

Acts 10:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

Then answered Peter,

Analysis

They heard the Gentiles 'speak with tongues, and magnify God.' Speaking in tongues (languages) echoed Pentecost (Acts 2:4), providing audible confirmation of the Spirit's presence. The purpose was magnifying (praising) God - worship in the Spirit's power. This convinced Jewish witnesses that these Gentiles had genuinely received the Spirit. From a Reformed perspective, tongues served a sign function in Acts (2:4, 10:46, 19:6), authenticating the Spirit's coming to new groups (Jews, Gentiles, John's disciples). Magnifying God is the Spirit's primary fruit - glorifying God in worship.

Historical Context

Whether the tongues were known languages (as at Pentecost) or ecstatic utterance is debated. The function was the same - audible evidence of the Spirit's presence. This occurred circa AD 40-41 at Cornelius's house in Caesarea.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What was the purpose of tongues-speaking in the book of Acts?
2. How does Spirit-inspired worship (magnifying God) demonstrate genuine conversion?
3. Why did God use spectacular signs at key transitional moments in redemptive history?

Interlinear Text

Ἠκουον γὰρ αὐτῶν λαλούντων γλώσσαις καὶ

they heard For them speak with tongues and

G191 G1063

G846

G2980

G1100

G2532

μεγαλυνόντων τὸν θεόν τότε ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Πέτρος

magnify

G3588

God

G2316

Then

G5119

answered

G611

G3588

Peter

G4074

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:4 (Parallel theme): And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 19:6 (Parallel theme): And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Mark 16:17 (Parallel theme): And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Acts 2:11 (References God): Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.