

At the Center for Baptist Renewal, our watchword is retrieval for the sake of renewal. We believe that contemporary Baptist churches will be renewed most fundamentally by a deep and prayerful engagement with the text of Holy Scripture, read in community with others and in the power of the Holy Spirit. But one crucial way to enrich our reading of Scripture is a deep engagement with the "Great Tradition" of Christian thought. We can sometimes narrow this focus on the Great Tradition to theology only, but retrieval is broader than explicitly doctrinal texts. We not only wish for more doctrinal retrieval; we also desire a retrieval of biblical interpretation, of liturgical and sacramental practices, and of spirituality. And, so, we want to focus 2023 on the last of these: classics of Christian spirituality. "Spirituality" is being used here in a broad sense to connote all of life lived coram Deo (before the face of God)—but especially to describe those practices, rituals, disciplines, and dispositions that foster our union with God.

