



PRIORITIES

A SERIES ON PENTECOSTALISM

THE AVAILABILITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.
²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt
²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good,
²² reject every kind of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Cessationists are believers that uniquely believe that spiritual gifts ended with the age of the apostles

Continuationists are believers that uniquely believe that all the spiritual gifts have continued until the present age

The Holy Spirit is available to more people than the twelve apostles, the one-hundred and twenty that gathered at Pentecost or the members of the church in Corinth. The Holy Spirit is available to all believers, transcending church history and spreading throughout the world.

There is no expiry date on
the ministry of the Holy Spirit

There are four lists provided in the New Testament:

- Romans 12:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 28-30
- Ephesians 4:11-13
- 1 Peter 4:10-11

There are at least twenty distinct spiritual gifts:

Encouragement, giving, leadership, mercy, service, administration, discernment, healing, tongues, interpretation, prophecy, wisdom, faith, helps, knowledge, miracles, apostle, evangelist, prophet, pastor-teacher



1) A Congregation That Quenches the Spirit

(vs. 19)

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

“There is a strong indication that the assembly at Thessalonica erred in the opposite extreme [of the assembly at Corinth by] suppressing and despising inspired utterances”

- Donald Gee -

Spiritually vital congregations
adapt to the moving of the Holy
Spirit instead of making the Holy
Spirit adapt to them

It is better to explore your
spiritual gifts and make mistakes
than to quench your gifts
altogether



2) A Congregation that is Contemptuous Against the Spirit (vs. 20)

²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt

1 Thessalonians 5:20

This word “contempt” brings
to mind a legal offense

Paul is warning the Thessalonians
that a critical spirit is a spiritual
offence against the Holy Spirit

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:29-30

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

James 3:9



3) A Congregation That Tests the Spirits (vs. 21-22)

²¹ But test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

While we can be inspired by the
Holy Spirit, our words are not
infallible like God's Word

We speak plainly so that others
may understand plainly



A) The Discernment Test

The body of Christ has a basic level of discernment because the Holy Spirit resides within each member

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Your preferences must be
discarded when exercising your
spiritual gifts

When in doubt, we must be able
to look to our church leaders for
discernment in the moment

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

1 Corinthians 14:29



B) The Scripture Test

With the New Testament epistles,
we have scriptures against which
we can compare our corporate
experiences

And we also thank God continually because,
when you received the word of God,
which you heard from us, you accepted
it not as a human word, but as it actually is,
the word of God, which is indeed
at work in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

The person with a prophecy that
has no scriptural basis brings an
empty word

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11



C) The Love Test

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels,
but do not have love, I am only a resounding
gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift
of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries
and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that
can move mountains, but do not have love,
I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Love is the biblical trademark of
all spiritual gifts; love for God and
love for God's people



⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

⁵ It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



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