

**1 Corinthians 13:8 (NASB)**

***<sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.***

The gifts of **Prophecy and Knowledge** in the future, will be acted upon in such a way that they will be made inoperative. Passive voice, future tense. The gift of **tongues** will cease in and of themselves. Middle voice, passive voice.

***<sup>9</sup> For we know in part, and we prophesy in part;***

**Prophecy** is imperfect in the sense that revelations of the Lord's mind are only partial, incomplete.

**Knowledge** now is in degree, "we know in part"; all that kind of learning will pass away. CONSTABLE

***<sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.***

**perfect** is *teleios*, and its basic meaning is *to be complete*.

All these partial instruments of communicating will be done with when I know as I am known.

***<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.***

Paul compared our present phase of maturity to childhood and that of our later phase, when we are **with the Lord**, to adulthood.

Clearly the point of the passage is **not** to spotlight uncertainty on our present apprehension of knowledge, but to show its partial character, as compared with the fullness in glory.

***<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.***

At present we are like one looking at objects through some semi-transparent medium that obscures our vision.

In the future we will know ourselves in Christ as God knows us in Christ.

***<sup>13</sup> "But now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but [the] greater of these [is] love."***

Faith and hope make very good travelling companions, but we part company with them at the door of heaven. We go in with one thing, love.