

Continuationists, Cessationists, and Counseling

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I. Introduction to the Spectrum on the Gifts of the Spirit

Chart

II. Examples in Counseling

A. Continuationist Errors

B. Cessationist Errors

III. A Theology of the Word and Spirit

A. The Holy Spirit is the active agent in the inspiration of Scripture
2 Pet. 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

B. The Word and the Spirit are inextricably tied together
1 Cor. 2:6-16; 1 Thess. 1:5; 2 Thess. 2:13;
Eph. 5:18-21 cf. Col. 3:16-17
The Spirit works in, through and with the Word.

IV. An Appeal to Both Sides

A. Affirm, practice and rely on the Sufficiency of the Word in Counseling

1. Sufficient for spiritual birth
1 Pet. 1:23; Jas. 1:18; cf. Lk 16:31

2. Sufficient for spiritual
Deut. 32:47; Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:3-4

“The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God He intended His people to have at each stage of redemptive-history, and that it now contains everything we need God to tell us for salvation, for trusting Him perfectly, and for obeying Him perfectly” (Grudem, 127).

B. Affirm, practice and rely on the sovereign power of the Spirit in counseling

1. The Holy Spirit does work supernaturally and at times in extraordinary ways

2. Pray and expect illumination, wisdom and even power

Continuationist

Full

Partial

Cessationist

Partial

Full

**Are there living Apostles today?
(apostolic succession)**

YES

NO Apostolic ministry
foundational

NO Apostolic ministry
foundational

NO Apostolic ministry
foundational

**Continuing authoritative
Divine Revelation?**

YES

NO (closed and
sufficient canon)

NO (closed and
sufficient canon)

NO (closed and
sufficient canon)

Charismatic gifts continuing?

YES

YES

Not normative

NO

• Prophecy

YES

YES

Illumination

NO

• Tongues/Interpretation

YES

YES

Not normative

NO

• Healings

YES

YES These gifts are not
exercised at will, but
according to God's
sovereign will.

YES These gifts are not
exercised at will, but
according to God's
sovereign will.

NO

• Miracles

YES

YES

YES

NO

• Demonic activity/
Authority over demons

YES

YES

YES (usually emphasizes
truth encounter vs
power encounter)

NO

Churches/Sects

Roman Catholic Church
Latter Day Saints
Extreme Pentecostals

?

?

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