

Some people just do not seem to get this God thing - in fact how does anybody get it? How does anybody get the message of Jesus dying on the cross for us?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:19- 2:16

In a nutshell getting God and this message is all about the Spirit and our experience of Him.

1. The message of the cross; Christ Crucified

Nonsense to some; but vital to others - and the difference is not about understanding the logic or getting a sign, but the Holy Spirit revealing and demonstrating it to us and us being willing to accept it.

1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved.

1:23&24 Christ crucified... to those whom God has called... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

2. Christ crucified: the wisdom of the Father revealed to us by the Spirit

This salvation plan is not got through our own understanding or position in life, or through hearing a great communicator, but by the Holy Spirit revealing the thoughts of the Father to us. This is so He gets the credit not us.

1:29-30 so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

3. Christ crucified: the power of the Father demonstrated in us by the Spirit

This salvation plan is not just about good story, but about God transforming us - it's an ongoing work in us. It happens through the Spirit's power rather than through something we can work out or strive for so that our faith is in God not in us.

2:4&5 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Conclusion

The Spirit is vital in us understanding both what the cross is about and also in us experiencing its transforming power to save us.

The Spirit is also vital in our mission to open the eyes of those that are blind, to set free the captives, and to release those who sit in darkness.

Wisdom and power - the confidence to know God has spoken and will give us all we need to accomplish it

2:9-10 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

2:12 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.