



A NEED FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Colossians 1:27-29

To [the saints] God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Spiritual growth is for everyone



“...warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ....”



Spiritual growth does not earn favor

“God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Spiritual growth has a clear goal



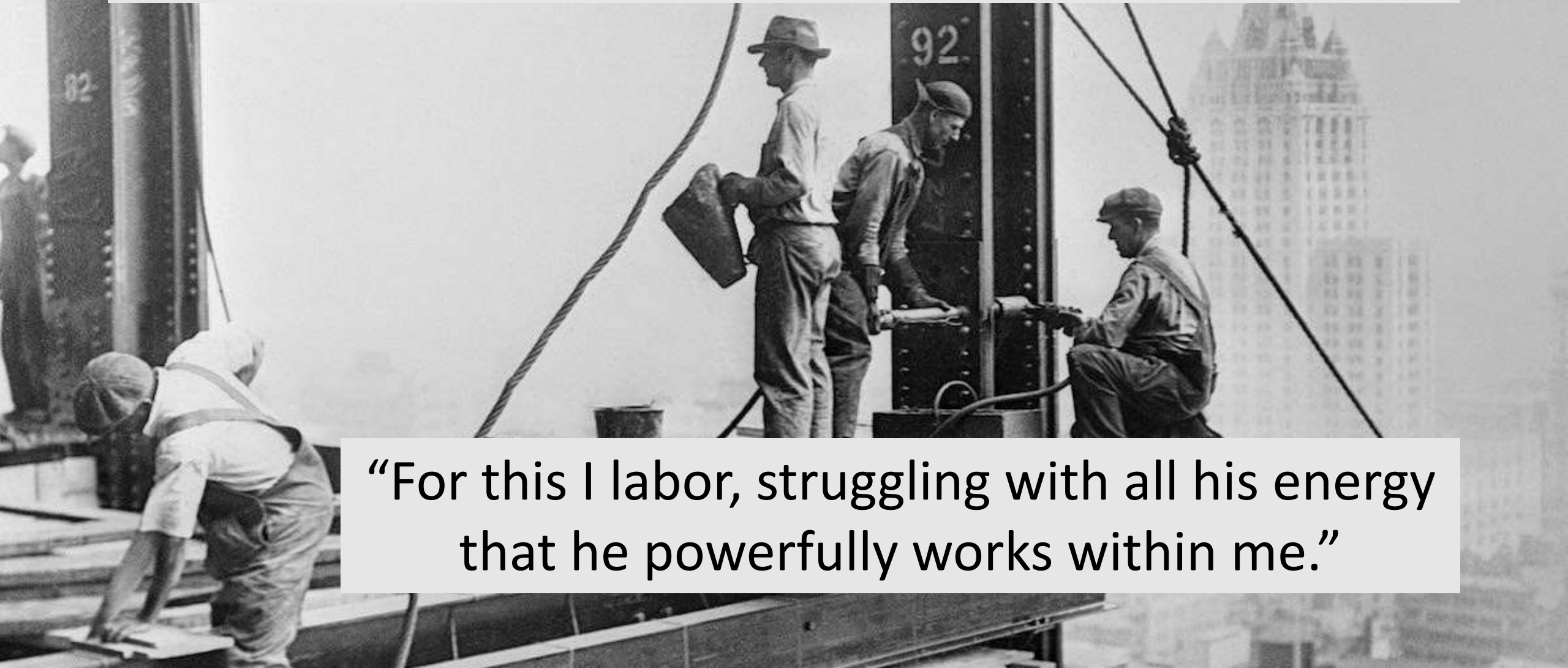
“that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”

Spiritual growth is mystical, yet measureable



“...the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you... Him we proclaim, warning everyone, teaching everyone ”

Spiritual growth requires deliberate effort



“For this I labor, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”

A black and white photograph of a man working on a large industrial machine, possibly a ship's hull, with a complex metal framework in the background. The man is in the foreground, focused on his work. The background shows the intricate steel structure of a large vessel under construction.

Spiritual growth is God's work

“For this I labor, struggling
with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”

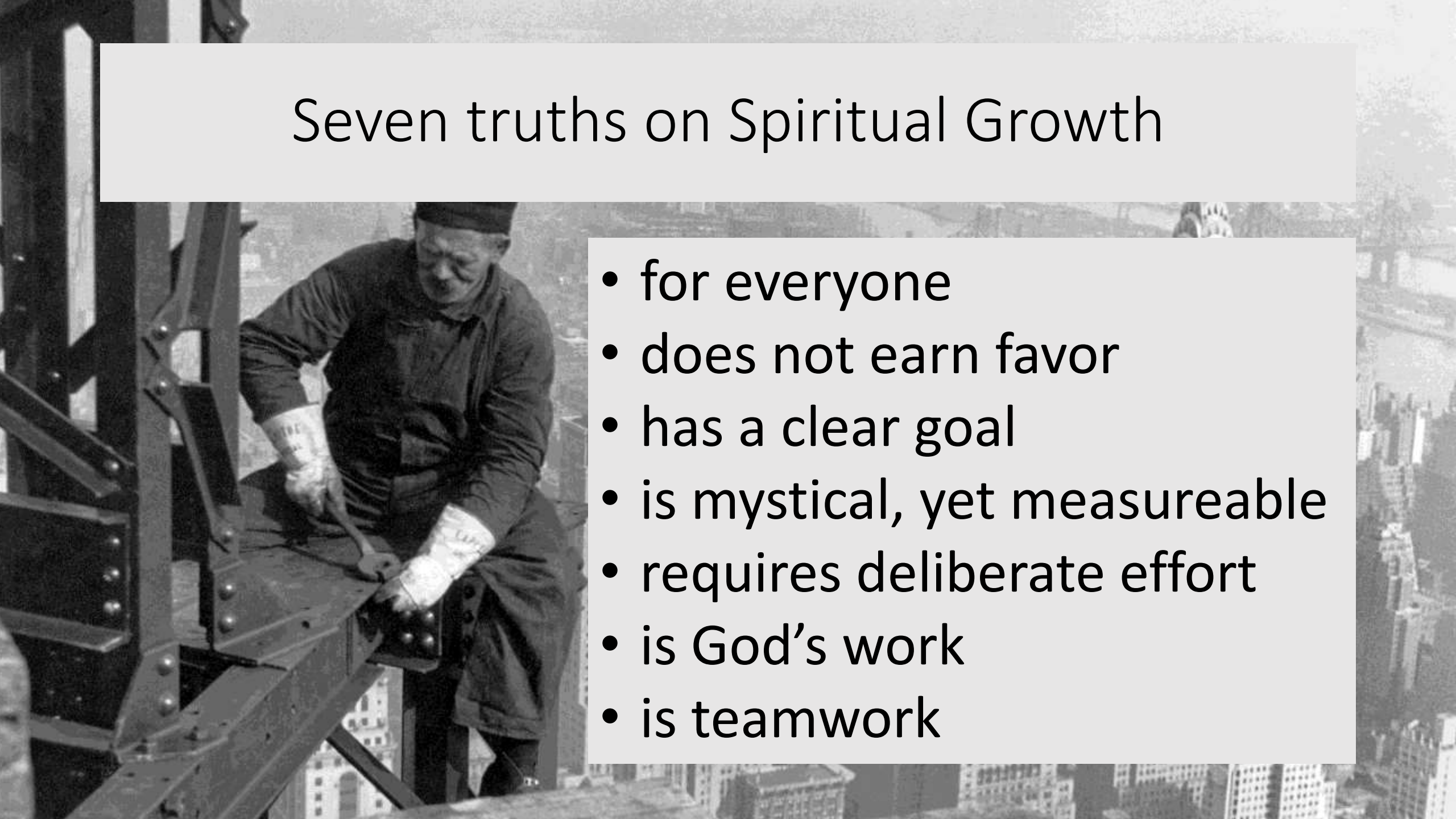
Spiritual growth is teamwork



“...that we may present everyone mature in Christ.
For this I labor...”

Seven truths on Spiritual Growth

- for everyone
- does not earn favor
- has a clear goal
- is mystical, yet measureable
- requires deliberate effort
- is God's work
- is teamwork





Case Study from *Every Man's Battle*

Goal: *"no hint of sexual immorality"* (Eph 5:3)

- *"Covenant with eyes"* (Job 31:1)
- *Study to "renew your mind"* (Rom 12:2)
- *Confessions* (Job 31:1, Matt 5:8)
- *Watch thoughts* (Pro 4:23; Col 3:2)
- *"Bounce the eyes" to "flee lusts"* (2Tim 2:22)
- *Prayer "grace to the humble"* (James 4:6)
- *Accountability "walk in light"* (1 John 1:7)