

Why People Do Not Believe the Bible

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

1 Cor. 2:14-16 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. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

I. Spiritual Blindness

1 Cor. 2:14-16 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. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

2 Cor. 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Gen. 3:4-6 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.



THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HUMANITY AND GOD

Only God is the absolute standard of what is right and wrong, good and evil.



Rom. 1:19-22 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools,**

Men's Relationship to God and His Word

The Original design

- The evident reality of God's existence
- ↓
- Reverence and humility before God
- ↓
- Worship of God with gratitude and awe
- ↓
- A longing to understand God's will
- ↓
- Learning and embracing God's truth
- ↓
- Living in obedience to God
- ↓
- Walking in fellowship with God
- ↓
- Finding true joy and fulfillment in life with God

Men's Relationship to God and His Word

The Reality After the Fall

- The evident reality of God in creation
 - **Pride and self-exaltation – spiritual blindness**
- ↓
- Refusal to acknowledge God's greatness and be thankful to Him
- ↓
- Establishing one's own will instead of submitting to God's will
- ↓
- Ignoring the Bible
- ↓
- Pursuit of human authorities
- ↓
- Bondage of sinful desires and self-centered ambition
- ↓
- Destruction of the life given by God

It is impossible to convince someone of the truthfulness of Scripture until his heart is humbled before God.

Acts 26:25 But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and **rational words**.

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II. Restoring Spiritual Sight

A. Spiritual Sight Is Impossible Without Humility

Is. 66:2 But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Rom. 1:19-22 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived,** ever since the creation of the world,[a] in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him,** but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

Is. 57:15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, **and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,** to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.'

Mat. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

B. Spiritual Sight Is the Result of the Work of the Holy Spirit

^{ESV} **John 16:8** And when he comes, he **will convict** the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

^{NET} **John 16:8** And when he comes, he **will prove the world wrong** concerning sin and righteousness and judgment—

1 Cor. 12:3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says 'Jesus is accursed!' and **no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit.**

1 Cor. 2:7-10 But we impart a secret and hidden **wisdom of God,** which God decreed before the ages for our glory. **None of the rulers of this age understood this,** for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory...**these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

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2 Cor. 4:5-6 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge** of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

C. Spiritual Sight Leads to Scripture

1 Cor. 2:14-16 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. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Luke 24:25-27 And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

Men's Relationship to God and His Word

The Renewed Reality

- The evident reality of God in creation
- The convicting, humbling, and regenerating work of the Holy Spirit
- ↓
- Recognition of God's greatness and gratitude toward Him
- ↓
- A desire to know God's will in order to please Him
- ↓
- Recognition of the Bible as God's revelation
- ↓
- Understanding the Bible as the Word of God
- ↓
- Obedience to the Bible as the will of God
- ↓
- Transformation of life into the image of God

Ps. 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.