

1 Corinthians 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Analysis

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. The adversative *de* (δέ, "but") pivots from human incapacity (v. 9) to divine disclosure. *Apekalypsen* (ἀπεκάλυψεν, "revealed") is aorist—definite historical action, likely referring to apostolic revelation recorded in Scripture. *Dia tou pneumatos* (διὰ τοῦ πνεύματος, "through the Spirit") identifies the Holy Spirit as revelation's agent, authenticating both Scripture's divine origin (2 Peter 1:21) and believers' illumination (John 16:13).

The explanation—**the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God** (τοῦ πνεύματος ἐραυνᾷ, καὶ τὰ βάθη τοῦ Θεοῦ)—grounds revelation in Spirit's comprehensive knowledge. *Ereunaō* (ἐραυνάω) means "search thoroughly," not implying the Spirit lacks knowledge but that nothing escapes His complete understanding. *Ta bathē* (τὰ βάθη, "the depths") includes God's eternal decrees, redemptive purposes, and Trinitarian relationships. Only Spirit can reveal God because only Spirit fully knows God (v. 11).

Historical Context

Against Greek philosophy's confidence in human reason to discover truth, Paul insists revelation is necessary. The Stoics believed divine logos permeated cosmos, accessible through contemplation. Plato taught philosophers could ascend to knowledge of Forms. Paul rejects autonomous rationalism: God's "deep things"

remain hidden unless God sovereignly discloses them. The Jewish concept of ruach Yahweh (Spirit of the LORD) inspiring prophets underlies Paul's pneumatology. Christian revelation is both external (Scripture) and internal (illumination).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the Spirit's role in revelation shape your approach to Bible study—what can you expect Him to do, and what remains your responsibility?
2. What "deep things of God" has the Spirit revealed to you personally through Scripture that you couldn't have discovered through reason alone?
3. How should Spirit-dependence for understanding Scripture affect your confidence when interpretations conflict among believers?

Interlinear Text

ἡμῖν	δὲ	ό	θεοῦ	ἀπεκάλυψεν	διὰ	τοῦ	πνεῦμα
them unto us	But		G3588	God	hath revealed	by	G3588
G2254	G1161			G2316	G601	G1223	G4151
αὐτοῦ·	τὸ	γὰρ	πνεῦμα	πάντα	έρευνα,	καὶ	τὰ
G846	G3588	for	Spirit	all things	searcheth	yea	G3588
		G1063	G4151	G3956	G2045	G2532	
βάθη	τοῦ	θεοῦ					
the deep things	G3588	God					
G899		G2316					

Additional Cross-References

John 14:26 (Spirit): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Ephesians 3:5 (Spirit): Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Luke 10:21 (Spirit): In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Ephesians 3:3 (Parallel theme): How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

Matthew 16:17 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 13:11 (Parallel theme): He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Galatians 1:12 (Parallel theme): For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John 16:13 (Spirit): Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 Peter 1:12 (Spirit): Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Job 12:22 (Parallel theme): He discovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the shadow of death.

