



## Not with Human Wisdom and Power

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*Dear brothers and sisters, when I first came to you I didn't use lofty words and brilliant ideas to tell you God's message. For I decided to concentrate only on Jesus Christ and his death on the cross.... I did this so that you might trust the power of God rather than human wisdom.*

1 Corinthians 2:1-2, 5 (NLT)

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**Prayer Focus:** Jesus Christ did not leave us to live out this human existence in our own wisdom and power. As Sanctifier, He offers us the opportunity to walk in true power beyond human reasoning. Paul is confessing to the Corinthians that he knew lofty words or brilliant ideas would not convince anyone of the truth of Christ. Rather, he knew that his only calling was to focus solely on the cross of Christ with simple words and language. Everything else was up to the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul's desire was to never trust in human wisdom. Yet our culture—and sadly even our church culture—has lost that heart of dependence on God alone. We build our programs and train our leaders to cater to the consumer mentality of attracting people through creativity or entertainment. We forget that our human wisdom is so limited and naïve. Jesus Christ is our true wisdom—and He wants to live His life through us. If we walk in the truth that Jesus is our Sanctifier, then our ministry will be born out of our total dependence on Him alone.

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord Jesus as your source of life, wisdom, and strength.

**Day 2:** Thank Jesus for His desire to live His life in you.

**Day 3:** Confess the ways you have not consciously depended upon Jesus as your wisdom and strength.

**Day 4:** Ask the Lord to show you the ways you are living in the power of your flesh—and not in His power.

**Day 5:** Pray that churches will seek the Lord for His wisdom and walk in His strength—without clever programming.

**Day 6:** Pray that your pastor and church staff will live in absolute dependence upon Jesus Christ as their wisdom.

**Day 7:** Ask the Lord to take you deeper in this truth of Jesus Christ as your Sanctifier and giver of all life.

## Jesus Christ as our Sanctifier

**J**esus Christ is our life! Jesus is more than just our Savior from our sins of the past. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 1:30 that we are *in Christ*. In Colossians 1:27, Paul says that Christ lives in us! Jesus Christ did not die on the cross for our sins, then go back to the Father and leave us to fend for ourselves in this life. He is our new life.

Perhaps one of the reasons that Christians flounder so much in their walk is the lack of understanding of this key teaching of Scripture. The word “sanctification” has the idea of being set apart *from* something and *to* something else. This means that we are set apart from the life and ways of the world around us and set apart to God.

But this is not something we strive for; it is something we obtain through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul teaches in Colossians 2:6 that we are to live by the same kind of faith as when we received Christ Jesus as Savior. Jesus used the illustration in John 15 of the vine and the branches. The branch does not produce fruit by straining and striving, but by allowing the life of the vine to flow through it. The life that is in the vine produces life in the branch. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches.

Jesus Christ as our sanctification means that He lives His life out through us. It is not about our attempts to attain perfection; it is our old life exchanged for His life in us. In humility and obedience, we must surrender our lives to His control. When Jesus Christ is living His life through us, we will exhibit His very own characteristics—the greatest of which is supreme love for God and for others.

What an amazing and wonderful truth for us to understand and take for our own! Jesus Christ is not only our Savior from sin, He is our very breath of life. He will breathe through you as you yield your thoughts, hopes, and plans to Him. Paul’s classic words in Galatians 2:20 give us the model for such a life:

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

As you pray through this section on Jesus Christ as our Sanctifier, allow the Holy Spirit to probe deep into your heart and bring you to a greater understanding of the wonderful truth of your union with your Savior. This is a glorious reality to be lived out in your life daily.

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