

What Does It Mean To Boast In The Cross?



• Galatians 6:14 •

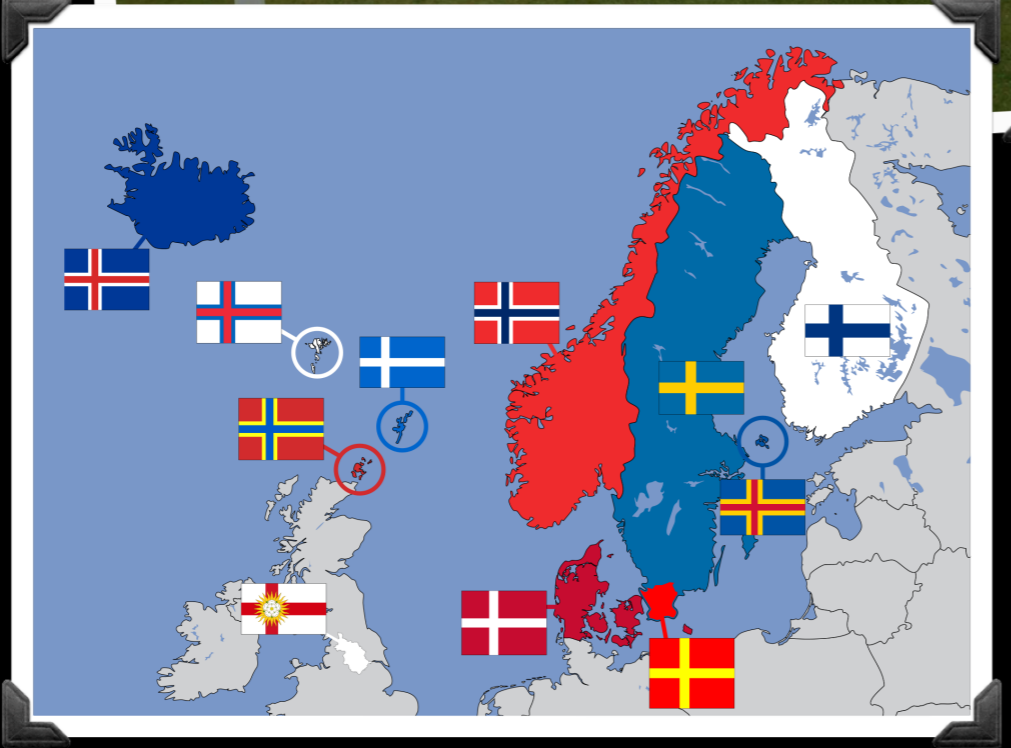
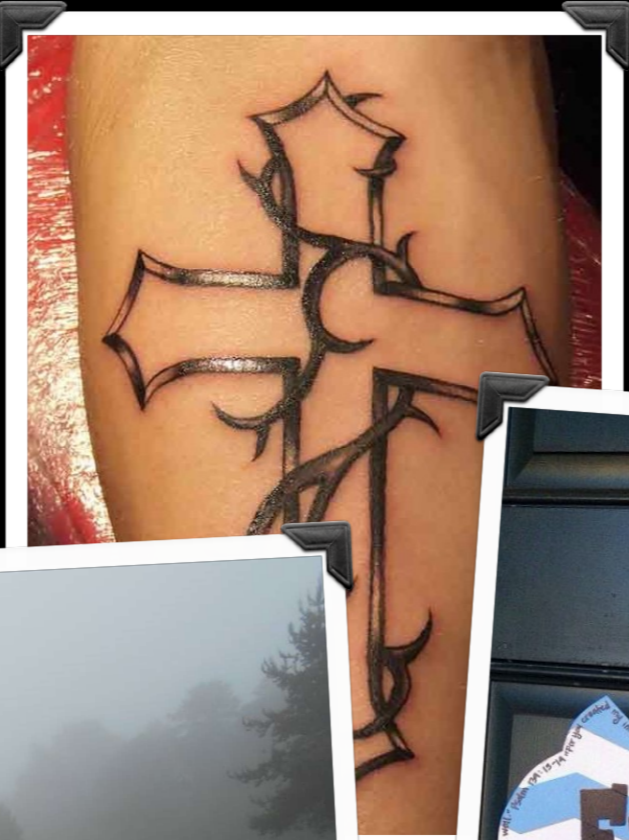
Christ-Centered D.N.A.
Gospel • Community • Mission

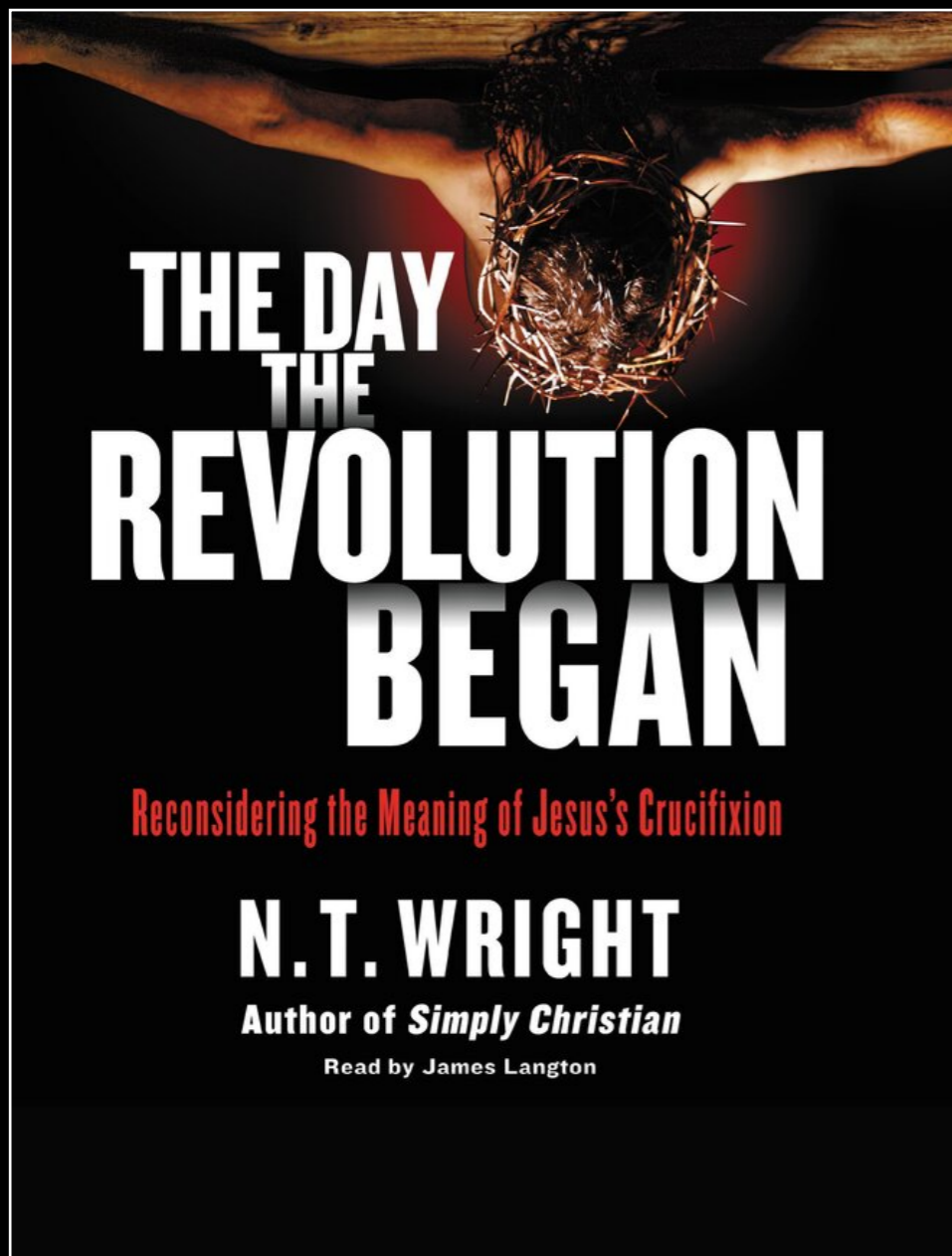


Core Values for
Every Follower of Jesus



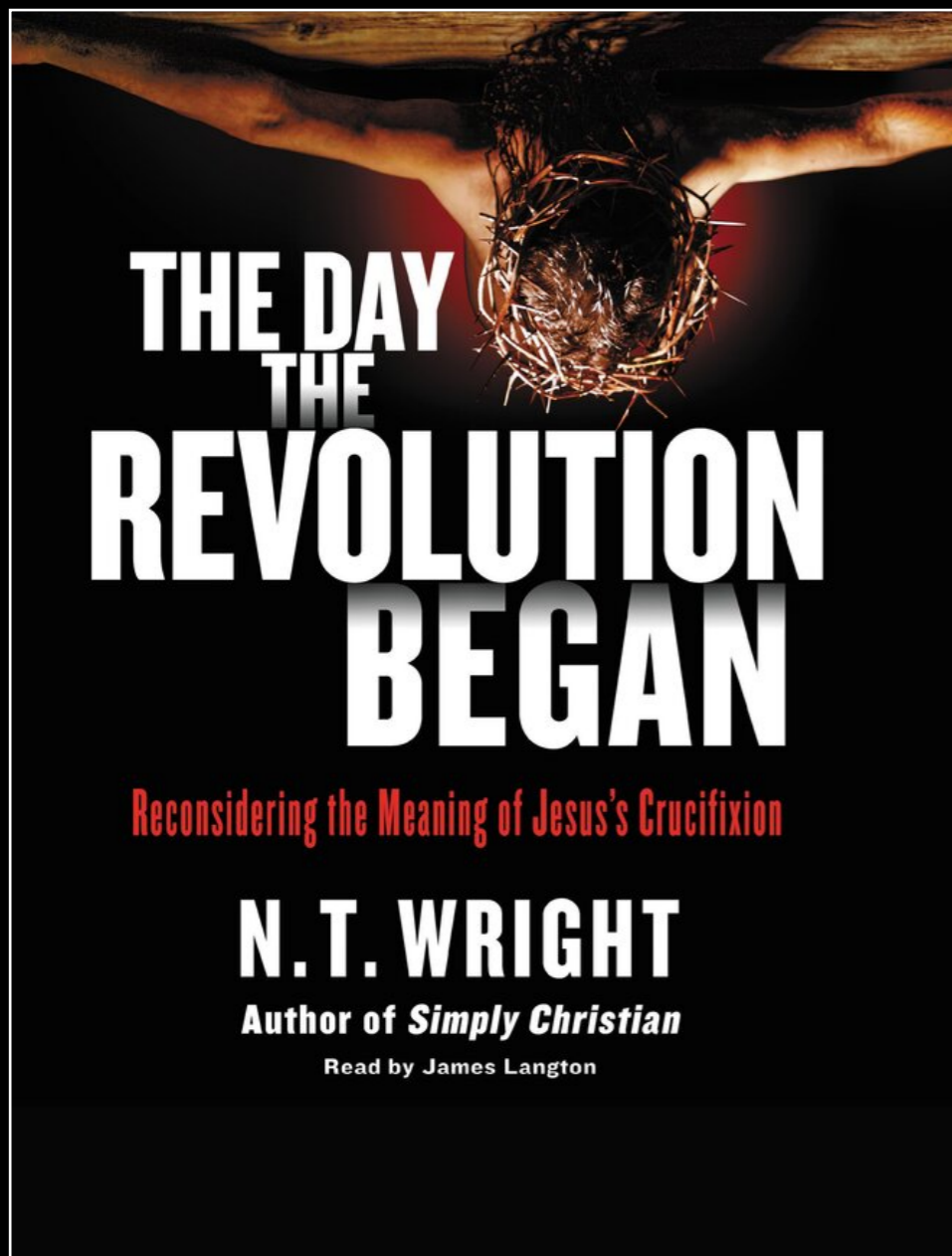
**Tell me, how have you been boasting
in the Cross of Jesus lately?**



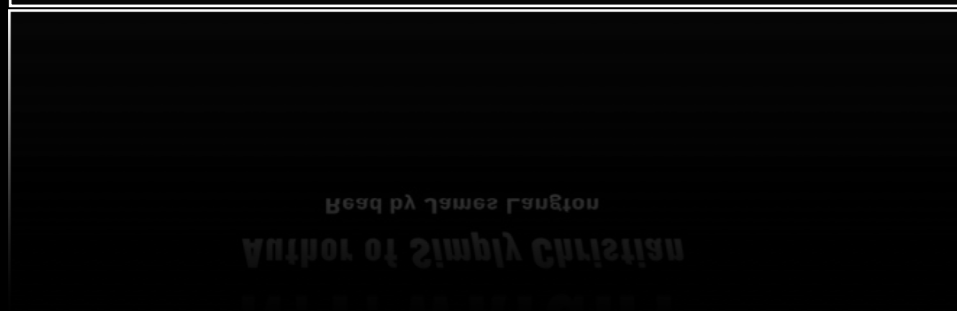


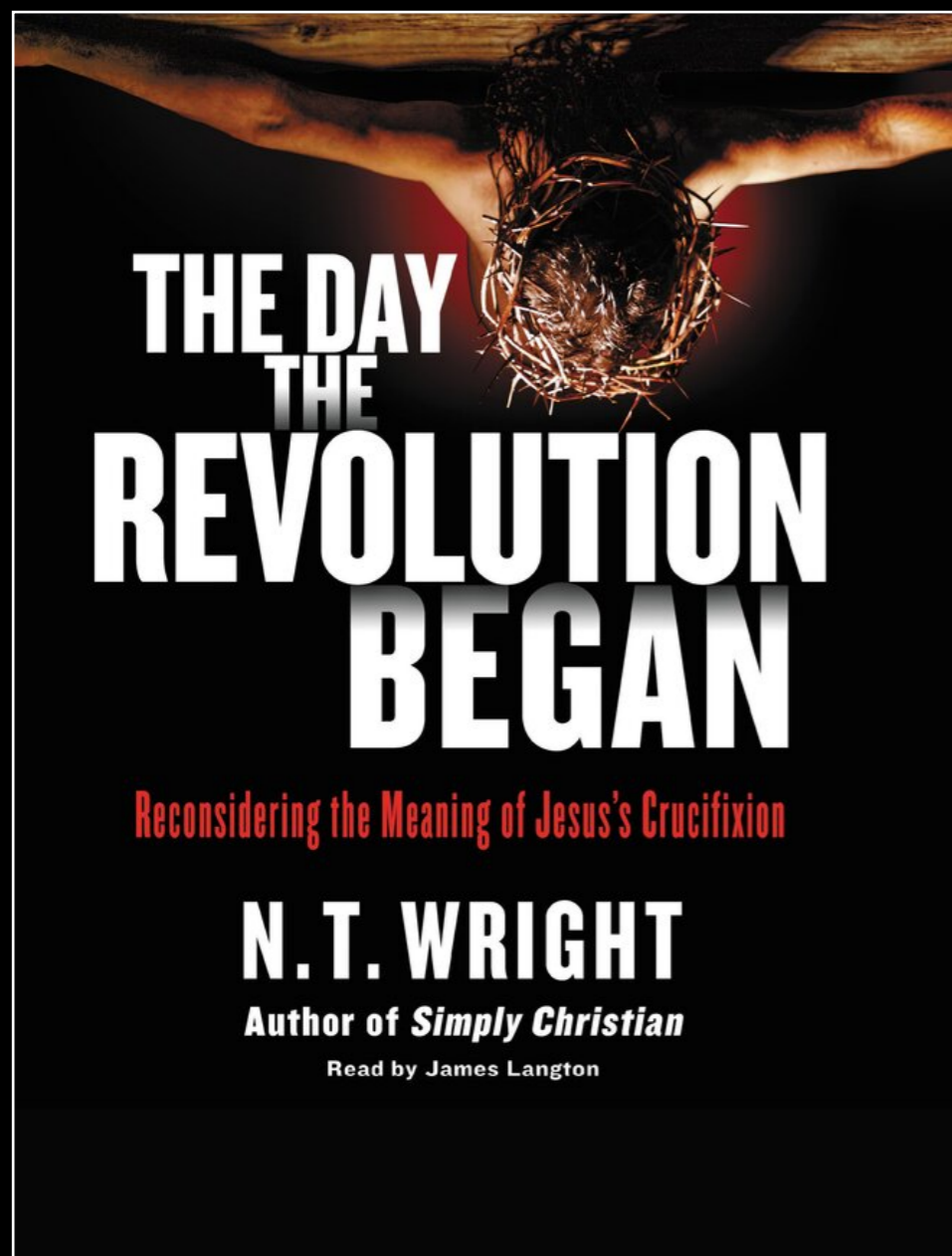
You can't get away from it. It's everywhere. The cross. In homes, in films, in paintings, in pop videos. Worn as an earring, on a necklace. Stitched or studded onto leather or denim. Tattooed on skin. What would Coca-Cola or McDonald's give to own a symbol that millions wear around their necks every day?

Read by James Langton
Author of *Simply Christian*

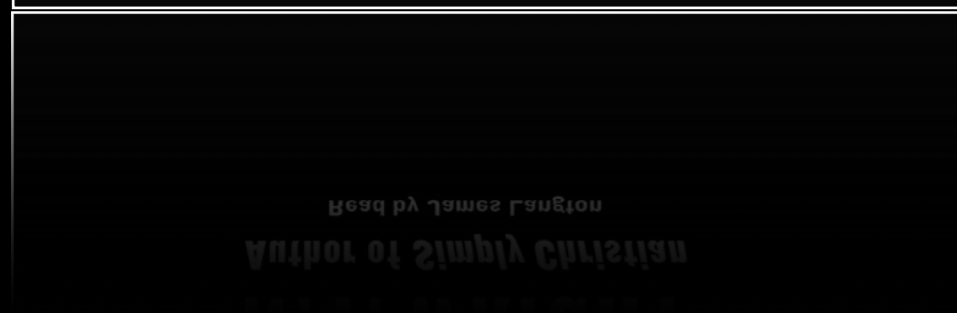


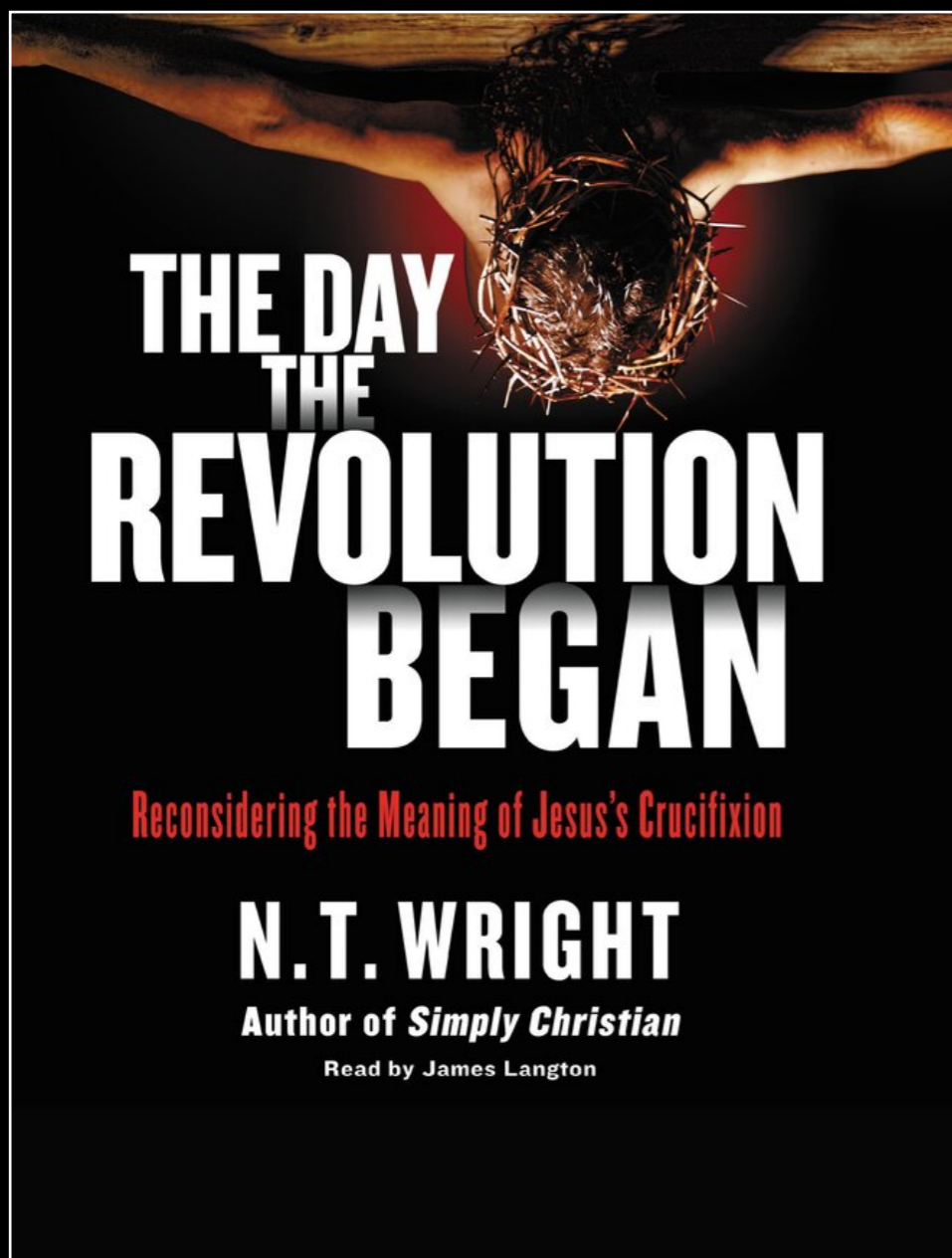
The cross is a universal Christian symbol, acknowledged by millions of Christians everywhere as the single visual sign of their faith. Which is weird, isn't it? Because the cross was originally a symbol of suffering and defeat.





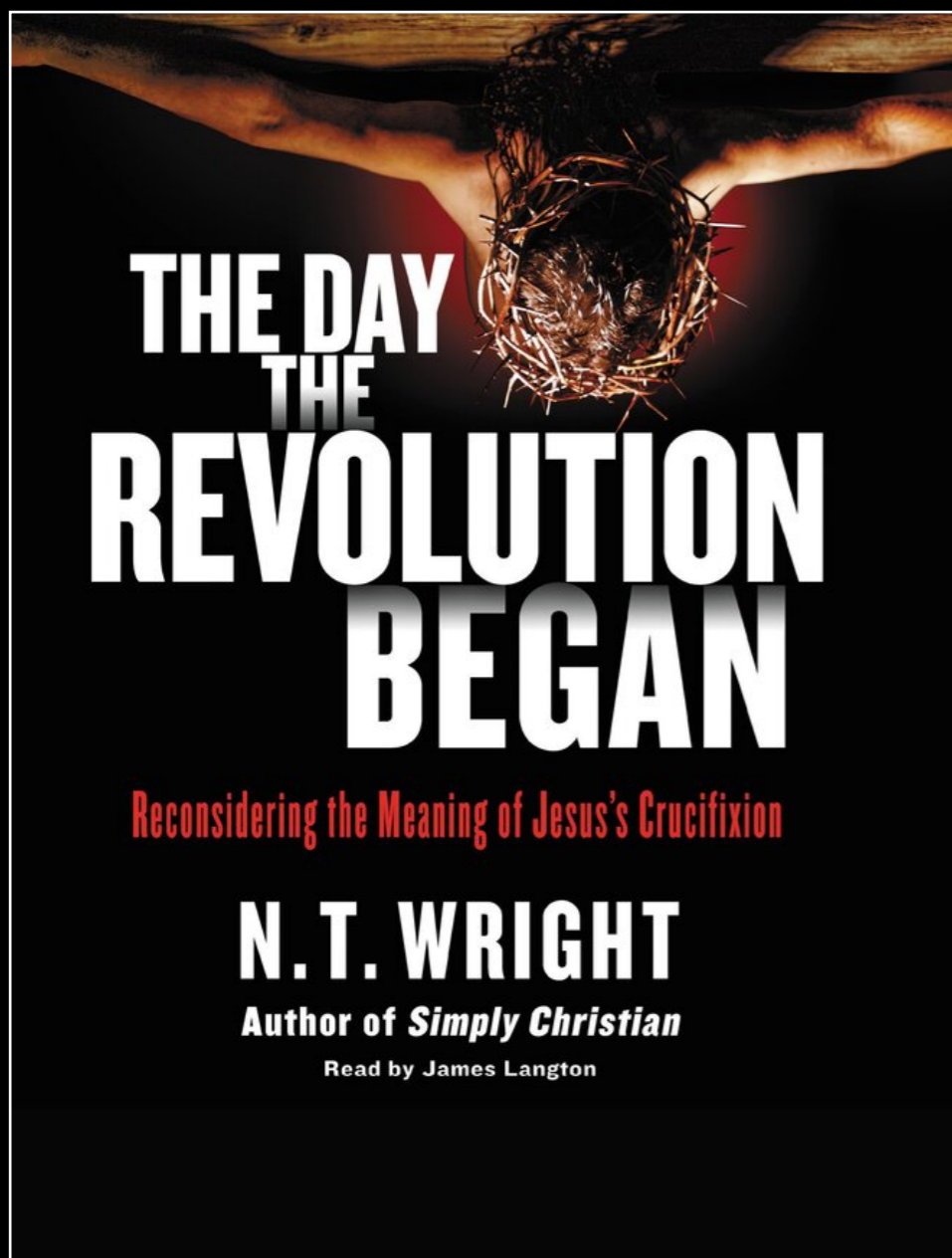
The Roman Empire killed thousands of its enemies by nailing them to wooden crosses. It's like wearing a gibbet around your neck. Or hanging a little golden lethal injection from your necklace.



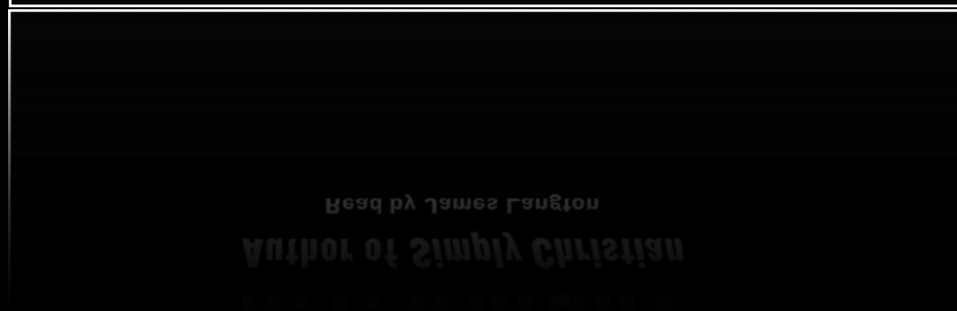


Jesus Christ was executed 2,000 years ago by the Romans. But Christians believe that Jesus didn't stay dead—that Jesus beat death and rose again, beyond death's reach.

Read by James Langton
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That makes the cross not a sign of death, but a sign of the end of death. A sign of hope, a sign of possibility— for every human being.



What Does It Mean To Boast In The Cross?



• Galatians 6:14 •

Paul the Apostle

- Member of the Pharisees that conspired to put Jesus to death
- Persecuted the church
- Suddenly converted by a post-resurrection appearance of Jesus
- Ambassador of Jesus to kings and paupers
- Wrote ~ half of the New Testament documents



Galatians 6:14

**But far be it from me to boast except
in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ....**

**But as for me, I will
never boast about
anything except
the cross of our
Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Apostle Paul
Galatians 6:14 (CSB)



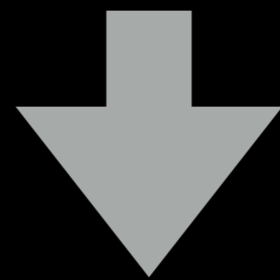
**God forbid that
I should glory, save
in the cross of our
Lord Jesus Christ....**

The Apostle Paul
Galatians 6:14 (KJV)

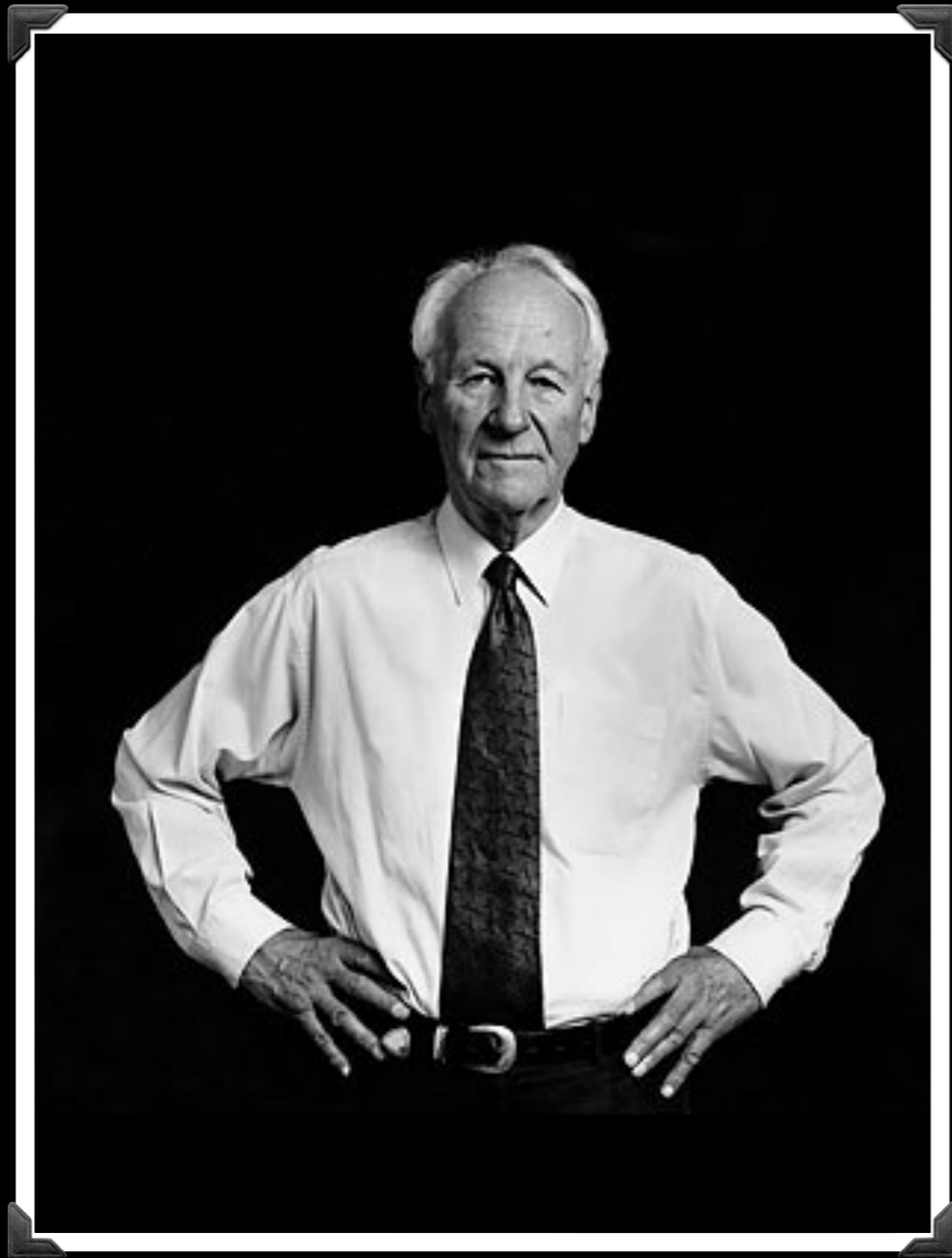


GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

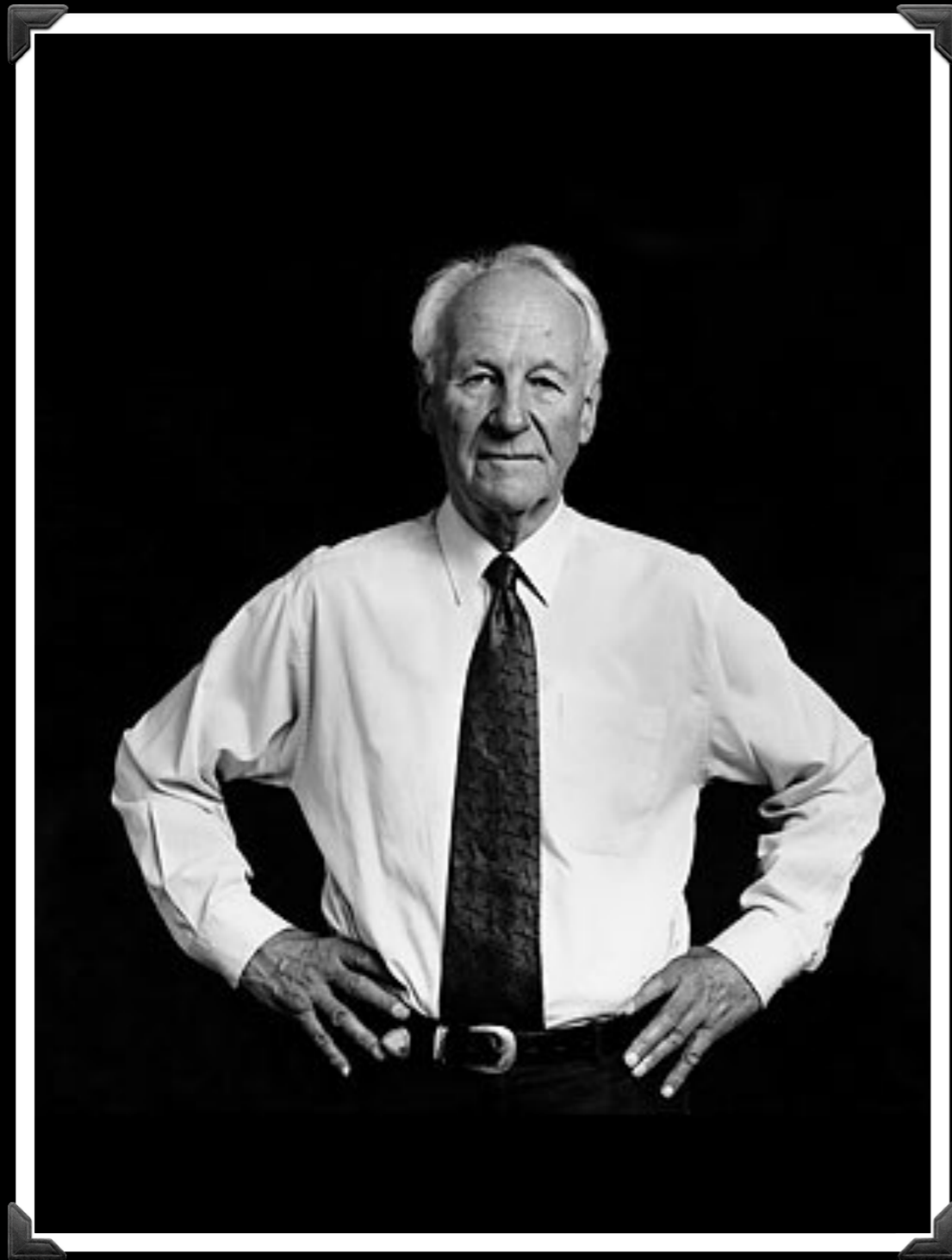
Boast = καυχάομαι
(kauchaomai)



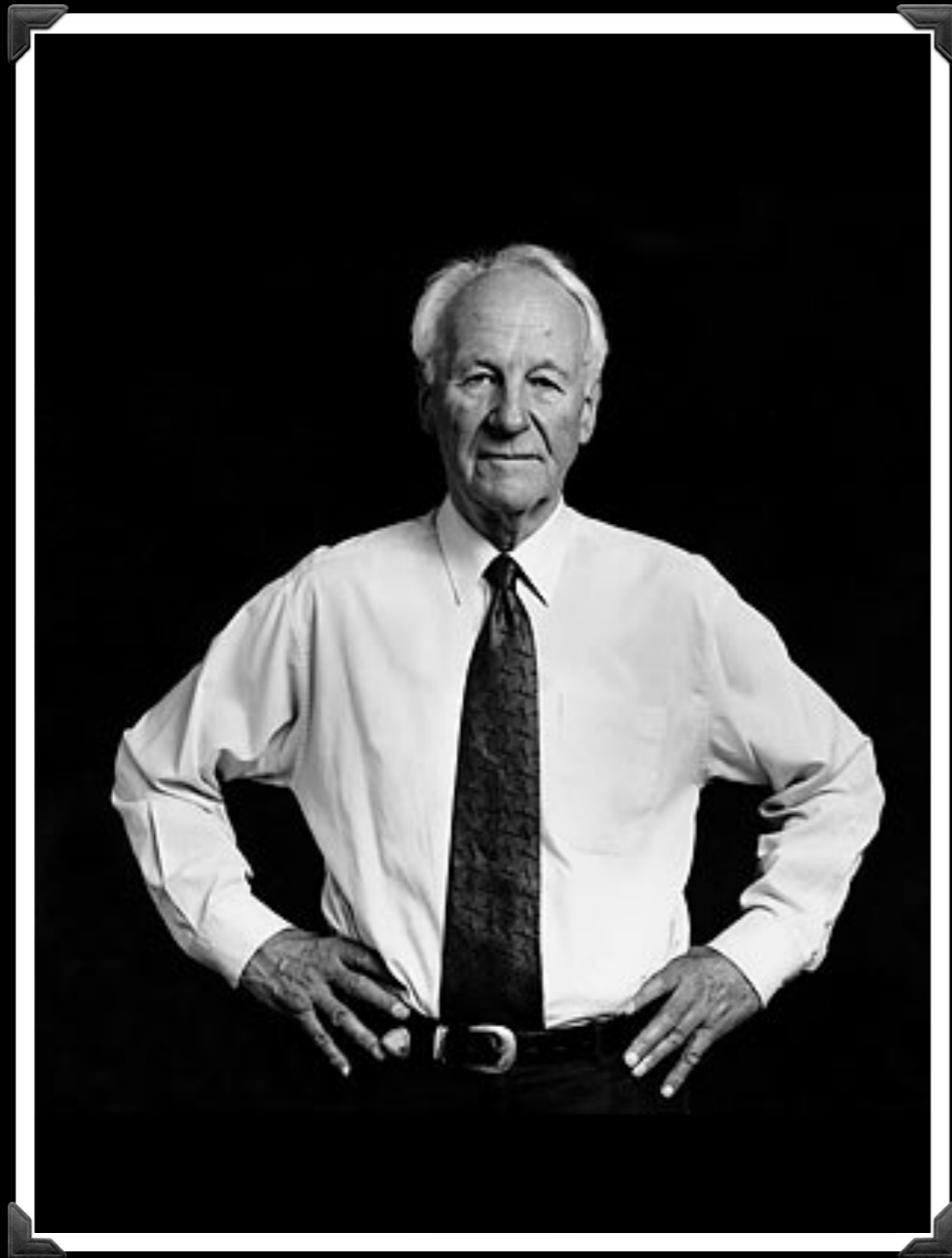
**to boast, glory, rejoice, or
exult in a person or thing**



**It means to boast in,
glory in, trust in,
rejoice in, revel in,
live for.**



**The object of our
boast or glory fills
our horizons,
engrosses our
attention, and
absorbs our time
and energy.**



**In a word,
“our glory” is
our obsession.**

John Stott (1921-2011)
Anglican Minister & Author

**Far be it from me
to glory in / trust in /
revel in / live for /
be obsessed with
anything except the
cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ....**



**Why be
obsessed with
the Cross
of Jesus**



...the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved **it is the power of God.**

The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 1:18 —



Romans 3:23

**For all have sinned and
fallen short of the glory of God.**

Isaiah 59:2

**Your iniquities have made a
separation between you and
your God, and your sins have
hidden his face from you.**

**God's
Holiness**



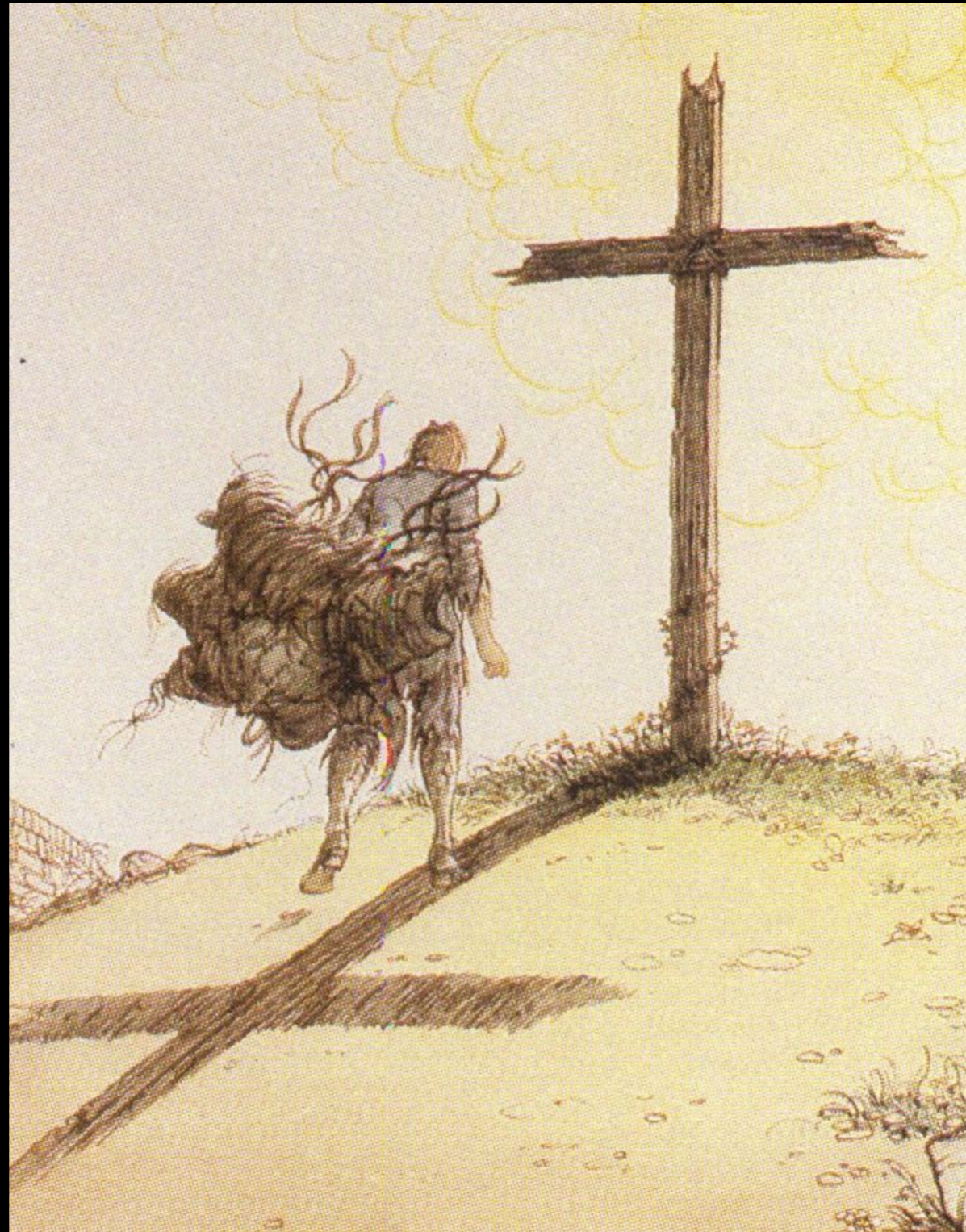
Infinite
Gap

**My
Sinfulness**





Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan




Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan



**God made him who knew no sin
to become sin for us...**

— 2 Corinthians 5:21 —



He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

— Colossians 2:13-14 —

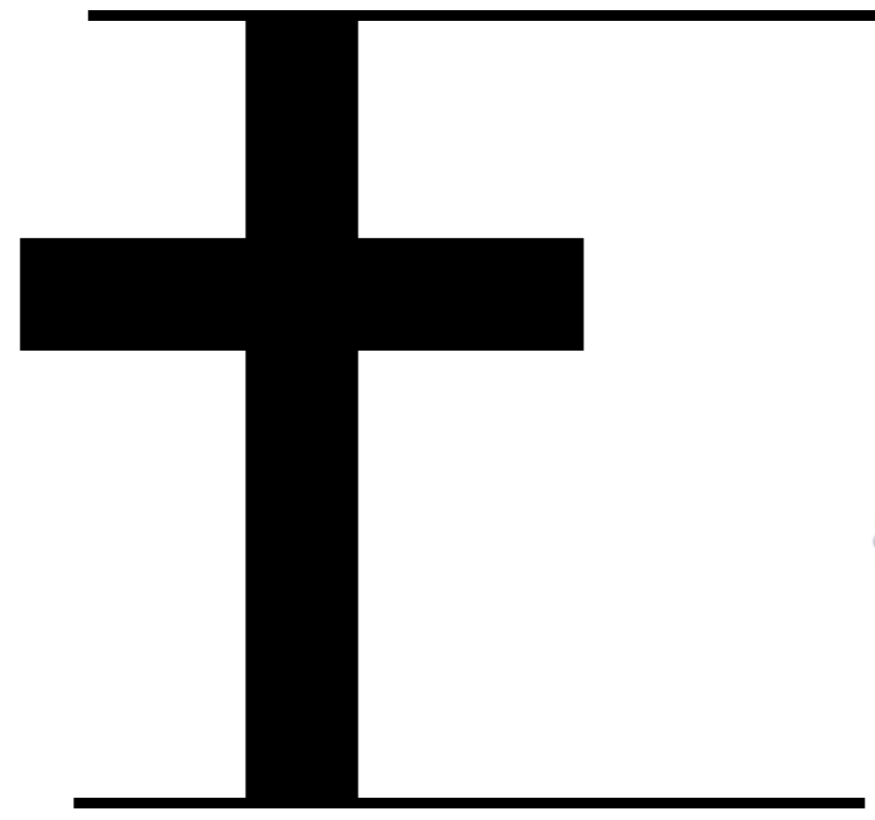


**Christ also suffered once for sins,
the righteous for the unrighteous,
that he might bring us to God.**

— 1 Peter 3:18 —

**God's
Holiness**

**My
Sinfulness**



**Far be it from me to
boast except in the
cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ!**



**Nothing in my hands I bring
Simply to Thy cross I cling
Naked, come to Thee for dress
Helpless, look to Thee for grace
Foul, I to the fountain fly
Wash me, Savior, or I die**

— Augustus Toplady - “Rock of Ages” —





**Forbid it Lord
that I should boast
save in the death
of Christ my God**

— “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” —



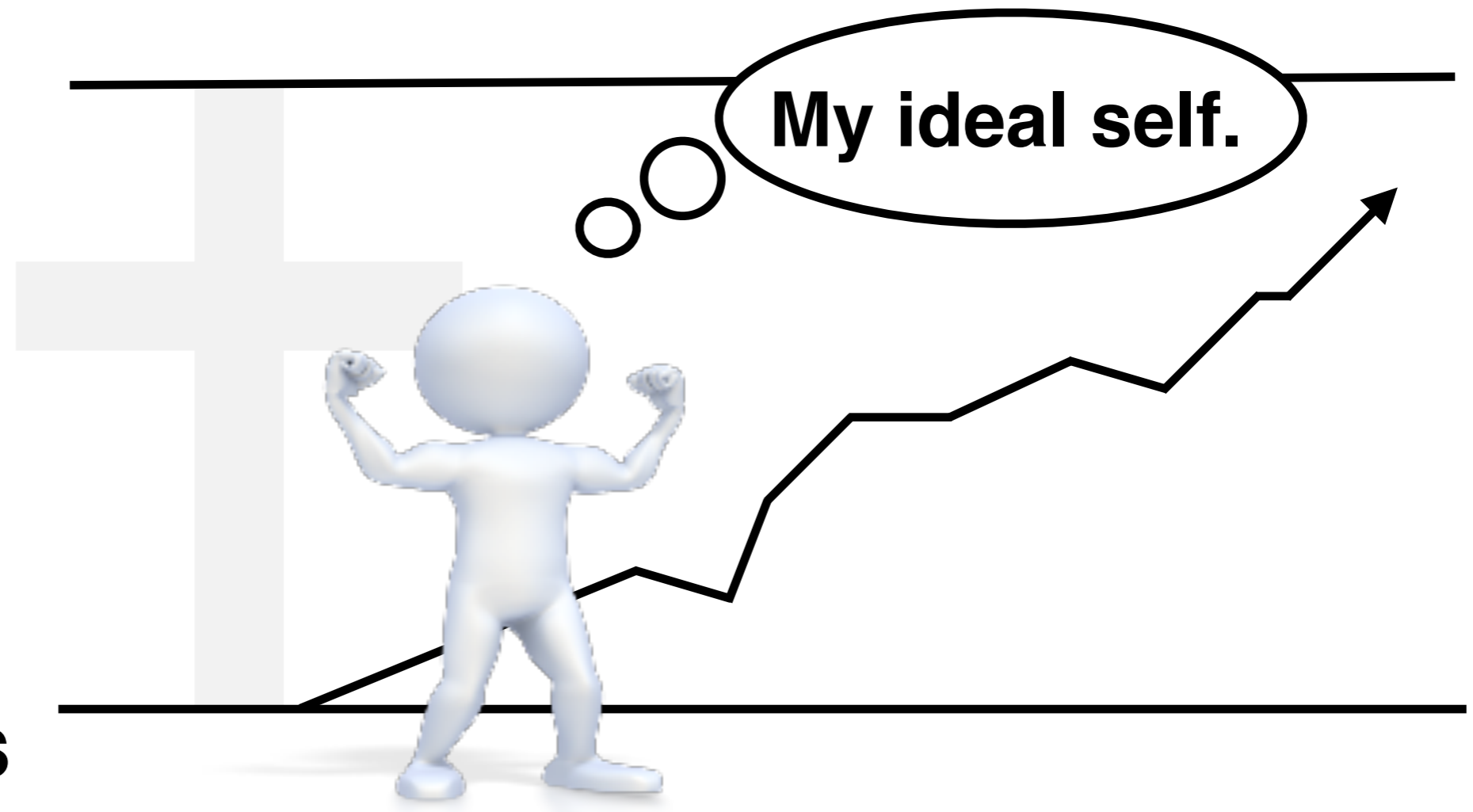
**When we initially repent
& trust in Jesus, we are
enrolled in a lifelong
apprenticeship with
Jesus in a new way
of being human**

=

“Discipleship”

**God's
Holiness**

**My
Sinfulness**

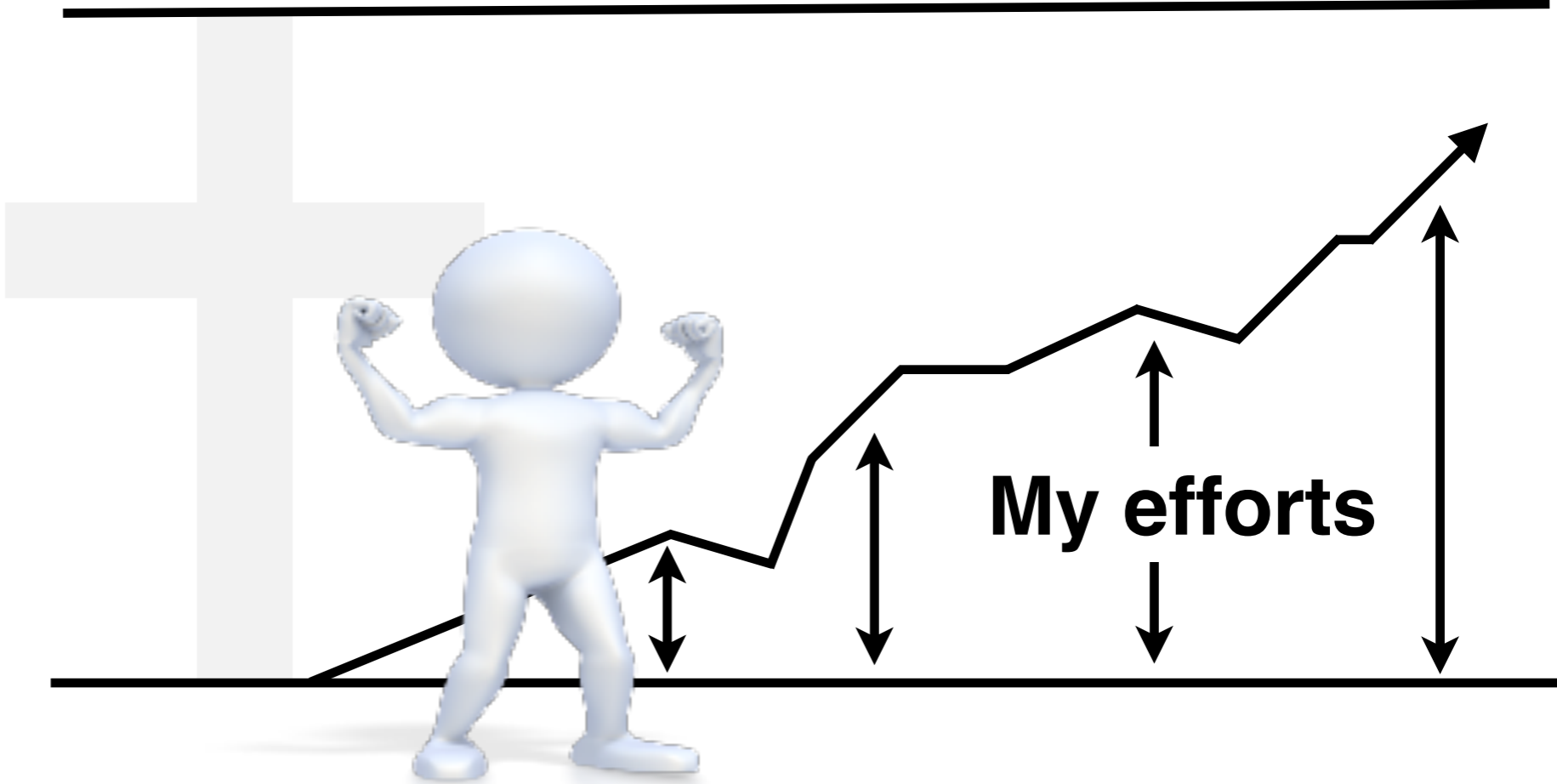


**We are his workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works....**

— The Apostle Paul - Ephesians 2:10 —

**God's
Holiness**

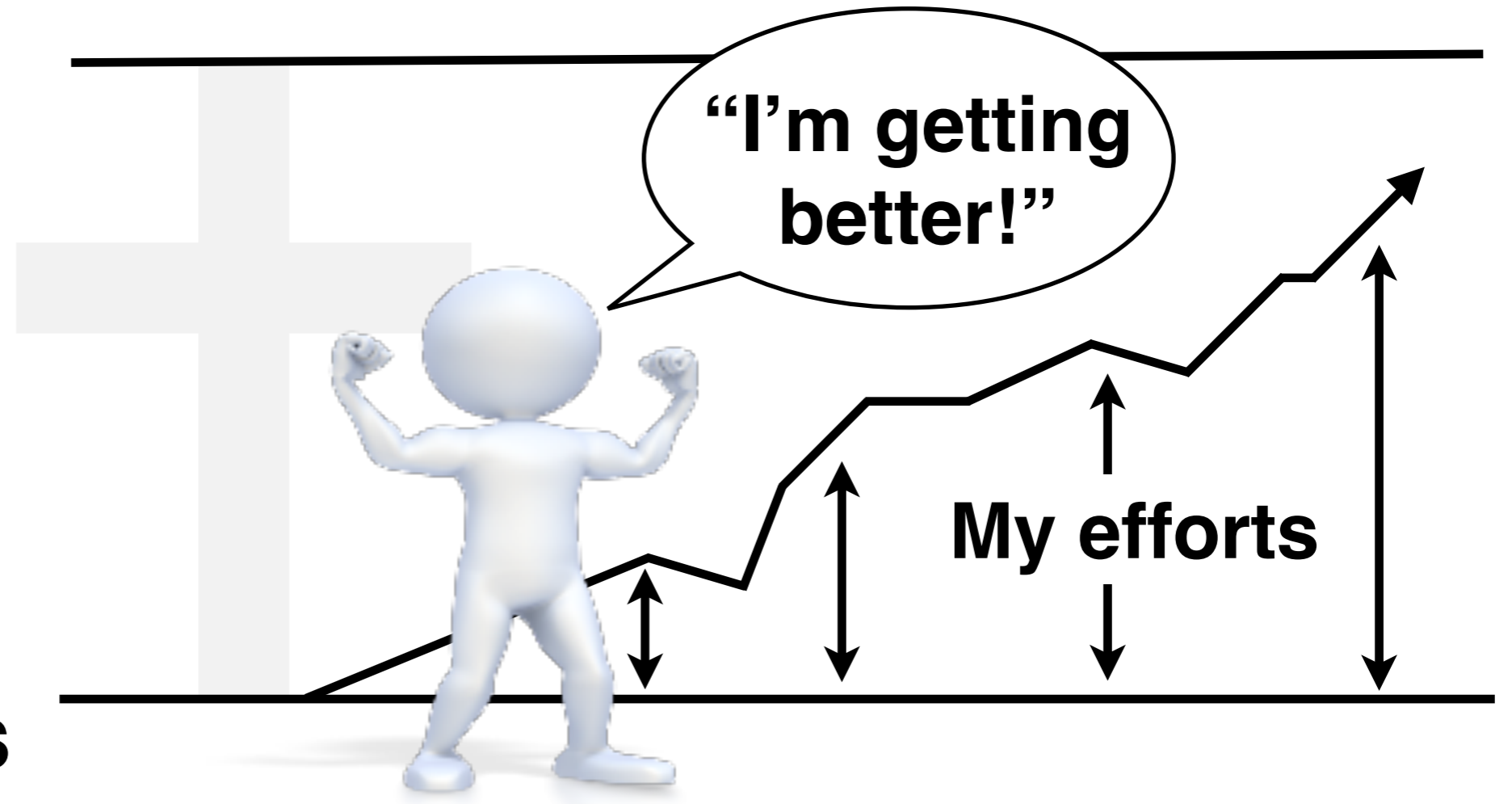
**My
Sinfulness**



My efforts

**God's
Holiness**

**My
Sinfulness**

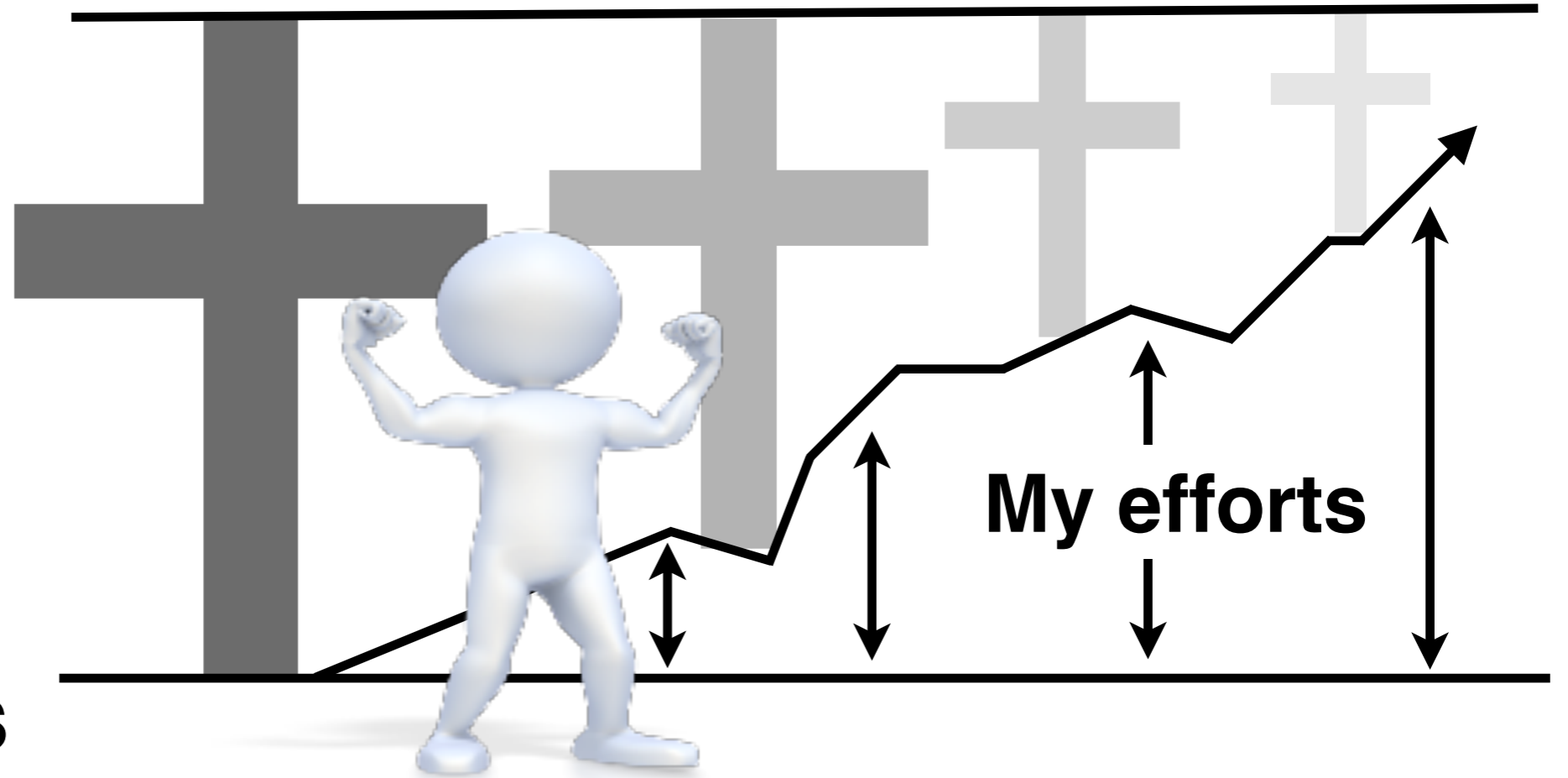




**It's at this point
that Christians often
make a critical mistake:
we forget the Gospel.**

**God's
Holiness**

**My
Sinfulness**



Effect #1: Self-Righteousness



Effect #2: Exhaustion

**“I can’t keep up.
I’m exhausted.”**

**“The Christian life
is just too hard.”**

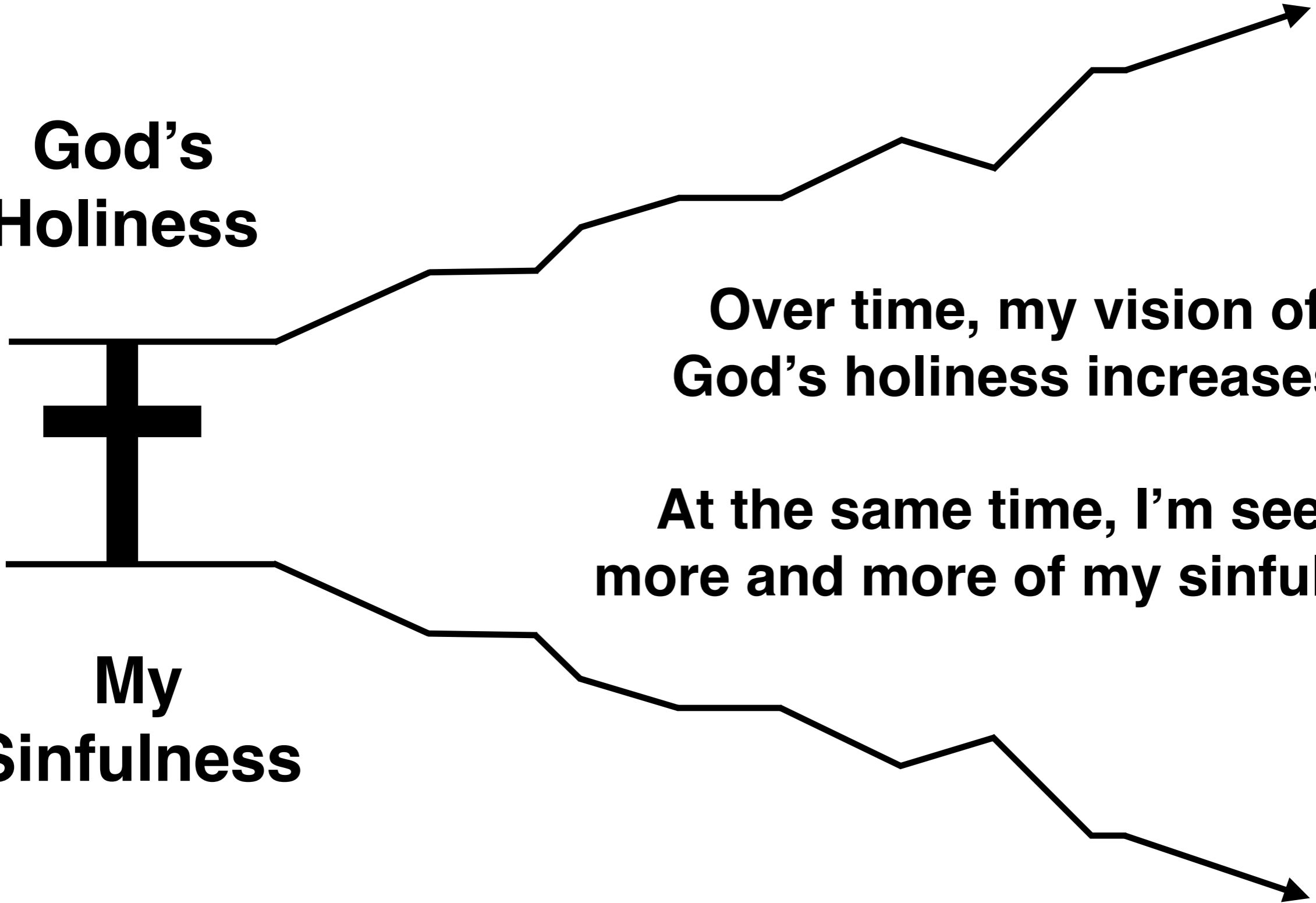


**God's
Holiness**

**Over time, my vision of
God's holiness increases.**

**At the same time, I'm seeing
more and more of my sinfulness.**

**My
Sinfulness**



You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.



Jesus of Nazareth in
The Gospel of Matthew 5:27

You have heard that it was said..., ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you say to someone, ‘You worthless fool!’ you are in danger of the fires of hell.

— Jesus of Nazareth in Matthew 5:21-22 —



**Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.**

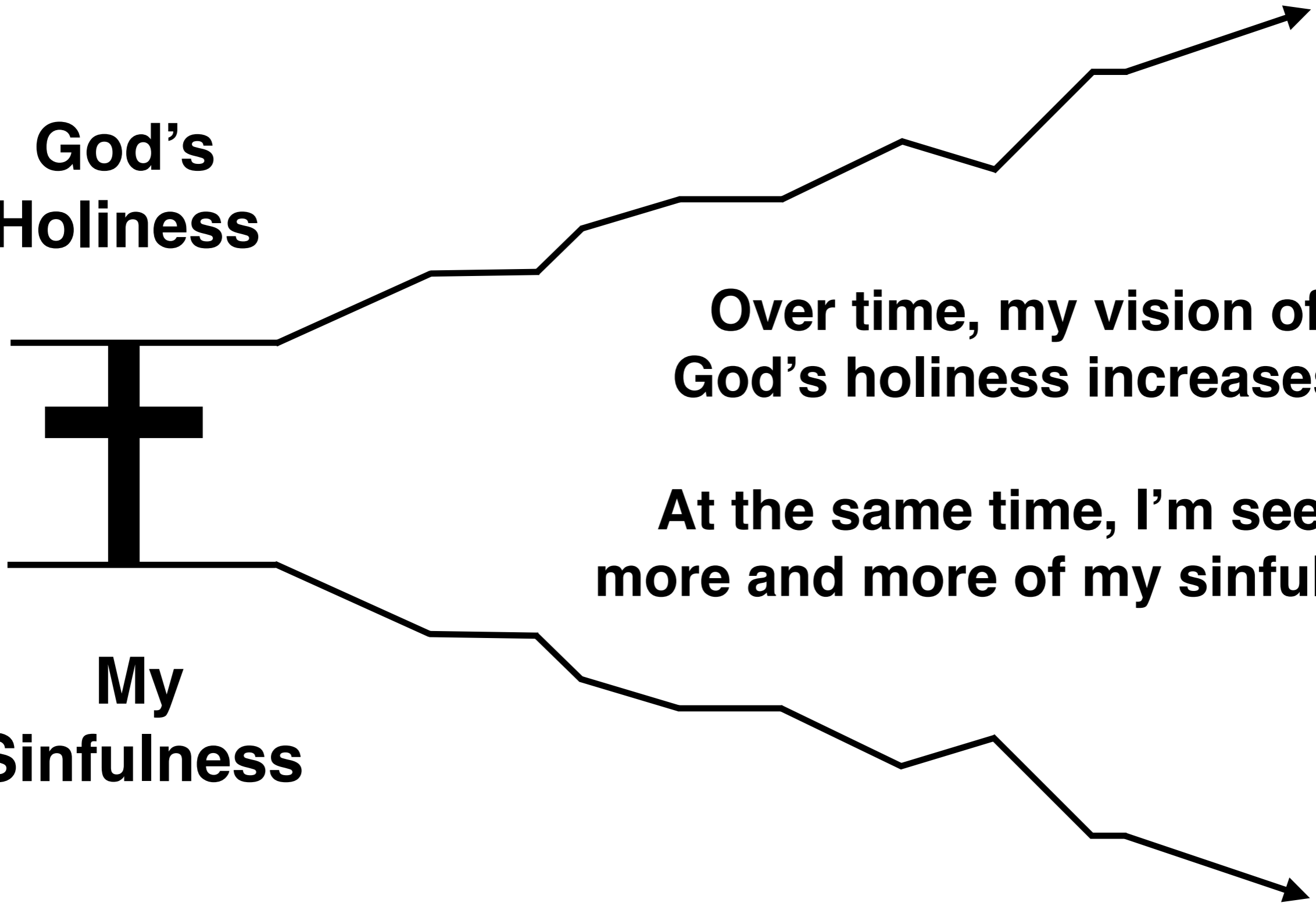
— Habakuk 1:13 —

**God's
Holiness**

**Over time, my vision of
God's holiness increases.**

**At the same time, I'm seeing
more and more of my sinfulness.**

**My
Sinfulness**



**For I am the least of the
apostles and do not
even deserve to be
called an apostle,
because I persecuted
the church of God.**

The Apostle Paul c. AD 54
— 1 Corinthians 15:9 —



**Although I am less than
the least of all the Lord's
people, this grace was
given me: to preach to the
Gentiles the boundless
riches of Christ....**

**The Apostle Paul c. AD 62
— Ephesians 3:8 —**



Here is a trustworthy
saying that deserves full
acceptance: **Christ Jesus
came into the world to
save sinners—of whom I
am the worst.**

The Apostle Paul c. AD 64
— 1 Timothy 1:15 —



**“...least of
the apostles”**

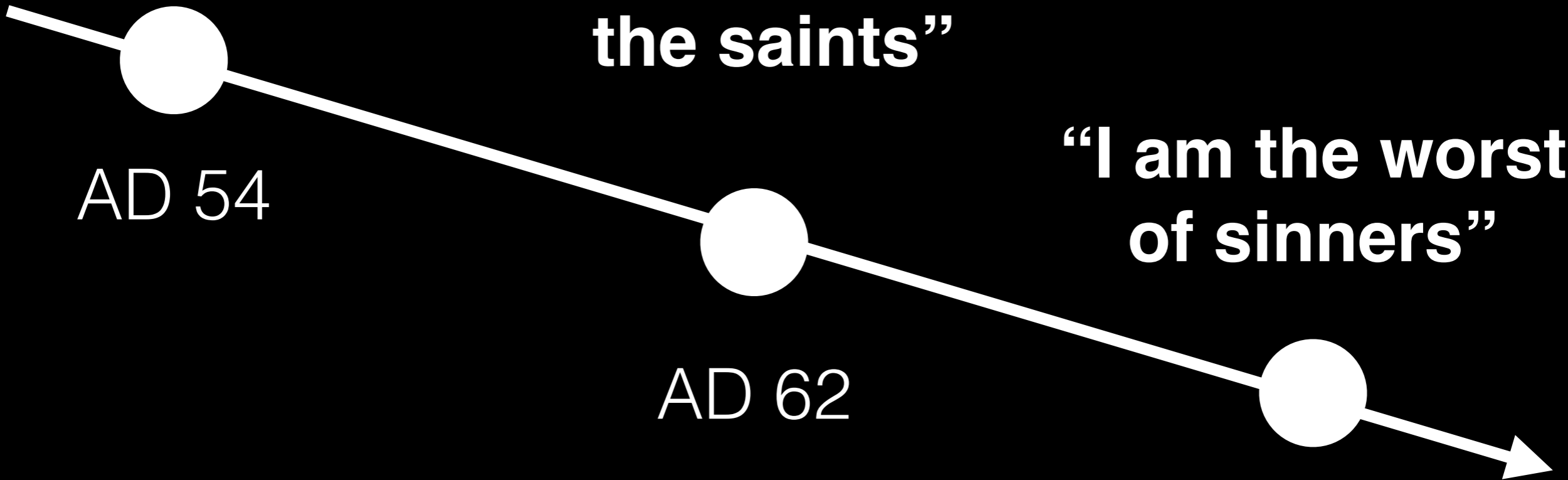
AD 54

**“...least of
the saints”**

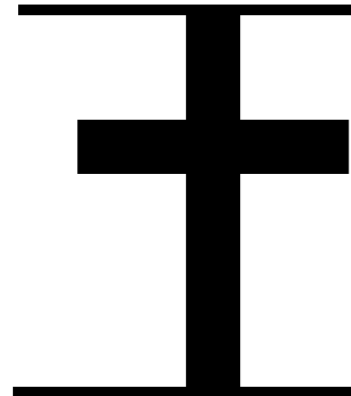
AD 62

**“I am the worst
of sinners”**

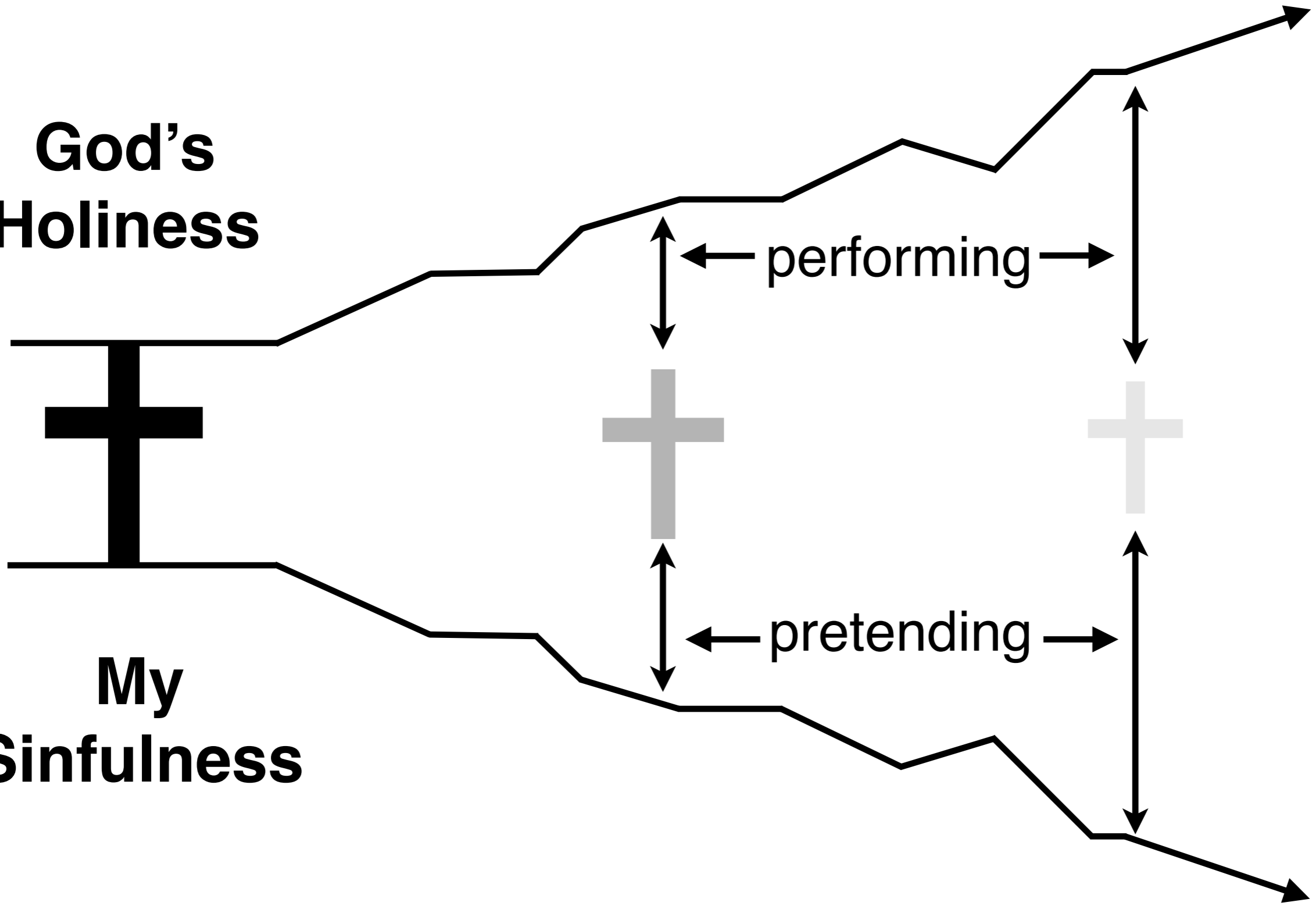
AD 64



**God's
Holiness**



**My
Sinfulness**





The Performance Trap:

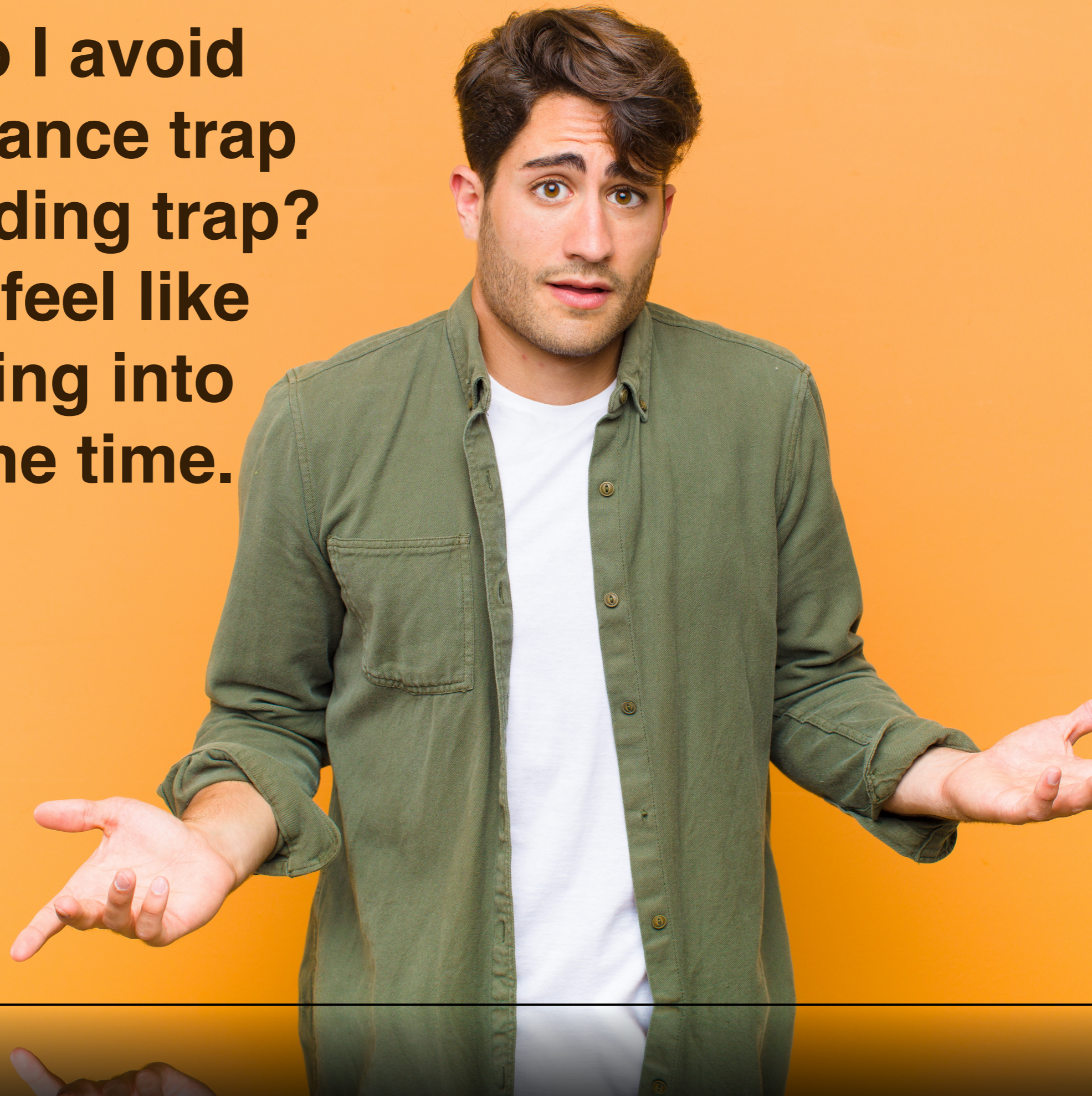
**Yep, I've got it
all together!**

The Pretending Trap:

I've got to keep up appearances.



**So how do I avoid
the performance trap
& the pretending trap?
Because I feel like
I keep falling into
them all the time.**

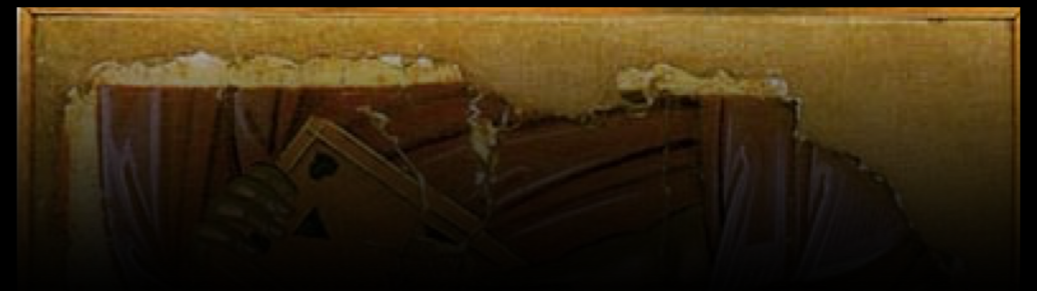


**Don't forget
to remember
the Gospel!**



**For what I received I
passed on to you as
of first importance:
that Christ died for
our sins according
to the Scriptures....**

The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 15:3 —



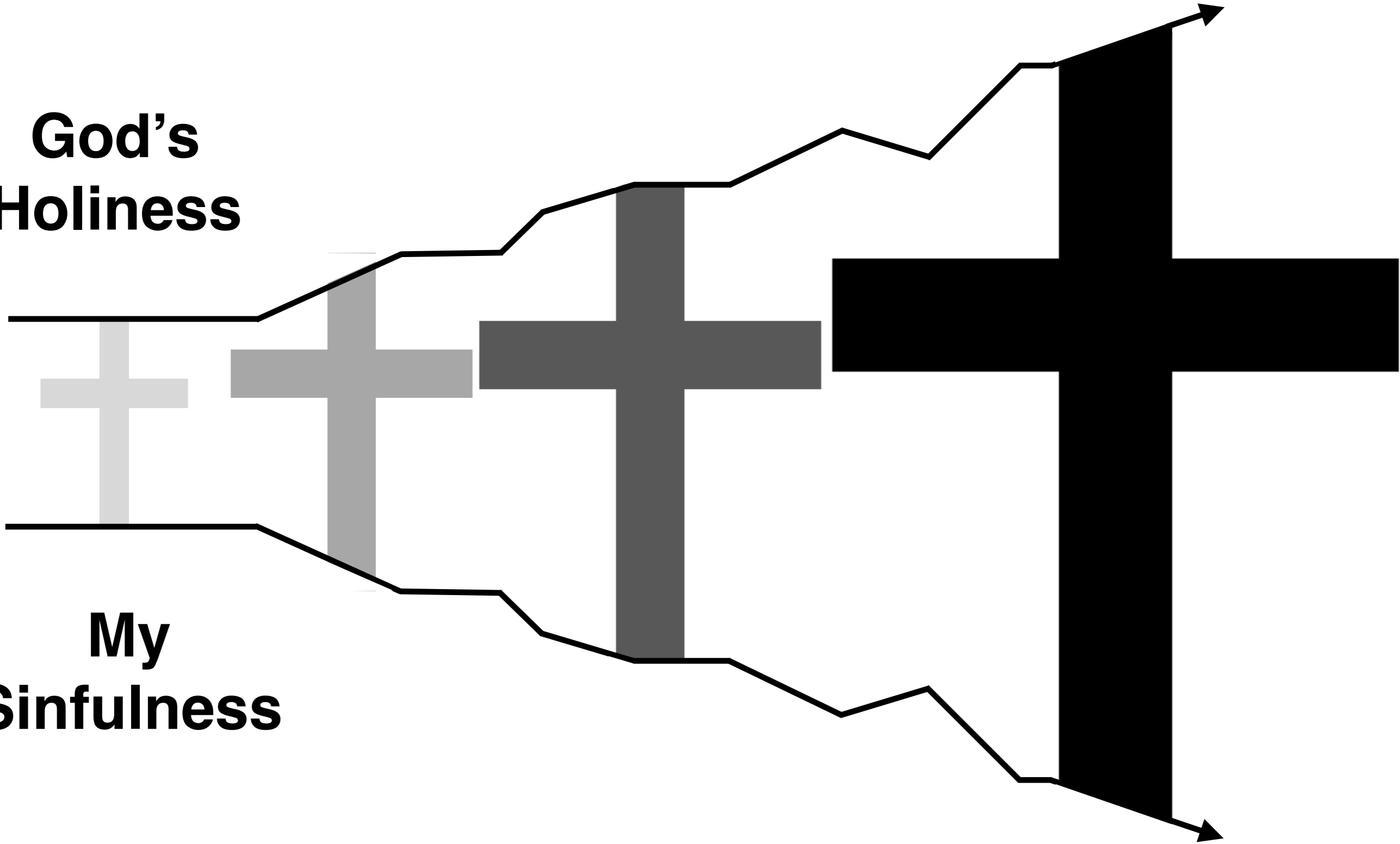
**So then, just as you
received Christ Jesus
as Lord, continue to live
your lives in him,
rooted and built up in
him, strengthened in
the faith as you were
taught, and overflowing
with thankfulness.**



The Apostle Paul
— Colossians 2:7 (NIV) —

**God's
Holiness**

**My
Sinfulness**





CHRIST FORMED IN YOU

The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change

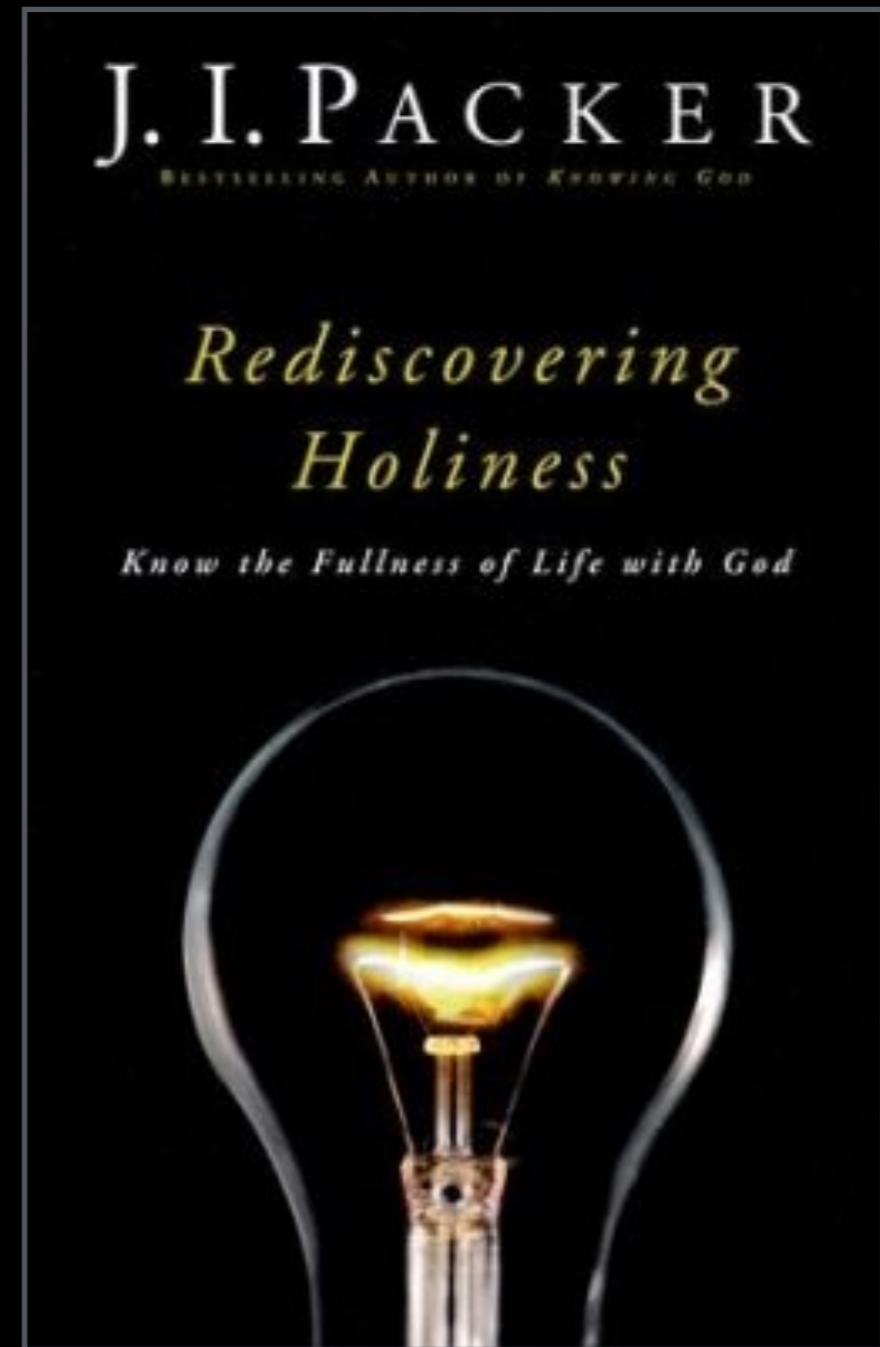
BRIAN G. HEDGES

BRIAN G. HEDGES

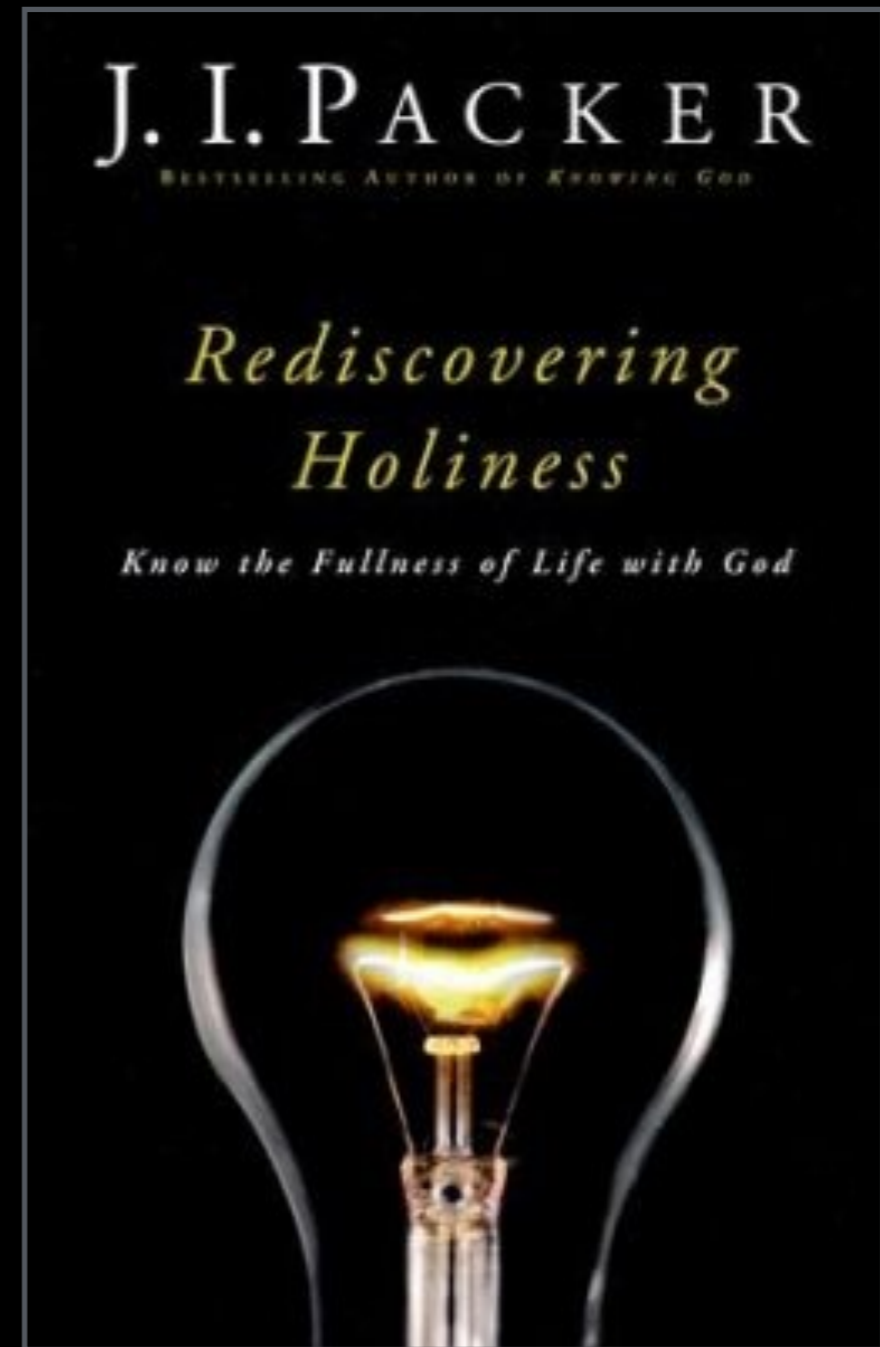
The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change

Spiritual growth is not about moving on from where we began—the gospel. It’s about growing deeper in the gospel. Or rather, getting the gospel deeper into us.

**The life of holiness is
one of downward
growth all the time...
[It] is a progress into
personal smallness
that allows the
greatness of Christ's
grace to appear.**



The sign of this sort of progress is that they increasingly feel and say that in themselves they are nothing and God in Christ has become everything for their ongoing life.





**He must increase,
but I must decrease.**

John the Baptist

The Gospel of John 3:30

Learn
to preach
the Gospel
to yourself!





So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: "I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it...?"



“For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!”

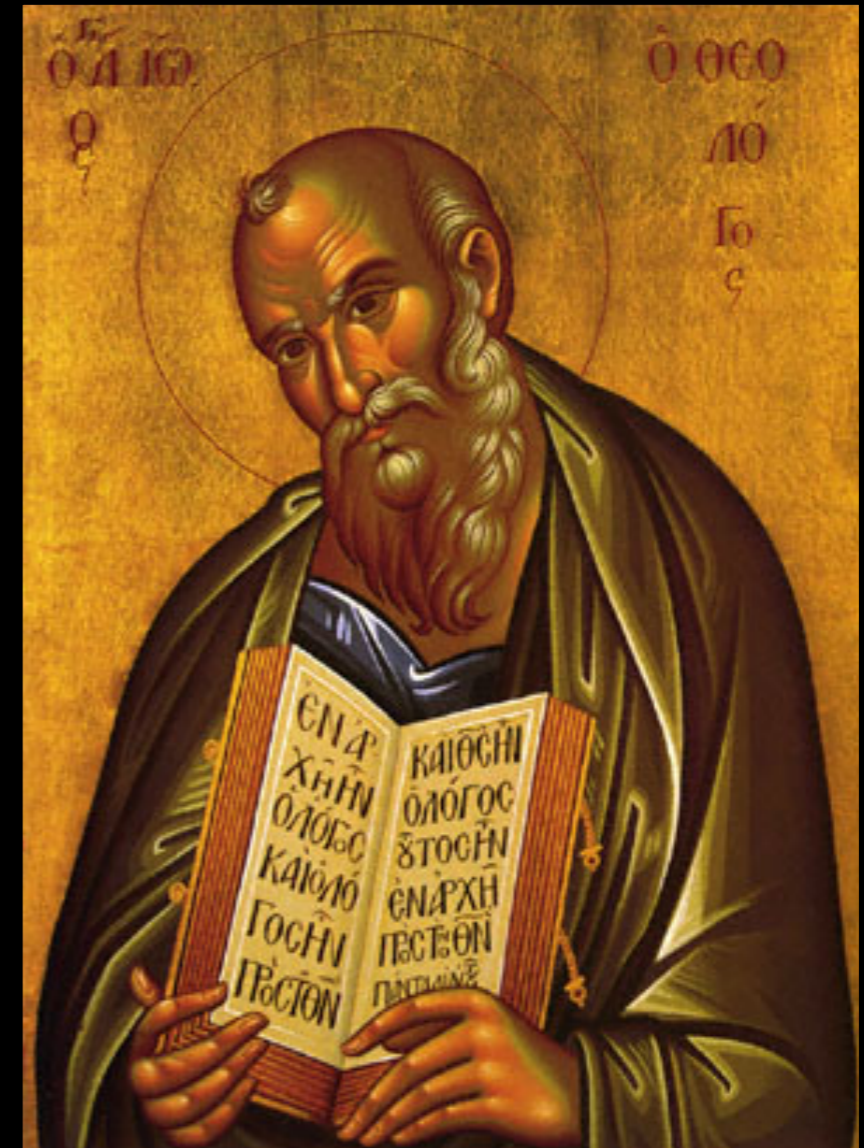
— Martin Luther —

**The most important
daily habit we can possess
is to remind ourselves of
THE GOSPEL.**

—Charles H. Spurgeon —



**My dear children, I write
this to you so that you
will not sin. But if
anybody does sin, we
have an advocate with the
Father—Jesus Christ, the
Righteous One. He is the
atoning sacrifice for our
sins, and not only for
ours but also for the sins
of the whole world.**

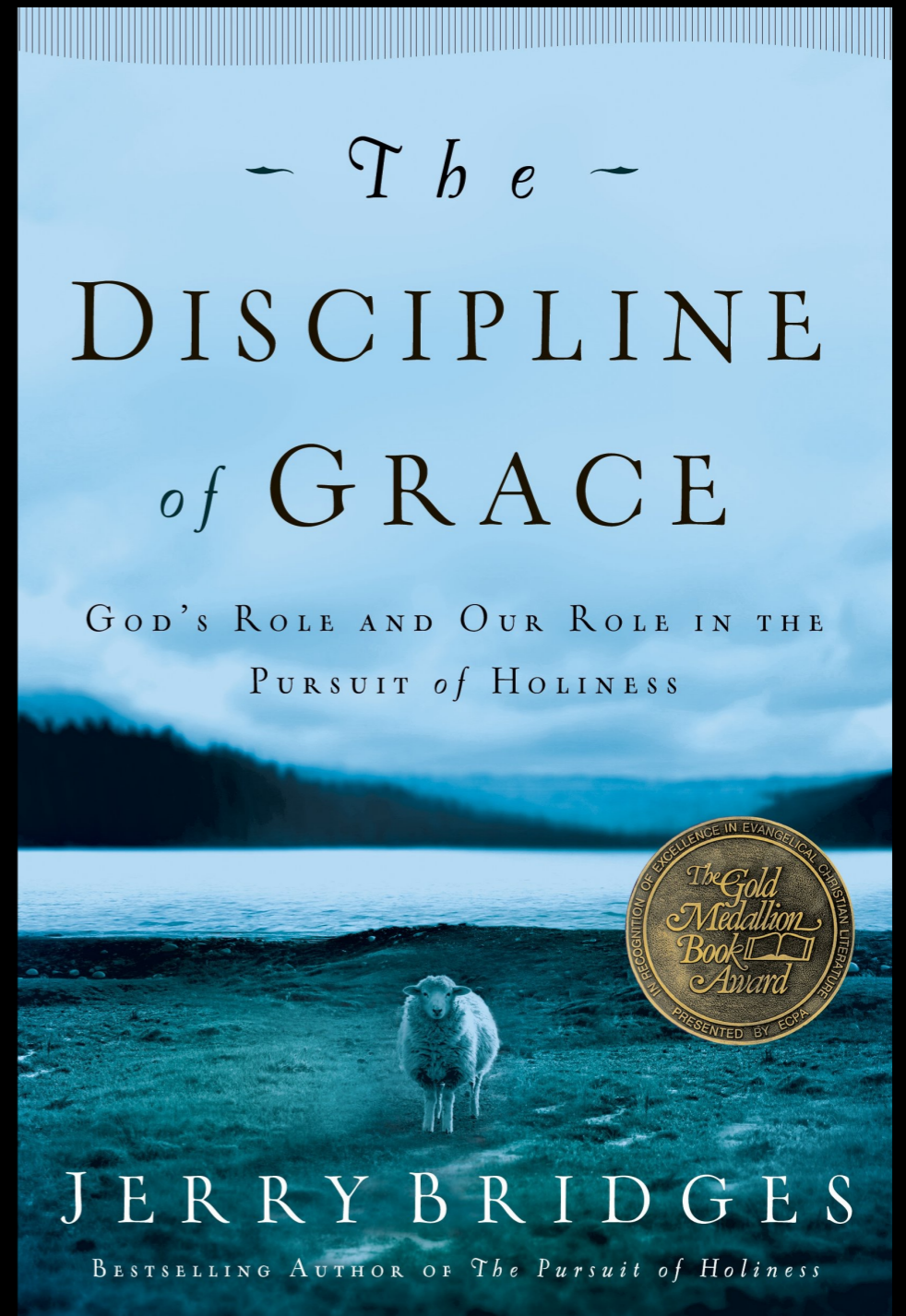


**— The Apostle John —
The Gospel of 1 John 2:1-2**



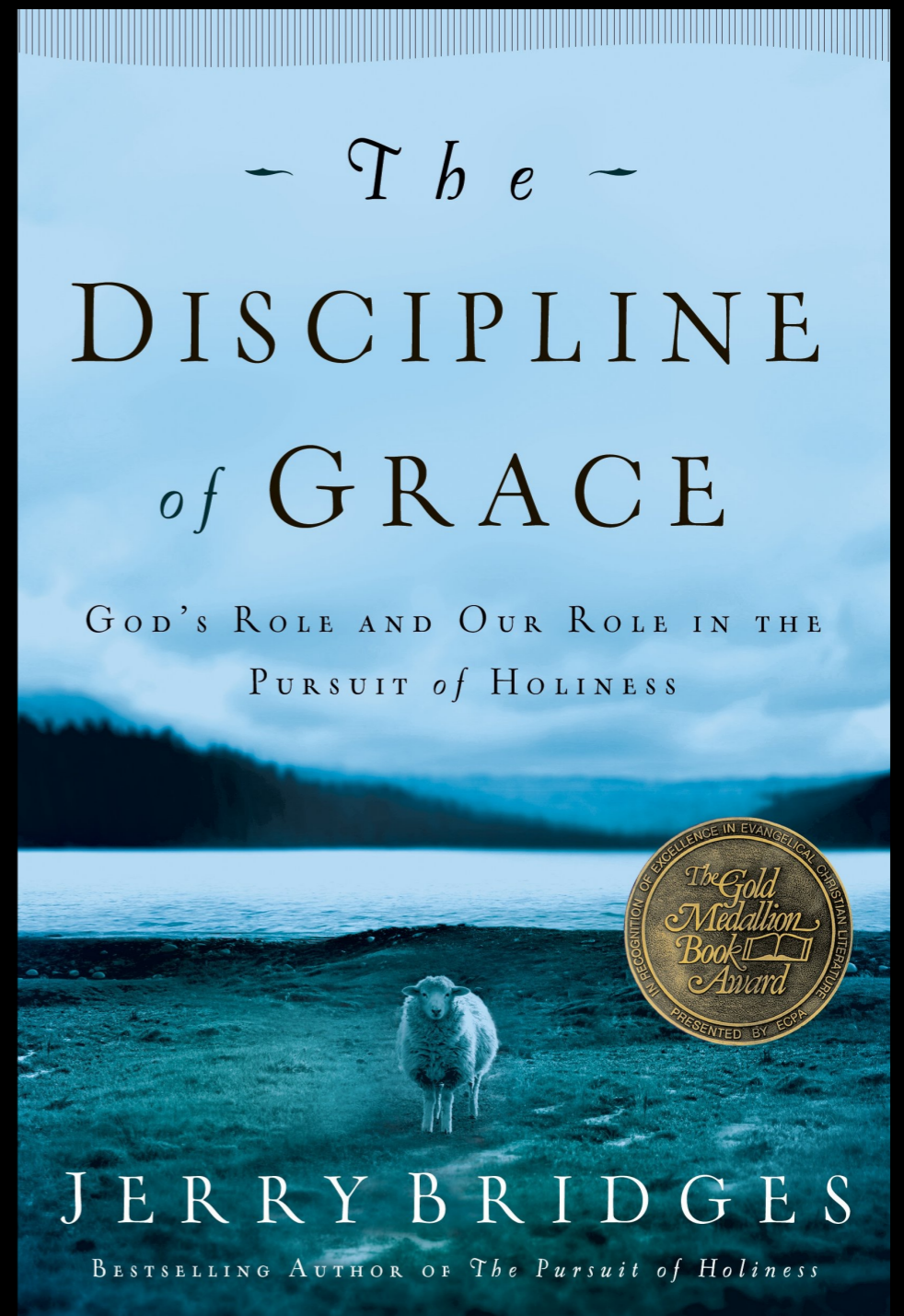
*You don't
have to
hide
anymore!*

**The gospel, applied
to our hearts every
day, frees us to be
brutally honest
with ourselves
and with God....**



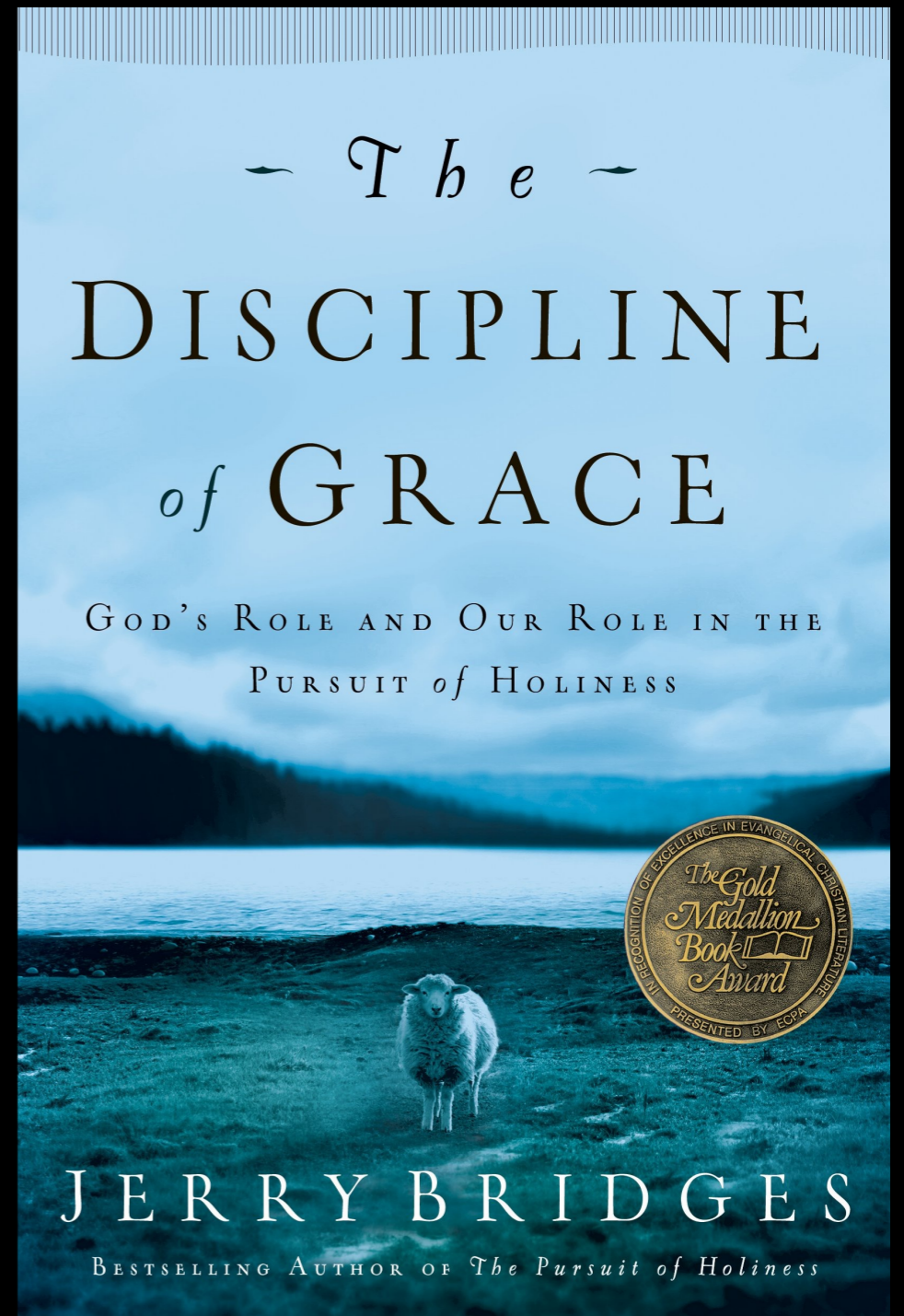
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *The Pursuit of Holiness*
JERRY BRIDGES

We can call sin exactly what it is, regardless of how ugly and shameful it may be, because we know that Jesus bore that sin in His body on the cross.



BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *The Pursuit of Holiness*
JERRY BRIDGES

**With the assurance
of total forgiveness
through Christ,
we have no reason
to hide our sins
anymore.**

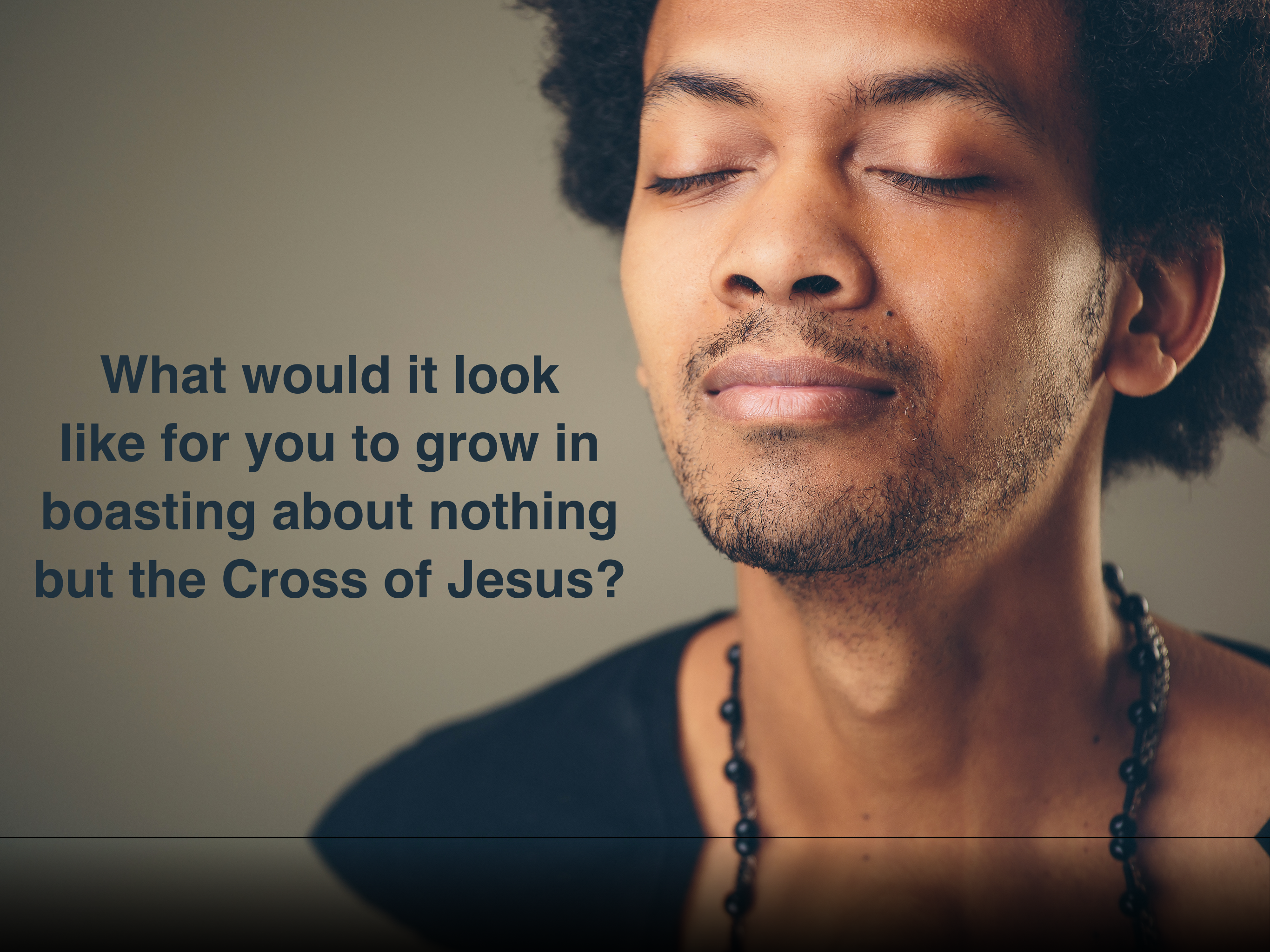


BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *The Pursuit of Holiness*

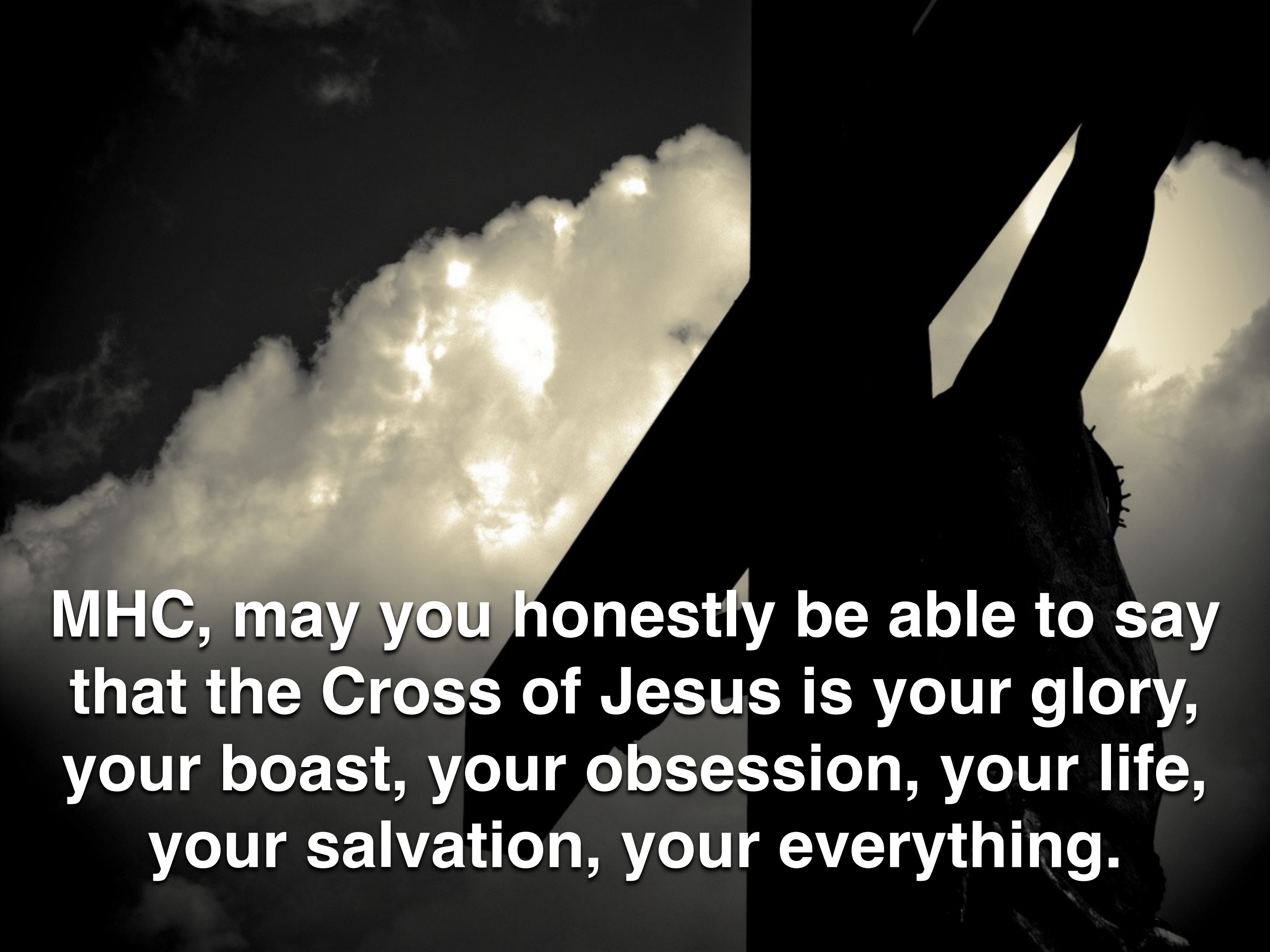
JERRY BRIDGES



CHARLES SPURGEON
1834-1892



**What would it look
like for you to grow in
boasting about nothing
but the Cross of Jesus?**



**MHC, may you honestly be able to say
that the Cross of Jesus is your glory,
your boast, your obsession, your life,
your salvation, your everything.**

Gospel

Community

Mission