

# 1 Corinthians 2:6-13 || Ep. 919 The Secret to Understanding the Bible

Dwelling Richly Podcast – Summer 2024

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[This is an unedited transcript]

Today we are going to talk about the absolute most incredible, most incredible secret to understanding the understanding the Bible.

I'll just tell you a hint. It's not a secret, but it's something that's so important for us to understand. I'm excited to talk to you about this today.

As always, I would love to hear from you if you have questions, if you have a comment, if you'd like to engage with me more, please go over to my website, and look for the podcast page and engage with me there. Or if you're listening on a podcast right now, on YouTube or Spotify, wherever it is, Apple, leave me a butterfly there. I would love to hear from you and want to engage better with you, answer your questions. I'm going to be doing a series later on this summer about that, but right now, I'm super excited to get into the Word with you today.

We just finished going through the epistle First John, and prior to that, we were moving through several different passages. The whole point of this series this summer has been to get us into the idea of how to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, what it looks like, how doing the word and letting the Bible, letting the word of God dwell in us richly, is so different than just reading the Bible or reading a devotional with Bible passages. Those can be beneficial. Obviously, we want to read the word, and obviously, helping you understand the word, like maybe a devotional might do, but just reading the word ends up being like a checklist to do, and just spending your time in devotionals doesn't really train you to actually read and love God's Word on your own, which is the whole reason why God wrote you the word.

I should clarify that the word of God is not written to you, it's not written to me, but it's written for you. It's written for me, and we're benefiting from it. So we want to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. We want to return the favor by dwelling in the word and not just doing Bible study, not just simply reading it, but moving into the word with our heart and our soul and our mind and our strength, right? It's about being intentional, making that shift. Don't just let it happen, but really be intentional. Make a shift from treating God's word like it was some self-help book to letting it dwell in us like the living Word of God that it actually is.

So that's what we're doing. Today I'm excited because we're going to talk about what I have felt like is, well, the secret, I guess, to understanding the Bible, but it's just right there. It's in God's word. Again, we have been moving through a particular book of the Bible. Today we are going to move through several different passages from the Bible. So get your Bible ready, open it up, and get ready to hop around with me, or just simply listen and apply and engage with me as I talk to you about this.

Again, please, please, please, I would love to hear from you, hear your questions, ideas, thoughts, and any other comments that you have about this, in particular questions you have about what makes Bible study difficult and when it's a challenge to how do you get over that to making it doable? I want you in the Word. I want to be in the Word. So I want to hear from you what's been a challenge for you, and then what has helped or what remains a challenge for you, and you would love to hear some ways to move forward.

Okay, here we go. The idea today is to really accept the beautiful gift that we have been given in the Holy Spirit. When you said yes to Jesus, when you said, I do, Lord, I follow you. I acknowledge you as the Lord and Savior of my life. You are the Son of God. I need you. I confess my need for you. I confess my sins to you, and I pray, Lord, that you would be the Lord of my life. Thank you for that. The Bible is very clear that when we declare, when we receive Him as our Savior, He gives us eternal life. The package deal with that is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If you go all the way back throughout the Bible, from the beginning, literally, the beginning, we see God, the Father, and his Spirit hovering. Then throughout the Bible, we see His Holy Spirit coming down and indwelling with people for a specific group of people for a specific time. We see this in the Torah, through Moses's writings, how God dwelt in and His Spirit came down upon the people, a select group of people, to help Moses lead, and gave them wisdom and

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understanding, and over poured in that time. Then we see the coming and going of the Holy Spirit throughout the Old Testament.

In particular, probably a verse you maybe have heard of, it's in Psalm 51. It's when David is crying out to God. He wants God to be with him. He doesn't want to lose the Holy Spirit. He says, "Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me." So this is Psalm 51 verse 11. David had the Holy Spirit. He sinned a great transgression against God, and he says, "Don't take your Holy Spirit from me." He needs that Holy Spirit for wisdom and understanding, which he has been the blessed recipient of as he's moved through his life in spite of his sin.

Then we move into the New Testament, and Jesus says to His disciples that the Holy Spirit is going to teach you. He's talking to His disciples in the very hour what you ought to say. In other words, don't worry about what you're going to say. You're going to be dealing with some pretty difficult, challenging situations. But in Luke chapter 12, verse 12, and before that as well, Jesus is talking to his disciples, and he's saying, "Hey, they're going to bring you before the synagogue and the rulers and the authorities. Don't worry. Don't be anxious about how you're going to defend yourself or what you're going to say. The Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you're going to say." What an incredible gift, what a blessing.

So as you're listening here today, I want you to be reminded of that and say, "Wow, that's right. I have that Holy Spirit," kind of an if-then thing, "If This Then That." If you have accepted Christ, if you have acknowledged Him as your Lord and Savior, if you have prayed and said, "Jesus, you're the Lord of my life, I'm not the Lord of my life. You're my Savior. I can't save myself. You're holy. I'm sinful. I receive you and acknowledge you." If you have prayed and accepted Christ as your Savior and Lord, you have the Holy Spirit. That's the if, then, if this, then that. You have the Holy Spirit. What a beautiful gift and blessing that is.

So we can pray with confidence and know that we are understood by God, and that we can speak with confidence in any situation that we have, because we have the Holy Spirit. That means we can also understand the Bible. In John chapter 16, verse 13, Jesus says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak, and He will declare to you all things that are to come." This is the promise that God has given us through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit now that dwells within us. We have that wisdom, we have that understanding. As you open up your Bible, if you're reading through Proverbs, we talked about that earlier in the summer, maybe you're reading Psalms and you're going through a chapter a day. We talked about that earlier in the series. Go back to those. Maybe you've selected another book of the Bible to read. You can read with confidence that the Holy Spirit will teach you, encourage you.

As you're opening up the Word of God, clear away in your mind anything that you might say or think that would put up a resistance to understanding. For example, you might approach the Bible and say, "I just don't know what to read." You could say, as you open the Bible, "Thank you, God, for directing me to what I should be reading and understanding in your word." And then, of course, you're not going to be irresponsible in that. You're not just going to randomly open up the Bible and just pick and choose verses out of context. We've already talked about how to read with responsibility, and we'll talk about that later, about reading with responsibility. But as you go to the Bible, you can say, instead of saying, "I don't know what to read," replace it with, "Thank you for guiding me into your word." Just be thankful immediately as you enter the word.

Now, as you're reading the word, you might think, "I don't know if I'm going to understand this or what if I get it wrong." Replace that thinking with, "Thank you, God, for your Holy Spirit. Thank you for giving me wisdom and understanding." Listen to what Paul wrote in First Corinthians, chapter two, and I'm going to go ahead and back up and give you the context, starting in verse six of chapter two. He said, "Sure, we do impart wisdom. Okay, you're mature. I'm going to talk to you like you're a mature person, although it is not a wisdom of this age or the rulers of this age who are doomed to pass away, but we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of

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the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, what no eye has seen

nor ear heard nor heart of man, imagine what God has prepared for those who love Him. These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God."

Do you see this? You're praying, you're going to the Bible, you're saying, "Okay, God, I don't know if I'm going to get this right." Replace that with, "Thank you, Holy Spirit, for giving me understanding." And then go and dig into the Word, because the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. That's what we have in us, friends. Isn't that exciting? I get excited about that. We have that.

So as you're approaching Bible reading, maybe you think, "I don't have time for this." You have to replace that thinking. Replace the negative, non-biblical, unfaithful thinking, those doubts that don't come from God, replace that with truth. So you say, "I don't have time." Say, "Thank you, God, for the opportunity to be in your word. I have exactly the right amount of time to be in your word right now and to read the passage that you have for me to read."

Just change your thinking. Change your attitude. Move into this and dwell in the Word of God and in the Spirit of God who is here to help us. It's just so beautiful. Again, going back to First Corinthians, chapter two, and I'm going to finish up this passage that Paul wrote, and this is chapter two, and I went through verses 6 through 10, and this is verse 11. "For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now, we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God."

There it is. That's the secret. But it's not really a secret. It's right there. It's right there. You have the Spirit of God in you. We impart this in words not taught by human wisdom, but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

Friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, that's you. You are spiritual. You are in Christ. The Holy Spirit is in you. So when you're approaching the Bible, you're approaching the very words of God written for you, you can do so with confidence, knowing that the Holy Spirit is going to give you exactly what you need to understand from that passage. Even if it might be confusing at first, thank God. Just thank Him for the understanding and keep moving through.

I'm so thankful that we have this time together. I'm so thankful that we get to be in God's Word together. So I hope this has encouraged you today to move into God's Word with confidence, with joy, knowing that we have the Holy Spirit and He is giving us exactly what we need. So as we close out our time together, let's pray. Let's thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for this time together.

Dear Heavenly Father, we are so grateful for your love for us. We're so grateful that you have not left us alone, but you have given us the beautiful gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you, Jesus, for the sacrifice that you made on the cross for us. Thank you for giving us eternal life through you and through your resurrection. And thank you, God, that you have given us the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, to teach us, to encourage us, to remind us of the things that you have taught us. Help us, God, to be faithful in our reading of the word. Help us to be faithful and diligent and joyful and confident that we can understand what you have given us in the Bible. Thank you, God, for this time together. We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Alright, my friends, thank you so much for being here with me today. I pray that you are encouraged and blessed as you go into your week. Don't forget to engage with me. I would love to hear from you. Please go over to [JenniferGRichmond.com](http://JenniferGRichmond.com).

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Look for the podcast page. Drop me a note there. I would love to engage with you more. Have a great week. God bless you, and I'll see you next time.