

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?****Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?, on: 2016/6/26 15:48**

... For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we did not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation. After it was first spoken through the Lord it was confirmed to us by those who heard. God also testified with them, both by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to his own will...Hebrews 2:1-4

Is God still confirming his gospel today by signs and wonders and various miracles and Gifts of the Holy Spirit? If not. Please give your reason from the scripture.

I have redone the thread title and the OP tell less controversial.

**Re: Can the doctrine of cessationism be established from scripture - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2016/6/26 16:29**

Those who hold to a cessationist view build their entire argument from 1 Cor. 13:10 where it says, "when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away with". According to them, the "perfect" refers to the Canon of scripture which arrived in the 4th century and now there supposedly is no "need" for spiritual gifts.

Verse 9 says, "We know in part and we prophesy in part."

Verse 12 says, "For now we see in a mirror darkly, but then FACE TO FACE."

So when the scriptures talk about "the perfect" coming, it is not talking about a THING, but a time when EVERYTHING is perfect. Are we there yet? Of course not. When is it coming? When we meet FACE TO FACE with Jesus at His return.

-Daniel

**Re: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?, on: 2016/6/26 16:33**

The reason I'm opening up this thread is that I believe there is anti Holy Spirit bias in this forum. There are those people such as myself who believe the Holy Spirit does work in the same age as He did in Acts. I believe that I could reasonably support this view from the scriptures.

However there are those who are raising concerns about deception and deceiving spirits. To see if we actually listen to the Holy Spirit. We are almost accused of listening to demonic voices.

Thus I am opening up this thread for a well-reasoned discussion. In other words let us talk about the doctrine of cessationism.

I do believe there are those in this forum who believe that the Holy Spirit does not work in the way he did work in Acts. Would you please come forward and state your case from the word of God?

I'm not trying to be contentious or provoke an argument. But I want us to lay our cards on the table. I do believe there are some of you who believe that people such as myself are being deceived. Then if you believe this please State your case from the word of God.

Some have suggested in this forum that I do not believe in the scriptures. Anyone who has seen my posts particularly, my devotional thread regarding the persecuted will know that those posts are filled with scripture.

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?**

But let us say we agree on Sola Scriptura. That we believe that all doctrine must be established by scripture. I ask those of you who believe that the Holy Spirit does not confirm his gospel by signs and wonders. Will you please State your case from the word of God.

So come now let us reason together. Please state your case for cessationism.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/26 17:30**

Where are the multiple witnesses to that scripture? One scripture for such an important issue of which there are many scriptures in favor of the opposite.

That which is perfect has come, Jesus Christ and last I read He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/26 18:03**

... Love never fails, but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away, if their tongues, they will cease, if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face, now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known...1 Corinthians 13:8-13

I have to admit if I were a self-respecting cessationist I'd be hard-pressed to defend my position from the verses above. The context does not suggest the canon of scripture. But I want to be fair to the cessationist position and look at their arguments in particular in light of the above text. So I will be googling cessationist websites to see how they use the above scriptures to establish their position.

One argument I have heard regarding the word "perfect" in 1 Corinthians 13:10 is cross referenced back to Psalm 19:7,

... the law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul...

The cessationist says that the perfect in 1st Corinthians 13:10 is the same perfect is found in psalm 19:7. That's the perfect canon has come. As such tongues prophecy, and knowledge have been done away.

I ask the cessationists in the Forum am I articulating this argument correctly? Please feel free to correct me if I am not articulating your position accurately.

Simply my thoughts.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/26 18:37**

Blaine

A dry loaf of bread is becoming more and more appealing to me verses the insanity in the pseudo spiritual world of the mystics and outright crackpot teachings coming out these camps. Will the real Jesus please stand up?

**Re: - posted by Elibeth, on: 2016/6/26 18:41**

Dear bro.,

I do not know what the word 'cessationism' means, as well as many more words that are called out on the forum.

But may I humbly say, what I have been taught by our Lord, and confirming it through His Word is what I know,....and it can never be taken away.

Satan has been deceived and deceiving since he and his angels were cast out of heaven. And he has been deceiving down through the ages in every conceivable manner / way.

Tozsu, is talking about deception in another post, ...quite interesting.  
And who can know " Truth" ?  
Truth is The Word, ...God is The Word, Who Lives within us, ...Spirit / Holy  
Ghost....

There was a post a while back, titled ( I believe ) "If Satan Deceiveth the whole world, then who can be exempt ?"  
Taken from , (Rev. 12:9, ... "Satan, who DECEIVETH the whole world, ....")  
He would deceive the very elect, if that were possible.

Question for us: Are we the elect ? If we are the elect of God, then, we have  
what it takes, LIVING within, ...and with the keeping of OIL in our lamps, to discern his deception, and to flee from it. .... Thou  
gh, he is very sly, even in the little matters.

I believe, there are three things of greatest importance, that there is real deception going on in.

\*The gospel, ( what it is per The words of Jesus

\*Grace, (What Grace is, ... (the meaning of Grace as per the Word of God )

\* Salvation, ... ( is it a one time, or is it a continuation, ...daily ?  
( we know when we are initially saved, ...an entrance has been made by  
Repentance and through His Precious Blood)

\*\*And , I believe it all stems from the understanding of The kingdom of God.

people really get upset many time when you talk about these things.  
Perhaps it is because they have a SET way, .... "this is how I have always heard it, ".....". this is what my parents, and my gr  
andparents before them believed / taught. "...  
But 1Jn. 2:27, Tells us, "But the anointing which ye have received of Him  
abideth in you, and ye need not. That any man teach you; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is T  
ruth, and is no lie, and even as  
it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him."  
( then we will know the true gospel when we hear it preached.)

We must / needs be , get back to seeking God (the kingdom of God),  
and to SEE how He SEES everything. To look through His eyes to see as He sees. ...to seek His face, is to look through  
His eyes to see how He sees in all matters.

So afraid, I have been toooo bold,  
But truly in loving kindness I speak,

Loving you all,  
In Jesus' love,

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elizabeth

**Re: Carmine, on: 2016/6/26 19:15**

Brother I appreciate your sentiments about those we would call the chrismaniacs. As in anything there are abuses and excessive.

But do the abuses and excessive of some discount an authentic working of the Holy Spirit today. I'm speaking in those areas of healings, visions and dreams, prophetic utterances, words of knowledge, healings, etc.

Brother I do not know your position on the gifts of the Spirit. But do you know of any particular scripture that says that the gifts of the Holy Spirit, more like the sign gifts, have ceased in this day and age.

**Re: Elizabeth , on: 2016/6/26 19:26**

My sister you may be as bold as you wish in this thread. Your posts are always filled with grace. And basically I'm in agreement with the heartthrob of your posts.

I apologize for the use of theological terms. The word "cessationist" means that certain gifts of the Holy Spirit are not operating in this day and age. That would be gift such as tongues, the working of miracles, healings, prophetic utterances, words of knowledge etc.

The argument goes that these gifts were merely given to confirm the gospel. Since we have the complete Bible. These gifts are no longer necessary.

I have noticed in recent weeks there seems to be an anti Holy Spirit bias in the forum. Thus I was trying to open up this thread as a discussion to establish from the word if the Holy Spirit has ceased operating the way he did in the book of Acts.

I realize that when I speak of these things people do get upset. But I'm simply asking that those who do not believe that the Holy Spirit is working as he did in Acts to show their case from the word of God.

My sister I hope this makes sense. But I do agree. We do need to be discerning of deception. And to test all things will be to confirm them by the scriptures.

Your brother in Christ.

**Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2016/6/26 19:49**

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:5-7 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Who is the Giver?

1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Who works in the believers distributing the gifts of the Spirit? "AS HE WILLS"

I can seek the "greater gifts" but only find if the Holy Spirit severally gives it to me as He wills for the upbuilding of the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

There is a more excellent way, which make the gifts less needed.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

All of 1 Cor 13 until that which is perfect comes. There is only One who is perfect and is come and is yet still coming.

Jesus Christ has come in me, that is His Spirit is now my spirit, but I can only see Him darkly as through limo windows, yet I know He is there. He is yet to come and I will see Him Clearly as I am now seen by Him. That is, "which is Perfect comes", I will know Him as He knows me. Falling on my face with tears of Joy, Praise God, what a vision.

1 Corinthians 13:12-13 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Agape Charity (Love)

In Christ: Phillip

**Re: , on: 2016/6/26 20:03**

Alongside the real Jesus you will always have the counterfeit Jesus'. Of course the real Jesus still responds to faith today. Why wouldn't He?

Satan always seeks to discredit and obscure the real Jesus.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/26 20:52**

Blaine

My Fundamentalist 1611 KJV only version of the Bible clearly states that the Lord is no longer doing anything to or for anyone regarding the genuine works of the Holy Spirit as he once did.

And if John MacArthur and his pals says so who am I to argue?

**Re: - posted by Amastra (), on: 2016/6/27 0:10**

I have never been completely satisfied with the cessationist view or the continuance view. I feel that the cessationist interpretation is 1 Corinthians 13:10 is strained at best. On the other hand if the continuance doctrine hinges on latter rain theology, as I have read that it does, that makes it highly suspect. Peter, in Acts 2, associates the Pentecost miracles with the last days so would it be correct to then say that the last days covers the time period from Acts to Christ's return? I don't see in scripture a great time of revival towards the end but rather a slide into apostasy, so would that mean that the pouring out of the Spirit has stopped or might it still be able to happen on a local level?

I am glad that you started this discussion, as it is one which I would like to learn more about.

Scott

**Re: , on: 2016/6/27 1:06**

Dear Blaine

I think I can speak about the cessationist view with a degree of knowledge, as it was in a Reformed church that I received my first in depth study of doctrine for a period of seven years.

It was in the days when I thought that Christianity was all about studying the Bible and being 'sound' (in Reformed doctrine) and reading the great teachers of it including the writings of John Calvin himself.

The church was full of 'theologians' and people who devoted themselves to the study of the word, searching the scriptures daily, and I am very grateful for the grounding that I received and the understanding of the correct method of Biblical interpretation. It has kept me from error many times. These people really knew their Bibles in depth and could quote scripture right left and centre, but also with better exegetical skills, and grasp of Greek than I have found elsewhere.

However, I began to find holes in the TULIP doctrines I was taught once I began to read beyond the scriptures that were studied in the main and beyond their proof texts. I began to see the necessity of depending on the Holy Spirit in rightly dividing the word and more than that, the necessity of knowing Christ speak directly to us if He is indeed residing within us and most of all, the necessity of obedience to that heavenly voice within.

But getting back to the cessationist view, yes indeed the scripture you have quoted is the one used, to say that the 'perfect' is the canon of scripture. They do not accept it is Jesus as the perfect in the Greek is not describing a person, it is describing a thing.

But they also say that the charismatic understanding of tongues is not the scriptural one described in Acts, because since NT times, it has only existed amongst fringe groups who were to say the least, a bit dodgy and as Scott has said, we have been in the last days since then and the end has not come as forecast.

Added to this is the fact that tongues are only spoken about in 1 Cor. and nowhere else, and throughout church history, the greatest saint never even mentioned them let alone speak in them according to the modern version.

They do however accept miracles on the whole, and that God heals today. But they are firmly against any speaking directly to men as they will quote Hebrews 1:1 on Christ being the only means by which God speaks and that is through the scriptures.

So it seems that we have only two choices of understanding the 'perfect' but that is not so, as there is another one, and that is the one that was taught especially during the holiness movement which has died out with its teachings.

According to that version, the perfect is the perfection of the believer. When that perfection comes, what was known in limited ways, that is prophecy and knowledge, are now seen in their fullness. Confusion arises over tongues. The scripture says 'ceases' and a different word is used in the Greek to the 'fail' of the partial, that is the partial is completed. Tongues were not accepted in holiness times apart from in cases where human languages were used miraculously as in Acts, to spread the gospel where the languages were unknown.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

These verses describe the state of perfection whereby a man is given by grace, the fullness of the stature of Christ and has the mind of Christ in the glorified state.

I have found that very few can discuss the subject of tongues without becoming angry and upset so I do not do it anymore. I just wanted to lay out the case for side which is generally not acknowledged, and which is stuck between the two opposing sides, that are not the full picture.

#### **Re: Cessationism - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/6/27 2:08**

Bear with me, brothers and sisters, and read the blog post I did a year or two ago. Please examine it and take what good you can from it. It was not intended to attack the sufficiency of scripture but to emphasise the experiential side of believing the scripture. I hope it may be a source of encouragement to some:

"A few words of explanation as to my religious background to lay a foundation for the concerns I have around cessationism and denominationism

I was brought up quite conservatively, in a protective environment and attended a Methodist Sunday school, was later "confirmed" in the same church and afterwards called up to national service with the South African Defence Force, where I had a powerful spiritual experience while attending a bible study held by an officer in the camp where I attended, an experience that resulted in me being truly "born again" I will not go into the experience right now but suffice to say that I was filled with the Holy Spirit and my heart so flooded with the love and affection of Christ that for the first time in a long time I was compelled to phone my father and declare to him and my mother, with tears, how much I loved them!

This overwhelming sense of God's nearness and love continued through the night and I can sincerely say, I was never the same again! I truly saw life through new eyes, was absolutely amazed at the beauty of God's creation and had a strong

desire to share my newfound faith and joy with others; as with many others, very zealously and without much wisdom!

In short, God had come near to me and I KNEW it!

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. (1 John 4:15 KJV)

After this experience I was completely changed as far as ambitions and plans were concerned for the future and "chose" to attend a bible school after national service, working during the day and attending classes at night from Monday's to Thursdays. It so worked out that the school I attended was of the Pentecostal/charismatic persuasion and their teaching was very Word based, while also emphasizing the power of the Holy Spirit. A lot of the teaching was by men known today as the Word Faith teachers.

I have been saddened and grieved by some of the comments I have read on social media like Twitter, most made by Christian brothers I choose to follow but who sometimes have a drastically different viewpoint from mine. Most of these seem to come from the Baptist denominations or other conservative evangelical groups, are very concerned about the letter of scripture and scriptural accuracy and are very adept at pointing out heresies, usually from the so-called "charismatic" and word faith camp.

I will not concern myself in this writing with the excesses of these movements and the heretical teachings, some of which I agree with my brothers from another church mother!

Excesses should not stop us from seeking the good way, though.

Where the genuine exists, so does the counterfeit.

I have walked with God for about 29 years now and, of course, have grown a lot in knowledge and understanding and also agree with the brothers who are like the Bereans, who check and research scripture to validate whatever another person teaches, thereby discerning truth from error.

Thus I have begun to understand, for example, that "tithing" is not a New Testament teaching to the gentile church and is often misused by church leaders to bring their people into bondage, when the whole teaching of the apostles emphasizes personal freedom balanced by personal responsibility in doing all things in love and in consideration of the weaker brother. Thus you will find preachers and teachers of "grace" who will still proclaim tithing as a law to the church, as well as other disputable doctrines such as the keeping of the Sabbath, even though Paul clearly states "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. (Colossians 2:16-17 KJV)" I myself was so indoctrinated with the tithe teaching that I judged my Christian brothers for their disobedience when they did not tithe and considered whatever weakness or frailty that assailed them a direct result of their non-tithing, a curse! Lord, forgive us our foolishness!

I fear, though, that the home a baby is born in and is taught in, can so cloud his judgement and influence his perspective, that he can grow up believing his point of view is THE correct one and he views every other viewpoint or experience through these glasses of discernment, according to his framework of truth and not necessarily the truth as taught by the New Testament Apostles and Prophets and as described in the book of Acts, the Epistles etc.

This is my problem with denominations.

The moment I identify myself according to denominational affiliation or according to a specific spiritual movement I somehow make my "club" the exclusive one and the sole keeper and dispenser of truth!

Hear what Paul says to the Corinthians

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:10-18 KJV)"

Jesus, our Lord, most certainly did not say He will build a certain denomination, but He said He would build His church, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it! The way some of my evangelical brethren from traditional denominations speak of the "other" side can quite easily give the impression that they are not brothers and are probably not really children of God! And the "other" side reciprocate!

Do we consider the effect of this divisiveness on "outsiders"? Those we are called and commissioned to evangelize? Do we evangelize them to save them from an eternal death or to join our little club of correctness? This is just sad and must be repented of, brothers! We quote: "by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone" but do we really act like that. Let us come out of denominationism and into community of faith!

"And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and pre

ached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (â€Ephesiansâ€- â€2â€-:â€16-22â€- KJV)"

It seems there are a lot of people being zealous for their house instead of the house of God! Who are you, brother, to judge another man's spiritual experiences?

Is spiritual experience something of the past? What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (â€Actsâ€- â€1â€-:â€8â€- KJV)"

Was that only meant for the apostles?

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (â€Actsâ€- â€2â€-:â€4â€- KJV)"

"For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: (â€Actsâ€- â€2â€-:â€4, 15-18â€- KJV)"

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (â€Actsâ€- â€2â€-:â€4, 15-18, 38-39â€- KJV)"

"And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. (â€Actsâ€- â€4â€-:â€23-31â€- KJV)"

Is this the church of today? When we are threatened by persecution what do we do? Where are the power filled prayers shaking the house of God? Where are the fresh in fillings of the Spirit resulting in a bold and fearless testimony?

Are you really convinced in your heart, by scripture and the Holy Spirit, that the first witnesses had the Spirit helping them, confirming the Message with signs following, but all we have is the Bible itself, and well thought out arguments? When you tell an infidel the truth from the bible, will he not ask: "Where is the God of Elijah and Elisha and Peter and Paul and .. ?"

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (â€1 Corinthiansâ€- â€2â€-:â€1-5â€- KJV)"

How can we claim to be Spirit filled people and never say a word in our assemblies? No prophecy (inspired utterances declaring the glorious attributes of our Lord and Saviour) . The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus! No faith filled, fiery, powerful prayers!

Read 1 Corinthians 12 to 14 after removing the denominational glasses!

When we come together, each one.....!

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (â€Ephesiansâ€- â€5â€-:â€17-21â€- KJV)"

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning



you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 KJV)"

What! Despise not prophesyings? Quench not the Spirit?

All of you brothers so proud of your knowledge, the closed canon and Sola Scriptura etc, are you following the teaching and admonition of the apostles? Or are you quenching the Spirit without realizing it? Are you satisfied with the temperature of your churches, your assembling together? Are you aware that the living God is amongst you in power, as His special called out people, or are you just a nice little club, patting each other on the back for your superior knowledge and congratulating one another on not being so "foolish" as to believe God still actually speaks in and through His people and actually still does mighty works by their hands?

Have you ever asked the Lord to use you as His witness? To touch someone else's life through you? Has He changed? Does He not heal, deliver, do miracles any longer? What would your church do if the demoniac of Gadara ran into your so orderly meeting on Sunday? Call the psychologist? Run for your lives? Reason with him? Or are there no more demon possessed people that need deliverance? Or can God not trust our church to bring deliverance to those bound by evil powers because we deny the power given to us as the church in the Name of Jesus?

I am sorry if I sound facetious but that is exactly how silly it looks to me.

I believe any sincere, healthy believer desires to be an effective witness for His Lord. Sooner or later he will begin to realize that knowledge alone is not enough. We need power from on high to do the work He has called us to do! To think any other way is to be in denial of the truth as revealed in the New Testament.

When a group of sincere believers get together to seek the Lord for His guidance, He will guide and He will speak and He will empower!  
"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. (Acts 13:1-4 KJV)"

How did the Holy Spirit speak? Audibly? Inwardly? Magically moving the pages of the scroll and highlighting some words?  
It doesn't say, however I don't think I would be far off in saying He probably prophetically spoke through one or two or even three of those present there.

What are we missing out on today? How could we not be used more effectively if we consecrated ourselves to Him, waited on Him together, ministering to Him through our prayers and our worship and allowing His Spirit to speak as in olden days!

Just sayin' ðŸˆˆ

God bless all who take the time to read these words and receive them in the spirit intended.

William

**Re: - posted by Jasmine, on: 2016/6/27 5:02**

@StirtUp

I really enjoyed your post. I'm glad I took the time to read it. Last week I really had 1 Corinthians 2:4 on my brain along with Elijah. I kept thinking about the "demonstration of the spirit and of power". It even took me back down my memory lane (good times)...then up to date! God is good and He hasn't changed. I can't imagine what my life would be like without the Holy Spirit and His gifts and I'm glad I don't have to. Sometimes I wonder do some of us really not understand why there is no great outpouring of the Spirit the way that some want to see? Really?!!

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?**

**Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/27 6:44**

The problem i have with theses bias type of threads is that ,it seems to always be implied that one must speak in toungs and speak prophecy,to be filled with ghe spirit , history tells us that that is not the case ,the first and second great awkeni ng ,and other revivles never had this sort if thing , saints who were much more in touch with god then us fourm junkies , moved powerfully in the spirit , with out expressings all the sign gifts , to deni this is to be plain aragent,

I personally believe ,that all the gifts cessed....

No i got you there ,,lol

I also believe in all the gifts as mentioned in the bible ,,but paul does say covert the gifts of prophecy for instance, somi f one does not believe and covert these gifts ,one wil never experence those gifts ,,but that has nothing to do with the ba ptisim of spirit ,,if one coverts that they will recieve that ,on its own ,acording to your faith let it be done unto you ...

Blain inseed of being all cryptic tell us who these ,cessationists are ,

Last i checked this forum is riddled with arminian carasmatics , who love to pat one another on the back ....öÿ'•.  
öÿ~3

**Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/6/27 7:10**

Julius21 wrote the quote but I'm sure there might be more who agree with him so I write to you all...

Quote:  
-----Where are the multiple witnesses to that scripture? One scripture for such an important issue of which there are many scriptures in f avor of the opposite.

That which is perfect has come, Jesus Christ and last I read He is the same yesterday, today and forever.  
-----

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?**

Jesus Christ had already been dead, buried and resurrected when Paul wrote about the gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 & 14.

Christ was and is perfect but if He was the culmination of that verse, "when that which is perfect is come," then God would not need to have appointed in the church (1 Cor 12.28) prophets, then miracles, then gifts of healing, various kinds of tongues.

Paul would have never wrote, "I wish that you all SPOKE IN TONGUES but more that you would PROPHECY...," nor would he have proclaimed, "I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all," and finally, "Desire earnestly to prophesy and do not forbid to speak in tongues." (1 Cor 14:5, 18, 39)

"...but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away." (1 Cor 13.10) is smack dab in the middle of the chapters on the gifts.

Doesn't it seem reasonable that if Christ was the answer to that particular verse, there would be no need of the instruction that God gave and that Paul wrote down?

Paul also stated in Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.... 12 a) For the perfecting of the saints, b) for the work of the ministry, 3) for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Submitted in the love of Christ,  
Lisa

**Re: , on: 2016/6/27 7:39**

Yes, Lysa, if Jesus Christ was the object of that verse there would be no miracles in the book of Acts or throughout the world since then up to now. It is really kind of absurd as you consider the whole counsel of God, that Jesus Christ is really not the same, yesterday, today and forever.

How much more, in this church world of unbelief do we need the power of God, today?

**Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/27 8:07**

Paul is speaking about the second coming of Christ, and as Paul said when he comes we will know just as we are known, vs 12

**Re: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders? - posted by Theophila (), on: 2016/6/27 9:19**

I don't like theological debates where brethren feel at ease to call each other unflattering names but I can share a testimony.

My dear late mother was a devoted Muslim who won awards for memorizing large portions of the Quran. At a crusade in her town, much like Acts 3, a well-known lame man was healed and walked! Upon hearing the news, she and a Muslim girlfriend, sneaked to the crusade venue the next day and witnessed other miracles.

They were a confirmation of the speaker's message and she believed till the day of her death. She was ostracized for her faith but the Lord preserved her.

He does still confirm the preaching of the gospel with signs and wonders following.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/27 12:08**

The real question is this:

Do ALL spiritual things that come to us originate from God?

**Re: Cessationism - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/6/27 13:03**

Thanks Jasmine. Glad it encouraged.

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?**

**Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/6/27 14:48**

Quote:

-----by Tozsu

The real question is this:

Do ALL spiritual things that come to us originate from God?

-----

Not trying to be mean but that is not the real question, you're trying to hijack the thread, the real and original question was...

///Is God still confirming his gospel today by signs and wonders and various miracles and Gifts of the Holy Spirit? If not. Please give your reason from the scripture.///

Any Scripture to refute that question?

God bless, Lisa

**Re: , on: 2016/6/27 14:54**

Brothers and sisters I read your posts. Time will not allow me to respond to each one individually. But thank you for your contributions.

I will try to avoid using the theological labels that may offend and cause controversy. I went to the websites of those who would say that the Holy Spirit does not operate today as he did in the book of Acts. I was hoping to find some scriptures other than the ones quoted out 1st Corinthians 13 in which they draw their conclusions from. What I found instead was theological extrapolation and historical analysis establishing their position that the Holy Spirit does not operate by signs and wonders. I found it much laborious reading.

Those who hold to the above position would say Sola Scriptura. They would say only the scriptures. They would say William Tyndale died to give us the Bible where a plough boy or milk maid can derive their doctrine from.

Being the baptized in the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues person that I am I believe in Sola Scriptura. So appealing to those who say that the Holy Spirit does not operate by signs and wonders as He did in the first century. And believing that God speaks clearly in the scripture. And we all believing that the scriptures are the final rule of faith and practice. Certainly regarding our doctrine.

Can somebody please show me or point me to a text other than 1st Corinthians 13 that says the Holy Spirit no longer operates by signs and wonders today?

Respectfully posted.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/27 15:06**

Quote:

-----by Tozsu on 2016/6/27 12:08:08

The real question is this:

Do ALL spiritual things that come to us originate from God?;

-----

No. Thus the command to us to "try the spirits"

1 Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

**Re: Cessationism - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/6/27 15:45**

Thanks Jasmine. Glad it encouraged.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/27 16:04**

Yes he does whatever he pleases

**Re: - posted by dfella (), on: 2016/6/27 20:48**

I agree also with Blain, William and Tolu that God does indeed confirm the gospel through signs and wonders. As one who was saved for 9 years before receiving the baptism, I will testify till death that salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are two totally separate experiences, not saying they cannot happen on the same day.

As an eyewitness and participant in many of these signs and wonders, pre and post baptism/infilling I have come to realize that it is an experience that just cannot be explained with words, for mere words do no justice to the true signs and wonders of the all powerful God of creation.

The scriptures tell us that even if one were raised back to life from the dead that men, because of hardness of heart and unbelief would be persuaded to believe.

I have also come to learn not to debate the issue for a man convinced against his own will, will never yield/accept the will of God, at least until his own will gets out of the way. After my own experience I have seen many hungry, thirsty, and willing saints receive the Holy Spirit and much of that was due to seeing, hearing, and experiencing signs and wonders.

While I know that I know that God is moving with true signs and wonders much of this movement is among and in other countries, nations, kindreds, and tongues because that is where the true hunger is. This unfortunately is not true for most/many of the lukewarm in America and worse yet among many professing Christians for Jesus said,

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

With that said, I do believe in a greater outpouring coming in the future where the signs and wonders will increase and we will see a great influx of souls coming into the Kingdom. I guess you could call it revival.

Is not even the true salvation of one who was once a sinner that has been changed/transformed/regenerated by the gospel a sign and wonder in and of itself?

Yet it does not stop there, that is only the beginning IF we are willing and would only believe.

**Re: - posted by JHerndon (), on: 2016/6/27 22:49**

I do believe in the gifts. However, probably not in the same light as most who believe in them. I think they are good and right but I also think they are somewhat over emphasized in Pentecostal churches. I don't think there should necessarily be a message in tongues every service. I understand that you speak as the Spirit gives utterance but also a fruit of the Spirit is self control. The Holy Spirit will never MAKE you do anything. God is a God of order and not chaos. They shouldn't become a distraction. Also, the interpretation of tongues does not carry the same authority as a word from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, or Daniel. I think we should be careful with all of the thus saith the Lord. The office of prophet in that sense is closed. I do agree with the interpretation of the verses in the OP. I do not think those verses refer to the canon. However, I also think there is some what a misuse of the gifts. Intentional misuse from some but I think mostly an unintentional misuse that comes from misunderstanding and possibly bad teaching of the scripture. The gifts are something supernatural that have been entrusted to humans so kind of a hard subject.

**Re: - posted by Theophila (), on: 2016/6/28 9:01**

Amen. The Scriptures do warn us to test every spirit. Any spiritual 'gift' that doesn't exalt Jesus Christ is at best, being misused and at worst, not from the Lord at all. I've heard prophecies that made me think, 'This person should just sit quietly and eat their Quaker oats'. I've also heard prophecies that were clearly from a foul spirit of divination.

OTOH, I've heard of a dyed in the wool 'well-behaved' Southern Baptist brother being moved by the Holy Spirit in intercession for a fellow brother. Hehehehe, isn't the Lord good?

Overall, I wouldn't break fellowship with a fellow believer over their stance on the gifts of the Spirit. My mother-in-law is a staunch Baptist and one of the sweetest people I ever met. Oh yes, I'll take a godly cessationist over an ill-humored Charismatic/Pentecostal any day of the week!

**Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2016/6/28 9:20**

"I'll take a godly cessationist over an ill-humored Charismatic/Pentecostal any day of the week!"

I hear you. Me too. :). Lord help us walk in good faith and good humor and temperament to our brothers and sisters who are walking with You in truth, knowing we all know little compared to You.

**Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2016/6/28 9:27**

Joshua, good post. I thought I knew so much about the gifts and the church until we began a home fellowship where we live it out very intentionally and deliberately. The different setting from the brick and mortar American church setting has been a real blessed education in NT life, including the fellowship of the Spirit among us and the operation of the gifts. (And as the so-called sign gifts have been an infrequent but important part, the full array of Holy Spirit "charis" & the actual doing in the home-meeting setting of NT church activities have been more frequent and vital).

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/6/28 10:05**

Hi all,  
So glad we have a post where we can agree about something :) Just another interesting insight which you may or may not have picked up before.

1 Timothy 1 verse 7 says: "For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self control"

Power= 1 Corinthians 12  
Love= 1 Corinthians 13 and  
Self Control (Order)= 1 Corinthians 14

One Holy Spirit, different administrations, manifestations etc. For us as believers to walk in the fulness of the Holy Spirit we need to yield to Him and trust Him for all three, not just the last two!

What sayest thee, brethren?

**Re: , on: 2016/6/28 10:49**

Brethren when I opened up this thread it was not meant to debate the gifts of the Spirit. Though some would probably turn it into that. Appreciate the good spirit of your posts and discussion.

I'm trying to avoid the use of theology labels. But I do agree. I would prefer a godly person who does not necessarily speak in tongues or prophecies over one who claims to do so. But are ill tempered or crazy the way the gifts are expressed in their lives.

However let us remember that Paul did not discourage the Corinthians in the use of what we call the sign gifts. But laid out directives in terms of how those gifts should be used in the body but the edification of the saints.

I do agree there are abuses and what we call to charismatic movement. People such as Dr. Michael Brown, of charismatic suasion himself, has called out charismatic preachers for their conduct and craziness.

Because there are abusive and craziness in the charismatic movement. Let us not discount the actual workings of the Holy Spirit. Let us not retreat into Bible mode only and discourage what the Holy Spirit may be doing in our midst.

Just pleading for balance.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/28 11:10**

There is one issue that I would like to address by personal testimony. It is assumed that people such as myself, who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and pray in tongues do not read the Bible. I would like to say that this is false. And nothing can be further from the truth.

I have met people, and some in this forum, who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and pray in tongues. And they are very steeped in the word of God. And this includes myself.

I do not doubt that there are those immature believers who claimed to have an experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit who seek out experience only. But there are solid believers who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit who immerse themselves in the Word of God.

I came out of a Calvinistic background. I was not baptized in the Holy Spirit when I was into Calvinism. It is assumed that those who were immersed into Calvinism are also immersed into scriptures. This was not true in my experience. The people that I fellowshiped with exalted in their commentaries, their expositions, their theologies, their theological degrees. Much of their intake of scripture was through the reading of other men.

I do not mean to demean such. But in my Calvinistic experience I was taught to love the theology more than the Word of God.

I was baptized in the Holy Spirit in the 1990s. I received the gift of tongues shortly afterwards. It was only after being baptized in the Holy Spirit that I started finding joy and delight in reading and now listening to the Word of God by an audio Bible.

I spend several hours a day listening to the audio New Testament. I listen to it in my sleep. I listen to it when I walk. I would prefer to listen to the New Testament then even listen to sermons. The word of God is a part of my life. No correction. The Word of God is my life. And I'm saying this as a baptized believer who prays in tongues.

Someone asked me in this forum do I believe in the Word of God. Anyone who knows me. Anyone who has seen my post. The question should be answered. But this testimony should answer the question of those of who think that the word of God is not my Life.

Again, the Word of God is my life. I hope this testimony will satisfy those who call my testimony in a question as one who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit prays in tongues.

Respectfully posted.

**Re: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/6/29 4:14**

Blaine,

I believe in signs and wonders not because I've seen them but because the word of God says explicitly there are signs and wonders.

Every Christian (cessationist or not) LOVES to quote, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;" ~ Hebrews 2:3

But the very next verse is the word of God as well, is it not? -

"God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" ~ Heb 2:4

And Paul also said:

For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. ~ Romans 15:18-19

To Paul, fully preaching the gospel included word; deed and mighty signs and wonders by the power of the Spirit of God. That is the Gospel!!!

God bless,  
Lisa

**Re: - posted by Theophila (), on: 2016/6/29 4:26**

Amen, brother!

I think part of the issue for my cessationist brethren is that some Charismatics/Pentecostals insist the ONLY evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Not sure how they came to that conclusion but I disagree.

I know Reformed folks hurt by fellow brethren who called their salvation into question for not believing in speaking in tongues! That should not be!

Part of baptism in the Holy Spirit is so we can BE like Jesus and have power to do His work on earth. And that includes loving the Holy Scriptures too.

May the day never come that I hurt another believer because we disagree on some pet doctrine of mine. Amen.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 5:10**

Brother Blaine

I hope I did not give the impression that I think that charismatics do not study the Bible. I do not think that at all and the charismatic churches I have been in, do indeed study the scriptures. But here is the difference I have found, and don't forget I am in the UK. The Reformed churches indeed do study theology a lot more and use other men's writings, but they are using them because they have a good grasp of Koine Greek and good interpretation practices.

So it is a matter of the depth of study and the desire to know the Greek and Hebrew. I am sure that you have an appreciation of the good grounding you had when you were in like me. However, I was always frustrated that the gospels did not get more attention - it was all Paul Paul Paul, and the obsession with the letter and not the Spirit.

This is of course speaking in general but on both sides I found imbalance.

Tell me though Blaire, do you believe that the Spirit baptism and the gifts can be and are counterfeited?



**Re: Brenda , on: 2016/6/29 5:37**

Dear sister I have seen in your posts you do read and study the Scriptures. So I do not doubt that whatsoever in your life.

Yes sister I do believe that Satan, being the deceiver, can counterfeit the gifts of the Spirit. Or at least some of them.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 6:00**

Thank you dear Blaire, but do you know that the Baptism of the Spirit can be and is counterfeited? Were you taught that in your church and encouraged to test it?

Have you read this, which was written at the time when it had become apparent that a pseudo baptism was stopping the revival amongst people who believed that a baptism of the Spirit is a authentic second blessing?

"Pastor Ernst Lohmann published in Germany and printed in the OVERCOMER of 1910 wrote:

"They (heathen systems such as theosophy, new Buddhism, and spiritism) also produce revivations and prophecies, speaking and singing with tongues, healing and miracles..It is of importance that we should study this subject to find an answer to the question as to how these phenomena are brought about.

The numerous and exact investigations which are being made in our day into the subject are giving increasing insight into this dark realm. Powers and possibilities have been discovered in man which until now have been totally unsuspected.

They are designated "subliminal powers" and we speak of "subconsciousness". What physical occurrences accompany these phenomena?

The lower-nerve centres (the ganglionic system or the vegetative nerves as they are called) which have their chief seat in the region around the pit of the stomach, are excited to increase activity. At the same time, the central region of the higher nervous system (the cerebral system) which in the normal state of affairs is the medium of the conscious perception and action becomes paralysed.

There is a reversal of the order of nature. The lower nerves take over the duty of the higher ones (a sort of compensation).

This state of things comes to pass negatively by the higher organ, losing its natural supremacy under pressure of illness or artificially by hypnotism, auto suggestion etc and positively by the lower nerves being in some way excited ARTIFICIALLY to increase activity, whereby they get the upper hand.

These nerves then display abilities which our ordinary organs do not possess, they receive impressions from the realm usually closed to us, such as clairvoyance, prophecy and speaking in tongues.

When in this state of somnambulism, the inner sense heightened by its activity perceives outward things as clearly and more so than when awake, and this takes place according to the unanimous declaration of all somnambulists through the pit of the stomach ie through the nerves which have their seat in this region....And it is from this part that the nerves are set in action which move the organs of speech (in the speaking of tongues)

Those in whom the sub-consciousness becomes active in this manner described above feel as it were an ELECTRIC STREAM passing through the body which is an exciting of the nerves which have their central seat at the pit of the stomach. It is from thence that the jaws are moved in the speaking in tongues.

One of the leaders of the Pentecostal Movement in describing the so called Baptism of the Spirit in his body made use of the singular comparison that it seemed to him as though there were in his body an inverted bottle. This simile was incomprehensible to me until I heard an almost identical one from a Mohammedan soothsayer, Tewekkul Beg, describing how he would get into AN ECSTATIC STATE.

He says "After my eyes were bound, I saw something in my inner being resembling a fallen tumbler.....When this object was placed upright, a feeling of limitless bliss filled my being."

By exciting the lower nervous system, a feeling of intense rapture is regularly produced.

It is evident that in these phenomena we have the exact opposite of what the Scriptures understand by the communion of the Spirit. When the Spirit of God takes possession of the spirit of man HE IS BROUGHT BACK TO A NORMAL CONDITION. The spirit acquires the full authority given to it by the Creator over the powers of the soul and through the soul, the body. The conscious persona; life is once more completely under authority of the spirit".

WAR ON THE SAINTS. JPL.

**Re: Brenda , on: 2016/6/29 6:17**

Dear sister much of my time was spent in Calvinism. In a time in my life I was taught to defend the Five Points of Calvinism. At one time in my life. TULIP was more important than the Word of God. Owning commentaries and reference works was more important in my life than owning a Bible. The test of my spirituality was having the latest set of commentaries. I delighted in having the best reference library in comparison to my other brothers. This was the background that I spent 15 years in.

I share this because the test of my being baptized in the Spirit was seeking Christ Himself and thirsting for His word. And the thirsting is basically for Jesus Himself.

Sister I do believe that God he is confirming his gospel by signs and wonders. I see this in the people I pray for you in the persecuted church. I am not seeking the signs and wonders. But I am seeking Jesus Himself.

If I may paraphrase the words of brother Fernando Ortega in that beautiful worship song Give Me Jesus. I would say you may have all of this theology. But give me Jesus.

Dear sister hope this makes sense.

By the way you may want to check what I posted on the devotional thread I maintain, From the Shadow of His Cross. I think it conveys more my thoughts regarding the Word of God. Because I pray it reflects those I pray for. That is the brothers and sisters in the persecuted church.

Brother Blaine

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 6:36**

Dear brother, I have no doubts about your devotion to Christ and His word.

I asked whether you have actually tested the baptism you received, which has nothing to do with however much we see of Him. I will leave it. We are told to test the spirits, and this above all needs to be in obedience to that instruction. I have tested mine and it is in line with the testimony of the great holiness movement and not Pentecostalism which denies the holiness resulting from it.

**Re: Brenda , on: 2016/6/29 7:06**

Dear sister to the best of my ability I have tested it. I believe the baptism I received to be authentic.

But in the world we live in we should always be testing the spirits to see whether they are from God. Always examining our faith to see if Christ is in us.

And to always seek His filling on a daily basis. My sister I hope this answers your question. I have tried to answer it as honestly as I know how.

Always appreciate your heart dear sister.

Brother Blaine

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 8:32**

Thank you brother and I appreciate yours too and your graciousness.

I agree that we should always be testing the spirits but if we do not know the differences between the authentic post conversion baptism and the counterfeit one we will not know how to test it. Knowledge is all here not feelings or 'signs'. What do you understand about the counterfeit one and where is it found?

**Re: Brenda, on: 2016/6/29 8:59**

My sister I am at work now doing a seminar. But let me reflect on your question. Will respond when I get off work. I think I'm about 6 hours behind you.

Brother Blaine

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/6/29 9:12**

Hi all,

Sister Brenda, I am sorry if I misunderstand however you seem to be interrogating the genuineness of what many of us have experienced and believe to be a baptism in the Holy Spirit with the outward evidence of speaking in other tongues (which many baptist brethren have derogatively called "gibberish" on social media posts, but then they do not practice the gift of prophecy either)

I will not go so far as to say that every Spirit baptized believer MUST speak with other tongues however this was my experience and I stand by it. I have found, when I exercise this privilege, that I am truly strengthened in the inner man and much more aware of spiritual realities and open to be used by the Holy Spirit in His other gifts as He wills. This has never led me away from the written revealed Word and has always made me appreciate the Lord and His goodness even more.

In fact, I recall a recent experience where a brother was filled with the Spirit and began to speak with other tongues in a Home Group situation where no one laid hands on him or manipulated him in any way. Basically a brother read a portion of scripture from Ephesians regarding the Lordship of Christ, with power and anointing and this brother spontaneously began to pray in other tongues as the Spirit gave him utterance

Paul stated: "I speak with tongues more than you all" and wished they "all spake with tongues"

In your previous posts you quoted a theologian describing counterfeit type experiences. Should this really be where we as believers focus our attention and energy, or rather the genuine?

Spiritual realities can certainly not be proven or disproven by scientific experiments and the like.

The scripture says that "how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him" I believe we do not have to be afraid of manifestations of the Spirit if we have sincerely asked and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is more than enough evidence to this in the book of Acts and throughout church history.

In conclusion: let us therefore hold fast the genuine and the edifying, while exposing and denying the excesses and the fleshly.

God bless,

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 11:31**

Brother

It is not an interrogation, I just want to give a few issues for the brethren to think over. From my own experience in attending charismatic churches, I am concerned that there is no mention that a counterfeit baptism is a possibility and that it should be tested. It was the subject of the book we have been discussing by Jessie Penn-Lewis and Even Roberts.

Obviously in the case of a counterfeit there will be positive effects, as Satan needs to be convincing when he fools us.

I have found many times that there is the belief that if one is sincere in seeking to know Christ in a deeper way and asks for the Holy Spirit, then they will not be deceived but that is not what scripture says.

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?**

It is full of warnings about being deceived many many times. If we are expecting a baptism like others who have been deceived, then that will be the one we get. If we expect to be delivered from the power of sin, then it is the one we will receive.

Indeed it can be proven if what we have experienced is the genuine article and the scripture tells it is by the fruit of it. Not nice feelings or signs and wonders, but just basic absolute transformation after the baptism, like we find in the disciples and a holy life.

The fruit of the Spirit is laid out and this is what we should see in ourselves, all of it as they are not separate fruits but fruit of the Spirit.

In the 19th century, this was a huge issue and Pentecostals did not accept that Baptism means a holy life, that is to say, victory over sin.

I do believe that God will give the gift of tongues when needed in that situation unless like Paul we already are able to speak in various languages.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 11:49**

The books by Jess-Penn Lewis should absolutely NOT be used as a measuring stick for what is genuine or false regarding the works of the Holy Spirit. Her teachings are highly suspect, self opinionated ramblings of her own mind and with negligible biblical basis when examined in light of the scriptures.

Stick with the bible

**Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/6/29 13:28**

//by Notdarkyet

The books by Jess-Penn Lewis should absolutely NOT be used as a measuring stick for what is genuine or false regarding the works of the Holy Spirit. Her teachings are highly suspect, self opinionated ramblings of her own mind and with negligible biblical basis when examined in light of the scriptures.

Stick with the bible///

Amen brother, stick with the Bible!!

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 14:00**

"Since thought, or "belief," originates either from the God of Truth, or the father of lies (John 8: 44), there is but one basic principle for testing the source of all doctrines, or "thoughts" and "beliefs," held by believers, or unbelievers, i.e., the test of the revealed Word of God.

All "truth" is in harmony with the only channel of revealed truth in the world--the written Word of God. All "teachings" originating from deceiving spirits--

Weaken the authority of the Scriptures;  
Distort the teaching in the Scriptures;  
Add to the Scriptures the thoughts of men; or  
Put the Scriptures entirely aside.

The ultimate object being to hide, distort, misuse, or put aside the revelation of God concerning the Cross of Calvary, where Satan was overthrown by the God-Man, and where freedom was obtained for all his captives.

The test of all "thought" and "belief" therefore is its

Harmony with the written Scriptures in its full body of truth.  
The attitude to the Cross, and sin."

(Jessie Penn-Lewis: War on the Saints)

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 14:12**

Yea too bad Penn-Lewis did not take her own advice with the many nonsensical "truths" she invented. And as a result she was instrumental in ruining the Welsh revival.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 14:27**

Then brothers and sisters let us leave J P Lewis out of this. And let us go back to the Bible. I am appealing to the reasoning of the Cessationist. These folks say that the Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. Anyone who is baptized in the Holy Spirit Will affirm this.

So I am asking my original question. Can anybody in this forum demonstrate from the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit is no longer confirming His gospel by signs and wonders? In other words since we have the complete Bible written. Can it be shown from scriptures other than the verses out of 1st Corinthians 13 that the Holy Spirit has ceased working as they did in Acts.

I have to be honest. I read the verses out of 1 Corinthians 13 8-12. I do not see how you can take the word "perfect" and get Canon. However I'm open to instruction. Also I'm open to other verses which would establish a doctrine of cessationism.

So let's go back to the Bible.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 15:02**

Blaire I think you need to elaborate on what you mean by signs and wonders. Do you mean glossolalia? And what do you mean exactly by confirming His gospel?

Also brother, cessationists as you should know, do not depend on proof texting. The fact that nearly all the NT is devoid of any mention of tongues and all of church history apart from heretical sects until the last 100 years or so have been devoid, is enough to convince cessationists.

**Re: Brenda, on: 2016/6/29 16:12**

... And now, Lord take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond servants may speak your word with all confidence, while you extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place to the name of Your holy servant Jesus...Acts 4: 29-30

... At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people, and they were all with one Accord in Solomon's Portico. But none of the rest dared to associate with them, however the people held in high esteem. And all the more believers in the Lord, multitude of men and women, were constantly added to their number, to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and palates, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. Also all the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing in people who were sick or afflicted, with unclean spirits, they were all being healed...Acts 12-16.

... In Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's room, who have never walked. This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, "Stand up right on your feet", and he leaped up and began to walk...Acts 14:8-10

... God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hand of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons that were carried from his body to the sick, and the disease left them and the evil spirits went out.

Dear sister what I quoted above are the signs and wonders I am making reference to in quoting the passages out of Hebrews 2. Time will not allow me to mention the angel opening up the prison for the Apostle Peter. As well as an earthquake that opened up the prison for Silas and Paul. And I'm also sure there are other Miracles that even Luke does not record in Acts. He just mentioned that the elders were rejoicing in Jerusalem over the Miracles that were done at the hands of Paul.

So is God still doing this today? Do the scriptures say that God stop doing this? If so, which ones?

I am only asking for scriptural reasoning that says God is no longer doing these things. Other than the verses quoted out of 1st Corinthians 13.

Hope this answers your questions.

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2016/6/29 18:19**

Hello Brothers and Sisters, just dropped by to see if anything has changed, it all appears to be the same, God Bless! Carry On Soldiers! :-)

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 19:17**

Jessie Penn-Lewis never said her writings were the measuring stick. Those who say that, never read her works and are falsely misrepresenting her with their own imaginations, or other's imaginations. Maligning the servants of the Lord can be detrimental to one's health.

The single most important thing I have always liked about Jessie Penn-Lewis is the absolute importance she places on the Word of God.

From War on the Saints

This covert drawing of faith away from the bare Word of God to manifestations of God, as being more reliable, is a keenly subtle deception of the evil one, and it is easily recognized in a believer thus deceived.

From War on the Saints

"The entire work of witnessing to Christ, and leading the Church into all truth, has been committed to the Holy Spirit. Therefore all intervention of "angels" or of audible voices from the spiritual realm purporting to be from God may be taken as counterfeits of Satan, whose supreme object is to substitute the working of his own wicked spirits in the place of God. In any case, it is best and safest in these days of peril to keep in the path of faith and reliance upon the Holy Spirit of God working through the WORD OF GOD."

From War on the Saints

"Every believer must test all teachers today for himself, by the WORD OF GOD and by their attitude to the atoning cross of Christ and other fundamental truths of the gospel, and not be misled into testing "teaching" by the character of the teacher. Good men can be deceived, and Satan needs good men to float his lies under the guise of truth."

From War on the Saints

"The safe path for believers at the close of the age is one of TENACIOUS FAITH IN THE WRITTEN WORD AS THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, to cut the way through all the interferences and tactics of the forces of darkness, to the end."

From War on the Saints

Supernatural visions and manifestations are a fruitful source of revenue to deceiving spirits, especially when the believer makes reference to and relies upon these experiences more than the WORD OF GOD; for the aim of the wicked spirit is to displace the WORD OF GOD as the rock-ground of one's life. Oh, the Scriptures may be referred to and quoted, but often only as a warrant for the experiences, and to strengthen faith "not in God, but in His apparent manifestations. This covert drawing of faith away from THE BARE WORD OF GOD to manifestations of God, as being more reliable, is a keenly subtle deception of the evil one, and it is easily recognized in a believer thus deceived.

From The Conquest of Canaan

"One way Israel could be ensnared was by "inquiring." Oh, children of God, keep to your Bibles! KEEP TO THE SIMPLE TRUTHS OF GOD'S WORD! One startling danger upon us today is HOW LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THE WORD OF GOD by Christians. They can give strings of favorite texts, but as to telling you intelligently the fundamental, straightforward

d truth of God, they are dependent upon others for that. Those who take God's Book and read it throughout "Gospels and Epistles" until it is incorporated in their very innermost life, will quickly realize when what they hear is out of line with that Word, and they will not be drawn away from the truth as it is in Jesus."

From The Conquest of Canaan

"Does it make you more loyal to God or to the worship of "other gods" even in sense of placing your "experience" as of greater value THAN THE BARE WORD OF GOD? In this supernatural warfare, take heed, and recognize that signs and wonders are no proof that a "prophet" or a "teacher" is of God; nor does the fact of their predictions being fulfilled bear witness that they are of God."

From The Conquest of Canaan

"He is commanded to be strong, with his only equipment the WORD OF GOD and implicit obedience to it! Such was Christ's equipment. The Lord said He lived by the WORD OF GOD, and that His meat was to do the will of His Father. All that Joshua had to do was to take the directions given to him by God and to lead under His command."

From The Conquest of Canaan

"The first condition of equipment for mastery was implicit obedience to the WORD OF GOD. This again shows you the importance of feeding on God's Word and seeking to have it so dwelling in you that your spirit is made strong. "Keep all of the commandment . . . that ye may be strong, and go in to possess the land." Implicit obedience to the full command of God that they were absolutely not to tamper with nor touch the things forbidden by God. To see this more clearly we will again go to the story of Jericho."

From The Conquest of Canaan

"If there is anything about your life that is not in accordance with the righteousness of the Holy One, then let Him deal with it for His righteousness is highest love. In this warfare you must have nothing to do with what to you is wrong. Do not ask other people what is right or wrong, but ask God to make you know what is right or wrong for you; and THEN BE TRUE. Do not give what "so-and-so says" as a reason for any course you take, but do what God has shown you is right, up to the fullest knowledge of your light obtained from the WORD OF GOD;"

From The Conquest of Canaan

"If any of you believe that Satan will be redeemed, you are believing a lie that has come to you from deceiving spirits a lie from the pit. The many doctrines that are abroad today must be brought to the standard of the WORD OF GOD."

The Conquest of Canaan - Warfare and Victory in the Christian Life <http://classicbiblestudyguide.com/English/ConquestOfCanaan.pdf>

War on the Saints

<http://classicbiblestudyguide.com/English/WarOnTheSaints.pdf>

From War on the Saints

"Henceforth it is also war by Satan upon the womanhood of the world, in malignant revenge for the verdict of the garden. Yes, war by the trampling down of women in all lands where the deceiver reigns. And war upon women in Christian lands too, by the continuance of his Eden method of misinterpreting the WORD OF GOD: insinuating into men's minds throughout all succeeding ages that God pronounced a "curse" upon the woman, when in truth she was pardoned and blessed; and instigating fallen men to personally carry out this supposed curse, though in truth it was a CURSE UPON THE DECEIVER and not upon the deceived one (Gen. 3:14).

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman," said God, as well as between "thy seed and her seed," and this vindictive enmity of the hierarchy of evil toward women, and especially believers, has not lessened in its intensity from that day."

From War on the Saints

"The man is deceived if he is a hearer but not a doer of the WORD OF GOD (Jas. 1:22)."

From War on the Saints

"A wide net is thus made for the unwary or the untaught in the principles of Scripture exegesis, and many a life is sidetracked and troubled by this false use of the WORD OF GOD"



From War on the Saints

"Since thought, or "belief," originates either from the God of Truth or the father of lies (John 8:44), there is but one basic principle for testing the source of all doctrines and philosophical beliefs held by believers or unbelievers, ie., the test of THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD. All genuine "truth" is in harmony with the only channel of revealed truth in the world—the written Word of God."

From War on the Saints

"The safe path for believers at the close of the age is one of TENACIOUS FAITH IN THE WRITTEN WORD AS THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, to cut the way through all the interferences and tactics of the forces of darkness, to the end."

### Re: Some of Jessi-Penn Lewis's heresies, on: 2016/6/29 20:37

Some of Jessi-Penn Lewis's heresies:

Penn-Lewis learned from Guyon the alleged truth of Quietism, an effortless spiritual life that is stripped of vestiges of self by passing beyond effort or feeling or even faith to mystical union with the Divine, the Christ-life, where your own personality as a separate identity merged in Him, and God is we are not.

she wrote, we have never had to fight a battle of surrender of will from that time, having entered by Spirit baptism into a realm of spiritual experience higher than any promised in the Bible or experienced by men like the Apostle Paul in their lifetime (Galatians 5:17; Romans 7:14-25).

Thus, the material for her books came from the spirit world, visions, dreams, voices, experiences with heavy breathing, roaring, parts of her body feeling corrupt and loathsome, and so on. Her teaching on those deeper aspects of Romans 6 and Colossians 2 were revealed to her in such a manner rather than from the study of the Bible, which teaches, on the contrary, that while Christ endured the punishment of the sinful world in a vicarious way, sin being imputed to Him, He nevertheless was never personally sinful. Thus, by her visions and revelations, she gained that deep knowledge of the Cross which contradicts what Scripture teaches about the work of Christ on the cross. Writing to F. B. Meyer, she said, we have been given by the Divine Spirit the interpretation of the Cross to the Christian. She was specially chosen . . . and equipped with deep spiritual truths in these last days for the Church, truths that no one else held, since they are not in the Bible. Furthermore, the spirits that gave her revelations not only miraculously produced The Message of the Cross, every bit of it,

Written by G. Richard Fisher, pastor.

"From the perspective of Penn- Lewis, there was hardly a part of the body safe from pestiferous spirits. Likewise in her view, demons could jump into and/or onto almost any part of the body at any time and possess believers. No wonder most of the circulated editions of War on the Saints are abridged and cleaned up with the extreme nonsense edited out. The book belongs in the "scary science fiction" section of your local Barnes and Noble bookstore alongside the X Files.

Penn-Lewis put forth the impossible premise that demons could sin through the believer, causing the believer to be confused and think they were sinning when they were not. She called it counterfeit sin:

"Evil spirits can also counterfeit sin, by causing some apparent manifestation of the evil nature in the life, and mature believers should know whether such a manifestation really is sin from the old nature, or a manifestation from evil spirits. The purpose in the latter case is to get the believer to take what comes from them, as from himself, for whatever is accepted from evil spirits gives them entry and power."

"It is claimed that Mrs Penn Lewis used Evan's name to propagate her own ministry and message. She supposedly convinced him he was deceived by evil spirits and, over the next few years co-authored with Evan "War on the Saints", which was published in 1913.

This book clearly delineates the confusion she had drawn Evan into. It left its readers totally wary of any spiritual phenomena of any kind or degree. Rather than giving clear guidelines regarding discerning satanic powers, it brought into question anything that may be considered, or that might be described, as Holy Spirit activity.



Within a year of its publication, Evan Roberts denounced it, telling friends that it had been a failed weapon which had confused and divided the Lord's people."

**Re: , on: 2016/6/29 22:14**

She is consistent in all of her books regarding the imperative reliance of the Believer on the Word of God and always pointing the Believer to the Word of God.

Read for yourselves and by all means take into into account what everyone says but draw your own conclusions based on your own inquiries of the Lord for light and truth regarding what you read. He will never fail you.

From the Cross of Calvary:

<http://classicbiblestudyguide.com/English/TheCrossOfCalvary.pdf>

"You must quickly take, and hide behind, the "shield of faith" from the "fiery darts of the evil one," and especially keep the "helmet of salvation" upon your head, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, your "thoughts" should be corrupted from the "simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3). Above all, for defense and attack, you will ceaselessly need the sword of the Spirit, the WORD OF GOD, which is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword."

"Faith on the part of the redeemed one is again mentioned here. Faith is nonexistent apart from its object. Faith is simply reliance upon the WORD OF GOD, with the character of God at the back of His word! "Faith cometh by hearing" and is awakened in the receptive heart by the Spirit of God Himself as He speaks the word of God to the soul."

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to wield the sword of the Spirit, the WORD OF GOD, and divide within us all that is soulish (Hebrews 4:12) from all that is true spirit. As the Word dwells in us richly and the dividing takes place, it is for us to hate the soul-life revealed and "lose" it by yielding it to the cross.

From "Life out of Death"

<http://classicbiblestudyguide.com/English/LifeOutOfDeath.pdf>

"As the Spirit of God reveals more fully the life of one's selfhood, and as the sacrificial knife (Hebrews 4:12, so the thought is in the Greek) of the living WORD OF GOD pierces to the dividing of soul and spirit, we must turn to the finished work of our Redeemer and thankfully recognize our place with Him upon His cross. Thus shall the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus make us free, and we shall be joined to Another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit unto God."

"Obedience up to light is one of the main conditions of "abiding," to which maybe added faith in the faithfulness of God to maintain the soul in Him, and, as well, the Word of God, dwelling richly in the heart, and the continuous application by the Holy Spirit of the blood of sprinkling (1 Peter 1:2)."

"We need to be very careful In the language we use, that it is entirely in accordance with the WORD OF GOD. The word "eradication" is not in the Bible, and if by it is meant the complete and absolute destruction of the "old creation," so that the man is sinless, and cannot sin, then it is indeed contrary to the Word of God. Avoid unscriptural language."

"Keep to the WORD OF GOD, and do not be tossed about by every wind of doctrine; and take everything you hear to the Lord, and like a little child trust Him to teach you what He means by these things in His Own Word."

"That is walking "in newness of life." It does not mean a constant struggle to hold this attitude, but as you rest upon the WORD OF GOD, believing that what He says of you in Romans 6 is true, you enter into the "rest of faith" concerning it, and the attitude becomes a habit of life."

**Re: - posted by dfella (), on: 2016/6/29 23:15**

Maybe I should start another thread and do not want to disrespect Brother Blaine's OP. However there is something that makes absolutely no sense whatsoever to me and that is the topic of the cessationist.

The definition of cessation is the fact or process of ending or being brought to an end.

First of all how do you separate the Godhead? How is it that the cessationist can say that the gifts, leading, guidance, power, signs, and wonders that are attributed to the Holy Spirit have come to an end?

Then I read people in this thread referring to cessationists as Christians, brothers, and Godly while these cessationists deny the very working of the Holy Spirit and pass the real manifestations of the Holy Spirit off as counterfeit. Why is it that the Holy Spirit always seems to bear the brunt of this false doctrine? Do you really believe you can deny, discount, and explain away the Holy Spirit's function within the body of Christ and not at the same time deny the Father and the Son?

You cannot separate the Godhead, if you deny One you deny All!

Are there counterfeits? Absolutely! But everyone always talks about the Holy Spirit's gifts and manifestations as the only thing the devil counterfeits, it's always the Holy Spirit this the Holy Spirit that. Do you realize that Jesus and the Father also have counterfeits and not just the Holy Spirit?

Nobody ever talks about the false Gods and false Jesus which the Bible and Jesus Himself said would come, every cessationist wants to target the Holy Spirit and Him only.

You cannot separate the Godhead, you kill One, you kill All, you deny One you deny All, you slander One, you slander All, but most seriously if you blaspheme the Holy Spirit there is no forgiveness.

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, His gifts, His workings are the very denial that He is the One doing them and attributing the true signs and wonders to the devil.

I've said it before and will say it again. Do not treat the Holy Spirit as some sort of option on a menu, He is not an option but a necessity. It is true that there are counterfeit gifts, manifestations, tongues, and that there are counterfeit manifestations of the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But I will warn you that this is not an excuse to condemn the true because of the false.

People are asking those of us who have received this most blessed and promised gift if we have tested what we have as the true thing. My question back is have you ever tested the manifestations, signs, and wonders of the Holy Spirit to see if they are real or not? In your whole Christian walk have you ever tested and bore witness that you know that you know that the Holy Spirit has done a miracle, healing, deliverance, spoke a word of prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge?? Or have you come to the conclusion of the cessationist?

I just do not see how one can be a cessationist and a believer at the same time. The gifts of the Spirit operate by faith, if you deny the gifts, where is your faith? Without faith it is impossible to please God. The Bible says when the Lord returns will He find faith in the earth?

I have many friends who are genuinely saved and I bear witness with their salvation and have wonderful prayer, fellowship, praise, worship, etc. that are not baptized in the Holy Spirit yet. I do not think any less of them whatsoever, I do not look down on them because I myself was truly saved for 9 years before I received the baptism. But when I get around professing Christians who want to deny, and explain away, the need of the Holy Spirit in their life or the lives of others it strikes a nerve and it is offensive. Not for me but for God.

There are many well known teachers/preachers who attack the Holy Spirit and His gifts relentlessly and that is nothing less than a spirit of antichrist. Am I being dogmatic? Yep. Am I being unteachable in this area? Yep.

Before you go and condemn me for being such, let me ask you a question. Are you dogmatic about Jesus, His virgin birth, His death, His burial, His resurrection, His return? You better be.

So don't go saying that it's okay to be dogmatic about one Manifestation of the Godhead over another.

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?**

You cannot have Jesus without the Word and you cannot have the Word without Jesus, they go hand in hand.

Likewise you cannot have the Holy Spirit without the gifts and you cannot have the gifts without the Holy Spirit.

Sorry Blaine, I did not mean to go on a rant, I would be happy to move this to its own thread if you wish, but I am not going to debate the issue. This is meant for those whom have ears to hear not for debate, arguing over, or denying.

If someone however can solve the oxymoron of describing an individual as being a cessationist and Christian at the same time I would be willing to be humored.

**Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2016/6/30 2:10**

Thanks David,

Some excellent points, especially regarding false Christ's and gods.

You have expressed much of how I feel around this subject.

It is so painful to hear respected bible teachers like John McArthur teaching and expounding scripture faithfully but when it comes to 1 Corinthians 12,13 and 14 and other portions explaining the Holy Spirit baptism and gifts etc, they start doing spiritual gymnastics and subject the scriptures to the interpretation of their specific denomination or traditions of men.

When this happens, one no longer wants to listen to anything they have to say....such a shame. They could reach and teach a much greater audience if they remained faithful to what the bible clearly declares.

God bless,

**Re: David , on: 2016/6/30 3:03**

Brother I think your post is appropriate to the thread. You raise valid points. I don't know though if anyone who holds to a cessationist view will address them fairly.

I have tried to avoid naming certain Bible teachers and just addressing the movement as a whole. But there is one well-known Bible teacher in southern California that many of us respect. Indeed many of us who were baptized in the Holy Spirit were weaned on his teaching. So it was disheartening when he held a conference a few years ago condemning virtually the entire charismatic movement to the pit of Hell.

The irony of the whole conference is that their cry would be Sola Scriptura. In other words let the scriptures be the foundation of doctrine. Then they would base their theology on four verses out of 1st Corinthians virtually doing theological gymnastics to establish the doctrine of cessationism based on the Canon of scripture.

Then the very thing the cessationists would accuse the charismatics of doing. They themselves would do. The cessationist would use the experience of the counterfeit to discredit their true moving of the Holy Spirit. Rather than appealing to scripture.

There are men such as Dr. Michael Brown who are Spirit-filled believers. Dr. Brown commands academic credentials on a par with Dr. John MacArthur. He has asked for debate and dialogue with Dr. MacArthur with open Bible on the issue of cessationism. Dr. MacArthur refuses to debate the question with Dr. Brown. My question is why.

The very thing the cessationist cry. Sola Scriptura. They do not want to do. Can it be that the cessationist realize that they cannot defend their position from the scriptures. At least not with an honest Berean spirit.

Personally I do not think that the doctrine of cessationism can be defended from the Scripture. At least I have not seen the evidence of Scripture to convince me that the Holy Spirit has stopped working as he did in Acts.

I do not want to appeal to experience alone. But I believe the experience I appeal to is established by the Scripture. Not seeing Scriptures that say the Holy Spirit has not ceased working particularly in the area of dreams and visions. Then we see the phenomenal growth of Muslims that are leaving Islam and coming to Christ through dreams and visions. And their conversions are authentic. Authentic enough that they are willing to risk death and many of them do for the sake of following Jesus.

I have had a pastor on one of my prayer calls. He works in a restricted nation. He shared how God told him in his ministry the only way Muslims would be reached for Christ would be through miracles. Thus his ministry has been filled with miracles which have seen Muslims drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The brother I describe is the real deal. He makes no issue of the miracles that God does through him. He talks more about Jesus Christ. He talks more about what He is going to do for Muslims. But he did share incredible stories that God did. Incredible to us. But normal for those who live out this type of faith and restricted nations.

If the doctrine of cessationism is true. Then I do not believe we would see the experiences that God is doing in the third world. However since this doctrine cannot be established from the Scriptures. What we see happening in restricted nations is confirmed and testified by the word of God.

Anyway brother these are my thoughts. Appreciate your post.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/30 3:03**

David brother,

I will answer you directly as you seem to be speaking to me personally.

I was a cessationist at one time, as it was the only teaching that I had received and can say categorically that these brethren are as much Christian as other groups.

I think you have misrepresented their beliefs however as they do not discount the working of the Holy Spirit today. They believe that He is still convicting of sin, guiding, giving gifts, comforting, in fact all of the things that scripture ascribes to Him including healing and speaking in unknown foreign languages.

Where they say His work has ceased is in the workings that we read of in scripture, as in the sign gifts for the purpose of the Jews, the many miracles that accompanied the preaching of the gospel, the many physical healings (which have not ceased but are not as common, in fact greatly decreased) the doors burst assunder, the healings from a handkerchief etc etc. Nothing like this has been witnessed during my own conversion or the preaching of the gospel when I have been present.

They are just not seen like this since the beginning as it was a special period but that is not to deny they still occur but if they do, it is not for the same purpose, that is, to establish the New Covenant beginning.

I have seen amazing miracles during my walk, for example the woman I prayed for who was attending hospital next day for heart surgery who was found not to need it after all. And many miracles myself of healings and yes indeed I have read many testimonies about Spirit baptism from the holiness movement to confirm what had happened to me, without any prior knowledge of it and the fruit of it was as was said, that is, I had been made free from sin and had seen Jesus in all His glory regarding what His will was for a mere human.

I see much deception however, and a great lack of teaching about testing everything, and even find those who have never even thought that there could be a pseudo baptism and where the differences lie.

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?**

It is not condemnation and I am sorry that you see it that way, it is just a genuine concern for my brethren which can hopefully be discussed in a calm and respect manner without there being insults and over reactions.

Peace to you.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/30 3:30**

Madame Guyon was not a Quietist though perhaps some of what she wrote could be interpreted as coming close to it. Many in the Holiness movement used her writings.

Again, accusations against JPL ruining the ministry of ER are being made with no more reliable source other than someone else spreading rumours. On a Christian forum I find that incomprehensible.

As both of these writers say, it is effortless to obey when flesh has been crucified. Spiritual teachings are beyond normal human understanding. Both writers were very much scripture based.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/30 3:36**

Dear Blaire

Yes I do believe that in some countries, miracles are occurring when the gospel is preached though nowhere near the scale that occurred originally, otherwise the news channels would be filled with it.

Definitely not every time the gospel is preached today not most of the time since the beginning. If one observes this, and notes that tongues were not spoken of in later letters nor in the early church and there is a scripture that says that tongues will cease (of themselves according to the Greek) then I do not see where the problem is.

I think there can be an obsession with finding a verse for everything, or two verses. When there is a verse, and it can be verified by whatever is written or not written that backs it up, and then history backs that up further, then I think we are in the realm of denial. Wesley said that there should be reason as well as scripture.

But there are two issues here, one is the preaching of the gospel and another is when men are baptised in the Spirit, both taking place at Pentecost but rarely take place at the same time today unless it is during revival.

I wonder which you are meaning?

**Re: , on: 2016/6/30 8:10**

Quote:  
-----by brenda7 on 2016/6/30 3:30:00

Again, accusations against JPL ruining the ministry of ER are being made with no more reliable source other than someone else spreading rumours. On a Christian forum I find that incomprehensible.  
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Incomprehensible? Yes, but consider the source. I just do what Greg does and ignore them.

**Re: Gifts of the Holy Spirit - posted by Fatherschild (), on: 2016/6/30 8:42**

Does God still confirm his gospel today by signs and wonders and various miracles and Gifts of the Holy Spirit? If not. Please give your reason from the scripture.

Of course He is with a resounding Yes! I and many others here are walking testimonies of that truth. And thank you brother David for speaking what has been on my heart throughout the course of following this thread. Professing that God's gifts from His precious Holy Spirit have ceased for today is a lie straight from the pit of hell. Those who profess to be born again of God's Holy Spirit and deny that His gifts are operating in his Body today are deceived at best or at worst, willfully blind to the truth they refuse see. The old adage you can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink is a sure fit as is the beating of a dead horse to further debate those who choose to remain steadfast in the lie. God forbid we grieve His Holy Spirit and have mercy and enlighten those who do so in ignorance.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/30 9:49**

A much more devious false doctrine than that of being a secessionist is that of those individuals who deny the person and work of Jesus Christ,

Even in the forum you have those who deny the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ. These whose basic claim is that his physical body rotted in the grave and his resurrection was purely spiritual in nature. That this spiritual Jesus returned in 70 AD invisibly to the physical earth setting up his eternal spiritual Kingdom that no one can see. This spiritual body Jesus is now reigning over a spiritual Kingdom with perfect peace and harmony that the material Jesus died for (they say)

This is a far worse false doctrine than what the secessionists proclaim. They do not deny the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These individuals however deny Jesus, his person and identity. They change the work of the cross from being a physical and literal work of salvation to that of an immaterial, spiritual so called salvation. That means that your body, my body will also rot in the grave and only the spirit remains, This salvation is partial according to their Jesus because he did not overcome the world, flesh and the devil.

No, the real Son of Man defeated Satan on every level, material, physical and eternally. His physical resurrection is proof positive. Their spiritual Jesus is a non-existent loser.

These are not genuine believers as brother David suggests of the secessionists, These heresies, denying that Jesus is both man and God, past present and future are of an antichrist spirit and are far worse than debating what the Holy Spirit is now doing or not doing. Everything they say is based on a demonic misrepresentation of who the Lord Jesus is. This is far worse than being a secessionist

**Re: NDY, on: 2016/6/30 10:16**

Then brother why don't you open up a thread on that issue so we do not have confusion on this thread. I would like to try to keep this thread more on the issue The Holy Spirit confirming the gospel by signs and wonders. At least to discuss if the Holy Spirit is still doing that in this day and age.

**Re: , on: 2016/6/30 10:21**

Thanks Julius, agreed.

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders?**

**Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/7/1 7:33**

Quote:  
-----by Julius27  
Incomprehensible? Yes, but consider the source. I just do what Greg does and ignore them.  
-----

edited out. Sorry Julius totally misunderstood what you wrote brother!!

**Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/7/1 7:39**

Quote:  
-----by dfella  
You cannot have Jesus without the Word and you cannot have the Word without Jesus, they go hand in hand.

Likewise you cannot have the Holy Spirit without the gifts and you cannot have the gifts without the Holy Spirit.

Sorry Blaine, I did not mean to go on a rant, I would be happy to move this to its own thread if you wish, but I am not going to debate the issue. This is meant for those whom have ears to hear not for debate, arguing over, or denying.

If someone however can solve the oxymoron of describing an individual as being a cessationist and Christian at the same time I would be willing to be humored.  
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God bless you David!!!

I read this yesterday at work and I thought was a great Biblical rant but could only respond now!! LOL

I believe you hit the nail on the head, brother and thank you!!

God bless,  
Lisa

**Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/7/1 8:20**

Urgent prayer needed for wendy,,,she is being shocked by the paddles right now ,for the seconded time a friend of my wife ,,lets stop talking about miricals and speak life over her ,,,,,!!!!!!

**Re: , on: 2016/7/1 8:44**

Quote:  
-----by Lysa on 2016/7/1 7:33:07

Quote:  
-----by Julius27  
Incomprehensible? Yes, but consider the source. I just do what Greg does and ignore them.  
-----

edited out. Sorry Julius totally misunderstood what you wrote brother!!  
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No problem. I quoted Brenda, so it was a response to her and she understood.

**Re: Does God still confirm the gospel by signs and wonders? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/7/2 15:57**

Verses FOR believing in signs and wonders and miracles:

Acts 4:16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

Acts 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.