

A. Scripture: God's Grace Given to Build the Church

1 Corinthians 3:10–15 (ESV) ¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

As we join with the Universal Church in building Christ's Church – it MATTERS how we build!

The "tools" or pillars evaluating truth: Scripture (foundation) – Reason, Tradition, and Experience.

1. **Scripture:** The primary authority. God's revealed Word in the Old & New Testaments, sufficient, infallible, foundation for truth & faith.
2. **Tradition:** Tradition provides the historical context of the Church. This includes the writings of the early Church fathers, the creeds, and the collective wisdom of past generations and current generations.
3. **Reason:** God gave us the ability to think critically, organize thoughts, and apply evidence to our beliefs. Faith should be rational, not superstitious.
4. **Experience:** This refers to the lived reality of the individual and the community. It is the "internal evidence" of God's work—how a person's heart and life are transformed by grace.

Ephesians 4:4–7 (ESV) ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

One Church, One Lord, One and the SAME SPIRIT! Who has proportioned gifts in His Church!

B. Tradition: The Spiritual Gifts in Church History

- The New Testament Era: AD 33-100 Spiritual Gifts in full operation
- The Patristic Era: AD 100-600 Spiritual Gifts in operation. Slight decline AD 300
- The Medieval Era: AD 600-1517
- The Protestant Era: AD 1517-1900
- The Modern Era: AD 1900-PRESENT

This list includes people who believed in and exercised every spiritual gift mentioned in the NT.

- Gregory the Great (540–604) Gregory of Tours (538–94) **The Venerable Bede (673–735;** his Ecclesiastical History of the English People, written in 731, contains numerous accounts of miraculous gifts in operation) **Missionaries like Aidan, bishop of Lindisfarne (d. 651) and his successor Cuthbert (d. 687; both of whom served as missionaries in Britain)** Ansgar (800–865), one of the first missionaries to Scandinavia, Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153), who wrote a treatise on the Life and Death of Saint Malachy the Irishman (1094–1148) Richard of St. Victor (d. 1173) Dominic, founder of the Dominicans (1170–1221) Anthony of Padua (1195–1231) Bonaventure (1217–74) Francis of Assisi (1182–1226; documented in Bonaventure's Life of St. Francis) **Intellectuals like Thomas Aquinas (1225–74) Pre-Reformers like Peter Waldo, founder of the**

Waldenses (d. 1217) Virtually all of the medieval mystics, among whom are several women: Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179) Gertrude of Helfta (1256–1301) Bergitta of Sweden (1302–73) St. Clare of Montefalco (d. 1308) Catherine of Siena (1347–80) Julian of Norwich (1342–1416) Margery Kempe (1373–1433) Dominican preacher Vincent of Ferrier (1350–1419) Teresa of Ávila (1515–82) John of the Cross (1542–91)

- (Storms, Sam. *Understanding Spiritual Gifts: A Comprehensive Guide* pp. 143-144)

1. **The Intellectuals (Aquinas):** Proving the Spirit doesn't bypass the mind.
2. **The Missionaries (Ansgar, Aidan, Cuthbert):** Proving that the "Wind in the Sails" was necessary to bring the Gospel to "unreached" tribes in Europe and Scandinavia.
3. **The Pre-Reformers (Waldo):** Proving that people were fighting for "Scripture as Foundation" (Pt 11) AND the Spirit's power at the same time.

Venerable Bede, the 8th-century monk and historian, recorded miracle after miracle as if it were simply part of the Christian landscape. Writing of Bishop John of Hexham, he reports: *"There were so great miracles wrought by his prayers, that the sick were brought to him from all parts to be cured of their infirmities. Many were restored to health by the laying on of his hands, and others were healed by the oil which he had blessed."* (Remnant Radio 2025)

The Medieval Era saw gifts in operation! many notable men & women from a variety of backgrounds operating in the GIFTS of the SPIRIT.

Protestant Era: (AD 1517-1900) The list: Robert Bruce (1554-1631), Alexander Peden (1626-1686), and John Wesley (1703–91) defended the ongoing operation of tongues beyond the time of the apostles. One could also cite George Fox (1624–91), who founded the Quaker Church. (Storms, Sam. *Understanding Spiritual Gifts: A Comprehensive Guide*, p. 144) **Ignatius of Loyola, George Wishart, John Knox, John Welsh, Alexander Peden, Jonathon Edwards, Charles Spurgeon!**

Ignatius of Loyola – tongues, spiritual gifts, etc. (1491–1556), founder of the Jesuits and author of the *Spiritual Exercises*. **Spiritual gifts, especially tongues, are reported to have been common among the Mennonites** (Storms, Sam. *Understanding Spiritual Gifts: A Comprehensive Guide*, p. 144)

George Wishart (Spiritual gifts slide) – Prophecy, healing, etc. (AD 1513–1546) "When he came to the town of Haddington, in his sermon, he made a protestation that he had offered his body in sacrifice to them and that now he was ready to confirm by his death the truth of that doctrine which he had taught unto them. In the end, he said, 'Moreover, I assure you, that my death shall be revenged, and that suddenly, after me, one shall be sent forth, that shall punish them in the same manner that they have done unto me.' Within a short space after, the Cardinal was slain in St. Andrews." Wishart also tied a sign to his departure from plague-stricken Dundee; a plague struck four days later, and he returned to preach healing and serve the sick at personal risk. The point writes itself: these aren't whispered tales from the fringe; they were preached into the public square and remembered by the Reformers themselves. (The Remnant Radio 2025)

John Knox Scottish Reformer – prophecy (incredible accuracy, apostles, etc. (AD 1514–1572) "Go, I pray you, and tell him for me, in the name of God, that unless he leave that evil course whereon he has entered, neither shall that rock [the castle of Edinburgh] afford him any help... but he shall be pulled out of that nest, and brought down over the wall with shame, and his carcass shall be hung before the sun: so God hath assured me." James Melville famously styled Knox "the prophet and apostle of our nation." When the prediction about Kirkcaldy of Grange came good in horrifying detail, it wasn't a curiosity—it was a moral

warning with miraculous confirmation. If this is “mere providence,” then providence has suspiciously sharp prophetic aim. (The Remnant Radio 2025)

John Welsh – raising the dead, healing, etc. (AD 1570–1622) “So the friends summoned physicians to the room... The physicians pronounced him dead. One last time, Welsh persuaded both friends and physicians to step into the next room... Welsh fell on the floor beside the body and cried to God with all of his strength. The dead man opened his eyes and cried out to Welsh, ‘Oh, sir, I am all whole, but my head and my legs.’ He was restored to his life and healed of his long illness.” This is not a fireside embellishment; the account insists on verification (physicians present) and on time markers (hours upon hours). (The Remnant Radio 2025)

Jonathon Edwards – Slain in the Spirit (1703-58 AD), a Reformer and Cessationist who was also part of the Great Awakening, had to address explanations for the outpouring of the Spirit as he preached. Though he maintained his stance against prophecy, people were being “slain in the spirit” or “resting in the spirit” and having emotional outbursts that would often “tarry the night,” to which he went to great lengths to refute. (Religious Affections, Jonathon Edwards)

Charles Spurgeon – Words of knowledge, wisdom, etc. (1800’s AD), the Prince of Preachers, who held to Reformed theology, often described “words of knowledge” during his sermons, pointing to someone in the crowd and describing their secret life with startling accuracy! **The Example:** He once pointed to a young man and said, “*Young man, those gloves in your pocket are not paid for.*” After the service, the man came forward in tears, confessed he had stolen the gloves, and gave his life to Christ.

Enter the Protestant Reformation, 1517 AD: The 6 Abuses the Reformers Were Fighting to "Undo"

1. **The Faith + Works View of Salvation:** The Problem: The Church coupled faith with indulgences, sacraments, penance, acts of contrition, meritorious service, and legalism to be saved.
 - **The Reformers’ Undo:** Sola Fide (faith alone), they championed the doctrine of FAITH ALONE.
2. **The Sale of Indulgences (Paying for Heaven):** The Problem: The Church taught that people could pay money to the church to purchase "Indulgences," which supposedly reduced time in Purgatory for themselves or dead loved ones. It turned salvation into a financial transaction.
 - **The Reformers' "Undo":** They pointed back to the "Finished Work" of Christ. Salvation is a free gift of grace that cannot be bought or earned.
3. **The Monopoly on Scripture:** The Problem: Bibles were rare, expensive, and kept in Latin. The common person had to rely entirely on the Priest’s interpretation.
 - **The Reformers' "Undo":** They translated the Bible into the common language of the people, asserting that Scripture alone (*Sola Scriptura*) is the final authority for every believer, not church traditions.
4. **The Clergy-Laity Divide (The Passive "Cruise Ship"):** The Problem: A rigid wall existed between "holy" clergy and "secular" commoners. Only the Priest could minister or talk to God.
 - **The Reformers' "Undo":** They championed the "Priesthood of All Believers," teaching that every Christian has a "Job in God's Family" and direct access to God through the Spirit. (**The Active "Battleship"**)
5. **The "Magical" View of Sacraments:** The Problem: The belief that rituals (like the Lord’s Supper) provided grace automatically, regardless of the person's faith or heart posture.

- **The Reformers' "Undo":** They emphasized that the Holy Spirit works internally through faith. Rituals without a heart surrendered to God are empty.
6. **The Misuse of "Signs and Wonders" for Authority:** The Problem: The Roman Catholic Church claimed that ongoing miracles and relics verified their unique authority to forgive sins and sell indulgences.
- **The "Mistake" that followed:** To dismantle this claim, the Reformers developed Cessationism as a defensive shield. They argued that because the "true" miracle was the Gospel in the Bible, no additional miracles were needed.

The Reformation is where Cessationism began: While earlier thinkers (such as late-era Augustine) noted a decline in miracles, the formal doctrine of Cessationism (That Gifts are no longer present) was largely developed by the Reformers (*specifically John Calvin*) as a polemic against the Roman Catholic Church.

IMPORTANT: The idea that Spiritual Gifts have ceased was born to refute abuses in the Church, NOT from Scripture.

C. Back to the Future: Reclaiming the Word & the Spirit

Many Christians and even Christian traditions hold to the Bible only, as though it is ALL we need.

We must remember! MANY Christians around the world TODAY do not have the access we have to Scripture!!

Church History the same! The printing press was only invented in 1440 by Johannes Gutenberg. What access did people have to Bibles before this? Much of it would have been through gathering together and hearing a teacher teach, then passing things on orally.

The most famous early "full" Bibles are the Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus (circa A.D. 300-350)

In the 4th century, a single codex was a massive investment, often requiring the skins of hundreds of animals (vellum) and years of scribal labour. You could accurately say it cost the equivalent of a "lifetime of wages" or a "small fortune," which reinforces why the oral tradition was so vital.

We often forget how blessed we are to have access to Scripture! We have many translations! Countless volumes of commentaries! We have a rich history to look back on! And we have the ability to quickly weigh what we hear against the Bedrock of God's Word.

But for much of human history, this was not the case! Though there are MANY benefits to our access! One thing to watch out for is that we don't adopt a "me and my Bible" approach to Scripture.

The Spirit gave the Word to fuel the Fire, not replace the Flame!

ACTS 17:11 YES – be good Bereans. Yes – study Scripture for ourselves. They had Jewish Tradition, Experience of Paul's teaching and then weighed against Scripture

Study Scripture – YES! But, not searching the Scriptures and failing to find eternal life! The Scriptures point to Jesus! And Jesus testifies about the Spirit and His role in the Church!

John 5:39–40 (ESV) ³⁹ *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,* ⁴⁰ *yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*

We need His SPIRIT to understand Scripture! To know God! Jesus promised the Spirit and those who loved him to have the Father & the Son manifest themselves to them. WOW!!

1 Corinthians 2:8–13 (ESV) ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him?

PRAY: Let us go... back to the Scriptures... back to the Spirit...

2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV) ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

2 Timothy 3:14–17 (ESV) ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it... ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

APPLICATION: Prayerfully Study & Listen to the Spirit!

Luke 1:1–4 (ESV) ¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Luke wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit, AND he studied!

- **Commit to Studying & Seeking the Spirit! When are you going to do it?**
- **4+ days (Daily is the goal)– Reading, reflecting, responding to Scripture!**
- **Spending 12+ minutes a day praying! Seeking the Spirit and giving Him space to speak & direct you.**

MODIFIED PRAYER: (Acts 4:24–31) “Sovereign Lord, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David, the Prophets, and the Apostles. Now, Lord, consider the days we live in, the struggles we face, the weakness inherent in us, and grant us Your Spirit to empower us to minister, break free from sin, persevere through hardship, and speak Your word with great boldness. While you stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”