

Remnant Life Church
February 16, 2014

“Words of Wisdom”
I Corinthians 12:8

How do we most often define wisdom?

- Knowledge that is gained by having many experiences in life
- The natural ability to understand things that most other people cannot
- Knowledge of what is proper or reasonable: good sense or judgment

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.

Socrates

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

Thomas Jefferson

The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is the knowledge of our own ignorance.

Benjamin Franklin

Wisdom can never be realized without truth

- About ourselves
- About our environment
- About our limitations

Proverbs - 29 “wisdom”; 55 “wise”

Natural wisdom is the right application of knowledge.

- Someone can have great knowledge about various subjects but be totally bereft of wisdom in the things of life
- Wisdom most often comes with age and experience

A **Word of Wisdom** is a supernatural impartation of the Holy Spirit that goes beyond the natural wisdom of the individual.

- It provides guidance of the application of existing knowledge to a given situation
- It gives insight, guidance and counsel
- It is the gift most used in conjunction with the other 8

The Man of Wisdom:

1. Solomon is always the first thought of when speaking of wisdom
 - a. His request for wisdom however is not the same as a word of wisdom

- b. **I Kings 3:5-12** – Solomon asks for and receives wisdom
 - c. kha-kam – shrewd, crafty, cunning, skillful in technical things; administratively gifted
2. The Word of Wisdom that Paul writes of in **I Corinthians 12** is a different word
- a. So-fe-ah – the broadest and deepest sense of wisdom that comes from God in the affairs of man
 - b. This wisdom follows the same rules as the other gifts especially in regard to the one who is given the gift
 - c. **James 1:5-6** - *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, (oppose) because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

What the Word of Wisdom is not:

1. It is not the wisdom of Solomon – many people are wise without the gift of Wisdom
2. It is not spiritual insight – this is a result of the fruit of the spirit (**Gal 5**) which every Christian should desire to have as a part of their growth in the Lord
3. Not just for pastors, elders or those gifted with leadership abilities – every believer can be given the gift at any time for any purpose
4. It is not any new idea that pops into your head – this is why the discerning of spirits is such an important gift to the church

What the Word of Wisdom is:

1. It is wisdom given by God that we would not normally have
 - a. Solomon did demonstrate this gift in his dealings with the 2 women who claimed to be the mother of one child
 - b. **I Kings 3:16-28**
 - c. **I Kings 3:28** - *When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.*
 - d. This verse gives us two very important aspects of the gift
 - i. The way the people responded is one of the marks of a spiritual gift because they knew that God had given Solomon the wisdom
 - ii. It also cautions us to the danger of exalting the one who is given the gift
2. It is used in conjunction with knowledge and how to apply it to the circumstances
 - a. **Acts 27:31-34**
 - i. Paul uses his word of knowledge – no one will die
 - ii. And applies it with the word of wisdom – let the boat go and eat
 - b. **Acts 15** – James speaks a Word of Wisdom to the council at Jerusalem regarding salvation for the Gentiles; (unity in Christ)

- c. The Word of Wisdom will always bring the person or people it is given to a clearer perspective and point them toward a solution or deeper understanding of a situation.
3. The Word of Wisdom can come and be given in the same ways a Word of Knowledge comes
 - a. Dream or Vision
 - b. Word of prophecy
 - c. Tongues with interpretation
- This gift, just as every gift, must adhere to the same rules and guidelines to be genuine:
 - It must give glory to God (**I Corinthians 10:31**)
 - It must be given in humility (**Proverbs 11:2**)
 - It must be in order and subjected to church authority (**Hebrews 13:7**)
 - It must allow itself to be tested (**I John 4:1**)
 - It must be for the good of the church or the individual to whom it is given promoting unity (**I Corinthians 12:7**)

Begin to pray and ask -

- “What is my gift?”
- “Fill me with the gift you desire me to have according to Your will.”