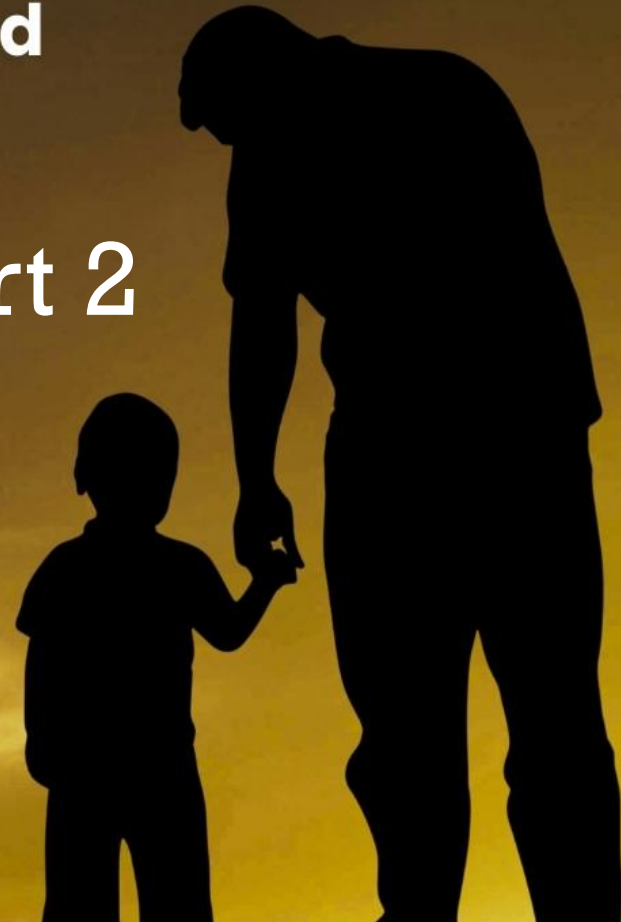


# PRAYING THE PSALMS

Bridging Intimacy With God

Praying our Doubts Part 2  
Psalm 73





## **Next Week Sermon**

### **From Roaring Agony to Redeeming Peace**

1 Samuel 1:4-11,20; 2:1-10

PREACHER

**Brandon Wong**

02 November 2025

### **Part 1: Lessons from the Genocide of the Amalakites**

1 Samuel 15

PREACHER

**Arnold Lim**

09 November 2025

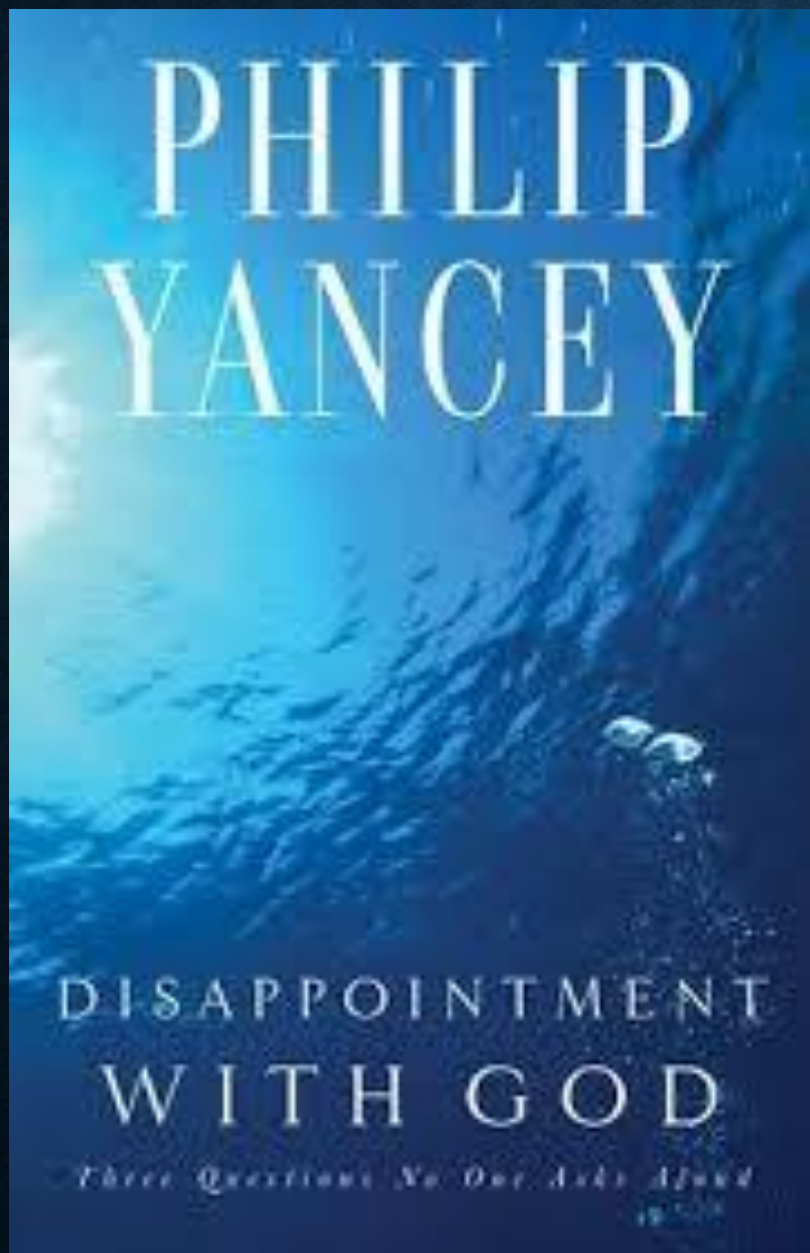
### **A Man after God's Own Heart**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

PREACHER

**William Ngeow**





**There are 3 copies  
available in Logos  
Library**

You may head to  
Logos Library to  
borrow the book

**OR**

Scan this QR for  
book on-hold.



# **PRAYING OUR DOUBTS**

## **PART 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR DOUBTS**

1. Admission of doubt
2. Reason for doubt
3. Wrestling with our doubt



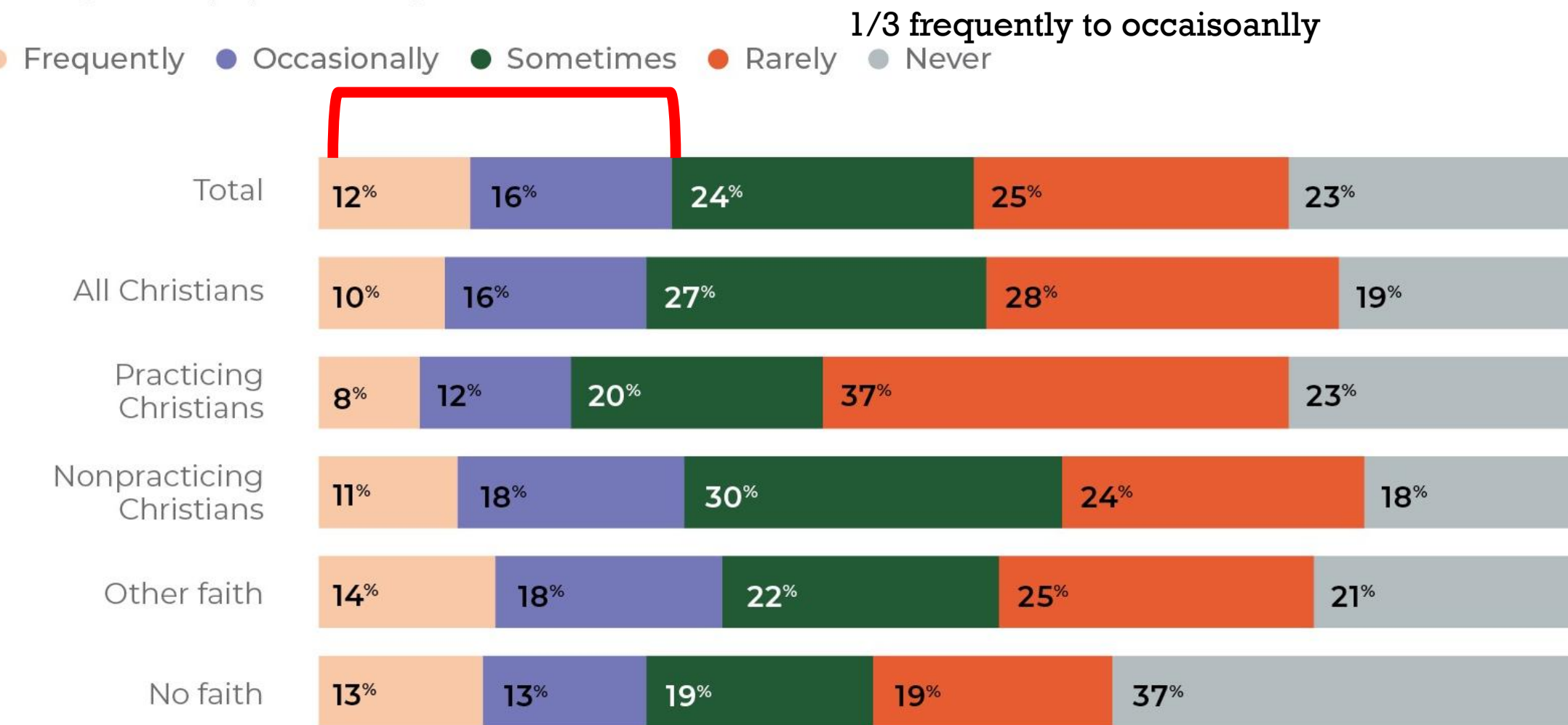
# Doubting Religious Beliefs

Barna

20005 Adults and Teens 2022

In the past few years, if at all, how often have you experienced doubts about your religious beliefs?

Base: general population ages 13+



Source: Barna Group

N=2,005 U.S. teens and adults, December 13–22, 2022.

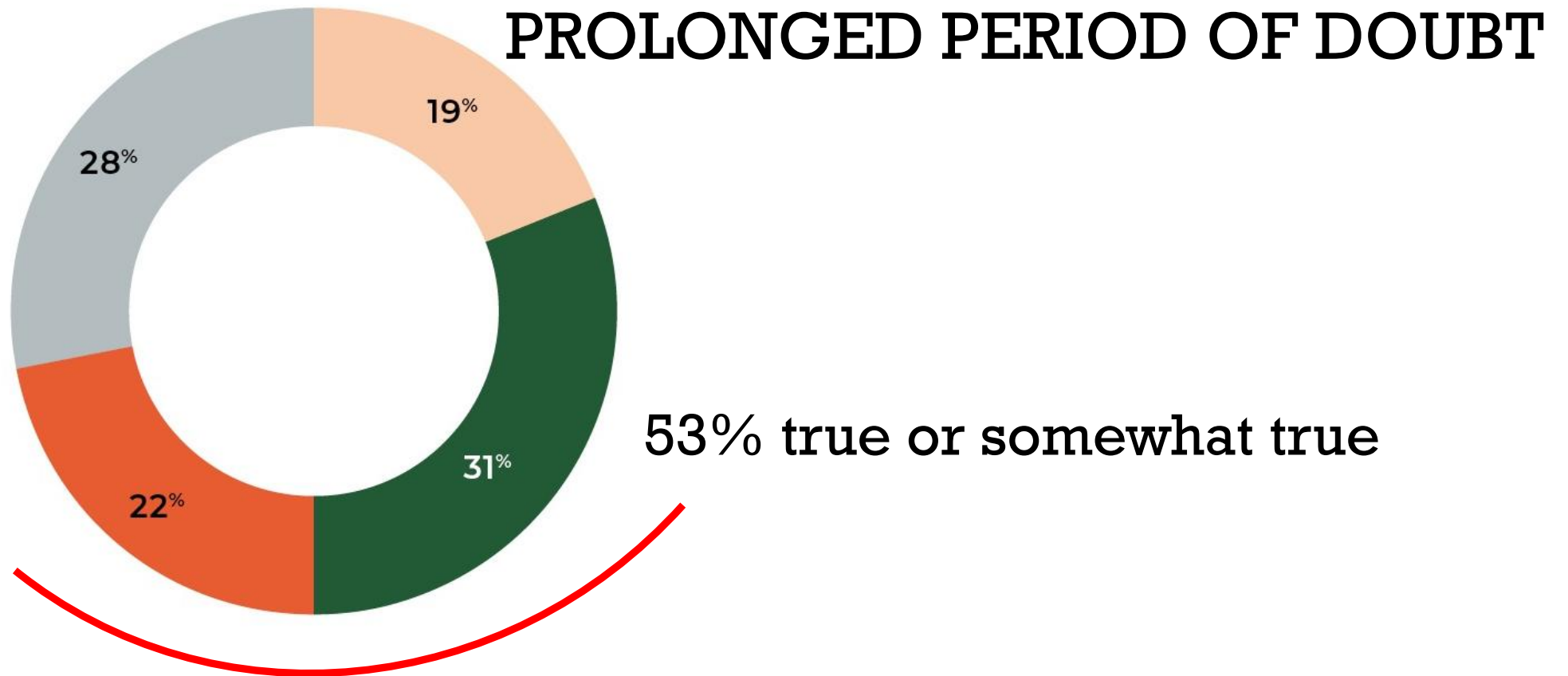
# Periods of Doubting Christian Faith

Thinking about your experiences of spirituality or Christianity, how true is the following about you today?

"I have gone through a prolonged period of time where I doubted my faith."

Base: Christians, raised Christian or had a Christian experience, among general population ages 13+

Completely true   ● Somewhat true   ● Somewhat not true   ● Not at all true





# 1979 RECEIVING THE NOBLE PRIZE AND 11 WEEKS LATER



"[But] that is for me the silence  
and the emptiness is so great,  
because Christ is  
that I look and do not see,--  
everywhere-- "Christ in our  
Listen and do not hear--the  
hearts. Christ in the poor  
tongue moves [in prayer] but  
we meet Christ in the smile  
we do not speak in the smile  
we give and in that I let Him have  
[a] free hand."



# WRITING TO



So many unanswered questions live within me afraid to uncover them-- because of the blasphemy--If there be God --please forgive me--When I try to raise my thoughts to Heaven--there is such convicting emptiness that those very thoughts return like sharp knives & hurt my very soul.--I am told God loves me--and yet the reality of darkness & coldness & emptiness is so great that nothing touches my soul. Did I make a mistake in surrendering blindly to the Call of the Sacred Heart?



# DOUBT IS NOT UNBELIEF

Rejecting the  
proposition



Accepting the  
proposition



Two minds  
Foot in each boat

Two minds  
Foot in each boat

Two minds  
Foot in each boat



# MARTIN LUTHER



*Unless I am convinced  
by Scripture and plain  
reason, my  
conscience is captive  
to the Word of God*



# PRAYING OUR DOUBTS

## PART 2 DEALING WITH OUR DOUBTS

1. We re-examine the motives behind our doubts
2. We deliberately engage in worship with others and regain insight
3. We compare footholds
4. We feel for His hand
5. We make God our refuge

## A. RE-EXAMINE OUR MOTIVES



Psalms 73:3 (ESV) For I was envious of the arrogant  
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their  
tongue struts through the earth.

10 Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault  
in them. 11 And they say, “How can God know? Is there  
knowledge in the Most High?”

12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they  
increase in riches



**KNOWLEDGE**  
**UNDERSTANDING**

**FAITH**

**WILL**

**EMOTIONS**

Unconscious  
natural harmony



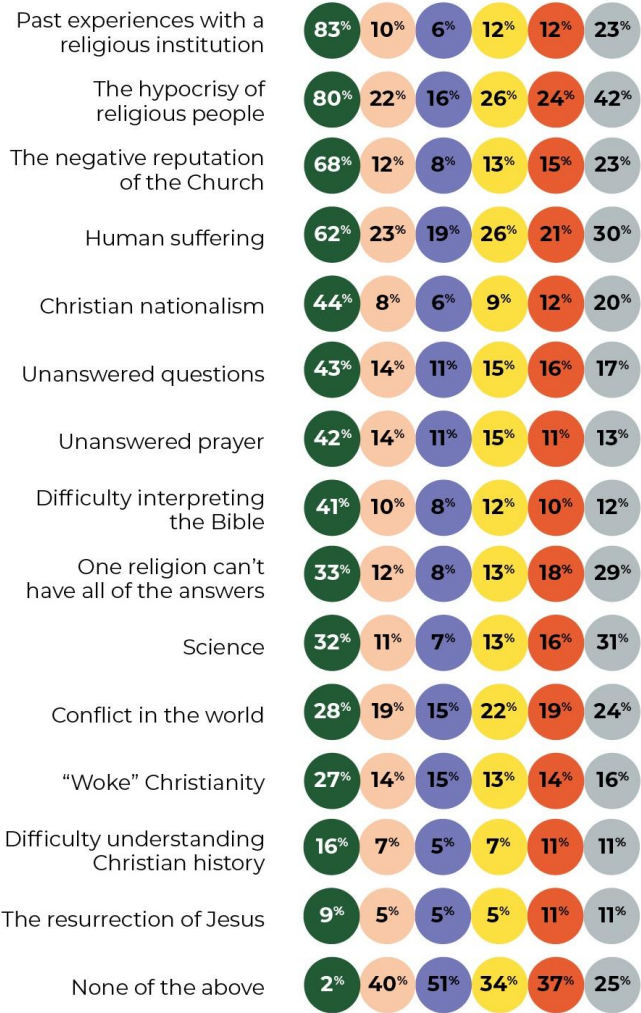
# Causes for Doubt

Pastors: What do you believe makes people doubt Christian beliefs? Select all that apply.

General population: Do any of the following cause you to doubt Christian beliefs? Select all that apply.

Base: general population ages 13+

Pastors All Christians Practicing Christians Nonpracticing Christians Other faith No faith



Source: Barna Group  
n=2,005 U.S. teens and adults, December 13–22, 2022.  
n=511 U.S. Protestant senior pastors, December 13, 2022–January 3, 2023.



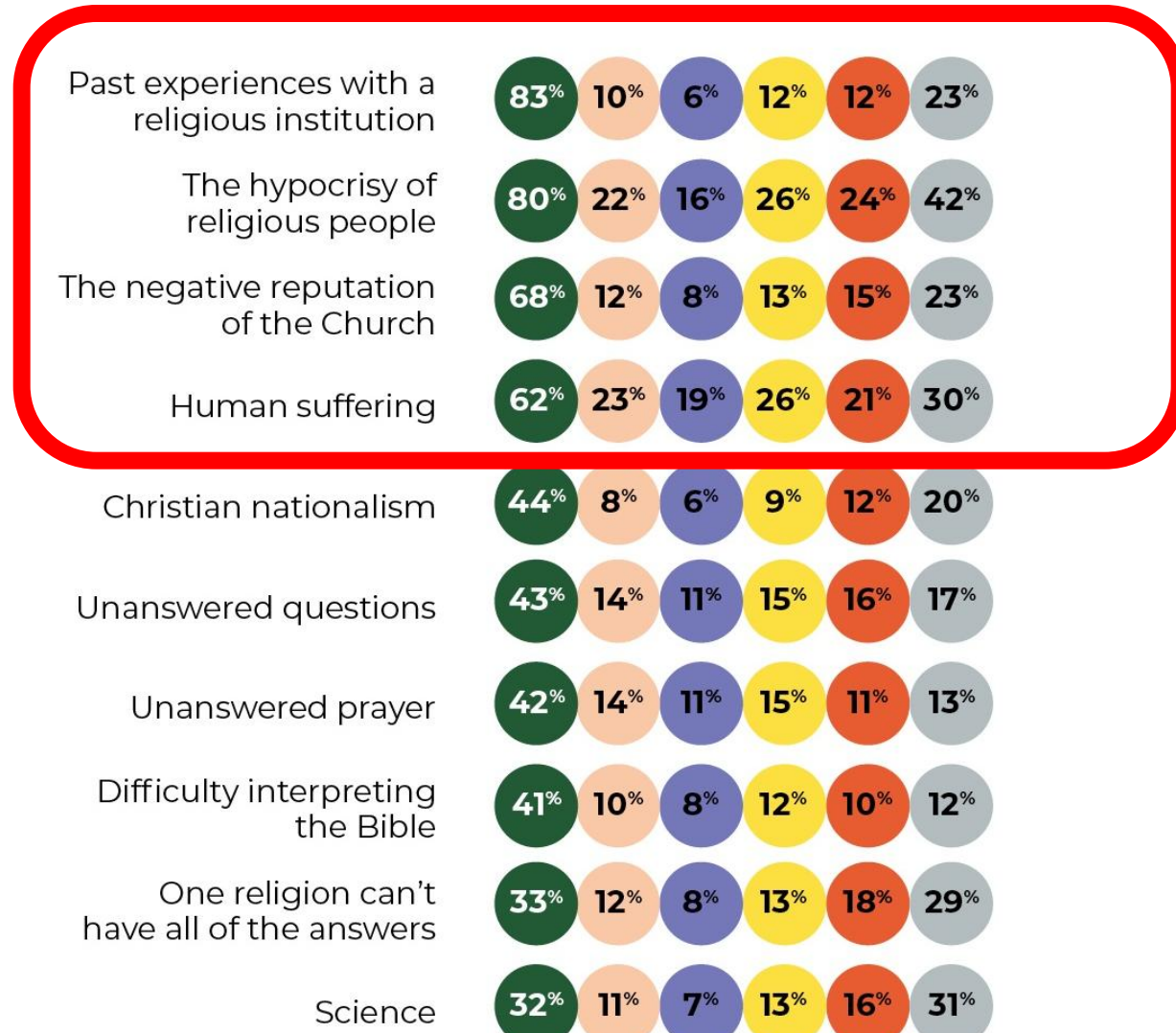
## Causes for Doubt

Pastors: What do you believe makes people doubt Christian beliefs? Select all that apply.

General population: Do any of the following cause you to doubt Christian beliefs? Select all that apply.

Base: general population ages 13+

● Pastors ● All Christians ● Practicing Christians ● Nonpracticing Christians ● Other faith ● No faith



## New Experiences

# BLESSED



Greed is normalized  
Discontent is encouraged

- *31% believe that God increases the riches of those who give.*
- *The full 2/3 agree that God wants people to prosper.*
- *43% of all Christian respondents agreed that the faithful receive health and wealth...*





His adherence of holiness had a clear expectation of reciprocation by God

Psalms 73:13-15 (ESV) All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.

14 For Kept up appearance of enduring faith so as not to stumble others ..expected divine reciprocation  
and rebuked every morning.

15 If I had said, “I will speak thus,”  
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.



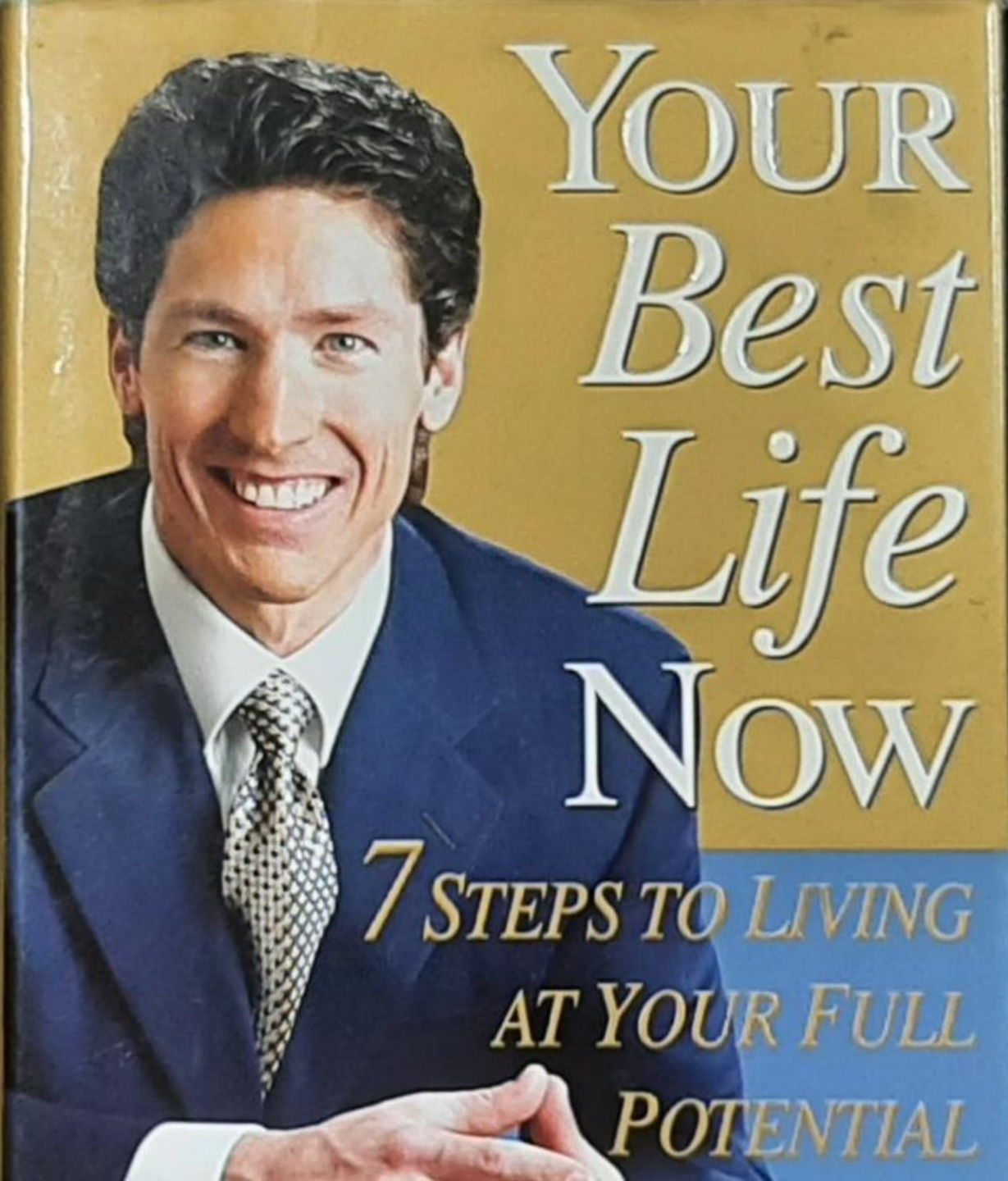
## ELIPHAZ SPEAKS

Job 4:7-8 (ESV) Remember: who that was innocent  
ever perished?

Or where were the upright cut off?

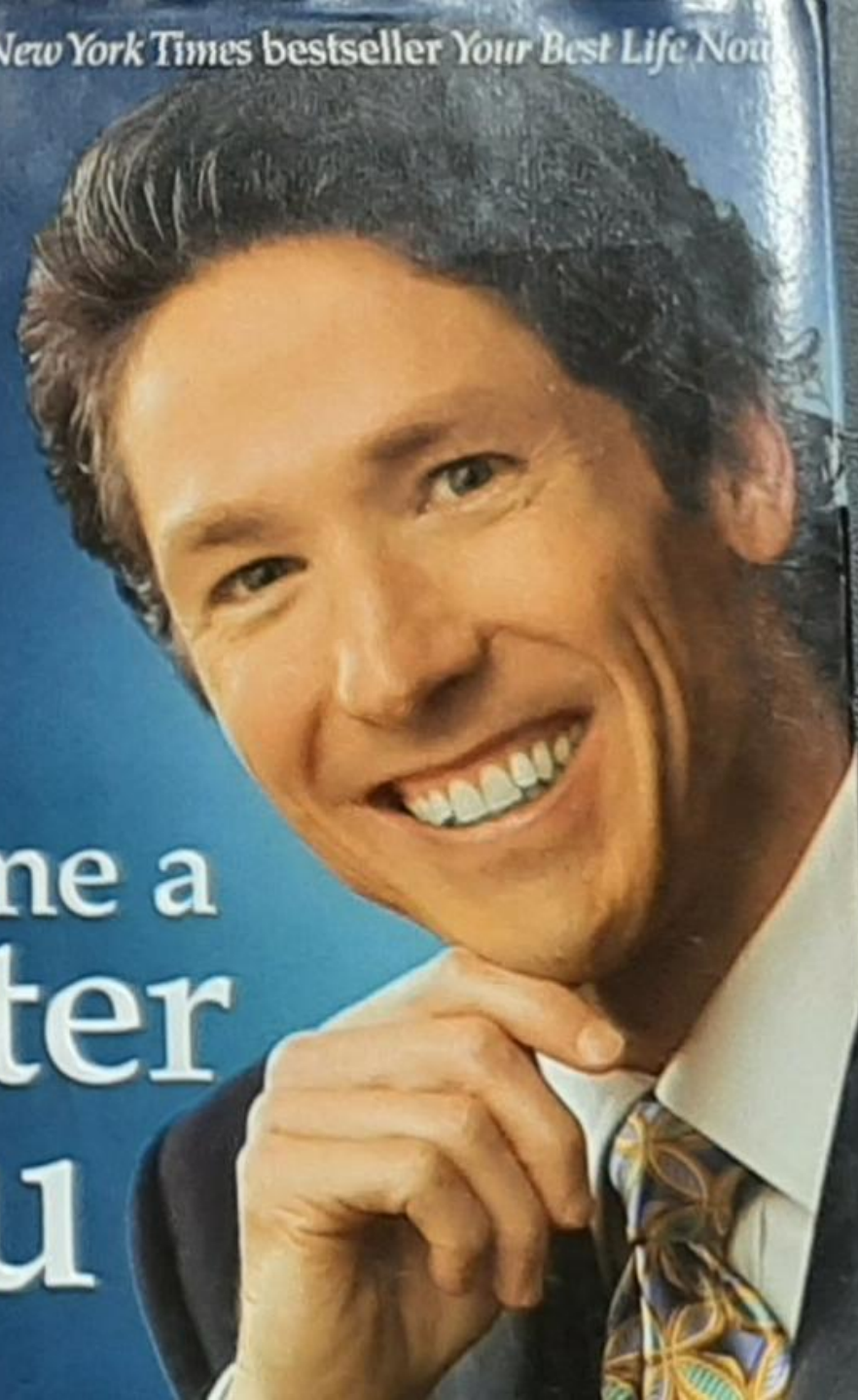
8 As I have seen, those who plow iniquity  
and sow trouble reap the same





Author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Your Best Life Now*

Become a  
**Better  
You**





# KATE BOWLER



*Some people wanted Bentleys, but more wanted relief from the wounds of their past and the pain of their present. People wanted salvation from bleak medical diagnoses; they wanted to see God rescue their broken teenagers or their misfiring marriages. They wanted talismans to ward off the things that go bump in the night. They wanted an iota of power over the things that ripped their lives apart at the seams*





# THE REAL MOTIVE FOR FAITH

*We want to believe we can shape  
our life's course*



**Belief**  
(Expectation)



**Reality**



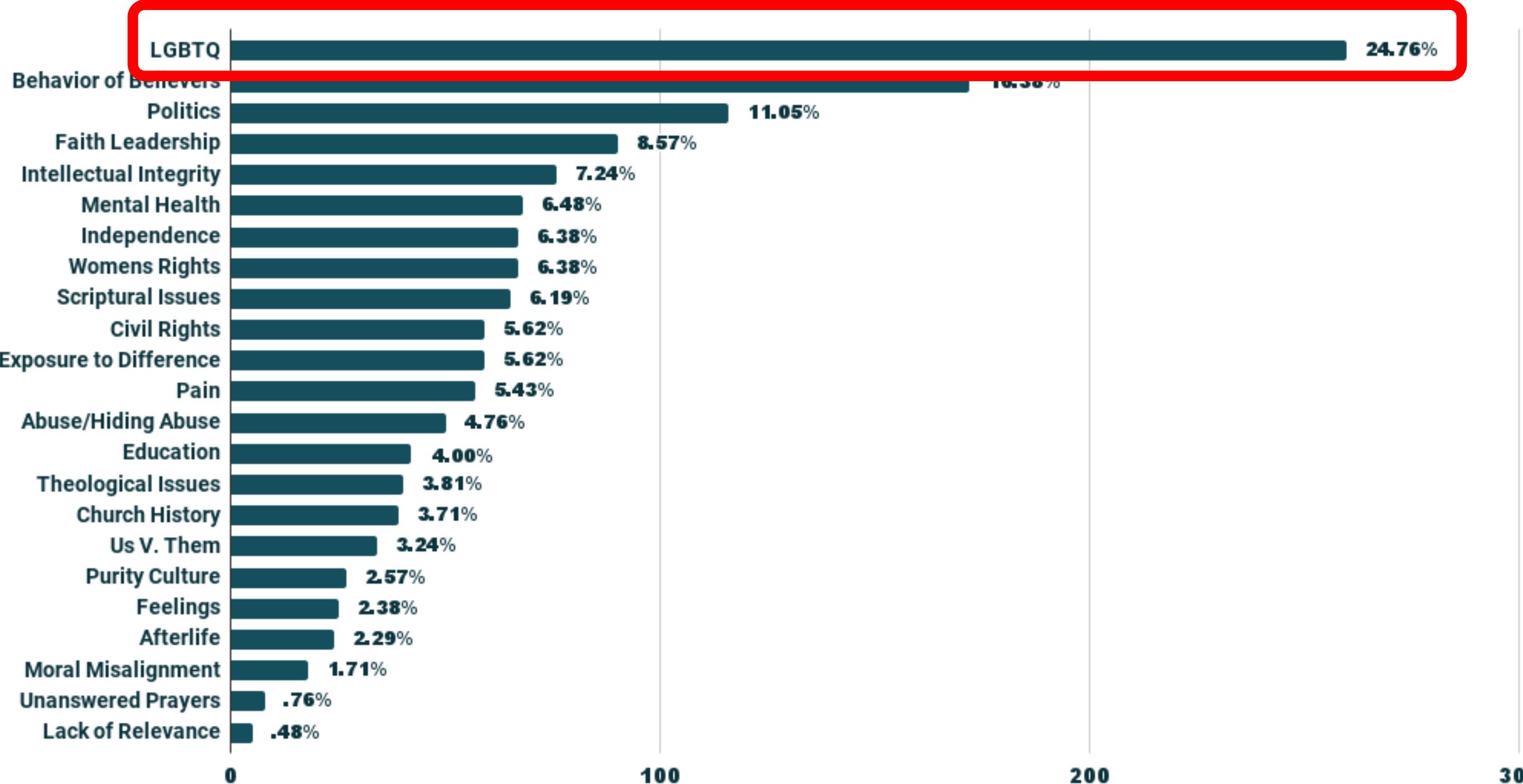
## Countries included in this report

Pew Research Center MARCH 24, 2025



Source: Spring 2024 Global Attitudes Survey. Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.  
"Around the World, Many People Are Leaving Their Childhood Religions"

# Final Reason for Leaving







## **MOTIVE: SEXUAL DESIRE**

In short I do not believe I can be "cured" by behavioural therapy. I am gay and will always be so.

Roy Clemens



**MOTIVE: UNMET DESIRES**





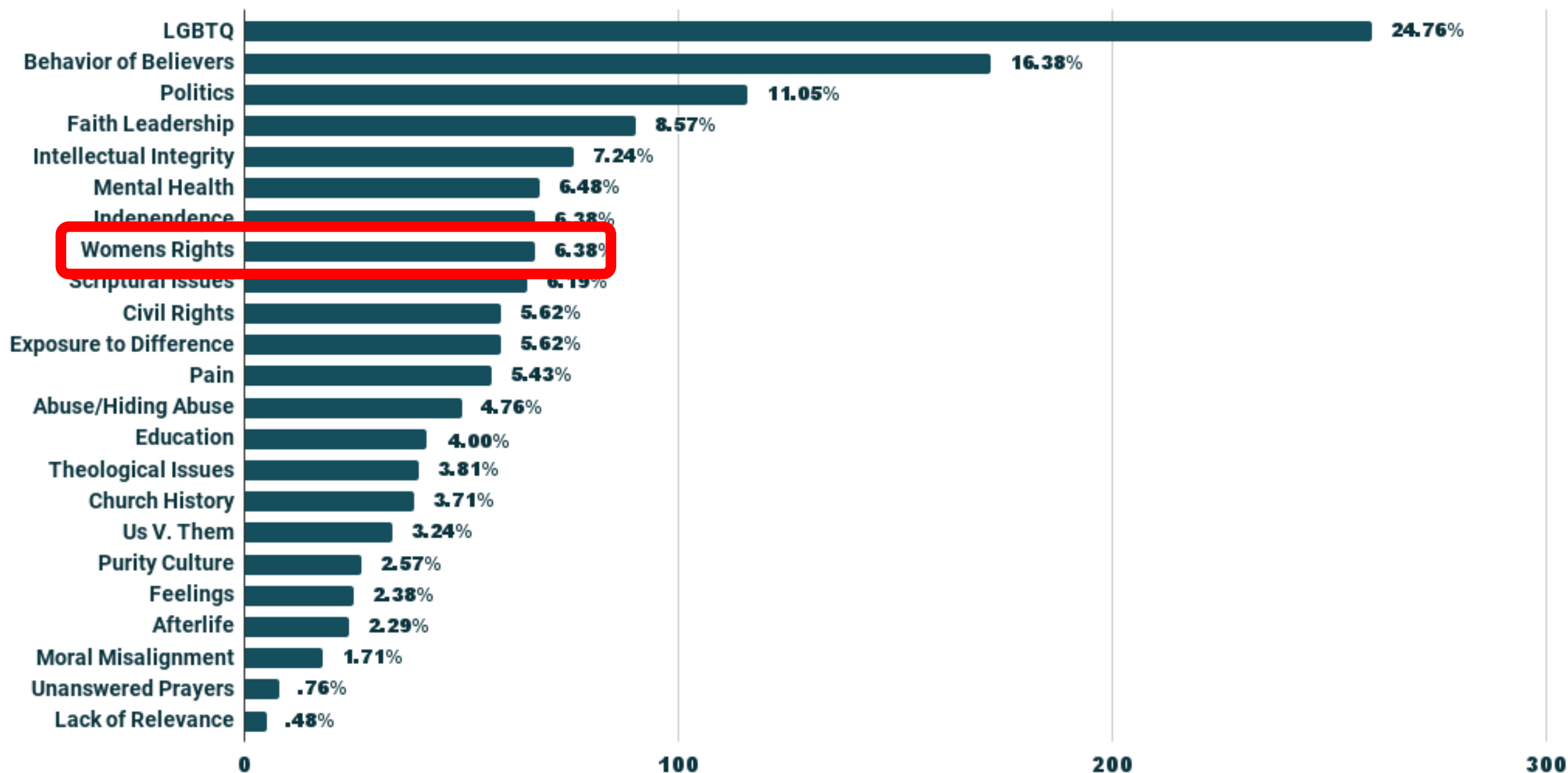
# CONFESSIONS OF AN ATHEIST: WHY I LEFT



Truth doesn't depend on what you like or on what make most sense to you personally

I don't have to try to fit in the divine when science can explain the way the world works. ....Most of all, I don't have to bother reconciling my idea of women's rights and the sexist notions in Christianity and other major religions. If other women are happy being submissive to their husbands because the bible tells them to do so, that's up to them. But at least now, I can choose not to and I'm free to seek a more egalitarian relationship outside the misogynistic boundaries of religion.

# Final Reason for Leaving





# PRAYING OUR DOUBTS

## PART 2 DEALING WITH OUR DOUBTS

1. We re-examine the motives behind our doubts
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# SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING WRESTLE WITH HIS WORD



Psalms 73:16-17 (ESV) But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,  
17 until I went into the sanctuary of God;  
then I discerned their end.





# **WE CREATE OUR OWN VERSION OF USER FRIENDLY GOD**

Cannot contradict us

Cannot correct us

Cannot really help us











He becomes who we  
want him to be













Be relevant

Stop making me feel guilty

Tell me what Jesus  
can do for me

Don't mention Hell it  
makes me  
uncomfortable

Please refer to sin as  
bad choices

Tell me again how  
much God wants to  
bless me

Make sure there are  
enough programs  
for my kids

Remember how  
much money I give  
each week





# DIVINE TEMPORAL JUDGMENT



Psalms 73:18-20 (ESV) Truly you set them in slippery  
places where they will fall to ruin.

**But its not happening????**

swept away utterly by terrors!

20 Like a dream when one awakes,

O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them  
as phantoms.



**ARE WE THERE YET?**





# PERSPECTIVE OF TIME

1 year is a 25% of a 4 year old's life

1 year is a 0.015% of a 66 year old's life

# BIBLICAL INSTANCES OF WAITING

Abraham had to wait for Isaac	25 years
Isaac waited for children	20 years
Jacob waited for his wife Rachel	14 years
Joseph waited to be redeemed	13 years
Israel enslaved in Egypt before coming to Caanan	400years
David waited to be king	15 years
Israel in the wilderness	40 years
Moses waited in the Wilderness of Midian	40 years
Israel waited in exile	70 years



# PHILIP YANCEY

We may  
question His  
wisdom but  
never his love  
We need to  
know why we  
trust Him

DIS  
W  
*Three Questions No One Asks Aloud*

OVER 300,000 SOLD  
NOW INCLUDES QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

## THE ISSUE



“No matter how we rationalize, God will sometimes seem unfair from the perspective of a person trapped in time. Only at the end of time, after we have attained God’s level of viewing, after every evil has been punished or forgiven, every illness healed, and the entire universe restored—only then will fairness reign



## ULTIMATE REALITY

Psalms 49:16-20 (ESV) Be not afraid when a man becomes rich,

when the glory of his house increases.

17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away;  
his glory will not go down after him.





## REFOCUS ON OUR MAIN AIM IN LIFE

Psalms 48:9-10 (ESV) We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

10 As your name, O God,  
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.

The main aim in life is not that we will get a more comfortable life but that our lives serve to glorify Him

Matthew 4:1-3 (ESV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him,

“If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

**Doubt**





What we see does not correlate  
with what we know







Grab  
Food


Grab  
Food

ACU  
1462



Matthew 4:4 (ESV) But he answered, “It is written,

“‘Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of  
God.’”

A cinematic still from a film depicting Jesus with a beard and long hair, wearing a green robe and a light-colored shawl. He is holding a large, round, woven basket filled with bread. In the background, another man with a beard and a yellow sash is visible, and a large crowd of people is gathered in a grassy field under a bright sky.

John 6:27 (ESV) 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”





The Word reorientates us to reality

It is not the next meal that matters but His will

Purpose of life is not comfort or food but His Will

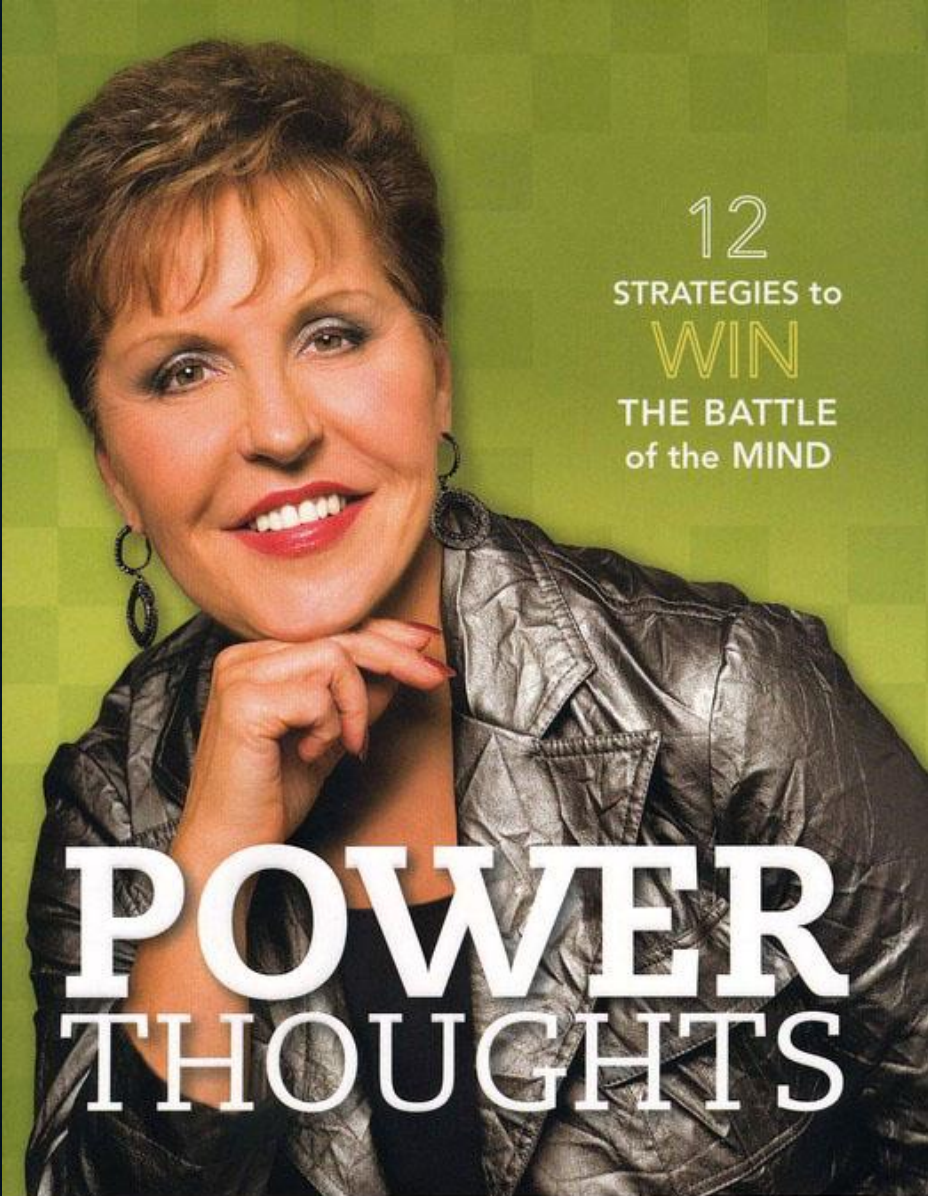
Submission to that will ..obedience trumps everything



Matthew 4:5-6 (ESV) Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and“‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”





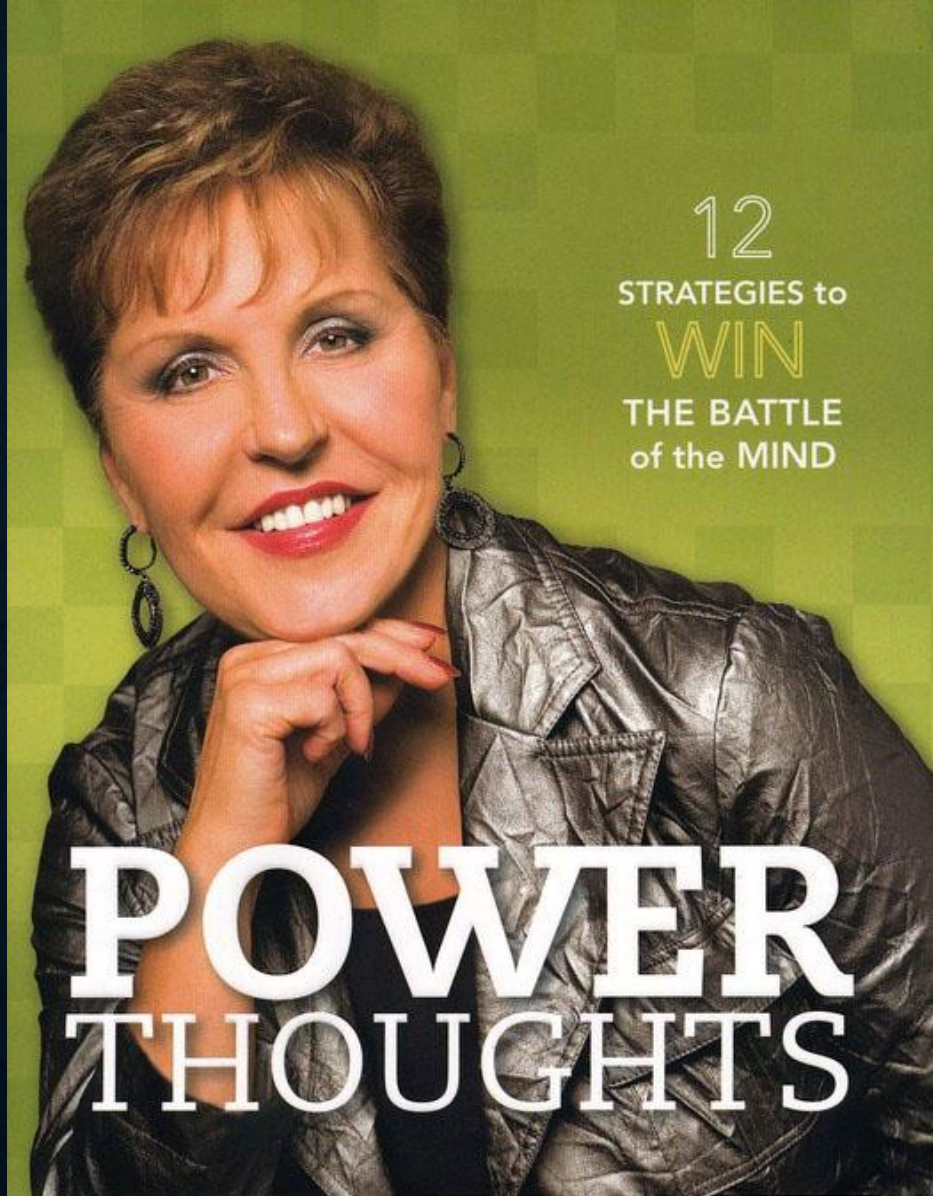
## JOYCE MEYER

*then even begin declaring what God says over your situation. For instance, if you have sickness in your body, say things like: “The Lord heals all of my sicknesses. Jesus took away all sickness and disease, and by His stripes I am healed.” (Ps 103:3; Matt 8:17)*

JOYCE MEYER

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR





JOYCE MEYER

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

## JOYCE MEYER

Every day you need to say,  
“Something good is going to  
happen to me today. I can  
hardly wait to see what God is  
going to do in my life today!”



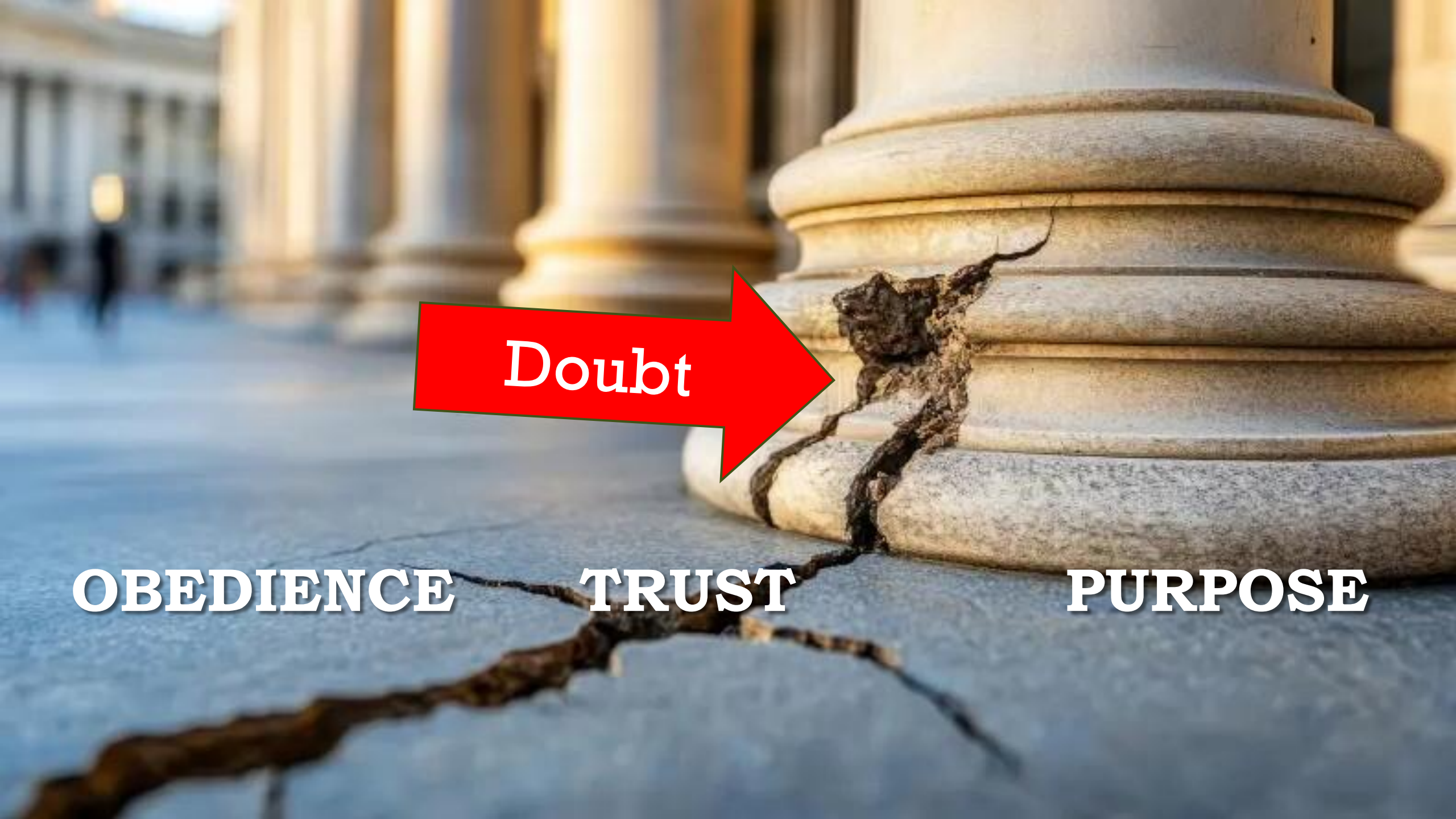


# **JESE NEVER FORGETS TO REMEMBER**

Matthew 4:7 (ESV) Jesus said to him,

“Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”

**THINK THROUGH WITH THE WORD  
NOT JUST RECITE MEMORY VERSES**



**Doubt**

**OBEDIENCE**

**TRUST**

**PURPOSE**





**OBEDIENCE  
TRUST  
WORSHIP**





## WORSHIP -REMEMBERING

Deut 5:15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.





# **LORDS SUPPER**







**THE COMMUNITY IS THE  
EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE**





Ephesians 3:18 may have strength to comprehend **with all the saints** what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

# PRAYING OUR DOUBTS

## PART 2 DEALING WITH OUR DOUBTS

1. We re-examine the motives behind our doubts
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# C: WE COMPARE FOOTHOLDS



## The ungodly

Psalms 73:18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. 19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!

## The godly

Psalms 73:23-24 (ESV)

Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

INCLUDES 18 LETTERS FROM  
C. S. LEWIS

# A SEVERE MERCY

*A Story of Faith, Tragedy,  
and Triumph*

National  
Book  
Award  
Winner



"No brief review  
can do justice  
to the human  
depth of  
this book."

—THE  
WASHINGTON  
POST

SHELDON  
VANAUKEN



*Then I realized that was a gap  
behind me as well. If I had to  
believe in Christ there would have  
been a leap of faith as there is no  
certainty. But to even go back is  
also a leap of faith*

*It would take enormous faith to  
reject Jesus. Once I saw the gap  
behind me I leap forward*



# DOUBT

*leap of faith  
as there is  
no certainty*

Can you go back?  
Jesus is not God

Blaise Pascal Wager



*leap of faith  
as there is  
no certainty*

Accepting the  
proposition  
Jesus is Lord

# PRAYING OUR DOUBTS

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## D. WE FEEL FOR HIS HAND



Psalms 73:23-26 (ESV) Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

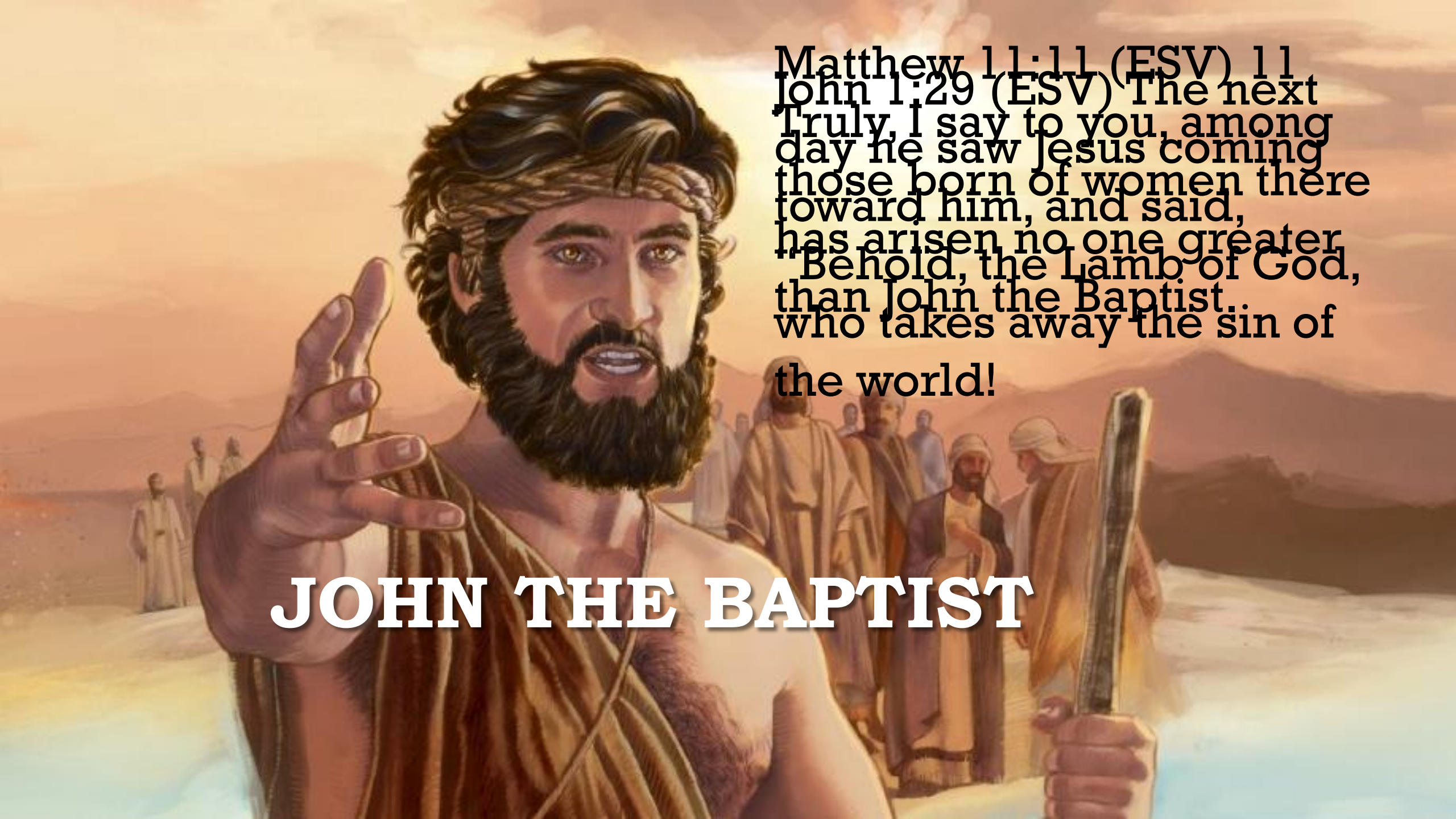
24 You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will receive me to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. 26

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

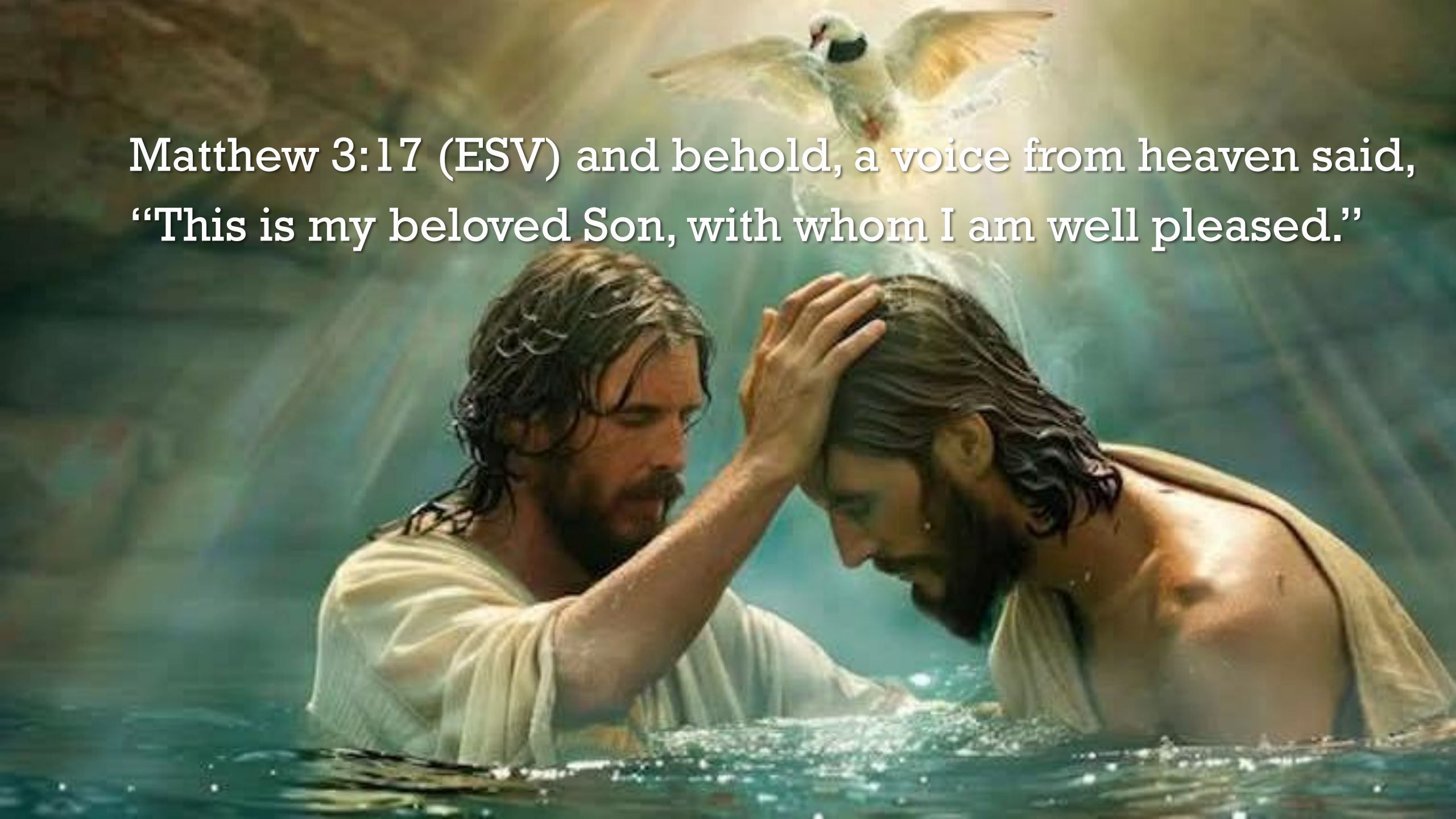


Matthew 11:11 (ESV) 11  
John 1:29 (ESV) The next  
Truly, I say to you, among  
day he saw Jesus coming  
those born of women there  
toward him, and said,  
has arisen no one greater  
"Behold, the Lamb of God,  
than John the Baptist,  
who takes away the sin of  
the world!

# JOHN THE BAPTIST



Matthew 3:17 (ESV) and behold, a voice from heaven said,  
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”





## JOHN'S TESTIMONY

John 1:32-34 (ESV) 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."





HE IS IN PRISON AND WANTED TO FEEL FOR HIS HAND

Doubt

Matt 11:3 Are  
you the one  
who is to come,  
or shall we look  
for another?"





Psalms 55:4-6 (ESV) 4 My heart is in anguish  
within me;

the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

5 Fear and trembling come upon me,  
and horror overwhelms me.

6 And I say, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove!  
I would fly away and be at rest;





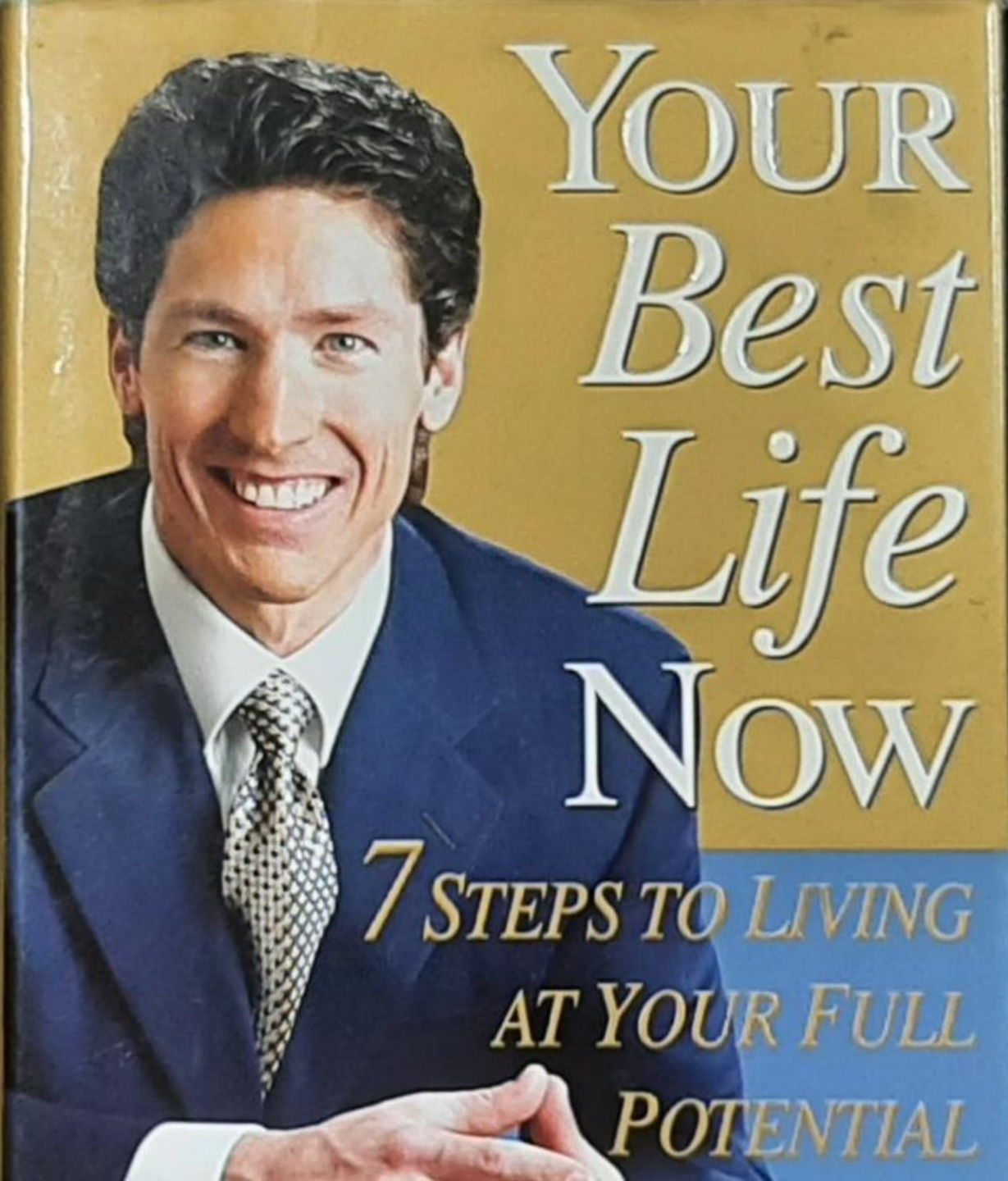
Matt 11:4 And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.



John hears and remembers

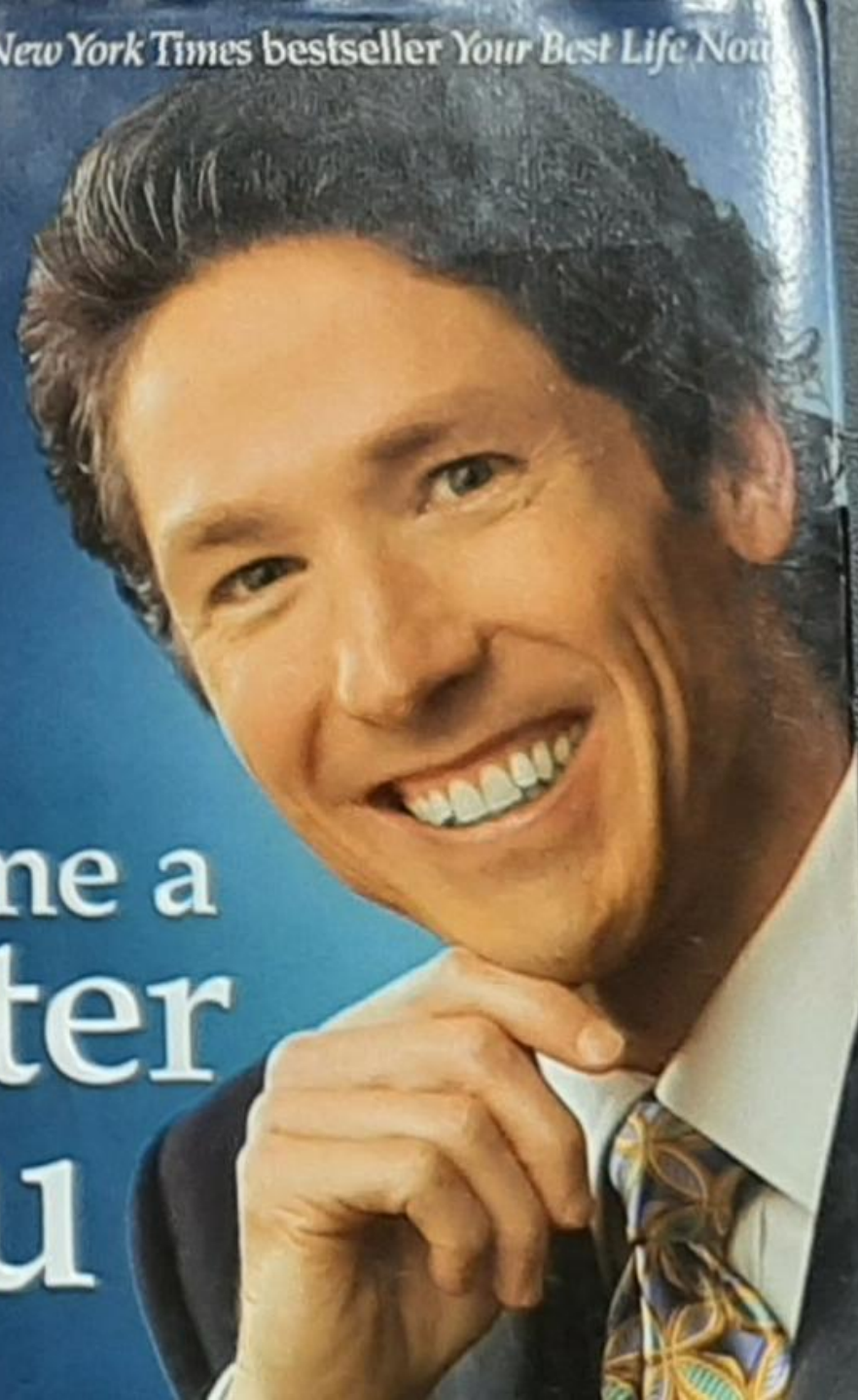
Isaiah 35: 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.





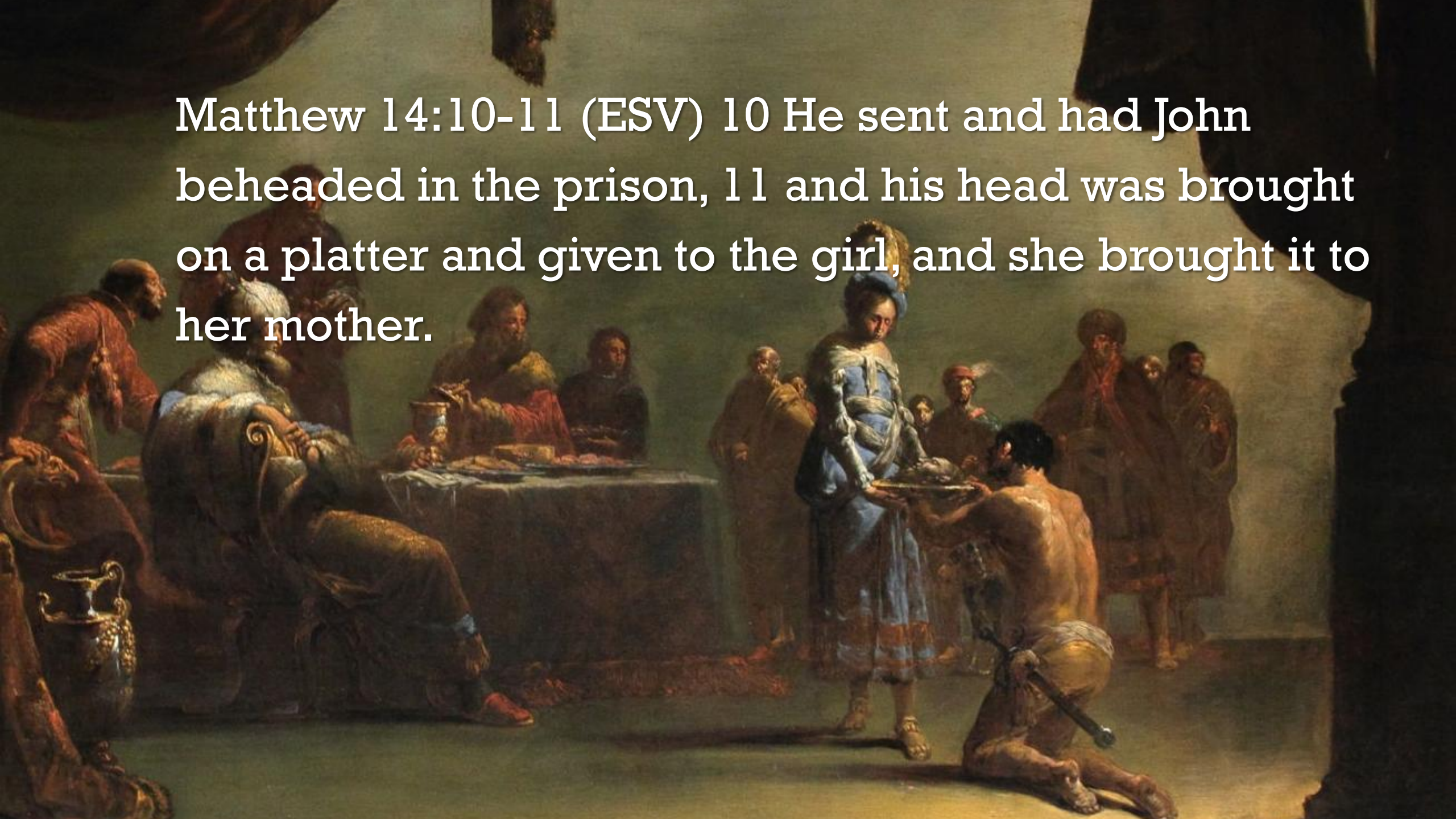
Author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Your Best Life Now*

Become a  
**Better  
You**





Matthew 14:10-11 (ESV) 10 He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, 11 and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.







## THE NATURE OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:39-40 (ESV) And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had **provided something better for us**, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



# STRUGGLING WITH HER DARKNESS



"What do I labour for? If there be no God--there can be no soul--if there is no Soul then Jesus--You also are not true"



# REV JOSEPH NEUNER



1. There was no human remedy for it (that is, she should not feel responsible for affecting it);
2. Feeling Jesus is not the only proof of his being there, and her very craving for God was a "sure sign" of his "hidden presence" in her life;





## **MOTHER TERESA**

I can't express in words--the gratitude I owe you for your kindness to me--for the first time in ... years--I have come to love the darkness--for I believe now that it is part of a very, very small part of Jesus' darkness & pain on earth. You have taught me to accept it [as] a 'spiritual side of your work' as you wrote--Today really I felt a deep joy--that Jesus can't go anymore through the agony--but that He wants to go through it in me.



# **PRAYING OUR DOUBTS**

## **PART 2 DEALING WITH OUR DOUBTS**

1. We re-examine the motives behind our doubts
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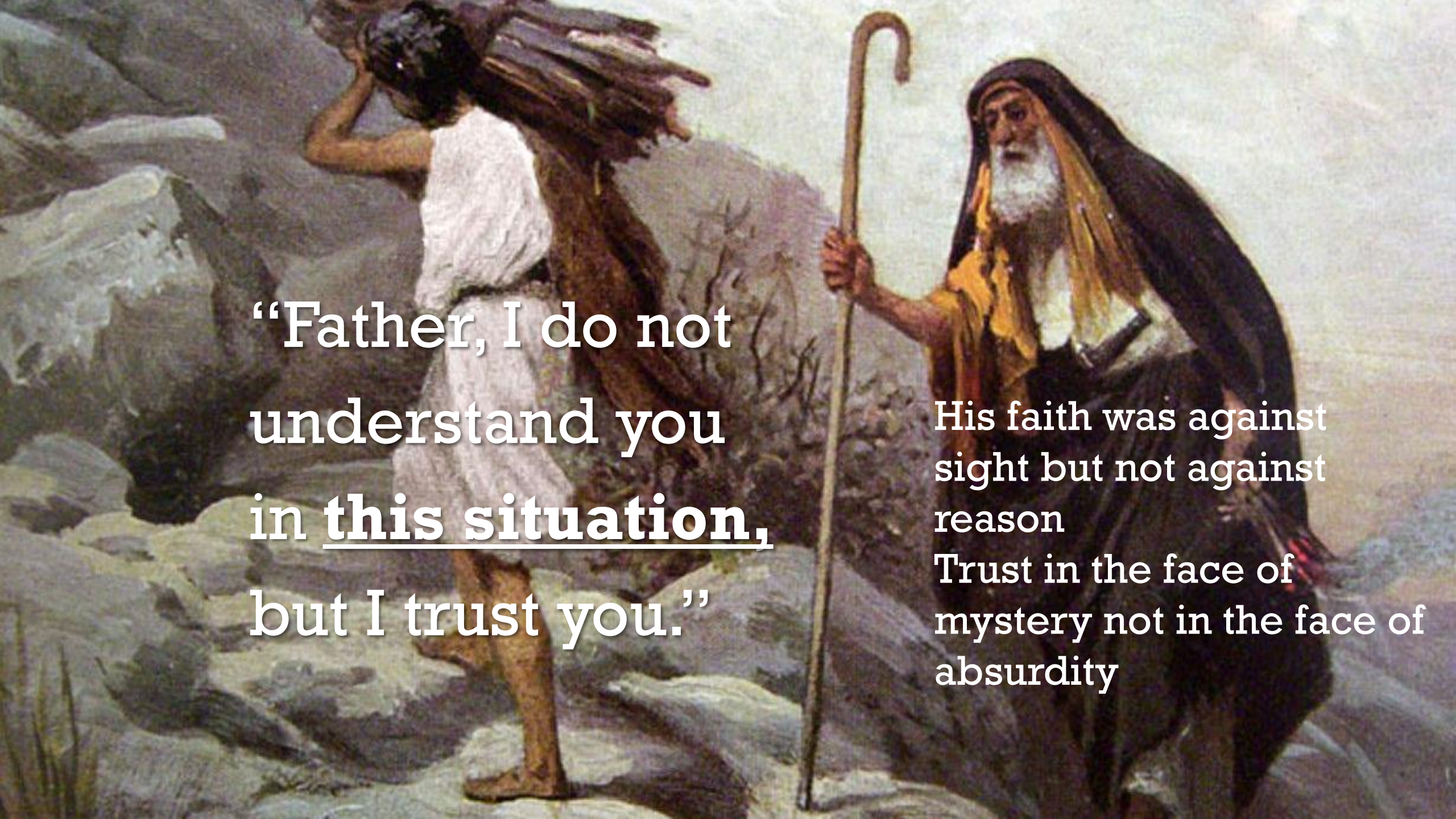
## **E. WE MAKE GOD OUR REFUGE**



Psalms 73:25-26 (ESV) Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my  
portion forever.





“Father, I do not  
understand you  
in this situation,  
but I trust you.”

His faith was against  
sight but not against  
reason  
Trust in the face of  
mystery not in the face of  
absurdity



Basil Mitchells “ The Stranger knows best

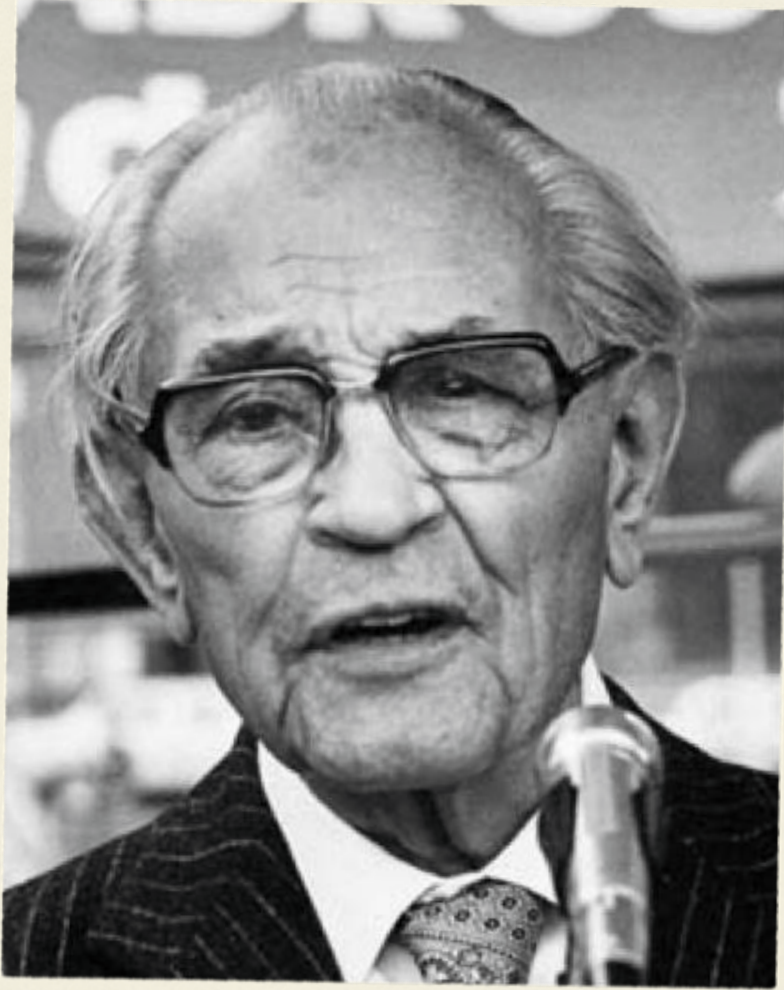






Psalms 73:23-24 (ESV) Nevertheless, I am  
continually with you; you hold my right hand.  
24 You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will receive me to glory.

# MARTIN NIEMOLLER



He was arrested was brought into trial on 7th February 1938.

Terrified, alone and powerless

“Faith is seen here as a deliberate act, in defiance of one’s emotional state and is safe.”





Psalms 73:25-26 (ESV) Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

# **PRAYING OUR DOUBTS**

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The background is a watercolor illustration of a landscape. The top half features a body of water in shades of teal and light green, with a white horizon line. The bottom half shows mountains in warm, earthy tones of brown and tan, rendered with fine, parallel lines to create a textured effect. The word "BENEDICTION" is centered in the middle of the image, overlaid on the water and mountains.

# BENEDICTION



## **HIS WORK IN US**

Hebrews 13:20-21 (ESV) 20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.