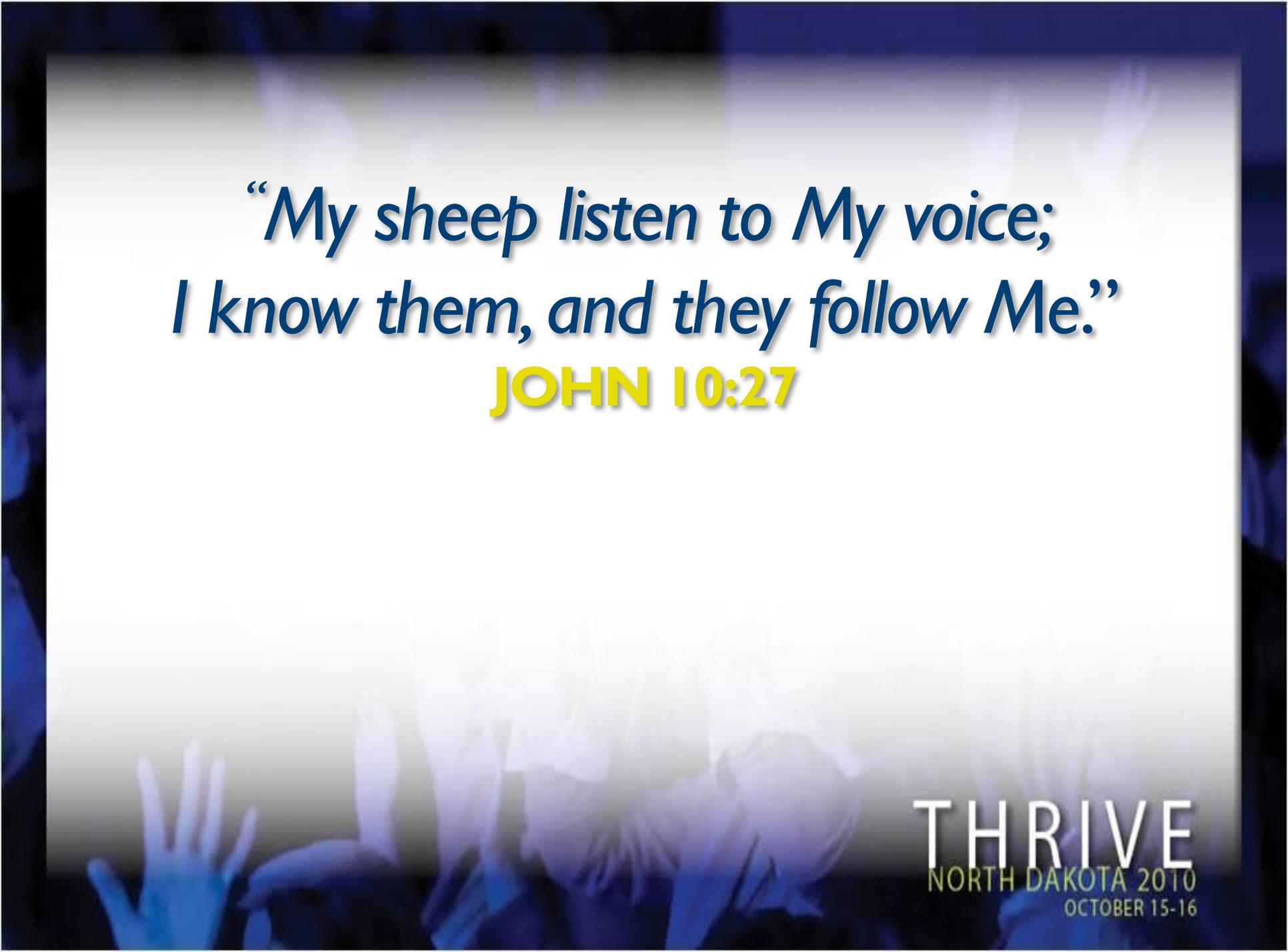




HEARING GOD'S HEART FOR HIS PEOPLE TO THRIVE

DR. JOHN JACKSON

THRIVE
NORTH DAKOTA 2010
OCTOBER 15-16



*“My sheep listen to My voice;
I know them, and they follow Me.”*

JOHN 10:27

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Why am I not Hearing God and Experiencing His Favor?

ISAIAH 58:1-5

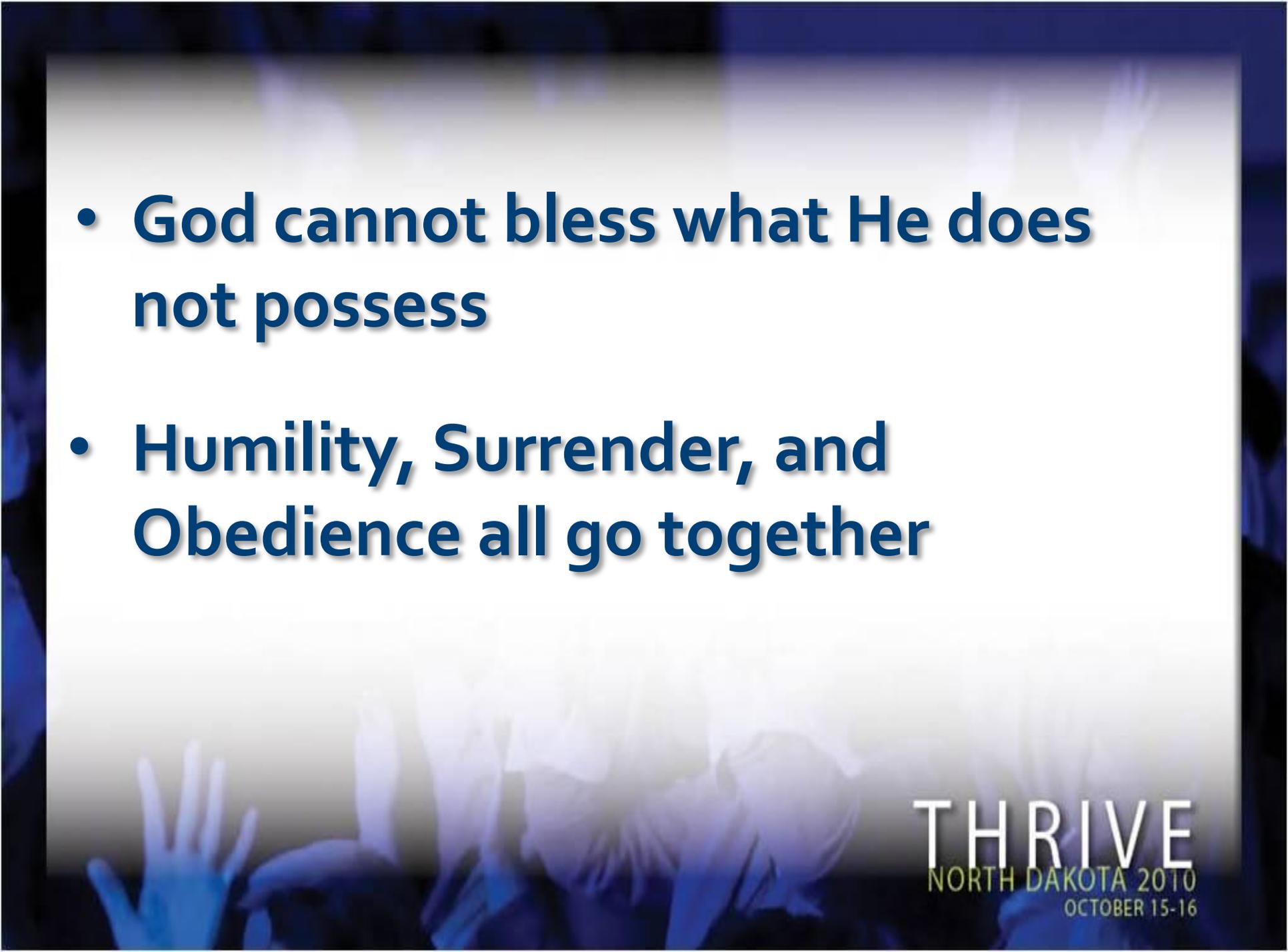
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*¹"Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to My people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins.
²For day after day they seek Me out...eager to know My ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask Me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ³'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?'*

"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. ⁴Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other....You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?"

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1. We are a rebellious people
2. We seem eager to know God and His ways
3. But the truth is we behave in unjust and self centered ways
4. We live in sin and self and expect God's hand to work

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- **God cannot bless what He does not possess**
 - **Humility, Surrender, and Obedience all go together**

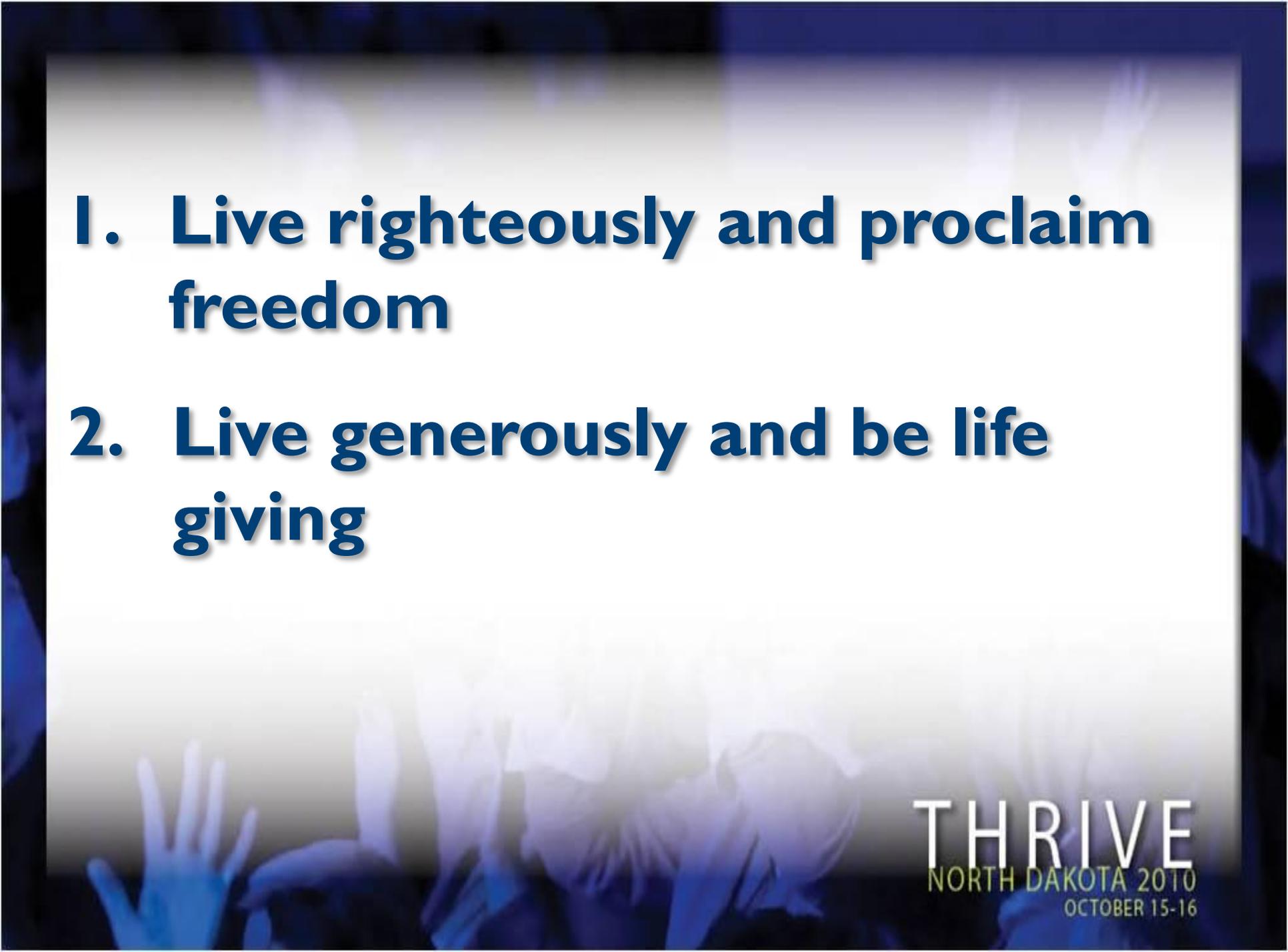
What Does Alignment With God Look Like?

ISAIAH 58:6-7

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⁶"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

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- 1. Live righteously and proclaim freedom**
 - 2. Live generously and be life giving**

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When God's Favor Flows, What Does That Look Like?

ISAIAH 58:8-14

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⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: 'Here am I.' If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

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10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. 11 The LORD will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

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¹² Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. ¹³ If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you

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please or speaking idle words, ¹⁴then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." The mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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- 1. Your light will break forth (yes!) and your healing will appear. The glory of God will surround you**
- 2. The Lord will answer your prayers and bring freedom to your life as you bring freedom to others**
- 3. You will hear Him and be able to repair, restore, and rejoice in His favor**

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I. A Thriving Church is Rooted in Relationship with Jesus Christ

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

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2. A Thriving Church is a Biblical Church developing the Father's Heart

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

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3. A Thriving Church is willing to Change its methods without Compromising its message

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became a Jew, to win the Jews. . . . To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings”

I CORINTHIANS 9:19-23

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4. A Thriving Church sees every Disciple as an Ambassador

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” **1 PETER 3:15-16**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **ACTS 1:8**

“Whether He (Jesus) is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see.” **JOHN 9:25**

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