Dear Open Door Family,

I have always enjoyed reading science fiction. I used to love to picture in my mind what it would be like to live in outer space or to travel between stars. So when the first Star Trek TV show came out I watched it even though I was disappointed by how unrealistic the pictures were. Then years later Star Wars burst on the scene with incredible special effects that made you feel like you were right there. Since then special effects have gotten more and more sophisticated, more and more realistic. That is our culture. What does that mean for us who are trying to communicate the Truth of God's Word in our day. Does that mean that when we are sharing God's Word that we need to compete with Hollywood? Let's look at these verses together.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 *(NIV) When I came to you, brothers, I did NOT come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. [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 and FEAR, and with much 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 men's wisdom, but on GOD'S POWER.*

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 *(JBP) ...I did not come equipped with any brilliance of speech or intellect. ...it was my secret determination to concentrate entirely on Jesus Christ and the fact of his death upon the cross...*

When Paul spoke to the people in Corinth he was not interested in matching the techniques used by the Greek orators. He could have been eloquent and persuasive; his argument on Mars hill in Athens shows his skill and ability (Acts 17). Yet, even though Paul was highly educated, he did not flaunt his education or learning. As a matter of fact, he went out of his way to make sure the message was simple and clear. And in these verses he is making plain that he was seeking to depend completely and totally on God's Power, NOT his own abilities or eloquence. We should do our very best to communicate the Truth of God's Word clearly through our music, visuals, and teaching. To do less than that would be to dishonor the Lord Jesus and His Word. But we must balance the fact that the results are all based in the POWER of God and His WORD, not in our techniques or abilities. We need to study and learn how to share the gospel, we should study how to teach and preach more effectively, we should use the best illustrations and visuals we can find, but the RESULTS, changed hearts and lives, cannot come unless God is powerfully at work. That is why Paul said he did not come with brilliant speech or intellect. Paul was acknowledging the POWER of God to change lives, not the power of Persuasion, Technique, or Eloquence. In our world and even in the church many times we are looking for the next technique or new approach to revitalize or energize us and change lives. The message from these verses is clear. We must get on our faces before God and ASK Him to WORK in our hearts and lives and in the hearts and lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

PRAYER: O Lord, keep me from seeking to be eloquent or clever with my words. Please draw me closer to You and help me to see Your Power at work in me and through me. Please Lord, may Your Power be at work here at Open Door Bible Church. Please change hearts and lives; may we see You and Your Power at work in us and through us.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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