

**“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the cosmic powers of this darkness,
against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.””**

- Ephesians 6:12



“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.””

- Matthew 16:24-25



“For it has been granted to you on Christ’s behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.”

- Philippians 1:29-30



Stop Just Going to Church and Be the Church!



Stop Just Going to Church and Be the Church!

- First thing we need to do to start BEing the Church:
 - Acknowledge our lack of contribution to the body of Christ



“Then he will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you didn’t take me in; I was naked and you didn’t clothe me, sick and in prison and you didn’t take care of me.’ “Then they too will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help you?’ “Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

- Matthew 25:41-46

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“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”

- James 2:26

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 - Focus on the Christian mission: proclaim the faith of the gospel!
- 

“Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

**“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:17**

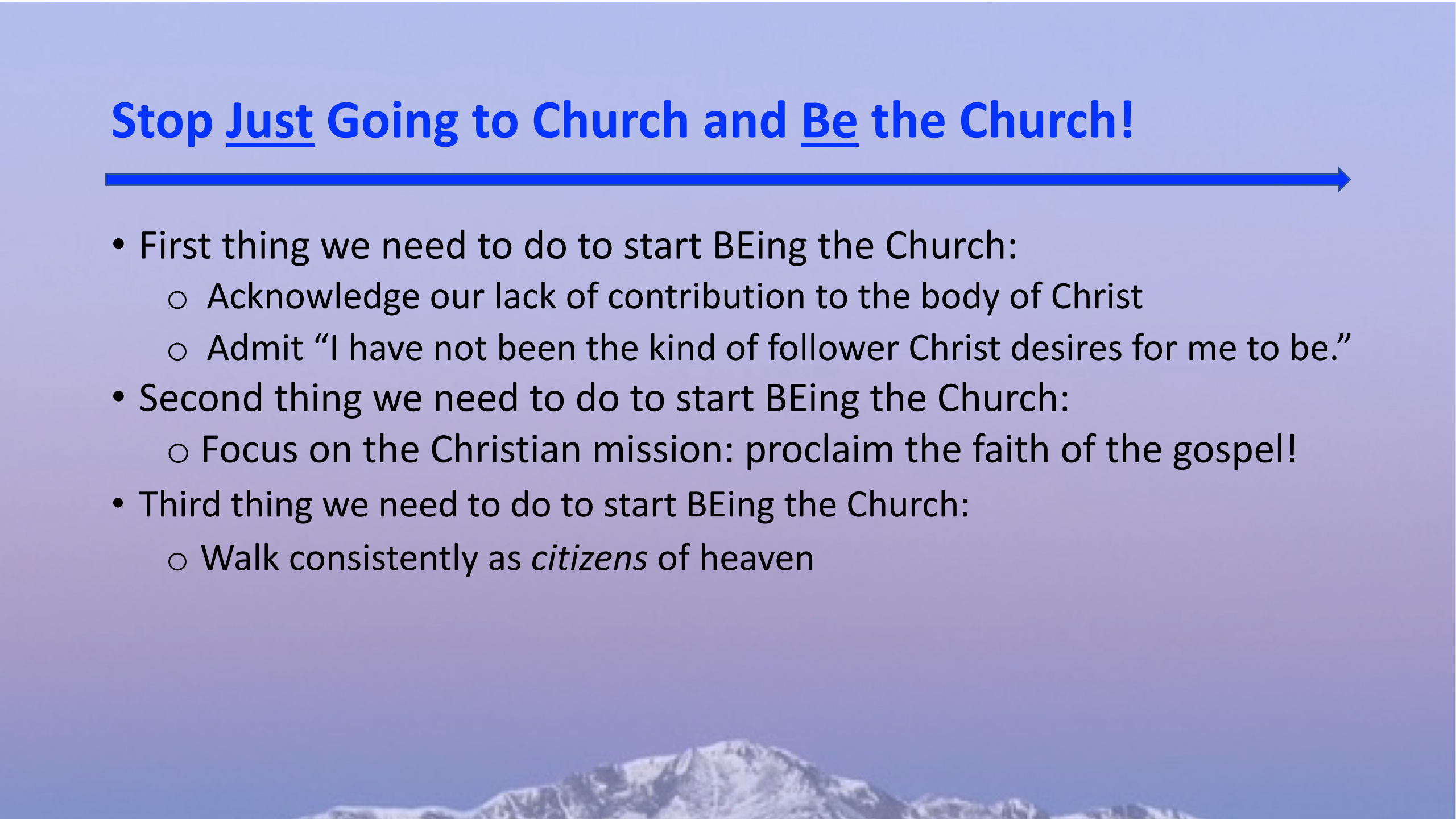
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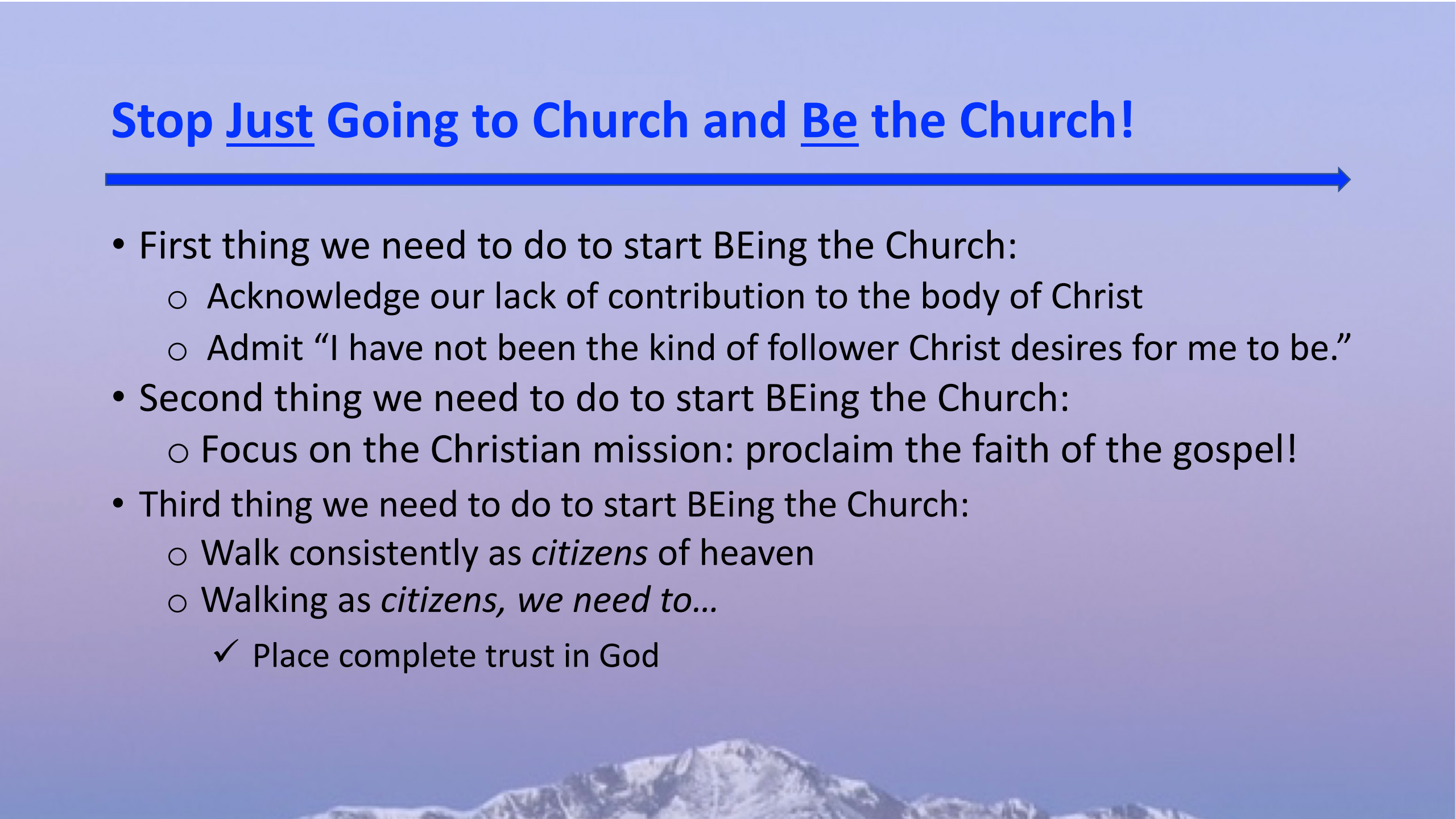


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 - Walk consistently as *citizens* of heaven
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“Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel,”
- Philippians 1:27

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 - Walking as *citizens*, we need to...
 - ✓ Place complete trust in God
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“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

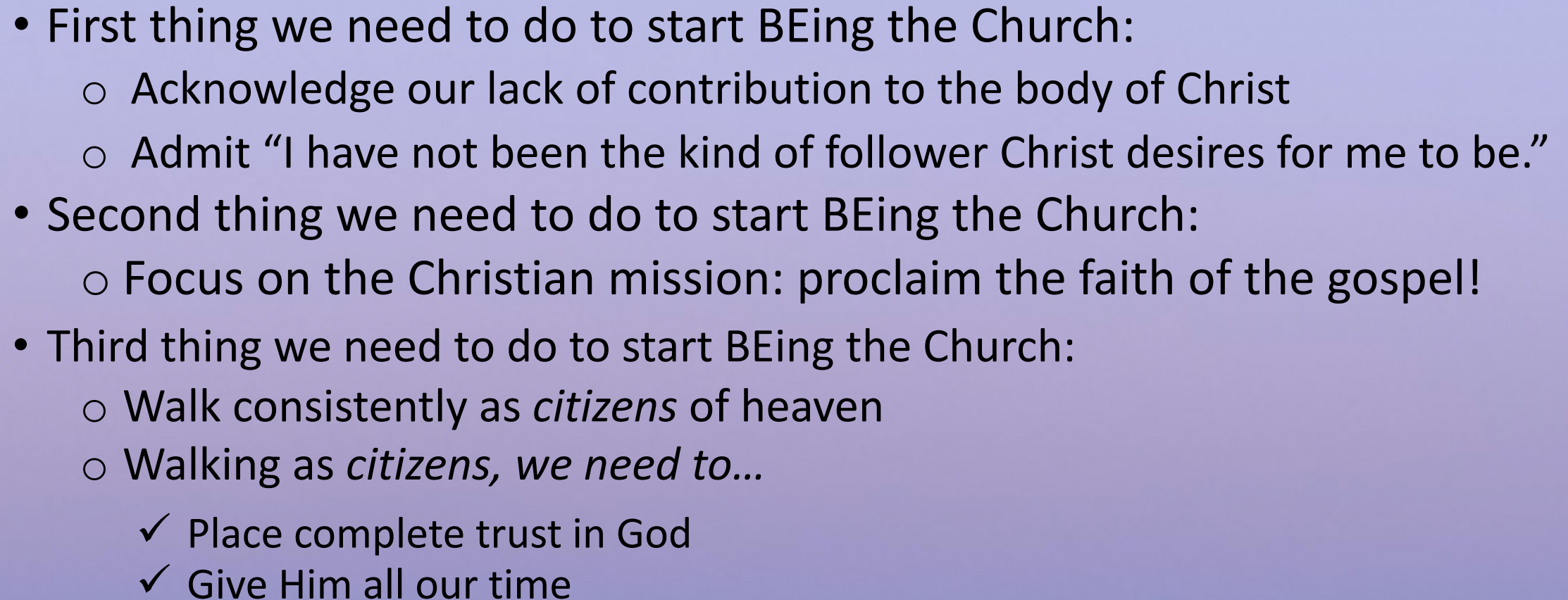
- Proverbs 3:5-6

“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.”

- Psalm 37:5

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**“Look carefully then how you walk, not as
unwise but as wise, making the best use of the
time, because the days are evil.”
- Ephesians 5:15-16**

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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 - ✓ Give Him all our time
 - ✓ Allow Christ to control our thoughts

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

- 1 Peter 1:13


“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

- Philippians 4:8

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
- Romans 12:2

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“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

- Romans 12:3-8

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 - ✓ Grow in maturity

“What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

- 2 Timothy 2:2

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 - ✓ Ensure our talents glorify God
 - ✓ Grow in maturity
 - ✓ Work together in great cause of Christ
- 

“Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:24-26

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CONCLUSION

- When we were born again through Christ, we didn't join a country club
- Our Mission: Proclaim the faith of the gospel & live worthy of the gospel

“If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

- John 15:6

