

Our Maturity and Its Impact on Gifting

(This is the follow-up article to “Our Aim Should Be to Mature”¹)

Jesus (Jesus of Nazareth) is our prototype.² He’s the one Father has told us to model ourselves on.³ He’s the one we’re to mature to become like, so we function like him. That will only become a reality for us if we totally surrender ourselves to him and allow HIM to mold⁴, shape, transform, teach and train us. It won’t happen any other way.

The starting point is not only complete surrender, but a desire to have his mind – to know his heart and to think like him. That’s a necessity as well. In addition, our focus must be on him and that we align ourselves (our heart, mind, attitudes and desires) with him only. That’s what "Christ-likeness" and "the mind of Christ" are really all about. They aren’t biblical or theological constructs, they’re Kingdom realities that sons are to expected to achieve.

ASIDE: Unfortunately, the NT’s use of “Christ” really destroys the impact of what the writers to the 1st century believers would most likely desire us to understand today. They were in the time of Messiah⁵ (Christ⁶), so it was right to refer to him and what he achieved. Today, in the 21st century, with King Jesus reigning and the Kingdom already here, there’s no need to refer back to Messiah’s time and use his Jewish saviour title. Instead, we need to see Jesus’ achievements in relevant Kingdom terms because he was the first Spirit-filled human being. “Christ-likeness” and “the mind of Christ” then equate to ‘becoming like the man Jesus’ and ‘having the King’s mind’. Referring to them that way, they become pertinent for us as indicators of our maturity as a son in his Kingdom right now.

• **SEE:** “Our Aim Should Be to Mature”⁷ for all the background on maturity

One of the interesting statements by Paul about maturity is that the Ascension Gifts⁸ are not permanent, but will cease being needed once we reach maturity. That maturity he defines as “the realization of the fullness of the measure of Christ”⁹ in us. In other words, as the Spirit of the King lives in us, he is molding and shaping us so we exhibit the characteristics he wants us to have. Of course, they’re the same characteristics that he exhibited as Jesus of Nazareth.

As we become more and more mature, things we relied on in the past will no longer be necessary or essential. That will be a gradual process, but it will start with the elimination of all religious activities, including the need for *sola scriptura*¹⁰. Eventually, we won’t need the five oversight gifts mentioned above, as we will have our King supplying them for each of us. By that I mean, we will be in such deep oneness with him that he will be everything to us and he’ll be our oversight in its fullness.

Included in the list of gifts supplied by Heaven for the *ekklesia* are these: “first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles,¹¹ then gifts of healings, helps, administrations,¹² varieties of tongues.¹³”¹⁴ Some or all of these will not be essential as we rise to greater levels of maturity. What ones

1 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Our-Aim-Should-Be-to-Mature.pdf

2 – “See Me As Your Prototype” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/33b-See-Me-As-Your-Prototype.pdf

“Jesus Our Prototype” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Jesus-our-Prototype.pdf

3 – His life and character, not his Kingdom assignment.

4 – “mould” is a fungus.

5 – Hebrew (HaMashiach)

6 – Latin (Christos)

7 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Our-Aim-Should-Be-to-Mature.pdf

8 – AKA ‘5-Fold Ministry Gifts’

9 – Ephesians 4:13 (MIRROR Bible)

10 – SEE: “The End of *Sola Scriptura*” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/The-End-of-Sola-Scriptura.pdf

11 – “those who do miracles [acts of powers]” (Expanded Bible)

12 – “those who are able to govern [lead]” (Expanded Bible)

13 – “[different kinds of tongues]” (Expanded Bible)

14 – 1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV)

will become no longer relevant, other than the Ascension Gifts, remains to be seen.

It's interesting at this point to do a logic analysis of Jesus' abilities and relate those results to our maturity, him being our prototype, of course. Analysing the way Jesus of Nazareth lived will give us an indication of what gifts and practices we'll need and not need, when we are fully mature. Here's a few points:

1. Jesus copied Father – He did what he saw Father doing and he spoke what Father spoke.
2. Jesus did what Father told him – That's all he ever did.
3. Jesus was in oneness with Father – He didn't just relate to him.
4. Jesus conversed with Father – It's not recorded that he spent time in intercession for situations, circumstances and for other people. He was fully connected to Father in the Spirit all of the time.
5. Jesus was able to speak to nature – That is, to the created realm, including plants and the weather.
6. Jesus never prayed for miracles to take place – Instead, he commanded (declared) them into existence.
7. Jesus never had human oversight – He didn't need an apostle, prophet, teacher, pastor or evangelist. He operated in all those functions himself and Father was his oversight.
8. Jesus never spoke in tongues – There's no recorded instance of that being his prayer language. Because he was one with Father, he would have used Spirit-to-spirit communication most of the time.

It's interesting that it's not recorded that Jesus spoke in tongues. If he had, it would have been a strange thing for his disciples to experience, so they would have definitely written about it. He may have spoken in tongues in his spirit, but there would have been no reason for that because of his 24/7 connection with Father. Similarly, there's no record in the Gospels of the disciples speaking in tongues after Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit.¹⁵ Tongues obviously came as part of the package for new sons when they were filled with the Spirit, from Pentecost onwards. It's one of the gifts that's supplied for spiritual activity on Earth.

As an example of looking at how gifts are no longer needed as we mature, let's take a look at tongues.

NOTE: As background, I outlined the use and importance of tongues in a previous teaching article.¹⁶

In addition to the spiritual experiences of using tongues that I included in that document, here's the testimony of José Henriquez¹⁷ concerning the power of praying in tongues to defeat a demonic attack. This occurred early in his spiritual life after he was 'baptised in the Holy Spirit'. His experience (testimony) also included Jesus appearing to him at that time and praying in tongues for him, so he could prevent any damage occurring. (This is an extract from the transcript of his audio recording):

“So I had this one incident, where I went into my bedroom and I felt a demonic presence trying to attack me, come at me. All the days leading up to that night, for six days in a row, I was speaking in tongues for 6 hours, for six days straight. The Lord graced me to do that. It wasn't that I just felt like doing it. God asked me to do it, and then he graced me to do it.

Before the attack took place, Jesus walked into my room that night. He went through the door, then he sat within my body and came into my body. I was running out of energy to continue praying in tongues, because I was about to fall asleep. I knew the moment I fell asleep, the demonic spirit would attack me. So, Jesus came inside me, and he was speaking in oneness with me, the same language, the same tongues and the same words that were coming out of my mouth was what Jesus was speaking. I then felt that Jesus turned me down (like turning the volume down on a speaker) and he completely took over.

15 – John 20:22

16 – “An Analysis of Some Christian Practices and Their Spiritual Benefits-11”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/An-Analysis-of-Some-Christian-Practices-and-Their-Spiritual-Benefits-11.pdf

17 – HIS WEBPAGE: canberraforerunners.org/?page_id=4445

Then this demonic spirit came inside my belly, right in the pit where my belly button is. It was trying to explode me like a bomb. But because Jesus was speaking in tongues, the demonic spirit could not achieve what he wanted to achieve, which was to blow me up. He flexed three times, and the third time he flexed to his absolute maximum, and he still could not achieve the attack on me. So this thing gave up and just took off out of my body, and out the window of my bedroom and never came back.

Jesus kept praying in tongues for a little while longer. Then he came from within my body and lifted himself back out of my body. He then told me I could go to sleep, and he walked straight through the door without opening the door.”¹⁸

José’s testimony highlights the use of tongues as a weapon for dealing with demonic malevolence, however, it’s not always needed in every instance. The tendency of believers is to make a formula of anything that has worked, turning the gift or activity into a religious process’ That’s what’s happened with tongues. Many ‘spiritual’ believers immediately turn to praying in tongues as soon as their calm life has a sense of impending disorder or chaos, a move most likely fuelled by fear. This tendency indicates an immature mindset because maturity will always lead us to finding out from Father what to do before responding.

Here are two examples of more mature ways of dealing with instances that the enemy uses to destroy our peace:

1. Stand on our identity – When we know who we are as sons, ‘beyond a shadow of a doubt’, the enemy is neutralized. We just need to stand firm in our sonship and find out from Father what’s going on and what he wants us to do.
(NOTE: If you struggle with your identity and how to stand in it, you may like to watch this teaching video.¹⁹)
2. Draw on love – When someone has assailed us, the tendency may be to jump straight into tongues to begin attacking the enemy so he can’t use what was said to damage us. Instead, rather than taking offence (which Father says not to)²⁰, we can move into his presence and draw on his love. Through intimacy and oneness, the negative consequences are staved off and love returns us to rest and peace again.

These are simple indicators that tongues are not always needed. They show us two ways that Jesus operated, and why he didn’t need tongues to deal with the enemy. We already know that to be true, because he didn’t speak in tongues when Satan tempted him in the wilderness.

At some point, tongues will cease, as will prophecy, and knowledge will be superseded by truth (reality).²¹ Love will never stop, because the Trinity’s character is love. What is the point at which cessation occurs? The last word always belongs with Father, so I asked him what he wanted his people to know about tongues. (This is an extract from the transcript of what he gave me):

“Tongues will cease, but for the moment, they have a function, and that function is communication with me, at numerous levels. Numerous, in the fact that there are levels and functions of tongues that you are unaware of, and that’s not important for you to know at this time. The important thing for you is that you do speak in tongues, when you’re communicating.

Speaking in tongues allows me to receive a clear message from you that’s untainted by your soul and your mind. This is my desire, that I receive undiluted, unpolluted and uncorrupted messages. That’s because you work with me in the operations of my Kingdom, in the cosmos and the spirit realm. This is what you were created to do and you are doing it as you operate as a son with me, in partnership.

18 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/praying-in-tongues-testimony-Jose.pdf

19 – TruthSeeker (21-9-2022) “You Do NOT Want To Operate In The Spirit World Without This!”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=c91oRT90xGY

20 – “Dealing with Offence” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Dealing-with-Offence.pdf
“Offence, Bitterness, Judgement, Fear, Anger, Pride, etc”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Offence-Bitterness-Judgement-Fear-Anger-Pride-etc.pdf

21 – 1 Corinthians 13:8

Spirit-to-spirit communication is the best. It's the purist, but [speaking in] tongues allows you to speak through the Spirit, via your voice. It has ramifications. Suffice it to say, they do, at this point in time – I will reveal more of this in the future. But, my desire is for my people to cease communicating with me with their mind, their soul [through] their voice, driven by their heart attitudes. That [method] is ineffective. It is, in fact, persuasive communication. Your communication should be in alignment with me, so that together, we partner and see things achieved in the spirit realm and in the natural.

Listen to my promptings so you know when to speak in English and when to speak in tongues. The rest of the time you'll be communicating spirit-to-Spirit with me. That [method] is not conscious to you at the moment, but it will be as time goes on. That's why tongues will cease, because when you get to the point of pure spirit-to-Spirit communication, there's no need for tongues to filter out your souliness. That's the time I'm looking forward to. But in the meantime, communicate in tongues as you are led, as this does impact the spirit realm for my purposes, rather than what you demand or what you desire.”²²

According to Father, then, spiritual maturity has an important influence on whether tongues are needed or not. He stated above: “When you get to the point of pure spirit-to-Spirit communication, there's no need for tongues to filter out your souliness.” That's referring to being spiritual mature.

In addition, what's the use of tongues for a person who inhabits Heaven, who lives out of there? Could it be that they are spiritually mature enough to not need tongues?

Here's the spiritual experience of Mike Parsons²³ who uses tongues, but who does it differently because he lives out of Heaven. (This is an extract from the transcript of his video):

“In the early days when I was learning to meditate and learning to activate my spirit, I used to practise praying in tongues, speaking in tongues whilst reading the bible or whilst doing something else, to try and activate my spirit, so I connected spiritually to whatever I was doing. So I learned to be able to read in English and pray in tongues at the same time. I learned to pray in tongues out loud and read in English in my mind at the same time. I think that was preparing me to sort of live in dual realms or multiple realms at the same time. I just practised that as an exercise to activate something. I think once my spirit was activated, and particularly when my spirit and soul really made the connection and became unified, I think I just didn't really pray in tongues a lot. I think I was just engaged and therefore I was more actively engaged, without that being a doorway. It was just like I engaged in every way.

Then I found over the last few years, I've actually found myself speaking in tongues a lot, but not because I chose to, just because my spirit started to use that language towards me. I found – and this is anecdotal [as] I've got no evidence for it, other than I believe this is true for me – is that my spirit, that's functioning in Heaven all the time, has encounters that I'm not always cognitive [of]. When I would wake up in the morning and I would be speaking in tongues, it was like my spirit wanted to communicate to me what was going on during the night.

I found that when I first started to pray in tongues years ago, I chose to do it. [The] first time it happened, it was almost spontaneous and then I chose to do it whenever I wanted to do it. I did use it to activate words of knowledge and wisdom, and praying for people, and just [to] build my spirit generally up, to be able to communicate and tune into God.

I think now, my spirit communicates with me through tongues and I do believe I get revelatory insight into some of the spiritual encounters that I'm having, in a way which gets unveiled, and I know things. I just know something. Well, where did that come from? I think it comes from the language of tongues. The spirit is communicating and I resonate with it and then it brings revelation as I experience it. It isn't something that I really choose to do, much as a conscious choice, but I find that I've done it a lot more over the last few years because I think my spirit is a lot more active, particularly once I got free from just being linear and doing things linearly, to being multi-dimensional and being in multiple places at the same time. In some way, my spirit is able to communicate some of the experiences of those encounters, so that I get the benefit of it. It's just a theory, in one sense, but it felt that it worked with me, and it felt that I was knowing things when this was taking place.

22 – Audio message recorded on 22-7-2022

23 – His blog site: freedomarc.blog/tag/mike-parsons

But beyond that, I think there are many ways of engagement and praying in tongues, speaking in tongues, can be an activation because our spirit becomes active and then we can engage God within our spirit. So I don't think there's anything wrong in it, I just encourage people not to formularize it, but to be led by whatever their spirit's wanting to do and engage. So for some people that will work and for other people it might not. So rather than it being a formula, I think it's something that we can share our experiences on, when other people might benefit from those experiences. Some might just [have] no idea what you're talking about, but that's okay, in reality...

I think the key is, God doesn't want to make it difficult for us to engage and so there's lots of ways of engagement. My first engagements were involuntary. In other words, I just found myself in the realm of Heaven. He took me there and that was pretty much it. I always saw that as the door standing open in Heaven, that I could step into. But then, when I began to spend a lot more time engaged with God within my spirit, and the first love experience of engaging there, and opening that, that became a two-way door rather than a one-way door. So when I opened it and invited the presence of Father, Son and Spirit to actually engage with me within my spirit – and subsequently in the garden of my heart and things like the green pasture scriptures and things like that – I found that that door was open and I could walk straight into Eden. That was much more of a relational pathway for me to engage the waterfalls and the River [of Life] and The Tree of Life and the Throne of Grace, and it always seemed to be this led me into a place of intimacy. Whereas the other pathway tended to lead me into a place of government.”²⁴

(Permission to quote Mike Parsons received on 20-7-2020)

So, there it is: As we mature in various ways, some spiritual gifts are no longer needed. This is demonstrated by their absence from Jesus' life and from the experience of those today who are maturing in their sonship. Other gifts will remain until they are no longer required, probably with 'The Restoration of All Things'²⁵.

Our responsibility is to desire to mature.²⁶ When we have that desire, and we've fully submitted to the Trinity to have them mold and shape us, we can make progress in becoming the mature son that Father wants us to be. To aid that transformation, it's essential that we put away elementary²⁷ and childish²⁸ things.

IMPORTANT: Life as sons means there's always a 'higher' and 'deeper' spiritual life ahead of us. There's always more to learn and experience in the realm of the Spirit (i.e. the spiritual realm). We are spiritual beings with a destiny far greater, both now and in the next Age, than religion or our minds can conceive. We only progress a little at a time in our spiritual growth because we aren't able to handle too much. Father knows that, and so he schools us and trains us according to what he knows we can accept and handle. Bear that in mind when considering what I've written about the use of tongues in the 21st century.

Laurence

24-9-2022

(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

COPYRIGHT

This document is free to copy, republish and distribute, but only 'as is'. It is free to quote from at length.

All Canberra Forerunners' documents are licensed under

[Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)

Quotes are the copyright of their authors.

(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

24 – TRANSCRIPT: Mike Parsons (3-7-2022) "Speaking in Tongues" youtu.be/MYaC9eY4ag0 [0:00-6:17]

25 – canberraforerunners.org/?page_id=8976

26 – "Our Aim Should Be to Mature" canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Our-Aim-Should-Be-to-Mature.pdf

27 – Hebrews 6:1-3

28 – 1 Corinthians 13:11