



# The Secret | 1 Corinthians 2:1-16



7 No, we speak of God's *secret* wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

- 1 Corinthians 2:7



We're in a secret club, doing secret things.

1 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except *Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.

4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

9 But he said to me,

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.

4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with *a demonstration of the Spirit's power,*

5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”

— the things God has prepared for those who love him—

10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,

16 for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But *we have the mind of Christ.*

- 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among *the mature*, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the *rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing*. [...]

8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

9 However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”

— the things God has prepared for those who love him—

10 *these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.* The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

If we are about the mind only,  
We will DRY up.

If we are about the Spirit only,  
We will BLOW up.

When we are about  
Both mind and Spirit,  
We will GROW up.

11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that *we may understand what God has freely given us.* [...]

14 [...] they are *discerned* only through the Spirit.

# A Definition of Discernment

“The capacity to sense what God is doing in the moment and in the larger context of our lives so that we can align ourselves with God.”

11 *For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*

# LISTENING TO GOD



# IN TIMES OF CHOICE

*THE ART OF DISCERNING  
GOD'S WILL*

GORDON T. SMITH



“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may *discern* what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect,”

- Romans 12:2

13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,

12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

- 1 Corinthians 5:12

16 for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But *we have the mind of Christ.*

16 Don't you know that you yourselves  
are God's temple and that *God's Spirit*  
*lives in you?*

- 1 Corinthians 3:16

5 ...Do you not realize that *Christ Jesus*  
*is in you?*

- 2 Corinthians 13:5b

2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except *Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

- 1 Corinthians 2:2

16 for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But *we have the mind of Christ.*



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