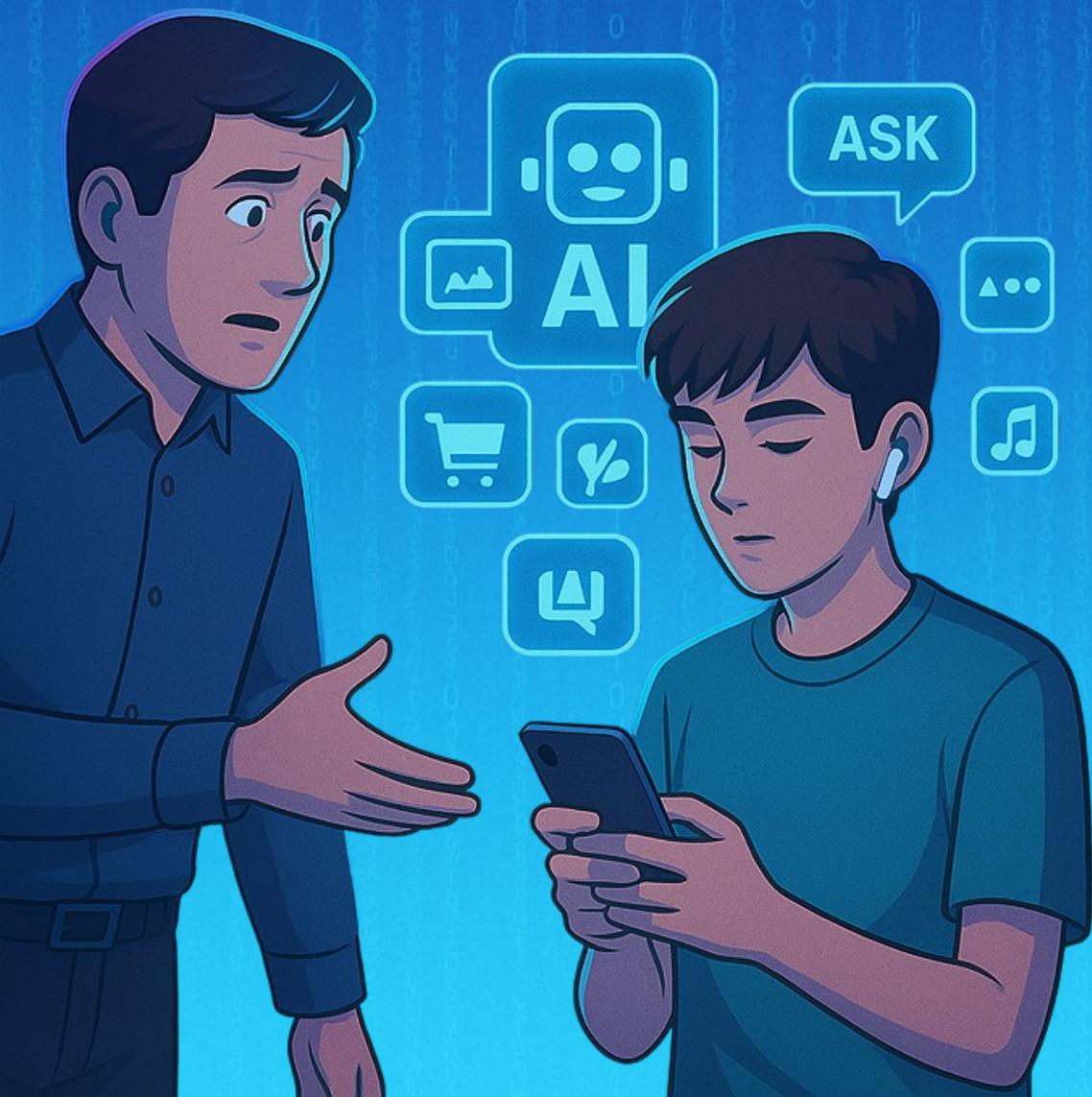
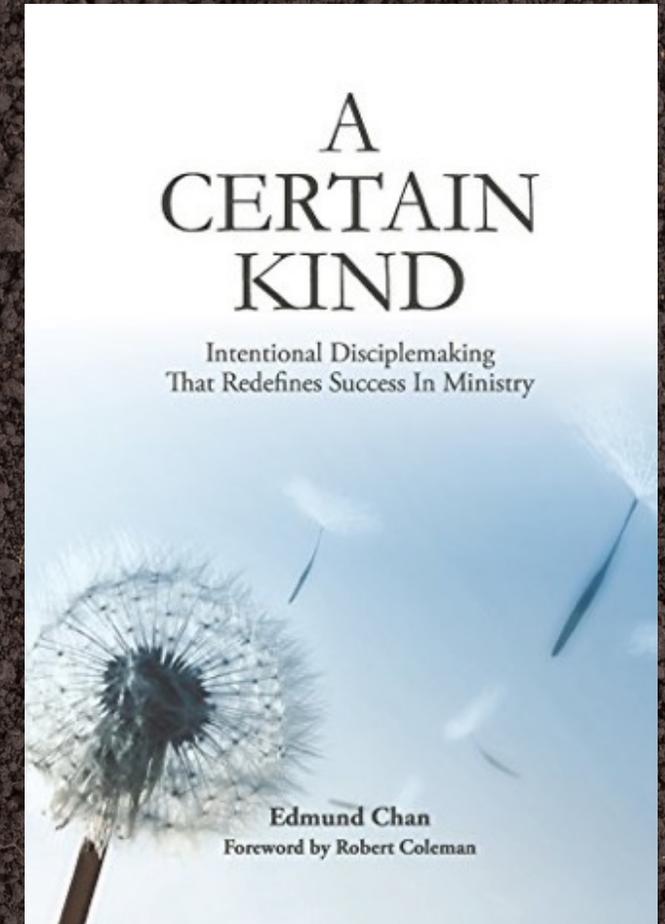
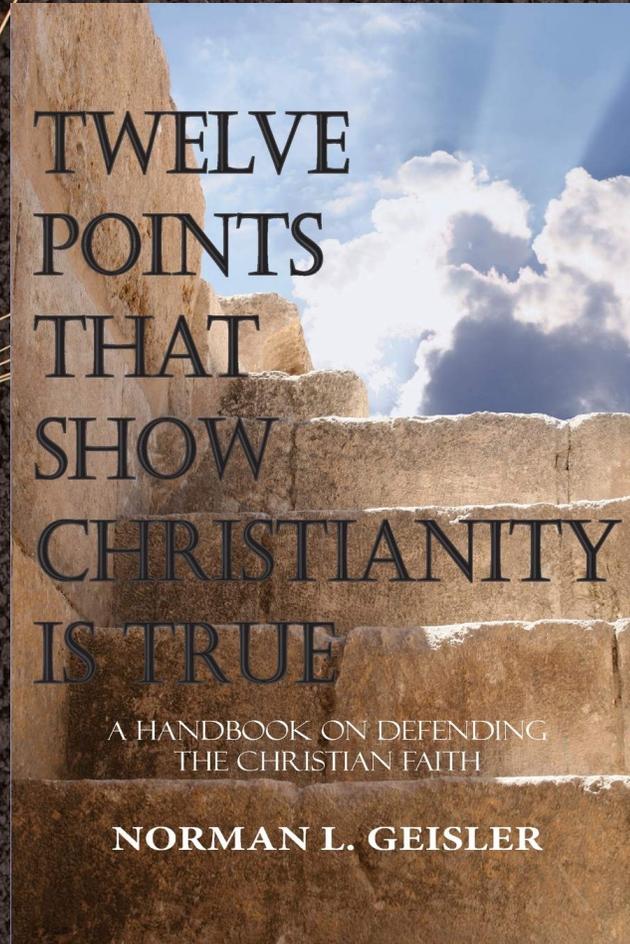
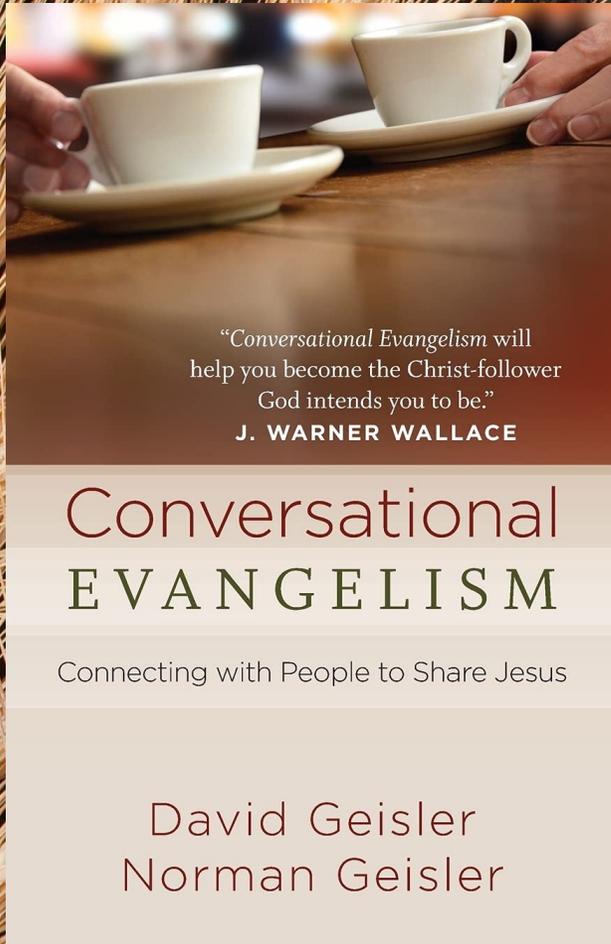


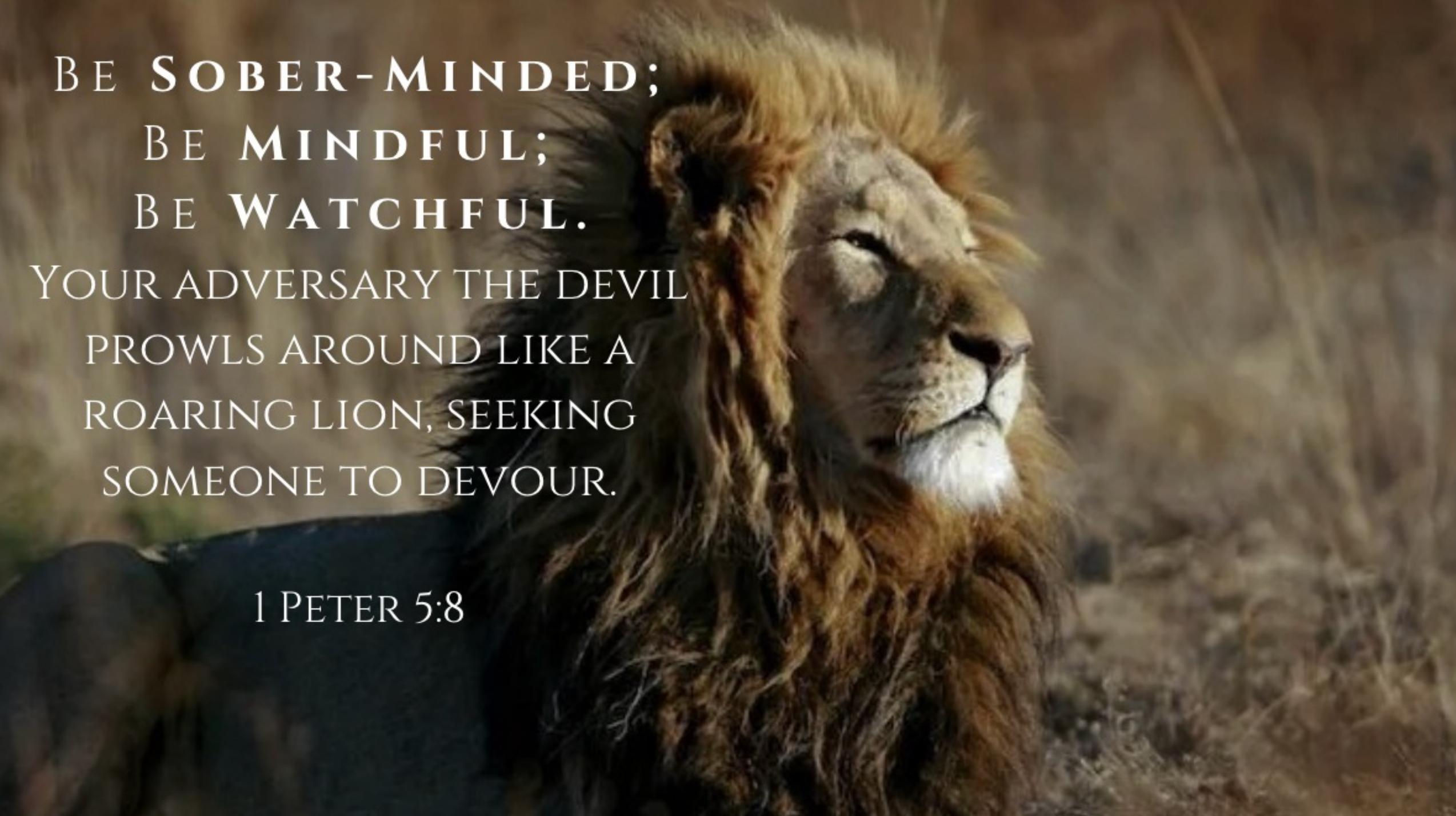
Dr. David Geisler



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN THE AGE OF AI

*A Certain Kind of Evangelism,
Apologetics, and Discipleship*





BE SOBER-MINDED;
BE MINDFUL;
BE WATCHFUL.

YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL
PROWLs AROUND LIKE A
ROARING LION, SEEKING
SOMEONE TO DEVOUR.

1 PETER 5:8

A close-up photograph of a chessboard with pieces. The board is checkered, and the pieces are made of wood. In the foreground, several light-colored pieces are visible, including a king, a queen, and a knight. In the background, several dark-colored pieces are visible, including a king, a queen, and a knight. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular box in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

The Devil's Strategy Is
To Distort Our
Thinking and Dilute
Our Witness!

“If you were the devil, what would you do to keep Christians from fruitfully integrating into their lives the three Christian disciplines of evangelism, apologetics and discipleship?”

Here is a brief summary from ChatGPT

If I can make Christians:

- Forget who they are in Christ,
- Doubt the power of the gospel,
- And live as if this life is all there is...

...then evangelism becomes optional, apologetics feels irrelevant, and discipleship becomes superficial or nonexistent.

- Evangelism: Keep them Silent or Distracted
- Apologetics: Undermine Confidence or Curiosity
- Discipleship: Keep it Shallow or Undefined

THEY'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER

Discipleship

Apologetics

Evangelism

NGIM



NORM GEISLER

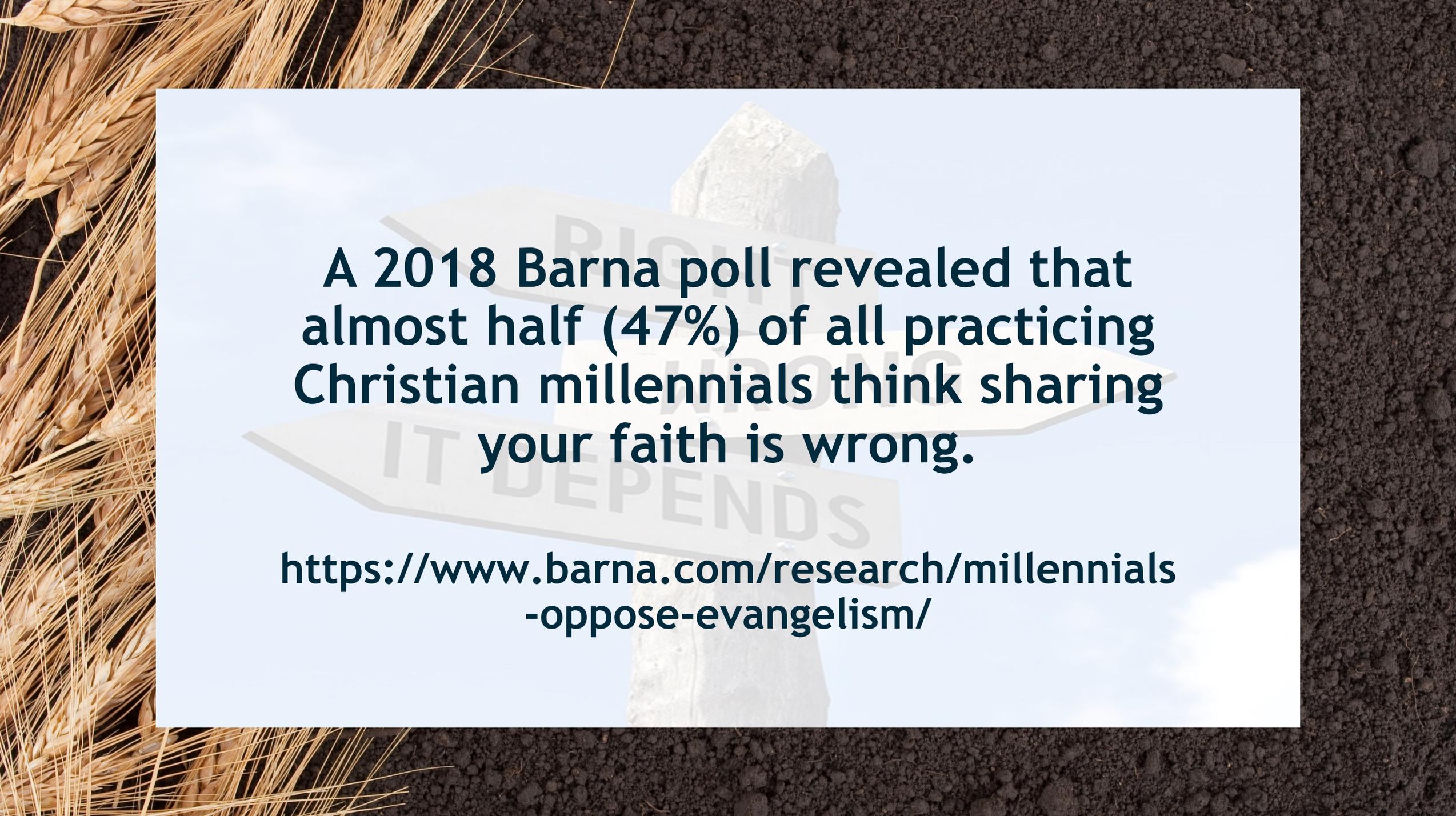
Legacy Initiative

“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

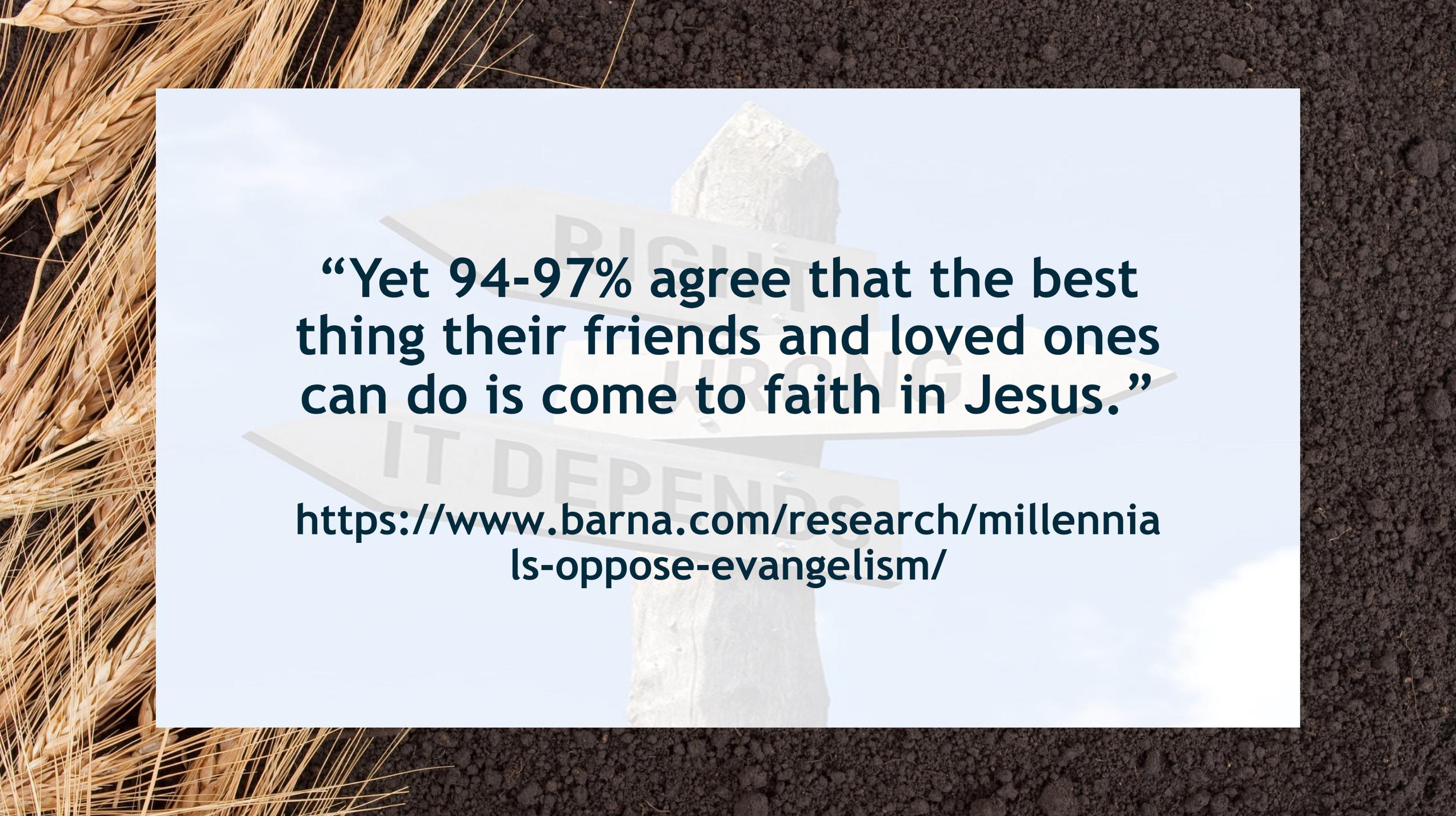
If we understand the times
we live in we will repackage
our approach in witnessing.





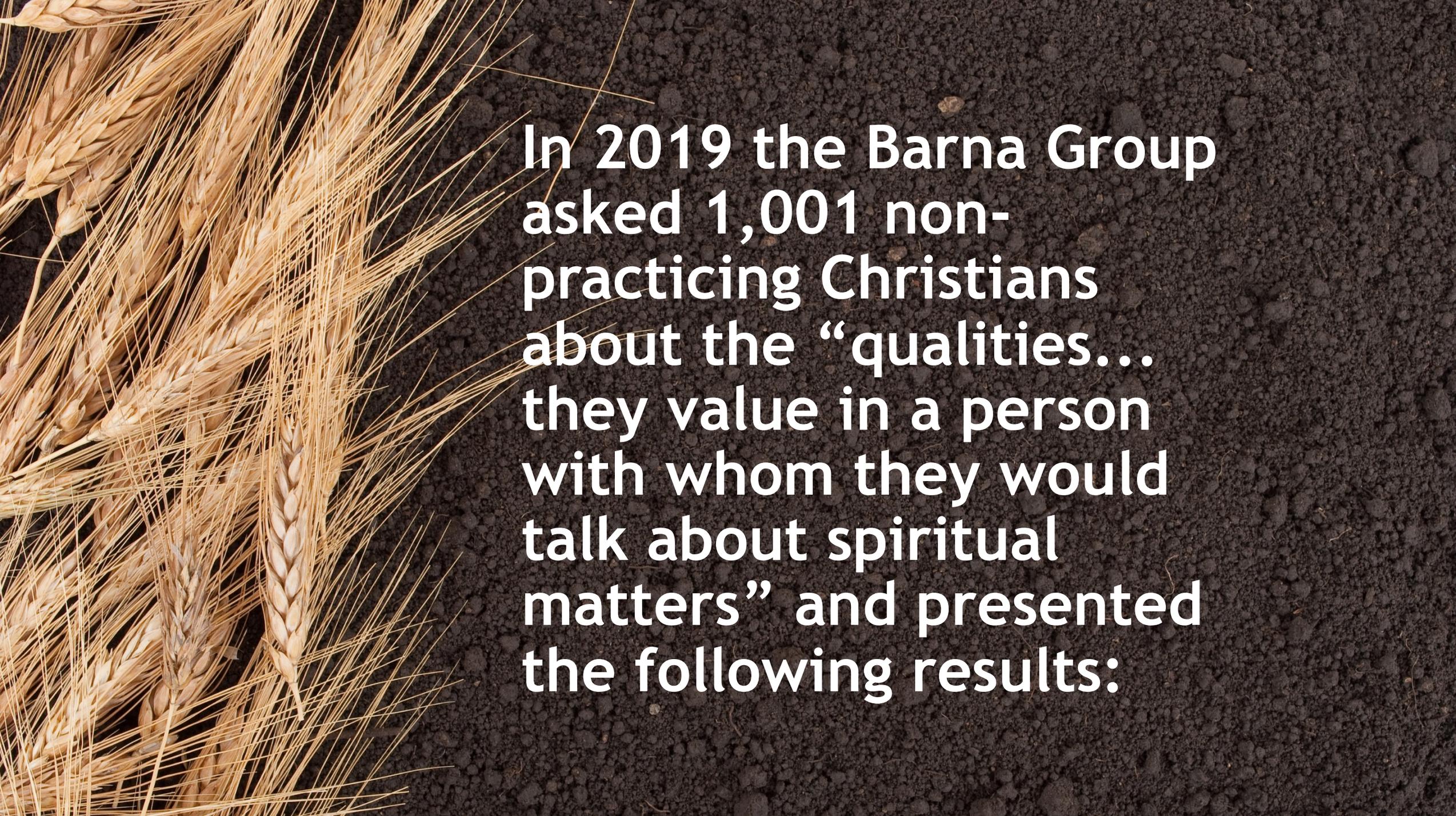
A 2018 Barna poll revealed that almost half (47%) of all practicing Christian millennials think sharing your faith is wrong.

<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.”

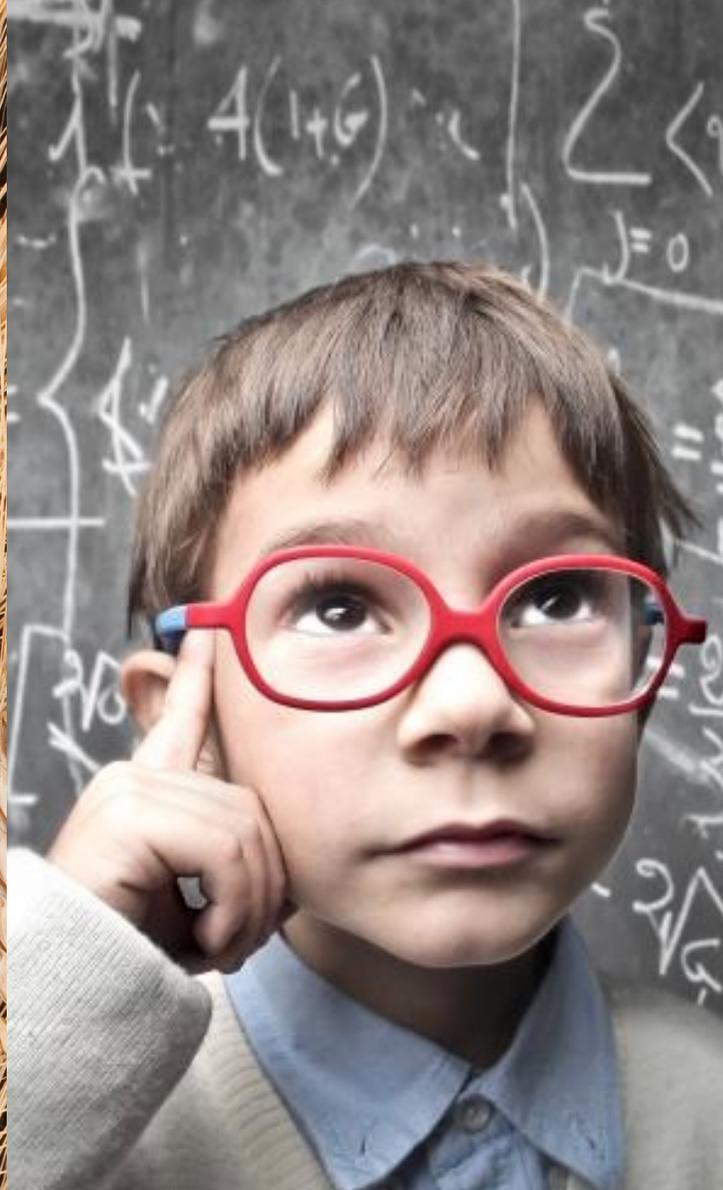
<https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>



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.”

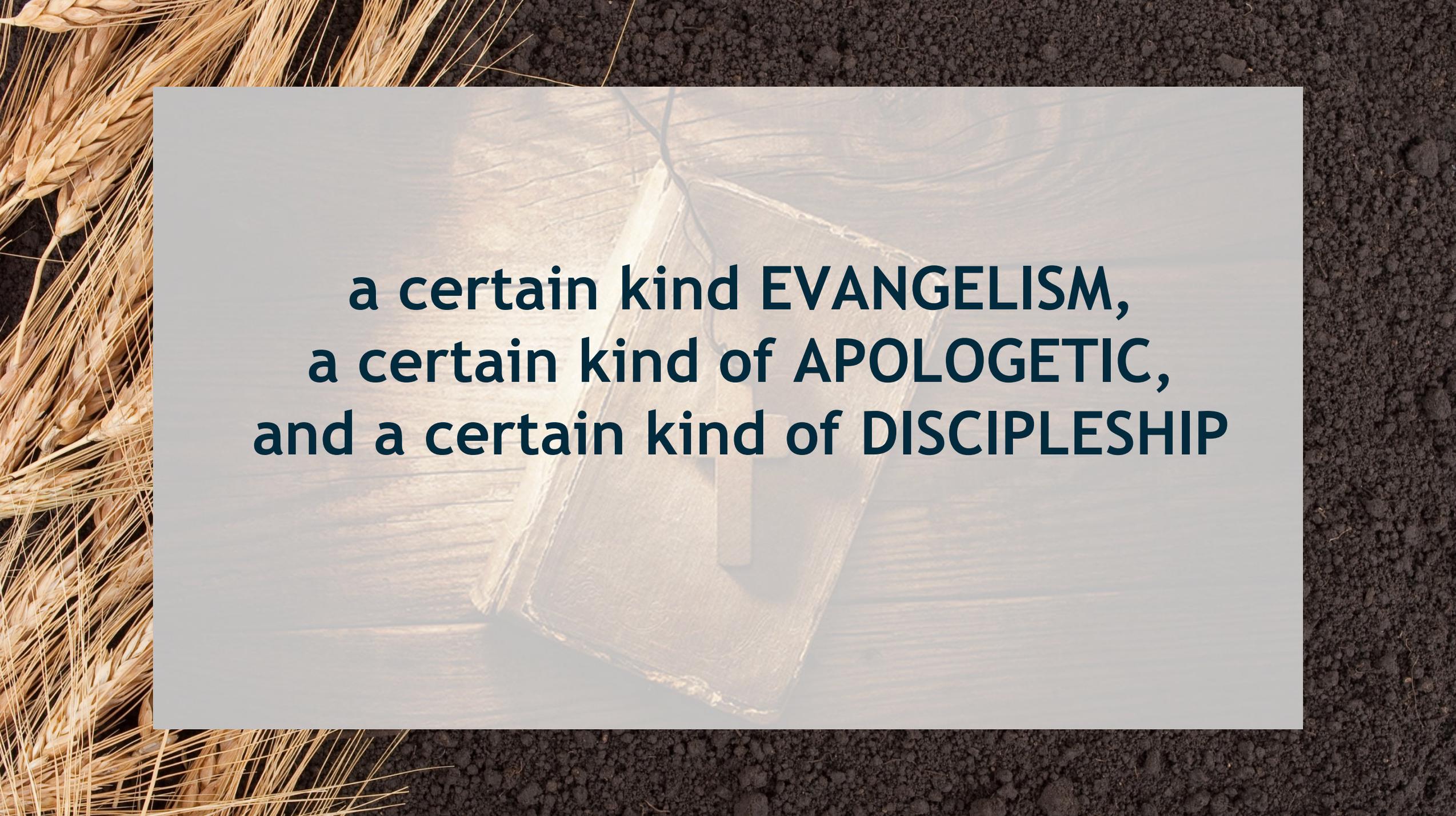
Barna Group, *Reviving Evangelism*, 2019,
p.45



**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!

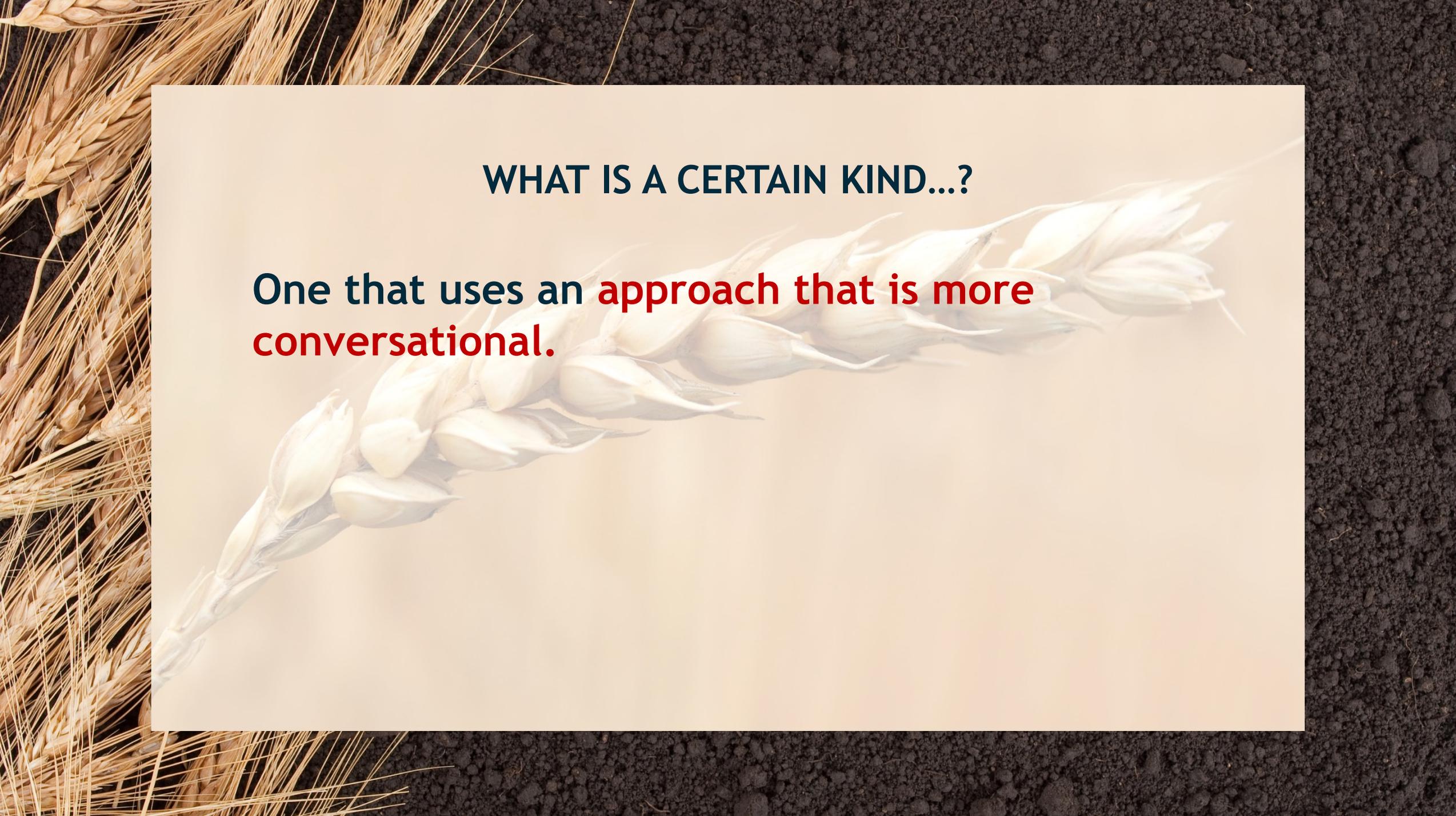




**a certain kind EVANGELISM,
a certain kind of APOLOGETIC,
and a certain kind of DISCIPLESHIP**



a certain kind EVANGELISM,



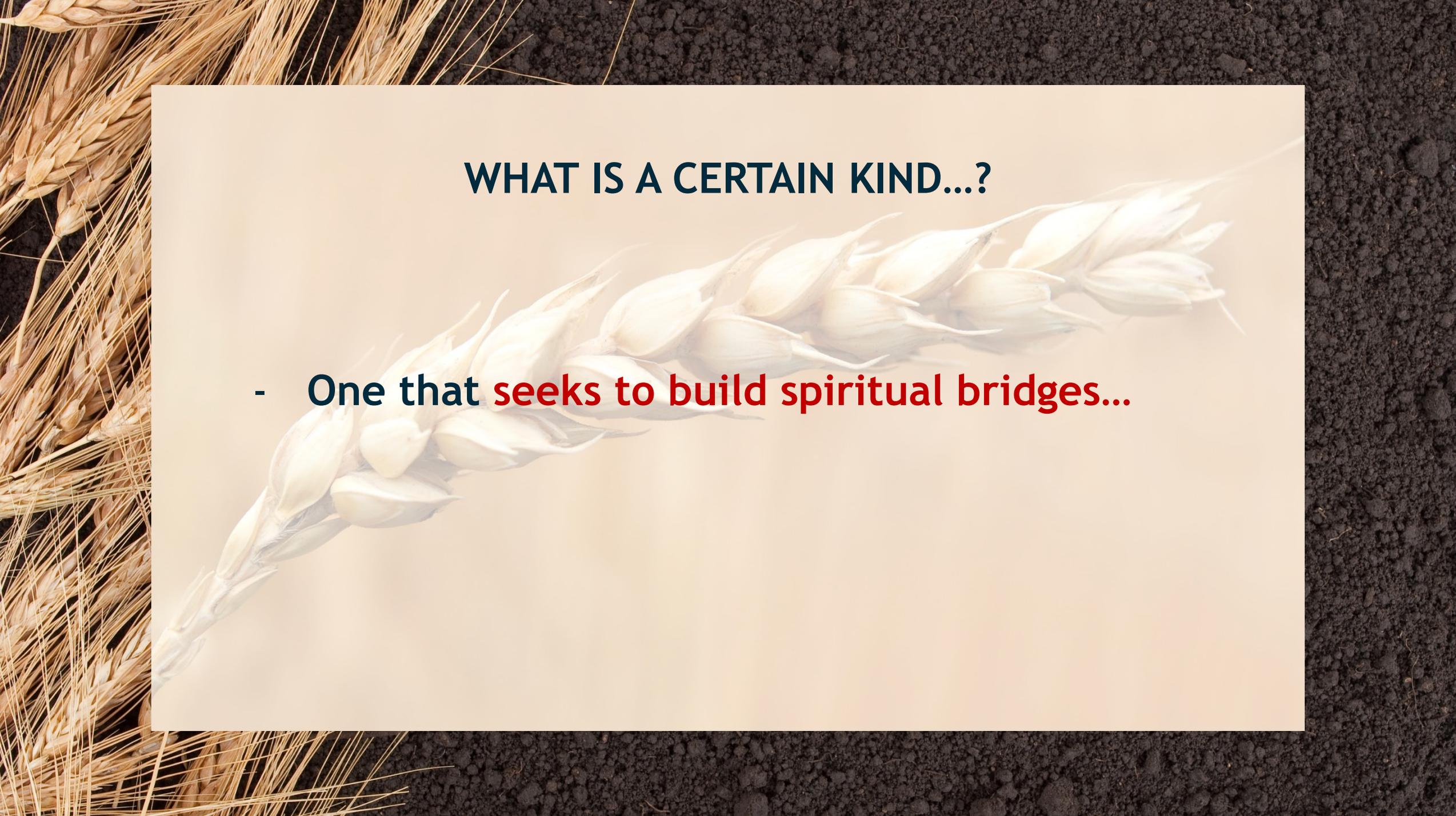
WHAT IS A CERTAIN KIND...?

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 side, holding a book. The person's right arm is extended forward, palm up. The background is a desert landscape with mountains 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.”





Sorry to hear about the loss of your sister. I will certainly keep your family in my prayers.



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 this spiritual topic!



Find some kind of connection...

- My friend Steve...
- The inn keeper...
- My neighbor...
- My friend John...
- Naomi Wolf...
- Health issues



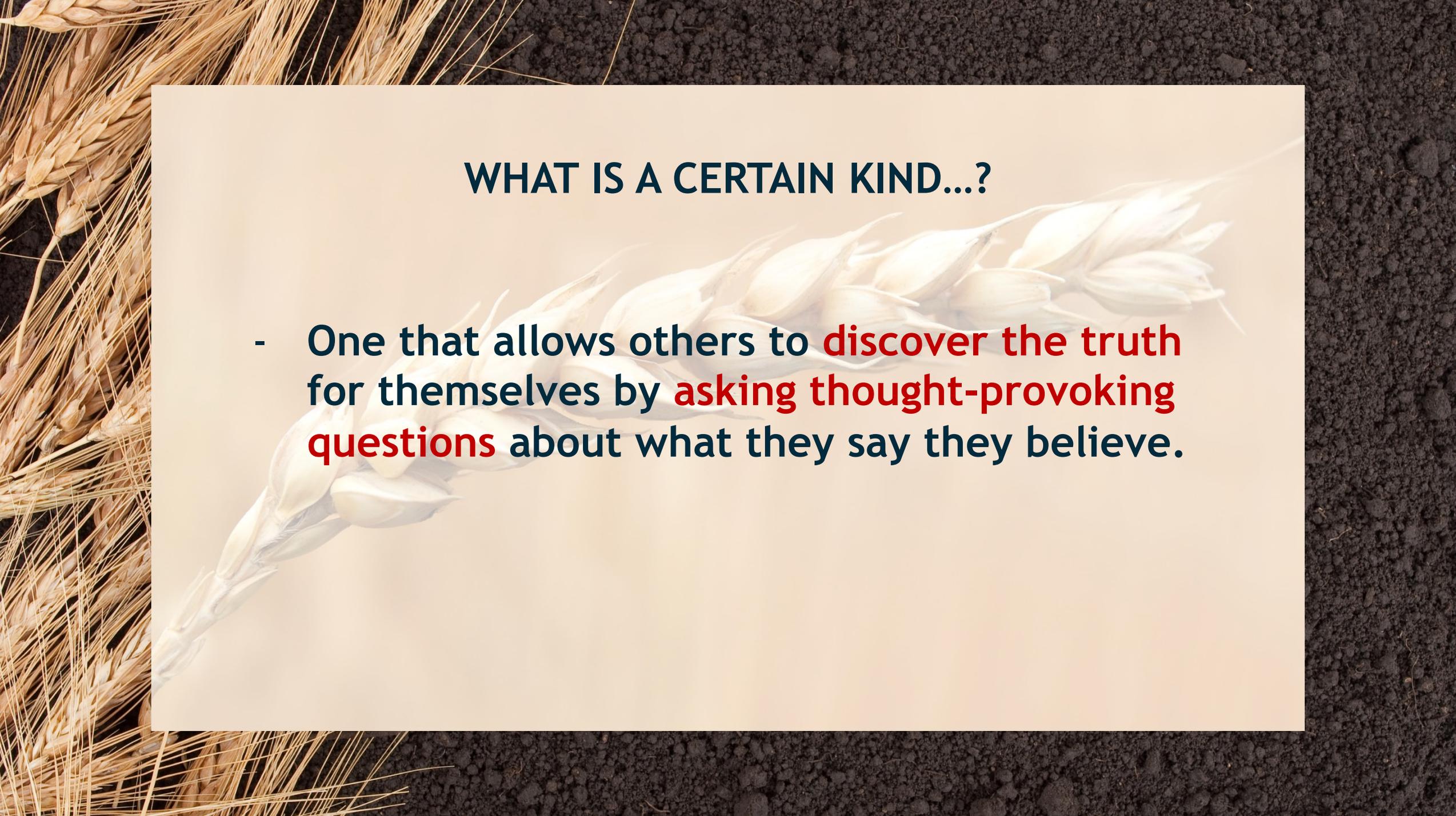
THE SOUND BARRIERS IN WITNESSING



Moving a general conversation to a spiritual conversation.

Moving a spiritual conversation to a Gospel Conversation.

Moving from the Gospel conversation to a decision to receive Christ.



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?



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





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...

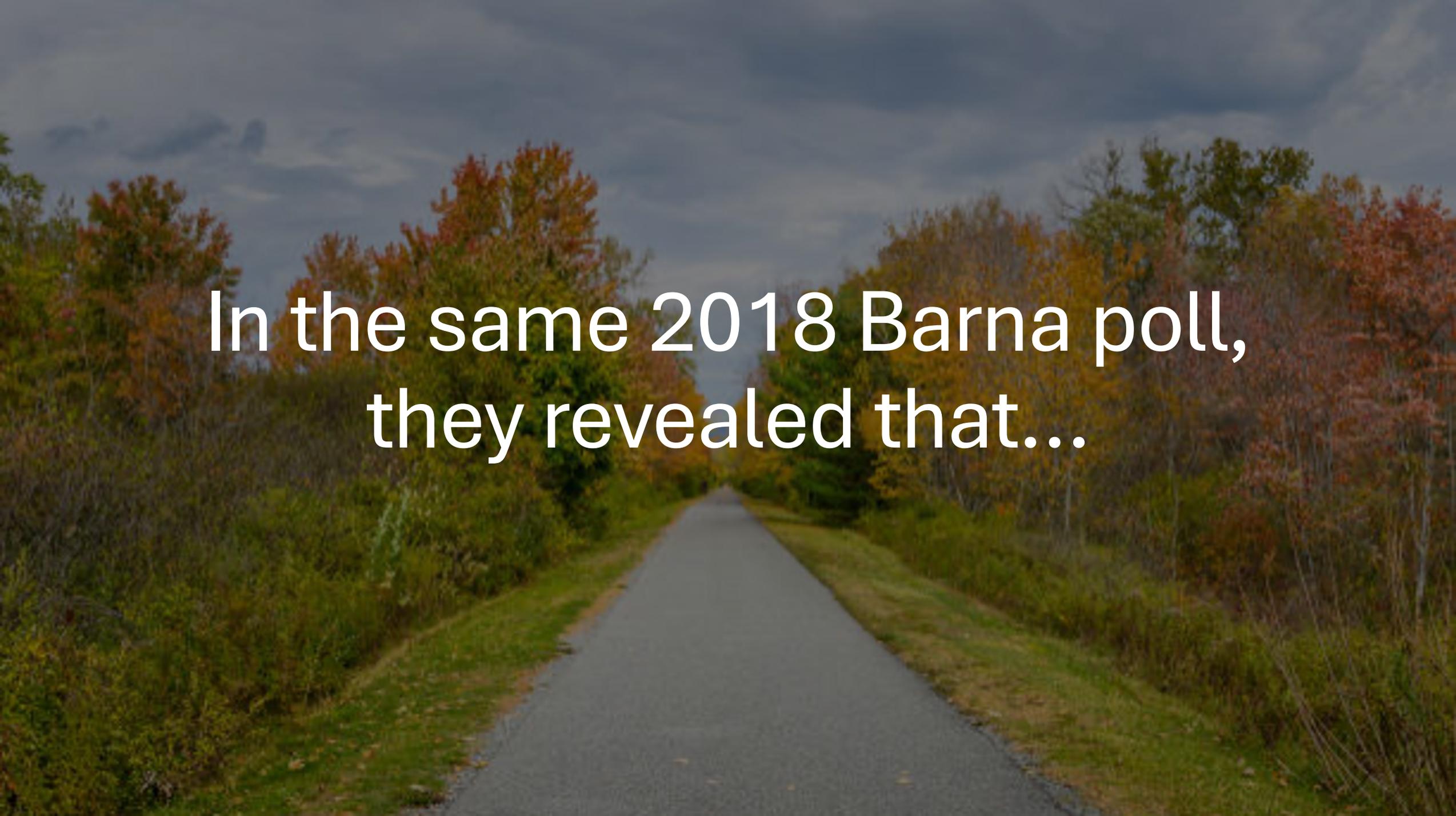
"Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." (Jn. 4: 10 E.S.V.)





What is a Certain Kind of Evangelism...?

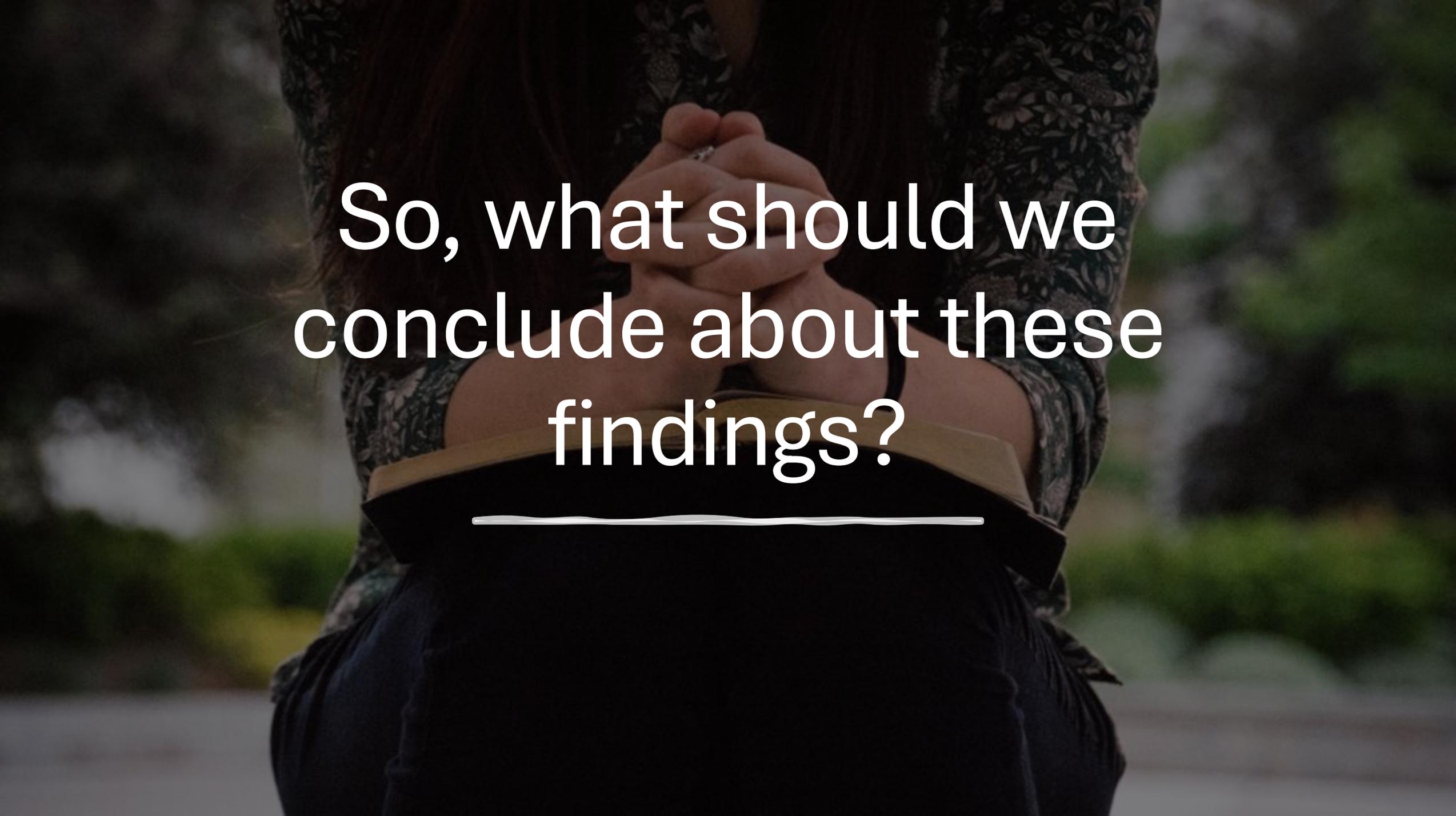
1. One that uses an approach that is more conversational.
 2. One that seeks to build spiritual bridge to your unbelieving friends from the standpoint of their interest not your own.
 3. One that allows others to discover the truth for themselves by asking thought-provoking questions about what they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

A paved path leads through autumn foliage under a cloudy sky. The path is straight and recedes into the distance, flanked by green grass and bushes. The trees on either side have leaves in shades of green, yellow, and orange, indicating the fall season. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

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 sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,
and always be ready to give a defense to
everyone who asks you a reason for
the hope that is in you, with
meekness and fear;"
1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)





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.



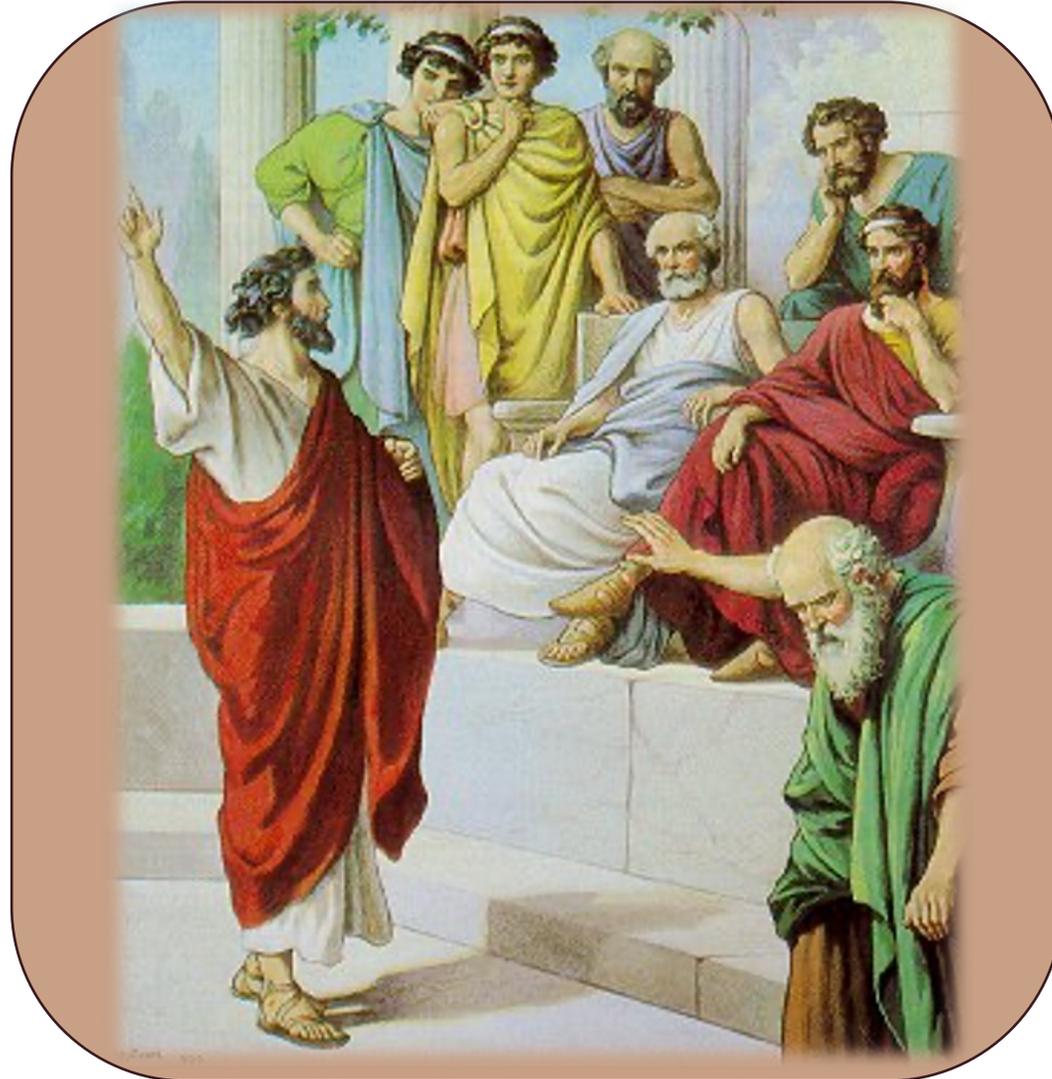


What Does It Mean To "Be Ready"
in 1 Peter 3:15?

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



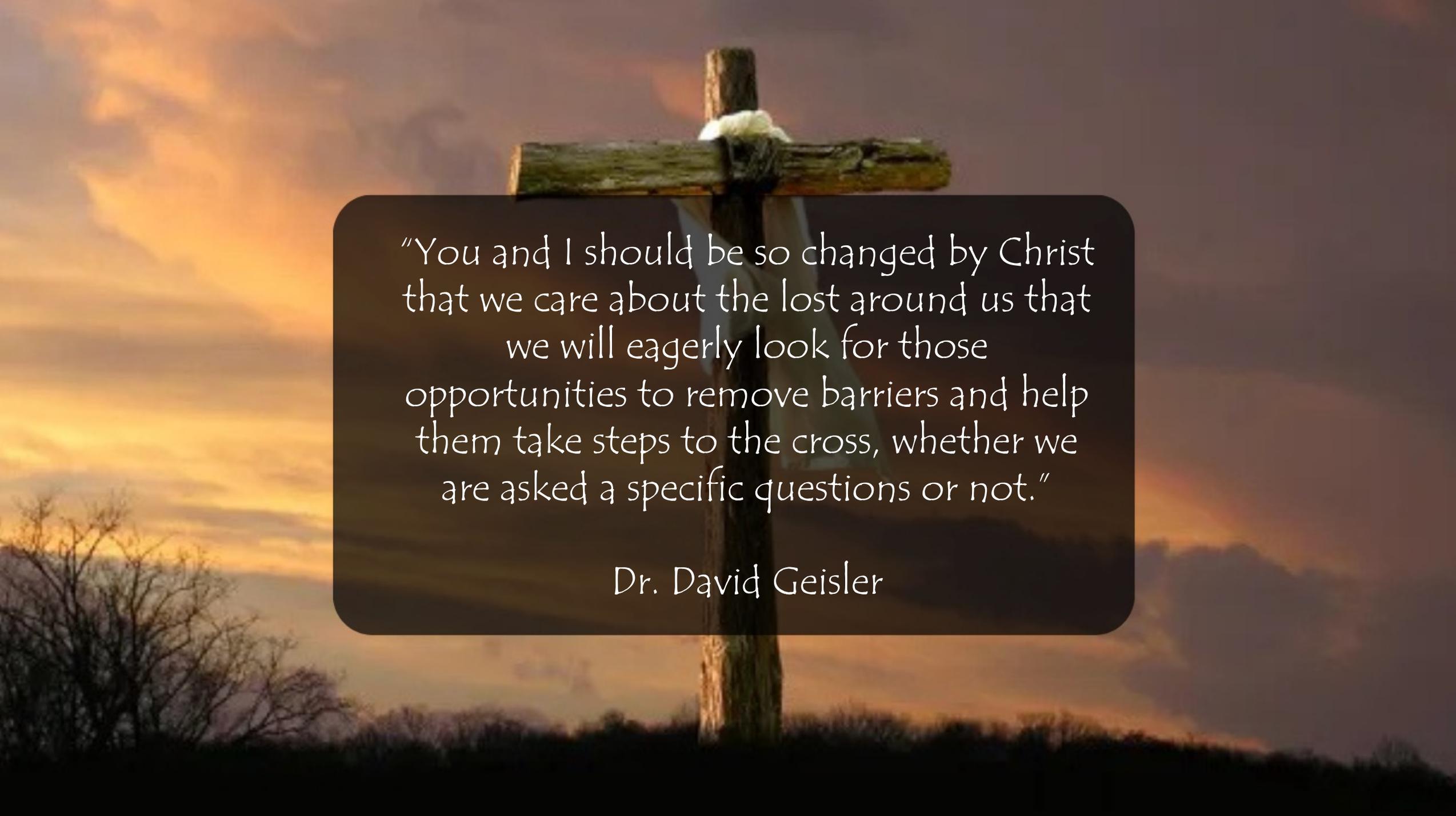
Persuading them From Nature

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 is centered in the background, set against a dramatic sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. A white cloth is draped over the top of the vertical beam, and a white object, possibly a flower or a small figurine, is placed at the top of the cross. The overall scene is serene and evocative.

"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

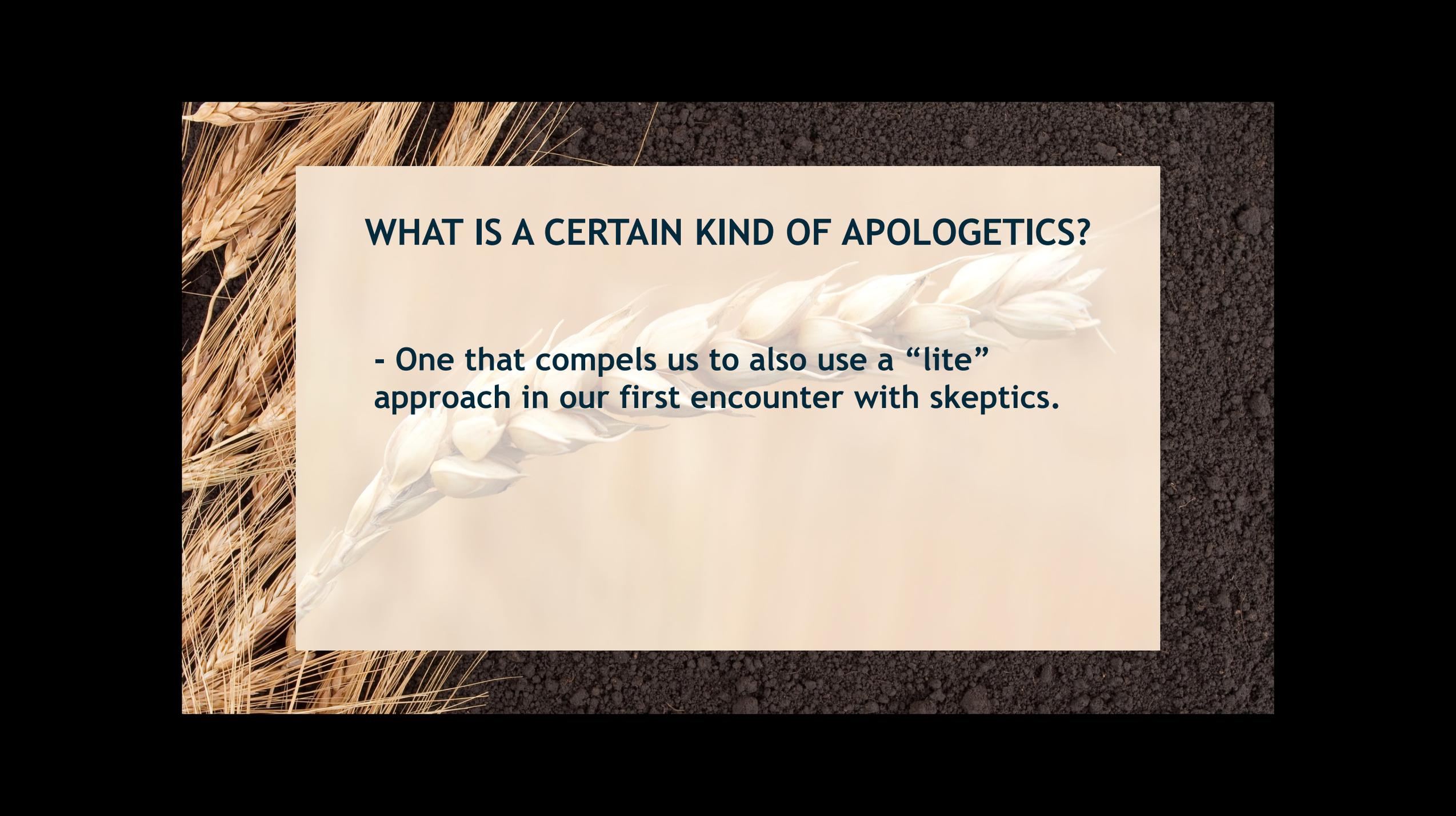


The Bottom Line Concerning 1 Peter 3:15

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?

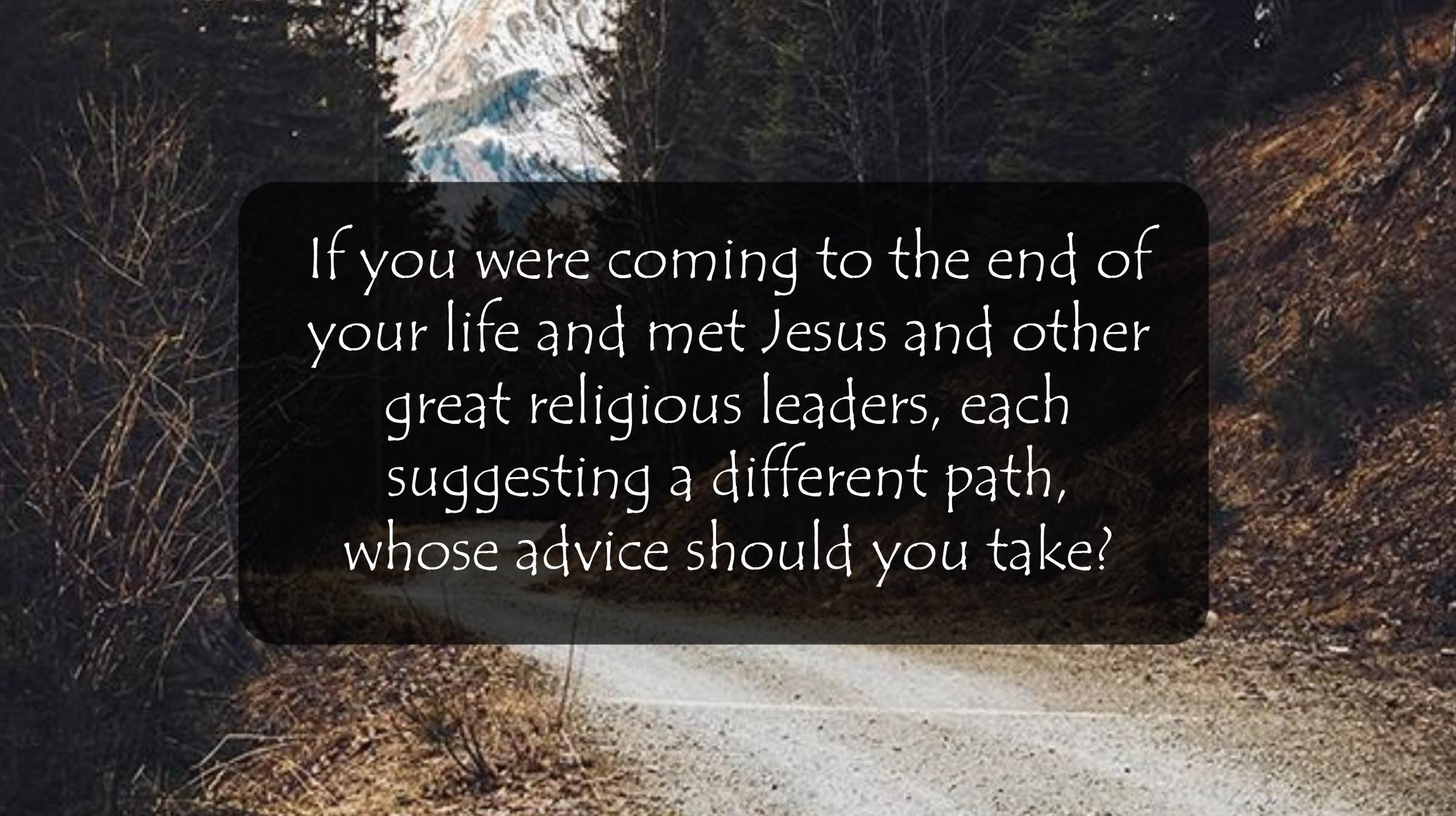
- One that compels us to also use a “lite” approach in our first encounter with skeptics.**

NGIM



DAVID
GEISLER

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

A photograph of a dirt path leading through a forest towards a snowy mountain peak. The path is in the foreground, leading into a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, a large, snow-covered mountain peak is visible under a clear sky. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

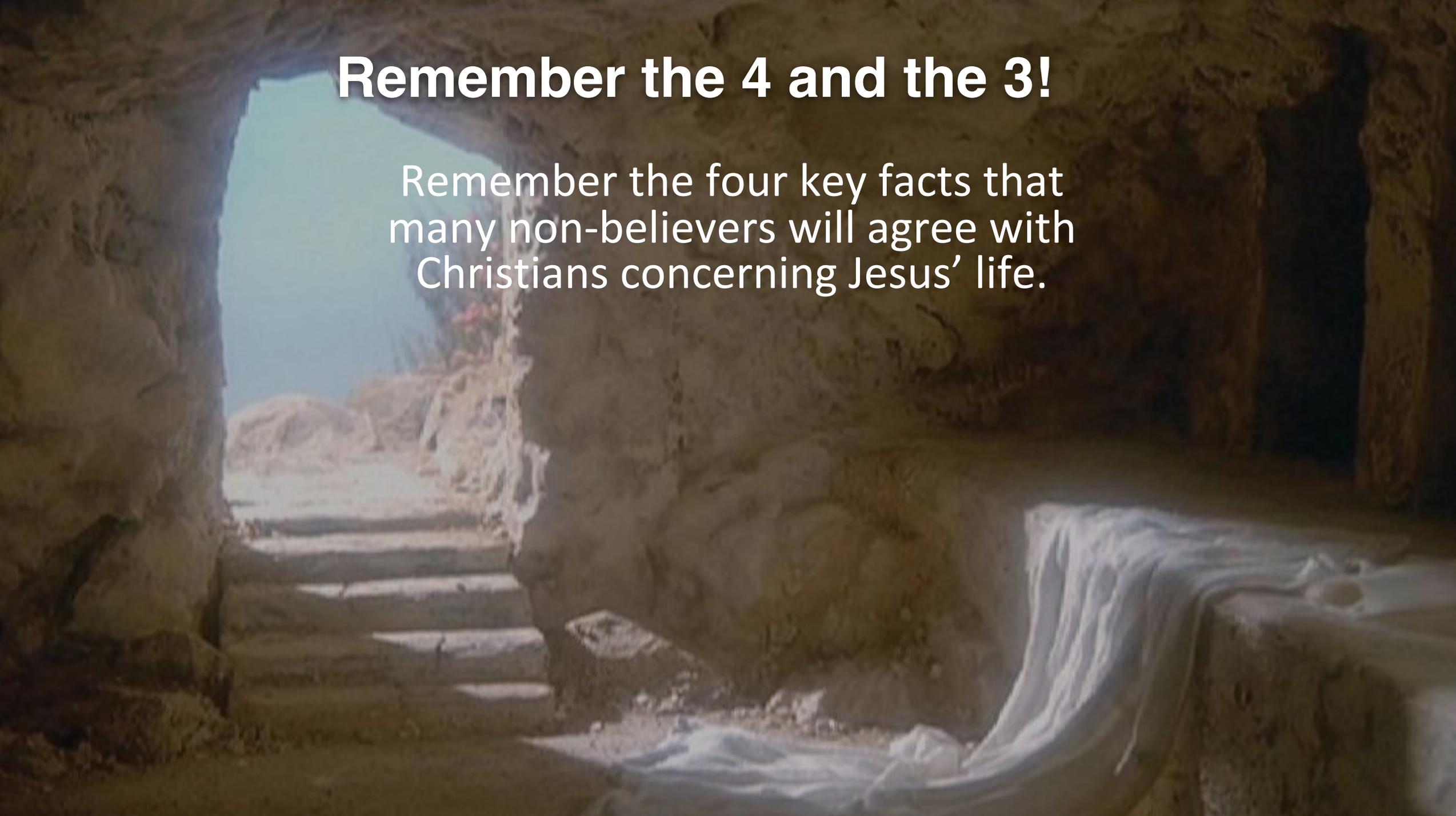
If you were coming to the end of your life and met Jesus and other great religious leaders, each suggesting a different path, whose advice should you take?

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person wearing a white, textured robe. The person's right hand is extended forward, palm up, holding a small, round, light-colored object. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a gentle glow around the hand and the robe. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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.



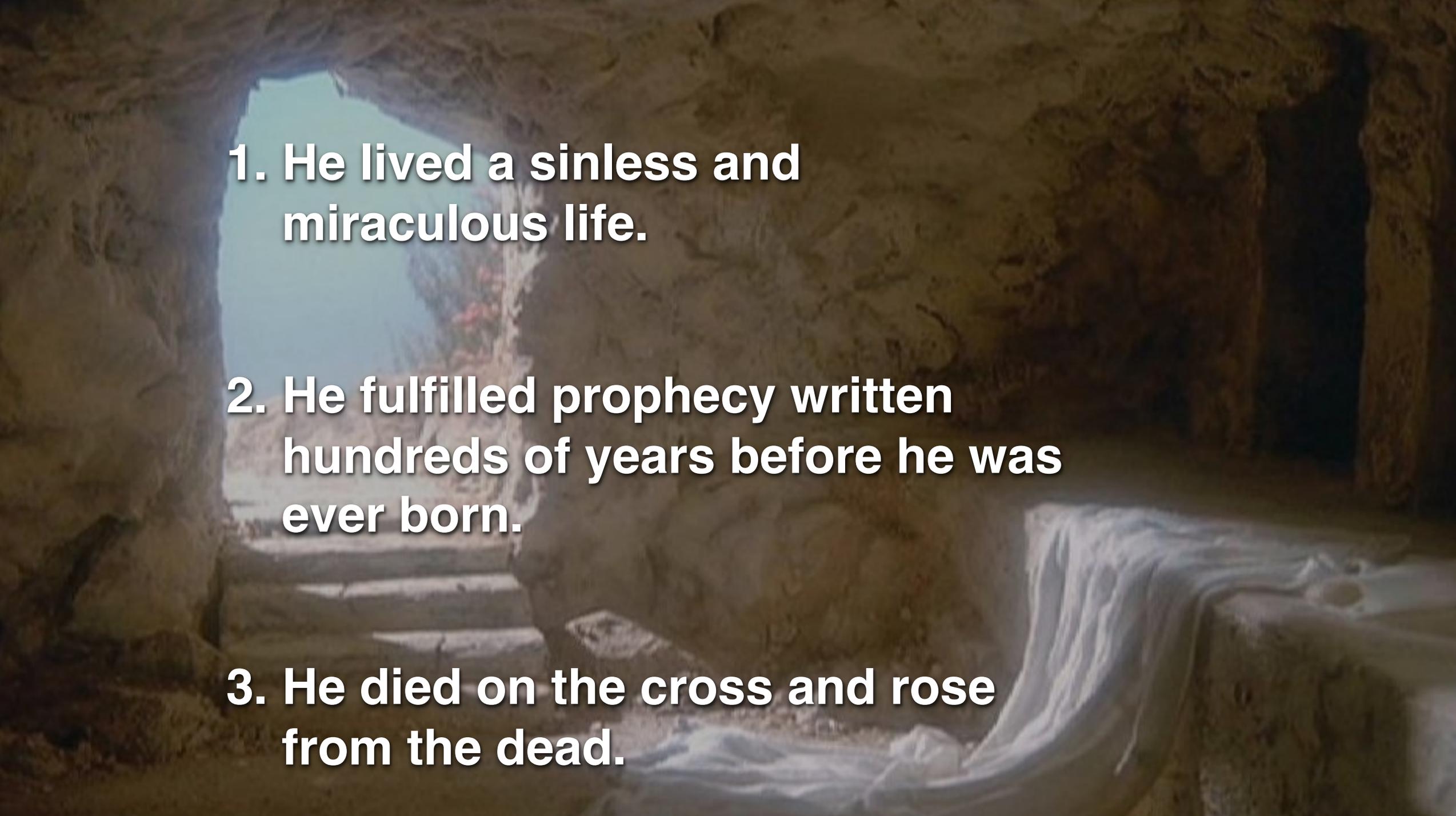
Remember The Four Facts...

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. He was buried in a tomb that was found empty three days 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 white robes is walking up a set of stone steps in a narrow, rocky passage. The person is seen from behind, and the robes are flowing. At the top of the stairs, there is a bright, glowing light, suggesting an opening or a source of divine light. The walls are made of rough, textured stone.

Jesus Claimed To Be and Proved To Be God!

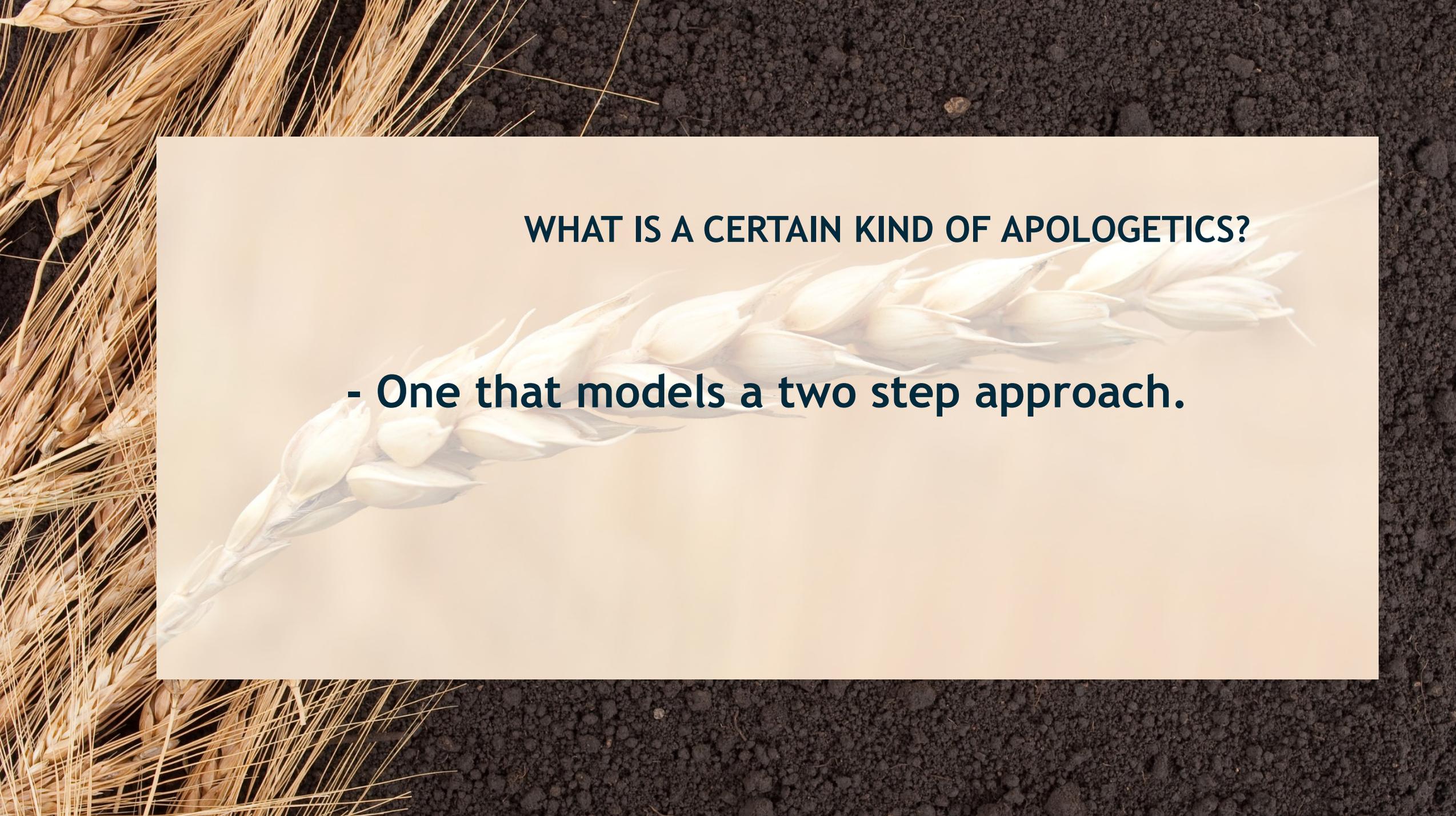
Jesus did three things to
prove that He was God!

A person is standing in a dimly lit, stone-walled tomb. The person is wearing a dark, long-sleeved garment and is looking towards a bright opening in the distance. The floor is covered with a white, draped cloth. The walls are rough and textured, and the overall atmosphere is somber 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 models a two step approach.

The Twelve Points Consists of:



**Establish
Theism**



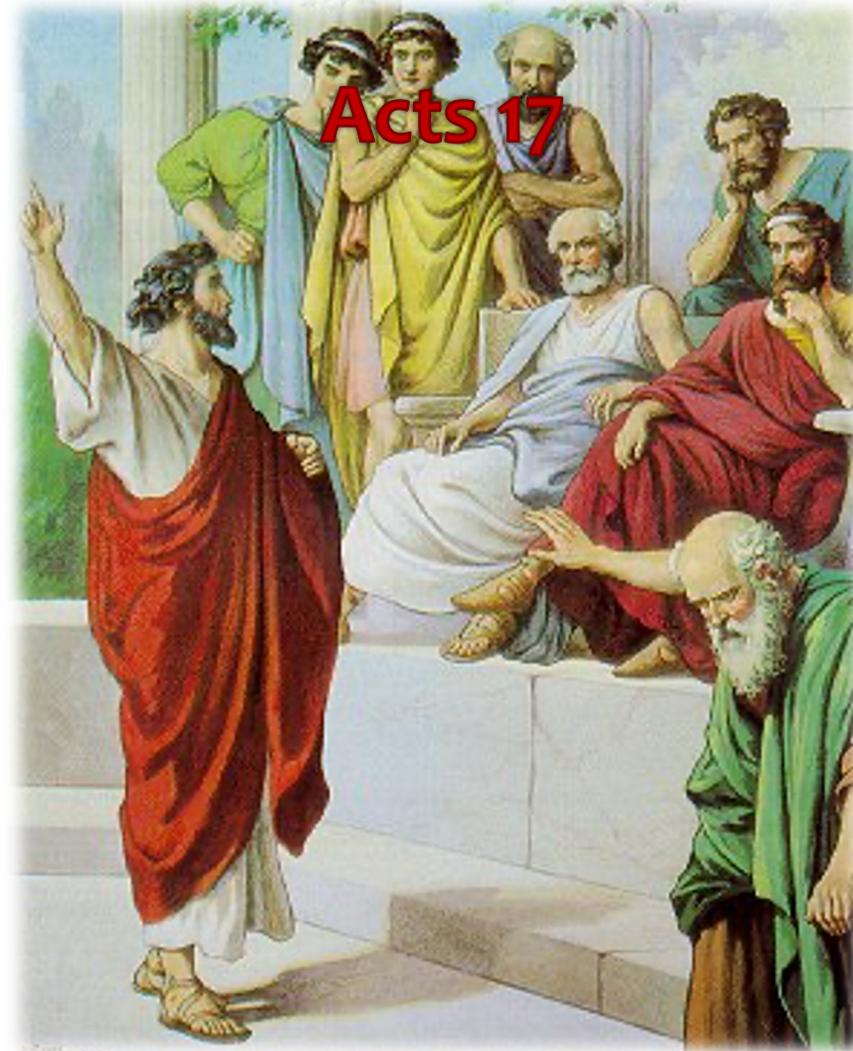
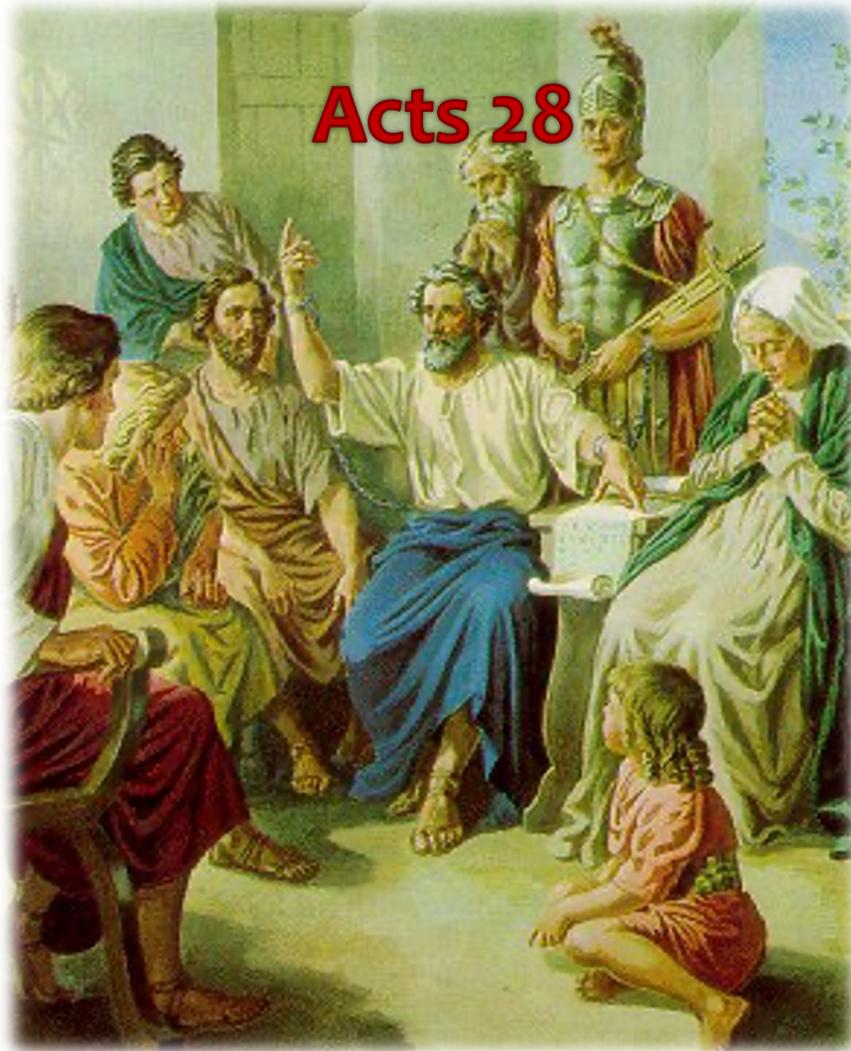
**Establish
Christianity**

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



Judaism
Christianity
Islam

THEISM

God Made All



Zen Buddhism
Hinduism
New Age

PANTHEISM

God Is All



Religious
Humanism

ATHEISM

No God At All

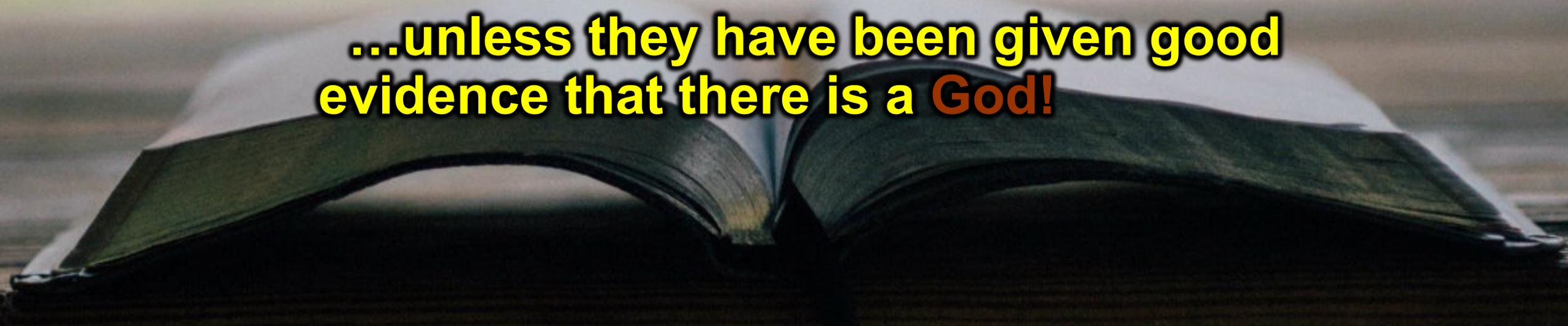
A pair of hands is shown from the front, cupping a small globe of the Earth. The globe has a prominent crack running across its top. The background is a dark, starry space with a nebula-like glow. The text "Step 1: Establish Theism" is overlaid in white, serif font across the center of the image.

Step 1: Establish Theism

What we need to remember about witnessing today!

**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 they have been given good
evidence that there is a God!**



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



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



Z O M

WHEN YOU HAVE ELIMINATED THE
IMPOSSIBLE, WHATEVER REMAINS, HOWEVER
IMPROBABLE, MUST BE THE TRUTH.

– SHERLOCK HOLMES

Even if God's existence seems highly
improbable to you, it must be true if
you remove the impossible!

DAVID
GEISLER





NGIM
NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES



Nothing
cannot
create
something.

**NORM
GEISLER**

An inference about our Creator from observations in the known universe

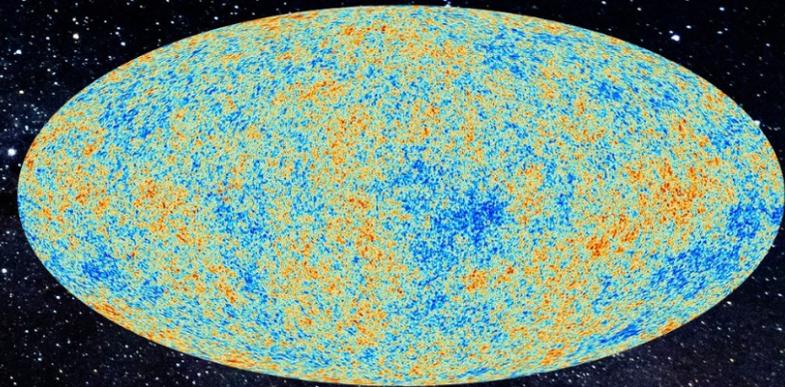


One light-year is 5.88 trillion miles. Cosmologists have theorized that the universe is 94 billion light-years long. Obviously that is only how big the *known* universe is. Certainly the power to create stars and galaxies in that big space, had to be pretty powerful. So our creator has to be pretty powerful.

DAVID
GEISLER

NGIM
NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

ROMANS 1:19-20



|||||
94 Billion Light-years

GOD'S TRUTH:
Written on Our

w/ Dr. David Geisler

HEARTS





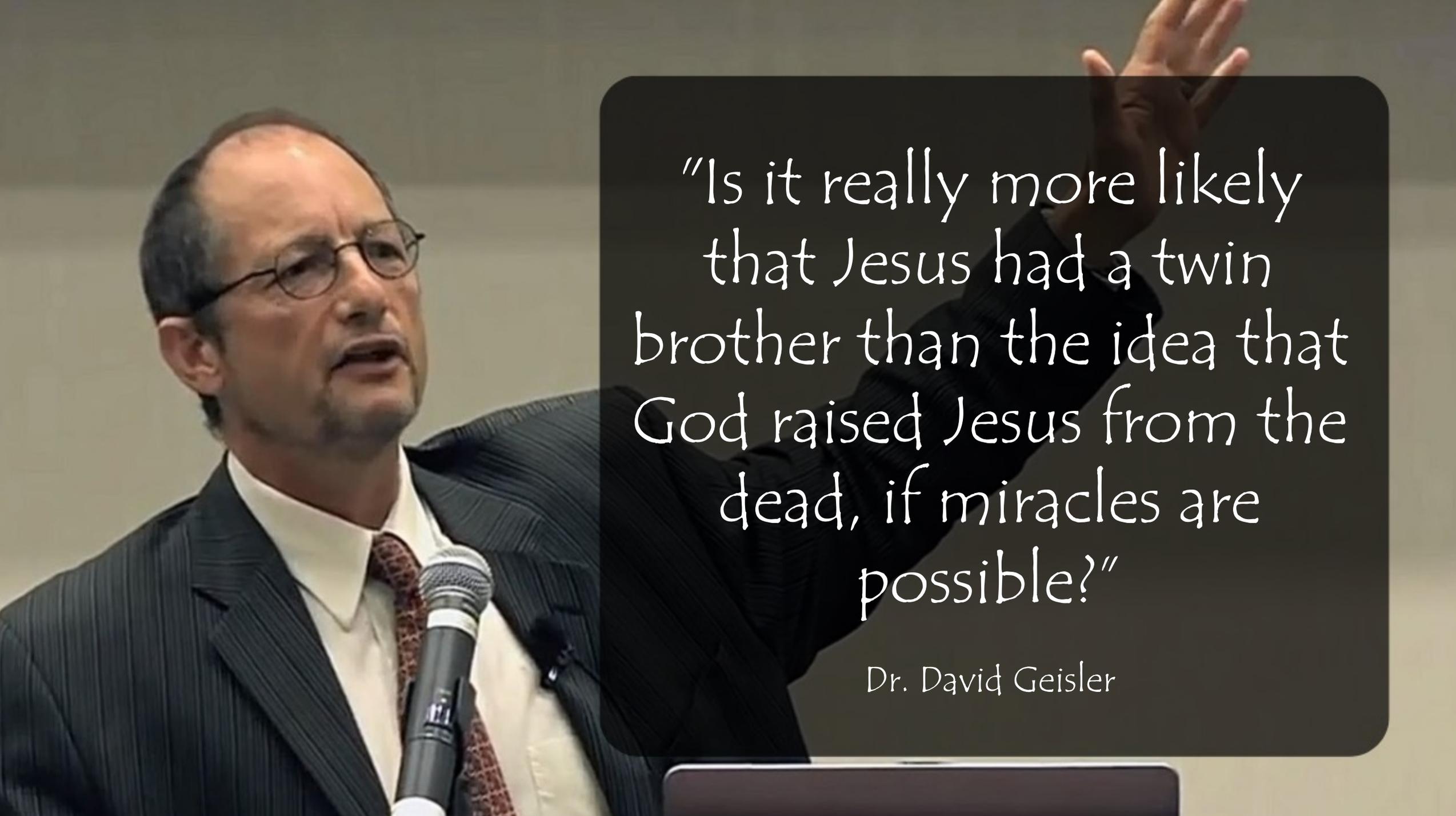
Step 2: Establish Christianity



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



"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

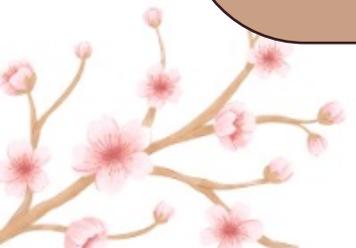
The Bible Can Be Trusted

- 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...

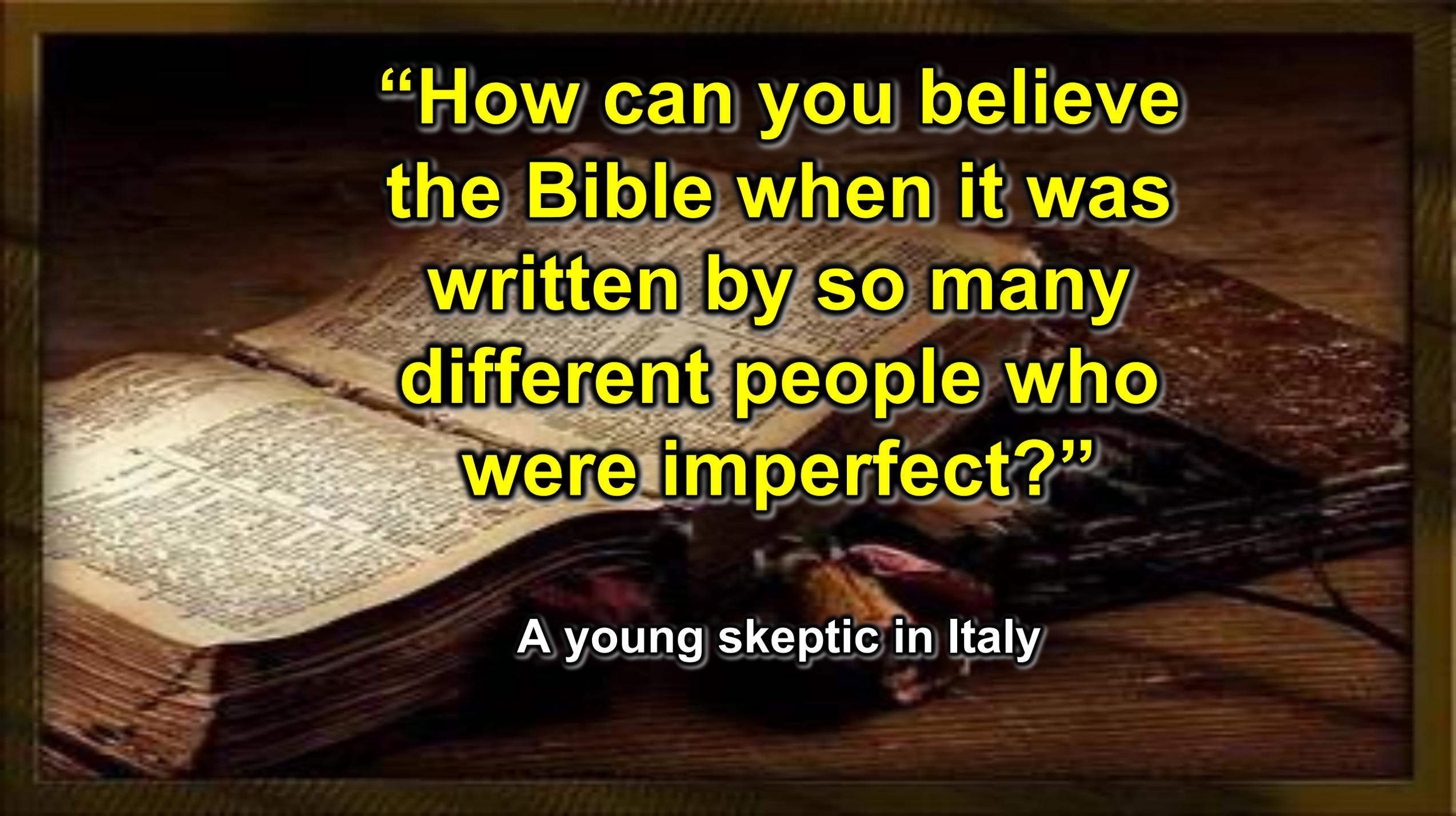


...remembers the domino principle in apologetics!



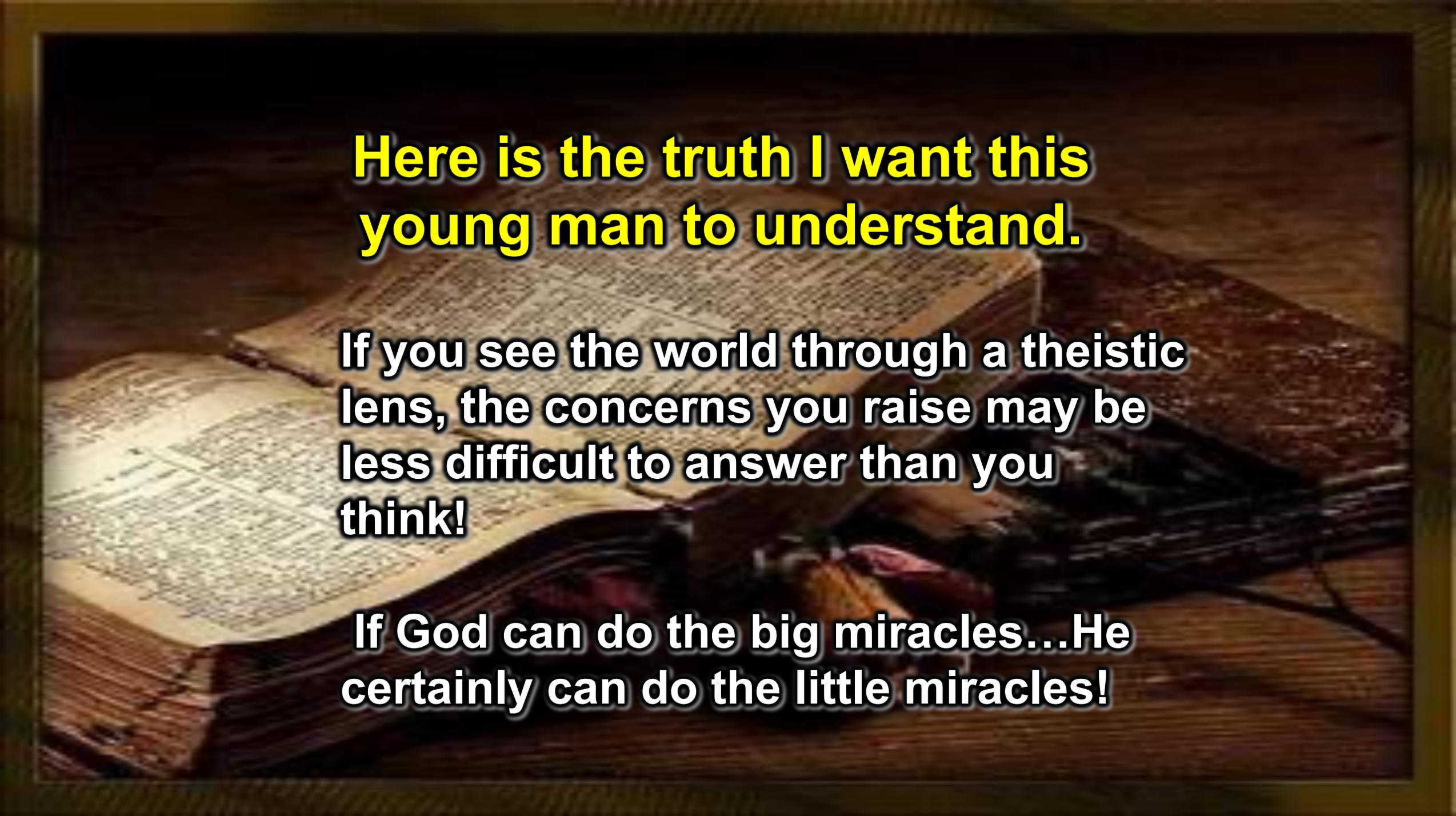
**If you can
believe the big
miracle, you
can believe in
the little
miracles!**



An open Bible with a quill pen resting on it. The Bible is open to a page with dense text, and the quill pen is positioned diagonally across the pages. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wooden table or desk.

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

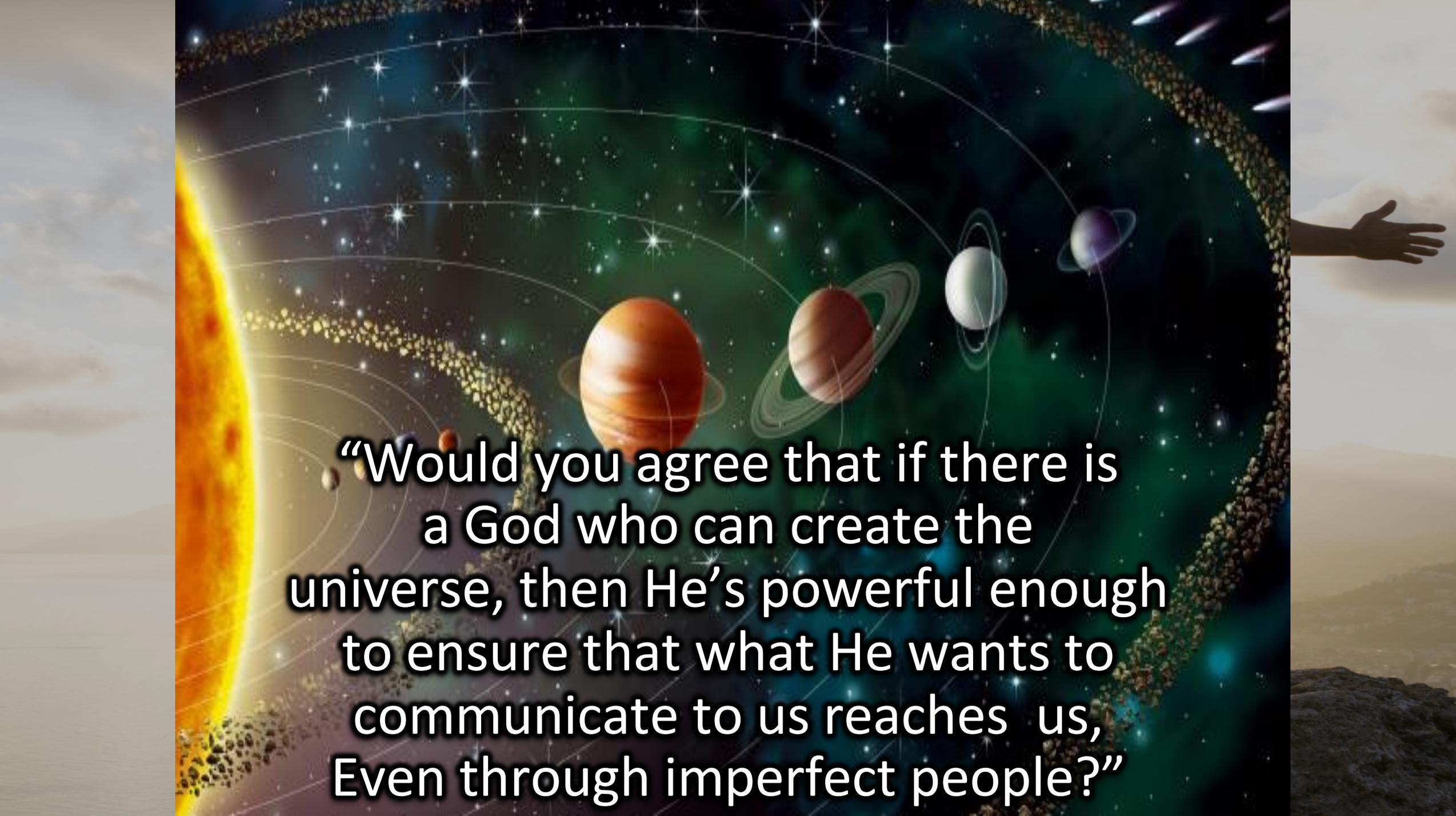
A young skeptic in Italy

An open book with a pair of glasses resting on it. The book is open to a page with text, and the glasses are placed on the right page. The background is a dark, textured surface.

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

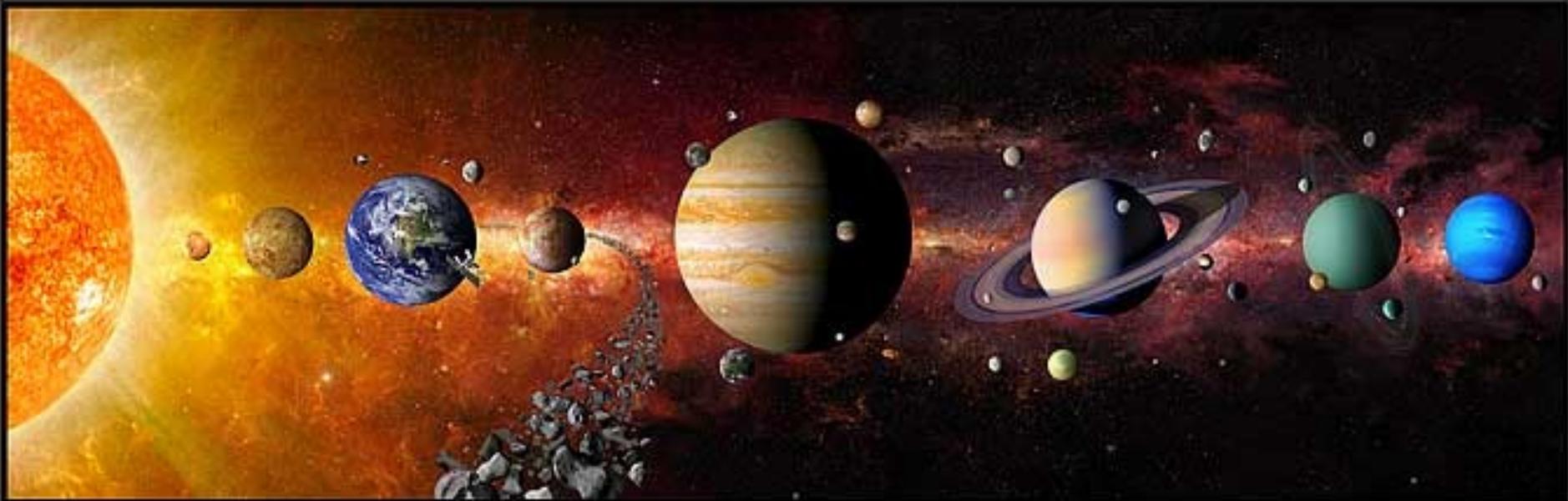
If you see the world through a theistic lens, the concerns you raise may be less difficult to answer than you think!

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 to 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.

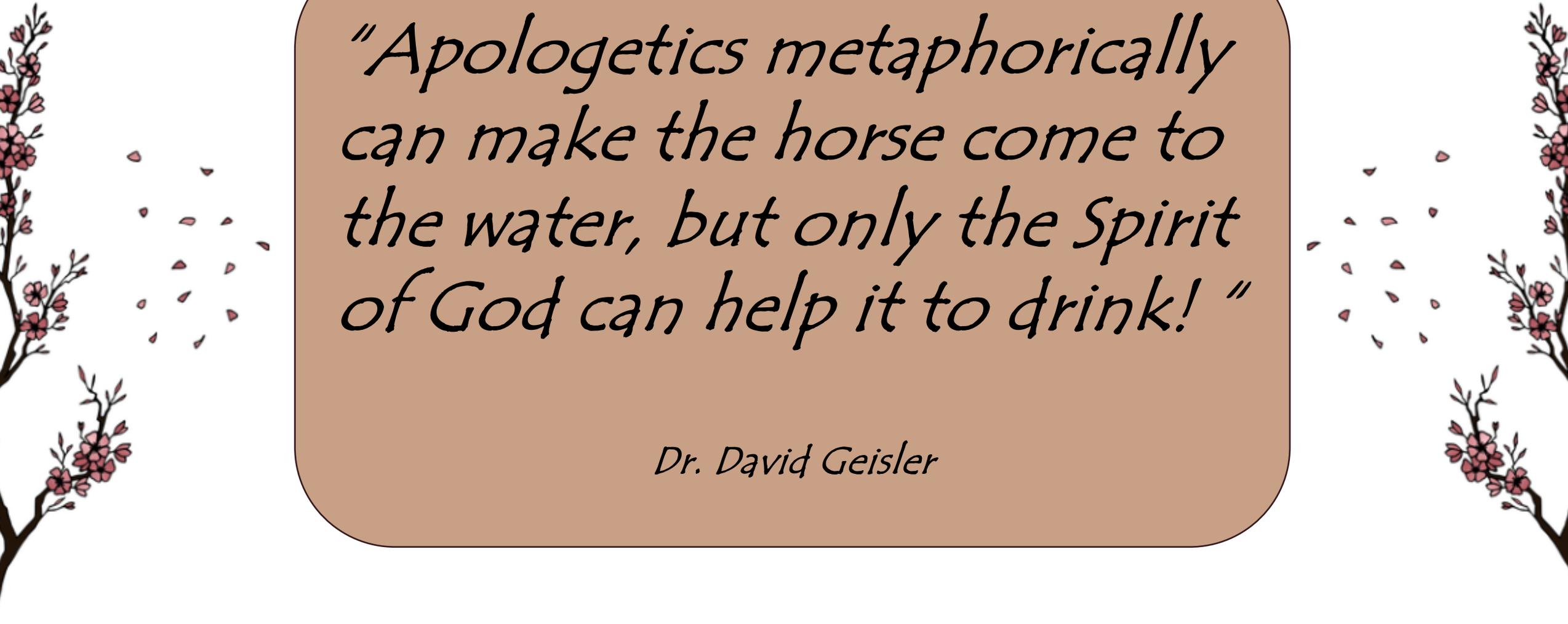
“Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,” (Jn. 12:37).

Remember that a non-believer's 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

Further Implication

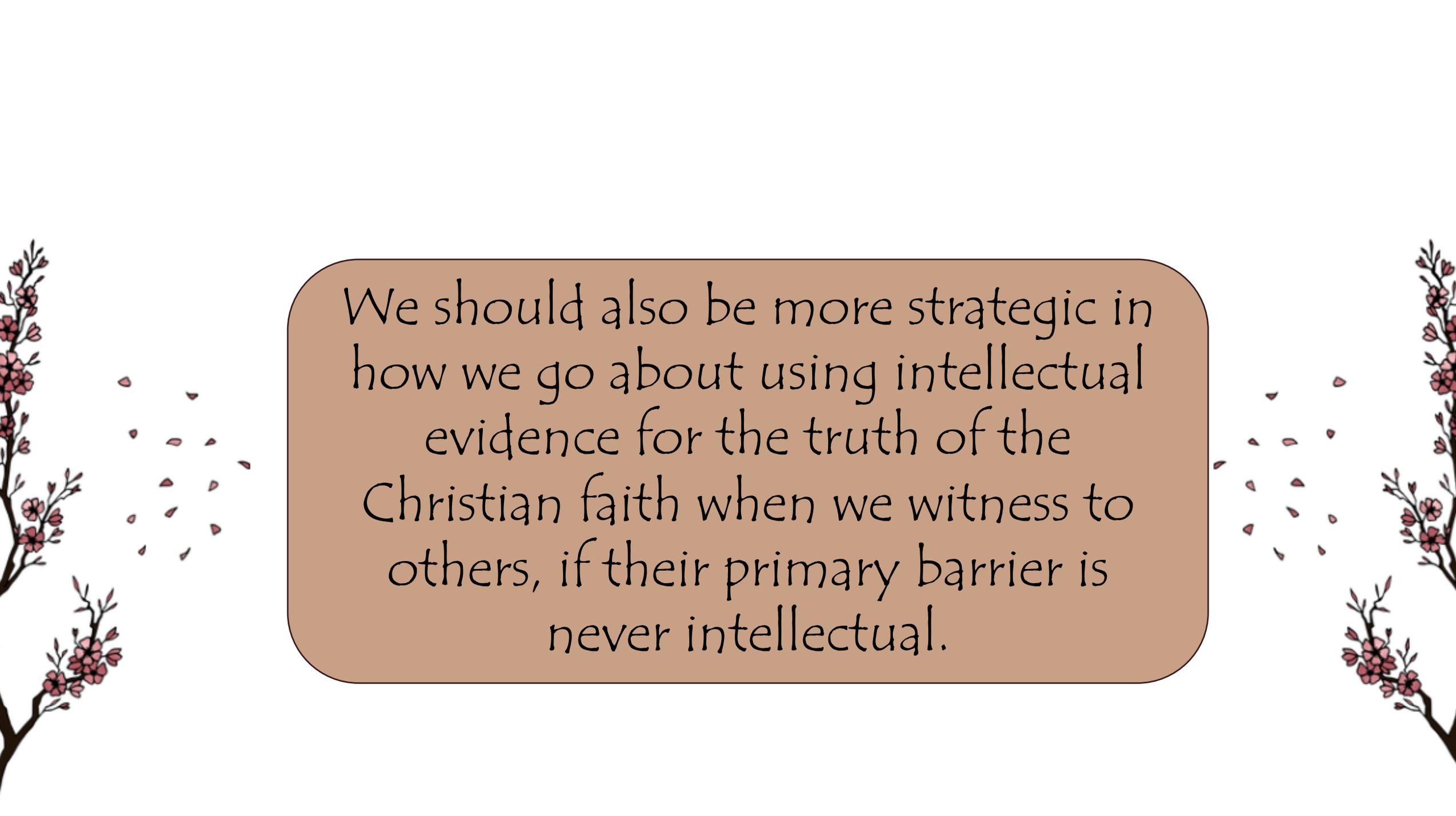
When you witness to someone, you should make sure they understand that they have to make two decisions concerning Jesus.

One decision involves reason.

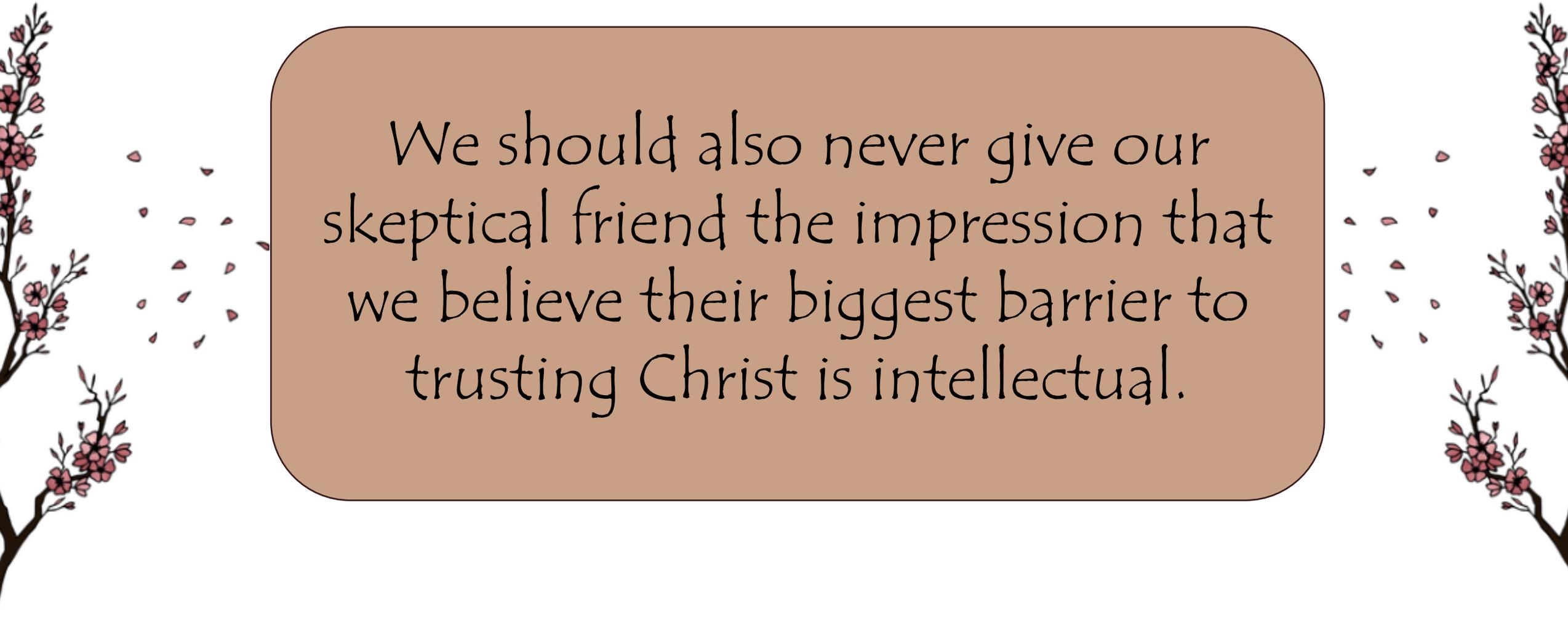
The other decision involves a step of Faith.

Another Implication

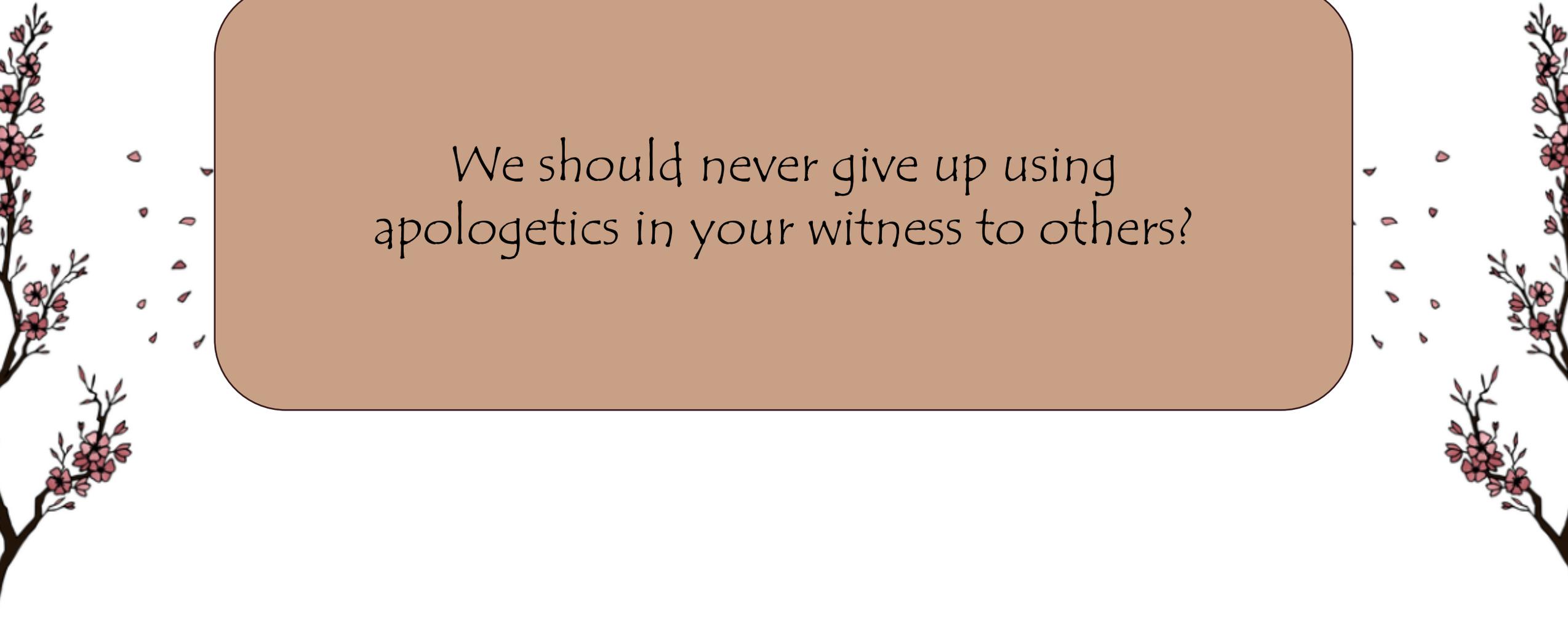
We should remind them that even after they get the evidence they were looking for, taking steps to the Cross may not be as easy as they think!



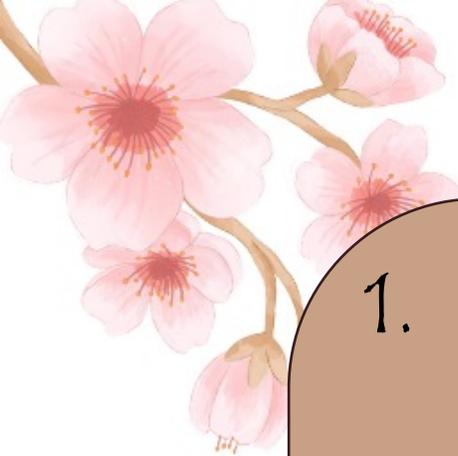
We should also be more strategic in how we go about using intellectual evidence for the truth of the Christian faith when we witness to others, if their primary barrier is never intellectual.



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

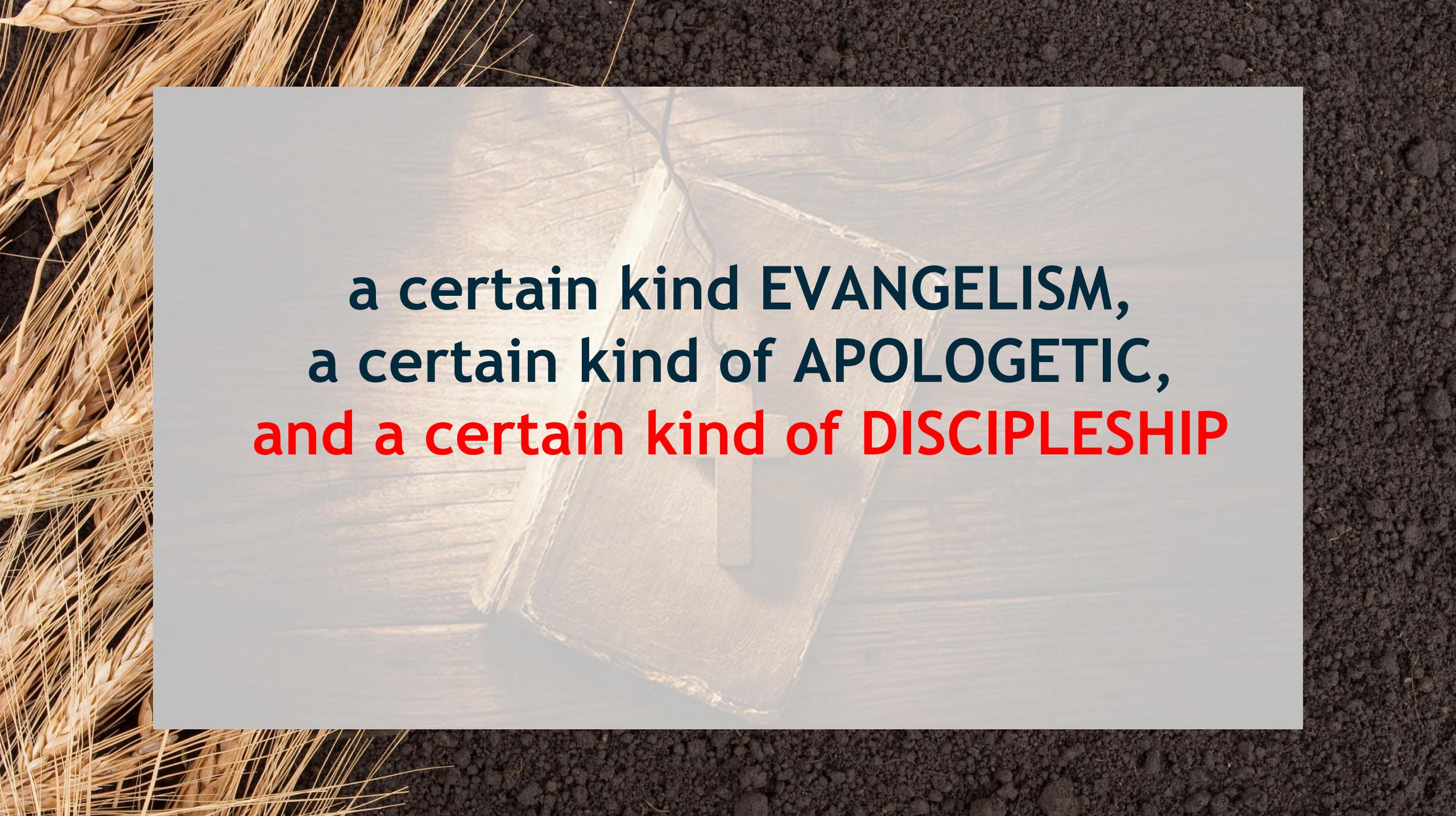


We should never give up using
apologetics in your witness to others?



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,²⁰ 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."

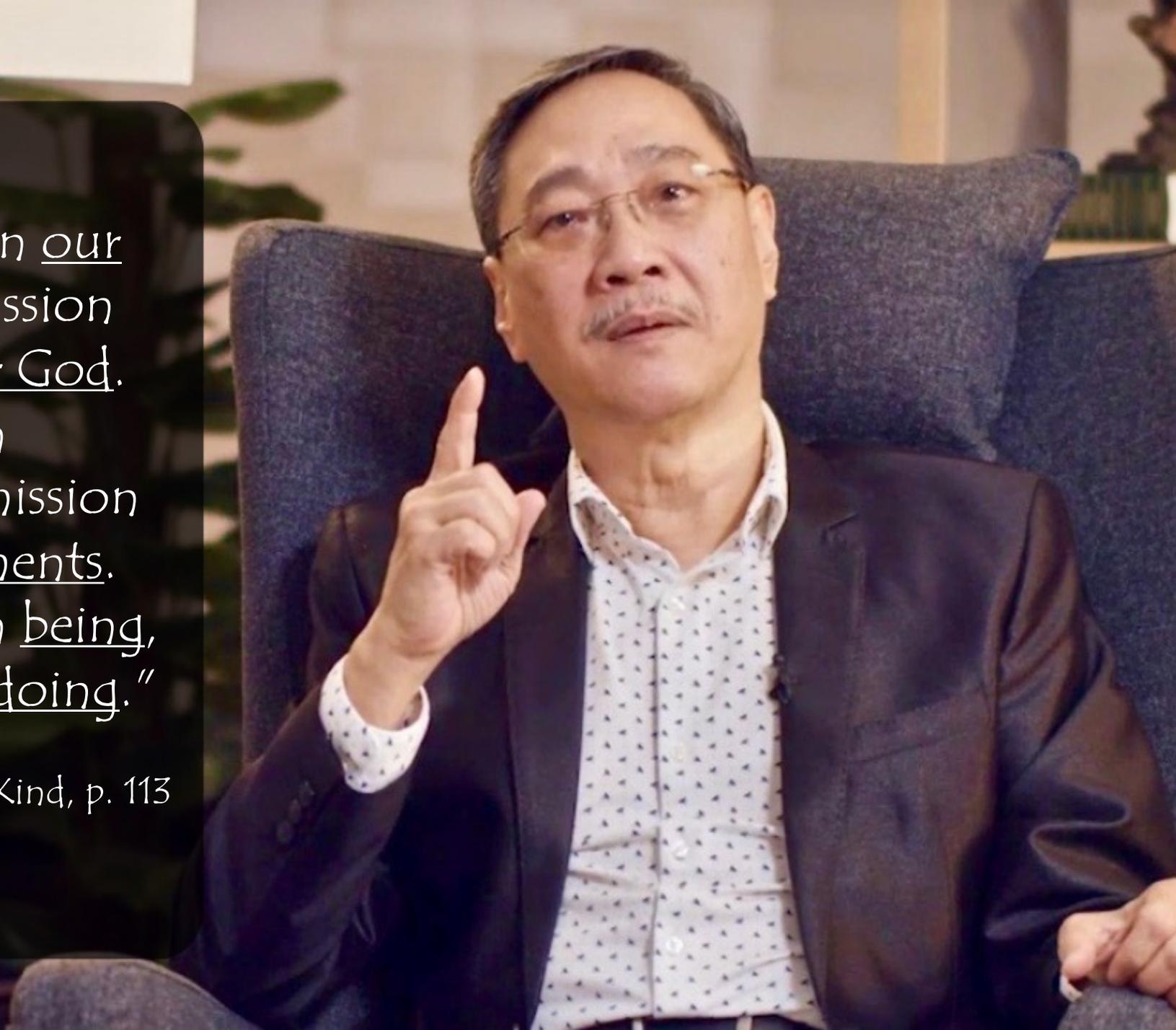
A Certain Kind, p. 112

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 and I to
focus 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..."





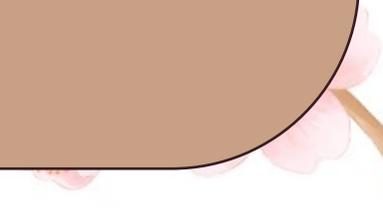
"It is not just an awareness of our spiritual poverty that is important to God. It is also our deep anguish about it that is important to God and should be important to us."

Dr. David Geisler

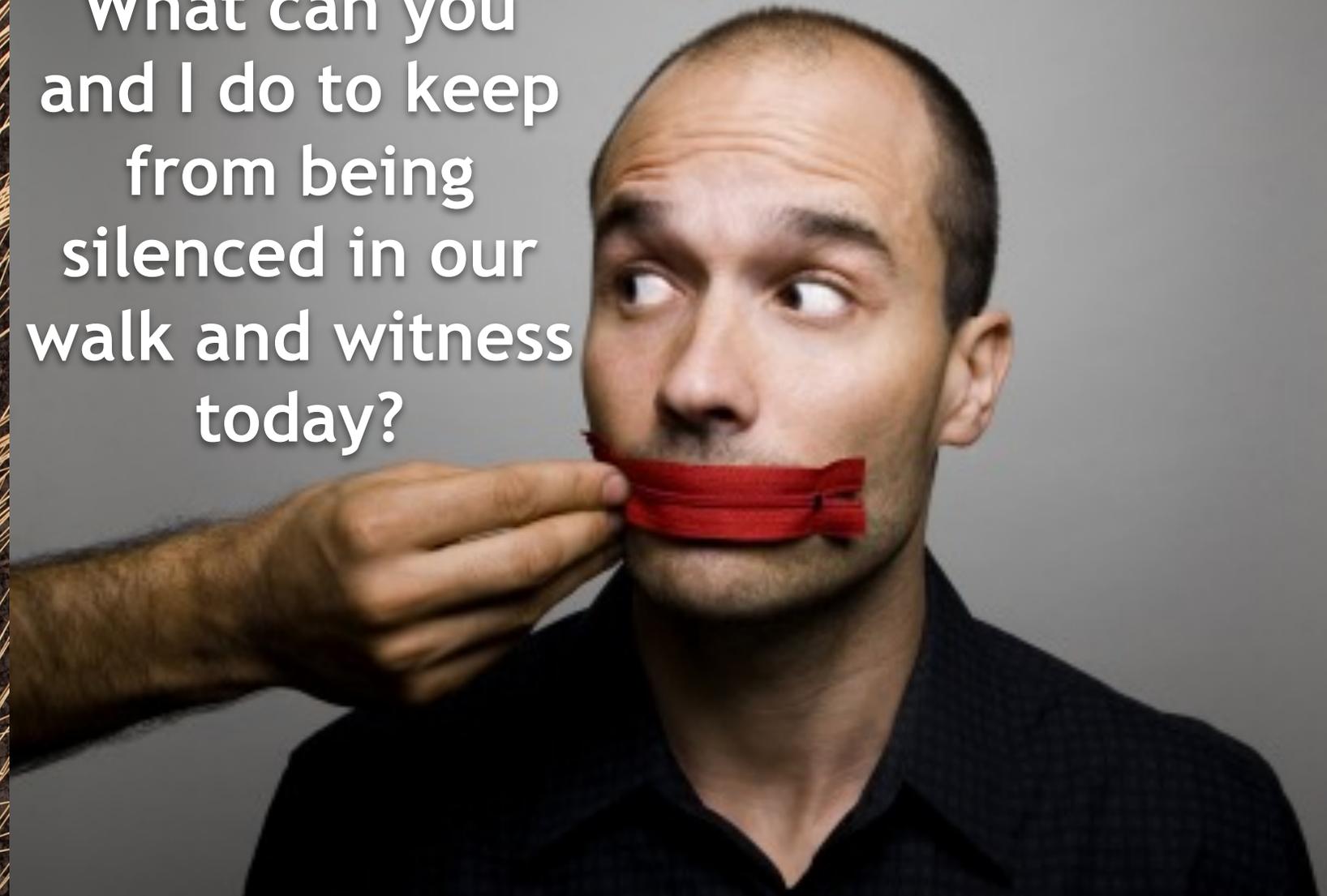




What is a Certain Kind of Discipleship...?

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

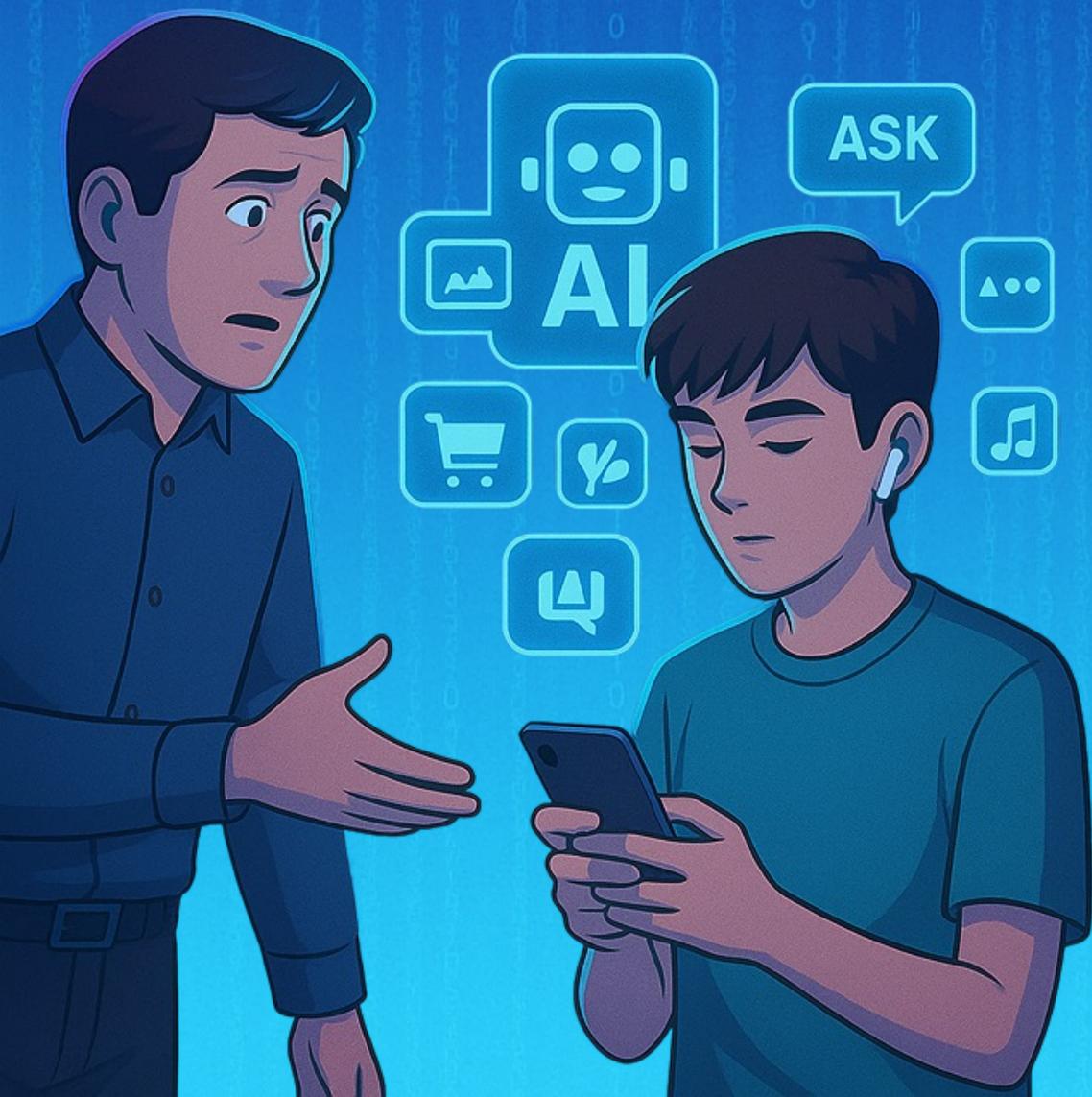
A Certain Kind of Discipleship



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."

Dr. David Geisler

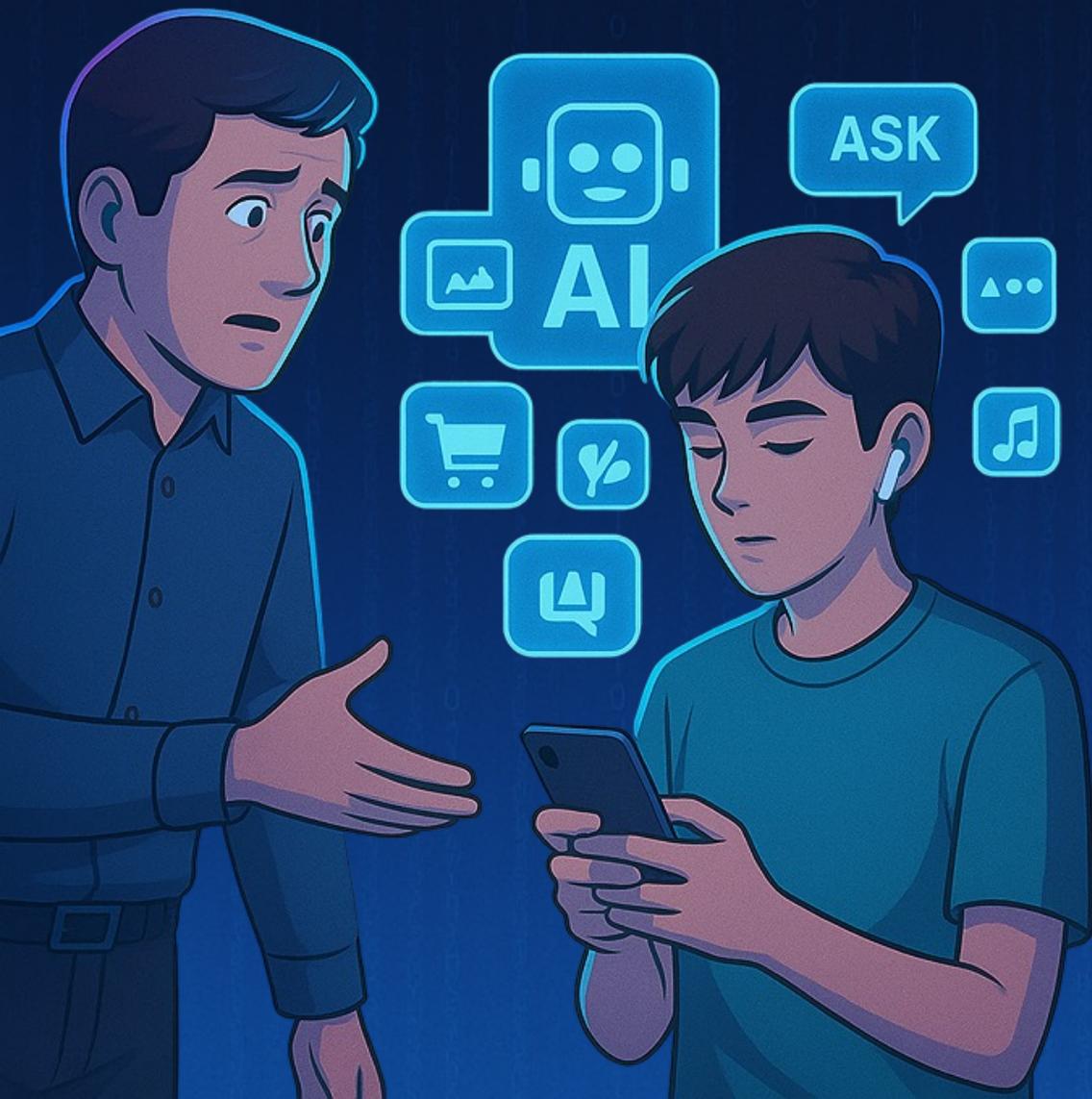


SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN THE AGE OF AI

*A Certain Kind of Evangelism,
Apologetics, and Discipleship*



Dr. David Geisler



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN THE AGE OF AI

*A Certain Kind of Evangelism,
Apologetics, and Discipleship*

