

*"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with **other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, -Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."* **Acts 2:4-11 KJV**



*õWhen the day of Pentecost was fully comeí ò The Holy Ghost is God. õGod is a Spirit.õ He created all, in six days and surely has the power to mold speech. It is not whether tongues were spoken, but what was said. The gift of tongues at Pentecost was to proclaim õthe wonderful works of God.õ Understanding was the outcome of the Holy Spiritõs work. Africans do not understand Chinese and Godõs Word would simply be babble. What glory would God possibly get? õGod is not the author of confusion.õ If speech does not plainly reveal the glory of God, it is not the Spiritõs work. The whole purpose of tongues is to edify unbelievers. õTongues are for a sign, NOT TO THEM THAT BELIEVE, but to them that believe not.õ The Apostle Paul was a consummate linguist, but he had this to say, õIn the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.õ You may well have the gift of tongues, but if not interpreted, how does it edify? What wonders of God are verbally proclaimed? Personally, I write, read, and speak Spanish, but of what value is it in Tibet? Understanding is more important than speaking. Paul agrees. õGreater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.õ If thereõs no edification thereõs no point. õIf the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? If I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian.õ I canõ tell a Chinaman how to be saved speaking English with no interpreter. I have a friend, Richard, who travels abroad preaching the Gospel in English to men of other languages, but always with an interpreter. Many have come to Christ in his ministry. He would verify that what I say is true. I believe the Spirit does, at times, give the gift of hearing, and thereby, understanding, because some õhearing they hear not, neither do they understand. Speech is nothing but babble and not of the Holy Spirit if not understood, even if the language is understood. õFor unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.õ God is concerned with revealing His Glory through His Word. õThe heavens declare the glory of Godí day unto day uttereth speechí í there is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.õ Creation has the gift of tongues, but understanding requires hearing.*

If Truth you speak in tongue unknown,  
Make sure its meaning can be known,  
For Godõs own Truth is clearly shown,  
From starlit night and mountains stone. ~CGP

Bridle your tongue from babble. It is better to edify than stupefy. Silence is better than confusion. If you love God, it will be imperative to you that your speech glorifies and honors Him. Only idiots babble!

*"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." 1 Corinthians 13:1 KJV*