THE SPIRITUAL MAN JUDGES ALL THINGS
1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Introduction: 1) As we approach thanksgiving we have many things to be thankful for 2) This morning I want to focus on the very thing which we should be the most thankful for, and that is what Jesus did for us on the cross. 3) However, without the Holy Spirit working in our lives the cross would mean nothing to us as it does to the unbelievers in this world. This morning we are going to look at the role the Holy Spirit has played in our lives to make the cross so treasured in our hearts.

I. The Natural cannot receive the things of the Spirit
   A. What are the things of the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:14; 1:18
   B. What is a natural person - Romans 8:7-9 (it is a person who does not have the Holy Spirit)
   C. What does it mean he is not able to understand the things of the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:14 (it does not mean he cannot mentally comprehend the cross, it means he cannot supremely love or value the cross, that takes the work of the Spirit)
      1. He may believe the cross is a lie
      2. He may believe it is true but has no value
      3. He may believe it is true but is not worth giving up his pride (right to find my own happiness apart from God, idols, I love my boyfriend, girlfriend, wife, husband, children, money, career, hobbies, possessions, these idols are what I love more than anything, remember
God’s Word calls for man to love him more than anything, Jesus referred to this many times)

D. Why does the natural man reject the cross (because he considers the cross foolishness, moronic, or having no value whatsoever to them)

E. Does the natural man have an inability to accept the cross - 1 Corinthians 2:14

II. The spiritual man is enabled to judge all things - 1 Corinthians 2:15,16

A. All things refers to the cross

B. The Spirit empowers us to make the right appraisal of the cross - 1 Corinthians 2:15; 1:18; 2:1-5

C. The world cannot make the right appraisal of us - 1 Corinthians 2:15 (Our love of the cross makes no sense to them, to them they think we are wasting our lives, what we believe does not make sense to them, example: they just can’t understand why we think homosexuality is sin)

D. God chose the cross and the Holy Spirit’s work in our hearts in order to glorify himself and to destroy the pride of men - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2:6-12

E. People all over the world are trying to find God but you cannot find him apart from the Word of God, where the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us - 1 Corinthians 2:16 (Romans 10:17)

Conclusion: 1) I chose this message today for two reasons. One, that we might be thankful this thanksgiving season for God’s gift of the cross and the Holy Spirit to help us love the cross and the Jesus who hung on it more
than anything. It is this that causes us to give up our lives to live for Christ. Secondly, I want us as a Church to rely upon and depend upon the Holy Spirit to help us carry out the mission in which God has given to us, the great commission. It was prior to the day of Pentecost Jesus reminded the Church that they had a commission but they lacked the power to carry it out and so should wait for the Holy Spirit. Man is unable to respond to the call of the Gospel apart from the Holy Spirit’s help. To many Churches today are relying upon their entertaining music programs, their self help preaching, their programs, and mass marketing skills to build the Church. The Church can truly only be built by the same thing the first Church required, power from on high. Let us depend upon the Spirit. It is not by might, it is not by strength, it is by my Spirit says the Lord. 2) Finally, do you value Jesus and the cross as the greatest treasure of your life? Matthew 13. If you do not then you might believe the gospel is true but you have not yet been saved. When that forms in your life than you can know your faith is saving faith. Any desire in your heart in that direction could be the evidence the Spirit of God is drawing you to Jesus, would you respond then and come to Jesus and the cross will save you from your sins today.