



Speaking in Tongues

The Devil's deception

Eight reasons why Satan has chosen modern-day tongues as a device for deception.

During discussions about “Speaking in Tongues” many have asked, “Why has Satan chosen tongues – **ecstatic unintelligible utterances** as a means of deception? Satan is a master of guile. He has chosen tongues because they are uniquely suited to deceiving Bible orientated evangelical Christians, for the following reasons:

1. **Tongue-speaking – the miraculous speaking of foreign languages is mentioned and exemplified in Scripture, giving Satan something to counterfeit, creating seeming ‘credibility’ amongst professing Christians.**
2. **Tongues in the early Church were intimately associated with the program and Person of the Godhead - the Spirit of God. Ascribing contemporary tongues to the work of the Holy Spirit promotes an appearance of ‘authenticity’.**
3. **Because tongues are audible, Satan’s counterfeit is observable, thus giving it ‘reality’.**
4. **Tongue-speaking is ‘spectacular’, enhancing its ‘acceptability’.**
5. **Unintelligible tongue-speaking is not self-authenticating. Its phrases cannot be tested (as with foreign languages) - promoting ‘duplicity’.**
6. **Tongues provide immediate reinforcement of false teaching and emotion, giving them ‘dependability’ in deception.**
7. **They are an ideal medium through which demons can voice their doctrine, as seen in occult communication - here we see their ‘adaptability’.**
8. **Because tongue-speaking is seen as a supernatural religious experience, it promotes ‘transferability’ between ecclesiastical boundaries – furthering ecumenism.**

Tongues are indeed an ideal device in Satan’s deceptive strategy. We may not find ‘spiritual breathing’ or ‘spiritual coat flinging’ in every charismatic gathering, but we will certainly find tongues. Beloved in Christ – do not be deceived. “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph 6:11). “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet 5:8).