

WHEN SPIRITUAL GIFTS STOP

A STUDY ON THE PERFECT MAN

"... when I became a man, I put away childish things."

~ 1 Corinthians 13:11

1. This Lesson is About Spiritual Gifts

- a. The subject can be personal and emotional, but this study is not about you.
- b. It is not about antidotes, salvation, miracles, God working in lives, talent, or abilities
- c. Spirit given Israel for signs Mk 16:17-18, Lk 24:49, Acts 1:8 (*Israel falls by Acts 28*)
- d. Spiritual gifts in 1Cor 12:7-28 as special powers and positions given in the body
 - i. Discussed in Corinthians, Romans, Ephesians - 1 Cor 12-13, Rom 12, Eph 4:11

2. They Have an End

- a. Bible believers agree: 1) spiritual gifts happened, and 2) they have an end.
- b. The debate is not over IF they stop, but **WHEN** they stop - 1 Cor 13:8
- c. The Bible tells us why and when – 1 Cor 13:9-10
- d. The controversy is over what is "that which is perfect is come" ← this is when
 - i. Popular answers: a) return of Jesus, b) glorification, c) Bible completion

3. The Perfect Man

- a. Missing from the conversation is the mystery of Christ.
- b. Remember: Paul's foundation, finished work, complete in Christ, his perfect will, Acts
 - i. You are complete, the work is finished, his perfect will revealed (Eph 1:9)
- c. When do gifts stop? "till we all come..." – Eph 4:13
 - i. "in the unity of the faith" – Eph 4:3-6, 1 Cor 1:10
 - ii. "of the knowledge of the Son of God" – Eph 3:4
 - iii. "unto a perfect man" – Rom 5:15-21, 2Cor 5:17, 12:9, 1Cor 2:6-7, Phi 3:12-15
 - iv. "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" – Eph 1:23, 3:17-19
- d. Acc. to the mystery, you *are* complete (perfect) in Christ - Col 1:22-23, 28, 2:2, 2:10

4. Before and After

- a. The Bible record of gifts decline greatly after Acts 28. 1Tim 5:23, 2Tim 4:13,20
- b. Paul was showing them a more excellent way (it was not unknown) - 1Cor 12:31
- c. 1 Cor 13:10 - The perfect comes first... THEN the gifts stop.
- d. 1 Cor 13:11 - Becomes a man first... THEN puts away childish things.
- e. 1 Cor 13:12 – Partial seeing replaced by seeing clearly – Eph 3:9-10, Col 1:9
- f. 1 Cor 13:13 – Now abide ... the more excellent way. Phi 1:10
- g. If gifts continue (future perfect), then now we know in part, are children, do not see.
 - i. But → In understanding be men, not children – 1 Cor 14:19-20
 - ii. → "[from this time forward] be no more children" - Eph 4:14
 - iii. → "gave some" replaced with "we all" "whole" "every" in Eph 4:13-16
 - iv. We must first know (perfect, complete) to walk – Eph 4:17-24, 1 Cor 3:1
- h. Not knowing the mystery of Christ is why people think the gifts continue.