

- Those in Christ are a vessel through which the Holy Spirit readily desires to display His power and make Himself known ... As Christians, a question we should wrestle with is not “will God ever use me,” but rather, “will I allow God to use me when He desires to do so” ... The Sovereign God eagerly desires for you and me to join Him in what He is already doing all around us ... We have already been invited and sent forth – [Jo20:21](#), [Mat28:19-20](#) ... It’s not a matter of you waiting for God to give you permission; it’s a matter of God waiting for you to give Him permission ... And the permission He seeks after is a surrendered will from you ... Where fears, hesitations, and excuses are laid down ... Where there is a delight to do what He is asking no matter the risk involved – **I delight to do Your will, my God, and Your instruction is deep within me** ([Ps40:8](#))
 - SFA – In regard to Spiritual Gifts, 31 are aware of your gifts; 9 are not ... Of 31 people, 21 use your gift at Grace; 10 do not ... 13 use your gift outside of Grace ... 11 know others of similar gifting ... 13 satisfied gift is being used for God’s glory; 18 are not ... While many are aware of their gifting, there remains confusion, timidity, and frustration within people about spiritual gifts ... Hence, why we’re going slow through them
 - All spiritual gifts involve a measure of risk and vulnerability ... All require practice and a teachable, humble posture ... Are these not elements by which the Holy Spirit develops spiritual gifts within us? ... Thru gifts, the Spirit builds up (strengthens, matures, equips) the church, revealing Jesus Christ to all of us who are in need of Him ... And all of us are in need of Him – every second of every day ... And so, spiritual gifts are needed inside the church and outside the church ... *“Here I am Father; I am Your vessel.”* ... We do this, seek this, believe this, knowing the results beforehand: the benefit of others and the Glory of God

Word of Wisdom / Word of Knowledge

- The hard part of understanding these gifts is that this is the only place they are mentioned ... And, as we can see, Paul doesn’t really elaborate on them beyond mere mention ... The wisdom and knowledge referred to is not the same as human wisdom and knowledge ... We know the ways of God are not the ways of humanity – [Is55:8-9](#) ... **The cross of Christ is a stumbling block and is looked upon as foolishness**, so says the wisdom of this world ... As Christians, we know **the cross of Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God** ([1Cor1:23-24](#))
 - While there is a lot of good that has come from humanity’s wisdom and knowledge, we are a fallen people ... Therefore, sin taints our wisdom and knowledge to be selfish, conceited, spiteful, arrogant, and unwise and unhelpful – even harmful ... Being children of God, who have the Holy Spirit indwelling them, we are to ask for and rely on God’s wisdom and knowledge in every step of life ... [Jam1:5, 3:17](#) ... How does God provide us with this wisdom and knowledge: He reveals them through His Word and through His Spirit
- It is this wisdom and knowledge Paul is speaking of in [1Cor12:8](#) ... A word of wisdom and knowledge always comes from the Spirit and stands in agreement with Scripture ... The Spirit reveals something about a person or a situation not previously known by you, or He reveals to you a specific word for a person or situation ... Now, what is revealed neither adds to nor conflicts with Scripture ... Nonetheless, the word is supernatural and prophetic ([1Cor14:6](#))
 - We must believe that God actively pervades our life ... He speaks and reveals Himself, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear and lives to obey ... To deny that God still speaks is to deny a fundamental reality of who God is and how God operates within our life
- It is true that the more we read the Bible, the more we will recognize God’s voice ... In doing this, you will be able to discern if what you’re hearing is in fact God or someone else ... [1Jo4:1](#) – how do we test everything: God’s Word ... [1The5:20-22](#) ... Everything the Spirit says stands in accordance with everything the Spirit has written ... Whatever builds up, equips, comforts, and convicts is good ... Whatever tears down, shames, oppresses, and distorts needs to be rejected ... Words of wisdom and knowledge benefit both recipient and hearer, with the aim to reveal Jesus and His heart for that person

- In regard to examples of what Paul is referring to, sometimes it's hard to distinguish what is a word of wisdom and what is a word of knowledge ... Therefore, it is more important that we focus on what is being communicated and how we deliver what is communicated, then trying to figure out if the word is one of wisdom or knowledge ... Often suggested that words of wisdom speak of doing something, and words of knowledge speak of knowing something ... For me, I typically refer to anything I receive as a word of knowledge
 - **Joh4** – Jesus and woman at well ... Remember, Jesus relied on the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit ... **Act5** – Ananias and Sapphira lying ... **Act14:8-10** – Paul looks at a man unable to walk, and “sees” that he has faith to be healed
 - My experience ... Given specific scriptures, words and pictures for people ... Having dreams from the Lord that built up my faith and brought needed conviction to my life ... Receiving words and pictures from others, where many have come true
- If this is a gift you desire to have – and honestly, we should all desire this gift (**1Cor14:1, 39**), I would challenge you to take a risk and begin asking the Spirit to bestow this gift upon you ... If you have this gift, are you asking the Spirit to teach you about this gift and to provide you opportunities to use this gift
 - As you begin to explore this gift, take notice of things that the Spirit may be revealing through what you see, hear, feel or sense ... Words of knowledge may be strong impressions on you, and they may be fleeting ... If the Spirit gives you a word for someone, first check your motivation and God's timing ... Spiritual wisdom is needed; now may be the time to share the word, and now may not be the time to share the word
 - A good idea would be to talk with a trusted friend or pastor about the things that the Spirit is showing you ... Likewise, write down what is being revealed, including any dreams you have ... Begin to pray through what you wrote – ask the Spirit to reveal more about what He's given you ... Not every thought or image is from the Spirit ... Again, you need wisdom from the Spirit
- God desires to speak and reveal Himself ... Do we have eyes to see and ears to hear and lives to obey what He is revealing to us by the Spirit and Scripture, and even by way of words of knowledge and wisdom