

It seems to be a historical fact that they have indeed ceased. Does the Bible give any information signifying that some gifts were only temporary? Yes, it does, as we have seen in this chapter.

The stated purpose of the sign gifts as confirmatory fits the special need of the beginning Church.

Since the Bible implies that some gifts are temporary, and since the gift of apostle must be for the beginning Church only, and since there are obvious changes indicated during New Testament times, there is no basis to assume that all of the spiritual gifts are to be continually given to the Church, unless the Bible states this or unless they have in fact continued. But the Bible does not state this, and they have not continued. Therefore the assumption that all gifts are to be present in the Church today is entirely gratuitous and is contradictory to the opinion of the church since early times. It is without Biblical or historical support. However, the view that some gifts are temporary is a Biblical fact and is also supported by the nonoccurrence of these gifts in history.

Charles V. Carter (pp. 215-220) states:

The occurrence of the miracle of other tongues (languages) at Pentecost and subsequently is manifold in its significance.

First, the miracle was wrought in and through the Christian disciples by the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, by whom they were filled on that occasion (Acts 2:4).

Second, it was administered in a practical way through the disciples under the superintendence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:46), and thus it consisted of Spirit-inspired "utterances", and not of a miracle of hearing by the multitude, as some have mistakenly supposed.

Third, it was made necessary by the presence of the multitudes speaking some fifteen different languages and/or dialects at Pentecost, who could not otherwise have heard intelligibly the gospel of Christ's resurrection from the dead, which provided salvation for them (Acts 2:11, 32-36).

Fourth, it consisted of correct and intelligible bona fide languages and/or dialects which were clearly understood by the hearers (Acts 1:8, 11, 37).

Fifth, it served as the vehicle for God's message that produced in many of the hearers the divinely intended result of repentance unto salvation (Acts 2:37-39).

Sixth, it was instrumental in bringing about the conversion of approximately 3,000 hearers at Pentecost who were baptized and added to the Christian church (Acts 2:41).

Seventh, it was attested as a genuine miracle by its value manifested in the spiritual enlightenment, conviction, and conversion of this large number of converts.

Eighth, Luke's record in Acts 2 is the most clearly definitive account of the "gift of tongues" which we have in the New Testament. Though tongues are referred to definitely in three