

# The TONGUES Question

*Is the "speaking in tongues" the Bible evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit? Just what IS the baptism with the Holy Spirit? What about "tarry meetings"? We continue making the truth PLAIN from the preceding article in the March number.*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

## PART II

What IS the "Baptism with the Holy Spirit?"

JUST what is this "baptism"? The very crux of the whole question—the basis of the error so many have been led into—is a MISUNDERSTANDING of what the true "baptism with the Holy Spirit" really is!

The whole error comes from one erroneous idea which is generally ASSUMED—carelessly taken for granted—never so much as QUESTIONED, let alone being PROVED!

It is the general idea that one is first converted, in which he *receives* the Holy Spirit—actually has the Holy Spirit within—and then, AFTERWARD, as an entirely separate and later special act or blessing from God, if he "seeks" it diligently enough, he may receive "the baptism" with the Holy Spirit.

This "baptism" is supposed to be a special endowment with POWER. This power is supposed to be "power to witness for Jesus." Actually it is regarded in practice as a sort of loosening of the tongue.

The teaching is that one *always* "speaks in tongues"—that is, unknown languages, at the time this "baptism" is received. Often thrills and sensations are felt surging in overpowering waves thru the body. From that time all timidity and bashfulness in "witnessing for Christ" is gone. The tongue is loosened. The recipient now testifies in open meeting boldly, loudly, often in a jazzy manner and with a fluency and flippancy of speech never before possible.

Peter, James, John, and the other apostles, they believe, all were CONVERTED, and received the Holy Spirit either when first called by Jesus, or during His ministry and *before* "Pentecost." Then, having already received "the gift of the Holy Spirit," these disciples, so it is believed, had to "tarry," and "pray down Pentecost," until, finally on Pentecost, they "got their baptism." That's the common belief.

BUT THAT IS NOT THE TRUTH!

And this error causes thousands who may already have received the Holy

Spirit to SEEK and SEEK and SEEK this supposed ADDITIONAL experience called "the baptism." Worse, it leads people by hundreds to become discouraged and to decide there is no hope for them, and to give up even trying to live a Christian life!

### Was Peter Converted Before "Pentecost"?

Let's not ASSUME this idea. Let's not take it carelessly for granted. Let's look into the Scripture for the TRUTH!

The TRUTH is that neither Peter, James, John, nor any of the disciples of Jesus had ever so much as RECEIVED the Holy Spirit at all until that day of Pentecost!

Under the old Covenant, God had a CHURCH. Israel was both a nation, called the "Kingdom of Israel," and a CHURCH, called "The Congregation of Israel." But that church was a FLESH-born church. It was wholly MATERIAL, fleshly, physical. It was not spiritual. One became a member by FLESH-birth.

Now here is the point so many have never realized. Under the Old Covenant THERE WAS NO SALVATION! The people of that church were NOT CONVERTED. *They did not have the Holy Spirit!* That is, none except the prophets specially called of God. David, Elijah, Jeremiah, had the Holy Spirit. They were called for very special missions.

But the rank and file members of the Old Testament Congregation NEVER HAD THE HOLY SPIRIT. You can't find any place where the Holy Spirit was promised Israel under the OLD covenant. Or where salvation and eternal life was promised. Their animal sacrifices did NOT take away their sins. "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away SINS," (Heb. 10:4). But rather, as explained in Hebrews, the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant were merely a *reminder* of sins! There was *no remission of sins*, and therefore no salvation possible, UNTIL the one and *only* great sacrifice was made on Calvary's cross!

During Jesus' ministry He told His disciples: "It is expedient for YOU that I go away: for if I go not away the Com-

forter (Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; but *if I depart*, I will send him unto you." (John 16:7). Notice, it was expedient for THEM. He was talking to Peter and the other disciples on the very eve of His crucifixion, at the LAST SUPPER. If Peter and the other Apostles already *had* the Holy Spirit, Jesus would not have told them, His very last night alive on earth with them before being crucified, it was needful for *them* that He depart, go to heaven, in order to *send* the Holy Spirit. And this was only some 50 days before Pentecost!

Again, Jesus said that same night: "But WHEN the Comforter is come, whom *I will send unto you* from the Father (FROM HEAVEN), He shall testify of me." (John 15:26). Again the same night He said: "If ye love me, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; EVEN THE SPIRIT of truth . . . for he dwelleth WITH you (in the person of Christ), and SHALL BE *in you*" (in the person of the Holy Spirit whom the Father would send from heaven). (John 14:15-17).

Notice it carefully! It wasn't the disciples who prayed down the Holy Spirit. It was JESUS who prayed, and the Father sent them the Holy Spirit who was to be IN THEM—and the Spirit CAME on the day of Pentecost AFTER Jesus had GONE AWAY, to heaven!

Earlier, on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, "Jesus stood and cried, saying, 'If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.' (But this spake He of the SPIRIT, which they that believe on Him *should* (in future) receive: for *the Holy spirit was not yet given*; because then Jesus was not yet glorified.)" (John 7:37-39).

### Not Yet Given

Study that! The Holy Spirit was not yet given. Why? Jesus had not yet GONE AWAY—ascended to heaven—BEEN GLORIFIED! It was expedient for them that He go away. Otherwise the

# The Good News

The national magazine of  
**AMBASSADOR COLLEGE**  
*ministering to The Church of God  
 scattered abroad, and  
 reporting on campus happenings*

VOL. III NUMBER 4

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Sent free on personal request, as the  
 Lord provides. Address communica-  
 tions to the Editor, Box 111, Pasadena,  
 California.

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*Holy Spirit would not have come!* Notice the *future tense*—out of his innermost being *shall flow* the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit had never yet come from heaven to enter and dwell WITHIN converted Christians. The Holy Spirit had never been here during Old Testament times. But the prophet Joel had prophesied "it shall come to pass *afterward*, that I will pour out MY SPIRIT upon all flesh." (Joel 2:28).

And Jesus gave them the PROMISE He would *send* the Holy Spirit from heaven, if and after He went to heaven. And, after His resurrection, on the very day and hour of His ascending up to heaven, Jesus "commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, BUT WAIT for the promise of the Father which, saith He, ye have heard of me." (Acts 1:4). Yes, the promises quoted above, that unless He went to heaven they could not have or be filled with the Holy Spirit. The promise that He would pray the Father and the Father would SEND the Holy Spirit.

And then, on the day of Pentecost, THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME!

This was *his first coming from heaven!* And on that day, the newly inspired Peter said "THIS is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel," quoting that prophecy. Now, at last, God had sent His Spirit, *as promised*, for all flesh

—all who would *repent*, and accept Jesus as Saviour, in *faith* believing!

Before receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter was weak. He lacked faith to cast out a demon, or walk on the water. He denied Jesus three times. He went fishing instead of attending to God's work. At the Last Supper Jesus said to him, "WHEN thou art converted strengthen thy brethren." (Luke 22:32).

Some believe Peter received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on him. "And when He had said this, He *breathed* on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22). But He merely breathed the breath of *air*—wind. That's what *breath* is, always, in the Scriptures. *After* breathing on them Jesus did not say "You have now received the Holy Spirit."

If His *breathing* on them is what gave them the Holy Spirit, they would already have had the Holy Spirit in them when Jesus afterwards spoke—but they did not, because He said, "RECEIVE YE the Holy Spirit." They were *yet* to receive the Spirit, *as he had promised*, after He went away—after He was *glorified*—after He went to heaven,

and the FATHER sent the Spirit from heaven. And it was after this that Jesus told them to *wait in Jerusalem* for the Spirit to come.

The personal *experiences* of some have led many to accept this erroneous assumption that one first receives the Holy Spirit, and then, AFTERWARD, as an entirely separate experience, receives "the baptism of the Spirit." But experience is a poor guide, and these dear people are interpreting the WORD OF GOD by their experience. Whether these dear souls who say so emphatically they *know* they had this experience of receiving "their baptism" *after* being converted and *receiving* the Holy Spirit do not understand what it is to be really converted, and had only *thought* they were converted previously; or whether this experience, impressive tho it may have been, was merely an additional "anointing" or receiving of a greater fullness of the Spirit; or whether they were deceived as to this "baptism" altogether and received only a counterfeit experience or even a demon spirit; or whether there is some other explanation still, I cannot of course, and do not, judge. But the SCRIPTURE IS PLAIN, and all such experiences should be explained *by the Scripture*, and not vice versa!

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## BIBLE DEFINITION of Spirit "Baptism"

There is only *one text* in all the Bible that actually defines this "baptism."

It is in I Cor. 12:13: "For *by* one Spirit are we all BAPTISED *into one body*,"—the BODY OF CHRIST, the true Church of God.

Let us understand this. What is the meaning of the word "baptise"? It is a Greek word, untranslated, in our English Bibles. Had the translators rendered it into the English language, it would have read "IMMERSE." For the Greek word "baptiso" means "to immerse." "To plunge *into*." The person baptised is *plunged into* the thing he is baptised in. When baptised in water, the candidate is plunged into, or immersed, in water.

Consequently the baptism with, or by, the Holy Spirit is not our immersion *into* the Holy Spirit, for the Scriptures tell us it is the entrance of the Spirit *into us*.

And in Romans 8:9, Paul tells us plainly that unless the Spirit of God *dwells in us*, we are none of Christ's! We become Christ's, then, *when the Holy Spirit comes INTO us!* And when we are Christ's, we are then to the BODY OF CHRIST, the Church. Therefore, it is the receiving of the Holy Spirit which plunges us, immerses or puts us *into the Church*. And this immersion *into the Church* BY the Holy Spirit the Scriptures call "the baptism

with, or by, the Holy Spirit."

The term "baptism OF the Holy Spirit" as "Pentecostal" people say it, is not to be found in the BIBLE. It is the baptism with, or by, the Holy Spirit, INTO the Church.

And so "BY one Spirit are we all baptised into one body."

Thus, the RECEIVING of the Holy Spirit is the BAPTISM with the Spirit!

### "Receiving" the Spirit, and the "Baptism" One and the Same

Let us carefully study this in the Word of God!

Before the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, Jesus said to His disciples, "ye shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days hence." Therefore we know that what the disciples received the day of Pentecost was the BAPTISM with the Holy Spirit.

Now let us notice the terms used to describe this baptism.

In Acts 2:4, we read, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." And so being filled with the Holy Spirit is the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The thousands who came running into that room, pricked in their heart, asked what they should do to receive this same baptism with the Holy Spirit. Peter did not say "tarry," or "agonize," but he said "repent, and be baptised;" and "ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38). And so the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit is the baptism with the Holy Spirit. And three thousand received it that day! And there is no mention of their speaking in "tongues," and certainly there was no "tarrying!"

And, note it!—this was their first receiving of the Holy Spirit! These Jews were not previously converted—had not previously received the Spirit. This was their conversion.

Ten years later God thru a vision of the sheet and unclean animals showed Peter he must go to preach Christ to the Gentile house of CORNELIUS. These people were Gentiles—unconverted. Peter went to preach Christ—to show them the way of salvation. Cornelius was a devout man; he and his house feared God; he gave alms, and prayed. But he did not know the way of salvation, and was not yet converted.

Peter went to his house and PREACHED CHRIST—His Message, His crucifixion, resurrection; that "whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." At that very point in his sermon, Cornelius and his house, already repentant and devout, believed—and "while Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word." (Acts 10:43-44).

After Peter returned to Jerusalem

from the house of Cornelius, he was taken severely to task by the other apostles for associating with Gentiles. In explaining how God had led him to go, and of what had occurred at Caesarea, Peter explained how an angel had told Cornelius to send for Peter, "who shall tell thee words whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved." (Acts 11:14). After hearing Peter's report, the apostles exclaimed, "Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." (verse 18). This conclusively shows that what Cornelius and household experienced was their original CONVERSION—their first receiving of the Holy Spirit—not a subsequent "baptism" as some special endowment of power.

In explaining just what these Gentiles received, Peter said, "Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptised with water; but ye shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit. Foreasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us," etc. (Acts 11:16, 17).

Peter plainly says that what the Gentiles then received was the baptism with the Holy Spirit. And this baptism is also called, in verse 17, "the like GIFT." And so "the gift of the Holy Spirit" is the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

In verse 15 Peter said "the Holy Spirit fell on them, as on us at the beginning." So the Holy Spirit "FALLING on them" was the baptism with the Holy Spirit—into the church!

In the 10th chapter, verse 44, where this actual experience is described, we learn that "the Holy Spirit fell on them," and in verse 45 we find that "on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit." And in verse 47 they "received the Holy Spirit." So the receiving of the Holy Spirit is the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

All these terms are used synonymously and interchangeably by the Holy Spirit to describe the same experience.

So what must we conclude? That which is born of the flesh is FLESH. (John 3:6). When fleshly, sinning, mortal man repents and is baptised as a symbol of his FAITH in Christ, he receives the Holy Spirit—not as a result of "tarrying," but thru FAITH (Gal. 3:14; John 7:37,39). And this receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit is the baptism with the Spirit INTO the Church!

He is then a child of God. He has been begotten—tho the real rebirth must come at the time of the resurrection. He is begotten from above—begotten of the Spirit. And thus he is baptised BY the Spirit into the body of Christ!

This baptism is not the end, but only the BEGINNING of his Christian experience! He is merely a new-born

BABE in Christ! He must now GROW in grace and knowledge. He must live a life of overcoming. And he that endureth unto the end shall be saved!

### Do ALL Speak with TONGUES?

Is "speaking in tongues" THE Bible evidence of the "baptism with the Holy Spirit"?

Must ALL speak with tongues at the time they receive the Spirit, and are brought into the true Church?

*The apostles did not teach it!*

The EXPERIENCES recorded in the New Testament, subsequent to Pentecost, do not indicate it. Of all the experiences recorded in the New Testament of conversions, it is recorded that there was tongue-speaking in only two of them! Shall we ASSUME there were tongues in all the other experiences? Let us be careful about ADDING to God's Word what is not there!

*There is No STATEMENT IN SCRIPTURE that you must speak with tongues to prove you have received the Holy Spirit "baptism."*

NO SCRIPTURE says "By their TONGUES ye shall know them."

But the Scripturc docs say, "by their FRUITS ye shall know them!" (Mat. 7:20). *The lives we live* are the BIBLE EVIDENCE of whether or not we have received the Holy Spirit!

Jesus said, "By this shall all men KNOW that ye are my disciples, if ye have LOVE one to another." (John 13:35).

But are not the "tongues" at least AN evidence of the baptism with the Spirit? Many have assumed so. But anyone who has really known the private lives of as many as twelve people who profess to have received their "baptism" and spoken in tongues, will testify that at least some of them, and in some cases all of them, do NOT show the EVIDENCE of the fruits in their lives. When they claim the "evidence of tongues," but do not have true BIBLE evidence of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, faith, in their lives, then we must conclude that, regardless of "tongues," they have the strongest kind of BIBLE EVIDENCE that they do not have the "baptism" with the Holy Spirit.

In such a case are "tongues" even AN evidence? Are "tongues" any evidence at all? "Though I speak with the tongues of . . . ANGELS and have not LOVE, I am become as sounding brass." (I Cor. 13:1). There are fallen angels, demons, and without a question many today are speaking in the "tongues" of these demons. Would you say the counterfeit tongues of demons are any evidence at all of the true baptism with the Holy Spirit?

If tongues were the evidence, or even

one of the evidences, tongues would be a sign to *other believers*—but Paul says “tongues are for a sign, *not* to them that believe, but to them that believe not.” (I Cor. 14:22).

All admit “tongues” can be counterfeited by Satan. If one has been careless about PROVING all things *by the word of God*, and under influence of demon-inspired people has unsuspectingly been lured into SEEKING what the Bible nowhere tells us to seek—“tongues” and physical sensations and thrills pleasing to the SENSUAL self—yielding to false instructions to plead, beg, agonize, nag, repeat words over and over and over—not yielding wholly to God nor surrendering fully to His Commandments, but rather lusting for these physical sensations and thrills and seeking them in this unscriptural manner, then that one is caught off guard and becomes an open channel into which a DEMON may enter and take full possession. These unscriptural practices of so-called “Pentecostal” people are DOCTRINES OF DEVILS. It’s time unsuspecting people were WARNED against such Satanic practices.

Yes, Satan can COUNTERFEIT “tongues.” And do you suppose for one moment that the true BIBLE EVIDENCE could be something that can be cleverly COUNTERFEITED? No, NEVER!

But the FRUIT of the Holy Spirit—LOVE, JOY, PEACE, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, meekness (most “tongues” people are not meek, but loud-mouthed and bragging), temperance, FAITH—these things in one’s life *cannot be counterfeited*. They are not natural. No one has sufficient will-power to FORCE himself to show always these fruits in his life. It requires the miracle of the LOVE OF GOD shed abroad in our hearts *by the Holy Spirit* (Rom. 5:5). Satan has no counterfeit for that!

That is the BIBLE EVIDENCE! “Tongues” are not even “*an* evidence.” This is the PLAIN teaching of the Bible.

### Are There Any GENUINE Tongues?

They DID speak with “tongues” at the house of Cornelius, and at Ephesus, AFTER the day of Pentecost.

While correcting the Corinthian church Paul said “I would that ye ALL spake with tongues.” (I Cor. 14:5), and “forbid not to speak with tongues,” in the church. (V.39).

We should banish all prejudice against the true manifestation of tongues.

But we should get the “tongues” into the proper SCRIPTURAL place of importance.

In the same 14th chapter of I Corinthians, above quoted, Paul said he would rather speak just *five words* with his understanding, that he might teach oth-

ers also, than *ten thousand words* in an unknown tongue. To those Corinthians, becoming fanatical on “tongues,” he said “brethren, BE NOT CHILDREN in understanding.” (V. 19,20). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of a SOUND MIND (II Tim. 1:7).

We should NOT *seek tongues*. “Pentecostal” people loudly protest they do not do this, but in practice and in fact, they do, and they should not deny it.

### One of Satan’s Clever Pitfalls

The reason for this caution is found in the Scripture “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue EDIFIETH HIMSELF.” (I Cor. 14:4). It is seeking for *self*—for *self* blessings—for *self*-thrills—and is *contrary* to fulfilling the law of God which is love *away* from self and toward God and neighbor! And therefore it may easily degenerate into a most deceptive form of SIN.

One of the “fruits” of this “tongues” movement is that many seek nothing but “blessings,” as they express it—which in plain language means sensual FEELINGS and THRILLS that they themselves ENJOY as a PLEASURE. It is an unnatural, perverted, Satan-inspired SEX sensation. Deluded people are led to believe this is a spiritual blessing from GOD! It’s time people knew the TRUTH!

Jesus said, “that which is born of the flesh IS FLESH,” (John 3:6). We must be BORN AGAIN—born of the SPIRIT—to inherit eternal life. Now the flesh has its FEELINGS, its EMOTIONS, its five SENSES.

It is but natural that Satan’s counterfeits are of the FLESH—even his counterfeits of spiritual things. So Satan the Devil gives to people FEELINGS, and EMOTIONS, and THRILLS—and induces many zealous seekers after the Holy Spirit to accept these pleasing sensations as “blessings” and “manifestations” of the Holy Spirit!

The saddest fruit of this whole “tongues” movement is that thru it Satan has beguiled many into continually lusting for SENSUAL FEELINGS, and for THRILLS of the FLESH, deceiving them into believing they are receiving “blessings” from God!

Oh, WHY will so many honest souls be misled, and fall into this satanic snare? God’s Word warns us to TRY the spirits, WHETHER they be of God! For many false SPIRITS are gone out into the world!

This is not to say there is no EXPERIENCE, or nothing felt, when God pours forth His blessed Holy Spirit. There is a definite EXPERIENCE to real genuine conversion. But what a tragedy to see so many deceived into receiving the FALSE experience—the FALSE “blessing,”—because they have failed to heed God’s

warning to TRY the spirits—because they fail to have on the WHOLE ARMOR of God’s warning to TRY the spirits, which is THE WORD OF GOD!

God’s way is the way of CRUCIFYING the flesh, the sensual—of *denying* the SELF—of LOVE toward God and toward fellow man. Satan’s counterfeit is SELF-SEEKING, lusting for fleshly thrills, and feelings, and “blessings” that bring pleasure thru the five senses.

And the greater pity is that the very ones most deceived are the ones who RESENT having the Scriptures opened to them to CORRECT them, to REPROVE, and to set them right! If *you* feel resentment of these words, it is the surest BIBLE EVIDENCE that you are under the deceptive power of Satan the Devil, and you should flee the influence he has over you, and drop to your knees at once, and ask God to renew a RIGHT spirit within you.

So many in this modern “tongues” movement do not seem to understand the real PURPOSE of receiving the Holy Spirit. They look upon spiritual gifts as ornaments to decorate and embellish the PERSON. But the gifts of the Spirit are the TOOLS placed in our hands to DO THE LORD’S WORK.

After Jesus had received the FULLNESS of the Holy Spirit, He said: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me BECAUSE he hath anointed me to *preach the gospel* to the poor; he hath sent me to *heal the brokenhearted*, to *preach deliverance* to the captives, and *recovering of sight to the blind*,” etc. (Luke 4:18).

The object and purpose of the Holy Spirit is not to give FEELINGS and THRILLS that are of the senses of the *flesh*, and therefore *sensual*—not to please the SELF—but to enable one to *crucify* the SELF—to endow with power to overcome sin, which is transgressing of God’s Commandments (I John 3:4)—to *cleanse* us of all unrighteousness—to impart to us GOD’S righteousness, so our light may shine and others may see Christ in us—to *understand* the Word of God, so we may know how to live by its every word—to give us the FAITH of Jesus, making possible His righteousness—to give us POWER to be kind, patient, gentle, and of service to others—to preach the Gospel—to heal the sick.

### Let Us Receive This POWER

Jesus did not say, “ye shall fall helpless UNDER the power.” He did not say the Holy Spirit would ROB us of power, render us powerless. He said, “YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER!”

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of POWER, and of LOVE, and of a SOUND MIND (II Tim. 1:7). The Spirit of UNDERSTANDING (John 16:13; I Cor. 2:10);  
(Please continue on page 15)

# Why FINANCIAL WORRIES?

Perhaps you are under a CURSE! Here's the sure way to solve your money problem! Here is an eye-opening article on a much misunderstood subject.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IN THE last Book of the Old Testament is a remarkable *prophecy*. It foretells the financial difficulties and worries that have come to most Americans today. Nothing in the Christian life—or even the non-Christian life—so plagues the average family today as this financial problem of making both ends meet.

This is really a problem in Christian living! Perhaps very few ever thought of it in that way. But part of the Christian life of growth in faith and in grace is the overcoming of this very financial situation!

## Prophecy for TODAY!

The true Church of God is founded on the Apostles *and the Prophets*. It is the Church Jesus built. It is GOD'S Church, and God made Jesus the Head of it—and it is built upon the foundation of the PROPHETS as well as the apostles! (Ephesians 2:20).

One of those prophets is Malachi. Listen to His NEW Testament teaching: He quotes God, who is speaking to us today:

"I will come near to you to judgment . . . Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them . . . YE ARE CURSED WITH A CURSE: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." (Mal. 3:5-9).

But *why?* What has brought on this national curse of financial worries in nearly every home? We are the wealthiest nation on earth. We are the wealthiest nation of all history. Yet nearly every family is cursed with money troubles in the desperate struggle to make ends meet. God says *we have robbed Him!*

"But ye say," continues the Eternal's Message to us, "Wherein have we robbed thee?" And God replies, "in TITHES and OFFERINGS!"

## Was Tithing Done Away?

Now all this, we know, doesn't make much sense to the average American today. Many do not even know what tithing is. Others ask, "Wasn't tithing just for Jews of a long-dead past?" Or, "Wasn't tithing done away? Wasn't it just part of the ceremonial system introduced by the Old Covenant Law of Moses?"

Others, today, are taught and believe

tithing was merely a form of national taxation in the civil government of the one-time nation of Israel. Still others teach that the tithe supplied the material needs of the poor, and was never put into the ministry.

WHAT CONFUSION today! What ignorance of the revealed laws and commands of God!

Since this WHOLE NATION is under a curse, soon to suffer unprecedented total national disaster *because* of a lack of understanding as well as for disobedience to the laws of God, it's certainly about time we opened our Bibles and began to study honestly, diligently, prayerfully, exactly what the Almighty has declared on this much-perverted subject!

For — and mark this well! — even though God sends a cataclysmic destruction upon the nation as a whole, yet the *individual* who seeks understanding, and who heeds God's warnings, shall be given full protection, and ESCAPE all these things to come to pass.

## What the "TITHE" Is

But first, before looking to the NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING to see whether or not Christians must "tithe," let us make clear just what that word "*tithe*" means.

God says to Britain-America of today: "*Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation . . . IN TITHES and offerings.*"

What, then, does God mean by that word "*tithes*"?

It is an old English word, commonly used in England three and four hundred years ago. Today it is seldom used, except in this scriptural connection. This old expression "*tithe*" has been preserved in the Authorized, or King James translation, of the Bible—translated in 1611.

The word "*tithe*" means TENTH. A tithe of anything is the tenth part of it.

It is well known that the nation Israel, during Old Testament times, was required to tithe, that is, pay in one tenth of income. But the matter of *to whom* each Israelite paid this tenth, *which* tenth was paid, *why* and for *what purpose*, seems to confuse a great many today. And the New Testament teaching for Christians about tithing is understood only by a few.

## The Principle of Tithing

The subject is mentioned many places in the New Testament, as well as in the Old. But first, a simple explanation of the scriptural PRINCIPLE of tithing will make it more understandable.

Let's bring the subject home to each one of us, in a plain and personal manner.

Suppose you own a farm. Does that farm, and all you raise from it, *really* belong to you?

Suppose you work for wages, or a salary. Or you "clip coupons," or receive dividends, profits, or a pension. When you receive the money, is it *really* YOURS?

This may seem a bit foolish. Nearly everyone will answer immediately, "Why, of course!" But if you do, you're wrong! And this only goes to show that our people as a nation have strayed *so far* from God and His revealed TRUTH that we are *astonished*, when the truth is explained!

Do you know what the Bible *is*? It is a revelation from God to man of things both material and spiritual which man otherwise could never know. God let Newton discover and reveal to mankind the law of gravity. He has left it for our chemists with their test-tubes and technical equipment in their laboratories to discover the laws of chemistry. But there are laws and truths which man never could discover. God has not left us in ignorance of these, but has *revealed them*, thru the Bible! That's why the BIBLE is the very BASIS of right and sound education—"the fear of the Eternal is the *beginning* of wisdom." And that's why there is so little *real understanding* and TRUE education today, in a world whose schools and colleges almost universally ignore this basic foundation of TRUTH!

## Who OWNS What You Have?

So now in the simplest of language, let me make plain to you the PRINCIPLE of tithing, as revealed in the Bible. Then we shall look to the Scriptures themselves, from which this explanation is derived.

First, then, YOU, or I, actually own *nothing!*

"The earth is the Eternal's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (1 Cor. 10:26, and

them. This is a special duty you owe them. They need your help.

### Obedience Has Lasting Value

Haven't you seen children who were brought up without discipline? Who tell their parents, "I won't," and sure enough, they don't. Their parents may threaten to spank them, but it is only an idle threat.

A child from that kind of home will never amount to anything unless he goes through some grueling experience in the world.

Teach your children to obey you *in everything*—so long as it does not violate God's laws (Eph. 6:1). Too many boys and girls think that their parents have no right to command them to do anything they don't want to do. You mothers can have a great influence on your children by being obedient to your husbands *in everything* in the Lord. If any of you wives are having trouble with your children, you might do well to examine yourselves to see if you are setting an example of obedience commanded in Ephesians 5:24.

We see, then, that today's modern pampering of wayward children is *not* God's way. The hickory stick is as good in this modern generation as it was in the days of Solomon. But first be sure that when children are mature enough to understand, they be instructed and told *why* they are being punished. Punishment is of little or no avail unless children realize that physical *punishment is meant to hurt* so they will never continue doing the wrong which would end in far more painful and sorrowful consequences.

### The TONGUES Question

(Continued from page 6)

the Spirit of power to perform MIRACLES (Acts 6:8; 5:12-16). And that kind of power comes from just two things, SURRENDER, and FAITH, along with much earnest PRAYER.

Perhaps the greatest difficulty lies in confusing a *partial* filling with the Spirit, and the FULLNESS of the Spirit.

God gave not the Spirit by MEASURE unto Jesus (John 3:34), but certainly we receive the Spirit by measure, and some of us, perhaps, a very small measure. When we have *received* the Holy Spirit, we have been BAPTISED *by the Spirit*, into the Body of Christ. But the fleshly nature remains, and the flesh lusts against the Spirit. So we have not received the FULLNESS of the Spirit.

In New Testament experiences, a far greater FULLNESS of the Spirit was received, *because they yielded more fully, and trusted God more implicitly.*

Let us YIELD to God, and His Word.

Let us seek more of His Love, more of His FAITH, a better UNDERSTANDING, more POWER FOR SERVICE! And let us leave manifestations and feelings to HIM!

### Did the New Testament Church Observe Sundays?

(Continued from page 12)

The existence and hence observance of the remaining holy days, although not specifically stated, are alluded to in Acts 18:21 and in Acts 27:9, where the day of Atonement is mentioned. Every one of these God-given days had been commanded forever; hence, their observance by Jewish and Gentile Christian alike must have been perpetuated in obedience to the example which Jesus and the apostles set.

To be continued in next issue

*Correction:* Please note the following typographical errors which appeared through an oversight in the March, 1953, issue of the "Good News."

On page 5, column 1, under subtitle "Proof Three: The Death of Herod," the third paragraph should have read: "The two dates for the beginning of Herod's reign are not disputed, but given as 37 B.C. and 40 B.C. respectively. . . . By simple subtraction—which the theologians and critics seem unable to do—Herod died just prior to the beginning of spring in B.C. 3."

Also note this correction two thirds the way down in the next major paragraph: "Since these and other events occurred *after* the eclipse mentioned by Josephus, and since Herod died just prior to a passover according to Josephus, that passover must have been THIRTEEN MONTHS AFTER THE ECLIPSE and not one month later."

Be sure to *reread* the entire proof with these corrections about Herod's death.

### Why Financial Worries?

(Continued from page 10)

sure you are paying your tithe to a called and TRUE minister of Jesus Christ. Satan has many more ministers today than Christ—and Satan's thieving imposters pose as ministers of Jesus Christ, put on sanctimonious airs, speak in pious and spiritual-sounding language! How are you to know? BY THEIR FRUITS, Jesus said, you shall know them! The FRUITS of God's Spirit, and of Christ's true ministry cannot be counterfeited!

So when you pay tithes to God's true

and accredited spiritual representative, you pay it *as to God*. It is not a charitable gift from you to the minister. It is not *your* money—but rather it is God's way for you to pay to GOD that which BELONGS TO GOD.

And from there on, the minister who receives it *is accountable to God*. And you may be sure that GOD'S justice is PERFECT—that GOD Almighty will hold every minister *far more strictly accountable than you would be capable of doing!*

### What GOD Does With His Tithe

Once paid, so far as you are concerned, you have paid GOD'S tithe to GOD.

The question now is *what does GOD do with it?*

And the answer, which we will show by the Scriptures inspired of God, is that God uses it FOR HIS MINISTRY—for CARRYING ON HIS WORK!

Now the *nature* of God's ministry on earth has changed with changing dispensations. Not much is revealed as to how God's ministry was carried on back in patriarchal times. We know Melchisedec was High Priest—that He held rank equal to that of Jesus Christ, actually one of the Godhead! The ministry, then, must have been of a *spiritual* nature. New Testament writings reveal that the GOSPEL, God's Spiritual Message, was preached beforehand to Abraham. All we know of those days of the dim distant antiquity is that the tithes were paid to Melchisedec, a divine Being, for the service of God's ministry for that time.

But beginning with Moses a new and different dispensation was ushered in. God formed Israel as a civil nation, and also as a church (See Acts 7:38). But between Moses and Christ under the Old Covenant, God's ministry was purely *national*, for Israel alone—and purely MATERIAL, not spiritual.

As a Church, or Congregation, Israel was given a constant round of physical ceremonies and rituals—animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, carnal ordinances (see Heb. 9:10) — which, NOTE IT!—means of a material, not a spiritual nature. Israel under the Old Covenant was not given God's Holy Spirit. They had no promise whatsoever of salvation, astonishing as that may seem! They were not commanded to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to other nations. On the contrary, they were forbidden to have anything to do with other nations!

Consequently, the church ministry in Israel was one of ministering to *all* Israelites, and to Israelites *only*. There was no spreading of the Gospel. The ministry, rather, was largely a matter of physical labor—preparing animal sac-

rifices, meat and drink offerings, administering the different washings and physical ordinances and rituals. For this service, God Himself selected His ministers—the people had no choice as to who their ministers were. For this service, God took ONE WHOLE TRIBE of the twelve tribes of Israel—the Tribe of Levi. Every man born a Levite was a priest, or minister.

The Levites owned no land—had no secular source of income—devoted their entire time to the physical ministry of that dispensation. Yet, tho a physical ministry, this service was sacred and holy to God. And during these years from Moses to Christ *God Himself paid His Levitical priests by turning over to them all of His Tribe.*

Today, we are in the age of GRACE, the NEW Testament GOSPEL dispensation. Today, the Levitical priesthood is gone, and JESUS CHRIST is High Priest. Today all true ministers of Jesus Christ are called by special spiritual call from God thru His Holy Spirit—not by flesh birth—not by self-desire to become a minister—not by selection, appointment, or vote of the people.

Jesus Christ came as God's MESSENGER, bearing a Spiritual Message from God to man. That Message of His GOSPEL—the Good News of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD, a kingdom of immortals which human flesh and blood can never enter! *One must be born again!*

And today, Christ's *commission* to all His true ministers is "Go ye into all the world, and PREACH THE GOSPEL" . . . "Go ye, therefore, and teach ALL NATIONS." And, for our day *now*. "This

GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the END (of the age) come."

Today the ministry is a SPIRITUAL ministry—a ministry of PROPHECY—a ministry of SALVATION—a ministry of WARNING! Today it is not physical and national, but spiritual and *individual*—it is not for *everyone* in a single nation, but for a witness UNTO ALL NATIONS.

Today, in these critical, chaotic days approaching the END OF AN AGE, the carrying on of God's true ministry is a *world-wide* mission, which must reach MILLIONS of people, and *quickly*, for the "night cometh, when no man can work."

Today Christ's true ministry is a huge undertaking. It requires, not the mere financing of the personal needs of a few ministers, but the employing of tremendous available facilities for PROCLAIMING THE WORLD-SHAKING WARNING—for PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM into ALL THE WORLD FOR A WITNESS UNTO ALL NATIONS!

And these super-powered facilities God has invented and made available for HIS PURPOSE—great, powerful radio stations, and the modern printing press—cost a great deal of money, because they reach vast multitudes of people never before possible in any past age!

Today, God has PROVIDED for the financing of His powerful ministry by the same system He has used from the very beginning—His TITHING system!

Thus Almighty God has purposed that THOSE WHOM HE HAS SPECIALLY FITTED AND CALLED for this tremen-

dous mission in this chaotic and dying world may be FREE to proclaim HIS TRUTH fearlessly, boldly, and with GREAT POWER!

They cannot be subsidized, controlled, coerced by men or organizations of men. They are not hired by, nor obligated to, men or any organized group or denomination. They are called by God, guided, protected, and empowered by God, financed by GOD'S OWN TITHING SYSTEM!—yes, by GOD'S OWN MONEY!

*That* is how THE PLAIN TRUTH is published—without subscription price, FREE to all who will request it for themselves.

*That* is how the true GOSPEL Message is going out in great power to a cumulative audience of THIRTY MILLION EVERY WEEK, broadcast over the most powerful radio station in all the North American continent and in Europe.

*That* is God's way, carrying out God's Plan in HIS GREAT PURPOSE BEING WORKED OUT HERE BELOW! And the Almighty has so guided and directed this great work of His today, that *every single dollar* of His money placed faithfully in His work is actually reaching TWO THOUSAND precious souls with HIS MESSAGE! Yes, it is growing into a huge work. It costs today a great deal of money. But it is reaching MILLIONS of people with power—and at the infinitesimal cost of only one dollar for each two thousand reached! We—and all our co-workers together—are happy to be privileged by the Eternal God to each have our small part in so glorious a work for HIM!

TO BE CONTINUED

### The GOOD NEWS

Printed in the U.S.A.

Box 111—Pasadena, California  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

(Sec. 34.65 (e), P.L.&R.)  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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