

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE

PHILIPPIANS

TO LIVE CHRIST

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TO DIE GAIN!

Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

FALSE PROPHETS

Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but they are ferocious wolves. Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. The Lord says, these prophets are prophesying in my name. I have not sent them, I have not appointed them, nor spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds. False Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect.

Philippians 3:1-3

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,



Matthew 7:15

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Jude 4

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.



Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!



2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.

But the question is . . .
ARE WE TRULY SAVED?!

Contemporary evangelism, which views becoming a Christian as an emotional and even impulsive decision; a feeling-induced act to which people are led by fiery preaching, heartrending stories, and emotion- stirring music.

The goal of contemporary evangelistic methodology is to induce people to seize the moment, pray a prayer, and make a decision to accept Christ. But Jesus never tried to move people emotionally into a moment of crisis in which they would accept Him.

John Dillenberger



There is no record in the New Testament of Jesus or the apostles counseling someone to make such a momentary choice, or pray a prayer in order to be saved.

When the Lord invited a person to receive forgiveness and salvation by faith in Him, He did not want the emotion of a moment's feeling of guilt, fear, or desire for a better life, but a carefully thought out lifetime commitment to Himself as Lord.

John Dillenberger



To Jesus, and the apostles as well, following Christ salvifically was not an event, but a way of life.”

John Dillenberger



**So let's talk about what
SALVATION IS NOT . . .**

**A Superficially Moral Life
Is Not Salvation!**



Matthew 23:27-28

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

**Salvation Is Not Mere
Knowledge Of The Facts
Of The Gospel!**

BIBLE STUDY

James 2:19

**You believe that there is one God. You do well.
Even the demons believe—and tremble!**

**Religious Activity Is Not
Proof Of Salvation!**







2 Timothy 3:5

having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

**Salvation Is Not Serving In
The Name Of Jesus!**



Matthew 7:22-23

Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?” And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”



**Let's talk about
WHAT SALVATION IS . . .**



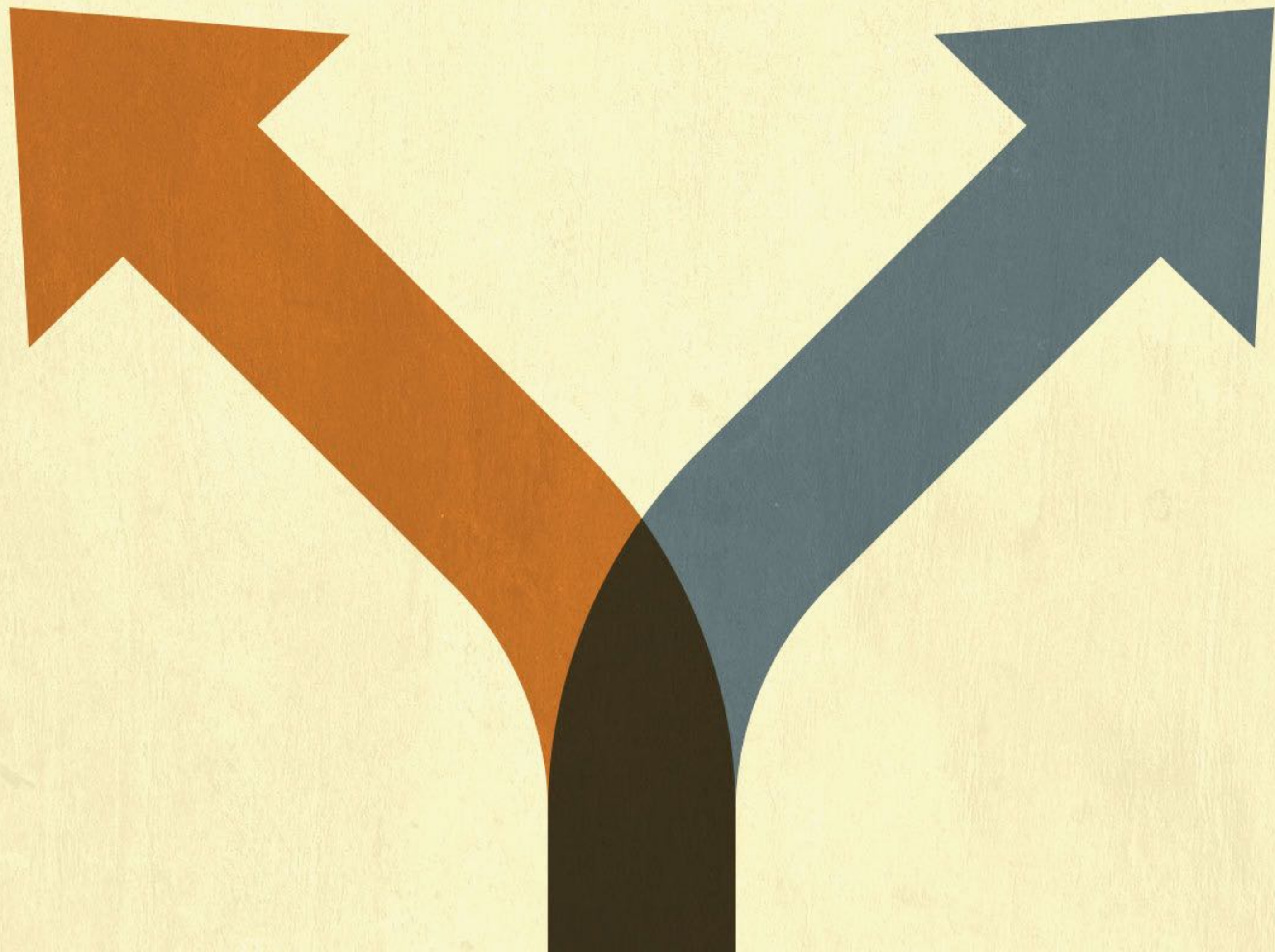
**Genuine Faith
Rejoices In The Lord!**



Philippians 4:4

**Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say,
rejoice!**

**Genuine Faith
Will Be Discerning!**

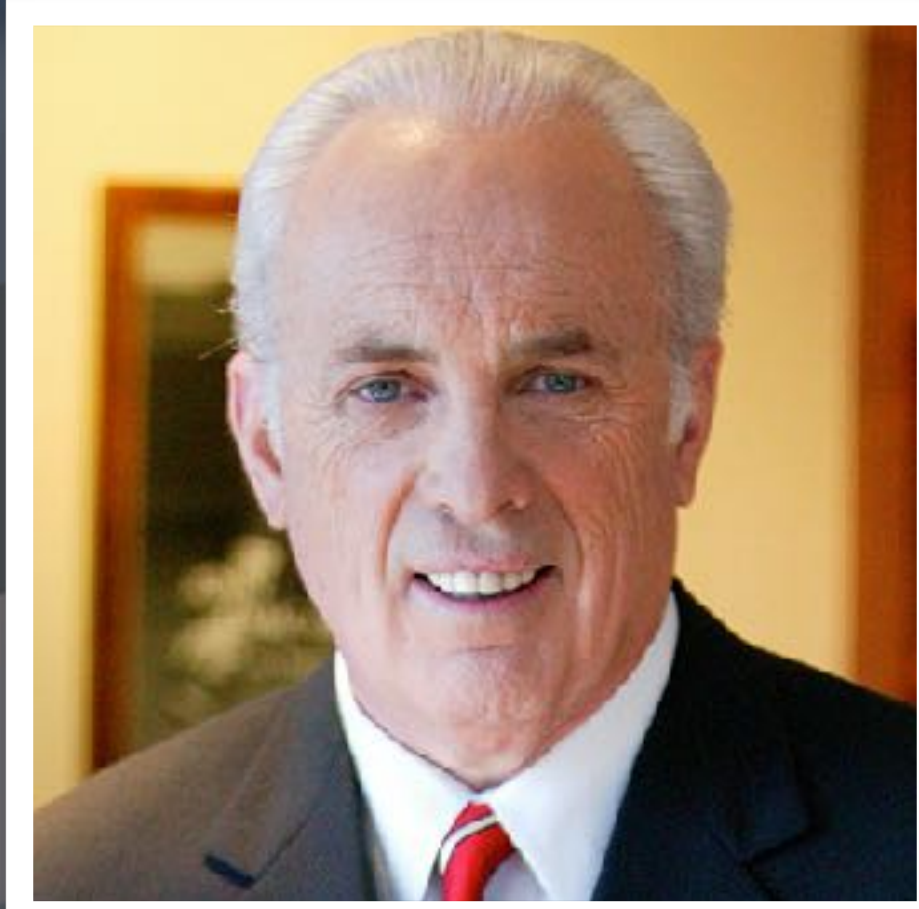




“Paul’s words seem harsh and unloving in today’s climate of tolerance and diversity. Even many in the church consider it unloving and divisive to point out doctrinal error.

Yet truth and love are not mutually exclusive, and believers are called to both, as well as to discernment.”

John MacArthur Jr.



Ephesians 4:11-14

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,



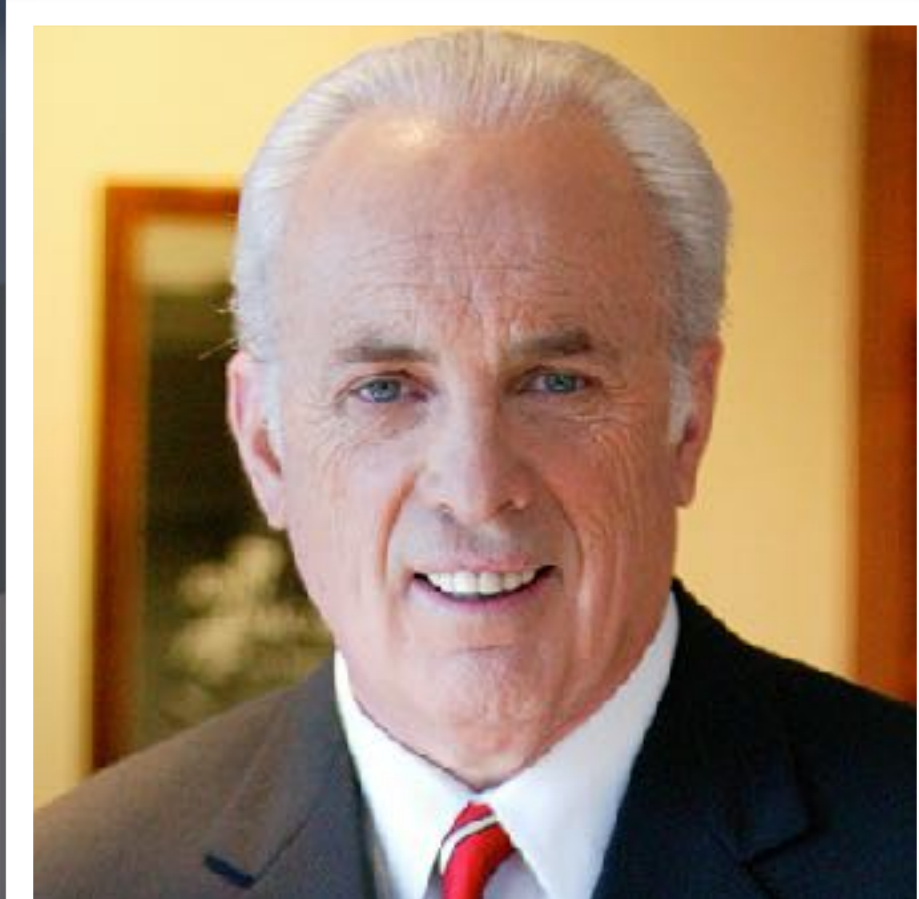
**Genuine Faith
Worships In The Spirit!**



Psalms 95:1-7c

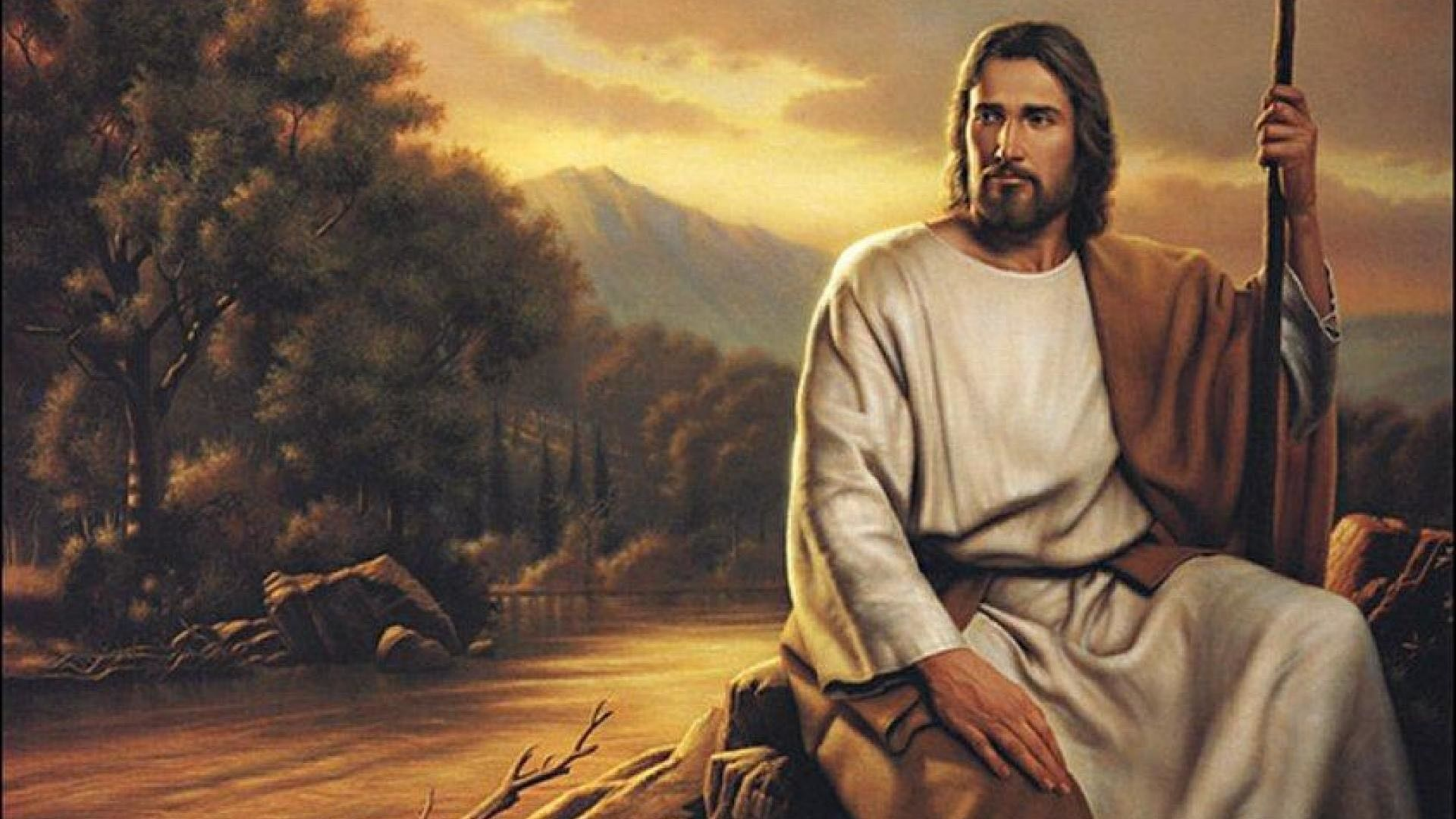
Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.

**Genuine Faith
Is About Jesus,
Not The Flesh!**



***“There are only two religions in this world . . .
Biblical Christianity, and false religion.”***

John MacArthur Jr.



**Let's continue with
Philippians 3 . . .**

Philippians 3:7-11

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

The background is a deep blue, almost black, space scene filled with numerous small, distant stars. In the center, a large, spherical Earth is visible, showing swirling white and light blue cloud patterns over a darker blue ocean. The Earth is slightly tilted. Overlaid on the center of the Earth is the word 'JESUS' in a large, white, serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned directly beneath 'JESUS'. Below this line, the words 'VS. THE WORLD' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with a strong contrast between the white text and the dark blue background.

JESUS

VS. THE WORLD





Mark 8:34-38

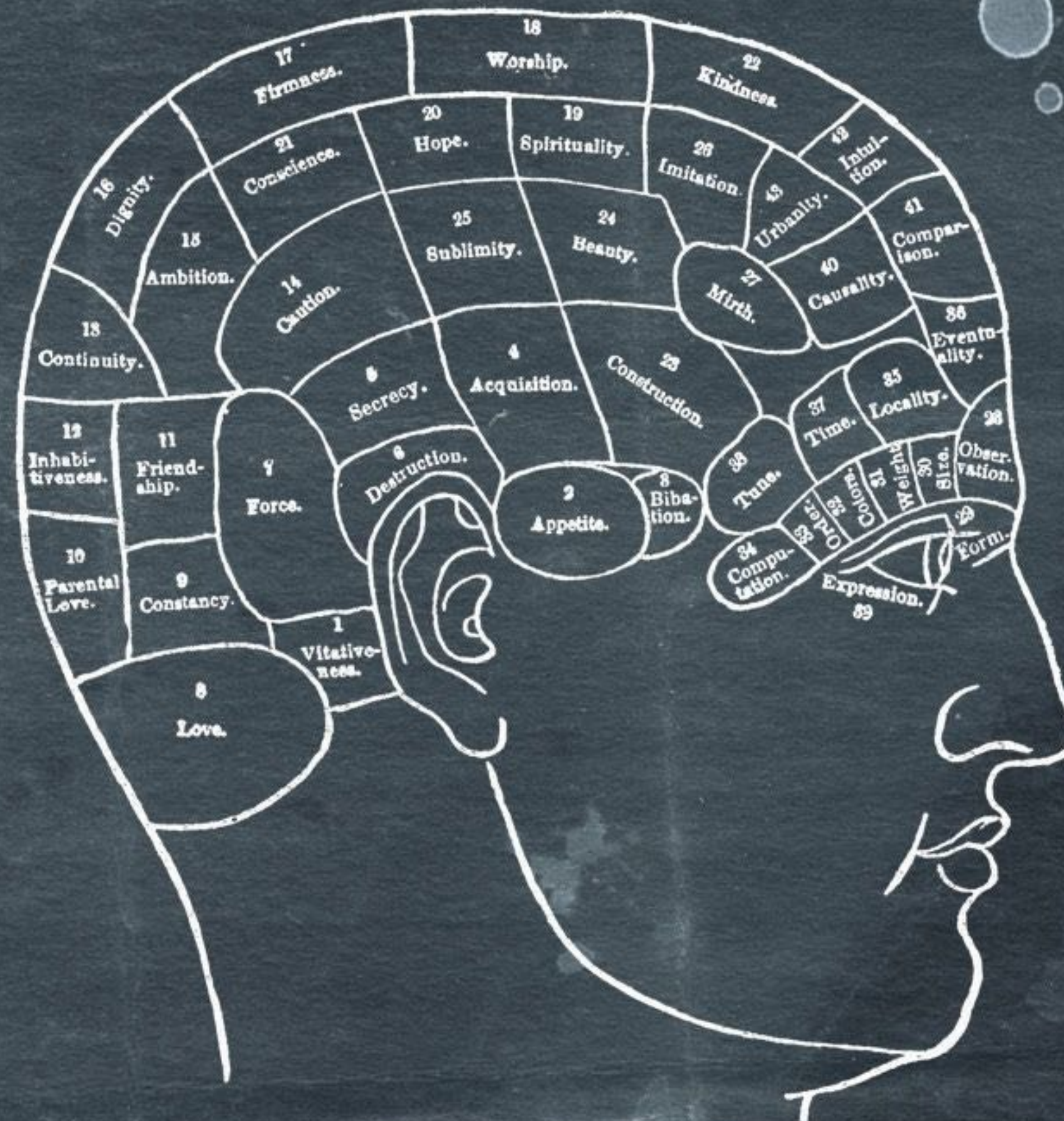
When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

- **Abraham was asked to abandon his homeland to follow God**
- **Many of the Old Testament prophets lived lives of ridicule and seclusion**
 - **The disciples were asked to abandon the lives they had built**
- **And Paul decided to give up all he had worked for in order to follow Jesus.**

***So what were some of
those gains?***



We Gain Knowledge!



PHRENOLOGICAL CHART
of the Human Brain.



Galatians 2:20

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.



We Gain Righteousness!





Romans 10:3

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

The background is an abstract composition of various shades of brown, tan, and beige. These colors are arranged in a complex, non-repeating pattern of overlapping geometric shapes, primarily triangles and quadrilaterals, creating a mosaic-like effect. The overall texture is busy and textured, with the colors blending into each other while maintaining distinct boundaries between the shapes.

We Gain Power!



Colossians 2:13-15

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

**We Gain Fellowship
In His Sufferings!**



2 Corinthians 12:10

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.

**We Gain The Resurrection
From The Dead!**



Philippians 3:12-16

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.



1 Corinthians 9:26b

. . . Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

Ephesians 6:12

**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,
but against principalities, against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this age,
against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the
heavenly places.**

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Corinthians 9:25

And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.



We Must Be Aware!

We Must Give Maximum Effort!

We Must Be Focused!

We Must Be Motivated!

We Must Recognize Jesus!

And, We Must Be Conformed To Jesus!



Luke 9:62

But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”



We must spend time in the Word!

We must spend time in Prayer!

We must follow Godly Examples!

We must allow God to Move us Forward!



Philippians 3:17-21

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.



KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

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2x NBA FINALS MVP
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**We Need To Follow
Good Examples!**



HEROES

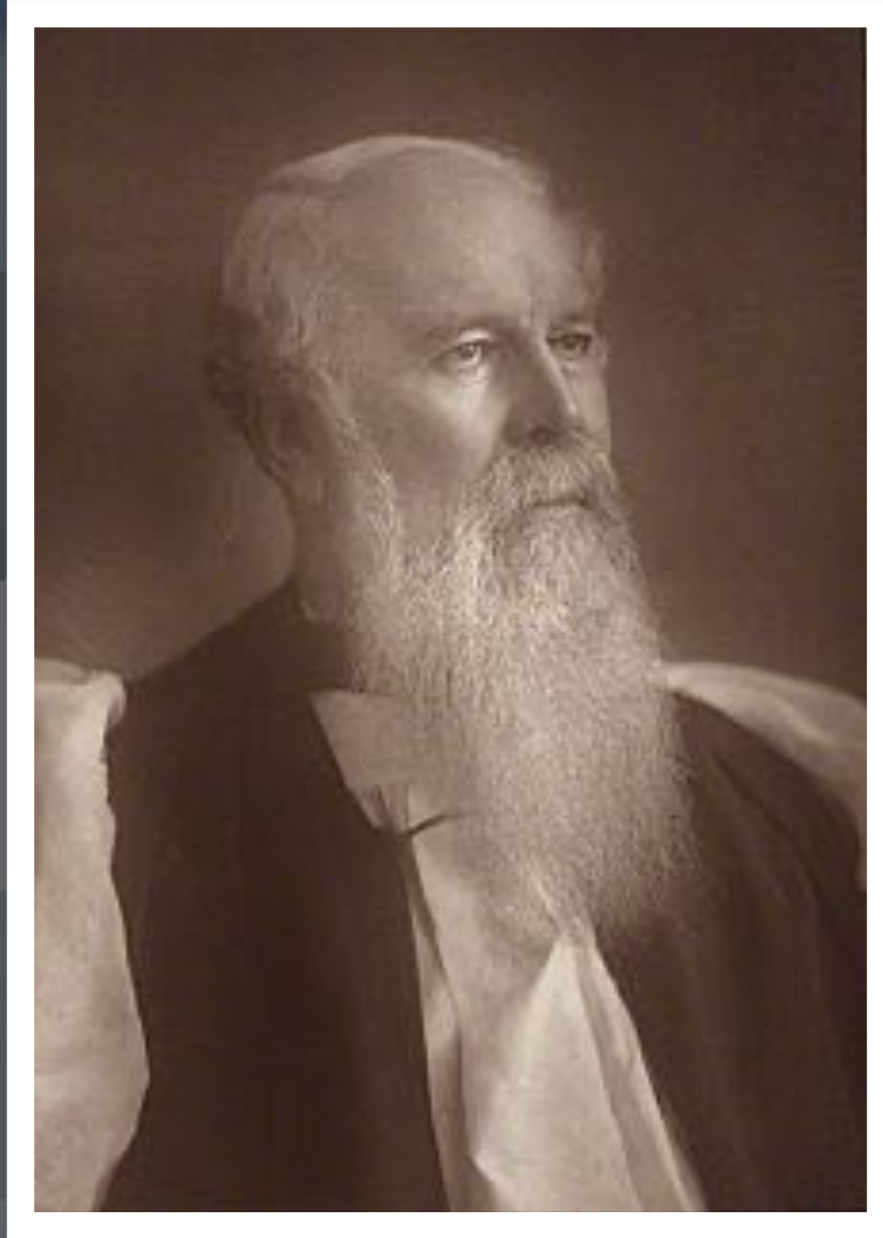
AMAZING STORIES OF FAITH





“Unless you really know the character of your own heart, you will never value the gospel as you ought . . .”

J. C. Rile



“We need to be killing sin, or it will be killing us.”

John Owen



“The greatest threat to Christianity and your faith is yourself. Resolve your sinfulness before Almighty God. If we are living for God and dreading our sin, fearing the Lord with all reverence, sharing gospel love and grace to others, it will quench fleshly sin and wretched disobedience to God.”

Rick Holland






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