



## Life In The Spirit: Knowledge, Wisdom & Discernment

**Date:** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

**Speakers:** Andrew & Rosie McNeil

**Key Verses:** 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

### Talk Summary:

Spiritual gifts are an expression of God's personality. They are facets or windows into how God expresses His presence. Paul includes a list of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:7—11 to illustrate the wide variety of gifts that the Holy Spirit might give. We also see other lists of gifts in Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10-11.

God distributes gifts so that the Church is built up and people are reached. We're not simply to be "open" to them. That's too passive a stance. They are to be eagerly desired 1 Cor 14:1

In order to be able to operate in the gifts, we have to be able to learn to hear God's voice. "Jesus said my sheep recognise my voice" (John 10:27). We can all get to learn how God speaks. The Big Three is a great starting place as a way to listen to God. We can see, hear, feel, say or simply know something God is communicating. As we read the gospels and Acts we see many of the gifts of spirit in action (Acts 8 and 10).

A **message of wisdom** is any Spirit-given insight that enables us to see things from God's point of view. We have access to heaven's solution for earth's problems. God shows us what He sees so we know what to do. It's the recognition of God's principles and values, as opposed to human principles and values. The word of knowledge gives us God's instruction by granting us Spirit-inspired insights. It causes us to recognize God's voice and acknowledge His will.

Sometimes **words of knowledge** illuminate scripture and bring encouragement through teaching or instruction. It can also be pieces of information that we just 'know' that indicates how God wants to act.

The **discernment of spirits** is the God-given capacity to recognize the source and significance of spiritual activity. Sources of spiritual activity can be divine (God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, angels), demonic, or human. We see the gift in operation in Acts 16:16—18, Acts 13:6—10 and Acts 8:9-23.

God wants us to have our eyes open to the spiritual realm. We're in a battle. We are meant to function from a place of righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit because that's the nature of the Kingdom of God (Romans 14:17). Sometimes discernment in action is to recognise what is coming against me and to stay consciously aware of the presence of God in the midst of other storms.

### Group Discussion Questions:

- Has anyone experienced a shoulder tap? Tell us about it.
- What helps you "tune in" to God?
- Have you experience God speak to you? If so, how?
- How else might God get your attention?

Make time to pray for one another.

### Action Steps for This Week:

Making this practical. Here are some suggestions for a next step – what's a next step for you?

- Come to pre service prayer (30 mins before each service)
- Come to Sunday expectant.
- Share with a leader if you feel God gives you something in a service.
- Live life expectant.

### Further Resources:

**Video** - Kris Vallotton, Bethel Church – Hearing from God during fixing a car

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72FSG-mTfDg>

**Book** – "Can you hear me? Tuning into the God who speaks." Author- Brad Jersak