

**Lesson: #3**

**TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

Spiritual gifts played an important role in the transition period of messianic biblical history.

This transition period involved at least the following six important changes of biblical history: Jewish age to Church age; divine agency of priest-nation of Israel to the Church; Old Covenant to New Covenant; Leviticus priesthood to Church priesthood; rejection of Christ to Fifth cycle of divine discipline to Israel by Rome; and incomplete canon to the completion of the Canon of Scriptures (OT plus NT).

The Book of Acts teaches about this transition period and the role of spiritual gifts in the formation of the Church of Jesus Christ in the world (Acts 1&2).

It teaches that the formation of the Church of Jesus Christ began in Jerusalem at Pentecost (30AD) and spread through-out the Roman Empire according to the plan of God (Acts 1:8; 2:32-33).

19 spiritual gifts gave formation and ministry to the newly formed church in the world (1 Cor.12-14).

“For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.” (1 Cor.11:12)

These 19 gifts were the divine credentials of the authenticity of the Church of Jesus Christ as designed by God.

7 of these spiritual gifts are classified as temporary gifts following the transition period.

“God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.” (Heb.2:4)

**We will study SIX aspects of these TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS.**

- 1. There are three events and dates during the transition period that are important to our study of temporary gifts.**
  - First event and date is the ascension of Jesus Christ and 30AD (Eph.4:8). This resulted in the distribution of 19 spiritual gifts and the formation of the Church of Jesus Christ in the world (Book of Acts).
  - Second event and date is the fall of Jerusalem to Rome in 70Ad (Matt.23:37-24:2). This resulted in 2 gifts ceasing (1 Cor.13:8).
  - Third event and date is the completion of Canon of Scripture and 100AD (Rev.22:8-10). This resulted in 5 gifts being abolished (1 Cor.13:8-10; James 1:25).
- 2. According to the Greek grammar of 1 Cor.12: 8-10, nine spiritual gifts are listed in four sets. Three sets are later listed as temporary gifts.**
  - 1 Cor.12:8-10 is one Greek sentence with one verb (didomi/ p.p.ind/ is given). This same verb and grammar structure is associated with the distribution of the 19 gifts in 1 Cor.12:7.

- This Greek sentence is structured as a series in the Greek (hos men and allos de). This establishes four series of four sets of gifts (word of wisdom, word of knowledge) and different faith, gifts of healings, effects of miracles) and prophecy, discerning spirits) and tongues, interpretation of tongues).
- Paul separated these four sets of nine from the 19 spiritual gifts. The question is why?

### **3. Later Paul listed three of the four sets as temporary gifts in 1 Cor.13: 8-10.**

- He will mention only *three gifts* but remember that each of these had a counter part. That means that if one ceases than the other would cease automatically.
- Paul identified six gifts as temporary (*prophecy*, discerning spirit) and (*word of knowledge*, word of wisdom) and (*tongues*, interpretation of tongues).
- Some Bible scholars believe that all four sets should be listed as temporary gifts (1 Cor.12:8-10). Since Paul did not list any of them in 1 Cor.13:8-10, I cannot speak with biblical authority as with the other gifts that are listed.
- The seventh temporary gift is apostle. Most biblical scholars believe that this gifts ceased with the establishment of the Church in the world and the completion of the Canon of Scripture (1 Cor.4:9; Eph.2:20-22; Rev.1:9).

### **4. According to 1 Cor.13:8, the gift of tongues and interpretation would cease with the fulfillment of Isa. 28:9-13 (1 Cor.14:21-22; 1:22).**

- The Greek word for cease is pauo (f.m.ind). It is an intransitive verb used to explain that these two gifts would cease by something within them or by their divine purpose being fulfilled or completed. The stammering tongue of Isaiah referred to Gentile languages bringing the divine discipline of the Fifth Cycle (Lev.26). This occurred in 70Ad by Rome.

### **5. According to 1 Cor.13:9-10, the gifts of prophecy and discerning spirit and word of knowledge and word of wisdom would be abolished with the completion of the Canon of Scriptures.**

- There are five Greek syntactical factors that indicate the perfect (to teleion/ nsn) refers to the completion of the Canon of Scriptures.
- First, to teleion is a nominative singular neuter (nsn) substantive adjective used as a noun. This means that the perfect is a thing and not a person.
- Second, the perfect is contrasted to the partial (ek meros). The perfect is the same thing as the partial (prophecy and knowledge).
- Third, the partial is temporarily incomplete apart from the perfect. Canon of Scriptures will complete prophecy and knowledge. Note that erchomai (a.a.subj./ come) is connected with hotan (when) and is conditional or contingent upon a certain condition in dispensation time (100 AD in the Church Age).
- Fourth, the perfect (to teleion) is used in the same Greek manner in James 1:23-25 for the Canon of Scriptures.