

“Word Twins” at Work in the Book of Acts

“And there was a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked:

The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked” (Acts 14:8-10).

In this lessons we will look at some examples of the “Word Twins” at work in the Book of Acts.

(1) In the Scriptural account given above, it seems that Paul was preaching the gospel when he received a word of knowledge that a man sitting there had faith to be healed. A mighty miracle of God resulted.

(2) In Acts 9:11 Ananias received a word of knowledge that he should rise up and go to Strait Street, and ask at “... the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth.” What are some of the facts that are revealed in this Scripture? It is very easy to see whether someone giving a word of knowledge is speaking under the unction and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is because the word of knowledge deals with facts. We know that facts are proven bits of information. Since most of these facts deal with the past or present, we can quickly determine whether the word spoken is true or not.

(3) “And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight” (Acts 9:12). Who else had received a word from the Lord?

(4) In Acts 5:1-3 insight is given through the word of knowledge into corruption that was existing in the church. It was revealed to the man of God that Ananias and Sapphira had conspired together to lie and keep back a part of the price of land that they had sold. Peter asked, “Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?”(5:3). What are the facts revealed here by the Spirit?

(5) Another interesting example of the word of knowledge in the Book of Acts is found in Acts 10. Here you also see the Word Twins operating together.

God speaks to Cornelius, a devout man, but a Gentile.

“And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do” (Acts 10: 5-6).

(6) As these men were coming closer to where Peter was, he went up to the housetop to pray. Here he sees a vision of clean and unclean beasts. A voice tells him to “Rise, kill and eat.” Peter tells the Lord that he doesn’t eat things unclean. God’s response is “...What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common” (Acts 10:15). Here Peter is receiving a Word of Wisdom that is allowing him to know that God is including the Gentiles (thought unclean) into the church.

(7) While Peter was trying to get a better understanding, the Spirit continues to give him a Word of Knowledge. The Spirit revealed that “...three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them” (Acts 10:20).

Peter likely needed backup from the Word Twins when he tried to explain to the church what had happened in his explanation in Acts 11.

(8) The word of wisdom came to the rescue during the Jerusalem Summit in Acts 15. Here some were still teaching that unless you were circumcised you could not be saved. This ruled out the salvation of the uncircumcised Gentiles. A potential church split was brewing over this issue. After everyone else had spoken James addressed them with a word of wisdom. In his concluding remarks he said, “...that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God. But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood” (Acts 15:19-20). The response to this was that it pleased the Apostles, elders, and the whole church.

(9) Perhaps Gamaliel also gave a word of wisdom when he offered this counsel, “Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought. But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God” (Acts 5:38-39).

(10) In Acts 13 a word of wisdom came telling the leaders to separate Barnabas and Saul for the work that they were called into.

(11) In Acts 6 another word of wisdom was given to the Apostles when a problem arose in the church over waiting on tables. Seven deacons were to be appointed; the method of selection was given and a list of qualifications. As for the Apostles, they would “give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

(12) Paul, at a crossroads in his ministry, wondering where to go next received a word of wisdom that he should go to Macedonia.

“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us” (Acts 16:9).

(13) A word of knowledge in Acts 27 was ignored when Paul advised the ship's captain that he perceived that "...this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives" (Verse 10).

(14) A later word of knowledge, delivered by an angel, tells Paul not to fear, he will be brought before Caesar, and the Lord has given him all that have sailed with him. Paul explains this to them and tells them to "...be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me" (27: 25).

Paul then reveals that they will be cast upon a certain island (Acts 27:26).

In each of the examples given in this lesson, it seems that the Word of Knowledge applied to the present situation because it dealt with facts. Facts change. However, when you look at the examples where the Word of Wisdom can be found, you discover that most of the time, the wisdom applied to the present situation but also applies to us today. This can be seen in the wisdom given by Gamaliel, the Apostles, and James.

21st Century "Word Twins" at Work

Before the author met his wife in Nigeria, West Africa she had already made one short term missionary tour there to work with the Johnny Garrison family. The Garrisons had recently returned from furlough with their children and Brother Garrison's mother.

They had, in their deputational travels, gathered many suits of clothes for national preachers. The clothes were stored in one of the rooms of a building. The preachers and their families were so excited to come from around the country to receive some clothing.

One of the preachers who came was a State Presbyterian named Rev. Stephen Ine. He was an unusually big man and could not find many clothes to fit him. He tried on many of the suits but they were all too small. He left with a few odds and ends but no suit and made no complaint. Two days later he came back to the missionary's home and stated that he had come for his new suit.

Brother Garrison was so surprised and asked, "What suit?" Brother Ine then explained how he had a dream in the night that he was called back to the missionary's home to receive a new suit.

No suits had been added but he insisted that his suit was ready for him to pick it up. He persisted, "I remember what it looks like. Your mother showed it to me in my dream."

Seeing that it was useless to discuss the matter any further, Brother Garrison took the national preacher back to the storage room. He immediately walked over to the rack where he said that

Brother Garrison’s mother had placed the suit, found it, and removed it from the rack. The suit fit him as though it had been tailor made for him personally. (Story adapted from *Angels Watching Over Me* written by Johnny Garrison)

(Instructors should also use personal examples and testimonies from their ministry to show the “Word Twins” at work.)

Study Questions

1. Go through the examples given above and identify if it is talking about the “Word of Wisdom” or the “Word of Knowledge”?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____
- 11) _____
- 12) _____
- 13) _____
- 14) _____

2. Go through the examples given and identify the vehicle used in bringing the “Word Twins”?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____
- 11) _____
- 12) _____
- 13) _____
- 14) _____

