

August, 2026 Unity

A Saint Matthew
Missionary Baptist
Church Publication

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity! *Psalms 133:1*

Sundays

Sunday School - 9:30a.m.
(In SS classrooms)

Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
(In Sanctuary & on Facebook)
Children's Church is held each Sunday
during Worship Service

Wednesdays

Youth Bible Study and Activities
(In Family Life Center)
4-6:30 p.m.

Youth Summer Schedule:
8/19 & 8/26

Adult Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.



**BACK TO SCHOOL
RALLY!** at
Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church
in the
O.V. Mosley Family Life Center
on
Saturday, August 8, 2025
Program begins at 10 a.m.

Encouraging Words,
Prayer, Lunch, and
School Supply Give Away

So that we may have ample school
supplies, please register for the "Back to School
Rally" by Sunday, August 2nd by submitting
student's name and grade to the church's Youth
Ministry. We look forward to seeing you all!

SMMBC Women's Day Sunday, August 23rd

Meditate on These Things - Philippians 4:8

8a-Breakfast

9:30a-Sunday School w/ Guest Teachers

10:45a Service Speaker: Minister Ella Pryor, Faith Chapel

Dinner served immediately following 10:45a service

**3pS ervice Speaker: Reverend Chris Walker,
Pastor, St. Paul AME**

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

THE BIBLE SHOULD MAKE SENCE-THE POWER Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

God's message to God's people is intended to make sense. God does all things in decent and in order. However, one church is preaching one thing and another church is preaching something else. We ought to be able to harmonize what the word of God says.

The Book of Acts is the source of all the confusion. For the most part, people see Acts as the power of the Church and want to emulate it. However, every theologian will agree that in Acts, the Church is in its infancy. The Church can't be both in its infancy and in its power. You can't be a newborn fledgling and in the peak of power.

We may try to emulate the power of the Church with its signs and wonders but that's not the power of the Church. The power of the Church is not miracles, signs and wonders. Those were the ABC's of the educational process of faith. God was bringing the Church from its infancy to a place of faith.

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

Paul wrote, *For we walk by faith, not by sight. II Corinthians 5:7* You need to know that God will take care of you, that's what faith is.

The 1st century Church was more about sight than faith. It had to grow to a place of faith. The true power of the Church is your ability to trust God in any and every situation.

Acts is a history book, it is not doctrinal. Church doctrine is best served coming from explanatory books, not history. Paul, in his epistles are explaining the process of the gospel, sanctification, holiness; all those things that are doctrinally important in the Church.

The Book of Acts relates to the New Testament in the same way the Old Testament historical books relate in the Old Testament. For example, when studying Isaiah (major prophet), you can go to Chronicles and Kings (history) and see the ministry of Isaiah; there's a correlation. Acts aligns itself the same way in the New Testament. When studying the Corinthians, you can go back to Acts 18 and see Paul's ministry in Corinth.

A lot of what we've been taught down through the years is not what God is actually doing. God is doing God, not you. Church should never be about what you need or want. Church should be about worship. God is redeeming a lost humanity, fulfilling His covenant, bringing about His closure that we already know about in the Book of Revelation.

Truth and understanding are important...What is Jesus talking about in Acts 1:8 when He tells His apostles, "you shall receive power?" Jesus is talking about "apostolic credentials." Apostolic credentials are those signs that declared the apostleship of the person who did them.

Paul wrote, *"Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds." II Corinthians 12:12* Paul is saying that what he did confirms his apostleship and should tell the people that he is an apostle of Jesus Christ.

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A lot of people have been deceived and are confused. The confusion comes because men want power. However, the overflow of emotions and demonstrations of ecstatic speech are not power. They confuse the people and discredits the church. Folk on the outside looking in are saying, "That doesn't work." It doesn't work because instead of being God's servant, we are busy trying to make God our servant. When we flip it like that, it doesn't work.

We have to understand that the power in the Church is faith, our ability to trust God in all and every situation. The early Church was the ABC's of Christianity, an infant Church. When the Church matures, we become people of faith, strong faith. We don't have to see, we just simply believe and trust.

Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples before ascending into heaven. They had questions about the establishment of the kingdom and when it would take place. Jesus told them not to worry about time and all that kind of stuff. He told them to go to Jerusalem and tarry (which simply means wait) until they receive power. (A lot of the "show" people are doing in the churches have nothing to do with power.) The power of the Church is faith. The faith that can say, *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials," James 1:2* (You can count it all joy because you know who is in control) The power of the Church is the ability to live out the gospel. It's the power to live and be like Christ.

Most of us know that if we had to control ourselves without the Holy Spirit, we couldn't handle it. In order to be proper witnesses, we need this power to do and say the right thing. That power involves our faith and trust in God. Jesus will give it to you if you just believe.

The power of the Church resonates in every born again believer. It's a transformation power and has the ability to transform you from the inside out. The process of transformation is different in each individual. It's the power, not the showmanship that gives you the ability you can never do without the Holy Spirit. When we get this right, the Bible will start to make sense.

The power conditions us to be what God purposed us to be. We are saved to be witnesses as Jesus says in Acts 1:8 *"... you shall be witness to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

God has always been about faith and trust. Our focus should be on God's will, not about our comfort or good times.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, June 28, 2026

Answers for last month's "Know the Bible" challenge:

39 books in OT, 27 books in NT

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy Moses is their author and referred to as the Pentateuch

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

OT poetry books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Major prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel

Minor prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

NT gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

History of the early Church: Acts

21 books referred to as letters in the NT

Paul's letters: Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

General letters: Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, I, II, & III John, Jude

NT prophecy book: Revelation

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

THE BIBLE SHOULD MAKE SENCE - GOD'S TIMETABLE Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

God is doing God! we've been taught to try to make God do our will instead of His will, but God doesn't operate like that. Unfortunately, there's so much confusion within the Church that God's people may not know the truth even when they hear it.

The source of most of the confusion is the misconception of the Book of Acts. We few Acts as the Church in its power and try to emulate it. But what we're doing is emulating a Church in its infancy, the baby Church. The Church in Acts is not the true power. True power is not in miracles, signs, or wonders. The true power is faith.

Since the fall of Man, God's redemptive plan was set into motion; a plan to return lost humanity back to Himself. We need to interpret the Bible in the light of what we already know. We know the ending.

God is doing God in the Old Testament (OT) and in the New Testament (NT). He is not operating based on what happens to us or what we do on a day to day basis. God is not making it up as we go along. God is doing what He has purposed and designed to do. Throughout Scripture, God is working according to His own timetable.

Acts 1:7 And He (Jesus) said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Genesis 7:4 For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made."

Genesis 15:13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

Jeremiah 25:12 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the Lord; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

God has a timetable for the restoration of His people. We act like we don't understand authority. If we understood what it means to serve and have faith in the omnipotent, sovereign God, we would understand His authority and trust Him. If we understood God's authority, we would stand boldly on His word and trust God in what He says. However, our teaching is so polluted it doesn't make us strong, it makes us weak.

v1 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.* We've made this in all kinds of ways as if what they were doing had something to do with what God was about to do.

God had already given to us in prophecy the timetable in which He was going to do that which He did on the Day of Pentecost. What we sometimes overlook in verse one is *"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come."* In other words, it had more to do with God's timetable rather than with what they were doing.

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When we think of Passover, Festival of First Fruit, Festival of Harvest, the Tabernacle; all these Jewish feast days depict what God was going to do with His Church and with the true Passover Lamb. In other words, God has a timetable and according to His timetable Jesus died when He was supposed to die. Jesus died at the time the Passover lamb was to be slain. Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, *"Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. Exodus 12:21*

Jesus died on Passover. He rose on the first day of the week, on the Feast of First Fruits which symbolizes the First Fruit of redemption. Jesus is the First Fruit of the resurrection, the First Fruit of salvation! God set that in motion during the time of Moses and it had nothing to do with what people were doing in the Upper Room.

The Feast of the Harvest, which represented the Pentecost was 50 days after the Passover. Everything happened according to God's timetable. The time was already set. God set it in the OT.

We've made doctrine out of this stuff, some folks are still looking for another Passover. It's time out for the confusion. Some say the Bible means different things to different people. THAT IS NOT TRUE. You may have different applications but the Scripture means what the Scripture means. Find out what the passage in the Bible meant to the person it was directed to and whatever it meant to that person is what the meaning is.

v2-3 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

In this passage we see the coming/baptism of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church. The Holy Spirit came according to God's timetable. The Church age was initiated on the Day of Pentecost just as it was given to us in the OT.

The Holy Spirit came and baptized the people, in other words, the Holy Spirit ushered them into the body of Christ. Now, every born again believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit. If you don't have the Holy Spirit, you are not saved. However, if you trust in Jesus Christ, confess with your mouth and believe in your heart, and truly embrace the saving grace of Jesus Christ, then you are baptized with the Holy Spirit. You may not "feel" anything, the power is in the Word. The power is in trusting what the Word of God says. *Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, embrace Christ's saving grace and repent of your sins, the Word of God says that you're saved.

There are sometimes you can feel the power of God moving in you, however, most of the time you just feel you. Holiness is not about how you feel. Holiness is more about a motivation to please God in your decision making and in life situations.

John, in his gospel, says that as many have received Him, He gave them the power. That power is that transforming effect that brought them into the family of God.

Two things happened on the Day of Pentecost: 1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, —this is a one time event for the believer, it doesn't happen anymore. 2. They were filled—this is when the Holy Spirit has control of you and this may happen more than once.

The problem is that we confuse the baptism with the filling. We have created this stuff, that is not biblical, based on the confusion on what it means to be baptized with the Spirit and what it means to be filled.

It's time for God's people to grow up in His word. It's time for His people to understand His authority and to respect His timetable. It's time for God's people to trust Him to take care of them.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, July 5, 2026



Saint Matthew is praying for our students.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Eddie Washington III

Hope Bridge

4K

Truman Billingsly

Pattycake Preschool

5K

Rashad Burney

Reach Me Teach Me

Jaylen Mayfield

U.W. Clemons Elementary

1st

Rodney Bryant

McCalla Elementary

Caily Burney

Bryant Elementary

Roniah McCray

U.W. Clemons

Chase Parker

W J Christian School

2nd Grade

Jeremy Burney

Minor Community

Jacob Mayfield

U.W. Clemons Elementary

3rd Grade

Ra'Aynna Bryant

McCalla Elementary

Amina Clark

Robinson Elementary

Jaiden Davis

Adamsville Elementary

Amelia White

Meadow Lane

Evan Willis

U.W. Clemons Elementary

4th Grade

De'Quan Frazier

U. W. Clemons Elementary

J'lyn Hannah

Glen Iris Elementary

Eric Holmes

Gardendale Elementary

Carlee Smith

U.W. Clemons Elementary

Reginald Tipton

Glen Oaks Elementary

Roman Tipton

Glen Oaks Elementary

Carlos Westbrook

Gardendale Elementary

Chantz Whitlow

U.W. Clemons Elementary

5th Grade

Aubree Burney

Trace Crossing

Raina Burney

Bryant Park

Ayden Swanson

U.W. Clemons Elementary

Aaron Toney

U.W. Clemons Elementary



6th Grade

Sincere C. Conaway

Jefferson County International
Baccalaureate

Tristian Hannah

Minor Middle School

Aubrie Washington

Jefferson County International
Baccalaureate (JCIB)

7th Grade

Jakaiden Hannah

Smith Middle School

Heaven Whitlow

Legacy Prep

Rebecca Williams

Alabama School of Fine Arts
(ASFA)

8th Grade

Aubrey Carter

Bessemer Middle School

Jalen S. Conaway

McCalla Elementary School

Zeric Parker

W J Christian School

Jett Louise Tipton

Erwin Middle School

10th Grade

Quick Tipton

Wenonah High School

11th Grade

Trailyn Burney

Minor High School

Quinton Johnson

Pleasant Grove High School

Aniyah Vance

Minor High School

Christian Winston

Fultondale High School

12th Grade

Christiana Conaway

Jefferson County International
Baccalaureate/Shades Valley

Markeith Hall

Fultondale High

Ma'Riyah Hall

Minor High School

Destyne Harris

Dora High School

Paige Kidd

Jefferson County International
Baccalaureate (JCIB)

Parker Kidd

Minor High School

Selice Palm

McAdory High School

Jerald Peals

John Carroll High School

Brooklynn Tipton

Field Up Academy

12th Grade continued

Keyno Tipton

Field Up Academy

Jayla Windham

Minor High School

COLLEGE

Jayla Johnson

Lawson State
Community College

Peyton Kidd

University of Alabama,
Birmingham (UAB)

Kawaski "K.J." Lewis

Southern University, Louisiana

Tyan Smith

Army National Guard/
Alabama A&M

Jamar Washington

University of Alabama,
Huntsville (UAH)

Tameria Winston

University of Alabama



Alexia Evans

*For I know the thoughts
that I think toward you,
says the Lord, thoughts of
peace and not of evil, to
give you a future and a
hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

Pray for school administrative staff, facility workers, and teachers including our very own, Sisters...

**Tamela Hardy, Special Ed, 9th-12th grade, Bessemer HS and
Constance Washington, 2nd grade, Sun Valley Elementary**

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

THE BIBLE SHOULD MAKE SENCE - TONGUES, A SIGN FOR THE TIME Acts 2:1-12

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

There ought to be clarity in the Church of Jesus Christ because there is clarity in the Word of God. The Word is meant to strengthen God's people. The pureness of the Word can empower you in difficulties. When hearts are heavy, the Word can lift you up; but to do that, it needs to be understood. There ought to be some clarity.

Mysticism is not a biblical foundation. Mysticism is derived from idolatry, various cults, and other different things. But the Bible is meant to make sense.

Everything is according to God's timetable. Jesus died and rose when He was supposed to. The Holy Spirit came when the Holy Spirit was supposed to come. It had nothing to do with what people were doing; it had everything to do with what God had preordained in the fullness of His time. *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, Galatians 4:4*

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, it signified that that was according to God's timetable. It made sense and had nothing to do with them on one accord. God allows all of us to make our own decisions. Then, no matter what we decide, God can still bring about His plan and purpose according to His own timetable. With that said, whatever it is that you're going through, a God like that can handle your problems. You can trust God with anything.

A sign is a fundamental unit of communication that conveys information, indicates the presence of something else, or acts as a directive. A sign can be physical (billboard, etc.), symbolic (mathematical, music symbol, etc.), or gestural (hand sign, body language, etc.). A sign prepares or informs you of something else.

In the New Testament (NT), a sign confirmed what God was doing and who He was doing it with. For Jesus, signs were messianic credentials. For the apostles, signs were apostolic credentials.

In Acts, we see the apostles build a later doctrine, the doctrinal foundation for Christianity. The doctrine is written in the Epistles and it is written by these men who had apostolic credentials. These signs and wonders indicated that these men were special men sent by God. Their apostolic credentials were necessary in order for them to write the doctrinal Scripture that we study and believe today.

Signs were not necessarily needful or meant to be throughout the Church age. Meaning that once you get to your destination, you don't need a sign to tell you how many miles you have to go because you are already there. The apostles were writing the doctrine of the Church. Their apostolic credentials qualified them to do so. When the NT canon was completed, you didn't need a sign saying, "This is the Word of God."

Acts is a pivotal book, a book of transition/change. These changes are radical changes. One of these changes was from the gospel of Jesus Christ written by the apostles and had to do with the history of the Church. Also, there are radical changes as related to religion. The change from Judaism to Christianity. All of this was taking place in the Book of Acts. Radical changes from the Law to grace; from God just dealing with the Jews to now being all inclusive and dealing with the Jews and Gentiles. Change from the Temple to the Church. These changes had to have confirmation and the signs were the confirmation. The signs were the things that said, "This is God!"

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Radical changes/transitions were always confirmed with miraculous signs. *Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. II Corinthians 12:12*

This is what gave Paul, Peter, and John the ability and the confirmation to write the NT doctrine. Signs had their place. God does not haphazardly do anything. You can get a vision/tutorial of it in the OT. In Deuteronomy 28 and 49, God told a disobedient people that if they continued to fail to obey Him, He was going to send a nation against them and when they came, they will have a language His people would not understand. That was a sign to Israel, the Hebrew nation, that judgement was coming. Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," says the Lord. *"It is a mighty nation, It is an ancient nation, A nation whose language you do not know, Nor can you understand what they say. Jeremiah 5:15* Here it was established to Judah that when God sent a nation against them/judgement against them, the sign would be a language that they did not understand.

In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," I Corinthians 14:21 Paul uses this reference from Isaiah 28:11, as he does a thesis on tongues. They won't hear from God, so He's going to send judgement and they will hear from a people who they will not understand.

v4 This is not referring to some language that is not spoken by humanity. God was bringing people together. In Genesis, God used languages to force people to do what He had ordained them to do. He separated them by confusing their language. In Acts, the Holy Spirit used that same device, languages, to pull the Church together.

v6 The gift of Pentecost is established in Acts 2. The gift was not ecstatic speech or gibberish, Acts 2 is specific in what it was, a gift of languages. Other than I Corinthians, the only other place this gift is talked about is in the Book of Acts.

In Acts, tongues were used to bring the people on the outside to the inside. In Acts 8, it brought in the Samaritans. The Samaritans were 1/2 breed biologically and 1/2 breed spiritually. Phillip preached the gospel to them and they believed and were baptized. However, they had not received the Holy Spirit. *Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:14-17* Some take this passage and say we can lay hands on people and give them the Holy Ghost/Holy Spirit; THAT IS NOT WHAT THIS PASSAGE IS TEACHING.

If the Samaritans had received the Holy Ghost when Phillip preached to them (Phillip didn't have the same authority as Peter and John.), they would have thought that they still had their own form of Judaism. By them not receiving the Holy Ghost until Peter and John came down and prayed for them, the Samaritans knew what they received had to be the same that the people got in Jerusalem. So, it pulled them together. Every time "tongues" show up in Acts, it is bringing people together.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Acts 10:44-46 God sent Peter to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile. While Peter was preaching, the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and his household. They started to speak in tongues/languages. This pulled the Gentiles into the Church.

And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?"

So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Acts 19:3-6 The followers of John the Baptist (John the Baptist was an OT prophet and these people represented the OT way.) encountered Paul, Paul preached the gospel to them. They believed and began to speak in tongues.

There were four groups of people, the Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles, and those of the OT way. They were all brought under the same umbrella. They all received the same gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues (languages). This was confirmation of what God was doing. It was a sign that said that this was a radical change. This was a sign that said that everybody can be saved, no longer just the Jews.

When you get to where you're going, you don't need a sign anymore. The true gift of tongues is languages. There is no second gift.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, July 12, 2026

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

THE BIBLE SHOULD MAKE SENCE - APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

We need to understand foundational truths as it relates to the Book of Acts. The Bible says, on the Day of Pentecost there came a sound like a rushing wind...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit came according to God's time frame; predicated on what God was doing, not what they were doing.

A sign was established. The sign was speaking in languages, not ecstatic speech. Everyone heard them speak in their own language. God established languages (tongues) as a sign of the coming of the Holy Spirit; a sign of what God was doing and would be doing.

In the 2nd chapter of Acts to the Jews, in the 8th chapter to the Samaritans, in the 10th chapter to the Gentiles, and in the 19th chapter to the followers of John the Baptist (who represented the OT way). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit with the manifestation of languages only happened four times in Acts and it was predicated on God bringing into the body of Christ four different groups of people which encompasses the whole world. Now, God is not just dealing with the Jews but also all of humanity. The sign that God used, languages/tongues, was to bring the Church together under one umbrella.

Its important for us to understand that being saved with the evidence of speaking in tongues/languages was a sign during the apostolic age that God was using as an answer to Jesus' priestly prayer in John 17:14. *Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.*

Bible doctrine is supposed to make sense. Acts is a history book, it is not doctrinal. God was doing something radical. The transitions were taking place and God had to confirm the transitions. God was using the sign of languages to bring people together in the body of Christ. Unfortunately, we have taken the sign and made it to represent some kind of superiority.

In the first seven chapters of Acts, we see the gospel in Jerusalem and Judea. The Church got too comfortable with what they were doing. So, God raised up persecution which caused the Church to move out of Jerusalem and Judea. The Bible says that Philip went to Samaria.....

Philip didn't have the apostolic authority that Peter, James, and John had. God used apostolic authority to confirm the doctrine of the NT. What God was doing was so radical, it had to be confirmed through signs and wonders. When Jesus came and died on Calvary, it was radical. That's why the Jews couldn't believe it or receive Christ.

Everybody didn't and doesn't have apostolic authority. Being saved/born again, doesn't mean you have apostolic authority. No matter how much faith you have, you cannot do as Peter, James, and John. In its simple definition, apostle means "one sent, a person or messenger." The apostles in the NT had to be confirmed as men that came from God. The Bible only refers to 14 men as apostles. These were the men that were specifically called by God and appointed by Jesus Christ.

Luke 6:13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: These men were more than just "one sent." They were a specific group that Jesus carved out to carry the teaching of His word and His work on the foundational truths.

Acts 1:1-2 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, So, according to the Bible, outside of these 14 men, there are no more apostles sent by Christ.

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Acts 1:21-22 “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” They had apostolic authority and qualifications.

II Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. There were false teaching saying that Paul was not an apostle. The evidence of Paul’s apostleship are the miracles , signs, and wonders that Paul performed before them. That in itself says that Paul operated in apostolic authority.

We need to interpret Scripture in association with other Scripture. *Mark 16:16-18* He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” People use this passage to say that if you have faith, you can do this and that. You don’t give folks the Holy Spirit by laying hands on them. The truth is, if you have the faith to do the will of God, THAT’S IT!

Ephesians 2:19-20 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, According to this passage, apostles were used to establish the foundation of the Church and the foundation of the doctrine of the NT in which we believe.

According to Scripture, the apostolic authority in the NT was manifested through miracles, signs, and wonders. In this vein, there are no new apostles.

In studying Acts, you find things were situation based. In other words, God dealt with different people in different ways. God dealt with Jews one way, with Gentiles another way, and so on.

In Acts, chapter 8, Philip is preaching in Samaria. Philip was a Hellenistic Jew, a Jew with more of a Greek background. The Samaritans believed and were baptized, however, they did not receive the Holy Spirit. THIS DELAY WAS SITUATION BASED.

James, head of the church in Jerusalem, sent Peter and John to Samaria. They went with apostolic authority. Peter and John prayed for the Samaritans and they received the Holy Spirit. Apostolic authority carries with it confirming credentials. Meaning that the same thing the Jews got in Jerusalem is the same thing the Samaritans got in Samaria. The same apostolic authority in Jerusalem was the same apostolic authority in Samaria.

If God hadn’t delayed the Holy Spirit, under Philips preaching alone, the Samaritans could have thought that because they had their own form of Judaism they would now have their own form of Christianity. It’s similar to what we do today. That is why we have so much confusion.

It’s time to know the truth. We are a people of faith. Faith is not about changing your situation, faith is about changing you.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, July 19, 2026



Linda and Damon Kimbrough
8/16/2003

Sandra and Walter Clements
8//16/1987

**We are Saint Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church of Docena, AL**

Where

Our Vision is that of an all-inclusive church, ministering to the needs of all God's people, too transform and empower them through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

Our Mission is to progressively pursue the restoration of the spiritual, physical, and social condition of the community as we actively engage in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus the Christ as Savior and Lord.

Our Motto is "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others for the Kingdom of God," which reflects the heart of this church as we address the needs of the church and the community.

We Believe that our society will be best affected through the ministry of the church. We further believe that the church is the best organization of people to rebuild our battered communities. As the church grows, so do the community, the city, the state, and the country. We are going to make a difference: one person, one family, one community at a time, for the Kingdom of God.

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Pastor

Reverend Eddie Washington, Sr.

*"We do not have to raise the standard to become the men
and women God wants us to be; we simply have to come
up to the one He has already set."*

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*A Saint Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church Publication*

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