



## Summary of the Documentary Passage for the Grace Apparatus for Perception, 1 Cor 2:4-14: “Bringing Together Spiritual Things to a Spiritual System”

- 37- This passage documents a grace system by which the believer learns the Bible and retains its principles in his soul for application to life and circumstances.
- 38- The real teacher is the Holy Spirit who instructs the believer's human spirit, making supernatural information understandable for his volitional consideration.
- 39- What the Holy Spirit does for the believer is to make supernatural information understandable by bringing together spiritual information in the human consciousness by means of a spiritual system.
- 40- This is brought out in verse 13 where we find the verb:  
**συγκρίνω, *sunkrinō*** - A compound word that combines the verb **κρίνω, *krinō***, “to discern,” with the prefix **συν-, *sun***, meaning “to discern with,” “to compare,” or “to combine,” or “bringing together.”
- 41- The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and He is able to compare the information taught by the pastor with other information retained in the soul of the believer to bring about spiritual growth.
- 42- All this is done within a system, pointed out by the double use of the Greek word **πνευματικός, *pneumatikos***. For example the New American Standard Bible translates this clause, “combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.”  
Please note that the words *thoughts* and *words* are in italic and means that they do not appear in the original. Thus, the passage literally reads, “combining spiritual with spiritual.”
- 43- The first use of *pneumatikos* is the plural instrumental of association in the neuter gender which looks like this:  
**πνευματικοῖς, *pneumatikois*** - “spiritual things”
- 43- This refers to the content of the Word of God communicated by the pastor and explained by the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. Divine thought is categorized into doctrines and these make up “spiritual phenomena.”
- 44- The second use of *pneumatikos* is the plural dative of advantage in the neuter gender which looks like this:  
**πνευματικά, *pneumatika*** - “spiritual system”  
This spiritual system is a divinely imputed method of perceiving “spiritual phenomena.” We have designated this process of acquiring the supernatural knowledge possessed by God as the Grace Apparatus for Perception and refer to it by its acrostic: GAP.
- 45- The grace provisions for learning include the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit which is activated by the person who takes advantage of two power options available to the believer.
- 46- The first power option combines the filling of the Holy Spirit, made possible by confession alone to God alone, with human IQ to produce spiritual IQ.



- 47- This first power option is essential for spiritual growth. The believer out of fellowship cannot understand the Bible because it must be taught to him by the Holy Spirit.
- 48- The Holy Spirit only teaches the believer who is in status quo spirituality which is achieved by confession of one's sins to God for forgiveness.

**1 John 1:9 -** If we confess [ὁμολογέω, *homologeō*: to acknowledge, cite, name, or state as in a courtroom confession] our sins, He is faithful and righteous with the result that He forgives us our sins and purifies us from all wrongdoing.

- 49- If the believer out of fellowship cannot be taught by the Holy Spirit then most assuredly the unbeliever cannot do so and thus cannot learn anything about the Bible except from an academic perspective. We can see this from a verse we have already noted:

**1 Corinthians 2:14 -** The soulish man [ψυχικός, *psuchikos*] does not accept the things from the Holy Spirit for to him they are foolishness and he is not able to even acquire academic understanding because they are spiritually discerned.

The word *psuchikos* means "natural" and refers to that part of man produced by nature. Man is born physically alive but spiritually dead. It is the second birth that constitutes one's spiritual awakening.

Therefore, the "natural man" or the "*psuchikos* man" cannot accept things — "spiritual phenomena" — from the source of the Holy Spirit for they would be "foolishness" to him. He is not even able to acquire "academic understanding" of these things because of his "natural" status.

This "natural" status is dichotomy which means he was born with a physical body to which God imputed a soul.

The "spiritual" man is trichotomous which means he was born with a physical body to which God imputed a soul and, at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit created a human spirit to which He imputed eternal life.

It is this "human" spirit that makes the believer capable of comprehending divine thought as we have noted in:

**1 Corinthians 2:12 -** But we have not received the world's spirit [human viewpoint] but the human spirit from the source of God the Holy Spirit in order that we might have a permanent knowledge of things that have been graciously given to us by God.

**v. 13 -** Such divine wisdom we teach, not by teaching from the source of human wisdom but by teaching from the source of the Holy Spirit, bringing together spiritual things [πνευματικοίς, *pneumatikōis*] to a spiritual system [πνευματικά, *pneumatika*].

- 50- This "spiritual system" demands some basic explanation to augment our study and we will do this through a number of principles from the doctrine of the Grace Apparatus for Perception.