

August 22nd – The Power of the Kingdom

*“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.”*

(1 Cor. 4:20)

Words are something we use every day. We speak words, we read words, we write words, we type words, etc. Our thought patterns even consist of words! Some people are not very good at using words. My experience is that most people either excel in math & science, or in English and logic. For those who aren't big fans of language arts, writing a book report or delivering a speech can be a terrifying proposition. Thankfully not everyone has to make a living primarily out of words.

And yet, there are many others who have their livelihood directly tied to words – the President, governors, professors, pastors, etc. All of them attempt to make great use of their language as they convey ideas and attitudes. In today's verse, Paul reminds us that the kingdom of God is not primarily about words. That statement seems ironic, especially since our faith is anchored to the many words of Scripture. In this case, Paul is talking about an abundance of words that may or may not be biblical.

At Corinth, there were a good number of teachers troubling Paul and persuading the masses. Paul wanted us to understand that while the Kingdom of God includes words, it is much more concerned with God's power. In the case of Paul, God's preaching had power because it was based on the Gospel. Only the power of God has the potency to see the lost saved and the saved sanctified. May God help us all to move beyond mere words of human reason by tapping into the power of the Holy Spirit.