

**Mahon: Russia Dispatch #08 - 02.16.08 - "Every Tongue..."**

**QT - Witnessing: The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit  
"Every Tongue..."**

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In this dispatch...

From this dispatch a partial glimpse of the fulfillment of prophecy in Revelation 5:9-10. I am attaching excerpts from the Tuymen praise choir with this dispatch rather than pictures. I found it a real joy to listen to the Tuymen praise choir as I read through the verses provided at the end of this dispatch. (perhaps these passages will also help you to a more clear understanding of the Biblical word "tongue" in I Corinthians)

**Prayer Request:**

As you pray for us, ask that God's Holy Spirit would be at work irrespective of the difficulties posed by translation to another tongue. Pray for a clear communication of the gospel and the Word of God that would bring men to God and that would lift up and glorify the Messiah. As you do this please pray over and claim the truths found in John 16:7-14

7 *"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

8 *"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;*

9 *concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;*

10 *and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me;*

11 *and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*

12 *"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

13 *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*

14 *"He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.*

Please pray that our ministry would not rest in the wisdom of men but the power of the gospel. As you pray for us, please claim as well

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

1 *And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.*

2 *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*  
3 *And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.*  
4 *And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,*  
5 *that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.*

AND

*2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

1 *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,*  
2 *but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*  
3 *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,*  
4 *in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*  
5 *For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.*  
6 *For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Eleanor is especially blessed by the worship service at our church. I remember distinctly and experience the first Sunday home after spending months in a foreign land, which spoke an unknown "tongue" (language). After months of worshipping in another language, many times only able to worship in our hearts, as we do not know the words to the songs nor recognize the tune, I could see tears on her cheeks as she worshiped in her native tongue. On the way home her face glowed as she shared the joy which this brought to her heart, to worship in her native tongue, the English language.

As for me, it was hearing the Word of God clearly and concisely expounded. When I am on the field I am primarily preaching the Word to others. I rarely hear the Word of God in my native tongue. To hear my pastor verse by verse, present the Word of God in its pure form, in my native tongue, truly thrills my soul.

Worship in our native tongue is one of the things we "go without" when on the

mission field. We have discovered that it is relatively easy it is to "go without" things of the world compared to spiritual things such as worshiping and fellowshiping in your native tongue. Colossians 3:16 states , *"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."* I don't think I ever realized the blessed privilege of fellowshiping, sharing the word and worshiping in my own tongue, until I went without on the mission field.

In this context I understand the Holy Spirit's admonition that worship is to be done in the intelligible language of the congregation and that the gift of tongues be limited to reaching those of other languages and only when an interpreter is present. No one who knows the joy of intelligent worship and fellowship will ever be satisfied with unintelligible speech as a lifestyle when it comes to worship, prayer and the mutual edification of true Biblical fellowship within the church. I initially felt guilty for feeling so keenly the loss of this blessing, but then came to understand that this sense of loss is in accordance with the Word of God. In God's order, all worship is meant to be intelligible and a blessing to all.

God the Holy Spirit makes this clear when He teaches us in 1 Corinthians 14:9-12 *"So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me. So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church."*

I don't think that we will ever again take for granted the worship and fellowship of our church, nor the mutual edification of believers in our own native tongue.

For your edification I am listing below passages of Scripture that deal with the worship of God in "Every Tongue...". As you listen to the praise hymns in Russian you may find it a great blessing to read these passages.

Revelation 5:9-10

*"And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."*

Romans 14:11

*For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."*

Philippians 2:10-11

*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Revelation 14:6-7

*"And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."*

Psalms 35:27-28

*"Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; and let them say continually, "The LORD be magnified, who delights in the prosperity of His servant. And my tongue shall declare Thy righteousness and Thy praise all day long."*

I have always felt it a shame that the Pentecostal movement has been able to "hijack" the definition of the word "tongue" in the Scripture and change it from language to unintelligible sounds.

Having read the above passages it could not be clearer what the word "tongue" means in the Bible. Nor could it be clearer what the gift of tongues is - the divine ability to miraculously evangelize, preach, teach, minister, fellowship and worship in a foreign language (tongue) - as you read Acts Chapter two it could not be more plain that the gift of tongues in this passage was the divine ability to miraculously speak another language as one shares the gospel...

*Acts 2:4-11 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because they were each one hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and marveled, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God."*

. In the context of these passages, the other verses which use the word "tongue" lose their mystical connotations.

Why anyone would practice, more or less want, a relationship with God based on strings of unintelligible consonants and vowels is a mystery. I would gladly embrace the gift of tongues and shed my translator - if it were God's will. I would gladly embrace the gift of tongues and be able to joyfully join in on the times of prayer, praise and worship of the churches to whom I minister - if it were God's will. This however is not God's will and we embrace our limitations knowing that as the Lord told Paul, when we are weak, then we are strong.

I endure unintelligible speech, I do not seek it, it is one of the great limitations of the mission field, it is the curse of Babel, it is not a gift, it is an obstacle. The gifts all have to do with serving the church as she knows and communicates Jesus.

Pray for us as we seek to communicate Jesus to those who are to us, an "unknown tongue" but to God, as revealed in the Word of God, they are one of many "tongues" destined to praise Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at the throne of grace.

We minister as always  
By the grace of God  
And  
By the effectual prayers of you our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,  
II Corinthians 4:1  
Rev. John S. Mahon  
Tuymen, Siberia  
-10; Snowing Hard; Praising God in the Russian "Tongue" and looking for the day when every "tongue" will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...