



Key References:

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (ESV) - 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.

“lofty” = “ὕπεροχὴ” meaning: *prominence, superiority, excellency.*

1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV) - For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (ESV) - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

2 Timothy 1:6–7 (ESV) - For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷

2 Timothy 2:1–4 (ESV) - You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

0 - POWER IN THE ROOM

At the beginning of the message Andy pointed out that he was humbled by thinking about the anointing, calling and potential power that was in the room on Sunday. **Why did he say that? What is the potential power on us as a single Connect Group?**

1 - THE POWER OF GOD OVER LOFTY TALK

Read 1 Cor 2:1-5. Andy’s first point was that “we would be a church where we choose the power of God over lofty talk.” **How would you define a “lofty talk” Connect Group or church? How can we also choose this power in the way we meet as a Connect Group?**

Read 1 Cor 1:18. Andy said: “We need to be a church that’s full of The Spirit, but also the power and the transforming nature of the cross.” **Why did Andy put the focus on the power of Jesus’ cross and not just the Holy Spirit?**

How can we have a “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” at Connect Group together?

2 -SPIRITUAL GIFTS BEING FANNED INTO FLAME

Andy’s second point was that “we would be a church where spiritual gifts are being fanned into flame”.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-12. **Do all believers have Spiritual Gifts? How can you use and grow your gift?**

Andy compared not using your gift like coming to a birthday without a present. **Why did he emphasis this?**

3 - TO BE A CHURCH ON THE FRONT LINES

Andy’s last point was that we need to be a “church living on the front lines”. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-4 as you consider this point.

What’s the difference between a reservist or ceremonial soldier and an active-duty soldier?

What does it mean to you to be “a good soldier of Christ Jesus” in reference to verse 3 & 4?