

## Lesson 6 – The Illumination of the Spirit: Penetrating Light in a Dark World

**Text:** I Corinthians 2:13-15

**Theme:** The Holy Spirit illumines the truth and provides guidance of God for the benefit of believers.

**Introduction:** Have you ever been in total darkness? Do you remember how much you were dependent on any light that may have been available to illuminate that darkness? Illumination occurs when light shines on a subject and now you can understand it or see it better.

The Holy Spirit has a two-fold ministry to us concerning the Word of God. He inspired the Word of God (II Peter 1:20-21). He oversaw the process whereby men of God with different personalities and writing styles were used in their own unique way to say exactly what the Holy Spirit wanted them to say. He inspired Scripture. The Holy Spirit also illuminates Scripture. He sheds light on the subject of Scripture and makes it understandable for a believer

- I. Mandate for Spiritual Illumination – Why is it necessary?
  - A. Spiritual illumination is necessary for us to understand God’s Word.
  - B. The unbeliever is blinded to the truths of Scripture (II Cor. 4:3-4).
  - C. It is the work of the **Holy Spirit** that makes the Word of God understandable (I Cor. 2:13-15).
  - D. Caution: You can have the Holy Spirit as resident in your life, but immaturity or carnality can dim your spiritual vision. You can put a shade on the Light of the Holy Spirit by not walking in faith.
- II. Mystery of Spiritual Illumination – Why is it so important?
  - A. God has given the Bible as the key to a successful life; we better understand it (Ps. 1:1-3).
  - B. God’s wisdom is **different** than the world’s wisdom (Eccl 12:12-13; I Cor. 2:6-8).
  - C. You can get the world’s wisdom without the Holy Spirit (education, internet, a guru in the Himalayas, etc.) but you won’t get something of lasting value apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - D. God’s wisdom is a mystery – In the NT sense it is information that is available, but yet unknown (I Cor. 2:7-8). Example: The idea of the Church was a mystery in the OT until it was revealed in the NT.
  - E. Application: If you want Spiritual counsel, don’t go to somebody who doesn’t know the Spirit of God who is the illuminator of God’s Wisdom.
- III. Ministry of Spiritual Illumination – How does it work?
  - A. Spiritual Discernment
    - If you want to know God, you must have the Spirit reveal him to you (Jn. 16:12-14; I Cor. 2:10). God wants to give you wisdom (James 1:5).
    - Bible Study is finding out what the Bible says, what it means and how it should be applied in my life.
    - Our problem is not lack of knowledge but rather lack of **application** of God’s Word to our lives.
  1. The Parameters of Discernment – Between the covers of the Bible. The Holy Spirit will never tell you something contrary to Scripture no matter

how much peace you have about the matter or what you saw or what “word of knowledge” you may think you got. Spiritual discernment deals with applying the content of God’s Word to the situations of life.

2. The Process of Illumination (I Jn. 2:20, 27)
  - a) All believers have been anointed – the Spirit-given capacity to know & understand God’s truth.
  - b) You don’t need teachers to teach you how to approach life from a non-Christian perspective. Let the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit in your own life guide you into all truth.
  - c) The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and guides you into right and away from wrong. Are you listening? Are you following?
  - d) We don’t have a “chapter and verse” for every situation, but we do have principles and examples and standards, etc given to us in Scripture that can be used by the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom for any situation.
3. The Power of Discernment (Jn 14:26).
  - a) The Holy Spirit is like the “**search engine**” who is used of God to bring back to our remembrance spiritual truths we have learned in the past that we need for today.
  - b) Have you put anything in the files of your heart for the Holy Spirit to search when He is trying to bring spiritual truth to your remembrance?
  - c) Read, study, memorize, sing, pray the Word!
- B. Spiritual Dependence
  1. God doesn’t want us to be fearful but rather dependent (II Tim. 1:7).
  2. Through the Spirit’s ministry of illumination, we can keep the “big picture” in view and not be fearful over our individual situations.
    - a) Stephen – Acts 7:55-56
    - b) Elisha’s servant – II Kings 6:15-17
- C. Spiritual Direction (Rom 8:14) – You can’t be depending on your own direction and the Holy Spirit’s direction as well. Don’t vacillate between what you think & what God says. How does the Holy Spirit guide?
  1. God’s Word – Ps. 119:105
  2. **Conscience** – Rom. 9:1
  3. Circumstances – Prov. 3:5-6 (Illustration: Like a pilot let your circumstances drive you to dependence on your gauges rather than trying to “see” what you should be doing.)
  4. Prayer – Ps. 143:10
  5. Godly Counsel – Prov. 24:6

### Application

1. Are you giving the Holy Spirit any material to illuminate in your own life?
2. In what issues of your life do you need to seek Holy Spirit illumination?

Don’t miss our Next Lesson – *Walking in the Spirit – An Everyday Dependence Upon God.*

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primarily taken from the book *God in You* and the study guide *God in You Volume 1* by Dr. David Jeremiah.