

# 1 Corinthians 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

## Analysis

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**But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God** (autois de tois klētois, Ioudaiois te kai Hellēsin, Christon theou dynamin kai theou sophian, αὐτοῖς δὲ τοῖς κλητοῖς, Ἰουδαίοις τε καὶ Ἑλλησιν, Χριστὸν θεοῦ δύναμιν καὶ θεοῦ σοφίαν)—Paul returns to the language of calling (klētois, κλητοῖς, "called ones")—the same term from verse 1. **Them which are called** are those whom God sovereignly summons to faith. For these, the cross is no longer scandalous or foolish but reveals **Christ the power of God** (Christon theou dynamin, Χριστὸν θεοῦ δύναμιν) and **the wisdom of God** (theou sophian, θεοῦ σοφίαν).

What Jews sought in signs and Greeks sought in philosophy is found in Christ crucified: true power (victory over sin, death, Satan) and true wisdom (the solution to humanity's greatest problem). The called—whether Jew or Greek—see this by divine revelation, not human insight. Calling breaks through the blindness; the Spirit opens eyes to see glory where the world sees shame.

## Historical Context

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The early church was radically inclusive: both Jews and Greeks, once divided by culture, law, and worldview, were united in the body of Christ. This was itself a demonstration of the gospel's power—reconciling the irreconcilable. Yet this unity was not achieved by compromise or diluting the gospel but by preaching the offensive cross, which God used to call both groups to saving faith.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does divine calling enable believers to see the cross as power and wisdom when the world sees weakness and folly?
2. What does it mean practically that Christ Himself is "the power of God" and "the wisdom of God"?
3. How does the gospel unite groups (Jew/Greek, slave/free, male/female) that would otherwise remain divided?

## Interlinear Text

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αὐτοῖς	δὲ	τοῖς	κλητοῖς	Ἰουδαίοις	τε	καὶ	Ἐλλησιν
unto them	But	which	are called	Jews	both	and	Greeks
G846	G1161	G3588	G2822	G2453	G5037	G2532	G1672

Χριστὸν	θεοῦ	δύναμιν	καὶ	θεοῦ	σοφίαν·
Christ	of God	the power	and	of God	the wisdom
G5547	G2316	G1411	G2532	G2316	G4678

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 1:30** (References Christ): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

**Colossians 2:3** (Parallel theme): In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**1 Corinthians 1:18** (References God): For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

**Romans 1:16** (References Christ): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**1 Corinthians 1:9** (References Christ): God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 1:4** (References God): And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

**Romans 9:24** (Parallel theme): Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

**Luke 7:35** (Parallel theme): But wisdom is justified of all her children.

**1 Corinthians 1:2** (References Christ): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

**Luke 11:49** (References God): Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: