

1 Tongues

Miss            has asked me to say a little bit to you this afternoon about the teaching of the New Testament regarding speaking with tongues. I don't pretend to be any authority either in speaking in tongues or on the New Testament. My field is the Old Testament, but the thing that I am tremendously interested in is interpretation of the Bible, getting the facts, seeing what the interpretations are that are passable and what the interpretations are that are ruled out by the facts and so I just ran over some of the New Testament passages and thought that maybe I would just present to you the way it looked to me on this matter of tongues in the New Testament passages. I will try to go it rather rapidly because there is a good deal of ground to cover and if everything I say isn't clear perhaps there will be enough to make it worth while at this time but if you think is important that I don't make clear, please speak up and have me stop there. I may misspeak myself and I wish you would call my attention to such a case as that. Now, of course on this matter of tongues the first place we look is naturally Acts 2 and when we look at Acts 2 we find immediately that there is a fact there. The fact is that these men spoke with tongues. We cannot deny that—we don't want to deny it. The men there, verse 4 tells us, were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. /Now as to the interpretation of this fact, what was it—what did these men do? Did these men all talk together in some one language which was a new language? Did these men all give together some sort of a gibberish that was not any language at all but some sort of queer noise, or did these men each speak in a different language? Well, it doesn't tell us. There are three different possible interpretations. Which of the three was it? Well, here are the facts about it. We go on and we find that in verse 7 ff. that the people say, "How hear we every man in our own tongue wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, dwellers in Mesopotamia, Judea, etc., Cretes and Arabians, we hear them speak in our tongues—the wonderful