

# Ancient-Future Faith and the Spiritual Formation Movement

Bruce Baker, Pastor  
Washington County Bible Church





Why Talk About This?

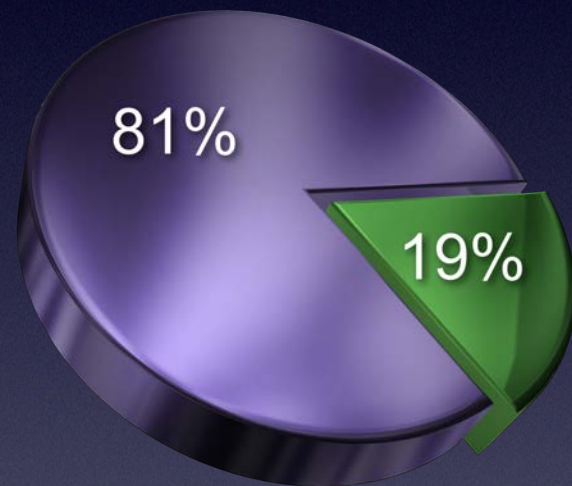


Spiritual Maturity is  
Following the Rules



# Spiritual Maturity is Following the Rules

Self-Identified Christians

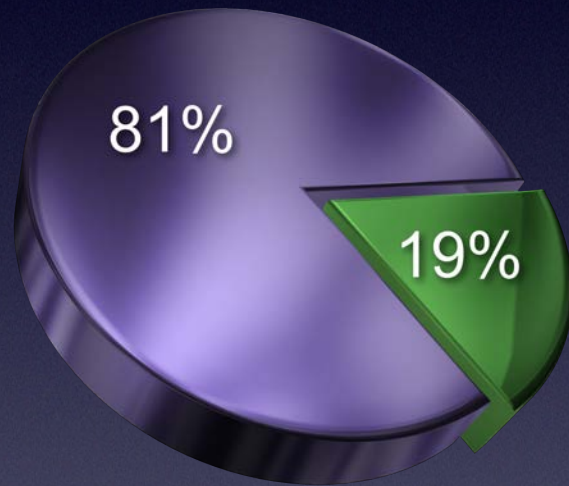


● Endorsed



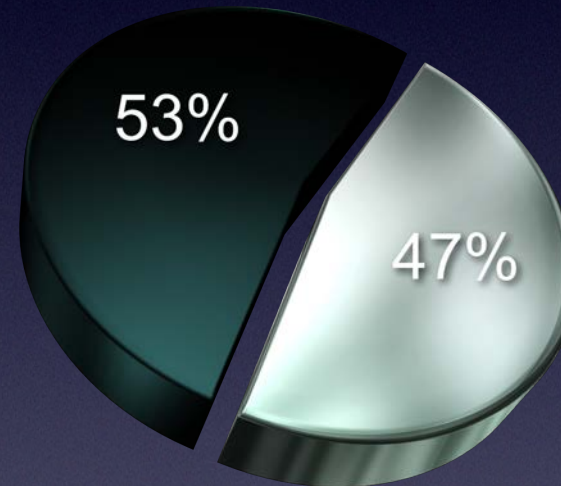
# Spiritual Maturity is Following the Rules

Self-Identified Christians



● Endorsed

Born-Again Believers

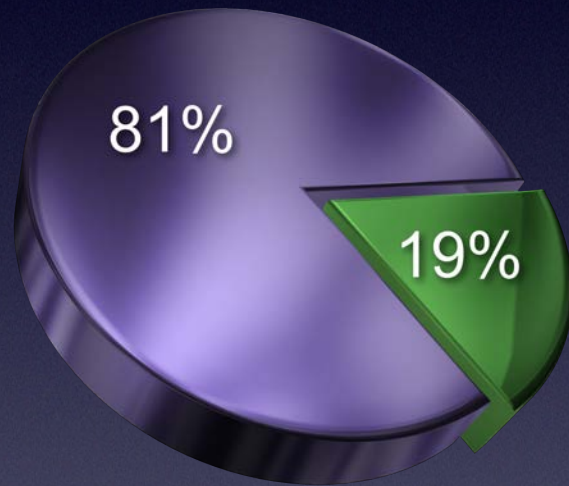


● Strongly Agreed



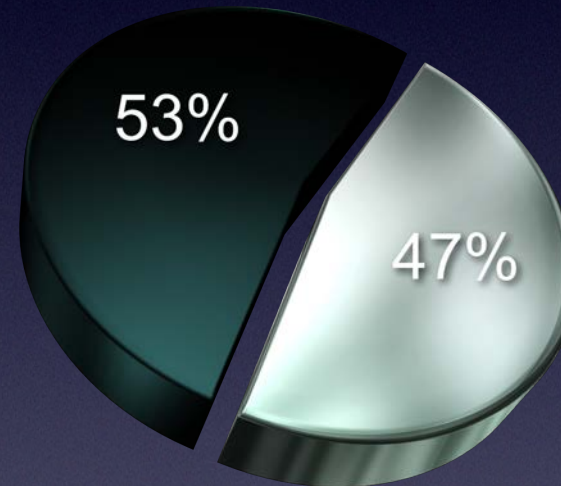
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Self-Identified Christians



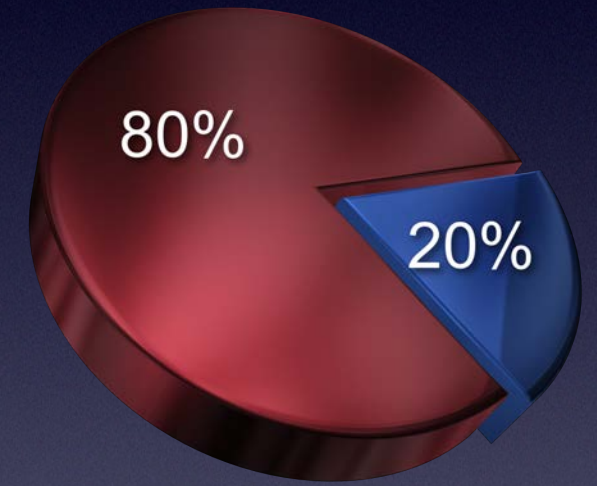
● Endorsed

Born-Again Believers



● Strongly Agreed

“Salvation Not by Works”



● Concurred

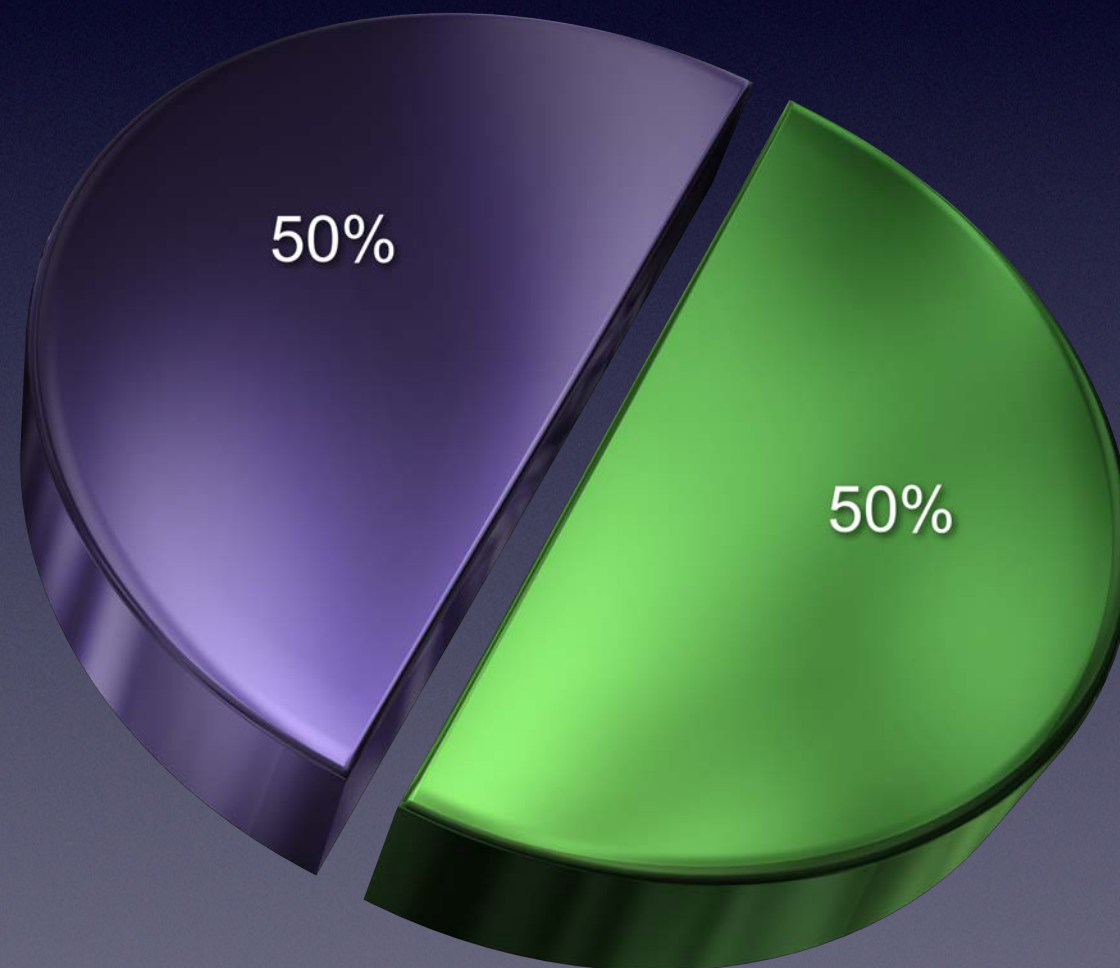


How Does Your Church  
Define Spiritual Maturity?



# How Does Your Church Define Spiritual Maturity?

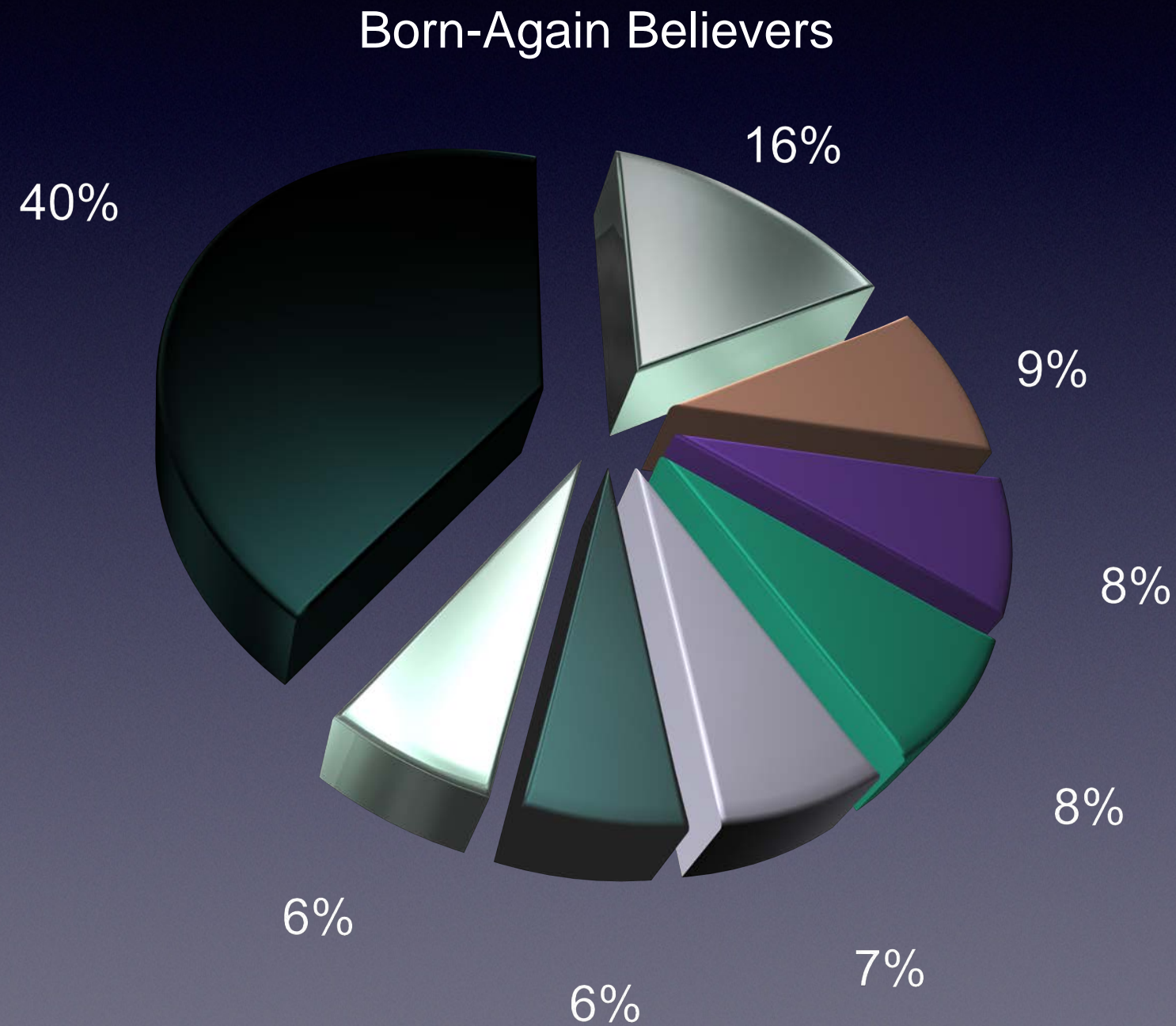
Churchgoers



● Not Sure



# How Does Your Church Define Spiritual Maturity?





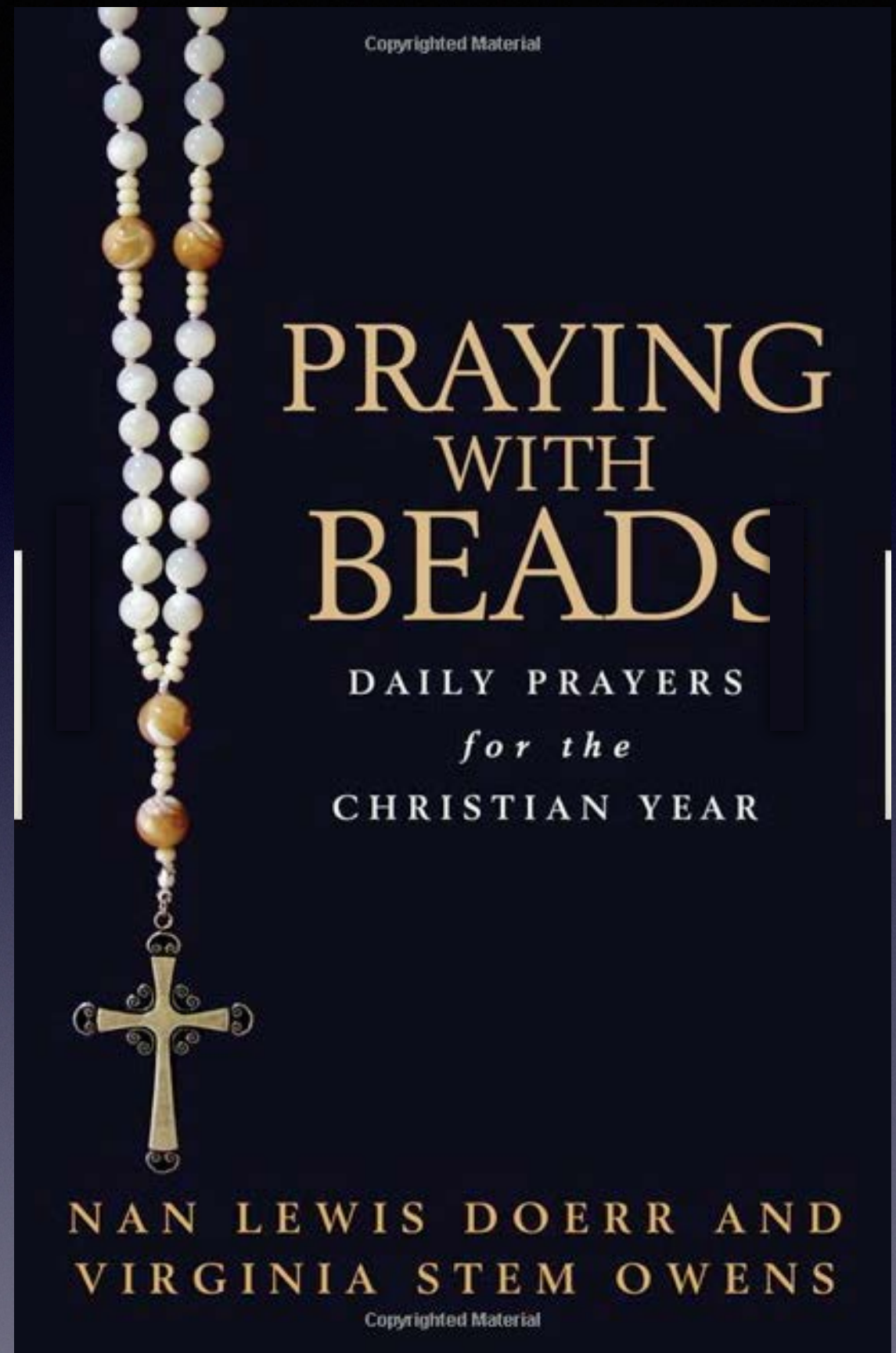
# Alice in the Sheep's Shop

“...whenever she looked hard at any shelf, to make out exactly what it had on it, that particular shelf was always quite empty: though the others round it were crowded as full as they could hold.”



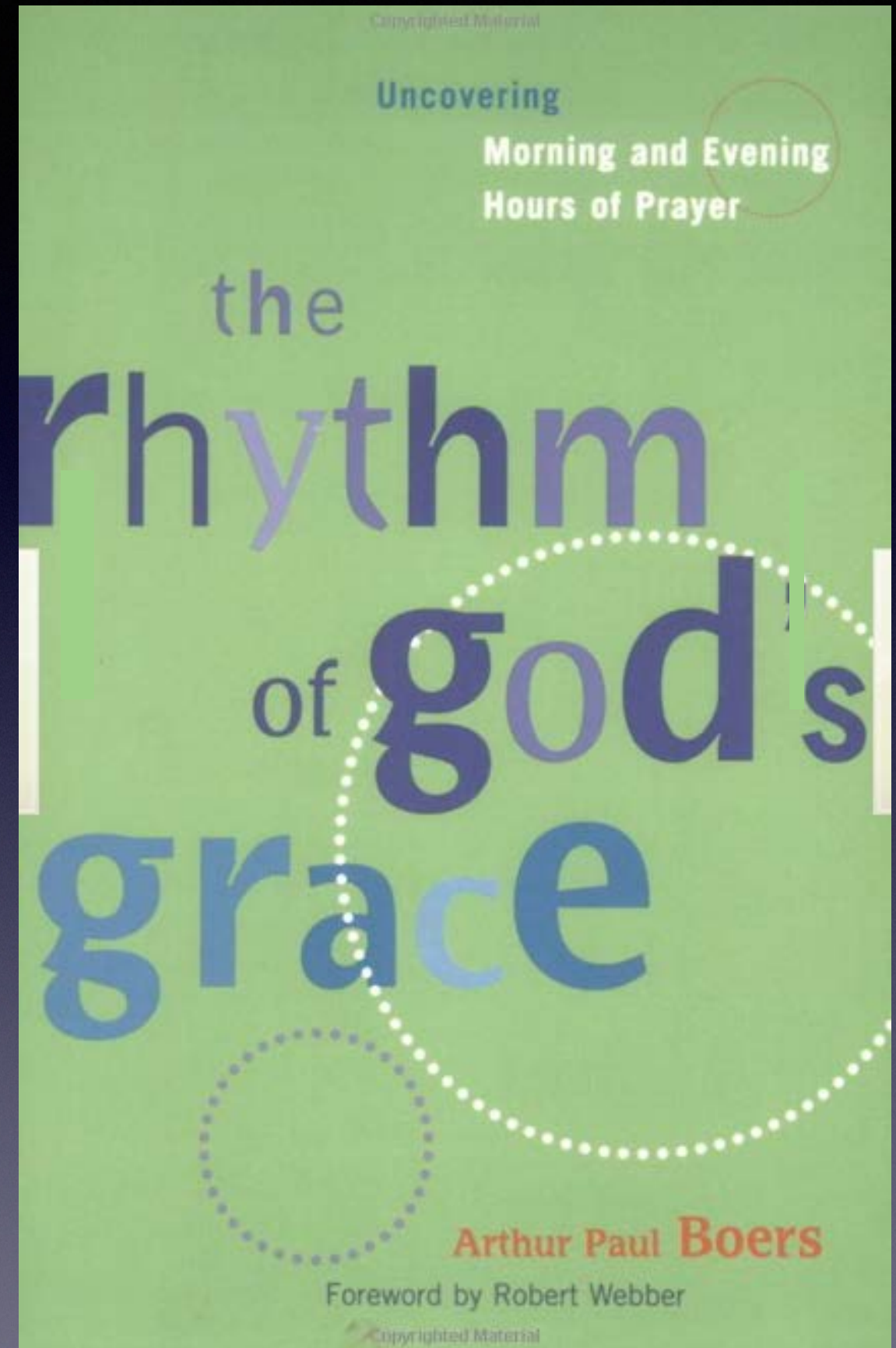


# Spiritual Formation





# Spiritual Formation





# Spiritual Formation

Copyrighted Material

# Foundations of Spiritual Formation

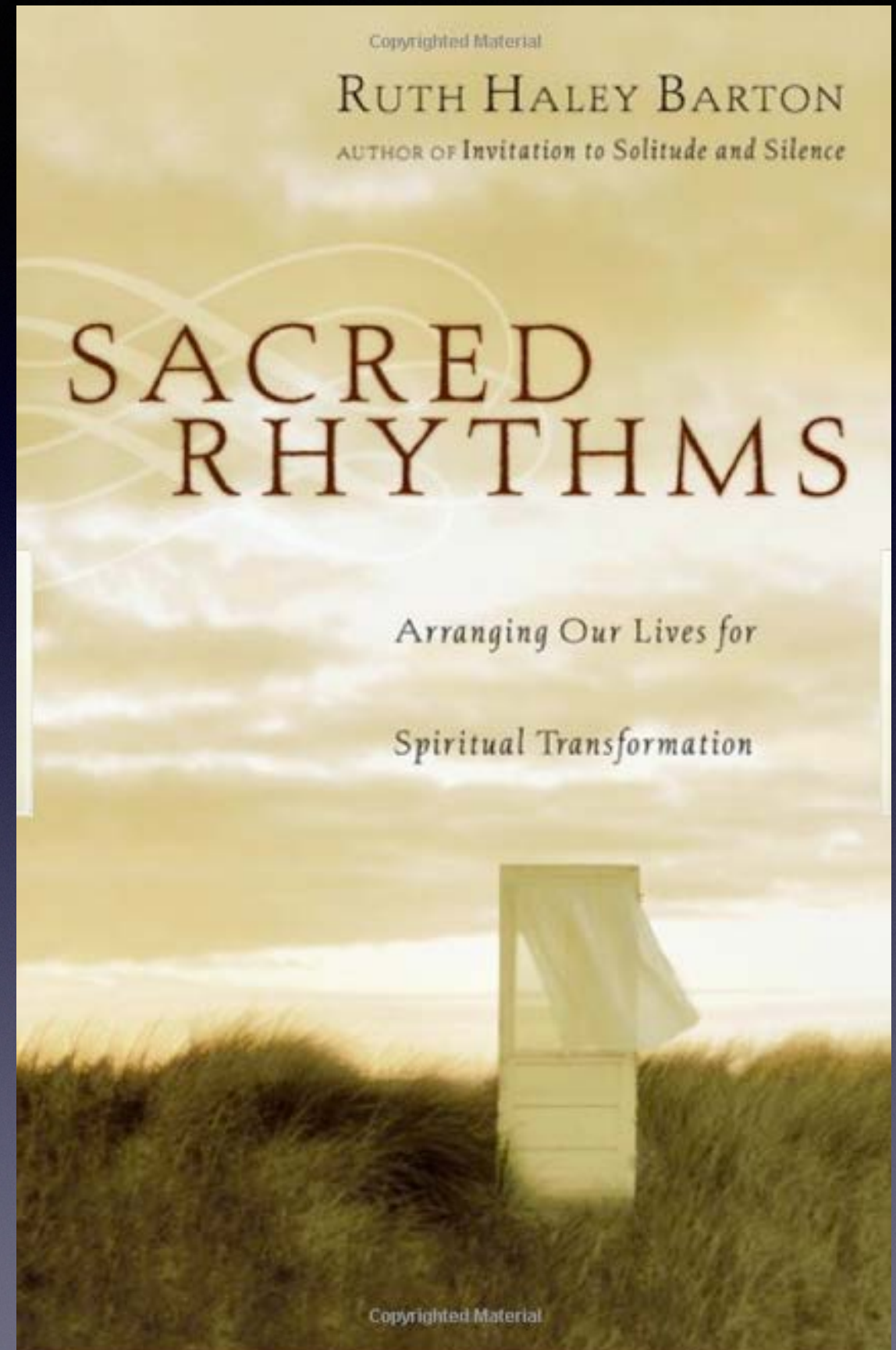
A Community Approach to  
Becoming Like Christ

Paul Pettit  
E D I T O R

Copyrighted Material



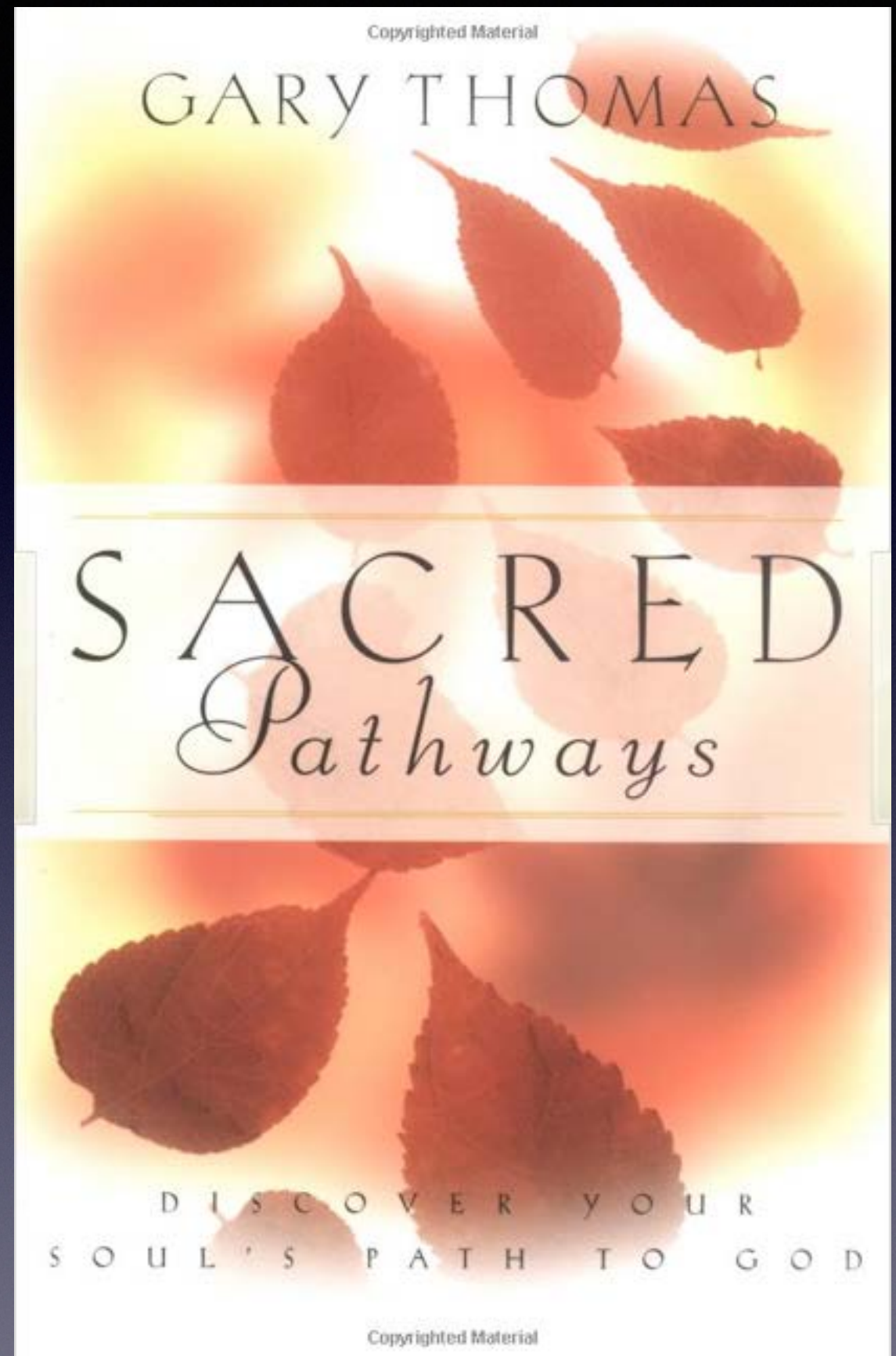
# Spiritual Formation





# Spiritual Formation

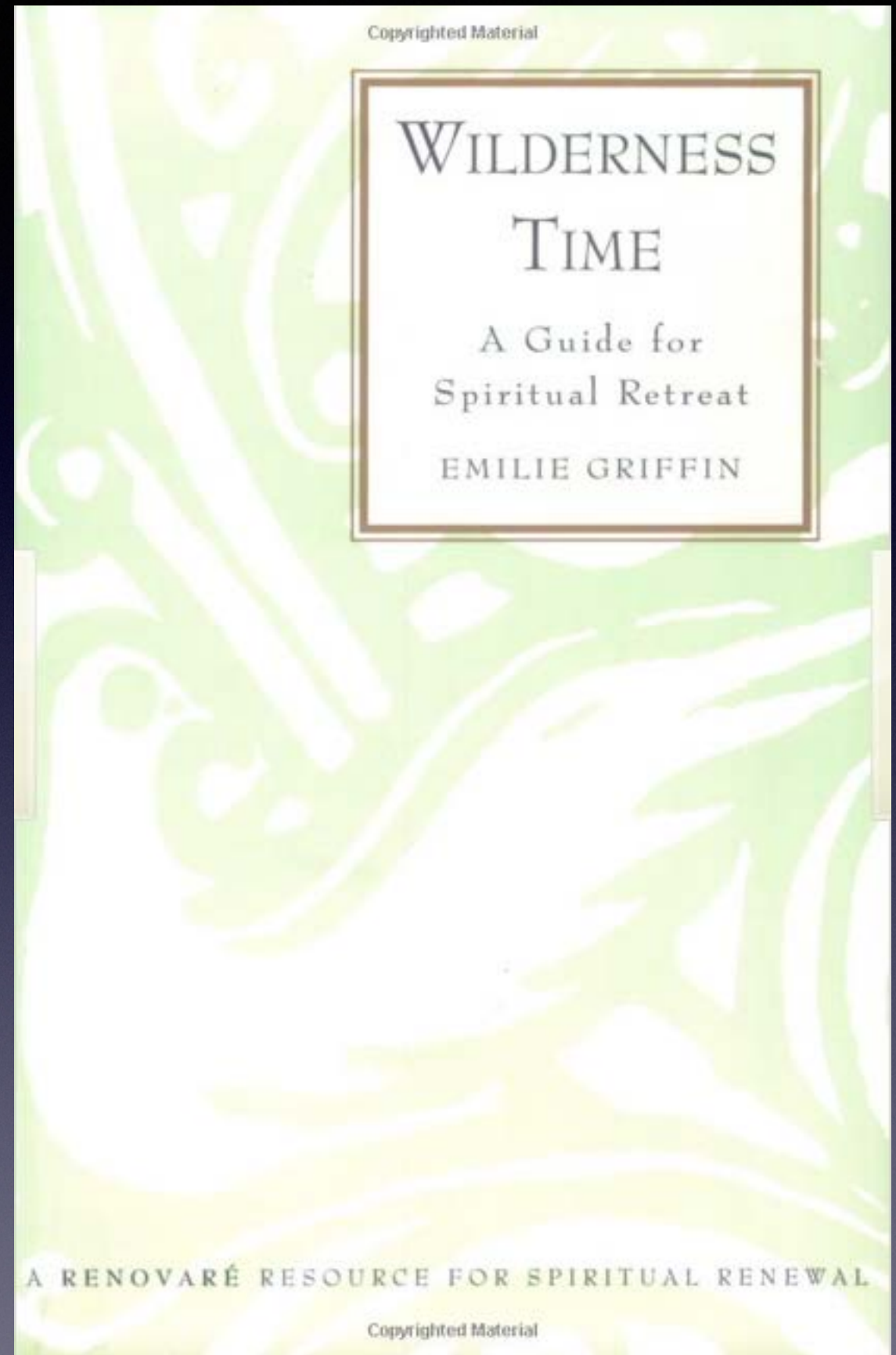
The Nine Sacred Pathways





# Spiritual Formation

The Disciplined Retreat





# Spiritual Formation

THE *Renouaré*  
SPIRITUAL  
FORMATION  
BIBLE



NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

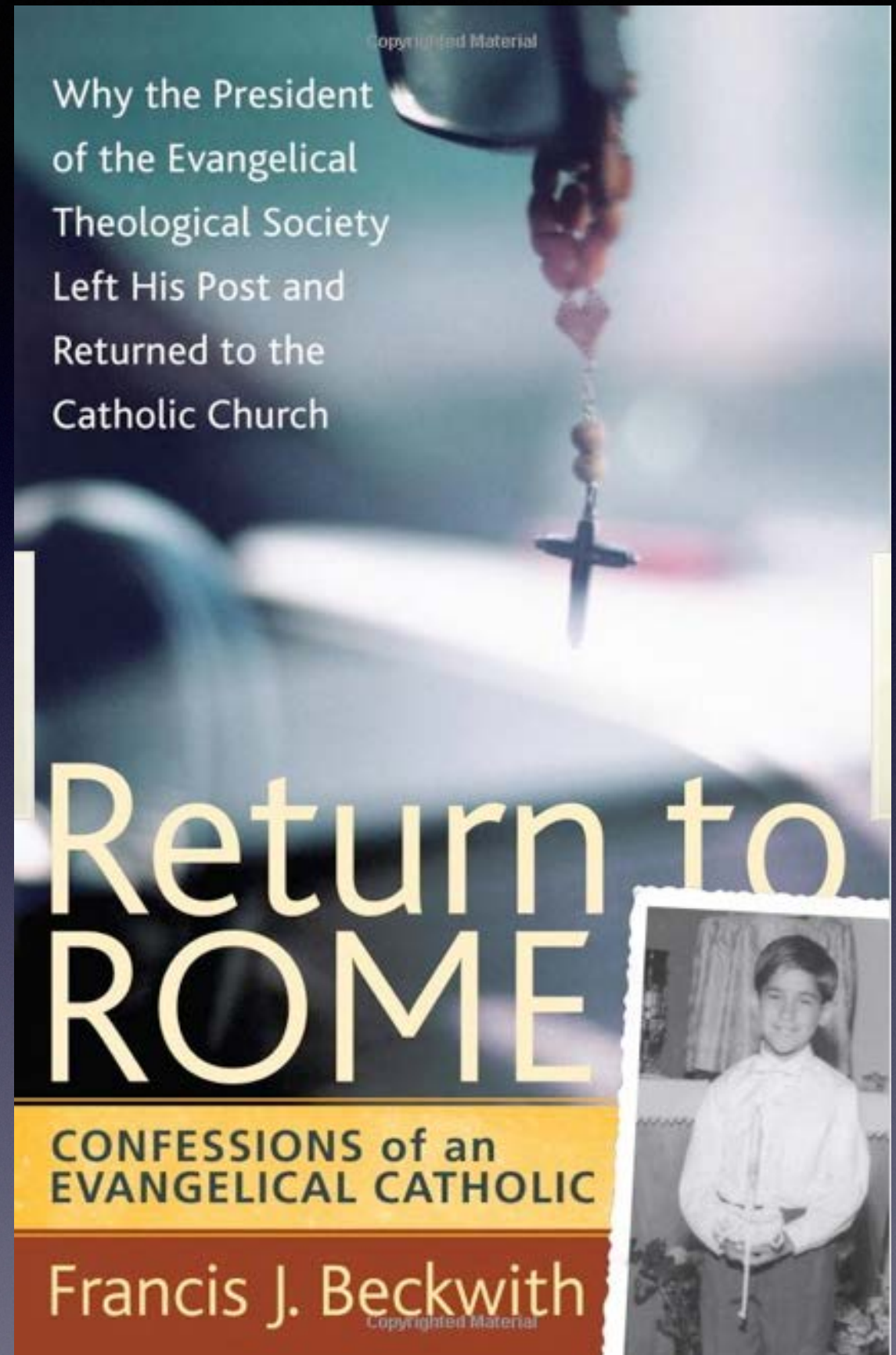


RICHARD J. FOSTER, DALLAS WILLARD,  
WALTER BRUEGGEMANN, EUGENE H. PETERSON



# Evangelical Catholic

Return





# Dr. Francis Beckwith





Robert Webber

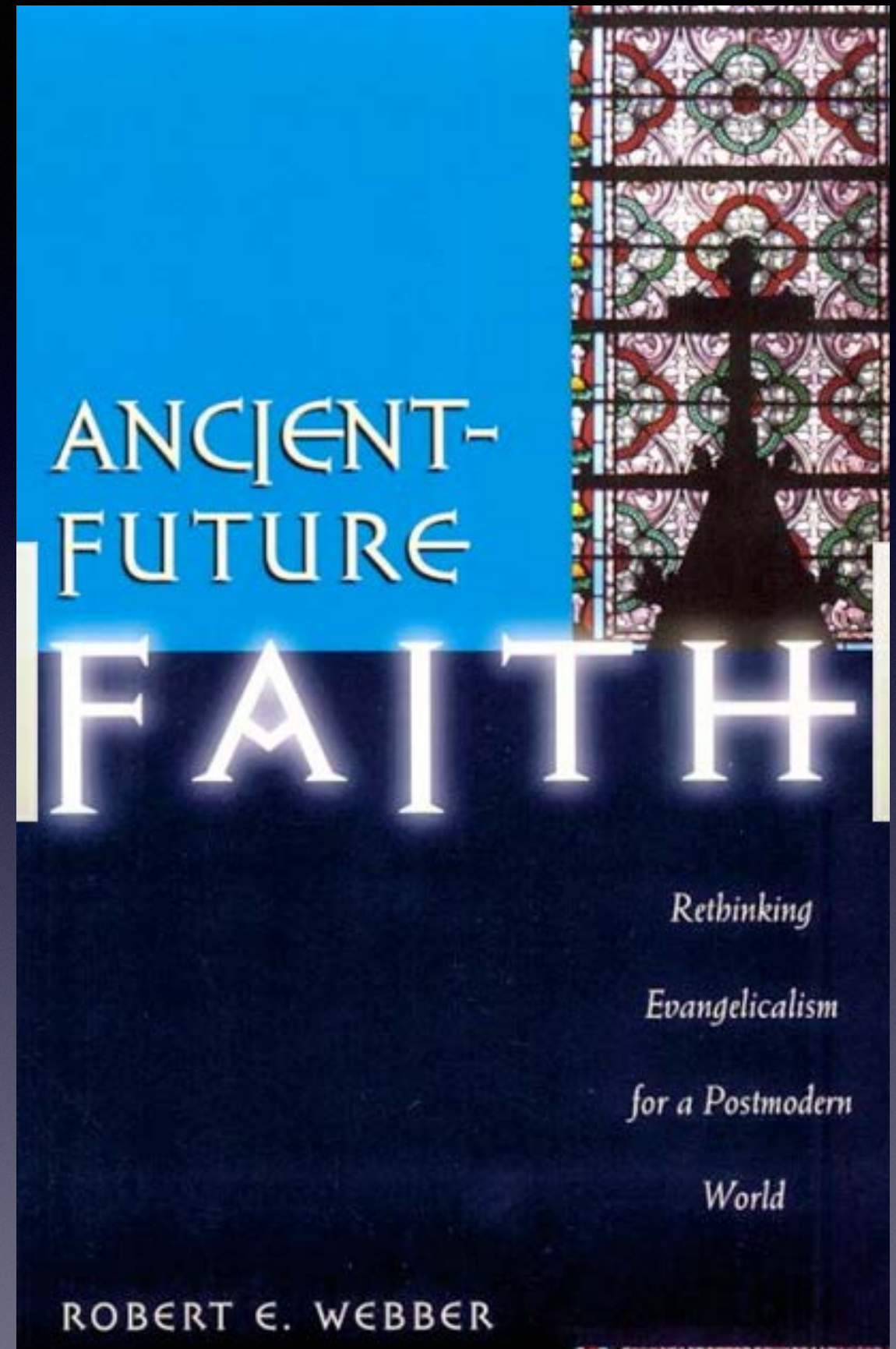




# Ancient Future Faith

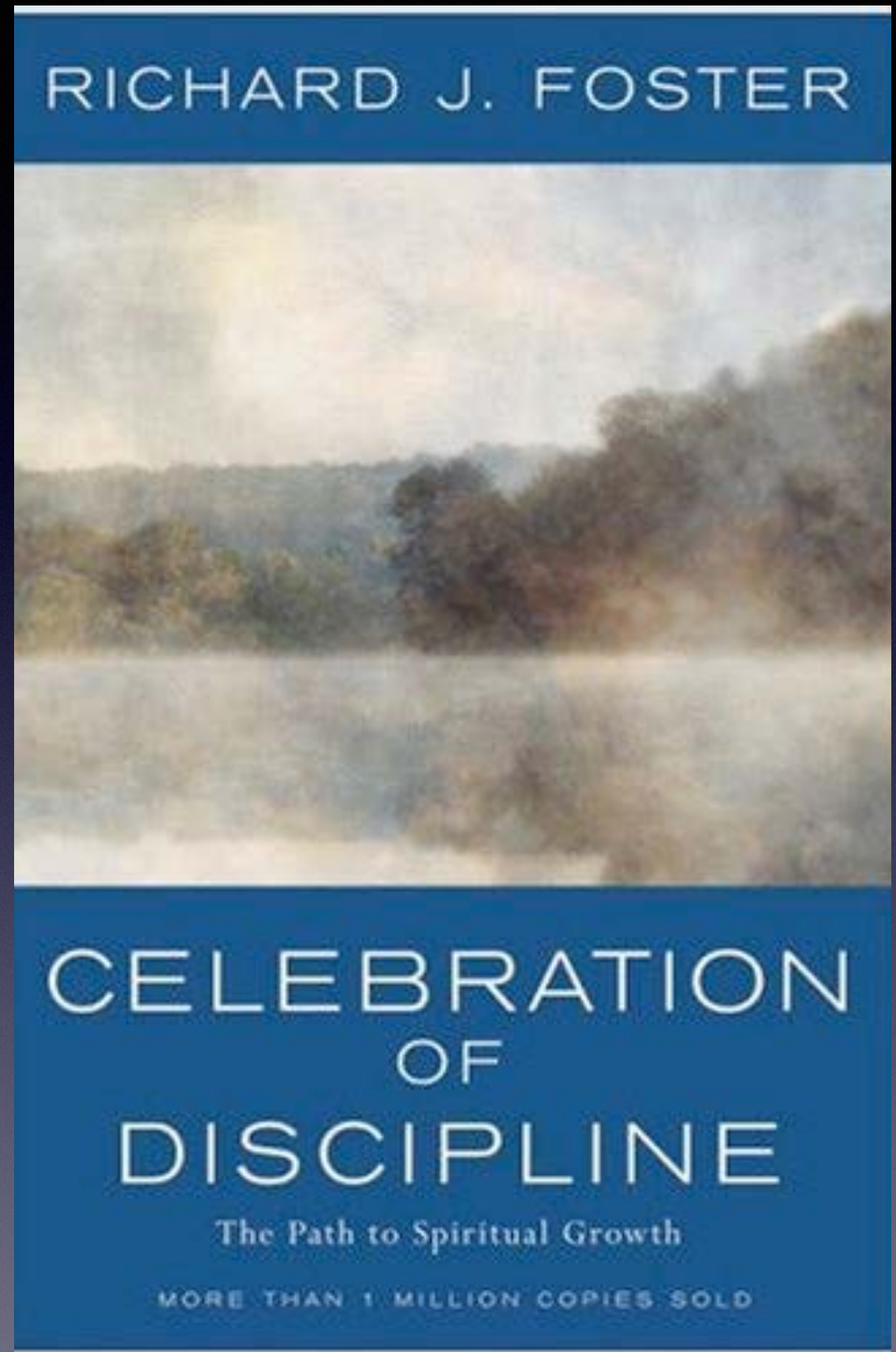
*Quod ubique, quod semper,  
quod ab omnibus*

“What (was believed)  
everywhere, always and by  
everyone”



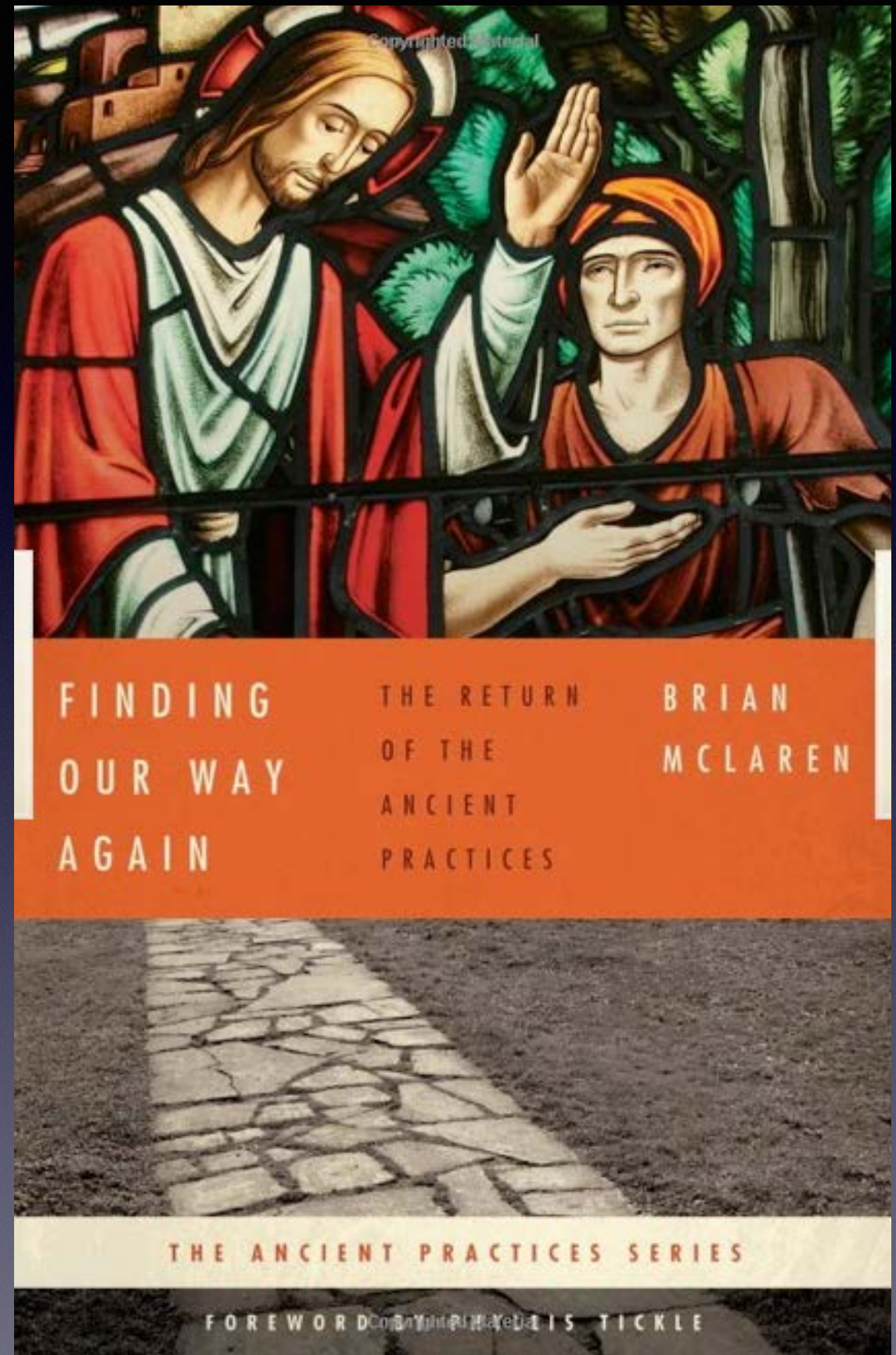


“One of the ten best  
books of the  
twentieth century.”  
Christianity Today





# Emergent Church





# Brian McLaren

...“seven ancient practices of fasting, pilgrimage, common daily prayers, a weekly day of rest, annual holy days and seasons, tithing and sacred meal, as they find fulfillment in the ‘threefold way’ of purgation, illumination and union with God.”





Primitive (1st century)

*Ancient (classical) 100–600*

Medieval 600–1500

Reformation 1500–1750

Modern 1750–1980

Postmodern 1980–present





# Ecumenical Creeds

Apostle's Creed (middle 2nd century)

Nicene Creed (325 AD)

Symbol of Chalcedon (451 AD)



# Brian McLaren

“I don’t think we’ve got the gospel right yet. What does it mean to be ‘saved’? None of us has arrived at orthodoxy.”





Union with  
God

Purgation

Illumination

Union





The Way to  
*Unio Mystica*



The Way to  
*Unio Mystica*

Lectio Divina



The Way to  
*Unio Mystica*

Lectio Divina

The Divine Office



The Way to  
*Unio Mystica*

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Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises



The Way to  
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Liturgical Practices



# Mark Yaconelli

Contemplative Youth  
Ministry

*Reading*  
*Meditation*  
*Prayer*  
*Contemplation*





# Mark Yaconelli

Take a word or phrase and “repeat it to yourself, allowing the rest of the text to fall away. As you prayerfully repeat it, different thoughts, feelings, and images may arise.... [This is the way we can] pray ourselves empty... [and] sink into God beneath all your thoughts and feelings.”





# Divine Office

Matins (during the night)

Lauds (Dawn)

Prime (First Hour — 6 AM)

Terce (Third Hour — 9 AM)

Sext (Sixth Hour — Noon)

None (Ninth Hour — 3 PM)

Vespers (lighting of the lamps)

Compline (before retiring)





# Spiritual Exercises

Prayer exercises

Thought experiments

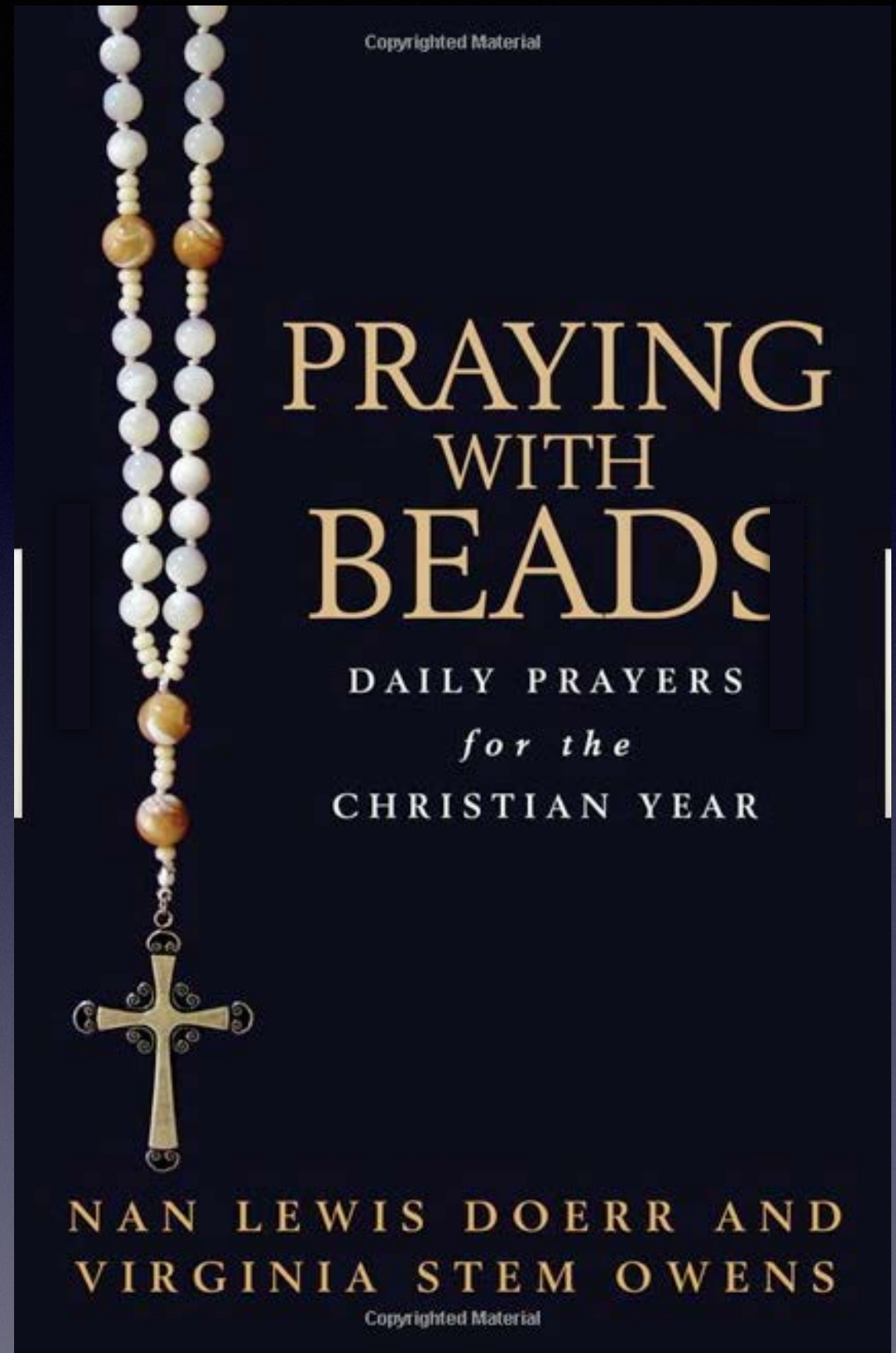
Examinations of  
consciousness

Use of a Spiritual Director





# Liturgical Practices





# Prayer Labyrinth





# Prayer Labyrinth





# Prayer Labyrinth

Matthews United Methodist  
Church, Greenville, SC.





# Prayer Labyrinth

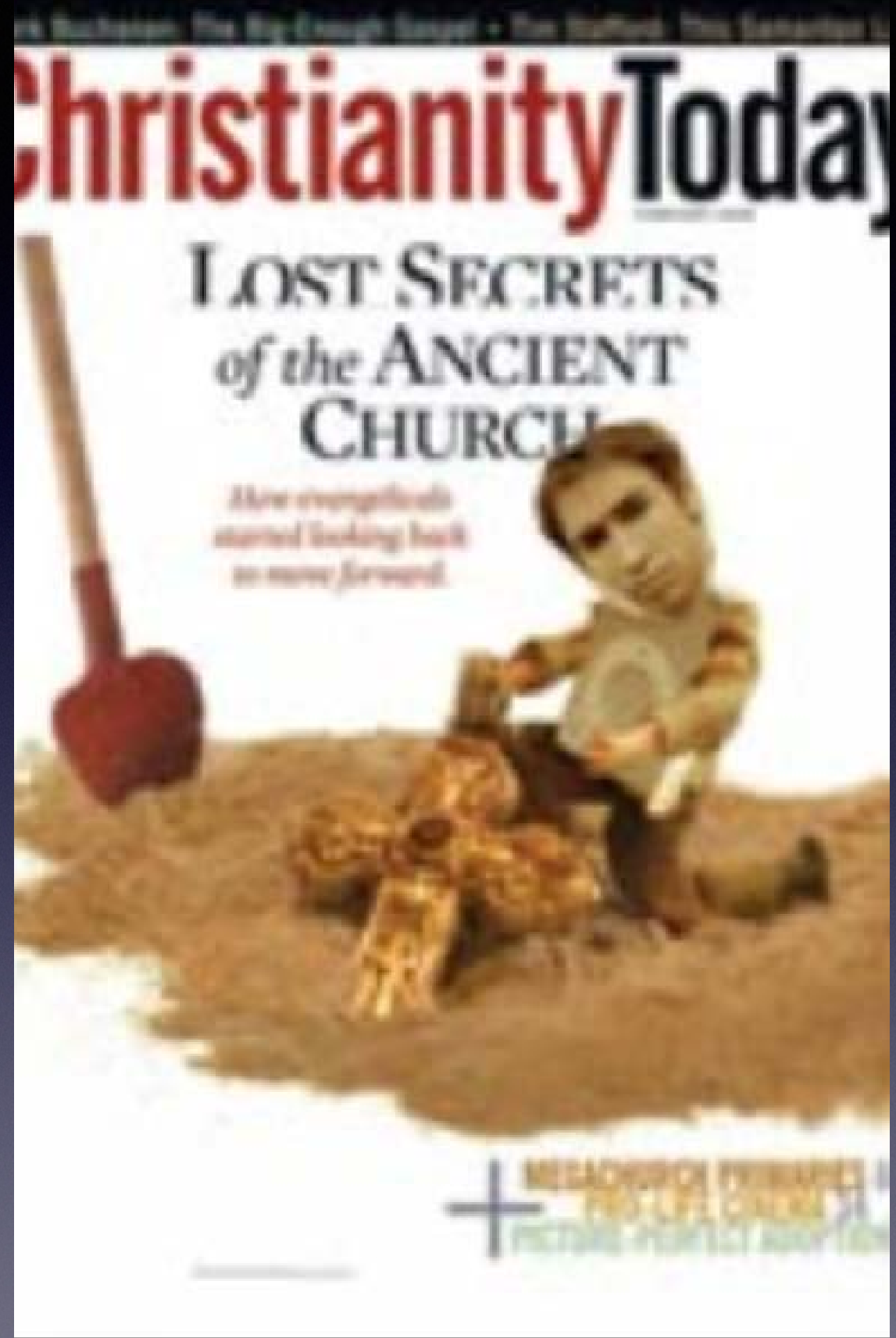
Westside Presbyterian  
Church, Ridgewood, NJ





# Chris Armstrong

“In short, the search for historic roots can and should lead not to conversion, but to a deepening ecumenical conversation and a recognition by evangelicals that the Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox are fellow Christians with much to teach us.”





If not  
Unio Mystica,  
then what?





Being a  
**Christian**

is being rightly related to Christ



Being a

**Spiritual**

is being rightly related to The Spirit





Questions?