

# Voice of Baptists

*"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."* *Isaiah 40:3*

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## SUCCESSFUL LOVE IN MARRIAGE

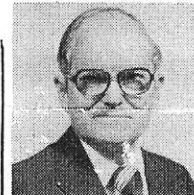
By Jerry A. Reynolds  
Davisville, W. Va.

**God told us to love according to the following scripture texts:**

- 1) "Love the Lord thy God" - Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; and Luke 10:27.
- 2) "Love thy neighbor as thyself" - Matthew 19:19, 22:39; Mark 12:31; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8.
- 3) "Love one another" - John 13:34, 15:12 and 15:17; Romans 13:8; I Thessalonians 4:9; I Peter 1:22; I John 3:11; I John 3:23; II John 1:5.
- 4) "Love your enemies" - Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27.
- 5) "Love the brethren" - I John 3:14.
- 6) "Love the brotherhood" - I Peter 2:17.
- 7) "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world" - I John 2:15.
- 8) "Husbands, love your wives" - Ephesians 5:25 and 5:33; Colossians 3:19.
- 9) (Young Women) "love their husbands" - Titus 2:4.
- 10) (Young Women) "love their children" - Titus 2:4.
- 11) "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord - I Peter 3:1; Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18.

I hope it is clear from the foregoing scriptures that Christians have command from God to "love" certain persons. Love God, love your neighbor, love the brethren, and even love your enemy seems to be understood though not always heeded by most of the brothers and sisters in our churches. At the same time, it is apparent that the scriptural commands to husbands to "love your wives" and to wives to "love their husbands" is being overlooked or mis-

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## MARKS OF IDENTITY

By J. H. Smith  
Nashville, Tenn.

**"FROM HENCEFORTH LET NO MAN TROUBLE ME: FOR I BEAR IN MY BODY THE MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS."** **GALATIANS 6:17.**

Men observe the lives of others and look to see if there are any marks, or signs, that tell whether they are what they profess to be. This is especially true of the men of this world looking at the Christian. Maybe too many times they look in vain, sadly to say, as they look for any marks that would prove that we have been with Jesus. It is easy for them to see the marks of sin and worldliness, however; for sin does leave its scars, and these don't heal very easily. They are there to prove where the person has been, they cannot be hidden; and some carry these with them to their grave.

### PAUL'S LITERAL MARKS

The apostle actually had marks, or scars, on his person that had been put there by the enemies of the cross, because he remained faithful to the Lord and His Gospel regardless of the threats on his life. Paul tells of some of these experiences: "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned." II Corinthians 11:24, 25. One of these stonings was in Lystra where he was stoned by some Jews and left for dead. Acts 14:19. This didn't stop the apostle from preaching, he wasn't dead as the enemies thought, but he rose up and went with Barnabas to Derbe and preached the Gospel there (Acts 14:21). But Paul carried the scars with him, which was a mark of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no doubt that he had

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## SPEAKING IN TONGUES

By Kenneth W. Massey

### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THIS GENERATION AND TONGUES?

"Speaking in tongues" is just one of many wonders the Charismatics claim God is performing today. Actually, the entire movement is predicted upon the teaching that all Christians need to experience "the baptism of the Holy Ghost," which most likely will be followed by a confirmation, namely, "speaking in tongues." This is the same teaching as Pentecostalism. They just called it the "second blessing." The Pentecostal movement was organized in Topeka, Kansas in 1899. Until 1960, the claims, that God has prescribed as the order of this day a supernatural performance paralleled only by the six days of Creation and the ten plagues of Egypt, were confined to such denominations as Assemblies of God, Apostolic Gospel, Foursquare Gospel and United Pentecostals. But in 1960 Pentecostalism began to spread into other denominations when Dennis Bennett, rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Van Nuys, California, claimed to have experienced "baptism of the Holy Spirit" and the "gift of tongues." Since then, these beliefs have spread into the major denominations including Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian,

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## TONGUES

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Lutheran and so-called Church of Christ (Campbellites).

"Miracles" and "healings" such as "puppies raised from the dead," "washing machines healed," and "legs lengthened" are but a few of the many things happening to Charismatics.

If you are not Charismatic, you may be wondering why God is not so kind to you or just where you missed the mark.

### TONGUES HAVE CEASED

The gift of "speaking in tongues" (known languages) ceased with the completion of the days of inspiration (New Testament Scriptures). On the day of Pentecost, the last of God's miraculous gifts (tongues) was set into the church. Why was this done at that particular time? Men had gathered there from every nation under heaven bringing with them their native language or tongue. Right then and there, for the confirmation of God's presence with them, these tongues were given as a sign to the unbelievers. Tongues were for a sign pointing to something. Once the expectation had become reality, the sign was unnecessary. Carpenters sometimes use braces while a building is under construction. But after the structure is completed, the brace is laid aside. The church of the living God has two un failing, reliable witnesses in these days, the Word of God and His Holy Spirit. Therefore, the church, established by Christ, is completely furnished,

commissioned and anointed to carry the gospel to every creature in every nation.

There is not one verse of Scripture that instructs any of us to seek the "gift of tongues." Neither does God's promised plan of salvation include the "gift of tongues." The tongues being spoken today are not biblical. They are not practicing the gift as described in Scripture. What is the explanation for this twentieth century phenomenon? A spiritual hunger must surely be the cause.

### EXPLOITATION OF MAN'S SOULICAL POWERS

Adam was a great specimen of humanity, both physically and intellectually. God enabled him to rule the earth and to give name to every living creature formed by God. When he fell from his state of finite holiness, he totally fell from relationship with God, though that previous strength was subdued within him. The divine arrangements of God for man's deliverance from sin discount any ability to save himself.

It is my fearful supposition that some have detoured or by-passed God's willingness to intricately deal with man through His Holy Spirit, in favor of reviving that fallen spirit of Adam to a temporary sense of emotional and intellectual satisfaction that will fade away in time. Remember, that spirit of Adam's was given over to the devil. In regeneration, that old man is displaced by a newly created spirit.

Notice the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:22, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them I NEVER knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." I once denied that anyone had actually done a supernatural thing separate from the power of God or pleasing to God. Jesus did not tell these people, "you have not done these things." He just simply said, "I NEVER knew you." These folks hadn't lost their salvation, if that were possible. They had never known him. By what power had they done these things? God's power or the devil's power? WHAT SPIRIT ARE YOU FOLLOWING TODAY? ARE YOU SURE? HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? SEEK GOD FOR SALVATION UNTIL YOU FIND HIM, THEN DEPEND ON HIS WORD AND HIS SPIRIT TO DIRECT YOUR EVERY STEP!!!

Do not allow emotional highs to substitute for the presence of the sweet, sweet holy spirit.

## MARKS

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marks on his back, too, where he had been whipped at Philippi. There at Philippi, he and Silas were accused of troubling their city and teaching customs which were not lawful for them to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. (Acts 16:20, 21). So here is what happened: "And the multitude rose up against them; and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely." Acts 16:22, 23. Paul and Silas were happy in the Lord, nevertheless, and they sang praises to the Lord, and God performed a miracle and freed them from the prison, saved the jailer; and he was so full of the love of God that he took Paul and Silas and washed their stripes, because their backs were bleeding. See Acts 16:33.

### WHAT ARE OUR OUTWARD MARKS?

I don't know of anybody personally today that carries any scars of where they have been stoned or beaten with rods; and I wonder how few there would be who would receive a beating or a stoning as a testimony to the Lord like Paul did. To say the least they would be few and far between. God's people today haven't had it rough enough, and haven't been tempered to the point where we can take it like Paul and Barnabas and Silas, and the many others that suffered so, that we read of in the Bible. But if we are truly servants of the Lord and have been partakers of His saving grace, surely there must be some evidence, outward signs, that He is our Master. I read the following story somewhere: There was some kind of a meeting being held in a large auditorium, and the main speaker asked that a certain man come and read the 23rd Psalm. The man came to the platform and very skillfully read the 23rd Psalm. When he had finished reading, there was a thunderous applause by the audience. Then the man who had read so skillfully told his audience that he had a good friend there that would also come and read the 23rd Psalm; he took his seat, and an elderly, gray haired man came slowly to the platform, and with a trembling voice read the 23rd Psalm. When he had finished, there was no applause, but many in the audience could be seen wiping tears from their eyes. Then the first man came back and explained what the difference was. He said, "I know the 23rd Psalm, but my good friend knows the Shepherd." There

**MARKS OF IDENTITY**

was a marked difference in the two men who read the Psalm.

Any person who has been with Jesus, there just have to be some signs of some kind that the person has dipped into the marvelous grace of God. And the closer he walks with the Lord the more marks we are going to see that tells of the person's relationship. The world cannot see that work that the Holy Spirit has wrought in our hearts, but we can show outwardly some evidence that it has surely happened. The world can tell which side we are on, and the people of the world kind of watch for that, they watch your walk and watch your talk. We don't have to tell people, or call their attention to anything about us that might look like Jesus, they will see it without us crowding about it. When Moses received the Law from God in Mount Sinai he got so close to the Lord that some of the glory of the Lord was shone on his face. Moses didn't even know that his face was shining, but the people saw it, as we note: "And it came to pass, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him." Exodus 34:29. Moses didn't say, now you just look how I have been so close to the Lord that my face is shining. No, he didn't talk like that; but the people saw it.

**THE WOUND BEFORE THE MARK**

Not many Christians today live close enough to the Lord to get any injury for His name sake, and therefore there are no marks to show for it. When we have been injured for something done in the service, it might be well to examine to see whether or not it is our fault, something we have brought upon ourselves; or was it because of good we had done? Was it because we had been true to the Master? It can happen both ways, as we should very well know. The signs left upon our person that will glorify the Lord are those that have been left there because of faithfulness to Him. That is why Paul had scars on his body, he preached the Word of God boldly and faithfully even though it violated some people's customs and traditions. He did it not to take vengeance on anybody, but he did it because He loved the Lord and the people, and wanted them to hear the message of salvation. He received the injury and the marks and took it patiently.

Too many of us would like to be well spoken of, maybe a pat on the back, but we have to be careful or this could be to

our own detriment. Sometimes it is good for us to get a stab, because this would remind us to rely on the Lord and not to our own understanding. Of course it does help sometimes to get a word of encouragement from a saint of God, but it is also good for us to get knifed by the world, for that is a sign that we are pleasing our Lord. Jesus, our Lord, said this: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you." John 15:18-20.

To be wounded for the Lord's sake, and to carry some mark upon our person testifies that we have been true to Him, and will not be forgotten when He comes to reward His servants. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight" and he had the marks, the scars on his body to tell that, as well as the words. And he says further, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." II Timothy 4:7, 8. No, the Lord will not forget, if you have some scars.

**BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

The twenty-third annual session of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association will convene with Freedom Missionary Baptist Church, 350 N. Fuller Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana. Services will begin Friday evening, September, 1980 at 7:00 p.m. Annual sermons will be delivered as follows: Elder Odus Cummings, Introductory; Elder Ronnie Galloway, Memorial; Elder John Keen, Jr., Doctrinal.

Officers serving last year were: Elder Calvin Perrigo, Moderator; Bro. Jeff Moran, Clerk and Elder Carlos Gammon, Treasurer.



**PRAYER OF A LOST SOUL**

By Mrs. Jerry (Saundra) Medlin  
Memphis, Tenn.

Jesus Christ in heaven,  
Father hear my plea.  
I know that I'm a sinner,  
Please change my soul for me.

I know I've done alot of wrong,  
I feel I am not right.  
Oh Father please forgive me,  
And take my soul tonight.

The Devil dwells inside me Lord,  
Of this there is no doubt.  
Without thy shining Grace within,  
I cannot cast him out.

Father I am crying,  
Way down deep inside.  
Although I shed no outward tears,  
I feel the time is nigh.

Father, hear me calling,  
My life is so forlorn.  
Take me in thy loving arms,  
That I may be re-born.

The flames of hell are waiting,  
Yet heaven is so near.  
Faith will cast my fears away,  
Please save my soul right here.

Place a burden in my heart,  
So heavy let it be,  
The only way I may find peace,  
Is total Faith in Thee.

I want the Holy Spirit,  
To strive within my heart.  
So I may be a witness,  
To everyone apart.

Jesus, I am yearning,  
To be with Thee again.  
Like when I was just a child,  
Before my life began.

For yours is such a loving Grace,  
And this I truly know.  
There is no Devil strong enough,  
To withstand Thy mighty blow.

Father, see my heartache,  
Please Jesus hear my plea  
I only want to enter heaven,  
To sing praise and worship Thee.





**SUCCESSFUL LOVE****(Continued from Page 1)**

understood by a lot of young people growing up in our churches. The fact that divorce is becoming more common among our own children many of whom are church-members is evidence of a lack of proper teaching here. I wish to take a very practical look at that love which is meant to exist between husband and wife.

To begin, I declare that there is no such happening as "falling in love." This idea of love being like a disease which one catches involuntarily is the doctrine of Hollywood and of the ungodly world. The origin of this idea is not the Bible but pagan mythology. Cupid sees a couple meet and shoots his arrow into their hearts and they are suddenly helplessly drawn to each other in the bliss of fantastic love. This thinking leads to a multitude of evils which naturally results in broken marriages.

Truly there is such an attraction as Cupid inspires. The origin of this "love" is fleshly desire, although the desire may remain strictly moral. Such a fascination is desirable between man and wife and good in a marriage if the limits of it are understood. As a man and woman reach adulthood, they form certain likes and dislikes in the opposite sex. Looks, personality, temperament, ethics, intelligence, etc., become important in the consideration of a possible mate. When two meet who find in each other several of the attributes they desire, there often occurs a seemingly magical attraction for each other. This is what is commonly called "falling in love."

Some happy Christian couples "fell in love" and married. Other happy Christian couples never experienced this fascination with each other but married after development of a more solid, mature, and practical love. Some people have such a fascination for each other that it could more correctly be called infatuation. Many marry because of such a foolish and shallow attraction and find themselves very incompatible and undesirable to each other in a short while. Divorce is the usual result; unhappiness is the inevitable result. The logic of entering such a marriage is so faulty that it is comparable to that of purchasing a beautiful house with a sufficient down payment but no hope of being able to continue the installment payments thereafter.

Cupid's "love" has two major pitfalls. Firstly, it is temporary. Its dependence is on certain characteristics time and circumstance will alter. When the fascination is gone, there had better

be a love based on deeper characteristics if the marriage is to endure.

Secondly, Cupid's arrow often finds hearts of people already married. The Bible forbids adultery, either in the heart, or in actions. You can be sure that this Pagan God delights in creating attraction between a man and a woman who are both married to another. The animal behaviour of the entertainment crowd demonstrates the shallowness of "falling in love." Cupid must only wait until a married person meets another person who has more fascinating characteristics than his or her mate. Many actors keep a wife only long enough for age to dull her beauty. The fascination is then gone. Shortly he sees another younger woman whom he "falls in love" with. This "love" is thought by most of our present-day society to justify any form of adultery. The "love" makes it right, they think! God forbid! We know it is not "love" at all. It is something evil.

There may be several of the opposite sex who could create this same fascination in the heart of one person. The notion of one man for one woman is a little absurd. Many godly couples who had intense love between them have been separated by death. Soon after the survivor is married again to another, toward whom that person feels intense mutual love.

Polygamy is not practical, nor is it desirable to reasonable humans although one may be fascinated with many of the opposite sex.

Christian readers, I address you! Take note of the fact that in past ages a great many marriages were arranged by parents. Especially in the case of women, many had little or no choice of a mate. Marriages were decided on much more practical considerations. Yet the Bible makes no distinction when it teaches you to love your mate. Certainly it must be within the capability of your regenerated heart to love your mate because it is morally right to do so and morally wrong to hate them. It may be true that sometimes the grace of God we have access to must be depended on when all human will fails in trying to love a husband or wife who is unchristian, mean, and contrary. God's grace is sufficient, because we are right with Him, and His command is right. He will help us love our enemies if we ask Him — how much more He will help us to love our mates!

Usually the unworkability of a marriage arises from the selfish, immature, unforgiving, petty, cruel attitudes of the partners. They refuse to behave as "one flesh" but insist upon

pleasing selfish self to the hurt of their mate. Marriage means for two to be made one. If two become one flesh and obey God in loving each other, there can be no such happening as divorce. Furthermore, the Christian heart finds pleasure in giving of self not getting for self. Two regenerated people dedicated to giving unselfishly to each other and together giving unselfishly to children, neighbors, brethren, and enemies cannot be unhappy.

So often the reason given for seeking a divorce is, "I don't love my wife (or husband) anymore." What they mean is "I don't find them as fascinating as I once did". Usually their dissatisfaction because of the disappearing fascination has produced selfish reaction which has made them mean, cruel and rude to their mate. Usually the mate has been losing the fascination also, and so this very disgusting attitude contributes to the complete deterioration of the relationship.

Remember, it is hard to hate a person who is good, gentle, selfless, kind, courteous, loving, dedicated, godly, full of faith, spiritual, etc., even if age and hardness has taken its toll on the youthful beauty and strength of the mate. The Christian heart will see much more beauty and desirability in such good spiritual traits than it ever saw in those foolish, shallow, fascinating characteristics upon which Cupid's "love" is built.

The real love that is permanent is based on trust and respect; and, if the first is beautiful, the last is much more so.

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## SILOAM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

OLD MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Allen County, Kentucky will serve as host church for the twenty-eighth annual session of the Siloam Baptist Association.

1980 Sermons as follows: Introductory - Elder L. W. Smith, Memorial - Elder Paul Bryson, Doctrinal - Elder W. T. Russell. Officers elected last year were: Moderator, Elder W. T. Russell, Clerk, Elder Don Curtis, Treasurer, Bro. G. W. Hauskins.

