

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: Being Led by the Spirit

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: The Holy Spirit is a restless, inquisitive researcher, somewhat like a deep-sea diver seeking to fathom the depths of the being of God. The Holy Spirit is God exploring the infinity of God. Yet the Holy Spirit also enlightens the minds of God's people to discern what he has revealed to and through biblical authors. In this way he continues his work of illumination into the human sphere. In this section we explore what it means for us his current followers to be led by God's Spirit. This section of Paul's letter places heavy emphasis on the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Directly or indirectly, he is mentioned up to thirteen times—with a particular focus on his teaching role. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

Discussion Questions

1. Suppose that you needed information about how to repair a lawn mower. How would you go about getting that knowledge: from a fix-it book, the Internet, a friend? How and why?
2. Consider a Christian you think of as mature and wise in faith. What evidence of spiritual maturity could be seen on such person? Explain.
3. When Paul speaks "a message of wisdom among the mature" at Corinth, what are some ways that he describes this wisdom (vs. 6-10)?

4. Paul contrasts "the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age with "God's secret wisdom" (vs. 6-7). Where have you seen the "wisdom of this age" displayed recently?

5. According to these verses, what role does the Holy Spirit have in making a Christian wise?

6. In verse 9, Paul paraphrases Isaiah 64:4. What thoughts and emotions do these words stir in you? Why?

7. Survey the rest of this passage by titling each of the following segments with a word or phrase about the Holy Spirit: 2:10-11; 2:12; 2:13; 2:14-16.

8. Focus again on verses 10-16. This text divides people into two categories: those who operate under the spirit of the world and those who live under the Spirit of God. From these verses, what's true about life under the spirit of the world? About life under the Spirit of God? (Try to find something in each verse).

9. What risks do you see in living life apart from God's Spirit? What would you want to say, if you could, to a Christian you know who seems to be taking the risk of living apart from God's Spirit?

10. As you consider your own life under the Spirit of God, what links does God's Spirit create between you and the Word of God?

11. Paul ends this section of his letter with a quote from Isaiah 40:13 where the Old Testament prophet asks, almost without hope, "For who has known the mind of the Lord / that he may instruct him?" Then Paul adds his own astounding statement: "But we have the mind of Christ (vs. 16). What is your emotional and spiritual response to this announcement?