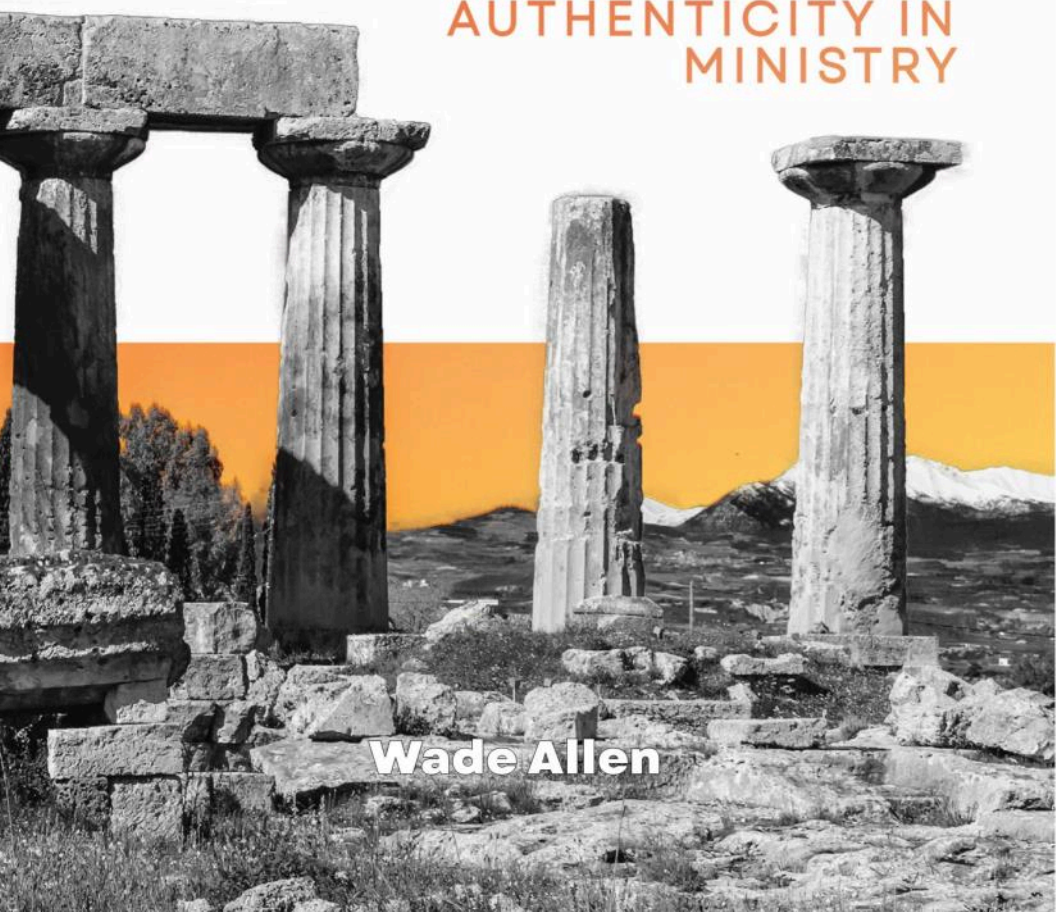


RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

CORINTH

AUTHENTICITY IN
MINISTRY



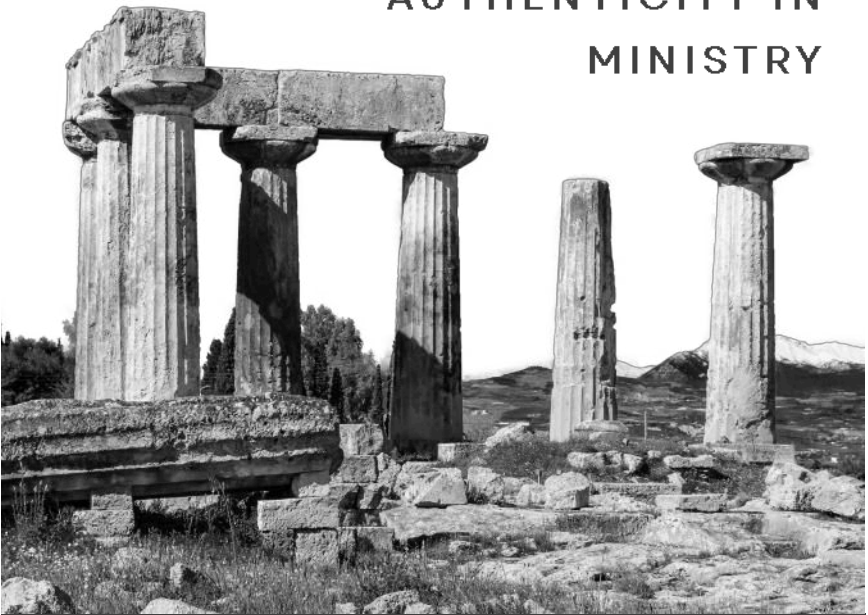
Wade Allen

RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

CORINTH

AUTHENTICITY IN
MINISTRY



Temple
Baptist
Church



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INTRODUCTION

**“Open my eyes, that I may behold
Wonderful things from Your law.”**

Psalm 119:18 (LEGACY STANDARD BIBLE, 2021)

It is such a privilege to come along side of you as you continue to invest in your spiritual growth and maturity! In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul challenges us to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). This booklet will help you do just that—mature in your faith in Jesus Christ!

Transitioning Back to the New Testament

This fall, we will begin studying through the Book of 2 Corinthians! According to *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, “Few portions of the New Testament pose as many problems for translators and interpreters as does 2 Corinthians. Few, therefore, are the preachers who undertake a systematic exposition of its contents. For those undaunted by its demands, however, an intimate picture of a pastor’s heart may be found as the Apostle Paul shepherded the wayward Corinthians and revealed a love which comes only from God” (*TBKC NT Edition 551*).

I felt the Lord leading me to this section of Scripture several months ago. Had I read that introductory paragraph before making my decision to focus on 2 Corinthians, I might have changed my mind! But alas, here we are—about to depart on yet another journey through Scripture. I covet your prayers as we dive deep into this text.

I must admit, God has already been using this book to minister to my heart in a special way. With the passing of my father just five weeks ago, I

have found great comfort and hope in chapters one, four and five. I have experienced first-hand how that God is the “God of all comfort” (1:3). I am blown away by the emphatic promise of the resurrection—“knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence” (4:14). And I find significant encouragement in knowing that “if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (5:1). I look forward to expounding on these truths in the days to come!

NEW SERMON SERIES

The title of our new sermon series is “Authenticity in Ministry.” The central theme of this book is *“the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit in Paul’s apostolic life, ministry and message”* (ESV Study Bible). We will discover that there are no superheroes in ministry, but rather, a bunch of weak and flawed individuals who yield control of their lives to an all-powerful God who is able to bring about His will and His purpose through trials, difficulties, false accusations, adversity and turmoil. This is why—toward the end of the letter—Paul proclaims, “For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).

I have chosen this series title—“Authenticity in Ministry”—because of this focus on our weaknesses and inadequacies. If a person is unwilling to admit his/her weaknesses and inadequacies, that usually means that they have a problem with authenticity. According to a study of the characteristics of Generation Z, conducted in 2021 by Ernst & Young LLP, “Authenticity is the most important value for Gen Z—even beyond future plans and being rich” (www.ey.com).



As we seek to reach our community for Christ, our authenticity must be genuine. It must not be forced. We cannot come across as

fake or phony. This is why James, the Lord’s half-brother, wrote that “... faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17). We need to “practice what we preach,” “walk the talk” or any other pithy statement that says the same thing. That’s why Paul wrote to Titus that there will be people who “profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work” (Titus 1:16).

It is my prayer that all of us will examine our hearts and our lives as we spend about four-and-a-half months walking through this letter.

FALL 2022 RECHARGE STUDIES

This issue of *Recharge* is designed to be your companion throughout this study in 2 Corinthians. Each week contains:

- A page to take notes from each Sunday’s sermons.
- A page for notes/prayer needs from your Community group.
- A Bible reading plan to SOAP journal through 1 & 2 Corinthians. SOAP instructions and a Table of Contents for your SOAP journals are located on pages 67-68.
- A follow-up study from the Sunday sermon, as well as a follow-up study from the SOAP journal Bible reading.

This book is part one of two—we will complete our study through the Book of 2 Corinthians in the new year (1/23—3/23). Another issue of *Recharge* will be available after the first of the year. Our goal for this fall is to study the first seven chapters of this letter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or one of our pastors. Our prayer is that these studies will provide you with a daily *Recharge* for your life!

Pastor Wade Allen

WEEK 1

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Sermon Title: Hope in the Midst of Suffering

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In this week's message, we learned that God uses pain and suffering in our lives to make us into the people that He wants us to be. Think of a time when you went through a difficult season in your life. Did those circumstances cause you to become closer to God, or did it drive you away from God? Explain.

Read Romans 5:1-5. What does it mean to be justified by faith? What is the result of that?

Why are we able to rejoice "in hope of the glory of God"? What else are we to rejoice in as believers in Christ?

Notice that this process begins and ends with hope! Hope is a result of grace and faith at work in our lives. Describe the cycle described in verses 3-4. What does this teach us about the work of suffering in a believer's life?

Bible Reading: Acts 18:1-19:1a

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM ACTS 18:1-19:1A

The first time Paul visited the city of Corinth was on his second missionary journey. Read Luke's account of these events in Acts 18:1-19:1a. What were some of the important events that happened during his visit? Who are some of the people he met? How long did he teach and minister in Corinth?

It is always important to understand the context of Scripture when studying the Bible—especially the textual, cultural and historical contexts. What do we know about the first century city of Corinth—its location, religions, and commerce?
(Use your study Bible notes from the introduction to 1 & 2 Corinthians.)

Who was Apollos? How does this passage describe him?

Sermon Title: Grace in the Midst of Conflict

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Pastor Wade spoke this week about our responsibility to be peacemakers. In Matthew 5:9, what does the Bible say about it?

Something that everyone needs to learn is that we cannot control other people's actions—only our reactions! The Bible illustrates three possible responses that are entirely under our control. Read the following passages and describe the attitude and actions of each biblical response to conflict.

Discussion/Reconciliation (Galatians 6:1-2)

Negotiation/Compromise (Philippians 2:3-4)

Overlook/Extend Grace (Proverbs 19:11 & 1 Peter 4:8)

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-2:5

Title:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2:5

In 1 Corinthians 1:1-17, how often did Paul mention Christ?

What various blessings did Paul say they had received?

Why was Paul so upset about the divisions in the church?

Can you think of any divisions in our church that need to be addressed? Have you contributed to these problems in any way?

What steps can you take to prevent or correct these divisions?

Sermon Title: Life-Giving Power of the New Covenant

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

The phrase, “written on our hearts,” is an interesting concept that finds its origin in three Old Testament passages—one in Jeremiah and two in Ezekiel. Read Jeremiah 31:33. What was God writing on the hearts of His people?

What do we learn about the law’s impact on an individual according to Galatians 3:21-26? Why was it necessary for God’s Law to be written on our hearts?

Is it possible for a person to be reconciled to God by obeying the letter of the Law? Explain. (c.f. Galatians 3:10-12, 21-23)

Read 2 Corinthians 3:2-6. What is the new covenant mentioned in verse 6? Why does it say that the New Covenant is not of the letter but of the Spirit?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-3:23

Title:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-3:23

Do you have the mind of Christ? How do you know?

How does this affect the way you think?

How should this passage of Scripture have helped solve the Corinthians' problems of divisions?

What does it mean to be a worldly Christian? What did the Corinthians do to make Paul call them worldly?

Why is this unacceptable for true believers?

Sermon Title: Life-Transforming Power of the New Covenant

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-18. What are the two covenants that we find in this chapter? How is each described?

What did you learn about the Old Covenant from this passage?

In Exodus 34, what did God give to the Israelites as a reminder of the covenant He made with them? What was written on these?

What was the effect on Moses' body after spending forty days and nights fasting and fellowshiping with the Lord? (Consider Exodus 34:27-35)

What was Moses' purpose for putting a veil over his face after coming down from Mt. Sinai after meeting with God?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 4-5

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 4-5

How does chapter four function as a conclusion to the first three chapters?

Why do you suppose Paul spent four chapters on this subject?

Who should judge believers when they engage in gross immorality? What is the process for this? (c.f. Matthew 18)

What should be the ultimate goal of church discipline?

How does chapter five relate to the first four chapters of 1 Corinthians? What underlying ideas connect the material?

Sermon Title: The Courier of God's Promises

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 4:1-15

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

God has chosen to use sinful men and women to carry the truth of His promise of salvation to the world. That can be an overwhelming challenge—especially when we consider our weaknesses. This past Sunday, Pastor Wade pointed out (from 2 Corinthians 4:1-15) that it is not in spite of our weaknesses but through our weaknesses that God chooses to use us.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7. The “light of the knowledge of the glory of God” is only able to shine out into the darkness if our “jars of clay” have been broken. God wants to use us in our weakness. How did God use the following people in spite of their brokenness?

The Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4:1-42)

Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10)

Saul, the Persecutor (Galatians 1:11-24)

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 6

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 6

Would you be willing to let your own church judge between you and another believer in your congregation if you had a disagreement that would normally require legal intervention? Why?

Do you value more highly the work of the church, or your rights and property? How are these values reflected in the way you spend your time, energy, and money?

How are these values reflected in the way you respond when mistreated by Christians?

How would you define sexual immorality?

Why do you suppose Paul advocated fleeing sexual immorality instead of simply resisting it? Have you found this to be easy to avoid in your own life?

Sermon Title: The Culmination of God's Promises

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Do you fear death? Why or why not?

Are you looking forward to heaven? Why or why not?

In 2 Corinthians 5:5, Paul told us that God has prepared us for death and the afterlife. What is His guarantee to us that we have nothing to fear in death? (c.f. 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:13-14)

Read Romans 8:9-11. Paul is very confident about our personal resurrection after death. Do you share his confidence?

Multiple times in these verses, Paul says, “if the Spirit... dwells in you” or “if Christ is in you.” How does the indwelling of God affect your confidence in the resurrection?

What does it mean to you to know that God has given us His Spirit as a guarantee of eternal life?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 7

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 7

What were the circumstances in Corinth at the time Paul wrote?
Why is it important to understand these circumstances when trying to understand this chapter?

Why should married couples maintain a sexual relationship?
Are there exceptions to this?

When is divorce acceptable? Under what conditions is remarriage acceptable for divorced people? Under what conditions is remarriage acceptable for widows?

Why do you think Paul chose to talk about these issues at this particular point in the letter?

Sermon Title:

Sermon Text:

Speaker: Donny Parrish, Lifeword Executive Director

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In the message this week, shared by Donny Parrish, how many languages did he say Lifeword is now preaching in?

Read Matthew 24:3-14. This passage refers to the signs of the end of the age. What are some of the signs the end is near?

According to verse 14, what must happen first before “the end will come”?

Lifeword’s vision is to use media to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world—in the heart language of every tongue, tribe, and nation. You can help accomplish this vision by helping support this ministry with your prayers and finances.

What other ways can you get involved in God’s mission to reach every ethnicity with the gospel in their heart language?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 8-9

Title:

Date:

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Questions for Reflection from 1 Corinthians 8-9

Is it more important to love or to know? Can we get by with only one or the other? Why or why not?

How far should we go in giving up our rights when it comes to causing others to stumble? Where do we draw the line?

How did Paul prove his apostleship? Why did he need to defend his apostleship?

When should ministers be willing to give up their rights? What about other believers? Is there a difference?

What does it mean to be “all things to all people”?

Sermon Title:

Sermon Text:

Speaker: John O'Connor

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

Bible Reading:

Title:

Date:

Read and SOAP from the chapter of the Bible that was the primary text on Sunday.

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Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-11:1

What things happened to the Israelites when they left Egypt that was a foreshadowing of what was happening in the church at Corinth? What did Paul want them to learn from this?

What sins did Israel commit? How did God respond to their sins?

How does God's response to these sins serve as an example to the church? Do you see any of these sins being committed in our church today?

Exactly what promise does God make regarding the support he will give us in times of temptation? How is this promise commonly misunderstood or abused?

Sermon Title: Motivation for Ministry

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In this past Sunday's sermon from 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Pastor Wade shared six motivating factors for being active in the ministry of reconciliation. What were these motivators?

Read Romans 9:1-3. How did Paul say about his kinsmen, or his fellow Jews? What would motivate him to say something like this? (Consider verse 2)

Who are some of the people in your life that you have "great sorrow and unceasing anguish" in your heart because they have not trusted in Jesus as their Savior?

What are some practical steps that you can take to try to be Christ's ambassador to these people between now and Christmas?

What will you do to remind yourself to pray for these people every day?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:2-34

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-34

Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

What are the elements of the Lord's Supper? What is the significance of each element?

Why is it important that the church continue to observe the Lord's Supper?

When you celebrate the Lord's Supper, do you focus more on personal introspection and confession, or more on the unity and loving fellowship of the church? Why?

Sermon Title: Credentials for Ministry

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 6:3-10

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Why did God tell Samuel to go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem?

Why did so many of Jesse's sons pass before Samuel before God showed him the one to be king?

How was David described in this text? Based on this description, why is it not surprising that he was excluded from the initial selection process?

Have you ever felt unqualified or unworthy to serve God in the way He was leading you? How did this affect your service to Him?

What is most important to God when looking for someone to serve Him? What are some practical steps that you can take to transform your heart? (Consider Romans 12:1-2 and Colossians 3:1-17)

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13:13

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-13:13

Why do some people have certain spiritual gifts while others have different ones? Is this a good thing? What is the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit?

What is the point of the “body” metaphor? Did Paul emphasize diversity or unity, or did he treat both equally? What are some examples from the text?

How would you describe love? Does your definition look anything like Paul’s? Was Paul’s definition meant to be exhaustive?

Does Paul’s definition of love look more like something you feel or something you do? If you did the things in his definition, would that qualify as love? Why or why not?

Sermon Title:

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1

Speaker: David McEuen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In the text from this past Sunday, the Bible encourages us to cleanse ourselves from everything that is defiling us—both physically and spiritually (2 Cor. 7:1). Paul also addressed this issue in his first letter to the Corinthian church.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Considering the context of these two verses (1 Cor. 6:12-20), what was Paul teaching them about keeping their bodies pure and holy? List all the ways he refers to.

What does it mean when it says the body is the “temple of the Holy Spirit”?

How does this concept relate to other verses we’ve studied in this book so far, such as, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 and 5:5?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 14

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 14

Why should we desire spiritual gifts? Do you know what your spiritual gift is? What is it?

What spiritual gift is to be desired more than any other? How do prophecy's benefits compare with the benefits of tongues?

How were the Corinthians thinking like children? How did their thinking need to grow and mature?

Why is it important that our worship should "be done decently and in order"?

Sermon Title: Joy in the Midst of Difficulties

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

COMMUNITY GROUP:

Location:

Date:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What is the difference between joy and happiness?

Read James 1:2-4. How is it possible to consider various types of trials as reason for joy? What do you have to do to be able to do this? What kind of mindset do you have to have?

If you do “count it all joy,” what does the Bible say the result will be? What is that? How will that benefit you in your day-to-day life?

Read James 5:7-12. How many times does James encourage us to be patient or steadfast in this passage? What does it say about the person who remains steadfast in verse 11?

Who is Job? Why is he considered an example of steadfast endurance?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 15

Did Paul assume that most of the Corinthians had or had not believed the gospel? What was the gospel message Paul preached?

Did Paul try to prove Christ's resurrection, or did he assume that his readers accepted it? In light of this, why do you think Paul wrote this chapter?

Why is bodily resurrection important?

What is the key difference between our current bodies and our future, resurrected bodies?

What impact does the promise of the resurrection have on the fear of death?

Instructions for SOAP Journaling

As we read God's Word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing **daily devotions** re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the "gems" that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons!

S for Scripture
Open your Bible to today's reading on your Bible Reading Plan. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O for Observation
What is God saying in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal the truth of this verse to you. Now write a one or two sentence observation about that verse. What does the verse say? What does it mean?

A for Application
Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or correction for a particular area of your life. Now write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P for Prayer
This can be as simple as asking God to help you apply this Scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say!

Don't forget to give your journal entry a title and put it in the Table of Contents. This will help you find it when you want to read it again.

SOAP Journal Table of Contents

Date	Text	Title	Page

Notes:

The book you hold in your hand has been designed to be your companion throughout this study from 2 Corinthians. Each week contains:

- A page to take notes from each Sunday's sermons.
- A page to write out notes or prayer needs from your Community group meetings.
- A Bible reading plan to SOAP journal through 1 & 2 Corinthians.
- A follow-up study from Sunday's sermon, and a follow-up study from your SOAP journal Bible reading.

The focus of our sermon series will be on Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth. This fall will focus on the first half of the book and we'll study the second half starting in January.

It is our prayer that God will show you the things that He wants you to learn, and that you will obey all that He shows you!