**THE ULTIMATE TEACHER!**

**1 Corinthians 1:21 (NKJV)**…it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached [the cross] to save those who believe.

God takes the truth of the cross, which the world considers foolishness, and saves those who believe. But no one ever comes to see the truth of the cross on their own. It is the Holy Spirit that reveals God’s truth in the gospel and then transforms the lives of those who believe.

**1 Corinthians 2:4 (NKJV)**And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul emphasizes very strongly that ENLIGHTENMENT is the Spirit’s work. We only know God’s truth because the Spirit has revealed it to us.

**1 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)**For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

No one knows the inner thoughts of a person except for the person, humanly speaking. So also with God, only God knows His **thoughts and plans**. In view in this context of 1 Corinthians is God’s wise plan of salvation that centers in and connects with the truth of the cross!

These are ***“the things which God has prepared for those who love Him”*** to know (v. 9). These are what God has “***revealed to us through His Spirit***” and which are called “***the deep things of God.”*** (v. 10). These are “***the things that have been freely given to us by God.***” (v. 12).

**1 Corinthians 2:13 (NKJV)**13 These things we also speak, not in **WORDS** which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing [or combining] spiritual things with spiritual. (emphasis mine)

The Spirit’s ministry is to take God’s “thoughts” (v. 11) and communicate them to us in inspired “words”. In context this is the idea of combining spiritual things (God’s thoughts/truths) with spiritual (God’s words) brought out in 1 Corinthians 2:13b.

How do you know what a person is thinking? You know it by the fact that they express it to you in words. The same is true with God! We only know about His wise plan of salvation as found in the cross because the Spirit has revealed it to us through the medium of WORDS!

Note two MAJOR connections regarding the Spirit’s ministry in this passage. The Spirit’s ministry is connected to **WORDS,** that is the inspired words of Scripture (1 Cor. 2:13).

And the Spirit’s ministry is connected to **KNOWING**. Note the emphasis on “**revealed**” (v. 10), “**knows**” (v. 11), “**know**” (v. 12), “**teaches**” (v. 13), “**judges**” (v. 15), “the **mind** of the LORD” (v. 16), and “we have the **mind** of Christ” (v. 16). Paul’s emphasis is that we KNOW by the Spirit and the means by which we know is by WORDS which the Spirit teaches. Connecting the Spirit’s ministry with “**words**” and with “**knowing**” is all important.

Today, so many who call themselves Christian put the emphasis on subjective mysticism (knowing God’s truth by looking inward at feelings, experience, imagination, visions, inner voices, etc.) instead of making the objective **Word of God** the measurement of all things. This is the exact opposite of Paul’s emphasis on the Spirit’s ministry in connection with “**words**” and “**knowing**”. We know by the Spirit, and we know through the Word of God!

When it comes to God’s TRUTH, we only know what we have been told (see the Bible)! And we only know by the way of the Holy Spirit revealing God’s truth to us!