**Discovering My Spiritual Gifts Series June 26, 2022**

**1 Corinthians 14:1-32**

Are all spiritual gifts active today?

* Continuantionists: believe that all spiritual gifts in both the New Testament and Old Testament **are active today**
  + These gifts were given to glorify God and build up the church and those same needs “continue” to day
  + The way in which these are “continuing” today is the topic of much debate
* Cessasationism: some spiritual gifts were given just to **establish the church** in the first century
  + Those gifts have “ceased” to be given today
  + These gifts would include:  
    Tongues / Interpretation of Tongues, Miracles, Words of Knowledge, Words of wisdom, Healing / Miracles, Distinguishing spirits, Apostles, Prophecy

What Biblical Grounds do Cessationists use?

1 Corinthians 13:8b–10  
8 If *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away;   
 if *there are* tongues, they will cease;   
 if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away.   
9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part;   
10 but **when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away**.

What does “when the perfect comes” mean?

* Some view “perfection” as the completion of the writing of the New Testament canon (i.e. all 27 books)
  + When the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation, all of the sign gifts disappeared from the church because the inspired and inerrant Word of God was complete
    - Prophecy, tongues, miracles and so on were no longer needed to build up the church because we have the complete Scriptures now
    - Perfect = **all 66 books of the Bible**
* Perfect = the second coming of Christ to earth to establish His Kingdom
  + At that point, Christ will be ruling on earth and the gifts will not be needed because we will see Him, worship Him, and be with Him
  + “when the perfect comes” coincides nicely with the “coming of Christ”

Are there any gifts that have ceased?

* The gift of **apostle** is not for the 21st century
  + To be an apostle a person had to:
    - See the resurrected Jesus Christ after death
    - Be personally called by Him to be His messenger
    - Since Christ has ascended back to heaven, there are no apostles today
* There is no explicit Scripture that indicates any other gifts have ceased over the years
  + We see the exact opposite!
  + Paul desired “all to prophesy” 1 Cor. 14:1b
  + Paul desired “all to speak in tongues” 1 Cor. 14:5a
* Problem: some churches would demand that you must speak in tongues in order to receive the Holy Spirit
  + They falsely claim that, unless you speak in tongues, you do not have the Holy Spirit
  + 1 Corinthians 6:19   
    Or do you not know that your (plural) body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you (plural), whom you (plural) have from God, and that you (plural) are not your own?

**What does this mean for me?**

* All gifts are to be exercised with an attitude **of love**
  + 1 Corinthians 13:1–3   
    1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor,* and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

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