

Has God Ceased Speaking & Acting? HS Pt 11

Two Schools of Thought on Spiritual Gifts

- Cessationists - believe certain spiritual gifts ceased after the “apostolic age”
- Continuationists - all spiritual gifts continue until the second coming of Christ

Cessationists beliefs are influenced by two main factors

- SCRIPTURES - (or how certain scriptures are interpreted)
 - PRACTICES - (concern over misuse of spiritual gifts and unbiblical practices)
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SCRIPTURES - one of the most frequently cited scriptures to support cessationism

1Co 13:8-12 ESV Love never ends. As for **prophecies**, they will pass away; as for **tongues**, they will cease; as for **knowledge**, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **SLIDE 10 BUT WHEN THE PERFECT COMES**, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 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.

“WHEN THE PERFECT COMES” - how you interpret this is key to your understanding of gifts for today

- Is it the completed canon? -- if so, the very completed canon they think causes gifts to cease tells us...
 - 1Co 14:5 ESV Now I want you **all to speak in tongues**, but even more to prophesy.
 - 1Co 14:31 ESV For **you can all prophesy** one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged
 - 1Co 14:39 ESV So, my brothers, **earnestly desire to prophesy**, and **do not forbid speaking in tongues**.
- Is it the 2nd coming of Christ? (the resurrection? Or the 2nd coming of Christ? See face to face?)
 - 1Co 1:4-8 ESV I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that 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*.

One of the others is if a person prophesies you are adding to the word of God - this is not understanding the nature - must be judged, prophesy according to faith, test all things hold to good

PRACTICAL REASONS - Concerns about potential abuses of spiritual gifts and unbiblical practices cannot be the reason we don't practice them -we share some of those concerns → BECAUSE OF THE HUMAN ELEMENT I share some of those concerns as well

Before we look at those concerns (and there are a number of them) let's build a biblical framework

THAT Christianity is a supernatural religion → God is a spirit, Jesus' resurrection

- → 28 miracles and/or healings recorded in the book of Acts
- (if you examine those you will see 9 of those mentions were testimony of multiple healings or miracles)

THAT God gives power through his Spirit to human beings

- Ephesians 1:19 (ESV) and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe
- Ephesians 3:16 (ESV) ...to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being
- Ephesians 3:19 (ESV) ... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God
- Acts 1:8 (ESV) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...

THAT God speaks through scripture, as well as through other means (never contrary to word)

- → 13 times in the book of acts it states, the angel of the Lord said, or the Holy Spirit said
- 1Co 12:1-5 ESV Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that **no one speaking in the Spirit of God** ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

THAT sometimes God does strange things

- Spoke through a donkey
- Philip was transported
- Handkerchiefs and Paul
- Elijah was taken up to heaven without dying
- God told Hosea to marry a prostitute
- God told Isaiah to walk around naked for 3 years
- Jesus spit on the ground, made mud, rubbed it on the blind man's eyes, he washed and was healed

What are we, and why we are like we are?

Committed to the Word and Spirit

- Search the scripture (Act 17:10-12)
- Rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15)
- Choose scripture over experience

Discern the difference between UNbiblical and NONbiblical

Non-biblical

- Swinging from the chandelier
- Blowing on people, or swinging your coat to knock them over

Unbiblical Bad doctrine - either not found in scripture or misapplied

- Little Gods Doctrine
- Prosperity Gospel
- Positive Confession
- Snake handling
- Practice of "grave soaking" (lying on graves to absorb the anointing of deceased saints)

Be authentic, people of integrity

- Unverified Claims of Miracles
- Emotional Manipulation (giving)
- Making claims that God never makes

We want to pursue gifts, not forbid to speak in tongues, not despise prophesy

- yet at the same time know we are responsible to judge the gifts

The Holy Spirit always glorifies Jesus -

- So we are not enamored or attracted to special ministry, or people with various spiritual gifts...

If God does something strange or weird or amazing, we don't create the expectation that it should become the norm or don't make an idol out of it.

- The rod with the serpent → 2Ki 18:4 ESV He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan).