

If only apostles could do miracles cast out demons, heal people, etc., why did Jesus said that these signs will accompany those who believe in his name? (Mark 16:17-18) and why would the gift of tongues or any of these gifts cease after the death of last apostle when it is said that all believers will have these sign?

Regarding Mark 16:17-18¹ J. Vernon McGee wrote:

If you want to accept any of these sign gifts, then you must take them all....I'll be glad to prepare a formaldehyde cocktail if you think you can drink it. What am I trying to say? These signs have followed the preaching of the gospel. But they are not signs to continue the preaching of the gospel. They disappeared even in the early church, but they do manifest themselves on some primitive mission frontiers even today. But if someone maintains that they are injunctions for today, then one must accept them all, even the drinking of a deadly poison. Even before the end of the first century, the sign gifts were no longer the credentials of the apostles. The test was correct doctrine (see 2 John 10). It is the Word of God that is the great sign in this hour.²

The sign gifts can occur at any time. In fact, the prophet Joel wrote:

“And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.
And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28–29 (NKJV)

A sign of the end times will be this manifestation of the spirit.³

The apostle Paul likened spiritual gifts to members of the human body (Ro 12:4-5). The seven spiritual gifts (12:6–8) are: prophesying (12:6), serving (12:7a), teaching (12:7b), encouraging (12:8a), giving (12:8b), leading (12:8c) and showing kindness (12:8d).⁴ The Holy Spirit (1 Co 12:4–6, 11) gives each member of the body of Christ a spiritual gift (12:7).

The diversity of gifts (1 Co 12:8–10, 28) include: wisdom (12:8a), knowledge (12:8b), faith (12:9a), healing (12:9b, 28e), miracles (12:10a, 28d), prophecy (12:10b, 28b), discernment (12:10c), tongues

¹ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover [Mark 16:17–18].

² McGee, J. V. (1991). *Thru the Bible commentary: The Gospels (Mark)* (electronic ed., Vol. 36, pp. 201–202). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ E.g. A Jewish teen spoke to a group of vetted rabbis revealing an understanding of end time events after a near death experience. Rabbi Rami Levy with 15 Year Old Natan *Testimony About End of Days*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_423307315&feature=iv&src_vid=-H0MDGIXZ0o&v=q_a5v2dbdBk

⁴ Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible (Ro 12:4–8)*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

(12:10d, 28h), interpretation of tongues (12:10e), apostleship (12:28a), teaching (12:28c), helping (12:28f) and administration (12:28g).⁵

Each member of the church body performs an important task (1 Co 12:12–13, 18). No member should be independent of the other members (12:14–17, 19–24). Neither envy (12:14–17) nor pride (12:21) should occur toward others. Members should rejoice and suffer with one another (12:19–20, 22–27).

Grace comes through spiritual gifts; so, one should use his gifts to serve the church. Christians are the light of the world (Mt 5:14). Jesus said:

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Mt 5:14–16, KJV

⁵ Ibid 1 Co 12:8–28