

WHEN WILL SPIRITUAL GIFTS CEASE?  
I COR 13:8-13

Introduction:

- A. We know that the early church had spiritual gifts.
  - 1. Nine are listed. I Cor. 12:8-11.
  - 2. They are for building up the body. 12:7.
  
- B. This was a fulfillment of prophecy.
  - 1. Acts 2:17-21.
  - 2. v17,18, the, 19,20, "last days," v21 now.
  
- C. How long were these gifts to exist in the church?
  - 1. Are they valid until Jesus comes?
  - 2. Should they have a place in our church?

I. SOME GIFTS WILL CEASE. V8

- A. Some gifts won't cease.
  - 1. "charity never faileth," pipto.
  - 2. faileth = to fail, to fall to the ground, fail.
  
- B. "they shall fail."
  - 1. fail = katargeo - to leave unemployed, to make useless, void, abolish, put an end to.
  - 2. "but whether there be prophecies."
  - 3. "whether there be tongues."
  - 4. "whether there be knowledge."
    - a. "It shall vanish away."
    - b. vanish = (same as above.)

II. THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH IS REGARD TO GIFTS.

- A. They knew in parts. v9.
  - 1. part = ek - from among, of, merous - a part of things, partically, imperfectly.
  - 2. They were receiving the truth in installments.



- B. "For we know in part, and we prophecy in part."
  - 1. At this time we have parts of knowledge.
  - 2. We have parts given by prophecy.
  
- C. "we only know bit by bit, and what we prophesy is incomplete."

### III. THE END OF KNOWING IN PARTS. V10

- A. "But when that which is perfect is come."
  - 1. Perfect = to teleios = what has reached end, term, or limit, hence complete.
  - 2. This refers to the revelation, not Jesus.
  
- B. "Then that which is in part shall be done away."
  - 1. done away = katargeo - to abolish, do away.
  - 2. The parts become a whole.
  
- C. The New Testament came in "parts." When they were placed together, they were no longer parts but a whole, or complete.
  - 1. In the automobile industry there are "parts houses."
  - 2. There are also "dealerships."
  - 3. An unassembled automobile is parts, when assembled it is an automobile.

### IV. GIFTS WERE FOR THE INFANT CHURCH. V11

- A. "when I was a child."
  - 1. child = nepios = not speaking, a babe, without the power of speech.
  
- B. A child has child capabilities.
  - 1. "I spake as a child." words.
  - 2. "I understood as a child." comprehension.
  - 3. "I thought as a child." thinking.

- C. The child gives way to the man.
  - 1. "but when I became a man, I put away childish things
  - 2. man = aner.
  - 3. put away = abolished.
  - 4. childish = (same as A above.)

#### V. THEIR PRESENT IMPERFECT REVELATION. V12

- A. "for now we see through a glass darkly."
  - 1. glass = a mirror.
  - 2. darkly = ainigma = obscurely, at present we see only baffling reflections in a mirror.
- B. "but then face to face."
  - 1. When the Bible is completed, we will be seeing God, face to face.
- C. "now I know in part."
  - 1. At this writing we only have knowledge in parts.
- D. "but then shall I know even as also I am known."
  - 1. The time will come when I will know God as He now knows me, through revelation.

#### VI. THE GIFTS THAT WILL ABIDE. V13

- A. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three."
  - 1. abideth = meno = to remain, abide, to wait for.
  - 2. now = anti - at present, at this moment.
  - 3. faith = pistis = firm persuasion, Heb. 11:1
  - 4. hope = elpis = expectation of something future.

Faith is what we have in God and God's Word. Hope is the assurance we feel when we have faith.

- 5. charity = agape = love.
- B. "but the greatest of these three is love."
  - 1. greatest = meizon - comp. of megas - large, of physical magnitude.

2. The most important of these is love. Why?
2. See the characteristics of love!

These were not gifts that would come into being, they were gifts that they had then and would continue into eternity. Each church member may avail himself of these gifts, they are like the air, breathe as much as you want.

