

TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS

There are three events and dates during the transition period that are important to our study of Temporary Spiritual Gifts.

- First date and event was 30AD and the ascension of Jesus Christ (Eph.4:8). This led to the distribution of 19 spiritual gifts and the formation of the Church of Jesus Christ in the world.
- Second date and event was 70AD and the fall of Jerusalem to Rome (Matt.23:37-24:2). This resulted in 2 spiritual gifts ceasing – leaving 17 gifts operating in the Church in the world.
- Third date and event was 100AD and the completion of the canon of Scriptures (Bible) (Rev.22:8-10). This resulted in 8 spiritual gifts being abolished – leaving a Bible and 9 spiritual gifts operating in the Church in the world.

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

1. According to the Greek grammar of 1 Cor.12:8-10, nine of the 10 Temporary Spiritual Gifts are listed in four sets.

Three of these sets are later listed as temporary in 1 Cor.13: 8-10.

1 Cor.12: 8-10 is one Greek sentence with one verb (didomi/ p.p.ind/ given). This same verb and grammar structure is associated with the distribution of the 19 spiritual gifts in 1 Cor.12: 7.

This Greek sentence is structured as a series (hos men and allos de). This structure establishes four sets of spiritual gifts.

- Word of wisdom and word of knowledge
- Different faith and gifts of healings and effects of miracles
- Prophecy and discerning spirits
- Tongues and interpretation of tongues.

Why did Paul separate these 9 spiritual gifts from the other 19?

2. In 1 Cor.13:8-10, Paul listed 1 gift each from 3 of the 4 sets as temporary spiritual gifts.

The three spiritual gifts that Paul mentioned had a counter gift. This meant that when one ceased the other would automatically cease.

- Prophecy – discerning spirit
- Word of knowledge – word of wisdom
- Tongues – interpretation of tongues

Some Bible scholars believe that Paul listed all 4 sets as temporary gifts and not just 3. Since Paul did not mention any of the gifts from the set of (faith, healings, and miracles), I cannot speak with biblical authority of them as temporary gifts. However, I tend to believe with the pastors that trained me who believed they were temporary gifts.

The tenth temporary gift is Apostle. Again most Bible scholars believe this gift ceased with the establishment of the Church in the world and with the completion of the canon Scriptures (1 Cor.4: 9; Eph.2: 20-22; Rev.1: 9). The last apostle wrote that last book of the canon of Scripture (Revelation).

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

The Greek word for *cease* (*pauo*/ f.m.ind/ indirect middle meaning that it would cease on its own). *Pauo* 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 tongues of Isaiah referred to Gentiles languages bringing divine discipline of the 5th cycle on the Jews for rejecting their Messiah (Lev.26; Deut.28). This occurred in 70 AD to Israel by Rome.

4. According to 1 Cor.13: 9-10, the gifts of prophecy and discerning spirit as well as the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom would be abolished (katargeo/ f.p.ind) with the completion of the canon of Scriptures.

Katargeo is a transitive verb used to explain that these spiritual gifts would be abolished by something outside of them. The passive voice of *katargeo* is used as an intervening agent to cause them to become inoperative.

5. There are five Greek syntactical factors that indicate that the Perfect (to teleion) refers to the completed canon of Scriptures. The outside object that will cause them to be abolished is called the PERFECT.

- The Perfect (to teleion) is a nominative singular NEUTER substantive adjective used as a noun. This means that the PERFECT IS A THING and not as a person.
- The Perfect is contrasted to the Partial (*ek meros*). In other words, the Perfect is the same thing as the Partial. The partial was knowledge and prophesy (13:9). The Perfect is the completion of the Partial.
- The Partial was temporarily incomplete apart from the Perfect. The canon of Scriptures will complete certain temporary spiritual gifts. Note that the word COME (*erchomai*/ a.a.subj) is connected with the word WHEN (*hotan*) meaning that it was conditional or contingent upon a certain conditions in dispensational time (100AD/ completion of the canon of Scriptures).
- The Perfect (to teleion) is used in the same grammatical manner as in James 1:23-25 for the canon of Scriptures.
- Two analogies are used to further explain temporary gifts (1 Cor.13: 11-12): reasoning of child verses that of adult and looking in mirror verses to face to face. [I believe Paul was distinguishing the different between temporary spiritual gifts and Canon of Scriptures.]

Vines believed that (to teleion) referred to either the completed revelation of God's will and ways in the canon of Scriptures or the hereafter (pg.174).

My personal conclusion is that 10 spiritual gifts either ceased or were abolished by two historical events and dates (70AD and the fall of Israel to Rome) and (100AD and the completion of the canon of Scriptures).

The church didn't lose any benefits with the removal of temporary gifts any more than the removal of the horse and buggy did for transportation.