

Gospel^{plus} Ministry

Gospel ministries present obstacles for the unbeliever, so we must resist the belief that we can remove those obstacles with a Gospel^{plus} ministry.

1. Gospel^{plus} better _____

- a. The Obstacle: People are _____ by and _____ of the cross.
- b. The Suggestion: Soften _____ and add _____.
- c. The Gospel Solution: Preach the _____ gospel.

2. Gospel^{plus} better _____

- a. The Obstacle: People are looking for _____ and _____.
- b. The Suggestion: Add energy, proficiency, and _____.
- c. The Gospel Solution: Rely on the _____ of the cross.

3. Gospel^{plus} better _____

- a. The Obstacle: People are uncomfortable with _____.
- b. The Suggestion: Project _____ and success.
- c. The Gospel Solution: Admit weakness and preach _____.

4. Gospel^{plus} better _____

- a. The Obstacle: People are bored by the _____.
- b. The Suggestion: Find _____ and _____ preachers.
- c. The Gospel Solution: Find _____ preachers who _____ on the Spirit.

Gospel *plus*

Ministry



1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:5

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.”

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater
of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom
did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the
foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:5

For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;
but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block,
and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both
Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,
and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:5

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:5

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Big Idea

Gospel ministries present obstacles to unbelievers, so we must resist the belief that we can remove those obstacles with a Gospel *plus* ministry.

Paul's Primary Concern

1 Corinthians 1:17

For Christ did not send me to baptize,
but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech,
so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

1 Corinthians 2:5

...so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men,
but on the power of God.

Gospel *plus* Ministry

The Gospel *plus* Better Messaging

The Obstacle

People are disdainful of and offended by the message of the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

For **the word of the cross is foolishness
to those who are perishing,**

but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside."

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater
of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom
did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the
foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:22-23

For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;
but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block,
and to Gentiles foolishness...

A Gospel *plus* Suggestion

Soften terminology and
add sophistication.

The Corinthian Suggestion?

1 Corinthians 1:19-20

Where is **the wise man**? Where is **the scribe**?

Where is **the debater of this age**?

The Corinthians had apparently suggested that Paul needed to improve his message like the other great men of the age.

How did they want him to come?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God...
...my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom...

Ways we might “improve” the message:

Avoid offensive terms like *sin*, *repent*, etc.

Avoid theological terms like *regeneration*, etc.

Focus on felt needs or “relevant” topics.

Tell compelling stories and use good illustrations.

Give compelling evidence and use tight logic.

The Gospel Solution

Preach the unadjusted gospel.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;
but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block,
and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both
Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,
and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And when I came to you, brethren...**I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.**

Why?

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;
but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block,
and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both

Jews and Greeks, **Christ [is] the power of God
and the wisdom of God.**

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,
and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

For **the word of the cross is foolishness
to those who are perishing,**

but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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Gospel *plus* Ministry

The Gospel *plus* Better Messaging

The Gospel *plus* Better Methods

The Obstacle

People are looking for excitement
and success.

What were the Corinthians looking for?

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe?

Where is the debater of this age?

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

They were disappointed with
Paul's message *and* method.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;
but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block,
and to Gentiles foolishness...

The Jews were looking
for the signs of an Exodus.

But what did Paul give them?

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;

but we preach **Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block,
and to Gentiles foolishness...

“Christ (*Messiah*) Crucified”
made no sense to a Jew
looking for deliverance.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;

but we preach Christ crucified, **to Jews a stumbling block,**
and to Gentiles foolishness...

A Gospel *plus* Suggestion

Add energy, proficiency, and artistry.

People need a great vision!

People need a great organization!

People need artistic presentations!

**And they need it all with energy
and skill and creativity!**

The Gospel Solution

Rely on the power of the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.”

The faithful declaration and display of the gospel is the **only** method powerful to accomplish the salvation of souls.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,
“But the righteous man shall live by faith.”

1 Corinthians 1:20-21

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

Gospel *plus* Ministry

The Gospel *plus* Better Messaging

The Gospel *plus* Better Methods

The Gospel *plus* Better Members

The Obstacle

People are uncomfortable
with brokenness.

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

The Ideal Corinthian Member?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.

A Gospel *plus* Suggestion

Project strength and success.

The right kind of people are attracted to the right kind of people so let's put the right kind of people in front of the people.

The Gospel Solution

Admit weakness and preach grace.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

To project the image of wisdom,
strength, nobility, and success
is to gut the gospel of its power
because the wise, the mighty,
the noble, and the strong
don't need saving.

Revelation 3:17

Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy,
and have need of nothing” ...

...you do not know that you are **wretched** and **miserable**
and **poor** and **blind** and **naked**.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

But **by His doing** you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Gospel *plus* Ministry

The Gospel *plus* Better Messaging

The Gospel *plus* Better Methods

The Gospel *plus* Better Members

The Gospel *plus* Better Messengers

The Obstacle

People are bored by the ordinary.

What did the Corinthians want?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

These were some of the key reasons the Corinthians were disappointed with Paul.

He just wasn't that impressive!

Their opinion of Paul?

2 Corinthians 10:1

Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ-- **I who am meek when face to face with you,**
but bold toward you when absent!

The result?

1 Corinthians 1:11-12

For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you.

Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

A Gospel *plus* Suggestion

Find charismatic and
persuasive preachers.

When you find the right guy,
you'll get the right results.

The Gospel Solution

Rely on the power of the cross
not on the talent of any man.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Rather...

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For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

I was with you in weakness and in fear and in

much trembling,

and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

I was with you in weakness and **in fear** and in much trembling,

and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

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I was with you in weakness and in fear and **in much trembling,**

and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

The point is not to function in intentional brokenness and weakness.

But to speak and lead in reliance upon the power of God and not upon personal effort and talent!

How did Paul come to them?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And when **I came** to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority
of speech or of wisdom, **proclaiming** to you **the**
testimony of God.

For I determined to know nothing among you
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For I determined to know nothing among you

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I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,
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I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,
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so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men,
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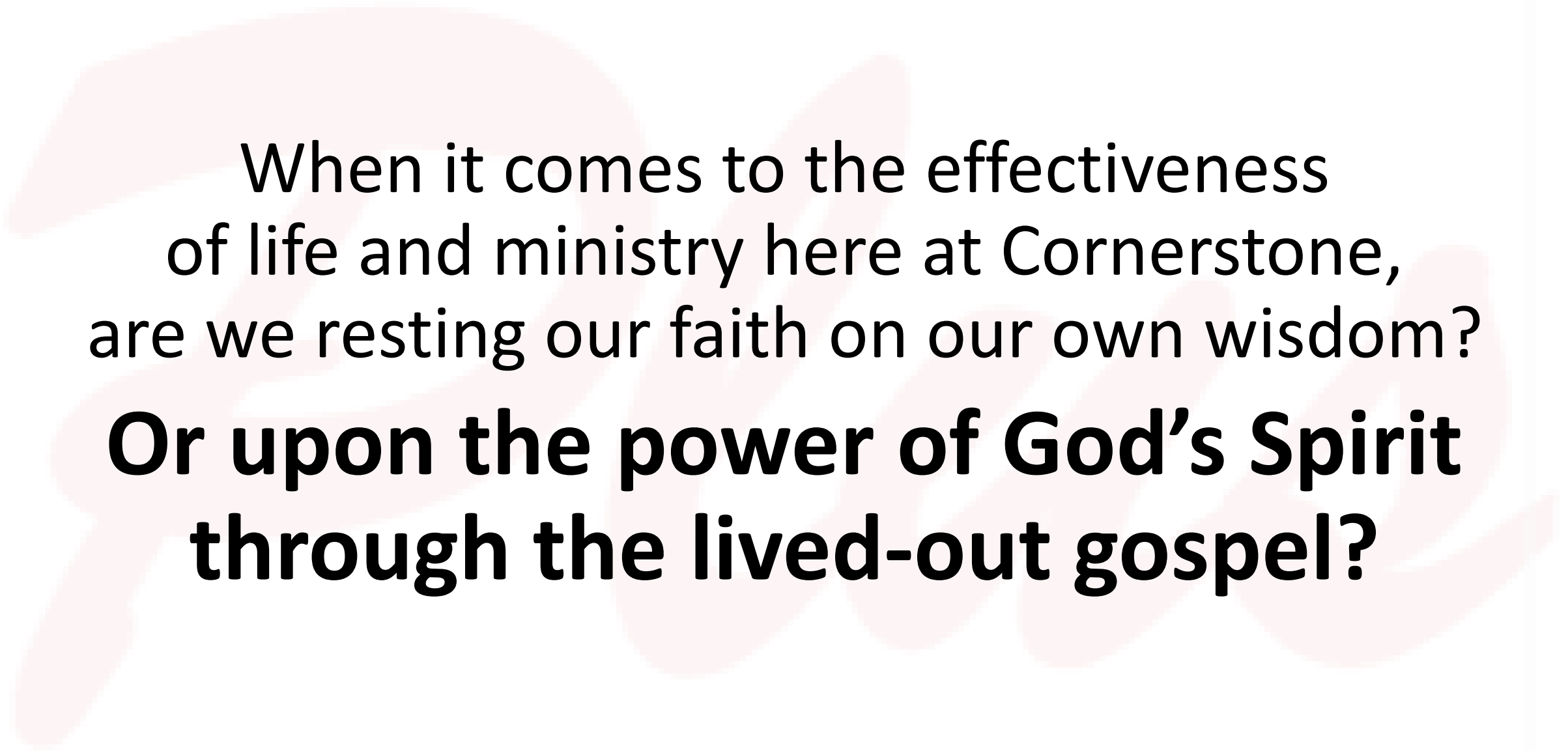
Why did Paul come as he did?

1 Corinthians 1:17

For Christ did not send me to baptize,
but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech,
so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

1 Corinthians 2:5

...so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men,
but on the power of God.



When it comes to the effectiveness
of life and ministry here at Cornerstone,
are we resting our faith on our own wisdom?

**Or upon the power of God's Spirit
through the lived-out gospel?**