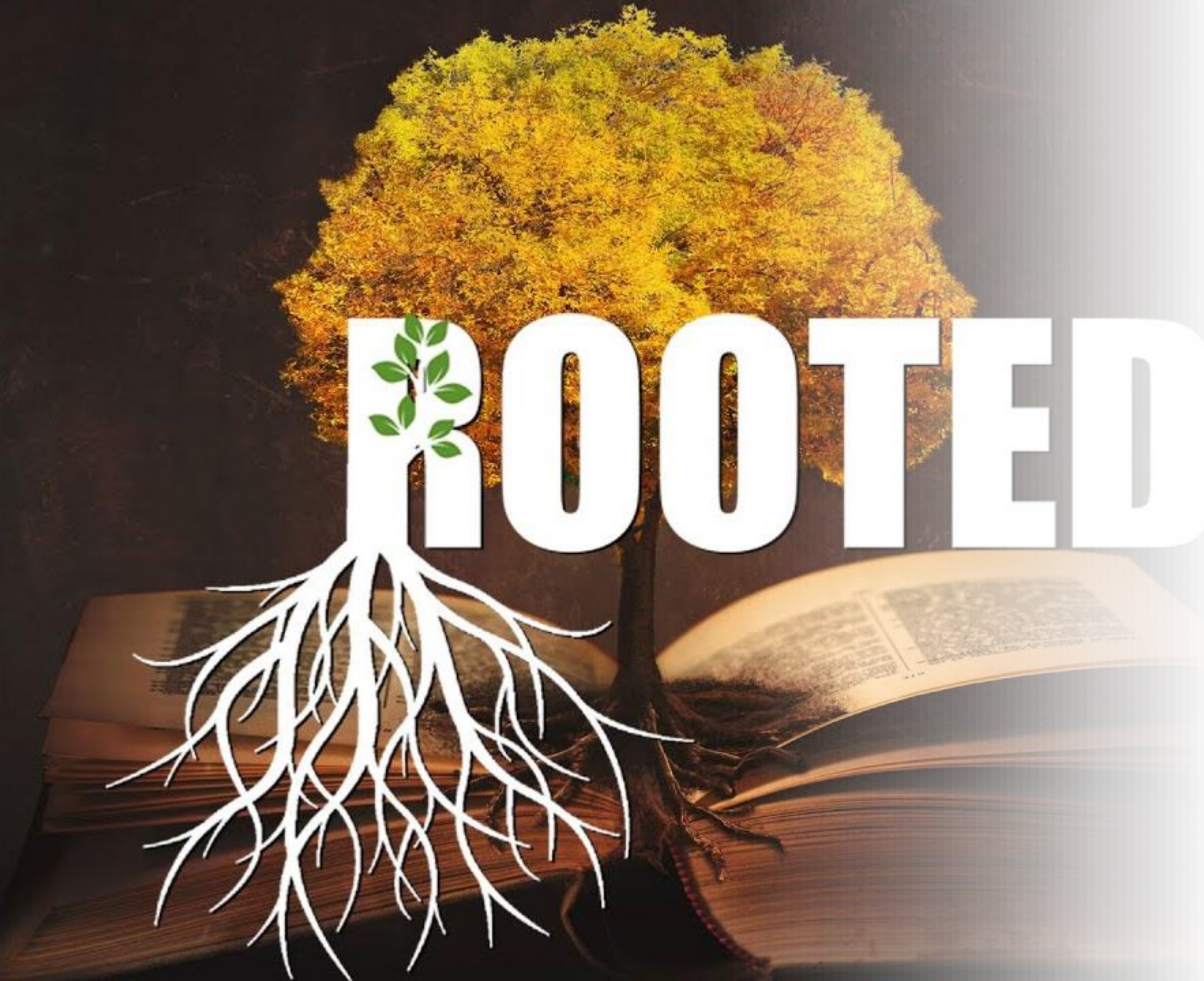


“...AND
THESE HAVE
NO ROOT”

Luke 8: 13

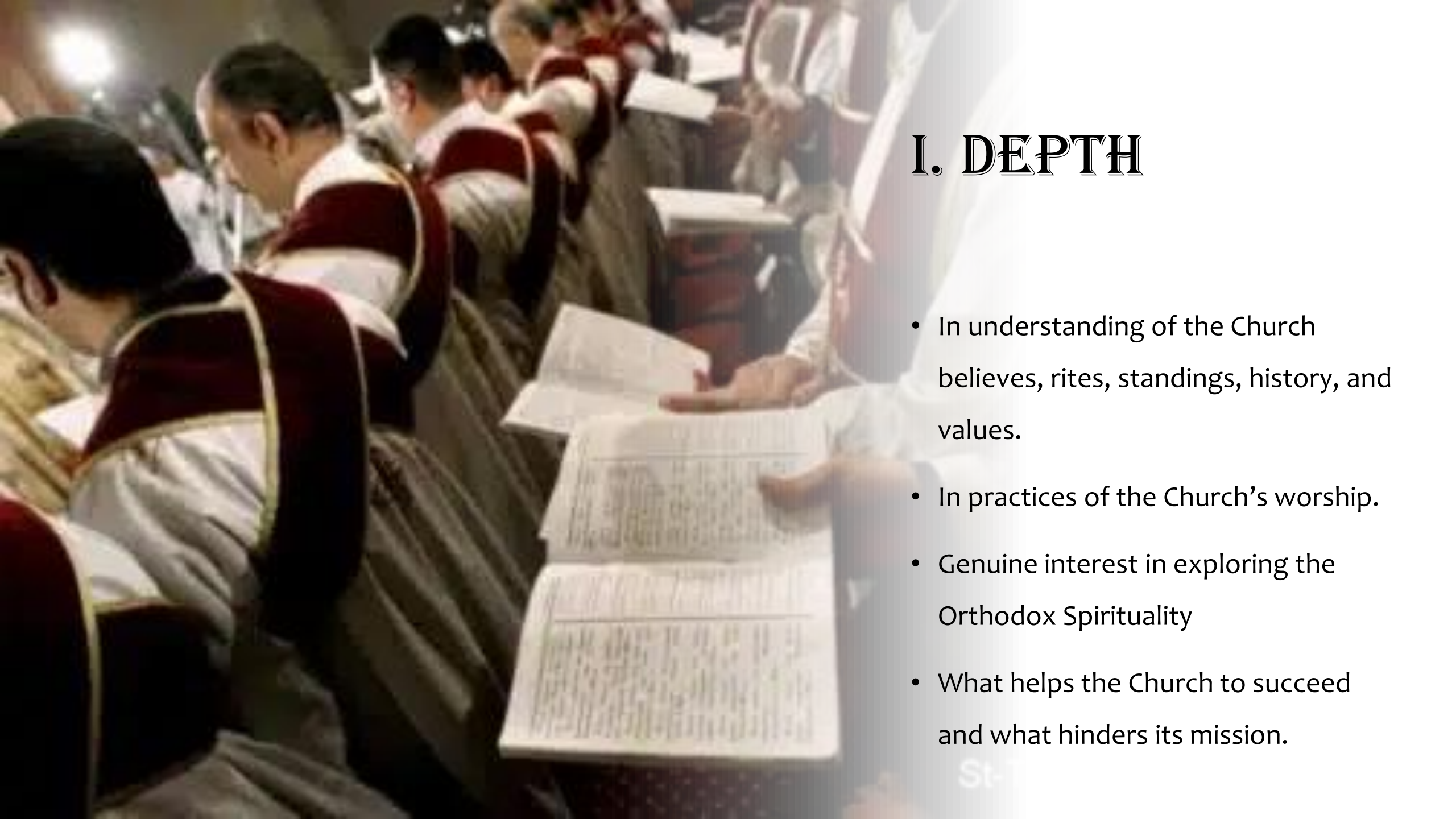




AM I ROOTED IN THE CHURCH?

*“For we are God’s fellow
workers; you are God’s field”*

1 Cor. 3: 9



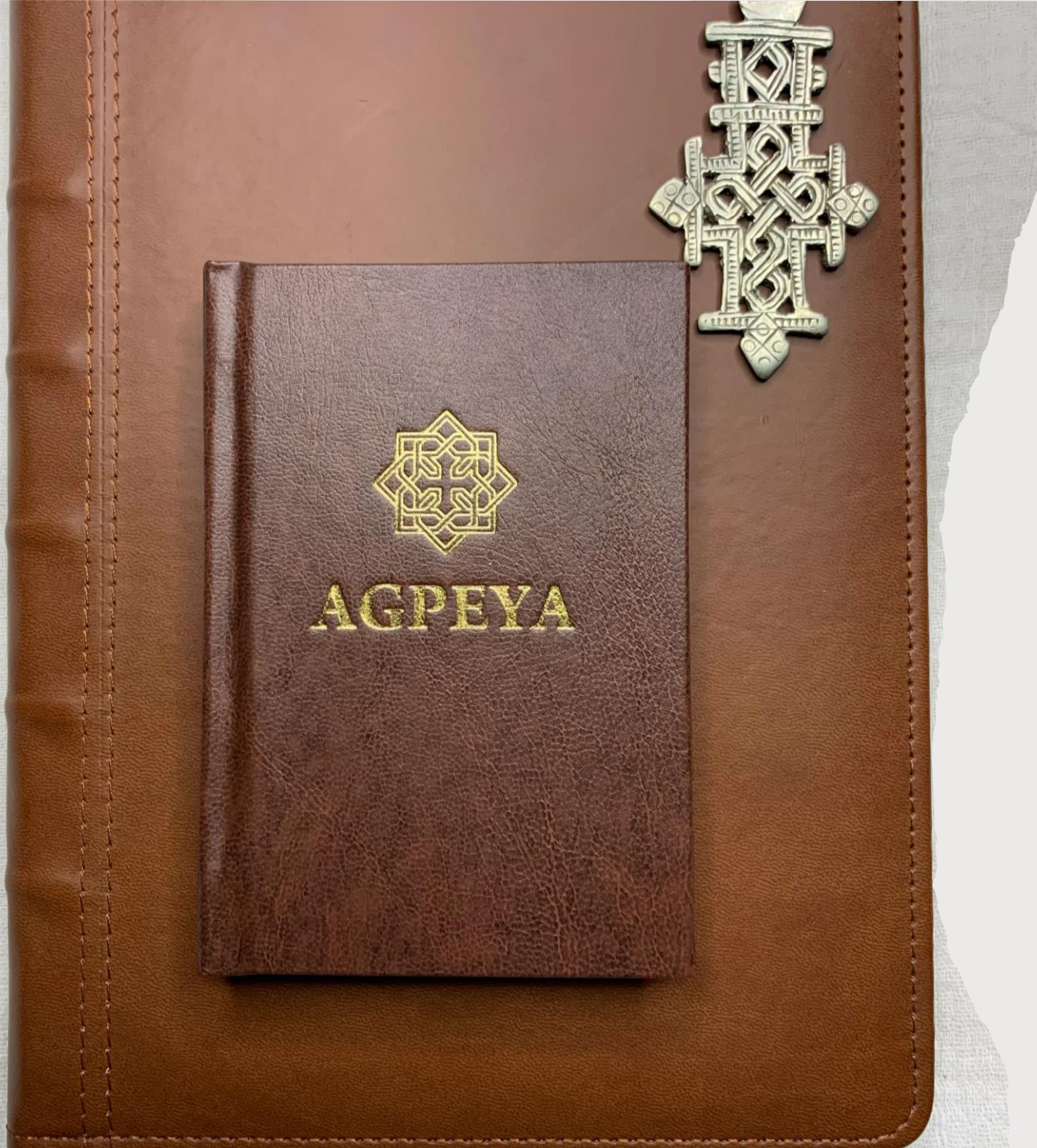
I. DEPTH

- In understanding of the Church believes, rites, standings, history, and values.
- In practices of the Church's worship.
- Genuine interest in exploring the Orthodox Spirituality
- What helps the Church to succeed and what hinders its mission.



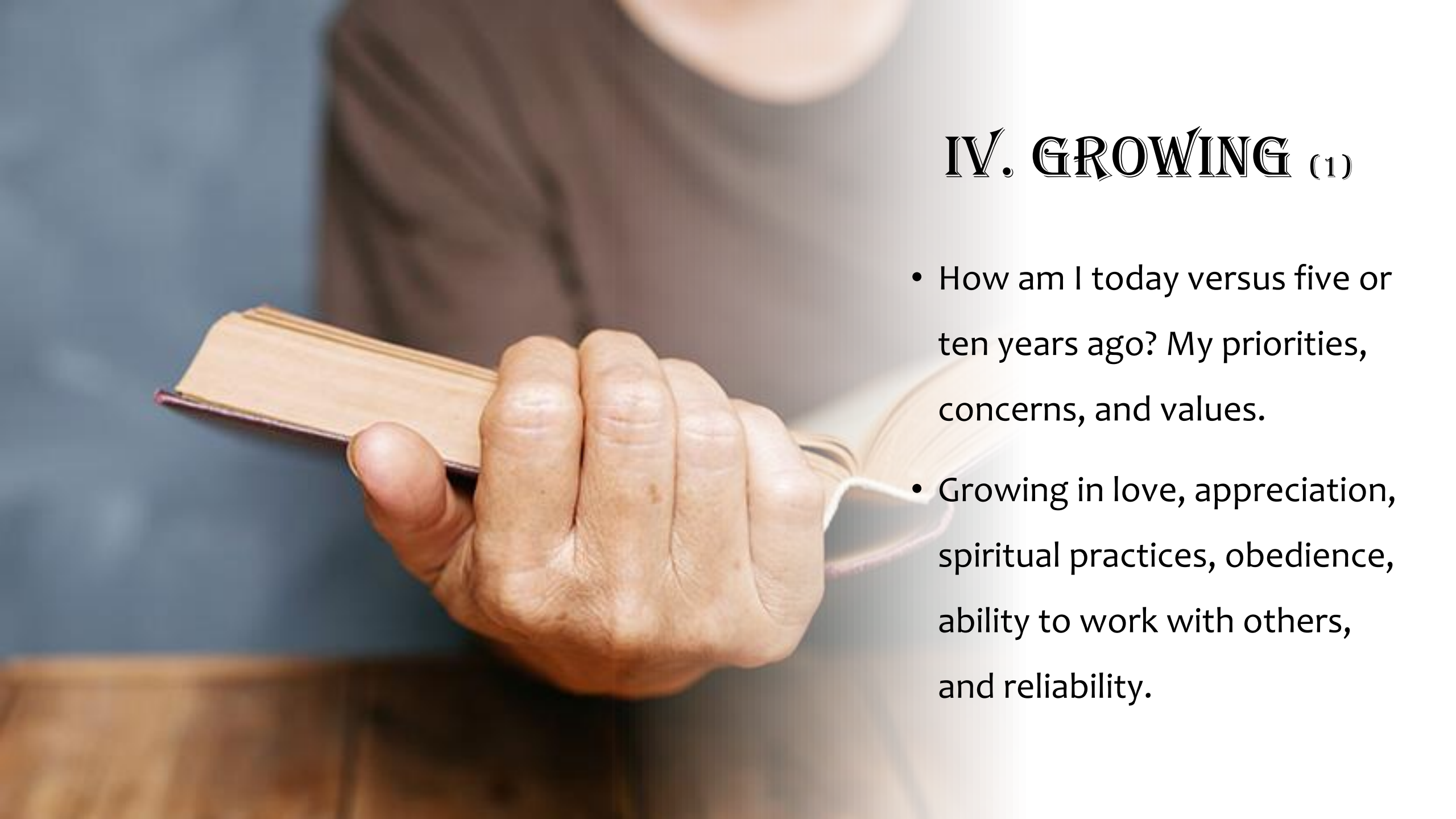
II. BELONGING

- The Church as a mother.
- Being an agent of positive change rather than the bitter criticism or crying over the Church status.
- The honorable example of St. Archdeacon Habib Girgis.



III. NOURISHED

- Planted near the streams of water represented in the Agpeya, the Liturgy, The Church Fasts, the Jesus prayers, and the Holy Bible.
- The Church as a place to be fed spiritually not as a source of entertainment or merely a place for social gatherings.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open book. The person is wearing a brown, textured garment. The book has aged, yellowed pages and a dark red cover. The background is a soft-focus blue-grey wall. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the texture of the skin and the paper.

IV. GROWING ⁽¹⁾

- How am I today versus five or ten years ago? My priorities, concerns, and values.
- Growing in love, appreciation, spiritual practices, obedience, ability to work with others, and reliability.



IV. GROWING (2)

- Moving from the worship of the letter to that of the spirit.
- Understanding of my role and limitation.
- From pushed by parents to be there with a freewill out of love to the church.
- From grumbling against other members to acceptance of their weaknesses.



V. FRUITFUL

- Moving from receiving unto giving while being always nourished.
- The growing sense of responsibility towards the Church and her children.
- The gradual manifestations of the fruit of the Spirit.



VI. STABLE

- “... that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting”

Ephesians 4: 14

- Not yielding to the temptation of conforming to the world and its ideologies.
- Choices stemming from convictions not trying to please others or gain their attentions.