

# Truth and Spirit Ministries

## The Gifts of the Spirit

### Lesson II

#### The Revelatory Gifts

*“ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to 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. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”*  
~ I Corinthians 12:8-11

There are nine different gifts of the Spirit. Although the Spirit may manifest these nine gifts at different times and ways to *and* through the lives of believers, they all flow from the same source, which is God. Each gift of the Spirit has different purposes but often more than one gift will manifest and be used in conjunction to accomplish God’s overall divine will and purpose. For the sake of gaining a clearer understanding of the function and purposes of the gifts and how they work together they are most often divided into three categories.

#### The Revelatory Gifts

1. The Word of Wisdom
2. The Word of Knowledge
3. The Gift of Prophecy
4. The Discerning of Spirits

#### The Power Gifts

1. The Gift of Faith
2. The Gift of Healing
3. The Gift of Miraculous Powers

#### The Inspirational Gifts

1. The Gift of Tongues
2. The Interpretation of Tongues

In lesson two of this study of the gifts of the Spirit we will be learning about the revelatory gifts of the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge. Lesson three will be dedicated to

the gift of prophecy and lesson four to the gift of discerning of spirits. Revelatory gifts are gifts that reveal a fragment or part of God's mind or heart to the believer. In this way we can know in part the plans, purposes and will of God pertaining to a person or situation. The Spirit's gifts of power are given to the believer so that they can heal the sick, cast out devils and operate in the miraculous. Inspirational gifts are given to bring encouragement, hope and faith. God will use these gifts to accomplish many purposes such as to lead people to Christ, to build up faith, to heal, to expose the inner heart of the believer and deliver those that are bound. They will allow you to minister in the wisdom and power of God.

## **The Word of Wisdom**

*To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom...*

The Bible teaches us that there is earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom. The first is from man and the latter is from God. (*James 3:13-18*) As believers we will go through situations where we need godly wisdom from above. There are different ways that God can communicate his wisdom to us. He can communicate that to us through his word, our circumstances and also through godly men and women that he has placed in our lives. Sometimes though, he chooses to impart his wisdom supernaturally through this particular gift of the Spirit.

Although we can gain wisdom from our past mistakes this is not the same as receiving the gift of the word of wisdom from the Spirit. This is not learned wisdom but it is supernatural wisdom that God purposes to impart to us for a present or future situation. There is an element of the prophetic to the gift of the word of wisdom when it applies to our future. In his divine love for us God can literally help or prepare us to handle either a present or future situation with his wisdom. This supernatural impartation of wisdom given by the Holy Spirit is beyond our own natural wisdom. This word will provide us or someone else with divine insight, guidance and counsel.

Wisdom is the application of knowledge therefore the word of wisdom will help us to know how to apply the knowledge that he imparts to us as well. God's purpose in releasing the word of wisdom to us is so we will be able to have a good and effective outcome in our situation instead of a bad or ineffective one. Jesus taught that one of the many ways that the Holy Spirit helps us in our lives is that he will show us what is yet to come. The Spirit can impart a word of wisdom to us personally or speak a word of wisdom through us to others to prepare us to handle a situation that pertains to the future.

Throughout this teaching I would like to give you at least one biblical example of each gift of the Spirit and one modern day example as well.

## **Examples of the Word of Wisdom**

### **Biblical Example**

*When Paul came before King Agrippa and appealed to Caesar he was put on board a ship bound for Italy. Along the way Paul perceived that their journey would be an extremely*

dangerous one and advised those in charge of the ship not to sail by giving them this word of wisdom:

**<sup>10</sup>And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. ~ Acts 27:10**

*However, the master and owner of the ship failed to take heed of that wise counsel. Later, when this word proved to be true Paul let them know that they could have been spared from the damage and loss that they had incurred had they taken heed to his godly advice. In spite of all this however, Paul had received an encouraging word from God via an angelic messenger before they ran aground. God had promised that not one passenger on board would be lost although the ship would be destroyed. God graciously spared the lives of everyone on board for Paul's sake. (Acts 27)*

### **Modern Example**

*Once a good friend of my husband's asked my father in-law, mother in-law and I to accompany him to a man's house that he knew needed salvation. He said that he had been talking to this man for about a year about salvation but he would not accept Christ. Of course, we agreed to go with him. On the way to the man's house our friend said under the unction of the Holy Spirit: "Somebody's gonna get saved today!" We praised the Lord on the way.*

*When we got to the man's house, we were invited in. After the introductions and talking for a while I realized that I had left my Bible in the car. I excused myself for a moment and as I walked to the car I asked the Lord this question: "Lord, this man's been resisting salvation for a whole year. What's it going take for him to get saved today?" No sooner than that question left my lips I heard the Spirit say this: **"Take him to the Great White Throne Judgment in the book of Revelation."***

*When I returned to the house, our small group was already talking to him about the Lord. The Holy Spirit was present and we knew that he was dealing with this man's heart. When my turn came to speak I opened my Bible and began to preach Christ to him. I told him that the Lord loved him, that he had paid for his sins through the Cross and that he could receive eternal salvation in Christ by receiving him. I also shared with him that there was a future eternal judgment awaiting all men. Then I read Revelation 20:11-15 to him. Immediately after that he received Christ. His conversion was so profound that later even his family and friends noticed a great transformation. This man not only got saved, he got **radically** saved. Only God can bring that kind of transformation to the soul of a man. Praise his holy name!*

God knows exactly what it will take for someone to receive Christ. That day he gave me this word of wisdom to help lead this man to salvation. Even though we may have the knowledge of Christ and his word to share with others we still need his wisdom in releasing it to others. We all need the power of the Holy Spirit to help us in our personal lives, but we also need it to be effective in reaching souls for Christ. When God sends us to those in need of salvation, we can't rely on our own natural abilities instead we need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. God desires that we rely on and cooperate with his Spirit as our

Helper in order to accomplish God's will. If we don't acknowledge him though, our fleshly works will actually be counterproductive to living the kind of life that God wants us to and hinder our effectiveness in leading others to Christ.

When the Lord first began sending us out into the highways and hedges (or as we say here in West Virginia, the "hills" and the "hollers") to lead souls to him, he told me something I'll never forget. He woke me up in the middle of the night and told me this: *"I know what they need and you don't."* That spoke volumes to me. God wants us to rely on him and not ourselves. We don't know exactly what people need but he most certainly does. When he sends us to others we can rely on God to show us exactly what to say to them and what to do as well.

## **The Word of Knowledge**

*To another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit...*

Only God is all-knowing and all-seeing. The apostle Paul taught that we as believers only know in part, which simply means that our knowledge has limitations. (*1 Corinthians 13:12*) There is good news however. God can increase our knowledge not only by studying his written word but also by releasing his knowledge to us supernaturally through a word of knowledge. A word of knowledge comes from the mind of God. The Bible teaches us that we now have the mind of Christ. How is it possible for us to have the mind of Christ? It is possible because the Spirit now dwells within us. He knows the mind of God and then reveals these deep things to our hearts and minds. (*1 Corinthians 2:9-16*)

There's a difference between our human reasoning and God's. God's revelation knowledge transcends our human reasoning. A word of knowledge is when the Spirit reveals a fragment or part of God's mind or heart to the believer to accomplish some divine purpose. The Spirit will supernaturally impart some knowledge or fact to us that we could not possibly know in the natural. This particular gift is beneficial to us not only personally but also helps us to be highly effective while ministering to others. As with all of the gifts of the Spirit, God always has a divine purpose in releasing a word of knowledge. When a word of knowledge is released, so is power. How can we know this for sure? God always backs up *what he says with a demonstration of his power.*

We just learned that the word of wisdom pertains to the present and the future. When the Spirit gives a word of knowledge however it will pertain to the past or the present. The Spirit will release a word of knowledge for different purposes. If he releases a word of knowledge to us personally it's because he has determined that we need to have specific knowledge about someone, something or a particular situation for a reason. For the believer this can be very beneficial because we can have insight into situations that we wouldn't naturally have. This knowledge of course will only be in part but will benefit us in some way.

The Spirit will release a word of knowledge to a person for a particular time to aid them in accomplishing some special purpose. The gift of a word of knowledge can be used in conjunction with all other gifts of the Spirit at times but is more often used with the gifts of healing, miraculous powers, the gift of prophecy and discerning of spirits. The Spirit will expose a sickness, disease, problem or bondage so that an individual can receive healing,

a miracle, an encouraging prophetic word or deliverance. A word of knowledge can also expose sin with the intent of forgiveness, restoration or judgment, help us to receive divine protection, know the personal motives of others and help us to make godly decisions that we could not otherwise make without that knowledge.

Often the gifts of the Spirit will overlap or work in harmony together to accomplish God's divine purposes in our lives. For instance, we can receive a word of knowledge about the past or present combined with a word of wisdom to show us how to apply that knowledge in the future. All manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit will provide proof that God is real and bring glory to him.

## **Examples of the Word of Knowledge**

### **Biblical Examples**

*Jesus had a word of knowledge that the woman at the well had five husbands in the past and that she presently was living with a man that was not her husband. This word of knowledge about her life coupled with the message of eternal life proved to her that he was not only a prophet of God but the Son of God. (John 4:17-18, 39-42)*

*Peter was given a word of knowledge that Ananias and Sapphira had lied to the Holy Spirit about their offering. Their sin against the Spirit caused God to render the judgment of death on them. The deaths of Ananias and Sapphira caused great fear (reverence of God) to fall upon the whole Church. (Acts 5:1-3, Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, I John 5:16)*

*The disciple Ananias had a word of knowledge that Saul of Tarsus was in the house of Judas on Straight Street. This was given so that he could go there to lay hands on him so that God could restore his sight and fill him with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:10-18)*

### **Modern Example**

*Several years ago we took a trip out of state to attend a teaching conference of a well known minister. While there the Holy Spirit orchestrated a divine connection with our small family group and two women (a mother and daughter) who were also attending the meetings. Prior to our meeting the women personally, we found out during the first day of the conference that they were the only two people in the entire assembly that were from outside the United States.*

*The next day, all of us happened to be eating lunch at the same restaurant. My Mother and I saw them seated at another table and went over to talk to them. After speaking to them for some time, we returned to our tables. When the mother and daughter finished their meal and got up from the table, they came over to ours. Only the daughter could speak English and she told us that her mother had wanted her to ask us if we would come over to their hotel room to pray for her. The moment she asked that, the presence of the Holy Spirit swept over our table. I immediately sensed that God was orchestrating something. I told her that we would go over to our hotel and pray and then come to visit them in their room.*

*When we got back to our room and began to seek the Lord, my husband said, "God is going to do a miracle!" We praised the Lord. When we got to the ladies hotel room the mother answered the door and cordially motioned us to come in. No sooner than her daughter greeted us an amazing thing happened. The Spirit gave me a word of knowledge that her mother had a problem with her gastrointestinal tract. Her daughter confirmed that this was her mother's diagnosis from the doctor and that her mother was unable to eat solid food. With the mother's permission our family laid hands on her and she fell out in the floor under the power of the Holy Spirit. God healed her instantly. The daughter later testified that they both went to a restaurant that same evening and her mother ate whatever she wanted.*

*Later we had learned that before she was healed she could only eat baby food due to her medical condition. She had come to the conference by faith to receive a healing from God. While she was waiting for us to come to her room she was resting on the bed. During this time God gave her a vision of a long table of delicious food. He told her that soon she would be able to eat whatever she wanted. God honored this woman of great faith and she is still healed today. Glory to God!*

Among the nine gifts or manifestations of the Spirit listed in I Corinthians 12, it seems that the most misunderstood and rejected gift other than tongues is *the gift of prophecy*. I believe that this statement can be supported through the writings of the apostle Paul but also that it's clearly made evident in many Churches today because they tend to ignore, disregard, mishandle or even outright reject this gift when it's being manifested in their local assemblies. There are several reasons why and they will be addressed in our third lesson on the gifts of the Spirit.

Part III