

A Perfect Lesson

Pentecostalism (III)

I. A Look At Context

1 Corinthians 12:1

- Recalls 7:1
- 12:4-11: variety of spiritual gifts
 - Three categories (overlap)

Mental powers	wisdom; knowledge; faith
Evidential powers (signs)	Healing; miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits
Language powers	tongues; interpretations

1 Corinthians 12:1

- Recalls 7:1
- 12:4-11: variety of spiritual gifts
- 12:14-27
 - Gifts work in one body; members differ
 - No room for ¹arrogance, ²jealousy
- 12:28-30 – not all had miraculous powers
- 12:31: seek better way: love

1 Corinthians 13 – motive behind spiritual gifts

- Three divisions –
 1. Importance of love, 1-3
 2. Characteristics of love, 4-7
 3. Permanence of love, 8-13

I. A Look At Context

II. A Love-ly Chapter

13:1-3, without love: 0

13:4-7, just what Corinth needed

- Pentecostals assume we need miraculous gifts to reach highest level of maturity
- 1 Co.1:7

13:8-13

- Emphasize the eternal
- Make the permanent your priority

13:8

- Love never fails (abides, v.13)
- Spiritual gifts are not permanent (8)
 - Prophecy (12:10; 13:2) } cease; done away
 - Tongues (12:10; 13:1) } cease; make stop
 - Knowledge (12:8; 13:2) } cease; done away

What is temporary
cannot be supreme

13:9

- Know in part
 - Prophecy in part
- } Partial revelation =
partial knowledge (ct. 2)

13:10

- Perfect: complete, finished. Ja.1:4

Brought to its end, finished; wanting nothing necessary to completeness; perfect...Ja.1:25 –Th. ‘Opp. ‘in part’ – BDAG.

- After OT books were complete, prophets ceased.

13:9

- Know in part
 - Prophecy in part
- } Partial revelation =
partial knowledge (ct. 2)

13:10

- Perfect: complete, finished. –Whatever the *in part* (incomplete) is, the *perfect* is also.
 - No one place had all truth (NT).
Ac.2...10. Col.4:16
 - After Paul sent 1 Co., no need for prophet
 - Ja.1:25 – true of completed NT

13:10

- The incomplete and complete thing must be on same subject

Incomplete method
of revelation (oral
prophecy, tongues,
knowledge)

Complete method
of revelation
(completed / written
NT)

Child matures
into man

Empty tank...
full tank

Child matures
into full tank??

Empty tank...
full grown man??

13:10

- The incomplete and complete thing must be on same subject

Incomplete method
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Complete method
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Child matures
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Empty tank...
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Incomplete
revelation ...

Complete
love...

13:10

- The incomplete and complete thing must be on same subject

Incomplete method
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Child matures
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Empty tank...
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Incomplete
revelation ...

Coming of
Christ??

13:11

- ‘I put away’ childish things – cause to cease to happen – ‘to put a stop to’ –L-N.
- Gospel was revealed a part at a time: like a child who learns one small lesson at a time
- Childhood is necessary, but not permanent.
- Spiritual gifts existed in immature period of the church; they were not permanent.

–Ac.11:15 . . . (2:42)

13:12

- An illustration: we see now (as Paul writes) in a mirror, dimly. Then...I will know...
 - For: further explanation of thought in v.11
 - Now: corresponds to ‘when I was a child’ (v.11): period of ‘in part’ revelation (9-10)
 - Mirror: Corinthian – a simple analogy

Mirror: a figure
of speech

Face to face:
figure of speech

Mirror: incomplete
knowledge

Face to face:
complete know.

13:12

- Dimly: partial revelation is not as clear as complete. Jn.2:18-22
 - Paul is not describing *what* he would see, but *how*.
- Know just as I also am known: full revelation

Ac.2-9, Gentiles?

Ac.10-11, know

13:13

- Faith, hope, love abide on earth in the more excellent way
- The in part method of revelation (8) does not abide. Contrasts –

Spiritual gifts, 8	Love, 8
Temporary, 8	Permanent, 8, 13
Incomplete, 9	Complete, 10
Child, 11	Man, 11
Dim, 12	Clear, 12

Tongues MUST cease before the second coming

- Tongues . . . cease (8)
- Faith and Hope . . . abide till Lord comes.
Hb.11:1; Ro.8:24
- Love never fails
 - If ‘perfect’ is second coming, is He partly coming now?
 - Leaves no time for faith and hope to abide after gifts cease (8, 13)
- Love surpasses faith, hope, and spiritual gifts

Even if one could prove 1 Co.13 says nothing about cessation of spiritual gifts...

- Would not prove they continue
- We know spiritual gifts ceased because –
 1. Manner of receiving gifts no longer in force, Ac.8:14-18
 2. Gifts fulfilled purpose, Mk.16:20; Hb.2:3-4
 3. If spiritual gifts continue, so does new revelation, ∴ NT is not complete, 2 T.3:16f
 4. If spiritual gifts continue, demonstrate it! (Mk.16:20; 1 Co.2:4; Rv.2:2)