

DOCTRINE MATTERS: ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Message 26: **Spiritual Gifts, Pt 2:** Some Considerations

1 Corinthians 12:28

1. apostle
2. prophet
3. teacher
4. miracles
5. kinds of healing
6. helps
7. administration
8. tongues

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

9. word of wisdom
10. word of knowledge
11. faith
- (5) gifts of healing
- (4) miracles
- (2) prophecy
12. distinguishing
between spirits
- (8) tongues
13. interpretation of
tongues

Ephesians 4:11

- (1) apostle
- (2) prophet
14. Evangelist
15. pastor-teacher

Romans 12:6-8

- (2) prophecy
16. serving
- (3) teaching
17. encouraging
18. contributing
19. leadership
20. mercy

1 Corinthians 7:7

21. marriage
22. Celibacy

1 Peter 4:11

- whoever speaks
(covering several gifts)
whoever renders service
(covering several gifts)

Some of the more controversial gifts:

Prophecy

“Telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind ...”

To proclaim God’s truth in a particularly relevant or applicable way

Implications for the church today:

It is the expression of revelation received from God, but ...

These are human words, not “God’s Word”.

We should better say: “It seems to me ...” or “I feel like ...” or “I think that ...” rather than “God said ...”

All ‘prophecies’ should be thoroughly tested (both message and messenger).

Teaching

“The ability to understand/discern scripture and teach it accurately and with effect”

Implications for the church today:

Teaching is a fundamental foundation of the Church.

The Word of God is the sole authority and source of teaching.

(Acts 15:35, Acts 18:11, Hebrews 5:12, Romans 15:4, 2 Tim 3:16, 2 Tim 2:2, 2 Thess 2:15, etc.)

Healing

“Supernatural power over disease”

Also ... “those gift(s) of healing(s)”

Implications for the church today:

It is right to ask God to heal.

Telling people that God doesn't/rarely heal today ...

Telling people that God always heals if ...

When God chooses not to heal, we still ...

(1 Thess 5:18, James 1:2-4)

Sometimes, God uses sickness for ...

(Ps 119:67, 119:71)

Tongues

“Speaking in *languages* not understood by the speaker”

Implications for the church today:

Babel v. Pentecost and the purpose of “tongues” ...

Acts and 1st Corinthians ...

Public language and prayer language (1 Cor 14:2,14-17,28) ...

Necessity of interpretation ...*

Word of Wisdom/Knowledge

“Receiving and declaring revelation from God”

A heightened ability to understand and apply God's Word ... sometimes in very specific situations

Implications for the church today:

Fidelity to Scripture

For the purpose of building up the hearer and the body/church ...

Goes hand-in-hand with gift of discernment ...

(1 Cor 12:10, Acts 5:3, Acts 16:16-18, 1 John 4:1)

Miracles

“An extraordinary work of God in which He suspends or overrides the normal courses of nature so that the result cannot be explained by any natural cause”

Implications for the church today:

Major differences from Christ, Apostles, etc. and today ...

Immediate, undeniable, complete

Purpose:

Authenticate the messenger

Empower the message

Show God's mercy

Glorify God

Answered prayer is not the same as the 'gift of healing' ...

Have some gifts ceased?

Cessationism:

Continuationism:

Why I'm not a _____

1 Corinthians 12:31 (ESV)

³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (ESV)

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)

¹ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 (ESV)

³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.

Why I am a _____

Jude 1:3 (ESV)

³ Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for **the faith that was once for all delivered** to the saints.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (ESV)

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good.

Closing thoughts:

1. The scripture gives a timeline on cessation, and I do not believe we are there yet.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (ESV)

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

2. There are many abuses of so-called “spiritual gifts” today, but that does not – in itself – mean that genuine spiritual gifts do not exist.

There are also abuses of teaching, ministry, mercy, etc. We do not negate those gifts. The challenge is biblical wisdom and the hard work of discernment.

3. What we see/experience today does not typically align with the New Testament expression of the gifts. This is a huge concern.

We have to pay particular attention to how ‘gifts’ are *defined* and *demonstrated* in our world today. Scripture is normative – not our experiences.

4. Scripture is our defining revelation of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and points to Christ. There is no new ‘revelation’ on a par with it.

Remember that the revelation of God is now *closed*. There will be no further revelation until Christ returns.

5. The Christian life is a supernatural life – not merely a natural (rational, emotional, physical) one.

We are filled with the Spirit of God Himself. He is a life giving, life changing, world conquering Spirit.

“The Christianity of the Bible is a religion that is uncompromisingly supernatural. If we take away the supernatural, we take away Christianity.” – RC Sproul