

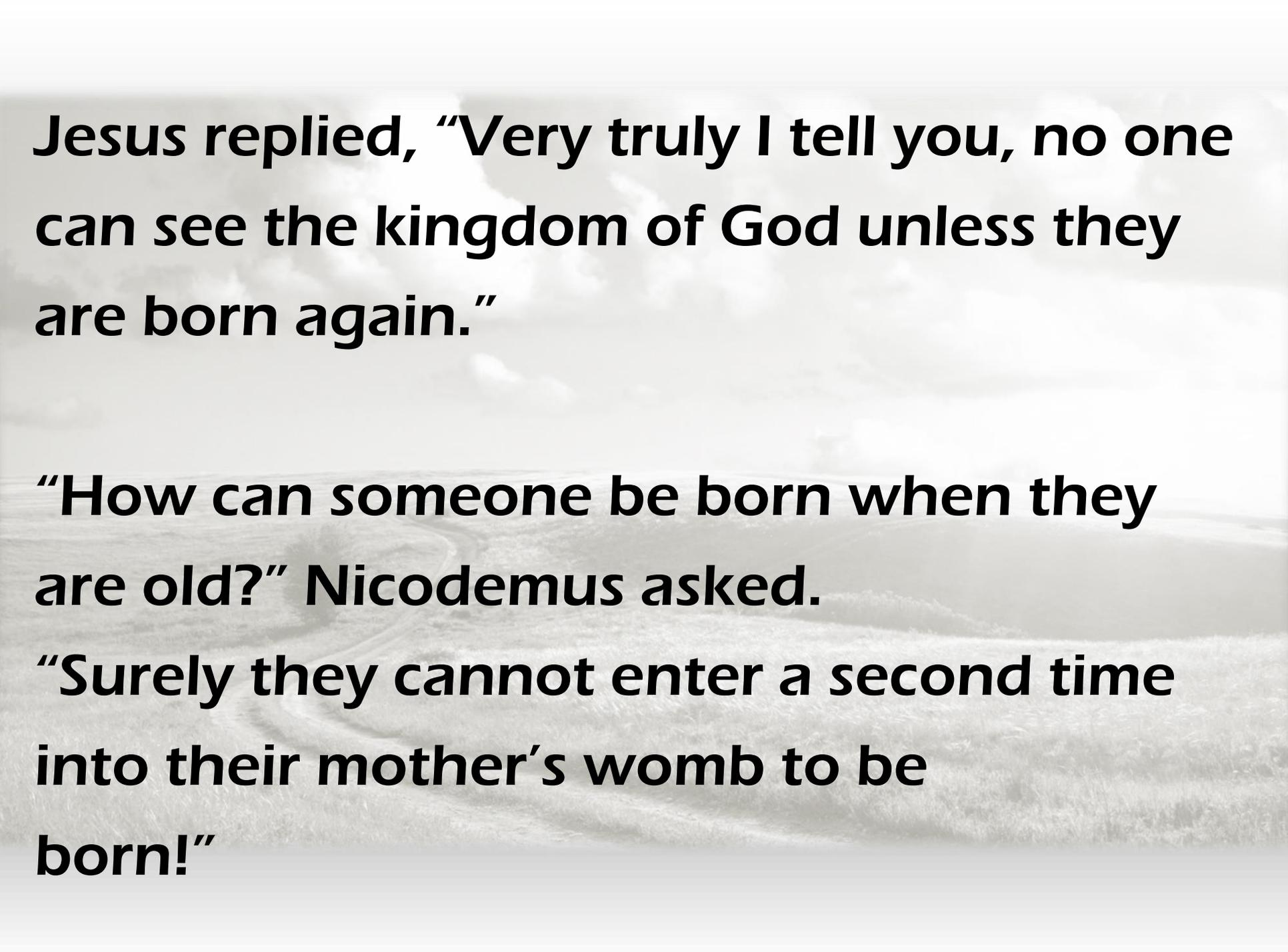
A landscape photograph featuring rolling green hills under a bright, cloudy sky. A winding dirt road leads from the foreground towards the hills. On a distant hill to the left, a simple wooden cross stands prominently. The sun is visible on the right side of the frame, creating a lens flare effect.

Discovering Jesus

What We Need To Discover In Ourselves

Text: John 3:1-21

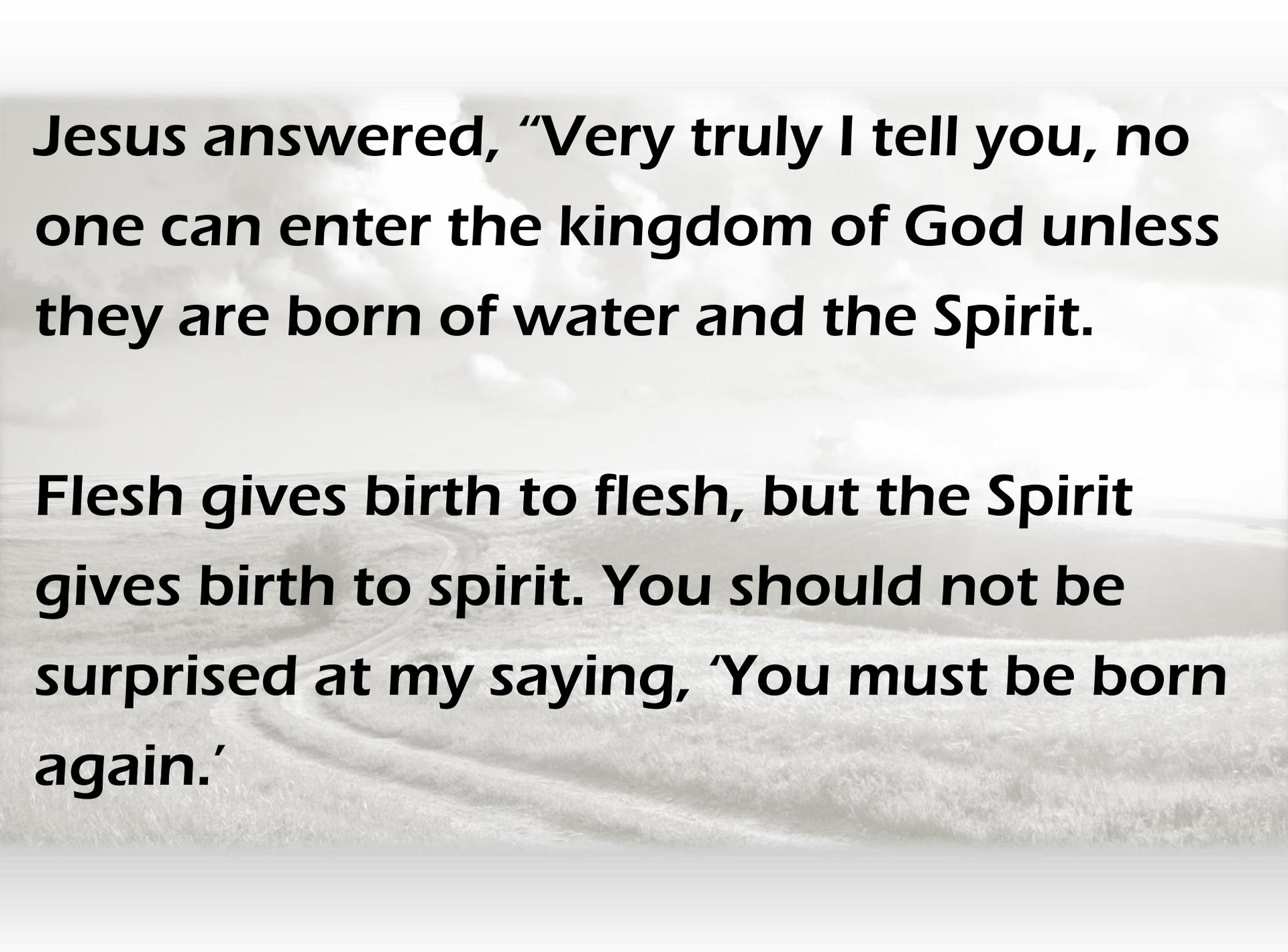
Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."



Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked.

“Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”



Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

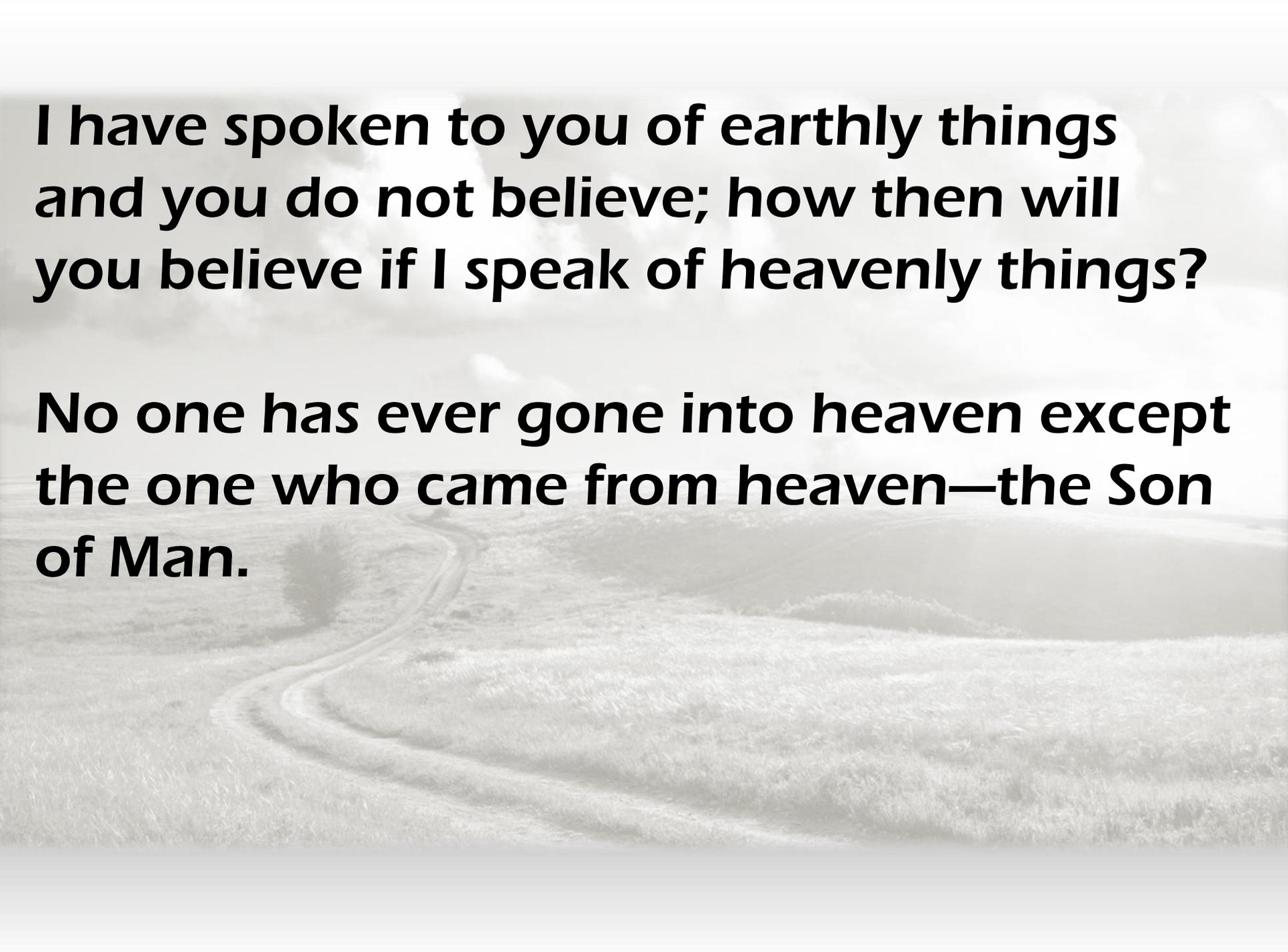
The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.



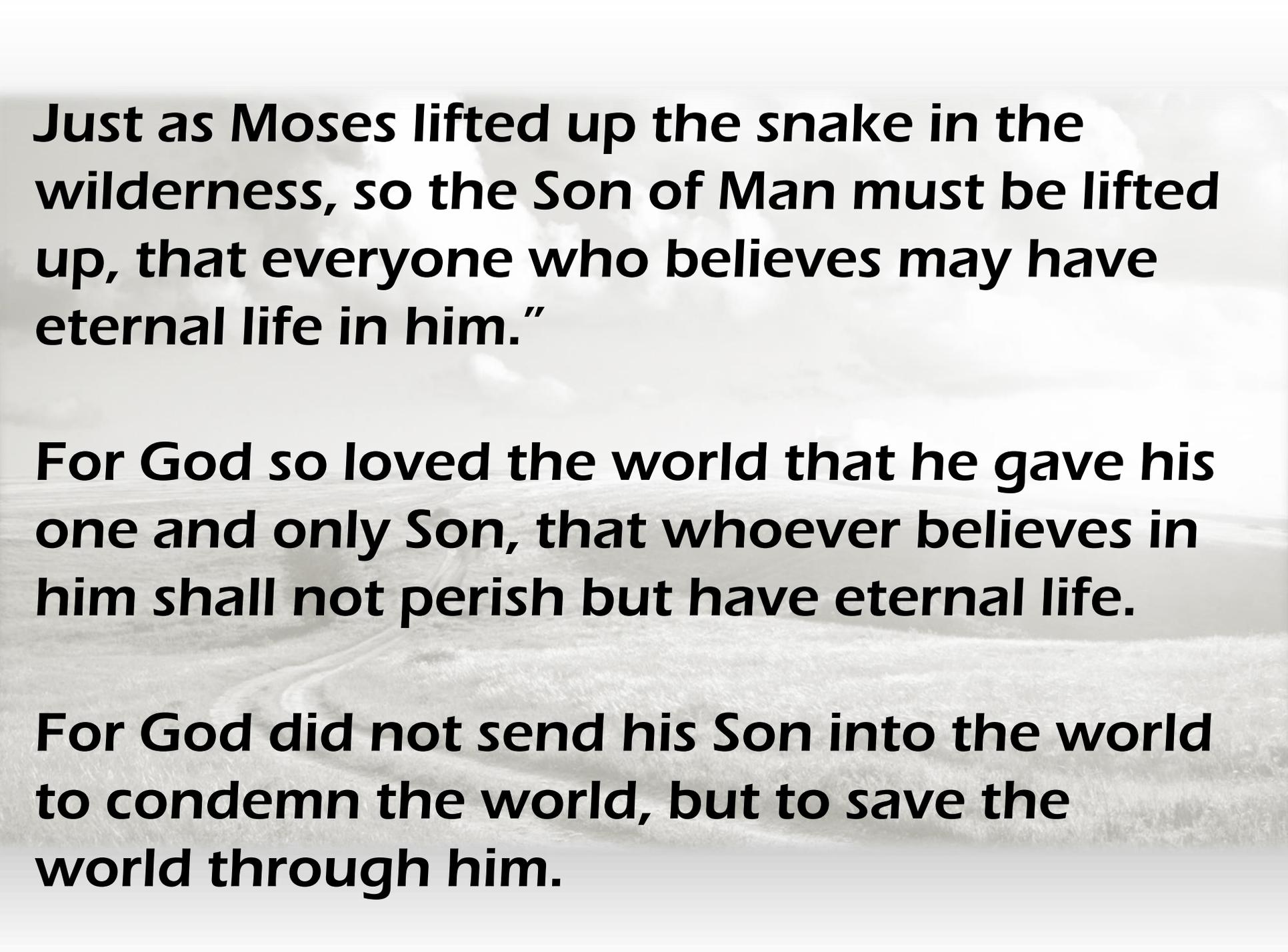
“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.





I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

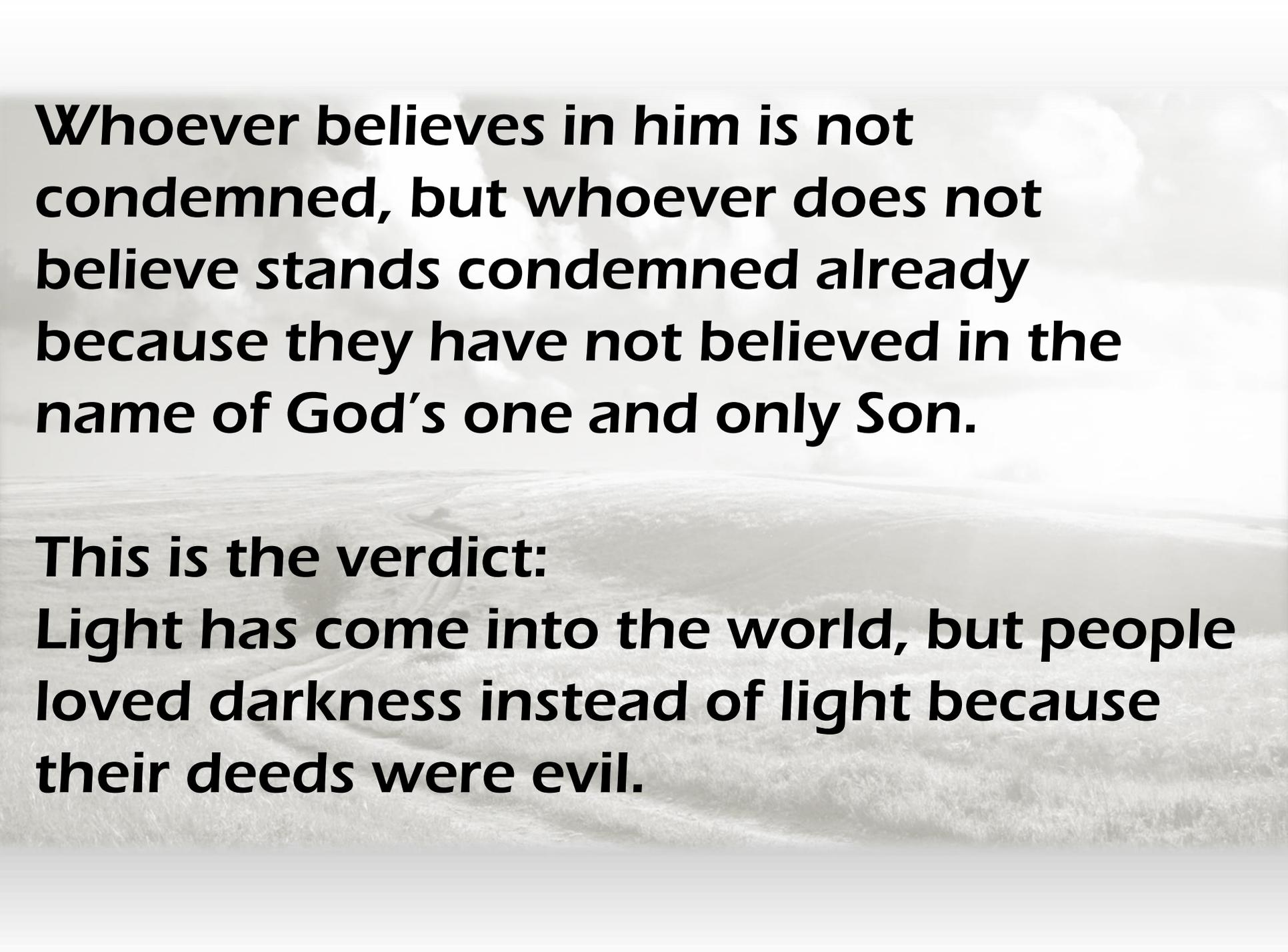
No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.



Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

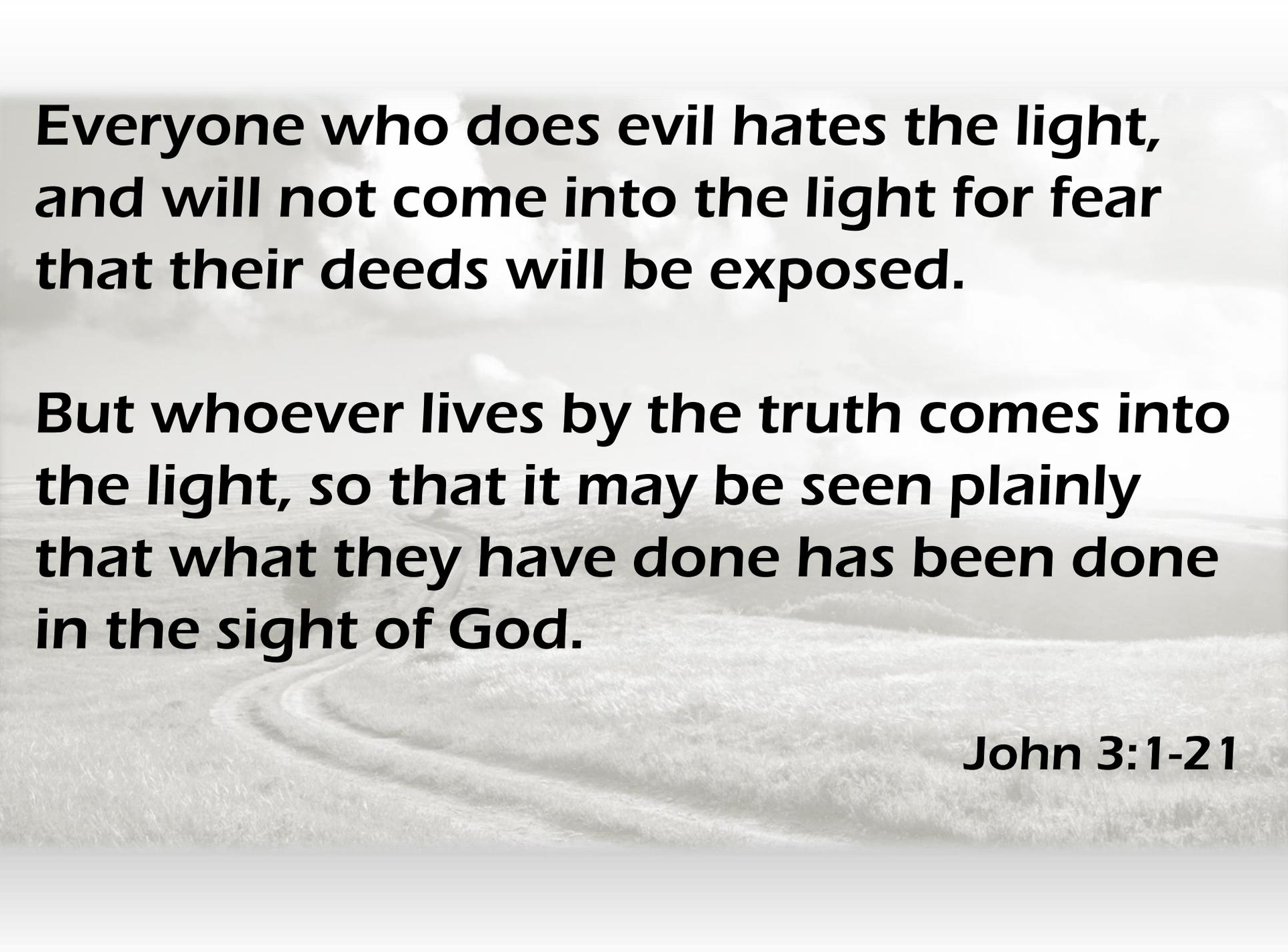
For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

This is the verdict:

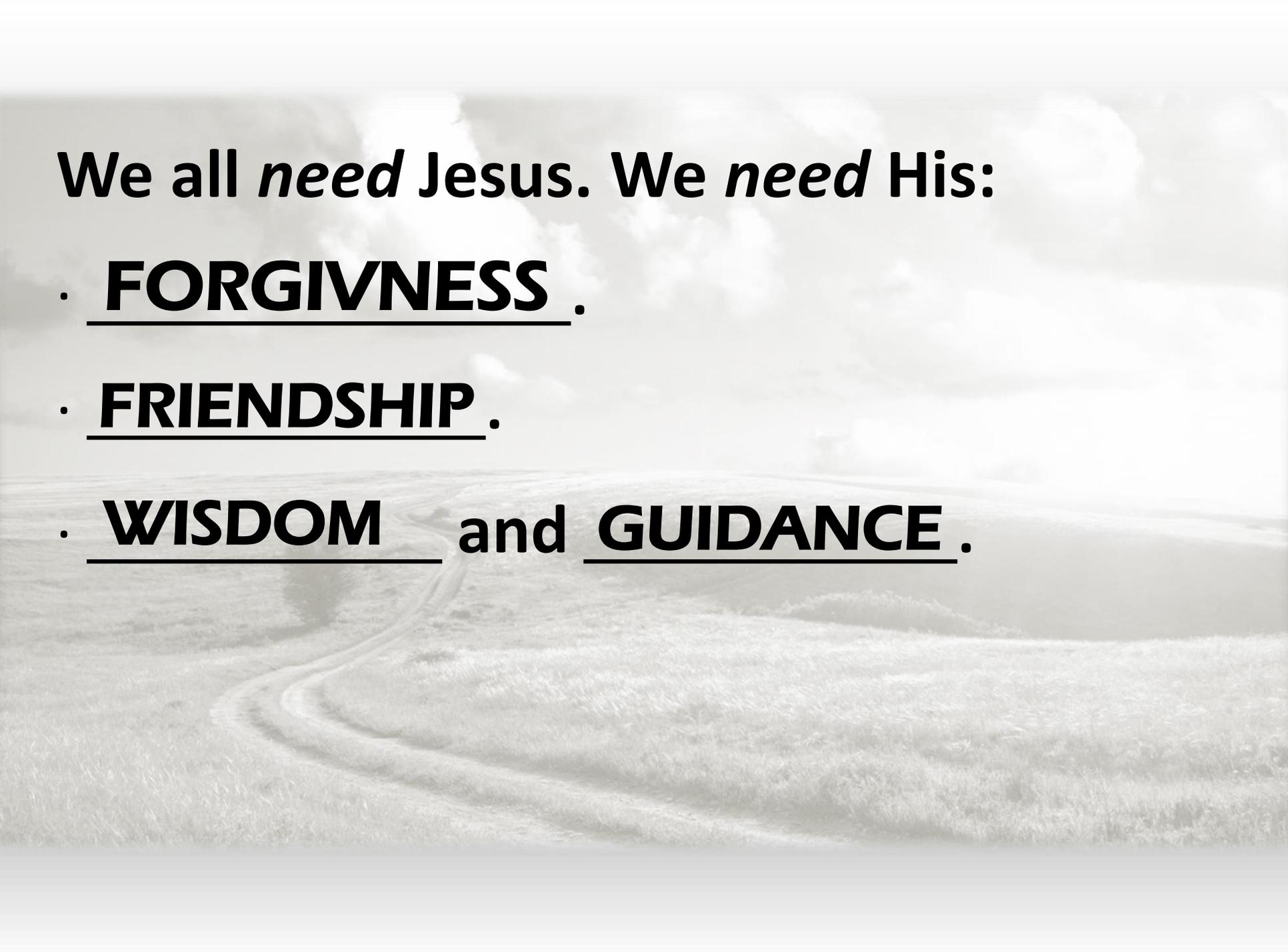
Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.



**Everyone who does evil hates the light,
and will not come into the light for fear
that their deeds will be exposed.**

**But whoever lives by the truth comes into
the light, so that it may be seen plainly
that what they have done has been done
in the sight of God.**

John 3:1-21



We all need Jesus. We need His:

• **FORGIVNESS** .

• **FRIENDSHIP** .

• **WISDOM** and **GUIDANCE** .

We don't want to *believe* that we *need* Jesus. Instead, we want to *believe* that we:

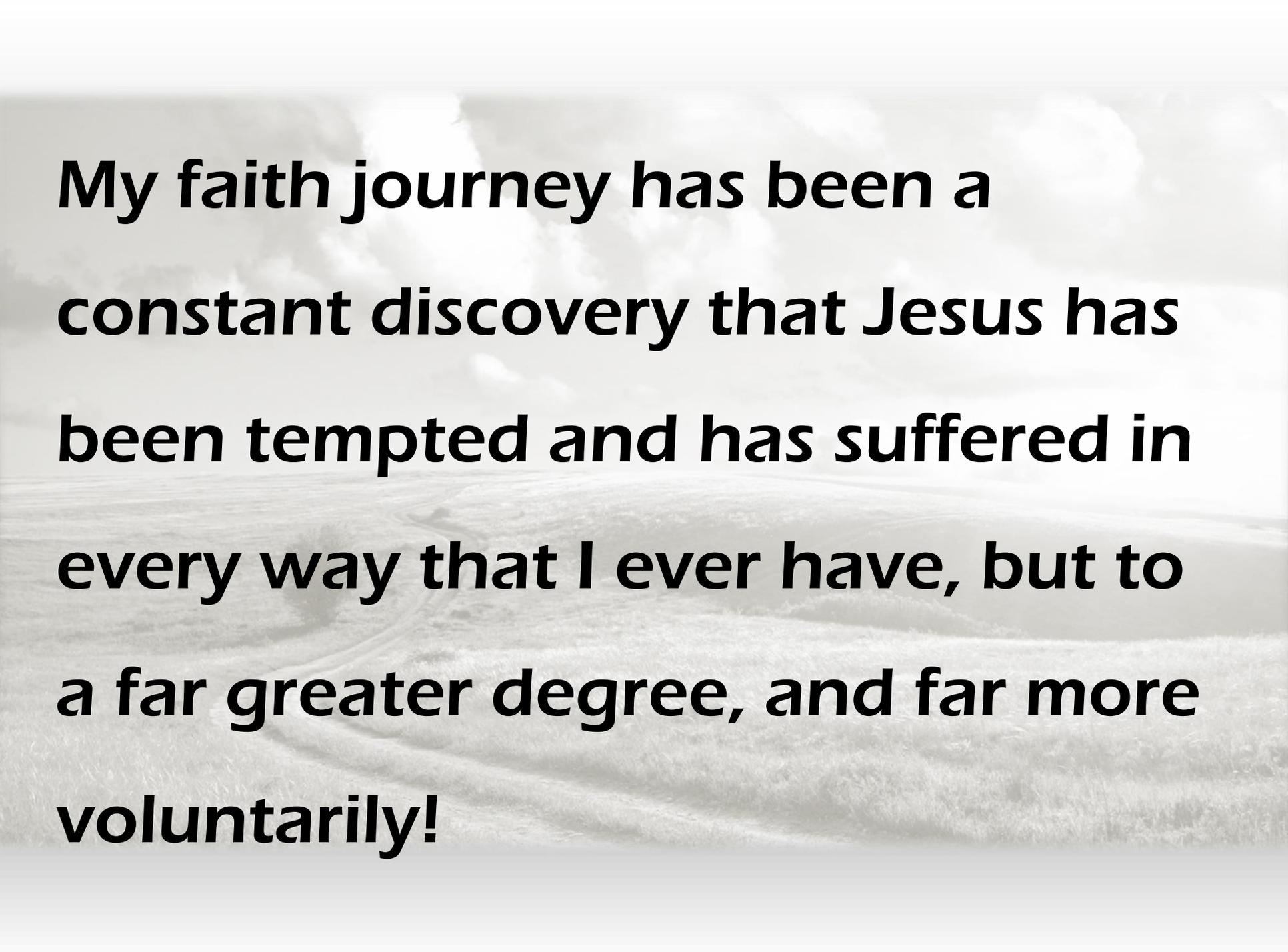
- Are basically Good and can do enough POSITIVE things to make up for the BAD things we've done.

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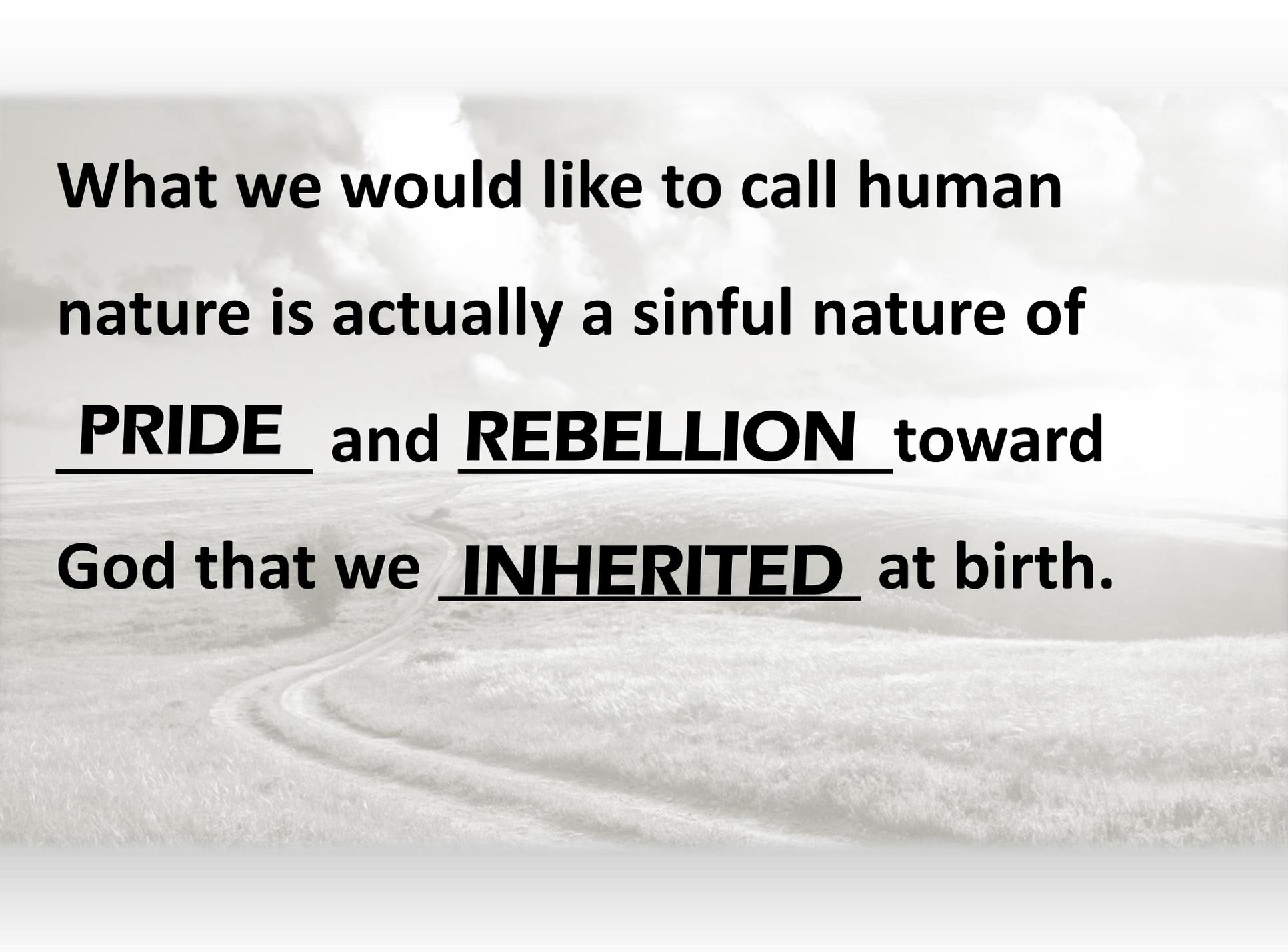
- Need the friendship of people like OURSELVES ; that Jesus is too DIFFERENT to relate to.

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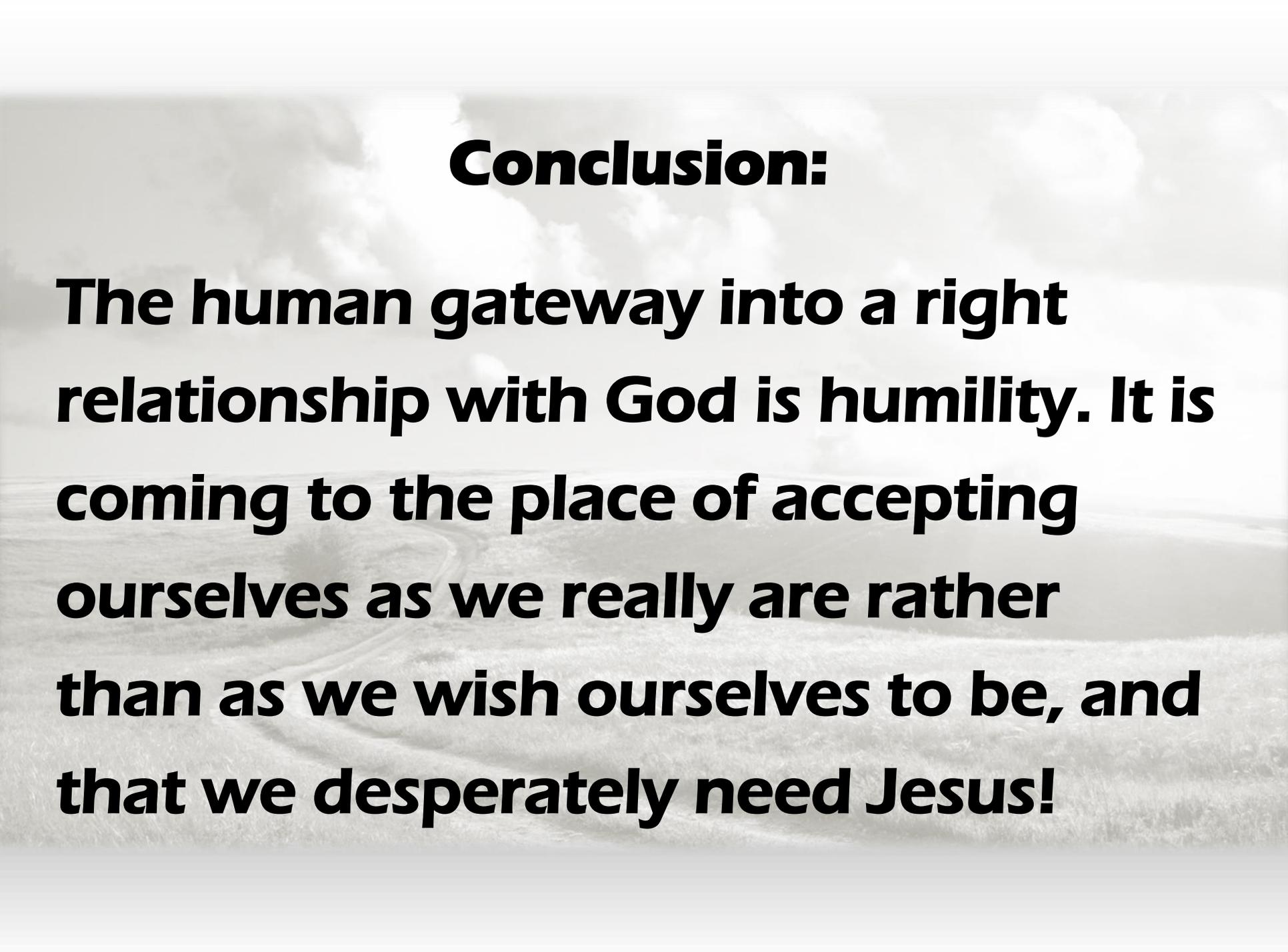
- Can find the ANSWERS we need in life from those who have experienced our own PROBLEMS .

A black and white photograph of a vast, open landscape with rolling hills and a winding road under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

My faith journey has been a constant discovery that Jesus has been tempted and has suffered in every way that I ever have, but to a far greater degree, and far more voluntarily!



What we would like to call human nature is actually a sinful nature of **PRIDE** and **REBELLION** toward God that we **INHERITED** at birth.



Conclusion:

The human gateway into a right relationship with God is humility. It is coming to the place of accepting ourselves as we really are rather than as we wish ourselves to be, and that we desperately need Jesus!

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