

The Gifts  
Continuation  
NOT  
Termination

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# The Gifts

## Continuation, NOT Termination

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The following Scriptures reveal that the gifts of the Spirit are still active in the church today. We will look at the Scriptures that show plainly the gifts of the Spirit were not given for a temporary season only, but for the edifying of the church until the body of Christ reaches that place of fullness in Him. The church has not yet arrived there, so the gifts are still needed and still active where Faith is in Christ and His Sacrifice.

### **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another Faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another

divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

This chapter does not speak of the gifts as something passing away in the early church era only. It presents them as the manifestation of the Spirit given for profit in the body of Christ.

### **1 Corinthians 12:27-31**

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

If God tells the church to covet earnestly the best gifts, then that is not a word about something already removed. It is instruction for the church to seek those things which are available.

### **1 Corinthians 14:1**

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

The church is told to desire spiritual gifts. That instruction has never been canceled in Scripture.

### **1 Corinthians 14:12**

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

The purpose of the gifts is the edifying of the church. The church still needs edifying today, therefore the gifts remain needful today.

### **1 Corinthians 14:26**

How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Again, the framework is the gathered church and its edification.

### **Ephesians 4:11-13**

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the Faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

This is one of the clearest passages. These ministry gifts were given till we all come into the unity of the Faith and the fullness of Christ. The church has not yet fully arrived, so these gifts have not ceased.

### **Romans 12:4-8**

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of Faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Paul speaks of these gifts as present realities in the body of Christ.

## **1 Peter 4:10-11**

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Believers are called stewards of the manifold grace of God through the gifts He has given. This is not spoken of as a past arrangement.

## **Acts 2:16-18**

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon 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 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Peter says this outpouring belongs to the last days. We are still in that great gospel “last days” age before the coming of Christ, so there is no biblical statement here that the Spirit’s manifestations ended after the apostles died.

### **Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

That reaches far beyond the first group in Jerusalem. It extends to all whom the Lord shall call.

### **Mark 16:17-18**

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Whatever discussions men may have around this passage, it still shows that signs were associated with Believers, not merely with a tiny class of leaders.

### **Hebrews 2:3-4**

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

God bore witness with gifts of the Holy Spirit. The emphasis is that these were divine witnesses to the great salvation found only in Christ. Now the passage most often brought up against the ongoing operation of the gifts is this one:

### **1 Corinthians 13:8-10**

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

The key is this: “that which is perfect” is not the completion of the written New Testament canon, but the full and perfect consummation when we see the Lord as He is. That is confirmed by the next verses:

### **1 Corinthians 13:12**

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but **then face to face**: now I know in part; but **then shall I know even as also I am known**.

We are not yet seeing face to face. Therefore, the things “in part” have not yet been fully done

away. So, the strongest scriptural case in this is that the gifts were given to the church. The gifts are for the profit and edifying of the church. The gifts remain until the church comes to fullness in Christ. The church has not yet reached that final fullness. Therefore, the gifts of the Spirit are still active and available today.

And we must add this great caution: The gifts are never to replace the centrality of Christ and Him crucified. The Holy Spirit does not move to glorify men, ministries, or experiences. He works in Truth, and always in the framework of Faith in Jesus Christ and His Sacrifice.

### **Galatians 3:2-6**

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of Faith?

3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of Faith?

6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

This shows that even the working of miracles is tied to the hearing of Faith, not the works of law. And in

the full counsel of God, that Faith must be anchored in Christ and what He did at Calvary.

Here is a second list of Scriptures that answer the **claim** that “the gifts have ceased.”

The main biblical point is that there is no verse that says the gifts of the Spirit were withdrawn from the church before the church’s journey is complete in Christ. What we do find is that the gifts were given for the church’s edification and that they remain until that which is perfect is come. That keeps us looking unto Jesus Christ and what He accomplished at Calvary, because the Holy Spirit always works in the framework of that Faith.

### **1 Corinthians 13:8-12**

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

This is the chief passage used by those who say the gifts have ceased. But the passage itself does not say the gifts would cease when the New Testament was completed, nor when the apostles died. It says the partial things would be done away when that which is perfect is come. Verse 12 explains that time as when we see face to face and know even as also we are known. That has not happened yet. Therefore, the gifts cannot be said from this passage to have ceased already.

### **Ephesians 4:11-13**

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the Faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

This is another decisive text. These ministry gifts were given till we all come into the unity of the Faith and the fullness of Christ. The church has not yet arrived at that completed measure, so there is no scriptural basis here for saying the gifts have been removed.

## **1 Corinthians 1:4-8**

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice that they were to come behind in no gift while they were waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. That places the gifts in the church right up to the coming of Christ, not merely in the first generation.

## **Acts 2:16-18**

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon 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 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Peter said Pentecost was that which Joel had spoken. He did not describe a very short season, but the last days. The church still lives in that “last days” gospel age awaiting the return of Christ, so this passage does not support cessation, but continuing outpouring.

### **Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

This reaches beyond the apostles and beyond Jerusalem. It extends to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. That is the language of continuation, not termination.

### **1 Corinthians 14:1**

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

There is no later verse canceling this command. The church is still told to follow after love and desire spiritual gifts.

### **1 Corinthians 14:39**

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

This verse is very *strong against* cessation claims. Rather than forbidding tongues, Scripture says *forbid not to speak with tongues*. That does not endorse confusion or abuse, but it certainly does not teach cessation.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:19-21**

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Notice the balance. We are not told to deny all prophecy claims because gifts have ceased. We are told not to quench the Spirit, not to despise prophesyings, and to prove all things. That means discernment, not denial.

### **Hebrews 2:3-4**

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

This passage reminds us that God bore witness by gifts of the Holy Ghost. It does not say He would stop doing so at a set date within the church age.

**Mark 16:17-18**

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Whatever men argue about in practice, the verse itself does not say these things belong only to the apostles. It associates signs with Believers.

**Romans 11:29**

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

In its direct context this is speaking of God's dealings with Israel, but it still reveals the character of God. He is not fickle with what He gives and calls for. Men should be careful about claiming God has removed what Scripture nowhere clearly says He removed.

Now here are several important Truths that expose the weakness of cessationism.

First, there is no verse that says, “the gifts will cease at the death of the apostles.”

Second, there is no verse that says, “the gifts will cease when the New Testament is completed.”

Third, the verses that speak of gifts place them in the church for edification, profit, and ministry until the Lord’s coming and the body’s maturity in Christ.

Fourth, the abuse of gifts is never treated in Scripture as a reason to deny the gifts. In Corinth there was disorder, but Paul did not say, “stop the gifts.” He corrected their misuse.

### **1 Corinthians 14:26**

How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

### **1 Corinthians 14:40**

Let all things be done decently and in order.

So, the biblical answer to error is not cessation, but proper order and discernment. And the greatest safeguard is this: The Holy Spirit will never move contrary to the Truth of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. The Spirit of God does not glorify flesh, personality, or spectacle. He glorifies Christ.

### **John 16:13-14**

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all Truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

And the Spirit's working among God's people is connected to Faith, not law, effort, or religious performance.

### **Galatians 3:2-5**

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of Faith?

3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of Faith?

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for Righteousness. So, the issue is not whether God still gives by His Spirit, but whether His people will remain anchored in the hearing of Faith. And for us, that Faith must remain in Christ and His Sacrifice, because all the Spirit's

true ministry flows from what the Son of God finished at Calvary.

The Bible teaches regulation of gifts, not removal of gifts. The Bible teaches discernment of spiritual things, not denial of spiritual things. The Bible teaches the gifts remain until the church reaches fullness in Christ. Therefore, the gifts of the Spirit are still active in the church today.













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