

Word of Knowledge – Part 1

When Paul talks about the gift of a Word of Knowledge, he is talking about a supernatural gift.

**1 Corinth. 12:8** *'To another a Word of Knowledge is given through the same Spirit.'* God knows everything and a Word of Knowledge is when He reveals a tiny fraction of that knowledge to us supernaturally. God gives us a bit of information that is not known to us naturally; something that we have not heard about in any other way. It comes directly through the Holy Spirit and cannot be obtained naturally by education, reasoning or by studying the Bible. We can pray about it but we only receive when God chooses to reveal it to us. It is entirely up to God whether or not He decides to give a Word of Knowledge to us.

A Word of Knowledge is one of the three gifts known as the Revelation Gifts, when God reveals information to us. It is a word of **God's** knowledge not man's knowledge. An outstanding knowledge of the Bible can sometimes be confused with a word of God's knowledge, but they are two different things. We can learn from studying the Bible, but there is nothing at all that we can do ourselves in order to receive a word of God's knowledge. We are not able to **make** God reveal something to us. He is sovereign and it is His decision.

A Word of Knowledge is based on a fact and God has a specific reason for giving that fact. It could be to bring others into trusting Jesus or it could be for a person's healing in some way. Conviction of the truth is always a result of action on a Word of Knowledge. It also often produces faith in an individual, which causes healing to take place because that person can see that God knows exactly what is wrong and wants to alter the situation.

When I have personally seen the results of a Word of Knowledge being given, it has usually been in connection with physical healing. Sometimes the person receiving the gift has been told in words of the problem. Sometimes he/she has felt a warmth or heat in a certain part of the body and on other occasions the person has actually felt the same pain as the one who has the physical problem. I have not known individual names to be given. When a Word of Knowledge is given it may sometimes be for one person, however, in a larger congregation there might be several people to whom that Word applies. From observation I would say that in such circumstances, **if** there is a response from the person/s concerned, healing always takes place because it is the time that God has chosen for that to happen.

In the Bible we can read of a number of occasions when God gave a Word of Knowledge. To me one of the most astounding examples is Peter and Cornelius. We can read about this in **Acts 10**.

Cornelius lived in Caesarea. He was not a Christian, but was a devout man who prayed constantly to God. One day he had a vision and an angel came to him and gave him a Word of Knowledge. He was told to send three men to Joppa, go to the house of Simon the tanner and bring back Peter who was staying there. Cornelius did not naturally know Peter or where he was staying and this information was given to him supernaturally by a Word of Knowledge. It is sometimes difficult for us to conceive the

capabilities of our awesome God. Peter was in Joppa, about forty miles away from Cornelius, but of course, distance is no barrier to God!

Peter was a Jew, so it was against his nature to preach to the Gentiles (Gentile = Not a Jew) or to go into the house of a Gentile. He had received a vision from God, showing him that Gentiles were as acceptable to Him as the Jews. Whilst Peter was puzzling over the meaning of the vision that he had received, God gave him a Word of Knowledge telling him that three men were outside waiting to see him. He did not know that they were there, but God gave him that information supernaturally.

Peter and other Christians from Joppa, went back to Caesarea with the three men. Cornelius had gathered his relations and friends in his house in readiness for the arrival of Peter. Peter preached to them about Jesus and even as he was speaking the Holy Spirit fell on all of those who were there. God most certainly showed Peter that the Gentiles were just as acceptable to Him as the Jews!

These instances of a Word of Knowledge being given, combined to open up the gospel being preached to the Gentiles. This amazing outcome was a direct result of both Peter and Cornelius not only receiving a Word of Knowledge from God, but also being prepared to act upon it.

In **Acts 9: 1 – 22** we can read of another time when God gave a Word of Knowledge; again to two different people. Paul (Saul of Tarsus) had been on his way to Damascus in order to find Christians and imprison them. On the way there Jesus appeared to him. He was struck blind and had to be led into Damascus.

Ananias, who lived in Damascus, received a supernatural Word of Knowledge from God concerning Paul. He was told the name of the street, the exact house where Paul was staying and even told that Paul was praying and had had a vision showing that a man named Ananias would come and lay hands on him so that he would receive his sight again. What a tremendous Word God had given to both of these men. More like several Words!

At first Ananias was rather dubious about carrying out this visit as he had heard how Paul was really anti-Jesus and spent his time seeking out Christians in order to have them punished. This incident was the beginning of Paul's ministry. Had Ananias not been willing to act on the Word of Knowledge that he had received, we would probably never have had half of the New Testament that Paul wrote!

It is interesting to note that God used an ordinary disciple to fulfil this roll, not a minister or someone who was well-known for preaching etc.. God uses ordinary people, such as You and I, who are open to receiving what He is wanting to give us. Supernatural Words of Knowledge from God have a tremendous impact on the lives of both the recipients and those to whom that Word applies. He wants us to be ready and open, not only to receive a Word of Knowledge, but most importantly, to follow it through and act upon it and make a difference to someone else's life or health.