

A Family Debate on Our Spiritual Gifts Approach

Romans 12:3-8

Read Romans 12:3-8

1.) Cessationism- The Teaching That Some of the Miraculous Gifts Have Ceased.

A.) The Textual Argument

1 Corinthians 13:8-9

2 Corinthians 12:12

B.) The Experiential Argument

C.) The Theological Argument

2.) Continuationism- The Gifts and Offices Active in the New Testament are Active Today

A.) The Textual Argument

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

1 Corinthians 14:1-2

B.) The Experiential Argument

"There is, indeed, a discrepancy between our experience and what is described in the NT. But the apostles were also far more successful at evangelism. And church planting. And leadership. And cross-cultural mission. And church discipline...And teaching. And standing firm under persecution. And selling their possessions and giving to the poor. And handling disappointment in ministry...the fact that they saw things way beyond what we see them does not mean that what we are seeing today though smaller is not real. It does not mean we should to strive to grow in all of those areas to be more like they were." –Andrew Wilson

"Justin Martyr claimed, 'The prophetic gifts remain with us, even to the present time.' Irenaeus said, 'Those who are in truth his disciples' performed miracles according to the gift given them, including driving out demons, seeing visions, uttering prophetic expressions, healing the sick, raising the dead, speaking in other languages, and declaring the mysteries of God. (Eusebius uses this excerpt to demonstrate that 'various gifts remained among those who were worthy even until that time.') Tertullian trash-talks Marcion, like Elijah on Mount Carmel, by daring his god to predict things to come, make manifest the secrets of the heart, interpret tongues or prophesy, before claiming that 'all these signs are forthcoming from my side without any difficulty. Origen regarded the scope of the gifts as having diminished but certainly not disappeared: 'there are still preserved among Christians traces of that Holy Spirit which appeared in the form of a dove. They expel evil spirits, and perform many cures, and foresee certain events, according to the will of the Logos.' Basil the Great said, 'The Spirit enlightens all, inspires prophets, gives wisdom to lawmakers, consecrates priests, empowers kings, perfects the just, exalts the prudent, is active in gifts of healing, gives life to the dead, frees those in bondage, turns foreigners into adopted sons.' Cyril of Jerusalem explained, 'He employs the tongue of one man for wisdom; the soul of another he enlightens by prophecy; to another he gives power to drive away devils.' And Augustine, as we know, lists an extraordinary range of healings from blindness, rectal fistula, breast cancer, gout, paralysis, hernia, demonization and even death." —Andrew Wilson

C.) The Theological Argument

Romans 12:6