

04 – THE REVELATION GIFTS

THE REVELATION GIFTS

7.) Word of Knowledge –

- ✓ Sometimes people (mistakenly) refer to this as “the gift of knowledge”. (Like, “Wow, my pastor sure knows the Bible! He must have the gift of knowledge.”) There’s no such thing as “the gift of knowledge”.
- ✓ This is not the “gift of knowledge”. It’s a “word” of knowledge. (A word is a fragmentary part of a sentence. So, this is a “fragment” – a “little piece” – of knowledge that God shares with you, so you can help someone. And it comes supernaturally.

1 Cor 12:8 (INT) – “... and through the same Spirit, he reveals knowledge to someone that they couldn’t have otherwise known.”

- ✓ That’s it exactly! You had no way of knowing it in the natural, but God downloaded it into your spirit”. (A moment ago, you *didn’t* know it. Now you do.)

Scriptural Examples

Acts 5:1-3 – “Also among the believers was a man named Ananias who, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of land. With the full knowledge and agreement of his wife, he presented only part of the money to the apostles while claiming it was the full amount. They expected to gain a reputation for being more generous than they really were.

Then Peter said to him, ‘Ananias, how is it that you have allowed Satan so much influence in your life that you would lie to us and to the Holy Spirit about what you’ve done? You’ve held back some of the money for yourself while claiming it is the full amount you received from the sale.”

- ✓ Peter knew everything that had happened! How did he know it? (By a Word of knowledge.)

Personal Examples

- ✓ Story 1 – Years ago, I was the assistant manager of a restaurant. It was a day like any other. The mailman brought in the mail and dropped it on the counter. (In all the time I’d worked there, there’d never been a letter addressed to me.)
- ✓ I picked up the stack of envelopes, and the moment I touched it, I knew there was a letter addressed to me. I knew who it was from, and I knew what it said.
- ✓ (It was from a lawyer. A lady was suing us because she had slipped on the ice a few weeks earlier, and I happened to be the manager on duty that day.) There was no way, in the natural, I could have known that. But God downloaded it into my spirit. In that instance, the “word” was very specific.
- ✓ Story 2 – Other times, there are no specifics. Years later, I was sitting at my desk in the Bible College, preparing for the next day, and I got a “word” for my mom. I called her up and said, “Whatever you’re doing right now, God says, ‘Stop it’”. (That’s all I had.)
- ✓ She said, “Oh son, I’m fine. I’m just going downstairs to wash clothes. I’ll set the phone on top of the laundry basinet, and I’ll talk to you when I get downstairs.” A few seconds later, I heard her falling down the stairs. (She was in her 70’s.) God tried to warn her.
- ✓ Story 3 – Late one afternoon, Bev and I were going to the health food store in Calgary. (The parking lot was full, so we had to park a block or two away.) As we were walking to the store, I happened to notice a girl on the other side of the street in her early 20’s. When I saw her, I got a word of knowledge.
- ✓ I called her over, (I’m glad Bev was with me), and said, “This might sound strange. But I’m a Christian. I saw you walking, and God told

me you need money. Is that right?"

- ✓ She said, "I'm a Christian too. I'm on my way to work. I never work the night shift, because I don't have a car, and I don't like to walk home in the dark. But I got called in, and I couldn't avoid it."
 - ✓ I was just praying as I was walking. I said, 'Lord, I'm so scared to walk home. I'd take a cab, but I don't have a dime. Is there any way you could get me money for a cab?'"
 - ✓ She said, "It wasn't 30-seconds later that you called me over and said God showed you I needed money." She started to cry and said, "I can't believe He loves me that much." (We gave her the money for a cab, and she left rejoicing.)
 - ✓ The Point: There was no way I could have known any of those things. But God "downloaded" that knowledge into me, so He could minister to those people. That's the word of knowledge.
- 8.) Word of Wisdom – Is very much like the word of knowledge in how it operates.
- ✓ Here's the difference: A Word of *Knowledge* reveals the situation – (it tells you what's happening). A Word of *Wisdom*, on the other hand, shows you what to do about it.
 - ✓ Definition – This is a word of God's wisdom, showing you what to do in a certain situation. (It's a Spirit-inspired strategy or insight that solves a problem, guides a decision, or reveals God's plan.)
 - ✓ A great example is found in Genesis 41. Pharaoh had a dream where he saw 7 fat cows and 7 lean cows. God not only allowed Joseph to interpret the dream, but He also gave him a strategy for saving Egypt from famine. (That strategy was a word of wisdom. "What do we do in this situation?")
- 9.) Discerning of Spirits – This is not "the gift of discernment". (This has nothing to do with *recognizing truth* and *exposing error*.)

Look at the Name of This Gift

- ✓ Notice, this is called the discerning "of spirits". It has to do with *spirits* and the *spirit realm*. (And, not just the "dark side". It includes angels, demons, God ... they're *all* spirits.)
- ✓ Definition: The "discerning of spirits" is "supernatural insight into the spirit realm". (There are two ways it manifests.)

a.) As a Vision – In this case, you actually see into the spirit realm.

Acts 2:17 – "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions ..." (The Amplified calls them "divinely granted appearances".)

- ✓ That happened *throughout* the New Testament. Jesus appeared to Paul (Acts 23:11), Peter saw an angel (Acts 12:7-8). As Stephen was being stoned, he saw Jesus at the right hand of God (Acts 7:54-55). Paul saw an angel in Acts 27:21-24.

2 Kings 6:17 – "Then Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes that he might see.' And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw that the hills were full of horses and chariots of fire, all around Elisha."

- ✓ What was that? The discerning of spirits. There's another realm besides this one. And sometimes, the Lord lets people see into it.

b.) Sensing It – Then other times, you won't see anything, but you can sense what's going on in the spirit realm. One of the best examples is found in Acts 16.

Acts 16:16-17 – "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by fortune telling: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this she did many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in

the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."

- ✓ This woman had an evil spirit in her. She followed Paul's team around for "many days". Then after "many days", Paul cast it out. Now, here's a question. Why didn't Paul cast it out on the *first* day? (Because he didn't know it was there!)
- ✓ Think about it. How would he have known she had an evil spirit? You'd never have known it in the natural.
- ✓ Look at what she said. "These men are the servants of the Most High God." (That was true.) "They're here to show us the way of salvation." (That was *also* true.) So, how would you know she had a demon? You *wouldn't*. (And Paul *didn't*.)
- ✓ Then, one day, as she was following them, the discerning of spirits kicked in and Paul recognized it.

v. 18 – "But Paul, being grieved ..." (His spirit went, "Uggggh". He recognized it! So, he ...) "... turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you, in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And he came out the same hour."

- ✓ In that case, Paul didn't see the spirit. He discerned it.

Final Thoughts

- ✓ Three times in these chapters, we're told to *covet* (*desire*) the gifts. We don't desire them because they'll make us look good. We desire them because they help people.
- ✓ What can we do to encourage the gifts among us? Covet them – (1 Cor. 12:31, 14:1), keep love as the atmosphere, & pray in tongues a lot.