



Discovering Your Design:

Preparing Christ's followers to change the world

KNOWLEDGE

DEFINITION: THE SPIRIT-GIVEN ABILITY TO RECEIVE AND SHARE BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE IN VARIOUS SITUATIONS.

- There is only one verse in all of the Scriptures which mentions this gift (I Corinthians 12:8); therefore our conclusions cannot be very exact and must be shared in humility.
- There are two basic views regarding the gift of knowledge.
- One view is that it is a miraculous gift whereby the person receives a special revelation from the Holy Spirit allowing them to give a "word of knowledge" to someone. This knowledge would not otherwise be known apart from this revelation.
- The other view, the one we will take, is that this gift is a non-miraculous gift whereby the person is given the ability to receive and share knowledge about a situation. This knowledge comes through the Word and hence is available to all. The reason why we will not hold to a miraculous understanding of the gift is that there is another gift (prophecy) which better fits their definition (Grudem, 1080-82).
- The emphasis is not on knowledge but on "word"- this is a spiritual gift because it is knowledge that is shared.
- This gift is closely related to the gifts of teaching and wisdom and possibly prophecy.
- The gift gives new insights concerning the Bible, not new revelation.
- The gift reminds us of the principle that the gifts can and ought to be developed.
- This gift can be shared with a person or a congregation.

Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:8, 13:2,8-12, 14:6; Colossians 1:10

Contribution: this gift builds up the body by bringing the truth of God's Word to bear, giving instruction which brings maturity, and protection from error.

Biblical Examples: Jesus (Luke 24:27) Paul (Acts 19:9,10)

Characteristics - People with this gift :

- enjoy studying and learning
- are good students of the Bible
- want to share what they know, remember what they've learned and are willing to share it
- have unusual insights which are consistent with what the Bible teaches

Cautions:

- knowledge "puffs up" but love builds up (1 Corinthians 8:1); share it in love
- knowledge is power, use it to serve
- don't trust in your intellect, trust in God
- remember you're still fallible and Christians have often disagreed over minor issues
- don't assume you have the gift of teaching

Christian Responsibility: Paul prays that the Philippian Christians would grow in knowledge and depth of insight (Philippians 1:9). Peter calls us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18). We are all called to grow in knowledge!