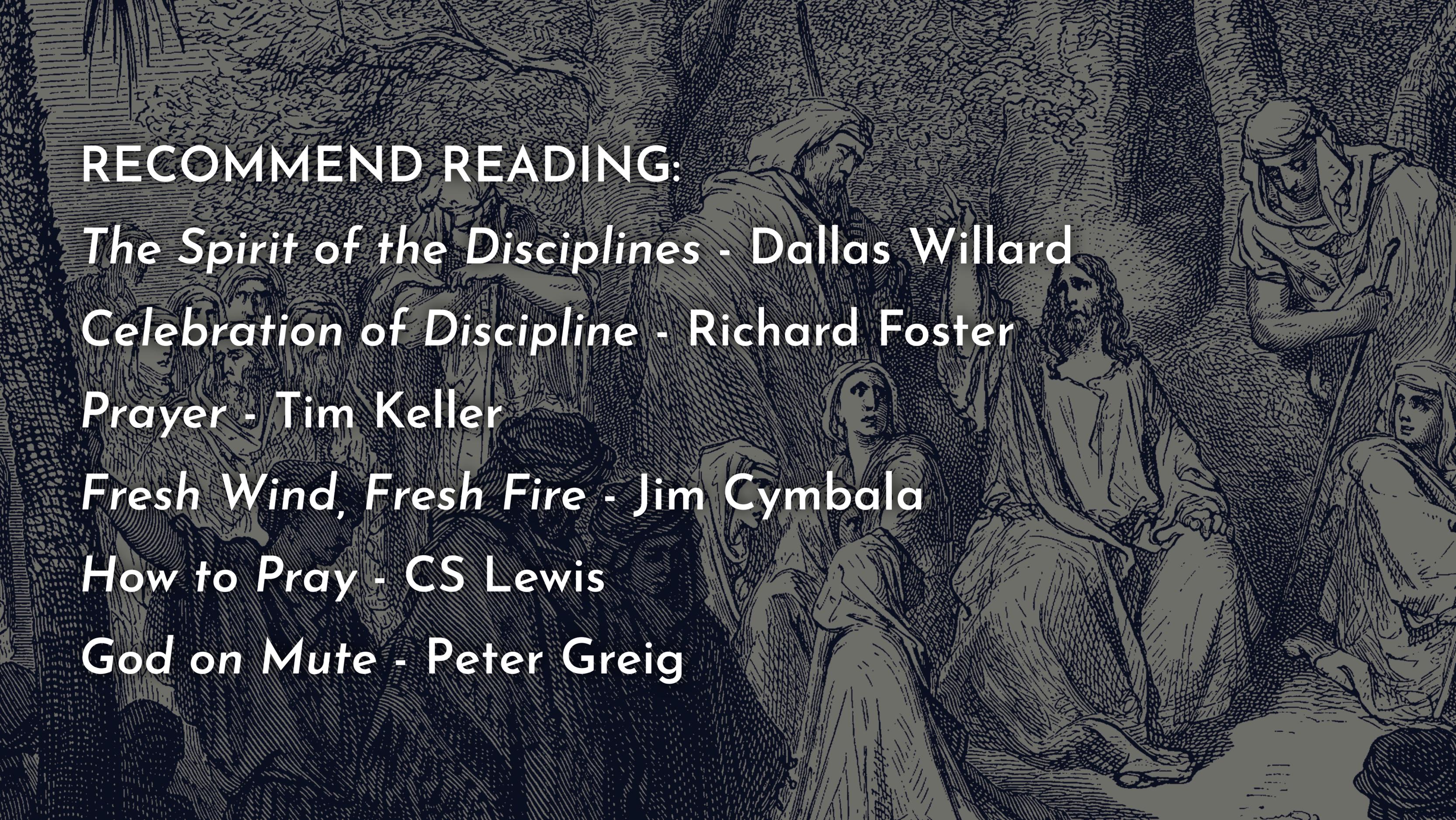


PRACTICING
THE WAY OF
JESUS



RECOMMEND READING:

The Spirit of the Disciplines - Dallas Willard

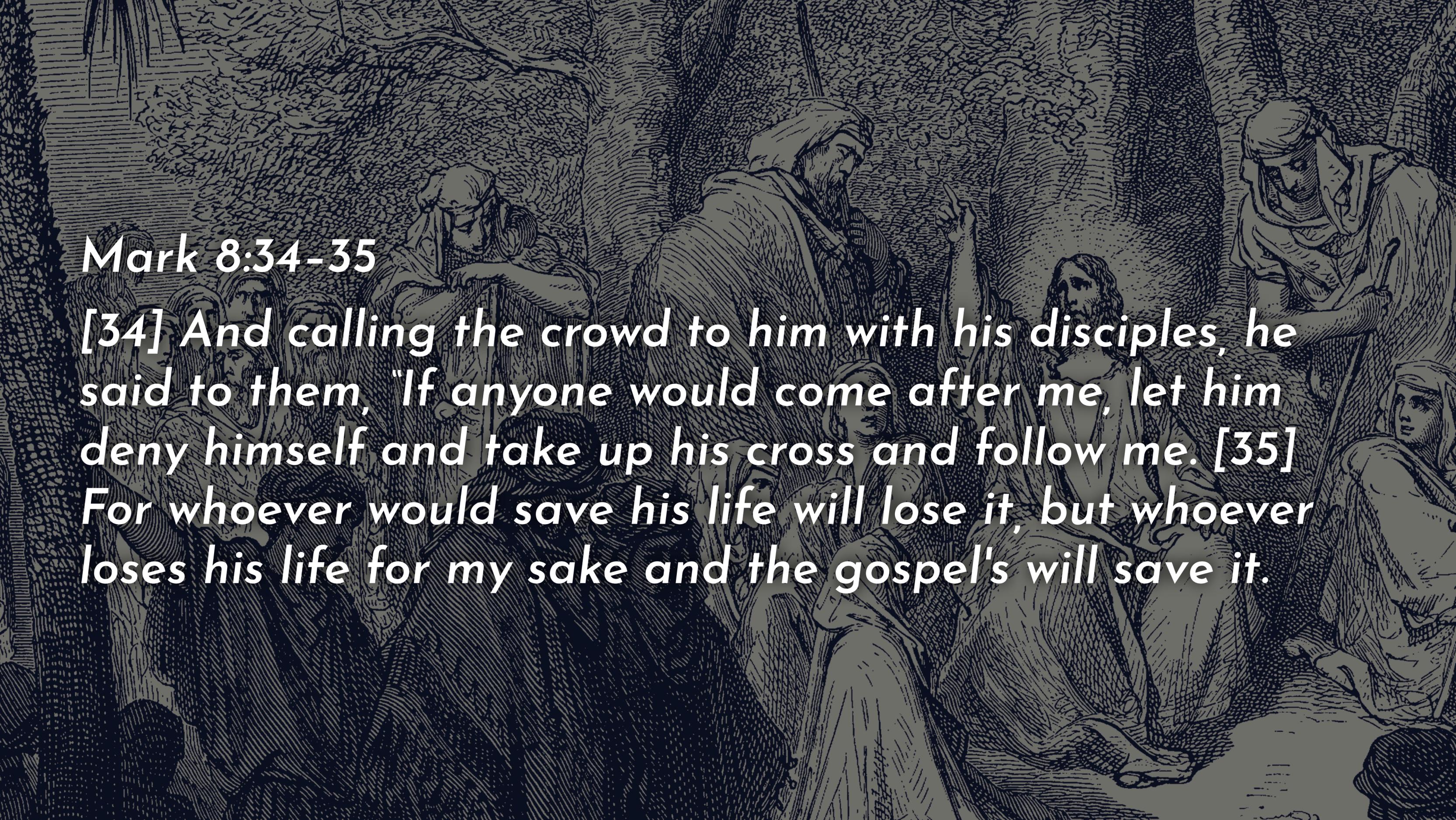
Celebration of Discipline - Richard Foster

Prayer - Tim Keller

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire - Jim Cymbala

How to Pray - CS Lewis

God on Mute - Peter Greig

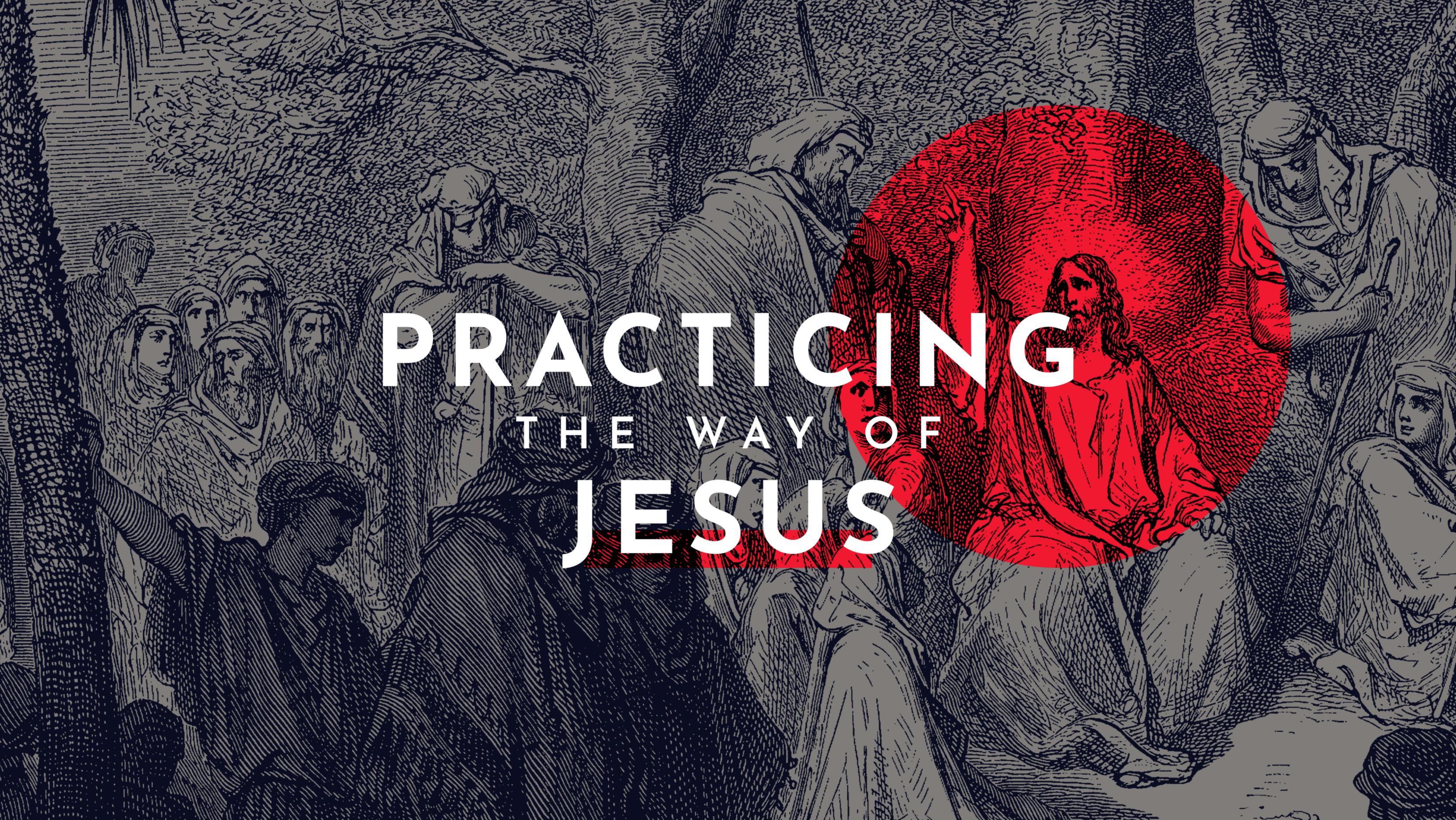


Mark 8:34-35

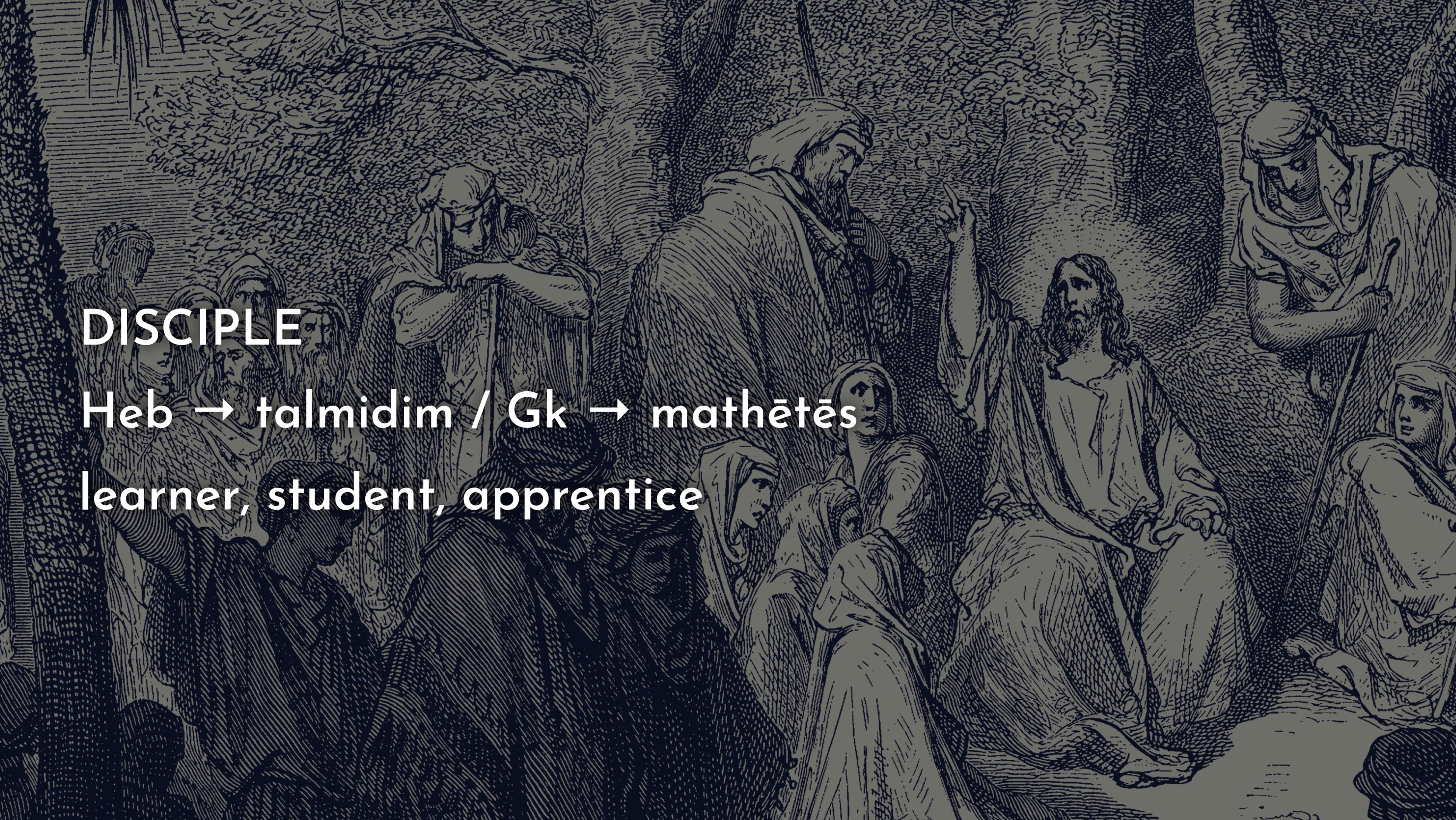
[34] And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [35] For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.



Who are you becoming?



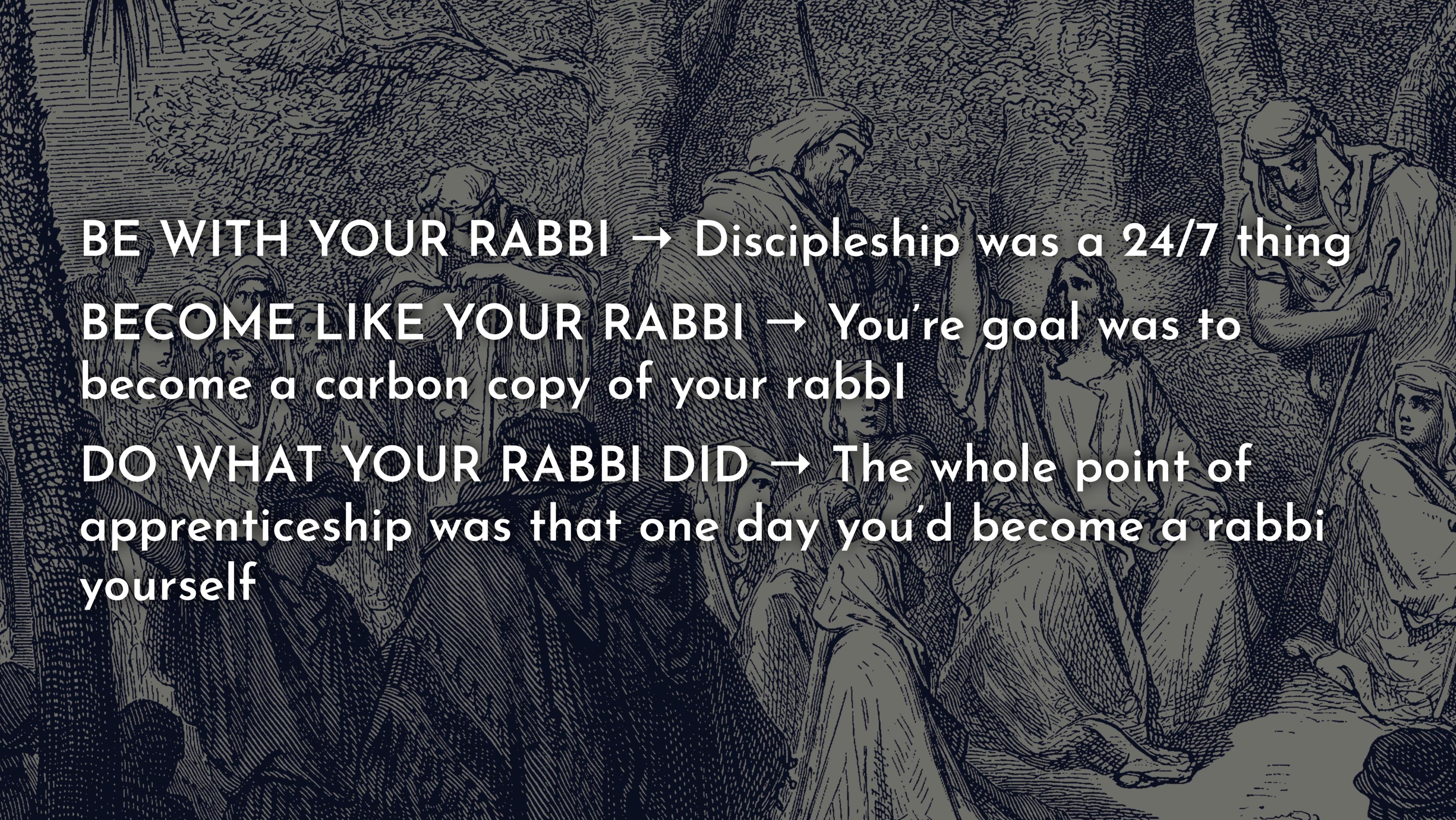
PRACTICING
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DISCIPLE

Heb → talmidim / Gk → mathētēs

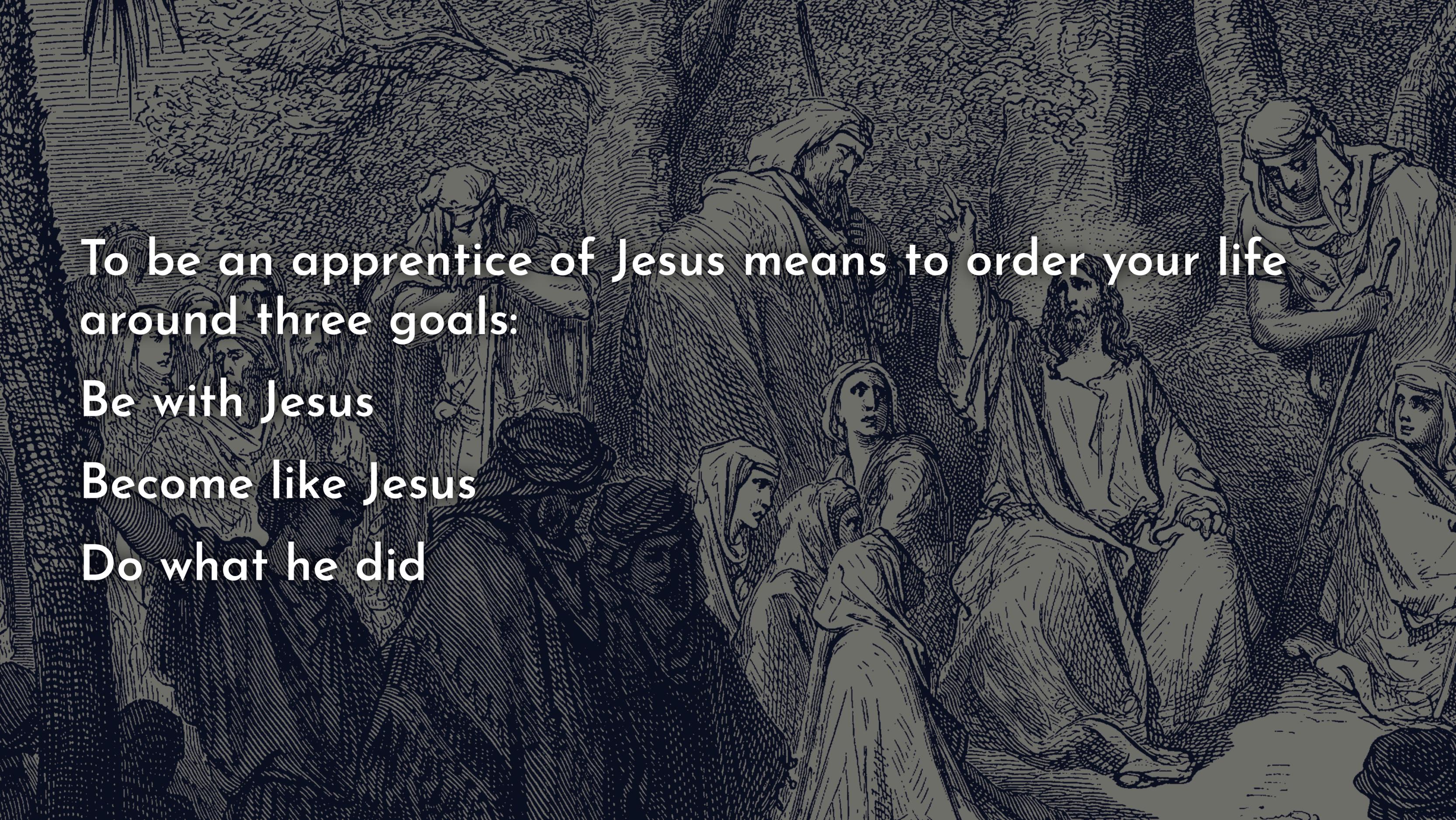
learner, student, apprentice



BE WITH YOUR RABBI → Discipleship was a 24/7 thing

BECOME LIKE YOUR RABBI → You're goal was to become a carbon copy of your rabbi

DO WHAT YOUR RABBI DID → The whole point of apprenticeship was that one day you'd become a rabbi yourself



To be an apprentice of Jesus means to order your life
around three goals:

Be with Jesus

Become like Jesus

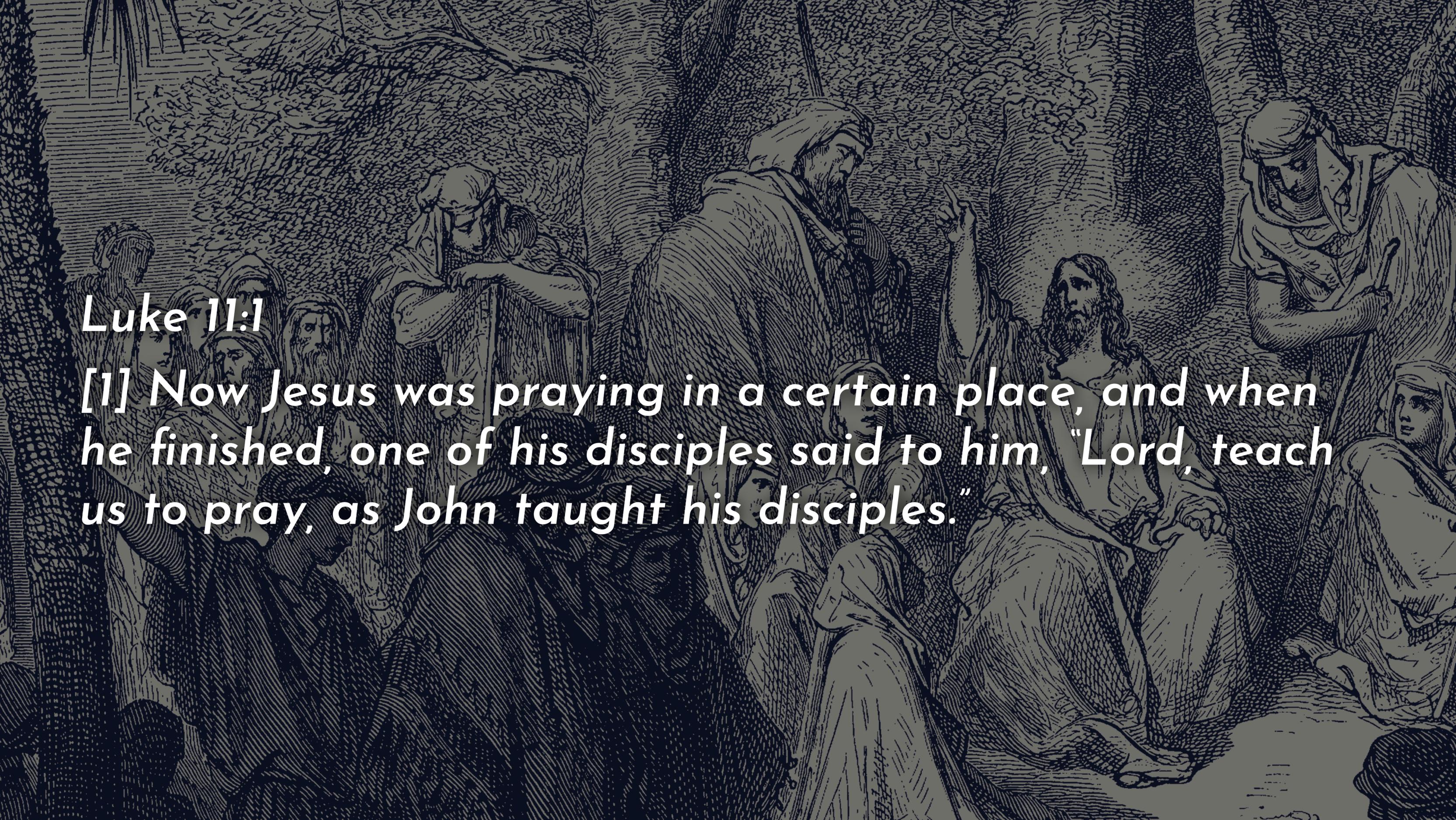
Do what he did



PRAYER:
B E C O M E L I K E
JESUS



For Jesus, prayer was central to life with God.

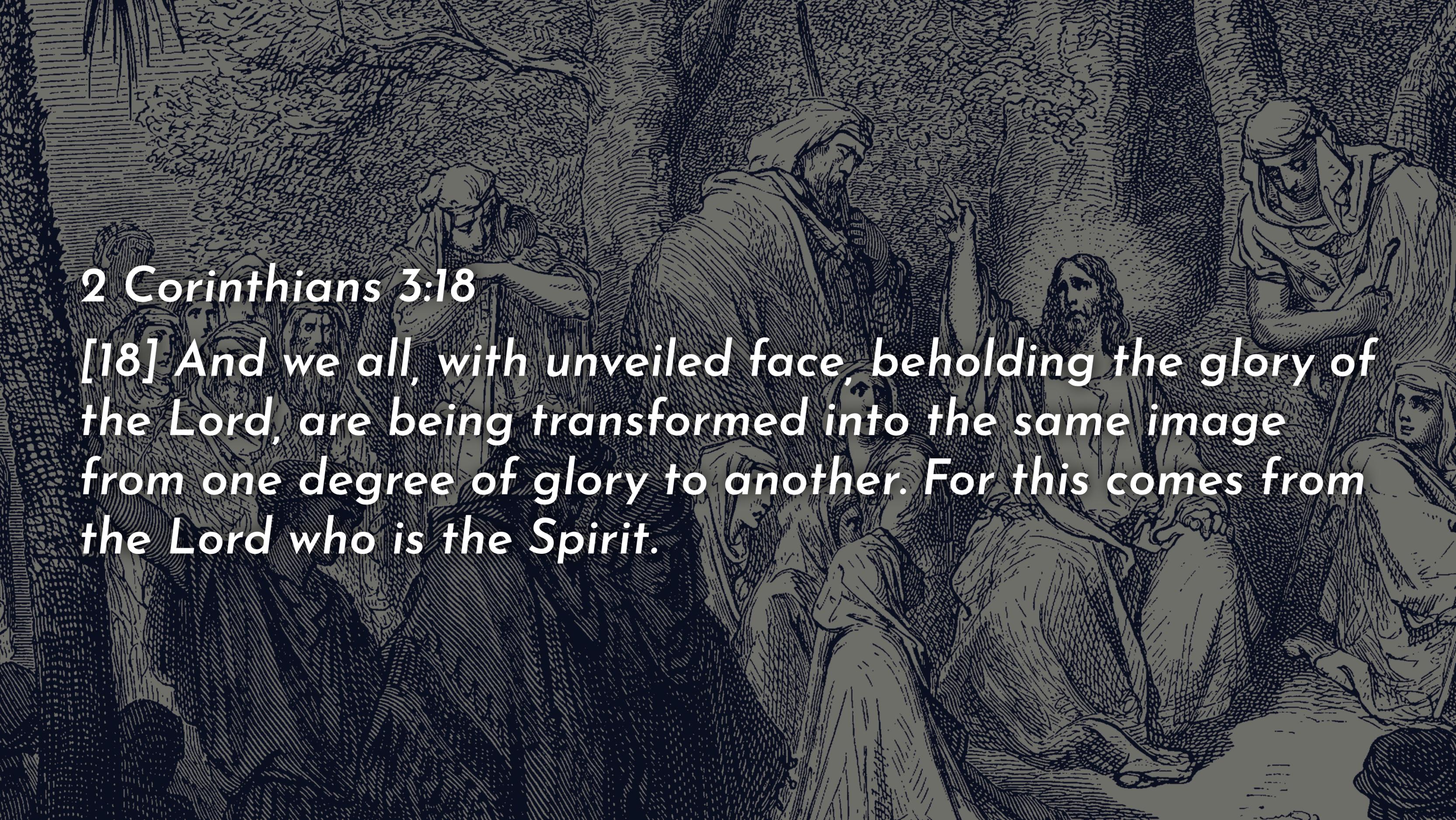


Luke 11:1

[1] Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

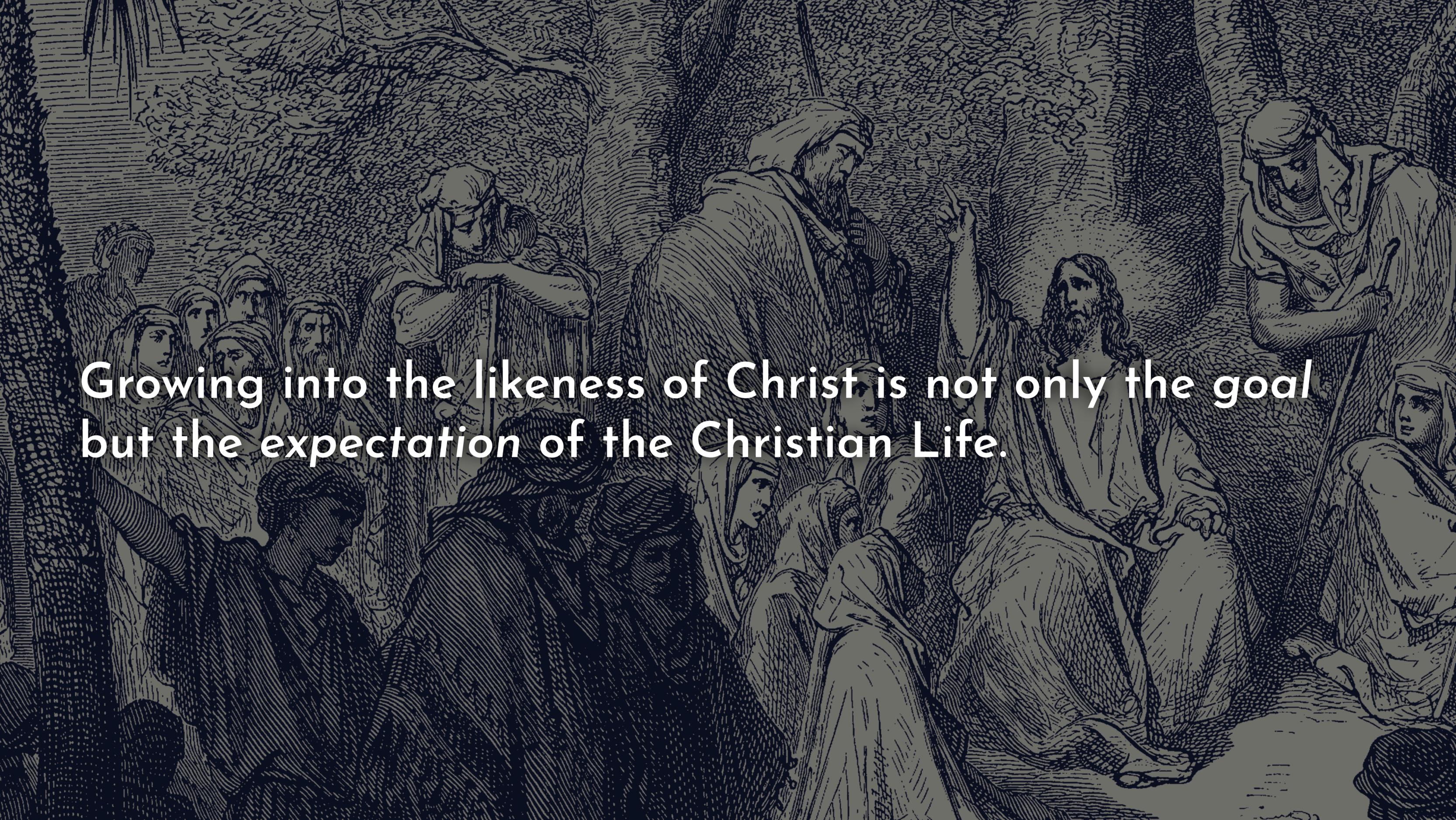


Transformation: The goal

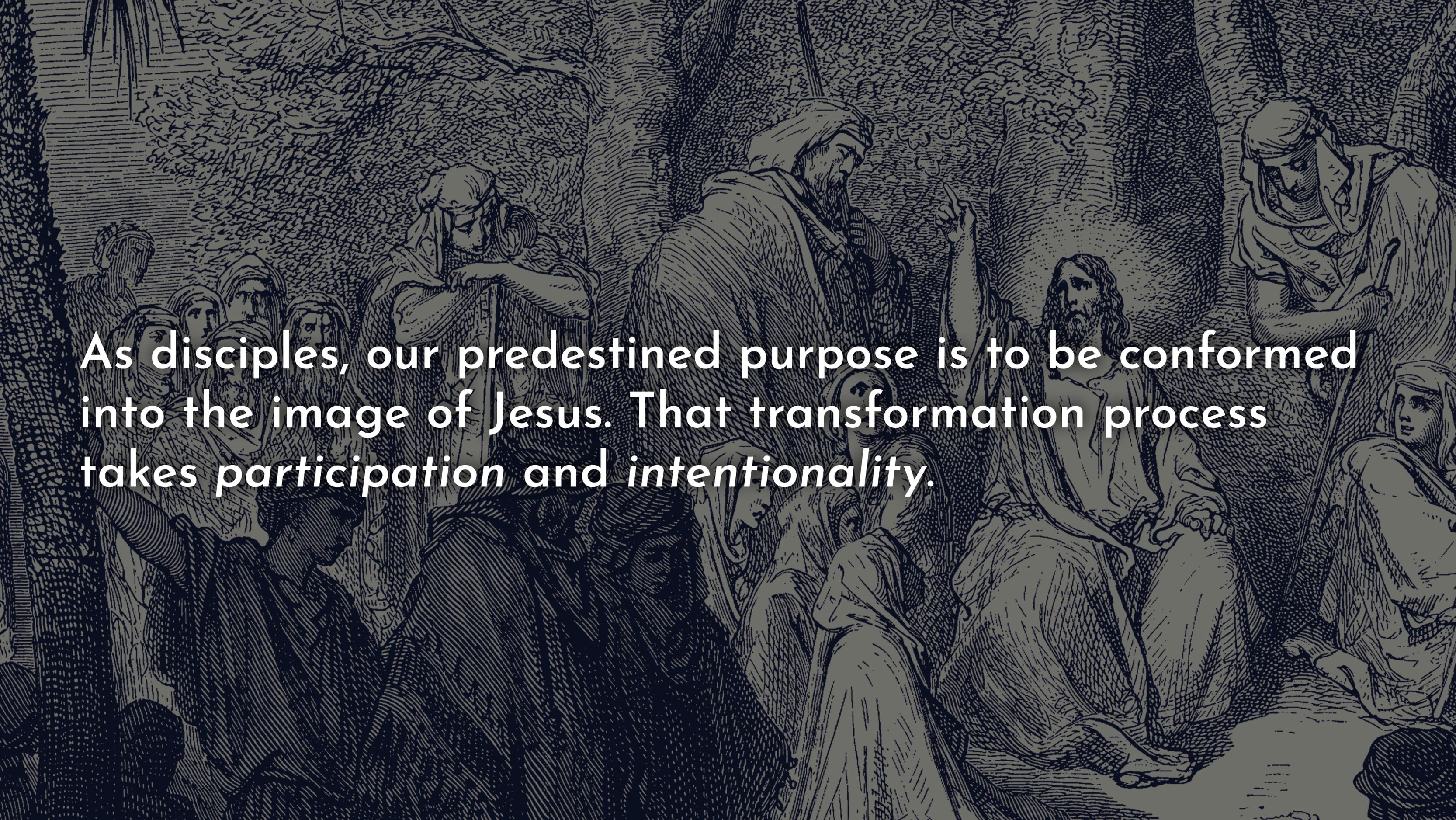


2 Corinthians 3:18

[18] And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.



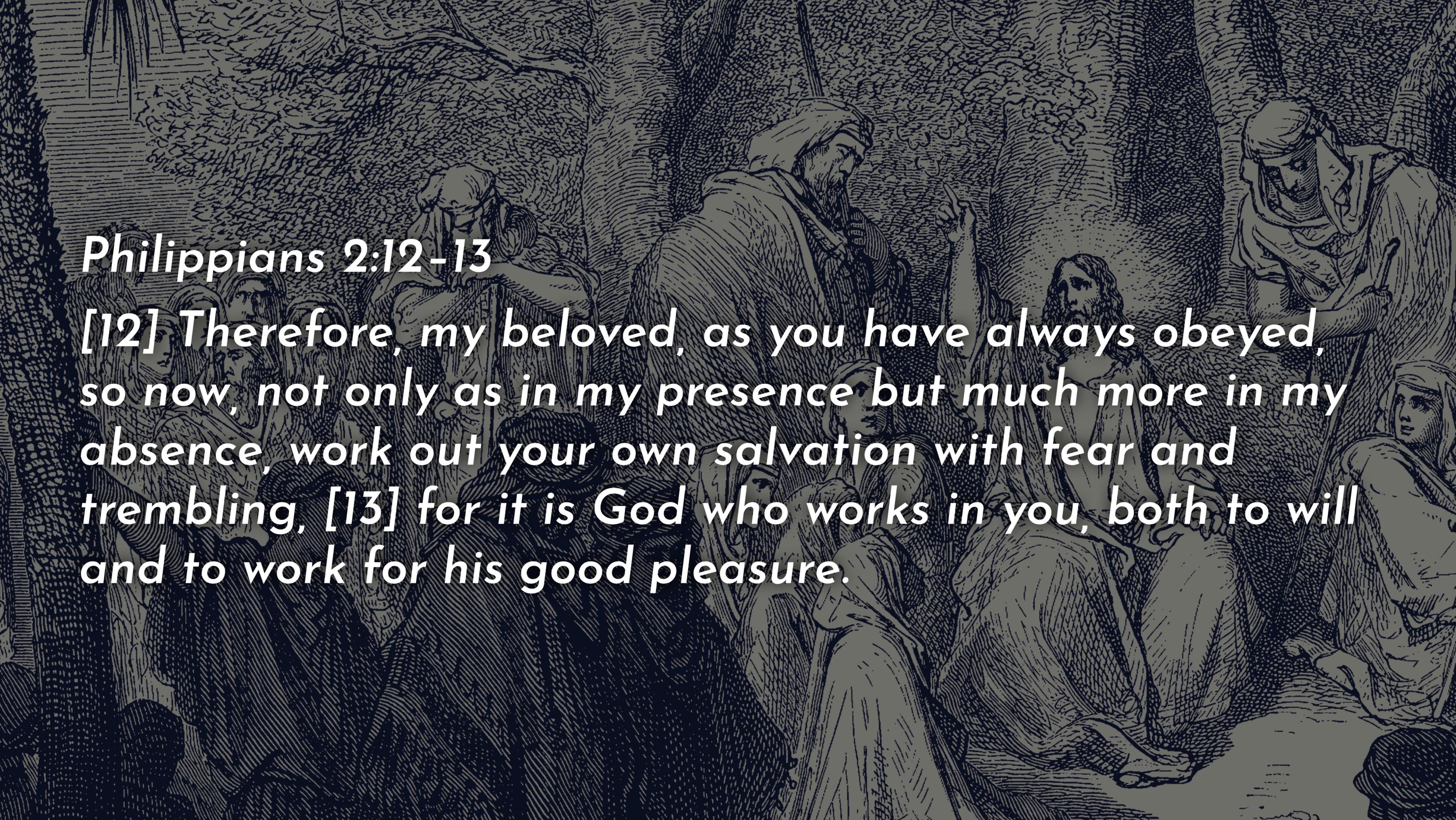
Growing into the likeness of Christ is not only the goal but the expectation of the Christian Life.



As disciples, our predestined purpose is to be conformed into the image of Jesus. That transformation process takes *participation and intentionality*.



God's Work & Our Work: A Partnership



Philippians 2:12-13

[12] Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

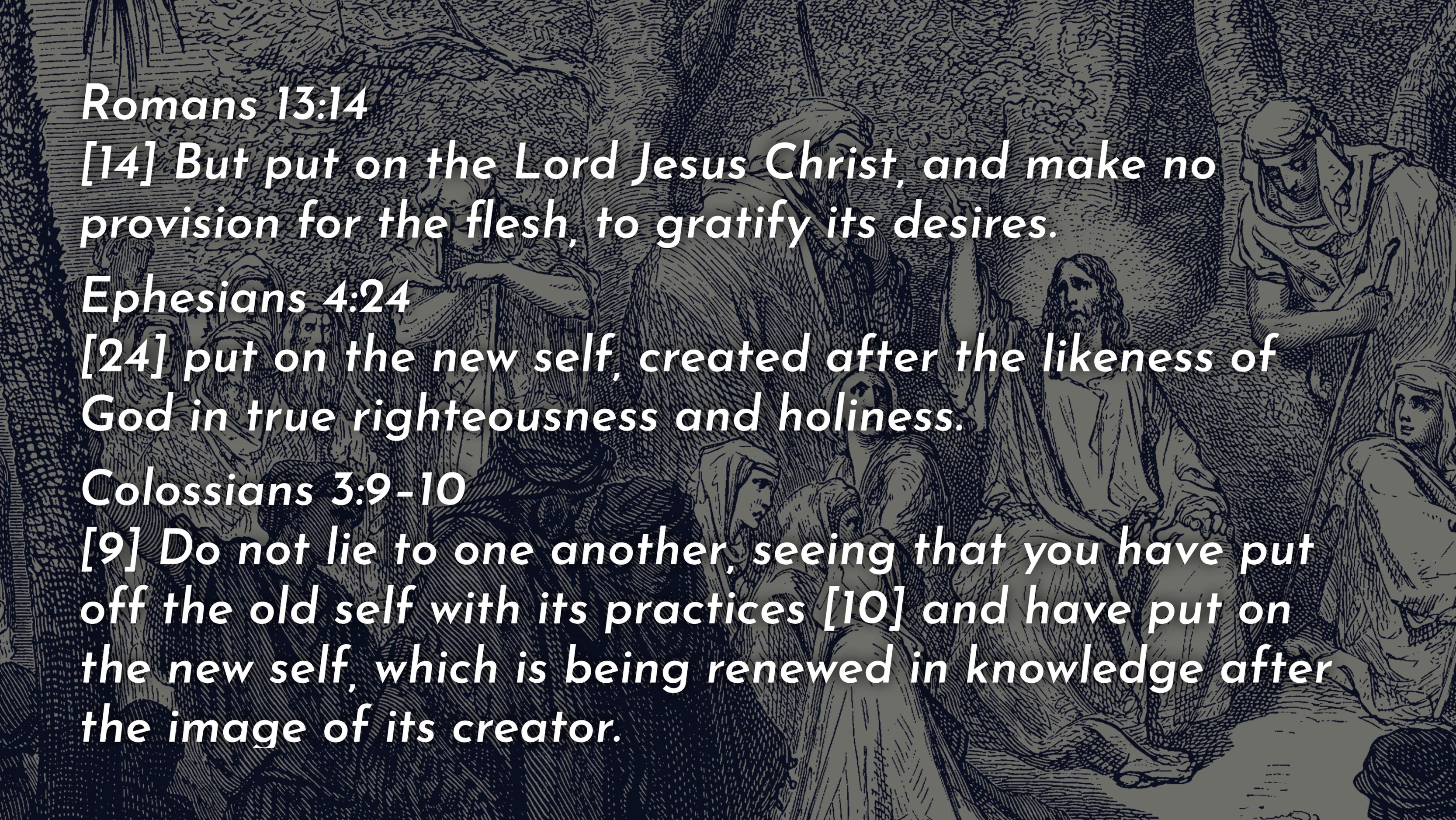


God's at work, and you need to be at work.



PUT ON

Gk: endyō → to sink into, put on, clothe oneself



Romans 13:14

[14] But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Ephesians 4:24

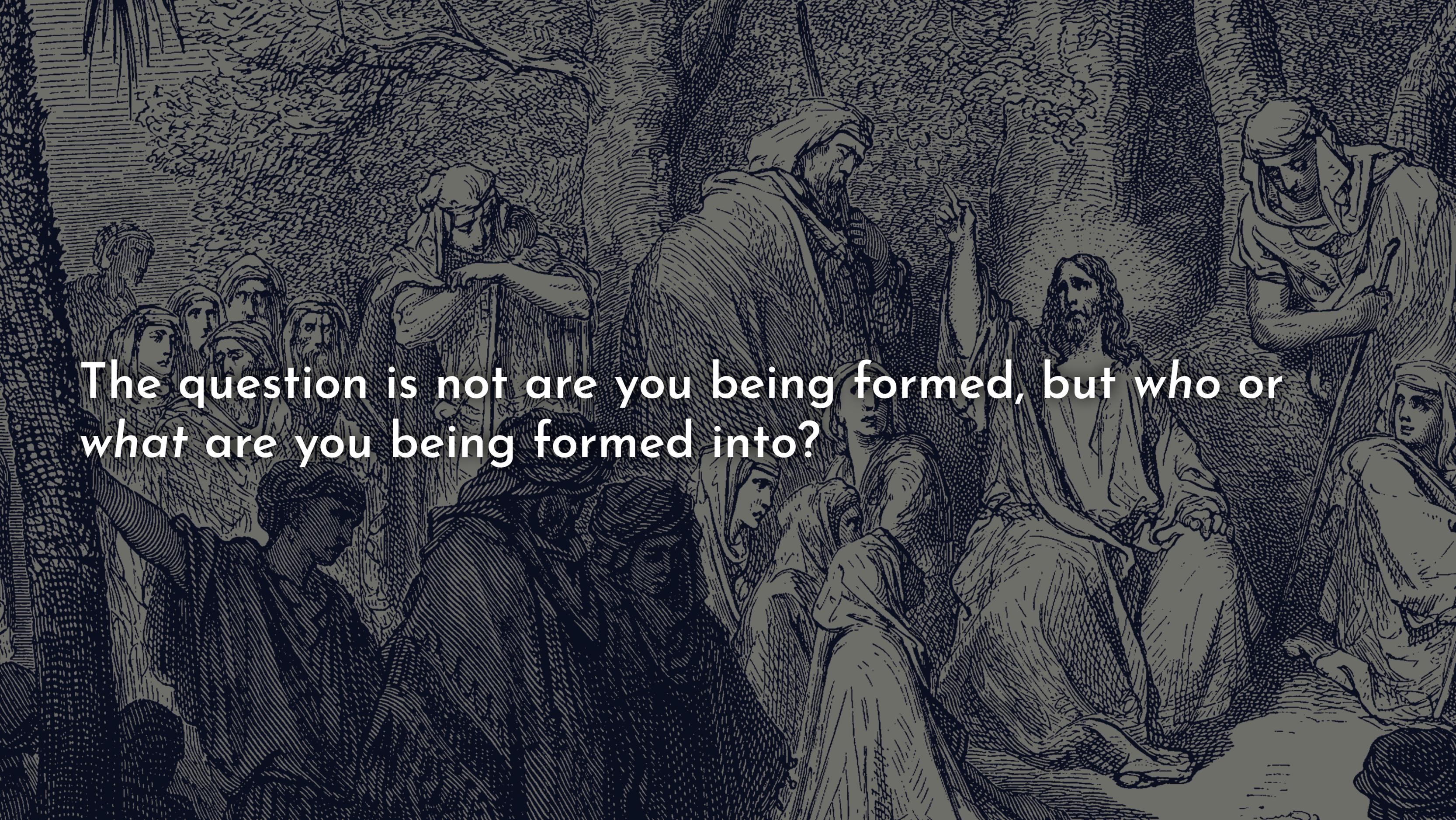
[24] put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:9-10

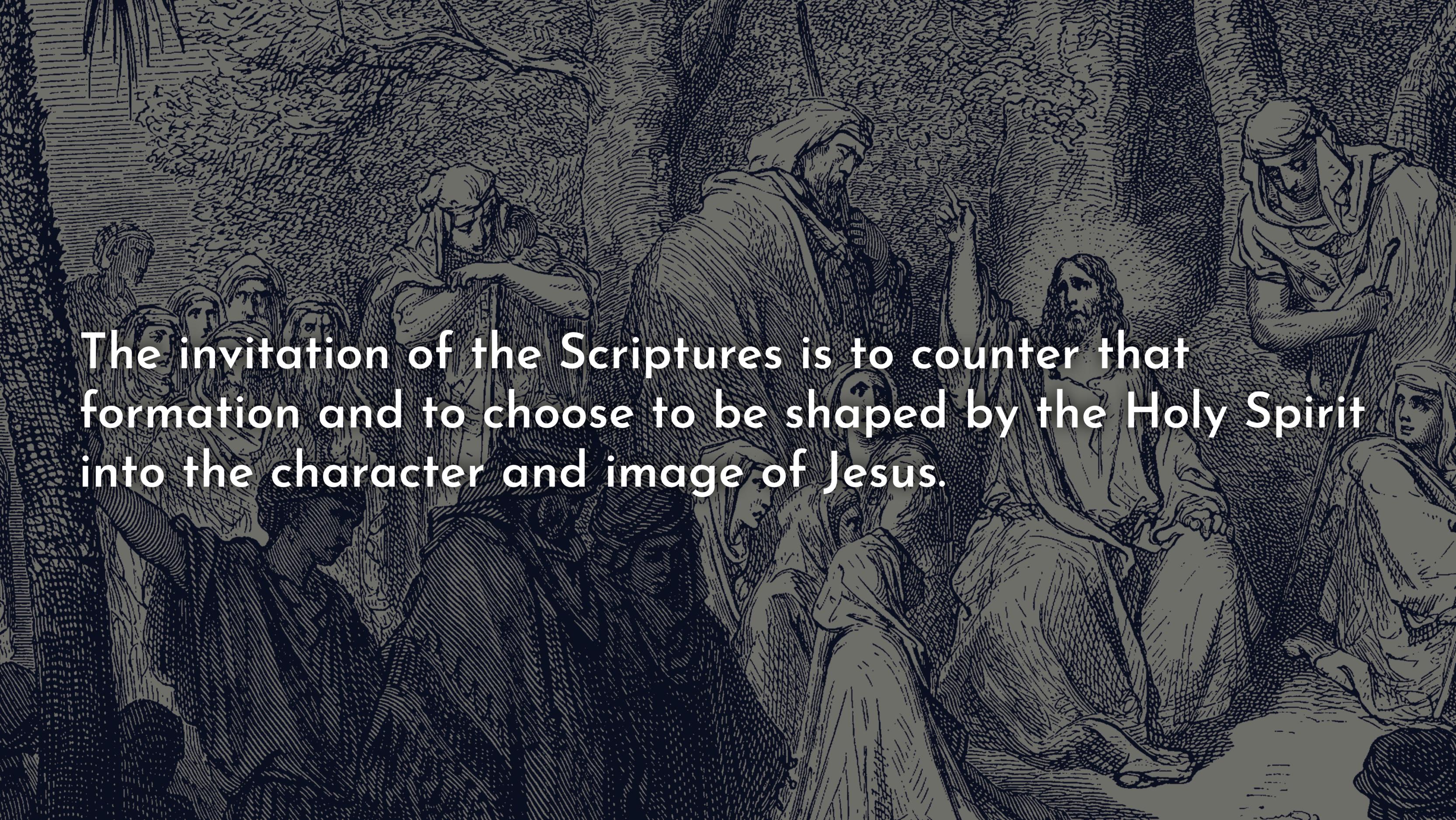
[9] Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices [10] and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.



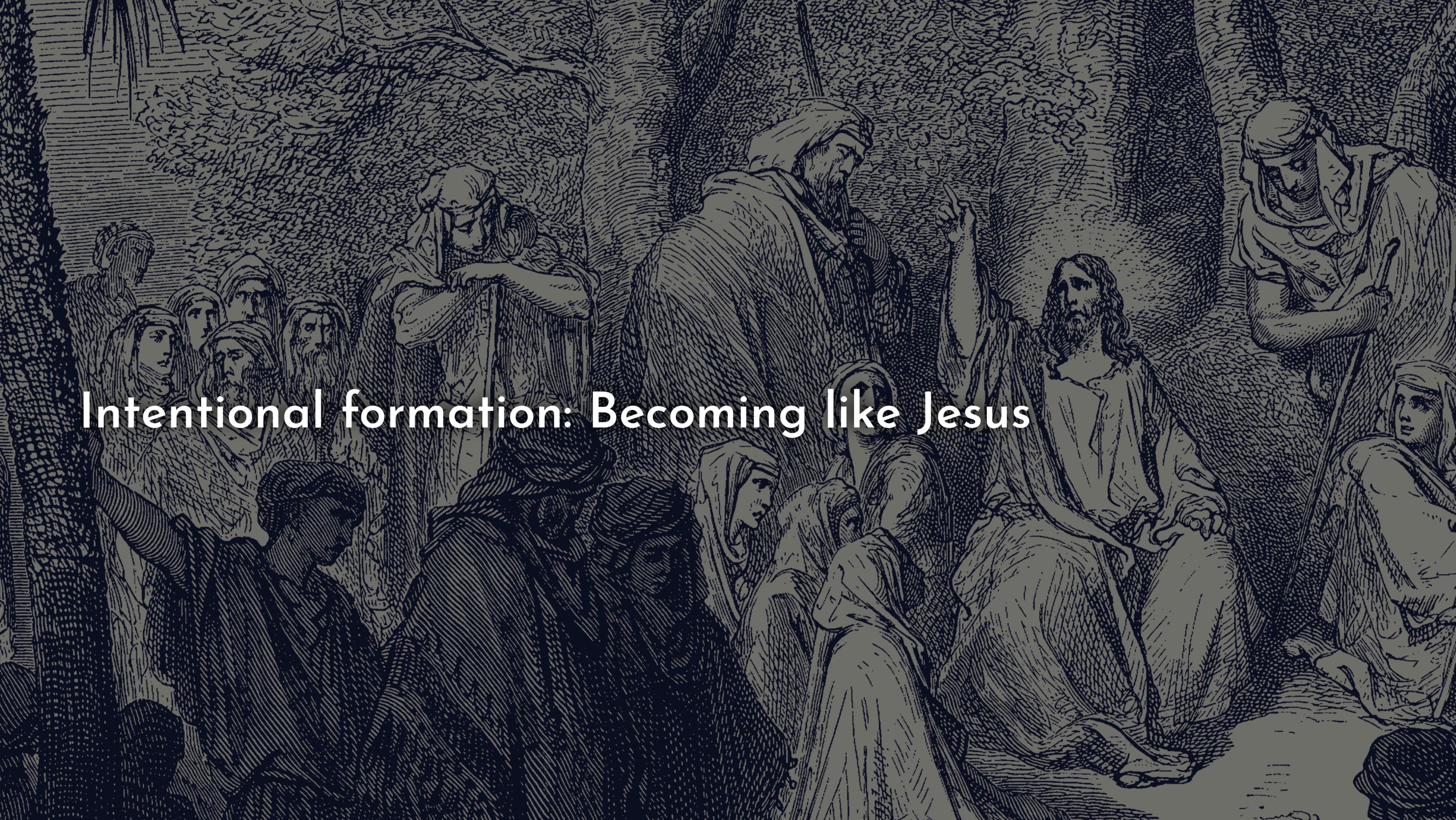
Unintentional formation: Inevitable Inertia



The question is not are you being formed, but who or what are you being formed into?



The invitation of the Scriptures is to counter that formation and to choose to be shaped by the Holy Spirit into the character and image of Jesus.



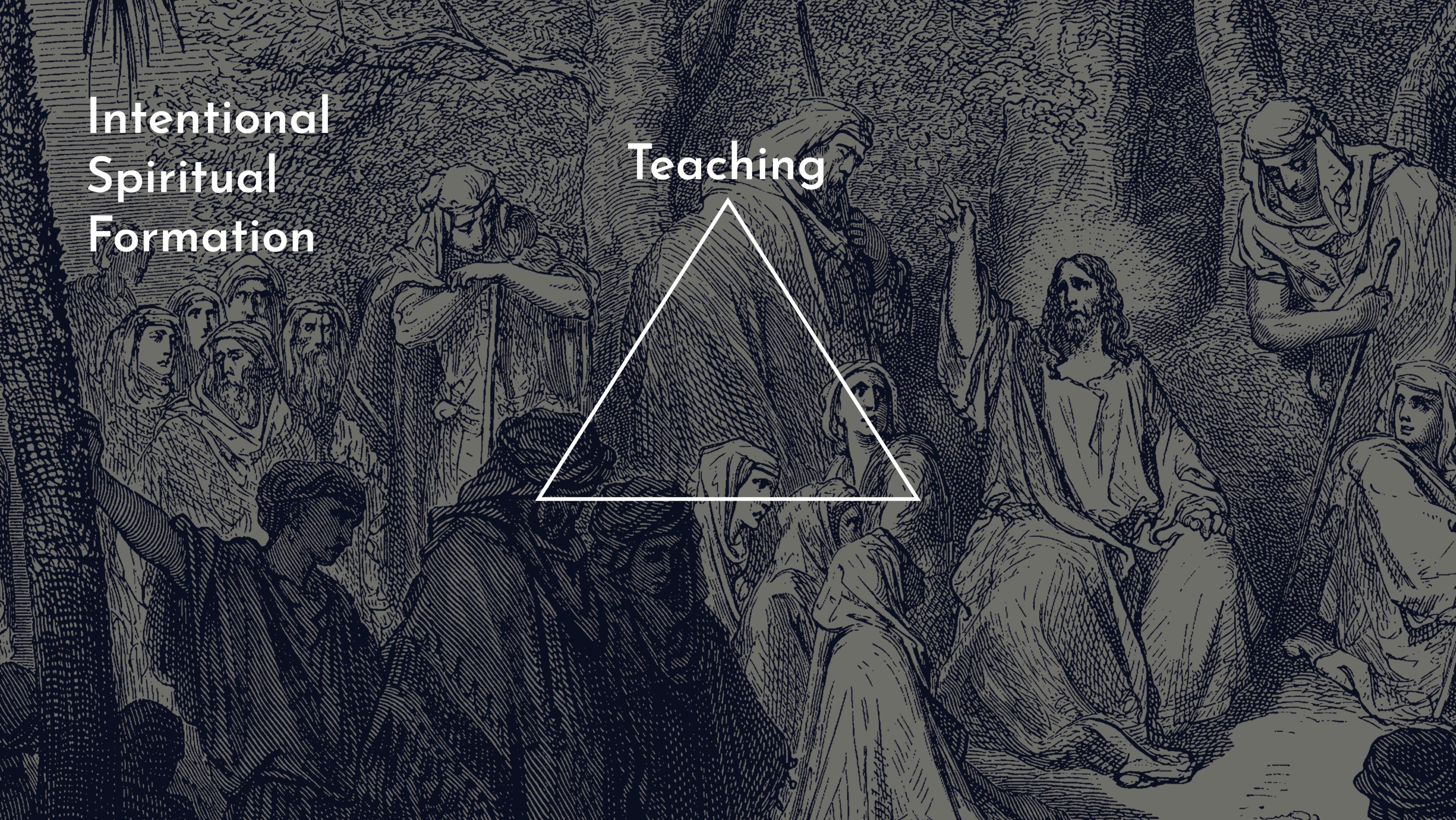
Intentional formation: Becoming like Jesus

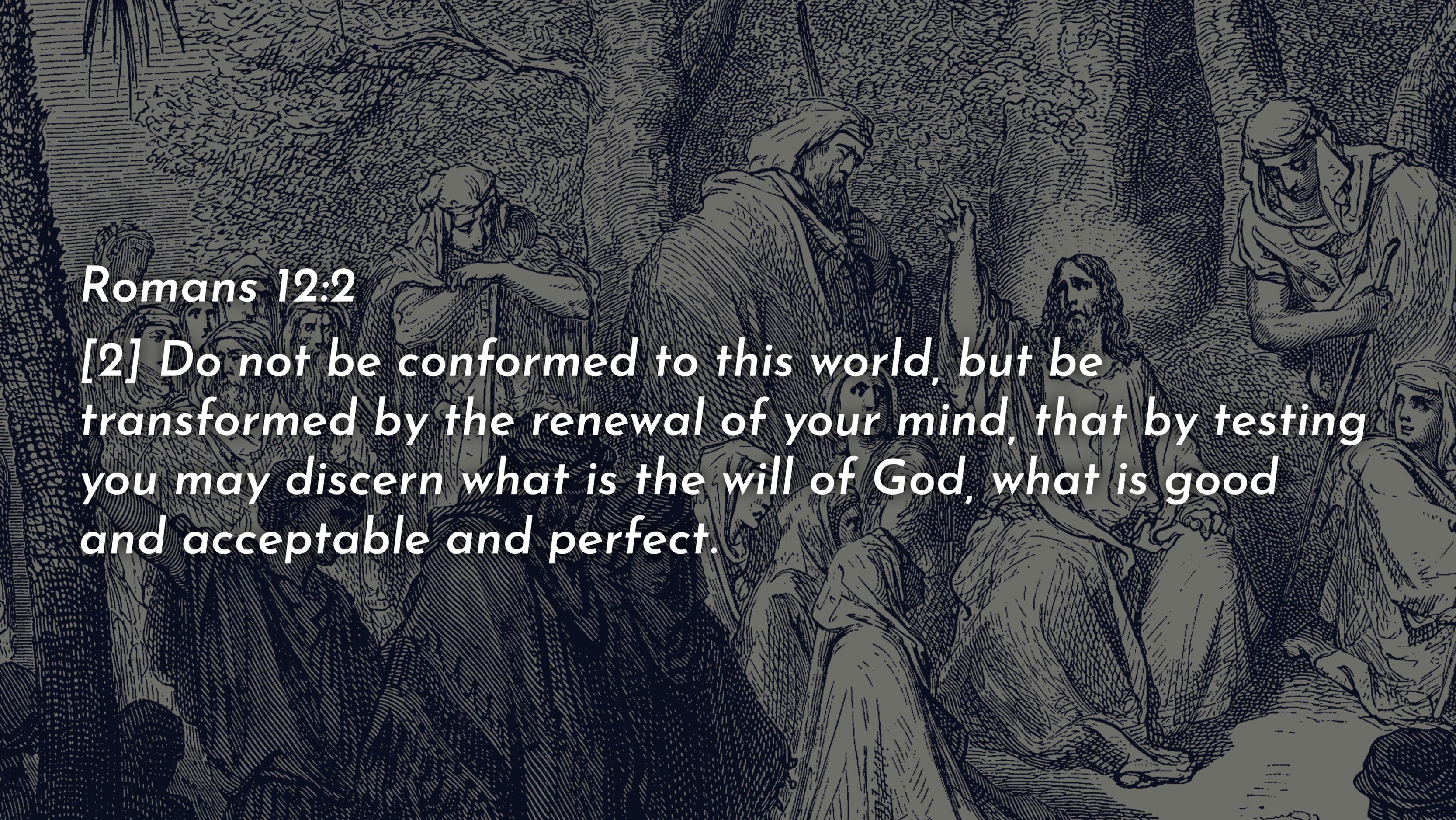
Intentional Spiritual Formation



Intentional
Spiritual
Formation

Teaching





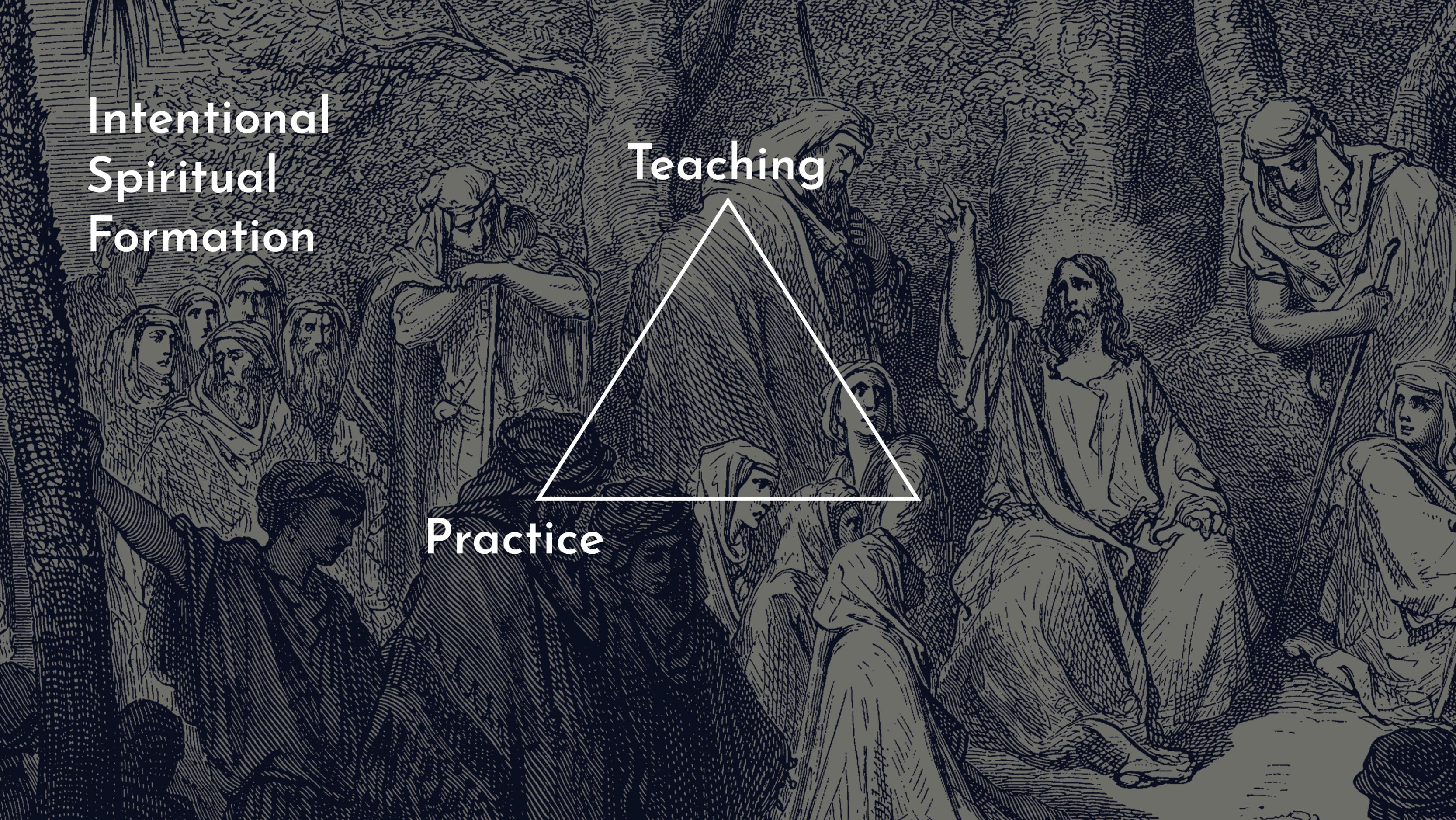
Romans 12:2

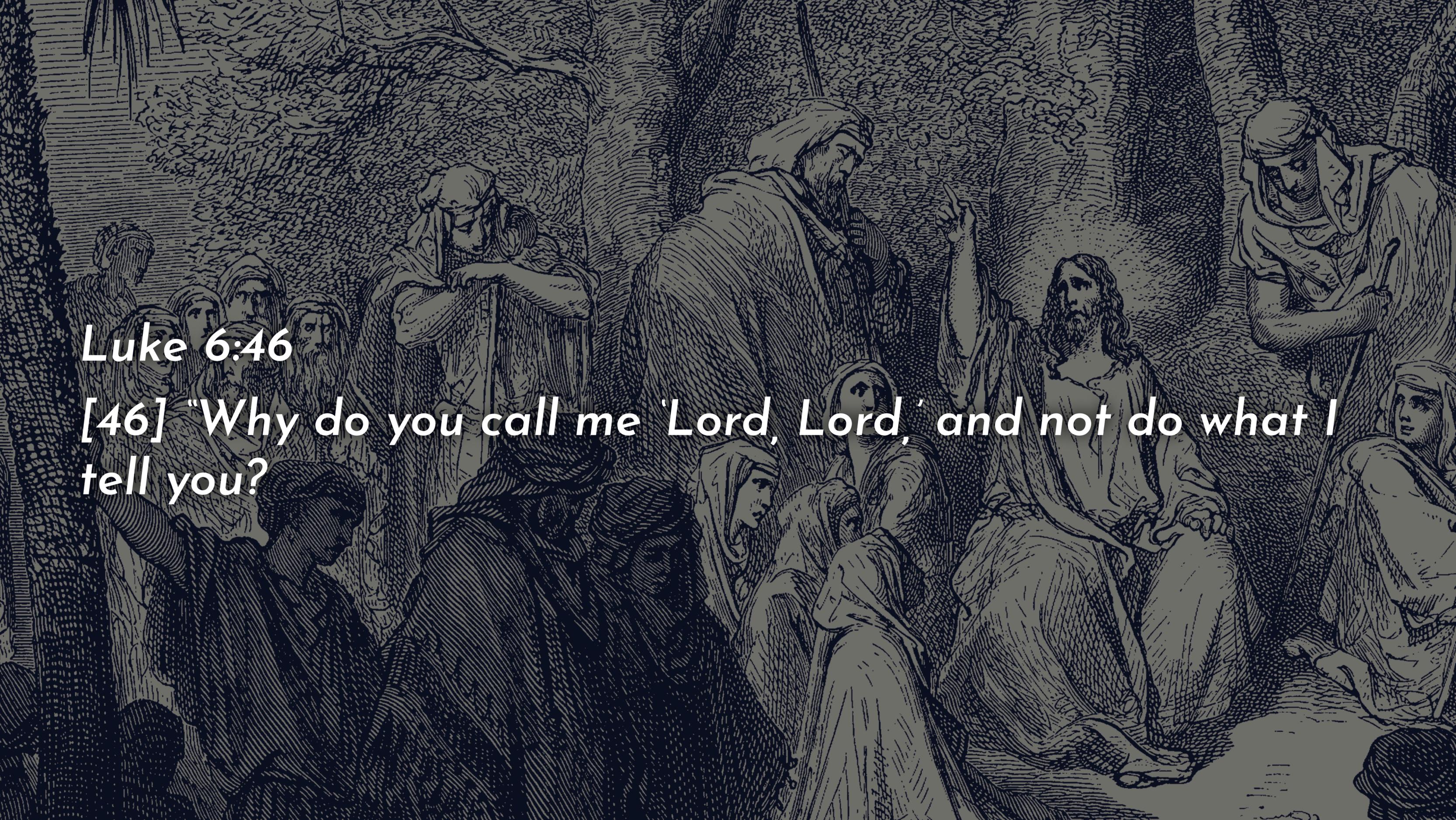
[2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Intentional
Spiritual
Formation**

Teaching

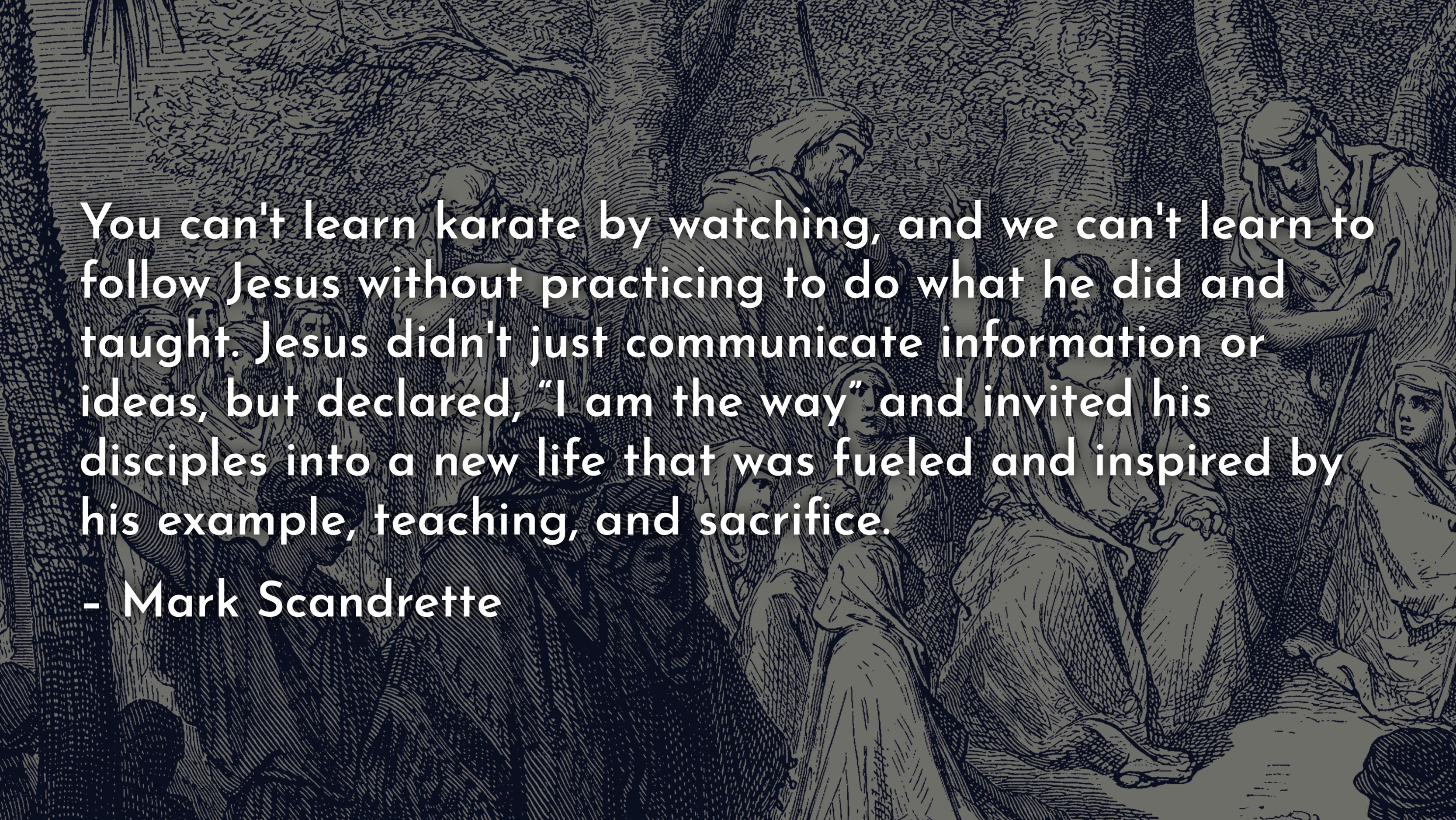
Practice





Luke 6:46

[46] "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"



You can't learn karate by watching, and we can't learn to follow Jesus without practicing to do what he did and taught. Jesus didn't just communicate information or ideas, but declared, "I am the way" and invited his disciples into a new life that was fueled and inspired by his example, teaching, and sacrifice.

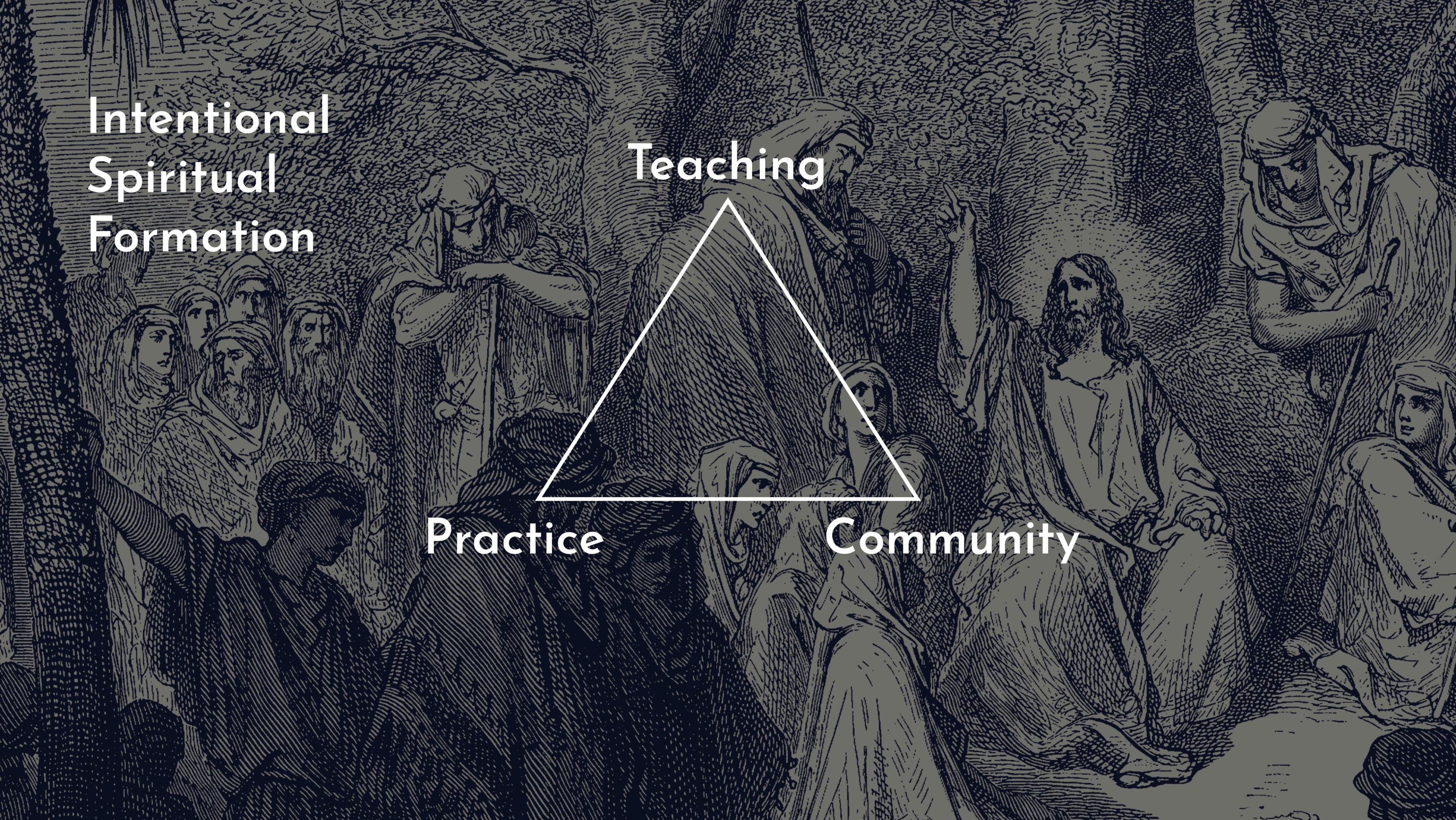
- Mark Scandrette

**Intentional
Spiritual
Formation**

Teaching

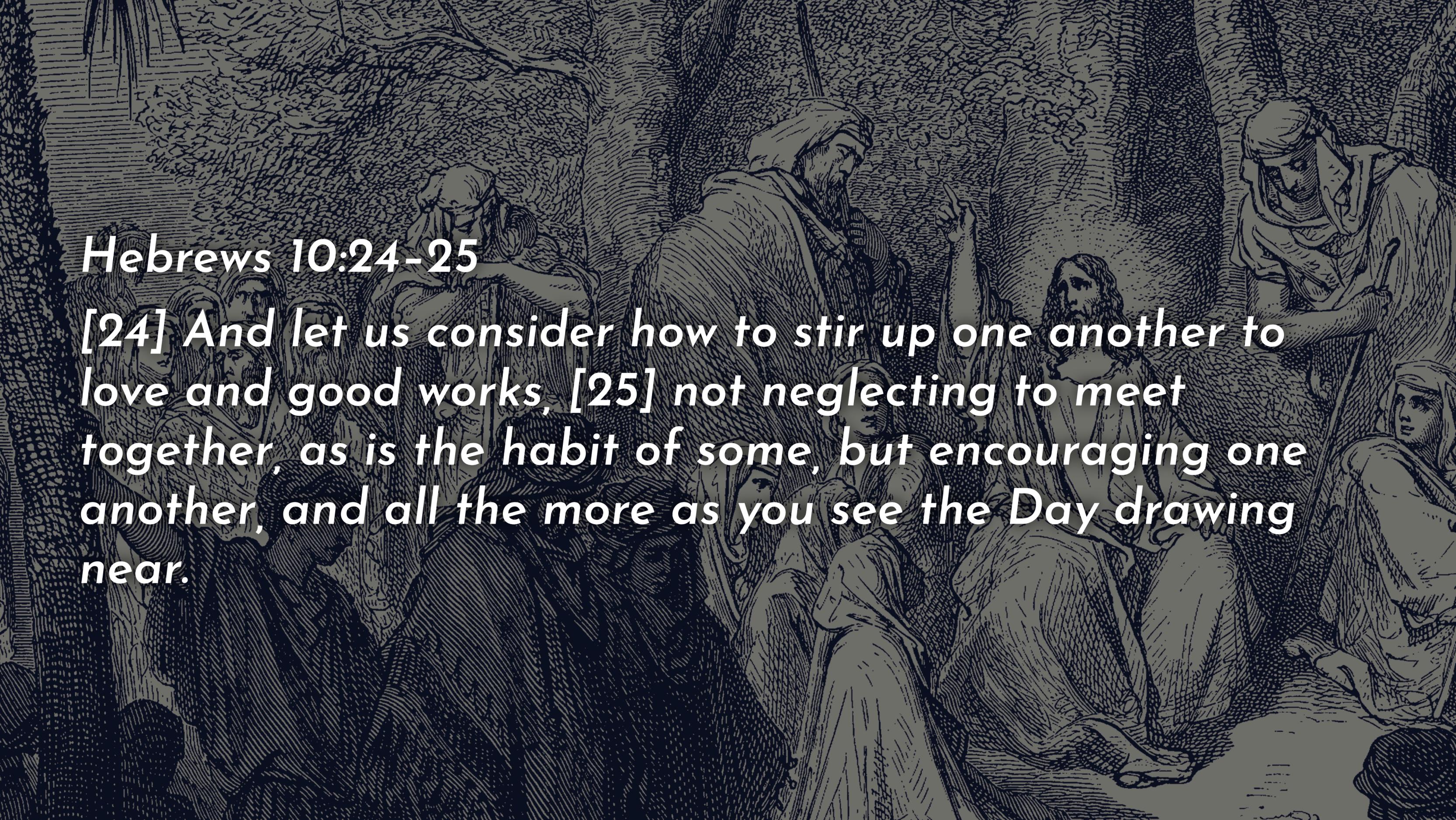
Practice

Community





Community exposes and encourages.



Hebrews 10:24-25

[24] And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

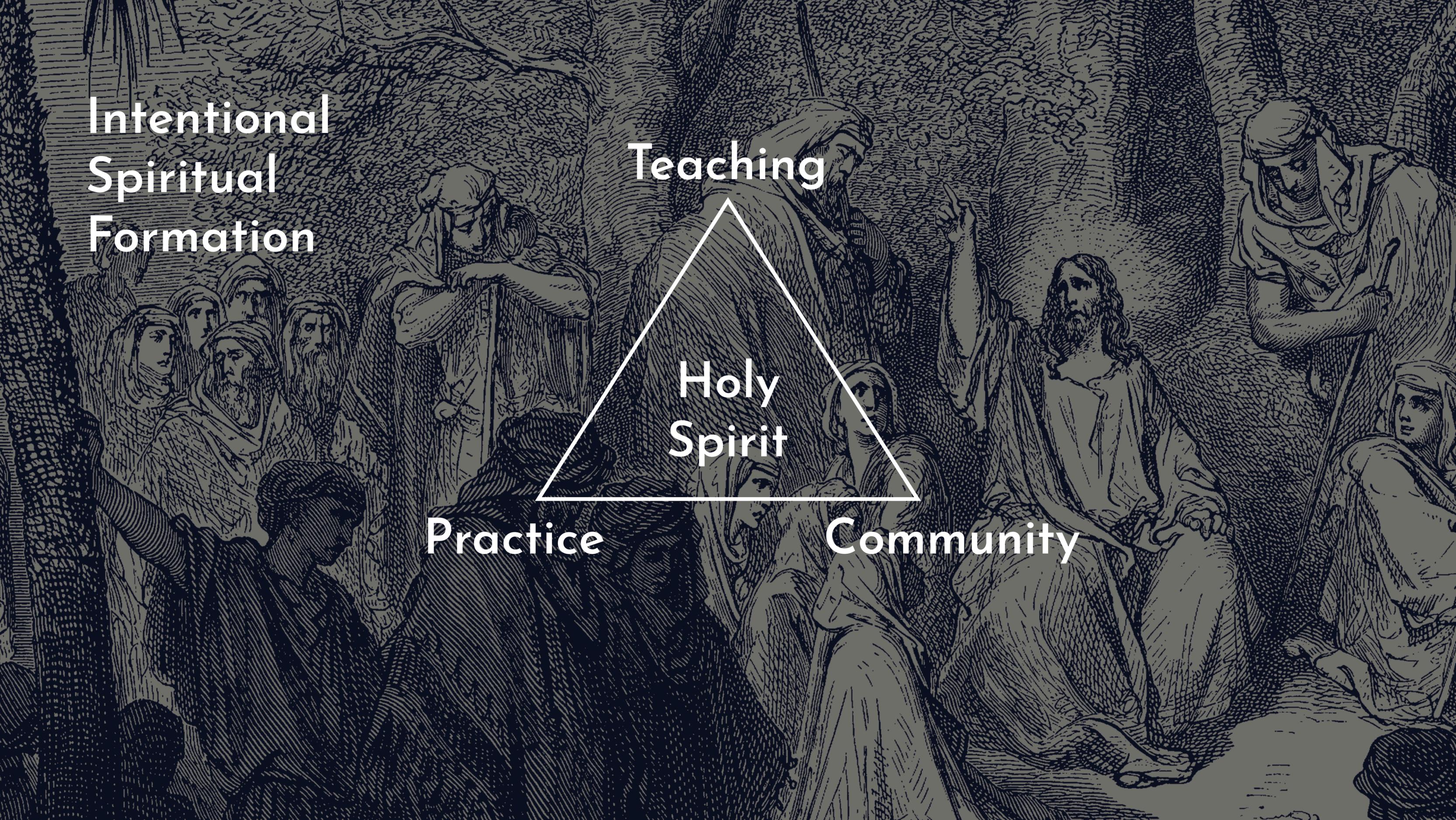
**Intentional
Spiritual
Formation**

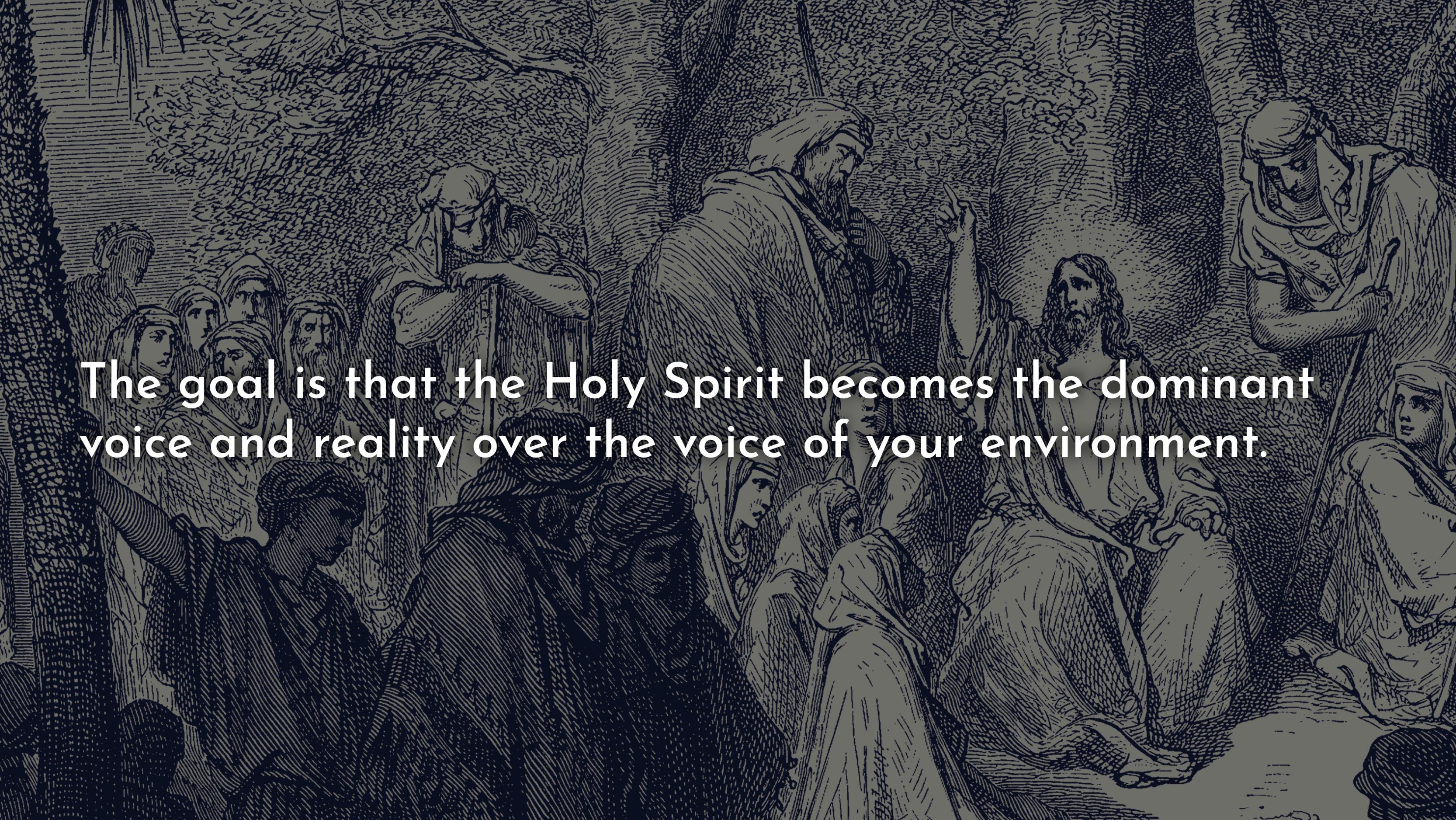
Teaching

**Holy
Spirit**

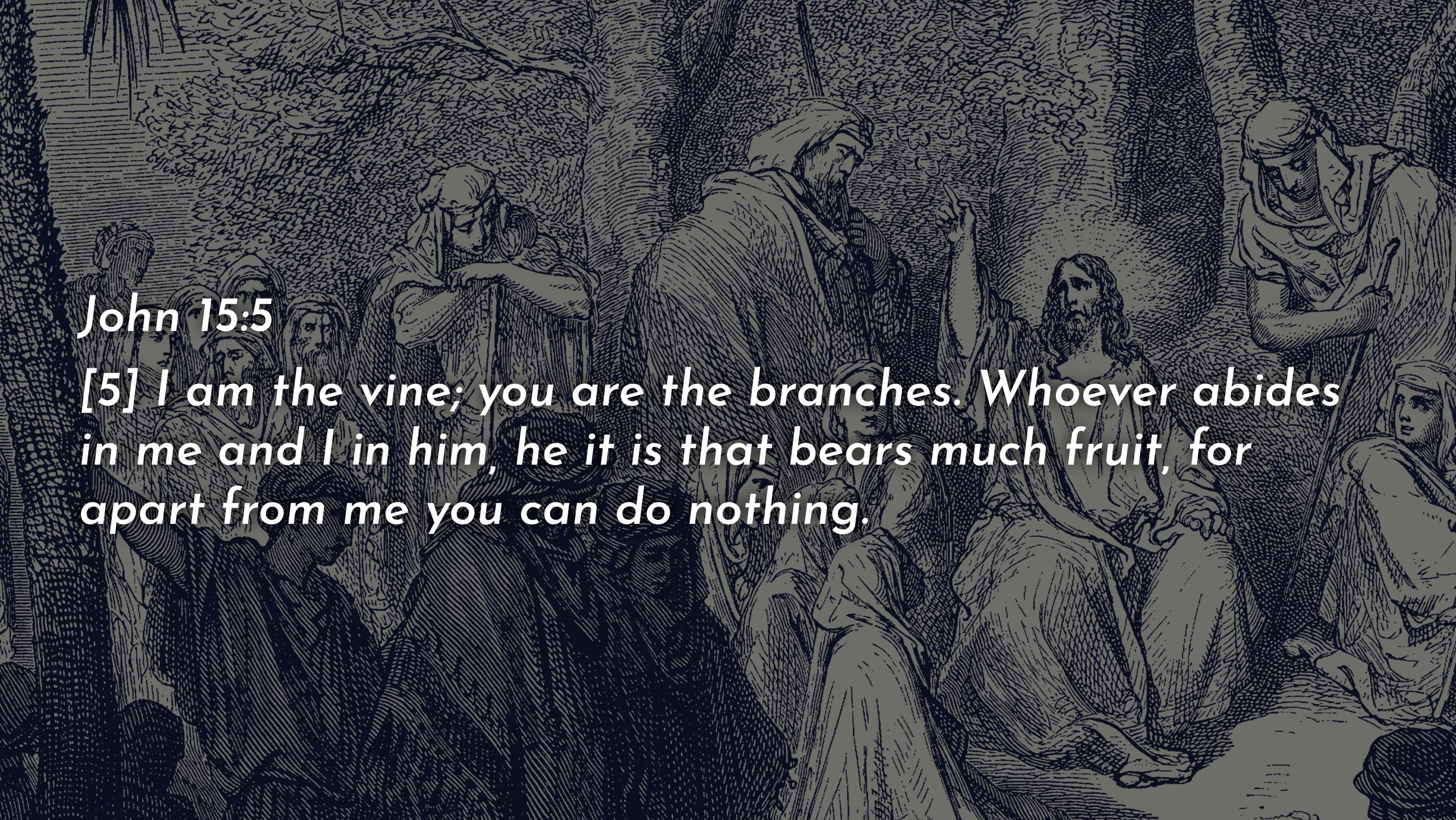
Practice

Community





The goal is that the Holy Spirit becomes the dominant voice and reality over the voice of your environment.



John 15:5

[5] 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.

**Intentional
Spiritual
Formation**

Teaching

**Holy
Spirit**

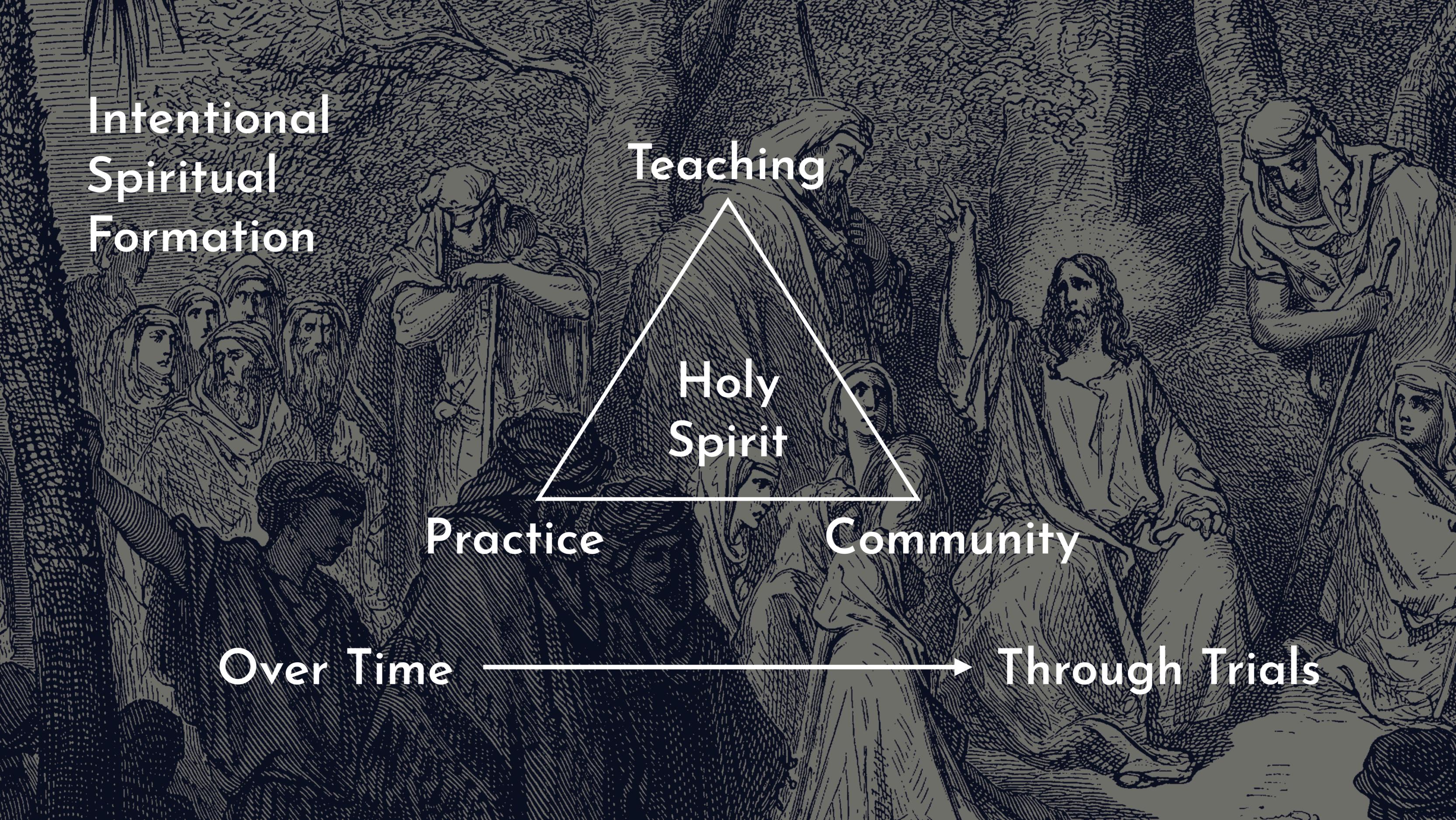
Practice

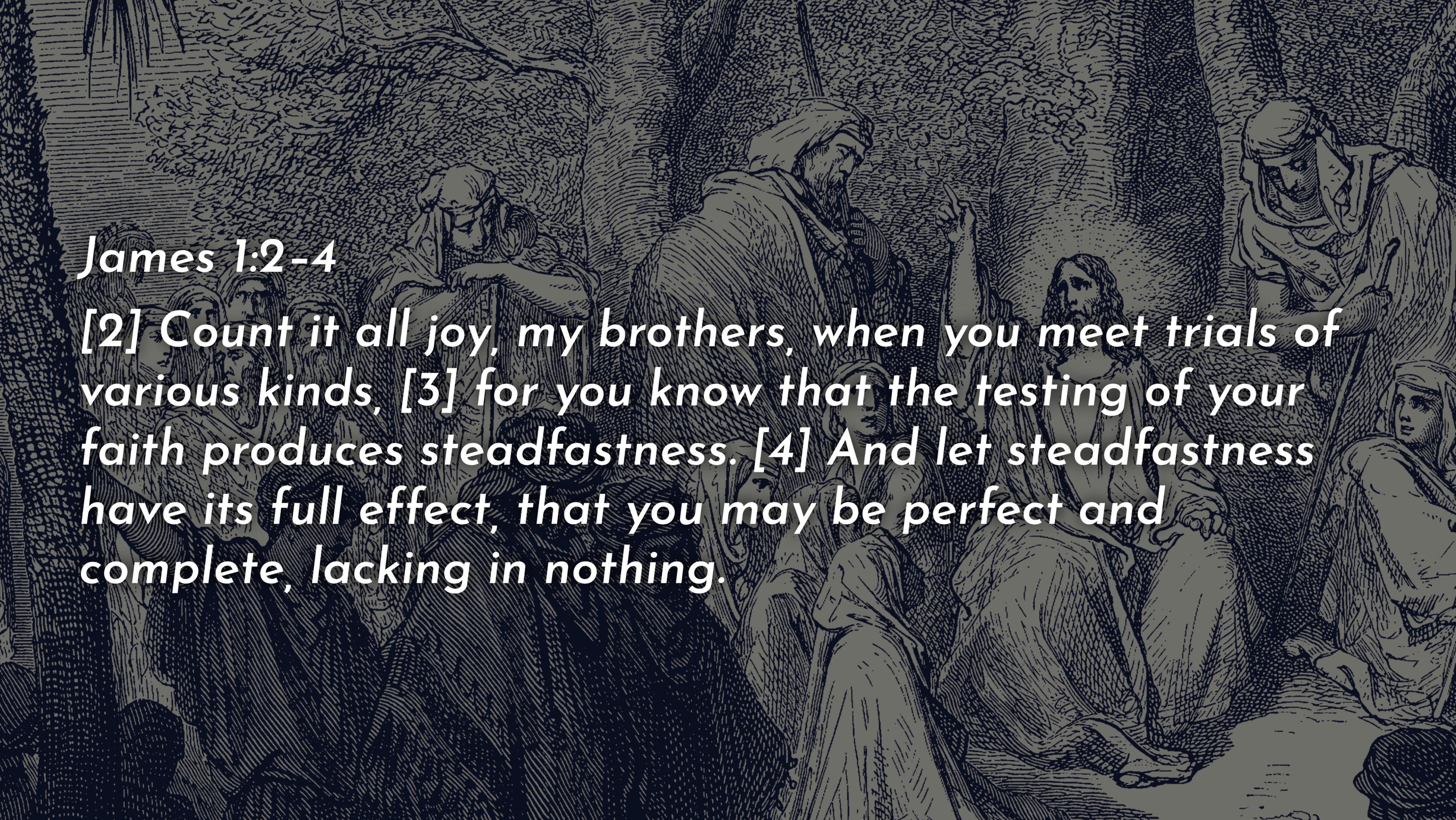
Community

Over Time



Through Trials



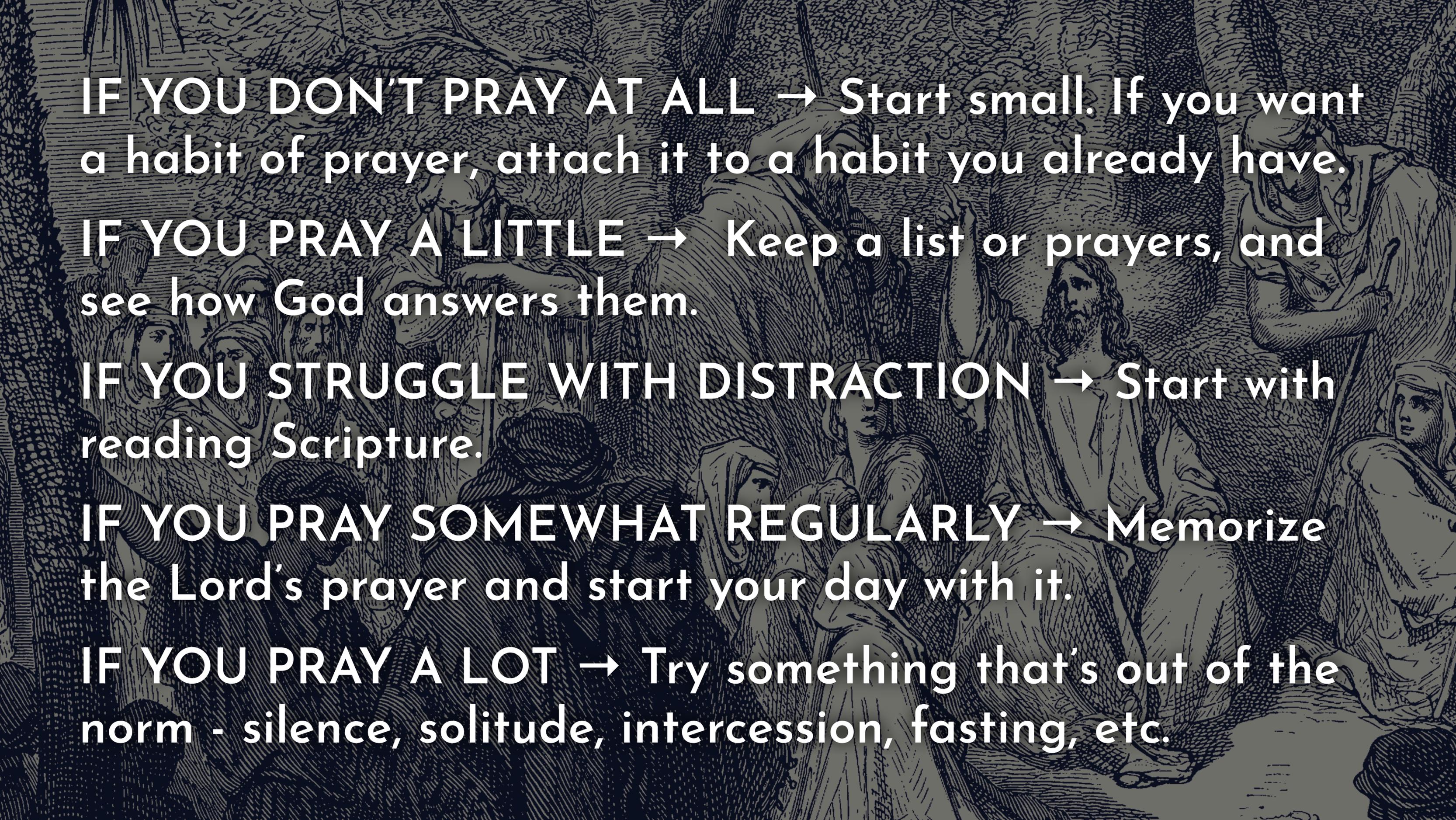


James 1:2-4

[2] Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



Transformation is possible, promised, expected but not inevitable.



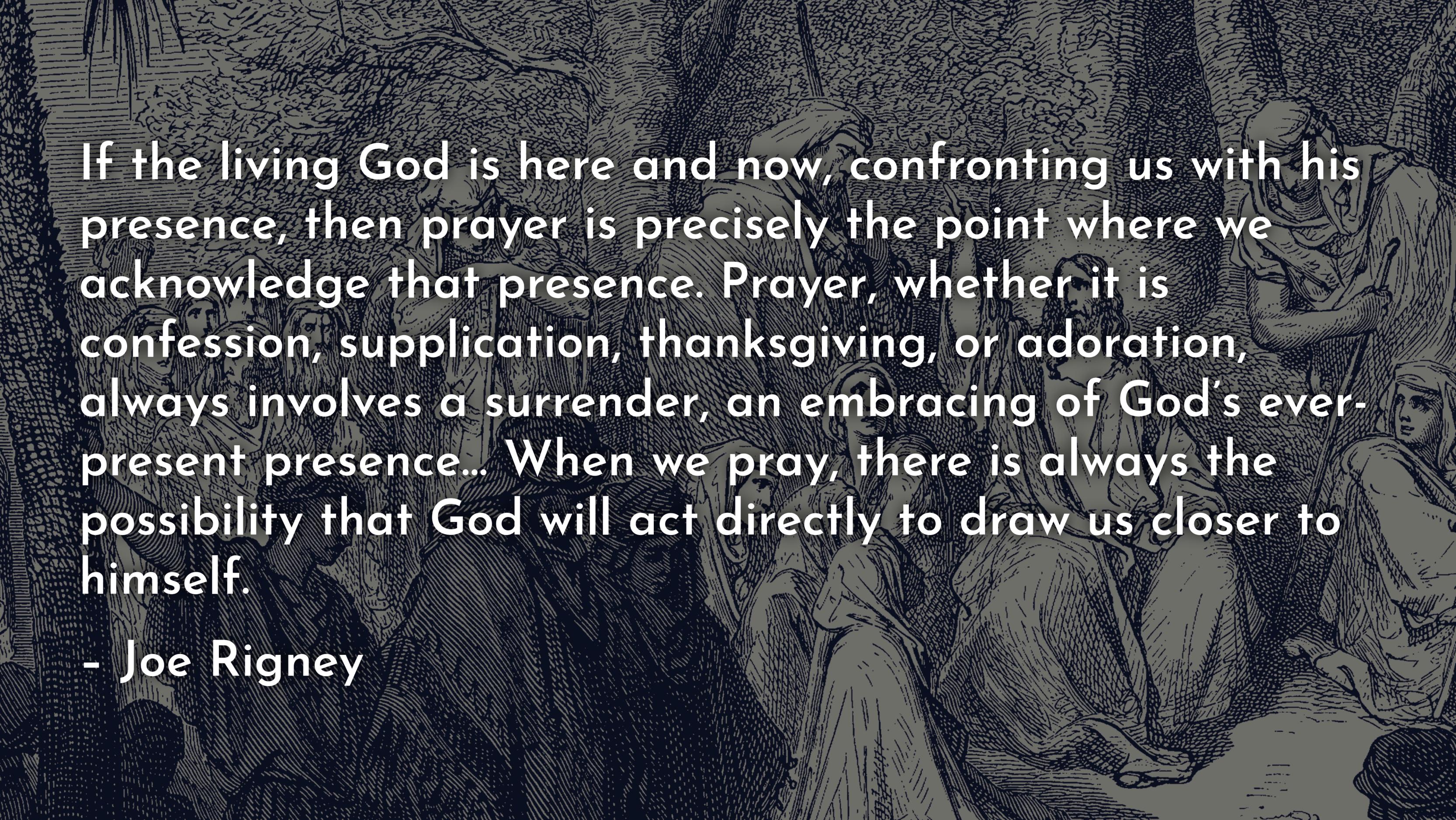
IF YOU DON'T PRAY AT ALL → Start small. If you want a habit of prayer, attach it to a habit you already have.

IF YOU PRAY A LITTLE → Keep a list of prayers, and see how God answers them.

IF YOU STRUGGLE WITH DISTRACTION → Start with reading Scripture.

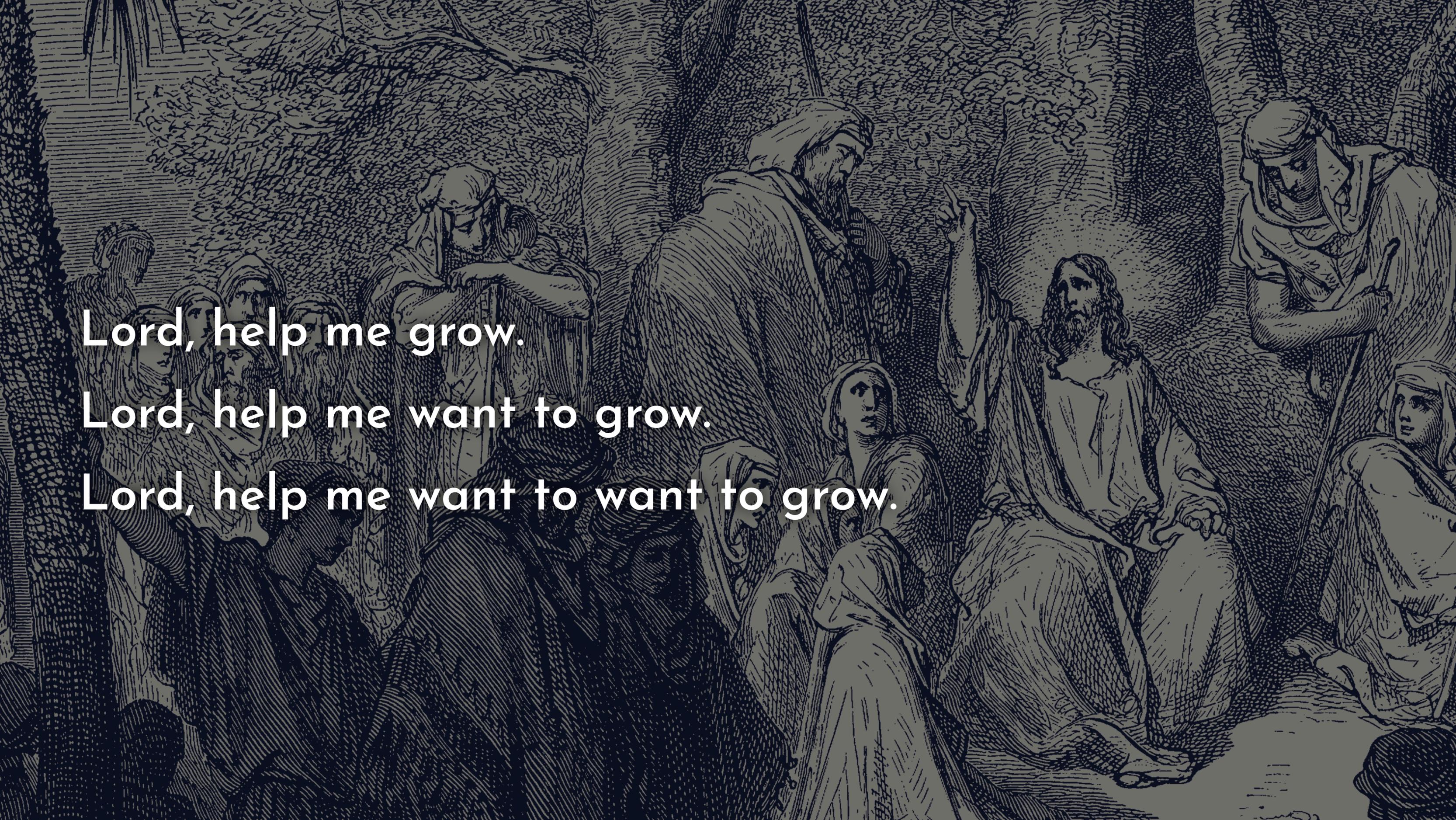
IF YOU PRAY SOMEWHAT REGULARLY → Memorize the Lord's prayer and start your day with it.

IF YOU PRAY A LOT → Try something that's out of the norm - silence, solitude, intercession, fasting, etc.



If the living God is here and now, confronting us with his presence, then prayer is precisely the point where we acknowledge that presence. Prayer, whether it is confession, supplication, thanksgiving, or adoration, always involves a surrender, an embracing of God's ever-present presence... When we pray, there is always the possibility that God will act directly to draw us closer to himself.

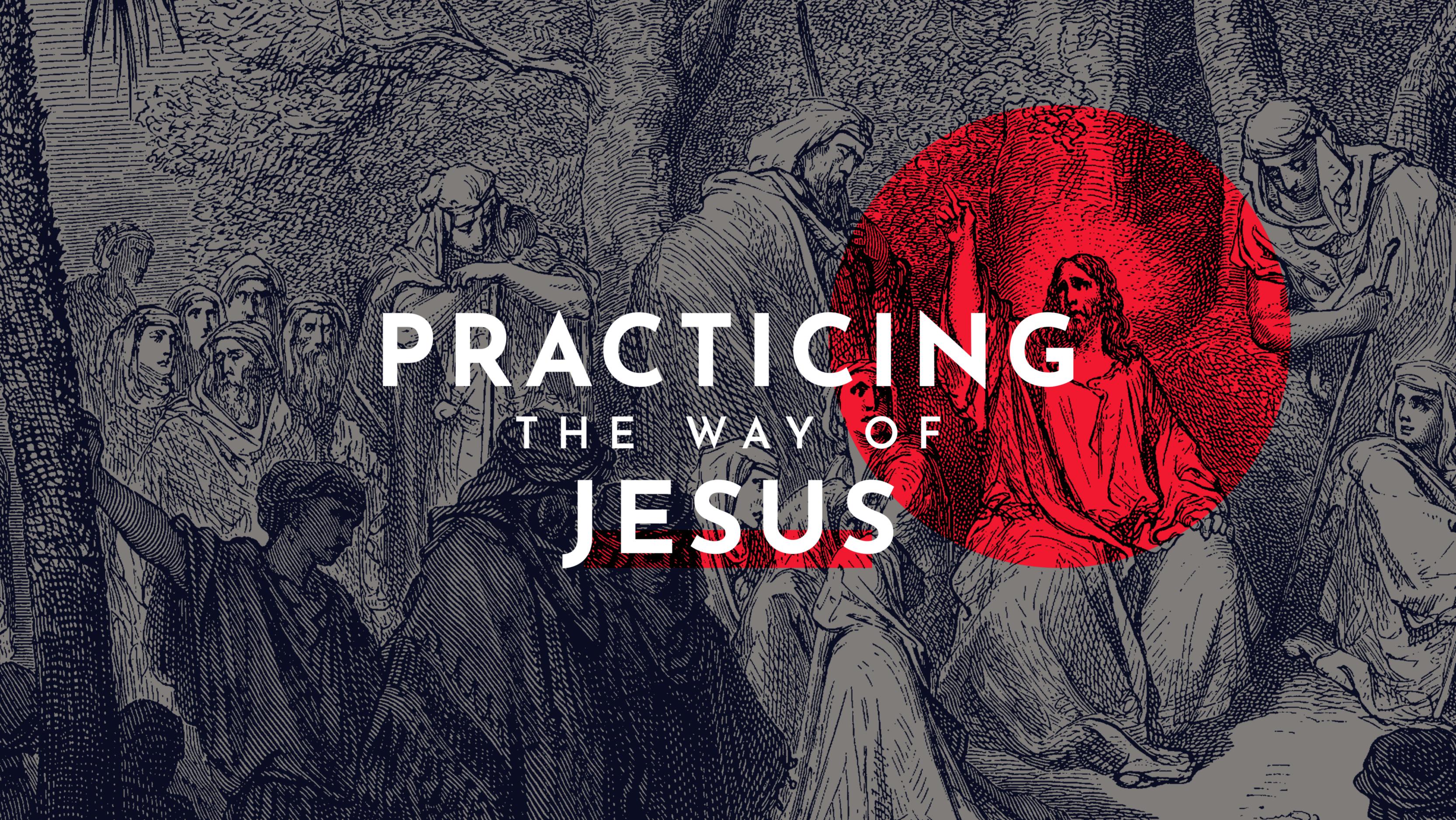
- Joe Rigney



Lord, help me grow.

Lord, help me want to grow.

Lord, help me want to want to grow.



PRACTICING
THE WAY OF
JESUS