

Wednesday, March 4

God Will Give You the Words to Say! ♦ 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

In reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-13, I realized Paul feels the same way as I do most of the time. I am pretty shy and find myself totally inadequate to the task of speaking to any size group. In my weakness of speech, I have found that my God-given talent as an artist is how God allows me to rise to the occasion. I pray for and often receive inspiration for ideas to paint and have amassed a rather large collection of Biblical and spiritual paintings over the last 10 years.

" 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,"

They offer me a comfortable way to engage anyone who sees one of these paintings, which translate into my testimony – what and why I believe – that is the power from the Spirit working through me.

Enough about the weakness... I love the next part, "no human mind has conceived the things God has prepared for those who love him..."

I get great joy knowing how much God loves us (me) and He is always preparing gifts and blessings for us. I am so far from deserving His attention and great love – but He gives it to me anyway! I make a practice to remind myself of this fact every day.

So, take a look at the painting I created for the foyer of the Wesley Building and ask me about it one day and see if I have the words to say.

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1 Corinthians 2:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

2 And 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.

God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. **7** No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. **8** None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **9** However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”^[b]—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—

10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. **11** For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12** What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. **13** This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.^[c]

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Corinthians 2:1 Some manuscripts proclaimed to you God's mystery
- b. 1 Corinthians 2:9 Isaiah 64:4
- c. 1 Corinthians 2:13 Or Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual