



Embracing the Cross through Brokenness

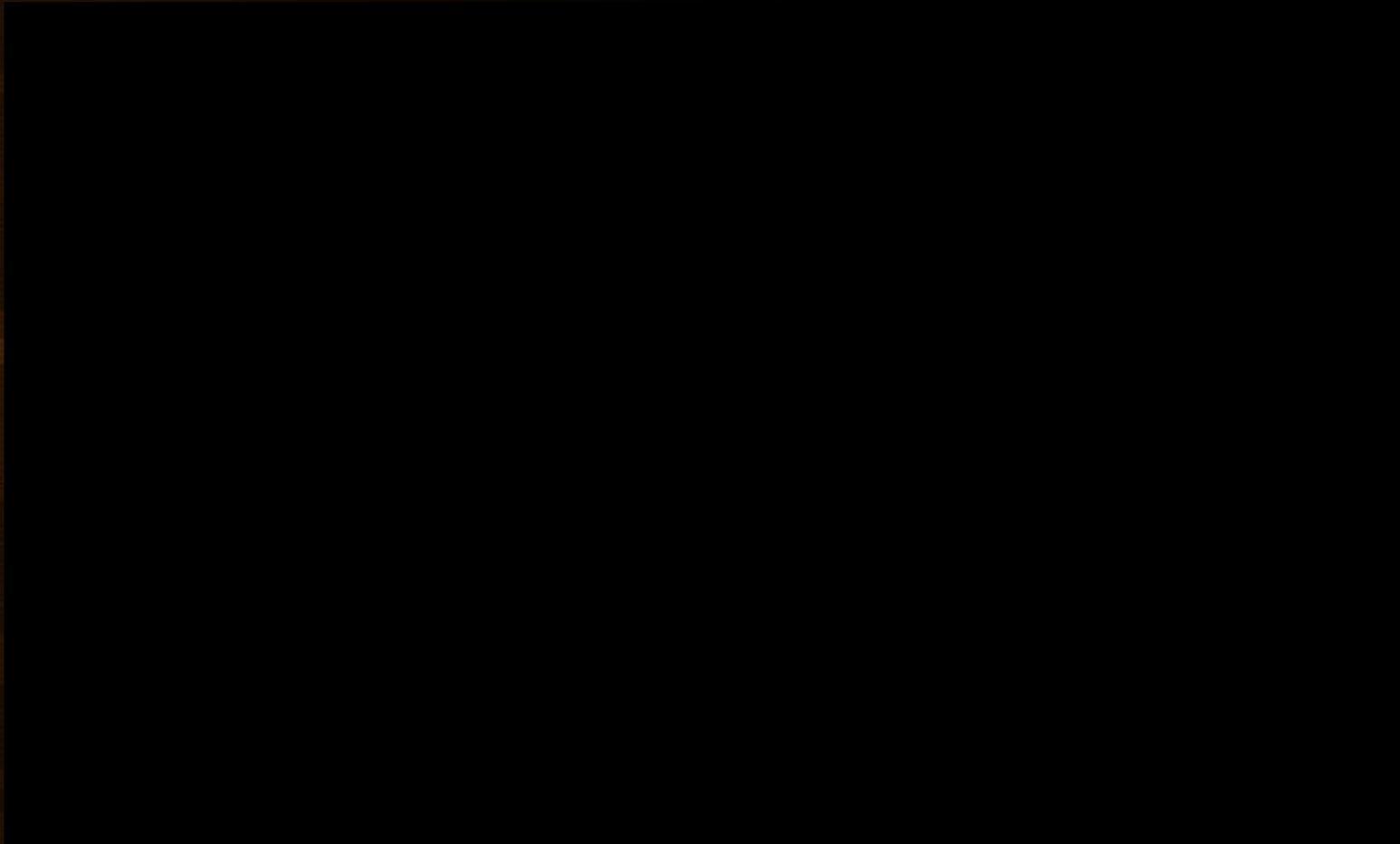
The Marketplace Call

Os Hillman



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Embracing the Cross Requires One Thing



Three Traveling Merchants





Brokenness Is God's Method of Making Spiritual Deposits Into Our Lives

I will give you the treasures of darkness,
hidden riches in secret places,
That you may know I, the Lord, Who calls
you by name -Isa 45:3

7 Year's of Deposits

The Cross is the Foundation for Every Believer's Call

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the **death of the cross**. Phil 2:5-9

The cross is a sign of adoption

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. 1 Peter 1:6-8

3 Reasons we will encounter the cross

- 1) Sin
- 2) Generational Sin (subconscious, strongholds – 2 Cor 10:4)
- 3) Calling

Abrupt events can often signal a new calling. i.e. King Saul – lost donkeys

Early signs you are experiencing the cross

- “Why am I going through this?”
- “This makes no sense, God. I’m not in sin! Why is this happening to me?”
- “My world is falling apart.”
- “I feel like I’m in a freefall and have nothing to hang onto. I can’t control anything.”
- “It’s not true! How could they think such lies!?”
- “How could he/she betray me like this?”

Stages of the cross

- Black Hole – out of control
- Desert - isolation
- Restoration - fulfillment

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Rom 6:4

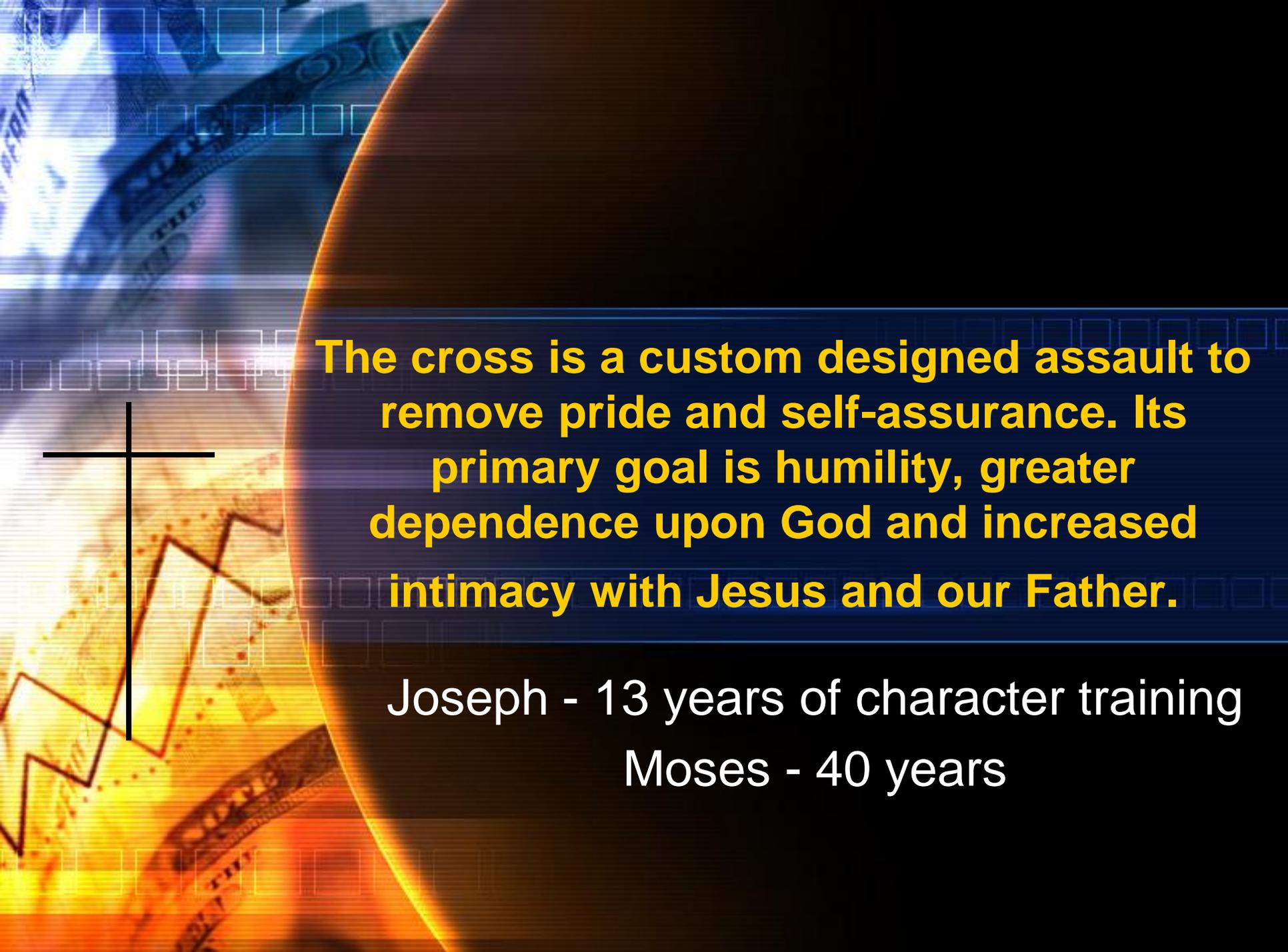


**The cross is painful,
bloody and very personal.**

Common Attributes

Removal of . . .

- relationships
- resources
- predictable circumstances
- everything you receive comfort and strength from



The cross is a custom designed assault to remove pride and self-assurance. Its primary goal is humility, greater dependence upon God and increased intimacy with Jesus and our Father.

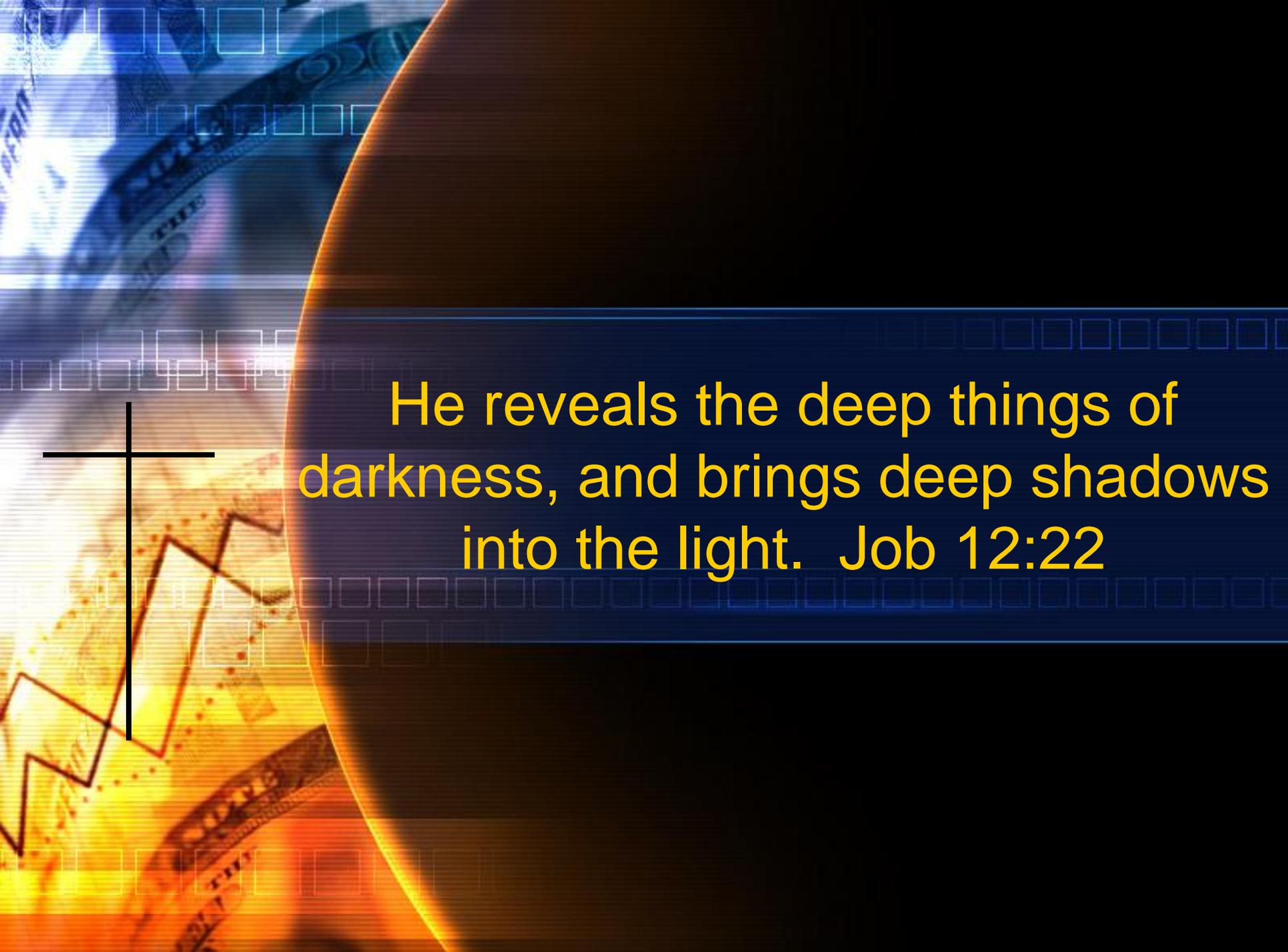
Joseph - 13 years of character training
Moses - 40 years



God Turns Messes
Into Messages

John Bunyan, Pilgrim's Progress

- Grew up in poverty and taught himself to read.
- Struggled with feelings of not being forgiven by God.
- Wife died of a sudden illness.
- Imprisoned 12 years for preaching without a license.
- Experienced God's presence in a special way while he was in prison.
- The Pilgrim's Progress was a book that could only have been written by a soul that was refined by the fires of adversity.



He reveals the deep things of
darkness, and brings deep shadows
into the light. Job 12:22



Cross becomes your authority

Walking successfully through your season of the cross gives you the authority to minister the message God deposits into your life during that season.

The level of adversity is always corresponds to the level of call. This defines the depth and width of the ministry He plans through your life.

Get all God desires for you to get

- It is very important to get all the jewels of the process of the cross He takes you through. If you do not successfully walk through this season You will be disqualified to minister from that place.
- It is what you gain in your cross experience that will determine the fruit.



Michael Molinos, 1600s

“The first darkness is that which comes from sin. It is a darkness that is filled with unhappiness and leads the Christian to eternal death. The second kind of darkness is darkness which the Lord allows within our inward part in order to establish and settle virtue.

This is a happy darkness because it illuminates your inward spirit, strengthens it and gives it greater light. I would have you see these times of darkness as a happy darkness, a darkness in which you should persevere in your inward pursuit.”

Michael Molinos, 1600s

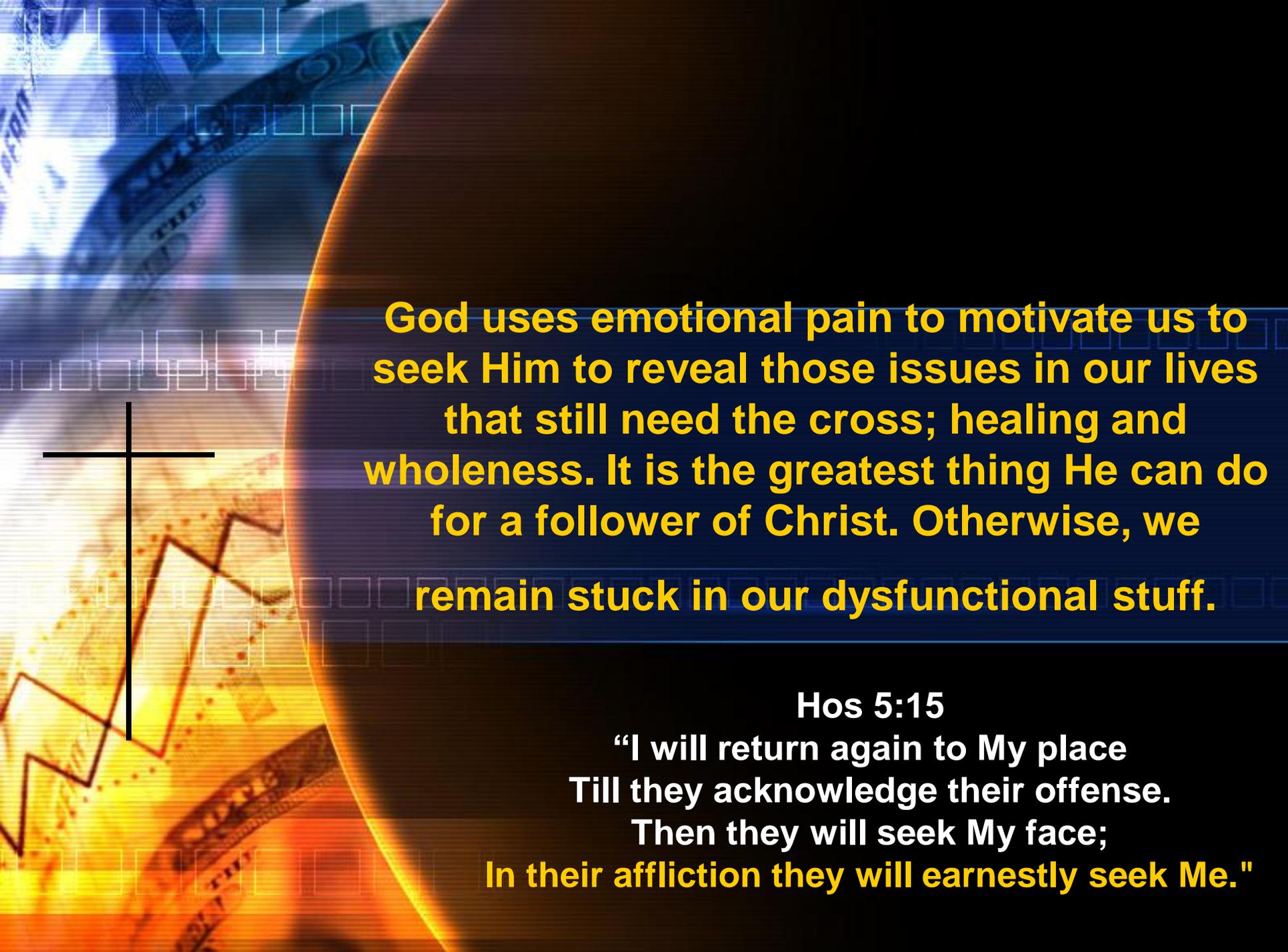
“It is a manifest sign that God, in His infinite mercy, is seeking to bring you into the inward path. How good will be the results, dear friend, if you will but simply embrace these times with grace and with resignation! Such times are for your spiritual good. **These times of darkness do not slow you down in your journey toward Him! They may seem to, but in fact they hasten you toward the final point of your journey”**

Overcoming is not always good

Some of us are such good survivalists that we have not been brought low enough to learn the most important Kingdom lessons of the cross – humility and brokenness.

“I would kill you myself if I could.”

Mentor

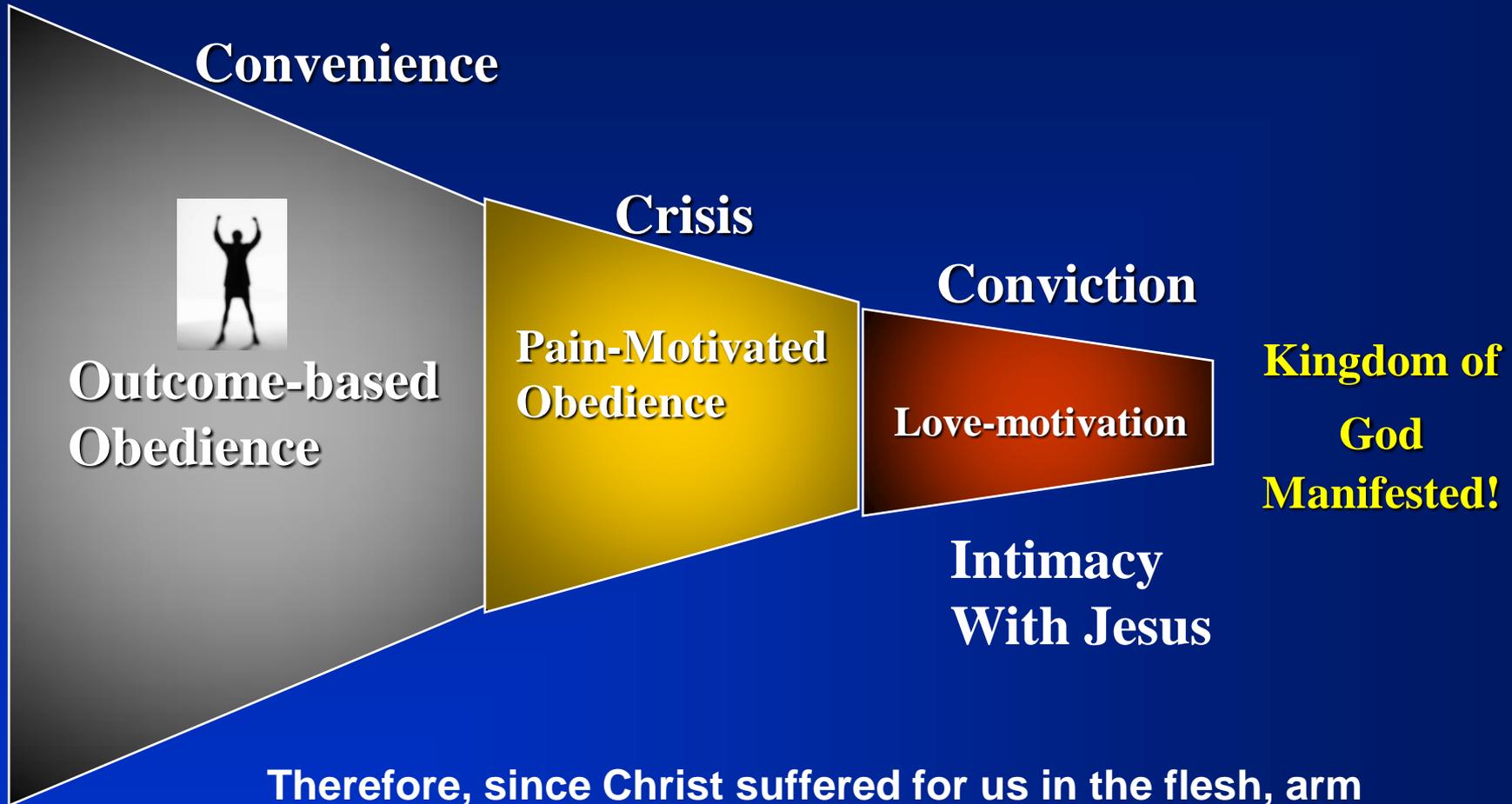


God uses emotional pain to motivate us to seek Him to reveal those issues in our lives that still need the cross; healing and wholeness. It is the greatest thing He can do for a follower of Christ. Otherwise, we remain stuck in our dysfunctional stuff.

Hos 5:15

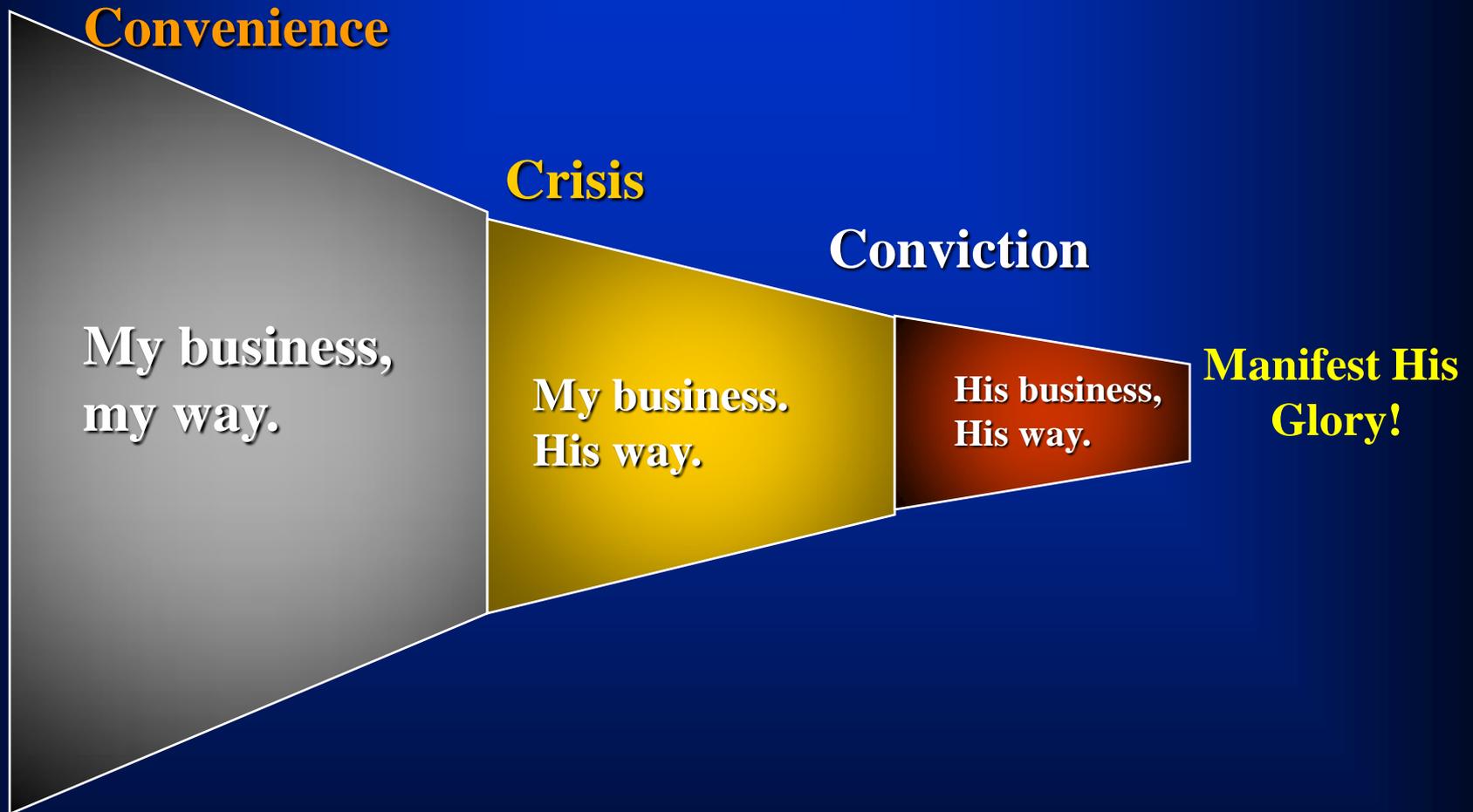
**“I will return again to My place
Till they acknowledge their offense.
Then they will seek My face;
In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”**

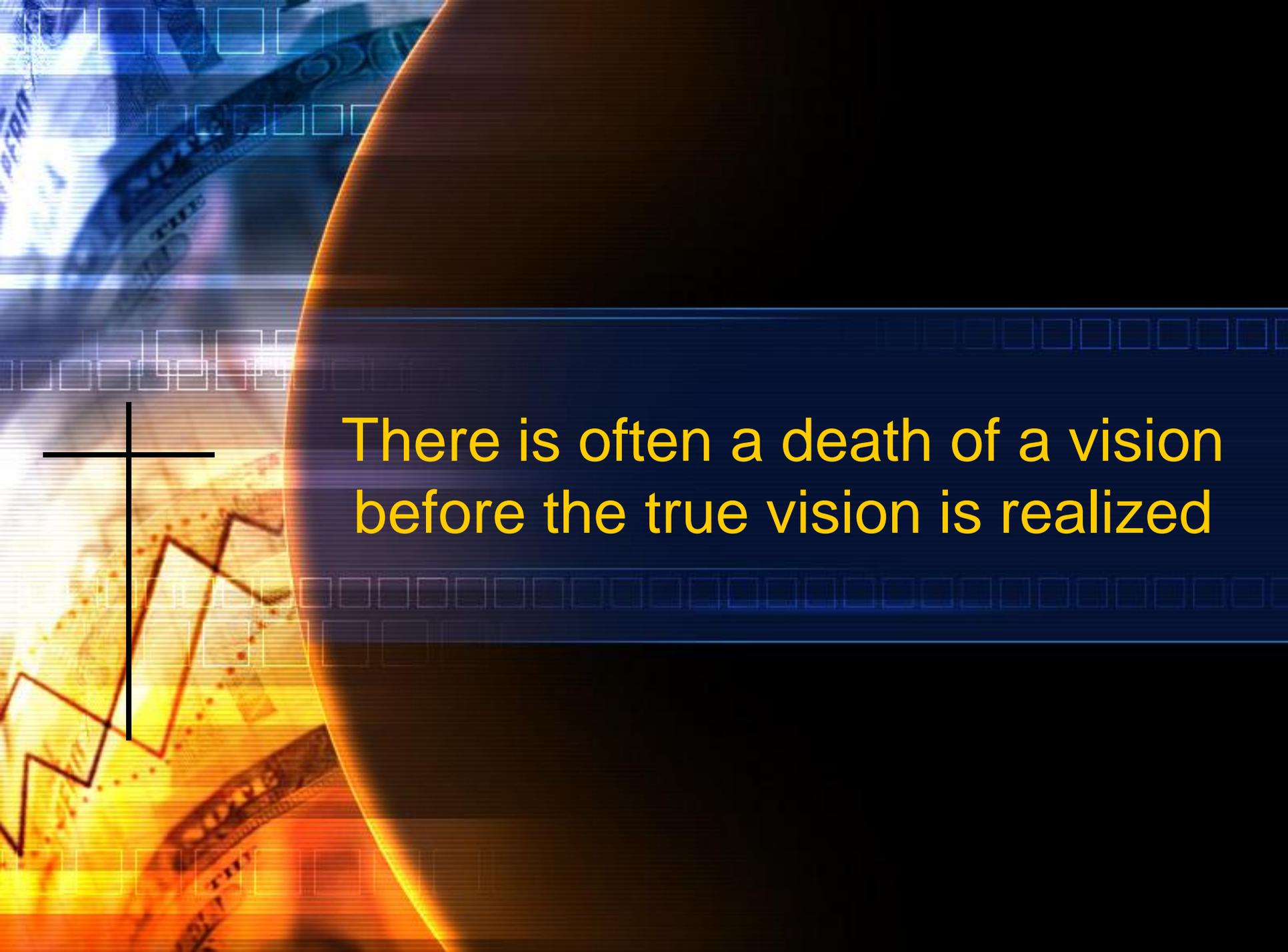
3 Phase Obedience Cycle



Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 1 Peter 4:1-3

3 Phase Obedience Cycle Business Owners





There is often a death of a vision
before the true vision is realized

Death and Resurrection Principle in the Bible

Abraham • (Ishmail) Isaac

Joseph • Dream

Disciples • Earthly Kingdom

Moses tried to deliver his people through Egyptian way. Banished 40 years

- God has to disqualify you from thinking you are qualified for the mission He has for you. i.e. Moses, Joseph 40 and 13 years of preparation
- Moses spent his first 40 years thinking he was somebody.
- He spent his next 40 years learning he was nobody
- He spent his third 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody.“

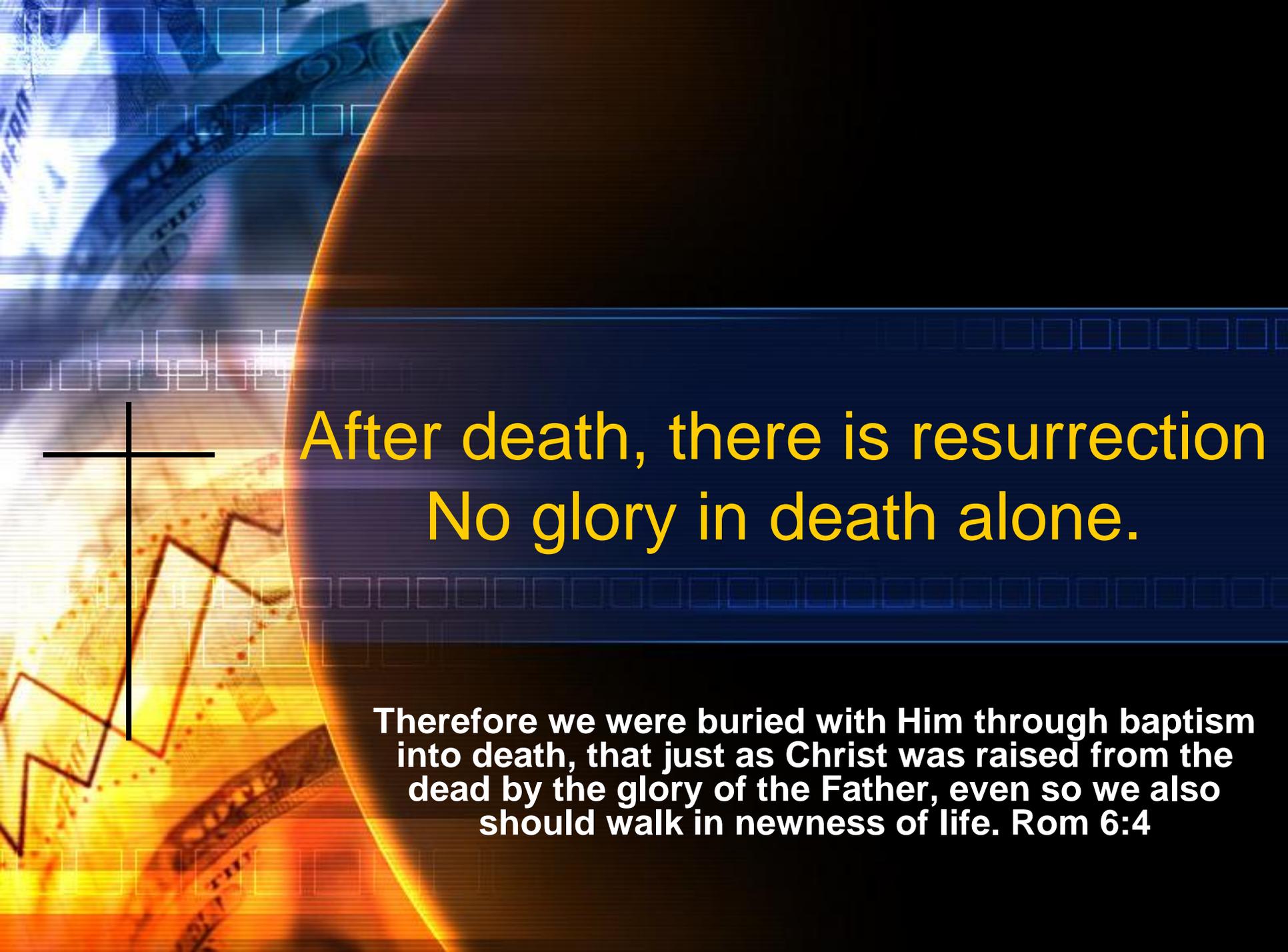
D.L. Moody



The Greater the Call, the Greater the Scrutiny

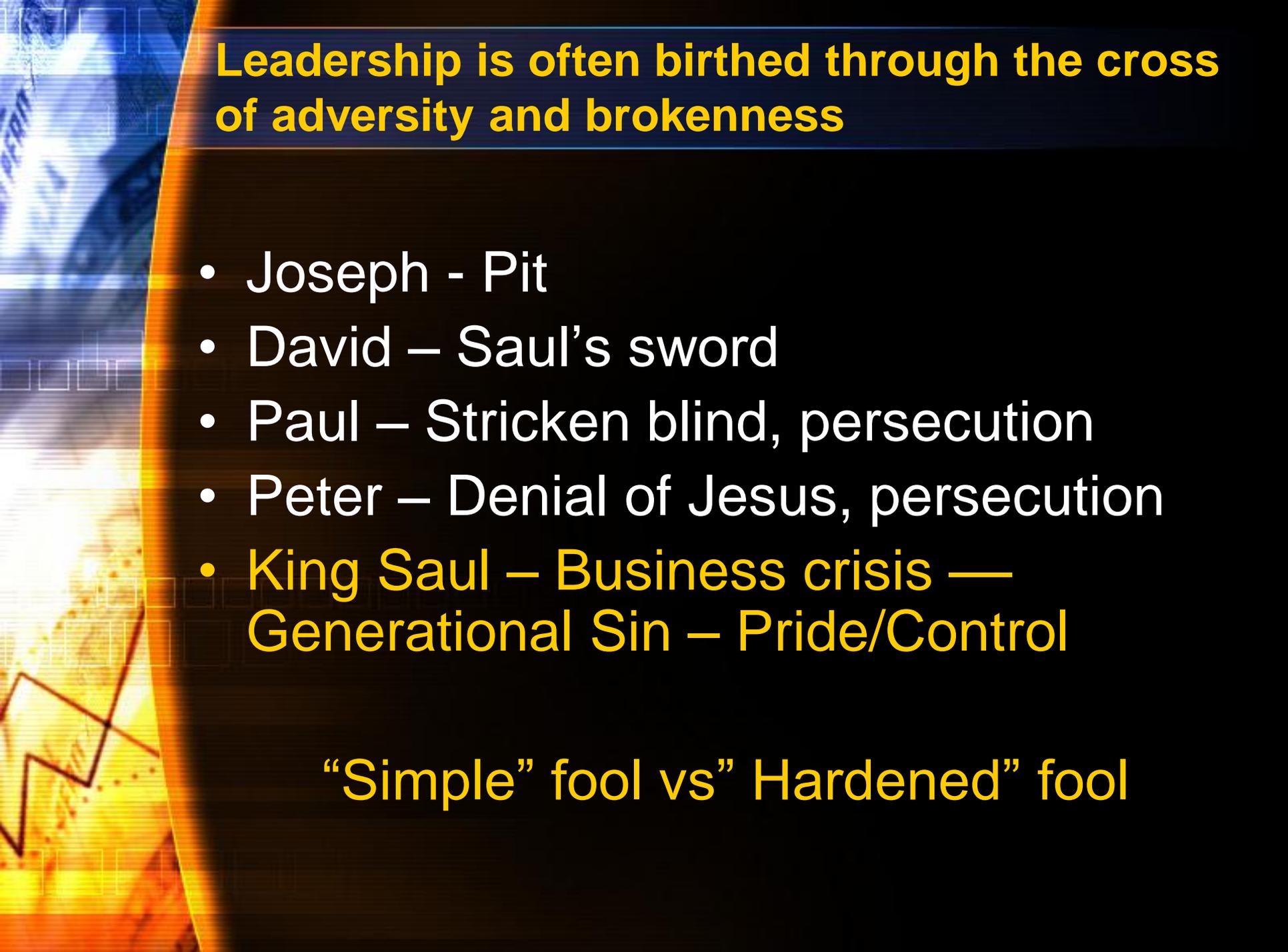
Moses - circumcision

David - Uzzah, counting troops



After death, there is resurrection
No glory in death alone.

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Rom 6:4



Leadership is often birthed through the cross of adversity and brokenness

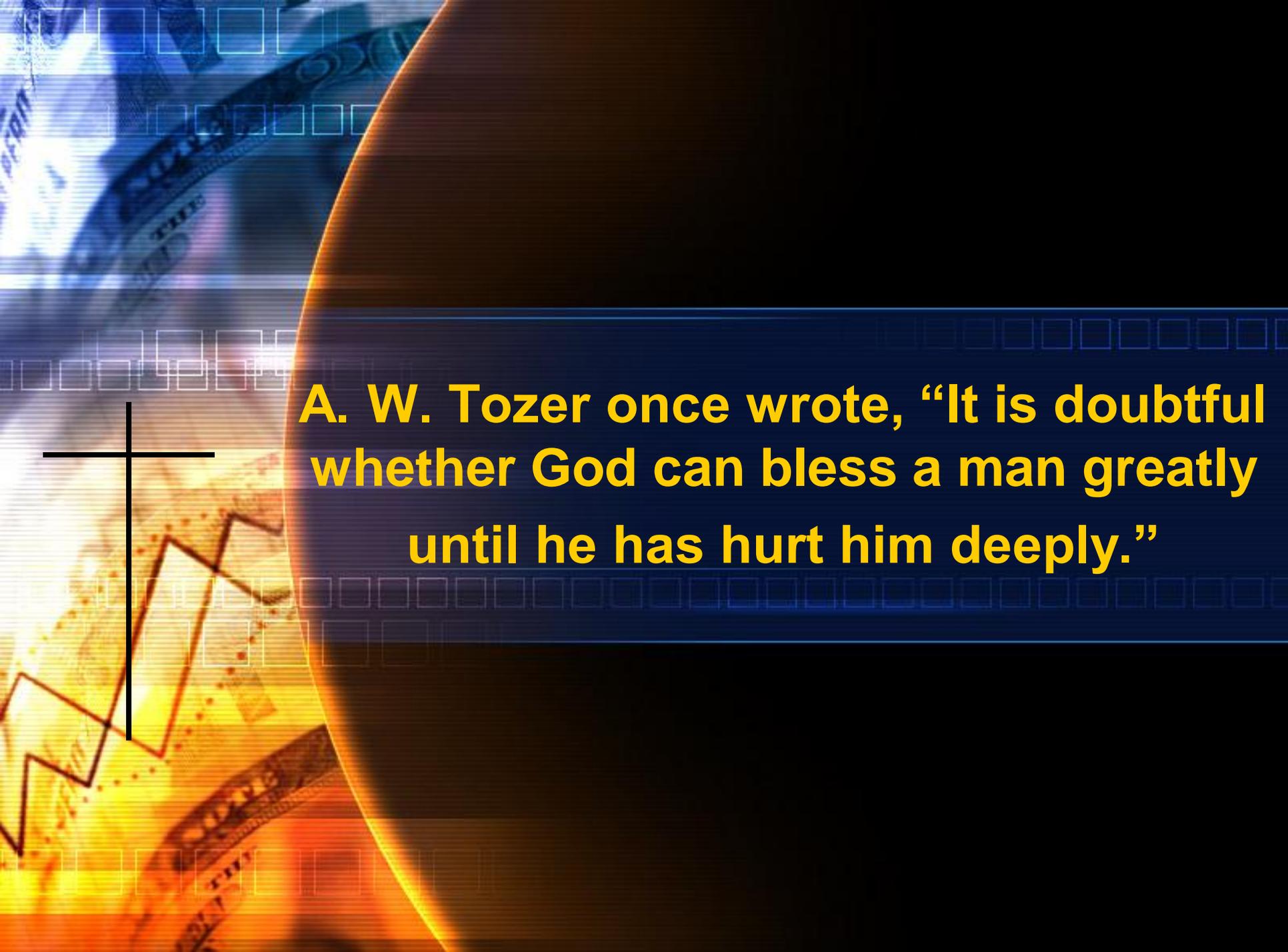
- Joseph - Pit
- David – Saul’s sword
- Paul – Stricken blind, persecution
- Peter – Denial of Jesus, persecution
- **King Saul – Business crisis —
Generational Sin – Pride/Control**

“Simple” fool vs” Hardened” fool



Birthing of new things is often out of dark places

- Genesis 15:12 says “a thick and dreadful darkness came over” Abram.
- It is in the depths of that strange and terrible darkness that God tells Abram his descendents will one day be slaves in a strange country, but they will come out of that nation with great possessions and return to the land that we now call the Holy Land.



A. W. Tozer once wrote, “It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until he has hurt him deeply.”

A. W. Tozer

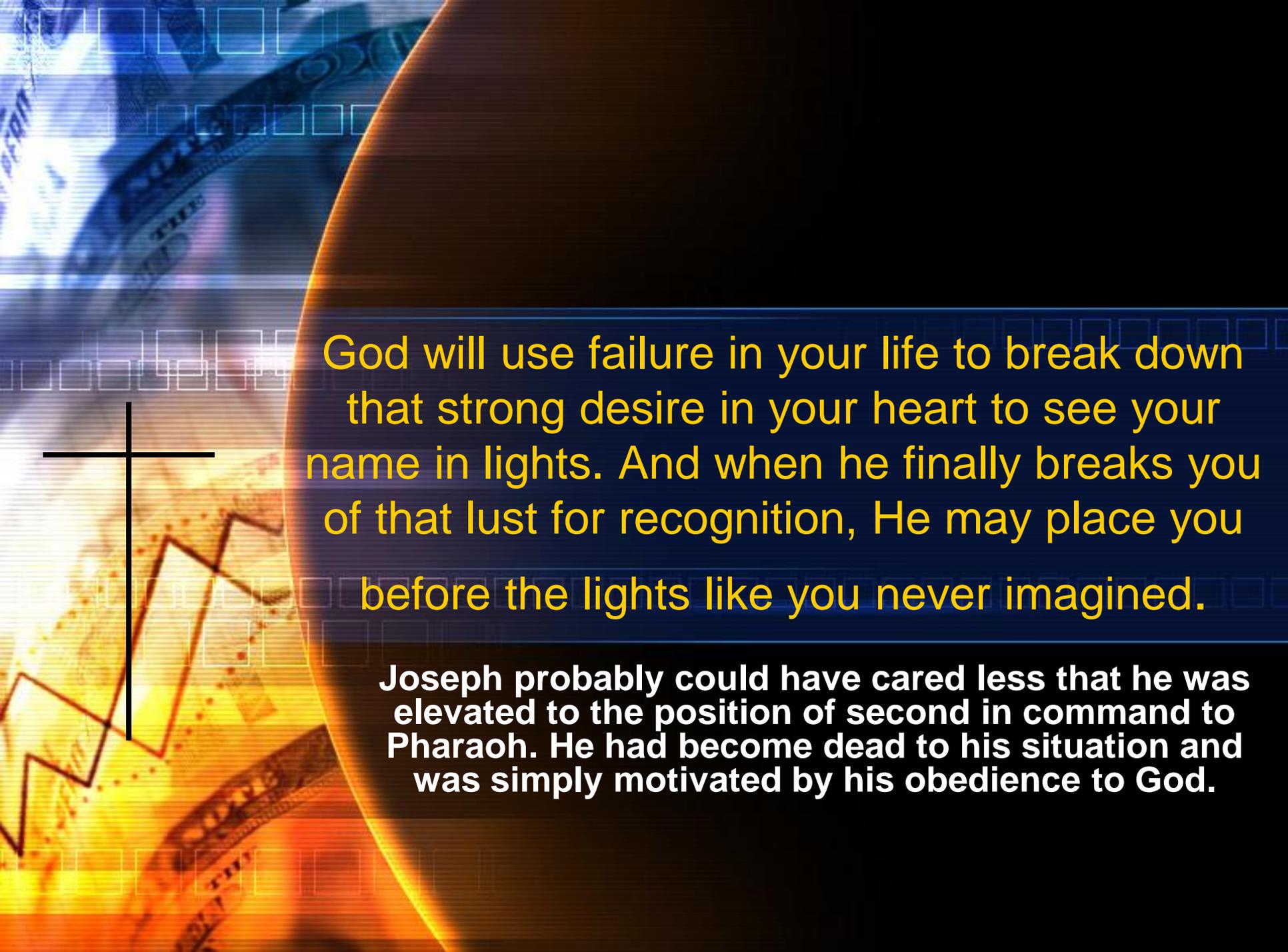
“A true and safe leader is likely one who has no desire to lead, but is forced into a position of leadership by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit and by the pressure of an external situation.”

–Brave Heart, William Wallace

Martin Luther

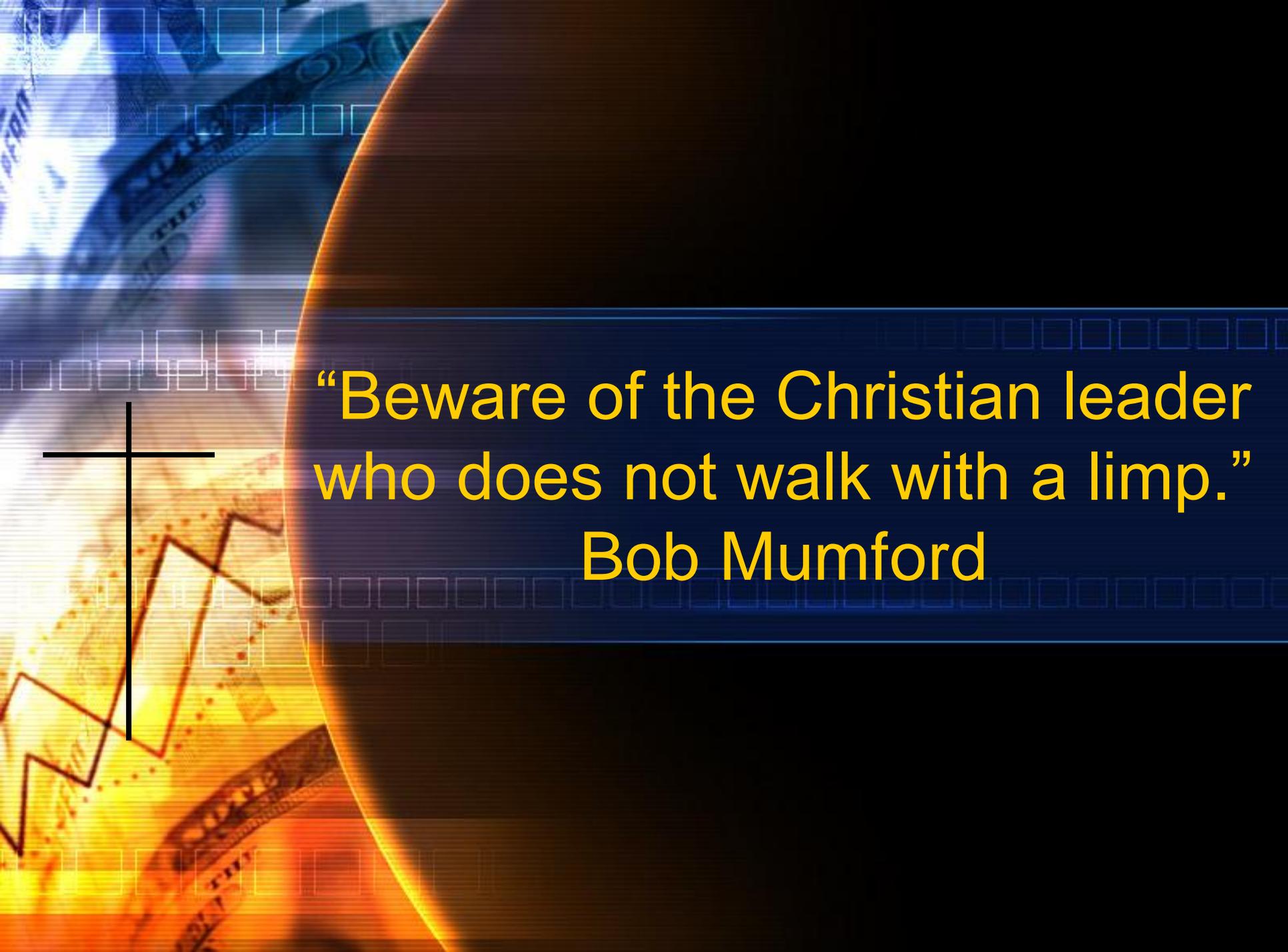
Martin Luther was surprised to be used by God to reform the Church. Luther was simply struggling for salvation before God, and was the most surprised person to set off the cataclysmic 16th century movement we now simply call, the Reformation.

TGIF and FW movement



God will use failure in your life to break down that strong desire in your heart to see your name in lights. And when he finally breaks you of that lust for recognition, He may place you before the lights like you never imagined.

Joseph probably could have cared less that he was elevated to the position of second in command to Pharaoh. He had become dead to his situation and was simply motivated by his obedience to God.



**“Beware of the Christian leader
who does not walk with a limp.”
Bob Mumford**

Embracing the Cross is a Key to Nation Transformation

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego Understood the Cross

- They drew the line in the sand. As a result they were willing to die for their faith.
- When God delivered, God was honored in their nation and His name was even legally protected.
- They were elevated in influence and authority in their nation.

There is a line in the sand for every leader at the top of mountains that you must know.

The Joseph Calling?

Signified by great adversity.

1. Spiritual provider. 2. Physical provider.



Indicators

- Your life, like Joseph, is forever going to be associated with the adversity you went through by others.
- Severe adversity, remarkable restoration for influence.
- Spiritual & Physical provider.
- Influence over resources

Each of Joseph's 4 Tests Moved Him Toward Fulfillment of God's Ultimate Purpose for His Life

Matt 6:14-15

But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.



**"...til the Word of the Lord proved him true."
(Ps.105:19)**



Failure and Calling



Failure is one of the major tools God uses to learn the lessons of the cross.

God wants to crucify the success model most of us operate from

- **Abraham failed to wait for the promised son.**
- **Moses attempted deliverance of his people through the Egyptian model**
- **David failed by committing adultery and murder**
- **Peter failed to love Jesus and denied Him three times.**

Abraham Lincoln

- Failed in business at 31.
- Defeated for legislature at 33.
- Again failed at business at 33.
- Elected to legislature at 34.
- Sweetheart died at 35. Nervous breakdown at 43.
- Defeated for Congress at 46.
- Defeated for Congress at 48.
- Elected President of the United States at 51.

Ps 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city,
The watchman stays awake in vain.

Zech 4:6-7

So he answered and said to me:

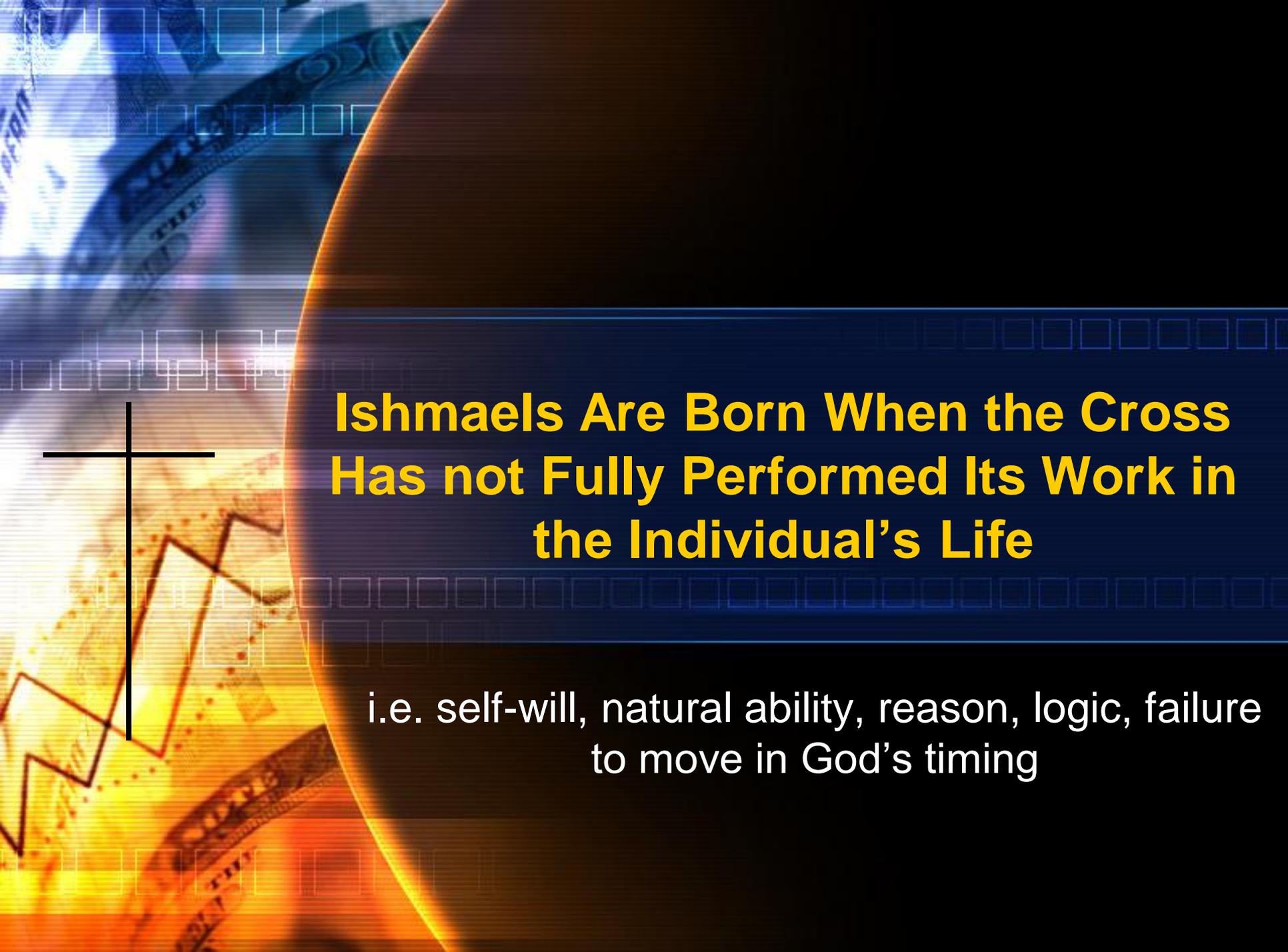
"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'
Says the Lord of hosts. 'Who are you, O
great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall
become a plain!"



The Role Failure Plays in Our Destinies

“Success is moving from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.”

Winston Churchill



**Ishmaels Are Born When the Cross
Has not Fully Performed Its Work in
the Individual's Life**

i.e. self-will, natural ability, reason, logic, failure
to move in God's timing



**When God is in it, it flows.
When the flesh is in it,
it's forced**

CIB vs TGIF



**The Cross Means
Moving in God's Timing,
Not Ours**

Oswald Chambers

When God gives a vision and darkness follows, waiting on God will bring you into accord with the vision He has given if you await His timing.

Otherwise, you try to do away with the supernatural in God's undertakings. Never try to help God fulfill His word.

The Cross Means Moving in God's Timing

- David waited for God to elevate him to be king and willed himself to wait for God's perfect timing for God to fulfill His promise to him.
- Jesus waited for the right timing to fulfill his purpose. His followers wanted him to fulfill a purpose that was not God's purpose.

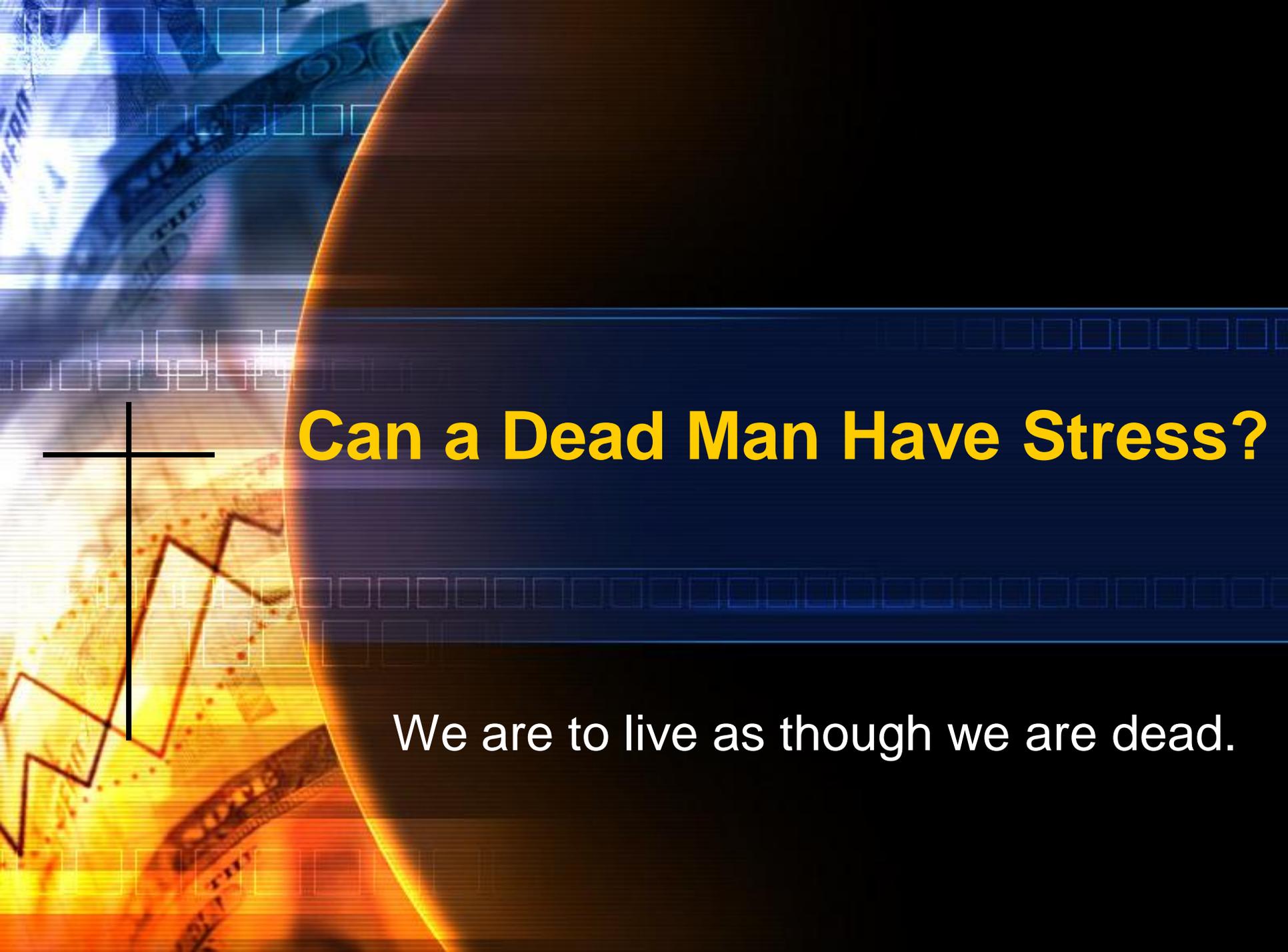
Samuel Morse

- **Born in 1791**
- **Morse grew up desiring to be an artist,**
- **it was difficult to make a living as an artist in America during that time.**
- **Wife died; then his mother and father also died soon after.**
- **He went to Europe to paint and reflect on his life. On his return trip aboard a ship, he was captivated by discussions at dinner about new experiments in electromagnetism.**

Samuel Morse

- **During that important occasion, Morse made the following comment, "If the presence of electricity can be made visible in any part of the circuit, I see no reason why intelligence may not be transmitted by electricity."**
- **In the face of many difficulties and disappointments, he determinedly perfected a new invention, and, in 1837, applied for a patent that became what we know today as the telegraph. He also created Morse code. It was only later, after many more setbacks and disappointments, that his projects received funding.**

- 
- “ I will wait patiently for the direction of Providence.”
 - Morse went on to create several other inventions and can be recognized today as the father of faxes, modems, e-mail, the internet and other electronic communication.



Can a Dead Man Have Stress?

We are to live as though we are dead.

Rom 6:11-12

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- A dead man can't have stress.
- A dead man can't get offended.
- A dead man has no pride or ego.
- A dead man can't sin.

Jesus had emotion but did not sin.

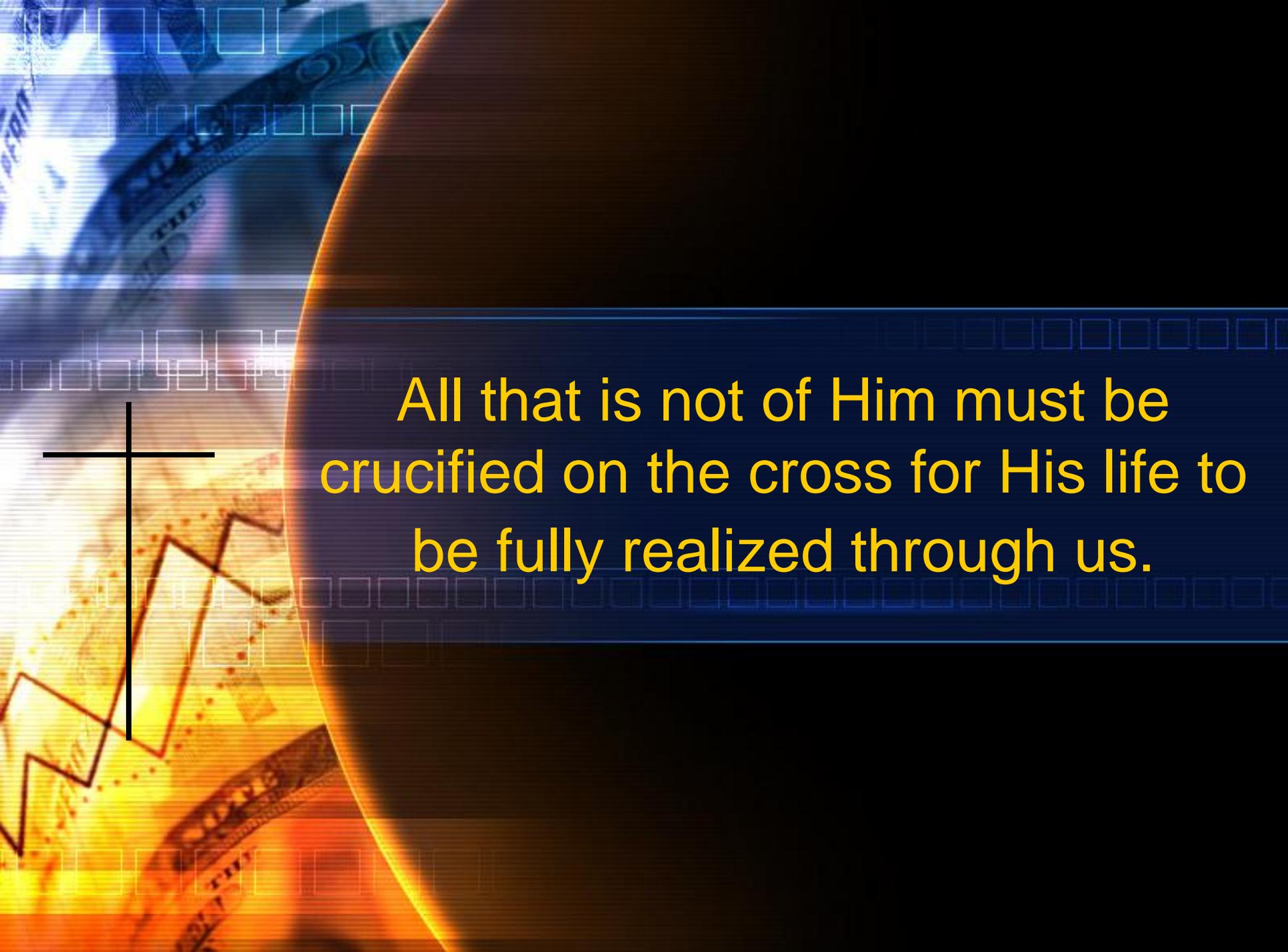
Paul's perspective on his cross

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body (2 Cor. 4:8-10).

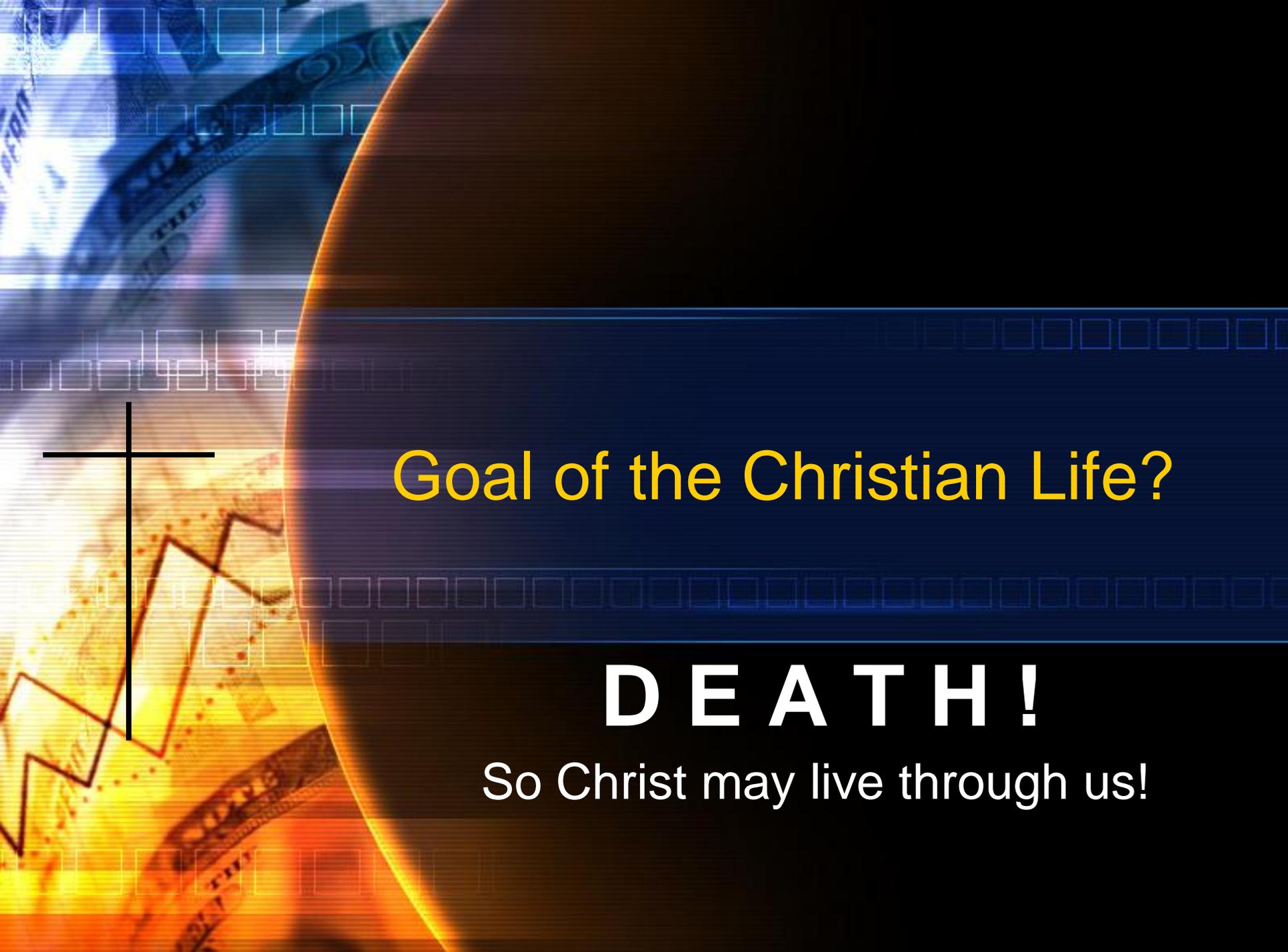
Gal 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

When you have too much self-will or no accountability, the cross has not been applied to that area of your life.



All that is not of Him must be crucified on the cross for His life to be fully realized through us.



Goal of the Christian Life?

DEATH!

So Christ may live through us!

Cross is for every believer

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. - Matt 16:24-26

Michael Molinos, 1600s

“Doing is delightful. It belongs to beginners in Christ. Suffering belongs to those seeking. Dying – dying to the self--belongs to those who are being completed in Christ.”

The Cross is our training ground for effective Kingdom influence

Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle —
Ps 144:1

(Whenever God is wanting to teach me a new principle, I must learn it from a very practical perspective. I am actually thrust into the middle of the battle to learn the process of that battle myself.)



**Satan Attacks Marketplace
Leaders in Our Most Vulnerable
Areas and the Place of Our
Inheritance**



Satan's 3 Pillars of Entrapment
Passion. Possessions. Position.

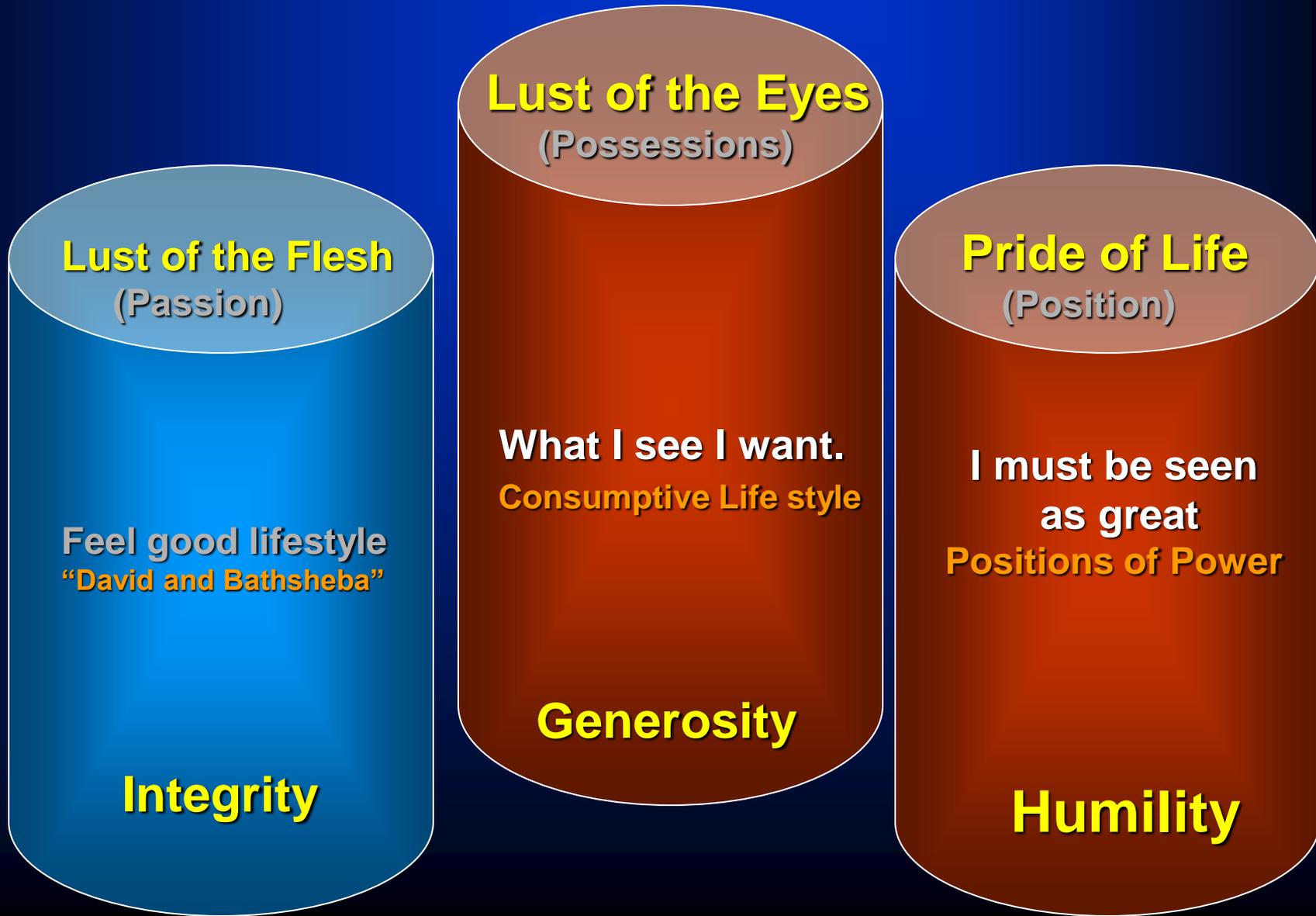
Satan's 3 Pillars of Entrapment

Passion. Possessions. Position.

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. 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. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17

Satan's 3 Pillars of Entrapment

Passion. Possessions. Position.



God's Solution to Satan's 3 Pillars of Entrapment

Passion. Possessions. Position.

Integrity

Phil 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.

Ps 51: truth inward parts

Generosity

Deut 8:18-19
"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant...."

Humility

1 Peter 5:5-7
"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. . .

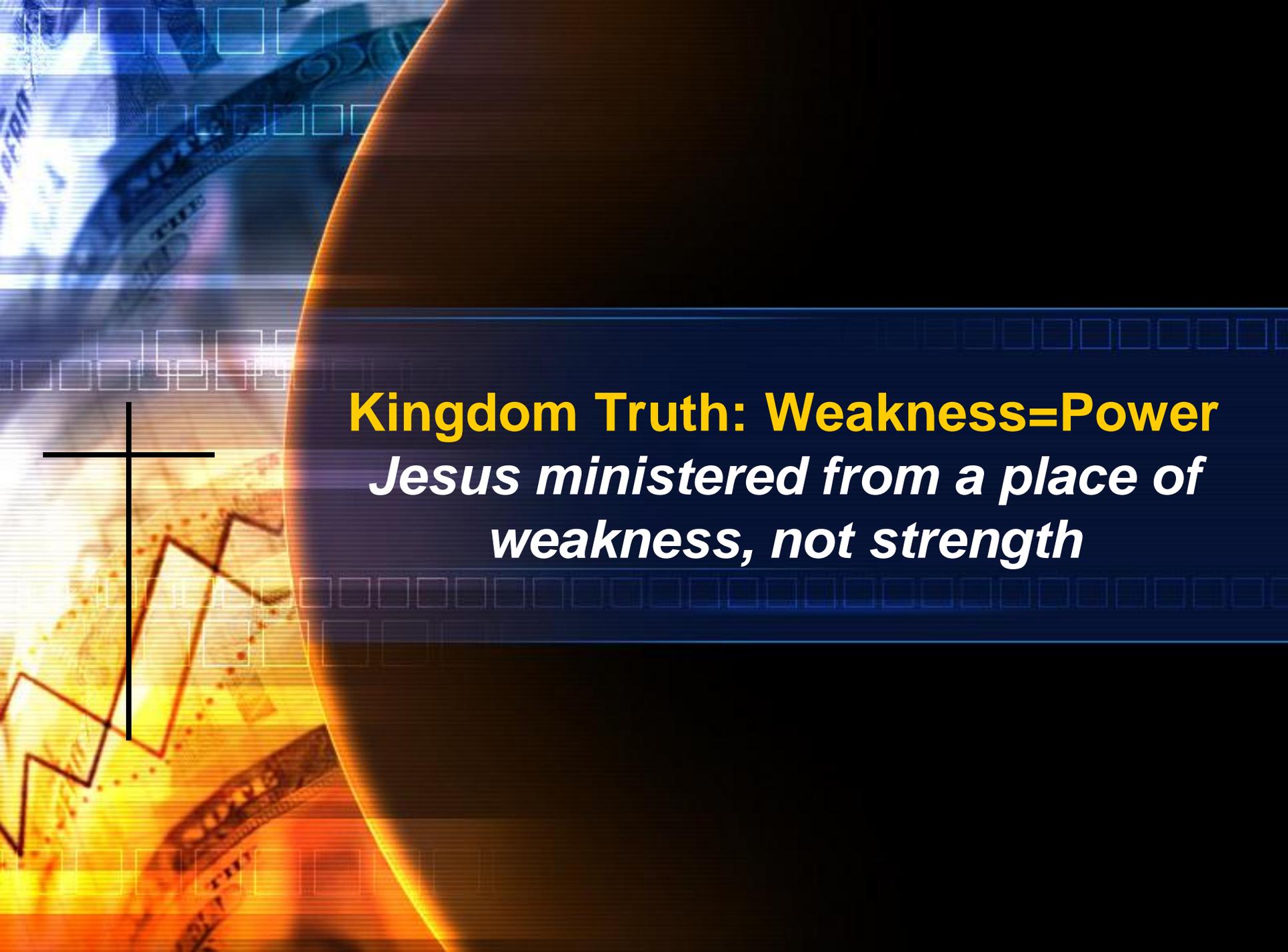
Addictions

- Addictions are one means that Satan uses to entrap Christians.
- Addictions are a symptom of not believing *we are loved by God.*

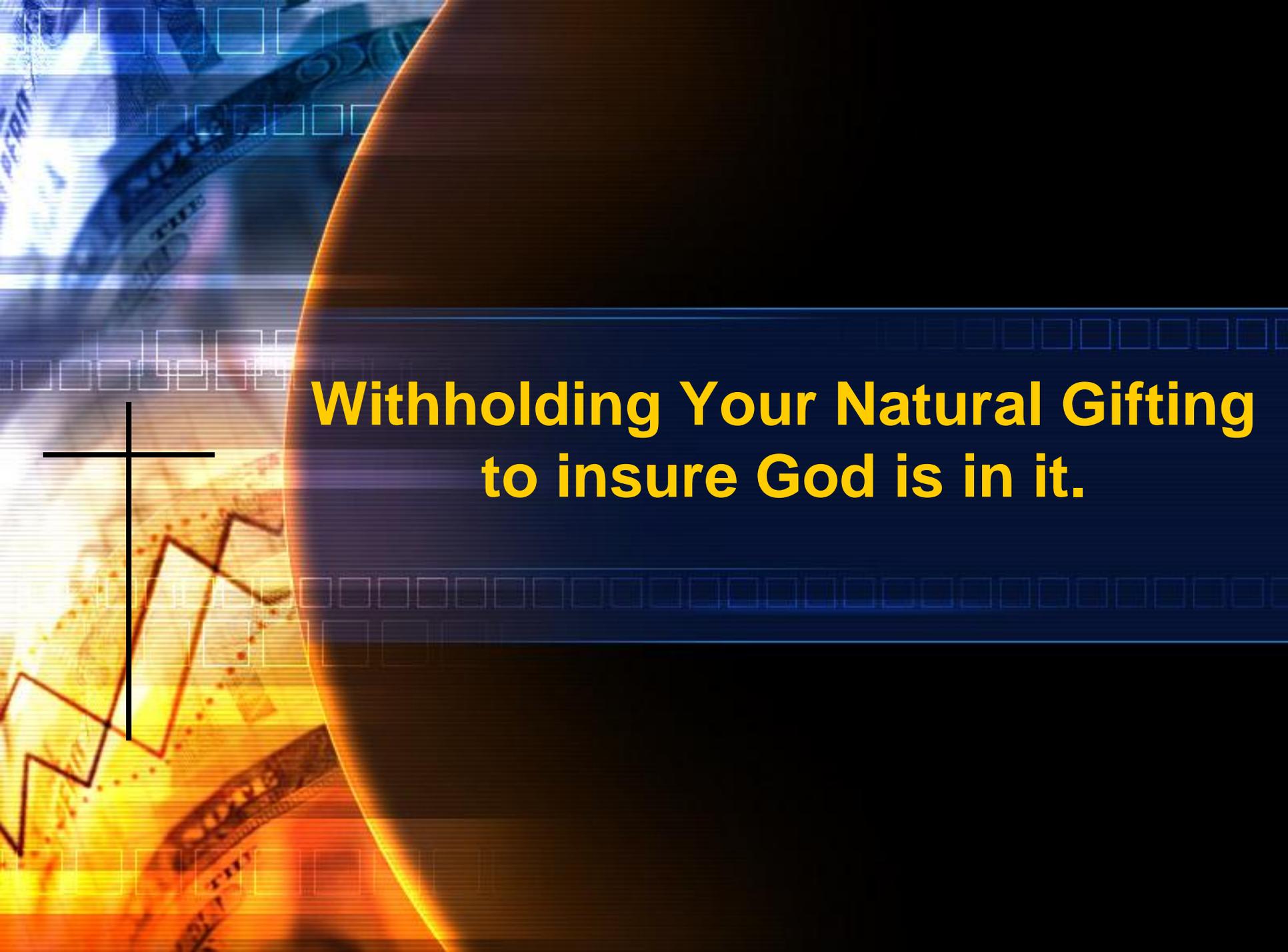
If you struggle with any kind of addiction, immerse yourself with scriptures about the love of God.

Eph 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.



Kingdom Truth: Weakness=Power
*Jesus ministered from a place of
weakness, not strength*



**Withholding Your Natural Gifting
to insure God is in it.**

Paul

2 Cor 10:10-11

- "For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."

1 Cor 2:1-6

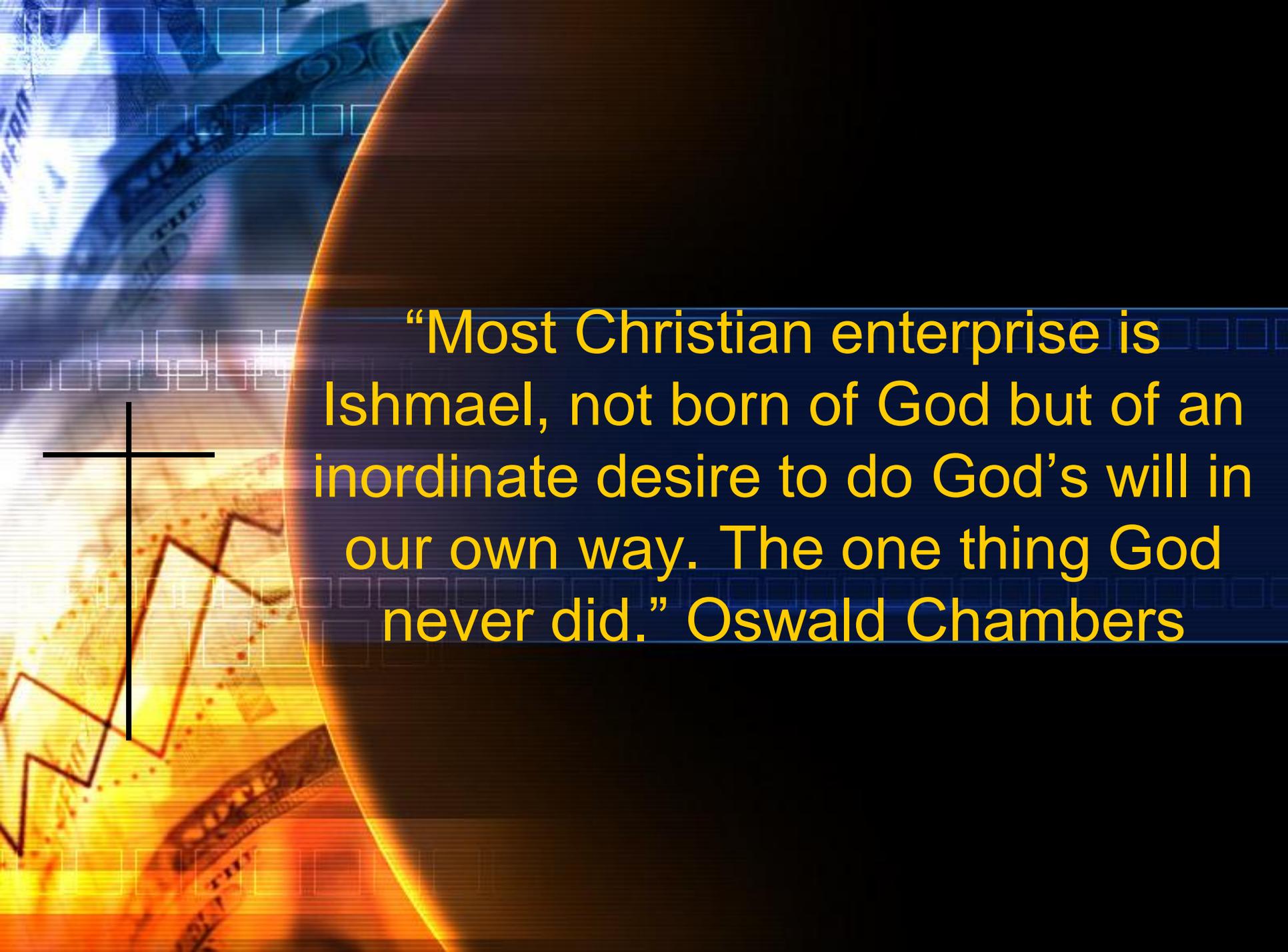
And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

2 Cor 12:9-11

- And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

- Testimony Shy, English, Omar



“Most Christian enterprise is Ishmael, not born of God but of an inordinate desire to do God’s will in our own way. The one thing God never did.” Oswald Chambers



**When we fight the process of
the cross, we delay the
fulfillment of our destiny.**

“If my people would but listen to me, if Israel would follow my ways, how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes (Psalm 82:13,14).”



Its always about ONE THING

1 Cor 13:2-3

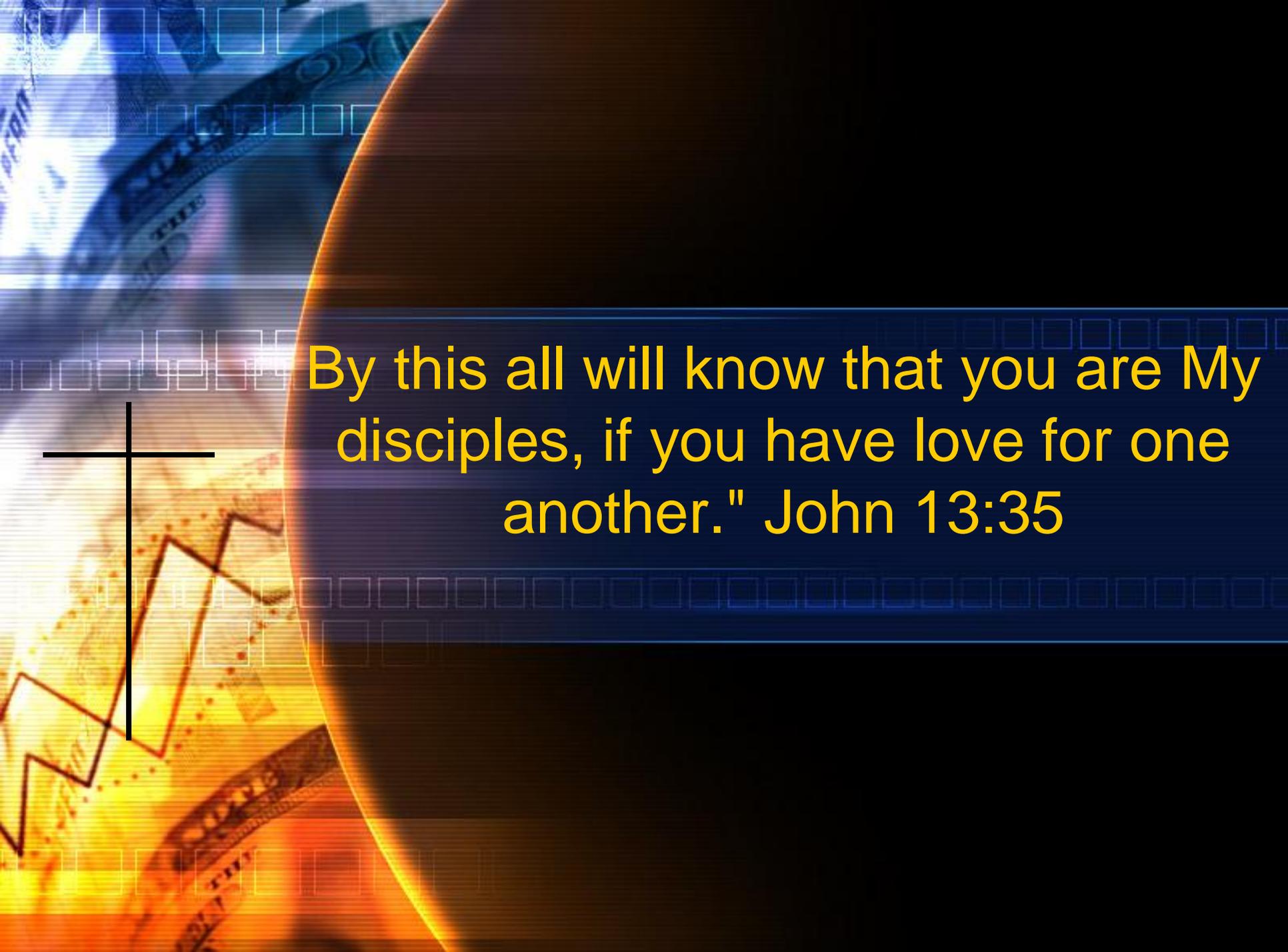
And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could **remove mountains**, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.



Understand God's love for yourself and for others.

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."



By this all will know that you are My
disciples, if you have love for one
another." John 13:35



**Culture Must be Reclaimed through
Extravagant Love and Servant
Leadership Modeled in Humility**

Winning Culture through the Cross

- Culture views Christianity as a right wing political action group
- They only know what we don't believe in
- We become the head, not the tail, by solving societal problems in the spirit of love, humility and the power of God working through our weaknesses

Viewing Failure/Brokenness

- It often takes a crisis to force us to examine ourselves.
- God doesn't test us in order to find out something He doesn't already know. He tests us so that we can learn about ourselves and His love, power and faithfulness.
- If you hope to succeed, learn everything you can from your failures and brokenness.
- God sees failure as preparation for success.
- Our lives are framed by the events and experiences that God takes us through, and our lives are defined by how we respond.

But those who suffer [God] delivers in their suffering; he speaks to them in their affliction” (Job 36:15).



Embrace the Cross

Brokenness always precedes
greatness with God.

The Importance of Solitude

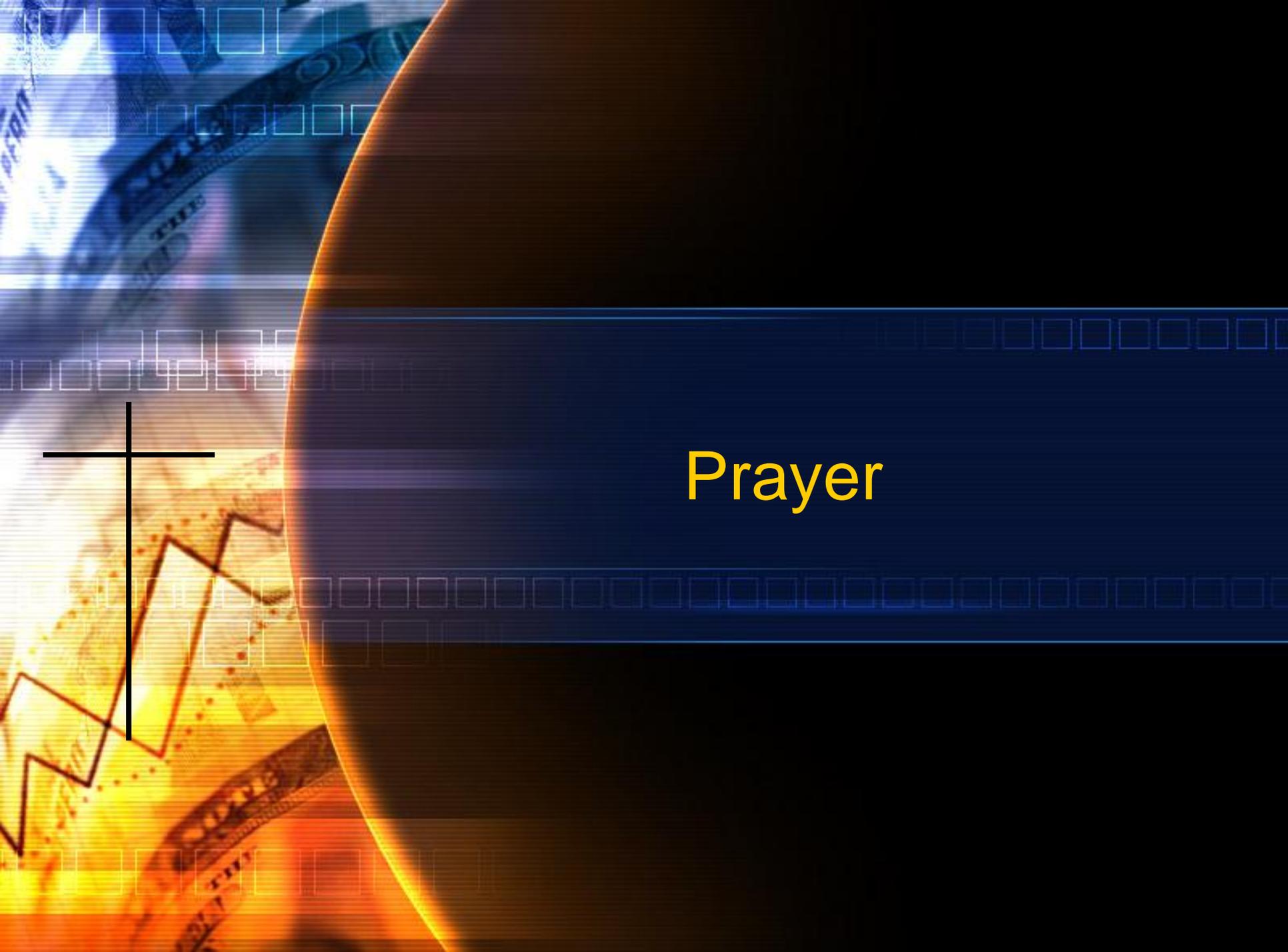
It is impossible for you to live in your inmost being where Christ lives without loving silence and times of reflection before God.

B.U.S.Y.

Being Under Satan's Yoke

1 Sam 2:35-36

I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.



Prayer

The cross is the proving ground for your faith

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love.

1 Peter 1:6-8

Rom 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.