

# COUNSEL FOR A CHURCH IN CRISIS

## Lesson 27

Review: Paul continues to address the abuse and misuse of spiritual gifts in the church at Corinth. He began the chapter by stating the uselessness of any gift without "agape" love as its Foundation, Motivation, Application, and Manifestation.

### I. Such Gift Infatuation Is Ill-Advised – I Cor. 13:8-13

A) The seeking of the good at the expense of the GREATEST

B) The seeking of the temporary at the expense of the ETERNAL

1) love "never faileth" - *pipto*

*James 1:11 - to fade or fall away like a flower petal*

*Luke 16:17 - describes the Word's eternality and reliability*

2) prophecies "shall fail" - *katargeo* - to reduce to inactivity

*II Pet. 1:15-21 - they would still be certain to come to pass*

*Rev. 22:18-20 - they would be brought to an end by God*

3) tongues "shall cease" - *pavo* - to stop or end of itself

*\*Biblically - tongues is not mentioned in later books, especially those which list other gift list (ie. Ephesians and Romans)*

*\*Historically - tongues ceases to be mentioned or as being practiced in other Christian writings after A.D. 100; as well as other sign gifts. (ie. healing, miracles, etc.)*

4) knowledge "shall vanish away" - *katargeo* - same as "fail" above

*\*Like prophecy, this was a Revelatory Gift to communicate the Divine Truth thru the instrument of men by the Spirit.*

### II. Such Gift Infatuation Is Illogical - I Cor. 13:9-10

A) The sign gifts were WHOLE, but finished their purpose  
*To validate the message and messengers as from God*

B) The revelatory gifts were PARTIAL, but would be replaced

C) They would be replaced with "something" PERFECT  
*Perfect - "teleios" - complete, whole, or mature*

### III. Such Gift Infatuation Prolongs Immaturity - I Cor. 13:11

A) I spake as a child - TONGUES  
*Child - "nepios" - babe, thus a reference to unintelligible babbling*

B) I understood as a child - KNOWLEDGE  
*A babe's understanding is elementary, and for the moment*

C) I thought as a child - PROPHECY  
*A babe's thoughts are clear, yet simple*

D) When I became a man - MATURITY  
*Face to face - Conception with clarity  
I shall know even as I am known - Conception with comprehension*