

I Corinthians 2: 1-16 (New International Version)

¹When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.^[a] ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

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

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those who love him"^[b]—

¹⁰but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.^[c] ¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"

^[d] But we have the mind of Christ.

Footnotes:

- a. [1 Corinthians 2:1](#) Some manuscripts as I proclaimed to you God's mystery
- b. [1 Corinthians 2:9](#) Isaiah 64:4
- c. [1 Corinthians 2:13](#) Or Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to spiritual men
- d. [1 Corinthians 2:16](#) Isaiah 40:13

OASIS: I Corinthians 2: 1-16 –Yielding to the Spirit (NIV)

Possible Starter: Let's begin by gathering a few of our thoughts about the Holy Spirit.
What do you know about the Holy Spirit? (just several short, quick comments).

Transitional comment: Our passage today is going to expand/deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Holy Spirit. This is really important because it is this Holy Spirit who lives inside each of us who have received Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

- Let's pray for this Holy Spirit to teach and challenge each of us in our study!
- Now let's listen/follow along as someone reads our passage aloud.
(Consider also giving the group a few minutes to read and study it individually.)

First paragraph (vs. 1-5):

- O What do you learn about Paul's first visit to the Corinth?
 - What did he avoid?
 - What did he emphasize?
 - What do you learn about his attitude and tone?
- O What are some of the contrasts that Paul mentions in vs. 1-4?
 - I Why do you think it is so important to Paul to note these differences?
(*n.b. Indeed, the Greek world was heavily traveled by "orators" who made their living impressing crowds with their fancy words and entertaining talks.*)
- O What is Paul's overriding goal/purpose? (v. 5)?
 - A In our "highly educated" New England culture, what do we want to learn from Paul's as we try to represent Christ to our friends and neighbors?

Second paragraph (vs.6-10a):

- O What do you observe about God's message in this paragraph?
- O What do you learn about the difference it makes in the way people respond?
(*consider: mature, coming to nothing, for our glory, those who love him*)
- O What has been the Spirit's role in this ministry (v. 10a)?
(*n.b. the close coordination of the Spirit and the message—the Spirit's role in "revealing." The Spirit and the message/gospel/Scripture are integrally intertwined.*)
 - A How can this paragraph shape our outlook or response to God?

Third paragraph (vs. 10b-16):

- O What are some of the important contrasts in this paragraph?
- O What are some of the many involvements of the Spirit in the ministry of the gospel, in everything from its source, to its proclamation, to its reception?
 - I As Paul writes to the Corinthians about his apostolic ministry, in what ways is he trying to help/challenge/mature them?
 - A In a similar way, what do we need to affirm and apply about the message and the Spirit with new vigor?

Summary/conclusion:

- A What is one insight about the Spirit and/or the Good News that you want to live out more vigorously?
 - A Let's pray for one another accordingly!
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- a. BIG idea: **yielding to the will and wisdom of the Spirit.**
- b. Key verse: **I Cor. 2:12: "We have ...received the Spirit who is from God."**
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement your OIA questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?)
- e. Determine the core questions to ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- f. Always reword questions in language/word choice that is comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn't make sense to you, then discard it.)
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing: allocate your time and move forward gently but steadily.
- i. Pace the study—move on—conclude with "difference making" application.
- j. Secondary texts—use other texts very sparingly, even though they may be relevant. That tends to push you more into the "teaching" role, rather than the role of facilitator. It can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. If you are utilizing this "on-line" study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the IVP one volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21st Century Edition). It is well worth the \$40.