



## Famous Chapter 2's of The New Testament

What if a person came to you and said their words were from God? Would you believe them? Conversely, what if you thought God spoke to you in authority. What if the rulers in the church world did not believe you, what then? Welcome to the world of Paul the Apostle. This is a man who came up within the ranks of the leading spiritual men of his day. He was a pharisee: a teacher of the Law of Moses. Many of these students were required to memories the whole Old Testament. The Bible and God was their lives. He probably also could have been considered a Biblical theologian. Paul was considered a very smart man. A man on the Jewish religious rise.

Why is 1 Corinthians 2 famous? Is it because Paul wrote it? Here is the rub. Paul may have written it, but he contends that God gave him the words to speak. I doubt Paul would be impressed that his writing made the Bible. He considered himself just a humble servant of the Lord Jesus. It did not start out that way. This chapter begins with an admission that Paul is still a student of Jesus. The first two verses give us some really humbling words. Remember, that Paul was a star in the Jewish world. He was the main man killing Christians in the name of God. Yet, Jesus came upon him and changed his world upside down. The star fell. Paul now comes to his readers in a different light.

I do suspect that Paul may have witnessed Jesus death. However, if not, then I do think he knew the story. He had heard the rumors of Jesus rising from the dead. So, when Jesus confronts him on the Damascus road it must have been shocking. For this we get verse 2 of 1 Corinthians 2

*“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”*

Paul had to throw out all he knew. Why? Because in his world A dead Jesus could not teach him. That all changed when he met the risen Jesus. Now the star student Paul is humble before God and men. He only speaks what Jesus gives him through the spirit. Hence, we gain much of the new Testament.

This chapter is famous because it gives us an outline of how God works within us. How can the Spirit of God speak to us and through us? Let’s break this into three parts. The first is found within the first 9 verses. Only those who have encountered Jesus can speak his words. The mark of a Jesus speaker is humility, humbleness, and fear. Fear of making a mistake with the given word of God. Yet, if we claim to speak for God then we must know who sent it. Paul mentions that the “perfect” can hear it. These are Christians. They are not perfect but that word implies they are Gods children. Secondly, Paul mentions that the “princes” cannot understand. They are the rulers of the world. Possibly even the religious rulers of the day. So, God speaks intelligible words to those who believe. How? Through Paul?

The second part answers the “yes” and “no” answer. Paul does believe he speaks for God. Yet, it’s in how he speaks is the second answer. 1 Corinthians 2:10 “these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.” Christians understand that the Spirit of God dwells within them. It’s a mark of a believer. Paul was not raised to believe that as a Pharisee. Yet, through Jesus teachings Paul knows how this Christian thing works. How? I am betting that Paul came across John the Apostle at one time or another. Listen to John in chapter 14 of his gospel *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world*

*cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

Those words of John are eerily similar to Paul’s words here in 1 Corinthians 2. Paul gets it. This chapter re-confirms how God reaches us. Jesus died and sent us a helper to understand God deeper. This helper (the Holy Spirit) searches the depths of God for understanding and wisdom. Paul goes on and on about receiving the Spirit not of this world. That only believers can understand.

Lastly, I want to double back to Paul’s opening comments. Who speaks for God? It’s not the rich of this world. It’s not those who think they are Gods second in command. Sometimes Christian leaders take the word farther than it should go. The church is said to be Jesus church. Then he is the one who directs it. Speaks for it. This chapter pleads with us to understand that the word from the Lord is just that: from the Lord. We are given what the Spirit gives. Yet, we should remain in fear of using or speaking it wrongly. It will end this lesson with this.

1 Corinthians 2:16 “or, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.” It harkens back to verse 2. All we should know Jesus the Crucified. The good news gospel is that he has risen. That he sent an advocate to help us speak and teach the word of God. This chapter lays this out perfectly.