



The Cessation of Cessation Theology

Many wonder if God still moves today, whether He speaks to His people or not. Does God still heal people, are the gifts of the spirit still in operation? I would like to take a clear and concise look at the arguments for and against the modern manifestation of the gifts of the spirit. Going with the general cessations argument cessation of charismata is not feasible according to scripture to say that Spiritual gifts, Prophecy and Tongues are not for today. The argument generally used is 1 Cor 13: 10,8 "When that which is perfect has come that which is partial will be done away with. Love never fails but whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge they will pass away." In many cessation commentaries on this passage note that which is perfect is in fact Christ's' second coming (The New Geneva study bible 1 Cor 13:8,10 foot notes, see also Eph 4:13). These questionable experiential theologians however fail to note that when that which is perfect has come, that knowledge will be done away with vs. eight. They are still thinking and reasoning right, well tongues must still be in existence, because God has not done away with knowledge as of yet. By virtue of the fact that they are still increasing in knowledge and that the book Daniel says that a sign of the end times is that knowledge will increase, tongues could not have ceased and therefore they are still in effect and available for you and me. Cessationist Theologians state vs. 8,13 merely to support an experience-based dogmatic theology, which they half-heartedly try to support their errant doctrine Eisogetically, and existentially, not exegetically. They try putting their false errant doctrine into scripture instead of pulling out truth. This experience-based theology could be the downfall of biblical based Christianity as we know it 1 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:19-21. This experience based theology is an outward shell of religion denying the power of GOD Matt 22:29; Mark 12:24. These theologians have it all figured out in their heads they need to experience the power of God, to be set free Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 10:38. Jesus can and will fill them with His spirit if they let their religious walls down and allow the power of God to come in Luke 5:17; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 4:31; Rom 1:17; 10:17,15; Heb 11:1,6; Rev 3:15-21. Another apparent error is that they prophesy and do not know it. Prophecy is God making His word alive, real, and directed to a know situation. No prophecy will ever contradict scripture. Every Sunday they pray that God will give them the word for the congregation for that week, that is prophecy. Prophecy is God bringing His word alive and directed for today's audience They sometimes tell people in their congregation that the felt The Lord told them to tell that person something, that is also a form of prophecy. Joel 2:28 says "In the last days God is going to pour His spirit on all flesh; and your sons and daughters will prophecy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Now when this dispensation of The Holy Spirit began tongues was the initial physical evidences or signs of the Holy Spirits descent to the believers were: "A sound from heaven, a rushing mighty wind.... It filled the house... Tongues of Fire... They were speaking so loud as to draw a crowd, speaking in the people's languages the mystery of God. There also appeared to be an intense outward manifestation that scripture choose not to record so we would not get hung up on manifestations but rather seek The LORD Verse 13, and 17. Acts 2. Now Paul said by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost said, "this is that, that was prophesied by the prophet Joel." Joel said in the last days (or end times) God would pour our His spirit on all flesh that they would prophesy, dream dreams, and see visions. Joel said nothing about tongues, in

foreign languages, cloven fire, wind, spiritual drunkenness, or something filling a room. Now we can look at this and say that is not biblical you have no proof text for tongues, spiritual drunkenness, fire, wind, etc... These were all manifestations of God in the Old Testament except, speaking in unknown languages the mysteries of God. Know maybe if you take Jesus literal in Mark 16:16-20, Were He says, "They that believe... shall speak with new tongues." Now this passage is not in all manuscripts. It however important to consider that it was authoritative enough by modern day biblical scholars for it they have added it into all modern day accepted versions of the bible. Cessation theology came from a deception in the 1 Corinthian Church and the scripture tells us cessation theology is part the end time deception and false prophets whom Paul said was already in the church. In 1 Corinthians He talks of the rapture. Note. to remember this is all around the time of the destruction of the temple 70 C.E. The heresy that Paul was preaching in 2 Corinthians saying the rapture had not happened was talking of the cessation theology at its original roots. 1 Cor. has a prophecy of the rapture the false prophets and apostles in the Corinthian Church then say that since the temple has been destroyed that the rapture, tribulation, and the judgment of the world had happened in 70 C.E. at the destruction of the temple using Matthew 24 that talks of this Generation shall not pass away before they see the coming of the son of man and that the temple will be destroyed. They took those two precepts out of context and tried to add them together saying that that literal generation would not pass away without Jesus coming again. So when the temple was destroyed using those scriptures and the ones in Daniel talking of the abomination and desolation and the anti-Christ setting himself up in the temple of God in the place of God to say that Jesus had returned then and that was the end of the Christian era. and that we were living in the millennium and now we did not need the bible, the devil was in the abyss, and we did not need the Holy Spirit. However Paul said that was heresy and called them false prophets and false apostles. Paul proved this wrong however some still held to this belief using the same passage in Matthew 24 to prove that some generation will not pass away seeing Jesus return. Some still clung unto this theology, that is why at the turn of 1,000 C.E. the catholic church believed that Christ would come to take us to heaven for eternity however this did not come to pass so they trashed that idea and still held to cessation theology having no real biblical source for this doctrine. Many have used the passage in Matthew to say that there generation was the last one to live before Jesus return so let me prove to you that this theology is faulty and extra biblical. The word Generation can me a time period in which people live, a nation, a race, a people. Jesus was in fact saying this people, this nation of Israel, This race shall not pass away until Jesus come again. The Jews will remain the Greco and Roman empires are gone and their people non existent however the Jewish people are still on this earth and now have their nation back. The Jews will see Jesus return and the bible says the nation of Israel will be saved in a day probably during the millennium. So we see cessation theology to be part of the end time spirit of the Christ in the Church that all these end times prophecies are ALL false no guessing is possible Jesus said we are to never know the day nor the hour. We can not know when Jesus will return and their is no way to know as God intended it.

Laying on of hands to release on in their gifts, in healing, and releasing one to speak in tongues is biblical precedent Read 1 Tim 1:9; 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6; James 5:13-16. 1 Cor 13:8 for cessation theology says when that which is perfect has come knowledge will cease have you stopped thinking then knowledge has not ceased and tongues is still for today. Eph 4:10-16 says that Christ gave the church Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Preachers, and Teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry. Saints still need to be equipped and are still called to the ministry. This was what Christ gave to the church and He has not taken it back so anything else is heresy and backbiting.

Are we still in the end times? We should still be experiencing the former and latter

rains Joel 2. If we are truly living in the end times we should still experience what Joel prophesied, Peter proclaimed to be the fulfillment, and the New Testament church experienced. Are we a New Living Testament Church or an Old Testament Church that brings spiritual death? We are still living in the end times and God has not yet atleast to my knowledge poured out His spirit on all flesh. When He all flesh has had, God's spirit poured out upon them the end shall come. If the end has not come and Gods spirit has not been poured out on all flesh, that means we should still be experiencing what Joel prophesied about and Peter proclaimed to be the fulfillment of that. The fulfillment being speaking in unknown tongues, prophecy, visions, and dreams. According to scripture, tongues are for today and they are for you. According to extra-biblical experientialy fearful doctrine, they ceased, either with the apostles, or with the completion of the bible. God is not a man that He should lie Romans 3:4. If we ask God for The Holy Spirit will He give us a serpent, I think not. If man being evil knows how to give good gifts how much more will our heavenly father give The Holy Spirit to them that ask Luke 11:13. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power and of love and of a sound mind," 2 Tim 1:7.

Let your inhibitions against God's Spirit moving in your own personal life go and ask God to fill you with His Spirit. He can not deny Himself. Do not check you head at the door, test the spirits, line it up with the word of God, and receive. This is Gods Spirit, and Gods promise He cannot deny Himself, do not be unbelieving Heb 3:12-13. I think some major error's that have caused or attributes to these errant doctrines are: The acceptance and use of anti-biblical, and extra-biblical church organizational and political structures, The formation of denominations in the one true body of Christ. Do not get me wrong we need leadership, accountability, networking, and unity, but not against one another. What importance do these have do you ask? Well, number one we aren't being used of God to bring in the lost like scripture tells us to we haven't fulfilled the great commission to preach to the whole world before Jesus comes again. We must repent and return to the original blue print of the church the whole counsel of God. I also believe that the acceptance of non-Christian extra-biblical, and secular humanistic teachings, practices and doctrines into the church have been a part of the churches outreaching downfall. We have begun to and are used to human planned outreaches, and ministries instead of Christ lead. We have taken the place o Christ with our programs. Allow Jesus take the reigns of the church to reach the lost through His multi-faceted body to the ends and through the means, He prescribes. We have fallen short and must find a solution in love bringing unity. We must return to biblical faith basing all faith and practice upon the word of God and the word of God alone. If we really believe it to be the infallible word for all faith practice, if we really believe this we must live it. Too many lost people see us not living it and want nothing to do with us because they know we are hypocrites. We must return to biblical faith and practice being lead by and utterly depending upon the Holy Spirit, because the original manuscripts are fully inspired of God for teaching, reproving and setting things straight. So that we as the church may reach out into the whole world to preach the whole counsel of God to heal the whole person to o reach out and influence the globe for Jesus. Let us come together in unity looking for solution not picking about the problems. Picking will not solve it let us do something constructive as The Body that we are.



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