

4. The modern tongues and faith-healing phenomena we see abounding today are **not the same** as those observed in Scripture.

- By the end of Acts signs, wonders, & tongues had nearly ceased.
- What we call “spiritual gifts,” are only mentioned 3 times in the rest of the NT.
- With the exception of “prophecy” in the Romans 12:6-8 list, the “sign gifts” are only listed in 1 Corinthians 12–14.
- It’s important to note that the letter to the Corinthians was written by Paul to **correct the many errors** that were causing **divisions** in the church.
- In 1 Corinthians 14 he narrows his focus to the proper use of **tongues** and **prophecy** in the **church services**.

PAUL’S RULES OF ORDER – 1 Corinthians 14

Overarching rule: “But everything that is done must be useful to **all** and build them up in the Lord” (v 26)

Rule for speaking in tongues: ²⁷ *If anyone speaks in a tongue, two — or at the most three — should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.* ²⁸ *If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God*

Rule for prophesying: ²⁹ *Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.*

³⁰ *And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.* ³¹ *For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.* ³² *The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.* ³³ *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.*

Last rule ^{33b} *As in all the congregations of the saints,* ³⁴ *women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says.* ³⁵ *If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.*

If you do not understand the historical context of Jesus’ day and the first century you will not understand tongues, signs & wonders.

GOD IS SILENT FOR 400 years

Matt 3: 13-17 — ¹³ *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.* ¹⁴ *But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”*

¹⁵ *Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.*

¹⁶ *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a*

dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ *And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

Significance: every fact was to be established on the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses.

- Heals a Leper. Matt 8: 1-4
- Heals a Roman officer’s servant. Matt 8:5-13

Significance: first hint that Gentiles will be accepted into the kingdom and some Jews will not.

- Calms the storm. Matt 8:23-27
- Heals a paralytic. Matt 9:1-8
- Raises a dead girl. Matt 9:18-26
- Heals 2 blind men. Matt 9:27-31
- Heals a demon possessed man who couldn’t speak. Matt 9:32-34
- Sends the 12 out to announce that the Kingdom of Heaven is here. Matt 10

NOTE: they are forbidden to go to the Gentiles. (Matt 10:5-6)

² *When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”* (Matt 10:5-6)

⁴ *“Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”* Matt 11:4-6

NOTE: Healings were purposeful, not just the demonstration of Jesus’ power. Isaiah 53 describes the Messiah and he was fulfilling that description and validating his claims to be the Messiah.

In Matt 21: 1 – 11 — Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt and the crowds spread their coats on the ground before him and essentially proclaim him their Messiah.

He immediately goes to the Temple and drives the merchants out in fulfillment of Isaiah 56: 7 & Jeremiah 7:11, Malachi 3:1.

This encouraging time is followed by another confrontation with the unbelieving leaders.

He tells three key stories which warn the Jewish leaders that their favored position is in jeopardy if they reject him: the parable of the **two sons**, the **evil tenants**, and the **wedding feast** — Matt 21:18 – 22:14.

He is rejected by his people and crucified.

In the final words of Jesus recorded by Matthew in 28:18 – 20 Jesus the Messiah rejects the House of Israel and sends his remaining 11 disciples to ***all the nations***.

Book of Acts. Jesus post-resurrection appearances were similar to his initial entry into human history—to give proof that he was really alive. “Lord, are you ***at this time*** going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6

Signs, wonders, and speaking in tongues are again God’s public endorsement of Jesus’ claims to be the Messiah and the Apostles’ claims to represent him.

In Acts 8:14 – 17 Peter and John are sent to Samaria to check out the rumor that Samaritans were accepting the testimony about Jesus.

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Key: This was symbolic of their acceptance.

Acts 10:1–11:18 The Gospel taken to Gentiles.

Peter “entered” Cornelius’ home and “stayed with him,” and “ate with him,” (Acts 10:22, 25, 27, 48, & 11:3) ***then*** Cornelius and his household received the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues, and praised God.

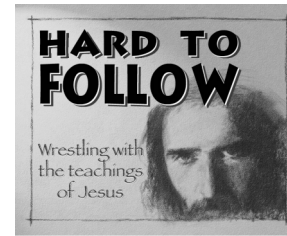
Although they didn’t understand completely until God revealed it to Paul (Ephesians 3: 1–7) God had moved away from Israel and created a ***brand new entity called the church***.

Acts 11 – Peter has to explain it to the Jewish believers in Jerusalem.

Tongues were a sign that God had moved on and was including the Gentiles as equally ***accepted*** people who would now become members of the same body.

“I will speak to my own people through strange languages and through the lips of foreigners. But even then, they will not listen to me,” says the Lord. Isaiah 28:11

“So I want you to realize that this salvation from God is also available to the Gentiles, and they will accept it.” Acts 28:28



Part 7

“ . . . the blind receive sight, the lame walk . . . ”

Matthew 11:4-6

Acts 17:11 — *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The focus of the FOUR GOSPELS is the fulfillment of God’s promise to send a Messiah to Israel.

- The Messiah came
- He authenticated his claims in accordance with the Hebrew Scriptures
- He was rejected
- He opened salvation to the nations of the world . . . not just Israel
- Then he returned to heaven

2. The focus of the BOOK OF ACTS is the ***SPREAD of the message*** of Jesus and the ***CHANGES*** that God was making.

- Message was proclaimed first to ***Jews exclusively***
- MAJOR TRANSITION happening historically in Acts
- MAJOR CHANGE in God’s relationship with his people

The ***Baptism of the Holy Spirit*** is the term Acts uses to describe that ***union*** between the believer and God at the moment they surrender their lives to Christ.

The few instances where those two things are ***separate actions*** are very strategic and ***demonstrate the changes*** that are happening historically.

3. Displays of supernatural power was not an exclusively Christian thing—in fact it was fairly common during Jesus’ day.

- Followers of the religious leaders opposing Jesus — Mt 12:27
- False followers of Christ prior to his return — Mt 7: 21 – 23
- False messiahs & prophets prior to his return — Mt 24: 23 – 25
- Simon the Sorcerer — Acts 8:9 ff
- Worshipers of the goddess Diana — Acts 19:19
- The False Prophet and Anti-Christ — 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12