

**The Courage to say  
“NO”  
to the World.**

## **Romans 12:1-2**

**I appeal to you therefore,  
brothers, by the mercies of God, to  
present your bodies as a living  
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to  
God, which is your spiritual worship.**



**Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewal  
of your mind, that by testing you  
may discern what is the will of God,  
what is good and acceptable and  
perfect.**

## **Definition of the “world” –**

- . Anti- God system of life**
- . In rebellion against God**
- . Independent of God**
- . Led by Satan**



**... and the whole world lies in the  
power of the evil one. 1 Jn. 5:19b**



The image features a background of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a black bar at the top. The text is centered and reads:

**As Christ-followers we are no longer  
“of” the world.**

**“I chose you out of the world... Jn 15:19**

**John Knox headstone...**

**“Here lies John Knox. He never feared  
the face of man.”**





**How do we have the courage to say  
“NO” to the world?**

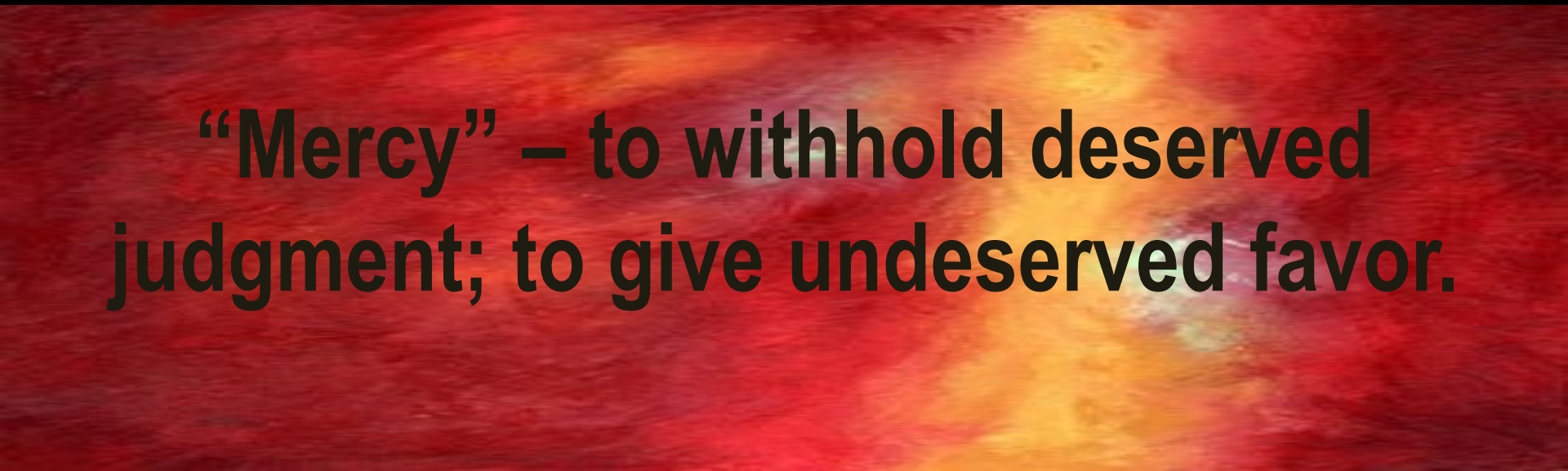


**1. Only by God's mercies.**

**I appeal to you therefore, brothers,  
by the mercies of God (1)**

**For from Him, and through Him and to  
Him are all things. To Him be glory  
forever. Rom. 11:36**





**“Mercy” – to withhold deserved judgment; to give undeserved favor.**

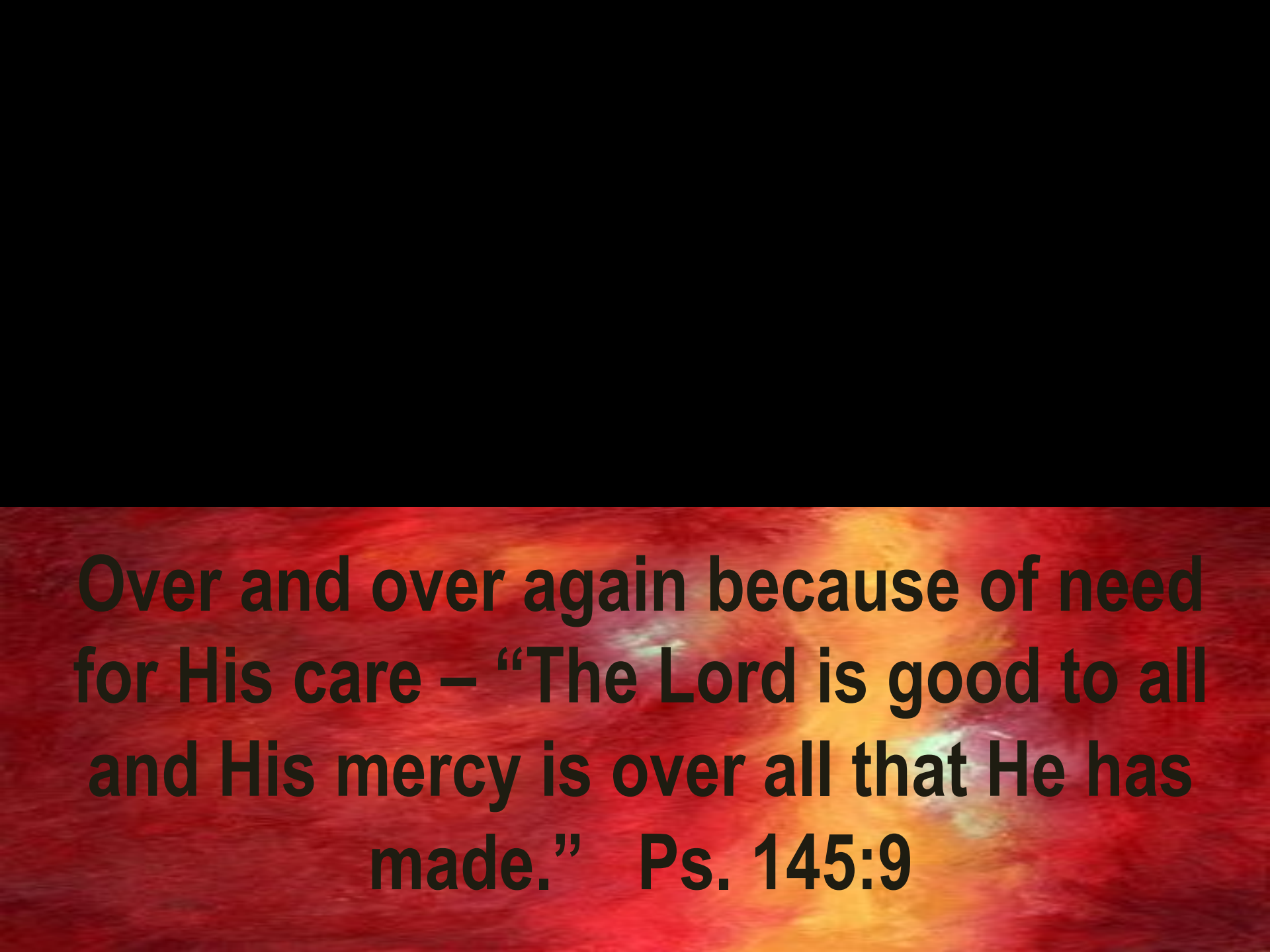


**. Over and over again because of our sin  
– “Be merciful to me a sinner!” Lk. 18:13**

**. Over and over again because of our weaknesses.**

**(the blind man crying out to Jesus –  
“Jesus. Son of David have mercy on me.”**

**Lk. 18:38**

The image features a vibrant sunset or sunrise scene with a gradient of colors from deep red to bright yellow. A solid black horizontal bar is positioned at the top of the frame. The text is centered and rendered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Over and over again because of need  
for His care – “The Lord is good to all  
and His mercy is over all that He has  
made.” Ps. 145:9**



**Over and over again because of our need for help – “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”**

**Heb. 4:16**



**What do we know about God's mercies?**  
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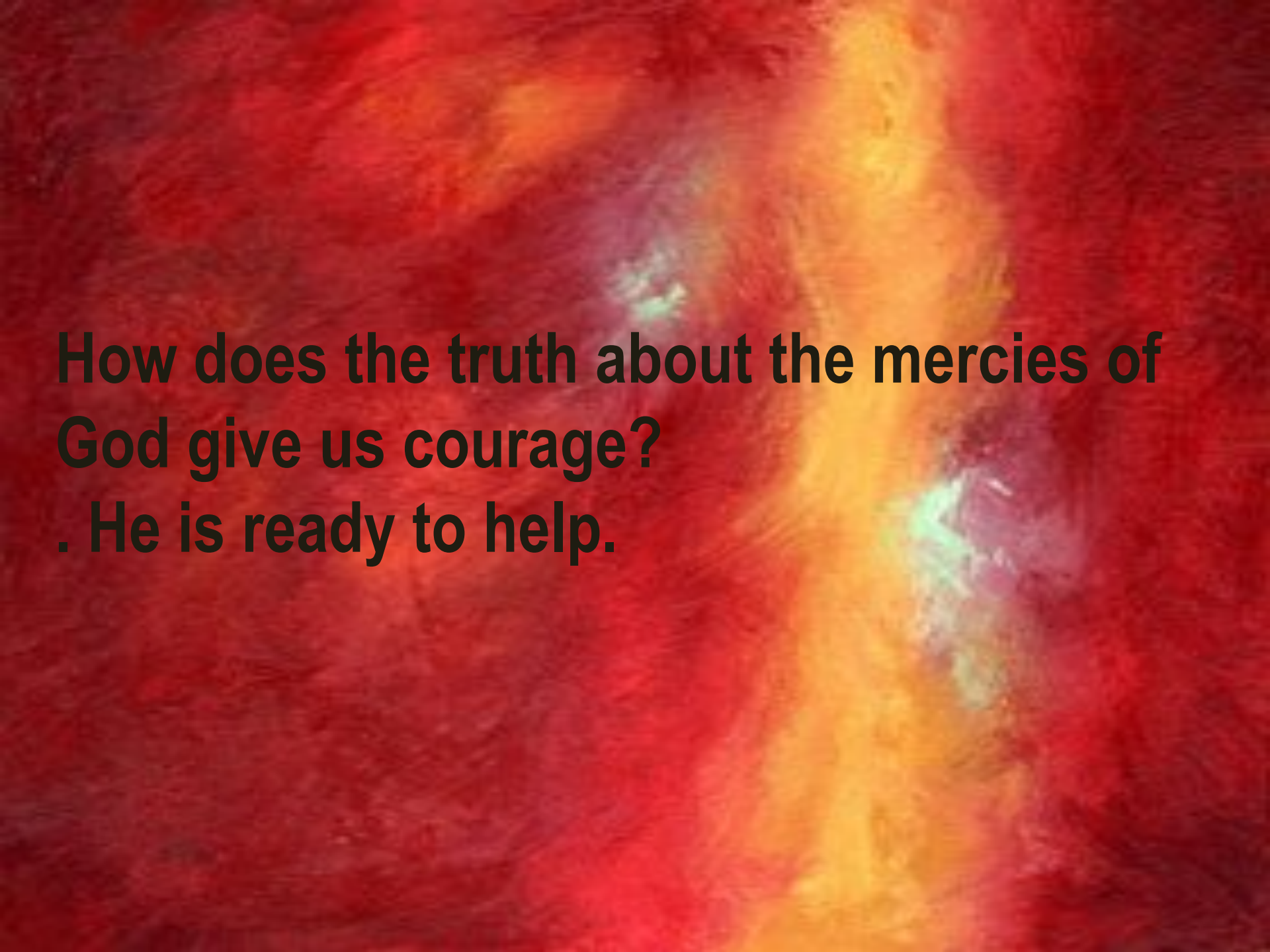
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- . It is never ending – Lam. 3:22-23**



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- . It is an expression of love - Ps. 103:4**
- . It is never ending – Lam. 3:22-23**
- . It is great – 1 Pet. 1:3**





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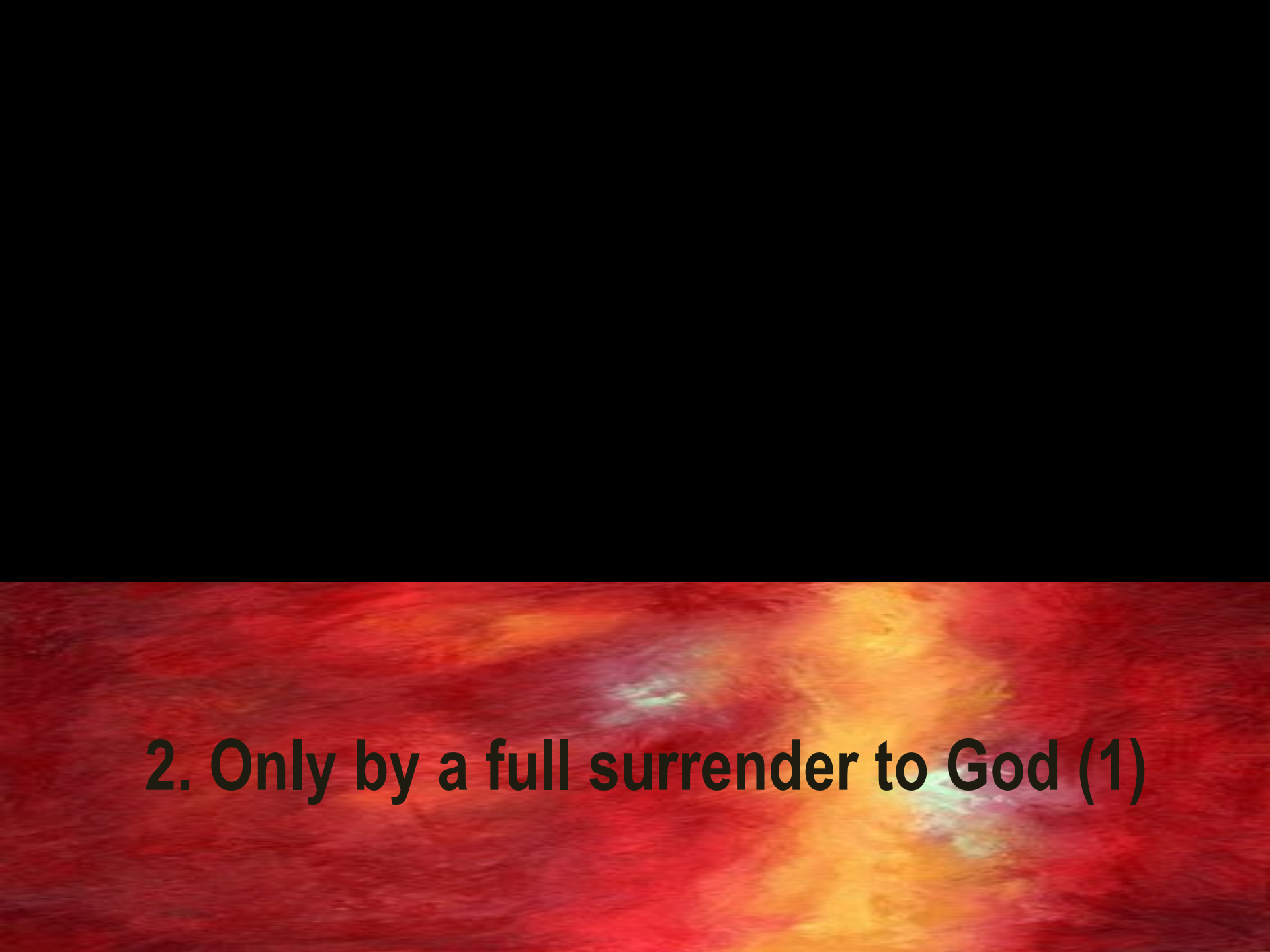
**. He is ready to help.**

**. We do not have to earn His help.**



**How does the truth about the mercies of God give us courage?**

- . He is ready to help.**
- . We do not have to earn His help.**
- . He will give us everything we need to get victory.**



**2. Only by a full surrender to God (1)**



**... to present your bodies as a living  
sacrifice.” (1)**



**Once for all commitment; yield;  
offer; give up.**



**... Present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. Rom. 6:13**



The image features a dark, almost black upper half. The lower half is a vibrant, fiery landscape with a path of bright yellow and orange light leading from the bottom center towards the upper right. The text "A Living Sacrifice" is centered in the lower half, overlaid on the path.

**“A Living Sacrifice”**

## **“Dead” sacrifices in the O.T.**

- Live given or surrendered**
- Blood was the offering**
- Physical life is lost for a spiritual purpose**

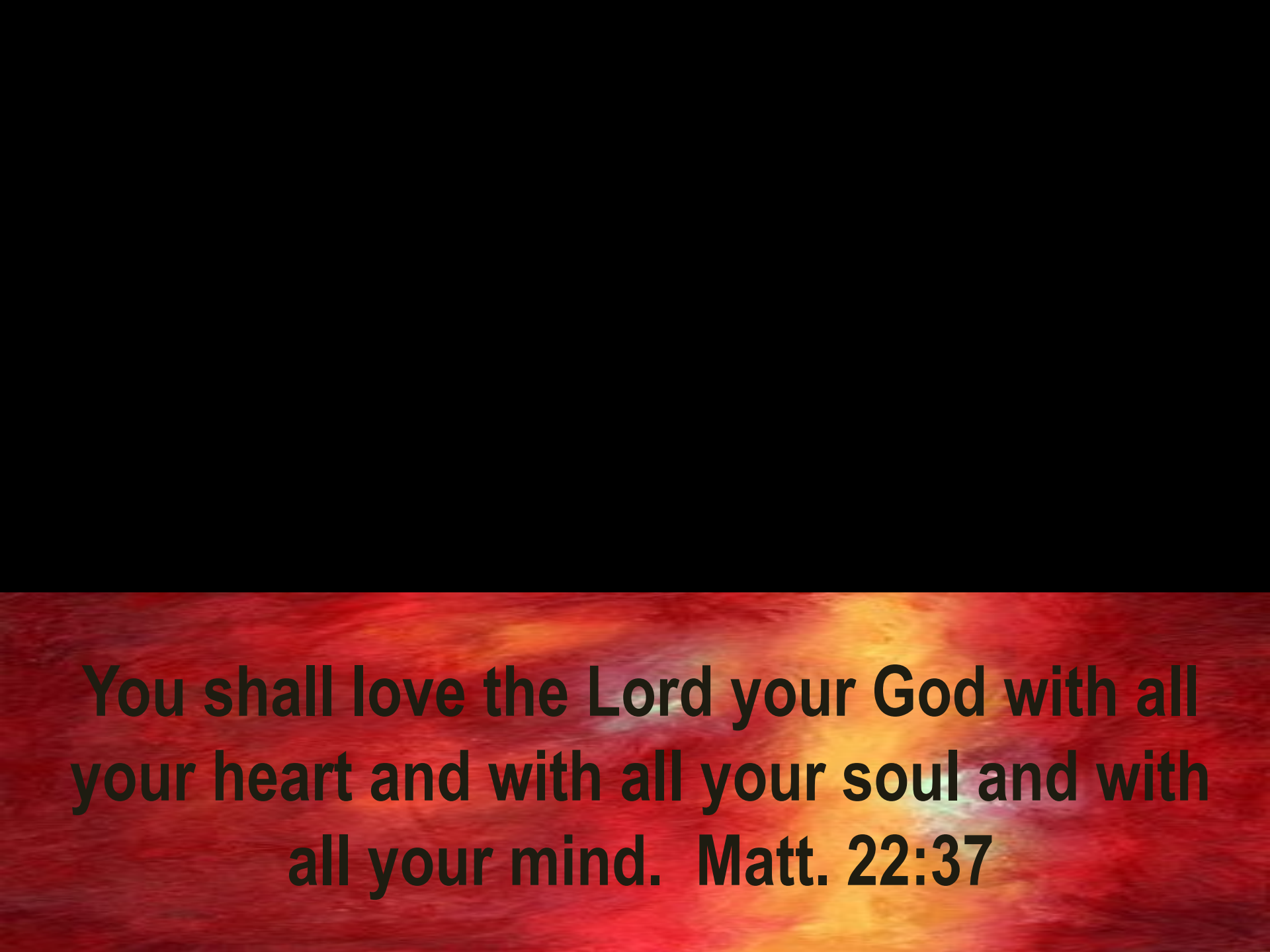




**“Living”**



**For to me to live is Christ.  
Phil 1:21**



**You shall love the Lord your God with all  
your heart and with all your soul and with  
all your mind. Matt. 22:37**

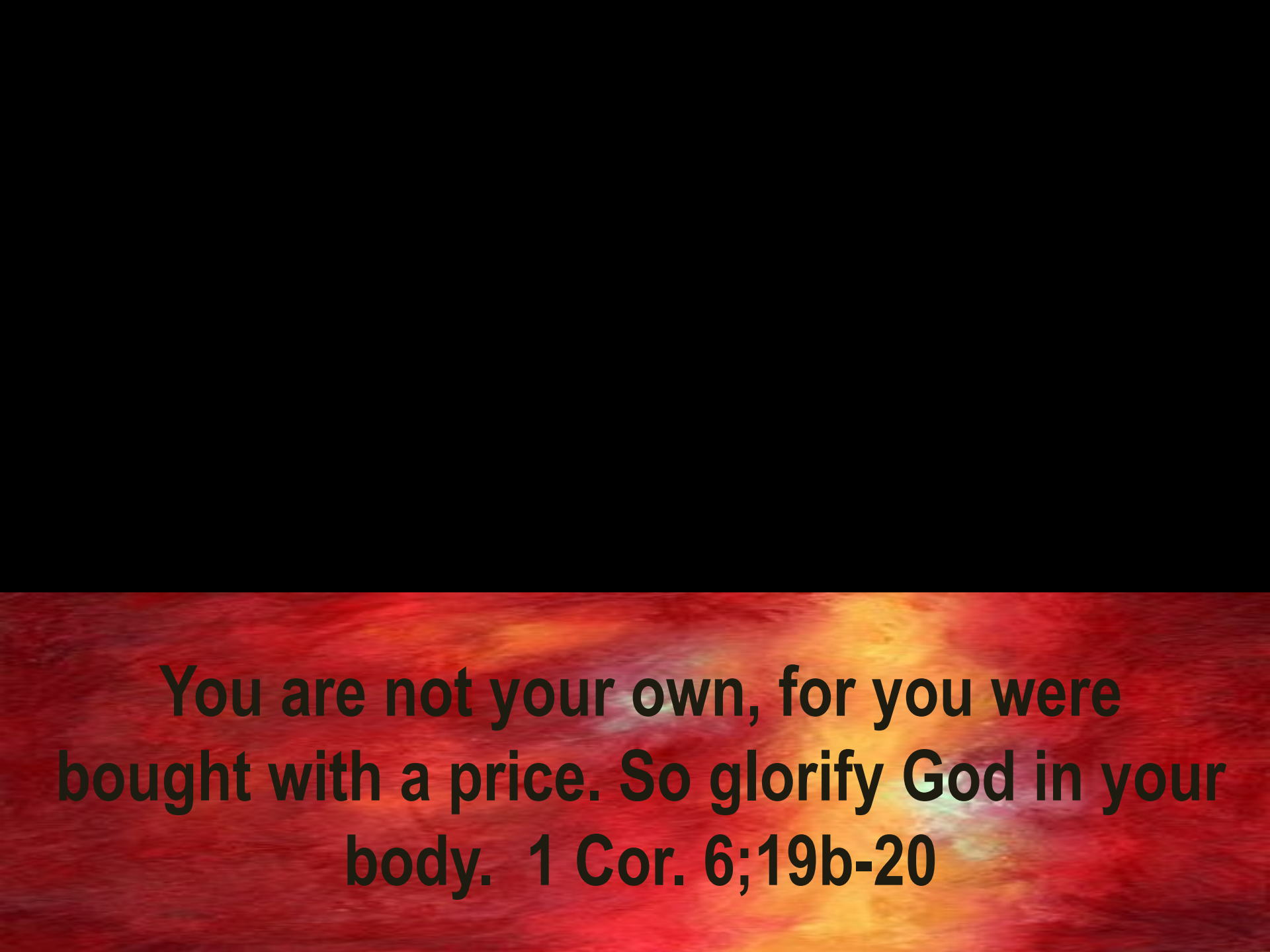
The image features a dark, black upper half and a lower half with a fiery, textured background. The lower half is dominated by a bright, glowing path that starts from the bottom center and leads towards the upper right. The path is composed of a mix of yellow, orange, and red light, with some areas appearing more intense and brighter. The surrounding area is a deep, dark red with a mottled, almost crystalline texture, suggesting a landscape of fire or molten lava. The overall effect is one of a journey through a dark, perilous environment towards a bright, hopeful destination.

**Sacrifice**





**I die every day. 1 Cor. 15:31**



**You are not your own, for you were  
bought with a price. So glorify God in your  
body. 1 Cor. 6;19b-20**

**Victory comes with a fully surrendered life!**  
**“No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits.” 2 Tim. 2:4**





**“I claim no right to myself, no right to this understanding, this will, these affections that are in me. Neither do I have any right to this body or its members, no right to this tongue, to these hands, feet, ears or eyes. I have given myself clear away and not retained anything of my own. I have been to God this morning and told Him I have given myself wholly to Him.**

**I have given every power so that for the future I claim no right to myself in any respect ...**

**... I will fight with all my might against the world, the flesh and the devil to the end of my life. I will adhere to the faith of the gospel however hazardous and difficult the profession and the practice of it may be.**



**I pray God for the sake of others to  
look on this as a self-dedication.  
Henceforth, I am not to act in any  
respect as my own.”**

**Jonathan Edwards**

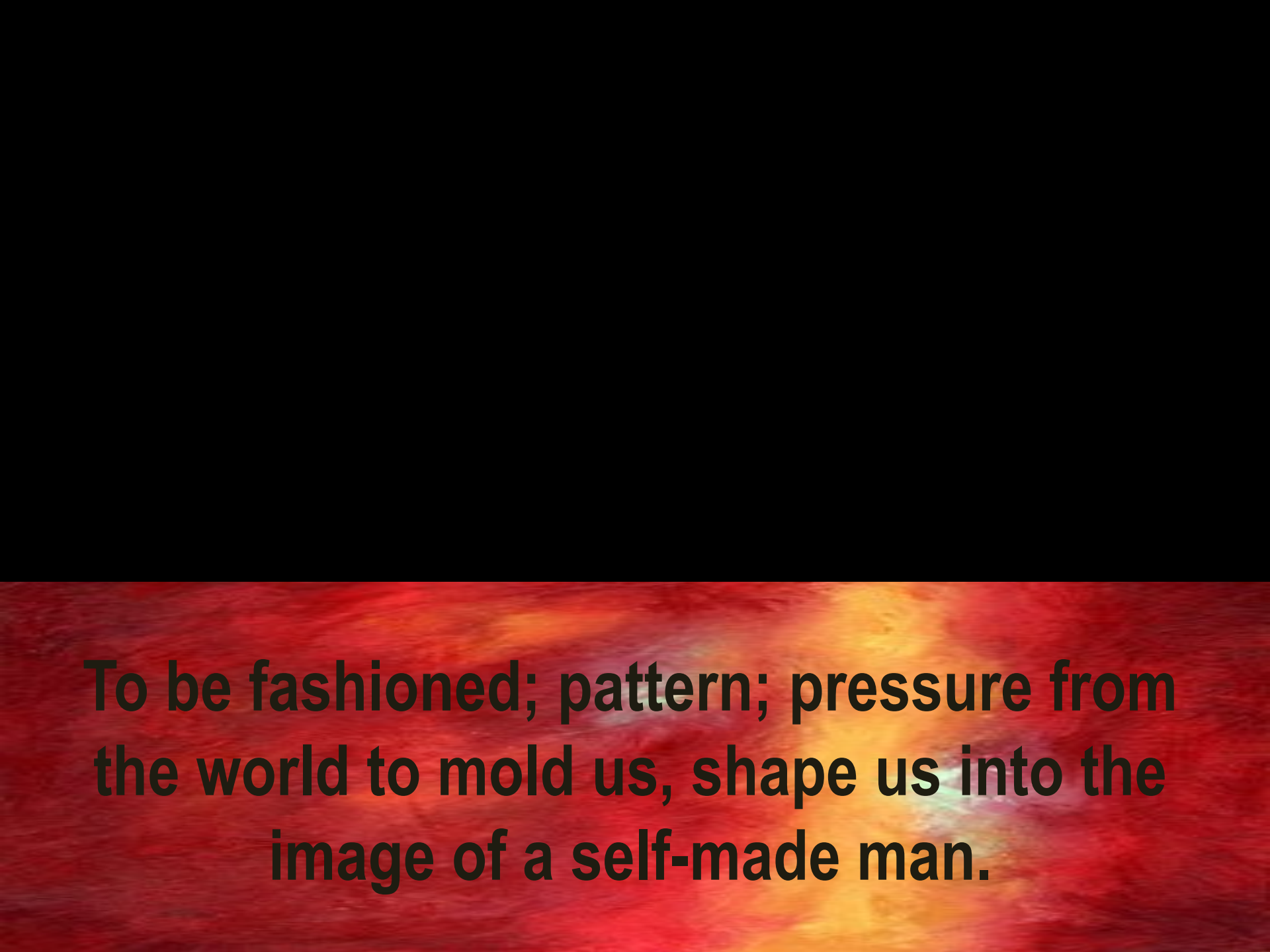


**3. Only by the renewing of your mind.**





**Do not be conformed to this world.**  
**(2)**



**To be fashioned; pattern; pressure from  
the world to mold us, shape us into the  
image of a self-made man.**



**Why resist conformity with the world?**



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**1. Jesus dies to deliver us from the present  
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**4. We lose opportunity to bring glory to God. 1 Cor. 10:31**

# **What is the problem with the “thinking” of the world?**

- 1. Satan has blinded them – 2 Cor. 4:4**
- 2. Sin brings confusion – Rom. 1:21**
- 3. Self-rule is temporary and holds to a “fleeting” worldview – Lk. 12:18-21**





**“The world they have inherited, as best they can make sense of it, has told them that real knowledge is impossible and genuine values are illusions.”**

**Christian Smith – Dir. Of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society**



**... but be transformed by the renewal of  
your mind.”**



**- To change our outer life to match our new nature in Christ.**





**Beholding the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another .**

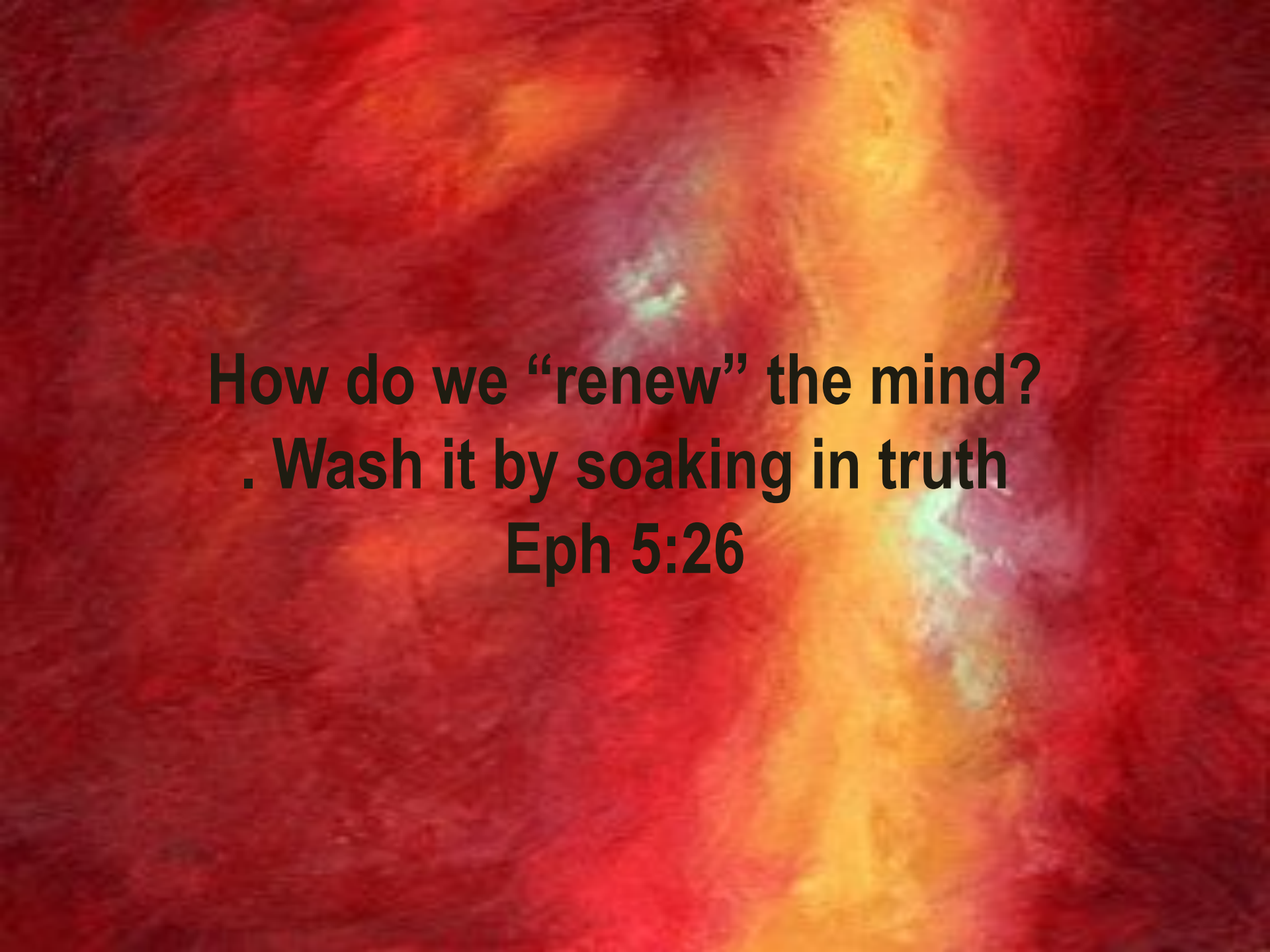
**2 Cor. 3:18**



**A “new” mind, new perspective, new attitudes, new “worldview”, new values.**



**How do we “renew” the mind?**



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· Wash it by soaking in truth  
Eph 5:26**



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your mind - Phil. 4:7
  - Dwell on what is good and true.  
Phil 4:8; Ps. 119:11





**4. Only by a commitment to God's will  
(2)**

**... that by testing you may discern what is  
the will of God. (2)**

- clear proof or evidence; clear awareness**
- put it into practice**





**What is... “Good” by his definition –  
consistent with His Holiness.**



**“Acceptable” to him – pleases Him**



**“... to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,  
fully pleasing to Him...” Col 1:10**

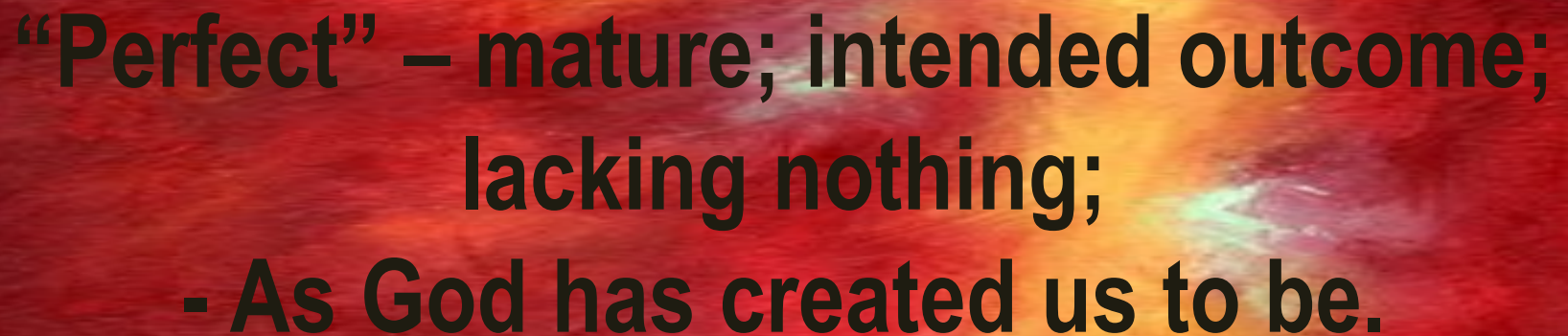


**We make it our aim to please Him.  
2 Cor. 5:9**





**“Perfect” – according to His nature and purposes**



**“Perfect” – mature; intended outcome;  
lacking nothing;  
- As God has created us to be.**



**You created everything and it is for your  
pleasure that they exist and were created.**

**Rev. 4:11**

