

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: Spiritual Gifts, Part 1

Topic: Word of Wisdom Word of Knowledge

Scripture Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4–11

06/01/2014

Quote: The Word of God is the foundation of our faith and our Practice''

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4–11 (NKJV) ¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

In our series on the Holy Spirit we are now talking about the Gifts given to us by or through the Holy Spirit. In the last three messages I hope to have pointed out the difference between Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Offices/ministries/Activities primarily outlined in *Eph 4:11-16*.

The spiritual office mentioned in that passage include Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist and Pastor and Teachers. Four in total given to the church by Christ. To minister (serve) while in these offices the Holy Spirit often provides the necessary "Spiritual Gifts" to equip us for the office to accomplish His purpose.

Whether we have been blessed to hold a Spiritual office or granted some Spiritual gifts we are warned not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to for all come from the same sources.

Romans 12:3–8 (NKJV) ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, *to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.*

Today we will begin taking a closer look at Spiritual Gifts that are mentioned in the Bible. The gifts mentioned are not the total and complete list for the Holy Spirit gives gifts according to the need at the time. The gift can be given for a defined period or given to a person for a season or a lifetime. What the Holy Spirit gives the Holy Spirit can take away.

These categories of giftedness are not natural talents, skills, or abilities, such as are possessed by believers and unbelievers alike. They are sovereignly and supernaturally bestowed by the Holy Spirit on all believers (vv. 7, 11), enabling them to spiritually edify each other effectively and thus honor the Lord.

The MacArthur Study Bible

V4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

The subject of this verse is gifts, that they are diverse and all given by the same spirit.

Spiritual gifts fall into two main categories, speaking gifts and serving gifts. All are to be ministered to one another for the edification of the saints and the glory of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

To possess any one of the Spiritual gifts does not make that person more spiritual than another.
V7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

The Holy Spirit determines what gifts are given and to whom they are given.

V11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The two gifts we will look at today are found in our focus passage, the gift of **The Word of Wisdom** and **The Word of Knowledge**.

V8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

These two gifts fall into the category of "Speaking Gifts". They do complement each other although the scripture indicates that one can be given to one person and the other to another person.

Some Charismatics/Pentecostals view the word of knowledge and word of wisdom spiritual gifts as the Holy Spirit speaking from one believer to another, giving revelation regarding a decision or situation. Those who use these gifts in that way will often say something to the effect of, "I have a word from the Lord for you." In doing so, they claim to be speaking on behalf of God, and claim that their words are to be strictly obeyed. GotQuestions.org

THE Word of Wisdom (not words of wisdom)

This is not to imply that each and every word that is spoken by that person is full of Spiritual wisdom. It could be given for one instance or one season or for a longer term.

Words are our chief form of communicating. Words allow us to communicate in print, speech, and in song. Words are the transport for good or evil. What makes the difference is what our words or the word communicates. In this gift it is a gift of THE word of wisdom. You have heard me say for so long that wisdom is the product/application of KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING.

Taking that to the next level then "The Word of Wisdom" gift is born from having spiritual knowledge and spiritual understanding.

The Apostles had the gift of "The Word of Wisdom" for they had knowledge of Christ and they had been taught by Him to give them understanding. Let me give just one example of many" In *Matt 16:5-12* you read where the disciple did not understand when Jesus said (*Mat 16:6*) "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

They thought He was talking about their forgetting to bring bread. Jesus understanding their thinking gave them understanding of what He was talking about.

Matthew 16:12 (NKJV) ¹² Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

They had knowledge of what Jesus said but they did not have the understanding. After the understanding and knowledge, they had wisdom given by Jesus and could teach/speak that word of wisdom to the church.

The Bible is available to any who wants to have it but many that have it do not understand it.

Acts 8:26–39 The Ethiopian eunuch had the book of Isaiah (knowledge) in his hands but did not understand what he was reading. The Holy Spirit sent Philip to his chariot to explain what he was reading giving the eunuch "**The Word of Wisdom.**"

This is a gift given to someone that has been granted to hold "Spiritual Office" to assist them in ministering to the people. In the early church that would include Apostles, Prophets and Evangelist, but not limited to them

Today that responsibility has been increasingly passed on to the Pastor/Teacher. He needs that gift to speak wisely to the congregation. To do so He must first have knowledge. Knowledge comes from the word of God. He must not just have a Bible but he must study the Bible for understanding allowing the Holy Spirit to teach him. Applying the knowledge and understand he can then give a "Word of Wisdom" to the people.

THE Word of Knowledge(not words of knowledge) - information in mind: general awareness or possession of information, facts, ideas, truths, or principles

This is not to imply that each and every word that is spoken by that person is full of Spiritual Knowledge. It could be given for one instance or one season or for a longer term.

Knowledge is knowing but it is not always accompanied by understanding therefore losing a key component to provide a "Word of Wisdom". This "Spiritual Gift" was also important for the Apostle, Prophets and Evangelist to have in the early Church. Now it should be prevalent in the Pastor/Teacher but not limited to them

Often a prophet had the "Word of Knowledge" to take what God has said to the people but the prophet did not always understand in full the knowledge He had.

Example #1, Peter was given the "Word of Knowledge" but he did not fully understand it until later.

Matthew 16:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Spiritual knowledge is not known by the world but reserved for believers.

Matthew 13:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Intellectual knowledge or intellectual understanding is not considered a spiritual gift. Don't confuse them.

Example #2 Paul

In *Acts 27:21–26*, when Paul was about to be shipwrecked and an angel came to him and told him that no life would be lost but the ship would be. This was a "Word of Knowledge."

Both the "Word of Knowledge" or the "Word of Wisdom" do not have to exclusively reside in the Pastor.

Example #3

Word of Knowledge

Acts 21:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'* "

Word of Wisdom

Acts 21:13 (NKJV) ¹³ *Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."*

Often When I propose a question to the congregation, I am seeking a word of knowledge or wisdom.

I have always believed and said that Ten of you can reach and minister to more people than one of me. The Holy Spirit may gift you to reach those on your job or in your family. Both gifts are supported and confirmed by the "Word of God". Many times, it may be the Word of God that is our source of the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge.

That is why we say that "The Word of God is the foundation of our faith and our Practice"

Message Scriptures: **1 Corinthians 12:1, 4–11**, Eph 4:11-16, Romans 12:3–8, 1 Peter 4:10–11, Matt 16:5-12, Matthew 16:12, Acts 8:26–39, Matthew 16:17, Matthew 13:11, Acts 27:21–26, Acts 21:10–11, Acts 21:13.

END

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Gifts of the Spirit - The Definitions There is some controversy as to the precise nature of each of the gifts of the Spirit, but here is a list of spiritual gifts and their basic definitions.

1. **The gift of wisdom** seems to be the ability to make decisions and give guidance that is according to God's will.
2. **The gift of knowledge** is the ability to have an in-depth understanding of a spiritual issue or situation.
3. **The gift of faith** is being able to trust God and encourage others to trust God, no matter the circumstances.
4. **The gift of healing** is the miraculous ability to use God's healing power to restore a person who is sick, injured, or suffering.
5. **The gift of miracles** is being able to perform signs and wonders that give authenticity to God's Word and the Gospel message.
6. **The gift of prophecy** is being able to proclaim a message from God.
7. **The gift of discerning spirits** is the ability to determine whether or not a message, person, or event is truly from God.
8. The gift of tongues is the ability to speak in a foreign language that you do not have knowledge of, in order to communicate with someone who speaks that language.
9. **The gift of interpreting tongues** is the ability to translate the tongues speaking and communicate it back to others in your own language.
10. **The gift of administration** is being able to keep things organized and in accordance with God's principles.
11. **The gift of helps** is always having the desire and ability to help others, to do whatever it takes to get a task accomplished. -

- A spiritual gift could be a onetime use gift for a specific purpose of God (Activity).
- All Spiritual gifts are not listed in the Bible.
- Spiritual gifts are not given to glorify or serve us but to glorify God, edify the people and to serve Him.
- Spiritual gifts are given to be exercised, the more they are exercised the more they grow.

See more at: <http://www.allaboutgod.com/gifts-of-the-spirit.htm#sthash.sZU181kB.dpuf>

Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom

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This understanding of the word of knowledge and word of wisdom gifts comes dangerously close to denying the doctrine of the [sufficiency of Scripture](#). If God continues to reveal His will and wisdom through special revelation to individuals, then can His Word truly be sufficient to make us “complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#))?

Often the word of knowledge and/or word of wisdom gifts are used to gain power and influence over other people, to make others dependent on the one who claims to possess those gifts. This misuse of the two gifts is clearly not of God.

S. Michael Houdmann.

There are three types of wisdom:

- The wisdom of God (I Corinthians 2:6-7)
- The wisdom of the world (I Corinthians 2:6)
1 Corinthians 2:6–7 (NLT)⁶ Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. ⁷ No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.
- The wisdom of man (Ecclesiastes 1:16-18)
Ecclesiastes 1:16–18 (NLT)¹⁶ I said to myself, “Look, I am wiser than any of the kings who ruled in Jerusalem before me. I have greater wisdom and knowledge than any of them.”¹⁷ So I set out to learn everything from wisdom to madness and folly. But I learned firsthand that pursuing all this is like chasing the wind. ¹⁸ The greater my wisdom, the greater my grief. To increase knowledge only increases sorrow.

The gift of **The Word Of Wisdom** is the application of knowledge that God gives you (I Corinthians 2:6-7). This type of wisdom is a gift which cannot be gained through study or experience and should by no means try to replace them. The gift of the word of wisdom is seeing life from God's perspective. As a Christian exercises this gift, he begins to develop a fear of the Lord. This is the "*beginning of wisdom*" according to Proverbs 1:7. [David Holt Boshart, Jr.](#)

A Word Of Knowledge is a definite conviction, impression, or knowing that comes to you in a similitude (a mental picture), a dream, through a vision, or by a Scripture that is quickened to you. It is supernatural insight or understanding of circumstances, situations, problems, or a body of facts by revelation; that is, without assistance by any human resource but solely by divine aid. [by David Holt Boshart, Jr.](#)

