

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART II

THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Text: I Corinthians 12:8b

Key Word: Knowledge

Key Thought: Understanding the Gift of the Word of Knowledge

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been interpreted in several different ways. The matter becomes quite noticeable when we deal with the Revelation gifts.

** It reminds me of the problem a teacher once faced in her classroom.

"Some plants," said the teacher, "have the prefix 'dog.' For instance, there is a dogrose, the dogwood, the dogviolet. Who can name another plant prefixed by 'dog?'"

*"I can," shouted a young boy in the back row, "Collie flower." ***

One of the best things to do is to approach any study on the Holy Spirit with an open mind. We may have to make some adjustments to our thinking and our actions.

** A college boy came home from school one day and announced that he wanted to take political science as his major because he *"wanted to clean up the mess in the world."* His mother commented, *"That's very nice. Why don't you go up stairs and begin by cleaning up the mess in your room?" ***

The gifts of the Holy Spirit have been classified in many different categories over the years. One of the Early Church Fathers, Tertullian, was one of the earliest writers to suggest that they were divided as gifts of **Power, Sympathy, Administration, and Utterance.**

The most common classification for the 9 gifts recorded in I Corinthians 12 is **Gifts of Revelation** (Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, & Discerning of Spirits); **Gifts of Power** (Healings, Miracles, & Faith); **Gifts of Utterance** (Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prophecy).

I. DEFINITIONS - The Word of Knowledge has been described as,

"a supernatural impartation of facts which the individual at the moment has no way of learning by natural means."

Gordon Lindsay
"Gifts of the Holy Spirit"
Part 1 pp. 110-111

"The Word of Knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God."

Harold Horton
"The Gifts of the Spirit"
p. 39

"a supernatural revelation of the existence, or nature, of a person or thing, of the knowledge of some event, given to us by the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose."

Howard Carter
"The Gifts of the Spirit"
p. 30

One thing which must be made clear is that a person who has this gift does NOT possess all of the knowledge of God at any given time. He/she simply possesses a "WORD" or portion of knowledge that God wants to be expressed either to an individual or a group of people for a specific purpose.

When we call up our lawyer for help he/she gives us a portion of knowledge not everything they know. If they were able to transfer all their knowledge into your mind you would never need them again. They simply give you a fragment of what they know to help you temporarily overcome the difficulty that you're facing.

It is also **NOT something that someone recalls** because that would be **Memory** instead. It is **NOT natural ability**, or natural learning. It is **NOT a profound knowledge of Biblical truth or theology**.

II. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

There are a host of examples in the both the O.T. and N.T. writings of the Bible. When we see the gift at work, it makes it easier to understand how God uses it for His glory.

A. Elisha - To Expose Deception

"Where have you been, Gehazi? Elisha asked.

"Your servant didn't go anywhere, "Gehazi answered.

26. But Elisha said to him, "Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money, or to accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards, flocks, herds, or menservants and maidservants?

7. Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever." Then Gehazi went from the Elisha's presence and he was leprous, as white as snow."

II Kings 5:25-27

Peter also used this spiritual gift to expose the deception of Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:1-11).

B. Elisha - To Uncover our Enemy's Plans

"The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: 'Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.

10. So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and time again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places."

11. This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, 'Will you not tell me which of us in on the side of the king of Israel?'

12. None of us, my lord the king, said one of his officers, 'but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel. tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

II Kings 6:9-12

II. Biblical Examples (Contd.)

We need to realize that God knows all the cunning devices of our enemies. He will expose the deceitfulness in order to spare us from defeat. Isn't it great to know that no weapon formed against us will prosper.

C. Ananias - To Lead us into Effective Ministry

*"The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.
12. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."*

Acts 9:11,12

God used both a vision and the Word of Knowledge to communicate the way for Ananias to go as well as prepare Saul to receive him.

D. Jesus - To Convince People of the Need of Salvation

*"I have no husband, she replied. Jesus said to her,
'You are right when you say you have no husband.
18. The fact is that, you have had five husbands,
and the man you now have is not your husband.
What you have just said is quite true.
19. 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet."*

John 4:17-19

There has been and continues to be a close relationship between the gift of the Word of Knowledge and the ministry of a prophet. In the O.T. they used to describe the prophets as "seers" which simply meant "**one who sees.**"

III. MODERN ACCOUNTS

A. Mr. W. Burton

*** A number of years ago a missionary by the name of W. Burton was working for the Congo Evangelistic Mission. He became dreadfully ill and was lying upon his death bed.

For no apparent reason he rose up instantly from the bed in perfect health. A few months later he returned on furlough to England.

He compared diaries with a woman from Preston who had seen the whole situation. The times and the details were exactly the same.

God had this woman enter into a deep time of prayer in which she agonized in an unknown tongue for a man she had never known. She prayed until she saw him get up in perfect health.***

B. Alice Frodsham

*** Stanley Frodman was an esteemed Assembly of God pastor for many years. He and his wife had been used to help a young man in breaking away from his sinful past.

One day the Lord showed Alice Frodsham the need to pray for the young man who was being tempted to return to his old ways.

She began praying in the Spirit and watched as he turned and walked into an open-air meeting. She continued to pray until the young man fully surrendered his life to God.

That evening he listened in astonishment as she recited the days happenings of what she had seen to the young man. ***

C. Pastor Sharon & I

*** One day Sharon and I felt a strong leading of God to get into our car and go to find Sharon's brother who had been staying with us. We had no idea where to go.

We got in the car and literally asked God to guide the car. We drove downtown and felt to turn into an area that neither of us had ever been in. As we turned into a small trailer court God told me to stop. I got out of the car and began to walk toward a trailer that I never knew even existed up to that day.

(Contd.)

III. MODERN ACCOUNTS (Contd.)

*** As I did Sharon's brother came out of the trailer with a look of surprise. He was with the wrong crowd and he knew it. We later told him what God had done. He sat amazed realizing that God cared enough about him that He would bring us right to the very place where he was to help him make a decision to change. ***

D. Myself -

*** I was attending a service at Edmonton Gospel Temple in the mid 1980's when a teenage boy came forth for prayer. He had a cold and asked me to pray that God would heal him.

As I began to pray, God began to reveal me something of a greater need in this young man's life. I shared with the young man what God placed upon my heart and mind to share.

The young man stepped back with his jaw dropping and asked me, "*How do you know these things?*" I told him that I had no idea about his life other than what God had told me.

He surrendered his will to the Lord that night as he wept a remorseful and then with a joyful cry. God set this young man free that night from deception. ***

E. Pastor Sharon -

*** One morning we were attending the same church and God spoke to Sharon about someone who had pain in their right arm. She spoke it forth and told the person that God was going to heal him.

About 15 minutes later a man began running back and forth at the front of the church shouting, "*I'm healed, I'm healed!*"

He had been praying that God would heal him that day. Sharon had no way of knowing that he was suffering and that he was talking to God. In fact, several people were healed that same morning because of the manifestation of spiritual gifts. ***

The Gift of the Word of Knowledge is equally serving the body of Christ as it did 1000's of years ago. It is available for everyone who has been baptised in the Holy Spirit. Have you been asking God to use you in the use of the gifts of the Spirit? If not, why not?!!!

Let the Gifts of God be used to glorify His name!

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Date: Mar 1/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: D - As the Deer

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