



CVM

Conference

At the Crossroads of Faith & Profession





EXPLORING RISK AND SUFFERING

Christian Veterinary Mission
Conference 2025

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Deputy Director Missions

OBJECTIVES

To remind ourselves about God's character and promises

To learn why we go to dangerous places when we follow Jesus—and it doesn't matter!

To remember it is SO worth it—that His reward is coming with Him





REVIEW: WHY MISSIONS?

The Great Commission mandate has not changed

**The Father's heart for all peoples
is still the same**

Yet, 42% of the world has limited or
no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

3.2 billion people, 7,200 people groups

REVIEW: WHY VETERINARIANS?

Strategic for access & relationships

Helping people & animals

Pioneer church planting

Animal projects

University ministry

Many opportunities, short or long term

REVIEW: WHY ME?

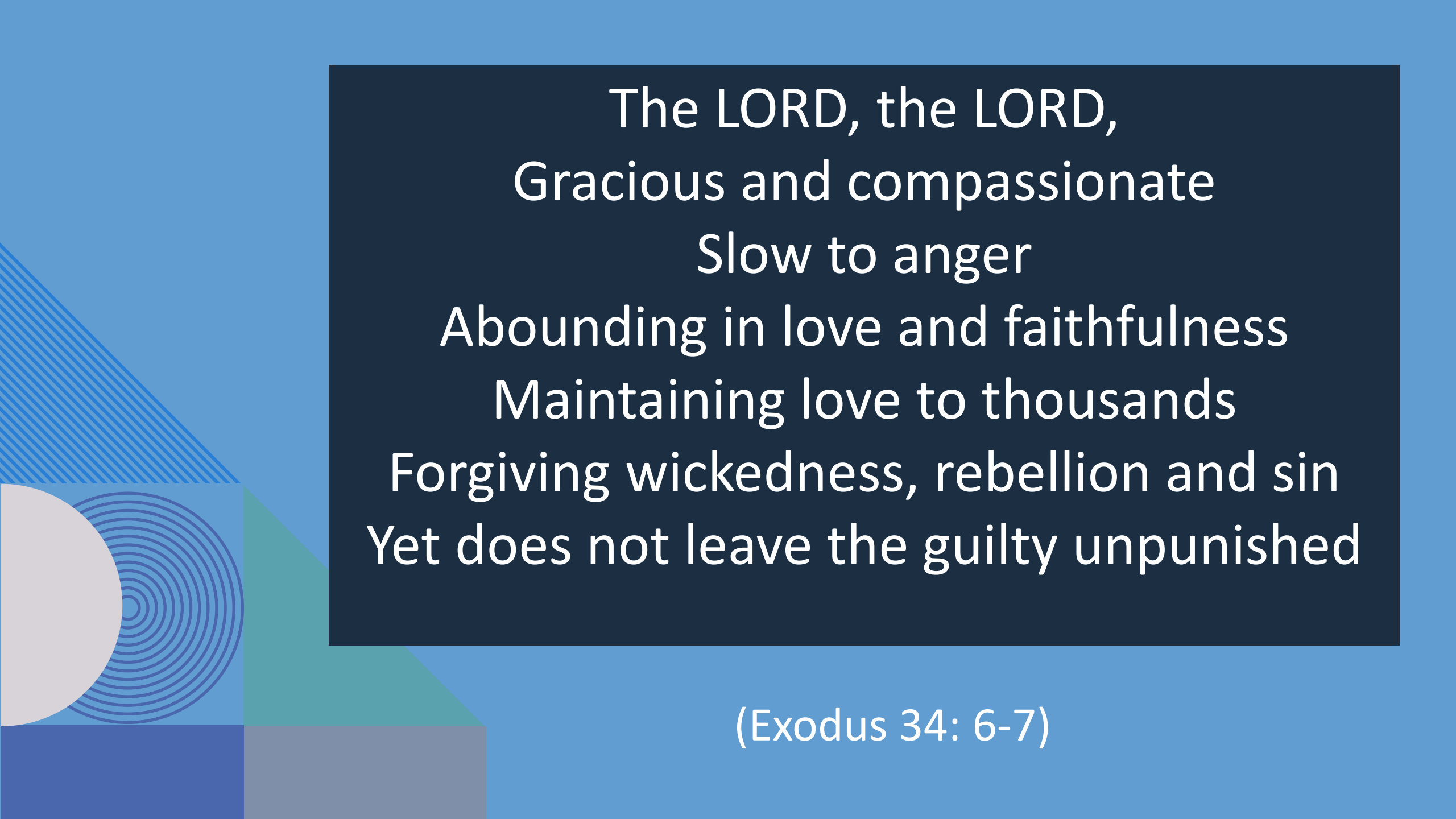
The Great Commission mandate has not
changed

**Sharing the Father's heart for all
peoples**

To whom much is given...
Privilege to participate in God's work!

WHO IS GOD?

God is totally sovereign
But God is also absolutely good.
Creator, yet personal Father
God is self-existent, eternal
Perfect, holy, Judge
Omniscient, Omnipotent
Savior, Love
Worthy of worship



The LORD, the LORD,
Gracious and compassionate
Slow to anger
Abounding in love and faithfulness
Maintaining love to thousands
Forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin
Yet does not leave the guilty unpunished

(Exodus 34: 6-7)

WHO IS MAN?

Born in sin, worthy of death

Fragile, dependent

Created,

The clay not the Potter

Saved by grace – (or lost)

Followers, disciples

Made to worship Him

Called to make disciples

GOD HAS PROMISED~

To forgive us	Psalm 103: 12, 1 John 1:9
To adopt us	Ephesians 1: 5
To love us	Romans 8: 35-39
To never leave us	Hebrews 13: 5-6
He knows us	Psalm 139

GOD HAS PROMISED~

His grace is
sufficient

2 Corinthians 12: 9

His peace passes
understanding

Philippians 4: 7

The whole earth
will know him

Matthew 24: 14
Habakkuk 2: 14

He will judge with
justice

Colossians 3: 25

GOD HAS PROMISED~

He will reward

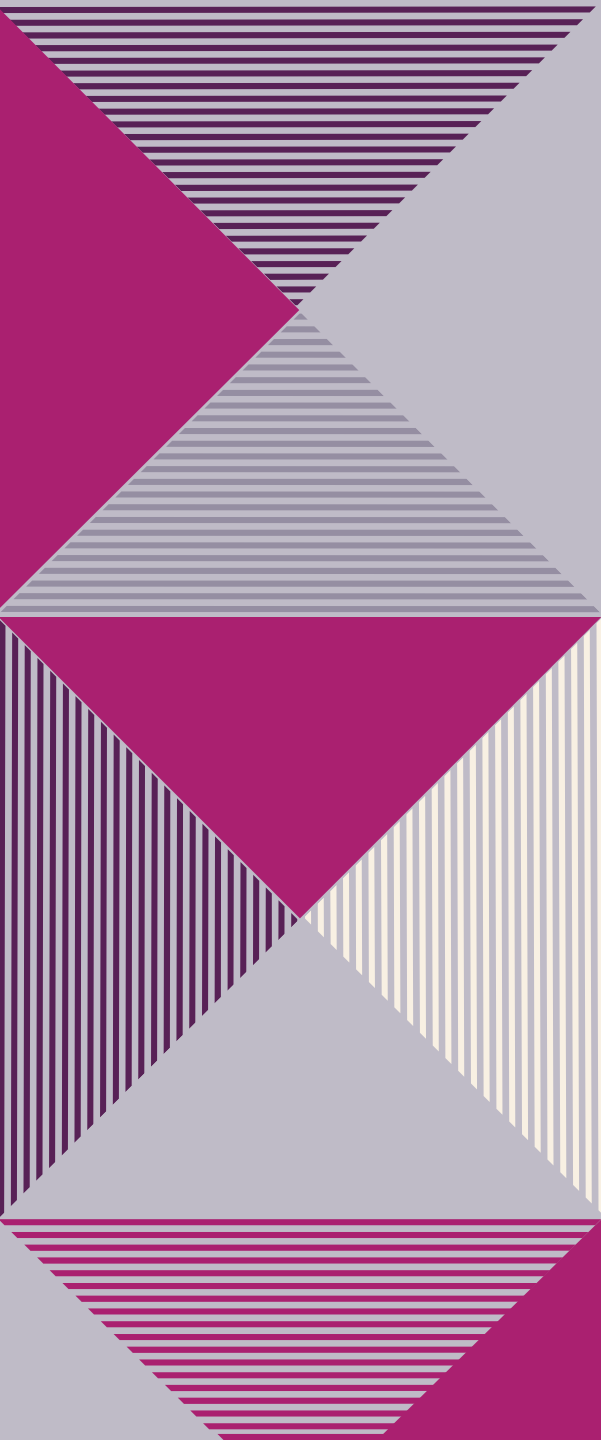
Colossians 3: 23,
Romans 8: 32, 35-39

Heaven is unimaginable

1 Corinthians 2: 9

All peoples will worship
around His throne

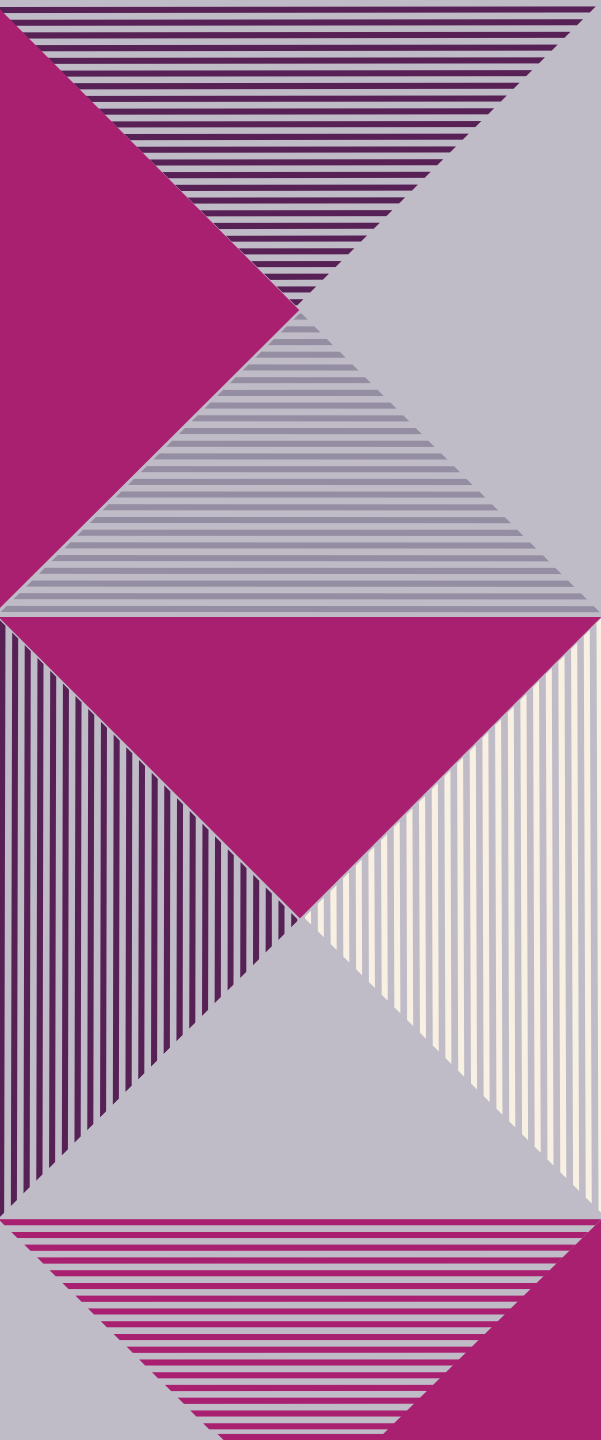
Revelations 7: 9



**JESUS ALSO PROMISED
THAT HIS PEOPLE
WOULD GO THROUGH
SUFFERING**

No servant is greater than his Master.
If they persecuted me,
They will persecute you as well.

John 15:20



For Your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep
to be slaughtered. (Romans 8: 36)

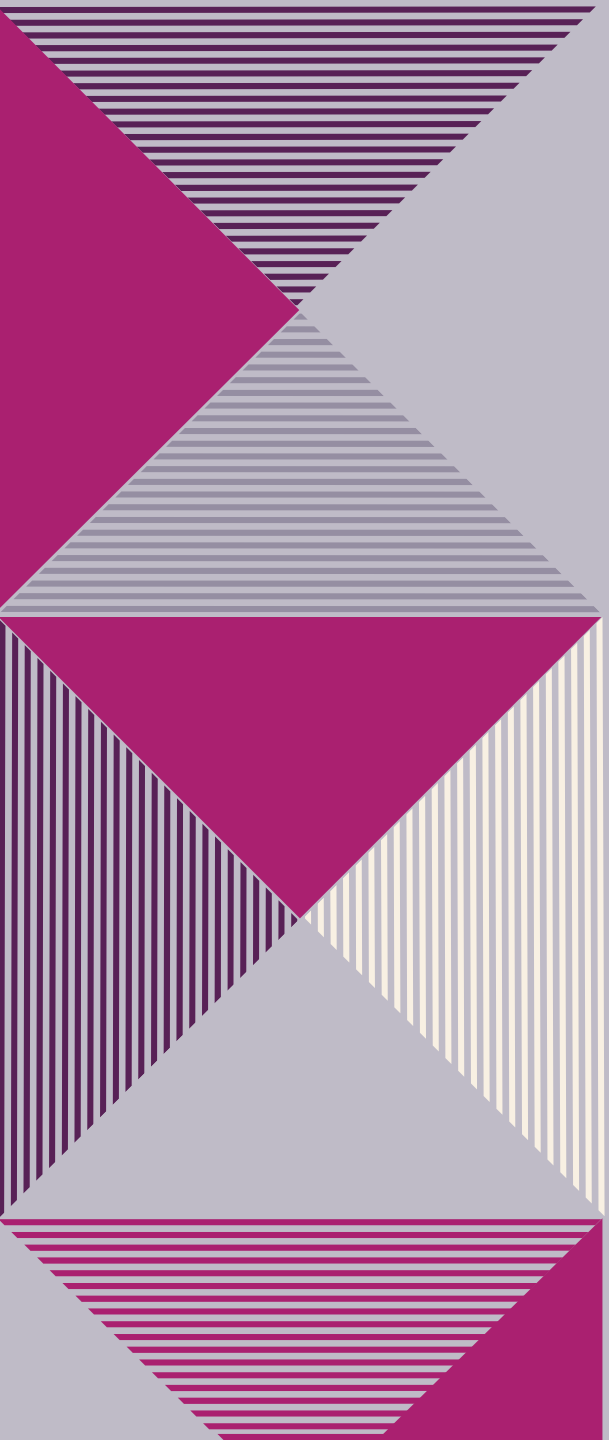
I consider that our present sufferings
are not comparable to the glory
That will be revealed in us
(Romans 8: 18)

We **MUST** through many tribulations
enter the Kingdom of God
(Acts 14:22)



For it has been granted not only to
believe, but also to suffer for Him
(Philippians 1: 29)

I want to know Christ
and the power of His resurrection
and the fellowship of His sufferings,
being conformed to Him in His death,
and so, somehow to attain
to the resurrection from the dead.
(Philippians 3: 10-11)



For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond comparison.

(2 Corinthians 4: 17)



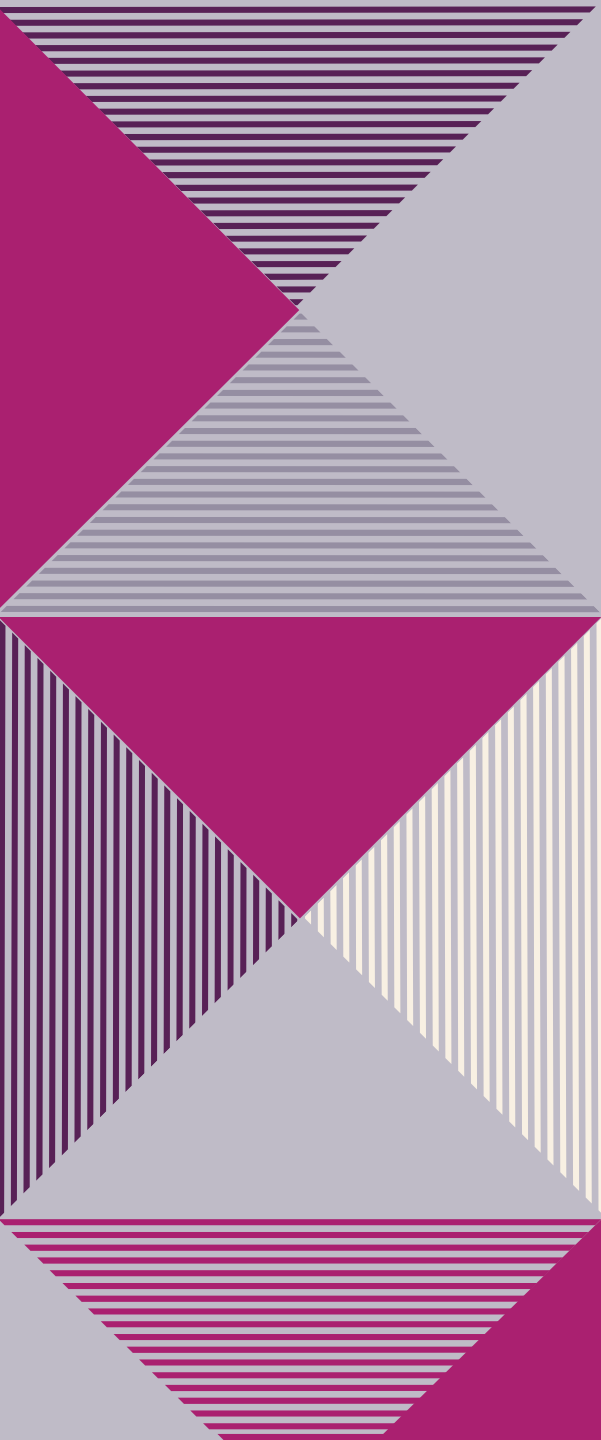
IT IS A WIN-WIN FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Whether therefore we live or die
we are the Lord's.

(Romans 14:8)

For to me to live is Christ
and to die is gain

(Philippians 1:21)



Rejoice in as much as you participate
in the sufferings of Christ
so that you may be overjoyed
when His glory is revealed.

(1 Peter 4:13)

WHY DON'T WE GO INTO RISK ?


Are we not specially called to Go?

We are...

Then, is God not big enough?

Consider: Feeding the 5,000 with a lunch

Crossing the Red Sea



God uses people
who are weak and feeble enough
to lean on Him.

(Hudson Taylor)

WHY DON'T WE GO INTO RISK ?

Is Jesus not worth it?

**WE SHOW THE
VALUE OF JESUS
BY WHAT WE ARE
WILLING TO SUFFER
FOR HIM.**

WHY DON'T WE GO INTO RISK ?

Do we try to straddle the fence?

And anyone who does not carry

His cross and follow me

Cannot be my disciple

(Luke 14:27)



God uses us in our weakness—
fully committed to Him

WHY DON'T WE GO INTO RISK ?

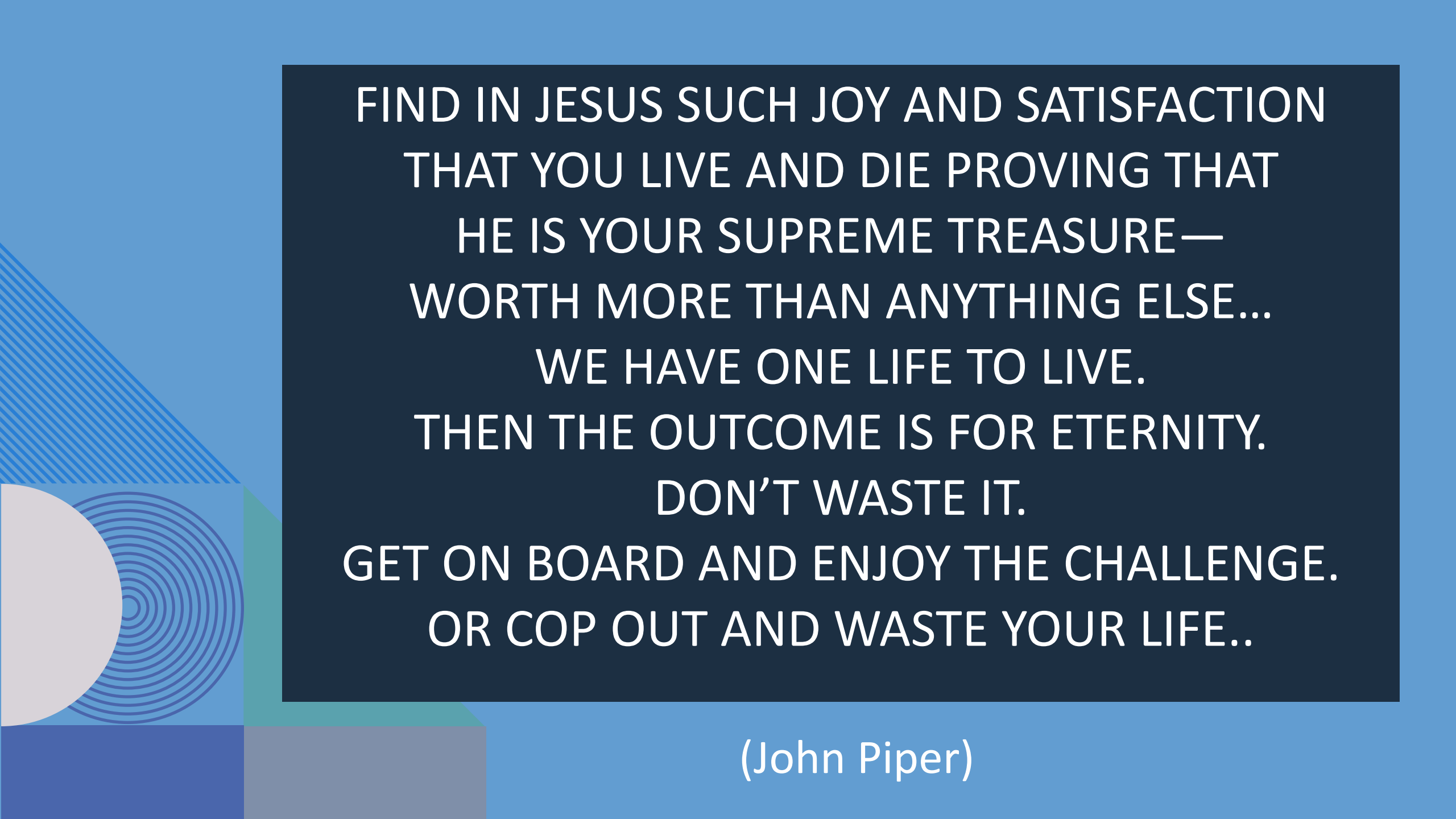
Do we have the right to not be persecuted? No

Do we share the heart of the Father?

Parable of the lost coin,

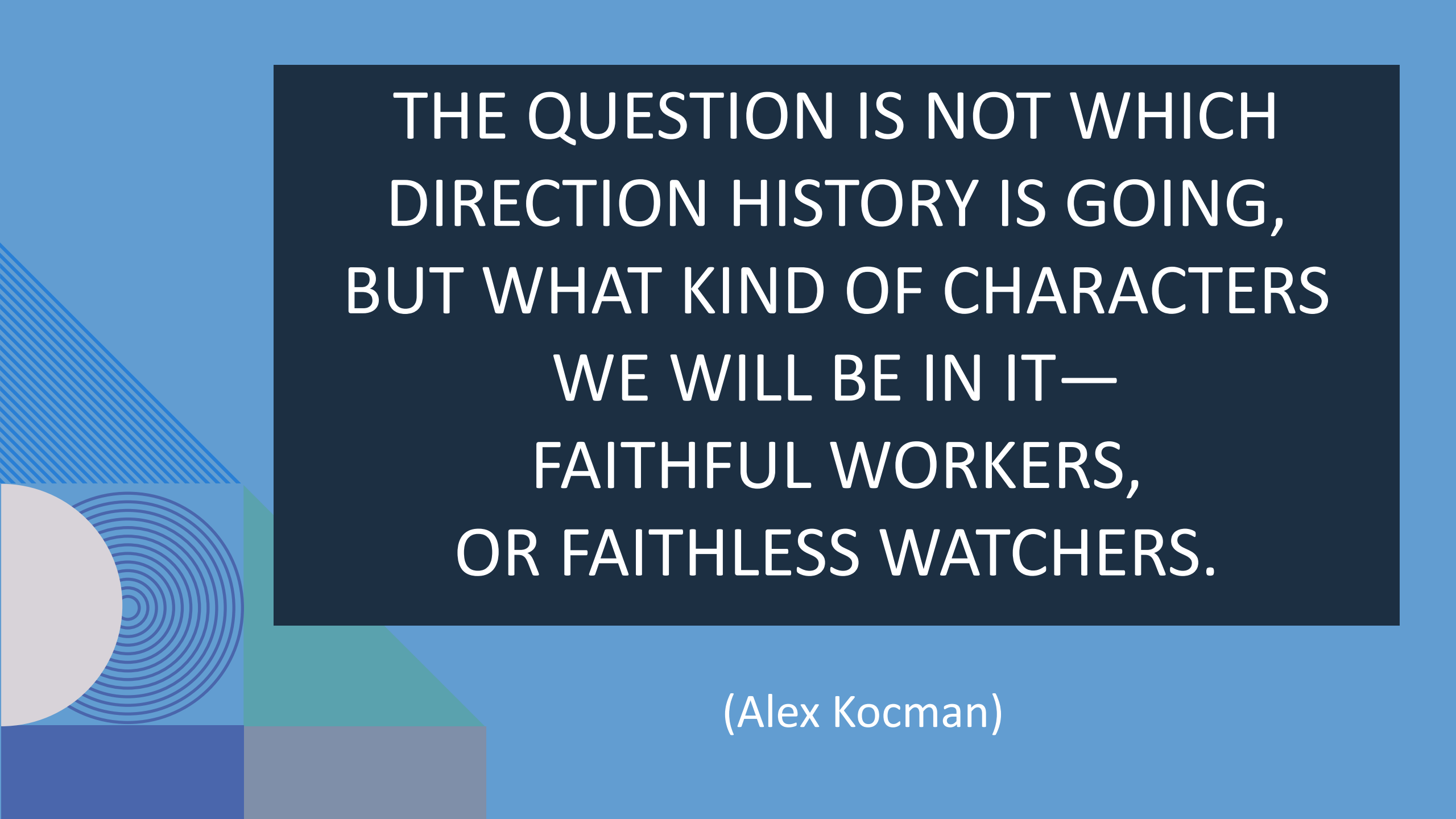
lost sheep,

prodigal son...



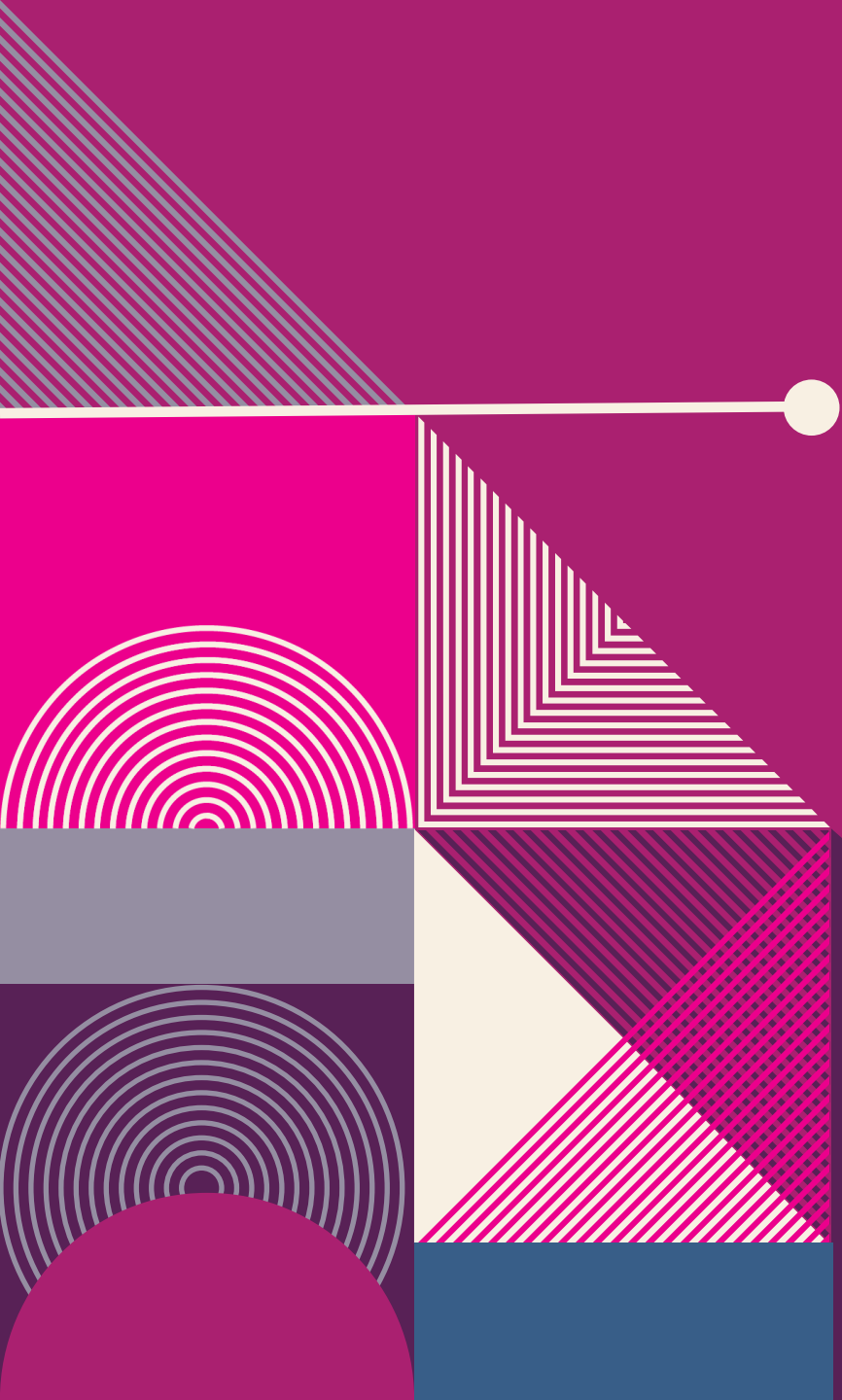
FIND IN JESUS SUCH JOY AND SATISFACTION
THAT YOU LIVE AND DIE PROVING THAT
HE IS YOUR SUPREME TREASURE—
WORTH MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE...
WE HAVE ONE LIFE TO LIVE.
THEN THE OUTCOME IS FOR ETERNITY.
DON'T WASTE IT.
GET ON BOARD AND ENJOY THE CHALLENGE.
OR COP OUT AND WASTE YOUR LIFE..

(John Piper)



THE QUESTION IS NOT WHICH
DIRECTION HISTORY IS GOING,
BUT WHAT KIND OF CHARACTERS
WE WILL BE IN IT—
FAITHFUL WORKERS,
OR FAITHLESS WATCHERS.

(Alex Kocman)



DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL CALL TO STAY HERE?

Shouldn't our default
be to go???



A SIMPLE THEOLOGY OF RISK AND SUFFERING

1. God is absolutely sovereign
2. God is also absolutely good
3. We are called to follow Jesus
4. We are called to suffering and even death
5. He is always with us
6. His reward is SO worth it

An abstract geometric design on the left side of the slide. It features a grid of colored squares: a bright pink square at the top left, a grey square below it, a dark purple square at the bottom left, and a blue square at the bottom. The pink square contains a white pattern of concentric semi-circles. The grey square contains a white pattern of concentric semi-circles. The dark purple square contains a white pattern of concentric semi-circles. The blue square contains a white pattern of concentric semi-circles. A white horizontal line with a small yellow circle at its right end extends from the top left towards the center. The background of the slide is a solid magenta color.

SUFFERING IS FOR ALL WHO FOLLOW CHRIST

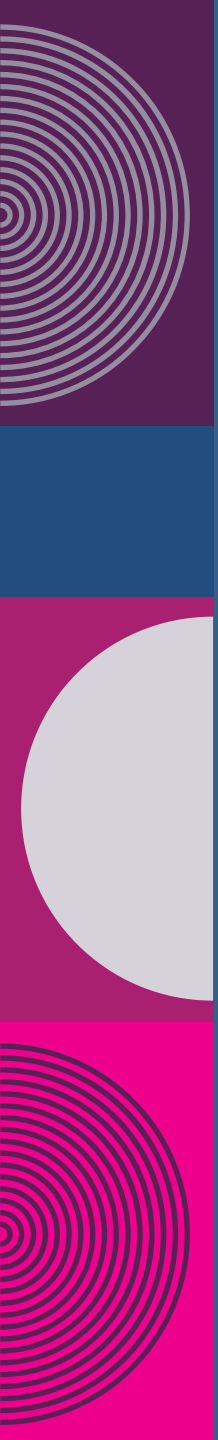
But it is a privilege, not a sacrifice

People talk of sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paying back a small part of debt I owe to God, which I can never repay?

Away with the word! And with such a thought!
It is emphatically no sacrifice.

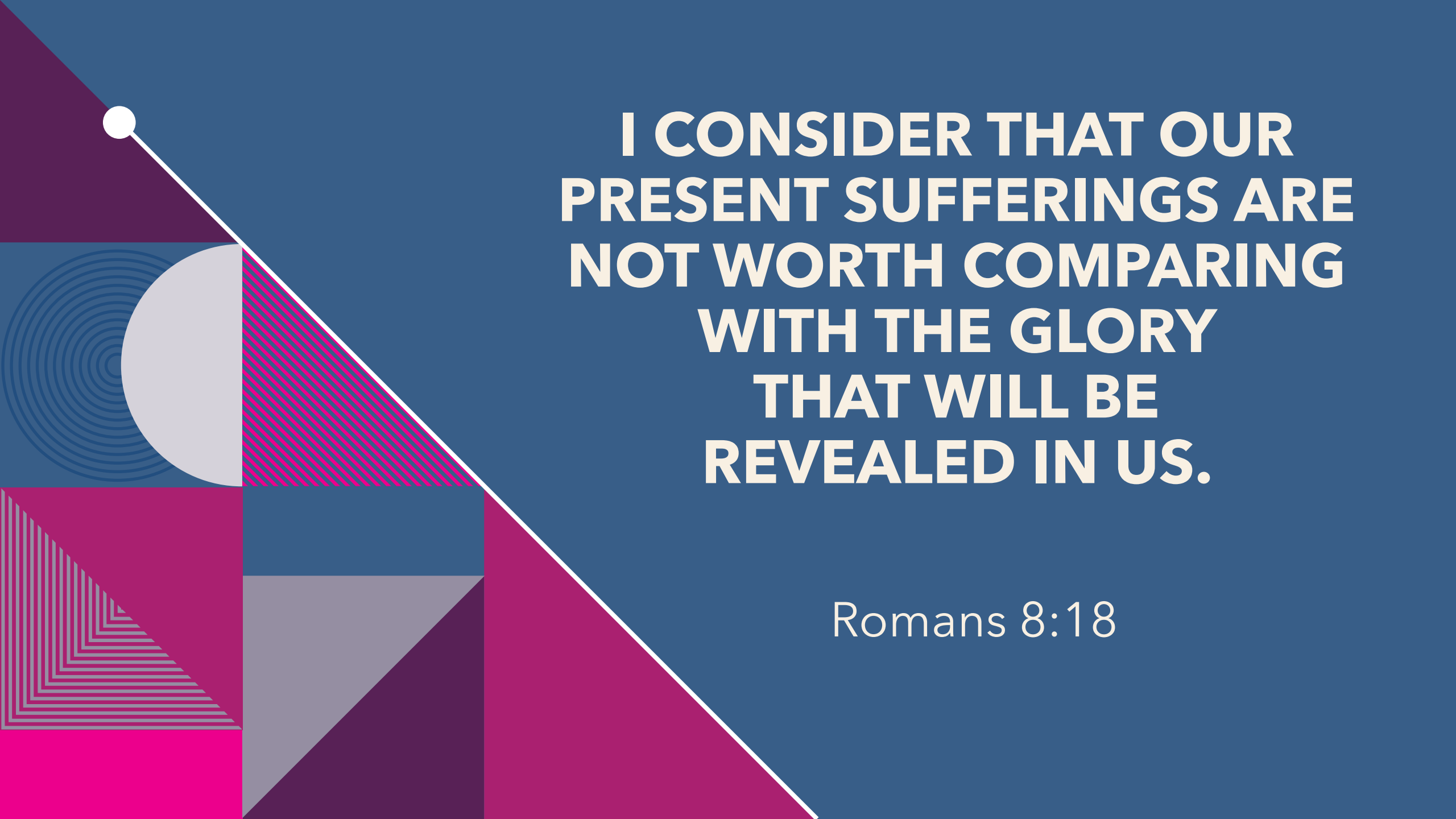
If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by the Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?

Say rather it is a privilege.



**Instead of being afraid
of what I might lose if I go—
I'm afraid of what I'll lose if I stay.**

The privilege of missions is not in what I give up, but in what I gain: the joy of seeing Jesus worshiped, the honor of suffering for His name, and the eternal reward of participating in the greatest story ever told.



**I CONSIDER THAT OUR
PRESENT SUFFERINGS ARE
NOT WORTH COMPARING
WITH THE GLORY
THAT WILL BE
REVEALED IN US.**

Romans 8:18



RISK IS THE THREAT OF SUFFERING OR DEATH- IN THE FUTURE

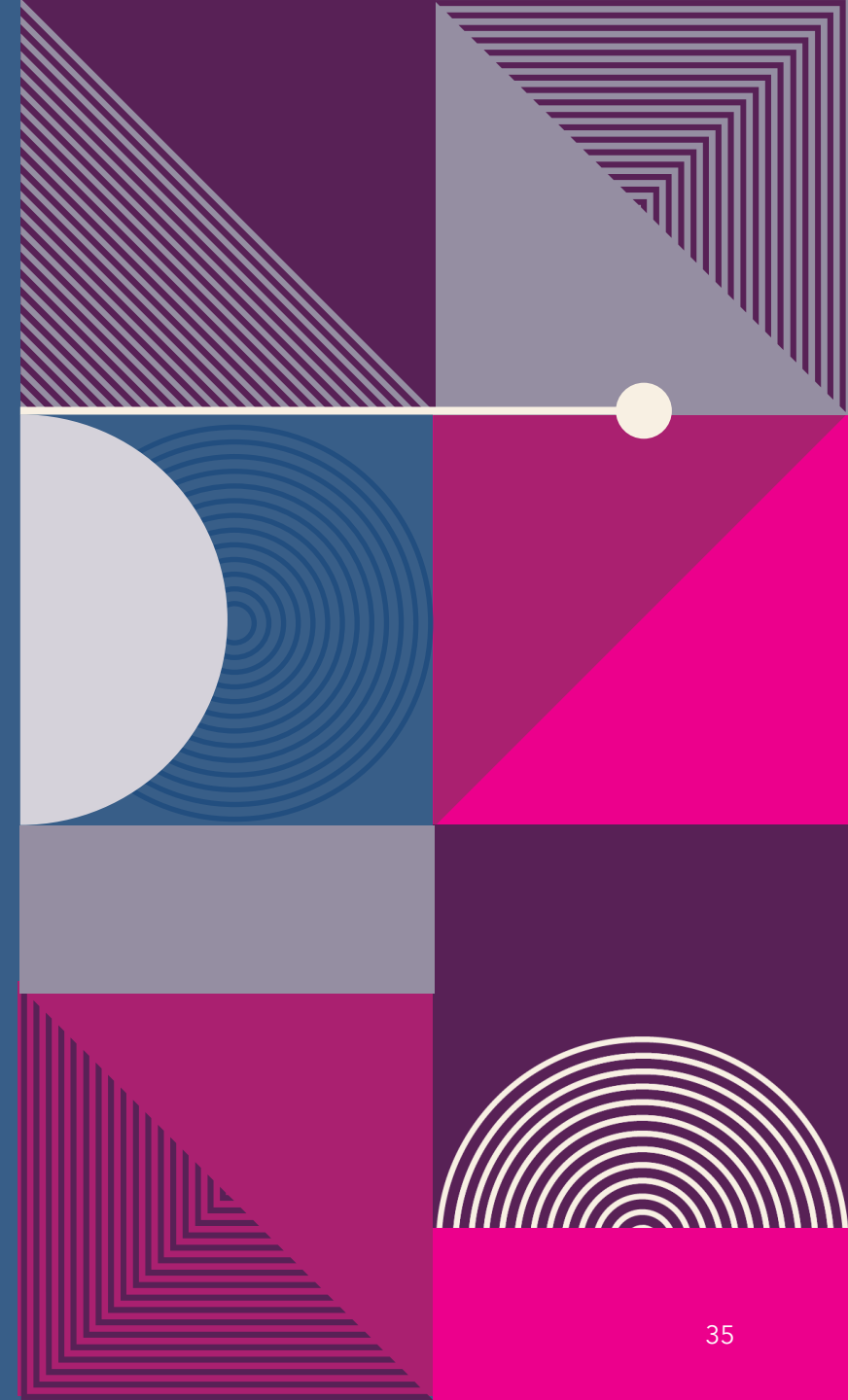
Am I called
to move into more risk,
or to a place of more safety?

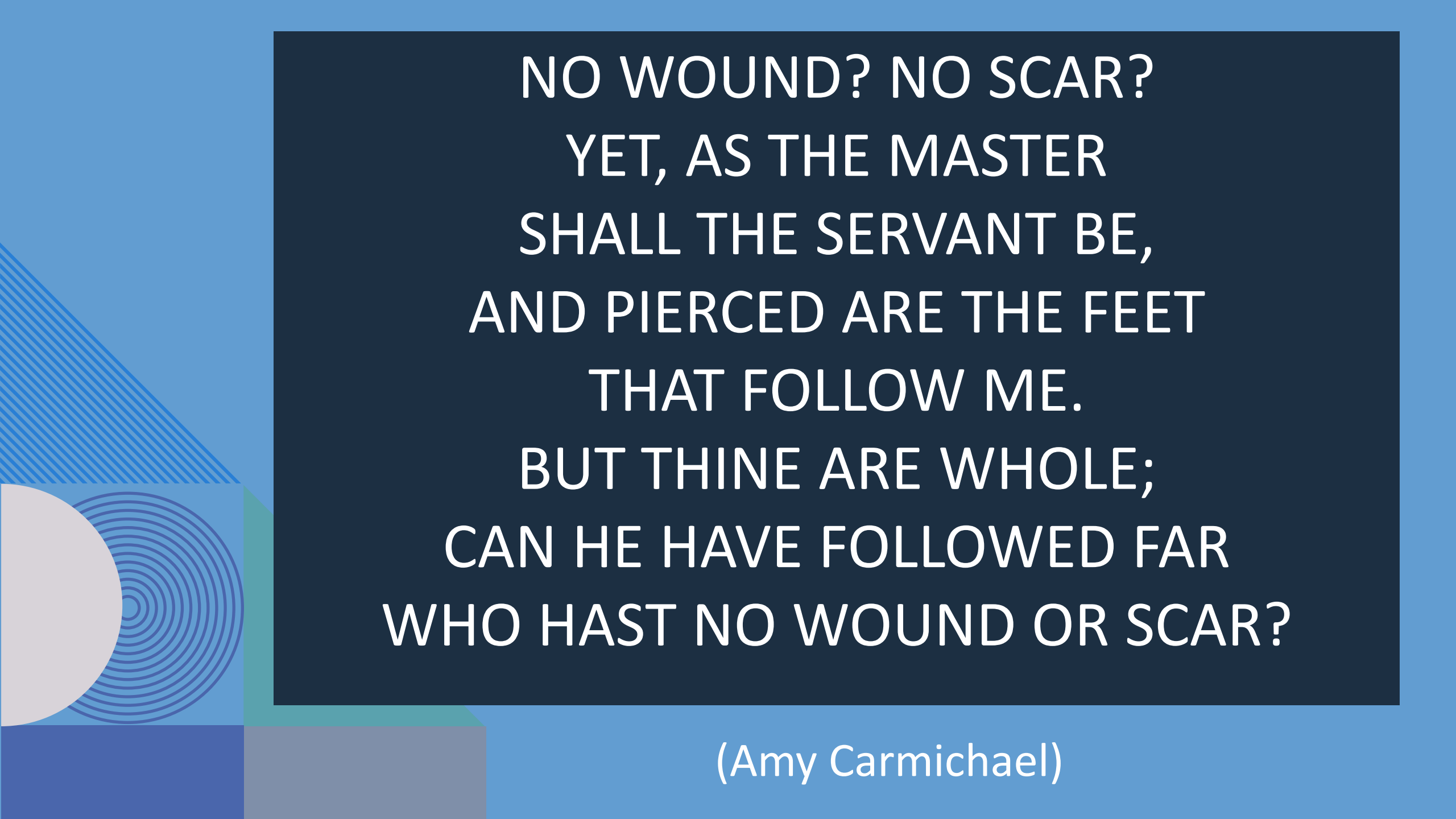
THE ANSWER MUST BE SPIRIT LED

- Not risking does not automatically mean disobedience to God
- Proactive risk assessment, mitigation strategies
- Practical training: security, vehicular, cyber security, health/medical, member care
- Theological preparation
- Training children, family, church

TENSION: GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- Balance faith and prudence
- Trust not fear
- Wise, observant,
not naïve and unprepared
- Stewardship: prepared, trained





NO WOUND? NO SCAR?
YET, AS THE MASTER
SHALL THE SERVANT BE,
AND PIERCED ARE THE FEET
THAT FOLLOW ME.
BUT THINE ARE WHOLE;
CAN HE HAVE FOLLOWED FAR
WHO HAST NO WOUND OR SCAR?

(Amy Carmichael)

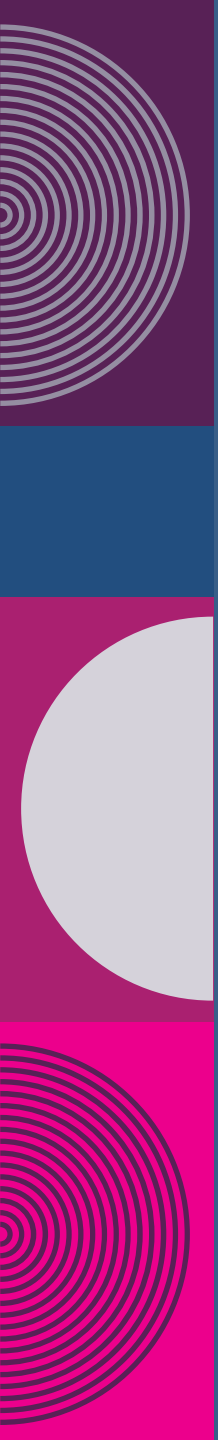
**IF YOU WAIT FOR AN OPTIMAL TIME TO
BECOME A MISSIONARY AND PROCLAIM THE
TRUTH—YOU WON'T GET THERE.**

**BECAUSE OF SIN AND SATAN, THERE IS NO
OPTIMAL TIME FOR WORLD EVANGELIZATION
AND TRUTH CLARIFICATION. THE TIME IS
ALWAYS UNRELENTING, FORBIDDING,
INHOSPITABLE, DANGEROUS.**

(John Piper)

GOD IS NOT GOING TO MAKE AN ERA WHERE THE NATIONS WILL WELCOME YOU—IT'S THE END TIMES! READ MATTHEW 24. WE WON'T "WIN" UNTIL CHRIST COMES!" BUT "THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH..." (MATTHEW 24:14) THAT'S A PROMISE, THOUGH IT ALSO TESTS OUR FAITH.

(John Piper)



*But we never can prove the delights of His love
until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey.*

*Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends, we will go;
Never fear; only trust and obey.*



THANK YOU

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