

Remnant Life Church
February 9, 2014

“Words of Knowledge”
I Corinthians 12:11

- The Bible speaks of three different sets of gifts:
 - Ministerial gifts (Eph. 4:11)
 - Apostle
 - Prophet
 - Evangelist
 - Pastor
 - Teacher
 - Service gifts (Rom. 12:6-8 – Gifts of grace)
 - Prophesying
 - Serving
 - Teaching
 - Encouraging
 - Contributing
 - Leadership
 - Showing mercy
 - Spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12:8-10)

The nine spiritual gifts are themselves broken down into 3 categories:

1. The Gifts of Revelation
 - a. Word of knowledge
 - b. Word of wisdom
 - c. Discerning of spirits
2. The Gifts of Speech
 - a. Speaking in different tongues
 - b. The interpretation of tongues
 - c. Prophecy
3. The Gifts of Power
 - a. Faith
 - b. Healing
 - c. Working of miracles

- There is no significance to their order
 - Most times the order of things in the Bible is of great importance
 - But Paul clearly states that the gifts are equal and not one over another (I Cor. 12:4-5; 18-20)
- All of the gifts are given by God as He wills (12:11)
- They may be an on-going gift or for a specific occasion
- Every gift must be tested against the Word and through the discerning of the spirits (I Thess. 5:19-22)

Word of Knowledge

- *Definition:* A Word of Knowledge is specific information that a person could not possibly know without God giving that person the information.
 - Knowledge and a Word of Knowledge are not one in the same
 - Neither is it the ability to reason (all of us have that) the same
 - A Word of Knowledge gives us facts about a situation; Words of Wisdom tell us how to deal with that situation
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- Some examples of a Word of Knowledge
 1. **Daniel 2** - Daniel prayed to the Lord and the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was given to him. (Joseph also interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh in **Genesis 41**)
 2. **Acts 10:9-20** - (Verse 19) Peter received a vision from God. "three men are looking for you. Don't be afraid to go with them".
 3. **Luke 19:30,31** - Jesus told two of his disciples to go into a village and get a donkey. He was demonstrating the Word of Knowledge.
 4. **Acts 9:10-16** - The Lord told Ananias where Saul was even to the name of the street and what He would do. God also told Paul that Ananias was coming.
 5. **Acts 5:1-5** - God revealed to Peter that Ananias and Sapphira had lied.

How do Words of Knowledge come?

1. Physical symptoms
 - a. Many times someone will experience the same physical discomfort that another is feeling in order to pray for them as a directive from God
 - b. Use common sense as well (chest pain; natural pain...)
 - c. These words will be specific
2. Empathetic feeling
 - a. Very strong feelings that "don't make sense" with your life situation
 - b. Sadness, heaviness, foreboding, etc...
 - c. Don't be so quick to "credit" Satan
3. In the mind
 - a. While praying or reading God's Word
 - b. Through dreams or visions
4. Spiritual intuition
 - a. A "knowing" deep in our spirits
 - b. Caution with this as it is hard to explain and therefore hard for another person to understand.

Knowing the Good from the Bad

1. A Word of Knowledge must ALWAYS...
 - a. ...be in alignment/supported by Scripture (I Thess. 5:21)
 - b. ...point people to God (Acts 9:35)
 - c. ...give credit and honor to God (Rev. 4:11)
 - d. ...be delivered and operate in humility (Phil. 2:3)
 - e. ...invite the word to be tested (I John 4:1)

2. A Word of Knowledge NEVER...
 - a. ...removes the possibility for error (“God told me...”)
 - b. ...declares itself to be the final word or authority
 - c. ...brings fear
 - d. ...points anyone away from God to another answer
 - e. ...demands that it be heard; order and patience

“When desiring a spiritual gift, we must keep in mind that the gift is not given to show we are more superior to others or more spiritual, and certainly must not be operated with pride. The gifts are for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of the church, and to assist in ministering to the unsaved, revealing the living God.” *The Code of the Holy Spirit – Perry Stone (2013)*