

WE ARE DEPENDENT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT - 1 COR. 2

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INTRODUCTION

Recap from 1 Cor. 1

Remember this is a letter with no chapter divisions. Paul wrote like we would write an email or letter, as he poured out his heart to these believers. He was addressing pastoral issues, church division, moral issues & some other questions they had raised.¹

1 Cor. 1:27

God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; the weak things to shame the strong; the lowly & despised things; the things that are nothing, to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

1 Cor. 2:1-5

When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God: For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ & him crucified: I came to you in weakness with great fear & trembling: My message & my preaching were not with wise & persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The three P's – 'God's Personal Presence and Power' with us

John 1:14

The Word became flesh & blood, & moved into the neighbourhood. (The Message)

WE ARE DEPENDENT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR ...

1) SALVATION

Ephesians 2:8

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith; & this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast.

1 Cor. 12:3

Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed", & no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

John 3: 5-7

No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water & the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit...

When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at & touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see & touch & becomes a living spirit. (The Message)

2) FOR HOLINESS

Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit. (NLT)

¹ All Bible references are NIV unless otherwise stated.

Each Christian has all the Spirit, but the command here is that the Spirit have all of him. The wise walk, then, is one that is characterized by the Holy Spirit's control. (IVP Bible Knowledge Commentary)

3) FOR UNITY

1 Cor. 2:12

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God; so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

1 Cor. 12:13

We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body; whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free; & we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Ephesians 4:3-6

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body & one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God & Father of all, who is over all & through all & in all.

4) FOR WITNESS (MISSION)

1 Cor. 2:2-5

For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified: I came to you in weakness; timid & trembling. And my message & my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever & persuasive speeches I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God. (NLT)

Acts 1:8

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; & you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, & in all Judea & Samaria & to the ends of the earth.

John 15:26-27

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

WRAP UP

1) SALVATION: *We are dependent on the Spirit as he convicts us of our sin & need of saving; he brings us to confession & to new birth in Christ: without the work of the Holy Spirit no one can come to salvation.*

2) HOLINESS: *We are dependent on the Holy Spirit for holiness; he is at work in us, producing evidence (fruit) of Christ's nature in us; transforming us; making us holy & more like Jesus every day.*

3) UNITY: *We are dependent on the Holy Spirit for unity: through salvation all believers have been given the one Spirit; not the spirit of the world, differing wisdom, values, or division; but a spirit of unity; the one Spirit of God.*

4) WITNESS: *We are dependent on the Holy Spirit for our witness: Christ sent his Holy Spirit to empower us as witnesses: to testify to Jesus & to his salvation; not with clever or persuasive speech, but with the power of the Holy Spirit.*

WHAT PART DO I PLAY?

'Work out your salvation with fear & trembling': Your actions, lifestyle & devotion to God demonstrate that your faith is genuine.

Surrender every part of your life to Christ, thereby empowering his Holy Spirit to work in you; to transform you; to make you holy & more like Jesus

Empowered by the Spirit, be a witness to Christ: talk to people; pray for people; live like a follower of Christ

Rom 10:14-15

And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go & tell them without being sent? (NLT)

We are all sent, empowered by the Spirit, dependent on him for our salvation, holiness, unity & witness.