

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14

START

THE YEAR RIGHT

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PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14 (NKJV)

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14 (NKJV)

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14 (NKJV)

¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I **press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.**

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14 (NKJV)

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- The way you look at life:**
 - affect the way you live your life**
 - affect your starting the year right**

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- **Acting on stage**

- **Shakespeare's view on life:**

- **life is acting in a play on stage**

Introduction

- **“As you like it” by Shakespear:**

**“All the world’s a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.”**

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- **Acting on stage**
 - **Interesting but rather uninspiring.**
 - **Are you starting the year resenting play-acting instead of being who you really are?**

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- **Heaving a sigh**

- **Moses' reflection on life:**

- **life is heaving a sigh**

PSALM 90:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. ¹⁰ The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labour and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- **Heaving a sigh**
- **very sad**
- **Are you starting the year sighing?**

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- **Grass and flower**

- **David's reflection on life:**

- **life is flourishing like grass, as a flower of the field**

PSALM 103:15-16 (NKJV)

**¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass;
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.**

**¹⁶ For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
And its place remembers it no more.**

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- **Grass and flower**
- **rather disappointing**
- **life characterized by a few sparks but no fire**

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- **Running a race**

- **A New Testament view of life:**

- **life is like running a race**

HEBREWS 12:1-2 (NKJV)

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

HEBREWS 12:1-2 (NKJV)

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-7 (NKJV)

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Introduction

a) How you look at life

- **Running a race**
- **The way you look at life affect the way you live your life.**

Introduction

b) Prize for the race

- Our prize is an imperishable crown.**

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27 (NKJV)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.** **25** And everyone who competes for the prize is **temperate in all things.** Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for **an imperishable crown.**

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27 (NKJV)

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty.
Thus, I fight: not as one who beats the
air. **27** But I **discipline my body and bring
it into subjection**, lest, when I have
preached to others, I, myself should
become disqualified.

Introduction

b) Prize for the race

- prize in the form of the crown of righteousness from Jesus**

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8 (NKJV)

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8 (NKJV)

⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Introduction

b) Prize for the race

- prize of God's call in Christ

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14 (NKJV)

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14 (NKJV)

**¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

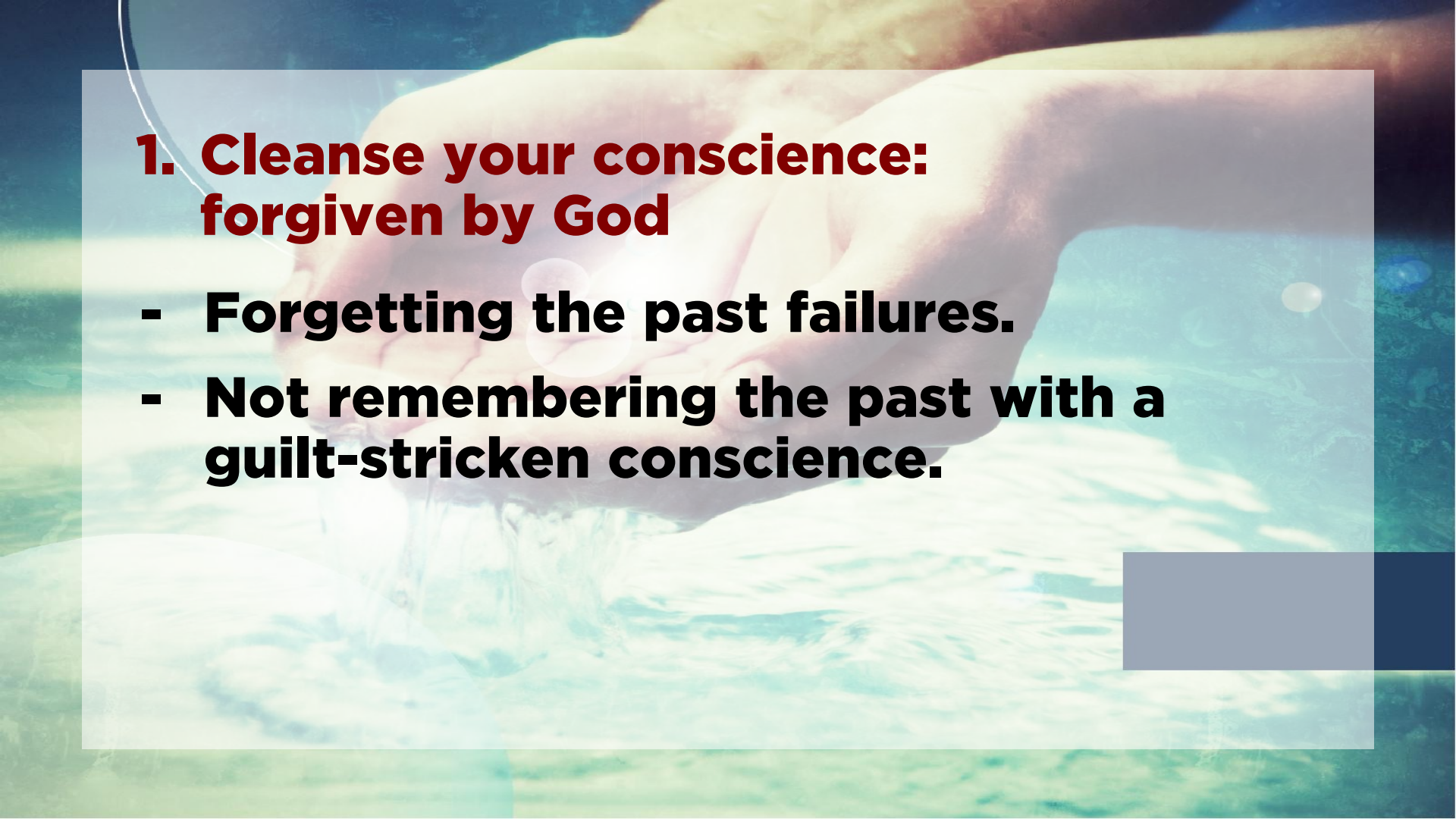
Introduction

c) Long distance race

- Get a stop watch.**
- Click it three times:**
 - clear**
 - start**
 - stop**

Three Things:

- 1) Cleanse your conscience:
*forgiven by God***
- 2) Cut the chains:
*forgiving others***
- 3) Commence forthwith:
*be firm with yourself***

A close-up photograph of a hand being washed under a stream of water. The water is clear and flowing, creating a sense of purification. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall mood is one of freshness and renewal.

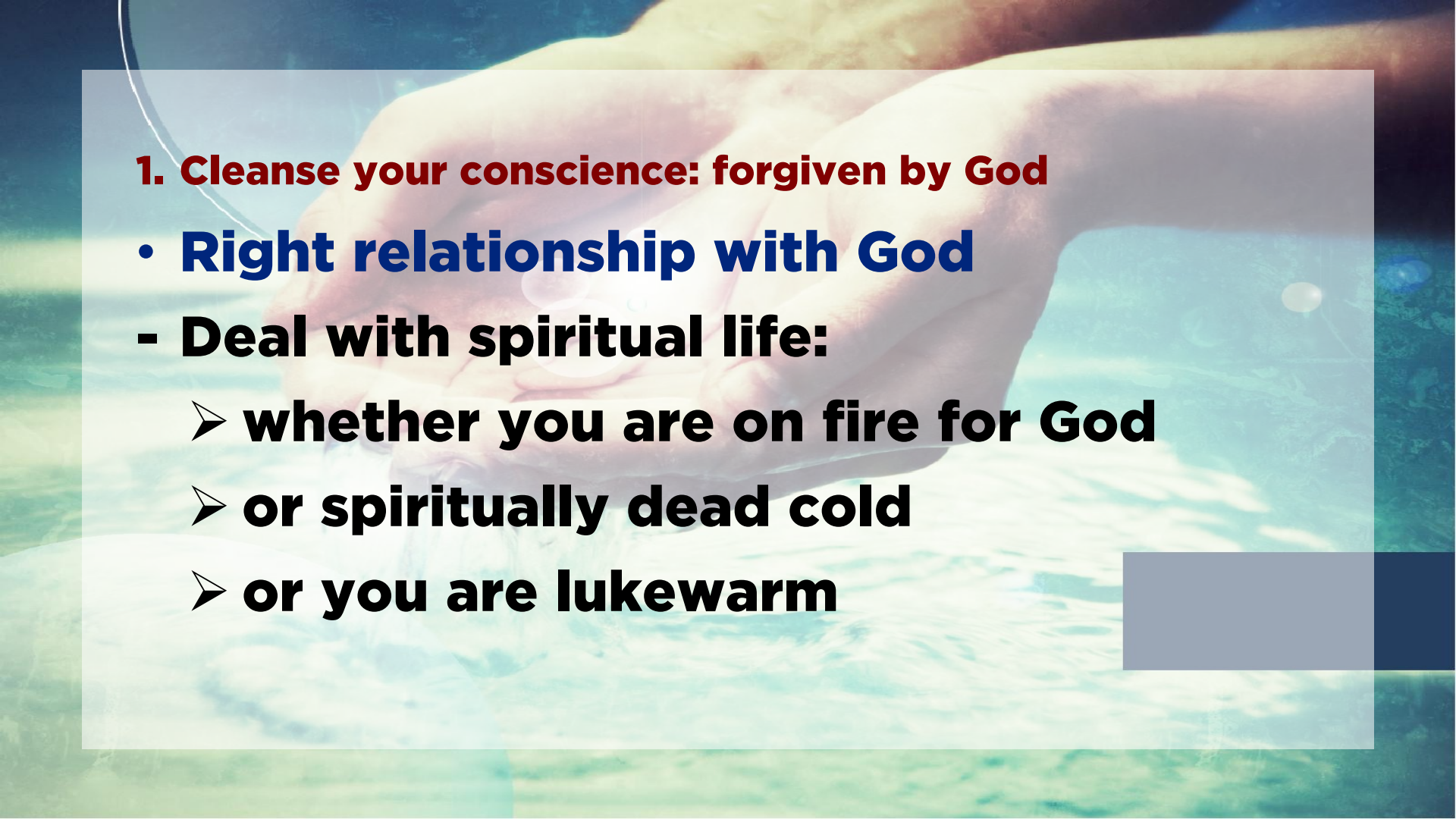
1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

- Forgetting the past failures.**
- Not remembering the past with a guilt-stricken conscience.**

A close-up photograph of a hand pouring water into a pool. The water is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash. The background is a soft-focus view of a swimming pool with blue water and a white lane line. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle that serves as a background for the text.

1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

- The most important thing on your do-list and make your first resolution to be in right relationship with God.**

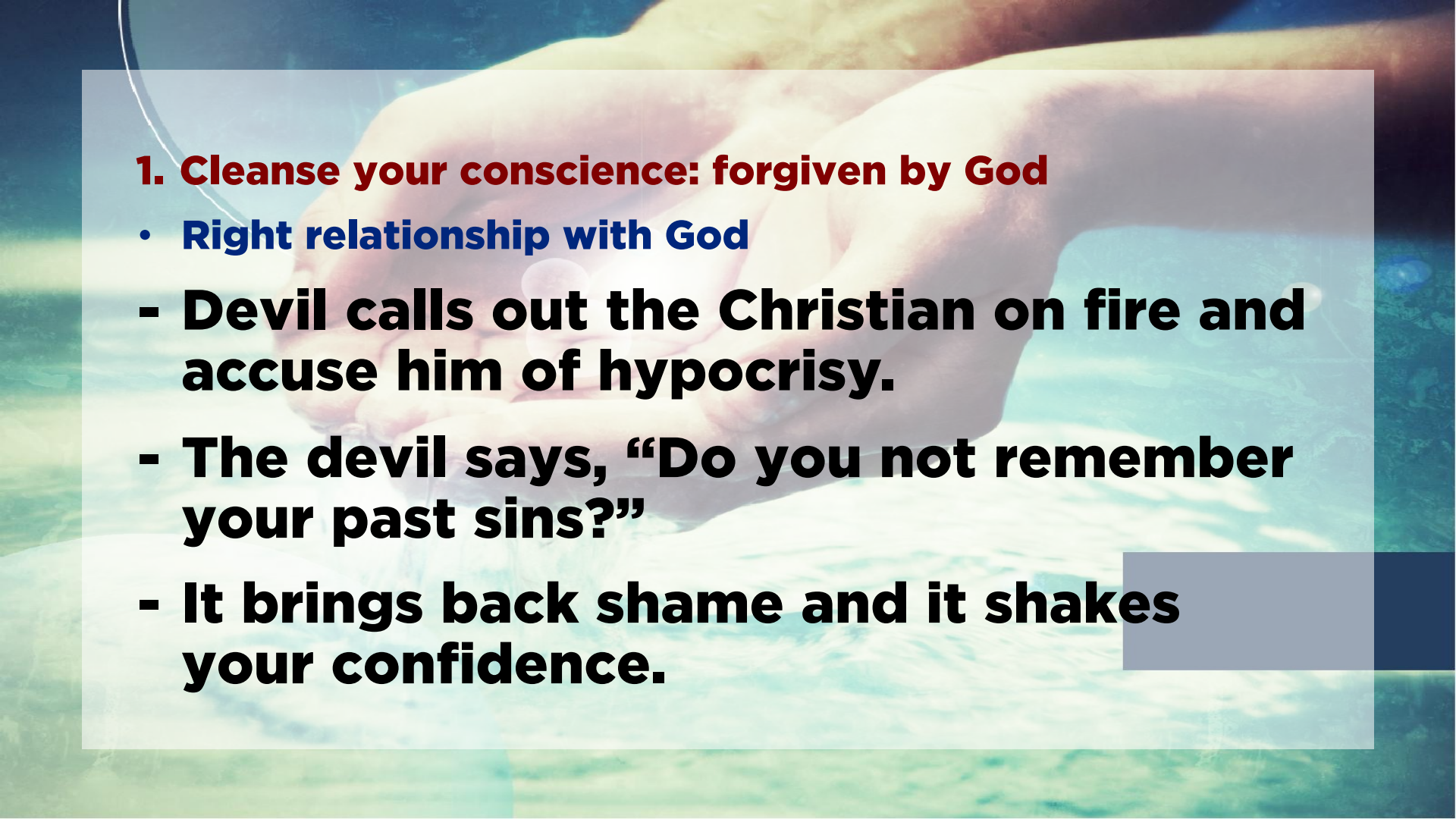
A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, delicate white flower with yellow centers. The hand is positioned over a body of water, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and green. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

- **Right relationship with God**

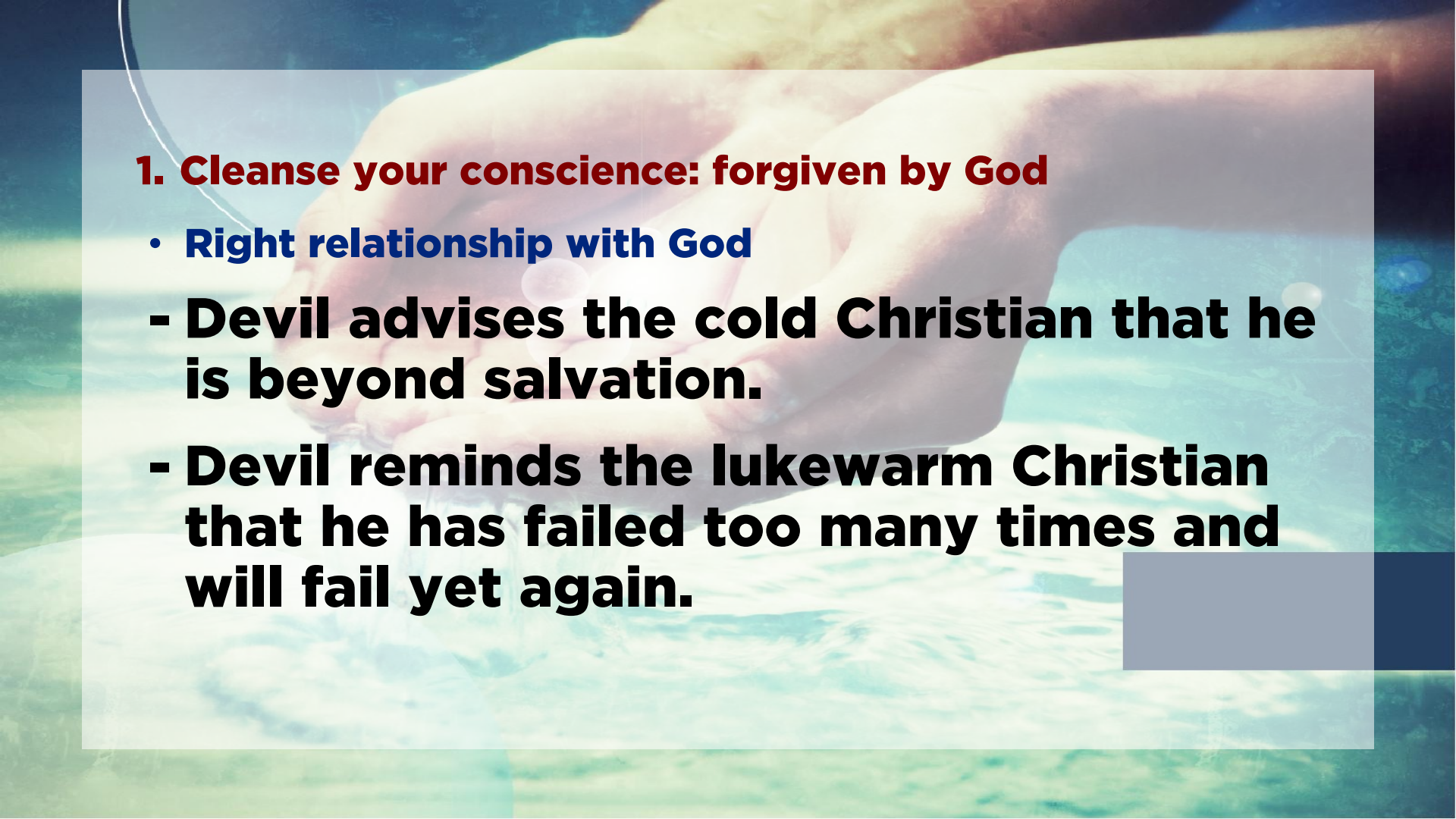
- **Deal with spiritual life:**

- **whether you are on fire for God**
- **or spiritually dead cold**
- **or you are lukewarm**



1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

- **Right relationship with God**
- **Devil calls out the Christian on fire and accuse him of hypocrisy.**
- **The devil says, “Do you not remember your past sins?”**
- **It brings back shame and it shakes your confidence.**



1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

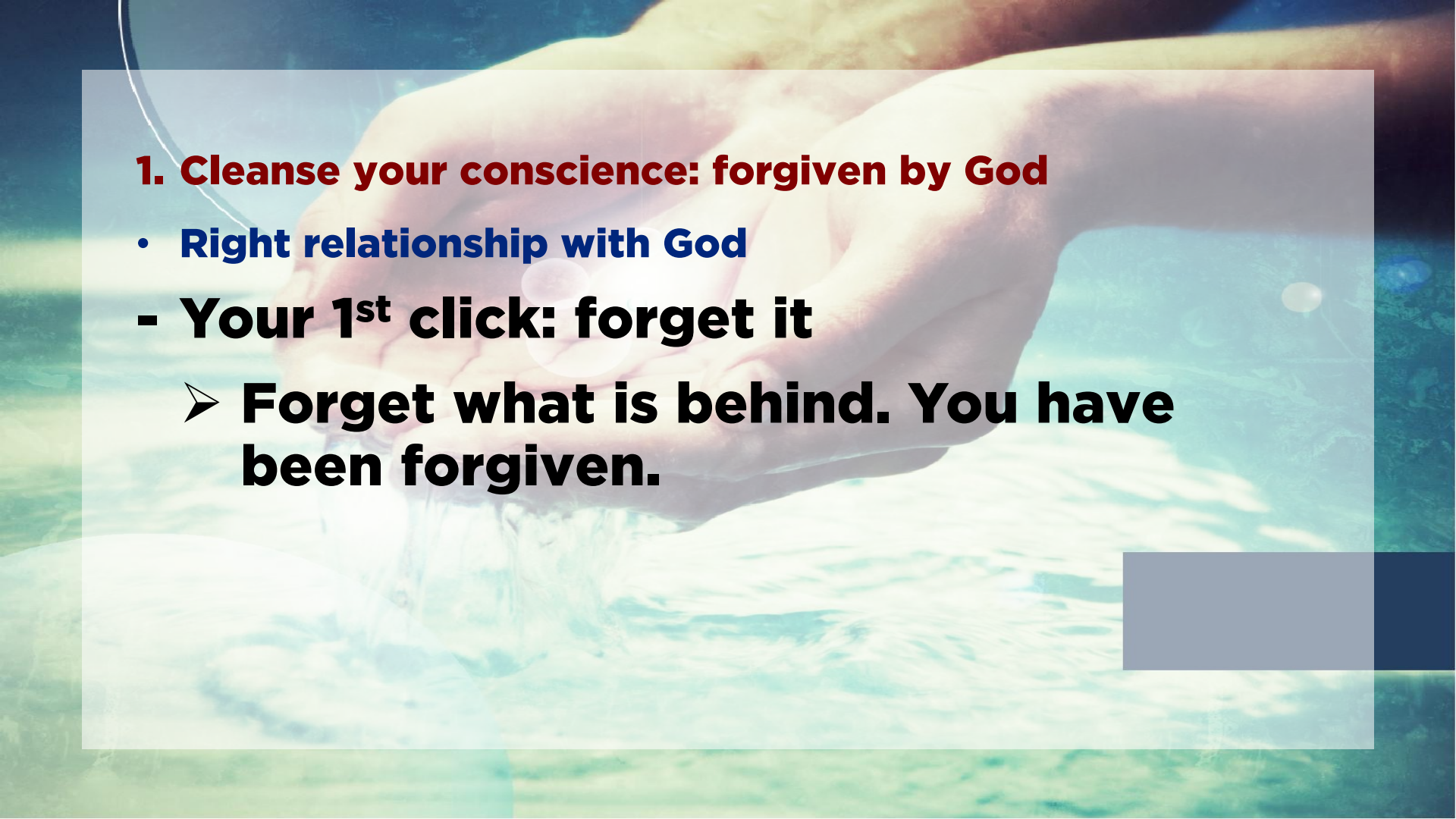
- **Right relationship with God**

- **Devil advises the cold Christian that he is beyond salvation.**
- **Devil reminds the lukewarm Christian that he has failed too many times and will fail yet again.**

A close-up photograph of a hand pouring water into a pool. The water is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash. The background is a soft-focus view of the pool's surface, reflecting light in shades of blue and green. The overall image has a serene and cleansing feel, which aligns with the theme of the text.

1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

- **Right relationship with God**
- **Most common spiritual malaise that Christians struggle with is a guilt-stricken conscience.**

A close-up photograph of a hand being washed under running water. The water is clear and splashing, creating a sense of cleansing. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue, suggesting an outdoor setting like a garden or a stream. The overall mood is fresh and clean.

1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

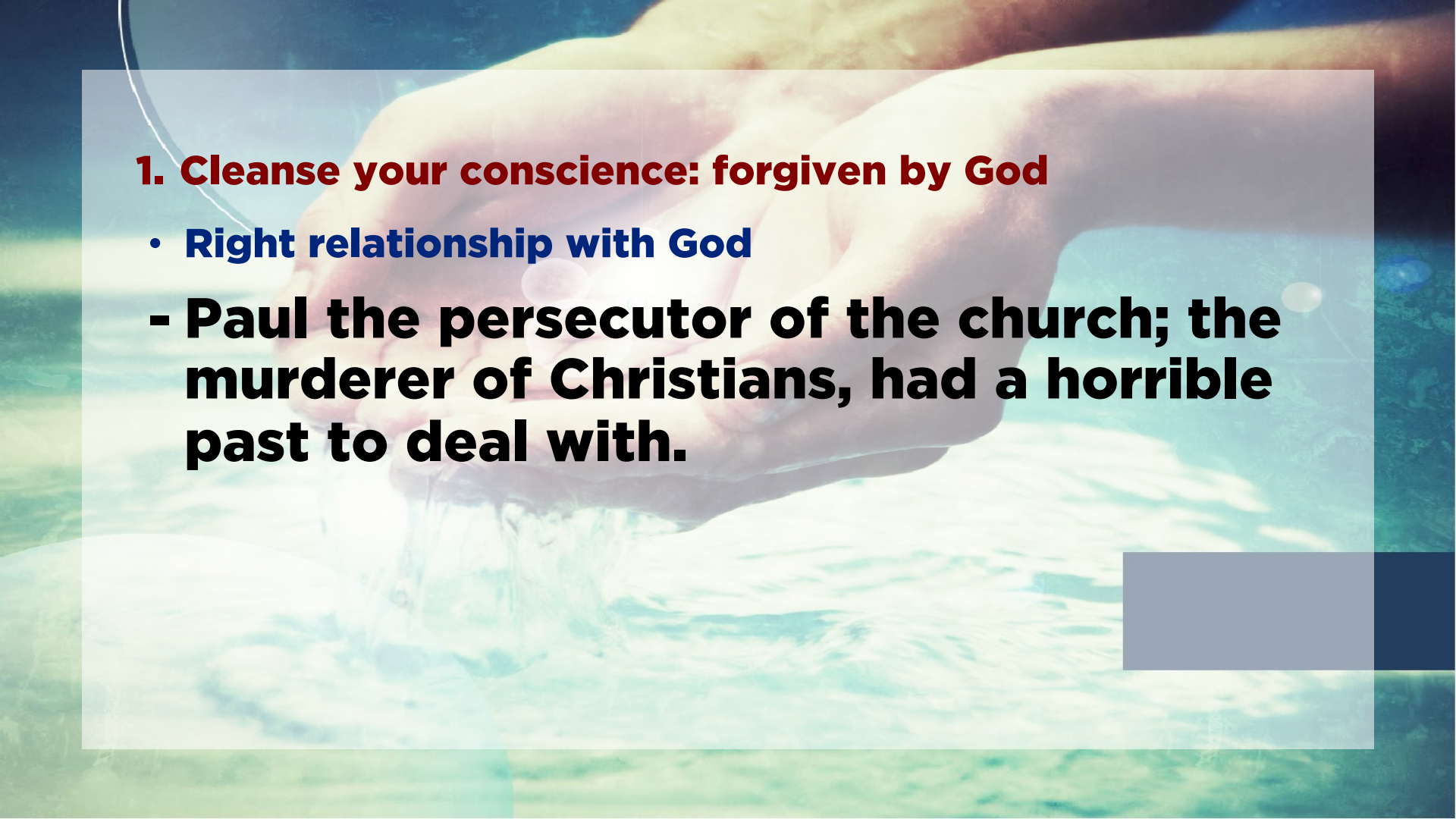
- **Right relationship with God**

- **Your 1st click: forget it**

- **Forget what is behind. You have been forgiven.**

PHILIPPIANS 3:13 (NKJV)

**Brethren, I do not count myself to have
apprehended; but one thing I do,
forgetting those things which are behind.**

A close-up photograph of a hand pouring water from a bowl. The water is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic, splashing effect. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall image has a spiritual and cleansing theme.

1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

- **Right relationship with God**

- **Paul the persecutor of the church; the murderer of Christians, had a horrible past to deal with.**

HEBREWS 9:14-15 (NKJV)

14 how much more shall **the blood of Christ**,
who through the eternal Spirit offered
Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your**
conscience from dead works **to serve the**
living God?

HEBREWS 9:14-15 (NKJV)

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

ISAIAH 43:18 (AMPLC)

“Do not remember the former things, (past events) (Forget about the past) Nor consider (pay no attention, brooding over, dwell upon) the things of old. (You stop recalling past, the former things and things of old) (Old things) (Don't cling on to the past)”

ISAIAH 43:25-26 (NKJV)

25 “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. 26 Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small amount of water, with the water dripping into a larger body of water below. The background is a soft-focus view of a body of water under a blue sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

1. Cleanse your conscience: forgiven by God

- **What you should do now**

MATTHEW 6:9-15 (NKJV)

- ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your Your name.**
- ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts (offence, or sin), As we forgive our debtors (those who offended or sin against us).**

MATTHEW 6:9-15 (NKJV)

**¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is
the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen. ¹⁴ “For if you forgive men their
trespasses, your heavenly Father will also
forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men
their trespasses, neither will your Father
forgive your trespasses.**

1 JOHN 1:9 (NKJV)

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to
forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.**

2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- It is about cutting the chains of unforgiveness.**



2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- Most effective weapon to undermine relationship is offences coupled with unforgiveness.**



2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- **Instances of mistakes, misunderstanding, diverse views, and differences in convictions.**



- **Policies that some would disagree can give rise to offences.**

2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- Creating offences:**

- **making sure that there is unforgiveness**
- **formula for personal harm and church disunity**



2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- harm to the person concerned by imprisoning him or by chaining him up**



MATTHEW 18:21-35 (NKJV)

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. **23** Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

MATTHEW 18:21-35 (NKJV)

24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25** But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

MATTHEW 18:21-35 (NKJV)

26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' **27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.**

MATTHEW 18:21-35 (NKJV)

28 “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

MATTHEW 18:21-35 (NKJV)

30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

MATTHEW 18:21-35 (NKJV)

³³ Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵ “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- offended but who is unwilling to forgive**
- delivered to the torturer**



- to tormentors, jailers, men who would beat and hurt**

MATTHEW 18:34 (MSG)

“The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’

MATTHEW 18:34 (MSG)

The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- unforgiving person binds himself in chains**



HEBREWS 12:1 (NKJV)

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,****

2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- Types of chains:

- **unhappy**
- **clouded face**
- **anger**
- **bitterness**



2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- **Types of chains:**

- **withdrawal from fellowship**
- **resignation from ministry**
- **negative, and so forth**



2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- **Bitterness can:**

- **take root in his life**
- **spread to people around him**



- **You must cut the chains that bind.**

MATTHEW 6:12 (NKJV)

**And forgive us our debts (offence, or sin),
As we forgive our debtors (those who
offended or sin against us).**

2. Cut the chains: forgiving others

- **Get your relationship with God right.**



- **Get your relationship with men right.**

3. Commence forthwith: firm with yourself

- **It is about stopping the habit of procrastination.**
- **It is about being firm with yourself.**



3. Commence forthwith: firm with yourself

- Click 1 has to do with your relationship with God.**
- Click 2 has to do with your relationship with people.**
- Click 3 has to do with how you manage yourself.**



3. Commence forthwith: firm with yourself

- Click the stop button on procrastination.**
- Procrastination will nullify your do-list and your resolutions.**



3. Commence forthwith: firm with yourself

- Procrastination affects everybody to varying degrees.**
- I can share with you some of my daily struggles against procrastination.**



3. Commence forthwith: firm with yourself

- Procrastination is not laziness but has a lot to do with laziness.**
- They are close relatives.**
- our incredible ability to give excuses for not doing the things we ought to**



PROVERBS 26:13-16 (NKJV)

¹³ The lazy man says, “There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!” (plazas, squares) ¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed. ¹⁵ The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth. ¹⁶ The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.

3. Commence forthwith: firm with yourself

- **Basic problem with the procrastinator is that he is too lenient with himself.**
- **To overcome procrastination, you must be firm with yourself**



1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27 (NKJV)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate (exercise self-control) in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27 (NKJV)

**26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty.
Thus, I fight: not as one who beats the air.**

**27 But I discipline my body and bring it into
subjection, lest, when I have preached to
others, I, myself should become disqualified.**

3. Commence forthwith: firm with yourself

- Unless you stop procrastinating you will not be able to start at all.**



Conclusion

MATTHEW 22:37-40 (NKJV)

37 Jesus said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**” **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second is like it: **‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’**
40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”