

## Gifts of the Spirit 02

with Dr. Bob Abramson

### The Three Revelation Gifts

*1 Corinthians 12:7-8, 10 (NKJV) "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..., {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."*

#### Word of Wisdom

A word of wisdom is a word, proclamation, or declaration, that is supernaturally given by God. Its purpose is to meet the need of a particular future occasion or problem.

- It is given to a person through words, visions or dreams. It provides understanding and instruction on what action to take.
- It is **not** revealed through human ability or natural wisdom. It is a God's revelation of His plans and purposes.

#### **A Word of Wisdom has Unique Characteristics.**

- It is purely supernatural in origin. It is **not** natural wisdom. It does **not** follow natural rules of reason and thought.
- It is supernatural in its function. It does **not** depend on human ability. It depends upon God.
- It is supernatural in its revelation. It comes to us by the Holy Spirit. It is divine counsel that He gives to us.

#### **Why do we need a Word of Wisdom?**

The Holy Spirit provides a word of wisdom at the appropriate time, so we can apply supernaturally-given wisdom to a particular problem or need.

*John 16:13 (NKJV) "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*

A word of wisdom removes confusion. It gives you clear understanding for your next decision or action. It can change your destiny. In Acts 9:10-16, The Lord instructs Ananias to go to a

God uses these three revelation gifts to reveal things supernaturally that we could not know through our natural senses.

particular house on a particular street. He reveals to Ananias the content of Saul's vision. He twice commands him to "go" to Saul. Ananias obeys.

*Acts 9:10-18 (NKJV) "Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." {11} **So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.** {12} And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." {13} Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. {14} And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." {15} **But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.** {16} **"For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."** {17} And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." {18} Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized."*

(Verses 11 and 15-16 are words of wisdom. Verses 12 and 17 are words of knowledge.) [Verse 17 can also be considered a word of wisdom.]

In Acts 8:29-40, an angel instructs Philip, through a word of wisdom, to go south along a specific road. As he obeyed, Philip encountered the Ethiopian. Then, the Holy Spirit said, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

*Acts 8:26-29 (NKJV) "Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, **"Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."** This is desert. {27} So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, {28} was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. {29} Then the Spirit said to Philip, **"Go near and overtake this chariot."**"*

Word of wisdom

*Acts 27:22-26 "And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. {23} For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, {24} saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' {25} Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. {26} However, **we must run aground on a certain island.**"*

Word of knowledge

Word of wisdom

## Dr. Bob Abramson's Testimony about a Word of Wisdom

It was during a meeting, when we were pastoring an International Church in Fiji, that the Spirit of the Lord gave me a word of wisdom. I saw a vision of a hand in a piece of machinery. God spoke to me that there was a person in the congregation who would be in danger of injuring their hand at the workplace. I spoke this to the congregation. There was a young woman present who worked in an office where they had a large printing press. Within the next few days, as she was working at the printing press, it malfunctioned. She began to put her hand into the machine to try to fix it. She suddenly remembered the word of wisdom I had spoken. She immediately pulled her hand back. It was just in time. The machine suddenly engaged itself. It came down where it would have mangled her hand, if she had not heeded the word of wisdom.

## Word of Knowledge

*1 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV) "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."*

**A word of knowledge communicates past and present facts or events that **cannot** be known through our natural senses.** It is revealed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Its purpose is to edify, instruct, or correct people.

**There are two prevailing views in the church of what a word of knowledge is.**

### **1<sup>st</sup> view** (Non-charismatic view)

This first view holds that a word of knowledge is what the Bible teaches us about God, Christ, the Gospel, and its applications to Christian living. This view would be held by **non-charismatic** Christians who believe the gifts of the Spirit are not for today.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> view** (Charismatic view - **This is the truth we hold.**)

A word of knowledge comes directly from God. It is like a laser beam. The Holy Spirit strikes your heart with knowledge from heaven. He does this through dreams, visions, or other supernatural means. **It is *the God-given, immediate awareness of facts without the aid of the natural senses.*** It is closely related to a word of wisdom. Many times, they are intertwined.

- It is God's revelation to you of any situation **in the past or present** that would be impossible for you to know.
- It is knowledge that **cannot be discovered by normal human senses**, such as hearing, seeing, touching, smelling or tasting.

### Acts Chapter 5 – Ananias and Sapphira

Peter knew Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit. It fits the definition of a word of knowledge.

*Acts 5:3 (NKJV) “ But Peter said, “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?**”*

Then, in verse 9, Peter spoke a **word of wisdom** to Sapphira. He said, “*Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and **they will carry you out.***” God revealed to Peter that He was going to do the same thing to Sapphira that He did to Ananias. (Do you see the difference from the word of knowledge, and how close they can be?)

*(John 4:16-18 NKJV) “Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” {17} The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ {18} **for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.**”*

Word of knowledge

*(Acts 10:17-20 NKJV) “Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. {18} And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. {19} While Peter thought about the vision, **the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are seeking you.** {20} Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for **I have sent them.**”*

Verse 19 is a word of knowledge: “three men are seeking you”

Verse 20 is a word of knowledge: “for I have sent them.”

*(1 Samuel 9:19-20 NKJV) “And Samuel answered Saul and said, “I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and tomorrow I will let you go and **will tell you all that is in your heart.** {20} But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not be anxious about them, for **they have been found.** And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father's house?”*

1 Samuel 9:19 is a word of wisdom, in which Samuel tells Saul that he (Samuel) will give Saul a word of knowledge the next day.

Verse 20 is a word of knowledge that Samuel gives Saul, telling him that the donkeys had been found.

## Discerning of Spirits

1 John 4:1-3 (NKJV) “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. {2} By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, {3} and **every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.**”

**Discerning of spirits is the supernaturally-given recognition of the presence or activity of spiritual forces, either good or evil.** It helps us uncover and identify things in the spirit realm.

**Discerning of spirits is not the following:**

1. It is **not natural discernment**. Everyone, saved or not, has discernment. If an unbeliever claims to have the gift of discernment from 1 Corinthians 12:8, he or she does not. Their ability is a counterfeit. It is from the devil, or just a work of the flesh. It is not from God.
2. It is **not spiritual mind reading**. Only God can know what you are thinking. The devil uses trickery and manipulation, along with familiar spirits, to try to convince people someone can read his or her mind. Nobody but God can read your mind!
3. It is **not psychological insight**.
4. It is **not the power to discern fault in others and condemn them**. Scripture forbids this. When we discern a problem in someone, it is either to protect ourselves or others, or to help the person overcome and be restored to God.

***Matthew 7:1 (NKJV) “Judge not, that you be not judged.”***

Approach this issue with humility. It will keep you from trouble. It will give you the advantage that God wants you to have.

### **There are Four Kinds of Spirits.**

1. The Spirit of God
2. Spirits from God (His angels)
3. The spirits of the devil (his demons and antichrist spirits)
4. The spirit of man

**Discerning of spirits, like the other spiritual gifts, is for a specific use at a specific occasion.**

- Discerning of spirits goes beyond what you see. It allows you to see what is really beneath what your natural senses are seeing. Discerning of spirits helps you form a sound judgment based on spiritual insight.
- It is not based on what you can figure out for yourself.
- It is not knowledge that you have been taught.

### **Discerning of spirits gives you the ability to discern false teachers, false prophecies and false doctrine. Also demons.**

***1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV) “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,”***

When false doctrine is preached, taught and then believed, it puts a person’s eternal life and the quality of his or her everyday life in danger. Ask the Lord to help you discern the spirits when you read books, listen to the radio, watch TV or a movie. Discern the spirits when you listen to someone who you do not know preach the Word. Not everyone in a pulpit is preaching true doctrine. If you have doubts, come to your instructors and pastors in Agape.

Discerning of Spirits exposes those demonic spirits that are attacking or possessing a person or people. Once exposed, these spirits can be dealt with, and people can be set free.

*Acts 8:14, 18-23 (NKJV) “Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them...{18} And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, {19} saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” {20} But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! {21} You have neither part nor portion in this matter, **for your heart is not right in the sight of God.** {22} Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. {23} **For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.**”*

***Acts 16:16-18 (NKJV) “Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. {17} This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” {18} And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.”***

**Discerning of spirits also gives us the ability to discern the source of sickness and disease.**

*Acts 10:38 (NKJV) “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”*

Discerning of spirits often leads to deliverance or healing. **However, the ability to discern spirits is not followed automatically by the casting out of demons.** Every believer has the potential to minister deliverance, but you had better know what you are doing!

1. You must be spiritually prepared.
2. The person being delivered must (1) repent, (2) want to be delivered, (3) want to close his or her heart to demonic activity, and (4) actively pursue God.
3. The demon must recognize that you walk in God’s authority. If your life does not reflect this, stay away from confronting demons.
4. You must be saved and (1) spiritually prepared. Otherwise, you will put yourself in danger by trying to cast out demons.

*Acts 19:13-16 (NKJV) “Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” {14} Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. {15} And the evil spirit answered and said, “**Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” {16} Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”***

## **Review: Three Revelations Gifts**

- 1. Word of Wisdom**
- 2. Word of Knowledge**
- 3. Discerning of Spirits**