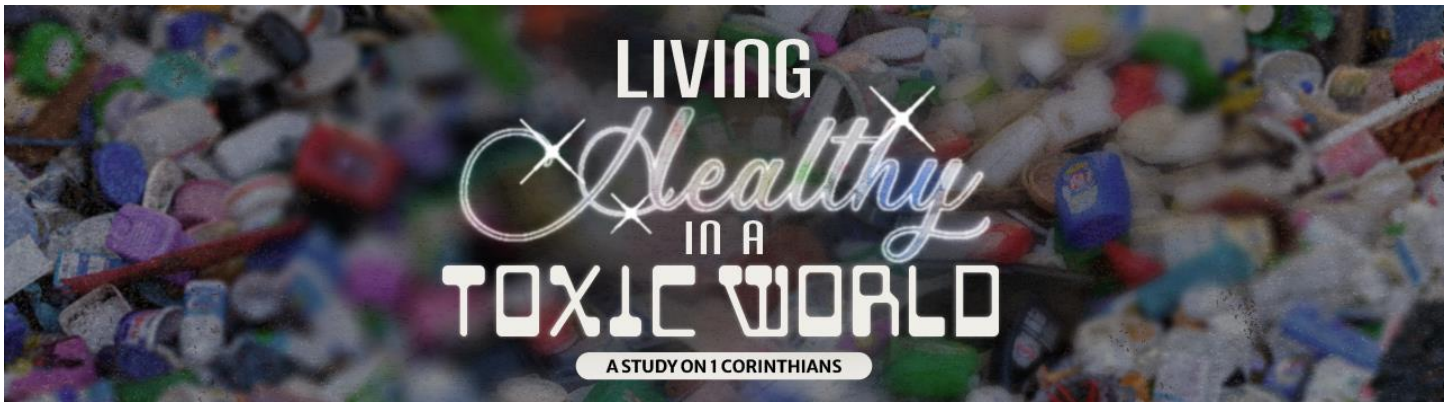




STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Teaching: *What You Really Need*

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1–16

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 2:1–16

Tuesday: Acts 18:1–18

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 1:2, Psalm 99:3,5,9

Thursday: Psalm 42:1–5

Friday: John 14:15–27

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION: Everyone is searching for something. We long for purpose, satisfaction, peace, significance, and fulfillment. Our culture constantly offers solutions, promising that happiness can be found through success, comfort, possessions, relationships, achievement, or self-discovery. Yet even when we attain those things, the longing often remains.

In 1 Corinthians 2:1–16, Paul reminds the Corinthian believers that what they ultimately need cannot be found through human wisdom, effort, or achievement. The deepest needs of the human heart can only be satisfied through a relationship with God. God's wisdom is different from the world's wisdom, and His truth can only be fully understood through the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Neal challenged us to consider whether we are seeking fulfillment in the wrong places. Rather than chasing one solution after another, God invites us to surrender our lives to Him and allow His Spirit to reveal the truth we have been searching for all along.

Questions: Icebreaker: What's something you purchased, joined, or tried that you thought would improve your life but ended up not living up to the hype?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1–5 together. Why did Paul intentionally avoid relying on "lofty words" and "human wisdom" when preaching the Gospel? Instead, what did he want people's faith to rest on?

CEDAR VALLEY

MEMORY VERSE:

No Memory Verse this week.

2. Pastor Neal talked about the "God-shaped void" that exists within every person. Do you agree with that idea? Why or why not? What are some common things people pursue in an attempt to fill that void?
3. According to verses 10–12, what role does the Holy Spirit play in helping believers understand God and His truth? Why is the Spirit essential for spiritual growth?
4. Which of Pastor Neal's closing questions speaks most directly to you right now?
5. Which of these questions challenges you the most, and why?
 - What am I chasing?
 - Has it actually worked?
 - Am I asking God for revelation?
 - Am I creating space for the Spirit?
 - Am I confusing activity with intimacy?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read 1 Corinthians 2:4–5.

The Greek reads: *"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power."* (ἀποδείξει πνεύματος καὶ δυνάμεως)

The key word is *apodeixis* ("demonstration," "proof," or "evidence"). Paul is not merely saying that the Holy Spirit quietly assisted his preaching. He is reminding the Corinthians that when he was among them, God's power was put on display in ways that confirmed the Gospel message. They did not simply hear a message about Jesus; they experienced the work of the Holy Spirit among them. Throughout the early church, the preaching of the Gospel was often accompanied by signs, wonders, healings, prophetic ministry, and transformed lives.

Acts 18 records Paul's ministry in Corinth. As you read the chapter, consider how the Holy Spirit worked through Paul to establish the church and how that may help explain what Paul means by a "demonstration of the Spirit and of power." Paul was not opposed to wisdom or careful teaching. Rather, he refused to place people's faith in human ability, persuasive arguments, or personality. He wanted their faith to rest on God's power and God's presence. The goal of the Spirit's power was not to draw attention to Paul but to lead people to place their faith in Christ.

As believers, we affirm that the same Holy Spirit who empowered the early church continues to work today. The goal of the Spirit's power is not to draw attention to people but to point people to Christ and strengthen faith. We should expect the Spirit to guide, empower, convict, heal, speak, and work through His people as they carry out Christ's mission.

For Further Discussion and Reflection

1. How does understanding the word "demonstration" in verse 4 deepen your understanding of why Paul wanted the Corinthians' faith to rest on God's power rather than human wisdom?
2. Read Acts 18:1–11. What evidence do you see that Paul's ministry in Corinth depended on the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit rather than on human ability alone?
3. Why is it important for churches to pursue both biblical truth and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit?
4. How can we make room for the Holy Spirit to work in our daily lives and ministry?