



LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



Matthew 25:1 (NLT)

**“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.**



**Matthew 25:2 (NLT)**

**Five of them were foolish, and  
five were wise.**



**Matthew 25:3 (NLT)**

**The five who were foolish didn't  
take enough olive oil for their  
lamps,**



**Matthew 25:4 (NLT)**

**but the other five were wise  
enough to take along extra oil.**



**Matthew 25:5 (NLT)**

**When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**



Matthew 25:6 (NLT)

**“At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’**



**Matthew 25:7 (NLT)**

**“All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps.**



Matthew 25:8 (NLT)

**Then the five foolish ones asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.'**



Matthew 25:9 (NLT)

**“But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves!’**



Matthew 25:10 (NLT)

**“But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked.**



**Matthew 25:11 (NLT)**

**Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!'**



**Matthew 25:12 (NLT)**

**“But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’”**



**Matthew 25:13 (NLT)**

**“So you, too, must keep watch!  
For you do not know the day or  
hour of my return.”**



**Big Idea: Christ is coming, BE  
READY!**

The background of the image is a composite of two sky scenes. The upper portion shows a clear, deep blue sky with a few scattered white stars, suggesting a night sky. The lower portion shows a vast expanse of white, fluffy clouds, likely from a high-altitude perspective, with a warm, golden light from a low sun or moon illuminating the scene from the right side, creating a gradient from blue to orange.





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# 1 Thessalonians 4:1a (NLT)

**Finally, dear brothers and sisters,  
we urge you in the name of the  
Lord Jesus to live in a way that  
pleases God, as we have taught  
you.**



**1 Thessalonians 4:1b (NLT)**

**You live this way already, and we  
encourage you to do so even  
more.**



**1 Thessalonians 4:2 (NLT)**

**For you remember what we  
taught you by the authority of  
the Lord Jesus.**





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**Challenge: Keep walking  
(progressing) and pleasing God.**







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# Steps Towards Pleasing God:

The background of the image is a celestial scene. It features a gradient sky transitioning from a deep, dark blue at the top to a bright, warm yellow at the bottom. A thick, horizontal layer of white, fluffy clouds stretches across the middle of the frame. Scattered throughout the sky are many small, bright white stars, giving it a starry or night-sky appearance.



# 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NLT)

**God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:4 (NLT)

**Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—**



**Responsibility**

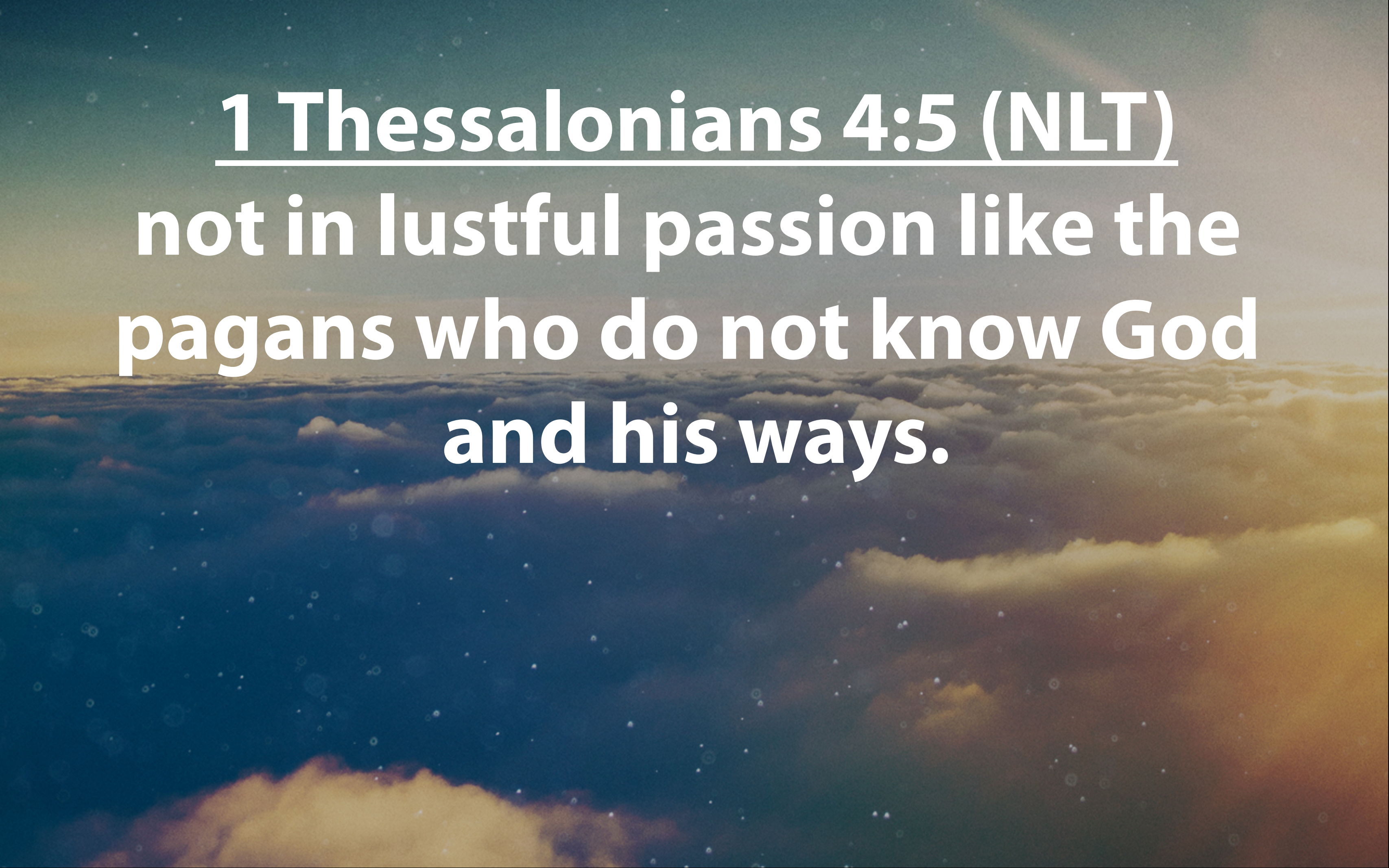
**=**

**Character**

**=**

**Honor**





**1 Thessalonians 4:5 (NLT)**  
**not in lustful passion like the  
pagans who do not know God  
and his ways.**



**1 Thessalonians 4:6 (NLT)**

**Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before.**



**1 Thessalonians 4:7 (NLT)**

**God has called us to live holy  
lives, not impure lives.**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:8 (NLT)

**Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.**





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**Steps Towards Pleasing God:**  
**1. Step away from sexual sin and  
into holiness.**





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# Proverbs 26:11 (NLT)

**As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.**





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**Steps Towards Pleasing God:**  
**1. Step away from sexual sin and  
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**Steps Towards Pleasing God:**  
**2. Take steps to love more.**





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## 1 Thessalonians 4:9 (NLT)

**But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another.**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:10 (NLT)

Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more.





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**Steps Towards Pleasing God:**  
**2. Take steps to love more.**





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# 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT)

**Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.**



**1 Corinthians 16:14 (NLT)**

**And do everything with love.**





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1 John 3:16 (NLT)

**We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.**

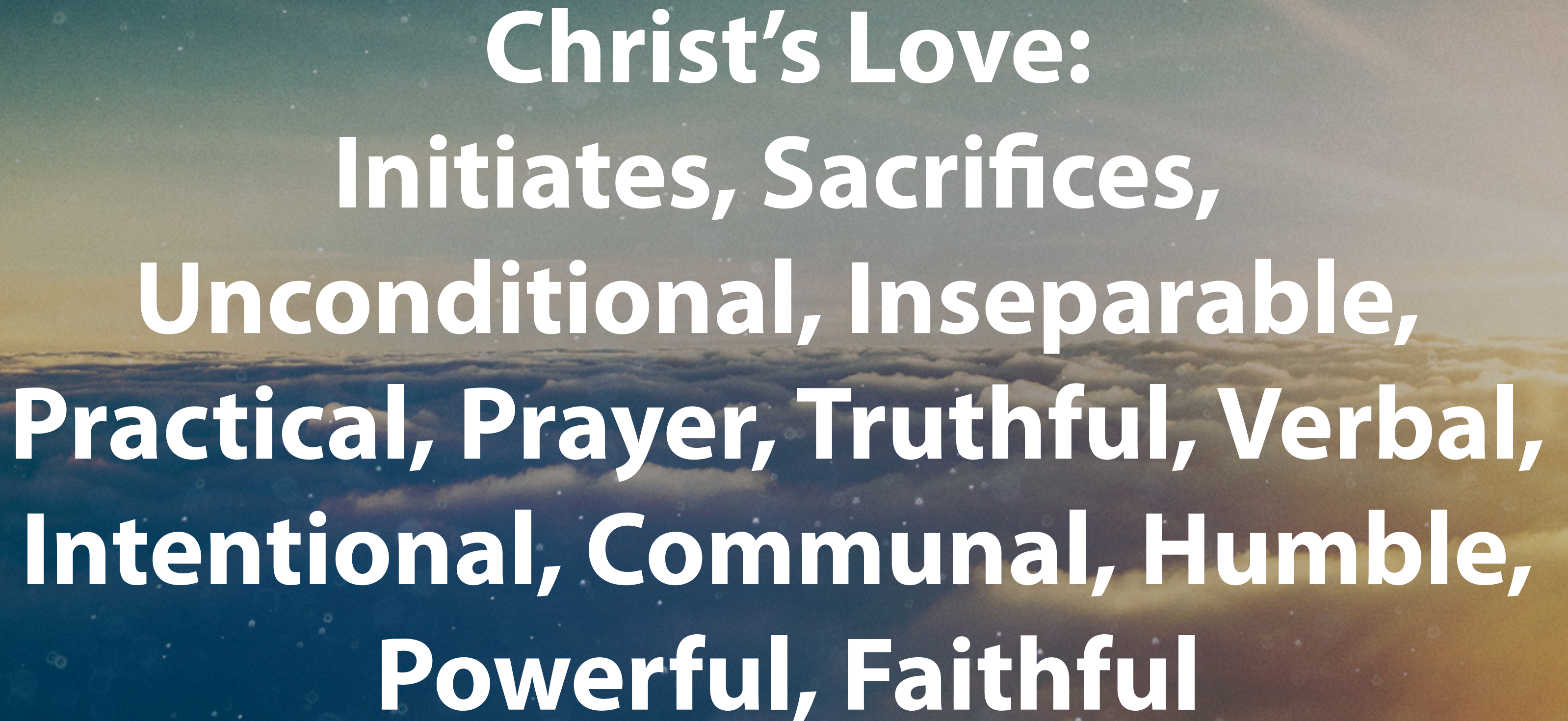




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**Christ's Love:  
Initiates, Sacrifices,  
Unconditional, Inseparable,  
Practical, Prayer, Truthful, Verbal,  
Intentional, Communal, Humble,  
Powerful, Faithful**





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1 John 4:7 (NLT)

**Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.**



1 John 4:8 (NLT)

**But anyone who does not love  
does not know God, for God is  
love.**





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**Steps Towards Pleasing God:**  
**2. Take steps to love more.**





**Steps Towards Pleasing God:**  
**3. Step up and honor God with  
your work.**





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# 1 Thessalonians 4:11 (NLT)

**Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before.**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:12 (NLT)

Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.





**Steps Towards Pleasing God:**  
**3. Step up and honor God with  
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