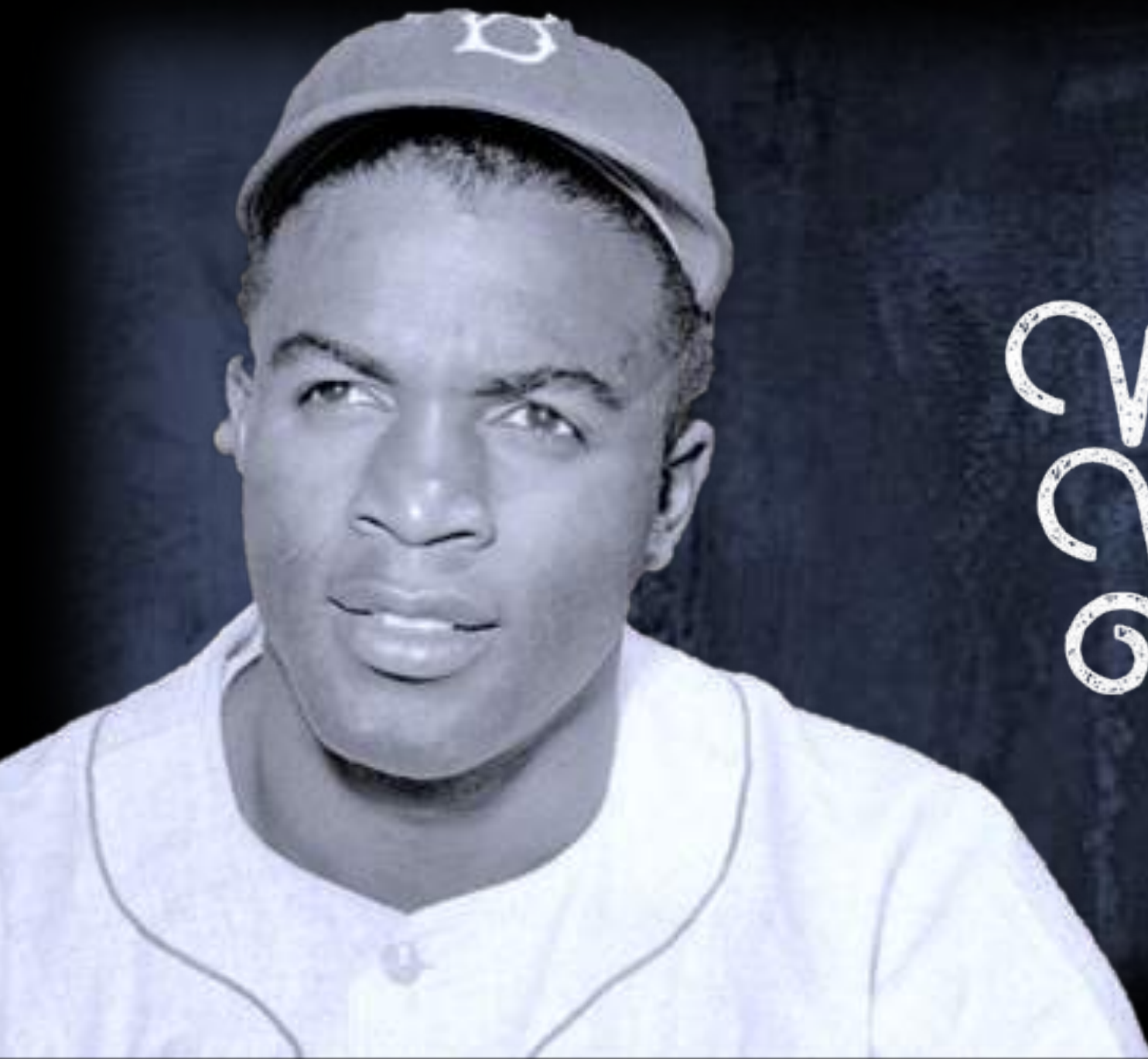


THE **ACTS** OF FAITH

A serene sunset scene over a body of water. A small sailboat is visible on the left side of the frame. The sky is a mix of deep blue and orange, with a large, glowing cloud formation in the center. The word "PIONEERS" is written in a large, white, stylized font across the middle of the image, with a decorative flourish at the end of the word. The entire scene is reflected in the calm water below.

PIONEERS

2020-21 SERMON SERIES



PIONEERS

WHATEVER
WHENEVER
HOWEVER



**“I’m looking for a ballplayer
with the guts enough
to not fight back.”**

BRANCH RICKEY

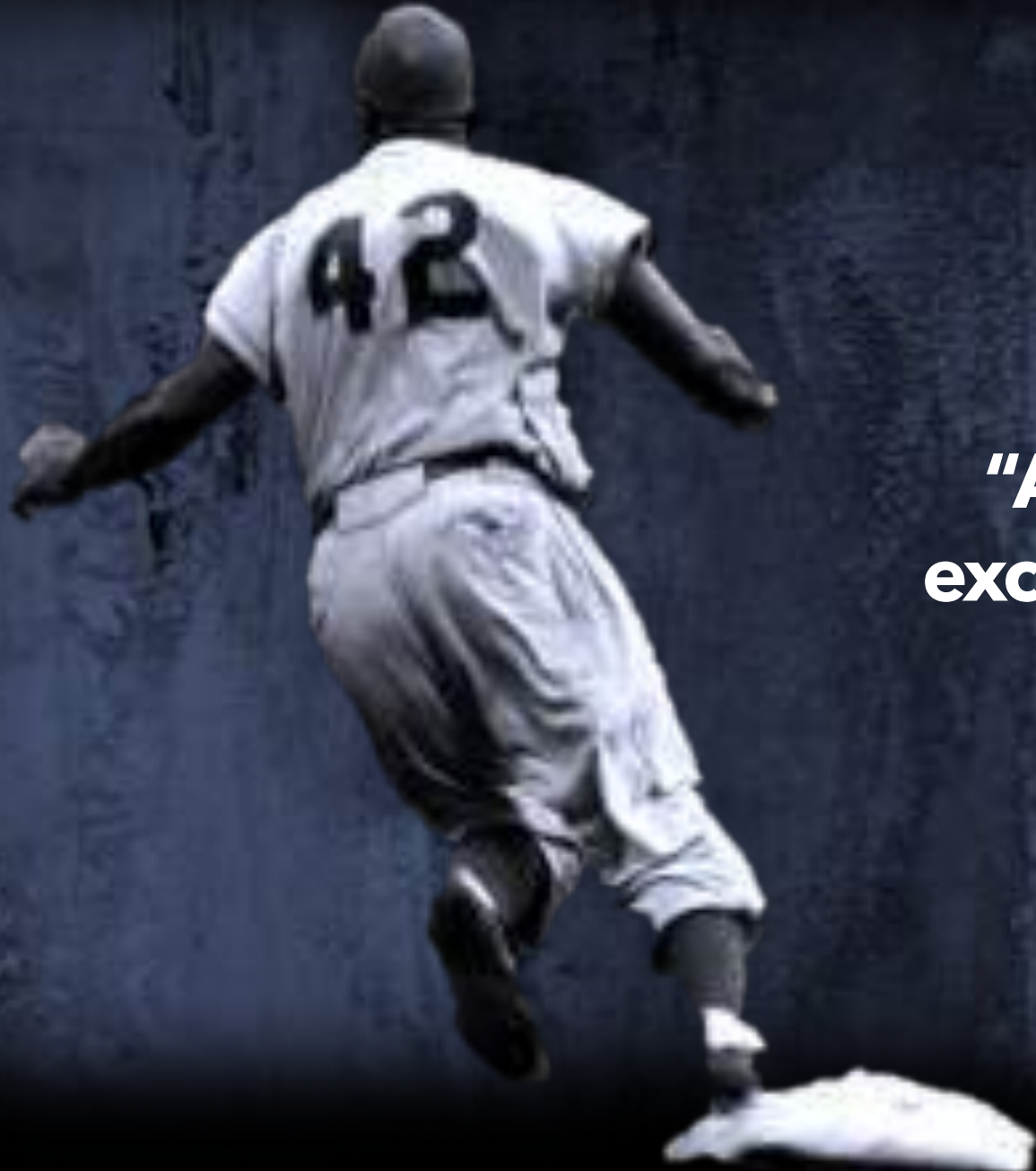


**Pee Wee Reese walked
over to him and put his
arm around him as to say,
“If you are against him,
you’re against all of us.”**

ERIC METAXES

“Seven Men and The Secret to their Greatness”





PIONEERS

**"A life is not important
except in the impact it has
on other lives."**

JACKIE ROBINSON



ATTENTION
PLEASE!

WE ALL HAVE PLATFORMS, WHAT WILL YOU USE YOURS FOR?



DIFFERENT

THE **FAITH** OF STEPHEN

ACTS 6-7 **ESV**





“And SAUL approved of his execution.”

ACTS 8:1 **ESV**

A dark silhouette of a person with their head bowed in prayer, set against a dark blue, textured background. The person's hands are clasped in front of them.

And there arose on that day a
great persecution against the
church in Jerusalem.

ACTS 8:1 **ESV**

And they were all
scattered throughout
DIASPORA
the regions of Judea
and Samaria, except
the apostles.

ACTS 8:2 **ESV**





And devout men buried Stephen
and made **lamentation** over him.

MADE LOUD LAMENTATION

ACTS 8:2 **ESV**



But **SAUL** was ravaging the church,
and entering house after house, he
dragged off men and women and
committed them to prison.

ACTS 8:3 **ESV**

A dark blue, textured background with a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders in profile, facing right. The silhouette is solid black. The text is overlaid on the image.

Now those who were scattered
went about preaching the word.

ACTS 8:4 ESV

Philip went down to
the city of **Samaria** and
proclaimed to them
the Christ.

ACTS 8:5 **ESV**



And the crowds with one accord **paid attention** to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.

ACTS 8:6 **ESV**



For **unclean spirits**, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

ACTS 8:7 **ESV**



LOOSE AND ACTIVE

"His tail swept a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to earth." Revelation 12:4

TEMPORARILY CONFINED

"And the key of the bottomless pit was given to him."
Revelation 9:1

PERMANENTLY CONFINED

"Kept in chains until the judgement."
Jude 1:6

The background features two dark silhouettes against a textured, dark grey background. On the left, a winged figure, possibly a demon or fallen angel, is shown from behind with its wings spread wide. On the right, the profile of a man's head and neck is visible, looking upwards and to the left.

Angelology
"UNCLEAN SPIRITS"

DEVIL Matt. 4:1

"THE ACCUSER"

DRAGON Rev. 12:4

"A DECEIVER"

SERPENT Gen. 3:1

"THE SCHEMER"

BEELZEBUL John 12:31

"FILTHY ONE"

FATHER OF LIES John 8:44

"AUTHOR OF LYING"

EVIL ONE Matt. 13:9

"THE TEMPTOR"

RULER OF THE WORLD John 12:31

"MANIPULATOR"



Angelology

"SATAN"

PHYSICAL ILLNESS

Luke 13:11 "Spirit of Infirmity"

MENTAL IMPAIRMENT

Mark 9:17 "Tried to destroy him"

MORAL IMPURITY

Lev. 18 "Unclean Spirits"

RESISTANCE TO TRUTH

1 John 4:2 "False Prophets"

SPREAD OF FALSE DOCTRINE

1 Cor. 10:12 "Deceiving Spirits"

HARSH ACCUSATIONS

1 Cor. 12:3 "Jesus be cursed"

DEMONIC POSSESSION

Matt. "I am legion"



PIONEERS

SIMON

THE SORCERER

ACTS 8 **ESV**



But there was a man named **Simon**, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great.



SIMON
THE SORCERER

ACTS 8:9-13 **ESV**

They all **paid attention** to him,
from the least to the greatest,
saying, "This man is the power of
God that is called great."

And they **paid attention** to him,
because for a long time he had
amazed them with his **magic**.



SIMON
THE SORCERER

ACTS 8:9-13 **ESV**

The Occult

"Hidden, secret and mysterious, pertaining to the supernatural"

BLACK MAGIC

ASTROLOGY

WITCHCRAFT

SPIRITISM

FORTUNE TELLING

OUIJA BOARDS

TAROT CARDS

SATANISM

"There shall not be found among you . . . anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens." Deut. 18:10

But **when they believed**
Philip as he preached good
news about the kingdom of
God and the name of Jesus
Christ, they were baptized,
both men and women.



SIMON
THE SORCERER

ACTS 8:9-13 **ESV**

Even **Simon himself believed**, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing great signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.



SIMON
THE SORCERER

ACTS 8:9-13 **ESV**

Peter and John

ACTS 8:14-17



Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, Saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."



SIMON
THE SORCERER

ACTS 8:18-19 ESV

But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!" You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.



SIMON
THE SORCERER

ACTS 8:20 ESV

“Repent, therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the **intent of your heart** may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.”



SIMON
THE SORCERER

ACTS 8:22-23 **ESV**

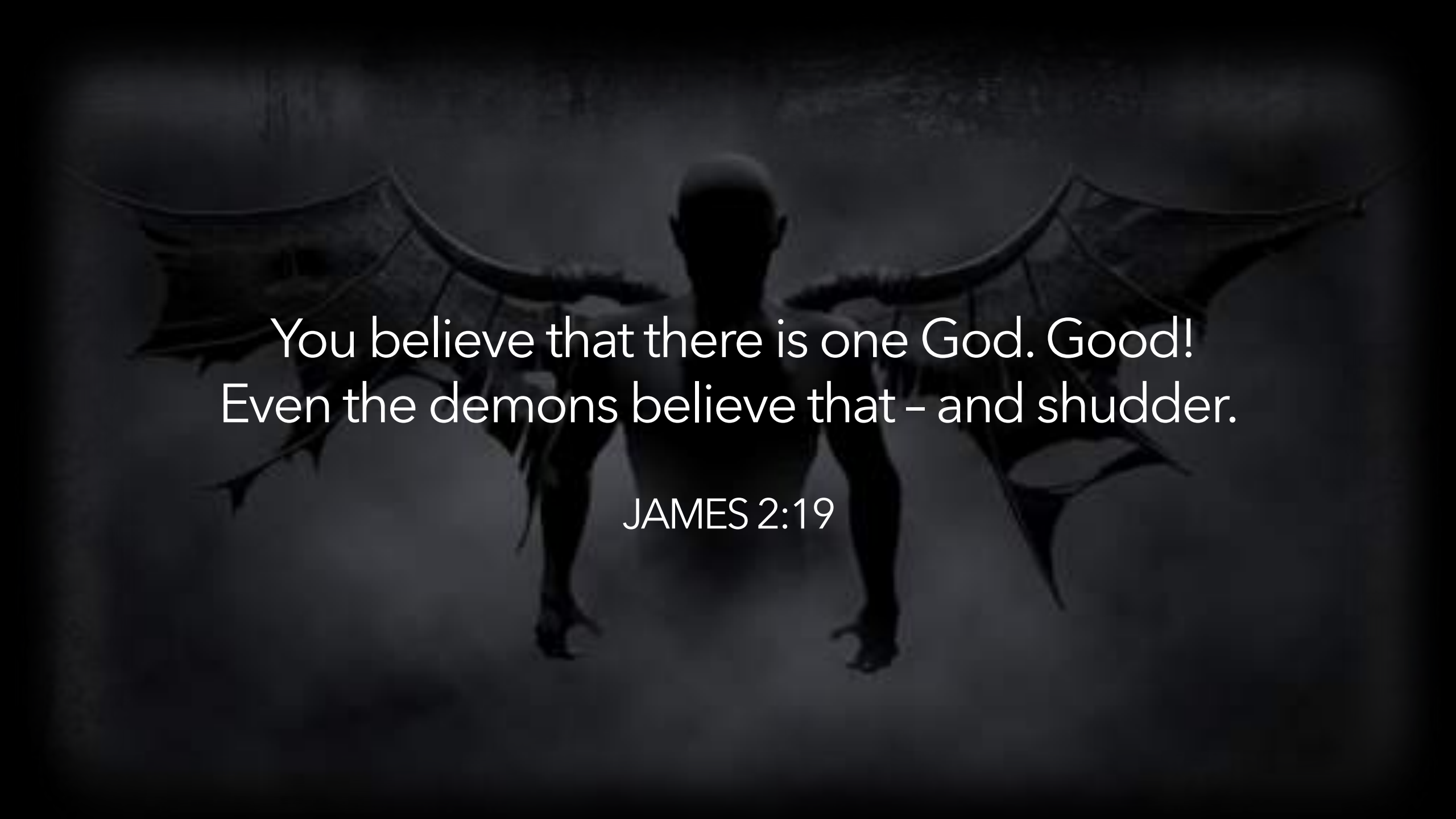
And Simon answered,

“Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”



SIMON
THE WIZARD

ACTS 8:22-23 ESV



You believe that there is one God. Good!
Even the demons believe that - and shudder.

JAMES 2:19

PIONEERS

SIMON

THE SORCERER

ACTS 8

AVOID ALL EVIL

1 Cor. 14:20 "Be babes in evil."

HAVE NO FEAR

1 John 4:4 "For He who is in you is greater!"

RESIST WITH FAITH

1 Peter 5:9 "Resist him, standing firm in the faith."

RESPOND WITH SCRIPTURE

Matt. 4 "It is written..."

RESPECT THE POWER

Jude 1:9 Even Michael didn't accuse the devil."

CLAIM JESUS' AUTHORITY

Luke 1 "Authority in Jesus name."

STAY ALERT

1 Peter 5:8 "Seeking whom he may devour."



7 Ways to
STOMP
OUT EVIL

PIONEERS



THE FOUR
AMBITIONS
OF EVIL

1 BLIND PEOPLE FROM THE TRUTH

2 Cor. 4:4 "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers."

2 DECEIVE PEOPLE INTO BONDAGE

John 8:44 "You belong to the father of lies, and your will is his. "

3 LEAD PEOPLE INTO SINFUL ACTS

Acts 5:3 "Has Satan not filled your heart to lie?"

4 PROMOTE BITTERNESS AND ENVY

James 3:15 "Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition... unspiritual, demonic."

A dark silhouette of a person with large, bat-like wings spread out, centered in the background. The person's head is bald, and they appear to be wearing a dark, form-fitting outfit. The wings are detailed with veins and have a slightly ragged, leather-like texture.

ATTENTION
PLEASE!

THE EVIL OF **ENVY**

A dark silhouette of a person with large, bat-like wings spread out, set against a dark, textured background. The person is facing forward, and the wings are positioned symmetrically on either side of their torso.

ENVY IS DEMONIC

“But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, **demonic**.

JAMES 3: 14 -15

A dark, atmospheric background featuring a silhouette of a devil with horns and wings, standing with arms outstretched. The figure is centered and serves as a backdrop for the text.

ENVY IS A MURDERER

“Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple.”

JOB 5:2

A dark silhouette of a person with large, bat-like wings spread out, set against a dark, textured background. The person is facing away from the viewer, with their arms and wings extending horizontally.

ENVY IS A DISEASE

“A tranquil heart is life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”

PROVERBS 14:30

A dark silhouette of a devil with horns and wings, standing with arms outstretched, set against a dark, smoky background. The figure is centered in the upper half of the image.

ENVY IS A DIVIDER

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,
there will be disorder and every vile practice.”

JAMES 3:16

A dark silhouette of a person with large, bat-like wings spread out, set against a dark, textured background. The person is facing away from the viewer, with their arms and wings extending horizontally.

ENVY IS RESENTFUL

“And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”

ECCLESIASTES 4:4

PIONEERS

SIMON

THE SORCERER

ACTS 8





**“Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good.”**

ROMANS 12:21



ATTENTION
PLEASE!

WE ALL HAVE PLATFORMS, WHAT WILL YOU USE YOURS FOR?