

When Will Tongues Cease?

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

1. Condition of the Interpreter

- a. Are you a believer? (John 3:16, Rom 3:23, 5:8, 6:23)
- b. Are you spiritual or carnal? (1 Cor 3:1-3a)
- c. Have you asked for wisdom? (James 1:5)

2. Clarify the Problem

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 seems to teach that sign gifts will _____ until the rapture.
- b. Tongues are the supernatural ability...
 - i. To speak in a formerly _____ but linguistically distinct and _____ language. (Acts 2:1-7)
 - ii. That was granted according to the will of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 12:11)
 - iii. Given to some but not all believers. (1 Cor 12:29)
 - iv. Which served as _____ of the spread of the Church to the Gentiles. (Acts 10:44-46)
 - v. That was a sign for _____. (1 Cor 14:21-22)
 - vi. And was prophesied to _____. (1 Cor 13:8)

3. Context of the Passage

- a. Broad context
 - i. The author is the apostle _____. (1 Cor 1:1, 4:7, 16:21)
 - ii. Who were the recipients?
 - a. They were _____. (1 Cor 1:2)
 - b. They were _____. (1 Cor 1:5)
 - c. They were _____. (1 Cor 3:1-4)
 - iii. What is the purpose of the book?
 - 1. Primarily a letter of _____ of _____. (1 Cor 3:1-4)
 - 2. If your church looks like the church in Corinth, something is _____ with your church!
- b. Immediate context
 - i. 1 Cor 13:1-3 – The exercise of any gift without love is an “_____”, “_____ to _____”, and “without _____.”
 - ii. 1 Cor 13:4-7 – Paul describes _____ in detail.
 - iii. 1 Cor 13:8-10 – Unlike love, which never fails, _____, _____, and _____ will fail, cease, and vanish away (respectively).
 - iv. 1 Cor 13:11-12 – Paul provides two illustrations of this failing/ceasing/vanishing away.

4. Content of the Passage

- a. What are the key words in the passage that need to be defined?
 - i. Tongues, Prophecy, and Knowledge – see attached.
 - ii. Part – a part, a side. “In part” is a _____ word, not a _____ word. (1 Cor 13:9-10)

- iii. Perfect *téleios*; that which has reached its end, term, limit; hence complete, full, wanting in nothing.
 - 1. It can mean “_____” (quantitative).
 - 2. It can mean “something _____ or _____” (qualitative).

b. What is the argument?

- i. One thing never fails - _____. (1 Cor 13:8)
- ii. Three things will fail, cease, or vanish away - _____, _____, and _____ (1 Cor 13:8)
 - 1. Tongues “ceasing” is _____ voice. (Luke 5:4)
 - 2. Prophecy’s “failure” and knowledge’s “vanishing away” is _____.
- iii. Tongues will cease _____, but prophecies will “be failed” and knowledge will “be vanished away” when the _____ has come. (1 Cor 13:8-10)

c. What is the “perfect”? (1 Cor 13:9-10)

- i. Because “perfect” and “that” are neuter, they cannot refer to _____.
- ii. Because “part” is quantitative, “perfect” (*téleios*) must be a quantitative (_____/_____) not qualitative (perfection) term.
- iii. Because knowledge and prophecy are _____ gifts for _____, the “perfect” (*téleios*) must have to do with revelation for believers.
- iv. “When that which is perfect has come . . .” must mean the quantitative _____ or wholeness of the revelation to believers (_____).

d. Is there an informative illustration?

- i. Just as Paul _____ childish things as he matured, in time (and with the completed scriptures), the Church would put off tongues, knowledge and prophecy. (1 Cor 13:11)
- ii. Paul describes an incomplete (in part) revelation (prophecy and knowledge) as “in a _____”, while James describes the completed revelation _____ the description “dimly.” (1 Cor 13:12, James 1:23-25)

e. When do tongues cease?

- i. Tongues were a sign to _____. (1 Cor 14:20-22)
- ii. Tongues were an authentication of the spread of the _____ to the _____. (Acts 10:44-46)
- iii. As the Church became more _____, and when Israel ceased to exist as a _____ with a formalized _____ in 70AD, tongues were no longer _____, so they ceased (middle voice).

5. Compare – Ephesians 2:20, Revelation 22:18-19, James 1:23-25

6. Conclude

- a. What was the teaching/message to the original listeners/readers?
 - i. Sign gifts of prophecy and knowledge were incomplete revelations to be replaced by the completed Word of God.
 - ii. Tongues were an authentication of the spread of the Church to the Gentiles, and a sign for unbelieving Jews and would cease when they were no longer needed.
- b. How can I apply the teaching of the passage today?