

A photograph of a stone wall with a cross visible in the distance under a blue sky. The text "THE MAIN THINGS" is overlaid on the image. The word "THE" is in white, "MAIN" is in large black letters, and "THINGS" is in white. The background shows a stone wall on the left and right, a metal railing in the foreground, and a cross in the distance under a blue sky.

THE
MAIN
THINGS

A low-angle photograph of a stone building against a blue sky with wispy clouds. The word "GIVING" is centered in a white box. The building's walls are made of light-colored stone blocks, and a decorative metal railing with a repeating circular pattern is visible in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with soft, white clouds. The overall composition is vertical, with the building's lines leading the eye towards the top of the frame.

GIVING

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

ACTS 2:42-47

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

ACTS 2:42-47

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

ACTS 2:42-47

45 They sold property and possessions
to give to anyone who had need.

ACTS 2:45



**THE ORIGINAL
INTENT**

³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

MARK 12:30-31

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁹ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments:

LUKE 18:18-27

‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.’”²¹ “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him,

LUKE 18:18-27

“You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”²³ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

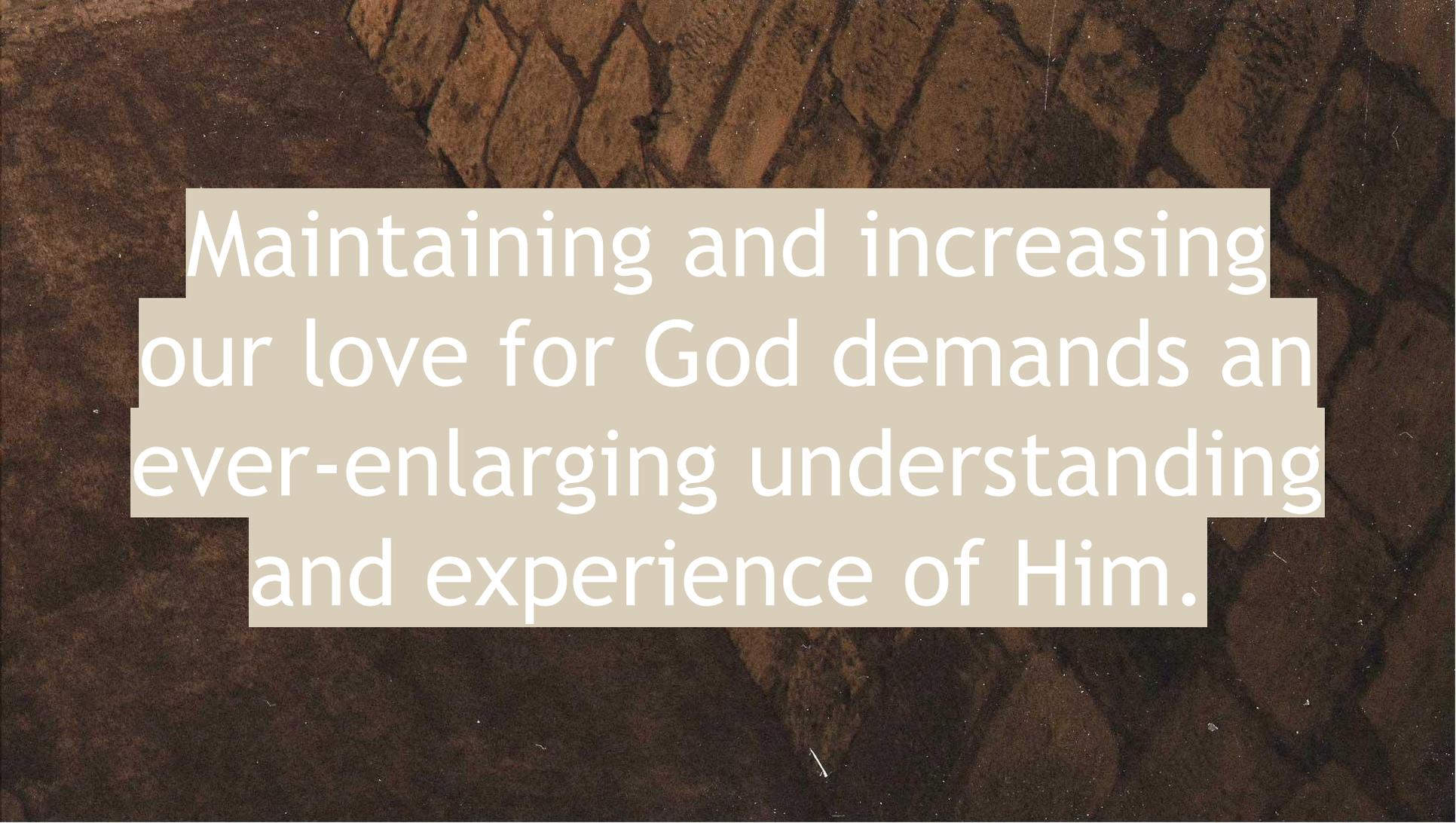
LUKE 18:18-27

²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

LUKE 18:18-27

²⁶ Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

LUKE 18:18-27



Maintaining and increasing
our love for God demands an
ever-enlarging understanding
and experience of Him.



THE REAL NEEDS

¹ And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14

³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,
⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14

⁵ And they exceeded our expectations:
They gave themselves first of all to the
Lord, and then by the will of God also
to us. ⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he
had earlier made a beginning, to bring
also to completion this act of grace on
your part.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14

⁷ But since you excel in everything—
in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in
complete earnestness and in the love
we have kindled in you—see that you
also excel in this **grace of giving**. ⁸ I am
not commanding you,

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14

but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14

¹⁰ And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it,

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14

according to your means. ¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. ¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14

¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.
The goal is equality.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-14



**SOMETHING
DIFFERENT**

Perhaps this principle of giving is less about the act of giving and more about the spirit of giving expressed through grace, generosity, and justice.

The background of the image is a dark brown, textured surface with a repeating diamond or scale-like pattern. The pattern consists of irregular, overlapping diamond shapes that create a sense of depth and texture. The overall color palette is monochromatic, ranging from deep, dark browns to slightly lighter, more textured tones.

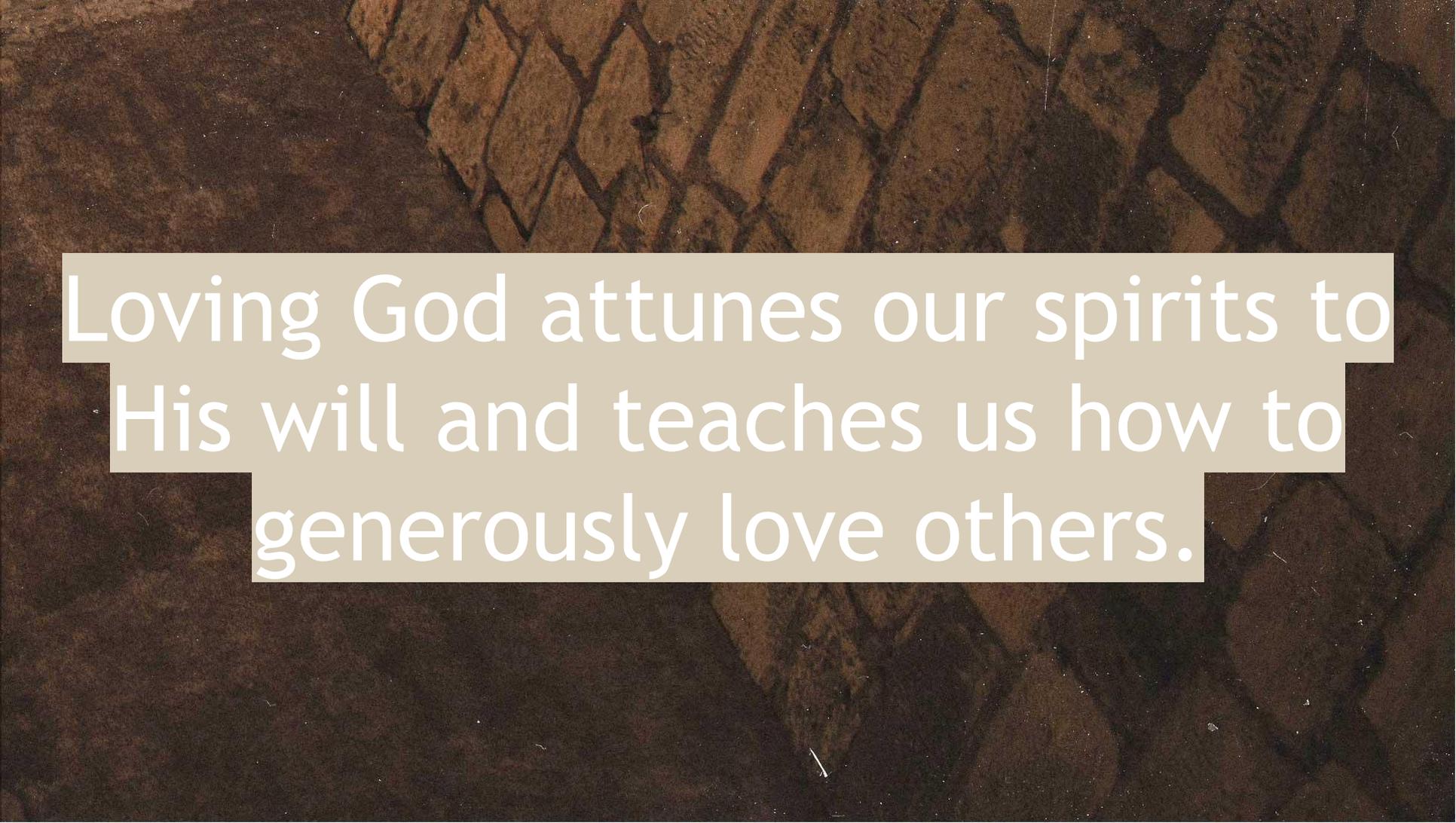
Grace + Awareness + Generosity =
Christ's church in action

⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

1 JOHN 3:9

¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

JOHN 1:16 (ESV)



Loving God attunes our spirits to
His will and teaches us how to
generously love others.



THE
MAIN
THINGS