



**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

**1** And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3** And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, **4** and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

*Do we often picture Paul, such a bold servant in the early church, with fear and much trembling? Why do you think he felt this way?*

*When we rest our faith in men and women, rather than in God, what may happen? How can that be dangerous?*

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

**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.

*What is the wisdom of God and how is it different from the wisdom of this world? (Go back to **1 Cor 1:30-31** for a refresher on what Paul has already written.)*

*How do we come to understand the wisdom of God? Is it something that we could do on our own?*

*Some versions of verse 7 talk about the secret wisdom of God as a "mystery." What was this mystery? Read **Colossians 1:26-2:3** and discuss Christ's role in it.*

### **1 Corinthians 2:11-16**

**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.

*What does it mean to have the Spirit of God? What the Spirit help us to do in verse 12?*

*Paul says the "natural person" doesn't accept the things of the Spirit. What do we do "naturally" or instinctively, or according to human nature, that would hinder our acceptance of the Spirit?*

*What do you think it means to have the mind of Christ?*

### **Galatians 3:1-6**

**1** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. **2** Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? **3** Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? **4** Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? **5** Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— **6** just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?

*Paul says in **1 Cor 2:12-13** that we have received the Spirit, by whom we can understand the wisdom of God, and then we impart such wisdom still with words taught by the Spirit. Here in Galatians people are being led astray to move on from the Spirit. What did they incorrectly think came next?*

*What are we most tempted to do on our own? How can we best remind ourselves to continue to rely on the Holy Spirit in absolutely all that we do?*

*How can you apply this Scripture to your life?*