

A cityscape at sunset with a glowing cross in the sky. The background is a dense urban landscape with many buildings, illuminated by the warm light of the setting sun. In the upper right corner, a bright cross is visible in the sky, with a lens flare effect. The overall color palette is dominated by warm yellows, oranges, and reds, with a blue sky above.

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Introduction:

Most of us have learned that repentance is a condition of salvation.

The problem is that we don't understand what repentance actually is!

Text: Acts 2:38

Peter replied,

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Text: John 15:1-12

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you.

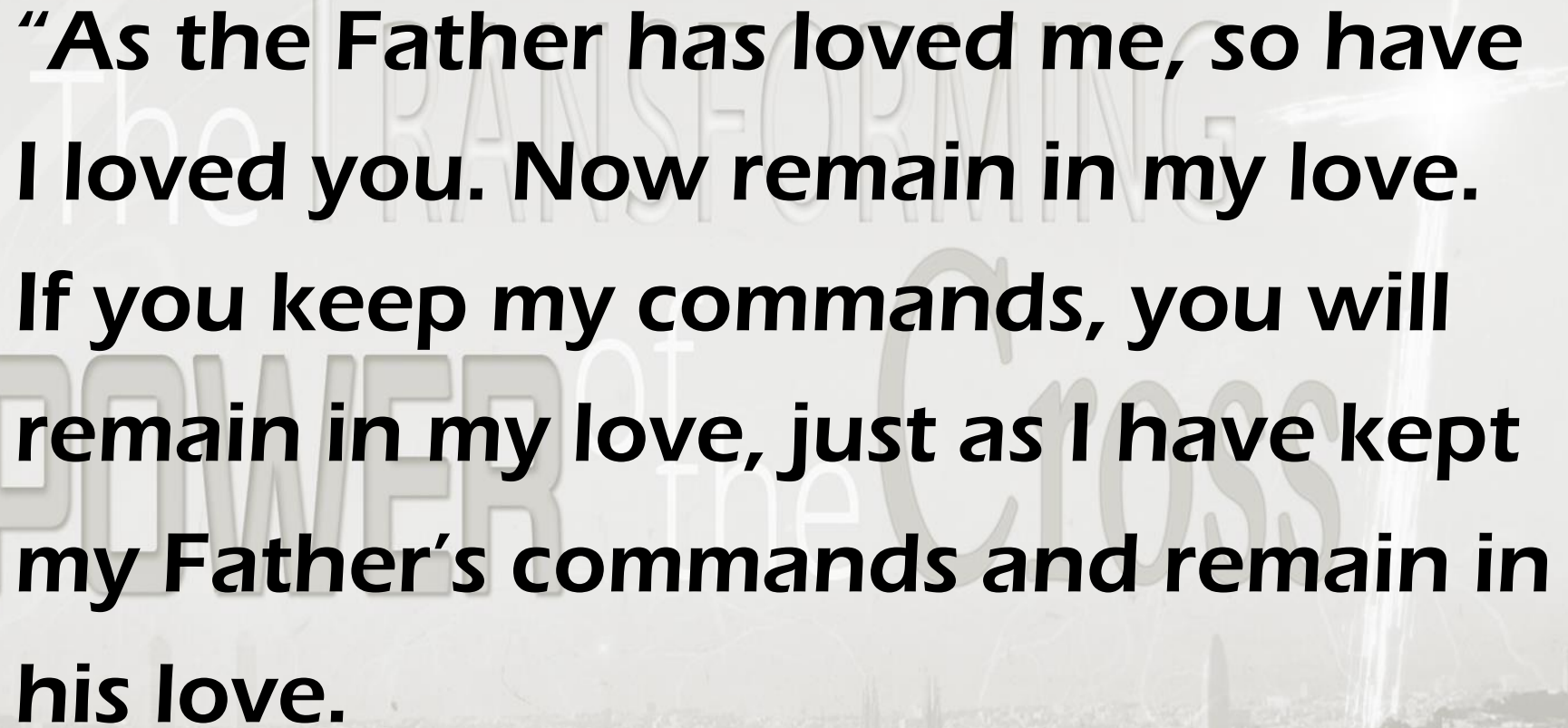
No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.

Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

**I have told you this so that my joy
may be in you and that your joy may
be complete.**

**My command is this: Love each other
as I have loved you.**

John 15:1-12

Our understanding of repentance is hindered by a few persistent *myths*:

Repentance is necessary as an item on a **SALVATION** task list.

Repentance is a **FEELING** that we pass **THROUGH** and **BEYOND**.

Our understanding of repentance is hindered by a few persistent *myths*:

Repentance is essentially about meeting a **REQUIREMENT** of God, rather than about entering and maintaining a **RELATIONSHIP** with God.

The TRANSFORMING

*Repentance is
essentially about the
causes and consequences
of spiritual change.*

POWER of the Cross

What are the reasons we need to repent?

Spiritually, we are:

LOST until we are **FOUND**.

DEAD until we are **ALIVE**.

SEPARATED from God until we
become **ATTACHED** to Him.

What are the reasons we need to repent?

Spiritually, we are:

SLAVES to sin until God gives us

FREEDOM.

ORPHANS until God

ADOPTS us.

Two sources of life and where they lead:

An **UMBILICAL CORD** — our

natural lives are products of the process
which sustains and nurtures our natural
growth and development.

Two sources of life and where they lead:

A **FRUIT-BEARING VINE** -

our spiritual lives are products of the process which sustains and nurtures our spiritual growth and development.

Repentance is the process of detaching
from the **UMBILICAL CORD** of
our **NATURAL** life and attaching to
the **VINE** of God's
SPIRITUAL life.



The TRANSFORMING

*Detaching from our
natural lives can be like
tearing off a bandage or
pulling apart Velcro!*

Our need for repentance leaves us with two critical choices. We must:

Choose to **REMAIN** as we are or to **BECOME** what we can be.

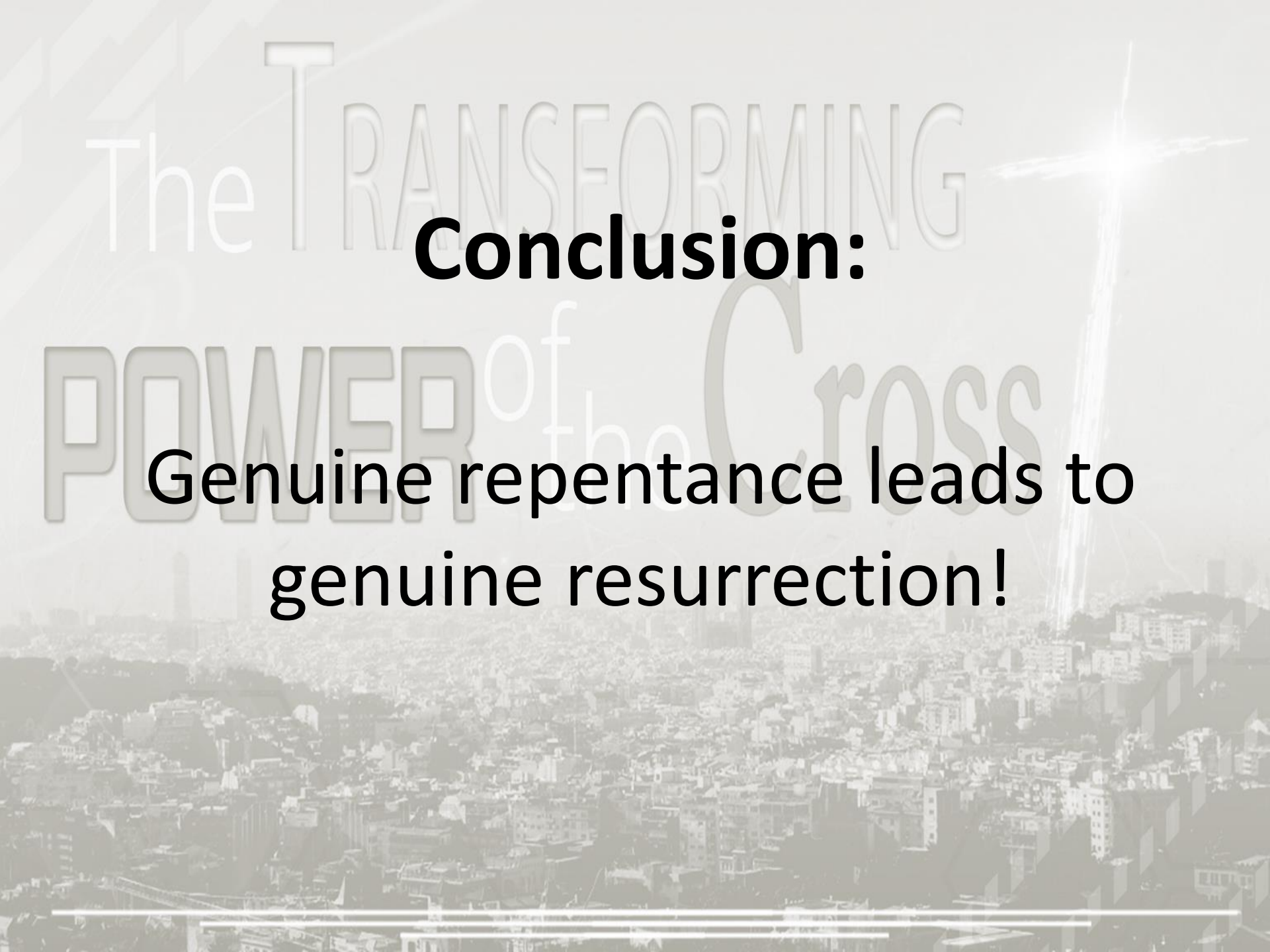
Decide if our repentance will be an **EVENT** that leads to life, or the **EMBRACE** of an entirely new way of living.

The TRANSFORMING

Conclusion:

**Genuine repentance leads to
genuine resurrection!**

POWER of the Cross



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