

On the Cessation of the Charismata: The Protestant Polemic on Post-biblical Miracles--Revised & Expanded Edition

By Jon Mark Ruthven


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The Definitive Study--Now Updated & Expanded! Protestant theology has usually tended toward cessationism, the belief that the miraculous, including various spiritual gifts, ceased early in Christian history. The Princeton theologian Benjamin B. Warfield strongly advocated this view, especially in his influential work *Counterfeit Miracles*. The present study, *On the Cessation of the Charismata*, thoroughly critiques cessationism generally and Warfield specifically. It shows that cessationism arises from sources other than--some even contrary to--Scripture itself: namely, cessationists' experience of history and their embrace of philosophies that distort their interpretation of Scripture. Instead, as *On the Cessation* shows, Scripture expects the miraculous, including all gifts of the Holy Spirit, to continue until the Second Coming; and that far from being signs merely accrediting the gospel only during its earliest proclamation, such manifestations of the Spirit are part and parcel of the good news of God's saving reign. Recognized already by many scholars as the definitive study, this updated and expanded edition of *On the Cessation of the Charismata* offers these valuable, new features: • Summary of the cessationist debate since its first publication • Updated documentation of key sources • Outlining of all contents, visualizing the argument more clearly • Groundbreaking discussion of the Holy Spirit's centrality in the New Covenant. His coming in Acts 2 is shown to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 59:19-21; his functioning as the prophetic Spirit, to fulfill God's desire to commune intimately and missionally with all of his Covenant people. This updated and expanded edition keeps *On the Cessation of the Charismata* the definitive study of the biblical underpinnings of Spirit-empowered Christianity globally. More now than before, it is a work every student and scholar of biblical hermeneutics and of biblical, historical, and constructive pneumatology must engage. Endorsements: Thomas Burke, Dean of Humanities, Hillsdale College: The most forcefully and cogently argued work for the continued supernatural operation of the Holy Spirit throughout the Christian era, including the present. Gene Green, Professor of New Testament, Wheaton College: The rise of global Pentecostalism calls for a renewed and wide hearing of [these] biblical and theological arguments in favor of the contemporary charismata within the church. L. Philip Barnes, *The Evangelical Quarterly*:

Eirenic . . . and pastoral . . . yet . . . unambiguous in its conclusion: 'Spiritual gifts are granted for the advance of God's kingdom and the maturity of the church until the end of this present age' . . . a strong and convincing case. Larry W. Hurtado, Professor of New Testament, Edinburgh University: A remarkably well informed and penetrating analysis I find persuasive. The definitive study.

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