

THE PURPOSES OF GOD PART 1 of 3

By Todd Bentley

I believe that if we're to continue to see miracles, signs and wonders today, we need to operate in a spirit of counsel; this will release God's might and power. God's power is always connected to wisdom, knowledge and revelation. The word of knowledge is a God-given tool that empowers the healing ministry. I believe that through this article there's going to be a prophetic download that will activate and release you into the word of knowledge. As you read this, believe for a heavenly download of the power of God's rhema (spoken specific revelation) word.

I recently had the opportunity to spend three days in Moravian Falls. The spiritual heavens are so open there because of a 100-year prayer meeting that took place there - the Moravians prayed 24 hours a day seven days a week during those years. Bob Jones prophesied that the ground in Moravian Falls would be a place where God would open up the heavens and pour out his spirit. Today Moravian Falls is a mountainous place where all these eagles, these prophets, have gathered. Rick Joyner and Morningstar Ministries as well as many other prophetic ministers own property there including Keith Davis, Don Potter and Bobby Connors. It's as if God has reserved this mountain high place for Himself and gathered all these ministries together there. They asked us to come there and spend three days waiting on the Lord to see what He would say to us.

So I thought, "Great -- three days of experiences with the Lord Jesus - visitations of the Lord, trances, dreams, and hearing God intimately while we lie on the carpet!" So, sure enough, the first night we got there I had a dream that continued on all night long. I woke up in a prophetic experience. Then for three days, from the moment we got up till the time we went to bed, it was non-stop dreams, trances, visitations of the Lord and revelation while we waited in the presence of the Lord. In this place I had an experience that birthed the word that I'm going to share with you tonight, along the lines of wisdom and revelation.

HUNGER FOR THE SUPERNATURAL

For many years I've desired to walk in the supernatural. When I got saved, I was extremely hungry to walk in the Spirit. I read that Elisha had eyes to see into the heavens and he prayed that the eyes of his servant Gehazi would be opened so that Gehazi could see into the heavens. Then they both saw into the second heaven; they saw angels and they saw demons. When I got saved I thought, "Wouldn't it be great if I could see angels and demons. That would make it a whole lot easier in spiritual warfare and then I'd really be able to cast out demons. I'd know if people had one or not because I could see it and I'd know who the demon was because I could see what he looked like. It would be great in ministering healing against infirmities and sicknesses because you could see the spirit of the sickness, such as cancer, in someone's body". After seeing the demon causing the sickness, it would just be a matter of saying, "come out now!"

I was so hungry and zealous for that gift when I got saved that I began to pray fervently: "God, I want the eyes of my heart to be opened". My favorite prayer became the prayer of the apostle Paul in Ephesians chapters one and three. I would pray, "Oh God, that the eyes of my understanding would be opened! I want the spirit of wisdom and revelation. I want to know what my Father is doing in heaven before he does it. I want the ministry of Jesus". I would pray like that with great hunger. So God started to open up, what I call, the realm of knowledge, and from that day I started to operate in the word of knowledge. Even in ministry today, it's so important that we operate in that gift especially in the area of healing. We need to come into a place where we know what God is going to do before he does it because we've already seen it. I'll share with you a couple of testimonies of how powerful the word of knowledge is -- I want to get you hungry to experience and to really cry out for that Ephesians 1:17 grace from God to operate in wisdom and knowledge.

Quite often before a meeting I just lay before the Lord and I'd say, "Let me see that meeting God. What will the altar call look like? When does it happen? What am I emphasizing? Let me see the miracles and healings God." Quite often there will be times that people will visit me in trances. I'll see what they look like. They'll actually speak to me and tell me what's wrong with their bodies. At first when people started breaking into my prayer times and talking to me, I really thought I was crazy. It was good that I remembered that same thing happening in the ministry of Smith Wigglesworth, a man often referred to as the apostle of faith. So I figured I couldn't be off my rocker. Then I would get to the meeting and start to find out what God was saying. Then ministering to somebody I might say, "You're barren. I saw you in a vision tonight. This young blonde lady over here, you want to have a baby." And sure enough, the Holy Spirit would fall. It's so important that we come to that place in ministry, or in life decisions, of seeing what is going to happen before they do.

THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE RELEASES HEALING POWER

I was ministering a while back in the Dalles, Oregon. I had a vision of a young boy. I knew in my spirit that he was nine years old and I saw him hit his head on the windshield of a vehicle. He had a concussion and was in a home for a while. When he got out he began having seizures. In the vision I saw his brain injuries. So I gave the word of knowledge and a mom comes down to the front with a young boy who is dragging his leg as he walks up. Because of the damage to his brain, he was limping and could not operate one of his legs properly. Three weeks after I gave that word of knowledge and declared his healing, I returned to that area - the boy was healed! The neurologist who did the testing said all the seizures were gone. And you know what? It didn't have anything to do with my anointing. It didn't have anything to do with the fact that they laid hands on boy. It was because I took the time to see what my Father was doing. I spoke out what he was doing and he did it. It had nothing to do with me, except that I took the time to get counsel.

In that same meeting, there was another man. The Lord showed me his Dodge pickup truck. It was green, made in the eighties and really ugly. In the vision, I saw it have a head-on collision with, I believe, a semi truck. So I said, "I see these injuries in your back and this is what they look like. You can't sleep at night and you're on painkillers." I described his accident and three weeks later, when I went back, this same man gets up during a testimony time. He describes the details of the word of knowledge that accurately described his situation. He tells how he had already had four back surgeries and was on \$460 of pain medication each month. With no laying on of hands, just the spoken word, he says, he was completely healed. He testified that he had been off pain medication for three weeks without pain. The word of knowledge is such a powerful tool.

When I started to come into the ministry, years ago -- I call it my soaking season -- I was laying out under the power up to 12 hours a day just marinating. I had trances, dreams and prophetic experiences every day and often if I wanted to pray I wasn't able. I just had to lie before the Lord. I had to rest in the Lord's presence and in that time I saw the things that I would be doing today. During that time, I also experienced the first miracle, which came through a vision and a word of knowledge. I saw a vision of this lady who lived in my city of Abbotsford in British Columbia, Canada. I didn't know this woman -- I'd just seen her at a conference every once in a while. In the vision, I'm in her home, she's pregnant and I'm telling her that she's having a baby. At the time, I'm just laying in my living room, basking in the glory. I don't even know who this woman was. I don't even know where she lives. I'm not in her church. Not only that, she seems about 45 and I don't think she even wants to have a baby.

"PASTOR -- SHE NEEDS TO HAVE A BABY!"

So I go to her pastor, and I say, "Pastor, you need to take me to this woman's house because she needs to have a baby". He says, "That's right -- let's go". I discover that for about 20 years she's been trying to have a baby and here I come along to tell her that she's going to have one. That's the last thing you really want to hear when you've been trying for 20 years and everybody in the zoo has prayed for you. Then here comes "nobody" -- I'm just out of the mill pulling lumber off the green chain. I've just been lying on the carpet and nobody even knows who I am. I'm still wearing my bandanna, ripped jeans and Harley-Davidson jacket and I'm still not completely cleaned up. So I tell her she's going to have a baby... and sure enough, she does! She now has a baby two months older than my youngest son. It was the word of knowledge that activated that miracle. Ever since then I've come to a place in ministry that I don't want to do anything that Father isn't doing. You see -- that's what this article is about.

In Ephesians 1:17 the Apostle Paul prays that: "...the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him". It is not just the knowledge of him that God wants to give us; it is the knowledge of what he is doing as well. In verse 18 Paul continues to pray that the eyes of the hearts of God's people would be enlightened that they would know the hope of His calling and the surpassing greatness of his power. He then adds that all this knowledge and revelation is in accordance with the working of the strength of God's might that he brought about in Christ when he raised him from the dead.

You'll notice in this passage there's a connection between wisdom and knowledge and the exceeding greatness of his power. The apostle Paul is saying that God wants us to have a revelation of the exceeding greatness of his power towards us who believe. Why? So we can know that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in us (Rom. 8:11). You can know in your mind that you are a temple of the Holy Ghost and that the God of the universe dwells in you. You can know Christ in you, the hope of glory, but you're still not going to walk in the demonstration of that power until you get beyond the logos to the rhema (quickenened personal word). It's in the rhema of God that we find the exceeding greatness of his power.

SEE THAT YOU'VE GOT YOUR MIRACLE ALREADY

What the Holy Spirit does is always connected to counsel. It's the Spirit of counsel and the Spirit of might; the might is always connected to the wisdom and the realm of knowledge -- that's where God's power is. We're only to do those things we see the Father doing and speak those things we hear the Father saying -- that's where the power, miracles, healings, signs and wonders are. Remember, by his stripes we are healed. My brother and sister, you have already been healed 2000 years ago; it's time to just receive it. If you get beyond the place of hope and thinking, you will get your miracle. You need to see that you have got that miracle already because God said you had it 2000 years ago.

This truth blows the minds of many Christians because it's not a quickened rhema word to them. They have a hard time receiving healing "now" because they haven't seen everybody healed, even though they may believe that God wants to heal all. I believe that there's a place where healing jumps out of eternity, out of the future, and it comes on you in the present. That's why it's so important that we understand the word of knowledge in the area of ministering healing. It's not that God's word isn't God's word, but that we don't yet have a heart revelation of it.

Christians who don't understand the importance of revelation often take dry scriptural truths, speak them outside of the timing of the Lord and bring death instead of life. God wants to give us personal quickened words from heaven. How many times have you opened up a passage of scripture and it was alive to you and you lived in that passage? That passage meant nothing to others, but to you it was a living, powerful truth. Then next month something else jumps off the page and grabs your heart -- it's your word from the Lord.

I believe God is getting rid of sermons, and he's releasing these messages to people's hearts. He is opening up the realm of knowledge, so it's no longer just speaking what God has already said over 2000 years ago, even though that message is still true. It's still important for the Holy Spirit to be involved in the ministry of the word to our hearts because it's the Spirit that makes it alive and real to us. This "alive word" is what the word of knowledge is.

In Him,

Todd Bentley

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