

Approximately Expository 35 minutes



“Spirit-Taught Truth” 1 Corinthians **Chapter 2**

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the name of Jesus. We thank You for Your Word living, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. Holy Spirit, we ask that You would teach us today. Open our eyes to understand spiritual truth. Remove distraction. Remove pride. Remove doubt. Let us see Jesus clearly. And if anyone today does not know Christ, may this be the day they are born again. We surrender this time to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Historical Setting:

Corinth was a city that prized intelligence, language, and theoretical debate. Traveling teachers and debaters would gather crowds by dazzling them with persuasive speech. Public speaking was entertainment. Logic was a sport.



When Paul arrived in Corinth (Acts chp 18), he entered a culture that celebrated intellectual pride. Greek philosophers sought wisdom. Roman elites valued eloquence. Complicated speech was admired.

But Paul didn't come to impress them. He came with a message that contradicted their values: 🖐️ **“Christ crucified”**.

In chapter 1, Paul addressed division and reminded them that the cross is the power of God. Now in chapter 2, he explains how that message was delivered and how spiritual truth is understood.

1. The Simplicity of the Gospel **(1Corinthians 2:1-5):**

Let us read God's Word....

  (NIV) **1 Corinthians 2:1-5** **And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.**

Lets brake down what God is wanting us to know here...

Paul writes:

“And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.” (v.1 NIV)

In Corinth, flashy speakers were admired. But Paul did not try to impress people with fancy words or dramatic speaking.

Verse 2 is powerful:

“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” (v.2)

That was his focus.

- Not philosophy.
- Not politics.
- Not personal branding.

- Not religious systems.

! Paul focus' on Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Verse 3:

“I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.” (v.3)

Paul wasn't projecting confidence in himself. He was dependent on God alone.

Verse 4-5:

⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

(vv.4-5)

 Brothers and Sisters, this is critical.

If someone is convinced by human charm, they can be unconvinced by someone with more charm.

When the Holy Spirit convicts a person's heart, the change is not shallow or temporary it is real transformation.

! The Gospel does not need to be dressed up to make it powerful.

👉 It simply needs to be faithfully proclaimed, because the power is already in the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

2. God's Hidden Wisdom Revealed (1Corinthians 2:6-10):

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 ⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if

they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written:

**“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has
conceived”—**

**the things God has prepared for those
who love him—**

**¹⁰ these are the things God has
revealed to us by his Spirit.**

Paul clarifies that he is not anti-wisdom:

**“We do, however, speak a message of
wisdom among the mature...”** (v.6)

But this wisdom is different. It is not the wisdom of the age.

Verse 7:

“No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.” (v.7)

👉 The gospel was always God’s plan.

- The cross was not an accident.
- It was **not** a backup plan.
- It was ordained before creation.

Verse 8:

“None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (v.8)

Satan thought the cross was his victory.

The religious leaders thought they were defending their traditions.

Rome thought it was simply keeping control and maintaining peace.

But behind it all, God was doing something far greater He was accomplishing His plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

Verse 9:


.... “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love him.” (v.9)

Human wisdom alone cannot uncover the eternal truths of God.

  Those truths must be revealed by God through the Holy Spirit.



Verse 10:

“These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.” (v.10)

 Spiritual truth is **not** something we create, imagine, or figure out on our own.

👉 It is truth that God reveals to us through His Holy Spirit.

3. The Holy Spirit Reveals the Deep Things of God (1 Corinthians 2:11-13):



  (NIV) **1 Corinthians 2:11-13** ¹¹ **For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.** ¹² **What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.** ¹³ **This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.**

Paul explains how this works:



“For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the


thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” (v.11)

 Let us dive in deep here....

 Only the Holy Spirit knows God fully because **the Holy Spirit is God**. Paul gives us an example from our own lives. **No one can truly know what is deep inside a person except that person's own spirit within them.** (v.11) Others can see our face, hear our words, and watch our actions,  but they cannot fully know our thoughts, motives, fears, desires, or struggles **unless we reveal them.**

In the same way, no human being can reach into the deep things of God by human wisdom alone. Only the Spirit of God knows the mind, heart, and purposes of God perfectly.

  So when God gives us His Holy Spirit, He is **not** just giving us information ... He is giving us understanding.

 The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to receive what God has revealed. The Holy Spirit helps us understand what God's Word is saying....

The Holy Spirit....

- see the beauty of Christ,
- recognize sin,
- and grasp the truth of the Gospel.

So just as your own spirit knows what is going on inside of you, the Holy Spirit knows the deep things of God and He reveals God's truth to those **who belong to Christ.**

Verse 12:

“What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from

God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.” (v.12)

The Holy Spirit enables understanding.

The Bible is not just literature.

It is spiritually discerned truth.



Verse 13:

“This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.” (v.13)



💡 That is why prayer matters before reading Scripture.

- That is why **humility** matters.
- That is why **pride blocks understanding**.

! The Holy Spirit teaches those who come to God with humble and willing hearts.

  When we stop resisting God, lay down our pride, and truly desire His truth, the Spirit helps us understand what God is saying.

4. The Natural Man vs. The Spiritual Man (1 Corinthians 2:14-16):

  (NIV) **1 Corinthians 2:14-16** ¹⁴ **The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.** ¹⁵ **The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,** ¹⁶ **for,**

“Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

Now Paul draws a clear line.

Verse 14:

“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness...” (v.14)

This is the natural person 🙌 someone who has not been born again.

🙄 To the natural person, spiritual truth can sound strange.

When the Holy Spirit convicts them of sin, it may feel uncomfortable or even offensive.

And the message of the cross may seem hard to understand that Jesus had to die so sinners could be forgiven.

🙄 **Why?**

“...and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.” (v.14)

Salvation is more than simply agreeing that certain facts about Jesus are true.

A person can know the facts ...

- that Jesus died on the cross,
 - that He rose again,
 - and that the Bible teaches forgiveness
- 👉 ... and still not be personally surrendered to Christ.

True salvation happens when a person turns from sin, places real faith in Jesus, and is made spiritually alive by the Holy Spirit.

! It is **not** just the mind saying, “I believe that is true.”

👉 It is the heart saying, “Jesus, I trust You as my Savior and surrender to You as my Lord.”

💡 That kind of faith changes a person from the inside out. 🔓 🗝️ The Holy Spirit gives.....

- new desires,
- new direction,
- new conviction,
- and a new love for God.

👉 So salvation is not just information accepted ... it is a life transformed by the power of God.

Verse 15:

“The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things...” (v.15)

👉 The believer sees life differently:

- . Sin differently
- . Eternity differently
- . Success differently
- . Suffering differently

Verse 16 concludes:

“But we have the mind of Christ.” (v.16)

The **believer** begins to think like Jesus.
To love what Jesus loves.
To value what Jesus values.

! This is supernatural.

Application for Today:

We live in a culture very similar to Corinth:

- . Intellectual pride
- . Moral confusion
- . Competing philosophies
- . Endless information

But information is not revelation.

! Education is not salvation.

You can have many college degrees and still be spiritually blind.

The Holy Spirit must open your eyes.

Brother and Sisters, we must guard against replacing dependence on the Spirit with clever strategy.

Programs cannot replace prayer.

Talent cannot replace anointing.

Polish cannot replace power.

We need the Spirit of God.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

Paul says the natural person cannot understand spiritual things.

That may describe someone listening right now.

Maybe the Bible has always seemed confusing.

Maybe church has always felt distant.

Maybe the cross seemed unconnected.

The reason may not be intelligence it may be a spiritual condition.

👉 You must be born again.

Jesus said in   (NIV) **John 3:3³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.**

Being born again means:

- . Repenting of sin
- . Trusting in Jesus
- . Receiving God in your spirit
- . Becoming spiritually alive

! The message of the cross is not foolishness.

👉 It is salvation. God loves you.....

- Jesus died for your sins.
- He rose again.
- He offers forgiveness freely.

👉 If you will turn from your sin and place your faith in Him, He will forgive you, cleanse you, and fill you with His Spirit.

- You will begin to understand what once seemed confusing.
- You will experience peace you cannot explain.
- You will receive the mind of Christ.

Today can be your day.

- Call out to Him.
- Confess Him as Lord.
- Believe that He died and rose again.

👉 And He will save you.

You can say this prayer, or something like it, from your heart: This very moment.....

Let us Pray.....

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner..... I cannot save myself..... I believe You died for my sins and rose again..... Forgive me.... Wash me... Save me.... Give me new life..... I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone..... Be my Savior and my Lord.” Amen!!!

“If” that is the cry today from your heart, He will save you. His promise is not maybe.

👉 His promise is sure. **Romans 10:9** (NIV)

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Amen!

Let us Pray.....

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank You that Your truth is revealed, not earned. Thank You that we do not have to rely on human wisdom, but on Your power.

Keep us humble. Keep us dependent. Keep us Spirit-led.

If anyone today is calling on You for salvation, fill them now with Your Holy Spirit. Give them assurance. Begin transforming their mind and heart.

May we be a church that knows nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified ... and may we walk daily in the power of Your Spirit.

**We love You. We praise You.
In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**

