

Continuation or Discontinuation of Some of the Spiritual Gifts?

To be added to our Statement of Faith:

“Based upon the purpose, nature, and pattern of miraculous sign gifts as found in Scripture, we believe and teach that the gifts of apostleship, prophecy, tongues, and healing served the purpose of validating the Apostle’s teaching as the Church was being established and ceased after the time of the apostles according to what is in Scripture.”

The view contained in the above statement is commonly called Cessationism.

Scriptural Basis

- The **PURPOSE** of miraculous gifts is to *confirm* God’s messenger and message.
Ex 4:1-8 confirmation of Moses as sent by Yahweh
Nu 11:10-25 confirmation of the Spirit on men to assist Moses
1 Sam 10:1-13 Saul confirmed as one to be King
1 Kn 17:17-24 Elijah recognized as a prophet
Acts 2:22-36 God confirmed Jesus as the Messiah/Christ
5:15; 9:32-43 & Gal 2:8 Peter as an Apostle confirmed by the miraculous
11:1-15 the Gospel is for Gentiles and they do not have to become Jews
14:3 the Lord was testifying to the gospel preached to the Gentiles
John 11:42; 20:30-31 miracles/signs confirming Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God
- The **NATURE** of miraculous gifts result in *radical* and *verifiable* results.
Nu 11:10-25 people witnessed that Saul didn’t, did, and didn’t prophesy
Lk 17:11-14 Jesus sent the healed lepers to the priest for confirmation of their cleansing
John 9:18-21 parents called in to confirm this is their son and his blindness since his birth
11:17-44 people confirmed Lazarus was dead and then saw him walk out of the tomb
Acts 2:1-12 the crowd heard their own language coming from men of another language
3:1-10 a known crippled man was then seen leaping
- The **PATTERN** of miraculous gifts is that they are *temporary* in the *founding* and *establishing* of something new God is doing in His work of revealing Himself and the redemption He provides.
Nu 11:25 the men did not continue to prophesy
1 Sam 10:13; 28:7 Saul did not continue to prophesy
Acts 9:32-38 where is someone else with the gift of healing?
11: 15 & 2:16 the fulfilling of Joel’s prophecy and the inclusion of Gentiles - all new
1 Cor 13:8 gifts would cease
Eph 2:19-20; 3:5; 4:11 apostles and prophets connected with establishing the church
Phil 2:27 why not heal Epaphroditus?
1 Tim 5:23 why not heal Timothy?
2 Tim 4:20 why not heal Trophimus?
Heb 2:3-4 was confirmed, why not refer to current miraculous workings of the Spirit to bolster faith?
Js 3:14 why call the elders and not someone with the gift of healing?
- **The Sufficiency of Scripture** - Having the Old and New Testament, we have more of God’s Word than any New Testament church had in their time and what we have is sufficient
1 Cor 13:8-13 gifts would end, but God’s Word does not
2 Tim 3:14-17 there is no exhortation to look for or expect further revelation - the Old Testament and Paul’s teaching were sufficient for Timothy and the church
2 Pt 1:19-21 Peter directed the church to the Scripture they already had
3:14-18 Peter includes Paul’s writings as Scripture