

Activating Our Position in Christ

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Spiritual Gifts Explained – The Perceiving Gifts

Today we are going to take a little deeper look into the gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned here...

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (ESV) — To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

...Last time we broke down the gifts into groupings...

→ **The Grouping of Spiritual Gifts...**

The Grouping of Spiritual Gifts		
Perceiving	Power	Proclaiming
Wisdom	Faith	Prophecy
Knowledge	Healings	Tongues
Discerning of spirits	Miracles	Interpretation of tongues

Today we are going to dive deeper into our first grouping known as **PERCEIVING GIFTS**...

1. The Spiritual Gift of Wisdom

1 Corinthians 12:8a (ESV) — For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom ...

λόγος σοφίας – logos sophias

Literally...

“A word of wisdom”

What is a word of wisdom?

→ **Spiritual Gifts Explained – Perceiving 1**

Perceiving	
Wisdom	A supernatural revelation from God to an individual, of His mind and purpose
Knowledge	A supernatural revelation from God to an individual, of any _____ or _____
Discerning of spirits	A supernatural revelation from God of the _____ or _____ of the spirit world

The apostle Paul asked, who can know the mind of God?

1 Corinthians 2:16 (ESV) — “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

We do not instruct the Lord, but through the Holy Spirit we have the Lord’s instructions!

The Wisdom of God is VERY PRACTICAL and to the point!

A Word of Wisdom is a tiny portion of God's total wisdom directly and supernaturally imparted by the Holy Spirit

With a few simple words God's wisdom can change things!

Ecclesiastes 10:10 (ESV) — If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed.

Wisdom is the sharpened ax!

A word of wisdom brings success!

Examples in Scripture

There are many examples in the Scripture regarding a Word of Wisdom

→ Acts 6 – Wisdom for Deacons...

Acts 6:1–4 (ESV) — 1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

→ Acts 15 – Wisdom for the Gentile believers...

Acts 15:1 (ESV) — But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

This brought a great stir among the Gentiles...

Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to discuss this issue...

After much discussion it was decided that circumcision was not necessary for salvation...

James had spoken and then they crafted a letter to be taken to the Gentile believers throughout...

Acts 15:28–29 (ESV) — For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

2. The Spiritual Gift of Knowledge

1 Corinthians 12:8b (ESV) — ... and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit

λόγος γνώσεως – logos gnoseos

Literally...

“A word of knowledge”

→ **Spiritual Gifts Explained – Perceiving 2**

Perceiving	
Wisdom	A supernatural revelation from God to an individual, of His <u>mind</u> and <u>purpose</u>
Knowledge	A supernatural revelation from God to an individual, of any <u>fact</u> or <u>event</u>
Discerning of spirits	A supernatural revelation from God of the _____ or _____ of the spirit world

A Word of Knowledge is a tiny portion of God’s total knowledge directly and supernaturally imparted by the Holy Spirit

Also know...

Supernatural Knowledge does not come by natural reasoning, education, or training, but directly by the Holy Spirit!

This is an important gift!

Many times a Word of Knowledge is given as a tool to bring faith into operation for healing!

Examples in Scripture

→ **Acts 5 – Knowledge regarding Ananias and Sapphira...**

Acts 5:1–2 (ESV) — But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife’s knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

Acts 5:3 (ESV) — But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?”

→ **Acts 20 – Knowledge regarding future ministry issues...**

Acts 20:22–23 (ESV) — And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

3. The Spiritual Gift of Discernings of Spirits

1 Corinthians 12:10 (ESV) — ... to another the ability to distinguish between spirits ...

διακρίσεις πνευμάτων – diakriseis pneumatwn

Literally ...

“distinguishings of spirits”

→ **Spiritual Gifts Explained – Perceiving 3**

Perceiving	
Wisdom	A supernatural revelation from God to an individual, of His <u>mind</u> and <u>purpose</u>
Knowledge	A supernatural revelation from God to an individual, of any <u>fact</u> or <u>event</u>
Discerning of spirits	A supernatural revelation from God of the <u>presence</u> or <u>activities</u> of the spirit world

I know that “distinguishings” is not an actual word, but I am using it to make a point...

Both “distinguishings” and “spirits” are PLURAL!

This is important!

We have multiple types of distinguishing regarding multiple types of spirits...

Discerning of the Holy Spirit

Revelation 2:7a (ESV) — He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

This phrase is quoted 15 times in the NT!

Discerning of Angelic Spirits

→ John 1 – Jesus’ words to Nathanael...

John 1:51 (ESV) — And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

→ John 20 – Mary Magdalene at the Resurrection...

Mary went to Simon Peter and to John and told them Jesus’ body was gone...

They ran to the tomb and both went in and saw the linen cloth where Jesus’ body had been placed...

Then listen to what happened next...

John 20:10–12 (ESV) — Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.

Apparently the disciples didn’t see the angels when they went in, but Mary saw them...

→ Acts 8 – Philip and the Ethiopian...

Acts 8:26–27a (ESV) — Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went.

Discerning of Demonic Spirits

→ Luke 13 – Woman with disabling spirit...

Luke 13:11–13 (ESV) — And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “Woman,

you are freed from your disability.” And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.

→ Acts 16 – Spirit of divination...

Acts 16:16–18 (ESV) — As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

Discerning of Human Spirits

→ John 1 – Jesus’ words to Nathanael...

John 1:47 (ESV) — Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”

→ Acts 14 – Paul with the cripple man...

Acts 14:8–10 (ESV) — Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.

Developing the Discernings of Spirits

Hebrews 5:11–14 (ESV) — About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

I want to focus on verse 14...

Hebrews 5:14 (ESV) — But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Genesis 2:16–17 (ESV) — And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:4–5 (ESV) — But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Mankind has been attempting to determine good and evil ever since...

But it wasn’t until Acts 2 and the coming of the Holy Spirit that we could actually discern good from evil!

Let's mature into the solid food of God's Kingdom!

Hebrews 5:14 (ESV) — But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

The discernments of spirits can be trained!

The discernments of spirits takes practice!

The discernments of spirits distinguishes good from evil!

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 12:7-11
Spiritual Gifts Explained – Perceiving Gifts

1. The Spiritual Gift of Wisdom

2. The Spiritual Gift of Knowledge

3. The Spiritual Gift of Discernings of Spirits

Perceiving	
Wisdom	A supernatural revelation from God to an individual, of His _____ and _____
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The Grouping of Spiritual Gifts	Proclaiming	Prophecy	Tongues	Interpretation of tongues
	Power	Faith	Healings	Miracles
	Perceiving	Wisdom	Knowledge	Discerning of spirits

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Crossgates, Wed Sermon

David Jett