



Summer Selection Series
Cessationism
From Sermon 7.27.25

Read *1 Corinthians 12:7-11 & 13:8-10*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: For the past 60 years or so, the largest, fastest growing segment of the Protestant community has been charismatic/Pentecostalism. Even if churches today are not tied to a formal charismatic denomination, they are still promoting the practices and teachings. Much of the attraction is for emotional experience, promised health and wealth, and signs and wonders. This also inevitably returns to viewing the Scriptures as insufficient—we must do/offer more. Yet, the Bible admonishes us to not rely on the subjective. It contains no charismatic guidelines...so they are made up.

1. What are Spiritual Gifts? Passion and ability for a certain ministry given by the Holy Spirit to each believer at conversion. They are given to be used in the local church for the benefit of all.

See *1 Corinthians 14:12*

2. What are some examples of Spiritual Gifts? Teaching, Preaching, Administration, Helps, Hospitality, Mercy, Faith, Giving. [numerous subcategories under each of those] See also *Romans 12:3-8*

2a. What have you been told or discovered is your spiritual gift? Various Personal Answers

3. What are the Miraculous/Charismatic Gifts? Speaking in Tongues, Prophecy, Healings, & Miracles

4. What is the doctrine of Cessationism? With the closing of the canon of Scripture (early 2nd Century), the miraculous spiritual gifts were no longer needed and ceased to be given. The Bible never mentions those gifts in latter epistles or Jesus' words to the churches in Revelation 3-4.

[Note: one quick revival of the miraculous with the two witnesses of Revelation 11.]

5. What was the purpose of God empowering certain people to do the miraculous? To authenticate they were genuinely God's Representative. See *Acts 2:22*

6. How common is the miraculous in the Bible/history? Actually, quite rare. Only 3 seasons or eras of miracle workers, each only lasting about 65 years. Moses—Law, Elijah/Elisha—Prophets, Jesus/Apostles—the Church.

7. Do we still believe God can/does... Reach people of every tribe, nation, and language? Has revealed all things needed to be known about the future? Miraculously heals people, relationships? Alter the natural world to His own glory? Yes. Of course. We've all experienced and been witness to that.

8. Even if the miraculous gifts were still being bestowed, what would disqualify almost all who claim them today? Poor/heretical theology. Selfish ambitions. The love of money. Phony counterfeits.

9. Who, then, in Christian history would qualify for the charismatic gifts, yet clearly preached their cessation? Great theologians: Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Edwards, Spurgeon, Sproul, MacArthur...