

## Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

Topic: I Corinthians 2

### Loving Others to Grow Spiritually

God taught the Apostle Paul about loving saints where they were spiritually. He also learned to motivate others in grace to build sound doctrine in their soul, teaching them how to apply it. This enabled them to live what they learned in the details of life. *"Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand."* (II Corinthians 1:24) Loving others can be wearisome at times, yet also such a joy.

The Corinthians initially decided NOT to live what they were taught by Paul, becoming carnal babes (I Cor. 3:1-3) On the other hand, the Galatians took in sound doctrine and ran well to live it, but allowed themselves to be hampered and put under the law. As a result, this Church was detoured from serving in grace. *"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth."* (Gal. 5:7) Paul was determined to speak the Truth (reproof/correction) in love to both, even if it meant the more he loved them, the less he was loved (II Cor. 12:15).

Paul resolved to teach the Corinthians the milk of the Word (I Cor. 3:2), as they could not appreciate basic issues about the cross: *"For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."* (I Cor. 2:2) The Galatians needed to start all over again to properly build the doctrine in their inner man. Paul relays: *"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you."* (Galatians 4:19)

I Thessalonians 2 describes his clear love motivation:

- Verse 7: Gentle as a nurse cherishing/raising her children.
- Verse 8: Imparts his own soul unto them.
- Verse 9: Laboring night and day to teach the gospel of God, even being in discomfort and travail as birthing new life.
- Verse 11: He exhorted, comforted, & charged every saint as a father does his own children, patiently done over time.

**Reflection:** This is what it looks like to speak the Truth in love, even to those who sometimes seem contrary or rebellious. We are to follow Paul's pattern: *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."* (I Cor. 11:1) Christ is our ultimate example and we are to have His mind: Being God, He humbled Himself and was obedient even to the cross, dying in our place when we were ungodly sinners and enemies. We can be a living sacrifice with long-suffering, patiently teaching others what they need to grow.

### Using An Example to Motivate

As we know, Paul was unable to teach the Corinthians the meat of the Word (advanced teaching), because they were spiritual babes and would have choked on it: *"I fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."* (I Cor. 3:2)

Yet in I Cor. 2:6-8, we see he was able to teach more advanced wisdom about the mystery to more mature saints. They progressed, receiving and living the foundational Truths they had learned: *"Howbeit we speak wisdom among **them that are perfect**:...But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory."* (I Corinthians 2:7)

Paul seems to refer to saints as 'perfect' when they take in the Word, understand, and apply what they know (attained unto Phil 3:12-16) This group of believers were held out as examples to the saints at Corinth. The Corinthians could also receive this meat, if they responded positively to Paul's reproof and correction, following the instructions and doctrine he wrote unto them in his epistle (II Timothy 3:16).

As chapter two unfolds, the reader is able to see how saints can learn the things of God. Immediately upon placing faith and trust in Christ's blood sacrifice as full payment for their sin, a believer receives the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has a teaching ministry to believers: *"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."* (I Corinthians 2:12)

**Reflection:** As saints, we can choose to be led and responsive (perfect) to the teaching of the Holy Spirit to know and live it or not. This will determine whether we will grow, affecting our ability to glorify and please God. So, where are you?



Search it out!

Choose Something to Study in This Section

## I Corinthians 2: Noticing a Process as a Study Tool

Examine verses!



The Bible uses 'processes' as a tool both in the Old and New Testaments. A process is a list of steps designed to help the student understand or apply what is being taught. (Two examples: *Proverbs 2:1-5* and *Romans 1:21-23*.) This study tool is found on page 21 in "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools." This book has been made available for purchase on Amazon.

**1. Find out how God teaches a saint in verses 9-16:**

Read the section slowly to number the steps in this process; there seems to be seven.

**2. The first step starts with the goal:** Read verse 9 to find God's goal, that is, the objective of His teaching.

**3. Note the last step is the outcome of the process:**

Read verse 16 to realize what a saint can attain as he receives what God desires. (What is it and do you have it?)

**4. What instrument does God use to meet His goal?**

Skim through verses 9-16 to find out how God teaches a believer godly thinking in order to make wise decisions.

**5. Practice seeing other processes:**

a) Read through *Romans 5:3-5*. This is a 'circular process,' that is, something that can occur over and over, building character, trust, and experience over a lifetime. It could be labeled the 'glorying in tribulation process.' b) Read *James 1:14-15* to find the process describing 'being tempted to sin.' List the steps. What did you learn and is it applicable?

*\*Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on using many new study insights.*

## How God Can Teach Us His Ways

Left to ourselves we will function as the natural man and fall short of the glory of God, even as a believer. In I Cor. 2 we see this Church remained carnal, not allowing the sound doctrine Paul taught them to work in their inner man. As a result they continued in sin and ungodliness, not functioning in their new identity in Christ. They were not led by the Spirit, but by their carnal mind (Romans 8:7,14).

A good definition of sin is on page 10 of a new book, written by a dear friend and saint, Joel Hayes: 'Empowered by His Grace: WHAT IS SIN? Sin, as defined in my all-time favorite dictionary, Webster's 1828, is "The voluntary departure of a moral agent from a known rule of rectitude or duty, prescribed by God; any voluntary transgression of the divine law, or violation of a divine command; a wicked act; iniquity." Simply put, sin is when we disobey God. Sin is not just a wrong we commit against ourselves or against others but a wrong committed against the holy and righteous God who created us. King David, who was guilty of adultery and murder, wrote in Psalm 41:4, "...for I have sinned against thee." When we sin, we miss the mark of His holiness whether by choice or by ignorance. We transgress against God. We do wrong. We go astray from His holy will, which makes us unrighteous in His eyes. Paul said in Romans 14:23 that "...whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Anything that is not done in our lives in service to our Creator through faith in His Word and His expressed will for our lives, is sin. As the writer of Hebrews points out, "without faith, it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Once the Corinthians decided to yield in faith unto God's Word, God was able, by the Spirit, to teach their spirit the things they needed in order to progress and mature. The spiritual things God "...hath prepared for them that love him..." (I Cor. 2:9) are revealed by His Spirit: "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." (I Cor. 2:10) Ultimately, God desires to use the doctrine given unto the Apostle Paul as it is specifically for the Body of Christ. This will teach the Corinthians and all saints how to learn and function in the details of life with the mind of Christ. "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." (I Cor. 2:16) **Please be sure to download a free copy of Joel's 'riveting' book. You'll be blessed!** <https://www.fellowshipbiblechurchorlando.org/empowered-by-his-grace>.

## The Wisdom of Men and The Power of God: 1 Corinthians 2

By Sue FizPatrick

Today, as in Paul's day, being an intellectual is having elevated social status. If you went to an Ivy League school or have advanced degrees you are esteemed as wise in the eyes of the world. It is widely believed that it is man's reason and science that should guide our choices in life. The gnostics of Paul's day thought the same thing. But even though Paul was highly educated and held advanced degrees when it came to his preaching he says in *1 Corinthians 2:1-4* that he didn't come to them with the wisdom of man, for it is far better to know God's wisdom, the Gospel of salvation. *"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing word's of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."* (*1 Corinthians 2:4,5*)

Man's wisdom is shallow (*vs. 1-8*) compared to the deep wisdom of God (*vs. 9-13*). The wisdom of the cross is only recognized by believers. It's not like the wisdom of this world, it's revealed by the Holy Spirit to man's spirit. Only believers can understand God's wisdom (Truth of Scriptures) by the Spirit to spirit communication (*vs. 10-13.*) The natural man cannot understand the wisdom of God (*vs. 14-16*) without the Spirit of God, so it is foolish to him and he esteems worldly wisdom instead. *Romans 1:28* says the natural man resists the things of the Spirit because in his reprobate mind they are foolishness to him.

The wisdom of God, was a hidden mystery (*vs. 7*). What God has prepared in heaven for his saints was not seen, heard, thought, or dreamed about until it was revealed to man by the Holy Spirit, (*vs. 9-16*) who teaches us all the things of God. Humanistic thinking is what brought sin and death in the Garden of Eden (*Genesis 3*). It was the wisdom of this world that crucified the Lord (*vs. 7-8*). Follow the Word of God, rather than man's knowledge, the power is in His wisdom. Let man be a fool in this world but wise in God (*1 Corinthians 3:18*).

### "...But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16

**What does it really mean for a saint to have the mind of Christ?** Upon reflection, it is acquiring God's way of thinking. For example, the foundational Romans doctrine conforms us to Christ and His thinking, affecting how we live. *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.."* (*Rom. 8:29*) As this happens, the saint learns how to walk in the Spirit: *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* (*Gal. 5:16*) This walk demonstrates that he has a change of mind, valuing and esteeming Truth to live in his new identity in Christ. When he is in the flesh, he begins to realize that this is NOT who he is, so he yields unto God's way of thinking. His whole perspective and motive changes, desiring to serve to please God rather than pleasing his flesh. This is manifesting the image of God: godliness (god-like-ness), precisely what He created us to be since *Genesis 1:26-27*.

**How does this happen?** We develop the mind of Christ by taking in, believing, and living the Truth Paul teaches: *"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."* (*Eph 4:23-24*) As the mind is renewed we can put on the new man, created in Christ, to become a joyful follower of God as dear children (*Eph. 5:1*). This enables us to live in holiness and as who we are: *"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."* (*Eph. 5:2*)

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To:

**“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)**

## Can We Judge?

Well... yes and no. First, let's examine the word, judgeth from *I Corinthians 2:15*: *“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.”* In the first use of this root word judge, believer's are able to judge all things. What does this really mean? Once we have the mind of Christ, we have some doctrinal understanding, able to look at things wisely and 'discern,' using God's viewpoint. To discern means to perceive and distinguish between things, even to clearly recognize something as right or wrong using God's standard.

In the second use, Paul uses the word judged, indicating that a saint cannot adequately judge himself nor be judged by others. No one in this world is able to perfectly assess and determine a verdict on someone's actions of the heart. This is something only the Lord Jesus, the Word Himself, can do: *“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son...And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.” (John 5:22,27)*

God has delegated temporary authority to institutions, such as governments. This is a power given to them to keep order for our good. We are to submit unto it, even though we know it is imperfect: *“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God...For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.” (Romans 13:1,4)*

**Reflect:** Government, marriage and Church leaders, and employers make mistakes and fall short of the glory of God. While no man is able to judge us, God will perfectly do this one day through the Lord Jesus. In the meantime, saints are able to discern to make wise conclusions about what's happening around them, having the mind of Christ (*I Cor. 2:16*)

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