

“HUME’S HAPPENINGS”

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Greetings brethren ,

Thank you for your support , it is very much appreciated . Following is my report for **August 2024** .

CHALLENGING VISITOR .

Andrew Kerihan (Eastside member) lives in a two bedroom cabin type house that is just a few yards from his Landlord’s large brick home . This month a widow from Queensland bought the two acre property , thus becoming Andrew’s new Landlord .

On the first day when she arrived to live in the house , Andrew informed her he was a Christian and told him she was also , and she was so thrilled that she immediately reduced Andrew’s weekly rent figure . Andrew and this lady met every day to read a Bible passage together .

Andrew invited her to Eastside’s worship and when she attended , all the Eastside members hugged her and gave her a warm welcome . Then , at our next Tuesday night Bible Study , Andrew arrived looking downcast and informed everybody that when they arrived home from our Sunday worship , his new Landlord informed him that she was Pentecostal and believed that one had to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit to be a true Christian and saved .

She believes that true Christians have the spiritual gifts of speaking in tongues , healing , etc .

To her credit , she told Andrew she was willing to study with us and allow us to show her why we believe these things are not in force today . She even enquired as to what time our Tuesday night Bible Class ended , and asked if she could come to my home at the completion of our class and speak to the Eastside members .

When she arrived she related to us all that she had only ever been associated with Pentecostal groups , but stressed that if she could be shown from the scriptures that such was wrong , she would give up her current beliefs immediately .

Andrew and his new Landlord continued to meet each day to read Bible passages not related to Pentacostalism with Andrew attempting to build a friendly relationship with her .

EASTSIDE MEMBER'S REQUEST .

Andrew and the other Eastside members asked me to preach a series of lessons on Pentecostalism and prepare bound Lesson Booklets for each lesson to give to his Landlady to read and study for herself .

I began last weekend with a lesson entitled , *“Have spiritual gifts ceased”* ? (I have attached it for you to read) and Andrew gave a copy to his Landlord . Then at our following Tuesday night Bible Class , Andrew informed us that since he gave her the booklet she has gone “quiet” and has suddenly been too occupied to continue their daily Bible readings together .

We don't know if after reading my booklet she has been stunned that what I teach appears to be the truth (to her) and she needs private time to consider it , or she is convinced we are wrong and does not want to continue reading the Bible with Andrew , knowing he is opposed to Pentacostalism .

This next Sunday I plan to preach on , *“Holy Spirit Baptism”* and provide another bound Lesson Booklet for Andrew to give to her . We just have to wait and see which way she “jumps” , please keep us in your prayers .

FUNERALS .

This month , as with most months , Jackie and I attended several funerals of friends and acquaintances . It is so sad and difficult for Jackie and I to sit and listen to people being given false hope , especially if it is the funeral of someone we have tried to speak to about the gospel .

QUIZ NIGHT .

Viktor Koskovic , the Eastside member who teaches our Tuesday night Bible Class lives in a retirement village in my city , and this month the Manager of the complex phoned me , requesting that Jackie and I conduct a quiz night for the residents . We agreed to do so , and the date is set for **4 . 30 pm** on the **20th September** .

Jackie and I are well - known throughout the state of Tasmania for conducting these quiz nights for “worthy” causes . They give us an opportunity to reveal our Christianity and often to answer questions about the Bible .

IMPENDING DILEMMA .

For thirty years Jackie and I have maintained the ownership of two cars , solely for the purpose of having an automobile available for the hundreds of overseas brethren that has visited us . We have always referred to Jackie's car as our "brethren's car" , as part of a deal with our "brethren's apartment" for visitors .

This month our mechanic informed us that our "brethren's car" has major problems with the engine mounts and would be very expensive to repair , and he advised that Jackie not drive it outside our city limits . Aside from what it would cost to repair , I am having much difficulty in justifying to myself the idea of continuing to maintain two cars with two lots of Registration and Insurance costs .

While it has been a nice idea to be able to offer visiting brethren the free use of a car during their time in Tasmania , I think we have done it for long enough and I feel we ought to sell Jackie's car for whatever we can get for it to someone who will use it for spare parts , and we revert to having just one car .

We have been agonizing about not being able to offer this service to our brethren , but because my car is getting old and costing more to keep on the road , I think wisdom demands that we revert to being a "one car" couple .

We are still grappling with this dilemma , I will let you know what we decide .

FOOTBALL SEASON ENDS .

This month saw the end of our Australian Football season , with our team (Hillwood) eliminated during the playoffs . Since April , Jackie and I have worked every second Saturday from 7 am and every Thursday evening from 4 pm to 9 pm in the food outlet and preparing hot meals for players after training .

Four members of this club had me conduct their wedding ceremonies , giving me the opportunity to teach the Bible to four lots of people that otherwise I would not have met . Our association with this club had afforded me hundreds of opportunities to speak to club members about the gospel .

Just last Thursday night a middle aged lady who had come to the clubrooms for her hot meal told me she had accidently found my web page on the internet , and she was very impressed how it was set out with lessons so easy to find and read . She said she plans to look through all the lessons I have on the site . my site is barrysbiblelessons.com.au

Now that the football season has finished , for the next six months I will have two additional Saturdays each month free to engage in the Lord's work and the Eastside church .

LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN AUGUST .

Most of my Bible class and sermon subjects take several weeks to cover due to the nature of the Eastside members who need constant repetition , detailed explanations , and mutual discussions among brethren re personal applications of Biblical principles in their lives .

Also , I encourage members to ask questions re anything they do not understand or even something that is a side issue to what we are actually studying at the time . Thus it is very rare for me to ever complete a lesson in one Bible class .

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS .

August 4 - *"The Patriarchal Age .*
11 - *"The Patriarchal Age .*
18 - *"The Patriarchal Age .*
25 - *"The Patriarchal Age .*

SUNDAY SERMONS .

August 4 - *"Instrumental music in worship" .*
11 - *"Instrumental music in worship" .*
18 - *"My hope is built on nothing less" .*
25 - *"Have spiritual gifts ceased" ?*

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

August 6 - Viktor taught **Philippians chapter 1 .**
13 - Viktor taught **Philippians chapter 2 .**
20 - Viktor taught **Philippians chapter 3 .**
27 - Viktor taught **Philippians chapter 4 .**

Following is a repeat of the items that form the basis of my activities each month .

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES .

Set up school .

Jackie and I arrive about one hour early on Sunday morning along with two other members and we set up an "auditorium" in the gymnasium of the Ravenswood Heights Primary School .

"Friend day" lunch at our house for brethren and visitors after Sunday worship on the second or third Sunday in the month.

Midweek Bible Class : Continues to be at my house .

Study periods : Preparing sermons and Bible classes for Eastside's meetings .

Lesson booklets : Ongoing typing , photocopying , stapling , and binding of new and replacement booklets for requests , and for display at our church meetings .

Study packs : Ongoing photocopying , stapling , and packaging of these as time permits .

Letterboxing : Jackie and I make every effort to continue this project on a weekly basis , but often a lack of time does not allow this to happen .

Thank you once again for your wonderful support , please visit us if you ever get the opportunity to do so ,

Yours in Christ ,

Barry Hume .

P . S . HAVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS CEASED ?

I have attached another one of my sermons for you to see how and what I preach

**HAVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS
CEASED ?**

INTRODUCTION

A . THE "CHARISMATIC" MOVEMENT .

The "Charismatic movement" is popular and widespread today , in which churches , preachers , and individuals claim to have spiritual gifts . such as speaking in tongues - healing - miracles - prophecy etc .

They claim the Holy Spirit is granting these gifts to believers today , just as He did in the first century in New Testament times .

B . SPEAKING IN TONGUES .

"Speaking in tongues" is one aspect of this movement that is sweeping the religious world. Until recently it was confined to Pentacostalism , but now it has spread to most Protestant bodies .

Why is it flourishing as it is today ? Maybe it is a reaction to the cold formalism of "traditional" worship , but whatever the reason , it is a real phenomenon that won't go away .

C . THE BIBLE IS TO BE OUR ONLY AUTHORITY .

The idea that God has given people today the ability to perform these spiritual gifts must not be condoned as "open mindedness" or harmless , the reason being that it is based on doctrinal error and leads to a denial of the scriptures as the only authority recognised by God .

This is a Bible subject , thus we can learn all we need to know about spiritual gifts from the Bible itself , because the inspired scriptures are complete - **2 Tim 3 : 16 - 17.**

We must never ever go beyond
beyond what has been written **1 Cor 4 : 6 .**

"Beloved , do not believe every spirit , but test the spirits to see whether they are from God ; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" - 1 Jn 4 : 1 .

The claim that the Holy Spirit gives men supernatural gifts of tongues , healing and miracles today is false , it cannot stand the test of scripture , as we will clearly see in the rest of this lesson .

**GOD GAVE MEN POWER TO
CONFIRM TRUTH THROUGH
MIRACLES AND SIGNS**

A. MOSES .

Moses was called by God to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage , and he responded by asking God , *"What if they will not believe me" ?* - **Ex 3 : 1 - 10** & **4 : 1** .

He was given power to prove he was sent from God , and before the Israelites left Egypt , Moses brought ten miraculous plagues upon the Egyptians - **Ex 4 : 2 - 9** & **7 : 19** to **12 : 32** .

B. JESUS CHRIST .

He was sent by the Father to fulfil the Old Testament prophecies re the prophesied Messiah , to introduce the New Testament Covenant (Gospel) , and pass it on to chosen men , who were in turn to preach and teach it to the world - **Jn 6 : 38** **17 : 3 - 8** & **18 - 21** .

Faith in Jesus as the Christ , as the prophesied Messiah , is essential to our salvation (**Jn 8 : 24**) , but what proof do we have that He is who He claimed to be , and that His teaching is from God ?

Jesus' miracles ("spiritual gifts") were performed for the purpose of proving that He was legitimate , and that His teaching was from God - **Matt 11 : 1 - 5**
Jn 20 : 30 - 31 .

Note what Nicodemus said about Jesus - **Jn 3 : 1 - 2** .

THE APOSTLES WERE GIVEN **SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE** **SAME REASON**

A. SPECIAL POWER WAS PROMISED TO APOSTLES .

Jesus promised the apostles baptism of the Holy Spirit - **Lk 24 : 46 - 49** & **Acts 1 : 4 - 8** .

To guide them into all truth , so they could accurately recall and teach the truth - **Jn 14 : 26** & **16 : 13** .

B. THIS PROMISE WAS FULFILLED .

This promise was fulfilled , and the apostles began to "speak in tongues" , and to perform miracles - **Acts 2 : 1 - 8** .

Peter and John healed a man
who had been lame from birth Acts 3 : 1 - 8 .

Peter also raised a
woman from the dead Acts 9 : 36 - 42 .

Paul raised a person
from the dead also Acts 20 : 7 - 12 .

A deadly snake bit
Paul's hand and he
shook it off , unharmed Acts 28 : 5 .

C . WHY WERE THE APOSTLES GIVEN SPIRITUAL GIFTS ?

Their miracles were to confirm (prove) that the word they preached was from God - **Mk 16 : 15 - 20**.

Jesus said : "*Unless you people see signs and wonders , you simply will not believe*" - **Jn 4 : 48** .

Remember that the gospel was a new story , a religion distinct from all in the first century had known . Note how brethren were described in **Acts 17 : 6** , and Paul was accused of persuading men to worship God contrary to the law - **Acts 18 : 12 - 13** .

D . THE TRUTH HAS BEEN CONFIRMED .

The "truth" , "Gospel" , "New Testament covenant" , "law of Christ" etc , has been (past tense) confirmed or proven by the spiritual gifts that were given to people in New Testament times - **Heb 2 : 1 - 4** .

When something is proved once , it is forever proved ! Must Jesus return and perform His miracles again , before we will believe He is who He claims to be ? NO !

If we do not believe God's word that testifies to Christ's identity , then we would not believe in Him if we personally saw Him perform His "signs" - **Jn 20 : 30 - 31** & **Lk 16 : 27 - 31** .

Must the apostles return and perform miracles again , before we believe that they were sent by Christ , and that their teaching is from God ?

NO ! They have proved the New Testament will of Christ to us , and so do not need to do so again - **1 Jn 4 : 6** **1 Cor 14 : 37** .

The "one faith" , or one "system of doctrine" (**Eph 4 : 5**) that we are subject to today , has once and for all time been delivered - **Jude 3** .

E . PEOPLE DO NOT POSSESS THESE "GIFTS" TODAY .

In the rest of this lesson , I would like you to consider three reasons why there is nobody alive today who possesses the spiritual gifts (including "speaking in tongues") .

Please give serious consideration to these following points , with an open mind , and an attitude that accepts what the scriptures actually teach , even though it may not be what you have been led to believe , or what you would rather believe - **Col 3 : 17** **1 Cor 4 : 6** .

THE MEANS OF OBTAINING THESE SPIRITUAL GIFTS HAS CEASED

A . THE LAYING ON OF APOSTLE'S HANDS .

In New Testament times , thousands were converted , but at first only the apostles were able to perform miracles - **Acts 2 : 43** & **5 : 12** .

Until they laid hands on the seven deacons (**Acts 6 : 5 - 6**) . Note that two of these men were Stephen and Phillip .

After having the apostles' hands laid on him , Stephen also was then able to perform miracles - **Acts 6 : 8** .

After having the apostles hands laid on him , Philip also was then able to perform miracles - **Acts 8 : 5 - 8** .

B . "RECEIVERS" FROM APOSTLES COULD NOT PASS THESE SPIRITUAL GIFTS ON TO OTHERS .

Please read **Acts 8 : 12 - 20** and ask yourself , *"If Philip could impart this power to others , why did he not do so ? Why did two apostles have to make the trip all the way from Jerusalem to do it ?*

These gifts could only be passed on by the laying on of the apostles' hands (**Acts 8 : 18**) , and those who received these gifts from the apostles , could not give them to others . The apostles are now all dead , thus the means of passing on these gifts does not exist today .

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT
THESE GIFTS WERE TO CEASE

A . PLEASE READ 1 COR 13 : 8 - 13 .

Verse 8 is not saying that unfulfilled prophecies , languages no longer used , or all knowledge were to be done away . It is saying that the spiritual gifts of prophecy , speaking in tongues , and knowledge would cease .

B . WHAT DOES VERSES 9 - 12 MEAN ?

There are nine gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in **1 Cor 12 : 8 - 10** , but not every person had every gift , some had one , others had another . Note the rhetorical questions in **vs 28 - 30** .

The "Truth" , "Gospel" , New Testament covenant" , "Will of Christ" etc , was revealed and confirmed through these gifts , in parts , until that New Testament revelation and confirmation was completed and written for us to read - **Eph 4 : 7 - 8 & 11 - 15** .

That "*knowledge of the Son of God*" (**vs 13**) is now revealed in the New Testament .

The apostles wrote it so
we could know it today **Eph 3 : 1 - 4** .

God's revelation (proved by
these gifts) is now complete ,
and is all we need today **2 Tim 3 : 16 - 17** .

Thus we must not add
to the word of God **Rev 22 : 18 - 19** .

Must not go beyond
what is written (Bible) 1 Cor 4 : 6 .

Because God's revelation is complete , there is no longer any need for these gifts .

1 COR 13 : 10 IS NOT REFERRING TO JESUS CHRIST

A . NOTE THE POSITION OF MANY PEOPLE .

In an attempt to justify their claim that they have the spiritual gifts today , some people argue that , "*the perfect*" in 1 Cor 13 : 10 refers to Christ .

They say that this verse is teaching that spiritual gifts will cease when Christ returns again , thus these gifts are in effect today because Christ has not returned yet .

This is a false position for the following reasons .

B . FIRST - CONSIDER A TECHNICAL ARGUMENT .

I try to avoid getting technical in my lessons as much as possible , because you do not need to resort to technicalities to prove any doctrine or belief is scriptural or unscriptural .

You can teach truth by using plain , clear scriptures that even those with little formal secular education can understand . Having said that , let me depart from that philosophy just this once to make an important point .

The word "Perfect" in 1 Cor 13 : 10 is from the Greek neuter gender , which is referring to a "thing" . If it was speaking of Christ , it would be in the masculine gender , thus referring to a person .

The Greek will not allow you to take a position that spiritual gifts are to cease when Christ returns . Now let us dispense with technicalities and prove the same thing from plain scriptures .

C . THREE THINGS THAT WOULD CONTINUE AFTER THE "PERFECT" CAME .

When the "perfect" came then prophecy , tongues and knowledge was to cease. Love was never to cease when the "perfect" came (vs 8) , but love was not the only thing to continue after the "perfect" came - vs 13 .

"But now" (vs 13) refers to, "after spiritual gifts are done away", and so, if "the perfect" is referring to Christ, then we have the ridiculous situation of faith, hope, and love continuing on after Christ's return.

D. FAITH AND HOPE WILL NOT CONTINUE AFTER CHRIST'S RETURN !

Before His return,
we walk by faith..... 2 Cor 5 : 1 - 7 .

After, that which we had faith
in will have become a reality Heb 11 : 1 .

Before His return,
we all have hope Titus 2 : 13 .

After, we will receive the
fulfilment of that hope..... Rom 8 : 24 - 25 .

See also 1 Jn 3 : 2 - 3 & 1 Pet 1 : 3 - 9 .

E. WHAT IS 1 COR 13 : 10 REFERRING TO ?

Spiritual gifts were to cease before faith, hope, and love. Faith and hope will cease at Christ's coming, thus, "*the perfect*" is not referring to Christ !

It is referring to that perfect, complete, once and for all time New Testament revelation of God. The "Truth", "Gospel", New Testament covenant", "Will of Christ" etc, that was delivered and confirmed through spiritual gifts - **Heb 2 : 2 - 4** **Jude 3** .

James calls it, "*the perfect law of liberty*" (**Jms 1 : 25**), and once "the perfect" (New Testament) had been fully revealed through these spiritual gifts, then the gifts were done away .

**THE NEED FOR THESE
GIFTS NO LONGER EXISTS**

A. GOD'S "SCAFFOLD" .

God began the human race miraculously , He then gave Adam and Eve laws of reproduction and humanity from that time multiplied through "natural" laws - **Gen 2 : 7 & 21 - 22 .**

Likewise , He ushered in the Gospel , New Testament covenant , Will of Christ etc miraculously , through signs , miracles , spiritual gifts . But He now speaks to men and women through "natural" laws , the written New Testament .

Like a builder erects a scaffold to assist in the construction of a house . When the house is finished , the scaffold is removed . When Christ's New Testament will had been fully revealed and written , the gifts (scaffold) was removed .

MISCELLANEOUS

POINTS

A . "SPEAKING IN TONGUES" IS DIFFERENT TODAY .

"Tongue speaking" today differs from that of New Testament times , thus those who claim to have this spiritual gift are wrong in making such a claim .

"Tongues" were languages
that men could understand **Acts 2 : 4 - 6 .**

Speaking when you was not
understood was condemned **1 Cor 14 : 12 - 19 .**

An interpreter was
to be present **1 Cor 14 : 5 & 27 - 28 .**

They were not a sign for
believers , but for unbelievers **I Cor 14 : 22 .**

B . "GIFTS OF HEALING" IS ALSO DIFFERENT TODAY .

Modern day "gifts of healing" today also differs from those of New Testament times , again proving that it is false to claim one has this spiritual gift .

Healing then was instant and
often no faith was required
by the one being cured **Acts 3 : 1 - 8 .**

Jesus healed every sickness
and also every disease **Matt 9 : 35 .**

Apostles healed every one **Acts 5 : 16 .**

CONCLUSION

A. DELUDING INFLUENCE .

When a person does not have a genuine love for truth , they leave themselves "wide open" to being deceived into believing false doctrines and erroneous concepts - **2 Thess r 2 : 8 - 12 .**

Jesus promised that true

Seekers will find truth **Matt 7 : 7 - 8 .**

B. NO PERSON HAS THESE SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY .

The need for them has ceased , the "Truth" , Gospel , New Testament Covenant , Law of Christ etc has been revealed , confirmed , and written for us to read .

The means of obtaining them has ceased , the apostles are all dead .

The inspired Bible predicted they would cease when the perfect New Testament will of Christ had been confirmed .

There is no hope for one who does not believe and love God's word , and is unwilling to be governed by it - **Matt 7 : 21 - 23 & Acts 17 : 11 & 1 Jn 4 : 1 .**
