

DEFINING AND OPERATING IN
THIS GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

Words of
KNOWLEDGE
— for —
HEALING

EXCERPTED *from* POWER TO HEAL
by RANDY CLARK

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Chapter 18

WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HEALING



UNLOCK GOD'S PROPHETIC POWER

The story of blind Bartimeaus in the Gospel of Mark is a powerful illustration of how the word of knowledge works. Consider the story and its implications for how the Holy Spirit wants to equip you to minister healing:

Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimeaus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mark 10:46-47).

Blind Bartimeaus' cries exemplify the cries of the sick and needy that we are commissioned to respond to. There

are many people like Bartimaeus, who are suffering. As Christians who are filled with and empowered by the Spirit, we can be the catalyst for divine healing to these people. Let's look more closely at the story.

MY PRAYER IS THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST
WOULD BECOME SUCH A STRONG FORCE FOR
HEALING IN THE WORLD THAT THE PEOPLE
AROUND US WOULD TAKE NOTICE.

As Jesus and His disciples went out of Jericho, followed by the great multitude, there was a beggar named Bartimaeus who sat alongside the road. When Bartimaeus heard that it was Jesus who was passing by, he began to cry out for mercy. He was aware of who Jesus represented and what He carried. Are the people around you aware of who you represent and what you carry? We are ambassadors of the living God, jars of clay (2 Cor. 4:7), filled with the Spirit of God who alone has the power to heal sickness and destroy the works of the devil. My prayer is that the body of Christ would become such a strong force for healing in the world that the people around us would take notice.

Bartimaeus knew Jesus had something that, in a moment, could change his life forever. He had nothing to lose, so he cried out. *"Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you" (Mark 10:48-49).*

Here we see a powerful illustration of the word of knowledge in action. The text tells us that Jesus *stood still*. Jesus did not walk over to Bartimaeus. Instead, He instructed His followers to call the blind man to Him. When you receive a word of knowledge for healing, it is as if Jesus is using you to tell someone else, “Be encouraged! Get up and come. Jesus is calling you!” When you receive divine insight into someone’s specific condition, call it out!

When a person responds to a word of knowledge, many things begin to take place, not the least of which is that they are being brought to Jesus. Healing is wonderful and we desire that for everyone, but there is nothing more glorious than to see someone come into the arms of Jesus. In the pages ahead, as you study the word of knowledge, I encourage you not to turn it into some kind of religious principle or law. The word of knowledge should be normative, but not “common.” It should be a normal part of our lives as we pray for the sick, but at the same time we should never see words of knowledge as a common thing. Every word you receive and deliver reveals God’s heart to heal and to draw people closer to Him.

MY HISTORY WITH WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE

I was actually in ministry fourteen years before I recognized how to receive a word of knowledge. I had a degree in religious studies and a master of divinity, yet no practical understanding of how to move in this gift of the Holy Spirit. The very week I was given a few brief instruction about words of knowledge, I began to operate in this gift.

Most of us simply need teaching about the gifts of the Spirit in order to give us confidence to step out and activate them in our lives. One week after I began receiving words of knowledge, I taught on the subject for the first time. That same evening, a woman received a word that led to a healing. Every time I have taught on this subject since then, and have given God the opportunity to move, people have received their first word of knowledge. I have taught about words of knowledge hundreds of times, and now I pray that these practical instructions help you begin to hear from God in a powerful new way.

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THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
And there are diversities of activities, but it is the
same God who works all in all. But the manifestation
of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
for to one is given the word of wisdom through the
Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the
same Spirit... (1 Corinthians 12:4-8).*

When you receive a word of knowledge, it is for the purpose of releasing the love and power of Jesus to someone else.

But just what is a word of knowledge? It is a supernatural revelation of information given by the Holy Spirit, knowledge received apart from natural analysis or human means. Paul actually received many of his revelations through words of knowledge. He writes: *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches...”* (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).

IT IS A SUPERNATURAL REVELATION OF
INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HEALING

The Holy Spirit will often give a revelatory word of knowledge concerning the needs of a person (or multiple people) for healing. This is an indication that God wishes to heal the person or those who have the condition revealed through the word of knowledge, and it is often an indication that God wishes to heal at the time the word is given. When understood in this way, a word of knowledge does two things. First, it builds faith in the person who needs the healing, and second, it strengthens the faith of the person who shared the word of knowledge.

Consider the following example: You receive a word of knowledge that Dan is suffering from painful migraine headaches with nausea. Maybe you run into Dan at the grocery

store or your desk is positioned next to his at work. The Holy Spirit might simply say something to you like “migraines and nausea” when you look at Dan. When you share that with him (and he has never told you about his migraines or expressed that he suffers from any of these conditions), that word releases faith. Dan might think to himself, “Wow, this person just called out my condition without any knowledge of what I have been going through.”

THE HOLY SPIRIT FREQUENTLY USES WORDS OF
KNOWLEDGE EVANGELISTICALLY, MINISTERING
TO THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUS.

Whether Dan is a Christian or not, faith has been released through that word. If Dan is a believer, then his faith will be strengthened to believe that God desires to heal him. If Dan is not a Christian, the hope is that this word of knowledge for healing will plant a seed in his heart to ultimately respond to the gospel. You will find that the Holy Spirit frequently uses words of knowledge evangelistically, ministering to those who do not know Jesus.

Words of knowledge reveal God’s undeniable supernatural nature since they come from a supernatural source. They also express His compassionate and loving nature, in the same way they did when Jesus called blind Bartimaeus to come.

In addition, as you share a word of knowledge with someone and the person confirms that the word is in fact

accurate, your personal faith level rises. You become increasingly confident to minister in words of knowledge—to take risks, responding to the Holy Spirit’s promptings.

Once you receive a word of knowledge, you should speak it out at that very moment, or at the next appropriate time. Once you share the word, see if it applies to anyone present. If so, offer to pray for them at once for healing—whether the word applies to an individual or to a group.

SPECIFICITY IN WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HEALING

The more specific the word of knowledge, the more faith it will build in the people involved. If you receive the word by feeling a pain, it is helpful for you to identify the kind of pain and specify its exact location in the body. For example: It is better to say, “A shooting pain on the left side of the neck just below the ear,” or to point to the exact location, than to merely state, “A pain in the neck,” or ask, “Does someone’s neck hurt?” Instead of simply saying, “back pain,” say, “Pain in the third lumbar vertebra,” or to point to the exact location that has been revealed to you by the Holy Spirit.

When you receive a word of knowledge, be careful not to change it or add to it. You should not exaggerate the word, nor should you leave out a detail that seems unimportant to you. Everything is intentional and has meaning, while changes or additions cause confusion. For example: a person received a mental picture of someone being injured by tripping over a green hose. The only green hoses he had seen

were garden hoses. So he said he had a picture of a person injured by tripping over a green *garden* hose. There was a man in the meeting who had been injured by tripping over a green *pressure* hose at work. He did not respond to the word at first, because the hose he tripped over was not a *garden* hose. He would have responded more quickly to the word of knowledge if the person receiving the revelation had not added to it.

Maintain the integrity and purity of the word you receive. Even the smallest detail can release significant faith to the person listening. When we manipulate or adjust the word, we run the risk of causing people not to respond. If they hear something in the word that sounds partially correct, but they also hear the stuff we decided to add in, there is a strong possibility that their confusion will keep them from responding. We must stick to the word we have been given!

Chapter 19

GIVING WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE



You may receive a word of knowledge anywhere and at any time. You might get a word during a prayer meeting, a small group meeting, walking past someone in church or in the supermarket, or while washing dishes at home. You may or may not know for whom the revelation has been given.

Most often than not, the word of knowledge is given for someone who is present. If you are in church and you receive the word, most likely it is for someone in the church. Likewise, if you get a word of knowledge in the checkout line at the supermarket, it is probably applicable to someone standing near you.

There is also the chance that the word may be for someone who is not present, but is intended for someone they know, such as the sister of the cashier who is checking your

groceries. Or the word could be for somebody you will see tomorrow or next week. When in doubt, ask the Holy Spirit for direction.

HOW DOES GOD GIVE WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HEALING?

God gives His revelation in different ways. This is true of words of knowledge for healing as well as for other kinds of revelation. My early education about words of knowledge came during a telephone call with Vineyard leader, Lance Pittluck. Lance had interviewed many people who operated in words of knowledge. Based on his observations and research, he concluded that there are approximately six common ways people receive words of knowledge for healing.

The first way is through feeling. You may feel a certain condition or sensation in your body such as a sharp pain, a throbbing sensation, or 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 share that as a word of knowledge, even if you get that pain during a meeting.

A second way to receive a word of knowledge is to “see” it. When a word comes out of the blue, you might receive a picture in your mind that reveals a condition. These pictures can look something like a body part—perhaps a heart, a foot, an eye, or a head—or a person with a certain condition, such as a limp; a person carefully holding his arm; or a crutch, eyeglasses, or a person walking with a cane. You might even see things like an auto accident or the scene of an injury.

When it comes to images, visions, and mental pictures, be careful not to assume an interpretation. I will never forget one instance where someone got the phrase “water bottle.” That is all they received, and in obedience to the Holy Spirit, they called out “water bottle.” They did not provide any kind of “prophetic” interpretation or specification; they just said “water bottle” and trusted God to use it however He wanted. Amazingly, that unique word of knowledge delivered in that specific format was exactly what a person in the audience needed to receive healing.

A third way to receive a word of knowledge is to “read” it. You may see the condition in your mind or actually see the condition’s name written over the person you are receiving the word for. This might look like a person with a word written across their front or back or over their head, or on their forehead. Sometimes people see a word written on a wall or on the carpet, or see something like a newspaper headline, or a banner.

You can also receive words of knowledge as an impression. You may sense in your mind (a mental impression) that someone has a particular condition. Or you may sense the Holy Spirit speaking to you, which comes to you like a thought popping into your mind.

Sometimes you may suddenly and unexpectedly speak out a word of knowledge. You may be talking, or praying with someone, and unplanned words suddenly tumble out of your mouth relating to something you were not aware of.

Words of knowledge can also come through a dream or a vision. You may have a vivid dream or a vision in which

you have a new health problem, or you see someone else with a health problem, or you hear someone talking about a health problem.

There is an arbitrary nature to the ways in which words of knowledge come to us. Most often, when a word comes out of the blue, you will know that the Holy Spirit is communicating something to you. There will typically be no rhyme or reason for the pain or condition you experience. Just be sure to evaluate whether it is pain you are personally experiencing in your own body, or it is a spiritual sensitivity to what God wants to do in that context.

HOW TO SPEAK WHEN YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE RECEIVED A WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

It is generally wise, at least in the beginning, to be tentative about speaking out a word of knowledge you receive. Exercise humility. If you have never received a word of knowledge before, I encourage you to practice in a safe environment, exercising balance and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Even though we are called to be confident in Christ, there is an appropriate caution to maintain, especially when you are starting out. Learn to discern what is of you and what the Holy Spirit reveals. This is a process, and it requires practice. Be encouraged because with practice comes failure and lots of it. Do not deliver a word with 100 percent confidence when, in fact, you are uncertain. Be real and authentic. Don't try to put on a mask.

In the same way that not everyone receives healing, not every word of knowledge you share will be received. Over time, you will surely see an increase, both in your level of accuracy in receiving from God, your specificity in delivering the word, and also the number of people who respond to the words.

If you are part of a small group, practice when you meet. If you feel you have received a word of knowledge for someone start out by saying something like, “Does anyone have a sharp pain in their left elbow just now?” If no one responds, don’t be concerned or embarrassed. Let’s say that Sarah responds, confirming that the word applies to her. You could say, “Well, I just had a sharp pain in my left elbow, which may be a word of knowledge indicating that God would like to heal you now, since you have that condition. Would you like for me (or us) to pray for you now?”

If Sarah is open to receiving prayer, pray for her. If she wants prayer later, pray for her later. If she doesn’t want prayer due to embarrassment, lovingly encourage her to receive. If she still refuses, don’t pressure her in any way to receive prayer. Healing is one fruit of sharing a word of knowledge; the other fruits should be love and compassion. While we should encourage people to receive prayer, we do not want to force or pressure anyone.

If you believe you have received a word of knowledge for healing in a larger meeting or church service, you should probably not speak out unless there is an appropriate moment indicated by the leader or pastor. The opportunity may not

come during the service, however, I would encourage you to “keep your antennae up” to see whether God puts someone in your path later on who has the condition revealed to you. Even though I recommended praying immediately after receiving a word of knowledge, this is not by any means a law. If you receive a word of knowledge in a larger meeting, ask the Holy Spirit to show you who the word is intended for. You can then deliver it after the service, in a more appropriate setting.

PRACTICAL TOOLS TO HELP YOU GROW IN WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HEALING

Here are some guidelines to consider as you receive and share words of knowledge for healing. Let's begin with the “*speed of receiving*.” A word of knowledge for healing may come quickly, flitting through your mind more like a bird or dancing butterfly than a stationary billboard. Or it could be a “*first impression*.” Either way, once you receive the word, it may seem rather vague. Don't let this tempt you to screen it out and ignore the word. You need to practice “tuning in” to these revelations and begin speaking them out. It takes time to develop your “hearing” muscles when it comes to words of knowledge. Work with whatever you are hearing, pressing in until you are satisfied you are not going to hear anything more or different. Then go with what you have, however unusual it may seem at the moment. If you are tentative and humble, not arrogant or presumptuous, no one will be offended if you seem to have heard incorrectly.

Resist the temptation to believe that a word you received is not important. The details matter. Also, do not be quick to

reject perceived words of knowledge, thinking that it is “just you” making up the word. Step out and take the risk. Remember, when you share the word of knowledge, it will build faith in the person receiving it since they will know that God has revealed their conditions to you. What might seem like a vague impression to you may be a shout to the other person!

Don’t presume anything. We need to be very careful in the language we use, as it can either keep the conversation going or shut it down entirely. Do not be presumptuous and say something like, “God just told me that you have an ear-ache.” If we immediately come out saying, “God just told me that you have X condition,” and the person does not have that condition, we begin to discredit ourselves. Instead, say something like, “Does your left ear ever bother you?” Or, “I feel like I’m receiving an impression of a problem in a left ear. Does this mean anything to you?” Other examples could include, “Does a picture of a flower vase mean anything to you?” Or, “I think I see a picture of cows in a field. Does that have any significance for you?”

As I mentioned before, it is important to be specific. Be as specific as the word revealed to you. The more specific the word, the more it builds faith in you and in the person or people you are ministering to. Also, be honest. Unpretentious honesty is the best policy when sharing a word of knowledge. It’s perfectly okay to admit that you’re nervous, say that you have only a vague impression, say that you have never had a word of knowledge before, or say that praying for sick people is new to you. If these things are true, it is okay to admit it.

Lastly, don't be afraid. Do not let fear rob you or the person who might have been healed through your word of knowledge. Someone once said that "faith" is spelled "r-i-s-k." Be patient, but step out. Be humble, but step out. Be tentative, but step out. God will give you words of knowledge because He wants you to use them. He wants you to use them wisely, prudently, and humbly, but He wants you to *use* them.

WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE AS A POWERFUL TOOL FOR EVANGELISM

Many people are familiar with the idea of prayer for healing in the sense that parishioners in church or in a prayer group will pray for healing for someone who is in the hospital or sick at home, but there is little expectation for immediate engagement in healing prayer. And not only do people not expect or want prayer "right then and there," but they do not expect healing to come about as a result of prayer. Typically, the most that is expected is that the sick person might recover more quickly.

Even in instances where recovery is shortened somewhat, this type of experience is not especially impressive to unbelievers. Healing on the spot, however, in the name of Jesus, can have considerably more impact on someone who is not yet a believer. On-the-spot healing can cause people to respond to Jesus who otherwise might never do so. It is a demonstration of the power of God in the name of Jesus. It is a demonstration that Jesus is concerned about people, and about their needs. It is also a demonstration that the name of

Jesus is more powerful than the works of Satan. We see this in the gospels, and the book of Acts. A word of knowledge can bring an unbeliever right into the arms of Jesus.

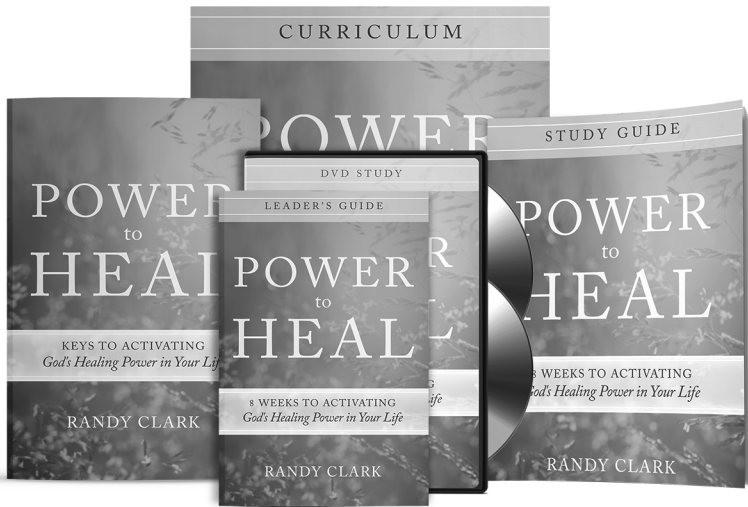
Words of knowledge also introduce people to the reality of God. When it is clear that you have received supernatural information about a condition—knowledge you could not have received through any natural means—people will pay attention.

GET ACTIVATED

If you have never received a word of knowledge, do not be afraid. God wants you to start operating in this gift. Do not stress or strain, trying to work something up. The gifts of the Spirit are not given to you based on your merit. In fact, the English word for *gift* (in the context of 1 Corinthians 12) comes from the Greek term *charis* or *charisma*, which simply means grace.

Remember, if you desire to be activated in words of knowledge, it's as simple as asking God. Yes, there are things that will help you develop this gift, such as impartation, teaching, and discipleship, but if you want to begin using a gift of the Spirit right now, *all you need to do is ask for it*. The gifts are given to us in the finished work of Jesus Christ—His atonement, and are received when we ask. Gifts are drawn to those who hunger and thirst for spiritual things. And gifts are received through faith, like everything else in the Kingdom of God.

WATCH GOD ACCOMPLISH
THE MIRACULOUS
THROUGH YOU.



LEARN FROM DR. RANDY CLARK!

Every Christian has been sent and empowered by Jesus to heal the sick. The problem is that many of us don't know how to practically complete this task.

In the *Power to Heal* curriculum, international evangelist, teacher, and apostolic voice, Dr. Randy Clark, shares eight practical, Bible-based tools that will help you start praying for the sick and see them supernaturally healed!