

THE PURPOSE & PLACE OF PROPHECY

1 Thessalonians 5:20

CESSATIONISM

LISTS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

- *Rom 12:6-8*
- *1 Cor 12:8-10*
- *1 Cor 12:28-30*
- *Eph 4:11*

1 Cor 12:4–7 - 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1. TEMPORARY SIGN GIFTS

- *Revelatory*

- *Confirmatory*

2. PERMANENT EDIFYING GIFTS

...or continuing gifts.

1. TEMPORARY SIGN GIFTS

- *Revelatory*

- *apostles*
- *prophets/prophecy*
- *word of wisdom*
- *word of knowledge*
- *distinguishing spirits*

1. TEMPORARY GIFTS

- *Confirmatory*

- *faith*

- *healings*

- *effecting of miracles*

- *kinds of languages (tongues)*

- *interpretation of languages*

- *signs*

John 2:11 - This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

John 20:30–31 - 30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

- *wonders*

Acts 2:43 - Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

Acts 5:12 - At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people...

- *miracles*

2 Cor 12:12 - The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

Heb 2:3–4 - 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles ...

*Acts 2:22-23 – 22 Men of Israel, listen to these words:
Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with
miracles and wonders and signs which God
performed through Him in your midst...23 this Man,
delivered over by the predetermined plan and
foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the
hands...*

Two OFFICES in the early church –

1. Apostles 2. Prophets

*Eph 2:19-20 - 19 ... you ... are of God's household, 20 having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone...*

*1 Cor 3:10–11 - 10 ... I laid a **foundation**, and another is building on it....11 For no man can lay a **foundation** other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Jude 1:3 - ... contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

2. PERMANENT GIFTS

- teaching
- exhortation
- evangelism
- pastor-teacher
- helps
- giving
- administration
- mercy

JOEL BEEKE: *We do not deny that God continues to work miracles, but that He continues to give miracle workers to the church.*

1 Thes 5:20 - do not despise prophetic utterances.

2 Tim 4:2 - preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

RICHARD PHILLIPS: *Either the word of God will shape our thinking or the message of the world will drown out God's voice and quench the ministry of God's Spirit.*

JOHN MACARTHUR: *It seems that today much of the evangelical church has minimized the importance of the Holy Spirit and God's word in the spiritual lives of believers. The Holy Spirit's ministry and the word's power becomes secondary to pragmatic, humanistic techniques and methodologies in dealing with people's emotional and spiritual needs.*

The church's de-emphasis of the Holy Spirit's working through the word has also led to a pronounced lack of spiritual discernment...Many Christians no longer think biblically and theologically, and they consider it wrong and unloving to be dogmatic, even on the most basic doctrines such as the inerrancy of Scripture and the definition of the gospel...It does not make sharp distinctions between true and false, right and wrong, but instead embraces subjectivity, relativity, and pragmatism...

The church is reluctant to risk offending unbelievers with a clear, convicting gospel message. Instead, it relies on marketing philosophy to present a seeker friendly message that focuses on people's felt needs....Many preachers no longer work diligently at the careful and accurate interpretation of the word. They have substituted anecdotes, psychology, and subjectivity for the objective exposition of Scripture....As a result, the world's philosophy and practices enter the church and it stops being distinct from the surrounding pagan culture.

1. REMEMBER THE POWER OF THE WORD

Isa 55:11 - ...My word.. which goes forth from My mouth...will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Heb 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2. REMEMBER THE BENEFIT OF THE WORD

Psa 1:1–3 - 1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked...2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psa 19:7–11 - 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 ...The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

3. REMEMBER THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE WORD

2 Pet 1:3–4 – 3...His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature...

Westminster Confession of Faith: *The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men...*

