



Pastor PJ Berner • October 18, 2026



1 Corinthians 2:14–16 | The Only Reason You Believe

Scripture Memory

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. –1 Corinthians 2:12

Community Group Discussion Questions

Community Groups meet throughout the week and play a crucial role in our response to the preaching of the word. These groups gather to discuss the following questions as we seek to apply the sermon in community with one another. Please visit compassntx.org to join a small group near you.

1. Recognizing Our Dependence on God

Read 1 Corinthians 2:14–16 and Romans 8:7–9.

Paul teaches that unbelievers are unable to receive spiritual truth apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. How should this reality shape the way you approach evangelism? Think of someone in your life who doesn't know Christ. How consistently are you praying for their salvation, and what might your prayer life reveal about where you're placing your confidence in seeing them saved?

2. Responding to Unbelief with Compassion

Read 2 Timothy 2:24–26.

Think of an unbeliever whose beliefs or behavior have frustrated you. How does your typical response to that person compare with the attitude Paul commands in this passage? What would it look like for you to demonstrate greater patience, gentleness, and compassion toward that person?

3. Exploring the Riches of God's Word

Read Psalm 119:97–104.

Compare the psalmist's attitude toward God's Word with your own. What does the amount of attention and effort you currently give to understanding Scripture reveal about how much you value the spiritual discernment God has given you? What is one specific area of biblical understanding you've neglected that you could begin pursuing?

4. Guarding Against Spiritual Pride

Read 1 Corinthians 4:6–7.

Paul asks, "What do you have that you did not receive?" Think about your own spiritual knowledge, convictions, and maturity. Where are you most susceptible to taking pride in what you know or how you live? How might that pride be affecting the way you view or treat people who don't share your understanding?

5. Cultivating Gratitude for God's Grace

Read Matthew 13:10–17, particularly verses 11 and 16–17.

Jesus reminds His disciples that their ability to understand spiritual truth has been given to them. When you consider what God has enabled you to understand and believe, what specific truths about Christ or His Word are you most grateful for? How could remembering that these are gifts of grace change the way you approach God and others this week?

Recommended Reading

Here are some books that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While we cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, we do believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

- *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment* — Tim Challies
- *The Holy Spirit* — Sinclair Ferguson
- *Humility: The Beauty of Holiness* — Andrew Murray