

Spiritual Gifts 2—View Timeframes

I. Introduction.

- A. **Do you care about spiritual gifts?**
- B. Argue for or against: **All** "the spiritual **Gifts**" are **miraculous** and accomplish miraculous purposes!
- C. The chart below provides a summary of the 3 main views of **how many** of "the spiritual **Gifts**" **were** and **are still active** today.

View	Active Early	Active Today	Ceased Today	Church
1	All	All : Continuationism	None	Charismatic, Pentecostal, some others
2	All	Some : Partial Cessationism	Some	Southern Baptist, most other denominations
3	All	None : Cessationism	All	Often the "Unknown View"

- D. Summary chart of the **3 main views** shown by **miraculous** (sign) and **ministry** Gifts (of whether active or ceased today).

	Miraculous (Sign)	Ministry
Active	View 1	Views 1 & 2
Ceased	Views 2 & 3	View 3

II. Scripture.

- A. **When** will Spiritual **Gifts** **cease**? When "*that which is perfect is come...*" (**1Co. 13:10**). What does that mean? **3 main views**:
 1. **Canon Closed** (66 Books of the Bible completed).
 2. **Church Matured** (Birthed/Growing).
 3. **Christ Returns** (Church Rapture).
- B. **sGs** seen historically in the **Church**?
 1. **All** "the **Spiritual** **Gifts**" were **Active**.
 2. **sGs** very active in the early Church.
 - a. **Acts 2:43**—"And fear came upon every soul: and **many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles.**" **Acts 4:33** (cf. **4:29-32**)—"And with **great power gave the Apostles**

witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." Acts 5:12—"And by the hands of the Apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch." Acts 6:8—"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." Acts 8:6-7—"6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed." Acts 14:3—"Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the Word of His grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands."

- b. Acts 5:15—"Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them." Acts 9:36-42—"32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. 32 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. 34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. 35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord. 36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did. 37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. 38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. 41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called

the saints and widows, **presented her alive.** ⁴²And it was known throughout all Joppa; and **many believed in the Lord.**"

- c. **Acts 19:11-12**—"11And **God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:** ¹²So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." **Acts 20:9-10, 12**—"9And there sat in a window a certain young man named **Eutychus**, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and **fell down** from the third loft, and was taken up **dead.** ¹⁰And **Paul** went down, and fell on him, and **embracing him** said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. ¹²And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted."
- d. **Acts 14:8-11**—"8And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being **a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:** ⁹The same heard **Paul** speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰**Said** with a loud voice, '**Stand upright** on thy feet.' **And he leaped and walked.** ¹¹And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, 'The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.'"
- e. **Acts 5:16**—"There came also **a multitude out of** the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing **sick folks**, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they **were healed everyone.**"
3. **SGs conspicuously absent after the Church was established.**
- a. **Php. 2:25-27, 30**—"25Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you **Epaphroditus**, my brother, and companion in labor, and fellow-soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. ²⁶For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that **he had been sick.** ²⁷For indeed **he was sick nigh unto death:** but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ³⁰**Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death,** not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me."

- b. **1Ti. 5:23**—“*Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.*”
- c. **2Ti. 4:20**—“*Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.*”

III. Application.

- A. **Discuss your view** and rationale whether “the Spiritual **Gifts**” are **active today** (like in the early church) with a neighbor.
- B. Understand **practically your responsibility is the same** regardless of your view.
- C. **Do not** let anyone make you **feel guilty or fearful when you are sincerely serving Christ.**