

Has God Ceased Speaking & Acting?

HS Pt 11

Two Schools of Thought on Spiritual Gifts

Cessationists

- Certain gifts of the Spirit are not for today

Continuationists

- The gifts of the Spirit continue until Jesus returns

Cessationists influenced by two main factors

Scripture

- How certain scriptures are interpreted

Practices

- Concern over misuse of spiritual gifts and unbiblical or non-biblical practices

ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY CITED SCRIPTURES

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,

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.

Can't be completed Canon, because the completed Canon actually 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*.

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.

Concerns over potential abuses of spiritual gifts or unbiblical practices cannot be the reason we do not practice them

A framework to consider

- 1) Christianity is a supernatural religion
 - 28 miracles and healings in the book of Acts
- 2) God give power through His Spirit to Human beings

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe

Ephesians 3:16 ...to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being

Ephesians 3:19 ... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...

A framework to consider

3) God speaks through Scripture as well as other means

- 13 times in the book of Acts the angel of the Lord or the Holy Spirit spoke to individuals

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;

A framework to consider

4) God sometimes does strange things

A framework to consider

4) God sometimes does strange things

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).