

PART ONE

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*But now they are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee: or again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary: and those [parts] of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely [parts] have more abundant comeliness; whereas our comely [parts] have no need: but God tempered the body together, giving more abundant honor to that [part] which lacked; that there should be **no schism in the body**; but [that] the members should have the **same care one for another**. And whether one member suffereth, all the members suffer with it; or [one] member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and severally members thereof. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, [divers] kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all [workers of] miracles? have all gifts of healings? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? **But desire earnestly the greater gifts**. And moreover a most excellent way show I unto you. (1 Corinthians 12.20-31, emphasis ours)*

ONE

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gifted men

The Church was founded by the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers that Jesus Christ gave to her:

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: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (Ephesians 4.11-13)

These men were divinely inspired to preach the Gospel and teach the Scriptures. They were given the ability to do this by Jesus Christ who gave gifts to men (Ephesians 4.8). He imparted, to specific men of the first century, special abilities to carry out their duties as apostles, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

These gifted men relied primarily on the abilities given to them by Jesus. They had access to Scripture, but in a limited way. The only ones who had copies of the Old Testament in the first century were the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes and very wealthy families. The apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers had extremely limited access to the Old Testament. Their reliance was mostly on the “manifestation gifts” given to them by Jesus rather than on their personal study of Scripture.

The Hebrews who believed in Jesus Christ had a background in Scripture, but the Gentile converts did not. The Gentile converts who pastored churches like Titus relied solely on the gifts given to them by Jesus through the Apostles and what teaching they received at the hands of the Apostles. The first converts (Hebrew and Gentile) had the “manifestation gifts” imparted to them by the Apostles as Timothy did by Paul:

For which cause I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee through the laying on of my hands. (2 Timothy 1.6)

The “manifestation gift” that Timothy received from Jesus to perform his duties were imparted to him by Paul. Only Apostles could impart the “manifestation gifts.” This is why Paul wrote to the Roman Christian saying he desired to visit them so he could impart the *pneumatikon charisma* to them (Romans 1.11).

The ministry gifts were imparted by the pastors (*presbytery*) through prophetic utterance and the laying on of hands:

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. (1 Timothy 4.14).

This was the method in which the ministry gifts were imparted by the Apostles and pastors to converts.

We understand that the “manifestation gifts” could only be imparted by the Apostles from the ministry of Philip the evangelist. He preached the gospel in Samaria and performed numerous miracles. Many believed in Jesus and were baptized but none of them received the Holy Spirit or were given any of the “manifestation gifts” (Acts 8.5-13, 16). Peter and John went to Samaria and prayed that the converts would receive the Holy Spirit. They prayed and laid hands on the converts who then received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8.14-17).

Simon the magician saw this and asked to buy from Peter the power to do the same. Peter told him to repent (Acts 8.18-24).

Paul also explained that men with specific gifts were given to the Church in his first letter to the Corinthian church:

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, [divers] kinds of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12.28)

As previously noted Jesus gave the Church men who had specific gifts to build up the Church. Paul told the Ephesians that the apostles, prophets and teachers were given to the Church. Here Paul adds miracle workers, healers, helpers, governors and lastly men who could speak a known language which they did not know how to speak.

The gift of being able to speak an unlearned language was given for two reason – as a sign to unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14.21-22) and to

share the Gospel with people who spoke foreign languages (Acts 2.8). (The subject of speaking an unlearned language will be dealt with in full in Chapter Two.)

Today all evangelists, pastors and teachers in the Western world have total access to Scripture from Genesis 1.1 to Revelation 22.21. Most evangelists, pastors and teachers in the Second and Third world countries have total or partial access to Scripture. They do not rely on divine inspiration to perform their duties. Instead they must study Scripture daily (Acts 17.11) to show themselves approved (2 Timothy 2.15). The Holy Spirit teaches them, but His teaching is not given without intense study of Scripture and prayer by them because it is Scripture that is inspired by Jehovah and “*profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work*” (2 Timothy 3.16-17). It is the inspired word of God that equips not only the evangelists, pastors and teachers in the Church but also all believers to do good works.

We know this is so because Paul commended the believers at Ephesus to “*God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build [you] up, and to give [you] the inheritance among all them that are sanctified*” (Acts 20.32). He did not commend them to the apostles, evangelists, pastors or teachers. We see that believers of the first century were moving away from the authority of the apostles, evangelists, pastors and teachers when Paul was on his way to Rome around 65 AD. They were at that time living by the authority of Scripture – the Old Testament and the New Testament which was nearly completed. Even though few Christians if any at all had the complete New Testament, excluding the books of John and Revelation which were written about 30 years later, they had enough to carry on the work of the ministry.

Paul was admonishing his flocks to move away from apostolic authority to the authority of Scripture. In his farewell message to the believers in Ephesus (Acts 20.17-35) he prophesied that after he departed evil men whom he called “*greivous wolves*” would become members of their congregation and they would not spare the flock. These men would teach “*perverse things*” in order to “*draw away the disciples after them*” (v .29).

He commended them to Jehovah and to the “*Word of his grace*” that is Scripture (v. 32). He did not commend them to the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers because believers are to rely solely on the authority of Scripture (Sola Scriptura).

It is clear to us today that believers cannot rely on the authority of men who call themselves, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers or the Vicar of Christ. Every man who has claimed he has been given divine insight, knowledge, visions and revelations from God has been shown to have made errors in doctrine and the alleged messages from God. The history of the Church is littered with hundreds of false prophets and teachers, founders of cults, and men and women who claimed they were given special messages, visions and revelations.

When believers follow “prophets” who claim they have been selected by God to reform the Church or start a new church they are easily victimized. Instead of accepting the word of the “prophet” that he was given a “new revelation” by God, they are to test the spirits (1 John 4.1). If anything the “prophet” says contradicts Scripture he must be rejected. And if he claims he has “new revelation” that does not contradict Scripture his “fruits” must be examined (Matthew 7.15-20).

Is he wealthy? His standard of living equal to or less than the average of his congregation or is it far greater? Does he emphasize his supreme authority? Is he proud? Does he have numerous people who serve him or does he serve those around him like Jesus did (Matthew 20.28).

The way to be great is not to claim you have a special revelation from God or you have new knowledge or you have been chosen to start a new church. No! The way to be great is to be a servant to all:

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Not so shall it be among you: but whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister; and whosoever would be first among you shall be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (Matthew 20.25-28)

Spiritual leaders who seek to be great in this life (famous and wealthy) are not led by the Holy Spirit. Instead of being a great man of God he is a backslidden believer. Does this truth mean that virtually every pastor we see on television is not being led by the Holy Spirit? Or did some of them attain fame and great wealth without seeking it?

Manifestation Gifts

The *pneumatikon charisma* are the “manifestation gifts” of the Holy Spirit. *Pneumatikon* means spirit and *charisma* means gifts – Spirit gifts.

These gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12.8-10:

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 languages; and to another the interpretation of tongues.

1. Word of wisdom (Giving a message from God to the Church.)
2. Word of knowledge (Specific divine knowledge not found in Scripture.)
3. Faith (Exercising faith beyond the norm.)
4. Healing (The ability to heal just as Jesus did to the glory of God.)
5. Miracles (The ability to perform a supernatural act to the glory of Jehovah.)
6. Prophecy (Speaking/writing Scripture under divine inspiration.)
7. Distinguishing of spirits (The ability to determine if a person is a servant of God or a servant of Satan.)
8. Kinds of languages (Speaking a known language that one has not learned.)
9. Interpretation of tongues/languages (Understanding a known language which one has not learned.)

The Holy Spirit gives to each member of every church the manifestation of the Spirit for the good of the church (1 Corinthians 12.7). One or more of the “manifestation gifts” were given to every member of every church. In the first century the churches that apostles founded or visited had all nine of the “manifestation gifts” and the seven ministry gifts, a total of 16 gifts.

Ministry gifts

There are two categories of gifts – ministry gifts and “manifestation gifts.” When Paul wrote to the church in Rome he described the ministry gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to members of all churches. The “manifestation gifts” were always imparted from an apostle to a man by the laying on of hands. At the time Paul wrote this letter no apostle had

visited Rome so none of the “manifestation gifts” had been given to the believers there. Paul sought to go to Rome so he could impart those gifts:

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established. (Romans 1.11)

The ministry gifts are found in Romans 12.6-8:

And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, whether prophecy, [let us prophesy] according to the proportion of the faith; or ministry, [let us give ourselves] to our ministry; or he that teacheth, to his teaching; or he that exhorteth, to his exhorting; he that giveth, [let him do it] with liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. Prophecy (Speaking the truths found in Scripture accurately.)
2. Ministry (Do the non-spiritual work in the church.)
3. Teaching (Teaching Scripture.)
4. Exhortation (Giving a message from Scripture designed to motivate or comfort others.)
5. Giving (Giving money to the church.)
6. Ruling (Taking a leadership role either as a pastor or layman.)
7. Mercy (Comforting and restoring others when they sin.)

These gifts can be found in every true church in the world. Since every believer is given at least one gift “*differing according to the grace that was given to us*” (Romans 12.6), a church with 100 members should have a dozen or more members who have at least one of each of these gifts. Churches that have only a few members who exercise their gifts are dysfunctional churches.

The gift of prophecy in this list is not the same as the gift of prophecy in the list in 1 Corinthians 12. Some argue that they are the identical gift of speaking/writing Scripture under divine inspiration. Others argue that the gift of prophecy in the list in Romans is that of speaking the truths found in Scripture accurately. The key is “*according to the proportion of the faith.*” Men who exercise the gift of prophecy in Romans 12.6 speak the truths found in Scripture accurately according to “*the faith*” (the completed Christian faith). That completed faith is based solely on Scripture. This means that the men who have the gift of prophecy in the list in Romans 12 have the ability to accurately teach Scripture by careful study of it. Not all pastors and Bible teachers have the gift of prophecy. Every church should have at least one man who has this gift, but since we are living in the apostasy

of the last days (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4) very few pastors and Bible teachers have the ministry gift of teaching Scripture accurately.

Virtually every church in the world, Pentecostal, Charismatic or other, have men and women who exercise six of the seven ministry gifts found in Romans 12. As noted above only a few churches have men who exercise the gift of prophecy due to the apostasy that we are living in.

Conclusion

Purpose of the “manifestation gifts”

The “manifestation gifts” were given for two major purposes – to be proof that Jesus is the Messiah and to equip believers for the work of ministry.

Paul wrote that the manifestation gifts were the proof that His Son Jesus is the only way to be saved:

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation? which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard; God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will. (Hebrews 2.3-4)

God bore witness to salvation through Jesus by “*signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit.*” The “*signs and wonders*” that the Apostles performed when they exercised their “manifestation gifts” was this proof. The proof was given untold times by the miracles that the Apostles performed. Only a handful of these miracles were recorded in the Bible.

If God gave mankind continuous proof throughout the Church Age there is no record of it. The last testimony of the “manifestation gifts” being exercised was by Tertullian who lived from 160 to 220 AD. Did God stop giving proof from 220 to 1892 when members of the Baptist church of Richard Spurling, Jr. spoke in “tongues”? Did God intend to give proof to mankind in the first and second centuries and then in the last two centuries before the Second Coming?

Paul made it explicitly clear that Jesus Christ gave the Church gifted men (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor, teachers) and gifts (miracles, healings, helps, governors, languages) “*for the perfecting of the saints,*

unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4.12-13).

The “manifestation gifts” were given for the purpose of maturing believers. They were not given so pastors and evangelists can put on a big show and use them to become famous and wealthy. If the members of the church of any pastor who claims he has some “manifestation gifts” are not super-believers who know the Scriptures inside and out, and are leading the lost to the Lord and then discipling them, that pastor is using the gifts for the wrong reason. He is using them for selfish purposes to bring himself fame, wealth and glory. He is not using them to glorify God.

We must also remember that since the “manifestation gifts” were given to help believers mature in the Lord, the churches that have them should have the most mature believers. Their members should know the Scriptures far better than members of churches that do not have the “manifestation gifts.” They should be able to share the Gospel and explain any portion of Scripture and doctrine (1 Peter 3.15) better than members of other churches. They should also have been discipled and actively discipling others (Matthew 28.19-20), including their children (Deuteronomy 6.6-7).

Do the Pentecostal/Charismatic churches have the most mature believers in all of Christendom? Or do they have the least mature? If you are a Pentecostal or a Charismatic how well do you know Scripture? Do you read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture daily (Acts 17.11)? Can you share the Gospel in a clear manner? Have you been discipled? Are you discipling others? (See Appendix A.)

TWO

WHEN THE PERFECT COMES

Paul wrote that the “manifestation gifts” would be used until the “*perfect comes*”:

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. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things. 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. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13.8-13)

This passage clearly says the gifts of prophecy, speaking of languages and the word of knowledge will one day be done away with. The implication is that the other “manifestation gifts” would also pass away.

The key is the phrase “*but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away.*” What is “*that which is perfect?*”

Those who believe the “manifestation gifts” are for today argue that the *perfect* is Jesus Christ and the gifts will continue to be used until He returns. Others argue that the “*perfect*” is the Bible. When the Bible was completed there was no longer a need for the “manifestation gifts.” This means that around 100 AD the “manifestation gifts” were no longer given.

Put away childish things

Paul went on to give us more knowledge concerning the “manifestation gifts.” He said, “*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things*” (1 Corinthians 13.11). What was Paul taking about – he had “*put away childish things?*”

Is it possible the “manifestation gifts” were the childish things Paul put away when he became a spiritual man? The childish things were spiritual things. What was the infant Church given to help them mature? It was given the “manifestation gifts” which enabled them to do wondrous things with very little spiritual growth. The Apostles were not spiritual giants on the day of Pentecost – they were spiritual infants. They preached powerful sermons bringing thousands to the Lord, they performed miracles, they healed the sick and raised the dead solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in spite of their lack of spiritual maturity.

Given the context of the passage – “manifestation gifts” – it would seem logical that the childish things Paul did away with were the “manifestation gifts.” This is why he went on to say that it is better to have the gift of prophecy instead of the gift of speaking a known language that one has not learned (1 Corinthians 14.1-2).

Misuses of the gift of languages

Apparently the believers in Corinth had misused the gift of speaking a known language for the purpose of evangelism and were using it in public for another purpose. Three-quarters of chapter 14 were written to straighten out the misuse of the gift of language.

The Corinthians were misusing the gift of language for the speaker’s edification rather than the edification of others. Paul said he desired that they seek after the gift of prophecy instead so they could edify the church (1 Corinthians 14.4). He noted that the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks a language unless he also interprets it.

If a person is given the gift of speaking a known language which he does not know from studying he has no idea what he is saying unless he also has the gift of interpretation of a language he does not know. The question we must ask is “Why would Jehovah have given numerous believers in Corinth the gift of speaking a language without giving others the gift of interpreting languages?”

Many Corinthians were exercising the gift of languages, but few if any who had the gift of interpretation. We know that the gift of languages was speaking a known language because Paul said:

There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and no [kind] is without signification. If then I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be to him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh will be a barbarian unto me. (1 Corinthians 14.10-11)

Rules for using the gift of speaking a language

Paul laid down scriptural rules for believers who exercised the gift of speaking a known language that they had not learned:

If any man speaketh in a tongue, [let it be] by two, or at the most three, and [that] in turn; and let one interpret: but if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. And let the prophets speak [by] two or three, and let the others discern. (1 Corinthians 14.27-29)

Paul had to lay down strict rules on the gift of speaking a known language which one had not learned because it was being misused and counterfeited. The Corinthian believers became enamored by this gift and used it so much their worship services had turned into a circus:

If therefore the whole church be assembled together and all speak with tongues, and there come in men unlearned or unbelieving, will they not say that ye are mad? (1 Corinthians 14.23)

This was a gentle way of rebuking the Corinthians who were out of control. Paul rebuked them in both of his letters several times for various problems (1 Corinthians 1.11-13; 3.1-5; 18-23; 4.5-16; 5.1-13; 6.1-20; 8.7-13; 10.14; 11.18-19, 21, 30; 14.34-35; 14.33-34; 2 Corinthians 7.14-18; 10.7; 11.3, 8-9; 12.20-21; 13.2, 5). This was just one of those rebukes rather than a hypothetical question. Today there are thousands of Pentecostal/Charismatic churches around the world that do not follow the rules for speaking a known language which a person has not learned.

Spiritual poverty and worldly riches

The rules are explicitly clear and they cannot be broken by any church or group of believers as noted previously (1 Corinthians 14.27-29). Every church and group of believers who violate this rule is in open disobedience to Jehovah. He will not bless them. If they attract a large crowd and they grow rich in the world's goods it is not the blessing of Jehovah but a curse. They are no different than the church at Laodecia which thought they were spiritually rich because of their worldly wealth. According to Jesus they were lukewarm Christian and He told them flatly:

*So because thou art **lukewarm**, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and have **gotten riches**, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art the **wretched one** and **miserable** and **poor** and **blind** and **naked**: I counsel thee to buy of me gold refined by fire, that thou mayest become rich; and white garments, that thou mayest clothe thyself, and [that] the shame of thy **nakedness** be not made manifest; and eyesalve to anoint thine eyes, that thou mayest see. (Revelation 3.16-18, emphasis ours)*

The believers in Laodecia thought they were super-spiritual because of their worldly riches. Instead they were super-worldly and spiritually blind and bankrupt. A vast number of Christians today believe that because their denomination, association, ministry and church is big and successful it is proof that they have been blessed by God. That simply is not true. Since we are living in the apostasy of the last days (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4) the majority of the large denominations, associations, ministries and churches are apostate. If they were not we would not be living in the apostasy of the last days.

What is the perfect?

Is the perfect the completion of the Bible? In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote that Jesus gave gifts to men (4.8) and these gifts were “*apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.*”

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: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error; but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, [even] Christ. (Ephesians 4.11-15)

We see here that the gifted men that Jesus gave to the Church were given to perfect the saints (believers) so they could do the work of ministry and build up the *body of Christ*. Those gifted men performed these duties until all believers attained “*unto the unity of the faith, and*

of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

Did those gifted men fulfill their duty? Did they build up the “*body of Christ*” unto the “*unity of the faith*?” One group of believers today contend that the gifted men fulfilled their ministry of “*perfecting the saints*” with the “*manifestation gifts*” which are found in 1 Corinthians 12. Once they completed their ministry those men had no need to impart the “*manifestation gifts*” to another generation of believers. Thusly, the “*manifestation gifts*” simply were not imparted (given) to any believers after the first century AD.

Others contend that the gifted men who were given the “*manifestation gifts*” imparted them to others who did the same throughout the Church Age. They have great difficulty finding historical accounts of believers using those gifts after the first century. There are only a handful of historical accounts of Christians exercising the “*manifestation gifts*” until the 20th century. The very few accounts of Christians allegedly using the “*manifestation gifts*” are all second and third hand accounts. None of them can be accepted as being gifts given by the Holy Spirit and used according to the guidelines Paul set down in his first letter to the Corinthians.

Speaking mysteries

Most Pentecostals and Charismatics believe that the comment Paul made below is a reference to a special prayer language:

For he that speaketh in a tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God; for no man understandeth; but in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. (1 Corinthians 14.2)

They read into this statement something that is not there. Paul does not say there is a “special prayer” language here or elsewhere. He wrote that an individual who speaks a known language to men who do not understand that language is speaking to God only because no one understands what he is saying. Since no one comprehends what he is saying he is speaking mysteries.

The believers in Corinth were speaking in “tongues” and very few of these utterances were interpreted. This was a misuse of the gift so the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to lay out rules for speaking a known language which a person does not know:

If any man speaketh in a tongue, [let it be] by two, or at the most three, and [that] in turn; and let one interpret: but if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. (1 Corinthians 14.27-28)

Paul allowed the Corinthian believers to continue to speak in “tongues” when they were not in church. He corrected a misuse of the gift of speaking a known language which one does not know. He was not confirming that there was a special gift of speaking a mystery language in prayer. That is an assumption that many Pentecostals and Charismatics make. It is possible Paul did not forbid they speak this mystery language because he understood it would soon pass away. If he explained what they were doing was not of God it could destroy their faith and cause great dissension in the church at Corinth and possibly a split. Instead he allowed them to continue knowing the misuse would soon fade away.

This abuse of the gift of speaking a known language did not affect the other churches and was only practiced by heretics in the second and third centuries. (See Appendix C, pages 72-74.)

There is no special “prayer language” that no one knows and which millions of Christians around the world speak on a daily basis. This so-called “prayer language,” if it were real, would be a sign gift. It is a daily sign that the one who has it is truly saved and baptized in the Spirit. This concept contradicts clear passages in the Bible that say Christians are to live by faith (Romans 1.17; Galatians 2.20; 3.11; Hebrews 10.38). Every Christian who speaks mysteries (1 Corinthians 14.2) is living by signs. This should concern the people who speak an alleged mystery language. Are they living by faith or by signs?

What did Jesus say to the Pharisees when they asked Him for a sign?

An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of Jonah. And he left them, and departed. (Matthew 16.4)

Are the Pentecostals and Charismatics of the 20th and now 21st centuries an *evil and adulterous generation*?” It is definitely something to think about.

What group is apostate?

The Pentecostal denominations and the Oneness denomination have **274 million** members around the world. The major Charismatic churches

(Calvary Chapel, Vineyard) total **40 million** members. The two groups total **314 million**.

The Baptist denominations in the world total around **100 million**. The Lutheran denominations have **75 million** members, the Methodists have **75 million** and the Reformed also have about **75 million**. The Anglican denominations have about **80 million** members. The total **405 million**.¹

The total members of Pentecostal and Charismatic churches in the world have membership of about **314 million** while the non-Pentecostal/Charismatic churches have about **405 million** members.

The Pentecostal and Charismatics made massive inroads into the non-Pentecostal/Charismatic denominations and by 1990 it is estimated that **33 million** evangelicals were exercising the “manifestation gifts.” If we add 33 million to 314 we have **347 million** Christians in the world who exercise the “manifestation gifts,” and if we subtract 33 million from 405 million we have **372 million** who do not.

Since we are living in the apostasy of the last days the majority of churches are apostate. Which group do you think is apostate? Is the **347 million** strong or the **372 million** strong group apostate?

It should be noted that not all of the churches in the group that is apostate are also apostate. There are a few churches in that group that are not. And many of the churches in the group that is not apostate are apostate. One denomination that is down the road of apostasy is the Anglican.

Now to determine which group is apostate we must see what Jesus Christ had to say:

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not **prophesy by thy name**, and by thy name **cast out demons**, and by thy name **do many mighty works**? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7.21-23, emphasis ours)*

There is only one group of Christians in the world that emphasize the three things that this group of unsaved people will claim they did in the name of Jesus Christ come judgment day. They truly believe they are saved and that they were doing the work of Jesus Christ. This will not be a group of a few hundred or a few thousand. There will be millions of people who will be in this group.

Conclusion

The Perfect

The “*perfect*” is either the Second Coming of Jesus Christ or the completion of the faith with the completion of the Bible.

Those who have the “manifestation gifts” can only use them in accordance with the rules that Paul laid down in 1 Corinthians 14. Those gifts are to be used to help believers reach full maturity in the faith. They are not to be used to draw people to a church so it can have more members and more money and the pastors can be famous.

If the “*perfect*” is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ the gifted men that Jesus gave to the Church will be with the Church until that day. This means that there will be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in the Church until the Second Coming (Ephesians 4.11). It also means that all of the “manifestation gifts” will be given to every church that wants them throughout the Church Age (1 Corinthians 12.28). Since there is no record of apostles and prophets being in the Church and the “manifestation gifts” being given to believers throughout the Church Age after the first century it would seem as if the perfect is the completion of the Christian faith (the completion of the Bible) around 100 AD.

Latter Rain

Some argue that the apostles and prophets and the “manifestation gifts” were only given during the first rain and the second (latter) rain. Therefore, the Church would not have these gifted men until the period of the “Latter Rain.” This is an argument based on the personal beliefs of men. It is not based on Scripture because all references to “latter rain” in the Bible refer to literal rainfall.

If the “Latter Rain” proponents are correct why has virtually every man and woman who claims to be an apostle and a prophet been caught in some kind of scandal?

If the “manifestation gifts” are for all Christians today and less than half of them are using them (Catholics excluded), then a little more than half of all the Protestants in the world are resisting the Holy Spirit. If this group is actively resisting the “manifestation gifts” they are also resisting the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Some of the doctrines they hold to are not biblical and some of their traditions are not scriptural. Yet every man who was part of the Protestant Reformation was not

given any of the “manifestation gifts.” It seems unusual that God would not give those men the “manifestation gifts” if those gifts are so very important to doing the work of the Lord. Who would need them more than the Reformers?

False prophets

If the “manifestation gifts” are **not** for Christians today then the Pentecostals and Charismatics have been lead astray by false prophets and false teachers:

For the teraphim have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie; and they have told false dreams, they comfort in vain: therefore they go their way like sheep, they are afflicted, because there is no shepherd. Mine anger is kindled against the shepherds, And I will punish the he-goats. (Zechariah 10.2-3a).

Teraphim were man-made idols and some had the ability to speak as stated here. The idols did not speak, instead a demon spoke through them. The diviners were men and women who claimed to have the ability to see visions of future events. These false diviners were influenced by demons or simply made things up. They told people false dreams (visions) to make money.

The Hebrew people who believed these false prophets were spiritually lost as sheep without a shepherd. YAHWEH always punished these deceivers and we have seen many false prophets and false teachers in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movements judged by God for their sins.

Jesus Christ prophesied of a group of people who truly believe they are saved who would prophesy, cast out demons and perform miracles in His name (Matthew 7.21-23). If that group is not the Pentecostals and Charismatics there must be another group in the world that focuses on those three things. What is it? We do not know what group it could be other than the Pentecostals/Charismatics.

Prayer language

There is no special “prayer language” that some Christians speak and have no idea what they are saying. The gift of languages is solely the gift of speaking a known language without learning it. If you insist that there is a special “prayer language” the use of it is a sign. Christians are to live by faith (Romans 1.17; Galatians 2.20; 3.11;

Hebrews 10.38) not by signs. Jesus condemned the Jews because they sought after signs (Matthew 16.4). That applies to people today who seek after signs rather than living by faith.

Notes

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations_by_number_of_members.

THREE

MANIFESTATION GIFTS OF THE MODERN ERA

Four Waves

The exercise of the “manifestation gifts” came about in four waves. **The first wave** started around the beginning of the 20th century by Charles Parham of Bethel College, Kansas. The manifestation gifts then spread to Los Angeles, California, in 1906. It was dubbed the **Azusa Street movement**.

The 2nd wave, neo-Pentecostalism or the **Charismatic movement**, entered most Churches in the early 1960’s in Van Nuys, California, under Dennis Bennett, Rector of St. Marks Episcopal (Anglican) Church. In ten years it spread to all major Protestant families of the world, reaching a total of **55 million** people by 1990. It included the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Roman Catholics and many others.

The third wave, the **Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement** started in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1967 among students and faculty of Duquesne University. By 1993 it touched the lives of over **100 million Catholics** in every nation on Earth.

The fourth wave, the **Evangelicals**, started in 1981 at Fuller Theological Seminary with John Wimber. By 1990, **33 million evangelicals** around the world were using the “manifestation gifts.”

Latter Rain?

One must ask why the manifestation gifts virtually disappeared until 1901 when a widespread movement of speaking languages began with Charles Parham. The proponents of the continuation of “manifestation gifts” claim that they became dormant until the time of the “latter rain.” They claim that the term “latter rain” is a reference of the “manifestation gifts” being given a second time in the last days prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. (See Chapter Nine for a clarification of the “Latter Rain” movements.)

No passage in the Bible says there will be a second pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the last days. The verses that refer to a “latter rain” all have to do with literal rainfall for crops (Deuteronomy 11.14; Job 29.23; Proverbs 16.15; Jeremiah 3.3; 5.24; Hosea 6.3; Joel 2.23; Zechariah 10.1; James 5.7). The context of all of the passages is that of God giving people early and latter rains so their crops will grow.

The belief that “manifestation gifts” would be poured out in the last times as the late rain comes to make sure the crops yield their fruit was invented by the men who propagate this doctrine. If they are correct in what they teach there should be members in every church in the world who regularly exercise all nine of the “manifestation gifts.” Every church will have members who have the gifts of the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, kinds of languages and interpretation of languages.

Many of the Pentecostal and Charismatic churches claim they have members with seven of the nine gifts, but only a handful claim to exercise all nine gifts regularly. The two gifts that very few of these churches claim they have are the gifts of healing and miracles. It is for this reason that the few men and women that claim they have those gifts have revival meetings all over the world in which they allegedly heal people and perform miracles. Every Pentecostal and Charismatic who believes every Pentecostal/Charismatic church should have members who exercise all nine manifestation gifts on a regular basis, but admit that not all have the gifts of healing and miracles are cessationists.

The question must be asked, “If most Pentecostal and Charismatic churches have just seven of the nine manifestation gifts and only a handful have all nine why do most churches not have the other two?” The only answer we can come up with are the gifts of healing and working miracles are limited to a handful of men and women. Why? We do not know, but this fact makes many believers question whether the “manifestation gifts” are truly being given today.

Chuck Smith, founder of the Calvary Chapel Movement, thinks they are rarely given because few are capable of handling the gifts of miracles and healing:

If they had this kind of gift would just try to capitalize on it and use it for their own enrichment rather than to really bring honor and glory to the Lord. You know when a person has the gift of miracles, the working of miracles, there is always that tendency of people to try to elevate them, and almost worship them as they did with Peter. Unless you're very strong I think that things could just really turn your head

and destroy you, you know, and so I think it is good that God is delivering to each man severally as He wills. I think the potential is there, but I don't know that we are capable of handling those kinds of things. (Pastor's Perspective, August 9, 2011, tape on file)

Smith also said for years he asked God to give him the “working of miracles and the sign gifts” yet one day while praying, fasting and waiting he felt God told him He gave him the “greater way” – the gift of “love.” He never again asked for the sign gifts.

His statement is powerful and one of the reasons as to why those gifts have not been given to anyone since the first century AD. Every man who claims to have had the gifts of healing and miracles since the Apostolic Age has been hounded by numerous scandals. Their claims have never been verified as you will see in the remainder of this chapter.

Questions to wrestle with

Some questions which all Pentecostals and Charismatics must wrestle with are:

Why have more than 100 million Catholics around the world exercised some of the “manifestation gifts”?

Is this a way the Holy Spirit is working to reform the Catholic Church?

Is it possible the Catholic religion is a false religion and Satan is using counterfeit gifts to bring the Catholics and Pentecostals/Charismatics together to form a world religion?

If the Holy Spirit is using the “manifestation gifts” to reform the Catholic Church and bring about worldwide revival can we be living in the last days? [The Bible is clear that during the Tribulation there will be a world religion that everyone will be forced to be part of or they will be killed. That religion is the worship of the Antichrist (Revelation 13.15-16). We have seen a movement to form a world religion in the last century with the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893; the creation of the Council of Religious Education in 1905 and the Federal Council of Churches in 1908 which merged in 1950 to form the National Council of Churches; the creation of the World Council of Churches in 1948 and the Conference of European Churches in 1959; and the founding of the Three Faiths Forum in 1997 and the Christian Churches Together in 2006. If we are seeing a

worldwide revival through the “manifestation gifts” then we cannot be living in the end times.]

If we are living in the apostasy of the “last days” (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4) is Satan using counterfeit gifts to bring the false Catholic religion together with the apostate Pentecostals and Charismatics?

Skeptics

Unsaved men who doubt certain evangelists have the gifts of healing and working miracles have investigated some of these “gifted men.” Every time a non-Christian has investigated the claims of the healers and miracle workers they have found that they did not heal a single person or perform a single miracle. This fact is strong evidence that the “manifestation gifts” have not been given to believers in these last days.

The most famous investigations were conducted by James Randi who proved that Peter Popoff and Ernest Angley were fakers. He wrote a book, *The Faith Healers*, in which he exposed their tricks and gimmicks and those of other self-proclaimed “faith healers” – W.V. Grant, Oral Roberts and Pat Robertson. Popoff declared bankruptcy within a year of being exposed by Randi although he has made a comeback.

After exposing the leading “faith healers” as frauds Randi decided to prove that most people are gullible and will accept almost any claim without checking it. In 1988 he perpetrated a fraud on the media with help from his friend Jose Alvarez and Australia’s “60 Minutes” television program. He released a fake press package and launched a publicity campaign for a spirit channeler named Carlos (Jose Alvarez). Randi told him what to say with radio equipment. The media and the public bought into the hoax. Not a single reporter checked the credentials and history of Carlos which had been fabricated by Randi. The hoax was exposed on “60 Minutes” in which Carlos and Randi explained how they pulled it off.¹⁻²

The James Randi Educational Foundation currently offers a prize of \$1,000,000 to eligible applicants who can demonstrate a supernatural ability under agreed-upon scientific testing criteria. Similar to the paranormal challenges of John Nevil Maskelyne and Houdini.³

Since 1963 there have been 25 organizations that have offered rewards ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,000,000 to anyone who can perform a healing, miracle or any supernatural or psychic ability. No one has

won any of these awards.⁴ If the men and women who claim they have the gifts of healing and miracles truly had them they could collect over \$1,000,000 by demonstrating their powers. They could then take that money and give it to the poor and needy.

Kathryn Kuhlman (1907-1976)

Numerous case studies have been made of claims by faith healers. Following a Kathryn Kuhlman meeting in 1967 in Philadelphia, Dr. William A. Nolen conducted a case study of 23 people who claimed to have been cured during her services.⁵⁻⁸ Nolen's long-term follow-ups concluded there were no cures in those cases.⁹⁻¹⁰ Furthermore, "one woman who was said to have been cured of spinal cancer threw away her brace and ran across the stage at Kuhlman's command; her spine collapsed the next day, according to Nolen, and she died four months later."¹¹ In 1976, Kuhlman died in Tulsa, Oklahoma, following open-heart surgery.¹²

Conclusion

Latter Rain

Many Pentecostals and Charismatics believe that the outpouring of the "manifestation gifts" at the close of the 19th century was the "latter rain" outpouring of the "manifestation gifts" that were given on the day of Pentecost. This concept is not biblical because every use of the term "latter rain" in the Bible is a direct reference to literal rainfall. Not a single use of that term is allegorical (Deuteronomy 11.14; Job 29.23; Proverbs 16.15; Jeremiah 3.3; 5.24; Hosea 6.3; Joel 2.23; Zechariah 10.1; James 5.7).

Manifestation gifts – for revival or apostasy

All Pentecostals and Charismatics who do not believe every Pentecostal and Charismatic church should have at least one member who has the gift of miracles and one member who has the gift of healing are **cessationists**.

If the "manifestation gifts" are for all Christians today then the Holy Spirit is using them to bring about worldwide revival and to reform the Catholic Church, which is a true Christian church with some doctrinal

problems and traditions that are not biblical. We are therefore seeing a worldwide revival which means we cannot be living in the end times. (The Bible is clear that during the last days there will be great apostasy in the Church – 2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4).

If the “manifestation gifts” are **not** for Christians today the devil is using these counterfeit gifts to bring Catholics and Pentecostals/Charismatics together to form a world religion. We are living in the last days and the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement is the major cause of the apostasy of the end times. We will see a world religion formed with assistance from Pentecostals and Charismatics.

One of the leading televangelists of the twentieth century, Kathryn Kuhlman, almost always had Catholic priests and nuns in uniform on her stage at her revival meetings:

She had a special love for doctors, and wanted them either on the stage or on the front rows of the auditorium. The same was true of priests and nuns — especially if they were ‘in uniform.’ Nothing thrilled Kathryn more than to have thirty or forty Catholic clergymen, especially if they wore clerical collars or, better yet, cassocks, sitting behind her while she ministered. Somehow it seemed to lend authenticity to what she was doing – and helped create the proper climate of a trust and understanding which was so necessary for a miracle service. (Jamie Buckingham, *Daughter Of Destiny*, p. 221)

Many other Pentecostal and Charismatic televangelists and prominent figures have also worked with Catholics – David du Plessis, Demos Shakarian (founder of the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International – FGBMFI), Benny Hinn, Kenneth Hagin, John Hagee and Paul Crouch.

Healings and miracles

Every time a skeptic examines the claims of “faith healers” and “miracle workers” he finds the claims to be fraudulent. There is not a single “healing” or “miracle” performed in the 20th or 21st centuries that has been verified by non-Christians.

If the gifts of healing and miracles have been for real for over a century there would be thousands of verified cases of healings and miracles by skeptics. In the first century thousands of skeptics (non-believers) were saved due to the healings and miracles performed by

the apostles. The same would be true today. Instead, the unsaved mock faith healers and the Christians who give them their money. Hollywood routinely mocks faith healers and Pentecostals. Watch any of these movies to see for yourself – *Religulous* (2008), *The Apostle* (1997), *Leap of Faith* (1992), *Marjoe* (1972) and *Elmer Gantry* (1960).

Notes

1. “Carlos’ hoax of Jose Alvarez.” Skepdic.com. www.skepdic.com/carlos.html.
2. “Randi talking about Carlos hoax.” ABC.net.au. 1998. www.abc.net.au/science/correx/archives/randi4.htm.
3. Poulsen, Kevin. “Skeptic Revamps \$1M Psychic Prize.” *Wired*. 1.12.2007. www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2007/01/72482.
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_prizes_for_evidence_of_the_paranormal.
5. Greenville News. “Psychic Healing? Investigator declares no.” 8.16.1975. www.newspaperarchive.com/newspapers1/na0030/5967824/21003862_clean.html. Also see: William Nolen, *Healing: a doctor in search of a miracle*. New York: Random House.
6. San Mateo Times. “Dr Nolen Looks at Faith Healing.” 3.07.1975. www.newspaperarchive.com/newspapers1/na0022/6795006/48320964_clean.html.
7. Michaelson, Michael. “Men of medicine and a medicine man.” *New York Times*. 2.02.1975. <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F10F12F83D5C10708DDDAB0894DA405B858BF1D3>.
8. *Time*. “Extra-Dispensary Perceptions.” 3.17.1975. www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,913003,00.html.
9. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. “Inside Religion: Kuhlman Tested By md’s Probe.” 11.08.1975. <http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=cOQNAAAIAIBAJ&sjid=iG0DAAAIAIBAJ&pg=5291,834959&dq=kathryn+kuhlman+william+nolen>.
10. “A follow-up study of 23 patients ‘cured’ in a Kathryn Kuhlman service.” *St. Petersburg Times*. 11.02.1974. <http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=4vMNAAAIAIBAJ&sjid=TNkDAAAIAIBAJ&pg=5343,1149932&dq=kathryn+kuhlman>.
11. Randi, James. *The Faith Healers*. Prometheus Books. 1989. p. 228.
12. Settle, Gary. “Kathryn Kuhlman, Evangelist And Faith Healer, Dies in Tulsa.” *New York Times*. 2.22.1976. <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F10B12F63C5511718DDDAB0A94DA405B868BF1D3>.

