

escape from the need to come to grips with real problems in order to seek lasting solutions.

- (5) If evangelical Christians are drawn away from evangelizing the lost with the gospel, and drawn toward evangelizing other Christians with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and tongue-speaking, then the phenomenon has a net negative value, and holds promise of creating great harm and doing real damage to the Church of Jesus Christ.
- (6) The Apostle Paul says, "Do not forbid to speak in foreign languages. But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner." (I Cor. 14: 39-40). Paul enumerates four guidelines in I Corinthians 14:26-28 for the exercise of this gift in the church: (a) the gift must be exercised for the edification of the church; (b) two or at the most three should exercise the gift during any one meeting of the church; (c) those who exercise the gift should do so consecutively; i.e., one at a time; (d) there must be an interpreter present to translate the utterance. Thus if anyone claims this gift, his or her utterances in the church are to be tested and evaluated according to their content (in the light of scriptural teaching) and the guidelines enumerated above.
- (7) This controversial issue is not going to disappear from evangelical churches in the near future; therefore believers need to be instructed and helped in their formation of convictions and attitudes on this matter. In view of the volume of religious books, pamphlets, periodicals, and speakers that address this phenomenon favorable, the people of God need solid teaching and preaching directed to this issue, so that they will not be left without assistance in their attempts to evaluate and develop a scripture stance on glossolalia.

4. Summary of the Doctrine of Spiritual Gifts

In three scriptures the term "spiritual gifts" is mentioned: Romans 1:11; I Corinthians 12:1; and I Corinthians 14:1.

In Romans 1:11, Paul says: "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong" The word translated "spiritual" is PNEUMATIKOS, and the word translated "gift" is CHARISMA.

In I Corinthians 12:1, he writes "Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant." This verse simply uses the word PNEUMATIKOS ("spiritual") and supplies the word "gifts."