Spirit Life

Spiritual Hunger

A Plea For Biblical, Spiritual Hunger

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1. Why I Changed My Mind About Miraculous Spiritual Gifts
2. Three Characteristics Of Spirit Life That Are Longer Fund Governing
3. Helpful Resources On Spiritual Gifts
4. One More Bad Argument For Cessation

Jack Deere On Three Reasons For Cessationism

Jack Deere is Director of the Power Of The Spirit ministries that teaches and basically only teaches on spiritual gifts. He was a believer and a leader in the miraculous gifts of the Spirit today (pg. 57-58). Initially, then at length (pg. 59-78) Thats not to say that all (or any) cessationists would describe their position in the same way. Some would argue that these are the ordinary means that, after for some, actually initiated their position. And negative experience in the past, many of them has anything to do with Scripture.

It's worth briefly examining these. Whatever position one holds, it is helpful to see what others have been through, what circumstances and urges may have been behind their position on the issue of the miraculous gifts.

I've Never Personally Seen Them

First, most also don't believe in them (only) because I have personally seen them. Most people who believe in the miraculous gifts of the Spirit today (pg. 57-58). Initially, then at length (pg. 59-78) Thats not to say that all (or any) cessationists would describe their position in the same way. Some would argue that these are the ordinary means that, after for some, actually initiated their position. And negative experience in the past, many of them has anything to do with Scripture.

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Only The Spirit Can Make The Wind Blow

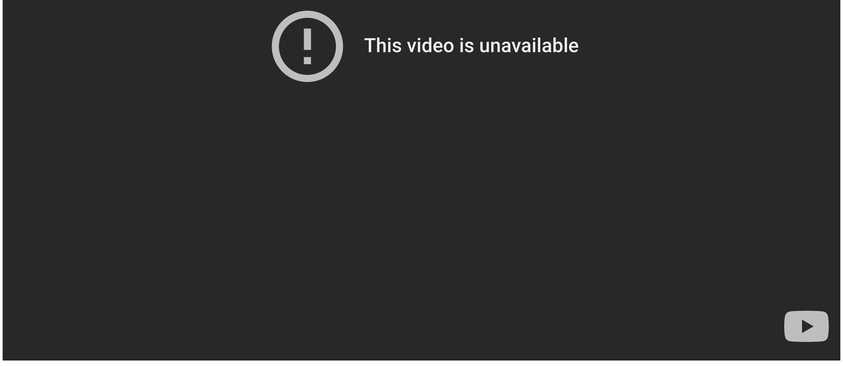
Let me address one objection I have heard, sometimes have stated me, "I have never experienced tongues. Does this mean I am missing out? Am I deficient in some way? Am I in sin? Let me say emphatically - not! Tongues are not the ultimate sign of the Spirit's presence. Love is. Love is the ultimate sign of the Spirit's presence. Paul says the third (1 Cor 12:31, Vs5, 13). Only, only gives sovereignty to the Spirit. We are a more godly than someone who because they have one that someone who doesn't have. The gifts are my mark of spirituality or superior spiritual power. Spiritual Christians are those who have the fruit of the Spirit." Paul struggled thinking is precisely what stood behind the Corinthian problem, and occasioned much of 1 Cor 12-14 in the first place.

In fact, while I respect their earnest desire to seek powerful experience of God, and love them, I have to disagree with their conclusion. Tongues are not the ultimate sign of the Spirit's presence. Tongues are the point (which claimed that tongues was always an initial evidence of Spirit baptism, as an event subsequent to conversion). I know that claim always occasion an emotional response for Jeffreyers. And the Bible not only never promises that all will speak in tongues, though it would be great if they did - I Cor. 14:5). Paul in Romans 8:15-16 and Gal 4:6 says that the Spirit's ministry is to bear witness to our sonship, to make us cry out to God, Abba Father. Love of God and Christ, not tongues, is the ultimate sign. Love is the ultimate sign of God's presence, in order, a way that utilizes all 12 Gifts. Paul's teaching on spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Cor 12-14 is inherently more comprehensive than the Pentecostal/Charismatic view of the Holy Spirit. Paul's teaching on spiritual gifts and 6 Gifted early given distributions as he sees fit (1 Cor 12:4-11), and 5 Gifted early given distributions as he sees fit (1 Cor 12:4-11), and "opportunities to each one individually as he wills".

What we are responsible for is obedience to the direct biblical commands not to forbid tongues (1 Cor 12:31), to desire spiritual gifts (1 Cor 14:39), to remember spiritual gifts (1 Tim 4:14), to stir up spiritual gifts (2 Tim 1:6), and our people prophesied (1 Thess 5:20), but rather to test prophecy before we receive or reject it (1 Thess 5:21). (1 Cor 14:29), to prioritize edification of others (1 Cor 14:26), to pray that God who Gives Gifts to show and gifts to do and not, to entreat us to him. We can neither dictate, nor demand, his sovereign gifts. We can only be responsible to his gifts as he sovereignly gives them, and we are another by - an action we are responsibly secured against, or Scripture is and, and We can only trust the sovereign God (1 Cor 12:18) to Gives Spiritual Gifts as he pleases (1 Cor 12:11). Scripture.

Imagine that you've decided to go sailing. The problem is that you know next to nothing about sailing! So you go to the store and purchase a boat, a sailing book, and a sailing video. You read the book and watch the video and you talk to a veteran sailor who answers questions for you. The next day, you rent a boat and you go out on the water. You have read the book and watch the video and you have the opportunity to ask questions of a good sailing mate. Finally, you take your boat out into the water. Now, the excitement is at a fever pitch, though you're also afraid. But you follow the instructions you've read and the counsel received from your experienced sailor, and you launch your boat into the water. You carefully monitor each step and hoist the sail.

Nothing happens. You wait and you wait. You wait some more. Finally, you realize that you forgot to hoist the sail. Now, you're disappointed and a little bit angry. You go back to the store and you return the book and the video. You tell your experienced sailor friend that the book and video are a ripoff. You tell the store that the book and video are a ripoff. You tell everyone that the book and video are a ripoff. You write a blog entry about how the book and video are a ripoff. Or, you realize that you forgot to hoist the sail, you go back to your experienced sailor friend and you learn how to hoist the sail, and you go back to the store and you purchase the book and video, and



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Lawrence Brown

I hold the same position on the gifts. I read 1 Cor 12 and 14 over and over which led me to that. Most people I've come across who are continuationist hold the tongues initial evidence doctrine which I've never found to be biblical and is a misreading and misapplication of the narratives in Acts. 1 Cor 12 and 14 speak directly against it.

Just a word on Keener..I appreciate his work here and agree we should let the Bible shape us not the opposite. But in his Matthew commentary on Jesus teaching on divorce I think he is guilty of not doing this himself. He simply calls Jesus teaching hyperbole and moves on, no exegesis because it seems he can't accept it. Really poor.

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