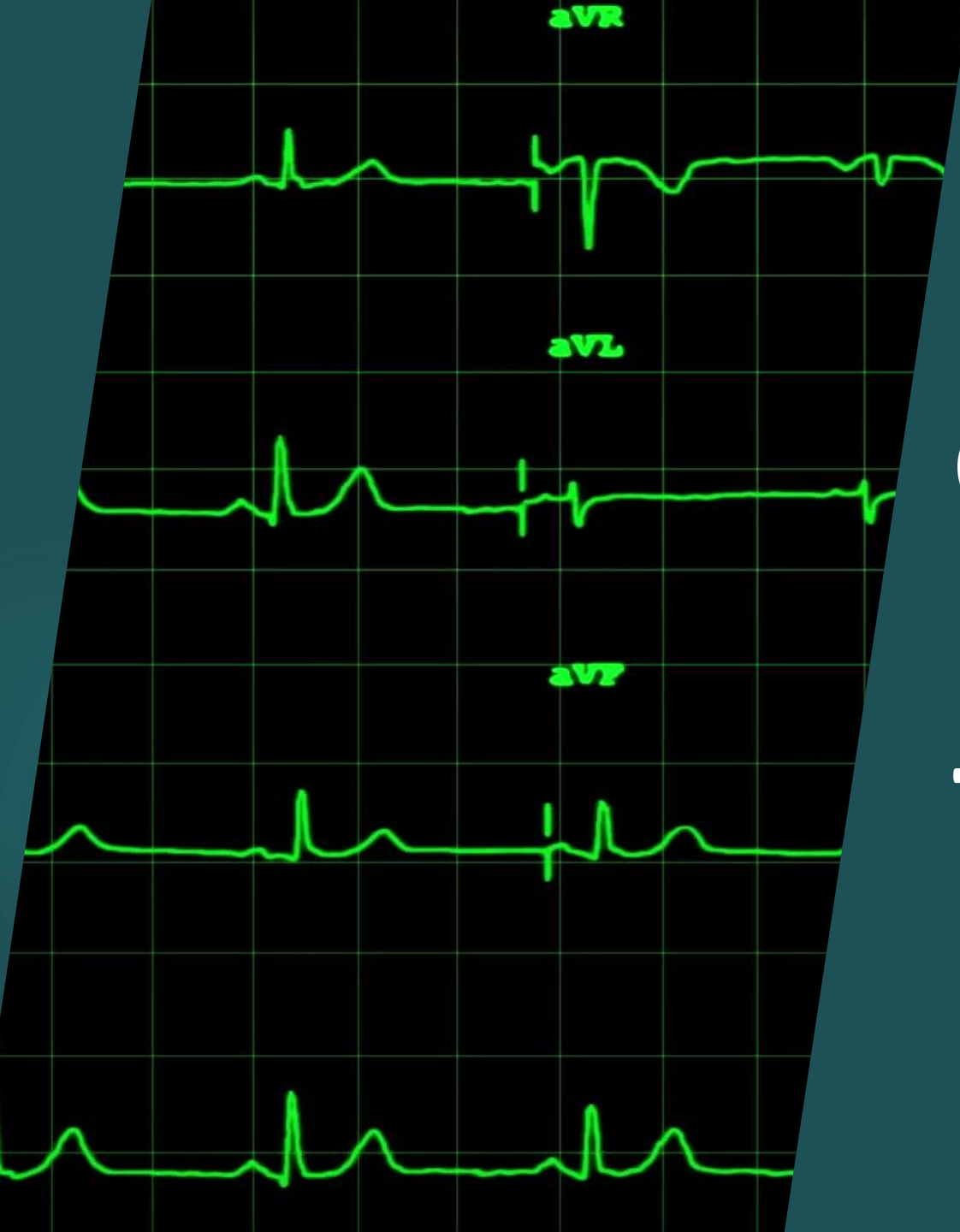




Genesis 4 v2-7

The battle for the
human heart

Dear Lord,

So far today, am I doing all right.



I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then.

How is today
going?

The God Story



“the essence of sin is not simply doing bad things but the unrelenting force of independence within us which seeks to gratify “self” at all costs.”

Genesis 4 v1-7 NLT Cain and Abel

¹ Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the Lord’s help, I have produced a man!” ² Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord.

Genesis 4 v1-7 NLT Cain and Abel

⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

⁶ “Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? ⁷ You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

The Devil's tactics?

- ▶ Distorting who God is : Did God really say ...?
- ▶ Distorting who we are : Don't just settle for being like God, you can be God!!
- ▶ BUT – we have God on our side and his armour



“Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one — the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts”

CS Lewis The Screwtape Letters

Battle for the human heart

Reacting as the battle/game unfolds :

- ▶ Change our tactics
- ▶ Tired – get support
- ▶ Keep strong

Keep strong

- ▶ Stay alert 1 Peter 5 v8-9
- ▶ Fix our thoughts Philippians 4 v8
- ▶ Hungry habits :
 - ▶ Giving - counters our greed
 - ▶ Prayer - counters our pride
 - ▶ Fasting - counters our flesh