

GLORY IN THE

POWER + GOSPEL

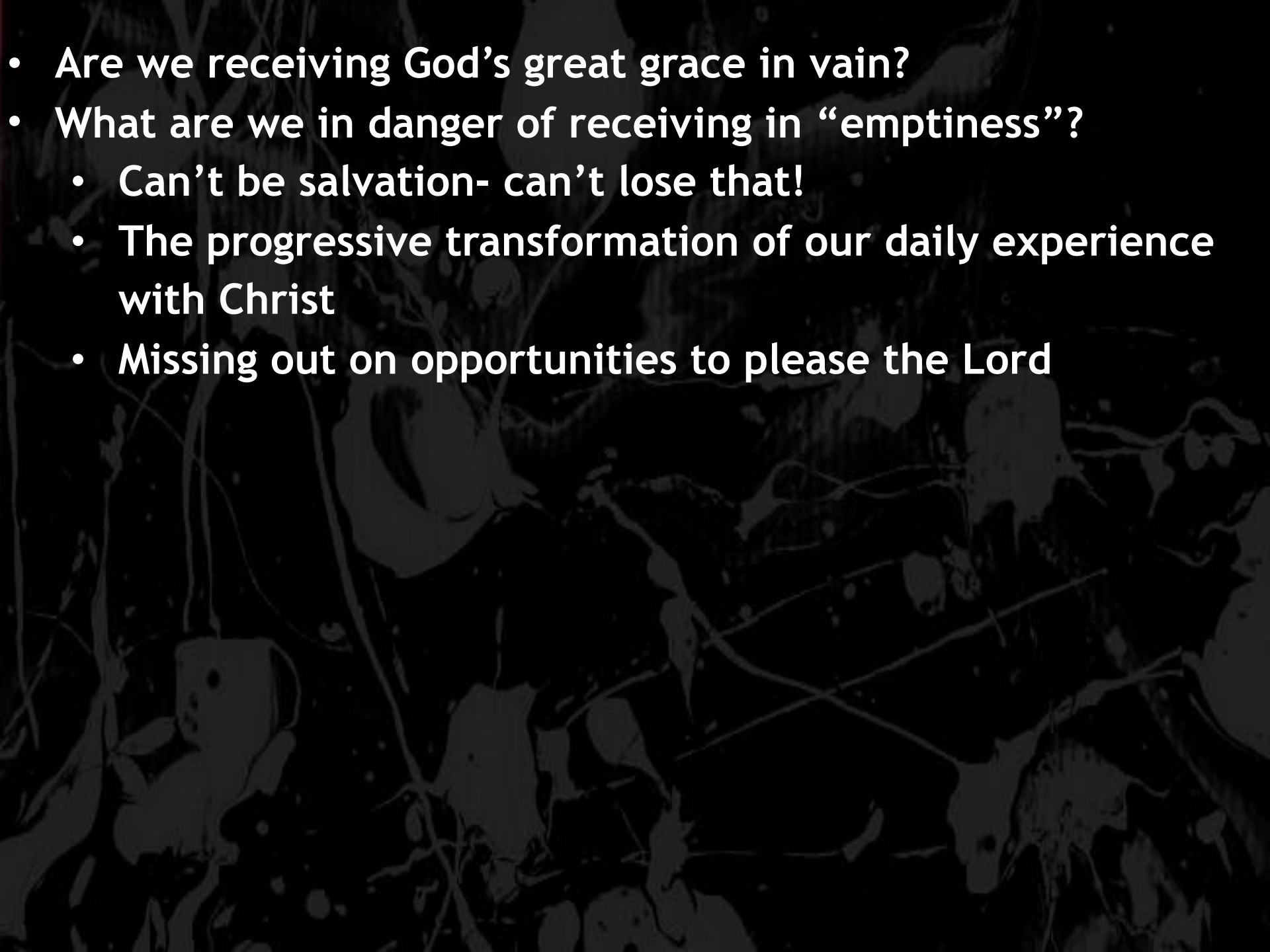
IN WEAKNESS

2 CORINTHIANS



2 Corinthians 6:1

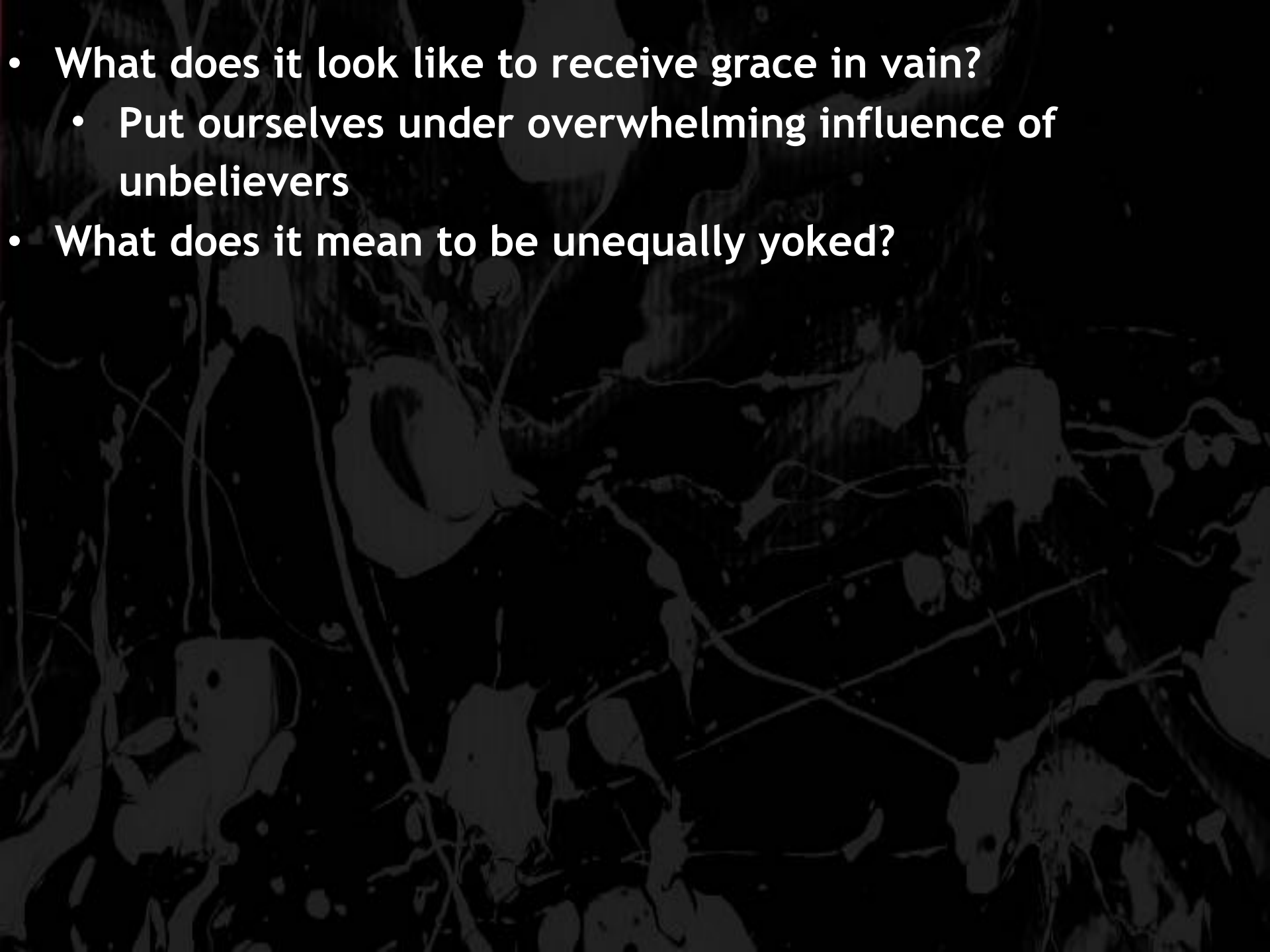
“And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain.”

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- Are we receiving God's great grace in vain?
 - What are we in danger of receiving in "emptiness"?
 - Can't be salvation- can't lose that!
 - The progressive transformation of our daily experience with Christ
 - Missing out on opportunities to please the Lord

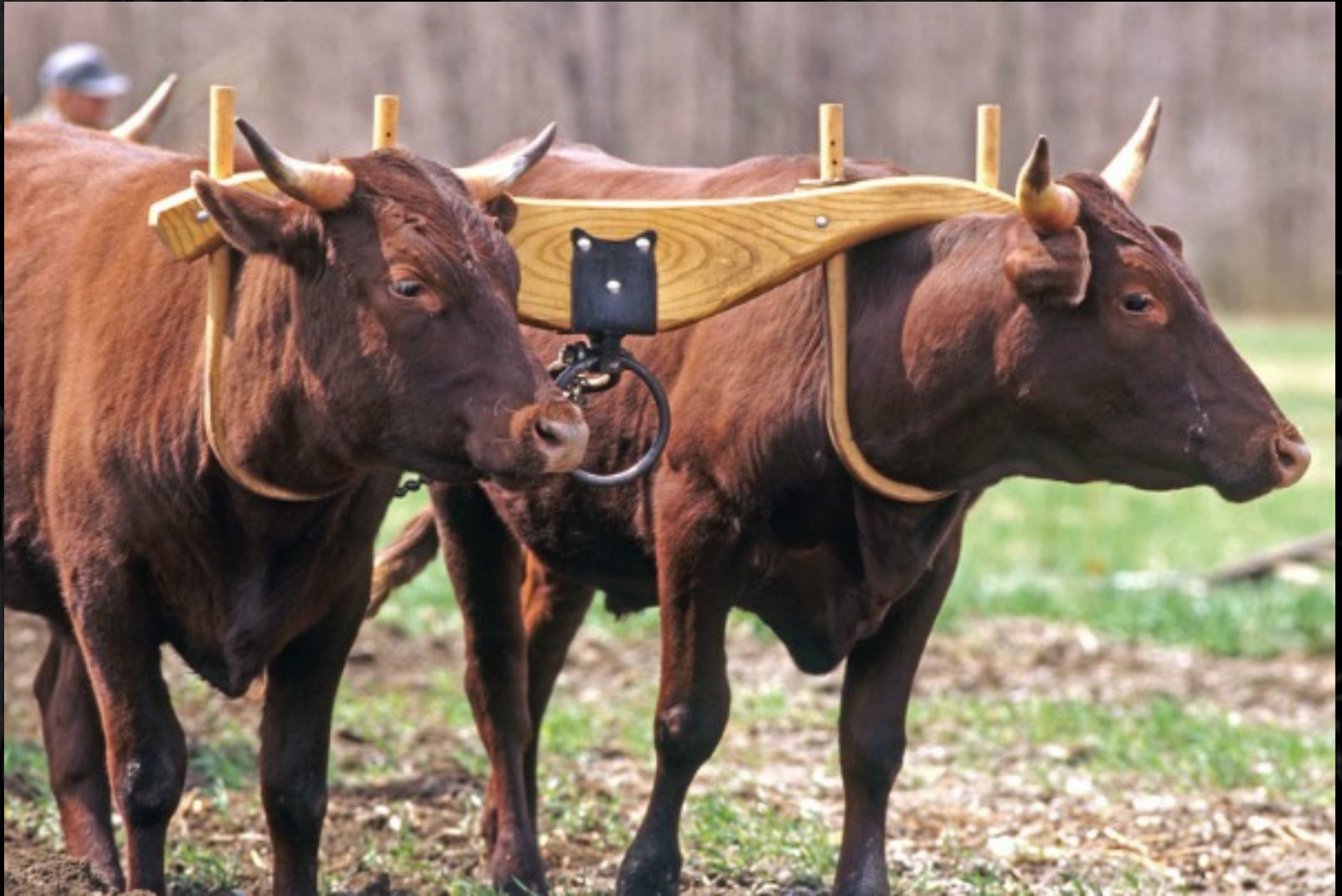
- **We've received these great promises and works from God**
 - **We get to work with God in saving the lost**
 - **We get to work with God in reminding others to live under the control of Christ's love**
 - **We got saved!**
- **We receive his grace in vain when we don't have any compulsion to give it to others**
 - **God is patiently in a hurry to give his promises to more people- are you?**

2 Corinthians 6:12-16

“12 You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections. 13 Now in a like exchange—I speak as to children—open wide to us also. 14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said...”

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- **What does it look like to receive grace in vain?**
 - **Put ourselves under overwhelming influence of unbelievers**
 - **What does it mean to be unequally yoked?**





- Giving love and affections more to those outside the Church than inside the church
- Healthier relationships with non-Christians than Christians
- Does NOT mean we don't have relationships with or we don't love non-believers
- Marriage and dating
- Primary levels of influence
- Spiritual loyalty
- What relationships:
 - Put me in situations that tempt me beyond endurance?
 - Weaken my discernment of good and bad?
 - Cause me to be less public about my love for Jesus?

- **What does it look like to receive the grace of God in vain?**
 - **To allow any/everything and any/everyone to have influence and steal places of love in our hearts**
- **It's is beyond Paul to think we could receive God's grace in salvation and then reject his daily purifying work**
- **Where are you on this spectrum?**
 - **Learning to love God and please him more and more**
 - **Withholding things from God and giving them to the world; split loyalties**

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

“8 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while— 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.”

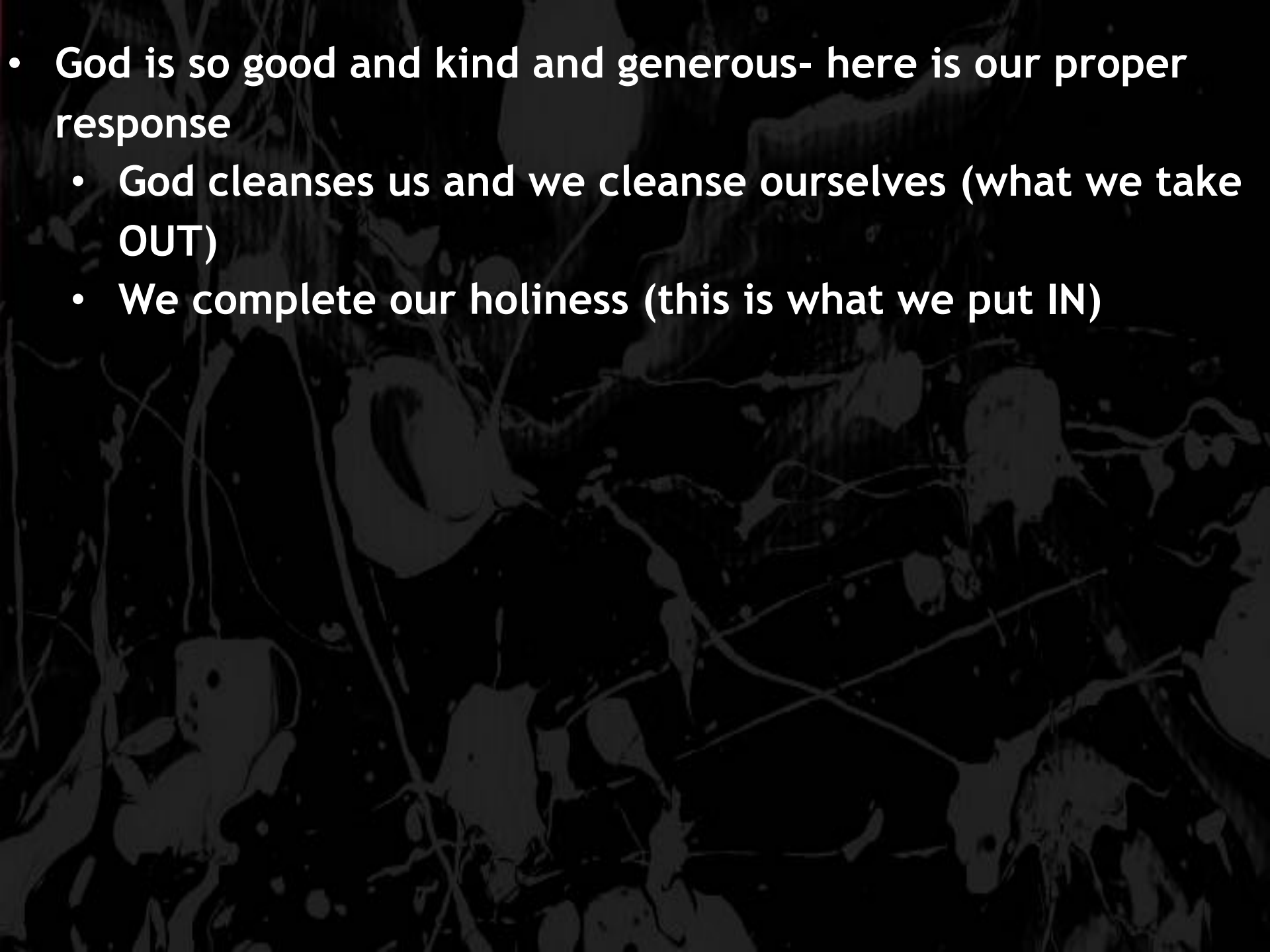
- **What might keep us from living in the fullness of Christ?**
- **1 - Unbelief**
- **2 - Regret**
- **How can we overcome the regret that keeps us from the fullness of Christ?**
- **1 - Embrace the guilt/regret**
- **2 - Work out your regret**
- **3 - Give regret to God**


2 Corinthians 6:1

“And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain.”

2 Corinthians 7:1

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

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- **God is so good and kind and generous- here is our proper response**
 - **God cleanses us and we cleanse ourselves (what we take OUT)**
 - **We complete our holiness (this is what we put IN)**

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- Don't rest in where you are!
 - Don't get lost in your regret!
 - Don't get lazy in your holiness!

- We are radically reborn and God is using everything in our lives by his power and grace to make me new
- Where are we headed?
 - TBD!
- Who will we become?
 - a church on God's rescue mission
 - a church persuading others to know God
 - a church encouraging each other to be controlled by Christ
 - a church that lives in fear and love of God in order to please God