

“The Secret”

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

1. What is it?

Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God - his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 (NLT)

It is the Holy Spirit.

This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God’s people. For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

Colossians 1:26-27 (NLT)

2. Why do we have it?

No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit’s words to explain spiritual truths. But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves

cannot be evaluated by others. For, “Who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?”

But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:11-16 (NLT)

To know spiritual truths.

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NLT)

3. How does it work?

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

Galatians 5:16-17 (NLT)

It’s a Constant Battle.

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. When you think of the Holy Spirit, what images come to mind?
2. Understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as followers of Christ can at times be confusing. Years before the events of the Corinthian church, Jesus unveiled and assured the disciples of the Spirit's role in their lives. As you read through what Jesus shared with the disciples in **John 14**, jot down any further descriptions, roles, and insights on what it means to have God's Spirit in you.
3. We saw in this weekend's teaching that Christians will walk '*in the Spirit.*' For centuries people have debated as to what this looks like and how we know if it's the Spirit leading us or just the "pizza" we ate the night before. How does Paul help us define what this means in **Galatians 5:16-26**?

Looking back at this passage, is there any "fruit" in your life you'd like to further develop? Any you need to prune away?

4. Something many people don't realize is the amazing work of God in our lives as a result of His Spirit being in us. Find a place where you won't be distracted and take a few minutes to read through **Romans 8**. Underline or jot down all that we gain and is accomplished by God's Spirit working in us.