

# What is the Bible?

*Part 2: Holy Spirit Our Teacher*

3/29/26

## Easter is next Sunday

Please turn to *1 Corinthians 2:1*

### LAST WEEK:

- The Bible is our instruction manual: the truth in written form.
- It tells us about God, Who He is, what He wants, and what His plans are.
- It tells us right from wrong and gives us a chance at correction if we get off course.
- It tells us of God's past actions and what He'll do in the future.
- Gives us history of how humanity has responded to Him, whether obedience or rebellion, and the consequences thereof.
- Tell us how to live life in our relationship Him, in marriage, kids, family, at work, and with strangers.
- Breath = life and spirit. God breathed out upon the 40 authors who faithfully recorded His words.
- Has stood the test of time: major empires have spent lots of blood and treasure in the attempt to suppress, stop, and corrupt the Bible. All have failed!
- It's still the #1 bestseller and most translated book in the world! More than the Quran, a hot fiction novel, or manual.
- It's more available, cheaper, and more accurate now than ever.
- It needs to be part of our foundation as Christians.

TODAY. We've already talked about how the Bible is otherworldly, and today we'll focus on the following: **The Bible is supernaturally discerned, taught to us by the Holy Spirit.**

**Neither the heart nor the mind are sufficient to truly understand it.**

Let's start off by explaining some *different worldviews* from ancient times to modern, and how we've been influenced by them.

In ancient times, we had the **Hebrew/Israelite worldview and that of the pagan/Gentile world.**

- The Hebrew people were approached by God Who spoke to them, and they understood themselves to be His chosen people.
- He not only blessed and provided for them, but made them the “oracles of truth” as Paul states in Romans:

**[Rom 3:2 ESV]** 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with **the oracles of God.**

- “Oracles” means “utterances”...what God said.
- Thus the Israelite worldview was given to them by Yahweh God. That He was the One True God, creator of all things, and the only source of truth.
- He chose them to be the keepers & preservers of truth.

#### PAGAN WORLD VIEW.

- The pagans/Gentiles worshipped a pantheon of gods who all went by different names, but were the same set of fallen angels presenting themselves as gods.
- They impressed upon their own people their own “oracles” some of which ended up as books, rituals, traditions, and practices.

Now fast forward to the time of Gospels. By this time, a new paradigm had introduced itself that we’ll call **Greek Philosophy**. First came Socrates, then his main student Plato, then his main student Aristotle. To this day here in the 2020’s, *Aristotle’s influence over western culture is massive.*

Called “the father of western logic”, Aristotle emphasized a worldview that **threw off the supernatural and rejected any semblance of faith.** He implemented coming to truth through deductive reasoning, logic, and observable empirical evidence. In other words, he brought everything down from heaven to earth, locking out any otherworldly help—whether of God or the devil—and making human being self-reliant in their quest for knowledge.

Before all this, the Jewish people *prayed to God for truth and pagan people prayed to their gods.* Socrates, Plato, and mostly Aristotle said “you don’t need gods, just look to yourself.”

Likely influenced by Aristotle, Pontius Pilate famously says to Jesus *“What is truth?”* even though Truth was standing right in front of him.

**Here in the US, you and I were born, raised, trained, disciplined, and molded into the ways of Aristotle.**

**Our default instinct is to follow his systematic approach...**and it's not enough to truly feed from the words of life in the Bible.

**The Reformation cinched this in** for the western church. John Calvin is famously known for his "systematic theology" that many people follow to this day quite religiously.

The reason many westerners like Calvin's teaching is that their **MINDS can make sense and wrap themselves around things when we use his system.**

On the flip side, **charismatic theology tends to focus on the heart** constantly telling us how much God loves us and wants us to be happy...something our hearts will say "amen!" to.

**The Bible isn't met to feed the mind or heart, it's meant to feed our spirits.**

**The Apostle Paul went to Athens, Greece:** the center of Greek culture and philosophy. Aristotle had died 350 years earlier, and his systematic no-faith, logic only philosophy was dominant in Greek culture. Paul went there and preached the Gospel...and **it was a disaster.**

When Paul shared the Gospel to **his own Jewish people**, that Jesus was the Messiah, they demanded the **miraculous signs** prophesied from the Old Testament that would herald the coming of the same. As you well know, Jesus and His Apostles performed many signs and many of *the people still didn't believe* after witnessed the deaf hearing, mute talking, lame walking, and the dead raised.

The **Greeks were completely different** because they didn't believe in miracles and had no use for the supernatural. When Paul preached that Jesus was raised from the dead and walked around, the Greeks laughed and said that was the stupidest thing they'd ever heard. When Paul called upon them to believe in the one, true God they said they didn't any gods, they just needed their brains.

These experiences prompted Paul to say this:

**1 Corinthians 1:22-24:** "For the Jews require a sign, and the **Greeks seek after wisdom:** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks **foolishness;** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

40 miles west of Athens was a city named **Corinth**, and Paul went there after his dismal failure in Athens. By the time he gets to that church, he's feeling quite humbled and says this:

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

Paul was formerly a Pharisee and had the equivalent of what we might call **a doctorate in theology**. I glean from Acts and what he just said here that he tried to give the Greeks what they wanted: knowledge/wisdom. He tried to argue them into the kingdom with persuasive words, logical facts, evidence, and systematic theology; it didn't work. They regarded the preaching of the cross to be foolishness.

The Church at Corinth were already believers...hence being called "the church." **Yet it still contained many Greeks raised under the ways or Aristotle.**

Now that Paul has a better idea of the Greek mindset, **he comes right out of the gate with the Corinthians that their faith needs to rely upon not just God, but His POWER.**

### **Supernatural, otherworldly, power.**

- This power is Who God is and how He spoke creation into being.
- This power is how He parted the Red Sea through Moses.
- This power is what guided the rock in David's sling to Goliath's forehead.
- This power is what enabled Jesus to walk on water, calm a storm, and raise the dead back to life.
- This same power raised Jesus Himself from the dead, into a new body that death would never again have dominion over.
- This same power worked through the Apostles as they continued Jesus' work and healed the sick, cleansed lepers, cast out demons, and made paralyzed people walk.
- This same power cleanses us from all sin, seals us with God the Holy Spirit, and will someday raise us up into the air where we'll be transformed into our own resurrected bodies and be with Jesus!
- This same power will cause the Kingdom of God to cover every square inch of this planet, turning it into a Paradise.
- This same power will enthrone Jesus here on earth as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

**Our faith needs to rest—like a bird—on this power.**

**Our faith cannot rest on the “wisdom of men” and that includes our own.**

- Did God give us a brain? Yes.
- Are we meant to use it? Of course.
- Are logic, rationality, empirical evidence, and systems bad? No.

**All these things are tools in our toolbelt.** Yet our faith cannot be IN these things. These tools alone are not enough to read our Bibles and receive truth...and live it.

**[1Co 2:6-9 ESV]** 6 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.** 7 But we impart a secret and hidden **wisdom of God**, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 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**"--

Paul says the same thing as James: *there's an earthly wisdom*, like the Greek Philosophers had, then **there's a heavenly wisdom** that comes directly from God.

Look at verse 6: the **earthly wisdom is “mortal”** because it came from beings destined to die—which includes fallen angelic beings. Remember that part of their curse is God stripped them of what we'll be getting at the resurrection: eternal life. He prophesied to them in *Psalms 82:6-7* that they would die like mortals.

Being otherworldly, breathed upon by God, and coming directly from Him, the **Bible's wisdom is eternal** and recall that everything God makes eternal endures. It doesn't fade away, can't be corrupted, nor marginalized. In the heavens where the naked eye cannot see, God prepared His wisdom—truth—for those who love Him...and I love Him! How do we receive this??

**[1Co 2:10-13 ESV]** 10 these things **God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 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.** 12 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.** 13 And we impart this in words **not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit**, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

Verse 10, **God provided a Teacher**...Who is the Holy Spirit. Jesus also called Him a Teacher (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit is also an interpreter from the God-breathed words of heaven to our limited earthly spiritual ears. Just as disciples once sat around to listen to Rabbi Jesus, we do the same with the Holy Spirit when it comes to the Bible.

Verse 11: God wrote His thoughts down in the Bible, and ***no one understands His thoughts except...God...the Holy Spirit.*** Who then interprets and teaches us in a way WE can understand.

Verse 12: anyone who knows Christ as their Savior has **already received the Holy Spirit.** Paul makes it clear that He is not from this world: He's otherworldly! He enables us to UNDERSTAND the Bible.

Verse 13: **the Bible is understood through the Spirit**, and not the hearts and mind of people. Why? Because the truths and wisdom within are the supernatural thoughts of God that the limited brains and hearts of people cannot grasp.

**Now we come back to the Aristotle worldview I started this sermon with.**

- Here in the US, we are raised to study, receive, and interpret everything with our minds.
- When I went to school, the people with the highest grades were the ones who could best use the Aristotle method of gleaning knowledge.
- We use IT as our tool to receive wisdom and truth. To keep it simple, that's had one of two results in the church.

**One: intellectual Christians** who know their Bibles well, can memorize Scriptures, and have an organized systematic theology...but struggle with producing the fruit of the Spirit such as patience, compassion, and humility. Christians like this are often arrogant and snarky, holier and smarter than thou, rarely doing the business of the Kingdom and often assigning themselves the role of theology sheriff. They're the ones who claim God has called them to "bring correction to the Church."

Said Christians cut off personal relationship and one-on-one conversation with God, and are content only ***reading about Him, vs. talking TO Him and having Him talk back.***

**Two: Christians who feel inept at studying the Bible** and feel like they have to rely on others whom they deem smarter and more intellectual. They pharm out their personal time in the Scriptures and with the Holy Spirit, to others.

Here's the solution: **open up your Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you through it.**

Please don't misunderstand me: **God created and assigned offices like Pastor and Teacher** to do exactly that for others: to teach and preach the Bible.

All I'm saying is *don't deny your personal time with Him. Ask Him to help you and He will!*

**Instead of allowing your mind to teach or your heart to be the Rabbi, tell them both to sit at the feet of the true teacher, Who is God the Holy Spirit.**