

## TEMPORARY GIFTS

We have learned that Paul listed nine of the nineteen gifts in a series of four sets, in one Greek sentence (1 Cor.12: 8-10).

|                |                                   |     |   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----|---|
| <b>Set - 1</b> | <b>Word of wisdom</b>             | and | <b>Word of knowledge</b>                        |
| <b>Set - 2</b> | <b>Different faith</b>            | and | <b>Gifts of healing and Effects of miracles</b> |
| <b>Set - 3</b> | <b>Prophecy</b>                   | and | <b>Distinguishing spirits</b>                   |
| <b>Set - 4</b> | <b>Different kinds of tongues</b> | and | <b>Interpretation of tongues</b>                |

This will become significant in this week's lesson on Temporary Gifts. We will study our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Gong show (13:1-3) without love gifts we are nothing
- God's love (13:4-8a) love never fails or come to an end
- Gifts ceasing (**13:8b-12**) but some gifts will end
- Greatest gift (13:13) but God's LOVE is forever.

|   |
|---|
| <b>This lesson will study FOUR aspects of Temporary Spiritual Gifts</b> |
|---|

**1. In 1 Cor.13: 8-12, Paul shows that certain spiritual gifts previously listed were temporary in the church age.**

Paul listed one gift from 3 of the 4 sets of gifts in 12:8-10: (Prophecy / distinguishing spirits), (Tongues / interpretation), and (Knowledge / wisdom). This means that 3 of the 4 sets were temporary.

Does this mean that the fourth set (different faith, gifts of healing, and effects of miracles) are permanent gifts? Or does this mean that since it was one Greek sentence and Paul has established a grammar pattern within it for eliminating certain spiritual gifts that we can apply it automatically to the other set?

Notice how Paul described the gift called different faith in 1 Cor.13:2 – “If I have faith that can move mountains.” This is not the same as the mustard seed faith of Matt.17:20-21. Different faith is a supernatural faith that comes directly from God and from the Scriptures (Rom.10: 17). It was necessary for the gifts of healing and miracle like prophecy to discerning spirit and tongues to interpretation.

**Pastoral comment:** If they are functional today, they should be common in all spiritual maturing churches. I have been open to their function for the past 32 years in this church. This church has all the spiritual gifts functioning and I have never witness their function. If they were functioning, I could not stop them – “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (12:7) and “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.” (12:11)

I believe the 10th temporary gift is Apostle. Most bible scholars believe this spiritual gift ceased with the establishing of the Church in the world and with the completion of the canon of Scriptures. (1 Cor.4:9; Eph.2:20-22; Rev.1:9; 1 Cor.13:3).

2. **Tongues and interpretation would cease with the fall of Jerusalem in 70AD with the fulfillment of Isa.29:9-11**

“If there are tongues, they will cease (pauo / f.m.ind / indirect middle) [meaning to cease on its own].” (13:8)

Pauo is an intransitive verb explaining that these two gifts would cease by something within themselves or by their divine purpose being fulfilled or completed.

The stammering tongues of Isa.28:9-11 refers to Gentiles languages bringing divine discipline upon Israel for rejecting their Messiah (Lev.26; Deut.28) – “In the Law it is written, ‘by men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to Me,’ says the Lord. So then tongues are for a sign, not to these who believe, but to unbelievers.” (1 Cor.14: 21-22; 1:22)

3. **Prophecy and distinguishing spirits and word of wisdom and word of knowledge would be done away with the completion of the canon of Scriptures about 100AD.**

(Revelation 13:8) “But if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away (katargeo / f.p.ind); If there is knowledge, it will be done away (katargeo / f.p.ind).”

Katargeo is a transitive verb used to explain that these gifts would be done away by something outside themselves. The passive voice is used to show an intervening agent will cause them to become inoperative.

A special phrase (in part) helps us understand that the something outside must be part of them – “For we know in part (en meros) [incomplete knowledge], and we prophesy in part (en meros) [part of whole].” (13:9)

4. **There are five syntactical factors that indicate that the Perfect (to telion) is the completed canon of Scriptures and not the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

“But (de) [contrast] when (hotan + subjunctive) [time factor] **the perfect** (to telion / nominative singular **neuter**) comes (erchomai / a.a.subj), **the partial** (to ek+gen. Meros / nsn) will be done away (katargeo / f.p.ind).” (13:9) Pre-canon temporary gifts were necessary while the rest of Bible was being written. (13:10)

- The perfect (to telion) is **neuter** and refers to a **thing** and not a person.
- The perfect (to telion) will complete the partial (to ek meros) [incomplete].
- The perfect (to telion) is used for the OT canon in **James 1:25** – “But the one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides in it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.”
- Two analogies are used to further explain temporary gifts (13:11-12). The first one is the reasoning of a child verses an adult. The second one is looking into a mirror verses face to face.
- The canon of Scriptures will complete the function of certain temporary gifts. Note that the word COME (erchomai / a.a.subj) is connected to the WHEN (hotan) [time contingent]. The partial would be done away with the timing of the completion of the canon.

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

Paul concluded that the church did not lose anything by the removal of temporary gifts because God’s love is forever (13:1-13). We didn’t lose transportation by replacing the horse and buggy with the automobile, trains, and airplanes.