

**“The Revelatory Gifts Listed”, Session # 17 on the 2nd Commandment, presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on December 15th, 2013, in the Adult Sunday School.**

The 2nd commandment of the ten commandments shows us that God is not to be worshiped according to our own desires, or thoughts of how worship should be conducted, but rather in accordance with the Scriptures. A graven image was a carved wooden image of some animal or human person or something in nature which a false worshiper thought that they could make in a beautiful way; and because of its being the work of their own hands, they thought that it was fitting, according to their own thoughts, to worship it, or to worship God through it. But God has shown us in the Bible how He wanted to be worshipped in Old Testament times, and Christ and His Apostles have shown us what God would have us to do in worship in New Testament times. It is not that we make something up and impose it on God and the Scriptures; it is that we receive the commanded activities of worship which Christ has given His Apostles to give to us; those activities which are written down in the New Testament Scriptures. As Albert Barnes says: “Nothing is of more importance in the church than the doctrine respecting the influences and endowments of the Holy Spirit.” So I began this particular part of our study on revelatory gifts and gender distinctions by trying to show you the truth of 1st Corinthians 14: 34, that women were commanded to be verbally silent in the church as it related to their publicly praying and prophesying in the formal services of worship. This, the Apostle Paul said was a commandment of the Lord. A few weeks ago now I showed you from 1 Timothy 2: 8, that the men (the “andras” – the males in the Greek) were to lift up holy hands unto God, without wrath and dissent; they were to lead in prayer. In coming sessions with you I want to give you teaching on why these distinctions were made by our Lord and given to His Apostles to give to the churches, and I will do this from 1st Corinthians 11. But just to give you a foretaste of what is coming, let tell you that these distinctions between the roles and responsibilities of men and women in worship is there because God’s commandments regarding men’s and women’s roles in the public worship of the church have not changed. The men are to lead and the women are to participate in submission and silence while we are engaged in public corporate worship. And although the church still has gifts given to her, the revelatory gifts have ceased. But this morning I want to have answer this question. What is the difference between the revelatory gifts of yesteryear, and the “normative” gifts which followed that time period, and are still in existence today? I am using that term “normative” to refer to the gifts which did exist alongside the revelatory gifts in the early Church, and which have continued all through the Church age until now, in all the true churches of God’s saints. They will continue to the end of the world, when Christ shall come again, and all gifts cease.

And so, in order to answer this question, I would first have you turn over with me to 1 Corinthians 12: 1–11 where we will find the list of the revelatory gifts. And then in a few minutes, if we have time, we will look at the normative gifts from Romans 12. “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.” “Therefore I make know to you that no one speaking by the spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.” “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit, there are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.” “And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.” “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.” “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”