

The Gospel Unleashed

A Demonstration of the Spirit and Power

1 Corinthians 2:3-5

ONE THING

A humble PRESENTATION of the TRUTH plus a powerful DEMONSTRATION of the SPIRIT results in a spiritual TRANSFORMATION of the LOST!

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (ESV) — And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Paul had left Athens...

On his 65 mile journey from Athens to Corinth he realized that attempting to proclaim the gospel using man's methods was, for the most part, unfruitful...

He made the decision to pair back on the focus of the Gospel...

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your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1. A humble PRESENTATION of the TRUTH

1 Corinthians 2:3-4a (ESV) — And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom ...

What does Paul mean when he says, "... in weakness and in fear and much trembling..."?

The word, "weakness" used here means...

"A state of timidity resulting from a lack of confidence"

What about "... fear and much trembling..."?

2 Corinthians 7:15 (ESV) — And his [Titus] affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.

Ephesians 6:5 (ESV) — Bondservants [Employees], obey your earthly masters [employers] with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ

Philippians 2:12 (ESV) — Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling

"With fear and trembling" was a colloquial phrase meaning "with respect" or "with reverence."

→ Putting all this together I believe that while Paul was in Athens his attempt to present the Gospel using the

communication rhetoric of human wisdom somewhat “disrespected” the supernatural mystery of the Gospel...

The message he brought to Corinth was presented with sober respect to the mystery of the Gospel...

A humble presentation of the truth plus a powerful demonstration of the Spirit results in a spiritual transformation of the lost!

1. A humble PRESENTATION of the TRUTH

2. A powerful DEMONSTRATION of the SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 2:4 (ESV) — and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power

The word, “but” that is used here was a Greek word that stood for EMPHATIC CONTRAST...

The phrase, “plausible words of wisdom” literally means, “persuasive wisdom”.

So, Paul is saying that in contrast to using persuasive human wisdom he used a demonstration of the Spirit and of power...

The word, “demonstration” means...

“To show the means by which one knows that something is a fact.”

A demonstration of the Spirit and of power used here is the inclusion of signs and wonders...

Signs and wonders were the normative inclusion of sharing the gospel in the New Testament!

First, Jesus used miracles, signs, and wonders to authenticate His Messiahship...

The Gospel of John lays out SEVEN SIGNS Jesus did to authenticate Himself as Messiah...

John then says...

John 20:30–31 (ESV) — Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Yes, but I know that some will object by referencing a statement Jesus made

Matthew 16:1 (ESV) — And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.

Matthew 16:4 (ESV) — An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” So he left them and departed.

Others will point to words Paul said in chapter one of 1 Corinthians...

1 Corinthians 1:22–23 (ESV) — For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles

The purpose of these statements by Jesus and Paul were not to negate signs and wonders, but rather to expose the unbelieving hearts of those demanding those signs!

Signs and Wonders in the Book of Acts

Acts 2	Tongues in the languages of all the people
Acts 2:43	Signs and Wonders through Apostles
Acts 3	Healing of beggar at Beautiful Gate
Acts 5:12	Signs and Wonders through Apostles
Acts 6:8	Signs and Wonders through Stephen
Acts 8:4-8	Philip in Samaria
Acts 9:17-19	Ananias healing the eyes of Saul of Tarsus
Acts 9:32-35	Peter healing Aeneas
Acts 9:36-43	Peter healing Tabitha
Acts 10	Peter's vision and the salvation of Gentiles
Acts 13:4-12	Paul blinding Elymas the magician
Acts 14:3	Paul and Barnabas in Iconium
Acts 14:8-20	Paul healing cripple man
Acts 16:16-40	Paul and Silas in prison singing... earthquake
Acts 19:11-20	Paul's mighty miracles a Ephesus
Acts 27:13ff	Storm at sea; Paul's angelic visit
Acts 28:1-6	Paul bitten by viper and not harmed
Acts 28:7-10	Paul heals the father of Publius and then many others

Acts 14:3 – Paul and Barnabas in Iconium

Acts 14:3 (ESV) — So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

→ Now listen to the prayer of the Church!

Acts 4:29–30 (ESV) — And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

→ Listen to how Paul describes his preaching of the Gospel!

Romans 15:18–19 (NLT) — Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God’s Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ ...

1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV) — For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

“For the Kingdom of God is not in talk, but in power!”

- **The FIRST without the SECOND will result in interesting INFORMATION to the LOST**
- **The SECOND without the FIRST will result in confusing CONTRADICTION to the LOST**

Confusing contradiction

→ ***BUT when BOTH are used together ...***

A humble presentation of the truth plus a powerful demonstration of the Spirit results in a spiritual transformation of the lost!

1. A humble PRESENTATION of the TRUTH

2. A powerful DEMONSTRATION of the SPIRIT

3. A spiritual TRANSFORMATION of the LOST

1 Corinthians 2:5 (ESV) — so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Acts 8:4-8 – Philip in Samaria

Acts 8:4–8 (ESV) — Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Acts 9:32-35 – Peter healing Aeneas

Acts 9:32–35 (ESV) — Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived

at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) — Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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A humble _____ of the _____ plus
 a powerful _____ of the _____ results in
 a spiritual _____ of the _____!

1. A humble _____ of the _____

2. A powerful _____ of the _____

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 interesting _____ to the _____

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Crossgates AM Message

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