

The Holy Spirit

The Gift of the Word of Knowledge — Part 2

1 Corinthians 12: 7-11 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.

The Epistle of First Corinthians is not a letter written to just one person; it is a letter written to the entire Church at Corinth, as well as to the Church — the Body of Christ — in our day.

Some folks have thought these verses applied to an individual person, but Paul was telling the entire Church to covet or desire spiritual gifts, because as an entire body of believers covets them, the Holy Spirit will divide the gifts of the Spirit to every man severally as He wills (1 Cor. 12:11).

As the Spirit Wills Paul infers here that not every man is going to have all these gifts operating through him because he said, “For to ONE [not to everyone] is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to ANOTHER the word of knowledge . . .” (1 Cor. 12:8).

Some people have taken this verse out of its setting and have thought the Bible was just telling individual people to desire all of these gifts, when actually Paul was telling the church as a group or body to covet them.

Lacking understanding, many people try to operate a gift of the Spirit themselves — without the unction of the Spirit of God.

Perhaps a gift of the Spirit has manifested in their lives on occasion, and they think, now I possess that gift and I can operate it at will.

However, if people try to do that, they will invariably get into trouble, because they will be opening themselves up to satanic deception and to a wrong spirit.

Again, **the gifts of the Holy Spirit operate as the Holy Spirit wills, not as we will (1 Cor. 12:11).**

When you get away from the Word, then Satan can accommodate you, even with supernatural manifestations.

Remember, **the Holy Spirit operates in line with the Word of God,** and the Word says His gifts operate as He wills.

If an entire local body of believers will covet the gifts of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will divide to every man severally as He wills — not as I will, not as you will, but as the Spirit wills.

The Word of Knowledge Manifested in Different Ways.

The gifts of the Spirit aren't just manifested in a public assembly, however.

As I mentioned previously, **the word of knowledge will sometimes manifest through a vision, through a dream, through a message from an angel, or through the gift of prophecy.**

The word of knowledge can also be manifested through interpretation of tongues.

However, interpretation of tongues is usually not the vehicle through which the word of knowledge manifests in public assemblies, except perhaps through the ministry gift of diversities of tongues **(1 Cor. 12:28).**

The reason for that is the ministry gift of diversities of tongues is more closely related to the office of the prophet.

The prophet's ministry will more consistently manifest the revelation gifts.

Interpretation of tongues in the local body is usually the equivalent of simple prophecy (for edification, exhortation, and comfort) and contains no revelation in it.

The Word of Knowledge in the Old Testament

There were supernatural manifestations of the word of knowledge in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament.

In fact, all the gifts of the Spirit were in operation in the Old Testament except tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

We will cover the reasons why these two gifts were not included when we study them in a later chapter.

We do find all the other gifts of the Spirit — the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, special faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, and discerning of spirits — manifested in the Old Testament.

These gifts of the Spirit were manifested in the New Testament first in the ministry of Jesus.

Then after the Day of Pentecost, the gifts of the Spirit, with tongues and interpretation of tongues as well, began to be manifested through Spirit-filled believers.

Let's look at the gift of the word of knowledge and how it was manifested in the Old Testament.

The Word of Knowledge to Samuel Regarding Saul's Donkeys

We find in the Old Testament how the gift of the word of knowledge was used to help recover lost property.

When Saul was out looking for his father's donkeys that had either strayed or were stolen, someone said to him, "Why don't you go ask Samuel?

He would know where they are."

1 SAMUEL 9:3,5,6,15,16,19,20 3 And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses. . . .

5 And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us.



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6 And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go. . . .

15 Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

16 To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me. . . .

19 And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.

20 AND AS FOR THINE ASSES THAT WERE LOST THREE DAYS AGO, SET NOT THY MIND ON THEM; FOR THEY ARE FOUND. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?

Of course, Samuel only knew what God revealed to him, because if Samuel knew everything, that would make him omniscient or all-knowing.

Samuel had a word of knowledge for Saul.

He said to Saul, “. . . The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?” (1 Sam. 10:2).

The Word of Knowledge to Samuel Regarding Saul

The word of knowledge also operated in the Old Testament to discover a man in hiding.

Although Samuel had already anointed Saul to be king over Israel, when it came time to reveal him as the king, *Saul hid “. . . among the stuff . . .” (1 Sam. 10:22).*

When the people couldn't find him, they inquired of the Lord instead of sending everyone to look for him.

(Many times that is the quickest way to find an answer.)

The people knew that the Lord knew where Saul was.

And the Lord told them exactly where Saul was.

When they looked where God told them to look, they found Saul.

That was the word of knowledge in operation.

Remember, the word of knowledge reveals certain facts in the mind of God.

The Word of Knowledge Manifested To Locate a Lost Daughter

Before we continue to discuss other Old Testament examples of the word of knowledge in operation, let me give you a modern-day example of how God uses the word of knowledge to locate someone who is lost.

That is scriptural, as we have seen in the examples of Samuel locating both Saul's donkeys and Saul himself when Saul was hiding.

A Pastor was teaching on the subject of the gifts of the Spirit in a church in 1943, when a couple asked him if the Lord could show them how to find their lost daughter.

This daughter had been involved with a gang when she was sixteen years old, and when she disappeared, the police thought the gang had killed her.

Twenty-two years had gone by and in the meantime her mother and daddy, brothers, and sisters had all gotten saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.

The family, with the exception of her mother, had all given the girl up for dead.

The mother kept saying that something on the inside of her told her the girl was still alive.

After the Pastor taught on the gift of the word of knowledge, the couple asked him, "Doesn't God know where our daughter is or whether or not she is alive?"

Would it be all right for us to pray about it?" He said, "Surely," and while they were praying about it one day in the church, one of the women present had a vision.

She saw a woman, now thirty-eight years of age, in a garage apartment with two children, a boy and a girl.

She saw the woman chained and held captive in that apartment.

Then in the vision she saw a letter come and she saw the girl's father going to the post office to get the letter.

Later, the woman told the couple about her vision and said that within thirty days they would receive a letter saying their daughter was alive.

At the end of thirty days, the father went to the post office and got a letter from his daughter who had been missing and presumed dead for twenty-two years.

She was in Houston, Texas.

The letter began, "Dear Mom and Dad, I don't know whether you are alive or not, but if you are and answer this, I will come and see you.

I am alive and well, and will explain everything to you when I see you."

The daughter was reunited with her parents and her entire family.

One Sunday morning soon after that, the daughter came to our service, together with her two children and her parents.

That morning she and her son were saved, and her daughter was saved later.

The woman had told her parents, "Twenty-two years have come and gone since I was taken away.

The law was cracking down on the gang I was in and because I was just sixteen, the gang was afraid I would squeal on them."

This woman continued, "One of the boys knew this so he took me and ran away with me.

We eventually got married, but I knew enough about him to send him to the electric chair, so he just kept me prisoner for a number of years.

He would chain me before going to work every morning.

I could get around the apartment, but I couldn't get out."



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For twenty-two years these parents didn't know that God could really tell them about their daughter who was missing.

They hadn't even thought to pray about it.

But after hearing teaching along this line, they, along with others, were inspired to pray about it, and as they prayed God gave them a word of knowledge revealing that the woman was alive.

God also gave them a word of wisdom (which we will discuss in the next chapter) indicating that they would hear from her in a short time.

The Word of Knowledge to Elijah

Then we see that the word of knowledge was manifested to enlighten and to encourage a discouraged servant.

Elijah had a great time up on the mountaintop when he prayed the fire down from heaven (**1 Kings 18:37,38**).

But when someone told him, "Queen Jezebel said that about this time tomorrow she is going to take your head off your shoulders" (**1 Kings 19:2**), Elijah became worried and fearful.

He climbed under a Juniper tree and begged God to let him die.

Later he said to God, ". . . I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away" (**1 Kings 19:14**).

In other words, Elijah was saying, "Everyone is backslidden but me. Everyone has bowed their knee to Baal, and I am the only one left."

But God gave Elijah a word of knowledge that encouraged and enlightened him.

God said, "No, you aren't the only one left. I have seven thousand people reserved to Myself" (**1 Kings 19:18**).

Elijah couldn't have known that any other way.

I am sure it encouraged him to know that he wasn't the only one left; that God had seven thousand who hadn't bowed their knees to Baal.



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The Word of Knowledge To Elijah Regarding Gehazi

The word of knowledge was also used in the Old Testament to expose a hypocrite.

When Naaman was healed of leprosy and wanted to give the prophet Elisha changes of raiment and silver and gold, Elisha refused it.

But his servant Gehazi ran after Naaman and lied to him.

2 KINGS 5: 21-24 21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

22 And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

23 And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him.

24 And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. Naaman was so thrilled to be healed that he gave him twice the amount of money Gehazi asked for, and Gehazi hid it because he was a thief as well as a hypocrite and a liar. When Elisha asked Gehazi where he had been, he said, “. . . Thy servant went no whither”

(2 Kings 5:25). Elisha said, “. . . Went not mine heart [or spirit] with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? . . .” (2 Kings 5:26).

How could Elisha be sitting in his own house and yet know what was going on several miles away?

God revealed it to him through a word of knowledge.

God gave Elisha a supernatural revelation of what had happened, and it exposed Gehazi, a hypocrite.

The Word of Knowledge to Elisha Regarding Syria

Also in the Old Testament, a word of knowledge was given to warn a king of the enemy's plan of destruction.

2 KINGS 6:8-12 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp.

9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.

10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?

12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

Every time an enemy would set up an ambushment against Israel, the prophet of God would tell Israel their plans.

Finally this king got his servants together and said, ***“We must have a traitor among us who is giving us away” (2 Kings 6:11).***

The servants replied, “No, it is not us. A prophet of God in Israel tells the king of Israel what you speak in your bedchamber.”

That was a supernatural revelation that God gave the prophet Elisha to warn him of the enemy's plan to harm Israel.

The prophet couldn't have known what the king had said in his bedchamber and what he was plotting because he wasn't there.

No, the plans were revealed to him supernaturally by the word of knowledge, and it saved Israel from danger.

The Word of Knowledge in the New Testament



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Now let's look at some other examples of the word of knowledge in operation in the New Testament.

First of all, we see an example of the word of knowledge operating in Jesus' ministry when He ministered to the Samaritan woman in **John chapter 4**.

The Word of Knowledge to Jesus

Regarding the Woman at the Well;

In dealing with the woman at the well in Samaria recorded in **John chapter 4**, Jesus operated in the word of knowledge to convince a sinner of the need of a Savior.

JOHN 4:7,9,10,13-19,25,26 7

There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. . . .

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. . . .

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

18 FOR THOU HAST HAD FIVE HUSBANDS; AND HE WHOM THOU NOW HAST IS NOT THY HUSBAND: in that saidst thou truly.

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. . . .

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he. Jesus asked this woman for water. She asked Jesus who He was and He replied, “. . .

If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water” (John 4:10).

Jesus said, “. . . the water that I shall give . . . shall be . . . a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14).

This Samaritan woman wanted that water.

“Give me this water, so I won’t have to come here and draw,” she said, thinking about the water in the well.

Then Jesus told her to go get her husband.

When she said she didn’t have a husband, He said, in effect, “You are right about that.

You have had five husbands, and the man you are living with right now isn’t your husband” **(John 4:17,18).**

Jesus knew that by an inward revelation — a word of knowledge — and used this gift to bring this woman to salvation.

The Word of Knowledge to Peter Regarding Ananias and Sapphira

In the New Testament, the word of knowledge was also used to reveal corruption in the local church.

In **Acts chapter 5**, we read that Ananias and Sapphira had lied to the church and to the Holy Ghost.

ACTS 5:1-4 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, AND TO KEEP BACK PART OF THE PRICE OF THE LAND?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

It would have been all right if Ananias and Sapphira had sold their property and given only half of the money to the church, but they lied about it.

They kept back part of the money for themselves and said they were giving the entire profit from the sale of the land to the church.

As Ananias laid the money at the apostles' feet, Peter must have asked Ananias something such as, "Is this the price of the land?"

When Ananias said that it was, Peter asked, ". . . why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost . . ." (***Acts 5:3***).

The entire transaction was revealed to Peter through a word of knowledge.

Ananias' wife Sapphira came in and the same thing happened.

And both of them fell dead the same day.

More Experiences With the Word of Knowledge

A certain Pastor, (from his own historicL journals) had many experiences in his own ministry in which the Lord used him in the word of knowledge.

A couple of weeks after he was baptized in the Holy Ghost, the gift of the word of knowledge began to operate through him.

The first manifestation occurred when he was dismissing a service one night.

He closed his eyes to offer the benediction.

As he did, a quick vision appeared before him.



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He saw a person in his congregation who he knew by the Holy Spirit was a new convert.

In the vision, he saw the people she had been with the night before and what she had done.

She was less than a month old in the Lord and had been forced by two other people to do something that was wrong.

He knew by revelation — by the word of knowledge — that this woman felt that God didn't love her anymore because she had sinned.

She had decided that once she left this service, she would never go to church again because she had failed.

This was a spiritual vision that came to him in a second of time.

He spoke to the congregation in such a way that no one else would know what had happened, but that this woman would know that God loved her and was dealing with her.

Before he finished speaking, this woman ran to the altar crying.

The Pastor knew she was saved, but she hadn't been filled with the Spirit.

By the time her knees hit the floor, she received the Holy Ghost.

She found out how much the Lord did love her!

Another instance in which the Holy Spirit spoke to him by the word of knowledge concerning a new convert, occurred in the last church he pastored.

While he was shaving one morning, the Holy Spirit said to him, "I want you to go pray for So-and-so. He has sinned."

This new convert was a forty-three-year-old man, but he had just gotten saved two weeks before.

He had lost his temper on the job and the Holy Spirit showed him that he had sinned and that now he was home in bed.

He had gotten sick as a result of losing his temper.

Here was a man in need, and the Spirit of God knew all about it.



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No doubt there were other people in that pastor's congregation who were in need, but God didn't send him to minister to all of them.

He sent him to minister to this man, and he was restored.

While this same pastor was ministering in a church in Lubbock, Texas, years ago, the Spirit of God moved upon him just as he finished his message. He suddenly found himself saying to quite a large fellow whom he had never seen before, "You — standing in the back next to the aisle. Step out into the aisle."

This man was quite tall and wore cowboy boots which made him even taller.

He was as far back in the church as he could get.

Without question or hesitation, he stepped into the aisle.

He heard myself say to him, "Before you came to church tonight you said to your wife. . . ," and he began to tell him exactly what he had said to her.

He had not wanted to come to church.

Before he finished speaking, he began to cry and sob.

God revealed the secrets of his heart through the word of knowledge.

This man ran down the aisle and slid into the altar.

He had never been saved in his life.

His wife was saved, but he fought her about salvation and the things of God.

However, as the secrets of his heart were manifested, he repented and was born again.

This pastor would not have known what he had said to his wife just before they came to church any other way than by the Spirit of God.

God used that supernatural manifestation of the Spirit to bring this man to Him.

Again, when he was pastoring his last church, he and his wife took their fifteen-year-old niece into their home to help her. His sister's home had been broken by divorce and she had to go to work to make a living.



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Her five children were left alone too much of the time, and as a result, this fifteen-year-old girl got into bad company.

He had to get permission from the judge to get custody of her because she had gotten involved with a gang and was on track to get into trouble with the law.

His niece wasn't a Christian, and she was stubborn and hardheaded.

For example, when they would pray and read the Bible every morning with their children before they went to school, she would just stand by the door and watch. He didn't try to force her to do anything; he just let her stand there if she wanted to.

After a while she would sit down when they prayed, and later she even began to get on her knees and join with them as they prayed.

They laid down certain rules for her to follow.

For example, she could date only on weekends, and she was always to tell them where she was going.

He told her, "I am going to put confidence in you. But the minute you betray my confidence, these privileges are over."

She was taking a home economics class in school and once as an assignment, her class was to prepare a meal for the entire school board.

One Tuesday evening she said, "We are supposed to meet at a friend's house tonight to discuss what we are going to do and how we are going to decorate the hall."

He knew in his spirit that part of what she was saying was true and part of it wasn't true.

He said, "All right, but you must be home this evening at 10:00. Also, don't drive up in front of the parsonage with some boy and sit there with him in the car.

The living room is open and you can come inside and sit with him, but don't sit outside in the car."

Ten o'clock came that night and she wasn't home.



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He went to bed and was lying there meditating with my eyes closed, when suddenly he had a vision.

He saw his niece over at her girlfriend's house.

He saw her dancing with other teenagers; in fact, she was teaching them some new dance steps.

Then at about 11:00 in the evening, his niece and a boy drove up in a car and stopped the car in front of the house.

His niece sat out in the car until 11:30 that night before she finally came in.

He didn't say anything to her that night.

Neither did he mention it the next morning at the breakfast table.

He didn't say a word about it until Friday when she said, "I'm going to run down to the drugstore with a young man to get something to drink."

"No," I said, "you aren't going anywhere. You are grounded for thirty days. You are not to go anywhere except to school and church."

"Well, I would like to know why," she retorted. He said, "I told you if you didn't betray my confidence, I would put more trust in you. However, you did betray my confidence. I told you to be home at 10:00 last Tuesday night and you didn't come in until 11:30."

"Well, we were late getting our plans made," she said. He said, "You sat out in front of the parsonage for thirty minutes. Besides that, you were over there teaching those young folks new dance steps." "Who told on me?" she asked. "The Holy Ghost told me. I was lying in bed with my eyes closed when suddenly in a vision, I was over at your girlfriend's house. I will tell you exactly how the furniture was arranged." As I told her how it was arranged, her eyes got big and she began to stammer and stutter. He said, "The Lord didn't lie about you, did He?" "No," she said, "He didn't lie. But they didn't know some of these new steps and I just thought I would show them."

He said, "But you have betrayed my confidence, so for thirty days you won't go anywhere except to school and to church."



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Before the thirty days were ended, she was saved and baptized with the Holy Ghost, and she wasn't any more troublesome after that.

The Word of Knowledge as an Aid to Prayer

One of the greatest areas where the word of knowledge can be used is as a mighty aid in effectual prayer, either for God's servants in distress or for those in need of spiritual help.

I once read of a minister and his wife who took a teenage boy into their home after their own daughter was grown and had become a missionary.

They wanted to help this boy because he had no parents.

They got custody of the boy through the judge because he had been in some trouble and had become a ward of the court.

The boy got saved and was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he did all right in his Christian walk for a while.

After he finished high school, however, he had a tendency to fall back into some of his old ways, and this caused great grief and concern to the minister and his wife.

One day the boy went to look for a job.

The pastor's wife was at home washing dishes when suddenly she felt compelled to pray.

She didn't know what it was all about, but she stopped right in the middle of her work and began to pray fervently.

While praying in the Spirit, this mother had a vision and saw the young man downtown and he was about to go into a pool hall.

In those days pool halls were dark dives.

She was concerned and prayed earnestly for him.

Then in the vision, she saw him as he got about three feet inside the door.

Suddenly he stood up straight, turned around, walked back out the door, and continued walking down the street.

Then the vision ended.

She began to sing and rejoice in the Spirit because she knew she had won a victory.

Then she got up from praying and went back to finish her dishes.

That afternoon the boy came in, kissed her on the cheek, and said, “Well, Mom, I won a great victory today, and besides that I got a job.”

She said to him, “I’ll tell you what victory it is that you won today.”

And she told him how he had started to go in the pool hall and how he stepped three feet inside, then turned around and went back out.

He said, “That is exactly what happened!”

That was a supernatural revelation of the word of knowledge and it was a mighty aid in prayer.

This mother wouldn’t have known those details except by the Spirit of God.

We all need the gifts of the Spirit in operation in every area of our lives.

Parents of teenagers especially need the Holy Spirit’s guidance and the operation of the gifts of the Spirit in these troubled times.

The word of knowledge can also be used to reveal sickness and the presence of an evil spirit.

For instance, in this pastor’s ministry, he would sometimes know by a word of knowledge that an evil spirit was oppressing the body of someone who was sick.

(Of course, if the person I was ministering to was a believer, the evil spirit would not be in the person’s spirit; it would only be in his body.)

He would speak to the spirit and command it to leave in Jesus’ Name and the person would be healed.

A Mentally Ill Person Set Free By the Word of Knowledge

Many times an evil spirit is involved in cases of mental illness, although this is not always true.

A person can be sick mentally just as he can be sick physically.

Now every time a person has a stomachache, for example, that doesn't mean an evil spirit is oppressing him or that a demon is present in his body.

There could be any number of natural reasons why a particular physical ailment exists.

But on the other hand, an evil spirit could also be present and could be present and working to enforce the sickness or disease.

The same is true with mental illness.

The first experience he ever had along this line occurred while he and his wife were pastoring a church in Texas.

A woman brought her sister home on a furlough from a mental asylum.

The doctor had told the woman that her sister would never be right in her mind and that she would always need institutional care.

This mentally ill woman had been violently insane.

She had tried to kill herself and others, and for more than two years she had been locked away in a padded cell.

As a result of having no exposure to sunshine and very little exercise, her general health had deteriorated.

The doctors said they didn't believe she would ever be violent again but that she would always need institutional care.

They allowed her sister to take her home on a two-week furlough so she could walk in the sunshine and get some exercise.

However, if the sunshine, exercise, and change of environment didn't improve her health, the doctors said she wouldn't live much longer.

She had wasted away to almost nothing.

Her sister brought her over to the parsonage, and as we were praying, the Spirit of God told him to go and stand in front of her and say, "Come out, you unclean spirit in the Name of Jesus."



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He hadn't done anything like that before in his life.

For several years he had been acquainted with this area of the supernatural in praying for folks for healing.

But operating in the gifts of the Spirit in this area was new to him, and he was reluctant.

He wanted to be sure the Lord was talking to him, and yet he sensed He was.

After some persuasion he stood in front of the woman and said, "Come out, you unclean spirit in the Name of Jesus."

You see, it was revealed to him that her trouble was caused by an unclean spirit.

This revelation came by a word of knowledge, not the discerning of spirits, because he didn't see any spirit (we'll discuss the gift of discerning of spirits later).

But the Holy Spirit did give him knowledge of the presence of an evil spirit causing the insanity.

No matter how the presence of an evil spirit is revealed in another person, it still takes faith to deal with it, and many times the gift of faith will be in operation.

For instance, when he said, "Come out, you unclean spirit in the Name of Jesus," there was no visible manifestation.

As far as he could see, there was no change in the way the woman looked or behaved.

Her eyes didn't look any different; she was just as she had been.

Yet he knew that the command of faith was spoken and that the woman was delivered.

Forty-eight hours later this woman's sister called, saying, "Brother, pray!

My sister is having a terrible attack like she did when she first lost her mind."

That news didn't bother me a bit because on the inside of me there was a supernatural faith or knowing that sustained me which was beyond me from a natural standpoint.

It was more than ordinary faith — it was the gift of faith in operation.



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Casually, I said to her, “Don’t worry.

I spoke the word of faith and it has to be.

The devil knows he has to go.

Have you ever read in the Bible where Jesus told an evil spirit to leave a person, and sometimes before the evil spirit would leave, he would throw the person down and tear him **[Mark 1:26]**?

The devil knows he has to go.

When that attack is over, that evil spirit will be gone and your sister will never have another attack. She will be all right.”

Sure enough, when that attack was over, that woman’s mind was clear.

They had to take her back to the institution because she was still a ward of the asylum, but the psychiatrist examined her and dismissed her.

He pronounced her well.

That was many years ago, and we had contact with her after that and she was still well.

This was a manifestation of the word of knowledge and the gift of faith operating together to set this woman free.

Always remember, the revelation that the word of knowledge brings is never future tense — it’s present or past tense.

The word of wisdom, on the other hand, reveals plans and purposes concerning the future.

By the manifestation of the gift of the word of knowledge, the Church can be purified, the distressed comforted, the saints gladdened, lost property recovered, the enemy’s plans defeated, and the Lord Jesus Christ glorified.

Study Questions

1. To whom was the Epistle of First Corinthians written?
2. Why was Paul telling the entire Church to covet or desire spiritual gifts?
3. What does the Holy Spirit operate in line with?
4. How will the word of knowledge sometimes be manifest?
5. List two Old Testament examples of how the gift of the word of knowledge was manifested.
6. List two examples of the word of knowledge in the New Testament.
7. What is one of the greatest areas where the word of knowledge can be used?
8. What can the word of knowledge also be used to reveal?
9. The revelation that the word of knowledge brings is never future tense. What tense is it?
10. What are six things that can happen by the manifestation of the gift of the word of knowledge?

Answer Sheet

1. To whom was the Epistle of First Corinthians written?

The entire Church.

2. Why was Paul telling the entire Church to covet or desire spiritual gifts?

Because as an entire body of believers covets them, the Holy Spirit will divide the gifts of the Spirit to every man severally as He wills (1 Cor. 12:11).

3. What does the Holy Spirit operate in line with?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit operate as the Holy Spirit wills, not as we will (1 Cor. 12:11). The Holy Spirit always operates in line with the Word of God.

4. How will the word of knowledge sometimes be manifest?

The word of knowledge will sometimes manifest through a vision, through a dream, through a message from an angel, or through the gift of prophecy.

The word of knowledge can also be manifested through interpretation of tongues.

5. List two Old Testament examples of how the gift of the word of knowledge was manifested.

Samuel regarding Saul's donkeys, (1 Samuel Chapter 9).

Samuel regarding Saul's hiding place revealed by God, (1 Samuel Chapter 10).

6. List two examples of the word of knowledge in the New Testament.

In dealing with the woman at the well in Samaria recorded in John chapter 4, Jesus operated in the word of knowledge to convince a sinner of the need of a Savior.

In Acts chapter 5, we read that Ananias and Sapphira had lied to the church and to the Holy Ghost.

7. What is one of the greatest areas where the word of knowledge can be used?

In effectual prayer, either for God's servants in distress or for those in need of spiritual help.

8. What can the word of knowledge also be used to reveal?

When illness of any kind is being caused by demonic forces.

9. The revelation that the word of knowledge brings is never future tense. What tense is it?

Present or past.

10. What are six things that can happen by the manifestation of the gift of the word of knowledge?

By the manifestation of the gift of the word of knowledge, the Church can be purified, the distressed comforted, the saints gladdened, lost property recovered, the enemy's plans defeated, and the Lord Jesus Christ glorified.