

Fourth, it should frankly be recognized that other explanations for these phenomena of "miracles/healings" are possible, including psychosomatic effects, Satanic or demonic powers, and simple fraud. In fact, the history of occult and psychic phenomena is characterized by fraud to such an extent that it should be one of the first possibilities of explanation considered for any claim of supernormal psychic or occult phenomena. The same possibility must be considered for any claim of miracle or healing by one who says he or she has the sign gift of miracles or healings.

3. The gift of tongues

a. Definition of the Issue

In Thomas R. Edgar's Miraculous Gifts: Are They For Today? (pp. 108-110) we read the following:

The fact that the present-day charismatic stress is often referred to as the "tongues movement" demonstrates the centrality of the "speaking in tongues" to this viewpoint. Nichol, who supports the charismatic movement, states that every Pentecostal believer believes in healing and a postconversion baptism by the Holy Spirit which is demonstrated by speaking in tongues. In addition to the main Pentecostal groups, there are other groups and individuals who stress speaking in tongues. This situation is complicated by the fact that not all agree on what is involved in speaking in tongues.

Therefore, one of the main questions to be answered concerns the nature of the New Testament spiritual gift of tongues--that is, what was the genuine gift of tongues? Then we must answer the question, "Do today's alleged tongues seem to be the same?" Other items, such as the purpose for the gift of tongues and the proper use of tongues, must also be studied in order to determine whether today's "tongues" fit the Biblical description. The primary issue is to determine if the tongues of today are genuine.

Some will wonder why this is necessary. After all, many sincere Christians have engaged in the activity known as speaking in tongues. They claim that it is the spiritual gift described in the New Testament. In addition, many theologians and preachers have given their approval to the practice of speaking in tongues. However, in addition to the