

## Word of Knowledge

We have a few weeks left in our series about the Holy Spirit. We have learned about the fruits of the Spirit.....the way the Spirit manifests in us as we draw near to Him. We begin to have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, forbearance and self-control. We don't choose these things....They are evidence of the Holy Spirit living in us and being in control of our lives.

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Then we spent weeks looking not at the fruit of the Spirit but some gifts of the Spirit than Jesus promised to give those who believe.

1 Corinthians 12:4–13:7 (ESV) 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 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, 11 to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 12 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

The utterance of Knowledge. The utterance of Wisdom, and The Discerning of Spirits.

We are going to unpack these three gifts over the remaining weeks of this series because in many ways they are related. All three of these gifts involve knowing or gaining knowledge not from your observations, not from deductions you can make, and not from your own insight or intelligence.

These three gifts involve you or I becoming aware of a truth that comes to us straight from God. They are gifts where we are literally tapping into the mind of God.

1 Corinthians 2:15–16 (ESV) 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

We don't think about this too much it seems, but when the Holy Spirit dwells within us, the things He knows He can share with us. If sharing information with us advances the Gospel and His purposes, then He will do so. God does not want us living unaware of what He is doing, particularly during trials.

James 1:2–5 (ESV) 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

So how does God share what He wants us know with us? How are these gifts manifested? What is the difference between knowledge, wisdom, and discernment? Are they all the same? Are they all interrelated?

### The Gift of the Utterance of Knowledge.

This gift is manifested when God tells us something we could not otherwise have known or come to on our own. It is something that you know is true, but you have not reason to know it. You could never have come to it on your own. It is not someone with a lot of human knowledge...This is God stuff.

Matthew 16:13–17 (ESV) 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Peter at this point had no reason to deduce that Jesus was God...Christ....The Messiah. He likely wondered about it, but when He spoke those words, You are the Christ the Son of the Living God, I suspect he blurted it out and then wondered where that came from.

To us it is a logical conclusion based on all that we know. But notice that none of the other disciples said it. They stayed with Elijah? Jeremiah? a prophet? Peter didn't ask, He answered.

And Jesus said....there is no way that you knew that. That didn't come to you from any human source....that came to you Spiritually....straight from the Father.

Then Jesus tells Peter something very interesting that I believe the Catholics have misinterpreted for centuries.

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus told Peter....God revealed this to you...you didn't know this....and then He immediately says...in the context of that truth....on this rock I will build my church. He is not saying that He will build His church on Peter.

He is doing a word play. You are Peter....Peter means Rock. I am building my church. The foundation of my church will be this revelation that you have just revealed.

The Catholics believe that Jesus is claiming to build His church on Peter and thus they make Peter the rock or foundation of their faith. They believe that each Pope has been a reincarnated Peter. That the Pope is literally Peter and thus whatever He says or does is as an apostle of God and thus unquestioned. To Catholics the Pope's words are literally Scripture.

But Protestants look at this passage completely differently.

The Cornerstone of the Church is Jesus Himself. The Apostles for the foundation and each believer is a living stone. Collectively we all make up the church. The one that Jesus says the Gates of hell can't prevail against....we will get to that part in a minute.

1 Peter 2:4–6 (ESV) 4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Ephesians 2:17–22 (ESV) 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

So the church that Jesus says He will build is a Spiritual church of believers. What holds them together? How does Jesus build this church? Well He told Peter. I will build my church through the same experience that you just had.

The Rock is not you Peter. The foundation of this Spiritual church is the Spiritual Revelation of Who I am. In other words, I am going to send you out into the world to tell people who I am. Some of them will believe, not because of something that they know, but because I will reveal the truth to them....each one individually will experience the revelation that you just declared. They will try to find me or resist me with their minds and I will connect with their heart.

They will try to understand Him with their heads....they will try to use human knowledge and wisdom, but all true believers come to salvation because I will reveal the truth about Jesus to them.

Here is what most Christians do not know. We didn't decide to follow Jesus. God revealed to us who Jesus is and we couldn't help but follow Him. The main point of the Faith is that we were dead in our sins and could not do anything to save ourselves. WE are not saved because we decided to follow Jesus. We are saved because God decided to reveal to us who He is.

Like Peter, each of us experienced a moment where God revealed directly to us that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Once God revealed that truth to us, we surrendered to Jesus. Had He never revealed that truth, we would never surrender on our own. Each living stone of Jesus' church came to Him in the same way. God revealed and we responded.

God saved us by raising us from Spiritual death, opening the eyes of our blind hearts, tearing down our pride, and giving us the gift of faith so that we could believe and grow.

Please don't miss this. You didn't do it. You didn't make Jesus accept you. You didn't decide to follow Jesus on your own. You likely decided but only after the Spirit of God revealed the truth of Who Jesus really is to you.

You and I were once dead and buried. Children of Wrath. Not my Words....God's.

Ephesians 2:1–10 (ESV) 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

We were born natural not Spiritual. God's word says that those who are natural are unable to discern God's Word. Even Satan could see that Jesus was the Son of God and know that He died for sinners. But He could not see Jesus as Lord and Savior. In our natural state, the eyes of our hearts are blind to the Glory of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:2–4 (ESV) 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

We were blind to Christ. God had to open our eyes Spiritually. We did not do it..He did.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV) 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

So we did not save ourselves. We did not open our blind eyes. We did not raise ourselves from the dead and we did not create our own faith. In fact, we all naturally resisted such things. But God....through a Word of Knowledge....broke through our resistance and brought us to Him. What was impossible for us, God did.

Nothing in your flesh....in your fallen and sinful state...would make you want to follow Jesus. IF the Spirit of God had not revealed to you what He revealed to Peter, you would not be a believer.

Think about this for a moment. God died for you. God paid the price He demanded for your sins. God came to earth. Reveled Himself and the Truth. Showed us how to be saved. Stayed here in the Spirit. Gave us gifts and fruits of the Spirit. Reveals to us who Jesus is. AND even gives us the gift of Faith so that we can believe. He does everything....We have done nothing.

Ephesians 2:4–10 (ESV) 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might

show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

2 Timothy 1:5–10 (ESV) 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

God saved you and He saved me. We had nothing to do about it. Yes we decided to surrender but we could only do so once truth was revealed to us and once God gave us the power to do so.

Once you truly know who Jesus is....Once in your Soul you know the truth....you can't deny it. Have you ever tried to deny something that you knew to the depth of your core was true? If you truly know something as true, you can't actually deny it long term.

So once we get to our Peter moment and God uses the gift of Knowledge to reveal to us who Jesus really is....We become the next brick in the living church.

The church was not built on Peter and the Pope is not the reincarnated Peter. The church was built on what Peter had just experienced....a Word of Knowledge straight from God.

Knowing that God saved you changes everything.

It enables you to feel a thankfulness for what God did for you. If you think you did it, you will not be thankful.

It makes you realize that when it comes to sharing the Gospel, the work must be done by Him. Not You.

Knowing God saved you makes you realize that no human is beyond His reach. It inspires you to pray even for those that you think are hardened sinners and far from God,

Rather than praying that God would give us the words for the perfect argument....We can pray that God will open the eyes of those we love and show them Jesus so clearly that they cannot help but surrender and follow Him.

Most importantly, Knowing that God saved you keeps you from trying to take credit for your salvation and your standing with Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV) 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

It is a gift from God....which Gift...the Gift of Knowledge.

While we are here, lets address the statement Jesus made.

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

We often interpret this passage as some sort of battle cry of Spiritual War. Sort of a Calling Satan out cry. I am going to build my church and you Satan can't stop me. While this is true, it is not the point Jesus was making.

Ok so stay with me here for a moment. Look at this verse more carefully. On this Rock....(the noun of this sentence) I will build my church and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. (pronoun). What is the it referring to?

"It" is not the church. "It" is referring to the noun of the sentence. The Rock. The actual revelation of who Jesus is. Jesus is saying something much deeper here.

Satan has taken sinners, all of us, and destined us to Hell. He does all that he can do to make sure that we get there. We are shackled, bound and imprisoned spiritually. We deserve to go to Hell and Satan is determined to get us there. We are held as prisoners behind bars. The idea of the gates of Hell is that we are being held inside and can't get out. The gates of hell I believe are the things in our lives that Satan uses to keep us in sin and imprisoned. One person's gate may be lust, another drugs, some pride, some wealth....Satan surrounds us with the traps of life and uses them to keep us bound for Hell.

If you think about it, Gates have two puposes. To keep people out who want to come in and to keep people in who want to come out.

Now the Gates of Hell are not designed to keep people out. People are not trying to break down the gates of Hell so that they can go in. Not a commonly desired destination.

The idea of the gates of hell is that sinners are imprisoned and can't get out.

We can't go break down the gates of hell and free anyone. We don't save people....remember only God does that. If people destined for hell are going to get out of their bondage....it will be through their the faith that they receive that allows them to believe in Jesus. The very foundation of the church. The direct revelation from God to those who are His.

Jesus is saying....Through the Spirit, My Father and I are going to reveal to lost sinners shackled behind the gates of their destiny....Hell. They can't escape, they can do nothing for themselves. But I have chosen them. They are mine and Satan can't have them. But through the Word of Knowledge, I will reveal to these lost sinners the truth. From God's Spirit straight to our hearts.

One day I will impart the truth to them and they will just know. They will know who I am, Who Jesus is and who the Spirit is. They will know the truth and the truth will set them

free. Because of what they know, they will surrender and follow Jesus. In fact, I am going to give them the faith they need to do that. That is the rock....the foundation....the essence of the church. And the gates of Hell....the things Satan has surrounded themselves with....the relationships that keep them in sin....the drug that keeps them in bondage....the lust that keeps them enslaved....Nothing that Satan uses to snare them can stop God's revelation of the truth to those He has chosen. .

So our very faith....our salvation....came to us as a Word of Knowledge from God. Jesus operated in this Spiritual Gift constantly during His time on earth.

He lived fully human and fully God. But He didn't carry all the knowledge of God around with Him. He spoke what the Father revealed to Him. Some things that He should know as a God He did not seem to know while on earth.

Matthew 24:36 (ESV) 36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

Mark 10:39–40 (ESV) 39 And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

Jesus didn't seem to know when He would return. He didn't seem to know who was granted the seats of honor in heaven....How can that be. If He is fully God how can He not know these things?

The key to understanding Jesus' seeming lack of knowledge in this matter lies in the nature of the Incarnation. When the Son of God became a man, He remained fully God, but He also took on a true human nature. Jesus retained all the attributes of divinity, yet, as a man, He voluntarily restricted their use. This was part of the "self-emptying" or self-renunciation spoken of in Philippians 2:6–8.

Philippians 2:6–11 (ESV) 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross, 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

When Christ entered our world, He laid aside the privileges that had been His in heaven. Rather than stay on His throne in heaven, Jesus "made himself nothing" When He came to earth, "he gave up his divine privileges" . He veiled His glory, and He chose to occupy the position of a servant.

John 5:30 (ESV) 30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.



John 6:38 (ESV) 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Some things Jesus apparently chose to "give up the rights" to be privy to during His earthly ministry. The knowledge of when He would return was one of those things. Jesus, now exalted in heaven, surely knows all, including the timing of His second coming.

The Gift of the Utterance of Knowledge can be seen numerous times in Jesus' ministry. Remember that this Gift is given to advance the Gospel.

One day Jesus had to go through Samaria to meet a woman at the well. Perhaps this story is familiar to you.

During Jesus' discussion with this woman, He revealed things that He could never have known unless the Father had told Him. As human this knowledge was not available to Him.

John 4:17–19 (ESV) 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

She knew it immediately. Only God or a man of God could know these things about me. I perceive that you are a prophet....She is captian obvious

Why did the Father reveal this to Jesus? To advance the Gospel. I suspect that He revealed much more to her in their private conversation. Look at what she tells the people in her town.

John 4:39–42 (ESV) 39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.

Jesus used a word of knowledge from the Father to reveal to her the truth of who He was. He told me all that I ever did. Because of this revelation, she had her heart opened to receive the Word of Truth about Jesus. She did need no education.....through the Word she became became another brick in the wall.

And because of her testimony, God reached others so they too could have their Peter moment....You are the Christ the Son of the Living God....and You are my Savior.

John 4:39–42 (ESV) 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

Jesus revealed a Word of Knowledge to Nathaniel.

John 1:45–51 (ESV) 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come



and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Jesus telling Nathaniel....You ain't seen nothin yet. Why did the Father reveal this to Jesus....to advance the Gospel. Nathaniel had to be convinced that something good came out of Nazareth.

So lets take what we have learned today and begin to reshape our approach to those who don't know Jesus. If the people we care about...and hopefully that is everyone....then the only way they come to know Jesus is if God Himself reveals the truth to them.

How does that change the way you approach evangelism?

Many try to reach others by arguing with them or having some intellectual debate. It is as if they believe that a solid proof of God will turn someone to believe.

Anything that happens in the mind will fall short if it doesn't reach the heart. We can debate and teach truth to those who are lost all day long....but our brilliant intellectual arguments can only serve to break down some of the obstacles that they have.

Apologetic debates may make it easier for someone to be open to believe, but we are saved by faith not knowledge. Judas had all the knowledge in the world...first hand knowledge of who Jesus was...and He didn't believe. Many so called biblical scholars have knowledge and don't believe. Many of our guides in Israel have more knowledge than you could ever imagine and don't believe.

Scriptures do not say that you have been saved by your knowledge and your logical deduction to follow Jesus. You and I have been saved by faith and faith comes from God.

Many of us don't share Jesus with others because we don't think we know enough. Turn out we don't.....we can't...and it is not a knowledge thing.

When you understand the foundation of the church....when you understand that God wants to impart a Word of Knowledge directly to someone...and wants to use you to help....evangelism becomes a different game.

Rather than preparing arguments....we pray for revelation. If the people that you and I love are going to follow Jesus....the Holy Spirit has to reveal to them exactly what He revealed to Peter....and to you and to me...and to every other believer.

The way we live our lives...the way we love them and others....the way we demonstrate our faith in Christ....will move people to want to explore more. Our job is to point them to the reason that we have the hope that we have.

We share as witnesses to what God has done in our lives. We go and show them all that Jesus has taught us. When they see the fruit of the Spirit in us....they are drawn to want more.

As we point people toward Jesus in love, with patience and kindness...God begins the miraculous work of the Revelation of Knowledge. At some point in the process....they just know and they can no longer deny what they know to be true.

We do the introduction and let God do all the rest. Only He can break down the gates of Hell and free people who are shakled. Only He can impart His truth in the heart of those He has chosen. He allows us to participate but the entire process and outcome are His and His alone.

Once you understand how people are saved...and how only God can do it.....then your evangelism becomes much more about prayer and petition than about some intellectual debates.

The people we love....everyone...find God in the their hearts....that is where the Spirit works. We may engage the idea of God with our heads....that may move us to seek more....but the ultimate Word of Knowledge is implanted in the heart.

Ezekiel 36:25–29 (ESV) 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. 29 And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you.

Notice who is doing all the work here....I....at least ten times.

I will cleanse you....give you a new heart...put my Spirit in you..Replace your hear of stone....Cause you to walk in my statues and obey my rules. You can dwell in the land I gave you. I will be your God. I will deliver you. I will make your grain abundant.

God is the one who saves. Did God do these things because they were good and deserved it? No. Look at all that God promises...and then look at the verse right before this.

Ezekiel 36:22–25 (ESV) 22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. 23 And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. 24 I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

God chooses and God saves. Everyone He saves deserved their destiny in Hell. I have never saved anyone....I couldn't even save myself. I can't save the people I love. IF that is going to happen....God will have to do that too.

The gap from your head to the your heart is not yours to navigate. There is a current of faith that is given to us by God....we allow that current to move our heart....and then one day....we just know that we just know. He is the Christ the Son of the Living God...the Messiah and He is now my Savior.

Future wives list....Falling in love with Jesus. Let's Pray