does not mean anything was wrong. Anything left out erroneously in the
first coming. Yes. And listen. Notice what we have here. Just to show that the spirit of god has something in view with reference to Israel. He says and these signs will accompany those who have believed in my name they'll cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues. Notice it, new tongues. And then acts 2 verse 4. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit on that day of Pentecost. Began to speak with other tongues as the spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 10:46 in the home of Cornelius. For they were hearing them speak with tongues and exalting god. Peter heard that in the home of Cornelius. Then in acts 19 with the men, the disciples at Ephesus. About a dozen of them. Acts 19:6 and when Paul had laid his hands upon them the Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. But what is specifically the gift of tongues? And what is their use? Let’s come directly to it from this angle. Well let’s look at 1 Corinthians 12 and that’s vital. Oh read and re read that passage and read it again. I’ve read it numbers of times. You may be sure in English, and the Greek. First Corinthians 12. It’s good to read it in other new versions to see the inner meaning of these wonderful passage. 1 Corinthians 12 verse 10, 28 and 30. God is giving gifts and Ephesians is giving gifted men to the church. But here's gifts. And to another the effecting or the accomplishing of miracles to another prophecy and 1 Corinthians 14:2 tells us what that is. 14:2 and 3. Here the prophesy speaketh unto edification exhortation and consolation. Prophesy and to another distinguishing of spirits to another. Various kinds of tongues. And to another and many forget this. And to another the interpretation of tongues. We have to have the interpretation of tongues. Not just enough to have the languages alone. Foreign language. And god has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings helps administrations. Notice where tongues are. Way down the line. Last. Various kinds of tongues. Let me read it again and god has appointed in the church. First apostles, apostleship. Second prophets.
Prophecy. Third teachers teaching. Then miracles, general miracles. Then gifts of healing. Helps administrations. Various kinds of tongues. The Holy Spirit goes on to ask through Paul, all do not have tongues. Excuse me. All do not have gifts of healings, do they? Well the answer obviously is from the Greek it has that kind of a question where the answer is a negative. Greeks had a way of speech in which they could ask a question whether they expected a yes answer and they could ask it in a way, in a style where it was to have a negative answer. All do not have gifts of healings, do they? Of course not. All do not speak with tongues do they? No. all do not interpret do they? No. now look at 1 Corinthians 13:1 and 8. If I speak with the tongues of men says Paul and of angels but do not have love, I become a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. Love never fails. Verse 8. But if there are gifts of prophesy they'll be done away. If there are tongues, they will cease. If there’s knowledge it will be done away in a coming day. Then the 14th chapter of 1 Corinthians. Verses 2 and 39. For one who speaks in the tongue in the foreign language doesn’t speak to men, but to god. That is if there is no one to interpret then he might just as well do that privately. If he just speaks in the tongue for no one understands. It’s clear, right in the verse. For one who speaks in a tongue and does not speak to men but to god. If he’s only talking in a language that nobody knows, nobody is profited by it, nobody is edified, nobody is built up, nobody is instructed, nobody is enlightened. For no one understands but in his spirit he speaks mystery. Therefore my brethren. Desire earnestly to prophesy. That is to speak as 1 Corinthians 14:3. To the needs of people. To expound. To elucidate the word of god. And do not forbid to speak in tongues. Tongues had a place. Anyone who says that tongues were out of place in the beginning of the church is wrong. Just as wrong as those who say it has a place in every day, in every era. No. it was there. Do not forbid to speak in tongues in the Corinthians church. Here in Ephesians 4 I have just touched upon it thus far. Ephesians 4:11. It’s a vital passage on gifts and
especially gifted men given to the church. But I want you to see there is no mention here of speakers in tongues. Speakers in languages. Ephesians 4:11 and he gave some as apostles the lord put in the church men who were apostles. Some as prophets. Some as evangelists. Some as pastors and teachers. Now isn’t it a tremendous oversight if speakers in tongues are so vital to our day and age, to revelation of truth, to preaching and all the rest. Isn’t it amazing that god would mention apostles and nobody talks about apostles today except in some cults. And some as prophets and we know that’s New Testament prophets. So apostles are past but New Testament prophets, New Testament evangelist’s pastors and teachers. There to the fore. Where are these others? No. it would be well at this point, friends, to look at all the passages on tongues for the sake of some who may find fault, I will not read mark 16 verse 17 because it’s not found in 2 of the oldest Greek manuscripts. But I have read it before on these tapes. Now let’s look at the passages. Acts 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 11. And there appeared to them tongues as a fire. distributing themselves and they rested on each one of them and they were all filled with the holy spirit notice tongues connected with the filling of the spirit. And began to speak with other tongues. Now you'll find tongues and other tongues and own tongues, O W N, in the bible. You will never find unknown tongues. Please [inaudible] repeat. You will never find unknown tongues. If you find it in your bible the unknown is italicized. There is no word that answers to it in the original Greek. Folk put that in and it’s wrong. Unknown tongues. If it’s known by one person, it’s known. If that person knows it, and another can interpret it too, then it’s not unknown. The bible never speaks, I repeat, never speaks of unknown tongues. In Isaiah 28 when he's talking about a foreign nation chastising Israel. The tongue, the language wouldn’t be known to them because it would be Babylonian Assyrian. But that didn’t mean that a lot of people didn’t know it apart from Israel. It was a known language. So, let’s forget that error of the word unknown. They
began to speak with other tongues. As the spirit was giving them utterance. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and were bewildered. Because they were each one hearing them speak in his own language. Some folk think that it was a miracle of hearing instead of a miracle of speaking. Well that can’t be true because we read they began to speak. Yes. We hear them speaking everyone heard them speaking in his own language. There was the miracle that they were talking languages that they had not known before but there were people in the audience there in Jerusalem at Pentecost, which was one of the three pilgrimage feast. There were people there that knew their own language from back home. And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which they were born. Creations were hearing them speak in the creation language. And Arabs in the Arabic language. We hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of god. Now, other passages are in first Corinthians. Look at this. First Corinthians 14:2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 37, 39. Yes. We’ll be dealing also with other passages in not only acts but in first Corinthians. But for the moment, let’s look at these in first Corinthians. The 14th chapter. For one speaks in a tongue. One who speaks in a tongue doesn’t speak to men, but to god. The point is, there’s a speaking a language for instance in prayer, I’ve heard people say well I don’t speak in public but I do speak when I'm praying. And that person should never inject that into a public meeting. Whatever he does there, he privately. One who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to god, for no one understands. But in spirit he speaks mysteries. One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself. One who prophesies edifies the church. And that’s important. That the church be built up now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more, that you would prophesy. And greater is one, hear it, not the other way around. Greater is one who prophesies who preaches and expounds the word of god, then one who speaks in tongues unless he interprets. And then, if he knows how to interpret.
And that’s been the sad missing thing so many times. But if he interprets so that the church may receive edifying, then there’s blessing today as it was in the early church. But now brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what shall I profit you? You wouldn’t get anywhere. It’s just like somebody saying well I know Chinese I know Japanese I know German I know Hebrew I know Arabic. I know Syriac I know Ugaritic and begin to talk it. Well he’s just showing off. He’s just displaying arrogance. If I come to you speaking in tongues what shall I profit you? I won’t help you at all. I just caused you to say isn’t he a tremendous fellow. What a brain. What a mind. No. if I come to you speaking in languages and tongues what shall I profit you? Unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching I’ve got to explain what I’m talking about. So also you. Unless, hear it beloved. This is scripture. Unless you utter by the tongues speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. Useless. Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret it. This isn’t gibberish as we're going to show later. It’s an actual tongue. The word in acts, glosa [sp?] is the same word in first Corinthians. They’re not too different words, some say that. But they are deceiving and misleading if it's intentional. But if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. I thank god said Paul. And he was telling the truth, I speak in tongues. He could talk more languages than all of them. I speak in tongues more than you all hover over in the church I desire to speak 5 words with my mind that I may instruct others also rather than ten thousand words. Look at it. 5 words over against ten thousand words. What a comparison. In a tongue. In the law it’s written in quotes from Isaiah 28, the law meaning all the Old Testament. In the law it’s written by men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people. And even so, they will not listen to me says the lord. That’s the prophecy of Isaiah. So then tongues are for a sign. And what were they a sign for in Israel when
they were in belief. No in unbelief. Watch it now. And these tongues appeared in Israel in acts 2. Some people acts as if they appeared in gentile churches to begin with. No no no no. so then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers. Unbelievers in the first century. Not in some city in America or some other continent. But prophecy is for a sign not to unbelievers. Preaching as in 1 Corinthians 14:3, I excuse yes. 1 Corinthians 14:3. One who speaks unto edification, exhortation, and consolation. Prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe. Just what we have in church when a minister preaches the word of god in a way that others can understand. If therefore the whole church should assemble together and all speak in tongues. Ungifted men and unbelievers enter, will they not say that you’re mad? What’s the outcome then brethren? When you assemble each one has a song. Has a teaching. Has a revelation. Has a tongue. Has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by 2 or at the most 3. I spoke to a young man in my office once who said that he belonged to groups that practice speaking in tongues and that they had done it, and it was blessing, and that was god's way. I said do you recall 1 Corinthians 14, he said yes. I said I recall and I read it to him, my bible says if anyone speaks in a tongue it should be by 2 or at the most 3 and each in turn and let one interpret. That’s it. There must be interpretation. I said do you follow that in your church? He said oh no. I said why not? He said if we follow that, it would put us out of business. Now, my friends either do it biblically or don’t do it at all. Don’t do it at all. Notice. He says and I repeat it if one speaks in a tongue it shall be by 2 or at the most 3. [Inaudible] otherwise, and each in turn let one and let one interpret. Everyone who speaks in a language it has to be interpreted. Therefore my brethren desire earnestly to prophesy and do not forbid to speak in tongues. And that should be our practice. We should ask first is there anybody here who knows what this person is speaking? And if there’s no answer, that’s the way I would
treat it. I’ve had some folk who have begun some type of a speaking, and they thought they were speaking in a foreign tongue. But there was nobody who understood them you could see that. And, the spirit of god suppressed that thing because it wasn’t even needful for me to say or to ask is anybody here who understands what this person, this man was speaking? No. he understood himself that he must desist. Now what is the reason for revival of tongues in this time? You look at it through the church. It isn’t that there wasn’t such manifestations after apostolic times. We admit that, but they were so sporadic. They were so minute. They were so insignificant that you don’t find it anymore. Until you come to this 20th century and here you have the revival of tongues at this time. My dear friends, I verily believe it’s an overcompensation for lack of emphasis on the Holy Spirit and his work. If we ever neglect an area of god's truth, there is going to be an unpaid bill that will dog our steps when the truth of god was not preached in all of its proportions, watch it. When the doctrine of marriage, biblical marriage wasn’t taught properly, what did we have? We have a sect today that brings shambles into the idea of marriage. when law and grace were not properly taught, we have one that puts, tries to put a believer today right under the law and the keeping of the Sabbath. When the truth of healing in biblical proportions was indicated in god's sovereign will through prayer, prayer of faith shall heal the sick. When that wasn’t taught, you have all kinds of healing cults from Christian Science down. Oh my friends, overcompensation for lack of emphasis on the Holy Spirit and his work. That’s why we began this series on the matter of truth about the Holy Spirit before error. The best way to discern error is to put it alongside of truth. now the purpose of the gift of tongues, let’s find out why it was given and see if there is that same need today. The purpose of the gift of tongues determines the permanence of the gift. Let’s look at it. 1 Corinthians 14:20 to 22. Brethren do not be children in your thinking, yet in evil be bathed but in your thinking be mature. and the law is
written again Isaiah 20 by men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers, I will speak to this people and even so they will not listen to me says the lord. So then tongues, hear it now, please. This is the purpose. So then tongues are for that’s purpose, a sign. S I G N. tongues are a sign not to those who believe but to unbelievers. and were going to go into this more fully in our next tape as we finish this discussion, this message on do we seek the gift of tongues from the holy spirit. So then tongues are for a sign not to those who believe, not for believers. But they were signs to unbelievers in that unbelieving age. There were no years and centuries of Christian testimony and Christian witness and Christian victories and successes among the heathen, among all peoples. So that tongues are for a sign. An etheducation [sp?]. Just as we send an ambassador. He can’t just go into the court of St. James in London and say I am the representative of the ambassador for the United States of America. They say give us the credentials, we have to have a sign. So then tongues are for a sign. But it doesn’t keep on giving this credentials every day of the week after he’s come. no no. its lasts as long as he is accredited and our ambassador in that place. So then tongues are for a sign not to those who believe but to unbelievers. They’re for unbelievers. But prophesy, 1 Corinthians 14:3 is for us is for a sign too, but not to unbelievers but to those who believe. So we are to head prophecy. Signs were given in the midst of Israel in national unbelief in the first century AD. Now, in our next tape we shall be dealing with a very clear cut rules for the use of tongues and say something about the tremendous detrimental effects of the wrong use of tongues.