

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several faint, light blue technical diagrams. In the top right, there is a large circular gauge with concentric circles and radial tick marks, resembling a dial or a speedometer. In the bottom right, there is a smaller circular diagram with concentric circles and arrows indicating a clockwise direction. In the bottom left, there is a partial view of another circular diagram with an arrow. The main text is centered on a light blue rectangular panel that has a slight 3D effect with a drop shadow.

That's a *GOOD* Question

Part V

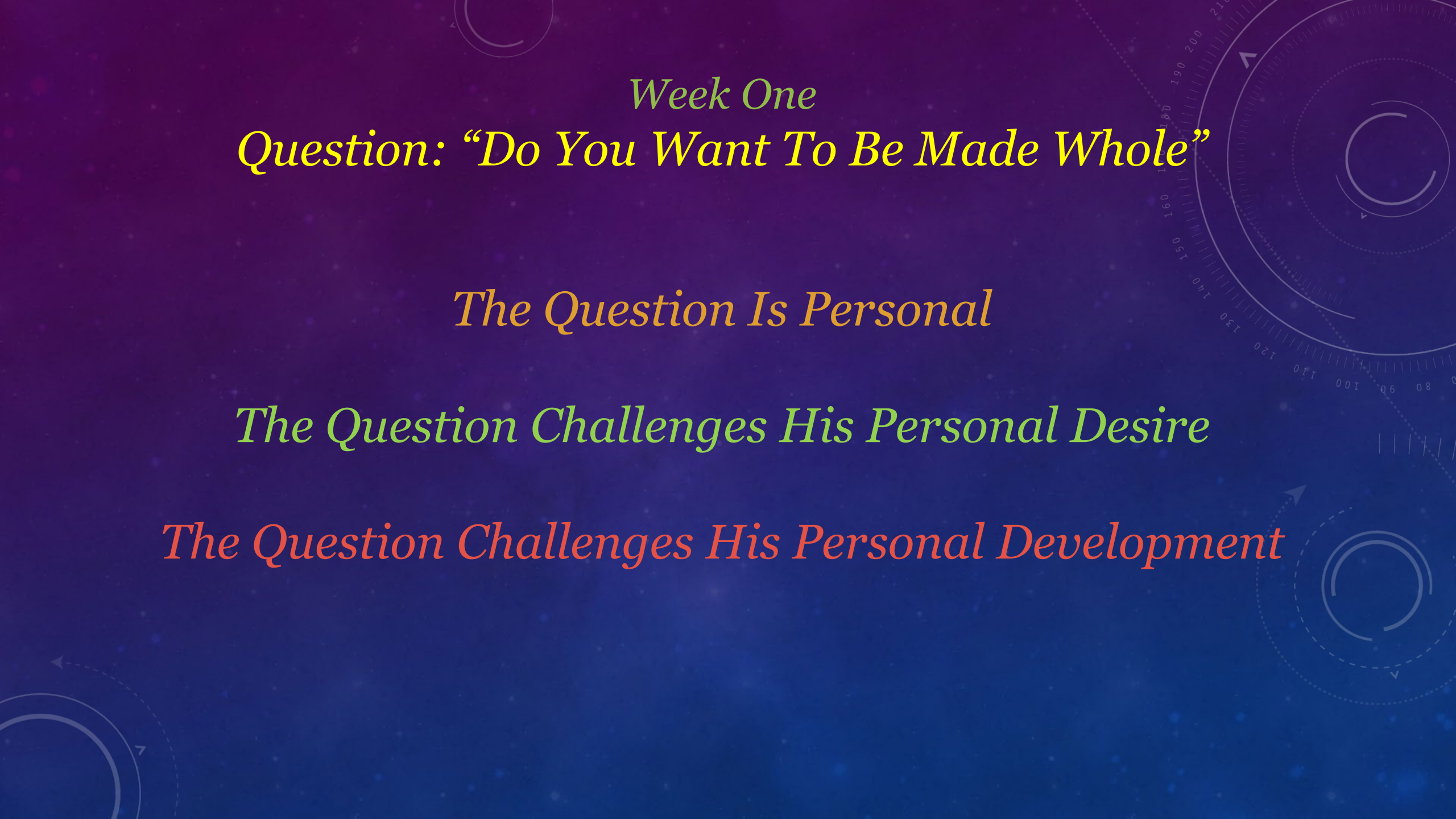
Why This Series

Jesus who is *All-Knowing*, *All-Seeing*, and *All-Powerful* Constantly *Asked Questions...*
The Four Gospels Record About *339 Questions* Asked By Jesus
Jesus Did Not *Ask Questions To Get Information...* There Was Always Something Deeper

- 1) To Teach Others by promoting *THOUGHT* and *SELF-EXAMINATION*
- 2) To Nurture Deeper Conversations and Relationships
- 3) To Encourage People to come to their Own Conclusions, and Reveal Their Needs
- 4) To Build *FAITH* and Draw People into a more Personal Understanding of Truth
- 5) To Draw Out What Was Really In Their Hearts

Jesus' Questions Went *Beyond Surface Dialogue*
They Were Intended To Go *Beyond Words* To Challenge *Beliefs and Mindsets*

So, In This Series We Will Study Some Of Jesus' Questions
To Engage In Deeper Conversations And See How They Can
Promote Deeper Thought And Spiritual Insight



Week One

Question: “Do You Want To Be Made Whole”

The Question Is Personal

The Question Challenges His Personal Desire

The Question Challenges His Personal Development

Week Two

John 21:15 (NLT)

15“Simon son of John, do you love me *more than these?*”

The Priority Of Peter's Love

The Pride Of Peter's Love

The Personal Perspective Of Peter's Love

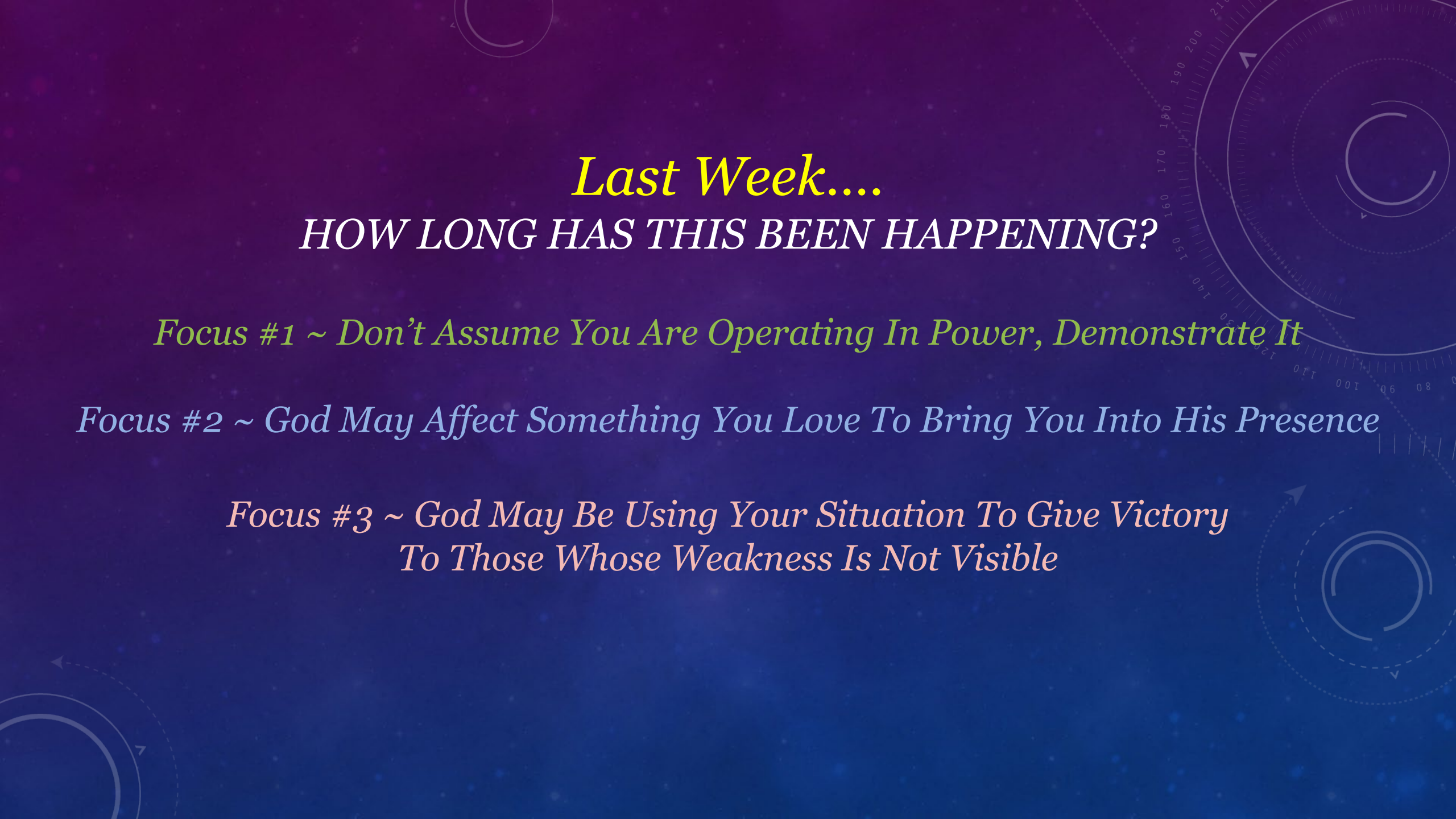
Week Three

Do You Still Not Understand?

*Principle #1 ~ Our **Focus** Keeps Us From Understanding*

*Principle #2 ~ Our **Faith** Keeps Us From Understanding*

*Principle #3 ~ Our **Forgetfulness** Keeps Us From Understanding*



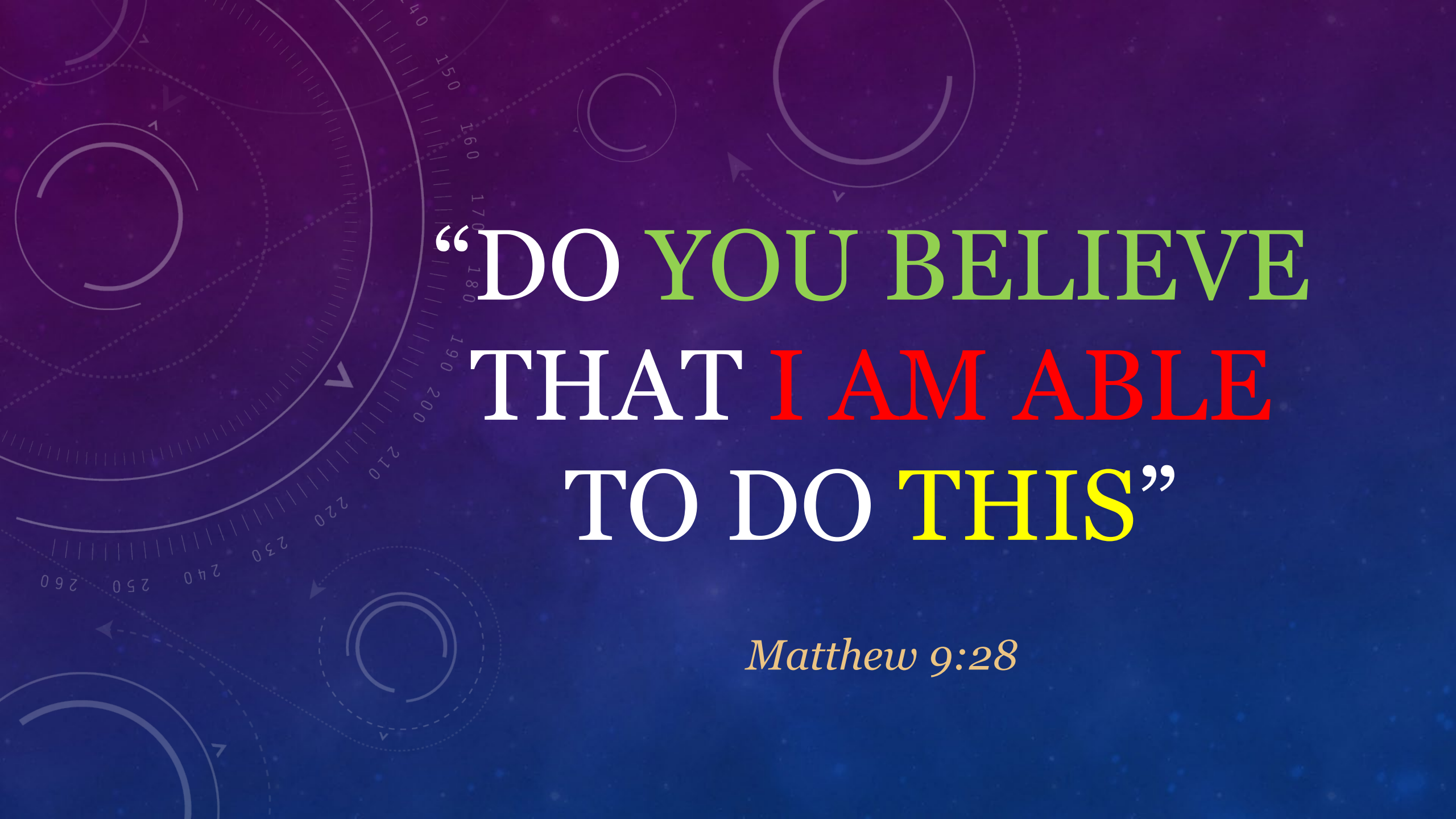
Last Week....

HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN HAPPENING?

Focus #1 ~ Don't Assume You Are Operating In Power, Demonstrate It

Focus #2 ~ God May Affect Something You Love To Bring You Into His Presence

*Focus #3 ~ God May Be Using Your Situation To Give Victory
To Those Whose Weakness Is Not Visible*



“DO YOU BELIEVE
THAT I AM ABLE
TO DO THIS”

Matthew 9:28

Matthew 9:27-30 (ESV)

27 And as Jesus passed on from there, *two blind men followed him*,
crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.”

28 When he entered the house, *the blind men came to him*,
and Jesus said to them, “**DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?**”

They said to him, “Yes, Lord.”

29 *Then* he touched their eyes, saying, “*According to your faith* be it done to you.”

30 And their eyes were opened.

Introduction

Many Have Described This As One Of The Most Penetrating Questions In All Of Scripture

It Is A Question That Tests Our Faith

Many Will Say, Pastor There Is Nothing About FAITH In The Question...

“Do You Believe That I Am Able To Do This?”

But Notice What Jesus Says After The Touch

“According To Your Faith... Let It Be Done To You”

Faith and Believing Are Connected

BELIEF is the mental acceptance that something IS TRUE.

It's the starting point.

We Must First Believe That God Exists and That God Can Do What He Says

Believing Is Good But It Is Not Enough

James 2:19 (NLT)

19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you!

Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

Belief alone RECOGNIZES TRUTH, but it may not yet involve TRUST OR ACTION

Rich Young Ruler Believed Jesus had the keys to eternal life....

But Was not willing to trust his instructions

Introduction

The Connection Between Believing and Faith

*Faith is BELIEF that moves from the mind to the heart and hands.
IT MEANS RELYING ON WHAT YOU BELIEVE ENOUGH TO ACT ON IT.*

FAITH trusts God's Power and His Promises even when the outcome isn't visible.

Belief says, "I think God can."

Faith says, "I'm stepping forward because I KNOW HE WILL."

Hebrews 11:6

"Without FAITH it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to Him must BELIEVE that He exists and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him." —

So, BELIEVING recognizes God's existence; FAITH depends on God's Power.

BELIEVING recognizes Jesus' ability.

FAITH activates His power in my life

Mark 9:23 — "If you can believe, all things are possible." {BUT MAYBE NOT FOR ME}

Belief begins the journey; faith carries it through.

Introduction

The Connection Between Believing and Faith

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

Belief is saying, “I think the chair will hold me.”

Faith is sitting down in it.

Theological Example

Belief is saying, “I think God Is Able To Pour Me Out A Blessing, Because the Bible Says It

Faith is Tithing Even When Things Are Tight Financially

Biblical Example

Thomas *Believed Jesus was real*; He walked With Him For 3 Years and *Experienced His Existence*

Thomas says in John 20, “*Unless I See The Nail Prints, I will not believe*”

Intellectually You Really Believe That He Is Able

But Are You *Demonstrating A Faith* That Supports What You *Say You Believe*

One Writer Says...

*True faith walks when sight is dim, hopes when the future is unclear,
and obeys when the path is uncertain*

Faith Must Be Persistent

Matthew 9:27-28 (ESV)

27 And as Jesus passed on from there, *two blind men followed him*, crying aloud,
“Have mercy on us, Son of David.”

28 *When he entered the house, the blind men came to him*, and Jesus said to them,
“Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.”

Notice the Timing Of The Question

After They Had Demonstrated *A PERSISTENT FAITH*

Even though *they can't see*, *they keep moving toward Him* — *a picture of faith in action*.
They believe He can heal them, and *that belief pushes them to keep pursuing Him*
UNTIL THEY REACH HIS PRESENCE.

Jesus Is *A Rewarded* Of Those Who *DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM*

Their *Persistence* Leads To A *Personal Encounter*

They Had The *Correct Declaration* ~ “Have Mercy on us, Son of David”

But Jesus Is Seeking *Determination*

They Would Not Give Up UNTIL.....

Faith Must Be Persistent

When You Read This Entire Chapter... There Are Several Examples Of Faith and Determination

Matthew 9:2 (ESV)

*2 And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”
6 he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”*

Mark 2:4 (ESV)

4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

*Persistent Faith Is Creative and Courageous
Persistent Faith Encounters and Overcomes Barriers*

*Do You Have A Faith That Falters Before The Finish?
What Does It Take For You To Quit; Give Up; Give In....*

*Often God Has To Allow Your Situation To Become Desperate
To Increase Your Determination*

Faith Must Be Persistent

When You Read This Entire Chapter... There Are Several Examples Of *Faith and Determination*

Matthew 9:20-22 (ESV)

20 And behold, a woman who had *suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years* came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, 21 for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.”

22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; *YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WELL.*” And instantly the woman was made well.

*She Believed That Jesus Could Heal Her ~ She Believed That Jesus Was Able
She Persevered Through The Crowd ~ She Believed Change Was Possible
Faith connects human need to divine power*

Matthew 9:18 (ESV)

18 While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but *come and lay your hand on her*, and she will live.”

He Believed Jesus Could Heal ~ He Believed Jesus Had The Power

Mark 5:35-36 (ESV)

35 While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, “*Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?*” 36 But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “*DO NOT FEAR, ONLY BELIEVE.*”

Faith Must Be Fully Persuaded

Matthew 9:28 (ESV)

28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, **“DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?”** They said to him, **“YES, LORD.”**

Faith opens the door for **DIVINE ABILITY** to enter **HUMAN IMPOSSIBILITY**.

It was impossible for them to regain their own sight...

So, they had to **demonstrate their faith** in the One **Who Was Able**

Jesus Was Convinced That They Were Fully Persuaded In The Promise

Isaiah 35:2-5

The Lord will display his glory... 3 With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees....4 Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.” **And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind** and unplug the ears of the deaf.

Isaiah 42:6-7

“I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, **7 to open eyes that are blind**, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 29:18

In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness **the eyes of the blind will see**.

GOD'S WORD WAS THE FOUNDATION OF THEIR FAITH

Faith Must Be Fully Persuaded

Matthew 9:28 (ESV)

28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, *"DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?"* They said to him, *"YES, LORD."*

Biblical Example

Romans 4:19-21 (NIV)

19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

20 Yet *he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, BUT WAS STRENGTHENED IN HIS FAITH* and gave glory to God,

21 *BEING FULLY PERSUADED THAT GOD HAD POWER TO DO WHAT HE HAD PROMISED.*

Fully Persuaded Is Complete Confidence In God's Ability To Do What He Promised
God Gives Promises In His Word.... IF YOU DO THIS ... THEN I Will Do That

The Reason Why We Don't Do It ~ We Are Not Fully Persuaded That God Will DO What He Promised

Fully Persuaded Is Not Shaken By God's Timing

Fully Persuaded Is Not Shaken By The Magnitude Of the Problem

ABLE TO DO THIS?

Faith Will Be Rewarded

Matthew 9:29 (ESV)

29 **THEN** he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.”

BELIEVING OPENS THE MIND TO THE POSSIBILITY ~ FAITH OPENS THE DOOR TO GOD'S POWER

FAITH EXPECTS A RESPONSE FROM GOD

Time and Trouble Diminishes Our Expectation, But Does Not Stop Spiritual Routine

Acts 12:5; 14-16 (ESV)

5 So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

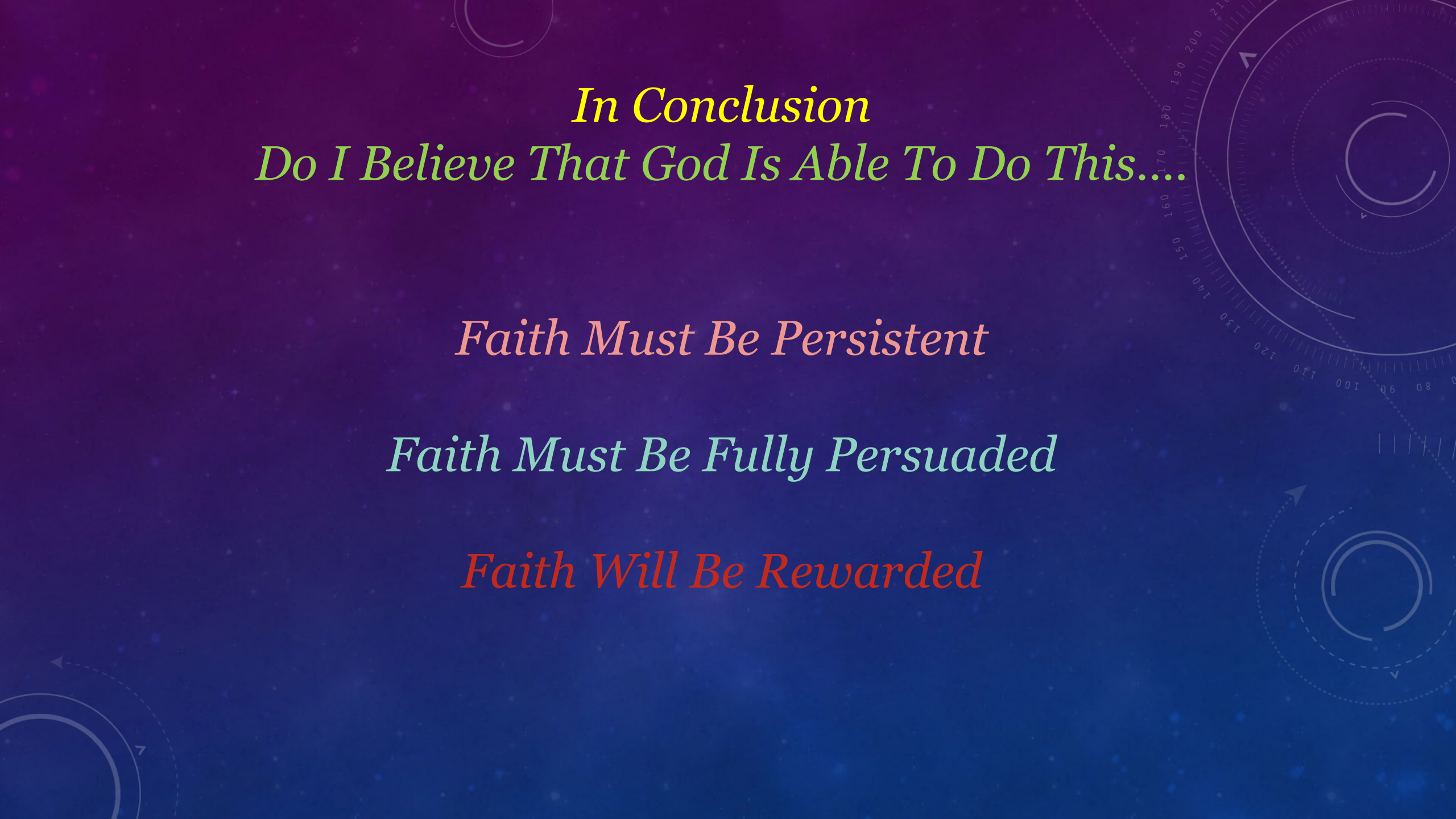
14 **Recognizing Peter's voice**, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and **reported that Peter was standing at the gate**. 15 They said to her, “**You are out of your mind**.” But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, “**It is his angel!**”

16 But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, **they saw him and were amazed**.

Hebrews 11:6

6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that **HE REWARDS THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM**.

The reward is not for casual seekers but for those who intensely pursue God
God rewards, blesses, and honors those who trust and seek Him.

The background is a deep blue gradient with a starry sky pattern. There are several faint, stylized circular elements: a large circle with a dashed line and an arrow in the top left, a large circle with a solid line and an arrow in the top right, and a smaller circle with a dashed line and an arrow in the bottom right. The text is centered and reads:

In Conclusion
Do I Believe That God Is Able To Do This....

Faith Must Be Persistent

Faith Must Be Fully Persuaded

Faith Will Be Rewarded



MT. OLIVE B.C. OF GREENWOOD

146th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

WE'VE COME
THIS FAR BY FAITH



GUEST SPEAKER
PASTOR ROBERT TOWNSEND
THE G2 BIBLE CHURCH
PLANO, TX

Scripture
Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.
For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.
Hebrews 11:1-2

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