

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Sermon Points

**Week 4 - 5.14.23 | Tyler Wilson**

**Title: Knowledge, Wisdom, Teaching & Exhortation**

**Scripture: Colossians 1:9-10**

Main Point: God supplies truth-based gifts to His people to clarify, direct, deepen, and stir our relationship with Him.

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-10 ESV - And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

## **KNOWLEDGE**

1. Definition - the ability to clearly understand deep and difficult truths from Scripture

2. In a word - Learner

3. Biblical Examples

- Matthew
- Paul
- Apollos - Acts 18:24
- Priscilla & Aquila - Acts 18:26
- OT - Ezra, Solomon, Daniel

4. Marks you may have this gift

- Love truth & love studying the Bible (delight is in the law of the Lord, on his law meditates day and night)
- Gather and analyze biblical information as you want to learn as much about God as possible

- Eager to read and research more when you encounter a biblical question or something you don't know well
- Acquire and retain information proficiently - comes easy
- Grasp complex subjects and ideas and their inner-workings
- Usually very thorough - not content with surface-level knowledge
- Have internalized and can recall Scripture and relate it at the right time - A 'Walking Bible'
- Want to share knowledge & help others understand things
- Tether all biblical knowledge back to Jesus - have a gospel-centered lens not just academic understanding of facts
- Able to trace themes and patterns very well
- Can spot when others are not teaching or speaking accurately
- Enjoy pressing into subjects with great **depth**
- Others come to you with biblical questions and problems because they know you'll have the answer or will find it

#### 5. Picture of the Church - Library

#### 6. Character of God on display - Omniscience

#### 7. Goal of this Gift

- People are encouraged to be learners and are resourced in that learning
- Our church is doctrinally sound and biblically literate
- We know God deeply and are discovering the riches of the gospel - roots are deep
- Helping doubters and skeptics be assured
- Apologetic outpost to the world

#### 8. Ways to use this gift

##### **Ministries**

- Teaching opportunities
- 1 on 1 Discipleship / Mentoring
- Student Ministry
- Serving Elders or Katherine Ann - Deacon of Resourcing

##### **GC**

- Stirring fruitful conversations

- Study Groups
- Helping people with questions
- Culture setter - learners / growing

### **Other**

- Apologetics
- Writing & Resourcing
- Academic Equipping

### 9. Ways to misuse this gift - warnings and weaknesses to watch out for

- Easy to make others feel inferior or ignorant without intending to
- Can talk over people's head - so deep into a subject forget to translate and make it accessible for those who aren't
- If void of vibrant inner life and relationship with God, can produce academic and dry religion (Spirit + Truth)
- Knowledge can produce pride (1 cor. 8:1)
- Use knowledge to gain acceptance, admiration, status or control rather than used to serve
- Sit on your knowledge rather than sharing it

### 10. Encouragement

- Know *Scripture* first!
- Know *Jesus* most
- Know *love* best!
- Know *truth* better!
- Know how to use it!

### 11. Everyone Else

- Go to them with Questions
- Give them opportunities to share their knowledge
- Help them see where their knowledge is needed

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Knowledge - focused on understanding

Wisdom - focused on applying knowledge to life.

Wisdom = the skill of living well.

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## **WISDOM**

1. Definition - the ability to practically apply biblical knowledge to life by advising others towards godly and fruitful decision making

2. In a word - Advisor

3. Biblical Examples

- Stephen - Acts 6:3, 10
- Luke
- Mary - Luke 1
- James
- Paul - Col. 1:28, 2 Pet. 3:15
- OT - Solomon, Joseph, Deborah, Abigail, Moses, Naomi

4. Marks you may have this gift

- Possesses extraordinary insight into people and situations - and can take that understanding and counsel others in what to do and how to do it.
- Can discover meaning and implications of a biblical passage quickly - almost intuitively
- Take Scripture and practically help others make good life choices
- People regularly come to you for advice and prayer and regularly leave with clarity & confidence
- Can rightly recognize where a decision or action will lead and can warn against those that may be harmful or unfruitful - quickly assess what's good and not good
- Good at evaluating difficult or confusing situations through a biblical worldview
- Practical problem solver - Can see gospel solutions in the middle of hard problems
- Have been trained over time and experience in being led by the Holy Spirit - strong reliance on God for wisdom, not just natural reason
- Can take from own life experience and instruct others from what the Lord has taught them through those things
- Walk with humility (James 3:13) - Wise people are very well aware they don't know it all and often don't consider themselves wise

- Rightly understand God and have humble relationship with him - fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (He's the source)
- Understanding of God leads to a well-order life that, though not sinless, is above reproach and upright.
- When you speak to a situation it often feels to others like a conclusive final word.
- Opposing viewpoints are unable to hold up to not only the truth you speak but the manner in which you speak it (Luke 21:15, Acts 6:10)
- Learner - wise people get wiser

#### 5. Picture of the Church - Mountain Climbing / Guides

#### 6. Character of God on display - Wisdom

#### 7. Goal of this gift

- Maturity - others are guided to fruitful lives of holiness, worship and joy - free from the compounding pain and suffering that comes from foolishness - Col. 1:9-10
- Depth of relationship with God
- Church is led and steered in God-honoring, Spirit-led, directions.

#### 8. Ways to use this gift

##### **Ministries -**

- Well Students / Well Elementary / Well Kids
- Counseling
- Prayer Team
- Deacon or Elder
- Leadership in ministries - strategic administration and direction
- Feedback to leaders of ministries (GC)

##### **GC**

- 1 on 1 Discipleship / Mentoring
- Leader, Co-Leader, or helping leaders with feedback

##### **Other**

- Apologetics Ministry - Luke 21:15 / Acts 6:10 - defense of the gospel.
- Grace Home - needs this week

- Financial stewardship ministry
- Parenting

### 9. Ways to misuse this gift - weakness and warnings to watch out for

- Can turn into pride if not regularly re-orienting to humility before God
- Sometimes come across as aloof if not possessing other relational gifts - here's your truth prescription or decision to make without personal care
- May appear authoritative in telling others what to do if not shared in love
- At times make decisions too quickly out of intuition or experience vs. stopping to ensure such wisdom is from the Lord
- Others can become dependent on you if you're not pointing them to the Lord and helping them develop wisdom themselves
- Can be frustrated by others' unwise decisions or lifestyle

### 10. Encouragement

- Seek it - Heb. 5:14, James 1:5, Luke 2:52
- Speak it - Col. 3:16, James 3:13-17

### 11. Everyone Else

- Be dependent - Invite them into life challenges, decisions, and situations that need wisdom vs. being self-reliant
- Heed their counsel

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## **TEACHING**

1. Definition - the ability to clearly and relevantly explain God's Word in a way that results in people understanding truth and applying it to their life.

2. In a Word - Educator

3. Biblical Examples

- Peter (Acts 2-5)
- John & other apostles (Acts 3, 5:20-32, 1-3 John)
- Paul (Acts 18:11, 20:20-21, 1 Thess. 2, 1 Tim. 2:7)
- Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)

- Priscilla & Aquila (Acts 18:26)
- Timothy (1 Cor. 4:17, 1 Tim. 4:11)
- Antioch Church Teachers - Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius (Acts 13:1)
- OT - Ezra
- Likely Phoebe (Rom. 16:1-2)
- Likely Luke
- Likely Lois & Eunice (2 Tim. 3:14-16)

#### 4. Marks you may have this gift

- Driven by a passion for knowing Scripture deeply and explaining it to others
- Take great joy in seeing others learn and apply God's Word to their lives
- Loves seeing the depth of the gospel woven throughout the Scriptures and helping others discover such wondrous truths.
- Knows the gospel inside and out and contagiously communicates it's wonder and implications.
- Can present truths very clearly and in a variety of methods - excellent communicator / easy to understand
- Able to make difficult passages & subjects accessible and relevant.
- Has a knack for naturally using illustrations, metaphors, stories, structure and other literary devices to convey truth
- Can anticipate beforehand and read in the moment listeners' questions, objections, and emotions to content
- Often skilled with language
- People come to you with questions about God, the Bible, and life and enjoy listening to your answers
- Can't help but tether all answers and teaching to the Scripture
- Drawn to help those who are confused or lacking understanding of the Bible
- Care intensely about sound exegesis - hate when Scripture is abused and used out of context or with ill intent
- Usually very bold and confident declaring or discussing the Scriptures
- Typically very precise and thorough
- Love the truth and can clearly speak the truth in love.
- When you teach, people 'get it' - They comprehend it and it bears fruit in their lives.

#### 5. Picture of the Church - School

#### 6. Character of God - Truth

## 7. Goal of this gift

- People are faithfully disciplined in knowing God deeply - life change is occurring as truth leads to transformation
- Those who are struggling or suffering are anchored in truth
- Worship of God and love for Him is stirred
- Protection of the church from error, false gospels, idols and sin.
- Proclamation of the gospel to the unsaved

## 8. Ways to use this gift

### **Ministries**

- Well Kids / Elementary / Students
- Counseling Ministry
- Trainings or Prayer Times - how to study the bible, volunteers trainings, evangelism, equipping classes, etc.
- Equipping in particular subjects
- Men's and women's events
- Elder / Pastor

### **GC**

- 1 on 1 discipleship / mentoring
- Sermon Discussion Time
- Study Groups
- Resourcing
- Leader / Co-Leader

### **Other**

- Equipping in particular subjects
- Evangelism
- Apologetics ministry
- Education - school, colleges, seminaries
- Home!

## 9. Ways to misuse this gift - warnings and weaknesses to watch out for

- If not careful, tendency to dig too deep and lose people - get exhaustive & thus exhausting.



- Explaining without proclaiming - words without worship / content without life change
- Emphasis on accuracy at the expense of application - lack relevance
- Bore with unnecessary details
- Teaching the wrong things or in the wrong ways - 1) false teachers. 2) teaching as doctrines commandments of men (Pharisees - Matt. 15:9)
- Teaching for personal gain (Titus 1:11)
- Can get too dependent on research and others' voices and unintentionally neglect the Holy Spirit directly from The Word.
- Pride - knowledge puffs up
- Can teach arrogantly as if they are the only valid source of truth
- Inadvertently discount wisdom of the uneducated
- Can concentrate only on pet doctrines or get sucked way into details and lose the big picture perspective of the gospel - 'issue Christian'
- Become overly critical of others who disagree on open-handed things
- Teaching outpaces their own life / application of the teaching

#### 10. Encouragement

- Teach Humbly - James 3:1
- Teach Truthfully - 1 Tim. 4:11, Tit. 2:1
- Teach Maturely - 1 Tim. 4:12
- Teach Diligently - 1 Tim. 4:13-15, Deut. 6:7, 2 Tim. 2:15
- Teach Naturally - Deut. 6:7-9, Col. 3:16
- Teach Joyfully - John 6:68, Acts 4:20
- Teach Boldly - Acts 4:29-31, 13:46, 18:26, 19:8, 28:31, Eph. 6:19
- Teach Transformationally - John 8:32, 2 Tim. 3:16, Eph. 4:12-15
- Teach Uniquely - Rom. 12:7
- Teach Spiritually - Luke 12:12, John 14:26
- Teach Others to Teach - 2 Tim. 2:2

#### 11. Everyone Else

- Enable their teaching with eager learning
  - Encourage their teaching with specific feedback
  - Examine their teaching to ensure it's biblical faithfulness
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## EXHORTATION

### Parakaleo

1 - to exhort, admonish, implore (Luke 3:18, Acts 2:40, 1 Tim. 2:1, Eph. 4:1)

2 - to encourage, console, strengthen, comfort (Acts 14:22, 15:32, Eph. 6:22, 2 Cor. 1:3-6, John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7)

\*In both there is an element of speaking truth to stir an intended positive effect in the hearer - activating God's Word into belief and action

Exhortation is distinct from teaching - 1 Tim. 4:13, 2 Tim. 4:2

Exhortation is a one another as well as a spiritual gift - 2 Cor. 13:11, 1 Thess. 4:18, 5:11, Heb. 10:25, 3:13)

1. Definition - the ability to come alongside people with truth-filled urging and encouraging to meaningfully apply the gospel to their life

2. In a word - Encourager

### 3. Biblical Examples

- John the Baptist (Luke 3:18)
- Barnabas (Acts 9:26-31, 11:22-26, 13:46)
- Silas & Judas (Acts 15:32)
- Paul (Acts 20:1, 28:31, 1 Tim. 2:1, 1 Thess. 2:11-12)
- Lydia (Acts 16:15)
- Peter (1 Pet. 5:12)
- Titus (1 Cor. 7:6)
- Tychicus (Eph. 6:21-22, Col. 4:7-8)
- Timothy (1 Thess. 3:2)
- Elizabeth (Luke 1:42-45)
- OT - Jonathan, Abigail, Hezekiah, Deborah, Aaron

### 4. Marks you may have this gift

- Can effectively **apply the gospel** to various spheres of life in ways that lead to change - good at making things practical
- Enthusiastic about Jesus and seeing others follow him wholeheartedly
- People come to you for help and encouragement

- Loves to prescribe clear steps of action for personal growth
- Don't like teaching that doesn't have practical application
- Good at getting to people's heart and habits - understands the inner life and can strengthen people at core levels
- People feel helped and healed by your words - even when they're challenging or hard there is an uplifting effect.
- Energetic and motivating presence that is contagious to others
- Able to console and comfort those hurting and hopeless, encourage those who are down or wavering, admonish those who are idle and apathetic, urge those complacent, confront those who are hardened, rebuke those who need correction, help those who are weak, etc. all in order to foster their spiritual growth - can meet people in their particular need
- Help people see Jesus is better & God's ways are for their good without being judgmental, off-putting or oppositional
- Great at coming alongside people relationally - getting in their life and spurring them on over a long period of time.
- Possess a blend of compassion and challenge
- Excels at instilling hope in people
- Naturally good friends and counselors
- Typically very positive and forward-looking
- Drawn with a sensitivity to those who need help and hope & motivated to lift them up
- Able to accept people where they are - but help them get where they're not
- Rejoice in others' successes
- Great at helping people live victoriously in the gospel

#### 5. Picture of the Church - Fitness Training

#### 6. Character of God - Advocate

#### 7. Goal of this gift:

- People are lifted up out of sin and lifted up through suffering with gospel-centered hope
- Spiritual growth and maturity as people live out the victory of the cross & resurrection
- Culture of affirmation, encouragement, and joy created

#### 8. Ways to use this gift / areas to apply it

## Ministries

- Well Students / Well Kids / Well Elementary - kids need this
- Counseling Ministry
- GC Leader or Co-Leader
- Prayer Team
- Equipping
- Uplifting team member - teams without these people are weaker, less joyful, and wane in motivation.
- Preaching & Teaching

## GC

- Personal encouragement & accountability
- 1 on 1 mentoring and discipleship
- Encouraging Feedback to leaders
- Evangelism to lost
- Visiting people with needs or who are struggling / suffering
- Culture setter!

## Other

- Home!
- Grace Home
- Moore Faith Medical Clinic - counselor or prayer team
- Advocacy ministry

## 9. Ways to misuse this gift - warnings and weaknesses to watch out for

- Emphasis on action can appear to over-simplify the problem / quick prescription
- If not handling Scripture rightly can use it out of context to make an application point
- Can talk too much / interrupt others in eagerness to speak
- Drift into becoming a poor listener
- Can feel 'preachy'
- Tend to become frustrated or discouraged when person they're encouraging doesn't get it or progress at the rate they expect
- In good idealism, can create unreasonably high expectations of self and others
- Use it for correction and rebuking and warning (negatively) but neglect using it for comfort, encouragement, urging (positively), failing to remember this is 'good news' not just correct news.

## 10. Encouragement

- Exhort Positively - Acts 14:22, 1 Thess. 3:2
- Exhort Patiently - 2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Thess. 5:14
- Exhort Properly - 1 Thess. 5:14

## 11. Everyone Else

- Encourage the Encourager!

**Knowledge** - understanding truth deeply - learner: "Here's God's answer"

**Wisdom** - applying knowledge practically - advisor: "Here's God's direction"

**Teaching** - explaining Scripture clearly - educator: "Here's God's voice"

**Exhortation** - encouraging life change biblically - advocate: "Here's God's heart"

Final questions to ponder regarding each gift:

1 - Do you have this gift?

2 - Are you using it? - If not, why not?

3 - Are you flourishing in it?