



**Evangelism, Apologetics,  
Discipleship and the  
Battle For Your Soul**

**By Dr. David Geisler**





# NGIM

**Mission:** To mentor leaders who seamlessly integrate a classical apologetic approach with evangelism and discipleship to cultivate Christ-first generations.

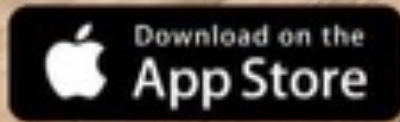
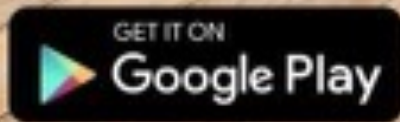
**Vision:** To be a catalyst for a global movement of applied apologetics to change the culture for Christ.



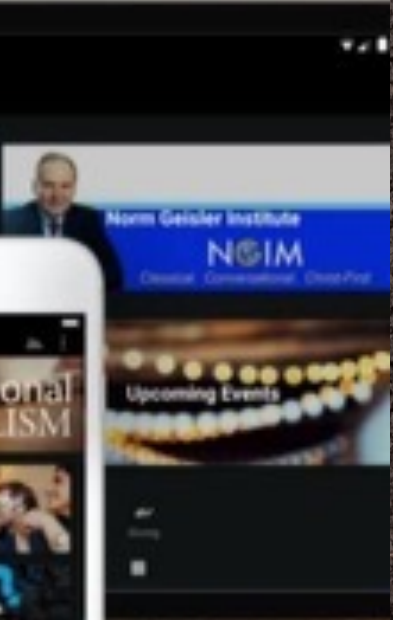
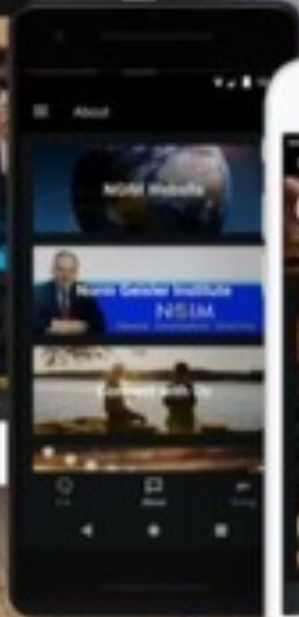


**Norm Geisler  
Int'l. Ministries**

Download our FREE app for  
at-a-glance evangelism tips!



**DOWNLOAD NOW**







NORM GEISLER

*Legacy Initiative*

“If we defend the gospel with our minds, but betray the gospel with our lives, the greatest intellectual defense of the gospel will fall to the ground!”

NCIM





NORM GEISLER:  
**NOT QUALIFIED**  
THE MOVIE





**Norm Geisler discovered in the  
60's and 70's...**

**The Biblical perspective about  
Faith, Reason, Apologetics, and  
Evangelism.**





**How many  
Christians in  
America  
understand the  
proper  
relationship  
between Faith  
and Reason?**





**That Apologetics bears on  
the question of "belief  
that" not "belief in."**



A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the soil fills the rest of the background.

**James 2:19 says that the demons  
“believe that” God does exist!**



A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the soil fills the rest of the background.

# IMPLICATIONS OF THIS TRUTH

You can't use Christian evidence to argue someone to accept Christ! (Lk. 16:31; Jn. 6:65; 1 Cor. 12:3)

“He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Luke 16:31 ESV



A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the soil fills the rest of the background.

## Implications of This Truth

You should "belief that"  
before you "believe in."



**Why are so many Christians confused about the part that apologetics should play in our witness to others?**







**We need to  
remember that  
the devil wants  
to silence our  
witness.**



The background of the slide features a close-up of golden wheat stalks on the left side, set against a dark, textured soil. A semi-transparent, light-colored rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text. The text is in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

## Examples in Scripture

Paul told the Thessalonians in 1 Thes. 2:18 that he desired to see them but “...Satan hindered us.”

Paul told the Ephesians “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, rich, granular soil. The lighting highlights the texture of the wheat and the individual grains of the soil.

# The Deception in Genesis 3

The devil told a half of a truth:

...your eyes will be opened...

...you will know good and evil

The lie he told:

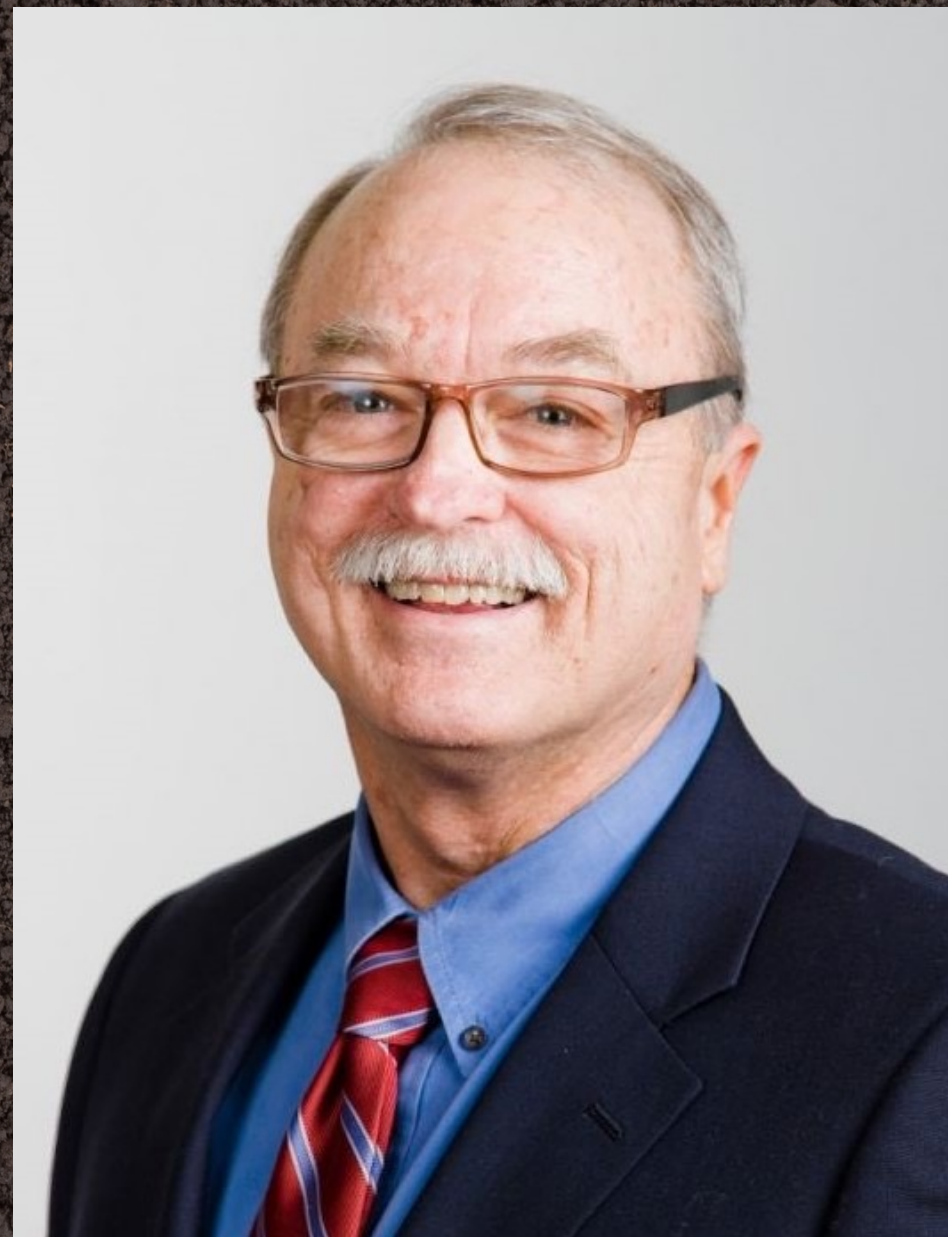
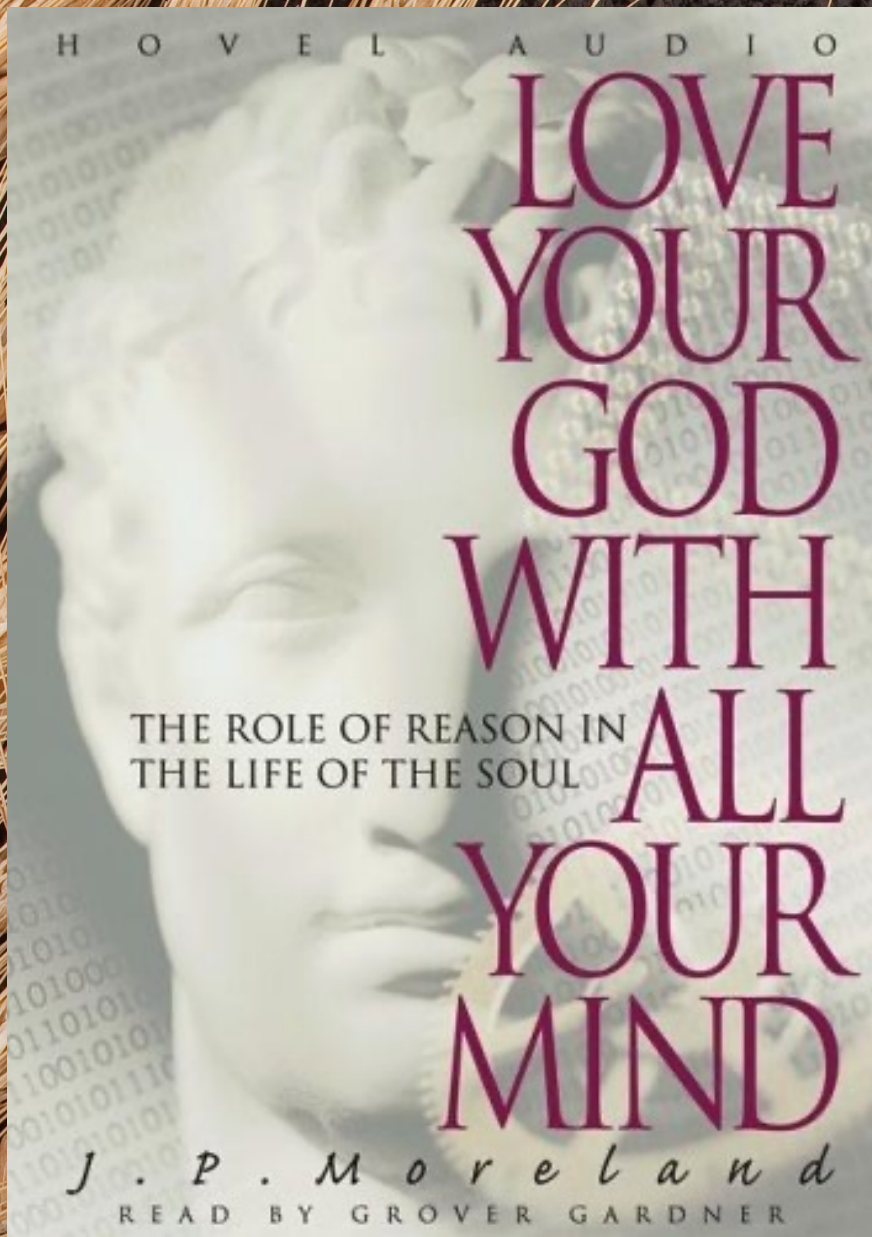
It will make you like God.





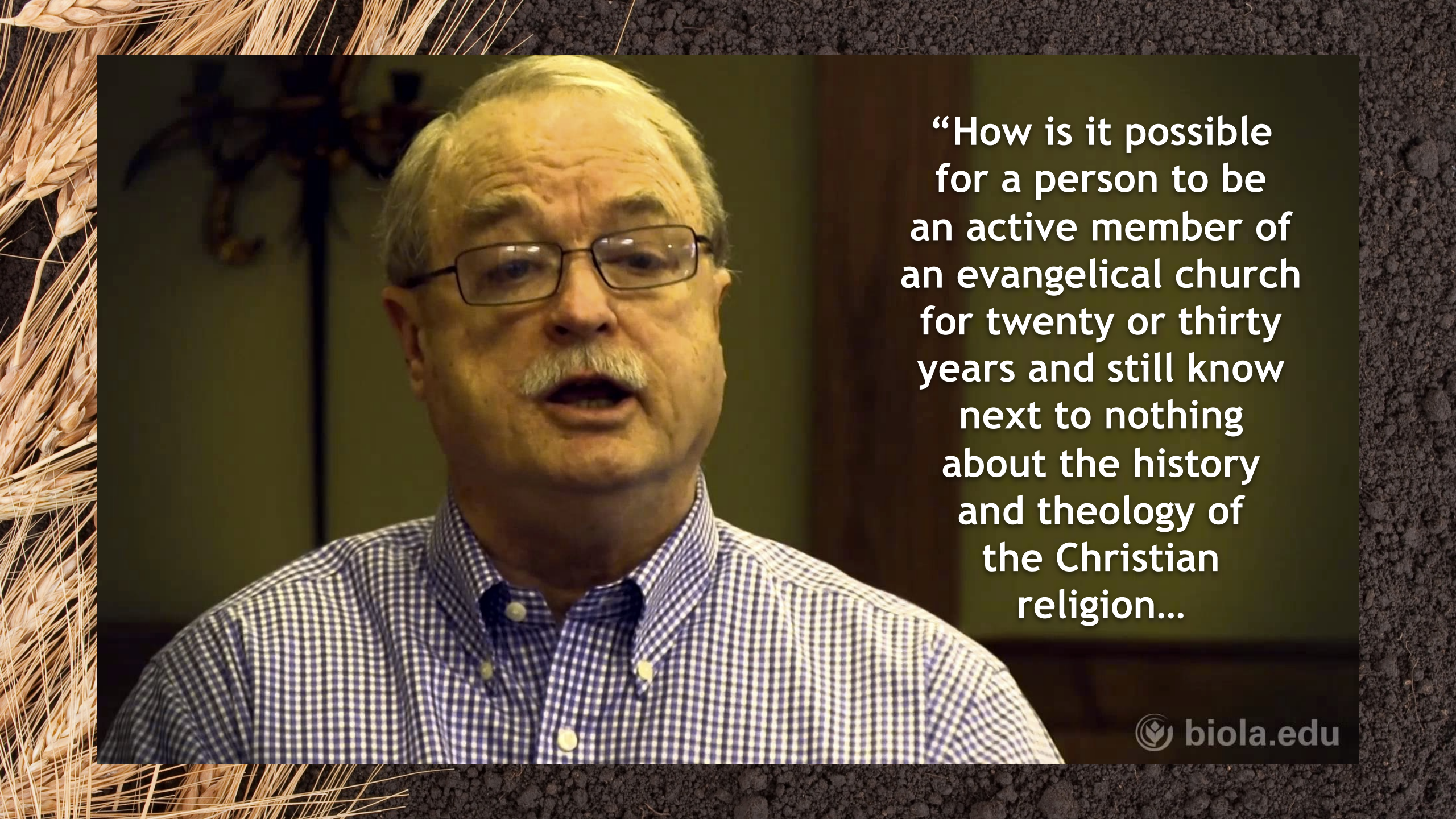
**The devil works hard to twist our understanding of scripture.**





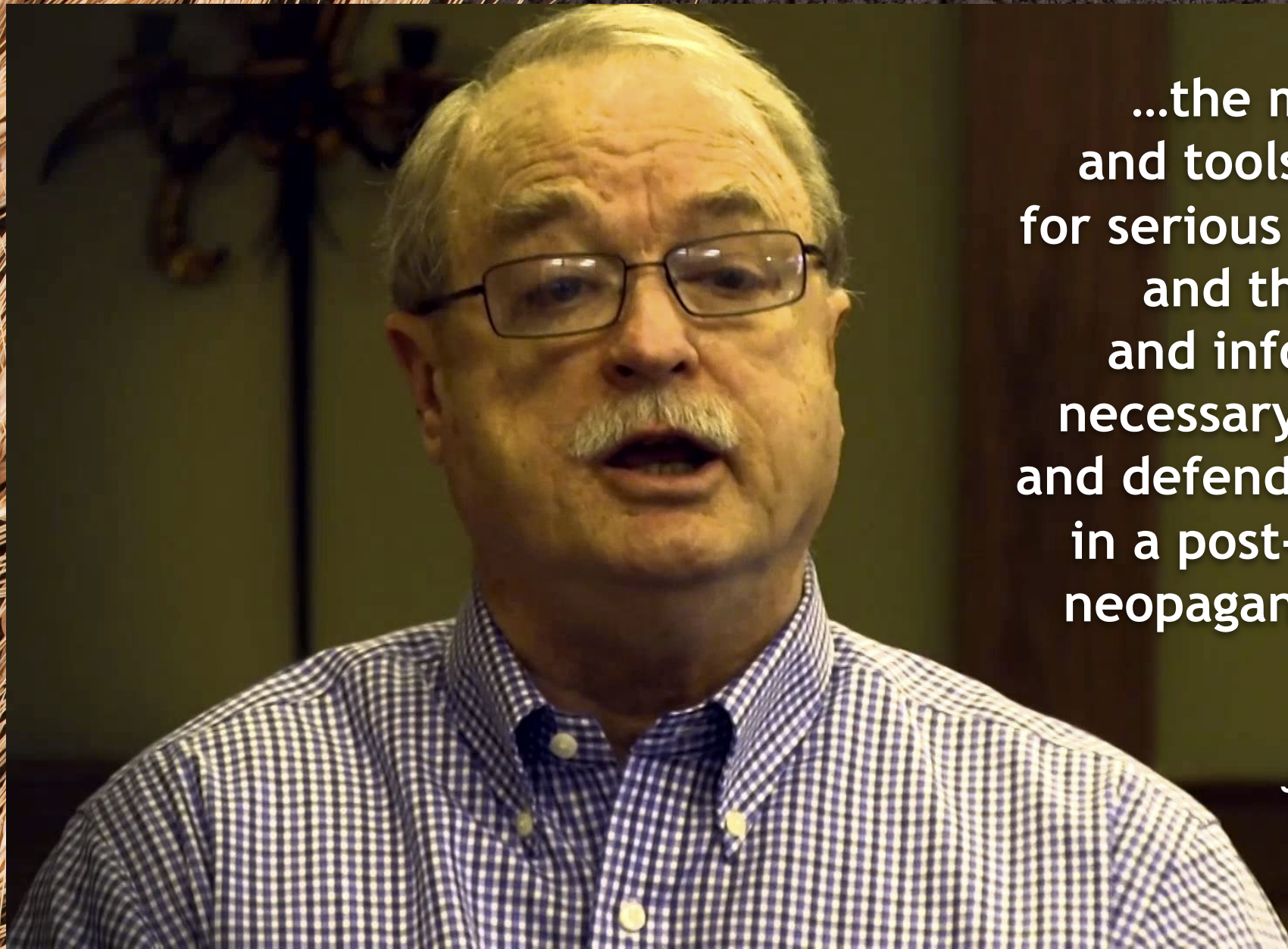
Dr. J. P. Moreland





**“How is it possible  
for a person to be  
an active member of  
an evangelical church  
for twenty or thirty  
years and still know  
next to nothing  
about the history  
and theology of  
the Christian  
religion...”**





...the methods  
and tools required  
for serious Bible study,  
and the skills  
and information  
necessary to preach  
and defend Christianity  
in a post-Christian,  
neopagan culture?”

J.P. Moreland, “Love  
Your God With All  
Your Mind,” p.188

 [biola.edu](https://www.biola.edu)



A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the soil fills the rest of the image. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the wheat and the granules of the soil.


**How do we keep the devil  
from silencing our witness?**





**a certain kind EVANGELISM,  
a certain kind of APOLOGETIC,  
and a certain kind of DISCIPLESHIP**





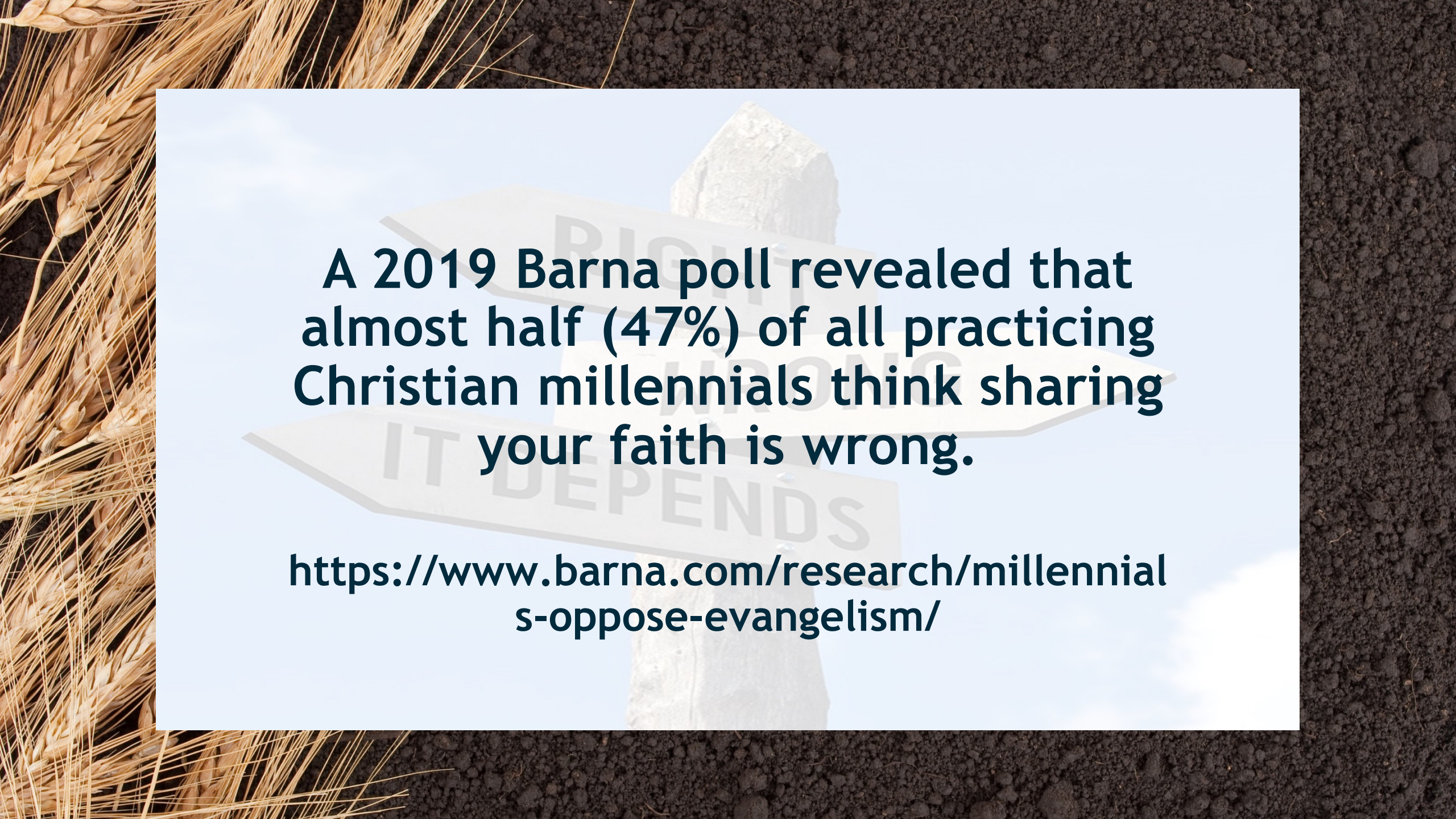
**A certain  
kind of evangelism**





**Remember the devil  
has a strategy to  
dilute our witness.**





**A 2019 Barna poll revealed that almost half (47%) of all practicing Christian millennials think sharing your faith is wrong.**

**<https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>**





**“Yet 94-97% agree that the best thing their friends and loved ones can do is come to faith in Jesus.”**

**<https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>**





**What Should We  
Conclude About  
These Findings?**



The background of the image is a dark, textured surface, possibly soil or gravel. On the left side, there are several golden wheat stalks. In the center, there is a wooden surface with a Bible resting on it. The Bible is open, and its pages are visible. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area.

***It's not that Christian Millennials  
don't want to share the good news...  
they just want a better method!***





**Part of the devil's strategy is to keep us from understanding the times we live!**




A hand holding a megaphone is shown in a faded, watermark-like style over a background of dark soil and golden wheat stalks. The megaphone is red and white, and the hand is white. The overall scene suggests a call to action or a message of hope and growth.

# **IF WE ARE GOING TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE TODAY**

**We need to be like  
the men of Issachar....**

**(1 Chronicles 12:32)**



The image features a close-up of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its stalks extending towards the center. The background is a dark, granular soil, providing a strong contrast to the bright yellow-gold of the wheat. The overall composition is simple and focuses on the natural elements of the crop.

**In 2019 the Barna Group asked 1,001 non-practicing Christians about the “qualities... they value in a person with whom they would talk about spiritual matters” and presented the following results:**





1. 62% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Listens without judgment.”
2. 50% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Does not force a conclusion.”
3. 43% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Allows others to draw their own conclusions.”
4. 29% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Demonstrates interest in other people’s story or life.”
5. 27% said they would talk to someone about faith who was “Good at asking questions.”

Barna Group, Reviving Evangelism, 2019, p.45



**THEN**  
Confrontational  
Rational Arguments  
Monologue Presentations  
Salesman Approach



**NOW**  
Conversational  
Relational Bridges  
Dialogue Conversations  
Co-Traveller Approach







## UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR A NEW WITNESSING MODEL ...

- will compel us to allow others to **discover the truth** for themselves by **asking thought-provoking questions** about what they say they believe.



To Maximize Our Questions...

Remember the Three D's of  
Conversational Evangelism?

**D**OUBT

**D**EFENSIVENESS

**D**ESIRE







**We also need to add apologetics  
to our evangelism,  
  
but it needs to be  
a certain kind of apologetics.**



# Examples from my own life

**APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM  
GO HAND IN HAND**



**APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM**



# A conversation with a Japanese scientist





# A conversation with a Japanese scientist



**His Response:**

**There does seem to be some evidence for an intelligent Creator!**



# A conversation with a Japanese scientist



**My Response:**

If there is a Creator, do you see how we may be accountable to this Creator in some way?





# **BUILDING A BRIDGE USING THE FIVE PLANKS**

- 1. “I am accountable.”**
- 2. “I cannot measure up.”**
- 3. “I am a sinner.”**
- 4. “I need an outside source for help.”**
- 5. “I need what only Jesus can give.”**



# A conversation with a professed atheist

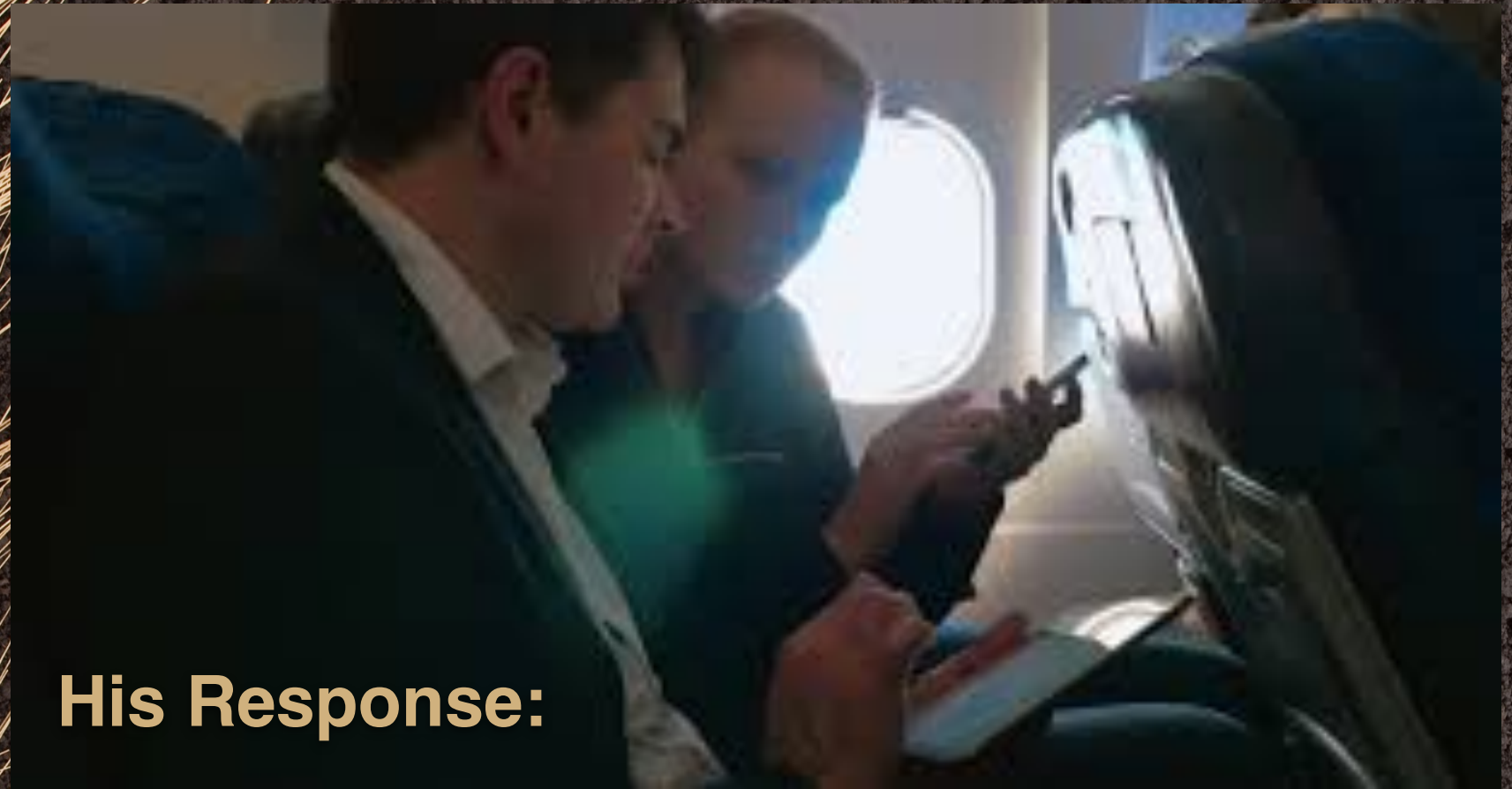


**My Response:**

Do you think there is more evidence for an intelligent creator than say 20-30 years ago?



**A conversation with a professed atheist**



**His Response:**

**Well...maybe.**





# **BUILDING A BRIDGE USING THE FIVE PLANKS**

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# A conversation with a professed atheist



**His Proclamation:**

**I think our country is  
going in the wrong direction!**



# A conversation with a professed atheist



**His Response:**

I think we need to get back to our founding forefather's values!



# A conversation with a professed atheist



**My Response:**

**Do you mean like Christian values?**



**Moving from a general conversation  
to a spiritual conversation!**



**My Response:**

**I believe that there is one question  
that we must all come to some kind of  
conclusion about before we die!**



**Is there a Creator? And if so, am I accountable to this Creator in some way?**







# **BUILDING A BRIDGE USING THE FIVE PLANKS**

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## 12 STEPS IN ESTABLISHING THE CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
  - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
  - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
  - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

See *Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered at: [www.ngim.org](http://www.ngim.org)



# INCREASE YOUR CONNECTION!

Witnessing w/o  
apologetics



Witnessing with  
apologetics







**Remember that  
an evidential  
approach may  
not always be  
very effective.**





## Witnessing to a Hindu

Personal Example:

“I believe we all have the power to do what Jesus did.”

Hindu Grad Student, University of Texas at Austin



**JESUS HAD A TWIN BROTHER**

**“...it’s more likely  
(that Jesus had  
a twin brother)  
than the idea that  
God raised Jesus  
from the dead...”**

**William Lane Craig vs Bart Ehrman  
College of the Holy Cross,**

**Worcester, Massachusetts, United States – March 2006**







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## WHAT IF THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN OBJECT TRUTH...?

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## WHAT IF THEY BELIEVE ALL RELIGIONS ARE THE SAME...?

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. **The opposite of true is false.**
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## WHAT IF THEY BELIEVE IN OBJECT TRUTH BUT NOT A THEISTIC GOD?

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. **It is true that the theistic God exists.**
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
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The Bottom Line:

**Adding a classical apologetics approach to your faith is critical, especially in your witness today!**



APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM  
GO HAND IN HAND



APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM





Some things just go  
**TOGETHER!**



A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the soil fills the rest of the image.

**MY DAUGHTER RACHEL AT AGE 10**

<https://youtu.be/eKkgjhlTpbA>



# God Wants All of Us to Defend the Truth of the Christian Faith







**An evidential approach may  
not always be very effective!**



# INCREASE YOUR CONNECTION!

Witnessing w/o  
apologetics



Witnessing with too  
much apologetics



Witnessing with  
lite apologetics



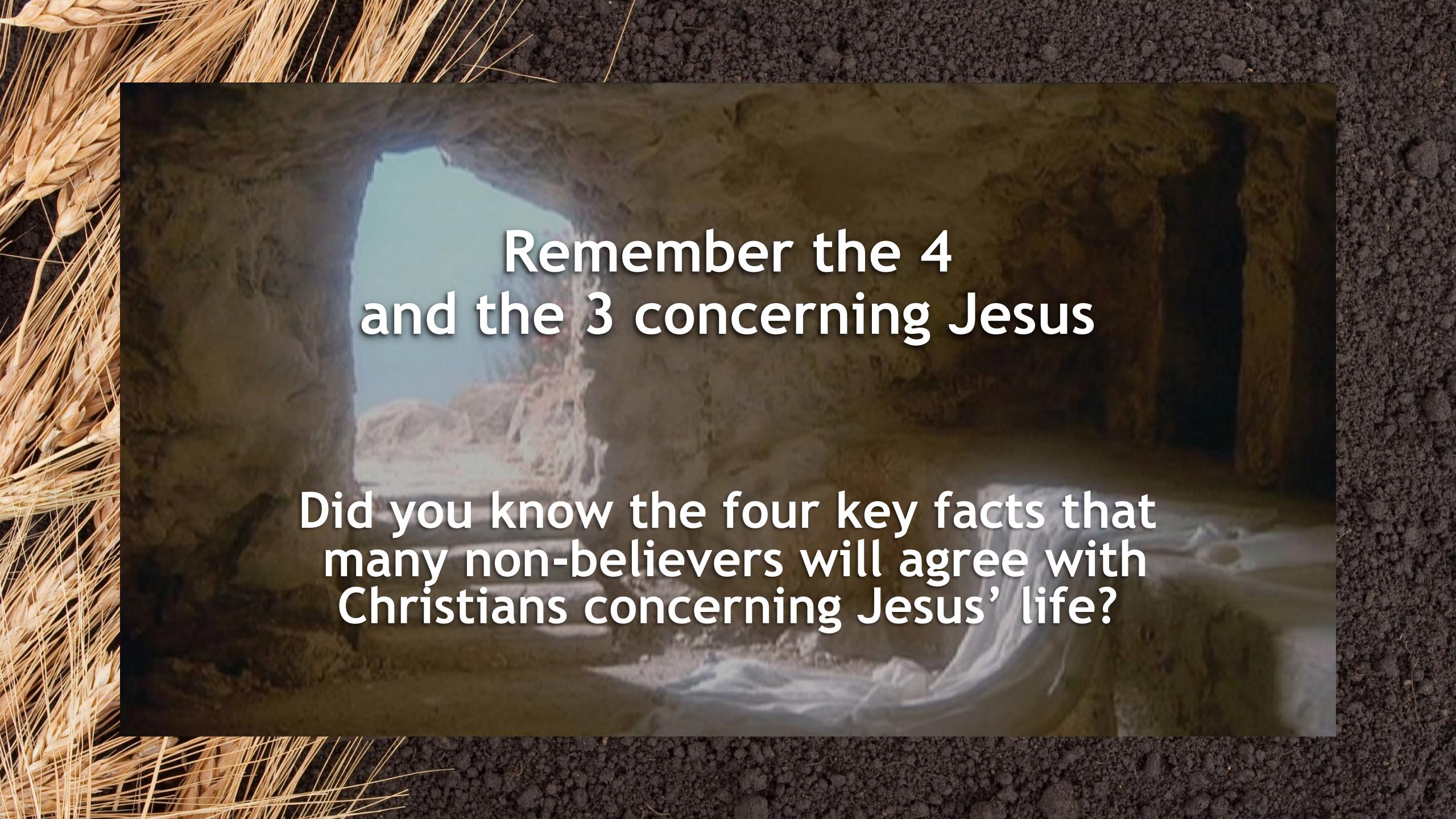
NGIM





# **But Why Should We Trust Jesus?**

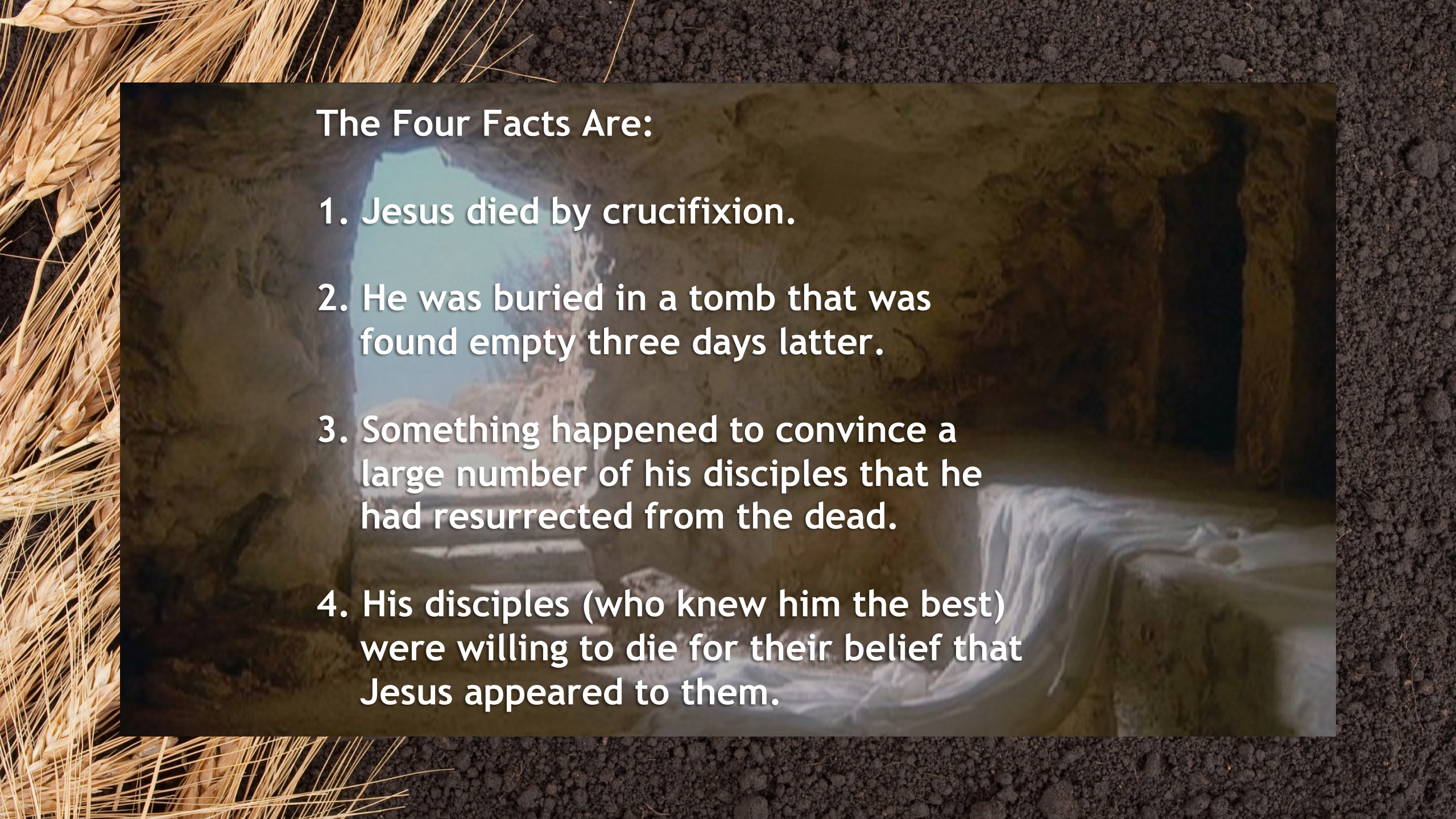




**Remember the 4  
and the 3 concerning Jesus**

**Did you know the four key facts that  
many non-believers will agree with  
Christians concerning Jesus' life?**





## The Four Facts Are:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. He was buried in a tomb that was found empty three days latter.
3. Something happened to convince a large number of his disciples that he had resurrected from the dead.
4. His disciples (who knew him the best) were willing to die for their belief that Jesus appeared to them.

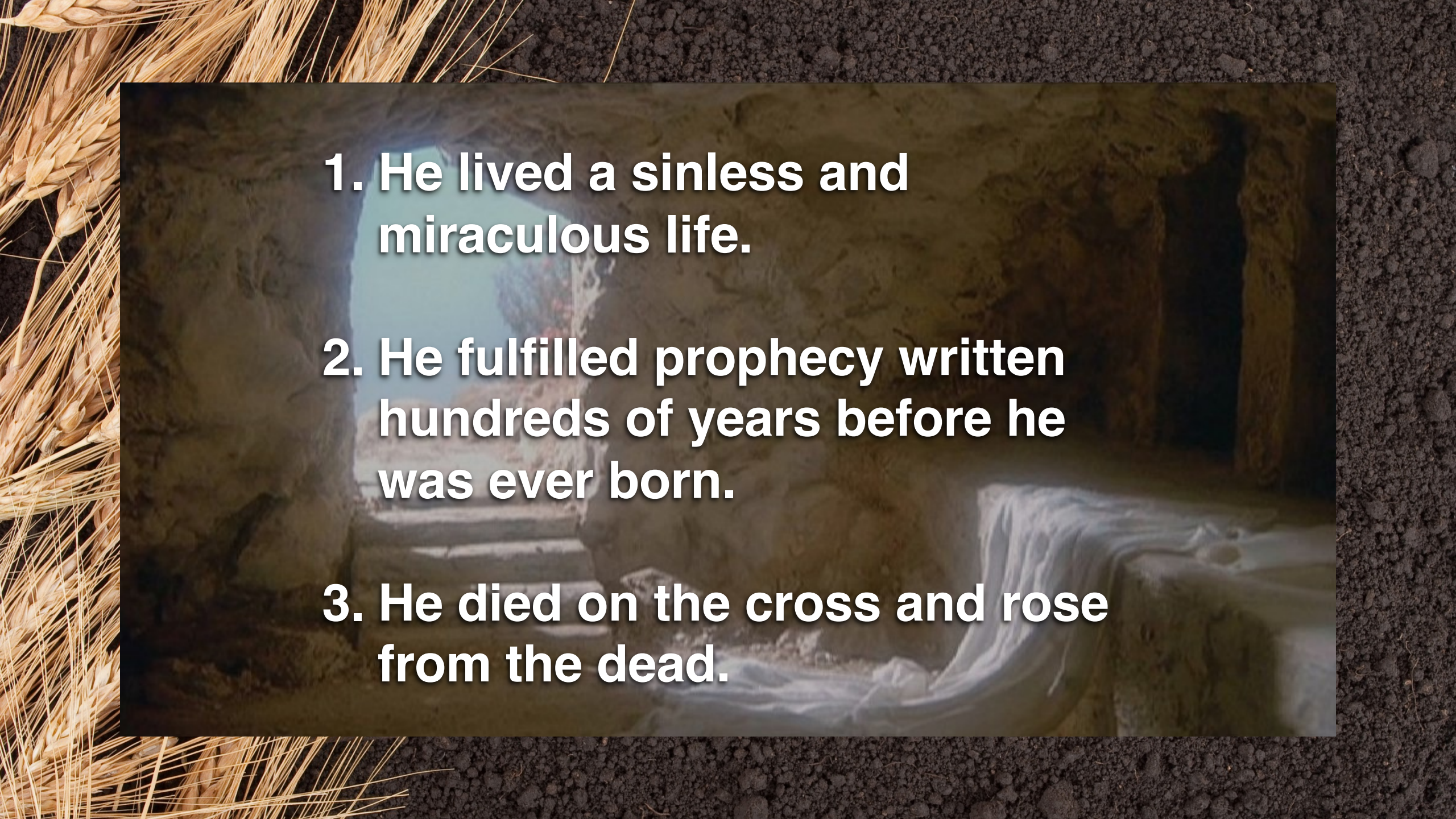


A person wearing a white robe is standing in the entrance of a tomb. The scene is dramatically lit from behind, creating a bright, glowing effect. The tomb's interior is dark and textured, with stone walls and steps leading down. The overall atmosphere is one of mystery and divine light.


**Did you know that...**

**...there are three  
things that Jesus did to  
prove that He was God!**




- 
- The background of the slide is a photograph of an open tomb. The tomb is a simple, rectangular structure made of light-colored stone or earth. The entrance is a dark, rectangular opening. Inside the tomb, a white, translucent cloth is draped over the floor, suggesting it has been removed. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright light source from the left, creating a strong contrast and highlighting the texture of the stone and the cloth. The overall mood is solemn and significant.
- 1. He lived a sinless and miraculous life.**
  - 2. He fulfilled prophecy written hundreds of years before he was ever born.**
  - 3. He died on the cross and rose from the dead.**





We also need to add a **certain kind** of **DISCIPLESHIP** to our evangelism and apologetics if we are going to be fruitful disciples of Christ in the culture we live in today.



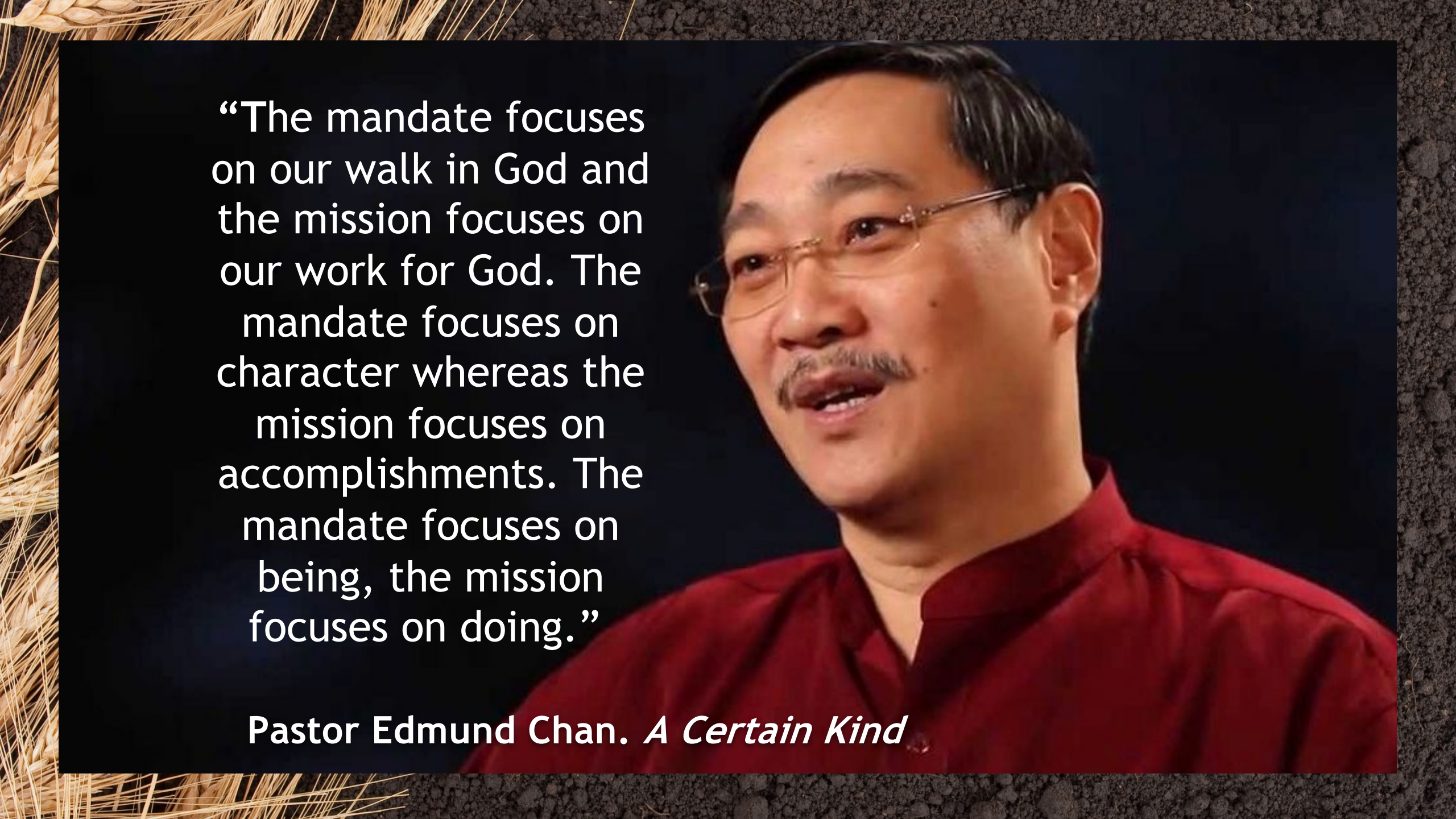


“The Mandate  
should precede  
the mission.”

*A Certain Kind, p. 112*

**Rev. Edmund Chan**





“The mandate focuses on our walk in God and the mission focuses on our work for God. The mandate focuses on character whereas the mission focuses on accomplishments. The mandate focuses on being, the mission focuses on doing.”

Pastor Edmund Chan. *A Certain Kind*





**Remember the devil's strategy is to get us focused only on the mission and neglect the mandate!**





**R**OOTED

**R**ESTED


**R**EADY

**R**EACHING

# DISCIPLESHIP

To be truly effective in witnessing today  
we need to remember the 4 R's of discipleship



A composite image featuring a man in a black shirt with red tape covering his mouth, looking to the right. To the left, there are several golden wheat stalks. The background is a dark, textured surface resembling soil. A semi-transparent grey box contains white text.

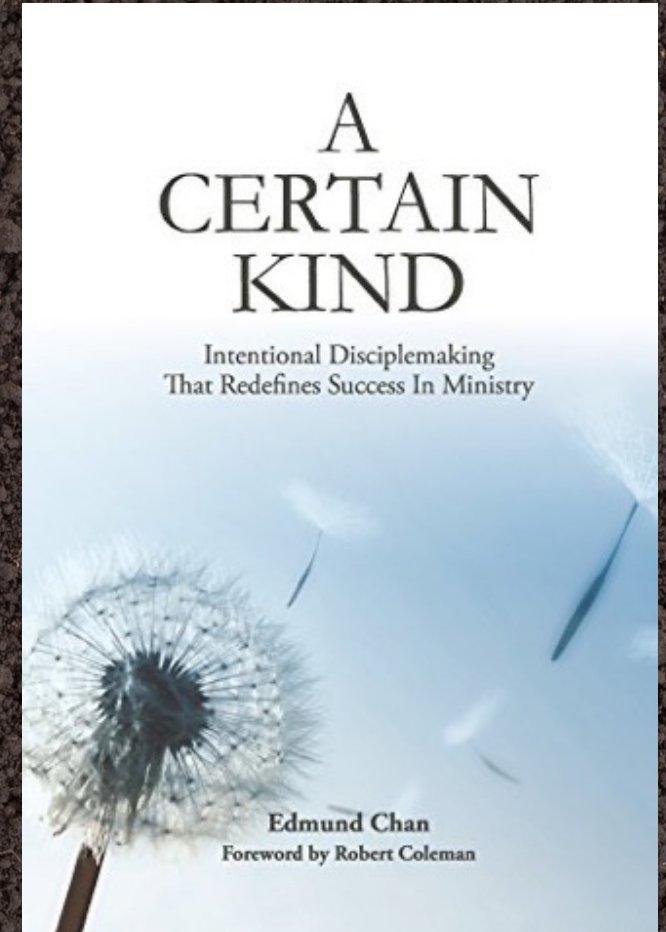
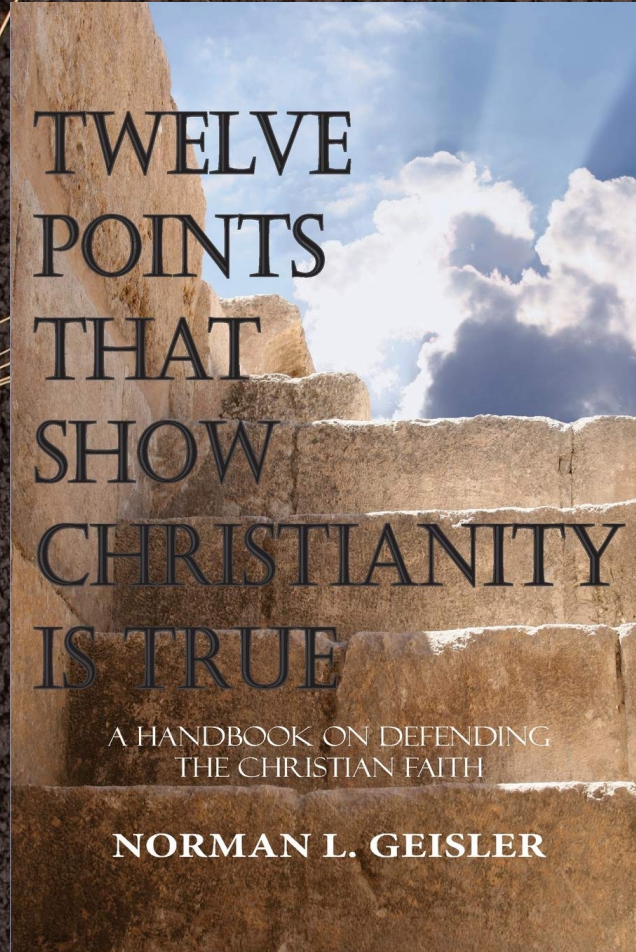
What can you  
and I do to keep  
from being  
silenced in our  
witness today?





**The integration of  
a certain kind of evangelism,  
a certain kind of apologetics,  
and a certain kind of discipleship.**









*The devil has a plan to distort the truth in order to weaken our faith and dilute our witness.*

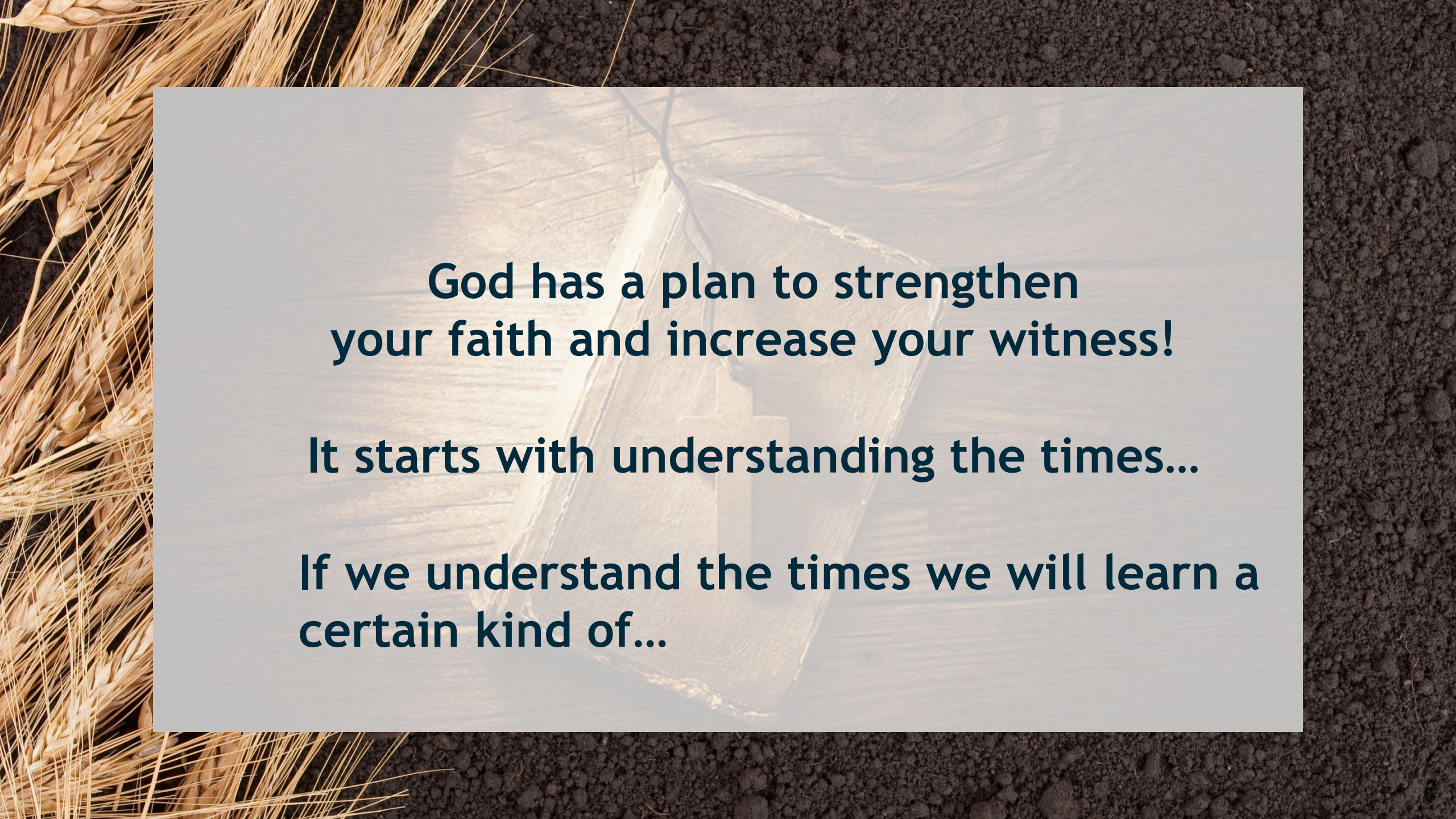




**Jesus said to the Apostle Peter in Luke 22:31**

**“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail...”**





**God has a plan to strengthen  
your faith and increase your witness!**

**It starts with understanding the times...**

**If we understand the times we will learn a  
certain kind of...**





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