



8/27/26

1 Corinthians 2:1-13

I thought I would share with you the 13th reason to rehearse the gospel to ourselves every day. Living out this reason makes us a genuine Kingdom Outpost church. It is that we are "stimulated to love others". This is a love that is motivated by God's love for us, a love that helps us love others even when they've wronged us. As we'll see in today's passage, this kind of love is "spiritually discerned." We need the Holy Spirit, in His divine care of us, to grow this kind of love in us. Our motivation is that God loves us even when we wrong Him. He's never wronged anyone. What a wonderful gift.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

We first learn about Paul's ministry to Corinth in Acts 18. He had gone to Corinth right after spending time in Athens to allow the tumult over his ministry in other towns to die down (see Acts 17). While he was there, he couldn't help but speak of the gospel. But most of the philosophers in Athens thought he was a fool, and they mocked him. Paul probably felt beat up on every side by the time he got to Corinth. This is a great example of why it's never wise to use feelings as a gauge for God's will... or my will. I'm sure if Paul went by his feelings, he would have given up many times over. His resolve to follow God was not based on feelings, but facts. I pray mine will be the same. There is relief in knowing that God doesn't condemn my feelings, but He also doesn't want me to live by them.

In this passage, Paul had just spoken to the Corinthian church (who really struggled to be a worthy Kingdom Outpost) about the wisdom of the world vs. the wisdom of God. At the end of chapter 1 he said, "God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'" Then, in chapter 2, he began to speak of his own weakness and purpose in light of God's wisdom. So... what does God want our Kingdom Outpost church to learn about being an effective reflection of His heavenly Kingdom from 1 Corinthians 2:1-13?

Vs. 1-2 ~ A Kingdom Outpost church does not use eloquent speech or manmade wisdom but is always motivated by the gospel. "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." The words I speak to whoever is willing to listen can't be "wisdom according to Jonna" and they can't be about using big words that distract from Jesus. What are my motives if I do that?

I know one problem I've caused by using my words instead of the word of God, even if I thought I was being biblical. By not sticking close to the word, I have veered off of the absolute truth of what it teaches. There are words in scripture that my "natural flesh" does not want to hear. They may seem foolish to me because, ultimately, they're asking me to do something I don't want to do, or they're asking me to tell someone something I don't want to tell them. But to speak with lofty speech or wisdom is to ignore the voice of God, spoken through His word. Lord, please help me so that I never do that again!

Vs. 3-5 ~ A Kingdom Outpost church is humble and seeks to point all the glory to God through the Holy Spirit. "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." I wonder if Paul thought that he used too much of his own pontificating words with the philosophers in Athens and didn't lean enough on the Spirit to guide him while he was there. It seems that he was very discouraged when he entered Corinth, but he learned a very valuable lesson through the experience. I pray that I will allow my mistakes to be opportunities to learn. That takes humility.

Paul said he was with them in weakness... This taught him what he told the Corinthian church in 2 Corinthians 12:9, that God's grace is what we need. It's His grace that strengthens us, and we need to be able to boast about our weaknesses so that His power can be our strength.

He was with them in fear... He realized that he might have been a little too full of himself before. God taught him to be more reverent of His leading and not Paul's assumption of his own ability.

He was with them in much trembling... Yikes! Later, when he wrote the letter to the Philippians, he told them to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is GOD who works in you both to will and to work for HIS good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13). It seems to me that Paul LEARNED this lesson. It did not come to him naturally. When I approach people in my own strength and in my own sense of ability and my own sense of power, I draw people away from God and to me. Nothing good can come from that. O Lord, You are teaching me that in You, weakness means strength, fear means courage, and trembling means that You will lead me. Please help me to be reachable!!!

The fact is, I need to humbly understand that anyone putting their faith in me and my plausible

words of wisdom is DANGEROUS for them and for me. Faith in the Lord is the only thing that matters! The Holy Spirit is the one who grows our faith, and He uses the power of the living and active word of God to do it, the word that Ephesians 6 calls "the sword of the SPIRIT."

Vs. 6-7 ~ A Kingdom Outpost church teaches wisdom from God's word especially to those who are actively growing in Christ. "Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory."

I know when Tim preaches, he's always considering who is in the room. He teaches to several "chairs", including those who don't know the Lord, those who are young in their faith, and those who have been growing in the Lord for a long time. He makes sure he speaks to all of them. Just as it wouldn't be helpful for me to try to teach algebra to a toddler, it also wouldn't be helpful to teach an adult how to pick up a spoon.

We need wisdom and discernment from the Lord to know who we're talking with when we speak about the Lord. But even then, we're never to speak from our own wisdom. The wisdom of man is foolish. God's wisdom is a "secret and hidden wisdom" found in Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:3). He is the word who became flesh and dwelt among us... for our honor and glory! Our glory is being one with God (John 17:22). God always planned to send Jesus and to give us His wisdom so that we could be one with Him. But this is a wisdom that the world doesn't understand. Only those who are truly seeking the Lord will be able to learn this wisdom as the Holy Spirit teaches us through our own study and through the God honoring teachers He places in our lives. O Lord, please help me to only speak the truth of Your word! And give me understanding to know what from Your word a person needs to hear.

Vs. 8-10 ~ A Kingdom Outpost church relies on the Holy Spirit and not ourselves to teach us the depths of God. "None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him'— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." It's the Holy Spirit who helps us understand all that He has for us. The Holy Spirit understands the fullness of God. He reveals. It's just my job to pass along what His word says. I have nothing to offer apart from Him.

But let me not miss this! The Holy Spirit WANTS to help us understand the impossible. Why? Because He loves us!!!

Vs. 11-13 ~ A Kingdom Outpost church understands that it is not our words or ability that comprehend the depths of God. It is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit must be intimately involved in the direction of the church AND the individual members of the church in order for us to comprehend what God has for us. "For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from

God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual."

First let me say, I'm so thankful that people don't know my thoughts! And I'm also so grateful that God loves me even though He DOES know all my thoughts. I also need to understand that I can't know the thoughts of God without welcoming the Holy Spirit to have full access to my heart and mind. Even studying God's word, I must invite the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth to me because my natural mind will not comprehend it.

Here's what blows my mind. God has given me the Spirit who reveals to me the things that God has freely given to me. FREELY GIVEN TO ME!!! What is one sure and absolute way I can know that I am NOT allowing the Holy Spirit full access to my heart? My view of God will be wrong. I'll see Him as withholding good from me rather than seeing Him as freely giving good to me. The Holy Spirit is the missing link. We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation, but we need to be constantly fanning into flame His work in our life by keeping our minds set on the things of God rather than the things of our flesh. How much have I misunderstood about my Father in heaven because I was not allowing the Spirit to work in my life?

If I read on, I'll see Paul explain the difference between acting as "a people of the flesh" rather than a "spiritual" person. Even as a believer, a person who is acting more according to the flesh gets stuck in jealousy and strife, not allowing the things of God to take root in our souls. I pray for our church, our Kingdom Outpost, to be a place where the Holy Spirit is free to move and reveal truth from God's word because we are filled with individual believers who are relying on the Spirit and not on SELF. O Lord, please make this true of me!!! You must increase, but I must decrease.