

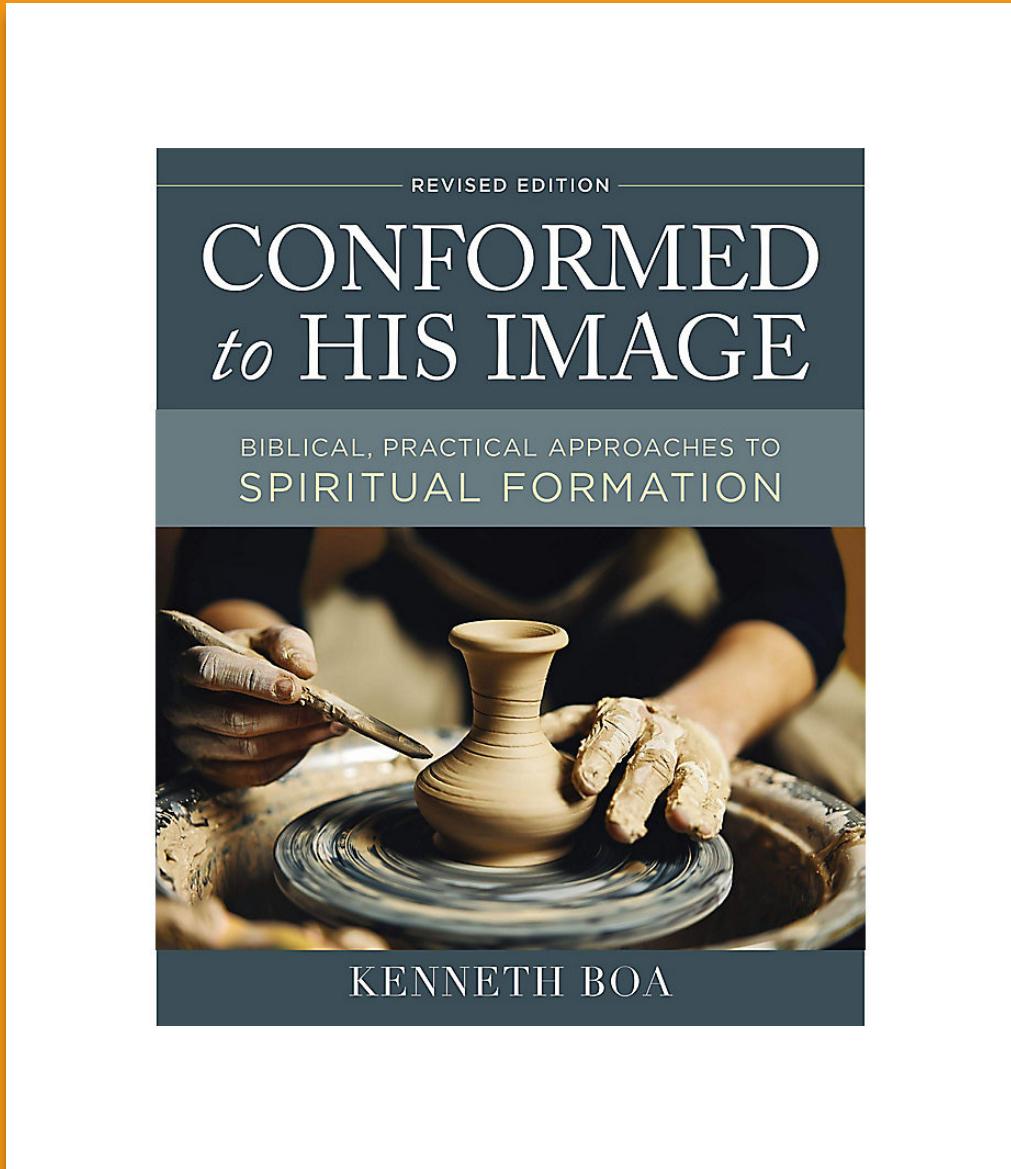
Wrestling with Purpose

Russell Lester

March 2022

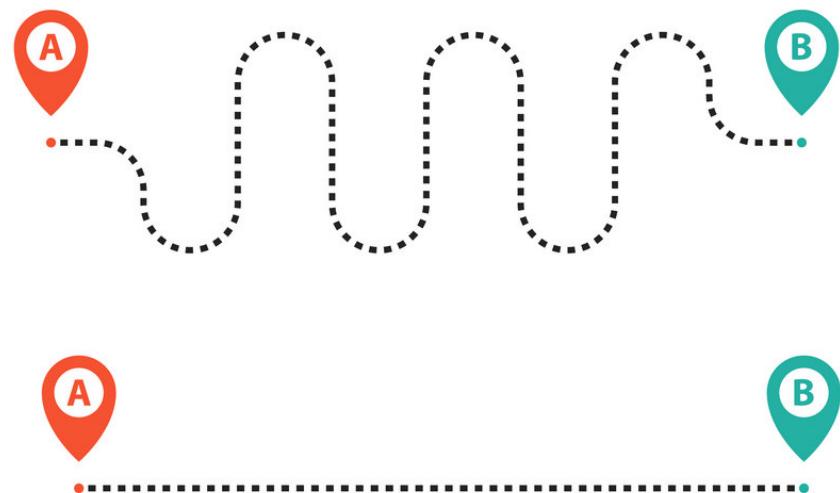
Wrestling with Purpose

- Process vs. Product
- Being vs. Doing
- Trust, Gratitude and Contentment



How do we abide in Christ
and allow Him to move us
to value process over
product, being vs. doing
and find true
contentment?

Spiritual Journey



← Reality

← What we expect

Where Is Our Focus?



←Eternal
←Heavenly
←Spiritual

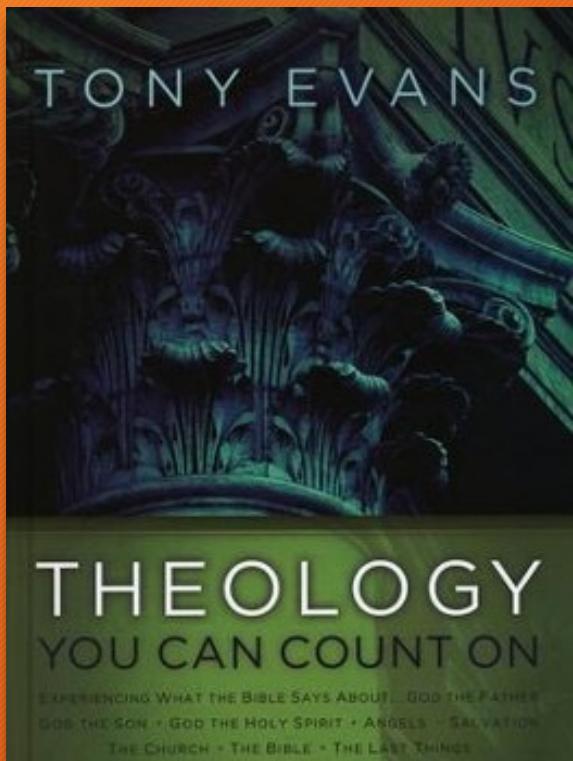


←Temporal
←Earthly
←Fleshly

Soteriology

- Branch of Systematic Theology that deals with salvation and the Savior
- From Heb. *yēšā‘*; Gk. *Sōtēria*

One Framework For Soteriology



- Sin: The need for Salvation (Gen. 2:17, Rom. 5:12, Eph. 2:1)
- Justification: The Verdict of Salvation (Rom. 3:24, Rom. 5:1-5, 1 Jn 1:19)
- Redemption: The Payment for Salvation (1 Pet. 1:18-19, Heb. 9:22, Eph. 1:7)
- Propitiation: The Requirement for Salvation (Rom. 6:23, 1 Jn 2:1-2)
- Reconciliation: The Relationship of Salvation (Col. 1:15-20)
- Regeneration: The Miracle of Salvation (Jn 3:3, Rom. 6:4-5, 1 Jn 3:9)
- Grace: The Gift of Salvation (Eph 1:4, Eph 2:8, Heb. 4:14-16)
- Sanctification: The Progress of Salvation (2 Cor. 5:7, Mk 8:34-35, Jn 15:5)

“

I was sanctified the moment I was saved, I am being sanctified today, and one day I will be fully sanctified.

”

Tony Evans, *Theology You Can Count On*

- ✓ Salvation Past
- ✓ Salvation Present
- ✓ Salvation Future

Brief outline of Philippians

1. Opening prayer and confidence in the complete work of Christ (1:1-11)
2. Paul's thoughts about imprisonment: dying = gain vs. release to continue to grow the Church (1:12-26)
3. Unity in Christ, fellowship in the Spirit (1:27-2:5)
4. The Messiah Poem (2:6-11)
5. Being light in the world and two examples in Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:12-30)
6. Paul contrasts his past to his present (3:1-4:1)
7. A challenge to live out the example, live in Christian unity (4:2-9)
8. Closing thanks (4:10-23)

What are “these things?”

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9, ESV

What are “these things?”

- True (*alēthē*) the opposite of dishonest and unreliable
- Honorable (*semnos*) dignified and worthy of respect
- Just (*dikaios*) conformity to God’s standards
- Pure (*hagnos*) that which is wholesome
- Lovely (*prophiliēs*) - promoting peace and not conflict (only used here in NT)
- Commendable - (*euphēmos*) - positive and constructive (only used here in NT)
- Excellent (*aretē*) - of moral excellence
- Worthy of Praise (*epainos*) - approval, applause

What is Process Spirituality?

- Acknowledging that radical, instantaneous and miraculous transformation is a part of how God can and does operate...
 - Acts 9:1-31
- Reflecting on our own journey that often feels far more gradual:
 - Incremental
 - Intentional
 - Iterative
 - Involved

GROWTH

If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **Colossians 3:1-3**

But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. **2 Peter 3:18**

Like newborn infants, **long for the pure spiritual milk**, that by it you may grow up into salvation **1 Peter 2:2**

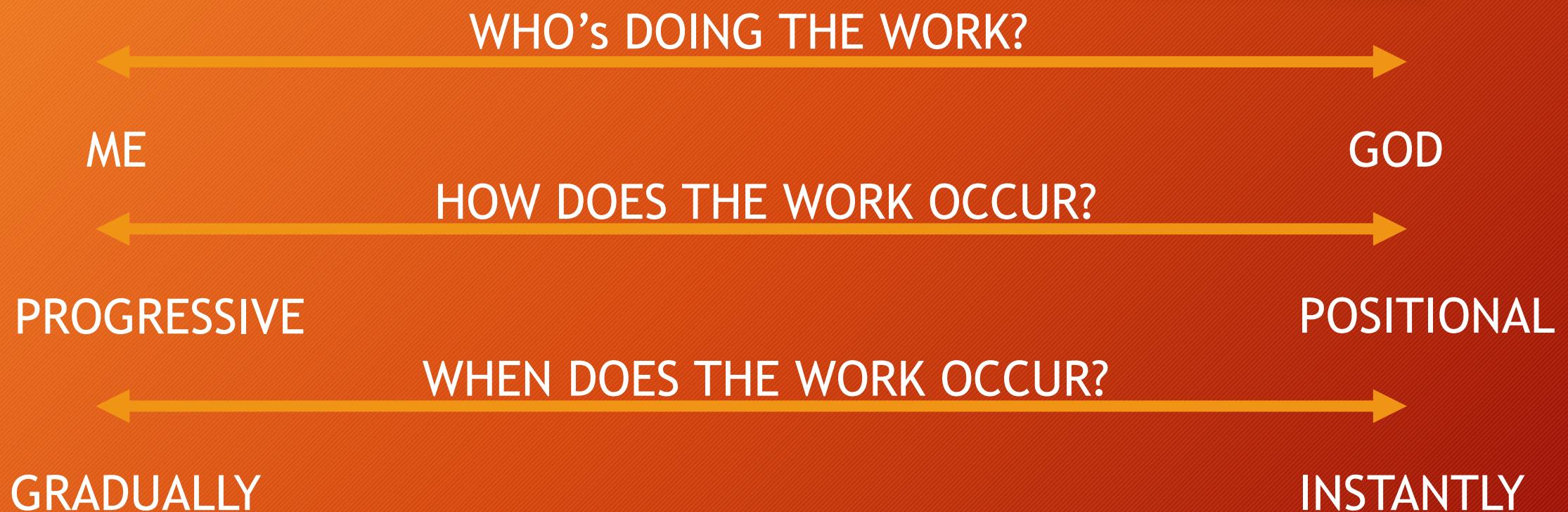
And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself and take up his cross and follow me**. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. **Mark 8:34-35**

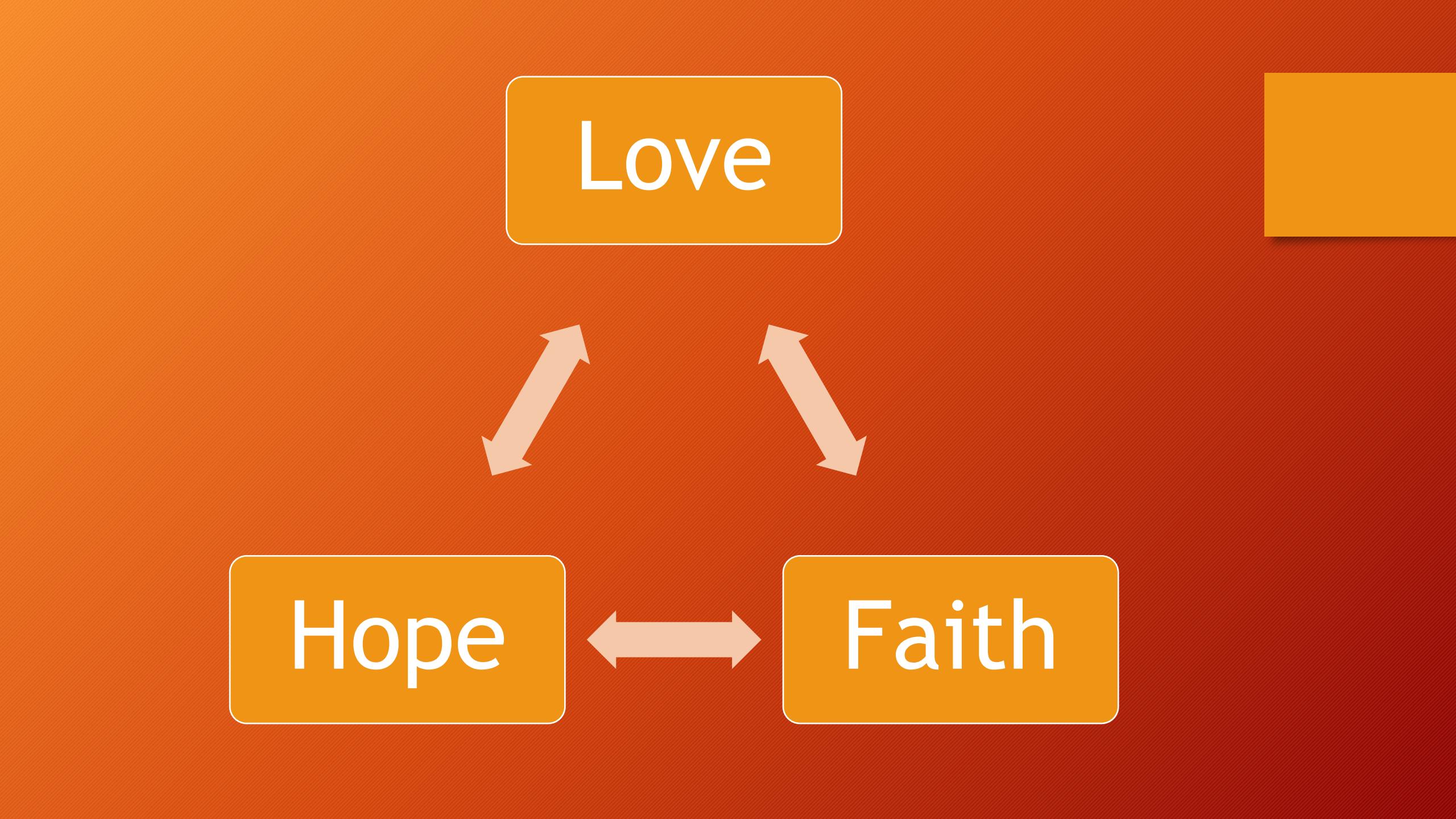
While God is sovereign, He is not a cosmic puppet master... He invites us into the process of spiritual formation...



Which is one of the most frustrating and rewarding parts of our sanctification process!

Sanctification Spectrum





Love

Hope

Faith

A real Christian is an odd number, anyway. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen; talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see; expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another; empties himself in order to be full; admits he is wrong so he can be declared right; goes down in order to get up; is strongest when he is weakest; richest when he is the poorest and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live; forsakes in order to have; gives away so he can keep; sees the invisible; hears the inaudible; and knows that which passeth knowledge.

A.W. Tozer,
The Root of
Righteousness

Faith	<- Love ->	Hope
Appropriated in the Past	Active in the Present	Anticipating the Future
Forgiveness and grace	Love and community	Purpose and hope
Salvation	Sanctification	Glorification
Positional	Progressive	Ultimate
Significance	Satisfaction	Security
Hindsight	Insight	Foresight
History	Our story	His story
Humility	Obedience	Trust
Knowing	Doing	Being
Mind	Will	Emotions
Seeing	Acting	Expecting
Life	Love	Light

Which one are you?

- ✓ No hope?
- ✓ Misplaced hope?
- ✓ Ill-defined hope?
- ✓ Proper hope?



Being vs. Doing

Symptoms of Doing vs. Being

Valuing busyness
over rest

Missing relational
opportunities

Looking to jobs
vs. God for
security

Serving God to
seek His praise vs.
out of praise for
Him

Trying to force
yourself beyond
your limits

Weighing what
others think about
you vs. what God
says about you

Spread too thin

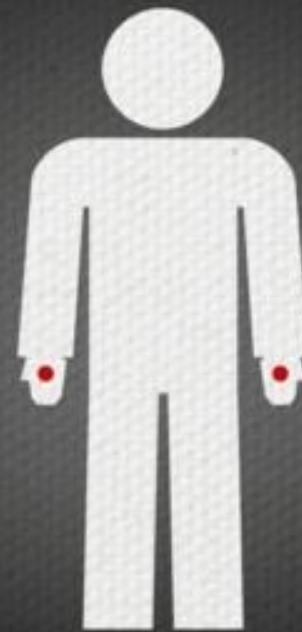
Distracted and
worn out vs.
engaged and
active



For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive.**

1 Corinthians 15:21–22



But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love
with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ



Real life (left side) should energize the reflected life (right side)

Being	Doing
Intimacy with Christ	Activity in the world
Solitude	Engagement
Abiding	Serving
Interior	Exterior
Relational Calling	Dominion Calling
Calling	Character
Invisible	Visible
Restoration of spiritual energy	Application of spiritual energy
Perspective	Practice
Rest	Work

FOR ALL HAVE **SINNED** AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD, AND ARE JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE AS A GIFT,



THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS

ROMANS 3:23–24

“ Beware of anything that competes with loyalty to Jesus Christ... The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service for Him... We count as service what we do in the way of Christian work; Jesus Christ calls service what we are to Him, not what we do for Him... The one aim of the call of God is the satisfaction of God, not a call to do something for Him. ”

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

BE STILL, MY SOUL 310

From Psalm 46
Katharina von Schlegel, 1752
Trans. by Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855

FINLANDIA: 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10.
Jean Sibelius, 1899
Arr. for *The Hymnal*, 1933

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The first staff is in G major, 4/4 time, featuring a soprano melody. The second staff is in C major, 4/4 time, featuring a basso continuo or harmonic support. The third staff is in G major, 4/4 time, continuing the soprano melody. The fourth staff is in C major, 4/4 time, continuing the basso continuo. The music is arranged in four-line systems, with lyrics placed below each system. The lyrics are:

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; Bear pa-tient-ly the
2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take To guide the fu - ture
3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has-tening on When we shall be for -

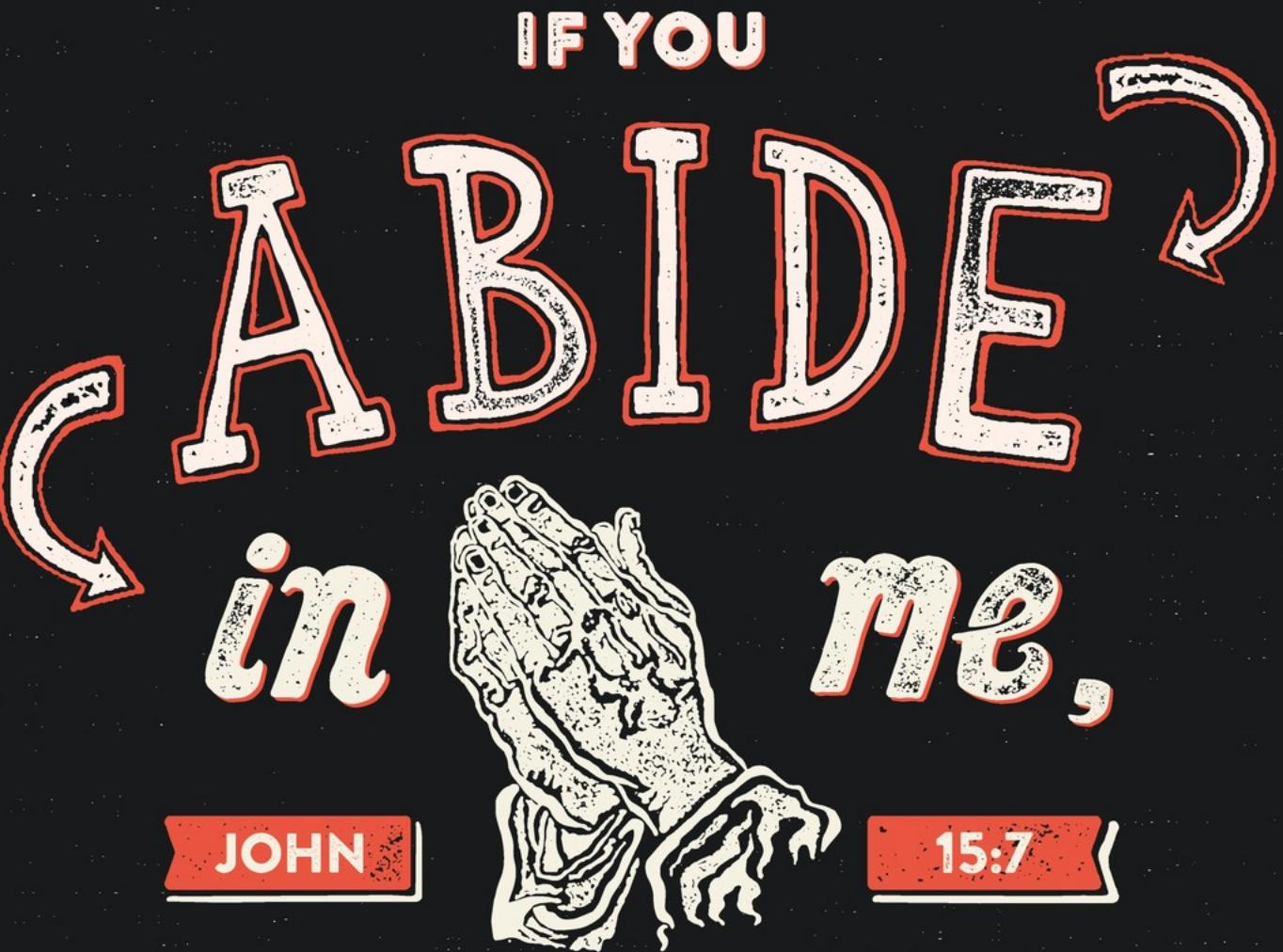
cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide;
as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence, let noth - ing shake;
ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,

In ev - ery change He faith-ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: thy
All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the
Sor - row for - got, love's pur-est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul: when

best, thy heaven-ly Friend Through thorn-y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
change and tears are past, All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last. A-MEN.

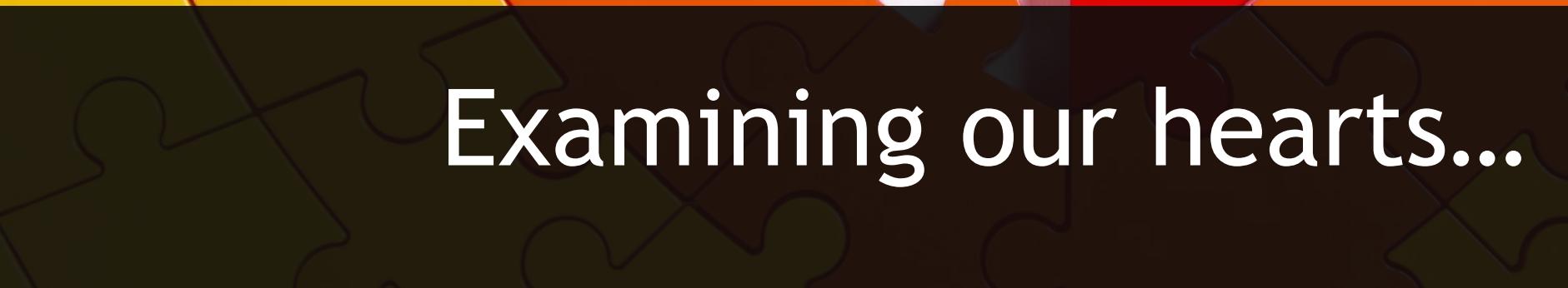
Melody used by permission of Breitkopf & Härtel. Arrangement copyright, 1933, by the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education. Used by permission.

LIFE IN CHRIST: FAITH AND ASSURANCE

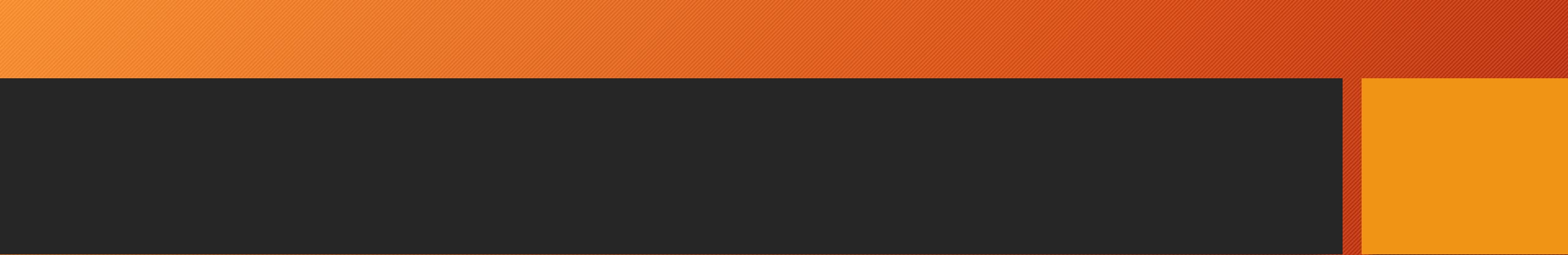


AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, ASK WHATEVER
YOU WISH, AND IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU.

Trust, Gratitude and Contentment



Examining our hearts...



Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 139:23-24

How to be obedient to the process

1

Avoid the
need to
control

2

Surrender to
the life of
Christ

3

Receive
circumstances
as the will of
God

4

Ask God to
use our
circumstances
to change us

5

Trust Him with
the outcome!

“

Here I am, once again
Falling on Your faithfulness
At the end of all my best
God I come
You've done the rest

Remind my heart that it's okay
Your love is winning over my shame
So I will come with all that I am
To Your throne of grace, You've done the
rest

Your cross, my confidence
Your death, my plea
Your resurrection, my cry of victory
You've thought of everything
There's nothing left
And all I do is come
You've done the rest

All my heart for all my days
I'm holding nothing back from you ”
I will boast in nothing else
But You, my God, my everything
Take my life, seal my fate
For You are all I'll ever need

Partial lyrics taken from *You've Done the Rest*
By Jon Guerra and Judah

-Kenneth Boa

Conformed to His Image

Most of us don't know precisely what we want, but we are certain we don't have it. Driven by dissatisfaction, we pursue the treasure at the end of the rainbow and rarely drink deeply at the well of the present moment, which is all we ever have. The truth is that if we are not satisfied with what we have, we will never be satisfied with what we want.

Closing Thoughts

- What will enable us to be more alive in the present?
- How can we eradicate busyness?
- What will help us better experience Christ's presence?
- From what (or whom) do we draw our adequacy?
- How can we have a greater sense of gratitude for the past, present and future knowing He's got it under control?