

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized, dark green leaves and branches. The leaves are elongated and pointed, with simple outlines. The branches are thin and curved, creating a natural, vine-like structure. The overall color palette is a range of green tones, from a deep forest green to a slightly lighter, muted green.

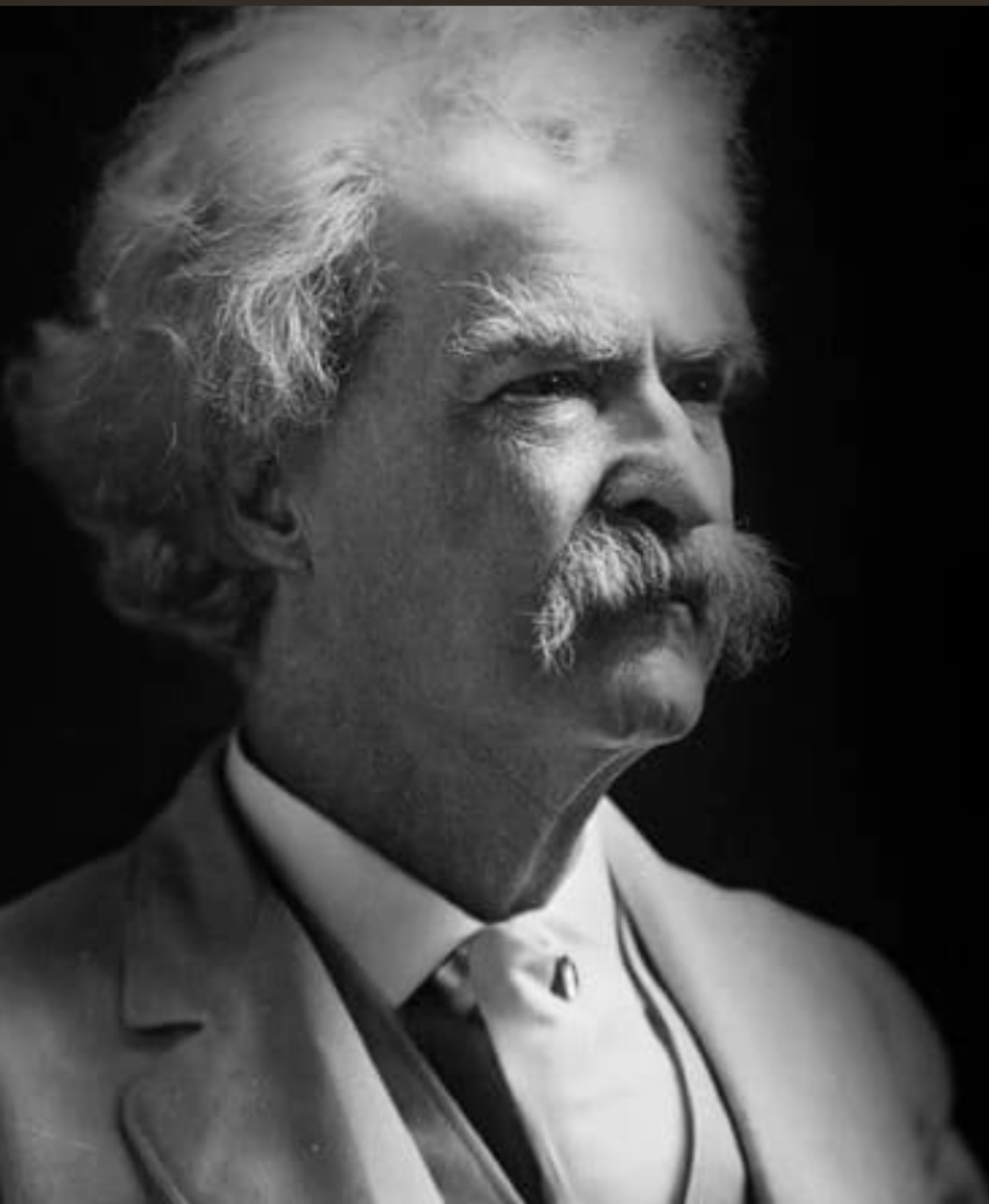
SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 3:3 – 4, 7 – 12



PHILIPPIANS

Are you confident?



“A man cannot **be comfortable**
without his own approval.”

- Mark Twain



Philippians 3:3 – 4

"...we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no **confidence** in the flesh—though I myself have reasons for such **confidence**. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put **confidence** in the flesh, I have more..."

The need assumed



WHAT is your
confidence?



Confidence



Strategic Reasons



"Gain-Loss"
Am I gonna make it?



Moral reasons



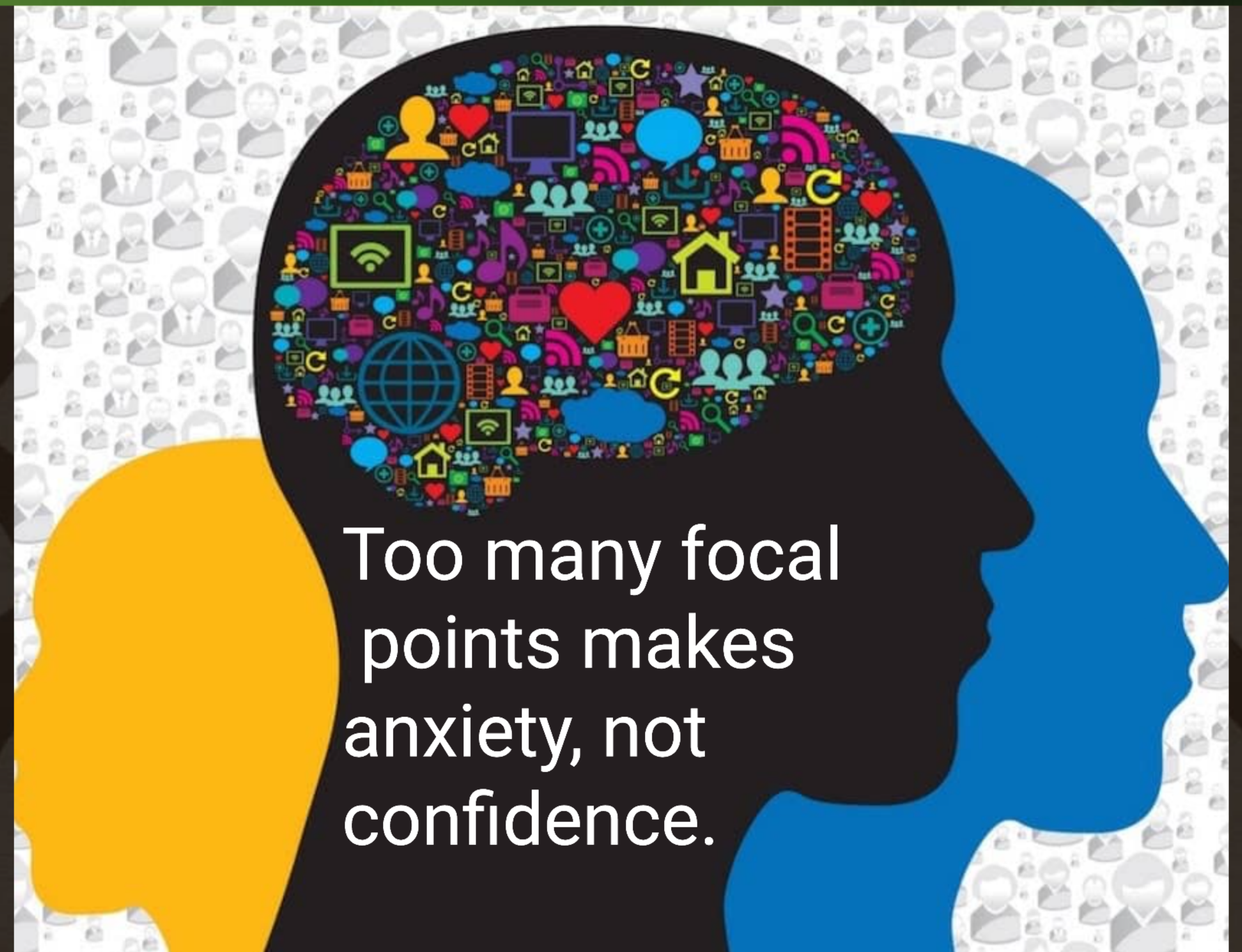
"Righteousness"
Should I make it?



Focus

Confidence can
require exclusivity

Other things can: conflict
with, dilute, confuse, divide,
or distract from the basis of
our confidence.



Too many focal
points makes
anxiety, not
confidence.

Confidence

It's not hokey because the C's are literally all in the passage...except #3 is a stretch: 'beComing'

1. Consideration

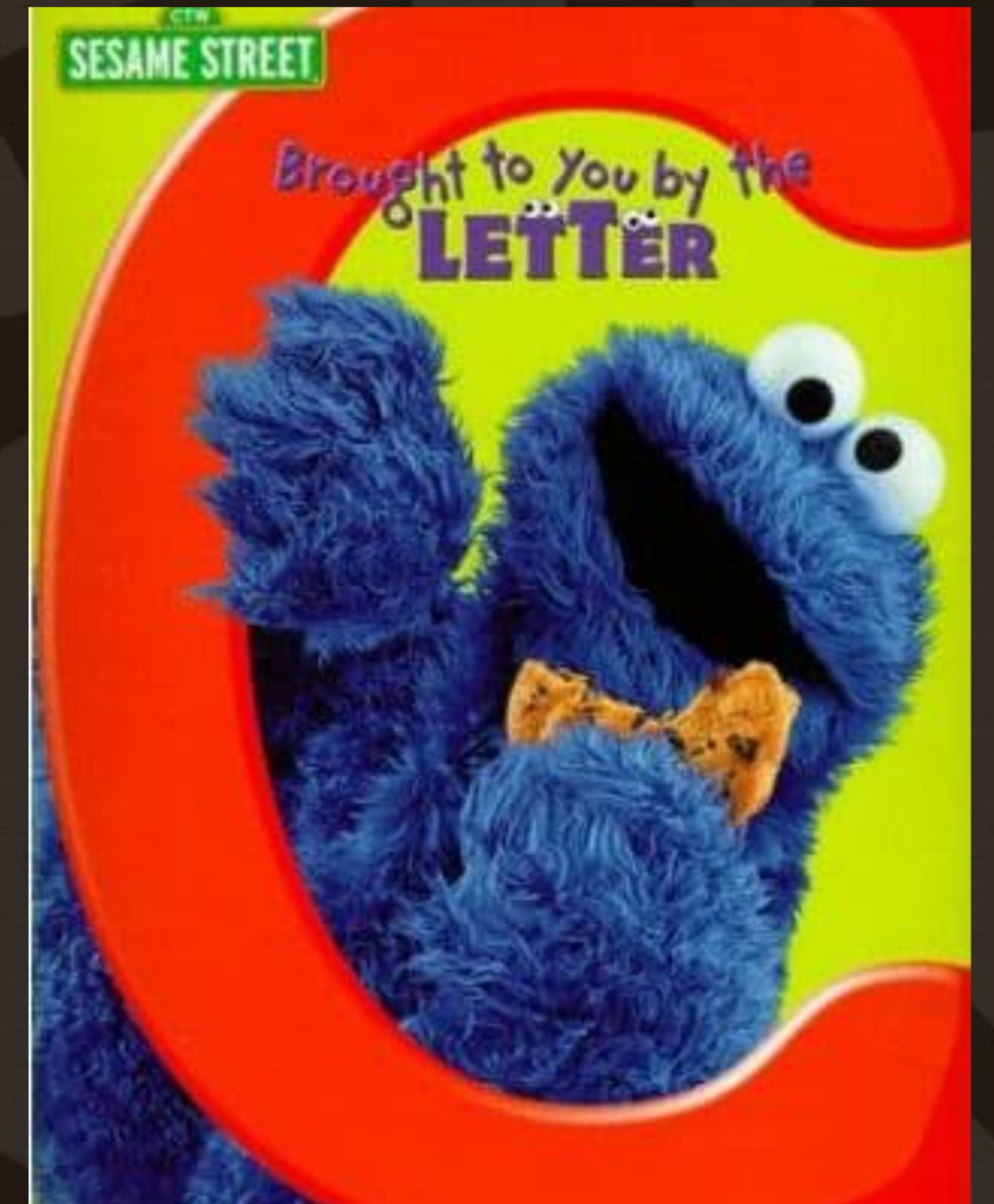
Am I valuing things correctly?

2. Comparison

What as compared to what?

3. Conformation

How do I beCome what I've believed?





**Our confidence is in
belonging to Christ
Jesus himself.**

Everything else is a
confidence liability



(Not bad, a liability)



1.

Confidence requires a
complete change in
consideration.

A new reckoning or measuring.

Philippians 3:7 – 9

“But whatever was to my profit I now **consider** loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I **consider** everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I **consider** them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...”

Why so absolute?

This **consideration** requires
a very specific and focused
comparision.



2.

**Confidence requires a
choice that implies
comparison.**

What as compared to what?

Philippians 3:8 (literary translation)

“What is more, very much to the contrary, also, I myself consider everything to be a liability compared to the superiority of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them refuse, that I may gain Christ”

Confidence Comparisons

There answers are all in this passage

1. Will I be committed to what is truly superior?
2. Will I really follow the truth and real wisdom?
3. Will I actually know God—as personally as I can know such a being?
4. Will I have a claim in belonging to God and what is his?

Confidence Comparisons

5. Will I, in the end, be God's—will I end up with him in the end?
6. Will I have a claim to be considered righteous, and actually be as righteous as I can be? Will I have followed the right image of righteousness?

Confidence Comparisons

7. Will I have the belonging in meaningful endeavors that create real pleasure, significance, meaning and legacy? The kind of friendship that is deeper than family, and do deeds I can be glad are my legacy forever?

Confidence Comparisons

8. Will I overcome my greatest enemies?
Death and judgment? Is there a way to live forever in glory—rather than extinction, as a zombie, or in deserved punishment?

2 main "superiors"

1. The Knowledge of Christ Jesus.
2. The Righteousness from God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.



3.

**Confidence and
confirmation are
mutually reinforcing.**

We'll become what we
confidently believe.

Philippians 3:10 – 12

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead...

Philippians 3:10 – 12

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect,
but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.



PHILIPPIANS