

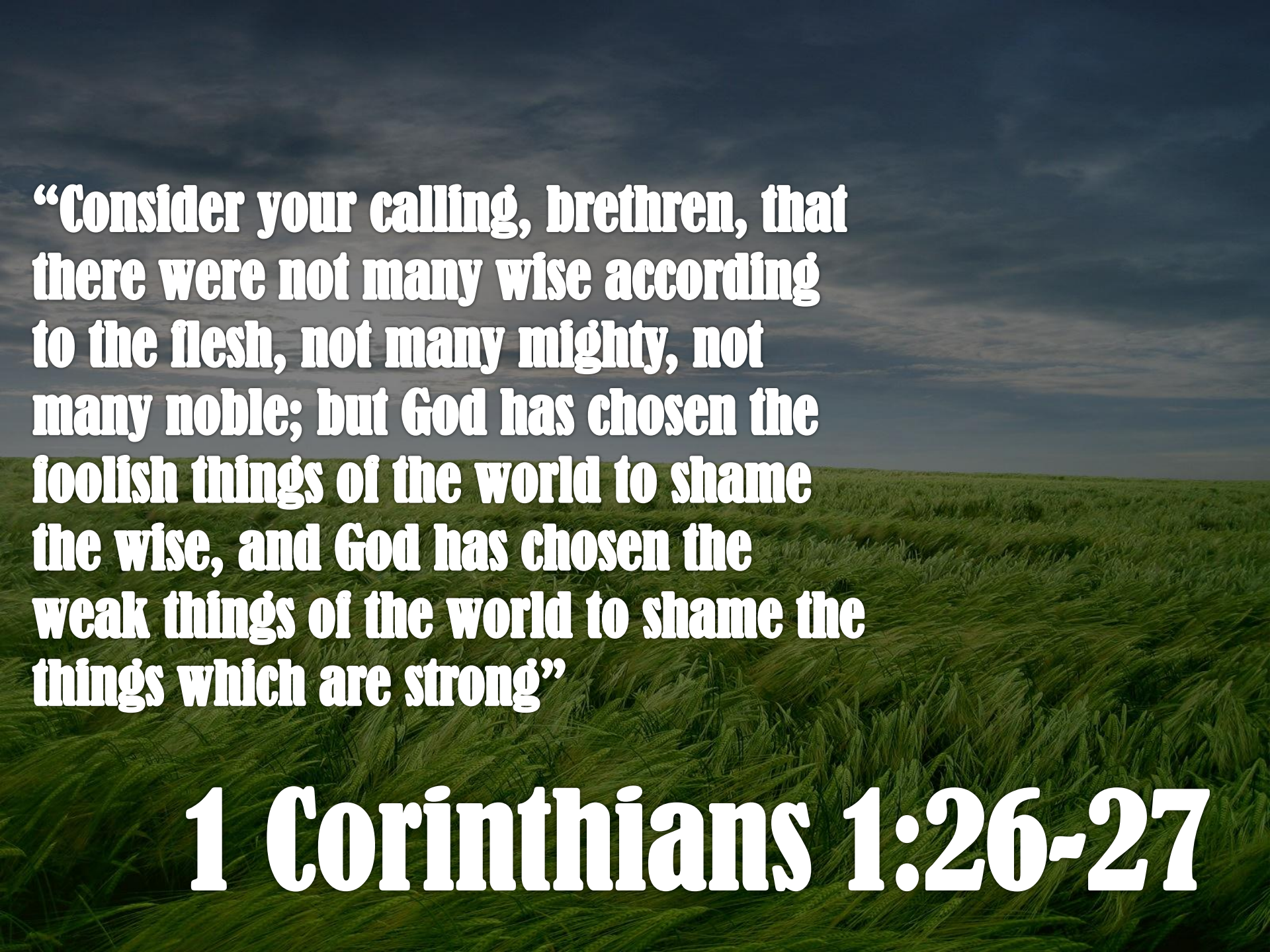


Fanaticism

**Being on fire for Christ
in a world that calls you crazy**

The Real Fanatics

- Believing in God is not nearly as fanatical as the alternative. Evolution is much more extreme than the idea that an orderly, fully-functioning universe has a Designer
- Believing in the infallible word does not sound so extreme, either.
- Is it so crazy to say that the God who created the world knows what is best for it? Human ideas about gender totally flout logic, reason, and biological reality.

The background of the image is a photograph of a vast field of green grass, possibly a meadow or a field of wildflowers, stretching towards a horizon. The sky above is dark and filled with heavy, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast or stormy day. The lighting is somewhat dim, with the grass appearing in shades of green and the sky in various tones of grey and blue.

“Consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong”

1 Corinthians 1:26-27

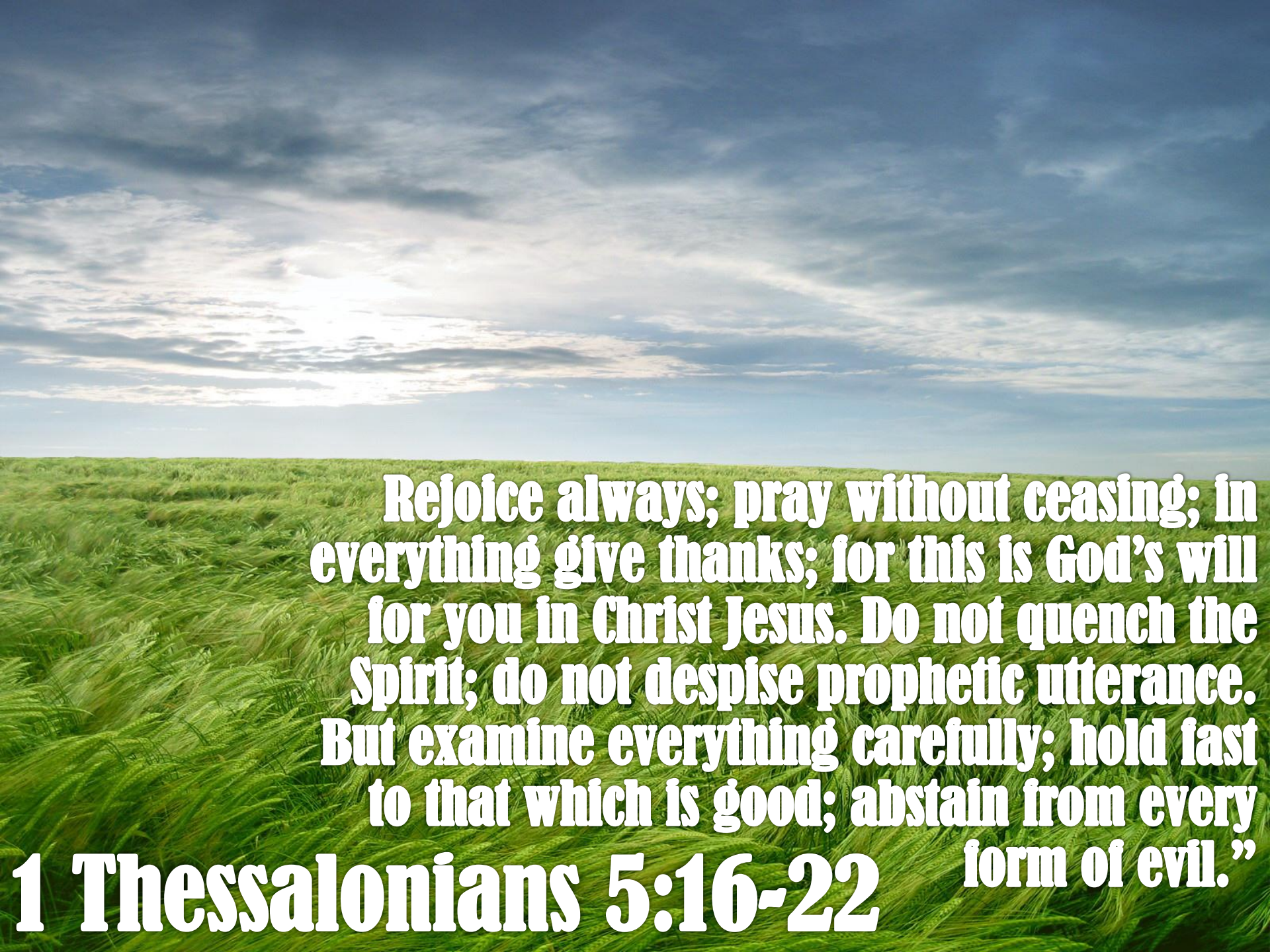
What Is Crazy, *Really*?

- Anyone who denies God's existence is foolish (Psalm 14:1);
- So is anyone who is unprepared to face God after death (Luke 12:20);
- Anyone who lives for the moment and puts pleasure ahead of what is truth is insane (Luke 15:17);
- Anyone who elevates his feelings over scripture and decides to follow his own heart instead of the all-wise God is crazy (Proverbs 28:26).

“Here is a question for you: Is it possible to be too excited about Jesus? (Are you personally in any danger of that?) Possible to go off the deep end and think about Him overmuch? To rejoice beyond propriety? To talk about Him as freely as a football game? To have an almost giddy confidence in what He will do next? To fast and pray for deeper life with Him? To be overly preoccupied with evangelism?” (“Won’t Let You Go Unless You Bless Me”, Seu, p. 105).

Too Much Righteousness?

- Is Ecclesiastes 7:16 providing you with an excuse? Haven't we all heard the rationale for lukewarm Christianity? "Moderation", "Life is more than just one activity!", "You have a life outside church, right?"
- What Solomon means is that we need to have the right kind of righteousness – one based on a pure heart, not on outward appearances.
- Hosea 6:6 & Micah 6:6-8

A landscape photograph showing a field of green grass in the foreground, with a horizon line in the middle. The sky above is filled with soft, white and grey clouds, and a bright light source, likely the sun, is visible near the horizon, creating a glow. The overall tone is peaceful and hopeful.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterance. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

Matthew 13:45-46

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it”

Everybody “Sells All”

- Luke 2:25-38
- Everybody “sells all” for something. We put stock in things of the world, theories, pipe dreams, or other people – But what are you getting when you purchase these?
- Instead of wealth, popularity, or temporary euphoria, why not sell everything for the pearl of great value? *“Christ, who is our life”* (**Colossians 3:4**); *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”* (**Philippians 1:21**).

