

prophesied. Both of these instances appear to say that the speakers prophesied in the foreign language that they were speaking.

(3) The specific content of the act of speaking in foreign languages, as recorded in Acts 2:11, was "the mighty works of God"; and as recorded in Acts 10:46, "praise to God for His great mercy." No specific content is reported in Acts 19. We are not told which of the mighty acts of God were being extolled, or for what particular mercy they were praising God, but it is highly likely that the great work of God's gracious and merciful redemption through Christ was included. Perhaps some aspect of the spread of the gospel were predicted, or perhaps some features of the end time related to Christ's Second Coming.

(4) The purpose of the act of speaking in foreign languages in Acts was twofold: apologetic and evangelistic. The Holy Spirit imparted this gift in order to provide supernatural evidence of the truth-claims made by the disciples of Christ, so that nonbelievers would receive and trust in Christ and His redemptive work, and believers would be convinced that God had extended His saving grace from Israel to all mankind, whether Jew, Samaritan, or Gentile.

(5) The phenomenon of speaking in tongues recorded in I Corinthians 12-14, considered in itself without regard to its antecedent in Acts, could represent either the act of speaking in rational, meaningful languages that were foreign to the speaker but not foreign to all hearers, or the act of producing irrational, meaningless ecstatic utterances that were foreign to speakers and hearers alike. However, since the only antecedent we have for the Corinthian phenomenon is the Acts phenomenon, it is highly probable that the Corinthian phenomenon represents the same act of speaking in foreign languages as is found in the book of Acts. Any claim to the contrary would appear to require sufficient evidence for such a radical change of understanding of the phenomenon of tongue-speaking. The burden of proof lies heavily on those who would claim that such a change (from foreign-language speaking to ecstatic, nonrational utterance) has occurred.

(6) What happened to this supernatural gift of foreign-language speaking following the apostolic age? It would appear that its apologetic and evangelistic purposes were fulfilled in the early church, when the message of Christ's coming and atonement had reached all parts of the inhabited world (Colossians 1:5-6, 23). The act had served its purpose, by providing supernatural evidence of truth-claims of the disciples of Christ, with the result that many nonbelievers had received and trusted in Christ and His redemptive