

Spiritual Gifts Part 2 – You are not missing anything

Spiritual Gifts Given for the Foundation of the Church:

Apostleship – Gift of certain men to establish the church and they were accredited by special signs and authorized by God to lay down the foundation of the Church (1 Cor 12:12, Eph 2:20)

Prophecy - sharing a message directly from God through proclamation or prediction of future events prior to the completion of the NT (Romans 12:6, 1 Cor 12:10, 14:1-10, Eph 4:11)

Miracles – the ability to perform special signs especially to confirm God’s message or messengers (1 Cor 12:28)

Healings – the ability to perform healings especially to confirm God’s message or messengers (1 Cor 12:9,28,30)

Tongues – the ability to speak in a language of the earth that is unknown to you, especially given to convict unbelieving Israel (1 Cor 12:10, 1 Cor 14:21,22)

Interpretation of Tongues – the ability to translate/interpret a spoken language into the language of the hearers (1 Cor 12:10)

Discerning of Spirits – the ability to distinguish between true and false sources of supernatural revelation prior to the completion of the NT (1 Cor 12:10)

Wisdom and Knowledge – the ability to communicate and apply God’s truth to people prior to the completion of the NT (1 Cor 12:28)

Digging Deeper:

In the Corinthian church, Paul wanted to contrast Christian worship with the prevalent idol worship/temple priestess worship services. Prior to becoming believers in Christ, some of the Corinthians had allowed themselves to be emotionally/spiritually carried away during idol worship services (1 Cor 12:2). Paul wanted the Christian worship service to be an edifying experience and not a confusing experience where people were being carried away. Paul placed several regulations on worship activities related to spiritual gifts – 1 Corinthians 14.

Paul, who had the gift of healings early in his ministry, had this gift cease later in his ministry. See Phil 2:27, 1 Tim 5:23, 2 Tim 4:20, 2 Cor 12:8-9.

1 Corinthians 13 talks about some gifts ceasing in v 8. Which gifts does it address?

Paul tells us that tongues were a sign especially for unbelieving Israel (1 Corinthians 14:21-22 which is quoting Isaiah 28:11-12). In Isaiah, God warned Israel of judgement in the form of Assyrian invaders. The Assyrians invaders speaking a strange language in the land of Israel would be a judgment of God on Israel for rejecting Him. Many bible scholars present the idea that this gift most likely ceased around AD 70 with the destruction of the Jewish temple by the Roman General Titus in fulfillment of Luke 19:41-44 and 21:20-24. Note – there was a large Jewish population in Corinth and the church was next to the Jewish synagogue. Corinth was a busy port city with international traffic so this may explain why we see tongues (languages and language interpretation) prevalent in Corinth.

Revelation 22:18-19 closes the Bible as a completed book. 2 Tim 3:16-17 also refer to the Scriptures as a complete set of “tools” for the man of God to do every good work. With the completion of the New Testament, there was no longer a need for special spiritual gifts that communicated the body of truth that the church was to believe, so the specific spiritual gifts of prophecy, wisdom, knowledge, discernment of spirits were no longer needed.

