

GOD GAVE GIFTS

(Part 4) "The Speaking Gifts"

(Knowledge, Wisdom, Exhortation)

I. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

II. THE GIFT OF TEACHING

III. THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE (1 Cor. 12:8)

A. ESTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. The phrase “a word of knowledge” refers to the “communication of information known by observation or experience”. It refers to a deep understanding of spiritual things. This knowledge can be in written or spoken form.
2. Like the prophecy gift, the gift of knowledge falls into two aspects:
 - Initially, before the completion of the canon it was more *revelatory* in content. This aspect has *ceased*.
 - Since the completion of Scripture, this gift has to do with *knowing* and *understanding* the Bible. It is more the gift of “*illumination*” (1 Cor. 2:11-16). Illumination has to do with Biblical understanding.
3. “Knowledge” is the *God-given capacity to research, understand, summarize, and then clarify Biblical truth to the Body of Christ.*

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Motivated to know Biblical truth.
2. Eager to discover new ideas from Scripture.
3. Emphasizes knowledge and theory over practicality.
4. Prefers research and study.
5. Likes information to have order and sequence.
6. Shares Biblical insights more than feelings.
7. Sees God’s perspective on matters.
8. Doesn’t like to be interrupted when pursuing new idea.

Examples?

IV. THE GIFT OF WISDOM (1 Cor. 12:8)

A. ESTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. The phrase “a word of wisdom” refers to the “communicating of things understood to apply them to life.”
2. Like knowledge, it has two aspects:
 - Originally, it was giving the wisdom of God’s *revelation* for His Word. This aspect has *ceased*.
 - Since Scriptures complete, this gift now addresses the understanding and *applying* of the already completed Word of God.

3. “Wisdom” is the *God-given ability to understand the Bible and to practically apply it to life.*

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Ability to see what God wants done with His truth.
2. Eager to apply Biblical solutions to life’s problems.
3. Great problem-solvers.
4. Makes wise decisions.
5. Constantly sought out by others for advice.
6. Effective at reconciling differences.
7. Wants to get to heart of an issue quickly.

Examples?

V. THE GIFT OF EXHORTATION (Rom. 12:8)

A. ESTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. Word for “exhortation” combines two ideas to mean “to come alongside someone to help”.
2. Usage has a double meaning:
 - To *comfort* others in need (Acts 11:23; 14:22; 15:31-32; 16:40; Rom. 15:4) “Pat on the back”
 - To *challenge* to action (2 Cor. 8:6; 1 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 13:19; 1 Pet. 5:1-2). “Kick in the pants”
3. “Exhortation” is the *God-given ability to get alongside others to comfort them in time of need or to challenge them to be more obedient.* It is the capacity to encourage using Scripture.

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Encourages others to grow.
2. Helps people through their struggles.
3. Sees every challenge as chance to grow.
4. Able to see spiritual potential.
5. Very practical.
6. Specific steps of action.
7. Outgoing and friendly.
8. Action-oriented.
9. Success-oriented.
10. Needs to be liked and accepted.

C. Three ministry areas where this gift is highly operative:

- *Evangelism*
- *Counseling*
- *Music*

Examples?