

## Non-Essential: The Baptism of the Spirit

*Wherein our heroes become dancing kings and queens, interpret tongues by starting "Oh my children..." and get slain, in a good way. Or not.*

There are two main theological views the majority hold:

**Cessationist** – “is the doctrine that spiritual gifts such as speaking in tongues, prophecy and healing ceased with the original twelve apostles...They provided supernatural confirmation of the apostolic authority of the early church; They helped lay the foundation for the church; and They gave divine guidance to early believers while the New Testament was not yet complete... [and with the] written revelation having now been completed... any supernatural sign [would be] unnecessary.”

- Total – Conservative Baptists, Reformed. Sola Scriptura replaces all signs/ wonders.
- Moderate – Bretheren, Mennonites. Possibly in the future millennial kingdom\*.

**Continuationism** – “is a Christian theological belief that the gifts of the Holy Spirit have continued to this present age, specifically those sometimes called "sign gifts" such as tongues and prophecy.”

- Pentacostal – “emerged in the early 20th century among [Holiness and Revivalists]... Believing that they were living in the end times, they expected God to spiritually renew the Christian Church thereby bringing

to pass the **restoration of spiritual gifts** and the evangelization of the world... virtually all Pentecostal denominations trace their origins to Azusa Street...”

## Gifts After The Apostles?

**Yes:** *Justin Martyr* (100-165), said, “If you want proof that the Spirit of God...come into our assemblies and there you will see Him cast out demons, heal the sick, and hear Him speak in tongues and prophesy.”

**Yes:** *Irenaeus* (130-202), says, “...we also hear many brethren in the church who possess prophetic gifts, and who through the Spirit speak all kinds of languages, and bring to light, for the general benefit, the hidden things of men and declare the mysteries of God” (*Against Heresies*, Book V, vi.)

**Confused:** *Origen* (184-253), believed the signs to be temporary and ended, but said he was an eye witness to exorcism, healing and prophecy.

**No:** *Chrysostom* (349-407), of tongues, “And why do they not happen now? ...the cause too of the obscurity hath produced us again another question: namely, why did they then happen, and now do so no more?”.

**Some:** *Augustine* (354-430) said Tongues were no longer spoken but miracles did but weren't as spectacular (*City of God* Book XXII, 8-9).

**No:** *Jonathan Edwards* (1703-1758), “Since the canon of the Scripture has been completed, and the Christian Church fully founded and established, these extraordinary gifts have ceased” (*Charity & its Fruits*, 29)

The gifts do seem to fade out of public worship. At least the miraculous ones do. But is that the whole story?

### The Gifts of the Spirit

There are as many a lot of different gifts of the Spirit in the New Testament (NIV) and possibly more:

Celibacy (1 Cor 7:7)  
 Distinguishing Spirits / Discernment(1 Cor 12:10)  
 Encouragement (Rom 12:7)  
 Faith (1 Cor 12:9)  
 Giving (Rom 12:8)  
 Healing (1 Cor 12:9)  
 Hospitality (I Pet 4:9)  
 Interpretation of Tongues (1 Cor 12:10)  
 Knowledge (1 Cor 12:8)  
 Leading (Rom 12:8)  
 Mercy (Rom 12:8)  
 Miraculous Powers (1 Cor 12:10)  
 Prophecy (Rom 12:6, 1 Cor 12:10)  
 Service (Rom 12:6, 1 Pet 4:11)  
 Speaking (/Preaching or Teaching?) (I Pet 4:11)  
 Teaching (Rom 12:7)  
 Tongues (1 Cor 12:10)  
 Wisdom (1 Cor 12:8)

- Did Tongues, Miracles, Healing end? Maybe.
- Did Mercy, Giving, Teaching, Wisdom, Encouragement, Celibacy, etc end? Nope.
- Did Discernment end? Even to this day for some. smh

Bottom line: no one thinks **ALL** the gifts ended. Why some would end and others not end is unknown. That some seem to fade out and others did not is a fact of history, though.

### I Have The Power!

Acts 8:9-22, and specifically in 18-22, this happens: *“When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”*

The key here is: *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines” (I Cor 12:4-6, 11)*

We cannot buy, force, coerce, or intimidate the Spirit into “giving” us gifts.

### What Are the Gifts For?

Paul says, “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Cor 12:7)

How can gifts – for the common good – divide us? They shouldn’t, whatever you believe.

## Essential: The Godhood of the Holy Spirit

The Bible tells us (in both the Old and New Testament that God is:

**Omniscient** – Knows Everything (Is 46:9b-10, Duet 29:29)

*“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”* (Heb 4:13)

**Omnipresent** – Everywhere / Everywhen<sup>o</sup>

*“Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.”* (Ps 139:7-10)

**Omnipotent** – All Powerful/ Almighty

*“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:  
“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns...”*  
(Rev 19:6)

## What About The Holy Spirit?

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19)

Having the Spirit’s name / title show up in the Great Commission is a good place to start. But a theology as important as the Trinity should have more evidence than a single verse, right?

To be God, the Spirit must have all three of the prior attributes. Does it?

### Omniscient

Knows Everything: “The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” (1 Cor 2:10b-11)

### Omnipresent

Everywhere:

“Where can I go from *your Spirit*?

Where can I flee from your presence?” (Ps 139:7, *emphasis mine*)

Everywhen<sup>o</sup> :

“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the *eternal Spirit* offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” (Hebrews 9:14, *emphasis mine*)

The Nature of Everything p2

## Omnipotent

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” (Gen 1:1-2), *in conjunction with John 1 we see that creation was completed through God, with the Holy Spirit (Gen1 ), and God, with Jesus (Jn 1), and all three are different persons. One substance, three persons.*

Even better, the Bible straight calls the Spirit, God: “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have **lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land... You have not **lied** just to human beings but **to God.**” (Acts 5:3-4, emphasis mine)

## Trinitarian References

Some may think that is the only passage that has all three of the persons of the Trinity together. That’s not true.

“The angel answered, “The **Holy Spirit** will come on you, and the power of the **Most High** will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God.**” (Lu 1:35)

“To God’s elect...who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, through the sanctifying work of the **Spirit**, to be obedient to **Jesus Christ** and sprinkled with his blood...” (1 Pet 1:1-2)

“We continually ask **God** to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the **Spirit** gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the **Lord** and please him in every way...” (Col 1:9)

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of **God**... and who through the **Spirit** of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: **Jesus Christ our Lord.**” (Romans 1:3-4)

“And you also were included in **Christ** when you heard the message of truth...you were marked in him with a seal, the promised **Holy Spirit**, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are **God’s** possession...(Ephesians 1:13-14)

“But you, dear friends, by ...praying in the **Holy Spirit**, keep yourselves in **God’s** love as you wait for the mercy of our **Lord Jesus Christ** to bring you to eternal life.” (Jude 1:20)

### Food For Thought:

- Can someone believe that the miraculous gifts of the spirit are still in existence today and still be a Christian?
- Can someone believe that the miraculous gifts of the spirit have ceased and still be a Christian?
- Can someone believe that the Holy Spirit is not God and still be a Christian?