



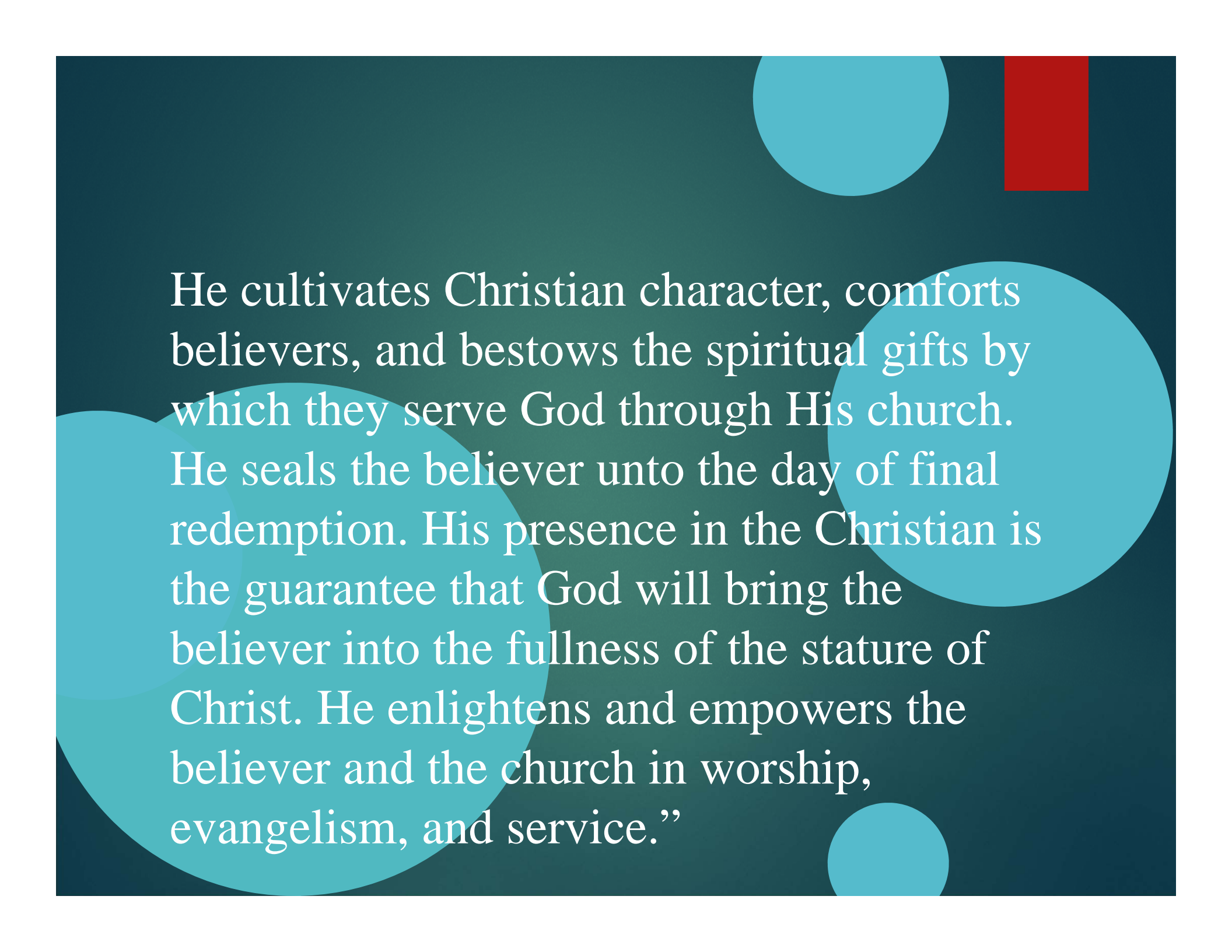
# THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE BELIEVE

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## Article 2C—Baptist Faith and Message 2000

“The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ.

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He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.”



# The Holy Spirit Inspired God's Word

“...holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

This is verbal plenary inspiration.

“verbal”—The words are inspired; not just the ideas

“plenary”—Everything in the Bible is God's Word.

The Holy Spirit moved on the human authors so that they wrote exactly what He wanted them to write.

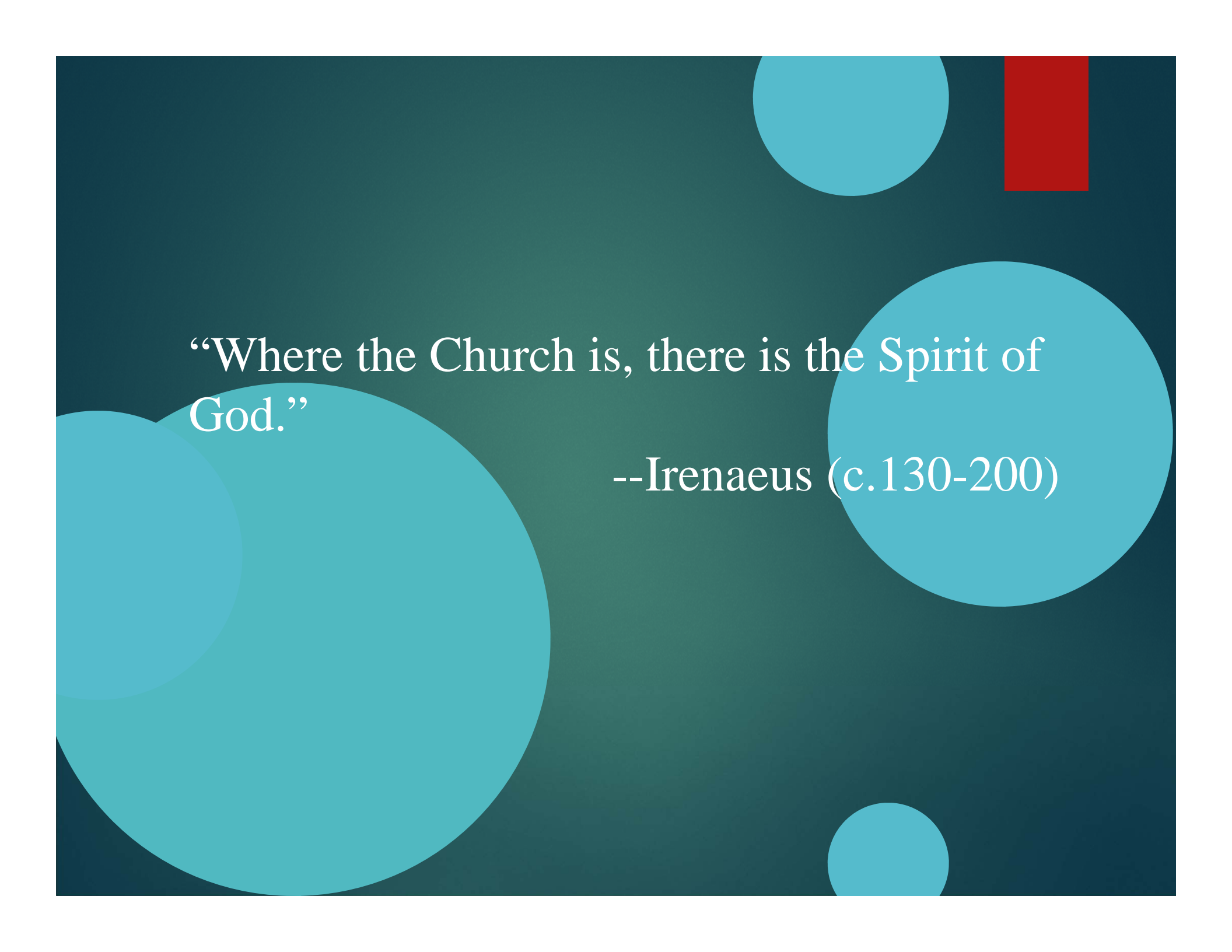
# The Holy Spirit Ministers to People

1. He convicts the sinner of sin (John 16:8).
2. He calls sinners to salvation (Revelations 22:17).
3. He causes regeneration (John 3:6).
4. He indwells followers of Jesus (Acts 2:38).
5. He seals believers (Ephesians 4:30).
6. He illuminates the truth (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).
7. He teaches believers (John 16:14).
8. He intercedes for believers (Romans 8:26).

# The Holy Spirit Builds the Church

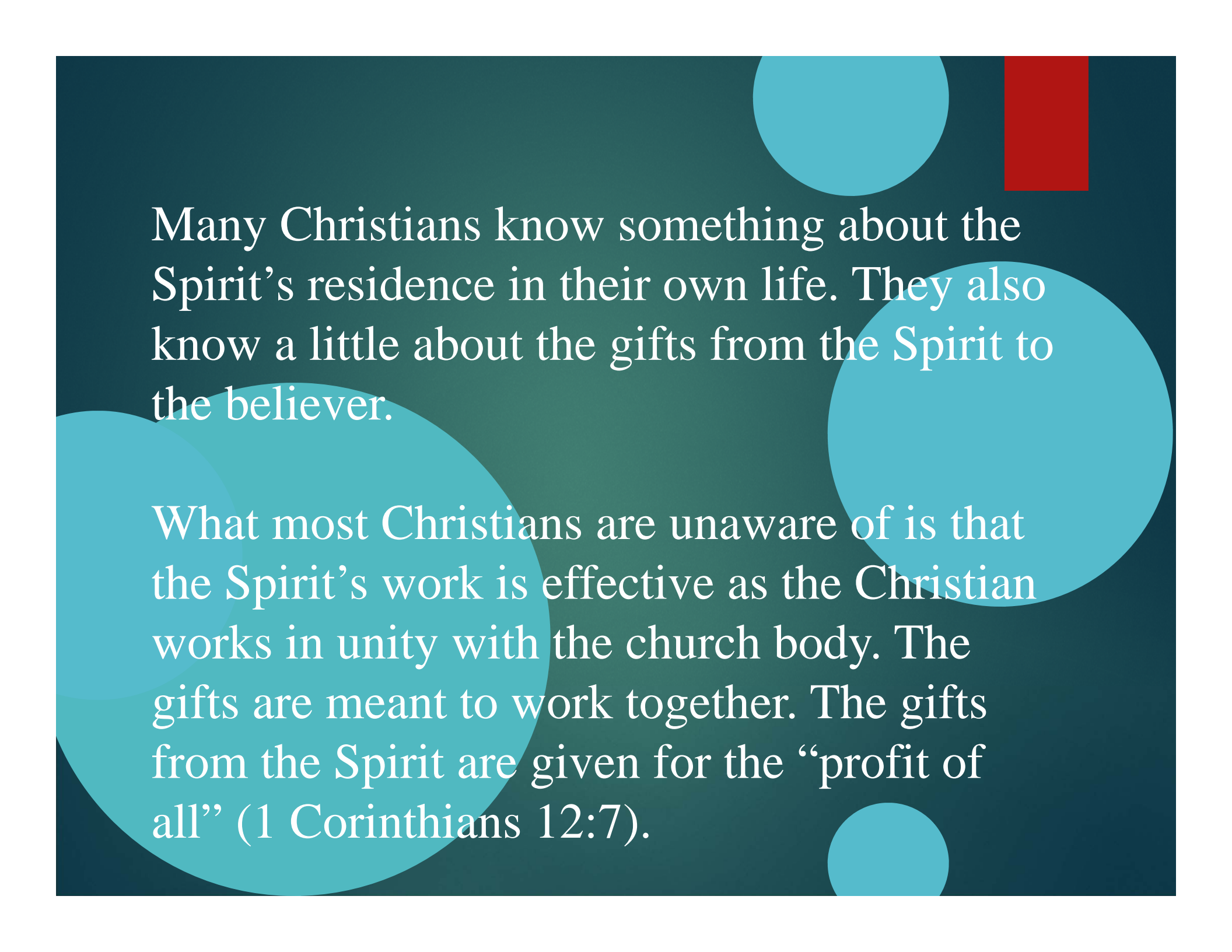
1. The Holy Spirit brings unity  
(Ephesians 4:3).
2. The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts  
(1 Corinthians 12:4-7).





“Where the Church is, there is the Spirit of  
God.”

--Irenaeus (c.130-200)

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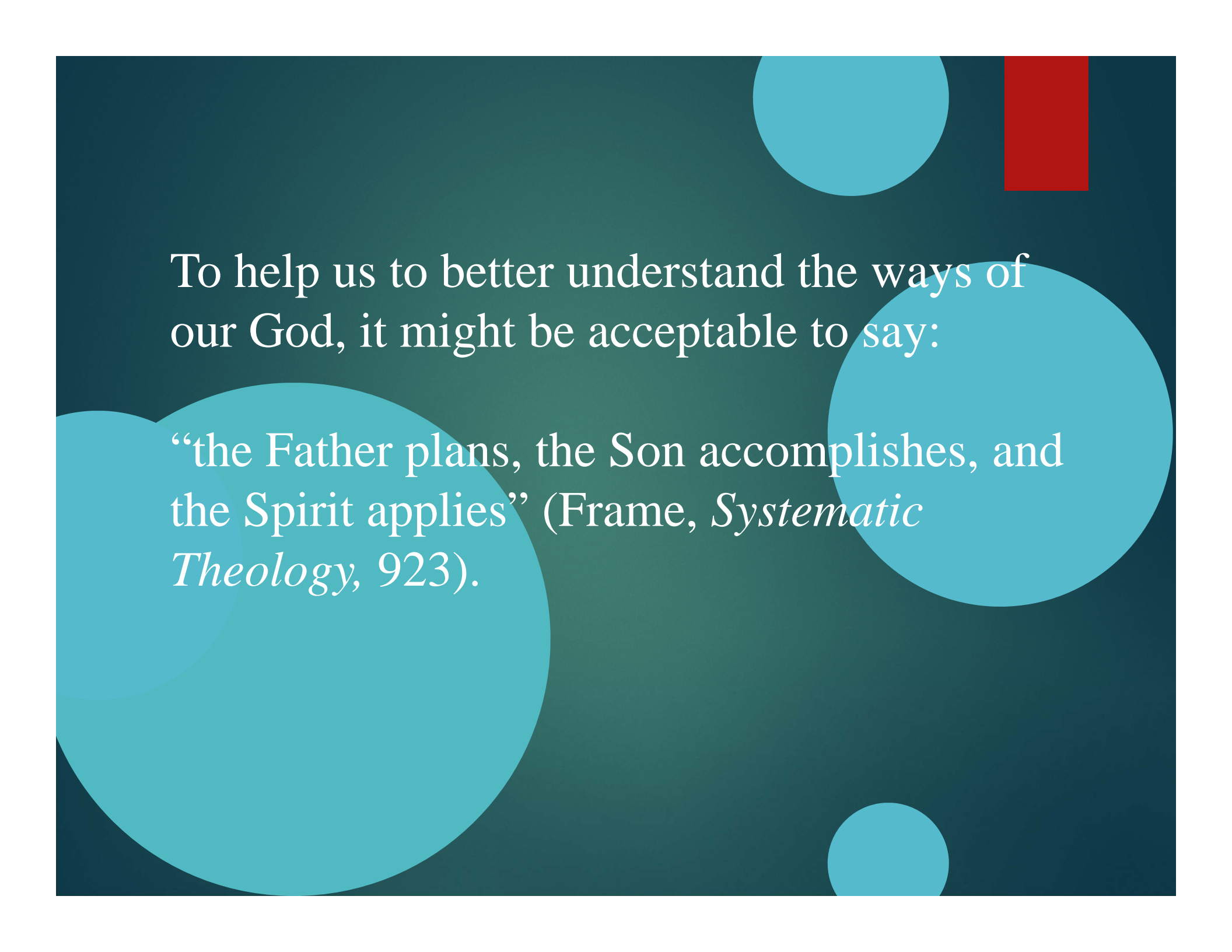
Many Christians know something about the Spirit's residence in their own life. They also know a little about the gifts from the Spirit to the believer.

What most Christians are unaware of is that the Spirit's work is effective as the Christian works in unity with the church body. The gifts are meant to work together. The gifts from the Spirit are given for the “profit of all” (1 Corinthians 12:7).



## Conclusion:

1. The Holy Spirit is the author of new life which begins at regeneration.
2. The follower of Christ is dependent on the Spirit for spiritual progress and maturity in the faith.
3. Followers of Christ can “get out of step” with the Spirit, due to neglect or weakness and sin. Yet, the evidence of the presence of the Spirit in a person’s life is that one walks in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).



To help us to better understand the ways of our God, it might be acceptable to say:

“the Father plans, the Son accomplishes, and the Spirit applies” (Frame, *Systematic Theology*, 923).



Remember what W.A. Criswell wrote  
about the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit “takes the place of Jesus  
in the flesh. When we possess the Holy  
Spirit, we possess Jesus” (p. 54, *BF &  
Message 2000* study guide).