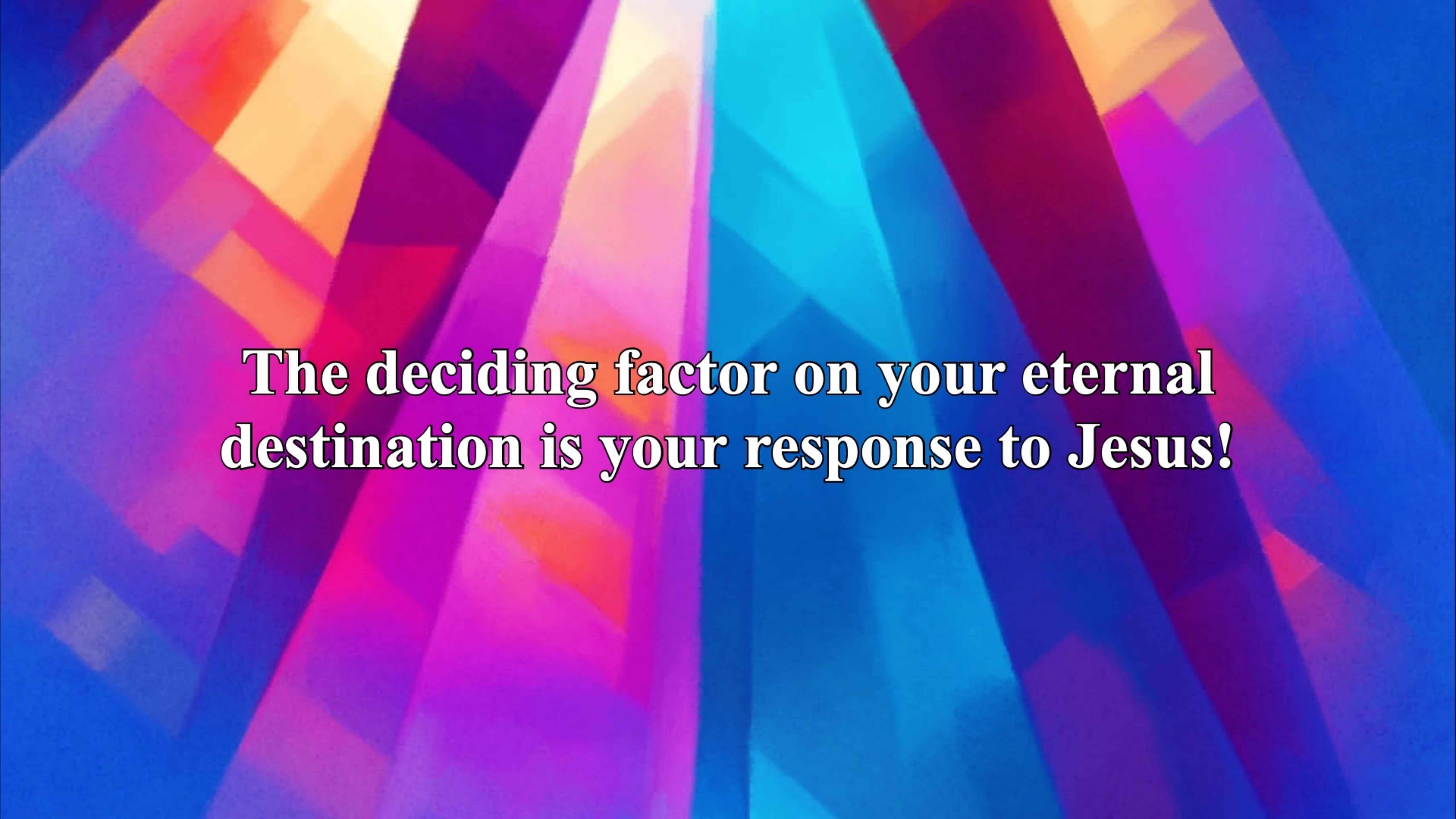


“The Final Exam!”

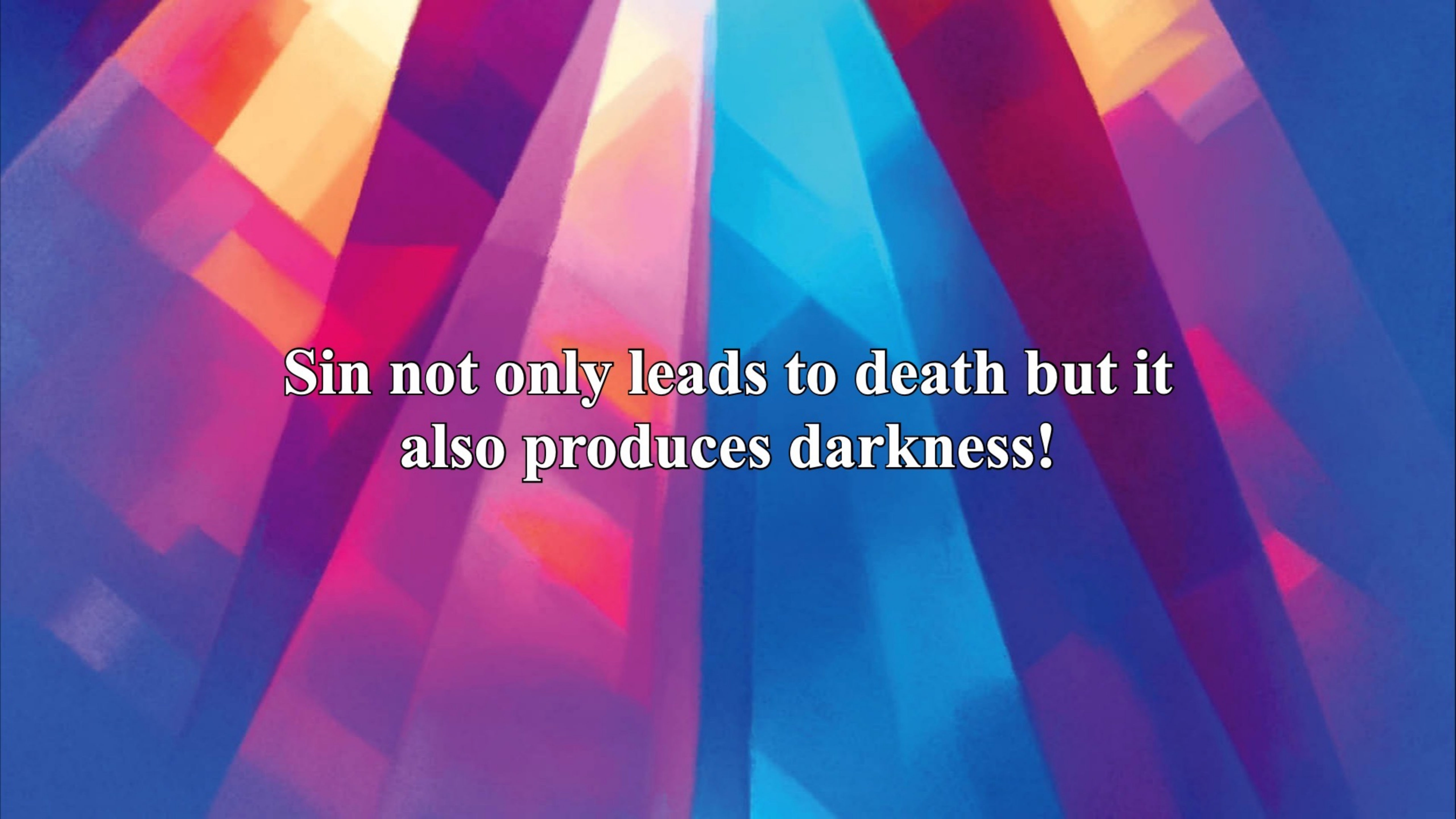
Session 1 VBS 2026  
(Jesus is God’s Promised Son)  
Matthew 16:13-20

*Pastor Tim Trexler*  
*June 7, 2026*



**The deciding factor on your eternal  
destination is your response to Jesus!**

<sup>19</sup>This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.



**Sin not only leads to death but it  
also produces darkness!**

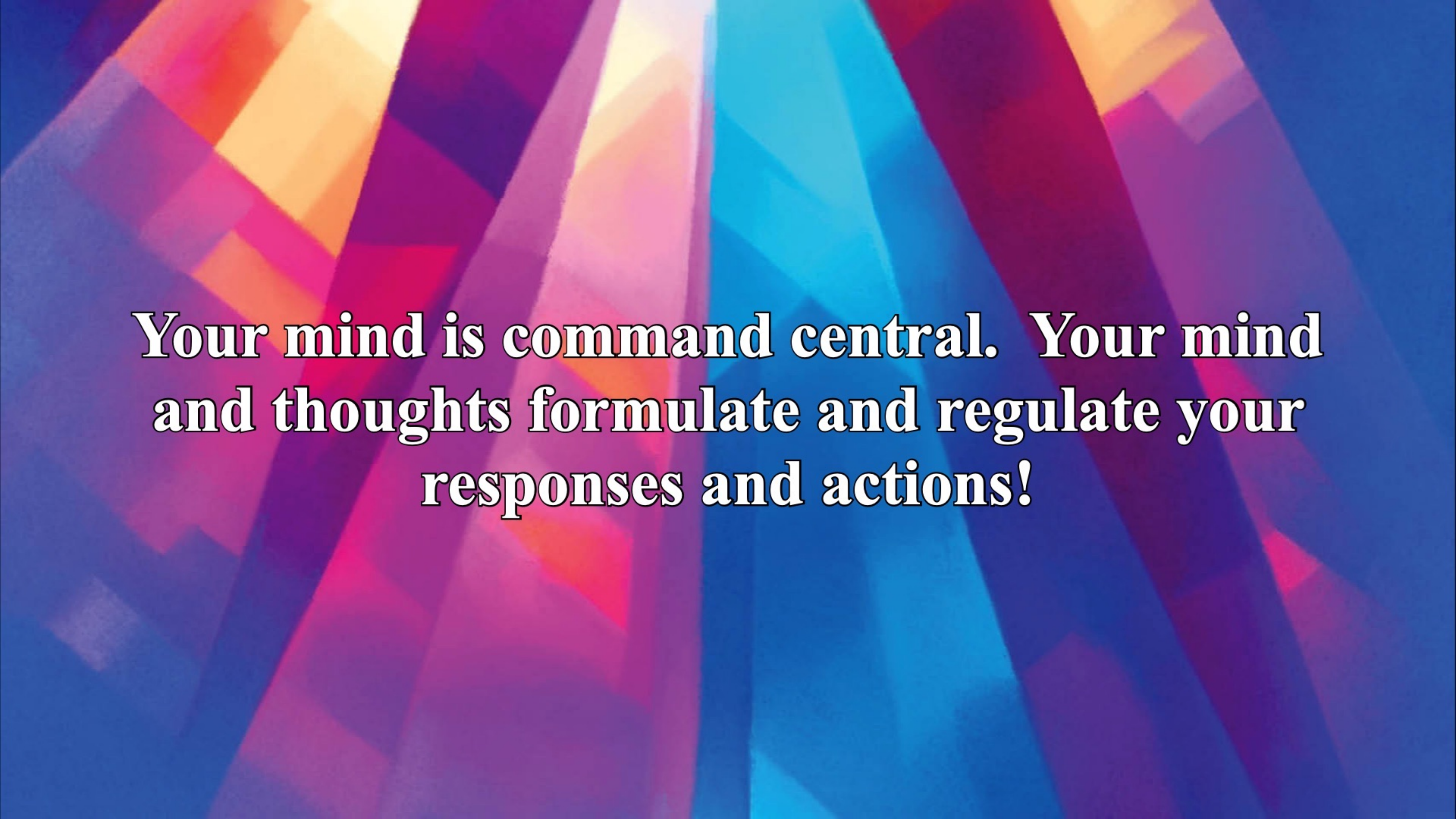
**God creates us “male and female” (Genesis 1:27)  
and He intends sexual activity only within the  
covenant of heterosexual marriage!**

**(Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Leviticus 18:22;  
Romans 26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11;  
1 Timothy 1:10; Jude 7)**

**“Satan loves to tempt us into sin slowly,  
turning the lights down gradually until our  
eyes adjust to the dark.”**

**- Jim Denison, from article *19 Drag Queen Story Hours and  
Nine LGBTQ Comic Books***

<sup>4</sup>in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



**Your mind is command central. Your mind  
and thoughts formulate and regulate your  
responses and actions!**

**If the enemy has come to steal,  
Jesus came to reclaim.**

**If the enemy has come to kill,  
Jesus came to bring life again.**

**If the enemy has come to destroy,  
Jesus came to rebuild, renew and  
restore in His name.**

**-from *You are more than you've been told;*  
book by Hosanna Wong**

<sup>42</sup>saying, “If you had known in this day, even you,  
the things which make for peace! But now they  
have been hidden from your eyes.

Luke 19:42

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,  
<sup>19</sup>because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His

eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

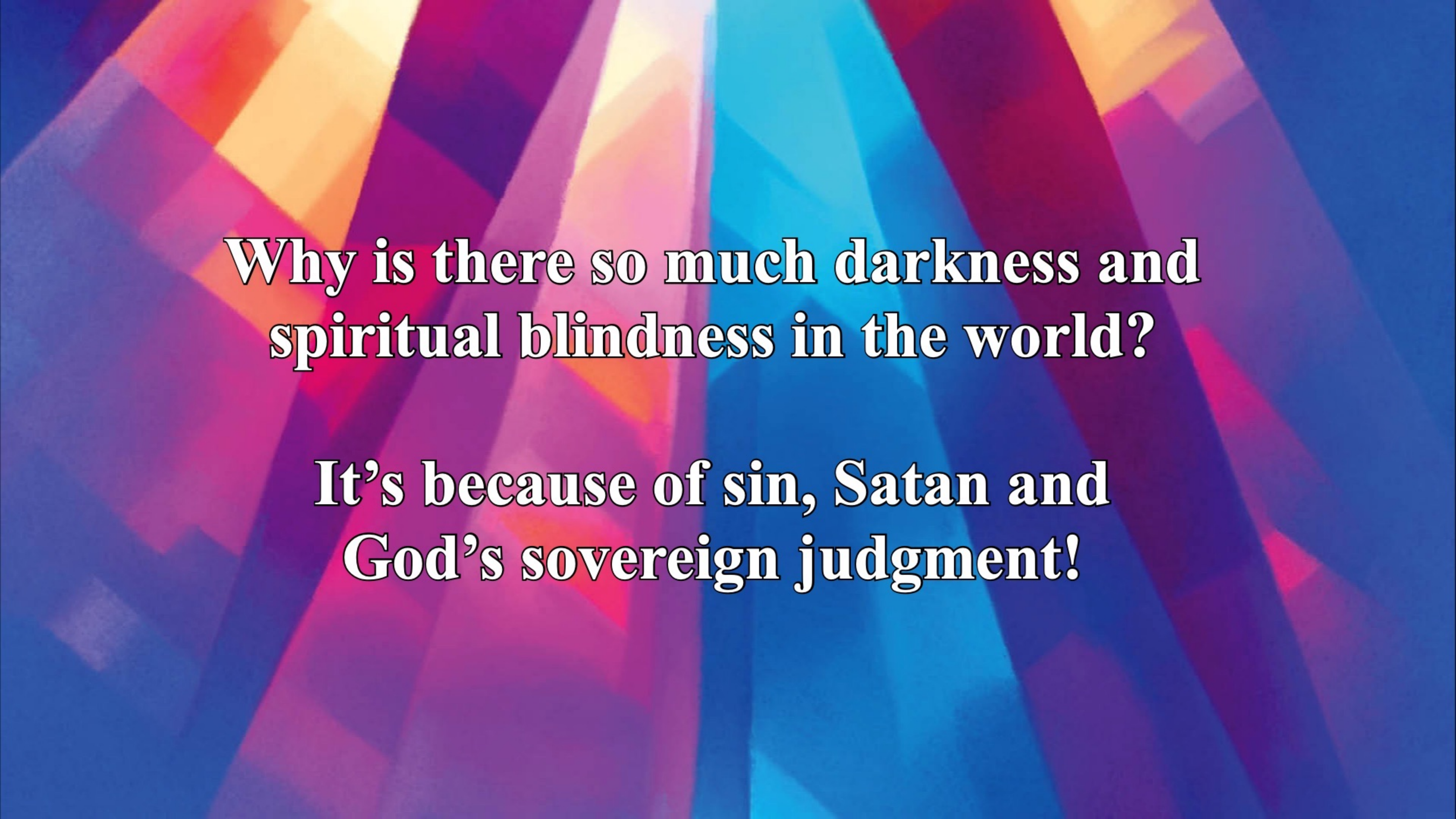
<sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be

dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup>For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, <sup>27</sup>and in the

same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.<sup>28</sup> And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave

them over to a depraved mind, to do those things  
which are not proper, <sup>29</sup>being filled with all  
unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of  
envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are  
gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, haters of God, insolent,  
arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient  
to parents, <sup>31</sup>without

understanding, untrustworthy, unloving,  
unmerciful; <sup>32</sup>and although they know the  
ordinance of God, that those who practice such  
things are worthy of death, they not only do the  
same, but also give hearty approval to those who  
practice them.



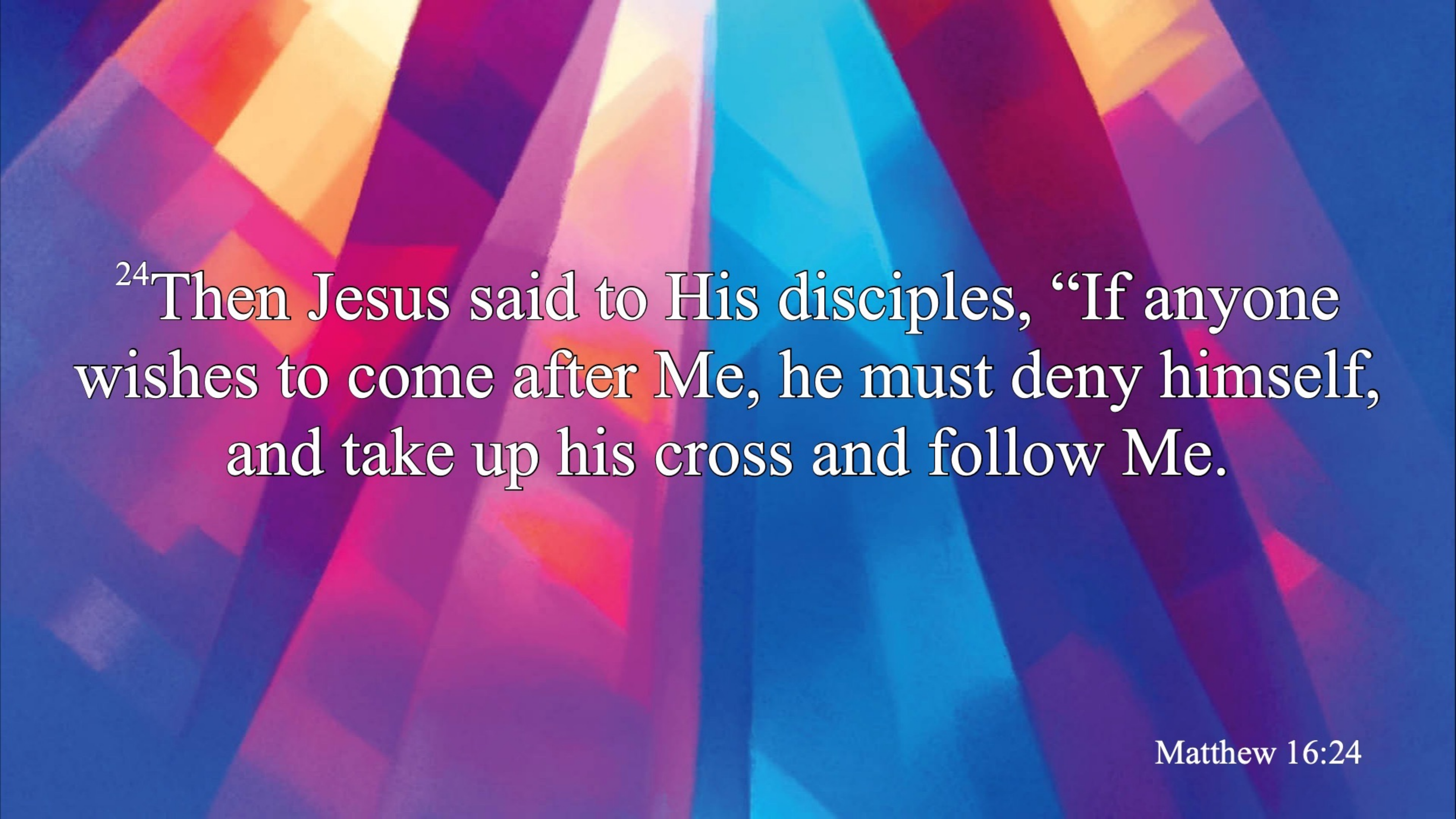
**Why is there so much darkness and  
spiritual blindness in the world?**

**It's because of sin, Satan and  
God's sovereign judgment!**

# **4 Different Levels of Faith in Matthew Chapter 16**

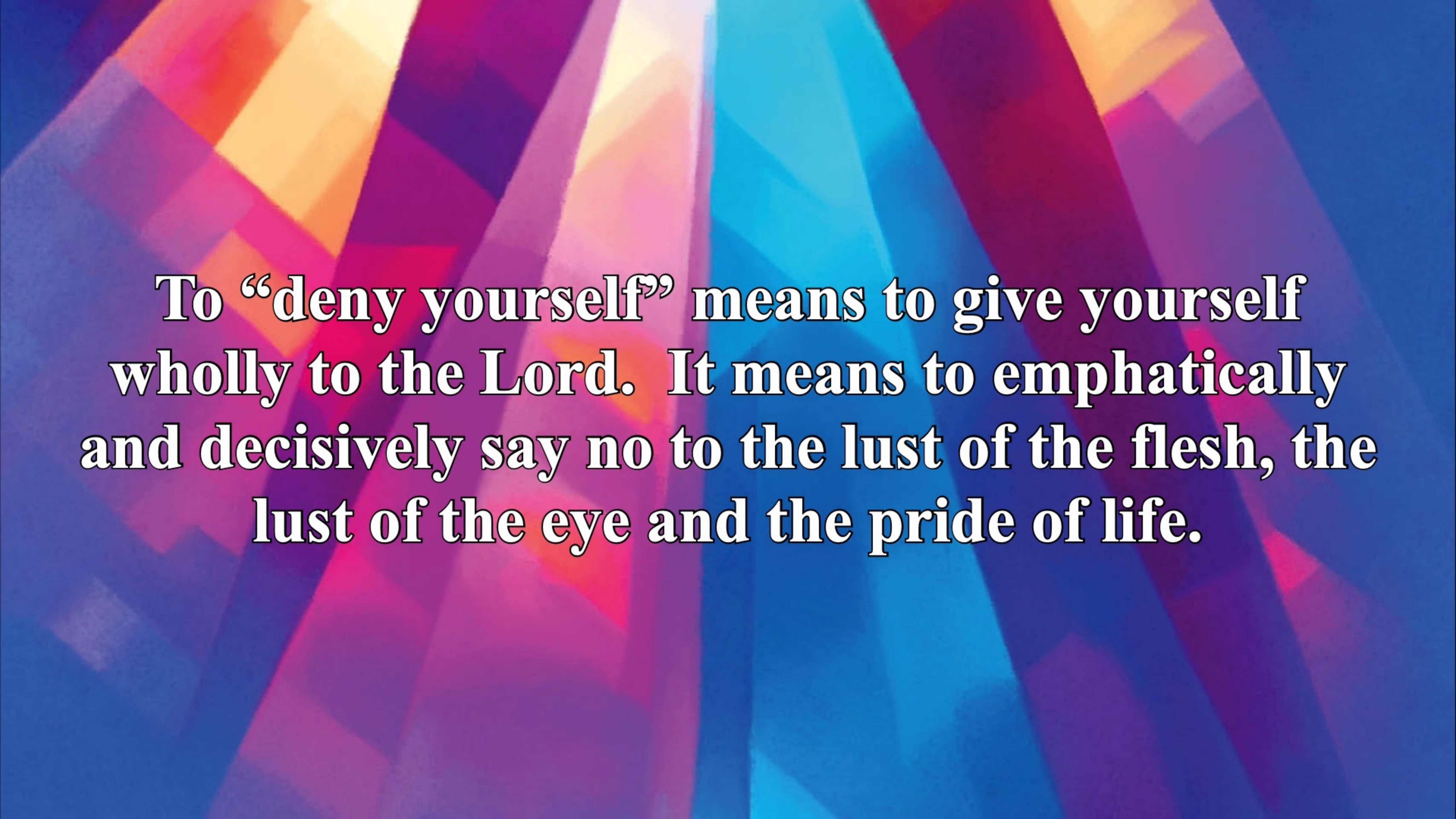
- 1. “No Faith” - 16:1-4**
- 2. “Little Faith” - 16:5-12**
- 3. “Saving Faith” - 16:13-20**
- 4. “Serving Faith” - 16:21-28**

**- Warren Wiersbe**



<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Matthew 16:24



**To “deny yourself” means to give yourself wholly to the Lord. It means to emphatically and decisively say no to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life.**

**To “take up your cross” does not mean to carry burdens or have problems. Neither is your sickness, trials or handicap your cross to bear.**

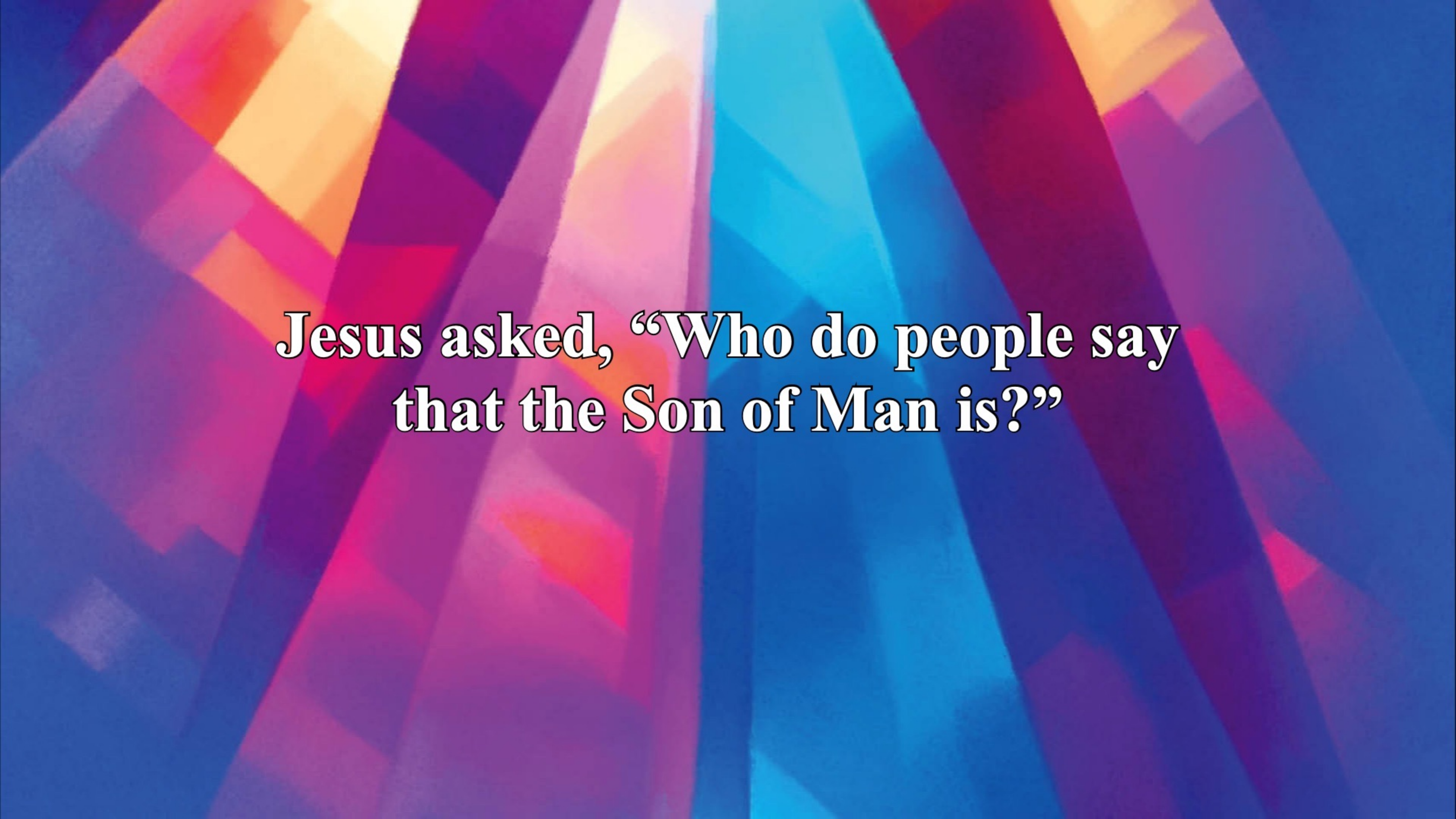
**To “take up your cross” means to identify with Christ in His rejection, shame, suffering and death. It means to pay the price to serve and honor Christ!**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

<sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He \*said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter

answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”<sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 16:13-17



**Jesus asked, “Who do people say  
that the Son of Man is?”**

## **4 False views about who Jesus is from church history:**

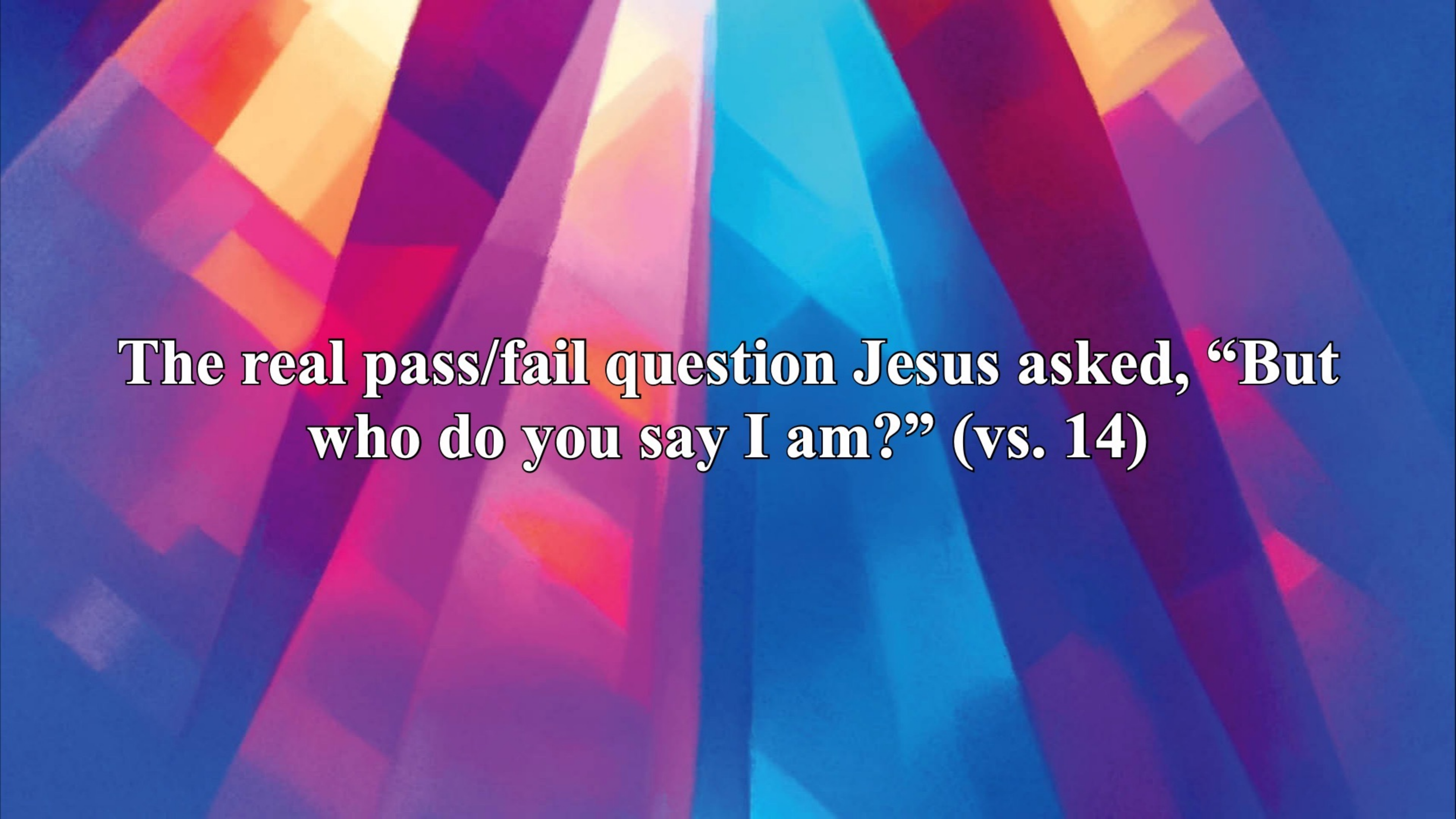
- 1. Docetism - the belief that Jesus only seemed or appeared to have a body. They denied he came in the flesh.**
- 2. Gnosticism - the belief Christ came upon Jesus at His baptism but left Him prior to His death on the cross! Gnostics believe the body is evil and man's soul is trapped inside.**
- 3. Adoptionism - taught God took Jesus as a unique and special man on whom His power would rest.**
- 4. Modalism - believed God revealed Himself in three different ways: the Father became Jesus who, when He died, became the Holy Spirit.**

**Who do people in our  
world/culture say Jesus is?**

- **Unitarians - believe there was a time Jesus didn't exist, that He was a created being.**
- **Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons also do not believe Jesus is God in the flesh; co-eternal, co-equal and co-existent with God the Father!**

**George Barna reports 5 popular beliefs about  
Jesus in our day. (April 2025)**

- 1. Vast majority of Americans believe Jesus was a real person.**
- 2. Younger generations are increasingly less likely to believe Jesus was God.**
- 3. Americans are divided on whether Jesus was sinless.**
- 4. Most Americans say they have made a commitment to Jesus Christ.**
- 5. People are conflicted between “Jesus” and “Good Deeds” as the way to Heaven.**



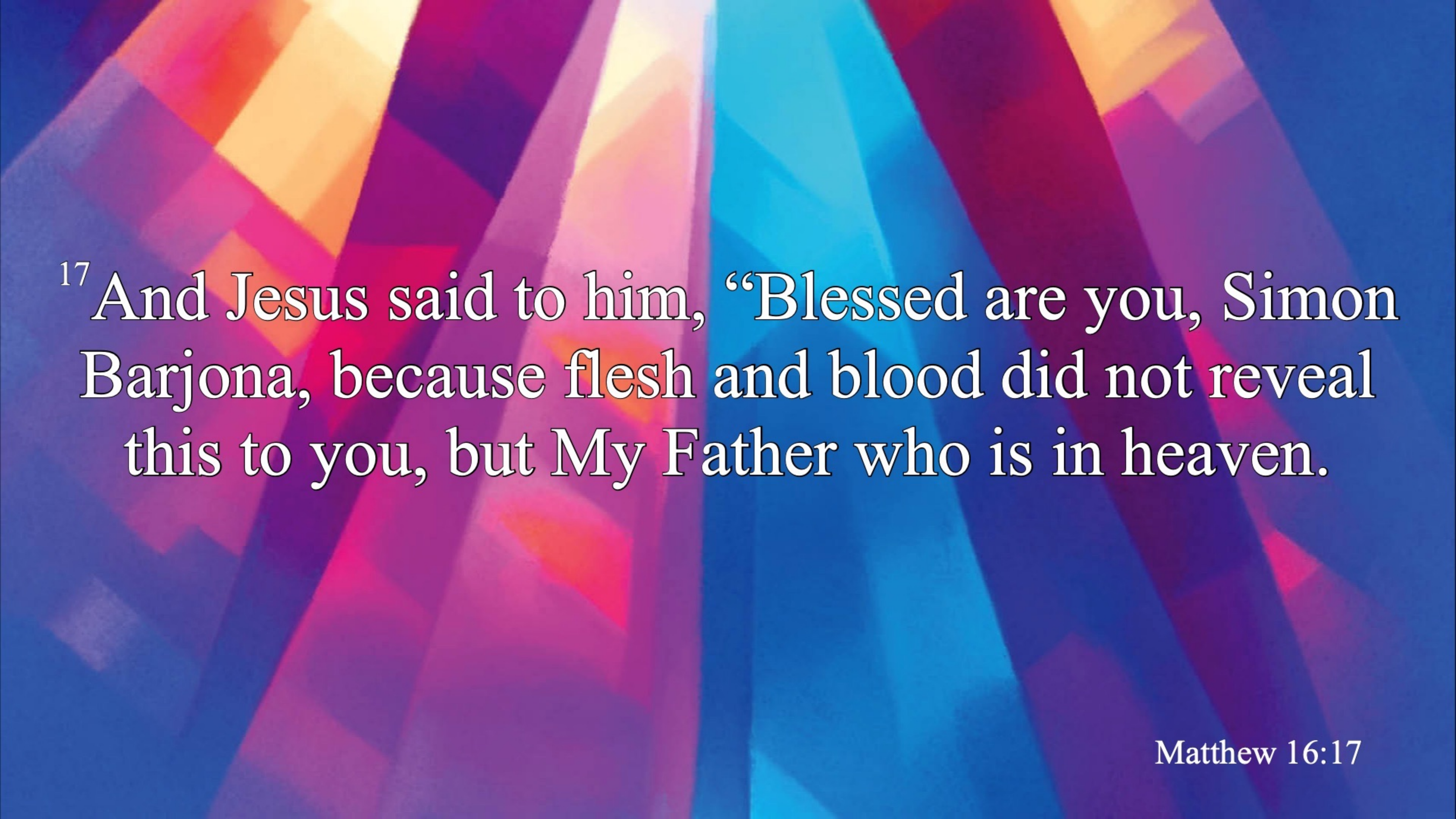
**The real pass/fail question Jesus asked, “But who do you say I am?” (vs. 14)**

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:16

**Christ was not Jesus' last name. Jesus didn't come from the Christ family. Christ is a title. Christ means "Messiah", "the anointed one".**

**God's predicted and long awaited deliverer!**



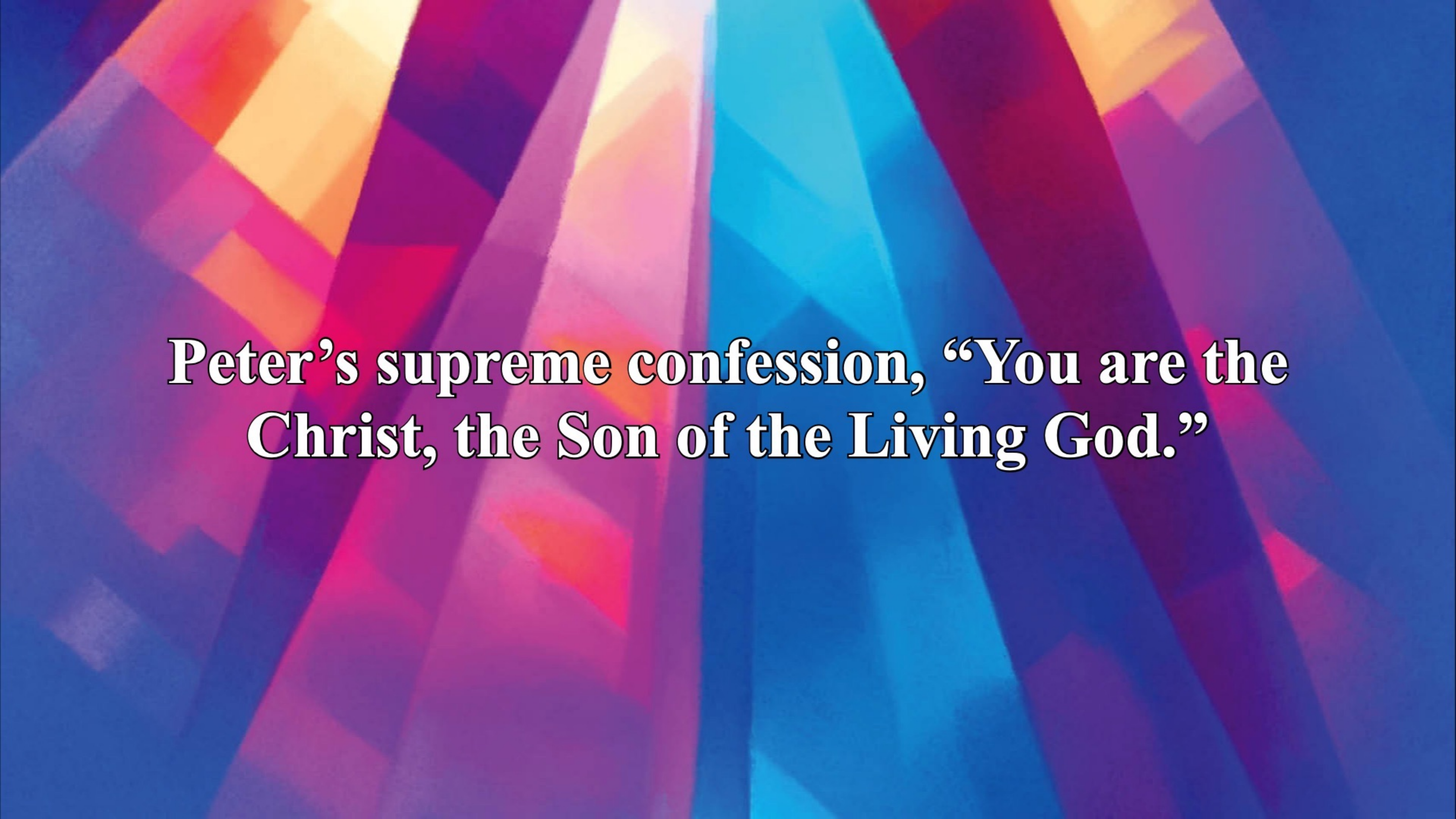
<sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 16:17

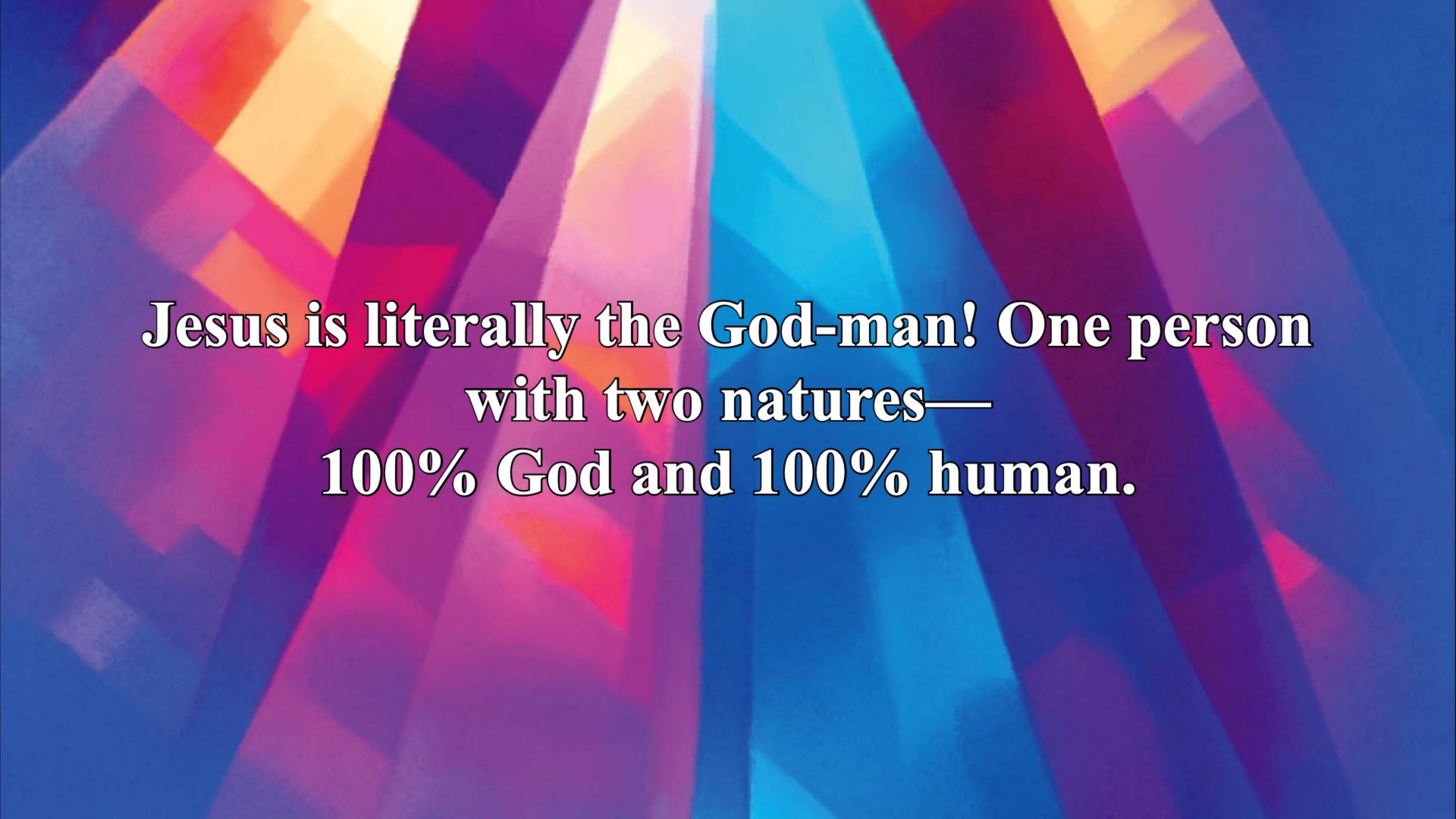


**Our responsibility and privilege is  
proclamation; God's is revelation!**

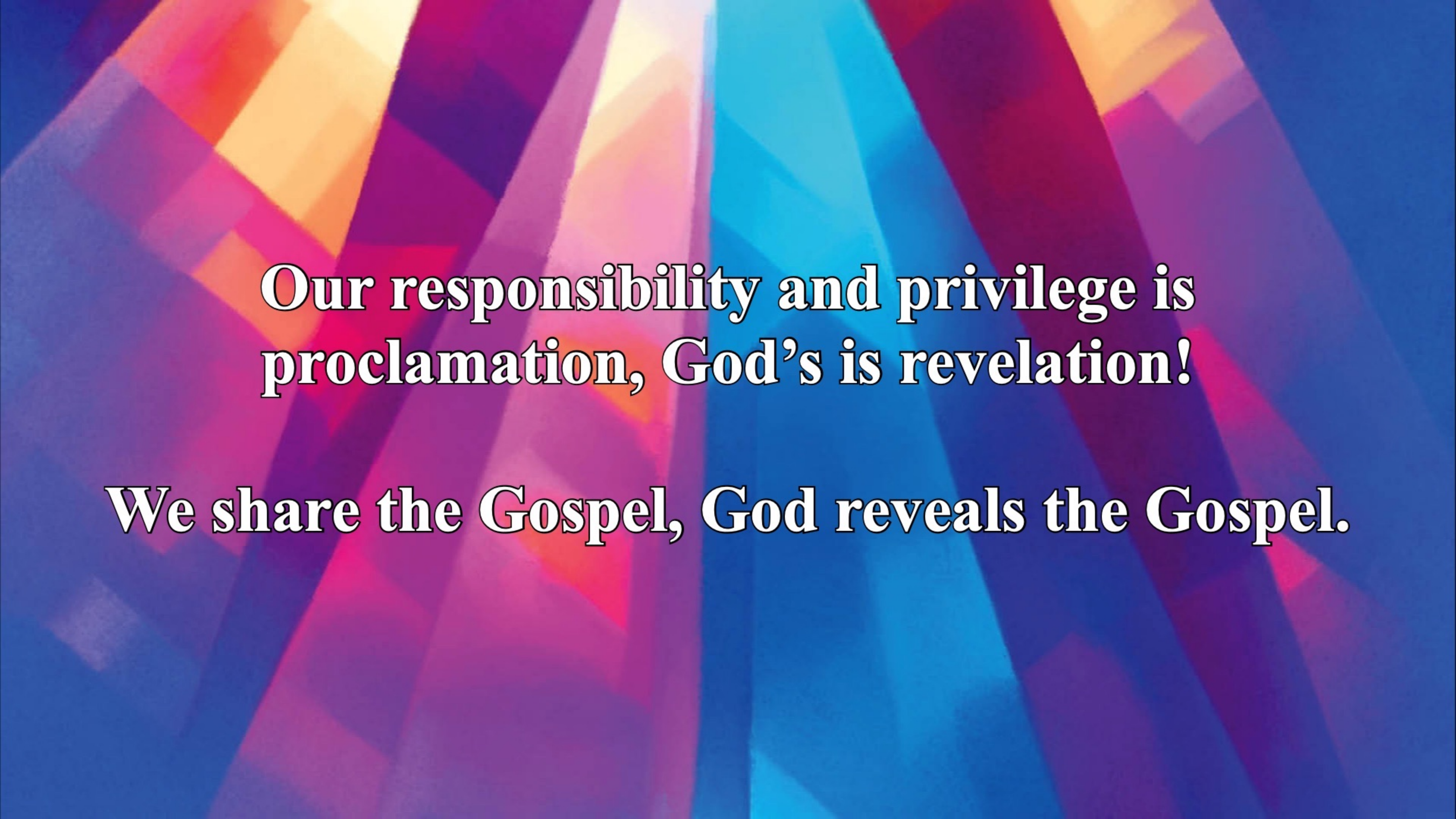
**We share the gospel, God reveals the gospel.**



**Peter's supreme confession, "You are the  
Christ, the Son of the Living God."**



**Jesus is literally the God-man! One person  
with two natures—  
100% God and 100% human.**



**Our responsibility and privilege is  
proclamation, God's is revelation!**

**We share the Gospel, God reveals the Gospel.**

## **The truth about Jesus as revealed in scripture:**

- 1. The second person of the triune God was truly incarnated. The Son of God actually took on the whole of human nature.**
- 2. Jesus Christ was one person who possessed the totality of both the divine and human natures.**
- 3. The result of the incarnation was the God-man Jesus Christ. He was not a double being, a compound being, or a hybrid being. Our Lord Jesus Christ was one person, complete in His deity and perfect in His humanity.**

4. Neither Christ's deity nor His humanity was compromised or diminished in the incarnation. Each nature retained its own integrity and genuineness.

5. The divine nature and the human nature came together in the one person, Jesus Christ. This union was real, supernatural, personal, inseparable, and permanent. Jesus is still the God-man who is in heaven "at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3) and "always lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25).

6. The whole of Christ's work—all He does and has done—must be attributed to His person and not exclusively to either His divine or human nature.

7. Jesus of Nazareth came to be only by means of the incarnation. There was a time when Jesus of Nazareth did not exist, but there has never been a time when God the Son did not exist.

-Dr. Daniel Akin



Sermon in a Sentence:

Jesus asks you, “Who do you say that I am?”

## Application:

1. Ask at least three people this week, “Who do you say Jesus is?”
2. Write down your answer to the question: Who do you say Jesus is? Explain why you believe what you said. Defend your answer with scripture and truths from today’s message.
3. Faith @ Home: Discuss with a friend or as a family how your life backs up or denies your answer about who Jesus is. Talk about any changes you need to make.
4. Read the Nicene Creed which was the result of the council of Nicene in response to the heresy being taught about the person and work of Christ in AD 325.
5. Illuminate the truth by looking up these scriptures about Jesus, God’s Promised Son! (John 2:1, 3:16; Ephesians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 1:10; Matthew 1:23; 1 Timothy 1:1; Romans 3:26; Revelation 5:6, 19:16, 22:13; John 4:25; Mark 16:6; 1 John 2:2; John 11:25, 14:6; Luke 2:11; Isaiah 9:6)