

Ephesians 1:17–19 (NIV) ¹⁷ *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (**apokalupsis**), so that you may know him better.* ¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,* ¹⁹ *and his incomparably great power for us who believe...*

A. REVIEW: Revelation (*Apokalupsis*) “Perfect” & “Partial”

Revelation (*apokalupsis*) means: “tearing away of a veil to disclose something previously hidden”. When the Spirit reveals something, it does not come from the natural mind, but is imparted from God’s Spirit to our spirit. (*the Austin example.*) Scripture also speaks of

Illumination (*photizo*) means: in which the Spirit “turns the lights on” and helps us understand the truth.

BOTH are ways in which the Spirit speaks to us today!

Scripture teaches “revelation” was given for Scripture

Galatians 1:12 (ESV) *"For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation (*apokalupsis*) of Jesus Christ."* (John 16:13 “all the truth”.)

Scripture-level revelation (*perfect & complete*)

We wholeheartedly affirm the importance of grounding in Scripture, for it is meant to protect us from radical subjectivity. We also wholeheartedly affirm the Spirit speaking to us outside of Scripture.

Ultimately, our feelings on the matter are unimportant; **Scripture teaches “revelation” given outside of Scripture (See last week for expanded examples of this)**

1 Corinthians 14:6, 26 (NIV) ⁶ *...if I come and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation...* ²⁶ *When you come together, each of you ... a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation..*

Non-Scripture-level revelation (*partial & seen dimly*)

1 Corinthians 13:9–10 (NIV) ⁹ *For we know in part and we prophesy in part,* ¹⁰ *but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.*

Other NT examples of “revelation”:

- The coming of Jesus Christ, when He will be “revealed” (Lk 17:30).
- The future glory (heaven) that will be “revealed” to us (Rom 8:18)
- The man of lawlessness will be “revealed” (2 Thess 2:3,6,8)

POINT: We err when we say the Holy Spirit only “revealed” things in Scripture. Scripture teaches that other things will be revealed objectively to our senses, and that the Spirit reveals things subjectively to our minds.

B. How the Spirit Speaks (*reveals*) to us Today

This is often in the form of a thought, an idea, a picture, a Scripture reference, or a dream.

Before you say, “but that’s subjective! And could lead to error!” you’re right. That’s why **Scripture says we TEST THESE REVELATIONS.** (More on this later in the series)

These revelations are not on the same level as Scripture, but they remain powerful ways the Spirit leads us!

1. The Spirit brings understanding of SCRIPTURE to our minds

DID YOU KNOW? The Apostle Peter needed his theology corrected (**the SPIRIT had to reveal what SCRIPTURE already said; Abrahamic Covenant**). How did he come to this new understanding?

- **Acts 10:9-36 (NIV2011)** “Don’t call unclean what I have called clean.” “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.”

The Spirit had brought understanding to Peter’s mind, changing his theology! – exactly like Jesus said would happen (Jn 14:26-27)

DID YOU KNOW? As your Lead Pastor, I study the Scriptures diligently, memorize, further my education, read commentaries, and learn from those who’ve gone before me. YET I NEVER preach without spending time praying and listening to the Spirit for direction and understanding.

2. The Spirit reveals WISDOM to our minds

James 1:5 (NIV) ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Most often the sort of wisdom God wants us to have will come as the **Holy Spirit teaches us through many years of meditation on Scripture and through our life experiences.**

However, the Spirit may also give us wisdom directly, in answer to prayer.

Colossians 1:9-10 (NIV2011) *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit GIVES, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.*

For example, PARENTING – this has been my best parenting strategy! I study Scripture to learn the principles for raising godly kids, pray for them daily, and as we raised them into teens and adults, we have spent MUCH time seeking the Lord for wisdom about the specific circumstances we faced and how to move forward. The Spirit supplied the wisdom and application for the principles Scripture already taught.

I LIVE THIS VERSE IN EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE. I highly recommend YOU learn to do the same! Parents, marrieds, business owners, leaders, workers, servants, young and old! Joel’s prophecy, as Peter explained, included ALL people.

As you minister to people, or parent, or go to school, or work, WHATEVER - you will encounter times that challenges seem so overwhelming and so perplexing that the only hope for a solution is to cry out to the Lord right then and there for wisdom.

This seems to be the “word (utterance) of wisdom” Paul was referring to in his letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 12:8 (BSB) *To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom...*

3. The Spirit reveals Jesus to us at Salvation and assures us we are saved!

Matthew 11:27 (BSB) *... no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to REVEAL Him.*

Acts 16:14 (BSB) *The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.*

Romans 8:16 (BSB) *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

Example: Me (Stefan), when I doubted I was saved: I told my dad I was so worried I wasn't. No repetition of the biblical formula of putting faith in Jesus seemed to reassure me. He told me, “Take your Bible, ask the Spirit to speak, then stay there until He does.” AND HE DID. As I read 1 John at 6 years old, the Spirit testified to my spirit that I was HIS.

SOME OF YOU NEED TO GET ALONE WITH THE SPIRIT AND REFUSE TO LEAVE UNTIL HE ASSURES YOU.

4. The Spirit Convicts us of Sin and Gives us Warnings

Joseph had a dream that Herod would hunt down the Christ child to kill him. Joseph was instructed to take his little family and flee to Egypt until God signalled that it was safe to return (Mt 2:13-15).

John 16:8–11 (ESV) ⁸ *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:* ⁹ *concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;* ¹⁰ *concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;* ¹¹ *concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

Example: My Story with Compromise

Early in my faith, I was still making many bad decisions, including my media choices. I had a nagging feeling it was wrong, but I rejected it. One night, I had a nightmare in which bears attacked our cabin, and I couldn't keep them out. It was an awful feeling! When I awoke, I immediately knew what the dream meant. The Spirit revealed that I was opening our home to demonic influences that could harm my KIDS. I immediately removed the bad media from my home and changed. (WARNING & CONVICTION)

Obviously, we won't receive warnings every day. But who would deny that our heavenly Father does these sorts of things? Or, that He convicts us of sin?

Hebrews 4:12–13 (NIV) ¹² *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* ¹³ *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

5. The Spirit Reveals God's Love, Encourages, and Comforts You!

God loves each of us, and he is not content to speak to us only in an objective, collective way.

Romans 5:5 (BSB) *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.*

Who can doubt that Paul experienced God's love? Notice his emotions in the following passages.

Romans 8:15 (BSB) *For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that returns you to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

And he says he groaned inwardly, waiting for his adoption to sonship (Rom 8:23)!

He doesn't just want us to know about Him, but to KNOW Him. John 17:3 (BSB) *Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.*

He wants to comfort us! Not just an IDEA but EXPERIENTIALLY! 2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (BSB) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

Example: God comforted my Granny!

My grandma lost her son, Bruce, in a fire on New Year's Eve, 1978, at age 18. Before the funeral, she was sitting in a corner of the living room, grieving and disheartened about the loss of her son. Suddenly she heard a clear voice to her left: "Bruce is OK. He's with Me." She turned to her left to see who had spoken, but no one was sitting there. She looked to see if anyone else had noticed the voice, but no one had. But she was so comforted that she got up and began to serve coffee and food to others. Some wondered at the change in her countenance. Later, she called a prayer partner who had sent news of the tragedy down the prayer chain. Granny shared her experience with the audible voice, to which the woman replied: "We were praying that God would reveal to you if Bruce were with Him. This is the answer to our prayer for you!"

Another example: I prayed with a young woman who lost her father, and the Spirit gave her a picture of her dad with Him in Heaven. She immediately felt peace and was comforted!

I have prayed with COUNTLESS people who were tormented by their past and trauma experienced, where we invited the Spirit to speak, and He brought TRUTH & COMFORT. The result was FREEDOM, TRANSFORMATION, and DEEPER LOVE FOR JESUS! We call this INNER HEALING.

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

Ask: Holy Spirit, we invite You to speak to us, to help us understand and apply Scripture, to give us wisdom, to assure us we are Yours, to show us any sin we need to turn from, and to pour Your love into our hearts. In Jesus' Name, amen."

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

Test: Against Scripture & other, wise & spirit-led, individuals.

Trust & Obey: Take steps forward with the Spirit!