

- (Ephesians 3:20–21 ESV)

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



David Prior Quotes ...

In verses 1–5, Paul recalls his arrival at Corinth in much fear and trembling (3), such was the reputation of the city and his own sense of vulnerability at all levels. He made a conscious, deliberate and determined decision to abandon any natural or worldly wisdom, and to concentrate on Jesus Christ and him crucified (1–2). The plausible persuasiveness of the contemporary philosopher was rejected: instead Paul relied on and was in his own person a demonstration of the power of the Spirit (4). That decision ensured that the consequent results in the lives of transformed Corinthians rested securely, not ... in the wisdom of men but in the power of God (5).

This paragraph provides the perfect touchstone for all preaching, as much as in what Paul rejected as in what he determined to pursue. **There are searching questions here for the preacher.**

- Is our preaching genuine proclamation?
- Do we proclaim the mighty acts whereby

God has borne witness to himself in Jesus?

- Do we obscure our proclamation with lofty words (1) or anything else?
- Have we made a firm decision to make Jesus Christ and him crucified both the theme of our preaching and the centre of our living?
- Do we experience proper tentativeness and do we taste our own vulnerability as preachers of the gospel in a pagan, hostile world?
- Does our preaching demonstrate the power of the Spirit?
- Do the results of our preaching demonstrate the power of the Spirit?
- Are people's lives being changed?
- Do they know the power of the Spirit in their own lives?

[Prior, D. (1985). *The message of 1 Corinthians: life in the local church* (p. 49). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.]

