

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPT //

GOD'S DEEP SECRETS | CHURCH IN THE WILD

RYAN BRAMLETT | JULY 14, 2024

Good morning. How are we doing? Hey, it's so good to be with you guys today. And before we jump into the message, I do have a special announcement. I have some dates I want you to put on your calendar.

The first week of August we are going to kick things off with a week of prayer and fasting. And if you've been around our church for the past few years you know that we do this twice a year in August and in January. This is a time for us just to get together before the ministry season starts and to pray and to look to God and to humble ourselves before Him.

This year we're going to add something new. Alright? We're going to kick off our week of prayer and fasting on August 1st with a campus prayer hour. So, no matter what campus you call home, the doors are going to be opened from 12 to 1 and we would love to see you there. This will be a chance for us to get together, gather together. Our campus pastors are going to lead us in a time of prayer August 1st, 12 to 1. Don't miss it.

Then the other thing that I want to make sure you have on your calendars is that we are going to end our fast with a worship night. All campuses under one roof here at our Northwest Campus on August 8th. Alright? Make sure you have both of those dates.

Because we are a people of prayer and we are a church of prayer, as we were processing the events and everything that took place yesterday, we believe that our first response today needs to be prayer.

I was talking with Pastor Aaron last night and he was just right there with us. Like, what we need to do today at all campuses is to take a moment to pause and to pray for our nation. So, that's exactly what we are going to do guys.

We've talked about this a few weeks ago. There are so many things that could divide us. There are a thousand big and little things that could do it. Jesus is the only One big enough to unite us. And that's what we're going to do in this moment.

This is what it means to be a church in the wild, when it seems like the world is pulling apart at the seams—including our country—we are the ones, the peacemakers, who have been called to stand in the gap believing that nothing is impossible for our God. That He could heal this divide that we are experiencing. So that's what we're going to do



right now. At all of our campuses if you would just bow your heads and close your eyes and let's pray together.

Father, we believe You to be sovereign. We believe that You are in control of it all. We believe that You are all powerful and we believe under the name of Jesus all things are possible.

So, we come to You today in the midst of the brokenness, in the midst of the pain, and the confusion, in the midst of the divide and we call upon Your name to bring healing. God, we ask for You to bring healing and we ask for You to use us to help do it.

God, we are praying to You, seeking Your wisdom and Your ways. God, lead us in this moment. Help us to be Your church. Father, we love You so much. It is in Your perfect and holy name we pray. Amen.

Well, today, like I said, I'm excited about continuing in our message series Church In The Wild. Right? And what we've been looking at is this church in Corinth. And we're going to study the letter of 1 Corinthians, which was written to that church.

The thing that I love about reading and going verse by verse through these letters is we just see the state of the church. I don't know about you, but we just have this tendency as a people to look back and romanticize the way things used to be. Right?

So, maybe you get caught up in the conversation, "I just wish we could be a church of the New Testament. I wish we could be a church like they were back then."

I hope you've been reading this letter like, "Oh, maybe not. Maybe we should miss some of what they were struggling with," because it was a church in the wild. It was a church that was messed up and going through some really tough things.

I can tell you that's the church we want to be and that's the church we're going to continue to be. It beats the alternative, which is a dead church. But if we want to be a church in the wild, we want to be a church that is an outpost, a church in the wild that is reaching people who are far from God.

As long as the church is filled with people like me and you, it's going to be messy. But we're okay with that. We're taking our orders and our call off a guy named John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a guy, and Jesus said, "No man has been born of a woman who was greater than him." And his whole ministry was summed up in one line:

"I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, Clear the way for the Lord's coming!" John 1:23 (NLT)



That's who we want to be. That's what this church is all about and this series is all about. We want to be the ones out there doing everything we can, removing unnecessary barriers so people can come face to face with Jesus. Amen? Amen.

Amen, for those who don't know, is just a word that means that what I just said was true. Right? And then everyone says: Amen. Maybe you've been wondering for a while—they say that word a lot. I never hear it anywhere else. That's all it means. So, feel free to jump in and join in as we go.

I also want to let you know, if this is your first time with us, the responses we're getting, I know it's a little quiet. Don't worry. We're going to get a lot louder as I continue to preach and really get into this message. So, just hold on there. I don't want you to be confused by what you hear.

Well, we're going to be in chapter 2 starting in verse 1. I hope you brought your Bible with you.

If you were here last week you know we talked a lot about the difference between worldly wisdom and godly wisdom. And it was all about how there was division in the church because of those two things. They were trying to bring in the ways of the world.

Today, Paul's going to continue this conversation but instead of the division that worldly wisdom and godly wisdom creates on the inside of the church he's going to talk about the tension we face on the outside of the church.

So, right here we are in chapter 2, verse 1. Just take a moment to celebrate; you made it through chapter 1. Alright? We got through one chapter, only 15 more to go. But who's counting? You're doing great. Verse 1, Paul says:

"When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified.

"I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. 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 did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NLT)

Now, I think he starts off in just a brilliant way, because if you know anything about Paul, he was a brilliant man. He had ministry that spanned across all cities and he would show up as an intellectual. He would show up and he could debate with the best of them. He could go toe to toe with anyone.

But it seems like he changes things up when he comes to Corinth. I think he's starting to see that in Greek and Roman culture this is what they did. They would gather together for fun and listen to lectures. They would gather together and then someone would get

up and, dependent upon how well they communicated, more so even than the content— if someone could get up and work a room and be really persuasive they could shift everything.

You may walk in believing one thing but then you're leaving believing something else. I think Paul realized how easy it would be for him to go in and persuade people. But what he saw was that, as easy as it was to be persuaded into something, it could be just as easy to be persuaded out of it.

So, he said, "When I came to you, I laid all of that down. I spoke plainly in fear and trembling. I just focused on the cross and Jesus crucified." He's saying, "I wasn't a salesman for Jesus. I was a witness. I just came to tell you what I knew, what I saw, who I know Jesus to be."

I love this because I think he gives us permission to do the same thing. And for all of us, when we go through our lives, we are ambassadors of Christ. We are His representatives. So, when you go:

Keep The Emphasis On The Story, Not The Story Teller

I think so much of our obedience gets caught up in, "I want to share my faith, I want to tell people about Jesus, but I'm just not a communicator. I'm not a preacher." I want to challenge you with that. And I think Paul makes it clear here that it is not a matter of gifting.

Very few of us have been called to be preachers, but all of us have been called to be ambassadors. All of us have been called to be Christians. All of us have been able to share our testimony and to share what we've witnessed God do. That's for all of us.

I think a lot of times we default to, "You know what? I'm not great with words, so I'm just going to tell them to come to church and I'll let Pastor Aaron talk to them on Sunday, because he does a really good job." And he does.

But don't downplay what you can do at a coffee table. Don't downplay what you can do in a living room. Don't downplay what you can do in the break room or at school with a simple conversation, plainly speaking about who Jesus is and what He has done in your life.

We're off to a good start. And I can hear that there were a few claps. But, guys, it's going to get louder. I promise you. I'm not lying to you. Just hold on. Alright? He says:

"Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was

previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.” 1 Corinthians 2:6-7 (NLT)

Now, he’s continuing to go with wisdom, but the word that I want us to focus in on is mystery. He says that there was a mystery to God’s plan. And the reason why I want us to draw attention to that word mystery is because it meant something different to them than it does to us.

For us a mystery is something that is not known. Right? When I was growing up—I’m going to date myself a little bit here but maybe you can go with me—there was a mystery that was out there that the world did not know and still I don’t think knows. It was how many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop? One, two, three crunch. The world may never know.

For them, a mystery could have been something you know or didn’t know. What made it a mystery was that you would not have known unless it was revealed to you. That’s what made it a mystery. And that’s what the whole first chapter was about. That God’s plan, which was a mystery to all of us, how He was going to bring redemption and how He was going to save His people, it finally became known.

This is the message of the cross. This is Jesus’ life and ministry, His time on the cross. What was once a mystery has now been revealed. And you and I could have never gotten to this place on our own. It is outside of our five senses. God had to intervene and reveal it to us.

What we’ve seen is that back then there were some people who heard and believed in the mystery and there were some who rejected it. And it’s still true today. But look at what he says. He says:

“But the rulers of this world have not understood it;” Well, how do you know? “...if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. That is what the Scriptures mean when they say,

‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love him.’

But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 2:8-10a (NLT)

This is beautiful. And I think I just want to bring us back to those verses there where it’s in quotations in your Bible. He’s referencing another part of Scripture, Isaiah 64.

A lot of times when we talk about Isaiah 64 it’s reserved for funerals. You’ll see someone get up and they will talk about how this person has passed, but where they are



now, in heaven, no ear has heard, no eye has seen, no mind can conceive where they are.

I do think there is probably some truth to that. There are parts of heaven that we cannot grasp on this side of eternity. But what I want you to see in these verses is that Paul is not talking about that. He used the word revealed past tense. God has already done this. This is about our current reality.

So, what he's talking about: no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind can conceive—it has been revealed to me and you right now. If you believe and follow Jesus it has been revealed to you.

Here's the thing:

Your faith isn't just for your future self

If that is what this means, it means that you're not just waiting until one day, when you pass from this earth into eternity and then God shows you what you've never seen or heard. What he's saying is that because of your belief in Jesus, because of the Spirit of God, God has now given you access to what, before, the world had never seen, never heard, couldn't conceive. But now, because of Him, you have all of that. You have a heavenly mindset.

And what he's going to talk about next is that the way that you have this is because God's very Spirit has come to dwell within you. This is John 15 language. This is where God says, "You and I are going to be one." That's what God offers me and you. Look at this in verse 10. It says:

"For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us." 1 Corinthians 2:10b-12 (NLT)

So good. Did you catch what he is saying? He's saying, "Hey, think about this. Think about the practicality that it could only be this way. How else would we know the thoughts of God? How else would we know the ways of God? Who knows a man's thoughts, but that person himself?"

We don't even understand what one another are thinking. We don't even understand or know what our dogs, our pets, are thinking? Right? I think I know what he's thinking most of the time. But sometimes I'm like, "What are you thinking?" You know what I mean?

It's hilarious to me every single time this happens. We have a giant dog. He's a buffoon of a dog. And we have a little baby. She's almost 2. She loves him. And he has no idea what to do with her. So, she crawls over, walks over and pets him because Remy is soft.

And every time she does, he looks directly at me with this face of like, “Bro, what am I supposed to do with her? She’s not very gentle. She’s not like you. She’s kind of like you but she’s a smaller version. What do you want me to do with this little person?” Right? We don’t know what our pets are thinking.

We don’t know what our kids are thinking, for sure. What is one of the most common things parents have been saying from the beginning of parenthood, “What were you thinking?” And for the kids in the room, just a little pro tip, they are not really asking you what you were thinking. They are not looking for an answer here. They are implying that you were not thinking.

We can’t know what people are thinking. If we could know what people were thinking do you know how easy it would be to have dinner every night? If you could just tell me what you want for dinner every single night it would be so much easier. If I could just know, if I could get in there and know what it is.

But what God is saying, what Paul is saying here, is that if we can’t understand what one another are thinking, think about the gap that it would be for us to understand what God is thinking. How could we get inside His mind? He’s saying, “You can’t.” That’s the beauty of the gospel. God went first. And God has given you His Spirit. Because it’s the Spirit that can search the depths of God’s heart and mind and reveal to you what you couldn’t have come to on your own.

There are some wild things in what we just read. Did you hear?

God has decided to share His deep secrets with us

Think about that. Think about what it does to a relationship as you’re going through and you have a friend and you’re getting to know him and you’re getting closer.

Then there comes this time when he says, “Hey, I want to share something with you, but it’s a secret. I haven’t really told very many people before. I’ve only told my family. But now I’m entrusting you with a secret.” Think about how that relationship changes. Intimacy just takes on a whole new level when we begin to share secrets with one another.

And God says, “That’s the kind of relationship that I want to have with you. I want you to know the depths of My heart. I want you to know the secrets that I’ve been holding onto.”

And there are two ways that you can get the secrets of God, the mysteries of God made known to you. What the Spirit of God is doing is searching Him and revealing it to us: prayer and the Bible:

The Bible extends a standing invitation to anyone who wants to come and know God



Think about that. Think about how God sharing His secrets and God wanting to be known changes our relationship with Him and how we read the Bible. We don't read the Bible because our Bible reading plan says that this is where we are today, "I don't read the Bible so that I do the right thing so that one day I can get the thing that no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind can conceive. I'll be faithful now and one day I'll get the good stuff."

No, God says, "Today I want to reveal to you secrets that you don't know. I want to let you in on more of who I am. I want to share My heart with you." And we want to be in this posture of, "Yes, I want to know God. And I want to believe and live like there is always more of God to know."

That's what we get with Jesus. We get to come to Him and He will reveal Himself to us. This is a relationship. Jesus is a God to be known, not a code to be cracked. God is a Father, a loving Father who wants to share with us the secrets that have been hidden from us. He wants to share with us His ways. He wants to share with us His strength. He wants to give us everything we need.

He is a Father. He is not some boss that we have to satisfy. And that changes the way that pray. It changes the way that we come to God. And that's what I was convicted of this week. So, I'm going to lay the same conviction at your feet. If this is true, if what we come to know about God can only come from God, that He has to reveal it to us for us to be able to know it, is that what our prayers look like?

Do you pray like you're desperate to hear the deepest secrets of God?

Do you pray like you're desperate to hear the deepest secrets of God? Or does your prayer life just look like a cold, stale, religious list. Does it just look like things that you want? Are you just doing it because you saved the space to do it and it's what you're supposed to do? Or do you go to this moment in prayer, this moment that has only been made possible because of Jesus and who He is and respond accordingly?

Do you go into it and say, "God, I want to know Your deepest secrets. I've got some things I want, for sure. And I'll share them with you here in just a second. But right now what I want is what You want. What I want is..."

"I believe that is still more of You to know. I believe that there is stuff I haven't heard yet. There are things that I haven't seen yet. There are things that are going to blow my mind. And I believe in this moment that You are going to share them with me."

That's the kind of prayer life I want to have. And that's the invitation that God brings to us. He's saying, "That's spiritual truth." And that's where it's going to lead you, to this spot. And he's going to assure us again, not to fall victim to the wisdom of the world. And he says:



“When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom.” 1 Corinthians 2:13a (NLT)

And the difference that he kind of paints between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God is this:

The Wisdom Of The World Is Forever Changing

You can't count on it. If you've lived longer than 20 minutes you've seen humanity come back and go, “Okay, we thought that was true, we were wrong. We were off a little bit.” The wisdom of the world changes over and over again.

The wisdom of the world when my mom was a small child—very different. And I want to be very clear. I'm not saying that was a long time ago. I'm not saying my mom is old. My mom is young and beautiful and right there. So, what I'm saying is that in a very short amount of time we've come a long way. Right?

Here's some advice that my mom may have experienced when she was a small child and had an ear infection, “Hey, okay. Yep. Baby has an ear infection. Here's what you want to do. Go home, light up a cigarette,” which was also good for you at this time, “and then I want you to breathe in, inhale. I want you to cup your hands around the baby's ear. And I want you to blow the smoke into her ear. Do that a few times, she'll be cleared up good as new.” Turns out that wasn't helping the situation. But it was the wisdom of the world.

And there are some things like that when it's easy to be like, “Yeah, we shouldn't have believed that. We shouldn't have done that.” But the thing is, a lot of us are living with the wisdom of the world that we haven't parceled out. There is wisdom that we have taken and collected along the way and we haven't separated it. We're just taking it and God's truths as the same thing.

There are things that you've picked up along the way from family, from friends, from tradition that weren't completely shaped by Jesus. And you and I need to come to this tough space and say, “Hey, I want to evaluate everything. I want to look through everything that I am saying is truth and take it to Scripture and say, “Is it really true? Are there things that I need to let go of that are more of the world than of godly wisdom?”

There are some people right now, especially in this younger generation that is coming up...There is so much content, so much information, and so many people have platforms... YouTube channels—anybody can make one. I don't know how to make one. But anyone else can probably make one.

Then somebody spends a week just watching videos from some guy named Skyler who has a new way of life. And people are like, “Well, that sounds pretty good. I think I'll follow Skyler.” Don't follow Skyler. Okay? Skyler is just figuring this thing out. And I apologize if Skyler is in the room right now.

It's temporary. It is temporary but here's the tension and the problem: worldly wisdom lives just long enough to keep us from Jesus. So, we need to be diligent about everything that we take in and realize that just because it's true today, doesn't mean that it will be true tomorrow.

But the counter to that, the opposite side is:

The Wisdom Of God Is Forever True

For 2,000 years people have been living and basing their lives off of the teachings of Jesus. And for years before that they were following after the Jewish people, after God's wisdom. It has built some of the greatest cultures, organizations. It has created a way of life. It has shaped the most brilliant minds. Everything that you love about this country came from the fact that it was influenced by this book [the Bible]. It is a wisdom that has been tested and proven. That's the kind of wisdom that we want to land on.

And he's going to continue in this of what that wisdom looks like. But now he's going to move further and further into this: here's the problem that you're going to face when you begin to talk about this kind of wisdom. He says:

"Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths." Say that three times fast. "But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them, and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others." 1 Corinthians 2:13b-15 (NLT)

Alright. So, I just want break this down a little bit about what he's talking about. He's talking about godly wisdom. And now he's saying, "When it all makes sense to you and your church world, as you're talking to other people who believe what you believe, that's one thing."

But when you begin to share this message, it's going to feel like they don't understand what you are talking about. And it's important to note what he means when he is saying they don't understand. It's not comprehension. The message of the gospel is very clear. It's not that they don't understand it.

It's not like me with IKEA furniture. Right? You ever seen these people? They give you this instruction sheet. They decide, "Hey, we're going to build an entertainment center, but we're going to take it apart first and send it to you in 2,700 pieces."

And I'm sure the meeting was like, "Whoa, if we put it in 2,700 pieces, that means we're going to need 2,700 steps. That's a lot of paper." And they are like, "No, no, no. We're not going to give them steps. Send them a picture of it exploding. That will be their reference point. That's all that they need."

That's not what Paul is talking about here. When he says that the wisdom of this world doesn't understand the message of the cross, it's not comprehension. He uses words like appraise and evaluate. And then he lands on the word foolish.

You don't consider something foolish that you don't understand. You consider something foolish when you hear it, you understand it, you make sense of it, and then you assess the value of it and you say, "That sounds foolish." Right?

Here's what he is saying in these verses:

The world's wisdom appraised the message of the cross and said it wasn't worth it

It said, "Oh, I hear what you are saying, but any message tied to a man being crucified, any message connected to death and weakness and sacrifice and grace doesn't sound like a message that we want. Thank you but no thank you." They took in the message of the cross. They understood it. But they deemed it worthless.

And I think it goes back to what Paul has been saying about the difference between a spiritual person and a natural person. A natural person cannot see the things of the Spirit, things of eternity, things that matter and what matters most right now.

And how you appraise something, how you evaluate something is determined upon your need for it. If you want it, that decides how much you're willing to pay for it.

For example, when I was 16 I would not have appraised this for more than zero dollars. You couldn't even give me one of these for free [a mini-van]. Right? I grew up with one of these. Anybody else? Three of you. I know you're lying because I was there. We all had them. Right? But I did not want that. If you would have tried to give it to me the value was zero.

Even as I got older and I got married and I started having kids, I still had it in my mind, "Not a chance. I'm not getting a van. We are going to be SUV people for the rest of our lives." After one kid, "Nope, not breaking. No mini-van." Two kids, "Not breaking. No mini-van." Three kids, "No mini-van."

It was like the Tootsie Pop all over again. How many kids is it going to take for the Bramlett family to get a mini-van? I can tell you when it all changed. It was two years ago.

We went of spring break and we rented a mini-van. And I got to experience the glory of a mini-van. I got to experience the space between me and them and them from each other. I got to experience the ungodly amount of drink holders back there. These kids drink so much water. Right? Every day. I think I went from '95 to '99 with no water whatsoever. But they can't and there is a cup holder for all of them.

Don't even get me started on the trunk space on this thing. It's a bottomless pit. We would go to the beach; we would throw beach stuff in there. We would throw groceries

in there. We could throw in soccer stuff—it does not end. It is as vast as God’s grace back there. It just keeps going.

What happened when we got back? I’m proud to say it. Listen. Look at me now. We are mini-van people. We have a mini-van me and all of my kids in my mini-van.

But why didn’t I want a mini-van? It didn’t matter that the mini-van was designed perfectly for a family like mine. For me, what I viewed as higher than that was how I would be viewed driving a mini-van.

The same thing comes when we begin to talk about the message of God. It is not a matter of comprehension. It is not a matter of understanding the gospel. It is people coming to terms and appraising it at its rightful value. Here’s what I want to caution all of us with:

Don’t cheapen the message of the cross in an effort to sell Jesus

If you lower that bar you’re just going to create another problem down the road. It is very clear. The message of the cross, the cost of the cross is very high. It’s a call to come and die. The cost is high but the value is higher.

We exist, as a church, to remove unnecessary barriers that keep people from Jesus. That is true. But there are necessary barriers that people have to overcome to get to Jesus, mainly pride. Pride has been keeping people from mini-vans and Jesus for a very long time. And we can’t make them see the value. We can’t force them to see the value. We can present it. And one of the best ways that you can show the value of the cross is this:

You can place a high value on the message of the cross with how you live

Think about that. I want to live in such a way that my life is very clear. This is the most important thing to me. I value my relationship with Jesus more than anything. That’s what my life revolves around.

And even though people don’t value your faith the same, they value the fact that you value it. And they begin to see the fruit of your faith. They begin to see how you live and then it just sparks a little bit of curiosity. And then they’d be a little bit more open to what God is up to, “Maybe He’s a little bit different than I thought He was.”

Do you remember that? When you first came to know Jesus, when you saw Him for who He truly is and you knew how messed up and broken you were. But then you heard the gospel, the message of the cross and all that He had done for you. In a moment you surrendered everything. You were like, “I’ll give up everything for this one thing if I could have Jesus, that means I’m surrendering it all.” Do you still live like that?

I want you to hear the words of Jesus in Matthew 13. This is the way he talks about the kingdom of God. And this should still be true for all of us. He says:

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.” Matthew 13:44 (NLT)

Do you have that? Because we can talk about what it means to get the world to value the message of the cross, if we valued it. Not that one day when you got baptized, not that one day when you said that one prayer—I’m talking today—10 years after the fact, 20 years after the fact. Can you still stand with everything that you’ve acquired in this world and say, “God, I hope I mean it. I would surrender all of this. I would give up all of it if it meant that I could have you. And if that were true, then I’ll lay it all down.”

Do you still have that heart? That’s the tension of living this life of faith. The longer we go to hold on to and to kindle that flame and to fan it into flames and to hold on to that passion and that urgency that we all need to be living with... As you go in all of that urgency, all of that passion, I just want to encourage you to be reminded to:

Be Compassionate And Prayerful When People Say The Cost Is Too High

Don’t get angry. Don’t get frustrated. They don’t evaluate things, they don’t appraise things the same way. So, whenever you share the gospel with someone and it feels like they are saying, “This is too high, this is too much, I don’t understand it,” be compassionate and prayerful.

Here’s the thing. If what we learn from this Scripture is true, if they can’t hear spiritual truths, but you can, then we should be spending more time talking to God about them, than talking to them about God.

I’m not letting us off of the hook with keep the emphasis on the story not the storyteller. We still need to talk to them, but make sure the proportions are right, make sure we’re spending more time with God asking Him, saying, “God we love these people so much and I just want to get to a place where I could share with them who You are and they could see it. I want to be a part of that process. Those are prayers that God answers.

I love the way Paul closes here. He says:

“But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 2:16b (NLT)

We understand the earthly world. We understand the spiritual world. We understand the spinning and we understand what God is trying to do here in advancing His kingdom. And because of that we should operate differently.

We have been given the mind of Christ to share the heart of God. And we have been given the Spirit of God to search the inner most parts of God, Himself, and for Him to reveal to us what we need to do and how to do it. And then He even gave us the power in which to do it. We have everything that we need.

And we almost have enough people clapping.

Here's where I want us to do right now in this moment. Maybe you've been coming for a little bit and this message of the gospel either seems too good to be true or it seems foolish to you. I just want to bring Jesus to you. You have to evaluate Him. You have to put the worth on Him. But I just want to tell you, it's real.

From the bottom of my heart, what I believe more than anything is that I believe that there is God of this world. I've seen too much. God sent His Son to live a perfect life for me and for you. All of the things that you are afraid to mention, all of the things that you are ashamed of, all of the things that you've done or that have been done to you—all of that has been accounted for.

Jesus went to a cross and died on our behalf. He took the penalty. He took all of it. And He died to it. But our God rose three days later defeating sin and death proving He has authority over heaven and earth. And now, today, you can accept that invitation, that revelation that is coming to you and you get to decide what to do with it. I just want you to know.

Don't leave here... If that's you, and you're wrestling, and you want to talk more, you want to pray with someone, you want that life, you want to hear what no ear has ever heard, you want to see what no eye has ever seen, you want your mind to be able to conceive what no mind has ever been able to conceive, don't leave here without talking to someone.

As we close today, I just want to encourage everyone to stand to your feet. Stand to your feet. We're going to end in worship today. But I want us to be reminded of Who we are worshiping. We are worshiping the same God.

Everything that we have read about today, every page is filled with a good God, a God who does miracles, a God who brings healing, a God who shows up when it seems like there is no hope. I just want to encourage you today. He's still got some miracles left. There are some miracles left that are for the people in your life. There are people in your life that will get to experience the love of God. And God just might use your faithfulness to do it.

So, I want us to pray right now, to center us all, and to be reminded that we serve the same God. Would you pray with us?

Father, we thank You so much for today. God, we thank You for Your wisdom. God, we thank You for revealing who You are. When we had no way to get to You, You came to us.

Who are we to understand Your ways and Your thoughts? We had no chance until Jesus. And now, God, through Your work, through Your Son, You have made a way. You



have revealed Your plan. And, God, you are continuing to reveal more and more of Yourself to us.

God, I pray that we are a church that prays like we are desperate to hear Your deepest secrets. God, I pray that we are a church that believes that there is still more of You to be known. God, I pray that we would value our relationship with You over anything and everything else.

God, I pray that we don't believe for a second that our faith is just for our future self. But, God, I believe and I pray that we would live like our faith is for the right now. God, what you have for us is today. You are going to reveal something new to us today and this week. You are going to use us to move forward Your beautiful mission and plan.

God, I pray right now for miracles. I pray right now that we as a church would get to see over and over and over again the miraculous move of people going from dead to alive, from people going one way and then having an interaction with You and moving from the gospel as useless to priceless. God, allow us to be witnesses to Your work.

Father, we love you so much. Thank you for being the same God. That is what our faith is in: Your faithfulness, Your trustworthiness. You were a healer then. You will heal now.

Father, thank You so much for today. It's in Your perfect and holy name we pray. And the church said: Amen.

