



# SS UNITED STATES

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**2000** passengers

who could enjoy the:

- **695** staterooms
- **4** dining salons
- **3** bars
- **2** theatres
- **5** acres of open deck
- **19** elevators
- heated pool
- air conditioned ship

# THE CHURCH

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*What sort of church  
is Jesus wanting to build?*



Enjoy a long weekend to Europe on the s.s. UNITED STATES.

# SS UNITED STATES

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**2000** passengers

who could enjoy the:

- **695** staterooms
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- **3** bars
- **2** theatres
- **5** acres of open deck
- **19** elevators
- heated pool
- air conditioned ship

# WESTERN CHURCH

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**2000** members

who can enjoy the:

- **695** sq m. church complex
- **4** meeting rooms
- **3** coffee machines
- **2** big screen TV's
- **5** acres of courtyard
- **19** ministers
- heated baptismal font
- air conditioned building



# WHAT IS A FLOURISHING CHURCH?

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## **Acts 17:1-4**

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.

*“This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,”* he said.

Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

## **Acts 17:5-7**

But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city.

They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting:

*"These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus."*

## **Acts 17:8-10**

When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go. As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea.



# THESSALONICA

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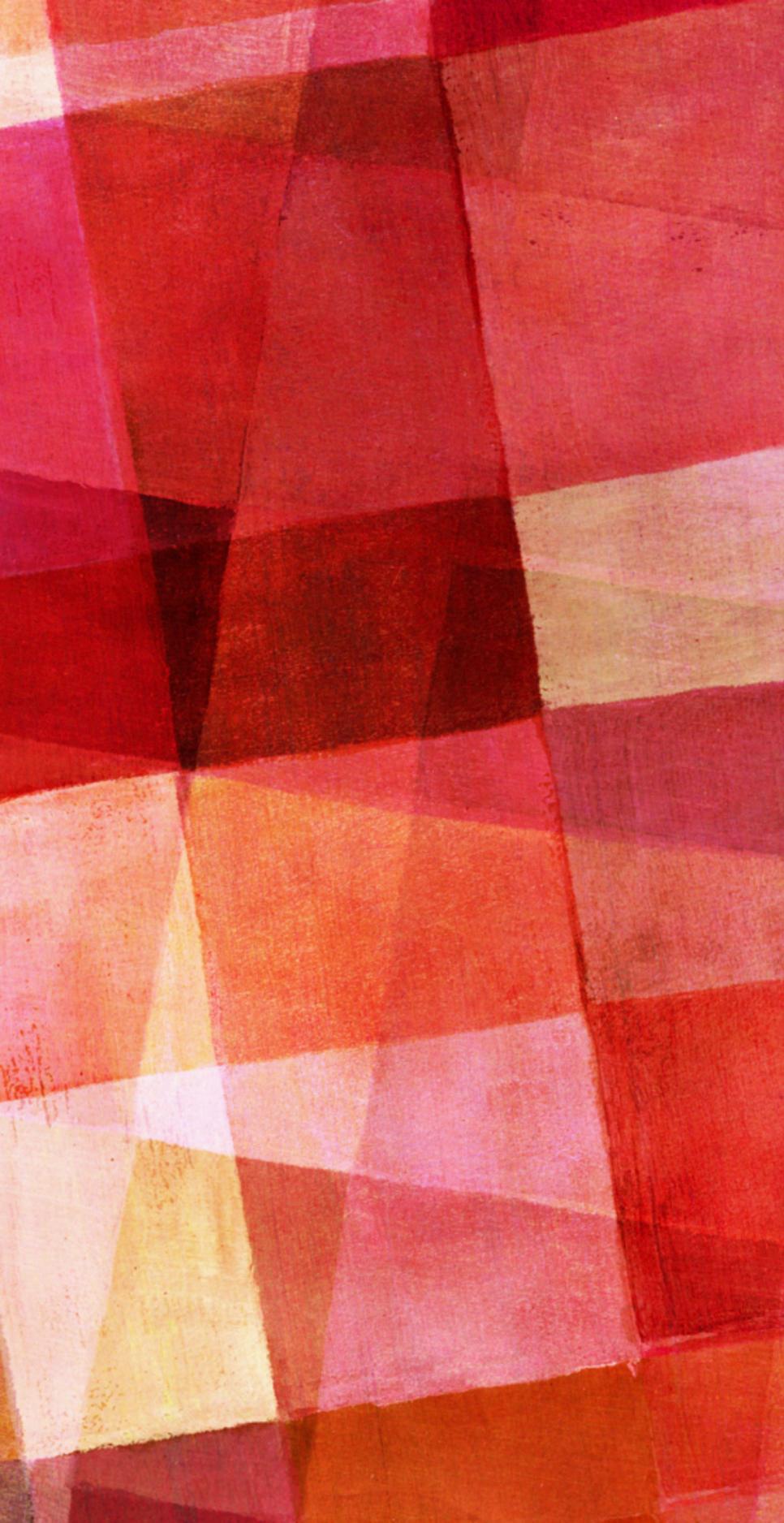
# THE BIRTH OF A CHURCH

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## **1 Thessalonians 1:1-3**

Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

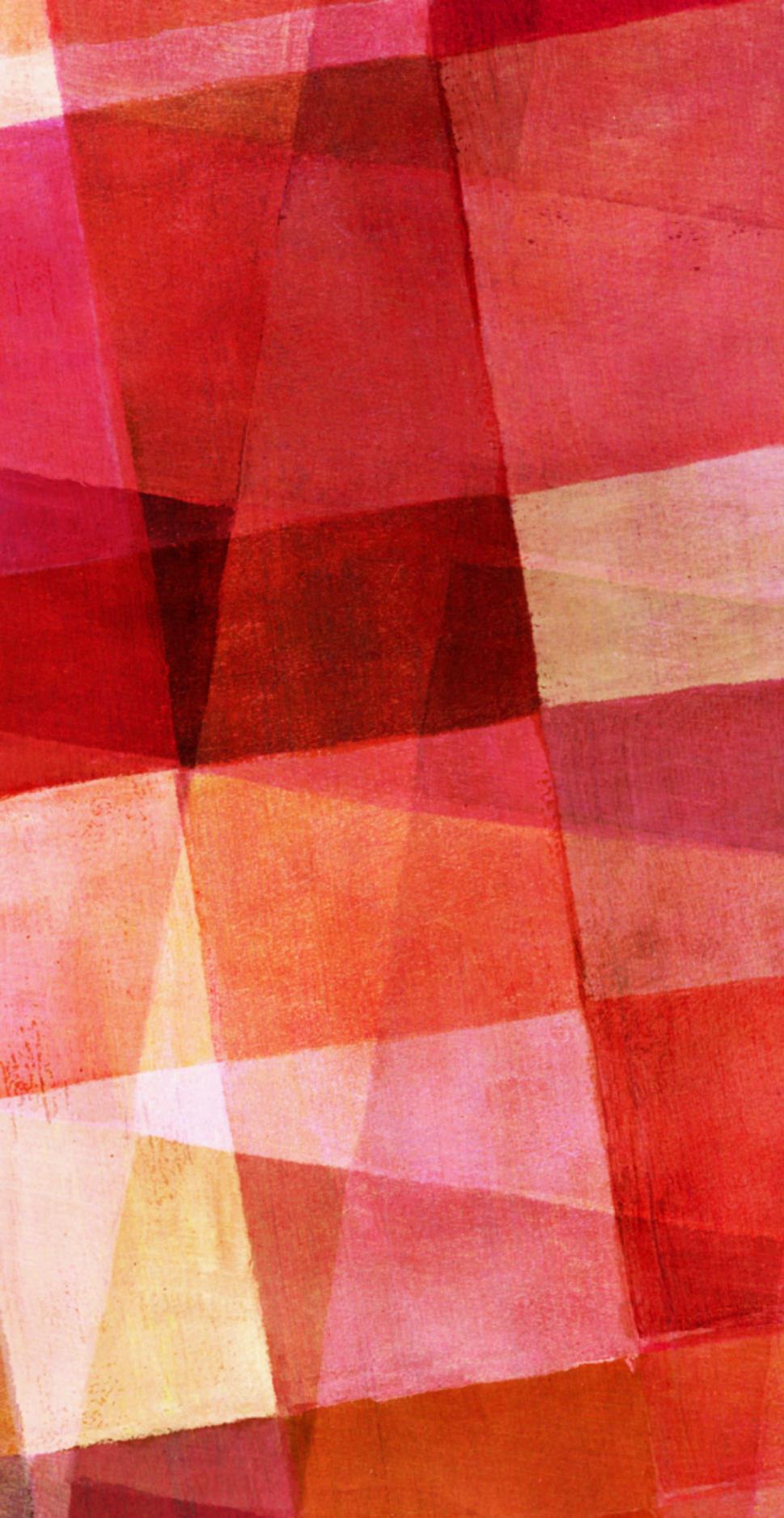


# 1. HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION

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## **1 Thessalonians 1:5**

*For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.*

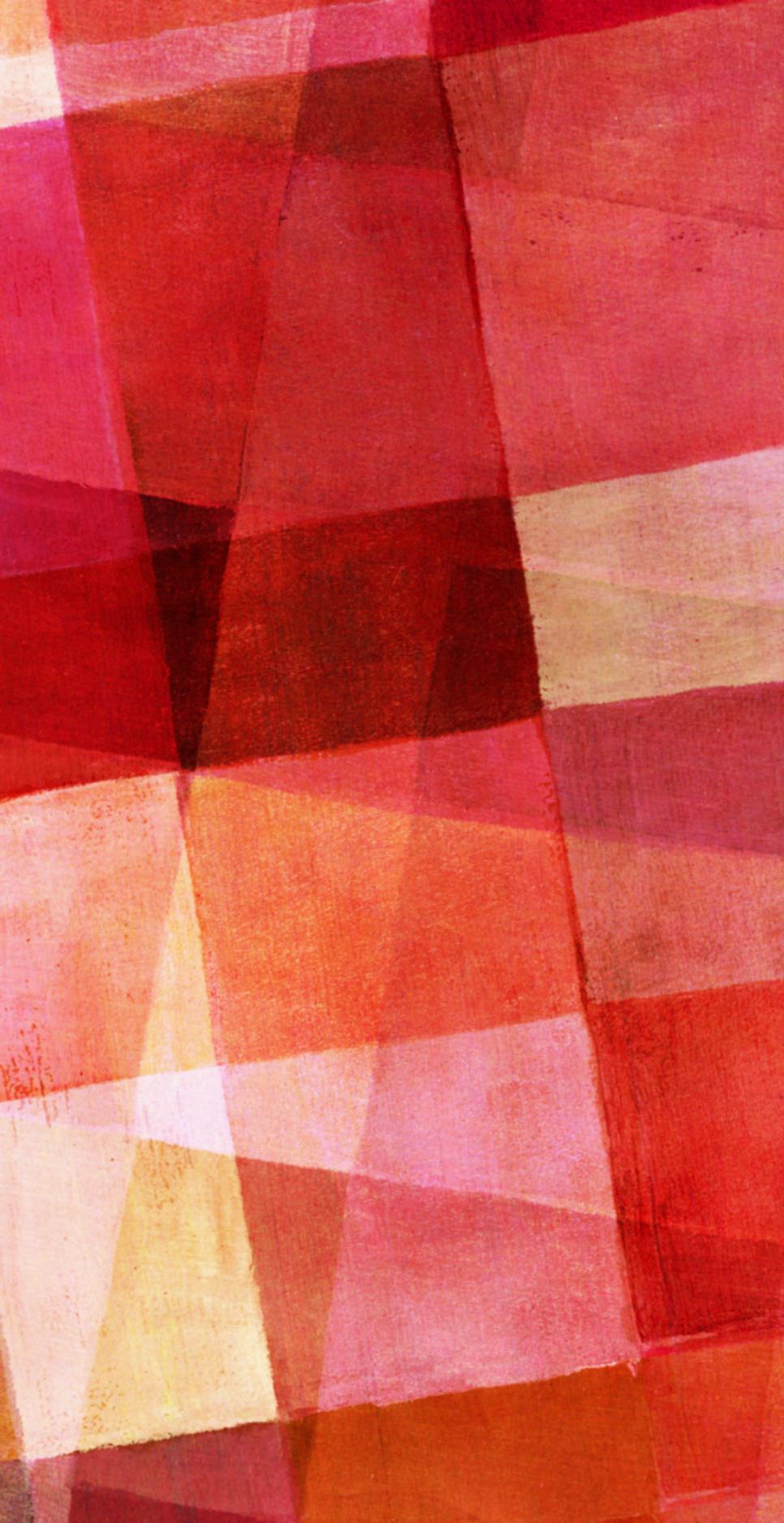


## 2. DEEP REPENTANCE

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### **1 Thessalonians 1:9b**

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

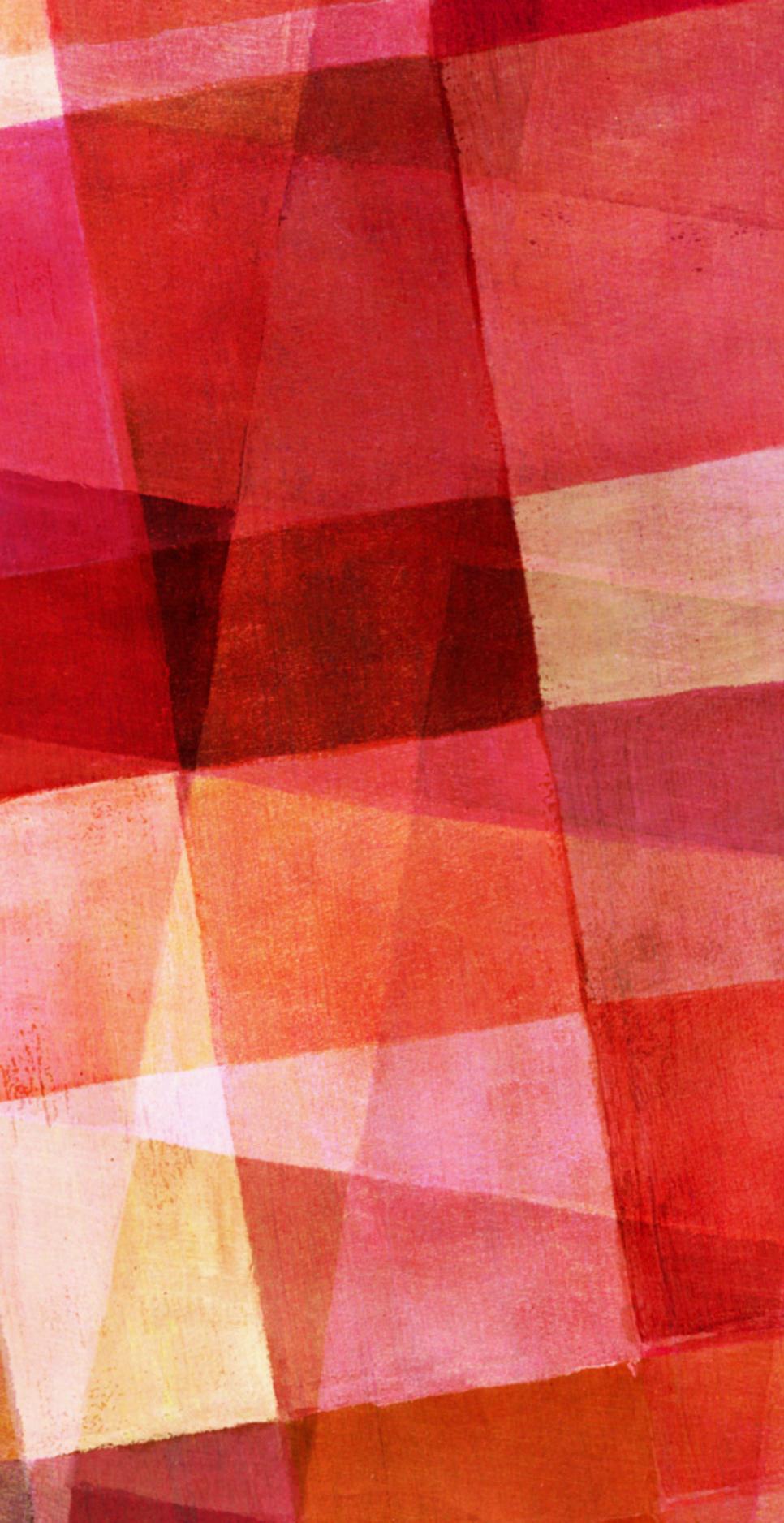


## 3. UNSHAKEABLE JOY

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### **1 Thessalonians 1:6-7**

You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

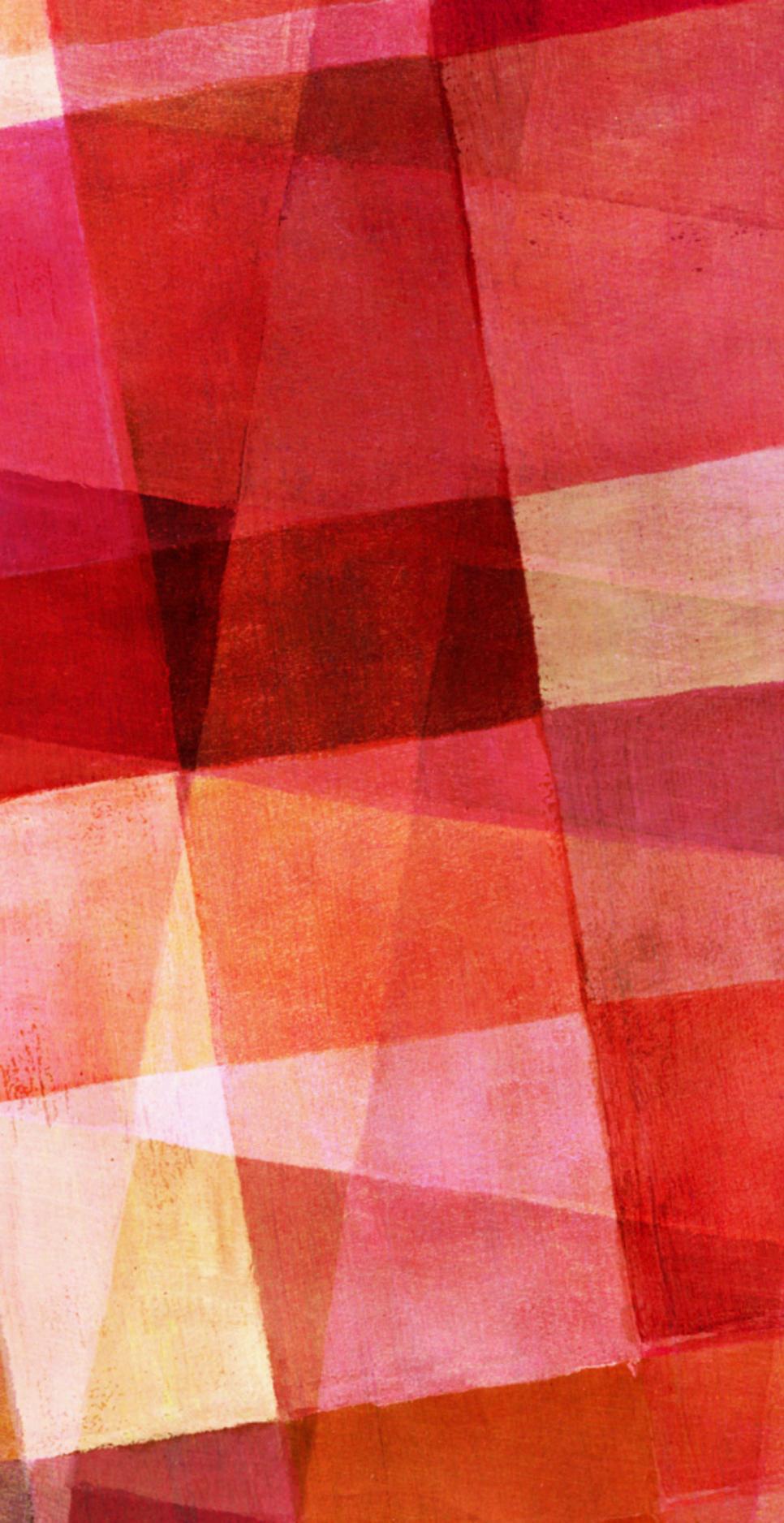


## 4. CONTAGIOUS FAITH

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### **1 Thessalonians 1:8-9a**

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia - your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us.



## 5. EXPECTANT HOPE

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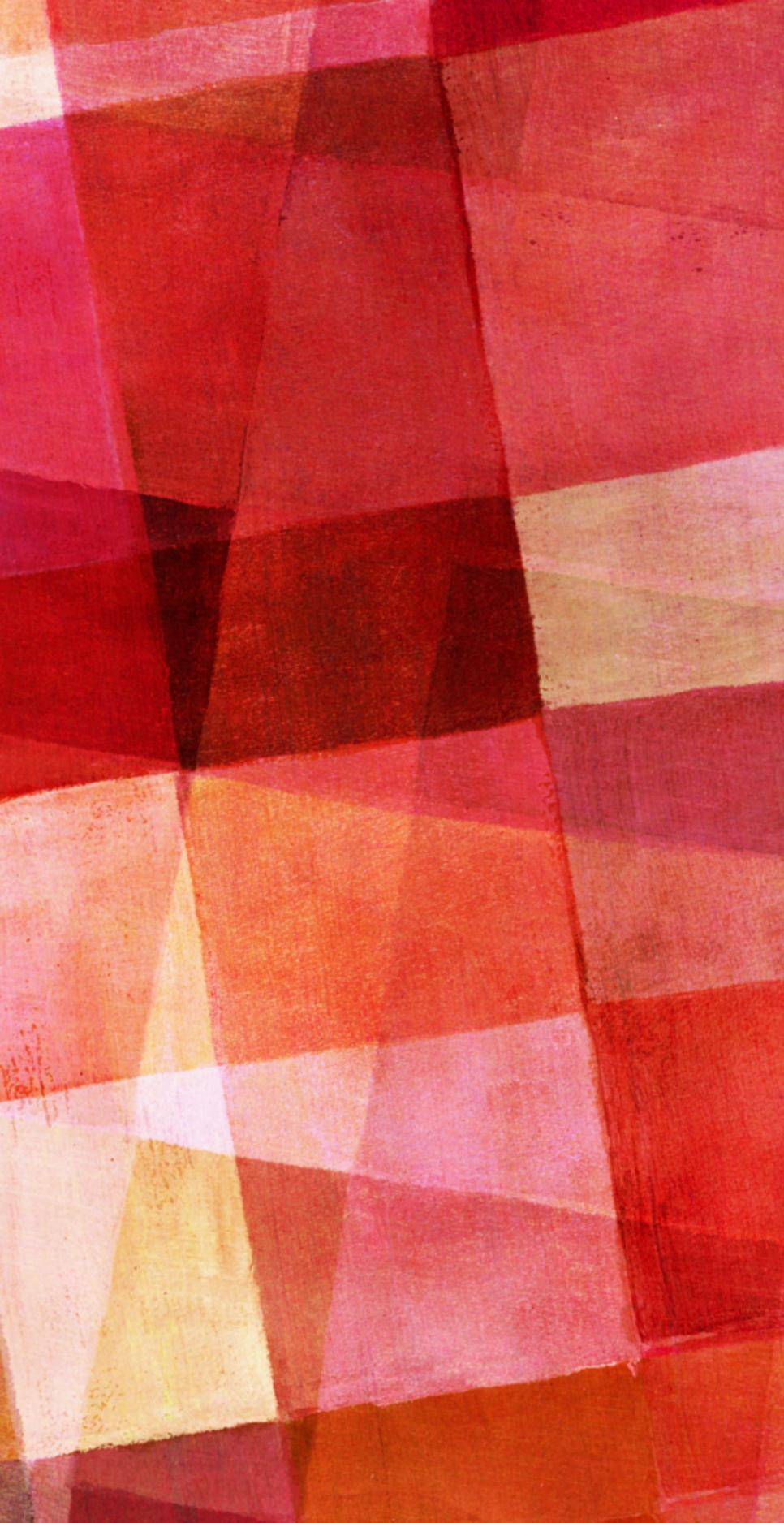
### **1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10**

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

THE VOICE OF  TASMANIA

# MERCURY

Interviews with church leaders reveal that former alcoholics are now serving communion, former tax evaders are now counting the church offertory, notorious ex-criminals are now part of the food distribution ministry and people set to retire have been given new work to do. It is reported that meals suddenly appear on the doorsteps of families at the end of their tether, visitors appear in hospitals and hold hands and pray for the sick and encouragement cards keep turning up in the mail. No-one quite knows why they are so happy.



# FOR REFLECTION

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Have you experienced Holy Spirit conviction?

Have you experienced deep repentance?

Is your joy unshakable?

Is your faith contagious?

Is your hope expectant?

# S Y R I A





**COME HOLY SPIRIT!**

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An abstract geometric pattern on the left side of the page, composed of overlapping squares and rectangles in various shades of red, orange, and pink. The pattern is dense and layered, creating a textured, mosaic-like effect.

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;  
Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity.  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

An abstract geometric pattern on the left side of the page, composed of overlapping squares and rectangles in various shades of red, orange, and pink. The pattern is dense and layered, creating a textured, mosaic-like effect.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;  
May Your joy be seen in all I do -  
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude,  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace.  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

An abstract geometric pattern on the left side of the page, composed of various shades of red, orange, and pink, arranged in a grid-like fashion with some overlapping and varying opacity.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show Your power once again on earth;  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ  
Will be clear for all the world to see.

