

Cessationism

- Doctrine that spiritual gifts such as speaking in tongues, prophecy and miracles ceased with the Apostolic age.

Gospel Coalition

- Why I'm not a cessationist by Sam Storms
- Why I'm a cessationist by Tom Schreiner

End of the Gift of Apostleship

- Apostles as gifts to the church
 - 1 Cor 12:28- Diversity among gifts (includes apostles)
 - Eph 4:8 gave gifts to men
 - Eph 4:11
 - Not all gifts were offices but all offices are gifts

3 Qualification To be an Apostle

- Witness of resurrected Christ
 - Acts 1:22 who is going to replace Judas
- Personally Appointed by Christ
 - Acts 1:2- whom he chose
 - Acts 1:24 you chose
- Had to be able to work miracles
 - Matt 10:1-2 heal every kind of disease
 - 2 Cor 12:12 signs of true apostle (signs and wonders)

No one alive today meets these qualifications

- So at least one gift has ceased
- So there is a significant difference between the Spirit's work at the time of the apostles and today

So it's not impossible or unlikely that other significant changes would happen with the passing of the apostles

New Testament shows apostles and prophets as foundation which the church is built

- Eph 2:19-22
 - Notice how he describes the structure in verse 20
 - Built on Foundation of apostles and prophets
 - Foundation is finished and the work is complete
 - We should not expect any more apostles, any more prophets, or any more revelation

Why do we say the canon is closed

- Apostles either wrote or endorsed each book of the New Testament, so the close of the canon assumes and implies the close of the Apostolate.

Old Testament Prophets

- Ex 4:10-17, Ex 7:1-2
 - Shows prophets were the mouth or spokesman for God

Old Testament Prophecy is defined and regulated in two crucial passages

- Deut 13:1-5, Deut 18:15-22
 - Don't believe if it doesn't line up with true revelation given by Moses
 - Prophecy must always come true

No reason prophecy in New Testament should look any different than Old Testament

- Continuationist would argue differently
 - Continuationists take on prophecy in the New Testament
 - Prophecy is not authoritative or infallible

Just as books written by Moses and the prophets were the canon of the Old Testament, so also the books written or endorsed by the apostles of Christ were the canon of the New Testament

- We are now ministered by the writings of the apostles and prophets, which are the foundation of the church, from Eph. 2:20

Tongues

- Do tongue speakers continue in the church today?
 - What is tongues?
 - Tongues are mentioned in Acts 2, 10:46, 19:6, 1 Cor 12-14
 - Human languages
 - 1 Cor 14:5
 - Shows functional equivalence of tongue speaking with prophecy, provided that someone interprets.
 - If interpretation Paul put it at the same level as prophecy, not it becomes infallible and direct revelation
- If tongue speaking, with interpretation, is prophecy and the canon is closed, there is no need for speaking in tongues

Miracle Workers

- Did not arise with regular frequency in Biblical times, but was concentrated at certain periods in Biblical history
- Period of times with no miracle workers mentioned
 - From creation to the flood, 1,500 years
 - Flood to Abraham, 400 years
 - Time the Israelites stay in Egypt, 215 years
 - During the inter-testamental period, 400 years

- Strictly speaking, Biblical miracles are called signs, as well as wonders, powers, and works and were intended to attest the new revelation given through the miracle worker
- Times of miracle workers recorded in scripture
 - Moses Ex 4:1-5, Deut 34:10-12
 - Signs attested to Old Testament prophets 1 Kings 18:36, Deut 13:1-5
 - Signs attested to Jesus John 5:36, 6:14, 7:31, 10:24-26, 10:37-38, 2:11
 - Signs attested to the apostles of Christ 2 Cor 12:12, Hebrews 2:3-4, Acts 14:3
 - Signs attested to New Testament prophets Acts 6:5+8, 8:1-13
- We signs of revelation attached to miraculous signs
- Moses, the prophets in the Old Testament, Jesus, the Apostles, and the New Testament prophets worked miracles in order to give divine attestation to the revelation they bring. Biblical miracles are signs intended to identify, attest, and to some degree, embody that revelation.