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2-9-2021

TO GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 18

THE WISDOM GIFTS

“Wisdom” in scriptures means “understanding.” The three “wisdom gifts” could also be called the “understanding gifts.” It is understanding or knowledge or discernment given to the person supernaturally beyond anything they could know from their own understanding. They are:

1. The word of knowledge
2. The word of wisdom
3. The discerning of spirits

The word of knowledge is given (spoken) when God wishes to do something specific in somebody’s life. The minister (any believer with the gift) is shown something about the person that they would have no way of otherwise knowing. Many times, it is a physical matter such as a disease or some symptom that has been afflicting the person. Quite often the person knows of their problem, but on some cases regarding diseases they may not even be aware of it. God reveals it to the gifted person so that the disease, ailment, problem, or symptom will be taken away, i.e., healed. Sometimes it may relate to family problems, unforgiveness issues, or other (often secret) problematic issues (sin) which need God’s intervention “to make it right.”

The word of wisdom is given by the “minister” to a person for the purpose of providing God-given counsel, direction, or understanding of a weighty matter. The recipient of that word should then follow with appropriate action.

The gift of discerning of spirits is given specifically to identify spirits (a demon, or one of God’s angels). Most of the time this gift is used to discern a demon who is binding a person so that an evil spirit can be known and be cast out. The identification of the specific demon (or demons) is revealed to the minister by name or characteristic. Targeting the demon by its name (in deliverance) exposes the demon which facilitates the exorcism. In some cases, the minister may discern “who” the demon is but may not be led at that time to do deliverance. This discerning of spirits is supernatural, not just from recognizing the “symptoms” of a certain demon or class of demons.

These are the “wisdom” gifts because the “understanding” comes supernaturally from the Holy Spirit and not from our own understanding or wisdom. By the way, there is no such thing as “the gift of discernment.” It is “the gift of the discerning of (demonic or angelic) *spirits*.” Holy Spirit can enlighten our knowledge or understanding of certain matters or individuals, but that is not the gift of discerning of spirits in operation.

Only a few believers operate in these three wisdom gifts, but we can always ask Father to give us His wisdom which is beneficial to us in our daily walk. (James 1:5 and Ephesians 1:17). That wisdom from God is not the same as the “gift” of wisdom. We all can have the God-given wisdom for living; only the few are given the (operational) gift of wisdom.