

Hearing God and the prophetic: Week 3

Word of Wisdom and Word of Knowledge

1 Corinthians 12:7-8 (NASB)

But to each one is given the **manifestation of the Spirit** for **the common good**. For to one is given the **word of wisdom through the Spirit**, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit;

1. We are not talking about natural wisdom gained over time.
2. We are not talking about natural knowledge attained.
3. These gifts are of the Spirit of God and are dynamic and supernatural manifestations of God's glory and presence. God's OWN wisdom and knowledge.

Examples of different "kinds" of wisdom in the Bible:

1. Solomon's wisdom for life

1 Kings 4:29-34

29 Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore. **30 Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.** **31 For he was wiser than all men**, than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was known in all the surrounding nations. **32** He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. **33** He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that grows on the wall; he spoke also of animals and birds and creeping things and fish. **34** Men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.

Proverbs 1:1-5

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 **To know wisdom and instruction To discern the sayings of understanding**, 3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity; 4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion, 5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

2. Teaching

2 Peter 3:14-16

14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, **15** and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, **according to the wisdom given him**, wrote to you, **16** as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Acts 6: 8-10

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. **9** But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen. **10 But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.**

3. Apostolic

1 Corinthians 3:10

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a **wise master builder** I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

God has all wisdom. But if He was to give it all to us in one go we would be flattened by it!

But we are looking at the "Word" of Wisdom

- A fragment of God's wisdom to know how to deal with a situation.
- A seed of God's wisdom that gives direction.

Shows you how to proceed. Shows you what to do.

e.g.

Jesus in John 8:1-11

8 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **2** Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them. **3** The scribes and the Pharisees *brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, **4** they *said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. **5** Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You

say?" **6** They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. **But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. 7** But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "**He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.**" **8** Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. **9** When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, **beginning with the older ones**, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. **10** Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" **11** She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more"

It looks like Jesus was taking time to answer this "loaded" question. Looking for God's wisdom in the situation that would "disarm" the tension. With one simple sentence as a reply, He managed to deal with the situation on all levels. This appears to be an example of Jesus moving in the "word of wisdom".

Some practical examples from other's testimonies:

e.g. What to do

- Church Building in Glasgow - "turn the hall around"
 - It would have cost hundreds of thousands to make a modern sound system work in a very old building. God simply gave the Pastor a "word of wisdom" and said "turn the hall around". By setting up the sound system facing the other way, and turning the pews around, the problem was solved! God is interested and can help in very practical challenges!

e.g. How to answer

- Pastor's answer to the father that accidentally saw his own son killed with a gun kept at home.
 - A father came for prayer and was in tears as he was so heartbroken about the tragic accident at home. What do you say in such a moment? Words would most likely fail most of us. The Pastor reached to God for wisdom in the moment. "What do I say here?"

He felt the Holy Spirit say "There is indeed a Father who knows exactly what it is like to see his own son killed. God himself". This answer reached the dad with great empathy and connection to God.

The Word of Knowledge

"A fragment of God's knowledge given to reveal truth about a matter or an individual".

God's knowledge given to you in a specific situation to accomplish a specific purpose.

e.g.

Jesus with the woman at the well - John 4:15-19

John 4: 15-19

15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." **16** He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." **17** The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "**You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.**" **19** The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

Jesus moved in a "word of knowledge" here. The woman responds with "I perceive that You are a prophet".

It would appear that the use of the "word of knowledge" is very similar to having a "prophetic word". Therefore it should also have the following characteristics and outworking in the life of a person or group:

1 Corinthians 14:3

"But the one who prophesies speaks to people for **edification, exhortation, and consolation.**"

Revelation 19:10

"The **testimony of Jesus** is the spirit of prophecy"

God's knowledge is to be given in the spirit with which Jesus would speak to a person and to edify, exhort and comfort them.

Further, it will always have a God-glorifying, gospel furthering and Kingdom expanding outworking - in the person and in the situation. e.g.

Note the outworking for the furtherance of the gospel in the story of the woman at the well we just looked at:

1. Woman at the well - John 4:28-30 and 39-42

John 4:28-30

28 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, **29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"** **30** They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

John 4:39-42

39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." **40** So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. **41 Many more believed because of His word;** **42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."**

One word of knowledge about this woman's life, led to her having an encounter with Jesus that changed not only her life but that of many, many more!

2. Jesus knows where the fish are:

Luke 5: 1-11

1 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; **2** and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. **3** And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. **4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."** **5** Simon answered and said, **"Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets."** **6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break;** **7** so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. **8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"** **9** For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; **10** and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." **11** When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Again note the outworking in Verse 8 and beyond - **Jesus glorifying**. Peter responded with the recognition of Jesus as Lord.

3. Don't doubt the power of one, single correct word.

Healing of lady with bleeding - **"daughter"**. Don't doubt the power of literally one word!

This story in Mark 5:25-34 is well known. But the the word Jesus chooses to use in verse 34 is full of meaning.

Mark 5:25-34

25 A woman who had had a **hemorrhage for twelve years, 26** and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse— **27** after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. **28** For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will [k]get well." **29** Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. **30** Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" **31** And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" **32** And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. **33** But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. **34** And He said to her, **"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."**

This lady, under the Old Testament law would have been rejected, left out and outcast due to her condition being considered "unclean":

Leviticus 15:25-26

25 "When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, **she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge**, just as in the days of her period. **26** Any bed she lies on while her discharge continues will be unclean, as is her bed during her monthly period, and anything she sits on will be unclean, as during her period.

Jesus uses the word "Daughter". Not "you there" or "woman" - but "daughter". This speaks of inclusion, belonging, acceptance and love. He didn't just heal her physically, but in her person as well - through one word.

Don't add to what God wants to say. Sometimes it's the one, "hand picked by God" word that is needed.

e.g.

Jackie Pullinger tells a story of only asking if the word "Vegetables" meant anything to a lady. It opened up the whole life story of this lady and helped her find healing.

Prophetic Evangelism examples:

A well known Christian speaker had a “word of knowledge” about a lady in the line to pay at a supermarket. God told her she had issues at home and He wanted to help.

God used this to open the woman’s heart to get saved. Years later, the Christian speaker was speaking at an event and the woman from the shop and her husband came forward to meet her. They told her how they are now pastoring a church themselves and were very thankful for her obedience that day in the shop to share what God had given her!

What a wonderful testimony and example of how the “word of knowledge” is given to bring God glory and see His kingdom grow.

Hearing God isn’t always about us. Learning to hear Him for others - and handling it biblically - is always a great source of blessing and help to people on their journey.