

# ST MARK CHURCH PRESERVANTS COURSE 2024/2025

Spirituality of the Service

Patristics

Comparative Theology/  
Dogmatic Theology

Old Testament

New Testament

Rituals

Church History



# - How to serve spirituality of the Servant – Subdeacon David Boutros



- ▶ Characteristics of a servant.
- ▶ How to prepare and to give a lesson
- ▶ The Servant's life of Prayer and the Word of God
- ▶ Faith in Service
- ▶ Safeguarding



# Characteristics

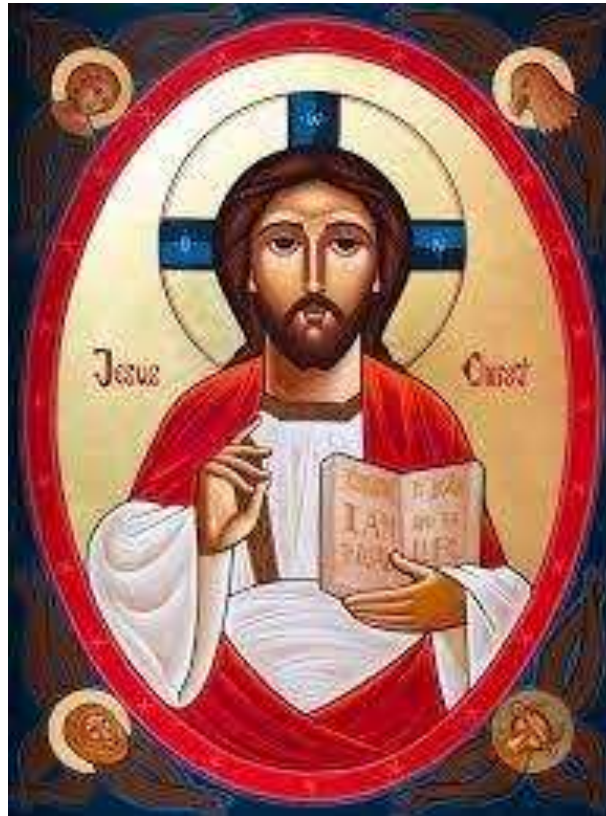
of the servant is a DNA that is built & sourced from:

My goal to serve is not  
sourced in personal  
glorification but from Our  
Love to our Lord who fills us  
with love for others by His  
Grace which fills our lamps



This grace  
is shown in the fruits of:

Offering Love,  
Consistency, praying, Discipleship and Sound teaching  
Following up, walking with those we serve  
Overcoming or ignoring obstacles



With a goal for us  
to serve our  
beloved brothers  
and sisters in Christ  
and to share our  
beloved Christ  
with them



**Service is not what you do:**

**A Servant is who you are!**



# Delivering a lesson



we are not school teachers

Declare His glory among  
the nations, His wonders  
among all people

Psalms 96:3



*in love*



Not just teaching but sharing



Our Service delivery equation :

Declare His glory among  
the nations, His wonders  
among all people

Psalm 96:3

We teach not only from the brain and not only knowledge

but share from the heart

By the Spirit.



We literally share our love of God

To the children who we love as sons and daughters of God

Declare His glory among the nations,  
His wonders among all people

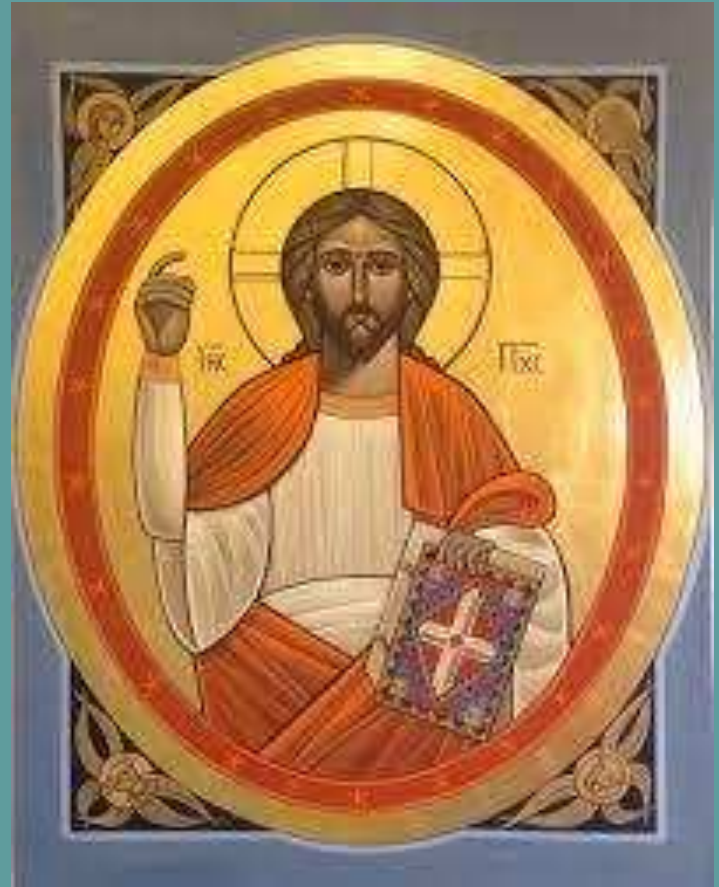
Psalms 96:3

# Our aim is for Him to meet them



# What Should the lesson be on ?

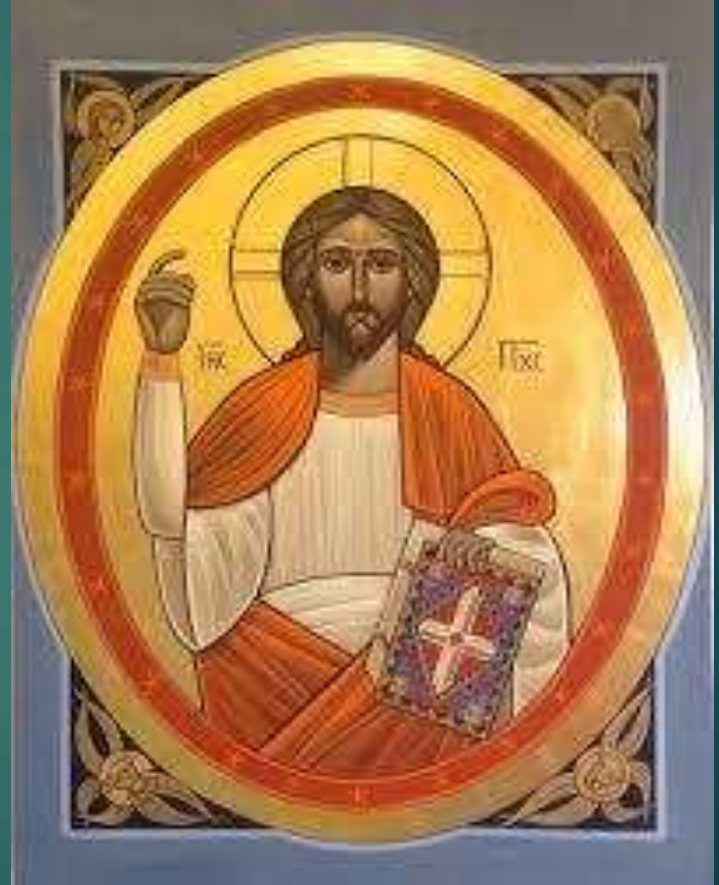
You should have a syllabus or agreed lesson structure / plan with your lead servant or fellow servants that builds to feed the group or is in sync with the spiritual year.



# What Should the lesson be on ?

BUT.....make the lesson yours, there is nothing worse than a lesson that is read by the servant with no interest, no understanding, not lived. It is dead or at least deadly boring to your audience

It needs to be lived and prepared

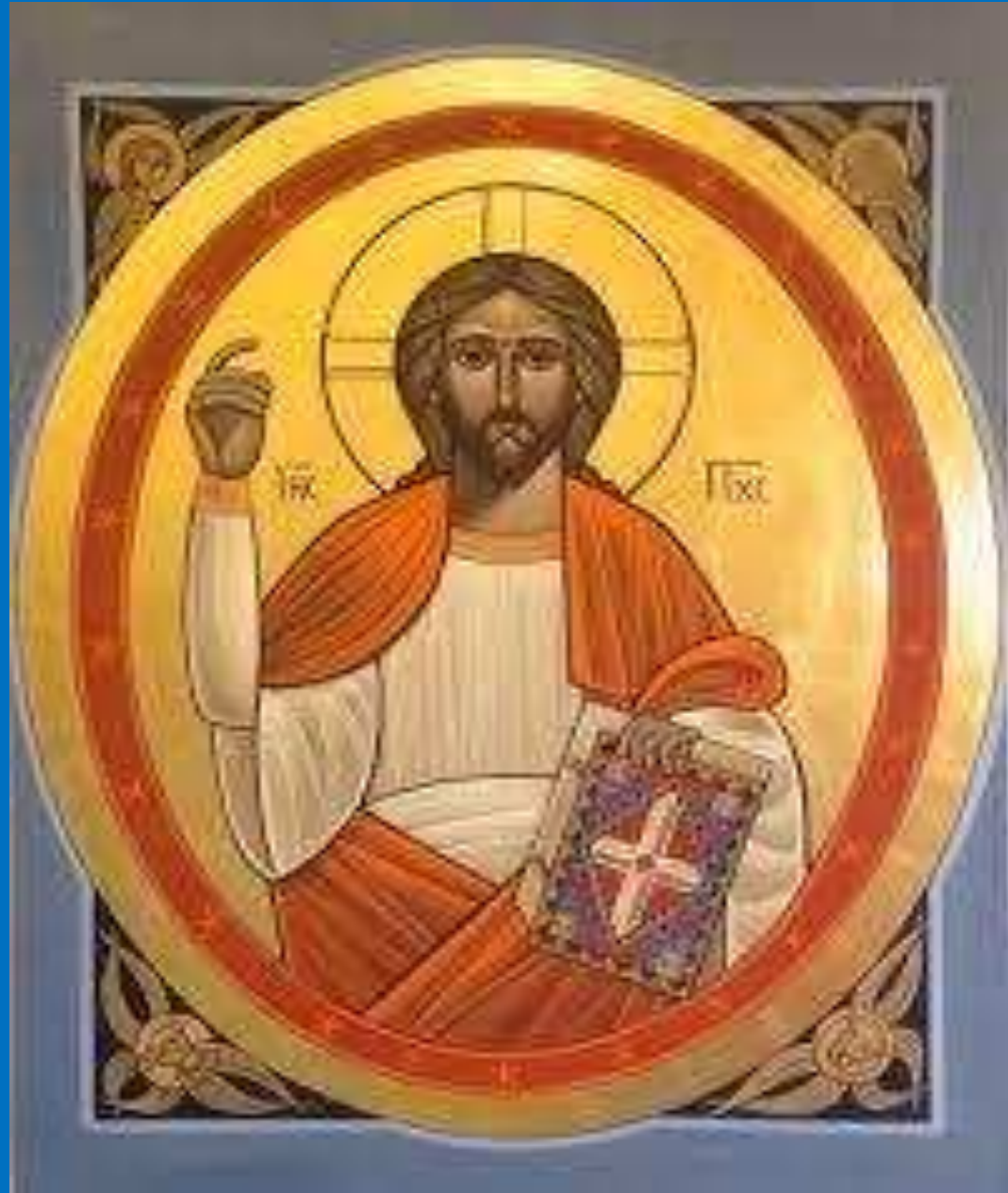


# Preparation

The first part of preparation is prayer .

If the source is not the Lord, our lesson is futile.

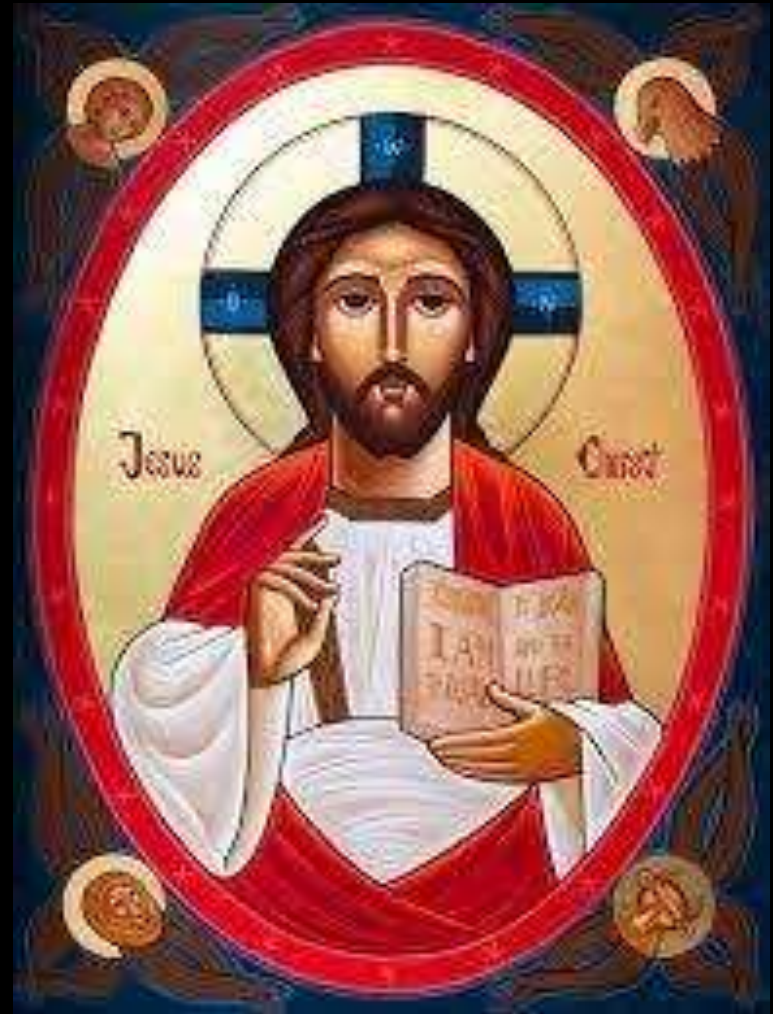
No matter what we know or don't know we have to ask the Lord first.



# Sound Doctrine

“IN YOUR DOCTRINE  
SHOW...SOUNDNESS  
OF SPEECH THAT  
CANNOT BE  
CONDEMNED”

TITUS 2:7-8

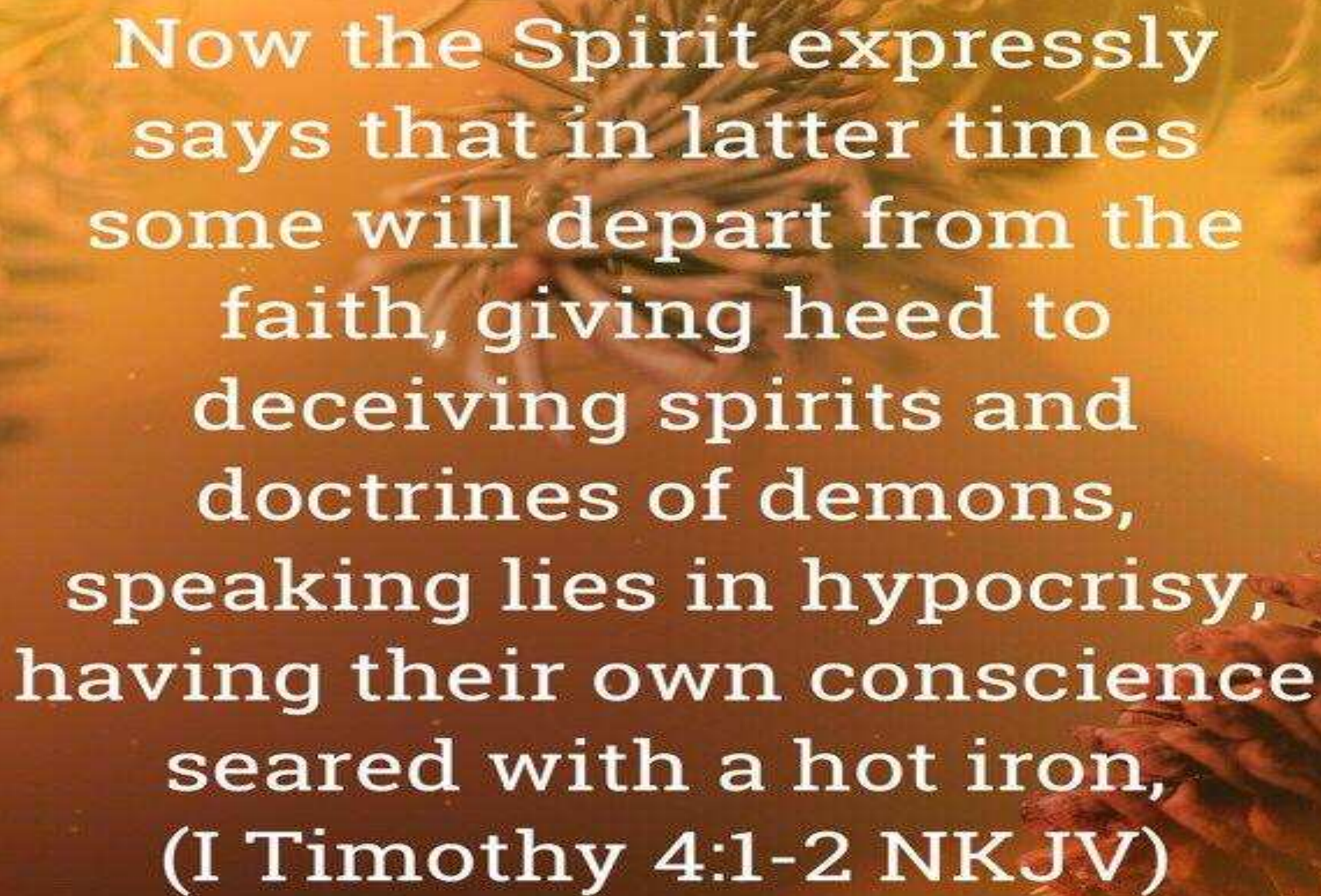


Many of our youth are in serious danger  
from incorrect and subtle teaching in  
media and school and friends

## **1 Timothy 4:6-16**

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- **“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” v.16**

A close-up photograph of a pine cone, showing its intricate scales and needles. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, possibly a blurred natural setting. The pine cone is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its base towards the bottom right.

Now the Spirit expressly  
says that in latter times  
some will depart from the  
faith, giving heed to  
deceiving spirits and  
doctrines of demons,  
speaking lies in hypocrisy,  
having their own conscience  
seared with a hot iron,  
(I Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV)

## 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5 (NKJV)

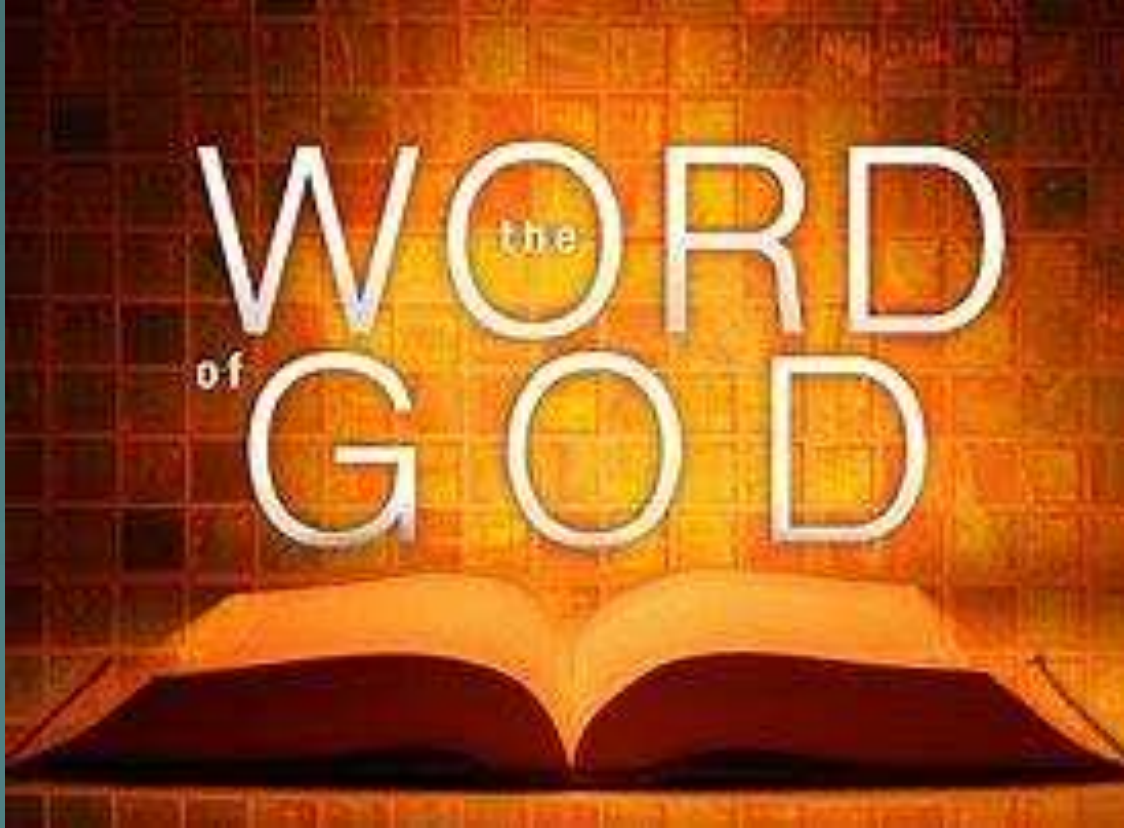
<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. <sup>5</sup> But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.



**MY BRETHREN,  
LET NOT MANY OF YOU  
BECOME TEACHERS,  
KNOWING THAT WE  
SHALL RECEIVE  
A STRICTER  
JUDGMENT.  
JAMES 3:1**

SO where do I  
get this sound  
doctrine?

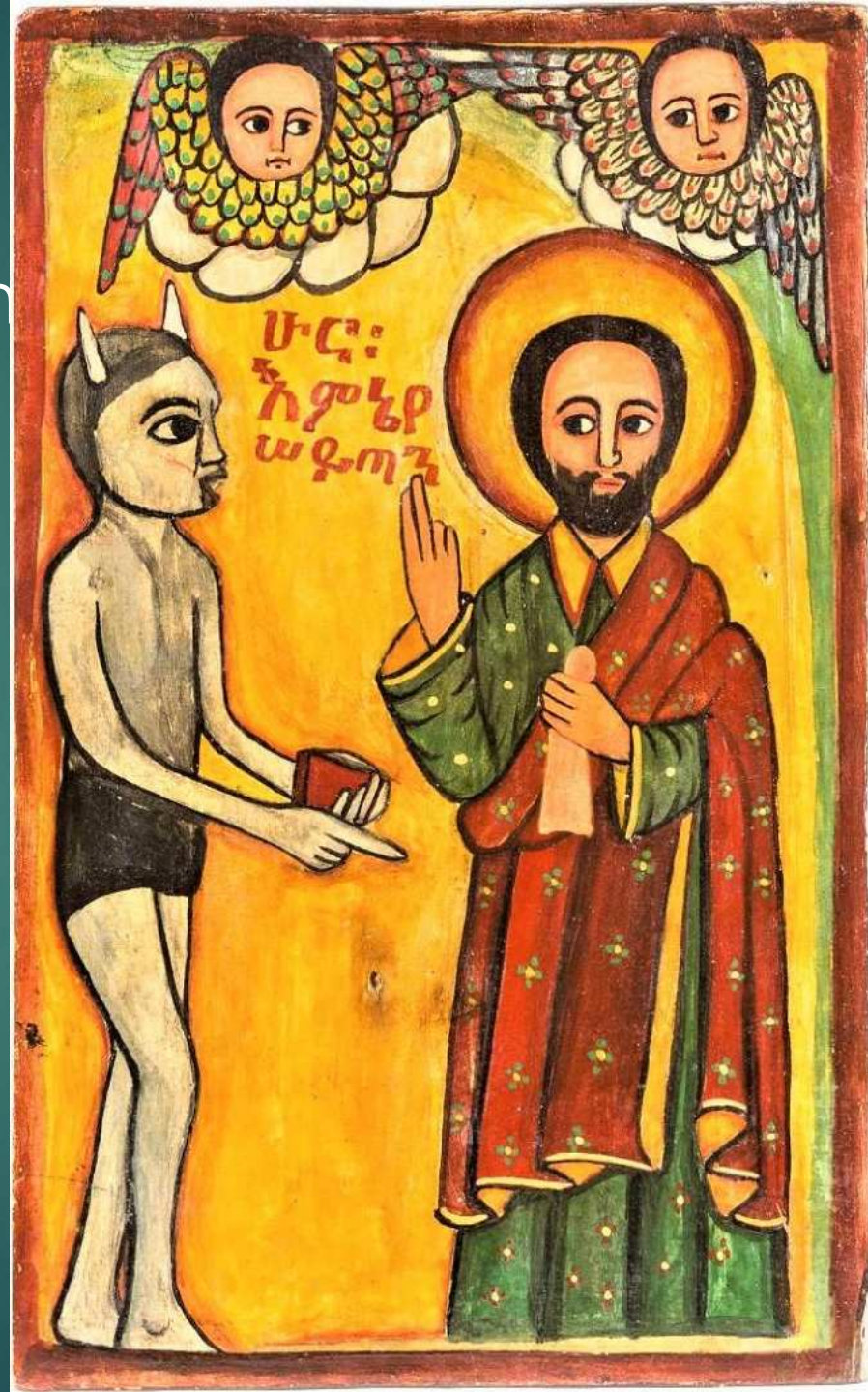
**My  
sources:**



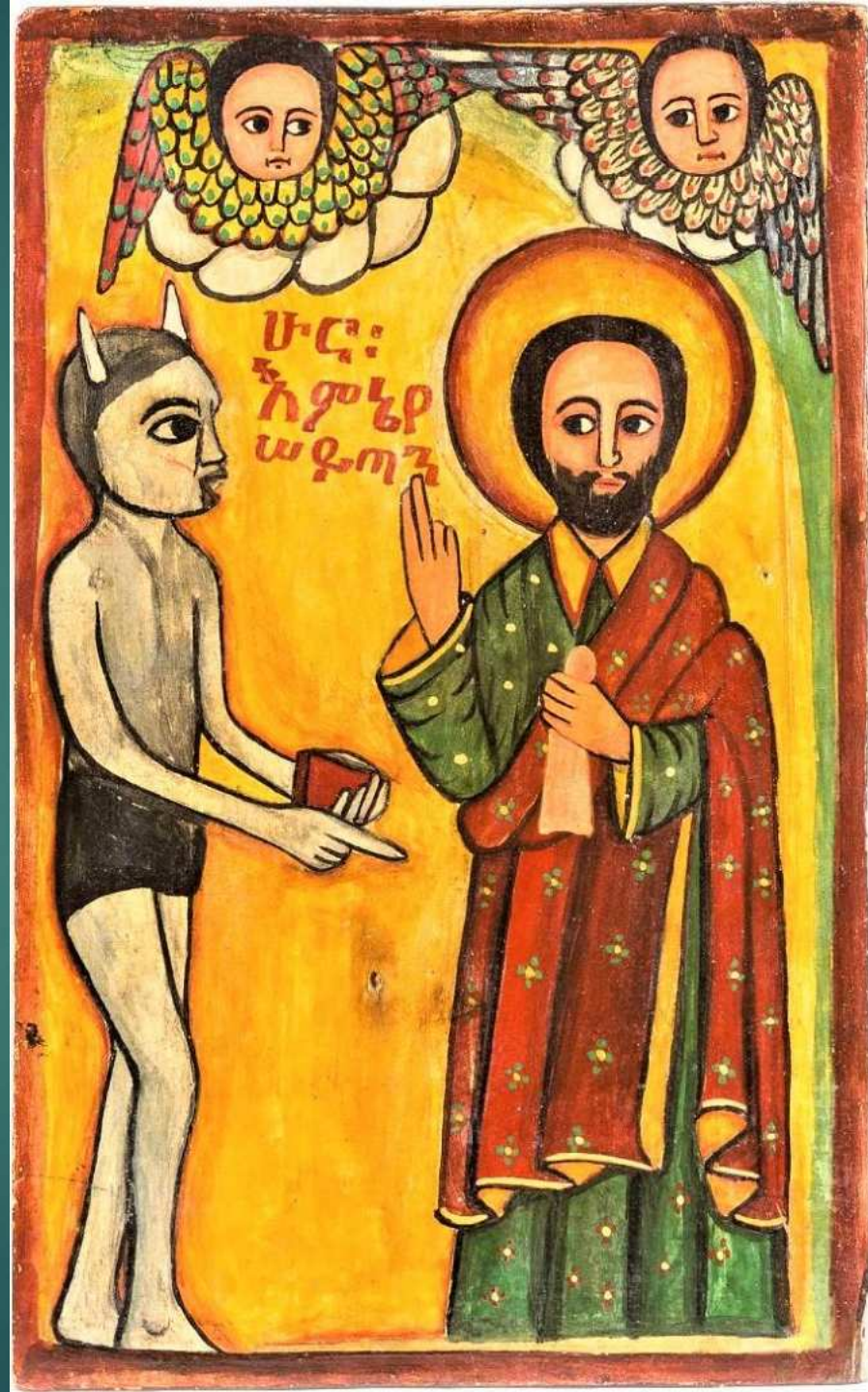
Every lesson should be  
sourced in the word  
and have quotations  
from the Holy Bible

Our Lord Jesus Christ started His service concentrating on sound doctrine in The temptation on the mount.

He answered each of the devil's temptations with a verse from the Holy Bible.



The devil can use the very words of the Holy Bible and twist them. "In their hands they shall bear you up Lest you dash your foot against the stone" Matt 4:6. If only the devil continued... "You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample under foot" Ps91:13.





So we need to understand the Holy bible  
which is why our preservants course focusses  
heavily on understanding the OT and NT  
but we also need to use **good** bible  
commentaries.

e.g,

St John Chrysostom, St Augustine

(Other Fathers and Mothers of the church -see  
your patristics course)

Father Tadros Malaty

Othodox study bible

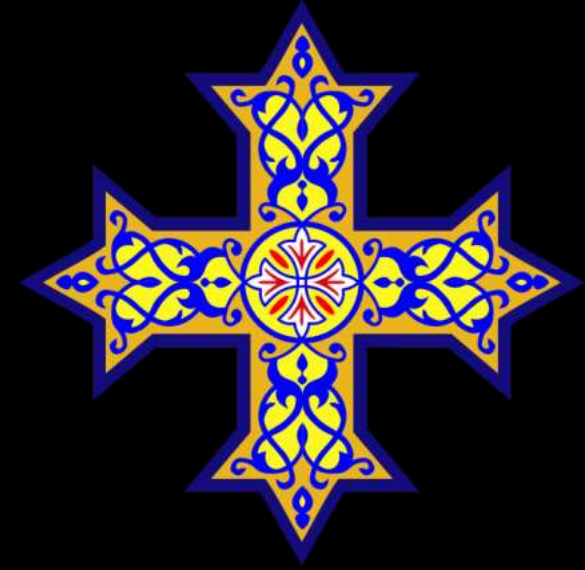
# My sources - Tradition

- ▶ My spiritual father
- ▶ My head of service

Discipleship is a key form  
of learning in Orthodoxy



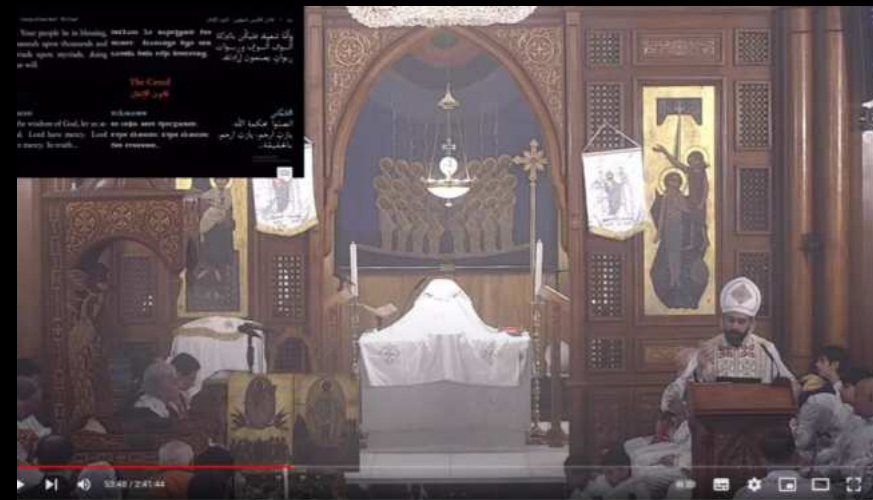
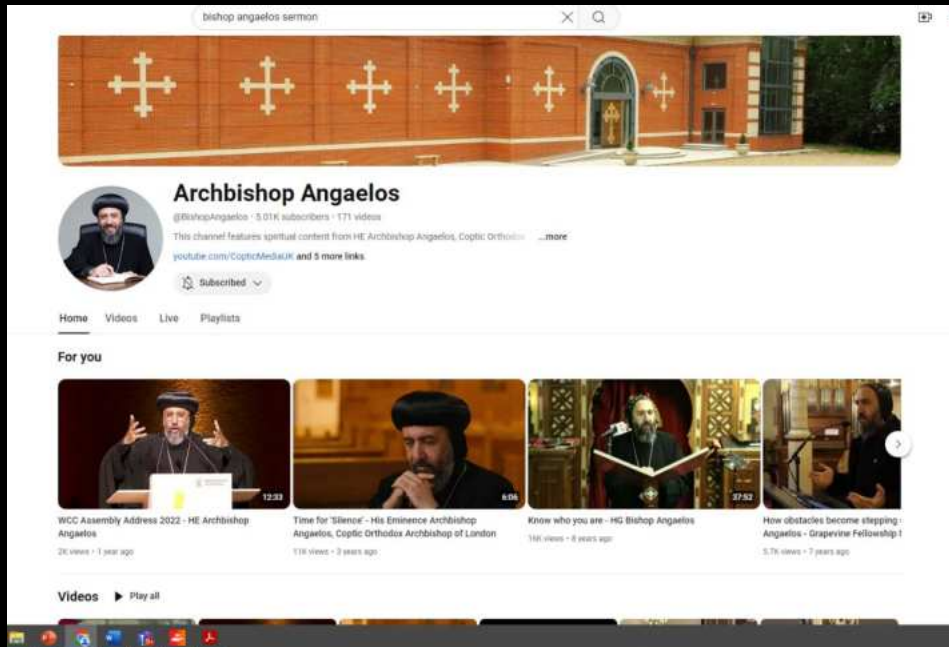
# My sources: The Writings of the fathers Spiritual Books



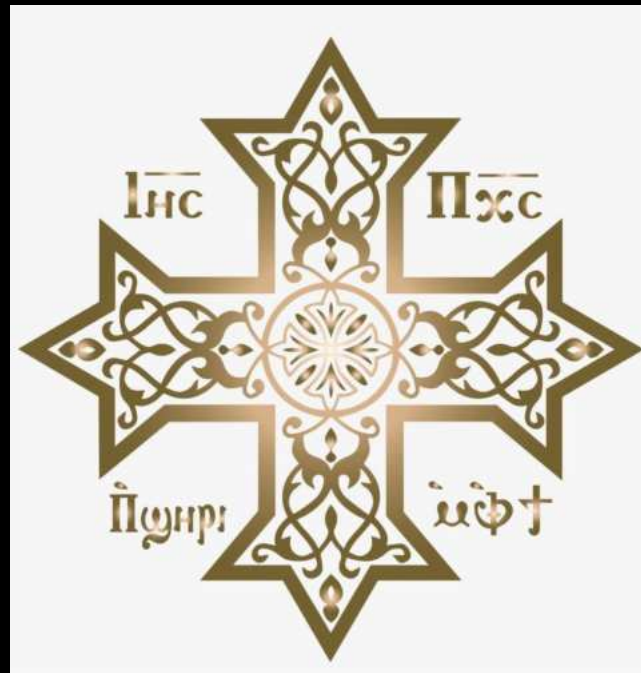
- a. Upperroommedia.org
- b. Copticpope.org
- c. [www.suscopts.org](http://www.suscopts.org)
- d. Coptcorthodoxanswers.org
- e. [www.voskrese.info/spl/index.html](http://www.voskrese.info/spl/index.html) (St Pachomius Library)
- f. [www.ccel.org](http://www.ccel.org) (use with discernment)
- g. Tasbeha.org,

# My sources - Sermons

upperrommedia.org



# BUT BE AWARE OF YOUR SOURCES



Internet year 13

LOOOOOOOK to see who is the source of my info

# Preparing a lesson

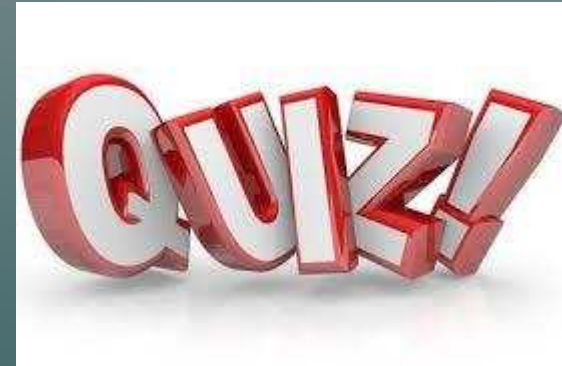
1. Start early.
2. PRAY
3. Take the topic.
4. Take the Holy Bible.
5. Take all the teaching and tradition from teachers, the fathers and mothers of the church, books you have ever read on the topic online articles and sermons
6. Do the research
7. Gather it all together and tailor it to the level of the lesson. If necessary, check the lesson with your service elder or father - PRAY
8. Define your format
9. Live the lesson for a few days . PRAY and keep coming back to it



# Lets mix up our lesson styles!!



WIDE AWAKE



Lets mix up our lesson styles!!

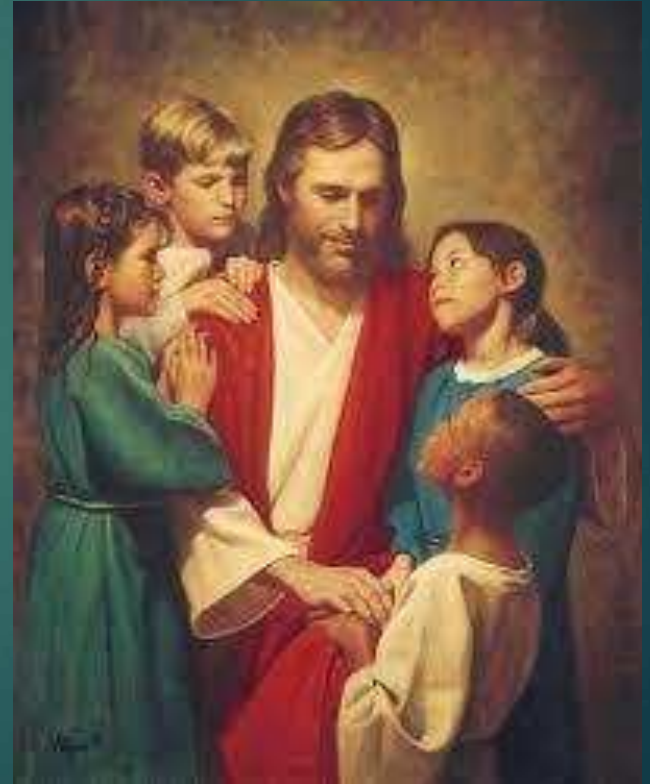


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His wonders among all people

Psalm 96:3

# Lesson environment

- ▶ Prayer to invite our Lord into the lesson
- ▶ Calm
- ▶ Environment is suitable



**Be aware of your audience, if they someone is not engaged maybe lovingly ask that person a question to bring them back into the lesson**

Try not to focus on one person but address the room with eye contact

Look at the eyes of your kids, don't be afraid to change the lesson as you go along if required

Throw arrow prayers to God



Our Lord  
JESUS CHRIST

DO IT WITH  
PASSION  
OR NOT  
AT ALL.

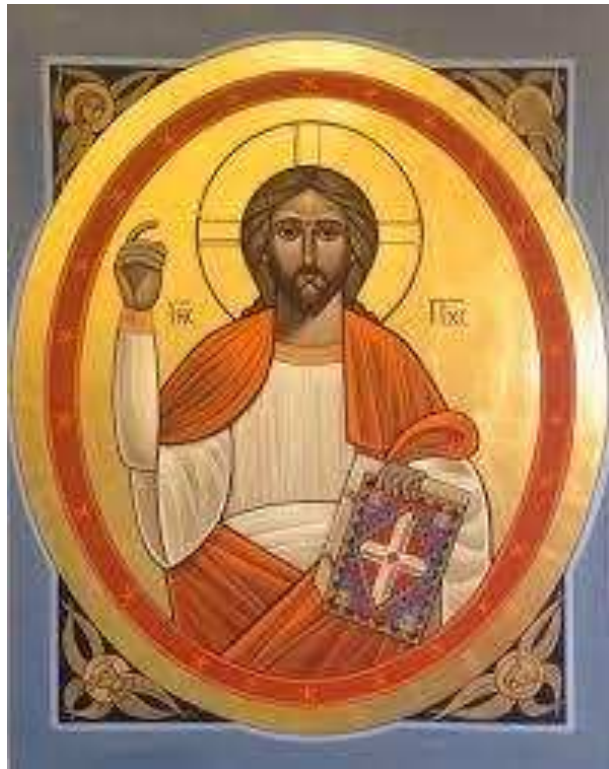


Praise the kids for great answers!!

Humour.....

Keep focussed on what was the message you are trying to deliver

Listen to the voice of God  
as you speak



What about the effect of  
my lesson ???



# The effect of your lesson 13.47 – 16.30 & 18:50 - 2125



But you may never know  
the effect of your lesson

## 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

King James Version Bible

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God  
gave the increase. So then neither is he  
that planteth any thing, neither he that  
watereth; but God that giveth the increase.



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