

## Term 2 – Equipped by God for the Journey

### Lesson 10

## Gifts of the Spirit: Part 2

In the last lesson, we studied the foundational truths that are necessary to understand each of the individual gifts of the Spirit. The gifts are given to the body of Christ and are necessary to complete the building of His Church. **Matthew 16:18** “...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” **John 14:12** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” **Acts 1:4-5** “And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” **Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”. **Mark 16:20** “And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” It is important to note that Jesus possessed and operated all the gifts and they are now given to us by the Holy Ghost. With these foundational truths in mind, we will now study each of the nine gifts of the Spirit identified in **1Corinthians 12**.

### Word of Wisdom

The first two gifts are seen in **1Cor12:8**. The first gift mentioned is the “word of wisdom” and the second is the “word of knowledge.” It is helpful to study the word of wisdom together with the word of knowledge because these two gifts operate hand-in-hand. The word of knowledge brings “spiritual truth and understanding” to a matter and the word of wisdom tells us the “spiritual direction or way” to deal with that matter. To follow Christ Jesus, we need to understand spiritual matters and then we need to know what to do with that understanding. For example, the Spirit reveals to us that we are sinners when the light of the gospel shines into our souls. Then, the wisdom of God reveals that Jesus is the Christ and our action must be to accept His Blood as the solution for our sin. **John 14:6** “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

A wonderful example of the two gifts operating together is shown in **John 8:1-11** “Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

*And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”* Jesus discerns, by the word of knowledge, that this situation was not about the woman’s sin. Instead, it was a test of Jesus’ teachings. We see the word of knowledge shine His light on the hearts of the accusers and it reveals their own sin to them. Next, we see the word of wisdom in operation, giving the perfect answer to the situation *“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”* The purpose of these gifts is revealed: victory over sin for both the accused and the accusers.

God’s wisdom is not as the wisdom of man. It cannot be obtained by any worldly means. **Isaiah 55:8-9** *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* **1 Corinthians 3:18-19** *“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”* **James 3:13-18** *“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

*But the wisdom that is from above*

*is first pure,  
then peaceable,  
gentle,  
and easy to be intreated,  
full of mercy and good fruits,  
without partiality,  
and without hypocrisy.*

*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”*

The church must seek after God’s wisdom and move in God’s wisdom. God’s wisdom does not condemn but the Holy Ghost convicts us and brings a solution to us (life rather than death). **Proverbs 4:5-7** *“Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”* **Colossians 3:16** *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* **Colossians 4:5** *“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”* **Colossians 1:9** *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”*

**1 Corinthians 2:12-16** *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”*

The word of wisdom is essential in the church. It is given to equip the body to use the Word as powerful witnesses of the salvation of man through Jesus Christ, which is the will of God. **Ephesians 5:15-17** *“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

### **Word of Knowledge**

The gift of the word of knowledge brings spiritual truth or understanding. This may be specific revelation or understanding of the Word. It may also reveal the truth of a past or present event so that the Lord's direction or solution may be applied to the situation. Knowledge always precedes wisdom. The word of knowledge shines God's light into our lives and reveals the truth. Then, we are given God's solution. **John 8:31-32** *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* The word of knowledge is used in counselling ministries to discern the root causes of behaviours and bondage in our lives. This is so the hold of sin can be broken in both our individual lives, and in the body of Christ, His Church. **Proverbs 9:10** *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”*

Here are some examples from the Bible: **Acts 5:1-11** *“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 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. 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? 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. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.”*

**Matthew 9:1-8** *“And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?”*

*For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.”*

In these examples, we see that the truth of a matter is revealed by the Spirit (word of knowledge) so that the Word and salvation of God can proceed.

In the next scriptures, we see that the Lord desires His Church to have knowledge of Him and His Word through the Spirit. The gift of the word of knowledge is used to impart understanding of God’s plan to His church. **Ephesians 1:17-23** *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*

**Colossians 1:9-11** *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;”*

**1 Timothy 2:3-6** *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”* **2 Peter 1:1-4** *“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

It is by the Spirit, through the word of knowledge, that the scriptures are opened unto us. **Luke 24:45-49** *“Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”*

What glorious gifts the Lord has bestowed upon His church through the power of the Holy Ghost!

### DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Why are the Gifts of the Spirit given to His church?
2. How are the Gifts of the Spirit given to His church?
3. What is the function of the gift of the word of wisdom?
4. What is the function of the gift of the word of knowledge?
5. How do these two gifts function together?
6. What are the qualities of the word of wisdom identified in James 3:13-18?
7. How do these differ from the qualities of worldly “wisdom”?
8. In Acts 5:1-11, where do you see the word of knowledge being used?
9. What are the works of the word of knowledge identified in Eph 1:17-23?

**ANSWER KEY**

1. The gifts are given to complete the building of His church, to bring the salvation of God to the world.
2. The gifts are given by the Holy Ghost
3. The word of wisdom reveals God's direction or solution.
4. The word of knowledge reveals God's truth and understanding of situations and His Word
5. In order to fix something, you must first know the true problem. Then you can apply the appropriate solution for that problem. The word of knowledge shines God's light on the Word, a situation, or individual problem to reveal the truth and bring understanding. The word of wisdom provides Gods answer or solution to the problem through God's Word.
6. The word of wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, without hypocrisy.
7. Worldly wisdom is foolishness with God. It is bitter envying and strife, sensual, devilish, confusion and evil work.
8. The word of knowledge revealed to Peter that Ananias held back funds. He let Ananias, by his own actions, bring judgement to himself. The word of knowledge also revealed that his wife, Sapphira, was also involved. Sapphira's own actions brought God's judgement upon her. This event brought the fear of the Lord upon the church.
9. The works of the word of knowledge are: eyes of understanding enlightened, know the hope of His calling, riches of the glory of our inheritance, the exceeding great power given unto us, power of Jesus over all principality, power, might, and dominion, and every other name in this world and the world to come, all things put under his feet, head over all things to the church