



“Preserving The Fruit”

L’Amable Bible Chapel

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I. Franck



Introduction

- ❖ A Change in Season
- ❖ A Sensible Strategy
- ❖ A Spiritual Application

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:8



Three Key 'Preserving Realities'

Cleansing



It begins with God...

Filling

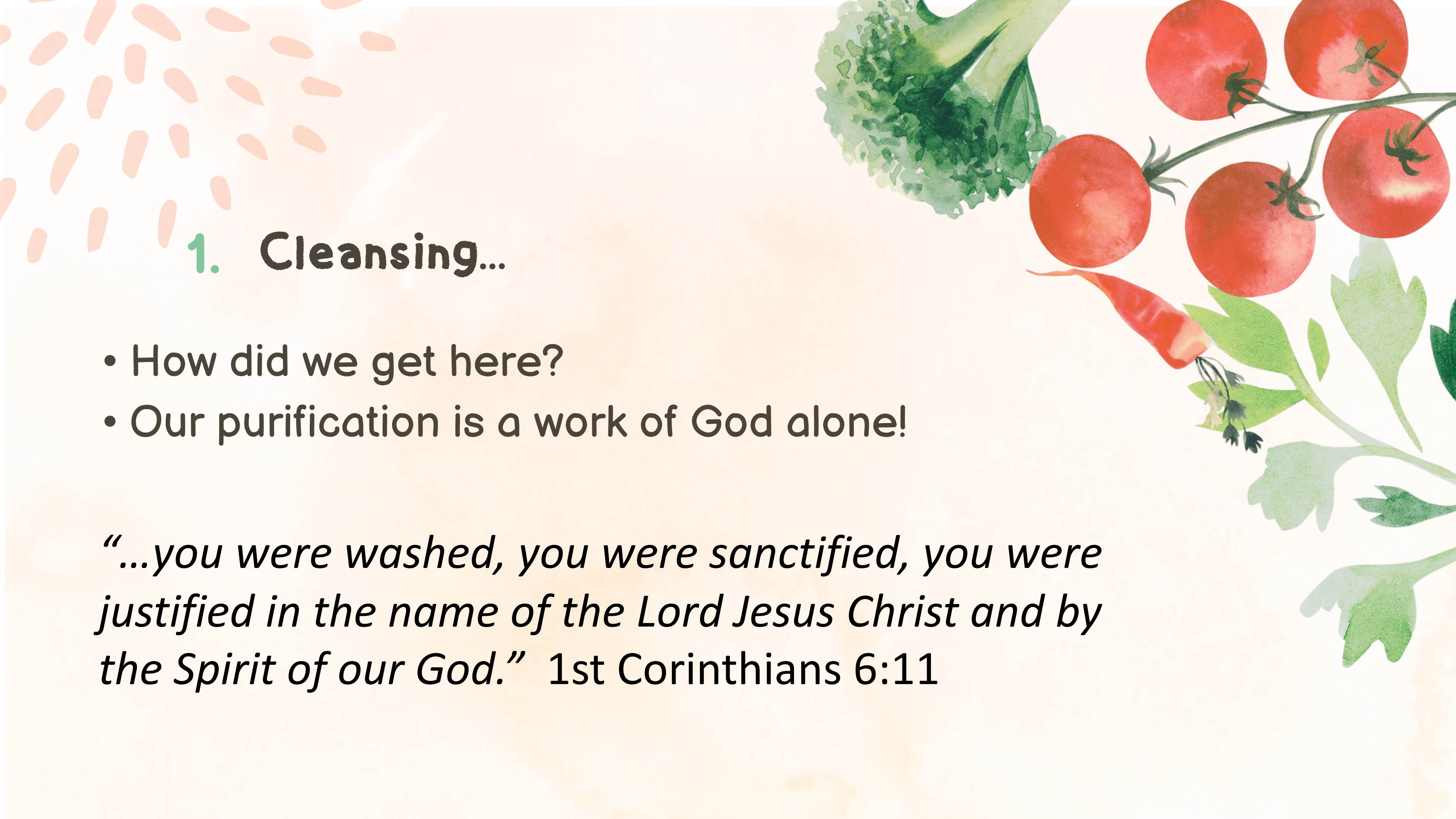


We cooperate with
Him...

Sealing



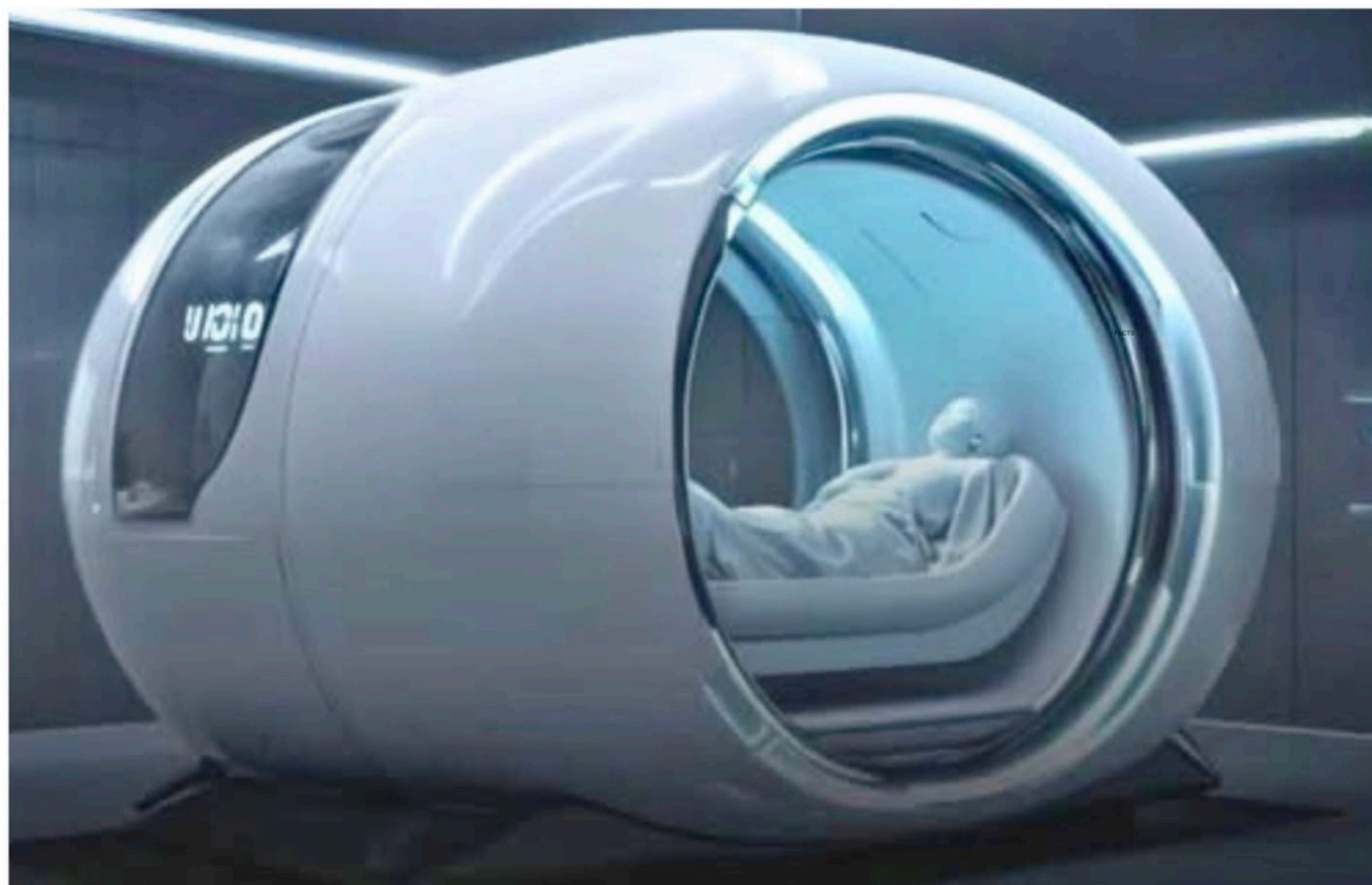
His plan for our
future is perfect...



1. Cleansing...

- How did we get here?
- Our purification is a work of God alone!

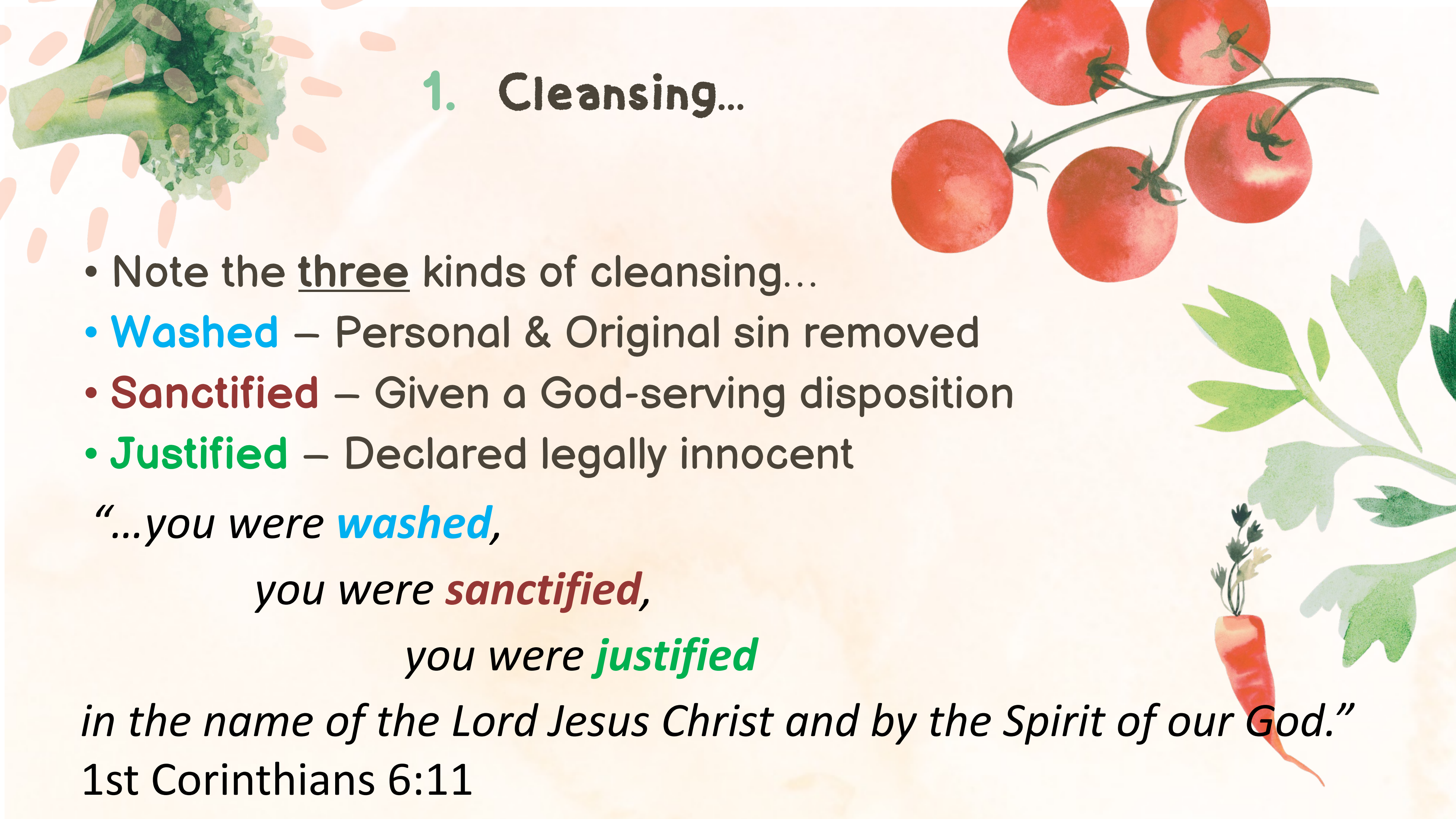
“...you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” 1st Corinthians 6:11



**Too lazy to take a shower?
Japan introduces a 'Human
Washing Machine' that
cleans and dries you in just 15
minutes.**

- God has an even better plan!
- He wants to clean us Soul, Spirit, and Body, and much more thoroughly than we can imagine!





1. Cleansing...

- Note the three kinds of cleansing...
- **Washed** – Personal & Original sin removed
- **Sanctified** – Given a God-serving disposition
- **Justified** – Declared legally innocent

*“...you were **washed**,
you were **sanctified**,
you were **justified***

in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

1st Corinthians 6:11

Does it make sense?...

- Would we eat fruit & vegetables without washing?
- Would we fill dirty jars with clean fruit?
- Would we fill clean jars with dirty fruit? 🤔
- God's plan is to clean us by his name, power, and Spirit



2. Filling...

- Empty fruit pies!
- God has plans to both cleanse us and fill us

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”
John 15:8



A Misunderstanding?

Is our life in
Christ only about
cleansing?

Jesus, the Prophets, &
the Apostles emphasize
fruitfulness...

- Humanity was commanded to be fruitful in Genesis...
- But the prophets call for fruitful living...
- One of the clearest teachings is from Jesus in John 15...



15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Filling... Let's look a little closer...



- We only grow because of Jesus
- The Father is actively engaged
- The Father inspects the branches
- He improves the fruitful ones
- Jesus implies that cleansing and improvement have already happened as his word came to us...

15 I am the true **vine**, and my Father is the **gardener**.

² He **cuts** off every branch in me that bears **no fruit**, while every branch that does bear fruit he **prunes** so that it will be even more **fruitful**.

³ You are already **clean** because of the **word** I have spoken to you.

- Our connection with Jesus determines our fruitfulness—both quantity & quality
- Jesus warns us that...
- ...there is a future reckoning when there is unfruitfulness...
- ...there is a future blessing for being connected!



⁴ **Remain in me**, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must **remain** in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will **bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing.

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John 15 is part of the explanation...

- Jesus does not specifically identify what the fruit is...
- He does mention love, and obedience to his teaching in John
- It is Paul the Apostle that expands on the theme...



²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

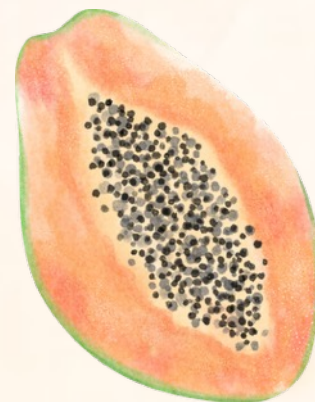


- *Paul clarifies that...*
- Fruitfulness is in Christ
- It is an abundance given by the Holy Spirit and is specific outworkings
- There is a sacrifice Jesus made
- There is an effort to “keep in step with the Spirit.”

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified** the **flesh** with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in **step** with the Spirit.



**Is there
more?**



3. Sealing...

- God has a further step...
- He not only cleanses and fills us, but he seals us.
- If we did not seal the jars, it would all be lost...



- There is a rich history of seals in the Bible
- There are literal seals in the Tabernacle and on documents
- There are seals in the book of Revelation
- But there is a personal seal as well...

Ownership identified...

- In 2nd Corinthians 1:20-22, Paul identifies a seal of ownership...



²⁰ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

- There are three themes in these verses...

1. God affirms and upholds our place in Christ and anoints us...
2. He marks us with a seal of ownership
3. He places his Spirit in us as a deposit guaranteeing the future.

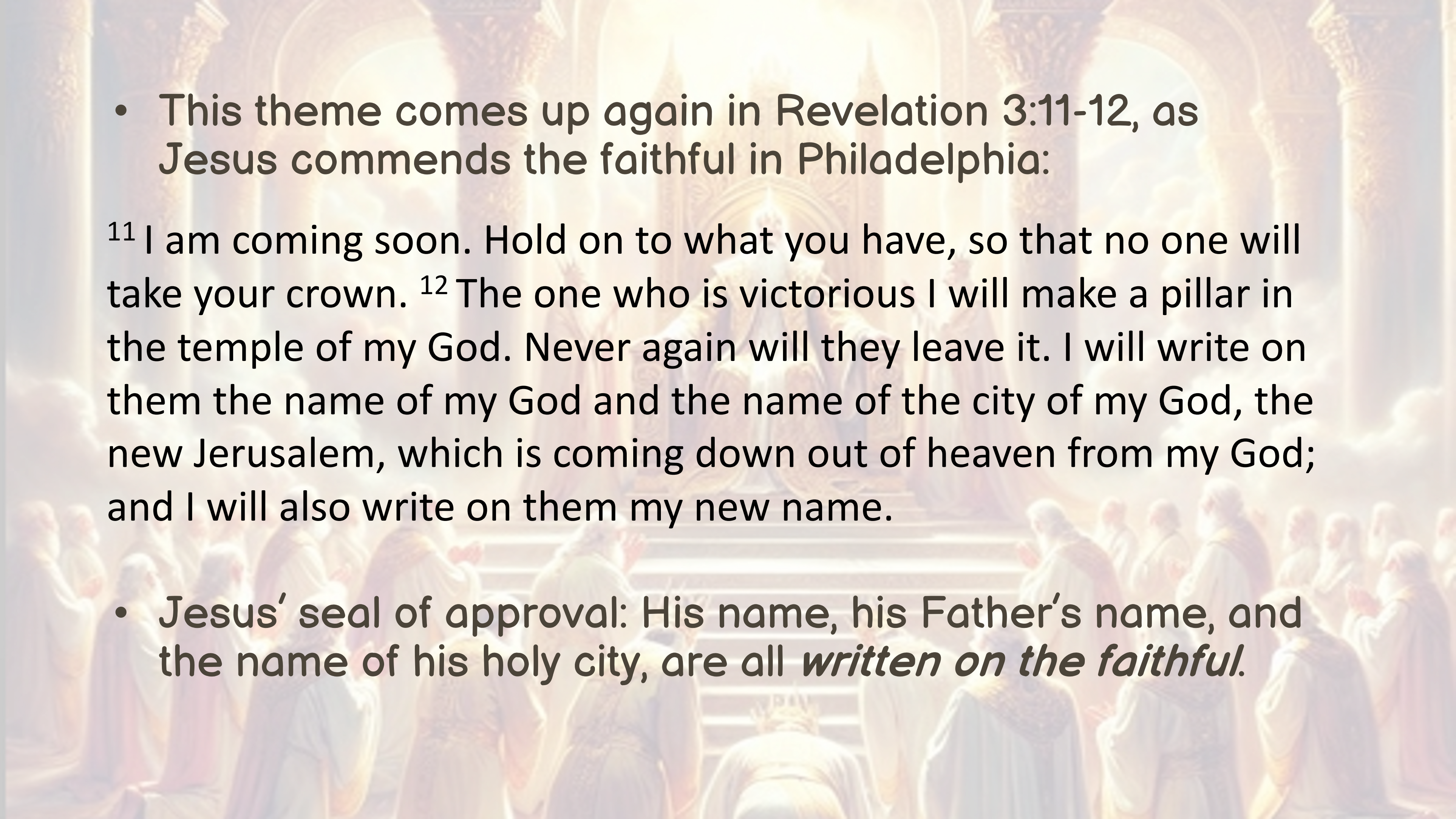


Christ, Our Seal of Approval

- 2 Corinthians 1:20-22 -

2nd Corinthians 1:20-22

²⁰ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you **stand firm** in Christ. He **anointed** us, ²² set his **seal of ownership** on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a **deposit, guaranteeing** what is to come.

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- This theme comes up again in Revelation 3:11-12, as Jesus commends the faithful in Philadelphia:

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

- Jesus' seal of approval: His name, his Father's name, and the name of his holy city, are all *written on the faithful*.

Comparing the Seven Lampstands

- Not all seven churches are commended in the same way
- This outcome for the Philadelphians is on account of their **faithfulness** – the blessing has followed them.



“...Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God... Revelation 3:11-12

- It highlights the call for all believers to be faithful

Conclusions

A vibrant collage of fresh produce. In the top left, several ripe peaches with orange and red blush are visible. To their right is a large bunch of fresh green basil leaves. Below the peaches, a brown paper shopping bag is crumpled, spilling out more produce. A single green pear with some brown spots on its skin lies prominently in the center. To the right of the pear, several large, bright red tomatoes are scattered. In the bottom left corner, a cluster of dark red cherries is partially visible. The entire scene is set against a dark, reflective background, creating a rich and appetizing visual.

Three Key 'Preserving Realities'

Cleansing



It begins with God...

Filling



We experience God
– we cooperate with
Him...

Sealing



His plan for our
future is perfect...

- **Cleansing** begins with God and is a work of God...
- We cannot add to it, but we can cooperate with God...
- *Washed, sanctified, justified*—all have been accomplished.

- **Filling** flows naturally
- We would not want 'empty pie crusts'...
- Connection with Jesus is key!
- The Holy Spirit brings specific kinds of sweet fruit...





- **Sealing is a special mark from God on his own**
- **It signifies his ownership, and, a completion of his work, but also a guarantee for the future...**
- **His 'seal of approval' marks us in the heavenlies in the sight of the angels!**
- **It is God's work, but comes first to those who are faithful...**

Takeaways? Think about these
passages next time you open a jar... 😊





Enjoy!

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