

The Omniscient Spiritual Gifts

© 1988 Dr. Dan Cheatham, DCMI, www.devotional.net

Before we study the Omniscient Gifts in some detail, let me summarize the nine manifestation gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians chapter 12. These nine gifts can be broken down into three sets, first there are **three POWER or OMNIPOTENT manifestation gifts** - The Working of Miracles, The Gifts of Healings, and The Gift of Faith. These are called POWER or OMNIPOTENT gifts because they are manifestations of the Holy Spirit's great unlimited power DOING SOMETHING through the believer. Then there are the **three VOCAL or OMNIPRESENT manifestation gifts**. If someone is really PRESENT they will have something to say! Finally, **The three VOCAL or OMNIPRESENT GIFTS** are Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, and Prophecy, because all three of these manifestations are the Holy Spirit spontaneously SAYING SOMETHING through the believer. But then God also wants to SEE THINGS through the believer and that is what we will discuss in this lesson on the REVELATION or OMNISCIENT manifestation gifts of the Spirit.

God is Omniscient. He is all knowing. He is all seeing. He is all-wise. He is the "Ancient of Days."¹ "There is no searching to his understanding."² God is outside of eternity and time (and inside of eternity and time as well). He created time, space, and matter. God is, therefore, not limited to the past, present, and future. God knows our past... God knows our present... God knows our future... immediately, instantaneously! He is the source of knowledge. He is the source of wisdom. He is the source of revelation.

Of the nine manifestation gifts listed in I Corinthians 12:8, three of them are expressions of God's omniscience. **They are the REVELATION GIFTS or OMNISCIENT GIFTS of the Spirit!**

First is "THE WORD OF WISDOM". God is all-wise. He knows what the future holds. The word of wisdom is when the Holy Spirit supernaturally reveals a fragmentary fact from the mind of God to the believer about the momentary, near, or future plans of God. This future knowledge can be about people, places, or things. Occultic sorcery, palm reading, and the like are the devil's counterfeits of this gift. The word of wisdom should not be confused with Bible wisdom or experiential wisdom. All Christians can gain Bible wisdom from spending time in their Bible and prayer, as well as receiving Bible teaching and preaching. All Christians can gain experiential wisdom by walking with God and applying the Word of God to their lives. No, the word of wisdom is a supernatural spontaneous manifestation of the Holy Spirit that comes to the believer in order to help him minister to another's needs. Sometimes the word of wisdom comes by a vision or dream. Sometimes it comes by a sudden revelation or by strong impression. Sometimes it comes by the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. The word of wisdom is the Holy Spirit revealing a fragment of the future. It should not be confused with educated guess or man's own predictions based on past experience, history, observations or accumulation of data. Some Bible examples of the word of wisdom are as follows:

Joseph announcing his own vice-presidency years in advance. (Gen 37:7-9)

Joseph announcing a famine to come. (Gen 41:25-32)

Samuel prophesying the early deaths of Eli and his sons. (I Sam 3-4)

Samuel supernaturally predicting Saul would prophesy. (I Sam 10:6,9)

Samuel announcing David would be king. (I Sam 16:13)

Daniel announcing the rise and fall of kingdoms to come and the kingdom of God. (Dan 2:36-48)

All of the Old Testament prophecies containing prediction of the details of Jesus' birth, life, ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and ministry at the Father's right hand.

Jesus supernaturally predicting a piece of silver would be in the fish's mouth. (Matt 17:27)

Jesus supernaturally predicting a donkey ready to ride. (Matt 21:1-7)

Jesus supernaturally revealing the fall of Jerusalem, which happened in 70 A.D. (Matt 24:1-2)

Jesus announcing the disciples would meet a man with a pitcher of water. (Luke 22:8-13)

Annianus prophesying to Paul his apostleship to the Gentiles before anyone knew the Gospel was for the Gentiles. (Acts 9:1-18 and Acts 22:6-16)

Agabus supernaturally predicting a famine to come. (Acts 11:28)

Paul supernaturally predicting the "dark ages" to come for the church. (Acts 20:29,30)

Agabus supernaturally telling Paul what would happen in Jerusalem. (Acts 21:8-11)

The presbytery predicting and imparting Timothy's spiritual gifts. (I Tim 4:14)

Second, is the WORD OF KNOWLEDGE. The only difference between the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge is that the word of knowledge is not about the future. The word of knowledge is when the Holy Spirit supernaturally reveals a fragmentary fact from the mind of God to the believer about the present or about the recent or distant past. This supernatural past or present information can be about people, places, or things. Occultic ESP and the like are the devil's counterfeit of this gift.

God often gives a word of knowledge to help the believer minister to the real root of a problem, which often only the Holy Spirit knows. God often gives a word of knowledge in order to inspire faith on the part of the person being ministered to. The person knows that there is now way you could know that piece of information unless the Holy Spirit was telling you. So it draws faith out of the person, opening up their heart to receive from God. This omniscient expression should not be confused with educational or technical knowledge or skill. Neither should this manifestation of God's Spirit be confused with the accumulation of scriptural facts. No, this is not the GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE. This is the WORD OF KNOWLEDGE. Like the word of wisdom, sometimes the word of knowledge comes by a still small voice or just a sudden revelation or dream. Some Bible examples are as follows:

Samuel supernaturally knowing where Saul's donkeys were. (I Sam 9:14-20)

Daniel supernaturally knowing what King Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed. (Daniel's interpretation of the dream, however, was the word of wisdom because it was about the future). (Daniel 2:26-36)

Jesus supernaturally knowing where Nathaniel was sitting before he came to Jesus. (John 1:48-50)

Jesus supernaturally knowing the name of the man in the sycamore tree "Zacchaeus". (Luke 19:5)

Jesus supernaturally knowing how many husbands the woman at the well had. (John 4:17-19)

Peter supernaturally knowing Annianus and Saphira's lie. (Acts 5:3-9)

The other Annianus supernaturally knowing the address where Paul (Saul) was staying and what Paul had been doing, and what had already happened to him on the road to Damascus. (His announcements concerning Paul's future ministry, however, were the word of wisdom). (Acts 9:1-18 and Acts 22:6-16)

Paul supernaturally knowing that the lame man at Lystra had the faith to be healed. (Acts 14:8-11)

Cornelius supernaturally knowing Peter's name and address. (Acts 10:1-8)

The word of knowledge is such an awesome display of God omniscience. I love it when the Holy Spirit rises up within me as I minister, giving me the name and nicknames of people and their family members in a congregation I don't know. It causes great faith and encouragement to swell up out of the hearts of those whom God calls out by name. It brings great glory to God, and supernatural help to the person; when the Holy Spirit enables me to know that person's exact problem or illness or what they were discussing on the way to the service. Also, God supernaturally blesses people when I am able to confirm to them what God has already been telling them; or by supernaturally telling them what job they work on, what is happening in their homes, or what service they perform in the church. To see people weep or rejoice before God as He supernaturally confirms His activities and His will to them brings me great satisfaction. The word of wisdom is an even more awesome expression of God's omniscience. Often, as I lay my hands on people, God has me announce the impartation of certain gifts and ministries, or things that will come to pass in their lives. Sometimes God gives me exact time periods in days, weeks, months, or years; sometimes he doesn't show me the time frame. Many

times over, it has happened exactly the time as announced by God. It brings great help to people to have some of the plans of God blueprinted before them. Also, the person is able to look back after it happens and see how God was faithful to His own prophetic word of wisdom.

Jesus said in John 13:19, I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. And again in John 14:29, I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU BY IGNORANTLY DENYING OR UNDERESTIMATING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Third, is the DISCERNING OF SPIRITS. There is no such thing as the GIFT OF DISCERNMENT. No, 1Corinthians 12:10 says THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS. This gift should not be confused with discernment between good and evil that all Christians can learn through faithful Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, witnessing, and Christian experience. The discerning of spirits is when the Holy Spirit in the believer supernaturally permits the believer to see and/or hear into the spirit realm. Examples would be an authentic vision of Jesus or an angel. To truly see a demon attached to someone or something would be discerning of spirits. Many visions and dreams from God may classify as the discernment of spirits. Hearing the audible voice of God would be discernment of spirits. Some Bible examples are as follows:

The Book of Revelation is the account of a long continuous manifestation of this gift to the apostle John. All the angelic visitations to patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and others in the Bible. The seeing of certain demonic personalities by Isaiah and Ezekiel before prophetically speaking their judgments.