

“The Weapons of Our Warfare”

Part Three

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5/1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Intro: Over the past few weeks we have been studying spiritual gifts. Last Tuesday night we talked about the gift of the word of wisdom. **Tonight I want to talk to you about the gift of the word of knowledge.** Let's look at 1 Corinthians 12:8.

There is an important point that Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 12:4, "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." Throughout Paul's discussion about Spiritual gifts, the emphasis is constantly upon the fact that God gives different gifts to different people, and yet all of these gifts come from the same source, namely, the Holy Spirit. The Word of God teaches us that we do not possess any of these nine gifts, but they manifest on any individual that the Spirit may choose for a particular time or purpose according to the will of the Spirit. To put it another way, they are temporary gifts and no-one can claim a permanent possession or operation of the gift. When a believer exercises the gift, the Holy Spirit exhibits His power through that particular person and the Holy Spirit will reveal Himself in a special way.

Therefore, we are not to seek particular gifts. We're not to put one gift above another gift. We're not to say that one gift is essential and another gift is not essential. All the gifts are necessary to edify the body of Christ. God manifests these gifts in the body severally as He will because He desires a healthy functioning body.

In this lesson we will define the gift of The Word of Knowledge, explain how it functions, and finally, give some Biblical examples of this gift in operation.

- I. What is The Word of Knowledge?
 - A. The word of knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Ghost of certain facts in the mind of God.
 1. God is all-knowing. He knows everything. But He doesn't reveal everything He knows to man. He just gives him a word or a part of what He knows.
 2. The word *knowledge* is related to fact.
 - a. The Gift of The Word of Knowledge deals with what exists, whether it is in the past or in the present.
 - b. Because it comes from God, it is a piece of knowledge that the Child of God could not naturally know- something that eyes have not seen nor ears heard.
 - B. The believer should not substitute the Gift of a Word of Knowledge for knowledge gained from God through people and His Word.
 1. ***“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”*** (1 Corinthians 12:1, KJV, emphasis mine).
 - a. The word "ignorant" means "not to perceive or know; not to understand or comprehend" (Bullinger's).
 - b. It can also include being misinformed, which is how the Amplified Bible expresses it: ***“Now about the spiritual gifts (the special endowments of supernatural energy), brethren, I do not want you to be misinformed.”***
 2. The answer to ignorance is knowledge. **Become informed** about what the Word of God has to say.
 - a. Observe other people who flow in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Learn from their good points and also their not so good points.

c. Recognize the human part of us can make mistakes, even in Holy Spirit ministry!

II. The Gift of The Word of Knowledge in Operation.

A. In order for The Word of Knowledge to be manifested through you:

1. You must have a strong desire for the Gifts of the Spirit to be released through you.
 - a. God never violates our will! To flow in the gifts we must be willing and available to obey the Holy Spirit.
 - b. *"The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets"* (1 Corinthians 14:32, NIV).
2. Be sensitive to God and know when the Holy Spirit is speaking to us about a certain person or situation.
3. Know the right timing to make known that certain information - if indeed you are supposed to.
4. Know how to minister that "word" in an edifying way.
5. Be willing and prepared to accept any fine-tuning and correction from those over us in the Lord.

B. The Word of Knowledge is also given to us in the same way The Word of Wisdom is (dreams, vision, still small voice).

III. Biblical Examples of the Manifestation of The Word of Knowledge.

A. Elijah was discouraged because he thought he was the only prophet left. God gave him a Word of Knowledge that there were 7,000 that had not bowed unto Baal (1 Kings 19:18).

B. Elisha and Gehazi. Naaman, a wealthy Syrian general, was healed of leprosy by God through Elisha. He wanted to pay Elisha but the prophet refused. After he left, Gehazi ran after Naaman and told him that some prophets had come to visit. He asked if he would still give the gift of clothing and gold. When Gehazi returned home, Elisha told him that the Spirit revealed to him what Gehazi did. In fact, the Lord allowed him to see it in a type of vision. (2 Kings 5:20-27).

C. Jesus and the woman at the well in Samaria. The Holy Spirit revealed to Jesus that the woman did not have a husband, that she had had five and the man she was with now was not her husband (John 4:1-42). Notice verse 29, *"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did"* (NIV).

D. Cornelius and Peter were both given The Word of Knowledge. First, after Peter receive the vision while at Joppa, the Spirit of God spoke to him and said, *"Behold, three men seek thee"* (Acts 10:19, KJV). Cornelius who was at Caesarea was informed by the Holy Spirit, supernaturally, as to Peter's exact whereabouts. *"Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea"* (Acts 10:5-6, NIV).