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Daily Devotional - Monday, April 1, 2019 - What Makes a Church Powerful?

APRIL 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

What factors determine whether a church is powerful or weak? Oftentimes people make such evaluations based on appearances and human reasoning rather than on God's Word.

For instance, large congregations with dynamic worship services and programs for every age and interest group look impressive. Or a church could be viewed as powerful because of its prominent location, a big budget, or the pastor with a magnetic personality. In contrast, small churches—especially those with few members, a rural setting, and little money—are often considered lesser.

The point is that we can't judge a church's strength or weakness based on outward factors like size, location, prosperity, or prominence. Paul's letter to the Corinthians points out that a strong church is one that is founded on the message of the cross and grounded in God's wisdom rather than the world's.

God's power is given to the church for His purposes, not for human agendas. And it isn't a persuasive sermon but the gospel of Christ that can save souls. Some pastors may be able to manipulate people, but only God's Spirit brings the genuine conviction of sin that leads to repentance and salvation.

For divine power to flow into and through a local body, that church must hold firmly to Scripture. What's more, it cannot use techniques derived from worldly thinking but must rely on God's direction.

A faith community cannot be powerful unless the people within it are individually submitted to Christ and empowered by Him. This means our commitment to Jesus affects our churches for better or for worse.

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