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1 Corinthians 2:1-16

1 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. 2 For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. 4 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. 5 I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God. 6 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. 7 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. 8 But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. 9 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.” 10 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. 11 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. 12 And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. 13 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. 14 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. 15 Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. 16 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.

1. **SIMPLICITY AND CLARITY IN TEACHING (1 Corinthians 2:1-5):**

When sharing the Word of God, keep it simple and clear, like Paul did with the Corinthians. Focus on the main message of Christ's crucifixion for salvation. This way, everyone can understand and accept it easily.

* 1. How can we ensure that our teaching remains simple and clear without compromising the depth of biblical truths?
  2. In what ways can we communicate the message of salvation effectively to diverse audiences, considering varying levels of familiarity with Scripture?

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1. **DEPENDENCY ON THE POWER OF GOD (1 Corinthians 2:6-13):**

Both teachers and those listening to the Word need to trust in God's power. Teachers shouldn't just rely on their own abilities or techniques but should depend on God's strength. Similarly, listeners should humbly seek the Holy Spirit's help to understand spiritual truths completely.

* 1. How can teachers cultivate a greater dependency on God's power in their preparation and delivery of sermons or teachings?
  2. What practices or attitudes can help individuals approach Scripture with humility and openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance?

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1. **SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT AND TRANSFORMATION (1 Corinthians 2:14-16):**

To teach and understand the Word well, it's important to focus on recognizing spiritual truths and letting them change us. Teachers should highlight how the Holy Spirit helps us understand God's wisdom, while listeners should aim to grow spiritually and think and act more like Christ.

* 1. How can we encourage believers to cultivate spiritual discernment in their personal study of Scripture?
  2. What practical steps can individuals take to align their thinking and behavior more closely with the mind of Christ, as revealed in Scripture?

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