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### **Boondock Saints: Real Speaking in Tongues**

The Boondock Saints is a nineties movie about two Catholic guys charged by God with killing evil men so that good people can flourish. Every now and then, I get caught up in movies and way, way over-analyze them. Like this:

The theology of it is generally horrible, and something no one should follow or consider authoritative (it's not our place to judge the souls of others). And yet, I love this movie. Amidst all of its cheese, it has a heart. And one thing it gets right is speaking in tongues. The McManus brothers who star in the movie possess a mostly unexplained ability to speak in Russian, French, German, Spanish and other languages.

While they are being questioned about the deaths of two mafia hit men (who the brothers killed in self-defense), they turn to each other and use French, German and another language to get their story straight without the FBI agent knowing what they're saying. They also respond to the Russian mafia in Russian, which shocks the mobsters. Their ability is uncharacteristic and seems to come from nowhere.

Acts of the Apostles describes in Chapter two how the Holy Spirit filled the apostles and everyone gathered there heard their own language being spoken:

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

The listeners heard their own languages because the Holy Spirit allowed the apostles to speak real foreign languages, not gibberish.

To be clear, I believe that people can have exuberant moments of praise that come out of unformed sounds. But that's different from speaking in tongues, which is really speaking in tongues...as in actual languages.

Though, the film never alludes to characters' ability as supernatural, it clearly portrays them as the titular "saints," receiving a call from God and all. Again though, it's not realistic or theologically accurate. It's just amusing though how they see speaking in tongues. Boondock Saints is a Hollywood thriller, and it's not a theological tract nor should it be treated as such. However, the film does capture what I imagine the gift of speaking in tongues would actually be like: having the ability to speak any language at will.

So here's to popping popcorn and reading (perhaps too much) into pop-theology.

What do you think of Boondock Saints? Can movies have insights into faith (for better or for worse)? What do you think of speaking in tongues?

SOURCE:<http://www.revelife.com/730780201/boondock-saints-real-speaking-in-tongues/>