

FBC
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FURMAN AKA

GAMMA21

BOOK OF
JAMES
A FAITH THAT WORKS

STUDY 5

The Christian and the Word Part 2

James 1:23-26

GAMMA
SERIES

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORD

A. The New Birth by the Word

B. Implanting and Receiving the Word

C. Living out God's Word

THE DECEPTION IN TRIALS

James 1:13 (ESV) Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

God causes me to fall to temptation
God allows bad things
God is not good



WHO WE ARE TO GOD



Indicates the
final harvest



WORD AS SEED OF THE WOMB IN THE NEW BIRTH



WORD AS SEED IN THE SOIL GROWING TO FULL SALVATION

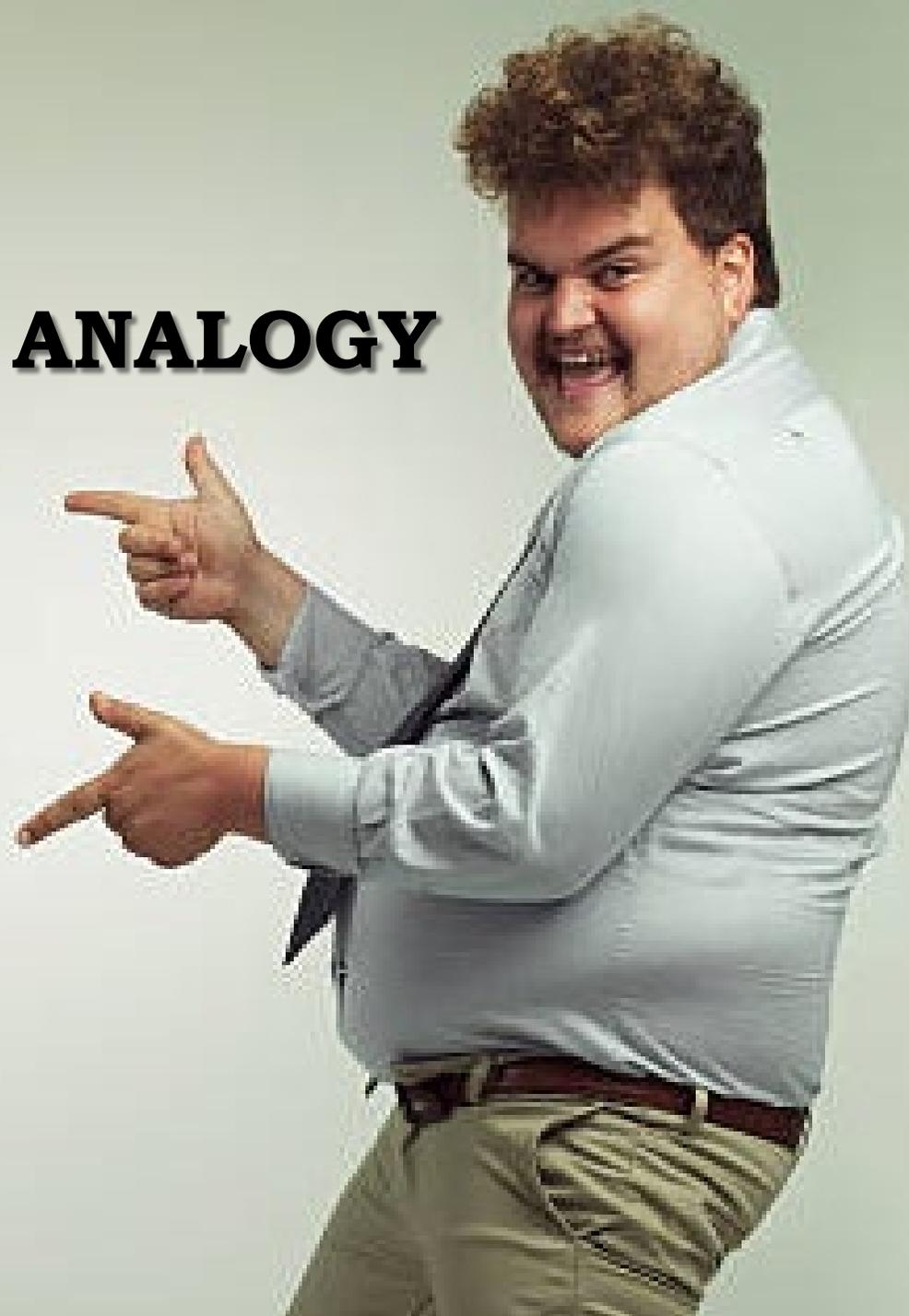


This is the new nature given in the new birth, filled with new life, bound for new destinations of holiness

James 1: 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

MIRROR ANALOGY



DUAL RESPONSE TO WORD

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

CONTRAST

Ancient Mirror

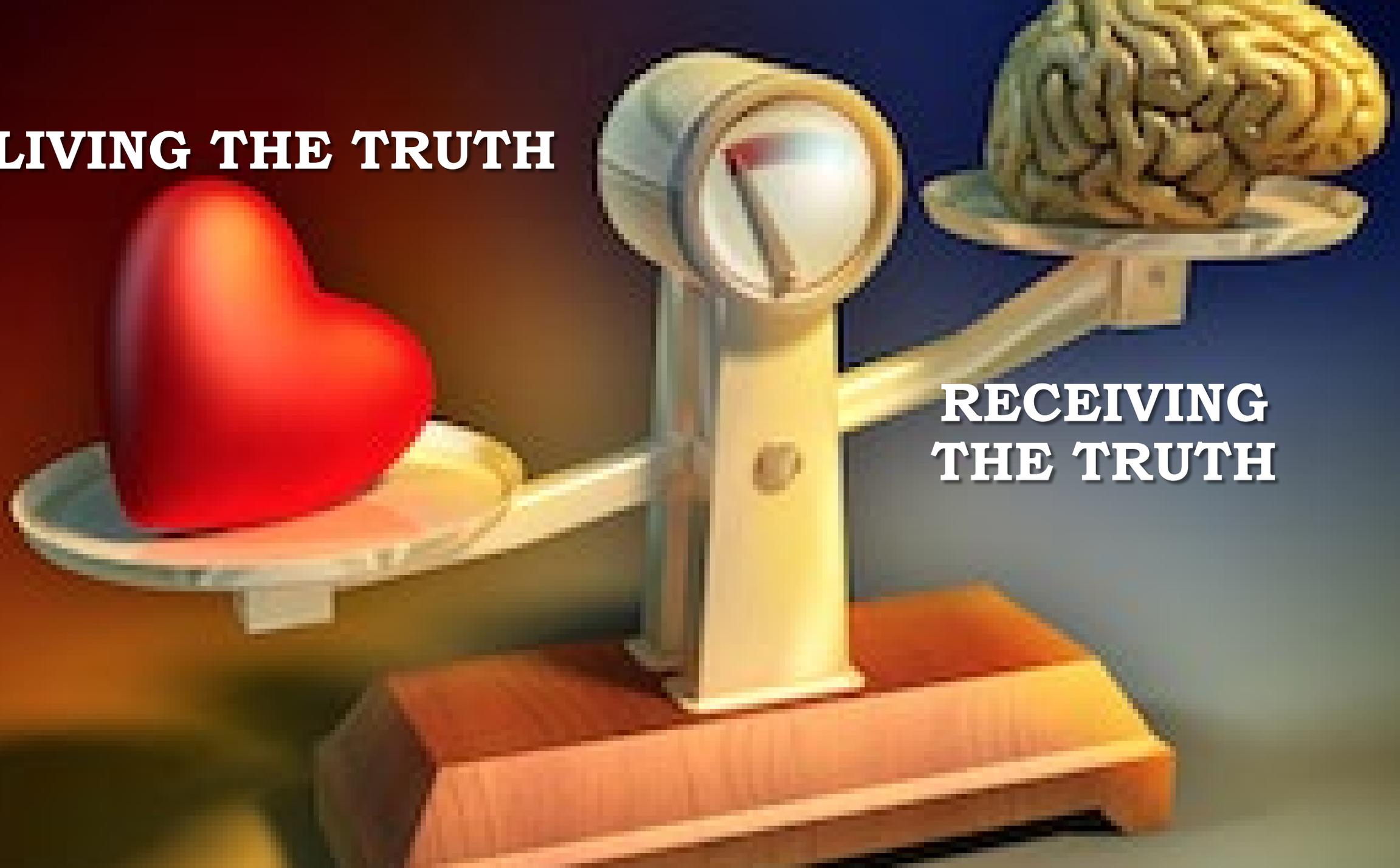
- Hearer
- Looks intently at own face
- Goes away -Forgets
- Deceived

Word of God-Gospel

- Looks into perfect law
- Perseveres
- Acts

LIVING THE TRUTH

**RECEIVING
THE TRUTH**



MIRROR ANALOGY

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

NO IMPACT ON LIFE WHY?

ANALOGY

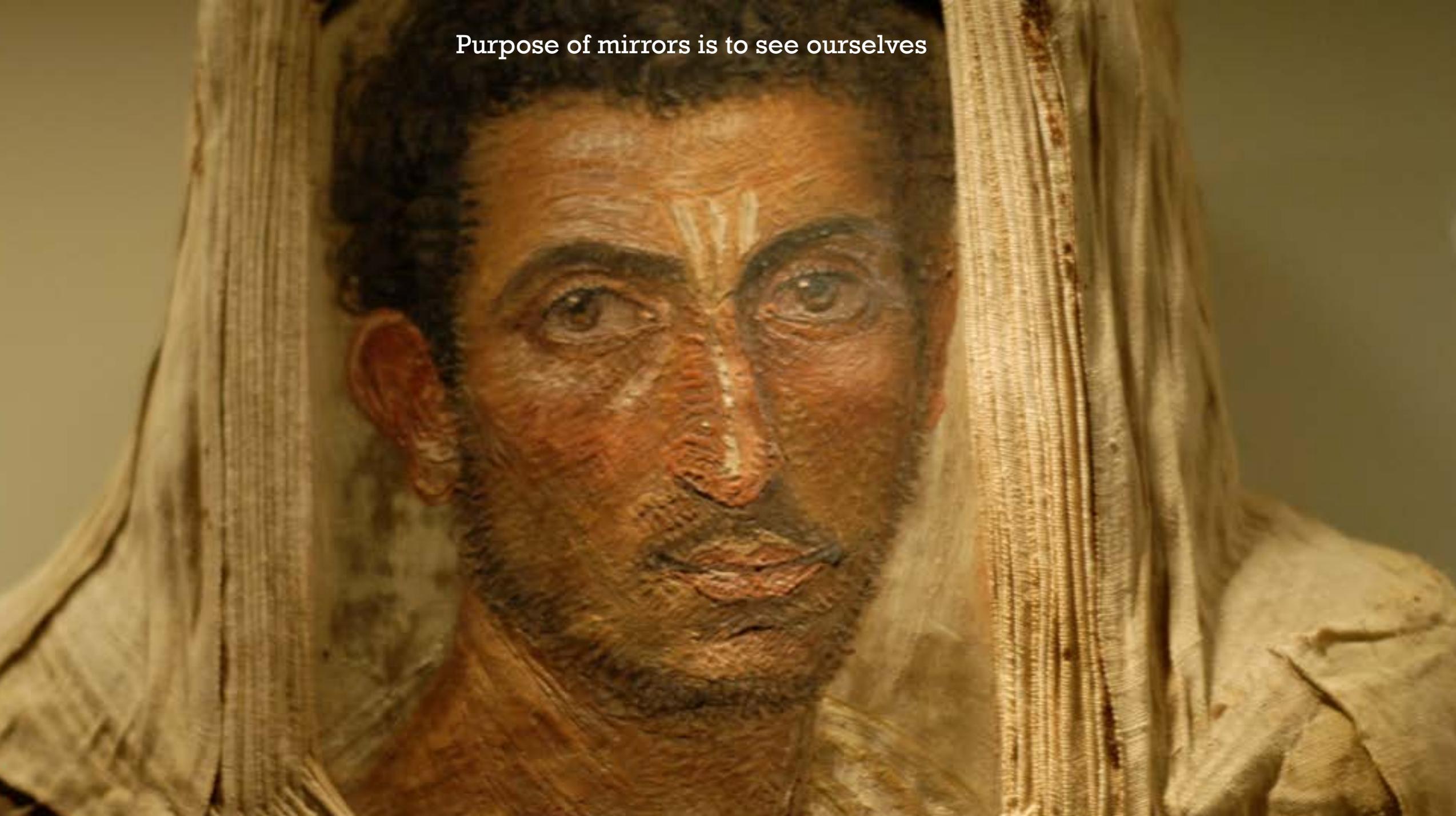


ANCIENT GREEK MIRRORS

Metal
Not very clear



Purpose of mirrors is to see ourselves



PROBLEMS WITH ANCIENT MIRRORS

Poor evaluation of self ...Easily forgotten



CONTRAST

James 1:25 (ESV) But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

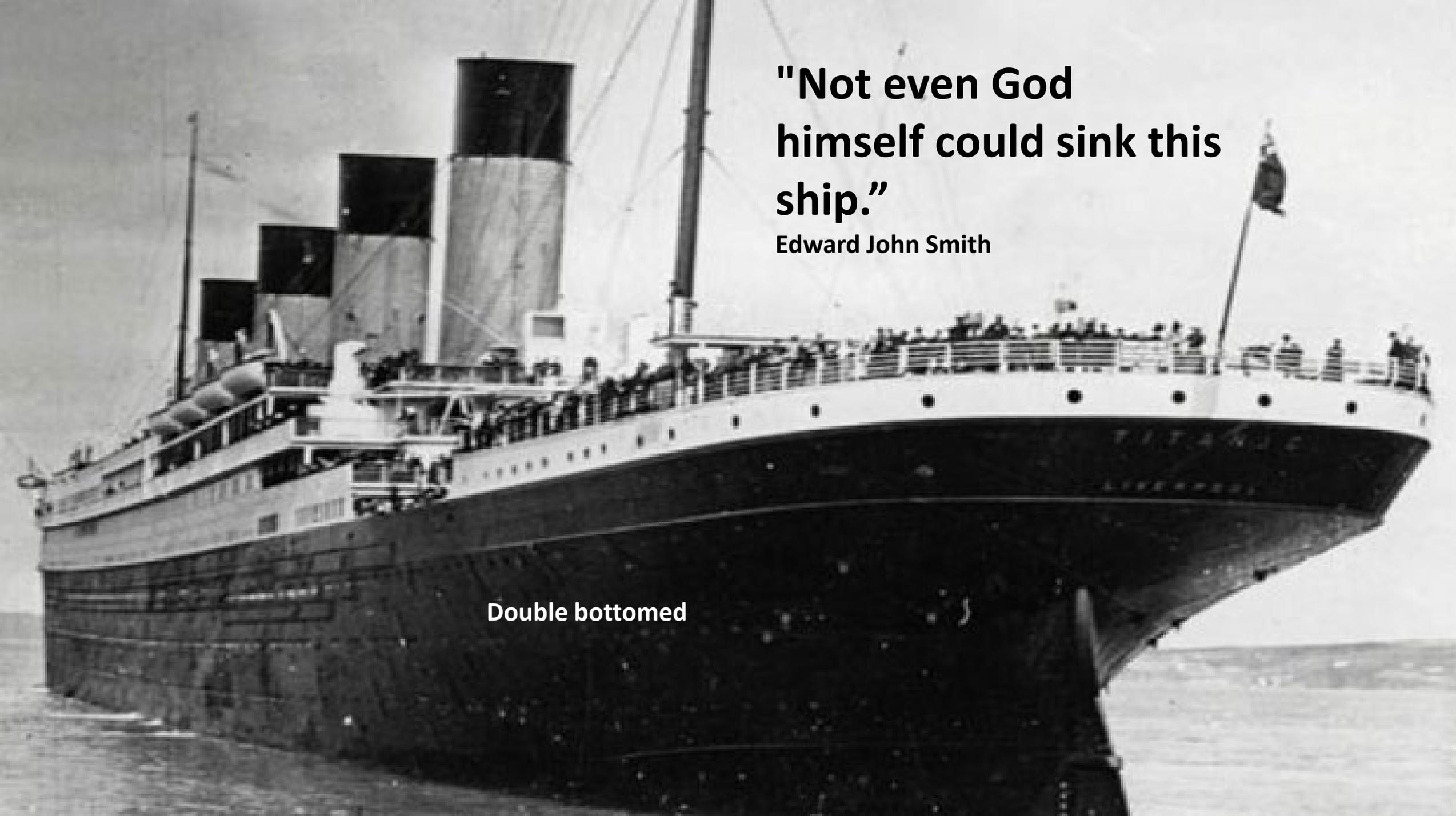
ANALOGY

Reflection of a human being created in God's image
The momentariness and lack of real effect



much clearer image of God
constantly and remembers because
it is firmly implanted in his or her
mind





**"Not even God
himself could sink this
ship."**

Edward John Smith

Double bottomed



5 warnings about ice bergs
Half the necessary life boats

Did not see own vulnerabilities

CONTRAST

James 1:25 But the one who looks into the perfect law,
the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer
who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in
his doing.

MOSAIC LAW

transformative and living speech of the living God, with whom one has a relationship



Psalms 119:43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules.

THE GOSPEL

Law



Perfect

Completed-achieved its aim
Compared to mirror
Interpreted and fulfilled by Jesus



Liberty

story of Jesus's fulfillment of the law,
and the new life that issues from that
fulfillment, that brings freedom

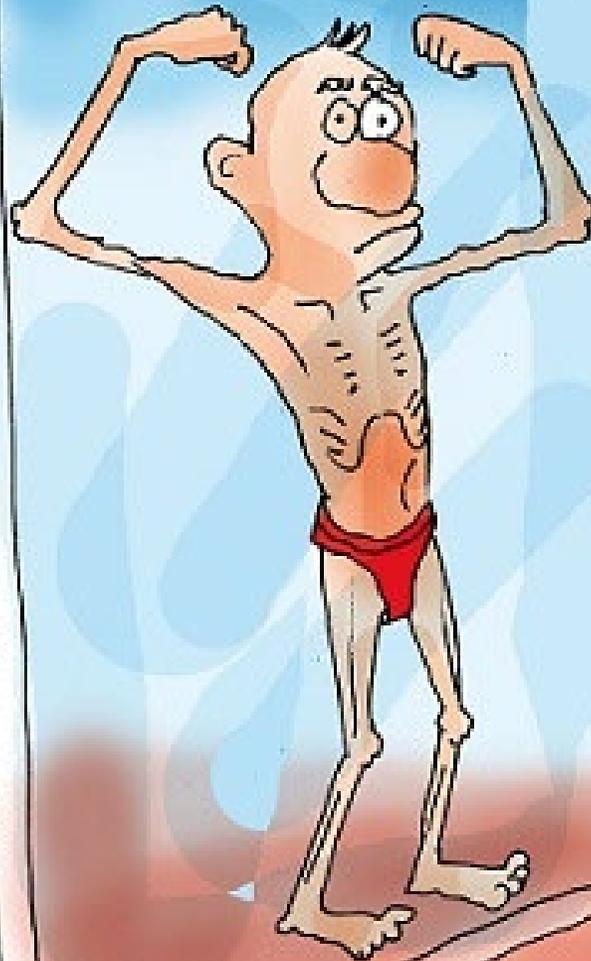
New covenant –written in hearts
Spirit enabled obedience

THE EFFECT

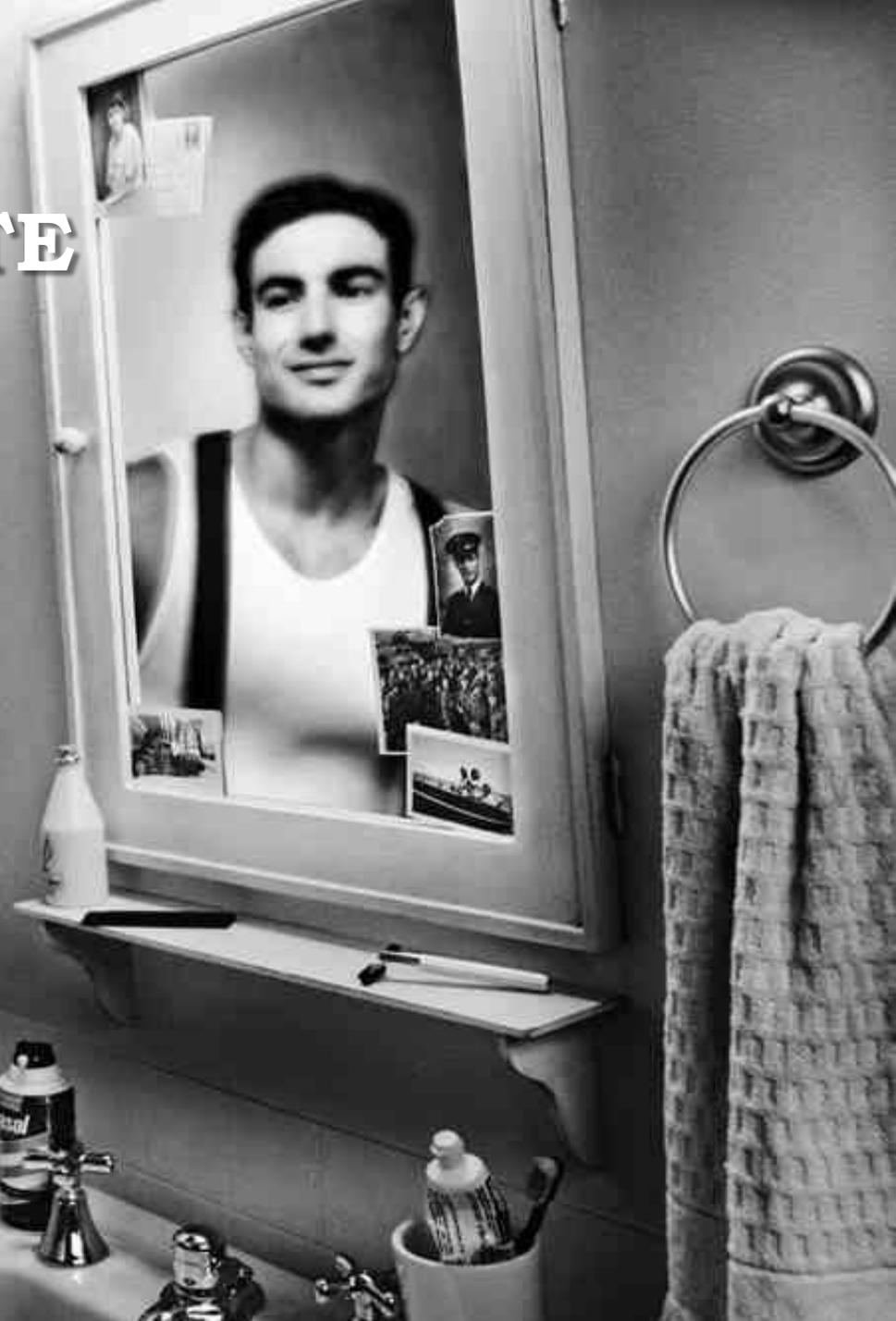
James 1:25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Contrasts the one who looks in the mirror and forgets

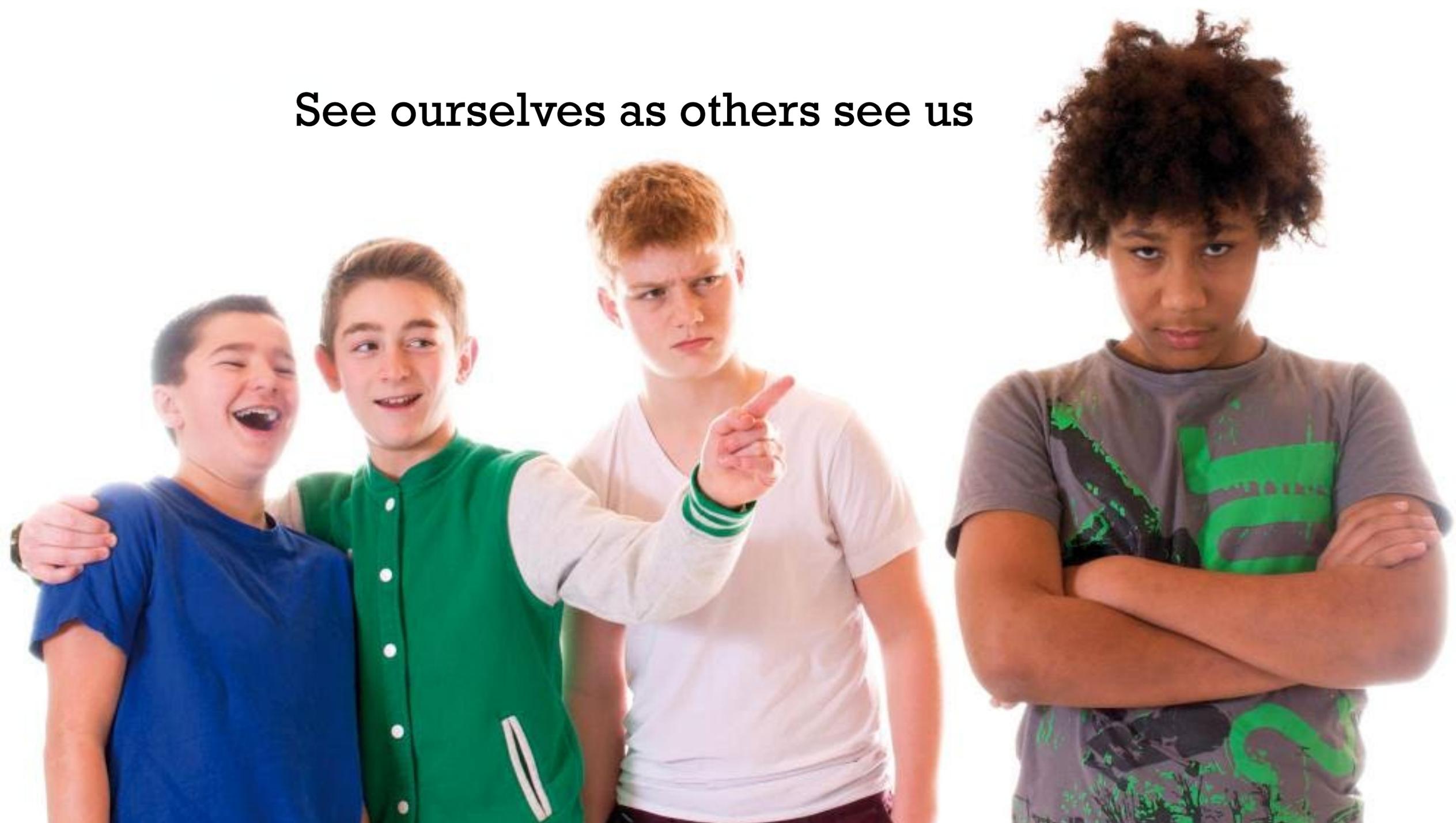
UNDERESTIMATE OURSELVES



OVERESTIMATE



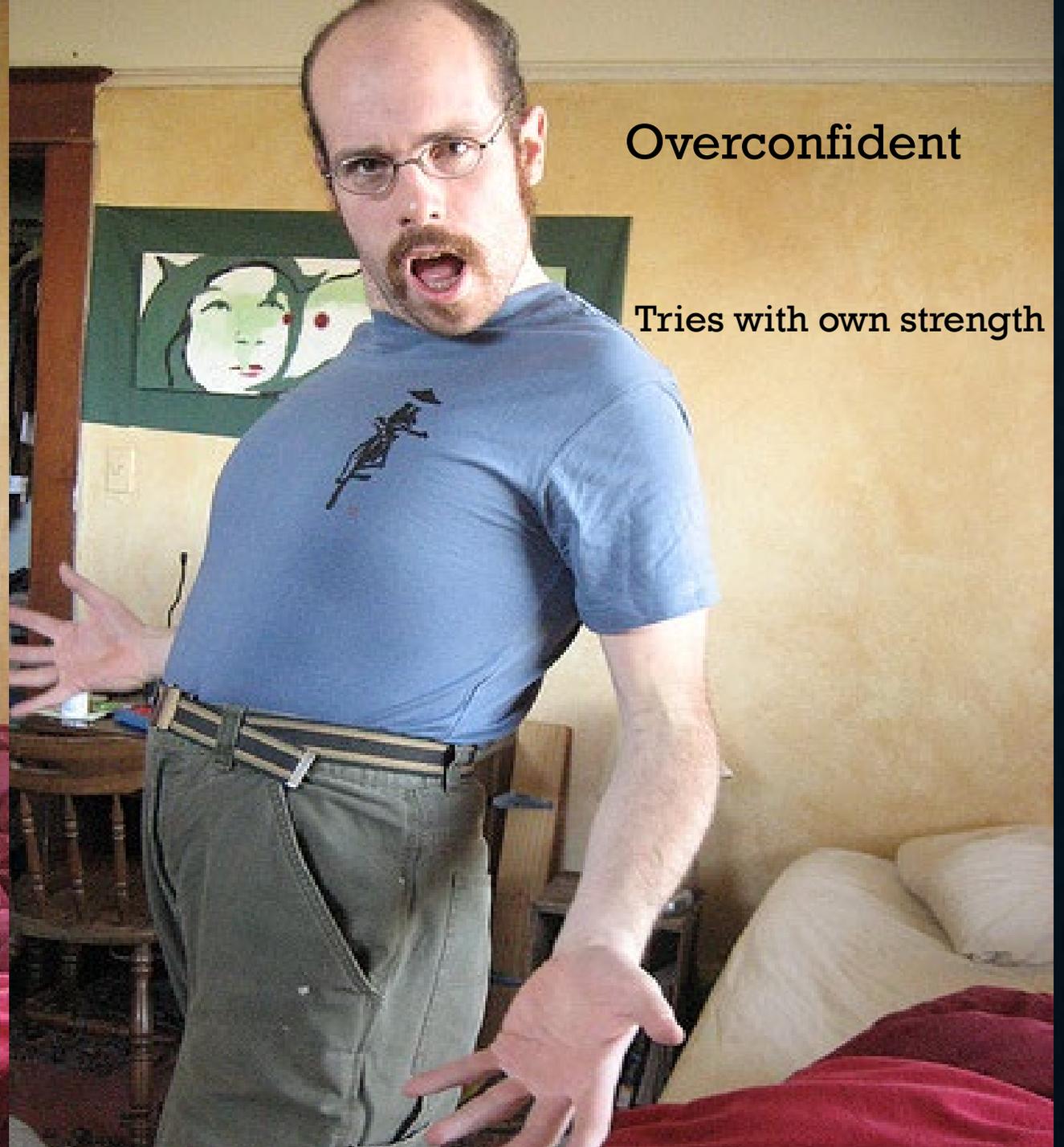
See ourselves as others see us



- 
- Remember the hurts, slights , insults
 - Father says you will never amount to anything
 - Blind our faults and sins
 - Forget our spiritual position in Christ
 - Forget true things...God loves you



Low self esteem
Gives up easily



Overconfident
Tries with own strength

The Law is perfect mirror

**25 But the
one who
looks into
the
perfect
law**



TRUE PICTURE



Radically sinful

Reduce self reliance and pride
Cant be a Christian by trying harder

Radically exalted



Increase Christ reliance and faith

MIRROR ANALOGY

Tells you what to do
Rely on will power to do

Tells you how you
really look like
Rely on
understanding who
you are



GOT TO LOOK



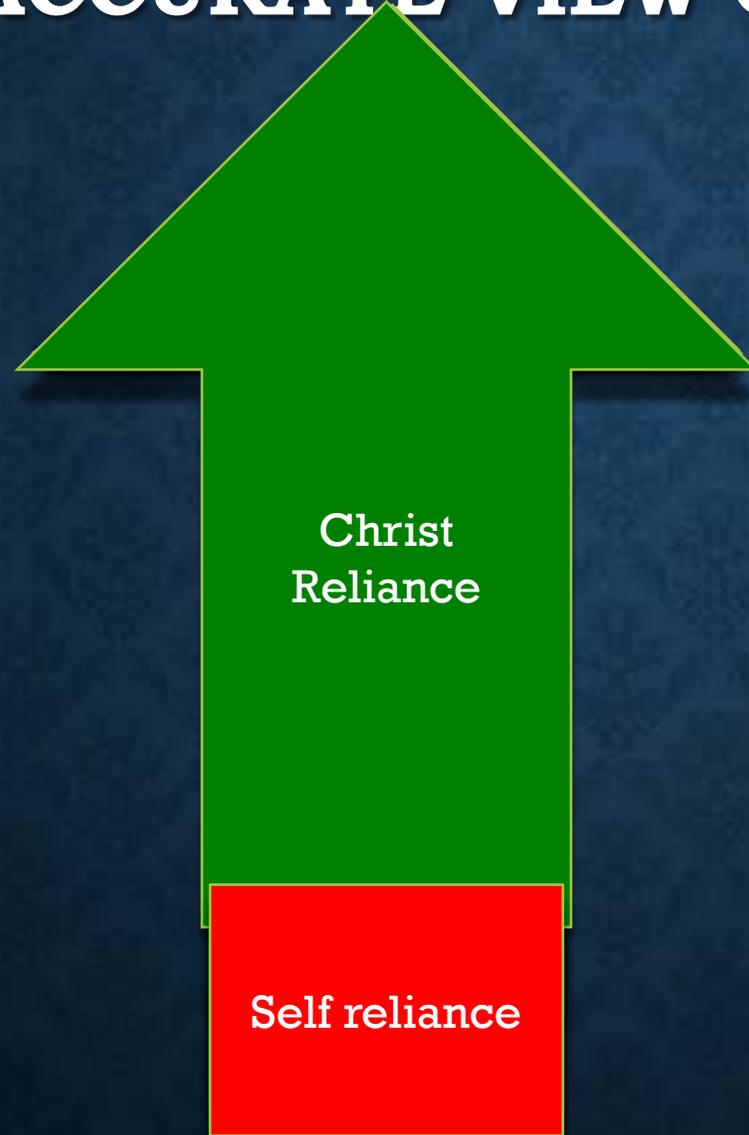
Acts 7:55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.



FACING ANXIETY

Matthew 6:28-30 **Consider** the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **will he not much more clothe you**, O you of little faith?

**THE MORE WE GET AN
ACCURATE VIEW OF OURSELVES**



**The more
obedient**

**SEEING WHO WE REALLY
ARE IS THE KEY TO
OBEDIENCE**

**NOT SEEING WHO WE REALLY
ARE WILL CAUSE SELF
DECEPTION AND FAILURE**



**EXAMPLES OF HOW TO BE DOERS OF
THE WORD**

A pair of weathered, brown hands is shown from a top-down perspective, cupping a single slice of light-colored, porous bread. The hands are positioned centrally, with the fingers slightly curled around the edges of the bread. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the texture of the skin and the bread. The lighting is soft, highlighting the creases and lines on the hands.

ANXIETY ABOUT NEXT MEAL

“Therefore I tell you,
do not be anxious
about your life, what
you will eat or what
you will drink, nor
about your body,
what you will put
on.....

Apply will power??

CONSIDER

**Is not life more than food, and
the body more than clothing?**

Mt 6:25b





26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they (Matthew 6:26a)

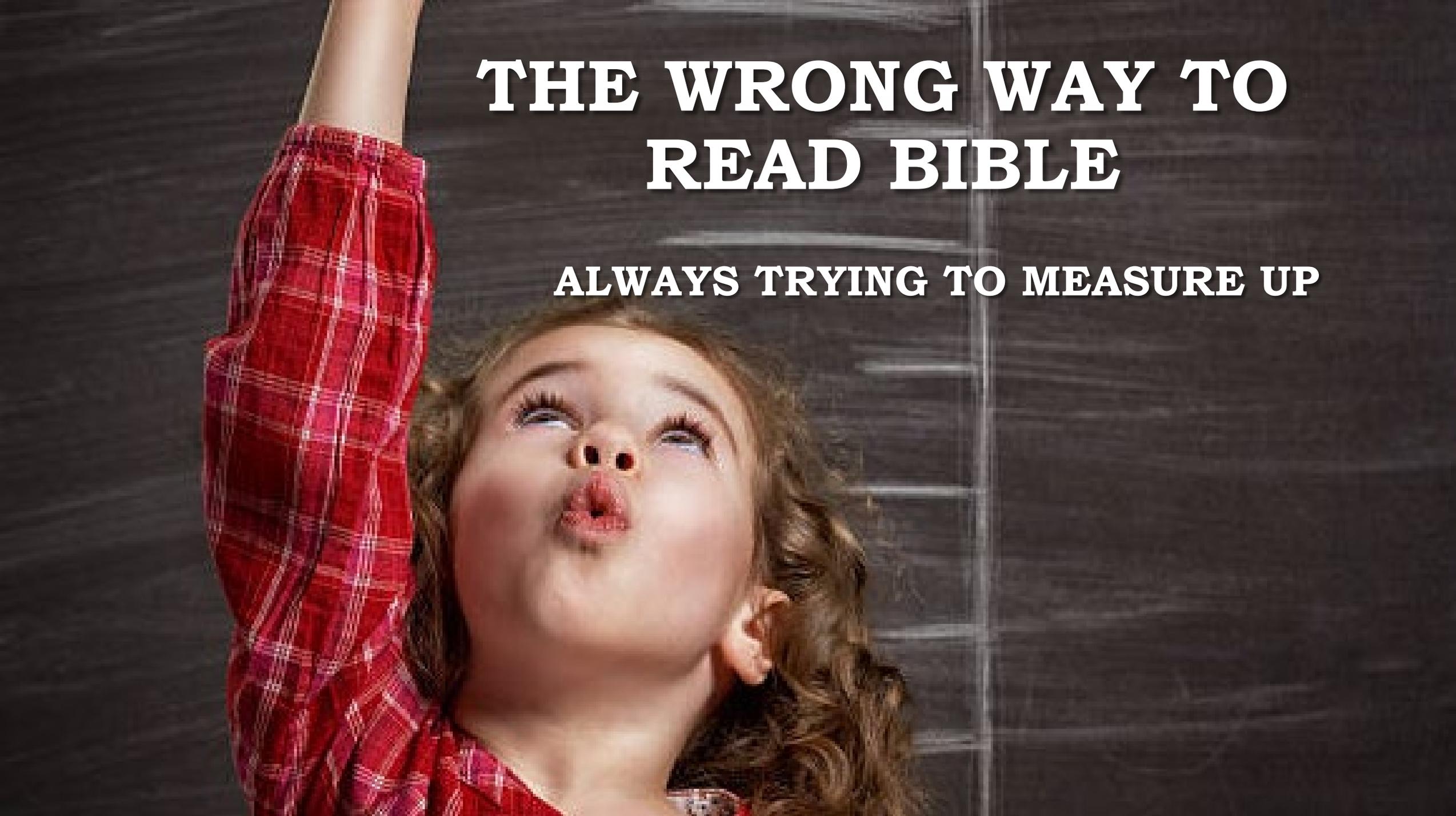
**Are you not of more value
than they...Matthew 6:26b**



THE GOSPEL

The Word tells who you are and
that is basis of courage





THE WRONG WAY TO READ BIBLE

ALWAYS TRYING TO MEASURE UP

Hoping to find away to be perfect

I can't
do it

THE REALITY = WORD-STIFLING - RESTRICTIVE



BORED

GUILTY



LIVING UP TO STANDARDS

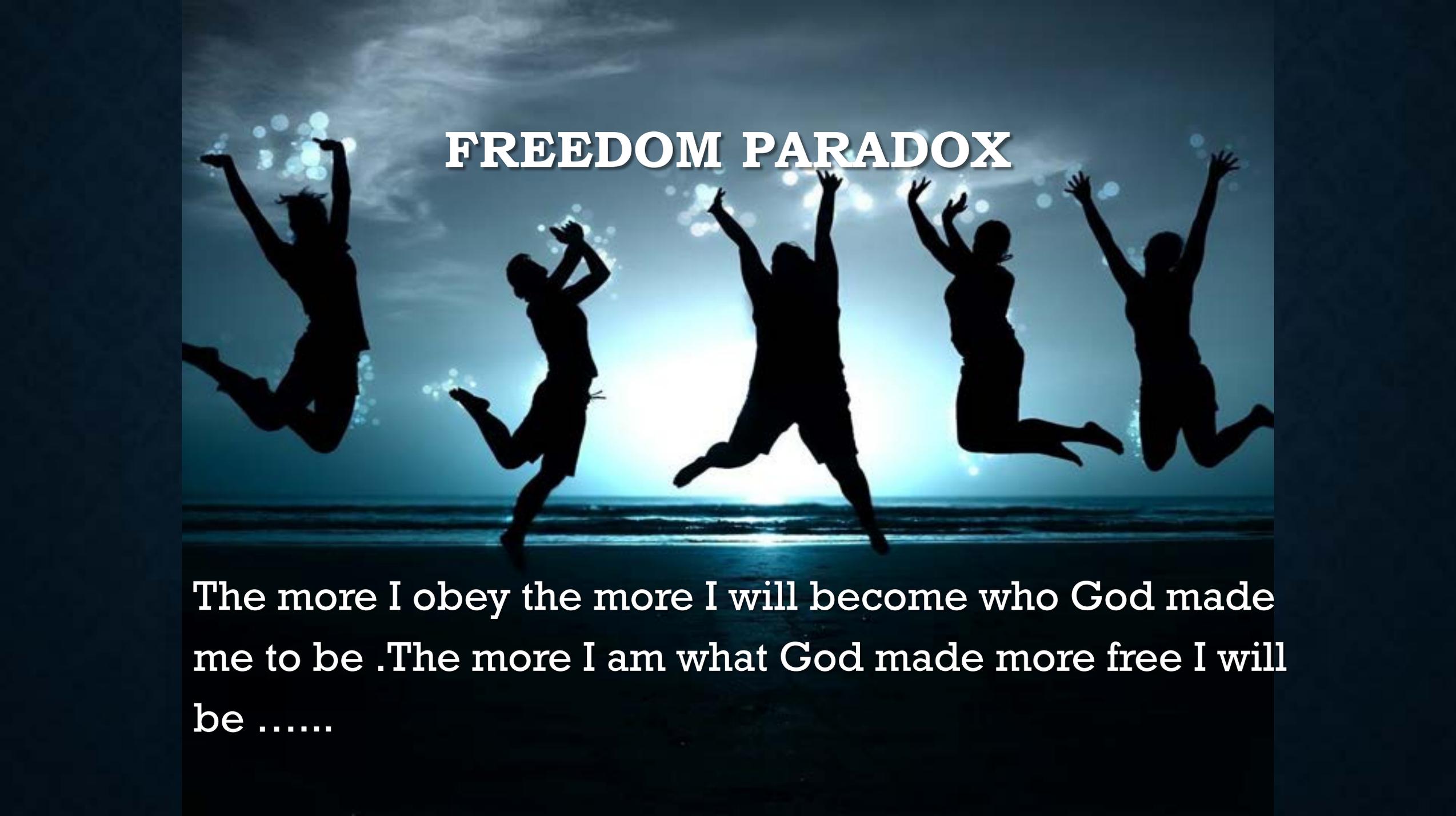


It will be burden

If you cannot live the
Christian life style is
because you have
forgotten who you
are in Christ

THE AUTHENTIC EFFECT

James 1:25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a **doer who acts**, he will be blessed in his doing.

The image features five silhouettes of people in various jumping poses against a bright, glowing background. The background has a soft, ethereal quality with bokeh light effects. The title 'FREEDOM PARADOX' is centered at the top in a white, serif font.

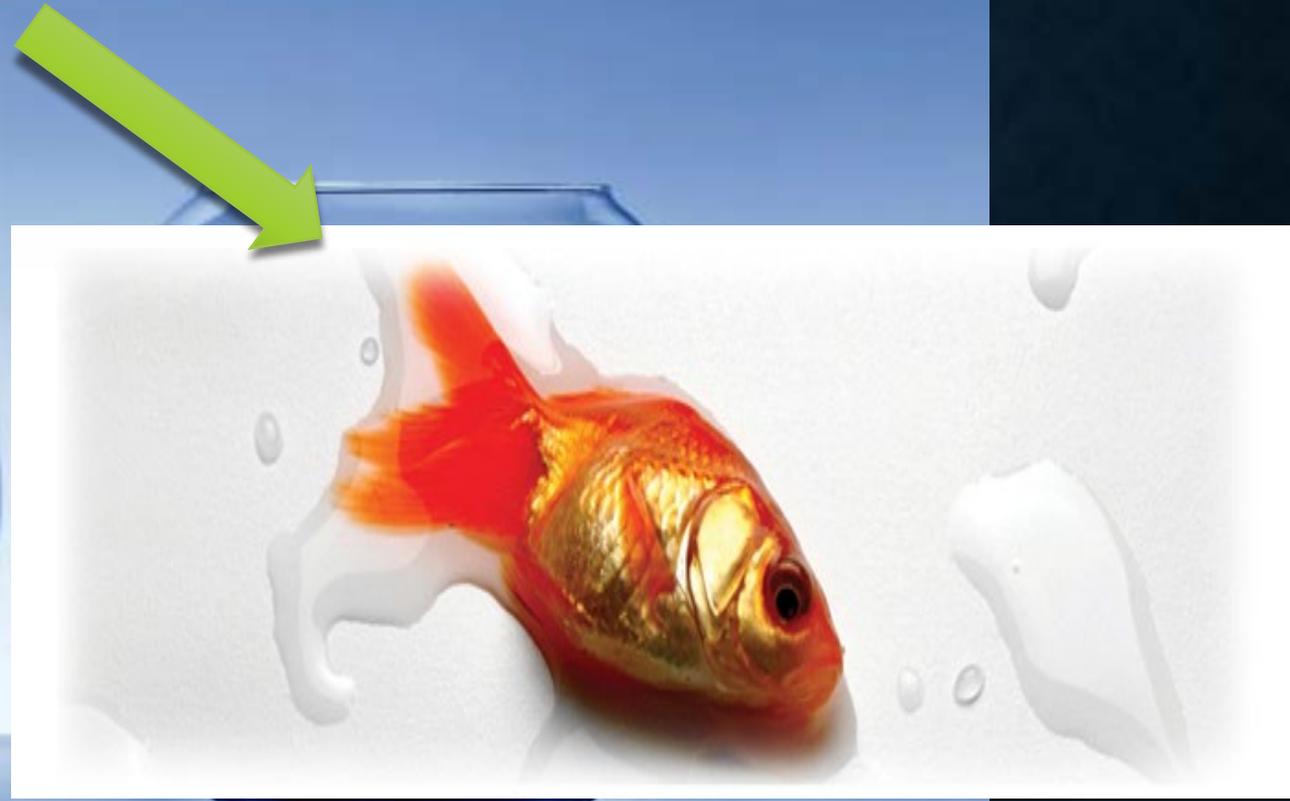
FREEDOM PARADOX

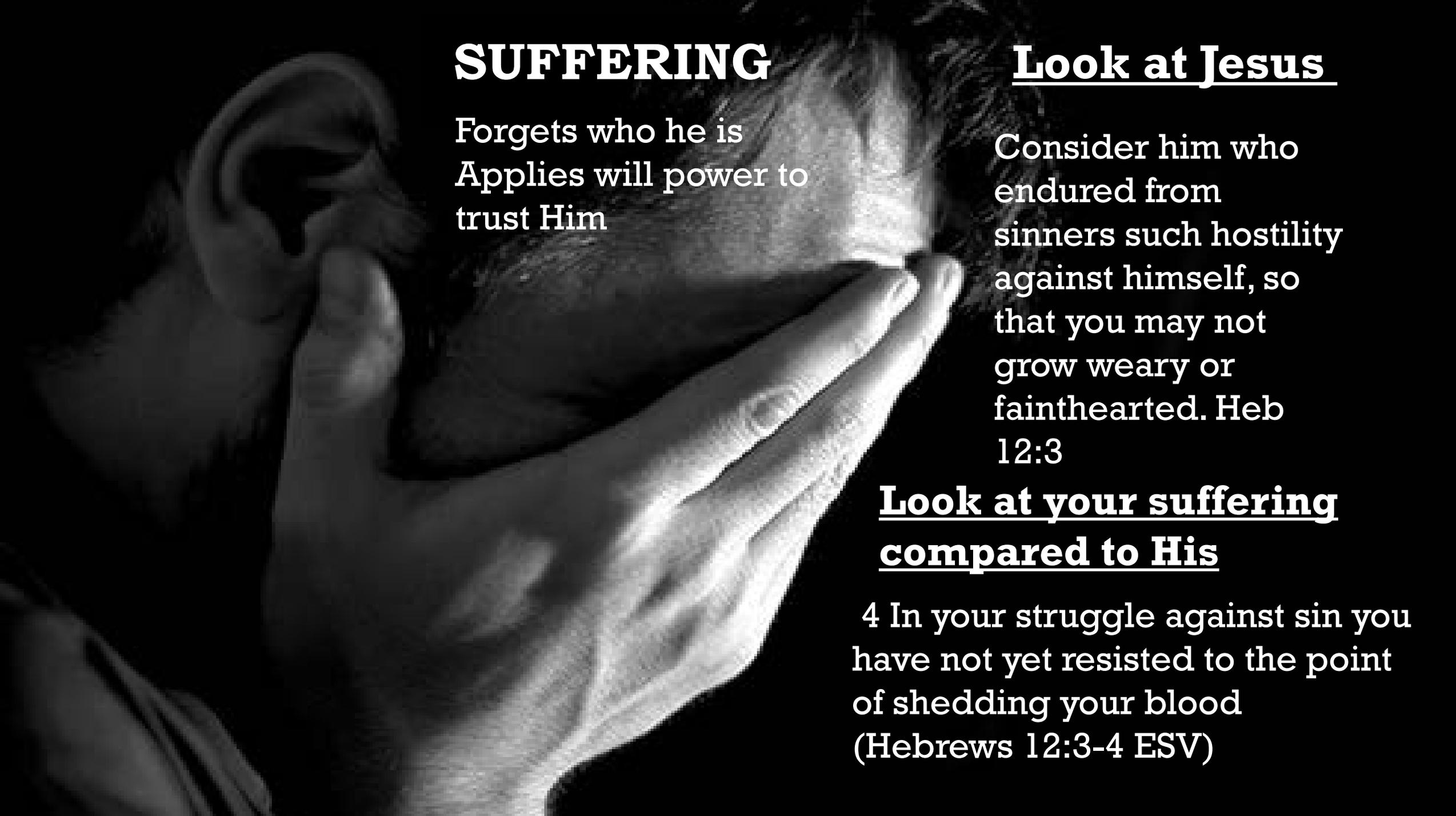
The more I obey the more I will become who God made me to be .The more I am what God made more free I will be

Freedom?



Freedom?





SUFFERING

Forgets who he is
Applies will power to
trust Him

Look at Jesus

Consider him who
endured from
sinners such hostility
against himself, so
that you may not
grow weary or
fainthearted. Heb
12:3

Look at your suffering compared to His

4 In your struggle against sin you
have not yet resisted to the point
of shedding your blood
(Hebrews 12:3-4 ESV)

SUFFERING

Look at how
Look at eternal
God loves us
blessings
as HIS sons

“My son, do not regard
lightly the discipline of
the Lord, for he who hates
his discipline will be weak
and will be a fool.
Therefore lift your
drooping hands and
strengthen your weak
knees.
The Lord loves a man of
peace, but he hates
the man of blood.
(Hebrews 12:12-13 ESV)
who has every trained
whom he receives
(Hebrews 12:5-16 ESV)



Nicklaus Ellison

“God makes all things new,” “The weirdest thing is how do I come out as straight after all this time?”

Soren Kirkegaard



HOW TO LOOK INTO THE WORD AND PERSEVERE

- Look at yourself in the mirror not the mirror
- Focus on what you can understand about what God wants done
- You must remember God's word is addressed to you
- To hear God's word you must wait silently before God

**TO HEAR GOD'S WORD YOU MUST
WAIT SILENTLY BEFORE GOD**



LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR NOT THE MIRROR



Scholarly work in
translating letter is not
the same thing as
reading the letter

FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ABOUT WHAT GOD WANTS DONE



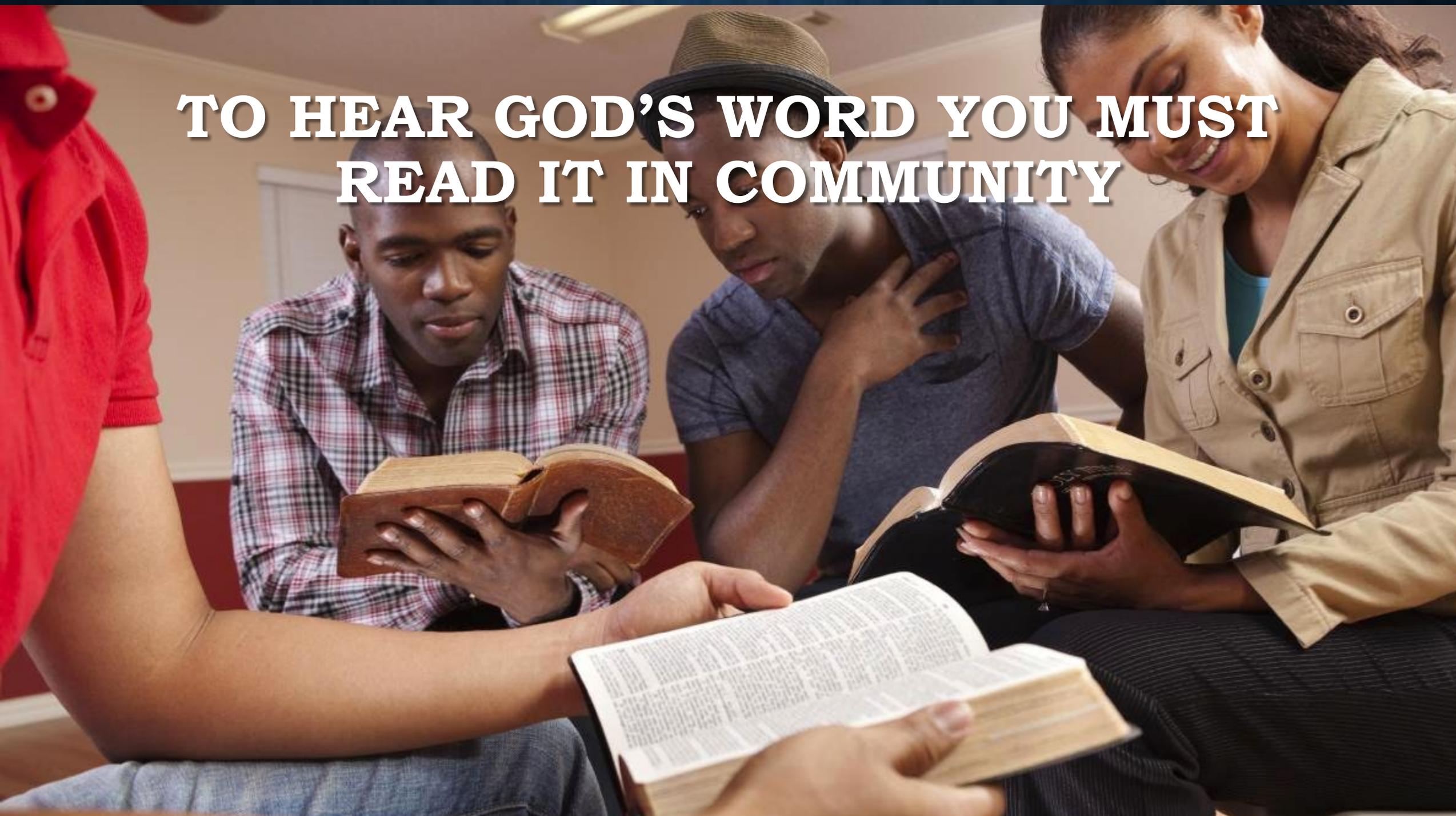
If you understand only one single passage in all of Holy Scripture, well, then you must do that first of all, but you do not first have to sit down and ponder the obscure passages. God's Word is given in order that you shall act upon it, not that you shall practice interpreting obscure passages.

YOU MUST REMEMBER GOD'S WORD IS ADDRESSED TO YOU



- David already knew he had sinned against Bathsheeba and her husband but blinded by self preservation
- It took Nathans clever parable to allow David to see the awfulness of his sin
- For Nathan to say “ You are that man”

**TO HEAR GOD'S WORD YOU MUST
READ IT IN COMMUNITY**



THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORD

A. The New Birth by the Word

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