

I Corinthians; Lesson #5
Spiritual Principals are Revealed by God Alone
Pentwater Bible Church
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Regarding Spiritual Things:

I Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Paul is telling us through the Corinthians that we cannot begin to understand the blessings that God has prepared for us who love Him. The future blessings that all believers will enjoy in eternity are beyond human comprehension. The reason we believe and trust in His promises of future glory is because His Spirit who entered us at the point of belief reveals them to us. It is *only* through the Spirit's teaching that we can understand the Scripture. We also get glimpses of what God's mind is as well as His plan for His people. The blessings of salvation and revelation were prepared by God the Father, carried out by God the Son and applied by God the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:3-14). Christ promised that when He left He would send the Holy Spirit to earth so that His spiritual presence would be among us (Luke 24:49).

I Corinthians 2:11 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.

Just as one person cannot really know the thoughts of another human, nobody can know God's thoughts except the Spirit which is in every believer reveals them to us. In other words the only way to know God is by having His Spirit within us. The only way to have God's Spirit in us is to accept the gift of salvation.

I Corinthians 2: 12 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.

Contrast the words us and we. This separates us from the unbelievers. We know we have received the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has been poured out upon this world and He is freely available to all who would accept Him. As a believer we depend on God's Spirit not on the Spirit of this world for everything (Gal 3:5). Christ sent the Spirit so we would be able to know the wonderful things of God, which He has freely given to us. This Spirit is given to all not to just some. Unfortunately He is only accepted by some.

I Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2: 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Paul had many critics who did not understand what He was saying and they were unimpressed with his message. This message is from God's Spirit and human words cannot explain it adequately. No human can explain God's wisdom. In order to speak God's wisdom we must let the Spirit speak through us. In order to explain Spiritual truth a believer must use the Spirit's words. Paul's words are genuine because they are directly from the Spirit. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he was speaking the very thoughts and words of God. Today all of us who are believers are speaking the words of God when we pass Scripture and especially the Gospel along to others.

1 Corinthians 2: 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

This is not a surprise to any believer who has shared Christ with unbelievers. They simply do not understand and most will scoff at the mere mention of the Spirit and Spiritual things. It is if their ability to discern has been hampered. This is because the God of the universe will not allow a non-Spirit filled person to discern the wonders of God. They cannot grasp the concept that God's Spirit lives within us and teaches us. Paul tells us that the Spiritual message we convey to unbelievers is usually met with a response that we are speaking foolishness. This would be like a deaf person trying to understand a beautiful piece of music or a blind man trying to understand a masterpiece painting. The unregenerate people will never understand these things.

1 Corinthians 15-16 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The believer can only be judged by God and not by the unregenerate or worldly Christians. Paul here quotes Isaiah 40:13 to show that a Christian is not subject to unbelievers faulty ideas about spiritual matters. They can't know them! Paul asks who is ready to take human wisdom up against God's wisdom? We can't instruct God and question Him as to salvation and His plan for this world. In contrast to the unbelievers the believers have the mind of Christ and can fully understand the significance of the cross. We will never be able to fully comprehend God (Rom 11:34) but we have access to Him *through* the mind of Christ. We can know God through the Scriptures as the Spirit gives us discernment, through prayer and the expectation of His answers. Therefore we must understand that when unbelievers insult, or jeer or mock us, it is because they do not have the mind of Christ.

Next Session: **November 1, 2009 I Corinthians Chapter Two Continued.**
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