Experiences

2 Peter 3:15-17 (NKJV)
15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother
Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,
16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these
things, in which are some things hard to understand, which
the untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the
Scriptures.
17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your
own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked.

2:1-10
2:11-20

Spiritual gifts serve the needs of the body in the church age

▼1. Success for the gifts in question occurs when they're united with the more excellent way of love:

A. Highlighting the main tenor of Paul's teaching:

1 Corinthians 13:1-8 (NKJV)
Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:
1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass,
or a clanging cymbal.
2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so as to
remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits
me nothing.

The following 3 verses (underlined) DEFF with the mental attitude that
underlies the gift of writing prophecy (heart of those who desire to be esteemed as super-spiritual

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

But whether there are prophecies, they will fail;
whether there are tongues, they will cease;
whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.
8 Love never fails. And now abiding are faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Paul's application

10 But when the perfect is come, then that which is in part will be done away.

1 Corinthians 13:9-10 (NKJV)
9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.
10 But when the perfect has come, then what is in part will be done away.

Perfect = complete but to be of the same kind

But means complete revelation
complete knowledge

The following two illustrations are **not speaking of a literal end of prophecy**, but of something being limited or completed in part:

a. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child;
but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Paul's illustration of the limited knowledge of a child
Paul the metaphorical man (mature) knowledge of a man

Lesson for Corinthians: Grow Christ-like; you do more than just the Christ-like character of a child. **MATURING TO MANHOOD OCCURS IN TIME**

Personally our knowledge is limited, because revelation is not yet complete:

NKJV Gal 4:9 ... now that you have known God, or rather to be known by God, how
turn you back again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be
in bondage?

NKJV Eph 4:13 ... to the field "Christ" as a man, to
the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Paul's Greek: **γνωσθεντες** (gnosthentes) = to be known, to be recognized, to be known by experience, to be known by God, to be known by God, to be known by God