

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Part 7

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River of Life

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1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NIV)

¹ Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³ Therefore I tell you that no-one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no-one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NIV)

*⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom,
to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,*

*⁹to another faith by the same Spirit,
to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,*

¹⁰to another miraculous powers,

to another prophecy,

to another distinguishing between spirits,

to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,

and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Each person who has come to Christ and is filled with the Holy Spirit can be used in any of the gifts of the Spirit at any time!

1 Corinthians 12:7

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good"

What is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit?

God's Abiding Presence and His Manifest Presence

1. The believers were filled with God's Abiding Presence when they believed in Christ after the resurrection?
2. "The Manifest Presence of the Holy Spirit came upon them" – "Baptism of the Holy Spirit"
3. The Disciples already had the Holy Spirit when they received their salvation

a) John 20:21-23

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

- b) God's Presence dwells in each person who has repented and received the salvation of Jesus
- c) But, then why does God command us to be filled?

God's Abiding Presence and His Manifest Presence

1. God's Manifest Presence came as the Disciples waited for the Promise Jesus gave them
 - a) They were already believers who had the Holy Spirit in them
 - b) "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" and "Filled with the Holy Spirit" seem to be used interchangeably

2. On the Day of Pentecost – They waited for the empowerment to do the Ministry of Jesus! Acts 1-2
 - a) Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - NIV
 - b) This manifestation of the Spirit given to the Church is one of POWER (Dunamis)
 - c) It is power to BE a witness
 - d) It is God's supernatural released in us!

God's Abiding Presence and His Manifest Presence

1. Soon after the Day of Pentecost – The Believers were filled again!
 - a. Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. 32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No-one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. – NIV
 - b. So, did the Holy Spirit leave them? Did they have to ask Him back again?
 - c. No, God wants to fill us again and again.
 - d. God's Abiding Presence doesn't leave us!
 - e. But, we need to be constantly filled each day with the Holy Spirit!

We are commanded to always be filled with the Holy Spirit

1. That is not the Abiding Presence of God at salvation – But the power to live our lives to the fullest in Christ!

Ephesians 5:17-20

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

We are commanded to always be filled with the Holy Spirit

1. Notice in Ephesians 5 that praising God in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs is linked to being filled!
 - a. The Gk. verb tense here is the aorist tense – be, being filled
2. We must take the initiative to be filled
3. Having a heart filled with praise AND a mouth that speaks praise are a key to being filled with the Holy Spirit
4. You can have too much wine, BUT, we can never have too much of God's Holy Spirit!
5. It is the key to being a powerful witness for Christ!
6. Don't give me a historical date when you were first filled – Are you full right now?

There are nine gifts in 1Corinthians 12

1. All of these gifts are a result of God's manifest Presence working in and through a believer
2. The gifts can be divided into three groups:
 - a. The Wisdom Gifts
 - b. The Power Gifts
 - c. The Prophetic Gifts
3. Today we are going to focus on the three Wisdom Gifts
 1. Word of Knowledge
 2. Word of Wisdom
 3. Discerning of Spirits

The Three Wisdom Gifts – I Corinthians 12

1. Word of Wisdom

Is very similar to a word of knowledge - they often work in tandem

- Dennis and Rita Bennett say - "The supernatural application of knowledge, either natural or supernatural knowledge."
- My definition: "A supernatural revelation of God to man regarding His divine plan or purpose."
- **Knowledge without wisdom can be ineffective at best or very dangerous in a worst case scenario.**
- When God gives knowledge, we must ask for guidance in what to do.
- **Don't assume that everything God shows you should be shared - even with those directly involved. We need to ask God for wisdom in the following areas:**

Ask, why is this revelation being given to me: to share, to pray, to protect?

- If I am to share this, then with whom and when?
- Sometimes God gives knowledge so we can pray.

The Three Wisdom Gifts – I Corinthians 12

- At other times, He gives us a revelation that must be held for awhile before being shared.
- At times, the wisdom or knowledge is for a special group, for the leadership, and not for the entire church.

Remember Mary, who treasured things in her heart

Luke 2:15-20 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. – NIV

Word of Wisdom: Modern Examples

Word of Wisdom – Example from Scripture

Acts 27:23-32 *“Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴and 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.’ So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”*

On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.” So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away. – NIV

Word of Wisdom: Modern Examples

Word of Wisdom – Applications

Some applications of word of wisdom

- to warn an individual or group of people (Joseph/Daniel)
- to confirm a calling from God
- guidance in decision-making for an individual or group
- to reveal the future in relation to God's plan and purpose
- clear leading on what to do with revealed knowledge

Word of Wisdom: Modern Examples

The Three Wisdom Gifts – I Corinthians 12

2. Word of Knowledge

- **Dennis and Rita Bennett** - **“The supernatural revelation of facts, past, present or future, which are not learned through the natural mind.”**
- It is not enough today to say “supernatural”. These are things that are revealed by God’s Holy Spirit to us.
- I Corinthians 2:9-14 “However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” - but God revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. - NIV

The Three Wisdom Gifts – I Corinthians 12

2. Word of Knowledge

- **There is no clear Biblical definition. This definition is taken from the record of Scripture. *Example from Scripture:***
- *Acts 9:10-19 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"*
"Yes, Lord," he answered.
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. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."
"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."
But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."

The Three Wisdom Gifts – I Corinthians 12

2. Word of Knowledge

- *I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”
Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord -- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here -- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.*
- **Modern examples:**
- **Some applications of word of knowledge**
 - to aid in prayer by exposing hidden needs and obstacles
 - to bring spiritual correction
 - to guide a believer in making decisions
 - to expose sin and corruption (Ananias and Saphira)
 - To solve problems that are beyond human ability or insight

Prophecy attributed to Smith Wigglesworth (The Apostle of Faith) in 1947

“During the next few decades there will be two distinct moves of the Holy Spirit across the church in Great Britain. The first move will affect every church that is open to receive it, and will be characterized by a restoration of the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit.”

“The second move of the Holy Spirit will result in people leaving historic churches and planting new churches.”

“In the duration of each of these moves, the people who are involved will say, ‘This is a great revival.’ but the Lord says, ‘No, neither is the great revival but both are steps towards it.’”

“When the new church phase is on the wane, there will be evidence in the churches of something that has not been seen before: a coming together of those with an emphasis on the word and those with an emphasis on the Spirit. When the word and the Spirit come together, there will be the biggest move of the Holy Spirit that the nation, and indeed, the world has ever seen. It will mark the beginning of a revival that will eclipse anything that has been witnessed within these shores, even the Wesleyan and Welsh revivals of former years...”



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