

## The Power of God

### I Cor 2:6-16

Intro: Some things really do not need to be explained, because they are clear and obvious to everyone. However; when it comes to God what is obvious is **often ignored, overlooked or discounted**. Man has such an aversion to spiritual things that the obvious often cannot be seen because the unsaved mind is blinded. John 12:39-40 *Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."*

*2 Cor 3:12-16 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech — 13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless **when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.***

*2 Cor 4:3-5 3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

This blindness is the result of Satan working hard to keep people from finding God, our own sin nature that has corrupted our thinking, and the world around us, which does a good job of promoting everything that is opposed to the knowledge of God. Paul now is simply trying to get his readers to focus on **what they had either ignored, forgot or failed to understand**, the power of God. The Corinthians had moved back to the world and everything the world offered, which is the reason for their dilemma. When we focus on the power of God life takes on a different perspective; **we no longer fear the future, do not get over whelmed with the present** because we believe in the power of God to move mountains, change hearts, protect and bless in spite of what the world throws at us. So Paul now must remind them of these truths about God.

**That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God [1 Cor. 2:5].**

1. In other words, if human wisdom is used to win a man, then his faith stands on human wisdom. If a man is brought to faith through the power of God, then his faith rests upon that.
2. Have you ever tried to change the mind of someone who does not want to change? Very difficult if not impossible; yet that is exactly what God does. He takes a heart of stone and transforms it into something very different.
3. Talk about power; that is real power and only God can and will do it.

**Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought [1 Cor. 2:6].**

1. Paul had the ability and the skill to over power them with his learning but that is not his approach. He is not interested in impressing them with his knowledge. He wants them to understand the power of God both in Paul's life and in theirs.
2. The wisdom of the world is flawed and always leave you wanting more.
3. The wisdom here is the understanding of how to be saved and how to live a life of confidence and peace.

**But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory [1 Cor. 2:7].**

1. The word *mystery*, as used in the Scriptures, refers to something which was not known in the past but is now revealed. This word occurs about **twenty-seven times** in the New Testament.
2. Our Lord used it when He said **“Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven...”** (Matt. 13:11).
3. The parables that follow in Matthew 13 are the **“mystery parables.”** It is because in them Jesus explains the direction that the kingdom is going to take in the period between the rejection of the King and the time when He comes to set up His kingdom.
4. When Jesus spoke the mystery parables in Matthew 13, He was revealing this for the first time. What had been previously hidden.
5. Paul says I'm going to speak to you about, **“God's wisdom in a mystery.”**
6. Paul chooses a Greek word which means to shut up, and he says, “We speak God's wisdom in a mystery,” **but he gives it a different meaning.**
7. *Mystery* comes from the word meaning **“mouth,”** and it means to shut the mouth.
8. However, Paul never used it in that way. Rather, that which had been silent has now become vocal. That which had not been known and *could* not be known by human wisdom now is known.
9. *Mystery*” in the New Testament always means something undiscovered by human wisdom but is revealed so that we can understand it.
10. **“We speak the wisdom of God”**— “We actually have a philosophy.” It is not of this age, not of this world, but it is *God's* wisdom, and it points us to the cross of Jesus.

**Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory [1 Cor. 2:8 ]**

1. Satan is often referred to as the “Prince of this world”.
2. Satan was doing everything he could to stop the plan of God for the salvation of lost souls.
3. As smart as Satan is (and he is smart) in this area he really missed it.
4. Sending Jesus to the cross was Satan's ultimate defeat. If the leaders understood what was really happening they would not have crucified Jesus.
5. They looked at Jesus and determined that He could not be the Messiah, but He was.

**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 [1 Cor. 2:9].**

1. It is very difficult to understand all that God is doing and how He is doing it.
2. This verse is really important to understand. What Paul is saying is simply that to know and understand what God is doing will only be revealed to those who LOVE HIM. This has nothing to do with heaven.

**But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God [1 Cor. 2:10].**

1. What we cannot see, hear or understand the Spirit of God can give us.
2. There are many things we can learn by studying the Bible—such as the history of it, the poetry of it but we cannot get spiritual truths that way.
3. Why? Because “**God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.**” There are certain things that only the Spirit of God can reveal to us.

**For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God [1 Cor. 2:11].**

1. As hard as you may try you cannot know what I am thinking unless I tell you.
2. We cannot know the mind of God unless He tells us what He is thinking. That is the work of the Holy Spirit.
3. But, understand this the Holy Spirit is NOT going to reveal the deep things of God to those who do not love Him, who are not obedient to His commands.
4. We cannot live in sin and expect to understand the mind of God, the will of God or the plan of God for us.

**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 [1 Cor. 2:12].**

There are certain things that we can understand only if the Spirit of God reveals them to us, and He does this freely. He *wants* to be our Teacher!

**Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual [1 Cor. 2:13].**

1. We are only able to sort things out by the Spirit of God and the word of God working together.
2. This is the reason unsaved people cannot properly interpret the scriptures

**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 [1 Cor. 2:14].**

1. But the natural man cannot receive the things of God. Because they are foolishness to him.
2. If you are not a Christian, what I am saying probably seems foolish or at less confusing to you.
3. God says the natural man thinks the preaching of the cross of Christ for salvation is foolish. It simply does not make sense to him.
4. **“Neither can he know them.”** I cannot understand the Word of God until the Spirit of God opens the heart and mind to understand. It is spiritually discerned.
5. Only the Spirit of God can take the things of Christ and show them to us. The Lord Jesus said that: **“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you”** (John 16:13–14).
6. Unless the Spirit of God shows you the things of Christ, this Epistle to the Corinthians will mean very little to you.

**But he that is spiritual judges 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 [1 Cor. 2:15–16].**

1. “He that is spiritual” is the one who has the Holy Spirit within him; he is a child of God.
2. He “judges all things” means that he understands these things.
3. “Yet he himself is judged of no man” means that he is not understood. The spiritual man is in contrast to the natural man. He understands divine truth, but he is misunderstood by the natural man.
4. **“Who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?”** Who can instruct God? Who understands the mind of the Lord?
5. Image trying to tell God anything that He does not already know.
6. However, the Spirit of God will not reveal spiritual things to us until we have the mind of Christ. Phil 2:5 **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**
7. Noticed in this verse we are told to “let this mind be in you.” We need to surrender to the leading and convicting of the Holy Spirit and in doing so we start allowing God’s thinking to replace our thinking and we end up with the mind of Christ.

Conclusion: Wisdom only comes from God and it only comes to those who by faith receive the gift of eternal life. Then and only can a man truly find wisdom. Paul says that the spiritual man “judges all things,” **meaning he understands, he has a spiritual discernment.** His spiritual discernment causes him to be misunderstood by the world because the natural man simply cannot understand why he does the things he does. That is the difference between the spiritual man and the natural man.

You will note that they are the kind of men they are because of their relationship to the Book, the Word of God. To the natural man it is foolishness. The spiritual man discerns the Word of God and recognizes its importance. He lives by the book; that’s why in the past Christians were referred to as **“people of the book.”**