





# The Wisdom Which Comes From Above



## We should not be ignorant of spiritual gifts

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.

Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit (1Cor.12-1-3).



## Diversity in unity is the model

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1Cor.12-4-7).



## The Holy Spirit determines the gifting – not us

To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines (1Cor.12:8-11).



## Literary Context - 1 Cor. 12:

*Logos* - word or utterance

Addresses 3 things that are an issue at  
Corinth

Speech, Wisdom and Knowledge



## **Paul's Argument Here:**

**Restoring unity in the midst of divisions**

**Paul's focus:**

**Not on spiritual gifts themselves**

**But reality of their diversity**



## **Categorization of spiritual gifts in 1 Cor. 12:**

**Mind of God, Power of God, Voice of God**

**Illumination, Action & Communication**

**Instruction, Power & Utterance**



## Context of gifts in 1 Cor. 12:

Focus on inspired utterance – Jesus is Lord (v. 3)

Point is diversity in the Body

List of gifts is only part of his argument

**Word of Wisdom a reference to earlier discussion in the letter:**

*We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory (1Cor.2:6-16).*

**Word of Wisdom a reference to earlier discussion in the letter:**

*However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit (1Cor.2:6-16).*

**Word of Wisdom a reference to earlier discussion in the letter:**

*The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.*

Word of Wisdom a reference to earlier discussion in the letter:

*This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

**Word of Wisdom a reference to earlier discussion in the letter:**

*The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"  
But we have the mind of Christ.*

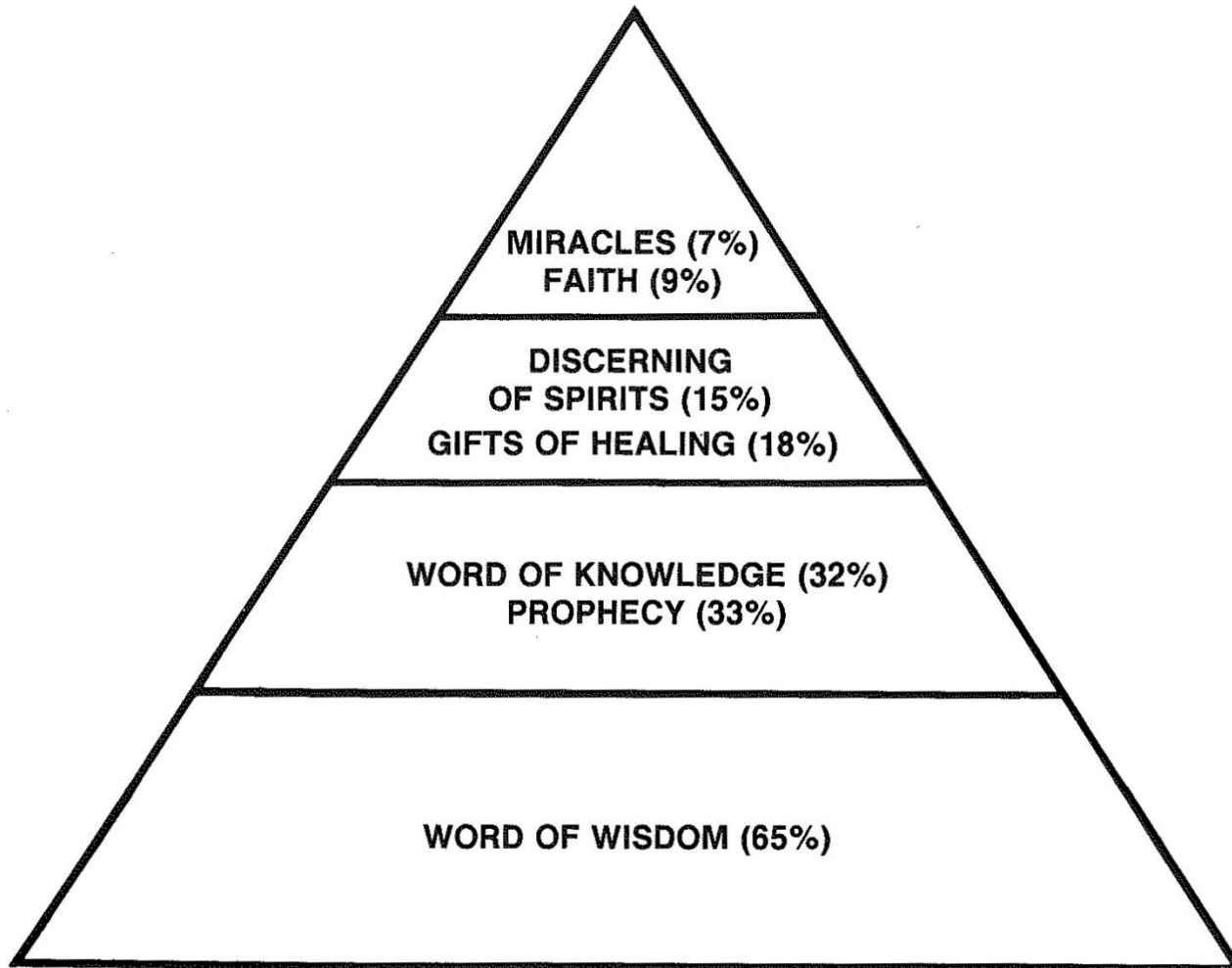
## *Anfuso – Spirit-Led Evangelism:*

**Word of Wisdom is “a specific, divine impartation of wisdom by the Spirit of God in order to meet a particular need or problem.”**

## *Anfuso – Spirit-Led Evangelism:*

- In Gospels, 2/3 of the time (64%) gifts were manifested in Christ in evangelistic encounters
- Nearly 1/4 (24%) of Christ's recorded ministry involved a private conversation
- Out of 144 different ministry situations in Acts - 56% of these were evangelistic in nature

**CONCLUSIONS FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS CHARTS**  
**THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT IN THE RECORDED LIFE OF JESUS**



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**We have found that many Christians who are moving in the Gifts of the Spirit would say that they themselves experience the Gifts of the Spirit in similar proportions to the chart above.**

## Words of Wisdom in OT:

*Prov. 9:9-12: Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."*

## Wisdom personified in Proverbs:

*Prov. 4:5-9: Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor."*

**Wisdom is a common theme  
throughout the Scripture:**

**Referred to some 167 times in the Old  
Testament**

**92 times in the New Testament**

# Wisdom from Christ's Perspective

*Matt 11:19: The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners." 'But wisdom is proved right by her actions.'*

*Luke 7:35: "But wisdom is proved right by all her children."*

## Godly wisdom a threat:

*Mark 6:1-3: Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.*

## Godly wisdom causes amazement:

*Luke 2:45-48: When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.*

## Word of Wisdom in operation in NT:

*Acts 6:2-4: So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."*

## Paul given a Word of Wisdom Acts:

*Acts 14:8-10: In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.*

## Peter given a Word of Wisdom:

*Acts 15:7-10: After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.*

## Paul given a Word of Wisdom:

*Acts 17:16-21: While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.*

Some believed, some mocked, other's interest was piqued.

**What might we expect regarding the word of wisdom then?**

**Words of Wisdom from the NT  
Wisdom literature in James 3**

## What the Word of Wisdom is not:

*James 3:13-16: Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But, if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

What the Word of Wisdom is:

Who gets blessed? Others or ourselves?

James 3:17-18: *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

## **Wisdom's divine characteristics:**

**Pure:** undefiled, chaste, holy, originally an attribute of the divinity and everything belonging to it; without moral defect. That which awakens religious awe, morally blameless.

# Wisdom's divine characteristics:

## Pure:

- Something God evokes in us
- Lines up with the Word
- Not defiled by worldly envy & selfish interest?

# Wisdom's divine characteristics:

## Pure:

Charles Spurgeon said, "Climb ye up to heaven, and behold the snow-white host, glittering like the sun in spotless purity. I ask them whence came they? The reply is that they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is most true that Jesus saves his people from their sins--earth knows it, hell howls at it, and heaven chants it; time has seen it, and eternity shall reveal it. There is none like to Jesus in saving power. All glory be to him!"

## Wisdom's divine characteristics:

**Peace-loving:** conducive to a harmonious relationship. Freedom from anxiety and inner turmoil, lit.; *ready for peace* – used only here in this form and . . .

Heb. 12:11: *fruit of righteousness and peace to those who have been trained by it.*

# Wisdom's divine characteristics:

## Peace-loving:

- Does this wisdom promote peace?
- Peace in your own heart?
- Peace in the hearts of those you share it with?
- Does it evoke a sense of inner turmoil or tranquility within?

## Wisdom's divine characteristics:

**Considerate:** gentle, moderation, patient, gentle, kind, yielding, not insisting on your own rights, courteous, tolerant, an expression of royal or heavenly majesty.

# Wisdom's divine characteristics:

## Considerate:

- a saving gentleness
- earthly counterpart of the heavenly glory
- does not counsel a pushy selfish agenda
- evokes a gentle courtesy
- stems from God's presence

## Wisdom's divine characteristics:

**Submissive:** compliant, easily obedient, open to reason, willing to listen.

Lk. 22:42: . . . *nevertheless Lord not my will but thy will be done.*

## Wisdom's divine characteristics:

*Peter 5:5-7: Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

## Wisdom's divine characteristics:

**Full of mercy:** pity compassion, full-adjective with the noun here; kindness or good will toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them, the emotion roused by contact with an affliction which comes undeservedly on someone else.

# Wisdom's divine characteristics:

## Mercy:

- *Prov. 4:18: The path of the merciful is like the first gleam of dawn shining ever brighter to the full light of day*
- Idea is ministry to those who don't deserve it and the most needy
- The word of wisdom will likely have a merciful motivation and intent to it if it is of God

# Wisdom's divine characteristics:

## And good fruit:

- Useful or beneficial
- Eternal fruit of the Spirit
- God's leading yields fruit
- No sense of wastefulness or waste of time

## Wisdom's divine characteristics:

**Impartial:** Not judgmental or divisive, without a trace of partiality, free from prejudice or hypocrisy.

- God's wisdom is for everyone, regardless of their station or status in life
- Rom 2:11: *For God is no respecter of persons.*

## Wisdom's divine characteristics:

**Sincere:** without hypocrisy, genuine, lacking any pretense or show

- Has to do with an open heart - genuineness
- "Sincerity is to speak as we think, to do as we profess, to perform what we promise, and really to be what we would seem and appear to be."

# Wisdom's divine characteristics:

## Sincere:

- One can be sincerely wrong
- God is not capricious
- Really about purity of heart – full circle

## Wisdom's divine characteristics:

Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest righteousness:

- Has to do with an open heart - genuineness
- "Sincerity is to speak as we think, to do as we profess, to perform what we promise, and really to be what we would seem and appear to be."

# Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest righteousness:

- Rom 14:17-18: *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*
- RSV: *And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

## **Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest righteousness:**

**And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for and make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].**

**--Amplified Bible**

**Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest righteousness:**

**We need to anticipate that God will use us frequently to bring his wisdom to bear in the lives of people . . .**

**Let us assess that ministry by the characteristics that His Word has provided for us!**

