

CHURCH FATHERS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS

JUSTIN MARTYR (c. 100 to c. 165):

Daily some are becoming disciples in the name of Christ, and quitting the path of error; who are also receiving gifts, each as he is worthy, illumined through the name of this Christ. For one receives the spirit of understanding, another of counsel, another of strength, another of healing, another of foreknowledge, another of teaching, and another of the fear of God. [. . .]

It was prophesied that, after the ascent of Christ to heaven, He would deliver us from error and give us gifts. The words are these: 'He ascended up on high; He led captivity captive; He gave gifts to men.' Accordingly, we have received gifts from Christ, who has ascended up on high. *Dialogue with Trypho, Chapter 39*

For the prophetic gifts remain with us, even to the present time. And hence you ought to understand that [the gifts] formerly among your nation have been transferred to us. *Dialogue with Trypho, Chapter 82*

IRENÆUS (c. 130 to c. 202):

For some do certainly and truly drive out devils, so that those who have thus been cleansed from evil spirits frequently both believe [in Christ], and join themselves to the Church. Others have foreknowledge of things to come: they see visions, and utter prophetic expressions. Others still, heal the sick by laying their hands upon them, and they are made whole. Yea, moreover, as I have said, the dead even have been raised up, and remained among us for many years. And what shall I more say? It is not possible to name the number of the gifts which the Church, [scattered] throughout the whole world, has received from God, in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and which she exerts day by day for the benefit of the Gentiles, neither practising deception upon any, nor taking any reward from them [on account of such miraculous

interpositions]. For as she has received freely from God, freely also does she minister [to others]

In like manner we do also hear many brethren in the Church, who possess prophetic gifts, and who through the Spirit speak all kinds of languages, and bring to light for the general benefit the hidden things of men, and declare the mysteries of God, whom also the apostle terms “spiritual,” they being spiritual because they partake of the Spirit, [...]

TERTULLIAN (c. 165 to c. 220)

We have faith for a defense [...] We often aid in this manner even the pagan, seeing that we have been endowed by God with power that the apostle first used

ORIGEN (c. 185 to c. 253Therefore we may see, that after the advent of Jesus the Jews were altogether abandoned, and possess now none of what were considered their ancient glories, so that there is no indication of any Divinity abiding amongst them. For they have no longer prophets nor miracles, traces of which to a considerable extent are still found among Christians, and some of them more remarkable than any that existed among the Jews; and these we ourselves have witnessed, if our testimony may be received.):

ARNOBIUS (284-305)

By his own power, He not only performed those miraculous deeds, [...] but He has permitted many others to attempt them and to perform them by the use of His name [...] He chose fishermen, artisans, peasants, and unskilled persons of a similar kind, so that they, being sent through various nations, perform all those miracles without any fraud and without any material aids