

His Spirit **I Corinthians 2:12**

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“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God” (I Corinthians 2:12).

Last fall I talked to a first year seminary student who had a question: Does the Holy Spirit help us understand the Bible? One of his professors had told him that the Holy Spirit gave us faith to believe the Bible, but that we were on our own in our interpretation of it.

I shared a few verses with him, where Jesus spoke of the Spirit and said, “For He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you, and actually become a part of you!” I then mentioned John 14:26: “But the Comforter who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you”.

Somehow his professor didn't think that applied. Then I shared John 16:13: “Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself, but whatever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come.” Somehow his professor had set that verse aside as well.

Now then, let me ask you, do you believe the Holy Spirit helps us in our understanding of the Bible? Let's take a close look at today's verse. “Now we have received the Spirit of God that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” What are those things? The next verse tells us they are words, which the Holy Ghost teaches.

Notice: “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (I Corinthians 2:13). Then comes the clincher. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (I Corinthians 2:14).

So then, who would be best qualified to teach the Word of God? Of course! The Spirit of God! He knows the things of God because He is one with God. And just as we cannot know what is in the mind of another man until he reveals it, so neither can we know the mind and purposes of God until they are revealed to us by His Holy Spirit.

It is the scriptures, the Holy Bible, that God has chosen as His means of communication with us. By His gracious illumination we know the things freely given to us of God. The truths of God need no garnishing by human skill, but look best dressed in the words which the Holy Spirit teaches. The Spirit of God knows much better how to set forth the things of God than the best orators or philosophers.

What's the application of all this? Daily as you open the Word of God and read it, pray the prayer of the psalmist: “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psalm 119:18).

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