

# 1 Corinthians 35 – 13:8-13

## Gifts Fail, Charity Abides

### 1. 13:8 – Things That Fail

- a. Don't miss the point of the passage: charity is more excellent than the gifts.
- b. The direction of these verses has been lost in controversy and debate.
- c. Fail ~*def* – To be wanting, insufficient, deficient (not whole); to cease
- d. Define the word with the context – see 1 Cor 13:13 for the antonym
- e. The powers will stop, because there is ... no need for them/ something better.
- f. That the powers did not last is obvious: 2 Cor 12:7-8, 1 Tim 5:23, 2 Tim 4:13, 20

### 2. Reasons for God the Spirit's gifts...

- a. As signs of the kingdom of God - Pro 1:23, Joel 2:28, Isaiah 35:6, John 14:12
- b. As signs to unbelieving Israel - 1 Kings 18:37, Acts 2:33, 1 Cor 14:22
- c. To confirm a new message – Heb 2:3-4, John 14:11
- d. To confirm a new messenger – 2 Cor 12:12; Gal 2:8
- e. To accomplish God's mission – Mark 16:17 ( for Israel)/ 1 Cor 12:7 (Church)

### 3. 13:9-12 – Three Illustrations

- a. Three ways of saying the same thing: something more excellent replaces the gifts
- b. 1 - Things incomplete (in part) are done away for things complete (perfect)
  - i. What was prophesied was only part – Acts 3:21 vs. Col 1:25, Eph 3:9-10
  - ii. Old things were not sufficient – 2 Cor 5:17, 2 Cor 3:9-10
  - iii. We are complete in Christ – Col 2:9-10
- c. 2 – Child growing up to be a man (maturity) - Eph 4:14-15
  - i. Corinthians were called babes, but needed to grow – 1 Cor 3:1-2, 14:19-20
  - ii. We have the means to become completely furnished – 2 Tim 3:16-17
- d. 3 - Seeing clearly what was once dark- we shall know things: 1 Cor 2:6-7
  - i. Find the meaning of glass in 2 Cor 3:18 & James 1:23 (vs Rev 21:18,21)
  - ii. 1 John 3:2 is used as n xref, but they were incomplete! 1Pet 1:5,13

### 4. The Perfect Controversy

- a. If we make it the Lord then we miss Paul's positional teaching to the Corinthians.
- b. By missing things more excellent (perfect), saints miss out – Phil 1:10, Eph 3:18-19
- c. Trust the Bible and it will help you greatly. Everyone wants to add to the verse.
  - i. The will of God:Rom 12:2; the BoC: 1 Cor 1:10; the mystery 1 Cor 2:6
  - ii. The perfecting of Paul's strength - 2 Cor 12:9
  - iii. Be perfect – 2 Cor 13:11
- d. The gifts are Til.... A knowledge of a perfect man (Christ) and his Body Eph 4:13
  - i. Something already apprehended by Christ – Phil 3:12-15
  - ii. Presenting every man perfect – Col 1:28, 2:10, 3:14, 4:12 also 2Tim 2:7, 3:17