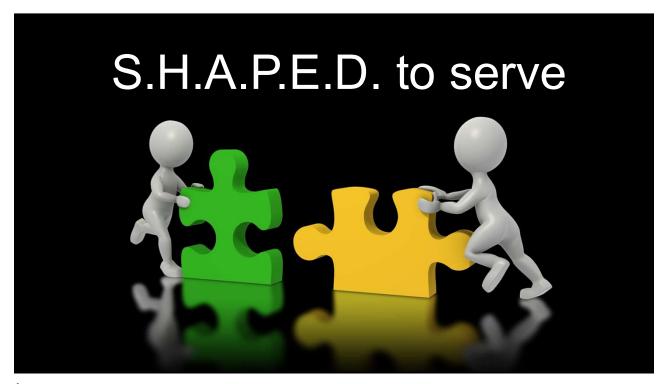
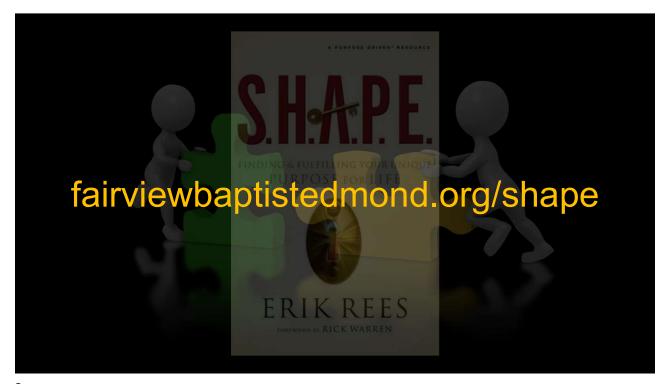
Essential Messengers



1



Essential Messengers



3





5



Essential Messengers





Essential Messengers

Mt 7:22-23 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

9

It is equally important to note that there are parts of Scripture about which believers will always disagree. Only the return of Jesus will settle all debates. Then we will see all things clearly. (1 Cor 13:9-12)

"And how endlessly interesting these problem texts make the Bible! Joseph Parker well said: 'When the last word has been said about the Bible it will no longer be the Word of God.' We never get to the end of the Bible. It is as wise in its reservations as in its revelations. Enough is revealed to make faith intelligent. Enough is reserved to give faith scope for development. Everything needful to salvation and godliness is written with such clarity that all the simple-hearted may understand; but there are other matters which, with wise divine purpose, are presented less lucidly, or even enigmatically, so as to challenge enquiry – matters fascinating, mysterious, or more intricate, but all yielding rich and sanctifying reward to devout exploration."



J. Sidlow Baxter Australian/British preacher & theologian

11

Admittedly, the potential of miracles has always stirred the desire for the sensational in all of us. Unfortunately, the sensational normally impacts the emotions but not the spirit. This was certainly true in the ministry of Jesus.

Mk 3:8 a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him.

Jn 6:2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.

Jn 2:23-24 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. ²⁴ But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,

Jn 6:66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

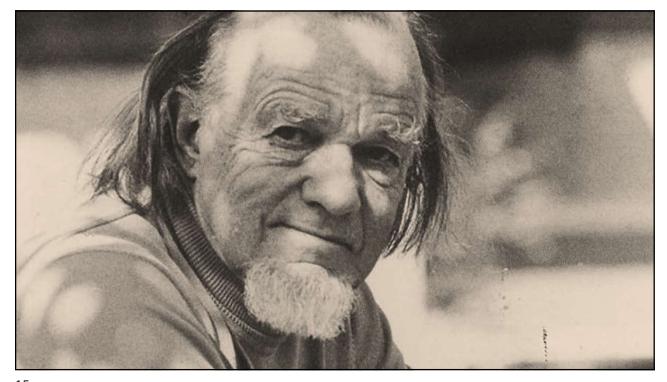
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Jn 4:48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

Mt 12:39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Jn 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Essential Messengers



15

Francis Schaeffer, The New Super Spirituality:

"One can also see a parallel between the new Pentecostals and the liberals. The liberal theologians don't believe in content or in religious truth. They are really existentialists using theological, Christian terminology. Consequently, not believing in truth, they can enter into fellowship with any other experience-oriented group using religious language. A dismissal or lessening of content has occurred in the new Pentecostalism.

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Instead of accepting a person on the basis of what he believes, which has always been the Christian way, it's, 'Do you have these external manifestations?' Questions which have been considered important enough to cause crucial differences, all the way back to the Reformation and before, now are swept under the rug. On this level too, as with the liberals, it is as though people can believe opposite things on important points of doctrine, and both can be right. Or perhaps, it is better to simply say content does not matter as long as there are the external signs and religious emotion."



Essential Messengers

Supernatural signs validated His prophets in O.T. times:

Moses

Ex 4:8-9 "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. 9 And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."

19

Elijah & Elisha

Daniel

Dan 6:27 He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Essential Messengers

Supernatural signs validated Jesus' divinity:

Jn 2:11,23-24 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. ... ²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. ²⁴But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,

21

Mt 9:6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Jn 4:48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

Acts 2:22 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know

Essential Messengers

Supernatural signs validated the Apostles:

Acts 4:29-30 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.

2 Cor 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

Heb 2:4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

23

 The Apostles were crucial to the foundation of the Church:

Gal 2:9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars

Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

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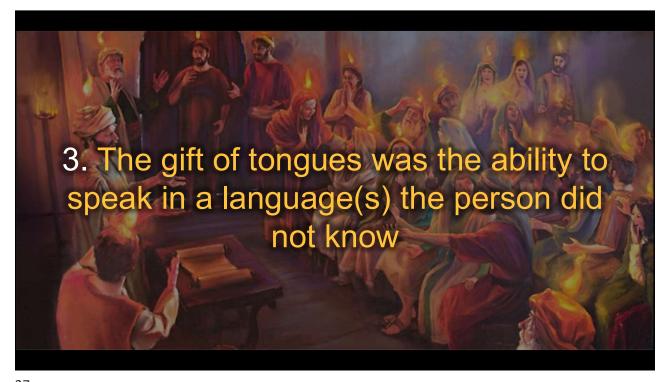


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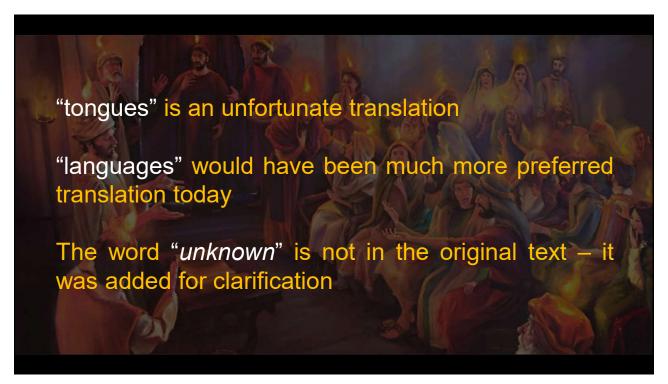
1 Cor 12:28,31 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. ... ³¹But earnestly desire the best gifts.

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

1 Cor 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts.



27



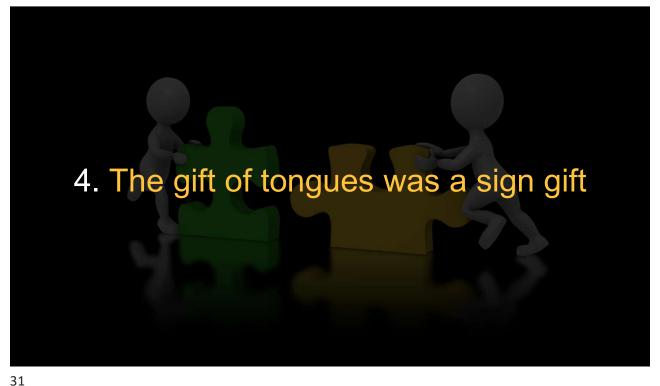
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29

Acts 2:5-11 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Rome, Jews, proselytes, Cretans, Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

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1 Cor 14:20-23 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. ²¹ In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord. ²² Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. ²³ Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

33

Paul clarified the difference between Jewish unbelievers & Gentile unbelievers:

1 Cor 14:23-25 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. ²⁵And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

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35

1 Cor 12:29-31 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? ³⁰Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the best gifts.

Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:

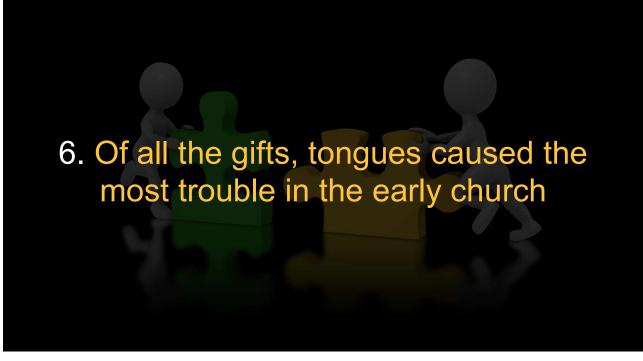
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We believe the sign gifts, referred to in Scripture as "apostolic sign gifts," are no longer generally operative today. The primary purpose of these gifts was to demonstrate that Jesus (Acts 2:22) and the apostles were the true representatives of God (2 Cor 12:12).

37

Even though God is supernatural and can do anything He desires to do, we believe Scripture teaches that once these gifts fulfilled their purpose with the completion of the canon of Scripture and the establishment of the church, they ceased to function in the church as they did in the Apostle's ministry and were done away with when the last of the Apostles died.

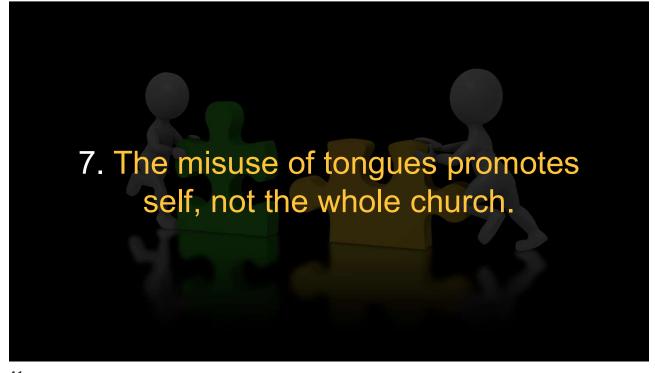
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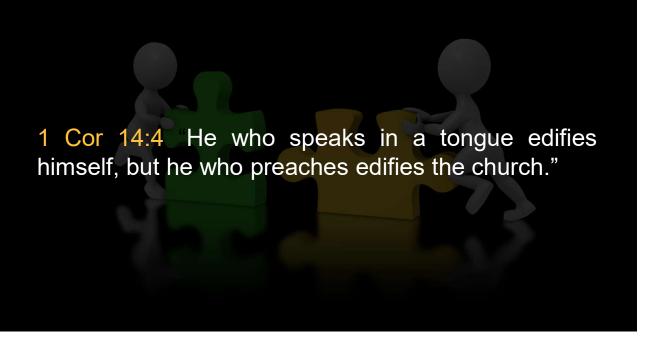


39

Tongues caused such a problem in the Corinthian church, Paul had to write an entire chapter (1 Cor. 14) to address this abuse and to provide guidelines for their proper use as long as the gift was active.

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Essential Messengers



43

1 Cor 14:9,12 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. ... ¹² Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

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9. Ideally, tongues are not meant to be used in the worship service because of the chaos they normally cause

45

1 Cor 14:19,33 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. ... ³³ For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

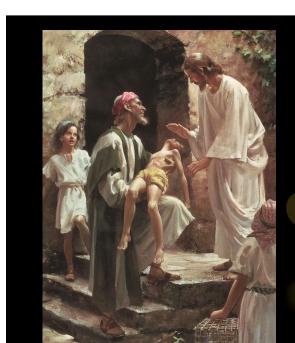
This is why tongues must always be interpreted:

1 Cor 14:13,27-28 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ... ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

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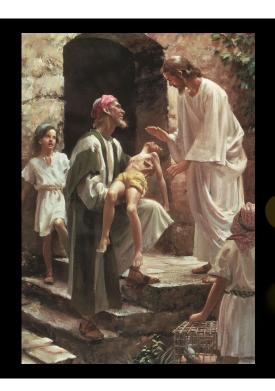




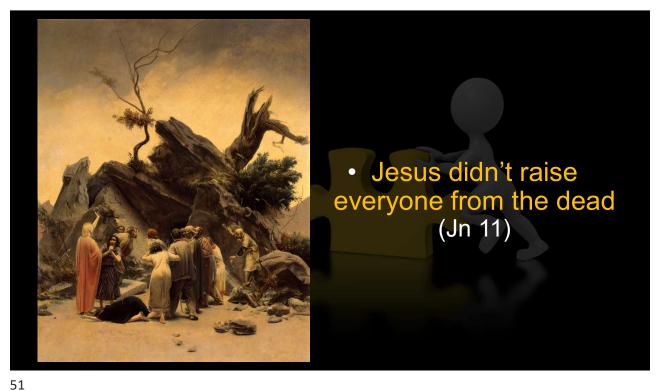
Jesus didn't heal everyone

Jn 5:3,8 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. ... 8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

49

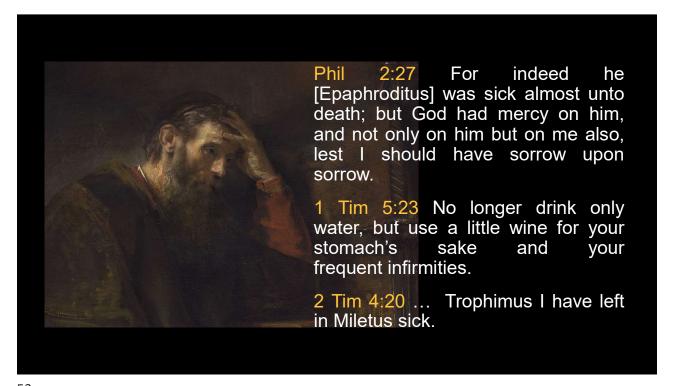


Mt 9:20-22 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. ²¹ For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." ²² But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

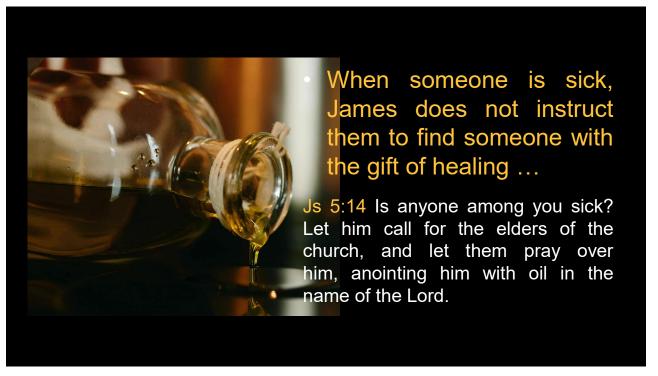




Essential Messengers



53



Essential Messengers

Unlike Thomas, we must not require "proof" in order to believe.

We must guard against those things that can be counterfeited and thus be used to mislead, confuse, or draw attention to ourselves

55

All word and no Spirit, you dry up.

All Spirit and no Word, you blow up.

A balance of the Spirit and the Word, you grow up.

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Eph 4:15-16 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.