

Harvest Warriors NEWSLETTER



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The Word of Knowledge

(Second newsletter of teaching on the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit, in 1 Corinthians 12)

The word of knowledge is a supernatural revelation of information pertaining to a person or an event, given for a specific purpose, usually having to do with an immediate need.

As a new Christian I, Daniel, had a real hard struggle with these gifts. As I went from church to church and meeting to meeting, I got more confused every time I was at a meeting. At nearly every meeting, someone had a word of knowledge for me, and they were all different. I received so many words of what I was

supposed to be doing for the Lord that I had enough things to last me ten life times! When I would ask the pastor or one of the elders they'd just say, "This is what God

wants for your life! This went on until I finally sat down and determined to do an intense search of the bible for myself, to find out just how the gifts of the Holy Spirit were supposed to op-

erate.

To give you an example of how confusing it was, let me share one of the words given to me by a man of high reputation in the large charismatic churches.

I was at a meeting in Kansas City, MO, about 17 years ago. I found myself sitting about three rows back, next to a very attractive young woman. She and I were both very well dressed. We had been discussing her bible and what would be a good bible for a young Christian. We sat and talked for the better part of an hour before the meeting started. Just shortly before the praise and worship team started, a young man came in and excused himself and sat to the right of the young lady with whom I had been talking. He was dressed in mechanics cloths and had ob-

viously just come from work. The young lady greeted him with a hug and gave him a tight hand squeeze. (I thought nothing of it as this is often the mode of greeting within the charis-

You are to be an eagle and soar in the skies!

lady hug hight (I wise Old Owl

matic movement. I had no idea of their true relationship.)

After the praise and worship team finished, the pastor introduced the guest prophet and speaker. His message was good and sounded very biblical. He finished by saying he had a *word* for several of the Children of God and proceeded in giving the various words throughout the sanctuary. When he came to our area, he asked both the young lady and I to stand. He asked us to join hands and started giving us a word of knowledge that supposedly God had for us. These are his exact words:

"God has called you two into a ministry and you will be uprooted and placed in a school of prophecy." He went on to say that we were to give the pure word of God to His people. He said we were to have three children together with the first being a son. As I looked at this beautiful woman, tears were flooding down her cheeks, her mascara running and blackening her face. I thought she was crying for joy. I also thought, "If God has this beautiful

woman to be my bride, praise His wonderful name!"

The prophet continued with more and more things that we would do as a husband and wife team. After about 10 minutes, this young lady collapsed, between the mechanic and myself. As we caught her, the prophet started shouting and praising and singing, clapping and about everything one could imagine.

The young lady finally got herself together and with a shaky voice asked the prophet if that meant she had to divorce her husband, pointing to the mechanic, and marry this man, pointing to me. The prophet did not answer, he just went right on giving words of knowledge throughout the church. All the while this young lady sat dazed and confused.

Brothers and sisters, this has happen to me several times, not about marriage, but about other things. This is why I want to teach you what the true gifts of the Holy Spirit really are, and how they work.

The Word of Knowledge

What it is not!

1. It is not natural knowledge.

This gift is not education, which is the assimilation of more natural knowledge. This gift is not teaching, which is the conveyance of mere natural knowledge. It is not psychology, or a science of the mind. All of these can be performed by people who do not even have the Holy Spirit.

2. It is not fortune telling.

This gift cannot be fortune telling because God's word condemns fortune telling as being of the devil. The devil counterfeits God's gifts, and wants to make fortune telling seem like the word of knowledge, but there is a difference. If a fortune teller knows anything at all supernaturally, you can be sure that it is not the supernatural Spirit of God that gives him or her that knowledge. The devil uses fortune tellers to tell you something that will worry you and break up your home, or break your heart, just like the young lady who sat next to me in the church. He wants to break your finances (while he gets richer) and mess up your future. But God, by the word of knowledge, is generally trying to build His servants up in these areas.

3. Not the gift of all knowledge.

This gift is not the gift of knowledge, but a word of knowledge given by the Holy Sprit. God does not give us all of

His knowledge, but just a word (part) occasionally (not all the time) although, the part will be changed into the whole during the perfect age when we will know Him even as we are known. (1 Corinthians 13:9-10)

4. Not the ability to make good guesses.

This gift is not making good guesses, having a good imagination, or the working of the mind. It does not work through one's mind any more than speaking in tongues does. God speaks to one's spirit by His Spirit without the help of one's natural mind or ears — you simply know it, that's all.

5. Not simply knowledge about God.

This gift is not knowledge of God's Word (although this is good and necessary). The knowledge of God's Word comes by learning, hearing, studying and experience. For instance, Eli, the priest had vast knowledge of God and His Word through experience: but the child Samuel, who had neither, was given a word direct from the throne of God, by the Holy Spirit. Eli had come to the place where he had no open vision and could no longer receive direct words from the Lord.

"Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him . . . Then the Lord said to Samuel: 'Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.. And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever" 1 Samuel 3:7, 11-14

6. Not a vocal gift.

It is not a vocal gift, as it causes you to know things rather than to speak things. If someone speaks the word of knowledge after the Lord has given it to him or her, that part would come under a different category of ministry such as teaching, exhorting, or preaching.

What it is!!!

1. Definition.

The spiritual gift of the word of knowledge is the bestowal of certain facts from the mind of God, which

He sees fit to reveal to one of His servants supernaturally by His spirit. It is only a word, or a portion of God's endless storehouse of knowledge.

2. Methods.

God speaks in divers manners, such as dreams, visions, revelation, or sometimes even an audible voice. It is *always* conveyed supernaturally as in any other spiritual gift. It is completely outside the control of God's servant as to how or when he/she will receive it. This is not something that is received routinely, or when the servant wants it to be received! For example, most of God's servants will continue to minister and speak supposed words of knowledge long after the Holy Spirit had stopped speaking to him. They are then operating strictly in the flesh, instead of under the supernatural anointing of God. We need to be very careful about receiving such words of knowledge. We should always pray and ask God for confirmation one way or the other if they are true or not, and always make sure they completely line up with Gods written word, the Bible. (Far too often, the servant of God is under such pressure from people's expectations to perform, that he/she will fall into the trap of ministering out of their flesh. Such words only please the flesh and tickle the ears, and are not pleasing to the Lord, nor are they from Him.)

3. Abilities.

This gift can tell the whereabouts, conditions, nature, or thoughts, of a person, animal, place or thing, even when it is impossible to learn these things in any natural way.

4. Purposes.

It helps one to look into the heart, mind, or nature of a man and to know his secrets and intentions. It has helped to find lost articles, as in 2 Kings 6, but its main purpose is to help find lost souls as in the book of Acts.

Biblical Examples:

1. Samuel. We find examples of the word of knowledge throughout the Old Testament. In

- 1 Samuel 9 and 10 we see at least two-dozen things that the Lord showed the prophet Samuel through the word of knowledge. Samuel told Saul all that was in his heart. He told him many things about himself. Samuel knew that Saul was hunting his donkeys; that they had been lost three days; that they had already been found; that Saul's father had left home worrying about him; that Saul had been chosen of the Lord to reign over His people; that he should anoint Saul King; that Saul would save the people out of the hands of the philistines; the time of day that he was going to meet Saul; that Saul would meet two men just after he left to go on his way; that the two men would speak to Saul, that Saul would meet three men as he went up to Bethel; that one of the three men would be carrying three kids; that he would meet them at Tabor; that one man would be carrying three leaves of bread; that another would be carrying a bottle of wine; that they would salute Saul; that they would give Saul two loaves of bread; that Saul would come to the hill of God; that he would come to the city; that he would meet a company of prophets; that these prophets would carry musical instruments (namely of psaltery, tabret, pipe and harp); that the company would prophesy; that the Spirit of the Lord would come upon Saul; that Saul would prophesy with them; and that Saul would be turned into another man. All of this was revealed to the prophet Samuel by the Word of Knowledge.
- 2. Ananias. The gift of the Word of Knowledge is also found in the New Testament. In Acts 9:11-16 the Lord speaks to Ananias and tells him the name of a man; the exact house where the man was staying; the name of the man who lived there; the name of the street on which the house was located; the name of the town which Paul was from; that Paul was there praying; that Paul was blind; that Ananias' name had already been revealed to Paul; that Paul knew Ananias would lay hands on him; pray for him to be healed of blindness, and pray for Paul to receive the Holy

Spirit; that Paul (then named Saul) was chosen by the Lord to suffer for the Lord; and that Paul was called to have a ministry to the gentiles. The bible says that "God spoke to Ananias," but the natural man is always ready to discredit such reports. Our carnal side always tries to explain away such things as an illusion or say such things are the work of the devil. The carnal (natural) mind is not subject to the law or God. It is at enmity against God (Romans 8:7). Nevertheless, when Ananias did what he was told by the Lord, he found it all to be true!

of Knowledge while he was up on the house top praying. The Spirit of God showed him that three men were seeking him; that the Lord had sent them; that God had granted salvation to the gentiles; and that all people were equal in God's sight. If Peter had gone to school all of his life, he couldn't have learned such knowledge from natural means. The ALL-KNOWING GOD GAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE TO PETER, and helped him get Cornelius' household saved.

There are many more examples of words of knowledge throughout the Bible – as you look for them, you will be amazed. You will also see a pattern – such words are given for the building up of God's kingdom and the salvation of souls – NOT the edification of a man's flesh such as by telling him he is going to be great or rich!

The young couple I spoke of earlier. Both of them and I went up to talk to the pastor and the prophet after the service. I asked him (the prophet) to explain how this word was to come true. "After all this young lady is happily married and God doesn't believe in divorce," I said. His reply was morbid as far as I was concerned. "Well maybe your husband will drop dead of a heart attack or get hit by a train. I don't know how it will happen, that's between you and God," was his reply. The pastor of that church just nodded his head in agreement.

The last I heard, the young couple had moved to an-

other church in another town and had four children and are still happily married. Since then, of course, I have been happily married to Rebecca for 15 years now.

To this day that prophet doesn't think I am a true Christian because I did not heed his words and marry that girl.

Sometimes we must be like the wise old owl and ask, "Whooooooo – Meeeeee??

Love Offerings

While I was ministering in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Lord spoke to me, Rebecca, and told me that I must begin to teach briefly in our newsletters on the topic of giving in His kingdom. In these past few years, since the Lord commanded Daniel and I to give up our secular jobs and live by faith, we have had a crash course in God's principles of giving. The Lord indicated to me that it is now time to begin to share some of what we have learned with you. Daniel and I have learned in the school of hard knocks! If we do not continually give into God's kingdom as He directs and in accordance with His biblical principles, our own needs are not met! It's as simple as that. We believe that God's leaders should not only be first in service to others, but that they also should be first in giving. Over the next few months I will be sharing with you some of the important lessons on giving the Lord has taught to us through personal experience. It is my prayer that these will help you

The Spirit of the Law versus the Letter of the Law

A few weeks ago I received a call from a brother who is a friend of ours, and who is quite wealthy. As soon as I answered the phone he spoke to me in a tone of total frustration: "Rebecca, I want you to give me the exact scripture in the New Testament that says that I have to give 10% of my income to my church!"

"Well, I cannot do that, as there is, to my knowledge, no such scripture," was my reply.

"Then why is my pastor continually hitting us all over the head, telling us that we MUST give 10% of our income to the church?" he asked in frustration. "Well, obviously, because he wants your money," was my reply. He was silent in shock at my direct answer. I went on to give him the following explanation:

Our lack of faith, and the lack of faith in the leadership of our churches, far too many times places God's people under the bondage of the letter of the law rather than teaching them to function under the spirit of the law. Pastors must have great faith that God Himself will provide the finances needed for their churches.

"For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.' But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. . . . O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God - through Jesus Christ our Lord! So, then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:5-11, 24-25

What in the world does all of this mean? The Law as given by God to Moses, defines sin. It did then, it still does now. However, our flesh hates the law! That's because it cuts across everything we naturally want to do. We have a portion of each one of us, which I call our sin nature, that wants to do evil all the time! As soon as we know, by the law, that God wants us to do something, or not to do something, then our sin nature wants to do exactly the wrong thing every time. Obviously, it is impossible for anyone of us to keep the Law perfectly. "Thou shalt not lie." Everyone of us has disobeyed that commandment! BUT, when Jesus Christ walked here on earth, He kept the law perfectly every hour of His whole life. That's why He could die on the cross and pay the price for our sins - He didn't have any of His own to pay for. At the time of our salvation, Jesus comes to live inside us, literally, through the Holy

Spirit. Through His working in our lives each and every day, He changes the desires of our hearts so that we desire to do those things that are pleasing to God. This sets us free from the letter of the law. Where we once naturally wanted to do everything to break the law, now, through the working of Jesus in our hearts, we now desire to DO the things written in the Law. That's why God says in Hebrews:

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Hebrews 8:10

God doesn't want us to try to obey His law with our flesh, or through our own efforts. We are doomed to fail, and then to frustration and anger. HE wants to help us obey the law by putting the desire in our hearts. It is easy for us to do those things we desire to do! The more we love Jesus, keep our minds and hearts centered on Him and God's word, the more our hearts will desire to do those things that are pleasing to the Lord, i.e., those things in the Law. That's what functioning under the Spirit is all about – God doing it for us through the God given desires of our hearts.

We need to know what is in the law, certainly! But stop hitting yourself and others over the head with the law. Relax, concentrate on developing your personal relationship with Jesus, ask Him to work in your heart every day, and you will find yourself obeying the Law, not because you know it is the Law, but because you are following the God-given desires of your heart.

"For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:10

God knows how true this is in our every one of our lives! So He tests us in this matter very frequently. There is much teaching written throughout both the Old and New Testament on this subject. Malachi 3 says:

"Will a man rob God?
Yet you have robbed Me!
But you say,
'In what way have we robbed You?

In tithes and offerings.
You are cursed with a curse,
For you have robbed Me,
Even this whole nation." Malachi 3:8-9

Clearly, from this passage, God is very serious about people giving into His kingdom – but not just 10%. That amount is the bare minimum! However, as soon as we know by the Law that Go wants us to give 10% of our income as a minimum into His kingdom, our sin nature rebels, and we don't want to do it. What then is the difference between the letter of the Law and the Spirit of the Law in this matter of tithes and offerings?

Letter — You do the minimum required only because you are afraid of the consequences if you do not, yet you hate doing it. You do the minimum required because you think you can then get by without having to do anything more. Or, you give only because you are told that you can get wealthy by doing so, receive back \$100 for every dollar you give, etc.

Spirit — You give abundantly out of love – for the Lord and a desire to honor Him, and a love for others. You never think about the minimum because you give out of love and joy, therefore you never have to calculate the minimum. You just give as your heart desires to give and by the leading and command of the Holy Spirit. Believe me, you will find yourself giving more than 10% if you simply give out of your heart. A wonderful example of this is found in Exodus 36:

"Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work. And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, and they spoke to Moses, saying, 'The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded us to do.' So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, 'Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.' And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done indeed, too much." Exodus 36:2-7

These people gave from their hearts, not because of the Law. God moved on the hearts of the artisans AND the people who gave. When people gave by the Spirit of the Law instead of under the letter of the Law, they gave in abundance. AND the Lord blessed them in abundance in return! Another example is found in 2 Chronicles 24;14 and 2 Chronicles 31:8-11.

We certainly believe people should generously and consistently support and give to their churches! However, you need to consciously make giving to others both in time, effort and money and prayer a routine part of your life. You will find that God will direct you to give all sorts of places. I recommend that everyone should be ready to give all the time. Always carry at least \$20 extra in your billfold so that you can give when and where God directs. BUT, don't just give cash, give what is needed. Use wisdom in this. Let me give you just one example from my own life.

Two months ago I was ministering in North Carolina. After the last meeting I went out to dinner with several sisters who had attended the meetings. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, and were very late leaving the restaurant – nearly midnight. We stood together in the parking lot holding hands, having an impromptu little prayer meeting. Suddenly, I realized that a man in a pick-up truck had pulled up beside us, and was sitting with his window down quietly listening to us. I stopped our prayers and stepped over to him saying, "Can I help you sir?"

He smiled and said, "Well, I have enjoyed listening to you ladies pray, but I have a real problem. I'm here to visit my girl friend, and I just realized I left my billfold at home, I'm nearly out of gas and no way to get more to finish my trip to her house. Can you ladies help me?"

The others all started to shake their heads "No," but I said, "Sure, I'll be glad to help you. But I must tell you, sir, that I won't give you cash because I have no way of knowing just exactly what you'll use it for. Are you sure it is gas that you're wanting?"

"Yes it is," he said.

"O.K., there's a gas station about a mile down this road, I will drive down there and meet you there." I said. I asked one of the sisters to come with me so that I would not be alone, just in case he tried to do anything he shouldn't. We drove down, and I filled his tank with gas, and we both went on our way. As I drove the sister back to her car she asked me, "Rebecca, as late as it is, and as cold as it is out, why did you do that?"

I was surprised, "How could I not?" I asked. That man stopped and asked us for help because he saw us praying. He knew we were Christians, and that Christians are supposed to characterized by giving. I would have brought disgrace to the name of Jesus if I had not helped him!" You should always carry something like the "Get Out OF Hell Free" card that we have published in previous newsletters. You can give this to someone as you help them, and tell them about the love of Jesus for them.

So many Christians bring disgrace to the name of Christ by going to a restaurant to eat after the Sunday morning service, and then being surly to the waitress, AND worst of all, failing to leave a tip, and also not leaving a generous tip! We have heard this from waitresses all over the nation. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!

Make giving a way of life. You will soon find out just how much fun it really is!

Pastors all too often live under the Law and put their people under the bondage of the letter of the Law in the matter of giving because of their own lack of faith, and their own lack of giving. They beat their people over the head by harping at them to give 10%, 10%, 10%... It's also possible for a church and its leadership to become greedy. Church leadership can put the church so deep in debt, salary too many staff, etc., so that they have to continually beat their people for money. Instead, churches themselves have to give just the same as individuals. The church comes under the same Kingdom principles of giving as do individuals. 1 Corinthians 16:1 shows us that the Apostle Paul expected Churches to give as well as individuals.

When the above conditions occur in churches, competition between churches comes in, and pastors don't allow their people to go to conferences held at other churches for fear of loosing them and their money. They also stop preaching against sin for fear of loosing their biggest tithers and bitter competition comes in between churches. This is an abomination to God!

Unfortunately, we also have traveling ministers who come through and high pressure people to give in an ungodly way just to get more money for themselves and their ministries. As people give under pressure, not because of the Lord's leading, they lose God's blessings on their offerings. (We will write more about this in the next newsletter.)

Be set free! Ask God to move in your heart in the matter of giving and throw your calculator away! Make a habit of carrying a little extra money on you at all times, no matter what your income, so that you can be ready and available for God to use to help others. The more you give, the more you will want to give, and the more God will bless you in return – in every area of your life.

Please understand, we are not writing these things to make you give into our ministry! We want you to be blessed! Give where and how the Lord leads you to give, not as man directs.

We deeply appreciate those of you who do support us. As you send your gifts, we lay our hands on and pray over each one, asking the Lord to richly bless the sender in return. If you do send us an offering, please do so in the enclosed envelope.

Copies

You are always welcome to copy any of our newsletters to give to other people. If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, if they live inside the U.S., please send their name and address to us. We will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

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Love Offerings

We are a faith-supported ministry. That means, we are directly dependant on your obedience to God to meet our needs and keep the many facets of this ministry going. We really need your monthly support! Just to put out this newsletter costs us close to \$3,000 per month, and the Lord is telling me to start sending it out in Spanish. We are praying that the Lord will increase our monthly support to cover this need. We do not charge anything for the newsletter, and are determined to continue to send it out free. I have an opportunity to travel to other countries, but am unable to do so simply because I cannot cover the cost of my air-plane tickets. Please pray and ask the Lord what He would have you do to support this ministry.

We deeply appreciate those of you who do support us. As you send your gifts, we lay our hands on and pray over each one, asking the Lord to richly bless the sender in return. Please send your offering in the enclosed envelope.

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