

# THE EXHORTER'S CALL

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”  
Hebrews 10:25*

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## GROANING MYSTERIES

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is often a controversial topic within the modern Church. Upon His resurrection (and interestingly, just prior to His ascension!), Jesus commanded the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high and then they would become worldwide witnesses to Him (*Acts 1:8*). Later in *Acts 2* we find the manifestation of this event as they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke with other tongues. Note that the disciples already believed in a risen Savior and had confessed Him as Lord, thus meeting the conditions for Salvation. Baptism in the Holy Spirit was definitely a second and subsequent event apart from the Salvation experience. In *Mark 16:17*, Jesus explained that speaking in tongues would be a universal sign that followed them that believed. Unfortunately, not all Christians believe in this gift. Many Christians are taught that the filling power, tongues, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, were a unique phenomenon meant only for the early apostles and no longer available to the modern Church. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus indicated in *Luke 11:13* that the Father would certainly bestow these gifts of the Holy Spirit upon any Christian who asked for them. Again this passage is not referring to Salvation, because it clearly indicates the gifts of the Holy Spirit were for those that were already children of the Heavenly Father. Not everyone is a child of God, only those that believe in Jesus. This truth is presented in *John 8:42-47* as a follow up to the new birth experience discussed in *John 3*.

The powerful Indwelling presence of the Holy Ghost manifested in the speaking of tongues (unknown languages) is a key component of not just the early Church, but the mysteries of the latter Church as well. The Apostle Paul writes in

*Romans 8:26* “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” In studying the word “groaning” throughout the Word of God, we find that it is repeatedly used as a petition for deliverance and precedes the actual appointed action from God. The first time the word “groaning” is encountered is in *Exodus 2:24* when God heard the groaning of the Israelites and “remembered His covenant” with them. He subsequently delivered them from the bondage of Egypt into the Promised Land. Christians, too, are in covenant with the Lord and await a magnificent deliverance of promise. Paul writes in *Romans 8* and *2 Corinthians 2* that we, and all of natural creation, groan within ourselves awaiting the redemption of our bodies and deliverance from the curse of a fallen world. We are promised glorified bodies, forever free from sickness and death, upon the coming simultaneous resurrection of the believing dead and rapture of the Church. *1 Corinthians 14:2* tells us “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.” I believe that this Spirit-filled prayerful groaning in tongues is part of the great mystery of the Church and precipitates her sudden deliverance from the world as spoken of in *1 Corinthians 15* and *1 Thessalonians 4*.

Like the Apostle Paul in *1 Corinthians 14:5*, “I would that ye all spake with tongues...” You see, I’m convinced that this groaning for deliverance, demonstrated throughout the world-wide body of Spirit-filled Christians, is a primary ingredient in God’s plan and timing for the return of Jesus Christ to take His Church home.