

# HOW TO: Identify Rhema

When reading some teaching, listening to or watching teaching, or reading the Bible, you will receive information. This information comes in 2 forms:

- Mental knowledge
- Spiritual knowledge

Mental knowledge is what your brain receives through your 6 senses. So, through reading, hearing and seeing, you gain information from what is contained in the teaching material. This knowledge adds to your theology – your understanding of God, his character and how he operates.

By spiritual knowledge, I don't mean knowledge about theology, the spirit realm or Heaven. Even though the church and the world call such things "spiritual knowledge", it has a different meaning to us. In the Kingdom, spiritual knowledge is received in your spirit, rather than your brain. This comes from Holy Spirit placing something in your spirit which he wants you to know. This is known by the Greek word *rhema*.

When taking in some teaching, knowledge will be added to you in a number of ways:

1. Subconsciously – You are unaware that you are learning anything. Most information comes this way.
2. Emotionally – You have a feeling a pleasure over a particular part of the teaching and your attention is drawn to it. You decide that it is worth learning.
3. Inspirationally – You have a 'wow moment' when you come across something that is impacting. You decide that it is really worth learning.
4. Revelatory – Information brings understanding to questions you've had or missing knowledge you were looking for. This is often an 'a-ha moment' and your emotions register it as important to know.
5. Spiritually – Your spirit receives it and it registers in your mind as a spiritual deposit that is important for you to know.

Methods 1-4 are sources of mental knowledge, while #5 is the only spiritual source. Don't confuse these.

*Rhema* is identified more easily as a person becomes more spiritually mature – and I don't mean religiously mature with theological knowledge. Being baptised in the Holy Spirit is the basic prerequisite for really detecting *rhema*. As your spirit becomes alive and fully functional with the anointing of Holy Spirit, *rhema* will be your spiritual food<sup>1</sup> and a highly prized feature of every day. You will learn the meaning of living by "every rhema that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord"<sup>2</sup> as he deposits in you from his throne.

One little know fact is that **rhema moves from the spirit to the mind, becoming mental knowledge as we ascent to it's importance.**

Mental knowledge and *rhema* are both essential for our growth and maturity as sons in the Kingdom. Not everything we know must come from *rhema*, although this source is vital, being the food our spirit lives on.

The total content of the NT is a source of mental knowledge as it was specifically designed to convey information to the first church believers.<sup>3</sup> The Gospels were written to give an account of what occurred in Jesus' life. The epistles were written to teach the new churches how to live righteous lives, and to

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1 – Matthew 4:4

2 – Matthew 4:4

3 – See "What was the Purpose of the New Testament"

([canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/What-was-the-Purpose-of-the-New-Testament.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/What-was-the-Purpose-of-the-New-Testament.pdf))

understand spiritual ideas. Many of these epistles were for correction in response to letters the writer had received or information that they knew. All this was for sound doctrine<sup>4</sup> (i.e. spiritually healthy teaching).

So, *rhema* is what you receive in your spirit from Holy Spirit. It is God's communication to you for a purpose – instruction, understanding, message, warning, etc. It is spiritually discerned,<sup>5</sup> and must not be confused with what you receive in your mind.

**Spiritual communication only comes from *rhema*, hearing God's audible voice or from a face-to-face visitation from our King himself.**

The upshot of this is that **you cannot say, "God told me" something if it wasn't *rhema*. The only truthful thing you could say if you believe God placed something in your mind is, "God showed me" something.**

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4 – 1 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1

5 – 1 Corinthians 2:14