

## WHAT I BELIEVE THE GIFTS AND CALLING

By Rev. G. Robert Cox

I believe that all of the gifts, calling, and promises in The Word of God are still available today for the believer. Why should God handicap His Church by withdrawing or reducing what He has given? His word says that they are not revocable.

*Rom 11:29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

God's word says that He cannot change or lie. His word is constant and completely reliable.

*Mal 3:6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.*

*Num 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

Because I believe God's word in it's entirety I believe when God promises or gives it will be done. God loves His children and will not deceive or refuse them when they are submitted to Him. There are some who have proposed that some of the gifts given by God have ended. The scripture that is used is 1 Cor 13:8-10. The idea is based on the coming of "the perfect".

*1Co 13:8-10 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. (9) For we know in part and we prophesy in part; (10) but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.*

There are several questions raised with the theory that some gifts have been withdrawn. The first is what or who is "the perfect"? The second is when did "the perfect come"? One possible answer to the first question is "the perfect" is Jesus Christ. If that is the answer then all would have come to an end before now. If it is Jesus Christ then when did He come? It is quite apparent that it must not be Jesus Christ because this discussion would not be needed if it is Jesus Christ that has come. From Acts 1:1 through the New Testament until Rev. 1:1 there is no mention of Jesus Christ anywhere except at the Right Hand of God. There is no mention of Him having returned to earth. There is much mention of His promised return, but no record of Him having returned even through recorded history.

Another possible answer to the first question could be what Paul wrote in his letter to the Church at Ephesus.

*Eph 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

Again we find that the answer does not agree with the current condition of the Body of Christ, the Church. There is still much to accomplish before “the perfect” comes. Another point that seems to be overlooked is what Jesus said in Acts 1:7.

*Act 1:7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;*

When did “the perfect” come if it has already happened? There is no mention in God’s word of that taking place. To establish a time would be in violation of Acts 1:7. To say that any of the spiritual gifts or promises of God have ceased makes a mockery of God and His word. One last thought on the subject. If “the perfect” has come and knowledge has vanished, how is it possible to know “the perfect” has come? Simple logic tells us you cannot use what you do not have. Simply put, to know implies the having of knowledge. Amazing how easy it is to overlook the obvious.

I am sure that what I have written will draw criticism from Biblical scholars and others who do not believe in the spiritual gifts being relevant today. What I have written is what I believe God has shown me to be His truth. I do not apologize for the wisdom of God freely given when we submit to Him and ask believing.

*Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

*Joh 15:16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.*

God said it in His Word. Nothing more is needed except to obey Him. AMEN