

CGC Adult Christian Education
Articles of Faith and Doctrine of the Associated Gospel Churches
XIII - The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
February 5, 2006

XIII. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church to glorify Christ in the building of His body. We believe that God, the Holy Spirit, is sovereign in the bestowing of His gifts for the perfecting of the saints for the work of their ministry, and that it is not God's will that any one gift should be given to all believers, although all believers have at least one gift.

We believe that whenever spiritual gifts are exercised, they should always be within the limits expressly given in the Scriptures (e.g. 1 Corinthians 14:23-40). We believe that in the early church speaking in tongues (a human language unknown to the speaker), and the working of miracles were sign gifts demonstrated primarily to authenticate God's revelation through the apostles and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We believe that today such signs are not necessary to give evidence of the baptism or of the filling of the Spirit, nor are they a mark of spiritual maturity. We believe that special divine revelation for authoritative Scripture ceased with the Apostolic Age.

Acts 2:1-13; Hebrews 2:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 2:20; Romans 12:3-8; John 14:26; 1 Peter 4:7-11; Galatians 1:8-9; Ephesians 4:11-13; Revelation 22:18-29; 2 Corinthians 12:12

Discuss the following questions

1. Lenny is a friend and long-time member of a church down the street. Two years ago, he divorced his wife and married another woman, with whom he had been having an affair. Though that caused some problems between him and some others in the church, he nevertheless was permitted to continue serving in the church, and was generally thought of as a caring person and an excellent teacher. One day, he tells you over coffee that God has 'called him to the ministry' as a pastor, and that he is planning to start seminary in a couple months. "Some people in my church are opposed to the idea," he says. "But God told me to do this, and He has gifted me for it, so what right do they have to stand in my way? What do you think?"

2. Should Christians today expect to be able to perform miracles? to speak in tongues?