

Timing is Everything

Series: Spiritual Gifts

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:8-12



1. What Paul Taught Corinth About The Ceasing Of The Gifts (1 Cor. 13:8-12)

- a. Spiritual gifts will eventually cease (8) - "Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.
- b. Spiritual gifts are valuable but incomplete (9) - "For we know in part and we prophecy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away."
- c. Spiritual gifts will be replaced by fullness & completion (12) - "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."
- d. Spiritual gifts last until Christ is revealed (1 Cor. 1:5-8) - "5 In every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge - 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you - 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. What Peter Taught About The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit (Acts 2:14-21)

Acts 2:14-21 - "But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

- a. This prophecy from Joel 2 clearly began at Pentecost (2:16) - "This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel."

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- b. This details of this prophecy are evidenced all throughout the New Testament - outpourings of the Holy Spirit, prophecies, visions, dreams
- c. The details of this prophecy have not been entirely fulfilled (19-21) - Wonders in the heavens, signs on the earth, blood, fire, vapor of smoke, sun turning to darkness, moon turning to blood, the revelation of the Day of the Lord.

A sound, scriptural conclusion: Since we know, according to Scripture, that the inauguration of this prophecy began at Pentecost but has not yet, according to Scripture, been completed, we then have no biblical foundation to declare that the supernatural works of the Holy Spirit which characterizes the entirety of this prophecy, according to Scripture, have ceased before the full consummation of the prophecy.

3. What Paul Taught Ephesus About The Need For Spiritual Gifts (Eph. 4:7-9, 11-16)

"7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men... 11 And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

- a. Why spiritually gifted people are needed (7-12) - "...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."
- b. How long spiritual gifts will be needed (13) - "...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..."
- c. What spiritually gifted people accomplish (14-16) - "...that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

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