

To the Church in Corinth



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 6: May 14–20, 2016

Day 1

May 16



Pray | Lord, help me to welcome your Spirit today.

THE SPIRIT LIVES in us?

Francesca Battistelli's song "Holy Spirit" contains the following:

"Holy Spirit you are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by your presence, Lord."

Our passage this week is short but packs a punch. Its focus is on the wisdom of God and how it is revealed to us who know him through his Spirit. This Spirit knows and comprehends the thoughts of God and will help us understand the things God has given us. It also talks about those who know God helping others to know him more deeply with the help of the Spirit.



Read | 1 Corinthians 2:6–13



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Open your spiritual closet doors and reveal any skeletons that may be lurking there. Knowing that the Spirit knows your thoughts and the depths of God, is there anything that would keep you from welcoming the Spirit in your life?

What have you done (or need to do) to make your physical body and mind a welcoming, comfortable dwelling place for the Spirit of God? Make a conscious effort this week to clean out the corners of your mind and spend some focused time concentrating on God and where he is leading you.

Think about the people whom you regularly spend time with. Is there anyone in your life who needs some support or encouragement today? If you are prompted, act, and follow the Spirit's lead.

Day 2

May 17



Pray / Lord, reveal your wisdom to me today.

TODAY'S VERSES SPEAK of the secret, hidden wisdom of God. This wisdom has nothing to do with the world or its rulers. It is from God and centers in Christ and his sacrifice for us.

This wisdom is a rare gift, and we may be tempted to treasure and hang on to it for ourselves. The verses make it clear that we should share this treasure with other believers.

Before you read the verses, take a moment and think about who or what you turn to when you need answers to life's tough questions. Is Google or Siri your go-to? Can you honestly say that you turn to the Scriptures and seek guidance from God and from other believers?



Read / 1 Corinthians 2:6–8



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Reread 1 Corinthians 2:6. To impart as been defined as “to make known; tell; relate.”¹ To share wisdom with other people, you need to possess it first. What godly wisdom do you have that you are able to share with others?

The spiritually mature impart God’s wisdom, not the so-called wisdom of the current age. To whom do you look for wisdom, advice, or guidance: people and rulers of this age or those who have the wisdom of God?

The secret, hidden wisdom of God is not secret to those who know him. Take a minute to search your heart. Is there anything you are struggling with that someone with God’s wisdom could help you with? Don’t be ashamed to ask for help.

1. *Dictionary.com*, s. v. “impart,” accessed May 4, 2016, <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/impart>.

Day 3

May 18



Pray / Lord, help me to know what I don't know today.

THE VERSES THAT we'll look at today may be confusing or even seem contradictory. They speak of the tension between the present age that we live in, in which we can't see, hear, or even imagine what God has prepared for us, and the age to come, which God's Spirit allows us to preview.

It isn't comfortable to be in the stage where you know what you don't know. The beauty about being in this phase as a Christian, to know there is so much more about God that you need to learn, is that you aren't in that place alone. The Spirit of God is right there with you and will help you on your journey if you ask and listen.



Read / 1 Corinthians 2:9–11



Reflect | Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

First Corinthians 2:9 says that we can't even imagine the things that God has prepared for those who love him. Have you spent much time dreaming about your future in God's kingdom? Spend a few minutes letting your imagination run wild and then thank God that his plan is even greater.

The Spirit of God lives in us and knows our deepest thoughts and longings—things that we may not want to admit even to ourselves. Reflect on anything you need to confess or dreams that you need to entrust to God, and then give it to him. Remember, God loves you and won't be shocked; he already knows.

Think about a time when someone needed help and you didn't feel qualified to say the right words or do the right thing. The Spirit that lives in you, if you are a follower of God, knows the thoughts of God and is there to guide you. Who has God brought into your life that could use some help?

Day 4

May 19



Pray / Help me to accept the gift of your Spirit today.

GOD GAVE US his Spirit to help us understand the other things that he has freely given us: forgiveness, grace, love, and life. The depth of God's love for us is so great that we can't comprehend it on our own. The Spirit of God gives us the opportunity to comprehend these gifts.

If you have ever given someone a gift that requires explanation, this will make more sense to you. A gift that you put a lot of thought into, which you really want to benefit the person, may fall into this category. On the surface it may seem simple, but when you explain it, the depth of your care and concern becomes known.



Read / 1 Corinthians 2:12



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

N. T. Wright said, “Christianity is not simple. . . . There is always much, much more to learn, to relish, to delight in.”² Do you consciously pursue expanded knowledge and understanding of God and the gifts he has freely given you? If you need to do some work in this area, make a plan to spend more time in God’s Word or in prayer.

Trying to install a new electronic component or assemble a child’s toy with no instructions can be frustrating at best or impossible at worst. People who do this may think they can do things on their own rather than relying on help from someone/thing else. Consider what is holding you back from relying on God and his Spirit.

Most of us have heard the saying, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). First Corinthians 1:12 shows the importance of receiving and utilizing the gifts God has given us. Have you received, taken out of the box, and fully utilized the Spirit and other gifts God has given you?

2. N. T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003), 27.

Day 5

May 20



Pray / Lord, help me to trust your Spirit today.

IF YOU HAVE ever felt fear, anxiety, or unworthiness to share your faith with someone, pay close attention to today's verse. When someone shares their faith in God with another person, they aren't sharing their wisdom but the wisdom from the Spirit of God. Also, the only way that we can be successful when sharing our faith is if the Spirit already has been working on the receiver's heart. So while we need to recognize, accept, and unpack the gift of the Spirit God has given to us, our job doesn't stop there. A gift given in love is best put to use when it is shared with someone else. If the Spirit moves you to share with an unbeliever or encourage another believer, ask for help and then do it.

If you don't know God and feel the Spirit's prompting, reach out to a Christian friend, small group leader, or pastor and ask for help.



Read / 1 Corinthians 2:13



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Only the Spirit of God can render the message of the cross truly comprehensible to someone. Have you been limiting yourself to your strengths and weaknesses and using that as an excuse not to share God's love when you've felt the Spirit's prompting?

Note the tense used in today's verse: present tense. We are called to do our part to expand God's kingdom (impart wisdom taught by the Spirit) today. Whom is the Spirit prompting you to reach out to today?

Are you not sure how to reach out to someone to advance the kingdom? Consider the words of Francesca Battistelli's song "Hands of God" :
"Every time you speak out and say the words I need to hear; every time you reach out I can feel his love so near; I hope you know to me you are the hands of God." You don't need to do anything fancy. Just look for a need and do what you can to meet it.

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