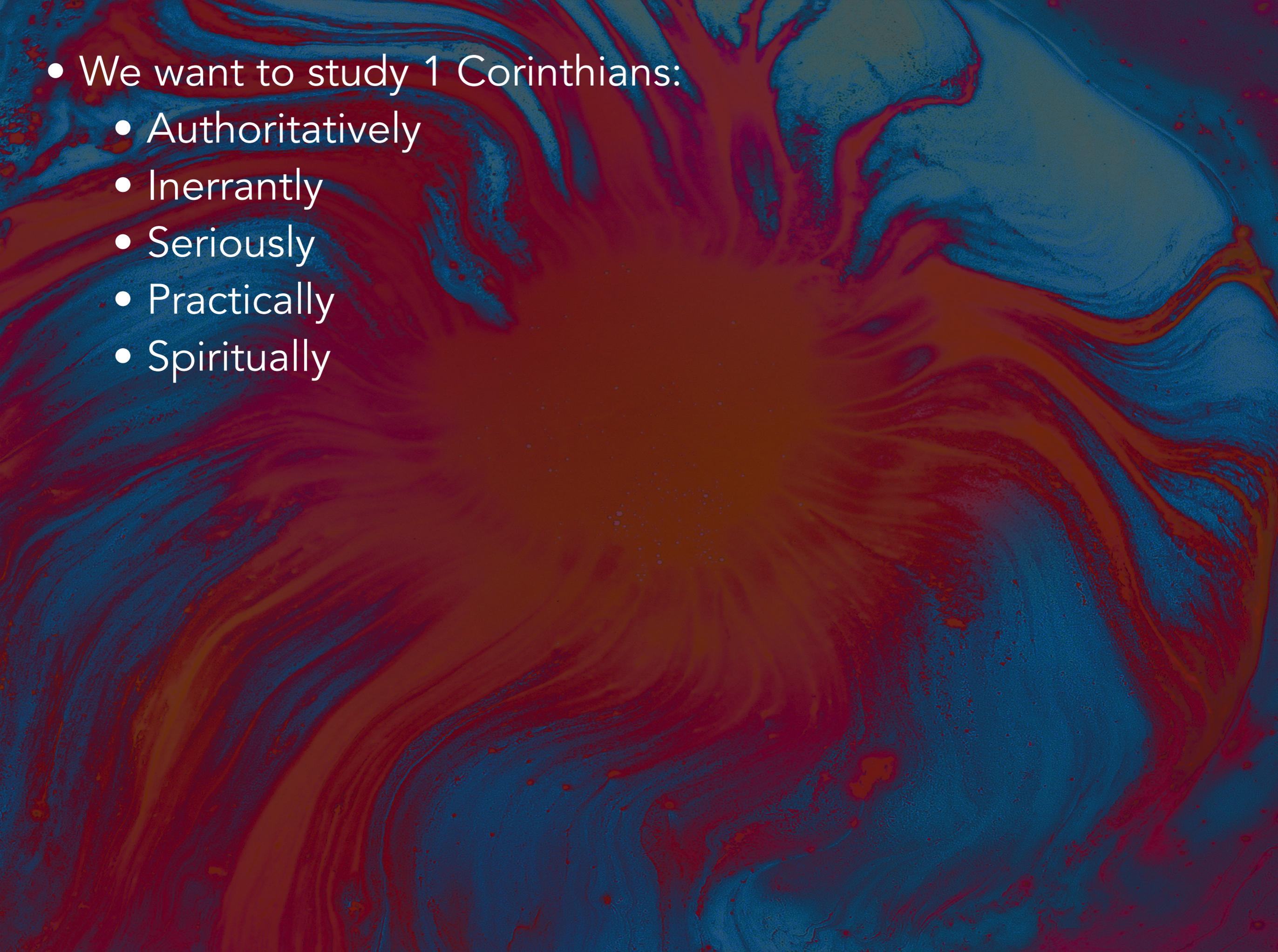
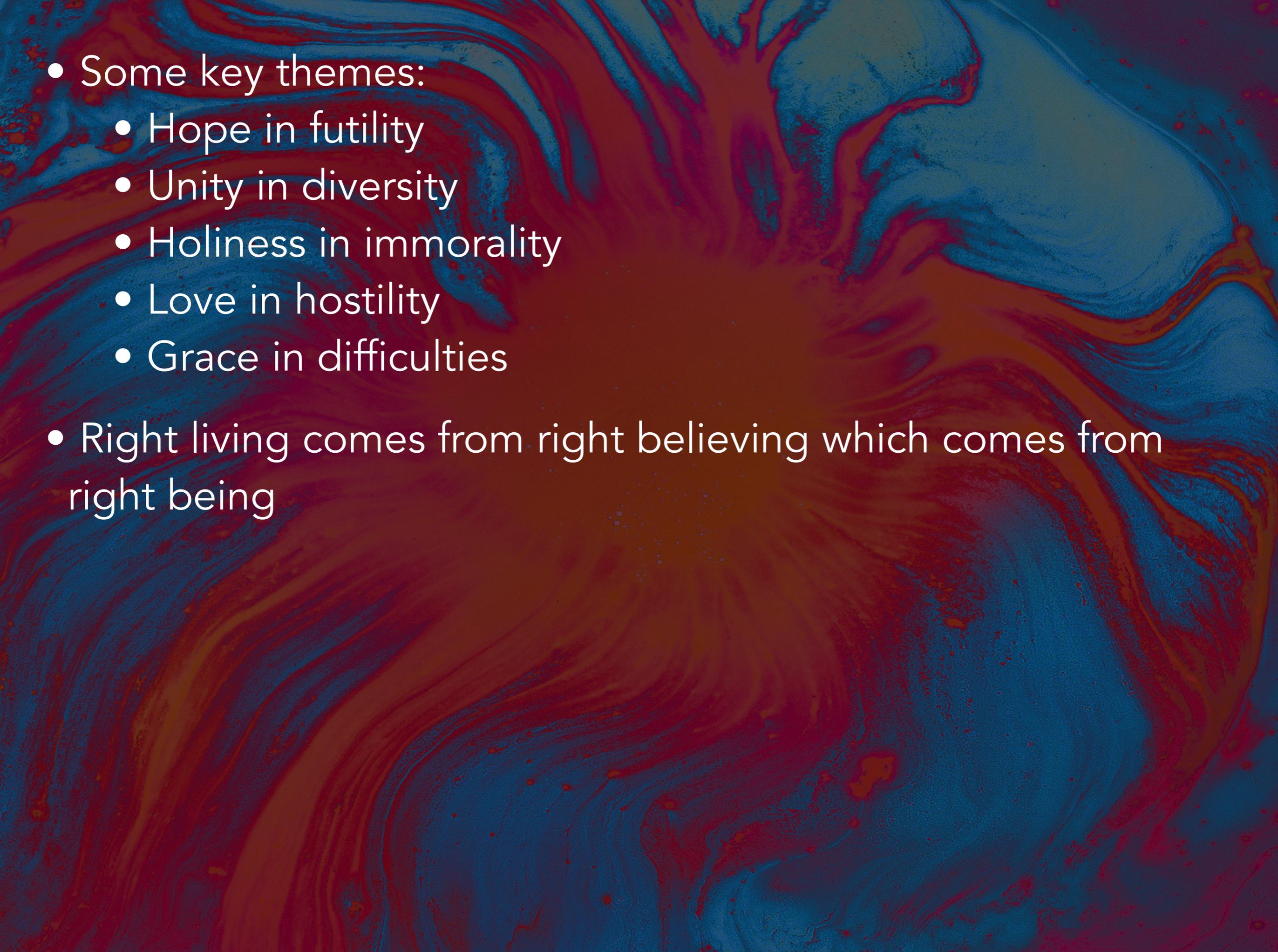


A Beautiful Mess

1 CORINTHIANS

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- We want to study 1 Corinthians:
 - Authoritatively
 - Inerrantly
 - Seriously
 - Practically
 - Spiritually

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- Some key themes:
 - Hope in futility
 - Unity in diversity
 - Holiness in immorality
 - Love in hostility
 - Grace in difficulties
 - Right living comes from right believing which comes from right being

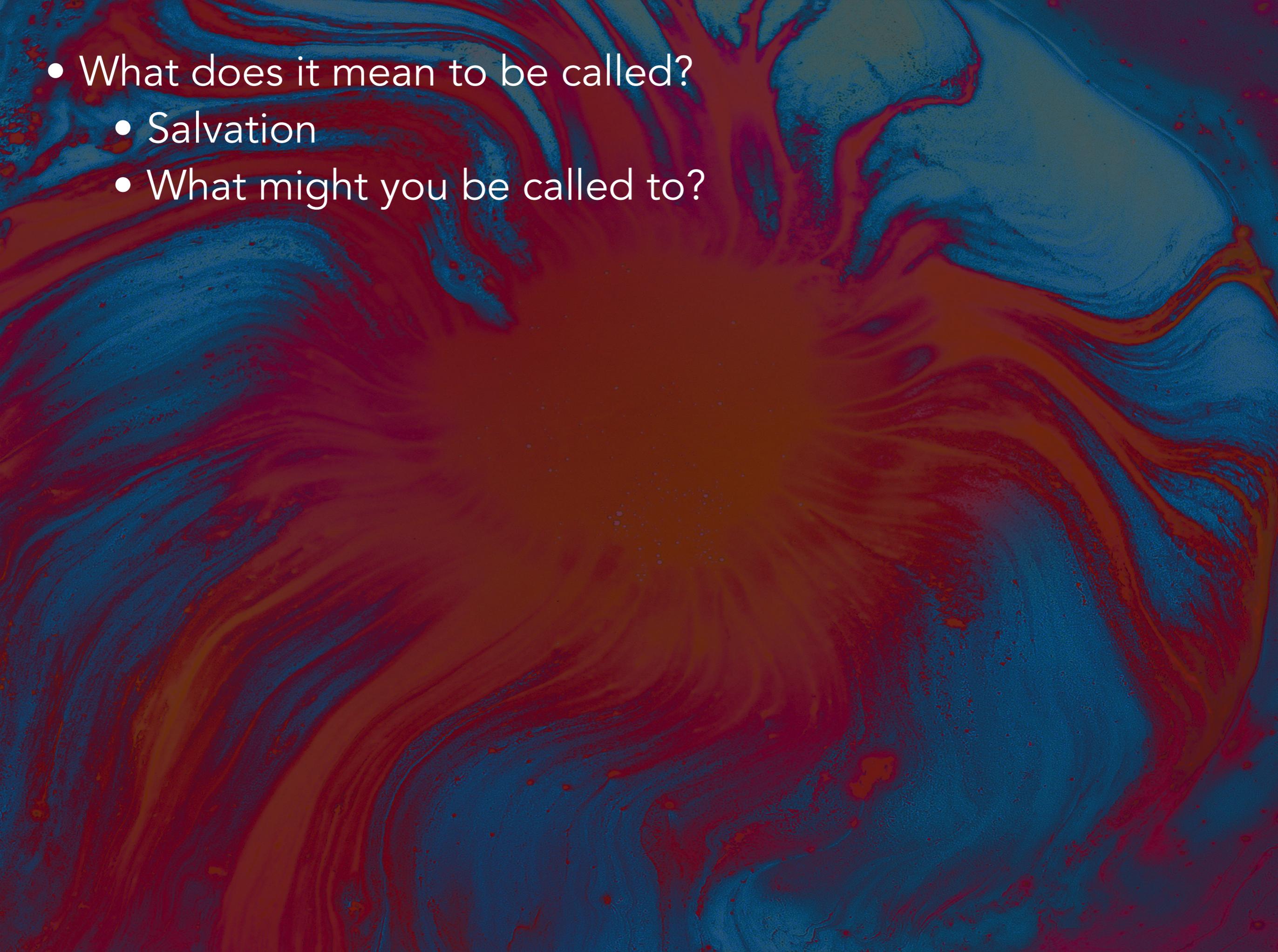
1 Corinthians 1:1–3 (NASB)

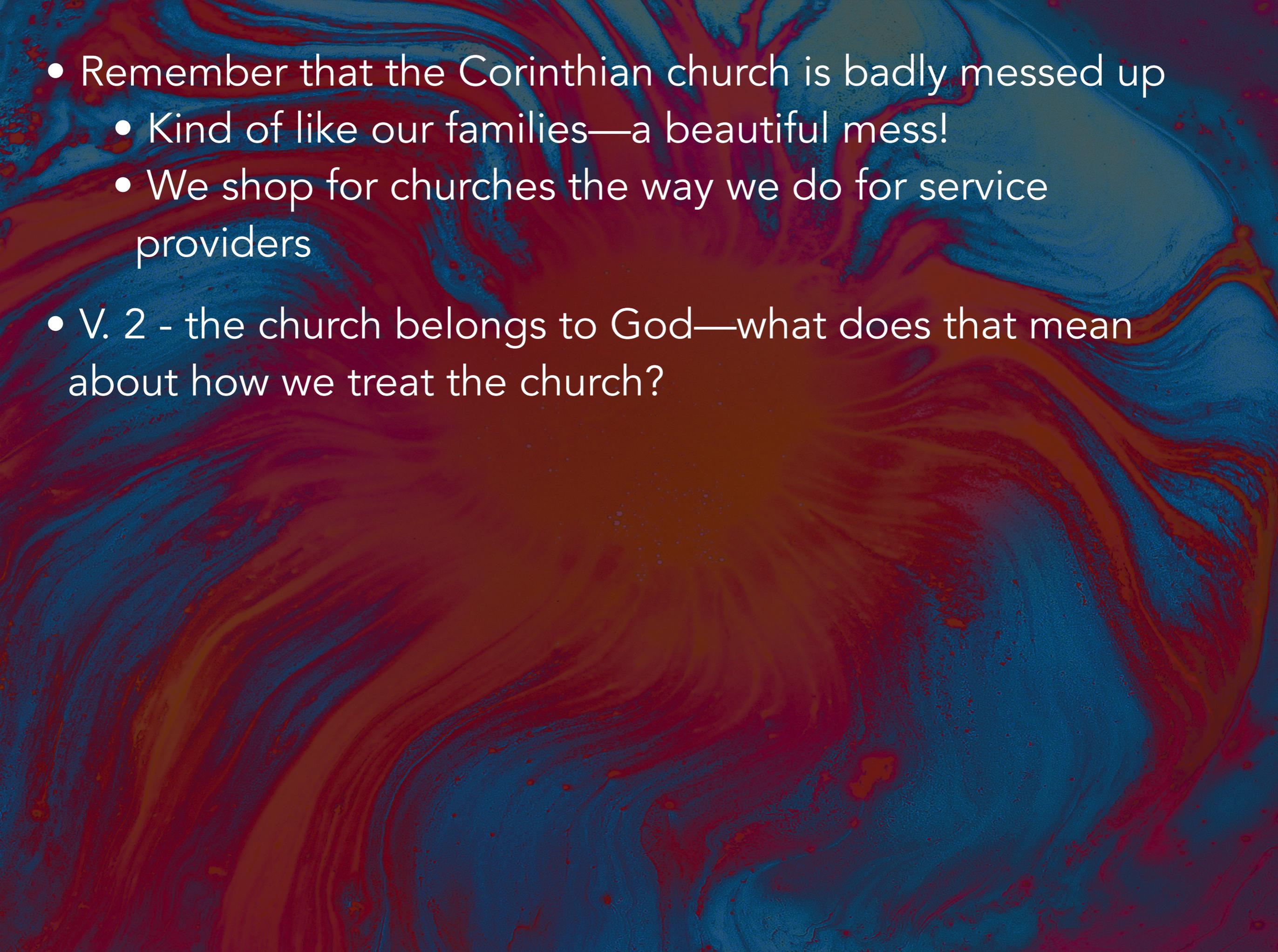
1 Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

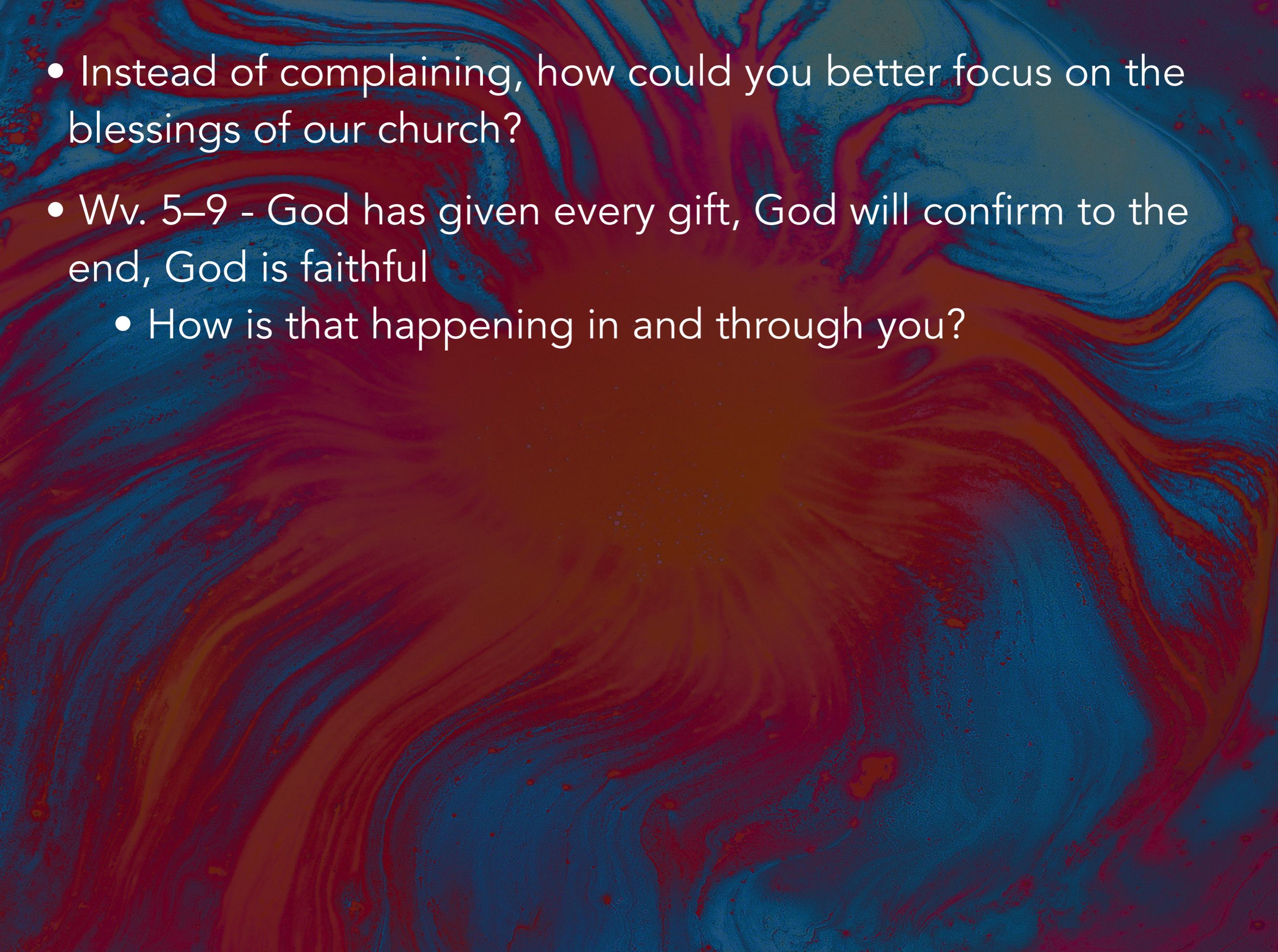


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- What does it mean to be called?
 - Salvation
 - What might you be called to?

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- Remember that the Corinthian church is badly messed up
 - Kind of like our families—a beautiful mess!
 - We shop for churches the way we do for service providers
 - V. 2 - the church belongs to God—what does that mean about how we treat the church?

1 Corinthians 1:4–9 (NASB)

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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- Instead of complaining, how could you better focus on the blessings of our church?
 - Wv. 5–9 - God has given every gift, God will confirm to the end, God is faithful
 - How is that happening in and through you?

1 Corinthians 1:10–17 (NASB)

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.

1 Corinthians 1:10–17 (NASB) [continued]

16 Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

- 
- What might be some things that drive people apart in the church?
 - We are a beautiful mess!
 - We have to stop treating church like an event/meeting
 - V. 17 - the goal is that our lives would be a majestic testimony of the cross of Christ
 - Powerful testimonies of grace
 - Imperfect people imperfectly pursuing Christ
 - Relying on the grace of God in community

- 1 Corinthians is a call for us to treasure:
 - Unity, community, calling, gospel of grace, the Gospel
 - ...and to treasure it at TSF!