

GLORY

1. A Heart Fit for Heaven



Romans 8:18-25

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope



Romans 8:18-25

that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,



Romans 8:18-25

groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.





Philippians 1:21-22

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.



Our view of the afterlife
will have a profound
impact on how we live
our lives in the present.



Life's short.

Get a divorce.



Revelation 21:2-4

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will



Revelation 21:2-4

be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'



Revelation 21:22-23

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.



Genesis 1:6-10

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.



Genesis 1:6-10

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."





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Romans 8:7-8

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.



Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.



Matthew 1:21

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”



Mark 1:15

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”



John 5:24

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.



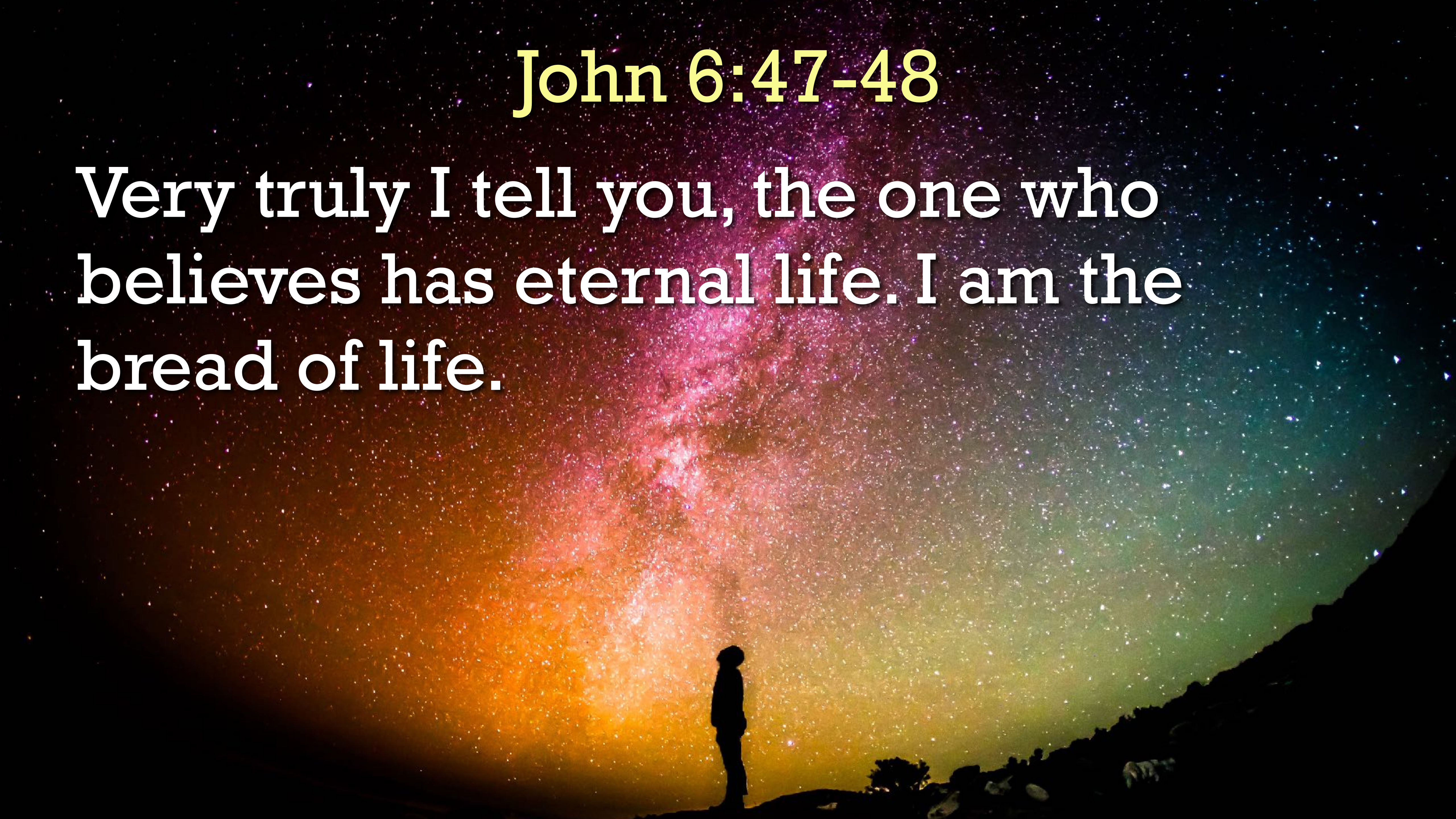
John 6:40

For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.''



John 6:47-48

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.



Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit



John 10:10

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.



Luke 19:8-10

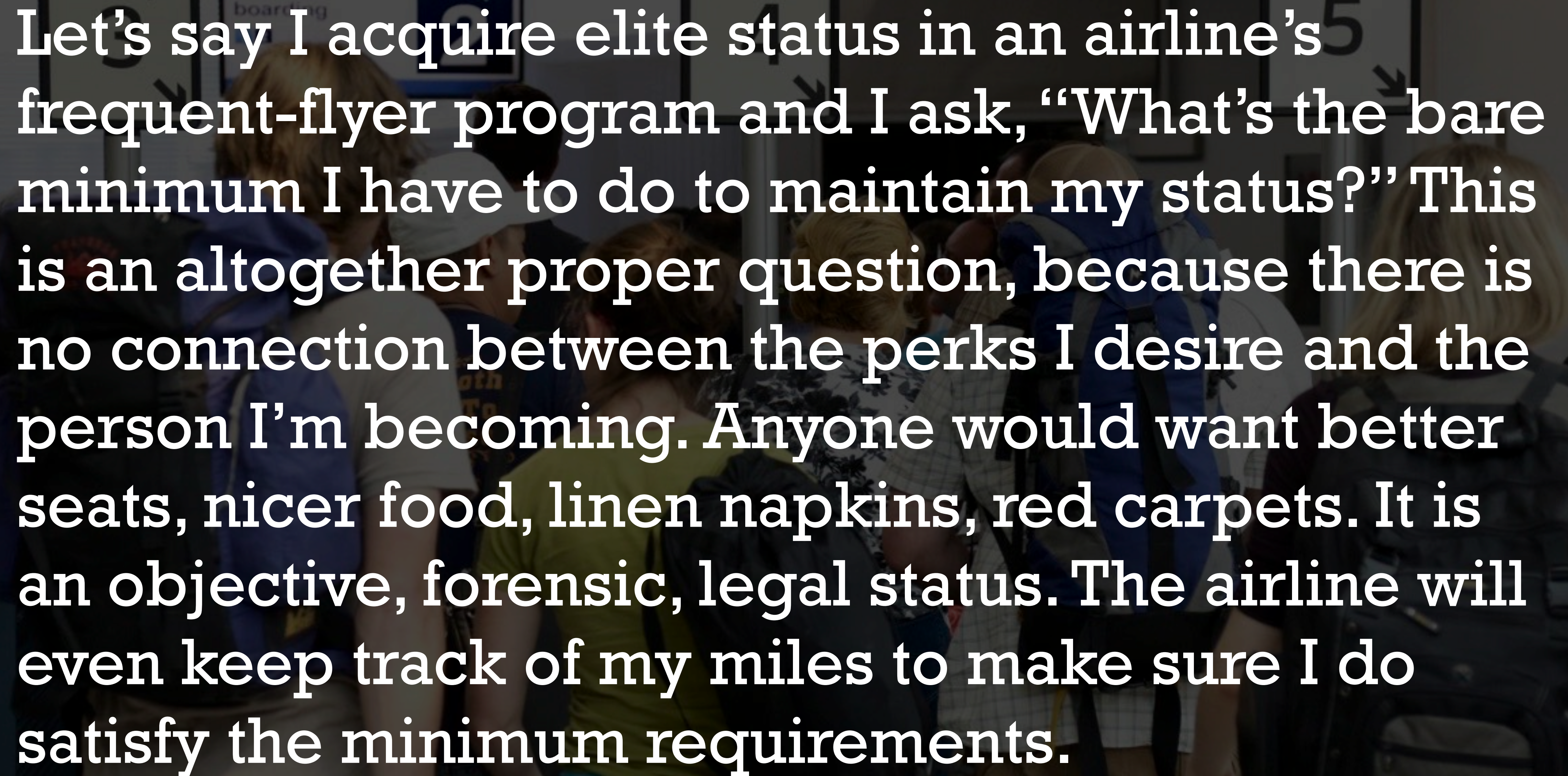
But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”



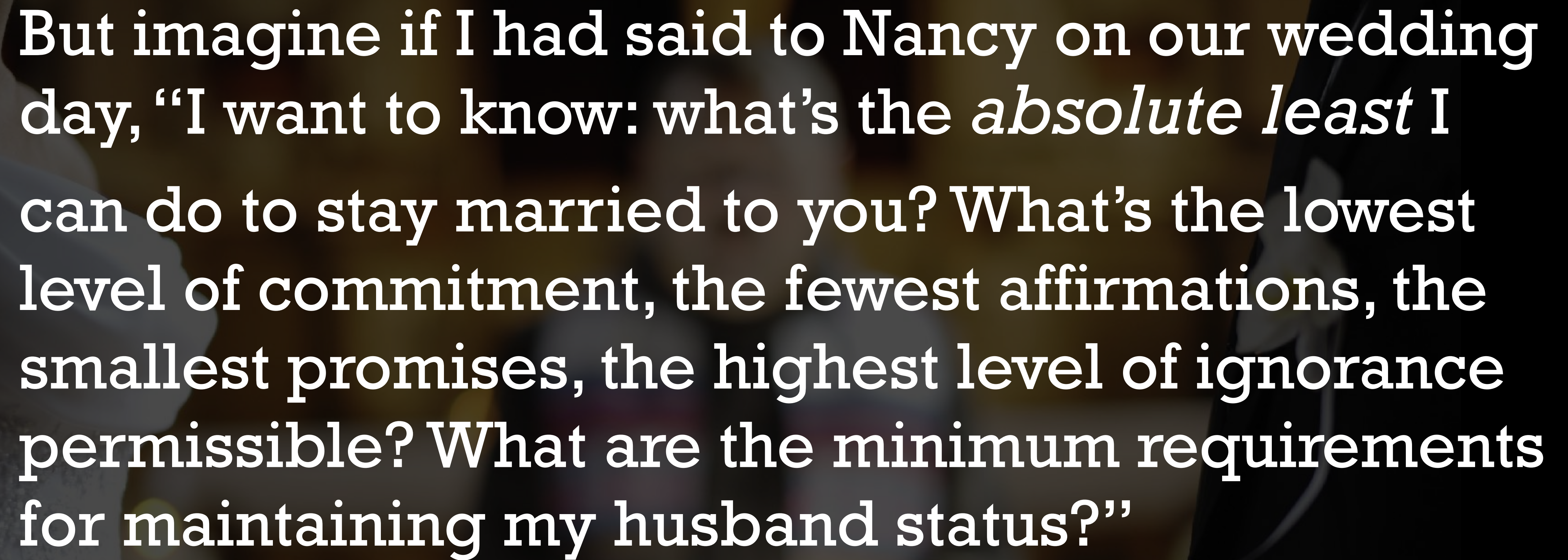
Luke 19:8-10

Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



A background image showing a crowd of people at an airport boarding gate. Several digital signs are visible, displaying "UNITED" and "Group" numbers (3, 4, 5). One sign also says "Premier Access boarding". The people are mostly seen from behind, waiting in line.

Let's say I acquire elite status in an airline's frequent-flyer program and I ask, "What's the bare minimum I have to do to maintain my status?" This is an altogether proper question, because there is no connection between the perks I desire and the person I'm becoming. Anyone would want better seats, nicer food, linen napkins, red carpets. It is an objective, forensic, legal status. The airline will even keep track of my miles to make sure I do satisfy the minimum requirements.

A close-up photograph of a bride and groom holding hands. The bride's hand is on the left, wearing a white lace wedding dress. The groom's hand is on the right, wearing a dark suit jacket and a white shirt cuff. They are holding hands in a firm, supportive grip. The background is softly blurred, showing other people in formal attire, suggesting a wedding ceremony or reception.

But imagine if I had said to Nancy on our wedding day, “I want to know: what’s the *absolute least* I can do to stay married to you? What’s the lowest level of commitment, the fewest affirmations, the smallest promises, the highest level of ignorance permissible? What are the minimum requirements for maintaining my husband status?”

John Ortberg

So becoming the kind of person who *wants* heaven—uninterrupted life with God—is a problem because I often want freedom to do things I don't want God to see. Real heaven means life where my every thought, deed, and word lie ceaselessly open to God. For eternity. ... Our issue with heaven is not so much about getting in;



John Ortberg

it's about becoming the kind of person for whom heaven would be an appropriate and welcome setting. If I don't want the unceasing presence of God in my life now, how could I truly want an eternity in the ceaseless presence of God, where the possibility of any sinful action or thought—no matter how desirable—is forever cut off?







‘Oh, of course. I’m wrong.
Everything I say or do is wrong,
according to you.’

‘But of course!’ said the Spirit,
shining with love and mirth so that
my eyes were dazzled. ‘That’s what
we all find when we reach this
country. We’ve all been wrong!
That’s the great joke. There’s no
need to go on pretending one was
right! After that we begin living.’



‘How dare you laugh about it? Give me my boy. Do you hear? I don’t care about all your rules and regulations. I don’t believe in a God who keeps mother and son apart. I believe in a God of love. No one had a right to come between me and my son. Not even God. Tell Him that to His face. I want my boy, and I mean to have him. He is mine, do you understand? Mine, mine, mine, for ever and ever.’



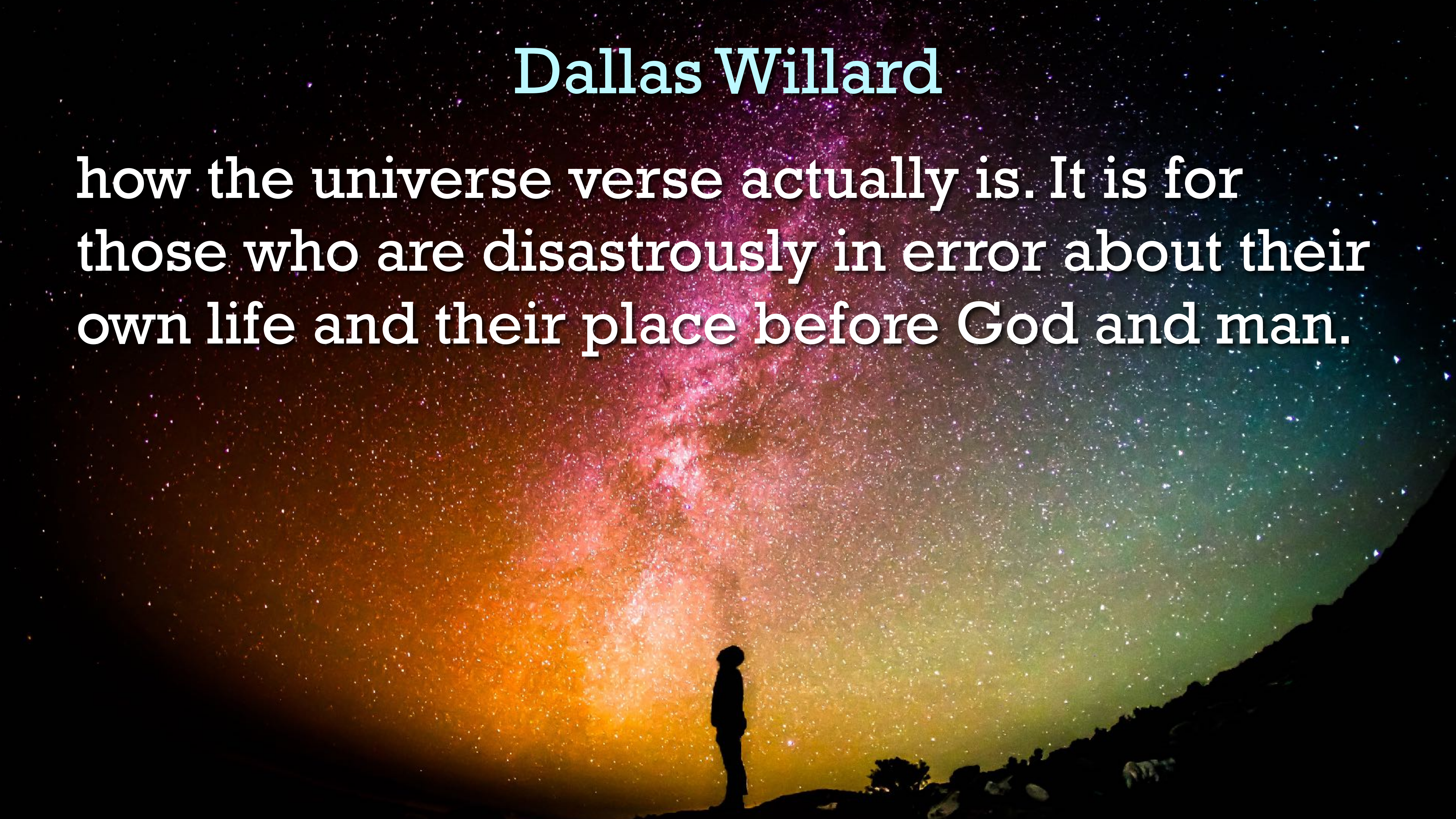
Dallas Willard

Hell is not an “oops!” or a slip. One does not miss heaven by a hair, but *by constant effort to avoid and escape God*. “Outer darkness” is for one who, everything said, wants it, whose entire orientation has slowly and firmly set itself against God and therefore against



Dallas Willard

how the universe verse actually is. It is for those who are disastrously in error about their own life and their place before God and man.







Gary
Black, Jr

Death was never part of God's overarching plan for humanity. And when it shows its bony face, death's finality and mystery can sneak up on us in unsuspecting and terrifying ways.

But not for Dallas. Mixed with the tears of loss, there was an unmistakable gleam of anticipation in his eyes as well. I can only describe it as a childlike excitement, and despite the pain and weakness of the disease, and the



Gary
Black, Jr

temporary loss of connection to his loved ones, his expectant joy was unquenchable. He knew he was shortly to experience what he had long dreamed of and hoped for. He was soon to come face-to-face with his dearly beloved Lord and friend, Jesus. That reality carried with it a power that was sustaining us both, allowing us to rise just above all other cares and concerns of this world. I learned that day, like never before, how highly contagious



Gary
Black, Jr

knowledge and faith can be, as can be the joy and peace they produce.

Even though I knew, perhaps even expected, this joy to be a natural product of Dallas's intimate relationship with Christ, it was an immeasurable gift to witness firsthand the effects of his trusting faith in action. I watched him stand at the precipice of the greatest of unknowns, what some call the void, where knowledge fades and we are



Gary
Black, Jr

susceptible to the dread of a cold, empty, dark, and solitary nothingness. . . . But his vast experience of God's goodness, attained throughout the many years he walked with Jesus, dug a reservoir of truth that swallowed such fears, engulfed them, and transcended them, while never needing to deny their presence or potential. His knowledge of God's loving care produced a joy strong enough to cast dread as far from his heart and mind as the east is from the west.

