

Our Walk and Witness



Apologetics,
Evangelism,
and Disciple-

Apologetics, Evangelism,
and Discipleship

For we live by faith, not
by sight. • For we live by
faith, not by sight. • For
we live by faith, not by

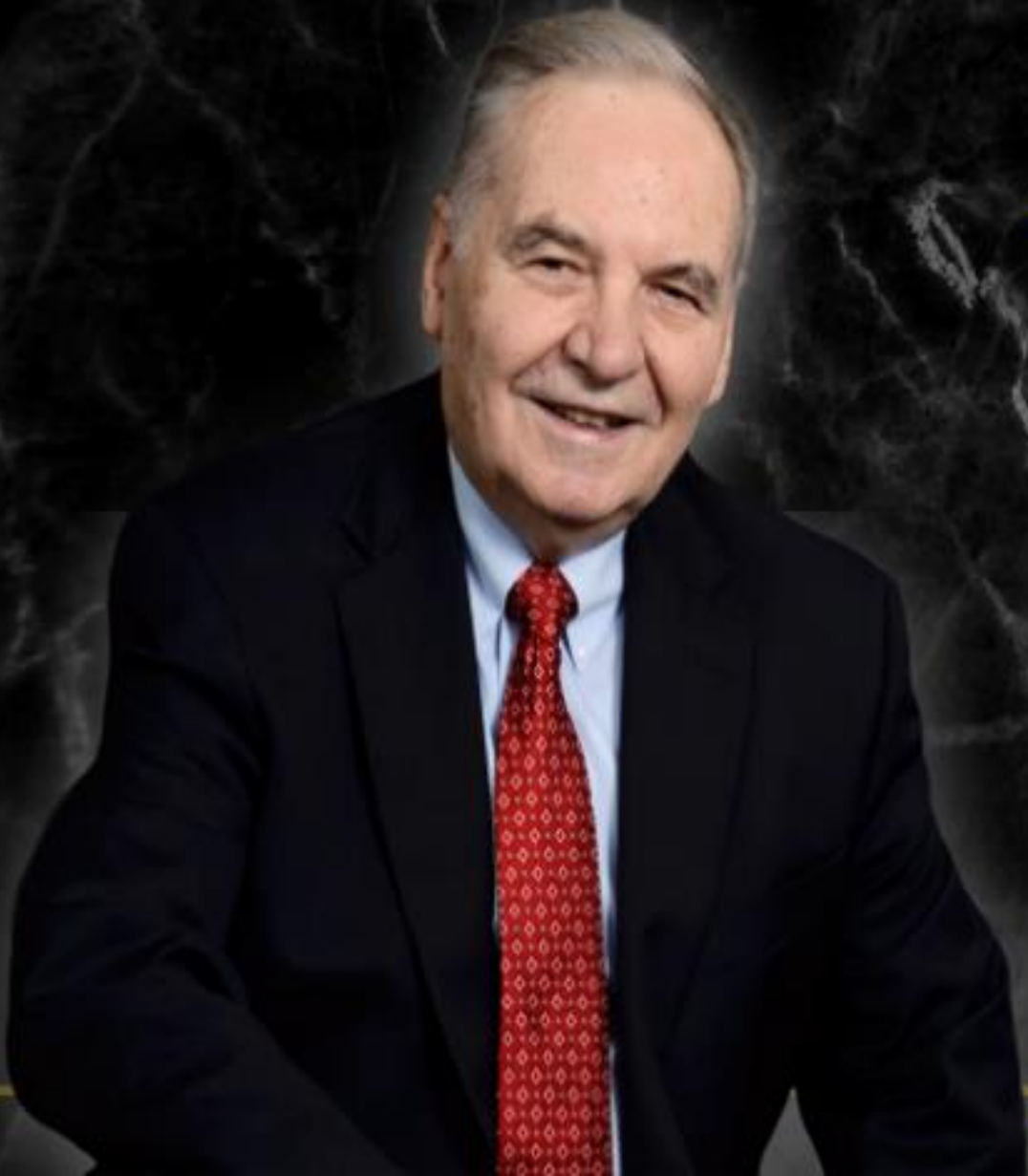
THEY'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER

Discipleship

Apologetics

Evangelism

NGIM

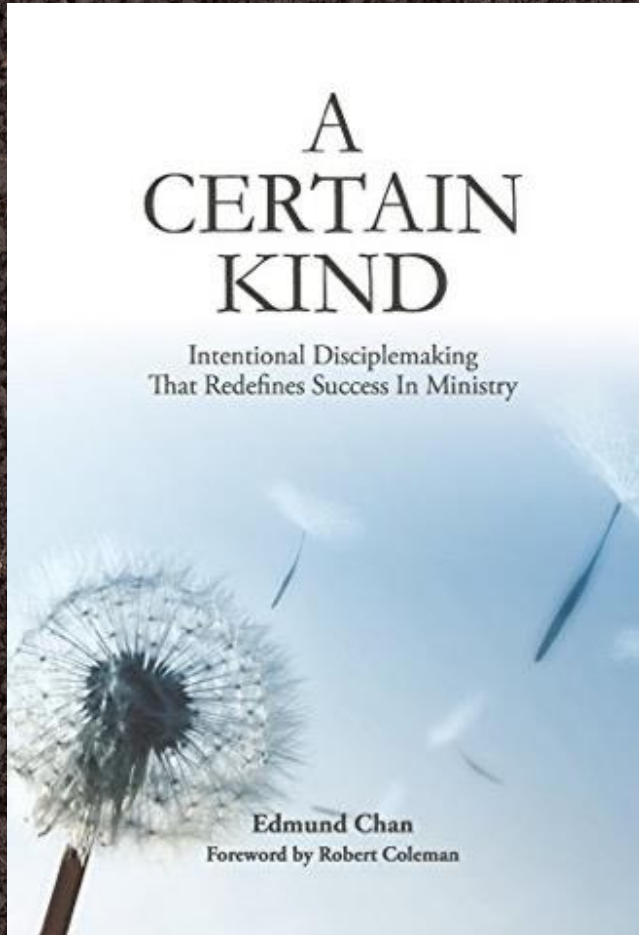
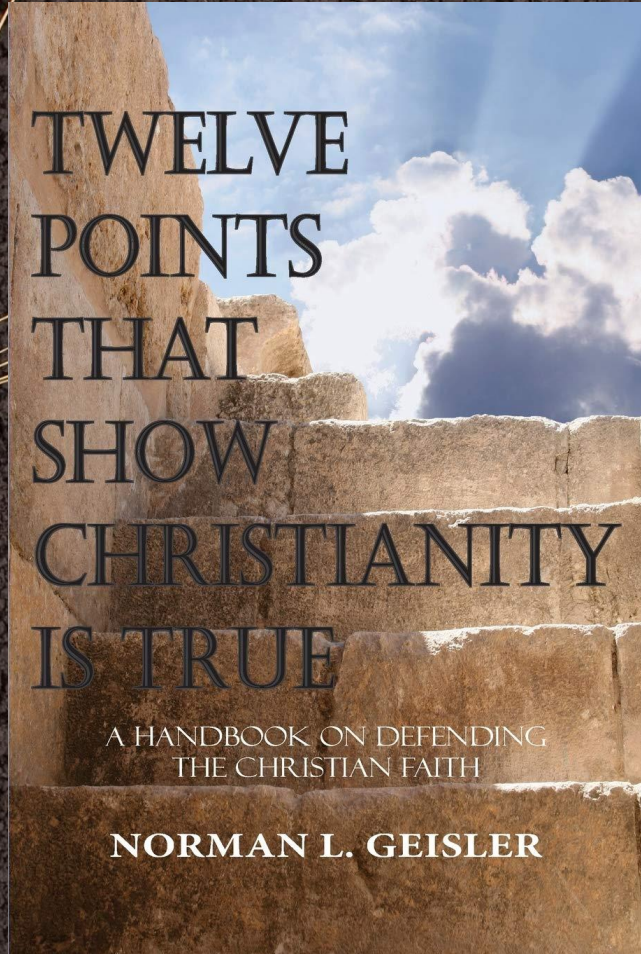
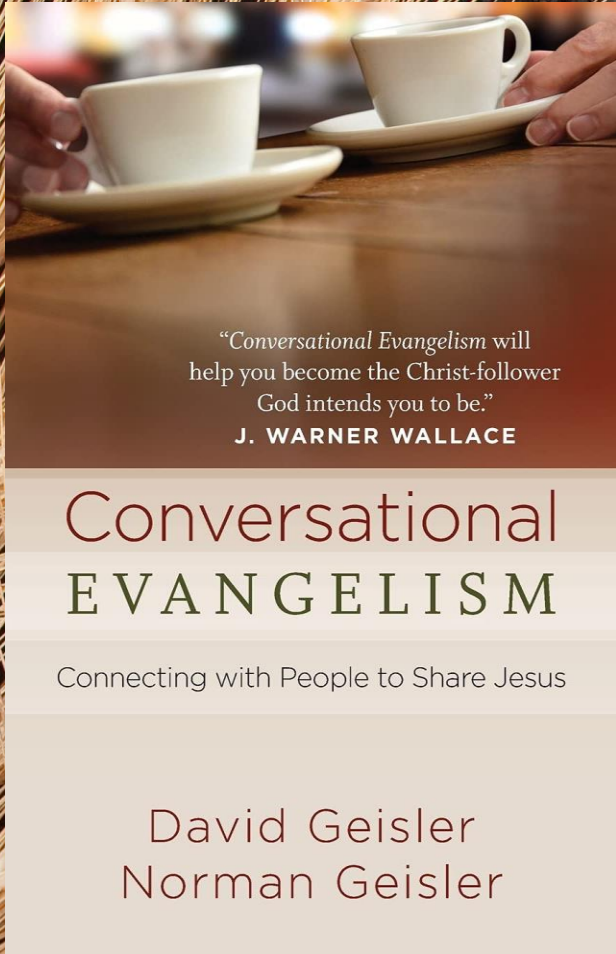


NORM GEISLER

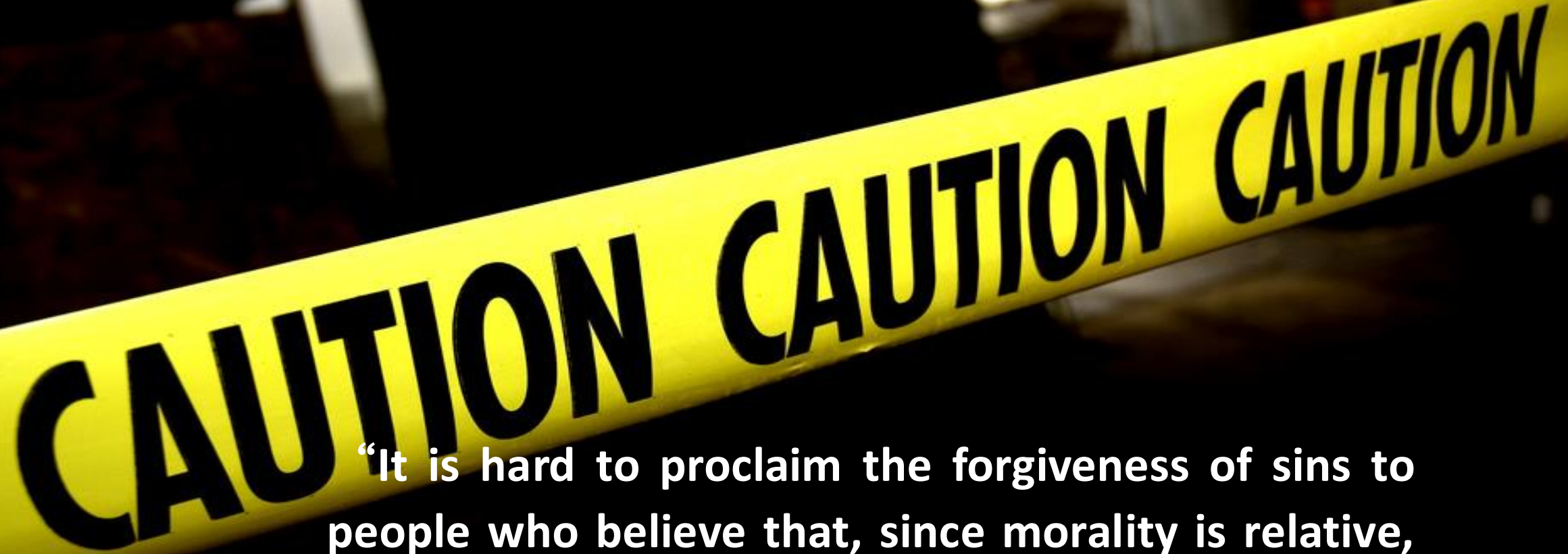
Legacy Initiative

“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!”

NGIM



The kind of world we live in



CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

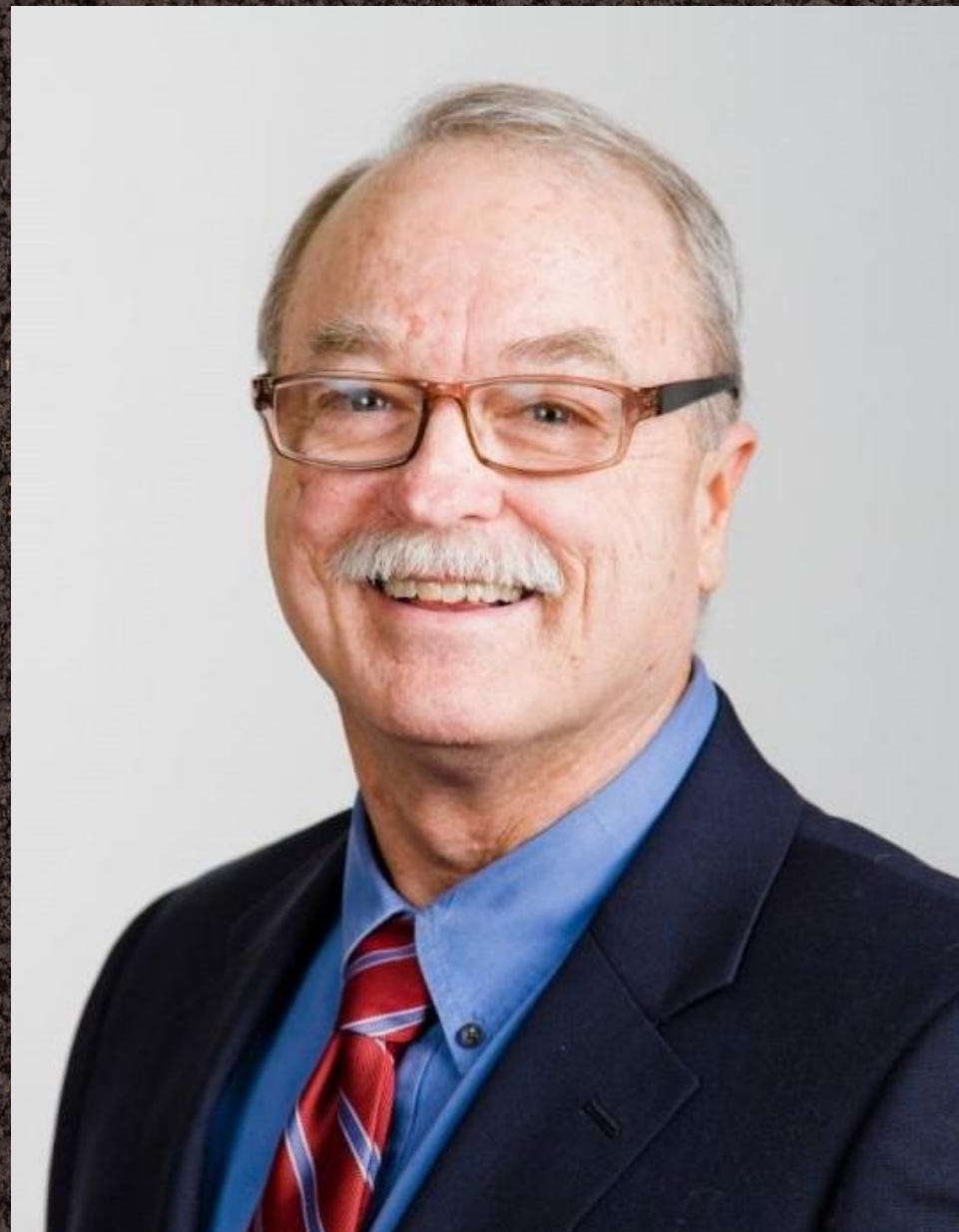
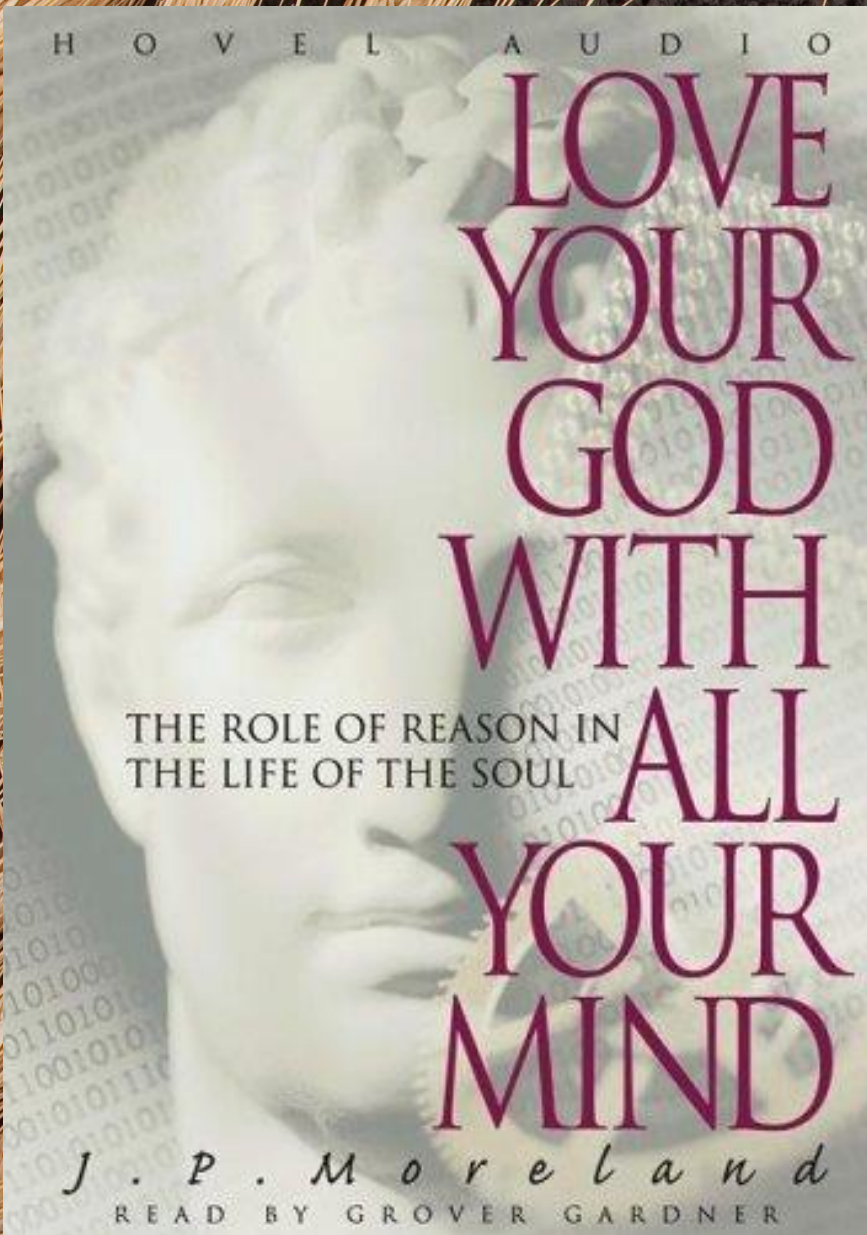
“It is hard to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to people who believe that, since morality is relative, they have no sins to forgive.”

- Gene Veith, *Postmodern Times*, p.16



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.”**



Dr. J. P. Moreland



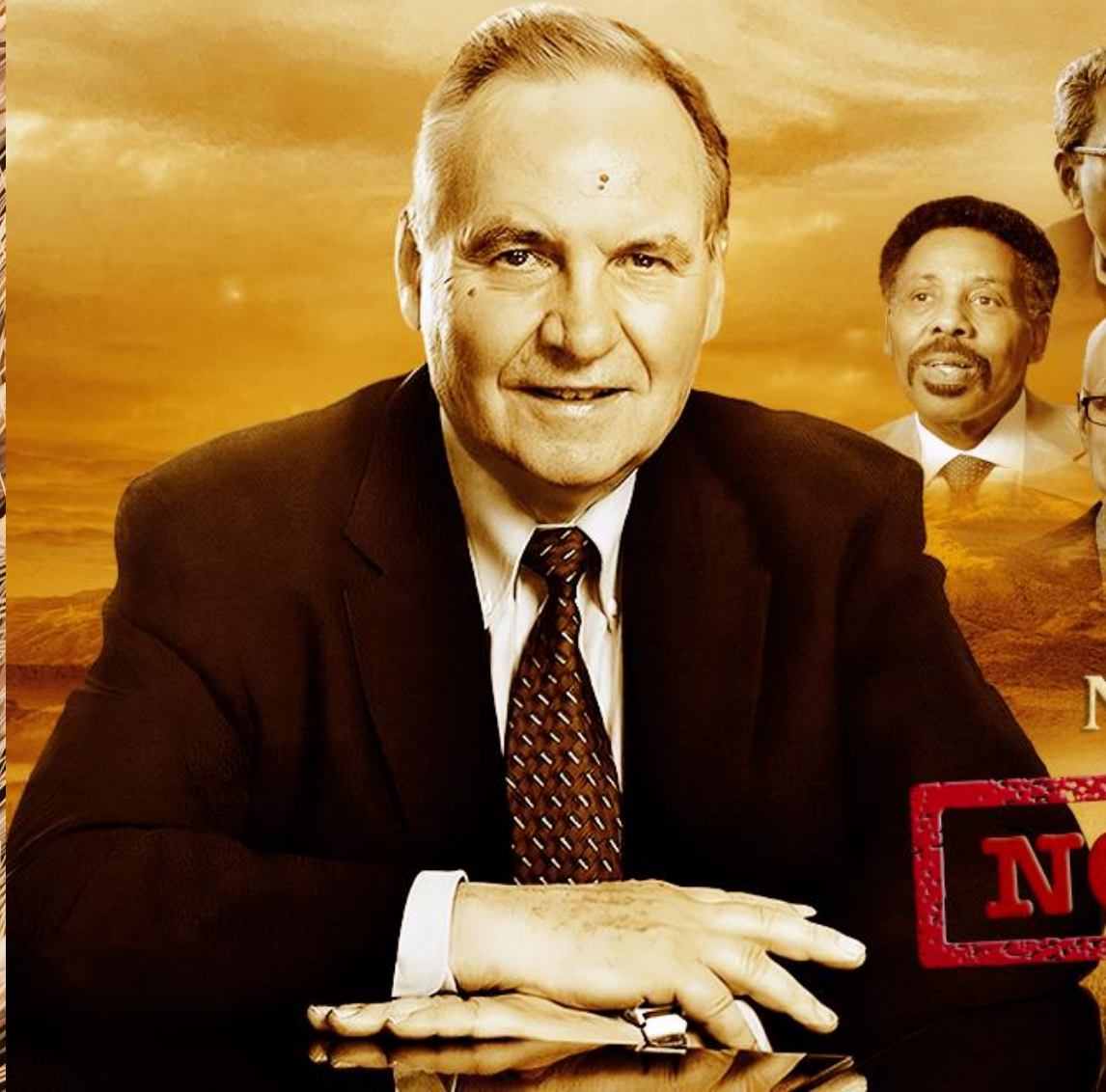
**“How is it possible
for a person to be
an active member of
an evangelical church
for twenty or thirty
years and still know
next to nothing
about the history
and theology of
the Christian religion,
J.P. Moreland, “Love Your God
With All Your Mind,” p.188**



**...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**

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

NOT QUALIFIED

Important Things To Know About Our Faith

1. Biblical faith must have an object to be valid (1 Cor. 15:14, 19).
2. Our faith is not a blind faith (1 Kings 18:21, 36 – 39) but it is a faith with reason (Mk12:30).
3. It is a faith that is supported by evidence (1 Jn. 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:6).
4. Our subjective experience of Christ is only valid if it corresponds to the objective truth of the existence of God and the resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 8:16; Jn. 16:8-9; Ecl. 3:11; Rom. 1:18-20; 1 Cor. 15:3-6; 1 Cor. 15: 14,17, 19).
5. The bible makes an important distinction between “belief that” and “belief in” (Js. 2:19; Acts 14:1; Jn. 6:65; 1 Cor. 2:14). As a result, we can go to church all our life and “belief that” Jesus is the promised Messiah and still not be a Christian.
6. Our faith goes deeper than knowing things about God (Phil. 3:10).
7. In better understanding our faith, we need to remember that God’s truth goes beyond reason but never against reason (2 Cor. 1:18; Titus 1:9).
8. God’s truth can be a mystery (1 Corinthians 2:6-8).
9. I can trust God for what I don’t know because of what He’s revealed to me that I do know (Rom. 1:18-21; Rom. 2:14-15; Heb. 11:1 ; Rev. 21:4).
10. Christianity is a system of truth with no error in essential beliefs (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5). All other religions in the world are a system of error that contain occasional truths.

A World View Shift

“...a major cause of our current crisis consists of a world view shift from a Judeo-Christian understanding of reality to a post-Christian one.”

J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, p.21



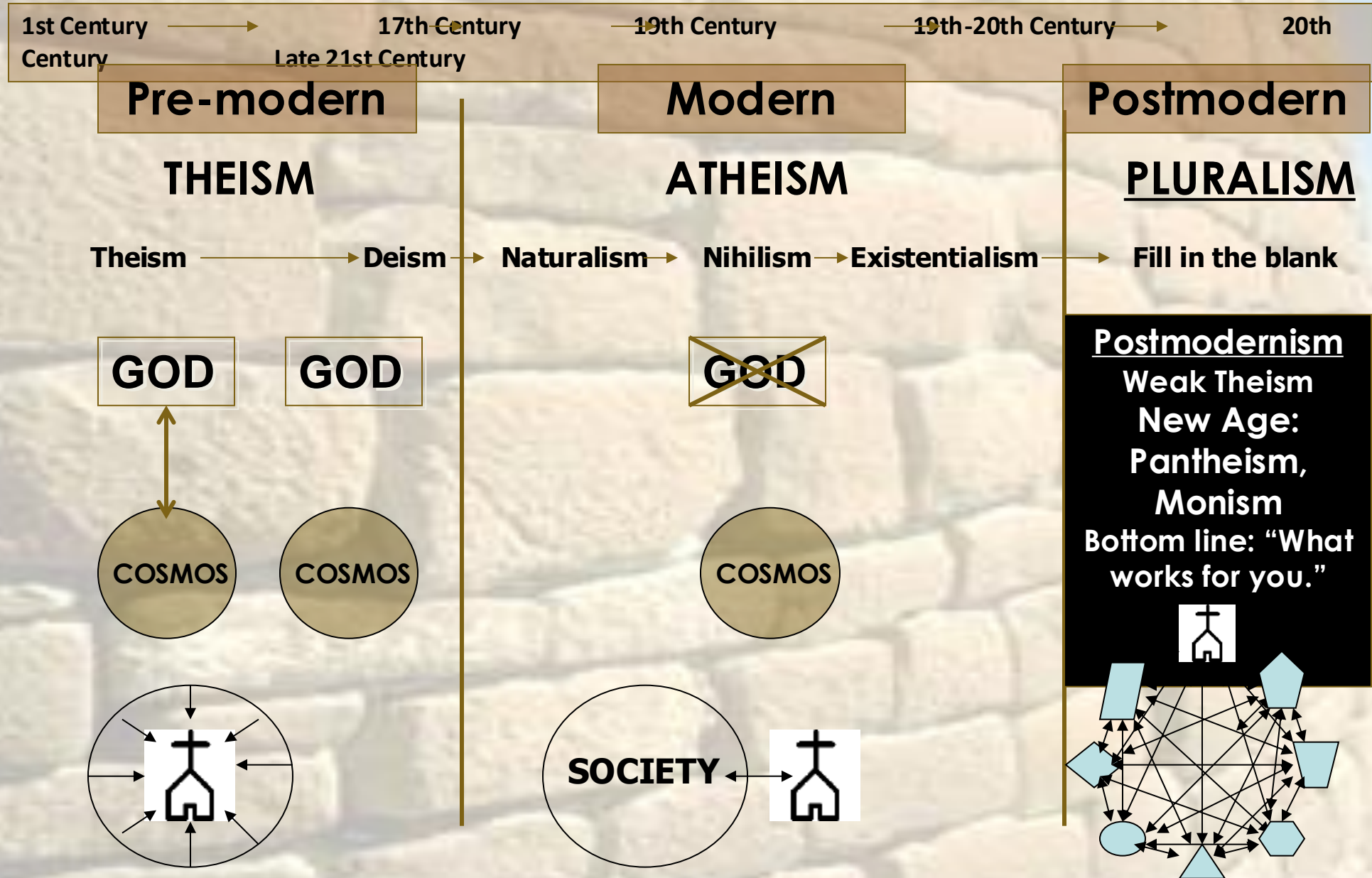
Post-Modernism

* **Four implications of Relativism according to Paul Copan, *True For You, But Not For Me*, p. 21-22**

1. Persuasion is prohibited.
2. To be exclusivistic is to be arrogant.
3. Tolerance is the cardinal virtue.
4. In the absence of the possibility of truth, power rules the day.

Historical Development of Western World Views

Changing Beliefs - Pluralism



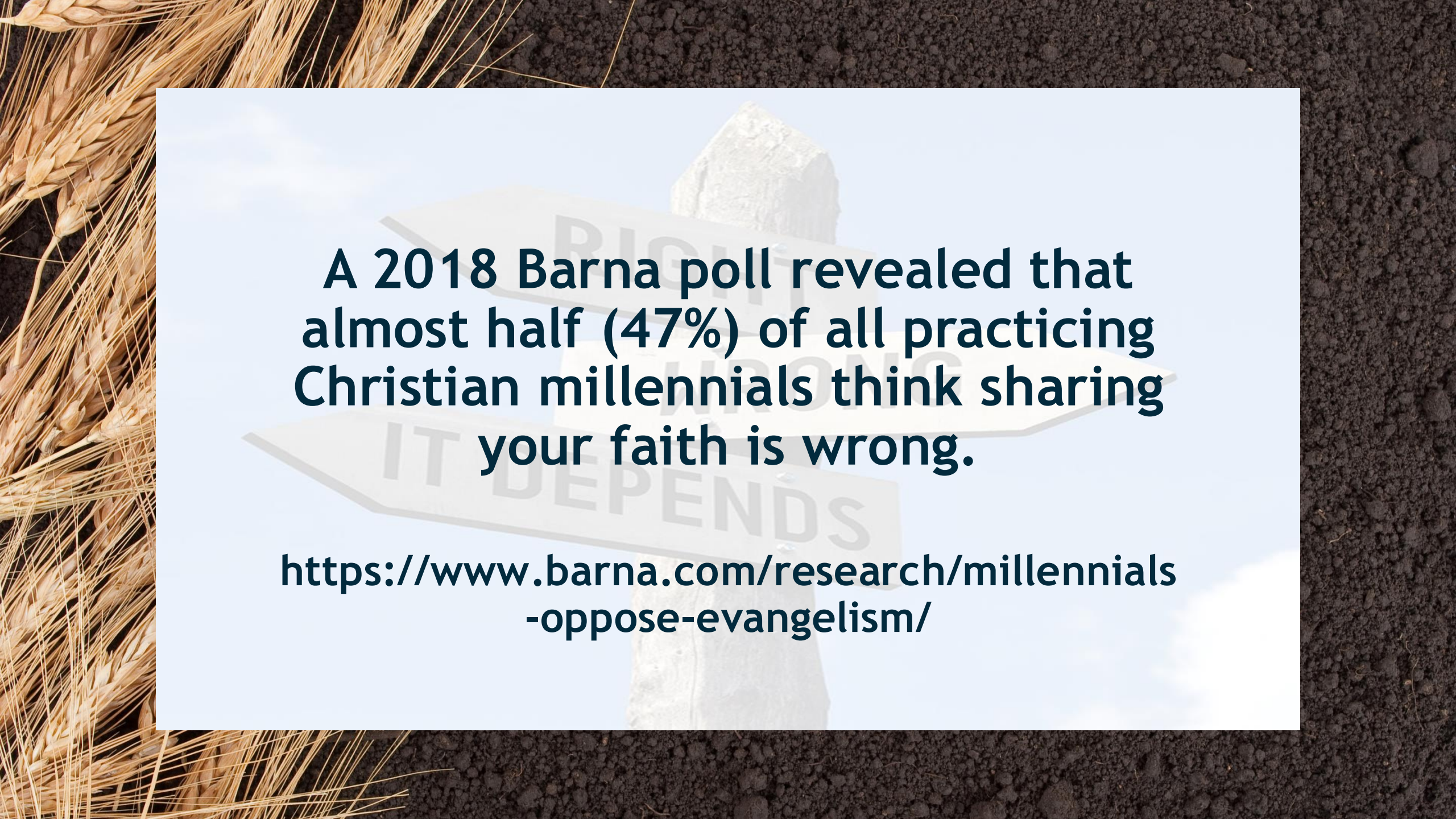


**NEW
PARADIGM
AHEAD**

**Effective witnessing today
begins with changing our
witnessing paradigms!**



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



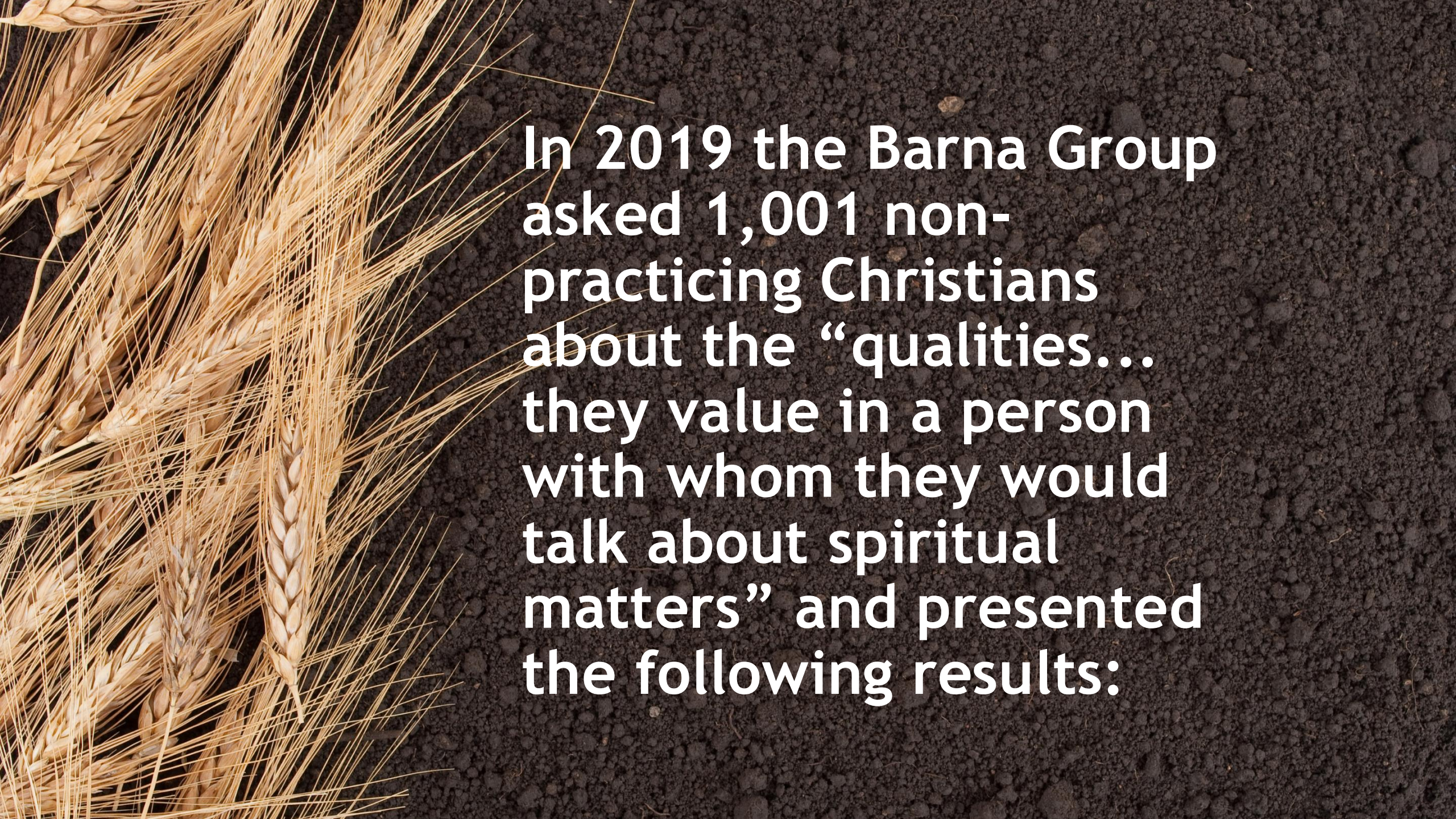
A 2018 Barna poll revealed that almost half (47%) of all practicing Christian millennials think sharing your faith is wrong.

<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.”

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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.”

Barna Group, *Reviving Evangelism*, 2019,
p.45



**So what Should We
Conclude About
These Findings?**



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

THEN
Confrontational
Rational Arguments
Monologue Presentations
Salesman Approach



NOW
Conversational
Relational Bridges
Dialogue Conversations
Co-Traveller Approach





a certain kind EVANGELISM,



WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND...?

- One that is **conversational** and allows others to **discover the truth** for themselves by **asking thought-provoking questions** about what they say they believe.



WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND...?

- One that **seeks to build spiritual bridges...**



**...to your
unbelieving
friends from
the standpoint
of their
interest, not
your own!**



WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND...?

One that compels us **to maximize our questions...**

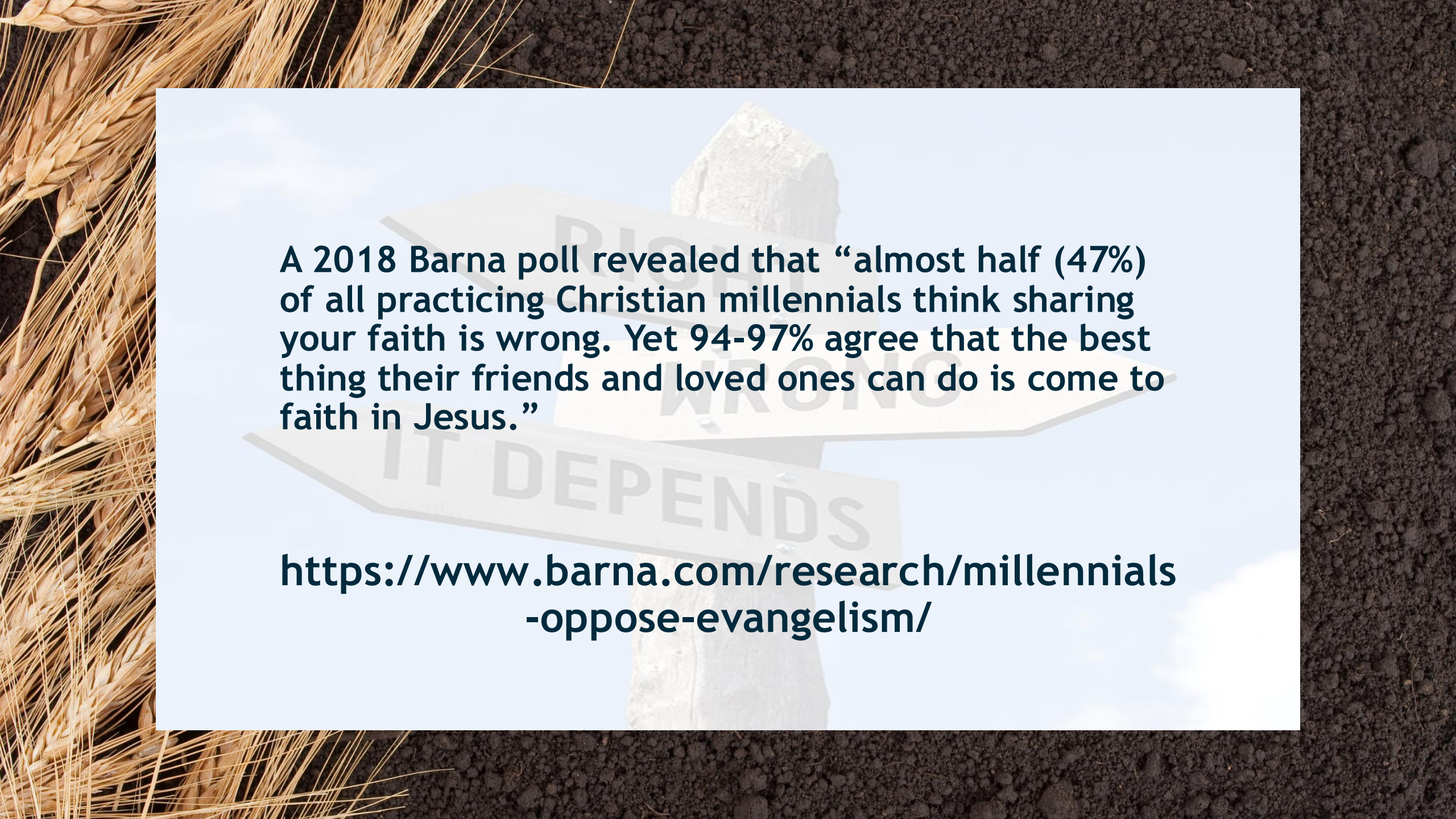
...by Remember the Three D's of
Conversational Evangelism?

Doubt

Defensiveness

Desire





A 2018 Barna poll revealed that “almost half (47%) of all practicing Christian millennials think sharing your faith is wrong. 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/>



**“Yet these same Millennials
have confidence in sharing
their faith! 73% say they know
how to handle objections.**

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



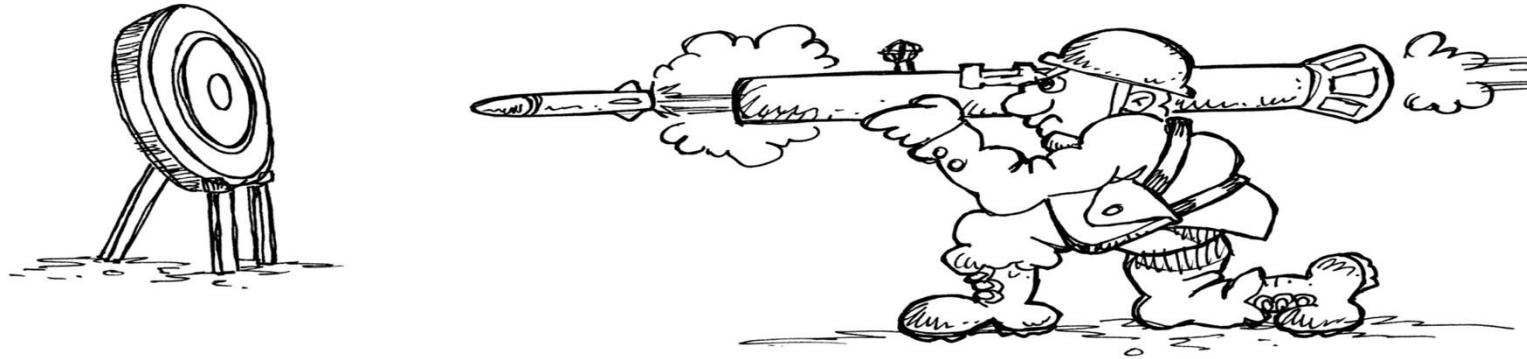
a certain kind of APOLOGETIC



WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND OF APOLOGETICS?

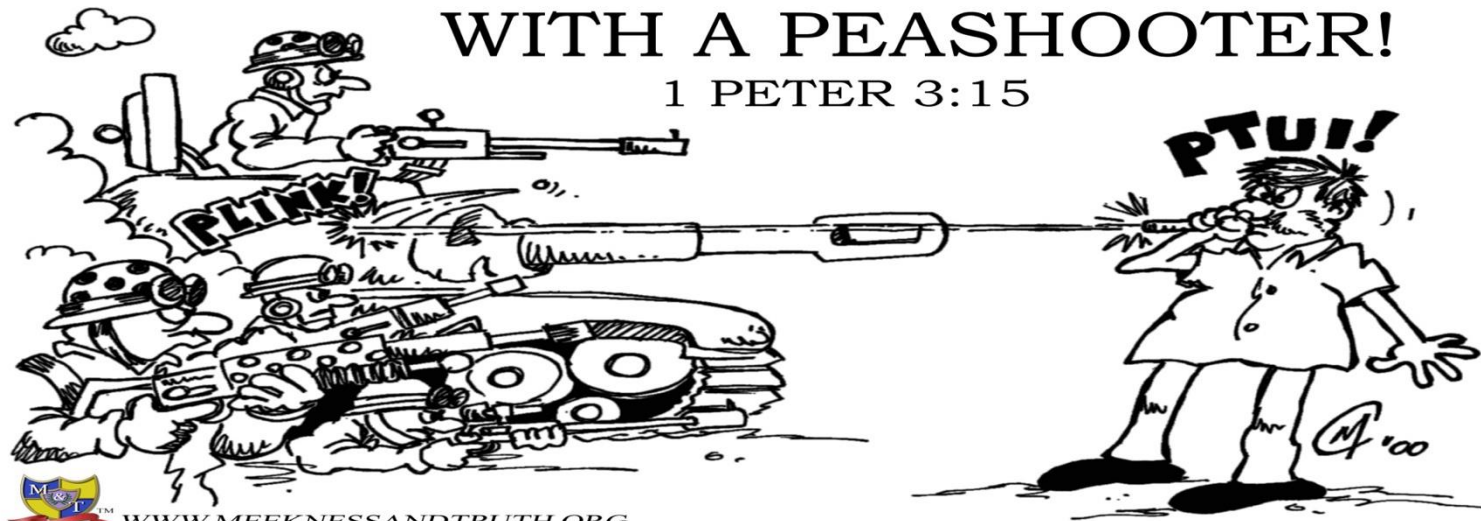
- One that compels us to also use a “lite” approach in our first encounter with skeptics.**

YOU DON'T GO TO TARGET PRACTICE
WITH A BAZOOKA!



BUT YOU DON'T GO TO WAR
WITH A PEASHOOTER!

1 PETER 3:15

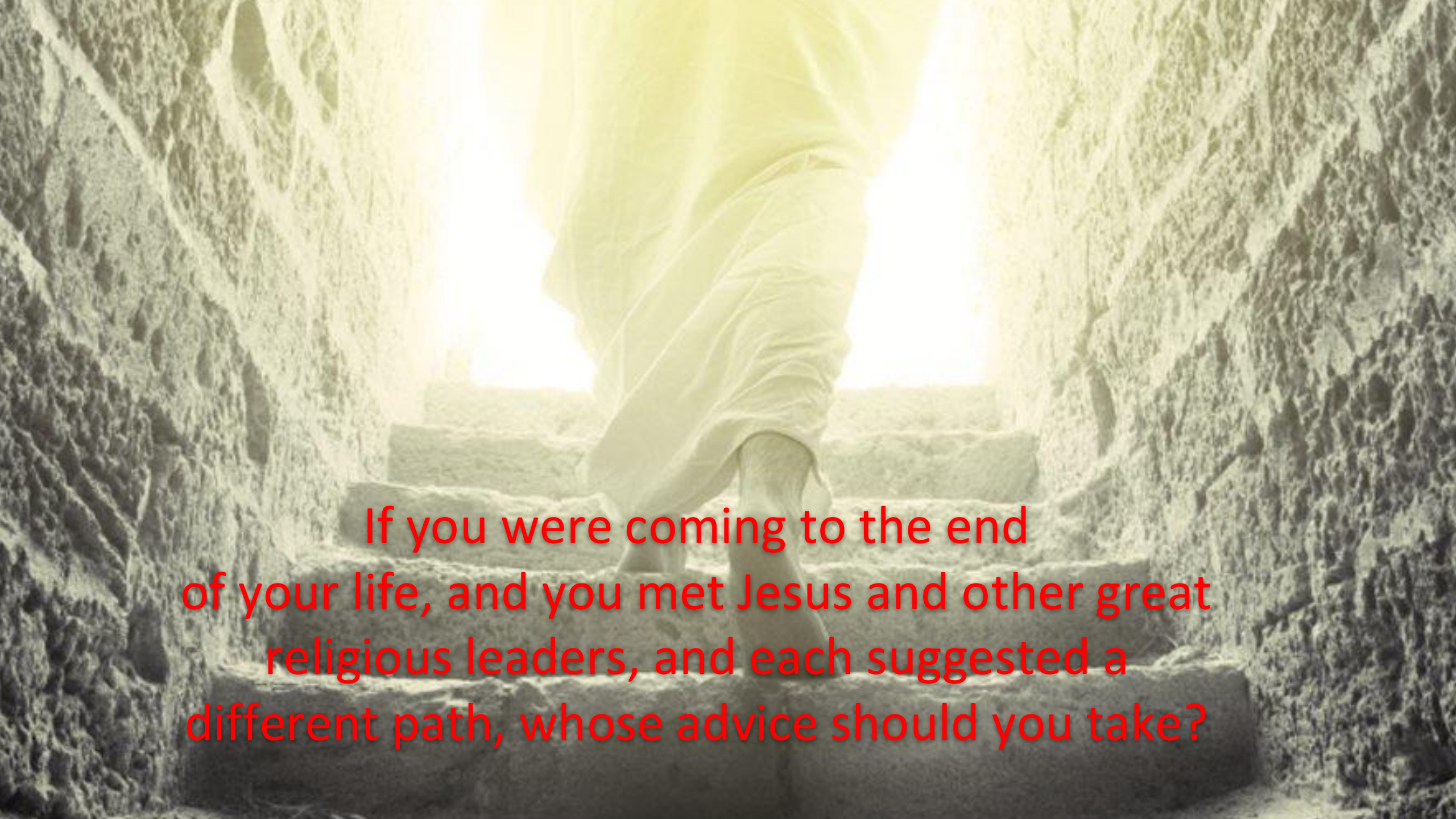


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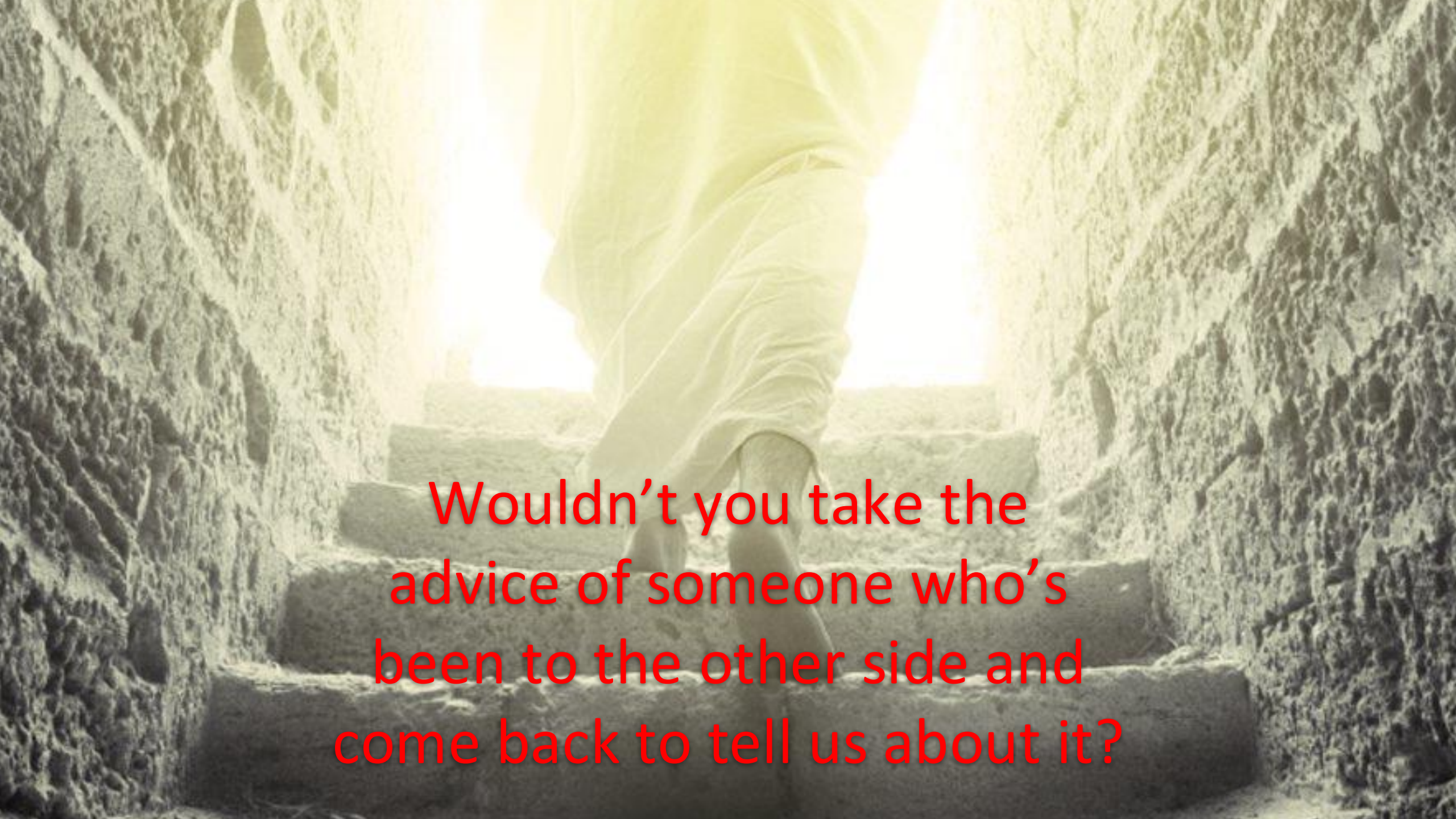


DAVID
GEISLER

When we evangelize, we need
to know where people are at.

A person wearing white, flowing robes is walking up a set of stone steps. The steps lead from a dark, narrow passage towards a bright, glowing light at the end of the path. The walls of the passage are made of rough, textured stone. The overall scene is illuminated with a warm, golden light, suggesting a path leading to a bright future or a divine presence.

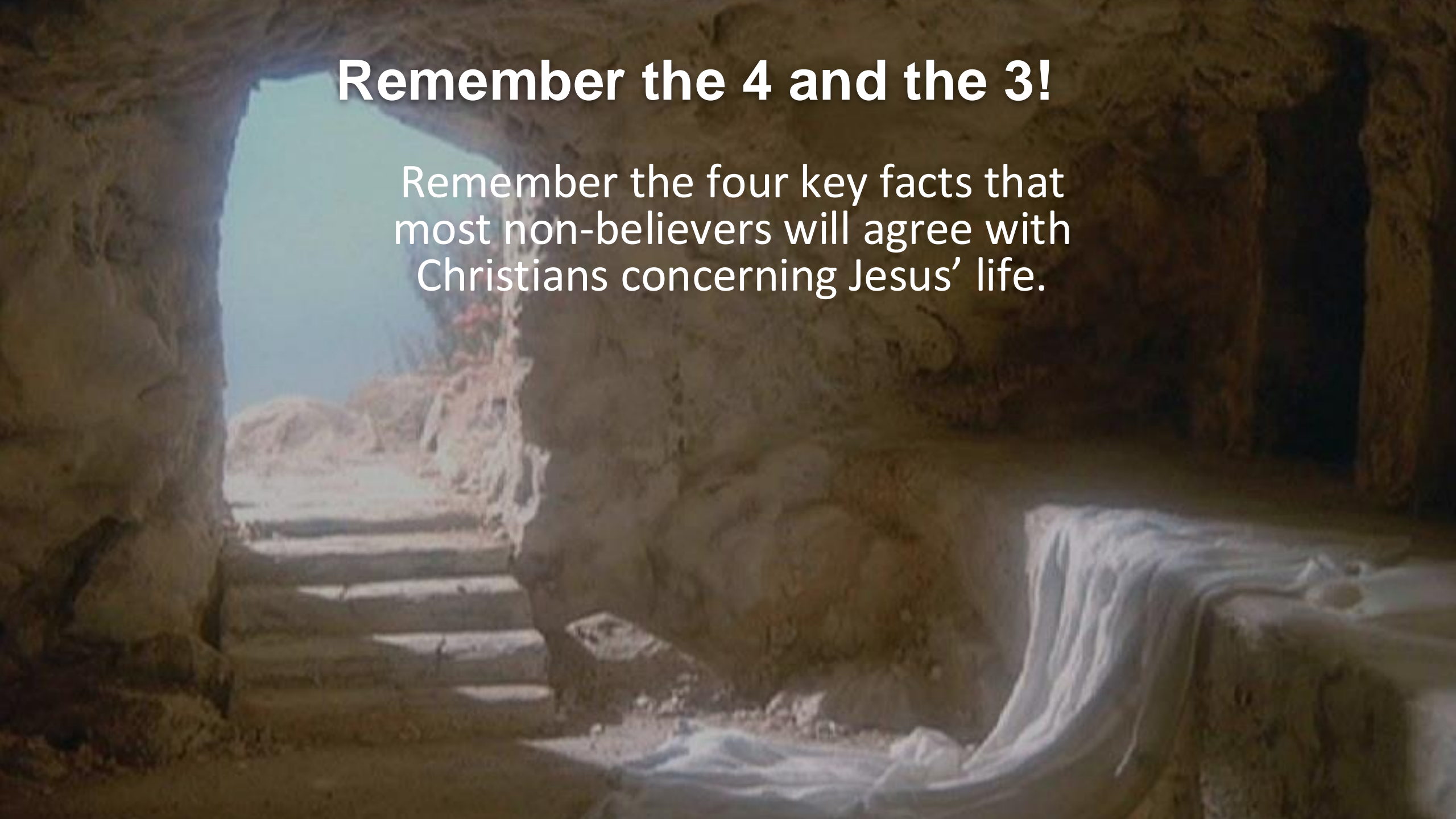
If you were coming to the end of your life, and you met Jesus and other great religious leaders, and each suggested a different path, whose advice should you take?

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is seen from behind, walking up a set of rough, stone steps. The steps are carved into a narrow, rocky passage. The scene is dramatically lit from above, creating a bright, hazy glow that obscures the person's face and the top of the passage. The walls of the passage are made of rough, textured stone. The overall mood is one of a journey or a quest.

Wouldn't you take the
advice of someone who's
been to the other side and
come back to tell us about it?

Remember the 4 and the 3!

Remember the four key facts that most non-believers will agree with Christians concerning Jesus' life.



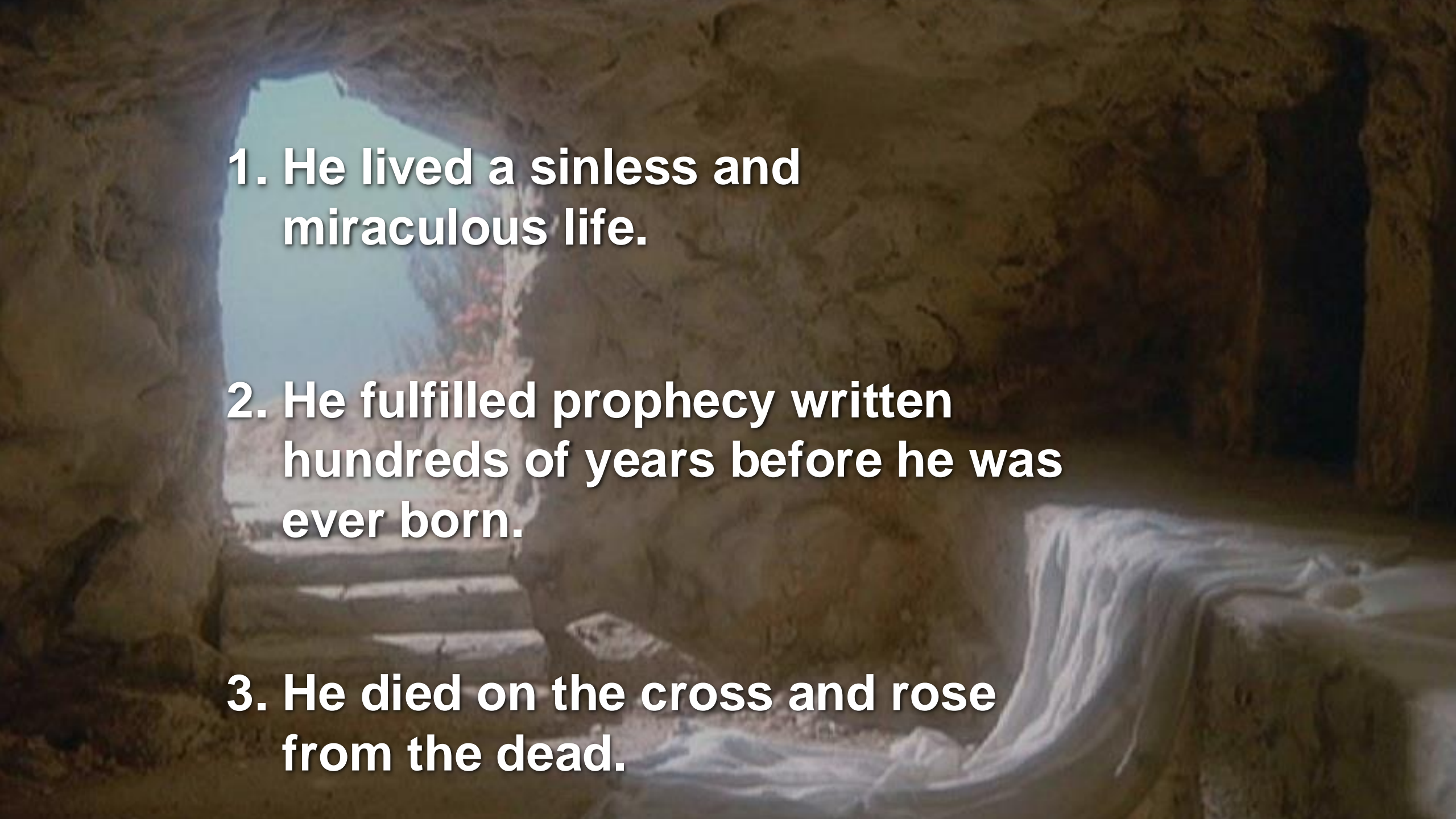
The Four Facts Are:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. He was buried in a tomb that was found empty three days later.
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, flowing robe is walking up a set of stone steps. The steps are made of large, rectangular blocks and lead up a dark, narrow tunnel. At the end of the tunnel, there is a very bright, glowing light, possibly representing an entrance to heaven or a source of divine light. The person's feet are visible as they ascend the steps. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and spiritual journey.

Jesus Claimed To Be and Proved To Be God!

Jesus did three things to
prove that He was God!

A person is standing in a dimly lit, stone-walled tomb. The person is seen from behind, looking out through an arched opening towards a bright, hazy landscape. In the foreground, a white cloth is draped over a stone ledge or table. The overall atmosphere is solemn and historical.

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.



WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND OF APOLOGETICS?

- One that compels us to also use a “lite” approach in our first encounter with skeptics.
- **One that uses a two-step approach!**



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

The value of a classical
approach...



“if we have
some reason to
think that God
exists, the
Resurrection
becomes
“enormously
more likely.”


Anthony Flew vs Gary Habermas

**"Christianity Challenges the University: An International Conference of Theists and Atheists,"
Dallas, Texas, Feb.7-10, 1985, organized by Roy Abraham Varghese.**

**“If you can
believe the big
miracle, you
can believe in
the little
miracles!”**

Norm Geisler






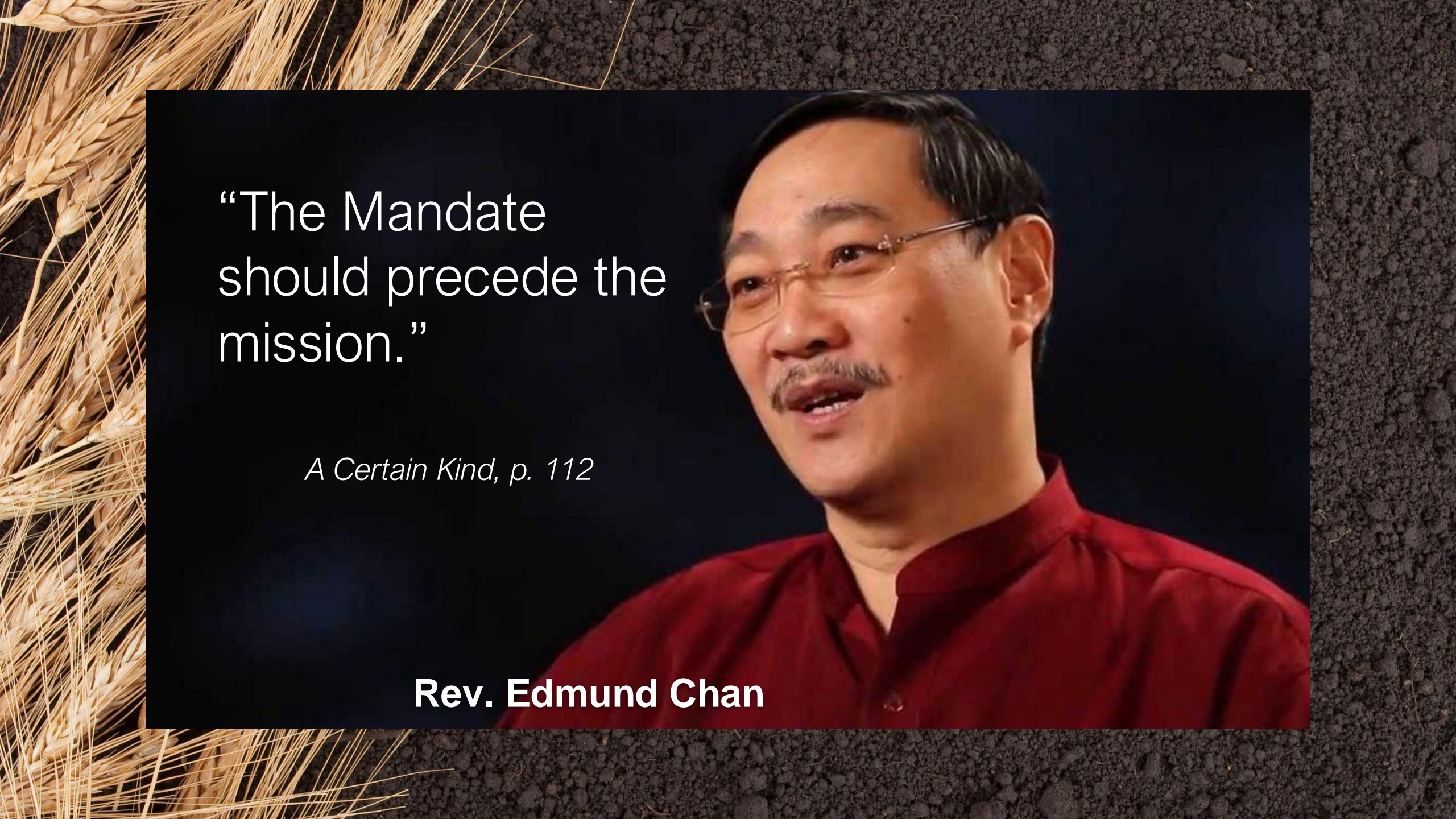
Which worldview lens is Bart Ehrman viewing the evidence for Christianity through?

“...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**




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.”

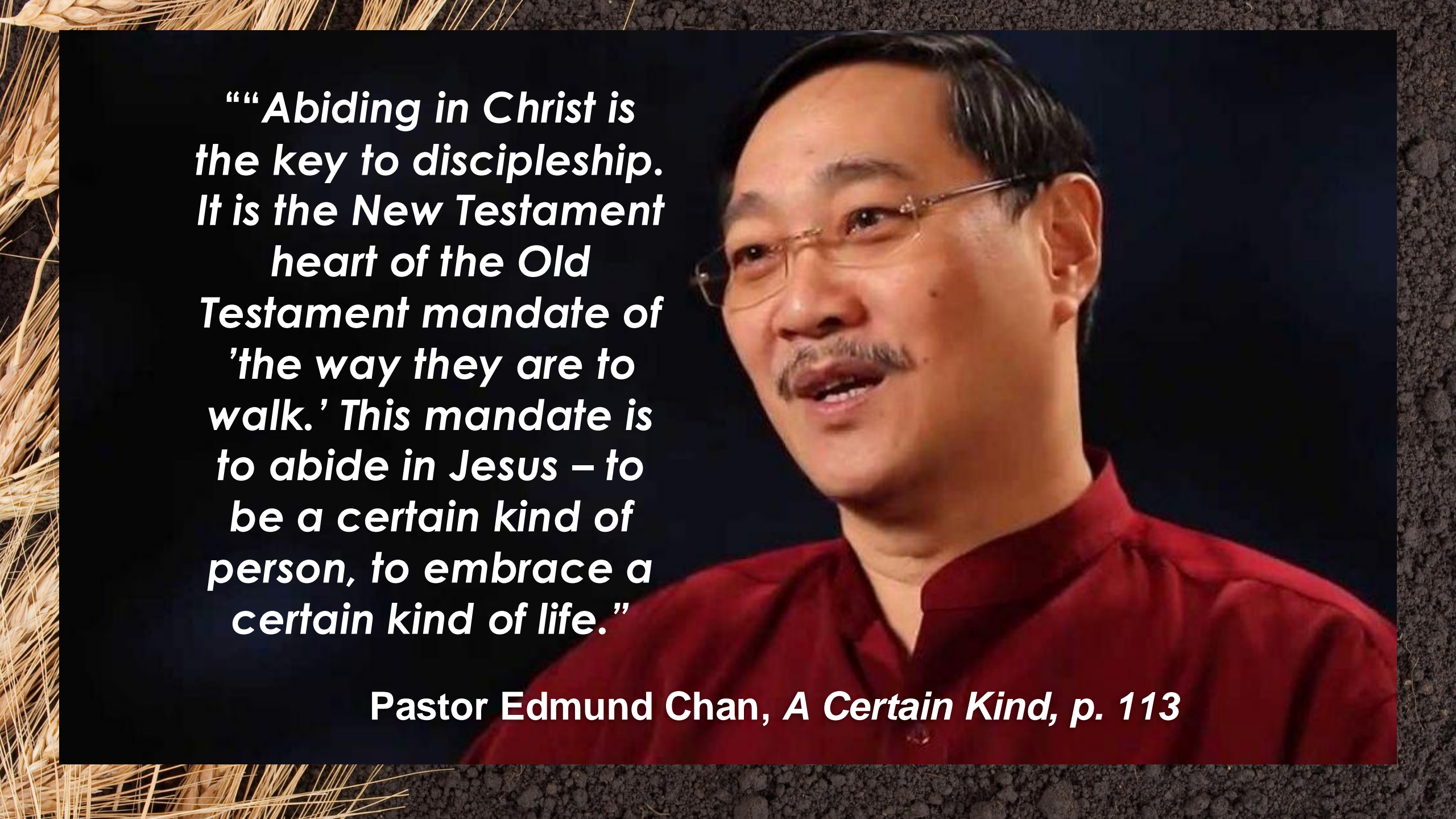
A Certain Kind, p. 112

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*, p. 113



““Abiding in Christ is the key to discipleship. It is the New Testament heart of the Old Testament mandate of ‘the way they are to walk.’ This mandate is to abide in Jesus – to be a certain kind of person, to embrace a certain kind of life.”

Pastor Edmund Chan, *A Certain Kind*, p. 113



A CERTAIN KIND OF DISCIPLESHIP?

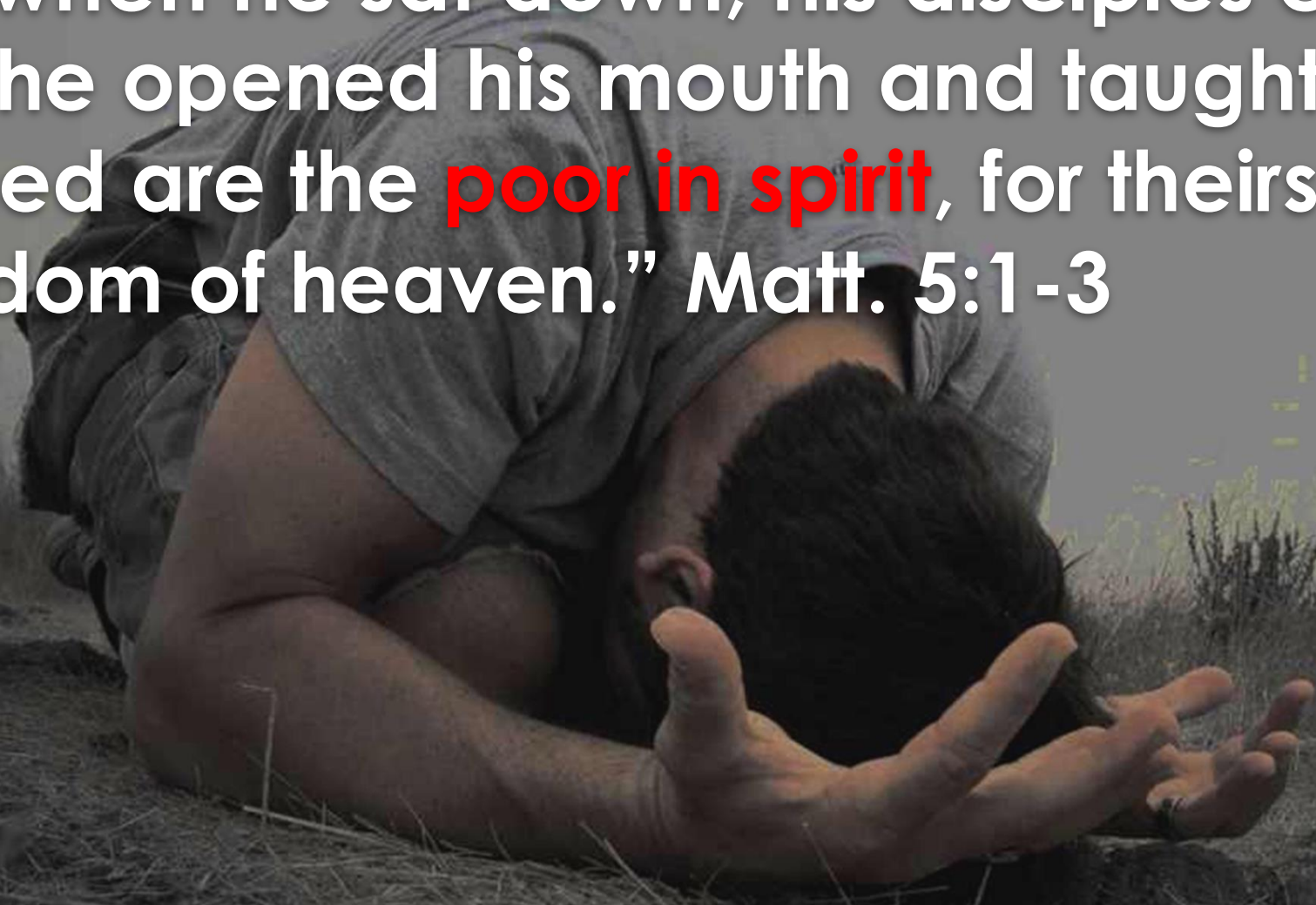
**What is the key to abiding
in Christ?**



**“... acknowledge
our spiritual poverty!”**

Rev. Edmund Chan

“Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them saying: Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 5:1-3





Matt. 5:4 “Blessed are those who mourn...”

“It is not just an awareness of our spiritual poverty that is important to God. It is also our deep anguish about it that is important to God and should be important to us.”

Dr. David Geisler

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



The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left side, there are several golden wheat stalks with their heads of grain. The rest of the background is a dark, rich brown soil. In the center, there is a semi-transparent rectangular area with a light beige background. Inside this area, a wooden surface is visible, and a book with a textured cover is lying on it. The text is overlaid on this semi-transparent area.

...by modeling...

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



**What changes will you make
if you purpose to live your
life by the Word of God?**



NORM GEISLER:

NOT QUALIFIED

CORE PACKAGE

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Norm Geisler: Not Qualified is a catalyst for apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship. The **Core Package** is designed to maximize the impact this movie and resources could have on your church and city.

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- Four 45-min Core Messages
- Recorded Premiere Q&A Panel

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Our Walk and Witness



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