

THE GIFT OF REVELATION

INTRODUCTION

We are going to learn about the gifts of Holy Spirit in these coming 3 weeks. The first gift that we are going to study is the gift of revelation. These gifts are called the gift of revelation because “the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and the gift to discern the spirits” are the direct revelation from Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION

1. The word of wisdom. [1 Cor 12:8]

God’s wisdom is not the same with man’s wisdom. The wisdom of the world says that the smarter we are, and the more we could make other people confuse, the wiser we are. But God’s wisdom is practical, to the point and simple. For example, in Jesus’ teaching, He talked about lamp, light, sheep, fish, life, death, love, and hatred which are easily understood by people.

Sometimes we are led by Holy Spirit to speak something and then we think: why did I say that? But it turns out that people who heard what we said later told us something like this: It seems that God speaks to me through you!

This happens because the Holy Spirit gives us the word of wisdom. There is also another thing called daily wisdom. For example, when we face difficulties in our job or when we face certain situation and our own wisdom is not good enough to settle them – when we come to God, God gives us His wisdom to settle them by letting us know what to do in that situation. Speaking with the word of wisdom is the situation when God imparts His wisdom to us through Holy Spirit.

Some examples found in the Bible are:

- **Lukas 5:4-10:** Jesus, the carpenter taught the fishermen where to let down their nets. The effect is an extraordinary spirit conviction (v.8). This is a sudden consciousness that God knows everything, nothing is hidden from Him; and this awareness could destroy the stone heart and pride in an amazing way. Application of this verse is not only about catching fishes in spiritual way, but also the realization that they were chosen to become the fisher of men.
- **Acts 6:1-4:** this is the example of speaking the word of wisdom: ability to settle a problem, quarrel, difficulties which lead to an agreement. (v.7)
- **Acts 10:9-16:** Peter was led by God to do something which was in contrast with his own will and background: to evangelize and go to non Jewish’s home. The result of this obedience was the salvation of many people. (v.48)
- **Matthew 21:1-7:** Jesus knew the program for that day. He knew there was a donkey that he could ride. God’s wisdom will open the heart and fulfill all practical’s needs.

The point here is about time (Eccl 3:1-3). Whether we want to tear down or build up, it all depends on time. Whether we want to plant or harvest, it all depends on time. We can’t never be able to say yes or no to the questions related to God’s wisdom; time is the most important and decisive factor. Who know the right time? Holy Spirit!

2. The word of knowledge [1 Cor 12:8]

Just like the wisdom, the word of knowledge is the knowledge where God imparts His amazing knowledge to the believers through Holy Spirit. The believers speak the word of wisdom under the control of Holy Spirit.

Some examples found in the Bible are:

- **John 1:47-48:** Jesus saw Nathanael not with His physical eyes but with a vision through Holy Spirit’s revelation. Read Nathanael’s reaction in v. 48. Nathanael was convinced. This is the result of speaking the word of knowledge.
- **John 4:15-19:** Jesus met a Samaritan woman near a well. Jesus knew the woman’s past in details. The reaction of this Samaritan woman was a confession of Jesus.
- **Acts 5:1-11:** The sin of Ananias & Sapphira was not because they hid a part of their land’s sale proceed, but

because of their pretence as if they had given all the money. They tried to deceive the living God. Peter did not know about this, but the Holy Spirit inside him knew. Heb 4:13 – we are accountable to the living God; we are not accountable to our church leaders, deacons, or the pastors. We could not deceive the living God.

- **Acts 10:19-21:** the word of knowledge is also a confirmation of what God has said to us earlier.
- **Acts 21:10-11:** the word of knowledge will prepare us to face the future. Paul was mentally and spiritually prepared to go to Jerusalem and face the things that would happen to him.

The main result of speaking the word of knowledge is a strong conviction about the truth. The second result is a confirmation about the things that God has revealed or planned. The third result is a preparation to face the future in certain situations.

3. The gift to discern the spirits. [1 Cor 12:10]

This gift comes in many ways, for example as a vision where we see something unusual; like the vision that John the Baptist saw when Jesus went up out of the water in Jordan river after the baptism. Only John saw that the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Jesus. Or in the book of Revelation, Apostle John was given a vision about 3 evil spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. (Rev. 16:13-14).

It may also happen when we see something natural, we see this from the understanding of Holy Spirit. For example, we see rebellious spirit inside someone who appears to be polite, friendly and with good attitude.

The ability to discern many spirits is very useful; even though it is so scary, and shameful (because we know something we're not supposed to know), we have to be ready for it. Only few people could use this gift perfectly at the earlier stage, but with more practice, we could use this gift better or even perfectly. (Hebr 5:14).

This gift is not the ability to see evil spirits only. There are many kinds of spirits: Holy Spirit, good angels, fallen angels (the devil, evil spirits), and the spirit of man.

Some examples found in the Bible are:

- -Holy Spirit
In John 1:29, 31-33: when John the Baptist saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, He knew who the Messiah was. Or in Acts 2:3-4: the Holy Spirit is like the tongues of fire. It's important for us to learn recognizing the Holy Spirit, when He moves, with whom He moves and how He moves. When we don't recognize Him, we would lose the things that God is doing or planning to do.
- Angels
Luke 22:43: When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane, an angel came to strengthen Him.
John 20:1-12: What Peter and John saw in Jesus' tomb were only the strips of linen and the burial cloth, and then they went home....only Mary saw an angel.
- The spirit of man
John 2:23-25: Jesus could see unseen things, the inner and outer man.
Acts 14:8-10: Paul could see that the crippled man had a faith to be healed.
- Evil spirit
In Jesus' ministry, this gift is often used in healing. Sometimes sickness is caused by evil spirit.
Mat 9:32-33: Jesus could see that the person was deaf and mute because of the evil spirit. When the evil spirit was driven out, this person could speak.
Acts 16:16-18: the words spoken by the girl were right but Paul knew there was evil spirit inside her.

The gift to discern spirits is important for the body of Christ, which causes believers to be able to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit and the ways God works.

This gift could reveal the character and motivation in men's hearts. This gift could also identify the evil spirit as the cause of disease and quarrel. When this gift is fully utilized in the body of Christ, it would bring the church's and world's ministry to the greatest height.

CONCLUSION

1 Cor 1:5-7 "For in Him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed." Praise Jesus for everything He has prepared for us.