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Built Up and Grown Up

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

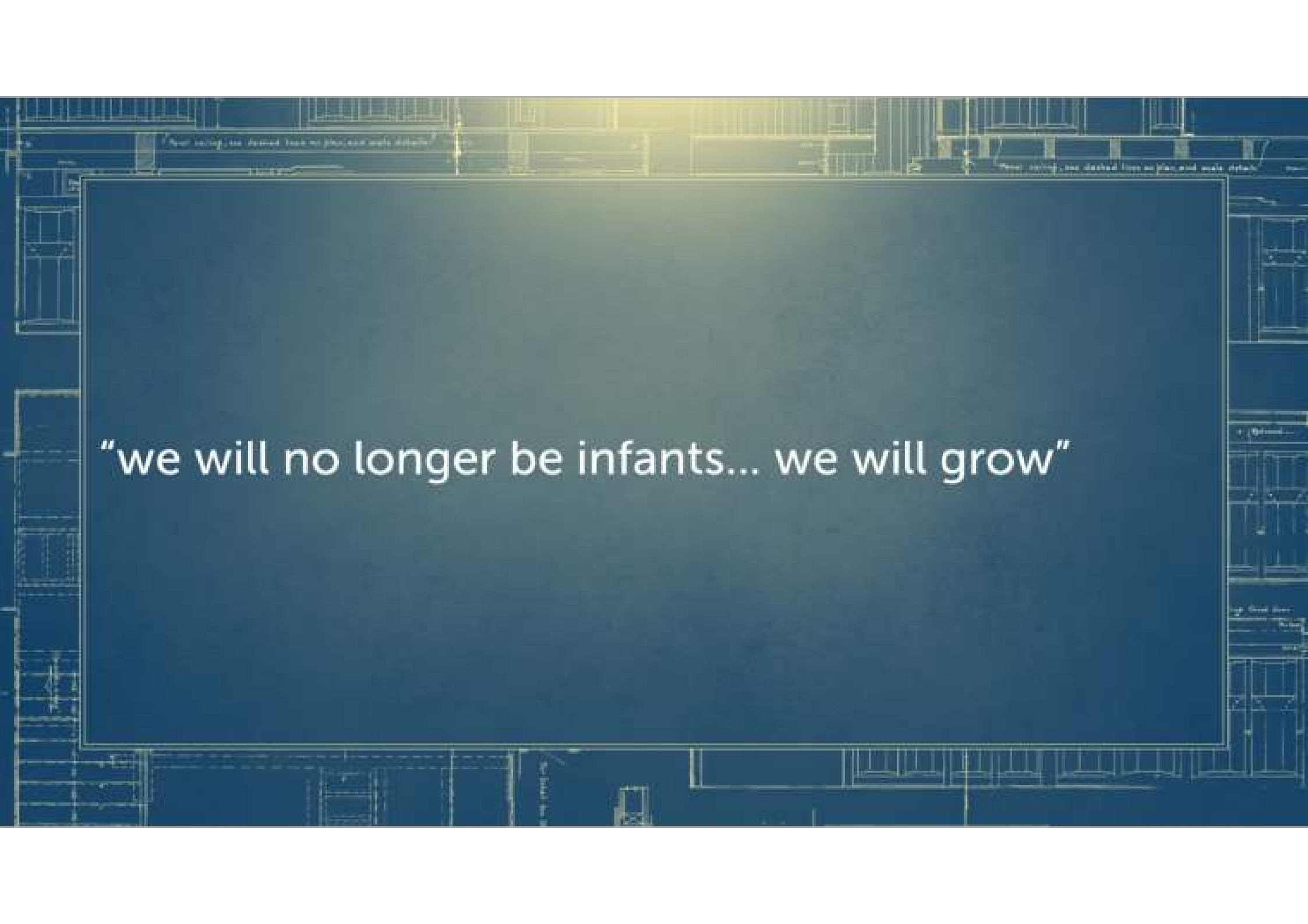
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“so that the body of Christ may be built up”

The background of the slide is a detailed architectural blueprint of a building, showing various rooms, corridors, and structural elements. The blueprint is rendered in a light blue color on a dark blue background. A large, semi-transparent dark blue rectangle is overlaid on the center of the slide, containing the text.

"so that the body of Christ may be built up"

It is God's desire that a church, made up of brothers and sisters in Christ, is not a random collection of building materials, but a functional, and welcoming, structure—a home.

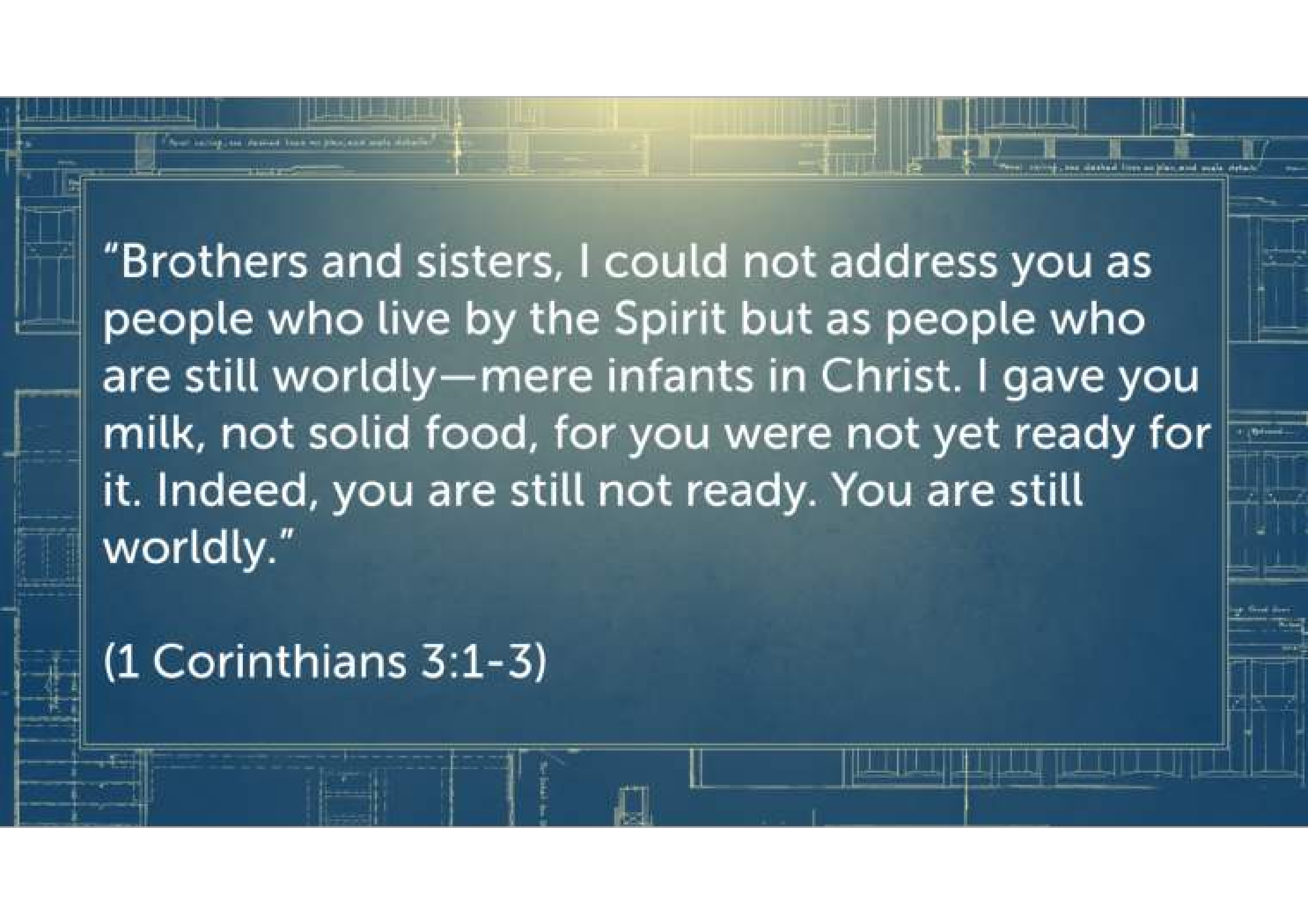
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“we will no longer be infants... we will grow”

The background of the slide is a detailed architectural blueprint. It features a grid of lines, various rectangular shapes representing rooms and corridors, and some faint text labels like "Room" and "Door". The blueprint is drawn in a light yellow or gold color on a dark blue background.

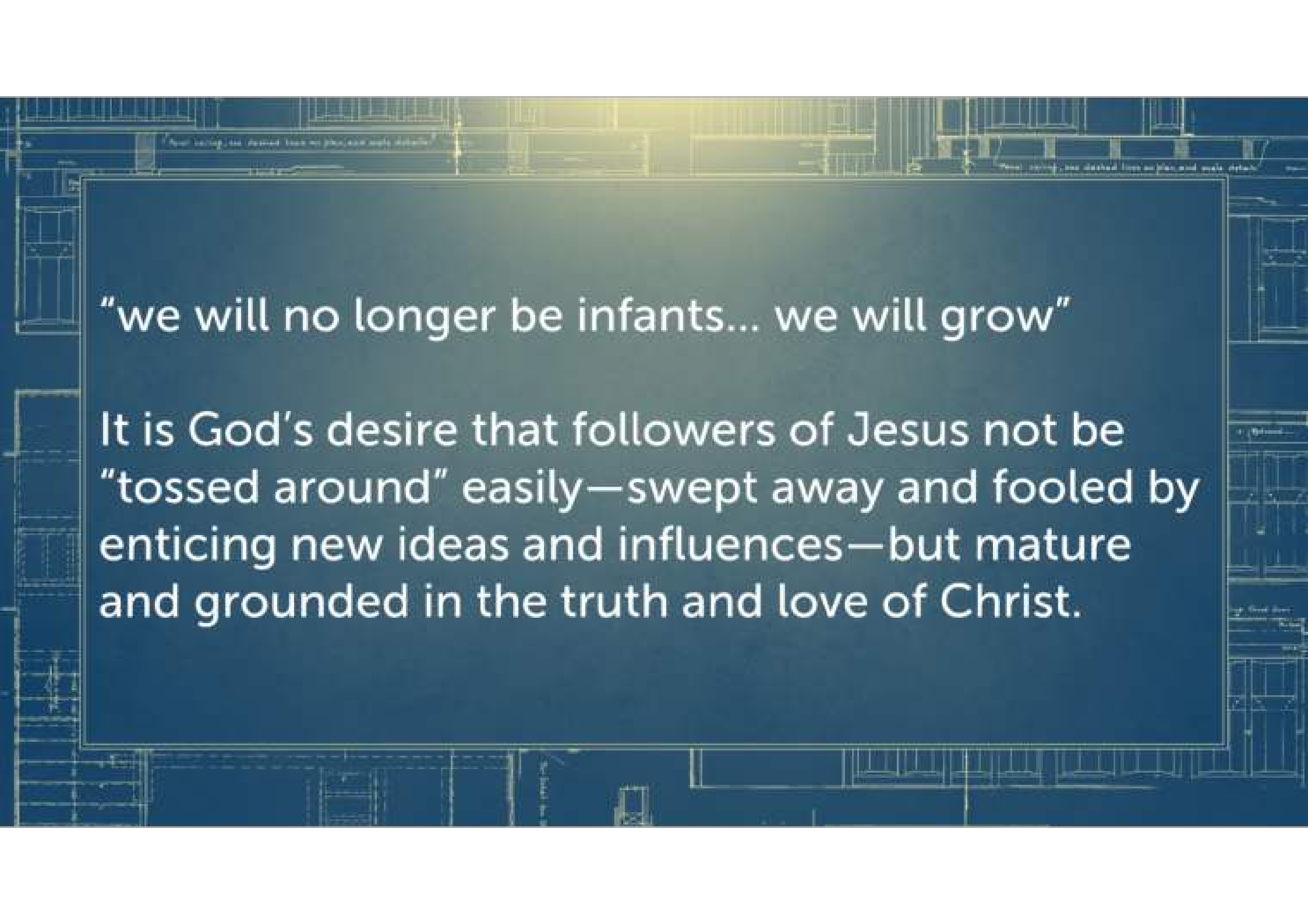
"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me."

(1 Corinthians 13:11)

The background of the slide is a dark blue architectural blueprint. It features various technical drawings, including floor plans, elevations, and sections of a building. Faint white lines and text from the blueprint are visible throughout the background. A semi-transparent dark blue rectangle is centered on the slide, containing the main text.

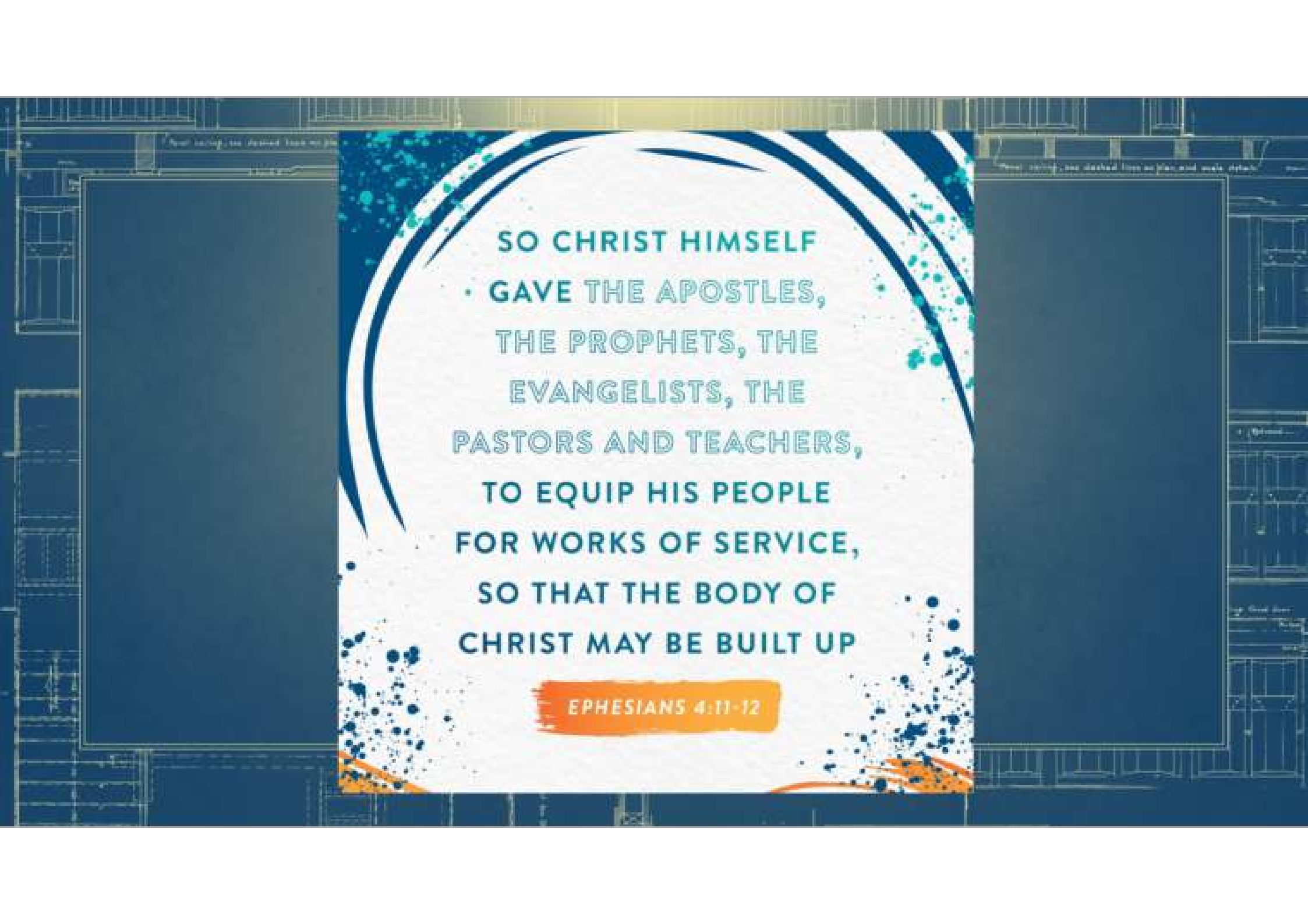
“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly.”

(1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

The background of the slide is a detailed architectural blueprint, likely of a classical building, showing various rooms, columns, and structural elements. The blueprint is rendered in a light blue color on a darker blue background. A semi-transparent dark blue rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

"we will no longer be infants... we will grow"

It is God's desire that followers of Jesus not be "tossed around" easily—swept away and fooled by enticing new ideas and influences—but mature and grounded in the truth and love of Christ.



SO CHRIST HIMSELF
GAVE THE APOSTLES,
THE PROPHETS, THE
EVANGELISTS, THE
PASTORS AND TEACHERS,
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FOR WORKS OF SERVICE,
SO THAT THE BODY OF
CHRIST MAY BE BUILT UP

EPHESIANS 4:11-12

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This is a team-focused approach to leadership.

The background of the slide is a detailed architectural blueprint, likely of a church or institutional building, showing various rooms, corridors, and structural elements. The blueprint is rendered in a light blue/white color on a dark blue background. A large, dark blue rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the blueprint, containing the text.

This is a team-focused approach to leadership.

The team has a single goal: Equipping God's people—all of them, every "part" of the body—for works of service.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ... ¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

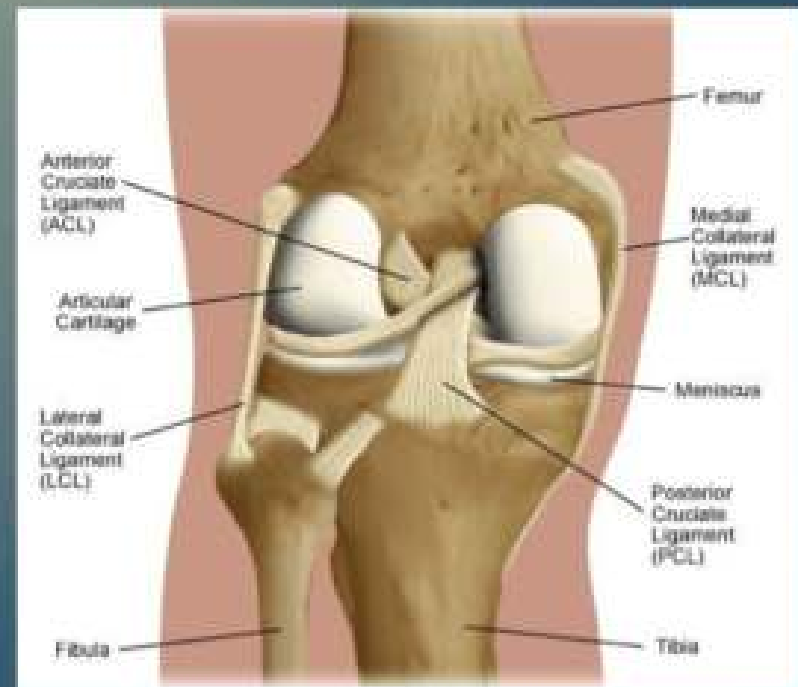
1 Corinthians 12:12-20


¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

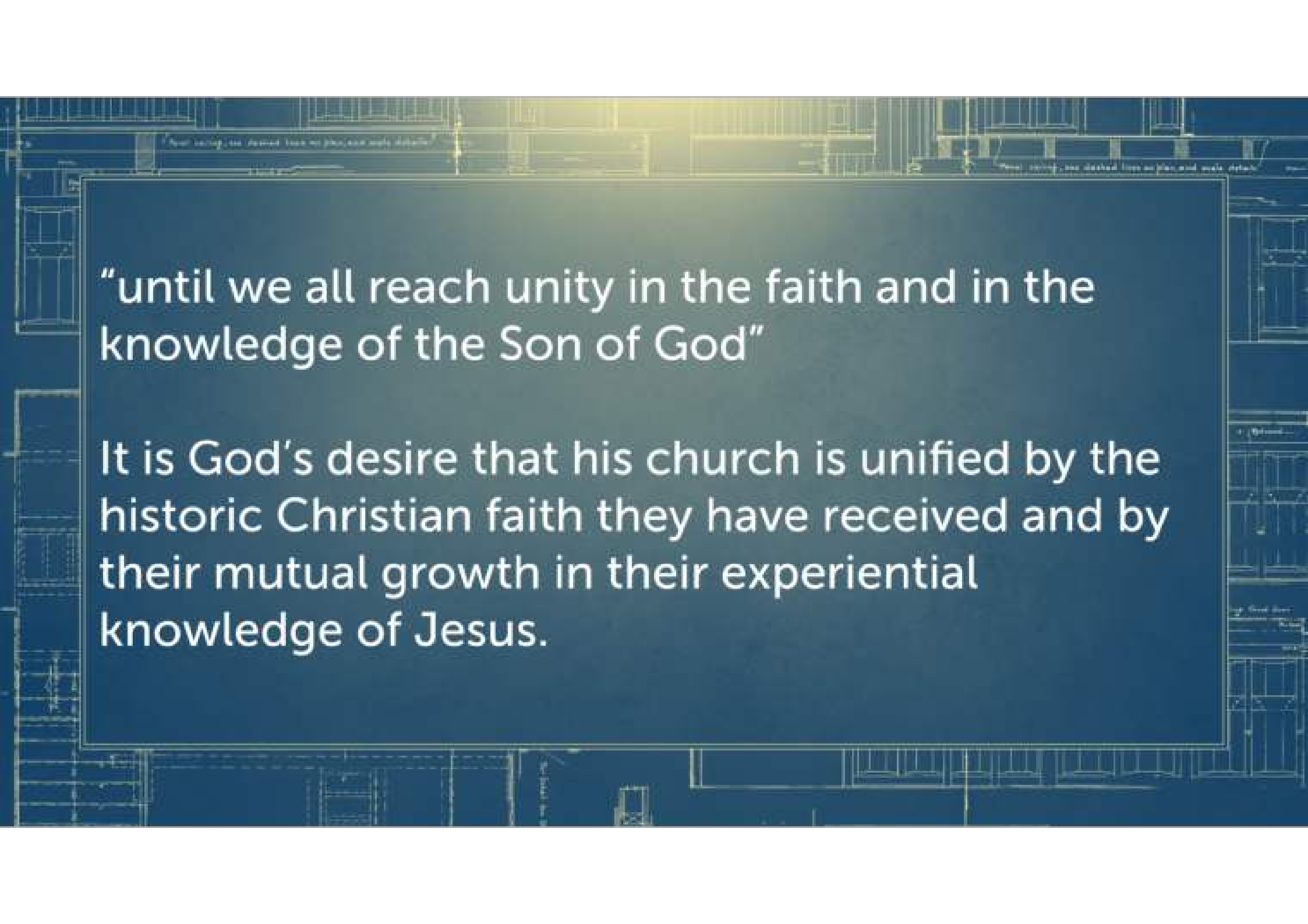
¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.
¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

"The whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."



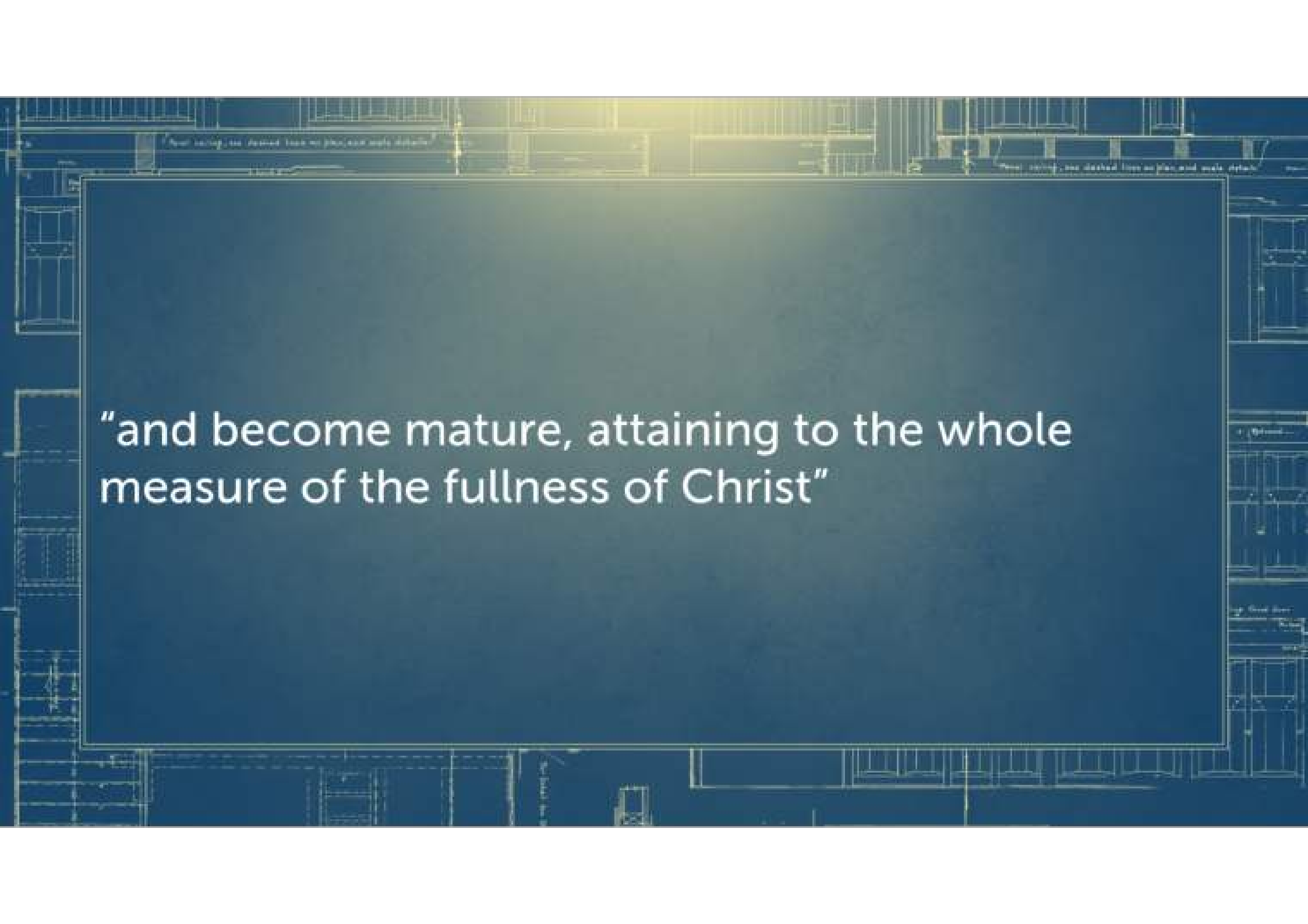


"until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God"

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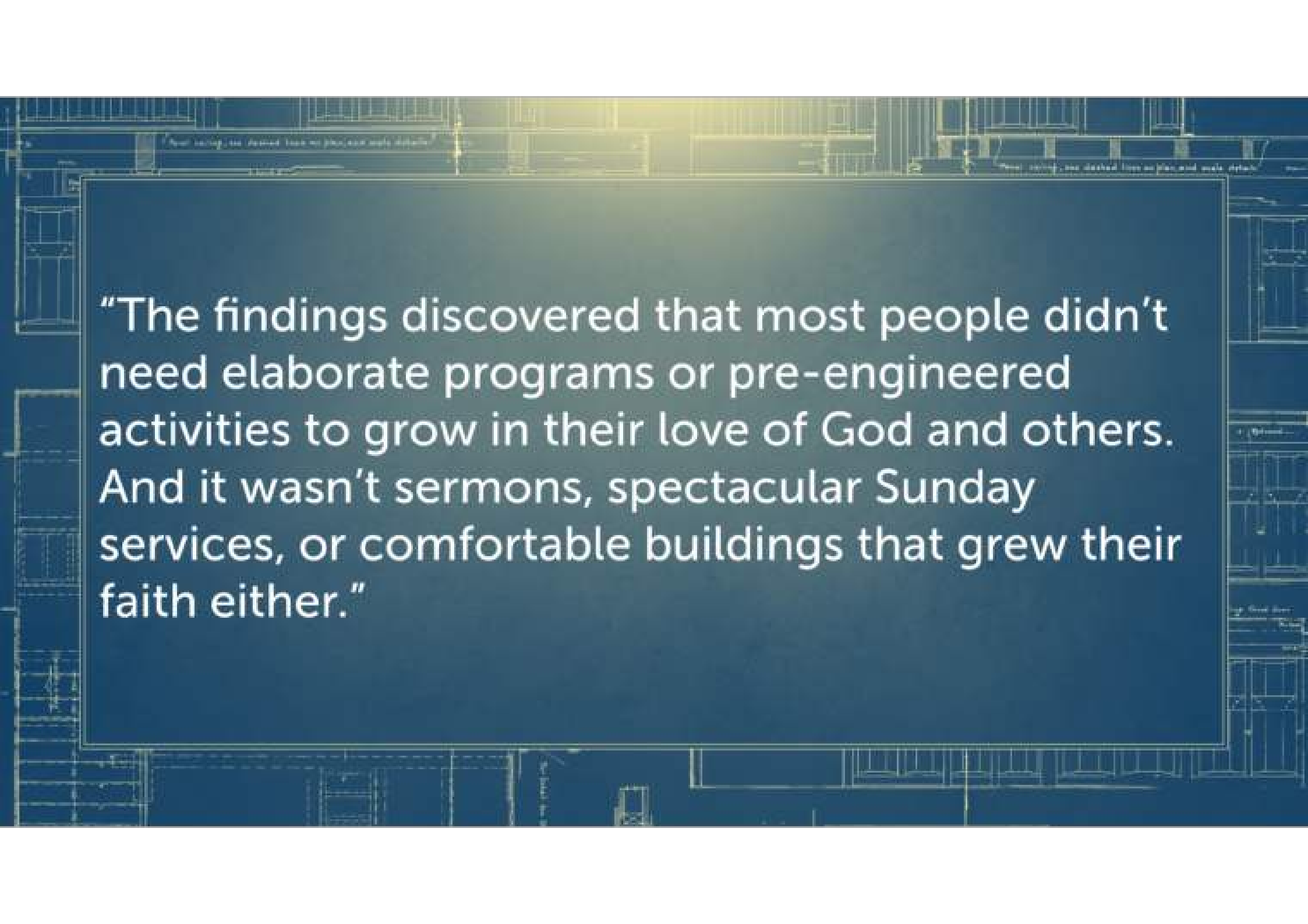
It is God's desire that his church is unified by the historic Christian faith they have received and by their mutual growth in their experiential knowledge of Jesus.



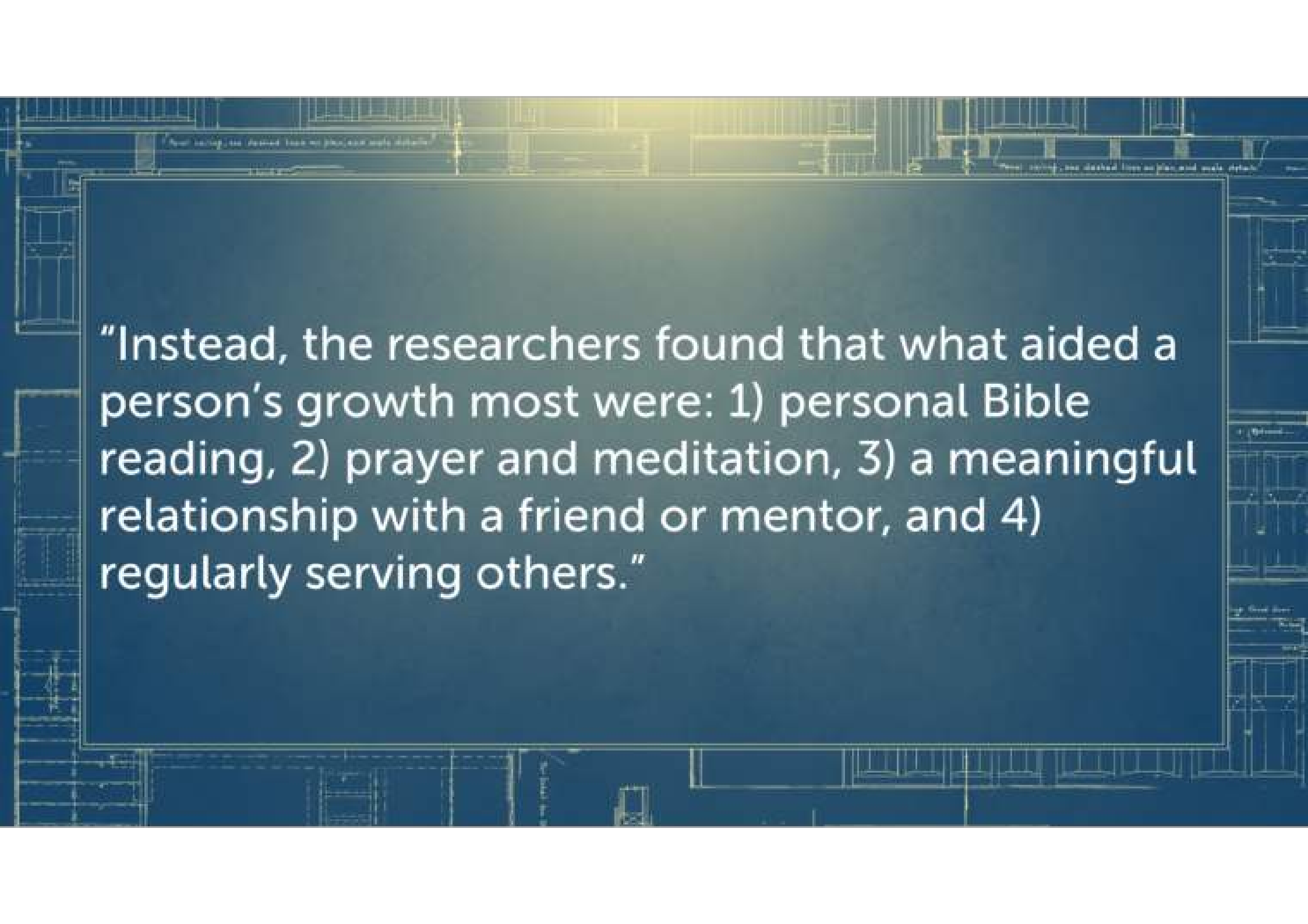
"and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"

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What are the best pathways to individual growth?

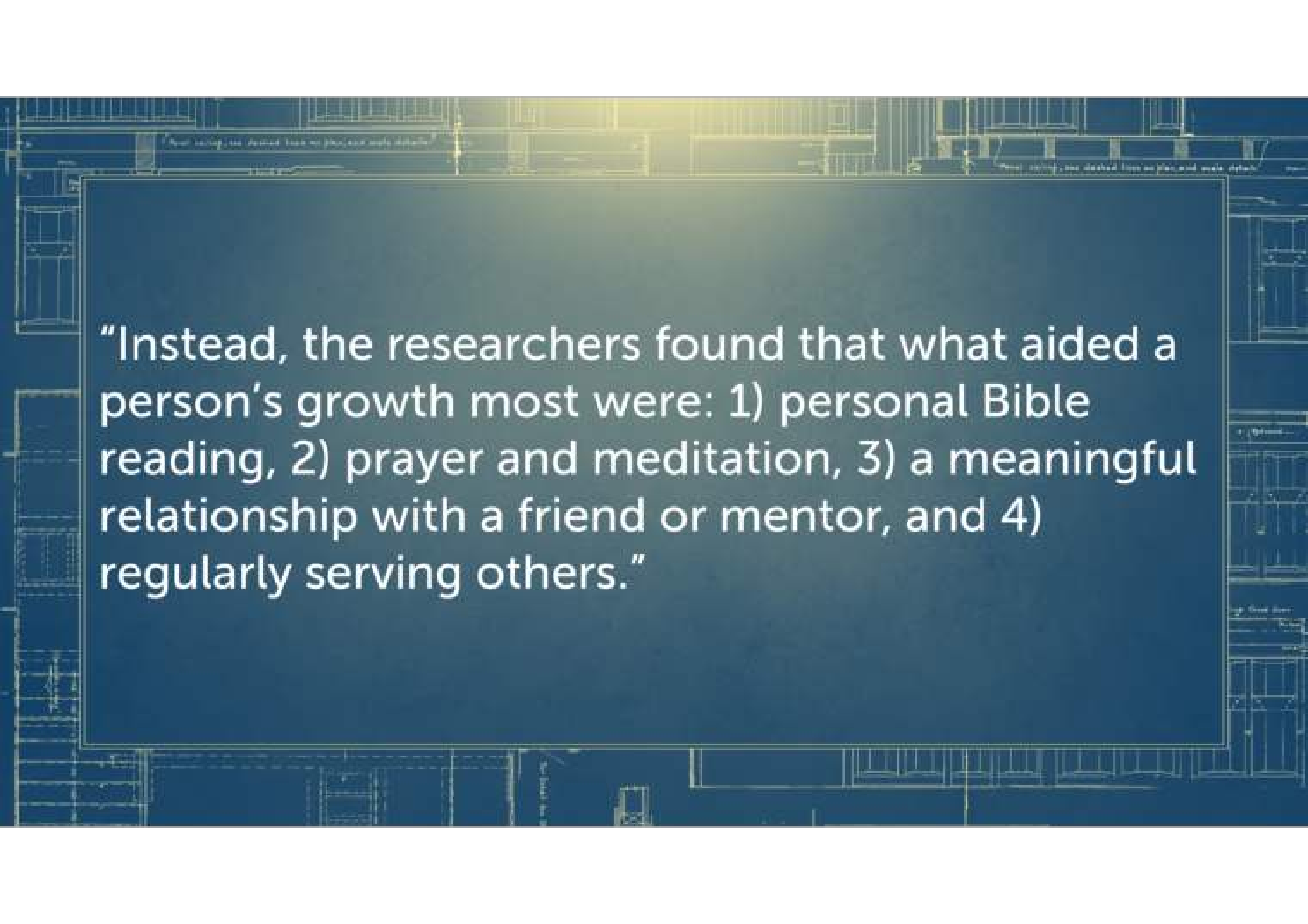
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"The findings discovered that most people didn't need elaborate programs or pre-engineered activities to grow in their love of God and others. And it wasn't sermons, spectacular Sunday services, or comfortable buildings that grew their faith either."

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"Instead, the researchers found that what aided a person's growth most were: 1) personal Bible reading, 2) prayer and meditation, 3) a meaningful relationship with a friend or mentor, and 4) regularly serving others."



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"Instead, the researchers found that what aided a person's growth most were: 1) personal Bible reading, 2) prayer and meditation, 3) a meaningful relationship with a friend or mentor, and 4) regularly serving others."

Closing Reflections

Ask that God would build us up and grow us up in 2026, so that we can become a welcoming community that also is able to stand firmly in the truth and love of Jesus.

Closing Reflections

Ask that God would reveal to each person in our church what gifts and works of service they can give in 2026.

Closing Reflections

Ask that God would deepen each person's experiential knowledge of Christ in 2026 so that we can edify one another.

Closing Reflections

Ask that God would give bless us with
commitment and creativity in attending to the
Tables of Discipleship in 2026.

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