

Cell notes, week beginning 3 April 2016

## THE SPIRIT SPEAKS

### 1 Corinthians 2: 1-16

#### LAUNCH

Earthly wisdom and Godly wisdom are increasingly at odds. For a bit of fun you might like to see if the group can guess who made the quotes in the Quotes Quiz at the end of these notes. (If you want to go hi-tech there's a PowerPoint also attached.) Which ones might be Godly? Which definitely aren't...?

#### DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

Paul says in verses 4 and 5: 'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.' Do we sometimes let our faith rest on 'men's wisdom' rather than the Spirit's power? Think about how we may tell one from the other.

The Spirit is far more effective in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ than we are; but does that mean we shouldn't use our intellect at all when we proclaim the Gospel or speak into people's lives? Indeed if the Spirit can do a far better job than we can, do we even need to study Scripture?

How does the Spirit speak into situations? How do we get through to the 'non-spiritual' person described in v14?

What is the 'secret wisdom' that the Spirit reveals? Is the 'secret wisdom' just that a good man died and came back to life? What else lies behind that secret? (*If you need some prompts, think about Jesus' character and wisdom revealed in some of things he says and does, the love of God, the message of salvation.*)

The Spirit bears fruit in our lives. How does the character of Jesus line up with that fruit? (The checklist is in Galatians 5:22-23: 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance [*other translations say 'patience'*], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law'.)

The scripture here says 'the *fruit* of the Spirit *is* love, joy, peace... etc', often misquoted as the *fruits* of the Spirit *are*...' The singular version is clearly what is meant; why do you think this is? Think about how the meaning might be changed by thinking of 'fruits' rather than 'fruit'.

#### APPLICATION

Ask God to enable the group to speak his word with the power of the Spirit. Pray too for wisdom: *James 1 v5: If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

Quotes quiz:

Who said the following?

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.

*Confucius*

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

*Mahatma Gandhi*

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.

*Mother Teresa*

It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but even more to stand up to your friends.

*J. K. Rowling*

A horse is dangerous at both ends and uncomfortable in the middle.

*Ian Fleming (author of the James Bond novels)*

If you try and take a cat apart to see how it works, the first thing you have on your hands is a non-working cat.

*Douglas Adams (author of the Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy etc)*

I can resist everything except temptation.

*Oscar Wilde*

It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

*Jesus*

Football is a simple game. Twenty-two men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans always win.

*Gary Lineker*

The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.

*Billy Graham*

I'm very fond of women; I admire them. But, like all men, I don't understand them.

*Frank Sinatra*

*On being accused of being drunk by Bessie Braddock (or was it Lady Astor? No-one seems quite sure!):*

My dear you are ugly, but tomorrow I shall be sober and you will still be ugly

*Winston Churchill*

In politics stupidity is not a handicap.

*Napoleon Bonaparte*

When somebody challenges you, fight back. Be brutal, be tough.

*Donald Trump*

If you want something said, ask a man...if you want something done, ask a woman.

*Margaret Thatcher*

My friends, as I have discovered myself, there are no disasters, only opportunities. And, indeed, opportunities for fresh disasters.

*Boris Johnson*

We cannot, of course, disprove God, just as we can't disprove Thor, fairies, leprechauns and the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

*Richard Dawkins*

The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'

*David (Psalm 14)*