

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

English Standard Version (ESV)

GIFT OR GOD? Power

- planet Jupiter
- power for good or bad

POWER AS GOD

- reality of misuse of power ¹
- reason for misuse of power
- reckoning for misuse of power ²

POWER AS GIFT

- recognise the power of God
 - o all-powerful Creator ³
 - o all-powerful Rescuer ⁴
- recognise the power of weakness
 - o power of the gospel ⁵
 - o power of faith ⁶
 - o power of prayer ⁷
 - o power of suffering ⁸
 - o power of serving ⁹
 - o power of the weak ¹⁰

¹ Job 21:7; Ecclesiastes 4:1; Jeremiah 23:10

² Psalm 66:3; Luke 1:52

³ Revelation 4:11; Jeremiah 27:5; Romans 1:20; Daniel 4:30,32; Ecclesiastes 8:8; 1 Corinthians 4:6

⁴ Exodus 32:11; Romans 1:4; Ephesians 1:21; Matthew 24:30; Romans 5:6

⁵ 1 Corinthians 1:23; Romans 1:16

⁶ 1 Peter 1:5; 2 Peter 1:3

⁷ 2 Chronicles 20:12; James 5:8

⁸ 2 Corinthians 12:9; 4:7

⁹ Mark 8:31-38; 9:30-37; 10:32-45

¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 1:26