

Light Reading/Deep Reading of the Bible

1 Corinthians chapter 2

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What is the Holy Spirit; When do believers receive the Holy Spirit

"Do you not know that your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit? This Holy Spirit is from God and dwells in you; and you are not your own people." 1 Corinthians 6:19; This verse states that the Holy Spirit dwells in believers and uses their bodies as His temple, emphasizing the enduring presence of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14: "When you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in Christ, having believed in him, you have been sealed with the promised Holy Ghost. This Spirit is the evidence of our inheritance until the redemption of God's people to the praise of his glory." The Holy Spirit is mentioned here as the "seal" and "proof" of the believer's salvation, indicating that the presence of the Holy Spirit is God's guarantee of the believer's eternal salvation.

The Holy Spirit is one of the Trinity, one of the Father (God), the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit, and has a full divinity. The Holy Spirit is not a force or energy, but a personal God (meaning He has will, emotion, wisdom, and power). Like Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, He is an eternal, all-powerful, all-pervasive God. In Acts 5:3-4, Peter said that Sapphira was "deceiving the Holy Spirit" and then that he was "not a deceitful man, but a deceiving God," indicating that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is blessed and worshiped with the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19: baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). When a person trusts Jesus, the Holy Spirit brings him back to life "born again." The Holy Spirit dwells in believers and guides their lives (Romans 8:14): In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles to empower them to preach the gospel. The Holy Spirit also gives spiritual gifts to subordinates according to His will (e.g., teaching, healing, speaking in tongues, discerning

spirits, etc.). The Holy Spirit enables believers to understand biblical truth and to know that Jesus is Lord: the Spirit produces in the lives of believers the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and so on. Some denominations (e.g., Pentecostals) emphasize the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of power (e.g., speaking in tongues). The Holy Spirit also rebukes people for sin in their hearts and leads them to repentance. The Holy Spirit is called the "Comforter," which means helper and comforter (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit is the living Spirit of God who still works in believers and churches today. He is not only a source of strength, but also a source of love, holiness, and truth. Truly knowing the Holy Spirit can help believers to have a deeper relationship with God.

In 1 Corinthians 2, the apostle Paul emphasized that he did not rely on human wisdom or eloquence in preaching the gospel, but simply preached the cross of Christ. He deliberately preached in a weak and humble manner, so that believers' faith would be based on the power of God rather than on human eloquence or wisdom. Paul mentions that he is preaching a kind of divine wisdom that is an incomprehensible "mystery" of God's plan of redemption in Christ. This wisdom did not come from the world, but was predestined by God before the creation of the world and revealed to believers through the Holy Spirit. Paul explained that only the Holy Spirit can reveal God's profound truths because the Holy Spirit knows God's mind. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, believers are able to understand God's grace and possess the "mind of Christ" who is able to discern spiritual things beyond worldly judgments. This chapter emphasizes that the true meaning of the gospel is not based on human wisdom or power, but on God's redemptive truth revealed through the Holy Spirit. Paul calls on believers to rely on the Holy Spirit and receive God's wisdom rather than worldly standards.

We pray

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are full of gratitude to You for giving us the Holy Spirit to be my helper, comforter, mentor and protector in our lives. Thank you that you have not forsaken us, but have dwelt the Holy Spirit in our hearts and be with us at all times.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for strengthening us when we are weak, guiding us when we are lost, and interceding for us when we are unable to pray. You have brought God's Word to life and helped us to understand the truth and walk in the light.

Continue to fill us so that we can live daily as pleasing to God and bear the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. May we always be sensitive to Your voice, submit to Your leading, and experience true peace and power through Your presence.

In the precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

1 Corinthians 2

Amplified Bible

Paul's Reliance upon the Spirit

2 And when I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming to you the ^[a]testimony of God [concerning salvation through Christ], I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom [no lofty words of eloquence or of philosophy as a Greek orator might do]; ² for I made the decision to ^[b]know nothing [that is, to forego philosophical or theological discussions regarding inconsequential things and opinions while] among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified [and the meaning of His redemptive, substitutionary death and His resurrection]. ³ I came to you in [a state of] weakness and fear and great trembling. ⁴ And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom [using clever rhetoric], but [they were delivered] in demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit [operating through me] and of [His] power [stirring the minds of the listeners and persuading them], ⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom *and* rhetoric of men, but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those *spiritually* mature [believers who have teachable hearts and a greater understanding]; but [it is a higher] wisdom not [the wisdom] of this *present* age nor of the rulers *and* leaders of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the *wisdom* once hidden [from man, but now revealed to us by God, that wisdom] which God predestined before the ages to our glory [to lift us into the glory of His presence]. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age recognized *and* understood this *wisdom*; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; ⁹ but just as it is written [in Scripture],

“Things which the eye has not seen and the ear has not heard,
And which have not entered the heart of man,
All that God has prepared for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, who obey Him, and who gratefully recognize the benefits that He has bestowed].”

¹⁰ For God has unveiled them *and* revealed *them* to us through the [Holy] Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things [diligently], even [sounding and measuring] the [profound] depths of God [the divine counsels and things far beyond human understanding]. ¹¹ For what person knows the thoughts and motives of a man except the man's spirit within him? So also no one knows the *thoughts* of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the [Holy] Spirit who is from God, so that we may know *and* understand the [wonderful] things freely given to us by God. ¹³ We also speak of these things, not in words taught *or* supplied by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining *and* interpreting spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words* [for those being guided by the Holy Spirit].

¹⁴ But the natural [unbelieving] man does not accept the things [the teachings and revelations] of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness [absurd and illogical] to him; and he is incapable of understanding them, because they are spiritually discerned *and* appreciated, [and he is unqualified to judge spiritual matters]. ¹⁵ But the spiritual man [the spiritually mature Christian] judges all things [questions, examines and applies what the Holy Spirit reveals], yet is himself judged by no one [the unbeliever cannot judge and understand the believer's spiritual

nature]. ¹⁶ For who has known the mind *and* purposes of the Lord, so as to instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ [to be guided by His thoughts and purposes].

Overview of 1 Corinthians

Author: The Apostle Paul

Date Written: Around A.D. 55, from Ephesus

Audience: The Christian church in the city of **Corinth**, a wealthy, multicultural, and morally corrupt city in ancient Greece.

Purpose: To address various problems in the church, such as **divisions, immorality, confusion about spiritual gifts, and misunderstandings about resurrection.**

Main Themes & Structure

1. Chapters 1–4: Church Divisions & Christ-Centered Unity

- Problem: Believers were dividing into factions (e.g., "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos").
- Paul teaches that the **message of the cross** is God's power, not human wisdom.
- Christ is the **only foundation** of the Church.

Theological Significance:

- Emphasizes **Christ as the center of faith**, not personalities.
 - Challenges the pride of human wisdom and lifts up the "foolishness" of the Gospel.
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2. Chapters 5–6: Moral Purity & Church Discipline

- Addresses sexual immorality (e.g., a man with his stepmother).
- Condemns Christians suing each other in secular courts.
- Calls for purity and reminds believers their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Theological Significance:

- The church must be **holy** and maintain **moral accountability**.
 - Believers' bodies belong to God and are meant for His glory.
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3. Chapter 7: Marriage, Singleness & Calling

- Paul gives instruction on marriage, divorce, and singleness.

- Encourages contentment in one's life situation and devotion to the Lord.

Theological Significance:

- Upholds **marriage as honorable**, but also **singleness as a gift**.
 - Stresses **faithfulness and calling** over cultural norms.
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4. Chapters 8–10: Christian Freedom & Responsibility

- Talks about eating food offered to idols.
- Christians have freedom, but should not cause others to stumble.
- Uses Paul's own life as an example of self-denial for the sake of others.

Theological Significance:

- Freedom is **not for self-indulgence**, but to serve others in love.
 - The principle of **edifying the church over asserting rights**.
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5. Chapter 11: Worship & the Lord's Supper

- Corrects abuses in public worship and improper behavior at the Lord's Supper.
- Emphasizes remembering Christ's death and examining oneself.

Theological Significance:

- The **Lord's Supper is sacred**—not just a ritual.
 - Worship must be done **reverently and orderly**.
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6. Chapters 12–14: Spiritual Gifts & Love

- Paul explains spiritual gifts are diverse but all come from the **same Spirit**.
- The Church is **one body** with many members.
- Chapter 13 is the famous "**Love Chapter**" — love is the greatest gift.
- Warns against chaos and pride in using gifts (especially speaking in tongues).

Theological Significance:

- **Spiritual gifts exist to build up the church**, not to show off.
- **Love** is greater than any gift — it's the true mark of spiritual maturity.

- Proper worship involves **order and clarity**.
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7. Chapter 15: The Resurrection of the Dead

- The longest chapter, focused on the **resurrection of Christ and believers**.
- Argues that if Christ has not been raised, Christian faith is meaningless.
- Describes the nature of resurrected bodies and victory over death.

Theological Significance:

- **Resurrection is central** to the Gospel.
 - Provides **hope beyond death** and assurance of eternal life.
 - Christ's resurrection is the **guarantee** of believers' future resurrection.
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8. Chapter 16: Final Instructions & Greetings

- Paul gives instructions about giving, plans to visit, and final greetings.
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Theological Summary

Theme	Theological Impact
Christ Crucified	Central to faith, not human wisdom
Church Unity	One body under Christ, no divisions
Holiness & Discipline	The church must remain pure and accountable
Marriage & Calling	Christian life is about faithfulness, not status
Freedom & Love	Use liberty to serve others, not self
Worship	Must reflect God's order and holiness
Spiritual Gifts	Given to edify , not elevate individuals
Love	The most excellent way — superior to all gifts
Resurrection	Foundational hope for all believers

Why 1 Corinthians Matters Today

- Speaks to real issues: division, immorality, pride, spiritual confusion.
- Offers a **practical model** for healthy church life and Christian living.
- Stresses **doctrinal truth with pastoral care**, guiding believers to grow in love, maturity, and hope.