

# What Is The Spiritual Gift Of Knowledge?

In a nutshell, the word of knowledge is a gift given by God where some knowledge is revealed to you that you only knew by revelation and no prior knowledge.

There are many examples of the word of knowledge in the Bible. Jesus used it on many occasions as well as the Apostles.

I am going to give you just a couple of examples where both Jesus and the Apostles used this gift and then give you some insight I have personally learned over the years in how you can use this gift both in evangelism and in the building up of your local church family.

## Examples Of Jesus Using This Gift.

One of the most famous examples of Jesus using the gift of the word of knowledge is the story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well in John 4.

Jesus is sitting at a well, and a Samaritan woman comes up to the well. Jesus strikes up a conversation with her. They talk for a few minutes, and then Jesus tells her to get her husband. She says to him that she has no husband.

Jesus then proceeds to use the gift of the word of knowledge and reveal to her that He knows she has had five husbands and the man she was with now was not even her husband.

This is an excellent example of this gift in operation. Jesus had never met the woman, had no idea her background or lifestyle, yet God revealed to Him knowledge that He previously did not have.

Another famous example of Jesus using the gift of the word of knowledge is at the last supper. Jesus, when they were all sitting together at the table, informs everyone that one of them is going to betray Him.

Of course, they are all shocked which shows that this was not something that they were expecting. Then Jesus says that the one who will betray him is the one that He will pass the bread soaked in wine too. He gives that bread to Judas.

This is another example of knowledge about a fact being revealed at a certain point.

Now I want you all to remember, that although Jesus was, and is, fully God, He chose to give up the powers of the Godhead to come in human form. He was using and demonstrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit which descended upon Him at His baptism.

In examining these examples, we do not want to fall into the trap of just thinking that this was only Jesus being God. Yes, Jesus was God, but at this moment He was the son of man and operating as a man.

## **Examples Of The Word Of Knowledge In The Bible.**

In Acts 5 we have the story of Ananias and Sapphira. This couple had been watching people bring gifts to the apostles and receiving credit for their generosity. Ananias and Sapphira decided to sell a piece of property for a certain amount of money but tell the people that they had sold it for a lesser amount making them think that they were giving all of the proceeds from the sale to the ministry of the Apostles.

However, God knew how much they had sold the property for, and He told Peter. Peter then asked Ananias if He sold the property for the amount that Ananias said, and Ananias lied and said yes.

Well, you know the rest of the story. Ananias fell dead, they took him out, then Sapphira came and told the same lie, and she too was planted 6 feet under with her husband. Peter received from the Holy Spirit, the knowledge that He didn't have from a natural source. It was supernatural knowledge.

The other example is the one I used with the gift of the word of wisdom. Many times these two gifts go hand in hand. It is the example in Acts 10 where Cornelius was told to send for Peter. He was given the knowledge of where Peter was.

Not only that, but Peter was given a vision to prepare him to go to Cornelius's house. Cornelius was given knowledge that He did not have previously by natural means. It was given to him supernaturally.

## **What Is The Word Of Wisdom And How Does It Operate?**

### **Jesus Use Of The Word Of Wisdom.**

In Matthew's gospel chapter 17, we find a very unusual story of Jesus being asked to pay the temple tax.

Jesus tells Peter to go down to the lake throw in a line and from the very first fish that he catches he will find a silver coin in its mouth.

This is an instance of where Jesus used the gift of the word of wisdom. The problem was that they needed to pay the temple tax. The knowledge was that there was a fish in that lake that had a silver coin in its mouth.

So the knowledge applied was to go down and throw line in the water and take out a silver coin from the fish's mouth.

Again in Matthew's gospel chapter 21 we see Jesus preparing for his triumphal entry.

To fulfill the prophecy Jesus needs to enter Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus tells his disciples where they can find a donkey and he tells them what to say if anyone asks any questions.

Again here we see that there's a problem to be solved, in this case, it is that need of a donkey. The knowledge here is the location of the donkey. And the word of wisdom is telling the disciples what to do to find the donkey and what to say if anyone asks.

## **The Use Of The Word Of Wisdom In The Early Church.**

In the book of Acts chapter nine, we have the example of the word of wisdom being given to an Ananias. God tells him to go and pray for a man named Saul. Ananias can't believe what he is hearing. The last he heard, Saul had been killing Christians.

Once again we have here the problem, the knowledge, and the knowledge applied. Saul needed someone to pray for him. God knew that Saul had converted. The knowledge applied was the instructions given to Ananias.

In Acts chapter 10 we have a man named Cornelius who receives a vision from the Lord. This vision contains a word of wisdom. He is told to send for a man named Peter who lives in Joppa with a man named Simon the tanner.

This here again is knowledge applied. At the same time, this is happening; Peter is being given a vision about not calling the things that God has made clean, unclean.

When the men arrive looking for Peter, Peter understands that God was talking about the gentiles.

There are many ways that this gift can be used. You can receive a word of wisdom personally, that applies to your own life. You can obtain a word of wisdom that is to be given to another. You can be given a word of wisdom that is meant to be shared with your local congregation.

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What I encourage you to do is to relax. Don't try to force any gift to operate. All nine of the gifts of the Spirit are given as the Holy Spirit wills, not at our back and call.

Don't try to hyper-spiritualize the gift. God does not speak in King James English unless of course, He's talking to King James. Since God does not speak in King James English, you do not need to as well.

Just be yourself and express yourself as you'd normally. If you are sharing the word of wisdom with somebody else and it is indeed God, they will recognize that it is God without you trying to spiritualize it.

I hope this lesson of the word of wisdom has given you a greater understanding of the spiritual gift.

As I said in the previous paragraph, don't try to force this gift to happen. Be open to letting God give you supernatural application of knowledge that you did not have before.