

# UNITED

## 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

**MPS:** God gives Christians His Spirit to discern like Christ's mind and live by His wisdom.

**OBJ:** Every person should trust in Jesus and live by the Spirit to walk in God's wisdom because of 3 gifts.

**INTRO** We are in a new series entitled UNITED: Together in the Gospel, a study of 1 Corinthians. IN this series we are laboring for one thing, to live as a people united in the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Unity fuels God's people for kingdom mission in the world.**

**ILLUS** *Have you ever considered the many ways the world says to seek wisdom or counsel?* The world offers a wide array of counsel, including fortune telling and tarot cards, "8 ball", fortune cookies, and daily horoscopes are a few of the better known. "Dear Abby" was a popular host where people submitted questions about life to receive counsel. "Delilah" is a radio show host who doles out her counsel to melancholy-inducing tunes from substance-controlled love song bands. And maybe the most popular now is simply to write a long, laborious Social Media post and request feedback.

**TRANS** *How do you seek counsel to make decisions in your life? How do you judge between right and wrong? How do you interpret life to understand, make sense of and give meaning to life?* The issue we address today is, "Where does a Christian find the wisdom the follow God's ways in this world?"

**MPS:** God gives Christians His Spirit to discern like Christ's mind and live by His wisdom.

**TRANS** I urge you today, trust in Jesus and live by the Spirit to walk in God's wisdom because of 3 gifts.

I urge you today, trust Jesus and live by the Spirit because...

**#1.** God revealed His wisdom by His Spirit. .6-10a

*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. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>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"—*

*<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.*

**Paul continues from chapter 1 with the idea of wisdom and maturity to confront the Corinthians.** They are enamored with worldly labels to claim a higher spirituality. But their wisdom is not aligned with God's wisdom. There are two kinds of wisdom in the world. But they are not two kinds of the same thing. God's wisdom is not like worldly wisdom. Worldly wisdom originates in the world, celebrates worldly values and elevates worldly glory. And, the longer one is in the world the more they can gain it. But it's only good on the earth, and the longer you live in it the more condemning it becomes. Godly wisdom originates with God and is eternal in value. **God gives His wisdom by revelation through His Spirit to reveal His eternal glory.**

**Godly wisdom is the maturing agent of transformation for God's people.** There is a distinct message that the church uses to grow and mature God's people. When Paul refers to the "*secret and hidden wisdom of God*", he does not mean wisdom cannot be known. Rather, he means the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ that God revealed in His perfect timing, and is revealed to those who by faith trust in Jesus. **God's wisdom is contained in His eternal decree by the "word of the cross".**

**God's wisdom centers in the person of Jesus Christ.** The rulers of the world did not recognize him as the Messiah they awaited. They missed him because the way in which they “looked for” and “thought about” a Messiah was determined by worldly values and wisdom. Therefore, they crucified him. And this was God's plan. God ordained to reveal His wisdom through what the world could not conceive. God revealed by His Spirit that the wisdom the world considers ‘folly’ is the power of His salvation by faith. [God saves people through Christ crucified, folly to the world but power for salvation to those who believe.](#)

**KEY:** The gospel is not merely a better form of worldly wisdom. God's eternal wisdom through the cross of Jesus Christ is altogether superior to worldly wisdom in every form. [The gospel leads Christians to re-think all of life by faith through the cross.](#)

**No one understands God's wisdom on their own.** Wisdom that is eternal is a gift from God that comes by revelation of Jesus Christ through Holy Spirit. Every person who trusts in Jesus receives full access to God's wisdom. Christians never have to wonder if God will give you His wisdom. [God gives wisdom to all who trust in Jesus for salvation because Jesus IS God's eternal wisdom fully revealed.](#) (James 1:5)

**The rulers of Paul's day missed “godly wisdom” by holding the world's values in highest esteem and honor.** Whatever you hold of highest value IN your life will determine how you view everything else FOR your life. When God is not your first priority, he can only be your biggest problem / frustration. When we view all of life through the gospel of Jesus Christ, God ceases to be our frustration and Jesus becomes our glorious salvation. Jesus is God's eternal wisdom revealed to all who by faith trust in Him.

**Gift #1:** Every person should trust in Jesus and live by Holy Spirit to walk in God's eternal wisdom because God revealed His eternal wisdom in Jesus Christ.

**I urge you today, trust Jesus and live by the Spirit because...**

**#2. [God gives His Spirit to understand His wisdom.](#)** .10b-13

*For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.*

Paul helps us understand why the Spirit given to us is so powerful. Five aspects make the gift of God's Spirit glorious. **First,** “*For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*” (.10b) **God's Spirit brings His comprehensive wisdom in us.** There is nothing about God that we do not have access to by the Spirit. By the work of the Spirit in us, we see the work of God, the ways of God and the will of God. The Spirit within us gives us a full picture of and full access to God's heart. [Christian, you have living in you the one who knows all and every thought of God. Why would you ever look to other sources?](#)

**Second,** “*So no one else comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*” (.11b) **God's Spirit brings the exclusive source of wisdom to us.** No one else holds or has God's wisdom. You will not because you cannot pick up this wisdom from any other source. We understand common grace in the world, which demonstrates God's wisdom that holds everything together. But thinking that people can live in God's wisdom by coincidence makes the odds of winning the Powerball lottery look overwhelmingly hopeful. [God gives the only source of His wisdom, Holy Spirit, to live within Christians.](#)

**Third,** “*Now we have received...the Spirit who is from God.*” (.12a-b) **God gives His Spirit as a continual supply of His wisdom.** The Spirit who is given remains. He is not on loan. He does not disappear after a certain time limit. This is no ordinary spirit, but one with direct access and first-hand knowledge of God, who reveals, knows, searches and

comprehends God's wisdom. This Spirit remains in Christians as a continual supply of wisdom within us. [God gives Holy Spirit that those who trust in Him might have an unlimited supply of of His wisdom.](#)

**Fourth**, "...that we might understand..." (.12c) **God gives His Spirit because He cares that we understand His wisdom.** The Spirit is not a "textbook that tells about" God. Great care is demonstrated in the teacher who is not simply a conduit of information, but a compassionate laborer until the student learns. The Spirit is a "micro-chip that holds the master program to run" God's wisdom in us. God is the original "Cloud technology" that stores an unlimited supply of eternal, perfect wisdom for personal access at any time. [God gives His Spirit out of compassion to supply our minds with a right understanding of God.](#)

**Fifth**, "And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual." **God gives His Spirit to counsel us as we share with and teach others.** The same word with different meanings does not equal the same wisdom. The Spirit empowers Christians to think about everything in light of God's wisdom, Jesus Christ. God's wisdom through the gospel grants understanding to answer the world's questions not "on their terms", but "with their terms". The gospel takes what the world so desperately longs for and redefines what it means. We use common words with uncommon, supernatural meaning. [God gives His Spirit to counsel us as we share and teach the gospel to speak to the world with redeeming power.](#)

God gives His Spirit that we might know His wisdom. He commands that His people seek Him for wise counsel.

**ILLUS** 1 Chronicles 10:13-14 records of King Saul at the end of his life,

*So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the LORD. Therefore the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse. 1 Chron 10:13-14*

In 1 Sam 28:3f, Saul was full of fear and unsure what to do because of his circumstances. He inquired of the Lord but no answer came in return. He seeks out and inquires of a necromancer, a fortune-teller. He was found out by Samuel, God's prophet, and Samuel told him that as a result of his disobedience he would die in battle. This passage in 1 Chronicles confirms this prophecy. Saul lost his kingdom and his life because he sought worldly wisdom. We lose no less when we seek the world's wisdom for our life.

**God's wisdom is nothing like worldly wisdom.** When we seek both trying to blend the best of the two, we reduce God's wisdom and confuse our hearts. You cannot honor God and live by the world's wisdom. God doesn't want his people looking to the world for wisdom. [God gives His Spirit to supply His wisdom in His people for His purposes.](#)

[Gift #2: God gives His Spirit to understand His wisdom.](#)

**I urge you today, trust Jesus and live by the Spirit because...**

**#3. God gives discernment by His Spirit to live in Godly wisdom. .14-16**

*<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

**Paul explains that there is a reason people do not know God's wisdom.** The "natural person" does not accept the things of God because he perceives them as folly. The "natural person" holds the world in higher value than God. This causes life to be aligned by worldly values. Worldly values always hold a promise of immediate reward and pleasure, but cannot sustain what it promises and will not satisfy in what it provides. People who hold worldly values in equal or higher value than God's Word can never discern the value of God's wisdom for their lives. [Honoring worldly values in your life always means a denial of Godly wisdom for your life.](#)

**APPL** When an area of disobedience is present in your life, an issue of honoring worldly wisdom remains. When a lack of joy exists, a worldly value is being held above godly wisdom. You will never live in obedience to God's Word as long as you

hold more honor for worldly wisdom. You will never know the full joy of obedience to Godly wisdom as long as worldly values are held in higher esteem than godly values. As long as you hold worldly wisdom AND godly wisdom, Godly wisdom cannot provide what it promises. [“Seek first the Kingdom of God” \(Matt 6:33\) means by faith we hold NOTHING of greater or equal to God.](#)

**TRANS** Mature Christians see conflicts daily between the “natural” versus “spiritual” person in life. And that is exactly what Paul addresses here with the gift of Holy Spirit discernment.

**God’s Spirit empowers one to see life with spiritual discernment.** *“Spiritually discerned”* means to study and examine everything in light of God’s truth in order to determine whether it aligns with God’s wisdom. Then, once studied a judgment is made to honor and obey God. [The Spirit grants discernment in life to know what aligns with God’s eternal wisdom to live for His glory.](#)

**Spiritual discernment means we judge everything in light of Jesus Christ crucified.** Christians view everything different in the world because we view Christ differently.(2 Cor 5:16) This is the “spiritual discernment” that God’s Spirit empowers. Because we love Jesus first, we look at the world and our life to examine and ask, “Does this demonstrate our love for Jesus in obedience?” Because we want our lives to honor Jesus first, we look at the world and our life to examine and ask, “Does this honor Jesus and give Him glory?” Anything that does not honor and love Jesus first we reject or redeem. We never entertain anything that a different testimony through the actions of our life. [Faith in Jesus leads us to see all of life through the cross.](#)

? [Do you look at the world and everything in it differently because of Jesus?](#)

**Spiritual discernment means we live without the world’s judgment weighing down on us.** And, because of Jesus, there is no judgment that the world can pass on us that will stick or injure. Romans 8:1 states, *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* The world will hurl every insult at us, but because of Jesus they cannot stick. The world cannot judge us by its wisdom to condemn us. [God gives the Spirit to discern His wisdom that we might live without condemnation.](#)

**Spiritual discernment means we live by the mind of Christ alive in us.** The One who knows the thoughts of God is alive in us, in our thoughts, to lead us in God’s wisdom. [The Spirit transforms us by renewing our mind with the mind of Christ, God’s living wisdom.](#)

Gift #3: God gives discernment by His Spirit to live in Godly wisdom.

[God gives Christians His Spirit to discern like Christ’s mind and live by His wisdom.](#)

## CLOSE

? **Christian**, [where are you seeking to live by worldly wisdom?](#)

Look to the place in your life where God is your biggest frustration. In that place worldly wisdom is ruling. You are holding the world’s values more highly than God’s wisdom, you are honoring something in the world as of greater joy, pleasure and glory than Jesus Christ.

? **Unbeliever**, [are you ready to trade in the worn-out wisdom of the world for the eternal wisdom of God?](#)