



CORINTHIANS

A Passion for God's People

LUNCH LESSONS *with Pastor Jody*



REVELATION

THE RETURNING KING

Thursday November 10 12-1pm Fellowship Room



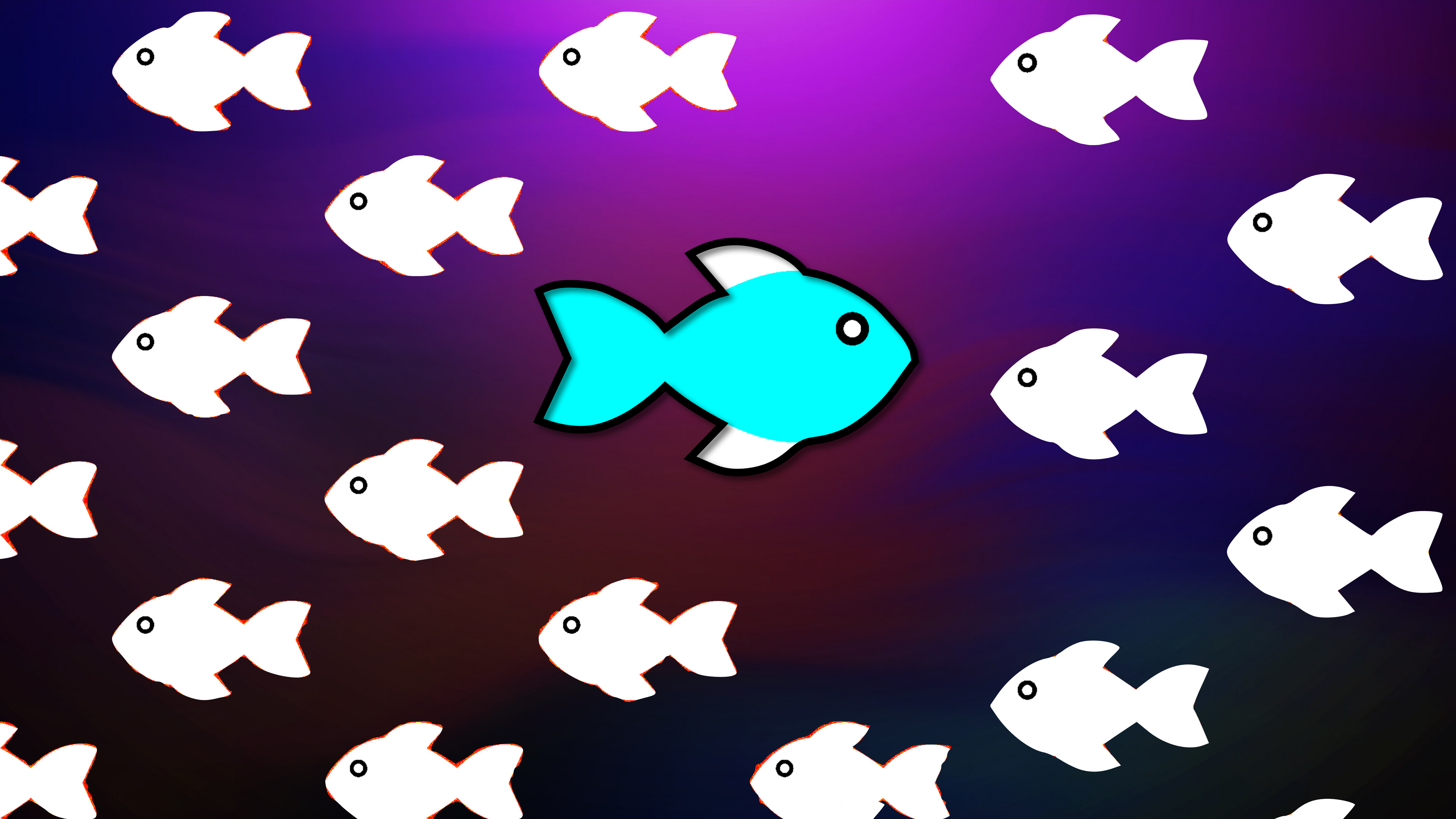
Strength in Weakness

2 CORINTHIANS 10-12



**Look at
God!**

**Don't put your attention on me...
or anything I'm doing.
Realize that God is the
One who is at work.**



Every message we hear—
every single day—
is telling us to put our
attention on anything
but God.

**Our eyes always go first to
the glitzy thing.
The shiny thing.
The stronger thing.
And we turn them into idols.**

Exodus 20:1-5

And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them.

**No other gods. No idols.
These are the "top two"
because our hearts are
drawn to anything but God,
and our eyes to anything
that shines.**

**“Hollywood” is the
standard of this world.**

**But we don't live according to
the standard of this world.**

2 Corinthians 10:1-11

¹ By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you— I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” toward you when away! I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward **some people who think that we live by the standards of this world**. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:1-11

⁶And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete. You are judging by appearances. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do. So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. **For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."** Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present.

Simply put, Paul wasn't as
impressive as the
Corinthians wanted him to be.
He didn't measure up to
"the standards of this world."

**But we shouldn't measure
ourselves by the
standards of this world.**

2 Corinthians 10:12-13

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God Himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you.

**The question isn't
what am I doing?
The real question is
what is God doing?
And what impact is
the Gospel having?**

2 Corinthians 10:14-18

We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the Gospel of Christ.

Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the Gospel in the regions beyond you.

2 Corinthians 10:14-18

For we do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory.

But, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

**Here's the point:
We so easily get caught up
playing the games of this
world. Measuring ourselves
and others by the standards
of this world.**

**God is the ultimate judge.
And the Gospel is our
ultimate purpose.**

2 Corinthians 4:7

**But we have this treasure
—the Gospel—
in jars of clay to show that
this all-surpassing power is
from God and not from us.**

**In other words...
when we are weak,
God is strong.**

2 Corinthians 11:30-33

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city guarded in order to arrest me. But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.



**Look at
God!**

**Don't put your attention on me...
or anything I'm doing.
Realize that God is the
One who is at work.**

Here's the kicker—

God knows our tendency is to take credit and begin to get conceited.

To keep this from happening,
God will, at times, allow trials
and struggles in our lives.

**Paul had things happen in his life
that no other human has ever
experienced. (2 Cor 12:1-4)**

**So God actually allowed Satan to
test and torment him.**

And Paul humbly accepted this.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.

For when I am weak, then I am strong.

God's grace is enough for you.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: **that they have the understanding to know me**, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

Just Be Held

Casting Crowns

When you're tired of fighting; Chained by your control.
There's freedom in surrender; Lay it down and let it go.
So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away,
You're not alone, stop holding on and just be held.
Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place.

If your eyes are on the storm; You'll wonder if I love you still.
But if your eyes are on the cross;
You'll know I always have and I always will.
And not a tear is wasted, in time, you'll understand.
I'm painting beauty with the ashes. Your life is in My hands.

