

The Word of Wisdom
1 Corinthians 12:7-11a

I. Intro

● Anecdote

• Filled

- Is this a Spirit-filled church - - it's a question that is often presented by those who want to know if we believe in the continuation of the Charismatic gifts.
- And my answer in brief is - YES - I most certainly believe in the continuation of the Charismatic gifts - and for several reasons.
- The first reason is based on the empirical evidence of charismatic gifts being exercised throughout the entirety of church history.
- As a matter of fact - the witness of history provides us with proof - that there's been a continuation of charismatic gifts...
- ...from the apostolic age - all the way through the time of the modern Pentecostal movement.
- And while I realize that this first reason could be dismissed as an anecdotal fallacy...
- ...I would also appeal to the evidence from the scriptures - which helps us to embrace the continuationist interpretation.

• Abuse?

- Simply put - the New Testament epistles provide us with a biblical basis for believing in the continuation of the charismatic gift.
- Case in point - it's here in 1st Corinthians - where we find Paul - not only presenting us with a list of spiritual gifts...

- ...but - he also presented instructions - so that Christians could grasp the gifts of the Holy Spirit - throughout the entire church age.
- And from this - it only stands to reason that the charismatic gifts should continue to function - from the time of the apostles - until the rapture.
- Not only that - but - Paul also challenged those who were abusing their charismatic gifts.
 - And it's sad to say that there are churches - where Christians are engaging in spiritual shenanigans...
 - ...all the while claiming to be operating in the power of the Holy Spirit.

II. Outline

● Points

- Wisdom
 - That being the case - it's crucial for Christians to grasp the gifts that the Holy Spirit pours out upon those who trust in Jesus.
 - With this as our focus - we're going to start a study of the spiritual gifts that Paul listed here in 1st Corinthians - beginning with the word of Wisdom.
 - And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...the Word of Wisdom is Beneficial
 2. ...the Word of Wisdom is Rational
 3. ...the Word of Wisdom is Supernatural
 - With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...

- ...where we find Paul - presenting the Christians in Corinth - with a list of spiritual gifts.

III. Beneficial

● Set up

• Context

- As we make our way to the twelfth chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- I should remind you that it was back in the beginning of this chapter - when Paul introduced the subject of spiritual gifts.
- And while it's true that the Christians in Corinth were using the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit...
 - ...it's also true that they still had much to learn about the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit distributes to the disciples of Christ.
 - And the chances are - we too still have much to learn about the charismatic gifts of the Spirit.
 - That being the case - we're going to slow our pace so that we can consider the list of gifts found here in our text today.
 - With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 12 beginning there at verse 7 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- Manifestation

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - referring to the manifestation of the Spirit.

- And just to be clear - that word - manifestation - found there in verse 7 - was translated from a Greek word...

- ...which refers to an observable exhibition - or a visible operation - that can be clearly seen.

- As we consider the meaning of this word - in light of it's immediate context...

- ...Paul was clearly referring to the manifestation of the charismatic gifts that he mentioned back in verse 4.

- And with this as our focus - let's take a moment to consider the charismatic gifts that Paul listed.

- List

- It's here in these verses where we find Paul presenting a list of charismatic gifts - which includes the word of wisdom - and not only that - but...

- ...the word of knowledge - faith - gifts of healings - the working of miracles - prophecy - discerning of spirits - tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

- It's here in the same chapter - beginning at verse 28 - where Paul added to this list - by including...

- ...the apostolic gift - the gift of teaching - the gift of helps - and the gift of administrations.

- We also find another list of charismatic gifts in Romans chapter 12 - where Paul also includes a few more gifts...
- ...which includes the gift of ministry - the gift of giving - the gift of leadership - and the gift of mercy.
- If you're interested in a complete study of these charismatic gifts - check out the IGNITE series - at CalvarySouthAustin.com.

- Given

- Here in our time today - we're going to focus on the first gift found here in 1 Corinthians 12 - which is better known as the word of Wisdom.
- But before we do - let's consider the point that Paul was making - there in verse 7 - where he assured us that...

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

- Now - listen - when Paul assured the Christians in Corinth - that the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one...
 - ...he was helping his audience to understand that - every believer has received at least one spiritual gift.
 - In other words - those who are born of the Spirit - by faith in Jesus - receive at least one charismatic gift - at the moment of our conversion.
 - And one reason for why I'm pointing this out is due to the fact that...
 - ...some pastors will insist that there are believers who don't receive spiritual gifts - until they receive the baptism of the Spirit.
- Secondary
 - This was something that Pastor Chuck taught - as he detailed the way the Holy Spirit was poured out on believers - beginning on the day of Pentecost.

- It's in the Calvary Distinctives - where Pastor Chuck referred to this secondary baptism of power - by declaring...

“We believe that there is an experience of the empowering of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer that is distinct and separate from the indwelling of the Spirit that takes place at conversion.”

- Pastor Chuck went on to make his case - by appealing to passages from the gospels - and the book of Acts.
 - And while it's true that the disciples of Christ were already believers - before receiving this baptism of power...
 - ...it's also true that this all took place during a transitional time - as the dispensation of law - gave way to the dispensation of grace.
 - That being the case - the Biblical basis for believing in this secondary baptism of power...
 - ...must first be founded - and grounded in the New Testament epistles.
- Challenge
 - This was the challenge that pastor John Miller presented to me - as we discussed this doctrine at the Pastor's Conference one year.
 - In response - I appealed to Ephesians chapter 5 - it's verse 18 - where Paul declared...

Eph 5:18 ...do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...

- Pastor Miller was quick to remind me that - Paul was NOT referring to a secondary baptism of power...
 - ...NO - instead - he was referring to the ongoing empowerment that we receive - as we walk in the Spirit.

- It was at that moment when I realized that - there's nothing in the epistles...
- ...that would lead us to believe that those who are born of the Spirit - need secondary baptism for the sake of spiritual gifts.
 - And to the contrary - there are several scriptures that assure us that every believer receives spiritual gifts - at the moment of conversion.
- Profit
 - This is precisely the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - - look with me again - there at verse 7 - where he declared...

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
 - From this - we can see that the Charismatic gifts that manifest in the lives of those who are born of the Spirit...
 - ...these gifts have been given to ALL BELIEVERS for the profit of ALL BELIEVERS.
 - Just to be clear - that word - profit - was translated from a Greek word which was used of that which is advantageous - and beneficial.
 - What this means is that - the manifestation of the Spirit that takes place - as the charismatic gifts of the Spirit are exercised...
 - ...becomes a benefit to every believer - as we serve our Savior - side by side.
- Beneficial
 - I like the way that the scholars who created the New English Translation rendered verse 7 - they put it like this...

1Co 12:7 To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all.

- Christian - listen - every believer here at Calvary South Austin has received at least one spiritual gift.
- And according to Paul - the Holy Spirit gave us these gifts - so that the manifestation of the Spirit - can benefit every believer.
- And as we consider the implication of Paul's point - there should be no doubt that...
 - ...every believer has been called to plug in - and use our charismatic gift - for the benefit of the body.
 - And listen - this includes those who are given the word of wisdom.
- Word of Wisdom
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8a for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit...

- Now - I wanna stop right here - so that we can consider how the word of wisdom is a gift that brings benefits to every believer.
- And just to be clear - Paul was NOT referring to the finite wisdom of man - no - instead - he was referring to the infinite wisdom of God.
- We'll talk more about the supernatural aspects of this gift of wisdom - in the third point of this study.
- But for now - I want to focus on the way that we benefit from the word of wisdom.

- And with this as our focus - we should consider how we desperately need the wisdom of God.

- Context

- Now - I realize that it's been more than a year since we started our study of this epistle...
- ...and the chances are - - we've already forgotten about the way that Paul began this book - with a focus on the wisdom of God.
- That being the case - let's hold our place here in chapter 12 - and let's turn to 1st Corinthians chapter 2...
- ...because - it's back in the second chapter of this epistle - where Paul helped his audience to understand that...
- ...the wisdom of God has been hidden from the natural mind of man.
- Thankfully for us - the Holy Spirit used Paul to speak forth the wisdom of God - so that we can all benefit from his epistles.

- Application

- Hidden
- Speak
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 2 - look with me - beginning there at verse 6 - where Paul declared...

1Co 2:6 ...we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the difference between the wisdom of this world - and the wisdom of God.

- And being that the infinite wisdom of God is a mystery that is beyond our ability to search out...
- ...we can rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit used Paul - to speak forth the wisdom of God...
- ...so that we can all benefit from the divine wisdom that the Lord revealed here in his epistles.

- The Bible

- The same can be said for all the books of the Bible - where we find the wisdom of God - clearly presented.
- And you better believe that the Christians who spend time studying the scriptures - will benefit from the wisdom of God.
- I should also point out that the Holy Spirit often provides me with this spiritual gift - as I prepare these weekly Bible studies.
- That's right - I often receive a word of wisdom - as I prayerfully consider how to expound upon the scriptures.
- And listen - there are times when the Holy Spirit gives me a word of wisdom - as I'm teaching here in the pulpit.
- In this way - the Spirit of God helps those who are here - to benefit from the exposition and application of His word.
 - Without debate - the word of wisdom is a gift that is beneficial to every believer.

- Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because - listen...

1. ...the Word of Wisdom is not only Beneficial....

2. ...but - the Word of Wisdom is also Rational

- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider this charismatic gift that Paul presented - here in 1st Corinthians 12.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

IV. Rational

● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8a for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit...

• Logos

- In order to grasp the nature of this charismatic gift - we should take a moment to consider the meaning of the word - - word.
- You see - Paul wasn't just referring to the wisdom of God - - he was referring to the wisdom - which is revealed with a word.
- It might interest you to know that the word - WORD - found there in verse 8 - was translated from the Greek word - Logos.
- And one reason for why this is so interesting is due to the fact that...
 - ...this is the same Greek word that the apostle John used in reference to the deity of the Lord Jesus...
 - ...in the first chapter of his gospel account.

• Jesus

- It's in John chapter 1 - beginning at verse 1 - where the apostle John declared...

Jhn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jhn 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Jhn 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

- In the beginning - the LOGOS was with God - showing distinction - and at the same time the LOGOS was God - showing equality.
- And while it's true that All things were made through Him - - it's also true that the LOGOS became flesh and dwelt among us.
- This was precisely the point that John presented in verse 14 - where we learn that...
 - ...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us - so that we could behold the glory of the only begotten of the Father.
 - In other words - the LOGOS of God clothed Himself with humanity - so that we might grasp the infinite wisdom of God.
- Christ
- I like the way that Paul put it - back in the first chapter of 1st Corinthians - it's beginning at verse

1Co 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1Co 1:22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

1Co 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

1Co 1:24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

- Christ Jesus is the infinite Logos - Who came to reveal to omnipotence - and the omniscience of our God.

- This was precisely the point that Paul was making when He informed us that Christ *is* the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- In this way - the physical incarnation of the essential Word came to the Earth - so that we might embrace the infinite wisdom of God.
- Not only that - but - the Lord Jesus also asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit...
 - ...so that the church could receive the divine wisdom - which would be revealed - after the resurrection of our Redeemer.
- Guide
 - It's in John chapter 16 - beginning in verse 12 - where the Lord Jesus declared...

Jhn 16:12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Jhn 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Jhn 16:14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

- According to the Lord Jesus - the Holy Spirit would be sent with the goal of guiding His disciples into all truth.
 - And it was beginning on the day of Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon all believers...
 - ...so that the disciples of Christ could be led with the LOGOS of divine wisdom.
 - And while this most certainly refers to the word of wisdom that we find in the New Testament...
 - ...the word of wisdom is also a charismatic gift - that helps us to think rationally.

- Logos
 - In order to explain my point - it'll help you to know that - the Greek word - LOGOS - is the basis for our English word - LOGIC.
 - Joseph Thayer actually defined the Greek word - LOGOS - as the mental faculty of thinking - meditating - reasoning - and calculating.
 - Spiros Zohdiate also informs us that this word refers to the reasoning faculty as that power of the soul which is the basis of speech.
 - With these definitions in mind - we can see that the logos of wisdom is the rational speech - which is according to the divine mind of God.
 - And that's interesting - especially as we consider the endless examples of charismatic Christians...
 - ...who proclaim irrational ideas - in the name of the Holy Spirit.
- Example 1
 - For example - it was last February - during the "Encounter Conference" at Rock Church in Parkersburg, West Virginia...
 - ...that's when a self proclaimed "prophet" named Kevin Leal handed a page of the Bible to an 18 year old attendee.
 - He went on to assure the teenager that he would receive the power of God - if he would chew and swallow that section of scripture.
 - Then - after assuring the young man that he would become a "kingdom businessman" and millionaire...
 - ...the impressionable teenager proceeded to eat a page from the book of proverbs.
 - Please trust me when I tell you that - this is not the right way to receive a word of wisdom from the Holy Spirit.

- Example 2
- Kat Kerr is another spiritual charlatan - who has convinced her followers - that she's been caught up to heaven multiple times.
- It was earlier this year - when she informed us that she met with Charlie Kirk...
- ...who is apparently wielding thousands of arrows to dispel darkness on earth - from his mansion there in Heaven.
- So - yeah - this false prophetess with pink hair - has convinced her fans - that she is able to engage in the sin of necromancy.
- Clearly - this is not the wisdom of God - no - instead - this is at best - the vain imagination of false teacher.
- And the proof of my point is found in the fact that - her so-called wisdom - is completely irrational.
- Example 3
- Then there's the false apostles of the NAR movement - who claim that they were led by the Holy Spirit to affirm Todd Bentley as a fellow apostle.
- Then - within days of his apostolic confirmation - Bentley's ministry collapsed in a massive moral scandal...
- ...after he was caught in an inappropriate relationship with a female member of his staff.
- Bentley was ordered by his board to refrain from all public ministry - so that he could receive counsel - for the sake of restoration.
- But rather than submitting to the counsel - Bentley married the woman with whom he committed adultery.

- Clearly - the false apostles of the NAR movement had failed to receive a word of wisdom from the Holy Spirit.
- Irrational
 - Sadly - time would fail us to consider a comprehensive list of the charismatic preachers who claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit...
 - ...while simultaneously presenting their parishioners with irrational instructions - which is clearly lacking in logical wisdom.
 - For example - if you look at the so-called revivals that take place at these churches...
 - ...you'll find the false apostles of the NAR - leading people to act irrationally - as they laugh uncontrollably - and roll around on the floor.
 - It's for this reason that the apostle John called every Christian to test the spirits...
 - ...and the reason why is because - there are many false prophets in the world - who are leading people astray.
- Application
 - Test?
 - With this as the goal - we should take a moment to ask - how should we test the spirits?
 - How can we be sure that those who claim to have a word of wisdom from the Lord - are actually speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - And how should we test the wisdom of those who tell us that they have a word from the Lord for us?
 - The most rational way to test the spirits - is to compare spiritual things - with spiritual things.

- And just to be clear - the person who is speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit...
- ...will present us with a word of wisdom - which is in line with the word of God.

- Scripture

- I like the way that Paul put it - in 2nd Timothy chapter 3 - it's beginning at verse 16 - where we learn that...

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
 2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- You might not know this - but - the scriptures that we find in the Holy Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.
- And according to Paul - those who want to be thoroughly equipped for every good work - should spend time studying the scriptures.
- One reason why is because - those who are equipped - according to the truth of God's word...
 - ...will receive them wisdom we need - to test the teachings of those who claim to be speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - The reason why is because - the Holy Spirit will NEVER contradict the Holy Spirit - with irrational ideologies.

- Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because - listen...

1. ...the Word of Wisdom is not only Beneficial....

2. ...and - the Word of Wisdom is not only Rational...

3. ...but - the Word of Wisdom is also Supernatural.

- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider this charismatic gift that Paul presented - here in 1st Corinthians 12.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

V. Supernatural

● Text

1Co 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8a for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit...

- Through
- As we take another look at this first charismatic gifts on Paul's list...
- ...we must not fail to realize that the manifestation of this gift is not only rational - - it's also supernatural.
- And so - while it's true that the word of wisdom will comport with the laws of logic...
- ...it's also true that this gift is NOT the product of human reasoning - nor is it conjured up with natural deduction.
- No - instead - the word of wisdom is a gift that is manifest through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.
- And what this means is that - the word of wisdom originates in the mind of our omniscient God.
- Contrast

- I like the way that Paul explained it - back in 1st Corinthians chapter 2 - - it's beginning at verse 12 - where he declared...

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

1Co 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand the difference...
 - ...between the natural wisdom of man - and the supernatural wisdom of God.
 - And according to Paul - the natural mind is unable to receive the wisdom of the Holy Spirit...
 - ...and the reason why is because - they are spiritually discerned.
 - In other words - the natural mind is unable to make sense of the supernatural wisdom of God.
- Unsearchable
 - Not only that - but - the natural mind is unable to search out the infinite wisdom of God.
 - In like the way that Paul put it - in Romans chapter 11 - it's beginning at verse 33 - where Paul declared...

Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Rom 11:34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD?
Or who has become His counselor?"

- Christian - listen - the infinite depths of God's wisdom are unsearchable to the natural mind.
- The reason why is because - it's impossible for the finite mind of man to search out the infinite mind of God.
- Case in point - we don't have the ability to read the mind of the person sitting next to us right now - - and that's probably a good thing.
- Now - think about that for a moment - if we're unable to read the mind of another individual...
 - ...then - there's no way that the natural mind will be able to search out the supernatural mind of God.
- Higher

- Let's consider how the Lord put it - in the 55th chapter of Isaiah's book - it's verses 8 and 9 - where the Lord declared...

Isa 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

Isa 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts."

- From this - we can see that the thoughts of the Lord - are higher than our thoughts.
- Therefore - it only stands to reason that the wisdom of God - is higher than the wisdom of man.
- It's for this reason that King Solomon encouraged those who trust in the Lord - to walk in His wisdom.
- It's in Proverbs chapter 3 - verses 5 thru 7 - where he declared...

Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,

And lean not on your own understanding;
Pro 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
Pro 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

- Higher

- Christian - listen - - those who lean on their own natural understanding - will fail to walk in the wisdom of the Lord.
- And it's for this reason that James encouraged us to prayerfully ask God for the supernatural wisdom that we need.
- With this as our focus - let's turn in our Bibles to the epistle of James - I'd like you to turn to James chapter 1...
- ...and as we make our way to the first chapter of James - I should take a moment to remind you that...
- ...those who want to receive the supernatural wisdom of God - must first walk in the fear of the Lord.
- The reason why is because - the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- In other words - it's the reverential respect of the Lord - that leads us to realize that we desperately need the wisdom of our God.

- Application

- Ask
- With this in mind - let's consider how James put it - here in James chapter 1 look with me - beginning there at verse 5 - where he declared...

Jas 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Jas 1:7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

Jas 1:8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- James was so polite when he said - - IF any of you lacks wisdom - - because - the fact is - - WE ALL lack wisdom.
- Thankfully - those who trust in the Lord Jesus can simply ask God to provide us with the wisdom we need...
- ...and if we ask with a heart that's filled with faith - then we can rejoice in knowing that...
- ...the God Who possesses supernatural wisdom will guide us accordingly.
- And according to James - He will give us His wisdom - liberally and without reproach
- How?
- Now - just to be clear - the Lord isn't providing us with "liberal wisdom" - - because - let's be honest - there's no such thing as liberal wisdom.
- No - instead - He provides us with wisdom in liberal amounts - - which is to say that He gives us an abundant measure of wisdom.
- And if you're wondering how the Lord provides us with an abundant measure of wisdom...
- ...then - it'll help you to know that - there are multiple ways that He might provide us with the wisdom we need.
- This includes the supernatural wisdom that we find in the Bible - - and it's also possible that He might give us a word of wisdom.
- It's also possible that the Lord will provide us with a word of wisdom through a leader who is keeping us accountable.

- Counsel

- Let's consider how King Solomon explained it - in Proverbs chapter 15 - it's beginning at verse 31 - where he declared...

Pro 15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life
Will abide among the wise.

Pro 15:32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul,
But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.

Pro 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom,
And before honor is humility.

- Christian - listen - the Lord will often times provide us with a word of wisdom...
 - ...through the leaders that He raises up to rebuke - and redirect - according to the supernatural wisdom of God.
 - And it's for this reason that those who want to walk in the wisdom of God...
 - ...should humbly receive the rebuke of the leaders that the Lord has placed in our lives.
 - In this way - we will benefit from the manifestation of this spiritual gift.

- Reception

- With this as our focus - we should take a moment to examine our own lives by asking...
 - ...how should we respond to those who present us with a word of wisdom?
 - And with this question in mind - we should take a moment to consider the right way to receive the word of wisdom.

- Let's flip forward James chapter 3 - - because - it's here in the third chapter of James' epistle...
 - ...where we find James - describing the way that wise Christians will respond to the leaders...
 - ...who present us with a word of wisdom from the Lord.
- Wisdom
- Look with me - there at James chapter 3 - it's verse 17 - where we learn that...
- Jas 3:17 ...the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
- Christian - listen - if we're truly walking in the wisdom of the Lord - then this is how we will respond to a word of wisdom.
 - And whether the word of wisdom comes from something said from the pulpit - - or we hear it from a leader - during a time of accountability...
 - ...those who are walking in the wisdom of the Lord - will peacefully yield to the wisdom of God.
 - In other words - the Christian who is wise - will welcome the word of wisdom - with unwavering submissive ...
 - ...as we humbly realize that - God's supernatural wisdom is better than our finite understanding.
- Examine
- With all of this in mind - we should take a moment to examine our own lives but asking...
 - ...how do I respond - when the Lord sends another believer to rebuke me with a supernatural word of wisdom?

- Do we pushback - and make excuses for why we don't need to heed the word from the Lord?
- Or - are we quick to submit to the wisdom that the Lord pours out - through the manifestation of this charismatic gift.
- Please trust me when I tell you that - those who want to walk in the supernatural wisdom of the Lord...
 - ...should be ready to receive the instructions and the corrections that the Lord reveals - through the word of wisdom.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - I encourage every Christian to realize that...
 - ...the Holy Spirit is still using the word of wisdom - to guide us into all truth.
 1. With that being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that the Word of Wisdom is Beneficial for every believer.
 2. We must also realize that - the Word of Wisdom will help us to become Rational believers - who are grounded in the logic of the Lord.
 3. And finally - the Word of Wisdom is a Supernatural gift that enables us to walk in the wisdom of God.
 - With all of this being the case - it's my prayer that we will all remember that...
 - ...this manifestation of the Spirit is given to some of us - for the profit of all.

- It's for this reason that we should receive the benefits of this gift - so that we can walk in the wisdom of the LORD.