

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 2:5-16



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Slow down and read **1 Corinthians 2:6–16** two or three times. Read aloud if possible. Your goal here is simply to **notice what the text says** before jumping into meaning.

Observation Prompts:

- Who is being described?
- What contrasts or comparisons are made?
- What words are repeated or emphasized?
- What do you learn about the Spirit and wisdom?

Read the text and note the following:

1. What kind of wisdom is Paul speaking about in verse 6?

2. How is the “wisdom of God” described in verses 7–9?

3. What role does the Holy Spirit play in verses 10–12?

4. What is said about the difference between spiritual people and natural people (v.13–15)?

5. What do you observe about verse 16 and the “mind of Christ”?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Now that you’ve observed the passage, it’s time to explore the **deeper meaning**. Let the Bible interpret itself—avoid assumptions or outside opinions.

Context:

Paul is addressing a group of believers who were drawn to **worldly wisdom, status, and intellect**. Here he contrasts **human wisdom** with **spiritual wisdom**—wisdom that only comes from God’s Spirit and is understood by those who are spiritual.

Questions to Explore:

1. What does it mean that God's wisdom is “hidden” and “predestined before the ages”? (v.7)

2. Why couldn't the rulers of this age understand this wisdom? (v.8)
What does this say about spiritual blindness?

3. How does Paul describe the process of receiving God's truth in verses 10–12?
What does this reveal about the role of the Holy Spirit?

4. According to verses 13–14, why can't natural (unspiritual) people understand spiritual truth?

5. What does it mean to "have the mind of Christ"? (v.16)
How is this possible for believers?

Word Study Suggestions (optional for deeper study):

- **Mystery** (v.7): Greek *mystērion* — a secret plan revealed by God.
- **Natural person** (v.14): Greek *psychikos* — one who lives by human faculties alone, without the Spirit.
- **Discerned** (v.14–15): Greek *anakinetai* — examined, judged rightly.
- **Mind of Christ** (v.16): implies access to Christ's perspective and way of thinking.

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

This passage calls us to live by the **wisdom of the Spirit**, not the wisdom of the world. It reminds us that **spiritual growth requires spiritual insight**—which comes from the Holy Spirit.

Personal Reflection:

1. Where in your life are you tempted to lean on **human wisdom** instead of God's?

2. How would your perspective shift if you consistently asked God for **spiritual wisdom** before making decisions?

3. Are you actively inviting the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your thinking?

4. In what areas do you need to grow in **spiritual discernment**—seeing with God's eyes?

5. How can you renew your mind to more clearly reflect the **mind of Christ**?



Summary Truths:

- The wisdom of God is **spiritually revealed**, not intellectually achieved.
- The Holy Spirit gives believers the **ability to understand and apply truth**.
- Those in Christ are given access to the **mind of Christ**—His perspective, values, and wisdom.
- Without the Spirit, the truth of God seems like **foolishness**.



Optional Memory Verse:

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him... but we have the mind of Christ.”

— 1 Corinthians 2:14,16 (ESV)



Prayer Prompt:

“Holy Spirit, I want Your wisdom. Teach me to see with the eyes of Christ and to think with His mind. Guard me from leaning on the world’s reasoning. Give me clarity, conviction, and courage to walk in Your truth.”



For Further Study:

- Romans 12:2 — Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- James 1:5 — Ask God for wisdom; He gives generously.
- John 14:26 — The Spirit teaches and reminds us of all Jesus said.