

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER ON DISPLAY

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

THE METHOD MUST BE SIMPLE

- *"When I came to you, brothers and sisters, announcing the mystery of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom."* (1 Corinthians 2:1)
- **The beauty of the gospel is that it doesn't need anything added to it for it to be effective in its purpose...to lead sinners to salvation in Jesus.**

THE MESSAGE MUST BE CLEAR

- *"I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."* (1 Corinthians 2:2)
- *"But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Galatians 6:14a)
- **"The power is in the content of the message, not the delivery of the messenger. It is in the work of the Spirit, not the wisdom of man." – Dr. Akin**
- *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)

THE MESSENGER MUST BE DEPENDENT ON GOD

- *"I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,"* (1 Corinthians 2:3-4)
- **Preaching is not about performing for the audience according to their preferences and likes but rather proclaiming the clear message of the cross through the enabling power of God's Spirit.**
- **What our world needs today is more preachers who are humble cross and Christ-centered and less "preachers" who change the message to sound more "relevant" while obsessing over their outfits.**

THE MOTIVE MUST BE SINCERE

- *"...so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power."* (1 Corinthians 2:5)
- **As Christians, our hearts desire should be to see as many others come to faith in Jesus as possible.**

- *"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'" (Mark 16:15 ESV).*
- **The primary work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to empower human beings in all of our weaknesses to proclaim Christ Crucified and resurrected to a world that is perishing.**
- **No matter your education, background, nationality, pedigree, or confidence level, YOU can be a powerful voice for God when you rely on His power and not your own.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation

- What is Paul speaking of when he says the "mystery of God" in verse 1?
- Why was Paul stressing the importance of the message of the cross and Christ crucified?
- Paul actually had a high level of education as a former Pharisee. What did he mean when he said, "My speech and preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom"?

Understanding

- Why do so many Christians often spend so much time and energy on everything else related to the Bible, but so little time communicating the message of the cross to others?
- In verse 2, is Paul saying we shouldn't talk about other things related to Christianity? Explain your response. (Refer back to the sermon video if necessary)
- How does Paul's example here take the burden off our personal abilities when it comes to effectively proclaiming the gospel? How does this encourage you to be more intentional in sharing the gospel with others?
- What are some examples of times/ways you should use persuasion when delivering the gospel message to someone?
- What is the reasoning behind our need to rely on God's power and have the proper motive when sharing the gospel?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?