

INTRODUCTION

In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul gives credit for the success of his ministry solely to the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. It was his desire that everyone would trust in the power of the Spirit rather than in human wisdom. How do we rely on that power rather than our own?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-16. How does Paul describe himself in the beginning of the chapter? Does this description surprise you? Why or why not?
2. According to the verses below, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and non-believers?
v. 10 _____
v. 11 _____
v. 12 _____
v. 13 _____
v. 14 _____
v. 15 _____
v. 16 _____
3. Does recognizing that unbelievers do not have wisdom from the Spirit affect your view of their actions?
4. Read John 14:26, John 16:13, Ephesians 1:17-18 and Colossians 1:9. What do these passages tell you about the Holy Spirit's role in your life?

5. Read Romans 8:12-13. Often, we depend on our own strength or on the advice of other people when we are looking for guidance. How can you grow in dependence on the Spirit?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 2:16. What does it mean to have the ‘mind of Christ’?

APPLICATION

What are some practical ways you can daily stay reminded of your need to be dependent on the Spirit of God? Share these with your group and put them into practice this week.

SCRIPTURE

“¹And 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. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power. ⁶We 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. ⁷No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹However, 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—¹⁰these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For 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. ¹²What 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. ¹³This 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. ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶for, ‘Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 (NIV)