

Resources: from easier to harder

- (1) *Spirit of light*, by Sinclair Ferguson – a **short online article**
<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/spirit-of-light>
- (2) Why I am not a continuationist, by Tim Challies – a **short online article**
<https://www.challies.com/articles/why-i-am-not-continuationist/>
- (3) *Why I am a cessationist*, by Thomas Schreiner – a **short online article**
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/cessationist/>
- (4) *Why I am a cessationist*, by Phil Johnson – **80 minute online lecture**
https://www.youtube.com/embed/3i0iv_L1ngc
- (5) *It all depends upon prophecy: a brief case for nuanced cessationism* by Tom Schreiner – **longer online essay**
<http://themelios.thegospelcoalition.org/article/it-all-depends-upon-prophecy-a-brief-case-for-nuanced-cessationism>
- (6) *A response to Andrew Wilson*, by Tom Schreiner – **longer online essay**
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/a-response-to-andrew-wilson/>
- (7) *Baptism and fullness*, by John Stott – **short and readable book**
- (8) *The Holy Spirit*, by Robert Letham – **long but quite readable book**
- (9) *Perspectives on Pentecost: New Testament teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit*, Richard Gaffin. – **fairly long and quite complex book**
- (10) *The Holy Spirit*, Sinclair Ferguson – **longer and more complex book**

Sunday School – November 2023

The gifts of the Holy Spirit – part 2

1. Introduction

Last week

- Greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is HIMSELF
- The Spirit gives a wide variety of gifts... for the church... gifts of Word or Deeds...

Today

- God gave some gifts only for a limited period: ability to work miracles, gift of revelatory prophecy, and speaking in tongues.
- i.e. “cessation” not “continuation”

Personal experience

Mainly looking at Prophecy. Because...

- NT prophets are linked with apostles.
- Prophecy linked with speaking in languages/tongues.

Key points to remember...

- You won't find a Bible verse that says “some gifts will cease”** like Trinity
- In the Bible miracles come in “patches”** Moses / Judges / Elijah, Elisha / Jesus, Apostles
- We're told that miraculous gifts had a specific purpose**
2 Cor. 12:12, “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs & wonders & mighty works.”

- d) The final NT letters make no reference to miraculous gifts
- e) An observation from church history
- f) God sometimes works through miracles... and always by His providence

1. Defining “Prophet” and “prophecy”

- a) Old Testament prophet: words from God (see Deut. 18:15-22).
- b) In the New Testament...
 - Acts 2: *all Christians* “shall prophesy” (Acts 2:17)
 - Revelation 11: *the church* is “prophesying” (Revelation 11:1-13)
 - The New Testament speaks of *some* “apostles and prophets” (see Ephesians 2:20, 3:4-5, and 4:11)

2. Who were the New Testament prophets?

- a) Associates of the apostles... like Agabus... spoke truth from God

Ephesians 2:20, 3:4-5, and 4:11

Acts 11:27-28, 13:1-2, 21:9-14, 28:17

- foretells “by the Spirit that there would be a great famine”
- “prophets and teachers” through whom the Spirit speaks
- a prophetic sign act (like Ezekiel and Isaiah)
- prophecy fulfilled, Paul “delivered up”

3. Why won’t we find “prophets” in the church today?

- a) The “foundation” has been laid (Ephesians 2:20)
- b) Jesus no longer gives Apostles (Acts 1:21-22) and Prophets
- c) The Bible says it is entirely sufficient revelation from God

Jude 3, “contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all.” (Gk. *hapax* – see 1 Peter 3:18).

See also Hebrews 1:1-3. And WCF 1.1, 1.6, 1.10, 20:2

4. Dangers of seeking a new word from God

5. The Spirit works in power to bring us God’s word

- a) the Word preached is in SOME ways like NT prophecy
- b) when we RECEIVE God’s Word the Spirit is at work in us: not revelation but ILLUMINATION. God is speaking