***1 Cor 2:10-12* *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.***

This past Thursday, we observed Ascension. Acts 1:9 says – *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.* Just prior to watching Him ascend, we read in Acts 1:4 - *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me”.* What is this promise? John 14:26 - *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.* When was this promise fulfilled? In Acts 2, on the Day of Pentecost, which we observe next Sunday. Ascension happened 40 days after Resurrection. Pentecost occurred 50 days after Resurrection. Christ ascended and, on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended. We know from John 16:7 that this had to be the order - *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.* Often, God the Father and God the Son are in such tight focus, that we marginalize God the Holy Spirit. Yet, the Holy Spirit is an equal part of the Holy Trinity!

 Verse 10 - *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*God revealed. Revealed what? Hidden wisdom. What is this hidden wisdom? Christ and the power of the Cross. 1 Cor 1:23-24 *but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,****24****but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*. Revealed to us! God allows us to understand. What a privilege! He removes the stumbling block and clears the foolishness – how? Through the Holy Spirit! *For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God*. Romans 8:27 reveals that the Holy Spirit searches hearts and we also know now that He searches the deep things of God, interceding based on pure understanding of the nature of God and the weakness of the individual indwelt. What an encouragement to know the Spirit indwells us, knows us, sees our faults in comparison to God’s perfection and loves us anyway.

 Verse 11 *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*Only a human can fully understand the spirit of a human. In fact, we often don’t even know our own spirit fully, but the Holy Spirit knows us. Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit “dwells in us”, “teaches us”, “convicts us”, and “guides us in all truth”. Not only that, but the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and fully knows the things of God! As the spirit of man is needed to understand the spirit of man, so, when we possess the Spirit of God, we begin to understand the mysteries and hidden things of God. Isn’t this marvelous? That God sends His Spirit to empower us, as we search and seek Him, to find Him… through this indwelling, received only by faith in Jesus, we have been given access to the very throne of Grace, the very things of God. We should be floating on air when we read this, knowing we have that kind of intimate audience with our God. Though God is infinitely higher than we, He provides us ever deeper relationship through His Son, and by His Spirit.

 Verse 12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.* So, we’ve received the Holy Spirit from God, descended from Heaven, even as Christ ascended. Not the spirit of this world, which we were born with, carnality and flesh. Romans 8:5-7 – *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.****6****For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.****7****Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.* We received the Spirit – life and peace – how? By placing our Faith in Jesus. Romans 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.* Why did God send this Spirit? That we might know the difference between the things of this world and the things freely given to us by God.

 This week, as we race toward the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended as a rushing wind upon believers, let’s give thanks that we too have received the Holy Spirit, not through a mighty rushing wind, but by insistent saturation and consistent instruction, leading us to an ever deeper relationship with God. This is a Holy time. It was true then, as the Apostles waited in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit. It’s true now, as we wait for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Until that time, let us be witnesses, bringing the Truth of Jesus, by the empowering of the Holy Spirit to a world lost, hurting, and looking for the deeper things of God. All of us know someone – who will you witness to this week?