One More Argument For Cessation That I No Longer Find Convincing

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In the last blog post, Three Arguments For Cessation That I No Longer Find Convincing, I mentioned three arguments that I have made in the past for why there ought to be some sort of cessation that I no longer find convincing. This time I want to address one more argument, which is subtle, often unspoken, and yet incredibly powerful in many minds. This is by reason to assess every, or even most cessationists, of using this kind of argument (most godly and biblically thinking cessationists I know would avoid this argument). I'm not saying that all who do use it have a wrong argument but I have certainly seen many people objectionably, even if they don't identify it as such. At least, it used to strongly, unjustly ring true in my experience.

But What About All The Heretics On TBN?

This was one of my arguments for cessation that I will no longer find convincing. I hate heretics, false prophets, and heretics abound in our day, as they have in every day. Due to the articles of television, internet, and social media, I suspect the heretics are in our age have a greater reach than any prior age in history. Add to this the fact that this reach often now extends to folks removed enough from the teachers themselves that they think unsuspecting of their teachings. What I struggle to think about, however, is what the effect of the health and wealth/ claims which make their message all the more attractive to hurting and desperate people would have on people who had experienced the supernatural gifts of God in a genuine, Godly, Christ-honoring way.

I don't recommend that anyone ever watch TBN, or follow the teachers featured there. There may be a few good things on it, but the overall effect is a great deal of corporate Christ-bashing. Anyone preaches that God has promised wealth to obedience or has promised unscathed healing on command in this age is preaching a false gospel.

Such being a deep explanation of what Godly Sorrow looks like, I'm reminded of the words of the highest saint, Jesus Christ, *The Dreamer Of The Health And Wealth Gospels*. Over dozens of weeks refuting the Pharisees I quoted twice in the first post here, all by prominent teachers, who personally teach, live, derive a better job of repeating that false gospel than unrestrainedly, strong together seem to have taught:

> American Christianity is rapidly being infected by an insidious disease, the so-called wealth and prosperity gospel. It is a disease that has the character of Gangrene. It is that biblical view, wealth and prosperous are a zero value for the people of God. Granted that often in the Old Testament—but never in the New—possessions are frequently related to a blessing of God, but never have they ever been to have the promise or the danger of removing the eye from trusting God and of coming to possess the possession. The cult of prosperity thus flies in the face of the whole New Testament. It is a cancerous, malignant growth of proteins to the contrary, or to base the cult of prosperity offers a man contrived, rather than a God-given self-esteem. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Dragoslava, Rachel Ivan or Dasa, Bangalore or Phoenix Perth, Lynchburg or Los Angeles County, California or Tulsa County, Oklahoma to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My thinking once were something like this, Yet those guys on TBN are charlatans. Therefore charlatans = false teachers and false prophets. Yet I cannot contend in my mind only because I don't know how I verified though. Key verified, critical examination would have revealed (and later did) that there are a host of problems with such an equation.

First, plenty of heretics exists outside of charismatic contexts. Charismatics have no monopoly on the heretic market. Heretics abound as equally in Presbyterian circles as charismatic circles. Even the "prosperity teaching" so often associated with charismatics belongs to multiple, or common worldwide in cessationists as it is in charismatics. Dan Brown, *Authentic Fire*, at length:

> Second, the vast majority of charismatics are not false teachers. Yes, there are some false ministries made these men and women the most vocal by no means suggests they are the most dominant. For example, you have heard about the notion of "banking in the Spirit" practiced by some heretics (note the wrong-headed application to cessationists) as it is in charismatic circles. Dan Brown, *Authentic Fire*, at length:
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But as Michael Brown pointed out, even after most of his ministry being spent in charismatic circles, he has never seen any one-time-only phenomenon. Brown, *Authentic Fire*, at length:

> I am quite confident that there are more people sleeping in cessationist services than there are people barking like charismatic lunatics.
>
> Michael Brown
>
> (Tweet This)

Some take an absurd, extremely rare, sinful, false, that is, false prophet, which are that are similarly occasional, assume it to be the common or at least widespread practice, and then safely conclude that they find some support for cessationism. Yet that was a clear error. But this is roughly the equivalent of characterizing the hateful and bigoted antics of Fred Phelps and Westboro Baptist church, pretending they represent the common practice of Baptists, and using this as an argument for why no one should be a Baptist. Such ungodly arguments are not only fallacious and entirely ineffective, they are also incredibly uncharitable to millions of godly Christians the world over.

A Biblical Principle

But there is a third and much more significant reason why I no longer find this argument convincing. Cessationists, I think, have been reason to argue the first-hand absence of the supernatural gifts in charismatics, after all, problems to be a Christian, we do not thus abandon Christianity wholesale.

I suspect more people rejoice and abuse the teaching gift than use it properly (in fact, every single false teacher has this in common). The abuse of the gift of prophecy This gift has been so abused, so misused in history than any other spiritual gift the amount this is not to cease all teaching in the church, but it is to cease all use of the gift of prophecy. Yet, I suspect, if we were to survey the church, we would find being grossly abused in all Christian teaching circles

Liturgy	Marriage	Matthew
Mattthew	Minimal Facts	Music
Nt	Oh My God	Omg
Paraphrase	Pastor	Paul
Philosophy	Polycarp	Praying
Psalms	Radicals	Reformers
Satire	Sermon Notes	Sex Drive
Sexuality	Single Life	Singles
Spiritual Gifts	Spirituality	Strongs
Synoptic Problem	Taking The Lords Name In Vain	Tattoo
Text	The Doctrine Of Preservation	The Power Of The Tongue
The Singer	Translation Methods	Tro
Webster's	William Tyndale	Word Studies
Words	Worship	

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