

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 13:1 – 3

Luke 14:25 – 35



SERMON SERIES FROM HIGH POINT CHURCH

SUSTAINING
RENEWAL

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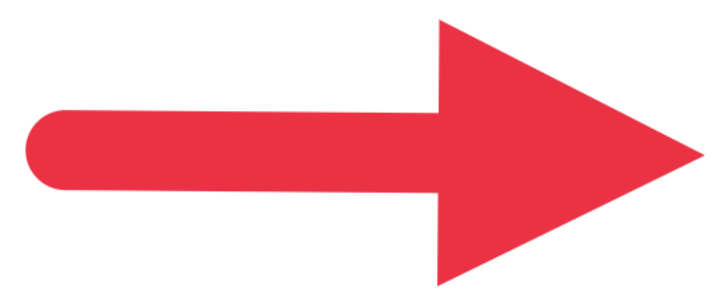
**Are you willing to do what it
takes to finish?**

**Human perseverance is rare.
Spiritual awakenings typically miscarry.**

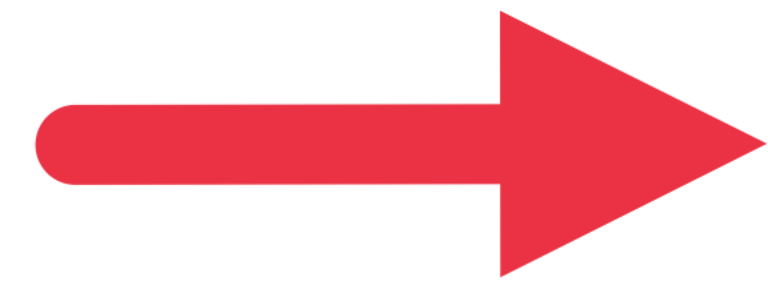
Perseverance

It takes...

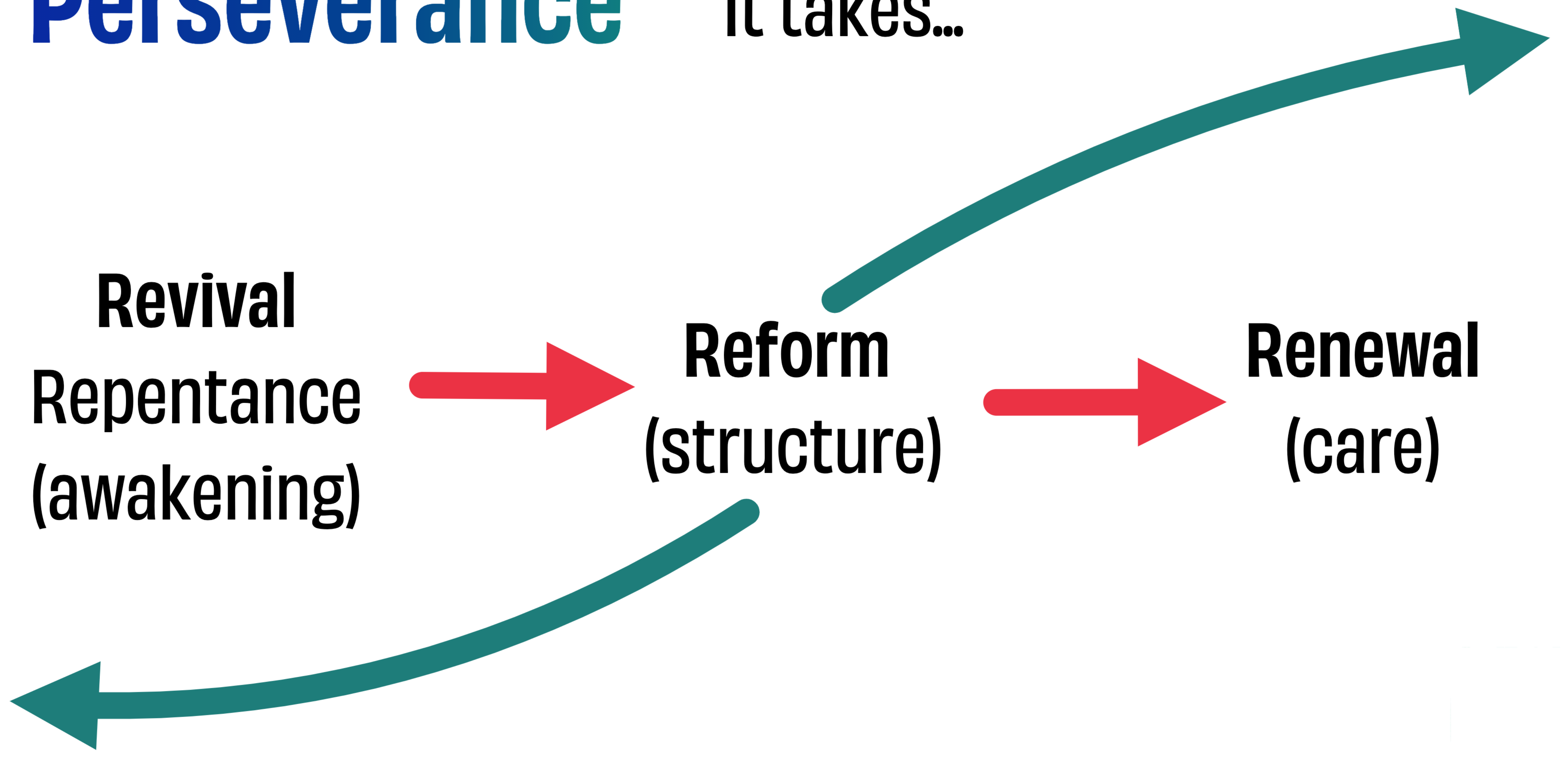
Revival
Repentance
(awakening)



Reform
(structure)



Renewal
(care)



1 Timothy 1:3 – 5

As I urged you...command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to **devote themselves** to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a **pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.**



5 devotions of sustained renewal:

- 1. Ferocious Purity**
- 2. Leadership Integrity**
- 3. Faithful Stewardship**
- 4. Invested Worship**
- 5. Obedient Discipleship**



Ferocious purity is the foundation of
sustained renewal and **persevering faith.**

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is the foundation
of persevering faith.

1. Ferocious purity has the stomach to exclude contamination.

Purity: a high level of integrity that comes from the absence of contamination.

Purity takes a stomach, not just a heart.

Purity requires having the *stomach for excluding what God excludes*, not just a heart that "won't quit."



Nehemiah 13:1 – 3

On that day the Book of Moses was read..it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be *admitted into the assembly of God*..When the people heard this law, *they excluded from Israel* all who were of foreign descent.



Luke 14:25 – 35

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.

Hyperbole? Then why?



Excluding what?



Exodus 12:48, Ezra 6:20–22, Ruth 1:16–18, Nehemiah 13:23–24

Nehemiah 13:3b

“Excluded from Israel all who were of foreign descent.”

Lit: “they divided all mixture from Israel.”



Warren Wiersbe:

“The 'mixed multitude' is composed of [unconverted] people who want to belong to the fellowship of God's people without trusting the Lord or submitting to His will. They want the blessings but not the obligations, and their appetite is still for the things of the world. Balaam was a hireling prophet who tried to curse Israel but...



"..each time saw the curse turned into a blessing (Numbers 22 – 24). Finally, however, he hit upon a scheme to defeat Israel: He encouraged the Moabites to be "neighborly" and invite the Jews to share in their religious feasts, which involved immorality and idolatry (Numbers 25). Balaam knew that human nature would respond to the opportunity for sin and the Jews would disobey God..



"...As a result of their sin, Israel was disciplined by God, and 24,000 people died. The "mixed multitude" in the church today urges us to follow the philosophy of Balaam and do what the world wants us to do [rather than be vigilant to obey God]."



2. Ferocious purity identifies a sanctuary perimeter.

Purity isn't about isolation or insulation, it is about maintaining a source of spiritual integrity.

Purity of heart vs. insulated life



Guarding the spiritual source vs. excluding creation



The integrity perimeter:

"The Assembly of God" (Nehemiah 13)

"The Assembly of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 23)

This is not the nation of Israel, but the inner circle of devotion to God, maintaining the spiritual heart and integrity of the people.



3. Ferocious purity is vigilant against enticement.

**Purity fails when people cannot recognize
enticement for what it is.**

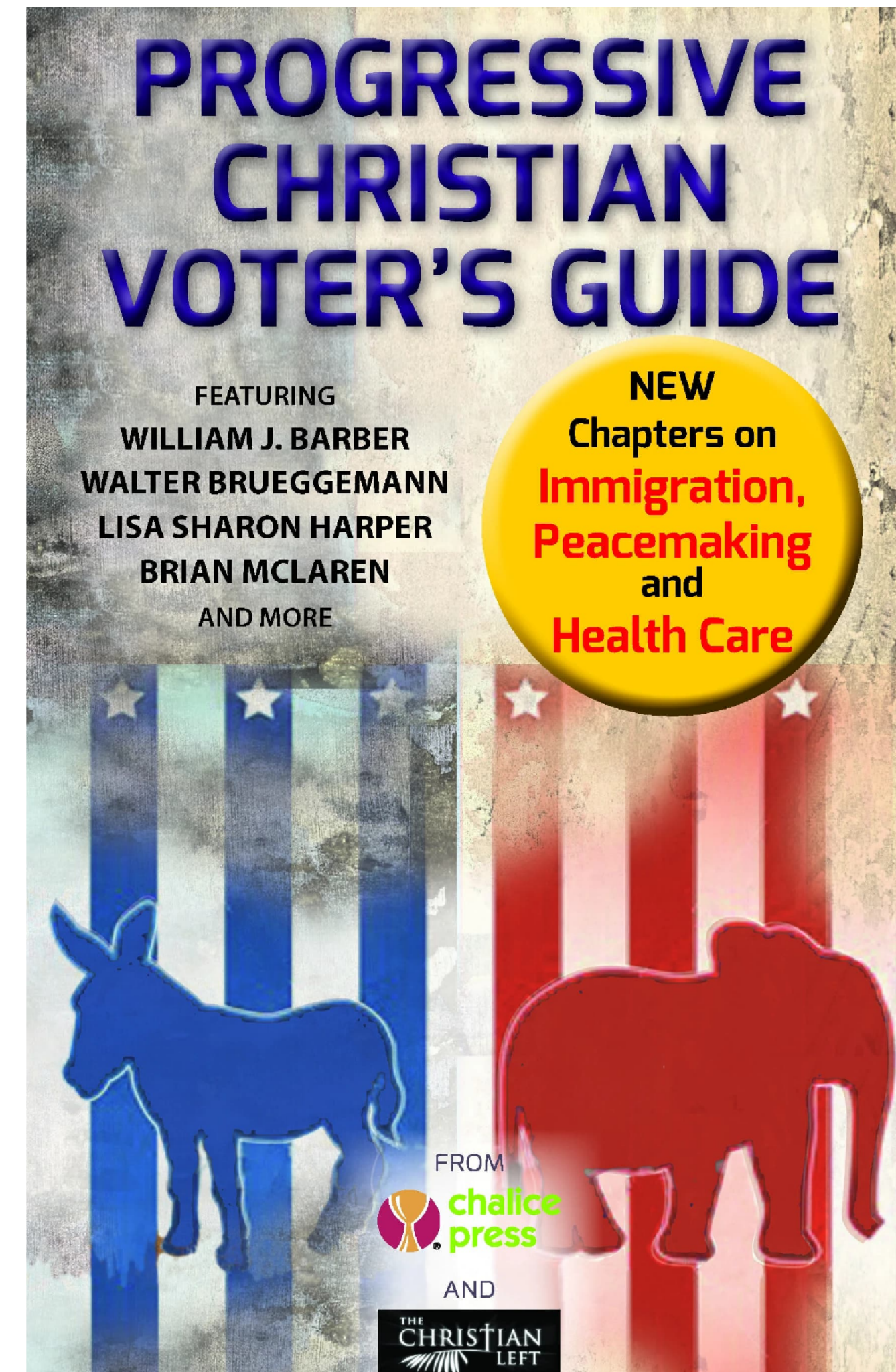
**What cannot be
done by malice
can be done by
enticement.**

Numbers 23 – 25



Enticements are constant..

They cannot be allowed into the perimeter.



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