

The background features a collage of old, sepia-toned maps. Overlaid on these maps is a network of thin white lines connecting various blue and white dots, creating a web-like pattern across the entire image. The text is centered in the middle of the composition.

# how god straightens crooked paths

A C T S 1 3 : 1 - 1 2





C I A Attalia

Perga

CILICIA

Seleucia Pieria

Salamis

CYPRUS

Paphos

Proconsul Sergius Paulus converted

PHOENICIA

Sidon

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA



# ACTS 13:1-3

*Who does God use?*

A. God uses anyone, no matter their identity, who asks to be used by Him.

B. God uses those who are imperfect yet seeking Him in obedience.

C. God makes His calling clear to those who are regularly in prayer.





# ACTS 13:4-7

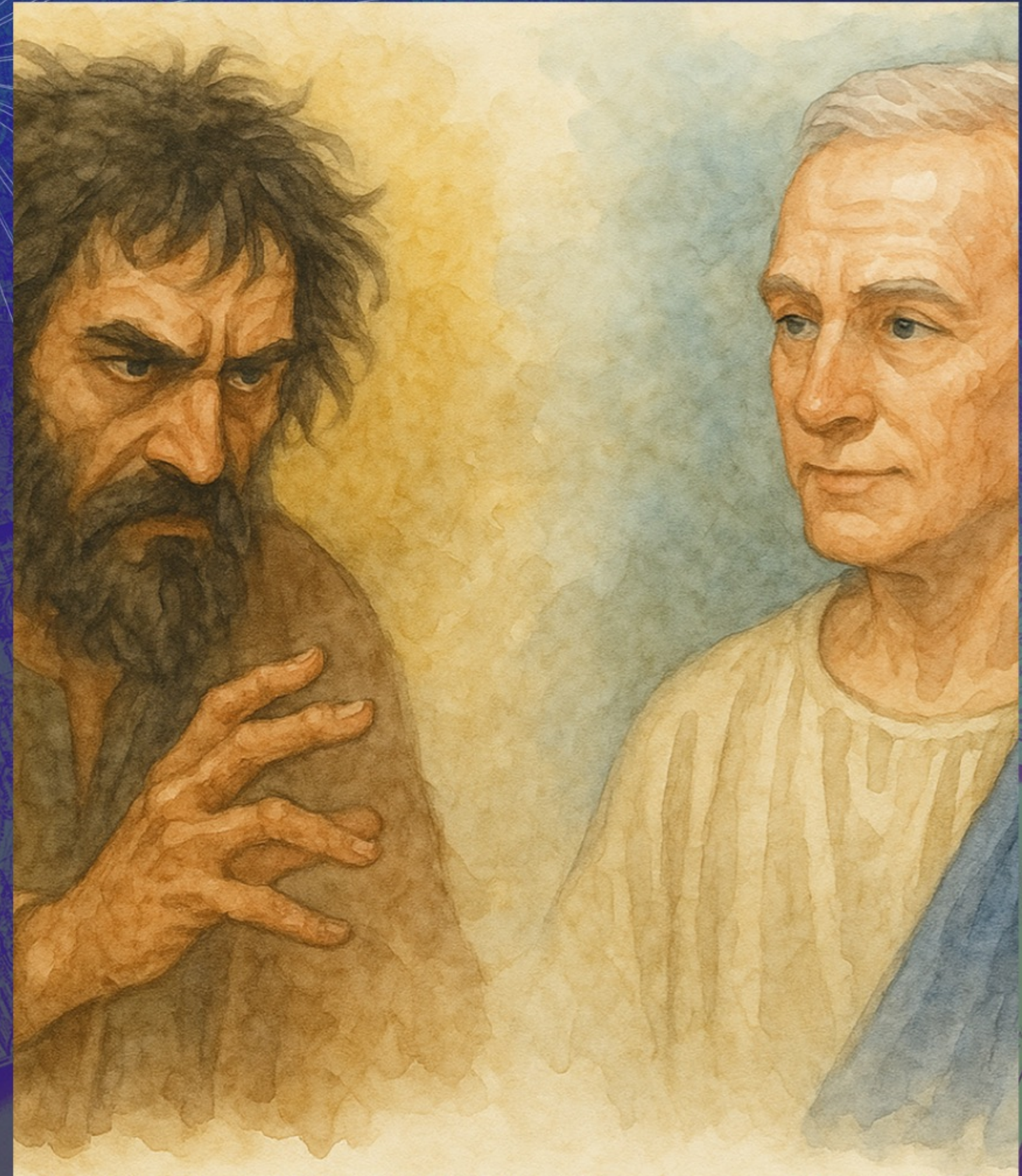
## *The Two Hearers*

### A. The Anti-Christ

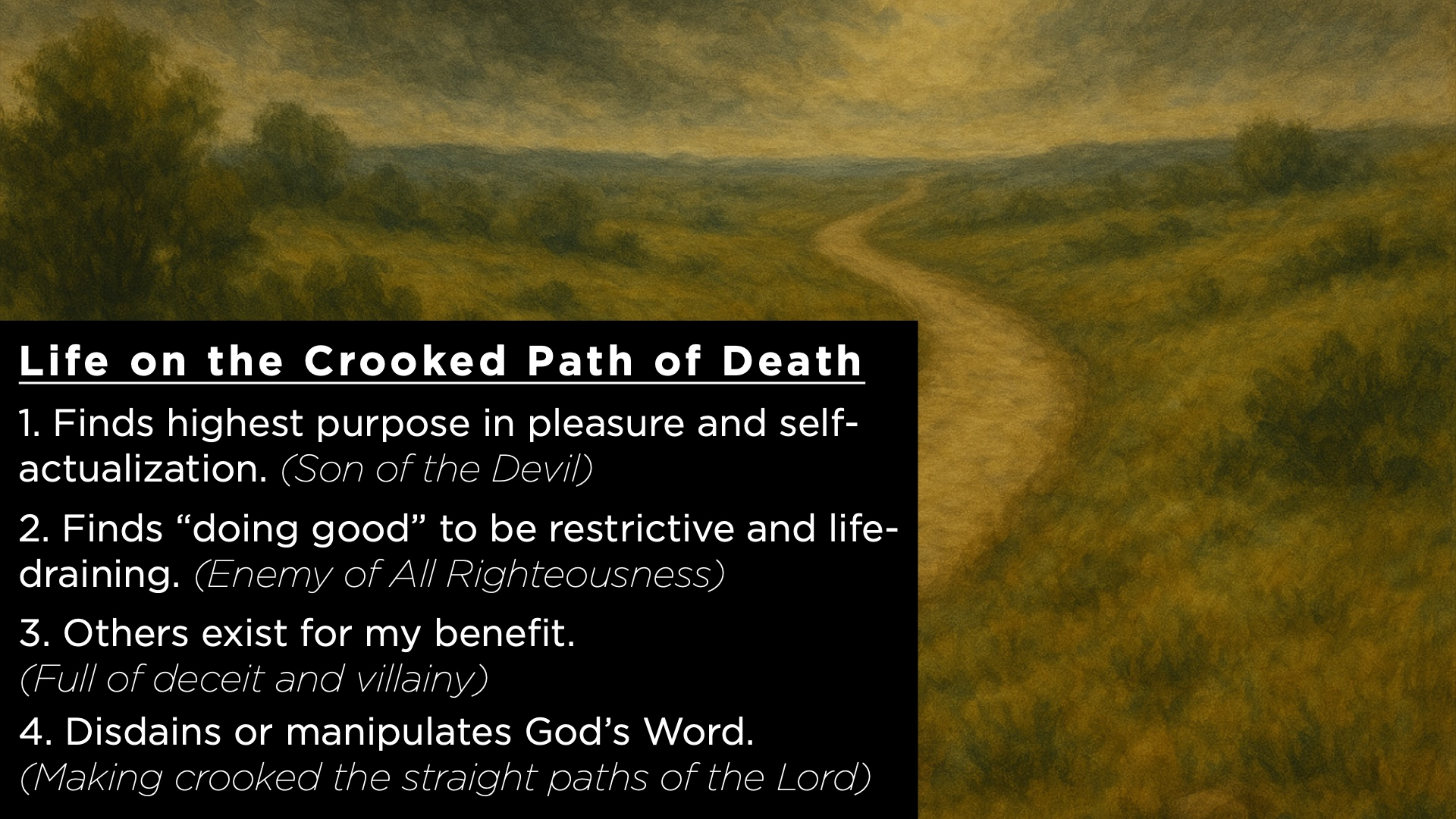
- Seeks influence over truth.
- Seeks power over repentance.
- Prides mystic experience over daily obedience.

### B. The Truth-Seeker

- Is intensely seeking truth, not causally entertained by it.
- A person who is interested not only in intellectual truth but in right and wrong.







## **Life on the Crooked Path of Death**

1. Finds highest purpose in pleasure and self-actualization. *(Son of the Devil)*
2. Finds “doing good” to be restrictive and life-draining. *(Enemy of All Righteousness)*
3. Others exist for my benefit.  
*(Full of deceit and villainy)*
4. Disdains or manipulates God’s Word.  
*(Making crooked the straight paths of the Lord)*





**ADDICTION**



**SEXUAL IMMORALITY**



**RELIGIOUS PRIDE**



# HOW DOES GOD STRAIGHTEN CROOKED PATHS?

## **PROVERBS 3:5-6**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

## **JOHN 14:6**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## **ISAIAH 40:3-5**

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."





## Life on the Straight Path of Life

1. Finds highest purpose in serving God and loving others. (*Matthew 22:37-39*)
2. Finds “doing good” to be peace-bringing and joyful. (*Proverbs 11:25*)
3. Sees everyone as an image-bearer of Christ. (*Philippians 2:3-4*)
4. Loves and treasures God’s Word. (*Psalms 19:7-8*)



# ACTS 13:11

*Grace in God's Punishment*

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun **for a time.**" Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.

**Every enemy of God is a potential brother or sister in Christ. As Paul once was. As you once were.**





# ACTS 13:12

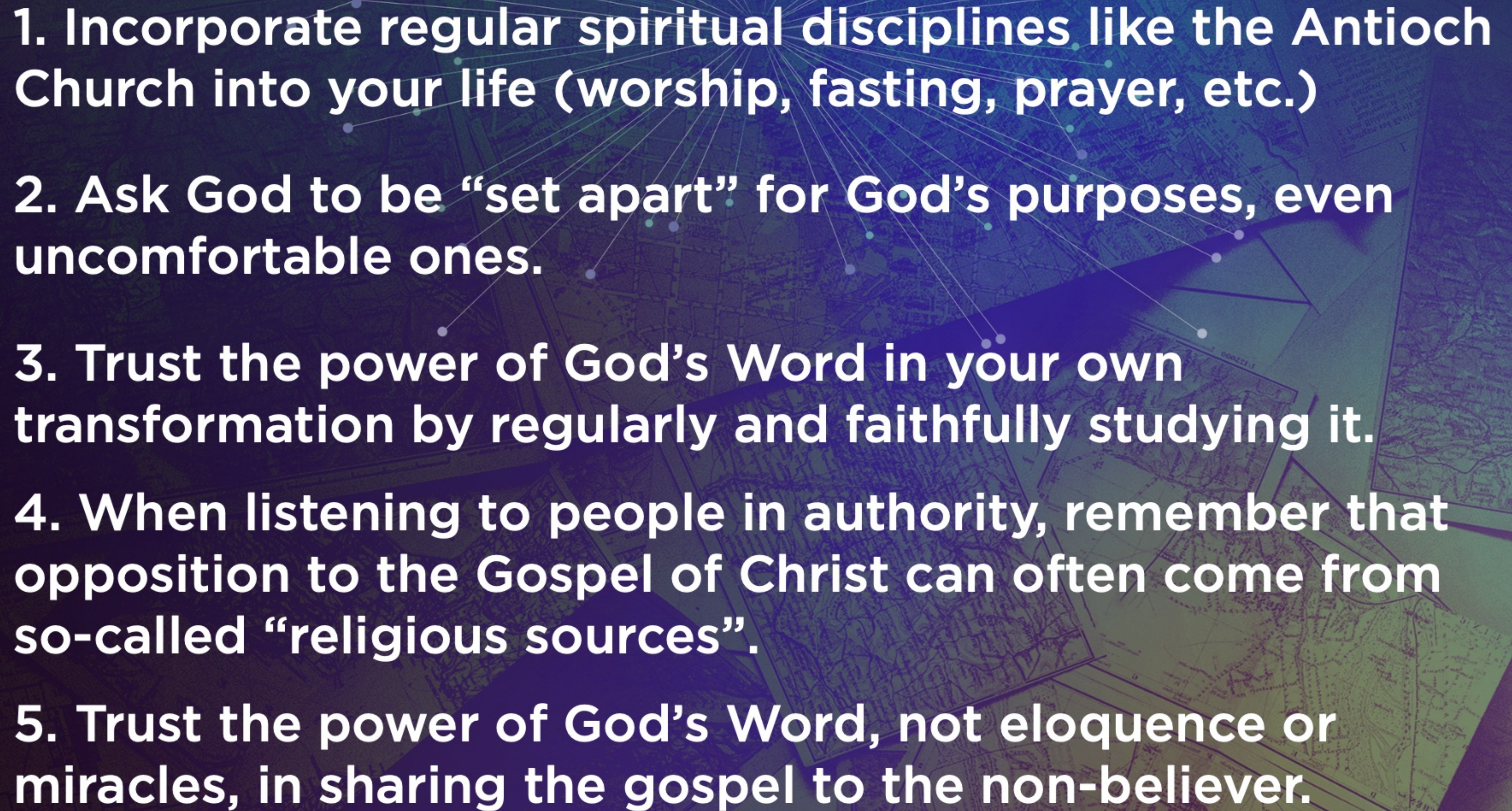
*The Victory of the Word*

Then the proconsul believed,  
when he saw what had  
occurred, for **he was  
astonished at the teaching of  
the Lord.**

**God's Word is what the Spirit uses  
to straighten crooked paths.**





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1. Incorporate regular spiritual disciplines like the Antioch Church into your life (worship, fasting, prayer, etc.)
  2. Ask God to be “set apart” for God’s purposes, even uncomfortable ones.
  3. Trust the power of God’s Word in your own transformation by regularly and faithfully studying it.
  4. When listening to people in authority, remember that opposition to the Gospel of Christ can often come from so-called “religious sources”.
  5. Trust the power of God’s Word, not eloquence or miracles, in sharing the gospel to the non-believer.