



# CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*A Vision and Model for College Ministries* | AT MESSIAH COLLEGE



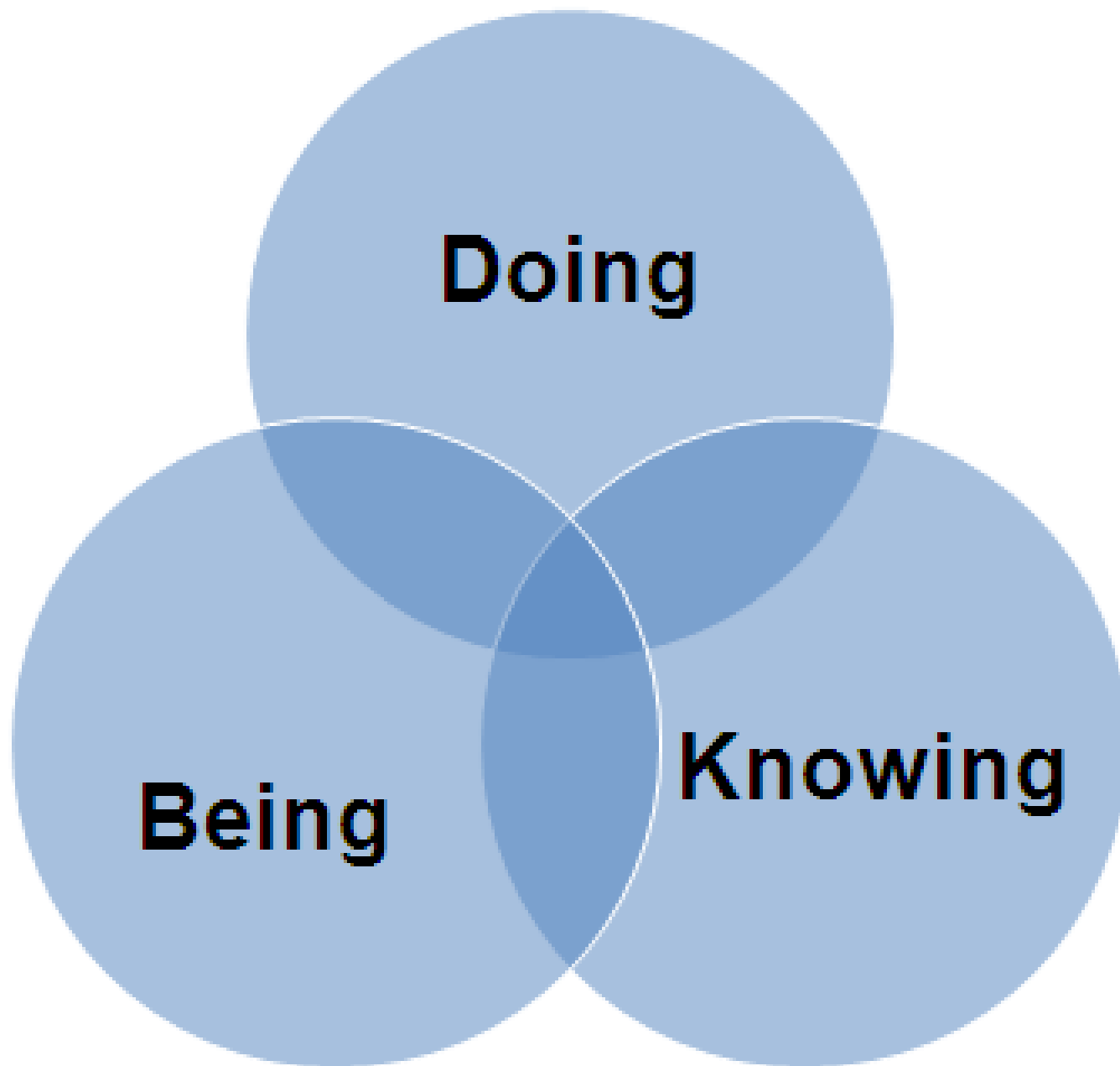
# PRESENTED BY....

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# Christian Spiritual Formation at Messiah College

*The process of being conformed to the  
image of Christ for the sake of others.*



# SPIRITUAL FORMATION OUTCOME

1. Spiritual Identity: a maturing sense of self in relationship to God.

Dimensions of this outcome include intentional growth in character, integrity and ethics, a healthy concept of God and self, and intentional engagement in spiritual practices.

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION OUTCOME

2. Understanding Beliefs: a maturing understanding of biblical belief and theological application.

Students will own their Christian beliefs, be able to integrate Christian thought into various aspects of life.

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION OUTCOME

3. Reconciliation: a maturing appreciation and understanding of the diversity of God's Kingdom.

Students will understand and pursue reconciliation, begin to demonstrate cultural and theological competency, experience positive interactions across differences, and value other persons.

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION OUTCOME

4. Community of Faith: a maturing understanding and commitment to a community of faith.

Students will engage meaningful relationships, be committed to the good of others, have a realistic understanding of self and how that relates to others, and begin to use appropriate life skills for living in community.

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION OUTCOME

5. Servant Leadership: a maturing commitment to servant leadership

Dimensions of this outcome include developing a sense of service and justice, leadership skills, an understanding of vocation, and the importance of setting goals and working to achieve them.

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION OUTCOME

6. Life of Worship: a maturing understanding of worship through all aspects of life

Students will develop a healthy concept of God and self, participate in corporate and personal worship practices, live purposefully with a sense of calling, and be stewards of a holistic, balanced life.





Programmatic  
versus  
Formational Approach  
to Student Ministry

Or  
“Why Spiritual  
Formation?”

# Paradigm Shift

- ▶ From content to context
- ▶ From destination to journey
- ▶ From programmatic to formational



## PROGRAMMATIC

- Begins with an agenda
- Receiving information
- Focus on the product
- Synthetic
- Knowing & Doing
- Answers

## FORMATIONAL

- Begins with people
- Reflecting on experience/integration of information
- Focus on the process
- Organic
- Being, Knowing & Doing
- Questions

# Dimensions of the Formational Approach



# HOSPITALITY

**“The paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create . . .**

**A friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances; free also to leave and follow their own vocations. . .**

. . . Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the life style of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find his own.”

Henri Nouwen, Reaching Out



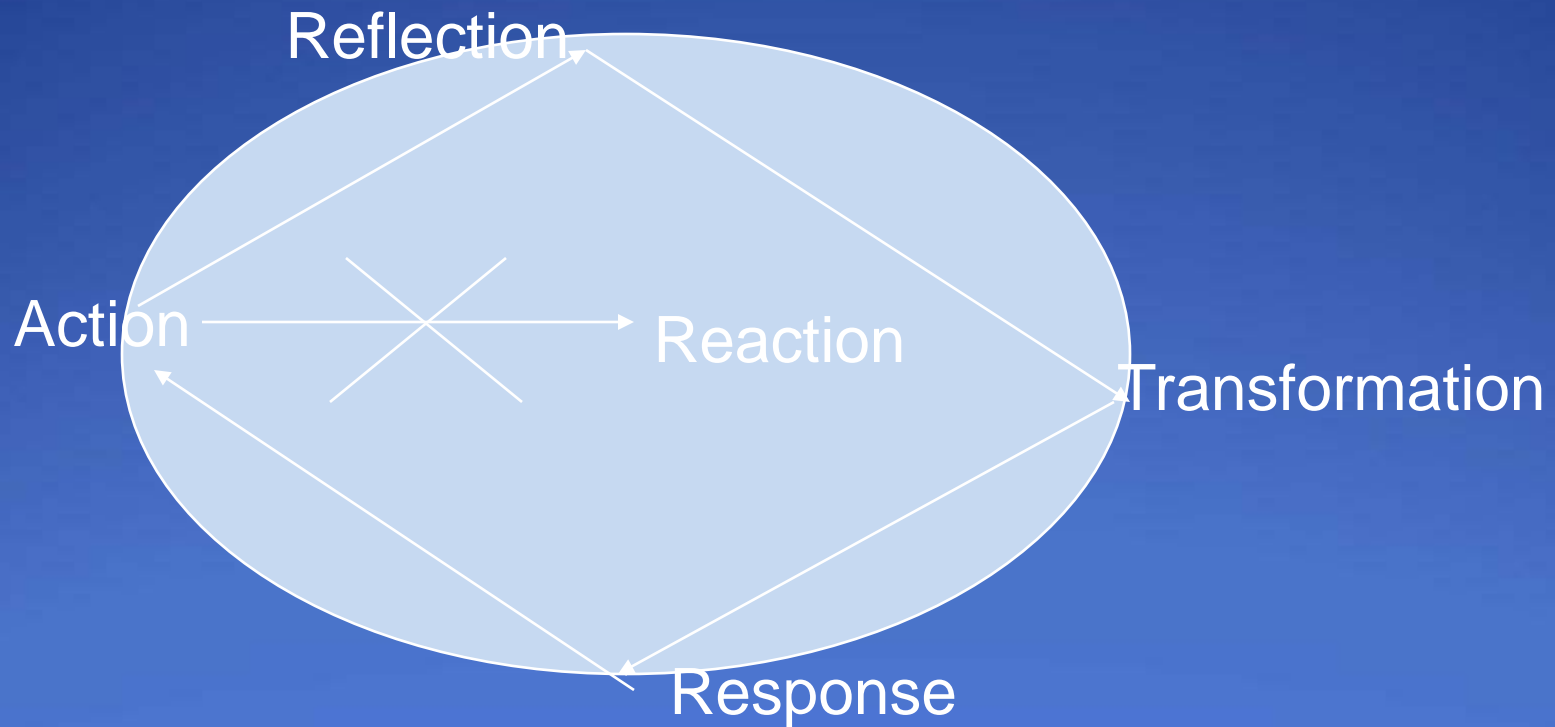
## Inviting and Welcoming

A present host  
(centeredness)

Reflective  
conversation  
(time to digest)

# REFLECTION

Facilitating the reflection cycle





# CELEBRATION

1 Samuel 7:12

“Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

Celebrations are sweet when the challenges are real, the participation is genuine and when each person knows that God has been in our midst as we traveled along.





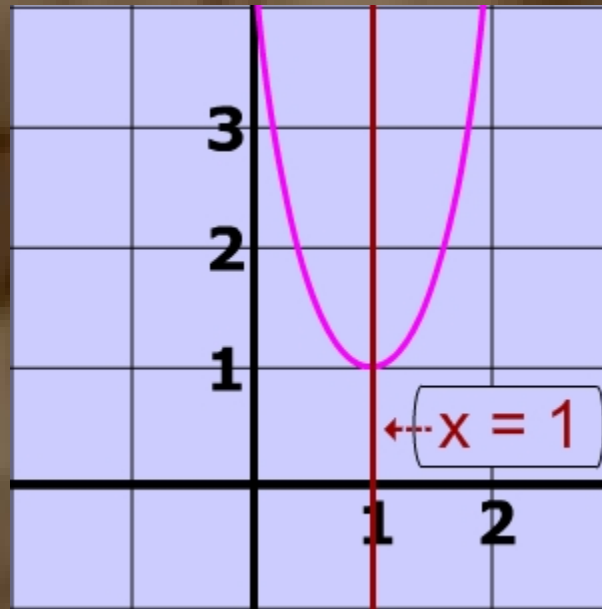
# Two Axes

Two Axes

NOT



# Two Axes



Yes

# Two Axes

God as  
Mystery



God  
Revealed

Two Axes

Knowing God



Sensing God

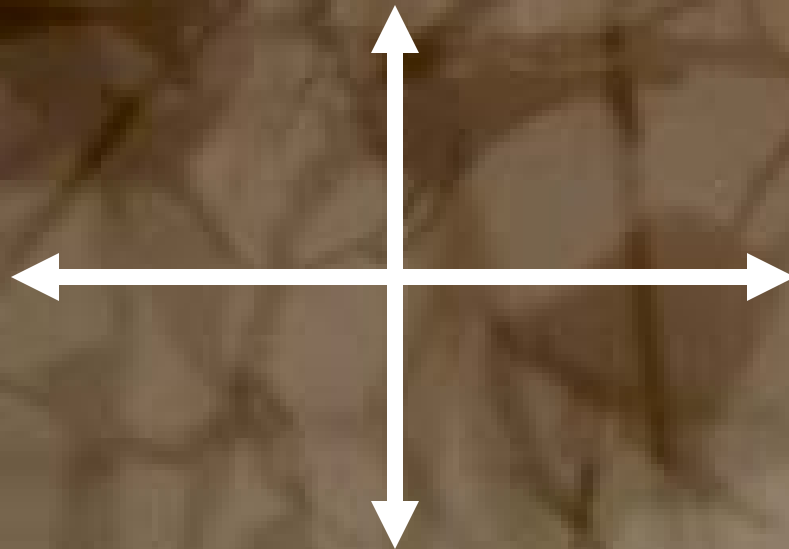
# Two Axes

Knowing God

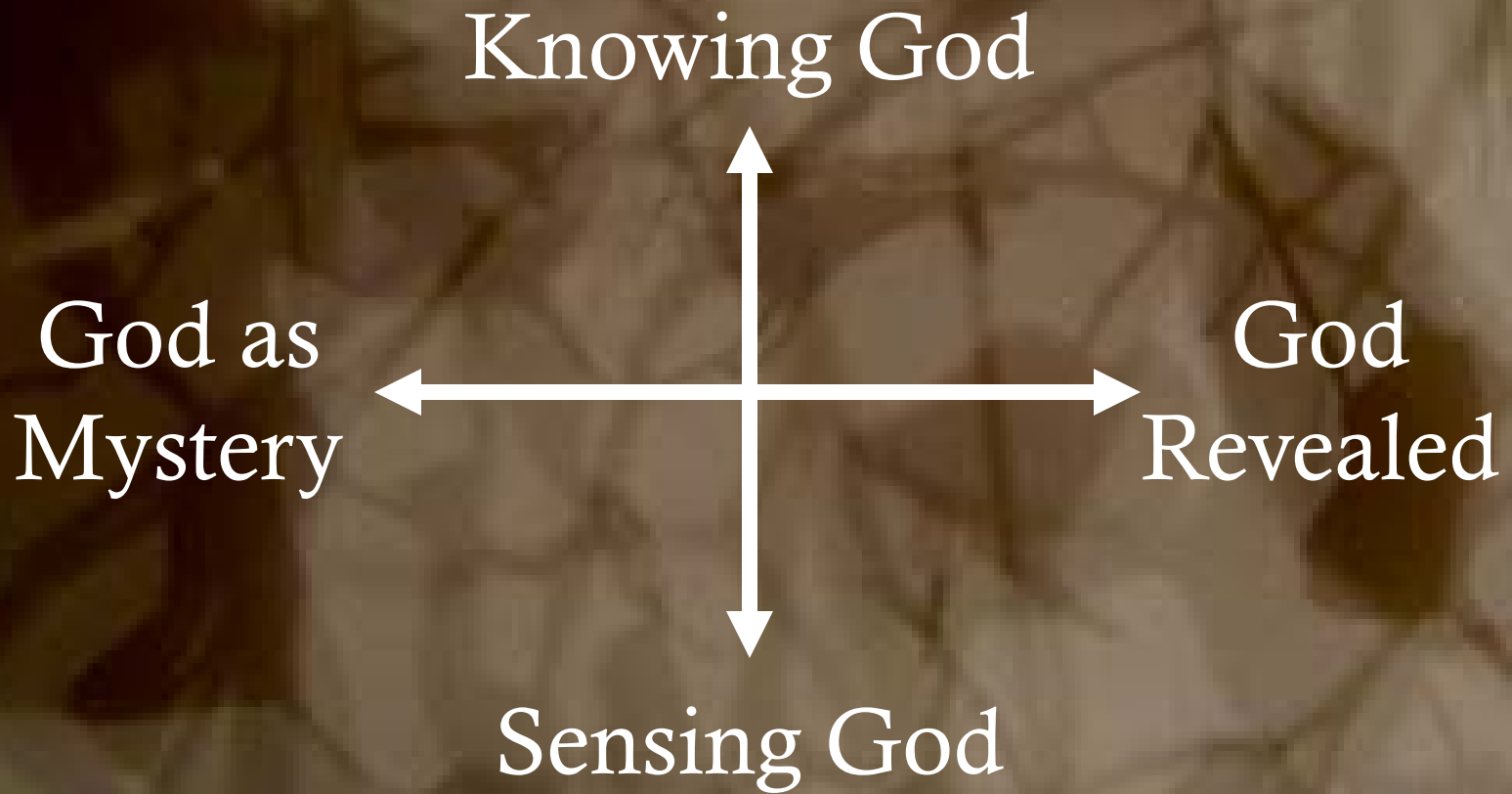
God as  
Mystery

God  
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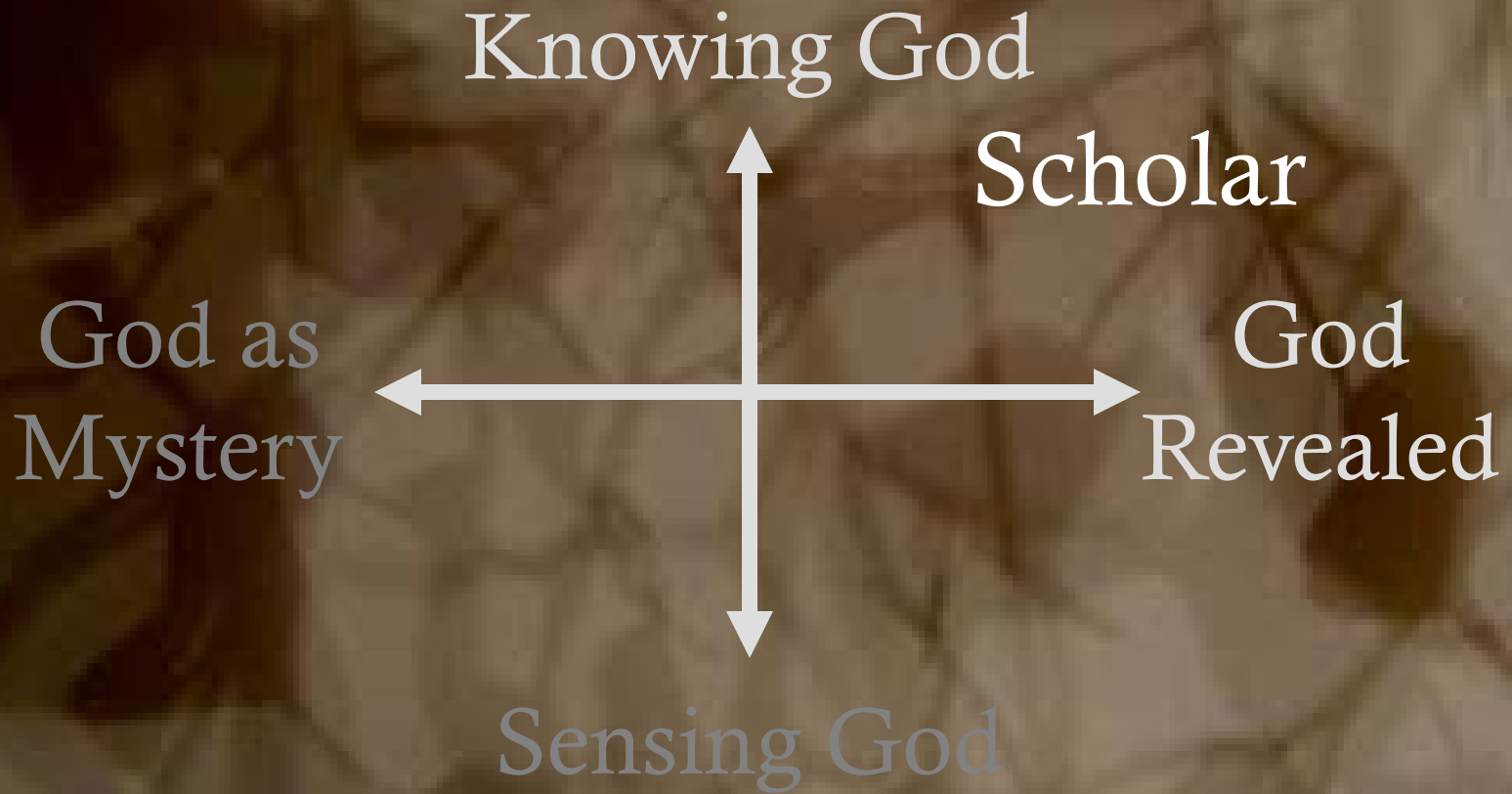
Sensing God



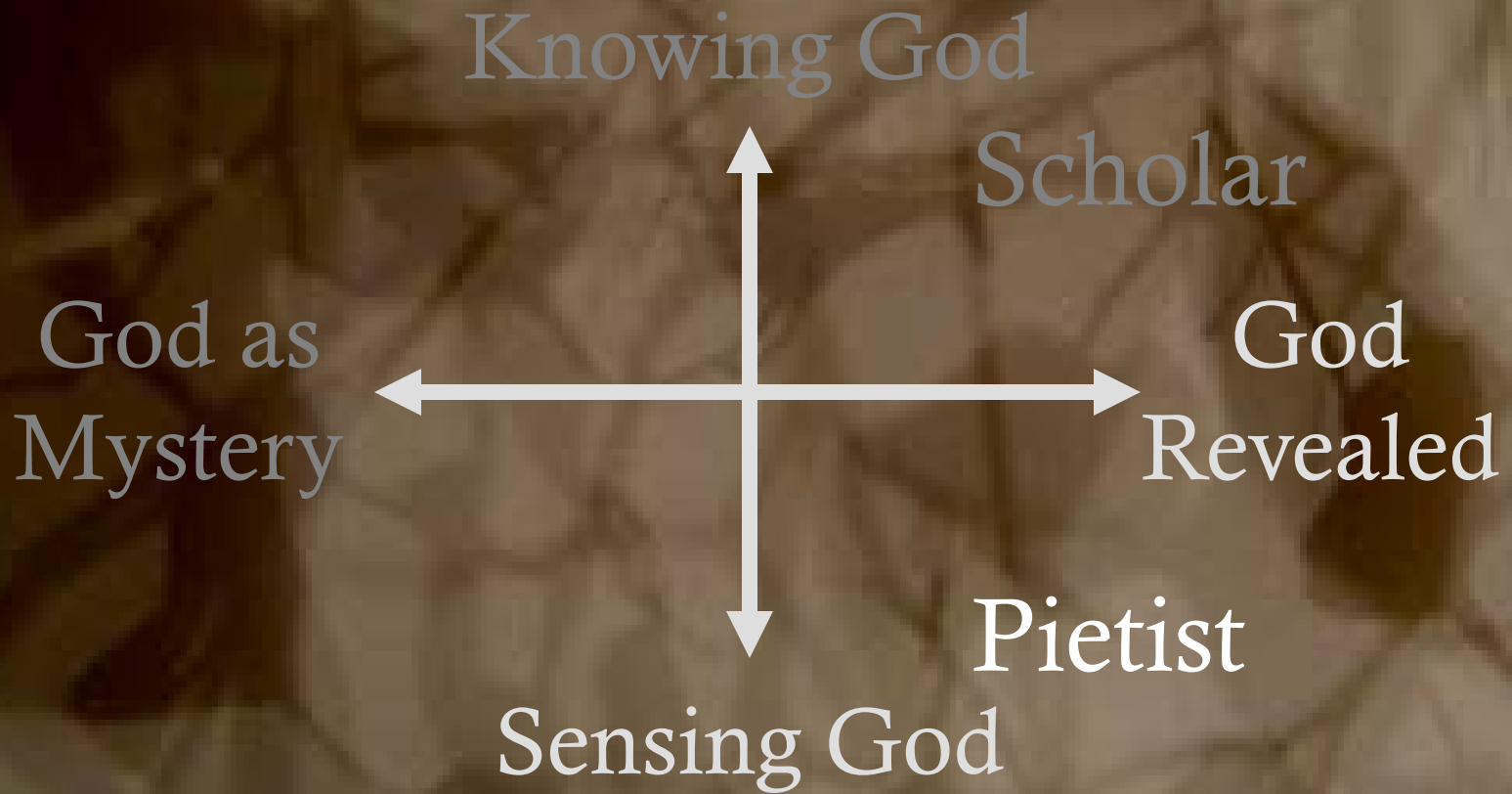
# Four Spirituality Types



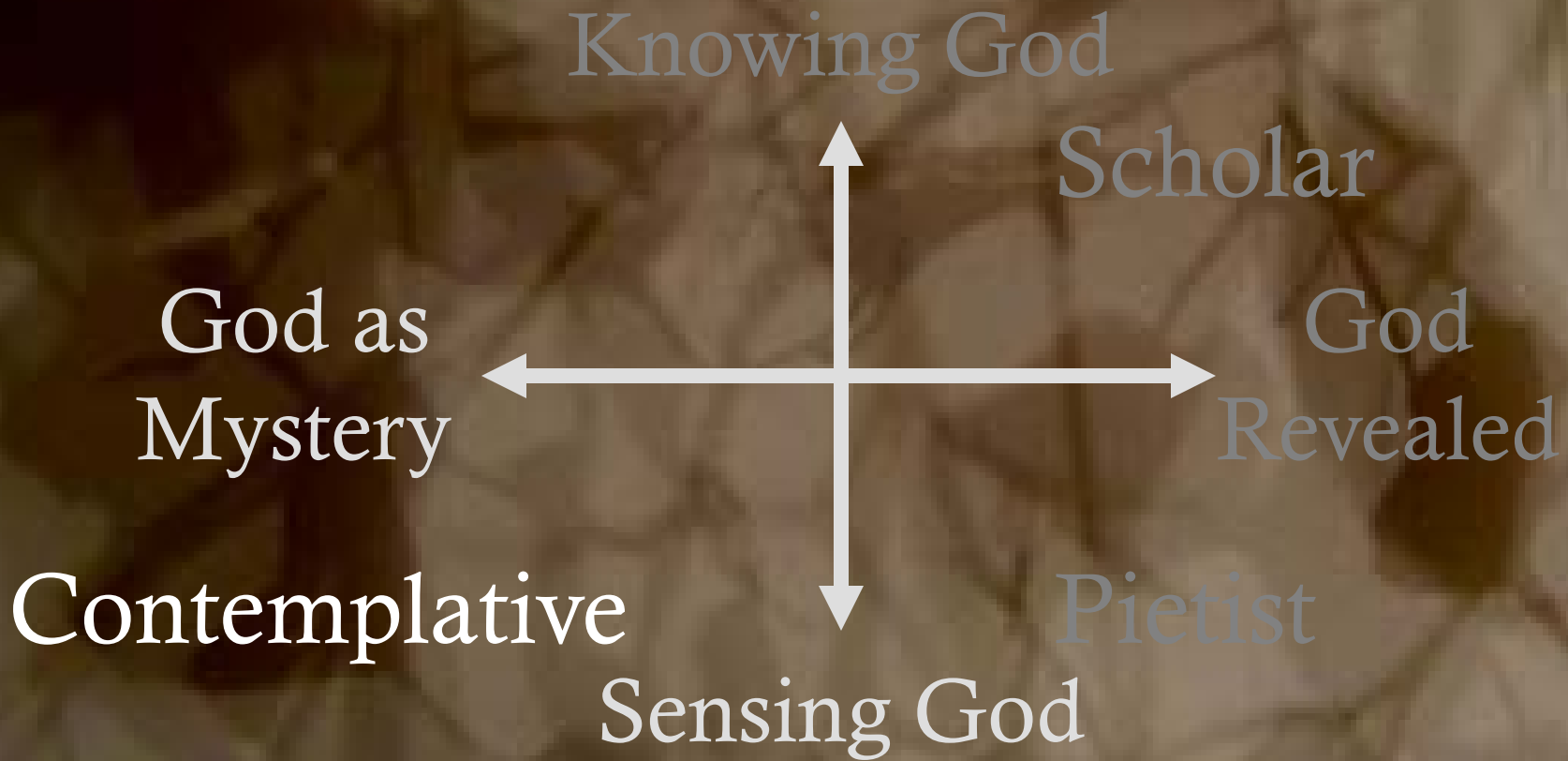
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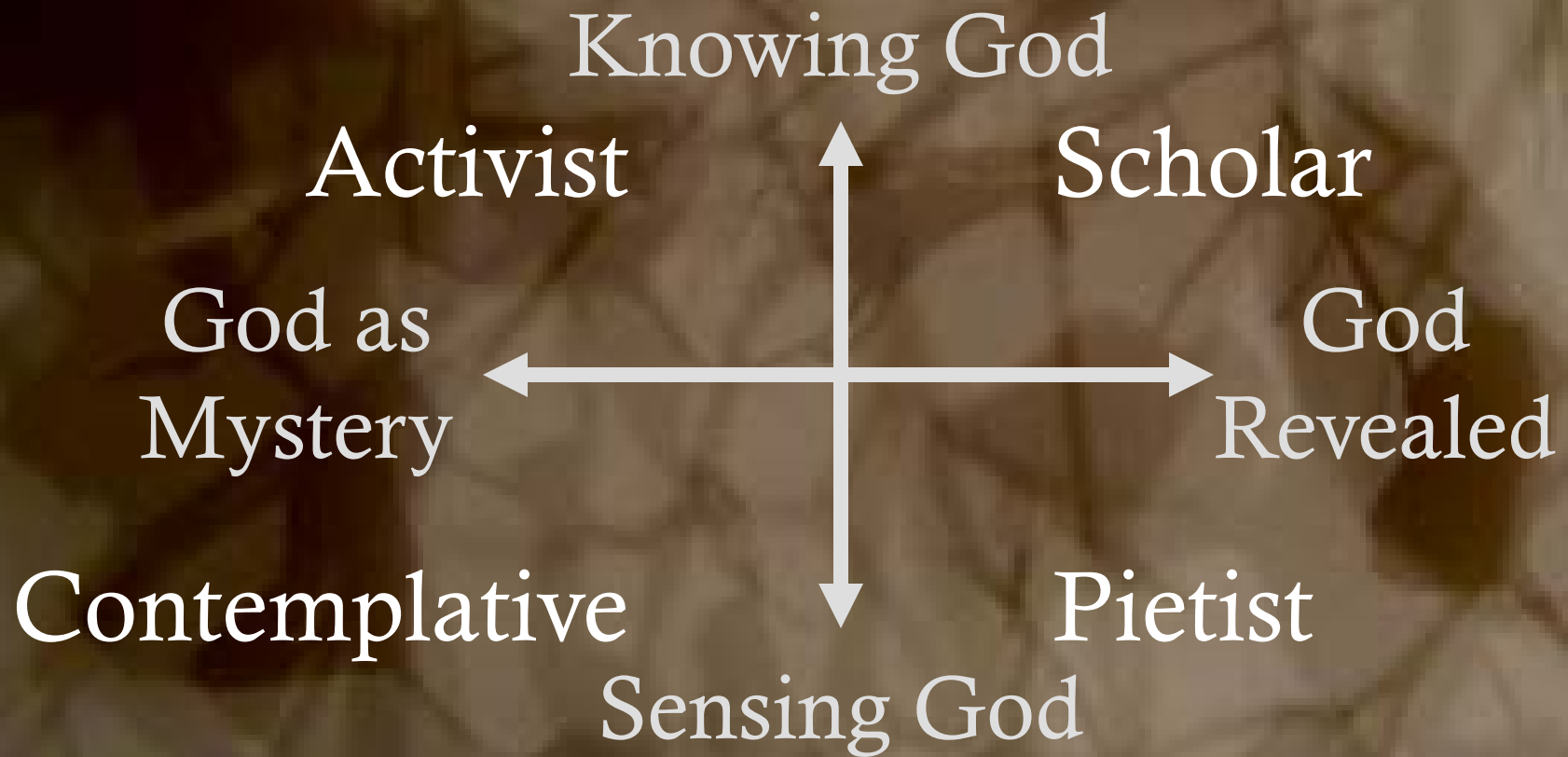
# Four Spirituality Types



# Four Spirituality Types



# Four Spirituality Types



# In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

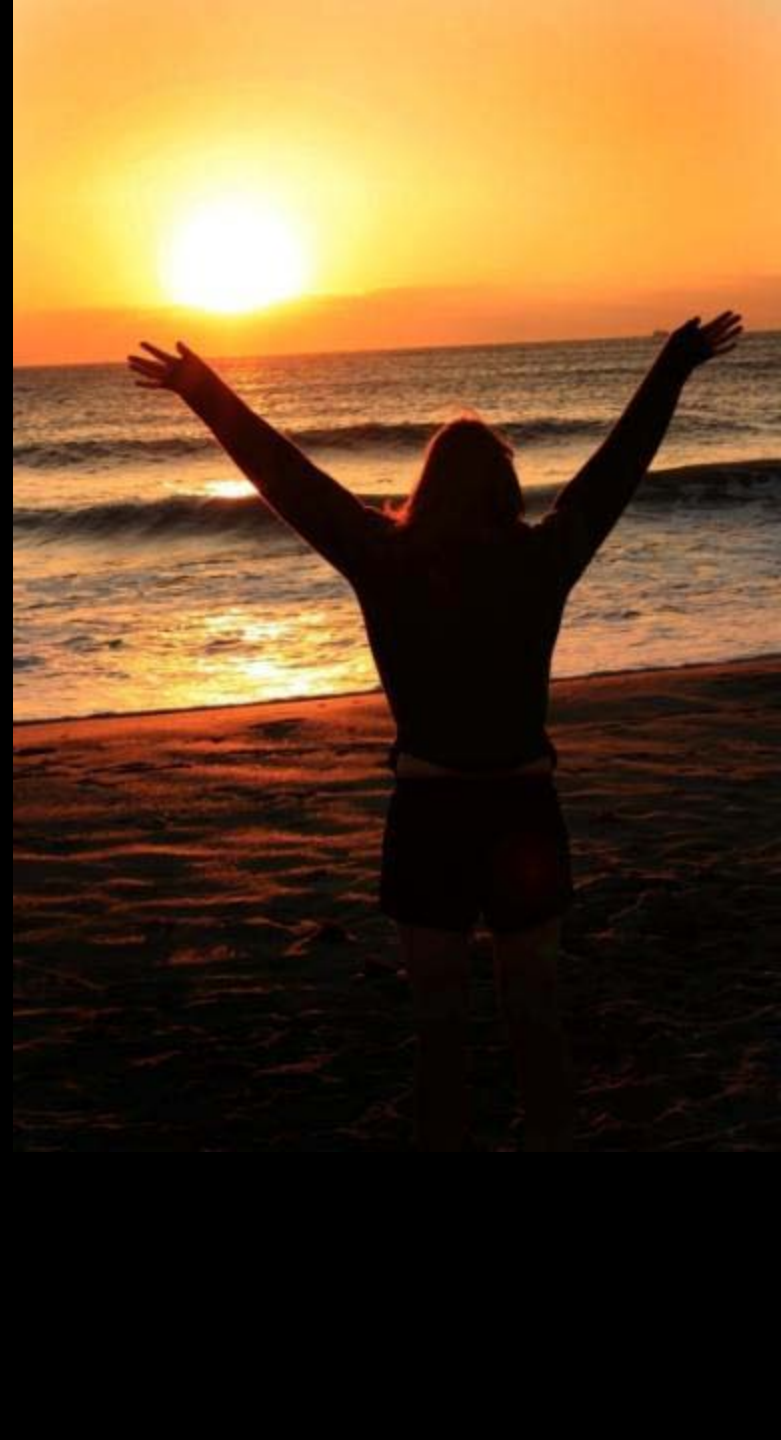
In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones he came to save.  
Till on the cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on him was laid,  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

# Blessed Assurance

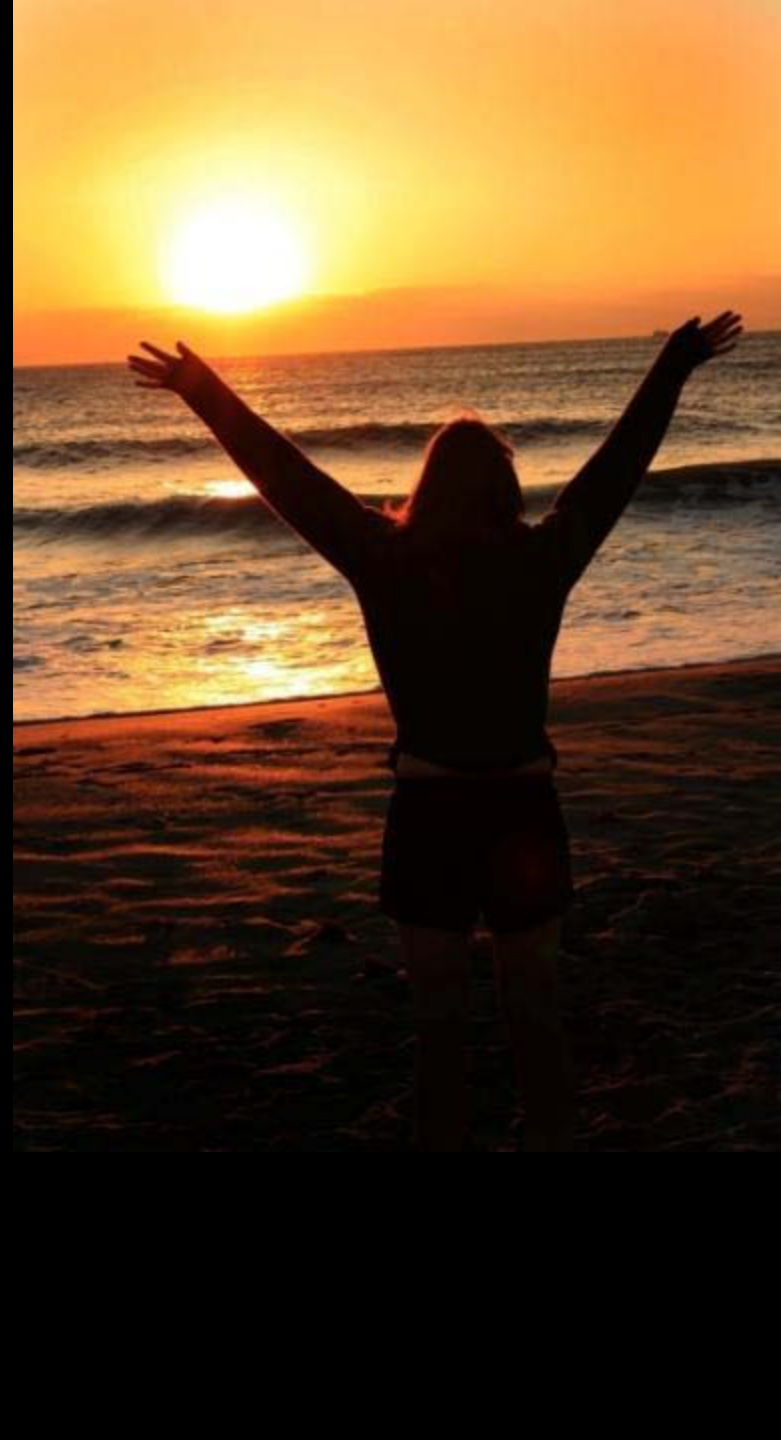
Blessed assurance,  
Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste  
of glory divine!

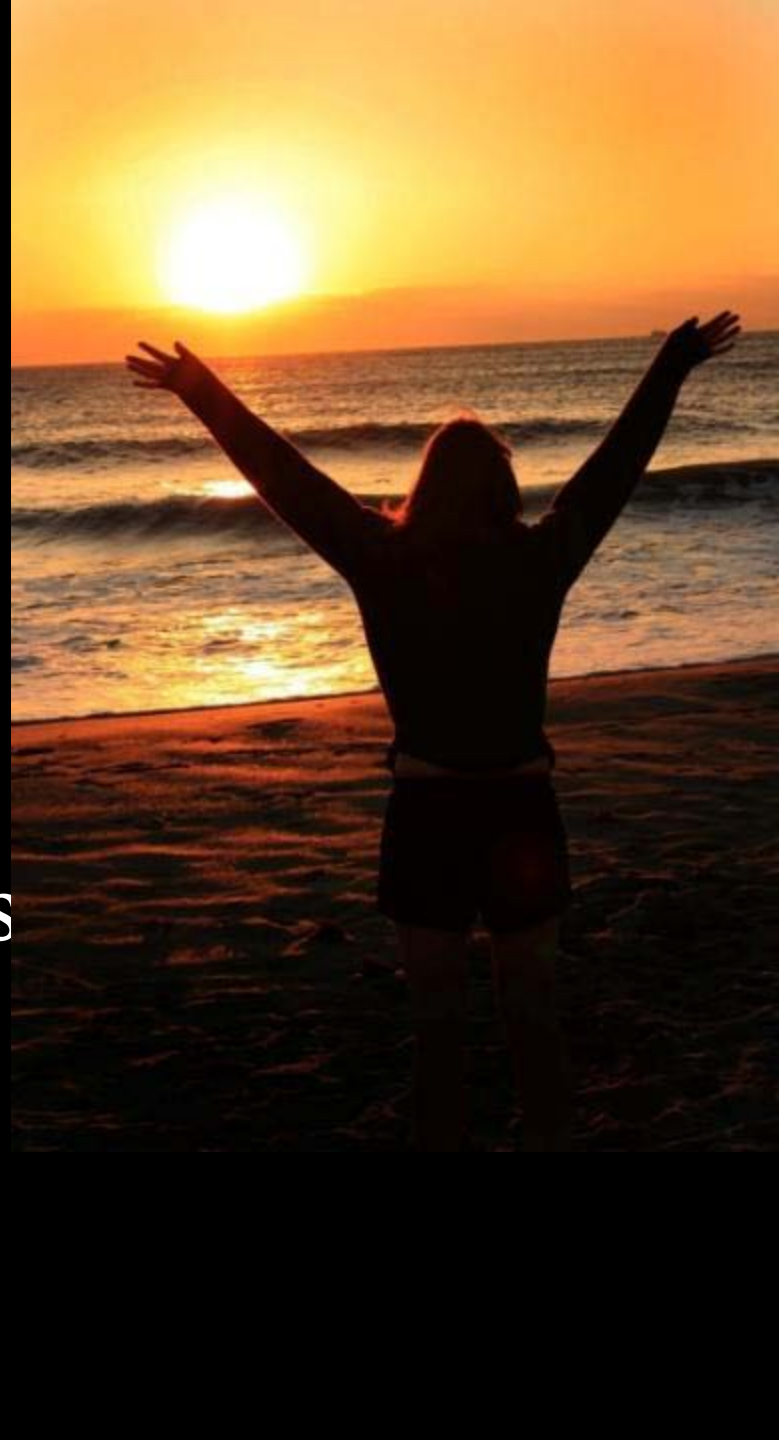
Heir of salvation,  
purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit,  
washed in his blood.



This is my story,  
this is my song,  
praising my Savior  
all the day long;  
this is my story,  
this is my song,  
praising my Savior  
all the day long.



Perfect submission,  
all is at rest,  
I in my Savior  
am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting,  
looking above,  
filled with his goodness  
lost in his love.



This is my story,  
this is my song,  
praising my Savior  
all the day long;  
this is my story,  
this is my song,  
praising my Savior  
all the day long.



O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer;

O Lord, hear my prayer:

when I call, answer me—

O Lord, hear my prayer;

O Lord, hear my prayer;

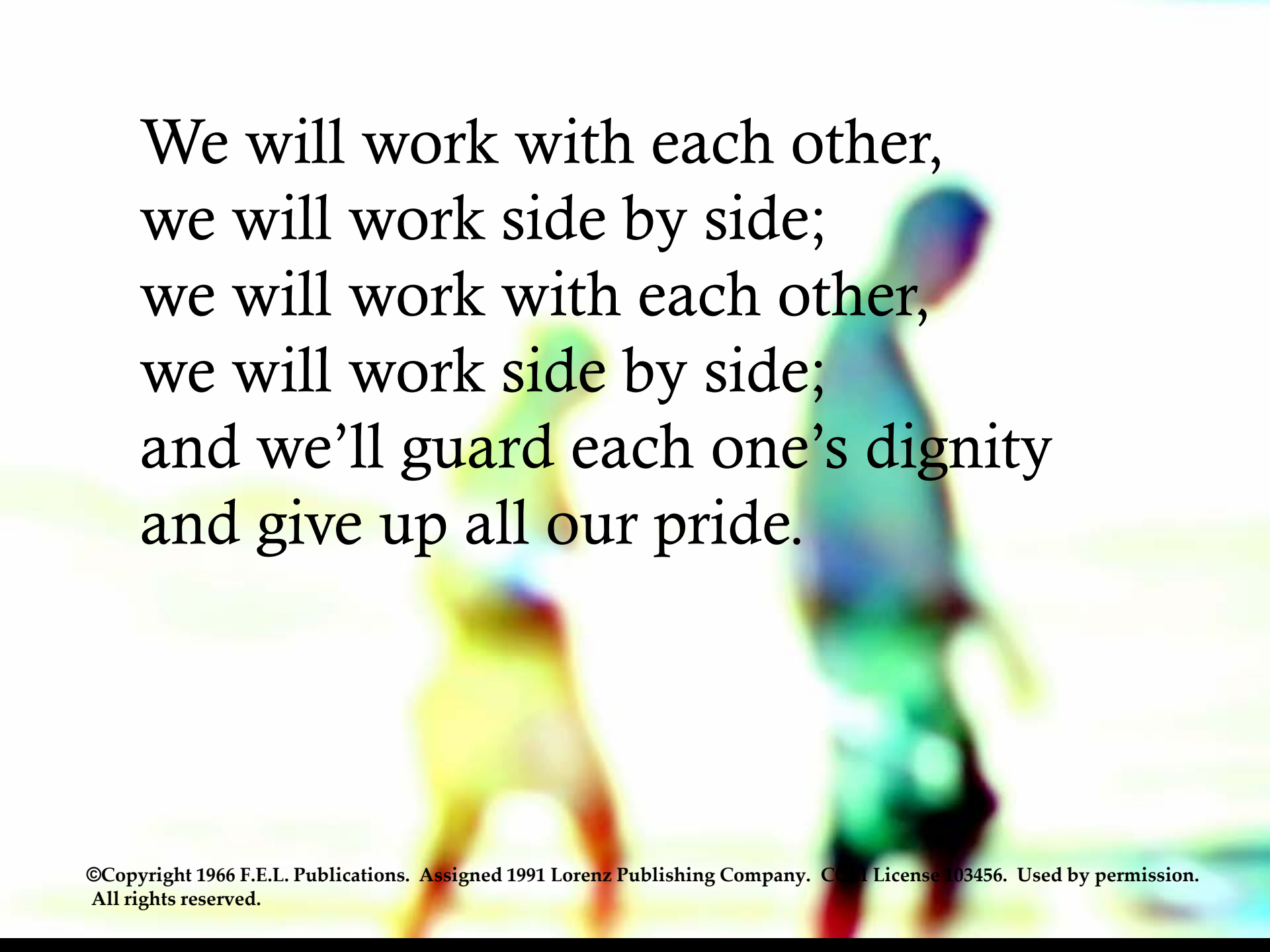
come and listen to me.



# They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit,  
we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit,  
we are one in the Lord;  
and we pray that all unity  
may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love.

A blurred background image showing two people walking. The person on the left is wearing a yellow shirt and dark shorts, and the person on the right is wearing a blue shirt and dark shorts. They are walking towards the right side of the frame.

We will work with each other,  
we will work side by side;  
we will work with each other,  
we will work side by side;  
and we'll guard each one's dignity  
and give up all our pride.

And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love.

# Spiritual Formation on campus

- “...College Ministries promotes the Christian spiritual formation model to the college community which enhances its effectiveness among students. The model enables administration, faculty and staff as well as students, to find language and a way of talking about spiritual formation that integrates it into the life of the campus.”
- D’Esta Love, Pepperdine University



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