

THE TRANSITION PERIOD OF THE CHURCH

Spiritual gifts played an important role in the Transition Period of the Church.

The Transition Period of the Church involved the following SEVEN changes:

§ a change of	Dispensations	(Jewish to Church Age),
§ a change of	Priesthood	(Levitical to Royal),
§ a change of	Divine agency	(Priest nation to church body),
§ a change of	Covenants	(Old to New),
§ a change of	Canon of Scriptures	(Partial to completion of Bible),
§ a change in	Advents of Christ	(First to Second), and
§ a change in	Ministry of Holy Spirit	(Temporary to permanent).

This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of the role that spiritual gifts played in the Transitional Period and entrance of the Church Age.

1. There are three special dates and historical events associated with the role of spiritual gifts in the Transition Period of the Church Age.

- § **30 AD:** The Ascension-Session of Jesus Christ:
All **19 spiritual gifts were active in the church** (Eph.4:8).
- § **70 AD:** The Fall of Jerusalem to Rome (5th cycle / sign) (1 Cor.1:22; 14:21-22; Isa.28:9-11)
2 spiritual gifts ceased: _____ and _____ leaving **17** (1 Cor.13:8-10).
- § **100 AD:** The Completion of the Canon of Scriptures (1 Cor.13:8-12; James 1:25)
8 spiritual gifts were abolished: _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, and _____ leaving **9** (1 Cor.12:8-10).

2. As a result His Ascension-Session, Jesus Christ fulfilled His promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matt.3:11; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; 2:33; Eph.4:8).

Jesus' baptism of the Holy Spirit is part of the parakletos (comforter) ministry of the Holy Spirit described in John 14-16.

It involves the following 8 works of the Holy Spirit in grace salvation.

Regeneration (Titus 3:5-7)	Spiritual Life (Rom.8:9-11)	Seals and Earnest (2 Cor.1:22)
Adoption (Rom.8:14-17)	Spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12:11)	Baptism (1 Cor.12:13)
Indwelling (1 Cor.6:19-20)	Sanctification (2 Thess.2:13-14)	

Note that 1 of the 8 parakletos ministries involves giving every church age believer a spiritual gift at the moment of salvation (1 Cor.12:11-13).

The Book of Acts teaches and the role of spiritual gifts in the formation of the Church of Jesus Christ in the world during the Transition Period of the Church (Acts 1:4-5; 2:33).

3. The formation of the Church, the Body of Christ began in Jerusalem and received the commission of dispensational custodians of evangelism and of the teaching of the Word of God (Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:7-8; 2:41, 47).

19 spiritual gifts were given to form the initial Body of Christ and to equip it to minister to both the Church and to the world by means of the supernatural indwelling of God The Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.6:19-20; 12:4-6, 11,18, 24, 28).

The formation of the Church of Jesus Christ began at Pentecost (Acts 2) in 30AD with 120 believers and 19 spiritual gifts (Acts 1:15).

4. Each church age Believer is a royal priest and is given a spiritually gifted ministry, at salvation by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of ministering to the body of Christ, the Church (1 Cor.12:12-27; Rom.12:4-6; 15:16).

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever **SPEAKS**, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever **SERVES**, let him do so as by the strength, which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Pet.4:10-11)

The following two categories of spiritual gifts are establishes in 1 Pet.4:10-11: Speaking and Serving.

Speaking: _____ and _____.

Serving: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, and _____ (Rom.12:7-8; 1 Cor.12:28).

5. Peter reminds us that a change of priesthood, during the Transition Period was where Spiritual gifted ministries become important.

There was the change from the Jewish Age - Leviticus priesthood to Church Age - Royal priesthood (Ex.19:6; 1 Pet.2:5, 9; 4:10).

During the Jewish Age, the Leviticus priesthood dealt with shadow Christology (Heb.5-10; Heb.6:1).

During the Church Age, the Royal priesthood deals with historical Christology. Church Age Royal priests serve under the New Covenant (Heb.10:13)

“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Pet.2:5).

6. Spiritual gifts formed the Body of Christ and as such were part of the “mystery doctrines” of the Church.

Mystery (musterion) doctrines were not clearly seen in the OT Scriptures. They were brought to revelation in the NT Scriptures (Eph.1:9-10; 2:18-22; 3:3-10; 5:29-32).

7. Spiritual gifts were the divine credentials of the authenticity of the Church of Jesus Christ to the world (30-100 AD) (Acts 2:1-13; 2 Cor.12:11-12).

“God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.” (Heb.2:4)