

CONTRASTING AGAPE

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE _____, BUT LOVE IS_____

A. Love Never _____

- 1) This phrase sounds so right but “fails” means _____ to the ground, like leaves in autumn
- 2) “Love never fails” does not mean that God promises that *agape* love will always _____
- 3) Paul is emphasizing that love is _____; love is eternal because it is the nature of God
- 4) We invest in the eternal when we cultivate _____ in our character; it will live on in us forever

B. Spiritual Gifts Will _____

- 1) With each of these 3 gifts, Paul uses grammar that disses them because they are _____
- 2) When Paul says prophecies will _____ it is not the same word in the original as “love never fails”
 - a) This verb means “to make something _____ “ like a hand grenade that will not explode
 - b) This verb is in the _____ tense: prophecies will be made inoperative at some future moment
 - c) The verb is in the _____ voice: something will act on prophecies to make them inoperative
 - d) This same verb is used at the end of v.8: “whether there is knowledge, it will become _____
 - e) This same verb is used a third time at the end of v. ____ (even though the NJKV translates all 3 by different English words): “that which is in part will be done away—will be made inoperative.”
- 3) Translating the verbs in these verses consistently points up that _____ is the odd man out
 - a) A different verb is used of tongues in v.8: “whether there are tongues, they will _____ “
 - b) This verb is in the _____ voice: tongues will cease on their own, caused by something w/in
 - c) Paul intentionally put the gift of tongues in a different _____ than prophecy and knowledge
 - d) So we must question when the gift of tongues ceases on its own: the end of the _____
 - i) The writings of church leaders from 95-400 AD indicate that tongues had already _____
 - ii) A chronological study of the NT shows that tongues is mentioned only in the _____ books

II. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE _____, BUT THE _____ IS COMING

A. We Know in _____ and We Prophecy in_____

- 1) Both these gifts are connected with _____ from God, part of which ended up in the NT
- 2) The revelation that we have via these gifts is _____: “in part” has 2 different meanings:
 - a) We know only part of what there is to know about God: our minds are finite and God is _____
 - b) “We know in part” has a second meaning: we know _____ by part, we know competing truths
 - c) We must balance certainty with _____ because we don’t know what we don’t know about God

B. Until “That Which Is _____ Has Come”

- 1) The word “perfect” comes from a root that means “goal”—that which has _____ its goal.
- 2) This word describes the future _____ that will make spiritual gifts like prophecy and knowledge inoperative: when will the plan of God reach its goal so that spiritual gifts are no longer necessary?
- 3) “That which is perfect” is also used in this verse as the opposite to that which is _____
When will an event take place in the future which will make our knowledge of God _____?