

# How to Receive Revelation Knowledge

*“ . . . many preachers today have trouble understanding the spiritual content of First Corinthians, much less the operation of that content.”*

I bless the day I discovered Paul's source of revelation knowledge! Actually, I not only discovered that source, but I can also show you how to enter into it yourself (if you want to) to receive everything God has for you.

Called as an apostle to the Gentiles, Paul probably received more revelation knowledge from God than any man alive other than Jesus. But Paul didn't receive this revelation just because he was called to be an apostle. As Jesus said, For many are called, but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14). No, Paul received revelation knowledge because he decided for himself to go into God as far as he could go and receive everything God had for him.

Before you pass this off too lightly, remember of all the apostles, Paul was the one who was born out of due season. He hadn't been a part of Jesus' earthly ministry. In other words, the original twelve disciples walked with Jesus prior to His ascension and were directly taught by Him. But everything Paul received, he received by revelation.

Now, before we find out how Paul received revelation knowledge, think about this: His revelation was every bit equivalent to what Moses received for the entire nation of Israel when God presented Moses with the Ten Commandments and the detailed instructions of the Law. What the apostle Paul received from God was as intricate and detailed concerning the operation of the Body of Christ as was Moses' revelation concerning the disbursing of the Law.

When I started studying the book of First Corinthians to understand more about how Paul received revelation knowledge, I realized something: The entire letter was written to people whom Paul called "baby Christians" of a carnal mind! That was a little scary to me, because many preachers today have trouble understanding the spiritual content of First Corinthians, much less the operation of that content.

Look at what Paul says in First Corinthians 3:1,2: *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto, ye were not able to bear it, NEITHER YET NOW ARE YE ABLE.*

Notice Paul's words in verse 2: ...Neither yet now are ye able. In other words, Paul went on to write the entire book of First Corinthians to the carnal minds of baby Christians who were not able to eat the meat of the Word. Because he was writing to carnal baby Christians, Paul attempted to reveal his source of revelation knowledge in chapters 2 and 3 so these baby Christians could also tap into that same source. Paul was encouraging the Corinthian believers to take their Christianity beyond a carnal walk of the senses into an intimate relationship with God.

As you may have guessed, the source of revelation Paul talked about in these chapters involves a

believer's personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. We will find out more about this source as we go further into this teaching.

As believers, we don't have any problem understanding that being full of envy and strife qualifies a person as one who is of a carnal mind. First Corinthians 3:3,4 confirms this: *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?*

Paul accused the Corinthian believers of being carnal for following after men, but he wasn't talking about doing away with the offices of apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist, and teacher or the ministry of these offices to the Body of Christ. So what was Paul talking about? He was trying to get the Corinthian church to look past the ministry of men and to focus instead on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Paul wanted them to realize that only the Spirit of God could transform their lives and literally cause them to become what they were hearing and learning from their teachers.

Notice what Paul goes on to say in verses 5 and 6: *Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*

What did Paul mean when he said that he had planted and Apollos had watered? Paul was saying that he had planted the Corinthians in the Kingdom of God by leading them to Christ. Then Apollos came along later to water the seed of the Word in their hearts, teaching them about Jesus Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and how to grow in the knowledge of God. But as Paul says in verse 6, it was God by His power who actually gave the increase.

Now, here's the amazing thing about this: Paul wouldn't have talked to the Corinthians in chapter 3 about their running after men and about God giving the increase if Paul hadn't already revealed his source of revelation knowledge in chapter 2. After all, it does no good to reprimand a carnal Christian for running after man rather than God unless you go on to show him how to personally enter into God so God can give him the increase. Only then will he avoid building incorrectly upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

In First Corinthians 3:9, Paul describes the formation of the Body of Christ by calling us both God's HUSBANDRY and God's BUILDING. Like every building, we must have a foundation. Paul goes on to describe his ministry as a wise masterbuilder who received grace from God to lay that foundation. Of course, as Paul revealed in I Corinthians 1, that foundation is Jesus Christ crucified, which is ...unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God (vv. 23,24).

As part of God's building, you are called by Him to be a lively stone. That means you are to fulfill your ministry as a co-laborer in the Body of Christ, always building on the revelation that Paul laid as a masterbuilder, which is "JESUS CRUCIFIED."

Right here is where man's ministry leaves off and the Holy Spirit's ministry begins. This is why Paul called the Corinthian believers carnal for following after men, saying, "One says, 'I am of Paul,' and

another says, 'I am of Apollos.' But who are we but ministers by whom you believed? It is GOD who gives the increase" (vv. 4,6).

I will always be a teacher in the Body of Christ for the maturing of the saints, but there are some things I cannot give people. As a teacher, I can teach all about Jesus crucified, healing, covenants, love, faith, and hope. However, I cannot open up people's hearts and put all these truths inside of them.

Where does my ministry leaves off and the Holy Spirit's ministry begin in your life? At the point where God wants to reveal to you your individual calling as a lively stone in the building of God. The Holy Spirit then starts to give you what no man can. Only He can give the anointing and the equipping for your divine call, no matter what that call may be.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God will work in your life to bring forth faith, love, anointings, and a spiritual understanding of the things of God. No man can give that to you, for it is only God who gives the increase.

So let's go back to First Corinthians 2 to find out the source of Paul's revelation knowledge; then we will be able to go to God ourselves and receive from Him what no man can give us. Notice what Paul said in First Corinthians 2:7,8: *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

Whenever the popular detective, Sherlock Holmes, solved a mystery, he did so by first finding isolated clues that were usually not obvious to the casual observer and then by putting those clues together in such a way that he solved the mystery.

Now let's apply that same principle to God's plan of redemption. It was necessary for the Cross to be hidden in God as a mystery. That doesn't mean the clues didn't exist, for they did exist all the way through the Old Testament. But the clues weren't obvious enough to solve the mystery of Christ crucified. Certainly if the princes of this world had solved the mystery, they would NOT have crucified the Lord of glory! As you know, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO DIE AND BE RAISED AGAIN! This is why Paul said what he did about the Old Testament saints in verse 9: *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

But then the most incredible thing happens between verses 9 and 10: THERE IS A CHANGE of COVENANTS, and Paul begins to reveal the source of his revelation knowledge in First Corinthians 2:10-12: *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

Between verses 9 and 10, Jesus Christ is crucified and the Holy Spirit is given to the Church. The

change of covenants has taken place.

The Holy Spirit came all the way from Heaven to solve the greatest mystery of all time. His commission was to reveal to us the wisdom of God - the same wisdom that had been hidden in God since before the foundation of the world.

First, the sins of the whole world were laid on Jesus. Then came the commission of the Holy Spirit - not only to reveal the Word, but to work with every believer in fulfilling the Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Thus, what none of the Old Testament saints had access to because it was hidden in God in a mystery, God has now purposely given to us WHO BELIEVE through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Now that Jesus has died for the sins of every man, God wants every man to hear what was once necessarily hidden. This mystery is now made available to every believer who will yield himself to the Holy Spirit. That is why verse 12 says, We have received ... the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us by God.

Consider this question: Why did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit was given to Him without measure? Most answer that nothing could limit the power Jesus walked in because He was the Son of God. He could heal anyone, anywhere, anytime. But if this was the case, why couldn't Jesus do mighty miracles in His own hometown, (with the exception of healing a few sick people)? The Word gives the reason: It was THE PEOPLE'S UNBELIEF.

We see, then, that the operation of the Holy Spirit was restricted in Jesus because of other people's unbelief. So what did Jesus mean when He said He received the Holy Spirit without measure?

I can tell you the answer to that question. Jesus was the first Man since Adam to be born spiritually alive. The Bible therefore calls Jesus "the last Adam."

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit was WITH them and, after His death, would be IN them. You see, the Old Testament saints were not capable of being baptized in the Holy Spirit because they were spiritually dead. Consequently, the Holy Spirit (who was WITH them and not IN them) would move upon them for a season according to God's purpose or plan. This was called a "mantle," referring to a cloak that was draped over the outer garments of a person.

But as believers, we have not received a mantle, or an outer spiritual "garment." We have received the baptism, or the infilling, of the Holy Spirit on the INSIDE of us. He has come to abide WITHIN us forever.

Jesus said He received the Spirit of God without measure because He was the first spiritually alive man since Adam who was capable of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was not forced to rest outwardly upon Jesus' life in the form of a mantle; rather, He came without measure and baptized Jesus' whole being. In the same way, the Holy Spirit has come to us - not in a measure (or a season), but to STAY.

Hebrews 8:11 tells us one of the benefits we enjoy as a result of being born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. We can be directly taught by the Spirit of God concerning spiritual things: *And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.*

This verse outlines the difference between God's dealings with Israel as a nation when He gave them the Law, and His dealings with us who have received the Holy Spirit. The Law consisted of the Ten Commandments, a diverse set of ordinances, and various types of blood sacrifices. Consequently, everyone had to be taught to know God through the Law, for it was impossible for a spiritually dead man to know Him through the new nature of the rebirth. But now we can know Him from the least to the greatest because He has written His laws in our hearts and in our minds (Hebrews 8:11)!

So here is the question: If all of us, from the least to the greatest, can know God because we have received the infilling of the Holy Spirit, just exactly how does the Holy Spirit search the deep things of God to reveal them to us? We know the Holy Spirit was Paul's source of revelation knowledge, but what did he do that was so different from everyone else who was filled with the Holy Spirit in his day? What caused Paul to be so full of revelation knowledge?

First Corinthians 14:18 is the verse that shows us what made Paul different from every other minister of his day: I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.

Was it a coincidence that Paul: 1) operated in more revelation knowledge than anyone present in his day, and 2) prayed in tongues more than any other Holy Ghost-filled person of his day? No! I can guarantee you that it wasn't coincidental. There is a spiritual link between tongues and revelation knowledge. But what is that spiritual link?

The spiritual link between praying in tongues and revelation knowledge is in the understanding of the word "mysteries." To help us understand this link, Paul mentions this word three times between chapters 2 and 14 of First Corinthians.

- Paul's first mention of the word "mysteries" is in First Corinthians 2:7, where he says, But we speak the wisdom of God in a MYSTERY, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.
- The second time he mentions "mysteries" is in First Corinthians 4:1, which says, Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the MYSTERIES of God.
- Finally, Paul's third mention is in First Corinthians 14:2: For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh MYSTERIES.

Let me show you the link between praying in tongues and revelation knowledge. It's very clear from First Corinthians 14:2 that when a man prays in tongues, he is speaking the same mysteries of God that Paul talked about earlier in chapters 2 and 4. It is significant that in the same letter where Paul told the Corinthian church he was thankful he spoke with tongues more than them all, he also told

them that God had made him a STEWARD of the mysteries of God.

A steward is an administrator. A rich man would hire a steward to act as an administrator over his wealth and goods. The steward would make sure that there was no waste and that the rich man's goods were protected against misuse and thievery.

Thus, in order for Paul to be a good steward of the mysteries of God, he had to protect those mysteries against infiltration of false doctrine, against legalism, against Satan's hatred of the Church, etc. Paul did that by allowing the Holy Spirit to pray those very same mysteries through him hour after hour in tongues. Paul knew that his practice of praying MUCH in other tongues was the key to expanding his spiritual understanding of the revelation of Christ to the Church.

Let me tell you why. The word "tongues" is an old King James English word for "language." Therefore, it would be proper for you to say, "When I pray in an unknown language, I am speaking mysteries." Like any other language, tongues carries within it thoughts, expressions, and entire sentences - more articulate than any man-created language on the face of the earth. God uses it to express the mystery of everything that Christ, the Hope of Glory, is on the inside of you.

When the Holy Ghost is able to express mysteries through your spirit, those mysteries will eventually manifest themselves in your understanding. Your praying in tongues literally frees the Holy Spirit to move on your mind with revelation knowledge, insight, wisdom, and a greater understanding of spiritual things. Paul himself was the proof of this when he wrote of his understanding of the revelation of Christ.

Are you like me - desiring to walk in revelation knowledge for yourself? Do you want to be led out of carnality into the deep things of God? Do you want to get beyond the milk of the Word and allow the Holy Spirit to communicate the meat of the Word to you? Do you want to understand what is in Paul's teachings?

Well, when you pray in tongues, you are praying the same things that are recorded in Paul's epistles. So keep on praying! Go to the mouth of the river yourself and jump in. IT'S ALL YOURS FOR THE ASKING!