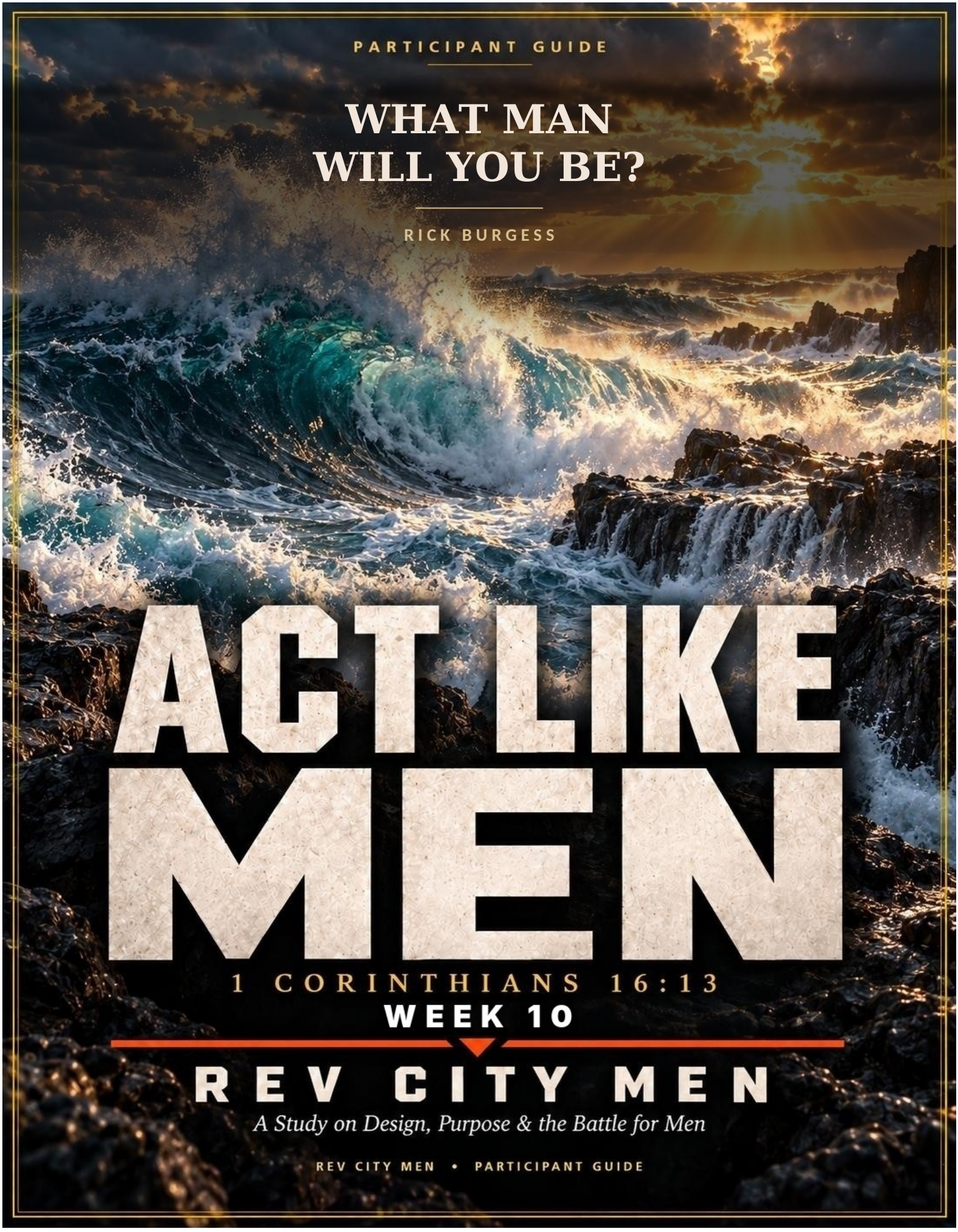

PARTICIPANT GUIDE
WHAT MAN WILL YOU BE?
RICK BURGESS
ACT LIKE MEN
1 CORINTHIANS 16:13
WEEK 10
REV CITY MEN
A Study on Design, Purpose & the Battle for Men
REV CITY MEN • PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WHAT MAN WILL YOU BE?

Rick Burgess • Acts 4–8 • God Fearing Men

GOD FEARING MEN

PROVERBS 9:10

> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

We don't often hear men referred to as "God fearing men" these days.

We live in a world that fears everything it shouldn't and doesn't fear the only thing they should.

God doesn't need us, He chooses us. We don't make God any better, but He certainly makes us better.

Question: What do you think it means for the fear of the Lord to be the beginning of wisdom?

MY NOTES

EXAMINE YOURSELVES

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

JOHN 15:4–5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

If we claim to be redeemed by Jesus, yet our life has not changed, do we realize what this is saying about Jesus?

MY NOTES

THE EXAMPLE

ACTS 4:36–37

Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

THE PRETENDER

ACTS 5:1–2

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Ananias was the type of man that wanted all the applause of being a sacrificial follower of Jesus, without really being one.

There was no requirement for them to bring 100 percent, but they decided to pretend to do what Barnabas actually did.

MY NOTES

ACTS 5:3

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?

ACTS 5:4

While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

MATTHEW 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

ACTS 5:5

When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

ACTS 5:6

The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

Noteworthy: Anonymous youth were tasked with carrying Ananias out.

MY NOTES

A MAN'S INFLUENCE

ACTS 5:7–8

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much."

ACTS 5:2

And with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The scriptures say a wife is supposed to respect her husband, but sometimes a woman doesn't respect her husband for no other reason than she knows him, and she sees the way he actually lives his life when nobody else is looking.

Your influence as a man can't be turned off. It will either be an asset and a blessing to your wife and your children, or it is a detriment and an obstacle that they have to find a way to work around.

Question: **In what ways through your life has your influence been an asset and a blessing? Were there times and ways where it was a detriment or an obstacle to those in your life?**

MY NOTES

ACTS 5:8–9

And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

ACTS 5:10–11

Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

A MAN FULL OF GRACE, FAITH, AND POWER

ACTS 6:5

And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 6:8

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

ACTS 7:54

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

When someone tells us the truth or brings accountability to you, how do you receive it? With appreciation, or like those who ground their teeth at the truth Stephen was preaching?

PROVERBS 9:8

So don't bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you.

Question: One man gratefully receives correction, another comes back at you. Which type of man are you?

MY NOTES

THE STANDING OVATION

ACTS 7:55

But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

In other scriptures, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God.

MARK 16:19

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

HEBREWS 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Stephen is taking a stand and living and preaching with such grace, boldness, and faith that Jesus apparently takes note and stands up from His seated position at the right hand of God.

Question: **Would Jesus stand up for the way you are living today? If He is looking at your life right now, is He standing, or seated looking at His Father saying, "What a grace abuser... this guy acts like what I did at the cross is no big deal."**

MY NOTES

The question is not does Jesus love us, He proved that at the cross. The question is, do we love Him?

JOHN 14:15

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

MY NOTES

STEPHEN'S INFLUENCE IN THE GOSPEL PLAN

ACTS 7:56-58

And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Sometimes God will not intervene in our suffering for the benefit of someone else. Stephen's example of boldness in the face of persecution was influencing the persecutor named Saul on his journey to become the Apostle Paul.

ACTS 7:59-60

And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

You can clearly see the example of Jesus modeled by Stephen.

Question: When we face opposition, hardship or persecution, do we follow the example of Jesus like Stephen did?

MY NOTES

PERSECUTION ADVANCES THE GOSPEL

ACTS 8:1

> And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

God uses Stephen's execution to get the message moving from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth as He had instructed them.

Question: What does Jesus have to do to get you to move? He loves you enough to do whatever He has to do to get you to move; so go ahead and go and do what you know He has told you to do.

MY NOTES

TWO MEN. TWO EXAMPLES. TWO BURIALS.

Ananias and his wife were carried off with little fanfare by anonymous youth — no qualifications except they could do the job. But not Stephen — he was buried by devout men who wept and lamented his passing greatly.

ACTS 8:2

Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.

Question: If you died right now, how are we going to bury you?

Question: Would your passing be consequential in your church, your family and your community because of how you lived, participated, and contributed to the advancement of the gospel? How so?

MY NOTES

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:9

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Paul is recognizing his great sin, and the grace of God that made him who he was, then compelled him to give his all for the gospel.

The same is true for our sin — Jesus will forgive us. And our response should also be to live in such a way that our lives scream, "I AM SO THANKFUL!"

Let us never live in a way that indicates the price Jesus paid was in vain.

MY NOTES

Like the Apostle Paul, let's live so that Jesus gets a return on the grace He has shown us. Not earning salvation, but our heartfelt response to what He has done for us.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

We are not freed by grace to sin. We are freed by grace FROM sin.

Let's live in such a way that devout people of faith gather together to remember our life.

MY NOTES

A DECISION TO MAKE

Do you want to be part of the few men who are turning the world upside down, instead of the current state of the American church that seems to be timid and fearful?

ACTS 17:6–7

And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus."

Anytime the gospel is preached, it demands a response.

ACTS 2:36-39

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

To repent means you do a 180 from your sin and you turn yourself to Jesus.

MY NOTES

ROMANS 10:9-10

…if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

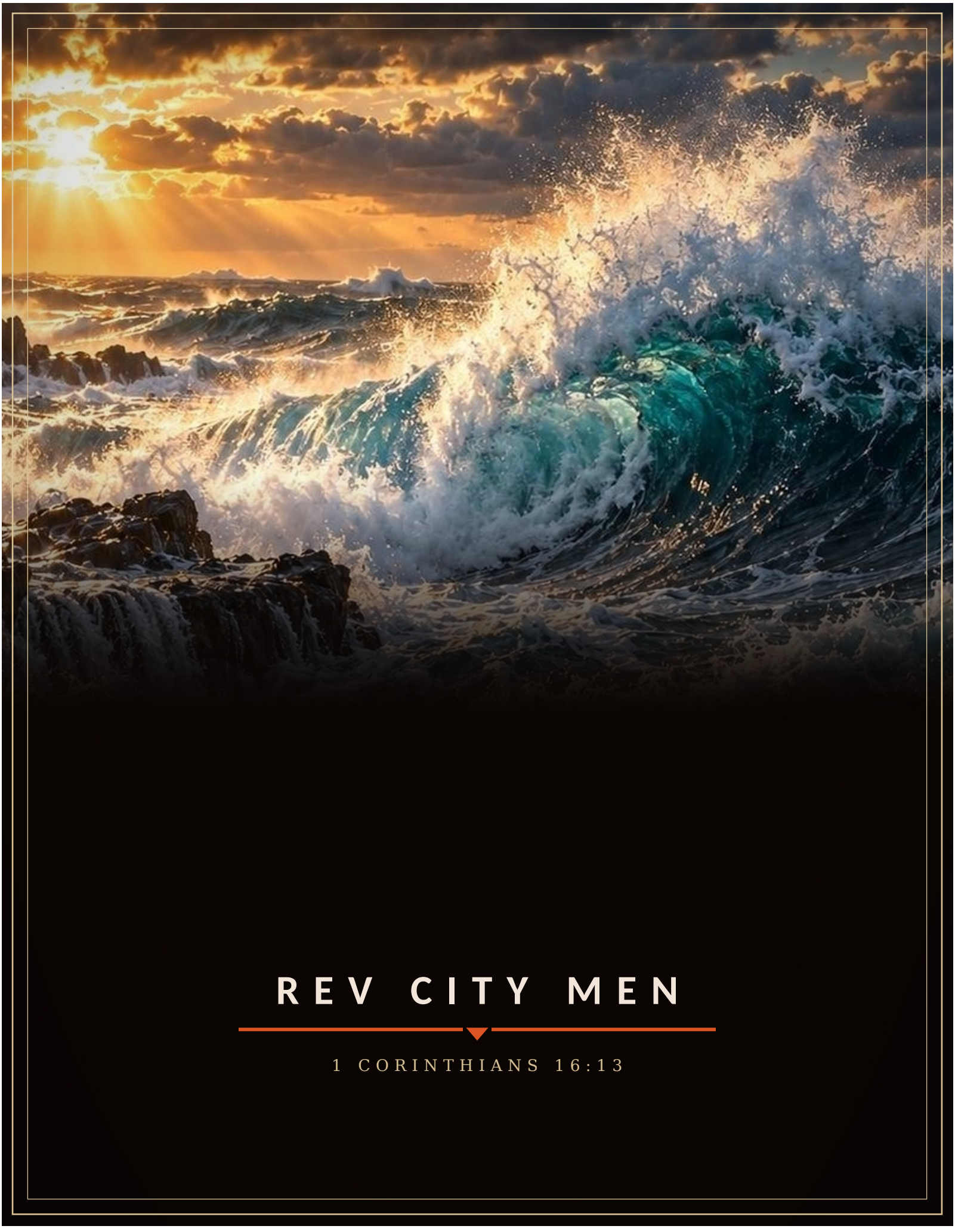
When we take the faith off of ourselves and place it completely on Jesus, and come under His authority, He changes us into something that only He can do.

We live in a world in desperate need of Godly men but we can't do it on our own, only He can — it won't happen because we get some new self-control or a new code of conduct, but because Jesus Christ really is that powerful.

Question: Is there any area of your faith life that you have been like Ananias — pretending but not really living it out?

Question: What will you do to repent and change?

MY NOTES



REV CITY MEN

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13