

**Sermon Title: Gifts of the Spirit → Wisdom, Understanding, & Knowledge!**

**INVITATION:** We are invited to listen to the Spirit! And to ask Him for the skills and abilities YOU NEED for whatever it is he has called YOU to. E.g. parenting, leading, serving, building, creating, etc.!

**Last week we dove into the many ways in which the Spirit “reveals” things to us today...**

**A. What the Spirit Speaks (reveals) to us about**

1. The Spirit brings understanding of SCRIPTURE to our minds
2. The Spirit reveals WISDOM to our minds
3. The Spirit reveals Jesus to us at Salvation and assures us we are saved!
4. The Spirit convicts us of Sin and gives us Warnings
5. The Spirit Reveals God’s Love, Encourages, and Comforts You!

**READ TOGETHER: 1 Corinthians 12:1–11 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

**We do not use these gifts lightly, nor as a replacement for Bible study. We study Scripture daily.**

**We employ the gifts as the Scriptures instruct, to glorify God & know Him more, to build up His Church, and enable us to do His will.**

**ADD TO THIS LIST:**

**6. The Spirit calls us to minister & into ministry**

**Paul says he was called to be an apostle: Romans 1:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—

**Acts 20:22–23 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup> “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem... <sup>23</sup> I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me... <sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. (**Elders of Ephesus**)

**Most pastors (even those who don’t believe that God speaks) can tell their story of being “called by God” into ministry.**

**But how did they really know that they were called?** Normally, it was a subjective inner voice, impression, or feeling. But they knew. (*just like when I heard the Lord speak the first time*)

I have heard this same thing from business leaders in our church and elsewhere! They were CALLED by God.

**CAVEAT:** Before you worry about missing your calling. Scripture gives us MANY things we are ALL called to do! START THERE. And do not worry, a willing heart that is following the Lord won't 'miss their calling.'

**THESE ALL seem to be examples of the “word (utterance) of wisdom” and “knowledge” Paul was referring to in his letter to the Corinthians.**

## **7. The Spirit “reveals” guidance & direction**

**Acts 16:6–10 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> *Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

Twice the Spirit forbade them from going to places they intended to go,

**See how God directed the Church at Antioch when they were fasting and praying ...**

**Acts 13:1–3 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> *Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

**Romans 8:14–16 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup> *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.... <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

**Are there pitfalls and dangers in listening to subjective directions from the Spirit? Of course!**

Are there dangers associated with driving a car? Of course. But you don't stop driving a car just because there are dangers associated with it! You take proper training to learn the skills.

**Example: DIRECTION to change JOBS:** after Covid and our church split... Lou and I were exhausted and unsure what we were supposed to do. ILT had just asked us if we would consider taking on the lead pastor role. This was never something we had talked about or dreamed about. It was off our radar. We had stepped in to help, and I had done so in an interim role. When we prayed about it, the Lord gave Lou a picture of a large ship that was in stormy seas. The word that accompanied it was simple: “Are you willing to go down with the ship?” It may seem odd! But as we considered, we were trying to find guarantees of SAFETY if we said “yes”. I mean, who are WE to take on this role? What if we fail? What if we are wrong? The Lord's question cut straight to our hearts. We had our answer immediately. We were WILLING. Where the Spirit went, we would FOLLOW whether we made it to safety or were sunk!

## **8. The Spirit gives “words of knowledge”**

**The Spirit causes us to “know” things we did not learn through natural senses.** This is a supernatural revelation of facts past, present or future that were not learned through the efforts of the natural mind. You know something you shouldn't otherwise know.

Paul referred to this as a “message or utterance of knowledge” coming directly from the Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:8; 13:2, 8 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,...<sup>13:2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing...<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

- **First:** We know he is not talking about general knowledge. The context is spiritual gifts.
- **Second:** Notice that Paul links it closely with the gift of prophecy in both places.
- **Third:** This implies that “mysteries” and “knowledge” are components of prophecy,

**Example:** Ananias and Sapphira → They sold a piece of property and pretended to give all the proceeds to the apostles for distribution to the poor – in reality, they had secretly held back some of the proceeds.

**Acts 5:3–5 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup> Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? <sup>4</sup> Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.” <sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

- Later Ananias’ wife, Sapphira came in and continued the pretense.

**Elisha’s servant Gehazi hid two talents of silver and two changes of clothing he had secretly received from Naaman.** When Elisha asked Gehazi where he had been, his servant replied, “Nowhere.” But Elisha then told Gehazi that he knew that he had followed after Naaman. As a result, the leprosy of Naaman was transferred to Gehazi and his descendants (**2 Kgs 9:21-27**).

**General Example:** God often gives parents words of knowledge about their children, particularly if the children are struggling and the parents need more insight into what is really happening.

**QUICK NOTE:** (Jms 3) “not everyone should desire to be a teacher” vs. (1 Cor 14:5) “I desire all of you to prophecy”.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Often, as the Spirit reveals things subjectively to us, or those around us, it is confirming something we already sensed through our time in Scripture or talking to wise counsel. In many cases, he exposes the heart motives that may be keeping us from moving forward. In some cases, he directs us to do things that don’t make sense. NEVER does he direct us to do things that contradict His written Word in Scripture.

**C. Practice: Ask – Listen – Test – Trust – Obey**

**Ask:** Holy Spirit, we invite You to speak to us, to grant us wisdom, understanding, & knowledge, that we might know & glorify You in all we do. In Jesus' Name, amen.”

**Listen:** (Give the Spirit a chance to minister to you in your area of need.)

**Test:** What does Scripture say? & other wise & spirit-led individuals say?

**Trust & Obey:** Take steps forward with the Spirit!