

d. What explanation of the source of this phenomenon can be given? Three major answers to this question have been proposed:

- (1) that it is a gift of God not directly related to the biblical phenomenon of speaking in a foreign language, but a separate gift of the Holy Spirit given as an assurance of salvation, or as a means of power and resiliency to meet the problems of life, or as an evidence of spiritual maturity (as a second distinct work of grace). It is claimed that it is this gift to which I Corinthians 12-14 refers;
- (2) that it arises from hidden, dark forces; i.e., from evil spirits, who are always ready to influence those who unwittingly open themselves to unknown forces that they think are good but which are really evil and Satan-inspired;
- (3) that it arises from the psyche of man, and is triggered by some mechanism in the autonomic nervous system that is common to all human beings; and that it provides an emotional release from tension, frustrations, and fears, and results in feelings of relaxation, peace, joy, and elation.

#### Conclusions on Tongue-Speaking

- (1) In Scripture the phenomenon of supernatural speaking in a foreign language is not regarded as an evidence of regeneration, or of indwelling, or of spiritual maturity, but as an evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit. This phenomenon had a primarily evangelistic purpose: to proclaim and certify the good news of salvation from sin to those whose primary language was foreign to the one attempting to communicate the gospel.
- (2) The modern phenomenon of tongue-speaking, defined as non-linguistic ecstatic utterance, has no warrant in Scripture, either exegetically or theologically. Therefore modern tongue-speaking should not be regarded as a supernatural or a spiritual gift of the Holy Spirit, at least so far as the gifts of the Spirit enumerated in Scripture are concerned.
- (3) Tongue-speaking, defined as non-linguistic ecstatic utterance, should probably not be regarded as a Satanically-inspired counterfeit to the work of God, unless it clearly turns men's attention away from Christ and the gospel and toward the seeking of an experience of escape from reality and of self-gratification.
- (4) Given the lack of scriptural warrant for modern tongue-speaking, and the universality of glossolalia in various religions and the occult, modern tongue-speaking should probably be regarded as an expression of the human psyche – one which provides a temporary release from emotional tension and a temporary emotional "high." As such, it may have some value for psychology and psycho-somatic medicine, but even here its side effects must be considered, including psychological dependence and