

Study Notes based on Sunday 29 April 2018

Knowledge – Sue Fensome

Matthew 16:13-20

1. How do you respond to this definition of the gift of knowledge? 'In I Corinthians 12:8 it says, "to another the message of knowledge" (NIV). The Biblical meaning is to "know" something experientially, intuitively and in the present. It is subjective "spiritual" knowledge coming from God, revealed to you through the Holy Spirit where you are impressed cognitively by God. In this case God impresses upon you a relevant insight or message, that applies to the situation at hand. This does not imply that you are in a "trance" where you "channel" the voice of God. Instead, we rely on God to speak to us as the result of our experience with Him and His word. It is giving out knowledge that we have experienced. It could be an insight, a summary or a relevant message.'
2. What about this one? 'The gift of knowledge allows people to automatically convert facts, data, and information into useful and important knowledge. People possessing this gift can learn in a variety of ways, retain what they learn, and understand how learning can be applied in meaningful and productive ways. Those gifted with knowledge have a voracious and insatiable desire to learn more, and they seek multiple avenues for deepening their understanding of God's world, God's will, and God's people'
3. See Proverbs 2:6; 15:14; 18:15. What do we learn from these Old Testament references to knowledge?
4. Consider these Old Testament examples of God's people receiving knowledge supernaturally. Elisha and Gehazi 2 Kings 5:27; 2 Kings 6:8-12; Daniel 2:1-23;
5. Consider the way in which the incarnate Christ received words of knowledge. John 4:7-19,39; John 2:23-25
6. Consider the way in which Jesus disciples received words of knowledge. Matthew 16; Luke 8:10; Acts 5:15
7. Share any experiences you have had of receiving words of knowledge.
8. Sue gave a number of characteristics of the true word of knowledge – often a fragment, not the big picture; sometimes a warning, sometimes revealing enemy strategy; always to build up the kingdom; not for confusion, manipulation or power; always in line with Scripture. How do you respond?
9. What particular danger is connected to this gift? 1 Corinthians 8:1.

John S Smith 30 April 2018