

# The Spiritual Discipline of Service

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale  
The Gathering  
Ray of Hope Christian Church  
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

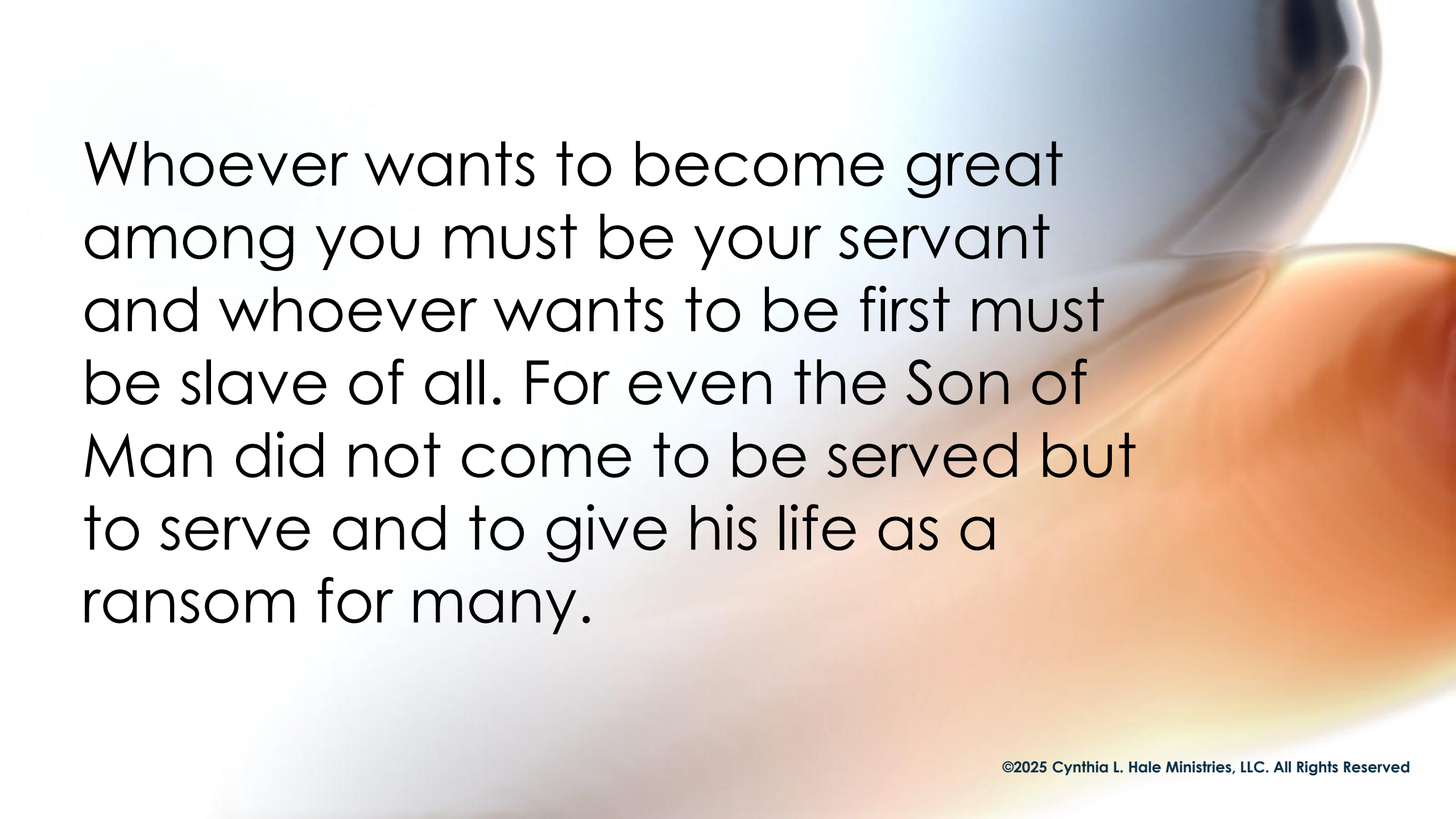
# Mark 10:35-45



Who among us doesn't  
want to be great?



Greatness is going to cost us.



Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.



“Enter to worship, depart to serve”!



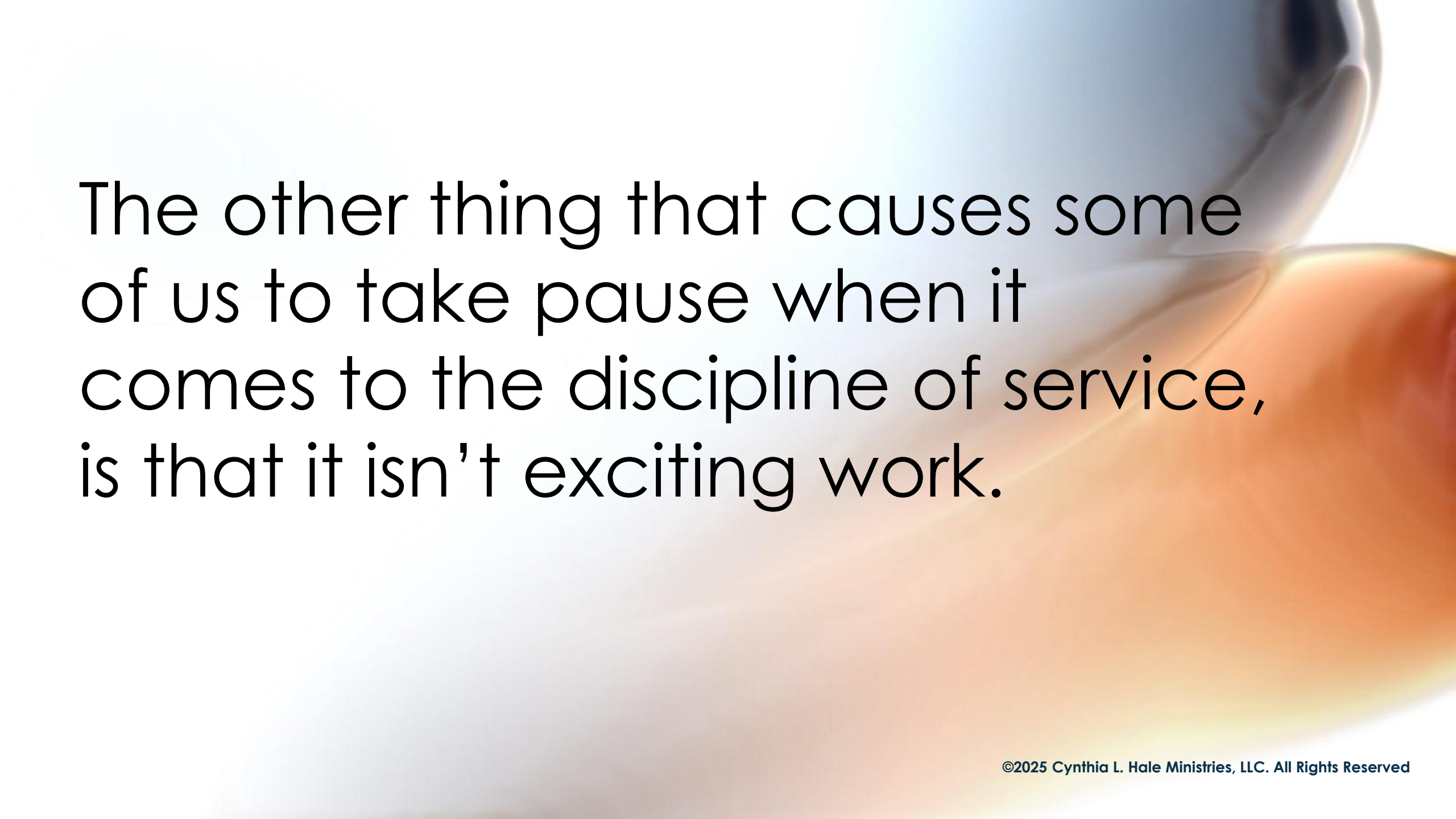
Some of our service happens  
beyond the walls of the church.





Much of what we do as servants of Christ does not claim the spotlight in a major way.





The other thing that causes some of us to take pause when it comes to the discipline of service, is that it isn't exciting work.

# Donald Whitney

We're drawn to the appeal of serving when it holds out the promise of bold adventure, but we are repelled when it means – as it more often does—feeling banished to serve Christ in a dreary corner of a seemingly inconsequential place.

# Dietrich Bonhoeffer

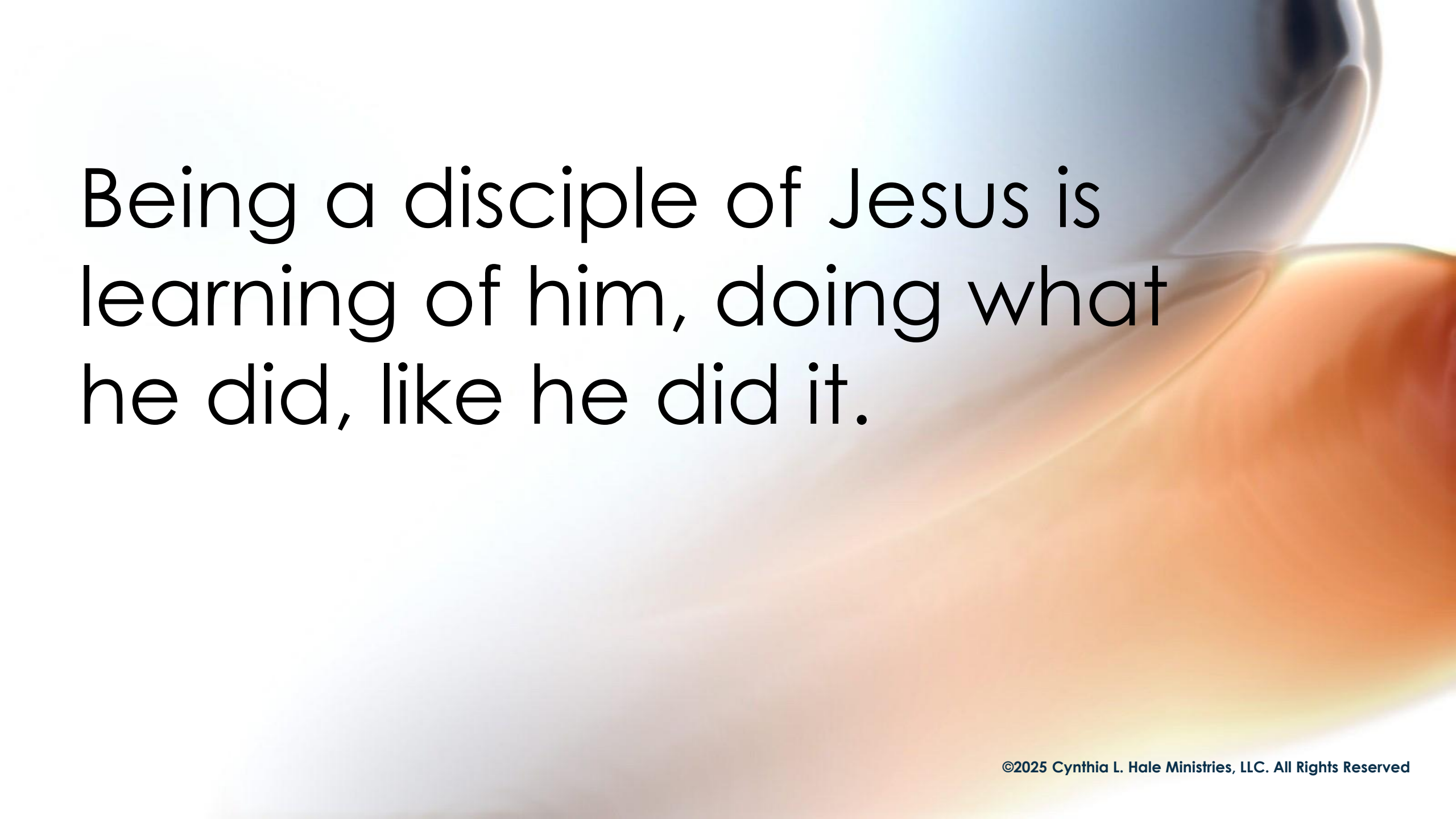
When Christ calls a man (or woman) he bids him (or her) to come and die.

# Mark 8:34

Whoever wants to be my  
disciple must deny themselves  
and take up their cross and  
follow me.



Self must die, claim your cross  
and follow me.



Being a disciple of Jesus is  
learning of him, doing what  
he did, like he did it.





Jesus was the perfect servant!



# John 13

# John 13:1

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

# Bob Goff

We will be remembered  
for our opinions but known for  
our love.



**2 Corinthians 16:14**

Do everything in love!

# John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down his life for his friends.

# Discussion/Reflection:

What have you done for someone lately out of pure love?



Jesus modeled servanthood  
and he also modeled humility  
for us.

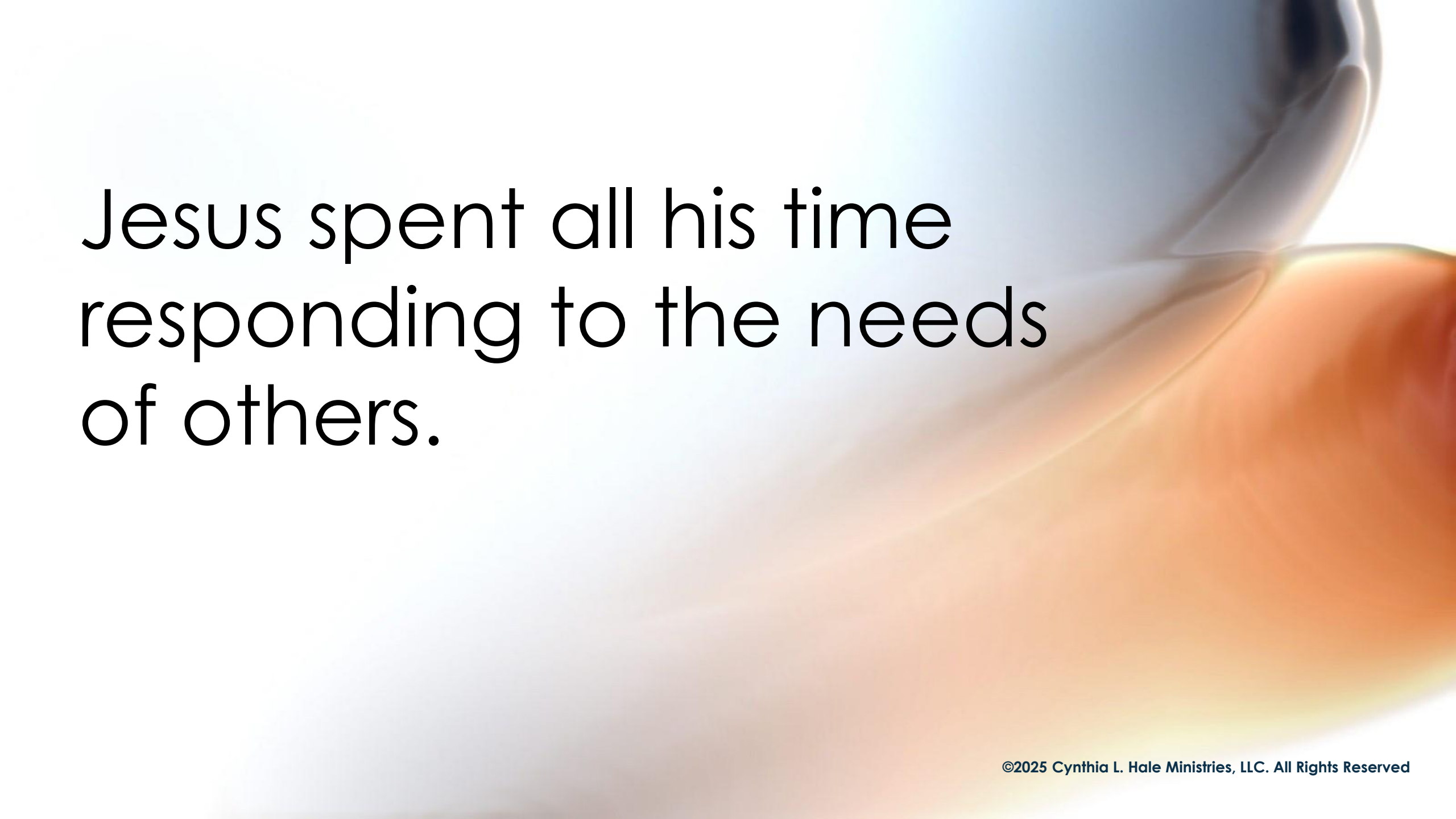


# Philippians 2:3


Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourself, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.



That was not the way Jesus  
operated.




Jesus spent all his time  
responding to the needs  
of others.



They had a need.



They had a need.


A close-up, artistic photograph of a glass being filled with a golden liquid, likely honey or oil, with a white substance on top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light blue and white.

Whatever the need,  
Jesus met it.

# Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you.






Jesus is calling us to a life  
and a lifestyle of service  
with humility.

# Discussion/Reflection: A Test of Humility

1. Can you work to make others look good without feeling envious or some kind of way?
2. Can you serve without constant recognition? Everyone should be appreciated, but do you get uptight or threaten to quit when you are not?
3. When working with a group, do you care who gets the credit?



We are to serve with love, serve with humility. We serve because we were saved to serve.



Serving is not an option, folks.

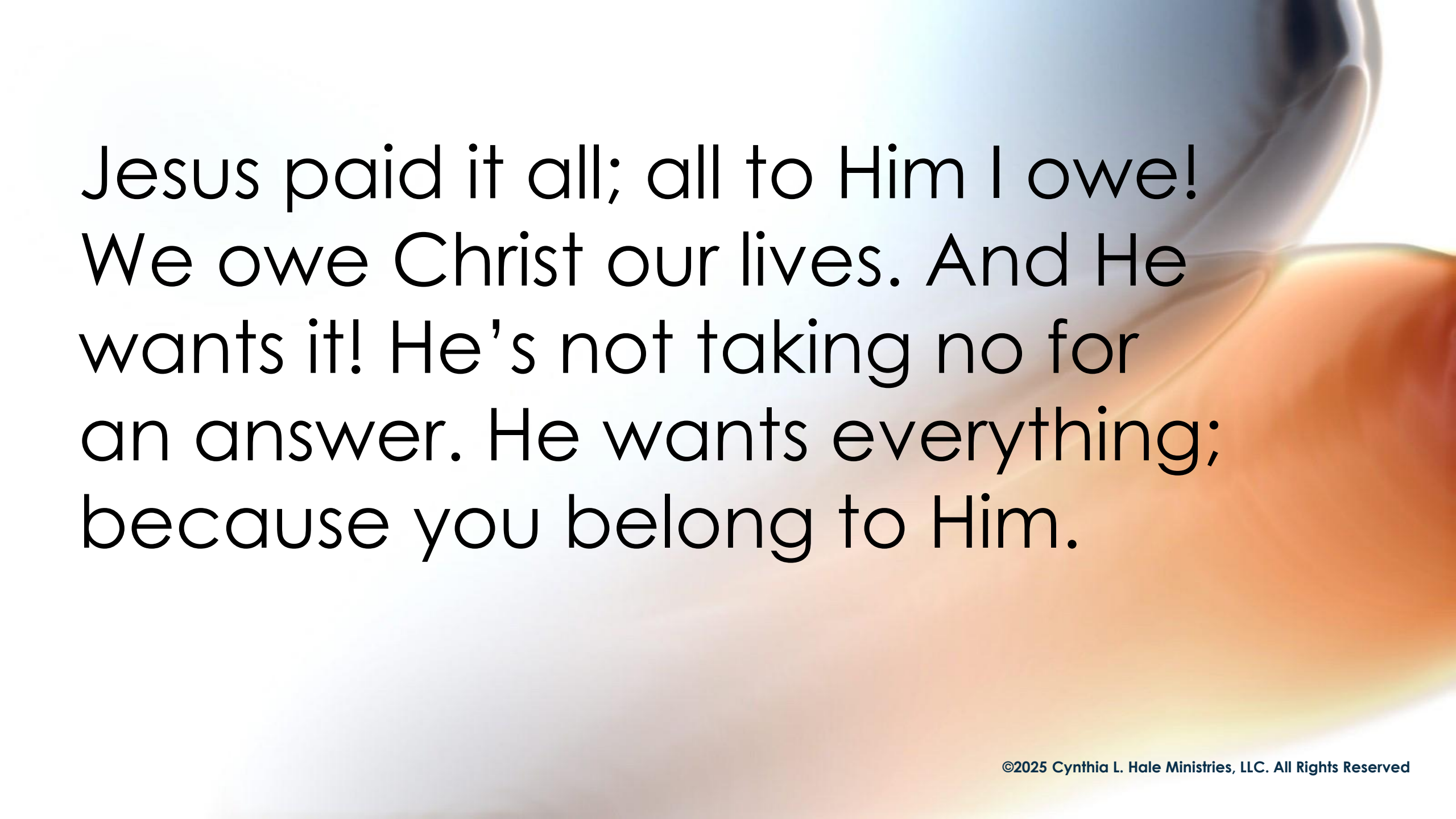
# Hebrews 9:14

So that we might serve the  
living God.

# **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.





Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe!  
We owe Christ our lives. And He  
wants it! He's not taking no for  
an answer. He wants everything;  
because you belong to Him.



# Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ,  
and I no longer live, but Christ  
lives in me. The life I live in the body,  
I live by faith in the Son of God who  
loved me and gave himself for me.



God saved us so that we  
might serve Him.



We serve him because  
he has forgiven us.

# Isaiah 6:6-8



We are to serve the Lord  
with gladness.

# Psalm 100 (KJV)

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,  
all ye lands. Serve the Lord with  
gladness: come before him with  
singing.

# **A.W. Tozer**

Fellowship with God leads  
straight to obedience and  
good works.



# **Discussion/Reflection:**

When have you felt such adoration for God that you wanted to do something for him immediately?

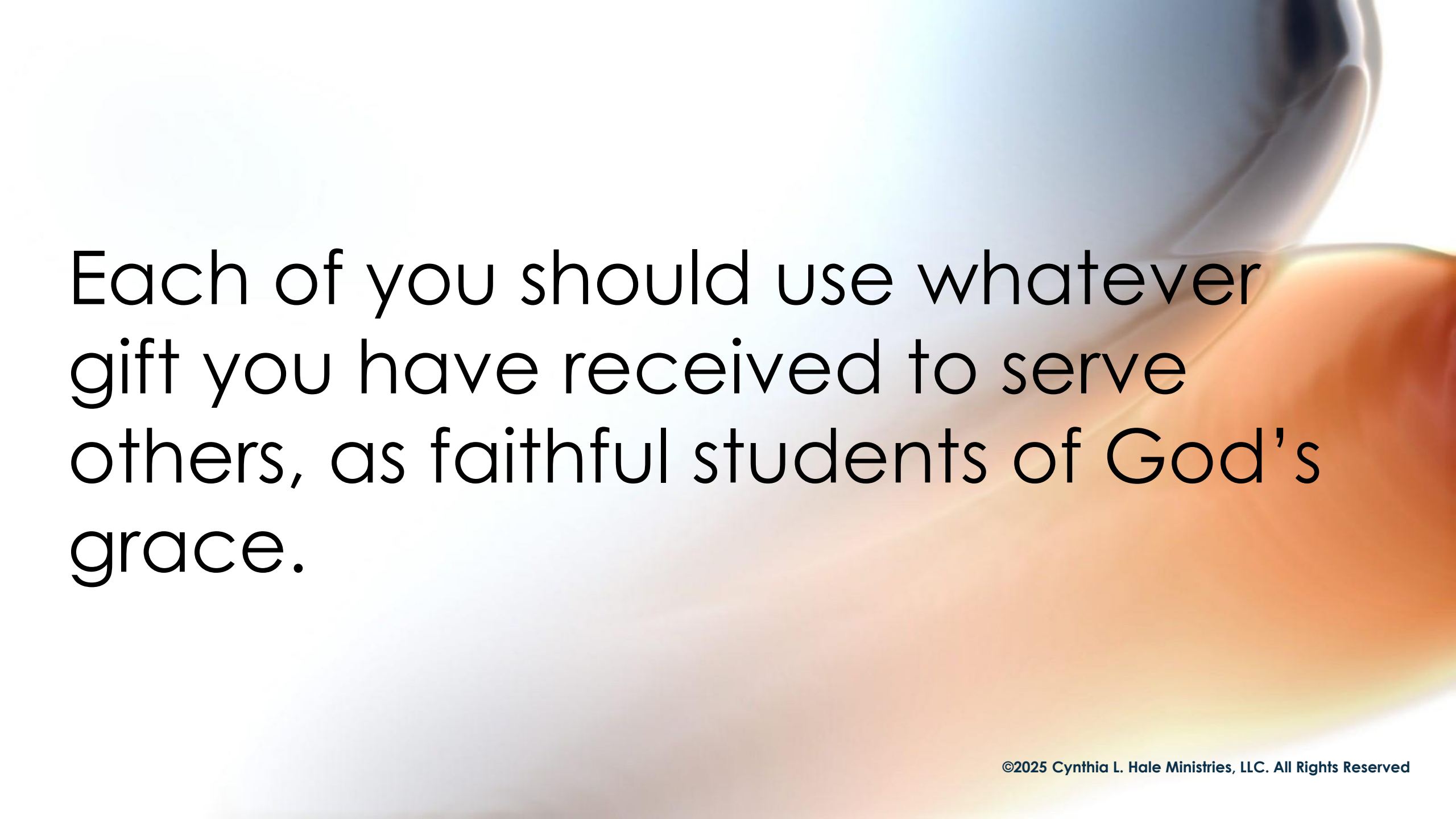


We serve out of obedience to  
GOD.

# Matthew 22:34-40

# 1 Peter 4:10

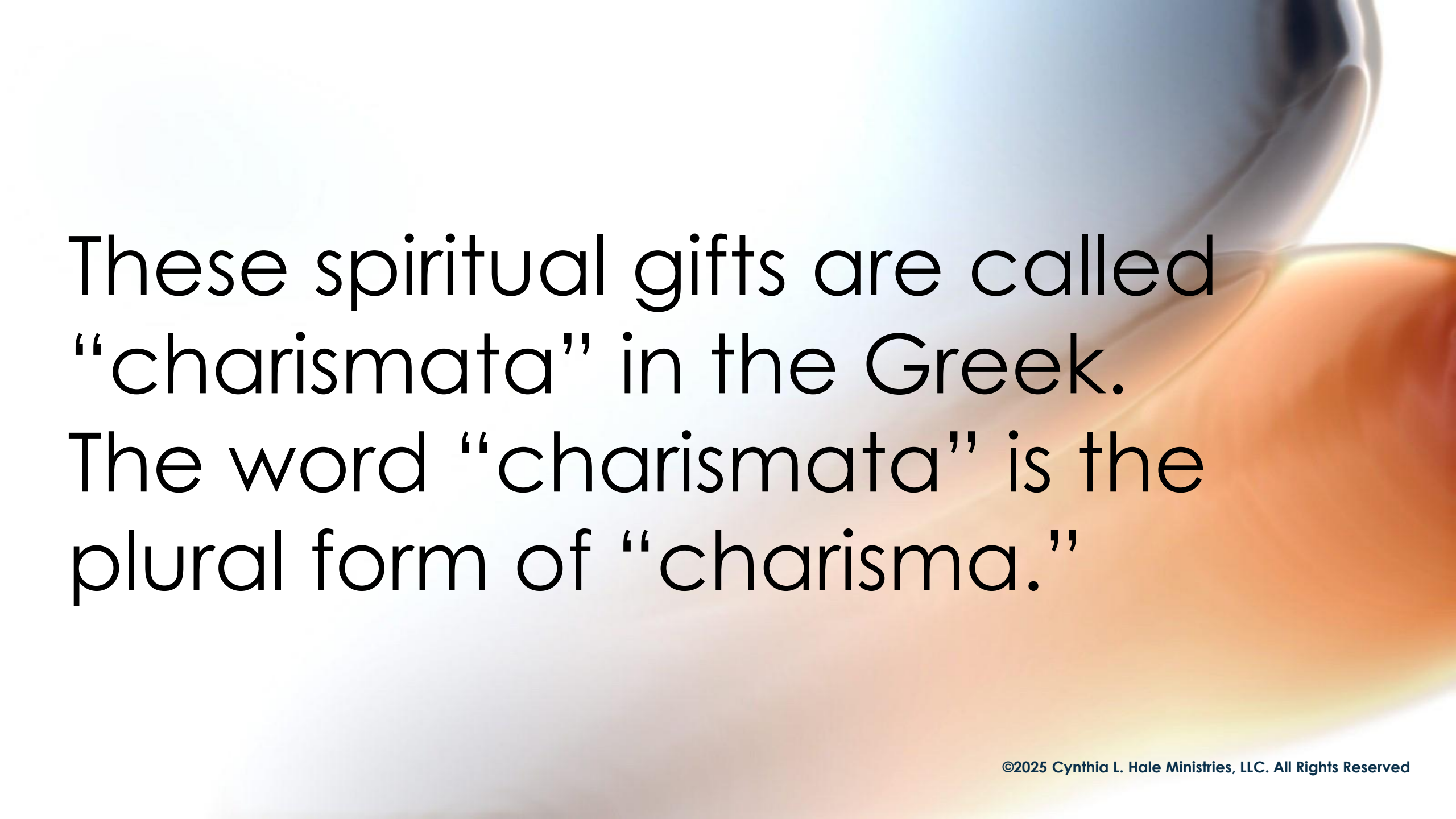
We serve because we have been  
gifted to serve.



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful students of God's grace.

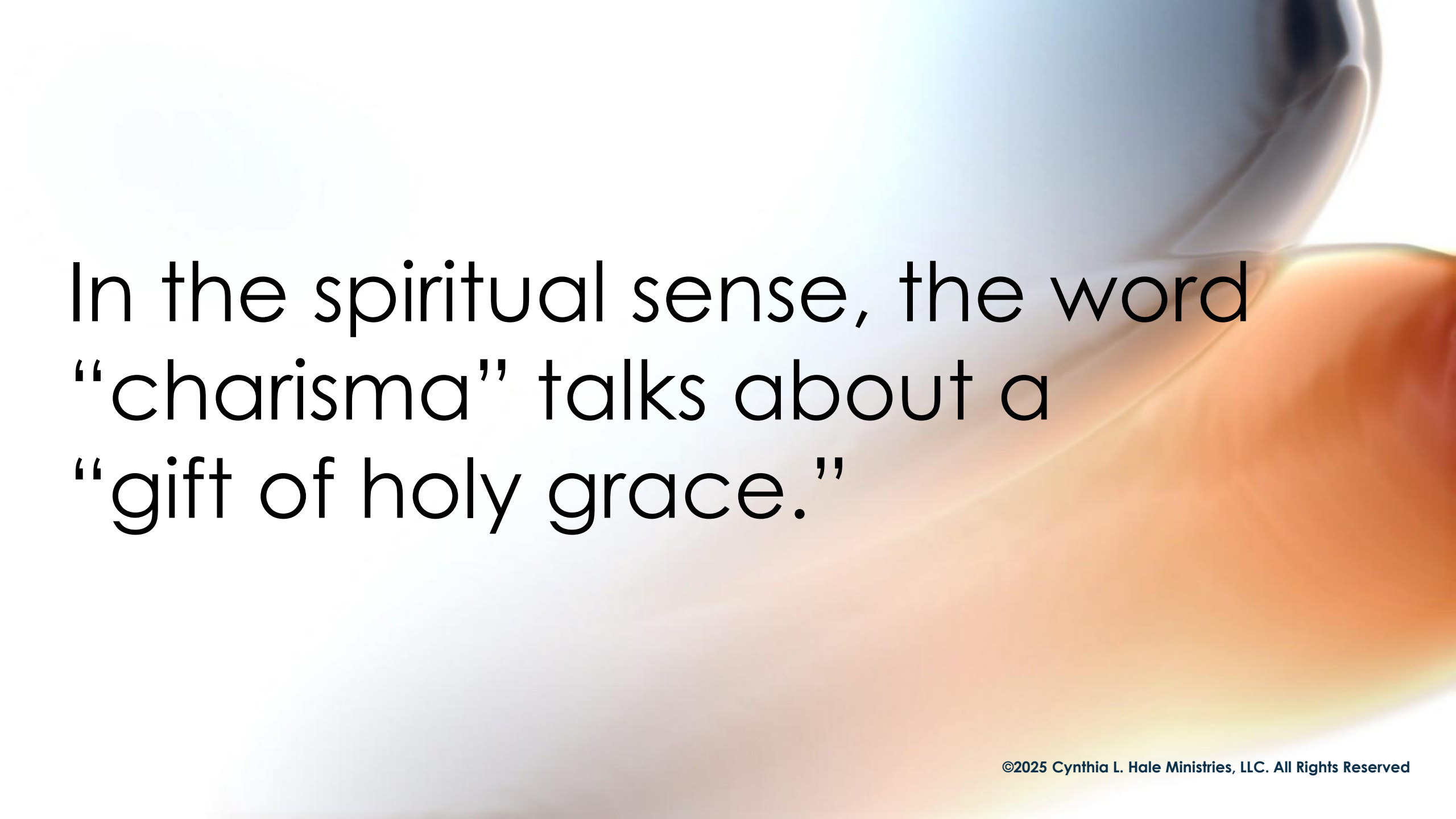


Every one of us is gifted.

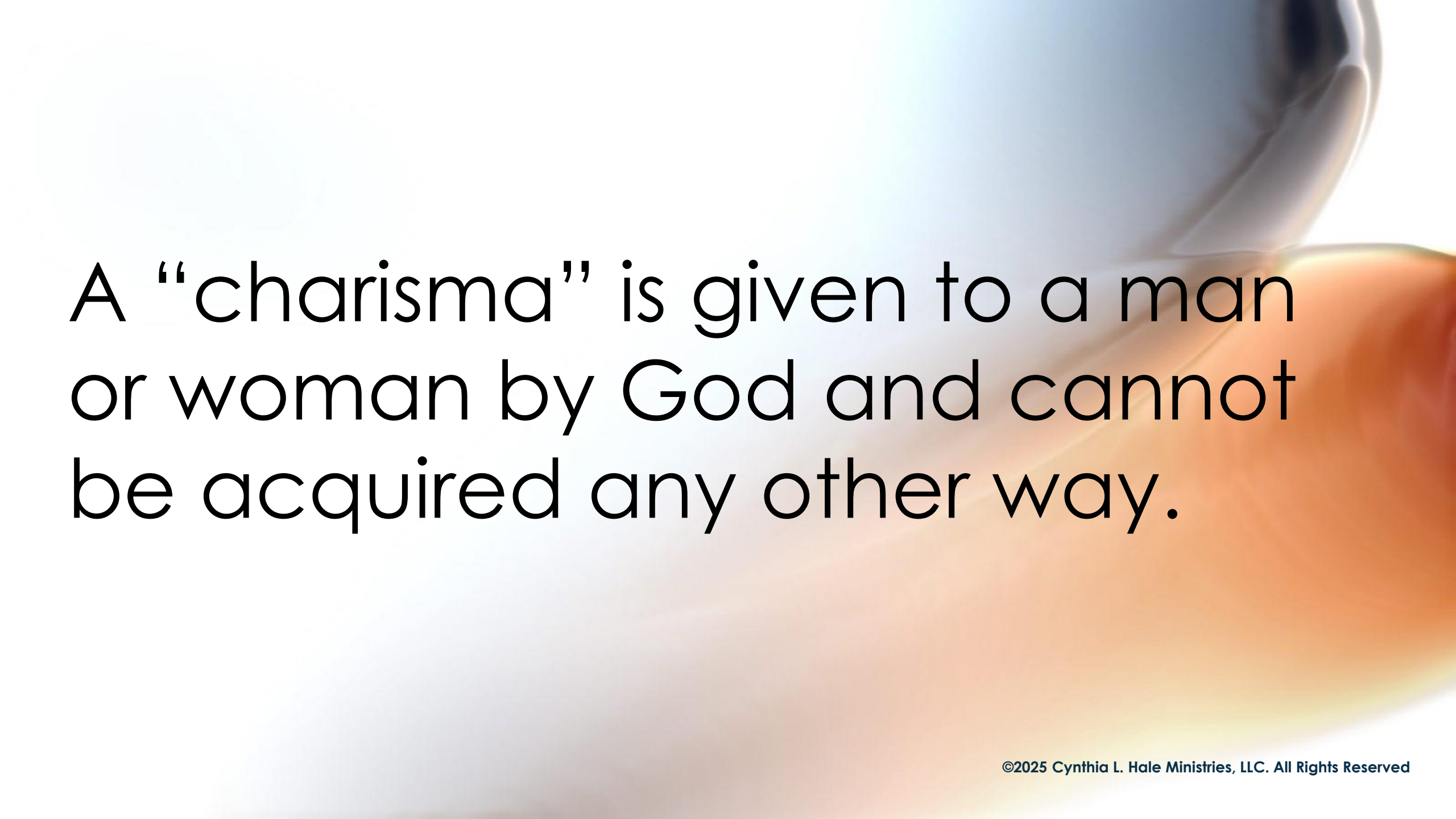


These spiritual gifts are called  
“charismata” in the Greek.  
The word “charismata” is the  
plural form of “charisma.”





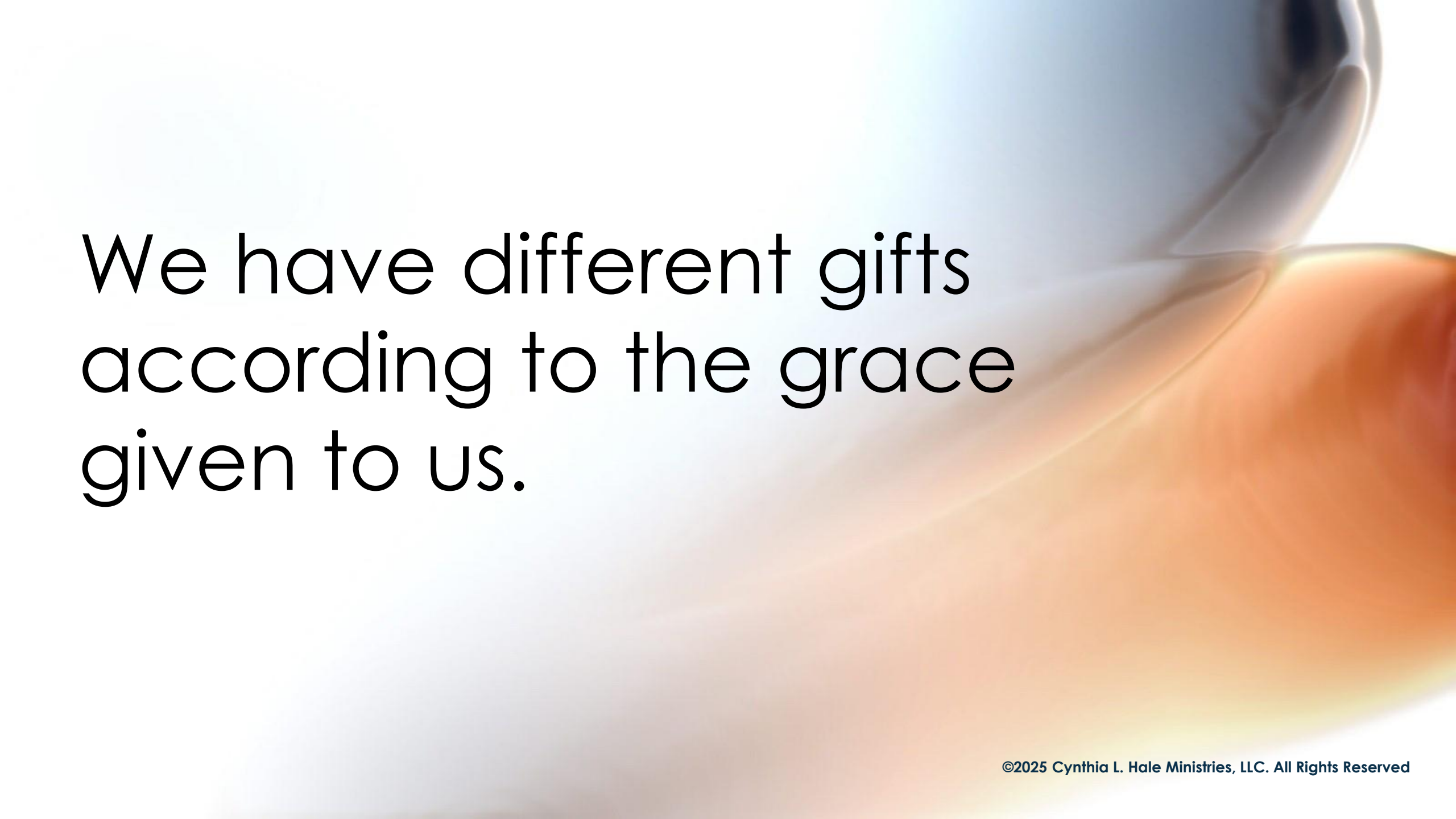
In the spiritual sense, the word  
“charisma” talks about a  
“gift of holy grace.”



A “charisma” is given to a man or woman by God and cannot be acquired any other way.

# 1 Corinthians 12:7

Now to each one the  
manifestation of the Spirit is given  
for the common good.



We have different gifts  
according to the grace  
given to us.



Each one is to use whatever  
gift you have received to  
serve others.

# **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Be steadfast, immovable, always  
abounding in the work of the  
Lord, for you know that your labor  
is not in vain.



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