

received these things *in* by the Spirit ; verse 13, he told them *out* by the Spirit, so that we get them as pure as he received them, both being by the Spirit. "*Comparing* spiritual things" is not the thought : it should be "*communicating* spiritual things by spiritual means." And then (ver. 14) it is also by means of the Spirit that the things are received by those to whom they are addressed.

God has shined *into* our hearts, in order to the "shining out" of the knowledge of His glory. This is the meaning of "give the light," in verse 6 of the chapter before us (2 Cor. iv.) It is something like lighting a candle *in* a lantern, that the light of it may shine *out* through the glass ; and what Paul could say was, that the light shone out as clear and pure as God had caused it to shine in. The treasure was in an earthen vessel, and the only way for the light of the lamp to be seen, was by the pitcher being broken, and Paul did not mind the vessel being knocked about, and hardly pressed, so that the light shone out all the more. In chapter i. 8, he had been "pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that he despaired even of life," but what of that ? He had the sentence of death already in himself. It was realised already in his mind, and its coming outwardly only gave the consciousness of it greater vividness. He could fully say, as in this chapter, "Death worketh in us." Hence Paul as a mere man had ceased to exist in his service. *He was a vessel.* For the Corinthians it was only the power