**Ante-Nicene Fathers**

**Justin Martyr AD 100-165**

“*For numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world, and in your city, many of our Christian men exorcising them in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, have* ***healed and do heal, rendering helpless and driving the possessing devils out of the men,*** *though they could not be cured by all the other exorcists, and those who used incantations and drugs.*”

The Second Apology of Justin, Vol. 1

**Irenaeus AD 125-200 - Bishop of Lyons, known for works against gnosticicm**

*“Wherefore, also, those who are in truth His disciples, receiving grace from Him, do in His name* ***perform [miracles],*** *so as to promote the welfare of other men, according to the* ***gift which each one has received from Him****. For some do c****ertainly 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 Acts 8:9, 18 from them [on account of such miraculous interpositions]. For as she has received freely Matthew 10:8 from God, freely also does she minister [to others].*

Against Heresies (Book II, Chapter 32)

**Tertullian AD 160-240**

*“For seeing that we acknowledge the spiritual charismata, or gifts, we too have merited the attainment of the prophetic gift.”*

A Treatise on the Soul, vol. 3 The Anti-Nicene Christian Library, 189.

* Spoke of a woman with a revelatory Gift in His church that knew people’s deepest needs, including healing

“*And heaven knows how many distinguished men, to say nothing of the common people, have been cured either of devils or of their sicknesses.”* Tertullian, Apologetic Works, vol. 10 The Fathers of the Church, 121

* Also spoke of the gift of tongues and interpretation flowing easily, along with Holy Spirit Baptism

**Origen AD 185-284**

*“Some give evidence of their having received through this faith a marvelous power by the cures, which they perform, invoking no other name over those who need their help than that of the God of all things, and of Jesus, along with a mention of His history.* ***For by these means we too have seen many persons freed from grievous calamities, and from distractions of mind, and madness, and countless other ills,*** *which could not be cured neither by men nor devils.”*

Origen, Against Celsus, vol. 4 The Ante-Nicene Christian Library

“*These men were well aware of Paul’s list of the gifts of the Spirit and what it included. In no place do they suggest that any of them had dropped away.*” Morton Kelsey *Tongue Speaking*

**\*\*\*\*Constantine**

AD 313 - Edict of Milan from Constantine, Roman Emporer

* Freedom of Worship, granted special favors to the church
* Those seeking to join the church for political and social gain
* Blended Church and state
* Began building buildings for churches where they were to meet (mainly in homes before), modeled after the civic auditoriums of the day, making congregational involvement difficult
* Began to have significant involvement in the direction of the church before even being baptized
* AD 381, Following Constantine’s Favoritism of Christianity, Theodosius 1 made Christianity the exclusive religion of the state. The result was immense corruption.
  + Chrysostom “if any one is trying or intending to corrupt a woman, there is no place, I suppose, that seems to him more suitable than the church. And if anything be to be sold or bought, the church appears more convenient than the market. For on such subjects also there is more talk here than in the shops themselves. Or if any wish to say or to hear any scandal, you will find that this too is to be had here more than in the forum without. And if you wish to hear anything of political matters, or the affairs of private families, or the camp, go not to the judgment-hall, nor sit in the apothecary's shop; for here, here I say are those who report all these things more accurately; and our assemblies are anything rather than a church.”
* A.J. Gordon, 18th-century Baptist pastor and founder of Gordon College in Boston, who wrote, "It is not altogether strange that when the church forgot her citizenship in heaven and began to establish herself in luxury and splendor on earth, she should cease to exhibit the supernatural gifts of heaven."

**Charismatic Flame Still Burns**

**Antony AD 251-356 - Monastic Father. Isolation from Culture to get back to purity**

“Through him the Lord healed many of those present from their diseases, and cleansed others from evil spirits.”

The Life of Antony - Bishop Athanasius

**\*\*\*\*Augustine AD 354-430**

Initially believed the gifts ceased, replaced by “love”

* Late in life, completely changed course after experiencing so many miracles he couldn’t record them all

Chapter 8.-Of Miracles Which Were Wrought that the World Might Believe in Christ, and Which Have Not Ceased Since the World Believed.

*“For even now miracles are wrought in the name of Christ, whether by His sacraments or by the prayers or relics of His saints”*

City of God: Book 22:8-10. On Miracles

Ironically, because of his early work, many contribute the beginnings of cessationist thought to him, throwing out that he completely renounced that position and saw more miracles than he could count

**Benedict of Nursia AD 480 - 547**

* Raised fellow Monk from the dead, healed the sick, incredible prophetic and word of knowledge gift, cast out demons

**Gregory the Great AD 540 - 604**

* Raised the dead, performed healings, and is said to have run on water to save a drowning boy

Unfortunately, the separation between everyday believers and such drastic monastic lifestyles led to the belief that only these special saints could perform any miracles

* The lack of persecution for the church led to an unhealthy preoccupation with “suffering”, eventually attributing sickness to God

**Monastic Renewal Beginning in the Eleventh Century**

**Bernard of Clairvaux AD 1090-1153**

*"From all quarters sick persons were conveyed to him by the friends who sought from him a cure."' The lame were healed, and people were delivered from countless diseases and infirmities.*

* *Healing of a deaf and mute boy -* Cairns, Christianity Through the Centuries, 155.
* *Healing of a blind boy - Schaff, Ante-Nicene Christianity, vol. 5 History of the Christian Church, 317.*

**Dominic AD 1170-1221**

* *“Napoleon, I say to thee, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, arise.” That instant, in the sight of the whole multitude, the young man arose sound and whole.”*

Alban Butler's 'Lives of the Saints'

* On a Missionary journey, asked God to help Him speak to Germans, He supernaturally spoke their language and subsequently had their attention for four days straight to preach the gospel

**Vincent of Ferrier AD 1350-1419**

* Everywhere He preached, countless Miracles and conversions took place, people fell under the power
* In Netherlands, so many people were being healed that they had to set an hour aside everyday just for praying for the sick
* Various ethnic groups reported hearing him speak in their own language

**Francis Xavier AD 1506-1552**

*“First, he spoke the languages (which he had never learnt) of natives to whom he went to preach the Gospel as freely and elegantly as if he had been born and educated in the midst of those nations ; and in the second place, it not unfrequently happened that men of different nations heard him at the same time, each in his own language.” The Life and Letters of St. Francis Xavier, Volume 02*

**\*\*\*Luther, Originator of the Protestant Reformation AD 1483-1546**

Because He opposed Catholic Church in their superstition and greed regarding miracles, and the strange teachings of the Anabaptists claiming divine revelation, many times seen as anti-miraculous. Unfortunately, much of his criticism of miracles from these places are taken out of context and solidified as the basis of much Reformed thought.

*“Often has it happened, and still does, that devils have been driven out in the Name of Christ;also by calling on his name in prayer the sick have been healed.”*

Gordon, The Ministry of Healing

**Quakers in England - emerged AD 1650**

* Numerous healings, speaking in tongues, houses shaken

**\*\*\*Moravians AD 1700s**

* Continual prayer movement

*“Suddenly with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, the power of the Holy Spirit swept across the congregation in waves. The noise of the wind was loud enough that many in the church looked toward the windows expecting to see a gale raging outside. The manifestation of the Spirit was not relegated within the four walls of the church, but fell throughout the community. Men, women, and children were touched as a passion for God and His purpose swept through their hearts.”*

*“Zinzendorf records: “It was such a sense of nearness of Christ bestowed in a single moment upon all members of the community at once; it was so unanimous that two members, at work twenty miles away, unaware that the meeting was being held, became at the same moment smitten with the same blessing and anointing.”*

*“One Moravian remembers: “We had quit judging each other because we had become convinced, each one, of his lack of worth in the sight of God. On that day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we saw the Hand of God and His wonders. We were all under the Cloud of the Father baptized with His Spirit. As the Holy Ghost came upon us, great signs and wonders took place in our midst. From that time, scarcely a day passed but what we beheld His Almighty workings among us. A great hunger after the Word of God took possession of us, so that we had to have three services every day. Everyone desired above everything else that the Holy Spirit might have full control. Self-love and self-will as well as all disobedience disappeared and an overwhelming flood of grace swept us all out into the great ocean of Divine Love.”*

*"We (the Moravians) says Zinzendorf, "have undeniable proofs of the healing of maladies in*

*themselves incurable, such as cancers and consumption, when the patient was in the agonies*

*of death, all by means of prayer, or of a single word."*

* Sent out more missionaries in 20 years than the whole of the Church did in 2 centuries

**\*\*\*AD 1700’s Wesley and the Methodist Revival + Great Awakening**

* Wesley himself was healed
* *“I do not recollect any Scripture wherein we are taught that miracles were to be confined within the limits of the apostolic age or the Cyprian age, or of any period of time, longer or shorter, even till the restitution of all things.”*
* Power of God well documented in meetings, healings, tongues, Holy Spirit baptisms, etc.
* A cessationist Methodist should be an oxymoron

**AD 1800-1840 - Second Great Awakening**

* Right here in America
* Slain in the Spirit, tongues

From there: Finney, Moody, Gordon, Torrey, Wigglesworth

* Tongues, Healing, slain in the Spirit