

THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of knowledge" (I Corinthians 12:8)

THIS GIFT IS NOT...

- 1...A God sent amplification of human knowledge.
- 2...Knowledge that may be acquired either by study or consecration.
- 3...The gradual discovery or accumulation of things or facts about God or man.
- 4...A faculty but a revelation; it is not an acquisition but a gift.
- 5...Human ability, but the sheer gift of God (manifested as a result of staying close to the Lord as He wills).
- 6...A psychic phenomenon or extrasensory perception such as:
 - A) telepathy (the supposed ability to read minds).
 - B) clairvoyance (the supposed ability to know things that are happening elsewhere).
 - C) precognition (the supposed ability to know the future)

*These supposed abilities and practices are forbidden in God's Word
(I Chronicles 10:13; Deuteronomy 18:9-12)

*We must not reach out for such things or we open the door to satan.

*Dangerous and forbidden, we must never toy with the fallen powers of this world which are controlled by satan.

THIS GIFT IS...

- 1...The supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God.
- 2...A supernatural revelation of the existence, or nature, of a person or thing, of the knowledge of some event, given to us by the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose.
- 3...The supernatural revelation of certain facts past, present, or future which were not learned through the efforts of the natural mind.
- 4...The mind of Christ being manifested to the mind of the believer, given when needed in a flash of time. (I Corinthians 2:16)
- 5...A divinely given fragment of divine knowledge concerning things which were hopelessly hidden from the senses of our natural man.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Deuteronomy 34:10...Moses enjoyed an extensive unfolding of divine knowledge in being granted the story of creation and it's aftermaths.
2. I Samuel 9:9-20...The prophet Samuel (Old Testament name is "seer") was given supernatural insight and knowledge for ministry. This gift was used here to help recover the lost donkeys and discover Saul in hiding. (10:21-23)
3. II Corinthians 12:4...Paul was granted divine insight as he was "caught up into paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter".
4. Revelation 1-22...While John was exiled on the island of Patmos, Christ revealed specific facts about seven local churches in Asia Minor. It would have been impossible for John to know and pen these letters apart from the supernatural giving of the word of knowledge.
5. II Samuel 12:7-13...A "word of knowledge" was given to Nathan regarding the affair between King David and Bathsheba. Nathan was also given wisdom to deal with the King.
6. I Kings 19:4,14-18...Elijah goes from the mountain top experience of praying fire down from heaven, to the pits, fear and worry and asking God to let him die. "Everybody has backslid and bowed their knee to Baal." But God gave him a word of knowledge that encouraged him, "I have seven thousand reserved to myself, you're not the only one that's left."

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7. II Kings 5:25,26...This gift was used to expose a hypocrite, Gehazi. Naaman was healed of leprosy, Elisha refused the silver and gold, but Gehazi lied and took payment for the healing. God revealed it to Elisha several miles away at home what Gehazi had done.
8. II Kings 6:9-12...Elisha, through a word of knowledge, knew the location of the Syrian army camp, thereby saving Israel from battle. "A prophet tells the king what you speak in your bedchamber." How frustrating for the king of Syria; every time he would set up ambushment against Israel, the prophet would tell the king their plans. P.T.L.!!!
9. Acts 5:1-11...The "word of knowledge" was used to reveal deception and corruption in the church - Ananias and Sapphira.
10. Acts 14:8-10...Paul's perception of the faith of the cripple at Lystra was a word of knowledge.
11. Acts 27:9,10...Paul was given a "word of knowledge" about the impending shipwreck to occur.
12. Acts 9:10-17...Ananias, a member of the church at Damascus, was given a word of knowledge. He received, in a vision, the knowledge of Saul's conversion, the name of the street (straight), the name of the man in whose house he was staying (Judas), what Saul was doing (praying) and his needs (healing and the baptism in the Holy Spirit).
13. Acts 10:9-20...The Holy Spirit revealed to Peter by the "word of knowledge" that three men were at the gate of his house in Joppa looking for him, and that he was to go with them without having any doubts.
14. Mark 14:12-16...Jesus exercised this gift in finding a suitable place to meet with His people in a certain city that would seem to contain no such place.
15. John 1:47-50...By this gift, Jesus "saw" Nathanael long before He met him, and also knew the nature of his heart or thoughts.
16. John 4:17,18,29...This gift was used to reveal the marital status of the woman at the well and convince her of her sin, leading her to repentance.
17. Matthew 9:2-6...Jesus by a "word of knowledge" knew the heart condition of the scribes who thought evil against Him.
18. Acts 11:27,28...Through the "word of knowledge", the prophet Agabus, while in Antioch, warned of the coming famine upon the land of Israel (this was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius).
19. Acts 21:10,11...Through this gift, Agabus sees that Paul would be bound by the Jews and delivered unto the Gentiles.
20. Acts 29...How good to know the gifts of the Spirit have not ceased, the Book of Acts is being continued today!!!

THE USE OF THIS GIFT STANDS REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE:

To discover lost people and property. (Saul/the donkeys)
 To enlighten and encourage the servant of the Lord. (Elijah)
 To reveal to us things past (Moses/creation), things to come (John/Revelation), and things that are (Paul and the mystery of Christ).
 To expose the hypocrite (Gehazi).
 To reveal corruption in the church (Ananias & Sapphira).
 To reveal facts in private lives and convince the sinner for spiritual correction (woman at the well).
 To restore the unrepentant sinner (David and Nathan).
 To warn of the enemy's plan to destroy (Elisha and Syria).
 To locate a proper place to worship the Lord (Jesus).
 To prepare us for upcoming testings (Paul and Agabus).
 To help us minister to people with specific needs (Ananias).