



The Spiritual Gifts and 1 Corinthians 13:10

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Do the Spiritual Gifts still exist?

Let us examine first scripture, God's perfect word, then take a look at the "argument" and teaching of one Benjamin Breckenridge Warfield. BB Warfield, and "The Doctrine of Men".

For Paul the Apostle first tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:1-2:

Now concerning spiritual *gifts* , brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. - 1 Corinthians 12:1-2

Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth, expounded upon the spiritual gifts, as he did not wish the brethren to be ignorant, and neither do I.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are diversities of ministrations, and the same Lord. And there are diversities of workings, but the same God, who worketh all things in all. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit to profit withal. For to one is given through the Spirit the word of wisdom; and to another the word of

knowledge, according to the same Spirit: to another faith, in the same Spirit; and to another gifts of healings, in the one Spirit; and to another workings of miracles; and to another prophecy; and to another discernings of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; and to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh the one and the same Spirit, dividing to each one severally even as he will.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Paul in the above verses outlines the diversities of the gifts, and how the Spirit divides or presents each believer the gifts as the Spirit of God or Holy Spirit, wills. Paul goes on to state that as the Body is one and has many members, all the members are of the same Body. The one. Just as there is one Spirit. And all were all made to drink of the one Spirit.

Just briefly now I would like to make a brief comment on the true nature of "the Church". Just as Paul outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; this best describes the church described and discussed in detail in 1 Thessalonians and the "rapture" of the saints. For the "church" is the people the "saints" the "called out ones" in Christ. And I emphasize "In Christ". (See the Gospel of John 15) Those of the vine.

Many denominations today stress that they are the one and "true" only church (See the stone "Landmarkism" available on the archive page of our site). And this is the farthest from the truth. The truth in this way of thinking or train of thought is nothing but division, and yes heresy. False teaching.

For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body; whether Jews or Greeks, Bond or free... you are part of the vine... and there is only one vine. Just one. Jesus Christ. Perhaps for the brethren that feel otherwise, like the Baptists, this will speak to their ignorance. ONE vine. One Church. And not the "church" of the Catholic denomination either... the church of those in and upon the vine in Jesus Christ. Of whom He alone is the head. Of the "called out ones" . And to the Catholic brethren reading this, this the church whose names are written in Heaven in the Lamb's Book of Life, and not of the church of Rome. True the same Greek word for "church" sometimes is in reference to a local assembly of believers, but Paul in the above scripture was speaking on a much broader sense.

Now a definition of "Church" from American Tract Society:

The Greek word translated church signifies generally an assembly, either common or religious; and it is sometimes so translated, as in Ac 19:32,39. In the

New Testament it usually means a congregation of religious worshippers, either Jewish, as Ac 7:38, or Christians, as Mt 16:18 1Co 6:4. The latter sense is the more common one; and it is thus used in a twofold manner, denoting,

1. The universal Christian church: either the invisible church, consisting of those whose names are written in heaven, whom God knows, but whom we cannot infallibly know, Heb 12:23; (see my note below) or the visible church, made up of the professed followers of Christ on earth, Col 1:24 1Ti 3:5,15
2. A particular church or body of professing believers, who meet and worship together in one place; as the churches of Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, etc., to which Paul addressed epistles.

(Now just a brief excerpt from the stone, "Landmarkism":

On your next outing, stop by your local cemetery. Of all the grave markers and head stones that you can see, tell me of which ones are the saved in Christ Jesus? Can you count them? No, sure you cannot, for only God knows. Just as only he can look into the hearts of men and women, and know who actually are the redeemed within our assemblies. (As in the Church at Sardis of Revelation Chapter 3)
Only God can look at the heart.

This makes the true church invisible, and visible only to God. Not to man. The church at Sardis was visible to man as an alive assembly, yet where spiritually dead. There are many assemblies and churches such as this today. Jesus told us in scripture that not all that say Lord, Lord, will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 7:21-23) And then He ends with depart from me "I Never Knew You". Many profess to know God, but does God know them? Dear reader, does our Lord know you?

Now to a better understanding a brief teaching on the rapture. God's perfect word tells us:

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: **and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** - I Thessalonians 4:16-17

This event, known as the Rapture of the Church, is the true Church. And has nothing to do with what building or assembly you worship in. It has nothing to do with the church real estate of the Landmark Baptist, or of any particular denomination. But has everything to do with the true teachings of our Lord and your personal commitment to him. I believe his exact words where "Follow Me".) - the Phoenix.

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism. One Spirit.

So do the Spiritual Gifts, specifically the sign gifts still exist today? Good question, let us now continue onward:

There is no scripture evidence that states otherwise. None. And as I have always stated before "God has been my best teacher", and has showed me that yes, they still exist. Even the sign gifts. Some are very much abused such as the gift of "tongues", but still exist they do. Yes they do.

If one closely examines the scripture, those that appose the belief that gifts still exist, usually misquote 1 Corinthians 13:10 as an argument. And the other scriptures I have listed and addressed below. Please notice I stated "misquote".

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. - 1 Corinthians 13:10

And a previous verse:

Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. - 1 Corinthians 13:8

And

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity. - 1 Corinthians 12:13

They interpret the lines of scripture from 1 Cor. 13:10 to mean that when the Canon of the New Testament was completed, the gifts where to cease. When the perfect of the "Bible" was completed, all the gifts would cease. This is incorrect if you read the following scripture :

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. - 1 Corinthians 12:12

Even Paul was stating that he as an Apostle knew only in part. He himself. This makes 1 Cor. 13:8 to mean at the return of Jesus Christ, or when a believer is taken to be with the Lord. Only then will all things be known. And yes this also states that He himself as all believers will be known. For if the viewpoint of the completion of the Canon of the New Testament where true, Paul would have known it all perfectly. For most of our New Testament is based upon his Epistles.

I believe you can see my point. And trust there is a difference.

And as to 1 Corinthians 12:13? Just what it says. And only what it says. Pursue faith...pursue hope... and above all pursue LOVE. Those three. And the "Greatest is Love".

Others use 1 Cor. 13:8 that there was to be an immediate cessation of the gifts. This is false for if one continues to read on in 1 Corinthians 14, Paul speaks of not forbidding the use of tongues...

What a vast tragedy, and yes in many ways displays their ignorance of true spiritual matters. And discernment. Then again I have found many, particularly in the Baptist and ranks that have about as much discernment as a "box of rocks". Well that could be said of the church as a whole, as well.

And here is a reason why to my last comment:

If one studies the true Baptist heritage as I have, they are of all different beliefs and "denominations" all rapped up in one denomination so to speak. Within their heritage, they all however pretty much hold the following to be true:

One: That they hold true the separation of church and state.

Two: That each individual local congregation is a free unit, as in free from any outside hierarchy.

(I agree in this to a point, as each congregation should be free of outside influence--from an "association" or "a home office" so to speak - save for the office of Bishop and that of Apostle as outlined in scripture. The only "association" should be that of the true Christian brotherhood. Case in point, the Pentecostal Church of God, and the Catholic Church, and their hierarchy beyond the offices of Bishop and Apostle. More on the gift of Apostle and the other offices will be available in "The Spiritual Gifts part two, located in the archive section).

Three: That each individual person in the congregation can rely on his or her own interpretation of scripture, as provided by the Spirit. As they feel led.

And here is where the problem lies. Number three. First, the diversity of their beliefs, even within a denomination. Second, ..well let me paint this picture for you:

There are roughly at last count that I heard, 25 million Baptists in the United States alone. By the definition of number three, each and every one could have their own interpretation of scripture, The Bible. As they felt they where led.

A potential for Twenty five million different meanings or interpretations for scripture, as they felt they where led; now is that not a recipe for false teaching and disaster? You bet it is. And actually how many ways can the Bible be interpreted? Just one. God's way. For his word is perfect and without error. And is inspired by Him. And there are no contradictions, or "Paradoxes", as many of the Baptists teach.

And it is the main reason why so many mini "denominations" and different beliefs within the same Baptist denomination. Talk about a division. And yes, false teaching. Not to mention it actually is division within the church as a whole, and attack on Unity. True, they can be divided into many categories, those with fundamental Christian beliefs, and yes many with not. A recipe or "cocktail" of travesty. As far as Jesus Christ and the Church are concerned. For there is only "One" of both. Jesus Christ and His Church. The real one.

I would now like to state briefly, that yes here in the United States, yes we do have true religious freedom. And anyone is free to believe and worship as they see fit. But then again this is true of those in Islam, the "New Age" religion, the Later Day Saints, Jehovah Witnesses and most recently the "Bottled Water Drinkers" of southern California. I cannot recall right now at this point their exact name, but at \$2.00-\$3.00 a bottle, spiritual enlightenment and healing don't come cheap. In my Bible, it's inspired scripture says healing and spiritual enlightenment are free, and come from God, His Son and the Holy Spirit. I believe you perhaps can see my point.

And just because a group says they are "Christian" does not mean they are. To be "Christian" is to follow Christ and His teachings, and those of the Holy Bible. Case in point the Episcopal church and United Church of Christ and their Gay agenda. And by Gay I don't mean happy. And by Church of Christ, they are anything but.

And I am not saying that all Baptist churches are unscriptural. The problem occurs for those who are not, when they follow "The Doctrine of Men" and not God. There are some solid independent Baptists, thou I must admit they are very few. Perhaps this is why our Lord stated:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. - Matthew 7:14

And trust in the original Greek language of the New Testament, Few:

Strong's 3641 "oligos", means just that... a puny amount ; few. And this can be said and pertains to all of "Christianity" as a whole. "Christianity" as defined by our "worldly" definition.

And to the "Free Will" Baptists, they have the "Free Will" part down right, but totally miss the spiritual gifts.

As to the Spiritual Sign gifts and the Baptists? The Spirit is the giver of the Gifts, at His Will. He is not going to give a gift to someone, and individual nor a group of people that do not have neither the faith to activate it, nor the faith in the Holy Word of God. That's right, He will hold such gifts back. Speaking of back... They (the Baptists) have backed, or tried to back God "Into a Box". And the only one backed into "the box", is them. And those of other denominations that hold their views. For the "true church" the church of Jesus Christ, of the New Testament is non-denominational in nature. No denominations--Just Jesus Christ.

And now onto the Charismatic movement and the gift of Tongues? Yes the gift of Tongues do exist. And no I do not have the gift. But I have been present on a couple of occasions when a "Message in Tongues" came in from God. And yes you could feel His presence in the church almost as if there was a cloud of His spirit there. His presence. God so thick you could almost "Cut Him With a Knife". And I have been present, when there was nothing. Zip.. Zero.. And here again God has been my best teacher.. Not all Tongue messages or the use of Tongues are of God. And that dear reader is when true discernment comes in. Amen.

Understand, I have felt the presence of God in assemblies of other denominations than that of the charismatic. For like the Apostle Paul, I can be comfortable worshiping in all places. However the presence of God is nothing compared as to the presence I felt in those of the charismatic. This is in part I believe due to their "Praise and Worship". I must admit I must give them an A for enthusiasm. Something the church as a whole could take a lesson on. For I have attended, (here again Baptist) worship services, where there have been times people in the congregation have fallen asleep not only during the sermon, but during the singing as well. Or have not participated at all. I wonder how God feels about that? I think you might know the answer.

Now for the teaching of BB Warfield, and "The Doctrine of Men".

Benjamin Breckenridge Warfield, a Presbyterian theologian was the one that started this great mess. In a response to the beginning of the charismatic movement at the turn of the 19th-20th century. This should be the first clue.

The sign gifts were not taught as unscriptural until this man penned his paper "The Cessation of the Charismata".

He (Warfield) felt that the "sign gifts" were unscriptural. He was making a stand against something, a principle of God, he did not understand, and thus in his eyes was unscriptural.

But then again his entire theology had a flaw.

The following is an excerpt from the American Presbyterian Churches archives on BB Warfield.

"Dr. Benjamin Breckenridge Warfield is noted as a conservative Princeton Professor who defended the Biblical doctrine of Biblical inerrancy and inspiration. What is less well known is that the means he chose to defend these doctrines was certainly not orthodox and has had disastrous repercussions on these doctrines in conservative Protestant circles throughout the twentieth century. Those who have followed his thinking have progressively lost any meaningful views of either inerrancy or inspiration.

Essentially what Warfield did was to defend the doctrine of inspiration by using the techniques of higher criticism. His argument basically ran as follows. If we can by rationalistic means (i.e. logic, reason, documented evidence, etc.) demonstrate that the Scriptures are reliable and trustworthy, and if we can show by clear and convincing exegesis that the Bible claims to be inspired, then as a trustworthy book we must accept its claims to be inspired.

In this he departed from the Westminster doctrine of the Scriptures. They held a totally different doctrine. They believed that the authority of the Scriptures was not derived from man and his rationalistic evidences in favor of its trustworthiness, but rather upon the belief that the Scriptures are the very word of God."

The very word of God indeed.

My brethren... men and women of Christ.

Seek the best gifts. And build up the Body, and fulfill your high calling.

And above all.... Love. For... "The Greatest is Love"

"the Phoenix" 7

(Please join us now for the "The Spiritual Gifts pt 2., "The Offices".

Spiritual Gifts pt 2 – “The Offices”

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. - 1 Corinthians 12:27-28

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: - Ephesians 4:10-15

May God Bless the Reading of His Perfect Holy Word. And Perfect Truth.

Amen

And God has set and gave some to the church, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, and for the edifying or building up of the Body of Christ. God's gift to the church, these men and women of God that labor daily for the perfecting of the saints and the building up of the body.

Till we all come in the unity of the faith. The unity of the faith. And the knowledge of the Son of God. And speaking the Truth in Love.

And unless I miss my guess, that hasn't happened yet... no; not at all. In fact the Church as a whole is not even close. But there is Hope. In the men and women of God that God that has set and placed in the church. That speak the truth in Love.

And He gave some so that we be no longer carried to and fro by every wind of doctrine. And "The Doctrines of Men".

And the knowledge of the Son of God. And God the Father. And the Holy Spirit.

Unto a perfect man... Unto: To move towards and become unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. In knowledge and in truth, and in Love.

Love never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall be done away; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. - 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

The false teachers and advocates for the cessation of the spiritual gifts, reference the above scripture from 1 Corinthians. And state that which is perfect come is reference to the completion of the canon of the New Testament. But somewhere they missed the scripture from Ephesians 4:10-15, located at the top of the page. You see many that hold that false belief, teach that almost all the spiritual gifts, and "offices" have been done away with. They have ceased. And that tongues have ceased, and well, prophecies and knowledge have been done away with.

However Paul wrote these lines to the Ephesians well after He wrote the letter to the church at Corinth. RE: 1st Corinthians 13. He would not have said that there was an immediate cessation then contradicted it, when He penned Ephesians. Nor would he have continued on in 1st Corinthians chapter 14, and stated in the next to the last verse of the chapter:

Wherefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. -Corinthians 14:39

What Paul is speaking of in both verses, is that until we (both men and women) become perfect in our knowledge and achieve fullness in Christ. Not the completion of the New Testament. For the Greek word used for our English word perfect, translates as "complete". Complete in knowledge, complete in love, and dear heart: Complete in that fullness that is Jesus Christ.

If one continues on to read 1 Corinthians 13:12, you can perhaps, see this in an entire new light:

For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. - 1 Cor. 13:12

Guess the false teachers missed that Huh?

For really this but a matter of true discernment and lack of wisdom. And to the latter dear heart, pray earnestly for; it is a gift, and God will grant your request. For he gives freely to all, all that shall kneel before Him and earnestly seek His

face.

Glory to God, and the Son. Who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: - Ephesians 4:11-12

And as to Apostles? Many in the church today hold true that they have been done away with after the Apostolic age of the Church. However these are the same false teachers that hold true that the Spiritual Gifts have ceased. To back there false theology they state that to be an "Apostle" two things must occur; One: to be an Apostle one must have walked with Jesus as the Disciples did. Two: they must have seen the risen Christ.

May I remind them that Paul never walked with Jesus during His earthly ministry. Yet a true Apostle he was. And may I also remind them that there where over 500 eye witness accounts as to the resurrection. Yet not all where Apostles.

You see dear reader, the definition of an Apostle is that of "Special Messenger". The same original Greek word for Apostle, is "Apostolos" . One who is sent. By God.

Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ. - 2 Corinthians 8:23

The original Greek word for "messengers" in the above scripture from 2 Corinthians, is "Apostolos". The same word. It was just translated different by the translators of the King James Bible. And that is where the true "unscriptural" may lie. In the error of the translation of men.

Do Apostles still exist? Yes, they do. They are the ones placed and set in the church by God. To the furtherance of His kingdom, for the edifying of the Body of Christ, and for the perfecting of the saints. And as a "Special Messenger" for God.

How then shall they preach lest they be sent?

"the Phoenix"



Offer them Christ

The Real One

For there is Salvation in no other.