

Growing Pains



Immediate Discomfort, Eventual Rewards

- **The process of growing, maturing, and improving can be a painful one.**
- **Yet, often, the strongest individuals are those that have endured the struggle.**
- **Two areas we may experience growing pains:**
 - 1. Discipline of God**
 - 2. Discipline of the Church**

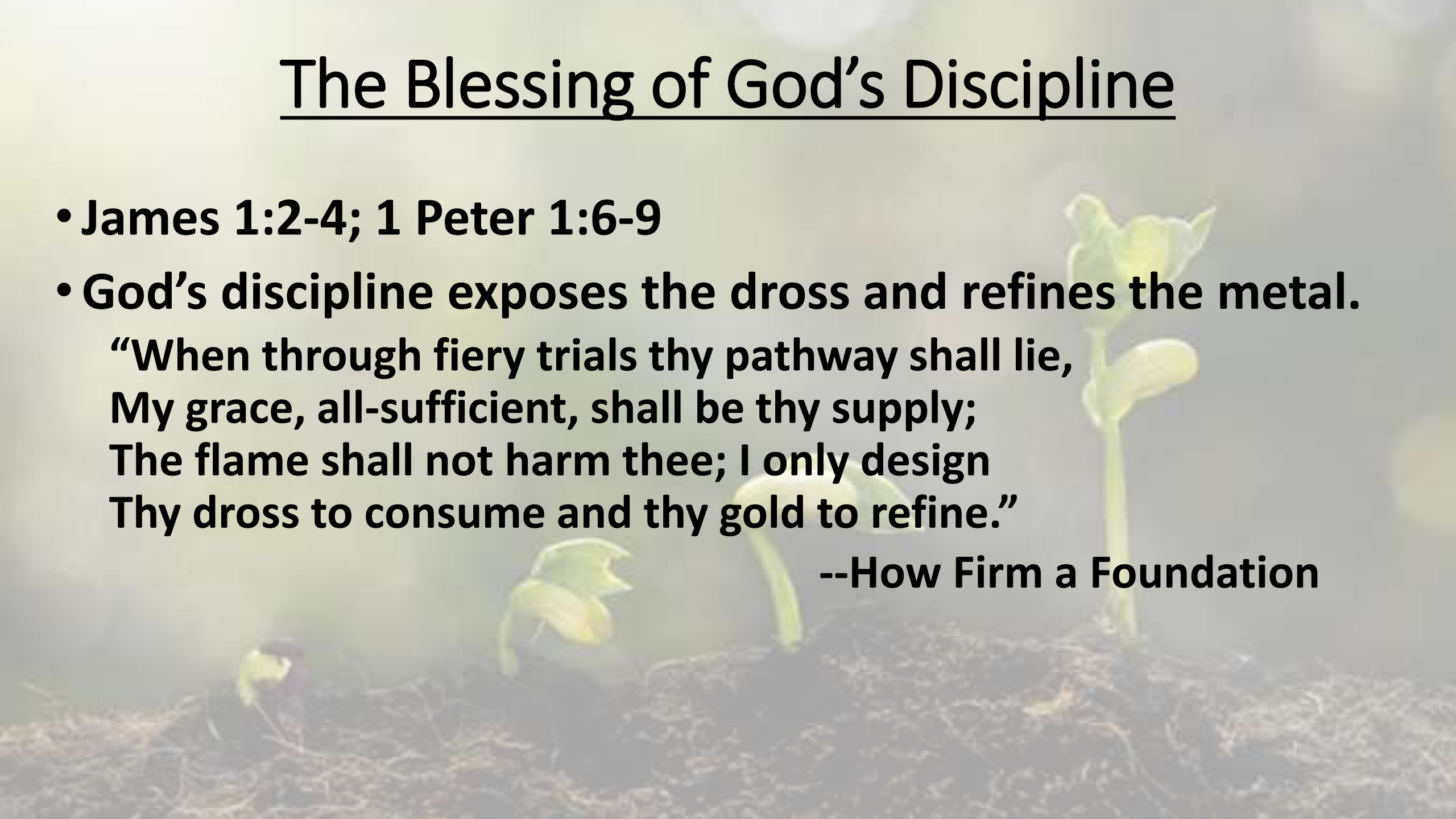
God's Discipline

- **Were you aware that God sends trials your way?**
 - **And, He does it because He loves you!**
- **Hebrews 12:5-11**
 - **"...For whom the Lord loves He chastens..."**
 - **Consider your trials a demonstration of God's love for you.**
 - **Our earthly parents disciplined us.**
 - **While not pleasant (at the time), it does result in growth.**

The Blessing of God's Discipline

- **James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9**
- **God's discipline exposes the dross and refines the metal.**
**“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not harm thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.”**

--How Firm a Foundation



Joseph's Example

- **Note the trials God sends Joseph:**
 - **Genesis 37:23, 24, 28**
 - **Gen. 39:1, 11, 12, 20**
 - **Gen. 40:14, 23**
 - **Gen. 41:1**
- **Note how the trials God sends Joseph help refine him:**
 - **Genesis 45:3-8**
 - **Gen. 50:15-21**



The Discipline of the Church

- **How could severing relationships in the local church be of any profit?**
- **1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 9-11**
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6-15**



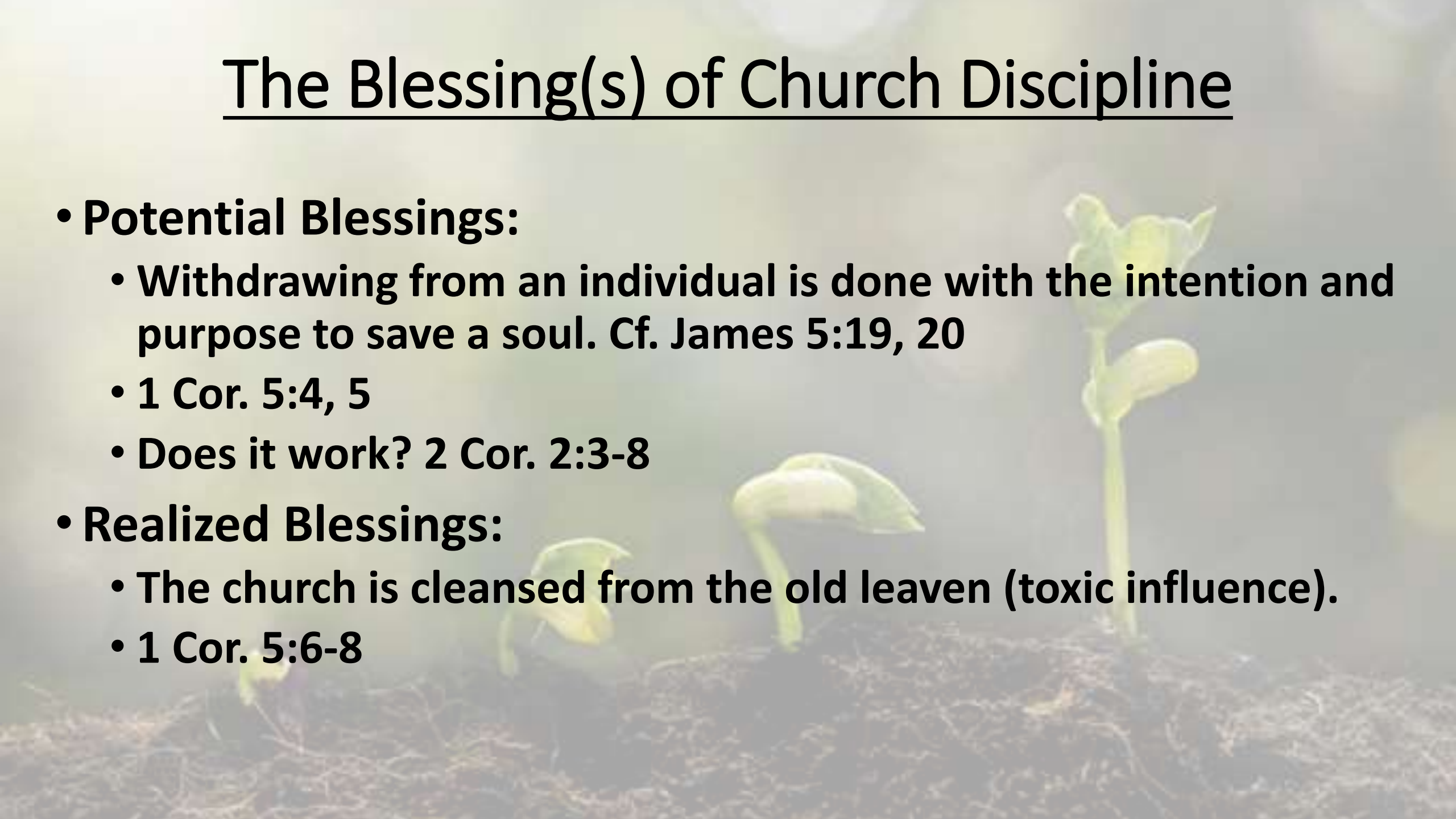
The Blessing(s) of Church Discipline

- **Potential Blessings:**

- **Withdrawing from an individual is done with the intention and purpose to save a soul. Cf. James 5:19, 20**
- **1 Cor. 5:4, 5**
- **Does it work? 2 Cor. 2:3-8**

- **Realized Blessings:**

- **The church is cleansed from the old leaven (toxic influence).**
- **1 Cor. 5:6-8**



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