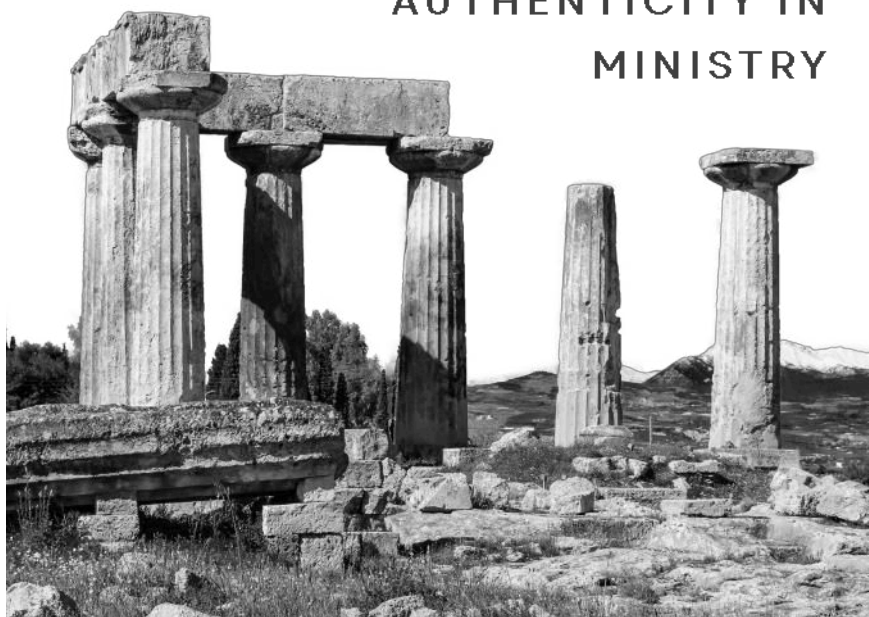


# RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

# CORINTH

AUTHENTICITY IN  
MINISTRY



**VOLUME TWO**

Temple  
Baptist  
Church



TEMPLEROGERS.ORG



# INTRODUCTION

**“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instruction.”**

Psalm 119:18 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

What is God wanting to do in and through you in 2023? Have you given that question much thought? Have you laid out a plan for your spiritual growth and maturity for these coming months? If not, I would encourage you to do so; and I would encourage you to include this study book as a part of that plan!

As always, it is such a privilege to come along side of you as you continue to invest in your spiritual growth and maturity! God has a plan for your life and that plan includes being transformed into the likeness of His Son—Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 4, Paul told us to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (4:15). This booklet will help you do just that—mature in your faith in Jesus Christ!

## **Continuing Our Study in 2 Corinthians**

Last fall, we began studying the Book of 2 Corinthians! We were able to make our way through just over half of this letter. We will take the next nine weeks to finish this book. Studying 2 Corinthians is challenging. 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! As I have said before, I covet your prayers as we continue our deep dive into this text.

## **RECAP OF SERMON SERIES GOALS**

The title of this 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 the 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](http://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 Paul encourages us to do in 2 Corinthians 13:5—while walking through this letter.

## **WINTER 2023 RECHARGE STUDIES**

This issue of *Recharge* is designed to be your companion through the second half of this study in 2 Corinthians. This book is part two of two—a continuation of our study from the Fall of 2022. If you were not able to get a copy of volume one at that time, please contact someone in the church office to see if copies are still available. As you work through this book, you will notice that each week of study contains:

- TWO pages to take notes from each Sunday’s sermons.  
*(Several have requested more writing room for sermon notes. Others have requested less sermon so that their notes would fit the space. We have opted for more space rather than less sermon. 😊)*
- A QR code link to the YouVersion study notes for each week.
- A page for notes/prayer concerns from your Community group.
- A Bible reading plan to finish SOAP journaling through the letters to the Corinthians. SOAP instructions and a Table of Contents for your SOAP journals are located on pages 59-60.
- A follow-up study from the Sunday sermon, as well as a follow-up study from the SOAP journal Bible reading.

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

Sermon Title:     **Generosity—the Manifestation of Grace**

Sermon Text:     2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Speaker:         Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the  
YouVersion Bible App



## COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

### **Giving with an Eternal Perspective**

Matthew 6:19-21

Luke 12:32-34

1 Timothy 6:17-19



## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In his message this week, Pastor Wade pointed out that giving of our material possessions to meet the needs of others was a manifestation of the grace of God. Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-13. From where do our possessions originate?

Read Psalm 24:1 and Matthew 25:14. What do these verses teach us about our possessions?

Now spend some time reading the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). We are merely stewards—or managers—of the material blessings given to us by God. How should this alter the way we choose to use our money or other possessions?

What changes do you need to make in your daily life and monthly budget?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 16

Title:

Date:

**S**

**O**

**A**

**P**

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 16

In yesterday's reading, Paul challenged the readers to collect money to help some fellow believers. Who was to contribute to this collection? How often were they to collect these funds? What was the purpose for this collection?

Why should the church be involved in meeting the needs of others?  
How much should we give for this purpose?

Do you give money, food or clothes to help people in need?  
Why or why not?

Do you keep the needs of others in mind continually, or do you remember them only occasionally? How does this need to change in your day-to-day life?