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Cessationist

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# Gifts ending

The belief that the miraculous and charismatic gifts have passed away by either the ending of the apostles. What verses do you have for the gifts having passed away?

1 Corinthians 13:8 (ESV) Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

There you have it it's all going to end! :p

1 Corinthians 13:9-13 (ESV) For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 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. 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. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

# Based on the context when is it suggested it will cease?

Second coming of Jesus, heaven or would you not agree that face to face sounds like we’re seeing Jesus and see Him. Who would need to speak in tongues or a prophetic word if I can walk up and talk to Him directly.

Another verse that is saying the same thing?

# Handicapped the Church

They have handicapped the church by believing this verse that doesn't even seem to be saying what we think it is saying? They are saying God can still heal. The times we are going to see it probably is being on the mission field. Not going to have anything to do with an individual. Share the Gospel with pagans, God can heal but will only demonstrate His power to validate the word of God. When I am done and you're all saved there should be no expectation that any blind people will see, because God did it for you in that time.

You and I would say every time I pray for someone with back issues they go away. I want to see if there is an anointing on me to heal people with backs? They will tell us apostles were unique in the ministry of the church, then they were all passed away. Of course, we agree they are unique! Those modern-day apostles are not on the same level as them. We say yes, we agree with you! Signs authenticate the apostles, yes why not? And why not also today?

# Apostles

They absolutely don’t believe there are apostles today. They fail to acknowledge 22 or 30 people mentioned in the Bible that are named apostles. How can there be more than 12 in the Bible? Barnabas, Timothy, Silas, Paul. Paul counts always, wrote half of the NT ;p

Miracles or signs only mentioned in early epistles. We can all use the Bible to let the Bible say what we want it to say. They're breaking down the NT on the chronology of when it was written. A timeline with the books, Galatians, Thessalonians, authorship. Earliest epistles mention these, the later books don’t. Later books are Romans, Ephesians. Sometimes you think I didn't know that! What you need to do at that moment is check!

Romans 12:6 (ESV) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

Hold the phone, prophecy is still listed! The cessationist will redefine prophesy. Not giving a one on one word, or a public word. They're going to say a proclamation, when you're proclaiming something you're actually preaching. He meant preaching when he wrote that.

These types of churches it is preaching, we’re singing songs to get warmed up. We’re waiting for the word, good word? That’s the point! Redefine words and prophesy to mean preaching.

# Tongues

Tongues was a sign to unbelieving Israel that salvation was available to the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 14:22-24 (ESV) Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,

Anyone ever confused? Tongues are a sign for unbelievers? I thought it was confusing to unbelievers, but made more sense to believers. Prophesy for believers not for unbelievers? A prophetic word would make sense, right?

Back up a little bit, verse 21.

1 Corinthians 14:21 (ESV) In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”

Paul quoted Isaiah 28, gentiles will speak in tongues and that will be a sign to unbelieving Jewish people that they can be saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Jewish unbelievers and gentile believers.

They will say tongues is inferior to prophecy, because in Corinthians it says that you should prophecy. Why so much hassle around the speaking in tongues and debunking it? Filled with the Holy Spirit. We’ve been saying baptism with the Spirit is filled with tongues. There is a stronger proof that it is about prophecy. Joel: they will prophesy!

# Anti-charismatic

Anti-charismatic church are going to be anti-speaking in tongues and prophecy.

Acts 2 they were speaking in languages that were understandable. As a missionary thinker what might I start thinking? Called to Egypt or find Egyptian people to talk to! That assumption is right, that is what should happen. It does in Acts and helps spread the Gospel so fast. Cessationist is saying if that is still happening why do our missionaries need to go through language school if they can do it like this? He doesn't do it because it ceased, but we do hear of people that have received a language! Somebody got healed! They will ask: where is the proof?

Thorn in the flesh, not a physical problem, but standing for Pharisees or opposition of what God is doing. 4 times mentioned, idiom expression that they are familiar with. He had a lot of people opposing him.

Randy Clark has documented this like crazy, Bill Johnson as well. The root issue is that they won’t believe it. They will still not buy into it. A heart issue with that. What about quoting Martin Luther or MacArthur?

Most of us are not even as well-read as we are pretending to be. Have I read all his writings? Have I read all that stuff? No, no no! Because they go on and on. Somebody read part of it, found something that drives the point home. Given validity to my point.

# Epigraphic books

What writings do you agree on? Most of them were all used, then they were reviewing what was alright. Who were the apostles? Books that didn't make the cut. But then the pope who would write all these things they added extra books. The protestant church didn't accept that, whatever he wanted in there.

# Dispensationalism

Some people say that God has given us the Bible for health. Many dispensationalists are also sensationalists. Epoch’s how God interacted with mankind. From the fall to when the Law was given the people didn't have the Law yet, lived according to the revelation you have up to that point. When the law is given we can interact with Him based on the Law.

A whole lot of Kingdom can happen now! They are saying that we need to wait upon when Jesus comes back and rescues us! His views are non-dispensational, maybe not all Kingdom, but lots! Many of those are also Cessationists, you're going to do all this doctrine, but have told the Holy Spirit He won’t have much influence in your life.

# History

They’re going to say that the 2nd-4th the signs and wonders are fading away. Christianity Today was quoting that there were a lot of miracles happening during there. He had power encounters, they say they tried to kill him with fire, after 39 people raised from the dead. He has all kinds of stuff in the early 400’s. Saint Patrick, got a guy up there doing all the stuff!

Maybe the emphasis of the church? Power and influence, academic stuff. Maybe it was decreasing, I am not sure.

Middle ages, 500-1500 after the Roman Empire collapses. Say what you will about the Romans, they did a lot! Had a central government orchestrating and influencing the entire Mediterranean world! Roads for the army, common coinage. Everyone spoke Greek, even though they loved Latin. Relative peace. The barbarians come and sack the Romans. They had government, legal systems, reason, philosophy, thought, indoor plumbing, public bathrooms, warm water in house, indoor air-conditioning. Corruption.

Now all independent things, everything goes to chaos. We get the feudal system, people important are landowners. They are paying the priest. Government, a bigger power, now individual landowners paid to do stuff. Of course, then you want to do good by what your patron wants to pay you. People who appear the most spiritual are the mystics and certain monk groups. My thing is: some were cool, but a whole bunch of weird ones! Mystics like we talk about them, some others have other feelings about them! They were into depriving yourself, food, sleep, pleasure, self-whipping. Paul says I beat my body, therefore they go around to do this. They spent days outside in their underwear, wouldn't eat anything to prove that they were holy and connected with God.

Many mystics in more southern regions lived in the desert. Demon out goes to dry places. The mystic says if I am going to do spiritual warfare I will fight the demons in there. Some of them called by God and doing things for God? Some wacko’s that the sun got to? Probably so :p Some miraculous stuff going on with the mystics, but when I read the stories I am not convinced every story is true.

Deification of Mary went very fast.

There are scriptures that the church would rise up and overgrow the other kingdoms. Craziness with power and influence in the world. Clergy and laity. You're the community, you come to my church. You speak French, the service will be done in Latin! I am reading out of this book, only 1 or 2 people in the whole town that can read, one of them is me! It is in Latin, you can’t speak it, who is going to be the interpreter of scripture? Who holds all the power? If you tick me off and I excommunicate you where are you going? You just got kicked out of the church! Essentially kicked out of heaven, there is no other access point except this church.

Indulgences we can solve your concerns about your uncle! I can sell you an indulgence, for a small bag of gold I will give you this piece of paper that will guarantee your uncle in heaven. If that is how it works that the only guy connected to heaven. St. Peter’s basilica was built hugely on indulgences. Dark ages, common people had nothing. If I had a miracle through my hands and then in the church you would be on the way to sainthood. What if a miracle happens through the people? Witch, demonic! But nobody wants to talk about it or would be killed.

Church would burn people with stakes. The pope can decide whether a prince could marry a princess. Had to go through him! He had immense authority! Pilgrimages and relics become really important, greater spirituality by going to the Holy Land. Piece of wood was from the cross of Jesus, uneducated told by educated. Connection to that thing of power!

Cathedral in Guadalajara. You don’t have an end time eschatology that Jesus can come back any second and build a building that takes 500 years to build! Why so much visual stuff inside the churches? You can’t read! But it is depicted in art, paintings and glass.

Every day I came to pray for my daughter and she healed my daughter. How does that work? -> Point is Jesus didn't get the glory!

What do some of us do when we get near a revivalist who is filled with power? How different is that from us? Only shade of difference. We don’t advocate that, some of you go beyond that.

When the reformation starts the catholic church to say that the protestants must be wrong is that we still have miracles and you don’t! Intriguing to think about the proof is in the miracles, God is still with us. How does that work?

Is the catholic church still considered the mother church? Historically there is one church, many locations but one church! Church in India that is named after Thomas, in the first century! They were doing stuff, they didn't write everything down.

Did the gifts really disappear or did we stop talking about them? Are the conditions of the world right to discuss miracles or not? You might never tell anyone about it because the church would think you’re a witch.

# Lots of problems with the Roman catholic church.

* Sola scriptura: scripture alone! Can’t change edict all the time.
* Sola fide: faith alone! Salvation not through the church, but by faith!
* Sola gratia: grace alone! Not by works, alone by grace!
* Sola Christus: Christ alone!
* Sola deo gloria: glory to God alone!

Wouldn’t you say those are good points? But where is the Holy Spirit? There is no Holy Spirit in there. It is the whole pendula thing and the emphasis becomes Scripture. Saint Tom wrote the summation of theology. Like come on! In church has a vision of God didn't tell anyone what happened, then he stopped writing the theological books. Lost the encounters! One of the most brilliant people in Christianity said it is all chaff! What did you see brother?

Age of enlightenment, reason. Enlightenment: to reform society using reason rather than tradition, faith and revelation. To advance knowledge through science.

Can anybody see that we are products of the enlightenment. Demythologizing the Bible. Anything happening in there was a myth, either rational or it never happened. As far away from experience as possible. Explaining miracles through natural means. A sea of reeds wouldn't be as deep as the red sea. Hebrew says sea of reeds. Interesting.

Rational thing is the exact thing we’re bumping into with miracles in our world. First reaction were I hope it is not the devil. Wow okay thanks for that.

Difference between doubting everything and believing everything.

Even in the school of faith we want to believe God did something even if he didn’t! Glory was so powerful, Presence was so thick. But they said it was so intense there were beams of light hitting us on there. Junior high brought glitter into the service. Lights were hitting glitter and occasionally hitting people. We so want to believe that we will sometimes believe when there is nothing to believe.

1. What are ideas that God is still speaking to you and it doesn't come out of Scripture. But we’re open all the time with a Scripture. God is going to have to talk to me to get this information!
2. Spirit baptism that goes beyond this. They’re saying we’re elevating ourselves. You can have it too! We want you to have what we have. I was there without having it, how about praying right now and praying. No more 2 tiers. Moved out of the power of the Holy Spirit. It is really exhausting, do it with the Spirit
3. The mysticism that is in charismatic teaching, that elevates feeling and opens their mind to places they cannot understand. MacArthur how do you know? Do you understand them and we don’t? Or should we just follow the Bible and go after these things? Have there been errors in any church? Yes! Finding mistakes isn't good enough.

Cessationism is a philosophy a doctrine not so much based in the Bible, but based on experience. There are not Bible verses that say after 100 years we won’t do the stuff anymore. Comes out of their experiences, middle ages, enlightenment, ration and not the Spirit. What do we get accused of? Experiential and not Biblical, which is exactly what they are doing! Try a different church! When you hang out with like-minded people you think that is the only way to think.

There is this nasty little guy with horns that talks to you all day long. No Cessationist that doesn't say the devil is real. What they have done is given the devil all the power, but handcuffed God. The devil made me think all these thoughts, why not God? Your devil is stronger than God! And the power of God is way stronger!

Suggest to you that the key issue in this Cessationist thing is: Does God still speak? We all answer yes, but not everyone out there does.

Deuteronomy 5:22 (ESV) “These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

He gave us the 10 commandments and didn't give us any more.

Deuteronomy 5:23-27 (ESV) And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders. And you said, ‘Behold, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live. Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die. For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived? Go near and hear all that the Lord our God will say, and speak to us all that the Lord our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.’

Jeremiah 7:21-24 (ESV) Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. But this command I gave them: Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ But they did not obey or incline their ear,

Gods plan A was 10 commandments and following the Voice of God.

Hebrews 12:18-25 (ESV) For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.

It’s all about hearing God’s voice, isn't it?

Bill says this: You're going to bump into people that God still speaks, only in Scripture. Could you talk to me when you got saved? Camp meeting church service. What was going on in your heart and mind? What was happening? Sense, just knew God was calling me forward. You know what? That was the Voice of God calling to you, speaking to you. Follow me today. You have heart the Voice of God! That is the Voice you’re supposed to listen to.