

A SIMPLE TONGUES CHART

Modified 6 Mar 2010
(KJV version)

The word 'abide'

First, please read 1 Cor. 13:8-13 and get familiar with the passage.
1 Cor. 13:13 says, "and now abideth faith, hope, charity." The word 'abideth' implies that something else does not abide (remain). If we go back to 1 Cor. 13:8, we are told of the things which will not abide - tongues, prophecy and knowledge. From these verses we can see that the three items in v. 8 must cease at some point in order for the three items of v. 13 to abide or remain.

Faith and Hope (see 'A' back page)

There is only one faith and one hope (Eph. 4:4-6) and they are in our unseen Lord. We are told that "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not *seen* ... hope that is *seen* is not hope ... we walk by faith, not by *sight*" (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 8:24; 2 Cor. 5:7). So, when we see Jesus our faith and hope cease, having been fulfilled. 1 Cor. 12:9 tells us that faith is one of the gifts to the church and like all the other gifts it will not continue into eternity but cease when we see Jesus. Only charity is eternal.

Some items cease, leaving some to abide

From the previous two sections we can see that:

1. Faith, hope and charity remain until Jesus returns and
2. Tongues, prophecy and knowledge must cease before that time.

It is not possible for the items which are targeted to cease to actually remain until Jesus returns as this would be saying that nothing will cease but all will remain. The Scriptures clearly tell us that tongues, prophecy and knowledge will cease while faith, hope and charity will remain (see 'A').

The question now is, "When were tongues, prophecy and knowledge meant to cease?"

Prophecy, knowledge and perfection

1 Cor. 13:9-10 tell us that when the "perfect" comes, the "in part" shall be done away. When our perfect Lord comes **everything** will change. However, the coming of the "perfect" spoken of in 1 Cor. 13:9-10 will change only **two** things and they were said to be "in part". Why is this? The reason prophecy and knowledge were said to be "in part" was because, when 1 Corinthians was written, **the Bible itself was still "in part"** so the prophecy and knowledge available to mankind was incomplete. When the Bible was completed (**perfect**) it then contained all the prophecy and knowledge which God wanted us to have ... perfection had come to the written Word and as prophecy and knowledge were no longer "in part" these gifts disappeared. For this reason, the Bible cannot be added to today. Tongues, being a sign to the Jews, ceased as its purpose had also been served (see 'C').

The prophecy and knowledge which have ceased are *future* prophecy and *supernatural* knowledge such as God's salvation plan, church guidelines etc which God gave to particular men to write the Bible. Normal knowledge will **never** cease but will continue forever and increase greatly after Jesus' return. Today, we are encouraged to grow in knowledge and to prophecy in the form of biblical preaching, as in 1 Cor. 14:24-25, which will edify believers and convert souls.

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Summing it up

1. For things to abide, other things had to cease.
2. Tongues, prophecy and knowledge were targeted to cease when the Bible was completed.
3. Faith and hope continue to remain with us but will only remain until the appearing of our blessed hope (1Pet 1:9, Tit. 2:13).
4. Charity, being eternal, will never cease because it is the greatest of all ... 1 Cor. 13:13.

For a more detailed explanation, download the following two books and small articles from <http://ChristianIssues.biz/tongues.html> -
Today's Tongues <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/tongues/todaystongues.pdf>
All About Speaking In Tongues <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/tongues/allaboutspeakingtongues.pdf>
1) Tongues Have Ceased - A Brief Summary <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/tongues/tonguessummary.pdf>
2) Comments on 1 Cor. 14 <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/tongues/1cor14.pdf>
3) 1 Cor. 13:10 and the term 'face to face' <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/heraldofhope/qanda/18.pdf>
4) Face to face and the Laver <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/tongues/thelaver.pdf>
5) Tongues As A Sign Of Judgment..... <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/tongues/tonguesasasign.pdf>

The term 'face to face' (see 'B')

1 Cor. 13:11 speaks of maturing in the here and now, not when Jesus returns. V.12 mentions a mirror - mirrors are for reflection - to see ourselves. Jam. 1:23-25 connect the *perfect* Word of God with a mirror and it is through the Bible that we mature and come 'face to face' with our sinful self as it "is a *discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (Heb. 4:12). Also, just as God knows us fully, through the Bible we can fully know His plans and purposes from Genesis to Revelation. [Before service to the Lord, the priests washed in the Laver which was made from the women's brass mirrors. Today, the priesthood of God is cleansed by washing in the water of the Word (Eph 5:26)].

IN VHO TONGUES SIMPLE A

This chart plus the books Today's Tongues, All About Speaking In Tongues and Tongues Shall Cease are all free to download from:
www.ChristianIssues.biz/tongues.html

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(Please read other side first)

C - The Jews demanded a sign

In 1 Cor. 1:22 we are told that Jews demanded miraculous signs and 1 Cor. 14:21-22 tell us that tongues was one of those signs. These verses state that tongues was a sign to 'this people', a term used solely to refer to Jews.

In Acts, Jews were present each time tongues was mentioned.

1. In Acts 2, Jews were praising God in foreign languages and this got the attention of the Jews gathering in Jerusalem from Gentile nations.
2. Acts 10 & 11 tell us that the gift of tongues was given to Gentiles and how this convinced Peter and the Jews of Jerusalem that the Gentiles were part of God's salvation plan. The very nature of tongues (foreign languages) made it clear what the sign was for. Acts shows that the Jews fiercely, often violently, opposed the acceptance of Gentiles into the church.
3. In Acts 19, tongues was a sign to twelve Jews, also showing that salvation was not in John's baptism but in the Messiah they had rejected and for which judgment would come.

The quote in 1 Cor. 14:21-22 comes from Isa. 28:11-13 where tongues was a sign of forthcoming judgment. Judgment again came upon the Jews in 70AD because they rejected their Messiah. The following link outlines how tongues was used as a sign of judgment - <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/tongues/tonguesasign.pdf>

In Mark 16:15-18, Jesus said that the sign of tongues would follow the evangelists as they went into the world and it did, as Acts show. About 20 years after Jesus said this, 1 Corinthians was written stating that tongues would cease. After stating that tongues would cease, in Ch.13, instructions for the use of tongues were given in Ch.14. Tongues was still a gift then and instructions were needed for the interim period until tongues ceased, some 40 years on when the last book of the Bible was written.

(Please read other side first)

A - Faith and hope cease when we see Jesus.

It is often argued that there is more than one faith but Eph. 4:4-6 tell us that "*There is one body, and one Spirit ... **one hope** ... one Lord, **one faith**, one baptism, One God and Father of all.*"

The Bible tells us that "*we walk by faith, not by sight*" and that "*faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*" (2 Cor. 5:7 & Heb. 11:1). Our faith is in Jesus to return and bring us to eternal life as stated in Heb. 9:28 - "*unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*" Our faith will end with the salvation of our souls as we are told in 1 Pet. 1:9 - "*Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*" The word 'end' in this verse can be translated as goal, conclusion or termination so when we see Jesus our salvation will be complete and our faith will have reached its conclusion.

Regarding hope, Titus 2:13 states that we are "*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*" so clearly our hope is in seeing Jesus. When we see the Lord, hope will end as "*hope that is seen is not hope.*" (Rom. 8:24)

In 1 Cor. 13:8-13 there are six items mentioned. Consider them to be six brothers - Tongues, Prophecy, Knowledge, Faith, Hope and Charity. The first three die (cease) at some point in time leaving the other three to live on (remain). Some time later, the next two pass on and this leaves the last brother, Charity, who lives forever. This is the timing sequence given in 1 Cor. 13:8-13. Tongues, prophecy and knowledge cease first, then faith and hope cease when Jesus returns, leaving love to remain forever. See the timeline on page three of this PDF.

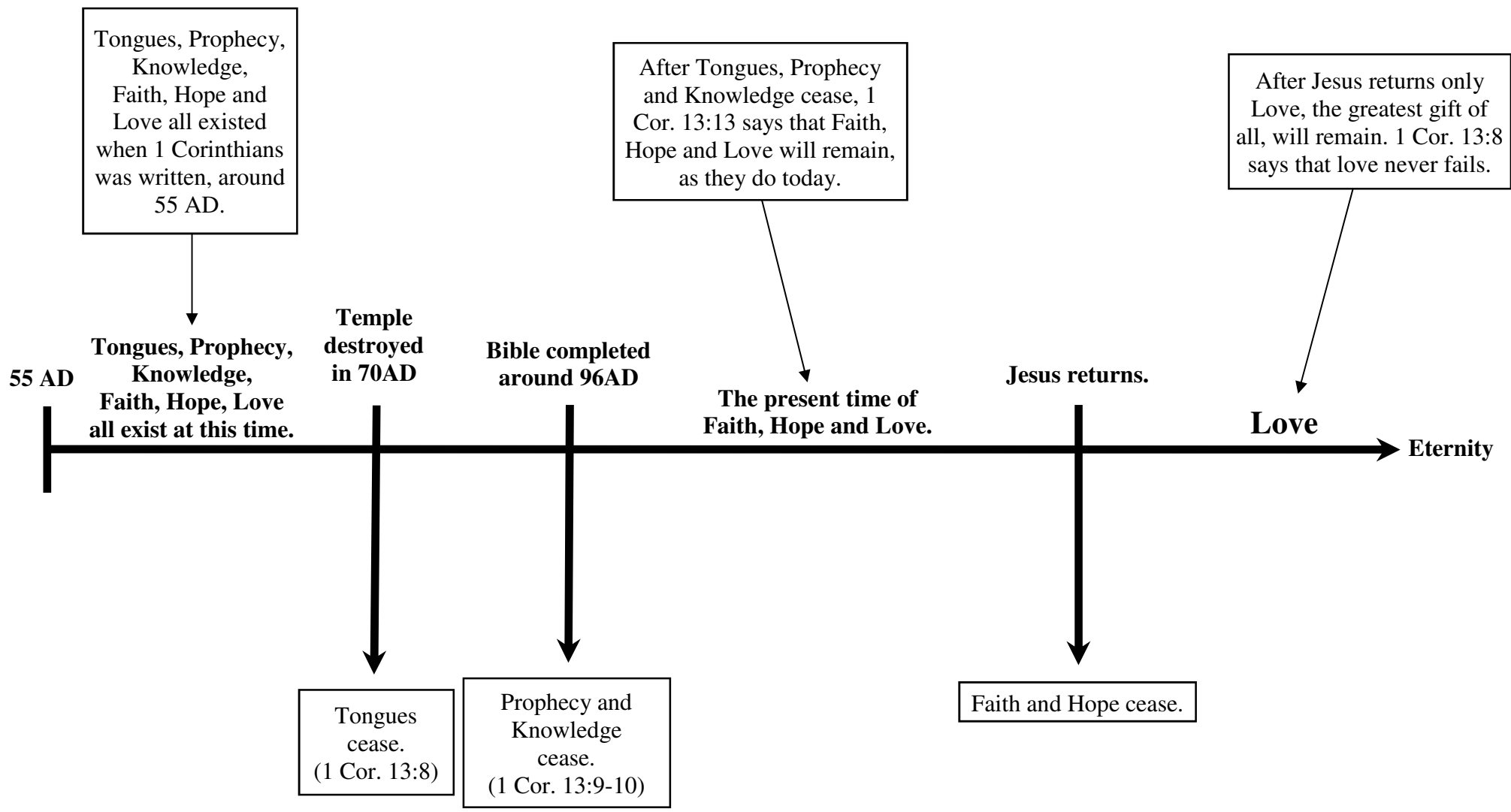
B - Face to face, mirrors and the perfect Word of God.

In Ex. 33:11, Moses spoke to the Lord face to face. We know that this is figurative because in v.20 the Lord said that no one could see His face and live. We have the same thing in 1 Cor. 13:12. Just as Moses talked to the living God face to face, without actually seeing His face, we can come face to face with God through the Bible which is "*quickness and powerful*" (Heb 4:12).

1 Cor. 13:12 says that 'now' - before the coming of the perfect - believers saw poorly, just like the dark reflection in the brass mirrors of that time. The verse goes on to say 'but then' when perfection comes - believers would see face to face, just as with today's good mirrors. The letters to the church give us full insight into our sinful nature and God's future plans. Before Scripture was completed believers could only see things dimly but when the full revelation came they could then see their wicked selves fully and also fully know God's plan and purpose from Genesis to Revelation, just as He knows us fully. Note how James 1:23-25 links the *perfect* Word of God with a mirror. [The Laver was made from the women's brass mirrors and used by the Priests to wash before service to the Lord while today the Lord sanctifies the church (the priesthood of God) as He cleanses it "*with washing of water by the word*" (Eph. 5:25-27).]

1 Cor. 13:11 says, "*When I was a child, I spake as a child [tongues], I understood as a child [knowledge], I thought like a child [prophecy]: But when I became a man, I put away childish things.*" Christian maturity comes through the Word of God and the so called 'childish' gifts of tongues, knowledge and prophecy disappeared with the completion of the Bible. In 1 Cor. 14:20, the Corinthians were told to stop thinking like children and the text goes on, in vs. 21-22, to say that tongues is simply a sign to 'this people', the Jews.

Timeline of the cessation of Tongues, Prophecy, Knowledge, Faith and Hope.



As this chart shows, tongues, prophecy and knowledge cease before Jesus returns. Regarding the timing of the cessation of these three gifts, see the rest of this PDF. It can be fully downloaded from <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/tongues/tongueschart.pdf>

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