

Connect

Share a time when you witnessed a demonstration of the power of God rather than just words.

Verses - 1 Corinthians 4:14-21 (CSB)

Read aloud:

14 I'm not writing this to shame you, but to warn you as my dear children. 15 For you may have countless instructors in Christ, but you don't have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me. 17 This is why I have sent Timothy to you. He is my dearly loved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you about my ways in Christ Jesus, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

18 Now some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk, but the power of those who are arrogant. 20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 21 What do you want? Should I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. How does Paul distinguish himself from the "countless instructors" in Corinth? (v.15) What does it mean to be a "father" in Christ? (v.15)

2. What does Paul urge the Corinthians to do? (v.16) Why did Paul send Timothy to the Corinthians? (v.17)

3. What is the true nature of the Kingdom of God? (v.20) What two ways does Paul present himself as approaching the Corinthians? (v.21)

Share

Discuss this from this week's message:
In the message, Pastor Takeshi shared a testimony of how a wife stayed with her husband despite his unfaithfulness in the marriage. How does this demonstrate the power of God?

Discuss:
What are Paul's "ways" as mentioned in v.17? How does Paul demonstrate God's power? (see: 1 Corinthians 9:22, 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Philippians 3:8)

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.