

Are Miraculous Spiritual Gifts Still Present?

Introduction: Today we want to ask and answer the perplexing question, “What happened to all the spiritual gifts?” Do they still exist today? (1 Cor. 12 & 13)

- I. The Corinthians’ Problem With the Gifts (Ch. 12)
 - A. They had lost perspective of their significance and purpose. (v. 1)
 - B. They needed to be reminded that every gift, though different, comes from the same source. (v. 3-6)
 - C. Paul reminds them of their unity and functionality as belonging to Christ’s body. (12:12-30)
 - D. There was an emphasis on “greater gifts.” (12:31)
- II. The More Excellent Way (13:1-8a, 13)
 - A. Paul describes love as more excellent than the gifts.
 - B. The powerful, miraculous gifts are powerless and pointless without being administered with love.
 - C. In verses 4-8 Paul describes love in terms of what they needed to hear about how love thinks about and acts toward others.
- III. The End of the Miraculous Gifts (13:8-13)
 - A. Notice the comparison between “love” & the spiritual “gifts.” (v. 8)
 1. What does love do? It “never fails.”
 2. What about the gifts? They will “cease,” “be done away.”
 - B. Why would God cause them to “be done away”? (v. 9, 10)
 1. The gifts are described as “part” of something or “partial.”
 2. In contrast, something “perfect” (complete/whole) was coming and would relieve the “partial” of it’s duty or necessity.
 - C. When does Paul say the gifts will be done away? “When the perfect comes.” So, what was the “perfect” and when did it come?
 1. James 2:22-25. The perfect law of liberty—the word of God.
 2. Hebrews 2:1-4. The miraculous gifts “confirmed the word.”
 3. After the apostles were gone the ability in men to impart the gifts was gone. (Acts 8:13-19; 2 Pet. 1:3)

Conclusion: So, why & when would the gifts be done away? Because their function was to confirm God’s word. Each of those gifts was a contributing piece (part) to completing the process of establishing God’s word and making it whole. Once that was done & the apostles were gone the word was completely confirmed.