

## Trends

The share of Americans who identify as atheists has roughly doubled in the past several years. A recent study found that 3.1% of American adults say they are atheists, up from 1.6% in a similar survey in 2007. An additional 4.0% of Americans call themselves agnostics, up from 2.4% in 2007.

- via Pew Research Center

**Psalm 14:1:** "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

## Sentence Sermons

"You can't convince a believer of anything; for their belief is not based on evidence, it's based on a deep-seated need to believe."

—Carl Sagan, atheist

**Hebrews 11:1:** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

"You keep believing, I'll keep evolving." —Bumper sticker

**Genesis 1:1:** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

## News & Notes

**Pray for one another:** "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please pray for the success of brother Ron Halbrook's preaching in the Philippines! His next trip will be his 72nd. Amazing!

Please pray for one another! "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for Ryan & Jennifer and the brethren of the Northern Michigan church of Christ. They are now meeting in their newly purchased building in Roscommon, Michigan.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets a great example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?! Let me know.

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**Editor:** Craig Thomas (812-320-9569); [craigthomas82000@gmail.com](mailto:craigthomas82000@gmail.com)

Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

# Words of Life

Westside  
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You  
have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



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## I Corinthians 13:8-13 and Pentecostals

Bill H. Reeves

**I Cor. 13:8-13:** "Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10 but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. 13 But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

1. When shall the "done away" (ver. 8) come? This is the issue. The Pentecostals ignore it, bypass it, and intentionally circumvent it. They have the gifts as important, and lasting, as love, hope and faith (the "most excellent way," 12:31)! But Paul says that prophecies, tongues and divine knowledge were to be "done away." God did not intend for these miraculous gifts to be in effect till the end of time. They were to cease at a particular time. When was that? "When that which is perfect is come," (ver. 10). "That which is perfect" or complete is the time when full revelation of the gospel truth would all finally be revealed, or made known. The "perfect" is compared with the "in part." The gifts were in part in that they revealed partially the completed knowledge of truth to be revealed. Just as adulthood follows childhood, the completed revelation of truth would follow the partial revelation of truth.

2. Paul says "when that which is perfect (neuter gender, not masculine nor feminine) is come." Not, when "he (Christ, masculine gender) who is perfect comes"! The coming of Christ is nowhere near I Cor. 13. It is no part of the discussion of Paul in this section of I Corinthians.

3. Paul likens the time of prophecies, tongues and miraculous knowledge to the "child stage." A child doesn't stay a child till he dies. He grows up, becomes a teenager, marries, has children, becomes a grandfather, and dies an old man. These are the normal, natural stages of human life. The Pentecostal has only childhood for life.

Paul was a child, but he became a man. As a child he acted, felt, thought as a child, but not now that he was a man he put away childish things. The church did not use miraculous gifts indefinitely but only in the child state. The Pentecostal has all of life

as a child, and never a full-grown man. The Pentecostal ignores Paul's argument and reality. Let him tell us when the "man stage" was, or is, or will come. He has no answer! Paul "put away" things of his childhood, but the Pentecostal refuses to put away miraculous gifts of the childhood period of the church. They want to hang on to miraculous gifts, and yet they cannot perform any of them as listed in 1 Cor. 12:8-10. They claim to have them but can't reproduce a single one of them as used in the Corinthian church (14:4,14,15 [in a foreign language, or in the Greek-Corinth] 16, 23; 24,25; 2:8; 13:2,8,12; 14:6).

4. Paul speaks of "now" and "then." But the Pentecostal has the "now" until Christ comes, and he has no "then" time!

The truth of the New Testament was not revealed all at once. For example, the inclusion of the Gentiles in the church of Christ was not revealed on the day of Pentecost, but much later (Acts 10,11). Problems resulted with this new revelation, provoked by the Judaizers (Acts 15:1,2) and a meeting in Jerusalem, with the church, the elders and the apostles considering the matter, and formulating a letter to "the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia" (15:23), revealing the truth on the subject.

Prophecy was in parts, not a totality all at once. Example: 1 Cor. 14:30. Miraculous knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8) was known only in parts, but such partial revelations of divine miraculously given knowledge would cease once it was all revealed. Does the Pentecostal believe that when Christ comes again that there will be no knowledge of anything but that all knowledge will cease to exist? Of course not. What knowledge, then, will cease? Let him tell us!

5. Looking into primitive mirrors was to see "darkly," but seeing clearly, "face to face" was in a time to come when Paul wrote 1 Cor. 13. Mr. Pentecostal, did that time ever come? When? Never has come? Tell us, please.

When Paul wrote 1 Corinthians it was the "now," he said. When did the "then" come? Paul did not say "when he who is perfect comes." What is, or was, "the perfect" (neuter gender) that was to come? Did it come? Yes, when all of the truth of the New Testament was completely revealed, "once for all" (Jude 3). At that time the miraculous gifts, which contributed to the revealing of truth, ceased because their purpose was realized. They were never intended to last for all time, no more than a scaffold which is temporary to assist in the construction of the building, and then it is removed, having served its purpose.

6. The Corinthians were "long" on gifts and "short" on love for the proper use of the miraculous gifts. They were not primarily concerned with the edification of the church (1 Cor. 14:4,12,26), which was the temporary use of miraculous gifts.

7. No one speaks a foreign language today who has not studied and learned it. When the apostles on the day of Pentecost spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4) and the Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews) who were present each understood the preaching in his own language (in which he was born) besides the Greek which was common among them. The languages that they understood by the preaching of the apostles were languages in which people were born! It was not gibberish! I was born in the English language; that is why I

speak English. Can the Pentecostal speak in any language in which people are born without studying said language? Is there a people today born in a pretentious, Gibberish language? Of course not! If there is, where is the country? Where do such people live?

8. Now the only abiding things when Paul wrote 1 Cor. 13 were faith, hope and love, not the miraculous gifts. They were to pass, as a scaffold is in time to be removed, leaving the building standing permanently. The Corinthians were using the temporary, miraculous gifts, and chapter 14 was to correct some misuses and set forth some correct uses of these gifts in given circumstances.

9. Acts 8, Philip worked miracles in Samaria (v. 18), but until two apostles, Peter and John, arrived no miraculous gifts were imparted (v. 16). Ask the Pentecostal who claims to have healed someone miraculously: Which apostle lay his hands on him? Simon saw something (v. 18) that the Pentecostal doesn't see! Note Rom. 1:11, where Paul an apostle promised to "impart unto you some spiritual gift." It was by Paul's hands that Timothy had a spiritual gift. The Pentecostal doesn't know how miraculous gifts were imparted. He thinks that just "claiming" to have the one to heal, or to speak in tongues, is sufficient! He doesn't see what Simon saw! He doesn't claim to be able to impart a miraculous gift to another! How, then, are they imparted today? As to Scripture he gives us silence! Acts 19:6 says that the Holy Spirit came on them when Paul laid his hands on them!

10. Ask the Pentecostal if he believes that God works through the Roman Catholic Church, which claims that miracles are worked by praying to a dead saint (canonized)? Does he accept the personal testimonies of others (Catholics, Mormons, Jesus Only unitarians, etc.)? Why doesn't the Pentecostal enter hospitals and heal those with fever and dysentery, as Paul healed some, Acts 28:8, or the cemetery and raise the dead like Peter raised Dorcas? Do all Pentecostals claim to work miracles? No, why not? Why just some whose testimonies are not confirmed by what cannot be denied (Acts 4:16)? Except for their "ipse dixit," what claims do they have for their miraculous gifts? What proof beyond what other "miracle workers" claim? Either Pentecostals must accept the claims of all others to work miracles or not expect their claims to be believed (on the same basis). Only a god of confusion would approve of man-made churches having spiritual gifts, but Jehovah is not such a God (1 Cor. 14:33).

11. 1 Cor. 12:8-10 speaks of nine different spiritual gifts. The Pentecostals speak principally of only two: tongue speaking and healing. What about the other seven? Are they not important? Why don't they enter hospitals and heal the sick; and cemeteries and raise the dead? Paul healed miraculously and bitten by a poisonous snake suffered no harm at all (Acts 28:3-9), he raised Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:9,10), and Peter raised Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:40,41). Where are the modern miracle-workers today?

12. If spiritual gifts are still imparted today (although no longer are there living apostles), then it must be claimed that the Bible is not sufficient to guide us; it is not able to give us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3), nor make us complete (2 Tim. 3:17). What new truths are being added today to the Bible? Name one! For 2000 years have Christians been lacking in certain truths? (Jn. 17:17; Eph. 4:3,13) Will they be revealed in the future? The Pentecostals have some questions to answer. We listen but get no answer!