

# **“When That Which Is Perfect Has Come”**

## **Introduction**

- 1. The Bible passage of 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 has been a source of debate for centuries.**
  - A. Used by some religious groups to prove the unlimited use of miraculous “spiritual gifts”, used by others to say that they have ceased.**
  - B. What is this passage really saying?**  
**1 Corinthians 13:8-13**
    - 1) We do not need to be confused about this passage, we can know exactly what Paul is saying here.**
    - 2) Let’s look at it, define what its context is, then determine its meaning.**
    - 3) But first, we should understand some things.**

## The Purpose of Miracles

### 1. God has used supernatural events throughout time to show man that He is the One behind the events.

Exodus 6:6-7 "Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. **Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God** who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Exodus 7:5 "And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, **when I stretch out My hand** on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them."

Exodus 7:17 'Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, **I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.**

### 2. We have many Old Testament events showing the mighty hand of God:

- A. The flood
- B. Confused language at Babel
- C. Plagues of Egypt
- D. The fall of Jericho
- E. Those three guys in the fiery furnace --- and on and on.....

### 3. God worked the same way when the good news of Jesus began to be told.

#### **Mark 16:15-20**

- A. All the things that Jesus said were fulfilled by the apostles.  
**Hebrews 2:1-4**
- B. How do we KNOW this happened? We can read about it.  
**Acts 8:4-8**
- C. How was Philip able to do these signs?

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

### 1. How were they given?

- A. The only way that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were passed on was by the direct laying on of the **apostles** hands.**

**Acts 8:14-18**

Acts 19:6 And **when Paul had laid hands on them**, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Romans 1:11 For I long to see you, **that I may impart to you some spiritual gift**, so that you may be established—

2 Timothy 1:5-6 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you **through the laying on of my hands**.

### **B. What was their purpose?**

- 1) To bring people to faith in Christ**

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5**

- 2) To edify the church**

1 Corinthians 14:12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, **let it be for the edification of the church** that you seek to excel.

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. **Let all things be done for edification**.

## Miraculous Gifts Will Cease

1. Verse 8 explicitly states there will be a time when they will **"Fail," "Cease," "Vanish"** ---- All will be "done away". (Rendered inoperative)
  - A. Prophecy, tongues, and knowledge all relate to the same thing: Divine revelation from God for our benefit.
  - B. The question is: **When will they "be done away?"**
  
2. Verses 9-10 says **"When that which is perfect has come..."**  
**Read from the chart**
  - A. The **"perfect"** (Greek: *'teleios'* that which grows to completeness or wholeness) must be of the same nature as the "partial".
    - 1) If part is of the pecan pie, then the perfect (whole or complete) is the pecan pie.
    - 2) The "perfect" could not be Jesus - because it violates the context: "When that which is perfect has come..." --- He has already come to this earth and He is never referred to as a **"THAT."**
  - B. "know/prophesy **in part**" denotes receiving divine revelation from God. The "perfect", or complete, would have to be the same as the "partial": Knowledge.
  - C. Jesus promised that there would be full or complete truth.  
**John 16:13**  
**2 Peter 1:2-3**
    - 1) The apostles received the Spirit on Pentecost & by His power spoke the word & confirmed it by miracles.

3. **Verse 11** has Paul's analogy of - Child to man  
**Read from the chart**

A. He compares partial knowledge to childish things.

- 1) Children need help as they grow.
- 2) God has given us help so we can grow.

**Ephesians 4:11-16**

4. **Verse 12** The mirror  
**Read from the chart**

A. These that Paul wrote to were only seeing a dim outline of God's perfect will.

- 1) But he promises that they will be able to know it fully.
- 2) We can also look into it and know

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer **but a doer of the work**, this one will be blessed in what he does.

B. We are blessed because the perfect law tells us all we need to know about living and pleasing God.

2 Peter 1:2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power **has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

C. The ultimate purpose of the revelation of God and the miraculous signs confirming it are summed up by John.

**John 20:30-31**

**5. Verse 13 - What will abide?****Read from the chart**

**A. Faith and hope, like miraculous gifts and signs, will one day no longer be needed.**

**1) Our faith and hope – realized when we are with Him.**

**2) But love will continue forever (Vs 8 “Love never fails)**

**3) Until then, we need faith, which comes by His Word, and gives us hope by what it tells us.**

**B. The promise of revelation (John 16:13) was followed by the means of revelation (Mark 16:20, Hebrews 2:3-4), now we have the perfect, complete record of revelation (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:2-3).**

**Conclusion**

**1. God has given us His will and confirmed it by the signs.**

**A. Now that the Word is complete AND perfect, we no longer need any miraculous proof. He Himself has confirmed it.**

**B. He tells us exactly what it takes to receive His gift AND live a life that results in our salvation.**

