

## Spiritual Wisdom

### 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

*God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit*

<sup>6</sup> We 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. <sup>7</sup> No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> However, as it is written:

*"What no eye has seen,  
what no ear has heard,  
and what no human mind has conceived"<sup>[b]</sup>—  
the things God has prepared for those who love him—  
<sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.*

*The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For 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. <sup>12</sup> What 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. <sup>13</sup> This 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.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>14</sup> The 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. <sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, <sup>16</sup> for,*

*"Who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?"<sup>[d]</sup>  
But we have the mind of Christ.*

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### **This morning I want to focus on verses 10-16**

- If we just these 6 verse quick. How many times can you count the word 'Spirit' mentioned between verses 10-16?
  - 12 times in 6 verses 11 times on the screen – Paul wanted us to get the reality of the Spirit's role in understanding how our thinking is shaped.
- We need to be able to discern the difference between perceived earthly wisdom, and true Godly wisdom.

### **So I looked up some of the 'wisest' quotes ever made. Here's what I got**

1. *"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." – Albert Einstein*
2. *"In seeking happiness for others, you will find it in yourself." – Unknown*

3. *“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.” – Winston Churchill*
  4. *Between the ages of 15 and 32 ,  
Don't worry about getting married ,  
Don't worry about getting settling down ,  
Don't worry about having a baby.  
Give birth to yourself. !!  
Unknown*
  5. *‘Do your best and God will do the rest’, or ‘Let go and let God’*
  6. *The meaning of life is happiness – If that's the meaning of life, then suffering destroys your meaning.*
- **Be careful** what you read and take to heart. See if it lines up with scripture

**What's Pauls Saying: He's saying that true wisdom, that wisdom from God is a gift from the Holy Spirit, and so we cannot acquire it from this world. It's not a product of the human mind.**

**Spiritual wisdom is very different to conventional wisdom**

- ⇒ **If consider yourself wise by worldly standards, then you might not be very wise at all according to Gods wisdom.**

**That's our main idea today: How does the Spiritual wisdom differ from earthly wisdom?**

**Common sense** is a product of the human mind. And it has its place. In a big way, but it limits us. **How often did God employ common sense in the Bible? You tell me:**

- Noah being told to build an ark when he didn't even know what rain was
- The parting the Red sea
- God telling Moses to hit a rock to provide water
- Joshua's marching round Jericho 10 times
- Gideons small army of 300 men
- Sarah being able to give birth at around 90 years old. When she heard God telling Abraham, the Bible says that she laughed out from the tent she was in, and then denied it to God
- Samson's strength in his hair
- David going up against goliath
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
- Daniel in the lion's den
- Jonah and the whale
- Hosea who was told to marry a prostitute
- Jesus fasting for 40 days

- Jesus spitting in the mud and then rubbing it on a blind mans eyes
- Jesus commanding the disciples to cast their net out on the other side of the boat
- Jesus feeding the 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish

### **Common sense? I don't think so, Supernatural wisdom**

The Bible is full of Godly, Spirit led wisdom. Can you see how conventional wisdom at times shrinks our thinking and our faith.

### **What does it mean to walk in Spirit led wisdom?**

⇒ **LET GO OF YOUR NATURAL WAY OF THINKING**

*<sup>14</sup> The 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.*

- **This actual phrase here is: 'natural man'**

**Natural people are defined** here as people who do not have God's Spirit. They are simply ordinary people whose hearts and minds are not touched with the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

⇒ Has your mind been renewed by the Holy Spirit?

### **What are these "things" of the Spirit that Paul talks about?**

⇒ Pauls saying that the gospel of Christ crucified and all its implications for natural human pride are simply foolishness to the natural man. It's a view of reality which aims to take away every ground of boasting from us and put it all in Christ crucified. This thinking is foolishness to humans in their natural state apart from the Holy Spirit.

**Sometimes we can think all we need to do is share the gospel**, but sometimes the gospel message doesn't make sense to people. It's the Spirit of God that unlocks their minds.

⇒ **The problem is that our intellectual minds** interpret the cross as foolish.

It's because the call to follow the cross of Christ, which calls us to lay down our life, seems foolish to human wisdom, as it flies in the face of self-reliance, and surviving.

- When we learn to love the praise of others
- When we love being independent and self-reliant
- When we love working things out and feeling chuffed about our own skill

**The suggestion that all of this should be left on a bridge** while we jump off into the arms of Christ, sounds foolish. In our natural thinking, we will never choose Christ and surrender over self-love. Hear me out, in our natural thinking It's not possible.

### **2 Corin 4:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

⇒ **Pauls says that the essence** of faith in Christ is about only boasting in God. And in nothing about who we are. That wisdom and way of thinking is only possible through the transforming power of the Spirit.

Which brings us to our next point

## **WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST**

Verse 15-16 says:

*<sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, <sup>16</sup> for,*

*“Who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”<sup>[d]</sup>*

*But we have the mind of Christ.*

As Spirit filled people, we can assess all things the way Christ does because, we have the mind of Christ.

## **How do we have the mind of Christ? well we follow Christ’s example**

### Phil 2:5-8

*<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

(Have this mind in you which was also in Christ in the original Greek)

- ⇒ **Can you see** why this looks like foolishness to unbelievers?
- ⇒ **Until you have** a revelation of you sin and the Holiness of God, you’ll never get this.

## **HOW DO WE WALK IN THIS?**

It’s about being in step with the Spirit every day. We need to give him the room to move.

- To spend time with him. Read his word daily (Pray over it as we do it)
- Put our decisions before him and inquire of him
- Learn to know the peace of Christ which guards our hearts as we make decisions
- To be a part of a small group, as it’s in these environments that we can exercise our giftings. Hospitality, prophecy, teaching, encouragement. Story of our group..

**SMALL GROUPS PROMO** Just to say that Mike and Estelle have recently started a new small group, and we would love to see some people join in there. Please chat to them or to me for more info

- It's also about understanding who we are in Christ. Natural thinking, I'm not adequate, how am I doing compared to someone else. To have the mind of Christ is to be completely secure in who you are.

**NEW CREATION PROMO**

- Learning to hear his voice daily, and knowing when he's speaking. It's often the unlikely thoughts, the thoughts that you wouldn't have thought of. It's often the sacrificial thoughts, the costly ones.

⇒ **It's as if we have bought ourselves a house.** And the default setting is for us to style is the way we think is right....And then realise that it was actually God's house to begin with. And so slowly but surely, we allow God access into each room, and we allow him to change the interior, even though it may not be in line with what we like or what we think it needs. Why? Because he knows exactly how a house needs to look in order to be fit for a King.

**What room of your house, do you need to relinquish control to God in?**

- Private life, Friendships, your obedience, your submission to him, your generosity, your fear?

This is what the Holy Spirit does, he comes alongside us. He speaks to us. He touches us.

**In Closing**

I sensed that God wants some of us this evening to stop trying to work it all out and have it all together, and step out and respond to the Spirit. To lay down the natural thinking, and to relinquish control to the Holy Spirit. To do as he leads us, in worship, in life, in love to others.

I also sensed that that some of us, have blocked ourselves from going further down this path. We will go so far and no further, that ministry time is something that some of us aren't open to, I sensed the Lord saying that we need to let go of our pride.

⇒ The one thing I know about the Holy Spirit, is that he's a real gentleman, and will wait unless we invite him and make space for him to move.

Maybe church has been the same for you for a long time and you like it, but ask yourself the question, When you leave, are you encouraged, are you challenged, maybe even offended in a good way? Are you wowed at what God did? Were you aware of his presence? Were you used in your gifting?

**I sense that the Lord is taking our church** into a new season of learning what it means to open ourselves up to the things of the Spirit and to operate in the things of the Spirit. What it means to welcome people in. To walk in a greater authority in the supernatural and in the Spirit. But that to walk in this, we need to lay down our pride.

God gave me a Scripture a few weeks back and I believe it's for our church. Its in Gen 28:16-17. Jacob is dream in which God is speaking to him, and he ends the time with this realisation.

*<sup>16</sup>Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!" <sup>17</sup>But he was also afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!"*

I believe the Lord desires our house to be a place where his presence dwells, and for us to be aware of it. For this house to be a gateway to heaven. Where what's of primary importance is what's on his heart for a Sunday. That if the leadership sense that we need to worship for the whole service, that we would be obedient. That we would see miraculous healings, signs and wonders in these spaces, as we make space for God

#### **STORY – Brian Tyler Smith**

At Lighthouse, we had a long standing deacon and elder whose name was Brian. He had been at the church for something like 50 years. We as a church went on a journey of pursuing the presence and power of God. At first, Brian was reluctant and cautious. He had played a big role in safe guarding the church, But you wouldn't believe how God worked in his heart. One day he had such a powerful experience with God which changed him. Since then, he cherishes the Spirit of God, and often shares about it. But he always alludes to the point that he made a decision to open up his life to the Holy Spirit. He gets so excited in Church to see what God is going to do in a service.

**What I'm saying is that God wants** to pour his Spirit afresh on our church. We need to intentionally pursue the Holy Spirit. **I don't just want to be open to the idea.**

**What would you think if you proposed to your fiancé,** and they replied by saying "I'm open to that".

**ALL WE NEED TO DO IS INTENTIONALLY PURSUE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH OUR WHOLE HEART**

#### **Ministry/response**

Repent and receive the Holy Spirit