

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ...

1 · Continuationism versus Cessationism



Comments	Scripture
----------	-----------

When we look at the Bible, we find one answer. But when we absorb modern theological teachings, we find two answers and many nuances. Is it adequate to have different 'perspectives' on Spiritual Gifts, when there is only one biblical truth?

Let us therefore bring all the relevant Bible verses together, and reflect on this important topic from both perspectives.

Index	Page 1	Intro	Prologue
			Index
	Page 2	Study	Bible verses – appearing to speak for Cessationism.
			Bible verses – clearly speaking against Cessationism.
	Page 3	Last Days	Definition Of 'Last Days / This Age / This Generation'
			Epilogue

The Comparison	A) Bible verses – appearing to speak for Cessationism.		
	In Numbers 11:25, we find a one-time occurrence in the Old Covenant [-1446 BC]. Many prophets continued afterwards and still today gifts can be temporal as in this example.	<i>Then KYRIOS came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the SPIRIT that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the SPIRIT rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.</i>	<u>Num 11:25</u>
	No matter if ' the perfect ' refers to: A) Human perfection, B) CHRISTOS' Second Coming or rather C) Final Salvation with perfected bodies, a glorious New Jerusalem and a perfect worship towards THEOS, it clearly points to the age after the current age – Eternity. It becomes clear that it cannot point to the time of the Apostles, because 'The Perfect One' had already come and humanity was (and obviously still is) far away from perfection.	<i>Love never ends. But if there are prophecies, they will pass away. If there are tongues, they will cease. If there is knowledge, it will pass away [we still have knowledge ...]. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but whenever the perfect [adjective, not noun; TEAEIOC, Strong's G5056; complete (-ness), of full age, man, perfect] comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I set aside the things of a child. For now we see through a mirror indirectly, but then face to face. Now I know in part [the perfect has not yet come nor are we able to see 'THEOS face to face], but then I will know completely, just as I have also been completely known. And now these three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.</i>	<u>1Cor 13:8-13</u>
	Eph 2:20 uses metaphors such as 'cornerstone' or 'temple', and does also not speak of actual gifts, but of time periods. 'Law' stands for the Pentateuch, 'Prophets' is meant to denote the remainder of the Old Testament, 'Apostles' is meant to denote the Evangelium & Acts. The gift of prophecy continues today, as visible through Paul's letters.	<i>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of THEOS, built on the foundation of the apostles [denoting the 4 Good Message & Acts, -NOT- the office of an apostle] and prophets [denoting the remainder of the Old Testament, -NOT- speak-ing of the office of a prophet], CHRISTOS IESOUS himself being the cornerstone [metaphor, so the other words need to be interpreted in the same way], in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple [once again a metaphor] in KYRIOS.</i>	<u>Eph 2:19-21</u>



Comments	Scripture	
B) Bible verses – clearly speaking against Cessationism.		
Verses written in Present Tense and clearly speaking to the reader of the Bible and not exclusively to the contemporaries of the Bible authors. If gifts would have ceased, we would have no one who teaches, who leads, shows mercy, or who gives in an extraordinary manner. We should not reject gifts that make us uncomfortable. Gifts are assigned in the timing and proportion the HOLY SPIRIT desires.	<i>The one receiving [Participle, Present Tense] a prophet in authority of a prophet, will receive a reward of a prophet [Future Tense]. And the one receiving a just one in name of a just, will receive [Future Tense] a reward of a just. And whoever, merely in name of a disciple, should give to drink a cold cup to one of these small ones, truly I say to you: He should not even lose his reward."</i>	<i><u>Mat 10:41-42</u></i>
	<i>... we who are many are one body in CHRISTOS [...] but having different Gifts according to the grace given to us: if it is prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if it is service, by service; if it is one who teaches, by teaching; if it is one who exhorts, by exhortation; one who gives, with sincerity; one who leads, with diligence; one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.</i>	<i><u>Rom 12:4-8</u></i>
Clear association of gifts with the New Covenant.	<i>[Paul to Gentile Christians] Pursue love, and strive for SPIRITual Gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For the one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to THEOS, because no one understands, but by the SPIRIT he speaks mysteries. But the one who prophesies speaks to people edification and encouragement and consolation.</i>	<i><u>1Cor 14:1</u></i>
	<i>In this way also you, since you are zealous of Spiritual Gifts, seek for the edification of the church, in order that you may abound.</i>	<i><u>1Cor 14:12</u></i>
	<i>Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Just as each one has received a Gift, use it for serving one another, as good stewards of the varied grace of THEOS. If anyone speaks, let it be as the oracles of THEOS; if anyone serves, let it be as by the strength that THEOS provides, so that in all things THEOS will be glorified through IESOUS CHRISTOS, to whom is the glory and the power forever and ever.</i>	<i><u>1Pet 4:9-11</u></i>
The 4 smoking guns.	<i>... do not lack in any Spiritual Gift as you eagerly await [Progressive Tense; clearly speaking to us] the revelation of our KYRIOS IESOUS CHRISTOS [clearly Second Coming], who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our KYRIOS IESOUS CHRISTOS.</i>	<i><u>1Cor 1:7-8</u></i>
	<i>Whenever you come together [Refers to an assembly of believers for worship], each one of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. All things must be done for edification.</i>	<i><u>1Cor 14:26</u></i>
	<i>So then, my brothers, desire to prophesy, and do not prevent speaking with tongues.</i>	<i><u>1Cor 14:39</u></i>
	<i>‘And it will be in the last days [meaning the time from IESOUS’ First until Second Coming; see below the detailed definition of ‘last days’],’ THEOS says, ‘I will [= after Pentecost] pour out my SPIRIT on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy [= the descendants of those present at Pentecost], and your young men [up to biblical adulthood of 20 years] will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. And even on my male slaves [servants of THEOS] and on my female slaves [no repetition, but simply an additional emphasis on the inclusion of women in receiving those gifts – also providing another proof for the present application of Spiritual Gifts because very few women initially received Spiritual Gifts!] I will pour out my SPIRIT in those days, and they will prophesy.</i>	<i><u>Act 2:17</u></i>



Comments	Scripture
Definition Of The 'Last Days'	Generations
	... Remember days of old ; consider years of a generation of generations [Age 1; a 'generation of generations' is = one age = 'days of old'] ; ask your father [...] When the Most High was apportioning nations [creation] ... <i>Deu 32:6-9</i>
	Truly I say to you that this generation [same principle as Deu 32:6-9 above; 'generation' here referring to a set of several human generations (the New Covenant generation of followers of CHRISTOS); not to one human generation as sometimes misinterpreted!] will never pass away until all these things take place [Age 2]! <i>Mat 24:34</i> <i>Mar 13:30</i>
	But ye are a chosen generation [Age 2] , a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light ... <i>1Pet 2:9</i>
	This Age
	... go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT; teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you [through the HOLY SPIRIT] all the days until the end of the age [Age 2]. " <i>Mat 28:20</i>
	And IESOUS answering said to them, 'The sons of this age [Age 2] do marry and are given in marriage, but those accounted worthy to obtain that age [Age 3, Eternity] , and the rising again that is out of the dead , neither marry, nor are they given in marriage ... <i>Luk 20:34-35</i>
	Over-above all principality, authority, and power, and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this age [Age 2] , but also in the coming one [Age 3] ... <i>Eph 1:21</i>
	... now He has appeared once at the end of the ages [plural = Age 1 + 2] for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself. <i>Heb 9:26</i>
	The Last Days
	... in the last days , THEOS says, 'I will pour out my SPIRIT on all flesh [Age 2] ... <i>Act 2:17</i>
	Although THEOS spoke long ago in many parts and in many ways to the fathers by the prophets [Age 1] , in these last days [Age 2] He has spoken to us by a SON [...] You, KYRIOS, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning [Age 1] , and the heavens are the works of your hands; they will perish [Initiating Age 3] [...] Are they not all spirits engaged in special service, sent on assignment for the sake of those who are going to inherit salvation [Age 3] ? <i>Heb 1:1-4</i>
	But know this, that in the last days [Age 2] difficult times will come [progressive = clear proof that the we are still in the very same age / 'last days' the Spiritual Gifts are applied to] , for people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, hardhearted, irreconcilable, slanderous, without self-control [applies with great precision to today]... <i>2Tim 3:1-6</i>
	... who [CHRISTOS] was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has been revealed in these last times [Age 2] ; He did not state to be THEOS until His trial] ... <i>1Pet 1:20</i>
	Now the end of all things draws near [Age 3] . Therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for your prayers. <i>1Pet 4:7</i>

Epilogue

We notice with surprise that many well-educated scholars and teachers share the theology of Cessationism, even though the Bible pre-empties such discussions through the beforehand listed verses and even though most cessationists concede that there is no definitive teaching in Scripture that gifts have ceased - with the consequence that cessationism must be inferred.

Often, a noble thought of criticizing the abuse of Spiritual Gifts is associated with the rejection of Spiritual Gifts, but this is a fundamental error, because the reference for THEOS' truth can never be evil (abuse), but always His perfect will (correct use).

We are to judge and correct those brothers and sisters who abuse Spiritual Gifts, but we quickly assume a heretical and almost blasphemous position if we try to assume the role of the ultimate judge by intending to abolish certain uncomfortable principles and elementary functions of His church.

Christianity was never meant to be a comfort-zone, but a body of Christ where every single member is regularly challenged for growth. Those challenges regularly occur through other believers who use their gifts in order to shape us into perfection.

