The background of the image is a detail from Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It shows the two hands reaching toward each other: the hand of God on the right, extended from a reclining position, and the hand of Adam on the left, reaching out from a similar reclining position. The fingers are just inches apart, creating a sense of tension and divine spark. The background of the fresco is a light, aged blue-grey color with visible cracks and texture.

Jesus said
“Whoever has my commands
and obeys them, he is the one
who loves me”

(John 14:21)

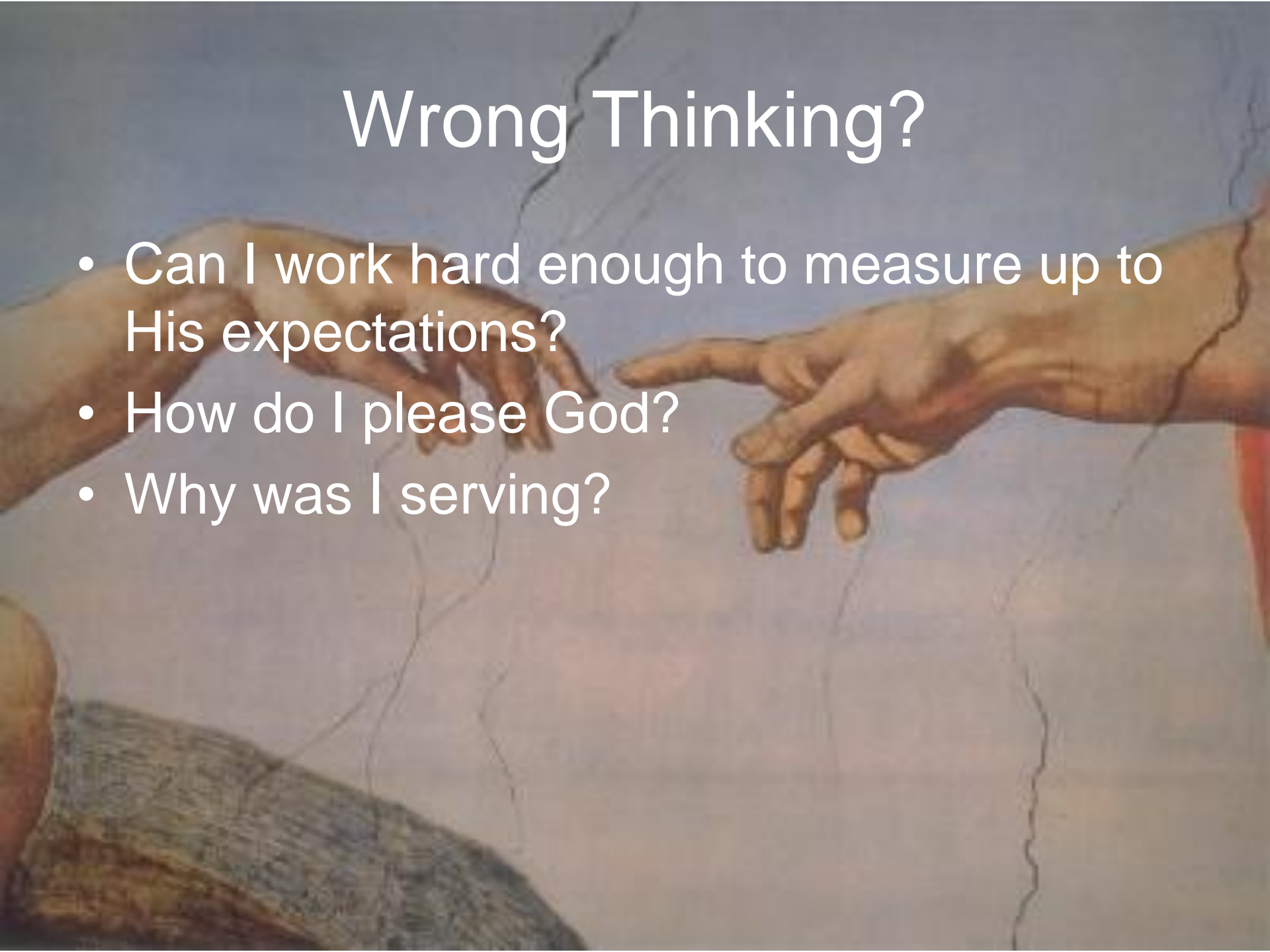
Service in the Church

- Attempting to show God that I loved Him
- Wore myself out in my participation
- Prove to God my love by obeying
- Thought that I had to demonstrate my love



Wrong Thinking?

- Can I work hard enough to measure up to His expectations?
- How do I please God?
- Why was I serving?



Joshua 5: 13-14

¹⁴Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

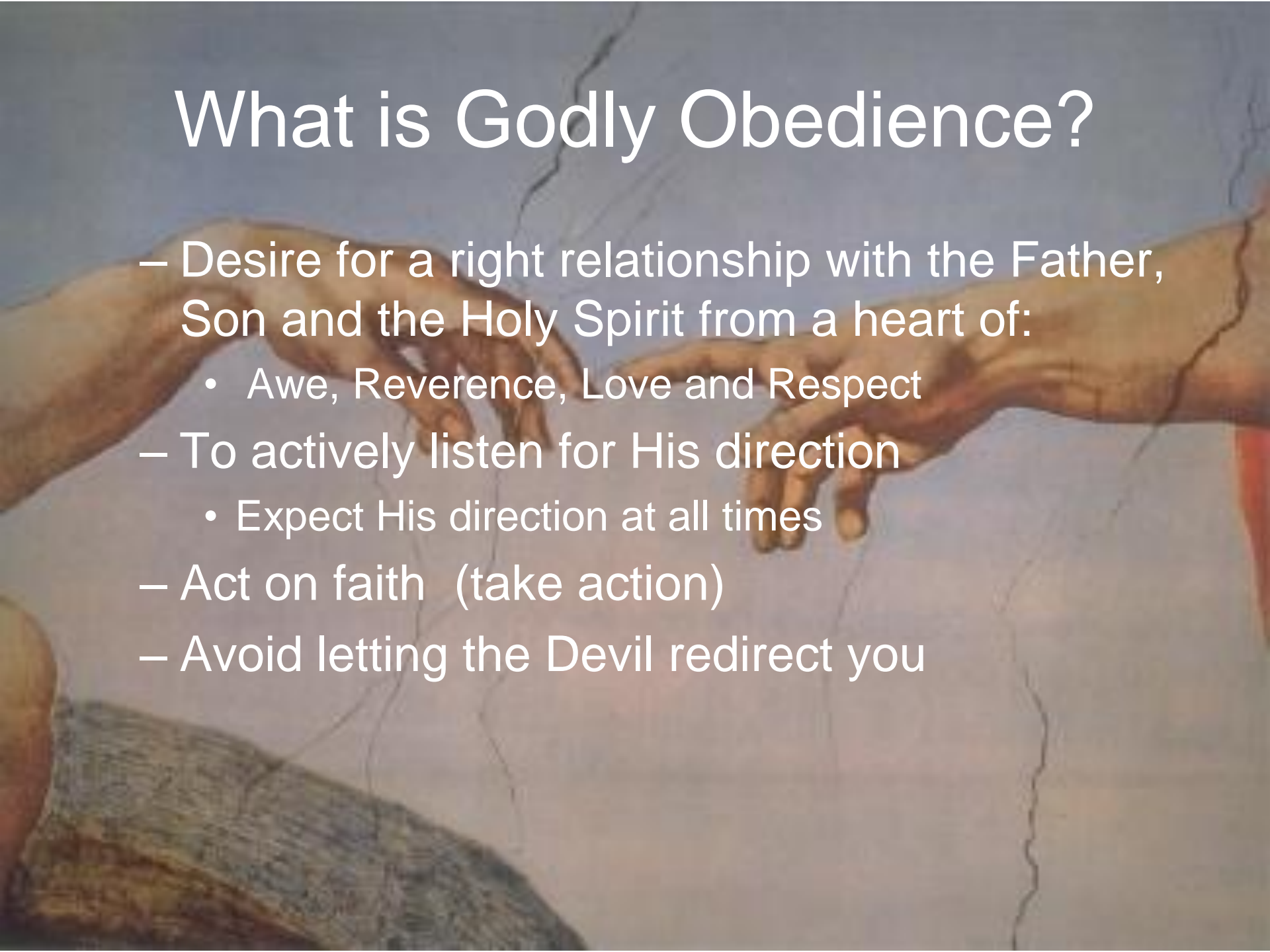
¹⁵“Neither”, he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”


Right Thinking

- God loves us and that will never change
- We can not change our relationship with God as it isn't based on us but on the ***work of the cross***
- Christ did it all, John 19:30 Jesus said, "It is finished!" And He bowed *His* head and gave up the spirit
- Learn our relationship with God
- Learn God's character!

What is Godly Obedience?

- Desire for a right relationship with the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit from a heart of:
 - Awe, Reverence, Love and Respect
- To actively listen for His direction
 - Expect His direction at all times
- Act on faith (take action)
- Avoid letting the Devil redirect you



The image is a close-up of the central portion of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It depicts two hands reaching toward each other: the hand of God on the right, extended from a reclining position, and the hand of Adam on the left, reaching out from a similar reclining position. The fingers are just inches apart, creating a sense of tension and divine spark. The background is a light, cracked plaster. Overlaid on the lower half of the image is white text.

The Secret to obedience is to
Love the one you Obey

Some examples

Christian Conference I did not attend

Trip to Canada I didn't take

Conference in Oregon

Las Vegas Encounter

Trip to Canada I did make

Prayer that changed a friends view of God

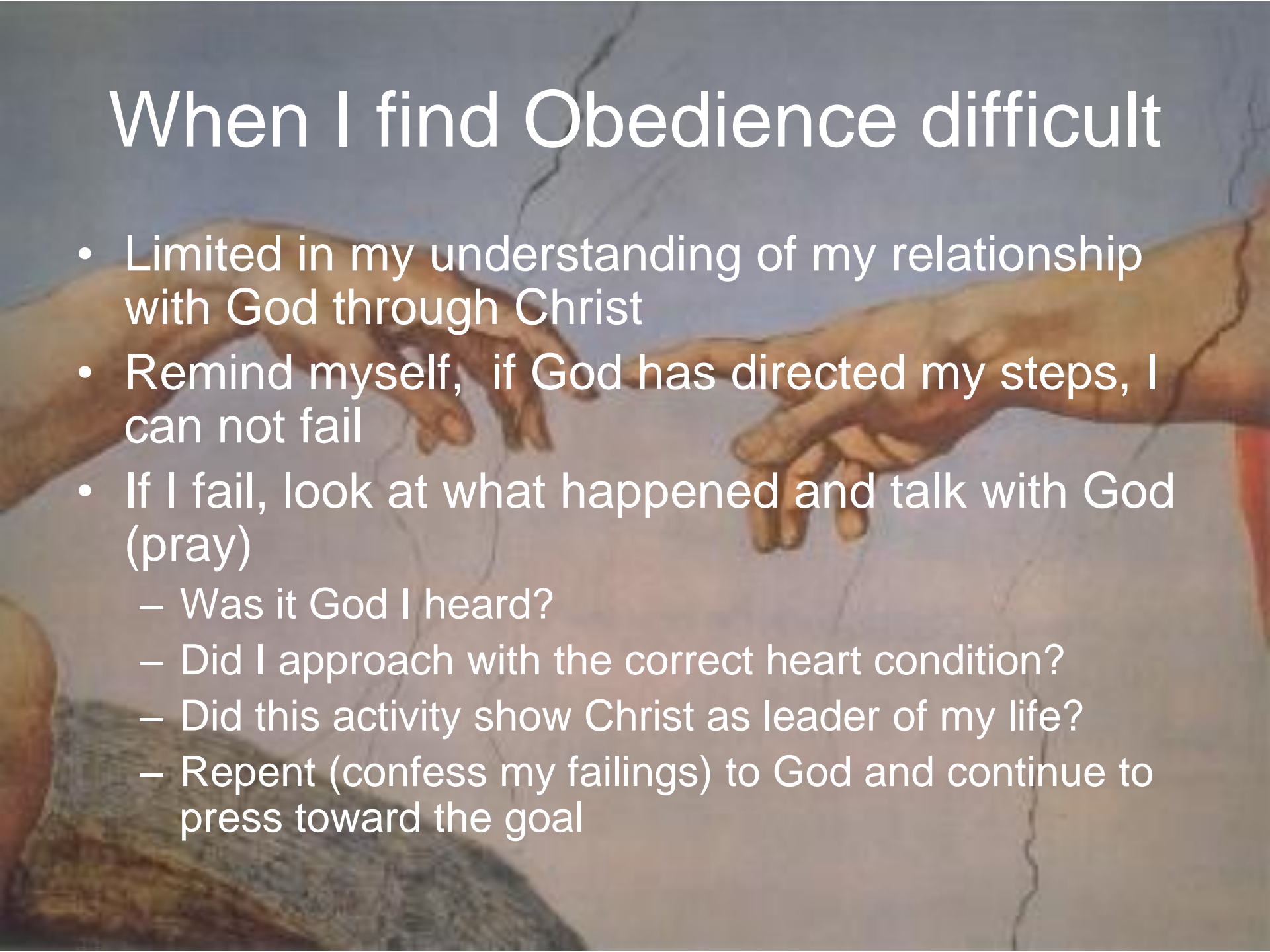
Swedish Hospital Trip

Good Sam Hospital Prayer



When I find Obedience difficult

- Limited in my understanding of my relationship with God through Christ
- Remind myself, if God has directed my steps, I can not fail
- If I fail, look at what happened and talk with God (pray)
 - Was it God I heard?
 - Did I approach with the correct heart condition?
 - Did this activity show Christ as leader of my life?
 - Repent (confess my failings) to God and continue to press toward the goal



Who Am I

- I am the salt of the earth (Matt 5:13)
- I am the light of the world (Matt 5:14)
- I am a child of God (John 1:12)
- I am part of the true vine, a channel of Christ's life (John 15:1,5)
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:14,15)
- I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit (John 15:16)
- I am a slave of righteousness (Rom 6:18)

Who Am I - Continued

- I am enslaved to God (Rom 6:22)
- I am a son of God; God is spiritually my Father (Rom 8:14,15; Gal 3:26; 4:6)
- I am joint heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him (Rom 8:17)
- I am a temple, a dwelling place, of God. His Spirit and His life dwells in me (1Cor 3:16; 6:19)
- I am united to the Lord and am one spirit with Him (1Cor 6:17)
- I am a member of Christ's Body (1 Cor 12:27)
- I am a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

Who Am I — Continued

- I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18,19)
- I am an heir of God since I am a son of God (Gal 4:6,7)
- I am a saint (Eph 1:1; Cor 1:2; Phil 1:1; Col 1:2)
- I am God's workmanship — His handiwork — born anew in Christ to do his work (Eph 2:10)
- I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's family (Eph 2:19)
- I am a prisoner of Christ (Eph 3:1; 4:1)

Who Am I — Continued

- I am righteous and holy (Eph 4:24)
- I am a citizen of heaven, seated in heaven right now (Phil 3:20; Eph 2:6)
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3)
- I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life (Col 3:4)
- I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved (Col 3:12; 1 Thess 1:4)
- I am a son of light and not of darkness (1 Thess 5:5)

Who Am I — Continued

- I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling (Heb 3:1)
- I am a partaker of Christ; I share in His life (Heb 3:14)
- I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house (1 Pet 2:5)
- I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priest-hood, a holy nation, a people of God's own possession (1 Pet 2:9,10)

Who Am I — Continued

- I am an alien and stranger to this world in which I temporarily live (1 Pet 2:11)
- I am an enemy of the devil (1 Pet 5:8)
- I am a child of God and will resemble Christ when He returns (1 John 3:1,2)
- I am born of God, and the evil one — the devil — cannot touch me (1 John 5:18)

Remember:

- Faith as a verb, not just a noun
- Our obedience is best and easiest when based on our love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Expect to be directed by God
- Be strong and have courage
- Have Fun and enjoy the experiences