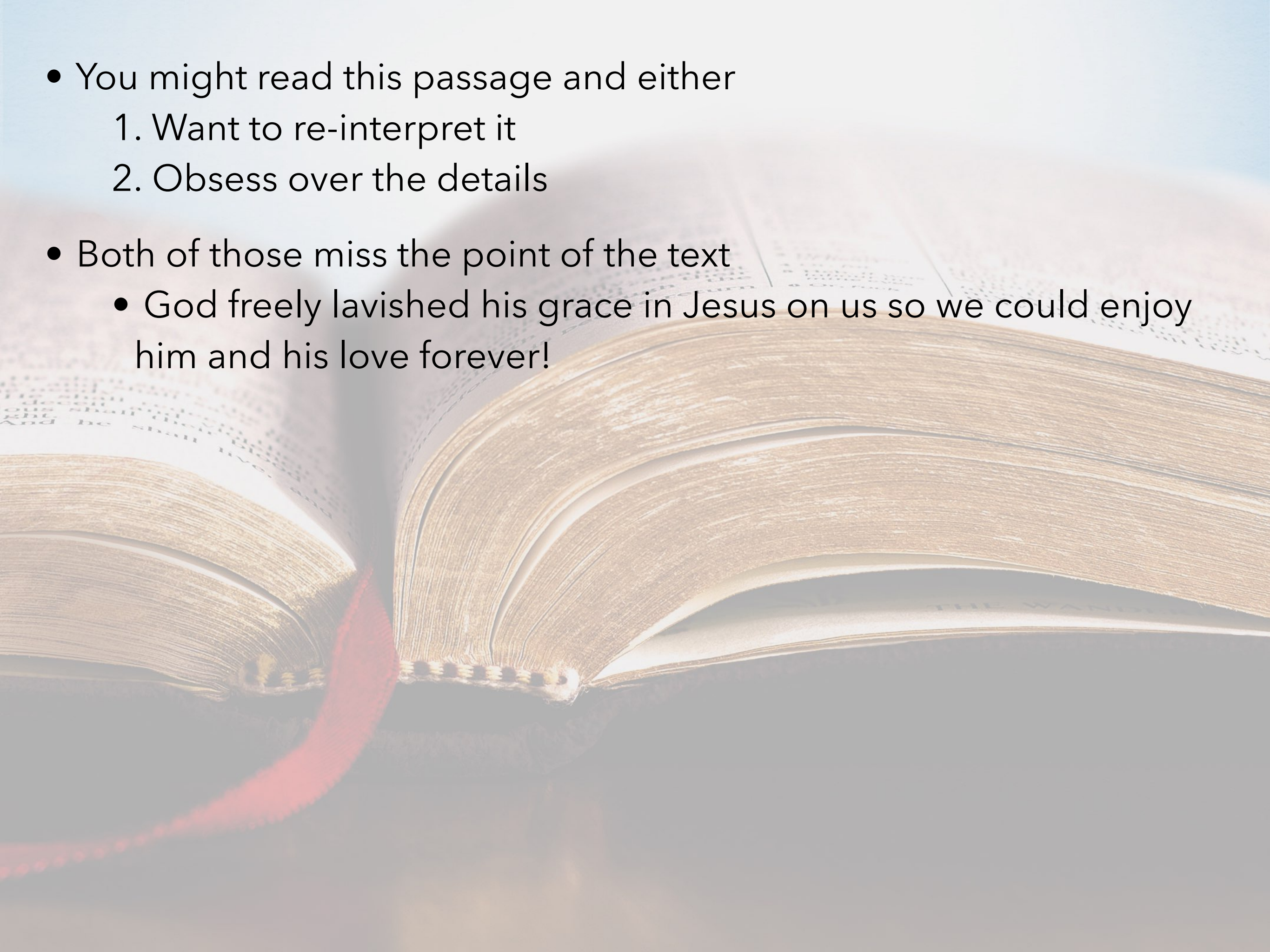


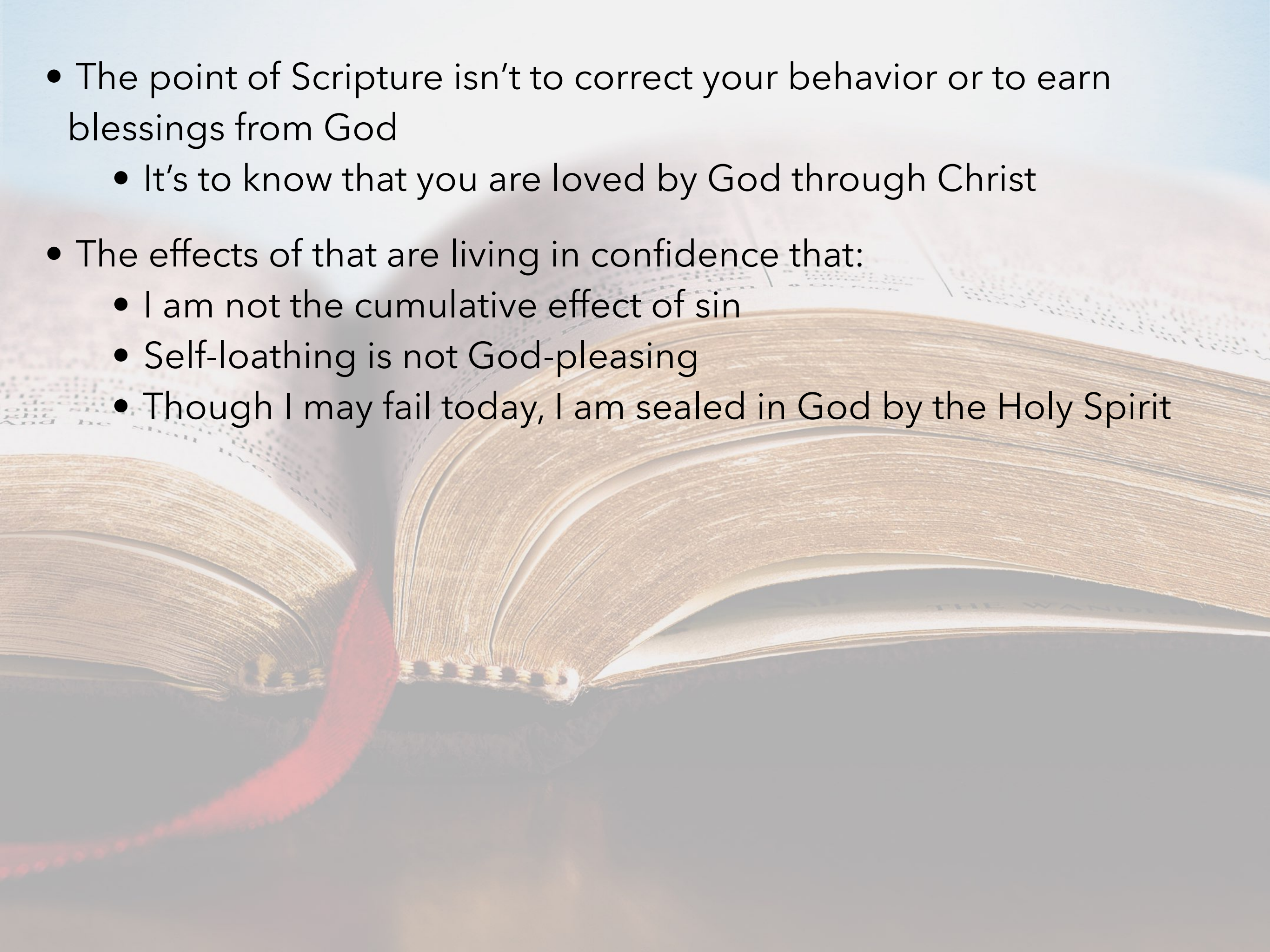
The Good Book



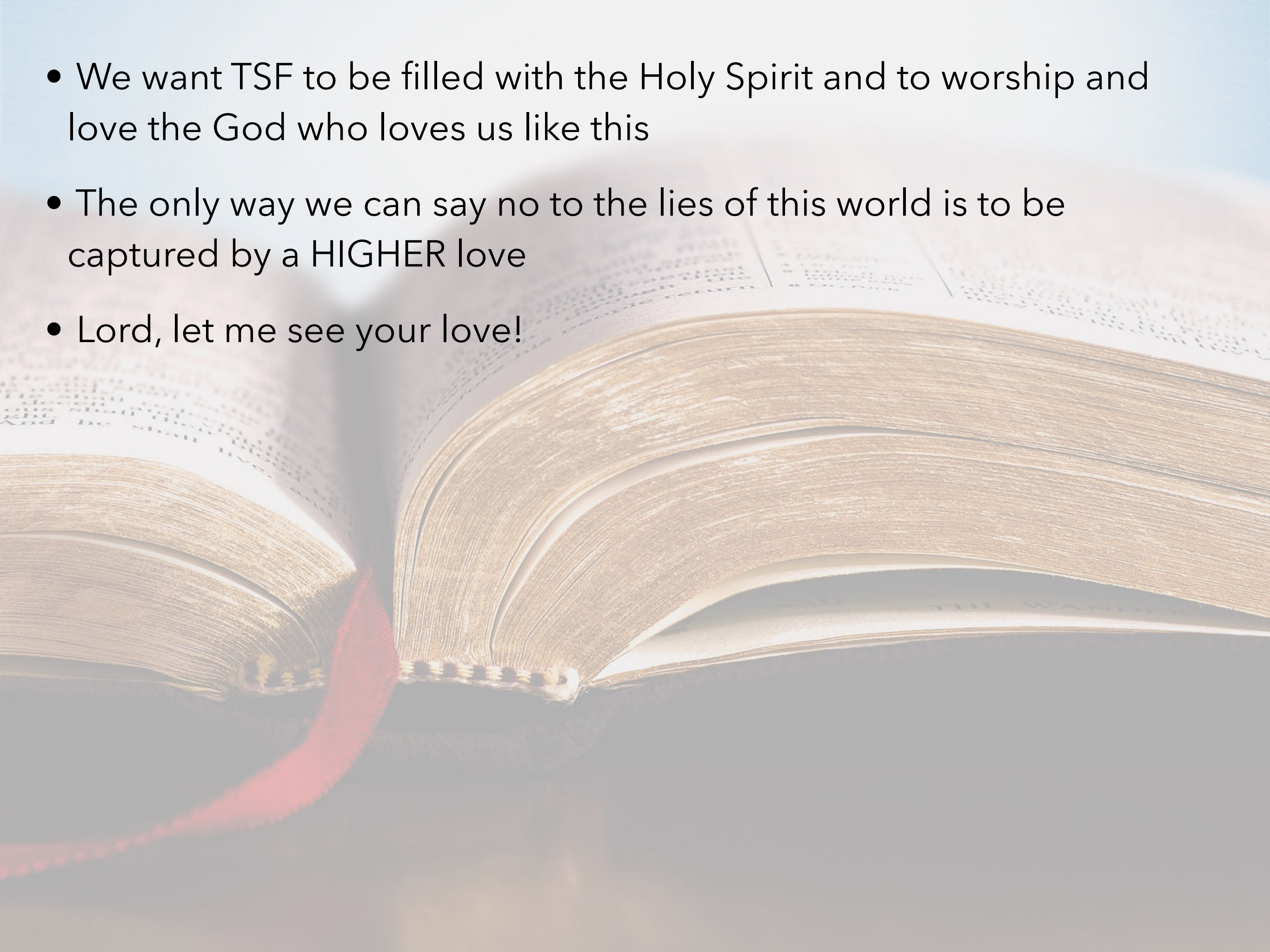
Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

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- You might read this passage and either
 1. Want to re-interpret it
 2. Obsess over the details
 - Both of those miss the point of the text
 - God freely lavished his grace in Jesus on us so we could enjoy him and his love forever!

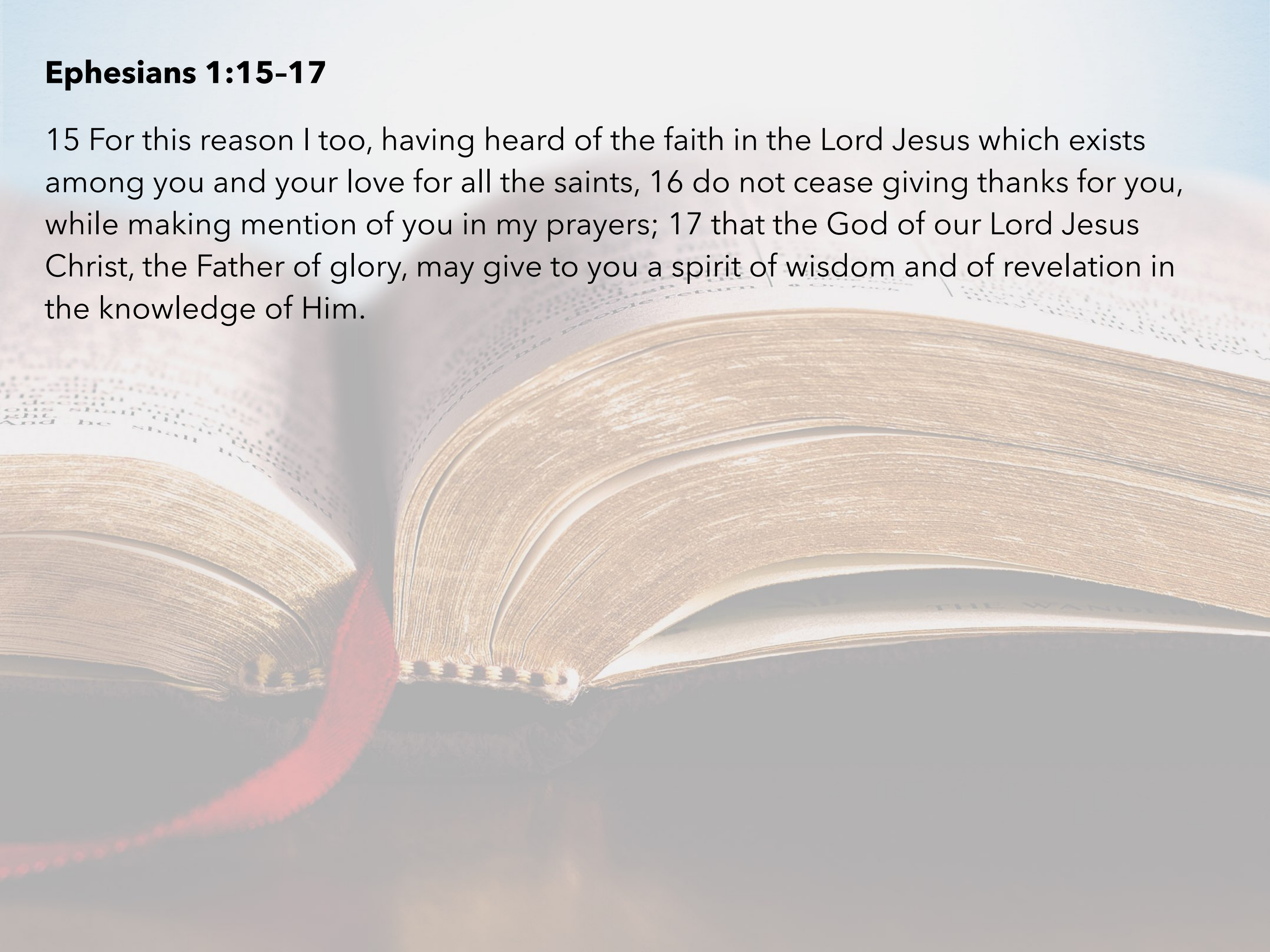
- 
- The point of Scripture isn't to correct your behavior or to earn blessings from God
 - It's to know that you are loved by God through Christ
 - The effects of that are living in confidence that:
 - I am not the cumulative effect of sin
 - Self-loathing is not God-pleasing
 - Though I may fail today, I am sealed in God by the Holy Spirit

- We want TSF to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to worship and love the God who loves us like this
- The only way we can say no to the lies of this world is to be captured by a HIGHER love
- Lord, let me see your love!



Ephesians 1:15-17

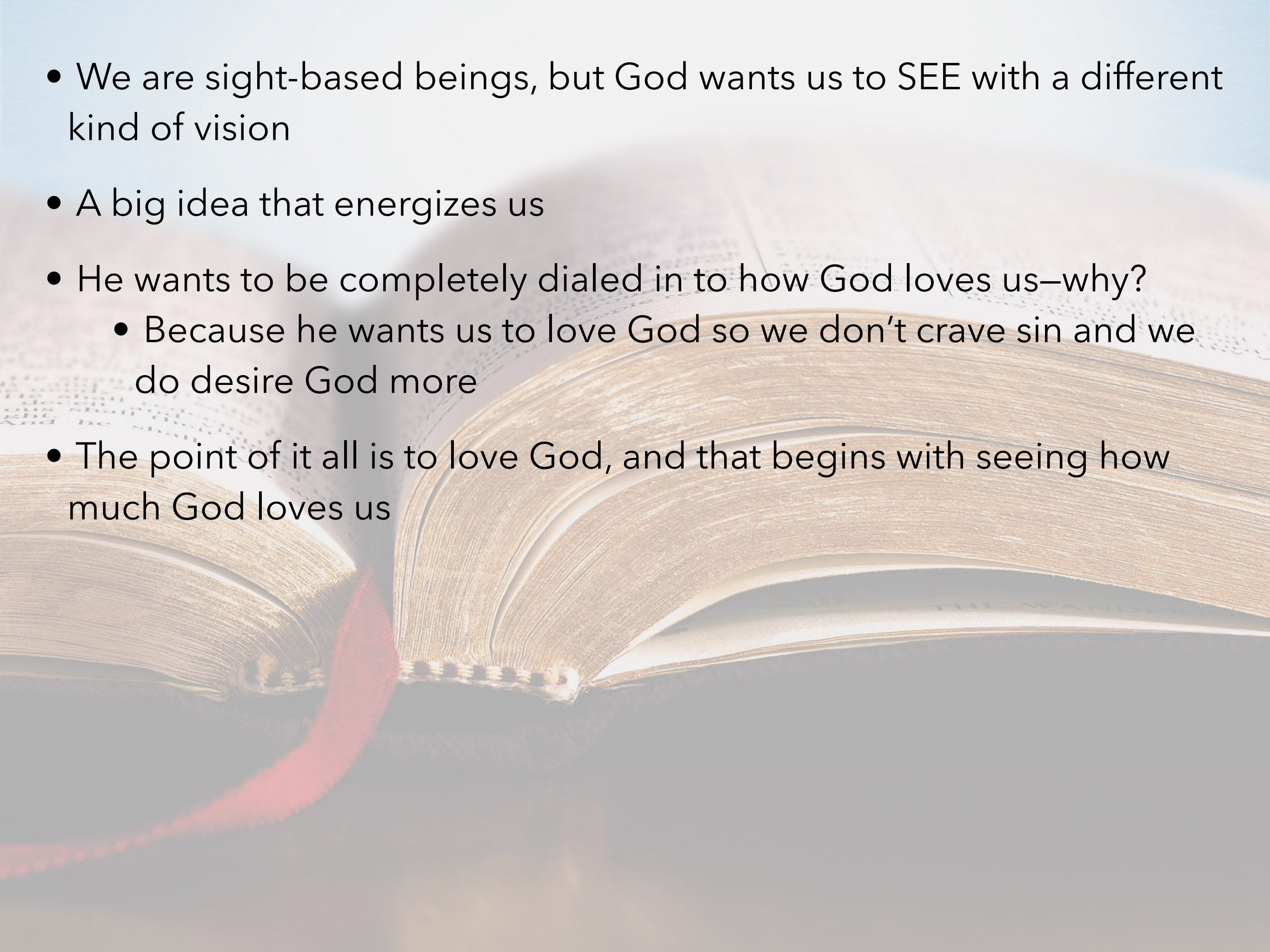
15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

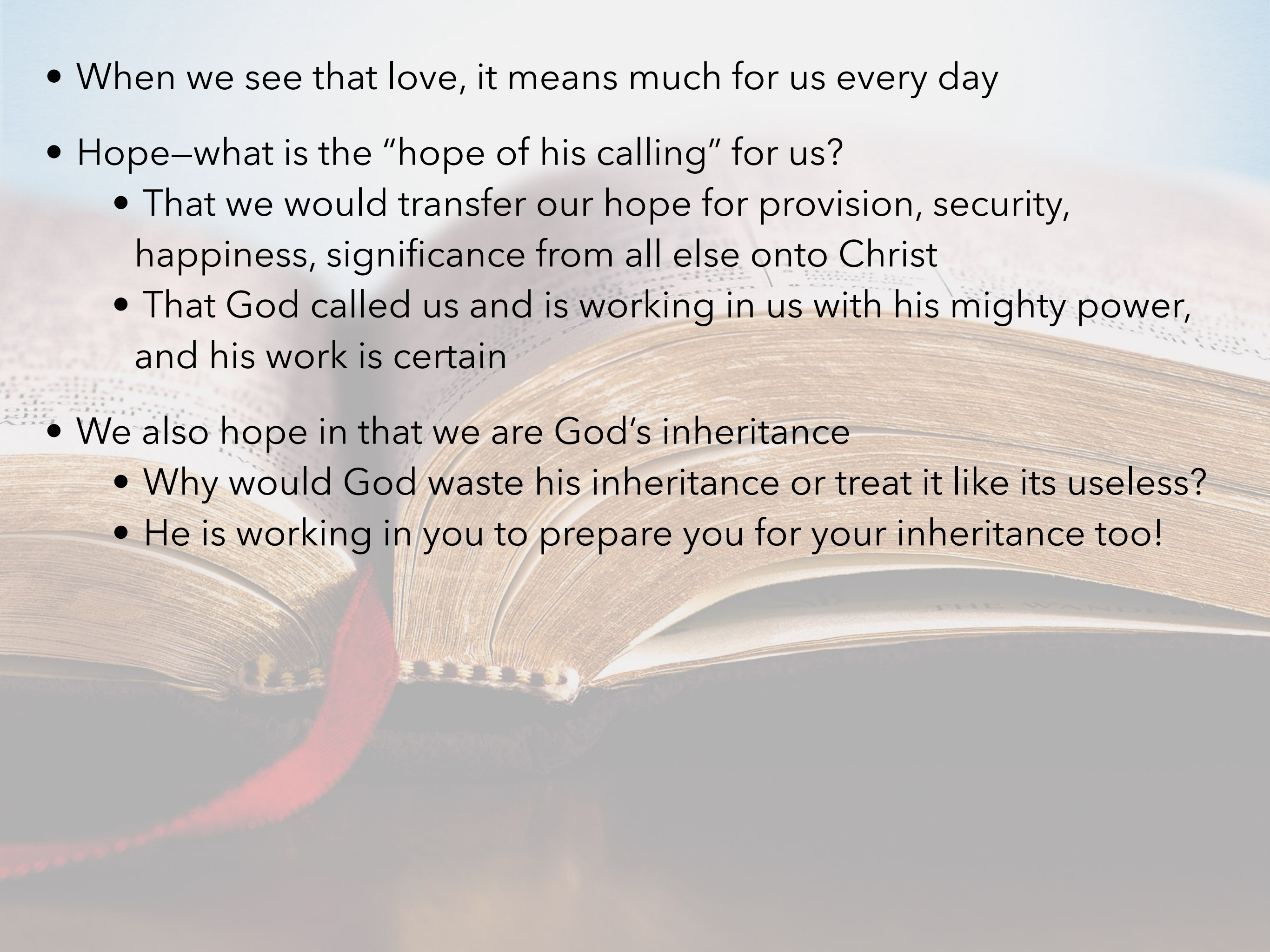


Ephesians 1:18-19

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might...



- 
- We are sight-based beings, but God wants us to SEE with a different kind of vision
 - A big idea that energizes us
 - He wants to be completely dialed in to how God loves us—why?
 - Because he wants us to love God so we don't crave sin and we do desire God more
 - The point of it all is to love God, and that begins with seeing how much God loves us

- 
- When we see that love, it means much for us every day
 - Hope—what is the “hope of his calling” for us?
 - That we would transfer our hope for provision, security, happiness, significance from all else onto Christ
 - That God called us and is working in us with his mighty power, and his work is certain
 - We also hope in that we are God’s inheritance
 - Why would God waste his inheritance or treat it like its useless?
 - He is working in you to prepare you for your inheritance too!

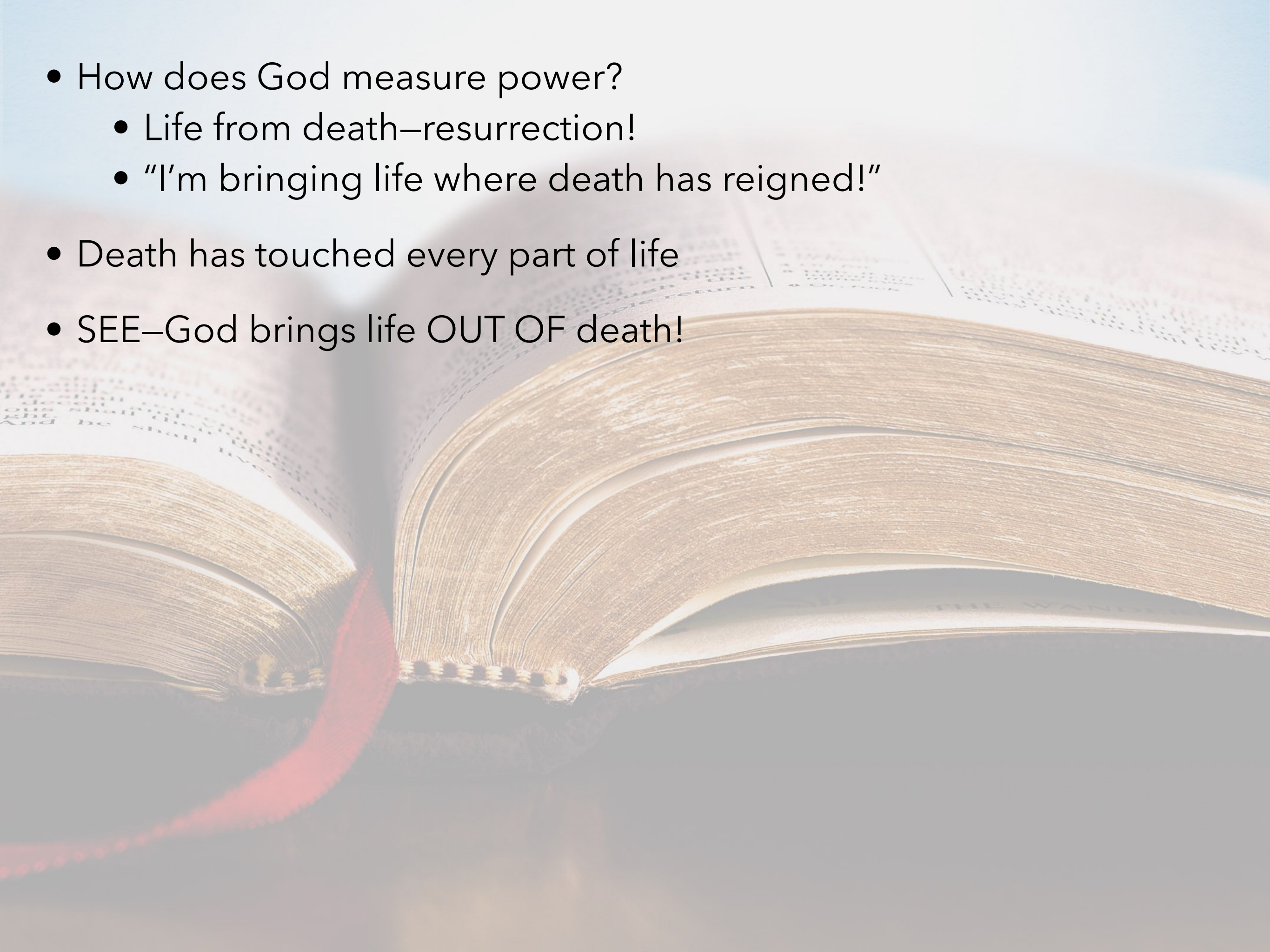
- V. 19; power—how do we measure power?



- V. 19; power—how do we measure power?



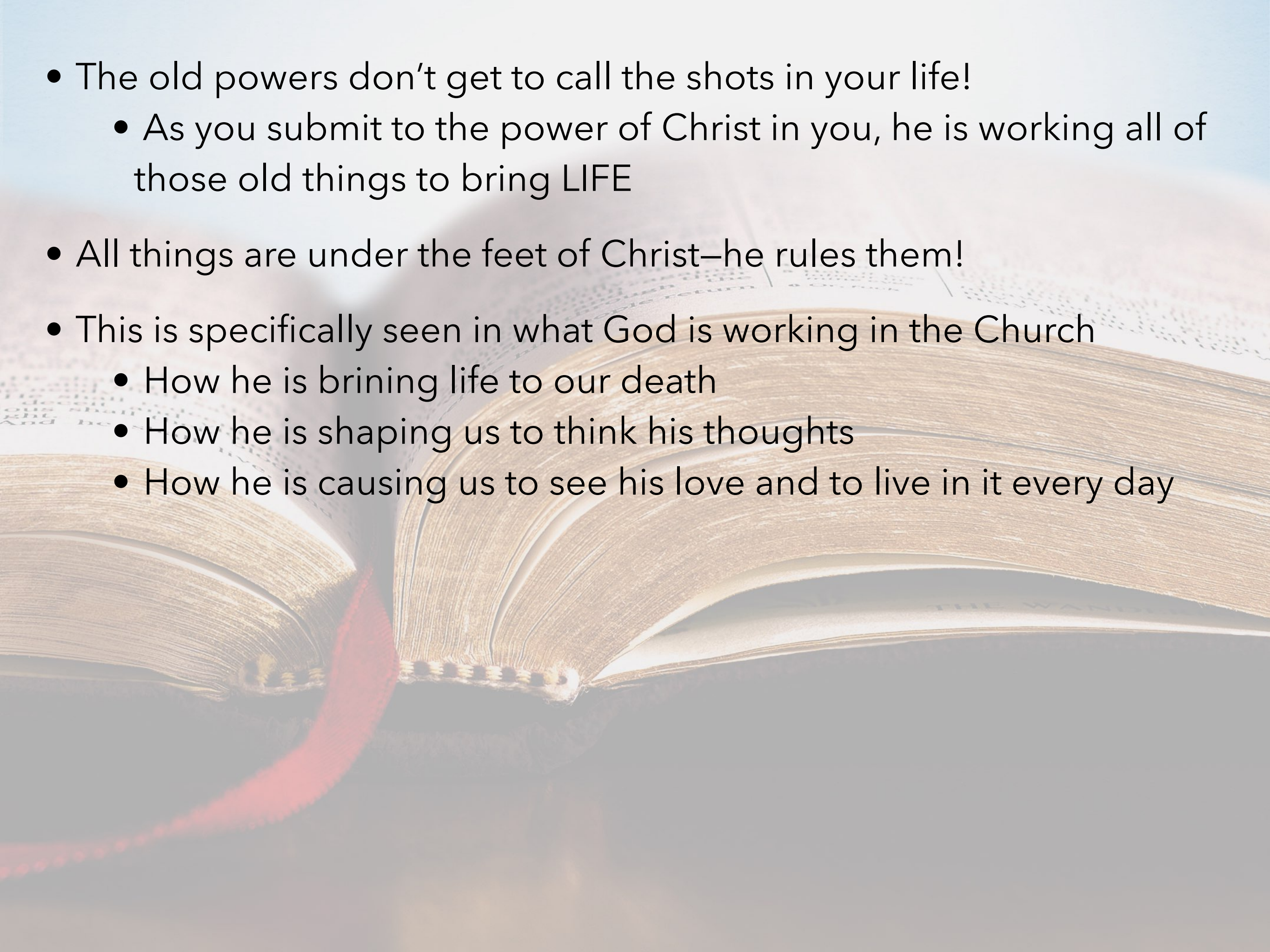
- How does God measure power?
 - Life from death—resurrection!
 - “I’m bringing life where death has reigned!”
- Death has touched every part of life
- SEE—God brings life OUT OF death!

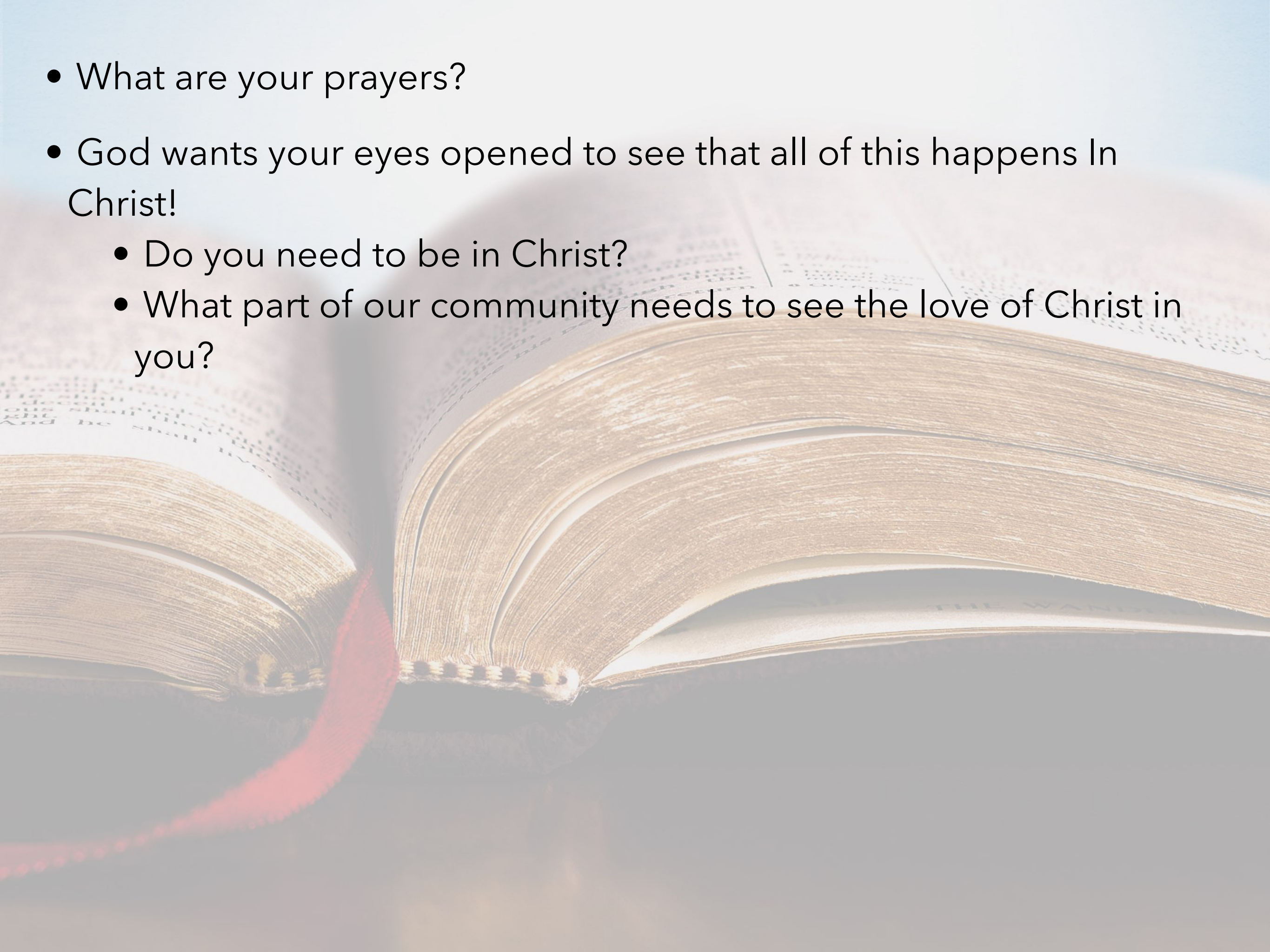


Ephesians 1:20-23

20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



- 
- The old powers don't get to call the shots in your life!
 - As you submit to the power of Christ in you, he is working all of those old things to bring LIFE
 - All things are under the feet of Christ—he rules them!
 - This is specifically seen in what God is working in the Church
 - How he is bringing life to our death
 - How he is shaping us to think his thoughts
 - How he is causing us to see his love and to live in it every day

- 
- An open book with a red bookmark is shown in a close-up, slightly blurred view. The pages are yellowed with age, and the binding is visible in the center. The background is a soft, light blue gradient.
- What are your prayers?
 - God wants your eyes opened to see that all of this happens In Christ!
 - Do you need to be in Christ?
 - What part of our community needs to see the love of Christ in you?

- Do you know the power of God, or just know about it?
- Do you know the love of God, or just about it?
- What kind of love and power are we talking about?
 - Resurrection power and love! Knowing and living like, out of love, God is doing something that even death can't defeat

