

**1 Corinthians 2**

Within this chapter we will see some very important principles concerning public ministry and personal maturity. Nestled within this study we can locate the simplicity, certainty and power of the gospel. With that in mind approach this study with a fresh, eager and open attitude toward God. Allow Him to build you up and prepare you for the calling He has placed on you, believing; *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*v9

**Verses 1-5** In regards to the gospel message, salvation, and maturing in Christ Paul was keenly aware of his inability. He knew that he could not bless or save anyone. His focus was sure and simple; Trust God and not the wisdom of men. How can we practically apply this principle in our lives? How does knowing our ability (inability) affect the way we minister to (serve) others?

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Compare 1Cor. 2:1-5 with Acts 18:9-10. What does this show us about the man (Paul) God chose to speak through? This is Paul, the most effective minister of the gospel, ever! Was he apprehensive about sharing his faith? Did he “feel” weak, unqualified, and incapable? How can this be an encouragement to you?

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What was Paul’s message? (2:2) See also 1 Cor. 15:3,4.

What this looks like in your life: The crucified life is a life of surrender and dependence. A life of reliance upon God in every area of your life, nothing held back. To hold back anything gives new life to the carnal nature and hinders, even denies the work of God.

Read and discuss Galatians 2:20

**Verses 6-10** TRANSPARENCY TIME! (V8) Share a time when you thought you knew exactly what the facts were and it turned out you were not such a genius after all. How did you feel? How did it affect those around you? What did you learn from it? \_\_\_\_\_

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In these verses there is reference to 2 types of wisdom. Look at James 3:13-18 and discuss how wisdom (in your head) is lived out (by your actions). Note also the differences in these 2 types of wisdom.

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**Verses 10-16** It is important to understand that the Holy Spirit is God and that He glorifies Jesus. He is not just a power or influence, rather He is a person who dwells within the believer. (reference: Acts 5:3,4, 1Co.3:16, 6:19, 2Tim. 1:14)

The Holy Spirit reveals the word of God to us and He illuminates the Word so we may see it clearly. He then empowers us to live in the light He has shown us. Our part is to humbly let Him work in us. What are some ways that we hinder, quench, or resist the work of the Spirit in our lives?

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Read John 16:5-15 and comment on what the Holy Spirit does. What names does Jesus call the Spirit by? What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do in and for us?

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*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”* John 14:26

My memory verse for this week is:\_\_\_\_\_