

CBC Distinctive

“We believe that the gift of tongues was the miraculous, God-given capacity to communicate the truth of God's Word in human languages the speaker had never learned or studied. It was a manifestation of God's power and blessing to validate the gospel message the Apostles taught and to establish the early Church. We believe that ecstatic outbursts and private prayer languages share nothing in common with the New Testament gift of tongues, and that they are patently unbiblical.”

The Chief Arguments for Continuationism

- 1) The NT nowhere directly states that the miraculous gifts will cease during the church age.
- 2) A couple NT passages imply that the miraculous gifts will continue until Christ returns.
- 3) The NT speaks only of the church age, and, therefore, the gifts that began this age must continue throughout it.
- 4) 500 million professing Christians who claim charismatic experiences can't all be wrong.

A Case for Cessationism
Selected Scripture

Cessationism

- Does NOT mean...
 - 1) That God no longer does anything miraculous today.
 - 2) That the Spirit cannot give a miraculous ability to someone today.
- Means...
 - The Spirit no longer gives believers the miraculous spiritual gifts listed in Scripture and present in the 1st century church.
 - Those gifts ceased as normative with the apostles.

A Case for Cessationism

Selected Scripture

I. The Unique Role of Miracles

- Only three primary periods in which God worked miracles through uniquely gifted men.
 - Moses & Joshua
 - Elijah & Elisha
 - Jesus & the Apostles

A Case for Cessationism
Selected Scripture

- I. The Unique Role of Miracles
 - A. Moses
 - B. The OT Prophets
 - C. Jesus
 - D. The Apostles
- II. The End of the Gift of Apostleship