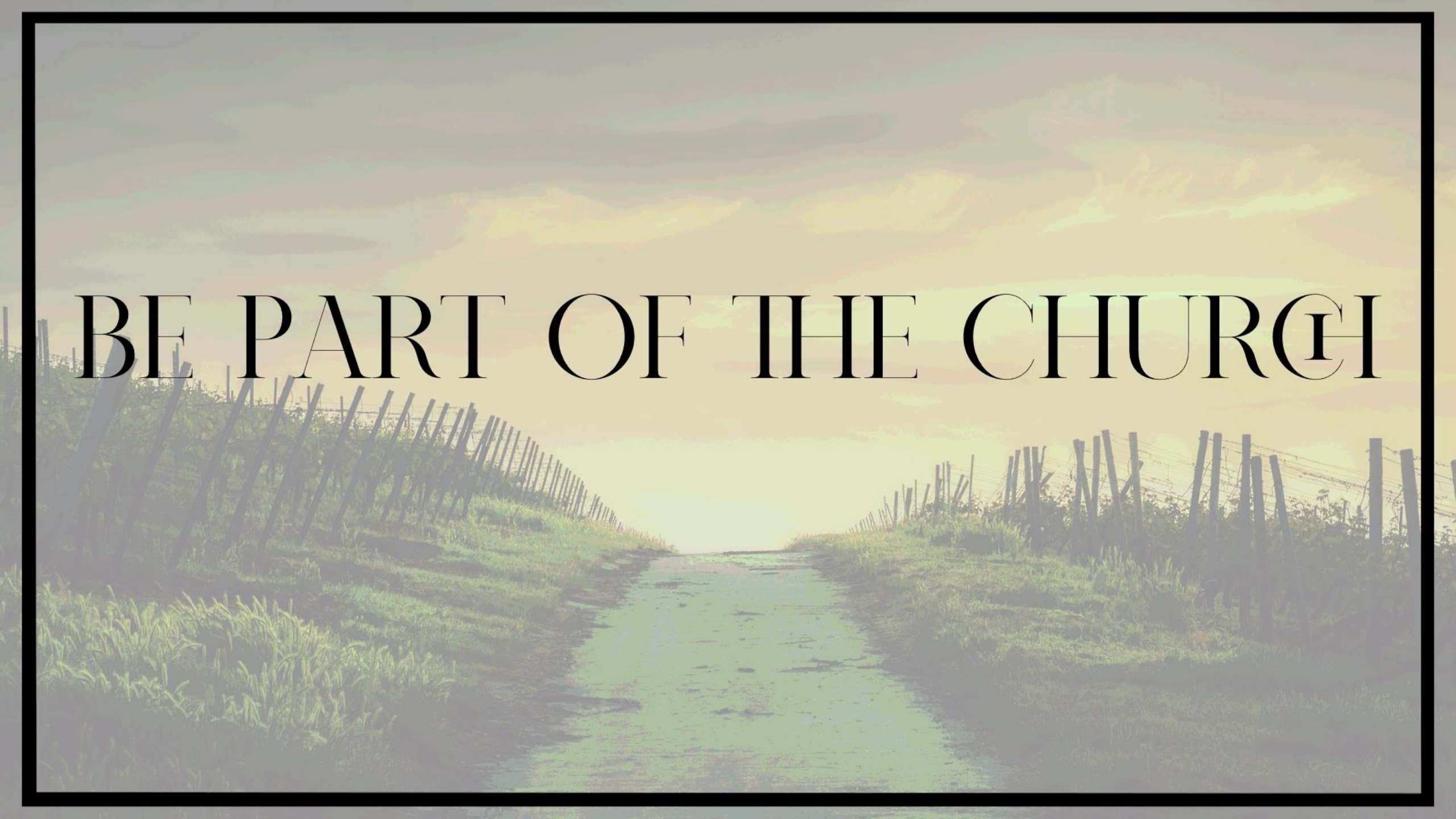




# FORMED BY JESUS





BE PART OF THE CHURCH



# Misconceptions About Why People Leave the Church

1. People leave primarily because of negative experiences.
2. Young people leave after attending secular universities.
3. People leave church because they left the faith.
4. The people leaving are primarily on the political left.

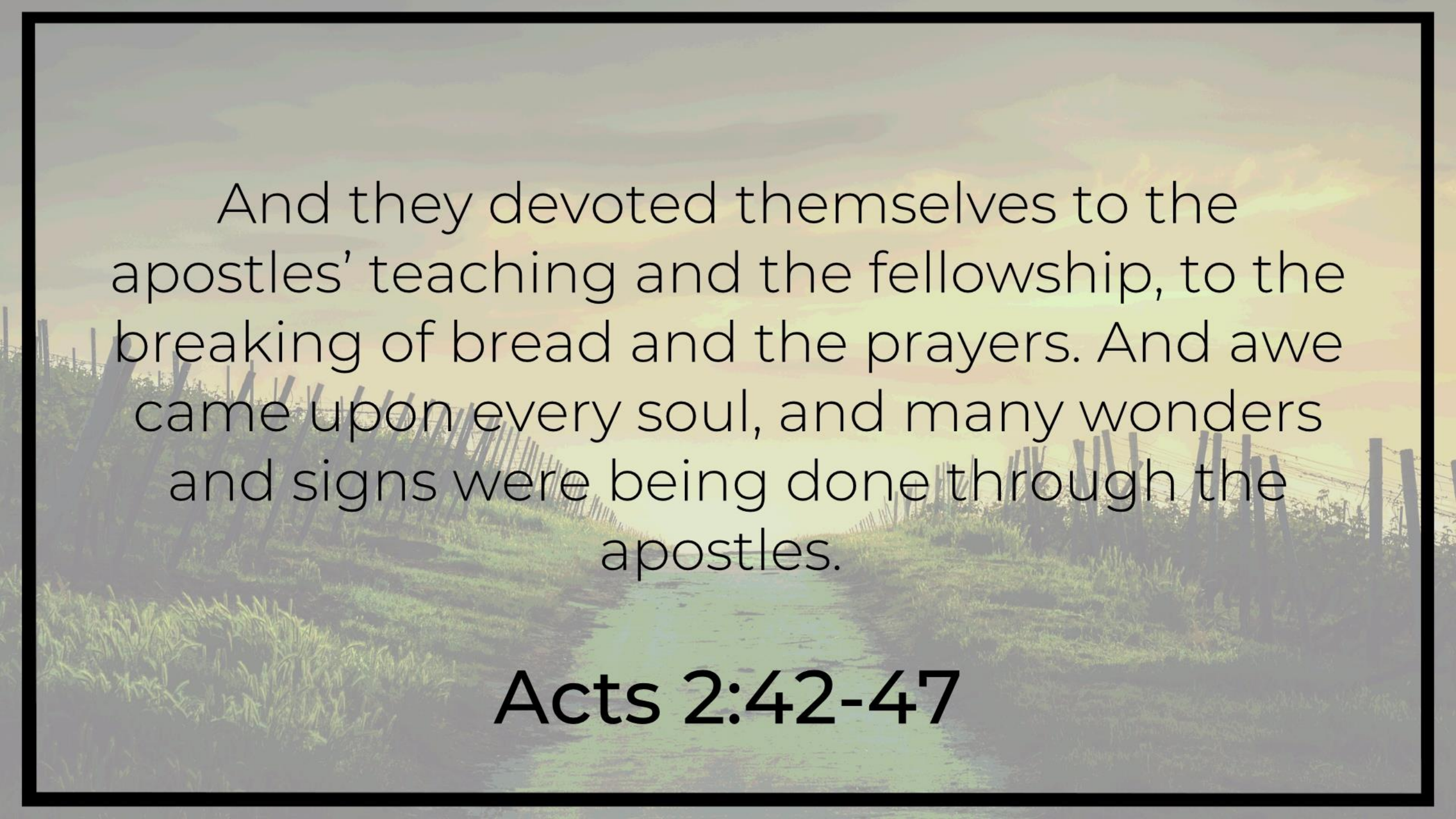


# THE CHURCH

A body of people who profess and give evidence that they have been saved by God's grace alone, for his glory alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

**Mark Dever**

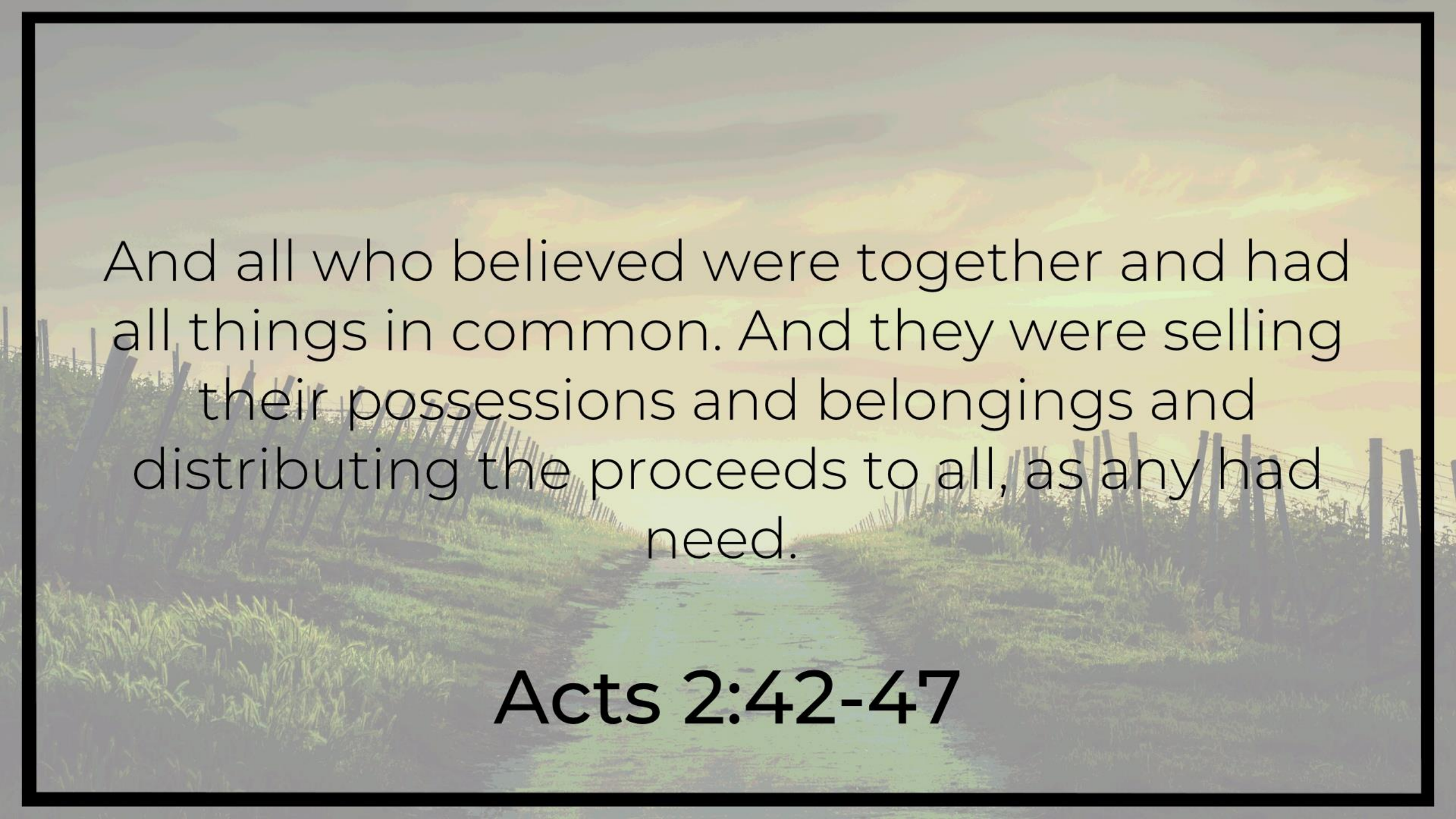




And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

**Acts 2:42-47**

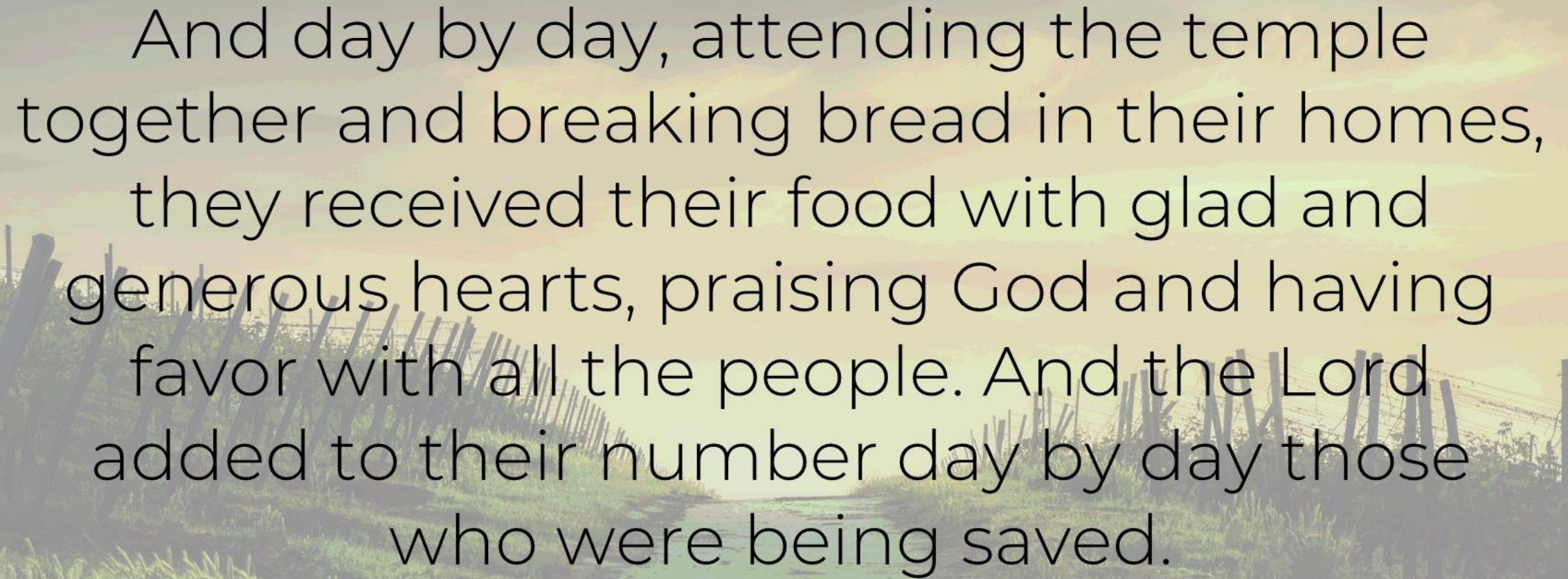




And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

**Acts 2:42-47**





And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**Acts 2:42-47**



# BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

A place we live out the one-another's of  
Scripture before a watching world.



# **Truth #1: You do not come to Christ without coming to his people.**

...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Galatians 3:26-28**



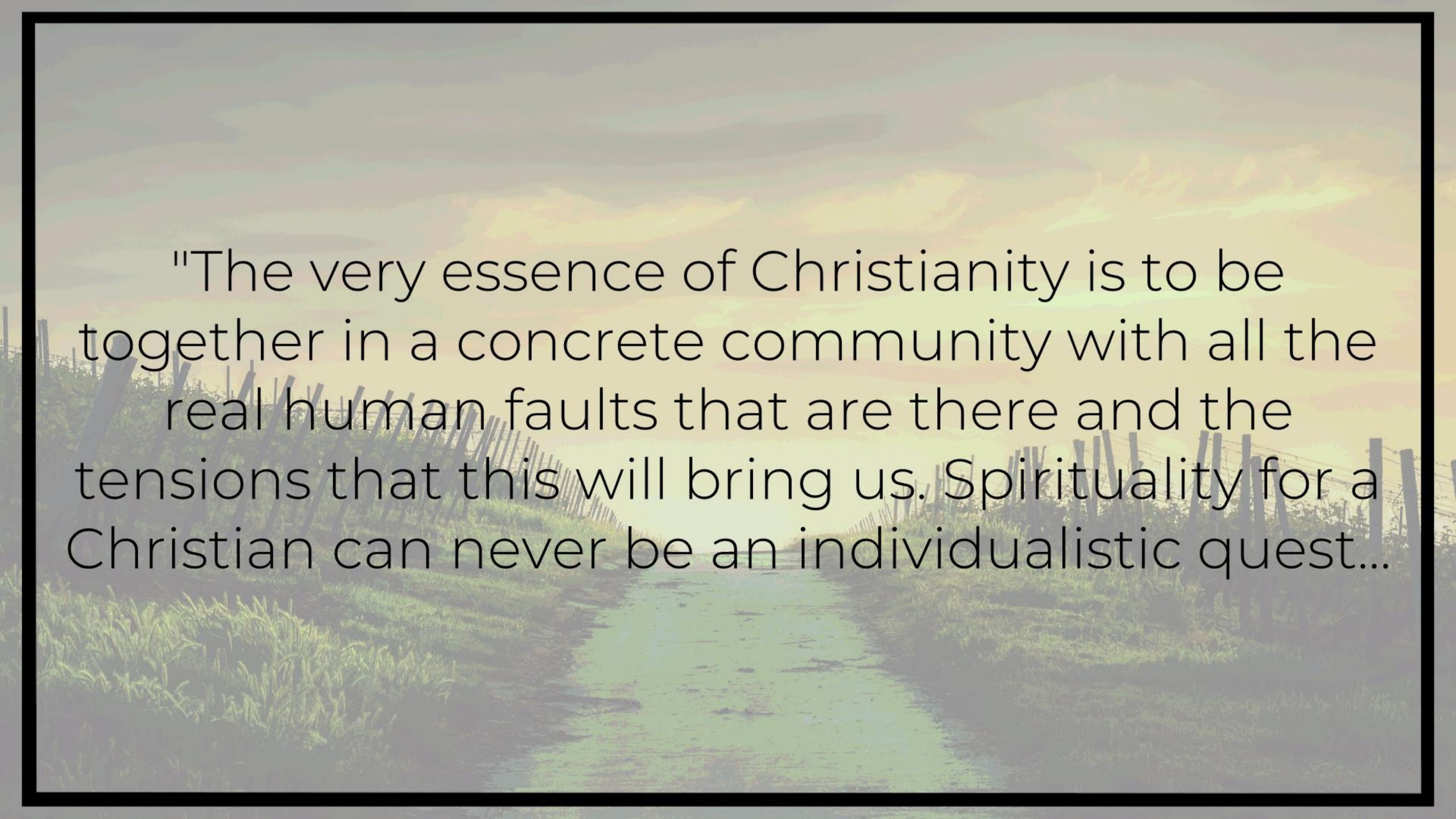


## Truth #2: You cannot serve Christ without serving his people

Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the  
least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

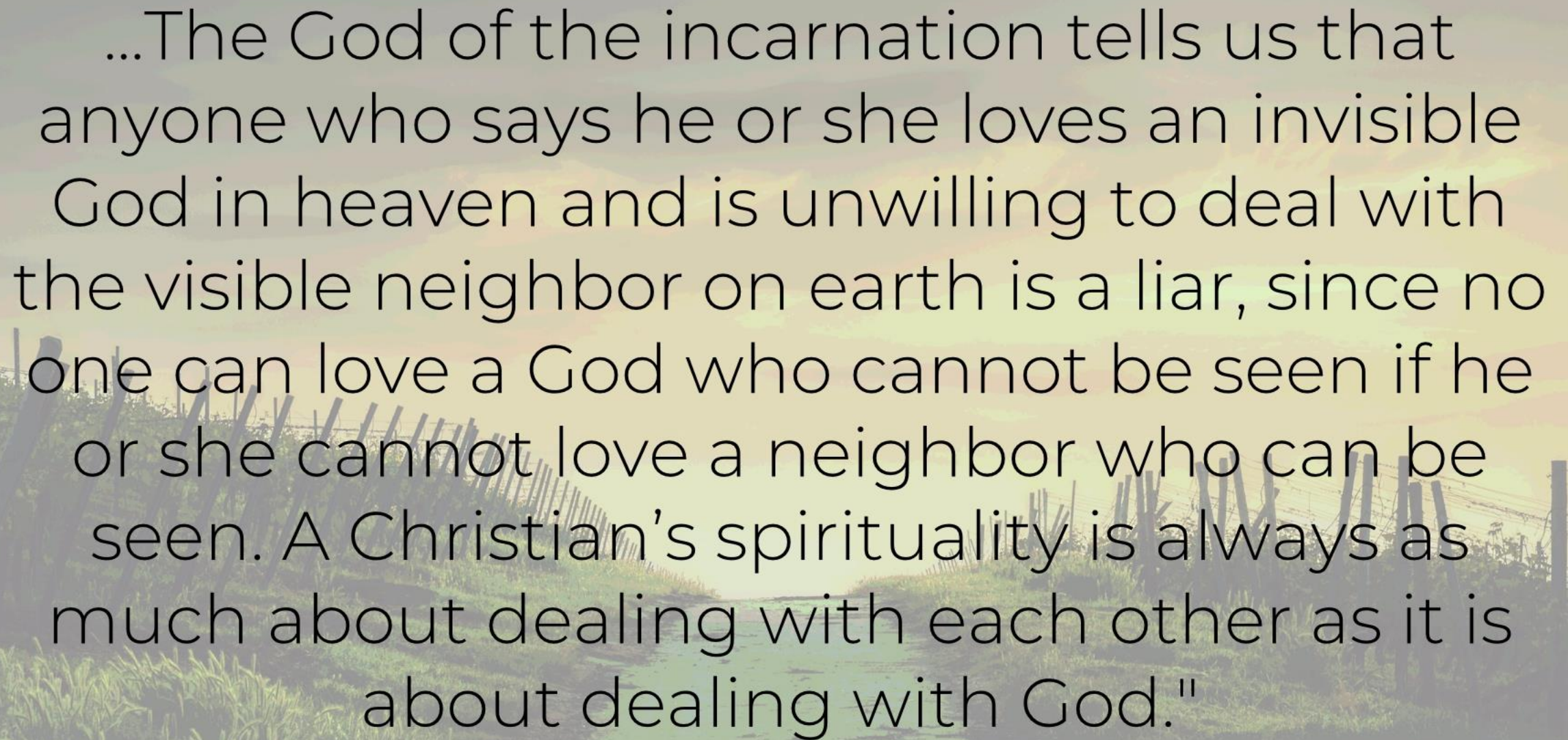
Matthew 25:40





"The very essence of Christianity is to be together in a concrete community with all the real human faults that are there and the tensions that this will bring us. Spirituality for a Christian can never be an individualistic quest...





...The God of the incarnation tells us that anyone who says he or she loves an invisible God in heaven and is unwilling to deal with the visible neighbor on earth is a liar, since no one can love a God who cannot be seen if he or she cannot love a neighbor who can be seen. A Christian's spirituality is always as much about dealing with each other as it is about dealing with God."

**Ronald Rolheiser**

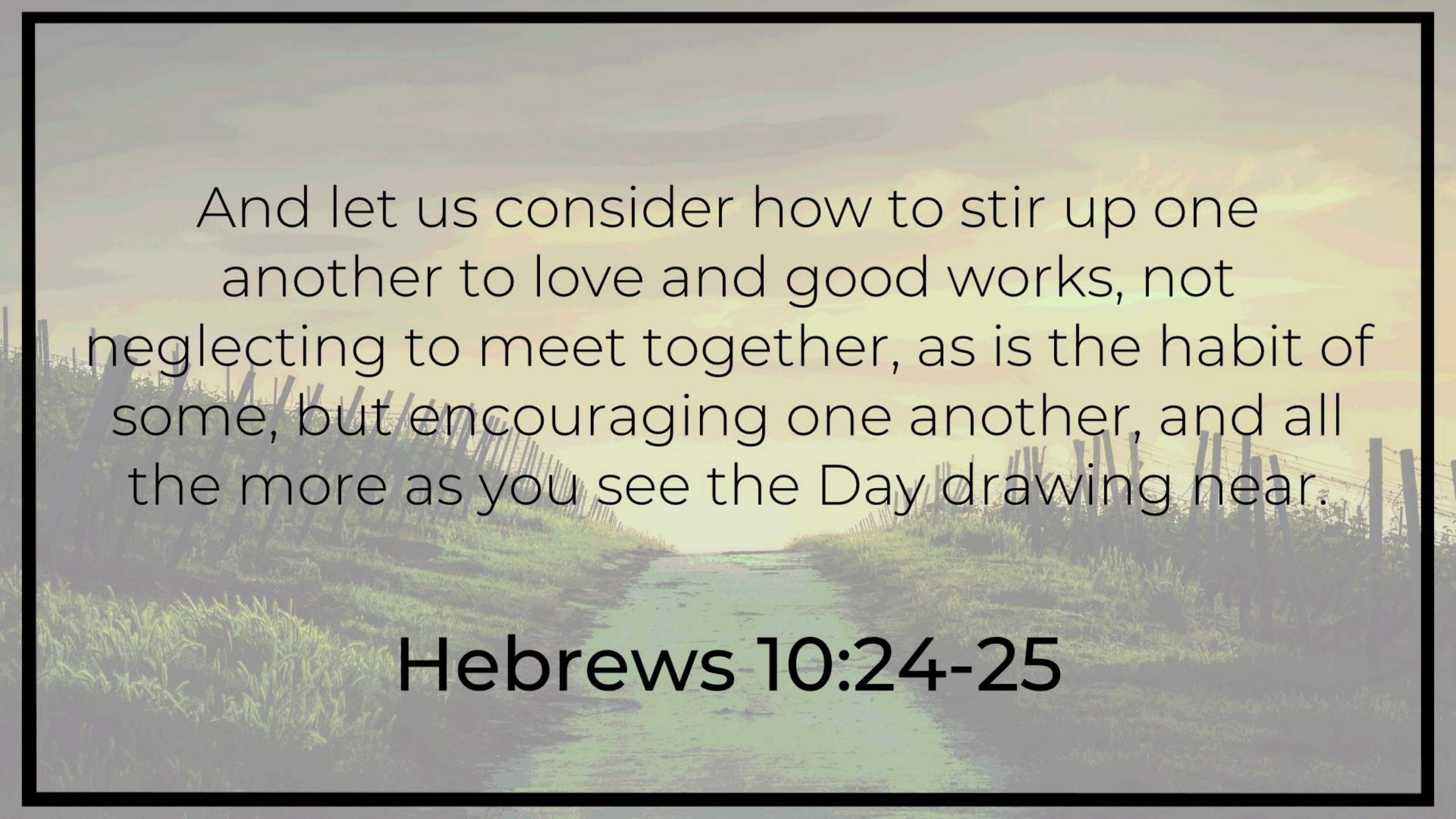




What do we miss if we  
neglect community?

spiritual gifts  
the one another's

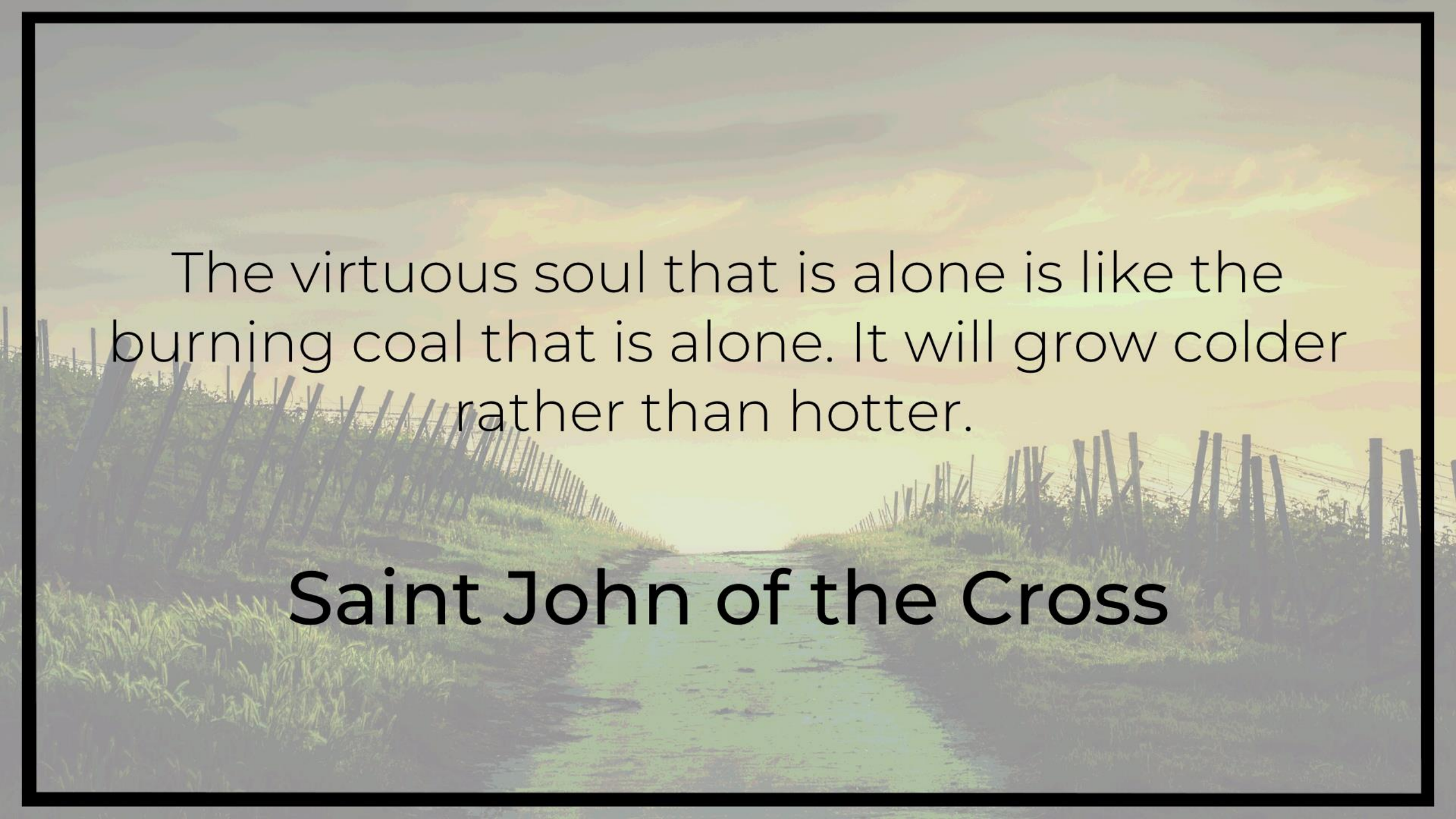




And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

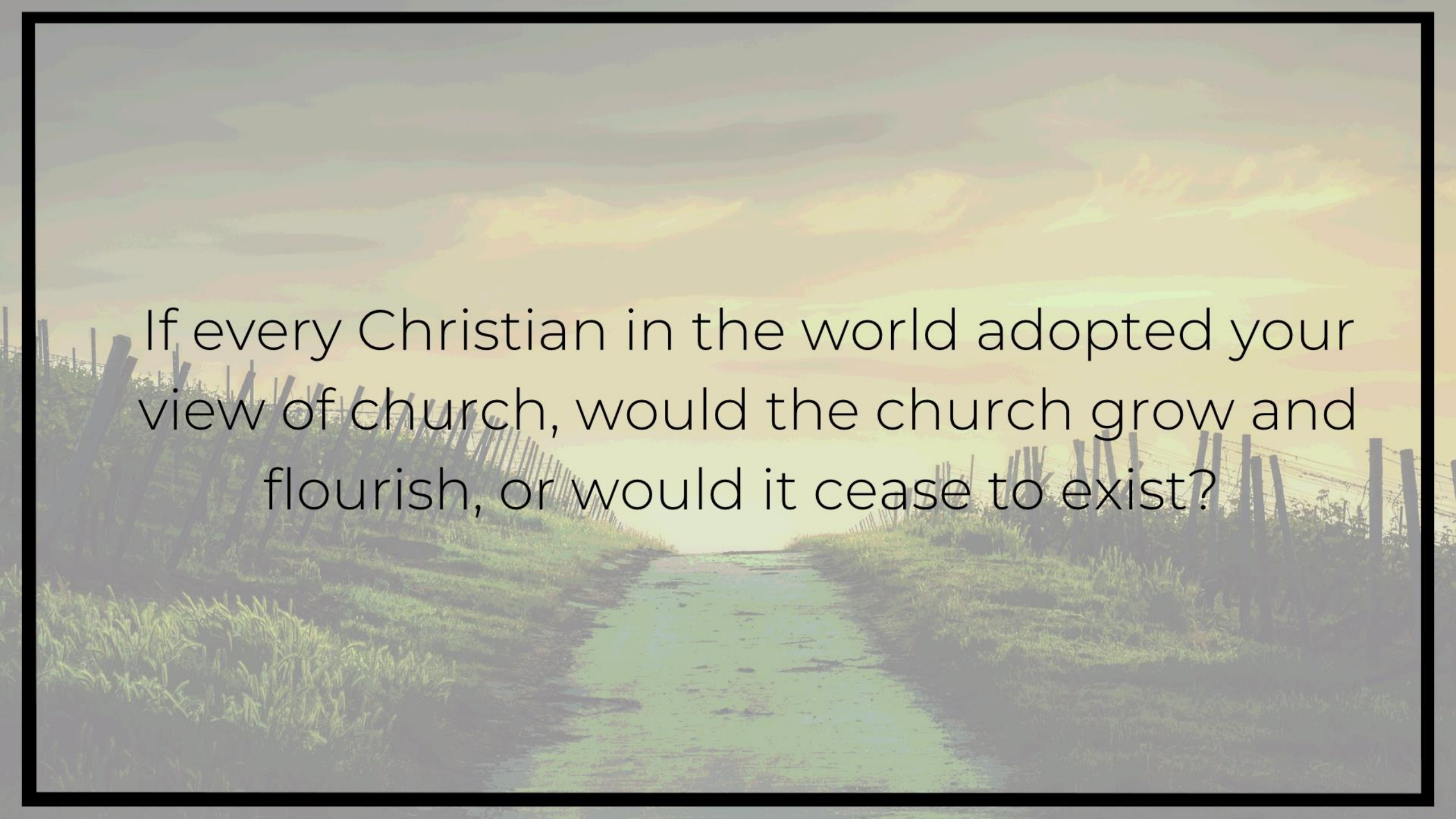




The virtuous soul that is alone is like the  
burning coal that is alone. It will grow colder  
rather than hotter.

**Saint John of the Cross**



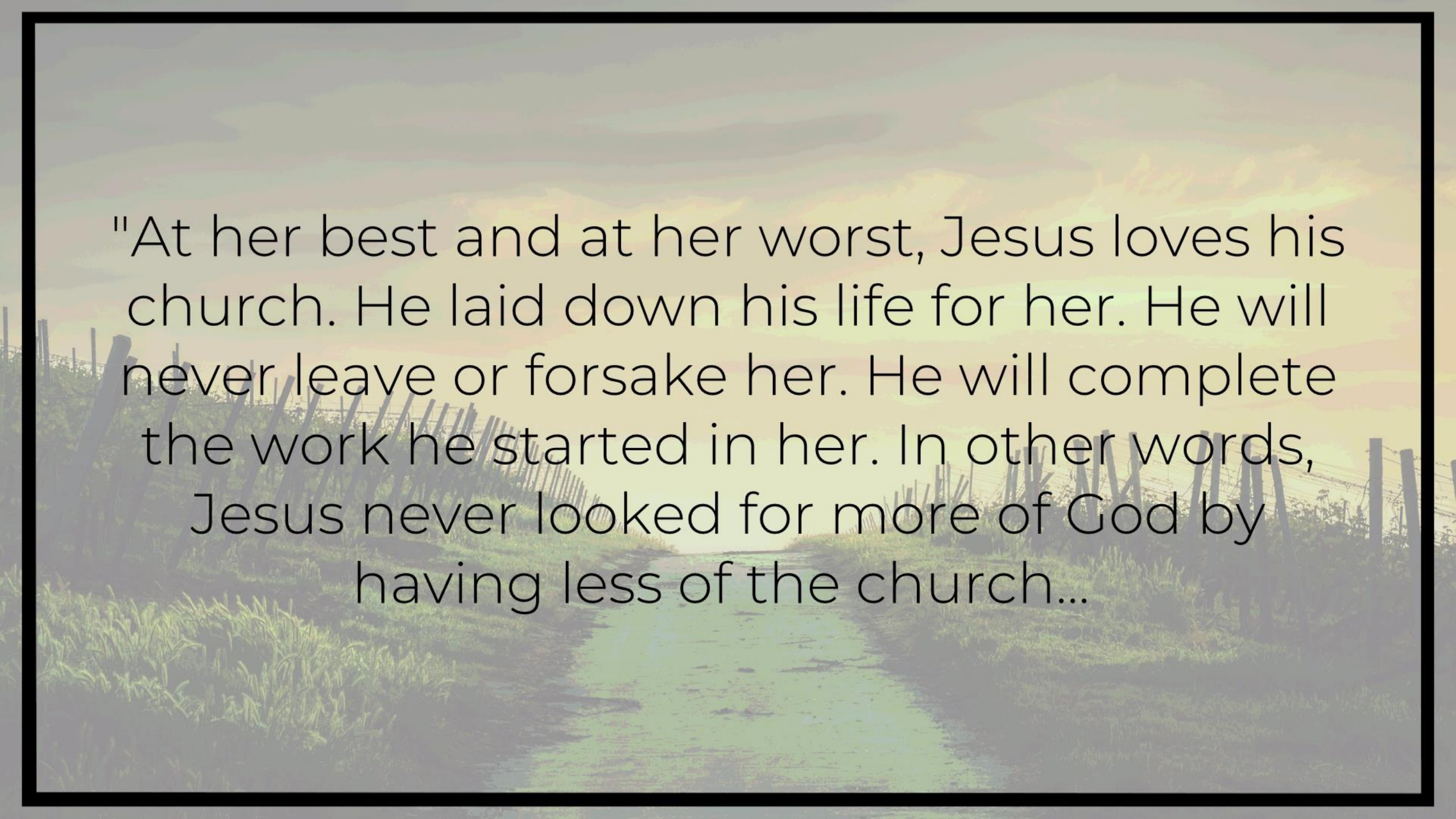
A photograph of a dirt road stretching into the distance, flanked by green grass and a wooden fence. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and pink, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and contemplative.

If every Christian in the world adopted your view of church, would the church grow and flourish, or would it cease to exist?



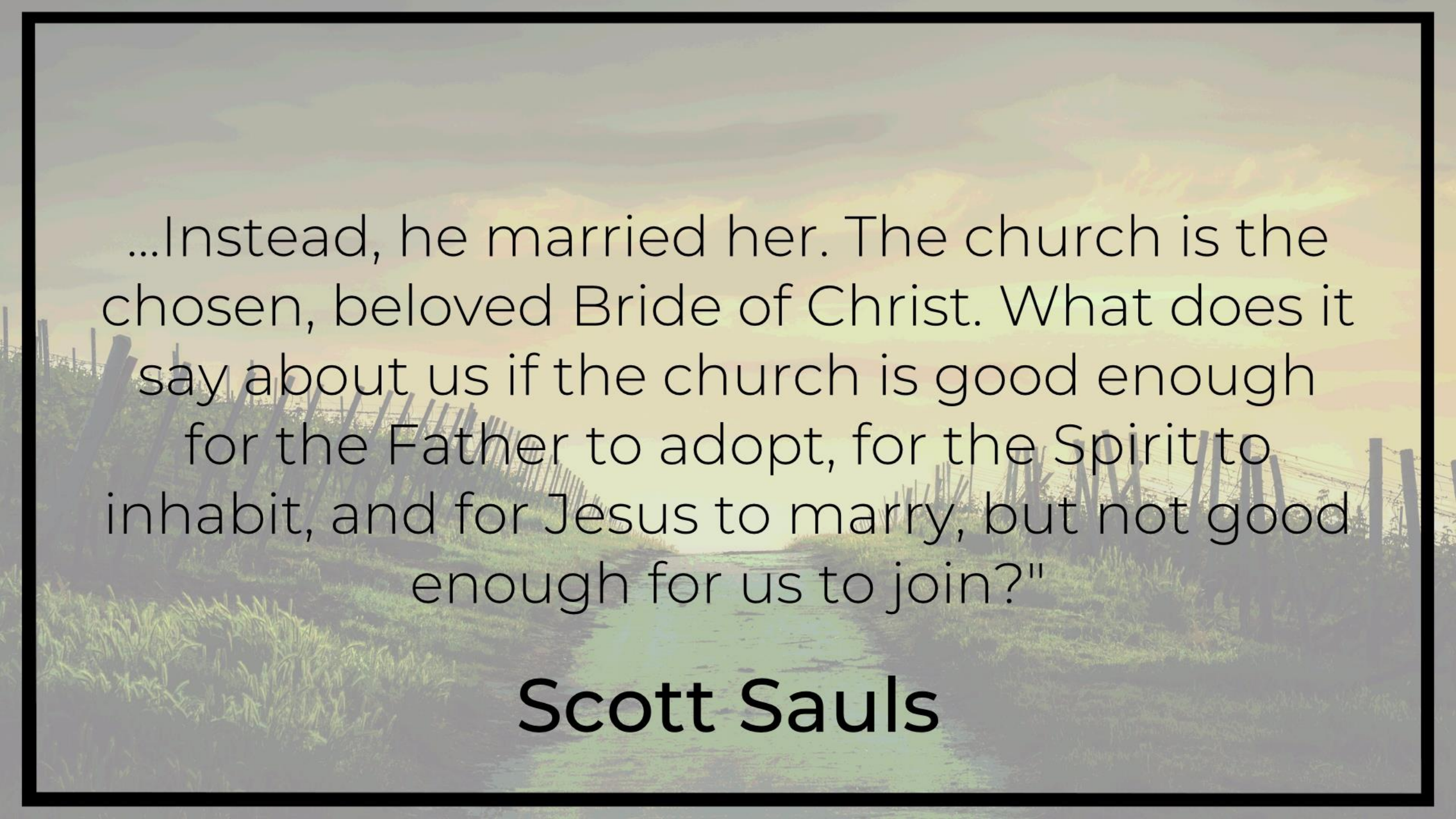






"At her best and at her worst, Jesus loves his church. He laid down his life for her. He will never leave or forsake her. He will complete the work he started in her. In other words, Jesus never looked for more of God by having less of the church...





...Instead, he married her. The church is the chosen, beloved Bride of Christ. What does it say about us if the church is good enough for the Father to adopt, for the Spirit to inhabit, and for Jesus to marry, but not good enough for us to join?"

**Scott Sauls**