

Our  
**Walk** and  
*Witness*

EVANGELISM  
APOLOGETICS  
DISCIPLESHIP



## Slide 1

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**BA0** "Apologetics", "Evangelism", "Discipleship" are a little hard to read. the placement of them also might not be the best.

Love what you did with the title though! clear, easy to read.

Birkeland, Heather Jean (Studio, 2025-01-14T19:01:06.271

**BA1** I know Dr. Geisler's slides tend to have a lot of different images for the backgrounds. That actually makes it hard for readers to follow cause there is no consistency.

I'll say feel free to stick to a theme (color, style) through out. like this sand color, bring it back to each slide, get ride of some of the backgrounds and maybe use the "sand color" texture as some of the background or design elements.

I'll let you know when I've gone through the whole slide, I'm just giving adjustors here and there a little bit at a time!

Blessings,  
Heather

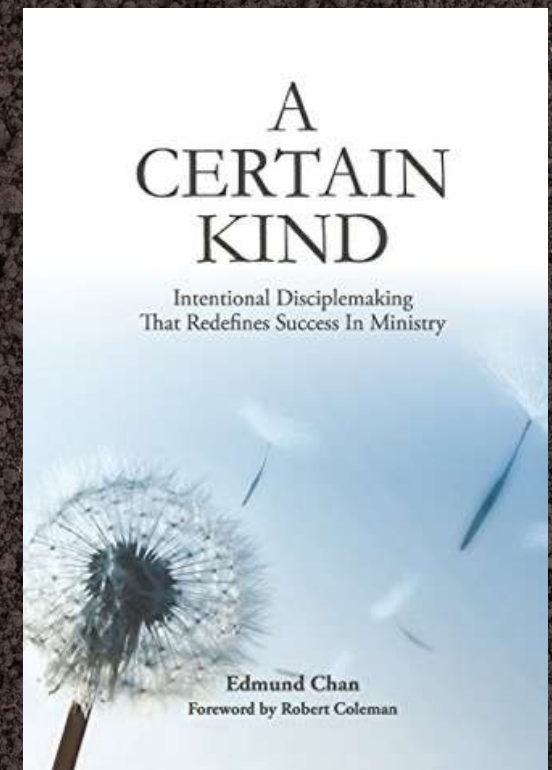
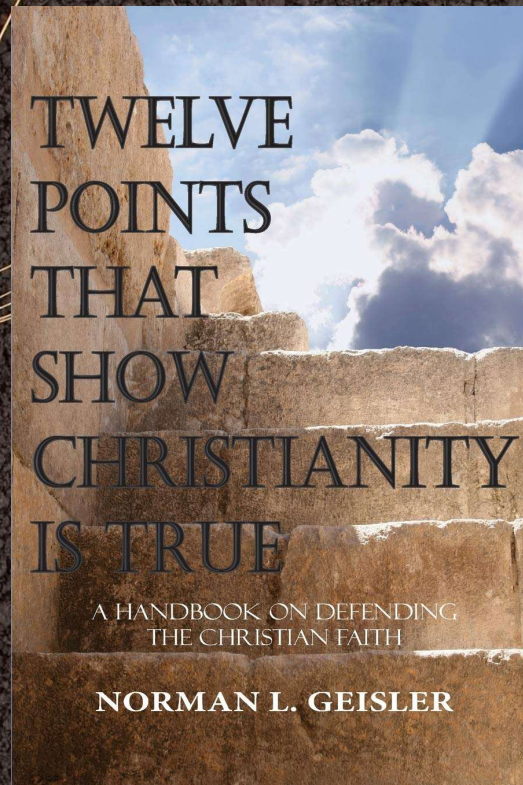
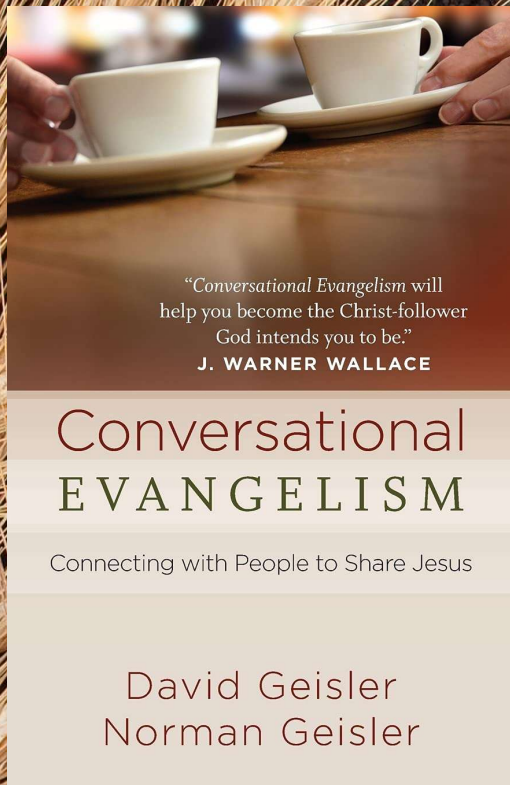
Birkeland, Heather Jean (Studio, 2025-01-14T19:05:05.279

**SH1 0** All comments, any images, etc. are being reviewed and will be fixed by today.


Thanks and I apologize for any mistakes or low quality, I am reviewing the slides and doing touches and reviewing the comments to improve.

Simpson, Hannah Rose, 2025-01-20T16:29:42.922







The background of the slide is a soft-focus photograph of cherry blossoms. The flowers are light pink and white, with some green leaves visible. The overall tone is gentle and natural.

Why Is Witnessing  
More Daunting  
Than Ever Before?





There has been an erosion of truth!

## Signs of Trouble Have Surfaced in the West



These problems in  
witnessing surfaced in the  
West as early as the 90's





"...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



What are the conditions  
that created the  
environment for this  
crisis?





# **Historical Development of Western World Views**

## **Changing Beliefs Concerning God**

1st Century → 17th Century → 19th Century → 19th-20th Century → 20th Century → Late 21st Century

Pre-modern

Modern

Postmodern

Thomas Oden first suggested  
that the modern age lasted 200  
years < 1789- 1989 >

# Understanding the Post-Modern Period



Pluralism


Post Modernism





# Religious Pluralism

Is the belief that all religions are true,  
and they have a part of the truth



## Slide 10

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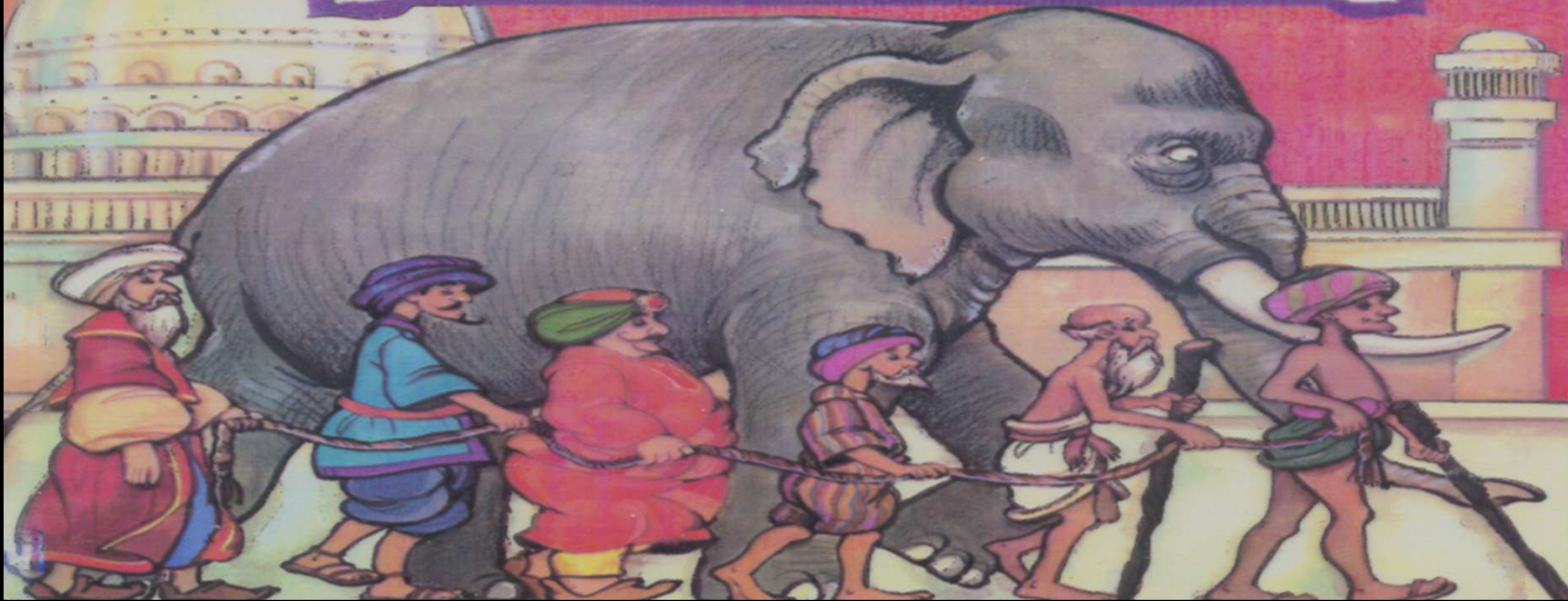
**BA0**

how does these clipart reflect the statement?

Birkeland, Heather Jean (Studio, 2025-02-06T04:51:21.278



# Six Blind Men and the Elephant



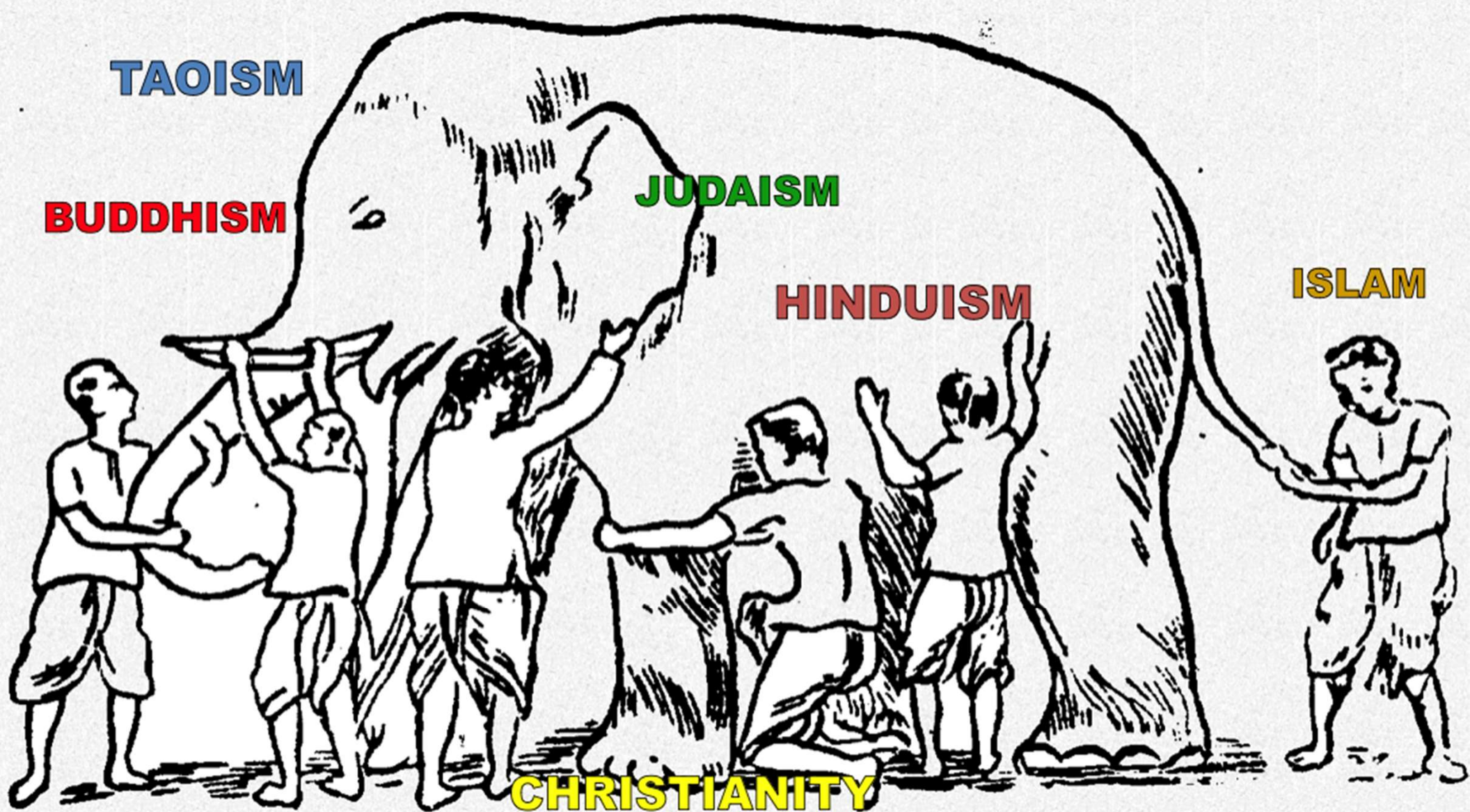
## Slide 11

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**BA0**

try not to stretch the image

Birkeland, Heather Jean (Studio, 2025-02-06T04:51:34.981







# Post-Modernism

## General Characteristics

- It is a rejection of anything modern.
- It is a denial of meta-narrative.

"I define post-modern  
as incredulity towards  
meta-narratives."

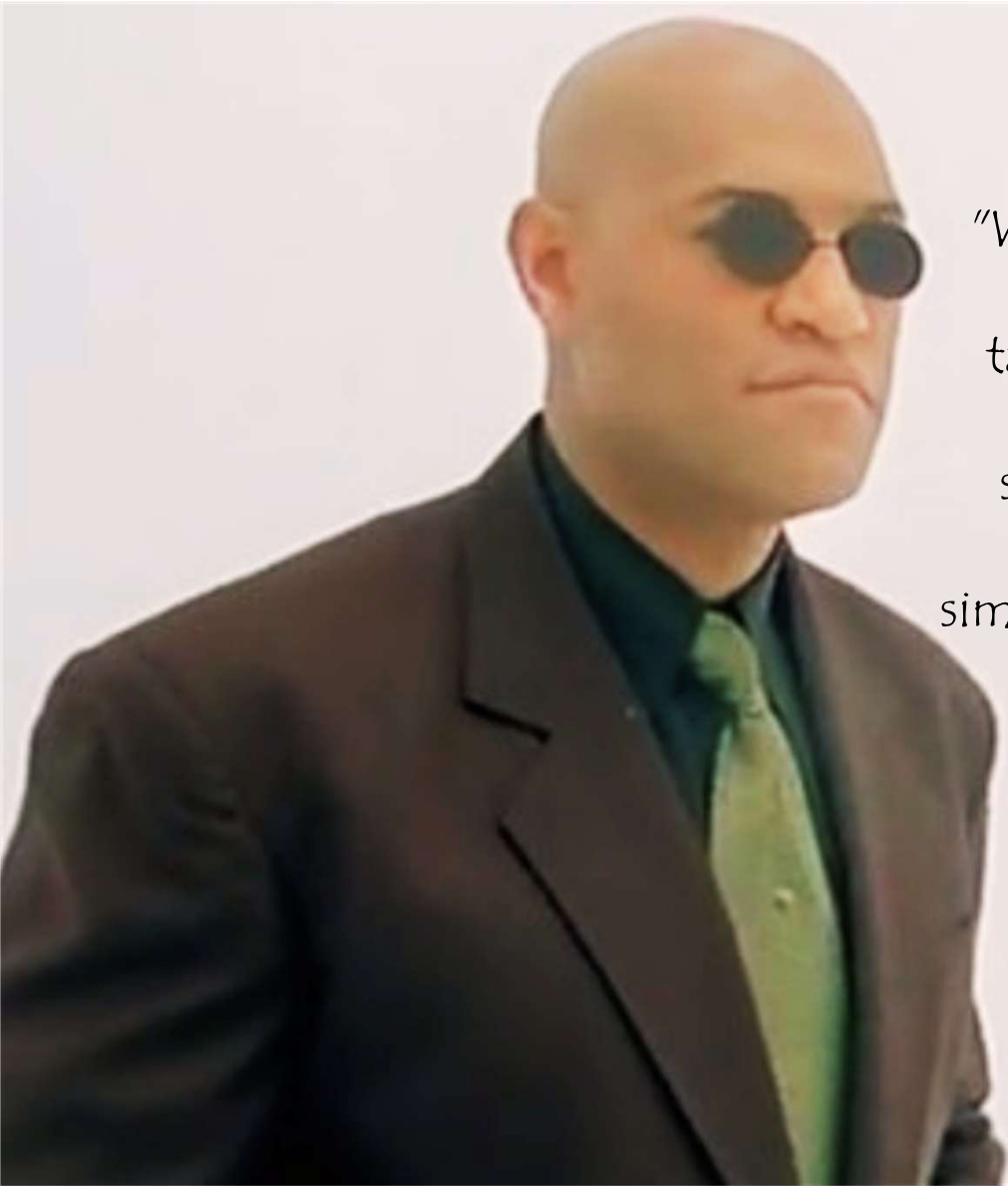
Jean-François Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition:  
A Report on Knowledge*, 1984, xxiv



# Post-Modernism

In its most extreme form, it is also a belief that our thoughts, attitudes, as well as our very existence is just a social construct and not real.





"What is real? How do you define real? If you're talking about what you can feel, what you can smell, what you can taste and see, then real is simply electrical signals interpreted by your brain."

Morpheus





## Implications of Post-Modern Thought that Affect Receptivity to the Gospel.

- Postmodern's feel free to create or construct "knowledge's" and "realities."
- \* As a result, they are less and less sure about anything regarding Jesus.

# This Explains Why Many Are Questioning The Biblical Story of Jesus.

The DaVinci Code

The Lost Gospel of Judas

The Lost Tomb of Christ

The Golden Compass

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a wet cobblestone street at night. A small puddle in the center reflects a bright, warm light source, creating a shimmering effect. The surrounding stones are dark and glistening with moisture.

## Implications of Post-Modern Thought that Affect Receptivity to the Gospel.

- They believe persuasion is to be prohibited.



A dark, wet cobblestone street at night. A small puddle in the center reflects a bright light source, creating a shimmering effect. The cobblestones are dark and wet, with some lighter patches where the light hits. The overall atmosphere is moody and reflective.

## Implications of Post-Modern Thought that Affect Receptivity to the Gospel.

- They believe that to be exclusivistic is to be arrogant.



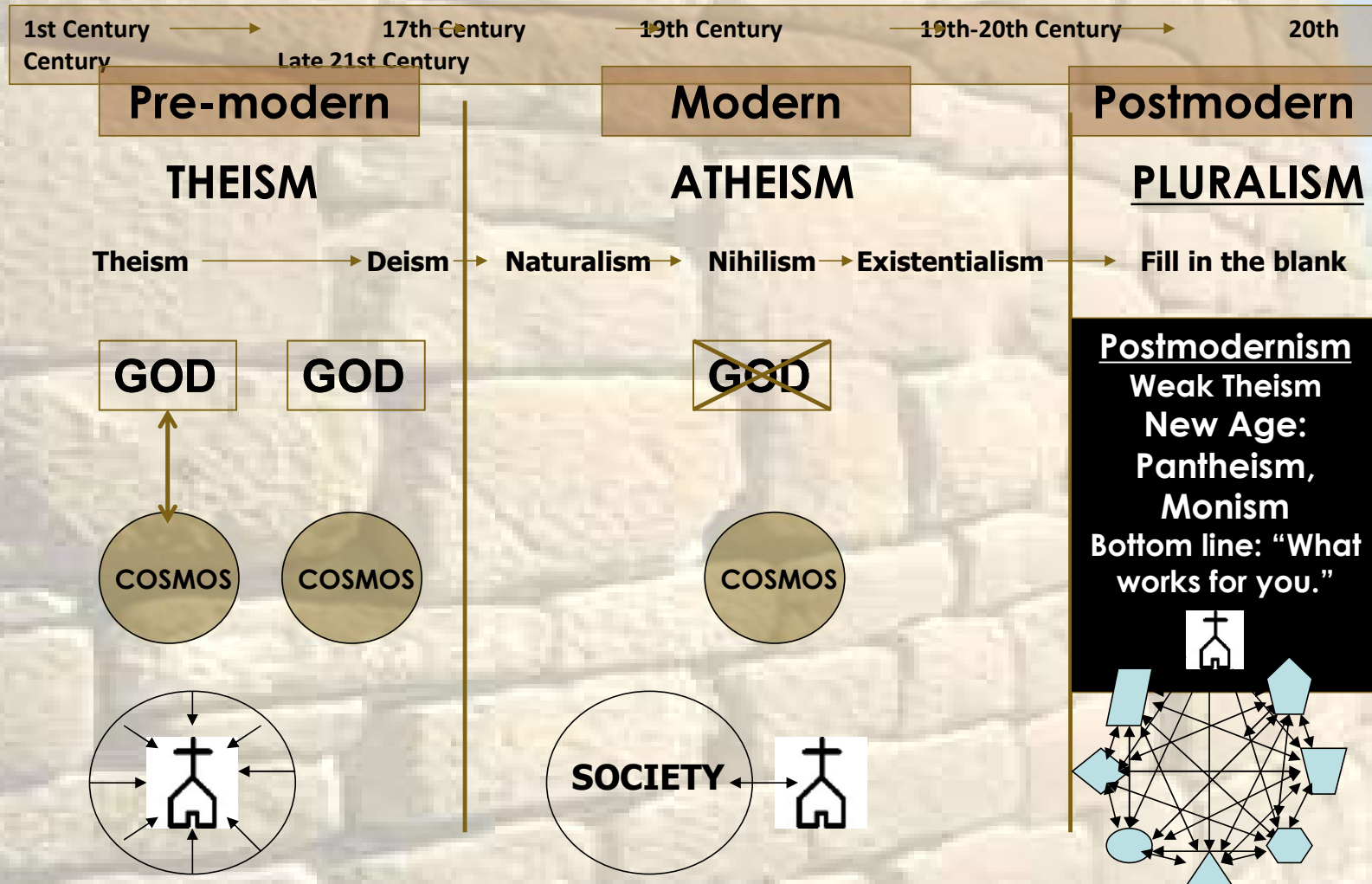
## Implications of Post-Modern Thought that Affect Receptivity to the Gospel.

- They believe that our belief that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life is just one of the narratives among other narratives in the world that are equally as valid.
- Their pluralistic mindset gives them no internal motivation to hear about Jesus.



# Historical Development of Western World Views

## Changing Beliefs - Pluralism








# Key Question

How can we talk to people in a way that creates greater interest in hearing our gospel in such a challenging world?

A close-up photograph of a person's hands opening a large, brown cardboard box. The person is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt, a silver watch on their left wrist, and a gold ring on their left ring finger. The box is open, revealing its interior. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing white text.


If we understand the times we  
live in, we will repackaging our  
approach in witnessing



We need to add Pre-Evangelism to our Evangelism.

"If evangelism is planting seeds of the Gospel, then pre-evangelism is *tilling the soil of people's minds and hearts, to help them be more willing to listen to the truth.*"

*Conversational Evangelism, p. 25*







BUT PRE-EVANGELISM ALSO INVOLVES HELPING  
TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE SOIL!

OUR JOB IS TO HELP PEOPLE  
TO CULTIVATE GOOD SOIL IN THEIR LIVES SO  
THAT OUR SEEDS CAN BE MORE FRUITFUL!

MARK 4:8, MATT. 13:23

Pre-evangelism = Cultivating Good Soil

"As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (ESV)

The Parable of the Sower in Matt. 13: 23



Cultivating good soil is important  
because people have many distortions!



A close-up photograph of a hand sowing small, light-colored seeds into dark, rich soil. The hand is positioned at the top left, with fingers gently releasing the seeds. The soil is dark brown and textured, with several seeds visible on the surface. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the sowing action.

"A stubborn response"

<sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. (Matt. 13:19 ESV)



A close-up photograph of a person's hand sowing small, light-colored seeds into dark, rich soil. The hand is positioned at the top left, with fingers gently holding and releasing the seeds. Several seeds are visible in a line, having been dropped into a shallow furrow in the soil. The background is a soft-focus view of the soil and more seeds.

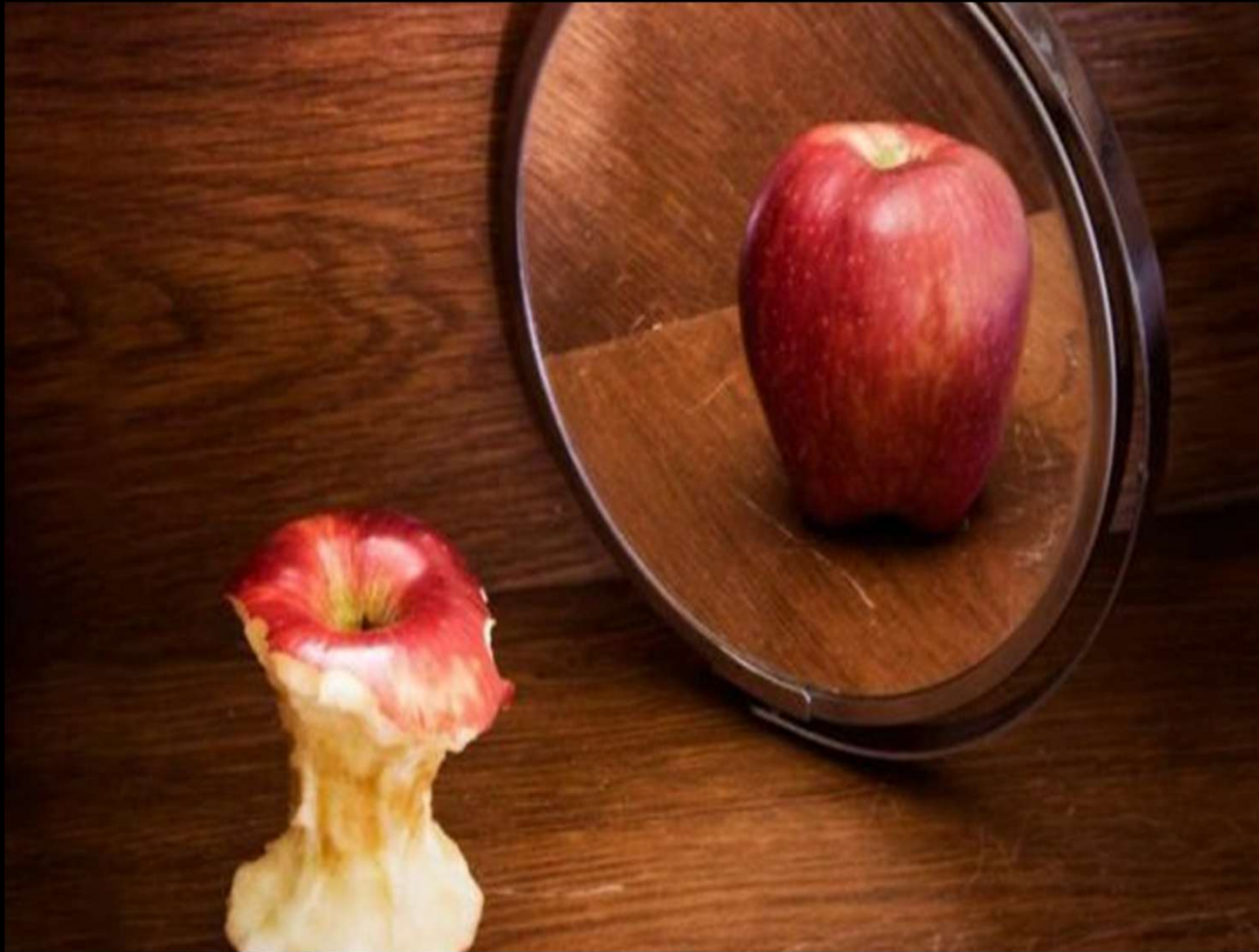
My neighbor's question brought  
to mind the following verses:

Jer. 17:9

Eph. 4:18

Rom 1:18-19

1 Cor. 2:14



Distortions about  
...themselves

...God the  
Father

...Jesus Christ

A blue wooden door with a brass handle, slightly ajar, revealing a bright blue sky with white clouds.

## Student's Question

Why can't God just let  
me into heaven?





**Could I put a little sewage in your water?**

**If not do you see how something can seem so small but in reality still have a huge impact?**

**So is it possible our “sins” could cause a bigger barrier between us and God than we think?**

## HOW JESUS TRY TO CULTIVE GOOD SOIL IN Matt: 19:16-22?

'Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven. Then come, follow me.'

'When the young man heard this He went away sad, because he had great wealth.'"



# Inconsistent Beliefs

*What were the two inconsistencies that Jesus wanted the rich young ruler to see?*

- A. I am a good person,  
I keep all of the  
commandments.
- B. I care about financial  
wealth more than  
following Jesus.







How do I practice  
pre-evangelism?





“I think religious people shouldn’t push their religious beliefs on others.”

Japanese youth





If we understand the times  
we live in we will repackage  
our approach in witnessing.



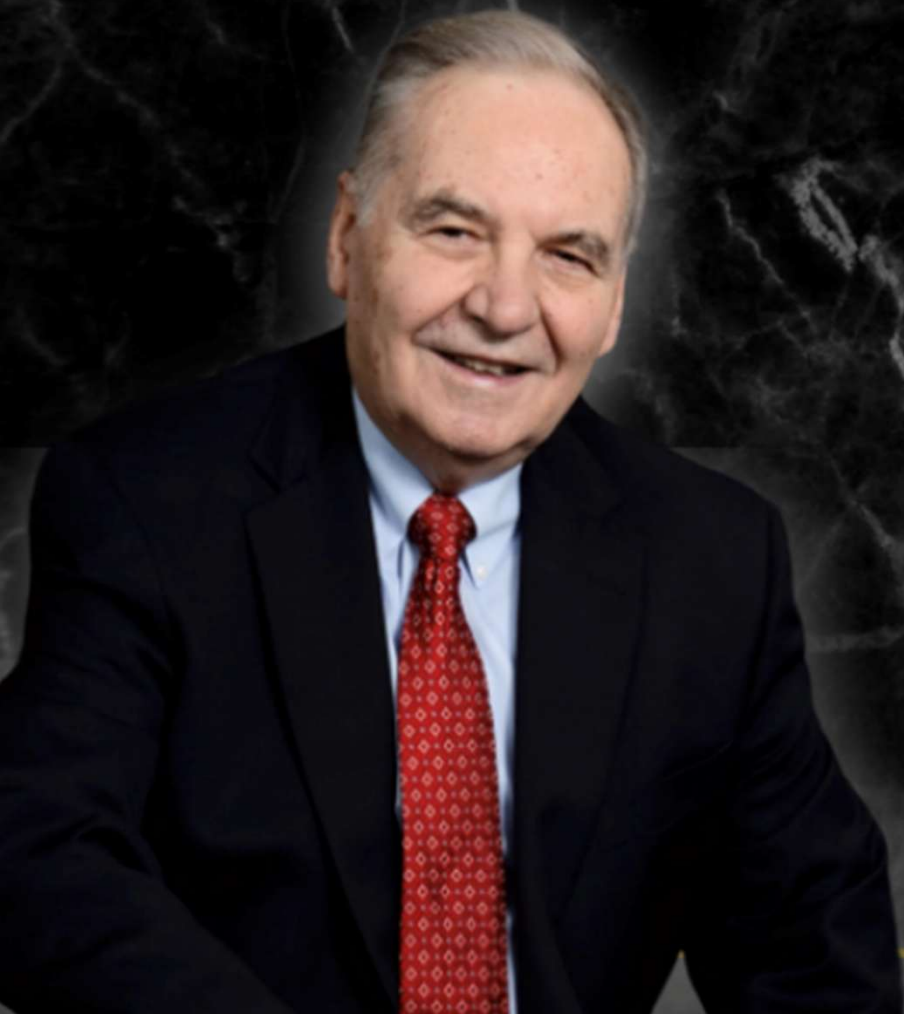
THEY'RE STRONGER  
TOGETHER

Discipleship

Apologetics

Evangelism

NGIM

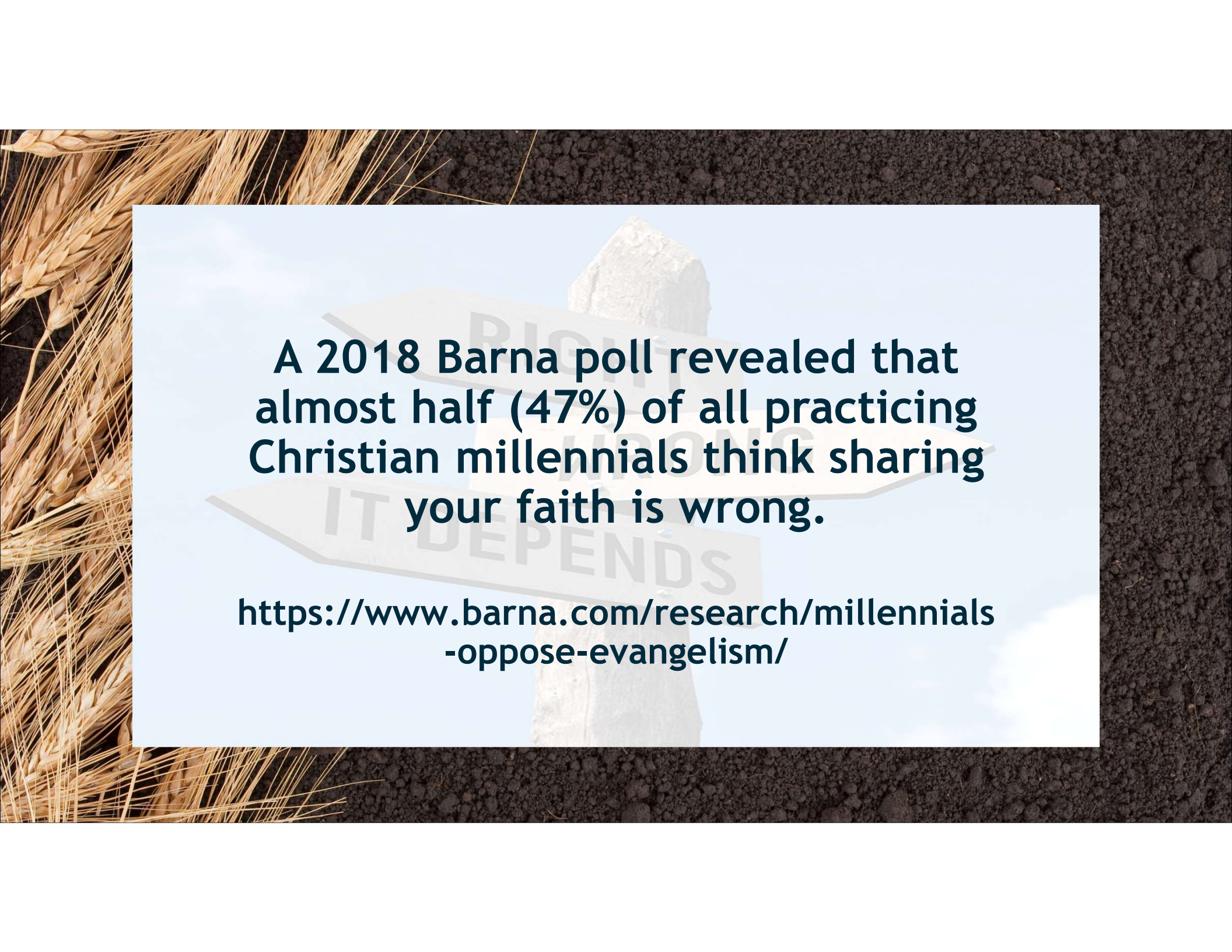


NORM GEISLER  
*Legacy Initiative*

**“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!”**

NCIM





**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.”**


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





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!







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



The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left, there are several stalks of golden wheat. On the right, there is a dark, textured surface resembling soil or gravel. In the center, there is a semi-transparent rectangular overlay with a light gray background. Inside this overlay, a wooden cross is visible, resting on a wooden surface. The text "a certain kind EVANGELISM," is written in a bold, dark blue font across the middle of the cross and the wooden surface.

**a certain kind EVANGELISM,**





WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND...?

One that uses an **approach that is more conversational.**



Why?

We live in a  
world in which  
people are  
reluctant to be  
told what is true!





## 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!**



A person wearing a white robe with a brown fringed sash is shown from the waist up, gesturing with an open hand towards the right. The background is a desert landscape with mountains and sparse vegetation under a bright sky.

A friend of tax collectors  
and sinners  
Matthew 11:19, ESV





"The nail that sticks further out is the first that gets hammered down."

Topics for your neighbor  
co-worker or school friend.

- Float a "spiritual balloon."











# Topics for your neighbor or co-worker

- Find some kind of connection in your conversations with people that will make them want to hear more on spiritual topics!





## WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND...?

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



**How is it possible...?**



**... to believe that there is no  
God and yet believe in such  
non-material things as truth,  
love, beauty, and goodness?**





A background image showing golden wheat stalks on the left side, set against a dark, textured soil background.

## Why Asking Questions is So Helpful?

“A person can close his ears to facts he does not want to hear, but if a pointed question causes him to form the answer in his own mind, he cannot escape the conclusion—because it’s a conclusion that he reached himself.”

David Reed, *Jehovah’s Witnesses Answered Verse by Verse*, (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986) p. 113



Conversational EVANGELISM





WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND...?

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

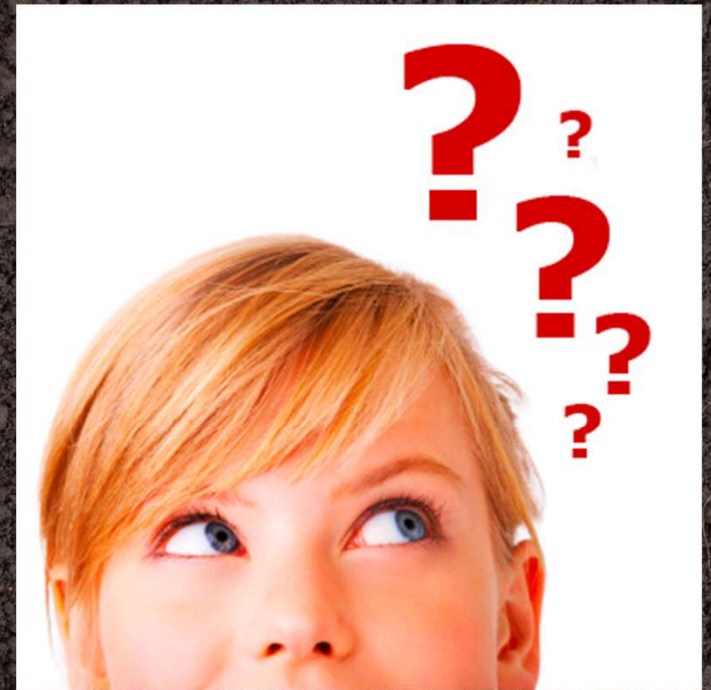


...by Remember the Three D's of  
Conversational Evangelism?

Doubt

Defensiveness

Desire







Jesus practiced this model...



"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'" (Jn. 4: 10 E.S.V.)







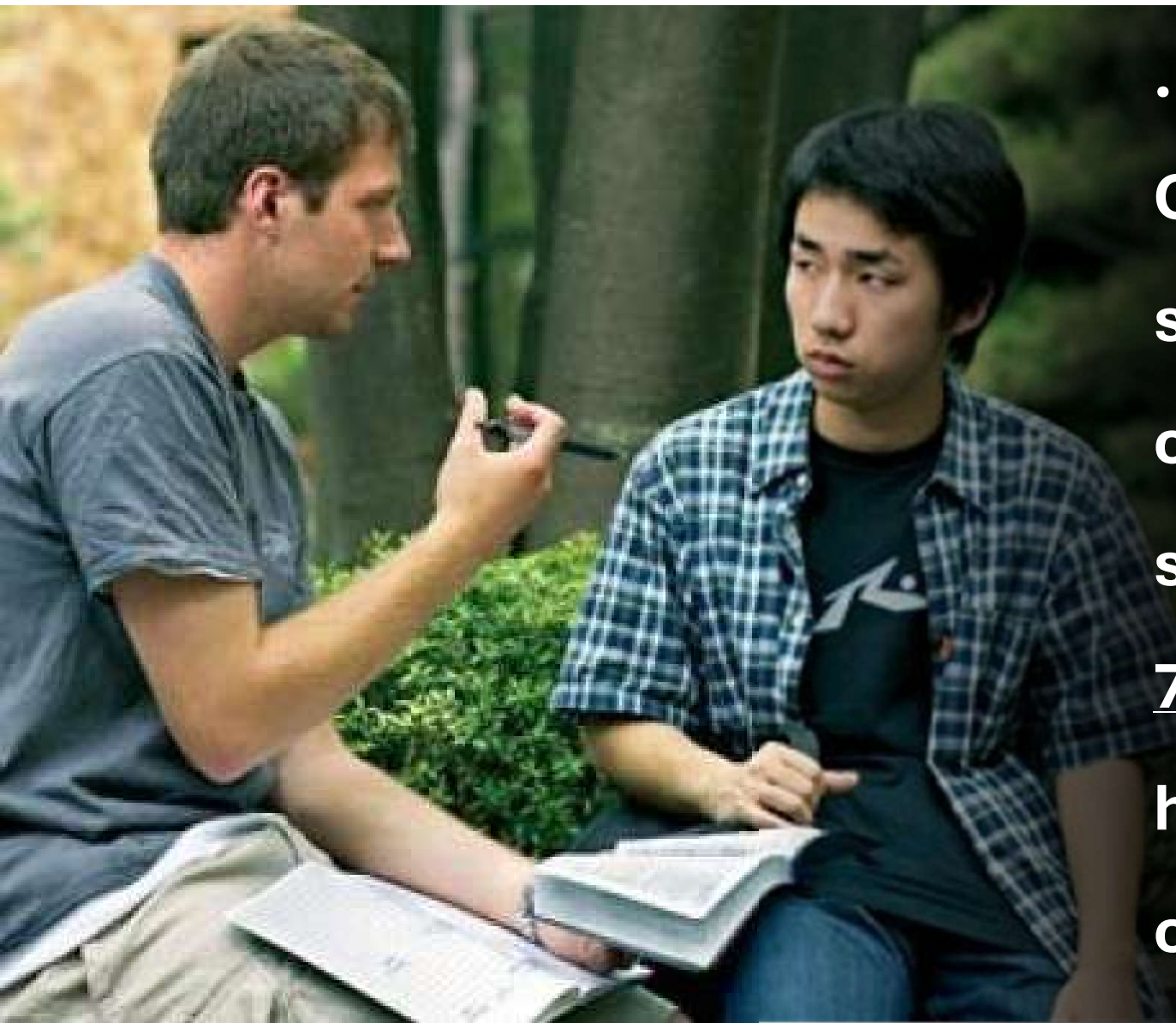
## What is a Certain Kind of Evangelism...?

1. One that uses an approach that is more conversational.
  2. One that seeks to build spiritual bridge to your unbelieving friends from the standpoint of their interest not your own.
  3. One that allows others to discover the truth for themselves by asking thought-provoking questions about what they say they believe.
  4. One that remembers the Three D's of Conversational Evangelism.
- 
- 

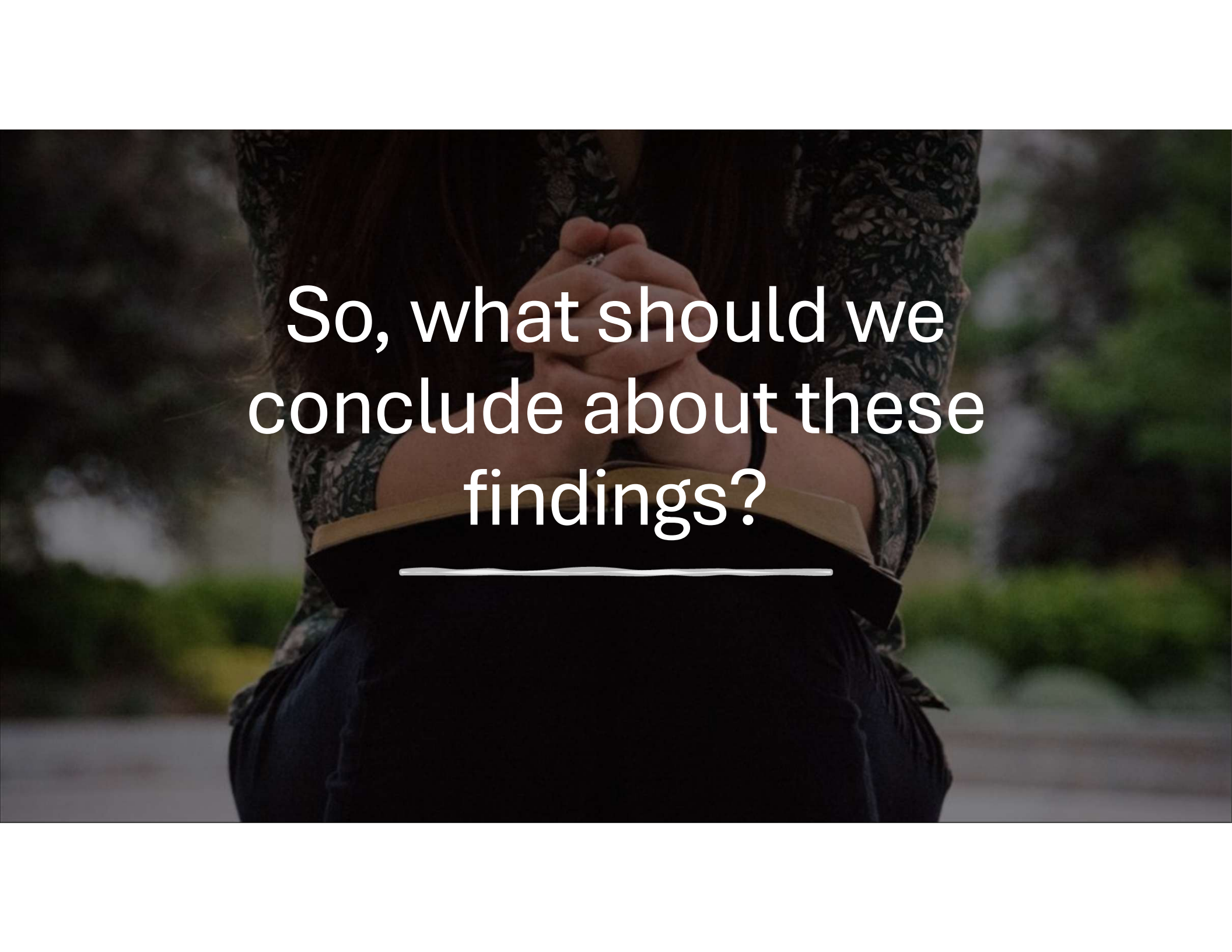
A photograph of a paved path leading straight into the distance, flanked by dense foliage in autumn colors (greens, yellows, oranges, and reds). The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text "In the same 2018 Barna poll, they revealed that..." is overlaid in white, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

In the same 2018 Barna poll,  
they revealed that...





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



So, what should we  
conclude about these  
findings?

---





**a certain kind of APOLOGETIC**

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared (ready) to make a defensive to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15








What is a Certain  
Kind of  
Apologetics?

One that understands  
the importance of  
"being ready."





"Being ready is not just a matter of having the right information available, it is also an attitude of readiness and eagerness to share the truth of what we believe."

Norman Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics, p. 37





The Greek word for ready (Hetoimos) is used in Matthew 24:44 and Luke 12:40 to communicate the idea that as Christians we need to anticipate Christ's return.





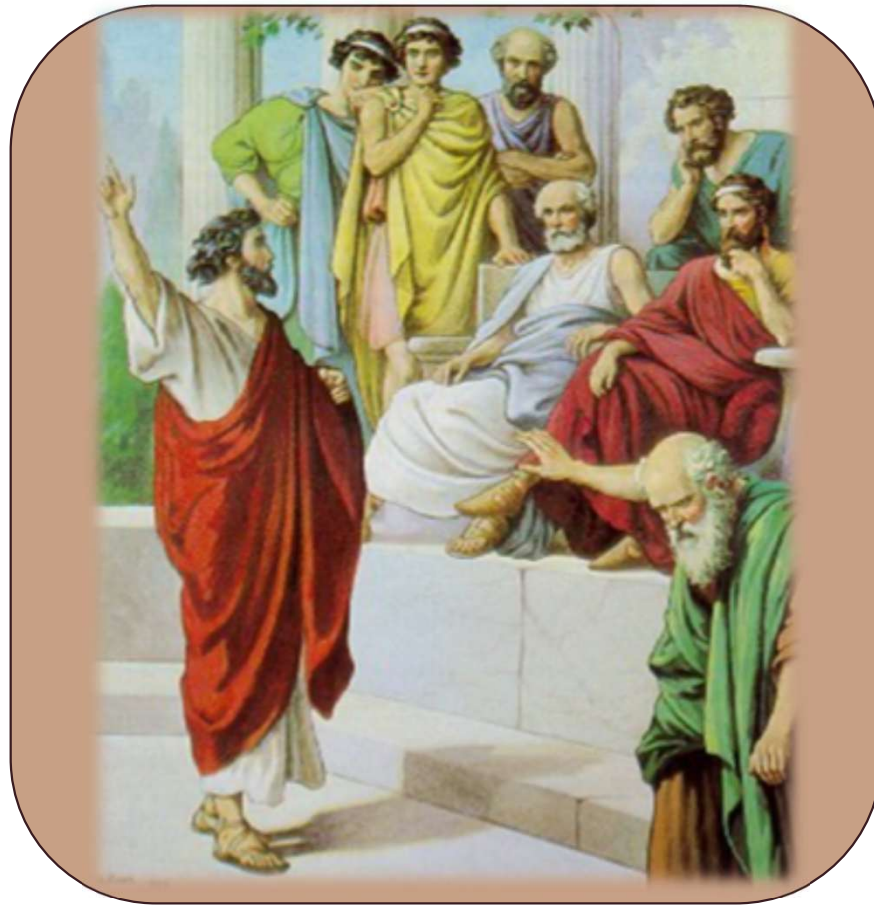
## What Does It Mean To "Be Ready" in 1 Peter 3:15?

If we combine 1 Peter 3:15 with 2 Corinthians 10:5 and 1 Corinthians 9:22, it is clear that our responsibility is also to eagerly anticipate the questions and objections and remove barriers whether others ask us a specific question or not!





That Was The Apostle Paul's Practice!  
**In Acts 17**



## Persuading them From Nature

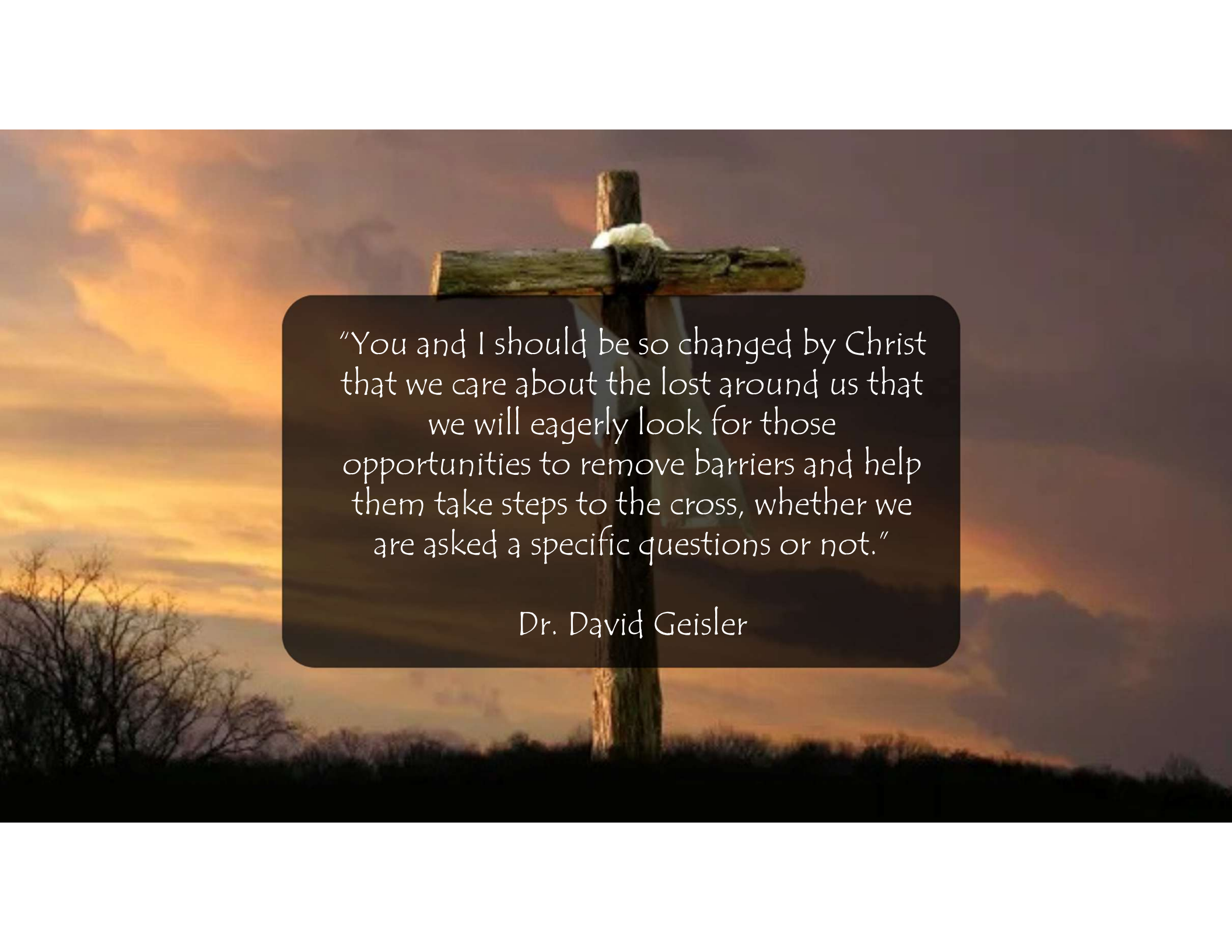
### Paul's approach in Acts 17:29



“Being then God’s offspring,  
we ought not to think that the  
divine being is like gold or  
silver or stone, an image  
formed by the art and  
imagination of man.”

Acts 17:29 ESV



A wooden cross stands on a hill against a dramatic sunset sky with orange and purple clouds. The cross is made of rough-hewn wood and has a small white object, possibly a flower or cloth, tied to the top. The background shows the silhouettes of trees and a dark horizon.

"You and I should be so changed by Christ  
that we care about the lost around us that  
we will eagerly look for those  
opportunities to remove barriers and help  
them take steps to the cross, whether we  
are asked a specific questions or not."

Dr. David Geisler



## The Bottom Line Concerning 1 Peter 3:15

If we are going to be able to fulfill the imperatives of 1 Peter 3:15 in today's world, we must understand our responsibilities as being more than just giving answers if asked!

We must eagerly work  
to remove their barriers!







## **WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND OF APOLOGETICS?**

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

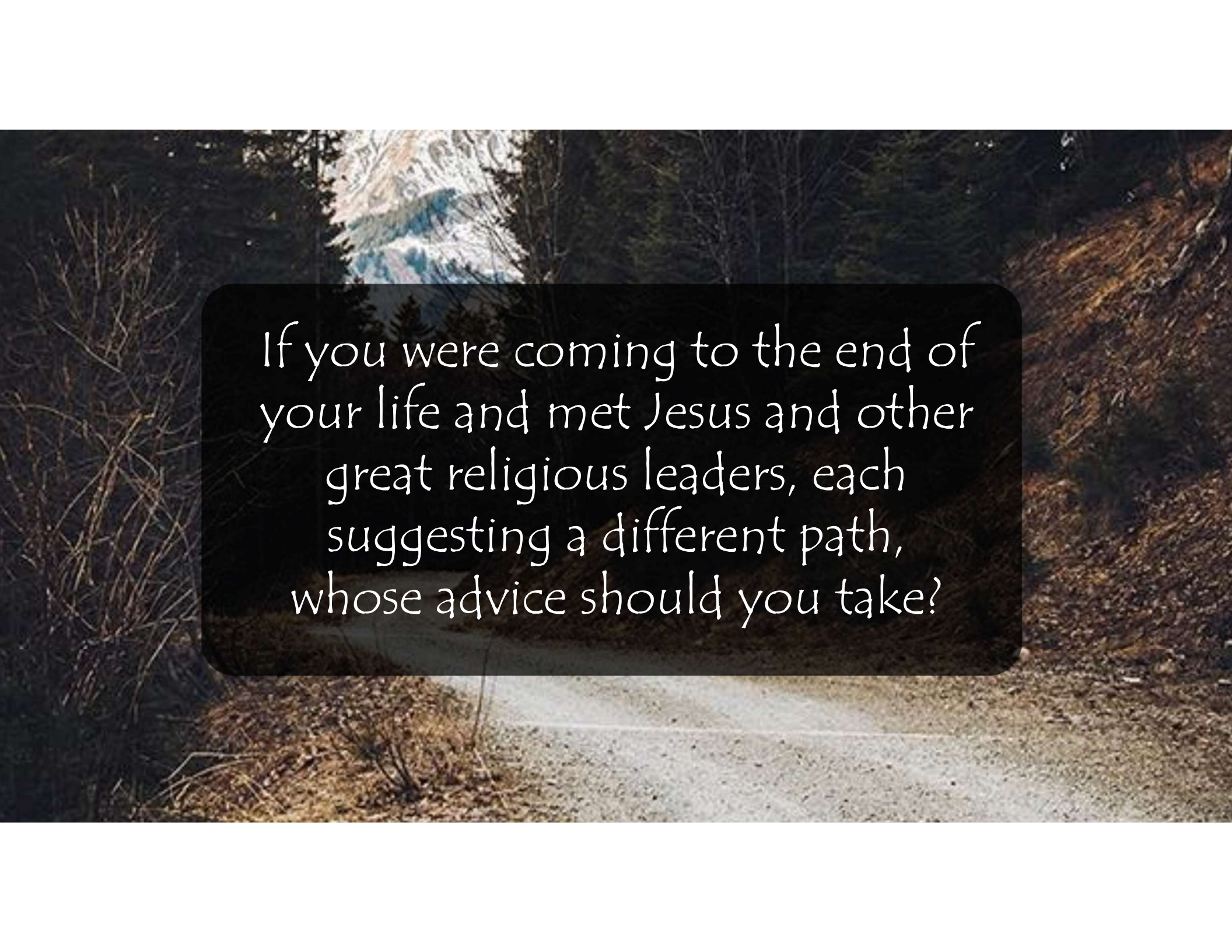
NGIM



DAVID  
GEISLER

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





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

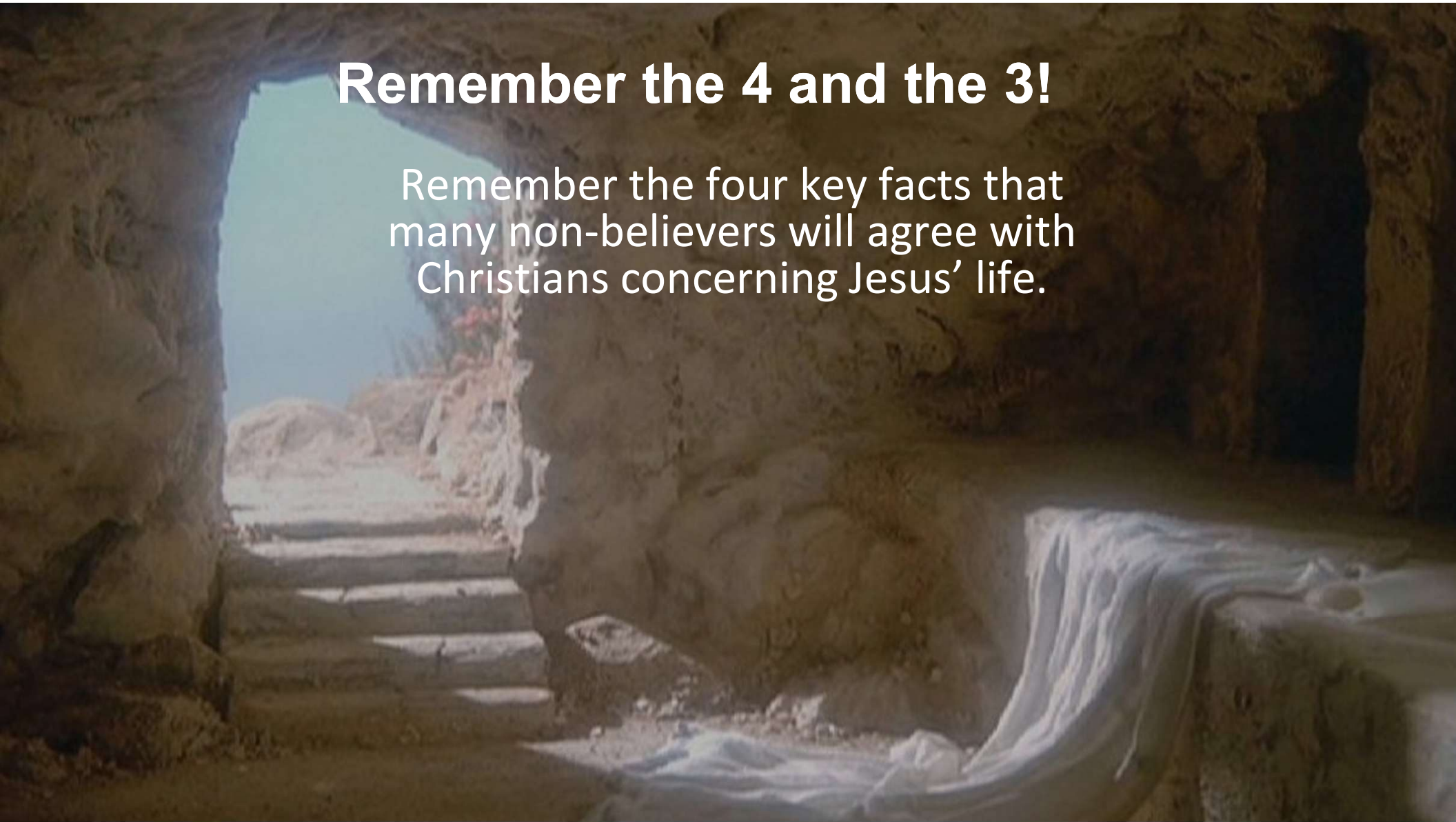


Wouldn't  
you take the  
advice of  
someone  
who's been  
to the other  
side and  
come back  
to tell us  
about it?



# **Remember the 4 and the 3!**

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





## Remember The Four Facts...

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 robe is walking up a set of stone steps. The person is seen from behind, and their feet are visible on the steps. At the top of the steps, there is a very bright, glowing light that fills the opening of the passage. The walls on either side of the steps are made of rough, textured stone.

Jesus Claimed To Be and Proved To Be God!

Jesus did three things to  
prove that He was God!



**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 models a two step approach.**

# The Twelve Points Consists of:



**Establish  
Theism**



**Establish  
Christianity**

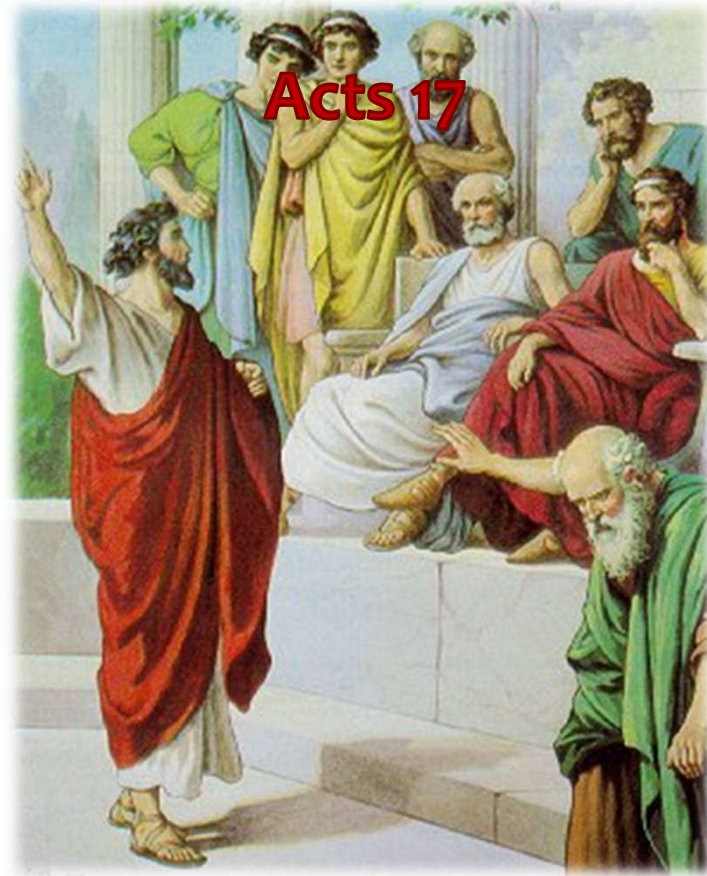
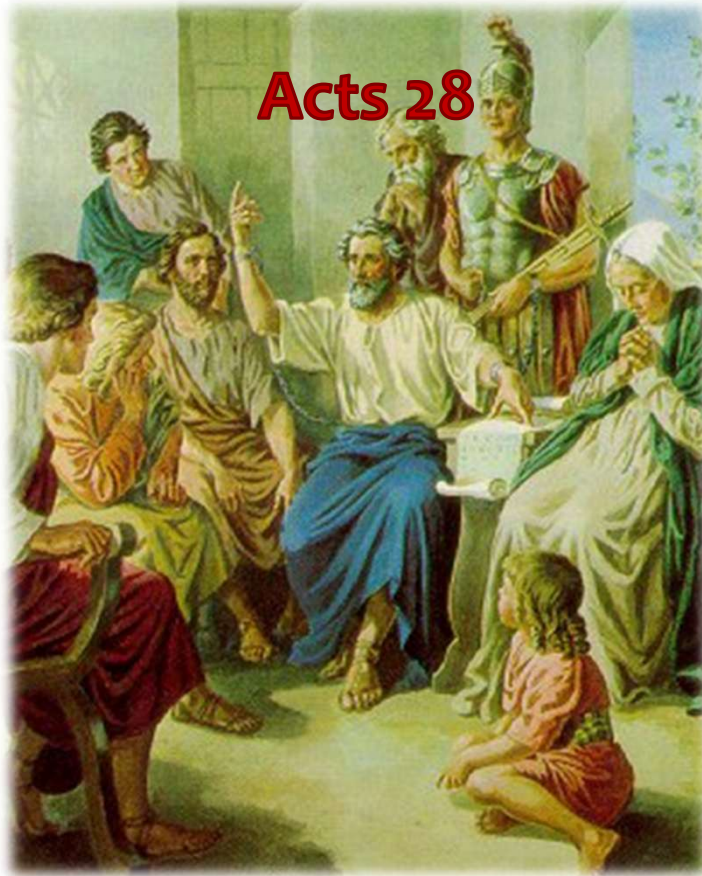


The Apostle Paul kept  
in mind this two-step...

The Apostle Paul's  
approach was different  
depending on the  
worldview of the  
audience he spoke to.



# How we dialogue...





Why is understanding  
worldviews so important  
in evangelism?





"If I am to help people who are not interested in looking at Jesus because they are quite happy with what they believe, I must first set about understanding what it is that they believe"

Nick Pollard, Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult, p.47







"I must do everything I can to understand their worldview. Only then will I know what kinds of questions to raise with them."

Nick Pollard, Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult, p.47



# THREE MAJOR RELIGIOUS WORLD VIEWS



**THEISM**

God Made All



**PANTHEISM**

God Is All



**ATHEISM**

No God At All



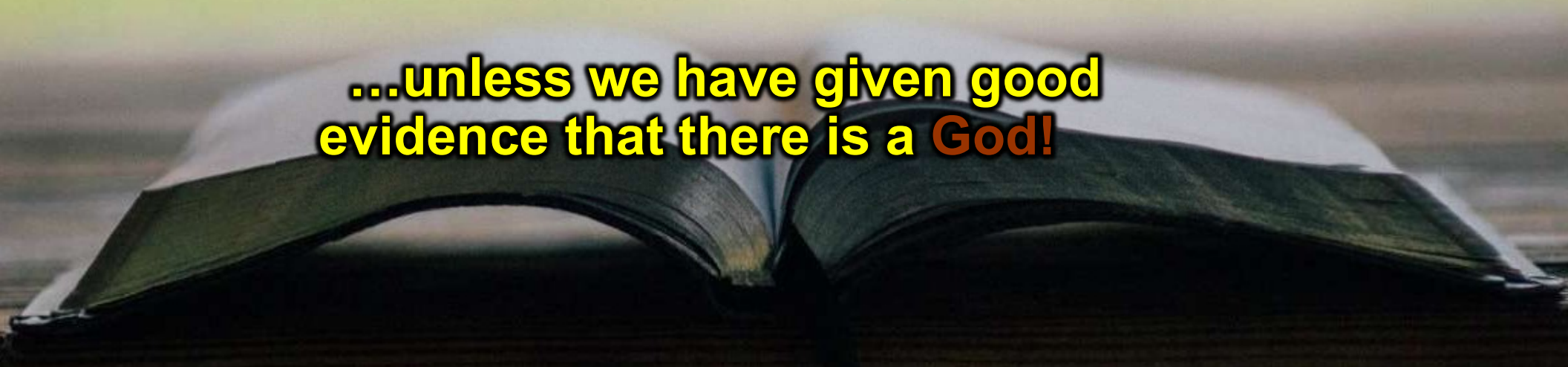
A pair of hands is shown from the wrists up, cupping a small, realistic globe of the Earth. The hands are positioned centrally, with fingers slightly curled. The globe shows blue oceans, white clouds, and brown landmasses. The background is a deep space scene with a dark blue and black sky filled with numerous small white stars and some faint, wispy nebulae. The text "Step 1: Establish Theism" is overlaid in a white, serif font across the middle of the image, partially covering the hands and the globe.

Step 1: Establish Theism

**What we need to remember about witnessing!**

**People may not be open to hearing  
about ...the Son of God,  
...the Word of God,  
...miraculous acts of God,  
...the salvation of God—**

**...unless we have given good  
evidence that there is a God!**





**Establishing The Correct Worldview Is Important  
Because of How Worldviews Color People's Conclusions!**





Personal Example:

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

Hindu Grad Student,  
University of Texas at Austin



The background of the slide is a deep space image featuring a bright, yellowish-orange galaxy core or nebula in the center, surrounded by a field of numerous blue and white stars against a dark cosmic background.

## Knowledge of God...

**For what can be known about  
God is plain to them, because  
God has shown it to them.**

**Romans 1:19 ESV**



&  
MINDS

# GOD'S TRUTH: Written on Our

w/ Dr. David Geisler

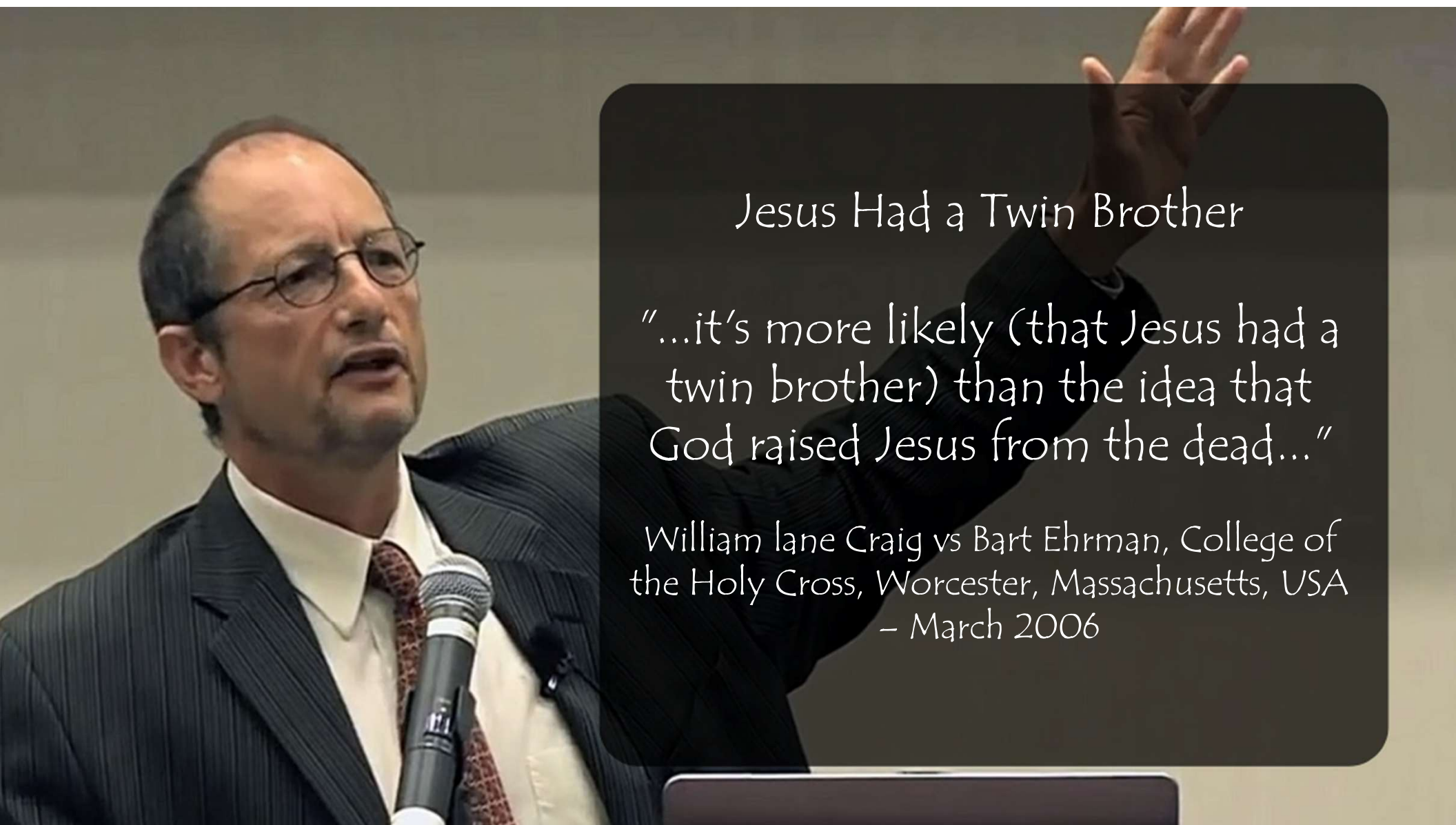
HEARTS







# Step 2: Establish Christianity

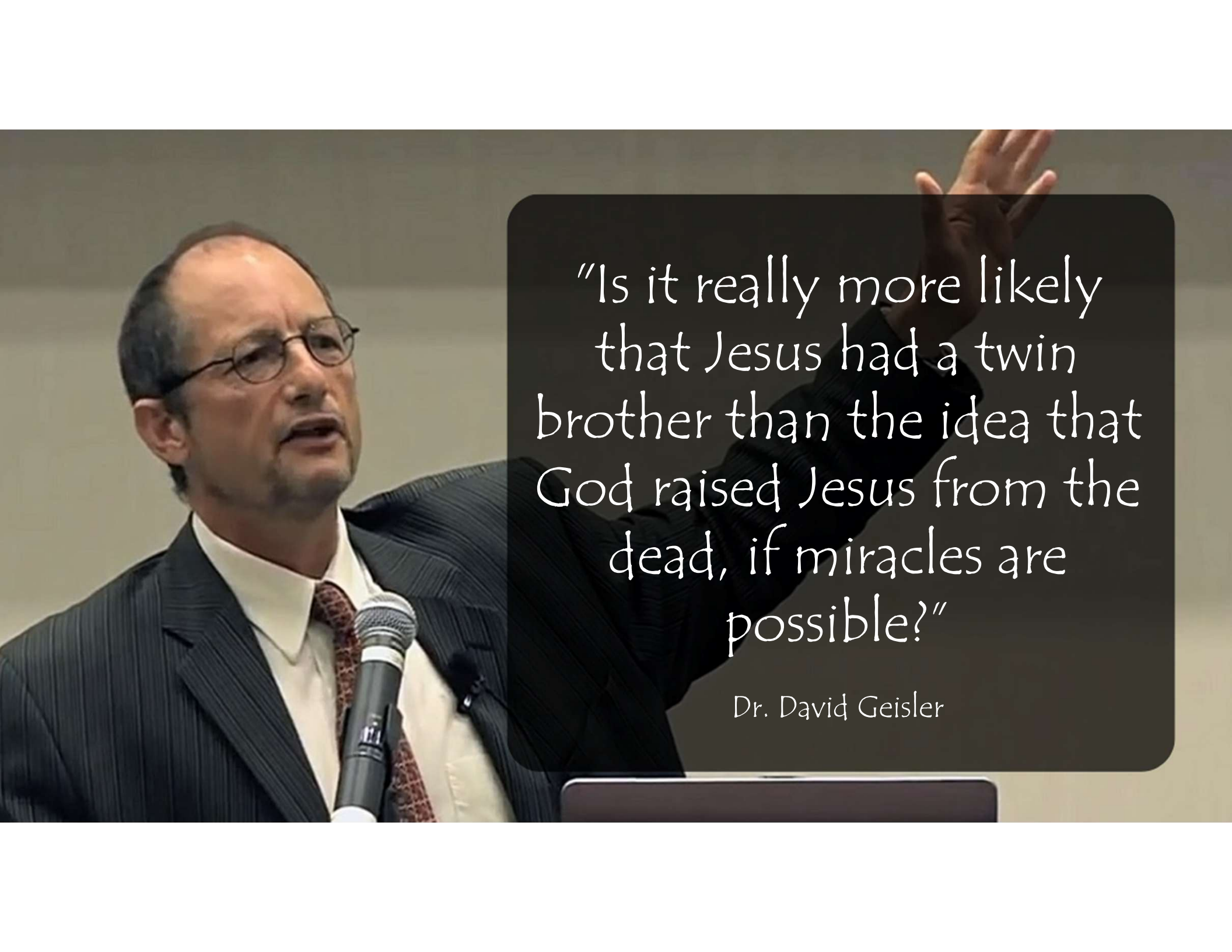


## Jesus Had a Twin Brother

"...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, USA  
– March 2006



A photograph of Dr. David Geisler, a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a dark pinstripe suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is speaking into a microphone at a podium, with his right hand raised in a gesture. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

"Is it really more likely  
that Jesus had a twin  
brother than the idea that  
God raised Jesus from the  
dead, if miracles are  
possible?"

Dr. David Geisler

## **The Bible Can Be Trusted**

I.If God exists, then miracles are possible

II.The N.T. documents are historically reliable

III.In the NT Jesus claimed to be God

IV.Jesus proved to be God by an  
unprecedented convergence of miracles

A. The miracle of fulfilled prophecy

B. The miracle of the Resurrection

V.Therefore, Jesus was God in human flesh

VI.What Jesus (who is God) teaches is true

VII.Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God

VIII.Therefore the Bible is the Word of God





What is a Certain Kind of  
Apologetics...?

One that  
remembers...



**...remembers the domino principle in apologetics!**





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

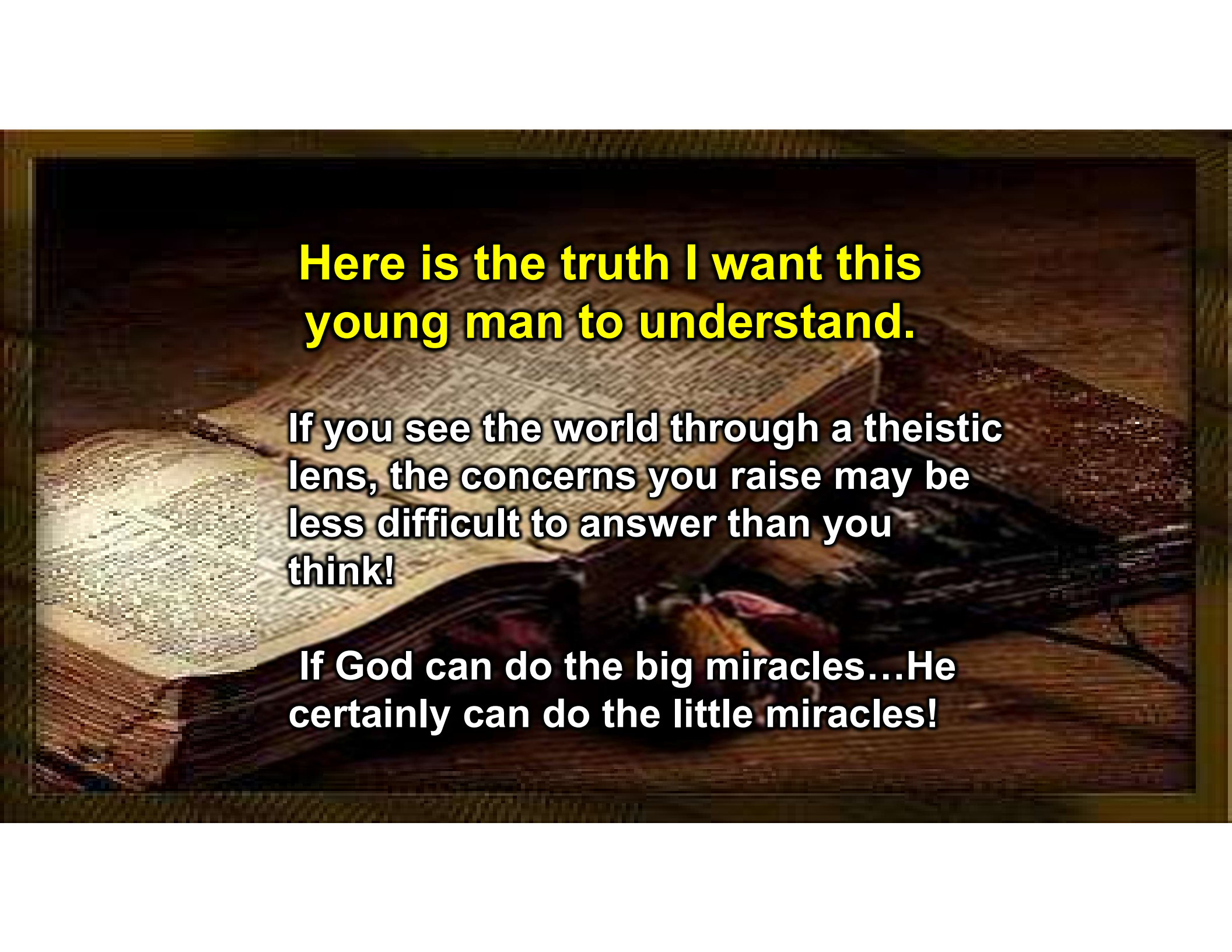




**“How can you believe  
the Bible when it was  
written by so many  
different people who  
were imperfect?”**

**A young skeptic in Italy**




The background of the image is a photograph of an open book with aged, yellowed pages. A red ribbon bookmark is visible, tucked between the pages. The book is resting on a dark, textured wooden surface. The lighting is warm and focused on the book, creating a sense of depth and texture.

**Here is the truth I want this  
young man to understand.**

**If you see the world through a theistic  
lens, the concerns you raise may be  
less difficult to answer than you  
think!**

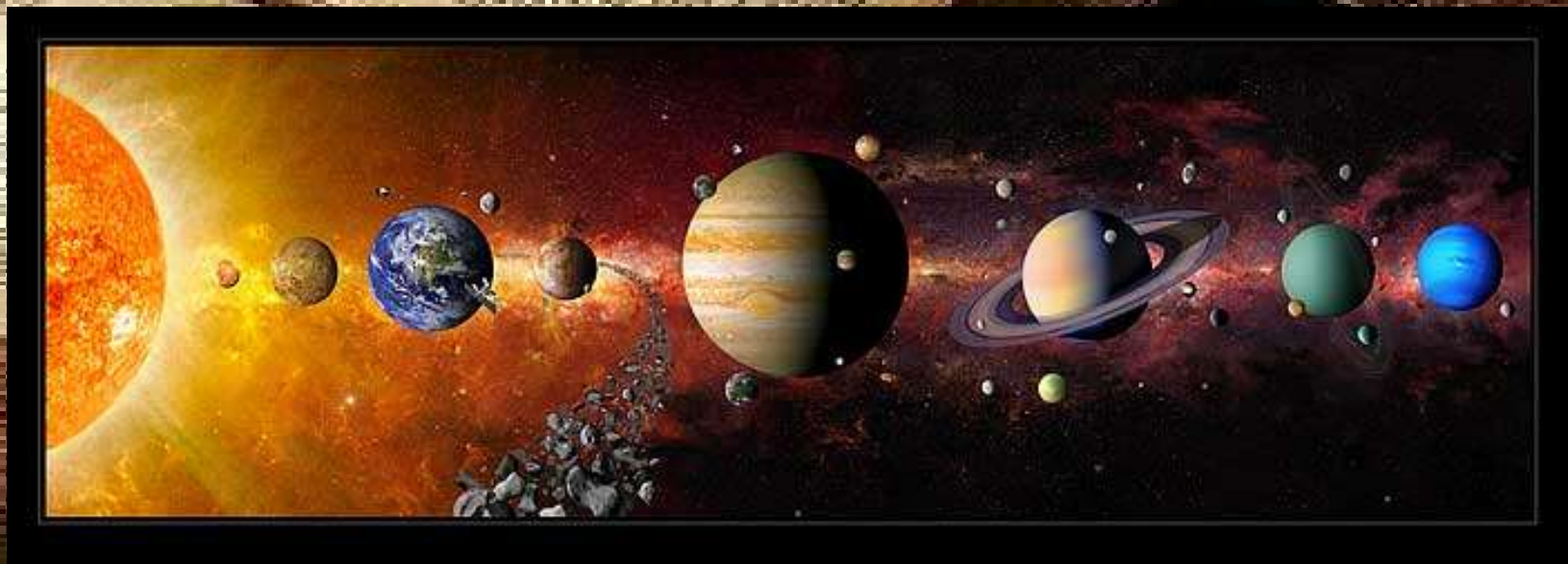
**If God can do the big miracles...He  
certainly can do the little miracles!**



**“Would you agree that if there is  
A God who can create the  
universe, then He’s powerful enough  
to ensure that what He wants to  
communicate to us reaches us,  
Even through imperfect people?”**



**His reply:**  
**“I would certainly see this  
issue as less problematic.”**





## What is a Certain Kind of Apologetics...?

One that is selective in using an apologetic approach while being sensitive the work of the Holy Spirit.





# Why?

Evidence alone will not help someone to welcome Christ!

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.  
(1 Cor. 2:14)

You need the ministry of the Holy Spirit

65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." (Jn. 6:65)



Remember also that non-believers do not reject Christianity because of the lack of evidence.

“Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,” (Jn. 12:37).

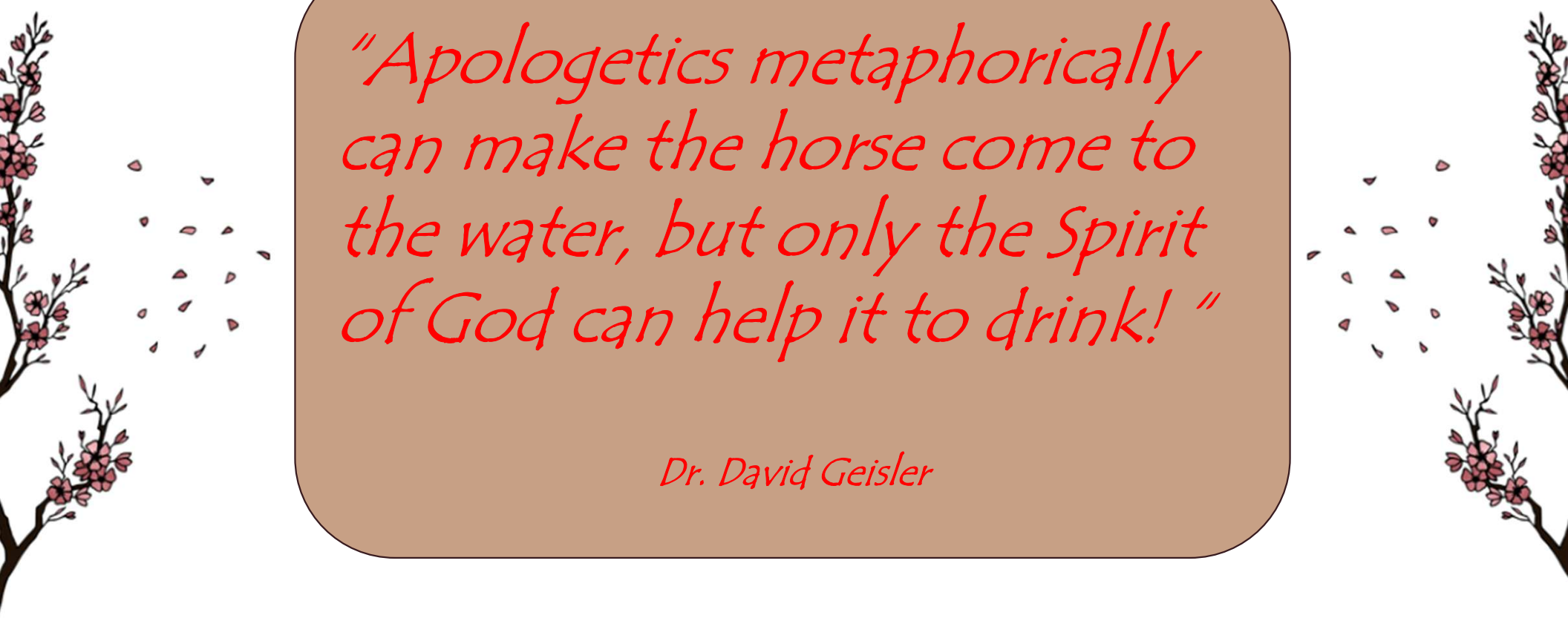
Remember that non-believers  
primary barrier is not intellectual.

*" They are darkened in their  
understanding, alienated from  
the life of God because of the  
ignorance that is in them, due  
to their hardness of heart. "*  
Ephesians 4:18 ESV



# Implications

*Remember you can't use  
apologetics to argue someone  
into the kingdom.*



*"Apologetics metaphorically  
can make the horse come to  
the water, but only the Spirit  
of God can help it to drink! "*

*Dr. David Geisler*



## Futher Implication

When you witness to someone, you should make sure they understanding that they have to make two decisions concerning Jesus.

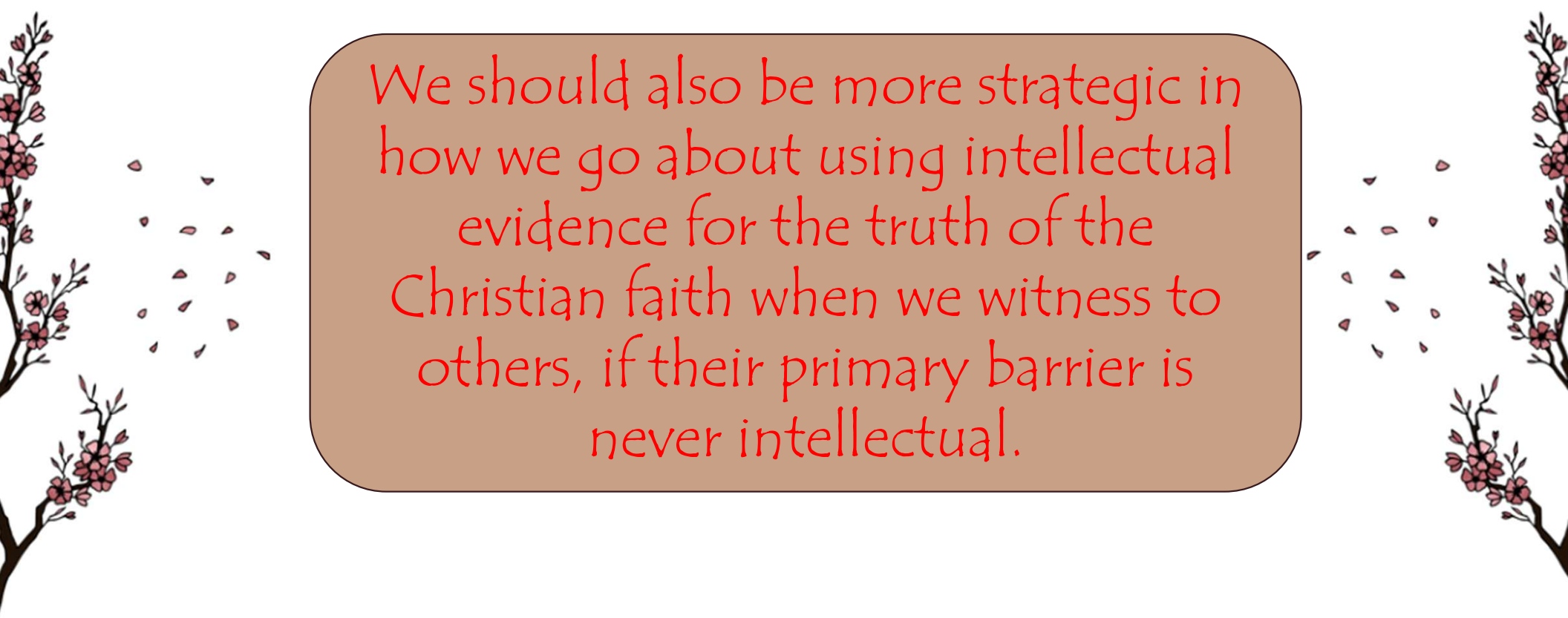
One decision involves reason.

The other decision involves a step of Faith.

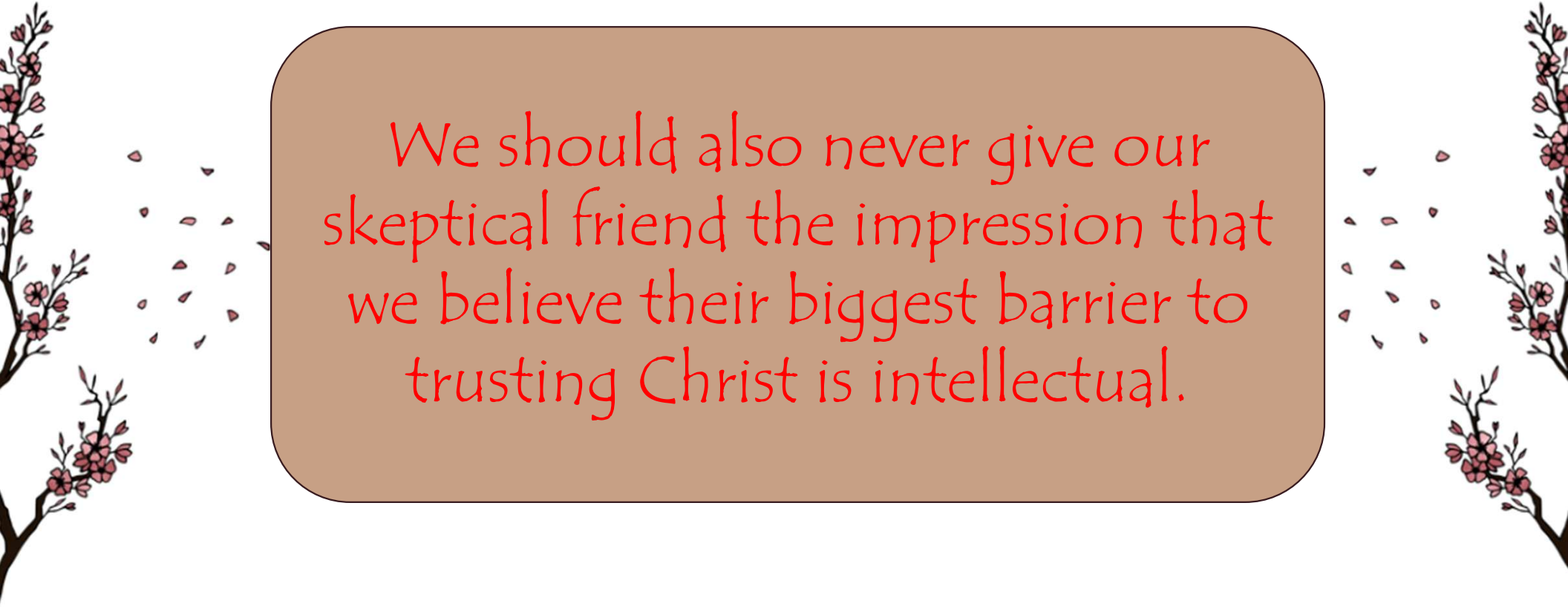
## Another Implication

We should remind them that even after they get the evidence they were looking for, taking steps to the Cross may not be as easy as they think!



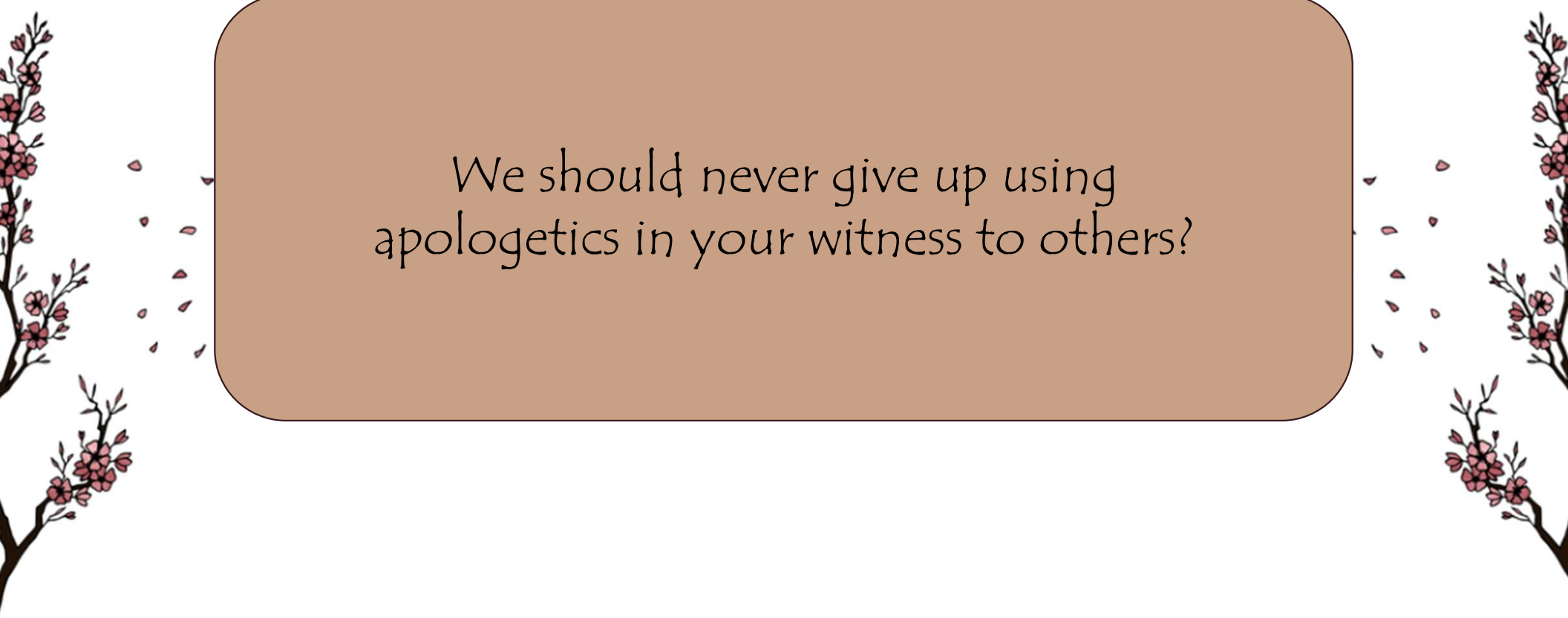


We should also be more strategic in how we go about using intellectual evidence for the truth of the Christian faith when we witness to others, if their primary barrier is never intellectual.



We should also never give our skeptical friend the impression that we believe their biggest barrier to trusting Christ is intellectual.







We should never give up using  
apologetics in your witness to others?



## What is a Certain Kind of Apologetics...?

1. One that understands the importance of "being ready."
  2. One that compels us to use a "lite" approach in our first encounter with skeptics.
  3. One that models a two-step approach.
  4. One that remembers the domino principle in apologetics.
  5. One that is selective in using an apologetic approach while being sensitive the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 
- 





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



What is a Certain Kind of  
Discipleship...?

One that understands that  
discipleship should be  
fundamental and not  
supplemental.



**Remember that the Bible doesn't teach  
us just to **go and make converts only!****

**Go therefore and make disciples** of all  
nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of  
the Father and of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I  
have commanded you. And behold, I am  
with you always, to the end of the age.”

**(Matt. 28:19-20)**





What is a Certain Kind of  
Discipleship...?

One that understands  
that that mandate should  
precede the mission.



"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





The enemy's strategy is  
to get you focused on  
the mission and neglect  
the mandate!





What is a Certain Kind of  
Discipleship...?

One that understands that...



"...the key to abiding in  
Christ (our MASTER) is..."

"...Acknowledging and  
mourning our spiritual  
poverty!"

Rev. Edmund Chan







## Matthew 5:3-4 (ESV)

"Blessed are the  
poor in spirit, for  
theirs is the  
kingdom of  
heaven, 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 is a Certain Kind of Discipleship...?

1. One that understands that discipleship should be fundamental and not supplemental.
  2. One that understands that mandate should precede the mission.
  3. One that understands that the key to abiding in Christ is acknowledging and mourning our spiritual poverty!
- 
- 



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





...By modeling...

A Certain Kind of Evangelism

A Certain Kind of Apologetics

A Certain Kind of Discipleship





# 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 photograph of a wooden bridge with a metal railing, surrounded by trees with yellow autumn leaves. The bridge is made of weathered wooden planks and has a dark metal railing with vertical posts. The path leads into the distance, flanked by trees with vibrant yellow foliage. The scene is captured in a warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

# **The Five Planks**

**“I am accountable”  
1st Plank**

**Our Goal:  
Help non-  
believers  
surface the  
truth that  
we are  
accountable to  
our Creator in  
some way.**



We are accountable to our parents as children!





**We are accountable to our teachers as children**




**We are accountable to our boss!**



**We are accountable to our government!**

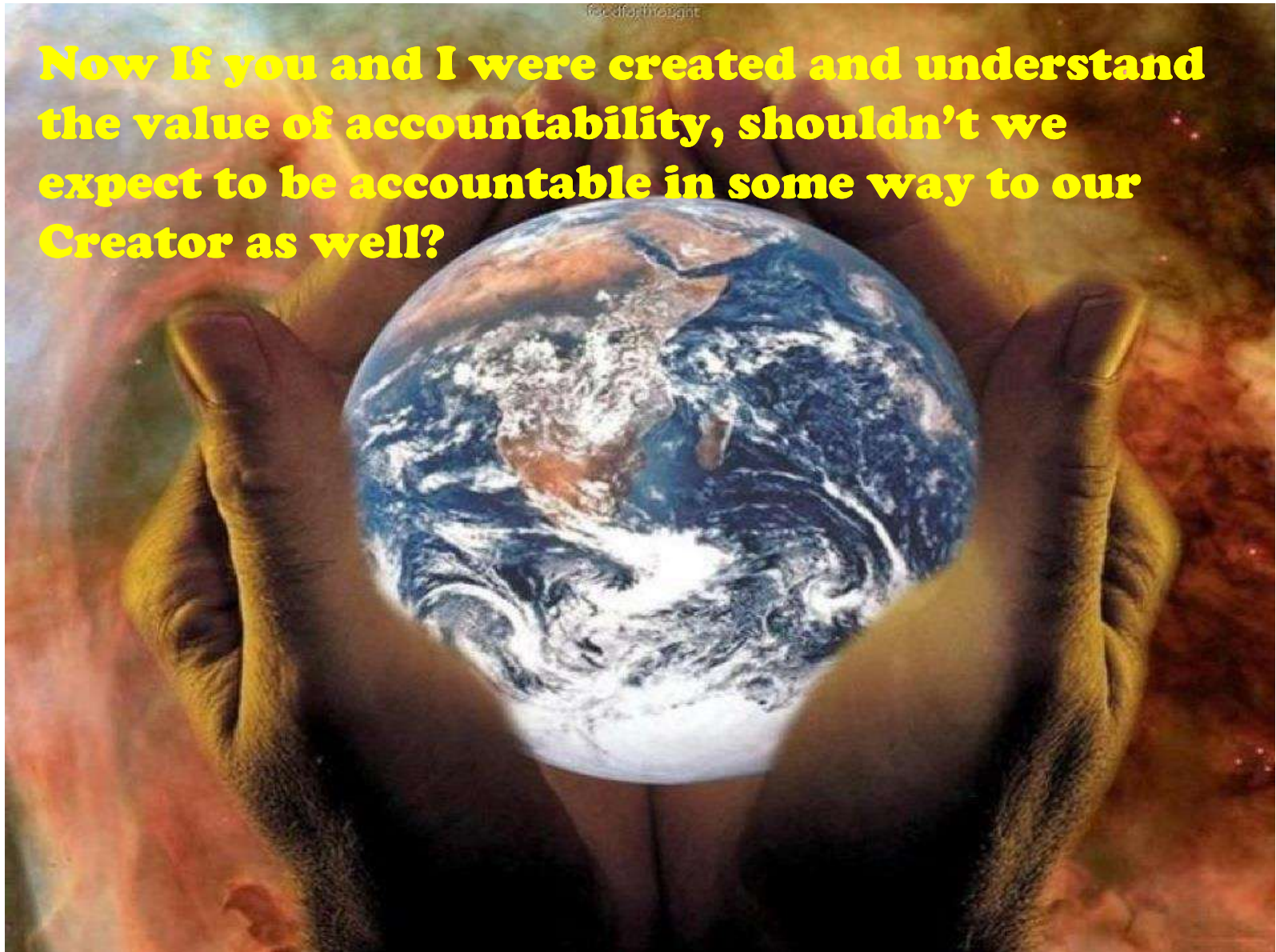






**We hope there is some kind of  
accountability in the afterlife  
for the crimes of people like  
Adolf Hitler, Osama bin Laden, and ISIS.**

**Now If you and I were created and understand the value of accountability, shouldn't we expect to be accountable in some way to our Creator as well?**





A photograph of a wooden boardwalk or bridge with railings, winding through a dense forest. The boardwalk is made of wooden planks and has railings made of wooden posts and horizontal rails. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees and dense foliage. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or a shaded area. The text "I cannot measure up" and "2nd Plank" is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

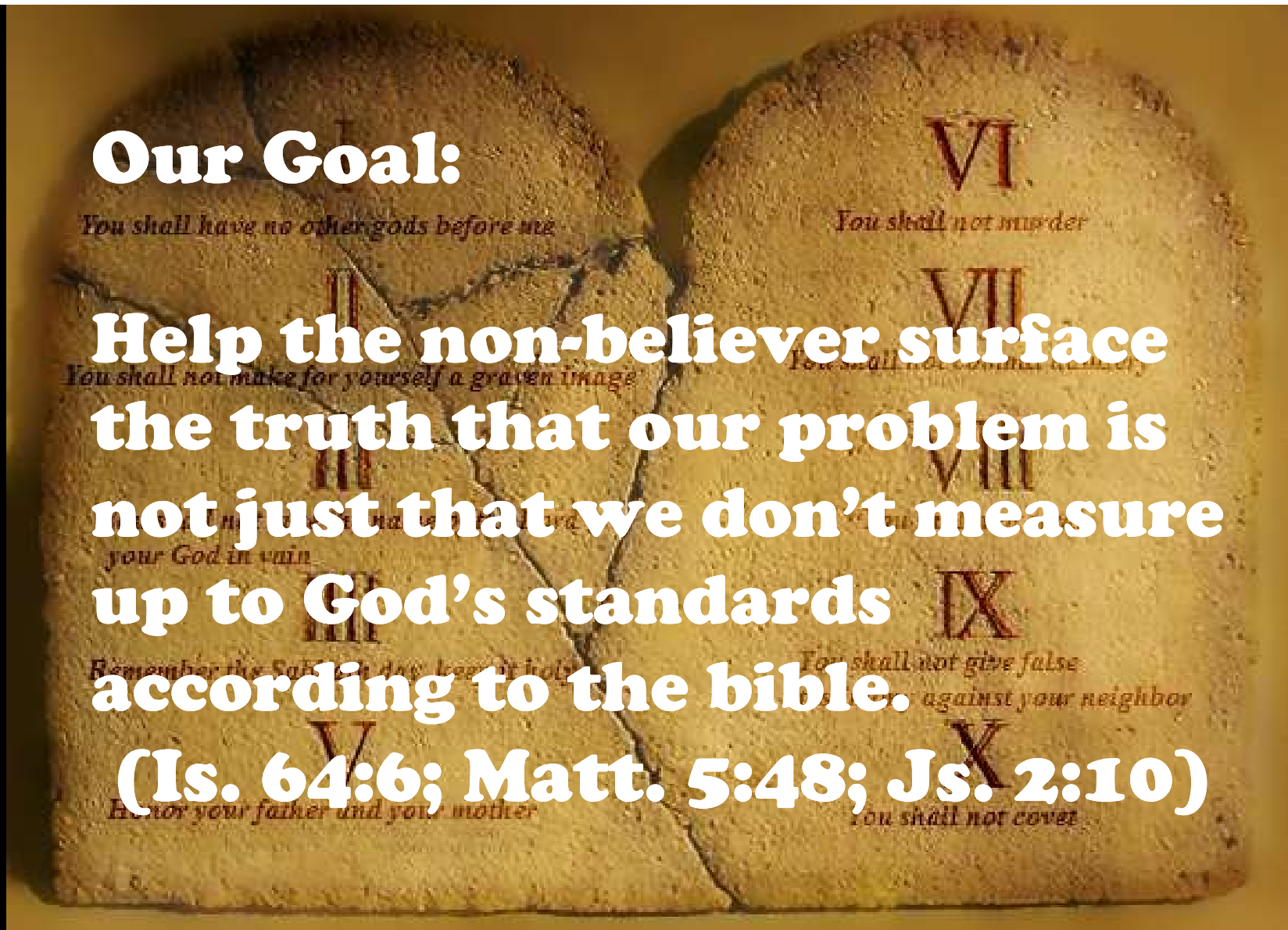
**“I cannot  
measure up”  
2nd Plank**



## **Our Goal:**

**Help the non-believer surface  
the truth that our problem is  
not just that we don't measure  
up to God's standards  
according to the bible.**

**(Is. 64:6; Matt. 5:48; Js. 2:10)**



**Our own  
experience  
teaches us also  
that at times  
we can't even  
measure up  
to our own  
standards.**



## PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up

- For example It bothers me that I am not a better \_\_\_\_\_ to my (children/brother/sister) or a better \_\_\_\_\_ to my (spouse/parents).



## PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up

- Now many of us feel this sense of alienation because of this separation from our Creator, but some of us may try to bring about greater reconciliation by doing good things to make up for our shortcomings.
- The problem is that no matter how much good we do...it is still not going to make a difference. *Let me explain what I mean by this by giving an illustration.*

## **PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up**

Illustration:

Suppose you have done something to hurt your spouse, significant other, or good friend deeply. How can you reconcile with them? Can you do something very nice and sacrificial for their parents that will bring about a restored relationship? Obviously not.

- So why would we think that by doing good things for others that somehow that will help us in our relationship with our Creator?

**Now if you and I have  
a standard of what is  
right and wrong and  
we don't live up to it,  
can you imagine that  
God's standard might  
be higher than our own?**



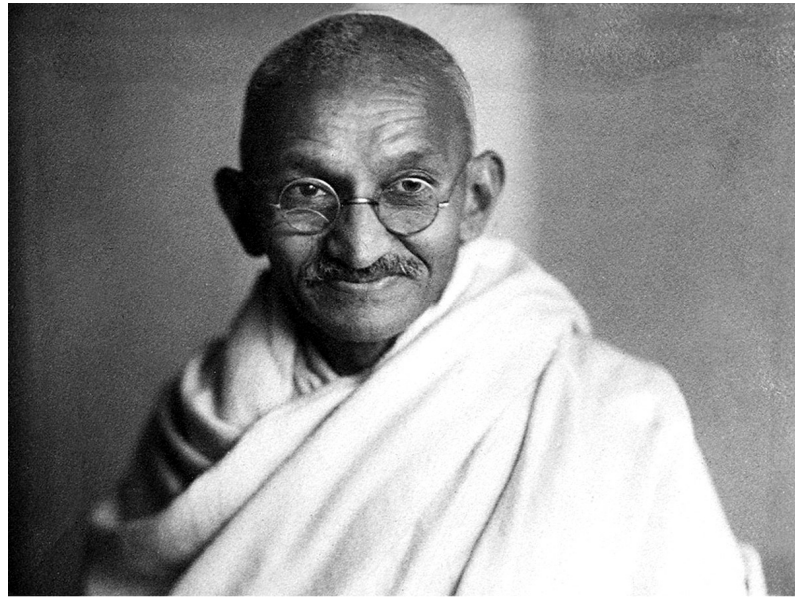
A photograph of a traditional Japanese-style wooden bridge with a curved railing, set in a lush green forest. The bridge is made of dark wood and has a stone base. The surrounding area is filled with dense foliage and tall trees. The text "I am alienated from my Creator." is overlaid in white, bold, serif font.

**“I am alienated  
from my Creator.”**

**3rd Plank**



**We know that people like  
Mother Teresa and  
Gandhi did some  
good things in their life.**



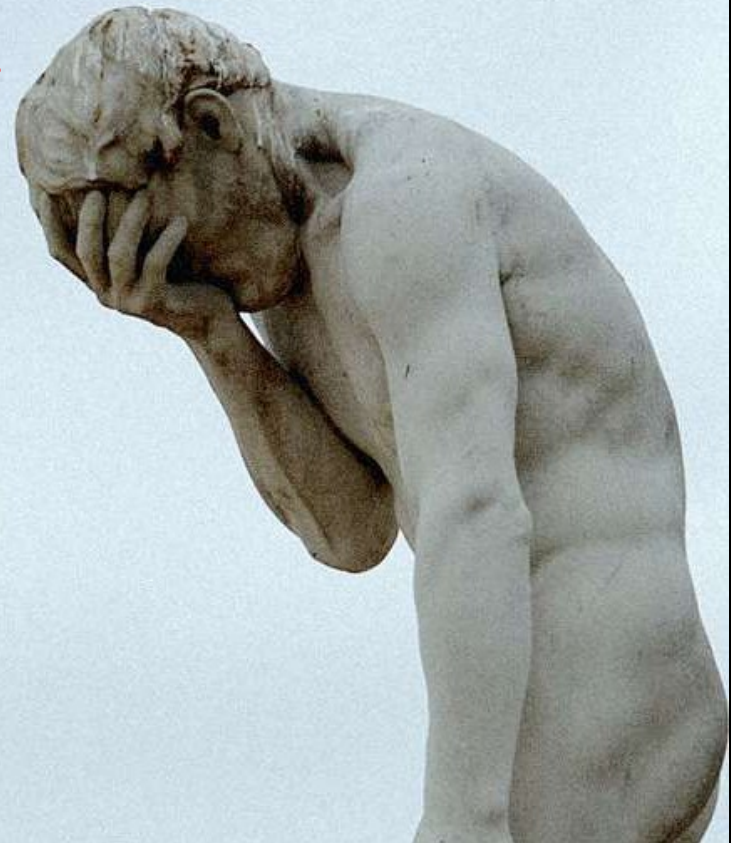
**But we also know others that  
did some really evil things**





**“But I’ll be honest with  
you...it’s not just the  
evil in other people  
that bothers me.  
The evil in my own life  
bothers me as well!  
In fact, you don’t have  
to look in the Bible  
to see what God  
says about me.  
Just ask my wife!”**

**Dr. David Geisler**



## PLANK THREE: I am a sinner

- The Bible teaches that our rebellion against God has caused a separation between God and us. (Rom. 6:23)

## PLANK THREE: I am a sinner

- Now if our sins have to be judged, and we are not capable of changing our situation, what can we do?

Answer: We need to turn to an outside source.

*(This then allows us to look for another way other than our own effort)*




A photograph of a long, straight wooden bridge with railings, stretching into a dense forest. The bridge is made of weathered wooden planks and has a simple railing with vertical posts. The forest is lush with green trees, and the lighting suggests a bright, sunny day. The bridge leads the viewer's eye deep into the woods.

**“I need an outside  
source for help”  
4th Plank**

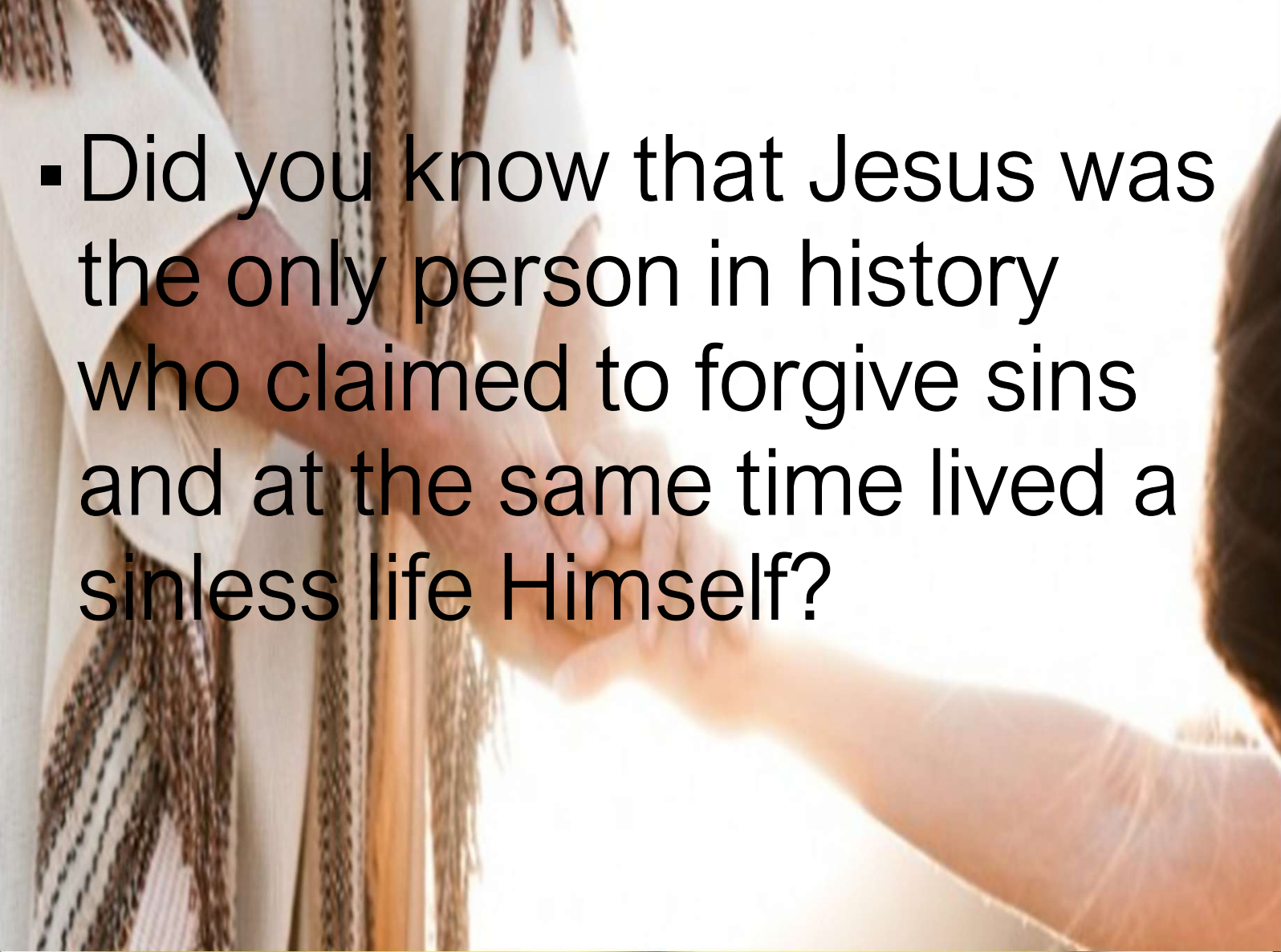
A close-up photograph of a person's hand wiping a light-colored wooden table surface with a bright yellow cloth. The hand is moving from left to right, and the cloth is slightly folded. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with light coming through. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**When you clean  
a dirty table, do you use  
a dirty or a clean cloth?**



- 
- A close-up photograph of a person's hand resting on a bright yellow sponge. The sponge is placed on a light-colored wooden surface. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with light coming through. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.
- **Would you agree that a dirty thing cannot clean itself?**
  - **Would you agree that the only person who can clean away our sins must be perfectly clean himself?**



- 
- Did you know that Jesus was the only person in history who claimed to forgive sins and at the same time lived a sinless life Himself?



**“I need what only  
Jesus Christ can  
provide”  
5th Plank**



## Christ's Unique Life

- Not only was Jesus unique in living a sinless life, he also gave evidence that he had power over death. Do you know how he did this?

Answer: By rising from the dead!



## Christ's Unique Life

- Do you know any other person in history who died, and came back to life and told us what was on the other side?
- Do you know why it is so important for Christians that Jesus actually rose from the dead? (Rom. 8:11)



## Christ's Unique Life

### Answer:

**Because that same power that raised Jesus from dead is available to me to live a transformed life!**

**Because of Jesus' power in my life,  
I can be a better \_\_\_\_\_  
to my (children/brother/sister) and  
a better \_\_\_\_\_ to my  
spouse, (parents).**

# One on One Role Play



1. Have each person practice with another person giving these five points to a gospel presentation following the handout you were given. Use either the illustrations that the speaker gave or come up with your own examples.
2. The person who plays the role of the non-believer can raise concerns at each point of the Five planks but try not to be too obnoxious.
3. After you get through this exercise talk about it and give some suggestions for how you would communicate this message even better next time.





A person's silhouette is shown holding a large book open against a vibrant sunset sky. The sky transitions from deep purple at the top to bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouette of a field and a line of trees on a hillside. The text "SOMETHING TO CONSIDER" is centered in the upper half of the image.

**SOMETHING TO CONSIDER**

# **A PERSONAL STORY**

Our  
**Walk** and  
*Witness*

EVANGELISM  
APOLOGETICS  
DISCIPLESHIP



**BA0** "Apologetics", "Evangelism", "Discipleship" are a little hard to read. the placement of them also might not be the best.

Love what you did with the title though! clear, easy to read.

Birkeland, Heather Jean (Studio, 2025-01-14T19:01:06.271

**BA1** I know Dr. Geisler's slides tend to have a lot of different images for the backgrounds. That actually makes it hard for readers to follow cause there is no consistency.

I'll say feel free to stick to a theme (color, style) through out. like this sand color, bring it back to each slide, get ride of some of the backgrounds and maybe use the "sand color" texture as some of the background or design elements.

I'll let you know when I've gone through the whole slide, I'm just giving adjustors here and there a little bit at a time!

Blessings,  
Heather

Birkeland, Heather Jean (Studio, 2025-01-14T19:05:05.279

**SH1 0** All comments, any images, etc. are being reviewed and will be fixed by today.

Thanks and I apologize for any mistakes or low quality, I am reviewing the slides and doing touches and reviewing the comments to improve.

Simpson, Hannah Rose, 2025-01-20T16:29:42.922