

The Gifts of the Spirit

VI. Spiritual Gifts

A. Word of Wisdom

1. Word or speaking forth
2. Wisdom, the first thing to be understood is that wisdom is different from knowledge. Knowing that something or situation can be potentially dangerous is having knowledge. But wisdom is staying away from a particular thing or situation that is dangerous. Knowledge is an accumulation of facts. Wisdom is knowing what to do with those facts.
3. A word of wisdom is the anointing of the Spirit that comes upon you in a time of need. A word of wisdom comes when critical issues arise and important decisions need to be made. And this is not ordinary wisdom. Ordinary wisdom anyone can exercise but this is wisdom that is imparted to you from the Lord at the moment it is needed.
4. This wisdom comes at the right time usually to defuse tensions and solve problems. It's the word that intervenes and spans across opposing views which have hindered peace between two factions and brings the longed for resolution and peace all were hoping for. It's the wisdom that you and I desperately need to navigate those precarious moments in our lives.
5. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17
6. Biblical examples:
 - a) Solomon, 1 Kings 3:16-28
 - b) The grecian widows and the wisdom of God, Acts 6:1-4
 - c) The great council at Jerusalem, Acts 15:1-31
 - d) Paul able to escape trouble, Acts 23:1-7
7. Practical examples:
 - a) Starting to answer a question before even knowing the answer and yet somehow as you are answering the question the answer appears in your mouth as you are speaking. the Lord has just imparted to you a word of wisdom and you were able to answer something that you had no idea how to answer a moment or two before.

- b) Teaching the word of God this happens often. As I teach sometimes answers to difficult questions will come as i am teaching. Especially over controversial or difficult to interpret passages.
- c) Sometimes the wisdom is simply to say you don't know! There is nothing wrong with not knowing something. We are not God and sometimes the Lord doesn't give us the answer when we would like to have it.

8. It comes out naturally even though it is supernatural wisdom

- a) You don't usually get a buzz when the word of wisdom is in operation. We need to be careful of this kind of thinking. "Somehow, many people have in their minds the belief that the only time the spirit can move upon our lives is when we're in a trance, when we're spaced out. Some people think that when the spirit makes contact, we walk around like zombies, and our words become powerful, dynamic words of God, delivered in a loud voice with tremolo."¹
- b) This gift like all the gifts really come in a most natural way. The Lord works in our lives supernaturally yet in very natural ways.

9. Do you need wisdom?

- a) The Bible tells us that in Christ Jesus are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3
- b) If you are lacking you probably aren't asking.

B. Word of knowledge

1. This is knowing something supernaturally. Unnatural knowledge or knowledge acquired by supernatural means or from the Holy Spirit. An impartation of knowledge concerning a specific person or situation that you could not have acquired through natural thought processes.
2. Specific is the key. No broad generalizations are in view here.
3. Examples in scripture:
 - a) Peter exposing Ananias and Sapphira's hypocrisy, Acts 5:3
 - b) Peter understood what was in the heart of Simon the sorcerer, Acts 8:14-23
 - c) Paul tells about the shipwreck before it happens, Acts 27:10, 21-25
 - d) Peter calling Jesus the Son of God, Matt 16:13-17
4. Practical examples:

¹ Chuck Smith, Living Water, Pg. 104

- a) While teaching the word someone sinful secrets are exposed and they feel as if the pastor teacher was informed about them before they came to Bible study.
 - b) This can come just talking with a brother or sister. It's a thought that flashes across your mind and lets you know something about the person you are speaking with in order to help them.
5. The purpose of both the word of wisdom and knowledge
- a) The Lord gives us supernatural insights so we can begin to pray and intercede for hurting people. He gives them to us in order to build up His body.

C. The Gift of Faith

1. Faith is a gift of the Spirit endowing you with the confidence that God is going to work in a specific instance.
2. This is different from saving faith and faith in the promises in God. This gift of faith comes in the moment when there is no escape and no way out.
3. Faith as it says is a gift and can't be worked up or found within. It is given by God. Even Paul the apostle wasn't given the faith to heal Timothy (1 Timothy 5:23) Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-27) or Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20). God gives this faith as he wills for his specific purposes.
4. Examples in scripture:
 - a) The man begging alms at the temple gate beautiful, Acts 3:1-16
 - b) Jesus teaches about faith, Mark 11:21-24

D. The Gifts of Healing

1. Gifts, plural of healing
 - a) It doesn't say the gift of being a healer. The Bible knows nothing about one specific gift of healing that someone possesses and can wield at will.
 - b) There are gifts, plural, of healing. In other words this gift will be worked out in one person differently than the next. It really is bringing people to the Lord to be healed. no man can heal anyone. The best that we can do and the best that the apostles did was to bring people to the Lord through prayer and see if He would heal them. That is what we see happening when people cast themselves into the shadow of Peter to be healed and touching the handkerchiefs of Paul to be healed. These two apostles had the ability to stir peoples hearts up to faith in God. the shadow and the

handkerchief was nothing but a point of contact that people used to release their faith in the Lord to be healed.

2. The Lord doesn't always heal. He has his purposes in suffering. Paul himself had a thorn in the flesh and was not healed.