

# So far, we have studied

- The wisdom of God is made known by revelation only and communicated to others by inspiration via the Holy Spirit.
- Now we are going to look at the reception of the truth which is also by the Spirit of God.

<sup>14</sup>*“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”*

### **The Natural Man:**

1. Natural World System only
2. Life lived solely on the Material Plane
3. Any Person who does not possess the Holy Spirit

### **Factors:**

1. Heredity
2. Social and Religious Training
3. Environment

# What are the **deficiencies** of the natural man?

1. He “*does not **accept** the things of the Spirit of God.*”
  - **He does not welcome or appreciate what is said**
2. He is **without** the Holy Spirit
  - **He cannot welcome spiritual things**
3. **He is a law unto himself.** Romans 2:14-15

## **Foolishness:** (moros); *silliness, i.e. absurdity*

- *1 Corinthians 1:18 (NASB) <sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

**Appraised** *properly to scrutinize,*  
it was used of **investigating evidence in a judicial proceeding and arriving at a conclusion.**

- With the Holy Spirit absent, one does not have the ability to investigate and conclude correctly in the spiritual realm.

<sup>15</sup> *“But he who is **spiritual appraises** all things,  
yet he himself is appraised by no man.”*

## Who is the Spiritual Man

- Indwelling alone does not make a spiritual Christian.
- Being spiritual implies a **condition in which a man is under the control of the Spirit.**
- He is the man or woman who is indwelled and **controlled by the Holy Spirit.**

**1 Cor. 3:16 and 1 Cor:3:1**

# The Characteristics of the Spiritual Man

1. The believer who rests in his position rather than his condition
2. He is fully assured of **1 Peter 3:18 (NASB)**
3. By simple faith in the facts, he acknowledges his place in Christ who is his life **Heb. 1:3**
4. He knows his sins to be purged once for all, his conscience is thereby clear. **Heb. 10:2**

**The spiritually minded believer is conscious of sin in him, but he is fully assured that there is no sin on him; all his sin has been laid upon the Lord Jesus.**

# **The mark of a spiritual man is that:**

**He judges of things according to God and not according to man.**

**A man is not controlled by the Spirit if he acts out of nature.**

**It is the act therefore that indicates what is within.**

- **Faith is only shown by works, and the works tell out the real nature of the faith.**
- **The conduct is the evidence of the power which is dominant.**
- **If the flesh is not held in the place of death by the consistent working of the Cross applied by the Spirit, there will be an acting in the flesh.**

# **In order to judge of things according to God,**

- We must set aside the suggestions of nature and inquire how the Word of God would lead; and this is faith, and not sight or feelings.**
- It is faith that guides and motivates the spiritual man.**
- Faith looks to God, sees His mind and accepts it, not only as the best, however improbable to nature.**



*<sup>16</sup> For who has known the mind of the LORD, that **he** should instruct him? But **we** have the mind of Christ.*

## Syllogism

**Major premise:** All men are human

**Minor premise:** All humans are mortal

**Conclusion:** All men are mortal

**Major premise** No one can instruct God

**Minor premise** We have God's mind

**Conclusion** No one can instruct us

It is by God's grace that we possess His Word

True wisdom is God's wisdom

How can those who reject that word instruct those who possess it?

**In verse 14** the Apostle speaks of the natural man,

**In verse 15** Paul speaks of the spiritual man, “*the spiritual discerns all things*”.

**In verse 16** The Lord has given to believers His Spirit and instructs them; such can therefore say, “*We have the mind of Christ*”.

- If the first chapter shuts out the flesh in its pride of birth and power and position, so that he that will glory, glories in the Lord,
- Chapter 2 shuts out the mind of man, so that believers may be let into the privilege of having “*the mind of Christ*” through the Spirit.

## The Spirit is the great theme of chapter 2.

- ❑ If Paul brings the testimony of God to sinners, it is “*in demonstration of the Spirit and of power*” (verse 4).
- ❑ If God has prepared great blessings for those who love Him, they are revealed to the apostles by the Spirit (verse 10).
- ❑ The things that are revealed by the Spirit are fully known to the Spirit (verses 10 and 11).
- ❑ The things revealed and known to the apostles are, through them, communicated to others by the Spirit (verse 13).
- ❑ The things communicated by the apostles are received by the Spirit not by the natural man (verse 14),
- ❑ The result being that believers are, through the Spirit, instructed in the mind of Christ (verse 16).

“...do this, in remembrance of Me.”



## 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.