

THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

The word of Knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God.

Always speaks of the **present** or something which happened in the **past**.

Notice this gift is called the “Word of Knowledge,” not the “Gift of Knowledge.” There is no such thing as the Gift of Knowledge.

God is all knowledge---He knows everything but he doesn't reveal everything He knows to man.

He gives man a word, or a part of what He knows.

The Word of Knowledge is a supernatural manifestation, as are all the Gifts of the Spirit. **NONE OF THEM IS A NATURE GIFT.** If one of them were natural, then all of them would have to be natural. If one of them is supernatural, then all are supernatural.

Some people think this is natural knowledge. If that were true, then the Gifts of Healings would not be supernatural healing, but would simply be healing through the advancements of medical science.

We certainly believe in medical science and thank God for all it can do. But I Corinthians 12:8 is talking about supernatural healing, and supernatural knowledge.

If the Gifts of the Spirit were only natural gifts, then Divers Kinds of Tongues would refer simply to those languages, which people had learned naturally. **THEN EVEN UNSAVED PEOPLE COULD HAVE THIS GIFTS, which we know is untrue.** Unsaved people may have a gift, but it is not the Gift of the Spirit.

THE GIFT MANIFESTED THROUGH VISIONS

We see an example of the Word of Knowledge **when John was on the Isle of Patmos.** John wrote that he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and Jesus appeared to him in a vision. In the vision, Jesus revealed to John the condition of the seven churches in Asia Minor, as recorded in the Book of Revelation. Although there's a prophetic message for us today in this revelation, these seven churches actually existed at that time in Asia Minor.

John exiled to the Isle of Patmos, couldn't possibly have known what was going on in these cities or churches. But Jesus revealed their spiritual condition to him. That was a Word of Knowledge.

Another example is in Acts 9:10-12.

Ananias couldn't have known in the natural that in a certain house on a certain street, a man named Saul was praying at that very moment. He couldn't have known this any other way than by the supernatural revelation: the Word of Knowledge.

Another example is in Acts: 10:9-20 (Pay attention to verses 1-48).

Here again the Word of Knowledge was manifested through a vision. Peter had fallen into a trance and saw a vision. While he was thinking about what it meant, the Holy Spirit said to him "Three men seek thee." Peter did not know the men were there. He had no way of knowing that they were, except that the Spirit of God told him. That was a Word of Knowledge - a supernatural revelation.

THE GIFT MANIFESTED THROUGH AN INWARD REVELATION

Sometimes the Word of Knowledge comes by an inward revelation. When Jesus dealt with the woman at the well in Samaria, He used the Word of Knowledge to convince her, a sinner, of her need for a Savior (John 4).

The woman wanted that water. Jesus told her to go get her husband. When she answered that she didn't have a husband, He said, "You are right about that. You have had five husbands, and the man you are living with right now isn't your husband." Jesus knew this by an inward revelation—a Word of Knowledge - and used this gift to point her to salvation.

The Word of Knowledge can be manifested in a number of different ways. For example, it may come through tongues and interpretation, through the gift of prophecy, or an angel may come to deliver a Word of Knowledge. **OFTEN THESE GIFTS OPERATE TOGETHER; WE JUST SEPARATE THEM IN ORDER TO DEFINE THEM.**

Sometimes this gift of the Word of Knowledge is confused with a profound knowledge of the Bible. Some people think they have the Word of Knowledge because they have studied the Bible so much! While it is true that God helps us to understand His Word, and we receive knowledge from studying it, that kind of knowledge is not a supernatural gift. Paul told the younger minister Timothy to study. In his letter to this

young pastor of a New Testament church, Paul said, “Study to shew thyself approved....” (2 Timothy 2:15). **So this particular kind of knowledge of God’s Word comes by studying, but the Word of Knowledge comes by supernatural revelation imparted by God.**

A spirit-filled Baptist brother who was president of his local chapter of the Full Gospel Business men’s Fellowship, told about the following experience he’d had. He said, “I passed by a large Roman Catholic Church, and something seemed to tell me to stop. So I pulled into the church parking lot, stopped, and sat there praying for a little while.

Something seemed to tell me that the priest would be praying in his office and that I should go in, lay hands on him, and he would be filled with the Holy Spirit. I hesitated. I didn’t want to make a fool of myself. I sat there and prayed a while longer. Then I decided it wouldn’t hurt just to go see if I could find the priest, and see if God was really leading me.”

This business executive found his way inside the church and knocked on the door of the priest’s study. He heard a voice inviting him to come in, and he opened the door to see a priest sitting at a desk with some books opened in front of him. As he entered, the priest got up and greeted him, and they introduced themselves to each other.

When the priest heard that his caller was president of the local Full Gospel chapter, he immediately said, “Praise the Lord! I was just reading about what God is doing in these days in this move of the Spirit. I was reading about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, and The Lord witnessed to my spirit that this is what I need. I am conscious of my spiritual lack. Only ten minutes ago, I bowed my head and said, ‘Lord, I don’t know anyone in this town who has this experience. Send somebody by to pray with me.’ And here you are!”

The business executive said, “That priest got down on his knees, I laid hands on him, and he started speaking in tongues almost instantly, lifting both hands to heaven.

The Gifts of the Spirit except tongues and interpretation of tongues were in operation in Old Testament times (we will cover the reason for this when we study those gifts).

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE TO ENLIGHTEN A DISCOURAGED SERVANT (GOD KNOWS WHAT WE NEED)

1Kings 19:2-4, 14, 18

The prophet Elijah was very bold up on the mountaintop when he prayed fire down from heaven. But when someone told him, “Queen Jezebel said that by this time tomorrow she is going to have your head,” Elijah became fearful.

He sat down under a juniper tree and begged God to let him die. He told God, “Everybody is backslidden but me. Everybody has bowed their knee to Baal, and I am the only one left.”

But God gave him a Word of Knowledge which encouraged him. He said, “No, you aren’t the only one left. I have 7,000 who have not bowed unto Baal, reserved to myself.” Elijah couldn’t have known that any other way.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE USED TO EXPOSE A HYPOCRITE

2 Kings 5: 10-15; 25-26

Gehazi hid the gifts he had falsely received from Naaman (in which Elisha had refused to take) because he was a thief as well as a liar. When Gehazi returned and Elisha asked him where he had been, he said, “no where, my master.” Elisha said “my heart (my spirit) went with you when you caught up with that chariot. I saw you.” How could Elisha, sitting in his own house, know what was going on several miles away? God revealed it to him! God gave Elisha a supernatural revelation of what had happened, thus exposing a hypocrite.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE GIVEN TO WARN A KING OF THE ENEMY’S PLAN

2 KINGS 6:9-12

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE USED TO HELP RECOVER LOST PROPERTY

1 SAMUEL 9:3-4, 6, 19-20

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE USED TO DISCOVER A MAN IN HIDING

1 SAMUEL 10:21-23