

Gifts of The Spirit

Class 2 - Word of Knowledge, Discerning of Spirits

I Corinthians 12:1, 4-11 NKJV “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.**”

Today we will be focusing on the last of the revelation gifts. Word of Knowledge, and Discerning of Spirits, but before we do lets notice something from verse 11.

I Corinthians 12:11 NKJV “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one individually as He wills.**”

1. These Gifts are distributed as the Spirit wills. Not as I will. You can't give yourself a word of Knowledge or discerning spirits. In fact even a prophet does not possess the spiritual gifts that come with his office. If he did then he could operate them without the inspiration of the Spirit. He must yield to the Spirit as he stands in his office and then yield to the unction of the Holy Spirit.
2. If our pastor possessed words of wisdom like a tool that's been given to him he could use it at his will. Every person in the service could potentially receive a word though we know that is often not the case. As he yields to the anointing revelation may or may not come. As he yields to the anointing someone may or may not receive an instantaneous healing.

Let's point something out that Peter said!

I Peter 4:10-11 NKJV “**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.”

1. As we have received the gifts God has given us we are good stewards when we minister those divine graces one to another.
2. Notice we are to do it with the ability which God supplies. God has given us a supply in the spirit we are to minister from. If the supply isn't there and we manufacture something we are in the flesh and not pleasing to God. Stay within the lane God has called you.

Now, let's start with "Word of Knowledge"...

A Word of Knowledge is a supernatural revelation of the existence, or nature, of a person or a thing, or the knowledge of some event, given to us by The Holy Spirit for a specific purpose.

For instance just this past Sunday our pastor operated in a word of Knowledge.

1. "I feel like there's someone here today that you feel like you've made all the wrong decisions, all the bad decisions. And the Lord wanted me to tell you that you need to develop a root in this area. Trust is leading. Trust the inward witness. You can trust your heart. You can have confidence in what you pick up on the inside, that tug on the inside, that pull on the inside. You can trust it. That's how you're led. That's how it's the inward witness. Start looking inward. Start checking your heart at every decision. And the Lord wanted me to tell you, your decisions will now shift. And you'll find yourself making all of the right decisions, even though it may not reason in your mind, even though it may not just tickle your emotions, but you'll make the right decisions, not the wrong decisions, if you'll check your heart, because God is faithful to do exactly what he said in his word. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Father. In the name of Jesus."
2. This word was given to counter the doubt in someone's mind that they couldn't hear the inward witness. How would our pastor know there was someone there like that? A word of knowledge. Once the knowledge came he began to prophecy in line with what he heard as he yielded to The Spirit.
3. As a pastor this is part of his equipment to shepherd the sheep.

Let's look at some biblical uses for a word of knowledge!

1. **Jesus and the Samaritan woman — John 4:16–19**
Jesus told the woman: "You have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband..." Jesus knew specific information about her **current and past relationships** without her telling Him. She immediately recognized that He was a prophet.
2. **Elisha and Gehazi — 2 Kings 5:20–27**
Gehazi secretly went after Naaman and accepted gifts from him, even though Elisha had refused them. When Gehazi returned, Elisha said: "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you?" Elisha knew **exactly what Gehazi had secretly done**, even though he was not physically present.
3. **Elisha and the king of Israel — 2 Kings 6:8–12**
The king of Syria repeatedly planned military attacks against Israel. Yet Israel kept escaping them. The king eventually discovered that Elisha was telling Israel: "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Elisha knew the enemy king's **secret military plans**.
4. **Samuel and Saul — 1 Samuel 9:15–20**
Before Saul ever met Samuel, God told Samuel: "Tomorrow about this time I will send

you a man from the land of Benjamin..." God then gave Samuel specific information about Saul's arrival and identity. Samuel also knew that Saul was searching for his father's lost donkeys.

5. **Jesus and Nathanael — John 1:47–49**

When Nathanael came to Jesus, Jesus said: "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael was astonished and responded: "Rabbi, You are the Son of God!" Jesus revealed knowledge of **where Nathanael had been before they met**.

6. **Ananias and Saul — Acts 9:10–12**

God told Ananias to go to Saul and gave him remarkably specific information: "Behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in..." Ananias did not know this through natural means. God told him **what Saul was currently doing and what Saul had seen in a vision**.

7. **Peter and Ananias — Acts 5:1–4**

Ananias and Sapphira secretly kept part of the money from the sale of their property while claiming they had given everything. Peter confronted Ananias: "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?" Peter knew the truth about the money **without Ananias telling him**.

8. **Peter and Cornelius — Acts 10:17–20**

While Peter was wondering about the vision he had received, the Holy Spirit told him: "Behold, three men are seeking you." God gave Peter knowledge about **people who were presently looking for him** and instructed him to go with them.

9. **Jesus and the coin in the fish — Matthew 17:24–27**. Jesus told Peter: "Go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money..." Jesus knew **where the needed money would be found** and what would happen when Peter followed the instruction.

Through His mighty gift, current and past relationships were uncovered, a prophet's servant was found out after secretly going behind his master's back, an opposing king's battle plan was revealed, a man in hiding was found, a new convert was revealed to be in need of prayer, deception was uncovered in the church, three men were revealed to be searching for Peter, and a hook was cast into the sea, revealing just enough provision to cover a tax.

Let's finish up with the last revelation gift...

Discerning of spirits

With discerning of spirits the possessor is enabled to see into the spirit world. By this insight he can discern the similitude of God, or of the risen Christ, or The Holy Spirit, or cherubim, or seraphim, archangels or the hosts of angels, or Satan and his legions.

What This Gift Is Not

1. *One thing to note before continuing is that this is not the gift of discernment or to discern faults in others. The Bible encourages us to not judge one another. We should all have a*

level of spiritual discernment but that is not the discerning of spirits. A sense that evil is around a corner is not discerning of spirits just as sensing the presence of God is not discerning of spirits. Seeing into the spirit realm, revealed in the natural or through a dream or vision is discerning of spirits.

The scope of this gift goes beyond seeing demonic activity. It includes the host of heaven as well. We have several examples throughout the word of this gift in operation.

Differences between Discerning of Spirits and a Word of Knowledge

Howard Carter “The word of knowledge gives one a revelation of anything that can be classified as existing or having existed, so the fact of a spirit possessing a body could be revealed by this gift, but the one so informed would have no vision of the spirit, he would not “discern” it. By the discerning of spirits we see beyond the sphere for which we have been created, since we are natural beings. It is only by the revelation of the Holy Spirit that we can perceive the beings that live in the spirit world.”

Scriptural Instances of Discerning of Spirits

John 1:47-49 NKJV “Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” **48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?”** Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, **I saw you.**” **49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”**”

1. Remember, Discerning of Spirits reveals something. Nathanael asked how he knew him before meeting him. By seeing him in the Spirit. His character, nature, and location were revealed through discerning of Spirits.
2. A word of knowledge is knowledge without seeing.

II Kings 6:15-17 NKJV “And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” **16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”** **17 And Elisha prayed, and said, “**LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.**” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”**

1. In order to see in the spirit it must be granted to us through the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 1:10-20 NKJV “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, **11 saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,”** and,

“What you **see**, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” 12 Then I turned to **see** the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I **saw** seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I **saw** Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have **seen**, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”

1. Jesus was seated at the right hand of the Father. How could John have seen him?
Through the Discerning of Spirits. Jesus has and will continue to appear to individuals on this earth until his return.