

COSTLY GRACE SERIES

All Out Of Love?

Revelation 2:1-7





Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

ANATOLIA



CHURCH-GOD'S TEMPLE

PRESBYTERIANS AT A PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP SERVICE



All your dissatisfactions with the Church seem to me to come from an incomplete understanding of sin...What you seem to demand is the Church put the kingdom of heaven on earth right now and here-That the Holy Ghost be translated at once into all flesh. The Holy Spirit rarely shows Himself on the surface of anything.

To have the Church be what you want it to be would require the continuous miraculous meddling of God in human affairs, whereas it is to retain our dignity that God has chose to operate in another manner. We can't reject that without rejecting life...Christianity makes a difference; but it cannot kill the age.

Flannery O'connor

Love cannot exist in isolation: away from others, love bloats into pride. Grace cannot be received privately: cut off from others it is perverted into greed. Hope cannot develop in solitude: separated from the community, it goes to seed in the form of fantasies. No gift, no virtue can develop and remain healthy apart from the community of faith.

“Outside the church there is no salvation” is not ecclesiastical arrogance but spiritual common sense, confirmed in everyday experience. Whenever persons attempt to live in defiance of it they are attenuated and impoverished. Submitting to it they are greatly rewarded...Obedience is the road to freedom, humility the road to pleasure, unity the road to personality.

Eugene Peterson

GOD IS LOVE

**GOD IS THE UTTERLY
LOVING GIVER. GOD
DOESN'T JUST LOVE. GOD
IS LOVE.**

MIROSLAV VOLF

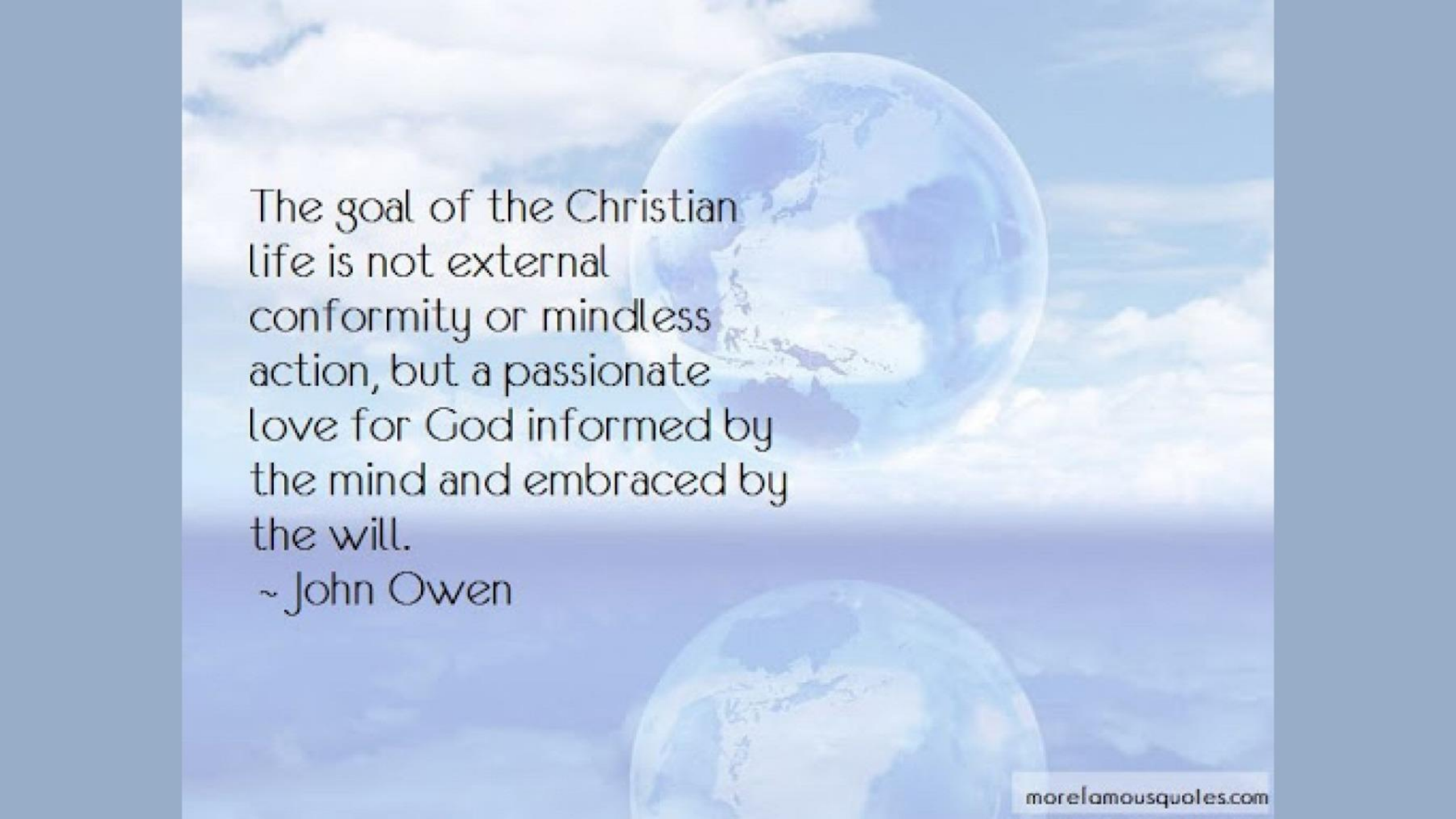
PICTUREQUOTES.COM

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

1 Corinthians 13:4–7

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

SALVATION IS TO FALL IN LOVE
WITH THE GOD REVEALED IN
JESUS CHRIST



The goal of the Christian life is not external conformity or mindless action, but a passionate love for God informed by the mind and embraced by the will.

~ John Owen

CHURCH MUST LOVE

1. Without 'first Love,' service becomes lifeless routine or even drudgery.
2. Without 'first Love,' endurance becomes the joyless 'shuffle of the stone.'
3. Without 'first love,' orthodoxy becomes narrow-minded, nitpicking legalism.
4. Without 'first love,' hatred of the practices of the Nicolaitans becomes hatred of the Nicolaitans themselves.

Some “can smell unsound doctrine a mile away,” and yet the fruit of personal experience of God often proves rare among us.

J.I. Packer

A church where love ceases can no longer function properly as a local expression of Christ's many-membered body. This is one of the offenses for which a lampstand can be moved from its place (2:5), through which a church can ultimately cease to exist as a church. Some churches die from lack of outreach, lack of planning for the rising generation, or lack of courtesy to visitors; some churches, like the church in Ephesus, may risk simply killing themselves off by how they treat others.

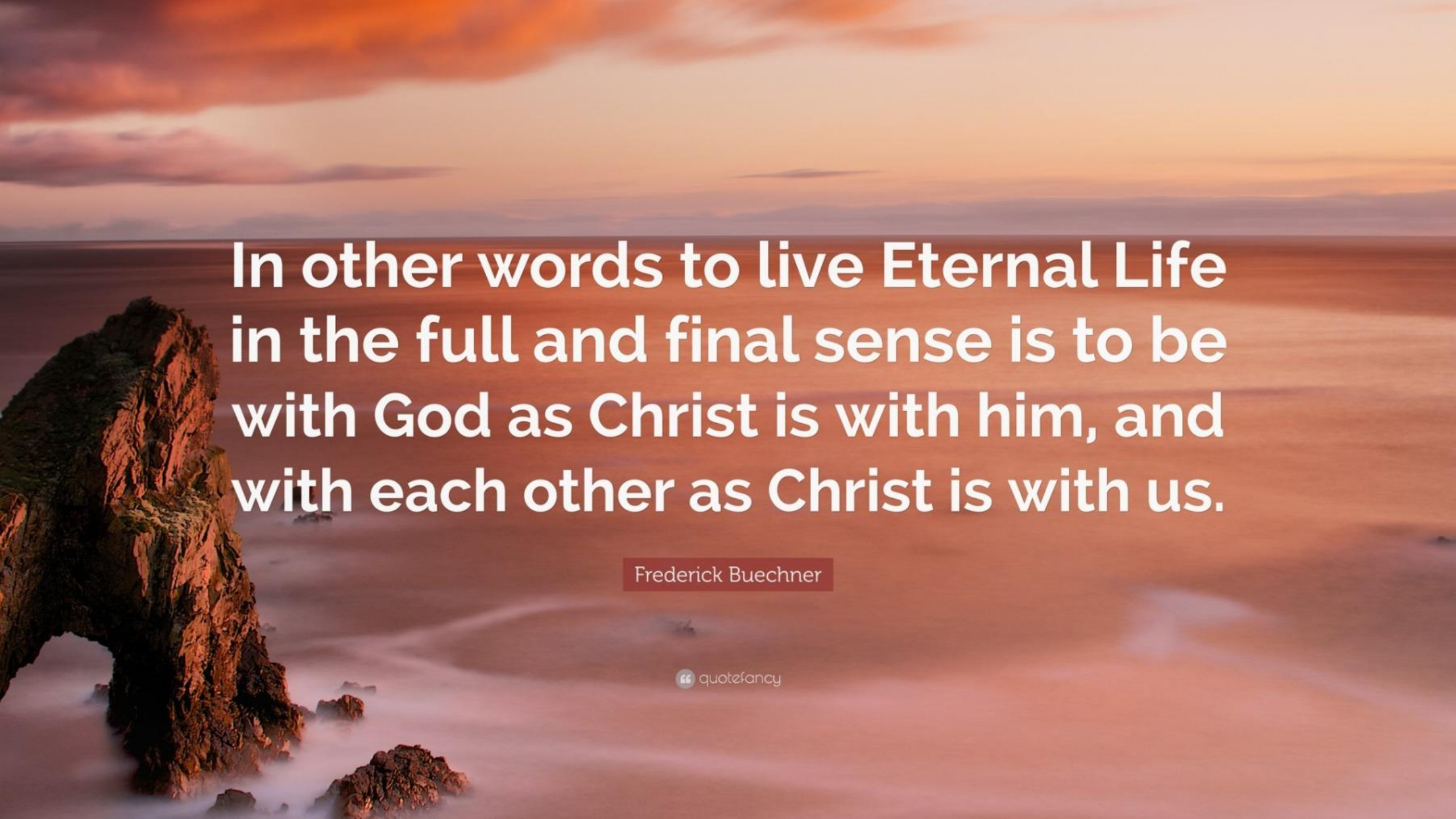
Craig Keener

THE GREAT PROMISE

“

To love is to be transformed into what we love. To love God is therefore to be transformed into God.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS



**In other words to live Eternal Life
in the full and final sense is to be
with God as Christ is with him, and
with each other as Christ is with us.**

Frederick Buechner