

RULE

OF

Psalm 27

Page 795

LIFE





Sermon Slides:

Ask me anything (AMA)

Text your questions to **(608) 836-3236** throughout the Rule of Life series.

Even if we don't have AMA time on a Sunday, we include unanswered questions in our podcast.



Memory Verse

**Whoever claims to
abide in Him must walk
as Jesus walked.**

1 John 2:6

The Goal of Rule of Life

A pattern of practices focused on shaping our life to abide in Christ, walk as he walked and to bear his fruit.

Or:

A practical plan to abide in Jesus by walking as He walked.





Month 2: Elimination and Experimentation

See: Appendix II- Next 3 weeks

Elimination

- Pursue simplicity through frugality
- Eliminate everything that detracts or distracts from your first priority
- Eliminate everything non-essential for one month
- It *should make you bored and anxious.*

Experimentation

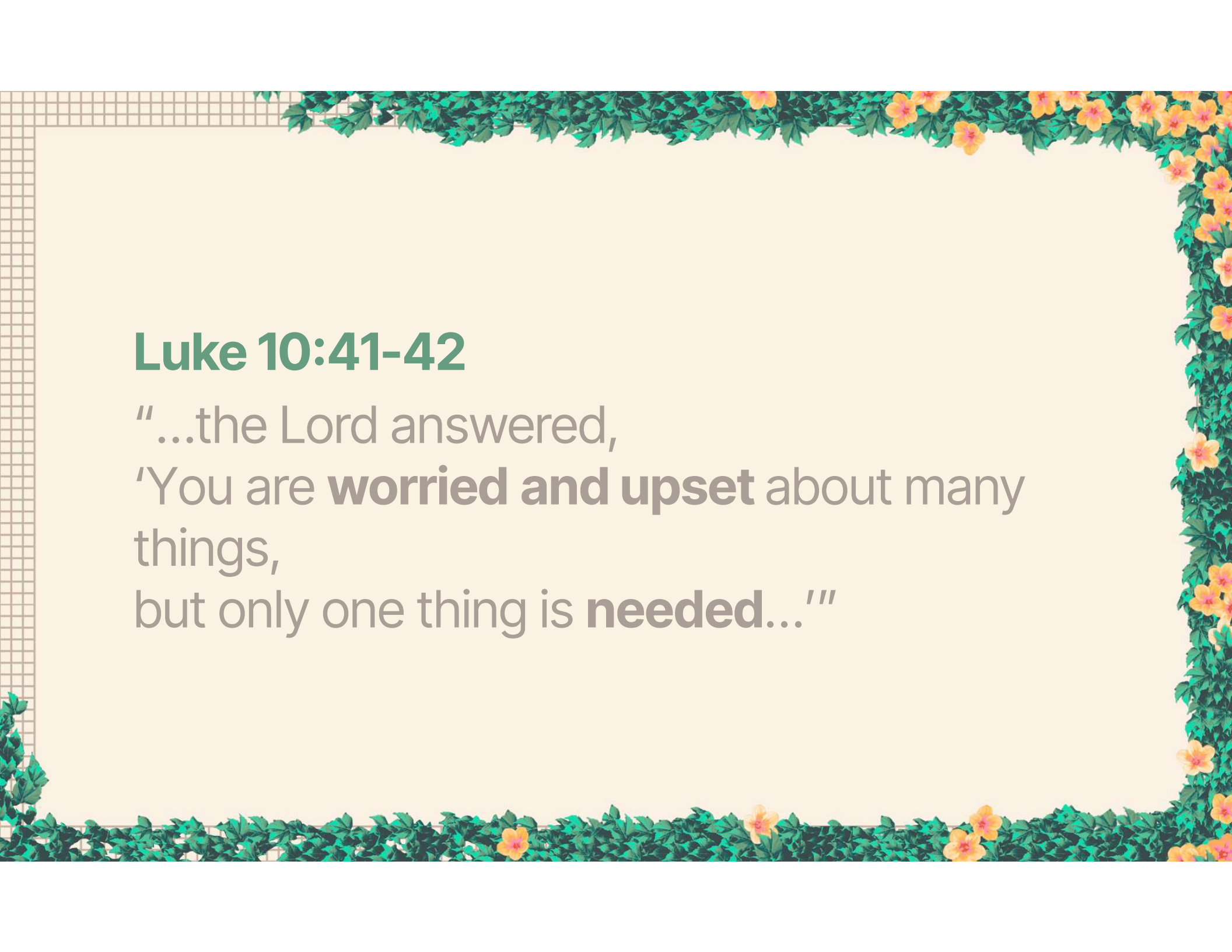
- Try some "micro-rules" for the next month
- Use practices to fill in space made through elimination
- Consider: connect, grow, and serve components
- Utilize nature, fellowship and solitude more.



To abide, bear fruit, and walk as Jesus...

Pay direct attention to God

Without a change in our attention,
eliminating distraction produces nothing.



Luke 10:41-42

"...the Lord answered,
'You are **worried and upset** about many
things,
but only one thing is **needed...**'"

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Distorted responsibility
from fear and worry



Priority established by peace





Point 1: Human Nature

We must pay direct attention to God because...

We become what we behold

The **objects of our attention determine:**

what we **believe**, how we **develop** and **who we are**.

Psalm 135:13-18

Your name, O LORD, endures for ever,
your renown, O LORD, through all
generations. For the LORD will vindicate his people and
have compassion on his servants. The **idols of the
nations** are silver and gold, made by the hands of men.
They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they
cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there
breath in their mouths. **Those who make them will be
like them, and so will all who trust in them.**





Philippians 4:4-9

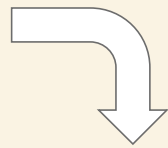
“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, **whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is righteous, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is virtuous or commendable—ponder about such things**. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Logizomai – “scheme, ponder, reckon”

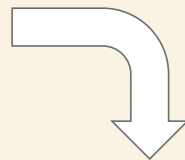
Automatic development

Not Just for babies. For all creatures @ every stage

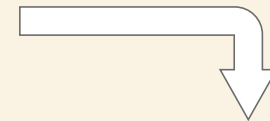
Attention



Imitation



Conoformation



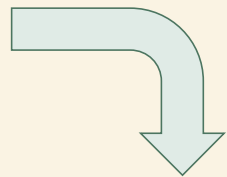
Automation
(reaction)



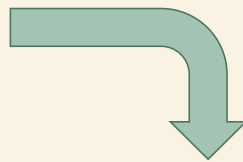
Intentional formation

Applying intention to shaping ourselves
integrates automatic and chosen learning

Attention



Imitation



Conformation



Automation

Faith uses practices to apply intention to our attention



Colossians 3:1-2

"Since, then, **you have been raised** with Christ, **set your hearts on things above,** where **Christ is seated** at the right hand of God.

² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."





Point 2: God's Provision

We behold God through his revelation

God heals our image of him through his self-disclosure.
We call this Revelation.

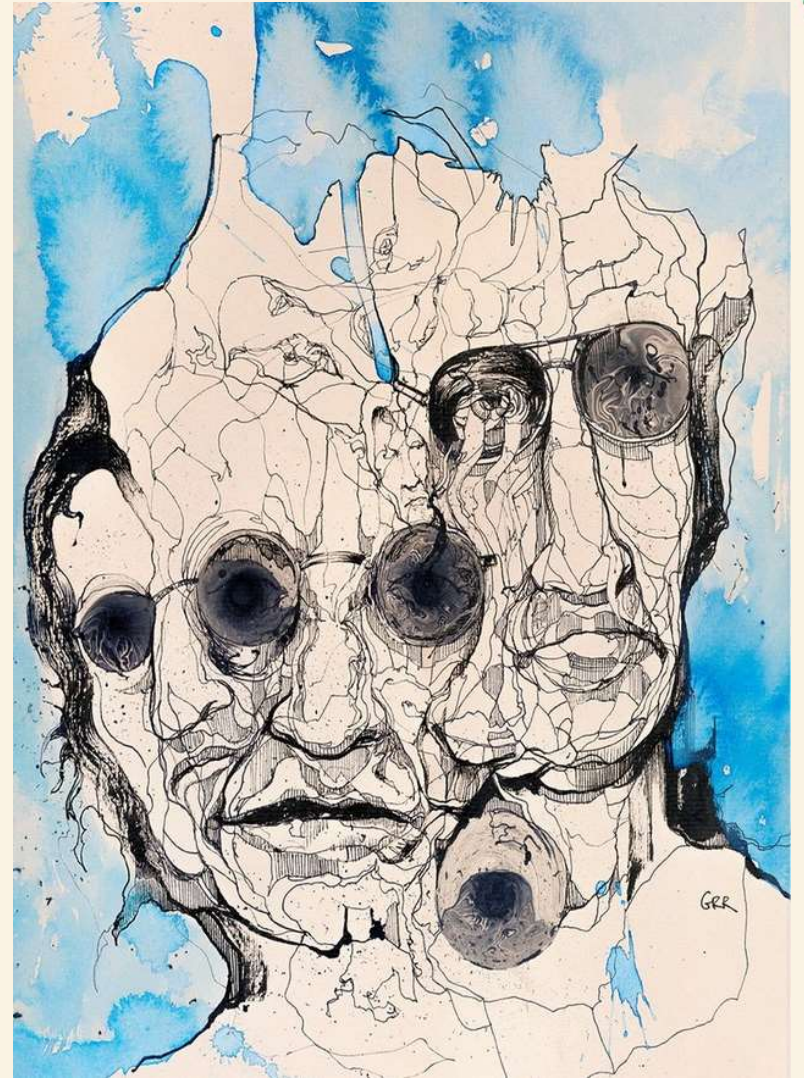
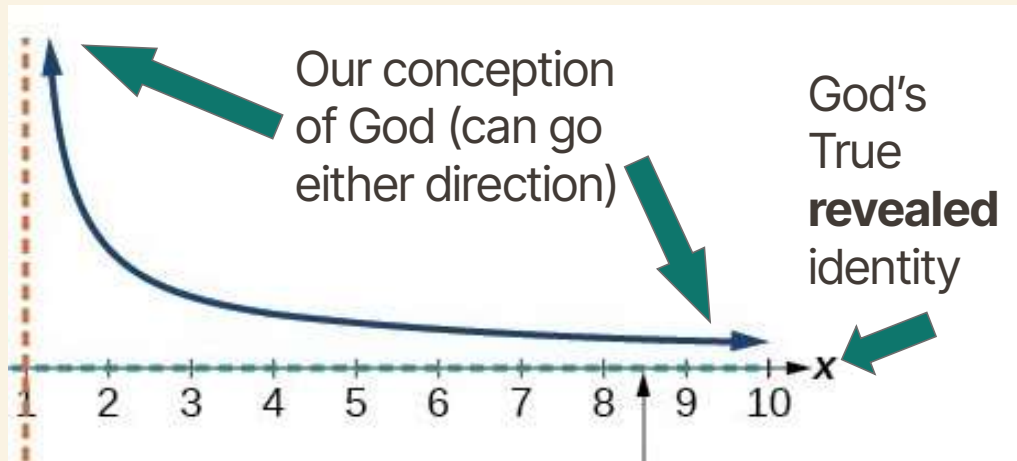
This determines whether our attention is worship or idolatry; whether it's conforming or transforming. (Rom 12:1-2)

We worship "through" a composite of God



"The most important thing about a man is what comes to mind when he thinks about God." - **A.W. Tozer**

Attending to God's revelation is how we try to worship the God who is there rather than an idol of our intuitions or preferences.



Two fallacies in attending to God:

1. Natural Fallacy

- "Feeling close to God in nature" is a reliable, self-interpreting, and sufficient revelation
- Internal feelings about good/evil, and other intuitions are reliable guides to spiritual truth



Fallacies are part true...

Nature is spiritually good

- God *is* revealed partly through nature and our nature
- Nature slows our experience, separates us from the "stream," and allows for realization, calm, and transcendence.

Nature facilitates transcendence and displays truth. (Romans 1, Ps 19)
**It is the work of God,
but not the face of God.**



Two fallacies in attending to God:

2. Mysticism Fallacy

- God wants us to know him by **normally** hearing him speak to us personally and mystically in verbal interior revelation.
- Internal verbal intuitions, pictorial imaginations, and "hearing God's voice" is spirituality **normative**.



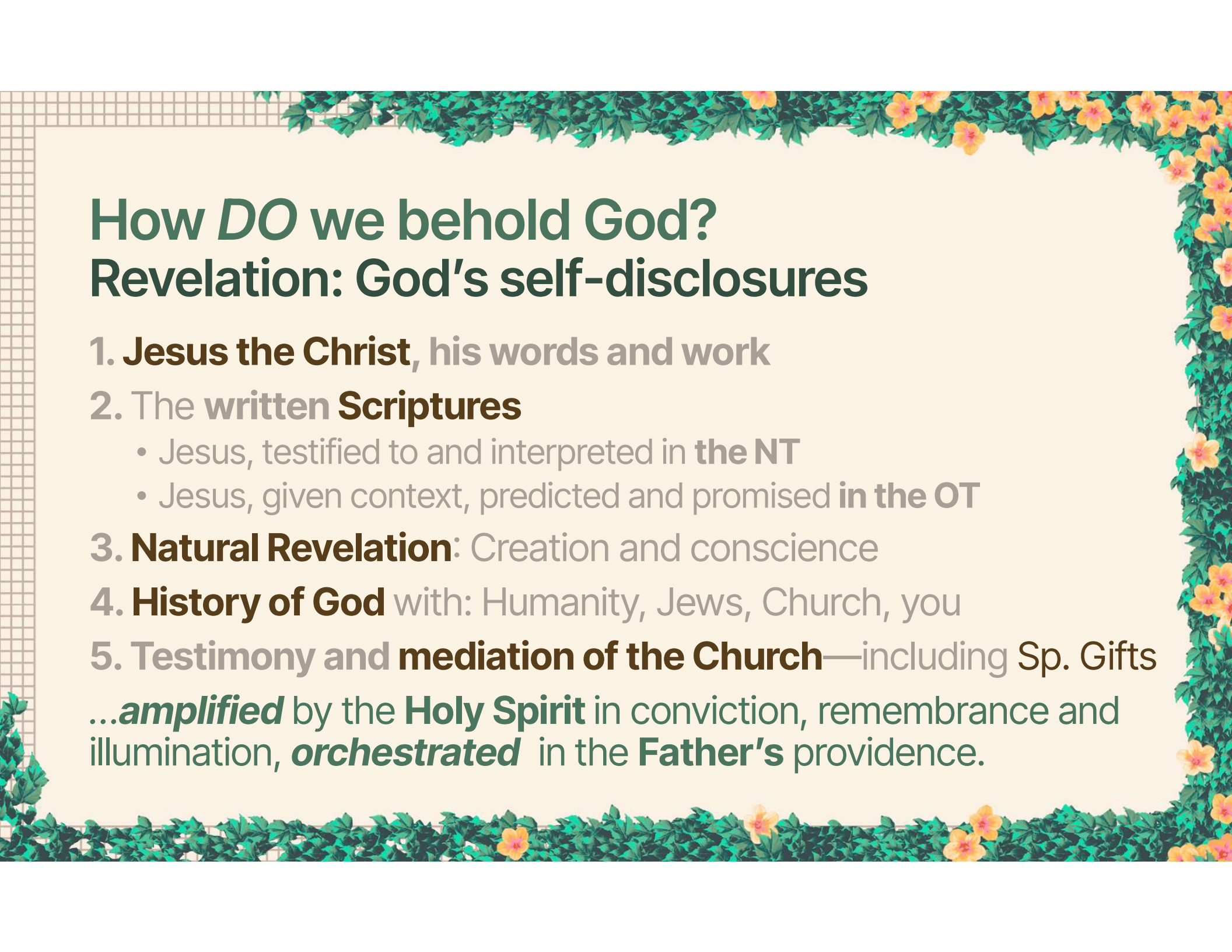
Fallacies have truth in them:

Mysticism (like nature) is supplemental, irregular and requires grounding. But it is also a gift of God. To seek and pursue *as such*.

- God **does** speak as an irregular and non-normative means of grace
- **Prophecy is a real spiritual gift** to be sought and received.
- **"Hearing God" means numerous things**—including subjective realizations prompted by the Holy Spirit.

(They **require our interpretation and careful attribution**)





How *DO* we behold God?

Revelation: God's self-disclosures

1. **Jesus the Christ**, his words and work

2. The **written Scriptures**

- Jesus, testified to and interpreted in **the NT**
- Jesus, given context, predicted and promised **in the OT**

3. **Natural Revelation**: Creation and conscience

4. **History of God** with: Humanity, Jews, Church, you

5. **Testimony and mediation of the Church**—including Sp. Gifts

...amplified by the **Holy Spirit** in conviction, remembrance and illumination, *orchestrated* in the **Father's** providence.

Revelation: God's self-disclosure(s)

Father's providence

Jesus the Christ

The Gospel

History of God
Humanity, Jews, us, you

Creation/Nature
Interprets nature

Scriptures

Predicted, promised,
testified to, interpreted

The Church

Commission, discipline,
gifts, testimony

Human nature
Interprets our nature

The
Holy Spirit
Amplifies revelation
normally by:
conviction
remembrance
illumination

Spiritual Exp.
Intuitions of presence
and correlation





What does "Direct Attention" mean?

Pursuing God through Revelation

God calls us to know him by seeking to understand what he has spoken and shown about himself and everything else.

- Seek "God's face" (Ps 27): God's revealed character in worship
- Pursue Jesus the Christ, sit at his feet (Heb 12, Lk 10:41-42)
- the Gospel: Believe and speak (2 Cor 4)
- Seek first His kingdom and righteousness (Matt 6)
- Set your heart and mind on "Things above" (Col 3): spiritual, ultimate and future
- Pondering the virtuous and commendable (Phil 4:8)



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- **Set your heart and mind** on "Things above" (Col 3): spiritual, ultimate and future
- **Pondering** the virtuous and commendable (Phil 4:8)
- **Meditate** on his words and precepts (Ps 119)
- **Learn** his wisdom in everything (Prov 1-7)



Pursuing God through Revelation

**“Direct attention” means:
paying attention to God
by paying attention to what
he’s pointed our attention to.**

From His self-disclosure.

To his disclosed Self.



Point 3: God's provision *applied* to our nature

To pay direct attention to God by beholding and pursuing Him, we have to...

**Make a regimen (rule)
your first priority**

Unless beholding God is FUNCTIONALLY first in a designed regimen, it won't prevail.



Philippians 4:4-9

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is righteous, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is virtuous or commendable—**ponder about such things.**

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—**put it into practice.** And **the God of peace will be with you.**”



Colossians 3:1-10

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When **Christ, who is your life, appears,** then you also will appear with him in glory.

Therefore, **put to death those parts of you of the earth:** sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, **which is idolatry.** ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You **used to walk in these ways,** in the life you once lived. But now **you must rid yourselves of all such things** as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips. **Do not lie** to each other, since **you have taken off your old self** with its practices and **have put on the new self,** which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

Direct attention to God: Practices

Worship: Beholding

Attending to the
God who
discloses himself



Learning: Pursuing

Attending to the
disclosure of God
about himself





Direct attention to God: Practices

Worship: Beholding & Learning: Pursuing

3 Vectors

Where: Environment?

Who: Community?

How: Practice?

What: Content?

Where?

Solitude or fellowship?

Do what exactly?

What is the focus?



Direct attention to God

See: Appendix II: Formational Habits

Worship: Beholding

Believing in Jesus
Prayer
Sacraments/Ordinances
Musical Worship
Contemplation
Fellowship/Communion
Sacrifice
Service

Learning: Pursuing

Believing the Gospel
Scripture
Preaching and teaching
Meditation
Exhorting friendship
Church discipline
Obedience
Service



Sermon Application

Worship & Prayer Night

Friday, October 18th // 7pm // HPC Sanctuary



Psalm 27

See Companion Booklet



2 Corinthians 4:2–11

Our pursuit of good and exposure of evil
Our spiritual illumination
Our perseverance

All come from Christ:
The light of the image of the glory of God

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