

# Gifts of the Spirit: Dead or Alive?

#### 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

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# 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### **Tom Pennington**

"So, what do we mean by cessationism? We mean that the Spirit no longer sovereignly gives individual believers the miraculous spiritual gifts that are listed in the Scripture and that were present in the first century church. It is neither the Spirit's plan, nor His normal pattern to distribute miraculous spiritual gifts to Christians and churches today as He did in the times of the Apostles. Those gifts ceased as normative with the apostles."

#### Cessationist Arguments

• Spiritual gifts are unnecessary

#### 1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

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- Spiritual gifts have been misused and abused
- Spiritual gifts died long ago

• Acts 2:43 - Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

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- Acts 5:12 The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

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- Acts 8:6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said.
- Acts 14:3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

• Mark 9:38-39 - "Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

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- V. 39 "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me..."

#### We need power to accomplish our God-given purpose!

# Holy Spirit Power

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- Luke 24:49 "...but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

# Our mission is impossible without the power of the Holy Spirit!

#### 1 Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God. Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking actual words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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- Glorify God

