

The Gifts of the Spirit - Word of Wisdom

1 Corinthians 12:8

The gifts can be divided into groups of three: Revelation, Inspiration, and Power gifts.

The ability to "know" supernaturally, "act" supernaturally, and "speak" supernaturally.

Or we could say, we have the mind of God, the power of God, and the voice of God.

Let's look first at the gifts of revelation, or the ability to "know" supernaturally.

We will not look at the gifts in their order of importance because it's hard to say which gift is more important than the other.

Wisdom and Knowledge

No gift is to be counted small or insignificant.

Obviously, there is a relationship between "wisdom" and "knowledge" the two head the list of all the gifts.

Notice, it is a word of wisdom; not a gift of wisdom.

True wisdom is God's possession and is resident in Him.

Colossians 2:3

The Word of Wisdom is a portion of that infinite wisdom of God which He chooses to reveal through a Spirit-filled believer.

The word "wisdom" is not diplomacy, tact, human skill, glorified intelligence, or psychology.

No amount of experience develops this wisdom; it is supernatural.

The word of wisdom is defined as: The supernatural revelation by the Spirit of the Divine purpose toward individuals or the church; the supernatural declaration of the mind and will of God. The supernatural unfolding of His plans and purposes concerning things, places, people, individuals, communities, and nations.

What is the difference between a word of wisdom and a word of knowledge?

A word of knowledge is more of a revelation of past happenings or of things happening or existing at the present time.

A word of wisdom is a revelation of the purpose or the will of God concerning people, things, or event in the future or looking to the future.

It is confused with a high degree of intellectual or moral efficiency.

A word of wisdom is a miracle.

Natural ability and intellectual ability do not operate in the word of wisdom.

It is often confused with deep spiritual insight and unusual understanding of God's Word, especially with a hard portion of the Word of God.

The gift is not for the unfolding of God's revealed will in His Word, but for the unfolding of His unrevealed will for His purposes apart from His Word.

A word of wisdom is sometimes confused with natural, administrative wisdom.

Jesus, by a word of wisdom, was a better fisherman than the experts Peter and John.

Paul the tentmaker, by the same word of wisdom, made a better mariner than the captain of the ship of which he was a prisoner.

It is not a learned wisdom or ability; it is supernatural wisdom.

A word of wisdom is confused with wiseness, discretion, or prudence in word or act.

Life and experience should make us wise and give us wisdom.

When James says we are to ask for wisdom, he is referring to a general wisdom in the things of God.

General wisdom is not to be confused with a word of wisdom.

1. To warn and guide people concerning future judgment and peril.

Genesis 6:13-21

God's knowledge of a future peril was given to Noah without the aid of an intermediary and God also gave him instructions and His reason for the peril.

Lot is another example.

Genesis 19:12-13

A word of wisdom given by the voice of angels.

2. To reveal God's plan to those He is going to use.

A word of wisdom was given to Joseph; it was given to appoint a leader, to save a people.

3. To assure a servant of God of a Divine commission.

Moses

Paul

What are some present-day uses of this gift?

To warn an individual of approaching danger and deliver from harm.

To confirm or make known a call from God as did Moses and Paul.

To give personal guidance in a particular direction in special circumstances.

To reveal the future.

To reveal a blessing or a judgment yet to come.

Again, a word of wisdom is a glance, so to speak, into the hidden realm of God's future plan and purposes.