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CLOVEN TONGUES OF FIRE!

By Gordon F. Nelson

"And there appeared unto them CLOVEN (Gk., divided, to partition) TONGUES like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Acts 2:3.

Cloven, means two tongues of fire sat on each of the 120 gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost! (A cloven-hoofed animal has a split hoof like a cow.) Did this sign of two tongues of fire resting upon each of their heads have any prophetic significance? "Unknown tongues" is a sign of the presence of the Lord. *"Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."* Matthew 25:26. On the evidence of "tongues," men come up with some very strange doctrine. "Behold, he is in the United Pentecostal Church!"

We have two types of "tongues" within our own Pentecostal church. Tongues to vindicate the "Jesus Only," "Oneness," "United Pentecostals," water baptism. According to these folk, God sends you to Hell if you don't accept their baptism in "Jesus Name!" We can become really confused if we only look at the sign, "Tongues."

The Bible speaks of CLOVEN TONGUES! Two distinct kinds of tongues! One is false!

Among charismatic Pentecostals, since the advent of David du Plessis, we now present two types of tongues as evidence of having received *"the Holy Ghost and fire"* (Matthew 3:11); one with fire, and one without! Reverend David du Plessis was an interim pastor of the First Assembly of God in Oakland, CA, with Reverend Paul Shock as pastor. Paul Shock traveled with David du Plessis as he introduced this new Holy Ghost Baptism without the "noise" of Pentecostalism.

The Episcopalians and Catholics gave birth to the Charismatic Movement of David du Plessis as they embraced the ministry of his presentation of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Jesus said, *"Ye shall receive power,"* Acts 1:8. With du Plessis' baptism, you could receive tongues as a symbol of spirituality, and are still permitted to retain your confessional booths, rosaries, images and holy water.

The one Jesus was referring to, the Baptism that John the Baptist declared in Matthew 3:11, would burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. In the du Plessis' baptism, there is an absence of fire to burn up the chaff.

In Caesar's day, Rome had many gods, and to add one more god was no biggie! To add another Holy Ghost? Why not? Rome always believed in miracles!

Benny Hinn only makes Catholicism more believable! Like the ministry of Billy Graham, no one in either of these ministries denounces the Babylonian whore of Revelation 17.

Peter was addressing Jews who already believed in God the Father. *"We be Abraham's seed,"* (John 8:33), *"but we are Moses' disciples"* (John 9:28), but they did not believe God had a Son. Therefore, admonishing these Jews to be baptized in "Jesus Name," proclaimed to the world their Old Testament God had a Son.

In a reverse application, I would not accept into my congregation of believers anyone out of the United Pentecostals that was not first baptized in the Name of the Father. The United Pentecostals already believe in Jesus, but refuse to accept the Father. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son."* John 3:16. He did not come himself, and leave heaven without a king.

I truly believe this, that this heresy came into the church as a result of the divisiveness caused by white ministers breaking away from the main body of believers to form the Assembly of God organization. Another bunch of white ministers, following this example of divisiveness, formed the United Pentecostal Church. Still others in the Appalachian Mountains, continued to divide and formed the "rattlesnake handlers," accompanied by "tongues," as well!

Many are deceived because they view tongues as a "sign of God's presence." However, in the church there will be "cloven tongues," two tongues of fire!

The disciples came unto Jesus privately, saying, *"Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the (this) world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ (lord over God's heritage-1 Peter 5:3); and shall deceive many."* Matthew 24:3-5.

Jesus said it would be an hour of deception that is even now present in the earth. You must remember, Christ's answer to this question concerning the end of this age, the dispensation of grace, *"Take heed that no man deceive you."*

"And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent." Exodus 7:10. Pharaoh was unmoved by this miracle of Aaron's rod." *"Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they*

cast down EVERY MAN his rod, and they became serpents.” Exodus 7:11-12. Pharaoh’s court was full of serpents!

Fire versus strange fire; the cloven tongues. Two fires! These magicians duplicated the miracles wrought by Aaron’s rod. The magicians of Egypt could turn the Nile River into blood. How did the sorcerers do it? How does Kenneth Copeland perform miracles without hearing or seeing anything?

Can the devil create frogs? Read Exodus 8:7, *“the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments.”* *“An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign.”* Matthew 12:39. God gave you a sign in the form of the Cloven Tongues of Fire.

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, lied to the Holy Ghost about money, and *“gave up the ghost.”* The two eldest sons of Aaron met a similar fate by offering up STRANGE FIRE before the Lord. Leviticus 10:1-2.

These were sons in line to succeed Aaron as the High Priest. They knew the law in this regard. *“Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon...neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.”* Exodus 30:9. *“And Nadab and Abihu, the (eldest) sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon and offered STRANGE FIRE before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”* Leviticus 10:1-2.

I wonder, in this day of “lords” and “little gods,” just how much strange fire comes up before the Lord? There are two kinds of fire, indicative of the cloven tongues, as a warning to mankind, “buyer beware.” This church age is coming to a close! God was thinking of you by the Cloven Tongues of Fire. All that glitters is not gold! That is the message of the Cloven Tongues!”

The Apostle Paul warned, *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness.”* 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. Could you tell the difference between an apostle of Christ and a false apostle?

A false apostle uses a “fire” protruding from the mind; the “positive confession.” Norman Vincent Peale released a book entitled, The Positive Confession. The world has never been the same since. The publishing of that one book opened a Pandora’s Box of “Christian Science” into mainstream Christianity. Norman Vincent Peale never believed in a hell. That is “negative thinking.”

Christian Science is much like a cereal called “Grape Nuts.” The cereal is neither “grapes” or “nuts!” Christian Science, likewise, is neither Christian nor science. Mind over matter produces strange fire

miracles. Robert Schuller and Norman Vincent Peale embrace the same “positive confession” strange fire.

Kenneth Copeland carries the positive confession one step further. Publicly, he states, “All of my doctrine stems from books by E.W. Kenyon.” E.W. Kenyon birthed a new Pentecostal version to the Peale-Schuller “Positive Confession,” termed the “Word Faith.” You “speak the Word” only! Name it and claim it! A gab it and grab it revival of Mary Baker Eddy’s Christian Science.

In order for the “name it and claim it” to be true, you would have to be a “little god.” You might be surprised to know that this is exactly what this “strange fire” produces, “little gods”, a common confession of Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Charles Capps, Jerry Savelle, and the list grows as the “strange fire” of prosperity spreads. It is sin for a “little god” to be poor!

The message of the “Cloven Tongues” will burn, once started, throughout the remaining years of the church age. From all appearance, Norman Vincent Peale must be accredited with starting the fire that will engulf Laodicea. The Bible says, *“Faith cometh by HEARING.”* Romans 10:17. By their own admission, they are “little gods,” so don’t need to hear anything--just “speak the word.” *“Ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”* Matthew 17:20.

Even the Holy Ghost is dependent upon HEARING. (John 16:13) *“But whatsoever he shall HEAR, that shall he speak.”* These “Word of Faith” evangelists, by their own testimony, admit they have heard or seen nothing. If it doesn’t work the first time you “name it,” you repeat it forty times, says Kenneth Hagin, before “claiming” it. As if this isn’t vain repetition, but on the fortieth time, a “mind over matter” fire manifests itself.

Naaman was instructed by Elijah to dip himself seven times in the River Jordan to be healed. I have a daughter, living in Fresno, who is caught up in Copelandism. The fortieth time wrought healing for her son.

It is like winning at Reno or Vegas. You are in more trouble because it worked for you! Are you now a “little god,” obtaining that which you said? More unanswered questions surface as a result of obtaining. I have asked any number of Christian Scientists why they believed in Eddyism. It is always the same answer: “I was healed.”

William Branham was completely dependent upon what he SAW and HEARD to perform the miracles of God. From the platform, before an audience of 5,000 people in Anaheim, California, Brother Branham saw a vision of my wife. He asked her to stand up, then diagnosed her case of an abdominal

tumor from the vision God had given him. She wore a lavender rain coat to cover what appeared to be a seven-month pregnancy. The pain immediately stopped, and the tumor receded to nothing.

In the late 1940's to the 1960's, God sent a manifestation of the real "FIRE!" It is difficult to tell a counterfeit if you have never seen the real thing. Much of what we see today is a "strange fire"-- abundant living revival of prosperity.

Oral Roberts was one of the leaders of the real fire revival as long as his monthly publication was called Healing Waters. With the re-naming of his own monthly publication to Abundant Life, he birthed the prosperity gospel. "You send me \$100 and God will send you \$1,000!" He became rich! But, in God's eyes, he was poor. Laodicea's testimony was, *"I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing."* Revelation 3:17. Brother William Branham was the one that was rich, not Oral Roberts and his "abundant lifestyle." The church loved the same things (sad to say) that Oral came to love.

In the New Testament, all that you possess belongs to God if He requests it. Abraham, in his willingness to sacrifice Isaac, became the "father of the faithful," due to giving ALL. Oral Roberts desires to be the "father of the 20th Century Pentecostals" through his prosperity message of receiving ALL.

Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead over money! Why? Because there are only two gods, *"Ye cannot serve God and mammon!"* Matthew 6:24. You only have one heart; to which God are you a slave? Did Ananias and Sapphira possess "unconditional eternal security?" Couldn't Peter have been happy? After all, they gave "more than" the tithe. *"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."* Ecclesiastes 5:4-5.

It is very strange indeed that Oral Roberts would build a "city and a tower." Where did he get such an inspiration? The only Biblical reference is in Genesis 6:4. *"And they said, Go to, let us build us a CITY and a TOWER."* Nimrod directed the building of this tower into the heavens!

The tower of Babel (Gk.-confusion) was discontinued due to God's judgment by confusing the ONE language on earth. *"Let US (plural, implying the Trinity) go down, and there confound their (one) language, that they may not understand one another's speech."* Genesis 11:7. The tower of Babel signifies one world religion that deifies man; Nimrod (type of the Antichrist to come).

It is through the babel of "unknown tongues," that the "City and Tower" was built in Tulsa, Oklahoma. By following the precedent set by Billy Graham, Oral Roberts relinquished his Pentecostal Holiness ordination and became an ecumenicalist by his Methodist ordination. The Methodists are leaders in the World Council of Churches. Like the prophet Baalam, *"who ran greedily after reward"*

(Jude 11), he received world acclaim, just as his predecessor, Billy Graham. In Pergamos (where Satan's seat is), how Baalam used "the gift" God gave him "for reward," became a doctrine of the church. Revelation 2:14.

Changing from the Healing Waters to Abundant Life was not an easy transition for Oral Roberts:

"One day as we sat in a coffee shop, I gazed across the street at a brand new car, and said, 'Evelyn, do you see that brand new car across the street?' She responded to his question, 'Yes.' 'Now, look at our old hack of a car on this side of the street,' Oral retorted. 'Evelyn, the Bible says, *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* (3 Jn. 2) The prosperity message was birthed that day in a coffee shop. He would never drive an old car again! "Right here it says it, Evelyn, we are to be prosperous and wealthy."

"Where the healing waters flow!" would never have inspired Oral to hold himself captive in his own Tower. *"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare."* 1 Timothy 6:9.

Deceived by "the deceitfulness of riches," Oral Roberts climbs into his own Tower. In this tower he will remain until death, or eight million dollars is sent in by the church. A greyhound dog gambler owner released our preacher from his own self-inflicted prison by donating the remaining \$1.2 million. "The Abundant Life" does not come without a price. It is the testimony of Laodicea, *"I am rich, and increased with goods and have need of nothing."* Rev. 3:17. Cloven tongues of fire! One of these tongues to enflame Laodicea must be "abundant life," or the prosperity message.

Oral Roberts once stated, "I've read the four Gospels of Jesus over a hundred times! You don't need the rest of the Bible." This is another form of "Jesus Only" and "Oneness" doctrine. Even the hippies have Jesus as a hero, but care nothing for the rest of the Bible. If Oral could only remember in his reading of Jesus that He already experienced the power of the "Tower." *"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple."* Matthew 4:5. Jesus had already been to the "Tower" or "pinnacle" (Gk.-extremity, top cover). *"for we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities (His blood was pure); but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."* Hebrews 4:15. Oh, that Oral could have first gone to Jesus, who had already been tested, regarding the "mystery of a Tower."

"For God will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah: that they may dwell there, and have it in possession." Psalm 69:35