

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5, And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit does not depend on our eloquence or the persuasiveness of our words. Education and knowledge is good and we should seek to better our understanding of the word of God through formal study. However, in the word we read that the Lord used "uneducated and untrained men" (ACTS 4:13) to confound the arguments of the learned theologians of their day. There is nothing wrong with having our gathering places well appointed and using the technology available to us to help communicate the word of the Lord. Sound systems, lights and projectors are all wonderful tools available to us and none of these things are wrong in and of themselves. But if we are not careful, we will become convinced that ministry is somehow lacking without them. We must renew the understanding that you could take all those things away but if you have the anointing of the Anointed One, the kingdom of darkness will be shaken to its core, the yoke of the enemy destroyed and captives set free.

The Lord is calling us to embrace the call to simplicity. To take up their cross and follow Jesus into the surrendered life of a true disciple. To put others interests ahead of our own. To pursue an anointing upon our lives and in our corporate gatherings that causes hardened sinners to tremble under the conviction of God and demons to flee. To contend one again for the anointing that does in a moment what doctors, counselors and psychologists are unable to accomplish after years of treatment. To place more value on the character of Jesus being seen in our life than in the gifts and talents we possess. In short, the Holy Spirit is calling us back to the understanding that "the kingdom of God is not in word but in power." (1 CORINTHIANS 4:20) He is calling. What will your answer be?