



NATURALISM –VS– SUPERNATURALISM

“NATURALISM IS THE BELIEF THAT NATURAL CAUSES ARE SUFFICIENT TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING IN OUR WORLD, AND MATERIALISM IS THE BELIEF THAT NATURE (THAT IS, MATERIAL STUFF) IS ALL THAT EXISTS.”

PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY

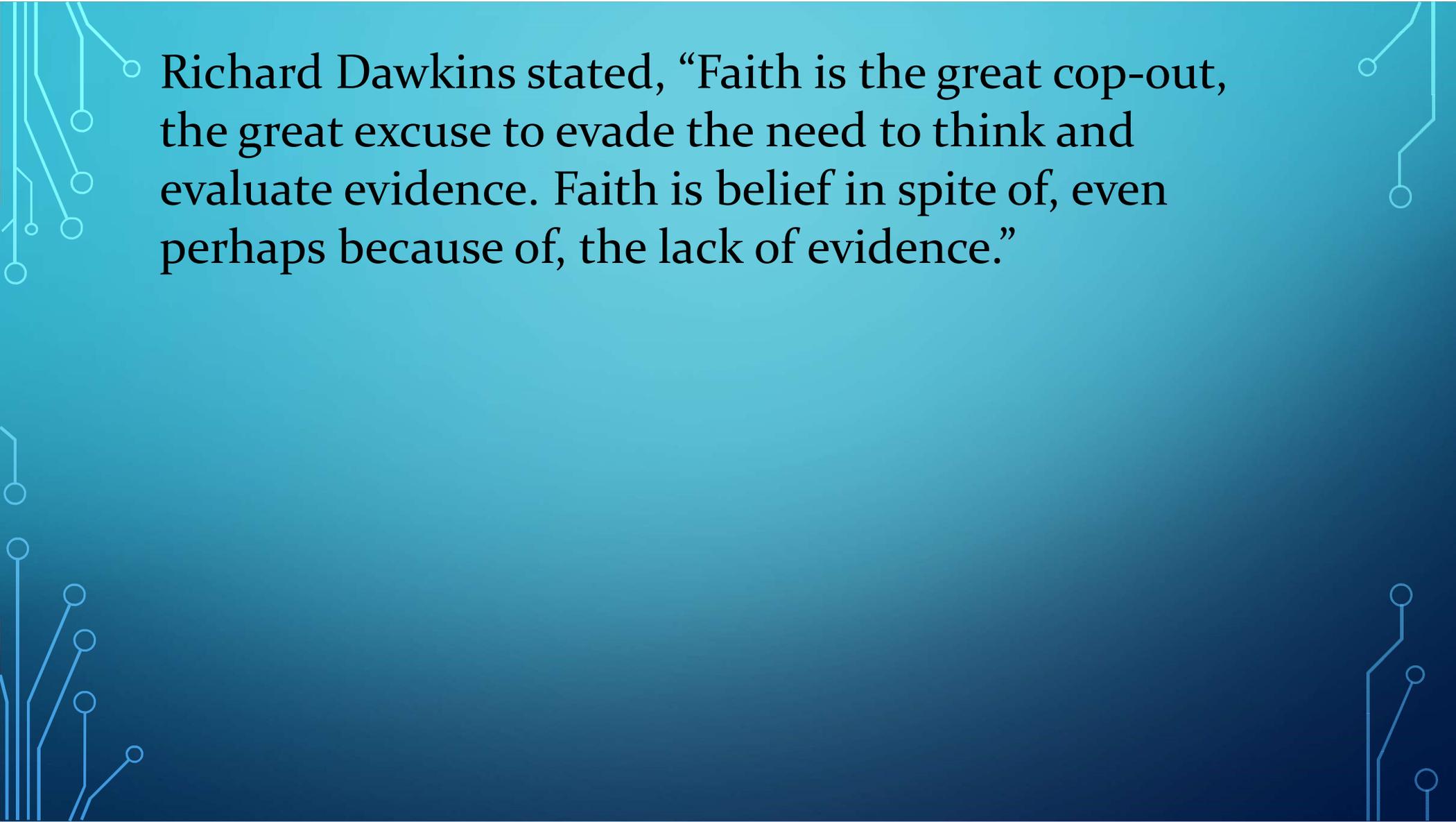
	Sources of Knowledge	Ultimate Truth
Premodern	God or gods Observation Common sense Authority	God or gods
Modern	Observation Experimentation	Man's collective reasoning ability
Postmodern	Observation Experimentation	Trick question, silly! There's no way to know for sure.
Now?	Observation Experimentation Experience Blend of all three periods	Strength of emotion Personal conviction

What set the philosophical stage for Naturalism to be received as viable?

1. The lost message and mission of the church (500-1450 AD)
 - a. Superstition / Intellectual vacancy – illiteracy
 - b. Abuse of power
 - c. Spiritual and Intellectual Vacuum – “Dark Ages” (though also known for pre-reformation movements/characters – Jan Hus, John Wycliffe, St. Francis, Bernard of Clairvaux)
2. Protestant Reformation / Printing Press / Literacy
 - a. Ironic side note

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3. Enlightenment/Renaissance
 - a. Recapturing the humanism of the Graeco-Roman era
 - b. Empirical/Scientific Method – Copernican Revolution
 - c. Art / Music / Architecture / Culture
 - d. The Discovery/Colonization of the Americas

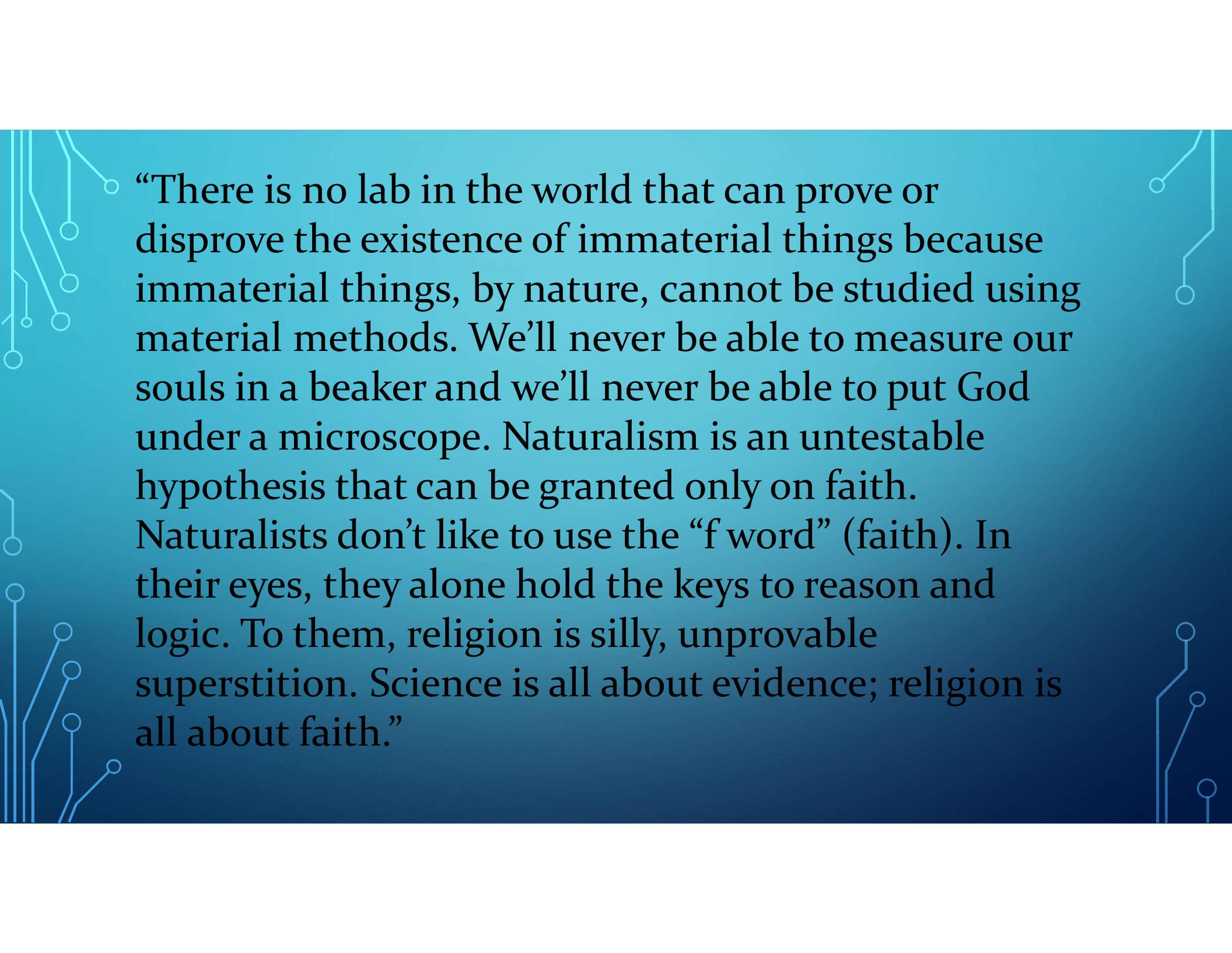
The slide features a teal-to-blue gradient background. In the corners, there are decorative white circuit-like lines with small circles at the end, resembling a stylized PCB or neural network diagram.

Richard Dawkins stated, “Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence.”

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“Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1 NASB 2020

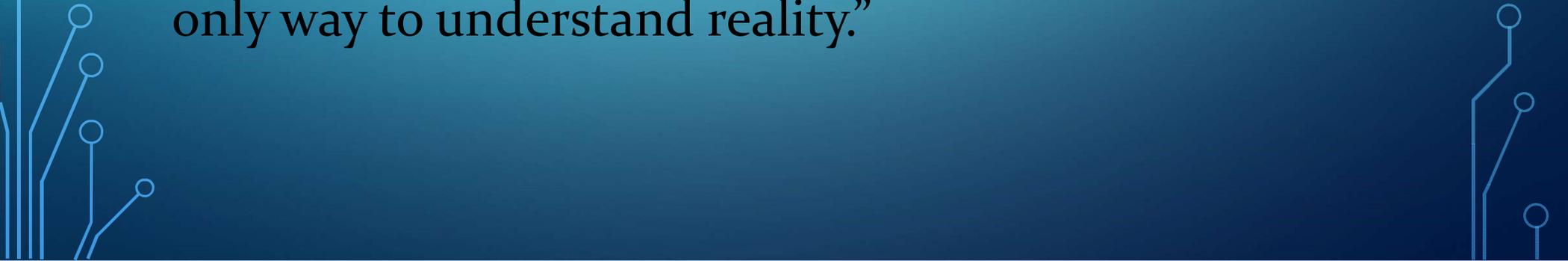


“There is no lab in the world that can prove or disprove the existence of immaterial things because immaterial things, by nature, cannot be studied using material methods. We’ll never be able to measure our souls in a beaker and we’ll never be able to put God under a microscope. Naturalism is an untestable hypothesis that can be granted only on faith. Naturalists don’t like to use the “f word” (faith). In their eyes, they alone hold the keys to reason and logic. To them, religion is silly, unprovable superstition. Science is all about evidence; religion is all about faith.”



“A self-refuting statement is a statement that, if true, contradicts itself.”

“Communication is impossible and words are useless. God is unknowable. All statements about God are meaningless. In fact, all truth is unknowable because all knowledge is mere opinion. We can't really know anything. You should doubt everything. Science is the only means to knowledge, the only path to truth, the only way to understand reality.”



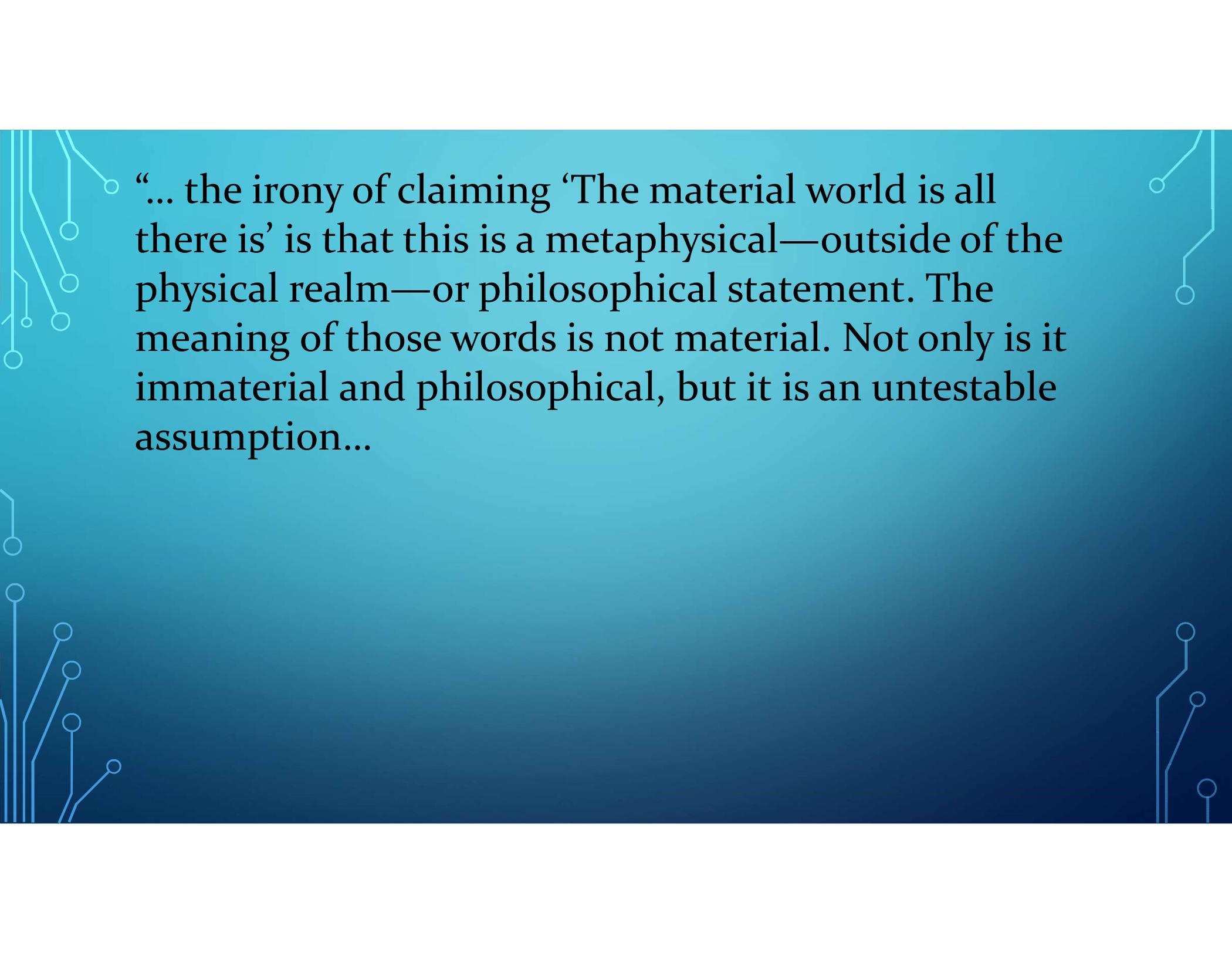
A decorative background pattern of white circuit board traces and nodes on a blue gradient background.

I stated that communication is impossible, then used words that expressed the uselessness of words.

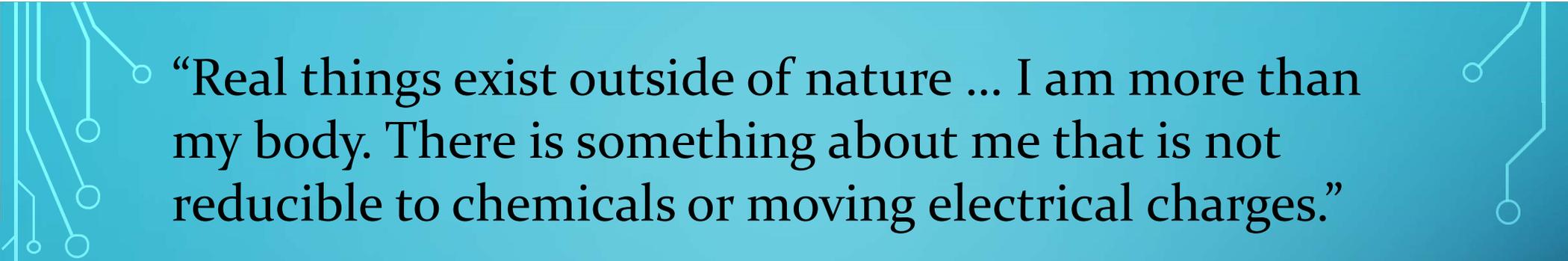
If all truth is unknowable, then how can anyone know that to be true?

What about the command to doubt everything—is that statement itself immune from scrutiny?

And what about science being the only way to gain knowledge? Please tell me from which test tube you got that little nugget so I can empirically verify and reproduce it.

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“... the irony of claiming ‘The material world is all there is’ is that this is a metaphysical—outside of the physical realm—or philosophical statement. The meaning of those words is not material. Not only is it immaterial and philosophical, but it is an untestable assumption...



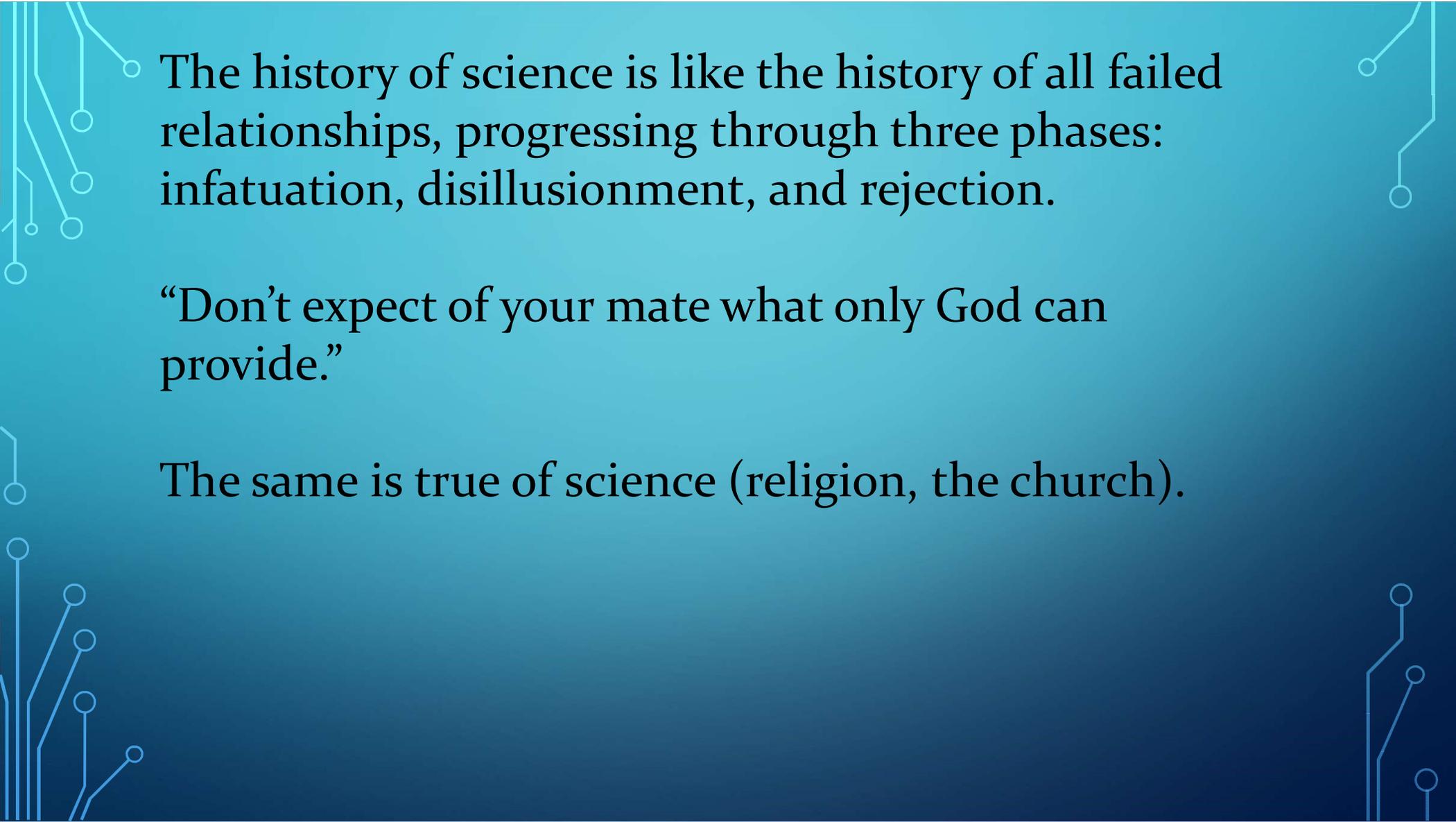
“Real things exist outside of nature ... I am more than my body. There is something about me that is not reducible to chemicals or moving electrical charges.”

“Conversely, we don’t (or shouldn’t) discredit the material world. We are called to be good stewards (or caretakers) of the earth, our bodies, our families, and our communities. That was God’s first commandment to Adam in Genesis.”



“... scientists who held to a Judeo-Christian worldview expected the world to reflect the characteristics of the unchanging God of Scripture. They expected the world to be rational, orderly, and law-like because God was rational and He “changed not....

But we humans are idol-creating machines. Science was a gift, and instead of using science (like Johann Kepler did) to “think God’s thoughts after him,” people started using science as a means of replacing God. We no longer had to worry about the battle between or within religions. Science could “prove” truth on neutral ground.”



The history of science is like the history of all failed relationships, progressing through three phases: infatuation, disillusionment, and rejection.

“Don’t expect of your mate what only God can provide.”

The same is true of science (religion, the church).

DISCERNMENT:

1. “And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.... “one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Colossians 1.17; Ephesians 4.6

BUT...

2. God’s attributes are “clearly seen from what has been made.” Romans 1.20; Psalms 19.1-6

DISCERNMENT:

3. Don't downplay what nature does explain.
 - a. Think (meditate) and Practice – Philippians 4.8
 - b. Neuroscience – epigenetics – neuro-plasticity

4. No simplistic refutations. No “straw man” explanations

5. Lies within the Supernatural / Naturalism Debate
 - a. Lie #1: Science and Christianity Are at Odds
 - b. Lie #2: Science Uses Facts, Religion Uses Faith
 - c. Lie #3: Non-Minds Can Produce Information

What are the implications of this worldview?

1. Sex is reduced a simple, but highly sought after physical transaction; an exchange of fluids
2. Embryos can be seen only as “tissue” to be discarded.
3. Racial prejudice/eugenics / genocide can be rationalized by espousing the “survival of the fittest”.
4. If naturalism and reason are the only grounds for behavior then morality can be arbitrary.

IT MUST BE ARBITRARY!