

WEEK OF JANUARY 29TH

---

# The Soul of Desire

*"For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,  
but we proclaim Christ crucified,  
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles."*

*1 Corinthians 1:22 NRSV*



**READ: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31**

What word, image, or phrase sticks out to you from today's passage?

Draw about it or write a response to God using the space below.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

In *The Soul of Desire*, Dr. Curt Thompson reflects on grief and loss saying, "For all our hope in the glory of the resurrection, life continues to offer plenty of occasions to persuade us that the whole story of new creation is a figment of the imagination of some first-century preacher."

What are some ways that your life and/or your experience of the world have given you reason to agree with this statement?

What are some reasons you have to disagree with it?

In the fourth chapter of *The Soul of Desire*, Curt Thompson discusses the underlying issues of grief, one being what we have done (or not done) with it.

Here Curt specifically notes that by coping with grief and loss we become able to create something new in and through it. What are some things that we can "do" with our grief?

Prayers of lament are one practice in the Judeo-Christian tradition for processing, or "doing something" with our grief. Take some time to read some of the psalms of lament, such as Psalms 22, 40, 74, or 85. What do you think or feel about this particular way of approaching God?

#### PRACTICE OF THE WEEK:

*Writing a Psalm of Lament.*

Look back at your answers to the first question. Of the examples you gave that challenged your hope of resurrection, choose one and re-write it as a statement to God. Don't worry about how this sounds, just focus on letting it be an honest, unfiltered, reflection of your experience. What happened? What did you lose? What did this do to you?

Next, ask yourself what you might need from God in light of this event or loss. What would it look like for God to "show up" on your behalf in this particular instance? Write a one or two sentence request to God.

Finally, look back on how you answered the question of reasons you have to believe in the resurrection. What are some words that summarize what this revealed to you about God and the future hope we have in Jesus? Take those words and complete this sentence with them...

And yet, You O Lord are.....