

Living the New Life

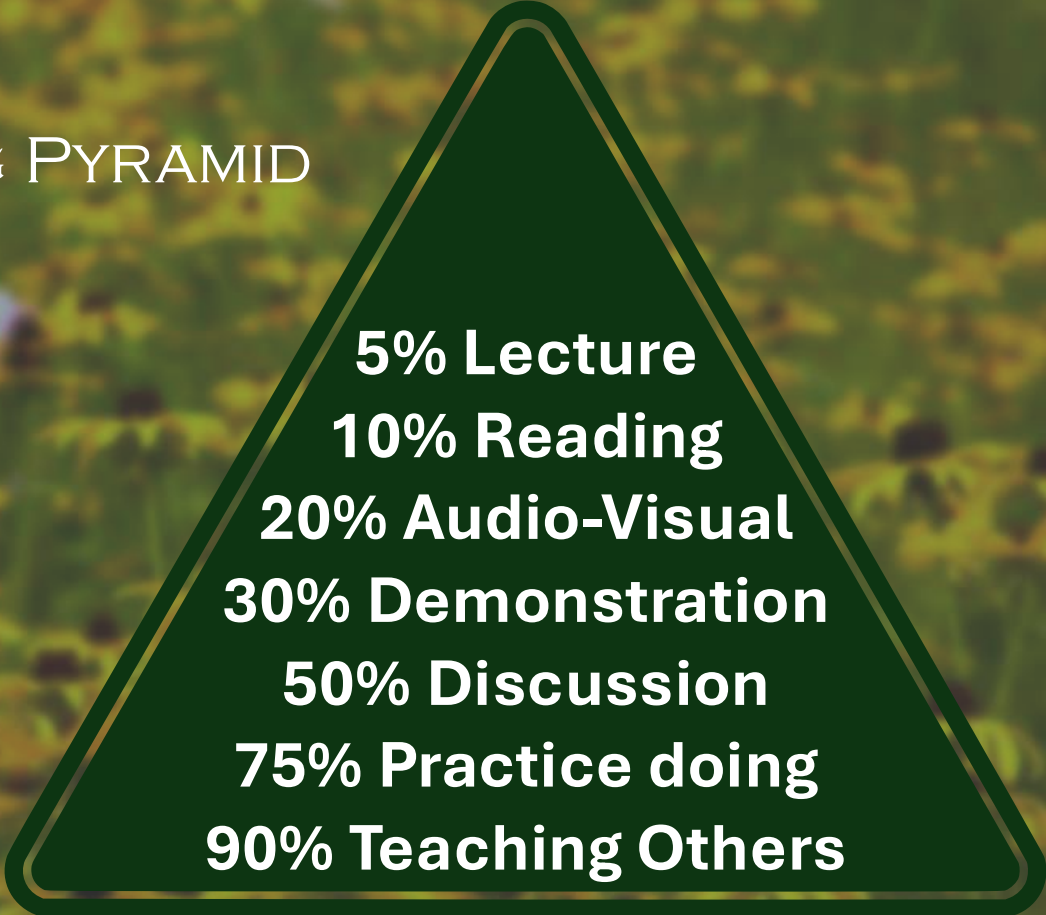
A close-up photograph of a person's arm and hand reaching out towards a field of wildflowers. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the entire scene. The hand is positioned as if about to touch one of the flowers. The background is a soft-focus field of similar wildflowers.

Resurrection Sunday—04/20/2025

I want to accomplish 2 things today:

- 1. In a capsule form - show what the New Life in Christ plays out like.
(Everything you need to know.....)**
- 2. Clarify our understanding of what is scripturally needed to get saved and remain saved.**

THE LEARNING PYRAMID



5% Lecture
10% Reading
20% Audio-Visual
30% Demonstration
50% Discussion
75% Practice doing
90% Teaching Others

**Resurrection is all about a New Life
(New Identity / New Creation).**

Romans 6:4 (NKJV)

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Colossians 3:9-10 (NKJV)

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (That is the new life)

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It starts with being Born-Again / Saved.

A. At it's core - Salvation is a Heart Issue.

Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 2:28-29; 6:17.

- 1. Everything starts with what we believe / desire in our Heart.**
- 2. Salvation is not a head thing.....**



B. Salvation is by Grace through Faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

1. We cannot do anything to earn our salvation or be good enough for it.

There are NO WORKS we can do to get or remain saved. (Works: something we do that we've earned it, so he now 'owes' us our salvation. This would cancel it out as being a 'gift'.)

2. Two Big Statements.

a. There is nothing we can 'DO' to get saved.

- I want that very clear > Salvation is a Heart.....

b. There is nothing we can 'DO' to loose our salvation.

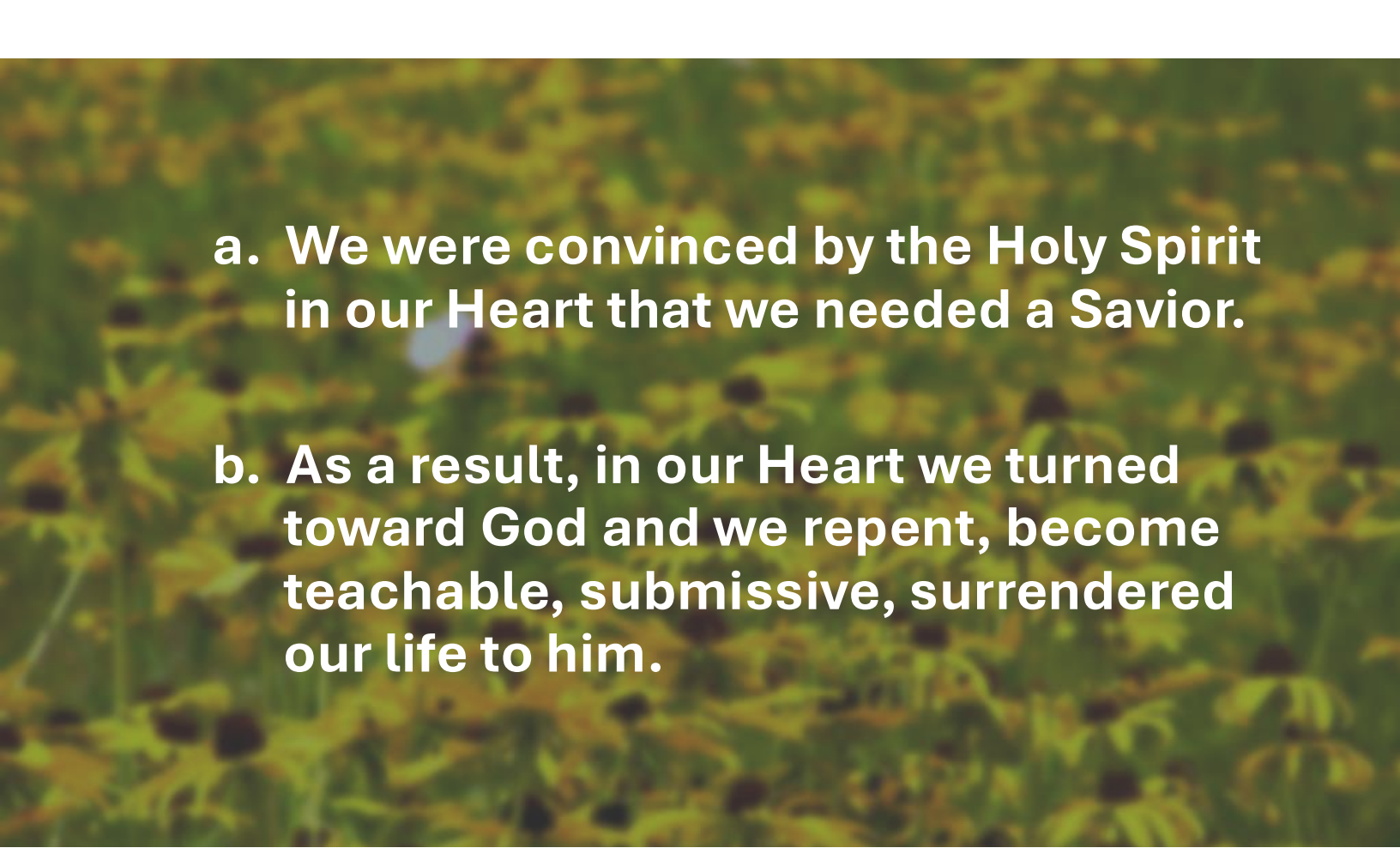
(Actions. Physical Works or Activities)

- Salvation is a Heart.....

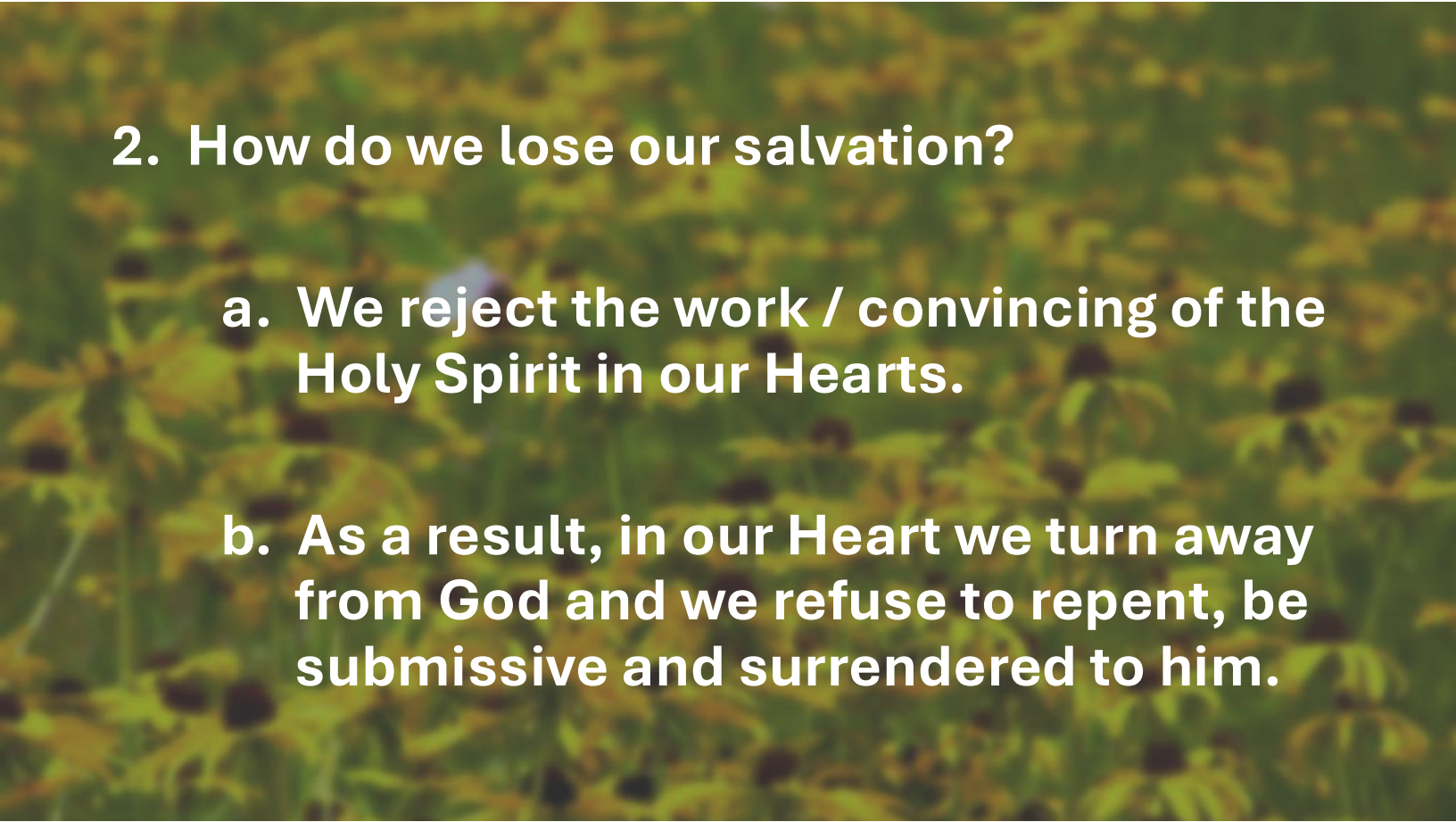
- If after I'm saved, I need to Do or Not Do certain Works / Actions to keep my salvation - I am again earning it.

Salvation is a Heart Issue.

1. How did we get saved?

- 
- a. We were convinced by the Holy Spirit in our Heart that we needed a Savior.**
 - b. As a result, in our Heart we turned toward God and we repent, become teachable, submissive, surrendered our life to him.**

2. How do we lose our salvation?

- 
- a. We reject the work / convincing of the Holy Spirit in our Hearts.**
 - b. As a result, in our Heart we turn away from God and we refuse to repent, be submissive and surrendered to him.**



Salvation is a Heart Issue, not a Works Issue.

Once we're saved - what are we supposed to live like?

A. First - we're supposed to start a relationship with God.

- **(Get to Know him)**

John 17:3 (NKJV)

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Revelation 3:19-20

B. Then we need to Grow in that relationship.

1. Scripture talks a lot about us growing in.....

1 John 2:12-14

Children >> Young Men >> Fathers

2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

- Identity (Who we are in Christ)**
- Philippians 1:9; 1 Peter 2:1-2
(Scriptures on Growing)**

2 Peter 1:3-11 (NIV)

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

- Learn our New Identity. (Knowledge of him)
- According to the Promises > who are we!!!!
- So we live in the divine (New) nature, and not the....

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- “Add” & “Increasing Measure” (Grow in them)

9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Notice 3 things:

- a. We need to grow in God. (v. 5 - “add”)**
- b. There are some things that God expects us to Do. (v. 5-8)**
- c. The Result is: Eternal Life / Security. (v.10-11)**

What is the mindset we take: ‘Follow, Submit, Surrender’.

- These are not legalism - this is the natural lifestyle of someone who Believes.**



**Make the decision to Grow in God. What
does that mean?**

John 3:16 (NKJV)

**16 For God so loved the world that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whoever believes
in Him should not perish but have
everlasting life.**

Believe - Webster

Transitive Verb

1a: to consider to be true or honest

b: to accept the word or evidence of

2: to hold as an opinion

Intransitive Verb

**1a: to accept something as true,
genuine, or real**

**b: to have a firm or wholehearted
religious conviction or persuasion :
to regard the existence of God as a
fact**

**2: to have a firm conviction as to the
goodness, efficacy, or ability of
something**

3: to hold an opinion : THINK

1. This is Mental Ascent or Acknowledgment.
2. Which is a totally different definition than the Greek.

Believe - (Greek)

John 3:16 (AMP)

16 For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

1. This is holding on to God like we would hold on to a pole in a flood so we're not swept away.
2. Trust In--Cling To / Adhere To--Rely On (Apply to the Pole example)
3. This is not Mental Ascent or Acknowledgment.
4. And, this is a life & death Process being lived out.

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.



- These are what we learn to **Cling to, Trust in, Rely on.**

1. **It's a mindset that needs to become solid in us.**
2. **It's a process.... that we need to gain knowledge on.**

(2 Peter 1:3)

This is not to get saved or to remain saved.

THIS IS THE NORMAL RESULT of being saved.

**There are things we Do / Works BECAUSE we
are saved.**

**It will automatically happen, unless we stop
it.**

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV)

**8 For by grace you have been saved through
faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift
of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should
boast. 10 For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand that we
should walk in them.**



You and I have been created to Do Works.

- Not to get Saved.**
- Not to Stay Saved.**
- Because we're Saved.**



**I am growing in (Progressive Salvation) in
who God already sees me as (Positional
Salvation).**

- By Faith I live > who I am.**



- **Progressive: Sanctification > A work in Progress.**

(This is how the Spirit sees us)

- **Positional: I am Complete in Christ > Nothing lacking.**

(This is how the Father see us)



When we have a healthy New Life inside of us:

**WE PURSUE WHO WE REALLY ARE IN CHRIST
IN EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES!!!!**

(Clinging, Relying, Adhering, Trusting...)



**Once we are saved, let this process happen.
Don't stop it.**

1. How do we stop the process?

- By not dealing with the aspects of us that get in the way of growing in God / the process / New Identity.**

2. What are those things that get in the way?

- Our old nature / flesh.**
- It must be dealt with or it will stop us from becoming who we are as a New Creation / the New Lie.**

Let's briefly touch what's called Legalism.

A. My understanding is:

- 1. In its true form, legalism refers to keeping aspects of keeping the O.T. law. (Book of Galatians; esp. ch. 2-4)**
 - a. Circumcision, Observing certain holidays or feasts, can't eat pork, must go to church on the sabbath (Saturday),**

- 2. However, legalism is a picture of needing to keep a bunch of rules, laws, traditions, etc. to be saved.....**

- a. You need to read your Bible and Pray every day to be saved.
You cannot smoke (cigarettes, etc.) and be saved.
If you chew tobacco, you're going to hell. Etc., Etc.**



**HEAR ME: I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THAT
STUFF.**

That is Legalism.

- > You must do this, and you can't do that to be saved.**
- > Rules, laws, traditions, etc. - to get saved, to remain saved. (Whether Old Test. or we made them up)**

HEAR ME: THIS IS NOT GOD!!!!

> This is the fight that Paul continually fought for the truth of the Gospel.

HOWEVER:

**The foundational, critical need for
OBEDIENCE, SUBMISSION, FOLLOWING
GOD, SURRENDER - IS NOT LEGALISM.**

**These are Heart Issues that have nothing to
do with Legalism type of Works.**

(Works will follow our Heart - Eph. 2:10)

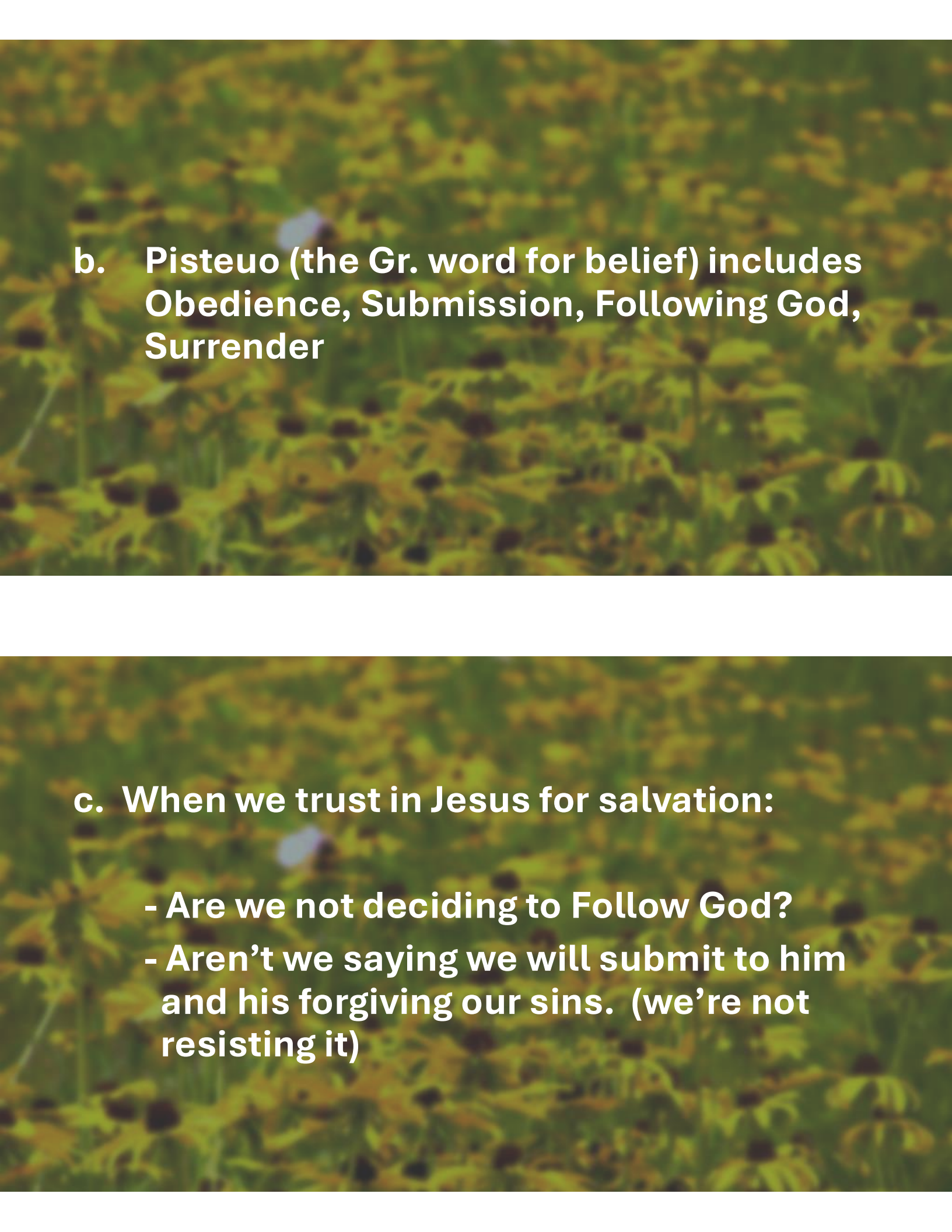


**A surrendered and Submissive Heart to God
are necessary for us to get saved, and to
remain saved.**

**Pastor, I thought you said: all you have to do
is believe to be saved?**

a. I DID. AND I STILL DO.

**> But - it's not the American concept /
Webster definition of Believe.**



b. Pisteuo (the Gr. word for belief) includes Obedience, Submission, Following God, Surrender

c. When we trust in Jesus for salvation:

- Are we not deciding to Follow God?**
- Aren't we saying we will submit to him and his forgiving our sins. (we're not resisting it)**



- Aren't we saying we're done living our life our way and surrendering it to him?

- When we make him our Savior, aren't we saying we're willing to start a new life, one where we are allowing God to be in charge (obedience)?

If we're not saying these things, what are we saying?

- The mistakes the church has made with Legalism are:

#1 - To legislate what God is telling me, it now applies to all of you.

#2 - Thus, making rules / laws that all of us need to do to be Saved, Godly, Holy, part of the church.

#3 - If you don't do it according to those rules / laws - you're not going to heaven.

The truth of getting saved and staying saved.

#1) It is an issue of our heart (the deepest part of who we are). We live for God first of all from our Heart, not our head. (even though our head needs to be involved in following our heart)

#2) We must Believe!!

Cling to Him, be Adhered to Him, Rely on him, and Trust in Him (Believe) with all our Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength (which is Love).

#3) When we do that, when we build that relationship, he will ask us to become our New Identity. Here is where our life can go really well in God or go really bad.

What are we going to cling to, rely on, adhere to, trust

- Our old nature, or our new nature / identity?**

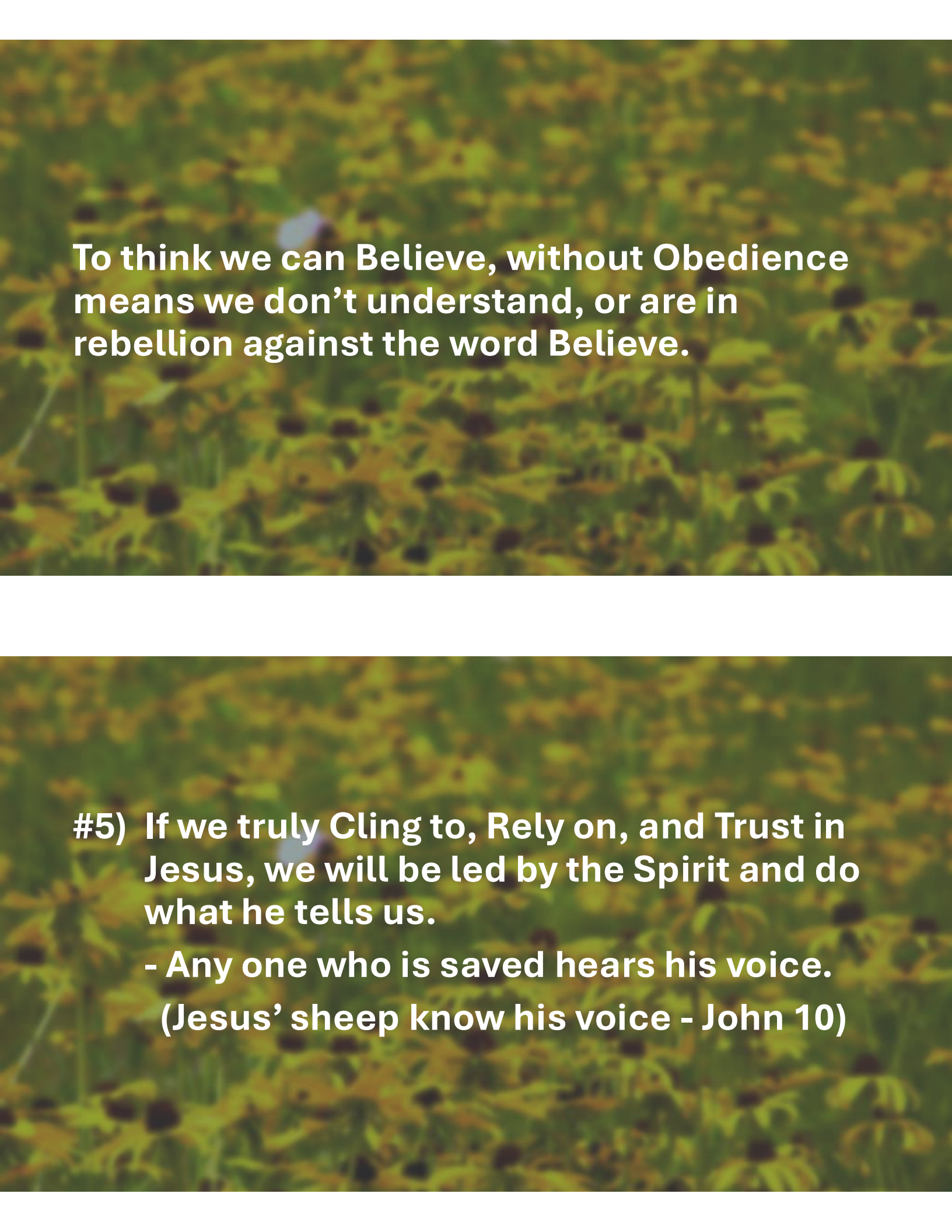
If we cling to..... > our old nature / sin: we now have a Heart that is beginning to turn away from God.

If we cling to..... > what God is asking of us, we are now continuing to grow in God and our New Life.

#4) If we Believe, we will Obey Him (That's Love - 1 John).

That is accomplished by doing what HE SAYS TO US which is Submission, Surrender, Obedience.

Not what others say we should do - including the church.



To think we can Believe, without Obedience means we don't understand, or are in rebellion against the word Believe.

#5) If we truly Cling to, Rely on, and Trust in Jesus, we will be led by the Spirit and do what he tells us.

**- Any one who is saved hears his voice.
(Jesus' sheep know his voice - John 10)**

To think we can Believe, without following the Holy Spirit means we don't really Believe.

And if we don't really Believe, are we saved, will we remain saved??

#6) To live like that from our hearts, is living #1–#5 out in our lives on a daily basis. These are the works we have been created for, and will be rewarded for. They will come Naturally. These are what cause us to grow. To choose to not grow is to choose to die.



**We will be rewarded according to what we
did / our works.**

(Part of what we work for - is the reward)



Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

**10 For we are God's workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus to do good works, which God
prepared in advance for us to do.**

Psalms 62:11-12 (NIV)

11 One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong,¹² and that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NIV)

9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? 10 I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.

Matthew 5:46 (NIV)

46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV)

3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you

1 Corinthians 3:8 (NIV)

8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

1 Corinthians 3:14-15 (NIV)

14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him (“his pay” - Amp. - cf. Rev. 22:12) for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,
24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

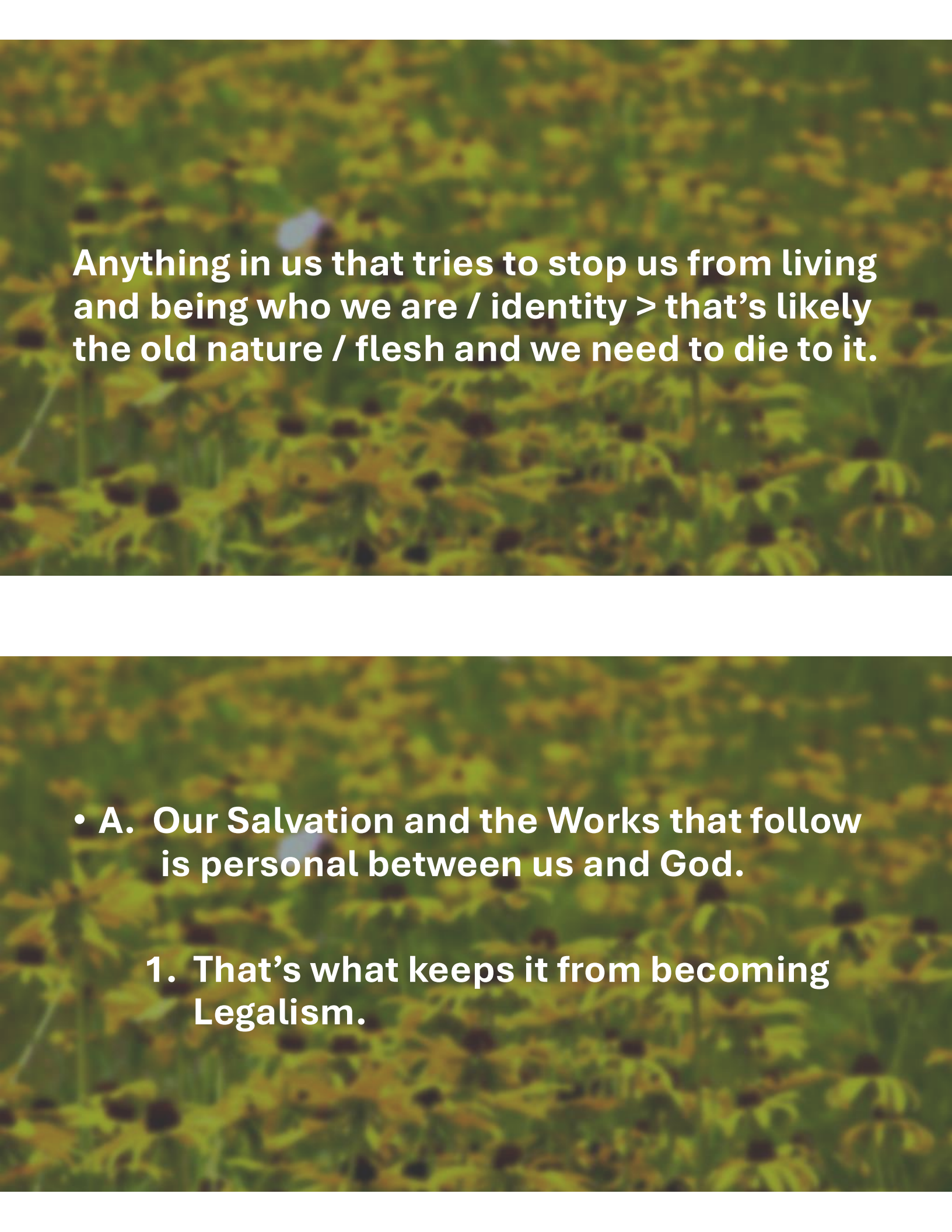


Hebrews 10:35 (NIV)

35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

Revelation 22:12 (NIV)

12 Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.



Anything in us that tries to stop us from living and being who we are / identity > that's likely the old nature / flesh and we need to die to it.

- **A. Our Salvation and the Works that follow is personal between us and God.**
 - 1. That's what keeps it from becoming Legalism.**



B. This is where the church makes some big mistakes.

1. We decided what a christian Does and Doesn't Do.

a. Now it's no longer natural, normal growth.

• b. Now it's rules, laws, legalism.

2. Dying to the flesh, so we can be our true identity is not legalism.

Galatians 5:16-21 (NIV)

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:24-26 (NIV)

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

- This is not legalism or earning our salvation.
- This is obedience, submission to the leading of the Spirit.

Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

If we refuse to Obey, surrender, die to the flesh – follow what the Spirit is saying to us - it can result in us losing our salvation, even though we say we still believe.

- > Best example: The demons believe.....
(James 2)

In reality we do not scripturally believe - we're not Clinging to, Adhering to, Trusting in, Relying on Christ - because we are actively refusing him.

Rather than clinging to..... our New Life / Identity, we are clinging to..... our Old Nature / Sin.

- G5356 - Destruction (NIV) - verse 8.

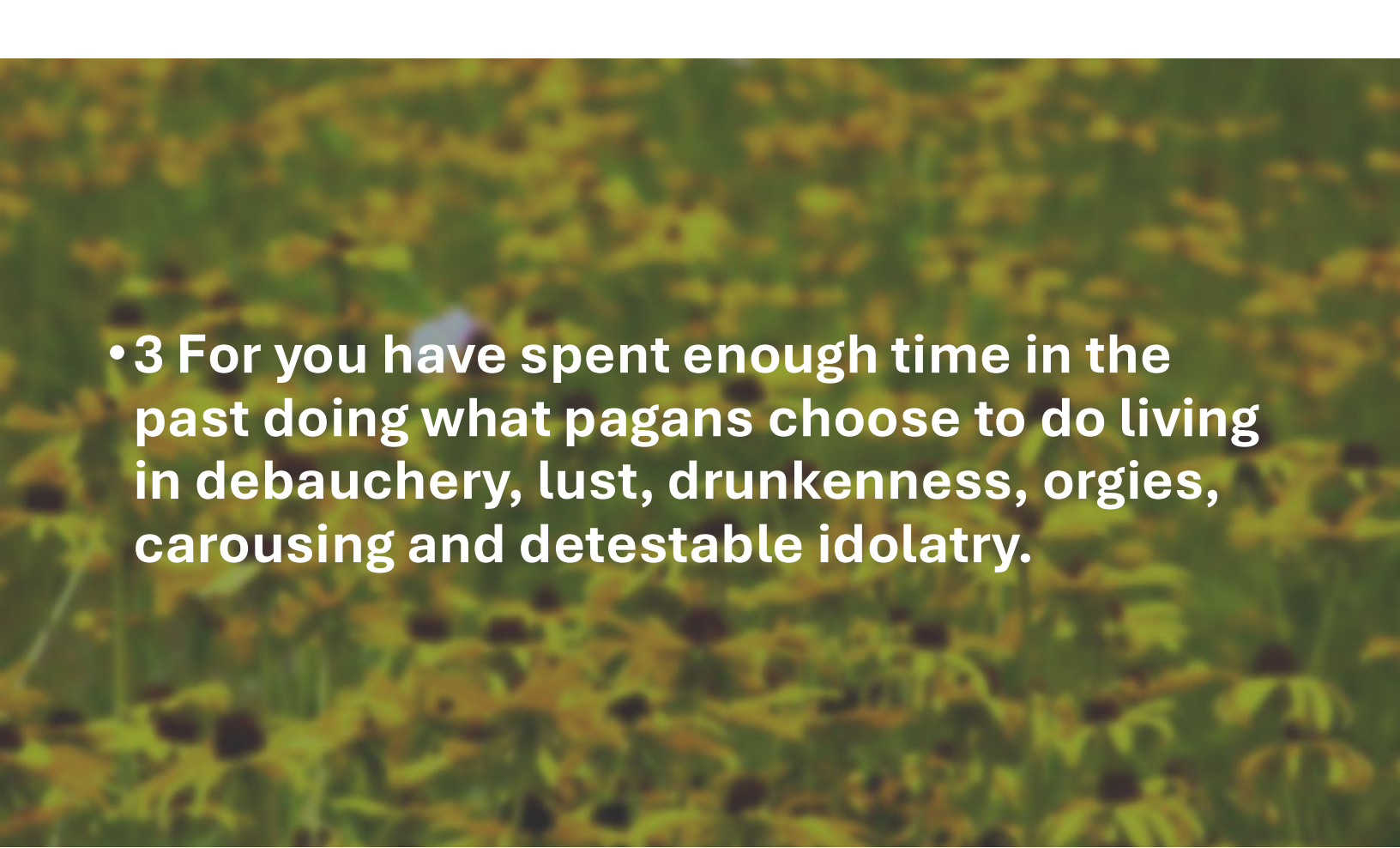
“from 5351; decay, i.e. ruin (spontaneous or inflicted, literally or figuratively):-corruption, destroy, perish.”

- G155 - Eternal (NIV) - verse 8. (“Life” is Zoe)
“from 165; perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well):--
eternal, for ever, everlasting, world (began).”

This where suffering begins to enter the picture.

1 Peter 4:1-3 (NIV)

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

- 
- **3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.**



What gets us into Trouble?

A. Refusing to Grow, Believe, Love, Submit, Surrender.

- 1. Not allowing the natural process of life to take place in us.**

Hebrews 10:26-27, 31 (NIV)

26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.....31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

2. Deliberate sinning is not talking about man made rules.

John 16 - It's the Spirit who convinces us of sin. (It's deliberately disobeying.....)

Hebrews 12:25 (NIV)

25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

Hebrews 12:28-29 (NIV)

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

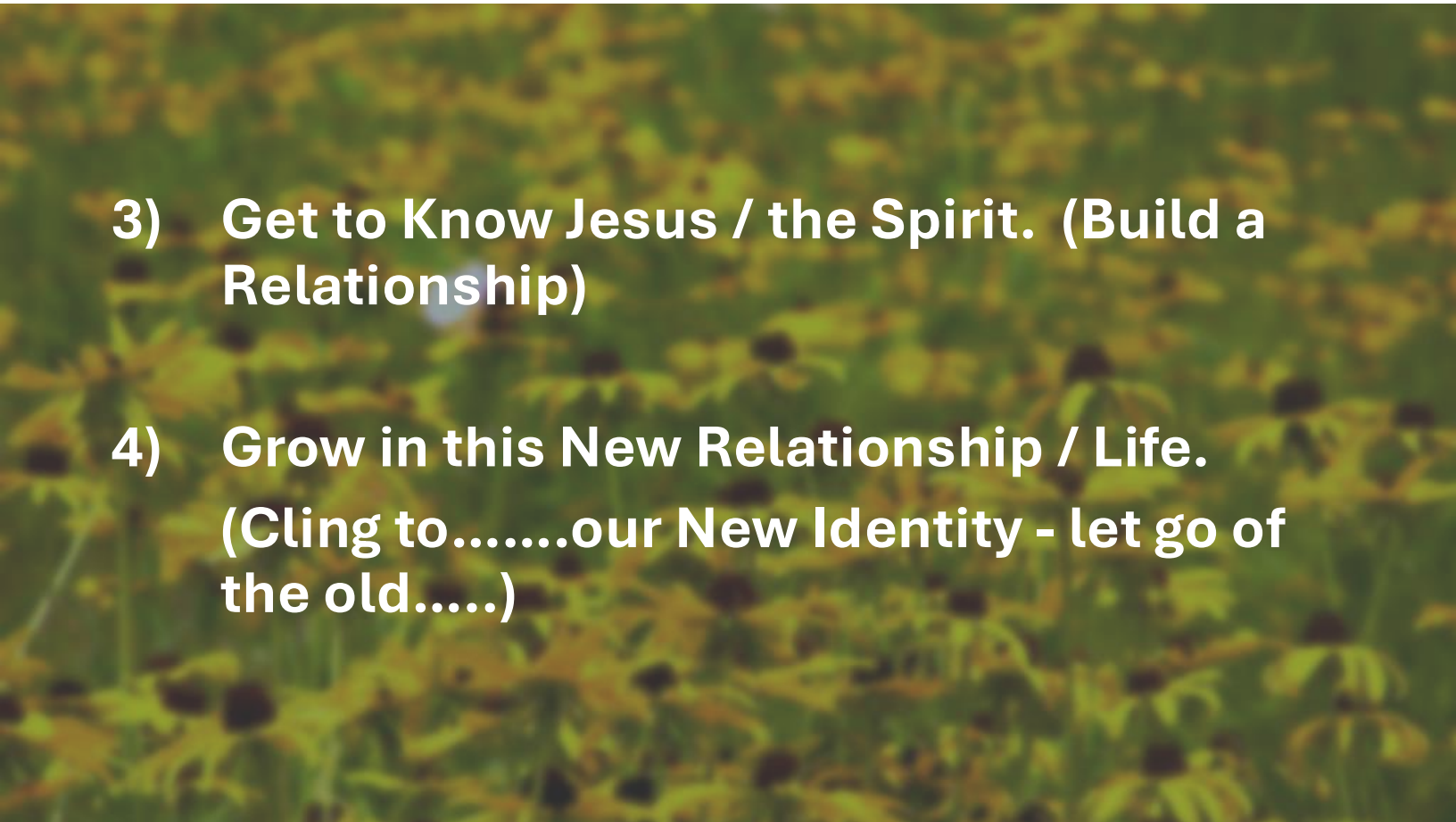
Summary:

- 1) Make Jesus Your Savior. Be Saved / Born Again.
(A Heart decision, not a Head decision)**



2) Keep your Heart Soft / Turned Towards God.

(Salvation is a Heart Issue. We're either turning towards God, or away from him in our Heart)



3) Get to Know Jesus / the Spirit. (Build a Relationship)

**4) Grow in this New Relationship / Life.
(Cling to.....our New Identity - let go of the old.....)**

**5) Believe the Scriptural Way, not the Webster definition;
Cling, Adhere, Rely, and Trust in Jesus from the Heart.
Cling..... to our New Identity / Life & let go of the old...**

6) Submit, Surrender, Obey what 'HE' (God) asks of you.

**7) Learn to Follow the Holy Spirit.
(Your life for God is between you and God / Spirit)**



**8) Don't Stop the Process / Growth into
your New Identity & Life / Relationship.**

**(Die to anything that would stop it. Old
Nature)**

**9) Stay out of Legalism. (Rules taught by
man)**

**10) Learn to Suffer Well. (Dying to the sin
that stops us from becoming our New
Identity)**



11) Never Refuse God.

Give him what he's asking of you.

To Refuse God, can cause us to lose our salvation.