

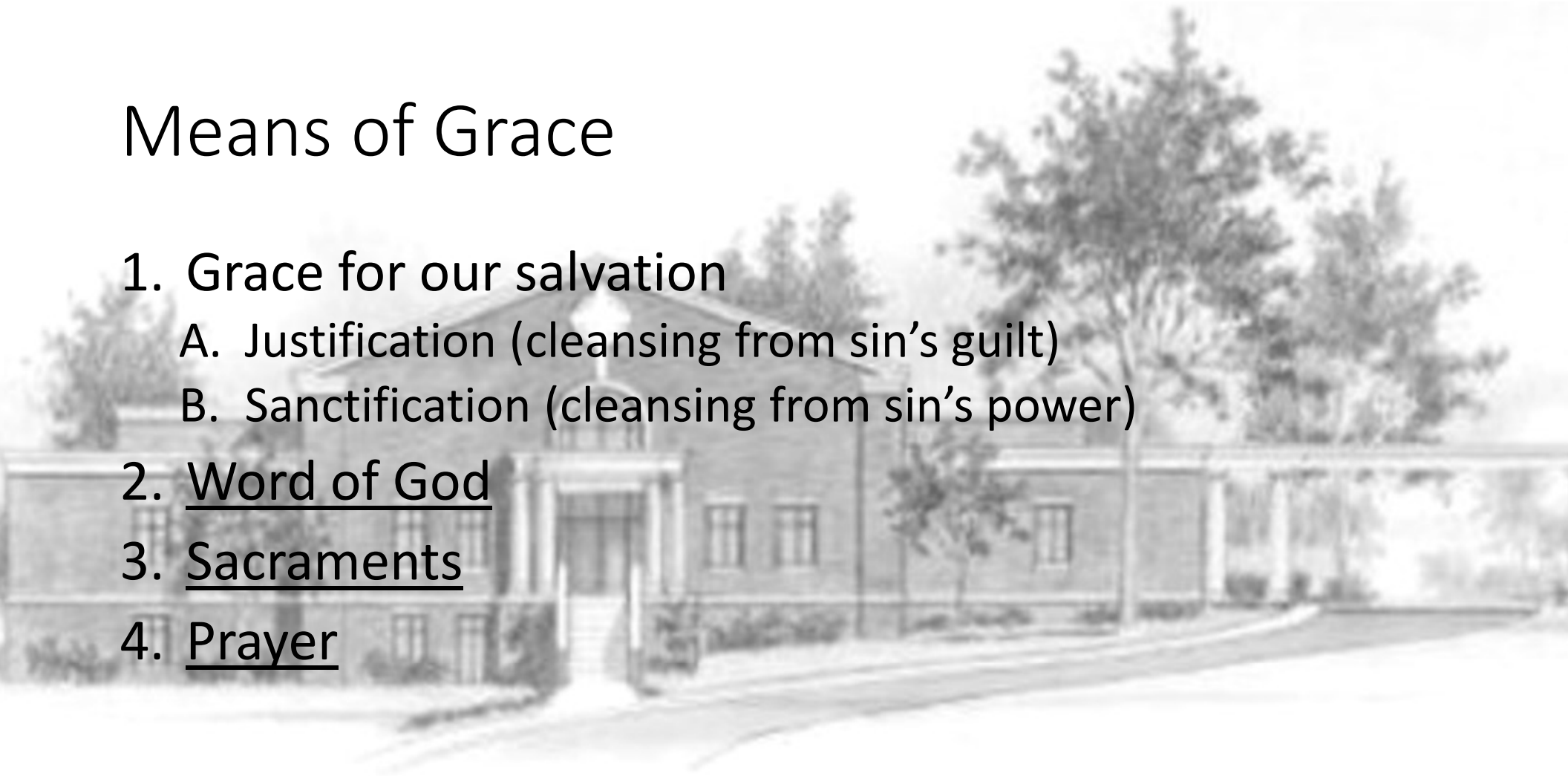


# God Centered Evangelism

**Means of Evangelism**

# Means of Grace

1. Grace for our salvation
  - A. Justification (cleansing from sin's guilt)
  - B. Sanctification (cleansing from sin's power)
2. Word of God
3. Sacraments
4. Prayer



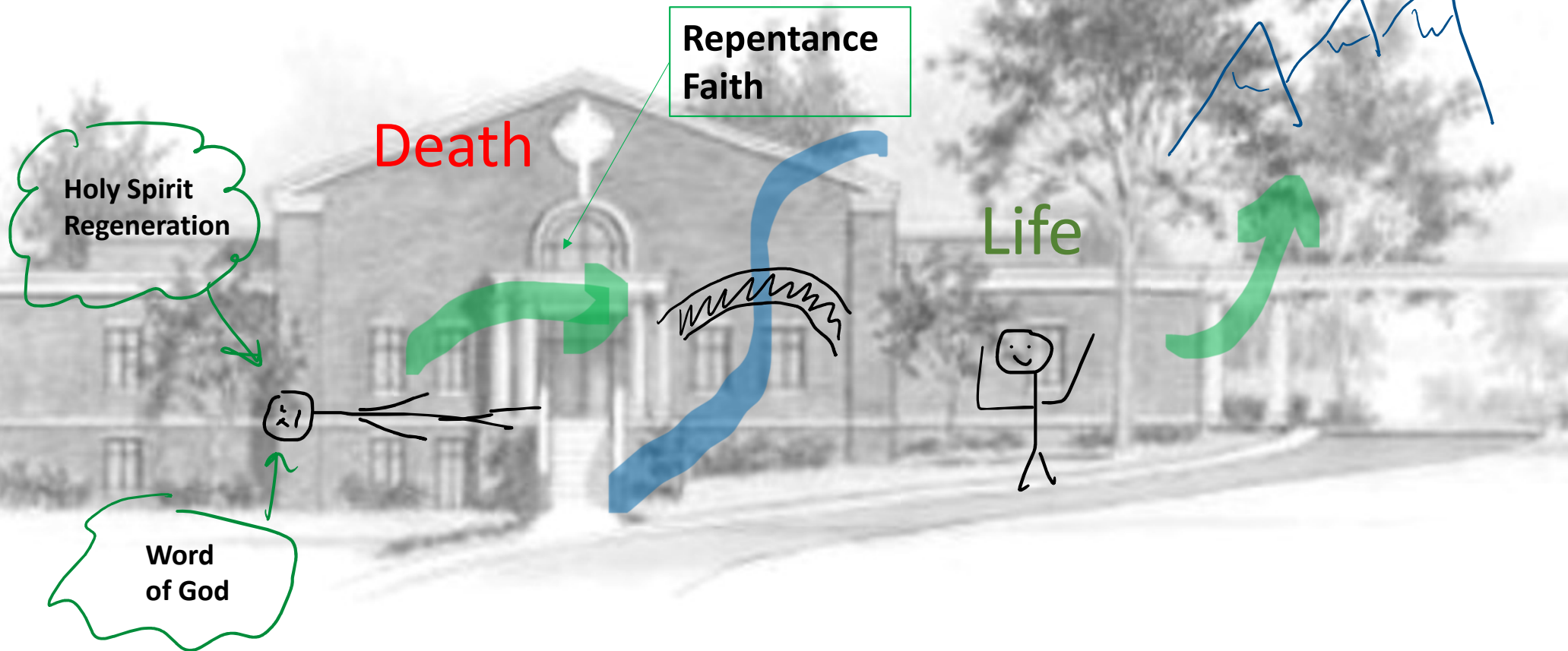
# Faith and the Word of God

1. The Word of God is the only means the Holy Spirit uses to impart faith in the heart of man.
  - A. All other factors are subsidiary to the Word.
  - B. Romans 10:13-17
2. Knowledge of the Word of God is a prerequisite of saving faith
  - A. The believer consents to the truth revealed in the Word and entrusts himself for salvation on the Son of God
  - B. He cannot do this without knowledge of the content of Scripture.

# WCF on the Word of God

1. LC 154 What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation?
  - A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all of which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation.
2. LC 155 How is the word made effectual to salvation?
  - A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of -
    1. enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners;
    2. driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ;
    3. conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will;
    4. strengthening them against temptations and corruptions;
    5. building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

# Salvation Illustrated



# Faith and the Word of God

## 1. How much knowledge is needed?

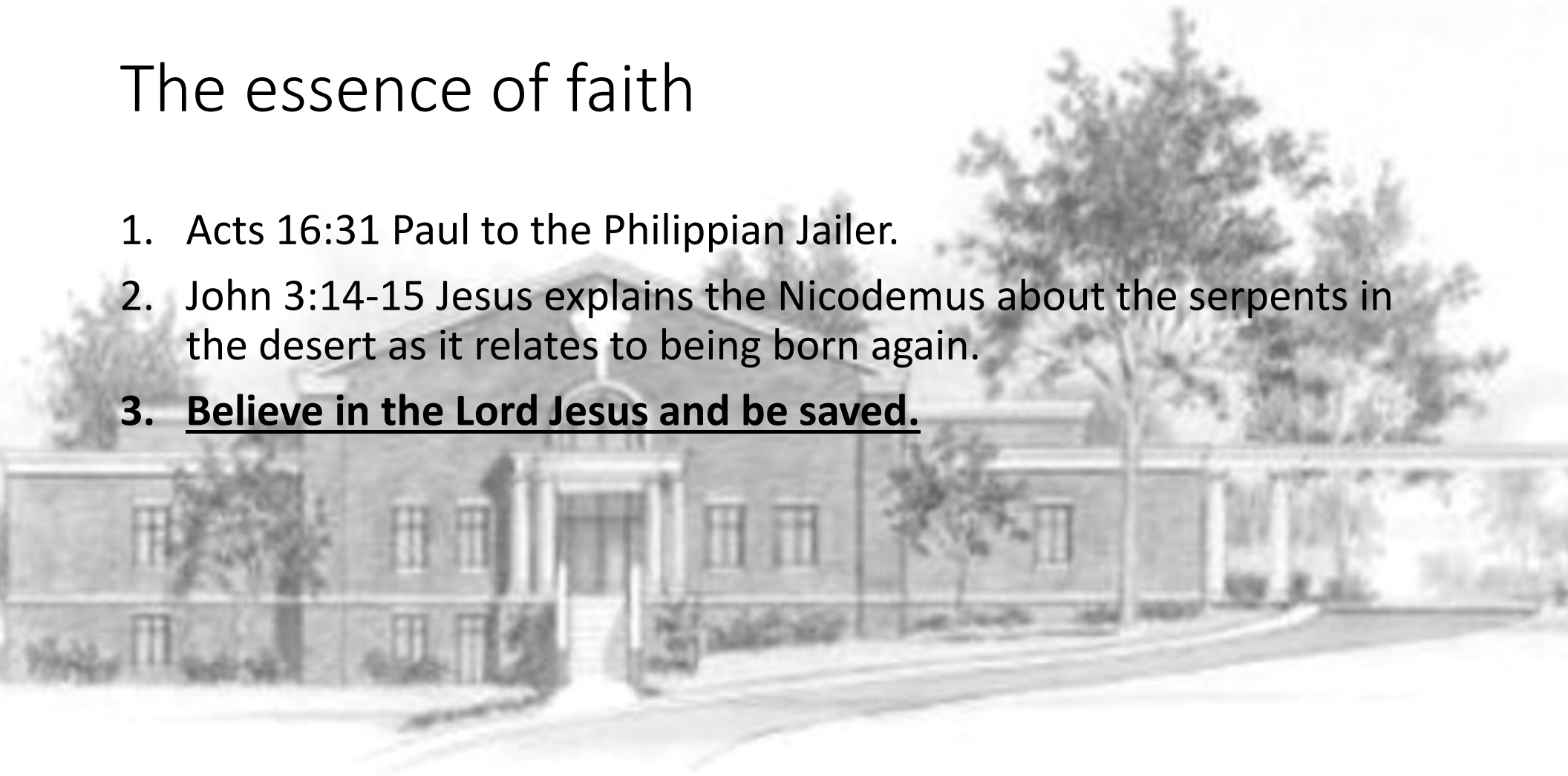
- A. Knowledge about God
- B. Knowledge about man

## 2. Apostle's and Nicene Creeds

- A. God is the almighty creator of all things
- B. God has made himself known to man through creation and the Bible
- C. God created man for relationship with him
- D. This relationship requires our obedience and worship to God
- E. Men fail to obey or worship God in our fallen state and are therefore alienated from God, we are at enmity with Him
- F. God sent his only son to live the perfect life for us and become the perfect sacrifice in our place (mediation)
- G. God promises salvation to those who believe the promise of salvation through Christ.

# The essence of faith

1. Acts 16:31 Paul to the Philippian Jailer.
2. John 3:14-15 Jesus explains the Nicodemus about the serpents in the desert as it relates to being born again.
3. **Believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved.**





# Origin of saving faith

1. Eph 2:8 – Faith is a gift of God
2. We cannot naturally exercise faith
  - A. 1 Cor 2 – it is foolishness to the pagan
  - B. Rom 8 – Carnal mind is against God
3. Seed of faith is planted at regeneration and will be called into activity at the effectual call. (Ezk 11:19, Jer 24:7)
4. Remember the parable of the sower...the soil must be properly prepared BEFORE the seed (gospel) is sown.



# What brings forth faith?

1. By the **Word of God** through the **Holy Spirit**.
  - A. Matt 28:19 – Jesus' great commission - teach the nations, preach the word, hold the truth before them
  - B. Acts 26:18 Paul's commission to open their eyes, teach them
  - C. Romans 10:10-17 Faith is called forth by the Word of God, by the truth of the gospel, by the message preached
  - D. 2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word!
  - E. James 1:18 – we are brought forth by the word of truth
2. The object of our faith is the Word of God concerning Christ's work on our behalf for salvation

# What are the elements of faith?

1. Belief – an assent to the word of God as truth
  - A. Not something vague or a general assent, it is very pointed
  - B. Heb 11:13 Saints of old died convinced of the promises to come, a firm conviction of what they believed about the promises of God
2. Trust – not just assent, we must also have confidence, a readiness to commit ourselves to it
3. Commitment – we believe and trust so much we call upon God
  - A. Rom 10:13-14
4. Examples of Noah, Abraham, and Moses

# Historical Faith not true faith

1. Making only an intellectual assent based on upbringing or what you are taught.
2. Only accepting the gospel as a system of truth
3. No trust or commitment to the truth
4. 2 Tim 3:1-5 – appearance of godliness but denying its power
5. Story of man and little boy
6. In faith there is something beyond assent. It includes trust and commitment.

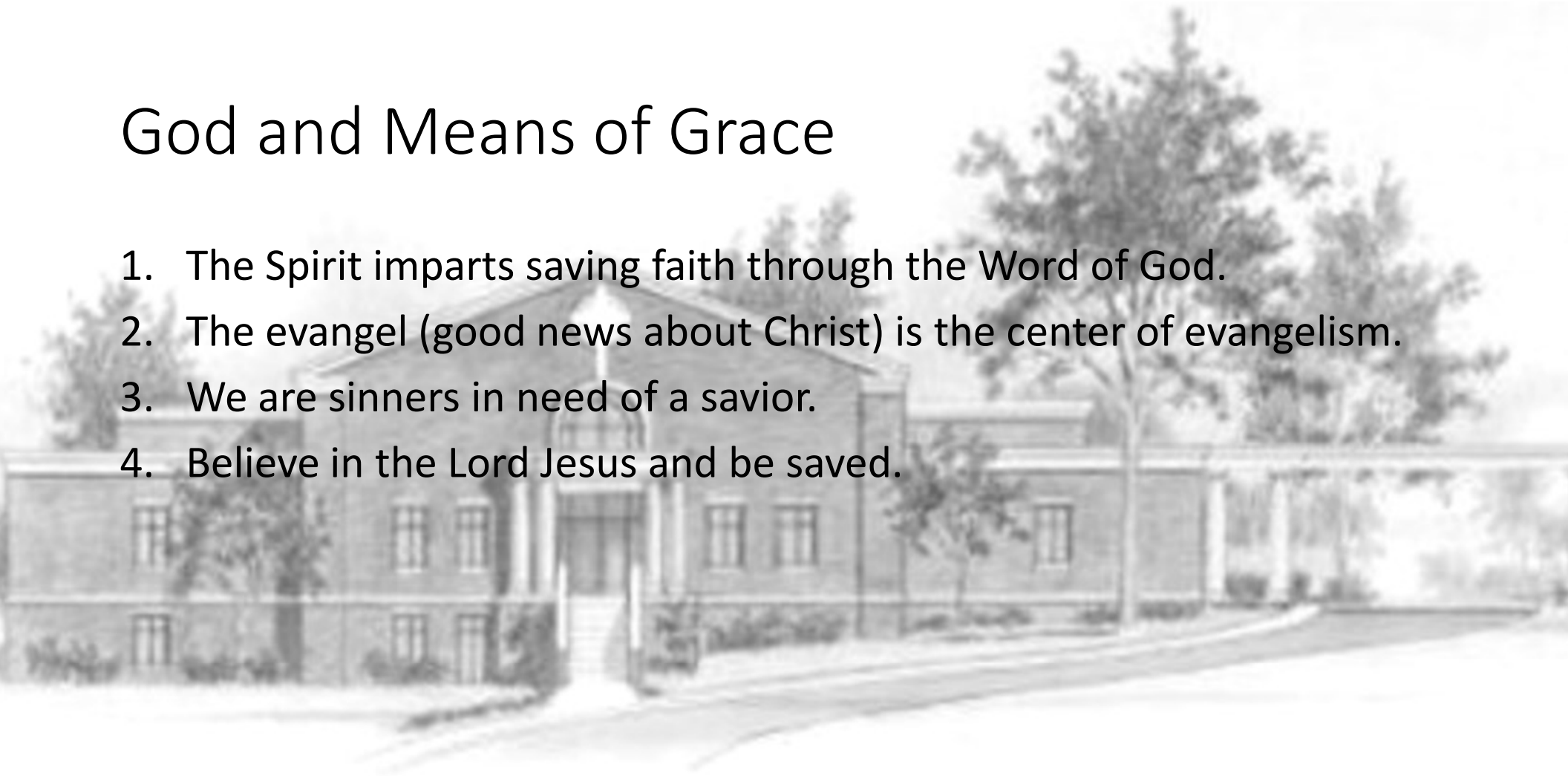


# Important but subordinate things to the Word

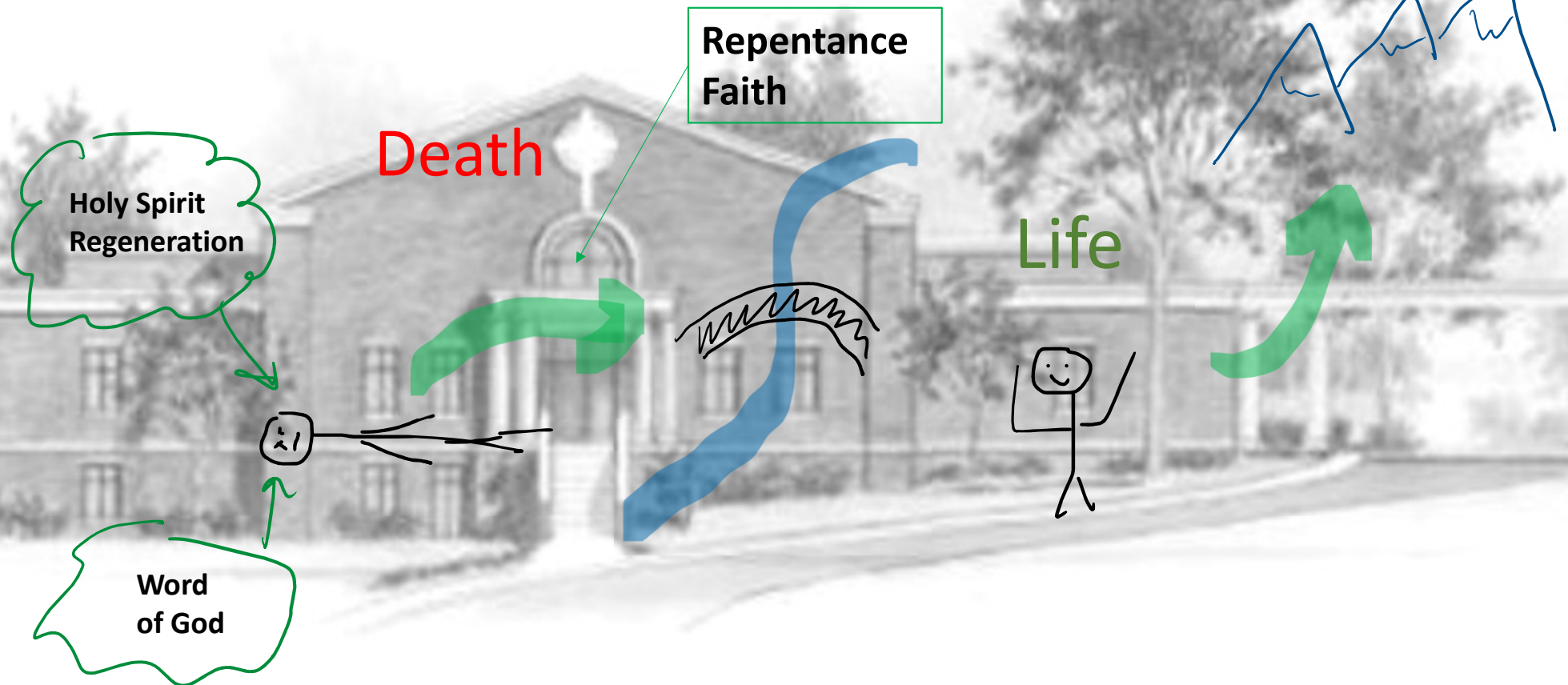
1. Our behavior (important but not paramount)
2. Our religious experience (being born again, repentance, faith in Christ, growth in holiness are part of the Christian experience but are not a substitute for the Word of God)
3. Our prayers (the Word of God and prayer are means of grace in differing senses)
  - A. God imparts saving grace through His Word.
  - B. He often imparts saving grace as an answer to prayer.
  - C. Prayer alone, without the action of delivering the evangel, is “an abomination”.
  - D. The evangel without prayer is “folly”.
4. Apologetics – also important but subordinate

# God and Means of Grace

1. The Spirit imparts saving faith through the Word of God.
2. The evangel (good news about Christ) is the center of evangelism.
3. We are sinners in need of a savior.
4. Believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved.



# Salvation Illustrated





# Discussion/Questions

