

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Spiritual Gifts

LESSON 10

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Memory Verse

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

...

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense
of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be
the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members
in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a
single member, where would the body be?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:14, 17–18

“Interestingly, this body is always the figure used when the apostle discusses spiritual gifts (Romans 12:4–5; Ephesians 4:4, 12, 16).”

ROBERT L. THOMAS, *UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS: A VERSE-BY-VERSE STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS 12–14*, SECOND EDITION, (KREGAL:1999), 12.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. The Nature of Spiritual Gifts

1. THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Giving of Spiritual Gifts

- ✓ When does a believer receive their spiritual gift?
- ✓ All Christians have been given a special gift.
- ✓ The uniqueness of each Christian's giftedness.

1. THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Purpose of Spiritual Giftedness

- ✓ For the common good of the church (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- ✓ For the edification of the church (1 Corinthians 14:12)
- ✓ Used to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10)

So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:12

1. THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Purpose of Spiritual Giftedness

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- ✓ For the edification of the church (1 Corinthians 14:12)
- ✓ Used to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10)

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as
good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as
one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one
who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus
Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and
ever. Amen.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

2. The Provision of Spiritual Gifts

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The Number of Spiritual Gifts

2. THE PROVISION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Categories of Spiritual Gifts

- ✓ Permanent Gifts
- ✓ Temporary Gifts

2. THE PROVISION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Permanent Gifts

1. **Prophecy** - To prophesy is to preach or tell forth or declare the Scripture. Prophecy does not necessarily mean to foretell the future.

2. **Teaching** - This gift included the ability to teach the Word of God and help the hearers to understand the Scriptures as the author intended.

3. **Faith** - This gift is a consistent, enabling faith that truly believes God in the face of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities, and for great things. Most frequently expressed in prayer.



2. THE PROVISION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Permanent Gifts

4. **Wisdom** - This is the ability to apply knowledge gained from spiritual insight to believers; knowing what is right and what is wrong, applied knowledge.

5. **Knowledge** - An understanding of the facts of Scripture. From the human perspective, it is scholarship or the ability to know the truths of Scripture both broadly and deeply.

6. **Discernment** - The ability to tell which things are from the Spirit and which are not, distinguishing truth from error. This gift serves as protection for the church.



2. THE PROVISION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Permanent Gifts

7. **Mercy** - The ability to show deep compassion to those who have spiritual, physical, or emotional needs.

8. **Exhortation** - The ability to encourage or motivate. A person with this gift can come alongside another to comfort him with love, to encourage him to a deeper spiritual commitment and growth, or to exhort him to action.

9. **Giving** - The material ministry of giving food, clothes, money, houses, etc., in response to the needs of the church.



2. THE PROVISION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Permanent Gifts

10. **Administration / Leadership** - The ability to oversee. Should be exhibited by pastors and elders.

11. **Helps** - The ability to aid in a time of need or bear one another's burdens as the situation arises. Focused on external needs. A prerequisite of deacons (1 Timothy 3:8–13).

12. **Service** - Working for the body of Christ in areas of physical ministry, such as serving food or performing maintenance.



2. THE PROVISION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Temporary Gifts

1. **Miracles** - This gift is the ability to do “wonders” and “signs.” Christ performed many miracles as recorded in Scripture. Paul used this gift to affirm his apostleship, as described in 2 Corinthians 12:12.

2. **Healing** - Peter had this gift. It affirmed his message and helped to establish the foundation for the church.

3. **Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues** - This gift manifested by the speaking of a language unknown to the speaker (Acts 2:1–11). This gift had to be accompanied by the gift of interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27–28).



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Cessationism & Continuationism

CESSATIONISM

Supernatural Gifts Have Ceased

CONTINUATIONISM

Supernatural Gifts Still in Operation



NO MODERN MIRACLES AT ALL

NO MODERN TONGUES, PROPHECY, HEALERS

OPEN BUT CAUTIOUS

TONGUES

FAITH HEALERS

MODERN PROPHETS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Why We Should Not Expect Sign Gifts Today

1. We are not the original audience of 1 Corinthians.

2. The purpose of supernatural signs: To confirm new revelation. We have the completed Scriptures, therefore new revelation no longer needs to be validated as from God.

3. A foundation need only be laid once (Ephesians 2:19–22). The apostles ceased after the completion of the NT canon, might we not expect that other revelatory-related gifts to end as well?

4. Super natural gifts seem to decline even in the first century. The later-written epistles make no mention of these things.



HEALING & MIRACLES

The Purpose of Sign Gifts

- ✓ To confirm the gospel message
- ✓ To confirm the apostles
- ✓ To confirm the message and the messenger

[3]how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, [4]while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

HEALING & MIRACLES

The Purpose of Sign Gifts

- ✓ To confirm the gospel message
- ✓ To confirm the apostles
- ✓ To confirm the message and the messenger

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:12

18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what
Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles
to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs
and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that
from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have
fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

HEALING & MIRACLES

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- ✓ To confirm the gospel message
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29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to
your servants to continue to speak your word with all
boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and
signs and wonders are performed through the name of
your holy servant Jesus.”

ACTS 4:29–30



“Many evangelicals think that miracles litter almost every page of biblical history. In reality, there were only three primary periods that God worked miracles through gifted men, when God gave human beings miracle working power. The first was that of Moses and Joshua, from the Exodus through the career of Joshua (1445-1380 BC), about 65 years. The second window was during the ministries of Elijah and Elisha (ca. 860-795 BC), again only about 65 years. The third time was with Christ and His Apostles. It began with His ministry, and lasted through the death of the Apostle John, also about 70 years.

TOM PENNINGTON, “A CASE FOR CESSATIONISM,” *STRANGE FIRE,* 2013.





4000 BC 3550 BC 3100 BC 2650 BC 2200 BC 1750 BC 1300 BC 850 BC 400 BC 50 AD

Adam Flood Abraham Moses David Captivity Jesus

MOSES & JOSHUA

ca. 1445–1380 BC

ELIJAH & ELISHA

ca. 860–795 BC

JESUS & THE APOSTLES

ca. 30–100 AD

1750 BC

1300 BC

850 BC

400 BC

50 AD

Moses

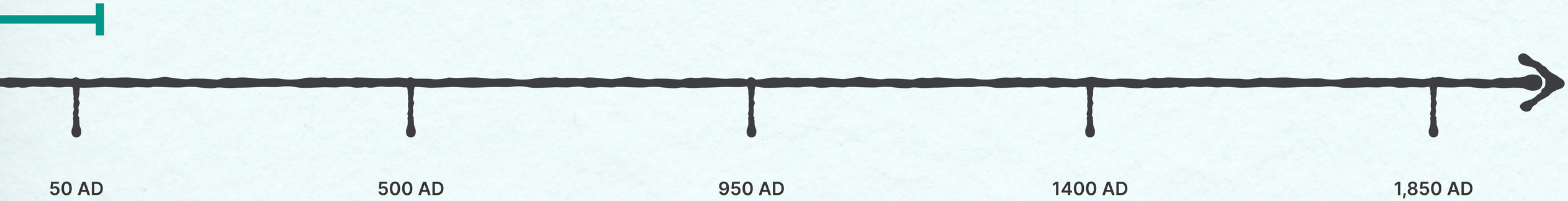
David

Captivity

Jesus

IE APOSTLES

-100 AD



esus

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4. Super natural gifts seem to decline even in the first century. The later-written epistles make no mention of these things.



19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you
are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the
household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the
apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the
cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined
together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him
you also are being built together into a dwelling place for
God by the Spirit.

EPHESIANS 2:19–22

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SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Why We Should Not Expect Sign Gifts Today

5. Church history attests to their cessation.

6. The results of supernatural gifts could be easily verified, yet modern claims crumble under the lightest scrutiny.

7. Modern claims to supernatural gifts nearly always redefine the gifts (e.g. tongues from real languages to provate prayer language, prophecy from infallible revelation from God to fallible revelation, drammatic healings to “healing” invisible ailments).

8. Those claiming supernatural gifts almost always promote incorrect doctrine and false gospels and/or are marked by disqualifying sins like the love of money or sexual sin.



“This whole place [speaking about the gifts in 1 Cor. 12] is very obscure: but the obscurity is produced by our ignorance of the facts referred to and by their cessation, being such as then used to occur but now no longer take place.”

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (C. 344–407)

“In the earliest times, the Holy Spirit fell upon them that believe and they spoke with tongues, which they had not learned, as the Spirit gave them utterance. …That thing was done for a sign, and it passed away.”

AUGUSTINE (354–430)

“This visible outpouring of the Holy Spirit was necessary to the establishment of the early Church, as were also the miracles that accompanied the gift of the Holy Ghost. … Once the Church had been established and properly advertised by these miracles, the visible appearance of the Holy Ghost ceased.”

MARTIN LUTHER (1483–1546)

“The gift of healing, like the rest of the miracles, which the Lord willed to be brought forth for a time, has vanished away in order to make the preaching of the Gospel marvelous for ever.”

JOHN CALVIN (1509–1564)

“Of the extraordinary gifts, they were given ‘in order to the founding and establishing of the church in the world. But since the canon of Scriptures has been completed, and the Christian church fully founded and established, these extraordinary gifts have ceased.”

JONATHAN EDWARDS (1703–1758)

“...those earlier miraculous gifts ... have departed from us.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

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HEALING & MIRACLES

The usage of the gift of healing at the time of the early church

- ✓ Healing was instantaneous (Mark 1:42)
- ✓ Healing was complete and permanent (Matthew 14:36)
- ✓ Healing blindness, paralysis, etc. (Acts 3:7; 8:5–7; Matthew 10:1)



TONGUES

The Purpose of Tongues and the Intepretation of Tongues

- ✓ A sign to unbelieving Jews (1 Corinthians 14:21–22)
- ✓ Attested to the salvation of the Gentiles (Acts 10:47; 11:15–18)
- ✓ To give a word from God to edify the church (1 Corinthians 14:26–28)

TONGUES

This Purpose No Longer Required Today

- ✓ The usage of tongues as a sign to the Jews, to confirm the acceptance of the Gentles into the church, is no longer required today.

- ✓ Since we have a completed and sufficient Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16–17), a word from God, by way of tongues and the interpreation of tongues, is no longer needed.



TONGUES

The Usage of Tongues in the Early Church

- ✓ Tongues were known languages (Acts 2:4–11)
- ✓ Tongues were to be regulated: One, two, or three at the most. Each in turn. And with interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:26–28, 40).

TONGUES

The Purpose of Prophecy

- ✓ New revelation.
- ✓ No longer necessary with the close of the sufficient Word of God.

“At strategic times throughout Bible history, God has spoken directly to His servants, that they in turn might communicate His message to people at large. The period following Pentecost was one such strategic era. Special need arose for an understanding of hitherto unrevaled truths in order for the church to grow into an instrument for encircling the globe with the message of Christ”

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SPIRITUAL GIFTS

What Cessationism Is Not

- ✓ It does not mean the Holy Spirit has stopped working altogether.
- ✓ It does not deny that God performs miracles still today (e.g., saving sinners or sovereign healings).
- ✓ It does not say the Spirit cannot choose to do something miraculous.



“It is the privilege, even the responsibility of every Christian to pray for physical healing, even though no individual in this day and time possesses the gift of healing. The day of divine healing has not passed, though the day of divine healers has.”

ROBERT L. THOMAS, *UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS: A VERSE-BY-VERSE STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS 12–14*, SECOND EDITION, (KREGAL:1999), 32.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

3. The Exercise of Spiritual Gifts

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

3. The Exercise of Spiritual Gifts

- ✓ Each of us should be using our gifts to serve the church.
- ✓ Finding your giftedness.
- ✓ Ministering your gift in love.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Application

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: