1 Corinthians 2:4 (NLT2)

And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.

I remember several years ago I was invited by my son to go visit the church that they go to. As I waited for them to show up, I was sitting in the sanctuary, watching people come and go as there are multiple services, and some were leaving the previous service, while others were just getting there for the next service. But I remember two girls walked up to one another, with one of the girls asking the other *"So, how was it?"* referring to the previous service. And her response was. *"You know, I laughed, I cried, I laughed again and cried again, then laughed some more. A typical service."* When I heard that, all I could think was, *"Wow, you just got entertained, like you do every Sunday, and apparently did not learn anything or you would have shared that with your friend."*

Yet how many will go to a particular church, because they are entertained. The get their funny bone tickled, and they hear a sad story, so they cry, yet there is no change whatsoever in their life? Some go for certain events and a particular series of teaching, but once the events are gone or that series of teachings is over, they are off to another church, trying to find something to make them feel good, and like the young lady at the church I visited said, a sermon that will make them laugh and cry and laugh again.

But if you have to go church hopping, then you are not looking to have a spiritual family, you are looking for spiritual entertainment. But being entertained really doesn't change anyone, because a good teacher or pastor of God's word is not based upon how many times they make you laugh and/or cry, during the sermon or teaching, but rather on how many hearts are changed.

Churches should be thriving because God's word is being taught and lives are changing. But if you are going to a church that entertains you or you are church hopping, going from church to church to make you feel entertained and good about yourself, you are not walking the Christian walk as the bible teaches us to do, but rather, you have become part of the pastor's fan club.

The next verses are one of my favorites, verse 68 to be specific, but read it and let it sink in for a moment.

- ✞ **John 6:67-69** ***Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."***

Verse 68 is pretty much my life verse that says, "***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son***

of the living God." With my focus being on the heart changing words of Peter, when he said, "***You have the words of eternal life.***" I read that and say, *"Yeah, that's it, the words of Jesus are awesome, they are '**words of eternal life'**, and words that have changed my life."*

But notice Peter didn't respond with, *"Hey Jesus, we want to hang with You, because You make us laugh and cry, and You make us feel entertained and good about ourselves when we are around You."* No, the disciples were not attracted to Jesus because He entertained people, but rather because His words changed peoples lives, including their own.

If you did a word search for "entertain" in the King James and the NKJV bible, you find the word "entertain" only once, and it's in the book of Hebrews where it says that:

- **Hebrews 13:2** ***Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.***

But when you look at the same verse in the Message bible, it doesn't even use the word "***entertained***", it actually uses the word "***hospitality***" And what that tells us is that entertainment and the word of God really don't go hand in hand.

- **Hebrews 13:2 (MSG)** ***Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it!***

So is it wrong to be "entertained" in church? I would say no, only if (yes there is an "if" to my answer) the entertainment leads you to a better understanding of God's word, and it changes your life to be more Christ like. Think of the parables that Jesus spoke, these were stories, and everyone loves a good story, because, in a way, they do entertain those hearing it. But Jesus' stories (parables) were there to grab peoples attention and help them understand the things of God in a way that they could relate to, and it would change their lives. Also, those same stories or parables have been changing lives for over 2,000 years, including yours and mine.

But no one ever followed Jesus because they were entertained by Jesus, even the officers who were to arrest Jesus and try to catch Him saying something wrong said:

- **John 7:45-46** ***Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"***

Once again they said, "***No man ever spoke like this Man!***" Not, *"No man has ever entertained us and made us laugh like this Man!"*

So, don't try to be entertained into heaven by some sermon, or entertained in church by the pastor to make you feel good about yourself. Seek to learn from God's word and instead of walking away from church being entertained, walk away from church being life changed.

- **John 6:63 (NLT2)** ***The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.***

- **Psalm 119:49-50 (MSG)** ***Remember what you said to me, your servant— I hang on to these words for dear life! These words hold me up in bad times; yes, your promises rejuvenate me.***