

## HAVE YOU REALLY TRIED IT?

By Israel Wayne

People who say, "I tried Christianity, and it didn't work for me..." never truly knew God.

What kind of God did you expect to find? A God who would protect you and prosper you and not let anything bad happen to you? That's not the God of the Bible.

The God of the Bible will allow you to be "afflicted in every way...persecuted...struck down...perplexed...always carrying in the body the death of Jesus...always being given over to death..." (2 Cor. 4:8-11). All of this so you can know Jesus more.

K. Chesterton was right. Christianity has not been tried and found lacking. It's been found difficult and left untried.

The goal of Christianity is NOT for you to have a happy, blissful life with no problems. It is for you to learn to suffer so you can become more like Jesus. If that doesn't work for you, then by all means, find a different religion.

## "Why Do You Not Speak In Tongues?"

By Jarrod Jacobs

A question I am asked from time to time is why do those in the church of Christ not speak in tongues. I will sometimes surprise people by saying that we **do** speak in tongues! This causes some to wonder because they do not understand what is meant by that answer. So, I get to explain!

What do I mean that we speak in tongues? I am trying to contrast man's understanding of tongue-speaking with God's teaching. You see, man's teaching and God's teaching on this subject are diametrically opposed. Man teaches that tongue-speaking is some kind of furious jibber-jabber, wherein only God and perhaps an "interpreter" knows what the person has just said. In contrast, the Bible teaches us that "tongues" are human languages men speak (Acts 2:4, 7-8, 11). For example, when we speak in English, German, French, Spanish, Japanese, or Portuguese, we are speaking in what the Bible says is a tongue! Thus, we are already speaking in a "tongue" when we speak with people day by day in English!

Of course, this is not what people mean when they ask about "tongue-speaking." They mean that someone has been given power by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language. In this case, the answer is that we Christians do not have the ability to speak in a language we have not learned or studied first. Though some folks possessed this power in the first century, it is a power that no one possesses today. I Corinthians 13:8-10 makes it clear that when the "perfect" or completed word has come, then that which is "in part" (tongues, prophecies, miraculous knowledge, etc.) would fail, cease, and vanish. This has already happened. In fact, by the end of the first century, God's revelation to man was complete.

Today, we have God's completed word (Jude 3; I Cor. 13:10) and do not need miraculous tongue-