

Joy Through Brokenness

Broken Souls

1 Peter 5:5; Psalm 42:1-2; Hebrews 4:16

Your broken soul is revealed by your damaged relationship with God,
but He is restoring you to Himself by grace.

Clearing up some confusion.

Clarification #1: The _____ most commonly stands for the whole of our inner person.

Clarification #2: God created us with just two _____, not three _____.

Manifestations of your broken soul and their remedy.

Manifestation #1: Your broken soul is tempting you to draw near to God with _____.

Remedy: Draw near to God by _____.

Manifestation #2: Your broken soul will _____ you from drawing near to God at all.

Remedy: Draw near to God by _____.

Manifestation #3: Your broken soul _____ your worship.

Remedy: Draw near to God by _____.

A photograph of a broken, light-brown ceramic bowl lying on its side on a bed of dry, brown leaves and twigs. The bowl is cracked and shattered, with several sharp edges and a jagged rim. The background is a soft-focus view of the ground covered in autumn leaves.

Joy Through Brokenness

Help from the Gospel in the Hurts of Life



Broken Souls

1 Peter 5:5

Psalms 42:1-2

Hebrews 4:16

1 Peter 5:5

All of you, in reference to one another
clothe yourselves with humility,
because God is opposed to the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.

Psalm 42:1-2

As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence
to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy
and may find grace to help in time of need.

Big Idea:

Your broken soul is revealed by
your damaged relationship with God,
but He is restoring you to
Himself by grace.

A close-up photograph of a broken ceramic bowl lying on its side on a rough, textured surface. The bowl is light brown or tan in color and is heavily cracked and stained. The cracks are deep and run across the surface of the bowl. The stains are dark and irregular, suggesting liquid spills that have dried. The background is a rough, textured surface, possibly concrete or stone, with a mix of light and dark patches. The overall image has a somber and distressed feel, which is reinforced by the text overlay.

Your Broken Soul

Clearing up some confusion.

Clarifications

The *heart* most commonly refers to the whole of your inner person (mind, emotions, will, etc.).

It is generally synonymous with your soul or spirit.

Mind

Psalm 26:2

Examine me, O LORD, and try me;
Test my **mind** and my **heart**.

Hebrews 10:16

After those days, says the Lord:
I will put My laws upon their **heart**,
And upon their **mind** I will write them...

Spirit

Exodus 35:21

And everyone whose **heart** stirred him
and everyone whose **spirit** moved him came...

Psalms 77:6

I will remember my song in the night;
I will meditate with my **heart**; And my **spirit** ponders.

Soul

Psalm 108:1

My **heart** is steadfast, O God; I will sing,
I will sing praises, even with my **soul**.

Proverbs 2:10

For wisdom will enter your **heart**,
And knowledge will be pleasant to your **soul**.

Clarifications

The *heart* most commonly refers to the whole of your inner person.

God created us with just two *parts* (material and immaterial), not three *parts* (body, soul, and spirit).

Two Parts

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart,
but though our outer man is decaying,
yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Scripture uses soul and spirit interchangeably.

John 12:27

“Now My **soul** has become **troubled**; and what shall I say...”

John 13:21

When Jesus had said this, He became **troubled** in **spirit**...

Luke 1:46-47

And Mary said: “My **soul** exalts the Lord,
And my **spirit** has rejoiced in God my Savior.”

Scripture uses soul and spirit interchangeably.

Hebrews 12:23

...and to the **spirits** of righteous men made perfect...

Revelation 6:9

I saw underneath the altar the **souls** of those who had been slain because of the word of God...

Scripture uses soul and spirit interchangeably.

Luke 12:20

But God said to him,
“You fool! This very night **your soul** is required of you...

Acts 7:59

And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon the Lord
and said, “Lord Jesus, receive **my spirit!**”

Scripture uses soul and spirit interchangeably.

Matthew 10:28

Do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both **soul** and body **in hell**.

1 Corinthians 5:5

I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that **his spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus.

But doesn't Scripture teach 3 parts?

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved complete,
without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This passage is intended to teach the
entirety of God's sanctifying work,
not the parts of people.

But doesn't Scripture teach 3 parts?

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as **the division of soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

This passage teaches the penetrating power of God's Word, not the divisibility of human *parts*.

What other parts are there?

Matthew 22:37

And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **understanding**.”

Mark 12:30

You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **understanding**, and with all your **strength**.

Ephesians 4:23

...and that you be renewed in the **spirit of your mind**.”

Scripture does not teach 3 parts.

Or **four** parts (body, soul, spirit, **heart**).

Or **five** parts (body, soul, spirit, heart, **mind**).

Or **six** parts (body, soul, spirit, heart, mind, **strength**).

Or **seven** parts (body, soul, spirit, heart, mind, strength, **understanding**).

Or **eight** or **nine**...

Origin and Dangers

Trichotomy has its roots in Greek philosophy and then Gnosticism.

It has resulted in widespread belief
in a two-tiered Christianity:

1. “Spiritual” Christians have been enlightened.
2. “Carnal” Christians have not yet “entered the spiritual dimension” where there is special knowledge communicated only to the spirit.

Origin and Dangers

It is connected to *higher life* theologies like “entire sanctification”, “the second blessing”, “the second touch”, “baptism in the Spirit”.

Pentecostalism teaches that your spirit can transcend your mind and soul in communication with God (tongues, dreams, inner revelations).

E.g. “Dreams are God’s Spirit speaking directly to your spirit.”

A close-up photograph of a broken ceramic bowl. The bowl is light-colored, possibly white or cream, and is shattered into several large, irregular pieces. The cracks are deep and jagged, running across the surface. The bowl is resting on a rough, textured surface that appears to be concrete or stone. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the broken ceramic and the surface it lies on.

Your Broken Soul

Clearing up some confusion.

**Manifestations of your broken soul
and their remedy.**

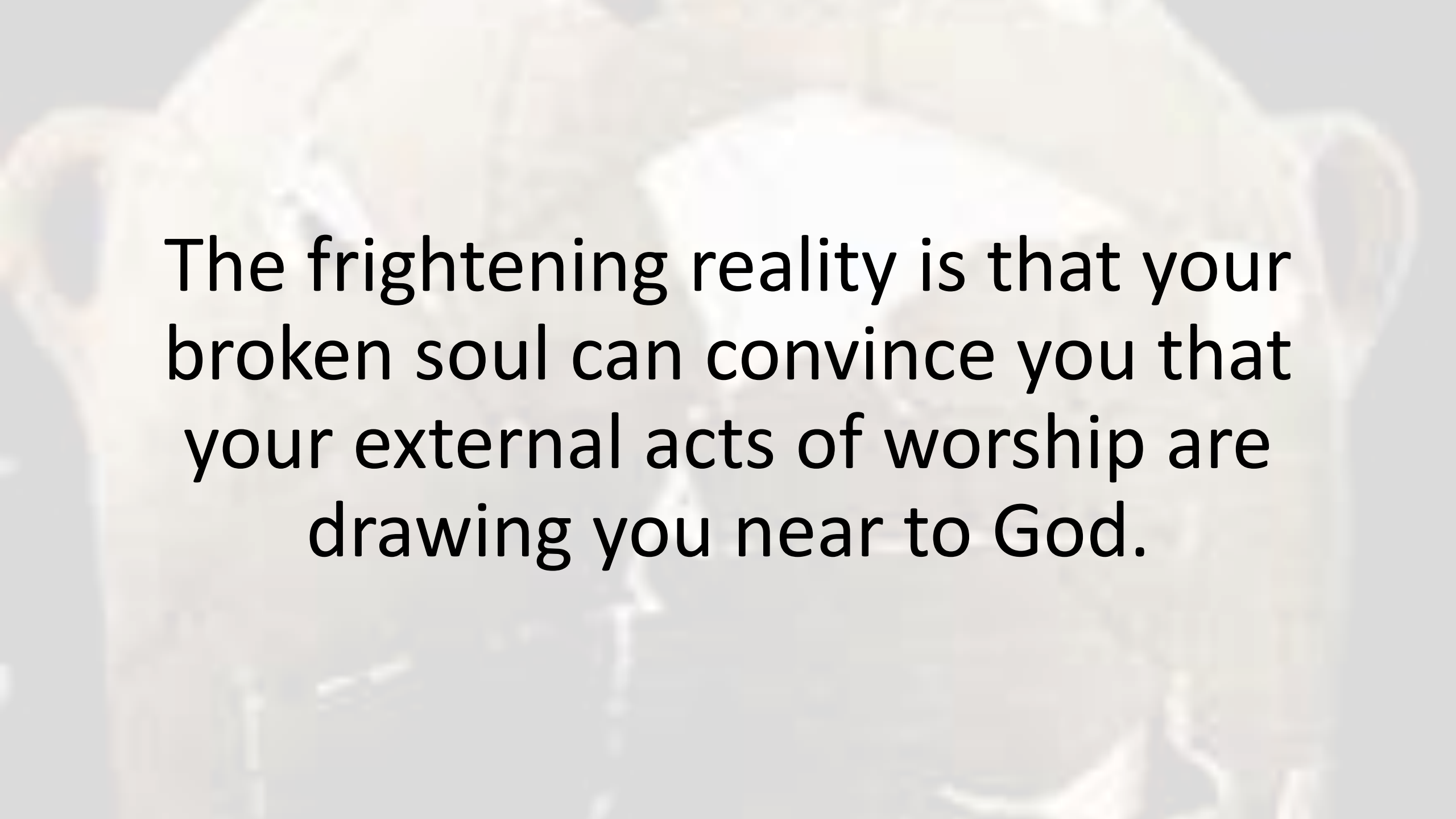
Manifestation #1

***Your broken soul is tempting you to
draw near to God with religion.***

Drawing near by external religion

Isaiah 29:13

This people draw near with their words
And honor Me with their lip service,
But they remove their hearts far from Me,
And their reverence of Me consists of tradition learned by rote.



The frightening reality is that your
broken soul can convince you that
your external acts of worship are
drawing you near to God.

But...

John 4:23-24

An hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

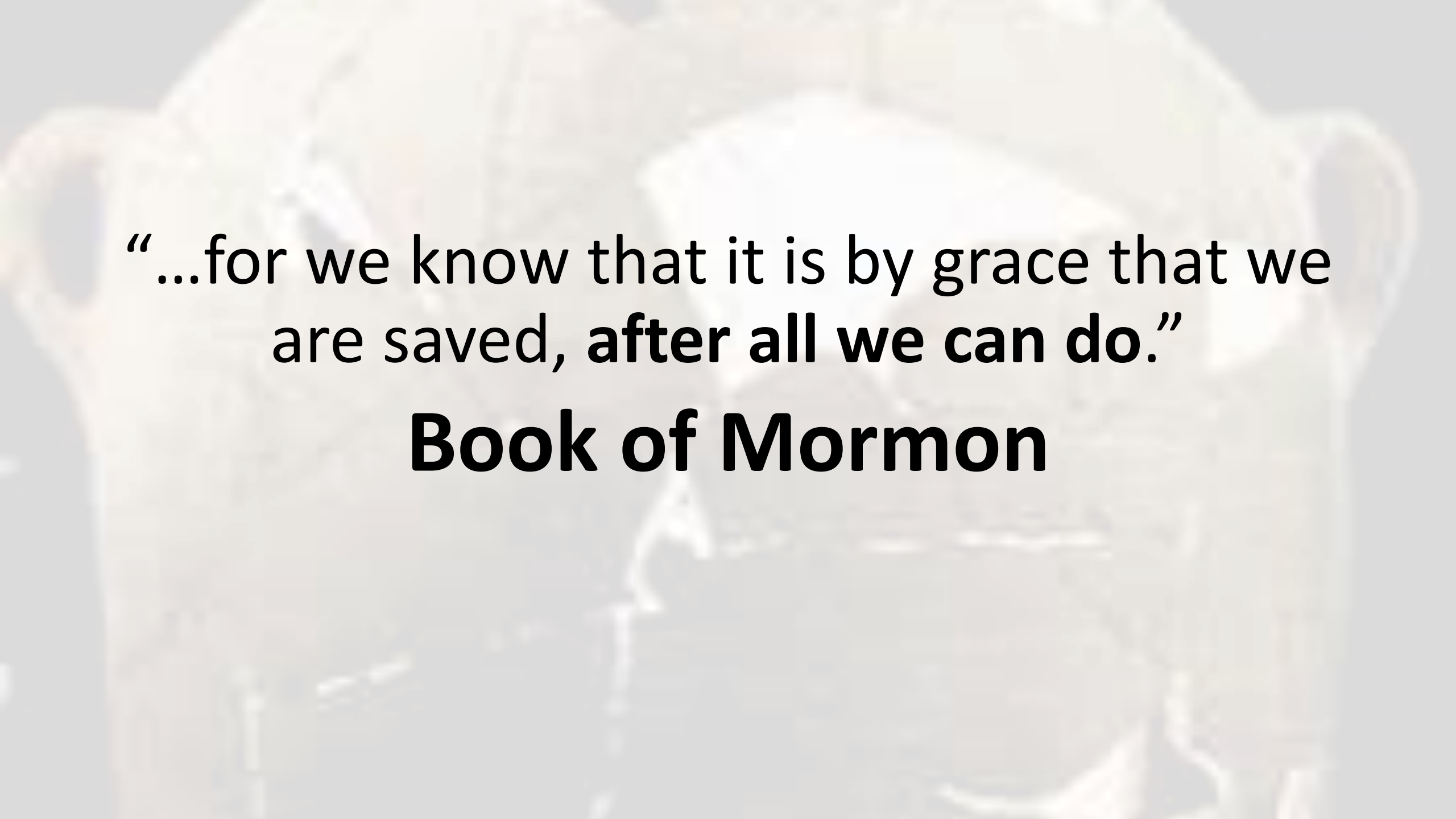
Drawing near by legal religion

John 5:39

“You search the Scriptures,
because you think that **in them** you have eternal life.”

Luke 10:25

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test,
saying, “Teacher, **what shall I do** to inherit eternal life?”



“...for we know that it is by grace that we
are saved, **after all we can do.**”

Book of Mormon

Legal/Moralistic Religion

Luke 18:11-12

The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself,
“God, **I thank You** that I am not like other people:
swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector.

Saved because I didn't

Luke 18:11-12

The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself,

“God, I thank You that **I am not like other people:**
swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector.

Saved because I did

Luke 18:11-12

The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself,
“God, I thank You that I am not like other people:
swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector.

I fast twice a week; **I pay tithes** of all that I get.”

But Remember...

Galatians 3:10

All who rely on works of the law are under a curse;
for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not **abide by**
all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ESV

What about “Christian” legalism?

Galatians 3:2-3

This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by works of Law, or by hearing with faith?

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now **being perfected by the flesh?**

“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him,
and deny yourselves of all ungodliness;
and **if ye shall deny yourselves** of all ungodliness,
and love God with all your might, mind and
strength, **then is his grace sufficient for you**,
that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ.”

Book of Mormon

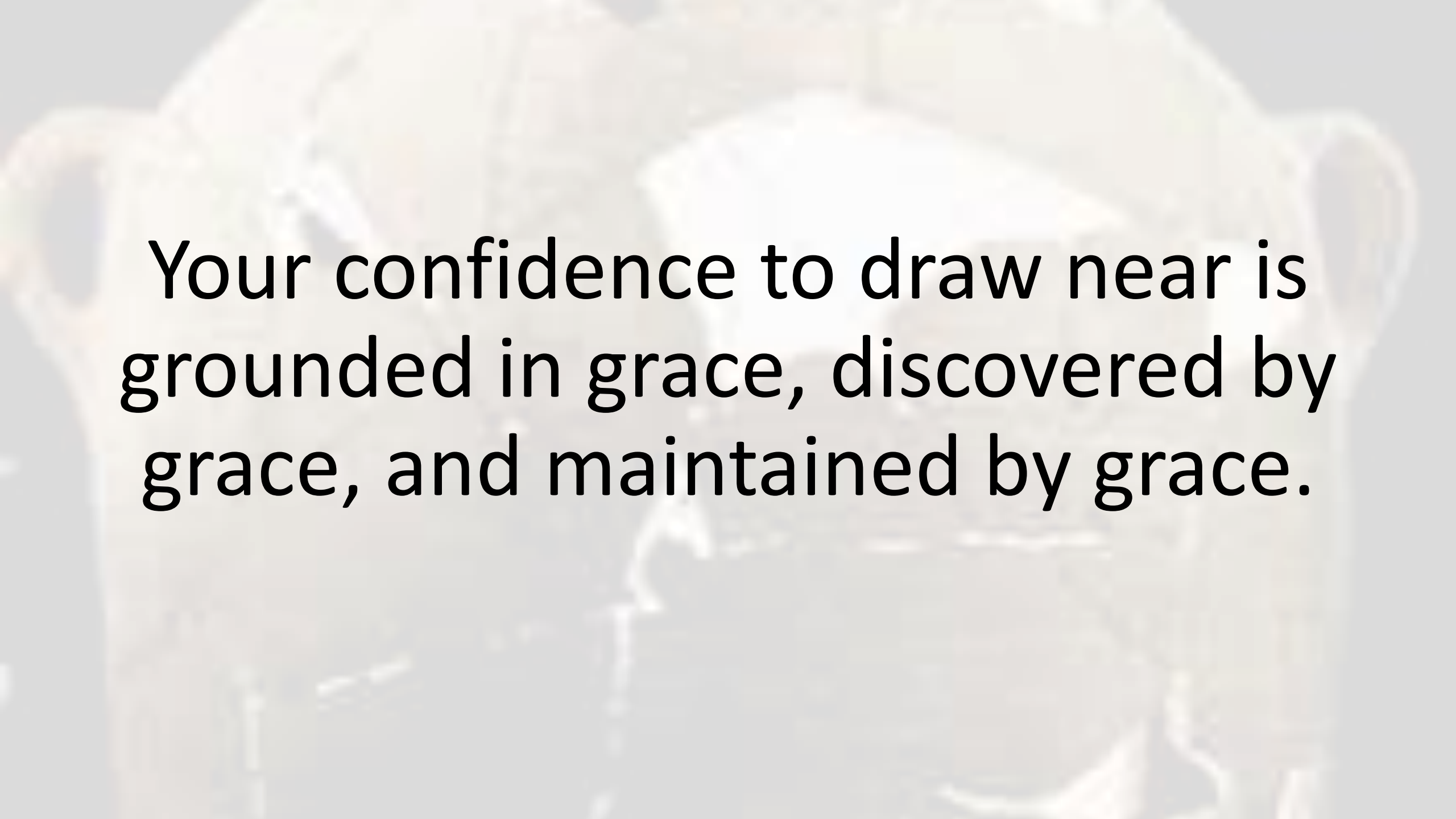


Remedy #1

Draw near by grace.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence
to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy
and may find grace to help in time of need.



Your confidence to draw near is
grounded in grace, discovered by
grace, and maintained by grace.

Sinners Drawing Near

Luke 18:13

But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away,
was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven,
but was beating his breast, saying,
“God, be merciful to me, the sinner!”

Manifestation #2

***Your broken soul will keep you from
drawing near to God at all.***

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence
to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy
and may find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:22

Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed with pure water.

Why don't you draw near?

Because you don't see your need.

Because you believe the Christian life is a burdensome grind, and you're not ready to give up on the enjoyment of life.

Because you don't believe you're worthy.

Not Yet Worthy to Come

You don't come because you have not yet repented sufficiently.

“It was all we could do **to repent sufficiently** before God that he would take away our stain.”

Book of Mormon



Remedy #2

Draw near to God by grace.

On what basis?

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence

to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy
and may find grace to help in time of need.

On what basis?

Hebrews 10:19

Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence
to **enter** the holy place **by the blood of Jesus...**

Do you believe your sin to be
so great that the blood of Jesus can't
cover it without your help?

Come Ye Sinners

Let not conscience make you linger
Nor of fitness fondly dream.

All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him.

**What other fitness do you believe is
necessary for you to come?**

Come by Grace

Isaiah 55:1

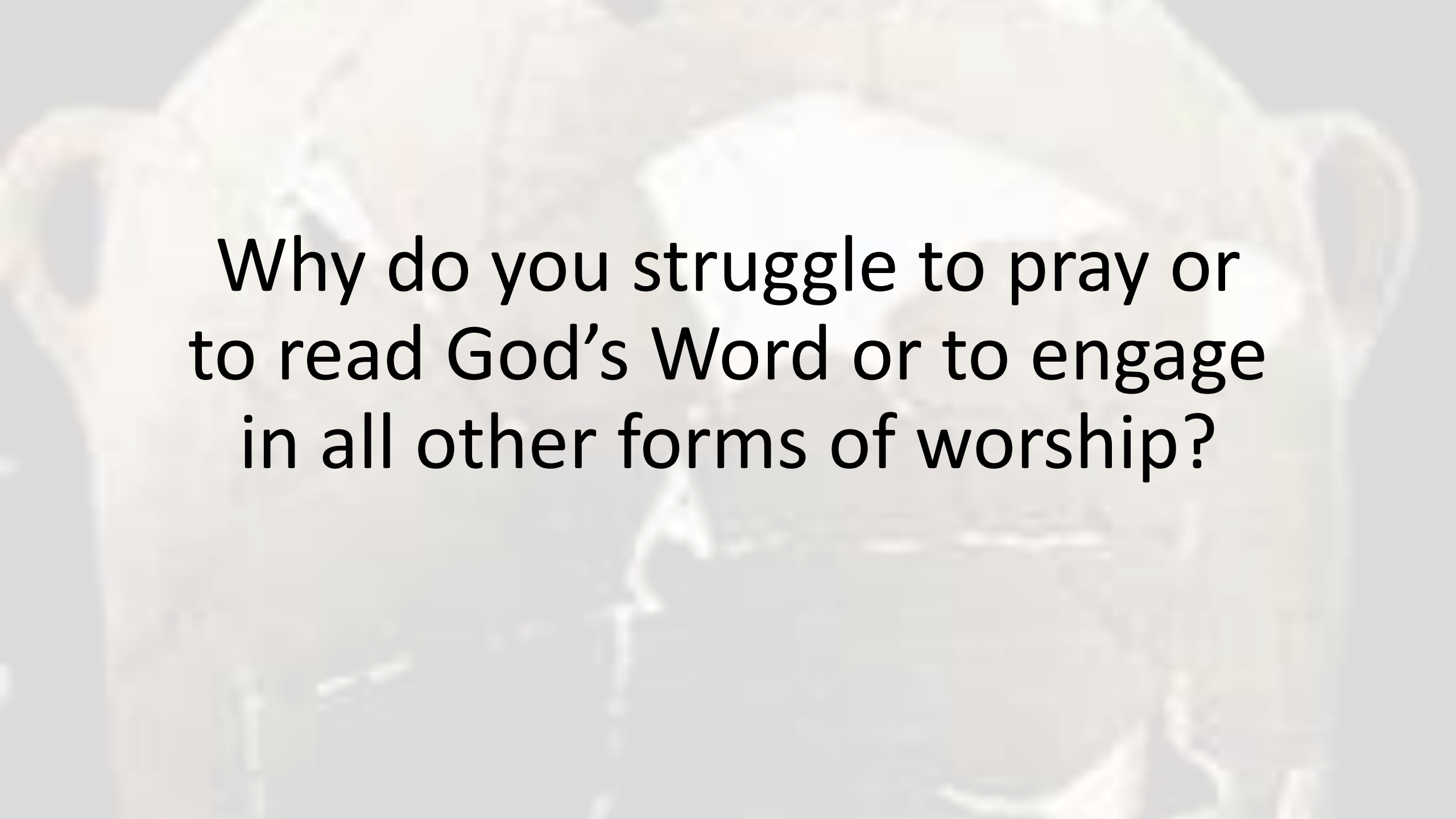
Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters;
And you who have no money come, buy and eat.

Come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without cost.



Manifestation #3

***Your broken soul hinders
your worship.***



Why do you struggle to pray or
to read God's Word or to engage
in all other forms of worship?

Psalm 42:1-2

As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?

Do you feel as though you are in a desert,
distant from God, panting and thirsting for
relief that feels withheld from you?

Panting, Thirsting

Romans 8:23-24

And not only this, but also we ourselves,
having the first fruits of the Spirit,
even we ourselves groan within ourselves,
waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons,
the redemption of our body.

For in hope we have been saved,
but hope that is seen is not hope...



Remedy #3

Draw near to God by grace.

Draw near!

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence

to the throne of grace, **that we** may receive mercy
and **may find grace** to help in time of need.



God has not promised to perfect you now
but to perfect you then.

You live **now** by faith
and fight **now** by faith.



Are you drawing near to God?
On what basis?