

In my past...my mouth has placed me in some...troubling spots...

Believe it or not, because of my sense of humor...which just may be a minor spiritual gift, and because some of the crazy words that escape from my mouth, some people call me a smart mouth! Can you believe it? It's OK, I can deal with it. I just tell them I'm a smart mouth because I never lost my wisdom teeth!

However, the spiritual gift of the Word of Wisdom mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8, actually gives us the opportunity to have a smart mouth! This gift gives us a month that speaks truth, life and power into people and into situations that need wisdom.

Would you like to be able to speak those powerful words of life? I believe that this gift, just like the others mentioned in Scripture, is supposed to be a supernaturally natural part of our journey with Christ. Sons and daughters, followers of Jesus, need to speak with wisdom.

Let's pray!

In the list of spiritual gifts included in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul listed the "word of wisdom" and "word of knowledge." and then says very little about either of them... as if he was purposefully leaving them mysterious. Yet, we have to understand...Paul was talking to a mostly Jewish crowd and to a Jewish mind, when you talked about the word...**the WORD meant a revelation of God...and to them, WISDOM was:**

Seeing life from God's perspective!

Psalm 111:10 says:

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!"

Wisdom begins with the fear of the LORD. It begins with knowing who God is and who we are in relationship to Him. Being awestruck with who God is gives us understanding on how life works with God and that leads to a life of worship. Wisdom doesn't end with knowledge and understanding, but is expressed in transformed hearts and lives. This is seeing life from God's point of view!

So, the Word of Wisdom...needs to be understood in the idea of relationship...with God and each other. Wisdom and knowledge are given to share and help build up the body of Christ.

To understand this better...let's take the words apart:

"Word" is translated from the Greek word "logos" meaning "the spoken word; the word spoken, not written" but that's the way the Greeks saw it...it meant something deeper to the Jewish believers of Jesus. In the Gospel of John 1:1 we read:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"

John gives a personality to the word logos... Rather than an impersonal force, the logos, the Word is a personal being who can be received or rejected by other people, a God who became a human being to die for the world He created.

Logos was the WORD that was alive!

Logos" is also translated in other parts of the New Testament as:

"to speak well of";

"to praise, to celebrate with praises";

"to invoke blessings upon a person";

"to consecrate a thing with solemn prayers, to ask God's blessing on a thing";

"to cause to prosper, to make happy, to bestow blessings on."

To speak a word, a "logos" is to speak in such a way as to build, bless and cause others to prosper in the Lord.

The word for wisdom is Sophia = cleverness, skill; a right application of knowledge.

Again, this was a Greek definition of the word...wisdom was revelation to the Jewish believer, so the right application of wisdom first needed to know where that wisdom came from...who that wisdom came from.

James 3:17

"But the wisdom from above is first pure (sacred, Holy, clean), then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."

This inner work of the Holy Spirit is necessary to use any and all the gifts mentioned in Scripture. Words are powerful...they can speak life or death...God's wisdom fills our mouths with Holy words. Words of peace, gentle, reasonable, unbiased and earnest pursuit of someone's heart...that bring fruit and life to people that need such wisdom.

My definition: A Word of Wisdom is a supernatural word, skillfully delivered, that builds up, blesses and helps someone grow in God. This is a word that brings life.

The Gift of the word of wisdom enables one to express the Holy Spirit's revelation (of knowledge, facts) to either an individual or to a group of people, (church, etc.,) in a way that surpasses any previous "natural ability" to input into the situation.

The Word of Wisdom is applying knowledge with skill, discernment and compassion for the hearer... Only God's wisdom, through the Holy Spirit is this possible. **The Word of Wisdom gives us the skill in knowing how and when to minister accurately by the Holy Spirit into peoples' lives.** It makes the timing right and enables the other Gifts to make a significant impact. **Remember, Wisdom is all about in transforming hearts and lives.**

The *logos of wisdom* is alive and lives in us! Transforming the way we speak into people's lives! He helps them see God differently, see themselves differently and imparts hope.

John 21:15-25 contains a powerful Word of Wisdom moment:

The disciples have seen the resurrected Jesus and yet they return to something they laid down to follow Jesus 3 years prior to His death and resurrection. Instead of running with the good news of "He is risen!" they went fishing. Jesus does amazingly kind thing...He makes them breakfast, setting Peter up for his logos moment.

Verses 15-29

Feed my sheep...this phrase means to shepherd, to feed, care for...lead...Jesus was asking a man who betrayed Him on the night of His greatest need to continued in the mission he was chosen for.

Jesus spoke a logos word...words meant to build Peter up, to bless and prosper his walk ...words that brought life and opened Peter's eyes to his destiny. Jesus is operating in wisdom here, speaking words of restoration and reconciliation...all motivated by love. Truly wisdom from above.

Words of wisdom bring insight and sometimes they challenge: Verses 20-23

Jesus challenged Peter's idea of fairness and "one size fits all" call to follow Jesus...Peter's personal walk with Jesus would be different than John's.

Last week we all wrote something on a sticky note and hung it on a small wooden cross...deciding to leave them at the foot of the cross...deciding to only carry what God asks us to carry from this day forward.

Without a show of hands, how many of us picked them up again?

Leaving things behind is difficult isn't it? We tend to return to things we know best...out of habit perhaps but maybe because a lack of faith...or fear...or uncertainty...or maybe, like Peter...we need our eyes opened. **Leaving things behind starts with a decision** but requires wisdom beyond our own to deal with on a daily basis.

Jesus conquered death but pain and suffering still exist...right? The Messiah's death, resurrection brings not a future hope but also a hope that things can be different here and now. The enemy comes to rob, steal and destroy...he inflicts pain and suffering BUT Jesus came to bring abundant life...meaningful life, purposeful life...filling us with Holy Spirit to help us overpower the effects of pain and suffering in this world.

Jesus moved away from the symbols of death and decay...If was Jesus I would've started a Holy Land tour right after I arose. I would have paraded those who wanted me dead in front of the cross...taken them to the empty tomb...but that was not the wisdom of God.

Instead Jesus moved as far away from death as He could...and so should we.

God redeemed us so our lives would count in this world...we don't beat death by living longer...we beat death by living powerful lives, fueled by the God who lives inside us.

The Word of Wisdom can give us insight in moving forward...the Spirit reveals deep things.

1 Corinthians 2:9-

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" (10) these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Basically...God's Spirit has shown you everything. His Spirit finds out everything, even what is deep in the mind of God...and He wants us to know!

How do we receive it? We pray for it.... The gift of wisdom is God's wisdom. It is the supernatural impartation of facts; it is not natural. You can't earn it. It is received from God through prayer and it's all about relationship!

Ephesians 1:17

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.