

Judging Your Talk for Power!

In a recent Bible class we studied chapter four of the book of 1 Corinthians. There were some in Corinth who were trying to lord it over others and who were criticizing the apostle Paul. Of them Paul makes a passing statement saying, *"But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power."*

If you were not in our class you might be wondering what I'm talking about, or more precisely what Paul was talking about. Paul could be talking about the power from the Holy Spirit some had in the first century. All believers received the Holy Spirit's presence when saved at baptism. Additional power in the form of gifts from the Spirit were bestowed on believers through the laying on of apostolic hands. That is why Peter and John went to Samaria after some received the word of God and were saved. You might recall Simon the sorcerer who mistakenly thought he could purchase or buy this power. But I do not think this is what Paul is talking about even though as an apostle he would have unlimited spiritual powers.

I think that Paul is talking about the ability Christians have to judge properly and spiritually the power of a person's talk. When discussing spiritual things such as ministry or service to the Lord or worship, does a person talk using spiritual words based on God's wisdom, or are his words based upon natural wisdom coming from carnal thinking?

This is what Paul means when he says, *"...I will find out not the talk, but their power!"* Was their boasting and their words coming from God's wisdom born of humility, service to others and dying to self? Or were their words self serving and carnally minded?

God grant you and me the wisdom to speak spiritual words in our prayers, in our teaching, in our discussions concerning church matters. God lead our talk to be shored up by God's power!

God bless your talking!

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