

Prelude

The Wonder of It All

God Will Take Care of You

For He Himself [Jesus Christ] has said, and the statement is on record, “I will not, I will not cease to sustain and uphold you, I will not, I will not, I will not let you down.” So that, being of good courage, we are saying, “The Lord is my helper. I will not fear.”

Hebrews 13:5b (Wuest NT Translation)

*& ~~Love never fails~~; but whether 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.*

- **FAIL** "*to fall,*" is used of the Law of God in its smallest detail, in the sense of losing its authority or ceasing to have force.
- **Prophecies** will be done away; their fulfilment will bring them to an end.
- **Tongues** will cease with the present divided condition of the nations.
- **Knowledge, or the partial knowledge** that we have at the present time, will be done away.

Of **prophecies**, *they will be done away*;
of **tongues**, *they will cease*; and
of **knowledge**, *it will be done away*.

The verb used with **prophecies** and **knowledge** “*done away*” is identical.

future tense, passive voice of **katargo**

katargo. To render entirely useless, abolish, make of no effect

See Romans 6:6 ⁶ *knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away (katargeō) with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.*

*& ~~Love never fails~~; but whether 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 verb used with **tongues** is different.

It is **future tense, middle voice**. Middle voice means the action of the verb is directed toward itself.

We could say, “**Tongues shall cease in and of themselves.**”

*⁹ For we know **in part** and we prophesy **in part**;*

- It is only knowledge and prophesy “*in part.*”
- **In contrast to our** present condition in which, though truth is fully revealed in the word, it is yet only partially apprehended.
- Prophecy is imperfect in the sense that revelations of the Lord’s mind are only partial, incomplete. Constable
- Knowledge now is in degree, “*we know in part*”; all that kind of learning will pass away. Constable

¹⁰ *but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.*

McCalley: To understand when prophecy and knowledge end requires that we identify what the perfect is.

The word *perfect* is *teleios*, and its basic meaning *is to be complete. probably refers to the whole truth about God.*

When we reach that point the Lord will remove (*katargeo*, cf. v. 8) what is partial, will remove the limits on our knowledge and the other limitations we endure in our present condition.

¹¹ 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 katargeō. with childish things.

To show our present partial knowledge, Paul uses the figure of a child.

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.

While in these bodies, we are compelled to a large extent to think of spiritual things in natural terms in accord with our present condition.

¹¹ 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.

Does not this passage distinctly suggest the possibility of growth?

- There is growth in the divine nature.
 - We have to accept that we have a very limited and partial view of it.
 - Believers in the glorified state will enter totally into it.
-
- There will be love that pervades the whole scene; everyone will be filled with love and be in a scene of love. And there will be no gift there; everything will be perfect.

*¹² 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**.

In the perfect condition we shall see **face to face**; there will be no defective lenses between us and that upon which we observe.

We are known in Christ by God and nowhere else; but then we do not know ourselves in Christ now as God does.

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

It is a difference not merely of quantity but of method too.

- Our very learning now, no matter how much we have learned, proves our ignorance.
- It will not be so then.
- The condition which needs to grow, as well as the means which contribute to growth, will have passed away.
- Truth will be fully known as a whole, in that day, not learned piecemeal as now.

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

- In the perfect state **faith** will be changed to sight, and so faith will have its end.
- **Hope** will end in realization.
- **Love** alone will abide.

Faith and hope therefore refer only to the present condition, love alone to eternity as well as to the present.

- While knowledge puffs up, love builds up.
- While knowledge gives no deliverance from self-seeking and self-indulgence, Love strengthens the believer in the self-sacrificing service of Christ, free from all, yet becoming slave to all, in order to gain the most possible.
- And assuredly the obvious separation of the Lord's table, and even of the love-feast mixed up with it, from the divine object of it was the saddest proof that they needed that teaching on love which grace gave them.