

RCMI L-Path Teaching
April 23, 2023

Title: **Holy Spirit-filled Message**

Text: **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

¹And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as **I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.**^[a] ²**For I resolved** to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³**I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.** ⁴**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,** ⁵**so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.**

Questions to Ponder?

1. **Does it make any difference what gospel we preach and how we preach it?**
2. **Have we sold out the gospel in order to play the numbers game?**

3 Principles:

I. THE MESSAGE. (vv. 1-2)

¹And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. **When I came to you**, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as **I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.**^[a] ²**For I resolved** to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

When I came to you, brothers.

The Apostle Paul refers to the time when he first came to Corinth before there were any Christians in that pagan city.

I did not come with eloquence.

Paul was not a great orator who could keep the people at the edge of their seats or use great illustrations and flowery words to impress people.

Or superior wisdom.

Paul did not present human reasoning and philosophy to these Corinthians. He preached clearly, accurately and bluntly the Cross of Jesus Christ.

As I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

Paul preached "the testimony of God," the gospel, God's message, not man's message. He tells us he received this message from Jesus Christ Himself.

- “I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.” - **Galatians 1:11-12**
- **For I resolved.** v.2 Paul made up his mind to preach Christ, and Him crucified, because this is the only message which can bring salvation to people.
- Paul explained that the only hope for sinners is the crucified Christ, and the only way to be saved is to acknowledge one’s total need of the crucified Christ.
- Paul was no compromiser or man-pleaser. He never watered down the message of the Cross.
- **For Discussion:** What message do you think will transform a person’s life? Why?

II. THE METHOD. (vv. 3-4)

³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,

I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

Paul came to Corinth in physical weakness for he had been physically persecuted just a few weeks before his arrival. He also had some kind of physical ailment. These things only made him totally dependent on God for results.

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words.

Paul’s content (message) and method (preaching) were not in any way related to human wisdom. Rather, Paul’s method was to rest in the sovereign work of the Spirit to convict and move men and women to respond to Jesus Christ by faith.

But with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.

Paul, in faithfulness and obedience, declared the message of Christ in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, and God started to work, and people began to come to Christ.

- **What then was Paul’s method?** It was to share the gospel with everyone, depending on a powerful demonstration of the Holy Spirit.
- He targeted any and all for Christ, letting the Holy Spirit save whom He pleased. This was his method in every city where he went.
- “For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.” - **1 Thessalonians 1:4-5**

III. THE MOTIVATION. (v. 5)

So that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

The reason Paul preached the message of Christ and did not use the persuasive methods of man's wisdom was that **he wanted their faith to be founded and grounded on the power of God.**

- Saving faith is ultimately rooted in the power of God. Saving faith is the result of the work of God.
- Saving faith is the work of the Holy Spirit, convincing a person of the work of Jesus Christ on his behalf and leading him into a permanent acceptance of Jesus Christ into his life as Lord and Savior.
- Human wisdom and methods may deceive men but when men truly are moved by the supernatural power of God, they cling only to Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." - **John 10:27**

For Discussion:

1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the conversion of man?
2. What motivations do you have in proclaiming the message of God's salvation? and how do you fulfill it? Share it with your group.