

## **1 Corinthians 2 New American Standard Bible**

### **Paul's Reliance upon the Spirit**

And when I came to you, brothers *and sisters*, I did not come as *someone* superior in speaking ability or wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I also was with you in weakness and fear, and in great trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of mankind, but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; <sup>7</sup> but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; <sup>8</sup> *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; <sup>9</sup> but just as it is written:

“Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard,  
And *which* have not entered the human heart,  
All that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

<sup>10</sup> For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. <sup>13</sup> We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

<sup>14</sup> But a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> But the one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is discerned by no one. <sup>16</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

1. What questions were provoked within you?
2. Did anything confuse you?
3. Did anything move you emotionally?
4. Did God instruct you to do something?

5. Did you gain any insight into God's character?

**Paul's observations and insights**

1. Paul recalls a previous visit to this Church and the spirit in which he now comes.
2. Whenever we do something we are operating in a 'spirit of' which means - how do we appear to those around us?
3. Discernment is the ability to know of what spirit someone is working out of – good or bad!
4. Paul addresses this Church as brethren. It is important to remember even in confrontation in the Church we are God's children, brothers and sisters.
5. Paul says I never came lording it over you with high fallouting words, putting you down with wisdom.
6. What is the testimony of God? It is what happened to Jesus and all He came to do.
7. Paul chooses to be humble and appears as if he was without knowledge and understanding regarding the truth. Why did Paul do this?
8. It is the innocent that have to operate in the righteousness of God. The guilty may want to but they can't.
9. The truth is there to be received by all who hear it, but only those who believe it will benefit from the truth that they believe.
10. The one truth Paul refuses to lay down is the great foundational truth 'Jesus Christ, and Him crucified'.
11. Paul goes on 'while I was with you, I felt the strain in our relationship and didn't know how you would react to me'.
12. When I was convinced of the truth of Jesus Christ, I did not baffle you with insight.
13. I used the manifestation of the Spirit and the works of God's power, by bringing into your brokenness, the salvation of His kingdom reign in the same way Jesus did it.
14. I wanted you not to be confused by trusting in man's wisdom but in seeking God's power and work among you.
15. However, to the mature in Christ, I used wise words because they could understand and benefit as to why God worked through Jesus to save the world.
16. The kind of wisdom Paul spoke of doesn't belong to this age, that is this world, but it is of the world to come after this age has ended.
17. We are in the world but not of it. What does that mean to you?
18. God's wisdom is a mystery that needs to be discovered by those who truly seek to know what is really true.

19. For God to predestine is for Him to of planned long ago, long before it all went wrong He made a plan to save the world.
20. The rulers of this age, Paul says, don't understand. Is that still true today in this age?
21. Do they know why the King of Glory had to die?
22. The prophet's write 'they can't see and they can't hear, if they could they would have turned to Him'.
23. What is it for the truth to enter the heart of man?
24. Do you believe that God is in control of it all?
25. If we love God we are making a long term investment into the blessing of eternity. How did God reveal His truth through the Spirit? That is the Holy Spirit speaking to our Spirit.
26. The Holy Spirit searches the who you are, and that is even true for God.
27. Who knows the thoughts of the man more than the spirit of the man?
28. Your spirit knows who you are.
29. So as it is true for a man, so it is for God. When Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, who is God, He was led by His own Spirit, who was God. Jesus Spirit is God's Holy Spirit in Jesus.
30. The reality of Jesus being filled was He was full of God.
31. When we receive the Holy Spirit in us, we receive God the Holy Spirit not the spirit from the world.
32. Paul says 'so that we may know'. To know is to have your spirit know something, so that you knower knows what good things God has given to us who have believed.
33. So having received the words of wisdom taught by the Holy Spirit, to our spirit, that is the truth about God who spoke to you.
34. To know something is to have the conviction to act on the things you now know.
35. The Spirit gives us spiritual thoughts and spiritual words to overcome and stand in God's love.
36. A man operating without the Holy Spirit can't receive or accept the things given to him by the Holy Spirit of God.
37. These truths offered are beyond his understanding because his spirit is not open in the way God designed him to work. He is disconnected from God's voice because his spirit is asleep and unaware.
38. But the spiritual man, that is the man whose spirit is active within him, is in connection with God and is able to understand the Holy Spirit's promptings in him.
39. Paul asked the question 'who has known the mind of the Lord?' He had said previously the Holy Spirit knows all things about God.
40. Paul says we have the mind of Christ. What does that mean to you?
41. To have the mind of Christ is to be active in fulfilling the will of God in all things.

42. If you think like God you will do like God.
43. What is the power of God? It is the truth you believe about God, the truth you are letting live in you.