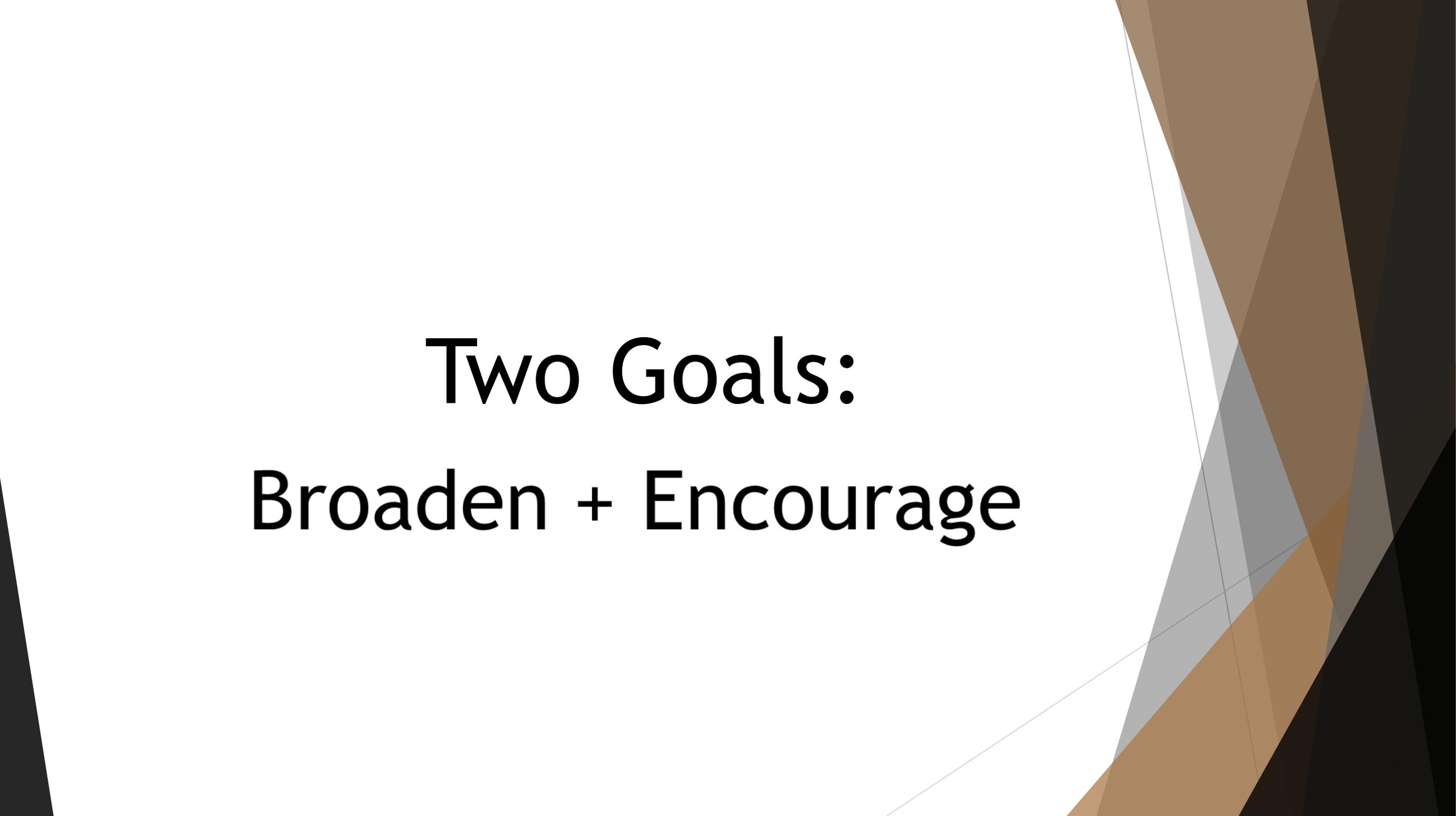


More Than Logic: Practical Considerations of Grace and Truth

Joe Gerber



**Two Goals:
Broaden + Encourage**

Broader Definition of Apologetics

- ▶ 1 Peter 3:15
- ▶ A reasoned defense does NOT mean our answers can only or should only be based on reason or logic!
- ▶ Paul before Agrippa in Acts 26
- ▶ Jesus in Matthew 11 and Luke 7
- ▶ We need to meet the questioner where they are. This is an expression of God's love.
- ▶ What's at the heart of their question? Many times, it is not logic or reason.
- ▶ Jesus modeled this (Luke 10).
- ▶ There are other factors or considerations at play. What are they?

A Christian Model of Belief Formation

Timing

Which idea was heard first and/or when was a person asked to change their mind.

Key Relationships

How strong and attractive is the relationship with the person sharing the belief and how strong and healthy is the on-going relationship with the community who holds the belief.

Formative Experiences

What sort of experiences validate or invalidate the belief itself or that challenge or support the relationship with the community that holds the belief.

Desirability of Belief

How badly does a person want or not want the belief to be true and what's the cost of belief?

Strength of Argument & Evidence

How strongly does logic, factual evidence, and reasoning support the belief. This is traditional apologetics.

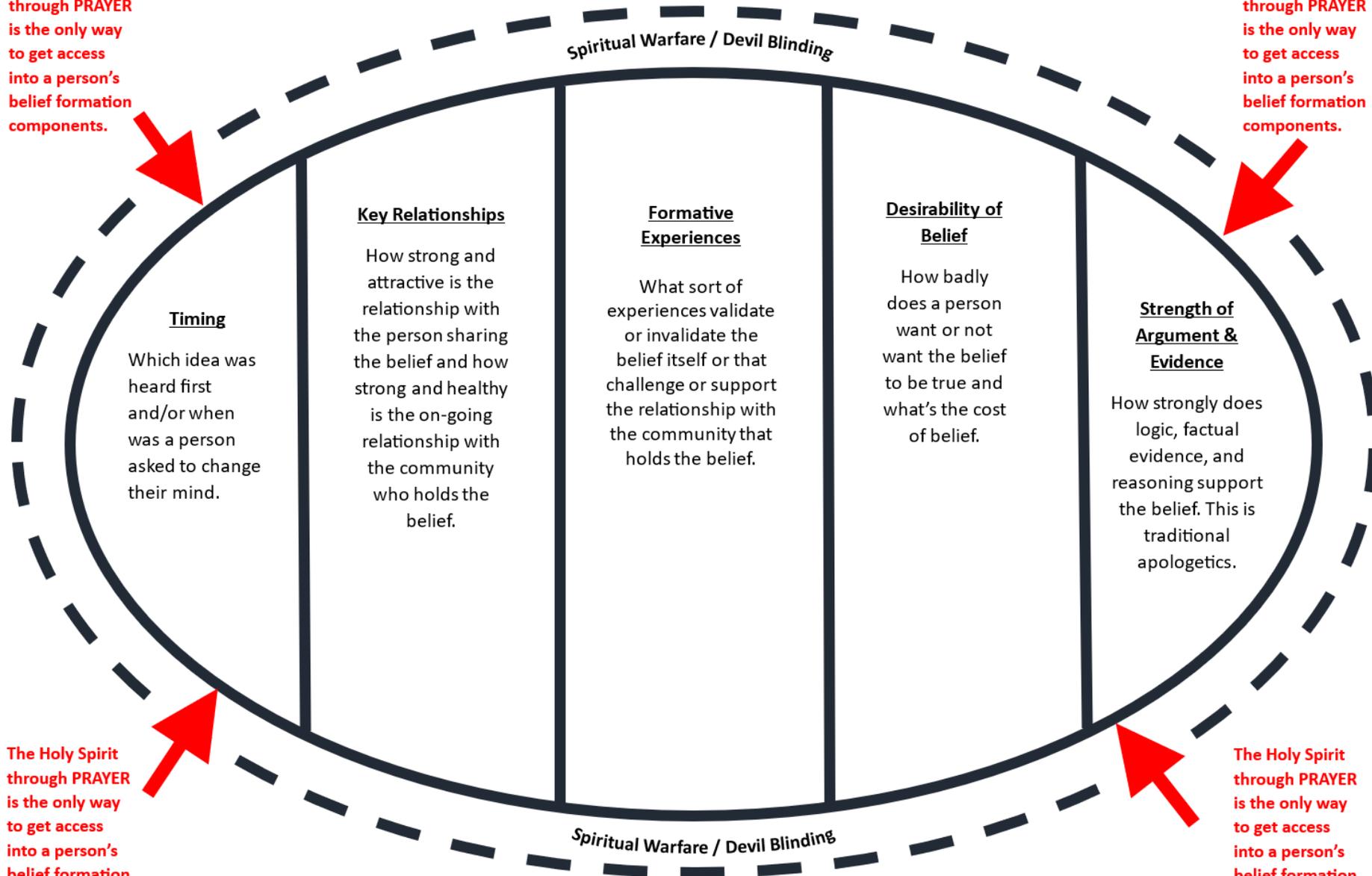
Be Encouraged!

- ▶ You don't need to be an expert debater and/or theologian to provide a "reasoned defense." In most cases, you really just need the basics and an understanding of how to get to the heart of the question(er).
- ▶ You fit somewhere in the chart!

A Christian Model of Belief Formation

The Holy Spirit through PRAYER is the only way to get access into a person's belief formation components.

The Holy Spirit through PRAYER is the only way to get access into a person's belief formation components.



The Holy Spirit through PRAYER is the only way to get access into a person's belief formation components.

The Holy Spirit through PRAYER is the only way to get access into a person's belief formation components.

It is ultimately a spiritual struggle

I Corinthians 4:1-7

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

It is ultimately a spiritual struggle

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

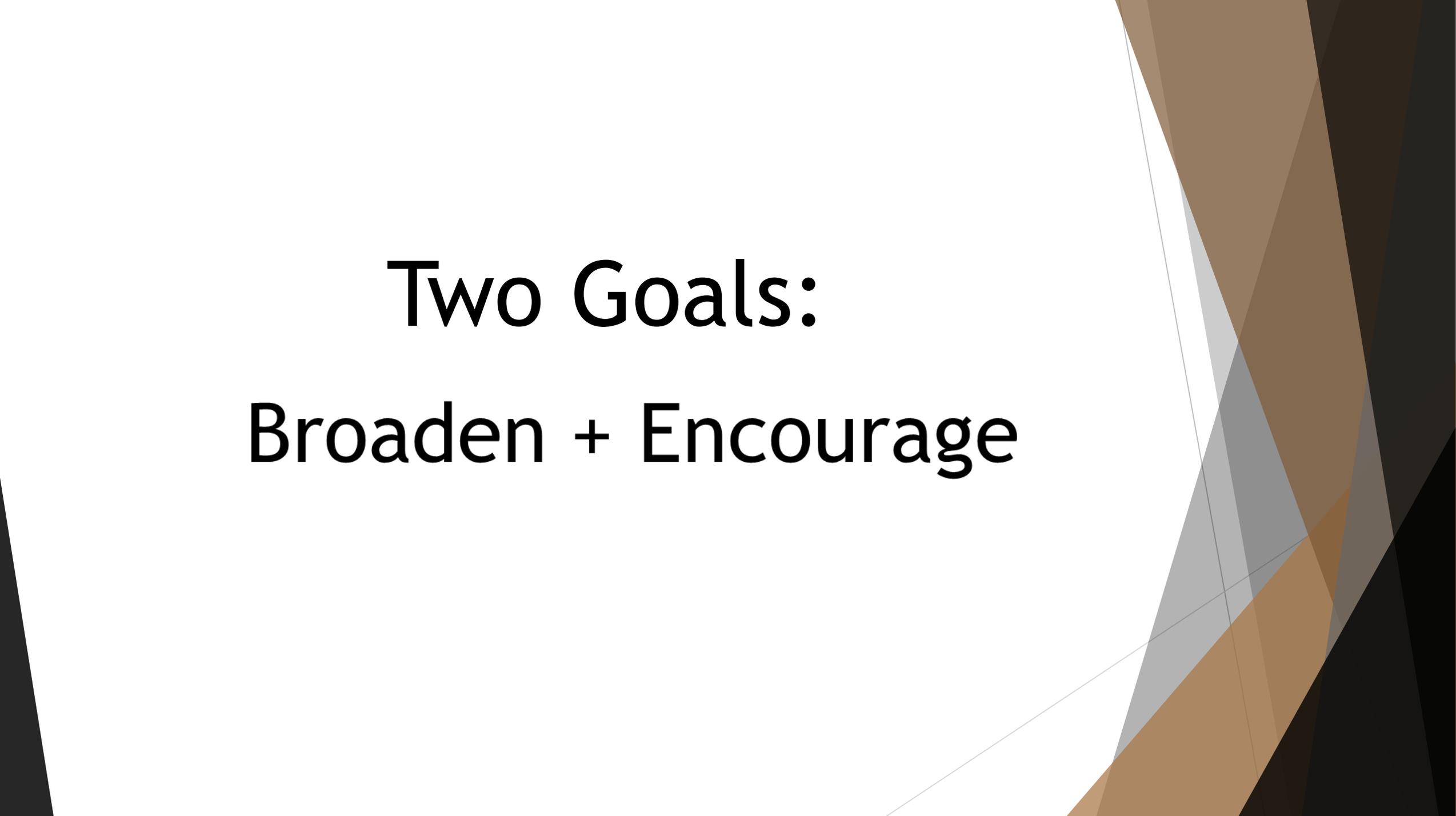
Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;



Two Goals:
Broaden + Encourage