

Jesus and the Word of Knowledge

The word of knowledge is an awesome gift, especially when someone knows how and when to use it. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12, listed the word of knowledge as one of the nine spiritual gifts. The purpose of a spiritual gift is to exercise Jesus' Lordship or dominion in a person or situation that you normally would not be able to without that gift. Gifts are a really good way to build bridges that you couldn't build any other way. When you give someone a gift his or her guard goes down. This is why natural gifts have the potential to corrupt or pervert judgment, as it says in the book of proverbs. Gift's should always point back to the giver and never the one who delivers the gift. Many people don't want to be bothered with spiritual gifts because they have seen gifts misused for personal gain. The people who don't want to see the gifts because of someone else's foolish behavior need to build a bridge and get over their own offense. If offense isn't dealt with it will turn to iniquity and your heart will certainly get cold.

Jesus used the word of knowledge when he was calling some of his disciples. Let's take a look at when Jesus called Peter. Andrew sees and hears Jesus, so he naturally evangelizes when he sees and hears Jesus. It's pretty interesting how a real encounter with Jesus will naturally cause you to bring people to him. So Andrew goes to get Peter, and here is what happens. John 1:42 KJVER "And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, He said, *You are Simon the son of Jona: you shall be called Cephas*, which is by interpretation, A stone." Remember Jesus has never seen this man before. So Jesus has a word of knowledge. In this word of

knowledge there is two details then a prophecy. Then in the next verse Jesus gives him a word of wisdom to make his prophecy come about. Jesus said, *"Follow me"*. So when Peter follows Jesus he will become who Jesus already sees him to be.

When Jesus was beholding Simon scripture does not record that Jesus heard an audible voice, and it also doesn't tell us how Jesus knew Simon's name. So with the details we have been given we know Jesus had this word of knowledge through the inward counsel of the Holy Spirit. Jesus receives by the Holy Spirit that Simon is the name of the man whom he is looking at, and he also knows his Father's name. In plain language Jesus said, "I know who you are, I know where you came from and I know who you are going to be". So then Jesus says to him *"follow me."* When we follow Jesus it is then and only then do we really become who we are, because our identity is found in him alone. The word of Knowledge is your past or your present, the prophetic word is where you are going and the word of wisdom is how to get there. I will spend more time developing the prophetic word and the word of wisdom.

As we look at another account of Christ calling Peter, again we see the word of knowledge in action. Jesus goes onto Simon Peter's boat. Then Jesus sits down in Peter's boat and starts teaching the people. When he was finished speaking, he said to Simon *"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch."* So, to paraphrase Simon Peter, he says, "I have been doing this all night but nevertheless at your word I will do it". So Simon casts his net, and his net broke because of the great multitude of fish that Jesus knew exactly where it was. Jesus had a word of knowledge, and the word of wisdom accomplished what Jesus has

already known. However, Peter didn't get to experience the fullness of what God wanted to give him, because he didn't fully obey. Jesus said let down your nets, and Peter let down his net. His net broke because he didn't let down his nets. Many times we underestimate God because of our past disappointments. So Peter's friends come to help and both boats begin to sink. This is a picture of God pouring out a blessing that you cannot even contain. The word of knowledge was fruitful because they obey his word of wisdom. Jesus knowing there was fish where he told them wouldn't have helped them if they didn't hear his word of wisdom.

Jesus was comfortable to sink a boat that he was in to illustrate God's goodness that would soon bring men to Repentance. Luke 5:8 KJVER *"When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."* What's really interesting is Jesus doesn't mention one word about sin to Peter. God's goodness overwhelmed Peter so much that all Peter could see was his sin. The scriptures say in Romans that it's *"the kindness or goodness of God that leads you to repentance."* We see the truth of that verse manifesting even before Paul wrote it here in the Gospel of Luke. Before Jesus' word of knowledge it didn't seem like Peter was on his knees worshipping and repenting. However, after this supernatural display of the Grace of God, activated by Peter partially obeying Jesus' word of wisdom, then he was repenting. If you continue on Jesus prophesied to Peter, *"Fear not; from hereafter you shall catch men."* This prophecy caused Peter and all who were with him to forsake all and follow Jesus, instead of Jesus listening to Peter and leaving Peter as he requested. Sometimes it's a good thing that God doesn't answer our foolish prayers. Again we

see the word of knowledge, word of wisdom and prophetic word working together to accomplish God's purpose of calling his disciples to himself.

From the information given to us in scripture, we can see that both of these words of knowledge concerning Peter came from Jesus hearing the inward counsel of the Holy Spirit. Words of knowledge come different ways; another way they come is in the realm of seeing in the Spirit. This is seen when Jesus was speaking to Nathaniel. John 1:45-51 KJVER “ *Philip finds Nathaniel, and says to him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph. And Nathaniel said to him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip says come and see. Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to Him, and says of him, **Behold an Israelite indeed, in who there is no guile!** Nathaniel says to Him, from where know you me? Jesus answered and said to him, **Before that Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree I saw you.** Nathaniel answered and says to Him, *Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel. Jesus answered and said to him, Because I said to you I saw you under the fig tree, believe you? You shall see greater things than these. And he says to him, **Verily, verily I say unto you, Here after you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.***” Here Jesus has a word of knowledge, which produces worship, and then Jesus prophesies to Nathaniel about what he will see in the future.*

As we examine the text carefully we see that Jesus' word of knowledge had four specific details. Detail one: before Philip called you I know where you were.

This detail of the fig tree is an exact. Detail two: Nathaniel was called by Philip to come to Jesus. Detail three: you are an Israelite. Here Jesus is saying I know where you came from even before the fig tree. Detail four: Jesus knew the condition of the inside of this man. Through these words of knowledge a revelation of Jesus is clearly produced in Nathaniel's life. When we move in the gifts of the spirit, it is to bring forth a revelation of Christ. Three specific revelations of who Christ was came forth because of these words of knowledge. There will always be proof of authentic ministry. Whether it's a man acknowledging that Jesus is a Rabbi, the Son of God and the King of Israel, or it's a screaming crowd yelling crucify Him.

Jesus and Nathaniel's conversation continues. Jesus then prophesies that Nathaniel will see an open heaven with the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. Revelation precedes prophecy. This word of knowledge concerning Nathaniel's past and current state, also lead to prophecy. Many times words of knowledge and prophecy will flow in the very same ministry time. In fact they should, because Jesus doesn't just tell you about your past but he tells you about his plans for your future also.

Jesus received this word of knowledge by seeing in the spirit, which is why he said "I saw you under the fig tree" When Jesus called Peter by name without being introduced to him he was moving or operating in the same gift but it was functioning differently. It was functioning in the word of knowledge by hearing and not seeing. Yet when Jesus saw Nathaniel under the fig tree it was operating through the seeing gift. In the Old Testament it was called a "Seer" (you can see these scriptures to verify what I am saying concerning the Seer; 1 Samuel 9:9, 1 Samuel

9:19, 1 Chronicles 21:9). Paul wrote about different gifts and their various operations and manifestations. 1 Corinthians 12: 6 KJVER “ *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all.*” There are different gifts, that operate differently and the results also are different but it is the same Holy Spirit that works in all.

Jesus used the word of knowledge in the context of calling his disciples. He also used it in the context of Evangelism. Jesus is sitting at a well, when a Samaritan woman comes to draw water. So he starts up a conversation with this woman. They are chatting about something natural, and then Jesus takes it to the spiritual. They continue to talk and Jesus offers her the water of everlasting life. The woman is still in the natural thinking Jesus is giving her a lifetime supply of free natural water. Then the conversation gets prophetic. John 4:16-19 KJV “*Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.*” One of the keys to receiving words of knowledge is by simply starting a conversation with someone. We learn from the scriptures that again Jesus is receiving this word of knowledge by hearing the inward counsel of the Holy Spirit.

The word of knowledge had great detail. “You have had five husbands and the man you are living with is not your husband.” See, Jesus clearly knows her past and her present condition. Jesus wasn’t afraid to confront her sinful behavior in a gentle

manner. Sometimes the word of knowledge will show us something very positive about someone. For example, “Nathaniel you are and Israelite with no guile or deceit in you.” Other times it will show us the issues of someone’s past or present.

However it comes we must be faithful to speak as the Lord reveals. Let’s see what the results of Jesus’ faithfulness to speak what the Father was saying to him. John 4:39 KJVER “ *And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that I ever did.* ” Salvation came to a city because of one word of knowledge Jesus gave. Never underestimate a word of knowledge or a spiritual gift.

In my personal ministry I have seen the word of knowledge be very effective in evangelism. Divine knowledge will always provoke human response. Many times I have been called a psychic, or a fortuneteller. The church has been very silent; therefore the only context the world has for accurate untold knowledge is the psychic or the fortuneteller. In this hour God is raising up prophets like Daniel and Joseph who have what the physics and fortunetellers don’t have. These friends of God will be full of love and the truth of God with divine knowledge that is applicable to their life. When God gives you insight into someone’s life it has a profound affect on that someone. I end by echoing the words of Solomon “apply your ear to words of knowledge.”

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