

The Spirit and the Word

Today we are wrapping up our sermon series on the Word by considering 1 Corinthians 2. This is a passage that makes some amazing claims about how the Holy Spirit is willing and able to transform our minds to the point where we can say with the Apostle Paul, "We have the mind of Christ." The Holy Spirit can move us from being ignorant and clueless about God's ways to the point where we actually think like Jesus in such important areas as relationships, marriage, sexuality, friends, money, etc. This passage helps re-casts the vision for what Scripture can mean in our lives.

Opening Question: How has God used the sermon series on the Word in your life?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

1. How is God's wisdom described in this passage?
2. What does Paul say about how we come to know true wisdom from God?
3. What insights does this passage give us as to why we need the Spirit to reveal true wisdom to us?

Steve said:

This is what we have in the Scriptures: the depths of God revealed by the Spirit of God. We saw this in 2 Timothy 3:16 when we read that "all Scripture is inspired by God . . ." And so when you read your Bible you should pray, "Thank You, God, for not leaving me in the dark. Thank You for wanting me to know Your thoughts and Your character and Your will." Through the Scriptures we are able to walk out into the vast world of God's Kingdom.

4. How regularly do you come to a time in the Word with the perspective that God wants to reveal his thoughts, character and will to you?
5. Paul says that we can "have the mind of Christ" (v. 16)? What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?

6. What is the role of the Spirit in our having the mind of Christ? What is the role of Scripture?

Steve said:

But in light of everything Paul has said about the Holy Spirit, he quickly says, "But we have the mind of Christ." Even though nobody "has known the mind of the Lord," through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, "we have the mind of Christ." I don't think Paul is saying this about every single believer; I think he's referring to the believer who allows the "word of Christ" to "richly dwell" within him/her. I say that because the very next chapter Paul tells the Corinthians that they were very much un-like Christ in their thinking. They were full of fleshly (c/c spiritual) thinking; they were full of jealousy and strife - evidence that they were "walking like mere men" (3:3).

But no believer has to stay in that condition. The Spirit of God (who understands the depths of God) has revealed the thoughts of God (now recorded in Scripture). The Spirit who dwells within the believer can write the thoughts of God on our hearts/minds. The net result is that our minds function [the] way Jesus' mind functions. We process ourselves, other people, and our circumstances the way Christ does.

7. In what areas of your life do you sense the greatest need to develop the mind of Christ?
8. We've seen that in taking on the mind of Christ the Spirit has a vital part to play. As well, the Scriptures are critical. Beyond these things, what is your part?