



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

GOING DEEPER

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Notice the focus here . . . what is wisdom?

Merriam-Webster defines wisdom as:

- Ability to discern inner qualities and relationships; insight
- Good sense, generally accepted belief; judgment
- Accumulated philosophical or scientific learning; knowledge
- JGV: *“the ability to use all accumulated knowledge correctly,”* AKA C.H. Spurgeon’s take on it.

WISDOM ON STEROIDS

The Holy Spirit in us gives us **GOD'S WISDOM**—a far deeper, even mysterious, wisdom that only comes via the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

- The Corinthians were confusing the simple Gospel by creating artificial standards of faith; they were using human wisdom and human works as the gauge.
- Paul preached a powerful message, yet was a powerless messenger; all the power came from the Holy Spirit.

SOME GOSPEL LESSONS TO LEARN

- 1.** Feelings of confidence in our methods or insecurity about our ability should be a factor or motivation in communication of the Gospel.
- 2.** The power of the Gospel does not depend on the skill or charisma of the speaker; it flows from God's Spirit, convincing people of the truth.
- 3.** The KISS principle: "Kept It Simple Silly." Share what you do know about Christ and let everything else work itself out as God uses you for His purposes.

THE POWER OF WEAKNESS v. 3-4

God is completely in sovereign control of the Gospel message that seems so foolish to the world.

- From the way God chose to accomplish salvation through the death of His son on the cross **1:18-25**
- To the people He chose to draw to Himself, such as those hearing this letter—pretty messed up **1:26-31**
- Even the one who brought the message, Paul, who was not a highly-paid motivational speaker **2:1-5**

WHAT KIND OF POWER? v. 5

- Not the power of persuasion
- Not the power of an impressive lineage
- The Greek word translated “power” is *dunamei* in this verse and in **Romans 1:16** it is *dunamis*, explosive dynamic power.
- A mysterious secret power known only to God’s family through the Holy Spirit
- But a power available to anyone who asks for it by receiving Jesus as their Savior and Lord

A PLAN, POWER, AND WISDOM NOT OF THIS WORLD v. 6-8

- Paul was not teaching philosophy, religion, or debating speculative notions; those never saved anyone.
- The “*mature*” Christians were not those with advanced training; they were simply advancing in walking in truth.
- This plan was made before God made the world.

Ephesians 1:4

- God’s wisdom makes Christ, His cross, and His resurrection the central issue—the deeper truth.

HOW DEEP CAN YOU GO?

- Going deeper means understanding that faith is a “must have,” not a “should have” or “might have.”
- Going deeper means relying on the dynamic and limitless power of the Holy Spirit, not your own.
- Going deeper means you trust that God is three persons in one—all of whom want to bless you!
- Going deeper means living “in” this world and, at the same time, “for” the next by the Holy Spirit.

GOING DEEPER IS THE ONLY WAY TO GO!