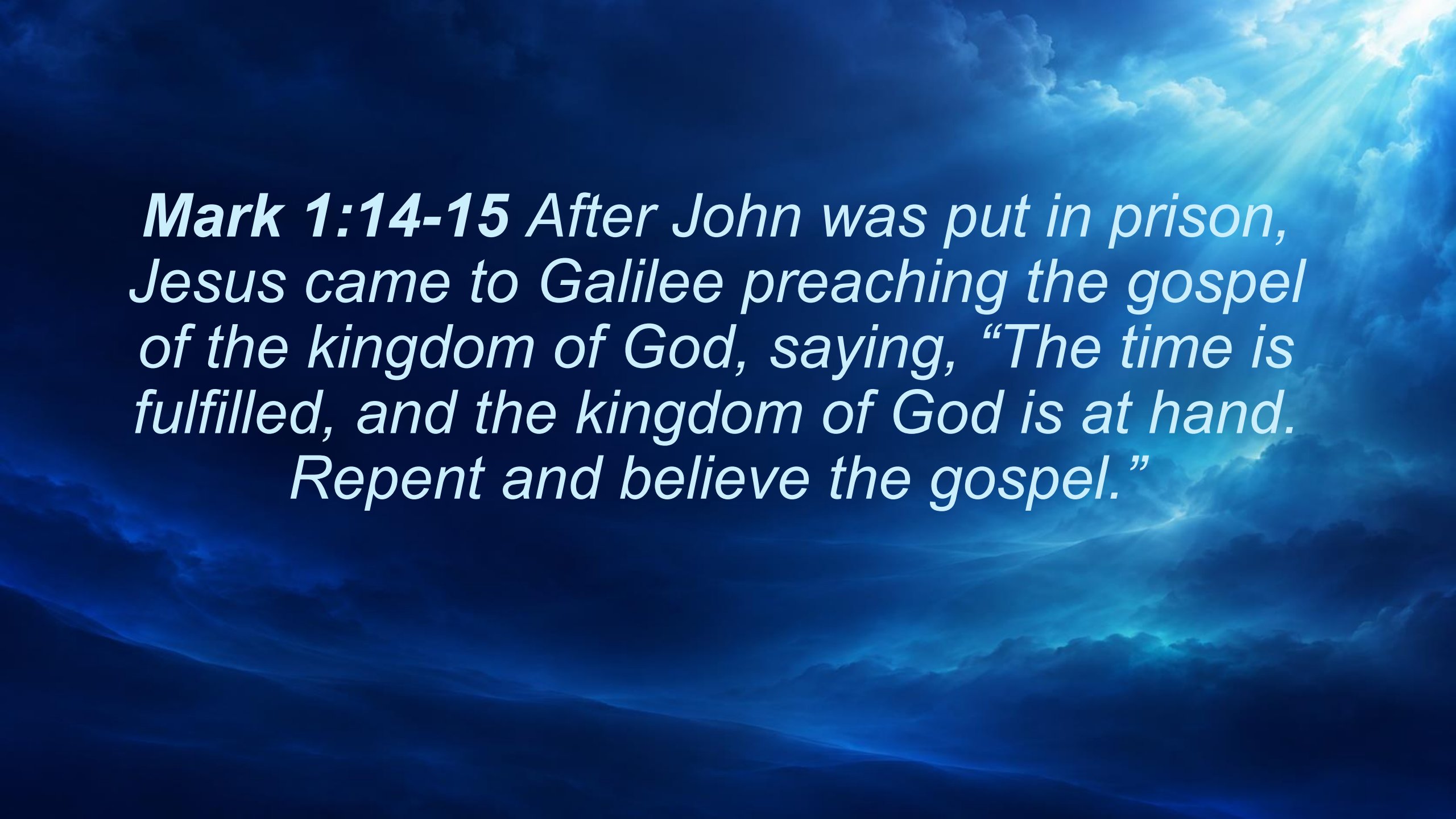


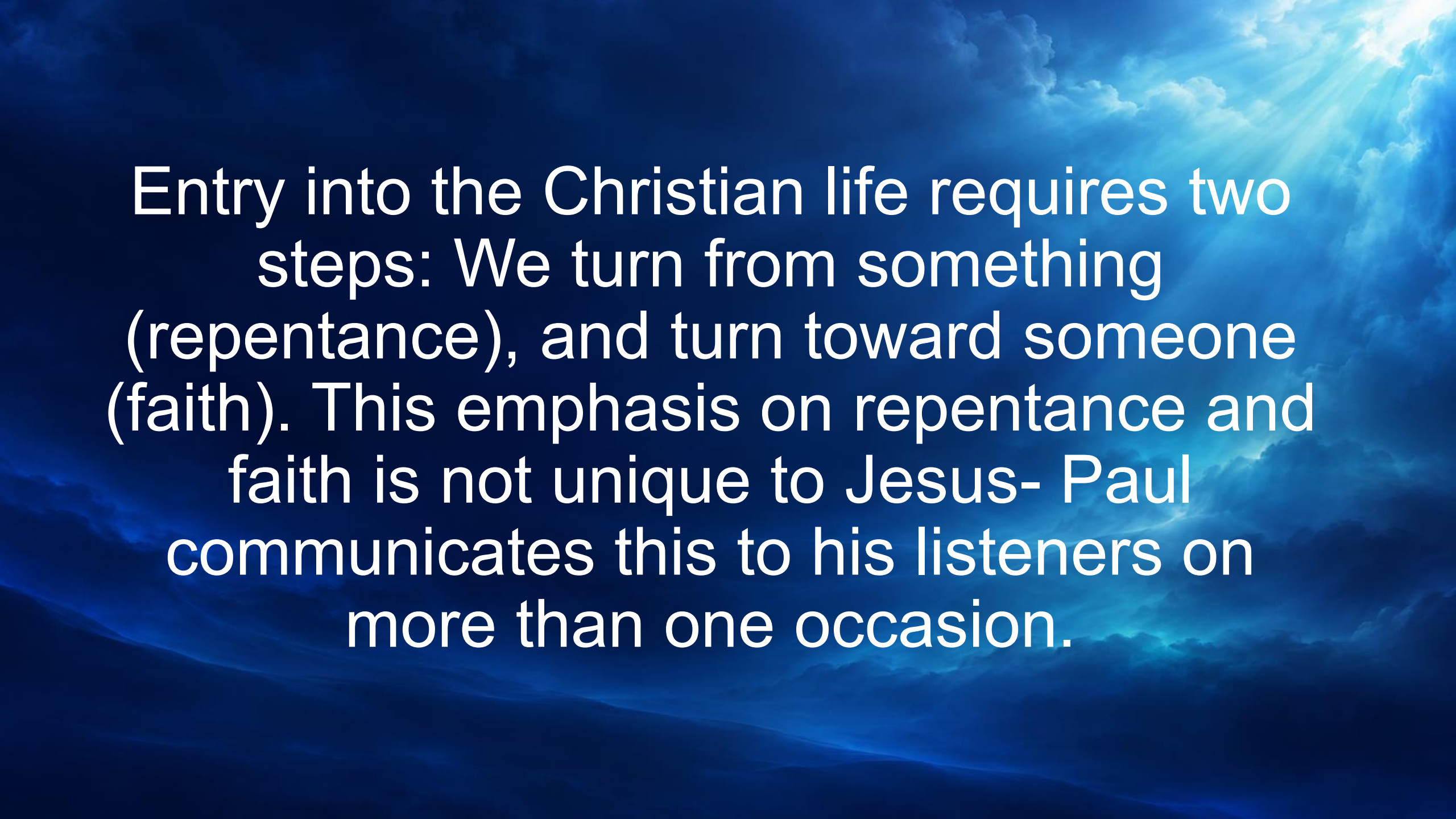
The background of the image is a vibrant blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. In the upper right corner, bright sunbeams radiate downwards, creating a sense of divine light and hope. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of blue, from deep navy to bright cyan.

FAITH THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

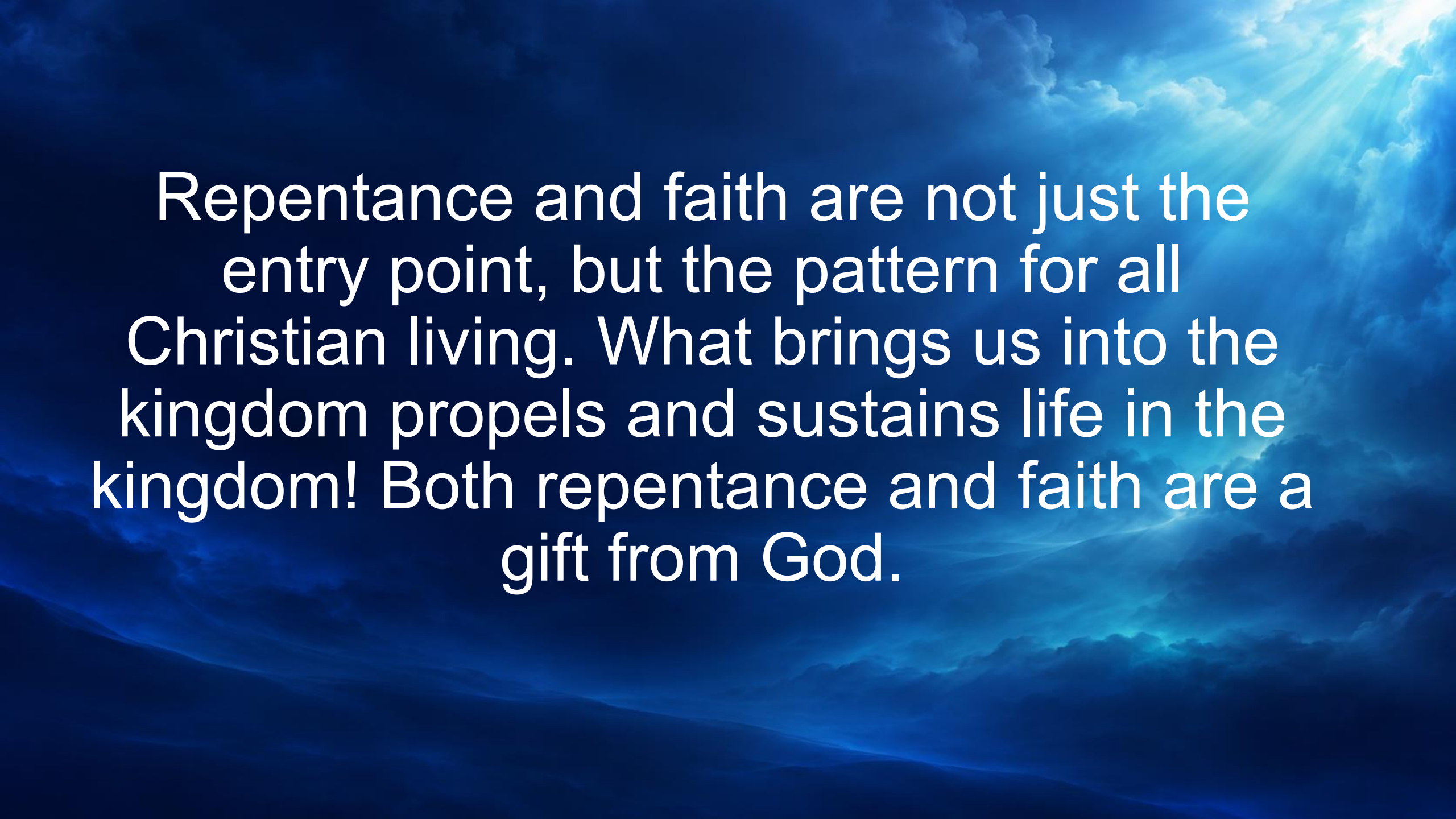
The Entry Point into the Christian Life

The background of the image is a vibrant blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. In the upper right corner, bright sunbeams radiate downwards, creating a sense of divine light and hope. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of blue, from deep navy to bright cyan, giving it a serene yet powerful appearance.

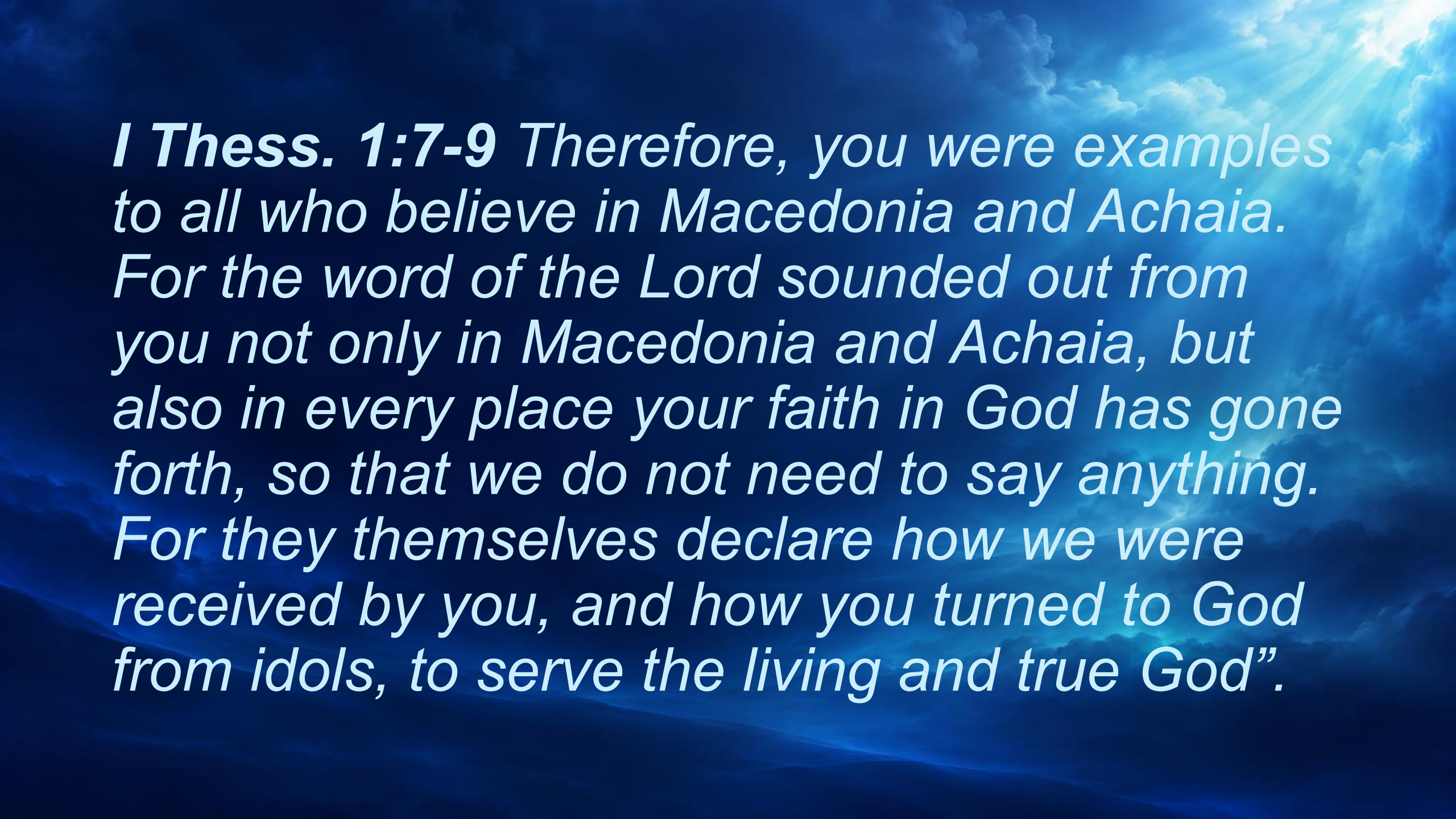
Mark 1:14-15 After John was put in prison,
Jesus came to Galilee preaching the gospel
of the kingdom of God, saying, “The time is
fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent and believe the gospel.”



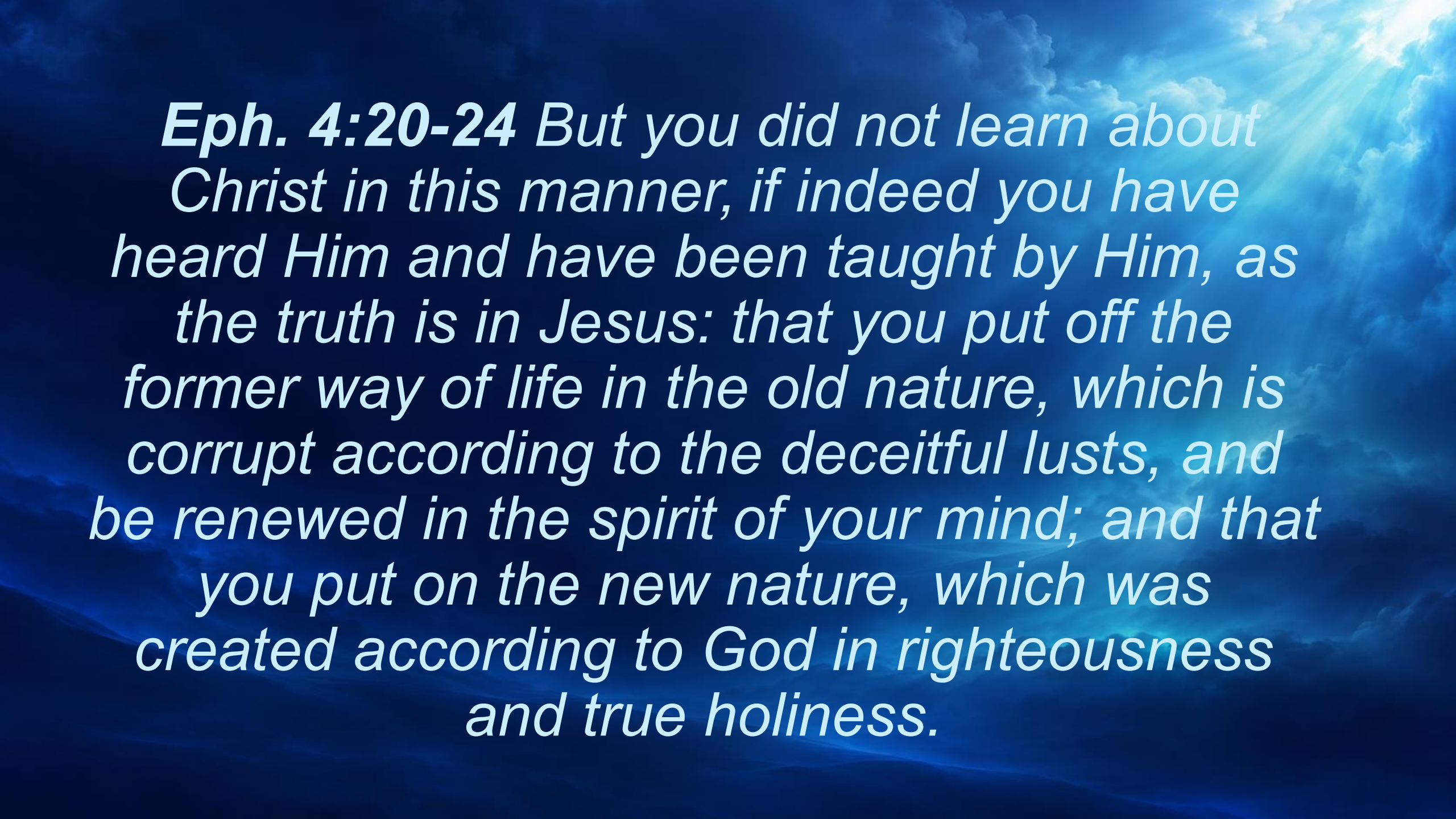
Entry into the Christian life requires two steps: We turn from something (repentance), and turn toward someone (faith). This emphasis on repentance and faith is not unique to Jesus- Paul communicates this to his listeners on more than one occasion.



Repentance and faith are not just the entry point, but the pattern for all Christian living. What brings us into the kingdom propels and sustains life in the kingdom! Both repentance and faith are a gift from God.



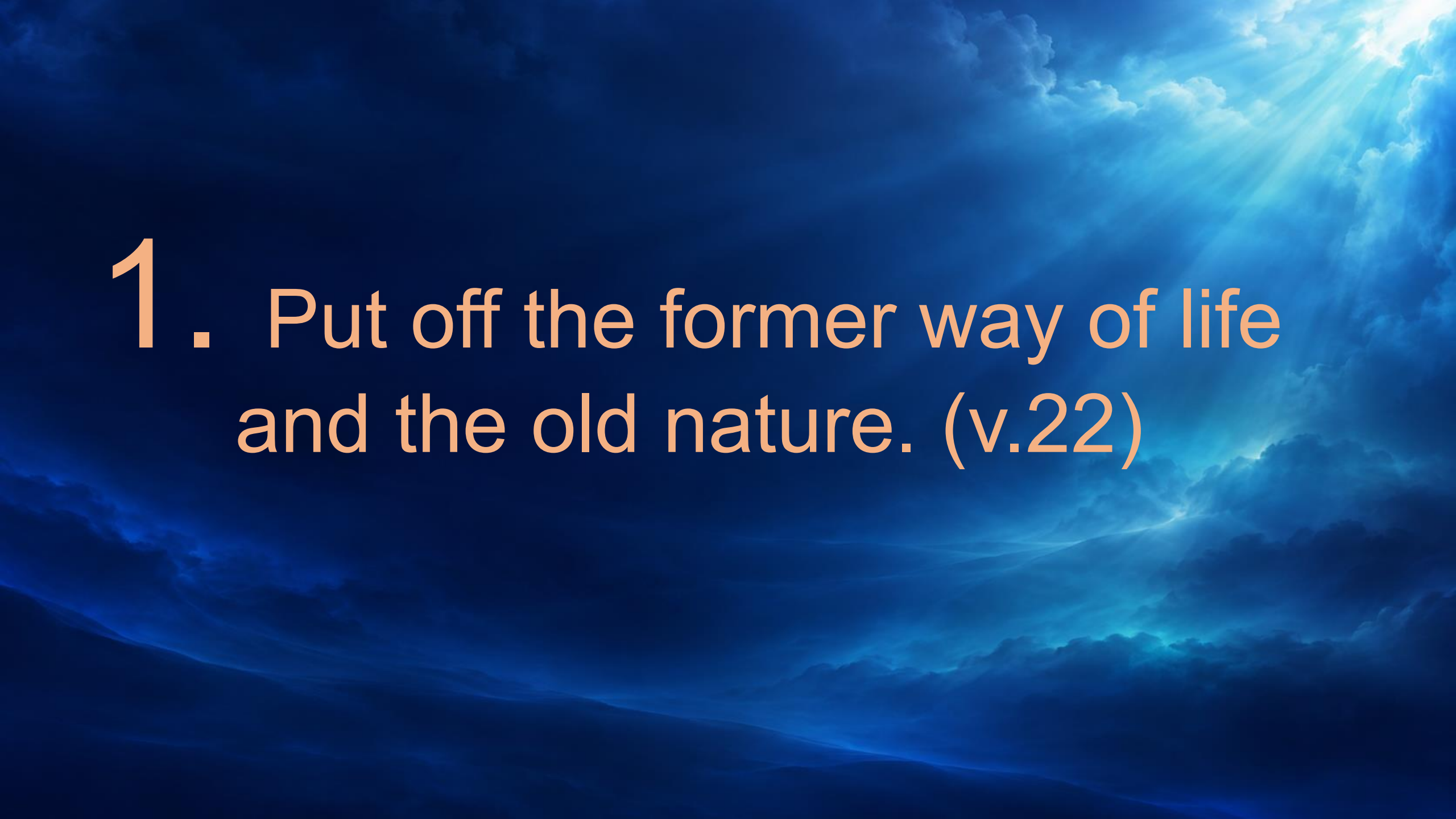
1 Thess. 1:7-9 Therefore, you were examples to all who believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For the word of the Lord sounded out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we do not need to say anything. For they themselves declare how we were received by you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God”.



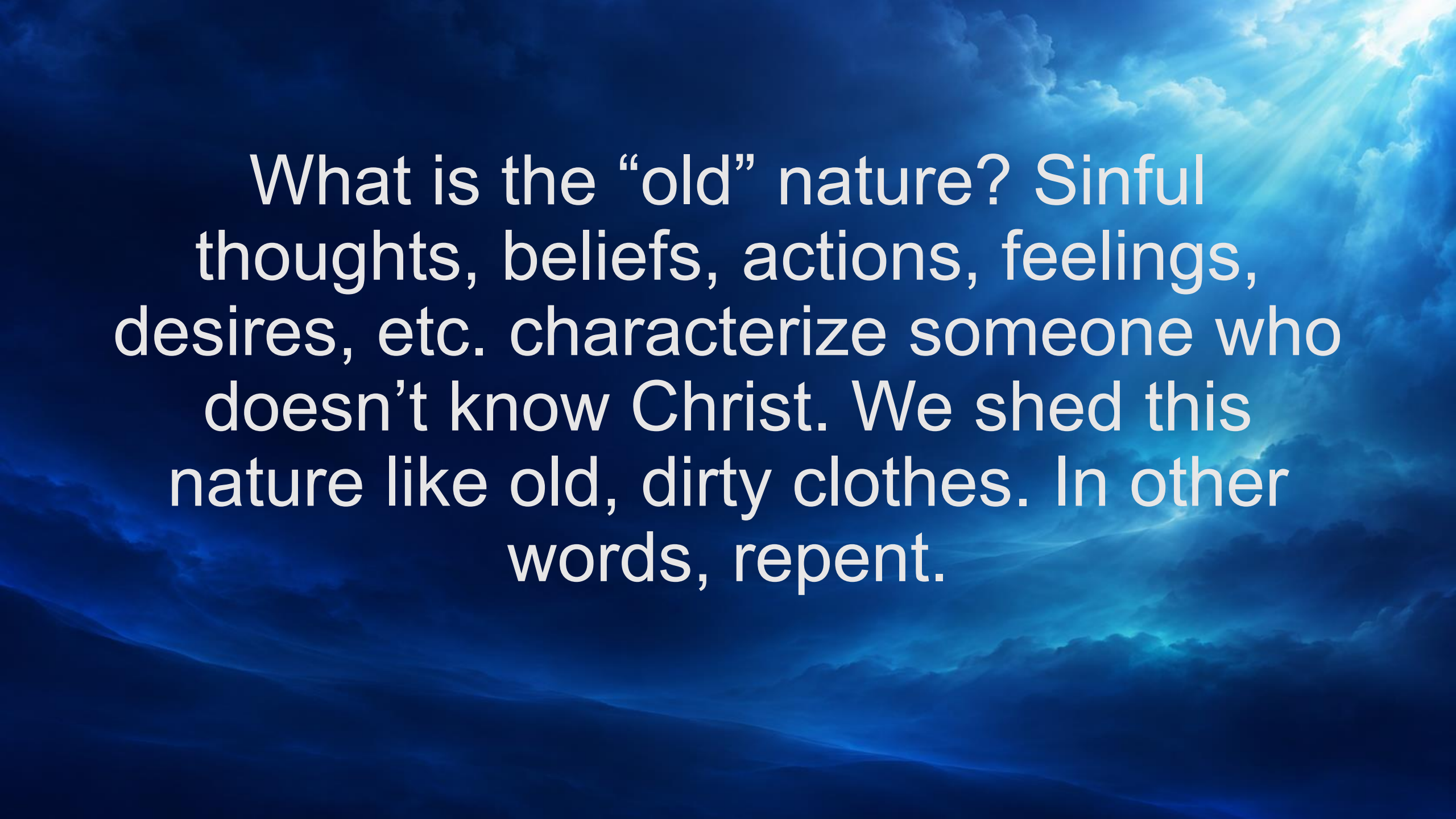
***Eph. 4:20-24** But you did not learn about Christ in this manner, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off the former way of life in the old nature, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you put on the new nature, which was created according to God in righteousness and true holiness.*



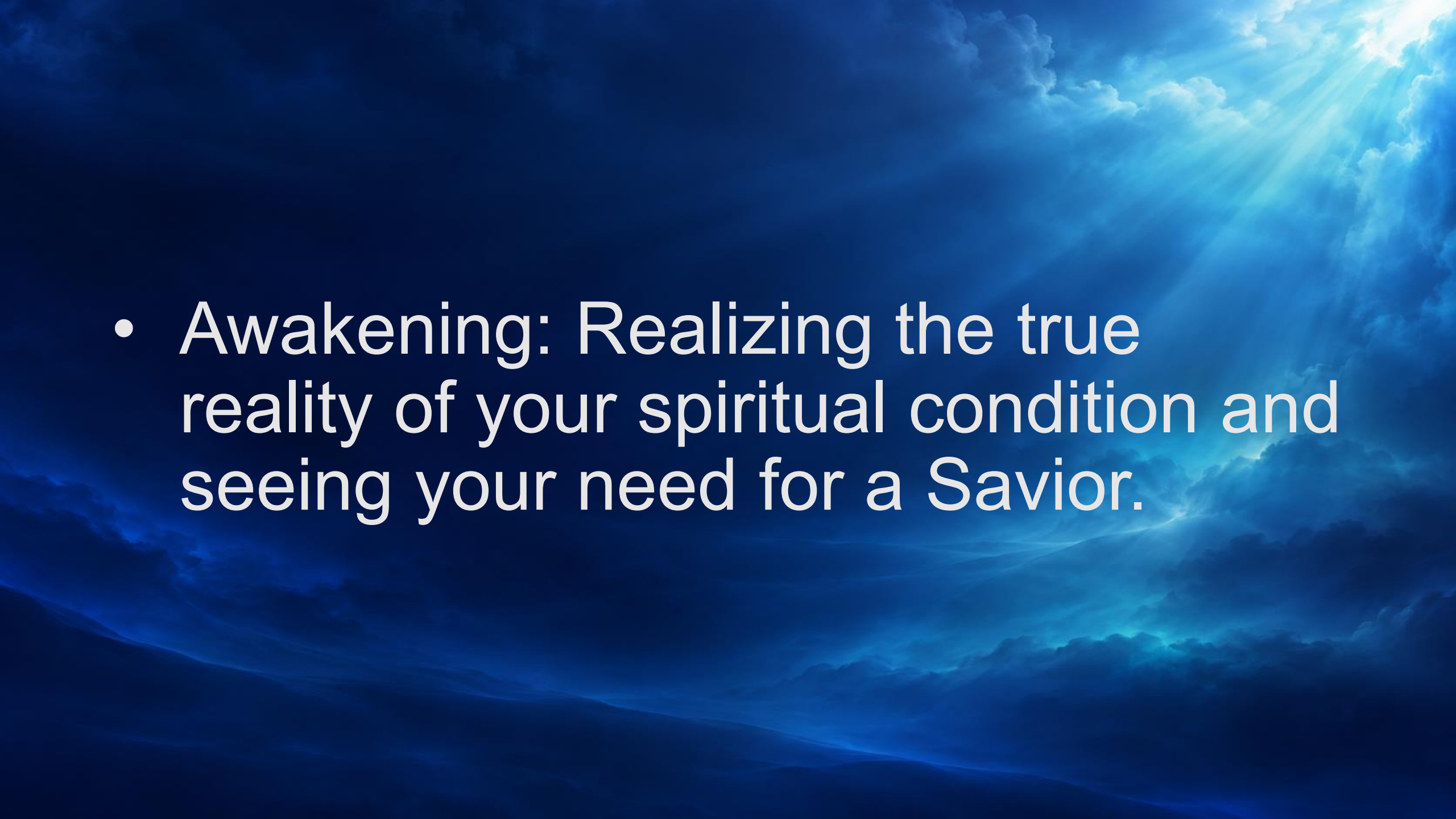
Paul identifies 3 steps to
successfully living a life of
repentance and faith:

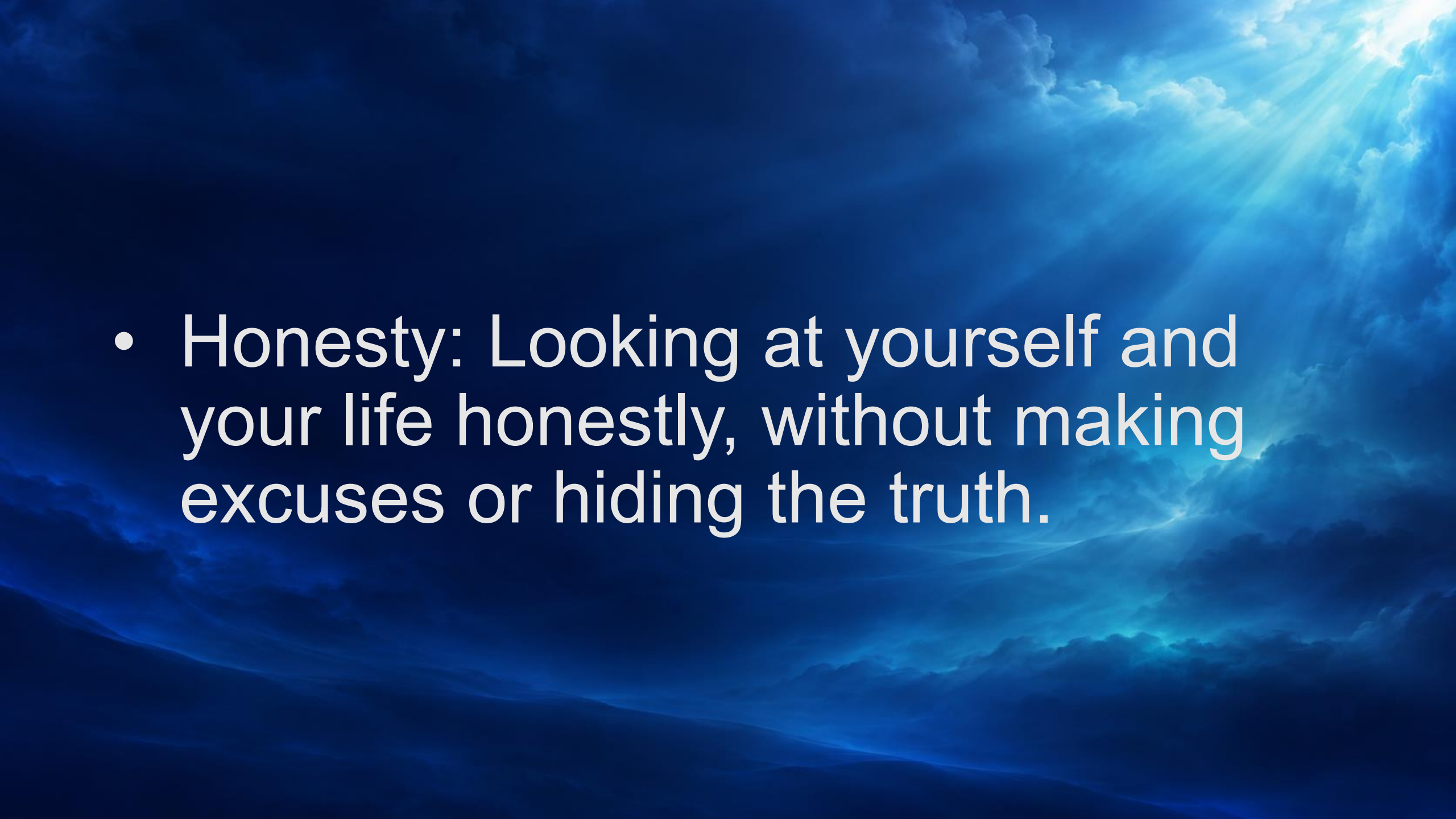


1. Put off the former way of life
and the old nature. (v.22)



What is the “old” nature? Sinful thoughts, beliefs, actions, feelings, desires, etc. characterize someone who doesn’t know Christ. We shed this nature like old, dirty clothes. In other words, repent.

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- Awakening: Realizing the true reality of your spiritual condition and seeing your need for a Savior.

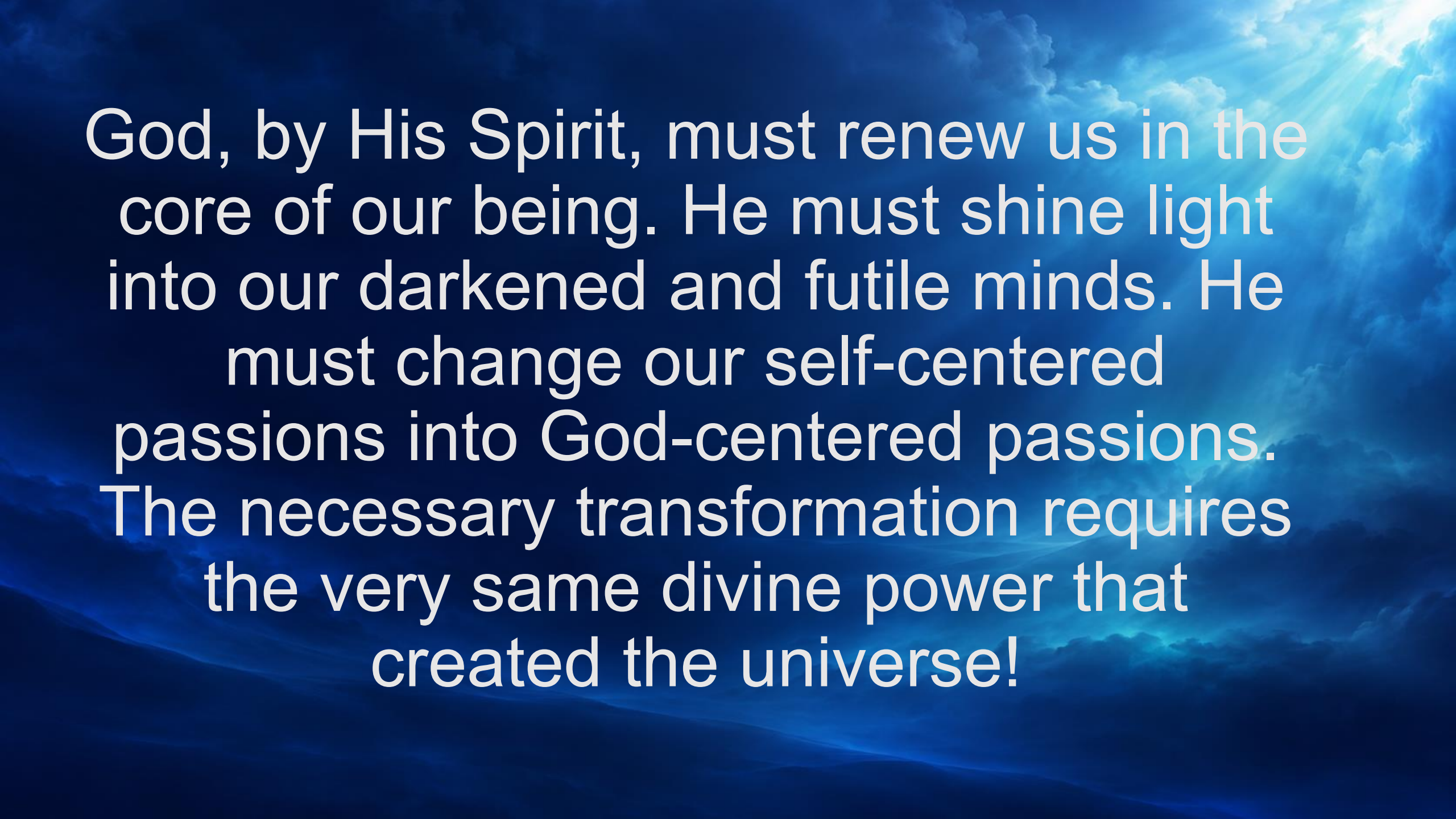
- 
- **Honesty:** Looking at yourself and your life honestly, without making excuses or hiding the truth.

- 
- A dramatic blue sky with clouds and sunlight rays. The sun is in the top right corner, casting bright rays across the sky. The clouds are dark blue and white, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall color palette is various shades of blue.
- Action: Obeying God's commands and changing your behavior to follow Christ.

Kyle Idleman: *AHA: The God
Moment That Changes Everything*



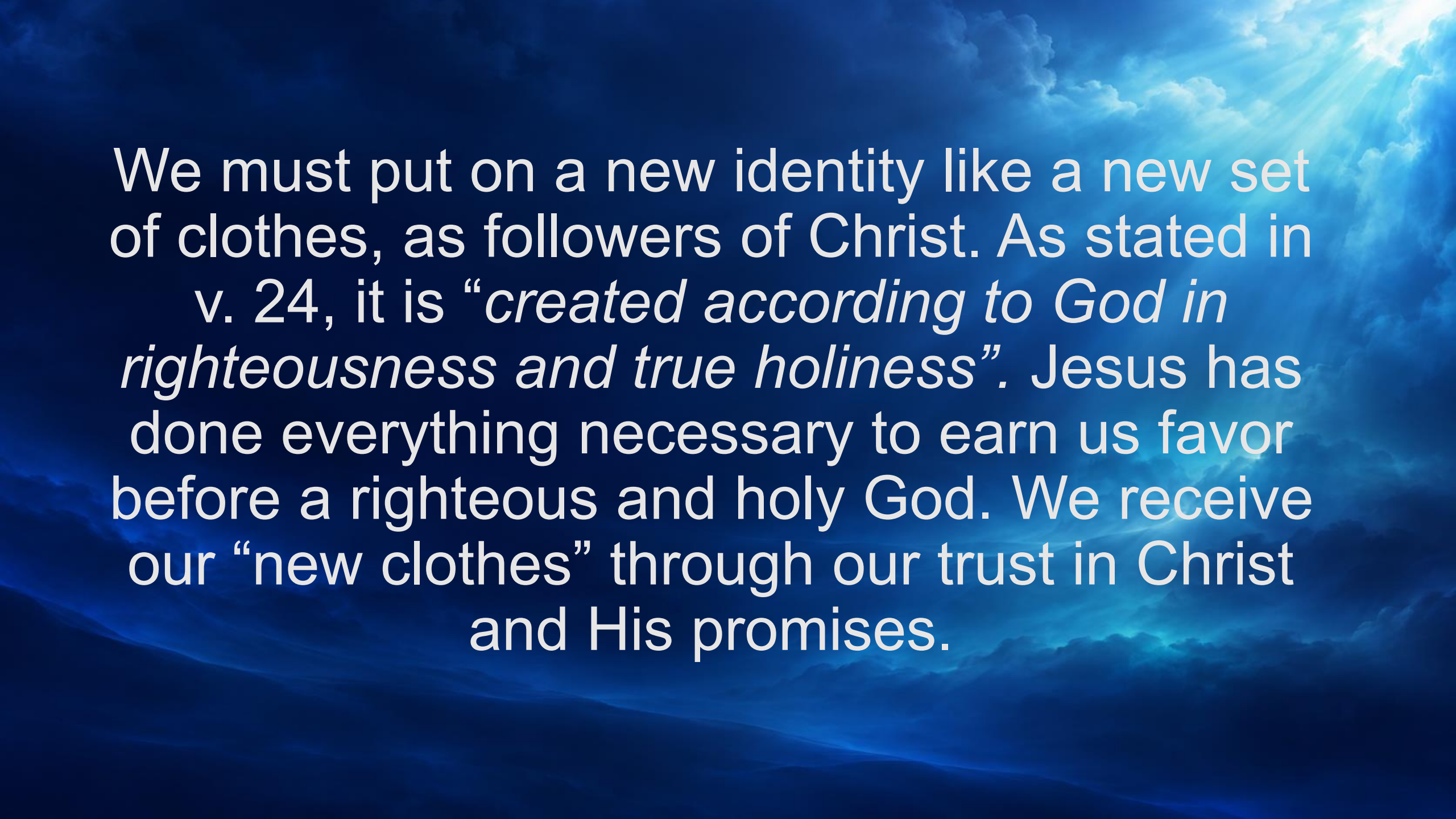
2. Be renewed in the spirit of
your mind. (v.23)



God, by His Spirit, must renew us in the core of our being. He must shine light into our darkened and futile minds. He must change our self-centered passions into God-centered passions. The necessary transformation requires the very same divine power that created the universe!

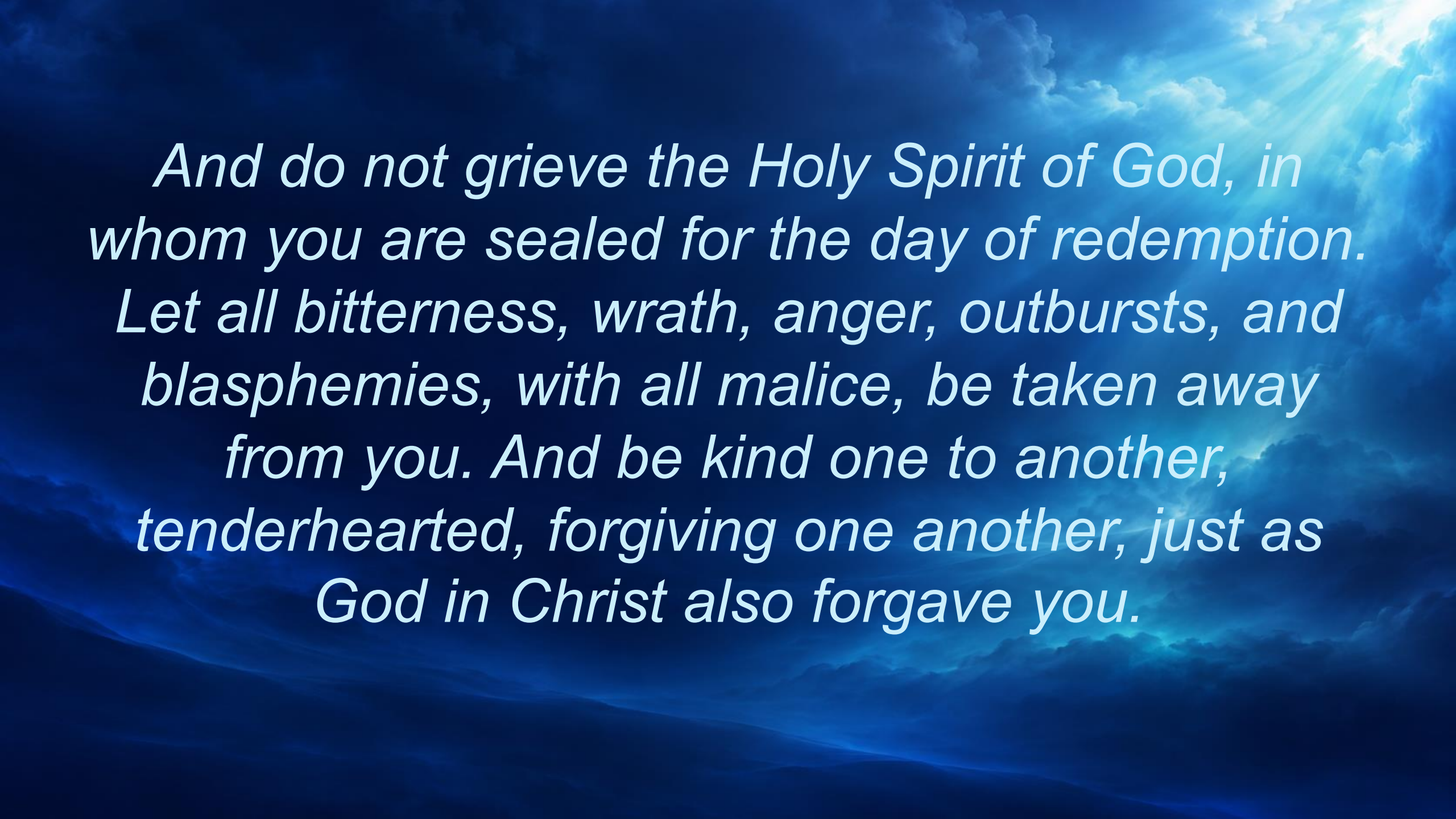


3. Put on the new nature. (v.24)

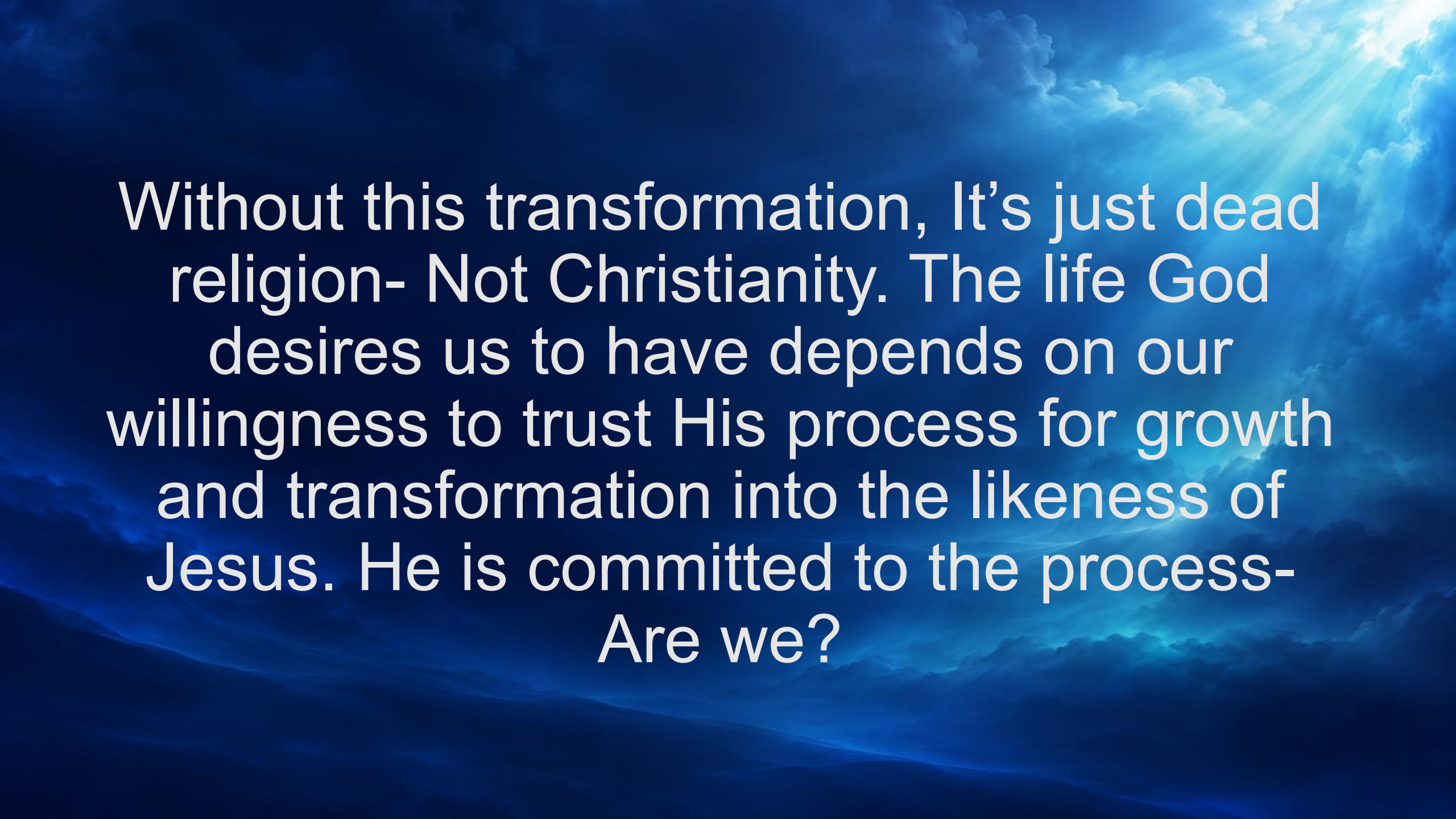


We must put on a new identity like a new set of clothes, as followers of Christ. As stated in v. 24, it is “*created according to God in righteousness and true holiness*”. Jesus has done everything necessary to earn us favor before a righteous and holy God. We receive our “new clothes” through our trust in Christ and His promises.

Eph. 4:25-32 Therefore, putting away lying, let every man speak truthfully with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger. Do not give place to the devil. 28 Let him who steals steal no more. Instead, let him labor, working with his hands things which are good, that he may have something to share with him who is in need. Let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, that it may give grace to the listeners...



And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you are sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, outbursts, and blasphemies, with all malice, be taken away from you. And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.



Without this transformation, It's just dead religion- Not Christianity. The life God desires us to have depends on our willingness to trust His process for growth and transformation into the likeness of Jesus. He is committed to the process-
Are we?