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***“When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn’t use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God’s secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.” ~1 Corinthians 2:1-5***

If you are reading this, you most likely have been on social media recently (if not at this very minute), and if you are or have been on social media, then you’ve likely commented on something there. It’s part of our society today. Everyone has an opinion, and the relative anonymity of commenting on a random post online emboldens us to express our opinions with little restraint.

Recently I read a post on a popular Christian site and replied respectfully with a thought I had on the subject. Almost instantly I was blasted by someone trying to belittle me by insinuating that their knowledge and training far superseded my own. After a couple of courteous replies from me followed by more grandstanding by them, I politely suggested that we continue our discussion via private message so as not to detract from the intent of the original post. I never heard from the individual again.

Paul was a learned teacher, very respected in Jewish circles, a Pharisee. If anyone had cause to boast in his credentials, it was Paul, yet, in the verses above we see that he recognized that it was more important to speak plainly so that everyone could understand than to use fancy words so that others would be impressed by his knowledge.

Don’t allow yourself to be sucked into puffed-up arguments to show just how smart you are. Instead, rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. He can get God’s point across without our fancy speeches.