

2 Corinthians 11:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

Analysis

But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge: but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things. Paul concedes the charge leveled against him: *idiōtēs tō logō* (ἰδιώτης τῷ λόγῳ, 'unskilled/untrained in speech'). He was no polished Greco-Roman orator like Apollos (1 Cor 2:1-5; 2 Cor 10:10). His opponents valued rhetorical sophistication; Paul valued gospel truth.

Yet **not in knowledge** (*ou tē gnōsei, oὐ τῇ γνώσει*)—Paul possessed the true knowledge of Christ and the gospel mysteries revealed by the Spirit. The contrast is crucial: eloquence without truth is empty; truth clumsily expressed is still powerful (1 Cor 1:17-25). The Corinthians prized speech; God prizes substance.

The perfect passive *phanerōthentes* (φανερωθέντες, 'having been made manifest') asserts that Paul's ministry among them demonstrated genuine apostolic authority through changed lives, not impressive rhetoric. **In all things** (*en pasin, ἐν πᾶσιν*) emphasizes comprehensive validation—signs, wonders, endurance, Christ-like character, sacrificial love.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman culture prized rhetorical skill highly. Sophists commanded enormous fees for teaching oratory. The Corinthian church, influenced by this cultural value, measured Paul against professional orators and found him wanting. Paul

deliberately avoided rhetorical manipulation to let the gospel's power speak (1 Cor 2:1-5).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does contemporary Christianity sometimes value eloquence, charisma, and stage presence over biblical knowledge and godly character?
2. In what ways might emphasis on professional ministry training and communication skills inadvertently devalue Spirit-empowered but less polished servants?
3. How can we discern whether a speaker's effectiveness comes from rhetorical manipulation or the Spirit's power accompanying truth?

Interlinear Text

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|------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|------------|-------|---------------------|
| εἰ | δὲ | καὶ | ἰδιώτης | τῷ | λόγῳ | ἀλλ' | οὐ | τῇ | γνώσει |
| G1487 | But | G2532 | I be rude | G3588 | in speech | but | not | G3588 | in knowledge |
| | G1161 | | G2399 | | G3056 | G235 | G3756 | | G1108 |
| ἀλλ' | ἐν | πᾶσιν | φανερωθέντες | ἐν | πᾶσιν | εἰς | ὑμᾶς | | |
| but | in | all things | made manifest | in | all things | among | you | | |
| G235 | G1722 | G3956 | G5319 | G1722 | G3956 | G1519 | G5209 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:4 (Parallel theme): Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

1 Corinthians 1:17 (Creation): For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

1 Corinthians 1:21 (Parallel theme): For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

2 Corinthians 4:2 (Parallel theme): But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commanding ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

1 Corinthians 2:13 (Parallel theme): Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

2 Corinthians 5:11 (Creation): Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

2 Corinthians 10:10 (Parallel theme): For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

2 Corinthians 12:12 (Parallel theme): Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

2 Corinthians 7:2 (Parallel theme): Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.