



Diakrisis (Australia)

'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil', (Heb.5:14)

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New Series

In March/April we began a new series on *Founders and Pioneers of the Pentecostal Movement*. In this issue we are printing the third in the series.

These articles will be uploaded to the website in the Pentecostal/Charismatism section and under '*Pentecostal Founders and Pioneers Series*'.

Editor's Comment

We post this article below which well summaries what the editor has raised in several recent issues.

The Western Crisis in Biblical Illiteracy

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, the nation finds itself preoccupied with familiar concerns: political polarization, civic deterioration, institutional distrust...cultural fragmentation. These are serious realities, but they are not ultimate ones. They are symptoms of a deeper disorder - biblical illiteracy.

I have become convinced that the central problem confronting both church and culture is not merely moral rebellion against biblical truth, but widespread unfamiliarity with it. We see this in public officials who invoke God in language of prosperity, national sentiment or self-affirmation rather than repentance, moral accountability and divine authority. We see it in podcasters, influencers and media personalities who handle Scripture with confidence but little theological discipline. We see it in Christian audiences so uninitiated that charisma, sentiment and ideology are mistaken for sound doctrine. The issue is no longer that Scripture is denied. It is that Scripture is no longer known with sufficient depth to be interpreted responsibly, rejected intelligently or applied coherently.

...A society that consciously rejects truth still acknowledges its existence. A society that has lost the categories necessary to understand truth has entered a far more precarious condition. Biblical illiteracy, therefore, is not a peripheral church problem. It is a civilizational one...While the [American] Founders did not establish a confessional state, they operated within a moral framework deeply shaped by biblical assumptions about human nature, justice, sin, restraint, authority, duty, and accountability. Scripture furnished not only private devotion, but also a shared moral vocabulary through which public life could be understood.

That vocabulary once supplied a grammar for ordered liberty. Concepts such as freedom, responsibility, virtue, truth, and judgment were grounded in a larger moral order. John Adams captured this principle clearly when he wrote, 'Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other'. His point was structural: constitutional self-government requires a citizenry formed by moral conviction, and such conviction cannot be sustained where Scripture has become unknown.

The erosion of biblical literacy carries consequences well beyond the Church. When a people lose familiarity with the biblical world of meaning, they do not merely lose theological competence. They lose the conceptual architecture that once made moral reasoning intelligible. They may continue to invoke the language of liberty while severing it from the moral restraints and transcendent obligations that gave it coherence. What remains is freedom emptied of purpose, rights detached from responsibility, and public discourse increasingly incapable of distinguishing justice from sentiment or authority from will.

This helps explain the magnitude of the present confusion. We are not simply witnessing cultural change. We are witnessing moral and theological disintegration. Data from the State of Theology and similar studies suggest that large numbers of self-identified Christians now affirm claims fundamentally at odds with historic Christian orthodoxy. This is not a marginal anomaly. It is evidence of doctrinal erosion significant enough to shape both ecclesial life and public witness.

Where biblical literacy declines, confusion does not remain theoretical. It becomes formative. Its effects are visible throughout the public square. Questions of justice, human dignity, freedom, sexuality, authority and national purpose are increasingly debated in terms detached from stable moral ontology. Competing ideologies rush to occupy the vacuum - moral relativism, expressive individualism, and therapeutic visions of the self that offer counterfeit meaning while rejecting the theological foundations that once ordered moral judgment. In such a climate, the Church is hardly immune. Shallow preaching, weak catechesis and the prioritization of relevance over doctrinal seriousness have left many Christians without the framework necessary to recognize error, much less refute it.

More concerning is the fact that Scripture is now routinely conscripted into public argument by voices who handle it without theological fidelity, historical awareness or interpretive rigor. Passages are abstracted from context, repurposed to ratify contemporary moral intuitions and presented as though sentiment were an adequate substitute for exegesis. In this environment, biblical language remains publicly useful even as biblical meaning is evacuated from it.

For that reason, the answer to the present crisis is a recovery of Scripture as Scripture: not as civil religion, partisan ornament, or a reservoir of selectively quoted affirmations, but as the authoritative Word of God, rightly handled and faithfully taught. The Church must recover the whole counsel of God. Christians must once again become a people formed by the text, governed by its categories, and trained in theological discernment. Those of us in Christian media bear a particular obligation here. What we platform and normalize will either clarify biblical truth or contribute to its further confusion.

As the nation [America] approaches this historic anniversary, the central question is whether the country still possesses the theological and moral vocabulary necessary to sustain the freedoms it so confidently celebrates. For when a people forget Scripture, they do not merely lose a religious inheritance. They lose the interpretive framework by which truth, liberty, virtue, and judgment can be rightly understood.

Full article - Troy Miller, Thurs, April 23, 2026, *Christian Post*
(Troy is President & CEO of NRB - National Religious Broadcasters)

Editor: This is applicable to many western nations. For decades we have been exposing the lack of doctrine and expositional preaching/teaching in churches and colleges, as well as Churches openly following the whims of cultural change, many of which are immoral. It is largely a *lack of a high view of the all sufficiency of scripture*, of which Bible illiteracy is a symptom.

Mega Church Pastor Out of Jail

Hours after his release from...Jail in Oklahoma on Tuesday, following his completion of a six-month sentence for sexually abusing Cindy Clemishire for multiple years beginning when she was 12 in the 1980s, Gateway Church founder Robert Morris publicly asked for her forgiveness and reflected on the time he spent behind bars...The Southlake, Texas, megachurch founder revealed that his time spent in jail helped him realize even more how wrong he was for abusing Clemishire. 'I want to speak directly to Cindy Clemishire and her family. What I did to Cindy decades ago was wrong...there is no excuse...I am deeply sorry. I have carried the weight of that wrong for a very long time, I am grateful...that the Clemishires had the courage to bring this into the light', Morris said

...Clemishire told CP that she forgave Morris a long time ago and hopes his remorse following his time in jail is genuine. 'His words today are...what any victim would hope to hear. But it is still deeply disheartening that those words were not spoken directly to me and my family on October 2nd, when he stood before the court and pleaded guilty. That moment mattered...what happened to me on December 25, 1982, when I was 12 years old, was not a relationship - it was a crime. And it changed the course of my life forever'.

Morris was indicted in March 2025 on five counts of lewd or indecent acts with a child...Morris began sexually abusing her on Dec. 25, 1982, when she was 12, and continued with the abuse for four-and-a-half years after that...

Morris...still faces a defamation lawsuit from Clemishire along with Gateway Church...alleging Morris and Gateway leaders publicly mischaracterized the abuse she suffered as a consensual 'relationship' with a 'young lady' instead of sexual assault of a child...Clemishire stated: 'For decades, a false narrative was allowed to exist - one that minimized the truth and helped build a platform and following, while my life was left in pieces. That reality cannot be overlooked'.

(Leonardo Blair, Christian Post, April 01, 2026)

Editor's Comment:

This is one of many cases in which a mega church pastor has at first shown a lack of repentance. Morris and the church at first denied any sin, then made it out to be a sexual 'relationship' with a 'young lady', instead of the grooming of a 12 year old girl. (See 'Why Are So Many Falling' - Diakrisis May/June, 2024).

Healing/Prosperity Mega Star Dies

Joni Lamb, Daystar television president, has died at age 65 after 'serious health issues...exacerbated by a back injury', which she kept private.

Lamb was the subject of fraud allegations with finances...She had a net worth of roughly \$40 million...obtained through media production, book sales, a \$1 million salary and extensive luxury real estate portfolios in several states.

(Extracted from Christian Post, 9th & 27th May, 2026)

‘Gender-Affirming’ Surgery - Speaking the Truth

Theodore Dalrymple...at the Manhattan Institute, has said one of the ways in which neo-Marxist social justice totalitarians exert control is by humiliating people into admitting or professing that something is true which they know is not true... ‘Trans’ language has power and control over so many...Enforcing the use of language we know is false and not...God’s biblical design of men and women.

As a believer...I’ve learned that my language must be truthful to honour and glorify God. Speaking truth can bring people out of identity confusion into a relationship with Jesus...true identity, redemption, and restoration.

...Immutable biological science proves the word ‘transgender’ is false because nobody biologically changes genders...That absolute truth gets buried under...false language... ‘transition’, ‘detransition’, ‘gender assigned at birth’. People may identify as ‘transgender’, but their physical core hasn’t changed. A man born male is still a man; a woman born female is still a woman...

...The 10 Commandments prohibit false witness, i.e., lying. Matt.12:36 warns that ‘on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak’...Should we carelessly employ language that dishonours God?...Should we signal acceptance of the false belief that cross-sex hormones and/or surgery accomplish the impossible?...Reinforcing the false concept with our language keeps people stuck rather than showing them the way out...Hormones and surgery are only able to destroy one’s ability to function as God designed.

...I identified as female, took female hormones for over 10 years and had all the ‘gender affirming’ surgeries...I was a 40-year-old corporate executive...[At the first doctor appointment] I was dressed in women’s clothes and slightly intoxicated.

Stage 1 was crossdressing...started at age 4, assisted and encouraged by my hard-drinking, chain-smoking grandmother...who told me it was ‘our little secret’.

Stage 2 was physical abuse...My dad found out and responded with excessive ‘discipline’ in the form of physical abuse.

Stage 3...was the worst...at the hands of my uncle, a teenager at the time, who learned about the purple dress and terrorized me first with humiliating public teasing and then by abusing me sexually.

[The doctor] waved off these traumas as irrelevant and quickly diagnosed me with ‘gender dysphoria’. He said the only treatment was ‘gender change’. Today, ...patients are told to present socially as the opposite sex, take dangerous cross-sex hormones, and undergo irreversible surgeries.

...I did not need female hormones or surgery...What I needed was a trauma therapist to help me grapple with my early life trauma, and I needed Jesus...The underlying causes of the distress, such as adverse childhood experiences, addiction, mental illness, or social contagion, are ignored.

...God made us male or female in the womb. As a believer in Jesus Christ, I must choose words that are truthful and align with God’s Word...

(Walt Heyer; SexChangeRegret.com. Full article *Christian Post* May 04, 2026)

New Report of October 7 Atrocities

A new report ‘*Silenced No More - Sexual Terror Unveiled: The Untold Atrocities of Oct.7th and Against Hostages in Captivity*’ has been summarised in the *British Daily Mail* (May 13th 2026). The report details the atrocities in the October 7th massacre of Jews by Hamas Islamists.

The reports from 430 witnesses including medical staff have detailed the butchering and mutilation of bodies before and after death and the ‘*obsession with sexual organs*’. The details include gang rapes of men and women, objects including grenades, inserted into body parts, body parts cut out or off, and beheadings...

Witnesses who survived (often hiding, buried under corpses), spoke of attackers laughing during torture, rapes, mutilations...The report (180 pages) lists barbarisms too shocking to fully list here.

The shocking and frightening accounts in this report are being made public partly to stop those who deny the atrocities or believe they are exaggerations. These denials extend even to the United Nations. The report can be downloaded (<https://www.civilc.org/silenced-no-more>) but *with caution* for it has harrowing and graphic descriptions and testimonies of shocking atrocities.

The Price of Christianity

Nairobi, Kenya...Kalegeya Faruku, 40...[was] attacked at his family home in Jinja. He stated ‘I gave my life to Jesus in early March, and family members were not happy...They became very angry and started sending me threatening messages about taking my life’. Faruku returned home briefly on...April 17 to collect personal belongings before relocating to a safer place...where a friend who had shared the Gospel with him resides. But relatives ambushed him upon his arrival...

Faruku said. ‘My elder brother approached me...Suddenly...others surrounded me’. They took him into the house and cut off his hands while reciting Islamic scripture, he said. Morning Star News has seen photos of his severed limbs. The relatives later transported him about 5 kilometers away and abandoned him near a crossroads, severely injured.

...A pastor at an Evangelical church...said Faruku had been attending worship services there...Faruku is still undergoing treatment at the medical facility. His father, Lubega Issa, justified the attack by saying, ‘That is what Sharia [Islamic law] instructs us to do to those who deny the religion of Allah’...

(Morning Star News, May 09, 2026; Christian Post, 11th May)

Editor’s comment:

This is one of many reports of persecution occurring daily. Muslims make up approximately 12% of Uganda’s population, yet the religion’s radical element is responsible for most of the persecution against Christians.

Iran Persecution

Ghazal Marzban, a Catholic convert and former prisoner of conscience, was sentenced [January] on charges including propaganda against the state and gathering and collusion against national security...The sentence was issued by Revolutionary Court Judge Iman Afshari, who was recently sanctioned by the European Union and has issued harsh sentences against political prisoners, including Christians.

...Marzban was taken to an undisclosed location without an explanation for the arrest....She then had no contact with her family for the next month.

During interrogation, Marzban was pressed to admit that her Bible and Christian literature had been used for evangelizing. She denied the claim...

Marzban had spent two months in Evin Prison in 2024 after being convicted of propaganda against the regime...Marzban, an Islamic law graduate, was barred from taking her bar examination...Her husband, also a convert, has been unable to obtain medication needed to manage his Parkinson's disease.

...The arrest came days after thousands of protesters were killed, including at least 22 Christians, during a crackdown on anti-government protests...

(Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post, May 23, 2026)

Editor's comment:

This is just one example of *hundreds of similar accounts* filtering out of Iran. In a 2010 speech by then-Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei he stated 'house churches' were a 'national security threat'.

Charges against the professing Christians are usually trumped up charges against the 'state' or 'national security'. Christian literature and Bibles are seized.

In December, five Iranian Christians received prison sentences totalling 50 years, after convictions were tied to 'prayer gatherings, baptisms and Bible distribution'. Tehran's Revolutionary Guard Court Judge Abolqasem Salavati issued 10-year terms to the four defendants and an eight-year sentence to another. One woman received two extra years linked to social media activity.

In the January massacre after street protests, several thousands were acknowledged by the government to have been killed. But many sources put the figure closer to 35,000. Horrific accounts of mass slaughter and executions filtered out of Iran, with photos of piled up bodies in sheds awaiting disposal.

All this might seem horrific, even in a non Christian country. But a subtle persecution is also occurring in some western democratic 'free' countries, including Australia. New 'hate speech' laws will curb what people can be free to state or oppose about gender, sex, marriage and other issues of which the Bible is clear on. Some who use social media, preach, or even pray in public, have already been taken to tribunals to explain their actions, and increasing fines or imprisonments are occurring.

The Lies We Tell

Recently a charismatic evangelist, Perry Stone, was forced to apologise for spreading a lie that pastors were called to a top secret meeting by Government officials to warn them of a coming disclosure concerning UFO's. On a public podcast (April 27th) Stone claimed '*his friend...who had a great church*' told him of a secret meeting with '*a large number of pastors*'. The government told the pastors to '*prepare your people...for what is to be released...to do with crafts...discovered...not part of our planet...strange reptilian-looking creatures*'. Stone then put this within the framework of dispensational pre-millennial eschatology, a pre-tribulational Rapture, an Islamic antichrist and a third temple with red heifers. The officials warned the pastors the '*disclosure*' will cause the government to possibly explain away the Rapture as an '*alien invasion...causing many to question their faith. Many will apostatise according to 2Thess.2:3*'.

The above information spread to many pastors until finally a congressman disputed the claims. A senior pastor, Larry Raglan, has now publicly apologised for spreading the lie saying he '*conflated his own opinions with those of rep. Eric Burlison*'. Raglan had claimed a '*well known congressman*' met with a group of pastors suggesting '*extra-terrestrials were a demonic conspiracy to deceive humanity*'. Burlison who is a Christian and has been investigating UFO's, has now stated he is '*unaware of what the UAP's (unidentified anomalous phenomena) are*' and that he was only urging Christians to base their views on what the Bible says. He said he was simply asked to call into a '*conference of theologians...I did not hear much of what was said*'. Raglan has now apologised to Burlinson, stating '*Eric Burlinson did not say those words. Those were my words...*' Other pastors are now also having to retract the story. A Joseph Z alleged that '*UAP's followed his airplane home*' following the '*disclosure meeting*'. Another, pastor Aklan Diddio, added '*I was brought into a private meeting...phones off. No recordings. We were warned...many will be unprepared for what follows*'.

(Extracted from two articles by reporter Jon Brown, *Christian Post* May 6th & 8th)

Editor's comment:

All the pastors involved in this lie are Charismatic/Pentecostals. One wonders why only Charismatic pastors would be called to such a meeting, even if it were true? The ability to exaggerate and lie is pre-eminent in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement. This is seen in the thousands of stories of faith healing told every day across Charismatic circles, of which the author confesses he too was caught up in believing for many years.

The thinking is that whatever is heard can be added to what is believed about a core belief. The Bible does speak of a *snatching away* (Greek '*harpazo*'; Latin '*rapture*' 1Thess.4:17) which could be explained away by those who are left; the Bible does also speak of miraculous healing. But the lie comes when *extra biblical exaggerations* or fabrications not testified to with evidence, are told and spread. Such is seen in all the Pentecostal/Charismatic founders, pioneers...and the spirit of such deceives many today.

Pentecostal Pioneers - William Seymour

Although Charles Parham is generally considered to be the founder of the Pentecostal movement, (1) his student, William Seymour, is often cited as the founder of most Pentecostal churches. From the church that Seymour founded at Azusa Street, Los Angeles, came almost all the Pentecostal denominations today.

Ministry and Life

William Joseph Seymour (1870-1922) was born into an African-American family from emancipated slaves. As a child Seymour was raised in Louisiana as a Roman Catholic, but often attended a Baptist church at Centerfield whilst still remaining a Catholic. At age 21 his father died and William became the family provider, working on their farm growing enough food to live near the poverty line.

In 1895 he moved to Indianapolis where he attended various churches, but more prominently a Methodist Episcopal church. He now claimed to be a Born Again Christian. He was greatly influenced by the Holiness Movement of the times, especially Daniel Warner's 'Evening Light Saints' group. This group had distinctive beliefs including faith healing, foot washing, the imminent Second Coming of Christ, and 'separation from the world' in beliefs, lifestyle and dress.

In 1900 Seymour returned to Louisiana working on a farm, before moving to Cincinnati in 1901 where he worked as a waiter. He attended a Bible school founded by holiness preacher Martin Knapp. Knapp taught personal 'revelations' in dreams and visions and that Jesus would return prior to a literal millennium (Pre-Millennialism). Seymour then contracted smallpox and became blind in one eye. He saw this as a result of his slowness to 'answer Gods call to ministry'.

Seymour would be greatly influenced by Charles Parham and his Bible school in Topeka, Kansas. Parham himself had been influenced by extremists in the holiness movement, in particular a John Dowie. (2)

At the end of December 1900 Parham had urged his students to study Acts 2 for 'evidences' to 'receive the Holy Spirit', (this being something more than the Holy Spirit given at salvation). After days of prayer and worship they were gathered together on December 31st and again late the next evening January 1st, 1901. A student, Agnus Ozeman, requested prayer to 'receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit'. She began to speak in what they believed was the gift of 'tongues'.

At first some assumed Ozeman spoke in a Chinese language. Others left the group and wrote scathing reports of the bizarre manifestations of the students. Ozeman was a 30 year old unmarried 'holiness enthusiast' known for going from one holiness camp to another seeking the mystical and sensational. Parham brought in a linguist to ascertain the language but it was determined to be not any real language but rather ecstatic utterances.

In 1903 Seymour moved to Houston and in the winter of 1904-1905 he claimed to receive a 'special revelation' from a 'well-known coloured clergyman' (believed to be Charles Price Jones with Charles Harrison Mason, founders of what would become the *Church of God in Christ*).

For a period of some months Seymour studied with Parham's school (which had dissolved in Topeka and restarted in Houston). Seymour then received an invitation to pastor a holiness mission in Los Angeles founded by Julia Hutchins, who intended to be a missionary to Liberia. Although Parham considered Seymour 'unqualified' because he had not yet been 'baptized in the Holy Spirit' (ie. receiving the 'tongues' as 'evidence'), Seymour continued to Los Angeles anyway.

In February 1906 Seymour preached at Julia's church. Seymour taught the Parhamite doctrine - that speaking in tongues was the evidence of having received the Holy Spirit, even though Seymour *had not experienced it himself*. Julia Hutchins and J. M. Roberts, president of the Southern California Holiness Association, rejected Seymour's position as contrary to Holiness views. They padlocked the doors to prevent him from returning. They called Seymour to a meeting and asked Seymour questions about his doctrine. Although they expressed some interest in his view of the 'Baptism With the Spirit' experience, they banned him from preaching in Holiness churches in the area.

The Holiness Movement, although considered by some theologians to have extremes, it primarily held to the 'Baptism with the Spirit' and 'Sanctification' as being synonymous. However, various preachers began teaching *levels of sanctification* which invariably led to a 'crisis' point in 'sanctification' - being a 'Baptism with the Spirit' as a *subsequent* experience. Parham and others further added to that - 'tongues' as the 'evidence' of this experience.

Seymour stayed with a friend, Edward Lee, and started a prayer meeting at his house. When it grew too large for the house, they moved to another house owned by African American, Richard Asberry. Seymour enlisted two friends in Houston, Lucy Farrow and Joseph Warren to help. The group of 15 African Americans and five children grew into a larger group, with a Baptist Frank Bartleman also joining, (Bartleman would later publish detailed accounts of Seymour's Azusa Street church 'revival').

In the same year (1906) Seymour prayed they would experience the 'evidence' as taught by Parham. Edward Lee was the first to speak in 'tongues' after having hands laid on him. Before the evening was finished several others also received the experience. Three days later Seymour himself spoke in 'tongues'.

The crowd was now so large that a front porch collapsed and they had to seek a venue to hold meetings. The venue was 312 Azusa St. and the church was to be known as the *Azusa Steet Mission* (incorporated with the '*Apostolic Faith mission*').

Both men and women preached (Pentecostals were the first to have women pastors and preachers). Pastors went to Azusa St. to receive and take their experiences home to other churches.

The revival quickly grew with crowds of up to 1,000. Meetings for a while ran seven days a week. Well-known names in the early Pentecostal movement such as Parham, Lake, Bosworth, Hezmalhalch and many others attended the 'revival' and took what they had experienced back to their own churches.

Seymour became increasingly concerned about extremes of '*spiritualistic manifestations, hypnotic forces, fleshly contortions*' and lack of order in the assembly. (3) He requested Parham come and assess the situation. When Parham

came to Azusa St. the lack of evidence of ‘zenoglossalia’ (known foreign languages) was by now an embarrassment. (Parham held to ‘tongues’ as being real languages, as at Acts 2:6-11).

Parham renounced Azusa St. for their ‘babbling’ and their coercing of such sounds. He found ‘*hypnotic influences, familiar spirit influences, spiritualistic influences, mesmeric influences and all kinds of spells and spasms, falling in trances, etc. All of these things are foreign to and unknown [to his ‘Apostolic Faith movement’] outside of Los Angeles, except in the places visited by the workers sent out from this city*’. (4)

Seymour broke with Parham who was asked to leave. Parham later further denounced the movement as a case of ‘*awful fits and spasms*’, (5) of ‘*holy rollers and hypnotists*’, (6) ‘*a freak imitation of Pentecost. Horrible awful shame!*’. (7)

Parham’s accounts were backed by newspaper reports. The *Los Angeles Times*, wrote scathing accounts of manifestations and immorality. (8) Respected theologians who visited, such as Dr. Campbell Morgan, R.A. Torrey, H. A. Ironside, Clarence Larkin and W.B. Godbey, denounced the demonic and immoral things seen and heard. (9) Yet many modern day accounts of the Azusa St. ‘revival’ have re-written, exaggerated and ignored the accounts of the fleshly or demonic manifestations, as well as the infidelity, immorality and disorder.

The church was shut down in 1911. But by then other cities had planted churches modelled after Azusa St. Pentecostal groups such as the *Assemblies of God* (founded 1912), the *Church of God*, the *Pentecostal Holiness church*, the *Foursquare Gospel*, the *United Pentecostal church*, all trace their roots to the 1906 Azusa St. ‘Revival’ in Los Angeles, pastored by William Seymour.

From Azusa St. came the first Pentecostal missionaries to be scattered throughout the world. William Durham (1873-1912) took the experience to Chicago, then to Italy. He was renowned for supposedly interpreting ‘messages in tongues’ and publishing them. In Italy the experience spread to Brazil. Francisco Olazabal and other Mexicans took the experience to Latin America. Amanda Smith and Minnie Adams took it to India. (10)

However, after a few years in various places it was realised that the ‘tongues’ were not the zenoglossalia (foreign languages) enabling the missionaries to preach the Gospel in lands where they needed the language. A report in 1909 by a missionary who examined the results in three mission fields reported the devastating consequences of this inability and the discouraged faiths when people realised the deception of what was really a counterfeit of Acts 2. (11)

There was also for many years a mixed understanding of what was ‘tongues’, since the first consensus by Parham was that tongues would be *known foreign languages*. For example, in India the tongues were recognised to be unknown and ecstatic. From such confusion there was developed the idea of an alternate ‘private tongues’ to ‘edify self’ and ‘angelic’ tongues - tongues that were not necessarily *known foreign languages*. Today this confusion is evident with many who would defend the lack of real *known languages and dialects* (as in Acts 2:6,8 - Greek ‘dialektos’ for ‘tongues’). The so called unknown tongues were simply taught as ‘angelic’ or ‘heavenly’ languages.

The deception was not made easier when in 1907 Parham himself, the founder of this Pentecostal 'Apostolic Faith' movement, was arrested for homosexual acts with a 22 year old man in San Antonio, Texas. (12) The case was not prosecuted for lack of enough evidence. But from then unto his death he was considered a fallen prophet by many.

Seymour's attempt to develop what Parham had founded also now ran into power struggles. Prominent figures such as William Durham, Florence Crawford and others, having various doctrinal differences, wrote against William Seymour causing his influence to decline. There were to be serious divisions with the doctrines of sanctification and the 'Baptism with the Spirit with tongues'. By 1912 the Pentecostal movement in Los Angeles and other places was divided. (13)

In 1908 Seymour married a Jennie Moore. Seymour's secretary, Clara Lum, did not agree with the marriage and had already sided with Seymour's detractors. Lum was editing the *Apostolic Faith* newsletter for Seymour. She resigned and took with her the newsletter mailing list, joining forces with Florence Crawford. (14)

The loss of the newspaper helped to diminish the Azusa St. 'Revival'. By 1914 the Azusa St. church had shrunk to a small group of American blacks. Seymour continued to pastor until 1922 when he suffered two heart attacks and died in his wife's arms. (15) His wife died in 1936.

Doctrine

Most Pentecostal pastors today do not realise that Seymour, the leader of the Azusa St. movement, would '*ultimately repudiate the initial evidence teaching* (speaking in tongues)'. (16) He also rejected the use of tongues for evangelism, contrary to Parham who developed the tongues doctrine at Topeka to be used for preaching the Gospel on mission fields.

Parham rejected the ecstatic utterance as a counterfeit of real biblical tongues ('zenoglossalia'). Yet today ecstatic utterances is the very experience of Pentecostal churches! Seymour also rejected Parham's doctrine of annihilation in Hell, rather than eternal punishment.

The seedbed for this new teaching of the *Baptism With the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues* is clearly traced to the late 1800's Holiness Movement. There was a slow but steady progression away from the orthodox teaching on sanctification - ie. a *continuous* life long inward work of the Spirit *conforming one to the image of Christ* (Rom:8:29) and *continuously filling* the believer upon salvation (Eph.5:18). Then in seeking holiness and to eradicate sin many sought a *crisis point* of sanctification. This led to *second states or stages* of sanctification, and for some even a heretical 'entire sanctification' (sinless perfection). Much of this *laid the foundation for the distinctive Pentecostal doctrine* to come and to be propagated by Parham in 1901 and then Seymour at Azusa Street in 1906, and thereafter worldwide.

The unknown tongues of today are linked to Parham at Topeka and Seymour at Azusa St., Los Angeles. Yet these tongues of today as ecstatic utterances clearly contradict the three biblical cases of speaking in tongues being *known foreign*

languages. Even the Greek words used for tongues ('glosse' and 'dialektos') show clearly with their usage, that they refer to languages, dialects, known speech.

Conclusion

All major American Pentecostal denominations can be traced to the Azusa Street, including the *Assemblies of God* (1912), the *Church of God in Christ*, the *Pentecostal Assemblies of the World*, the *United Pentecostal Church*, and the *Pentecostal Holiness Church*. (17)

William Seymour as a student of Charles Parham's new doctrine was the pioneer of the modern Pentecostal churches. Over just a few decades previously, subtle additions were made to the orthodox view of sanctification as a continuous life long work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Experiences from the Holiness movement, Parham's school, and Azusa St., trumped the old orthodox 'faith once delivered'. The new 'baptism' doctrines were experiential and spectacular. Sadly these new teachings which were at first denounced as demonic or heretical are now adopted as the norm in a fast growing Pentecostal movement worldwide.

History is a great teacher if we care to examine the fruit and its roots. Yet the history of the foundations of the Pentecostal movement continues to be *rewritten*. The founders and the pioneers are portrayed as apostolic miracle workers greatly used by God. However, almost all of these Pentecostal pioneers ended as false prophets, false teachers, charlatans and prolific exaggerators or liars. (18)

The biggest tragedy of all is that with these new doctrines, the extra-biblical, the personal revelations and the experiential, have led to even more unbiblical extremes in recent times with new 'healing' and 'prosperity' gospels. The simple soul saving Gospel of Christ crucified has been added to, or worse, buried in counterfeits of what was truly and clearly defined by the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

Terry Arnold

(1) <https://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Pentecostal-Founders-Charles-Parham-v2.6.pdf> (2) <https://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Pentecostal-Founders-John-Dowie-v2.6-1.pdf> (3) *The Birth of a Lie*, K. Napier www.christiandocctrine.net (4) *Life*, Parham P.168,169 (5) *The Holiness Pentecostal Movement in the United States*, Vinson Synan, P.112 (6) *The Life of Charles Parham*, Sarah Parham P.168 (7) *Apostolic Faith* Charles Parham, 1912 (8) *The Los Angeles Times* (April 18th.1906) <https://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Pentecostal-Founders-Charles-Parham-v2.6.pdf> (9) Quotes and references in <https://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Pentecostal-Founders-Charles-Parham-v2.6.pdf> (10) IBID above (11) IBID above (12) *Fields White Unto Harvest* James Goff P.106,136 (13) *Espinosa, Gaston (2014) William J. Seymour and the Origins of Global Pentecostalism: A Biography and Documentary History* (14) Robeck, Cecil M (2006) *The Azusa Street Mission And Revival: The Birth Of The Global Pentecostal Movement* (15) *Espinosa, Gaston (2014) William J. Seymour and the Origins of Global Pentecostalism: A Biography and Documentary History* (16) Synan & Fox 2012, *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* (17) Robeck, Cecil M (2006) *The Azusa Street Mission And Revival: The Birth Of The Global Pentecostal Movement* (18) See 'Pentecostal Founders and Pioneers' series on website taministries.net

The Pros and Cons of ‘Bible Study’

Bible study is an absolute necessity if one wants to *grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ* (2Pet.1:8; 3:18). It is the means by which we are ‘*conformed to the image of Christ*’ Himself (Rom.8:29). Growth in Sanctification *is separating us from sin and the world and to God in holiness*. It is only by the Word that this is done (Jn.17:17). Bible study is not an option, it’s a command (2Tim.2:15).

How do we do Bible study so that the Spirit works in us to growth? It is possible for Bible study if done for knowledge only and little or no application, to lead to a head knowledge with little life changing power. I love the study of theology, but theology without it worked out and applied, meditated on, is just head knowledge which easily swells the head and leaves the heart starving (1Cor.8:1).

I am not against sound Bible colleges and places of study, (having done a fair share of such), but I lament the lack of sound doctrine and as much the lack of discipleship/mentoring in many colleges. I have seen students come out of colleges with less faith, a dryness and less intimacy with the One who saved them. Some come out confused, others even ‘puffed up’. Yet *true learning should show much more there is to learn*. There are no ‘experts’ in any area of theology who are not still steeped in study to learn more and grow. Knowledge in any area of theology is not the same as spiritual maturity. One can know the Greek, Hebrew and the intricacies of soteriology and still be ‘*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*’ (2Tim.3:7).

One of my concerns too is the pressure of busy lives and particularly for ministers in full time ministry, especially pastoring. At times there is at least the possibility of lacking personal spiritual growth due to the mental grind of day to day pressures and commitments (2Cor.11:28). This author became well aware of this particularly when retiring from full time pastoring and then having more time to study and especially meditate on what it means to apply knowledge to *know Jesus more*. There have been times when I rediscovered ways to worship in prayer and the Word. The lesson was driven home to me that ministers of any ministry need to use ‘sabbaticals’ well to *the profit of personal growth*.

There will be seasons when the Christian may struggle physically or mentally in applying themselves to the study of the Word, but this is where *the daily habit and discipline of study* is such a worthy part of character to ride out the ‘dry times’.

Individual Bible study is to the growth of the soul, but group Bible study is also important, especially if led by someone with a gift of teaching. Again, I lament what I have seen in some study groups. Today its fashionable to have everyone give their ‘opinion’ that too often simply leaves what the text says. Lacking in many Bible studies is the teaching of basic *interpretation* principles and the understanding of basic doctrines, then *application* to life. Questions set towards what the text says and then application should challenge the thinking of those in the group, even towards repentance...‘*What is God saying here...how does this affect me*’. The aim of ‘Bible study’ is to ‘*grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory...*’ (2Pet.3:18)!

Terry Arnold

Speaking in Tongues and 'Prophecy'

(The following was sent by a subscriber. We urge readers to study this view carefully. It is exposition and interpretation not commonly understood today by many)

Many Charismatic, Pentecostals and others explain tongues speaking as a 'prayer language' for believers, or as a necessary sign of receiving the Holy Spirit, or for evangelising foreigners - but Paul does not give these as the reason for tongues.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul explains that tongues interpreted, is equal to prophecy. Paul says - '*...greater is he that prophesies than he that speaks with tongues, **except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying***' (1Corinthians 14:5).

Prophecy was God's message, presented in a locally *known* language. **Tongues was prophecy**, presented in a locally *unknown* language ('*declaring the wonders of God*' Acts 2:11).

So why did God present prophecy in a known language, **and** in an unknown language? Why not just provide prophecy in a language that church attendees could understand? This difference is directly explained by Paul - '*Brethren, **be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice** [evil] **be you children, but in understanding be men** [mature]. **In the law it is written, with men of other tongues and other** [foreign] **lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, says the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serves not for them that believe not, but for them which believe***' (1Cor.14:20-22).

Just after Paul quotes from Isaiah 28:11,12 where Isaiah refers to the Jews as '**this people**', he then states '*Tongues, then are a sign, **not for believers** but for unbelievers.*'

Tongues, being languages of the world, '*lips of foreigners*', were spoken through believers at Pentecost, **as a sign for the Jews**, the '*unbelievers*' (Acts 2:8-12, 14:2; Romans 11:23).

Prophecy was God's message to *believers*. Tongues was God's prophetic message to *unbelieving* Jews.

It was the Jews that sought signs (Mark 8:11; 1 Corinthians 1:22).

The first aspect of the sign to the Jews, was that through the Gospel the Jews and Gentiles were **now invited by God into his kingdom and into his church**. This was huge news to the Jews. God's acceptance of Gentiles was shown by how Gentile believers were **also filled** with the Holy Spirit (Luke in Acts 10:44). While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message (vs.45). **The circumcised believers** who had come with Peter *were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles* (vs.46). *For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.* (Here, the Holy Spirit was received before baptism, vs.47,48). Continued next page >

The second aspect of the sign to the Jews, (re Paul's quote from Isaiah - the Law) was that unless they repent, they will be judged, just as they had been by God for their unbelief in Old Testament times. Whereby when tongues/languages of a conquering nation were spoken throughout Israel, it was a sign of God's judgment on them.

Read through these Old Testament verses, where tongues culminate as a judgement sign to the Jews.

Moses...Deuteronomy 28:49 **The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand** (Deuteronomy 28:45. Isaiah 28:11, 33:19).

...Five verses from Jeremiah, in order.

The LORD...Jeremiah 3:22 '**Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto you; for you are the LORD our God**'.

Jeremiah 5:3 '*O LORD, are not your eyes upon the truth? you have stricken them, but they have not grieved; you have consumed them, **but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return** [repent]'*. (Also Isaiah 64:12, 65:1-3).

Jeremiah 5:11 '*For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me, says the LORD*'

Jeremiah 5:15 '**I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, says the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you know not, neither understand what they say**'.

Jeremiah 5:18,19 '**But even in those days, declares the LORD, I will not make a full end of you**' 19 *And when your people say, 'Why has the LORD our God done all these things to us?' you shall say to them, 'As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve foreigners in a land that is not yours'*.

Ezra...9:7 '*...for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the [foreign] lands...*'

2 Chronicles 28:1-5 - **King Ahaz of Judah** was judged after sacrificing his sons in the fire to Baal - the **land of Judah** was thereafter **conquered by the Arameans** (Isaiah 5)

The Jews in Jesus day, largely did not repent, so God judged them in 70 AD, via the Roman General Titus and his army. As in Jesus' parable of the vineyard, re the unrighteous Jews - '*He will bring those wretches to a wretched end*'. (Matthew 21:33-41, 27:25. Luke 19:44, 21:20.23 Wrath to this people).

These Old Testament references point to *tongues (foreign languages) as proof of God's judgment on Israel* (against 'you'), even as judgment onto those earlier people when building the **Tower of Babel**. Tongues to the wicked adulterous Jews in Jesus day was very appropriate, for they will kill their Messiah! The tongues sign being fulfilled to Israel in 70 AD, means that speaking in tongues then ceased.

The tongues spoken in Charismatic/Pentecostal churches today, is not what the Bible refers to - *nowhere in the book of Acts is the understanding of tongues*

changed from a foreign language to being an ecstatic utterance. The Jews of Jesus' day would not have related an ecstatic utterance to being a sign! Very few charismatic churches bother with interpretation of tongues as Paul stipulates.

Paul... **1 Corinthians 14:28** *If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.*

It is from this verse that many charismatics falsely explain that personal tongue speaking is a 'prayer language', but what Paul means is that in the church the tongue speaker, unless there is an interpreter, is to keep their tongue speaking quiet, between themselves and God - until an interpreter is present. 1 Corinthians 14:1,2.

Most charismatic groups I have attended, just openly babbled tongues with no interpretation. Paul even directs the tongue speaker to seek to interpret what he says. 1 Corinthians 14:13-17. Prophecy and interpreted tongues were not for personal edification, but rather to edify the church. Prophecy is complete, and only in the Bible. Ephesians 2:20. Hebrews 1:1,2. 2 Peter 1:19. Jude 1:3.

Other points.

Jesus did not use ecstatic utterance in prayer to the Father. John 17.

The angels in heaven all sing in one voice, one language, not many. Revelation 5:11,12, 7:11.

Many religious and pagan groups speak in tongues; and some ex-charismatics can still speak in tongues, even though they have 'moved on' to non-charismatic churches, or become atheists!

I used to visit charismatic churches, and after a lot of hearing 'tongues', I could have copied the repetitive sounds; for a lot of people, the sounds just get 'caught in their head'. Modern day 'tongues' speaking can be acquired by listening and copying those around them.

Some volunteers in an American conservative church were exposed to recorded tongues speaking, and after a time many picked up the 'tongues' ability, some quite well, but it was just 'copycat'. The same church tested modern tongues speaking by, with permissions, recording a tongues speaker, then subjected the recording to several different people who claimed to have the gift of interpretation. In each case where this trial has been undertaken, all the interpreters had assorted/different interpretations – no agreement!

I have read, and been told of some charismatic churches actually teaching/coaching candidates, including children, in how to speak in tongues!

Oneness Pentecostalism churches accept (and practice) all the charismatic gifts, but they deny the Trinity, etc; what of their tongues speaking? We are to expose the deeds of darkness. Ephesians 5:11.

Summary

Amongst all today's tongues confusion; the tongues speaking in 1Corinthians, can be *easily comprehended* as a '*sign to the Jews*' - other references to tongues speaking can be explained in this context.

(E.D. Qld)

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

Trump

The post on trump [an image of Trump that people thought was an image of Jesus] - it was dead set blasphemy...and him attacking the Pope and having a go at Christianity. When will Americans wake up? Can you please address this in 'Diakrisis'...True believers are getting deceived. A wolf in sheep's clothing... Trump is an absolute liar, convicted criminal, blasphemous, egotistical, who thinks he is Jesus Christ. He is more like the one who makes open the door for the Antichrist. When will the world see him for what he is?...

(T.M. Qld)

Editor's comment:

How many discerning Bible reading Christians would really follow Trump as a Christian, or his example in character? Trump claims to believe in God, but does not confess Jesus as Lord and is 'unsure of getting to Heaven'. However, despite his many faults, he has made conditions far more favourable for Christians by reversing the direction of freedom of speech, pro life, etc...

The 'image' he posted was blasphemous to many. His mistaken reason for using it only showed his ignorance of real Christianity.

'Attacking the Pope...and Christianity'? - this author stands guilty with Trump! The Pope is a counterfeit who claims to be the very 'vicar of Christ' on earth! Is he not more so a 'wolf in sheep's clothing' who 'opens the door for the antichrist'? The Reformers thought so! The Papacy is leading millions to Hell with doctrines totally opposed to the Gospel and it has slaughtered millions of Christians over centuries. That is not 'Christianity'.

The Pope's statement about the war, which was rejected by Trump, was all *political*, not scriptural. This is a Pope who just awarded *Iran's ambassador* to the Vatican with a medal of the highest diplomatic honour, for 'peace and interfaith cooperation', given to a representative of the world's sponsor of terror, which slaughters Christians and Jews...

Trump a 'liar...convicted criminal'? - arguably mostly *politically engineered* charges thrown out of court or on appeal? 'Egotistical...When will the world see him for what he is?' - don't many *already* hate and try to kill him?

Trump is hardly a 'wolf in sheep's clothing' when compared to the Pope and *thousands of false prophets/false teachers* currently in pulpits worldwide, including those Trump listens to (Paul White, etc). Trump is a politician needing to receive the true Christ, as the Pope does!

If Christians join the 'Trump derangement syndrome' perhaps this would be better directed towards the *real wolves in churches*; or the slaughter of thousands of God's saints each year? Christians are commanded to *pray for leaders*, especially those needing Christ. Many could pray Trump ends the current war against those who hate and persecute Israel, Jews and Christians?

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

Terry, I have an old Bible here, a KJV in fairly good order, copyright 1901. Leather cover 1910. It was put out by the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society [Jehovah Witnesses]. John 1:1 is as we know it - 'and the Word was God'.

(E.D. Qld)

[Editor's underlining - Jehovah Witnesses later changed this verse to 'a god']

Dear Terry, Thank you for continuing to send me the hardcopy of your watchman ministry. Thankyou for your vigilance in obtaining the information to pass on. May God bless you and everyone involved in the ministry and give you the grace and wisdom to carry on...with sincere thanks...

(T.T. NSW)

Sub-Editor's Retirement

Mike Claydon, our sub-editor over many decades, has sent a note to his mailing list of 25 years. Mike has been a dear friend, colleague and mentor for now over 30 years. His writing ability, his knowledge and insight into doctrine and in particular eschatology, have been something beyond the ordinary!

The last few years have seen Mike's health deteriorate and thus with less writing, but still a great encouragement to the ministry here of 'Diakrisis' and TA Ministries.

Mike has recently written to his subscriber list: .

'25 years ago this month we launched two online - Israel Report and Apostasy Alert E-mails. The internet were then in their infancy and operated by 'dial up' and unreliable. Over the years our small number of subscribers grew steadily and 25 years later we have many thousands from around the world. Over this time many hundreds of similar ministries sprung up - well financed and with enormous audiences - using sophisticated technology they now reach millions 24 hours a day.

Your editor has finally been discharged from hospital with heavy medication to attempt to stabilize my heart rhythm due to heart failure. This has effected my eyesight and also weakened my overall health. It is therefore with great regret we are therefore compelled to close down the daily transmission. Our website will be left up so that anyone can view the archives and the editorials.

We want to thank our wonderful subscribers who have greatly encouraged us and prayed - prayers which have always been answered.

With MUCH love and blessings we again thank you for your friendship and loyalty over the years. See you all in heaven VERY soon,

Mike Claydon <https://israelreport.substack.com/>

Sermons on Website

In the 'Other Resources' section of our website we have a section 'Sermons'. This section has recently been updated. It now features various Gospel sermons and a 'Topical' list of various other sermons.

A new section is also now added - 'New Sermons' - which will feature more recent sermons preached that we pray will be worth a look at.

Searching *Diakrisis* Newsletters

Diakrisis (Australia) has been in print for over 30 years. In that time an extensive range of topics have been written on. Readers can search these topics through a Reader programme with search facilities (we provide a Foxit reader with every e-mail edition). By downloading all issues of the newsletter you can search them for any topic of study. We can e-mail a link to receive a full 3 part .zip archive of all newsletters. Feel free to contact this ministry if you need any help.

Quotable

One of the best ways to understand the magnificence of God's grace gained is to remember the former spiritual corpse you were - dead in sin, by nature a child of wrath, with a wicked heart, with deeds as filthy rags, a slave to sin, a mouth to be shut at judgement day, having no ability to self heal the blindness of a depraved mind and heart...until the quickening arrow of grace pierced the soul! (Eph.2:1,3,5,8; 4:18; Jer.17:9; Is.64:6-8; Jn.8:34; Rom.3:19; Jn.6:44,65; 2Cor.4:4)

(Editor)

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