



January 14, 2018 Discussion Guide

Contrast: *The Holy Spirit*

I Corinthians 2

Introduction:

In Acts 18 you can read the account of how Paul went about planting a church in the city of Corinth. God did miraculous things through Paul for sure – but there is no record of miracles performed during his 18 months in Corinth. Paul seems to be saying in I Corinthians that the demonstration of the Spirit’s power that took place in his ministry, was the power demonstrated in the Gospel message he preached about Jesus. The Holy Spirit speaks powerfully through God’s truth, as he helps people understand and accept that message. God’s truth is powerful as it is super-charged by the Holy Spirit! Read I Corinthians chapter 2 together.

Discussion Questions

1. What has been your understanding of the Holy Spirit throughout your life? Why do you think we talk less about him than we do God the Father and Jesus the Son of God?
2. If you became a Christian as an adult, do you remember when reading the Bible suddenly or gradually started clearing up for you? Or perhaps you still struggle with comprehension of scripture. Do you ever sense additional help coming from the Holy Spirit in making a scripture suddenly come clear to you?
3. Read John 16:5-15. A name Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit who lives within us, is “Comforter” or “Helper”. Does the Holy Spirit bring comfort and help to you in any way? Can you describe what that is like? When and how is that comfort extended to you?
4. Another name Jesus uses for his Spirit is “Spirit of Truth.” How does the Holy Spirit help you to discern truth and error in spiritual matters? Do you have an experience or two of when that has happened?



5. The Apostle Paul states that the Holy Spirit brings about character changes in our lives. The Holy Spirit within us helps us exhibit more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Galatians 5:22-23 How many of these qualities do you see growing within you over the years?

6. In Romans chapter 8:14, Paul speaks of being “led by the Spirit.” The Holy Spirit doesn’t just mark us as sons and daughters of God, he steers us through our days – if we are looking for his guidance. How does the push of the Holy Spirit help to guide you through the day? How does he keep you on track in following Christ? How do you know when a thought or compulsion has its source in the Holy Spirit?

8. If you are presently a follower of Christ, are you aware of the Holy Spirit in your life? What could or should you be doing to raise that level of awareness? Do you know what his “voice” sounds like in your heart and mind? Describe that. If not, what needs to happen in your life to become more tuned into the Spirit of God?

Moving Forward: *In closing, read Jesus’ words in John 7:37-39. Spend some time praying together, that the Holy Spirit be more active and involved in your daily life. Along with that, pray that this “spring of living water” will spill out of you in such a way as to mark your life with a wonderful contrast for everyone to see.*