

The image features a stylized world map in shades of grey and blue. Overlaid on the map is a network of grey lines connecting various nodes, some of which are highlighted with blue circles. The word "ACTS" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the map.

ACTS

CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



Gaining and Growing

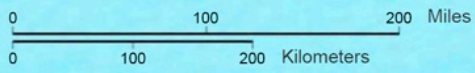
Acts 19:1-20

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“The proof of spiritual maturity is not how pure you are but awareness of your impurity. That very awareness opens the door to grace.”

Philip Yancey

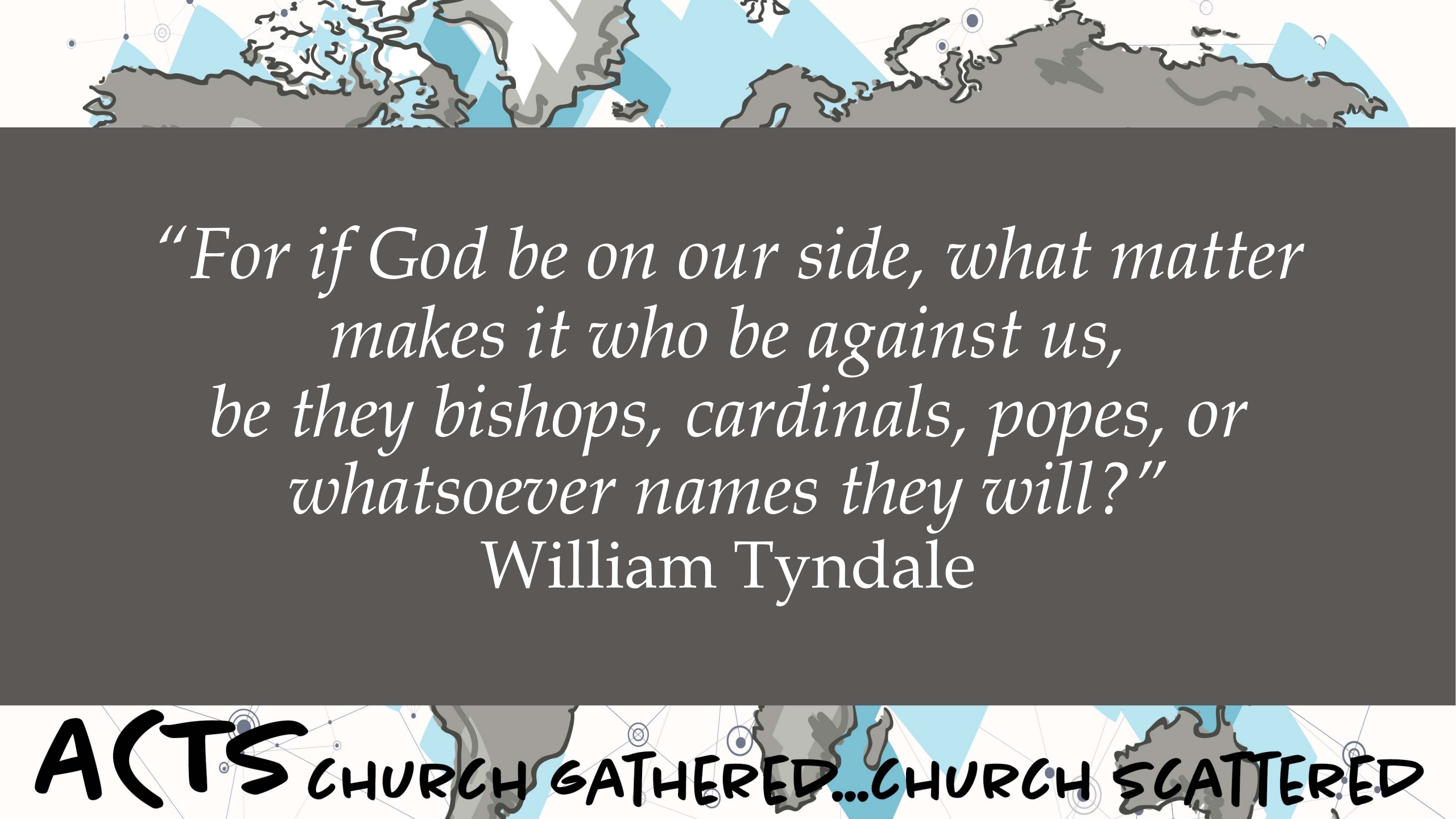
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PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 19:1 - 21:14

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches of Asia" - Rev. 2-3
- ← Paul's Route

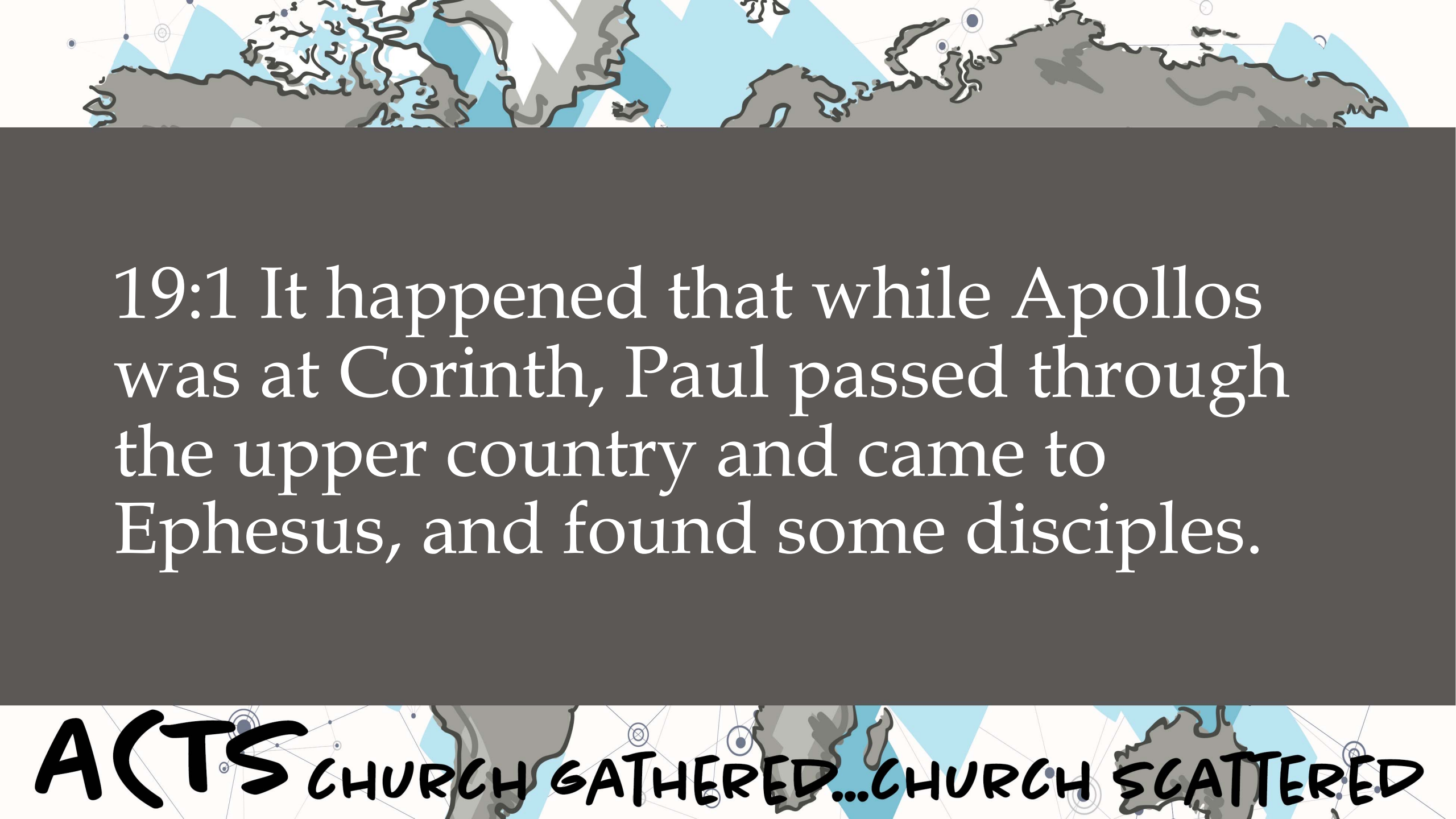
ConformingToJesus.com



“For if God be on our side, what matter makes it who be against us, be they bishops, cardinals, popes, or whatsoever names they will?”

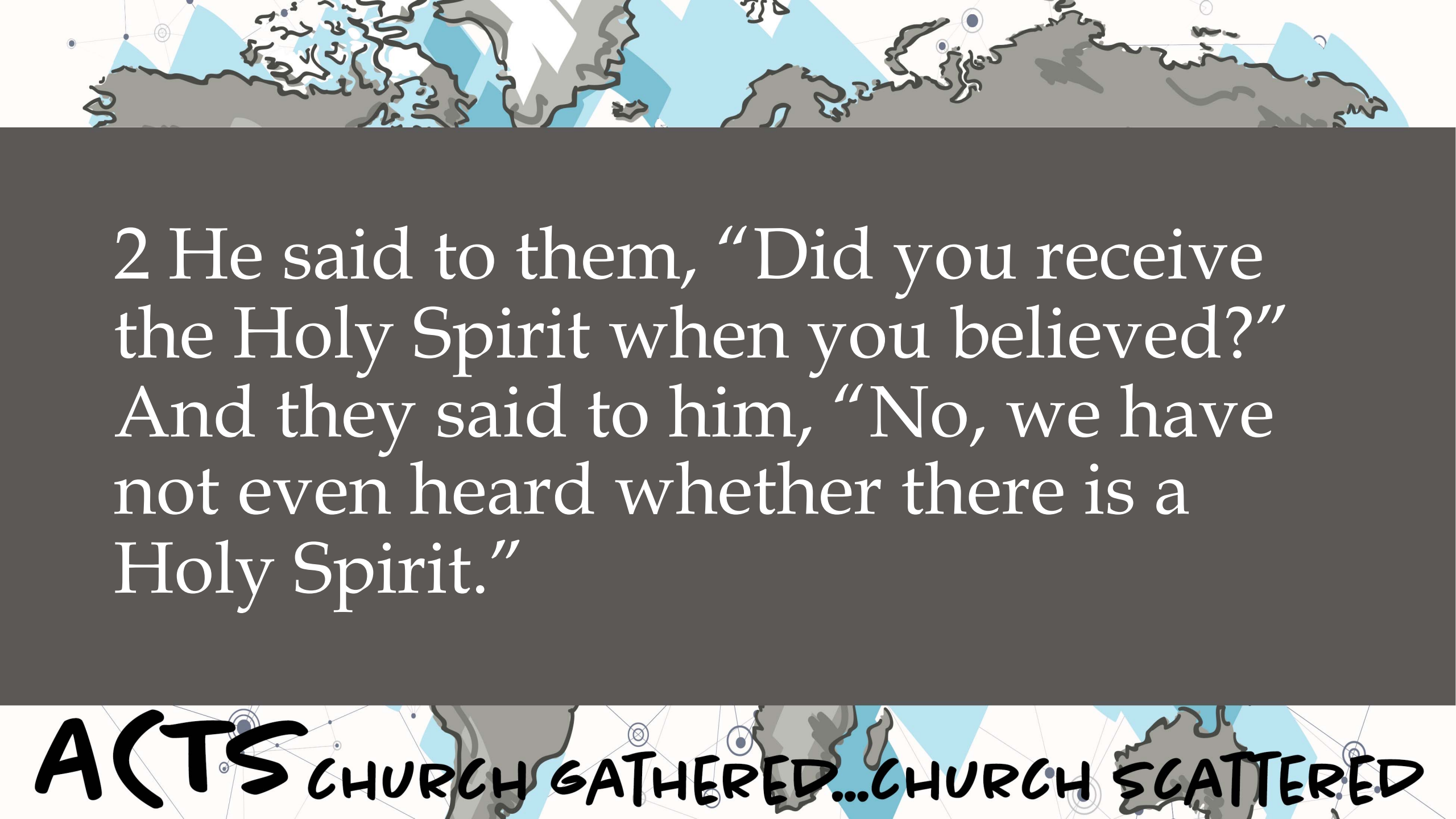
William Tyndale

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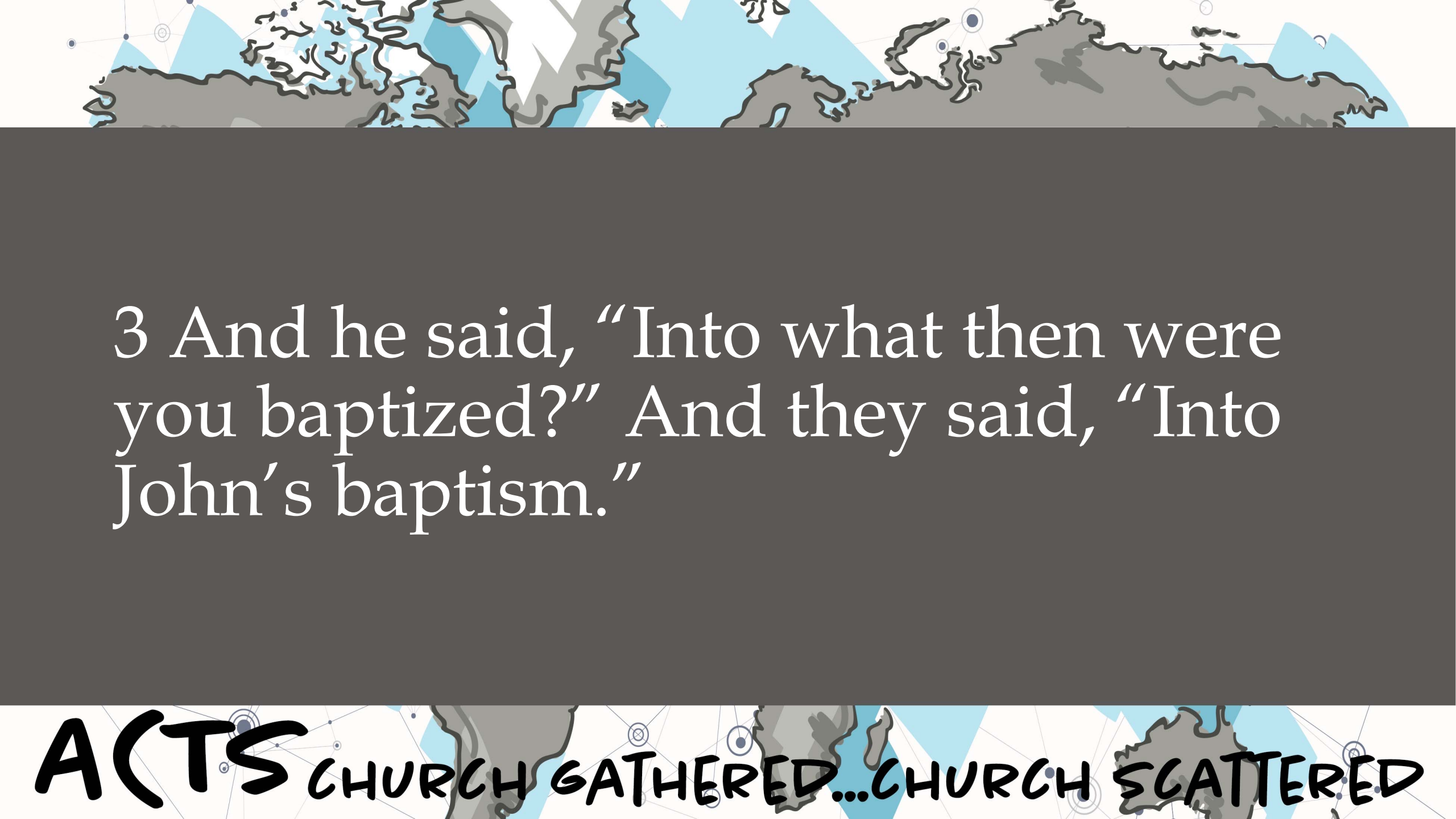
19:1 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.

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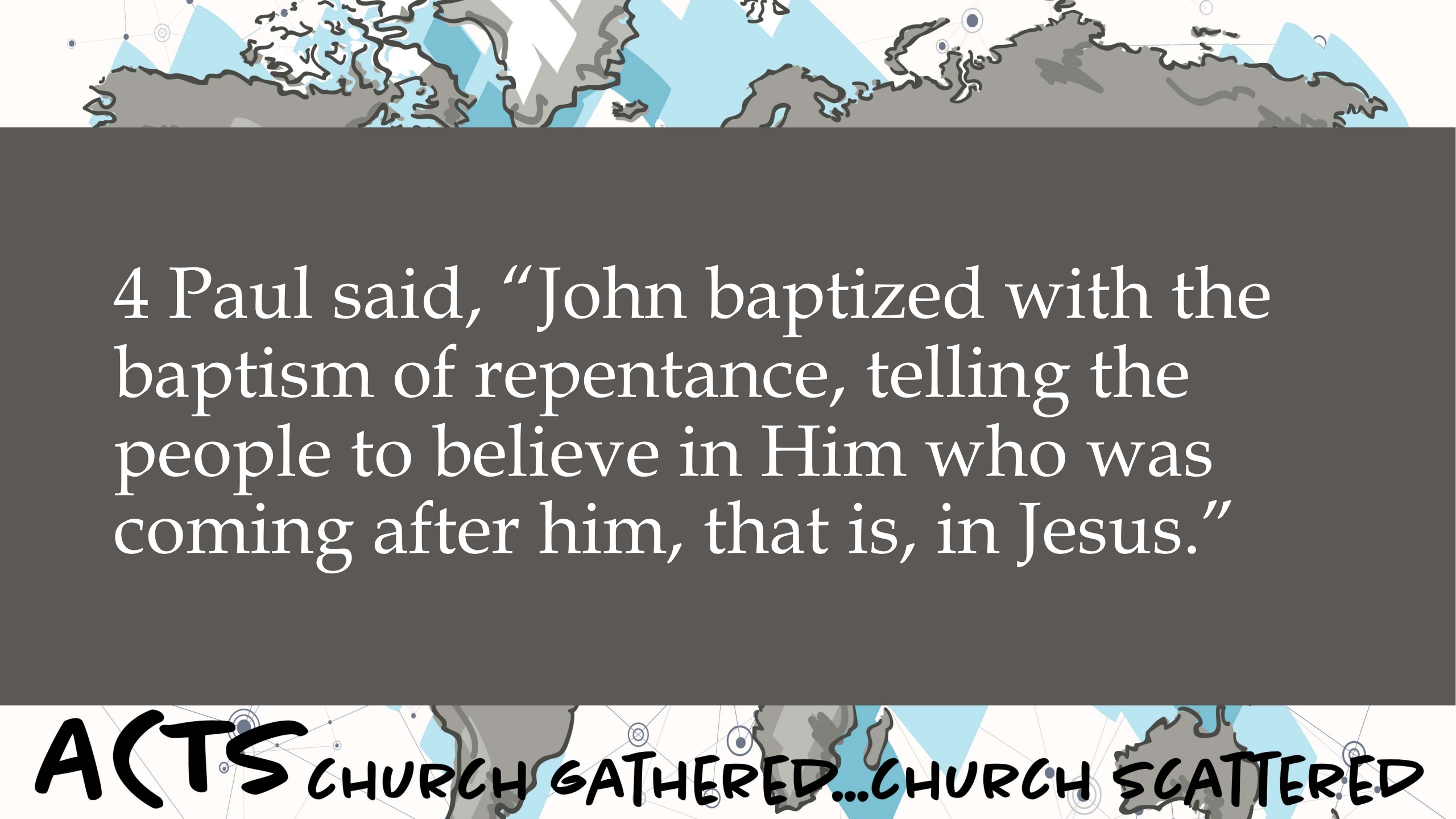
2 He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

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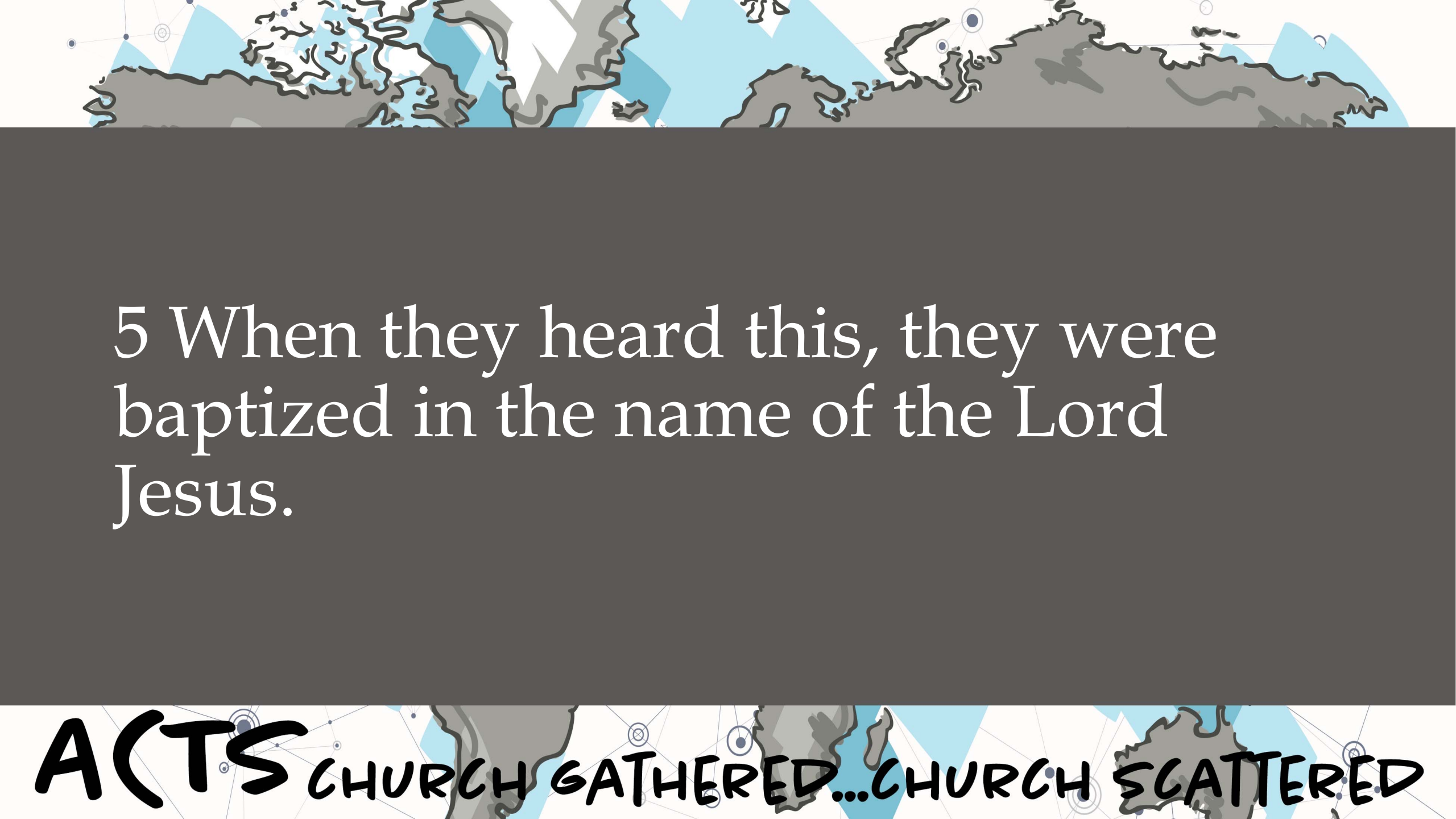
3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.”

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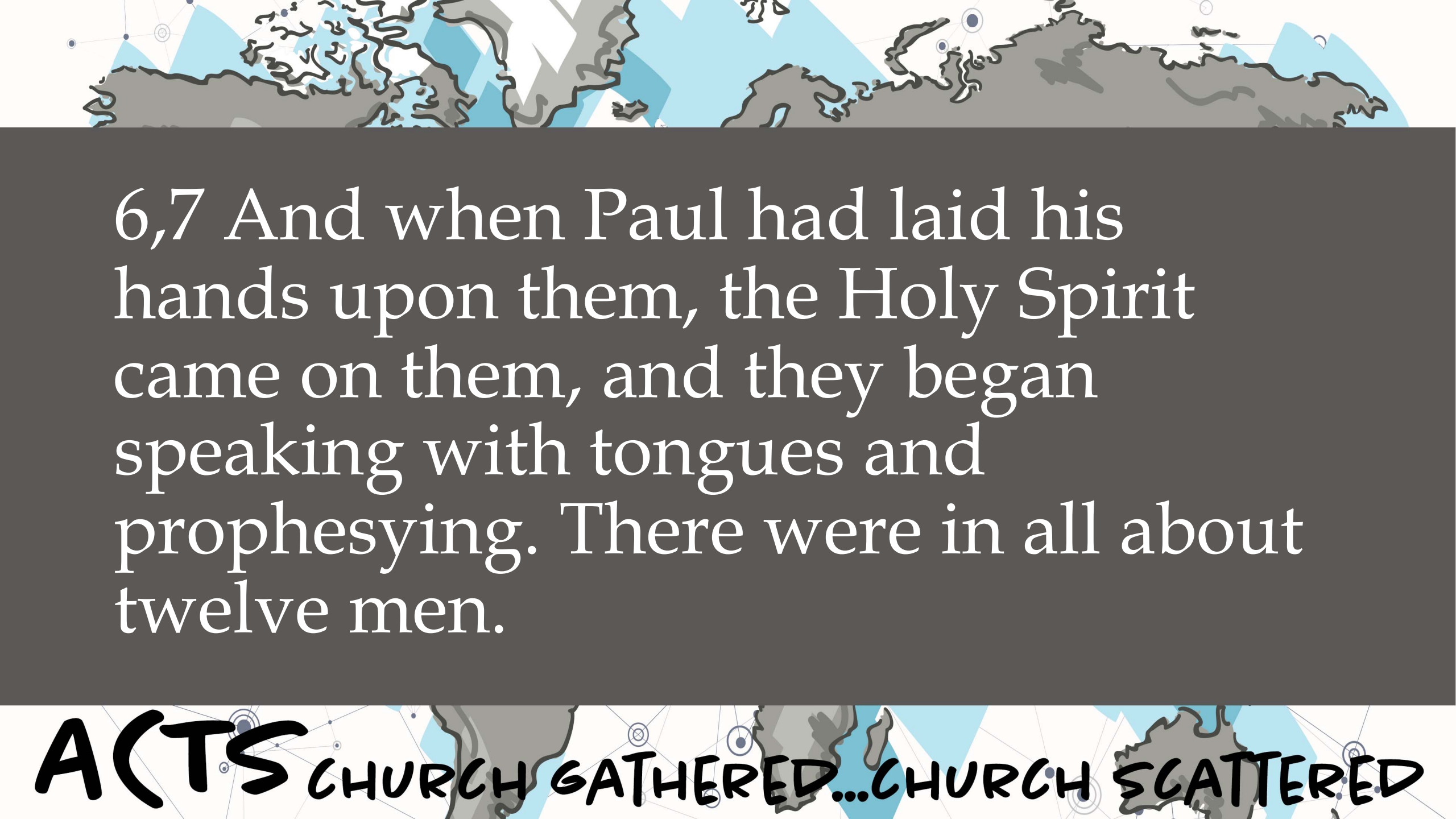
4 Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

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5 When they heard this, they were
baptized in the name of the Lord
Jesus.

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6,7 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. There were in all about twelve men.

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Doctrine of John 1-7

- Paul joins a team – ‘disciples’
- Apollos - *18:25 ‘he knew only the baptism of John’*
- Repentance of John – ‘coming after’ Jesus!
- Holy Spirit received by 12 gladly!



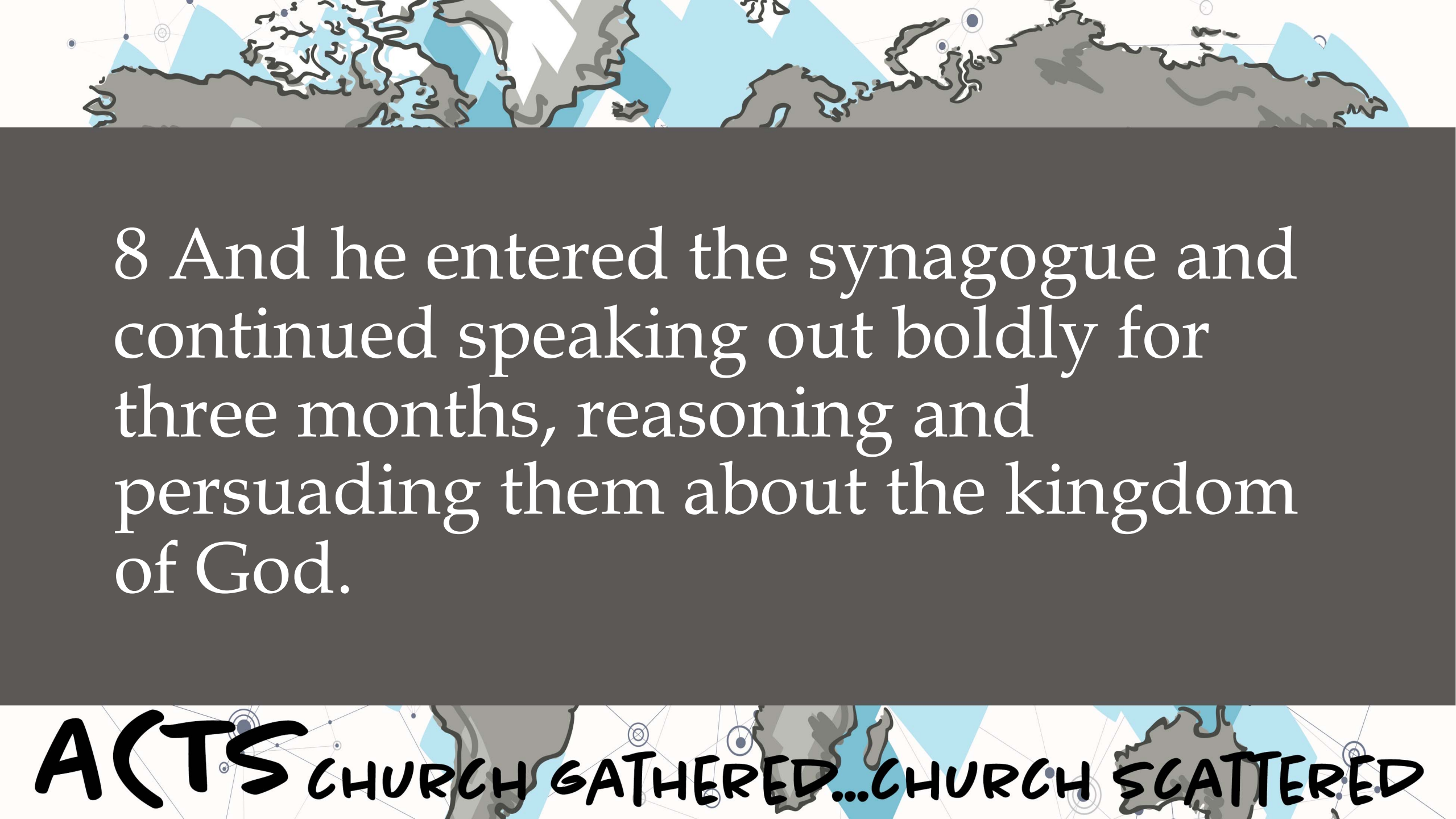
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“The way to preserve the peace of the church is to preserve its purity.”

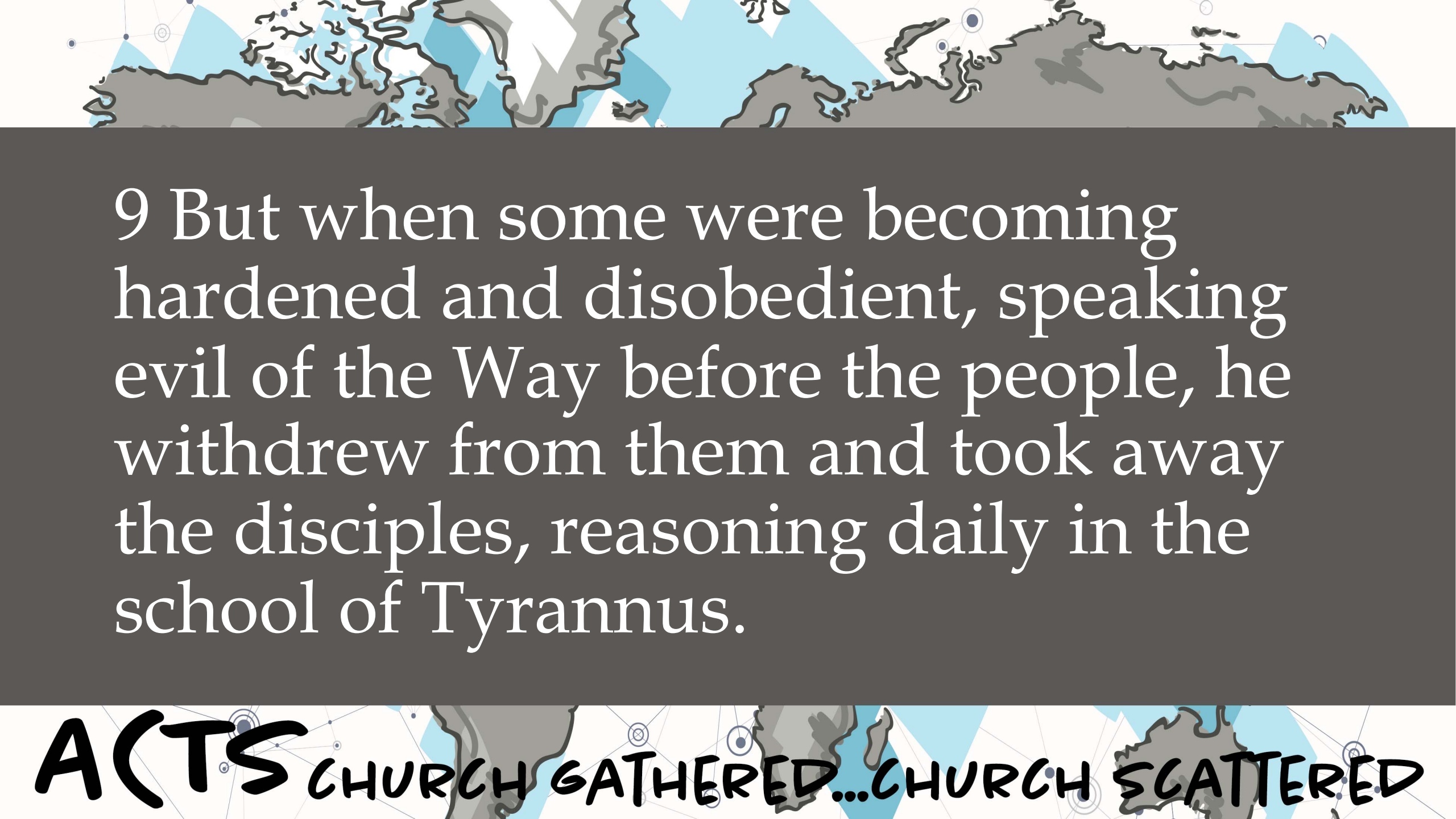
Matthew Henry

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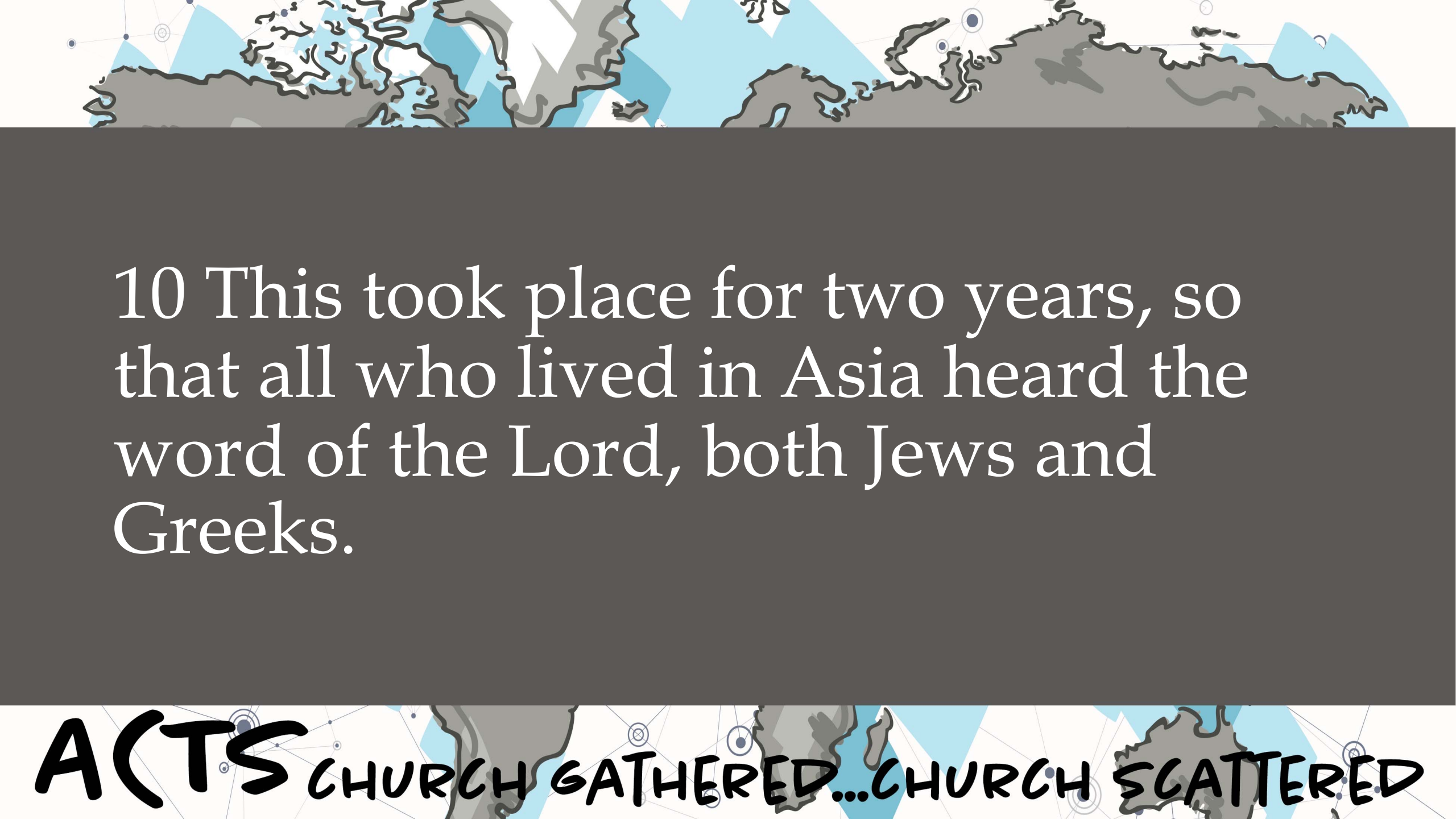
8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.

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9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

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10 This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

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Debate of Jews 8-10

- Beginning with the Jews – Law & Prophets
- Isaiah 6 – still hard hearted
- School Tyrannus - unknown
- Two years of training – 2 million folks!



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*“Persecution is simply the
clash between two irreconcilable
value-systems.”*

John Stott

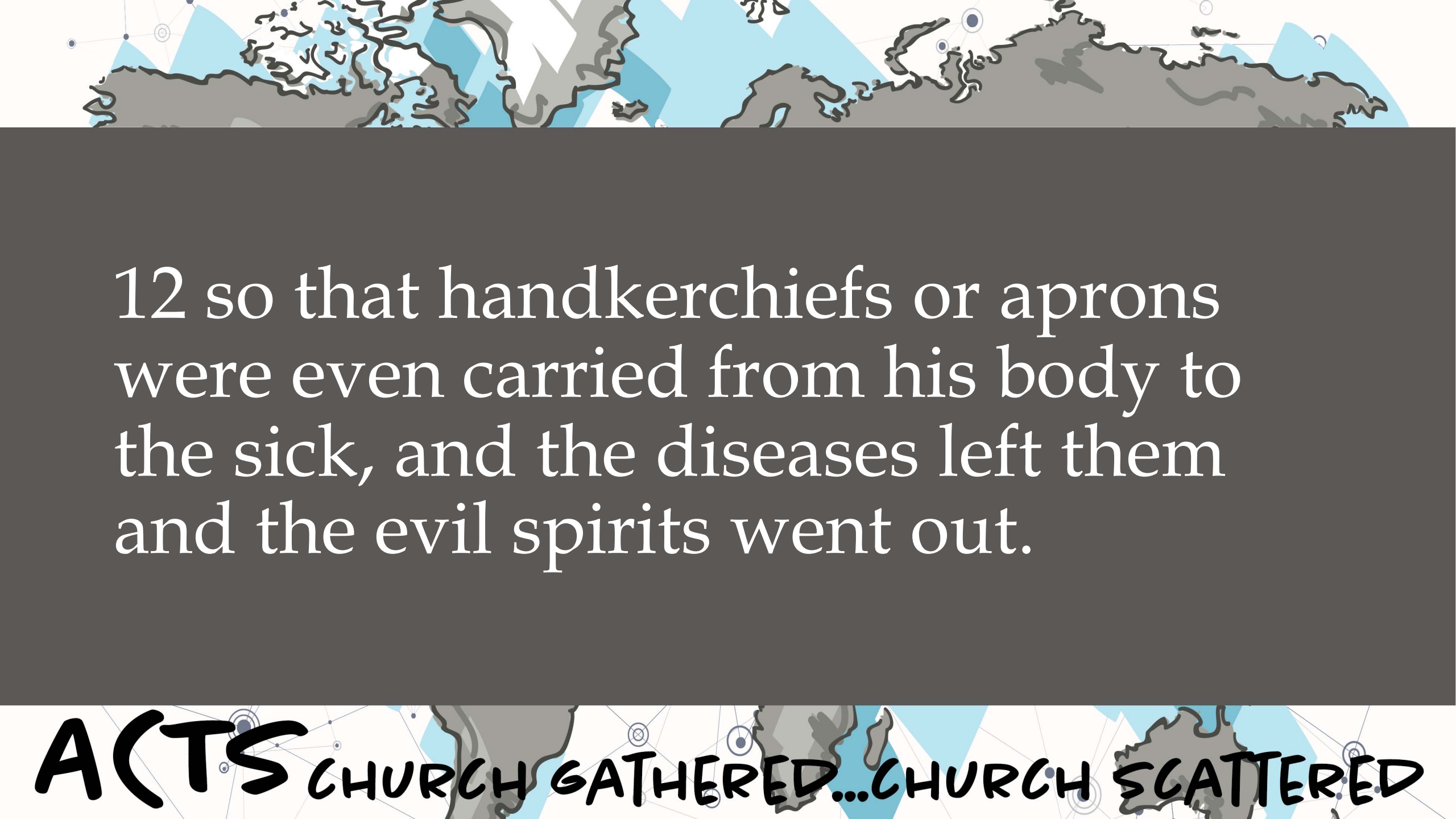


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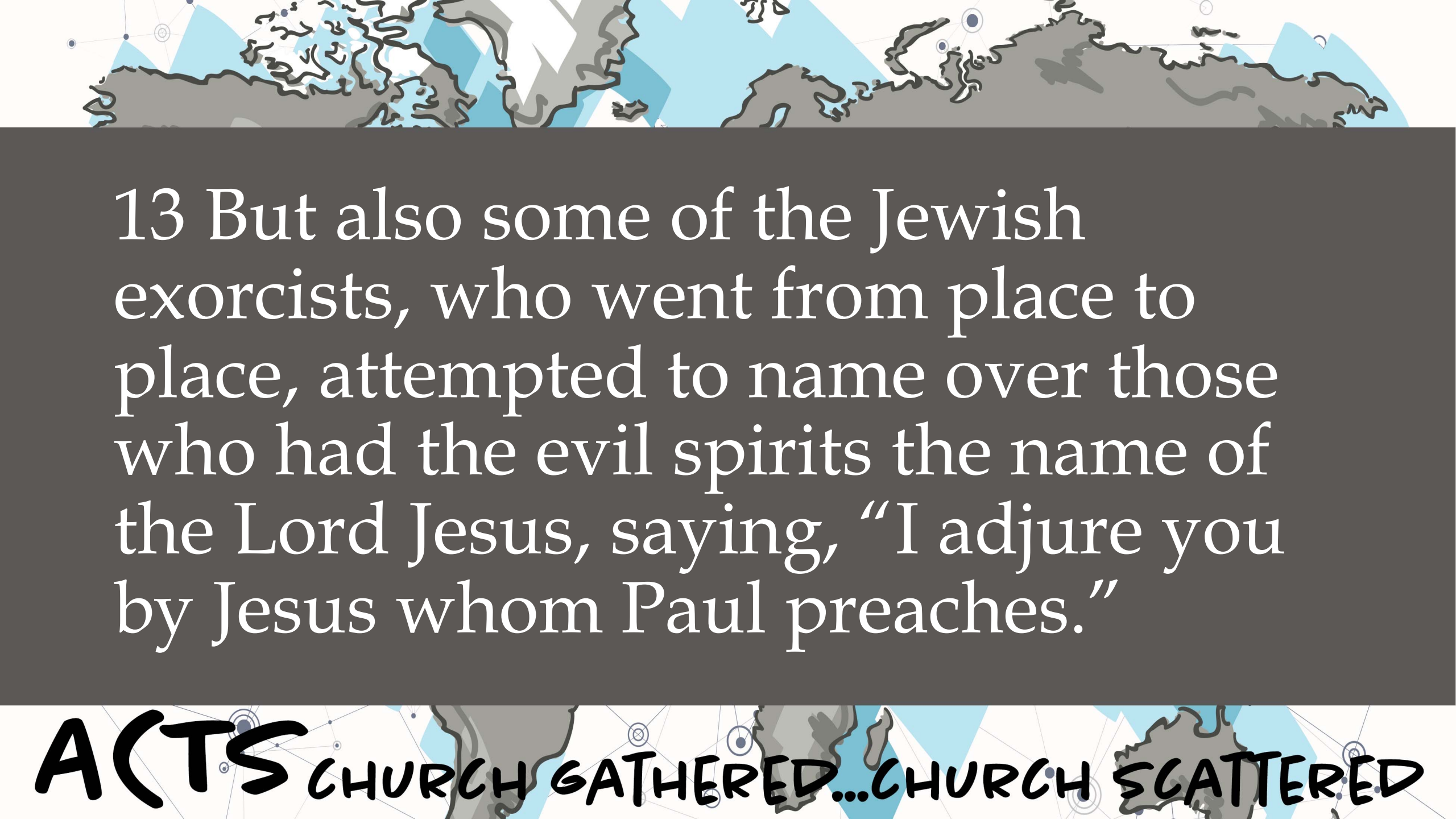
11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,

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12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons
were even carried from his body to
the sick, and the diseases left them
and the evil spirits went out.

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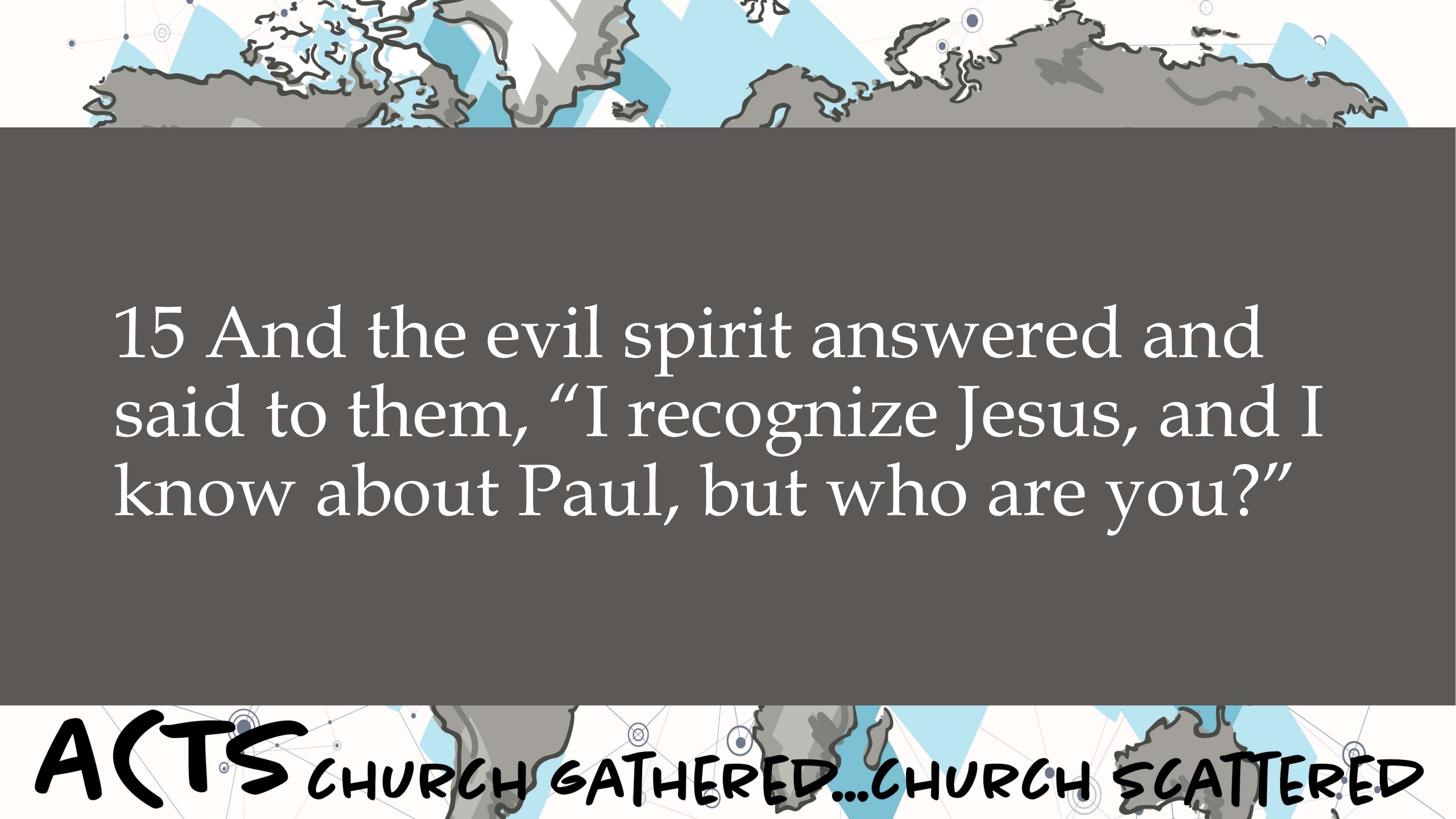
13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

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14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

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15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”

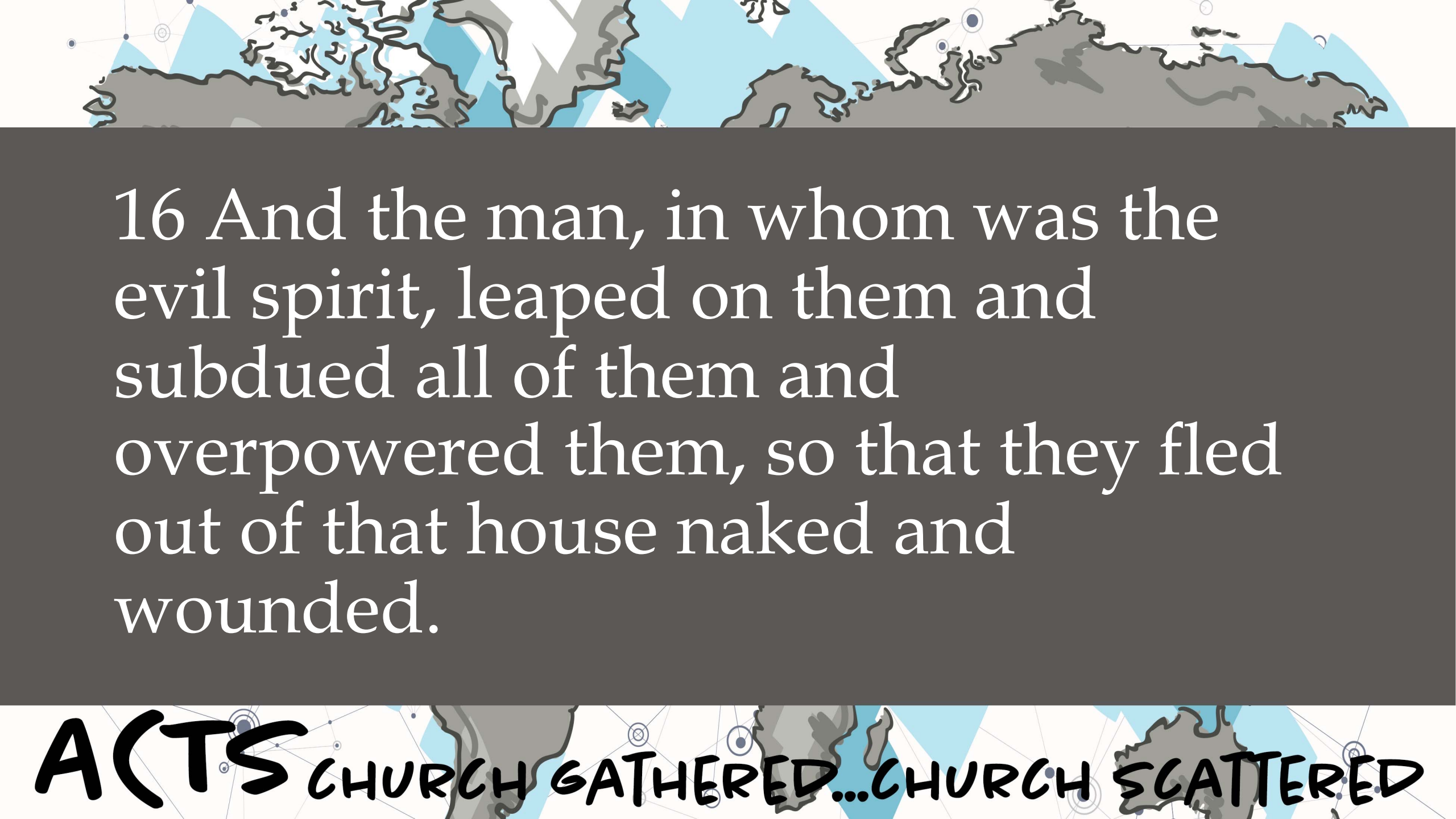
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“Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name”
(Luke 10:17). Jesus gave some perspective: *“Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven”* (10:20).
What is greater than authority over demons?
Knowing God is your Father and heaven is your home!



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16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

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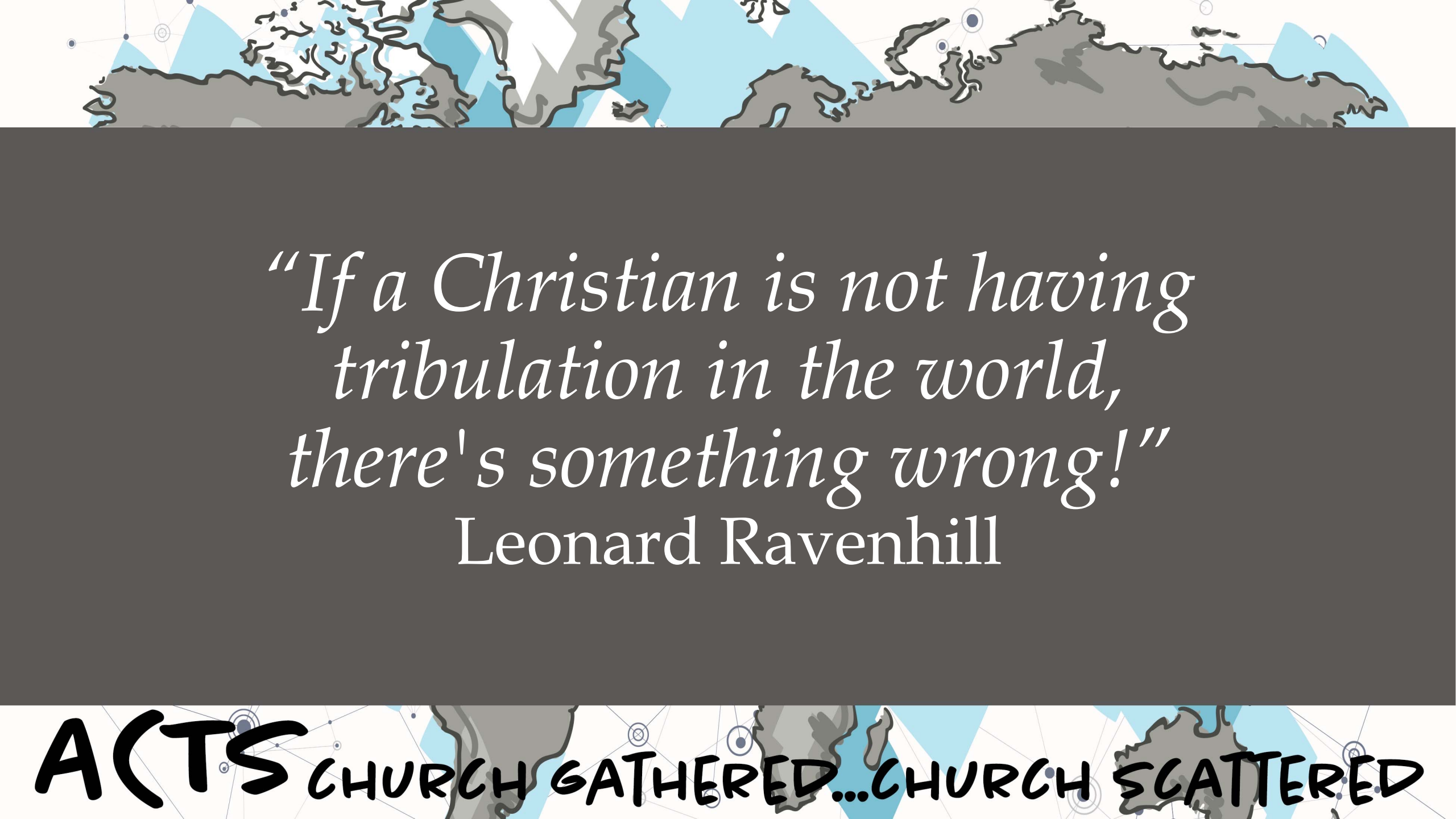


Devils of Hell 11-16

- God's confirmation of Apostles
- Miracles – overcoming effects of sin
- Seven Sons of Sceva – fake or real?
- Powers of Hell – not fake VERY real!



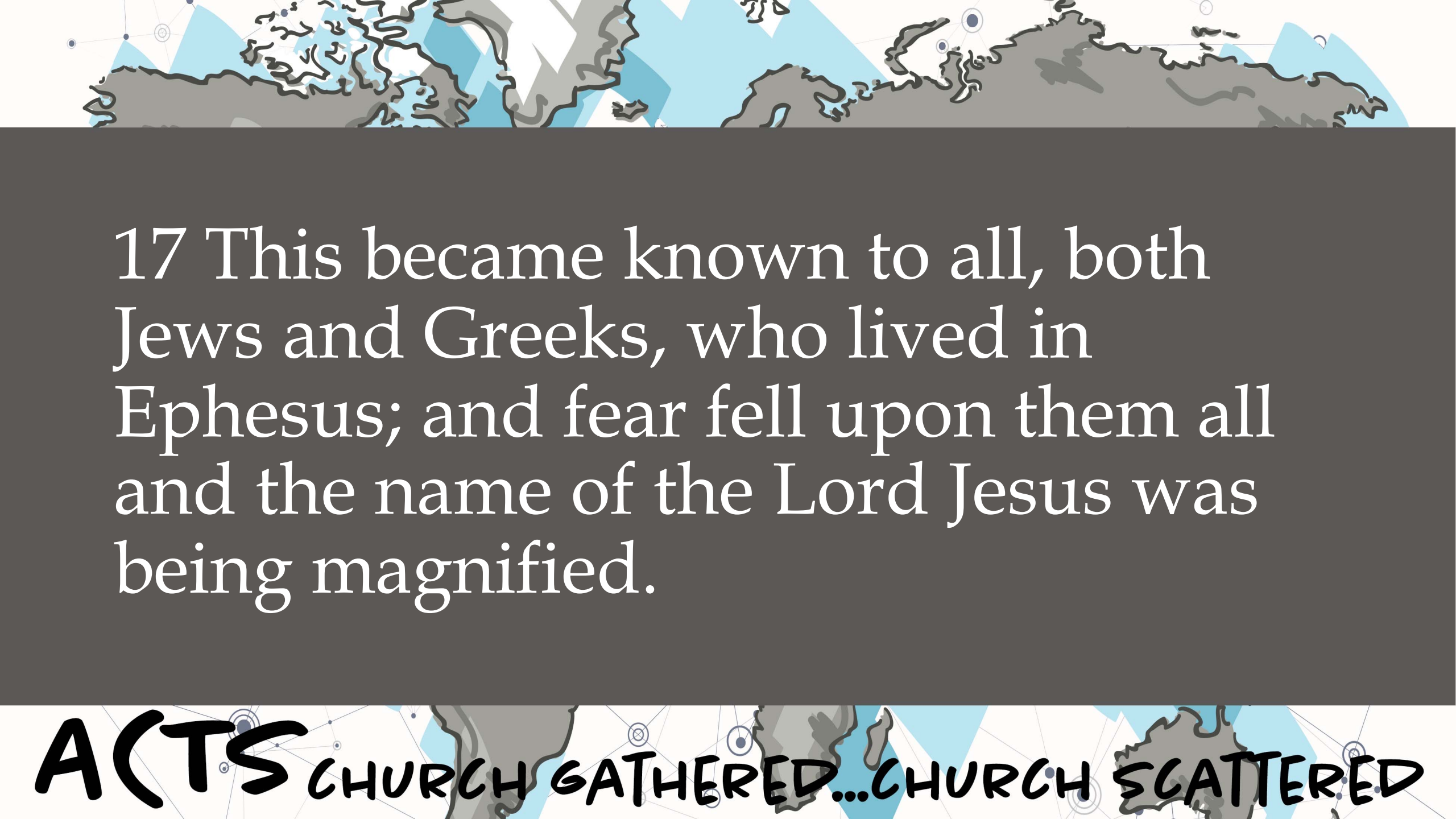
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*“If a Christian is not having
tribulation in the world,
there's something wrong!”*


Leonard Ravenhill

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17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

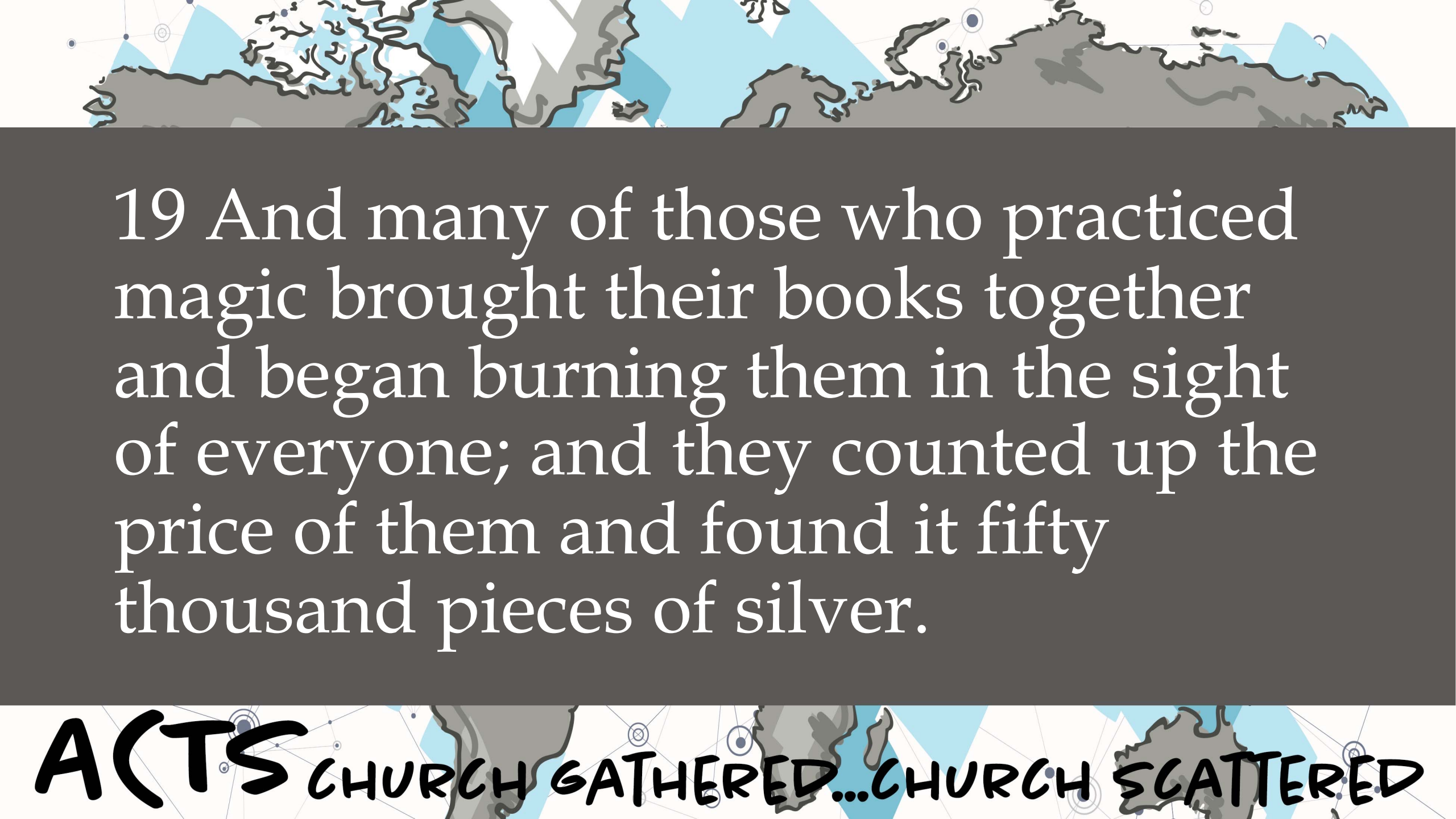
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18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.

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19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

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Dread of Sin 17-19

- Power of God inspires awe of God
- Put off – Put on
- Piety by actions – Purity by aversions



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“Only with clarity do we seek purity!”

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20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

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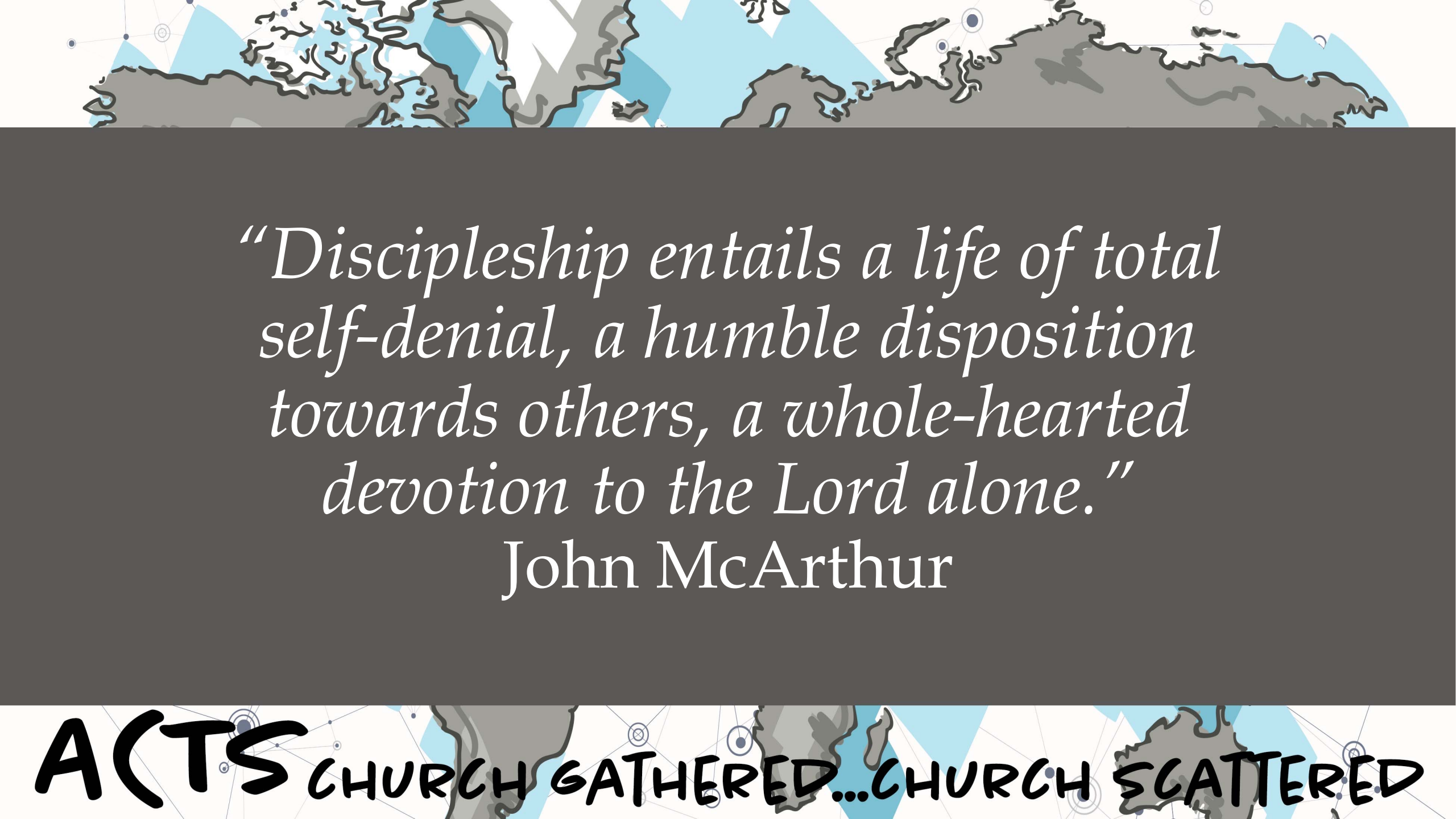


Deep and Wide 20

- Word of the Lord – foundation
- Growing by development – natural
- Strengthening by overcoming – exercise
- Faith growing to grow others!
- Who are you taking deeper? Stronger?



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“Discipleship entails a life of total self-denial, a humble disposition towards others, a whole-hearted devotion to the Lord alone.”

John McArthur

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A stylized world map with a network overlay. The map is rendered in shades of gray and light blue, with a network of gray lines and nodes connecting various points across the globe. The word "ACTS" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the map.

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