

THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY , OGBOMOSO.

**SPEAKING IN TONGUES:  
A CASE STUDY OF THE IGBOMINA WEST  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IN KWARA BAPTIST CONFERENCE.**

**A THESIS PRESENTED  
TO THE FACULTY OF THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE  
MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES.**

**BY**

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**JUNE, 2005.**

## ABSTRACT

The paper "Speaking in Tongue: A case study of the Igbomina West Baptist Association in Kwara Baptist Conference. The main thesis of the paper is to examine historical background of speaking in tongues. The paper traced the historical sequences of speaking in tongues from the New Testament and its spread to Nigeria and how the phenomenon got to Igbomina West Baptist Association and its effects on the Baptist churches in the area.

Interviews, questionnaires, are used in carrying out this study. Also, available textbooks and journals are consulted for relevant information on speaking in tongues. Youths, Baptist Student Fellowship and African Churches have contributed how the speaking in tongues got to Baptist churches in Nigeria. Speaking in tongues have both positive and negative influence on Igbomina West Baptist Association. Some members left church, others could not go out but accepted the phenomenon. Speaking in tongues affected our church mode of services. Some Pentecostalism practices have mixed with the Baptist doctrines, many have accepted it as a part and parcel of worship services. The thesis recommended the sound biblical teaching on the gift of the Holy Spirit. Also, there should be a religious tolerance.

## II. CONCLUSION

The gift of speak in tongues has gained a lot of ground in our Baptist Churches. Speaking in tongues as a phenomenon and one of the remarkable features of the twentieth century Christianity has come to stay with us in the Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches. The central figure on the phenomenon revolves round the personality of the Holy Spirit. According to Tinuoya's, research on "Pentecostalism in Baptist Churches in Nigeria: A case study of Selected Baptist Churches in Ogbomoso." His table showed that 58% of the Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches allow night vigils in their churches. 54% allowed their members to pray aloud. 58% allowed speaking in tongues in prayer and 58% are having deliverance services in their churches.<sup>4</sup> Likewise, Emiola Nihinlola's research among the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso Students showed that 75% supported tongue speaking with interpretation. 82% supported laying hands on people and 95% conducting deliverance ministrations, (Tongues can be used during the deliverance procedure).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ojo, 176.

<sup>4</sup> Steve Adetoyese Abiodun Tinuoya, "Pentecostalism in baptiat churches in Nigeria: Case Studies of Selected Baptist Churches in ogbomoso, (Ogbomoso M.Div Essay June, 1999), 50, 88.

<sup>5</sup> Nihinlola, 27.

Thus, in Igbomina West Baptist Association it is better to keep Baptist within the Baptist polity. The church should let the members realize that there are certain doctrines that make them special amidst other churches. It is doctrine that makes the people Baptists. It could be attained through:

1. Weekly Bible Study.
2. Frequent Crusade, Retreats, Workshop and Revival services.
3. Every church to have a pastor on the pastorate.
4. Encouragement of members to buy and read the convention monthly magazine, The Nigerian Baptist.
5. Regular attendance of associational and conference meetings.
6. Recognition and the engagement of the Baptist Student Fellowship (BSF). It is important to not that, when the churches refuse to teach and to make use of this fellowship (BSF). The young ones go out to learn elsewhere. One of the objectives of the fellowship is that "to involve them (students and young ones) in responsible church membership and denominational understanding and participation."<sup>6</sup>
7. There is a need for discipline for any members who violate the Baptist doctrines and practices.
8. Our prayer meetings should not be reflected lukewarm attitudes. This is why members of our church still run to the Pentecostal churches when they have problem.

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<sup>6</sup> Baptist Student Fellowship: Guide Book, (Ibadan: Baptist Press, 1986), 7.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made due to the fact that speaking in tongues has gained a lot of ground in our Baptist Churches, especially in Igbomina West Association. They are:

1. There is a need to have a new awareness on the work and the personality of the Holy Spirit. There is a lot of ignorance about the Holy Spirit and His gift in our churches today. The Pentecostal doctrine of Baptism in the Holy Spirit is partly responsible for this confusion and ignorance. People have become obsessed with the urge to receive the more charismatic gifts of tongues and they are less about biblical teaching on these gifts.<sup>7</sup> However, all the Biblical gifts are for the building up of the body of Christ. Thus, speaking in tongues should be used to promote love and to build the body of Christ.
2. The Nigerian Baptist Convention leaders must not ignore speaking in tongues. Emiola Nihinlola writes; "for it will be wrong for any convention leader or pastor to ignore 'an experience' that seems to have permanently affected many denominations."<sup>8</sup> Instead of ignoring the phenomenon, Baptist leaders need to guide their members to have Biblical Pentecostal experience and practices as to stay relevant in this ever changing world.<sup>9</sup> Also, there is no need to reject it totally. Acts 5: 38,39 writes "...if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them in that case you may even be found fighting against God." In line with this problem, Baptist pastors have a vital role to play in offering guidelines to the members regarding Baptist beliefs and practices. And also to educate them on the dangers of unguarded speaking in tongues. It is also necessary for the Nigerian Baptist

<sup>7</sup> J.R.W Stott, The Baptism and Fullness of the Holy Spirit, (London: Intervarsity Press, 1967), 39.

<sup>8</sup> Emiola Nihinlola, A Biblical Evaluation of Pentecostalism, (Ibadan: Sceptre Prints, 1998), 19.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

