

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART I WORD OF WISDOM

Text: I Corinthians 12:8

Key Word: Wisdom

Key Thought: What Does the Bible Mean by the Word of Wisdom

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are still available to be freely and graciously received.

The Holy Spirit is **THE GIFT** (Acts 2:38; 10:45); but we can also receive **A SPIRITUAL GIFT**. THE GIFT of the Holy Spirit is given for a person's personal benefit while all of the Spiritual Gifts are given for the good of all (I Corinthians 12:7).

The word that describes these gifts is "*charismata*" (Romans 11:29; I Corinthians 12:4) which occurs 17 times in the New Testament. It describes what Christians receive from Christ because of His love, favour, kindness and grace.

The root of the word is the same root as what is translated "*charity*" or "*love*." **It is from God's love and grace that we receive spiritual gifts.** We receive the gifts of the Spirit not because we deserve them.

"The genuine gifts of the Spirit are God in action through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Church."

Dr. J. W. Jepson

"What You Should Know About the Holy Spirit"

When the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in use in the Church we can be assured that God is graciously ministering to us through **receptive vessels NOT perfect people**. The focus must always be kept on God - not men or women.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit were NOT simply for the early Church. We have many writings that make it clear that they did not die with the apostles.

"The church is speaking in tongues, prophesying, and praying for the sick by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Justin Martyr (c.108-168)

Eusebius of Caesarea (260-340) a well known church historian spoke of,

"the splendour of the gifts of the Spirit . . . which flash forth and shine upon his church."

There are records of this phenomena well up to the time of the Reformation. No one can say that the Gifts of the Holy completely died out. It is correct to say that references to the Spirit became less frequent. Never in history has the thread been lost. It continually wove its way through church history. There are 4 N.T. lists of spiritual gifts that offer us 22 different gifts.

- 1. Word of Wisdom**
- 2. Word of Knowledge**
- 3. Faith**
- 4. Gifts of Healings**
- 5. Miracles**
- 6. Prophecy**
- 7. Discerning of Spirits**
- 8. Tongues**
- 9. Interpretation of Tongues**
- 10. Practical Service or Ministry**
- 11. Teaching**
- 12. Stirring Faith in Others or Encouraging**
- 13. Liberally Contributing (to others' needs)**
- 14. Leadership or Ruling**
- 15. Showing Mercy or Compassion**
- 16. Apostles**
- 17. Prophets**
- 18. Evangelists**
- 19. Pastor-teacher**
- 20. Teachers**
- 21. Assistants or Helpers**
- 22. Administrators**

As we consider the **3 Revelation gifts** as recorded in I Corinthians 12, I must emphasize that these gifts are given freely and graciously. They have nothing to do with merit or worthiness. They are also not related to human wisdom or talent or gifting. They are and always will be a **manifestation of the Holy Spirit.**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are divine enablements given to continue the supernatural ministry of Jesus Christ through His Church. Unlike the fruit of the Spirit, which are inward qualities of character, Spiritual Gifts are outward manifestations in order to facilitate the work of God's ministry. The fruit of the Spirit can and must be cultivated and activated by our conscious effort. The gifts of the Spirit cannot be cultivated. Each gift comes complete, ready to be used.

*** Have you ever purchased a BBQ in its box? Usually the instructions mention that it will only take a screwdriver and a wrench as well as about 45 minutes to assemble it.

They could honestly say that the BBQ comes complete. But is it also true that it will take some time, patience and knowledge to assemble it. It cannot be used until it is all together.

The Fruit of the Spirit is like the BBQ which takes time to become "assembled" and effective. The Gifts of the Spirit are like the BBQ that you see totally assembled and ready for use. Someone has had to take the time to prepare it for use. All a person has to do is read and follow the instructions.

The BBQ has come complete; we'll never improve its ability to perform. What can happen though is our ability to use it in such a way that the final product tastes better. ***

The Gifts of the Spirit cannot be improved upon. They come complete. We are the ones who improve. That is done by becoming sensitive on when they can be used (few BBQ's are used in winter); how they are used (certain controls are in your hand); for how long it can be used (overcooking can destroy a meal as much as undercooking can); what they can be used with (most people don't cook bacon on BBQ's). One thing about BBQ's is that you must have your tank refilled with gas if you expect to continue using it for a prolonged period of time. There is a limit to how much can be done with one filling.

Lets Consider the First of the 3 Revelation Gifts as Recorded in I Corinthians 12.

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8)

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8)

"To one there is given the word (message or utterance) of wisdom,"

I Corinthians 12:8

I find it very interesting that the Holy Spirit chose to deal with wisdom before He dealt with knowledge. **Wisdom is the ability to exercise the best use of the knowledge we possess.** The *"Word of Wisdom"* speaks of a statement or pronouncement which is prudent, shrewd and clever. **It is the exercising of superior judgement at the appropriate time and in regards to a particular issue.** We are not given the full measure of God's wisdom but rather only a *"WORD of Wisdom."*

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8) (Contd.)

God uses this gift to give special insight into the mind and purpose of God when dealing with ordinary problems and issues of life.

“The Word of Wisdom is therefore the supernatural revelation, by the Spirit, of Divine purpose; the supernatural unfolding of His plans and purposes concerning things, places, people, individuals, communities, nations.”

The biggest difference between the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge is time.

"The Word of Knowledge is the revelation of *past* happenings or of things existing or events taking place in the *present*." The Word of Wisdom is the revelation of the Purpose of God concerning people, things or events in the *future* or looking to the future."

It was by the Word of Knowledge that John the Apostle knew the present condition of the 7 churches; it was by the Word of Wisdom that he was able to convey the mind, will and commands of God for their particular situation.

It is **NOT** . . .

1. A High degree of Wisdom or human intellect
2. Being able to explain God's Word

There are both O.T. and N.T. examples of this gift being exercised.

A. Noah - To Warn of Impending Judgement

*"So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I created, from the face of the earth . . .
13. I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.
14. So make yourself an ark . . ."*

Genesis 6:7,13,14

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8) (Contd.)

B. Pharaoh/Joseph - To Prepare us for Future Disasters

"Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, 'The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do,'"

Genesis 41: 25

Isn't it amazing to know that God revealed His will to Pharaoh whom we know was a very ungodly man!!!

C. Moses - To Assure Moses of his Commission

"The Lord said I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

8. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey . . ."

Exodus 3:7,8

If God would have stopped at simply describing the people's present condition then only the Word of Knowledge would have been revealed to Moses. In telling what His future plans were, God used the Word of Wisdom.

D. Moses - To Reveal God's Acceptable Order of Worship

"Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you."

Exodus 25:9

*"See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,
3. and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts."*

Exodus 31:2,3

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8) (Contd.)

God set the heavenly pattern into the mind of both Moses and Bezalel so they would be able to do set the tabernacle into God's order.

E. Joshua - To Lead God's People into Victory

"Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him."

Deuteronomy 34:9

Joshua was led by God to do things that he couldn't understand in the natural. God knew the future so therefore, He led Joshua to walk in obedience to His future plans for the nation of Israel. Remember that Joshua did not understand all things in the future. He did not know that Achan had stolen from Jericho.

F. Paul - To Offer Assurance in the Midst of Calamity

*"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also . . .
23. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me
24. and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'
25. So keep your courage men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me."*

Acts 27:10, 23-25

The full teaching of this gift can never be completed in one sermon. I could give a host of present-day examples of how this gift works. The expression of the gift varies in accordance with the person whom it is exercised through and what the need is as well as what the future holds.

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Date: Feb 23/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Come Oh Come (and fill this temple) - E

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- B. Pharaoh/Joseph - To Prepare us for Future Disasters - Genesis 41: 25**
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- D. Moses - To Reveal God's Acceptable Order of Worship - Exodus 25:9; Exodus 31:2,3**
- E. Joshua - To Lead God's People into Victory - Deuteronomy 34:9**
- F. Paul - To Offer Assurance in the Midst of Calamity - Acts 27:10, 23-25**