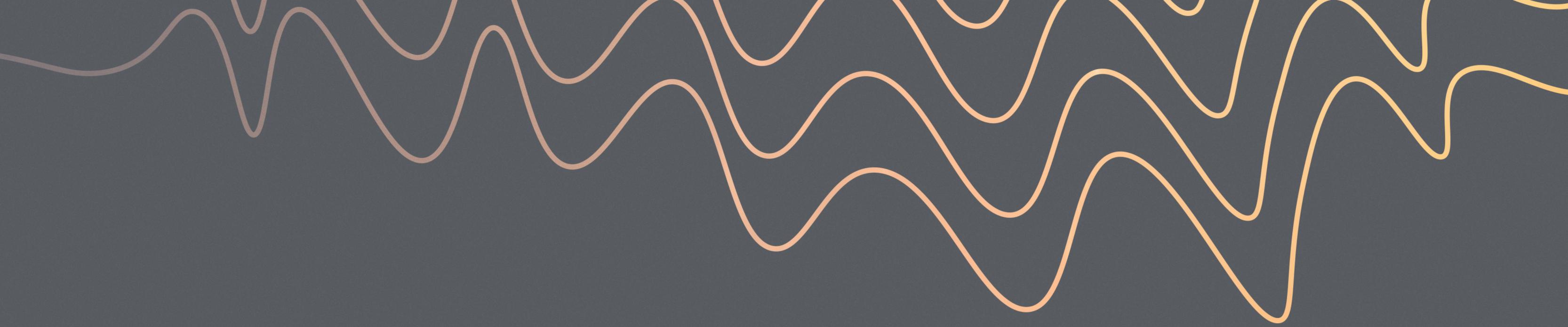




FIRST CORINTHIANS

V. ALIVE IN CHRIST



1 Corinthians 16:1–4



All of life's most complex problems can be seen through the lens of the gospel



1 Corinthians 16:1–4

[1] Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. [2] On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. [3] And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. [4] If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.



1 Corinthians 16:1

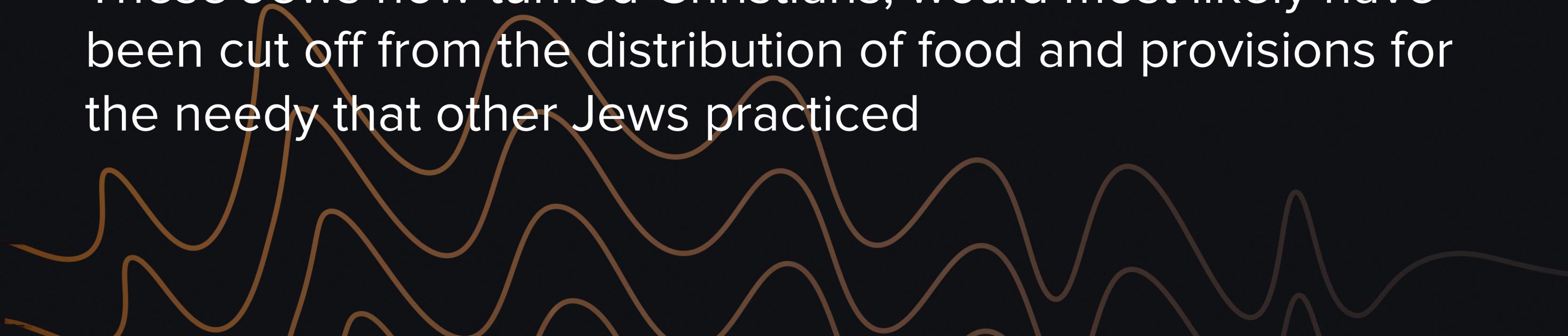
[1] Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

The famine of the late 40s

The relative poverty level in Jerusalem to begin with

The number of poor people (e.g., the widows of Acts 6:1) who flocked into the early church

These Jews now turned Christians, would most likely have been cut off from the distribution of food and provisions for the needy that other Jews practiced

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1 Corinthians 16:2–4

[2] On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. [3] And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. [4] If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

3 Myths & 3 Truths



Myth #1 → I'm not generous now, but when the real need comes in, I'll be ready

Biblical truth #1 → *Regular and intentional* generosity prepares you for *irregular and unintentional* generosity

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1 Corinthians 16:2

[2a] On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up...

Myth #2 → Give 10% to the church and the rest is yours

Biblical truth: #2 → Everything you have is God's





Psalm 24:1

[1] The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein



1 Corinthians 16:2

*[2] On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, **as he may prosper**, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*

“in keeping with your income” NIV

“in keeping with how he is prospering” CSB

Myth #3 → If you give money to God, he will give money back to you, *for you*

Biblical truth #3 → You are blessed to be a blessing

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2 Corinthians 9:10–11

[10] He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in every way ...



2 Corinthians 9:10–11

*[10] He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in every way **to be generous in every way**, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

When God provides more money we often think, “This is a blessing.” Yes, but it would be just as scriptural to say, “This is a test.”

– Randy Alcorn

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Giving isn't *manipulating* God, it's *participating* in his story





Proverbs 3:9–10

[9] Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; [10] then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

10 / 10 / 80 Principle



Give first → An act of worship that honors God (Proverbs 3:5-10)

Save second → Create margin in our lives life that builds wealth and creates margin (Proverbs 13:11, 21:20)

Live on the rest → Cultivate contentment in all things (Philippians 4:10-13; Hebrews 13:5)

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90 Day Generosity Challenge



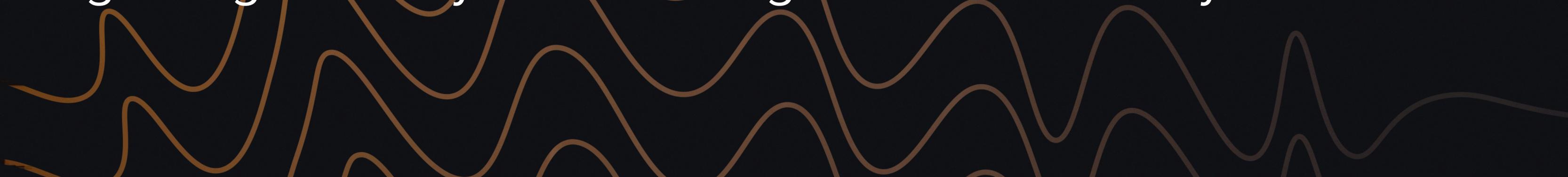
#1 Pick your challenge



Make giving a habit → If you attend Anthem Church and you don't give to the church, start by making a commitment to give regularly for 90 days.

Live on less → If you give regularly to the church, start giving generously by living on 90% and giving 10% for 90 days.

Give above & beyond → If you already give regularly and have experienced living on less—or if you have the spiritual gift of generosity—choose to give above and beyond.





Malachi 3:10

[10] Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

#1 Pick your challenge

#2 - Share your 90 day generosity plan with 1-2 people in your Community Group who you trust to hold you to your commitment

#3 - Watch God work

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God doesn't need your money, he wants your heart





Hosea 6:6

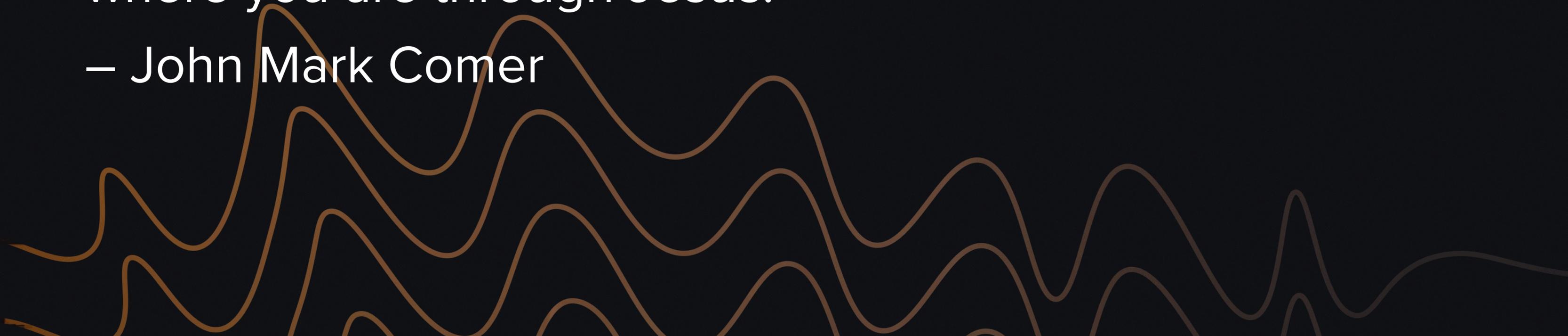
[6] For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Where you put your resources, is where you put your heart



If you're not on board with Jesus' view of money, it could be that you, like many Christians in the West, don't actually believe the gospel of the kingdom—the good news that the life you've always wanted is fully available to you right where you are through Jesus.

– John Mark Comer

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Through him you have access to the Father's loving presence. Nothing—not your income level or stage of life or health or relational status—nothing is standing between you and the “life that is truly life.”

– John Mark Comer

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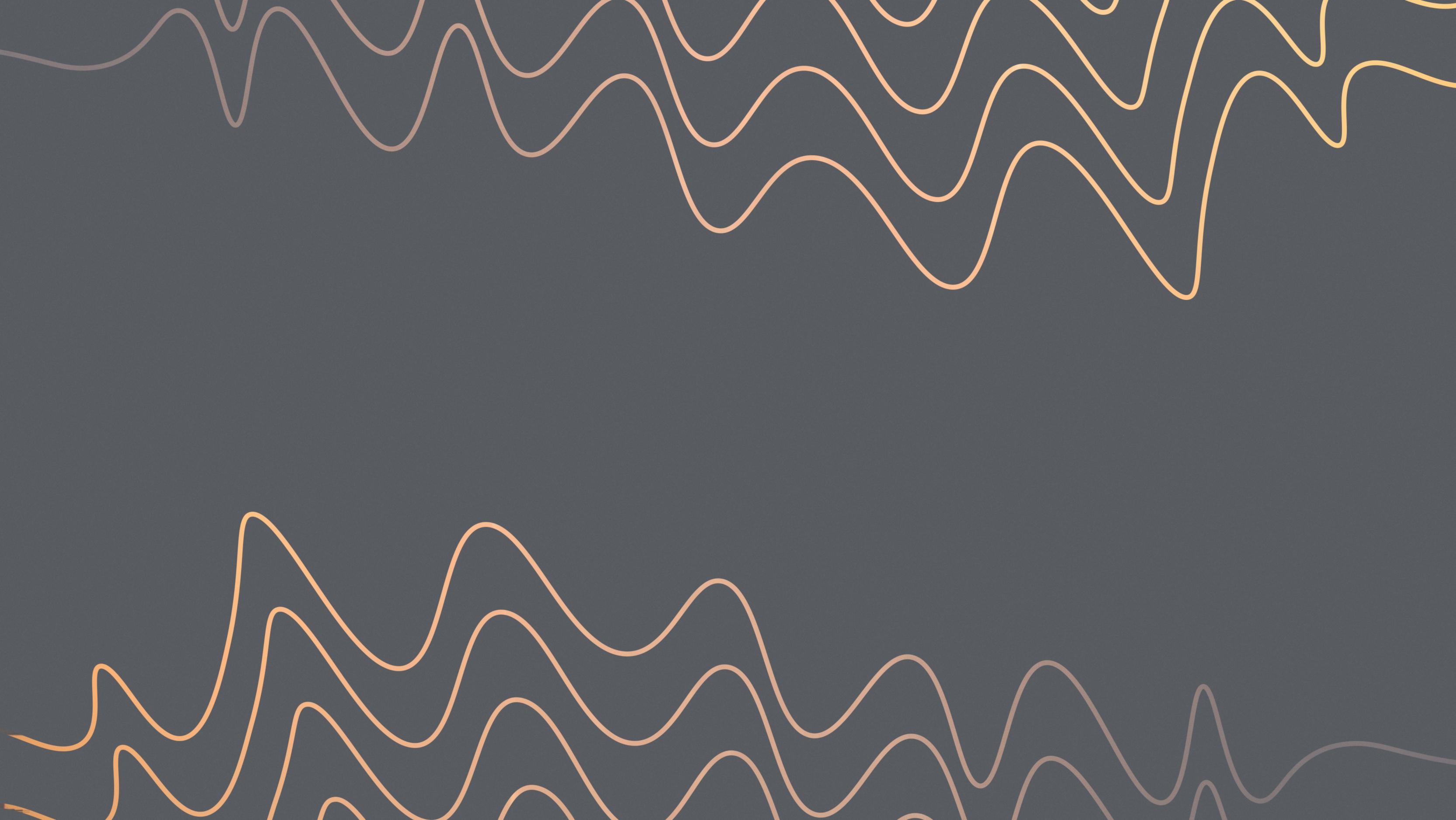
It could be that you believe another gospel. Another vision of what the good life is and you obtain it. Let's call it "the gospel of America" This gospel makes the exact opposite claim. In a nutshell: the more you have, the happier you will be.

– John Mark Comer

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Which gospel do you believe?







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