

CREATION

THE ENDGAME

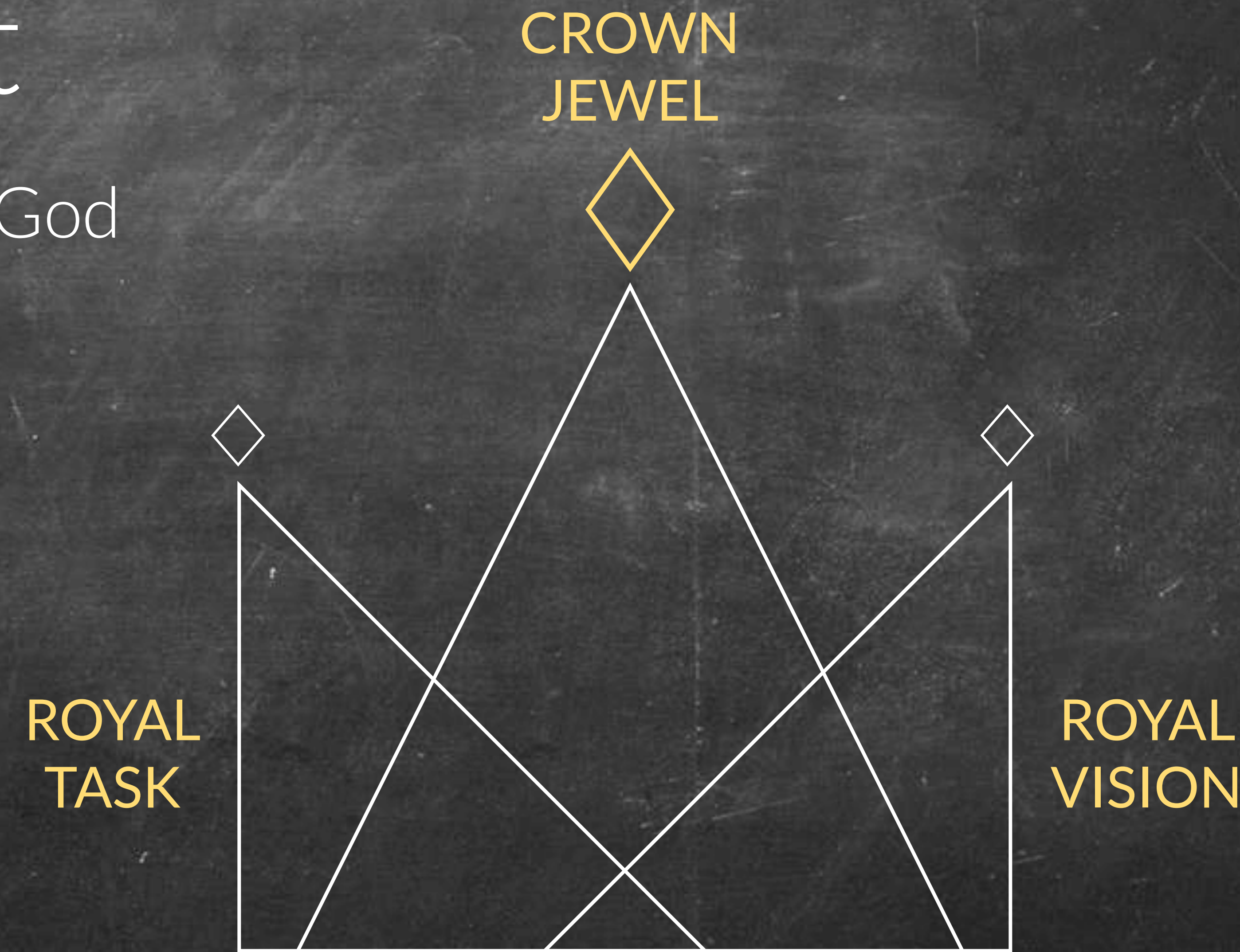


CREATION

THE ENDGAME

Our Quest

Gaze upon the face of God



three key questions

Why did Jesus leave?

Why does God send?

What is God's endgame?

The answers are found
in a 4th question:

Why curse a fig tree?

Why curse a fig tree?

Why curse a fig tree?

- ♦ Back to the nature of God
 - ♦ Back to the Garden

to the Beginning of the Meta-Narrative



All creative agents



creative agents



All in **relationships**



creative agents

Why did God Create?

All creative agents



All in **relationships**

Did He not make them **one**...? And what was the one God seeking? Godly **offspring**.

-Malachi 2:15

Now there was no plant of the field yet
because there was no man to cultivate it.

-Genesis 2

Why not?

Man is charged to provoke
the **fruitfulness** of the creation

We are earth's cultivator
...cultivators of **life**

Who is this God?

Who is this God?





the God of Life

from the beginning to the end...

From God breathing the **breath of Life** into
Adam and the **Tree of Life** in the Garden...

From God breathing the **breath of Life** into
Adam and the **Tree of Life** in the Garden...

To the closing of the Book of Revelation and
The Lamb's **Book of Life** and the **River of Life**

Jesus says blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the **Tree of Life** -Revelation 22:14

and then the Spirit and the Bride say "Come, let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the **Water of Life** without price." -Revelation 22:17

Scripture is called the **Word of Life** - Philippians 2:16

Jesus is called the **Word of Life** - 1 John 1:1

Christ is called **our Life** - Colossians 3:4

He is called the **Prince of Life** - Acts 3:15

Jesus said He was the **Truth and the Life** - John 14:6

He told Mary that He was the **Resurrection and the Life** - John 11:25

He is the **Bread of Life** - John 6:35

He said His words were **Life** - John 6:63

In Him was **Life**, and the **Life** was the Light of the World. - John 1:4

Jesus came that we might have **abundant Life** - John 10:10

the God of Life

but not just **existing** life...

flourishing life



God delights in the
fruitfulness of His creatures

He loves to create, equip, empower, and
set free, sending them to flourish

Plants: And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and **fruit trees bearing fruit**” ... and God saw that it was good. -Genesis 1:11-12

Fish & Birds: And God blessed them, saying, “**Be fruitful and multiply** and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” -Genesis 1:22

Man: And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply** and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” -Genesis 1:28

Moon, Sun & Stars: And God placed them in the expanse of the heavens **to give light on the earth**... and God saw that it was good. -Genesis 1:17

After the flood: “Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and **be fruitful and multiply** on the earth.” -Genesis 8:17

To Noah: And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply** and fill the earth.” -Genesis 9:1

To Abraham: I will make you **exceedingly fruitful**, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. -Genesis 17:6

To Jacob: And God said to him, “I am God Almighty: **be fruitful and multiply.** A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.” -Genesis 35:11

To Israel: I will turn to you and make you **fruitful and multiply**

you and will confirm my covenant with you. -Leviticus 26:9

To Israel when faithful: And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the **fruit** of your womb and in the **fruit** of your livestock and in the **fruit** of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.

-Deuteronomy 28:11

To Israel when disobedient: And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their **fruit**.

-Leviticus 26:20

Jesus spoke of fruit often: Every branch in me that does not bear **fruit** he takes away, and every branch that does bear **fruit** he prunes, that it may bear more **fruit**.

-John 15:2

Fruit characterizes the future state: on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of **fruit**, yielding its **fruit** each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

-Revelation 22:12

Who is this God?

The God who has a zeal
for life... **flourishing life**



Is this the end of our Quest?

“What is the chief end of man?”

What is God's endgame for man?

My Father is glorified by this

that you **bear much fruit**, glorify
God, and to enjoy Him forever.
prove to be my disciples.

-John 15:8

How do we glorify God?

The key link:

Psalm 19

the fruit of God's creation

linked to

the glory of God

the **fruit** of God's creation

linked to

the glory of God

this is a key theme in the Meta-Narrative and
the essence of God's endgame



creation



fall



redemption



engagement



restoration

Lest we forget

abiding in Christ

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

-John 15:4-5

What is the endgame of
abiding in Christ?

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

-John 15:4-5

What is the endgame of
abiding in Christ?

bearing fruit

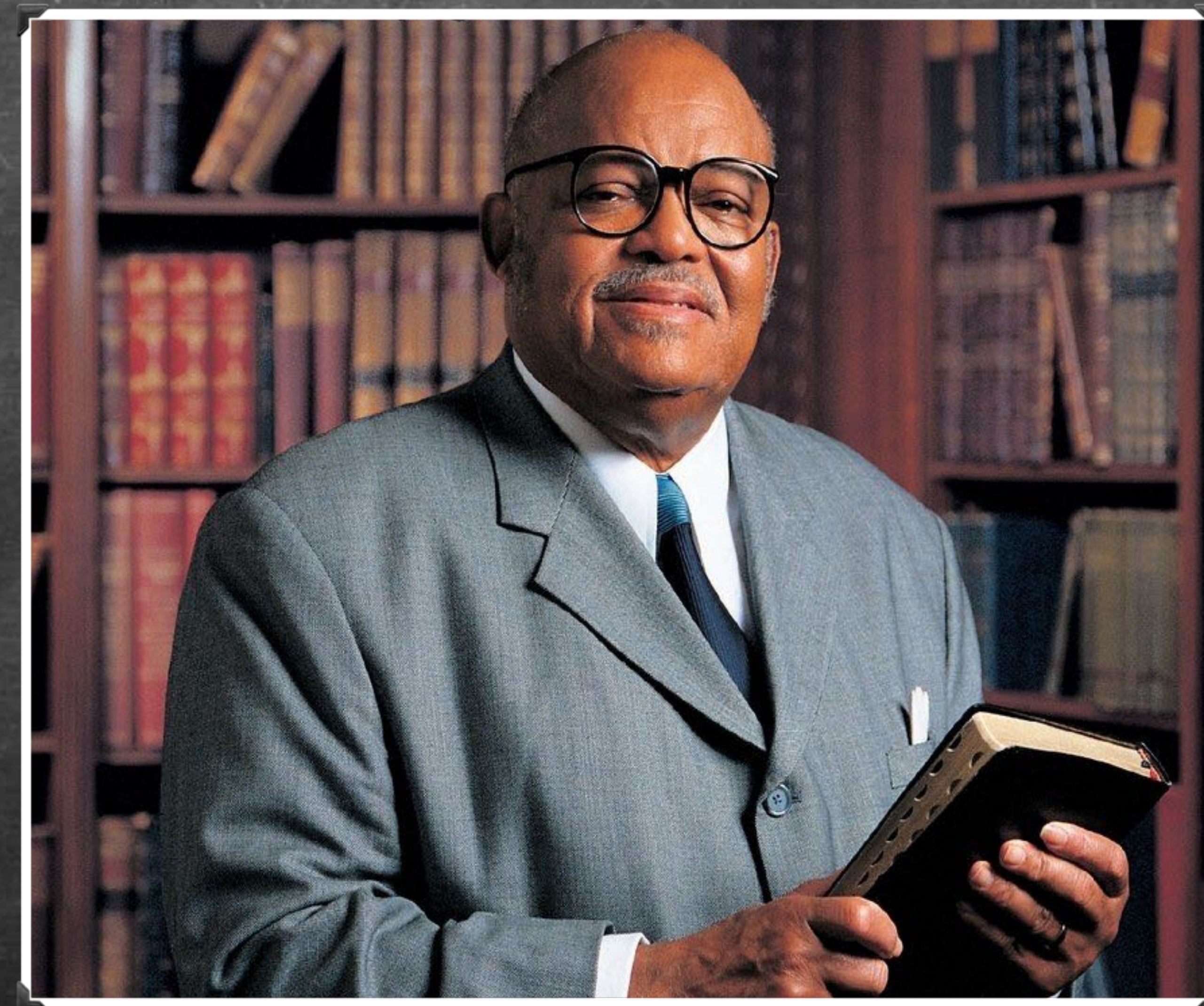
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I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he **bears much fruit**, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

-John 15:4-5

“When God blesses you, he rarely has you in mind.”

-E.V. Hill



Meo-Christianity

it's all about me

True Christianity

it's all about Him...

and what He wants to do through me

this may be shocking:

your **salvation** is not God's endgame

...nor is **abiding** in Christ



the ultimate plan,
the endgame...
the **fruitfulness** of God's creation

but only in the context
of **relationships**

created, equipped, empowered
and set free to **flourish**,
bringing forth **fruit**,
and that fruit brings glory to God

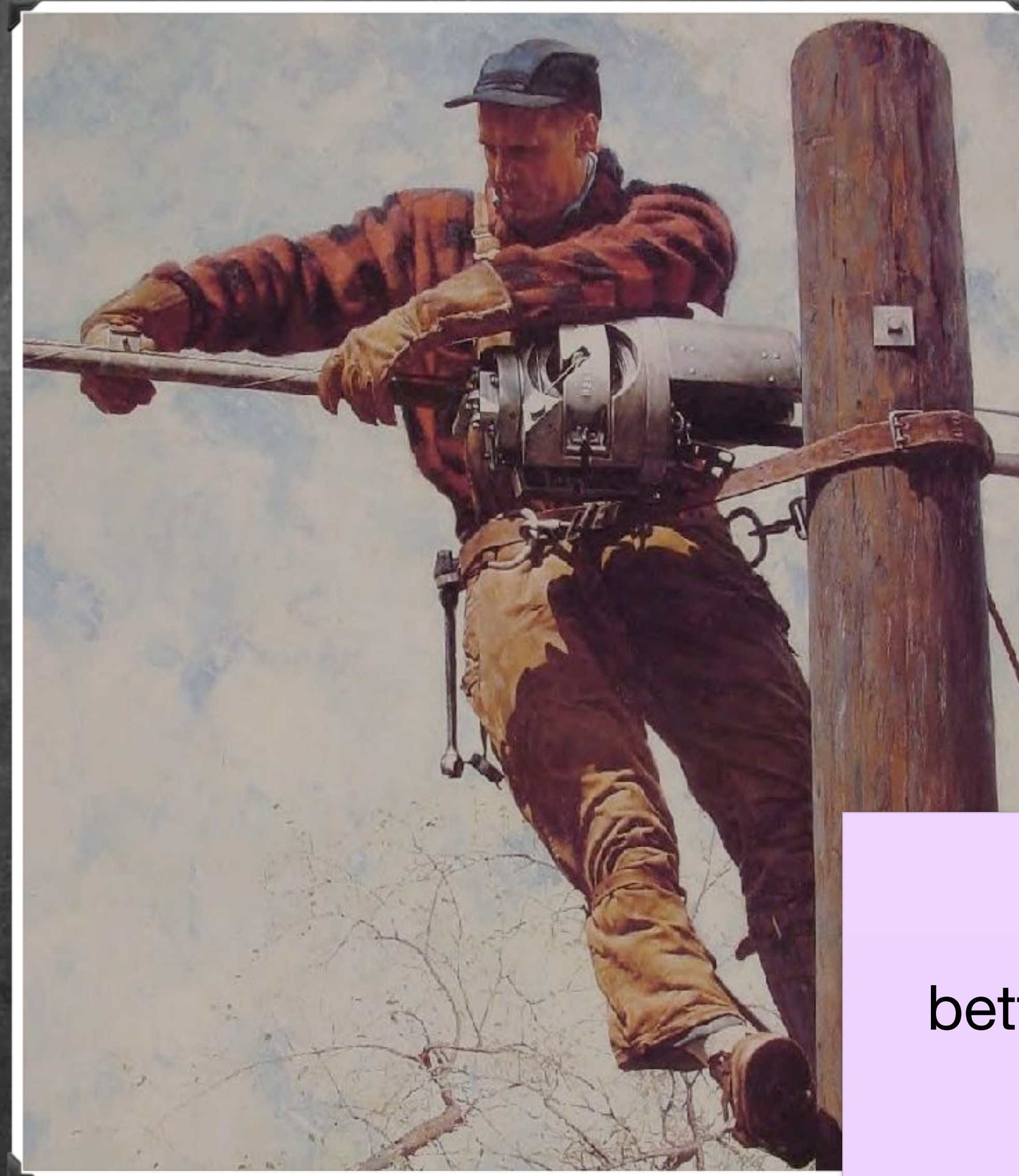
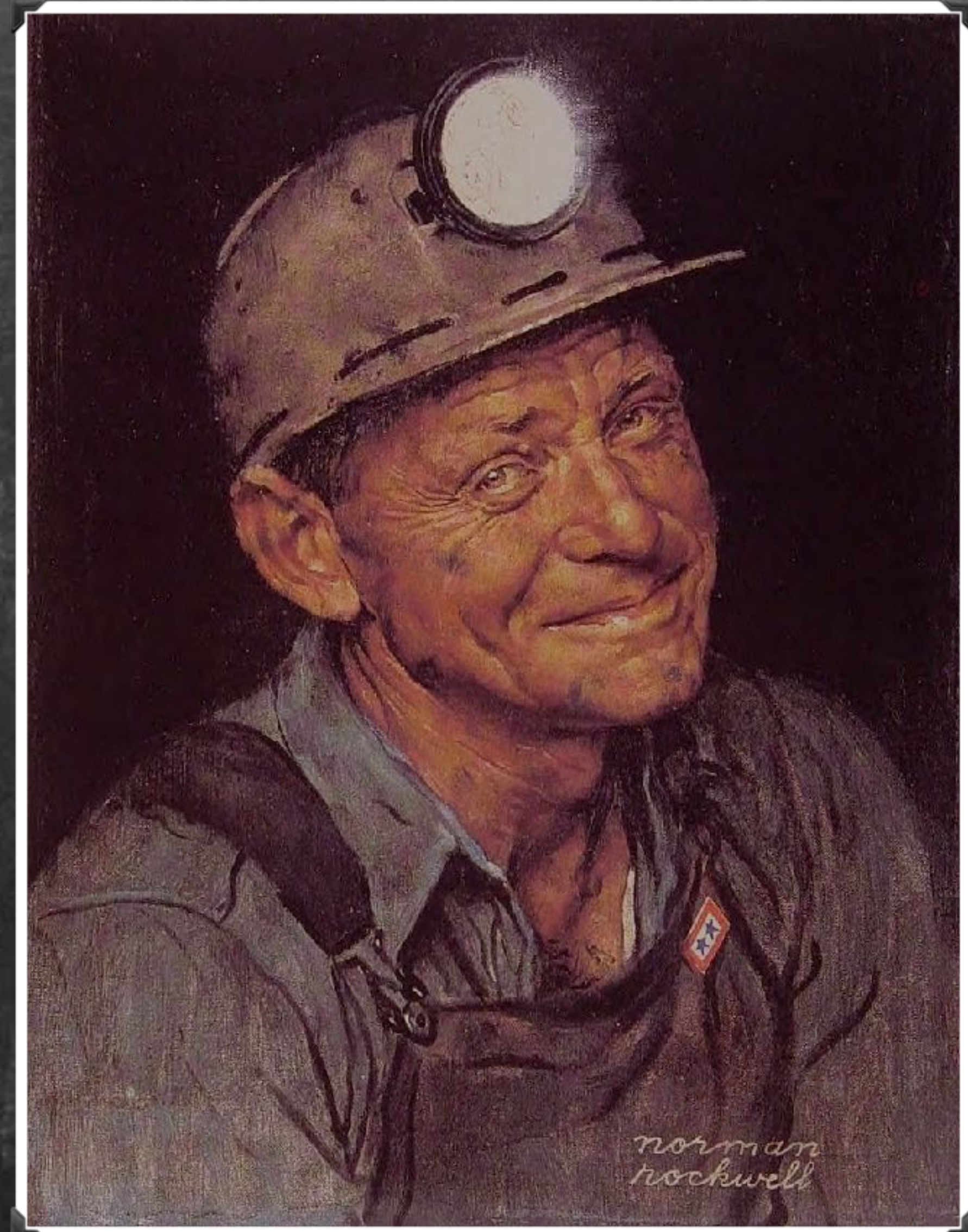
How are we to flourish?

Physically

Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth.

-Genesis 1:28





Vocationally

You will eat the fruit of your labor, blessings and prosperity will be yours.

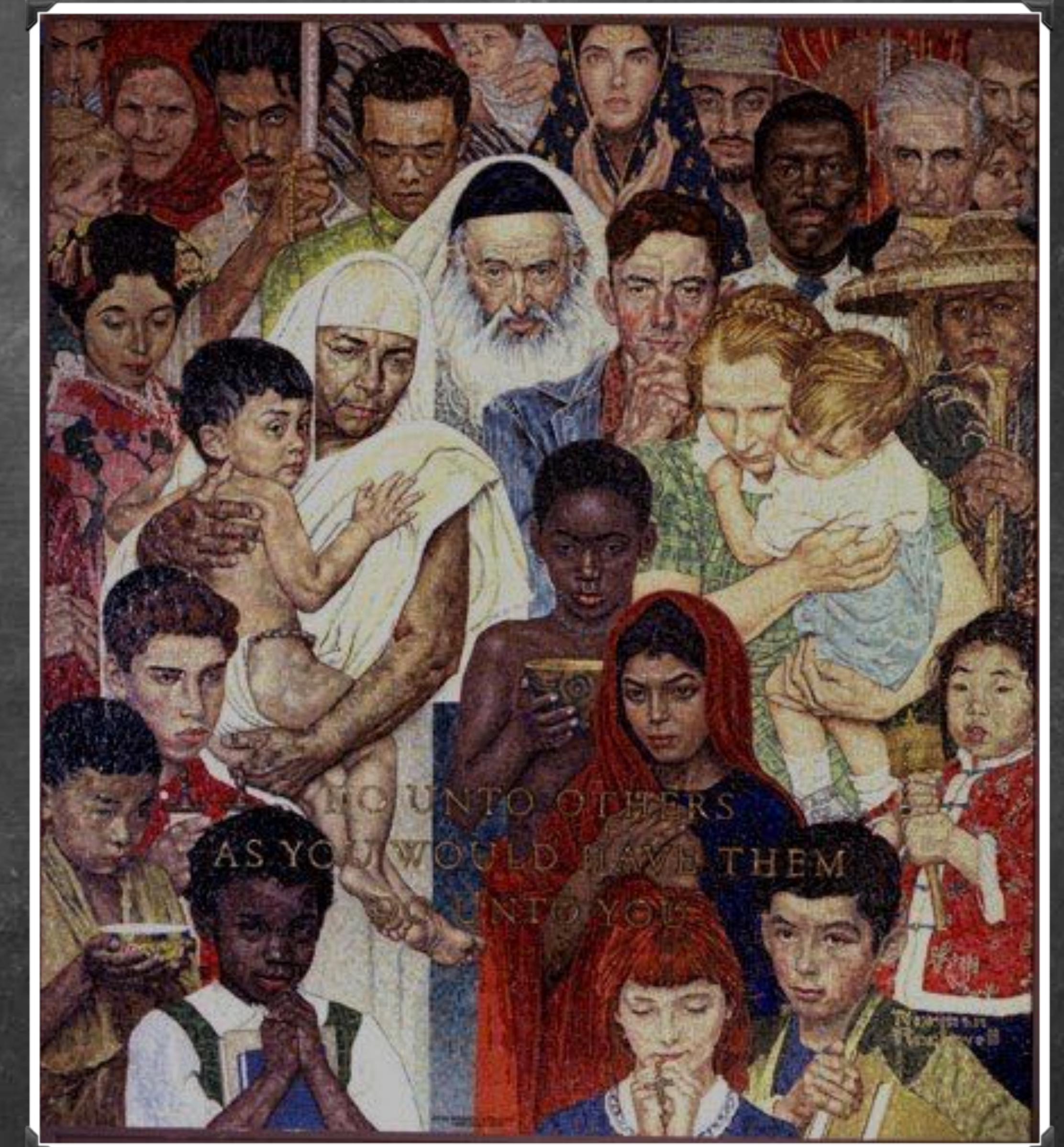
-Psalm 128:2

better verse here, from Matthew???

Ministerially

Others, like the seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and **produce** a crop - some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.

-Mark 4:20



Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

-Matthew 21:18-19



God didn't make us just to look good
or to feel good



Is God serious?

the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30

He **creates** us, **equips** us, **empowers** us

and then **sends** us to

bear fruit, and to bring Him **Glory**

yes, He is serious

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yes, He is serious

the owner, the gardener, and a barren fig tree:

give one year, then cut it down

we are not saying that works save us:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

-Ephesians 2:8-9

but the passage continues:

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ
Jesus for good works, which God prepared
beforehand, that we should walk in them.

-Ephesians 2:10

we are going to say something really radical

- ♦ Truth is critical
- ♦ Jesus is the Truth
- ♦ all Truth emanates from His very nature

but...

Truth is not God's endgame

Truth is not God's endgame

Why is the Dead Sea dead?

living water flows in, but never flows out

God isn't interested in us just looking good

We are **cultivators of life!**



What blocks
the flow of living water?

skepticism

selfishness

significance



I am **not** the endgame!

I am **not** the endgame!

we are created to be **fruitful** -Genesis 1:28

we are equipped to be **fruitful** -Matthew 25:14-30

we are chosen to be **fruitful** -John 15:16

we are appointed to be **fruitful** -John 15:16

we are indwelt by God to be **fruitful** -Galatians 5:22-23

we are sown with the Word to be **fruitful** -Mark 4:20; Luke 14,15

we glorify God by being **fruitful** -John 15:8

the Father prunes us to **be more fruitful** -John 15:2

Maybe God desires **fruit**

Paul's prayer for the Colossians

...that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing **fruit** in every good work...

-Colossians 1:10

But what about our “relationship” with Christ... isn't that God's endgame?

our “relationship” with Christ is huge and cannot be overstated

... but, that isn't the “endgame”

an “endgame” statement:

Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might **bear fruit for God**.

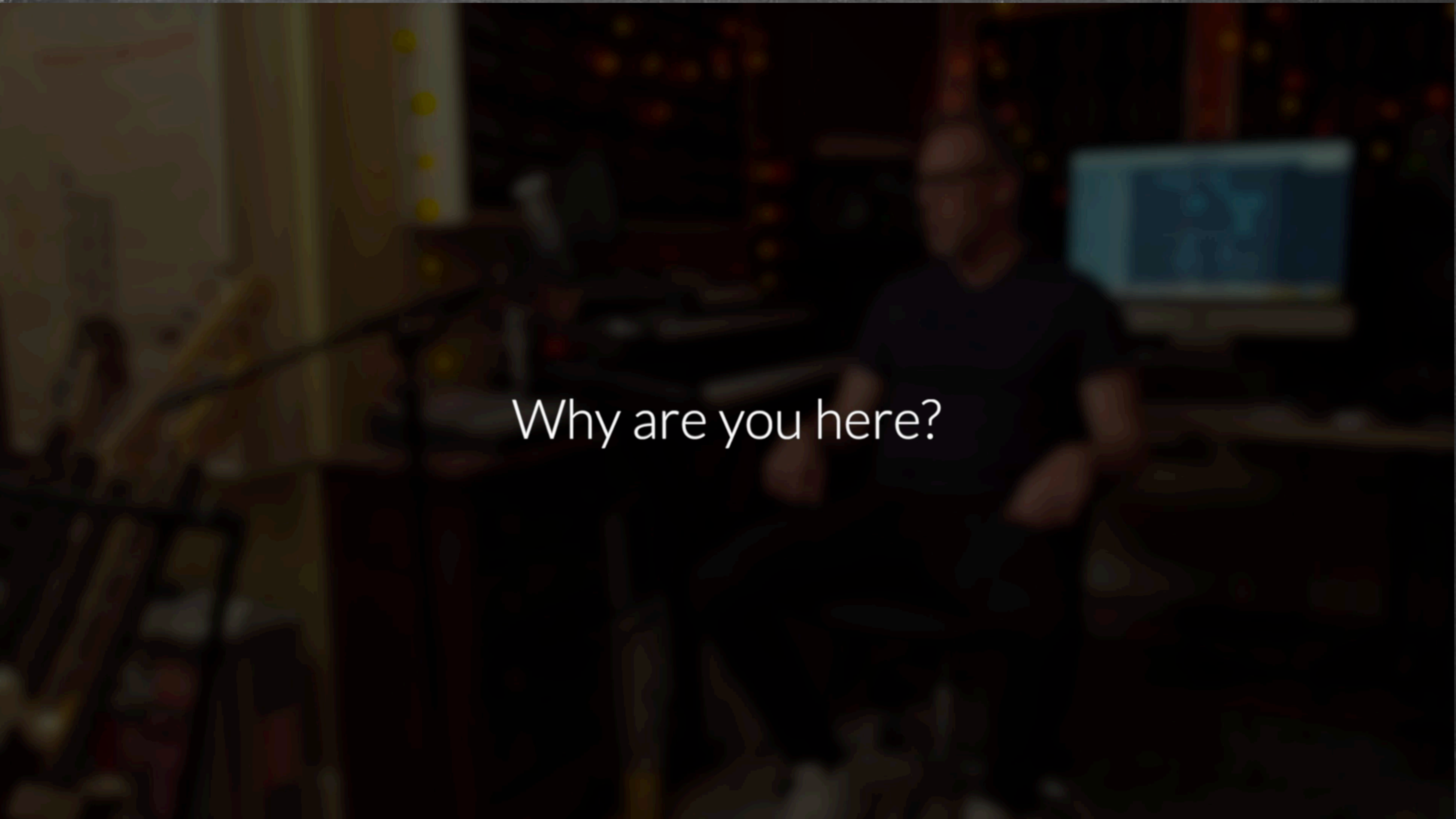
-Romans 7:4

Another haunting statement:
Christianity is **not** all about you.

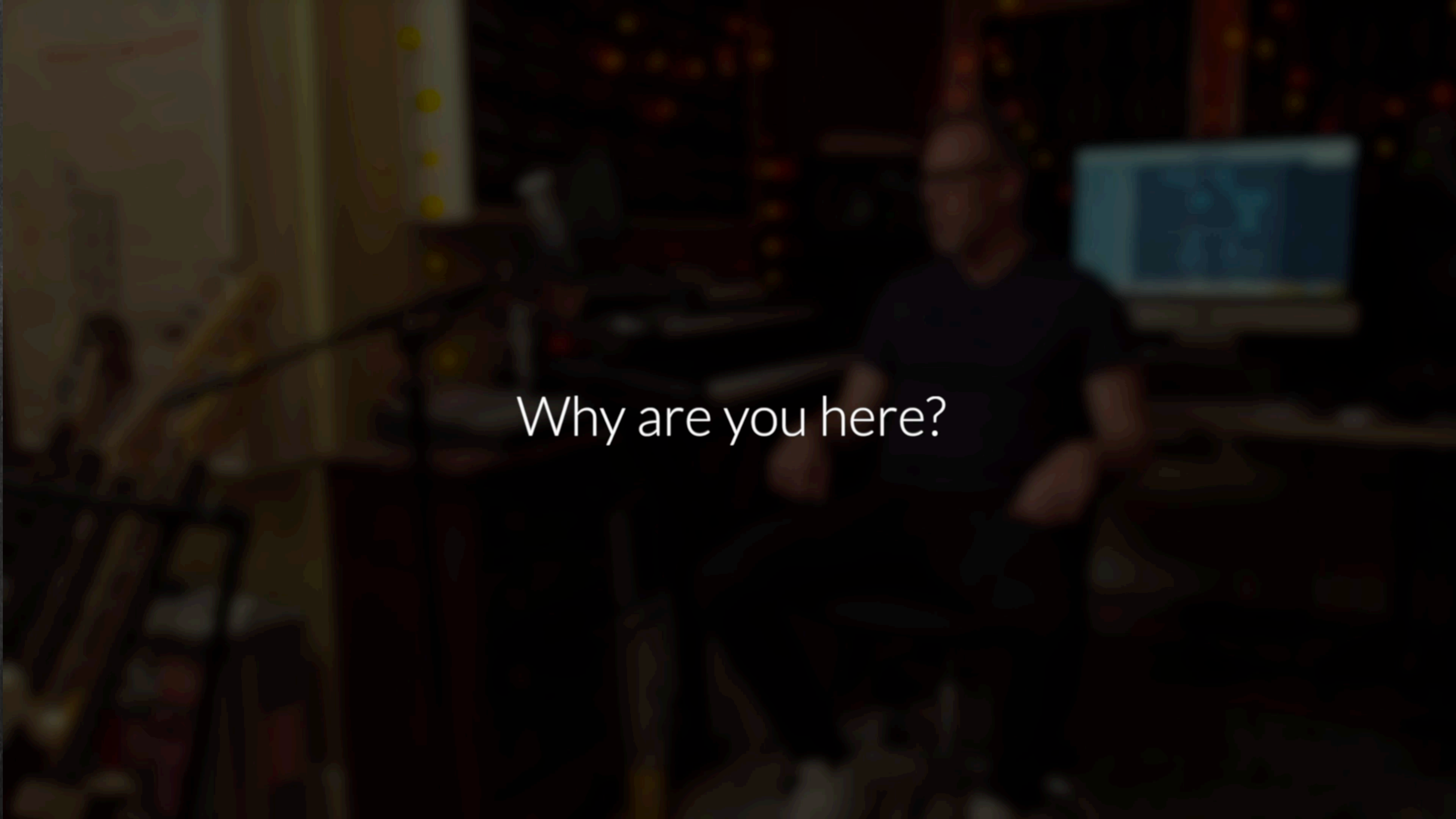
It is all about **Him** and what
He wants to do **through you**

It's not about the lamp,
it's about the light.

And that people and our culture are
increasingly lost

A person is sitting at a desk in a dimly lit room. A computer monitor is visible on the desk. The room has a window with yellow lights and a dark background. The text "Why are you here?" is overlaid on the image.

Why are you here?

A person is sitting at a desk in a dimly lit room. A computer monitor is visible on the desk. The room has a window with yellow lights and a dark background. The text "Why are you here?" is overlaid on the image.

Why are you here?

Why did Jesus leave?

Why does God send?

What is God's endgame?

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

-John 14:12

Why did Jesus leave?

After He leaves, we will do **greater works**

What would happen to our works if
Jesus were still here?



Empowering of the Holy Spirit

Empowering of the Holy Spirit