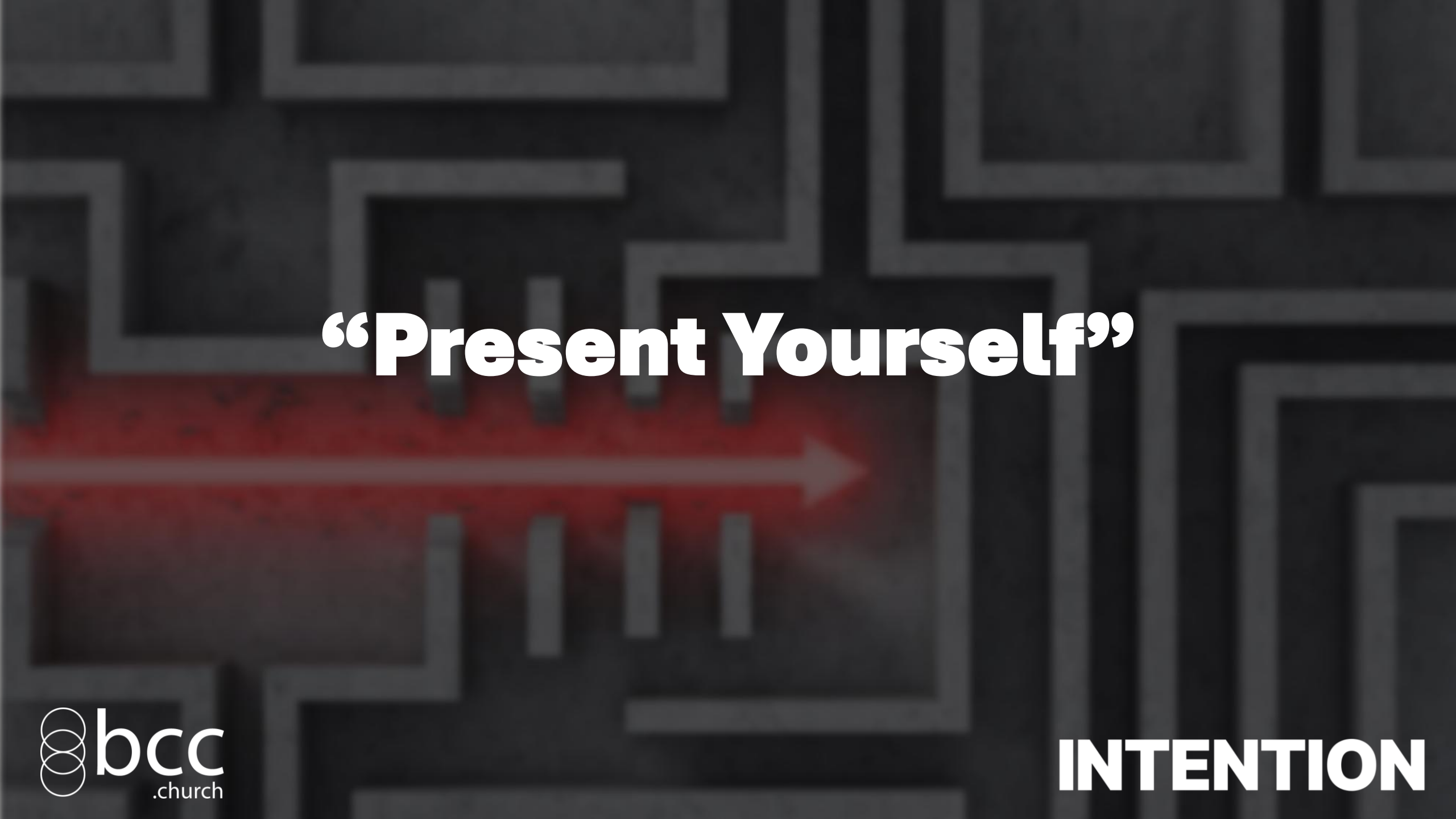

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Scripture: Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)

17 Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward them for what they have done.

Lend = from the root word to entwine, to unite

How is it possible that we could lend to the Lord?



Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (NIV)

7 Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

“The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face the reality of our powerlessness, that is the friend who cares.”

Henri Nouwen (Out of Solitude)

In the world but not of the world

In the world: Believers remain physically present in society, working, participating in community life, and facing ordinary human challenges.

Not of the world: Our identity, values, and moral commitments come from God rather than the surrounding cultural system. We resist conforming to sinful patterns and pursue spiritual transformation.

Scripture: Romans 12:1–2 (NIV)

[1] Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's
mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. [2] Do not
conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the
renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve
what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:30-32 (KJV)

30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all
the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the
LORD that was broken down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones,
according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto
whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy
name: 32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the
LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would
contain two measures of seed.

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:36–39 (KJV)

36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening
sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of
Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art
God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all
these things at thy word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this
people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast
turned their heart back again. 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and
consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and
the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And when
all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The
LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

The depth of our sin

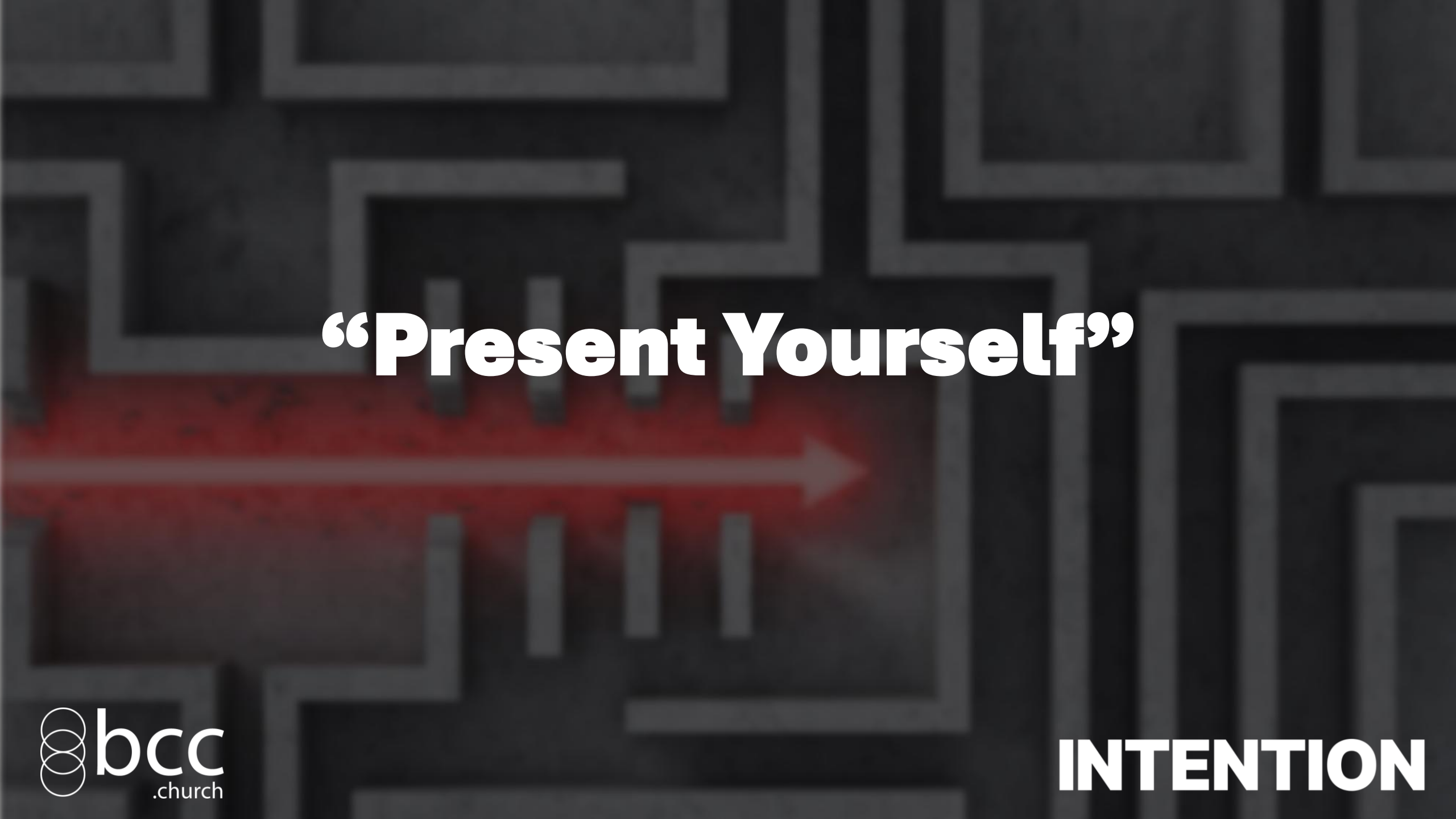
"I cannot sin with my body but I can still sin with my mind"

Joni Eareckson Tada



Reflecting back, let's ask ourselves:

- Do we want to go to church or be the church?
- Are we living the real deal, the real Jesus, the real gospel?
- Do we know our place, our gifting, our calling?
- To what are we devoted?
- Are we willing to present ourselves on the altar?


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