

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. Introduction

- a. In previous lessons, reference to the gift of the Spirit has been frequent.
 - i. Promised to all who repent and are baptized.
 - 1. Acts 2:38-39 -
 - ii. The promised gift is the Spirit Himself.
 - 1. John 7:37-39
 - 2. Acts 5:32
 - 3. Gal. 4:6
 - iii. The Spirit Himself dwells in all who belong to Christ.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 3:16
 - 2. 1 Cor. 6:19
 - 3. Rom. 8:9
- b. The Bible also speaks of the “gifts” of the Spirit, which is not the same as the “gift” of the Spirit.
 - i. The “gift” of the Spirit is the Spirit Himself.
 - ii. The “gifts” of the Spirit are those spiritual abilities which the Spirit imparts according to His will.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 12:4-11 - **4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he will.
 - a. Gifts are given for the common good (12:7).
 - b. Gifts are given individuals according to the will of the Spirit (12:11).
 - 2. 1 Cor. 14:1 - **1** Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.
- c. This lesson will focus on the “gifts” of the Spirit.
 - i. What were the gifts?

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- ii. How did people receive the gifts?
- iii. What was the purpose of the gifts?
- iv. How long were the gifts to last?

2. What were the spiritual gifts?

a. Utterance of wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8)

- i. For the apostles – ability to speak new revelations of wisdom from God.
- ii. 1 Cor. 2:6-10 - [6](#) Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. [7](#) But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. [8](#) None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. [9](#) But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— [10](#) these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

b. Utterance of Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8)

- i. Ability to speak truths already revealed
- ii. 1 Cor. 14:6 - [6](#) Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

c. Faith (1 Cor. 12:9)

- i. Not saving faith, but faith to perform miracles.
 - 1. Matt. 17:19-20 - [19](#) Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” [20](#) He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”
 - 2. Mark 11:20-23 – [20](#) As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. [21](#) And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” [22](#) And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. [23](#) Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

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3. 1 Cor. 13:1-3 - [1](#) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2](#) And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3](#) If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
- d. Gifts of healing (1 Cor. 12:9)
 - i. Ability to heal all kinds of sickness
 1. Matt. 10:1 - [1](#) And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.
- e. Working of miracles (1 Cor. 12:10)
 - i. Things that could not be done by natural means, with the purpose to support the spoken word of the Lord.
 1. Acts 19:11-20 - [11](#) And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, [12](#) so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. [13](#) Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." [14](#) Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. [15](#) But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" [16](#) And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. [17](#) And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. [18](#) Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. [19](#) And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. [20](#) So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.
- f. Prophecy.

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- i. Generally either of two similar connotations:
 - 1. Forth-telling – speaking the mind of God, making clear truth that has been revealed.
 - 2. Fore-telling – communicating knowledge from God about things that are in the future.
- ii. In this context, disclosure of the future is the gift.
 - 1. Acts 11:27-29 - [27](#) Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. [28](#) And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). [29](#) So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.
 - 2. Acts 21:10-11 - [10](#) While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. [11](#) And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"
- g. The ability to distinguish between spirits.
 - i. The ability to discern whether someone is speaking from the Spirit of God or from some other source, either human or demonic.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 14:29 –
 - 2. 1 Tim. 4:1 - [1](#) Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,
 - 3. 1 John 4:1-6 - [1](#) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. [2](#) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, [3](#) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. [4](#) Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. [5](#) They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. [6](#) We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is

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not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

h. Various kinds of tongues.

i. Ability to speak in other languages, without study and preparation.

1. Acts 2:7-12 - [7](#) And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? [8](#) And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? [9](#) Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, [10](#) Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, [11](#) both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” [12](#) And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”
2. 1 Cor. 14:13-19 - [13](#) Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. [14](#) For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. [15](#) What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. [16](#) Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? [17](#) For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. [18](#) I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. [19](#) Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

i. Interpretation of tongues.

i. The ability to interpret the language of the speaker into one that all present could understand.

1. 1 Cor. 14:27-28 - [27](#) If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. [28](#) But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.

j. The gifts above were visible and audible evidences of the Spirit’s influence.

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3. God's gracious gifts for stewards.

- a. Rom. 12:3-8 – **3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
 - i. The gifts here mentioned do not spring from the supernatural influence of the Spirit, but they are done by members of the body, all of whom have the gift of the Spirit.
 - ii. Prophecy
 1. Prophecy need not be a “special” gift nor does it necessarily involve foretelling the future (which would be “special”).
 2. Prophecy also means to declare the divine will, or to make known in any way the truth of God, which is designed to influence people.
 - iii. Service
 - iv. Teaching
 - v. Exhortation
 - vi. Contributing
 - vii. Leading
 - viii. Doing acts of mercy
- b. 1 Pet. 4:10-11 - **10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - i. This list from Peter mentions two of the seven from Romans 12.
 - ii. Speaks – oracles of God – comparable to prophecy.
 - iii. Service – including, but not limited to:
 1. Attending to the needs of the poor

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2. Providing for the sick
3. Watching over the external matters of the church.

4. More about the “special” gifts.

- a. They were called spiritual, coming from the one Holy Spirit rather than from the individuals natural, learned abilities.
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:1-3 - [1](#) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. [2](#) You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. [3](#) Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. 1 Cor. 14:1-5 - [1](#) Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. [2](#) For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. [3](#) On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. [4](#) The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. [5](#) Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.
- b. They were manifestations of the Spirit, evidences of what cannot be seen.
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:4-7 - [4](#) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5](#) and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6](#) and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. [7](#) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- c. Not all Christians had these special gifts, and some Christians may have had no such gifts.
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:27-31 - [27](#) Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. [28](#) And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. [29](#) Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? [30](#) Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? [31](#) But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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- ii. 1 Cor. 14:16-17 - **16** Otherwise if you bless in the spirit *only*, how will the one who fills the place of the **ungifted** say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? **17** For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.
 - 1. The New American Standard is quoted here to emphasize “ungifted”. The English Standard Version uses “outsider” with a footnote giving the alternate translation of “ungifted”.
- d. Possession of “special” gifts did not ensure spiritual maturity.
 - i. 1 Cor. 1:4-7 - **4** I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, **5** that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— **6** even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— **7** so that **you are not lacking in any gift**, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 - ii. 1 Cor. 3:1-4 - **1** But I, brothers, **could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2** I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, **3** for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? **4** For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?
- e. Special gifts were to be used to glorify God, and for the benefit of the entire body.
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:7 - **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
 - ii. 1 Cor. 14:26 - **26** What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
 - iii. 1 Cor. 14:31 - **31** For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,
 - iv. 1 Pet. 4:11 - 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

5. How did people receive the gifts?

- a. From the Holy Spirit Himself

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- i. 1 Cor. 12:11 - [11](#) All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.
- ii. 1 Cor. 14:18 - [18](#) I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.
 - 1. Paul, apostles may have received more gifts.
- iii. On some special occasions, the Holy Spirit came upon individuals and imparted gifts directly.
 - 1. Acts 2:1-4 – [1](#) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. [2](#) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. [3](#) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. [4](#) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 - 2. Acts 10:44-47 - [44](#) While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. [45](#) And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. [46](#) For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, [47](#) “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”
- b. Through the laying on of hands of the apostles
 - i. Acts 8:14-19 – [14](#) Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, [15](#) who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, [16](#) for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [17](#) Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. [18](#) Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, [19](#) saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”
 - ii. Acts 19:6 – [6](#) And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

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- iii. Rom. 1:11 – [11](#) For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—
- c. Possibly through the laying on of hands by others
 - i. Paul, Ananias
 - 1. Acts 9:17 – [17](#) So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
 - 2. Paul certainly had the special gifts, but he never mentioned how he received them. He did say the gospel was revealed to him directly by Jesus.
 - ii. Timothy, Elders
 - 1. 1 Tim. 4:14 - [14](#) Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.
 - a. Council of elders may have included apostles.
 - 2. 2 Tim. 1:6 - [6](#) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,
- d. Additional gifts may have been received through prayer
 - i. 1 Cor. 14:13 - [13](#) Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.
 - ii. 1 Cor. 12:10 - [10](#) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
 - iii. Those who had the gift of tongues could pray to receive the gift of interpreting tongues.

6. What was the purpose of special gifts?

- a. To reveal God’s will and confirm that it was His will.
 - i. Heb. 2:2-4 - [2](#) For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, [3](#) how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, [4](#) while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.
 - 1. Some gifts revealed God’s will – prophecy.
 - 2. Some gifts confirmed God’s will – tongues, miracles

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- ii. Gifts were of little value unless truth was being revealed.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 14:6 - [6](#) Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?
 - 2. Therefore, prophesy was valued more highly than tongues.
 - a. 1 Cor. 14:5 - [5](#) Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.
 - 3. Particularly so when tongues were spoken without interpreters.
 - a. 1 Cor. 14:9-12 - [9](#) So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. [10](#) There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, [11](#) but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. [12](#) So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.
 - iii. Such gifts indicate that the process of revelation had not been completed.
- b. For the benefit of all
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:7 - [7](#) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
 - 1. Gifts were not for personal or selfish reasons, but were for the common good – to build up the body.
 - ii. 1 Cor. 14:3-4 - [3](#) On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. [4](#) The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.
 - 1. To build up and encourage the church.
 - iii. 1 Cor. 14:22 - [22](#) Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.
 - 1. Tongues a sign to convince unbelievers.

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- iv. Acts 2:5-12 - [5](#) Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. [6](#) And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. [7](#) And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? [8](#) And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? [9](#) Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, [10](#) Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, [11](#) both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” [12](#) And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

1. About 3,000 were convinced that day.

7. How long were the gifts to last?

- a. 1 Cor. 13:8 - [8](#) Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.
- Prophecies will pass away.
 - Tongues will cease.
 - Knowledge will pass away.
- b. 1 Cor. 13:9-10 - [9](#) For we know in part and we prophesy in part, [10](#) but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.
- To what does “the perfect” refer?
 - Some say Christ, alluding to the time of His return.
 - Some say heaven, alluding to the same time period.
 - The contrast between partial and perfect (complete) suggests something different.
 - Perfect (teleios) means brought to its end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness.
 - The partial knowledge of that time was being revealed through spiritual gifts.
 - Such partial knowledge was local. For example, knowledge revealed through spiritual gifts at Corinth would not be known at Ephesus, Rome, or Philippi.
 - The perfect refers to a time when knowledge would be complete revealed, and God’s revelation would be final.

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iii. 1 Cor. 13:11-12 - [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. The contrast between infancy and maturity.
 - a. Spiritual gifts served during the infancy, or beginning, of the church.
 - b. Once their purpose (to reveal and confirm) was complete, they would no longer be needed and would pass away.
2. Mirror vs. face-to-face?
 - a. A vague image is dimly shown in a mirror (certainly in the mirrors that Paul knew).
 - b. Seeing face-to-face is clear, as contrasted to seeing in a mirror of poor quality.
3. Part vs. fully
 - a. Spiritual gifts gave partial knowledge.
 - b. A time would come when knowledge would be full.

iv. 1 Cor. 13:13 - [13](#) So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1. While prophecies, tongues, and knowledge would cease, faith, hope, and love would continue.
2. To say that Christ's return or heaven is "the perfect" makes Paul's point meaningless.
 - a. The time was to come when spiritual gifts would cease, but faith, hope, and love would remain.
 - b. But, when Christ or heaven comes, faith and hope will be no more.
 - i. We will no longer walk by faith, but by sight.

1. 2 Cor. 5:6-7 - [6](#) So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, [7](#) for we walk by faith, not by sight.

- ii. We will no longer hope for what is unseen.

1. Rom. 8:24-25 - [24](#) For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is

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not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? [25](#) But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

3. But, if “the perfect” refers to completed revelation:
 - a. Then faith, hope, and love will continue until Christ returns.
 - b. Even though spiritual gifts will have ceased.

8. Conclusion

- a. Spiritual gifts were important to the beginning of the church, the means by which the Lord...
 - i. Bore witness to His Word and His apostles
 1. Mark 16:19-20 – [19](#) So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. [20](#) And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.
 2. Heb. 2:2-4 – [2](#) For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, [3](#) how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, [4](#) while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.
 - ii. Provided a full and final revelation of His Will
 1. 2 Pet. 1:3 - [3](#) His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,
 2. Jude 3 - [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.
 3. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 – [16](#) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17](#) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- b. Spiritual gifts, the miraculous manifestations of the Spirit, were simply a means to an end...
 - i. To produce the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit

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1. Eph. 6:17 – [17](#) and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
- ii. Which in turn produces the “fruit” of the Spirit
 1. Gal. 5:22-23 – [22](#) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23](#) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 2. Rom. 8:5-6 – [5](#) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. [6](#) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- c. More important than tongues, prophecy, knowledge, or any other spiritual gift...
 - i. Are the qualities of love, joy, peace, hope, etc., in the life of the Christian
 - ii. The "fruit" of the Spirit in our life is more important than the "gifts" of the Spirit!
- d. Spiritual gifts may have ceased, but the fruit of the Spirit can be born whenever one is willing to let "the perfect law of liberty" (the Word of God) transform their life!
 - i. James 1:22-25 - [22](#) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23](#) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. [24](#) For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [25](#) But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.