

The Truth About Speaking in Tongues, Healing, and the Holy Spirit Today

By David Burruss

Recently, I spent a lot of time digging into popular teachings that just do not match what the Bible actually says. Things like the “sinner’s prayer,” “belief only” salvation, and “once saved, always saved.” I was careful not to base anything on my feelings, opinions, or past experiences. Every single point had to be rooted in the Word of God. Today, I want to keep that same approach as we walk through a few more areas where there is a lot of confusion. We will look at speaking in tongues, miraculous healing, and the idea that the Holy Spirit is still revealing new messages today.

I am not coming at this from a place of judgment. Honestly, I believed a lot of these things myself at one time. I know how easy it is to hear something from a preacher, a friend, or even a family member, and just accept it because it sounds powerful or feels right. But when I finally set aside the noise and traditions, and just opened my Bible with an open heart, I saw something very different.

Speaking in Tongues

Today, many claim they can “speak in tongues,” but what you often hear sounds more like babbling than anything else. In the Bible, though, speaking in tongues was speaking real, understandable languages that the speaker had never studied. Acts 2:4-11 makes that crystal clear. It was not a private prayer language. It was not emotional shouting. It was a miracle, given for a very specific reason: to confirm the message of the gospel (Mark 16:20 and Hebrews 2:3-4).

Paul wrote that tongues were a sign for unbelievers, not for believers (1 Corinthians 14:22). It was not about personal spiritual experiences. And when the gospel was fully revealed and confirmed, the need for those signs passed away. Miraculous gifts were never meant to be permanent. Paul said plainly that they would cease (1 Corinthians 13:8-10) when “that which is perfect has come,” speaking of the completed Word of God.

Healing Miracles

Today, you can find ministries built around the promise that someone can lay hands on you and heal your sickness on the spot. But when you read the Bible, you see something very different. Healing miracles were immediate, complete, and undeniable. In Acts 3:6-8, when Peter healed the lame man, he jumped up and walked instantly. No recovery time. No needing to “have more faith.” No return visits for more treatments.

Like speaking in tongues, the ability to heal was never about putting on a show. It was about confirming that the messenger was truly sent by God (John 20:30-31). Once God's Word was confirmed, those signs were no longer needed.

The Holy Spirit "Revealing" New Messages Today

You have probably heard people say things like, "The Spirit told me to do this," or "God gave me a new word." But according to the Bible, the Holy Spirit already revealed all truth to the apostles (John 16:13), and they wrote it down for us. Jude 3 tells us that the faith was "once for all delivered to the saints." Once for all. That means it is complete. We are not waiting for more revelations. God speaks to us today through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2), and His Son speaks to us through His written Word.

When people claim new revelations from the Spirit, it often adds to or even contradicts Scripture. That is a dangerous path to walk. The Spirit will never contradict Himself. The Bible gives a strong warning not to add to or take away from what God has already given (Revelation 22:18-19).

Why It Matters to Stick With the Bible

I know it can be hard to admit when we have been wrong. Believe me, I had to eat a lot of humble pie when I realized that some of the things I believed and taught did not actually line up with the Bible. But the truth is, God's Word is the only safe guide we have. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

It is not about chasing feelings or personal experiences. It is about hearing what God actually said and obeying it. That is why, whenever I talk about these topics, whether it is the sinner's prayer, belief-only salvation, once saved always saved, or miraculous gifts, I make sure everything is grounded in Scripture. Not my feelings. Not my experiences. Only God's truth.

If you are holding on to some of these popular teachings, let me encourage you. Open your Bible with fresh eyes. Ask yourself, "Where does God actually say that?" You might be surprised at what you find. And even more, you might find a deeper, richer faith than you ever expected.