

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 **Faith – Not in Human Wisdom, but in Power of God**

Paul's appearance and preaching purposefully weak

¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Wisdom God ordained for the mature

⁶ However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Revealed by God through His Spirit – Comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual

¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things 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 know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Spiritually discerned – Mind of Christ

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. ¹⁶ For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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Facts Revealed:

Paul's appearance and preaching purposefully weak [1 Corinthians 2:1-5]

✚ At Corinth as at all other cities where there was a Jewish Synagogue, as was his custom, Paul always entered the Synagogue and reasoned from the Scriptures proving that Jesus is the Messiah, that He had to suffer, die, and be raised from the dead. [Acts 17:1-3, 17, 18:1-4, 19]

✚ Now in his letter to the Corinthians, we learn that Paul made no attempt to be a great orator with excellence of speech or human wisdom in declaring the testimony of God. [1 Corinthians 2:1]

- ✧ Paul was a highly educated man, brought up in Jerusalem as a student of Gamaliel, taught in the strictest laws of Israel as a Pharisee with all the credentials needed to sit on the council in Jerusalem, and a great zeal for God. [Acts 22:3, Philippians 3:4-6]
- ✧ Yet all these credentials Paul set aside, determined to focus entirely on Jesus Christ (Messiah) and Him Crucified. [1 Corinthians 2:2, Philippians 3:7]
- ✧ Paul was with them in weakness, fear, and much trembling. [1 Corinthians 2:3] This is understandable by the fact of the many times Paul had been physically attacked by the Jews and even left for dead after being stoned before he arrived at Corinth. [Acts 13:50, 14:4-5, 19, 16:19-24, 17:5, 13]
- ✧ Paul did not attempt to preach with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so their faith would not be based on human wisdom but in the Power of God. [1 Corinthians 2:4-5]

Wisdom God ordained for the mature [1 Corinthians 2:6-9]

- ✧ The Message is for those who are mature.
 - ✧ The wisdom and rulers of this age are coming to nothing.
 - ✧ The Wisdom of God has been held in mystery, hidden since before the ages for our glory.
 - ✧ None of the rulers of the Jews or Gentiles knew the hidden mystery, if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.
 - ✧ Fulfilling the words of the prophet:
 - "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
 - Nor have entered into the heart of man
 - The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." [1 Corinthians 2:9, Isaiah 64:4]
 - ✧ The hidden wisdom of God is beyond the ability of human mind to discover.

Revealed by God through His Spirit – Comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual [1 Corinthians 2:10-16]

- ✧ God has revealed them to us by His Spirit.
 - ✧ The Holy Spirit searches all things including the deep things of God.
 - ✧ Paul uses the human illustration of knowing the heart of an individual, which no one knows except the spirit of the individual himself.
 - ✧ In the same way, no one knows the heart of God except His Own Holy Spirit.
 - ✧ The Holy Spirit is the One Who has revealed to man the things of God, that we may know the things God has freely given to us. [1 Corinthians 2:10-12, John 14:15-18, 26, 15:26, 16:13-15]
 - ✧ The things we teach are not from men, but they are from the Holy Spirit Who teaches us by comparing spiritual things with Spiritual (comparing Scripture with Scripture), revealing the heart of the message. [1 Corinthians 2:13]

Spiritually discerned – Mind of Christ [1 Corinthians 2:14-16]

- ✧ Natural discernment is impossible.
 - ✧ To the natural mind the message of the cross of Christ is foolishness.
 - ✧ The natural mind can not know them because they are spiritually discerned.
- ✧ Spiritual discernment is made possible by the Holy Spirit
 - ✧ Because the Holy Spirit has given discernment to the spiritual man, he judges (discerns) all things.
 - ✧ The natural man can not rightly judge the spiritual man because the truth is beyond his reach.
 - ✧ No one has known the mind of the Lord in order to teach the Lord anything.
 - ✧ The Holy Spirit has revealed the mind of God to us concerning His plan of Salvation through Jesus Christ, and therefore we may have the mind of Christ for obedience toward God. [1 Corinthians 2:16, Philippians 2:5-8, 1 Peter 4:1-2]

