

ALPHA COURSE - IS IT BIBLICAL?

REVIEW OF THE ALPHA COURSE – “HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?”



A Review by John Argubright – BibleHistory.net

Below is my Review of a Video from one of the Alpha Courses, “How Can I be Filled with the Holy Spirit?” in which I will expose the dangerous false doctrine being taught by the creator of the course, Nicky Gumbel.

The errors here are many. To sum it up, this is basically a video of the Alpha Course founder Nicky Gumbel using sly speech and deceitful words, redefining Scripture passages in an effort to influence youth into experimenting with strange tongues and physical manifestations and to make them believe this is part of the normal Christian experience.

Below is a partial transcript of the video, with the time mark of when he makes his comments. Followed by my commentary, from time to time, pointing out the false doctrine being espoused.

Time 0:30 The alpha course begins with Nicky Gumbel saying: *“We finished this morning looking at the fact that every Christian has the Holy Spirit living within them. That's what it means to be a Christian. Paul said; “If anyone does not have the Holy Spirit they do not belong to Christ. Roman 8:9”*

Commentary: So the first fifteen seconds of his talk seems to be ok. Unfortunately it’s all downhill from here.

Time 0:45 Gumbel continues: *"But not every Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit. Because Saint Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus and says to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He contrasted it in a way with getting drunk. He said; "Don't get drunk with wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18 "So it's like it's a form of intoxication being filled with the Spirit. But it is a sober intoxication. It is the only type of intoxication that doesn't leave you with a hangover afterwards."*

Commentary: Nicky Gumbel thus begins his quest to redefine what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He said that it is a form of intoxication like getting drunk with wine, but not in an intoxication way. This is utter nonsense and the doctrine has led to the so called 'being drunk in the Spirit manifestation,' where people stagger about acting like they are drunk, but say that it is an outward manifestation of being drunk in the Spirit. Paul is not saying this. He is saying don't be grieving the Holy Spirit by partaking in drunkenness and other sins, but walk in manner according to the holiness of the Spirit. To allow Him to control your life fully in obedience to God's word, living in holiness and righteousness. The Bible never says that apostles were staggering around like they were drunk. This doctrine was espoused by the heretics Kenneth Hagin senior and Kenneth Copeland.

Time 1:20 *"And he (Paul) said this is something you can go onto. It's not a one off experience being filled with the Spirit. Go on with being filled with the Spirit. Over and Over again. So what's the difference between a Christian who has the Holy Spirit living within them, and someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit. I sometimes use this analogy. We had an old gas burner pilot light. The pilot light was always on, but when the heat came on that boiler went pffffff. And some Christians are like pilot light Christians and some Christians are sorta like pffffff Christians. And you can tell the difference when you meet them."*

Commentary: Regardless of what Gumbel says; Paul did not say to go out and get intoxicated with the Holy Spirit through an outward manifestation. It was all inward, dealing with your own personal holiness, something Gumbel deals very little with in this video.

Time 2:00: Gumbel continues: *"In the book of Acts we see five occasions when people are filled with the Holy Spirit. And they are different categories of people. And you may fall into one of these five categories. The first category are those who are longing to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Perhaps there is someone here and you say: "This is what I am really longing for." If you are longing to be filled with the Holy Spirit you will be. On the day of Pentecost there was a group of people who were longing to be filled. They had been praying then suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, (Gumbel reiterates) "All of them. No one was missed out. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." and they began to speak in other tongues. As the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:2-4) That's the first category."*

Commentary: First of all the apostles had been instructed to wait in Jerusalem by Christ until He would give them the Holy Spirit. This was a special one-time event signifying that the Holy Spirit would now be given to all those who believe. It was not done because the apostles were longing for it, but because Christ had promised that The Holy Spirit would be given. The outward signs of tongues hanging over the heads of the apostles and of them speaking to foreigners in the crowd in their own languages so that they could understand the Gospel being proclaimed, this was only given to the twelve apostles in this passage. Those outward signs did not appear over the heads of every Christian in Jerusalem. Here

Gumbel is setting up his mostly young audience with arguments to try and persuade them to confide in his teaching, to get them to loosen their guard in order to get them to experiment with, and to teach them his version of how to speak in tongues and other manifestations. That is the ultimate goal of this British cult leader as we shall see.

Time: 2:55: Gumbel states: *"The second category is those who are receptive. Maybe you are saying I can't honestly say I am longing to be, but I am open. I'm receptive. Acts 8, the Samaritans. "When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them. They had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit." (Acts 8: 14-17) So if you are open you can receive the Holy Spirit today.*

Commentary: First of all, unlike today, this event was a one-time sign to the apostles that not only had the Holy Spirit been given to Jewish believers, but that the Samaritans who the Jews considered to be outside Israel, and who were half Jews and half Gentiles, would receive the Holy Spirit as well. People don't receive the Holy Spirit today by an apostle laying their hands on believers'. So once again, Gumbel is taking Scripture out of context.

Time 3:45 : Gumbel continues: *"The third category is hostile. Their might be somebody here who says. "Well I am in this category." I don't really like this. I really don't know what I am doing on this weekend. I don't really agree with all this stuff. Maybe you will say, I am still an atheist. Or maybe you just don't like all this talk about the Holy Spirit. You feel quite hostile."*

The Gumbel goes on to tell the story of how there was no one more hostile than the Apostle Paul until he encountered Christ. Eventually Ananias is sent by the Lord to lay his hands on Paul who then received the Holy Spirit and became The Lord's apostle to the gentiles.

Gumbel then goes on to tell a lengthy story about how a man who was hostile to Christ had come to one of the Alpha courses and received Christ. And then goes on to tell how his life was changed. Gumbel then asks the man after a few weeks if he would lead an alpha course.

Commentary: There are a few things here, if this third category is aimed at unbelievers that's fine. But frankly Christians should be hostile to efforts by false teachers to redefine the Holy Spirit and what it means to be filled with the Spirit. As well as what is meant by speaking in tongues, no matter what nice stories are being told. Also the man who had been saved should have in no way been asked to teach a course on the Bible or Biblical doctrine after being a Christian for just a few weeks. The same principle of no new convert, according to 1 Timothy 3:6, being put in charge as an overseer in the church. That's just irresponsible on Gumbel's part. But then again, maybe Gumbel can't find anyone well versed in Scripture to teach his courses because they would oppose much of the doctrine behind it.

Time 10:00: The Alpha course continues: *"The fourth group of people are the uninformed. There maybe somebody like this here today. You say; "Look, I kind of been around Christian circles a bit." Maybe you say "I've been baptized as a baby." Maybe you were confirmed. Maybe you have been to church or go quite regularly to church. But you say I have never heard all this stuff about the Holy Spirit. Acts chapter 19: "While Apollus was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he*

found some disciples and asked them, Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, Then what baptism did you receive?" " John's baptism?," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him." On hearing this they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:1-6

Commentary: In this segment Gumbel goes after those young Christians who he basically calls ignorant of not understanding his charismatic doctrines surrounding the Holy Spirit. This is a typical attack that charismatics make against non-charismatics all the time. He includes those who had grown up in the church, who have put their faith in Christ, but have not been taught the Holy Spirit from a Charismatic angle. He quotes Acts 19:1-6 trying to infer that the disciples of John who were baptized are the same as those in the church who have been baptized. Yet this passage is clear that these disciples were not disciples of Jesus, but were disciples of John. So Paul had to give them the Gospel, and once they believed, the Holy Spirit came upon them. Yet Gumbel is preparing young Christians in the audience to let down their guard and partake in his charismatic rituals which he will offer at the end of his talk.

Time 13:00 Gumbel continues: *"Well the apostle Paul tells us the experience of being filled with the Spirit is this. It is the Love of God. God's love for you and for me. Being poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. That's what they experienced. They experienced God's love for them. Being poured into their hearts. And then it seems there was physical manifestations of this, because they said "Look, what happened to them is exactly what happened to us on the day of Pentecost." What happened to them on the day of Pentecost? Well we read it earlier. There were tongues of fire. The wind or the Holy Spirit. What does that symbolize? Well, Fire is like passion, purity. And sometimes when people are filled with the Holy Spirit, they experience like fire within them. Not literal fire but, people have often said to me say I feel like heat in my hands, or my arms. I knew it, the temperature in the room, it was just like I felt this like a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes it is like wind. The Hebrew word for wind is the same as the Spirit. It is 'rûach.' The breadth of God coming into a person. And sometimes you see that. You see the fluttering eyelids, or people breathing deeply, or even like sometimes people being blown over by the wind. And these are a physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit that they experienced on the day of Pentecost and that they probably experienced here because they recognized it as the same thing. Now these physical manifestations are not what it is all about. It's all about God's love for you.*

Commentary: First of all fire did not come down from heaven and appear over the apostles heads. It was cloven tongues. Tongues that had been split in a similar fashion to that of the flames of a fire splitting upwards. But it was not fire, but tongues. This symbolized they would speak in more than one language. Their original Hebrew languages would be split into foreign languages so that the Gospel could be shared with the unbelieving foreigners in their presence. The many languages they began speaking are listed in Acts 2:8-11.

So the whole fire scenario that Gumbel puts forward trying to say this is the fire of the Holy Spirit coming down on people and warming them like at Pentecost is just nonsense. Secondly, the Bible does not say there was a wind a Pentecost that knocked the apostles over. It says there was a sound from heaven that sounded like the rushing of a mighty wind. It was a sound, it was not the force of the wind.

Now the reason Gumbel, and others in the charismatic movement, want you to believe this is so they can try and rationalize the weird behavior of people, whom open themselves up and free up their minds to Gumbel's methods. Frankly the only time in the Bible you see physical manifestations of the sort that Gumbel describes here is in the demon possessed. The throwing down of people onto the ground, shaking, twitching, and non-recognizable human language gibberish. This is not caused by the Holy Spirit, but most likely the result of opening yourself up to other spirits as many false religions practice, such as the Hindus. This is very dangerous and is not a game. Yet Gumbel is trying to get your kids to experiment with it, telling them that this is the love of God. Only a wicked and twisted man would do such a thing.

Time 14:50 The Alpha Course video resumes: *"Why am I talking about the physical manifestations? Somebody said to me one time; because we invite, as we will do later on, we invite the Holy Spirit to come. And there were very powerful physical manifestations, like the ones I described. And somebody said to me that was altered suggestion. Because you talked about it, that's what happened. Well, I don't want that to be the case. So the next time I didn't say anything about the physical manifestations. And we prayed, 'Come Holy Spirit.' And exactly the same physical manifestations happened. And somebody came up to me at the end said: 'Why didn't you warn us that this kind of thing might happen? We were very surprised. It was very unfair not to talk about this beforehand."*

Commentary: Well I am warning you right now. These physical manifestations are not from God. Gumbel is trying to loosen your inhibitions to his counterfeit Holy Spirit. The Bible says: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20) So the Spirit of Christ, also called the Holy Spirit, is already present in the meeting. You don't somehow command the sovereign Holy Spirit to come on down, as if somehow man can command the Holy Spirit.

Time 15:50: Gumbel states: *"So I am trying to strike a balance. This is not suggesting that they don't need to happen. But if they do happen don't be surprised and don't worry about them because this does happen."*

Commentary: Well, I am telling you that you should be worried about it, because Gumbel is trying to say that this is a part of normal Christian worship, and it is not. He basically is saying "Let's just play around with weird manifestations and don't worry about it. Jesus loves you."

Time 16:00 The video resumes: *"But what I would say to you is don't focus on that. That is not what it is about. It is about God's love being poured into your heart. That's what matters, not the physical manifestations. It's like when you fall in love with someone. And you get tingles in your spine. You could say, wow! I got these physical manifestations. I got these tingles in my spine. That was amazing. I got to Google 'Tingles in the spine.' 'How can I get seven ways to get tingles in the spine' You wouldn't do that would you? What would you do? You would pursue the person."*

Commentary: Evidently Gumbel doesn't want you to google "Is Speaking in Tongues Demonic by John MacArthur" or "charismatic false doctrine." Gumbel is saying don't question it. Just chase after it. Ignore the land mines, after all it's going to send shivers up your spine.

Tine 16:35 The alpha course video continues: *"It's the person not the experience. Don't pursue physical manifestations. Pursue God. Pursue Jesus. Pursue the Holy Spirit. We all need to experience love. This is the deepest human need, love is the deepest human emotion. Everyone needs to experience love in their life."*

Gumbel then goes on to tell the story of a couple married for 50 years and tries to make a point that everyone needs love and that this is what the Holy Spirit does.

Commentary: First of all, the main reason for the Holy Spirit is not so that you feel loved. The view of the Holy Spirit that Gumbel shares is very limited. Here is a few he missed.

- 1) The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
- 2) The Spirit guides us into all truth (John 16:13).
- 3) The Spirit regenerates us (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5)
- 4) The Spirit glorifies and testifies of Christ (John 15:26; 16:14).
- 5) The Spirit sanctifies us (2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 5:16).
- 6) The Spirit teaches us to pray (Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 1:20).
- 7) The Spirit bears witness in us that we are children of God (Rom. 8:16).
- 8) The Spirit is our guarantee and deposit of the future resurrection (2 Cor. 1:22; 2 Cor. 5:5).
- 9) The Spirit dwells in us (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:14; John 14:17).
- 10) The Spirit teaches us (1 Cor. 2:13; John 14:26). 12).
- 11) The Spirit comforts us (Acts 9:31)

And many more. Yet all that Gumbel can say, over and over, is like the old Beatles song says:

(Love, love, love)

(Love, love, love)

(Love, love, love)

All you need is love

All you need is love

All you need is love, love

Love is all you need

Typical liberal preacher. Dot, da da da da!

Time 18:49: The Alpha course resumes: *"On the cross we understand God loves us. Jesus died for you. That's how you know that God loves you. Through the Holy Spirit you feel God's love.*

Commentary: Actually it's just the opposite. The Spirit guides us into all truth (John 16:13) and the Spirit testifies of Christ (John 15:26; 16:14). Without the Spirit no one can understand the meaning or accept what Jesus did on the cross. The Bible teaches that we feel his love because "God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) You feel God's love for you at the cross.

Time 19:00 Nicky Gumbel continues: *"God loves you so much that if you were the only person in the whole world Jesus would have died for you. He loves you personally. And he wants you to know that love. Certainly in my experience, not something you necessarily feel constantly but from time to time we have experiences of his love. The feeling of being loved by God. That's what the Holy Spirit does. So they experienced God's love for them."*

"Secondly they were released to express their love for God. When we experienced God's love for us, we have a love for God. Which we want to express. It overflows for God and for other people. And what we see here is they began praising God. Saint Augustine is probably the greatest theologian of the church. And he wrote this. "The thought of you. This is like a prayer to God. "The thought of you stirs a person so deeply that they cannot be content unless they praise you. Because you made us for yourself and our hearts find no peace until they rest in you." That's what worship is about. That's why we sing these songs which are mainly about God's love for us. And about our love for God. And it is ok to express emotions in our relationship with God. I used to be very suspicious of emotions. I mean look, I am a lawyer. I'm a British lawyer. How unemotional can you get?"

Commentary: Well that explains it. He's a lawyer not a theologian.

Time 21:00: Video resumes: *"I was brought up never to cry. And I assumed that was true of faith as well, that we should be totally unemotional. And I guess I also assumed that Jesus was British. I mean what other nationality could he have possibly been. But Jesus was not British. He was a Hebrew. And they expressed emotion. And emotion is a very important part of our faith, and of our love for God. And we need to be free to express our emotions to God. It's interesting. Even the British express emotions, don't they? On important occasions like football matches. But why not express it in our relationship with God which is far more important. And we need to be free to express with our whole bodies. It's ok to raise your hands like this in worship. Did you know that that is how the Jews expressed their worship. That's how the Christians in antiquity expressed their worship. The New Testament talks about raising Holy hands in prayer to God. That's the traditional form of prayer to God. Pope Benedict wrote in his book "The spirit of Liturgy' why we do that, because It is like opening yourself up to God. It is like more surface are for God. (He holds his hands up and outward) It's the opposite of this. (He crosses his arms in front of him) Which is "Don't come anywhere near me God."*

Commentary: Please do not go out and buy the book from the Pope. Roman Catholic doctrine strays so much from the truth of the Gospel. It focuses so much on the outward forms of worship instead of worship from ones heart. The Pharisee, (probably with hands lifted up to God for everyone to see) said "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men." . . . And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift

up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." I guess Gumbel didn't cover that one.

Secondly one shouldn't be surprised that Gumbel reads books from the Popes and quotes from them in his videos. Below is a photo of one of his meetings with the current Pope. You know, the Pope who just came out with a video which denied that believing in Jesus is the only way to become a child of God. In the video a lady who worships Buddha declares herself to be a believer. Then there is a man who worships Allah declares himself to be a believer. And the video says that they are meeting God in different ways. And the Pope says that they certainly are all the children of God. This is not true, for the Gospel of John teaches that only those who believe in Jesus have the right to be called the children of God. And that no man comes to God the Father except through Jesus Christ. (John 1:12 & John 14:6)



Gumbel evidently sees the Roman Catholic churches as a new marketplace for his courses. And his program is being used by thousands of Catholic parishes in over 70 countries. There you can see the mixing of Charismatic doctrine with Roman Catholic dogma. This should show you that Gumbel really is drunk with the false spirit of the ecumenical movement. The one world religion.

Not only has the Roman Catholic Church endorsed the Alpha Courses, but some of the largest churches in this country such as Bill Hybels Willow Creek Church in the Chicago suburbs use it. Rick Warren, another mega church pastor has also endorsed the Alpha Course. But this should come as no surprise since the theology of these churches is very weak and they are more interested in drawing people to their churches than discerning whether or not the teaching programs that they use are Biblically sound.

Time 22:30 Gumbel continues: *"So this is the traditional form of worship (With his hands lifted high.) So if you walk into a church and everyone has their arms up in the air like this say: "Wow, I have come to a*

church that is practicing ancient forms of worship. If people got their hands by their sides that's absolutely fine. Just say that I have come to a modern trendy church experimenting with new forms of worship."

Commentary: And when you go into a church that is experimenting with demonic gibberish speaking, and people rolling around on the floor, with eyes fluttering and twitching just say; "Wow! I gotta get out of here."

Time 23: Nicky Gumbel continues; *"Thirdly they received a new love language. They started, as you see here, speaking in tongues. What is speaking in tongues? It is so important to say this. First, not all Christians speak in tongues. It is not the mark of being a Christian. It is not the mark of being filled with the Holy Spirit. There are no like first class Christians who speak in tongues, Second class Christians who don't speak in tongues.*

Commentary: There are really no Christians today, at least I have seen any anyhow, who are speaking in tongues the way he Bible defines the term. The Biblical gift of speaking in tongues, as found in the New Testament, was the super-natural gift from God of speaking in a known foreign language to unbelievers without any previous knowledge or training in that language. And what was spoken in that foreign language was the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The main purpose was in order that Christ and Him crucified would be preached to all nations in a language that the hearer would understand. That's what happened at Pentecost. That's why it says in 1Corinthians 14:22: "Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not."

Time 23:25: The Alpha course continues: *"It is not the most important gift of the Holy Spirit. So why do we talk about it on Alpha? For this reason. Both in the New Testament, and in our experiences, often it is the first of the more supernatural gifts of the Spirit that people receive."*

Commentary: No, the reason that Nicky Gumbel talks about it is because he is trying to push this charismatic doctrine down the faces of those taking the Alpha course.

Time 23:40 Gumbel: *"And what Paul talks about is two different types of tongues. He talks about humans and angelic tongues. Angelic tongues are different from human tongues. Human tongues is where God gives us a language, that we have not learned, but is a recognizable human language. That is what happened on the day of Pentecost. And interesting this has happened on several occasions on an Alpha weekend. And most often the language that is being given is all a love language. It is expressing love for God. And it is recognizable as a human language that a person has not learned."*

Commentary: Nowhere in the Bible does it say that tongues is a love language. What it teaches is that it is a sign to unbelievers, not to believers. (1 Cor 14:22) At Pentecost, tongues were spoken as a sign for unbelievers. The apostles began preaching the gospel to them in foreign languages that the unbeliever's present were speaking, in order that they might be saved. Do you see that today among so called tongue services? No, it's all some prayer gibberish that is being taught to undiscerning Christians.

Time: 24:25 The heretic Gumbel continues: *"More commonly it is an angelic tongue, not one that you would recognize. And Paul said that it is a form of Prayer. He says that when he prays in tongues, his spirit prays."*

Commentary: This is another false doctrine, speaking in an angel language. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that speaking in tongues is a prayer language. It does not. The key doctrine in 1Corinthians 13 is love. It says: "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." It says "IF." Not, "If and it is so." Did Paul speak in every language known to man? No. Did Paul speak in an Angel language? No. What he was saying was that if he could, and had not love it would mean nothing. Now when the angels throughout the Old and New Testament visited men and women. Did they talk to them in a special angel language, or did they speak the same language as the hearer?

Time: 24:40 The Alpha heresy continues: *"In other words it is a way of expressing what you feel here (Gumbel grabs his stomach with both hands,) without going through the process of putting it into a language that you know. How often in a human conversation sometimes you want to express something, but you can't find the words for it. You say, "I'm trying to say something, but I aaaah can't find the words for it." But you have to find the words for it in a human conversation, but with God, he can give you this language that frees you up from putting it into a language that you already speak."*

Commentary: Throughout the New and Old Testament, when men and woman prayed to God, did they not speak to God in their own native tongue, or did they use some gibberish angel language. Wake up people and stay away from this unscriptural stuff.

Time: 25:10: Gumbel the false prophet continues: *"Paul says my Spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. In other words this is like direct to God."*

Commentary: This is taking Scripture out of context. Paul is not saying that he himself prays in an unknown tongue that he does not understand while praying to God. Paul is rebuking the Corinthian church for speaking and praying outload to God in foreign languages that they don't even comprehend in church. He basically says it is useless. That is what is meant in 1Corinthian 14:14 which says: "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful." And that is why in 1Corinthians 14:13 he says, do not do this unless there is an interpreter around to interpret the foreign language. And then in 1 Corinthians 14:15 he says "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." In other words what Paul is saying it that when he prays he is expressing both what is in his unspoken thinking mind, (his spirt inside) as well as speaking it forth. Both of which you can comprehend. His spirit, by the way, in this verse the 's' in spirit is lower case. It is not referring to the Holy Spirit, capital 'S', but to the spirit of man. Basically Paul is telling them to put away the tongue speaking. That's why in 1Corinthiaans 14:19-20 He says: "But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. So Paul is saying that tongues are not meant for inside the church. And to stop thinking like children."

Time 25:15 Nicky the false teacher continues: *"This is a wonderfully freeing way that we can express our love for God for example, without the limitations for human language. I found it an amazing gift."*
"Particularly in times when things are really hard. I remember when my mother died. And I was in the Taxi, I didn't know that she died. She had a heart attack and I was on my way to the hospital, and I just did not know how to pray. But I prayed in tongues all the way, and it was an amazing feeling to do that. To be able to, I knew what I was saying, I didn't know the exact words. But I knew what I was expressing. But I

couldn't at that moment put them into a human language. It was beautiful gift that God gives us. And it is not compulsive, nobody has to receive it. But it is a wonderful gift. Paul contrasts it as doing it in a public meeting, Paul says don't do it there, because people get so excited about speaking in tongues, they gave all the talks in tongues. And people couldn't understand what you were saying. In a public meeting there has got to be an interpretation. But in private Paul said I speak in tongues more than you all. He said I like you all to speak in tongues."

Commentary: Paul was not saying he was speaking in an Angel prayer language. Paul naturally spoke both Hebrew and Greek. This made him a perfect apostle to be sent to the Gentiles with the Gospel. Paul never told them in Scripture to all speak the tongues of some angel language. Gumbel is referring to 1 Corinthians 14:5 which says: "I would that you all spoke with tongues, but rather that you prophesied: for greater is he that prophesies than he that speaks with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying." The reason Paul said this was because if they truly spoke in tongues they would be able to bring the Gospel to foreigners, but if they did so they would not edify the church one bit. Paul continues in 1 Corinthians 14:7-9 "Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air." Gumbel says when you are speaking gibberish tongues you are talking God. But Paul says your words are worthless, you are just speaking to the air.

Time 26:25 *"It's a beautiful gift. And if you want to receive it you can receive it today. We will give you an opportunity. We will do some singing test. Paul speaks about I will sing with my spirit. I will sing with my mind, but I will sing with my spirit. And singing in tongues is like a corporate activity."*

Commentary: Again Gumbel is messed up theologically. First he contradicts himself. Earlier he said speaking in unrecognizable tongues should not be done in public, then he turns around and says that singing in unrecognizable tongues is ok. As noted previously singing with your spirit is not speaking in tongues. Paul rebuked the use of tongue gibberish coming out of your mouth as a church activity. Secondly, a gift is something given spontaneously by God. It is not to be learned such as he is saying when he tells the crowd that after his speech they will do some singing tests. This is nothing more than man teaching man how to speak in gibberish

Time: 26:35 *"And it is a great way to receive the gift. And if you like to receive it, there will be an opportunity for you to do so tonight. It's not something that takes you over. You are in full control. You can start when you want, you can stop when you want. It is a beautiful gift which is something that God offers. It comes from his Holy Spirit. And it helps us to express our love. Our love relationship with God. As I say it is not compulsory and it is not necessarily a mark of the Holy Spirit. You can be filled with the Holy Spirit and not speak in tongues."*

Commentary: What Gumbel says is blatantly false. He says that "It's not something that takes over you. You are in full control. That's not true. If you are talking about these weird physical manifestations. You are not in control when you give yourself over to false spirits.

Time 27:12 Gumbel continues on: *"What are the barriers to being filled with the Holy Spirit? Luke chapter 11. If you would like to be filled with the Spirit, here are some of the things that maybe are going on in your mind. The first thing is doubt. Doubt goes like this. You say; "If I ask, I don't think that I would receive." Jesus say's this; "So I say to you, ask and it will be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it will be opened to you." Luke 11:9 And You can see that the disciples are looking doubtful so you can see that he says it again. "Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you!" And you're thinking, OK, maybe my neighbor if they ask. Maybe the person sitting next to me. But not me. So Jesus goes on; "For everyone who asks receives, everyone who seeks finds, and to everyone who knocks, the door is opened." (Luke 11:10) Everyone, which includes you. If you ask you will receive. So that's doubt. The next you go; "OK lord convinced!" "I would receive, but I am not sure I want it." What would happen to me? What if something terrible would happen to me? If I ask; "Is something awful going to happen to me?" Jesus said this; "Which of you fathers, if your children ask for a fish, he forgot about the chips but don't worry about that, will give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, will give them a scorpion? If you then being evil, because you are really an evil bunch really, you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him Luke 11:11-13. See he is not going to give you anything terrible. If you ask for the Holy Spirit, he is going to give you the Holy Spirit." . . . So we ask him."*

Commentary: First of all, at the time Jesus gave this teaching, the Holy Spirit had not been given and did not permanently indwell man. He told his disciples in John 16:7-13 that the Holy Spirit would not be given unless he first went away, referring to his crucifixion. There is where forgiveness of sins would occur. At the cross. Luke 11, which Gumbel quotes, starts off with Jesus teaching his disciples how to pray. We know this as 'The Lord's Prayer.' The prayer asks God to provide our daily bread, our physical food as well as for Him to feed us with the truth of his Word. And that He would forgive us our sins and lead us out of temptation. That is the main focus. The parable of the persistent friend knocking and the parable of the good father giving good gifts follows Jesus teaching on how to pray and they relate to that prayer. Jesus is telling them that the gift He is going to be sending is the Holy Spirit, who will indwell every believer. He does not tell them to ask for the Holy Spirit in the Lord's prayer. He tell them they should ask for forgiveness of their sins which they have committed and also for help being delivered from the temptation of sin. To be repentant. The Holy Spirit, is the good gift he promises to all who repent and who put their faith in Christ.

The Holy Spirits main purpose: "And he, when he is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8:

So first, the good gift, the Holy Spirit, convicts us regarding sin and leads us into righteousness.

Jesus said: "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." John 14:15-21

Secondly, as we see above in 1John 14, The Holy Spirit is our advocate to help us overcome sin, resist temptation, and gives us assurance that Christ's blood forgives us our sin. He is also the Spirit of Truth and gives us our spiritual bread.

The Spirit of Christ, also known as the Holy Spirit instructs us not to walk in sin, and assures us that if we do sin we are to confess our sin, and we can receive assurance that our sins will be forgiven because we have an advocate, our defense attorney, Jesus Christ, who has born our sins.

The Bible says: "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, these things write I unto you, that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 5:7-2:1

Yet, throughout this Alpha Course lesson, there is no talk about confessing your sins, turning away from them, repentance, or praying to be delivered out of temptation. There is also no presentation of the Gospel. That Christ died for your sins upon the cross. That he paid the penalty for your sins. That you must be born again. Without true belief in Christ, you will not be given the Holy Spirit.

Today the Holy Spirit is given at the very moment a person is saved. The very moment you put your faith in Christ. There is no second, third, fourth, etc., indwelling of the Holy Spirit that you need to call down from Heaven by means of some angelic language singing or praying in every worship service that you attend. He permanently indwells every believer at the very moment of true belief in Christ.

So as you can see, the alpha course is presenting a different Gospel in which a person receives the Holy Spirit by praying and singing in gibberish.

Now if after all of this, if you still want to go out and get the Alpha Course for your church. Let me put it in a tongue you will understand. Don't waist you money. Protect your kids from this cult leader. Don't get suckered into playing around with deceiving spirits that have accompanied the Alpha course and their charismatic meetings.

Please also see our Review of the Alpha Course video "**Does God Heal Today?**" which exposes their false teaching regarding healing by [CLICKING HERE](#).

If you would like to know more about what the Bible really says about speaking in tongues, download our [FREE BOOK](#): "**What the Bible says about Speaking in Tongues – The Holy Spirit verses Deceiving Spirits.**" This Bible study teaches verse by verse on this topic and teaches what the Bible says as compared to what the heretics of today have to say. And you will see that a very dangerous doctrine is being spewed from the tongues of these false prophets and leading many Christians astray. [CLICK HERE](#) For Free PDF Version. [CLICK HERE](#) to buy the Smart Phone version & Support our work.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT



SPEAKING IN TONGUES HOLY SPIRIT VS. DECEIVING SPIRITS

JOHN ARGUBRIGHT