

VICTORIOUS LIFE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY SERIES: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS- UNLEASHING YOUR POTENTIAL IN THE SPIRIT. BISHOP WILLIAM LEE

MANIFESTATION GIFTS PART 2

In this session we will continue to discuss manifestation Gifts. These are

Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Discernment of Spirits Faith, Prophecy, Gifts of Healing, Working of Miracles, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

In this lesson we are going to address some of the more controversial aspects of the manifestation gifts and attempt to offer some Biblical insight in these matters

I. The Permanence of Manifestation Gifts (The Controversy Surrounding)

1 Corinthians 13:8-12 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Controversy- Cessation of Gifts

1. Many Non-Pentecostal teachers use this passage as a proof text to support their view that the manifestation gifts are not valid Christian experiences for today.
2. The claim of this view is that the manifestation gifts are transitory gifts given by God to establish and guide the church during the time prior to the completion of the New Testament.
3. The Theory states that somewhere near the end of the first century, these gifts ceased with the death of the Apostles and the writing of the final New Testament Book.

Arguments against the Doctrine of Gift Cessation

1. Contextual Argument

- a. The Context of 1 Corinthians does not support this doctrine.
- b. The gifts will cease “when perfection comes.”

c. The “two-age motif” of Paul’s Theology is seen in this passage through the use of the words now and then.

Now- refers to the time of imperfection, during which time the manifestation gifts will occur.
Then- refers to the perfect state when all gifts will cease.

d. The time of perfection is described as a time when the believer’s character and knowledge will be complete and perfect. This is an obvious reference to the consumption of the kingdom of God in Christ’s return. This fact is implied in 1 Corinthians 1:7

I Corinthians 1:4-8 “I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. Conceptual Argument

a. It is the nature of inspiration that the writers of scripture express eternal truth in the vocabulary, thought patterns and concepts that were familiar to them.

b. From his writings, there is no basis for us to assume that Paul saw an end of an apostolic era or a completed New Testament, followed by a long period of supernatural inactivity.

3. Corroboration Argument

a. The doctrine of gift-cessation, if a valid interpretation, would have to be considered a major New Testament teaching.

b. All major New Testament teachings are always confirmed through a number of supportive passages by a variety of writers. There is no other New Testament passage that corroborates the gift-cessation doctrine.

4. Historical Argument

a. The doctrine of gift-cessation does not agree with historical facts.

b. There has not been one generation since Pentecost that has not witnessed the operation of manifestation gifts

c. The Conclusion we must reach is that the manifestation gifts are valid until the perfect state of all things arrives with the return of Christ.

II. Understanding the Two Types of Tongues in the New Testament

Without an understanding that there are two types of speaking in tongues much of the scriptural teaching on this subject will seem confusing and contradictory.

Devotional Tongues: This type of tongues is for the believers personal life.

Devotional Tongues need no interpretation because the person is speaking to God not man.

1 Corinthians 14:22 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.

When a person is praying in tongues, spiritual communication is occurring even though he has no mental understanding of what he is saying.

1 Corinthians 14:44 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

They edify the speaker but have no edification in public ministry.

1 Corinthians 14:5-6 “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.6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?”

1 Corinthians 14:99 “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.”

1 Corinthians 14:16-19 “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.”

1 Corinthians 14:27-28 “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. 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.”

The Gift of Tongues

1. This is one of the nine manifestation gifts that is always accompanied by its sister gift-interpretation
2. The gift of tongues occur when God desires to speak to His people in a special super natural way.
3. The gift of tongues is proper in public ministry when it is accompanied by the gift of interpretation.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28.27 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.28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.4. Tongues and interpretation together have the same edification value for the body of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 14:5

“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 Functional Difference between devotional tongues and the gift of tongues

1. Devotional tongues are intended for private use and are communication directed toward God.
2. The Gift of tongues are intended for public ministry and in communicated from God toward man.

The meaning of two Key Verses

1. **1 Corinthians 12:30 “do all speak with tongues?”** The implied answer is no and is a reference to the gift of tongues.
2. **1 Corinthians 14:5 “I would that every one of you speak in tongues”** is in reference to *devotional tongues*.

III. Biblical Guidelines Concerning the Inspirational Gifts

Paul’s instruction in 1 Corinthians 14, which are in response to the Corinthian problem, give us guidelines for prophecy, tongues and interpretation in public worship.

1. Public manifestation of tongues must be accompanied by interpretation when one is speaking to the congregation or leading the congregation in prayer.

1 Corinthians 14:5 “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.”

V. 12 “Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.”

1 Corinthians 14:16 “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?”

V.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.”

2. If no interpretation follows the manifestation of tongues, the speaker should speak quietly within himself to God

1 Corinthians 14:18 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

THERE MUST BE BALANCE AND ORDER IN THE USE OF TONGUES.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28 “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. **28** But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.”

Concerning Prophecy

1. Prophetic utterances should be limited in public worship

1 Corinthians 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.**2.** Others should discern the validity of the utterance

1 Corinthians 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.**3.** There should be order and consideration in prophetic utterances in public worship.

1 Corinthians 14:30-33 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.**32** And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.**33** For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Conclusion: We have now covered the subject of Manifestation Gifts. In the next session we will turn our attention to Ephesians 4:11 and examine Ministry Gifts.