

# The Wreckage and the Fire Pt 3

## FIRE IN THE WRECKAGE

*A Study of the Church at Corinth*

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### SERMON 3

#### When the Holy Ghost Walks into the Room

*We need the Spirit over sophistry - there is something in this room your philosophy cannot explain*

**1 Corinthians 2:1–16** - When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, **I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan.** <sup>2</sup> For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except **Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified.** <sup>3</sup> I came to you in **weakness**—timid and trembling.<sup>4</sup> And my message and my preaching were **very plain.** Rather than using **clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.** <sup>5</sup> I did this so you would trust not in **human wisdom but in the power of God.** <sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> **But the rulers of this world have not understood it;** if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord.<sup>9</sup> 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.”**<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> 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.**<sup>12</sup> And we have received **God’s Spirit** (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> **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. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. <sup>16</sup> 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.**

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## WHERE WE ARE

- **Sermon 1** - God planted fire in Corinth. A broken city. A willing man. An unstoppable God.
- **Sermon 2** - God dismantled human wisdom. The cross bypassed every Sophist in the room.
- **Sermon 3** - Now Paul answers the question everyone is waiting for:
  - If not human wisdom... then WHAT?
  - The answer is not a better system. It is not a better argument.
  - The answer **WALKS INTO THE ROOM.**
- His name is the Holy Spirit and everything changes when He shows up.

## THE WORD FOR THIS HOUSE TODAY:

***The Holy Spirit is not the bonus track on the album of salvation. He is the only one in the room who actually knows what God sounds like.***

## KEY WORD STUDIES

**Pneuma** (*Greek*) Spirit / breath / wind - He doesn't arrive as a thought. He arrives as breath. Room-filling. Atmosphere-changing. Life-giving.

**Apokalupsis** (*Greek*) Revelation - not information discovered. Something hidden that God pulls back the curtain on. You didn't find it. He uncovered it.

**Bathē** (*Greek*) The deep things - 1 Cor 2:10. Bathos = depth, the profound recesses. The Spirit doesn't skim the surface. He searches the deep.

**Nous** (*Greek*) Mind - v. 16. Who has known the mind of the Lord? Answer: The Spirit. And then the staggering conclusion - we have the mind of Christ.

**Ruach** (*Hebrew*) Spirit / breath / wind - Gen 1:2, hovering over chaos. The same Ruach who ordered creation moves in and through the believer. He always turns chaos into order.

**Yada** (*Hebrew*) To know - intimate, experiential. Same word for Adam knowing Eve. The Spirit

produces yada with God. Not information ABOUT God. Knowing God.

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## INTRODUCTION

### The Setup

- Two kinds of people can talk about fire.
- The person who has studied everything about fire - the chemistry, the combustion, the physics.
- And the person who is ON fire.
- Both can talk about it - **ONLY ONE OF THEM IS DANGEROUS.**
  - You can have theology and still lack thunder.
  - You can have structure and still miss the Spirit.
  - You can have creeds and still carry no conviction.
  - You can have knowledge and still have no anointing.
  - You can have sermons and still never say anything.
  - You can have form and still be void of fire.
  - You can have truth and still lack transformation.
  - You can have worship and still never touch His presence.

- You can have a crowd and still have no Kingdom impact.
- You can have religion and still be powerless.
- Because information does not intimidate hell.  
And intellect does not shake darkness.  
And systems do not set captives free.
- **Only the power of the Holy Ghost makes a believer dangerous.**
  - It is the Spirit that turns words into weapons.
  - It is the Spirit that turns truth into thunder.
  - It is the Spirit that turns a gathering into a movement.
- **Without Him, we explain God. With Him, we demonstrate Him.**
- And hell is not afraid of what you know...It trembles at what rests upon you.

So let me say it loud enough to disturb the quiet corners of comfortable Christianity...Let me say it clear enough to rattle the cages of polished religion and rehearsed spirituality...

- This is for the religious, the intellectual, the comfortable, the complacent church crowd that has learned how to sit in pews but forgotten how to stand in power...

- You have mastered the language of Zion but lost the fire of heaven.
- You can parse Greek verbs but cannot cast out a devil.
- You can debate doctrine but cannot break strongholds.
- You can quote Scripture but cannot carry His presence.
- You have information without impartation, structure without Spirit, order without oil.
- You have built systems that protect your comfort but suffocate conviction.
- You have created environments where everything is explained but nothing is transformed.
- You have reduced the Gospel to something safe, manageable, and respectable... and in doing so, you have stripped it of the very power that made it dangerous.

**Because hell is not intimidated by your intellect.  
Darkness does not retreat from your opinions.  
Demons do not bow to your education.**

- **The tragedy is not that you do not know enough...  
The tragedy is that you think what you know is  
enough.**

- You have settled for a form of godliness while denying the power that was meant to flow through your life.
- You have learned how to gather without glory, sing without surrender, preach without power, and live without fire.

### **But hear me... and hear me well...**

- **The Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.**
- Not in polished sermons. Not in perfect theology. Not in well-crafted arguments.

### **Only the Holy Ghost makes a man dangerous.**

- It is the Spirit that turns a believer into a weapon.
- It is the Spirit that turns truth into authority.
- It is the Spirit that turns a church into a threat to hell.

**So you can keep your comfort. You can keep your control. You can keep your clean, contained, predictable version of Christianity...But as for me and those who are hungry in this region...**

- We want the fire that cannot be managed.
- We want the power that cannot be explained.
- We want the presence that cannot be manufactured.

Because at the end of the day... **We are not called to impress people. We are called to make hell nervous.**

**I am personally fed up, put out, over church people who claim to know the scripture and even talk about it... So again I am going to shout for everyone. I'm going to make every religious person nervous and offend every complacent devil that sits in our church pews under stained glass windows...**

- Two kinds of people can talk about fire.
- The person who has studied everything about fire - the chemistry, the combustion, the physics.

**Both can talk about it - ONLY ONE OF THEM IS DANGEROUS - THE MAN OR WOMAN WHO IS FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST!**

**Corinth, like the modern church had both kinds of people.**

- People who were EXPERTS on spiritual things.
- And people in whom the Spirit **actually MOVED**.
- Paul draws the line between those two categories right here in chapter two.

- And the line is not drawn by education. Not by eloquence. Not by theological pedigree.

## **THE LINE IS DRAWN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

- Chapter one: Paul demolished human wisdom and sectarianism as the pathway to God.
- Chapter two: Paul reveals the alternative.

Not a better system. Not a smarter preacher. Not a more sophisticated argument. A Person.

→ **Tell your neighbor:** *You don't need a smarter preacher. You need a Spirit-filled room.*

This message is for every person who has been trying to THINK their way through something **that requires the SPIRIT.**

- Every person who has been studying about God more than they have been experiencing God.
- Every person who has substituted theological sophistication for actual encounter.

## **POINT 1: Paul Walked in Empty So the Spirit Could Walk In Full**

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

#### **He Made a Decision**

*"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." 1*

#### **Corinthians 2:1-2**

- **I decided = *ekrino* - a deliberate judicial determination.** This was not an accident.
- Paul had every intellectual weapon in his arsenal. Trained under Gamaliel. Educated at Tarsus. A pharisees of pharisees...
- He chose to set it all down.
- He chose to walk into the most sophisticated city in Greece and refuse to compete on their terms.
- That is not weakness it was and is divine strategy.
- That is what it looks like when someone has already seen what happens when you empty yourself.

## So he comes in a **CONDITION THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING**

*"And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." 1*

### **Corinthians 2:3-4**

- Weakness. Fear. Trembling. Paul is not apologizing. He is making a THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT.

The Spirit does not demonstrate when the preacher is demonstrating. The Spirit demonstrates when the preacher has stopped trying to impress and started depending on power from another dimension!

*Human strength performing for God cannot occupy the same space as **Human weakness creating space for God***

- *Apodeixis* = demonstration. A showing forth. A proof that shows up in the room.
- Not a persuasive argument. Not a compelling illustration. **A DEMONSTRATION.**

- The kind that makes people fall on their face and say - God is here.

## **THIS IS THE WORD FOR THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH:**

- We have sometimes confused the anointing with energy, volume, activity, movement, outreaches, dramas, service structures, growth strategies and performance.
- Paul says: **weakness and trembling. Not performance.**

There is a difference between a Spirit-CHARGED preacher and a Spirit-DEPENDENT preacher. The anointing does not ride the PERFORMING PREACHER - It rests on the SURRENDERED PREACHER.

### **Why It All Matters — Verse 5**

*"...so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." - 1 Corinthians 2:5*

- THIS is the entire pastoral strategy. One verse. Right here.

- If people are amazed by the messenger - their faith is resting on the messenger.
- When the messenger fails - and ALL human messengers eventually do - the faith collapses.
- Faith built on demonstration of the Spirit? That cannot collapse.

***The most dangerous thing a preacher can do is be so impressive that people never feel their need for God.***

→ **Tell your neighbor: *My faith doesn't rest on a man. My faith rests on the power of God.***

**WATCH THIS.** *Paul walked in empty. Now he tells us why - because what he was carrying could NOT be unpacked by human intelligence. It required a completely different kind of knowing.*

**POINT 2: There Is a Wisdom the World Cannot Access — and the Spirit Has the Only Key**

**1 Corinthians 2:6–10**

## Paul Reintroduces Wisdom - But Completely Redefines It

- He does not abandon wisdom here. He RELOCATES it.
- v. 6 = among the mature, we DO impart wisdom. Sophia. There it is again.
- But not the wisdom of this age. Not of the rulers of this age who are passing away.

***Sophia tou aionos = wisdom of this age* cannot occupy the same space as *Sophia en mysterio = wisdom hidden before the ages, prepared by God!***

**The most powerful political and religious minds of the first century looked at Jesus and MISSED HIM.**

- v. 8 - if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- Not because they lacked intelligence. Because they lacked the SPIRIT.

Intelligence without the Spirit cannot identify the Lord of glory standing right in front of them.

→ **Somebody say:** “Get ready this is going to be good”

**All the philosophy, all the rhetoric, all the scholarship - NONE of it can or ever will produce an encounter with the living God.**

- God looked at ALL of humanity's intellectual achievement and said: None of this is finding Me.
- So, I am sending a cross
- And then I am sending My Spirit.

## What No Eye Has Seen

*"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'" 1 Corinthians 2:9*

- Paul is quoting Isaiah 64:4. And he is not talking about heaven.
- **He is talking about NOW.** The things God has prepared for His people in THIS life.
- No eye has seen it - observation cannot get you there

- No ear has heard it - education and information cannot get you there
- No heart has imagined it - human creativity and vision cannot get you there

**STOP TRYING TO THINK YOUR WAY INTO WHAT ONLY THE SPIRIT CAN SHOW YOU.**

### The Spirit Searches the Deep Things - Verse 10

*"...these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." 1 Corinthians 2:10*

- Eraunao = searches, examines, probes thoroughly.
- Ta bathē tou theou = the DEEP things of God. The profound recesses. Not the surface theology.

**The Spirit has access to EVERYTHING in the mind of God. Not some things, and He lives in you.**

**The Spirit who searches the depths of God - lives in you. The Spirit who hovered over creation chaos -**

lives in you. The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead - lives in you.

→ **Tell your neighbor:** *I am carrying classified information. Hell cannot access what God has put inside me.*

*"The same Spirit who searches the depths of God is the same Spirit interceding through you when you don't know what to say. That is not a small thing. That is everything."*

**WATCH THIS.** *The Spirit has the key to what cannot be accessed any other way. Now Paul makes it personal - because this is about more than spiritual philosophy. This is about discernment. And what he says next changes how you see everything.*

**POINT 3: The Natural Mind Will Never Understand What the Spirit Reveals**

**1 Corinthians 2:11–15**

Two Spirits - Knowing From the Inside

*"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." 1 Corinthians 2:11*

- Nobody knows what is in you except your own spirit.
- You can observe behavior. Study words. Analyze patterns. But you cannot know THOUGHTS unless they are revealed.
- In exactly the same way - God's thoughts are unknowable from the outside.
- The ONLY one who knows what is in God is the Spirit of God - who proceeds from within the Father.

This is not just pneumatology - this is Trinitarian theology at its most practical.

- The Spirit exists in the eternal communion of Father, Son, and Spirit.
- He knows the thoughts of God the way you know your own thoughts - from the INSIDE.

**We Did Not Receive the Spirit of the World**

"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." **1 Corinthians 2:12**

*pneuma tou kosmou* = the spirit of the world. Driving worldly wisdom. Status. Achievement.

- We did NOT receive that spirit.
- We received the Spirit who is from God - the one with access to the depths.
- And the purpose: that we might understand what God has FREELY GIVEN us.

*Spirit of the world - striving for what the world calls worth having cannot occupy the same space as **Spirit of God - receiving what God has already freely given***

- Corinth was operating with the spirit of the world's metrics - status, eloquence, faction, power.

Paul says: **I have been given a DIFFERENT Spirit**

→ **Somebody say: I have been given a DIFFERENT Spirit**

## The Natural Person Cannot Receive These Things

*"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." **1 Corinthians 2:14***

Psychikos = THE SOULISH PERSON. Operating purely from human faculty.

Ou dechetai = REFUSES TO RECEIVE. Cannot take hold of. Rejects.

- This is not about intelligence. Paul is being DIAGNOSTIC, not arrogant.
- A person born without eyes cannot perceive color - not because color is not real. Because the faculty is absent.
- The faculty for perceiving the things of God IS the Spirit.
- This is why Corinth's intellectual factions could not solve Corinth's spiritual problems.

- **You cannot philosophize your way out of a spiritual crisis. You cannot debate your way into divine revelation.**

**YOU NEED MORE THAN A GOOD ARGUMENT. YOU NEED A GOD WHO SENDS HIS SPIRIT.**

**WATCH THIS.** *After all that, after establishing what the Spirit knows, what the natural mind cannot access, what the world's wisdom is incapable of - Paul drops the most staggering verse in the chapter. And you need to be seated for this one.*

**POINT 4: You Have the Mind of Christ — Now It Is Time to Use It**

**1 Corinthians 2:16**

**The Most Audacious Statement in the Letter**

*"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ." **1***

**Corinthians 2:16**

- Paul opens with Isaiah 40:13 — Who has known the mind of the Lord?
- Expected Jewish answer: No one. God's ways are higher. His thoughts unreachable.
- And then Paul pivots on one word.

**BUT!**

- But we have the MIND OF CHRIST.

Nous Christou = the mind, the understanding, the perspective of the Messiah Himself.

- This is not metaphor. This is not motivational language. This is a theological declaration. Because the Spirit searches the depths of God and dwells in the believer.
- The believer has access, THROUGH the Spirit, to the mind of Christ.

**What It Means - And What It Indicts** - To have the mind of Christ means:

- You have access to wisdom that cannot be purchased, debated, or inherited

- You have capacity to see situations and people from the divine perspective
- You are NOT limited to what your natural mind can figure out

**To have the mind of Christ and still operate from the wisdom of the world - THAT is the Corinthian sin.**

- They had the Spirit and were still forming status clubs.
- They had the Spirit and were still following cult personalities.
- They had the Spirit and were still relying on sophisticated Greek rhetoric.
- They had the Spirit and were still living immorally.
- They had the Spirit and were still fighting with each other.
- They had the Spirit and were still going to the prostitutes to gratify fleshly desires.

**Like many in the Church today - They had the mind of Christ but were using the mind of world to determine their lifestyles and mindsets!**

*Mind of Corinth - who has the most impressive preacher cannot occupy the same space as **Mind of Christ - who is the weakest person in the room** | Mind of Corinth - who wins the argument cannot occupy the same space as **Mind of Christ - where is God moving right now***

### **This Is the Antidote to Every Division in Chapter One**

- I am of Paul - that is the mind of Corinth.
  - The mind of Christ says: I am of the cross.
- I am of Apollos - that is the mind of Corinth.
  - The mind of Christ says: I am of the One Apollos preaches.
- I am of Cephas - that is the mind of Corinth.
  - The mind of Christ says: I am of the One Cephas follows.
- I am of Pastor Shane – that is the mind of Corinth.

- The mind of Christ says: I am of the One Cephas follows.

**The mind of Christ does not build FACTIONS. The mind of Christ does not measure people by their PLATFORM. THE MIND OF CHRIST BUILDS THE BODY.**

**→ Tell your neighbor:** *I don't want the mind of my denomination. I don't want the mind of my culture. I want the mind of Christ.*

***"The Spirit didn't come to make you smarter about God. He came to make you one with the God you are learning about."***

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## **CONCLUSION**

### **Three Things That Happened in This Passage**

- Paul walked in EMPTY - and the Spirit filled what human performance would have occupied.

- The Spirit revealed what NO natural mind can access - the deep things of God.
- We have been given the mind of CHRIST - and we are without excuse for operating from the mind of the world.

**Corinth had the Spirit and was STILL living like Corinth. The modern church has the Spirit, and is STILL living like the culture.**

- The gift has been given. The question is whether you are using it.
- You can be Spirit-filled and still be spiritually shallow.
- The filling is not the finish line — it is the starting line.

**The Spirit was given so you would NEVER have to face another moment with only human resources.**

**Heaven has given you everything you need. Hell has no answer for a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, Spirit-**

**dependent believer. The Holy Ghost is in the room.  
The question is - are you?**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN THE ROOM RIGHT NOW AND  
EVERYTHING IS ABOUT TO CHANGE.**

**→ Somebody say:** *I will not let the wisdom of the world  
be louder in my life than the voice of the Holy Spirit.*

**→ Somebody say:** *Holy Spirit - search the deep things  
of God on my behalf. I cannot find what I need without  
You.*

**The strongest one - save it for last - have them stand  
for this one:**

**→ Somebody say:** *I have the mind of Christ. I renounce  
the mind of the world. I will think, discern, and decide  
from His perspective - starting today.*

**THE ALTAR IS OPEN**

- Every person relying on human wisdom to navigate a spiritual situation - come.

- Every person who has quenched the Spirit because of what people might think - come.
- Every person who has had the mind of Christ available and has been using the mind of their culture - come.

### **Closing = Benediction**

- FATHER - You are the source. We return to You as the only one who knows the way forward.
- SON - You are the Lord of glory the rulers of this age did not recognize. We crown You Lord in this room, right now.
- HOLY SPIRIT - You search the depths of God and You live in us. Search us. Reveal to us. Fill us again.
- Father. Son. Spirit. Have Your way in this house. In Jesus' name - Amen.