

Gifted for a Reason Pt 4

1Corinthians 12:28-31

- Up to this point we've covered **4/5** of the gifts **15** in total, and today we'll cover one of the more controversial gifts mentioned in scripture > Apostolic gift. What makes it controversial isn't that anyone denies that it happened, for to do so meant you would have to deny the gospels and the book of Acts entirely, and no one who claims that the Word of God is infallible is going to do that in good conscience, well then what is the problem in believing that the sign gifts are still in existence and active in the lives of believers today?
- The issue is found in **1Cor 13:8**- it says "**love never fails, but whether there are prophecies they will fail, whether there are tongues they will cease, whether there is knowledge it will vanish away**". People interpret this to say the sign gifts > miracles, healings, Apostolic, tongues, and interpretation of tongues ceased to exist once we received the last of the canon of scripture.
- The problem with this interpretation is the context of the chapter is never about the gifts stopping but that in applying the gifts they must be accompanied by love. In Corinth like today speaking in tongues, miracles, healings the sign gifts had become out of balance as people had put an undue value on its spiritual worth and elevated those who possessed the gift to a stature above everyone else in the church, and Paul is correcting that as he says in **1Cor 13:1**- that although you speak with the tongues of men and Angels without love your just an instrument that is playing out of tune, and so the emphasis isn't stopping the gift by rightly applying it.
- In **1Cor 13:7** before he says anything will cease Paul points out **5** things Love does > **1.** Bears all things, **2.** Believes all things, **3.** Hopes all things, **4.** Endures all things, **5.** Love never fails. This is important because the things the Corinthians were admiring the spiritual gifts they will some day cease, because prophecy, tongues, word of knowledge, are all unnecessary in heaven, as we won't need edifying or exhorting because everyone will be perfectly comforted by the presence of Jesus and the glory of heaven, so yes one day they'll stop but not on this side of eternity.
- So these things are still needed for the body because we're still in of sanctification, edification, encouragement, teaching, healing, spiritual growth, and that comes by everyone exercising the wonderful spiritual endowments we've been given to be a blessing upon God's people His church, and when we do it correctly it demonstrates God's Agape love and > **Jn 13:35, Heb 6:10.**

V28-31

- **V28** Apostles are special ambassadors of the church, in fact scripture gives us two different meanings for the Apostolic gift, the first is found in **Acts 1:15-26**- where the disciples gave three central requirements needed to replace Judas as one of the twelve Apostles.

- **1st** requirement you had to have been with the Disciples when John Baptized them, **2nd** you had to have been an eye witness of Jesus earthly ministry, **3rd** you had to have been an eye witness of Jesus resurrection. What's fascinating is these three things are needed for salvation also, you need to be baptized in the Spirit of God, you have to be a true believer of everything scripture says Jesus did when He was on earth, and you have to believe Jesus rose again from the grave.
- Of all the followers of Jesus at that time only two qualified as Apostles Joseph called Barsabas surnamed "**Justus**" and Mathias, what's interesting is we don't read that God set this criteria up only man. **1Cor 15:8-10** Paul calls himself an Apostle that was born out of due time, meaning when God was ready to raise him up to take Judas place He did and not based upon what the disciples thought for it was by God's grace he was chosen and not by man's qualifications.
- This brings us to the second definition of "**Apostle**" as one who is sent out on a mission, or special ambassadors of the church > **2 Cor 5:20**- we are ambassadors who represent the Lord in this world and are called to preach His message regardless if people want to hear it or not it's why were still on this earth. **1Pet 2:9-10**- we've been called out of darkness and into His marvelous light to then proclaim His truth in order for others to come into the light.
- **1Cor 9:1-2** in defending his apostleship Paul said the churches that he has planted and the lives that have been changed for God's glory is proof enough that he was sent out by God to represent Him and accomplish His will by preaching the gospel and modeling the faith. Just so you know others besides Paul were called Apostles in the broader sense that we just went over > Barnabas **Acts 14:14**, James the Lord's brother **Gal 1:19**, and Timothy, Silvanus **1Thess 2:6**- could like Paul have made demands as Apostles of Christ but didn't. These all were men who went out preaching, teaching, discipling, planting churches for the Lord and the body of Christ.