

A Biblical Survey of Tongues (part 3)

How Love Put Tongues in Its Place

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

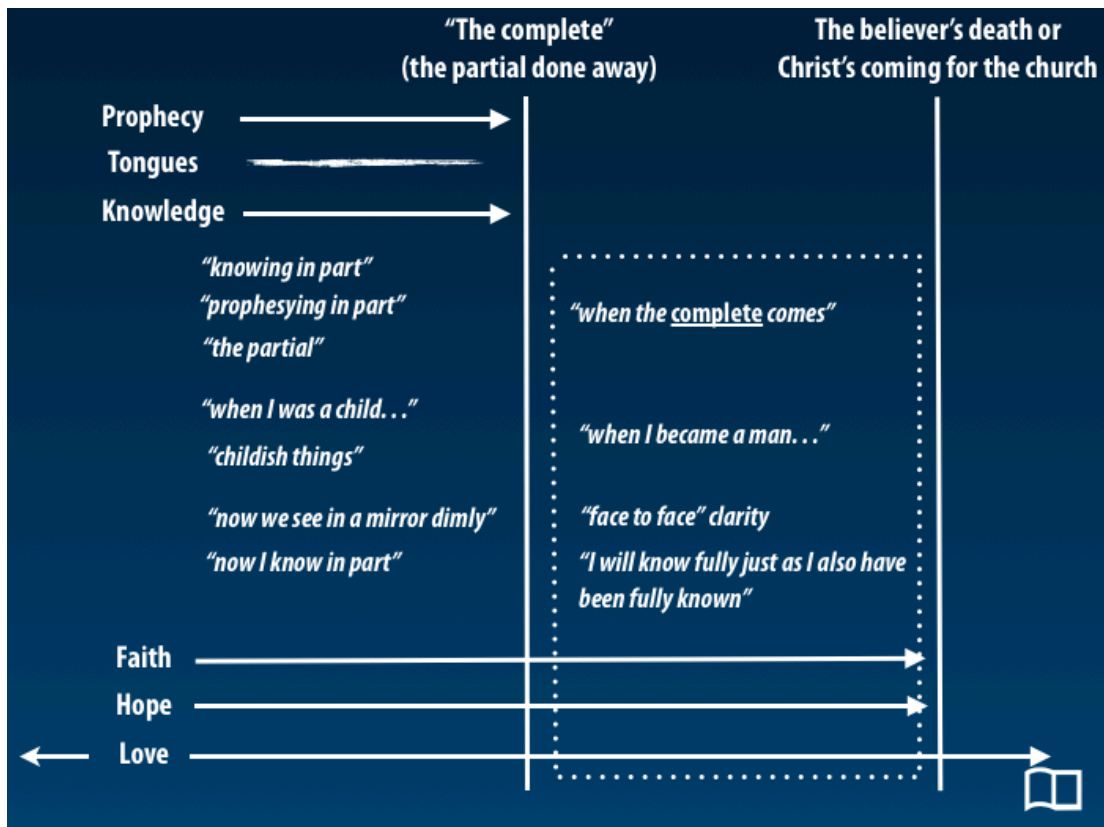
Sunday, January 11, 2015

REVIEW:

Love put tongues in its place with these two realities:

- 1. The fading nature of the gifts, 13:8-12.**

2. The lasting nature of faith, hope and love, 13:13.



Summary of the biblical survey:

1. The Bible's singular teaching on tongues is that they are earthly languages. One portion of the Bible does not teach an earthly tongue/language while another part of the Bible teaches an angelic or heavenly tongue/language. Tongues are only earthly languages spoken over unfaithful Israel as a sign of God's discipline.
2. The tongues found in Acts and 1 Corinthians 12-14 differ from the earthly tongues/languages of the Old Testament primarily in this sense - They are a supernatural, Holy Spirit-given ability to speak unstudied earthly languages over unfaithful Israel as a sign of God's discipline.
3. Tongues/languages (whether spoken naturally or supernaturally) are inseparably tied to Israel and her rejection of Messiah.
4. Supernatural tongues/languages ceased on their own when the gospel advanced beyond unfaithful Israel into non-Jewish settings. This was by God's design (as 1 Cor 13:8 suggests).
5. But natural tongues/languages will not cease over Israel as a sign of discipline until Messiah returns and restores the kingdom to Israel (Isaiah 33:17-24; Acts 1:6-7).
6. The self-emptying love Paul appealed to in order to help the Corinthians see the coming end of tongues is the same self-emptying love we must overflow with when we engage in disagreement with others about tongues. If you can not display this love in your disagreement, stay silent. It is wise to disagree concerning the existence of heavenly or angelic tongues today. But it is foolish to be unloving in the disagreement.