

# The Gift of the Spirit: God's Presence, Wisdom and Power

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December 18, 2016

**Open:** What sort of partnerships do you have? What goals have you pursued together?

**Read & Discuss:** John 14:15-17

1. What observations can you make about the Holy Spirit and our relationship with Him from these three verses? What questions does this passage raise in your mind? As a group, how would you answer these questions using Scripture?
2. In verse 17, Jesus told his followers that though the Spirit was "with" them, the Spirit would soon be "in" them—something that is now true for all believers. How does this impact our relationship with God? In what ways does this truth bring us both comfort and challenge?

**Read & Discuss:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

3. From verses 1-4, how does Paul recognize his own inadequacy to convince people of the truth of the Gospel? How does Paul see his partnership with the Holy Spirit impacting the effectiveness of this pursuit?
4. Looking at verses 6-13, how is the wisdom from God different from the wisdom of the world? As you read verse 9, what preparations of God come to mind that this verse might be referring to? According to verses 10-12, how do we come to know and understand these things?
5. In verses 6, 7 and 13, Paul says he and his team labored to "impart" this wisdom to others. Do you view yourself as someone who is responsible to "impart a secret and hidden wisdom" (v. 7) to others? Why or why not? How can we do this?
6. Looking back at verses 4-5—and using your knowledge of the New Testament—how would you describe the ways in which the Holy Spirit empowers us? What are some practical ways that we can rely on the power of the Holy Spirit as we share the Gospel and serve God today?

**Apply:** How will you think differently this week about your relationship with the Holy Spirit based on these three gifts that He brings to us—God's presence, God's wisdom, and God's power?

**Pray:** Pray for opportunities over this Christmas season to impart God's wisdom to others through the power of the Holy Spirit working in you.



*What's inside*  
**THE BOX?**

## John 14:15-17

<sup>[15]</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>[16]</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>[17]</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

<sup>[1]</sup> And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>[2]</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>[3]</sup> And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>[4]</sup> and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>[5]</sup> so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

<sup>[6]</sup> Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>[7]</sup> But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>[8]</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>[9]</sup> But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

<sup>[10]</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>[11]</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>[12]</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>[13]</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. (ESV)