

**“The Spiritual Gifts and Love”, presented by Pastor Paul Rendall  
on December 8th, 2013, in the Adult Sunday School class.**

Last Sunday we were looking at the fact that the Revelatory Gifts which were given to the Apostles and prophets in the early Church have ceased. They should not be used in the worship of today's churches because we have something perfect and complete; we have the Scriptures. The Scriptures are sufficient for every area of our faith and practice, not only in regard to public worship, but also in relation to every aspect of our lives. If we believe this we will be more likely to become stronger and more mature Christians. I hope that I have sufficiently proven to you from the Scriptures that the revelatory gifts were going to cease after the last of the Apostles, the Apostle John, left this earthly scene. 1st Corinthians 13: 8- 10 shows us this wonderful truth that we do not need further revelation; that what we have in the canonized Scriptures is perfect. Last time I tried to link together 1st Corinthians 15: 10 with Psalm 19: 7. First we will read 1 Corinthians 13: 8-10, and then we will read Psalm 19: 7. You can see here that although there be a failing of prophecies, and a ceasing of tongues, and a vanishing away of revelatory knowledge, there would most certainly not be any loss of the revelatory knowledge which the Lord wanted preserved in the Scriptures. No, “the perfect” would come, and when it did come, which was after the Apostle John died, then all the prophesying in part, or parts, would be done away with. Why is this? It is because the law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul. This is not specifically speaking of the law of commandments, the moral law of God, which could never convert the soul. It is speaking of the whole Old Testament which was then in existence, at the time of the writing of the Psalms, by David. This law of the Lord which contained testimonies of truth, statutes, precepts, and promises, is “more to be desired than gold”, and “sweeter also than the honey and the honeycomb”. God speaks through His written word, both Old Testament and New, and there is therefore no need for any further revelation. There is a great need for every Christian to pray for illumination, for God to shine His glorious light upon His word so that we might better understand it, and believe it; believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, and be converted, and through the preaching of the word, by men who are called and qualified by God to do so, be built up in our most holy faith.

To solidify this truth that I am trying to convey to you, if you would turn over to Numbers chapter 12, verses 5-8. “Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 So they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard it. 3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.) 4 Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!" So the three came out. 5 Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. 6 Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. 7 Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. 8 I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?" Aaron and Miriam have fallen into sin in speaking against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married. And they said, “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?” “Has He not spoken through us also?” And this is how the Lord Himself responded to their appointment of themselves as authorities who were able to criticize him. “Then the Lord said ‘Hear now My words: if there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him I a vision; I speak to him in a dream.’ “Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.” “I speak with him face to face., even plainly, and not in dark saying; and he sees the form of the Lord.” I would like you to relate these words, “I speak with him face

to face”, to words of 1st Corinthians 13: 12, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then, face to face.” In God’s giving of the direct revelation to Moses, which eventually were to come to form the books of the Pentateuch, along with Joshua’s help, we see that God was speaking to him “face to face”. “Face to face” as a phrase used in the Scriptures in those two places, in their immediate context, does not refer to the eternal state which both Moses and the Apostles came into when they died, but it refers to the state they came into when they received the Scriptures the Oracles of God, from Him and wrote them down for us. 1st Corinthians 10, verse 11 says: “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” Therefore, do you not see the great value in believing that the revelatory gifts have ceased? They ceased when the Scriptures were canonized, and the Scriptures were once and for all canonized when the Apostle John finished his book of Revelation. We do not need the revelatory gifts any longer as the Church of Jesus Christ. All that we need, of revelatory truth, is found in them. What we need is greater light, and this is what we should pray for. (Jonathan Edwards speaks well on this subject in Vol. 8 of his works, p. 362 and 363.)