

In the Spring of 2020, I shared a **word of knowledge about Hip Displaysia (thought it was just something that happened to dogs)** during a Sunday service close to the beginning of worship. Initially, there was no response, and **I thought I had missed it**. Towards the end of worship, a woman got up to share that she had experienced issues and pain from hip dysplasia since a car accident 15 years ago was released from all the pain when the word was shared!

- Body outline like a crime scene

Verse

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

“7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good**. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to **another the word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith [d]by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of [e]healing [f]by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the [g]effecting of [h]miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the [i]distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one **individually just as He wills**.”

Important notes:

- Charismata = grace gifts
- **As He Wills** - I don't wake up before a meeting and think, I want to go after Diabetes tonight of my own will
- Once *directly* stated (3-4 inferences), and a few examples in the Word
 - 1 Corinthians 12:8, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 13:8, and 1 Corinthians 14:6

What is it?

- **Not** just a thirst for knowledge of the Bible, ability to understand the bible and teach it
 - “It is argued that the gift of the word of knowledge was a **supernatural ability to understand what was divinely inspired Scripture and what was not**. This gift is linked directly to the apostles and the New Testament prophets. The gift was only available when the doctrinal foundation of Christianity was being laid. Once the Scripture was completed the need for this particular gift of knowledge vanished...All Bible-believers will agree that if this gift was only given for the distinct purpose of confirming divine revelation before the New Testament was completed, then the gift is no longer available.” Commentary note





*Verifiable supernatural **information**, not possible to know about a past or present reality, given by the Holy Spirit without Human means or analysis to accomplish a special purpose*

- Knowledge is *informative*, wisdom is *directive*
- There is no academic or intellectual requirement to receive the word of knowledge.
- Usually not complex or wordy, but subtle

"This is a supernatural revelation of fact about a person or situation, which is not learned through the efforts of the natural mind, but is a fragment of knowledge freely given by God, disclosing the truth which the Spirit wishes to be made known concerning a particular person or situation." John Wimber

Biblical Examples

2 Kings 6:12 Elisha would tell the leaders of Israel the plans of the Syrian army, because he could see what the king was speaking in his bedroom.

- "One of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

Ananias and Sapphira - **Peter in Acts 5:3**

Jesus' Ministry

- He's always the standard

John 1:47 Jesus received a word of knowledge that He saw Nathanael under a tree through a vision before He ever met Him.

John 4:16-19 Jesus received a word of knowledge that the woman at the well had 5 husbands and the one she was with was not truly her husband.

- *In both the Jesus scenarios, their understanding of who Jesus was was elevated instantly*

Why

It Generates Faith

- BLB NOTE - "IT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY":
 - *This gift should only be used in private contexts. There is no place for some public display of this gift in a flamboyant way. If the Holy Spirit is working, then it will be consistent with the way He always works. He will glorify Jesus Christ and Him alone. Indeed, He will never glorify any human being exercising a spiritual gift.*
 - *This commentary starts with the right heart, ends with the wrong application; if it's only ever in private, it ends there*





This isn't about working enough faith up, it's about letting God create faith in us

- But if the people don't understand what it means, the faith that He's creating won't be created.
 - Have to create understanding
 - Lean back in curiosity, or lean in in expectation

Recipients are encouraged to request or open up to ministry when they would not otherwise have done so. They can have a powerful effect when praying with non-believers, as they encounter the power and presence of God in a non-religious way.

How To

As with prophecy, 3 part process - revelation, interpretation, and application

Word Of Knowledge Creates faith in both giver and recipient

1) Feel It

You may have

- a sharp pain in some part of your body,
- a throbbing sensation,
- some other sensation, (chill demonic)
- a strong emotion such as fear or panic.

Be careful that your **feeling is not caused by a condition in your own body**. For instance, if you often have pain in your left ear, you would not give that as a word of knowledge even if you get that pain during a Meeting.

2) See It

You may get a mental picture, such as

- a body part: perhaps a heart, a foot, an eye, a head,
- a person with a certain condition such as a limp,
- a person carefully holding his arm,
- a crutch, eye-glasses, a person walking with a cane,
- a water bottle, a barbed wire fence, an auto accident.

3) Read It

You may see in your mind:

- a person with a word written across his front or back, or over his head,
- a word written on a wall or on a carpet,





- something like a newspaper headline, or a banner.

4) Think It/Know It

You may sense in your mind that someone has a particular condition, or that the Holy Spirit has spoken the word to you. It is a mental impression.

5) Say It

While talking or praying or standing with someone, unpremeditated words may tumble out of your mouth relating to a situation you were not aware of.

6) Dream It

While sleeping, you may have a vivid dream in which:

- you have a new health problem,
- you see someone with a health problem,
- you hear someone talking about a health problem,
- you see an event acted out before you like a movie, such as a hospital scene or an accident.

7) Experience It

Similar to dreaming it, you may have a vivid vision while awake. It may be so strong that you are actually a part of what is happening, not just an observer.

Sometimes these categories blend together. Is it a mental picture or a vision? Vision could be likened to a “3D Technicolor movie” -something given by the Holy Spirit that is beyond a mental picture in intensity and vividness.

8) Smell It

- Cancer, drugs

TIPS:

LEARN HOW TO CHECK YOUR BODY, ETC. BEFORE YOU GET INTO THE MEETING

Take the humility approach unless you're sure, faking confidence or “willing it” does nobody any favors

- “Does anybody have?”
- “I’m hearing, or sensing this, does that make sense to anyone?”
- As specific as you can while also not adding excessive detail, or “filling in”



Growing in it

- **FAIL**
 - If you can't stomach failure, won't do this
 - Learn in failure - how did it feel different than when you were right?
 - Step out, cross the chicken line
- **ASK**
 - Jesus tells us to ask and it will be given (Matthew 7:7-11)
- **BOLDNESS**
 - Pray for an increase of the spirit of boldness or faith.
 - 19 ...That utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly... (Eph. 6:19)
- **GET RID OF IGNORANCE**
 - Paul in the very first verse of 1 Corinthians 12 makes this important statement:
 - "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." The word "ignorant" means "not to perceive or know; not to understand or comprehend"
 - The reason it's not in operation in many places is simple...we're ignorant
- **FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD**
 - Grow in Friendship with God - "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave **does not know what his master is doing**; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. John 15:15
 - It's about sensing what He's doing and moving with it

Fun Wimber anecdote:

Wimber said that God wanted to heal people with back pain. Quite a few people came down to the front of the church to be prayed for by teams of church members rather than by Wimber himself. After a few minutes he said, "There is a woman here who has severe back pain, but you haven't come forward yet. Come forward; I think the Lord will heal you right now."

When I heard these words I thought, *That is incredible*. By now my study of Scripture had led me to believe that God would speak to us in order to give us warnings, guidance, and directions, but I had never seen anyone outside of Scripture get something so specific from God.

REPORT THIS AD

[...]

But no one came forward.



I thought, *Poor John Wimber. He was doing so well when he was just talking about the kingdom. If he hadn't tried this clinic stuff, this meeting would have been a success tonight.* I felt embarrassed for him and also disappointed.

Wimber did not seem to share my embarrassment or disappointment. He announced a second fact about this woman. He said, "You went to the doctor several days ago, you have had this pain for years. Please come forward."

This was one of the most incredible things I had ever heard. It was like one of the prophetic narratives of the Old Testament.

But no woman got up and came forward. Now the tension was mounting significantly in the room.

Wimber seemed to be praying for a few seconds. **Then he looked up at the audience and said, "Your name is Margaret."** Then, with a grandfatherly smile, he added, "Now Margaret, you get up and come up here right now." About halfway down the center section, next to the aisle, Margaret got up and began to walk rather sheepishly toward the front.

I thought that this was the most amazing thing I had ever seen. This was just how the apostle Paul said it should happen. There was awe and conviction in the room. But before Margaret made it down to the front of the church, a wave of scepticism and disgust came over me. I said to myself, *What if he paid her to do this. What if she's Margaret on Thursday night here in Fort Worth, Texas, and then on Saturday night in some other city she is Mabel MacClutchbut, walking down to the front of the church carrying an envelope with two malignant tumors she coughed up?* And I said to myself, *I don't believe this is true.*

At about the same time I had begun to doubt this whole process, the man sitting next to me, whom I had known for fifteen years and who was also in my church, exclaimed, "That's Margaret my sister-in-law!"

Mike Pinkston's sister-in-law, Margaret Pinkston, went down to the front of the church that evening after being called out specifically by John Wimber. And when several adults prayed for her, she was healed of a condition she had had for years. I knew that family, and I knew there was nothing fake about that healing. This really was a graphic illustration of New Testament church life.

