

Cessationism vs. Continuationism

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Continuation?
 - It was three months ago when I informed you that - we would eventually address the debate that takes place...
 - ...between the Christians who are Continuationists - and the Christians who are Cessationists.
 - Just to be clear - a Continuationist is a Christian who believes that the Holy Spirit continues to distribute the signifying gifts - according to His will.
 - In contrast to this - the Cessationist is a Christian who insists that these signifying gifts have already ceased.
 - And as we consider these two camps - we should take a moment to ask...
 - ...is there a good reason to think that one position is more Biblical than the other.
 - And with this as our focus - we're going to spend our time today considering the question - is cessationism a Biblical perspective?
- Cessationism
 - Now - in order to answer the question - is cessationism Biblical - I should take a moment to remind you that...
 - ...cessationism is based on the belief that - the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit - like tongues - prophecy and healing - have already ceased.

- And just to be clear - I should take a moment to point out that - there are four main forms of cessationism...
- ...which includes Concentric Cessationism - Classical Cessationism - Consistent Cessationism - and Full Cessationism.
- Concentric Cessationists believe that the signifying gifts have ceased in the mainstream church and areas where the gospel has reached.
 - At the same time - the Holy Spirit is still manifesting these gifts in order to help missionaries spread the gospel in unreached areas.
- Then there are Classical cessationists - who assure us that the signifying gifts ceased after the canon of Scripture was completed.
 - These cessationists believe that God may still works miracles - so long as these "miracles" do not accredit new doctrine or add to the New Testament canon.
- There are Consistent Cessationists - who believe that the signifying gifts ended with the apostolic age - - and not only that - but...
 - ...there are also no more prophets - evangelists - pastors - nor teachers.
- And finally - there are Full Cessationists who insist that the Holy Spirit is no longer empowering Christians with the signifying gifts...
 - ...and not only that - but - they also believe that God is no longer working miracles of any kind.

II. Outline

● Points

- Cease?
- Now - as we consider these four different forms of cessationism - I should take a moment to point out that...

- ...most cessationists use the scriptures that we're studying today - as the basis for believing that cessationism is Biblical.
- And as we make our way through the text before us today - we're going to tackle this topic by asking...
 1. ...Will the Signifying Gifts Cease?
 2. ...If so - then - When will the Signifying Gifts Cease?
 3. ...And finally - we'll ask - Why will the Signifying Gifts Cease?
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 13...
- ...where we find Paul - describing the way that the signifying gifts will eventually cease.

III. Will

● Set up

• Context

- As we make our way to the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- We've spent the last fourteen weeks - considering the manifestation of spiritual gifts...
- ...by which Christians are empowered to engage in the ministries that should take place within our Christian community.
- And all of this should be motivated by the agape love of the Lord - so that we can accomplish our calling in Christ.
- Now - here in the second half of 1st Corinthians 13 - we find Paul - describing the day - when the signifying gifts will cease.

- And with this as our focus - let's pick up our study - beginning there at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 13:8 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.

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

1Co 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

• Love

- Here in the second half of this chapter - we find Paul - assuring his audience that the agape love of God will never fail.
- I should remind you that - it was last week - when we covered the previous paragraph...
- ...where Paul presented a descriptive definition of God's agape love.
- And it's there in the beginning of verse 8 - where Paul informs us that the love of God will never fail.
- That word - fail - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of that which becomes ineffective - and powerless.
- What this means is that - the Lord will continue to love those who trust in Jesus - for the rest of eternity - - and without fail.

• Prophecies

- At the same time - Paul also assured us that there is coming a day when prophecies will fail.
- Look with me again - there at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

1Co 13:8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail;
- Now - just to be clear about this - it's important for us to understand that - the prophetic word of God will never fail.
- The reason for why I'm so certain of this is because - the prophetic word of God was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God...
- ...and the Holy Spirit of God would never present us with prophetic promises that would fail to come to pass.
- All the promises of God are yes - and Amen - and with that being the case...
 - ...we can be certain that the prophecies we find in the Bible will most certainly be fulfilled - and without fail.
- Fail
 - With all of this in mind - we should take a moment to ask - - what did Paul mean when he pointed to the day - when prophecies will fail?
 - In order to answer this question - it'll help you to know that the word - fail - found there in the middle of verse 8 - was translated from a Greek word...
 - ...which was used of that which is rendered idle - unemployed - inactivate - and inoperative.
 - The same word was used to describe something that is deprived of force - influence - and power.
 - More simply put - Paul was pointing to the day - when the gift of prophecy will cease.

- What this means is that this spiritual gift of prophecy will cease to function - at some point in time.

- Tongues

- The same can also be said for the gift of tongues.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 8 - it's there where Paul declared...

1Co 13:8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease...

- Now - just to be clear - Paul was referring back to the gift of tongues - which the Holy Spirit promised to pour out on some Christians.
- And according to Paul - this gift of tongues is going to cease at some point in time.
- That word - cease - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of something that is restrained...
- ...so that the thing being restrained is made to cease and desist.
- What this means is that - tongues will be restrained - resulting in the cessation of this charismatic gift.

- Knowledge

- We should also consider how the charismatic gift that Paul called the word of knowledge will also cease.
- Let's take another look there at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

1Co 13:8 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.

- Now - there should be no doubt that those who trust in the Lord - will always walk in the knowledge of the Lord.
- And so - when Paul informed his audience that there's coming a day when knowledge will vanish away...
 - ...he certainly wasn't suggesting that we will no longer know anything about the Lord.
 - No - instead - he's referring to the spiritual gift that he called - the word of knowledge - back in chapter 12.
- Vanish
 - For the sake of clarity - it'll help you to know that the word - vanish - found there at the end of verse 8...
 - ...was translated from the same Greek word that Paul used there in the beginning of this verse...
 - ...where he pointed to the day when prophecies will fail.
 - That's right - the word - fail - found there in the beginning of verse 8...
 - ...was translated from the same Greek word which was rendered - vanish away - there at the end of the verse.
 - What this means is that - the word of knowledge will also cease to function - at some point in time.
- Ceased
 - I like the way that the scholars who created the Christian Standard Bible rendered verse 8 - they put it like this...

1Co 13:8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
 - From this - we can be certain that these signifying gifts will cease at some point in time.

- And it's for this reason that many Christians have embraced one of the four versions of cessationism.
- Paul was perfectly clear that there's coming a day when these spiritual gifts will cease.
 - And while I realize that many Christians are convinced that the Holy Spirit has already stopped these signifying gifts...
 - ...I believe that there's good reason to think that these gifts will continue to function - throughout the church age.

- Continuation

- But now - before I get too far ahead of myself - let's take a moment to consider how the Holy Spirit was sent...
- ...so that Christians throughout the church age can be empowered to accomplish the great commission of Christ.
- With this as our focus - let's consider the way that Paul put it - in the previous chapter.
- Keep your place - here in chapter 13 - and let's back up - and take another look at the point that Paul was making...
- ...when he began this section on the charismatic gifts of the Spirit.
 - It's here in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - where Paul presents us with this list of spiritual gifts.

- Application

- ALL
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- Now - when Paul informed the Christians in Corinth that the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...
- ...he was actually referring to ALL Christians - throughout the entire church age.
- It's also important to note that the Greek verb rendered - distributing - there in verse 11 - is found in the Present Active Participle form.
- What this means is that - the Holy Spirit will continuously distribute these charismatic gifts - throughout the entire church age
- And it's for this reason that the cessation of these gifts won't occur - until after the rapture of the church.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because...

1. ...While it's true that the Signifying Gifts will eventually Cease?...

2. ...we should still consider the clues concerning the question - WHEN will the Signifying Gifts Cease?

- With this as our focus - let's turn our attention back to the point that Paul was presenting - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 13.

- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 9 - where Paul declared...

IV. When

● Text

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

• Part

- Here in these verses - we find Paul describing the reason for why the word of Knowledge - and the gift of prophecy are still important.
- The reason why is because - we currently have partial knowledge which is incomplete.
- Not only that - but the gift of prophecy has provided us with only part of the whole picture.
- Proof of my point can be found in the fact that - Christians still struggle to interpret the prophetic promises presented in the Bible.
- For example - when it comes to the prophecies that point to the second coming of Christ...
- ...some Christian embrace amillennialism - others - postmillennialism - and then there are those who embrace Premillennialism.
- And one reason for these disagreements is due to the fact that - we currently know in part - and we prophesy in part.

- Perfect
- Thankfully for us - Paul pointed to the day when we will no longer need the word of knowledge - nor the gift of prophecy.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 9 - where Paul declared...

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

- Now - it's here in verse 10 - where Paul presents us with a clue - that helps us to understand when the signifying gifts will cease.
 - And just in case you missed it - let's consider the contrast between the words - part - and perfect.
 - That word - part - found there in verses 9 and 10 - was translated from a Greek word...
 - ...which - in this context - refers to something that is incomplete - and therefore - imperfect.
 - In contrast to this - the word - perfect - found there in verse 10 - was used of that which complete - and concluded.
 - Word?
 - I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 10 - they put it like this...
- 1Co 13:10 ...when that which is complete and perfect comes, that which is incomplete and partial will pass away.
- As we consider this translation - I should take a moment to point out that many cessationists will use this verse...

- ...in defense of their belief that the cessation of the signifying gifts has already happened.
- This position is based on the belief that Paul was referring to the complete canon of Scripture...
 - ...when he assured his audience that the incomplete and partial will pass away - when that which is complete and perfect comes.
 - If that's the case - then - the signifying gifts actually ceased - when the New Testament canon was completed.
- Eisegesis?
 - As we consider this interpretation - we should take a moment to ask - is this position based on eisegesis - or exegesis?
 - Just to be clear - eisegesis is the process of interpreting text in such a way as to introduce one's own presuppositions - agendas - or biases.
 - In contrast to this - exegesis is the process of drawing meaning out of a text - in order to understand and convey the author's original intent.
 - With this in mind - we should ask - did Paul explicitly refer to the complete canon of scripture - as that which is perfect?
 - The simple answer is - no - nowhere in this passage of scripture - do we find Paul...
 - ...describing the complete canon of the Bible as that which is perfect.
 - What we do find is an illustration that Paul used - to describe the day when the believer will finally be perfected.
- Mature
 - Let's consider how he put it in the next verse - look with me there beginning at verse 11 - where Paul declared...

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

- As we take a closer look at these verses - we must not fail to consider the process of maturity that Paul was describing.
- This is the illustration that Paul was using - in order to help his audience to understand what he meant...
 - ...when he referred to the arrival of that which is perfect.
 - And in order to connect the dots - it'll help you to know that the word - perfect - found there in verse 10...
 - ...was translated from a Greek word - which was used those who are full grown - and mature.

- Mirror

- In this context - Paul is clearly referring to the day when the believer will be perfected - in the presence of our Savior.
- Notice with me again - there in verse 12 - where he declared...

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - describing the difference between the days when the believer is looking at a reflecting in an imperfect mirror...
 - ...and the day when we will find ourselves - face to face with the One Who is perfect.
 - And then - in order to connect the dots - he informed his audience that the partial knowledge that we currently have...
 - ...will eventually give way to a relational connection - as we become thoroughly acquainted with the One Who is perfect.

- And what this means is that - the gifts of the Spirit will be available to us - until we no longer need them.

• Summary

- In order to make my case - let's consider how the apostle John summed it up - in his first epistle.
- And with this as our focus - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to 1st John chapter 3.
- And as we make our way to the third chapter of 1st John - I wanna take a moment to point out that...
 - ...the born again believer won't be full mature - spiritually speaking...
 - ...until the day when we finally find ourselves - face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - It's at that point in time when we will no longer need the signifying gifts...
 - ...and the reason why is because - we will finally be perfected - just like our Savior is perfect.

● Application

- See
- Let's consider how the apostle John put it - here in 1st John chapter 3 - where he declared...

1Jo 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

1Jo 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- Here in these verses - we find the apostle John - describing the day when those who trust in Jesus...
 - ...will finally find ourselves - face to face with our perfect Savior.
 - And while we still don't fully grasp what we're going to be like - once we've received our glorified bodies...
 - ...what we do know is that - we're going to be like Jesus - for we shall see Him as He is.
 - And what this means is that - we still know in part - and we still prophesy in part.
- Continuation
 - Now - listen - if the cessationists are correct - - and that which is in part was done away with - when we received the complete canon of scripture...
 - ...then - why is it that the word of God still assures us that we don't yet know what we're going to be like...
 - ...when we finally find ourselves - face to face with Jesus.
 - It's for this reason that I must insist that the continuationist perspective is the Biblical position.
 - And what this means is that - the Holy Spirit is going to distribute the charismatic gifts to all believers - until the end of the church age.
 - And the reason why is because - we still need the signifying gifts - in order to properly serve our Savior.

● Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because...
 1. ...While it's true that the Signifying Gifts will eventually Cease?...
 2. ...and while it's true that the Signifying Gifts will Cease - after we found ourselves face to face with Jesus...
 3. ...we should take some time to consider the reason for WHY the Signifying Gifts will Cease.
 - With this as our focus - let's turn our attention back to the point that Paul was presenting - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 13.
 - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 12 - where Paul declared...

V. Why

● Text

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

1Co 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- Reflection
 - As we take another look at verse 12 - we must not fail to notice the contrast between the way things are now - and the way things will eventually be.
 - As of NOW - we see in a mirror dimly - - and just to be clear - the mirrors of the ancient world were made of steel...
 - ...and so - the reflections were a bit dim - and at times - distorted.
 - And while the cessationist will insist that - the complete canon of God's word has solved this problem...
 - ...I should take a moment to point out that - the Greek word which was rendered - mirror...

- ...is the same word that James used - when he referred to the word of God as a spiritual mirror.

- Mirror

- It's in James chapter 1 - beginning at verse 22 - where James declared...

Jas 1:22 ...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Jas 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

Jas 1:24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

Jas 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- According to James - the word of God is like a mirror - that helps us to see our imperfections.
- And while it's true that word of God is the perfect law of liberty - which is free from error...
- ...it's also true that we still struggle to see our imperfections - - and the reason why is because - it's easy to be blinded by pride.
- Thankfully for those who trust in Jesus - - our imperfections will eventually be fixed - in the presence of our Savior.

- Now/Then

- Let's consider how Paul put it here in our text today - - look with me again there at verse 12 - where he declared...

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

- As of NOW - - we have partial knowledge of what we're supposed to be.

- As of NOW - we struggle to understand how we should connect with Christ Jesus...
- ...and one reason why is because - it's difficult to comprehend how we can connect with a Savior that we can't see.
- Thankfully - the imperfections that struggle with today - will eventually result in a face to face connection with Christ Jesus...
- ...as we are glorified together - in the presence of our perfect Savior.
- Abide
 - Until that day comes - - Paul encouraged every Christian to abide in Christ.
 - Let's consider how he put it here in our text today - - look with me again - there in verse 13 - where he declared...

1Co 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
 - Now - that word - abide - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who remain - tarry - and continue to be present.
 - This is the same word that Jesus used in John chapter 15 - when He declared...
 - "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."
 - Christian - listen - those who abide in Christ - will continue to become more and more like Him.
 - And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to abide in faith.
- Faith

- That word - faith - found there in verse 13 - was translated from a Greek word...
- ...which was used of those who have a strong conviction that something is true.
- And while those who have a Biblical faith have a conviction that God exists - and that He is the creator and ruler of all things...
- ...Faith - in the context of the New Testament - is conviction that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation.
- I like the way that Paul put it - in Hebrews chapter 11 - where he defined faith as...
 - ...the assurance of things **hoped** for - and the conviction of things not seen.
- Hope
- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged every Christian to ABIDE in faith - and HOPE.
- That word - hope - found there in the middle of verse 13 - was translated from a Greek word...
- ...which was used of those who have a joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.
- And while it's true that those who abide in FAITH - will have a strong conviction that Jesus Christ is the Savior...
- ...it's also true that those who abide in HOPE - will have a joyful and confident expectation...
 - ...of the eternal salvation that has been promised to those who have received the love of God - by faith in Jesus Christ.
- Love

- Now - this brings us to the third thing that believers ought to abide in - and so look with me again - there at verse 13 - where Paul declared...

1Co 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- Paul not only encouraged every Christian to abide in love - - but he also informed us that...
 - ...the love of the Lord is greater than our faith - and our hope.
 - In order to understand why - it'll help you to know that - there is no need for faith - when we're finally face to face with Jesus.
 - And listen - there is no need for hope when we're finally face to face with Jesus.
 - The reason why is because - those who are face to face with Jesus will continue to abide in His love forevermore.
- No Need
- With all of this in mind - let's consider the instructions that Paul presets - in the first verse of chapter 14 - it's there where he declared...

1Co 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

- Now - I should point out that - this verse is the beginning of a 40 verse chapter...
 - ...in which Paul presents proper parameters - for how the gifts of tongues - and prophecy - ought to be exercised in the church.
 - And so - I find it difficult to believe that the Holy Spirit would lead him to present these parameters...

- ...if the signifying gifts were about to cease - according to the timeline of the cessationists.
- These instructions seem to suggest that the signifying gifts will be operational - for the entirety of the church age.

• Why

- And in order to understand why these gifts will cease to function after the church age is over — it's because we will no longer need them.
- Much like Faith and Hope - - which will be unnecessary in the presence of our Savior...
- ...we will no longer need the gift of prophecy - - nor will we need the gift of tongues - and the interpretation of tongues.
- We will no longer need the gift of miracles - - since every believer will be given glorified bodies...
- ...according to the promise that Paul presented - in here in 1st Corinthians.
- With this as our focus - let's flip forward to 1st Corinthians chapter 15 where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...there's coming a day - when we will receive our glorified bodies.

● Application

- Incorruptible
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in 1st Corinthians chapter 15 - look with me beginning there at verse 51 - its there where he declared...

1Co 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

1Co 15:55 "O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?"

1Co 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

1Co 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the day - when that which is perfect comes.
- It's at that point in time when those who trust in Jesus will receive our glorified bodies - - which will be forever free from corruption.
- And listen - it's at that point in time when we will no longer need the spiritual gifts - that enable us to serve our Savior today.
- The reason why is because - we will finally be perfect - just like Jesus is perfect.
- And when that which is perfect has come - that which is partial will no longer be needed.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Charismania

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this message - I encourage every Christian to embrace the continuationist position.

- One reason why is because - there is no Biblical reason to believe that the signifying gifts have already ceased.
- And to the contrary - the proper exposition of our text today will lead us to believe that...
- ...the Holy Spirit will continue to distribute the signifying gifts - until the end of the church age.
- At the same time - I must also insist that - there's a whole lot that happens in the name of the Holy Spirit - that isn't from the Holy Spirit.
- This includes the churches allow people to speak with false tongues that have no interpretation.
- And don't get me started on all of the deliverance ministries - where spiritual charlatans are engaging in deceptive shenanigans.
- Points
 - As continuationists - we must be careful to embrace and employ the proper parameters that Paul presented here in this epistle.
 - And at the same time - it's also important to realize that - there is coming a day when the signifying gifts will cease.
 1. That's right - there's coming a day when the Signifying Gifts will Cease.
 2. And just to be clear - the Signifying Gifts will Cease on the day when Christians find themselves face to face with Jesus.
 3. The Reason why is because - we will no longer need the Signifying Gifts in order to serve our Savior.
 - And with that being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that there's coming a day - when we will know Jesus - just as we are known.
 - At the same time - we can also rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit will continue to distribute the charismatic gifts to every believer...

- ...so that we might all benefit from the spiritual gifts that enable us to continue serving our Savior in the way that we should.