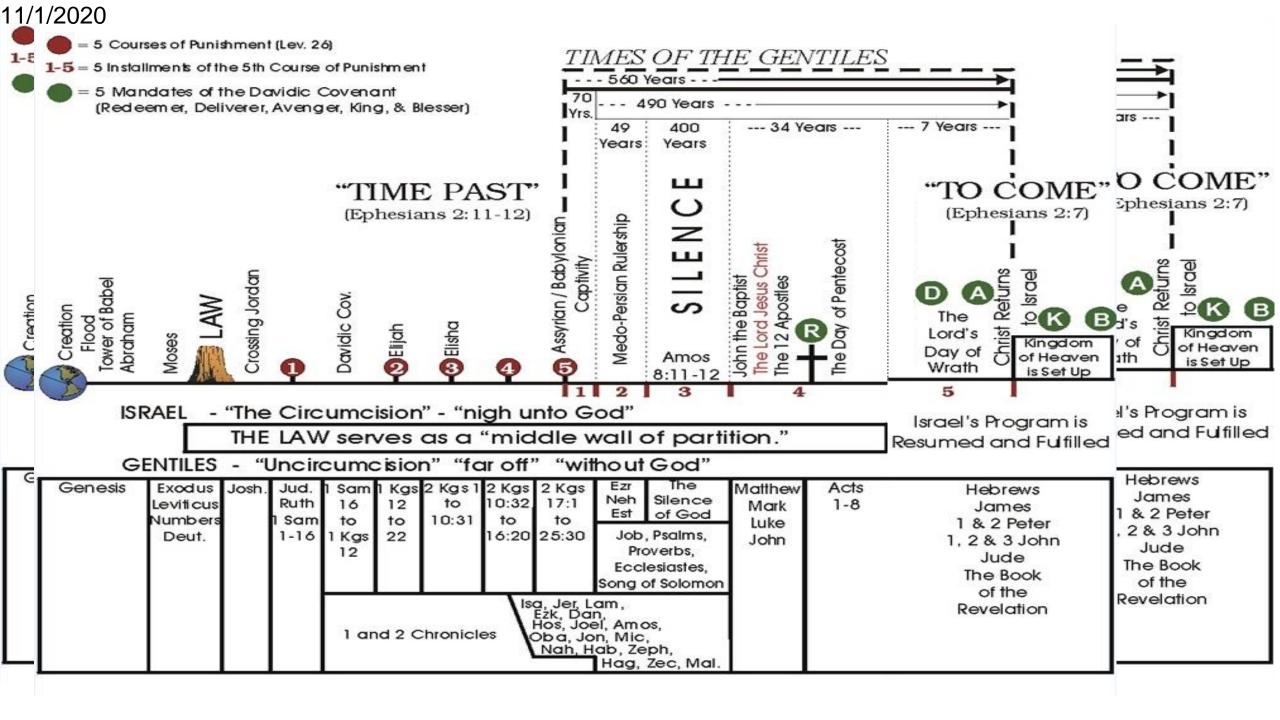
(Agape) Love and Spiritual Gifts (Pt. 2) Are Spiritual Gifts for Today? Rom. 12:3-8



1. In Rom. 12, Paul explains that once they receive his one spiritual gift (Pauline Grace Mystery Truth) that *could* fully establish them, they don't need to go back to the temporary and partial spiritual gifts that could not because the Agape Love that Pauline Grace Mystery Truth produces surpasses anything that those other spiritual gifts could accomplish. They will diminish and eventually cease.

And in Rom. 13, Paul explains that they don't need to go back to the Law because the Agape Love that Pauline Grace Mystery Truth produces fulfills the Law, far surpassing the love that the Law demanded.

THE MEASURE OF FAITH

2. THE FAITH = God's Body of Truth for Today = Rom. 16:25 = Pauline Grace Mystery Truth.



- 3. Paul does not tell us about these gifts or what they are or how they work. Rather he is preparing them to give up these gifts when he comes in person because then he will give them the ONE spiritual gift that can do what all these temporary and partial spiritual gifts couldn't do: FULLY ESTABLISH THEM (Rom. 1:11; 16:25).
- 4. Paul explains how these many partial and temporary spiritual gifts are related to his ONE spiritual gift (Pauline Grace Mystery Truth): They would operate proportionally.
 - --As Paul's ONE permanent and complete spiritual gift became more and more available, the Holy Spirit would make use more and more of it and less and less of these many temporary and partial spiritual gifts until there was no longer a need from them and they eventually completely ceased.

- 5. Paul explains that these temporary and partial gifts would be used by God in accord with the "measure of faith" (12:3b) and the "proportion of (the) faith" (12:6b).
 - a. Every member of the Body of Christ will have the one spiritual gift of Pauline Grace Mystery Truth (God's Measure of Faith for today) that fully establishes them for their function in the assembly (Rom. 1:5).
 - b. No one receives more or less or different kinds of faith or revelation from God. Every one will have received the same measure of faith—Pauline Grace Mystery Truth.

6. His point being that when he arrived with His ONE gift, these other partial and temporary gifts would diminish proportionally.

THE PROPORTION OF (THE) FAITH





- 7. The temporary and partial spiritual gifts were given for 3 main reasons:
 - a. For the benefit of the Body of Christ in its "infancy" before God and Paul had recorded the full revelation of the Mystery in the Scriptures.
 - b. Signs and wonders during Transition Period before God had completely set aside His Prophetic Program with Israel to lead them to the veracity of what Paul was saying to "save" some, bringing them into the Body of Christ.
 - c. The signs of the Apostles and Prophets. This was the apostolic age.

- 8. The corollary of all this is that:
 - a. Once Paul's Gospel and the Revelation of the Mystery had been fully and completely and permanently revealed, recorded in the Scriptures and distributed in the world, the Body of Christ left infancy and entered adulthood and the temporary and partial spiritual gifts were no longer needed (Rom. 1:11; 16:25; 1 Cor. 13:8-13; Col. 1:25; 2 Tim. 3:16).
 - b. Once the Transition Period was over and God had completely set aside His Prophetic Program with Israel, there was no longer a need for the sign gifts for Israel.
 - c. Once the primary apostles had died out (Peter and the 12 for the Believing Remnant and Paul for the Body of Christ), the signs associated with them as being true messengers of God also died out.

- 9. Different assemblies required different spiritual gifts that progressively changed based on their needs.
 - a. The Romans especially had the gifts having to do with the edification of the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:6-8).
 - b. The Corinthians had the gifts having to do with the edification of the Body of Christ and the gifts aimed at Israel during the Transition Period. Probably because their assembly began with the leaders of the synagogue and their assembly shared a wall with that synagogue. They had much contact with unbelieving Jews still a part of the apostate nation (Acts 18:4 -11; 1 Cor. 12-14).
 - c. By the time you get to Ephesians all that is left are the people gifts—(secondary) apostles and prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints (through the Scriptures) (Eph. 4:11-13).

10. The pattern is set in the first example, prophecy. There is an ellipses—the leaving out of words that are filled in by the reader.

Prophecy according to the proportion of the faith, prophesying. Ministry (according to the proportion of the faith), in ministering. Teaching (according to the proportion of the faith), in doctrine. Exhorting (according to the proportion of the faith), in exhortation. Giving (according to the proportion of the faith), in simplicity. Leading (according to the proportion of the faith), in carefulness. Showing mercy (according to the proportion of the faith), in cheerfulness.