

## For Now [ἄρτι] . . . But Now [Νῦν]

1 Corinthians 13 -- Lesson 9 -- Denny Prutow

1. Our basic premise: Love is the sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit for this present age. The special gifts, prophecy, knowledge, and tongues have ceased to be the special sign of the presence of the Spirit in our lives since we have the complete Scripture, which is a sufficient guide for us in everything pertaining to life and godliness.
2. Suggestions on how we approach people whom we believe are converted but also seem to have difficulty shunning certain unhealthy and ungodly activities.
3. Suggestions on how to interface with family members who are in charismatic circles.
4. Review of 1 Corinthians 13.
5. Now we turn to 1 Corinthians 13:13 for further confirmation of our position. Comparison needs to be made between verses 12 and 13.

For now [ἄρτι] we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now [ἄρτι] I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now [Νῦν] abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

6. In verse 12, the word translated "now," refers to the "immediate present, at once, immediately, now" (*Shorter Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*).
7. Compare Galatians 1:9-10 and 4:20 to catch the emphasis.
8. The time frame Paul has in mind as he speaks in 1 Corinthians 13:12 is that period in which he lived and ministered in contrast to a long interval of time consisting of millennia.
9. The word translated "now" in verse 13, which is different than the word for "now" in verse 12, seems to confirm this. In this word, "the idea of time [may be] weakened or entirely absent" (*Shorter Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*).
10. Compare the difference in emphasis in Ephesians 2:13 and 1 Corinthians 15:20.
11. This sense of the word "now" is what we have in 1 Corinthians 13:13, "But *now* abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (italics added). At the inauguration of this age, tongues, prophecy and special knowledge held a significant place. Paul lived during that time. Of that period, Paul was able to say, "*Now* we see in a mirror dimly . . . *now* we know in part" (1 Cor. 13:12, italics added). Paul also recognized the transitory and temporary nature of tongues, prophecy, and special knowledge. "When the perfect comes, the partial will be done away" (1 Cor. 13:10). When Scripture is complete, these special gifts will no longer be needed. Now, in this present era, these special gifts are not needed as evidences of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
12. Our study seems to confirm the position that the "perfect" (verse 10) is the completed and perfect Word of God. Tongues cease as the standard sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Love as [1] defined by the Apostle John (1 John 5:3), [2] described by the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 13:4-7), [3] empowered by the Spirit (Romans 5:5), [4] exercised in the context of the confession that Christ is Lord, and [5] exemplified by Jesus Christ, is our standard.