

# CLOTHED WITH POWER 8

## Gifts of the Spirit 3: Revelation Gifts

→ Before going into this message, what did you understand each of these gifts to be? Has that now changed at all? Would you say you've ever seen any of them in operation? Has the Lord ever used you in these gifts?

### WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Def<sup>n</sup>: The revealing of a FACT, DETAIL or piece of INFORMATION that could ONLY be known if God Himself had SHOWN you.

\* Not something that could have been OBSERVED NATURALLY or DEDUCED INTELLECTUALLY ... Must come by INSPIRATION.

→ What is the difference between 'revelation knowledge' and 'sense knowledge'? How might God revealing something pivotal make a crucial difference? Could it be a can-opener / catalyst / elevator / softener?

→ Can you think of any other Biblical examples of this gift in operation?

### WORD OF WISDOM

Def<sup>n</sup>: Supernatural revelation of DIVINE wisdom, which gives insight into His FUTURE PURPOSES.

Another Def<sup>n</sup>: Supernatural revelation of divine wisdom and how to APPLY it in this SPECIFIC SITUATION.

\* Not the same as NATURAL wisdom or CLEVERNESS; this is SPECIFIC, INSPIRED & TIMELY wisdom, as revealed NOW by the Holy Spirit.

→ What is the difference between someone being gifted in wisdom & the Word of wisdom? Into which category do Solomon's actions in 1 Kings 3:16-28 fall?

→ Can you think of any other Biblical examples of this gift in operation?

### DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

Def<sup>n</sup>: The ability to SEE into the SPIRIT REALM so you can PERCEIVE what's REALLY going on.

To discern who or what is AT WORK

\* What are the true MOTIVES?

\* Is someone just being CARNAL or are there MORE SINISTER FORCES behind it?

\* What AGENDA is being pushed and BY WHOM?

\* Not the gift of discerning the FAULTS of others. Don't confuse the discerning of spirits with the CRITICAL spirit.

\* Not an ANGRY, JUDGMENTAL OR PROUD gift.

It is a WISE gift and still operates from the heartbeat of LOVE.

\* Generally speaking, you cannot DEAL with something until you can SEE it. That's why discerning of spirits is so powerful, because it helps you to SEE what GOD sees.

→ Where does the passage Paul wrote in Eph 6:12 come into this? What might perhaps be going on behind the scenes? How often is it demonic and how often is it just carnal human flesh? How can you tell the difference?

→ Can you give an example of the sort of situation where this gift might be valuable? What might you need to discern? How might accurate discernment make a difference?

→ "It's not the 'Gift of discerning the faults in others.' Don't confuse discerning of spirits with a critical spirit!" Discuss!

→ Why do you have to 'see' it before you can confront it?

### HOW DO WE GET THERE? How do we grow & increase in these gifts?

#### 1. Keep CULTIVATING your RELATIONSHIP with the Holy Spirit.

\* If you know what His voice SOUNDS like, in TONE, CHARACTER & EMPHASIS, you're far more likely to RECOGNISE Him speaking when He does.

→ How might you cultivate that relationship this week?

#### 2. DRINK not THINK (John 7:37-38, Psalm 46:10)

\* These gifts are SPIRITUAL not INTELLECTUAL, SUPERNATURAL not NATURAL.

\* You're not going to come up with them by THINKING HARDER.

\* Best way is to WORSHIP, PRAY in TONGUES, get into His PRESENCE & LISTEN.

→ What's the difference between 'drinking' & 'thinking'? Why does that tend to be hard for us? What does it mean to say that we need to 'tune in to a different frequency?' (Psalm 46:10)

#### 3. Aim for SIMPLE

\* It's the INSPIRED part that unlocks the miracle, not our best efforts to LOOK GOOD or SOUND CLEVER.

#### 4. When you share a word, offer it HUMBLY

\* Means you give people a WAY OUT: We need to be extremely careful when we're CLAIMING to speak for God.

\* But, also give them a WAY IN: Something CLEAR that gives them a way to RESPOND to what God has said.

→ Why is humility so important in the receiving of and delivering of these gifts? Have you ever seen the gifts of the Holy Spirit used manipulatively? Why is humble so much better?

### RESPONSE

What might the place be for these gifts in your Connect Group? What could you do as a group to invite God to speak more often and more clearly?