

*Christ Church*



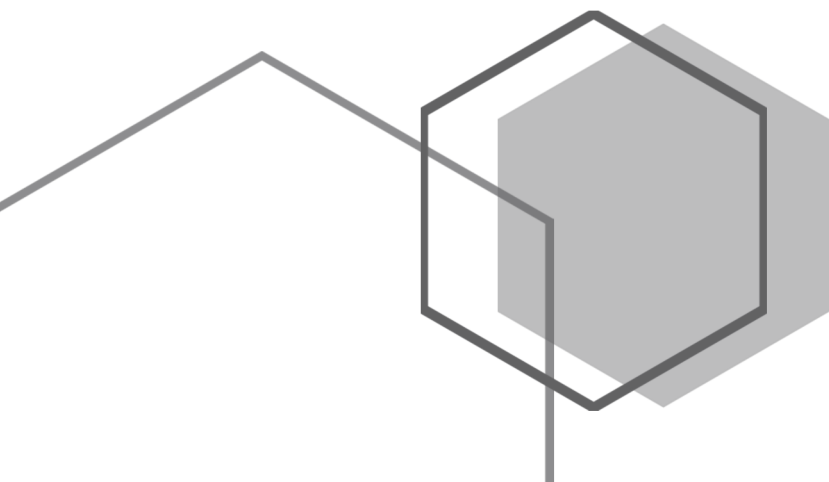
# Understanding the Revelational Gifts

---

## Lesson 2

*"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."*

*- 1 Corinthians 12:7*



*Christ Church*

## **Understanding the Revelational Gifts**

---

**David D. Ireland, Ph.D.**  
***Lead Pastor***

© David D. Ireland, Ph.D.  
2018 All Rights Reserved  
140 Green Pond Road  
Rockaway • NJ 07866  
Phone 973.783.1010 • Fax 973.783.0818

### *Discovery Wednesday*

We've agreed to meet the first Wednesday evening of every month to discover together our gifts and explore ways of developing them for the glory of God. Life has many seasons and in each one we must accomplish specific goals through diligent use of the array of gifts God has given us. Therefore, it is our responsibility to discover our primary gifts and learn to develop them to their fullest potential, making every season of life enjoyable and satisfying.

## Lesson 2

# Understanding the Revelational Gifts

*Understanding Helps to Activate Your Faith!*

**Note:** It's a well-known fact that God is omniscient. There are times when He allows us to share a little bit of knowledge, wisdom and divine insight supernaturally. These moments help to reinforce the reality of this All-knowing God that we love and serve.

### 1.0 What are the Revelational Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)?

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**—<sup>1</sup>Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to know 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.

<sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."

#### 1.1 Overview of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

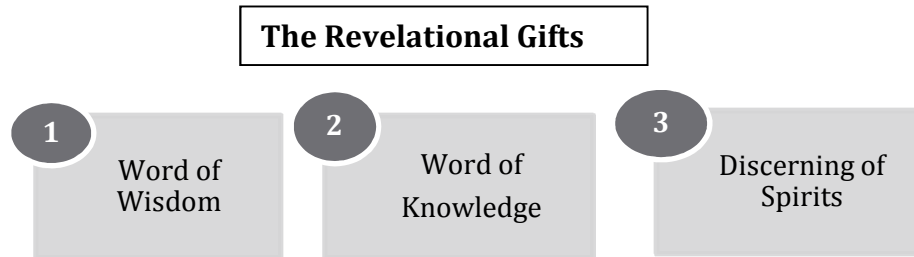
- A) All nine gifts are supernatural and are distributed to each believer as the Holy Spirit desires.
  
- B) We do not control which gift or gifts we receive. Our responsibility is simply to discover and develop the gifts we've been entrusted with.
  
- C) There are three categories of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit: 1) the inspirational gifts; 2) the power gifts; and, 3) the revelational gifts.

**UNDERSTANDING THE REVELATIONAL GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

<b>Gifts of the Holy Spirit</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Manifestation</b>	<b>Name</b>
1	Revelation <i>(Reveals Information)</i>	Word of Wisdom
2		Word of Knowledge
3		Discerning of Spirits <i>(Distinguishing Between Spirits)</i>
4	Inspiration <i>(Inspires Communication)</i>	Gift of Prophecy
5		Different Kinds of Tongues
6		Interpretation of Tongues
7	Power <i>(Performs Miracles)</i>	Gift of Faith
8		Gifts of Healing
9		Miraculous Powers <i>(Working of Miracles)</i>

1.2 How are the revelational gifts defined?

- A) The word *revelational* captures the idea that these three gifts *reveal* information supernaturally from God to a believer.
  
- B) The revelational gifts consist of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits.



1.3 What are some common threads among the revelational gifts?

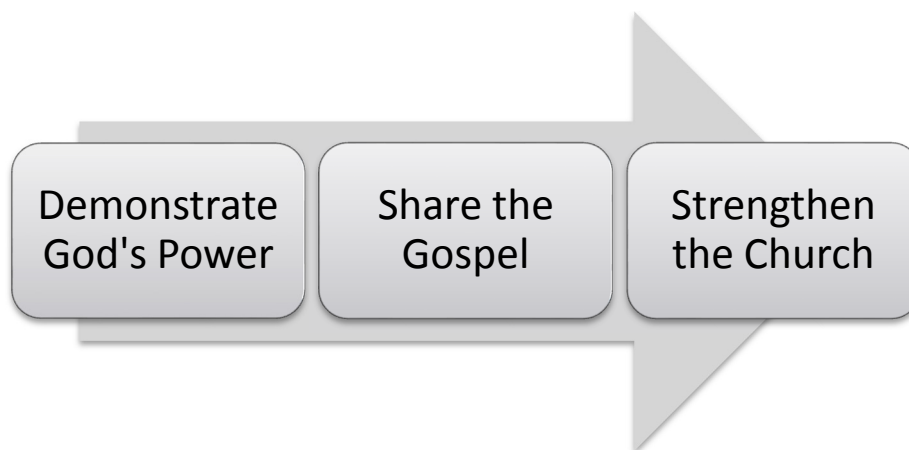
- A) All three gifts are supernatural just like the other six gifts of the Holy Spirit.
  
- B) There are no outward manifestations of the revelation. Knowledge and information are conveyed inwardly, quietly, and personally to the holder of the gift(s).

- C) These three gifts are for public usage and not individual “bragging” sessions.
- D) There are many variations in the manifestation of each of the revelational gifts. They can also operate in each person differently.

**2.0 Exploring the Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:1-11).**

2.1 What are the gifts of the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom?

- A) Definition of the *word of knowledge* and the *word of wisdom*: a fragment of divine knowledge and divine wisdom, respectively, that is given by supernatural means.
- B) The *word of knowledge* is operational when the Holy Spirit speaks a fragment of knowledge to you regarding something in the past or present regarding a person, organization, place, etc.
- C) The *word of wisdom* is operational when the Holy Spirit speaks a fragment of wisdom—insight or foresight—to you that captures something about the future of a person, organization, place, etc.
- D) What is the main aim of these two revelational gifts?



2.2 Equally important to what the gifts are, is what the gifts are **not**.

## UNDERSTANDING THE REVELATIONAL GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- A) It is **not** natural wisdom (James 1:5; Prov. 4:7).

**James 1:5** (NIV)—“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

**Proverbs 4:7** (NIV)—“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have get understanding.”

- B) It is **not** satanic wisdom (James 3:14-16; Ezek. 28:12, 17).

**James 3:14-16** (NIV)—“<sup>14</sup> But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

- C) It is not natural knowledge (Prov. 2:10-11; 8:10).

**Proverbs 2:10-11** (NIV)—“<sup>10</sup> For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. <sup>11</sup> Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.”

**Proverbs 8:10** (NIV)—“Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold.”

### 2.3 How do these gifts operate?

- A) Examples of their usage

1. The **word of knowledge** at work (1 Samuel 9:10-16).

**1 Samuel 9:10-16** (NIV)—<sup>10</sup> “Good,” Saul said to his servant. “Come, let’s go.” So they set out for the town where the man of God was. <sup>11</sup> As they were going up the hill to the town, they met some young women coming out to draw water, and they asked them, “Is the seer here?” <sup>12</sup> “He is,” they answered. “He’s ahead of you. Hurry now; he has just come to our town today, for the people have a sacrifice at the high place.

<sup>13</sup> As soon as you enter the town, you will find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. The people will not begin eating until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward, those who are invited will eat. Go up now; you should find him about this time.”

<sup>14</sup> They went up to the town, and as they were entering it, there was Samuel, coming toward them on his way up to the high place.

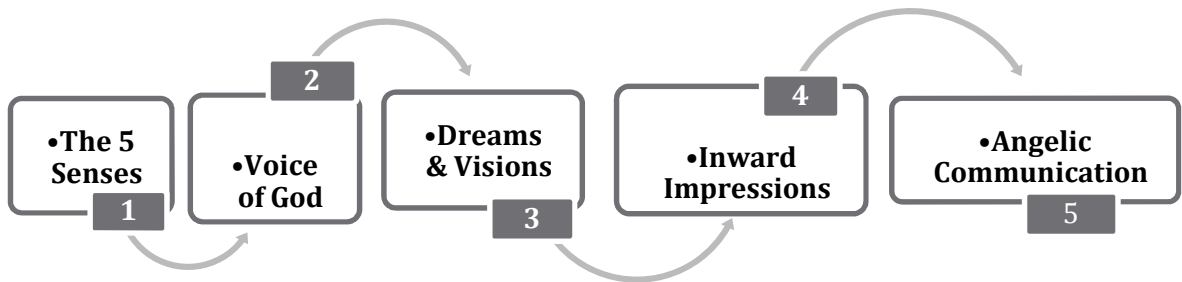
## UNDERSTANDING THE REVELATIONAL GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

<sup>15</sup> Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed this to Samuel: <sup>16</sup> “About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over my people Israel; he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me.”

2. The **word of wisdom** in operation (1 Samuel 9:17).

**1 Samuel 9:17** (NIV)—“When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, “This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people.”

B) Let’s examine a few of their modes of operation.



1. Divine information can come through the five senses (Psalm 94:9).

**Psalm 94:9** (NIV)—“Does he who fashioned the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see?”

2. An expression of the gift can occur through the audible voice of God (1 Sam. 3:1-10).

3. Supernatural information can also occur through dreams and visions (Matt. 1:18-25; Acts 16:9).

**Acts 16:9** (NIV)—“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

4. Revelation can be expressed by inward impressions and perceptions from the Holy Spirit (Luke 5:18-24).

**Luke 5:18-24** (NIV)—<sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup> When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>21</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? <sup>24</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”

5. Angelic communication is another supernatural means by which these revelational gifts are expressed (Acts 10:1-4).

**Acts 10:1-4** (NIV)— <sup>1</sup> At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. <sup>3</sup> One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” <sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

### 3.0 Understanding the Gift of Discerning of Spirits

3.1 What is the gift of discerning of spirits (also referred to as the gift of distinguishing between spirits)?

- A) The definition of "discerning" is to have a clear discrimination; judging; judicial estimation; judging by evidence whether they are evil or of God.
- B) How does the gift operate (John 1:43-51)?

**John 1:43-51** (NIV)—“ <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup> “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

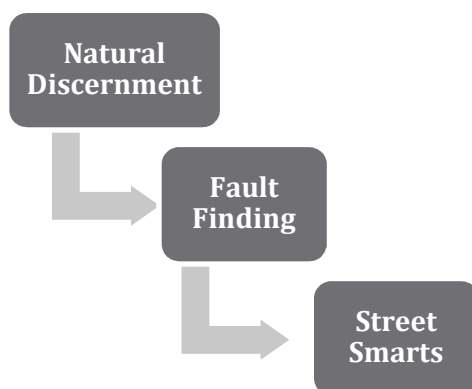


## UNDERSTANDING THE REVELATIONAL GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

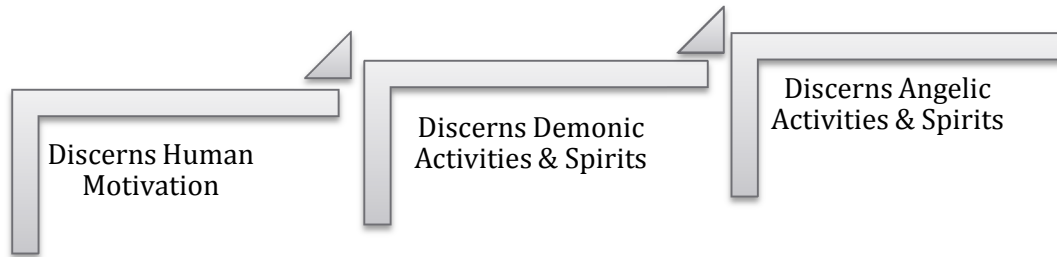
<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” <sup>48</sup> “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” <sup>50</sup> Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” <sup>51</sup> He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.’”

1. The gift enables one to have insight into the dispositions of people, their good or evil tendencies and their character (i.e., “When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false” (John 1:47).
2. The gift reveals what source of influence a person is speaking from; whether selfishness, human, demonic or from God.
3. Human responsibility follows the revelation! The judgment following the act of discerning is a manifestation of the gift of faith; or at times, it is simply experience with God. The gift helps the believer as well as the unbeliever. It also protects the majority of the flock from internal or external danger. This manifestation of the Spirit shows God strong and fair regarding His relationship with people.

C) What the gift is **not**:



- D) The gift operates in three realms.



### 3.2 Discerning the human spirit (Acts 5:1-10)

Note: Evidence can be presented in various forms (i.e., inwardly perceiving; vision of a spirit or spirits; through the five senses, etc.). Once evidence is presented judgment is passed or an appropriate action is taken.

- A) Peter discerned that Ananias was being deceptive and lying (Acts 5:3).

**Acts 5:3** (NIV)—“Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?”

- B) The information about the deceptive nature of Ananias was quietly and internally revealed to Peter by the Holy Spirit.

- C) After discerning of spirits occurs, it now takes the natural wisdom (and at times, the Spirit-directed wisdom) to know what to do. Peter’s questioning of Ananias resulted in a strong judgment against him. Ananias died!

### 3.3 Discerning the demonic spirit (Acts 16:16-20)

**Acts 16:16-20** (NIV)—“<sup>16</sup> Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.”

<sup>18</sup> She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

<sup>19</sup> When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup> They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar

Note: The gift reveals clearly what source of influence a person is speaking from. Whether selfishness, human, demonic or from God. The gift can be manifested as a result of one's holy frustration of a particular meeting or events. The gift doesn't discern actions, but *reason* behind the actions and the spirit motivating such behavior (Acts 16:17-18).

- A) Paul discerned that a familiar spirit (a specific type of demon) was using the slave girl to distract people from the authentic message of Jesus. Paul's emotion of annoyance worked within the structure of the gift of discerning of spirits (Acts 16:18).
  
- B) The information about the demonic spirit working through the slave girl was quietly and internally revealed to Paul by the Holy Spirit.
  
- C) After discerning of spirits became operational, Paul had to act. He cast out the demon spirit that had possessed the young lady.

#### 3.4 Discerning angelic beings and spirits under God's domain (2 Kings 6:8-16; Acts 27:21-25)

Note: Elisha was able to see the angelic beings as they took their places of battle. One of the fruit of discerning of spirits is peace and assurance.

- A) Here we see the gift of discerning of spirits actually open the eyes of Elisha to see into the spirit realm.

**2 Kings 6:8-18** (NIV)—<sup>8</sup> Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." <sup>9</sup> The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." <sup>10</sup> So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. <sup>11</sup> This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

<sup>12</sup> "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." <sup>13</sup> "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." <sup>14</sup> Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

<sup>15</sup>When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked. <sup>16</sup>“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

- B) Only Elisha saw the angelic host. To allow his servant to also have the peace of God, Elisha asked God to open his eyes so that he too could see the angelic army (2 Kings 6:16-17).

**2 Kings 6:16-17** (NIV)—<sup>16</sup> “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” <sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- C) Once Elisha discerned the presence of the angelic spirits, he acted by using natural wisdom (2 Kings 6:18-20).

**2 Kings 6:18-20** (NIV)—<sup>18</sup> As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. <sup>19</sup> Elisha told them, “This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to Samaria. <sup>20</sup> After they entered the city, Elisha said, “LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see.” Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

### *Discovery Time*

*Pair off in two’s (not with a family member) in order to learn how to activate the revelational gifts of the Spirit. After being coached by the instructor you will do the following three things.*

- 1. Take a second to introduce yourself to your ministry partner.*
- 2. Pray for God to give you a word of knowledge, word of wisdom, or insight from the discerning of spirits that will bring encouragement, insight, or guidance to your new ministry partner.*
- 3. Share the first thought with your ministry partner that comes to mind. After they’ve shared their first thought with you, discuss.*