

A cityscape at sunset with a glowing cross in the sky. The background is a dense urban area 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 blues.

The **T** R A N S F O R M I N G  
**P** O W E R <sup>o</sup> f **t** h e **C** r o s s

**T** H E **C** R O S S A N D **R** E P E N T A N C E

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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.**

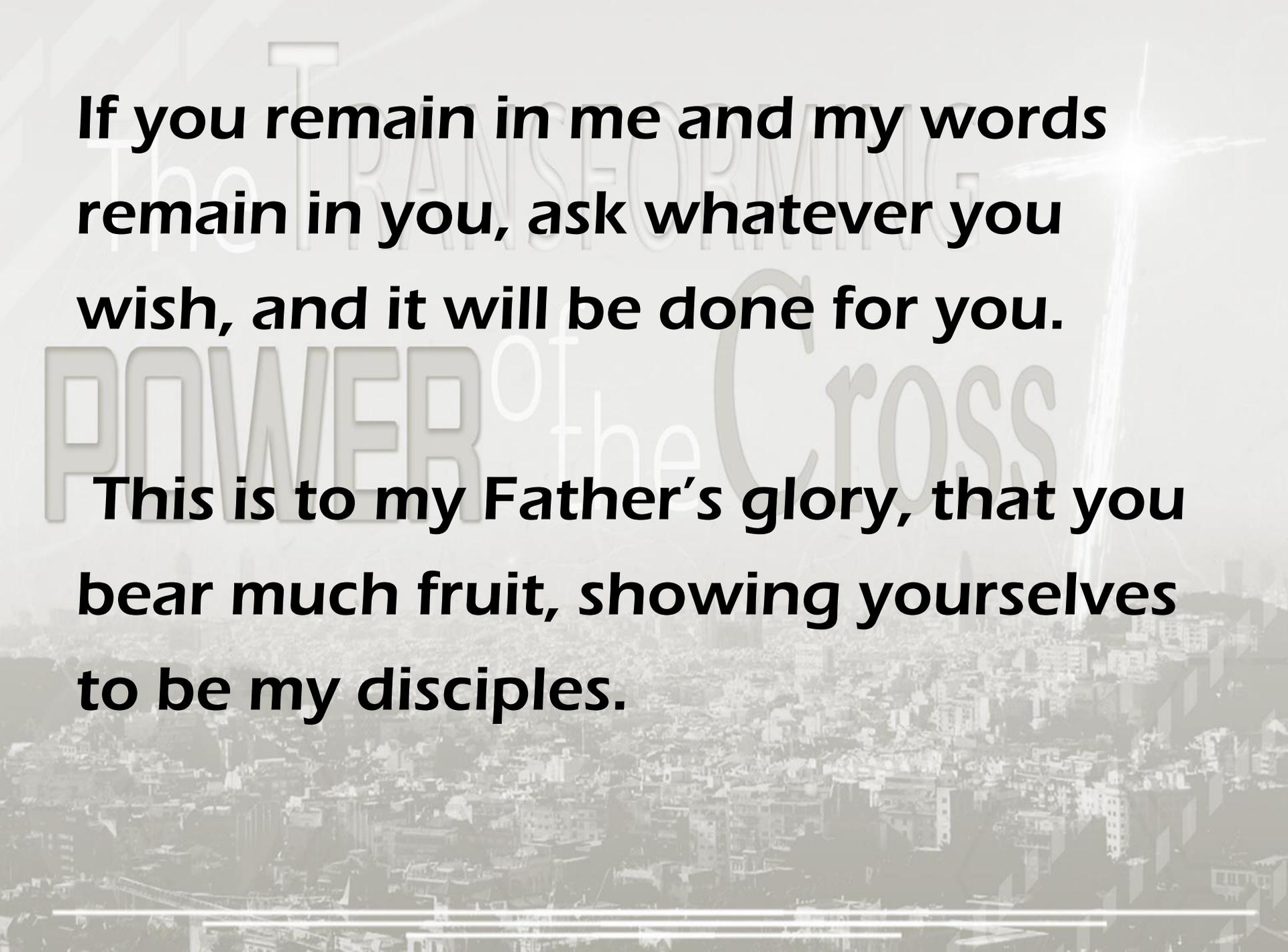
**You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.**

**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?

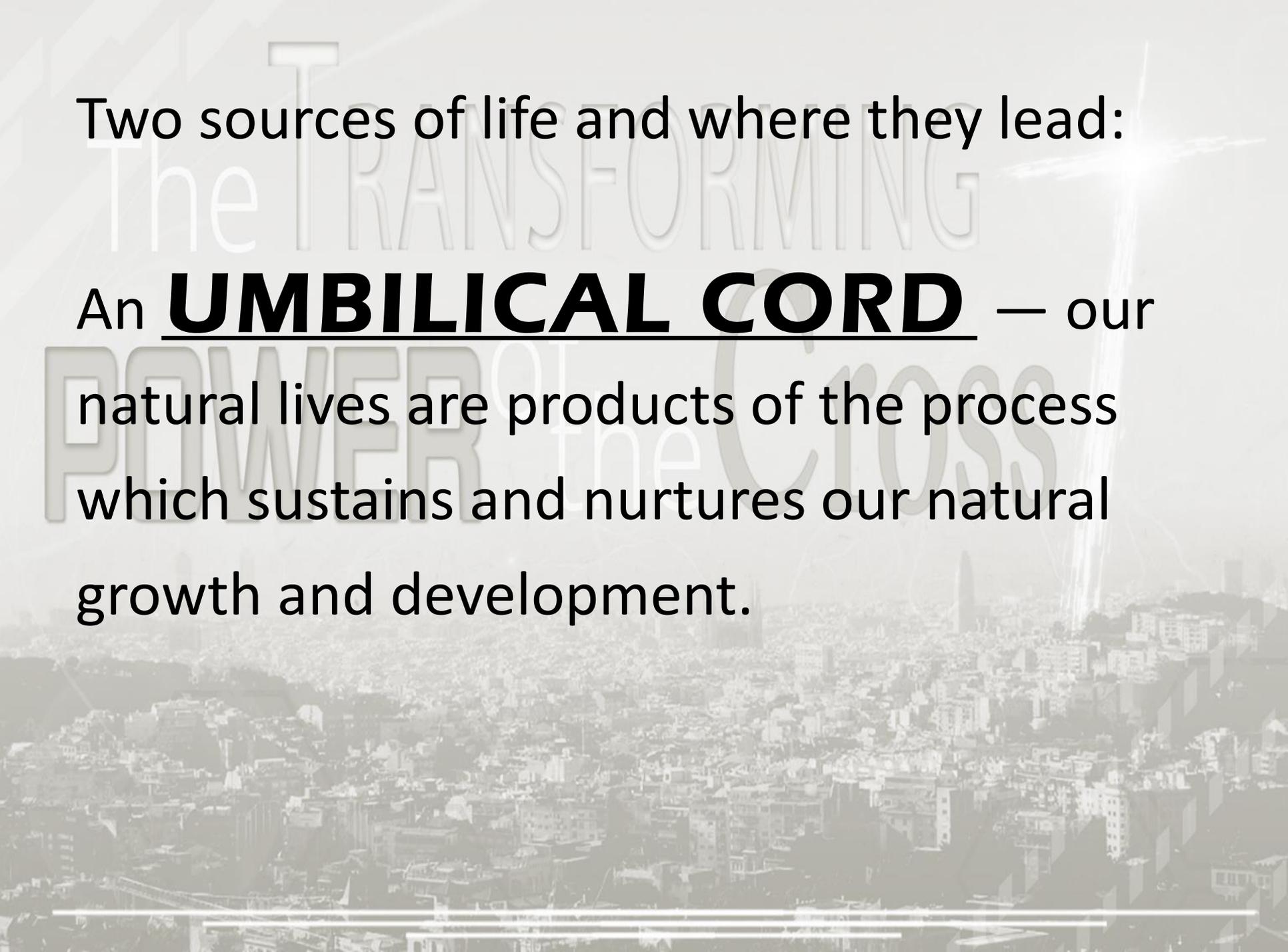
Spiritually, we are:

**SLAVES** to sin until God gives us

**FREEDOM.**

**ORPHANS** until God

**ADOPTS** us.



Two sources of life and where they lead:

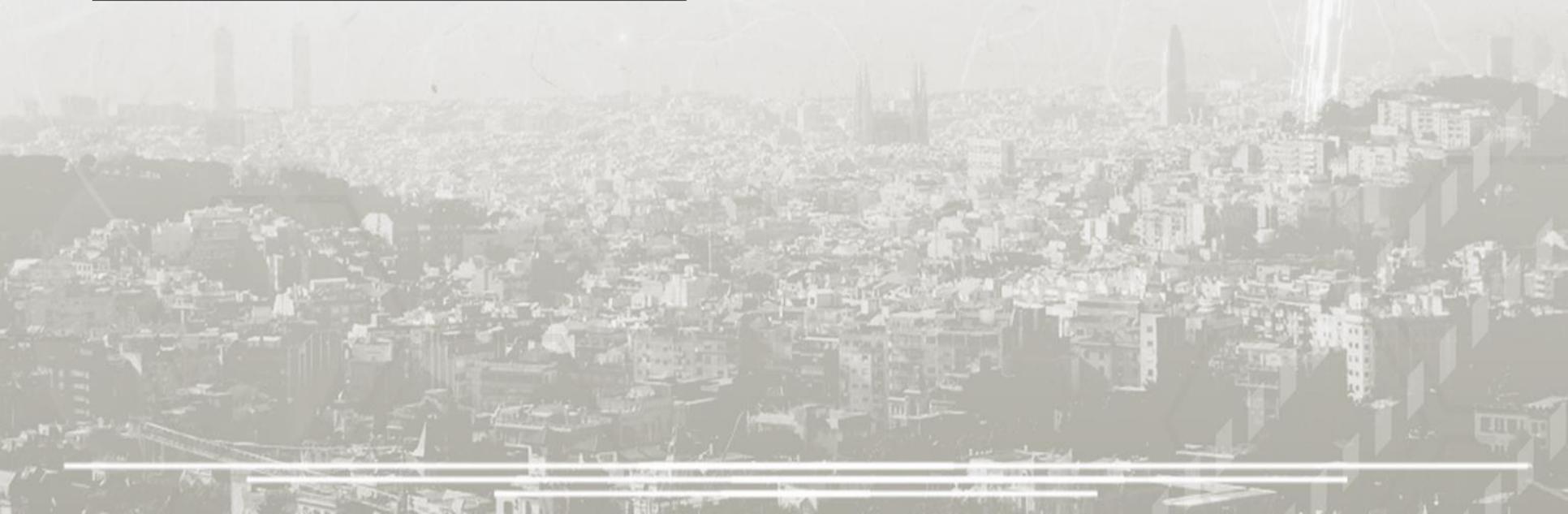
An **UMBILICAL CORD** — our natural lives are products of the process which sustains and nurtures our natural growth and development.

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.

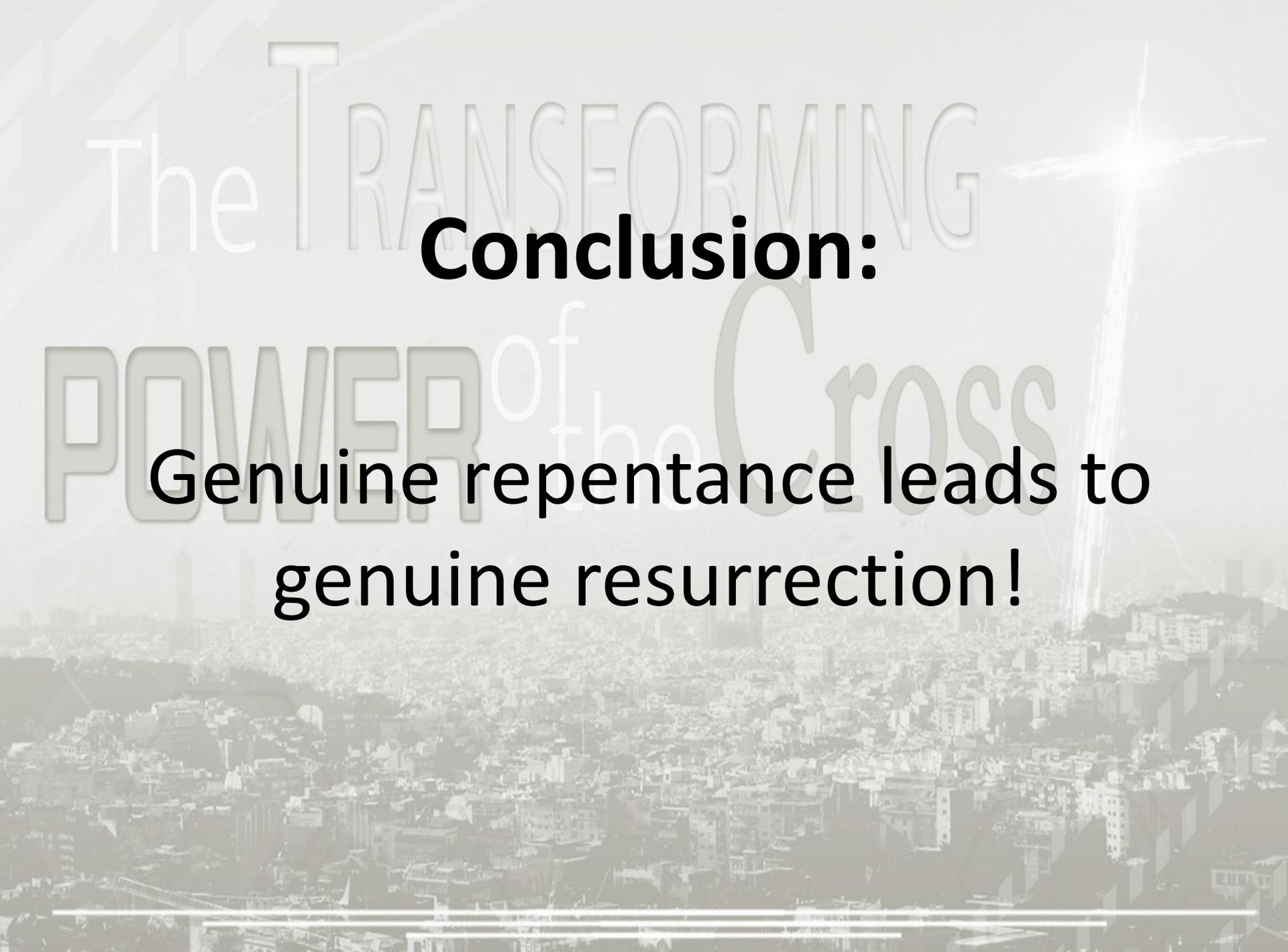
Decide if our repentance will be an **EVENT** that leads to life, or the **EMBRACE** of an entirely new way of living.

The TRANSFORMING

## **Conclusion:**

**Genuine repentance leads to  
genuine resurrection!**

POWER of the Cross



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**T** **H**E **C** **R**O**S**S **A**N**D** **R**E**P**E**N**T**A**N**C**E

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