



Rhythms (Habits the Change You and the World)

Part 2

1 Corinthians 2:1-14

Sunday, September 13, 2020

God calls us to be faithful in sharing the most incredible message ever, and His job is to convict the hearts of people. We ask God for wisdom because we do not have the power to change lives, but He does!

Setting the Scene

- How Can I Pray for you? Have you asked to pray with people God brings in your path? How are we doing with praying for you people in our community and our goal of praying for 1000 homes?
- The purpose of this series is that each one of us would incorporate spiritual rhythms to make us available to be changed and used by God.

*²⁶ Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. ²⁷ Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. **And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.** ²⁸ God chose things despised by the world; things counted as nothing at all and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. ²⁹ As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ God has united you with Christ, Jesus. For our benefit, God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. ³¹ Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD. 1 Corinthians 1:26-30*

- Many people consider the message of Jesus as foolishness because our culture worships power, influence, and wealth. Jesus chose to use the powerless.
- Sent people find their identity in Christ, not their academic success, wealth, or attractiveness.

1. The Message of Jesus Christ Crucified is Powerful (2:1-5)

*⁸ I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority. ⁹ I'm not trying to frighten you by my letters. ¹⁰ For some say, "Paul's letters are demanding and forceful, but in person **he is weak,** and his **speeches are worthless!**" ¹¹ Those people should realize that our actions when we arrive in person will be as forceful as what we say in our letters from far away. ¹² Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, **using themselves as the standard of measurement.** How ignorant! ¹³ We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. **We will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you.** 2 Corinthians 10:8-13*

The power of the gospel message is not found in a preacher's eloquent use of words or ability to logically argue every detail. The power lies in the message itself: "Jesus Christ, and him crucified" for sin.¹

- Jesus says you have what it takes. Human weakness does not have to hinder you from sharing the truth of Jesus Christ crucified. Powerful message, powerless messenger.

Paul is not suggesting that he lacks a wider knowledge base or that he has somehow given up what he knows; rather, he is emphasizing that Jesus' saving work is more important than anything else (see note on 1 Cor 1:5).²

Demonstration: The Greek word used here, *apodeixis*, conveys the certainty of the Spirit's work among the Corinthian believers. While they value wisdom and logic, they cannot deny their experience of the Spirit's power, which is demonstrated in their own conversion (see 1:18, 24; compare note on v. 3).³

- The message is other-centered rather than me-centered. It more important than the impressiveness of the speaker.
- We can find a measure of confidence in sharing with others when we have full confidence in the message.

2. The Message of Jesus Christ Crucified Brings Clarity (1 Corinthians 2:6-9)

- His voice and wisdom can contrary to that of the world. His call or direction may not make sense to those around you. But healthy spiritual growth depends on a faith rooted in Christ.
- God's plan is hidden to unbelievers because they reject the Gospel, ignore it, and have never heard.
- Only the Spiritually mature will recognize God's wisdom. They have the mind of Christ to understand matters of life.
- The secret wisdom is that the Gospel is for all people and that Jesus has power over sin and offers us that same power.
- The Spirit gives us the power to demonstrate the wisdom of God. Maturity begins we our perspective is centered in Christ.

3. It is not your Job to Convince People of the Message of Jesus Christ Crucified. (2:10-16)

- Love—Listen—Discern—Share

Last Thoughts:

Do you know people who do not know Jesus and the Holy Spirit is bringing conviction and concern for those very people in your life?

- Pray for them and tell the story of Jesus.
Go on a prayer walk in your neighborhood or community. A prayer walk will enable you to develop a vision for your neighborhood.

¹ Barton, B. B., & Osborne, G. R. (1999). *1 & 2 Corinthians* (p. 37). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.

² Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (1 Co 2:2). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

³ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (1 Co 2:4). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

- Register at Blesseveryhome.com or construct a map of your neighborhood that includes names.
- Email Pastor Matt, matt@bmmchurch.org, and share a little about your experience.

**We want to facilitate opportunities and provide margins in people's schedules to build relationships with people around them. With that in mind, our Wednesday night programming is changing to reflect that value.*