

## Primary question: **Does the gift of tongues exist today?**

Two positions: **NON-CESSASIONIST** & **CESSASIONIST**

### **Non-Cessasionist** – *The gift is active today*

Definition: “Tongues is the ability to speak an unknown language. It is used to worship God as a private prayer language and to provide on-going revelation.”

### **Cessasionist** – *The gift no longer exists*

Definition: “The ability to speak known languages without prior knowledge. The gift of tongues is understood as ‘sign gift’ to authenticate the Apostles and the Word of God. Since the canon of Scripture has closed, tongues have ceased.”

In this section Paul is contrasting the everlasting nature of love with the temporary nature of Spiritual Gifts. The major emphasis of this section is:

## **Compared to Love the gifts are temporary & partial**

### **Prophecy** (*prophēteía*) “to speak forth, to proclaim”

The ability to speak publically or proclaim the Word of God.

### **Tongues** (*glōssa*) “Language or dialect”

The ability to speak a known language without prior training.

### **Knowledge** (*gnōsis*) “To know, to understand”

The ability to grasp the deep meanings of God’s revelation.

## **The “passing away” and “ceasing” of the gifts.**

The gifts of prophecy, tongues and knowledge have one element in common: They pass away or cease from being operative. Paul uses two Greek verbs to explain when this will occur.

### Pass away (*καταργέω*) *To render inactive, to abolish*

A passive verb meaning something or someone will cause the gift to pass away.

### Cease (*παύω*) *To stop, to come to an end*

A middle (reflexive) verb meaning tongues will stop by themselves.

## Greek Interlinear

8 Ἡ ἀγάπη οὐδέποτε πίπτει· εἴτε δὲ προφητεῖαι , καταργηθήσονται· εἴτε  
HĒ agapē oudepote pīptei eite de prophēteiai **katargēthēsontai** eite  
The love but not ever falls whether but speaking before **they will be abolished** whether

γλῶσσαι, **παύσονται** · εἴτε γνῶσις , **καταργηθήσεται**.  
glōssai **pausontai** eite gnōsis **katargēthēsetai**  
tongues **they will stop themselves** whether knowledge **it will be abolished**

## Two Questions:

### #1 What causes prophecy & knowledge to stop? **“The Perfect”**

What is “the perfect” (vs. 10)?

- #1 **The Completion of Scripture**
- #2 **The Rapture**
- #3 **Jesus Christ**

“The Perfect” is **HEAVEN OR THE ETERNAL STATE**

### #2 When will tongues stop themselves?

Why was the gift of tongues given to the church?

The gift of tongues was given to the church to authenticate the Apostles and the Word of God.

When the Scriptures were complete there was no longer a need for tongues. The gift of tongues ceased at the closing of the Apostolic Era.

1 Corinthians is one of the earliest New Testament letters written. It is the only epistle that mentions the gift by the Apostle Paul. None of the Apostles later letters include teaching or reference about the gift of tongues. James, Peter, John, Jude also make no mention of the gift in their writings.

Message Series Program Notes: 1 Corinthians *Unity out of Division*  
Untangling the Gift of Speaking in Tongues Pt1  
Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

The gift is not mentioned by the Early Church Fathers:

**Clement of Rome** (95) – *no mention*

**Justin Martyr** (103-165) – *no mention*

**Origen** (184-253)

*“The gifts of tongues were sign gifts used only in the apostolic age.*

*They were not exercised by the Christians of the day.”*

**Chrysostom** (347-407)

*“The gifts have ceased.”*

**Augustine** (354-430)

*“The gifts have passed away.”*