

# Introduction:

## The Arrival of Perfection

***1 Corinthians 13:8-12, 8** Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. **9** For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. **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.*

As the revealer of all Truth, the Holy Spirit would confirm the word that was being revealed through the miraculous gifts of the Spirit.

**Let's read the following Scriptures:**

**Mark 16:17-20, Acts 14:2-3, 1 Corinthians 1:4-8, Hebrews 2:3-4, Acts 5:12, 8:6, 14:1-3**

The gifts were to be a sign and warning of the great and terrible Day of the Lord. (**Acts 2:15**) They were only temporary until the Day of the Lord, (**1 Corinthians 1:6-8, 13:8**) until the arrival of that which is perfect. (**Ephesians 4:8-16**)

**Ephesians 4:8-16** speaks about coming unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ until the end of the age, something that was coming very soon. (**Matthew 28:20, Acts 2:40**)

There have been many “**claims**” of living inspired, authoritative, infallible prophets in churches today, but when we consider the prophetic office, we hardly need much evidence to know without any doubt that this office has ceased.

To be sure, there have been many individuals who have made such claims but cannot pass the test of **Deuteronomy 18:20-22** and **Revelation 2:1-2**.

If there were truly inspired, authoritative, infallible prophets in the church today, then we should know without doubt as the early church did. A true prophet manifested the following:

1. Know all things (**John 14:26, John 16:13**) There are no men or women in the church today who possess knowledge of all things, who possess all truth, and have all spiritual knowledge. This is indisputably true.
2. Perfect remembrance of all the words of Jesus (**John 14:26**), total recall of every word of Jesus including things not recorded. (**John 21:25**)
3. He will show you things to come. (**John 16:13**) Nothing could be more self-evident than to say that we have no prophets alive today who are able to infallibly tell the truth about “**things to come.**” The sad history of the church in every generation is that one false prophet after another has declared that the end is near.

We know that the gifts of the Spirit have ceased because the inspired infallible authoritative prophets have ceased. We know this for the very same reason that we know psychics are charlatans.

Psychics don't win the lottery. People with the gift of healing do not go to the cancer wards of hospitals and clean them out. So called “**prophets**” do not stand up and verify through “**signs following**” that they are of God and “**show things to come**” This is obviously undeniable.

All prophecy was fulfilled at the time of the final resurrection. There was a guarantee that the gifts of the Spirit would continue until the Day of the Lord, the resurrection, the return of Jesus, and the judgment.

There was no further need for the prophetic office. (**Daniel 9:24**) The 70 weeks of Daniel have been fulfilled. If the prophetic office has ceased, then all the gifts have ceased at the end of Israel's covenant age.

Some say that “**which is perfect**” refers to the completion of the Bible. Others say it refers to the maturity of the church. Some say that it is the second coming of Jesus. There are also some who say that it is the coming of the New Heavens and the New Earth of **Revelation 21-22**, that is the New Jerusalem which is perfect. **THEY ARE ALL CORRECT!**

The Greek word “**perfect**” is “**teleios**” [Strong's G#5046](#) and is translated in the Epistles as “mature” God’s goal for the church was to come to maturity.

**G5046**  
**τέλειος**  
teleios  
tel'-i-os  
From [G5056](#); **complete** (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with [G3588](#)) **completeness**: - of full age, man, perfect.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit were for the purpose of maturing the body of Christ. When the church came into a face-to-face relationship with Jesus, she entered into a perfect maturity and no longer needed spiritual gifts.

Those gifts were transitory. (**Ephesians 4:11-13**) The gifts were used to bring the church from a state of infancy at Pentecost to adulthood at AD 70. The word “**perfect**” in **Ephesians 4:13** is translated “**mature**” and is the same Greek word “**teleios**” in **1 Corinthians 13:10**.

Maturity is the perfect man defined as attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ. **1 Corinthians 13:10** says, “***But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.***”

The Law could not make you perfect. (**Hebrews 10:1, 12:23**) According to Strong’s, the word “**perfect**” [Strong's H#8549](#) in the Hebrew meant complete, whole, undefiled, upright, clean, full, restore, all, every whit.

**H8549**  
**תמים**  
tāmî`ym  
taw-meem'  
From [H8552](#); **entire** (literally, figuratively or morally); also (as noun) **integrity, truth**: - without blemish, **complete**, full, perfect, sincerely (-ity), sound, without spot, undefiled, upright (-ly), whole.

Also, according to Strong’s, the word “**perfect**” in the Greek meant completeness, full age, to fit, mend, restore, to accomplish, to finish, to complete, consummate, to finish.

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. (**Hebrews 12:2, John 4:34, Philippians 1:6**) This happened at the return of Jesus in AD 70.

In **Daniel 9:24**, Daniel was told that 70 weeks were determined upon his people and the city of Jerusalem.

**Verse 24** says.... **“to seal up the vision and prophecy”** which means prophecies and prophets are sealed meaning the end and complete fulfillment of ALL prophecy.

What Paul says in **1 Corinthians 13** is that prophecy will end when the perfect comes. Prophecy ceased with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

**Ephesians 4:13** the **“till”** means termination. Daniel said that prophecy will cease. (**Daniel 9:24**) Paul says the same thing in **1 Corinthians 13**, and in **Ephesians chapter 4**. To seal up vision and prophecy would mean the cessation of the prophetic office through the fulfillment of all prophecy.

The gifts of the Spirit were to continue through the last days. (**Acts 2:16-20**) The last days ended in AD 70. (**1 Corinthians 1:5-8**) Paul was speaking to the Corinthians in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. They were eagerly waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Abrahamic promise involved the redemption of Israel, the true spiritual Israel. Who is Zion? It is the heavenly Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ, the true Israel of God.

In **Isaiah 52:8**, Isaiah said that Israel would be in a face-to-face state when God, in the fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise, redeemed Israel. Israel was to see **“eye to eye”** when the Lord restored her.

When was the Lord going to restore Israel? At the consummation of the 70 weeks of **Daniel 9**, which was the destruction of Jerusalem. **1 Corinthians 13:12** says **“face to face”**.

According to the Greek language and Strong's, this expression “face to face” means presence as used in **Genesis 4:14- “...the face of the Lord.”**

*paṭw-neem'*

Plural (but always used as a singular) of an unused noun (פָּנֶה *pāneh*, *paṭw-neh'*; from 6437); the **face** (as the part that *turns*); used in a great variety of applications (literally and figuratively); also (with prepositional prefix) as a preposition (*before*, etc.): - + accept, a (be-) fore (-time), against, anger, X as (long as), at, + battle, + because (of), + beseech, **countenance**, edge, + employ, endure, + enquire, **face**, favour, fear of, for, forefront (-part), **form** (-er time, -ward), from, front, heaviness, X him (-self), + honourable, + impudent, + in, it, look [-eth] (-s), X me, + **meet**, X more than, mouth, of, off, (of) old (time), X on, open, + out of, over against, the partial, **person**, + please, **presence**, prospect, was purposed, by reason, of, + regard, right forth, + serve, X shewbread, sight, state, straight, + street, X thee, X them (-selves), through (+ -out), till, time (-s) past, (un-) to (-ward), + upon, upside (+ down), with (-in, + stand), X ye, X you.

Also, in **1 Corinthians 13:12**, “face” [Strong's G#4383](#) here also means “presence”. **2 Peter 1:16**, the word “coming” is the Greek word “Parousia” [Strong's G#3952](#) which means the presence of He who comes.

**G4383**

πρόσωπον

prosōpon

pros'-o-pon

From [G4314](#) and ὤψ ὀψ (the *visage*; from [G3700](#)); the *front* (as being *towards* view), that is, the *countenance*, *aspect*, *appearance*, *surface*; by implication *presence*, *person*: - (outward) appearance, X before, countenance, face, fashion, (men's) person, presence.

**G3952**

παρουσία

parousia

par-oo-see'-ah

From the present participle of [G3918](#); a *being near*, that is, *advent* (often, *return*; specifically of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physical *aspect*: - coming, presence.

There is a lot of confusion today about spiritual gifts. Do you know why that is? It is because those gifts were for the last days. When the last days ended, so did the gifts.

This is why so many believers have no clue as to what their gift is because they don't have one. The gifts of the Holy Spirit were a God-given capacity in which the Spirit supernaturally ministered to the church.

If the gift of teaching was functioning today, wouldn't all teachers be saying the same thing? If it were a supernatural function of the Spirit, would the Holy Spirit be teaching different things?

## Conclusion

Perfection came in AD 70. The Old Testament and the New Testament were perfected together. Both groups, the “us” and the “them” would attain life together in that city at the same time. (**Hebrews 11:10, 40, 12:22-28**)

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