

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND TRANSITION PERIOD

The transition period of the church age involved the following ten changes of which one is Spiritual Gifts. "He takes away the first in order to establish the second." (Heb.10:9b)

A Change in Dispensations	Jewish Age to Church Age
A Change in Divine Agency	Priest nation to Church body
A Change in Canon of Scripture	OT to the Completed Bible
A Change in Ministry of Holy Spirit	Beside to Inside
A Change in Christology	Shadow to Historical
A Change in Priesthood	Levitical to Royal
A Change in Covenants	Old to New
A Change in Advent of Christ	First to Second
A Change in Believers	Ungifted to All gifted
A Change in Gospel	Prophetic to Historical

This lesson will study five aspects of the role of spiritual gifts in the transition period of the Church Age.

- 1. These ten transitional changes are very important to understanding the importance of the role of spiritual gifts.**

In the dispensation of the Jewish age, only certain believers were spiritually gifted by the Holy Spirit for specific tasks within the plan of God and then the Holy Spirit and the gifted ministry could be removed.

OT King Saul was one example – "Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him." (1 Sam.16:14)

NT believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at salvation and He will never leave them (John 7:38-39; Gal.3:1-5; 1 Cor.6:19-20) – "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever." (John 14:16)

- 2. Because spiritual gifts are an essential part of the church age, they are included as part of the mystery doctrines of the church (Eph.1:9-10; 2:18-22; 3:10-10; 4:11-16; 5:22-33).**

Mystery (mysterion) doctrines were not clearly seen in the OT but were brought to revelation in the NT – "And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge." (1 Cor.13:2, 9-10)

Spiritual gifts are 1 of these 10 divine credentials of the authenticity of the Church of Jesus Christ as God divine agency in a specific period of biblical history to the world – "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 will." (Heb.2:4; 2 Cor.12:11-12)

- 3. Three special dates and events are associated with the role of spiritual gifts in the transition period of the church age.**

30AD and ascension-session of Jesus Christ resulted in the Holy Spirit distributing **19 spiritual gifts** for the

initial composition of the church on earth. (Acts 1:9-11; 2:1-4, 33) – “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.” (Eph.4:8; 1 Cor.12:8-10, 28-30; Rom.12:6-8; Eph.4:11).

70AD and fall of Jerusalem to Rome resulted in 2 spiritual gifts ceasing (pauo / f.p.ind / intransitive) [ceasing by something inside] leaving **17 spiritual gifts** (1 Cor.1:22; 13:8-10; 14:21-22; Isa.28:9-11) – “So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers.” (14:2) **two gifts:** _____ and _____

100AD and the completion of the Canon of Scripture resulted in 8 spiritual gifts being done away (katargeo / f.p.ind / transitive) [done away by something outside] leaving **9 spiritual gifts.** (1 Cor.12:8-10; 13:8-10; James 1:25). “But when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.” (1 Cor.13:10)

Eight gifts: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____ (1 Cor.12:8-10; 4:9)

4. After 100AD and the death of the apostles, the church of Jesus Christ consists of 9 spiritual gifts and a completed Canon of Scriptures.

“For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.” (1 Cor.4:9).

You can see the church started at Pentecost (Acts) underwent several changes during the transition period to get us where we are today – “And at this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about 120 persons was there together).” (Acts 1:15)

The formation of the church of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem was commissioned with the responsibility of evangelism of the world and teaching the word of God to the spiritually gifted body of believers thought-out the world (Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:4-8; 2:41- 42, 47) **[DSBC in Birmingham, Alabama].**

Remember that these changes have been part of 10 major changes to bring us to this place in biblical history. “When He said, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.” (Heb.9:13)

5. This spiritual gifted mature church has been assigned the responsibility as the divine agency of God to minister in the world between the First and Second Comings of Jesus Christ.

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” (1 Cor.11:26)

Under the principle of God’s grace, the church cannot lose anything in the plan of God. Therefore the church didn’t lose anything of significance in the plan of God when the 10 spiritual gifts became inoperative in the church.

However the church age believer does lose something when he does not seriously study the Canon of Scriptures regarding spiritual gifts – “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware (agnoeo / p.a.infin) [ignorant / uninformed is often misinformed].”(1 Cor.12:1).

“Once the credibility of the witness of the apostles had been established, and the canon of the New Testament had been completed, there was not the same necessity for the exercise of the miraculous, spectacular gifts which gradually became less prominent.” (Holy Spirit and His Gifts by O.J.Sanders, pg.111)