



# SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 6:19 – 34

**PHILIPPIANS:**



**CONTENDING**

# Spiritual Theology

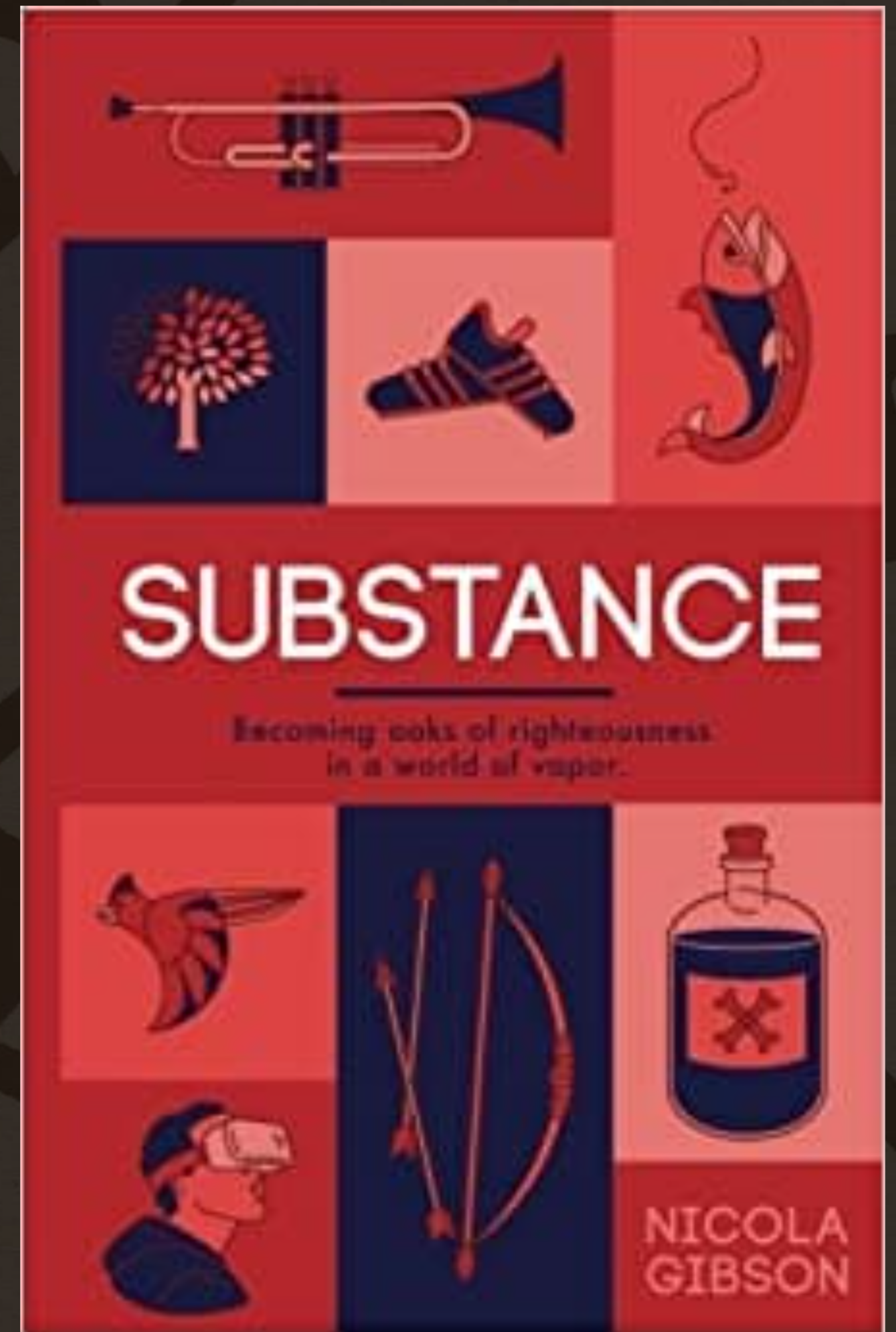
What am I doing with  
God's grace?

What am I saved FOR?

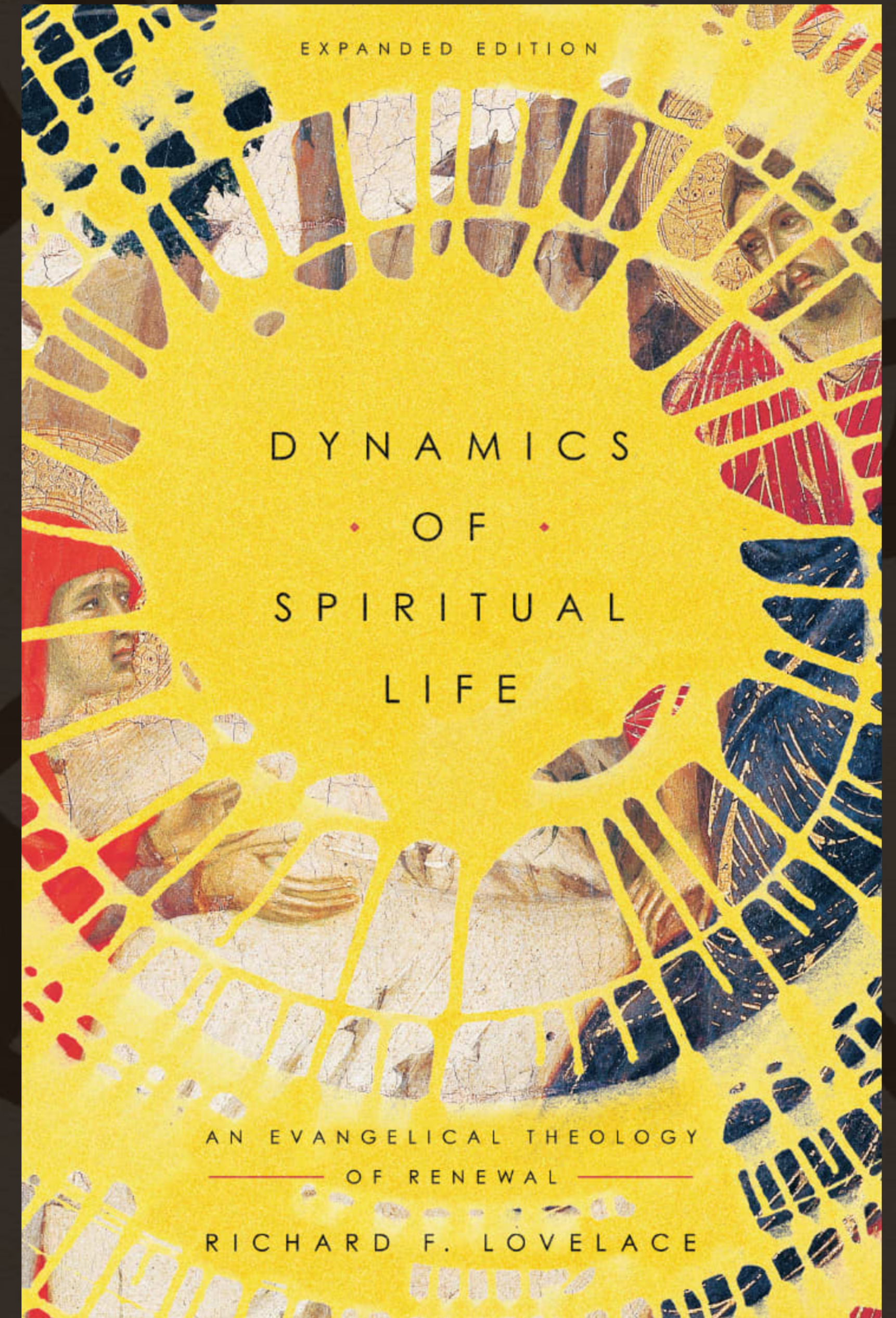
How do I "grow"?



# My shot at giving us a shared spiritual theology



My most  
reccomended  
second source:





1.

We live in a time of  
**anxious** striving

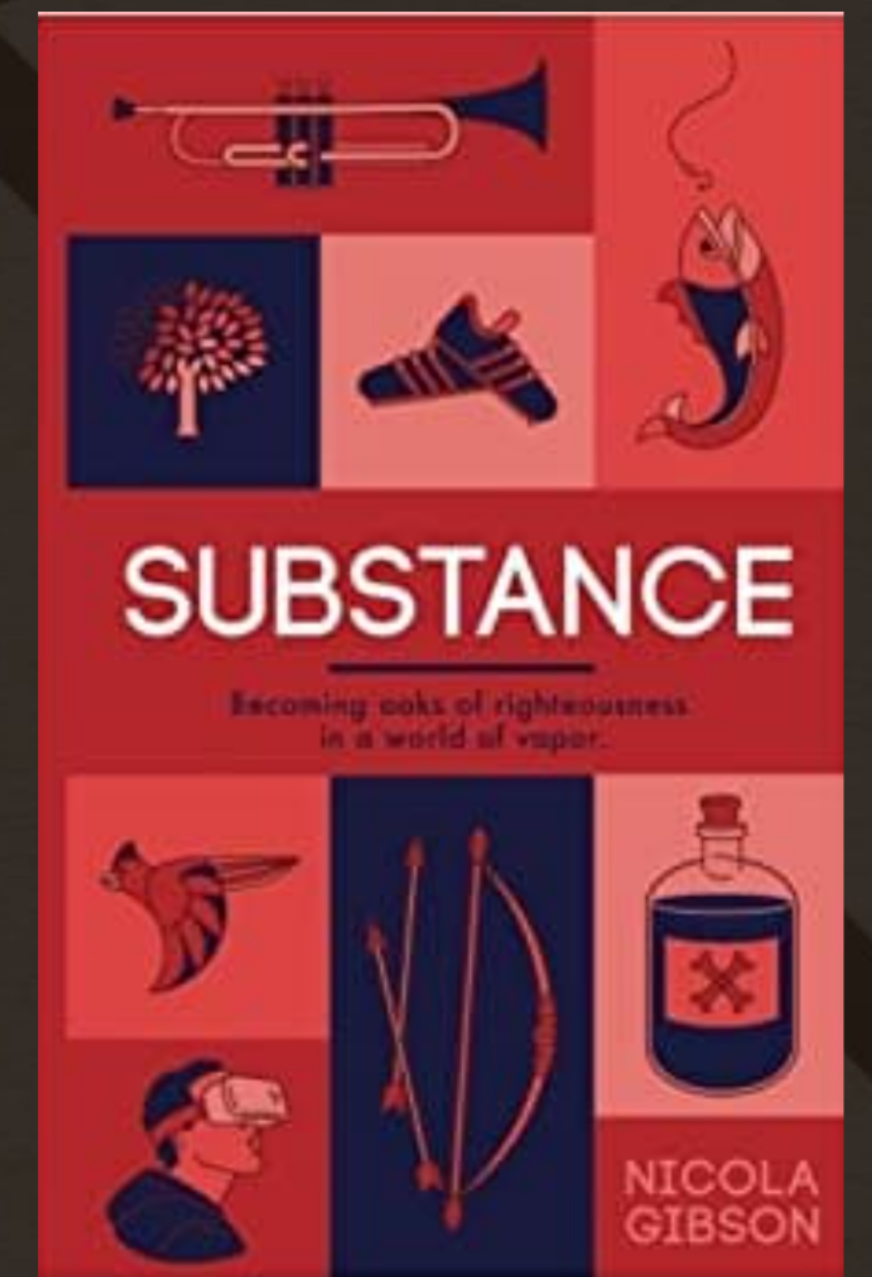
# Anxious Striving

"epidemic" anxiety and it's results

Church Criticism

Faith Deconstruction

I was seeing this by 2015 when  
I started writing Substance.



# The list...

1. Do you or your faith feel choked or smothered?
2. Are you fearful, anxious or worried?
3. Do you feel resentful toward God or Christian faith?
4. Feel worn out, fragile, ready to explode?
5. Crave novelty, delicacy, amusement, or the exotic in order to be engaged and happy?



# The list...

6. Feel a lack of fulfilment in regular tasks, responsibilities and roles?
7. You feel constantly distracted like your attention is fractured?
8. Sense that you've become burrowed into your preferences?
9. Feel like your friendships are shallow, and few people really know you?



What is going on?



Can I fix this?

AHHH, this is crazy!!!





2.

**Jesus told us about  
this problem**

## Mark 4:18 – 19

Still others, like seed **sown among thorns**, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and **choke** the word, making it unfruitful.

## Mark 4:18 – 19

Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the **worries of this life**, the **deceitfulness of wealth** and the **desires for other things** come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

## Matthew 11:28 – 30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

"**No one** can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot** serve both God and Mammon."

– Jesus

(Matthew 6:24)



**They don't just hound us alone:**  
They feed off of each other to ***weaken*** us

(like virtues support each other and ***strengthen*** us)

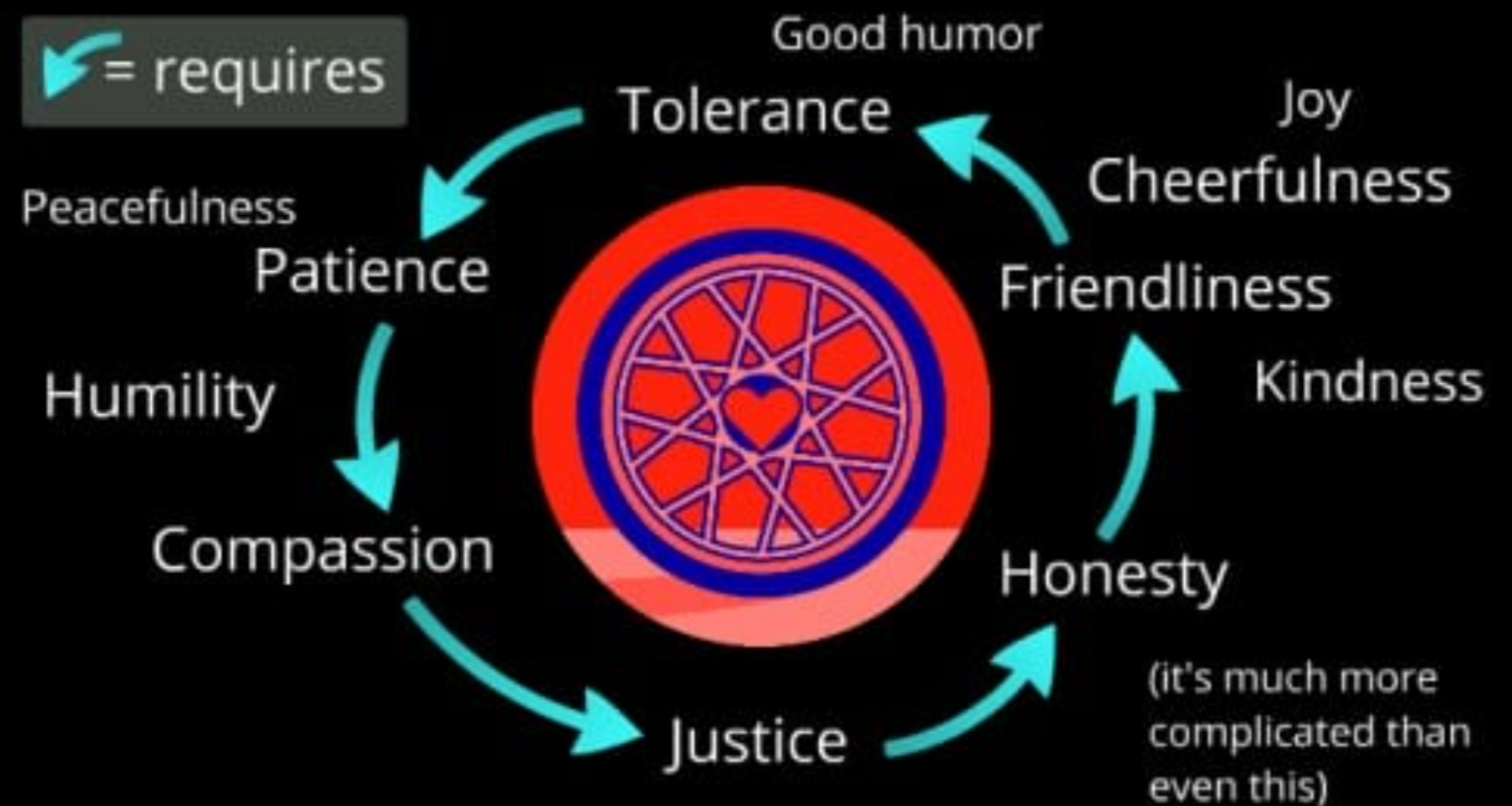


# Pattern of worldliness



**The Old Self**

# Pattern of Christ



**The New Self**



**3.**

**You have to see it  
and leave it**

# Discernment

**Matthew 6:22 – 23**

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

**4.**

**Faith: Love God by  
seeking his kingdom  
and his righteousness**

## **Matthew 6:32 – 33**

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**5.**

**Pursue Spiritual  
Substance**

**With a Christian Spiritual Theology**

# 4 Pursuits:

1. Sacrificial Love: John 13:34 – 35
2. The Mind of Christ: Romans 12:1 – 2
3. Virtuous Freedom: Galatians 5:1
4. Keeping in Step with the Spirit:  
Galatians 5:24 – 26, Romans 8:1 – 4

**6.**

**Strategic attacks on  
worldliness**



1. Embrace the Ordinary
2. Escape Diversion
3. Embrace Discipline
4. Formational Community

# At HPC:

1. We're not afraid to diagnose worldliness
2. We want strong Spiritual Theology
3. We need to contextualize
4. We care whether our spirituality delivers on God's promises
5. We're a community of gracious striving

**PHILIPPIANS:**



**CONTENDING**

“The concrete local church...is the place where the Gospel can not only be heard, but also **seen**, **experienced**, and **absorbed** *in a comprehensive community in which Christ is Lord*. Nothing else in Christian faith or experience can do this.”

– Substance, pg 249.

# Virtue

Is fundamental to having *freedom* & the only stable basis for it.

But we don't know *what it is* or *how to get it*.

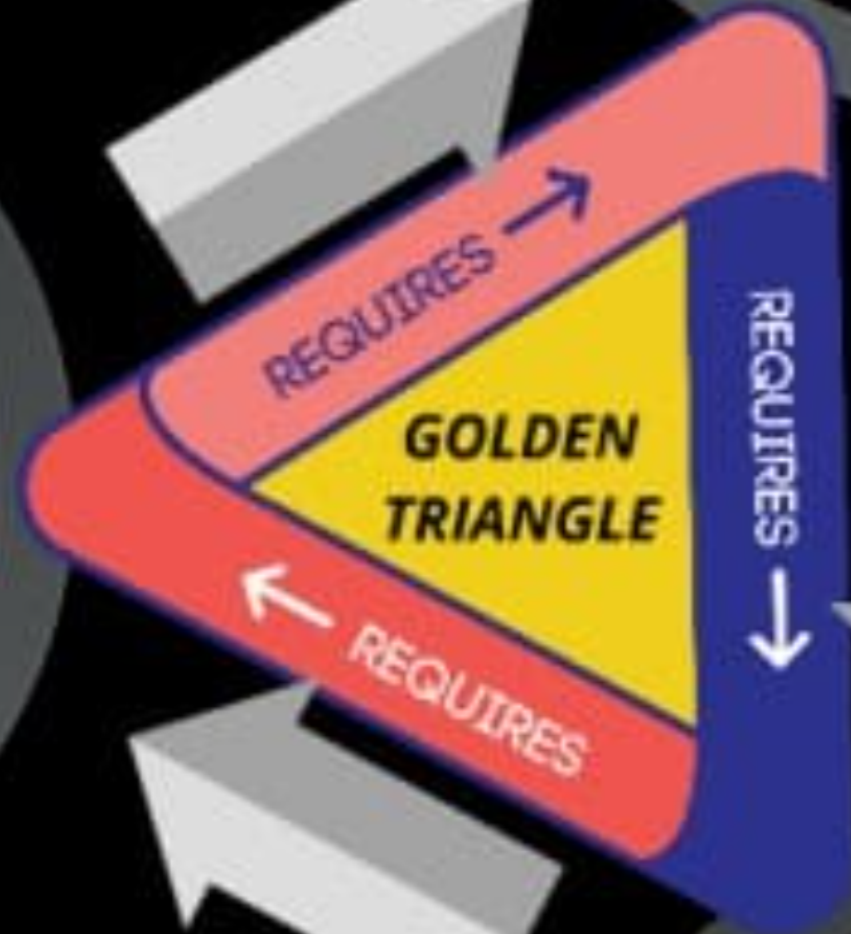
# Freedom

We all love it.  
We all want it.

But we don't know *what it is* or *how to get it*.

# Faith

Belief in something that forges character in a love of the true, right, good, & beautiful.



# *Cycle of slavery:*

Protection, security  
Strength in conflict  
Fertility  
Prosperity  
Good fortune  
Removal of obstacles  
Romance, sex  
Companionship  
Sense of origin  
Sense of Destiny  
Purpose/Significance  
Making sense of death  
Handling guilt and shame  
Etc.

**Idols**



**Flesh**

Cravings  
Appetites  
Imaginations  
Desires  
Insecurities

Coercion



Compulsion

## ***Tested:***

1. Wisdom
2. Pleasure
3. Achievement
4. Originality
5. Wealth
6. Experience
7. Renown/Reputation

## ***Resulting Feelings:***

1. Weariness
2. Crushed
3. Futility (chasing wind)
4. Gloom (needing wine)
5. Dissatisfaction
6. Anxious striving
7. Depression
8. Hatred

# Telling the difference:

**Leisure** – that which you have licensed to do; some thing that is free and available, for which you have time that is free and available

**Diversion** – pursuit diverting you from some duty or state (roles, responsibilities, repetitions).

***"I want \_\_\_\_\_, because I don't want (to) \_\_\_\_\_."***  
(usually we are escaping boredom, anxiety or responsibility)



# Gracious striving



Battling diversion *IS* battling the Flesh, World, and Hell

Jesus already perfectly defeated diversion on your behalf

*IT* is an awkward, flopping, slippery, bloody, limp-creating, concussion inducing, struggle of constant failure—***in the right direction***

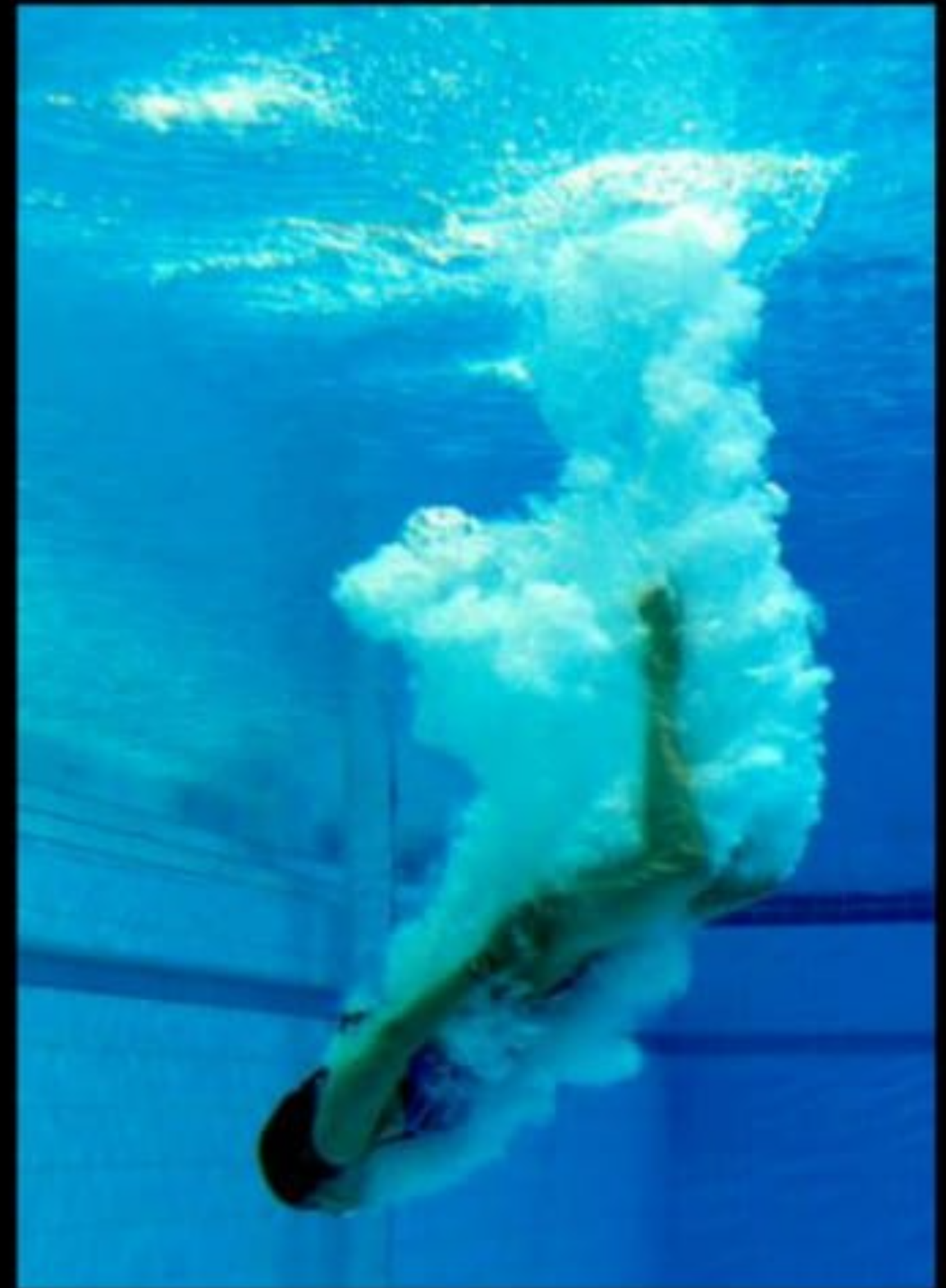
God has *empowered us*  
to *forge ourselves*  
into people of substance

God forges substance  
through an environment of

immersion,  
absorption,  
imitation and  
experience



called the local church.



(or: 'We absorb substance through the church.'

**PHILIPPIANS:**



**CONTENDING**