

LWMORG

Did the Reformers And Rereformers Know About The Spiritual Gifts? Church History Says YES!

Yes. Church historians have recognized the gifts of the Spirit continuing from the early church through to today. Speaking in tongues was not confined to the day of Pentecost but has been distinguished throughout church history through various writers. From time to time, in church history, these writings have noted a regressive swing to spiritual backsliding from the faith which caused the gifts to diminish and to be seen in these periods as fewer in number. However, when the revival of the Bible came during the 1500's, especially during the Reformer period, those who esteemed and revered the Word and its understanding of spiritual gifts, as the equipment of the saints for ministry, manifested the reappearance of the spiritual gifts. The facts are that those who obtained the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, during these periods, did so, because of the reintroduction and restoration of the church to its earlier model. So, the reason that history has recorded both periods that excelled and periods that declined is due to the spiritual conditions of the church in these time periods. Sometimes faith reigned; and sometimes unbelief reigned. Also, certain church leaders, as in other periods of church history, suppressed what the Lord and His Spirit intended in raising His church back to glorious spiritual prominence.

Reemphasizing The Need For The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit For Today!

We need to take heed to the testimony of church history for our own day. It has currently been recorded in this time that the spirit filled churches that have formerly claimed the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, now are in decline. Masses of those who attend such churches do not have the spiritual gifts or Baptism of the Holy Spirit any longer. Many have questioned the withdrawing of the Holy Spirit in their churches. Yet, where this Baptism was, in the past, emphasized and preached by the church, and its members welcomed and gladly received its endowment of power, now, it no longer is taught and it no longer is included at the altar for the purpose of receiving it. Such a decline in the membership in receiving this Baptism should be noted here, as it has been reported, to be as low as around thirty percent. We question why we no longer see the gifts of the Spirit in operation? Some misguided leaders attribute this decline as the Lord testing His church. Church history testifies against this. Others assess it as because the church is now mature when the spiritual opposite is true. Decline can only point to a church in unbelief as in other periods. When those who have the prayer language of the Spirit fail to exercise the gift of praying in the Spirit through tongues, they are neglecting the special spiritual recourse given them in praying the perfect will of God. The truth is that, after being surveyed, not only is the church in this decline, but they no longer even hold prayer meetings. When the church minimizes the need for praying in the Spirit, it losses its spiritual momentum, because praying in this way brings about spiritual manifestation and occurrences in the natural that could not otherwise take place without one's participation

in prayer. I feel that losing the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts of the Spirit of God and His anointing in the church is like Israel losing the Ark of the Covenant which was their spiritual connection to the reality of our Lord. We are making ourselves available at LWM, to the church, in this time of Reform, Restoration, and Revival, in this reemphasis and return to the realm of His Spirit.

Living Waters Ministries 2008 by Minister R. Thomas Lambur