

God the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology), Part 3

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Adult Bible Institute, CMC, Systematic Theology – 10/4/2026

I. **THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN BELIEVERS**

- a. **Sanctification** ~ *mortification of sin; transformation into mature Christlikeness*
 - Gal. 5:16-26 – *desires of the flesh in BATTLE with the desires of the Spirit*
 - Rom. 8:13 – *put to death the deeds of the flesh BY THE SPIRIT!*
 - Eph. 4:1-4 – *be diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace*
 - Eph. 4:29-32 – *guard your mouth do not GRIEVE the Holy Spirit*
- b. **Scripture** ~ *He is the Author and the One who works through the Word!*
 - 2 Pet. 1:20-21 – *...men being moved **by the Holy Spirit** spoke from God...*
 - Zech. 7:12 – *the Word of the Lord comes by His Spirit through His prophets!*
 - Heb. 4:12 – *the Word is living and active! Because the Spirit is WORKING!*
 - Eph. 6:17 – *The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God*
- c. **Illumination** ~ *He grants us understanding of the spiritual realities of His Word*
 - Ps. 119:18 – *“Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things in Your Law”*
 - 1 Jn. 5:6 – *The Spirit bears witness to the truth*
 - Jn. 14:17 – *Jesus calls Him the Spirit of truth.*
 - Jn. 14:26 – *He would teach the disciples and remind them of Christ's Words.*
 - 1 Thess. 4:8 – *to disregard the written Word is to stiff-arm the Holy Spirit.*
 - Jn. 16:8 – *The Holy Spirit CONVICTS OF SIN!*
 - Eph. 5:18-19 – *be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in songs!*
 - Col. 3:16 – *let the Word of Christ dwell richly, speaking to one another in songs!*
- d. **Assurance** ~ *He grants believers the certainty of salvation and personal hope of eternal life*
 - Romans 8:16 // Gal. 4:6 // 1 Jn. 3:24 all declare the same thing: *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of adoption by which we call out Abba Father!*
- e. **Exalting Christ** ~ *The Holy Spirit works for the exaltation of Christ*
 - Jn. 16:14 – *Jesus promised that the Spirit would come and said: “He will glorify Me”!*

II. **THE SPIRIT'S GIFTS TO BELIEVERS**

- a. **Definition:** *grace gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to each believer for the purpose of edifying the church and exalting Christ.*
- b. **Key NT Words used to describe Spiritual Gifts¹:**
 - 1. χάρισμα (charisma) ~ *that which is freely and graciously given, favor bestowed, gift; rooted in the χάρις (charis) word group, which is grace, unmerited favor; put simply, “a grace gift”.*
 - 2. πνευματικός (pneumatikos) ~ *denotes the gifts as being spiritual (as opposed to being natural)—having a spiritual source, nature, and purpose.*
 - 3. μερισμός (merismos) ~ *conveys the idea that the originator and distributor of these gifts is God, not humans.*
- c. **In Practice:** *a believer's spiritual giftedness is simply the capacity to serve in the church.*

¹ William Arndt et al., [A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1081.

d. Key NT Passages

Rom 12:6-8	1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28-30	Eph. 4:11
Prophecy	Words of wisdom	Apostles	Apostles
Service	Word of knowledge	Prophets	Prophets
Teaching	Faith	Teachers	Evangelists
Exhortation	Healing	Miracles	Pastor-Teachers
Giving	Prophecy	Healings	
Leading	Distinguishing of spirits	Helps	
Showing mercy	Tongues	Administrations	
	Interpretation of tongues	Tongues	
		Interpretation of tongues	

e. The Need to Steward our Giftedness (1 Pet. 4:10-11).²

<i>Speaking Gifts (1 Pet. 4:11a)</i>	<i>Serving Gifts (1 Pet. 4:11b)</i>
1. Teaching (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28)	1. Service or Helps (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28)
2. Exhortation (Rom. 12:8)	2. Giving (Rom. 12:8)
3. Evangelism (Eph 4:11)	3. Leadership/Admin. (Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:28)
4. Pastor-Teacher (Eph. 4:11)	4. Showing Mercy (Rom. 12:8)
Purpose: Edification of Church & Exaltation of Christ (1 Pet. 4:10-11)	

“How should Christians identify their gift or ‘giftedness’? Since spiritual gifts are mostly meant to be used in the context of the local church, it is likely that as Christians serve one another, others will recognize and comment on an individual’s spiritual giftedness.” (ECD, p. 217)

III. THE CASE FOR CESSATIONISM

a. Definition: *Cessationism* is the view that the revelatory and miraculous gifts were unique to the apostolic era for the purpose of authenticating the apostolic witness in the inauguration the church and to complete the Bible, thus, these gifts **have ceased**.

b. The Gifts in View: *Prophecy; Healing; Tongues*

c. The Foundational Role of the Apostles (Eph. 2:20-22)

d. The Qualifications of an Apostle:

- *An Eyewitness of the Risen Christ (Acts 1:21-26)*
- *Personally Appointed by Jesus Christ (Luke 6:12-13; Gal. 1:1)*
- *Authenticated by the Signs of a True Apostle (2 Cor. 12:12)*

e. The Vital Relationship between the Sign Gifts and the Apostles (2 Cor. 12:12)

f. The Purpose: Authentication for the Founding of the Church and the Finishing of the Bible

“Such authentication was necessary because the apostles were bringing a new message and a new revelation—first to a Jewish community that had been severely warned not to add to Yahweh’s words, and then to a Gentile world that regarded it as foolishness. They could not simply claim to have received new revelation and expect to be accepted in the synagogues.” (ECD, 214).

² Adapted from Tom Pennington, *A Biblical Case for Cessationism*, p. 93.

g. NT SPIRITUAL GIFTS CATEGORIES³

Permanent Gifts	
<i>Speaking Gifts (1 Pet. 4:11a)</i>	<i>Serving Gifts (1 Pet. 4:11b)</i>
1. Teaching (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28) 2. Exhortation (Rom. 12:8) 3. Evangelism (Eph 4:11) 4. Pastor-Teacher (Eph. 4:11)	1. Service or Helps (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28) 2. Giving (Rom. 12:8) 3. Leading/Administration (Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:28) 4. Showing Mercy (Rom. 12:8)
Purpose: Edification of Church & Exaltation of Christ (1 Pet. 4:10-11)	

Temporary Gifts	
<i>Revelation</i>	<i>Confirmation</i>
1. Apostle (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11) 2. Prophecy (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10, 28; Eph. 4:11) 3. Distinguishing of spirits (1 Cor. 12:10) 4. Word of wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8) 5. Word of knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8)	1. Miracles (1 Cor. 12:10, 28) 2. Healings (1 Cor. 12:9, 28) 3. Faith (1 Cor. 12:9) 4. Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10, 28) 5. Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor. 12:10, 30)
Purpose: Founding of the Church & Finishing the Bible	

h. Evaluating the Gift of Prophecy

- **Prophecy** is “the infallible proclamation of direct, infallible revelation from God (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:20-22)” (p. 213, ECD).
- True Prophets had to meet qualifications:
 - **Godly Character** (Matt. 7:15-23)
 - **Doctrinal Orthodoxy** (Deut. 13:1-5)
 - **Perfect Accuracy** (Deut. 18:20-22)
- Does *prophecy* today meet those qualifications? The answer is no!

i. Evaluating the Gift of Healing

- Consider the Unique Nature of NT Miracles. All the biblical healings performed through miracle-workers were:
 - *Definitive*
 - *Instantaneous*
 - *Complete (full degree, not partial healings)*
 - *Undeniable*
- Does anything today meet those descriptions? The answer is no!
- Clarification: *We absolutely believe God still works MIRACULOUS HEALINGS! God can and does continue to work miracles (e.g., regeneration, healings). The question here is whether he continues to do so through the gift of healing (using human agency).*

j. Evaluating the Gift of Tongues

- *The biblical gift of tongues was the supernatural ability, granted by the Spirit, of select Christians to speak in previously unlearned human languages.” (ECD, p. 213).*
- The NT evidence and terminology is overwhelming that the gift of tongues referred to *actual human languages* that were given for the following purposes:

³ Adapted from Tom Pennington, *A Biblical Case for Cessationism*, p. 94.

- A Sign of Divine Judgement on Unbelieving Israel (**1 Cor. 14:21-22**)
 - A Symbol of the International Nature of the Church (**Acts 2:1-42**)
 - A Secondary Means of Divine Revelation in the Church (**1 Cor. 14:1-40**)
 - *In 1 Cor. 14, Paul is teaching about the priority of love and he illustrates this insisting that if tongues are not understood/interpreted and driven by the priority of love, they have no value.*
- Most of what goes on in the name of “the gift of tongues” today is completely at odds with the realities on display in the NT

Temporary Revelatory Gifts⁴

1. Apostle (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11): Men directly commissioned by the risen Christ and sent out to found and establish the church
2. Distinguishing between spirits (1 Cor. 12:10): The divine enablement to discern true from false statements made by people who deceptively claimed that their words were prophetic revelations from God
3. Healing (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30): The divine enablement to restore the sick to immediate health without a necessary faith response by the one(s) being healed
4. Miracles (1 Cor. 12:28): The divine enablement to perform works of power that contravene or exacerbate the normal processes of nature
5. Prophecy (1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11): The divine enablement of receiving and communicating direct verbal revelation from God to man
6. Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10, 28; 13:1): The divine enablement to speak in a real, human language that had not been previously learned
7. Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor. 12:10, 30; see 14:26–28): The divine enablement to interpret the words of one speaking in tongues
8. Utterance of knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8; 13:2, 8): The divine enablement to communicate a direct word of insight from the Lord to guide the local church in understanding a prophecy (deemed a revelatory gift because it is linked with prophecy in 13:8)
9. Utterance of wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8): The divine enablement to give a direct word from the Lord to skillfully guide the local church in a specific decision (deemed a revelatory gift because it is connected with the word of knowledge, which is linked to prophecy in 13:8)

Permanent Gifts (Speaking/Serving)

1. Evangelist (Eph. 4:11): The divine enablement to effectively explain, exhort, and apply the gospel to the unsaved
2. Exhorting (Rom. 12:8): The divine enablement to effectively incite practical holiness in heart and action through encouragement, comfort, admonishment, and entreaty
3. Faith (1 Cor. 12:9; 13:2): The divine enablement to trust God in all details of his work even when the outcome seems uncertain. This gift produces stellar assurance that God will accomplish his purposes.
4. Giving (Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 13:3): The divine enablement to generously, joyfully, and sacrificially give earthly possessions to the Lord for the work of the ministry
5. Helping/serving (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28): The divine enablement to sacrificially and submissively help meet the needs of other Christians
6. Leading/administrating (Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:28): The divine enablement to zealously govern Christians toward the goal of accomplishing the will of God
7. Mercy (Rom. 12:8): The divine enablement to cheerfully detect, empathize with, and assist in meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of other people
8. Prophecy/preaching (Rom. 12:6): The nonrevelatory, divine enablement to forthtell, that is, to proclaim the Scriptures
9. Shepherd/teacher (Eph. 4:11): The divine enablement to shepherd Christians by leading, providing, feeding, protecting, and otherwise caring for them
10. Spiritual discernment (1 Cor. 12:10): The divine enablement to identify forms of doctrinal error and religious deception. This represents the permanent, ministry aspect of the gift. As “the father of lies” (John 8:44), Satan continually seeks to counterfeit the true work of God by disguising himself as an angel of light (cf. 2 Cor. 11:14), working primarily through false teachers, who dispense the “doctrines of demons” (1 Tim. 4:1 NASB). There are those in the church today who have been given a significant ability to identify falsehood by comparing it to biblical truth.
11. Teaching (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28): The divine enablement to clearly interpret, explain, and apply the Scriptures to Christians

⁴ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., [*Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 384–385.