

4. *“I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling” (2:3)*. Why should anyone present the gospel with “fear and trembling”? Is this fear of what others might think? What is Paul talking about here? How do you relate to this verse?

We live in an age where pride and arrogance are treated like virtues rather than vices. How does this verse speak to such an attitude, and why is it so central to an authentic proclamation of the crucified Christ?

5. Do you tend to be a *“people pleaser”*? How so? When can this become dangerous or destructive? What does this passage (2:1-5) have to say about such a tendency? (Cf. Jesus’ testimony in **John 5:41-44**.)
6. How have your own experiences of personal “weakness” become occasions for experiencing God’s resurrection power? (**See 2 Cor. 1:8-9; 11:30; 12:8-10.**)
7. What does Paul mean when he says that his preaching was “not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power” (2:5)? What kind of “demonstrations” is he alluding to here? What’s the difference between a *“demonstration of the Spirit’s power”* and a *“performance”*?
8. What situations or examples can you think of where God used the weak, lowly, and despised to build his kingdom in our day?