



## The Speaking in Tongues phenomenon

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The issue of “speaking in tongues” is clearly one that is typical of the crisis of the modern world. It was originally known by the Christians as a miracle reported in Act 2 of the Holy Bible, where tongues of fire appeared on top of the Apostles, giving them the miraculous ability to speak and understand languages previously unknown to them, corresponding to the Pentecost in the Catholic calendar. Some similar events are reported for a total of 35 times in the Bible.

Nowadays, several Christian groups claim that the speaking in tongues phenomenon is a definite sign of being reborn in the Holy Spirit, and examples of people speaking in tongues are numerous and still increasing among members of churches where this phenomenon is encouraged. However nowadays, contrary to the initial miracle reported in the Bible, the words and sounds spoken by the people who experience this phenomenon are proven to not correspond to any known language, and are not understood by anybody. The proponents of speaking in tongues claim this is the language from heaven or language of the angels.

From the traditional point of view, it is interesting to note that this kind of manifestation appears in other traditions and non-traditional groups, from the ancient Oracle of Delphi and Fakirs of India, to the Shamans and Voodoo ceremonies, or even during the spirits séances.

What is very clear is that this “phenomenon” can come from above as it could very well come from below. Basing faith, and the practices of a whole church (the Pentecostal church for example), on this phenomenon is opening the door to the most subversive influences. Defining the “speaking in tongues” phenomenon as an evidence of a person’s rebirth in Christ is confusing faith with a magical show. There are several risks for the people who experience this kind of phenomenon:

- Amplification of the ego, with the perception that speaking in tongues means to be a chosen one.
- Being able to trigger this phenomenon on demand (or during prayer ceremonies) places the believer in the position of expecting or demanding a sign from above. This is an anti-traditional position, very similar to the one taken by spiritists and Satanists during their evoking ceremonies and acts of possession where the influences actually come from below.

## **The Speaking in Tongues phenomenon**

The modern world wants immediate satisfaction on every level, and for a “newborn in Christ”, the act of immediately speaking in tongues upon receiving the Holy Spirit is a strong sign of the spiritual crisis that is currently affecting the modern world.