

2 Tongues

and unlearned people come in will they not say that you are mad? Rather questioning the advisability of much emphasis on and 27-28. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church, and let him speak to himself and to God. He expresses, then, that the tongues is a gift which God has given, ^{which} individuals have. It is not to be denied, but it is not the primary gift. It is a thing which some may receive, which most do not, and he says, "Covet earnestly the best gifts, and especially in verse 39," he says, "Wherefore brethren, covet to prophesy. Seek that you may be an interpreter of the Word, try to be one who can help others, and forbid not to speak with tongues." He seems to say here that we shouldn't say one can't speak with tongues or that one mustn't, but that we're not to seek to. We're to seek that which edifies others. Now this being the case one might be surprised that in so many of our churches we don't have any speaking with tongues at all, but I think it is also true the gift of healing we don't find in our churches, the miracles we don't find in our churches. It is a phenomenon of Christian history that many of these wonderful things God gave in the early days of the Christian church to help us get under way and then they seem to have ceased. The miracles are so rare as to be almost nonexistent today. We're very skeptical of any miracles which we hear of being wrought today. God may choose to work a miracle today but He doesn't ordinarily. These things are something which is largely past. It has been the belief of the greater part of the church that the tongues matter also is something which was in the early days of the Church and which is now past. Well, you might say then, why worry about it? If people want to speak with tongues, why go ahead. Well, to some extent that is right, and yet there is this to watch out for. Speaking with tongues, something that cannot be understood, the question is, "Is it from God or not?" By their fruits you shall know them. How are you going to know their fruits if you can't understand them? God can cause to speak with tongues, the devil can cause to speak with tongues. There is danger in anything like this. It is something to be handled