



EPSOM MODULE 10

The Gifts of the Spirit

Week 1: Answering cessationism, and the purpose of the Gifts

Answering Cessationism

Cessationism - the idea that the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased after the apostles died.

- Ignorance
- A refusal to believe all of the New Testament as applicable to every believer
- A misunderstanding of the purpose of the Holy Spirit with the Church
- Blasphemy
- A religious spirit

It's the Church's fault for straying away from the supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit



The absence of the supernatural in the Church has driven many to seek such from the occult.

The *counterfeit* power.

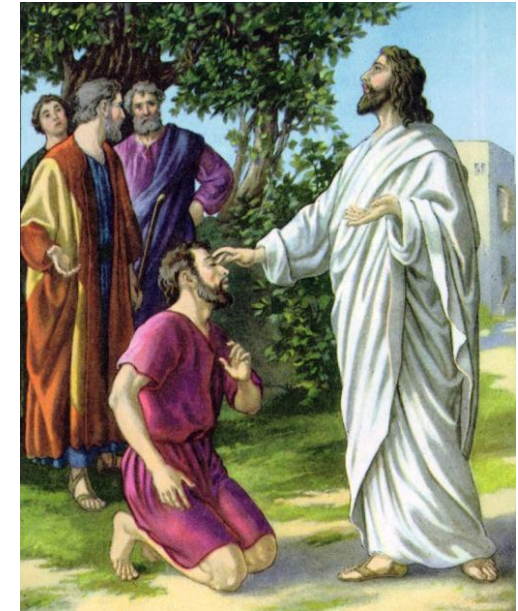


Even Paul taught that the true Church is not built on just preaching alone. We have to have the power of the Holy Spirit in demonstration.

Jesus taught, and *demonstrated*.

1 Cor 2:1-5 ... And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Acts 1:1-2 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.



Ignorance is lack of knowledge, and lack of knowledge will shortchange us of the good things available from God, and often leads to destruction.

***I Cor. 12:1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant...*

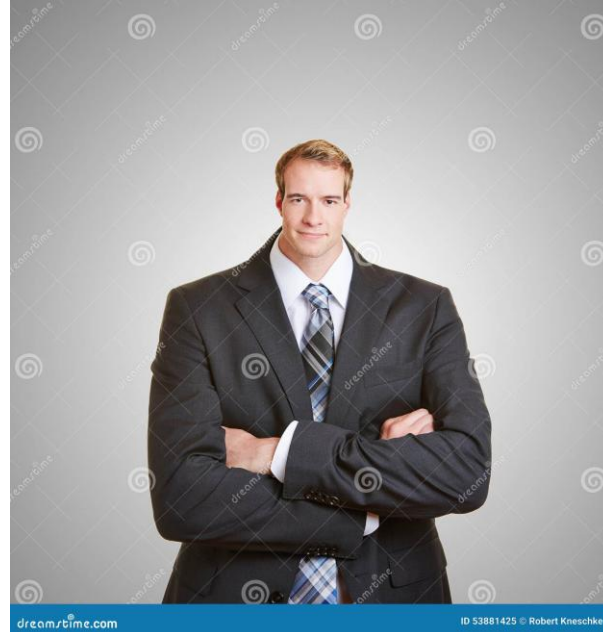
***Hosea 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”*

***II Tim. 4:2** Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*



How could you just take chunks of the New Testament out and say they do not apply to every Christian?

- Who decided tongues and prophecy and so forth is not for today?
- Why would anything God gave the Church after Christ rose from the dead be for an extremely limited amount of time, if 2000 years was to go by before Jesus would come again?
- Why would God only cast demons out of people for a few years then stop? Why would God only heal people here and there whenever He felt like it? What then does 'by His stripes we are healed' mean?



Only for the apostles?

Jesus spoke, “he who believes in Me.” He did not say just ‘you twelve.’

Jesus *commanded* His followers to wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for ministry, and that was not a one-time event just for those 120 disciples.

He *commanded* us to raise the dead, cast out devils, lay hands on the sick and pray, preach the gospel, and freely give whatever He gave us.

Luke 24:49 *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”*

Matthew 10:8 *“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*



Examples of others besides the apostles moving in the gifts:

Acts 1-4

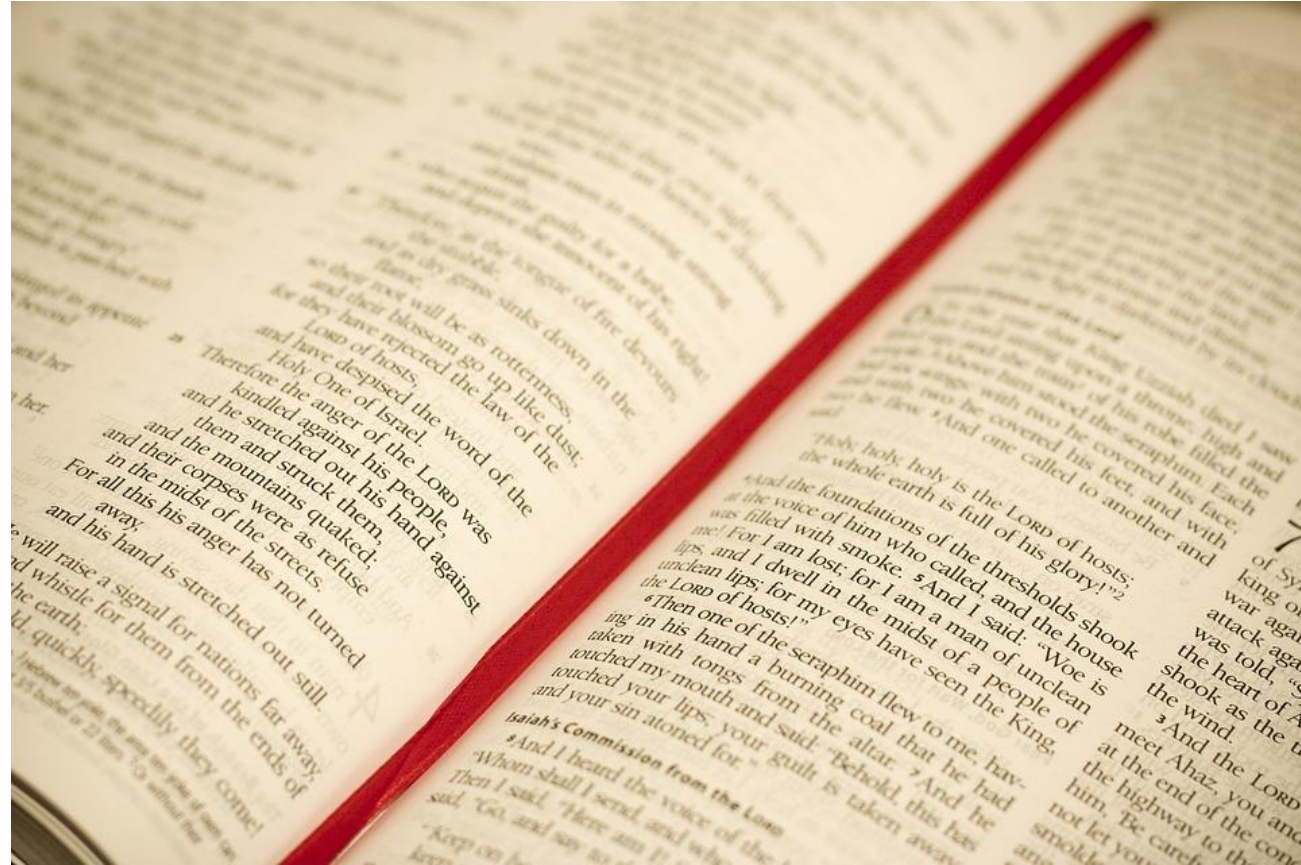
Matt. 10:8

John 17:20-23

John 10:16

Mark 16:14-20

Jude 17-20



Did God just quit talking to His people?

Does He only speak through the Bible and a preacher?

Prophecy was still being used by God to lead believers after Christ ascended.



Misunderstanding of the Holy Spirit's purpose for being in the earth after Jesus ascended to heaven.

- For empowerment of the believers in Christ to do the work of the ministry of His gospel until Jesus comes again. He equips us for every good work.
- For counsel, guidance, correction, and teaching in the Word and the will of God. To remind us of what Jesus said.
- For comfort, since we are still in a fallen world full of sin and demons.
- Here to convict the world of sin, and draw sinners to Jesus.
- Here to intercede for us and through us the will of God.

John 16:7, Acts 1:8, John 14:12-17, John 16:8-13



Blasphemy- calling a work of the Holy Spirit a work of the devil.

Matthew 12:22-37

A prideful and spiritually blind spirit of religion denies the gifts of the Holy Spirit, deliverance from demons, healing, or any supernatural work of God.

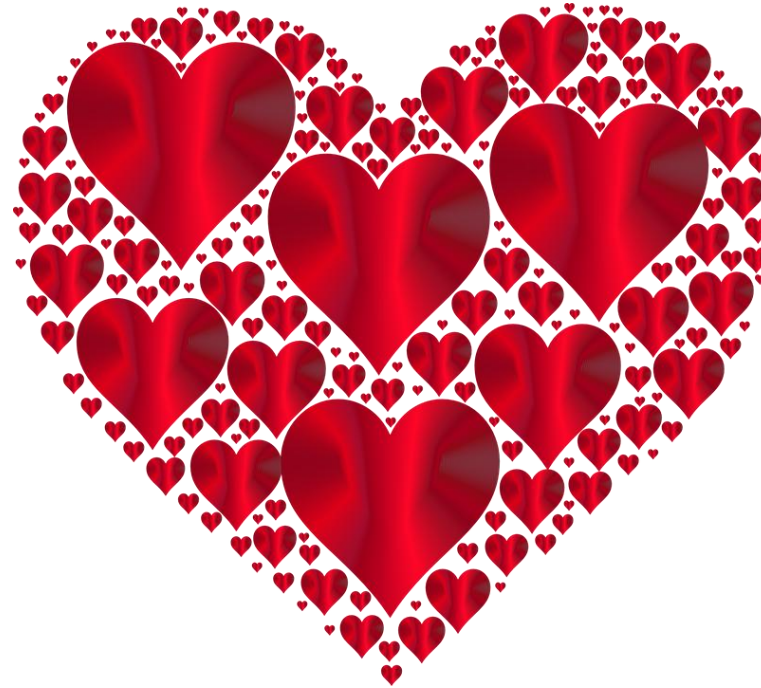


Luke 11:9-13 *“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”*

They are called gifts because we do not earn them, obtain them through any effort of our own, or even deserve them. They are simply given out of love from our Lord.



The Purpose of the Gifts: To build up, edify, exhort, comfort, lead, strengthen, encourage, and bring healing to the Church, His body. To equip His believers to do what Jesus did, which was restore people to the Father, teach, heal, deliver, and love.



The motivation is always love for others. Love is why we do anything in the Kingdom of God.

Chapters 12, 13, and 14 carry the bulk of the information about the gifts.

***1 Cor 12:4-31** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given **to each one** for the profit of all:*

That means *every* believer has a gift or gifts for ministry to others.



The gifts are MANIFESTATIONS of the Spirit, something you can see and experience. Manifest means to visibly show.

***I Cor 12:28-31** And God has appointed these in the church: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that **miracles**, then **gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues**. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.*

What is the more excellent way? LOVE



Paul is saying the best gifts are the ones who help another in Christ to be healed, loved, encouraged, and set free. Showing the love of God.

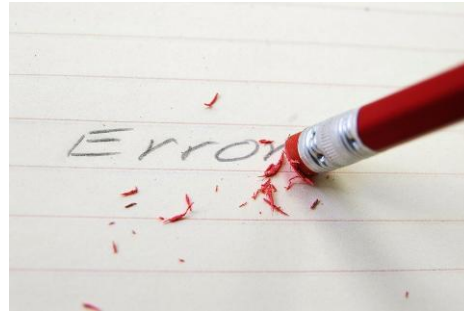


Also of note, the five-fold ministry are seen as *gifts*, not just callings.

Edify-- to strengthen and build up.

Exhort-- to encourage, to urge strongly, to admonish, to entreat, to call upon personally and plead with someone to take a specific course of action.

Admonish-- to deposit truth into a person's thoughts. It might take the form of discipline, encouragement, or affirmation. It may be commendation or correction.



--The purpose of tongues is more for self than for ministry. We use tongues in prayer, and in building up our own spirit man, unless it is interpreted to others for strength and hope and direction.



Prophecy will show an unbeliever the power and love of God because secrets are revealed no man would know.

Ephesians 4:7-16

I Peter 4:8-10 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

The way we love people is to have experienced and known the love of God ourselves.



Relationship with **the** GIFT Jesus is how His love flows through us, and how the Holy Spirit flows through us.

If the relationship is broken, hindered, distant, cold, or neglected, it stifles the flow of love and thus the flow of the gifts.

