

"In the earliest times, 'the Holy Ghost fell upon them that believed: and they spake with tongues,' which they had not learned, 'as the Spirit gave them utterance.' These were signs adapted to the time. For there behooved to be that betokening of the Holy Spirit in all tongues, to shew that the Gospel of God was to run through all tongues over the whole earth. That thing was done for a betokening, and it passed away. In the laying on of hands now, that persons may receive the Holy Ghost, do we look that they should speak with tongues? Or when we laid the hand on the infants (editor's note: the neophytes, or new converts), did each one of you look to see whether they would speak with tongues, and when he saw that they did not speak with tongues, was any of you so wrong-minded as to say, These have not received the Holy Ghost; for, had they received they would speak with tongues as was the case in those times?

- c. He asserted in his work On Baptism, Against the Donatists:
"For who expects in these days that those on whom hands are laid that they may receive the Holy Spirit should forthwith begin to speak with tongues?"

Note: (1) Carl Brumback in his book, What Meaneth This?, p. 91 Stanley Frodsham in his book, With Signs Following (1946 ed). p. 254; and John Sherrill in his book, They Speak with Other Tongues, p. 83, all give the following quotation from Augustine: "We still do what the apostles did when they laid hands on the Samaritans and called down the Holy Spirit on them by the laying on of hands. It is expected that converts should speak with new tongues." However, no documentation is given in any of these books for this statement. In view of this fact and in view of the fact that the quotations given above which convey the opposite impression can be documented, can we be certain that Augustine said what these men claim he said?

(2) Both Chrysostom, who was the patriarch of Constantinople in the East and Augustine who was the intellectual head of the North African and Western churches said there were no tongues in existence in their day. If tongues was to be a permanent gift in the church, why did God allow it to disappear?