

Study:

1 Corinthians 2:6–16 (ESV)

Wisdom from the Spirit

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the heart of man imagined,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Section 1:

1 Corinthians 2:6–8

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Questions:

1. What is the “wisdom” that Paul proclaims? (Salvation through Jesus Christ)
2. Why does Paul only impart wisdom to the wise?
3. What does it mean “not wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age”? What is the difference between wisdom of the age vs. wisdom of the *rulers* of the age (think about popular opinion vs. government or influencer opinion).
4. In what ways is God’s wisdom different from the wisdom of the world?
5. Why is it significant that the wisdom of the world will “pass away”? How will it pass away? What does this mean for people who subscribe to a doomed wisdom?
6. If the wisdom of God is secret/hidden, can we reliably find that wisdom on our own? If not, will the world have any wisdom similar to the wisdom of God?
7. How significant is it that the wisdom of God was proclaimed from “before the ages for our glory”?
8. What are some things of wisdom in the world that you find more attractive than of God? Why?
9. How much influence do you think you should let the people of the world have on your life?
10. Why do we so easily listen to the world vs. the wisdom of God?

Section 2:

1 Corinthians 2:9–11

⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Questions:

1. Why is it that man is prone to come up with wisdom so different from God that man can’t even imagine His wisdom?
2. If God’s wisdom can’t even be imagined by man, what is Paul saying about the possibility that Christianity is just another made up religion?
3. Does God reveal through a “booming voice from the sky”? If not, how does He reveal? Why does He reveal through this method? (Think about merely hearing someone speak vs. having the same heart as that person).

4. The word “comprehend” means to both know *and understand* together. Does this mean it is possible to hear God’s word and know it, but still not believe it? How is that possible? (Think about having the Spirit vs. not having the Spirit).
5. What do you suppose is the difference between being led by one’s own spirit vs. being led by the Spirit of God? How can someone tell whether they are being led by their own spirit or by God?

Section 3:

1 Corinthians 2:12–16

¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Questions:

1. Does God withhold necessary information from us? If not, why do so many people not believe? (Even though they hear, think of their need to choose between God’s spirit and the spirit of the world).
2. If someone does not care about their spirit/soul, according to this section, will they ever hear God’s wisdom? How will they view God’s wisdom?
3. Why do people prefer human wisdom over God’s wisdom?
4. In this section, when it says the spiritual person will “judge all things”, what will he judge? (Think about the difference between right and wrong).
5. Why does a person with the mind of God have a higher morality than the natural man?
6. What does it mean that the spiritual person will “be judged by no one”, even though they are often judged by *all people* in this age? (Think about the final judgment and the vindication/justification of all believers).
7. Can someone with the mind of God ever be wrong? Even if it isn’t a popular opinion with the world? What does this mean regarding your confidence in believing the things of the Gospel?
8. What is something that you know the bible teaches, but you have a hard time believing it because the world thinks it is foolish or wrong? How should this section help you in that?