

Living God's
Eternal Life
Now (1 John)

ChristadelphianBibleTalks.com

Christadelphian Bible Talks

[Home](#)[Classes](#)[Exhorts](#)[Other](#)

Title 1 John: Living God's Eternal Life Now

Speaker Jim Styles

Location Lake Placid

Year 2022

Description 3 classes and an exhortation

Attachments

Ext

Size

Attachment 1 1 John - Jim Styles - Lake Placid 2022

pdf

9.39 MB

John's reasons for writing his gospel & letters

John wrote his gospel to show that God revealed Himself in His son – so Jesus is the Messiah



John wrote his letter to remind us that God's intent was to reveal Himself in us so we can be His children

John's 3 Themes about the Father

- **God is life** – God's way of life is eternal
- **God is light** – He is the only source of the eternal life
- **God is love** – God's love for us is what motivates His character and desire to save us

John's 3 Themes about us

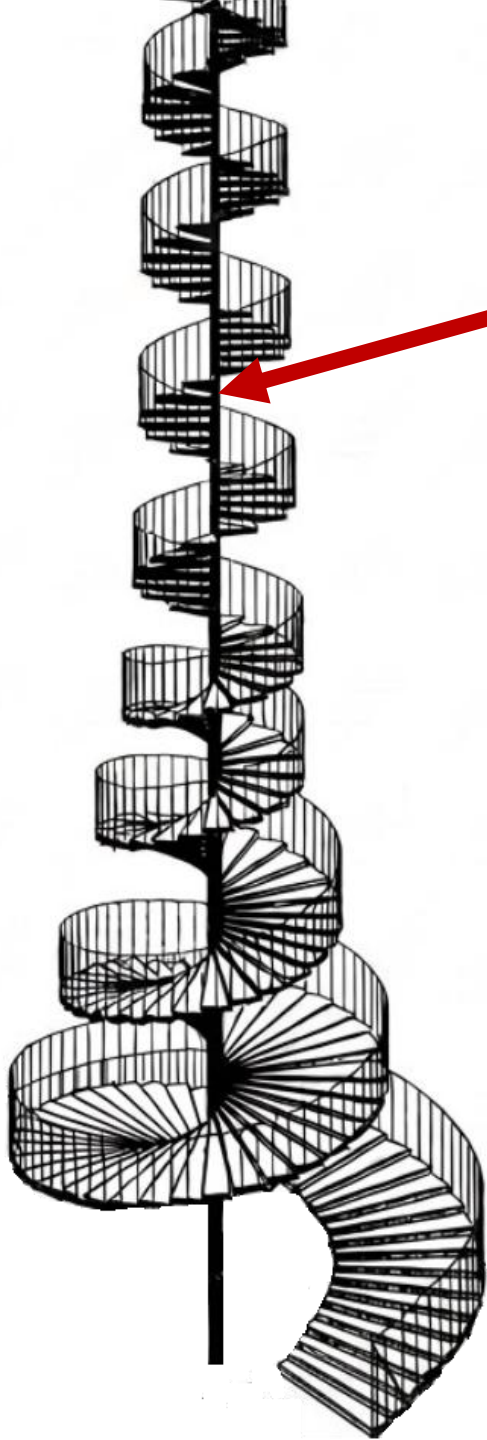
- **Righteousness** - We must practice righteousness (5:2-3)
- **Truth** – Our faith & way of life must be based on Truth (5:4-13)
- **Love** - We must love God and one another (4:7-21)

John presents these issues as black & white,
and in waves, and with Authority



God's Eternal way of Life
is the central pole

John keeps dealing with the
same themes, winding them
around his core of God's
eternal way of life that must
be in us, but he raises and
tightens the expectations for
us to higher levels each time!



John describes issue as black or white (no gray)
We are either children of God or children of the devil



or



Teachings of the Gnostics

(they had the “higher” knowledge)

- **God is pure spirit** & entirely separated from the material world
- **Jesus was both a human and a divine Christ.** Divinity came upon Him at His baptism and left Him, just before crucifixion
- **Jesus only seemed to have a body,** but actually He did not. He lived in the Spirit and we should aim to be like Him
- **Since the body and spirit are separate,** what the body did had no effect on the spirit. The spirit mind matters, not the flesh, so the sins of the flesh are not sins to the spiritual mind – those sins don’t affect the spirit mind
- **Nothing the body does is a sin.** The battle of Romans 7-8 of the mind of the Spirit vs the mind of the flesh is resolved by elevating your life to a spiritual level where the sins of the flesh don’t affect your spiritual mind, so they don’t count as sins



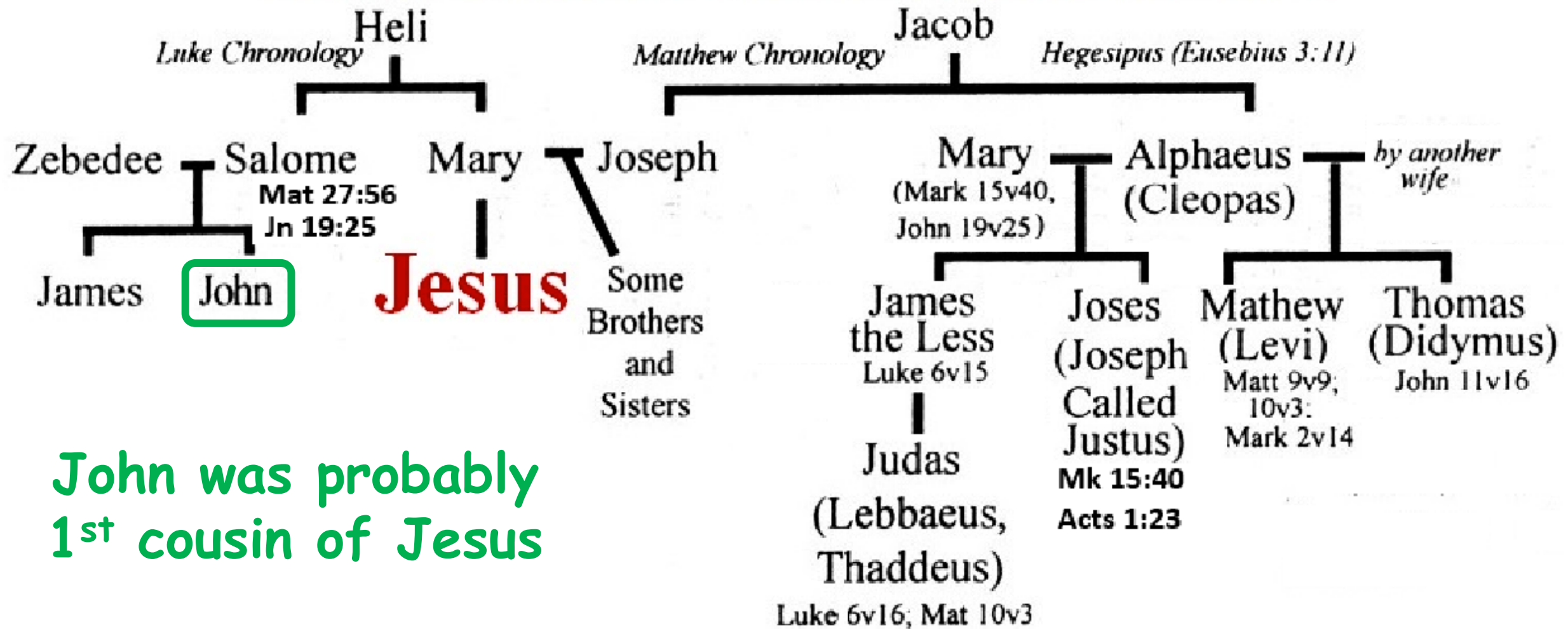
John emphasizes we are responsible for our actions

The Apostle John

- Probably first cousin of Jesus



Possible Family Connections of the Apostles



The Apostle John

- Probably first cousin of Jesus
- Full of passion and enthusiasm for Jesus
- Wanted to bring down fire from heaven
- John & James known as sons of thunder
- Cared about sitting next to Jesus in the kingdom
- Stayed with Jesus at his trial & crucifixion
- Some connection to the High Priest (Jn 18:16) – got Peter into the courtyard
- John is old now - probably the last living Apostle *“little children” (7 times)*



Over his lifetime, John learned to walk in
the light and manifest God's eternal life

John's Gospel vs Letters

Gospel: set out to show how Jesus as Messiah, the son of God, manifested the Father's life:



Jn 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men

Jn 10:30 I and my Father are one

Jn 14:9 "he who has seen me has seen the Father"

Jn 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me

Jn 20:30 these are written **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,** and **that believing you may have life** in His name.

John's gospel is all about how Jesus lived and spoke like his Father – He was the Son of God



John's Gospel:
Jesus manifested
the Father



The Revealing
of God's
eternal life
in people



John's Letter: We must
manifest the Father

John seems to be really impacted
by Judas' betrayal (Jn 13)



Much of John's Letter builds
on the events of John 13-17

John's Letter

- **No salutation at the beginning or end** – John wrote this letter for all peoples and for all times
- **“We know”** – used 25 times in 1 John – confidence in the teachings and experiences they had lived with for years
- **All about God's eternal life** – eternal way of life – that was revealed in Jesus, and now must be revealed in us!
- **Designed to impact the life of the reader** – not to be used to judge others!



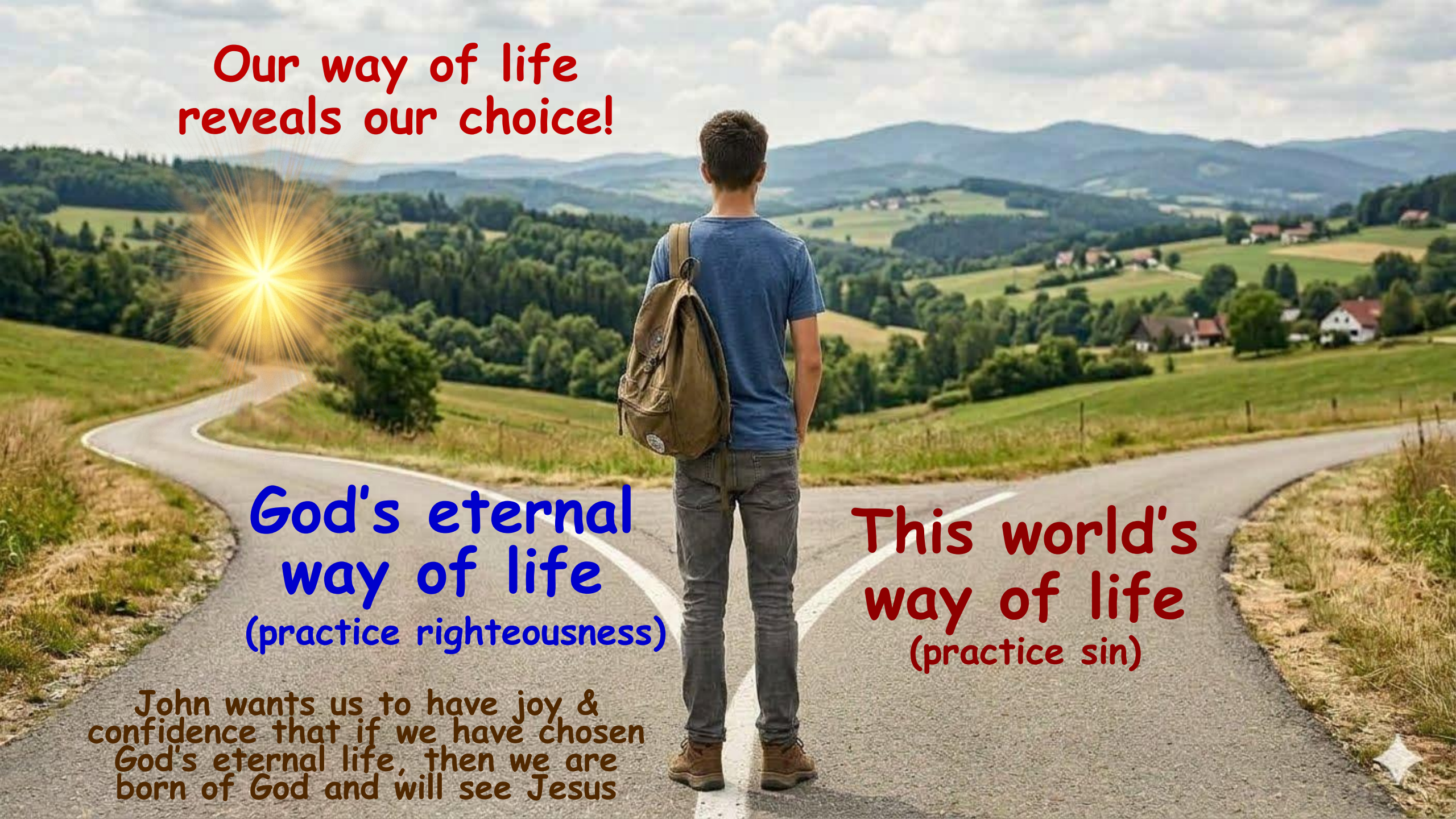
John's letter is all about our way of life

**Our way of life
reveals our choice!**

**God's eternal
way of life**
(practice righteousness)

**This world's
way of life**
(practice sin)

John wants us to have joy &
confidence that if we have chosen
God's eternal life, then we are
born of God and will see Jesus



John challenges how we see ourselves

- I know Him (God)
- I abide in Him
- I walk in the light
- I am born of God
- I am a child of God
- I love God
- I keep His commandments
- I believe (have faith) in the Son of God

He provides specific
items for us to evaluate
in our lives to indicate
whether or not the way
we see ourselves is
supported by our
actions!



This is to
help ME,
not to
judge
others!

It's up to us to personally examine
whether our lives conform to our claims

God's Eternal way of Life

John 1:1-4

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life —
2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us — 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. *(Jn 15:4 “abide in me, and I in you”)*

When we adopt God's eternal life as our way of life, it brings us into fellowship with God, Jesus & one another

Notice the phrases John uses to counter the Gnostic beliefs

- We have **heard**
- We have **seen with our eyes**
- We have **looked upon**



- Our **hands have handled**
- We have **seen**, and bear witness
- We have **seen** and **heard**
- **God is light**, no darkness in him

Right away John tackles the mysticism of the Gnostics



Note the similarities of John 1 and 1John 1

John 1:1-9

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ["divine" (Vines)]. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.** 5 And **the light shines in the darkness,** and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, **to bear witness of the Light,** that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 **That was the true Light which gives light to every man** coming into the world.

God's plan was always about revealing His way of life to mankind, hoping some would let Him make it their way of life too!

Note the similarities of John 1 and 1John 1

1 John 1:1-7

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the **Word of life** — 2 **the life was manifested**, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you **that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us** — 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light** *[morally: pure & righteous]* and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John's letter stresses God's Eternal Life must be in us!

The Eternal Life

- It was with God from the beginning
- It's not immortality, but is the basis for immortality
- It is a way of life – God's way of life – it's eternal
- It is the basis of our fellowship with God, Jesus and each other
- It is revealed by us when we show God's love to one another
- It requires that we strive for Truth & reject error (Antichrist teachings)
- It demands that we “practice righteousness”



John ends on this note too: And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 Jn 5:11-12)

Eternal Life involves a relationship with God

John 17:1-3

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that **He should give eternal life** to as many as You have given Him. 3 And **this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

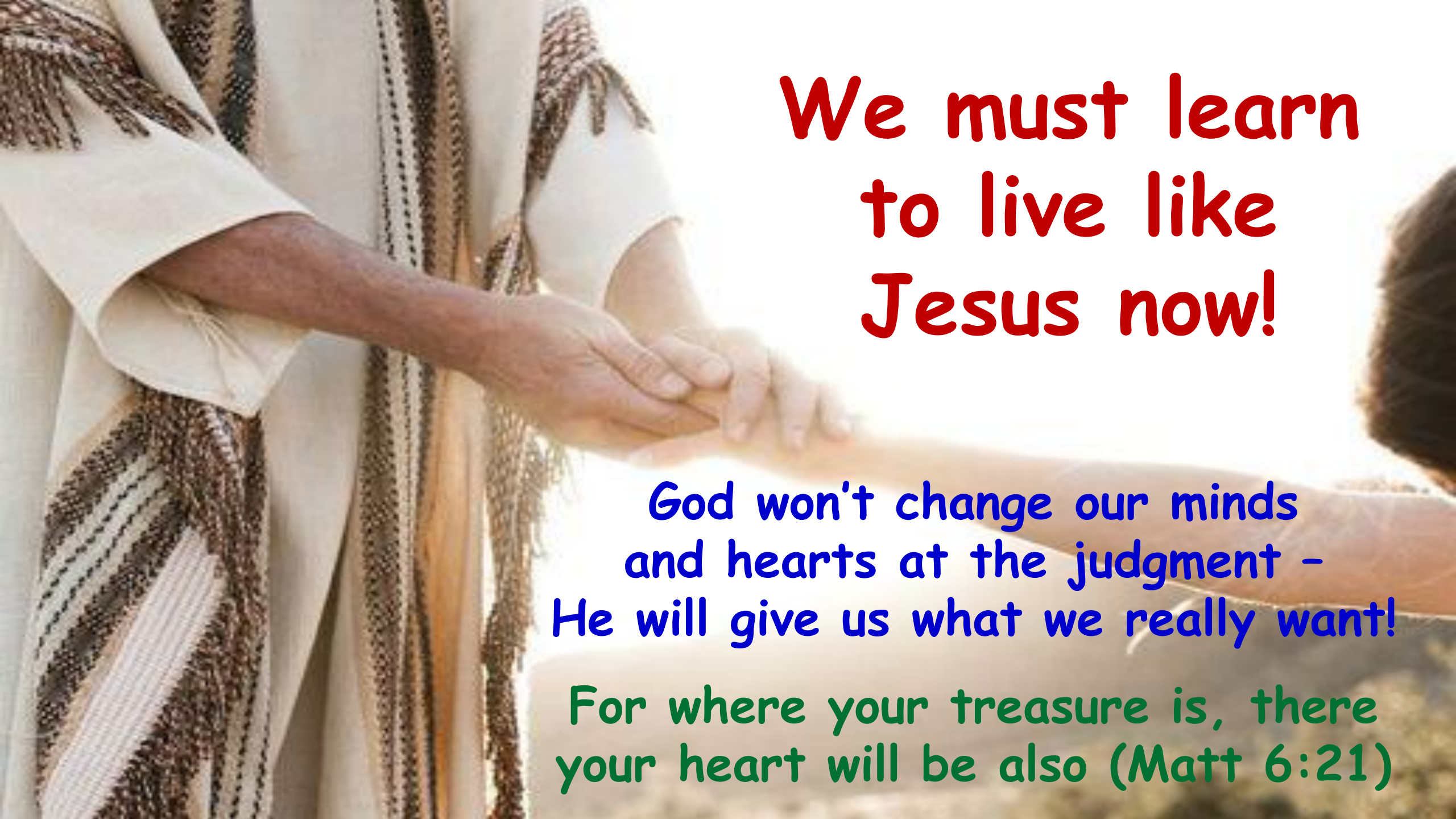
We must develop a relationship with God and Jesus Christ to live God's eternal life now

God has granted us the privilege of being born of Him

2 Peter 1:3-4

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these **you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

This transformation of our characters begins now!

A close-up photograph of two people holding hands. The person on the left is wearing a white long-sleeved garment and a brown and white striped sash. The person on the right is wearing a white sleeveless top. The background is bright and out of focus.

**We must learn
to live like
Jesus now!**

**God won't change our minds
and hearts at the judgment -
He will give us what we really want!**

**For where your treasure is, there
your heart will be also (Matt 6:21)**

God is the only source of His eternal life

1 John 1:5-7

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 **If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.** 7 **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. [*“all” sin*]**

When we walk in the light of God's eternal life, we participate (fellowship) with Him, Jesus, & one another

God is Light – the source of truth & moral righteousness – His eternal life

- **1 Jn 1:5-6** God is light & **our fellowship with him is based on us walking in that light**
- **Jn 12:35-36** Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. **Walk while you have the light**, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that **you may become sons of light.**"
- **1 Pet 2:9-10** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but **now have obtained mercy.**



God is the only source: everything else is humanism

**God is Light:
The Light He
emits is the
knowledge
of His eternal
way of Life &
His character**



God's light is revealed in the face of Jesus

2 Corinthians 4:6

6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give **the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**



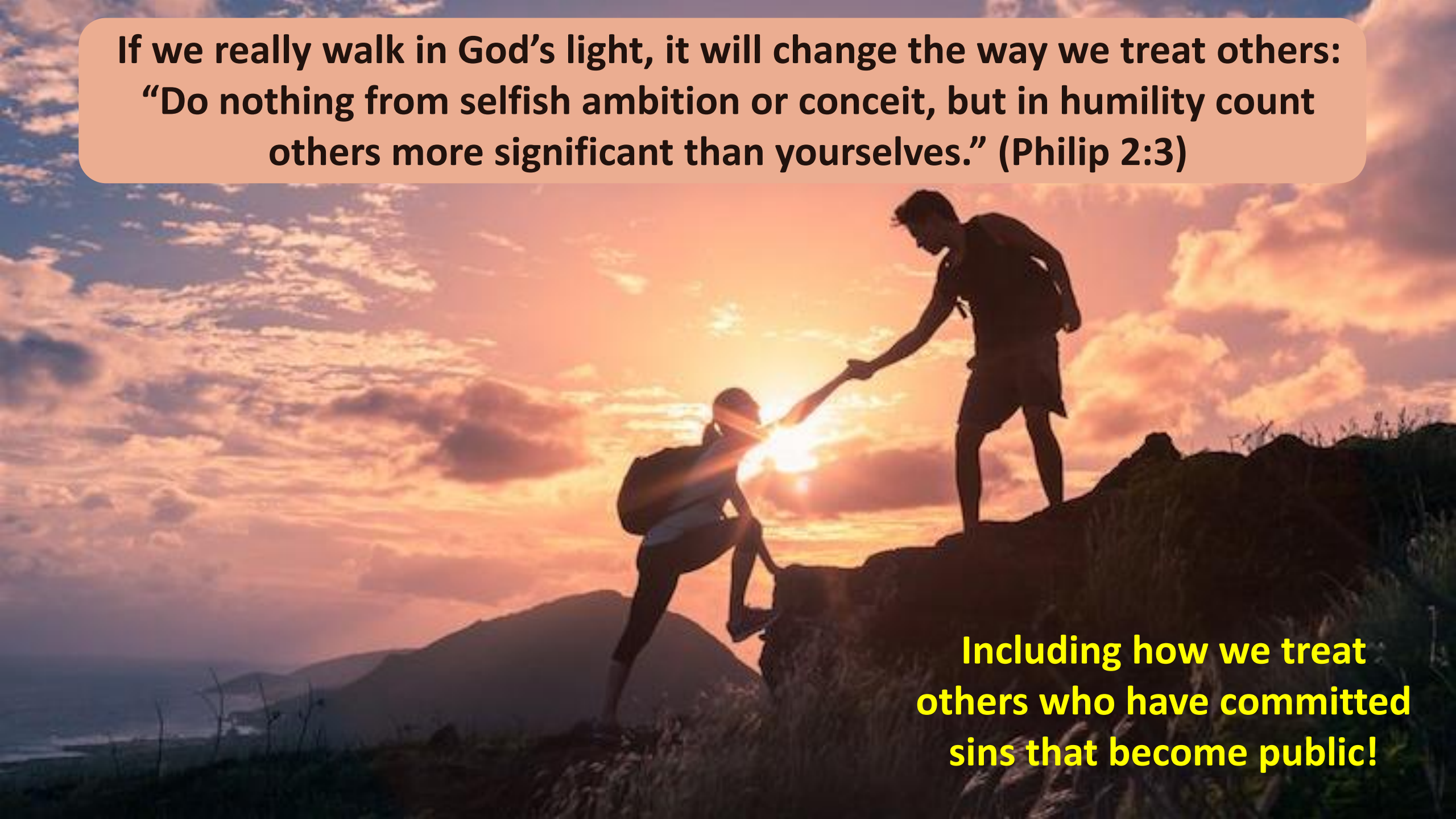
John 8:12

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have **the light of life.**"

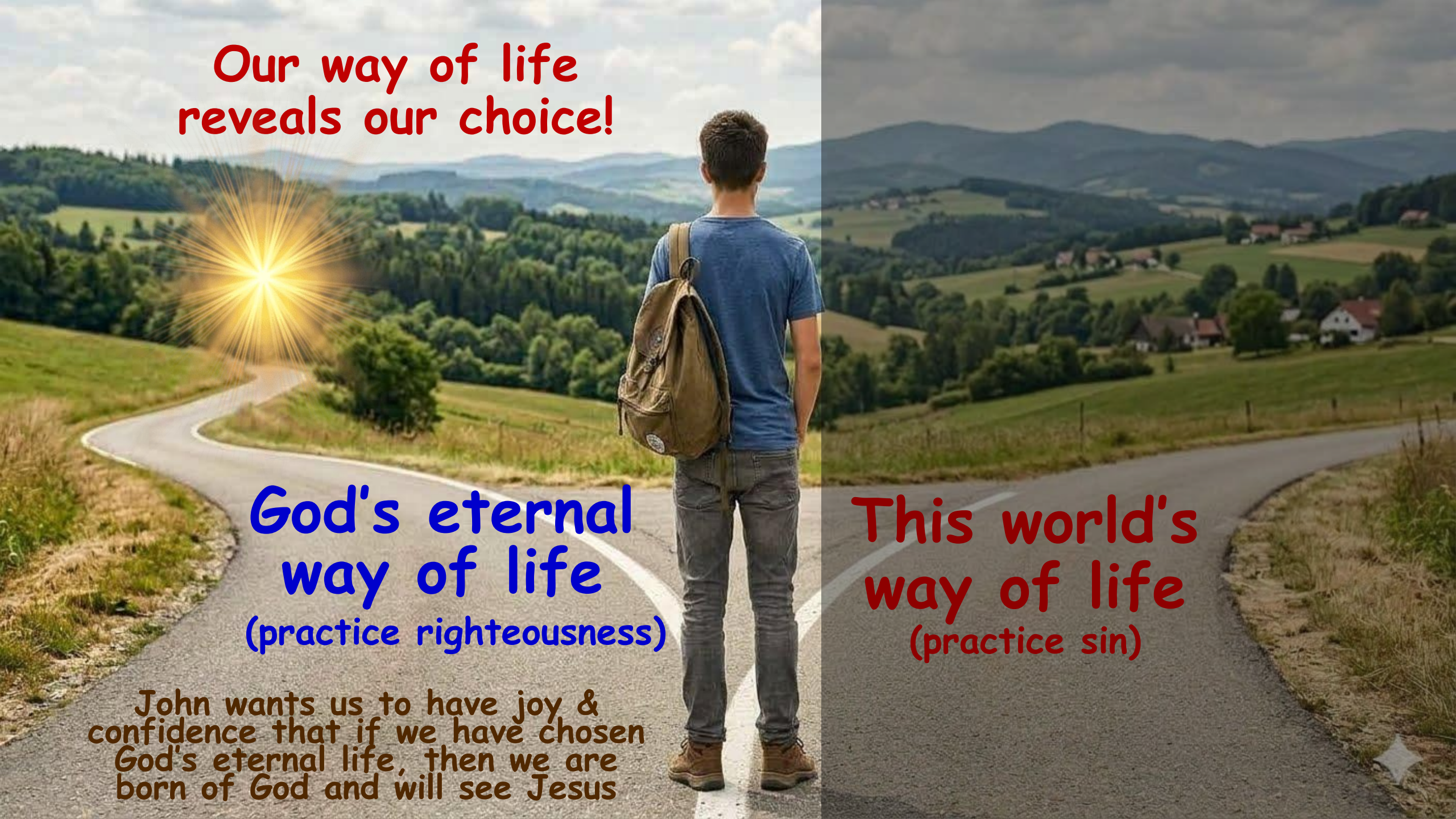
“Walking in the Light”

means we consider Jesus as
“the light” in this world,
and we “walk” in that light
by following His precepts,
living in His power,
and growing in His grace.

**If we really walk in God's light, it will change the way we treat others:
"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count
others more significant than yourselves." (Philip 2:3)**



**Including how we treat
others who have committed
sins that become public!**



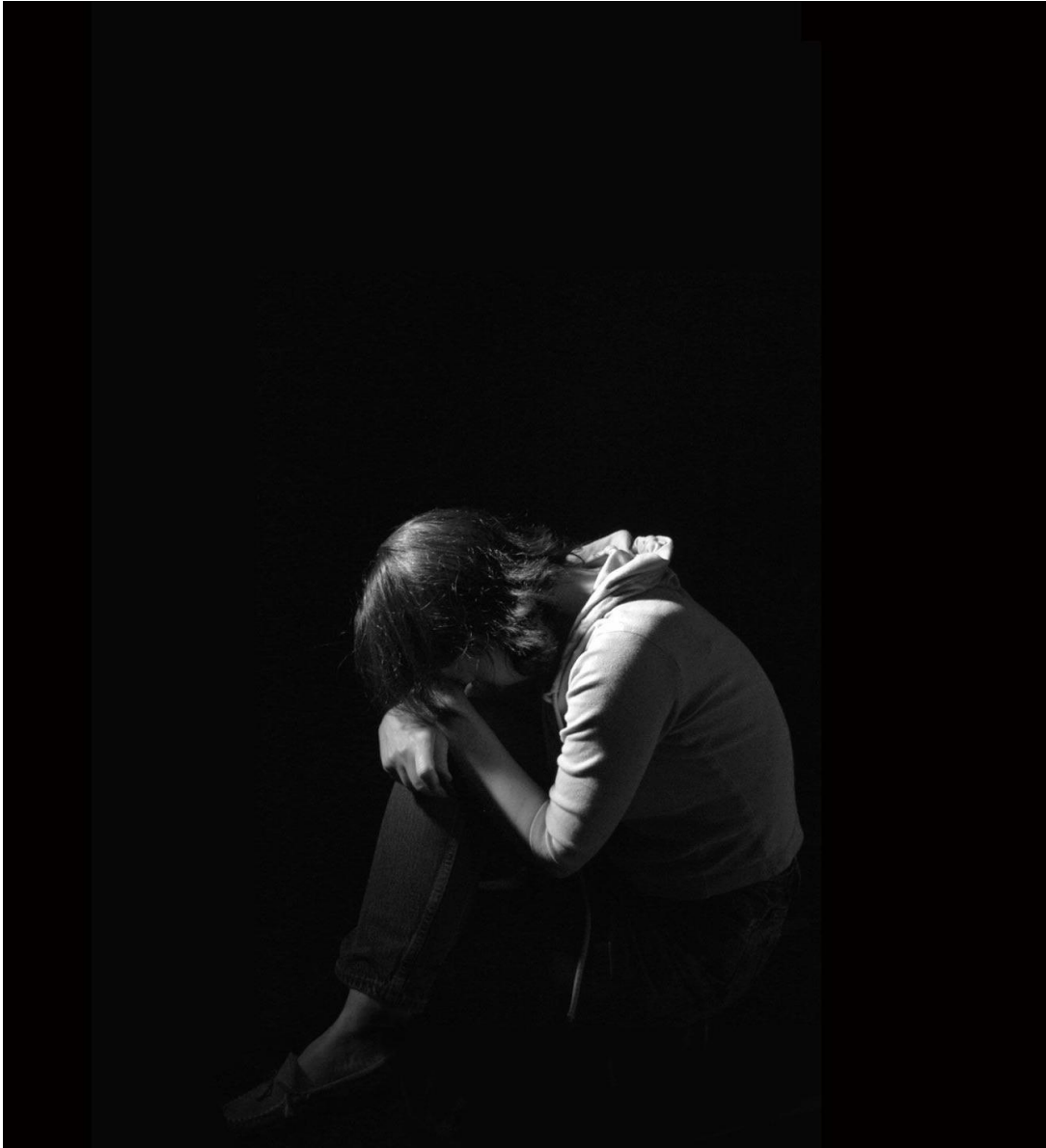
Our way of life
reveals our choice!

God's eternal
way of life
(practice righteousness)

John wants us to have joy &
confidence that if we have chosen
God's eternal life, then we are
born of God and will see Jesus

This world's
way of life
(practice sin)

How do we eliminate the darkness?



1. Recognize I am the problem!
2. Pray for help to come to know Jesus and ask Jesus to intercede between our mind of the flesh & mind of the spirit he is developing in us
3. Read or listen to God's word daily
4. Spend time with God's family
5. Practice loving one another – even when our fleshly mind wants to resist
6. Become a faithful witness to everyone by revealing God's eternal life through the way we live

Fellowship with God, Jesus & One Another

Based on our way of life: living like God & Jesus; The Eternal Life

- **Rom 15:26** a **contribution** to the poor saints [*they participated*]
- **2Cor 8:4** the favor of **participation** in the support of the saints
- **1 Cor 10:16** cup is a **participation** in blood of Christ, bread is a **participation** in the body of Christ (bread & wine remind us weekly to take Christ's life into our lives)
- **Gal 2:9** Gave Paul & Barnabas the right hand of **fellowship** (they shared participation)
- **Phil 3:10** **fellowship** his sufferings, being conformed to his death (death to Sin)
- **Participating in God's way of life** – walking in the light & loving one another
- **Our fellowship is with God, Jesus & all those** who are implementing God's eternal life in their lives.
- **The BASF helps us develop the eternal life**, but it's doctrinal teachings themselves are NOT the real basis of our fellowship



Don't confuse Membership with Fellowship

**Blood of Jesus represents his death to Sin
- living God's Eternal Life**

Romans 3:23-26

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom **God set forth as a propitiation [gift of mercy that brings peace] by His blood**, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has ~~faith in~~ the faith of Jesus.

Christ's spilled blood (his death to Sin) demonstrated God to be right so God could extend mercy & forgive

7 “if we say” tests to see if our way of life conforms to a child born of God



1. If we say we have *fellowship with Him*, and *walk in darkness*, we lie and *do not practice the truth*. (1:6)
2. If we say we have *no sin*, we deceive ourselves, and the *truth is not in us*. (1:8)
3. If we say we have *not sinned*, we make Him a liar, and *His word is not in us*. (1:10)
4. He who says, “*I know him*,” and *does not keep his commandments*, is a liar, the *truth is not in him*. (2:4)
5. He who says he *abides in him* ought himself also to *walk as he walked*. (2:6)
6. He who says he is *in the light*, and *hates his brother*, is *in darkness* until now. (2:9)
7. If anyone says: *I love God*, and *hates his brother*, he is a *liar*. (4:20)

John gives us practical tests so we know where we are

Denying our connection to Sin puts us out of fellowship
with God and His eternal way of life

1 John 1:8-10

8 If we say that we have no sin [*Gk is singular – sin nature – root cause*], we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say [*like the Gnostics*] that we have not sinned (*personal sins*), we make Him a liar [5:10], and His word is not in us. [*the “word of life” (v.1)*]

We must acknowledge and confess our sins
so we can turn away from them and be forgiven

Be careful! We can deceive ourselves and are easily deceived by others!



- **1:8 We can deceive ourselves:** we refuse to admit our natures are naturally bad – prone to sin
- **2:26 Others can try to deceive us:** They teach Jesus our messiah did not battle our sin-prone nature – he did not come in the flesh
- **3:7-8 Let no one deceive you:** Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. (ESV)

Don't be deceived! The way we behave now lets us know if we are really walking in the light

James warns us 3 times in chapter 1 - Don't be deceived

- We must understand good gifts are from our heavenly Father (1:16-18) *[not just the result of our great work!]*
- We must be a doer of the word (1:22) [revisits in Jam 2] *[not just a hearer or one with faith, but no works!]*
- We must bridle our tongues (1:26) [revisits in James 3] *[our speech reveals our true heart!]*



We tend to think of ourselves as better than we really are

2 Aspects of Sin in the Bible

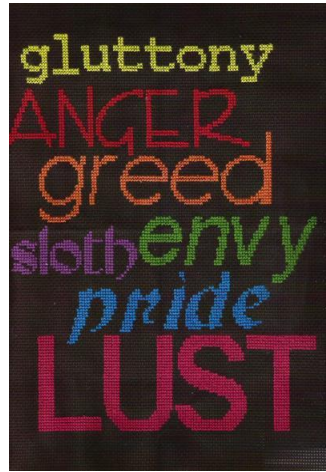


1. **Personal transgressions** – we sin against God
– we are held guilty for these



2. Human nature

- the cause of sin today (bias to sin)
- this is our misfortune, not our crime



One is the root (nature) and the other
is the branches (our transgressions)

God's redemption plan deals with both!

Big
News!



Big
News!

Breaking news alert: People are inherently good, nonviolent

By David G. Allan, CNN December 11, 2018

(CNN) — It matters how you personally respond when you hear news of violence. The way you process and frame it has real mental and physical impacts.

All people are inherently good

When we hear about bad things happening, especially when lives of many are lost or damaged at the hands of a few, we need to remind ourselves that people are generally good.

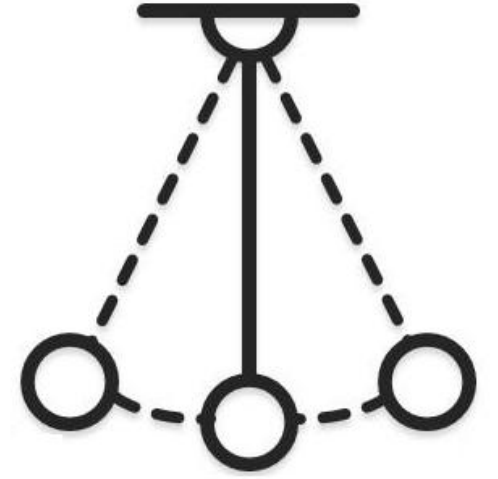
We are hard-wired for goodness. It's easier to recognize this fact when you think of children. Without mitigating factors, their innate goodness would not erode with age. But goodness is not the sole virtue of the young. The vast majority of people, when faced with simple, clear ethical choices, choose good over bad and even good over neutral.



Our innate sense of good over bad is where we all start. Despite thousands of years of war, rape, homicide and other violence, we are all still, fundamentally, baby catchers.

2 Extreme errors in dealing with Human Nature:

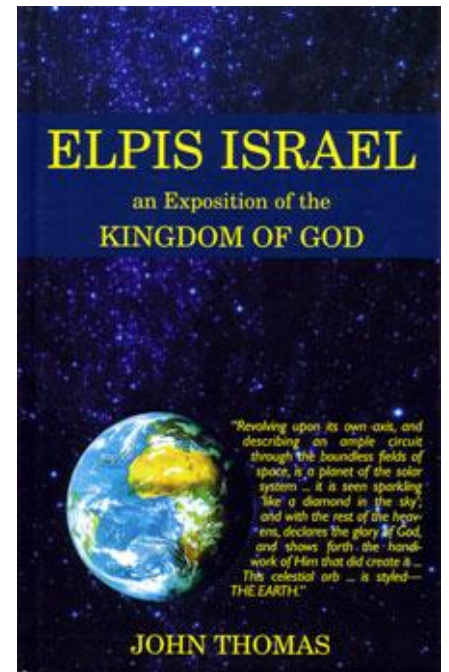
- **Human nature is good** – God made it. Sin is evil, not human nature.
- **Human nature is very, very bad** – so bad that man is guilty for it, or God requires an offering for it – to atone for our nature.



The Truth is somewhere in the middle. Human nature is bad – it is prone to sin. However, God does not hold us guilty for it, and it doesn't need an offering, because it will not be redeemed. God won't redeem the devil in us.

Elpis Israel by John Thomas

The word **sin** is used in two principal acceptations in the scripture. It signifies in the first place, *“the transgression of the law”*; and in the next, it represents *that physical principle of the animal nature, which is the cause of all its diseases, death, and resolution into dust*. It is that in the flesh *“which has the power of death”*; **and it is called sin, because the development, or fixation, of this evil in the flesh, was the result of transgression**. Inasmuch as this evil principle pervades every part of the flesh, the animal nature is styled “sinful flesh,” that is, *“flesh full of sin”*; **so that sin, in the sacred style, came to stand for the substance**

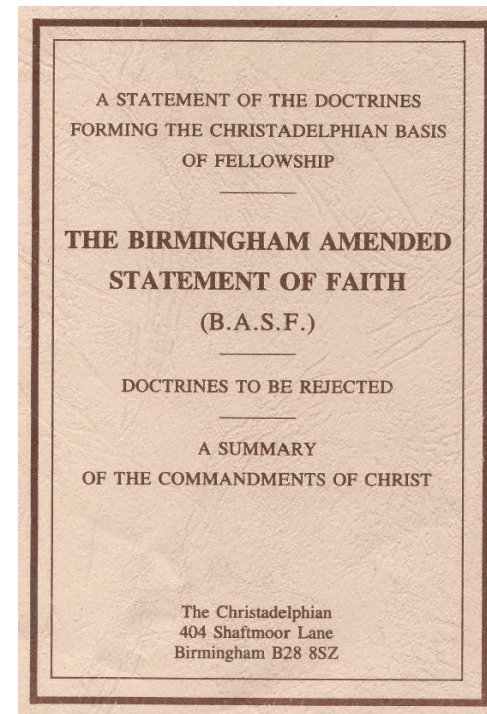


John Thomas had it figured out!

Statement of Faith (clause 5)

That Adam broke this law, and was adjudged unworthy of immortality, and sentenced to return to the ground from whence he was taken – *a sentence which defiled and became a physical law of his being, and was transmitted to all his posterity* (Gen. 3:15-19, 22-23; 2 Cor 1:9; Rom 7:24; 2 Cor 5:2-4; Rom 7:18-23; Gal 5:16-17; Rom 6:12; 7:21; John 3:6; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor 15:22; Psa. 51:5; Job 14:4)

This sentence is the condemnation on Adam & his descendants. It's a "physical law of his being" and a physical defilement, not a legal status.



**Sin can represent
a physical principle in human nature**

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 **For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

God had Jesus born with our human nature so he could battle the devil inside him, beat it & provide a way for us to be forgiven of our sins

Jesus died to deal with both aspects of Sin

Titus 2:14

who (Jesus Christ) gave Himself for us, that He might **redeem us** from every lawless deed and **purify** for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Our great High Priest can both draw us away from Sin and forgive the sins we commit when we fail

**This Eternal way of Life was part
of the promise to Abraham**

Acts 3:22-26

22 For Moses truly said to the fathers, **'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren.** Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' 24 Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. 25 You are sons of the prophets, and of **the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'** 26 To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him **to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."** *[it's not just about forgiveness of sins!]*

God can righteously forgive those who walk in the light

John's Strategy in writing this Letter

1:1-4 God's eternal way of Life was manifested in Jesus

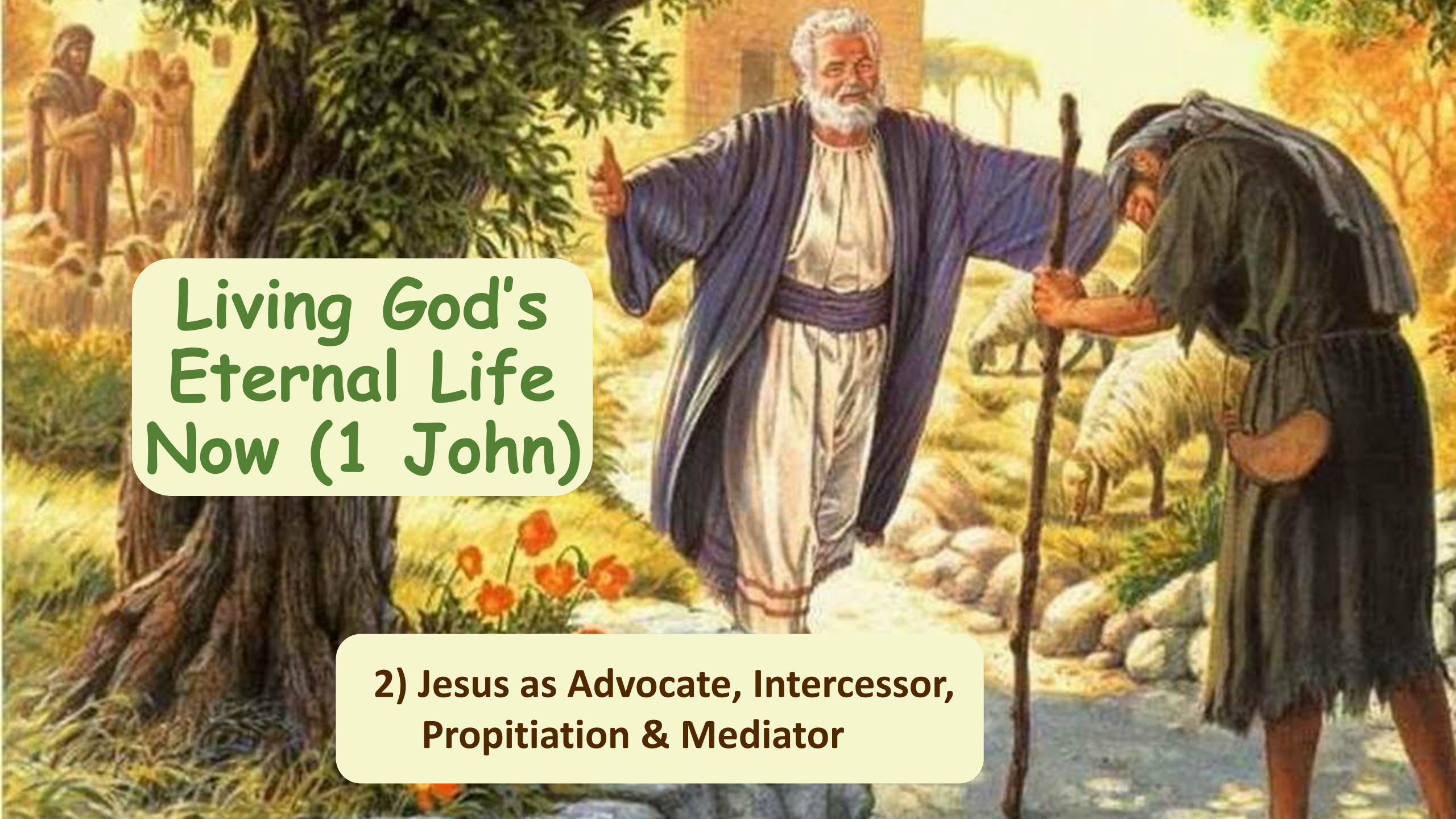
1:5-7 God is light (He is the only source of His eternal life) & if we walk in God's light we have fellowship & forgiveness

1:8-10 Denying our connection to Sin puts us out of fellowship with God & His eternal way of life

2:1-2 When we fail, God has provided Jesus as our helper & place of mercy



**These are not just random thoughts.
There is a logical strategy to John's letter**



Living God's Eternal Life Now (1 John)

**2) Jesus as Advocate, Intercessor,
Propitiation & Mediator**

When we fail, God has provided Jesus for our help & mercy

1 John 2:1 (NKJV)

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ** the righteous.

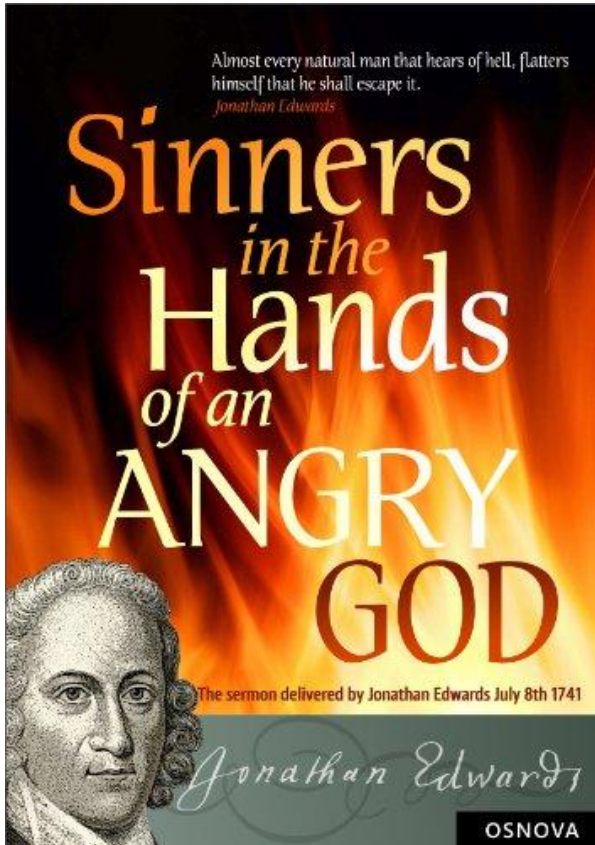
Advocate is a misleading translation today because it has come to mean: "one who argues the cause of another in a court" [Merriam-Webster]

Typical Christian Understanding (NIV)

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, **we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ**, the Righteous One.

Many churches teach Jesus has to plead our case to God

Viewing God as angry at us & needing to be appeased,
has led to some major misunderstandings of:



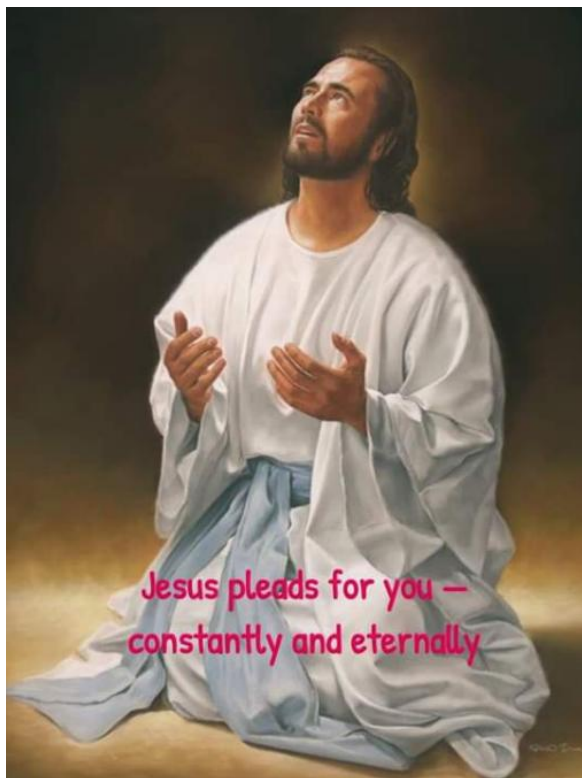
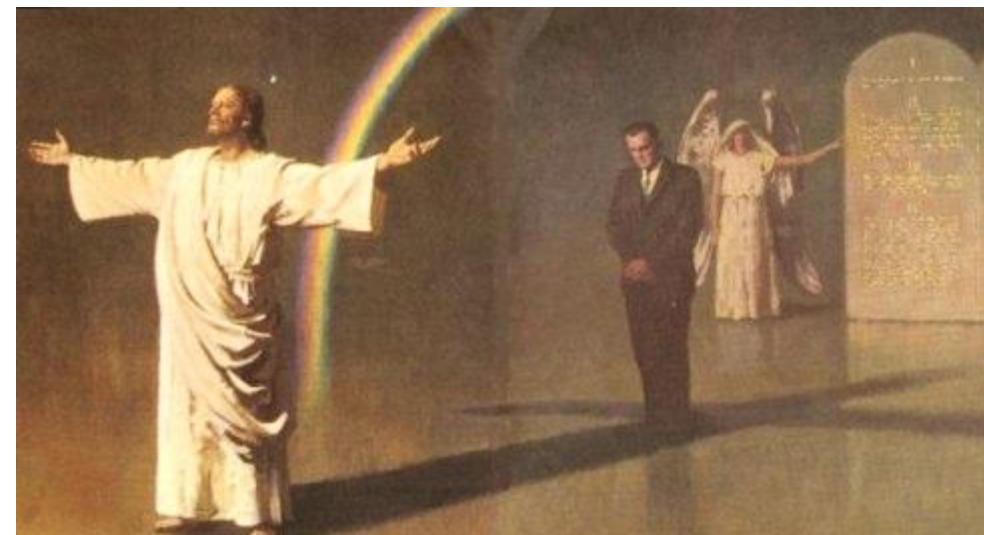
Advocate
Propitiation
Intercession
Mediator



People did not understand the Love of our God



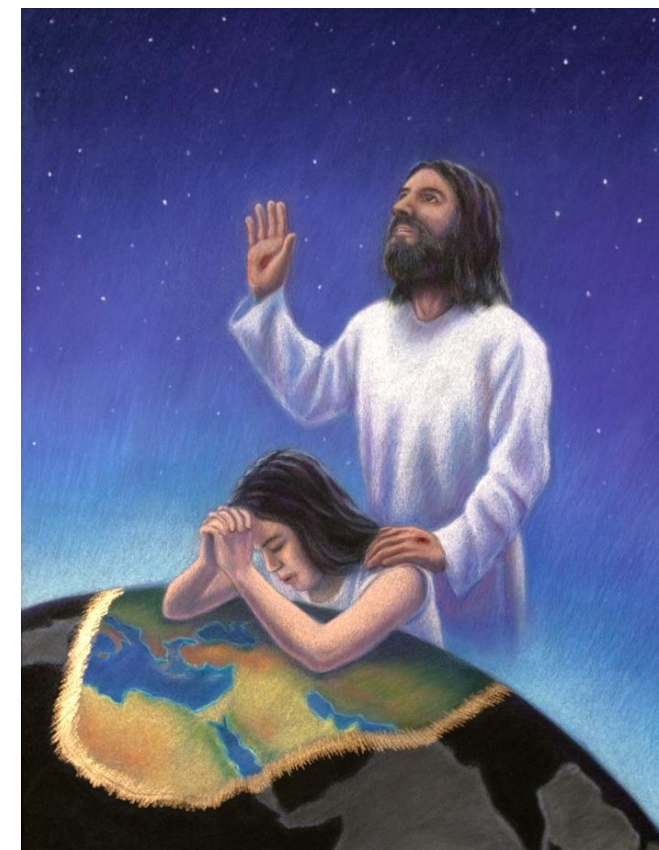
**Most Christians
think Jesus
needs to plead
with God to
forgive us!**



Jesus pleads for you –
constantly and eternally



**Their focus is on Jesus
changing God, when it
should be on changing us!**



How Advocate is used today in our society



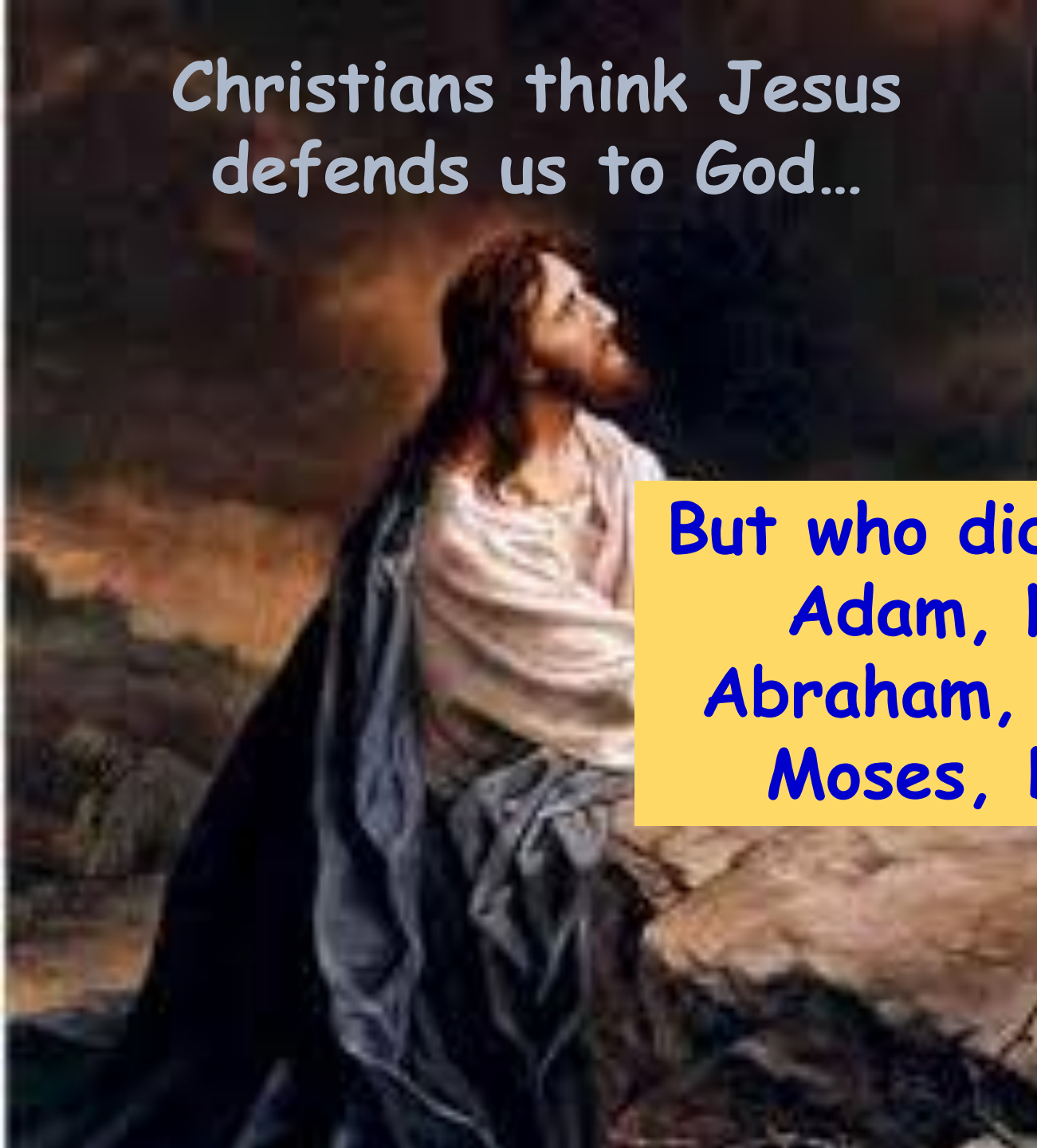
- Advocate (verb): To speak, plead, or argue in favor of. To stand up for something.
 - Example: I advocate for women's rights.
- Advocate (noun): One that argues for a cause; a supporter or defender.
 - Example: I am an advocate for special education students.

Does the Bible present Jesus Christ
as advocating for us to God?

Christians think Jesus
defends us to God...

Pleading with God
to forgive us!

But who did this for
Adam, Noah,
Abraham, Joseph,
Moses, David?



Job's Friends are not listening,
so Job wants to argue his case to God

Job 9:32-35

32 "For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. 33 Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both.

34 Let Him take His rod away from me, and do not let dread of Him terrify me. 35 **Then I would speak and not fear Him**, but it is not so with me.

Job is too afraid of God to challenge Him

Job thinks there must be a witness who will justify Job

Job 16:18-22 (ESV)

18 "O earth, cover not my blood, and let my cry find no resting place. 19 Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and he who testifies for me is on high.

20 My friends scorn me; my eye pours out tears to God,
21 **that he** *[Job's witness]* **would argue the case of a man with God, as a son of man does with his neighbor.**

22 For when a few years have come I shall go the way from which I shall not return.

Job wants to be vindicated in this life

**Job fully expects his redeemer to justify him
and show God to be wrong!**

Job 19:23-27

23 "**Oh, that my words were written!** Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! 24 That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, **forever!**

25 **For I know that my Redeemer lives,** *[Job expects according to God's justice someone will have to show Job is innocent and God has wronged him (v.6)]* and He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, 27 **Whom I shall see for myself** *["whom I will see on my side" (RSV)],* and my eyes shall behold, and not another. **How my heart yearns within me!**

Job is excited for the day he will be vindicated!



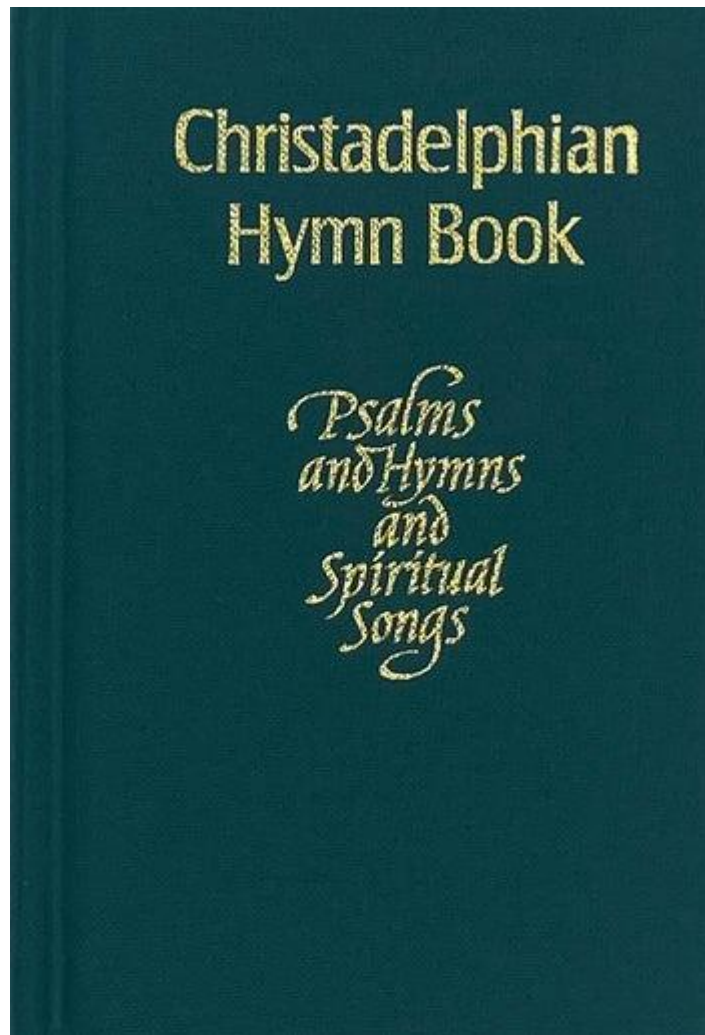
If we have a
relationship with God
built on fear &
punishment, when bad
things happen we can
only understand that
an angry God is
punishing us

Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous



- Jesus does NOT advocate for us with God like a lawyer who argues a person's case in court!
- “*parakletos*” [Gk] – this is the only time it is translated “*advocate*”
- Jn 14:16 I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Helper
- Jn 14:26 but when the Helper, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name. He will teach you all things.
- Jn 16:7 for if I don't go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.
- Note: God provides the Helper (it is not something or one trying to persuade God to forgive us!)

Instead of working on God to persuade Him to be merciful, this Helper works with his angels on US to teach us & bring us into a right relationship with God so He can be merciful and forgive us!



Be Careful! Some of the hymns in our hymn books were written by Christians who believed in an angry God who needed to punish Jesus for our sins, and needs Jesus to plead with God to be merciful to us!



PTL 184 I know that my redeemer lives

These unbiblical concepts from the Christian community have slipped into our hymn books!

2 He lives, to bless me with his love,
he lives, to plead for me above.
He lives, my hungry soul to feed;
he lives, to help in time of need.
He lives, to help in time of need.

Thankfully, God is the one who initiated our salvation and wants to save us more than anyone else

GB 258

1 A Great High Priest is come
Who stands in Aaron's place;
Who, honouring the law,
Established life and grace:
'The law through Moses' service came,
But grace and truth by Jesus' name.

2 He once temptation knew,
That he might truly find
A fellow-feeling true
With every tempted mind:
In every point our Head was tried
Like us, and then for us he died.

3 He died, but lives alway,
And in the holy stands
To plead for saints who pray,
To hold up failing hands:
Our advocate abides in heav'n
That erring saints may be forgiv'n.

4 We other priests deny,
And laws, and offerings too
None but the Priest on high
The mighty work can do:
Through him, then, all our praise be
giv'n,
Who pleads his household's cause in
heav'n.

Jesus does not need to plead for us with His Father
because God has already entrusted him with the
authority to make these decisions - "All authority has
been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Mat 28:18)

GB 238 CHRIST: THE BREAKING OF BREAD

1 O God in highest heaven,
Our God that hearest prayer,
Through Christ—whom Thou hast
given,

1 Jn 2:1 **Our Advocate,** Thine Heir;
Greek word for "helper"
or "comforter"
in Jn 16:7
Now, strong in hope, united,
Around Thy feast we meet;
Receive from him our incense;
He is thy Mercy-seat.

1 John 2:1 But if anybody does sin, we have one who **speaks to the Father in our defense** — Jesus Christ, the righteous one. (NIV)

GB 249

CHRIST: HIS RESURRECTION

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n again!
Christ hath broken every chain!
Hark, the angels' joyful cry,
Singing evermore on high:
Hallelujah!

2 He who gave for us his life,
Who for us endured the strife,
Is our Paschal Lamb today!
We too sing for joy, and say:
Hallelujah!

3 He who bore all pain and loss
Comfortless upon the cross,
Lives in glory now on high,
Pleads for us, and hears our cry:
Hallelujah!

4 Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, today thy people feed:
Take our sins and guilt away,
That we all may sing for ay:
Hallelujah!

GB 262 CHRIST: HIS PRIESTHOOD

4 He was made sin for us to show
The way of life and love;
For us he gave his life below,
And pleads for us above.

The only way this could be understood in Truth
is that Jesus is pleading with our mind of the
spirit he is growing in us to encourage us to
defeat Sin - not pleading with his Father

Jesus doesn't need to plead with God on our behalf

John 16:26-27

26 In that day you will ask in My name,
and **I do not say to you that I shall pray
the Father for you; 27 for the Father
Himself loves you,** because you have
loved Me, and have believed that I came
forth from God.

God loves us & He wants to help us

**We have a helper who sits along side the Father
who turns us away from sin & forgives our sins**

Acts 3:22-26

the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 26 To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him **to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."** *[it's not just about forgiveness of sins!]*

Acts 5:30-32

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, **to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.**

**Turning us away from Sin is the righteous basis
on which Jesus forgives our sins**

God provided Jesus as the Propitiation for our sins

1 John 2:1-2

1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have a Helper** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. *[if they are willing to walk in the light!]*

God provided Jesus to create a
righteous way for God to forgive our sins



SINCE 1828

GAMES & QUIZZES

THESAURUS

WORD OF THE DAY

FEATURES

SHOP

propitiation

Dictionary

Thesaurus

propitiation **noun** pro·pi·ti·a·tion | \ prō-,pi-shē-'ā-shən  \

Definition of *propitiation*

- 1 : the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of someone or something : the act of propitiating : APPEASEMENT
// a sacrifice in *propitiation* of the gods
- 2 : something that propitiates or appeases
specifically : an atoning sacrifice

Christian leaders for years have taught that
Jesus needed to propitiate God's wrath against us

God provided a propitiation

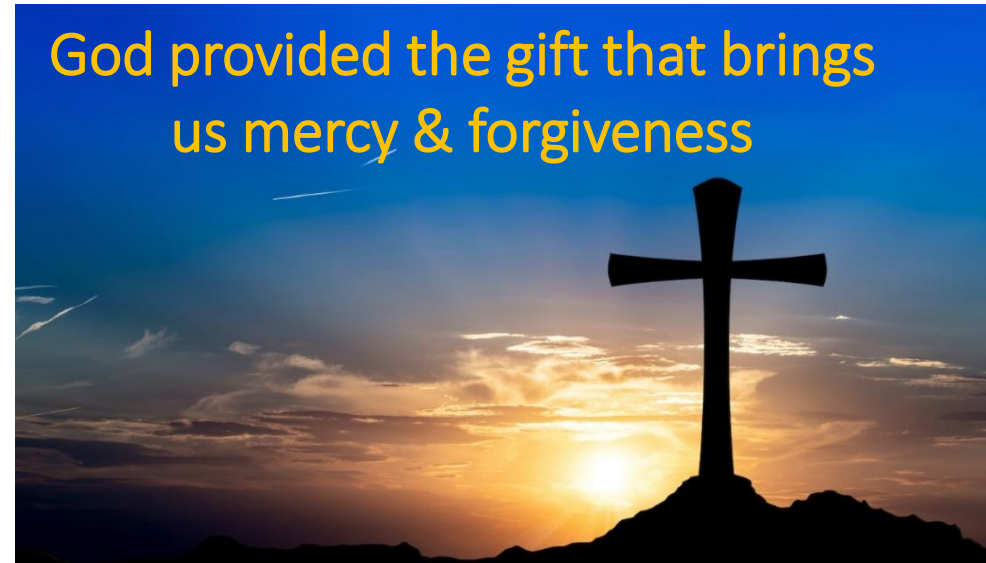
Romans 3:23-25

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 **being justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 **whom God set forth as a propitiation** by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness

God provided Jesus to draw us to Him so
He could extend mercy & our sins could be forgiven

"Propitiation"

- **Used among the Greeks** to mean an event or action by humans to make peace with their angry God
- **In the Bible** it is connected with **mercy that God provides** to make peace
 - **Lk 18:13** God be **merciful** (#2433) to me a sinner
 - **Heb 2:17** merciful high priest who makes **propitiation** (#2433) for the sins of the people
 - **Heb 9:5** #2435 used for "**mercyseat**". Also many times "**mercyseat**" in OT Septuagint.



Jesus is where we can go to obtain God's mercy & find grace to help in our time of need (Heb 4)

A better way to read....

1 John 2:1-2

2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have a **helper** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the **place of God's mercy** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Like a High Priest, Jesus is our helper to change our lives, bring us to God, and provide a righteous way for God to forgive our sins

Jesus as intercessor

Here's the problem:

*“Therefore He is able, once and forever,
to save those who come to God through Him.
He lives forever to intercede
with God on their behalf.”*

Hebrews 7:25 NLT

**This is not the intercession of
Jesus that God has provided!**



Jesus intercedes with us to strengthen our Spiritual minds to overcome the mind of the flesh

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes **intercession** ~~for us~~ with groanings [v.23 “we groan” & like Jesus with Lazarus & in garden] which cannot be uttered. 27 Now **He who searches the hearts** knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes **intercession** for the saints **according to the will of God.**

Christ's intercession is NOT to change God's mind because it is “according to the will of God”

John Carter in “Letter to the Romans”

The passage cannot conflict with others, which teach the unity of God and that the Spirit of God is not a person but the power of God. It must also be observed that the words “*for us*” are omitted by most editors of the Greek text.

Context.....Context.....Context

Why not give the word “*spirit*” the connotation so clearly indicated in the earlier verses of the chapter? If “*spirit*” there is synonymous with “*the new mode of thinking*”, is it not also so here? We believe such a view provides the most satisfactory explanation. The “*new man*”, when in suffering, approaches the Father in prayer. But for what shall he pray? For the suffering to be removed? Or for strength to endure? In his groaning he asks, after the example of Jesus, “Now is my soul troubled: and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour. But for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify your name” (John 12:27,28). “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39). “And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, that he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” **God sees within, discerning the motives, and therefore knows the mind of the saint— that amidst the conflict what is desired is that God's will be done.**

Use of Greek word for “*Intercession*”

- **Acts 25:24** Jews **petitioned** Festus about Paul
- **Rom 11:2** Elijah **appealed** to God against Israel
- **Rom 8:26** spirit (our new spiritual mind) makes **intercession** with groanings – like Jesus’ spirit did for him in Jn 11:33 – death of Lazarus!
 - whole creation has been groaning [suffering] (v. 22)
 - battle of our will vs God’s will (Jn 12:27-28; Matt 26:39)
- **Rom 8:27** spirit (our new way of thinking, the mind of Christ in us) makes **intercession** for the saints *according to the will of God - Not to change the mind of an angry God!*
- **Rom 8:34** Christ won’t condemn us...he is at God’s right hand to make **intercession** for us! (he strengthens our spiritual minds to battle our fleshly minds)
- **Heb 7:25** he ever lives to make **intercession**



Greek word primarily means "to fall in with, to meet with in order to converse" (vines) "to chance upon, i.e. (by implication) to confer with, by extension to entreat" (Strong's)

A God-like spirit in us helps us to be led by the Spirit

Romans 8:12-17

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — **not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.** 13 **For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** 14 For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** 15 For **you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear** *[as under Law]*, but you received the Spirit of adoption by **whom we cry out, "Abba, Father"** *[like Jesus when led by the spirit – Mk 14:36]*. 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit *[when we act like God]* that **we are children of God,** 17 and **if children, then heirs — heirs of God** and joint heirs with Christ, **if** indeed **we suffer with Him**, that we may also be glorified together.

God's children learn to live like God

Jesus Christ as Intercessor

- He intercedes by strengthening our Spiritual minds
- He motivates us to join with him in defeating Sin by choosing to do God's will, not our own
- He forgives our sins when we mess up - due to the weakness of our flesh
- He appears in the presence of God for us to present us blameless in him to his Father

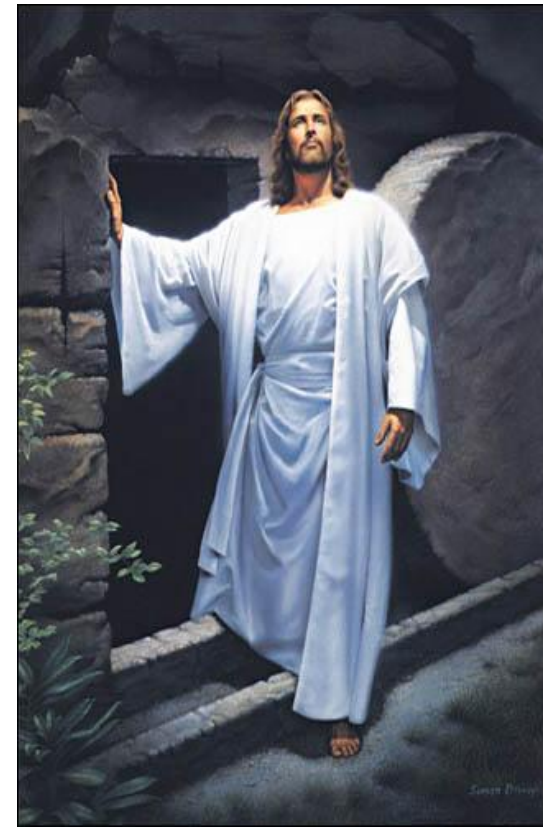


Jesus' intercession is with our "new man" to encourage & strengthen us to not give in to our "old man", but do God's will instead. Like Abigail did for David (1 Sam 25)

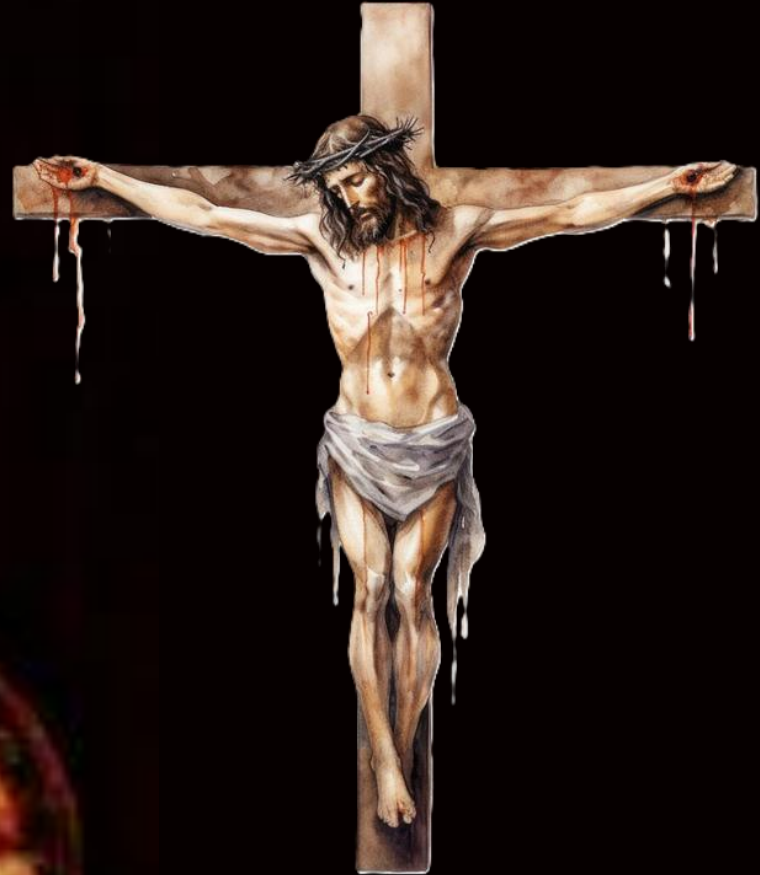
Jesus already has authority! He now commands His Angels

- **Mat 28:18** All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth
- **Heb 1:6** let all the angels of God worship him
- **Rev 1:1** signified it by his angel
- **Rev 22:16** I, Jesus, have sent my angel

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil 2:9-11)



Jesus the Mediator



of a new Covenant



SINCE 1828

GAMES & QUIZZES

THESAURUS

WORD OF THE DAY

FEATURES

SHOP

mediator

Dictionary

Thesaurus

mediator **noun** me·di·a·tor | \ 'mē-dē-,ā-tər  \

Legal Definition of *mediator*

: one that works to effect reconciliation, settlement, or compromise between parties at variance

Mediation From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Mediation is a structured, interactive process where an impartial third party assists disputing parties in resolving conflict through the use of specialized communication and negotiation techniques. All participants in mediation are encouraged to actively participate in the process.



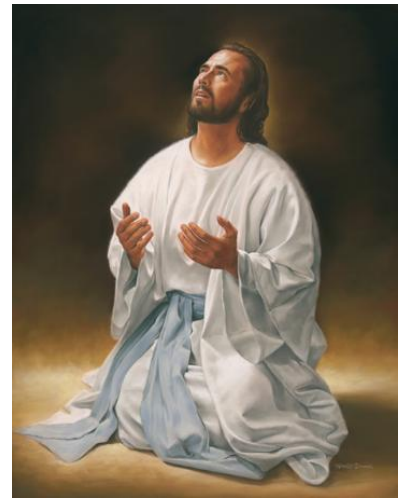
**“Mediator” as
the word is
used today**



**To use this word today to describe a role
of Jesus Christ is based on a
misunderstanding of Jesus as mediator**

The churches view of Jesus as our Mediator

The Bible makes it clear there's only one mediator who can win our case before the Judge of all. Only Jesus can represent us. Here's why:



As God's son, Jesus paid for our crimes by dying on the cross. So he understands God's anger at our sin and he did what no one else could do. He offered his own life in our place to take the punishment we should have had. Because he's sinless and because he's God (part of the Trinity or three persons that God is), Jesus is able to take our case directly to the Heavenly Court and plead our case before the Father.

[www.outreachmedia.org.au]

**This is based on an angry God
who wants to punish His children**



Mediators in the Bible

- Any Bible Examples of Mediators besides Jesus Christ?
 - Moses (Gal 3:19-20; Acts 7:37-38)
- What does a mediator do in the Bible?
 - Communicates God's covenant to His people
 - Moses (Deut 5:5, 28, 31)
 - Christ (Heb 8:6; 9:15; 12:24)



Let's look at the verses

Moses as a Mediator

Galatians 3:19-20 (TNIV)

19 What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. **The law was given through angels by the hands of a mediator (Moses).**

20 A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

Moses Mediated God's covenant

Moses as a Mediator

Deuteronomy 5:5, 28-30

5 **I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord;** for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain.

28 "Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me: 'I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. 29 Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! 30 **Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."** 31 **But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them,** that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.'

Moses mediated God's covenant

Moses was NOT a Mediator for God here

Exodus 32:30-35

30 Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. **So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.**" 31 Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! 32 Yet now, if **You will forgive their sin — but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.**"

33 And the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. 34 Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin."

35 So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.

Moses influenced God to alter His pathway about the nation, but the individuals who sinned still perished

Moses was NOT a Mediator for God here

Numbers 14:6-23

9 **(Joshua & Caleb say:)** Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them." 10 **And all the congregation said to stone them with stones.** Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

11 Then the Lord said to Moses: **"How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."**

[continue]

Moses influenced God to alter His pathway about the nation, but the individuals who sinned still perished

Moses was NOT a Mediator for God here

Numbers 14:6-23

13 And Moses said to the Lord: "Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, 14 and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land..... 16 'Because the Lord was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.' 17 And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying, 18 **'The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty,** visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.' **19 Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."**

20 Then the Lord said: **"I have pardoned, according to your word; 21 but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord — 22 because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, 23 they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it."**

Moses influenced God to alter His pathway about the nation, but the individuals who sinned still perished

Jesus as God's Mediator

Hebrews 8:6-12

6 But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as **He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.**

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — 9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. 10 **For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.** 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

He mediates God's new covenant

Mediators in the Bible

- **Any Bible Examples of Mediators besides Jesus Christ?**

- Moses (Gal 3:19-20; Acts 7:37-38)

- **What does a mediator do in the Bible?**

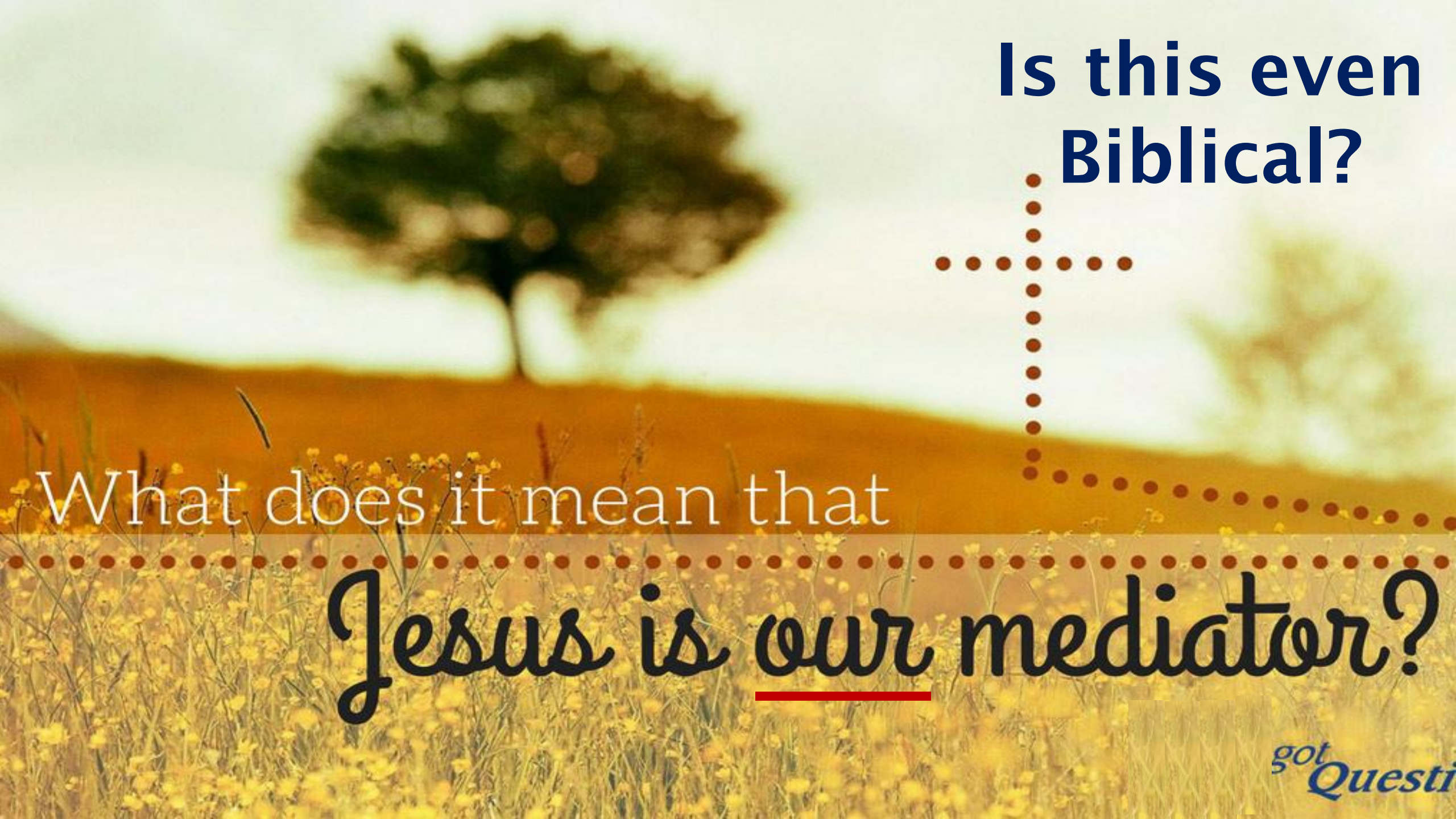
- Communicates God's covenant to His people
- Moses (Deut 5:5, 28, 31)
- Christ (Heb 8:6; 9:15; 12:24)

- **Mediation of Jesus Christ is similar, but different. Why?**

- "New" covenant (Jer 31:31; Heb 8:8; 9:15)
- Involves God's law written in hearts, forgiveness of sins, clear consciences (Heb 9:9-15)
- Christ provides the motivation to "die to sin & live to God" so we can be forgiven with clear consciences



Biblical Mediators communicate God's covenant

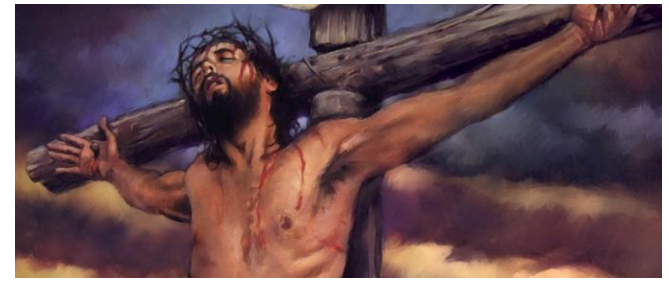


Is this even
Biblical?

What does it mean that

Jesus is our mediator?

Jesus Christ is God's Mediator



- Jesus is not “our mediator”, he is “*the mediator of the new covenant*” Heb 8:6-7 [*communicator*] He is God's mediator
- Based on his death – Heb 9:15
 - He ratified the new covenant by his death (9:16-21)
 - He provides forgiveness for sins now and those under the first covenant – all sins!
- 1 Tim 2:5 “one mediator of God and men” (Yg lit) [*not “between God & men”*]
 - Note the context: “God our savior” (v. 3)
 - “desires all men (all races) to be saved” (v.4)
 - God will save them through His new covenant mediated from Him to all nationalities of men by Jesus Christ
- Verb form of Greek word for “mediator”(#3316) used in Heb 6:17
“confirmed (#3315) by an oath”

Mediator: Confirms and communicates

The concept that Jesus
defends us to God...

Pleading with God
to forgive us!

But who did this for
Adam, Noah,
Abraham, Joseph,
Moses, David?

Our prayers in
some way pass
through Jesus

43 He was pierced for our transgressions

Words and music: Revd MAGGI DAWN
Isaiah 53

Thoughtfully

D A/D G D/F# D/G A

(1) He was pierced for our transgressions,
(2) led like a lamb to the slaughter,

D/F# G D/F# A D

and bruised for our iniquities;
although he was innocent of crime;

A/D G D/F# D/G

and to bring us from the land of the living,
and cut off from the land of the living,

A D/F# G D/F#

punished, and by his
living, he paid for the guilt

PTL 43

He was pierced for our transgressions,
and bruised for our iniquities;
and **to bring us peace he was punished,**
and by his stripes we are healed.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
although he was innocent of crime;
and cut off from the land of the living,
he paid for the guilt that was mine.

**God did not punish Jesus and he
was not suffering the punishment
we deserve as sinners!**

The test for our claim to Know Christ & be In Him

1 John 2:3-6

3 Now by this **we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.** 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 **But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.** By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

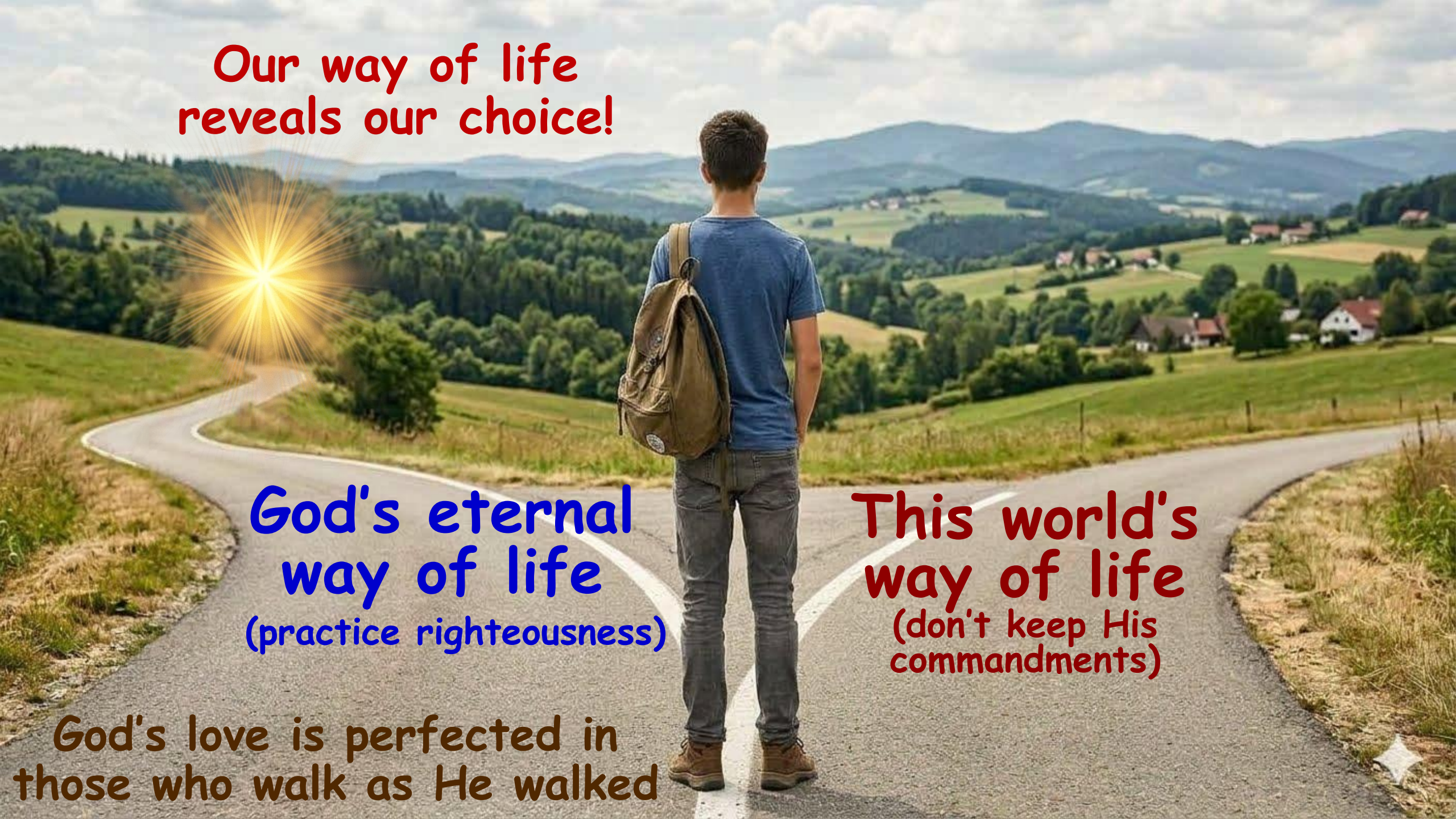
Simple Test: Are we walking the pathway of Eternal Life?

**Our way of life
reveals our choice!**

**God's eternal
way of life**
(practice righteousness)

**This world's
way of life**
(don't keep His
commandments)

**God's love is perfected in
those who walk as He walked**



Keeping God's Commandments



- **He who says** is a little more personal than “If we say” of chapter 1
- **we know him** – claiming a personal relationship with Jesus (Jn 17)
- **Keep His commandments** – this is the real test! How are we doing?
- **the truth is not in him** – we may have just an academic knowledge of Bible truth, but it is not motivating us to obedience to Christ
- **Love of God is perfected** (#5048 again in 4:12,17,18) - God’s love is motivating us to live and act like God.
- **We can’t just talk the talk**, we have to walk the walk that was demonstrated by Jesus Christ

The Love of God should be powerful enough to motivate us to fight our old man and live for God & others

A new commandment which is really an old one that has now been revealed in Jesus - Love one another

1 John 2:7-11

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an **old commandment (Lev 19)** which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a **new commandment** I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. *[revealing God's eternal way of life in Jesus]*

9 **He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.** 10 **He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.** 11 But **he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness**, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

If we are in the light, we must love our brothers & sisters

The New Commandment

- **No new commandment** – Lev 19:18; Jn 13:15; 2 Jn 5
Love like God
- **New commandment** – new in the sense that it gets lost over time, but is really all over the Bible (Jn 15:12-17; Mat 5:44-48; Rom 5:6-10; 1Jn 4:11). It was demonstrated in a new way by Jesus.
 - **John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
 - **John 15:12-13** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
- **John's test for us:** Are we walking like Jesus walked? Do we love one another like Jesus does? Would we lay down our lives for each other?

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus (Phil 2:4-5) NIV





Helping others



John writes to keep these believers on the Eternal Life pathway,
not to reprimand or criticize them!

1 John 2:12-14

12 I **write** *[now, what follows]* to you, **little children** *(everyone)*,
because your **sins are forgiven** you for His name's sake. *(God's mercy)*

13 I **write** to you, **fathers** *(older members)*, because you have **known Him** who is from the beginning.

I **write** to you, **young men** because you have **overcome the wicked one.** *(young people),*

I **have written** *(NASB) [aorist tense – earlier in this letter]* to you, **little children**, because you have **known the Father.**

14 I **have written** *[aorist]* to you, **fathers**, because you have **known Him** who is from the beginning.

I **have written** to you, **young men**, because you are **strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.**

John is trying to keep these believers in Christ

John's personal appeal to everyone and all ages



- **Little Children [all the readers]: your sins are forgiven**
 - **You have known the Father**
 - They had a relationship with the Father which caused Him to forgive their sins
- **Fathers [elders]: you have known Him who is from the beginning**
 - **you have known Him who is from the beginning**
 - Spiritual maturity – a strong relationship with our Father
- **Young Men: you have overcome the wicked one**
 - **You are strong, the word of God abides in you, you have overcome the wicked one**
 - God's word in their minds empowered them to overcome the sins of youth

Back to Love: We cannot love the Father & the World

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** 16 For all that is in the world — the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and **the pride of life** — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; **but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

Don't be deceived! We cannot claim to love God
if our actions show we really love this world

The battle against Sin from the Beginning

1 Jn 2:16

- Lust of the Flesh
- Lust of the Eyes
- Pride of Life

Gen 3:1-6

- “... good for food...”
- “...pleasing to the eye...”
- “desirable for gaining wisdom”



Once Adam & Eve sinned, God magnified these desires so we would all realize how much we need salvation.

Paul now calls them “deceitful lusts” in our flesh (Eph 4:22)

The war we fight should be against our own desires

James 4:1-4

Where do **wars and fights** come from among you? Do they not come from your **desires for pleasure** that war in your members? 2 **You lust** and do not have. **You murder and covet** and cannot obtain. **You fight and war.** Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that **you may spend it on your pleasures.** 4 **Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

When we behave like people of this world,
we make ourselves an enemy of God

Whose Friend do we want to be?

This world's



Or God's



Friends of God trust Him single-mindedly
in all aspects of their lives!

Living by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-18, 22-25 (NIV)

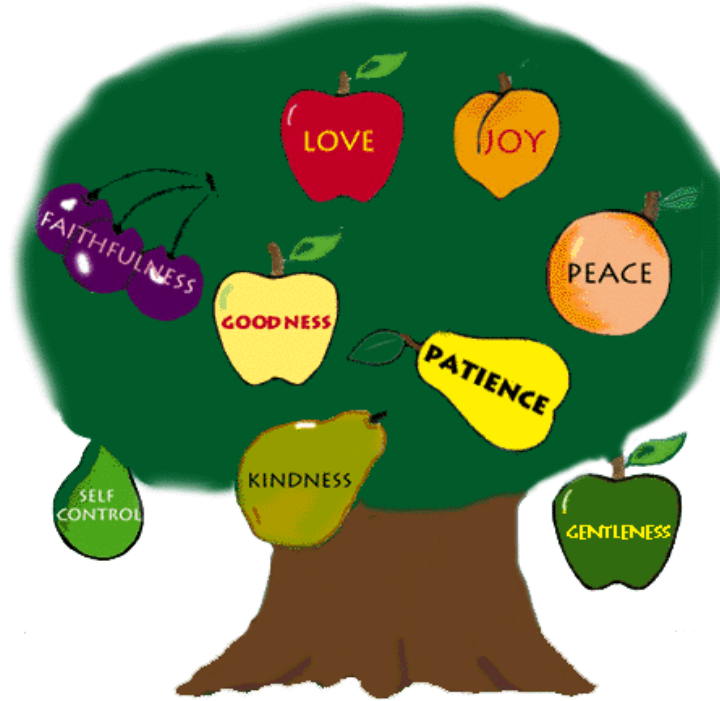
16 So I say, **live by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify **the desires of the sinful nature**. 17 **For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature.** They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.**

22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 **Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.** 25 **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

If we are Christ's, we have crucified our sinful nature

Fruit of the Spirit

Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness



Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-control

We need to work on them all!

Against such there is no Law

There is no Law restricting these!

Those who are Christ's...

what do they do?

- **Crucify the flesh** (Paul – 2:20; 6:14)
- **United with him in a death like his** (Rom 6:5-6)
- **You died....Put to death what is earthly** in you (Col 3:3, 5)
- **Died with Christ** from the basic principles of the world (Col 2:20)
- **Make no provision for the flesh**, to fulfill its lusts (Rom 13:14)
- **Leaving you an example** that you should follow in his steps (1 Pet 2:21)



It's a daily fight against Sin

Some believers have changed their understanding of Jesus and no longer know the truth about the Father & the Son

1 John 2:18-23

18 Little children, **it is the last hour** (*AD70 or apostacy later*); and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, **even now many antichrists have come**, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 **They went out from us, but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. *[very much like Judas in John 13]*

20 But you have an anointing (v. 27 too) from the Holy One, and you ~~know all things~~ "all know" [NASB]. 21 **I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.** 22 Who is a liar but **he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.** 23 **Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either;** he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

God separated these false teachers from His children

"Truth" in John's Letters

Reference ^	Context
1Jn 1:6	If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
1Jn 1:8	If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
1Jn 2:4	He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
1Jn 2:21	I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of
1Jn 2:21	written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.
1Jn 3:18	My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
1Jn 3:19	And by this we know* that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.
1Jn 4:6	hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
1Jn 5:6	only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.
2 John 1	Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have
2 John 1	lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,
2 John 2	because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:
2 John 3	be with you* from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.
2 John 4	that I have found <i>some</i> of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.
3 John 1	<i>Greeting to Gaius</i> The Elder, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:
3 John 3	I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth <i>that is</i> in you, just as you walk in the truth.
3 John 3	I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth <i>that is</i> in you, just as you walk in the truth.
3 John 4	I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*
3 John 8	We therefore ought to receive* such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.
3 John 12	Demetrius has a <i>good</i> testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know

You heard Antichrist is coming



- **Acts 20:29-30** For I know this, **that after my departure** savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. **Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things,** to draw away the disciples after themselves.
- **1 Tim 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says **that in latter times some will depart from the faith,** giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron
- **2 Tim 3:1** But know this, **that in the last days** perilous times will come:
- **2 Thess 2:3-4** Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless **the falling away comes first,** and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

AntiChrist arose from inside the Ecclesia

Departures from the Faith

True Believers

God's way of removing those who will lead true believers astray – like splitting Israel from Judah.

Earlier

Circumcision Party

some returned to Judaism
(mainly Jewish)

Now

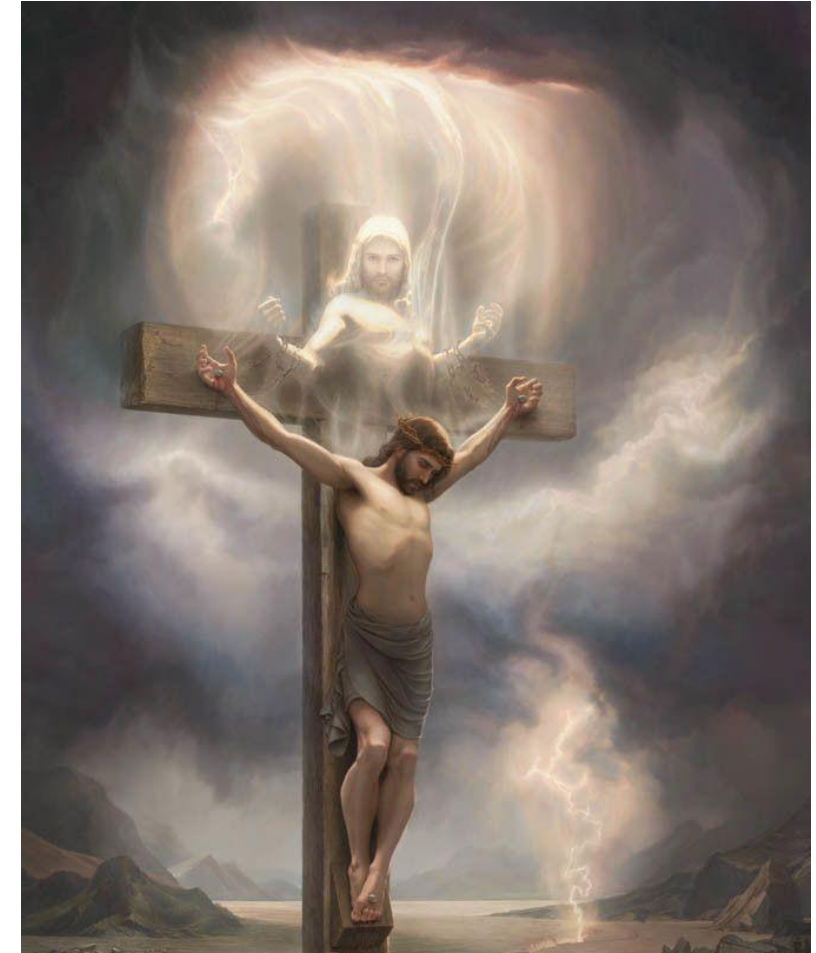
Antichrists

Jesus didn't come in flesh
(mainly Gentile)

John warns believers not to follow those who departed, but stay with what you know & let Christ change your life

The spirit of Antichrist

- Jesus did not really come in the flesh
- Jesus was a spirit that inhabited a flesh body
- When he died, his spirit continued living
- His spirit was not really tempted by his body
- He did not really win a victory over Sin, because his spirit-mind was above Sin
- This teaching was very similar to the views of Trinitarians today about Jesus Christ



We know that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself" (2Cor 5:19) by training Jesus' mind & character to be like God's

God anointed you with understanding - you can have confidence because you practice righteousness!

1 John 2:24-29

24 Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 **And this is the promise that He has promised us — eternal life.** *[God's way of life]*

26 These things I have written to you concerning **those who try to deceive you.** 27 But **the anointing (the Helper) which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true,** and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, **that when He appears, we may have confidence** and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. 29 If you know that He is righteous, you know **that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him** [3:9; 4:7; 5:1,4,18].

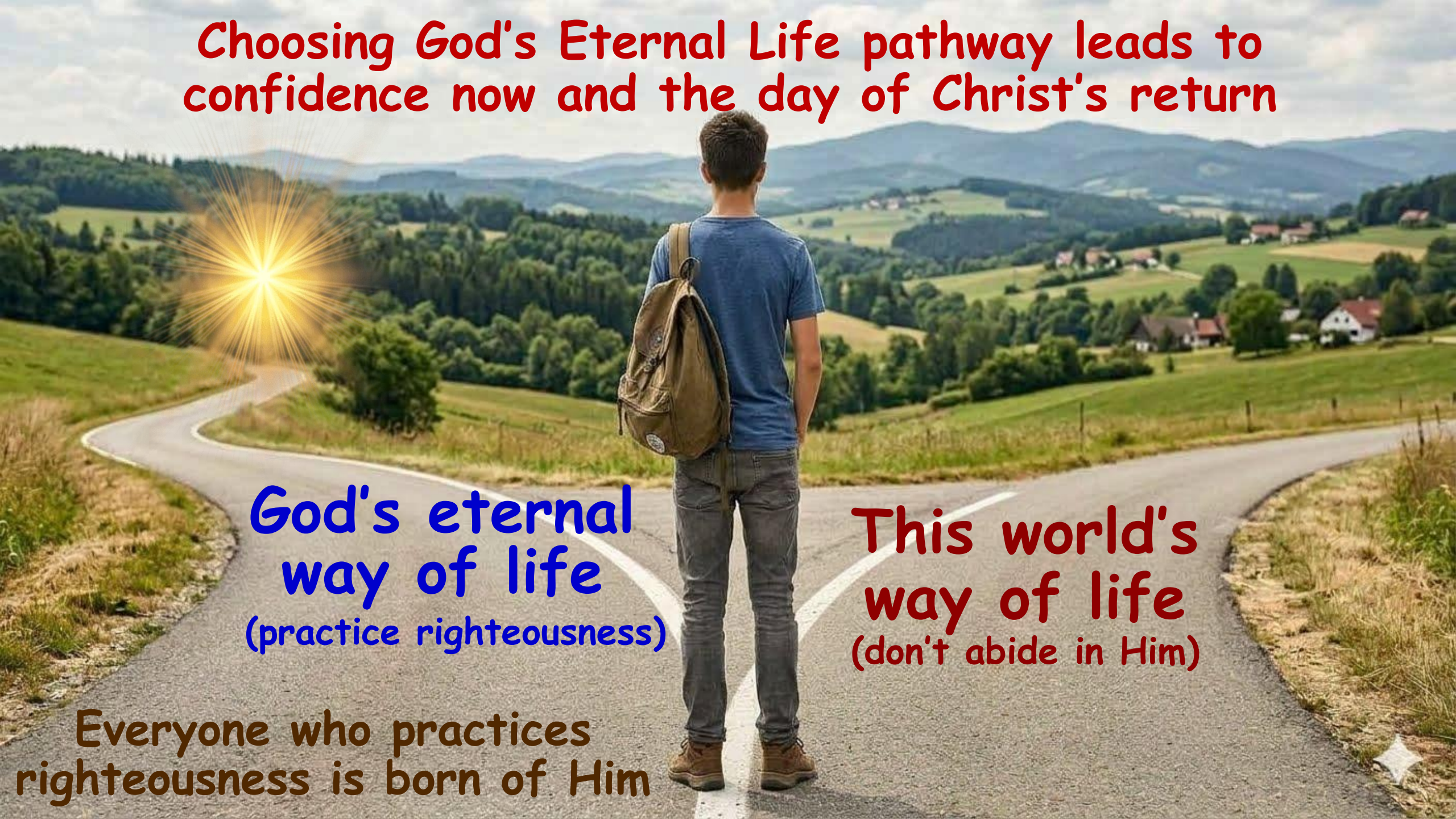
God's children are born of Him & practice righteousness & can have confidence when Jesus appears

Choosing God's Eternal Life pathway leads to confidence now and the day of Christ's return

**God's eternal
way of life**
(practice righteousness)

**This world's
way of life**
(don't abide in Him)

**Everyone who practices
righteousness is born of Him**



The "anointing" is the Holy Spirit

1 John 2:20

20 But you have **an anointing from the Holy One** *[probably Jesus]*, and you all know.

John 14:26

26 But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

1 John 2:27

27 But **the anointing which you have received from Him** abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but **as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things**, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

They needed help understanding & defending God's Truth

The anointing on them from
God helped them and led
them into all Truth
(Jn 14:26)



Today the word
of God is living &
powerful (Heb 4)

God can enlighten the
eyes of our
understanding (Eph 1)

Angels are
ministering spirits



The anointing of the Spirit of Truth

John 16:12-15

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the **Spirit of truth**, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, **for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you**. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Christ's Spirit helped to lead them to Truth

Abide in Christ – stay connected to his vine

**Abiding in Christ brings
confidence in His ability to
change us into God's children**



Practicing Righteousness

Walking in the light of Jesus
Practicing to become like him



For where your treasure is, there
your heart will be also. (Matt 6:21)

We cannot practice the works of the flesh

Galatians 5:16-25

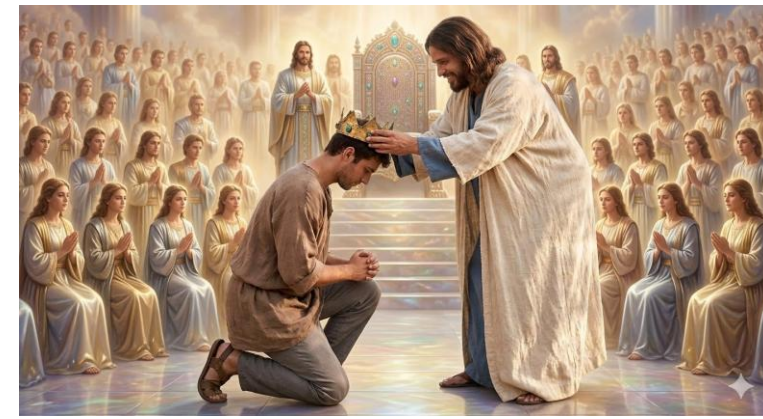
16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, **so that you do not do the things that you wish**. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the **works of the flesh** are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God**.

22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 **And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. 25 **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit**.

We must be led by the Spirit to practice righteousness

We can have Confidence in God's ability to do what He has promised



1 Jn 2:28 abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have **confidence** and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have **confidence** toward God.

1 John 4:17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have **confidence** for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

1 John 5:14 Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Just like Jesus, our confidence is in God and we put no confidence in the flesh (Phil 3:3)

How will you react when you finally meet Jesus?



live in him so that when Christ comes back, we can be without fear and not be ashamed in his presence. (V.28 NCV)

**And I am sure of this,
that he who began a good
work in you will bring it to
completion at the day of
Jesus Christ. (Phil 1:6)**



John's Strategy in writing this Letter



2:3-6 The test for knowing God: Do we keep His commandments?

2:7-11 New commandment: Love one another like Jesus loved you – lay down your life for your friends

2:12-14 John explains that he writes this letter to encourage believers to stay on the eternal life path, not to condemn them

2:15-17 We cannot love God & also love the world

2:18-23 Some believers changed & no longer have truth about Jesus

2:24-29 God anointed you with understanding – you can have confidence!

There is a logical strategy to John's letter

We are God's children now because He loves us

1 John 3:1-3

Behold **what manner of love the Father** has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!** *“And so we are!” [ESV, NASB]* Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, **now we are children of God;** and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him,** for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And **everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

God's children work on purifying themselves, like Jesus



Appreciate it!

BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE
THE FATHER
HAS BESTOWED ON US,
THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED
CHILDREN OF GOD!

Now! What a privilege!

1 JOHN 3:1A

God initiated it all by showing love first!

John 15:9-12

9 "**As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you;** abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 **This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.**

**If we know and appreciate God's love to us,
we will be compelled to show that love to one another**

We shall be like him!
So practice now!



**Everyone who has this hope in Him
purifies himself (now), just as He is pure
who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from
every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own
special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)**
Hating even the garment defiled by the flesh (Jud 23)

Children of God are led by the spirit

Romans 8:12-17

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; **but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** 14 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom **we cry out, "Abba, Father."** 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit **that we are children of God,** 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him** *[dying to Sin, like Jesus]*, that we may also be glorified together.

We must participate in the same battle with Sin as Jesus

Everyone born of God practices righteousness -
they don't follow the devil

1 John 3:4-9 (ESV)

4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness *[not living under the law of Christ]*; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that **he appeared to take away sins**, and in him there is no sin. 6 **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning**; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, *let no one deceive you*. **Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.**

8 **Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil**, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.** 9 No one **born of God makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been **born of God**.

Jesus can train us to resist Sin

Note the change in Greek verb tenses
(our modern versions have picked up on this)

1 Jn 1:10

10 **If we say that we have not sinned** [*aorist tense – specific acts of sin*], we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1 Jn 3:4

4 **Everyone who makes a practice of sinning** [*present tense – practice sinning*] also practices lawlessness sin is lawlessness.

Aorist tense is like watching a parade go by that continues on, but you are not involved after it passes.

Present tense is like walking in the parade.

On a daily basis, we set a high standard to aim for God's eternal life, but we fail. Then tomorrow we aim high again!
Over time, God will change us into the image of His Son

3:4-7 (ESV)

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning;

no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

Little children, let no one deceive you.

Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

3:8-10 (ESV)

Whoever makes a practice of sinning **is of the devil**, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. (*"of your father the devil"*)

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy **the works of the devil**.

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

By this it is evident who are **the children of God**, and who are **the children of the devil**:

whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, **nor is the one who does not love his brother**.



God's Kindness & Mercy should change our lives

Romans 2:3-4

³ Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

God in His kindness & mercy is willing to forgive our sins in the hope we will respond by engaging in the war against Sin

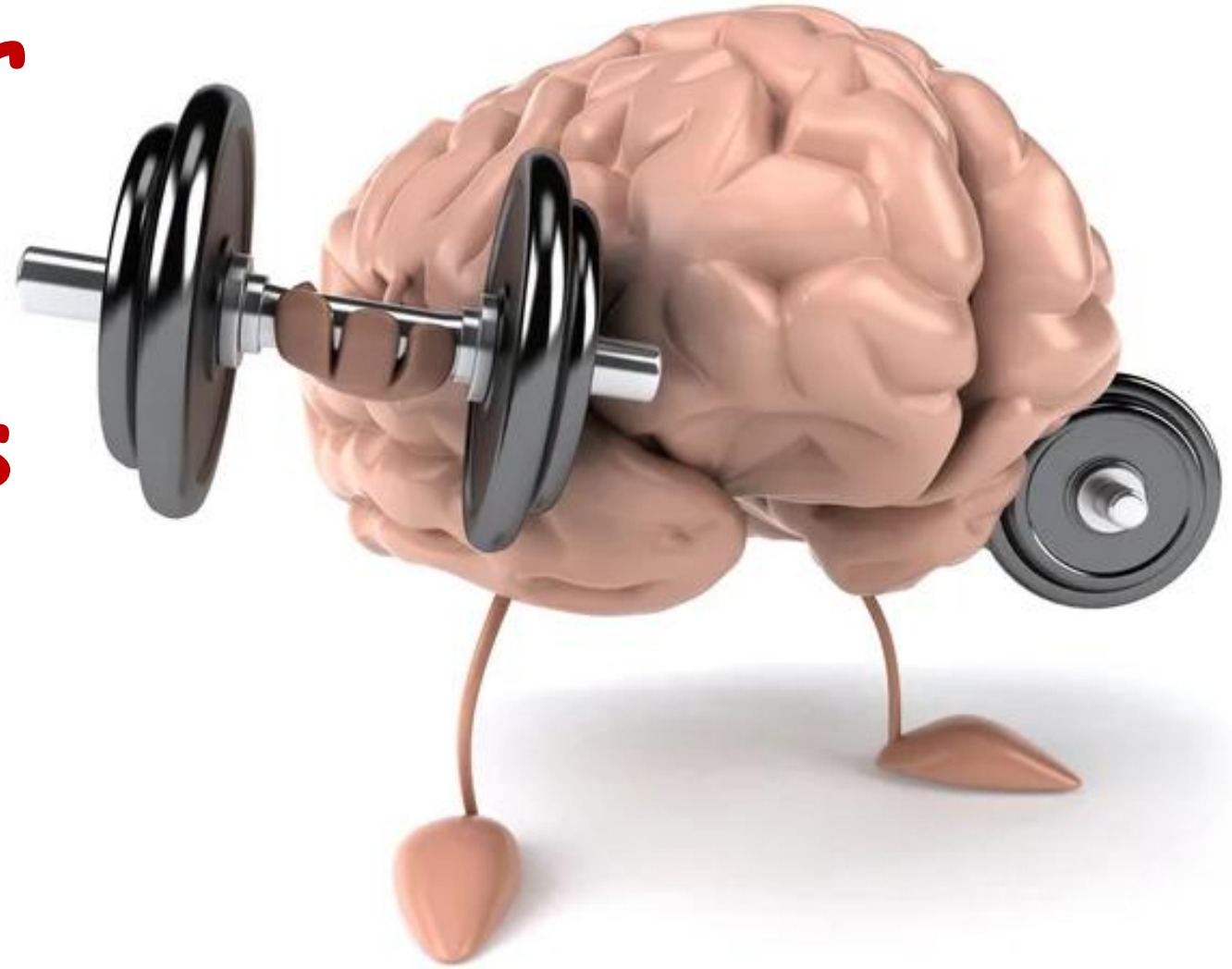
Who is our Father?

John 8:42-44

42 Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father**, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 **You are of your father the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Our way of life indicates who we consider our Father

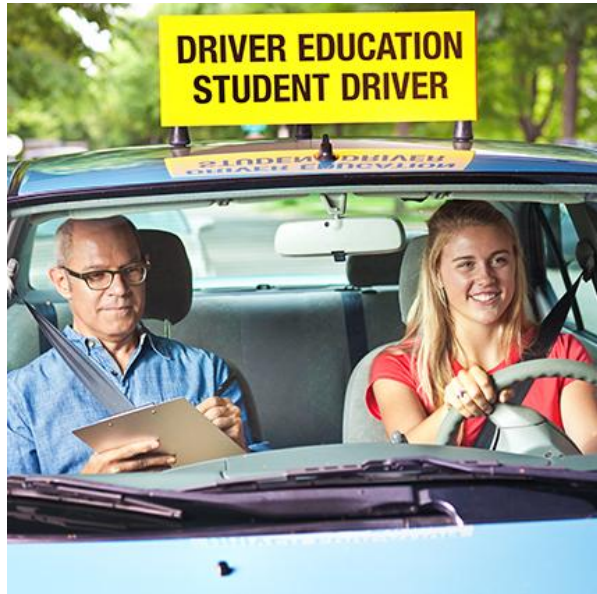
God can train your
brain to respond
sometimes like
Jesus would - this
is having Jesus
Christ in you



It takes prayer, hearing God's word,
angelic help and practice

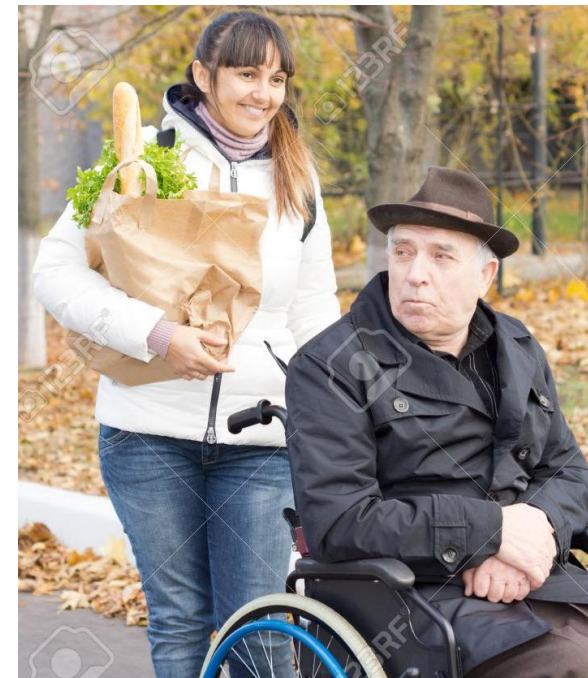


Practice
makes
~~perfect~~
PROGRESS

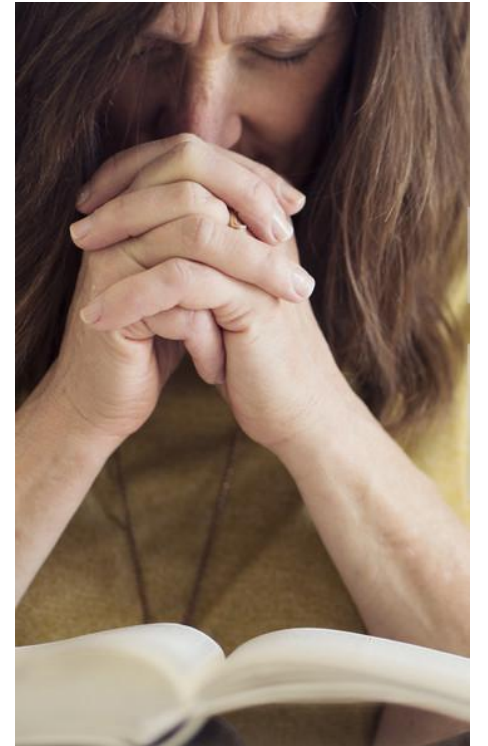
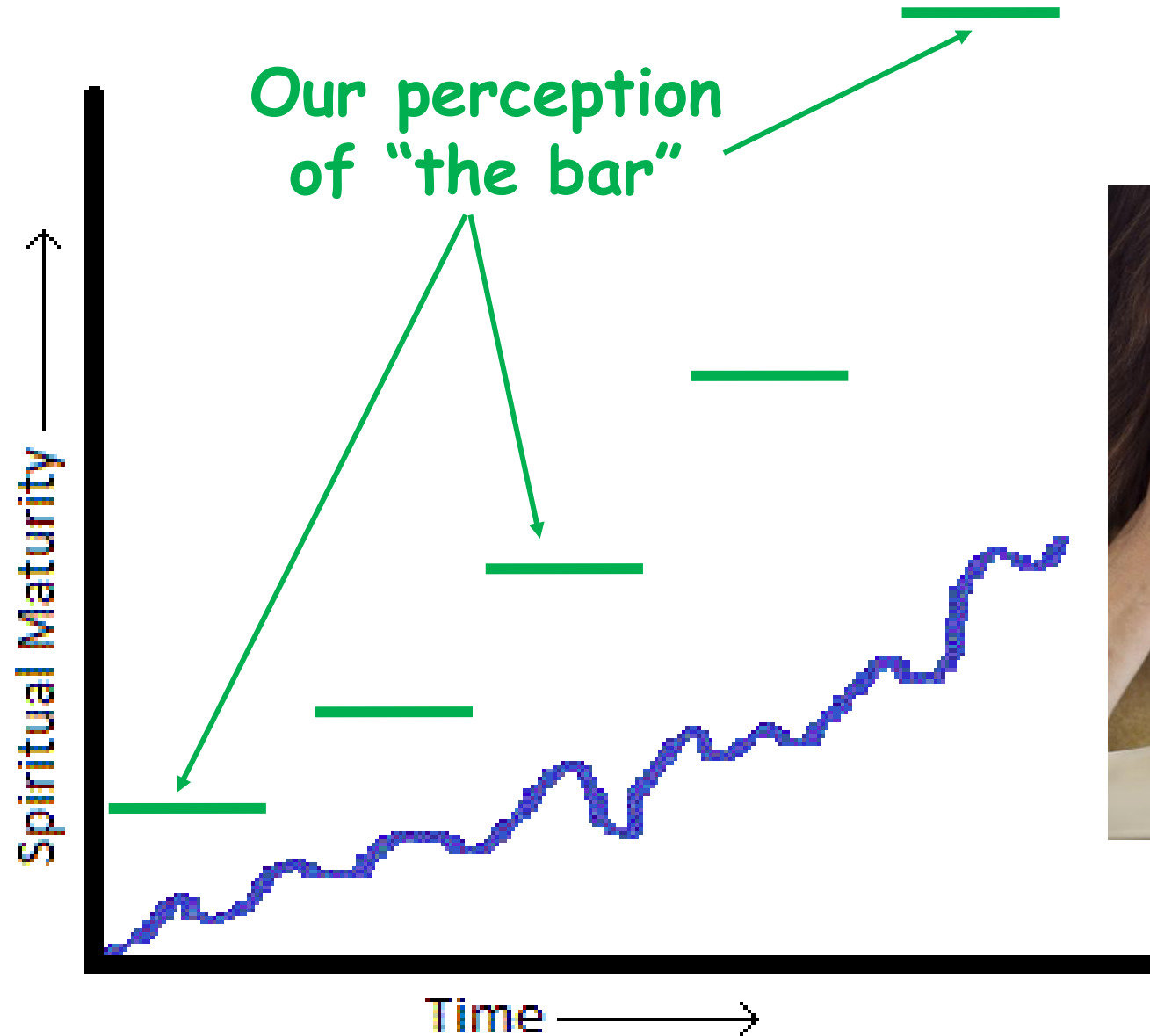




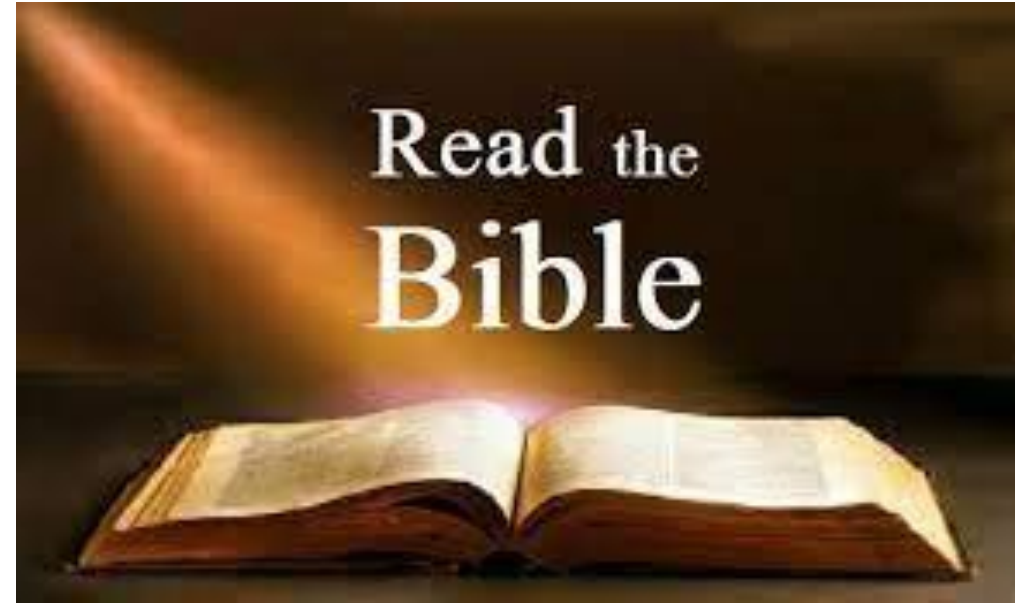
Practice
makes
~~perfect~~
PROGRESS



Transforming into the image of Christ

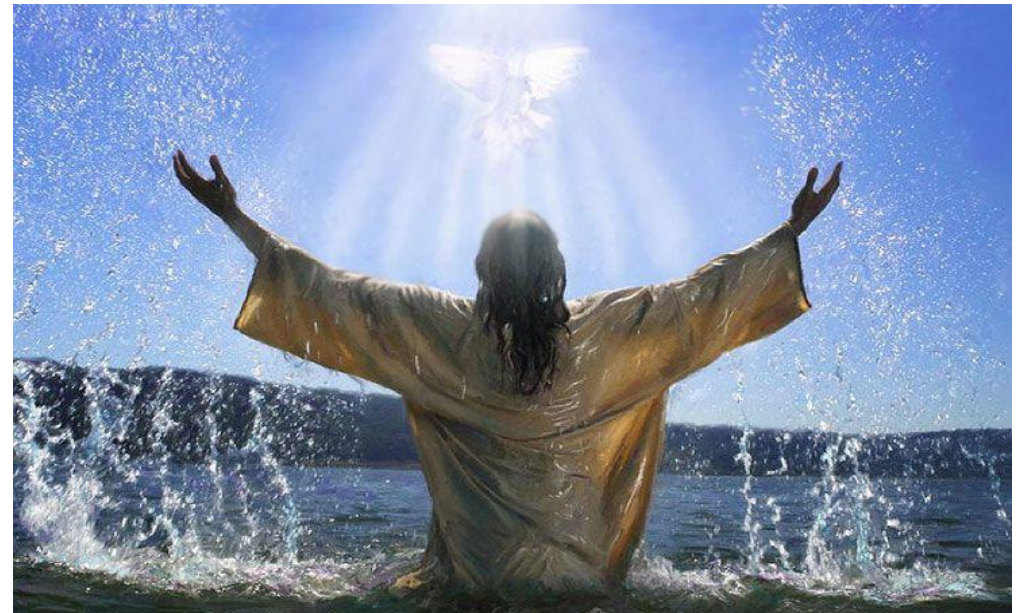


God is training us, but we must practice!



If Jesus came to destroy Sin,
how can we who are born of God practice sin today?

Jesus came to destroy ALL the works of the devil



our "faith" without works is dead!

James 2:14-26

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can **that** faith save him? (ESV)

v.15 naked or hungry brother or sister

v.17 faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

v.19 even the demoniacs can talk the talk

v.21 Abraham was justified by works

v.25 Rahab was justified by works

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

If we are born of God and have the faith of Jesus,
it will compel us to help God's family and love one another

he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.



- No one born of God makes a practice of sinning (ESV)
- **Rom 7:16-17** Converted Paul still was frustrated that the good he wished to do is not what he always ended up doing. **“If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”**
- **1 John 1:8-2:1** **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. **And if anyone sins,** we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

We are no longer slaves of Sin, but slaves of God

**God's children love God & love one another,
but the devil's children hate & murder**

1 John 3:10-15

10 In this the **children of God** and the **children of the devil** are manifest: **Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.** 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another**, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? **Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.**

13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that **we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.** He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 **Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.**

We must practice loving God's family – like Joseph

How can we practice loving one another?

- **Must spend time together**, pray together, invite others into your home, go places together
- **Don't judge each other** – try to help and support
- **Forgive one another** – like God has forgiven us
- **Seek to understand the needs of others** and then try to provide for their needs – emotional, financial, ecclesial, family
- **Listen patiently** to what they want to tell us
- **After tough, conflict conversations, focus on prayer** and ask God for help in showing His love
- **Show loving care** to the families of others



This is a major part of practicing righteousness

God's love in us will cause us to lay down our lives for each other

1 John 3:16-17

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, **how does the love of God abide in him?**

Our claim to know God's love and appreciate it must be matched with a practical expression of God's love to others

Demonstrating God's love to the needy



If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Jam 2:15-16

A group of five young children, three boys and two girls, are standing outdoors in a rural setting. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The children are wearing school uniforms: blue and white checkered short-sleeved shirts and blue trousers or skirts. They are standing close together, with their arms around each other's shoulders. In the background, other children and a building with a mural are visible, though slightly out of focus.

Targeting
Extreme Poverty



AGAPE IN ACTION



Love one another
includes our own
families too!



Loving one another at our breaking of bread

1 Corinthians 11:17-32



¹⁷ But in the following instructions I do not commend you, **because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.** ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that **there are divisions among you.** And I believe it in part, ¹⁹ for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰ When you come together, **it is not the Lord's supper that you eat.** ²¹ For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

Remember your love for each other as you perform rituals

Loving one another at our breaking of bread

1 Corinthians 11:17-32

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that **the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed** took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in **remembrance of me.**” ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of me.**” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death** *[his death to Sin]* until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ **For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body** *[body of believers]* **eats and drinks judgment on himself.** ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died



Don't make our memorial services a time of selfishness!
Esteem others more important than ourselves!

Jesus taught us about God's love



Now we
must
practice
showing
God's love

Our love must be in deed & Truth - then we
can have confidence before God

1 John 3:18-24

18 My little children, **let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.** 19 And **by this we know that we are of the truth**, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. *[God knows us better than our own hearts!]* 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have **confidence** toward God *[now!]*. 22 And **whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.** 23 And **this is His commandment: that we should believe** (1st time: 4:1,16; 5:1,5,10,13) *[faith]* on the name of His Son Jesus Christ *[no room for antichrist teaching!]* and love one another, as He gave us commandment *[singular – 1 commandment]*. 24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And **by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

God's response depends on us keeping His commands

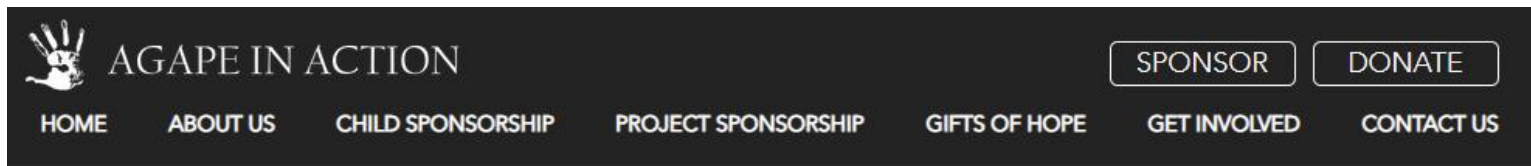
We must be keeping His commandments

- **Love in deed & truth:** we have to act on the needs of others and trust God will take care of us
- **1 John 5:14-15** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
- **Believe on the name of Jesus Christ & love one another** – one commandment because believing on the name of Jesus Christ involves God saving people from their sins and loving one another involves us in assisting in the salvation of others.

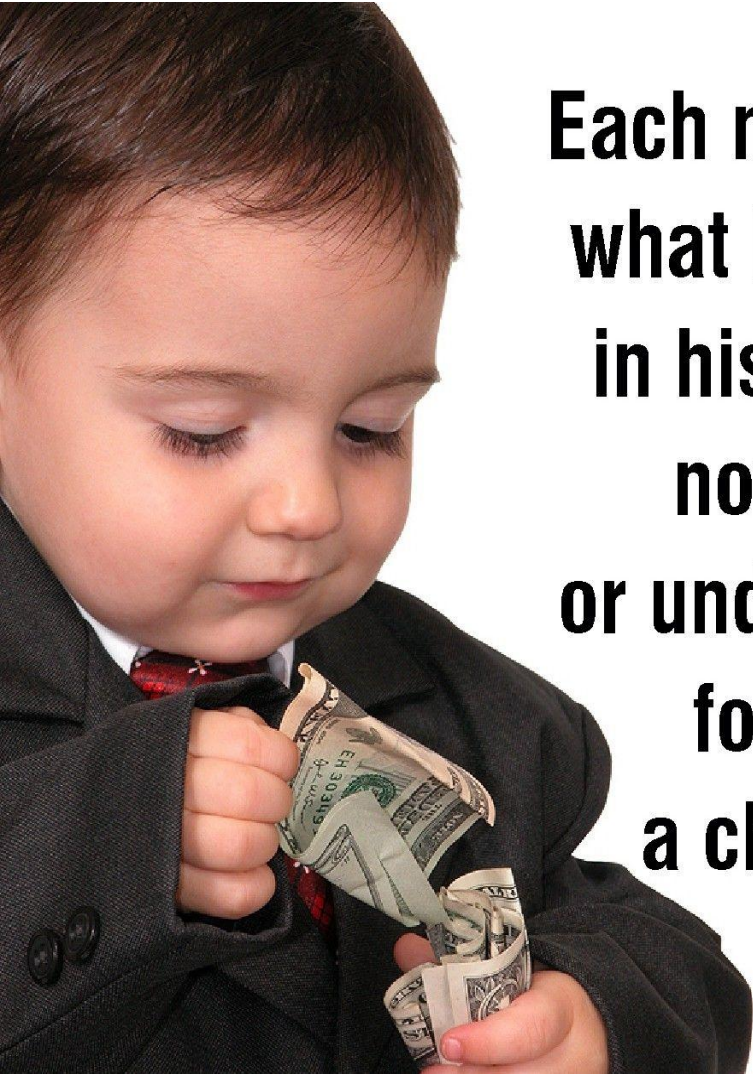


**We must be concerned about the
brothers & sisters for whom Christ died**

**Actions of Love
say a lot more
and a lot louder
than just words!**



He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor. (Prov 22:9)



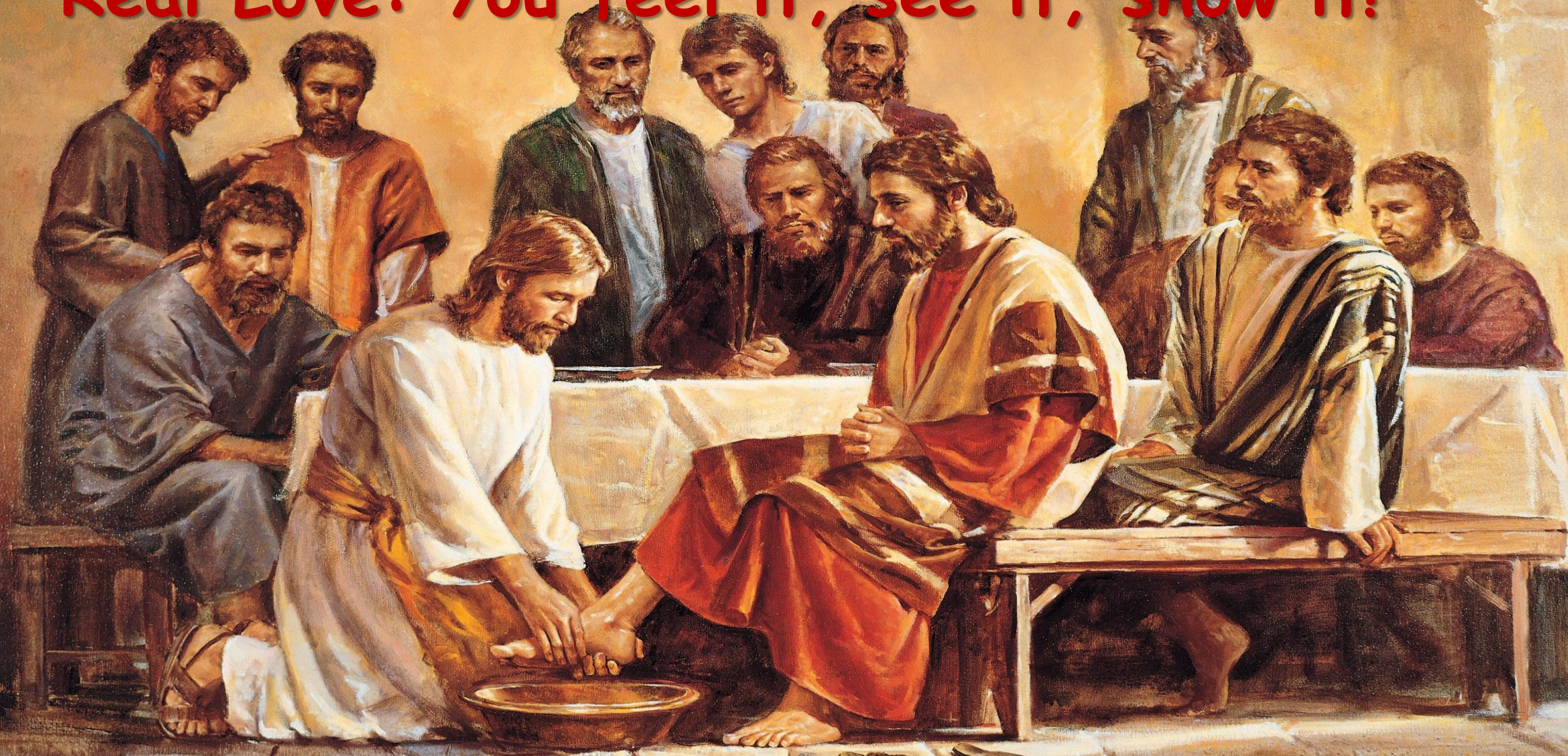
Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7



As Jesus said: It is more blessed to give, than to receive (Acts 20:35)

Real Love: You feel it, see it, show it!



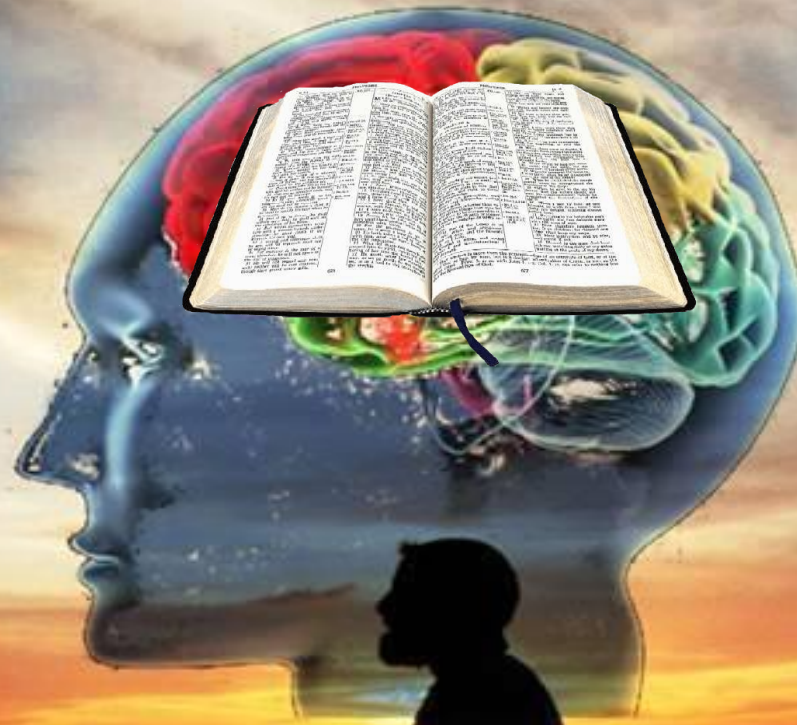
Fake love is just words

This is the confidence
we have in approaching
God: that if we ask
anything according to
his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14



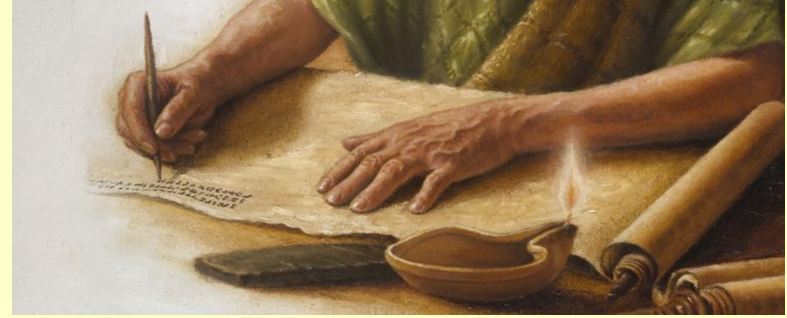
But you are not
in the flesh but
in the Spirit, if
indeed the
Spirit of God
dwells in you.
(Rom 8:9)



This is NOT
the Holy Spirit
gifts, but rather
the spiritual
mind God is
growing in us

THE MIND SET ON THE SPIRIT IS LIFE AND PEACE
- ROM 8:6

John's Strategy in writing this Letter



- 3:1-3** We are God's children now because God loves us!
- 3:4-9** Everyone born of God practices righteousness – they don't follow the devil
- 3:10-15** God's children love God & love one another, but the devil's children hate & murder
- 3:16-17** God's love in us will cause us to lay down our lives for each other – like Jesus did
- 3:18-24** Our love must be in deed & truth, then we can have confidence before God

These are not just random thoughts.
There is a logical strategy to John's letter

The Spirit of Truth teaches Jesus came in the flesh

1 John 4:1-6

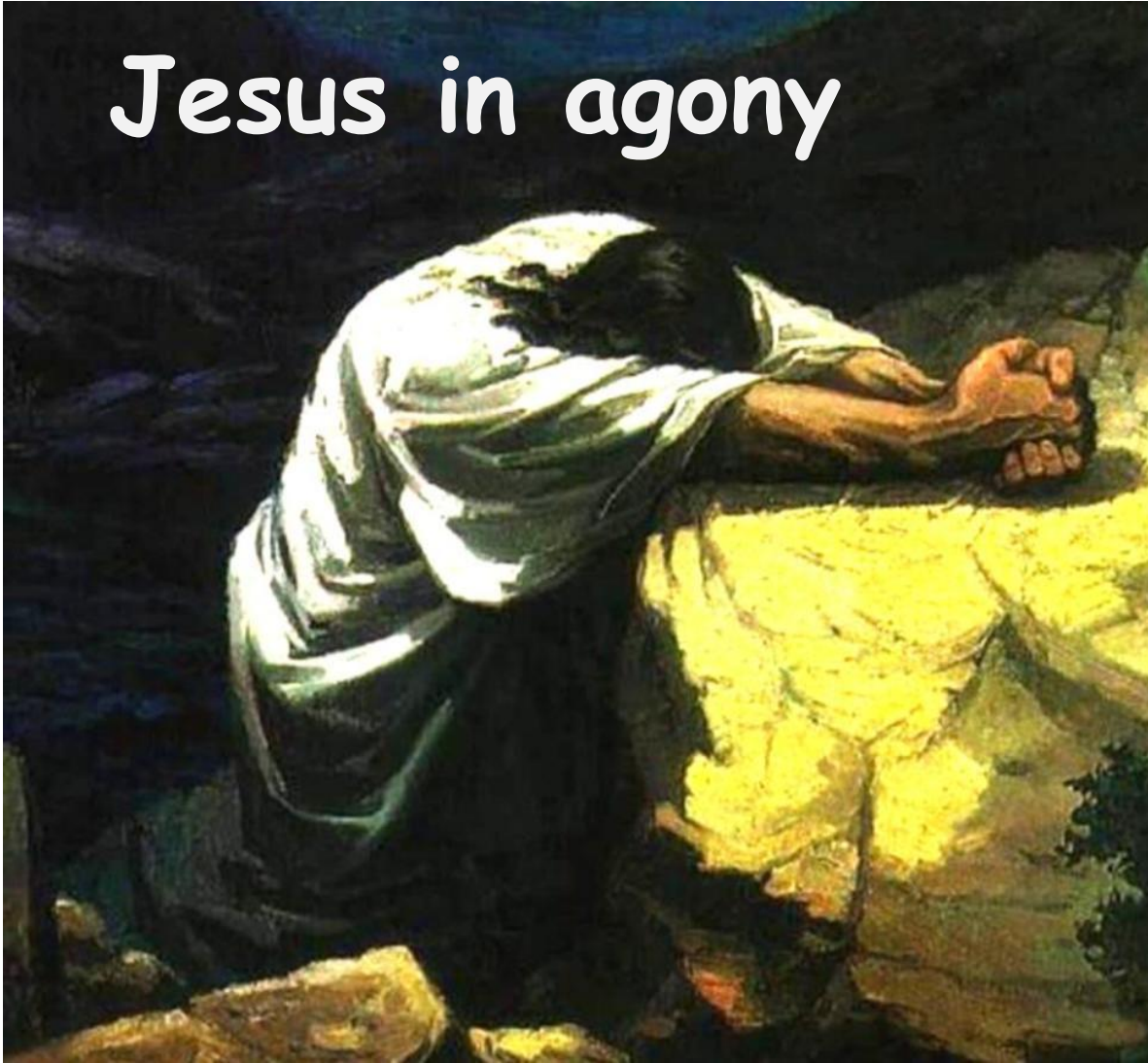
4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits, whether they are of God**; because **many false prophets have gone out into the world**. 2 **By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God**, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is **the spirit of the Antichrist**, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, **because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world**. 5 **They are of the world**. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 **We are of God**. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the **spirit of truth** and the **spirit of error**.

**We must believe on the name of the Son of God (3:23)
and that means Jesus came in our nature**

The Spirit of God vs the Spirit of Antichrist

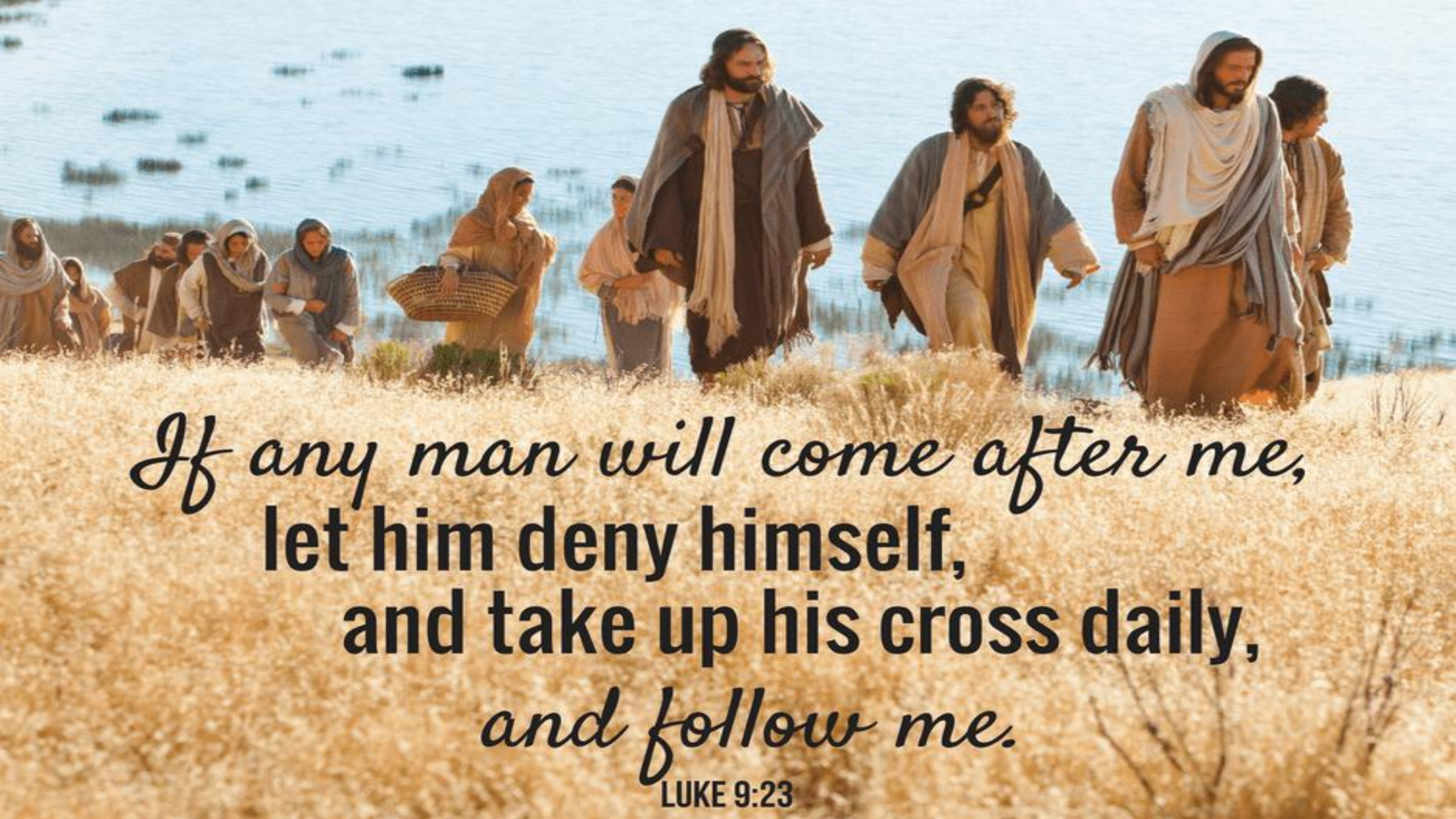
Jesus in agony



Antichrist & Trinity



Jesus did not really come in flesh to die and destroy Sin



*If any man will come after me,
let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily,
and follow me.*

LUKE 9:23

The Spirit (helper/comforter) guided them into all truth about Jesus

Jn 14:26 He will teach you all things and remind you

Jn 15:26 He will testify about Jesus

Jn 16:13 the Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth [*about Jesus*]



The apostles & early converts needed help understanding Truth, so God provided His Spirit, like He did for Jesus. God's Spirit is still active today, but not in the miraculous gifts.

Love explained: God took the initiative & loved us first, now we must love one another

1 John 4:7-11

7 Beloved, **let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**
8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 **In this the love of God was manifested** toward us, that **God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.** 10 **In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us (Rom 5) and sent His Son to be the propitiation [place of mercy] for our sins.** 11 Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** *[in the same way God loved us!]*

God's children love one another, the way God has loved us - His Eternal way of Life

**Being born
of God**



**Mind
of Christ**

**This is about our
trust in God and
its effect on our
behavior toward
others**

**Let this mind be in
you that was also
in Christ Jesus**

**Everyone who loves
is born of God and
knows God**

A wooden cross stands on a grassy hill. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. The background is a soft-focus landscape with green grass and some distant trees under a bright sky.

**BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES
HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US,**

- IN THAT -

**WHILE WE WERE
STILL SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.**

ROMANS 5:8

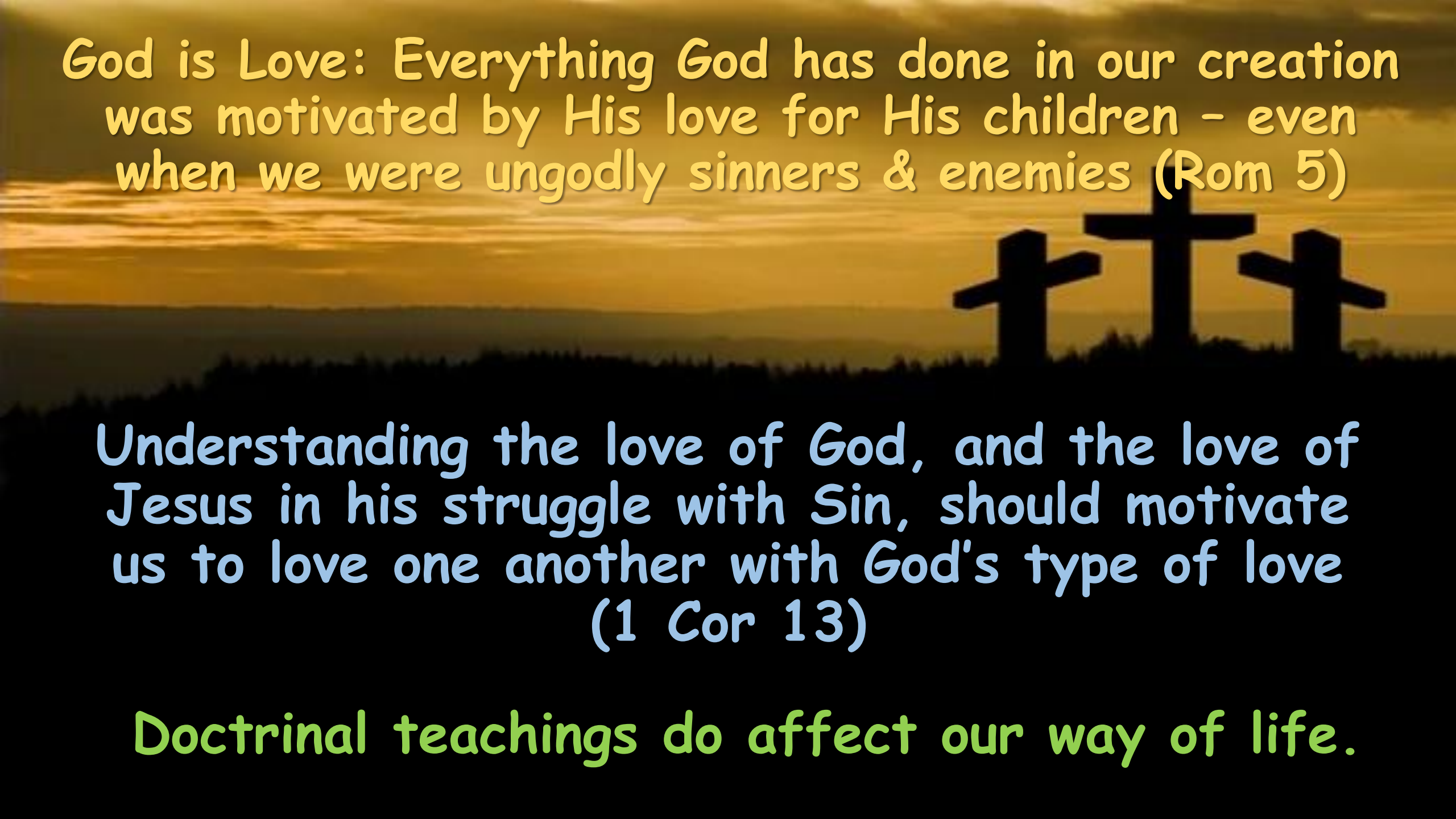
God didn't wait for us to deserve it, neither should we

God first loved us



Then we will know
God abides in us
and His love is
perfected in us

Now we
must
practice
showing
God's love

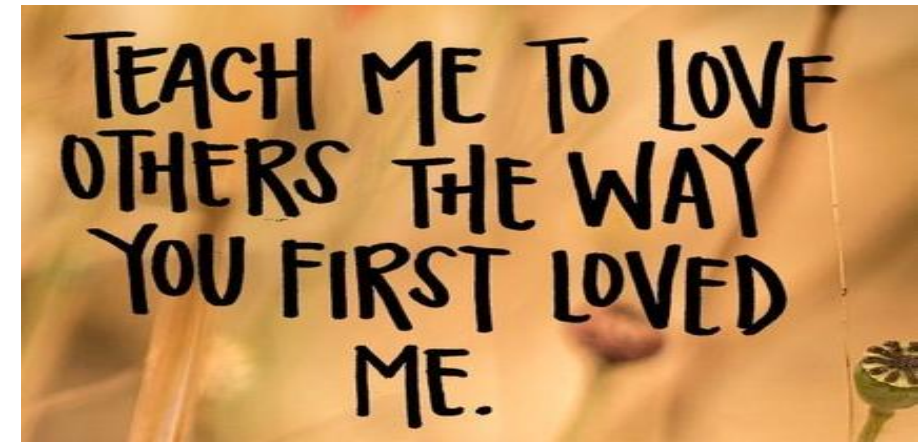
The background of the slide features a sunset scene with three crosses silhouetted against a bright orange and yellow sky. The crosses are positioned on a dark, silhouetted hill in the foreground.

God is Love: Everything God has done in our creation was motivated by His love for His children - even when we were ungodly sinners & enemies (Rom 5)

Understanding the love of God, and the love of Jesus in his struggle with Sin, should motivate us to love one another with God's type of love
(1 Cor 13)

Doctrinal teachings do affect our way of life.

How can we show God's love to each other



- **Admit we will all make mistakes and sin**, so look for ways to help each other recover and grow – like God, who Himself provided the way to forgive us
- **Be patient with each other** & their children
 - God gives us time to mature and develop – do the same for others
- **Be forgiving towards each other** – don't expect others to be perfect
 - God can forgive adultery, divorce, re-marriage, murder, stealing, drunkenness, idolatry – every sin today – can we?
- **Tolerate alternative pathways and methods** – like God does with us
 - God listens to our prayers and sometimes changes – we must be willing to listen and accommodate others when possible

Treat others the way God treats you!

The Process of becoming Born of God

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (ESV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.** For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**God is patiently changing our lives
and turning us into His children**

**God's love can be perfected in us
when we manifest His love to others**

1 John 4:12-16

12 No one has seen God at any time (*Jn 1:18*). **If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.** 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, **because He has given us of His Spirit.** 14 And we [*John*] have seen and testify that **the Father (*in his love*) has sent the Son as Savior of the world.** 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And **we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**

We must understand the Truth about Jesus to know the Love of God

God's love can be perfected in us

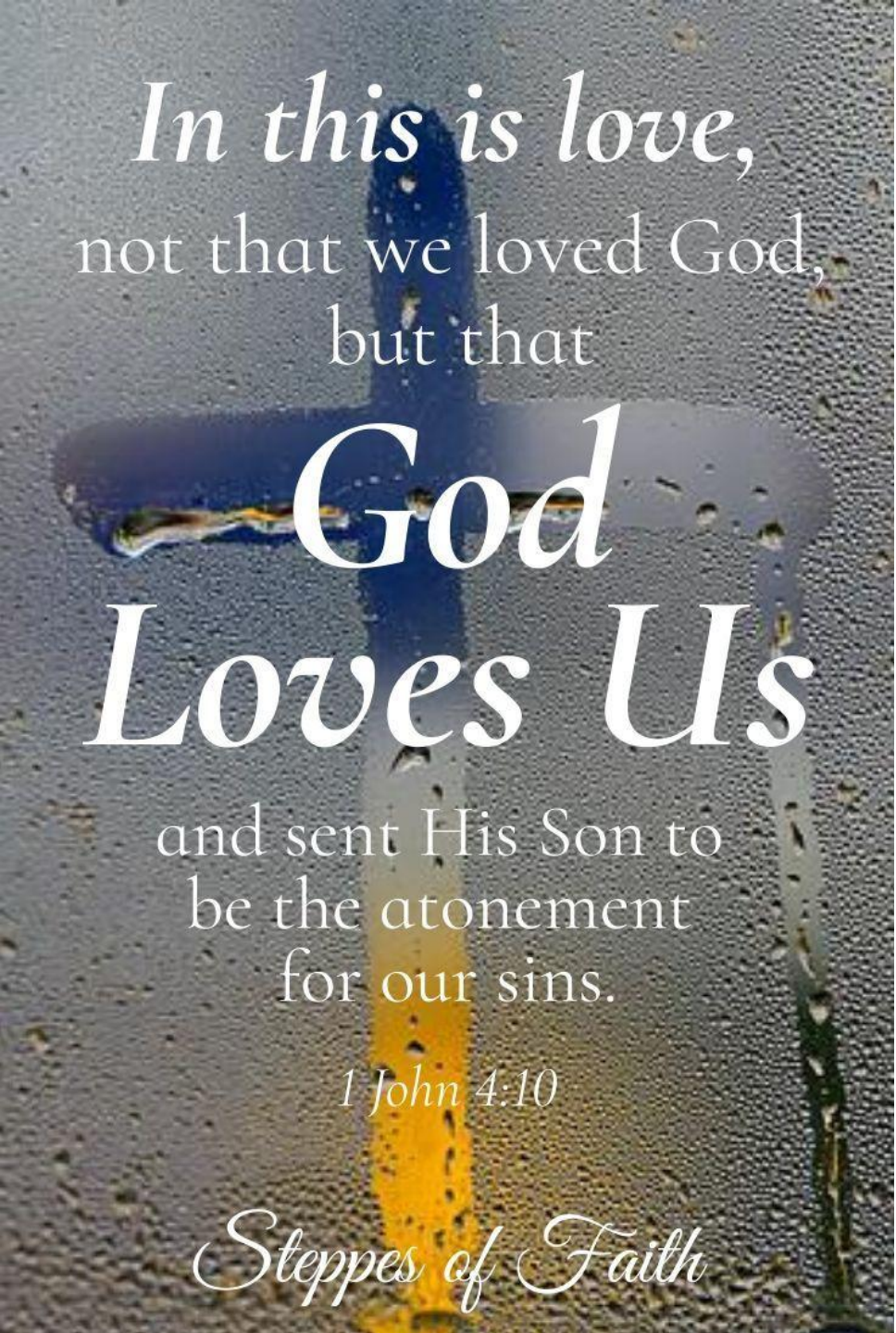
- **2:5** But whoever keeps His word, **truly the love of God is perfected in him.** By this we know that we are in Him.
6 **He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**
- **3:16** By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And **we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**
- **4:12-21** No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us....**16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 **By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment,** because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 **There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

**Nothing can
separate us
from the love
of God.**

Rom 8:39



A relationship based on love has no fear

A weathered wooden cross is mounted on a rough, grey stone wall. The cross is made of two simple wooden beams, with the horizontal beam showing signs of decay and peeling paint. The background is a textured stone wall with some moss or lichen visible.

*In this is love,
not that we loved God,
but that*

*God
Loves Us*

*and sent His Son to
be the atonement
for our sins.*

1 John 4:10

Steppes of Faith

**If we misunderstand
the nature of Jesus
and what he endured
to save us, we will not
understand the love of
God and we will lose
our motivation to love
one another**

No one has seen God, but
we can manifest His
character to others to let
them see our God in us



When God's love is perfected in us we have confidence and no longer fear the judgment

1 John 4:17-21 (ESV)

17 By this is love perfected with us, **so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment**, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 **There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.** 19 We love because he first loved us.

20 **If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.** 21 And **this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

Loving God & His family will cast out fear of judgment.

This is based on a relationship with God over time!

God doesn't want us to be motivated by fear

Matthew 25:24-26 CIB

²⁴ “Then the servant who got one bag of money came to the master. The servant said, ‘Master, I knew that you were a hard man. You harvest things you did not plant. You gather crops where you did not sow any seed.’ ²⁵ **So I was afraid.** I went and hid your money in the ground. Here is the bag of money you gave me.’ ²⁶ The master answered, ‘You are a bad and lazy servant! You say you knew that I harvest things I did not plant, and that I gather crops where I did not sow any seed?’

God wants us to be motivated by Love, not fear

Our confidence is in God: in His Love

- **John 3:16-18** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned;
- **John 5:24** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
- **Rom 8:35, 39** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?.....For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,.....nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



God proved to us He can save us by saving
Jesus and raising him to immortal life

We can have confidence in
God's Love for us!
We do not need to fear!

If God is for us, who can be
against us? (Rom 8)

We can approach the throne of Grace
with confidence in God (Heb 4)



So what is "the fear of the Lord"

In Hebrew, the root word **Yare** (יָרֵא, pronounced *ya-REH*) primarily translates to "**to fear**" or "**to be afraid**."

However, its exact meaning depends heavily on context:

- **Fear & Terror:** It can mean emotional trepidation, anxiety, or dread of a threatening situation or person.
- **Awe & Reverence:** In a religious or respectful context (such as the "*fear of the Lord*"), it implies *holy awe, profound respect, and deep reverence rather than cowering terror*.
- **Respect:** It is also used to describe honoring or respecting figures of authority, such as the commandment to revere one's parents.

You have to know the context!

The fear of
the Lord is the
beginning
of wisdom.

- Proverbs 9:10



No wonder angels usually say
“do not fear” when first
talking to God's children

Gen 15:1 angel to Abraham

Judges 6:23 to Gideon

Lk 1:13 to Zechariah

Lk 2:10 to shepherds

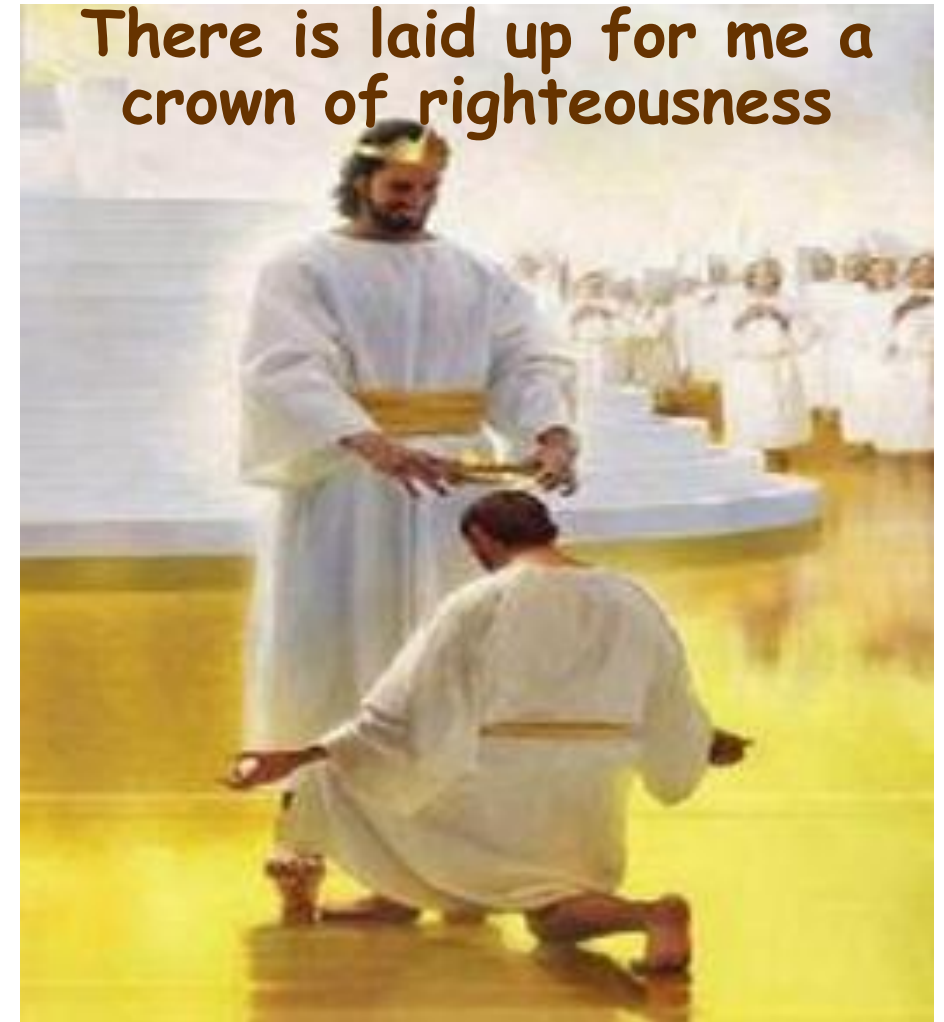
Mat 28:5 to the two Marys



How will you react when you finally meet Jesus?

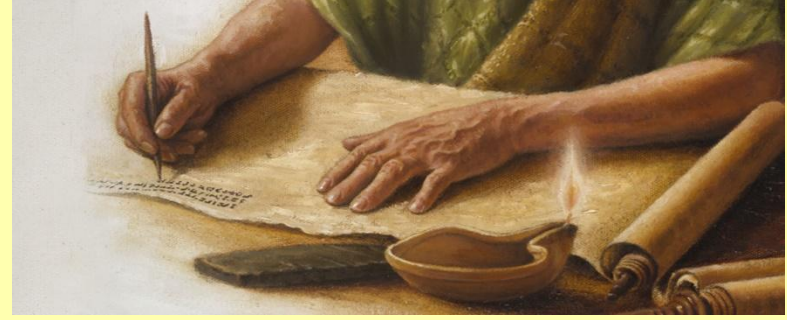


There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment



Our confidence is in God, who has promised to save us

John's Strategy in writing this Letter



4:1-6 God's Spirit teaches Jesus came in the flesh

4:7-11 God took the initiative & loved us first, now we must love one another

4:12-16 God's love can be perfected in us when we manifest His love one another

4:17-21 When God's love is perfected in us we can have confidence and no longer live motivated by fear.

**These are not just random thoughts.
There is a logical strategy to John's letter**

**Living God's
Eternal Life
Now (1 John)**

5) Our Confidence is in God

When we love, we will obey as children
born of God, living by faith

1 John 5:1-5 (ESV)

Everyone who believes *[who is faithing]* that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. *[now reverses]* 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments *[our love for each other must be patterned after our love for God]*. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And **his commandments are not burdensome** *[my yoke is easy and my burden is light"* (Mat 11:30)]. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And **this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.** 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except **the one who believes** *[is faithing]* that Jesus is the Son of God?

His commandments are not burdensome!

Born of God ("Born from above")

John 3:3 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again ["born from above" (YLT, NASBmg, NIVmg)], he cannot see the kingdom of God."



1 John 3:9 Whoever has been **born of God does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and **everyone who loves is born of God** and knows God.

1 John 5:1 Whoever **believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God**

1 John 5:4 For **whatever is born of God overcomes the world**. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

1 John 5:18 We know that **whoever is born of God does not sin**; but **he who has been born of God keeps himself**, and the wicked one does not touch him.

True conversion: A work of God's Spirit

His Commandments are not Burdensome

- Because our victory is already assured by God
- We learn to love righteousness and hate wickedness (Psa 45:7)
- Everyone born of God desires to live by faith – trusting God in everything
- **Matt 11:28** *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*



His commandments are not burdensome and we
will find rest & peace IF God's eternal way of
life is the life we really want!

Connection of Faith - Hope - Love

Faith: *About now!* Conviction that God is guiding our lives and our families, & will do what He promised which is impossible for us – save His family
(motivates us to obey God now)

Hope: *About future!* Confident expectation that God will include us in His immortal family *(motivates us to keep going for a better future)*

Love: *Relationship!* An intense feeling of deep affection that causes us to do for God & others because we really care for them, even if it costs us.
[motivates us now and forever! God loves us, we love God, we love one another]

We live now by **faith** trusting what God brings into our lives, **hoping** for God's future reward of joining His immortal family, through **love** serving one another, because we have come to experience **God's love** for us.

“remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father” (1 Thess 1:3-4)

As the waves of life pound against us....

**Now to Him who is able to keep you from
stumbling, and to present you faultless before the
presence of His glory with exceeding joy (Jude 24)**



Three witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God

1 John 5:6-8

6 This is He who came by **water** [*Jesus was baptized – not some spirit*] and **blood** [*Jesus really died – his spirit did not ascend*] — Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the **Spirit** who bears witness [*thru miracles & gifts*], because the Spirit is truth. 7 For **there are three that bear witness** ~~in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.~~ 8 ~~And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.~~

**These 3 all agree that God was in Christ
reconciling the world to Himself**

3 Witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God

**The Water: “You are
My beloved Son”**



**The Blood: “Truly this
was the Son of God”**

**The Spirit: “we are
witnesses to these things,
and so is the Holy Spirit”**



The spurious words of 1 Jn 5:7-8

- **Found only in eight late manuscripts**, four of which have the words in a marginal note.
- **Most of these manuscripts** (2318, 221, and [with minor variations] 61, 88, 429, 629, 636, and 918) originate from the 16th century;
- **The earliest manuscript**, codex 221 (10th century), includes the reading in a marginal note which was added sometime after the original composition. Thus, *there is no sure evidence of this reading in any Greek manuscript until the 1500s*



Most modern versions leave these word out

God has born witness to His eternal life
in Jesus & in us

1 John 5:9-14

9 If we receive the witness of men, **the witness of God is greater;** for this is **the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.** 10 He who believes *[is faithing]* in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar *[1:10]*, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. 11 And this is the testimony: **that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.** 12 **He who has the Son has life;** he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things **I have written to you who believe** in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and **that you may continue to believe** in the name of the Son of God.

We have eternal life now – live it, don't change!

What's the
point of all
the rituals?



Faith
Leading
to obedience,
Salvation by Grace

God designed
them to lead us
to obedience
based on
faith



Baptism, breaking bread
Sacrifices & Law rituals
Feast Days, Circumcision



John's Gospel:
Jesus manifested
the Father



The Revealing
of God's
eternal life
in people



John's Letter: We must
manifest the Father

Living God's
Eternal Life
Now (1 John)

Living God's eternal life brings us confidence
that God hears us & is working in our lives

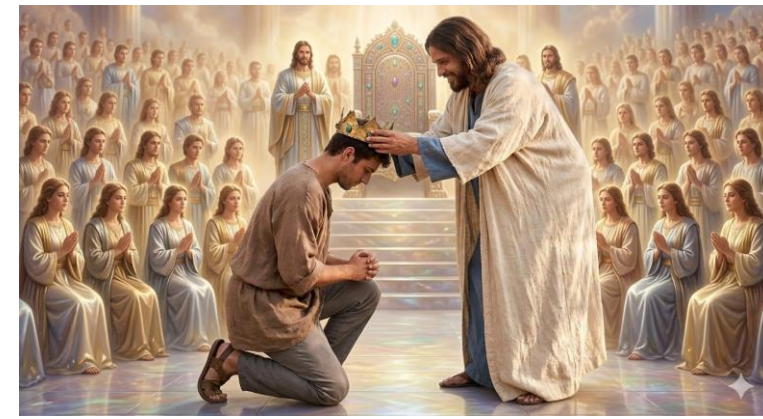
1 John 5:14-17

14 Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us**. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

As Jesus said: "your will, not mine, be done"

We can have Confidence in God's ability to do what He has promised



1 Jn 2:28 abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have **confidence** and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have **confidence** toward God.

1 John 4:17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have **confidence** for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

1 John 5:14 Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Just like Jesus, our confidence is in God and we put no confidence in the flesh (Phil 3:3)

The Benefits of CoVid 19

- **Provided an opportunity to re-evaluate our lives** – what really is important?
- **Taught us to learn new ways** & adapt
- **Showed us we can use technology** to assist many others who cannot attend meetings
- **Allowed us to get to know many others** on Zoom, possible help them, and broaden our perspective on ecclesial life
- **Taught us to be thankful for what we have** – God can very quickly make it disappear!



**Try to understand what God
was trying to teach us**

Sin Leading to Death

1) blasphemy against the Spirit – attributing God's miraculous power to idols or demons, OR 2) walking away after enlightenment.

Mk 3:29 but he who **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** never has forgiveness, but is **subject to eternal condemnation**" — because they said, "He has an unclean spirit." *[But - Jesus' brothers, Paul]*



Acts 5:3-10 Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?..... 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?"

Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Ja 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Walking away from God's enlightenment

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

God loves us, but also holds us accountable for walking away

Sins leading to Death

- **2 Peter 2:20-21** For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.
-

O.T. Examples of "sin unto death"

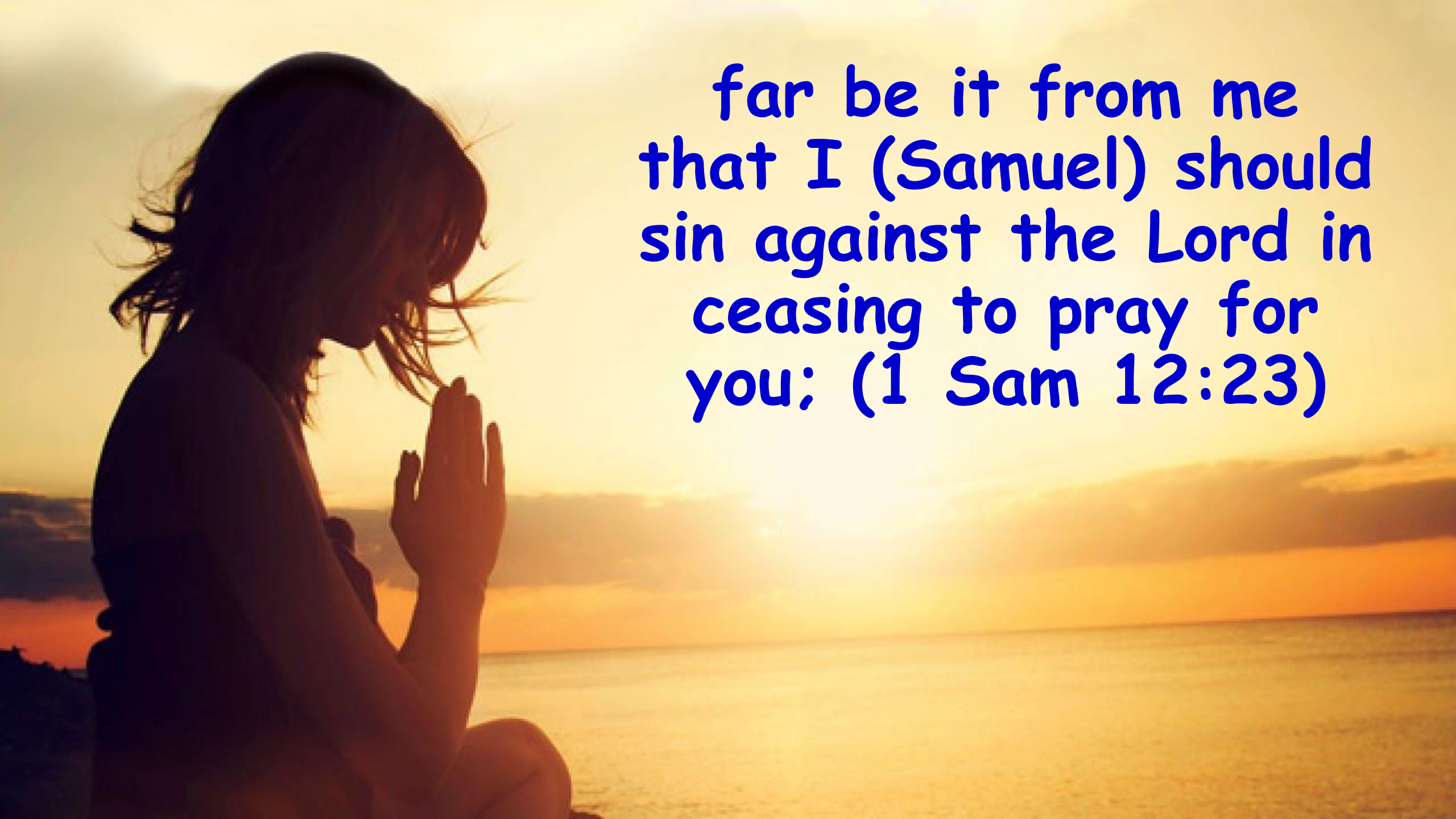
- **Cain (Gen 4)** walked away from the presence of the Lord
- **Whole generation (Num 14:22)** They saw God's glory & signs, but did not believe
- **Achan (Josh 7)** Witnessed God's miracles, but tried to hide his sins
- **Korah (Num 16)** Saw God's power, but rebelled for personal gain

God does hold His people accountable for walking away after enlightenment



We should not pray
God will forgive them
yet, but we can pray
that God will intervene
in their lives to turn
them around - while
there is hope!





far be it from me
that I (Samuel) should
sin against the Lord in
ceasing to pray for
you; (1 Sam 12:23)

We know! - don't stray from God's Truth

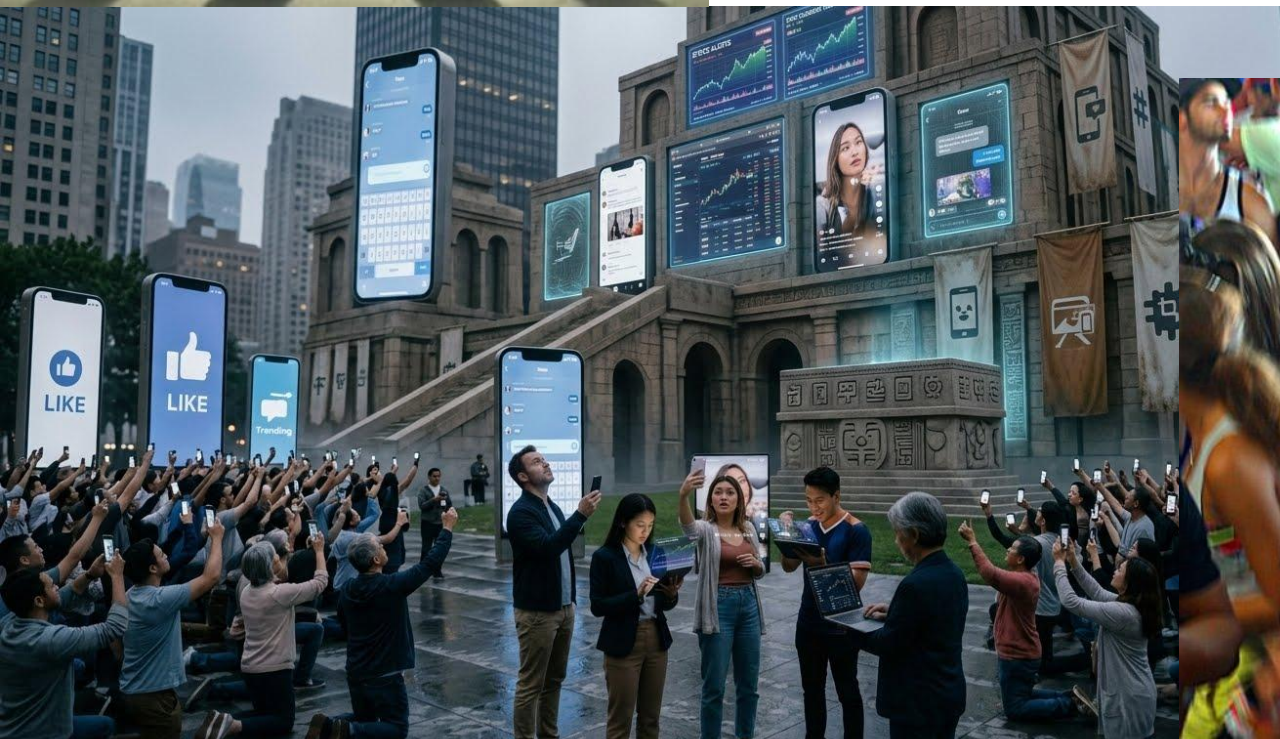
1 John 5:18-21

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and **has given us an understanding**, that we may know Him who is true; and **we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.** 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

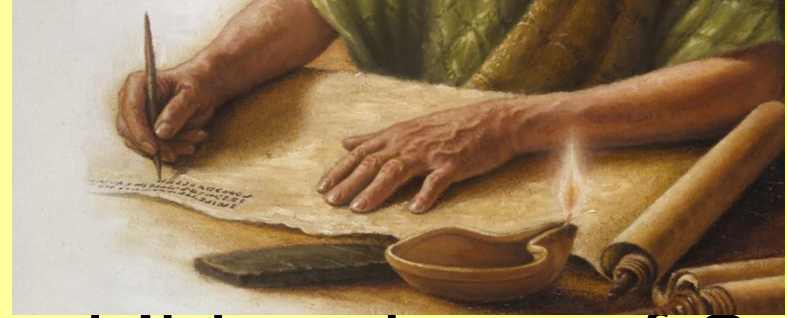
**Idolatry (in all it's forms) leads us
away from God's eternal way of life**



The idols of today



John's Strategy in writing this Letter



5:1-5 When we love, we will obey as children born of God, living by faith.

5:6-8 There are 3 witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God

5:9-13 God has born witness to His eternal life that was in Jesus and is in us

5:14-17 Living God's eternal life gives us confidence that God hears us and is working in our lives

5:18-21 We know that what God has taught us is truth – stick with it - don't be led astray by new ideas.

These are not just random thoughts.

There is a logical strategy to John's letter

**May the Love of God motivate you to live in Jesus,
love one another, and give you confidence that
He can present you without blemish
at the day of Christ**

