

Bereans Bible Institute

Module VII – The Apostolic Mission

Lesson 12 – Why Spiritual Gifts Ceased

I. Why Spiritual Gifts ceased after 1 generation:

- A. The gift of 'languages' was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 28:11-13)
 - 1. Intended as a final sign to Israel of the impending destruction of Jerusalem.
- B. Supernatural 'spiritual gifts' were delivered exclusively through the agency of the 12 Apostles (Acts 8).
 - 1. No new impartations after John's death about the end of the 1st century. (live to about AD 180)
- C. Other supernatural spiritual gifts were all intended to validate the Apostles' eyewitness testimony to Jesus' resurrection. (Mark 16:20; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:33; Heb. 2:3-4).
- D. The circumstantial evidence is consistent with this:
 - 1. Paul had to travel all the way to Rome to impart spiritual gifts to the Romans (Rom. 1:11).
 - 2. Timothy's spiritual gift was delivered through Paul's hands: (2 Tim. 1:6).
 - 3. Paul imparted spiritual gifts to the Ephesians (Acts 19:6).
 - 4. There is no case in the NT where people received spiritual gifts apart from the immediate presence of one of the 12 'chosen eyewitnesses.'

II. Paul's statement that supernatural spiritual gifts would cease to be given (1 Cor. 13:8-13).

A. Vs. 8

- 1. Love never 'expires' (ἐκπίπτει {ek-pip'-to} – lit. to "fall off," met. "fail or expire")
- 2. Prophecies will be 'cancelled' (καταργηθήσεται {kat-ar-geh'-o} future, passive voice – lit. "will be cancelled").
- 3. Tongues (languages) will 'cease of itself' (παύσονται {pow'-o} future, middle voice – "cease of itself.")
- 4. Knowledge (by direct revelation) will '(καταργηθήσεται {kat-ar-geh'-o} future, passive voice – lit. "will be cancelled").

B. Vs. 9

- 1. We are understanding and prophesying out of an incomplete installment.

C. Vs. 10

- 1. When the completion (lit. full maturity) arrives, the incomplete installment "will be cancelled" (referring to 'prophecy' and 'revelation knowledge,' not 'tongues' (already ceased by that time).
 - a. John's 'Revelation' is the last example of 'direct revelation' & 'prophesying.'
 - b. John prophesied the coming of the final revelation of 2 prophets (Rev. 11:3)
 - c. In the meantime, God threatens all who presume to prophesy after Revelation completed by John in AD 96 (Rev. 22:18-19).
- 2. Only gifts of divine revelation (prophecy & knowledge) cancelled when Revelation completed in AD 96 (and John died 4 years later). Other gifts (like healing) may have continued until the deaths of the recipients, as late as approx. AD 180.

D. Vs. 11

- 1. Paul's allegory of a child maturing into a man shows a slow process. This was the process of the Apostles' continuing to learn from the holy Breath.
- 2. The putting away of 'childish things' refers to the supernatural spiritual gifts (incomplete revelation) in contrast to the 'mature' or 'complete' and official documented revelation.
 - a. The New Testament
 - b. The finalized Apostolic tradition taught orally to the congregations.

E. Vs. 12

- 1. The brass mirror vs. face to face metaphor.
 - a. If brass 'mirror' is not literal, neither is 'face to face.' (It does not refer to seeing Jesus).
- 2. "Now" in contrast to "then" refers to Paul's acknowledged 'immaturity' in contrast to his anticipated 'maturity' and full understanding.
 - a. Did Paul reach this point? Paul was shown what John saw in Revelation, but was forbidden to speak about it (2 Cor. 12:1-4).

F. Vs. 13

- 1. When the spiritual gifts are cancelled, faith, hope, and love continue.
 - a. 'Hope' cannot continue after the second coming (Rom. 8:19-25)