

# The Wisdom of the Spirit: Discovering the Mind of Christ

## 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (ESV)

### Student Devotional

This 5-day devotional is here to help you reflect on Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 2:6–16 and get your heart ready for class. It’s short, simple, and practical—perfect for starting your day with God and preparing for the lesson.

### I. Day 1: God’s Hidden Wisdom

**Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom... we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.” (1 Corinthians 2:6–7 ESV)**

#### Think About It:

In an age that values quick fixes and easy answers, the gospel message cuts against the grain. It reveals a wisdom that’s both ancient and radically new—a “hidden” wisdom that the brightest minds of this world didn’t foresee. This divine plan led to the cross, a paradox that confounds human pride and intellect. When you embrace the truth that God’s wisdom defies cultural expectations, you learn to rest in His eternal plan rather than chasing the latest trends. What worldly standards or intellectual pursuits sometimes distract you from trusting God’s deeper purposes?

#### Pray It:

Lord, thank You that Your wisdom doesn’t hinge on my intelligence or accomplishments. Teach me to value the cross above human philosophies. Help me walk in a humility that acknowledges Your plan as higher and Your thoughts as greater than mine.

#### Do It:

Take a moment to identify a “trend” or idea you’ve been drawn to recently—maybe a popular lifestyle hack or a new self-improvement technique. Pray specifically for

discernment, asking the Holy Spirit to help you see whether it aligns with God's eternal wisdom or merely echoes the passing noise of the world.

## Day 2: The Spirit Who Reveals

**"...these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." (1 Corinthians 2:10, ESV)**

### Think About It:

Think of the Holy Spirit as the ultimate guide to the treasures of God's heart. Our human intellect can't unlock certain truths on its own. That's why God graciously gives His Spirit to illuminate Scripture and show us His character, plans, and promises. If you've ever read a Bible passage a dozen times only to have it suddenly explode with meaning on the thirteenth, that's the Spirit at work. In what areas of your life do you most need the Spirit's insight right now?

### Pray It:

Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see what my own logic cannot. Reveal to me the depths of God's love, the power of the cross, and the hope laid out in Your Word. May I rely on Your gentle guidance in every decision I face.

### Do It:

Before your next quiet time, pause for a brief prayer inviting the Spirit's help. Ask Him to illuminate a specific passage of Scripture. Then read with expectation, paying attention to fresh insights or convictions that stir your heart.

## Day 3: Natural vs. Spiritual Thinking

**"The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him... and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14, ESV)**

## Think About It:

Have you ever tried describing a vivid sunset to someone who insists they're color-blind? There's an inherent limitation in their perception. Likewise, those who approach life with purely human reasoning can miss the profound realities of God. It's not that spiritual truth lacks evidence; it's that it requires a different kind of "vision"—the discernment the Holy Spirit provides. Where have you seen this tension play out in your relationships, conversations, or even your own struggles to trust God?

## Pray It:

Father, give me eyes to see beyond the surface. Guard me from relying on my senses and logic alone. Let my faith be fueled by the Spirit's discernment, even when Your ways seem counterintuitive to the world.

## Do It:

Reflect on a time when biblical truth felt confusing or "foolish" to you. Jot down what eventually helped you understand—was it prayer, a friend's explanation, or a moment of conviction? Revisit that memory to remind yourself of how the Spirit cuts through our natural limitations.

## Day 4: Having the Mind of Christ

**"...‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:16, ESV)**

## Think About It:

This astounding statement means believers aren't left guessing about God's heart and ways. Through the Spirit, we're invited into a lifelong process of thinking like Jesus—valuing what He values, loving what He loves. It's not an instantaneous download, but a daily renewal of our attitudes and thoughts to mirror the heart of Christ. Where do your attitudes, impulses, or values most need to align more closely with Jesus?

### **Pray It:**

Jesus, thank You for inviting me to share in Your perspective. Renew my mind. Shape my desires, my decisions, and my reactions so they reflect Your nature and further Your kingdom.

### **Do It:**

Pick one aspect of Jesus' character—His compassion, humility, patience, or holiness. For the next 24 hours, focus on cultivating that specific trait in your interactions. At day's end, reflect on how practicing that virtue drew you closer to "the mind of Christ."

## **Day 5: Walking in Spirit-Led Wisdom**

**"Now we have received... the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God." (1 Corinthians 2:12, ESV)**

### **Think About It:**

God doesn't withhold His gifts from us, including spiritual understanding, maturity, and discernment. The question is whether we're actively leaning on the Spirit's guidance or still trying to figure everything out on our own. Spirit-led wisdom is practical, shaping how we respond to conflicts, handle temptations, and serve others. It equips us to be voices of grace and truth in a world clamoring for quick fixes and shallow soundbites. Are you willing to let God's wisdom direct your steps—especially in areas where worldly wisdom claims to have all the answers?

### **Pray It:**

Lord, Your Word says You freely give wisdom through Your Spirit. I receive it with gratitude. Help me steward this gift well, making choices that honor You and shine Your light in a culture often blind to eternal truth.

## Do It:

Identify one situation or relationship where you've been operating mainly by human reasoning—maybe a conflict at work, a difficult family dynamic, or a tough financial decision. Pause and pray for the Spirit's specific wisdom. Then move forward in faith, trusting God to guide your words and actions.

## You're Ready for Class!

Over these five days, you've dived deeper into 1 Corinthians 2:6–16—discovering that genuine wisdom is Spirit-led, Christ-centered, and completely contrary to worldly norms. By focusing on the hidden wisdom of God, the Holy Spirit's unique role, the contrast between natural and spiritual thinking, and the mind of Christ, you're better prepared to live (and serve) from God's perspective. Come ready to share what has challenged or inspired you in these passages, and let's encourage one another to keep growing in Spirit-led maturity.

## Before We Gather

- What are some ways our culture promotes relying on human intellect alone, and how does this mindset make it harder to accept spiritual truths?
- Consider someone you know who views Christianity as “just another religion.” How could you point them to the cross as the hidden wisdom that overturns human expectations? Think of a real-life example or illustration you might use.
- Imagine talking with someone who believes they can “figure out God” purely through study or personal meditation. Based on these verses, how would you explain the Holy Spirit's role in unveiling divine truth? Provide a concrete example of what the Spirit has taught you that head-knowledge alone couldn't.
- Recall a situation where someone you shared the gospel with thought it was irrational or pointless. According to these verses, what deeper barrier might have

been at work, and how can we address it through prayer and Spirit-dependent outreach?

- Imagine you've just finished up Sunday lunch at your Southern Baptist church. A friendly debate starts up: half the table wants to stick with classic hymns, and the other half is excited about adding more contemporary songs. Feelings on both sides run high. How might having the "mind of Christ" guide you to handle these differing preferences in a loving, unifying way?
- Can you recall a moment when a biblical truth suddenly became clear to you? How did that "aha" moment change your understanding or behavior?
- In what ways have you seen "the natural person" dismiss spiritual truths? How can we lovingly engage them without relying solely on human arguments?
- Where do you sense a need for Christ's perspective in your life right now—work, family, church, or personal struggles—and what practical steps will you take to align your mindset with His?