

THE TRUTH AFFIRMED—The Holy Spirit

Acts 1:15-17 “And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said...Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, *which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas*, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.” (Quoted from *Psa. 41:9*)

- **God influenced David to speak by divine inspiration.**

2Sam. 23:1-2 “These be *the last words of David*. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, *The spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.*”

Mark 12:36 “*For David himself said by the Holy Spirit*, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.” (Quote from *Psa. 110:1*)

The Holy Spirit—The Word Of God

2Pet. 1:20-21 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy *came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*”

- **The Holy Spirit influenced men to speak according to God.**

Heb. 1:1-2 “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds*”

2Tim. 3:16-17 “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*”

- **The Scriptures are the product of the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit—The Word Of God

Acts 7:51-52 “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, *ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye.*

Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers.”

Neh. 9:29-31 “And testifiedst against (Israel), that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear. *Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets:* yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands. Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them...”

The Holy Spirit—The Word Of God

Acts 28:23-27 “And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, *Well spake the Holy Spirit by Isaiah the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say...*” (Quoted Isa. 6:9-10)

When the Bible speaks, the Holy Spirit speaks thru inspired men.

Heb. 3:5-10 “And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. *Wherefore as the Holy Spirit saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.*” quote Psa 95:7-11

The Holy Spirit—The Word Of God

Mat. 22:41-45 “While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them...How then *doth David in spirit* call him Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?” **quote Psa 110**

Heb. 10:11-17 “And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool... *Whereof the Holy Spirit also is a witness to us:* for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” **quote Jer 31:33**

The Holy Spirit—The Word Of God

Heb. 9:1-9 “For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the showbread; which is called the sanctuary...Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: *The Holy Spirit this signifying*, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing”

- **The Old Testament scriptures were attributed to the Holy Spirit. The same influenced men in the New Testament—**

Luke 1:67-77 “And his father *Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit*, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, *And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David...*”

The Holy Spirit—The Word Of God

Acts 4:8, 31 “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel...And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and *they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*”

Acts 11:27-30 “And in these days came *prophets* from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and *signified by the Spirit* that there should be great dearth throughout all the world”

Eph. 3:1-7 “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) *Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit*; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel” (1Cor 2:12-14; 1Pet 1:9-12; Mat 10:17-20)

The Holy Spirit—The Power of God

- While the “spirit” of God is that which sustains life and the various cycles of nature (Gen. 1:1-3; Jer. 27:5; 51:15; Ecc. 12:7), the “holy spirit” is the set apart, miraculous *power* of God.

Luke 1:35 “And the angel answered and said unto her, *The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee*: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

Acts 1:8 “*Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you*: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Acts 8:18-19 “And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands *the Holy Spirit was given*, he offered them money, Saying, *Give me also this power*, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit—The Power of God

Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth *with the Holy Spirit and with power*: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

- **Holy Spirit given to authenticate miracles of Christ and Apostles.**

Acts 2:22-23 “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, *a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you*, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain”

John 3:1-2 “Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, *we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*”

The Holy Spirit—The Power of God

John 9:32-33 “Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. *If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.*”

John 5:36 “*But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*”

Heb. 2:1-4 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; *which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?*”

The Holy Spirit—The Power of God

Mark 16:19-20 “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.* Amen.”

Acts 1:8-11 “But *ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

Acts 8:5-6 “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. *And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.*”

Acts 14:3 “Long time therefore abode *they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.*”

The Holy Spirit—Speaking in Tongues

Acts 10:44-48 “While Peter yet spake these words, *the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word.* And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with *Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God”*

Acts 19:5-6 “When they heard this, *they were baptized* in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, *the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”*

- It is widely claimed—especially among those of the Pentecostal movement—that the Holy Spirit gifts and the ability to speak in tongues is still with us, today. Although it is generally admitted men are not moved by the Holy Spirit to add to the Biblical record.

Speaking In Tongues—Spreading of the Gospel

Acts 2:1-11 “When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, *out of every nation under heaven.* Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that *every man heard them speak in his own language.* And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, *Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?* Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, *we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God*” * *All legitimate languages, or tongues.*

Speaking in Tongues

1Cor. 14:1-2 "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries."

- This phrase, "unknown tongue" only appears in this chapter and in all cases is italicized, indicating it is not in the original manuscript.

ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret.

14 For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue.

Eph. 5. 19. 26
Ver. 6. Ch.
12. 10. 2 Co.
12. 19 &
13. 10.

15 Eph. 5.
19; Col. 3.
16. Ps. 47. 7.

16 ver. 23,
24. Ne. 5. 13;
Rev. 5. 14.
Ch. 11. 24.
Ac. 11. 27; 29
ver. 32, 37.
Ch. 12. 10.
1 Th. 5. 30
19, 20.

con- 33
fusion: Gr.
tumult, or,
unquietness.
Ch. 7. 17.
1 Tim. 2. 34
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Speaking in Tongues

1Cor 14:1-2 “For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”

- The person speaking “mysteries” in a “tongue”—or legitimate language—does not refer to some sort of exclusive prayer language that only God understands. The Bible defines itself:

	Ver. 10. Ro. 12. 8; 1 Tim. 5. 17; 1 Pe. 5. 1-3. diversities: or, kinds. 29 workers...: or, powers? ch. 12. 31. 1 20 ver. 10. 31 ch. 14. 1. 39. understandeth: Gr. <i>heareth</i> .	
	Ro. 14. 19. 3	
	ver. 17. 4	
	2 ch. 12. 8, 9. Mt. 17. 20.	
	ver. 13. 5	

CHAPTER 14

FOLLOW after charity, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but rather that ye may prophesy.

2 For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

The margin correctly notes “no man understandeth” as *no man* “*heareth*.” A very significant difference!

Mystery is the Revelation of Truth

Mark 4:11 “And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the *mystery of the kingdom of God*: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:”

Rom. 11:25-28 “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be *ignorant of this mystery*, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

Rom. 16:25-26 “Now to him that is of power to stablish you *according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery*, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all...”

Mystery is the Revelation of Truth

1Cor. 2:6-10 “We speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew...But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.*”

Eph. 1:8-11 “Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; *Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself*”

Eph. 3:1-6 “For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: *How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known...*”

The Holy Spirit—Speaking in Tongues

Eph. 6:19-20 “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, *to make known the mystery of the gospel*, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Col. 1:25-28 “Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles*”

1Tim. 3:8-9 “Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding *the mystery of the faith* in a pure conscience.”

- **Thus, the danger in applying modern definition of Bible words.**

Speaking In Tongues

1Cor. 14:22 “Wherefore *tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not*: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.”

- The first century Holy Spirit gift of “speaking in tongues” was for the preaching of the Gospel to those who were unenlightened, not to those who already enlightened. Thus, the apostle urges that when using this gift of speaking in various languages, the greatest caution was to be maintained—

1Cor. 14:23 “If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and *all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*”

- The converse of this is evident among the Pentecostal and Full Gospel churches?

Tongues—the First Century Ecclesial Order

1Cor. 14:27-35 “If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted...For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.”

- **To eliminate any confusion, languages were to be spoken one-by-one, and if no one was able to interpret there was no need to speak. Furthermore, today’s modern Pentecostal groups are often led by women, which is prohibited by Scripture.**

1Cor. 14:18-19 “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all,” wrote Paul, “Yet in the church *I had rather speak five words with my understanding*, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue.”

- The context is clear: understanding and teaching was the key.

1Cor. 14:6-11 “Even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, *except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?* For if the trumpet give an *uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.* There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices (RSV “languages”) in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.”

Spirit Gifts Limited

The miraculous events which accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the first century are no longer in evidence today. These included the “immediate” cure of leprosy (Mat. 8:3); the “immediate” cure of blindness (Mat. 20:34); the “immediate” restoration of the paralyzed (Mark 2:10-12; Acts 9:34); the “straightway” curing of one with internal bleeding for many years (Mark 5:25-29); and many others, without the aid of physicians or man. Also witnessed was the earthquake and release of Paul and Silas from prison (Acts 16); Peter from prison (Acts 12); the smiting of an evil man with blindness (Acts 13); the raising to life of those that were dead (Acts 9); and the immediate transporting of Philip from one place to another (Acts 8). In fact, the miracles were so astonishing when performed by Christ and the apostles that many, through misunderstanding, sought to exalt them inappropriately (Acts 14:12; 28:6; Mark 3:7-12). Even their enemies could not deny the miracles (John 11:47; Acts 4:16).

Spirit Gifts Limited

Acts 2:38-41 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, *and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call*”

In the reference above Peter told the Jews gathered that the “gift of the Holy Spirit” was only temporary in nature:

- “For the promise is to you”—the Jews to whom Peter was speaking.
- “And to your children”—the next generation of believers.
- “And to all that are afar off”—the Gentiles of the first century.

The term “afar off” has been modernized to imply a reference to current times. However, this, again, is not the Biblical definition . This phrase clearly refers to the Gentiles, as the marginal notes and cross-references prove—

Spirit Gifts Limited

Acts 10:44-45

“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, *because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” (Acts 11:15, 18).

39 For the promise is unto you, and ⁱ to your children, and to all that are ^k afar off, <i>even</i> as many as the Lord our God shall call.	& 22. 16. Mark 16. 16. ^g John 9. 8. ^h Mat. 26. 28. ⁱ ch. 3. 25. Is. 54. 13. Joel 2. 28.	asked a1
40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this ^m untoward generation.	^k ch. 10. 45 & 11. 15, 18 & 22. 21. Deut. 29. 15. Eph. 2. 13, 17. Luke 15. 20.	4 And I upon him on us. 5 And them, ex- thing of
41 ¶ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there	^l Luke 14. 7. ^m Deut. 32. 5. Phil. 2. 15. ⁿ ch. 4. 10.	6 Then gold hav I have ; name of zareth ri

Acts 22:20-21 “And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him. And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee *far hence unto the Gentiles.*”

* “Far hence” same word as “afar off.”

Spirit Gifts for Development of Early Believers

Eph. 4:4-14 “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and *gave gifts unto men...*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive”*

- **The spirit-guided apostles, prophets and teachers among the early ecclesia was for the maturity of the brethren. Note the reference to developing unto “a perfect man.”**

Spirit Gifts Limited

Eph. 2:11-18 “Wherefore remember, that ye being *in time past Gentiles in the flesh...were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off* are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one (Jew and Gentile), and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us...And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: *And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh* (Jew and Gentile). For through him we both (Jew and Gentile) have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

- **The term “afar off” refers to the Gentiles, while the term “nigh” relates to the Jews. The latter are close to the Abrahamic Covenant, while the former are distant from it, by nature.**

Spirit Gifts Limited

1Cor. 12:4-11, 28-31 “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues...And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: *and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.*”

Spirit Gifts Limited

1Cor. 13:1-13 “Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing...*but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.* When I was A CHILD, I spake as A CHILD, I understood as A CHILD, I thought as A CHILD: *but when I became a man, I put away childish things.* For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

The “Perfect”—Spiritual Maturity

1 Cor. 2:6 “Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are *perfect (teleioi)*: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:” RV “mature”

Phi. 3:15 “Let us therefore, as many as be *perfect (teleioi)*, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.” RSV, Weymouth “mature”

1Cor. 14:20 “Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be *men (teleioi)*.” RV “full grown”

Heb. 5:13-14 “For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of *full age (teleion)*, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Heb. 6:1-3 “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto *perfection (teliothees)*.”

The “Perfect”—Spiritual Maturity

Mat. 19:20-21 “The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be *perfect (teleios)*, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.”

- It is clear from the Scriptures that Holy Spirit gifts were only temporary in nature. Pentecostals often suggest that the “perfect” refers to the Lord’s return, upon which the Spirit gifts will cease. However, the converse is true—

Heb. 6:4-6 “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, *and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come*, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

The Spirit—God’s Sustaining Spirit

Gen 1:1-3 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. *And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.* And God said, Let there be light: and there was light”

Ecc 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and *the spirit shall return unto God who gave it*”

Num 27:15-16 “And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, Let the LORD, *the God of the spirits of all flesh,* set a man over the congregation”

Job 33:4 “The *Spirit of God hath made me,* and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life”

Job 34:14-15 “If he set his heart upon man, *if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together,* and man shall turn again unto dust”

The Spirit—Divine Teaching

1Jn 4:1-3 “Beloved, *believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:* because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: *Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:* And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: *and this is that spirit of antichrist,* whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world”

Joh 6:63 “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: *the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit,* and *they are life*”

Rev 2:11 “He that hath an ear, *let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;* He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death”