

# Words Unutterable

By Sandy Miller

Back in the early 1980s, I listened to a minister who seemed scholarly teach on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and he argued that speaking in tongues was proof of receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. At the time, I accepted his explanation, but after receiving true Biblical teaching from Moriel, I questioned his interpretation of the scripture he used.

He quoted from 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.” He went on after giving the Greek for “which cannot be uttered,” literally “groanings unutterable,” to add, according to his logic, “unutterable how? Unutterable in our own language.” That’s not what Paul was saying. A text taken out of context, separated from its co-text, is a pretext.

In 2 Corinthians 12:2-4, Paul speaks of being raptured fourteen years earlier.

*<sup>2</sup> “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. <sup>3</sup>And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) <sup>4</sup>How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”*

When John was exiled on the island of Patmos, he heard words uttered in heaven that he was not permitted to write down to put in the Book of Revelation.

## **Revelation 10:1-4**

*<sup>1</sup> And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: <sup>2</sup> And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, <sup>3</sup> And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. <sup>4</sup> And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.*

We don't know what the seven thunders said or why John was not allowed to write them, but we know one thing: God did not want those words uttered on earth. As far as we're concerned, they are words unutterable.

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, each disciple spoke in a language he didn't know himself, but someone in that crowd did. They were utterable words – words that were allowed to be uttered. The disciple speaking those words didn't know what they meant, but someone did. The Lord was allowing those words to be uttered. But the words Paul and John heard were unutterable on earth. The Lord prohibited those words from being uttered on earth. Therefore, no one on earth could utter them.

As far as the tongues of angels go, the Lord, Paul, and John seem to be the only ones we know of who have heard them. Paul spoke of being caught up to the third heaven and hearing “unspeakable words.” However, when he speaks in 1 Corinthians 13:1 about speaking in the tongues of men and angels, he is speaking hypothetically; he's not saying that he had spoken in the tongue of angels. He's saying, even if he

did, if he did it without love, it would just be a lot of noise. John spoke of hearing the seven thunders, and that he was not allowed to write their words, and of course the Lord dwelt in heaven from eternity past, before angels were created, so He has heard it all. When Stephen was stoned, he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God, but nothing is said of him hearing anything. On the night of Christ's birth, apparently the angels spoke in Hebrew or Aramaic. The same for Gabriel when he appeared to Zacharias and Mary. Although it is possible, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to speak in a heavenly tongue, given the restrictions we see in Scripture, it's not likely. Given the restrictions designated by Paul and John, there are words God doesn't want uttered on earth at all! They are the "words unutterable."