


Ecclesiology
Session 32



Dr. Andy Woods

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President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Areas of Systematic Theology

- Prolegomena – Introduction
- Theology – Study of God
- Christology – Study of Christ
- Pneumatology – Study of the Holy Spirit
- Anthropology – Study of Man
- Hamartiology – Study of sin
- Soteriology – Study of salvation
- Angelology – Study of angels
- **Ecclesiology – Study of the Church**
- Eschatology – Study of the end



Ecclesiology Overview

- I. Definition
- II. Universal vs. local
- III. Word pictures
- IV. Origin
- V. Israel – Church differences
- VI. Intercalation
- VII. **Purposes**
- VIII. Activities
- IX. Government
- X. Officers
- XI. Ordinances
- XII. Purity



VII. Purposes of the Local Church



- Glorify God (Eph 3:21)
- **Edify the saints (Eph 4:11-16)**
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

Spiritual Gifts



Four Questions

1. What are some general observations about spiritual gifts?
2. Are all the spiritual gifts for today?
3. What are the spiritual gifts?
4. How do we discover our own unique area of gifting?



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The Case for Selective Cessationism

- I. Preliminary thoughts
- II. Four categories of gifts
 - A. Foundational (Eph 2:20)
 - B. Confirmatory (Heb 2:3-4)
 - C. Revelatory (Jude 3)
 - D. Edificatory gifts continue (Eph. 4:11-16)
- III. Church history and selective cessationism
- IV. Proper operation of the Sign & Revelatory gifts
- V. True source of the charismatic movement
- VI. Explanation of the Charismatic movement's popularity



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The 7 Disputed Gifts

- 1. Apostle
- 2. Prophet
- 3. Worker of Miracles
- 4. Tongues
- 5. Interpretation of tongues
- 6. Healing
- 7. Knowledge



Two Camps

- 1. Charismatics – All the spiritual gifts are in operation today
- 2. Cessationists (selective)– Most of the spiritual gifts are in operation today



SLBC Position Statement No. 7

“TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS – This church teaches that the miraculous sign gifts, including the gift of tongues, (always the ability to speak in a previously unlearned, known language) along with the gift of healings were temporal gifts, given by the Holy Spirit solely to authenticate both the apostles and their message before the close of the canon of Scripture (1 Cor. 13:8-10). We do not believe that these are active as gifts today. However, we affirm that God is sovereign and may heal and/or give someone the ability to speak in a tongue (foreign language) today. We believe that the majority of what is termed ‘miraculous’ within the contemporary charismatic movement is something other than the Biblical gifts of tongues or healing.”

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IV. Proper Operation of the Sign & Revelatory Gifts

- I. Prophecy
- II. Tongues




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I. Prophecy

II. Tongues



I. Proper Rules for Prophecy



A. 100% accuracy (Deut. 18:20-22; Acts 11:28; 21:10-11)

B. 2 to 3 prophets at a time (1 Cor. 14:29a)

C. Prophets are in full control of their faculties (1 Cor. 14:32)

D. Listeners are to judge carefully


1. 1 Cor. 14:29b
2. Deut. 13:1-5; Isa. 8:19-20; Acts 17:11; Gal. 1:8-9; 1 Thess. 5:20-21; 1 John 4:1; Rev. 2:2

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I. Prophecy

II. Tongues



II. Proper Rules for Tongues 

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- B. Tongues are low priority in Church (1 Cor. 12:28-30)
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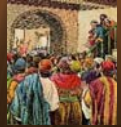
1 Corinthians 12:10 (KJV)

“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues [*glōssa*]; to another the interpretation of tongues [*glōssa*].”



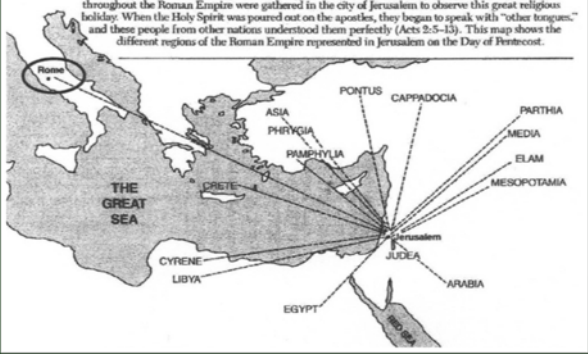
Acts 2:6

“Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language [*dialektos*].”



The Nations of Pentecost

Pentecost, a Jewish feast also known as the Feast of Weeks, marked the completion of the barley harvest. On this annual holiday about 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus, Jewish people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in the city of Jerusalem to observe this great religious holiday. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles, they began to speak with “other tongues,” and these people from other nations understood them perfectly (Acts 2:5–13). This map shows the different regions of the Roman Empire represented in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.



Revelation 9:11 (KJV)

“And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the *Hebrew tongue* is Abaddon, but in the *Greek tongue* hath his name Apollyon.”



1 Corinthians 14:21-22

"²¹In the Law it is written, 'BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME,' says the Lord. ²²So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe."



1 Corinthians 14:26-27

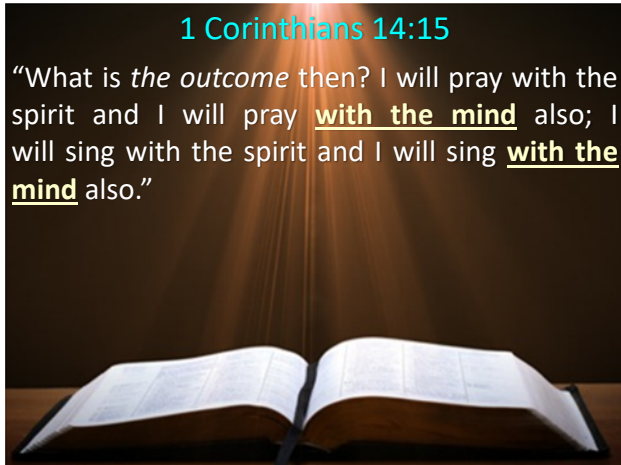
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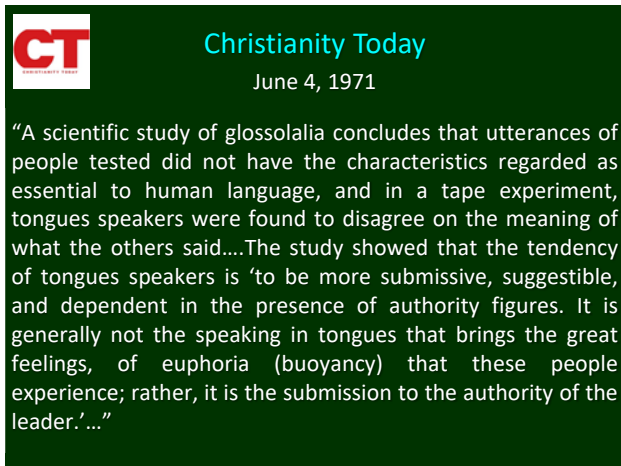


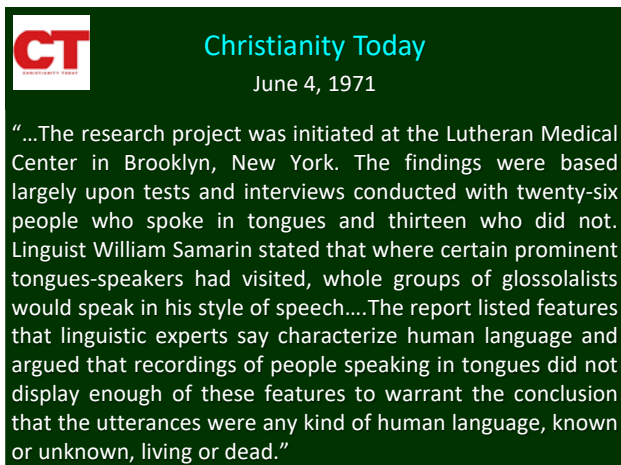
Mathew 6:7

"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words."









Virgil, 1st century B.C. commenting of the priestess on the Isle of Delos.

“She attained her ecstatic state and speech in a haunted cave where drafts and winds made weird sounds and music. When she became united in spirit with the god Apollo, she began to speak in tongues, sometimes understood, sometimes incoherent.”

Cited by John Miles, The Subject of Tongues, an Introduction to Christian Doctrine: An Outline Course, (Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Music, 1974), p. 2.

National Geographic on the Priestess at Delphi.

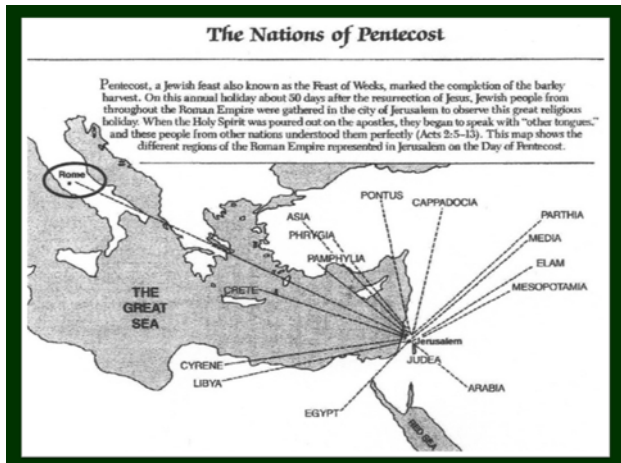
“In a trance, perhaps induced by narcotic herbs, she sat on a tripod and raved. Priests enriched themselves by translating her incoherent cries into rhymed prophecies.”

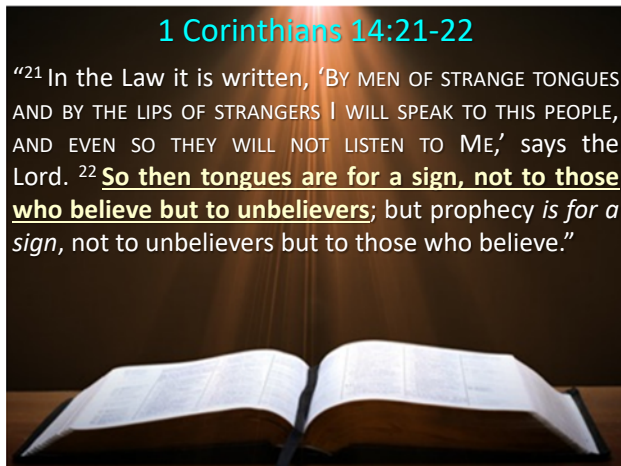
Greece and Rome: Builders of Our World, National Geographic Society, 1968), p. 171.

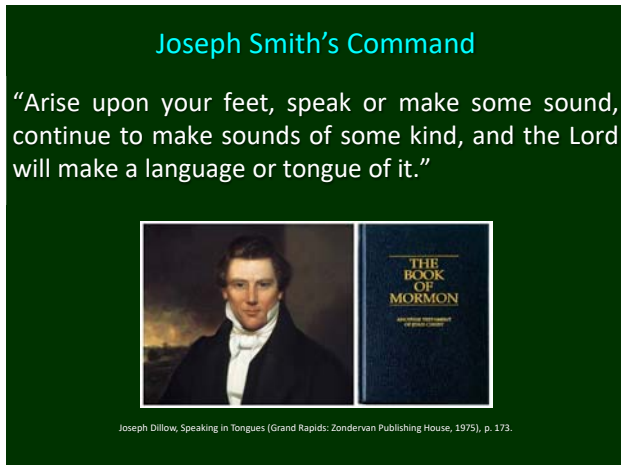
Chrysostom, a 4th Century Christian on Priestess of Delphi.

“...This same Pythoness then is said to be female, to sit at times upon the tripod of Apollos astride, and thus the evil spirit ascending from beneath and entering the lower part of her body, fills the woman with madness, and she with disheveled hair begins to play the bacchanal and to foam at the mouth, and thus being in frenzy to utter the words of her madness.”

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Brigham Young

“Shouting, jerks, and dancing were common in their services, and Brigham Young not only spoke in **unknown tongues** but interpreted his messages to his hearers.”



Thomas R. Edgar, Miraculous Gifts, (Neptune, New Jersey, Loizeaux Brothers, 1983), p. 255.

Tongues and the Unsaved

“Now before you sit down and write me a letter telling me how real your experience with tongues is, let me tell you about mine. I’ve spoken in tongues on several occasions. I’ve walked down aisles, I’ve prayed through at the altar, I’ve followed the instructions of the spiritual leaders who were telling me how to speak in tongues, and I spoke in tongues. **It was very real. It happened. There was nothing unreal about it. But it was not of the Holy Spirit! How do I know? I wasn’t even saved at the time.** That’s how I know. I became convinced by the preaching I heard that I must speak in tongues to be right with God. I was determined to do it, and I did it.”

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1 Corinthians 12:28-30

"²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues. ²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of miracles*, are they? ³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? **All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?**"



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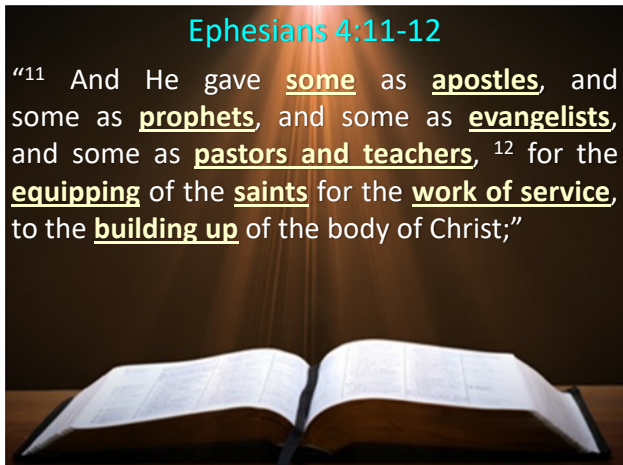
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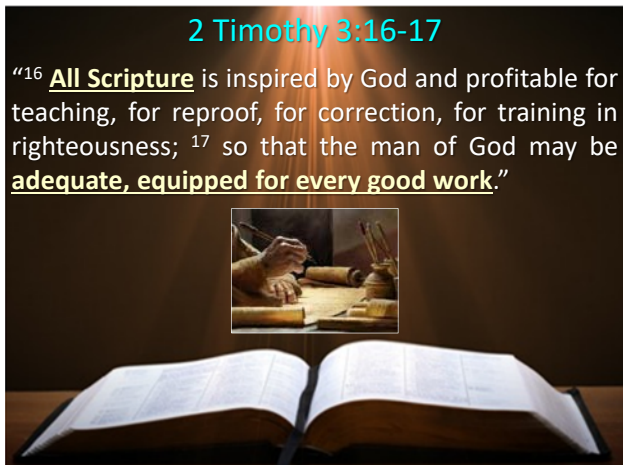
Ephesians 4:11-12

“¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”




2 Timothy 3:16-17

“¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”




Emphasy of 2 Timothy




“By my count, there are twenty-seven explicit commands given in the body of this letter. In 27 words Paul tells pastors what to focus on. You have to be blind to miss the thrust of Paul's instructions here, because *eighteen* of those commands--fully *two-thirds*--have to do with the ministry of the *Word*.”

Daniel Wallace, "Crisis of the Word: A Message to Pastors or Would-be Pastors," *Conservative Theological Journal* 1, no. 2 (August 1997): 108.

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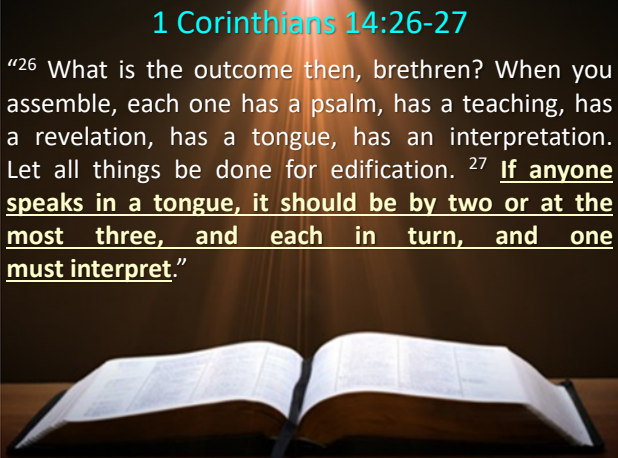
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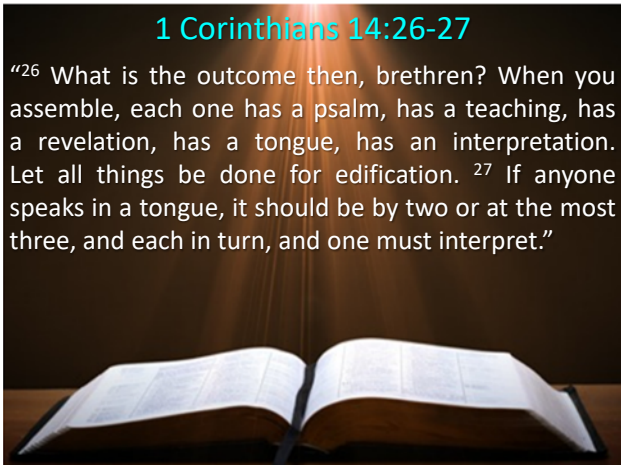



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Spiritual Gifts: Observation #2

- God sovereignly bestows all the Spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:11; Heb 2:4)



1 Corinthians 12:31

“³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with **tongues**, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But **earnestly desire (zēloō)** the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.”



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Spiritual Gifts: Observation #6

- Spiritual gifts are given in order to edify the church (1 Cor 12:7; 14:12, 26; Eph 4:11-12; 1 Pet 4:10)



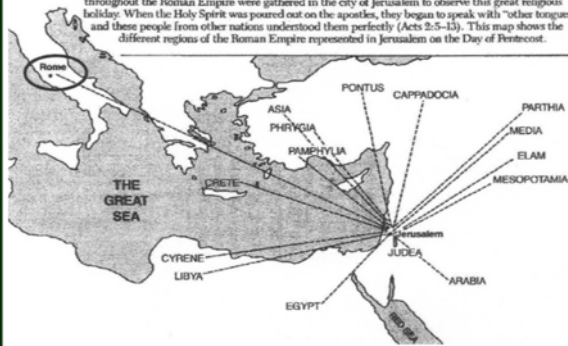
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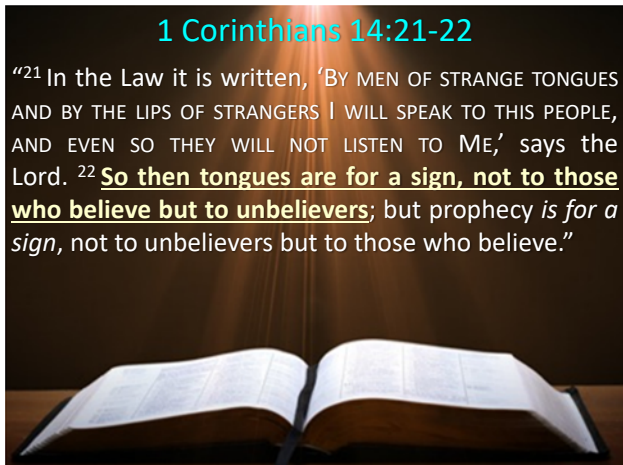
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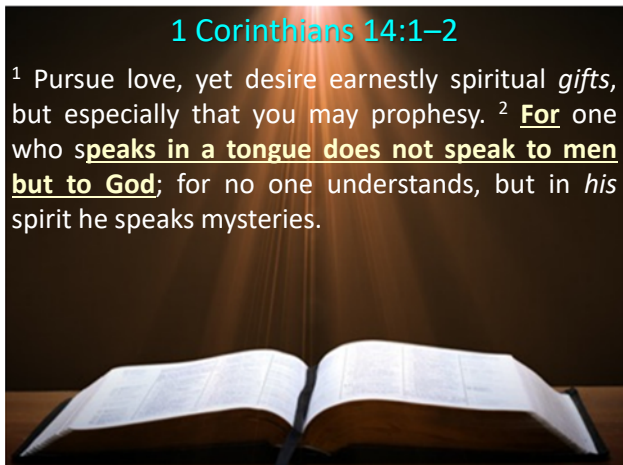
1 Corinthians 14:21-22

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1 Corinthians 14:1-2

¹ Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy. ² **For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God;** for no one understands, but in *his* spirit he speaks mysteries.




1 Corinthians 14:4

"One who speaks in a tongue **edifies** himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church."



1 Corinthians 8:10

“For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be **strengthened** to eat things sacrificed to idols?”



1 Corinthians 14:28

“but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.”



Romans 8:26-27

“²⁶ In the same way **the Spirit** also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and **He** who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He intercedes** for the saints according to *the will of God.*”

Conclusion

II. Proper Rules for Tongues

- A. No gibberish or incoherent speech (1 Cor. 12:10)
- B. Tongues are low priority in Church (1 Cor. 12:28-30)
- C. Teaching edification = priority over tongues (1 Cor. 14:19)
- D. No untranslated tongues in Church (1 Cor. 14:23, 28)
- E. Only 2 to 3 tongue speakers at a time (1 Cor. 14:27)
- F. Speakers are in control of their faculties (1 Cor. 14:32)
- G. Services = orderly absent confusion (1 Cor. 14:33, 40)
- H. Not all Christians speak in tongues (1 Cor. 12:30)
- I. Christians need not seek tongues (1 Cor. 12:31)
- J. Tongues are not a prayer language (1 Cor. 14:26-27)

The Case for Selective Cessationism

- I. Preliminary thoughts
- II. Four categories of gifts
 - A. Foundational (Eph 2:20)
 - B. Confirmatory (Heb 2:3-4)
 - C. Revelatory (Jude 3)
 - D. Edificatory gifts continue (Eph. 4:11-16)
- III. Church history and selective cessationism
- IV. Proper operation of the Sign & Revelatory gifts
- V. True source of the charismatic movement
- VI. Explanation of the Charismatic movement's popularity
