## The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 5, 1st Corinthians 1:17-24, The Power of God This passage gives us some defining characteristics of the Gospel which is "The Power of God". 1. The Gospel is a divider of men, 1st Corinthians 1:18. Mattew 10:34-35, It doesn't sew us together but divides us in two. Separates the perishing from those being saved; lost from the found; foolish from the wise; those who run from the light from those who run to it. It separates the seeing from those who refuse to see, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:22. 2. The Gospel is an Obligator of the Saved, 1st Corinthians 1:17. ✓ He was "sent to preach", Romans 1:14-15. Did you know you were in debt? In debt to God and to every human being because of what you know. As if you and everybody else is dying of thirst and you've found water. As if you are in a burning building with everybody else and you found the way out. It is a personal debt, "I am under obligation" We are the instruments through which God communicates His good News to people, He has chosen no other means to do this. Romans 1:17, "from faith to faith" literally, "Out of faith into faith." God does not go to person directly but through the agency of someone who has already believed. He speaks out of the faith of one person into the receptive faith of another. This is the way that God has appointed His message to be communicated. No one is being saved today apart from the instrumentality of another believer. 3. Every believer is an advanced outpost against the enemy. ✓ God works from Heaven on the people of this world in a similar way to how the military fights a war over seas. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 12:9, God's power has been entrusted to us; it is so powerful that it works even through frail and weak instruments like us!

√ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:17-18 & Romans 1:16, (the Greek is dunamas or dynamite).

If it is the power of God then it doesn't have any need for any more power.	