



**Uncommon Sense: 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 6- "The Power of the Cross in a World of Performers"**  
**By Pastor Bill Alderson - 07/01/25**

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**[CALL TO HEAR]**

**Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV**

**2** And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3** And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, **4** and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

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**Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."**

**People - "Thanks be to God."**

**Pray**

**Opening Illustration: The Simple Hammer**

Share a story about growing up with Dad – he had a complex toolbox filled with fancy, high-tech gadgets—but when something truly needs fixing, what gets used? The old, reliable **hammer**. The trusty **screwdriver**.

**"The tool that looks the least impressive often does the most important work."**

This sets the stage: the gospel may seem simple—even unimpressive by the world's standards—but it accomplishes what nothing else can.

Last week, Pastor Jody reminded us of something vital—that *God raises up and tears down*, not through the elite or the impressive, but through what the world calls weak, witless, and lowly. Why? So that no one may boast except in Christ alone. That's not just a theological truth—it's a ministry strategy. This week, we're going to see how Paul lived that out in real time in Corinth.

**Introduction:**

If you lived in ancient Corinth, you would have found yourself in a loud, energetic city—a commercial hub full of ships, money, temples, and ideas.

It was a melting pot of cultures and religions, but what Corinth prized most was **impressiveness**. To be taken seriously, you had to be **polished, persuasive, and powerful**.

Philosophers and orators were like celebrities. The more eloquent your speech, the more likely you were to be heard and admired. **Style** mattered just as much—**maybe more**—than substance.



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Corinth didn't just want truth.

**Corinth wanted truth that looked and sounded good.**

And here we are today, gathered on the Sunday after Ascension—just like the early disciples, who had seen Jesus rise to heaven and were now left waiting.

They had no clever strategy. No impressive plan. No spiritual fireworks. Just a promise:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

Like Paul in Corinth, they didn't have strength or status or polish. They had weakness. They had need.

But they also had something greater: **the power of God.**

And that's what we're leaning into this morning—**the kind of ministry, the kind of message, that rests not on us, but on Him.**

Into that world stepped the **Apostle Paul.**

But by the time he arrived in Corinth (Acts 18), he was not riding a wave of ministry success. Just the opposite.

- In **Philippi**, he had been **beaten and imprisoned**. (Acts 16:16–24, see [Acts Series, Week 49 Sermon Here](#))
- In **Thessalonica**, he was **chased out of town** by an angry mob. (Acts 17:1–9, see [Acts Series, Week 53 Sermon Here](#))
- In **Berea**, the same mob followed him. (Acts 17:10–15, see [Acts Series, Week 54 Sermon Here](#))
- In **Athens**, he was **mocked and dismissed** as a babbler. (Acts 17:16–21, see [Acts Series, Week 55 Sermon Here](#))

And now—worn down, emotionally exhausted, and physically weak—**Paul entered Corinth.**

Not exactly a great setup for effective ministry by today's standards.

In fact, **Acts 18:9–10** tells us that things were so intense that **God Himself had to appear to Paul in a vision**, saying:

*“Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”*

So when Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 2:3**,

*“I came to you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,”*



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**He’s not exaggerating.**

**He means it.** He showed up **fragile, trembling,** and **deeply aware** of his **limitations.**

And what did he decide to do?

Not to **regroup.** Not to **rebrand** his message.

Not to rely on **slick arguments** or **powerful presence.**

But instead this:

***“I resolved to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” (v. 2)***

Paul **chose** the very message the world considered foolish —  
and he preached it with no human confidence and no persuasive flair.

**Why?**

Because Paul knew something the Corinthians didn’t—and something we often forget:

**The gospel doesn’t need to be dressed up. It just needs to be faithfully proclaimed.**

And the fact that anyone in Corinth came to believe through such an unimpressive method?

That’s not failure—that’s **proof** of God’s power.

Paul preached in weakness so that no one could say, “We believed because Paul was so persuasive.”

Their faith didn’t rest on his talent—it rested on **God’s strength.**

**Main Point:**

**God’s wisdom is revealed in the simple, straightforward message of the cross.**

This is the core of Paul’s message in these verses, and it flows directly out of the surrounding context of chapters 1 and 2.

As we looked at in the past few weeks, in chapter 1, Paul made the case that **the cross is offensive to human pride.** It seems like weakness. It doesn’t flatter the powerful. And it can’t be understood through natural wisdom. That’s by design.

God deliberately uses what the world considers foolish—**so that no one can boast in themselves.**

And now in chapter 2, Paul essentially says: **“I lived that out in front of you.”**

Let’s break down what Paul **did not** do:



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- He did **not come with eloquence**—even though Corinth loved polished rhetoric.
- He did **not come with human wisdom**—even though the city prized intellectual debate.
- He did **not try to impress or persuade** by worldly standards.

Instead, Paul says he came in **weakness, fear, and trembling**—not as a rhetorical device, but as an honest description of his physical and emotional condition.

*“I resolved to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” (v. 2)*

That was his method: preach the message that the world finds foolish, and trust the Spirit to do the convincing.

So what was the result?

*“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power...” (v. 4)*

Some think Paul is referring to miracles here—and that’s possible—but in the context of Acts 18, no signs and wonders are mentioned in Corinth. What is mentioned is this: **people believed**.

**And that may be the greatest miracle of all.**

A weary, trembling man preached a message that sounded foolish to everyone—and yet hearts were changed. People repented. A church was born. Lives were transformed.

That’s the demonstration of the Spirit’s power.

And here’s why Paul did it this way:

*“So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom but on God’s power.” (v. 5)*

If Paul had come with flair and flash, people might have said, *“We follow Paul because he’s brilliant.”* But instead, they followed Christ—because the Spirit opened their eyes to the truth.

That’s how gospel ministry works.

Not through performance, but through **faithful weakness**.

Not through polish, but through **Christ crucified**.

Not through persuasion, but through **power**—the power of God.



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**So let’s pull all of that together.**

Paul’s preaching wasn’t weak by accident—it was weak *on purpose*.

He didn’t try to win the Corinthians with words. He came to **strip away every reason** someone might put their faith in him — in Paul — so that their faith **would rest entirely on Jesus Christ** and the **power of God**.

And if that’s how the gospel **worked then** -- it’s still how the gospel **works now**.

Paul didn’t just write that God uses the foolish to shame the wise—he *embodied* it. He didn’t just say God gets glory through weakness—he lived it. The man who said, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord,’ came to Corinth not to boast in brilliance but to proclaim a crucified Christ.

That’s what Pastor Jody unpacked so powerfully last week—and now Paul’s saying:

***I put that into practice when I was among you.***

So let’s dig deeper into the logic of Paul’s message. There are **three truths** in this passage that explain how the gospel confounds the world’s wisdom and magnifies God’s strength.

Here’s the first:

### **Point 1: The Cross Offends Human Pride**

Let’s look again at what Paul says in verses 1 and 2:

*“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”*  
—1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (ESV)

That’s a bold choice. Paul deliberately chose **not** to impress them.

**Not** to craft a perfect speech. **Not** to showcase his resume or intellect.

#### **Why?**

Because Paul knew that **the message of the cross was already offensive enough**.

To add human polish to it would risk drawing attention *away* from the cross and toward the speaker.

Let’s be honest: the cross is **not attractive** by **worldly standards**.

It is **humiliating. Bloody. Violent. Shameful**.

In the **Roman** world, it was a punishment reserved for the **worst criminals**.

To say your Savior died on a cross was like saying **your hope rests in an electric chair**.

**It sounded absurd.**



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But that’s exactly the point Paul is making.

*“We preach Christ crucified, a **stumbling block** to Jews **and folly** to Gentiles.”*  
—1 Corinthians 1:23

The Jews wanted **signs** and **miracles**. The Greeks wanted **wisdom** and **rhetoric**.  
And here comes Paul — **preaching a crucified Messiah?**  
To them, it was a **joke**. A **scandal**. A **disgrace**.

But Paul understood something the Corinthians—**and maybe even some of us**—still struggle with:

**The gospel must break your pride before it can build your faith.**

Because what does the cross tell us?

- You **can’t** fix yourself.
- You **are not** the solution.
- Your **morality**, your **accomplishments**, your **intellect**—none of it can make you right with God.

And that **offends** our flesh. Deep down, we want to **believe** we’re **good enough**. **Smart enough**. **Worthy enough**.

But the cross says: **No. You’re not**.

Yet here’s the good news: **Christ is**.

*“For while we were still weak, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly**.”*  
—Romans 5:6

That’s the heart of the gospel. But it requires humility to receive it.

**Charles Spurgeon** once said in his 1886 sermon “Christ and His Co-Workers”<sup>1</sup>

*“Suppose a number of persons were to take it into their heads that they had to defend a lion, full-grown king of beasts! There he is in the cage, and here come all the soldiers of the army to fight for him. Well, I should suggest to them, if they would not object, and feel that it was humbling to them, that they should kindly stand back, and open the door, and let the lion out! I believe that would be the best way of defending him, for he would take care of himself; and the best ‘apology’ for the gospel is to let the gospel out.”*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/christ-and-his-co-workers/>



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That's what Paul is doing here. He's letting the gospel **roar**. Not by decorating it, but by **declaring it**.

He didn't want the Corinthians to walk away saying, **"Wow, what a speaker!"**

He wanted them to walk away saying, **"Wow, what a Savior."**

**Let's bring this close to home:**

- Do you ever feel nervous about sharing your faith because you **don't know the right words?**
- Do you ever feel pressure to sound **clever, or smart, or persuasive?**
- Do you sometimes feel like the gospel isn't enough **unless you "sell" it just right?**

**Friend, hear this:**

**The power is not in your performance. It's in the message of the cross.**

You don't have to **dress it up**.

You just have to **lift it up**.

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**Point 2: God Uses Weakness to Display Strength**

Look with me at verse 3:

***"And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling."***  
**-1 Corinthians 2:3 (ESV)**

Now pause for a second and think about that.

This is Paul speaking. Paul the **apostle**. Paul the **church planter**. Paul the **missionary**.

Paul the man who stood toe-to-toe with **rulers** and **philosophers**.

And here he says: **"When I showed up to preach to you, I was trembling. I was afraid. I was weak."**

By any worldly standard, **this sounds like failure**.

The Corinthians wanted someone **strong, polished, impressive**.

Instead, they got **a trembling preacher** with a **bloody message**.



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But here's what Paul understood—and what we need to hear today:

**Weakness is not a liability in God's kingdom. It's a platform for His strength.**

**Paul's Weakness Was Intentional!**

Paul wasn't just having a bad day. He wasn't underprepared or insecure. He chose to come in weakness.

**Why?**

Because he wanted their ***faith to rest on God's power—not Paul's performance.*** If the Corinthians were moved by Paul's eloquence, they might confuse **emotional excitement** with **spiritual transformation**.

But if they were changed by a trembling man preaching Christ crucified—then the only explanation would be: ***"God did that."***

This isn't just a Paul thing—it's a God thing. All throughout Scripture, God delights in using weakness:

- **Moses** had a speech problem—***and yet God used him to confront Pharaoh.***
- **Gideon** was the least in his family—***and yet God used him to lead an army.***
- **David** was the youngest son with a slingshot—***and God used him to kill a giant.***
- **Mary** was a teenage girl—***and God chose her to bear the Messiah.***

**Why? Because:**

***"God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong."***  
**—1 Corinthians 1:27**

God does this on purpose. He **wants** and *deserves* to get the glory. And when we boast in our weakness, we point the spotlight to **Him**.





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Paul says it even more clearly in his second letter to the Corinthians:

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'  
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses,  
so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."  
—2 Corinthians 12:9*

**That flips the script, doesn't it?**

The world says: "Be strong. Be confident. Never let them see you struggle."

God says: "Let them see your weakness. **Because that's when they'll see Me.**"

I love the way that **D.L. Moody** once put it:

*"Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody,  
40 years learning he was nobody, and  
40 years discovering **what God can DO with a nobody.**"<sup>2</sup>*

That's the journey God takes us on:

- He breaks down our self-reliance.
- He exposes our limitations.
- Then He fills that empty space with *His* strength.

Let me speak directly to those of you **who feel too weak** to be **useful to God**.

- You think your **past** disqualifies you.
- You think your **anxiety** makes you a bad witness.
- You think your **lack of education**, or your **fear of public speaking**, or your **personality** holds you back.

**But listen:**

**God doesn't need you to be strong—He just needs you to be surrendered.**

Your trembling testimony might be the very thing God uses to **draw someone else to Jesus**.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.moodycenter.org/>



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So instead of hiding your weakness — **boast in it.**

Because **that's** where God shows up.

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**Point 3: The Spirit, Not Style, Changes Hearts**

Let's pick back up in verse 4:

*"and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power," —1 Corinthians 2:4 (ESV)*

Paul continues his confession here. Not only did he come in **weakness** and **trembling**— he also says he **intentionally avoided** persuasive techniques.

Now, don't get the wrong idea — **Paul wasn't against clarity or logic.** He wasn't a sloppy speaker. But he refused to rely on the tools of the world:

- Manipulation
- Emotionalism
- Clever speech
- Philosophical gymnastics

**Why?**

**Because Paul knew the most important truth about gospel ministry:**

**Real transformation comes from the Spirit of God, not the skill of the preacher.**

**There is a danger of relying on Style.**

Let's be honest: It's easy to be **impressed** by **gifted communicators.**

We've all listened to someone preach or speak and thought, "**Wow—he's amazing!**" And sometimes, we confuse **being moved emotionally** with **being changed spiritually.**

Paul wanted to make sure the Corinthians didn't fall into that trap.

He says, in essence:

"I didn't want your faith to be built on my ability to wow you.  
I wanted it to be built on the Spirit's power to change you."



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The church in Corinth had a tendency to rally around personalities—“I follow Paul,” “I follow Apollos,” “I follow Cephas.” They were chasing **voices** instead of Christ.

And Paul was adamant: **No preacher, no matter how skilled, can save your soul! Only the Spirit can do that.**

### **In John 16:8 - The Spirit Does the Work**

*“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”*  
—John 16:8 (ESV)

Jesus said this about the **Holy Spirit**. He makes it clear: **it’s not our job** to convict hearts—**that’s His**.

**Yes**, we proclaim the truth.

**Yes**, we call people to repentance.

But the miracle of a changed heart? **That’s the Spirit’s domain.**

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### **Jonathan Edwards - An “Imperfect” Example**

Let me tell you a story from church history that illustrates this beautifully.

In 1741, **Jonathan Edwards** preached his famous sermon “*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*.”

By all accounts, Edwards was **not** a dynamic speaker. He had poor eyesight and often read his sermons word for word, **barely looking up**. He spoke in a **slow, monotone voice**.<sup>3</sup>

But that day, as he calmly read his manuscript, **something remarkable happened**.

People in the congregation began to groan. Others cried out. Some clutched their pews in fear, feeling as if they were dangling over the fires of hell. **Many repented on the spot**.

Why?

**Because the Spirit moved.**

It wasn’t Jonathan Edwards’ voice that pierced hearts — **it was God’s**.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://teachingresources.org/2010/01/18/the-preaching-of-jonathan-edwards-by-jim-ehrhart/>



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## **We Plant, God Gives the Growth**

Paul says it again later in 1 Corinthians:

*“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.  
So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”*  
—1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (ESV)

This truth reshapes how we think about all ministry—whether it’s preaching a sermon, leading a small group, discipling a teen, or sharing the gospel with a friend.

**It’s not about being impressive—it’s about being faithful.**

We plant the seed. We water the soil. But only the Spirit of God can make new life grow.

## **Encouragement to the Church**

So let me ask you:

- Have you been holding back from sharing your faith because you don’t feel eloquent?
- Do you believe someone else could do it “better”?
- Have you fallen into the trap of thinking ministry is only for the polished or the professionally trained?

Friend, **God never asked you to be slick.** He asked you to be **faithful.**

If you’ve got the gospel, and you’re walking in the Spirit, **you have everything you need.**

It’s not **your job** to change hearts. That’s the Spirit’s work.

Your job is to **speak the truth in love**—and let God do what only He can do.

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So let’s step back and look at what Paul’s been saying in these verses.

He didn’t rely on his education, his eloquence, or his experience.

He didn’t try to meet the Corinthians on their terms by dazzling them with rhetoric or philosophy.

He didn’t build his ministry on his own strength or style.

Instead, he preached **Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**

He stood in weakness.

He trusted the Spirit to work.

And it was enough.



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Because Paul knew something we need to remember too:

**Main Point:**

**God’s wisdom is revealed in the simple, straightforward message of the cross.**

That message is still true today.

- We don’t need to **upgrade the gospel**.
- We don’t need to **repackage** it to make it **more appealing**.
- We don’t need to **pretend** to be something we’re not in order to be **useful** to God.

In fact, when we stop trying to impress — **and just proclaim Christ** — the power of God is most clearly seen.

And if that’s true, it leads us to some important questions.

**Challenge #1: Don’t trade the gospel’s power for spiritual entertainment.**

It’s easy to confuse **inspiration** with **transformation**.

It’s easy to be stirred by someone’s voice, or humor, or emotional delivery—and assume that means God is moving.

But brothers and sisters, we are not called to be a people who **chase goosebumps**.

We are called to be a people who **stand on truth**.

**Ask yourself:**

- Am I more drawn to **how** something is said than **what** is being said?
- Do I leave church talking about the **preacher**—or about **Jesus**?

**The gospel doesn’t need smoke machines and stagecraft.** It needs clarity and conviction.

Let’s be a church that longs for truth, not just talent.

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**Challenge #2: Don’t be ashamed of the gospel’s simplicity.**

Sometimes, when we’re talking to unbelievers—**or even to our own kids**—we may feel pressure to “sell” the gospel.

We try to make it sound more palatable, more positive, more sophisticated.

We focus on the benefits—peace, joy, purpose—and avoid the offense—sin, judgment, the cross.



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But the gospel is not a product. It's not a lifestyle brand. It's a *message of salvation*.  
And at its heart is a crucified Savior.

Don't water it down. Don't dress it up. Just tell it straight.

You might feel **awkward**. You might not **say it perfectly**. **That's okay**.

The power is not in your presentation—**it's in the truth itself**.

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**Challenge #3: *Let your weakness point to God's strength.***

Most of us don't feel qualified for ministry. And in some ways, that's a good thing.

**We think:**

- “I'm not bold enough.”
- “I don't know enough.”
- “I'm too broken. Too timid. Too ordinary.”

But here's the good news: ***you are exactly the kind of person God loves to use.***

Your weakness is not a disqualification—**it's an invitation**.

When you serve in your weakness—when you confess your fears, when you speak with trembling, when you share Christ even though your voice shakes—people see the power of God, not the performance of man.

So stop waiting until you feel strong.  
Step out in faith, and let God's strength be seen in your weakness.

**Closing:**

As we come to a close this morning, I want to speak to two kinds of people in the room.

**First, to the Christian who feels small:**

You love Jesus. You want to serve Him. But you constantly feel like you're not enough.

- You feel ***spiritually unimpressive***.



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- You don't know **all the right words**.
- You're not the **boldest person in the room**.
- You've got **weakness, fear, even trembling**—just like Paul.

Hear me: **That doesn't disqualify you.** That's exactly **where God does His best work.**

Jesus didn't choose the most powerful people to build His church.

He chose

Fishermen. Tax collectors. Doubters. Failures.

**Why?**

So that **no one would mistake** the **success of the gospel** for the **strength of man**.

You're not **strong**? Not **eloquent**? Not impressive by the world's standards? **Good.**

That's the kind of person God delights to use. As Pastor Jody reminded us last week, **God chose you**—not because of your status, **but because of His love**. He **adopted** you into **His family**, gave you a **new name**, and sealed you with the **Spirit**. So now, when you stand and speak—even in weakness—you don't stand alone. You stand as a child of the King."

So stop waiting until you feel worthy.

Christ is worthy. And that's enough.

Now second, I want to speak to the **person who doesn't yet know Jesus** — or who's **unsure** where they stand with Him.

- You may have learned about Christianity your whole life.
- Maybe you've even tried to clean yourself up — to be more **spiritual**, more **moral**, more **"together."**
- But the message of the cross — **the real message** — is this:

*You can't **save** yourself.  
But **Jesus** can.*

He lived the perfect life **you couldn't live**.

He died the death **your sins deserved**.

He rose again to give **you new life and a clean slate**.

And all He asks of you is to **stop trying to prove yourself** — and trust Him.



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Not in **your wisdom**. Not in **your works**. Not in your **church attendance** or your **good intentions**.

But in **Jesus Christ and Him crucified**.

**That's** where the power is.

**That's** where the hope is.

And that's the **only foundation** strong enough to carry you through this life and into the next.

**[CALL TO OBEY] - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

"9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

So wherever you are this morning—weak or weary, confident or confused—look to the cross.

- That's where **grace flows**.
- That's where **pride dies**.
- That's where **hope lives**.

**Today is the Sunday after Ascension**—a moment in the church calendar when we remember that Jesus has risen and is reigning... **but Pentecost has not yet come**.

It's a space of waiting. A space of trusting. A space where the Spirit's power is not yet visible, but it is promised.

And that's right where Paul stood when he came to Corinth. **That's where many of us stand today**.

**Weak**. Aware of our limitations. **Unsure if we have what it takes**.

But just like then, the Spirit still moves.

The gospel still works. **And God's strength is still made perfect in our weakness**.

So whether you're trembling like Paul **or simply feeling ordinary**—preach Christ.  
Live Christ. Trust the Spirit.

He **is** enough.

Let's pray.





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## **Communion**

### **Matthew 26:26-29 ESV**

<sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus. Since we would not believe and obey the Words of God Jesus came as the Living Word of God. He lived a life of obedience so we would be able to be obedient, He lived a life of sacrifice so we would want to be sacrifice for Him. He lives proving His authority so we would know we can have life in Him. Praise be to Him for His wonderful effort.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood. This week we will remember a little more fully that the cross was necessary to pay for our sins. By His wounds family we all are healed, by His blood we all are made clean, by His authority we the captives are set free! Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

## **[COMMUNION]**

## **[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

\* The Congregation will stand

**Elder - "Christians, what do you believe?"**

**Congregation - recites the *London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689***  
**Chapter 8, Section 4, *Jesus' Atoning Work***

Jesus willingly accepted this office. <sup>21</sup> In order to fulfill it, he was born under the law. <sup>22</sup> He perfectly fulfilled the law and suffered the punishment we deserved, which we should have endured and suffered. <sup>23</sup> He was made sin and a curse for us. <sup>24</sup> He endured extremely serious sorrows in his soul and extremely painful sufferings in his body. <sup>25</sup> He was crucified and died, and



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**Wk. 6- "The Power of the Cross in a World of Performers"**  
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remained in a state of death, but his body did not decay. 26 On the third day, he rose from the dead 27 with the same body in which he suffered. 28 In this body, he also ascended into heaven, 29 where he sits at the right hand of his Father and intercedes. 30 He will return to judge humanity and angels at the end of the age. 31

21. Psalms 40:7-8; Hebrews 10:5-10; John 10:18 22. Galatians 4:4; Matthew 3:15 23. Galatians 3:13; Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 3:18 24. 2 Corinthians 5:21 25. Matthew 26:37, 38; Luke 22:44; Matthew 27:46 26. Acts 13:37 27. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 28. John 20:25, 27 29. Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11 30. Romans 8:34; Hebrews 9:24 31. Acts 10:42; Romans 14:9-10; Acts 1:11; 2 Peter 2:4

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG]**

**[BENEDICTION]**

**Jude 24-25 (ESV):**

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*