

Lesson #11 The Spirit Knows the Will of God (Discernment and Prayer)

Opening Shot:

The Holy Spirit lives in all of us who believe in Jesus as our Savior, and the Spirit leads us into all truth. God reveals things to us through His Holy Spirit, who knows the very thoughts of God. People who don't believe in Jesus (those without the Spirit) can't accept these things, because they are spiritually discerned: The things of God just sound like foolishness to them. The Holy Spirit reveals them to us. He also helps us to pray, and (even when we don't know what to pray for) He prays for us in the will of God!

Introduction to Bible Truths: (OPTIONAL)

John 16:13 *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*

1 Corinthians 2:6-8, 10 *...we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it ...but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 2:10-13 *The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) How come when I talk to my friends about God stuff, they don't always understand?
- 2.) I barely know what I want myself... How can I possibly know the will of God?
- 3.) How can I pray for things, when I never seem to know what to pray for?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Romans 8:26-27 *...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*

Parting Shot:

Having the Holy Spirit in our lives helps us so much. Because we have received the Holy Spirit, we can understand the spiritual truths that God has freely given us. In addition, the Spirit of God, who knows the deep things of God, makes intercession (or prays) for us in accordance with God's will. That means that even if we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit is praying for us all the time! (*Wow! How great is that?!*)

Name: _____ Date: _____

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