



John

3:3-5

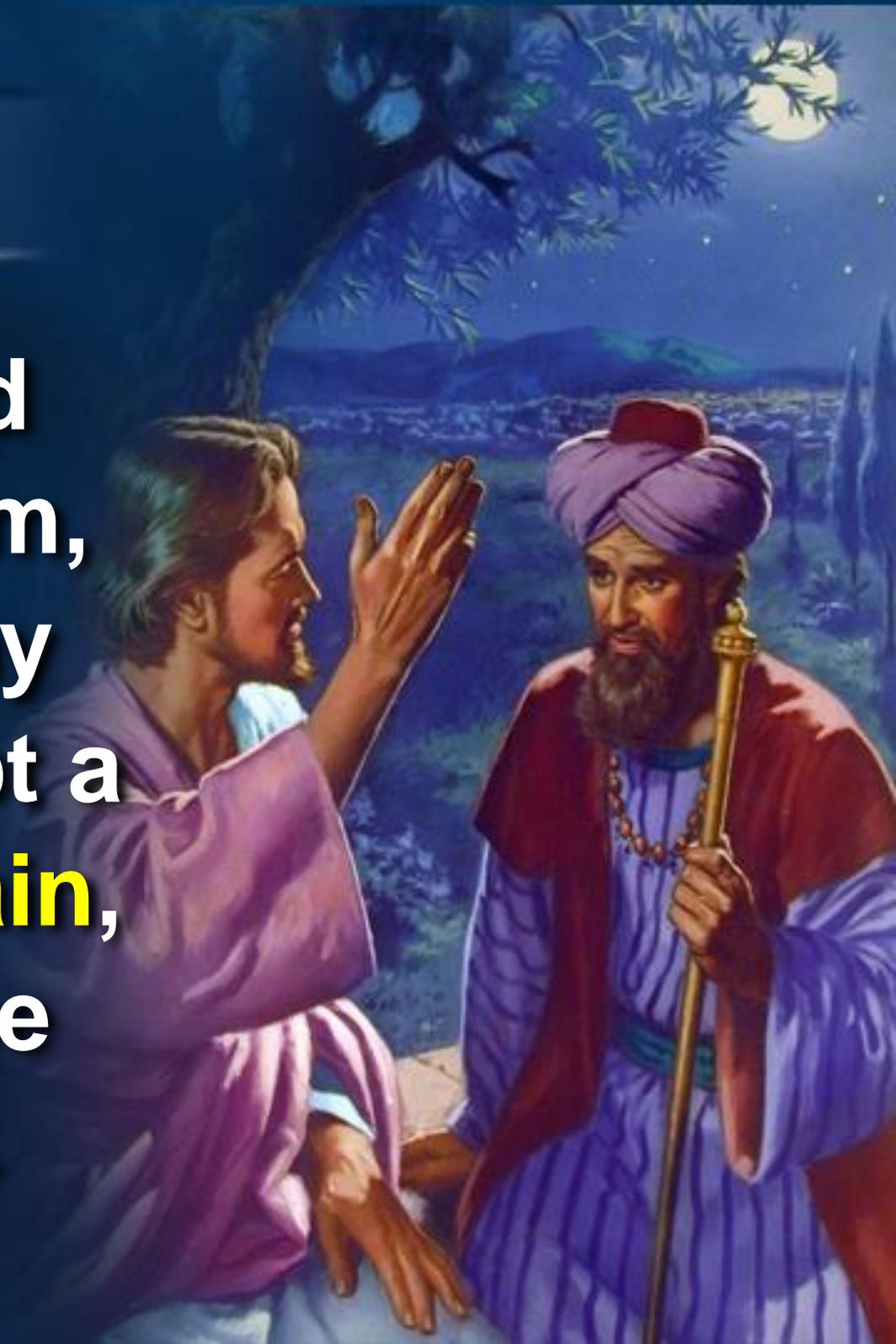
**YOU
MUST BE
BORN
AGAIN**





John 3:3

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.





John 3:4

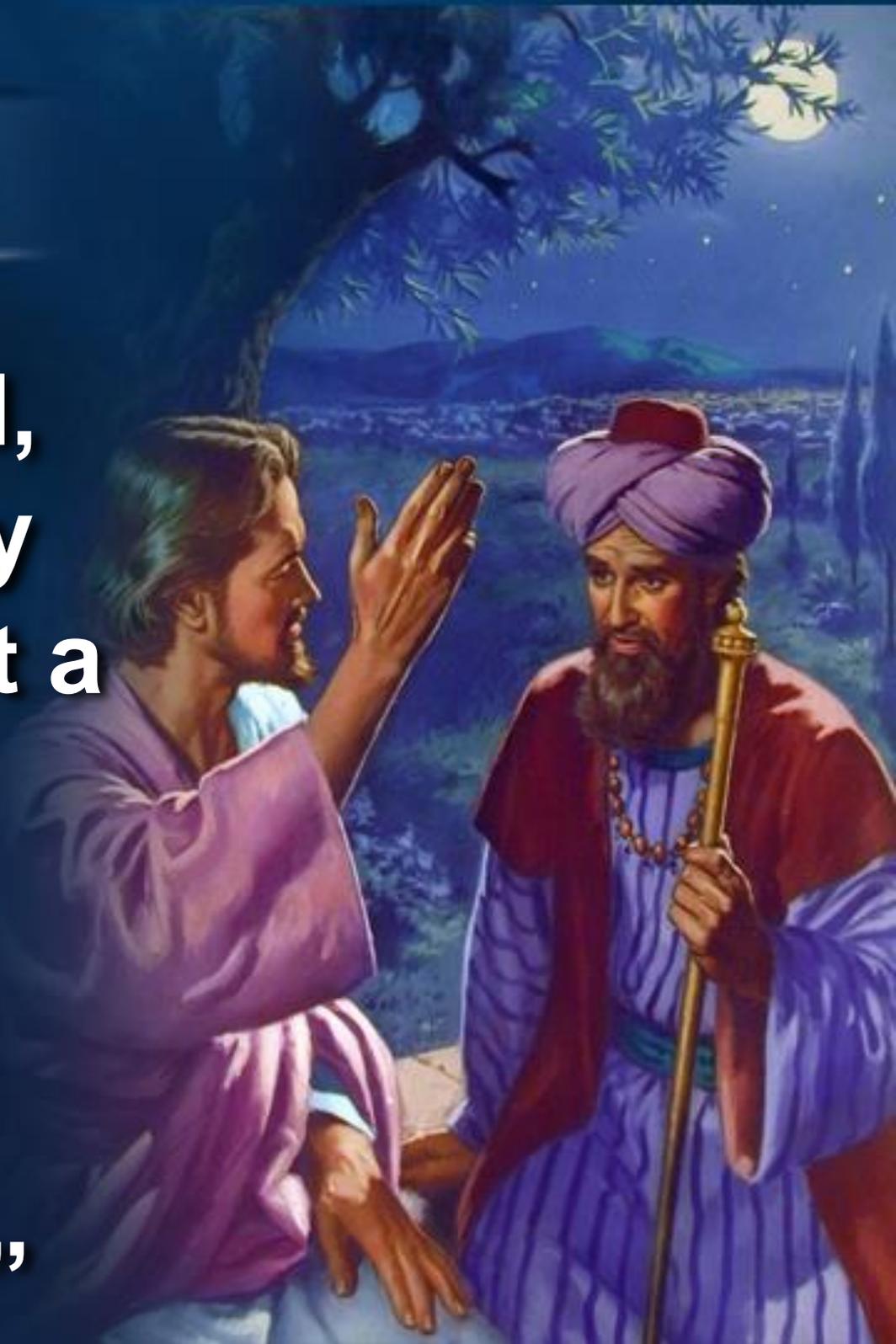
“Nicodemus saith unto him, how can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”





John 3:5

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born of water** and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”





Conversion



John

1:12

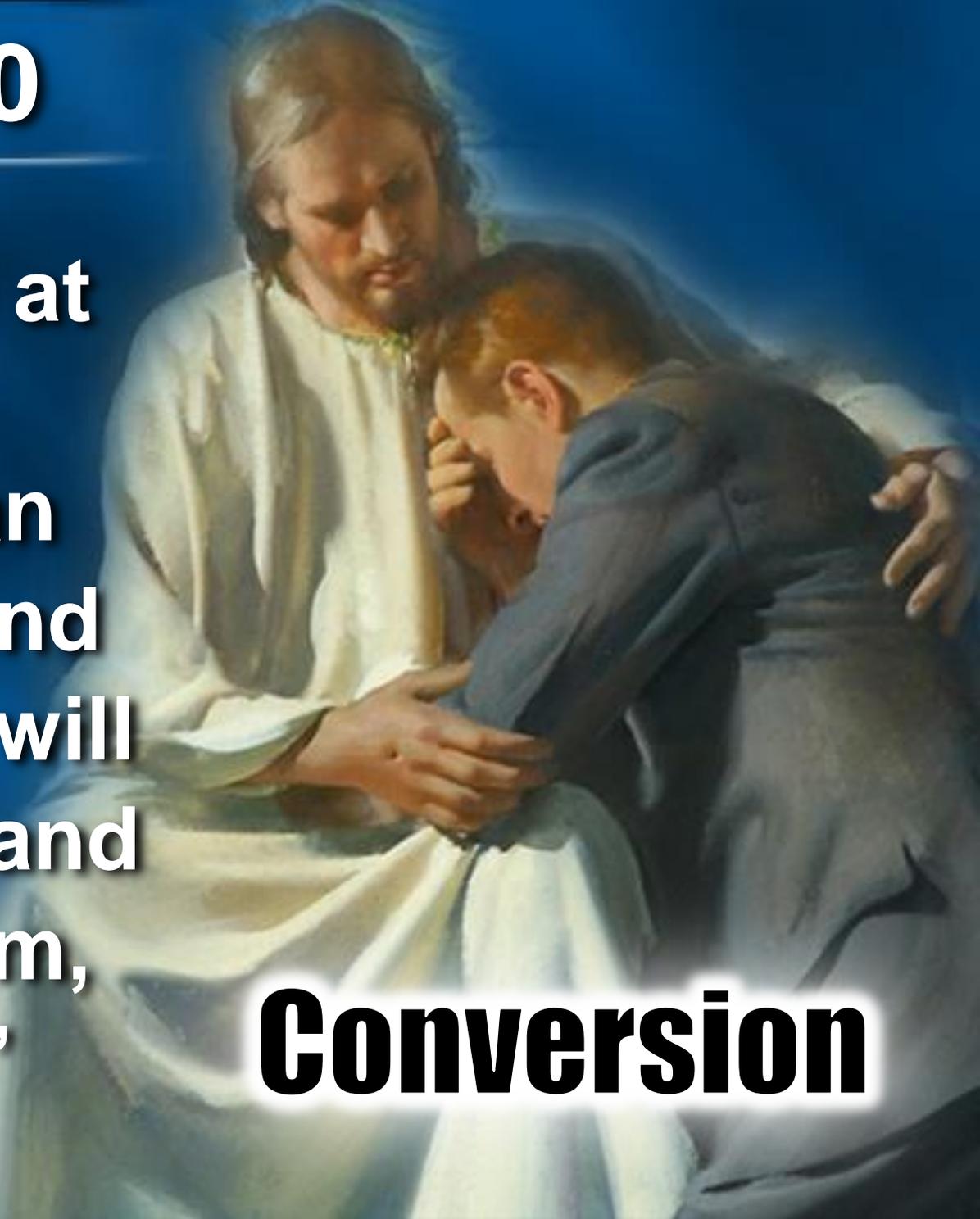
**“As many as received Him
[Jesus Christ], to them He gave
power...”**



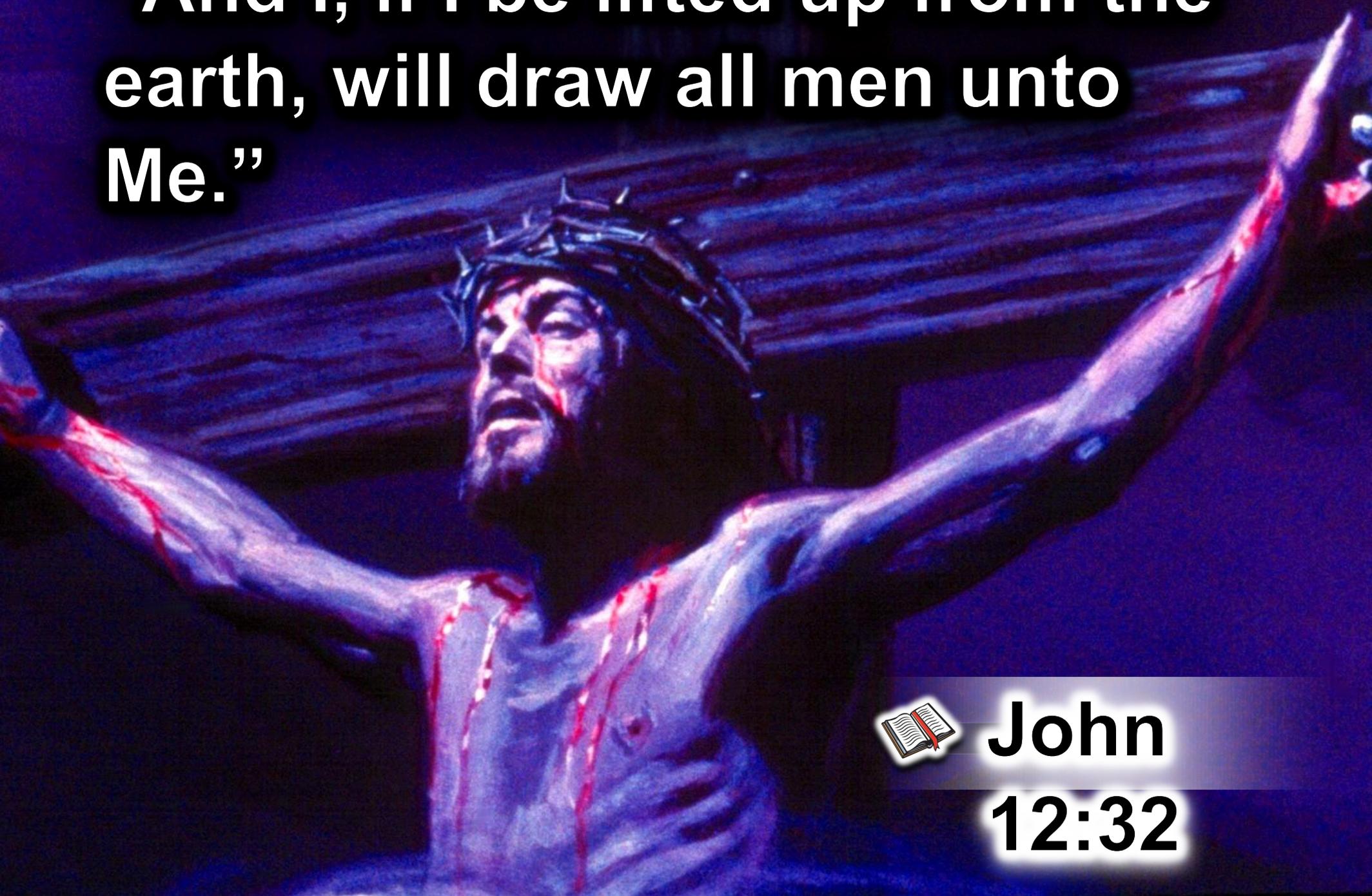
Rev. 3:20

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and **open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.”

Conversion



“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.”



John

12:32



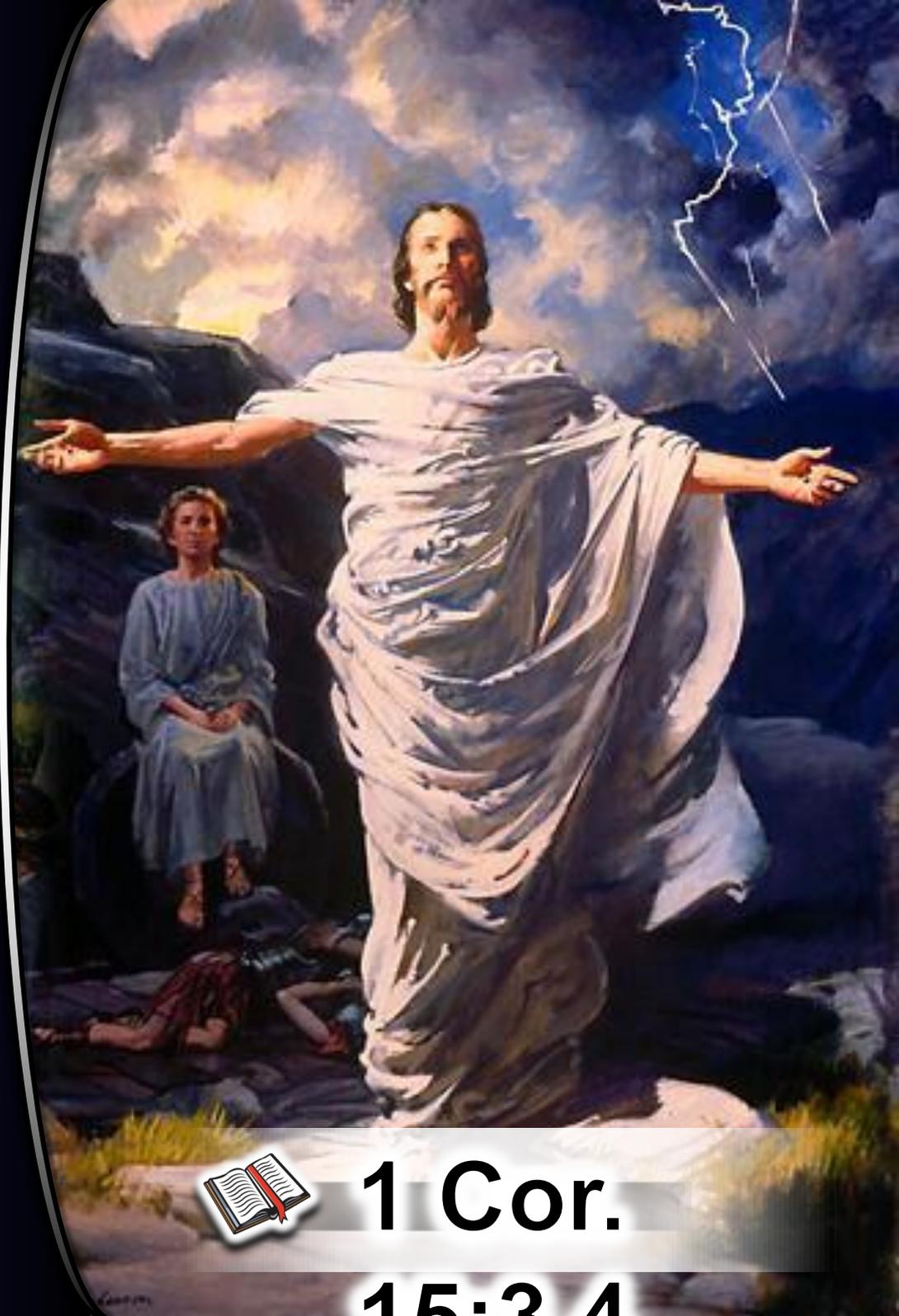
“For I delivered
unto you first of
all that which I
also received,
how that **Christ**
① **died for our**
sins according
to the
scriptures;



1 Cor.

15:3-4

“And that He
was^② **buried**,
and that He
^③ **rose again**
the third day
according to
the
scriptures.”



1 Cor.

15:3-4

Who dies?



Rom.

6:6, 7



Rom.

6:6,7

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

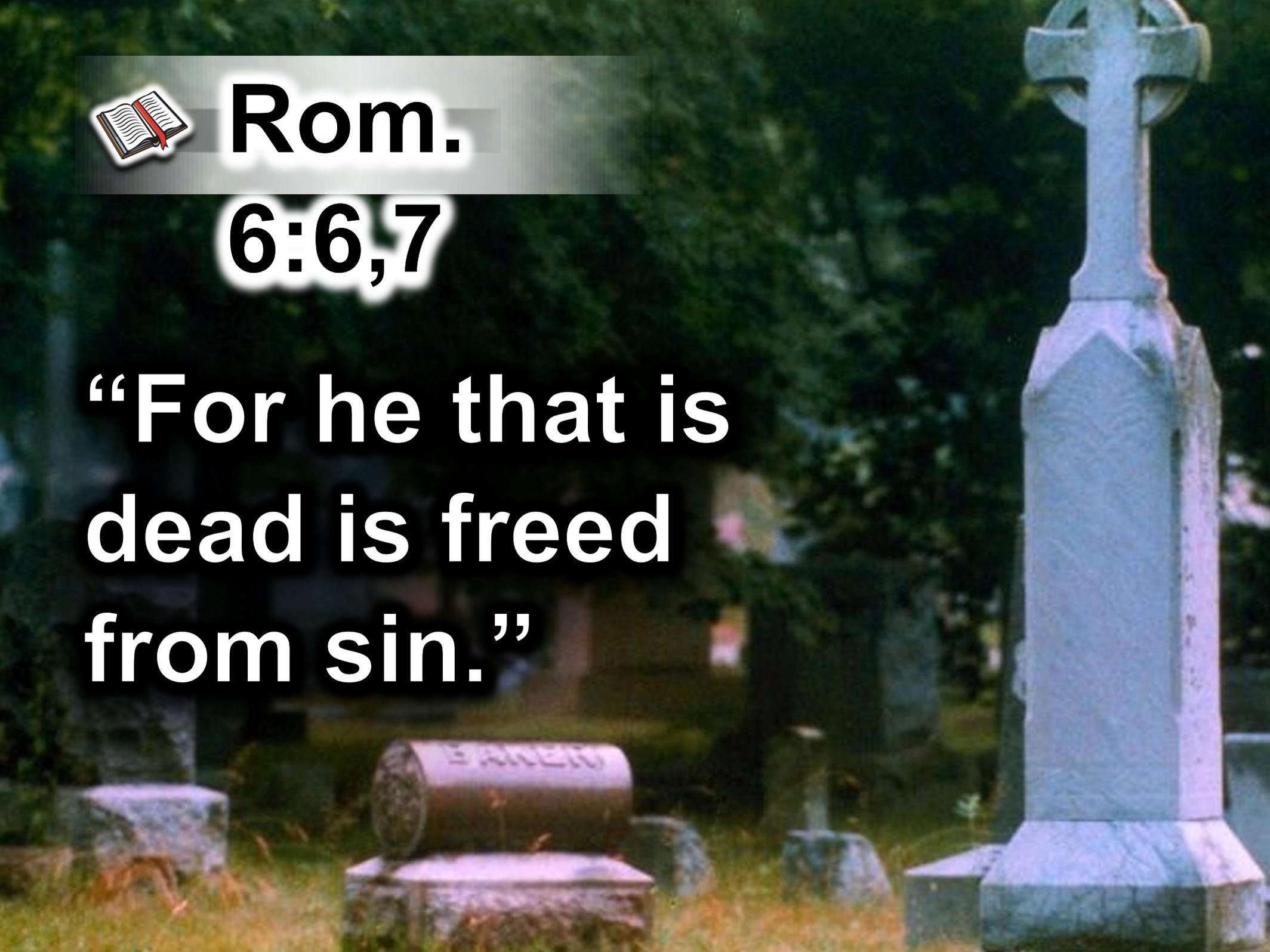


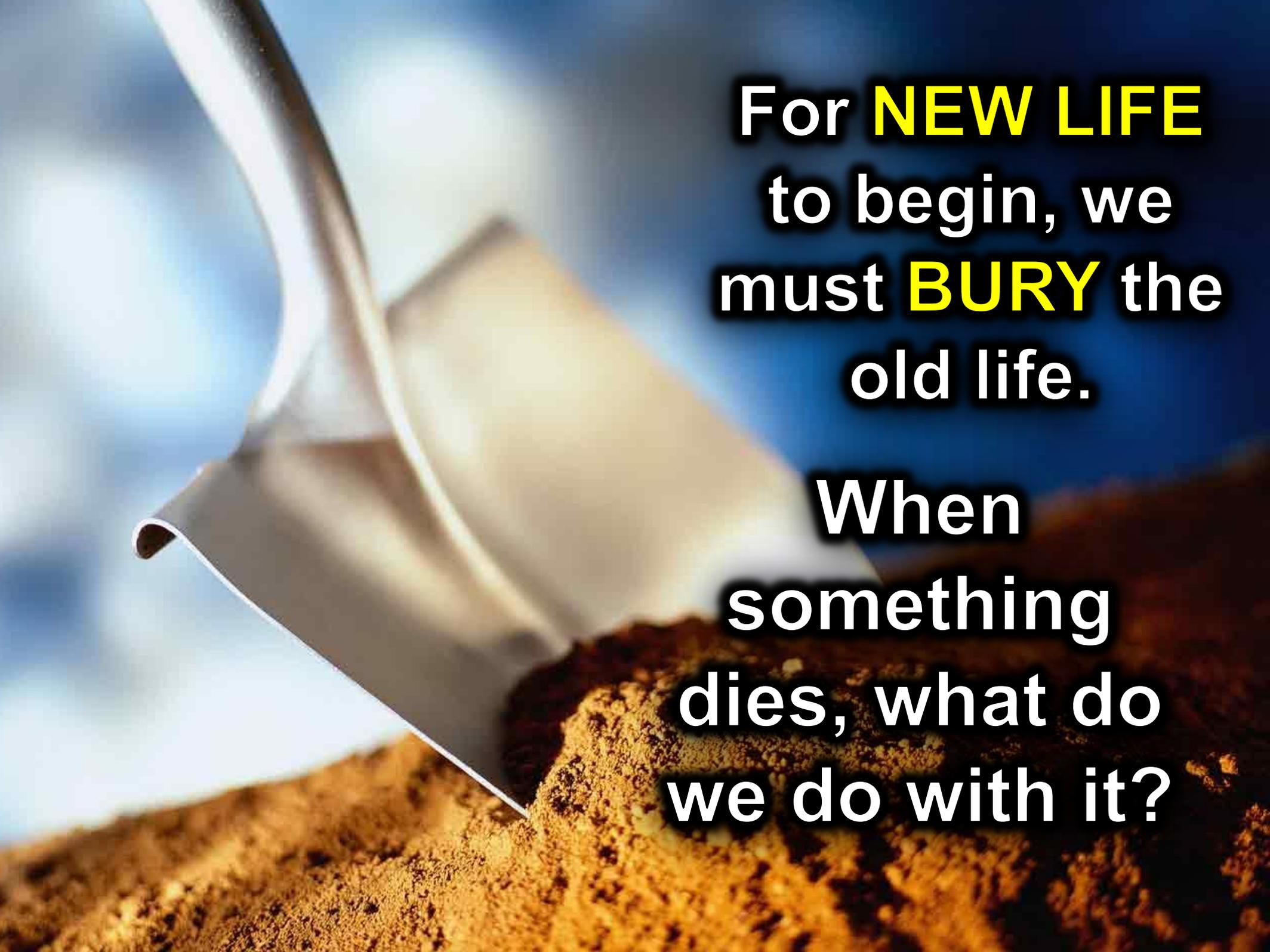


Rom.

6:6,7

**“For he that is
dead is freed
from sin.”**



A close-up photograph of a silver shovel digging into a mound of rich, brown soil. The shovel is positioned diagonally, with its blade partially buried in the earth. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the soil and the metallic sheen of the shovel.

For **NEW LIFE**
to begin, we
must **BURY** the
old life.

When
something
dies, what do
we do with it?



The Biblical Method of Baptism

Baptism represents:



Death

Burial

Spiritual
Funeral

New Life!

Resurrection!

Spiritual
Birthday!

STEPS TO PREPARE FOR BAPTISM:

1. Believe - accepting Jesus as our personal Savior & Lord



Acts

8:37

“And Philip said, **If thou believest** with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I **believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

STEPS TO PREPARE FOR BAPTISM:

1. Believe - accepting Jesus as our personal Savior & Lord

 Acts

8:37

2. Repent - sorrow for sin & turning from sin

 Acts

2:38

“Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you...”

STEPS TO PREPARE FOR BAPTISM:

1. Believe - accepting Jesus as our personal Savior & Lord



Acts

8:37

2. Repent - sorrow for sin & turning from sin



Acts

2:38

3. Obey - the commandments of Jesus (keep the commandments)



Mt.

28:19,20

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Acts

2:38

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Matt.

28:19,20

Preparing Young People for Baptism.--Candidates who have grown to manhood and womanhood should understand their duty better than do the younger ones; but the pastor of the church has a duty to do for these souls. Have they wrong habits and practices? It is the duty of the pastor to have special meetings with them. Give them Bible readings, converse and pray with them, and plainly show the claims of the Lord upon them. Read to them the teaching of the Bible in regard to conversion. Show what is the fruit of conversion, the evidence that they love God. Show that true conversion is a change of heart, of thoughts and purposes. Evil habits are to be given up. The sins of evil-speaking, of jealousy, of disobedience, are to be put away. A warfare must be waged against every evil trait of character. Then the believing one can understandingly take to himself the promise, "Ask, and it shall be given you." Matthew 7:7. --Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 95. (1900) {Ev 311.1}

Examination of Candidates.--The test of discipleship is not brought to bear as closely as it should be upon those who present themselves for baptism. It should be understood whether they are simply taking the name of Seventh-day Adventists, or whether they are taking their stand on the Lord's side, to come out from the world and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing. Before baptism, there should be a thorough inquiry as to the experience of the candidates. Let this inquiry be made, not in a cold and distant way, but kindly, tenderly, pointing the new converts to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Bring the requirements of the gospel to bear upon the candidates for baptism. {Ev 311.2}

One of the points upon which those newly come to the faith will need instruction is the subject of dress. Let the new converts be faithfully dealt with. Are they vain in dress? Do they cherish pride of heart? The idolatry of dress is a moral disease. It must not be taken over into the new life. In most cases, submission to the gospel requirements will demand a decided change in the dress. {Ev 312.1}

There should be no carelessness in dress. For Christ's sake, whose witnesses we are, we should seek to make the best of our appearance. In the tabernacle service, God specified every detail concerning the garments of those who ministered before Him. Thus we are taught that He has a preference in regard to the dress of those who serve Him. Very specific were the directions given in regard to Aaron's robes, for his dress was symbolic. So the dress of Christ's followers should be symbolic. In all things we are to be representatives of Him. Our appearance in every respect should be characterized by neatness, modesty, and purity. But the Word of God gives no sanction to the making of changes in apparel merely for the sake of fashion,--that we may appear like the world. Christians are not to decorate the person with costly array or expensive ornaments. {Ev 312.2}

The words of Scripture in regard to dress should be carefully considered. We need to understand that which the Lord of heaven appreciates in even the dressing of the body. All who are in earnest in seeking for the grace of Christ will heed the precious words of instruction inspired by God. Even the style of the apparel will express the truth of the gospel. {Ev 312.3}

All who study the life of Christ and practice His teachings will become like Christ. Their influence will be like His. They will reveal soundness of character. As they walk in the humble path of obedience, doing the will of God, they exert an influence that tells for the advancement of the cause of God and the healthful purity of His work. In these thoroughly converted souls the world is to have a witness to the sanctifying power of truth upon the human character. {Ev 313.1}

The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, expressed in character, is an exaltation above everything that is esteemed in earth or in heaven. It is the very highest education. It is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city. This knowledge it is God's purpose that all who put on Christ by baptism shall possess. And it is the duty of God's servants to set before these souls the privilege of their high calling in Christ Jesus.-- Testimonies, vol. 6, pp. 95-97. (1900) {Ev 313.2}

Judge by the Fruit of the Life.--There is one thing that we have no right to do, and that is to judge another man's heart or impugn his motives. But when a person presents himself as a candidate for church membership, we are to examine the fruit of his life, and leave the responsibility of his motive with himself. But great care should be exercised in accepting members into the church; for Satan has his specious devices through which he purposes to crowd false brethren into the church, through whom he can work more successfully to weaken the cause of God.--Review and Herald, Jan. 10, 1893. {Ev 313.3}



“He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”



Mark

16:16

Should I Wait Till I'm Perfect Before Being Baptized?



CONVERSION

A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, layered rock formations, possibly sandstone, with a reddish-brown hue. The ground is sandy and shows some tracks or patterns. In the background, there are rolling sand dunes under a clear, bright blue sky. The overall scene is arid and open.

WHY IS IT THAT PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE FOR
THE BETTER?

WHAT COULD BE THE PROBLEM?

Why is it that even after the most stirring sermons have been preached, people still do not leave their evil habits? They acknowledge the truth intellectually but deny the power thereof. If it is for the first time they hear such a message, they get moved, they feel how far they have gone off the path of life, but let them go home, they console themselves that they are not the only ones guilty. They become bold in transgression and even mock those who preach the truths that once moved them so much.

What could be the problem? Why don't people change and forsake their evil ways even after knowing the saving truth? What could be the problem?

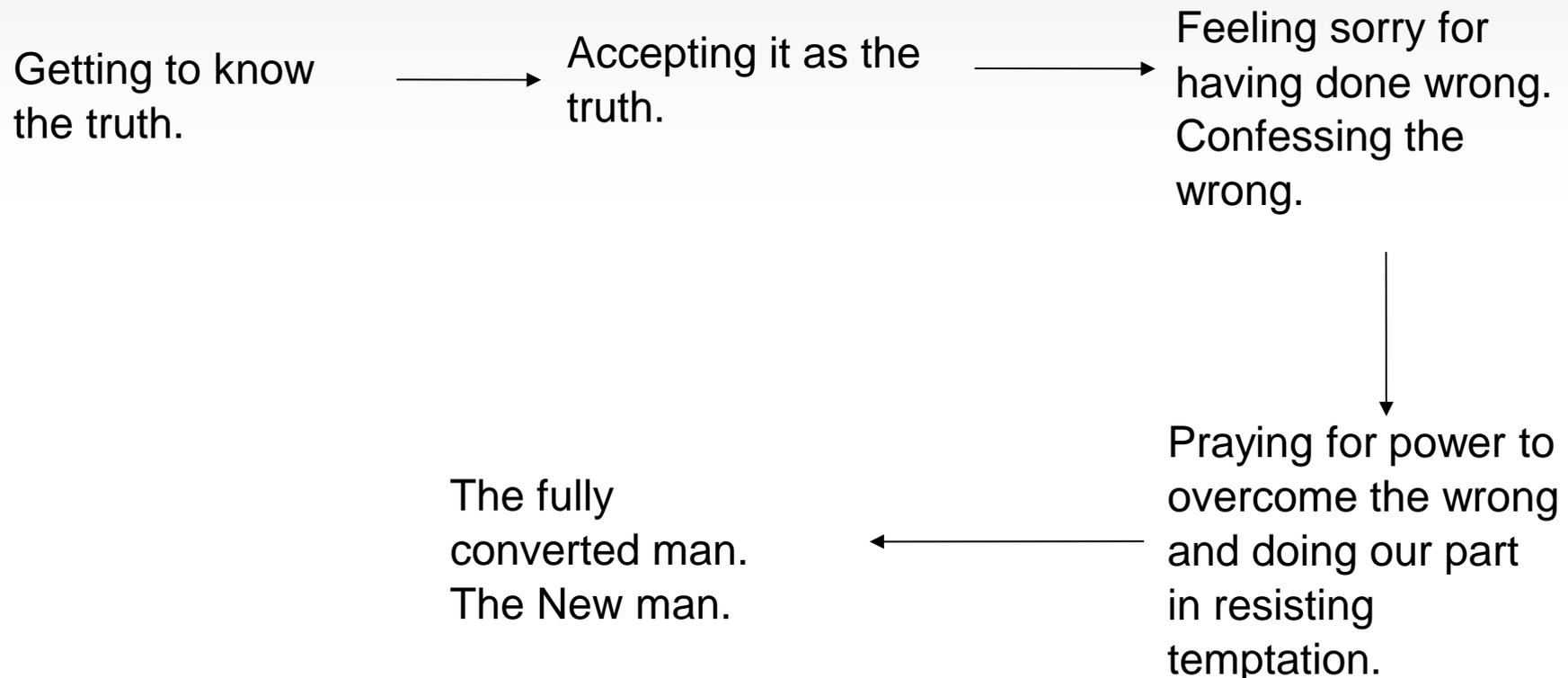
Could it be that the Living Word is not strong enough to change us? Could it be that we later find out that what we once believed was a lie?

What could be the problem? Why do people profess godliness but deny the power thereof?

The problem must be with us, not the Word of God! It is with us!

Let us then have a scriptural look at the process of conversion. Where could we be missing the link?

The stages of conversion



Now let's look at every stage in detail and find out where we usually stop.

GETTING TO KNOW THE TRUTH

The first step to conversion is to have the ability to differentiate between right and wrong. The conscience must be awakened. RIGHT and WRONG must be known by us. This is what Pastors are to do. To make right plain before the congregation as to leave no doubt as to what constitutes it. Right is the will of God. Wrong is that which is contrary to His will. This will is revealed in the Bible. So all that the Holy Bible condemns is wrong and must be forsaken.

We must all have a habit or prayerfully studying the Bible so that we many know it for ourselves. We must not depend on pastotrs. They have a work to do, so are we for oueselves. The Bible is so large and deep. We must not depend on pastors to know its content. We must read it for ourselves if we are to know the fear of God. Each Christian must study the Holy Scriptures DAILY for himself. In this we have no excuse. All that shun it, it is because their deeds are evil. All that abstain from attending church services and studying the Bible, it is because their deeds are evil and they are hiding from the truth. They are living in denial that they need Jesus Christ to save them.

“ My son, **if thou wilt receive my words**, and hide my
commandments with thee;

So that thou **incline thine ear** unto wisdom, [and]
apply thine heart to understanding;

Yea, **if thou criest after knowledge**, [and] **liftest up
thy voice for understanding**;

If thou **seekest her as silver**, and **searchest for
her as [for] hid treasures**;

Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD,
and find the knowledge of God.”

Proverbs 2:1-5.

“The fear of the LORD [is] to hate evil”

Proverbs 8:13

“And this is the condemnation, *that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, *neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.* But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

John 3:19-21.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not **heard?** and how shall they **hear** without a **preacher?**”

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, **How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”**

Romans 10:14, 15.

“But they have **not all obeyed the gospel**. For Esaias saith, Lord, *who hath believed our report?*

So then faith [cometh] by **hearing, and hearing by the word of God**.

But I say, **Have they not heard?** Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

But I say, **Did not Israel know?** ...

But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a **disobedient and gainsaying people.**”

Romans 10:16-21

None is excusable from sin. The truth is alight everywhere, especially in our present world where there is the greatest circulation of the Bible than at any time in this world's history. Those who deliberately stay away from knowing the truth when they can get it will be judged as though they knew it. We must all be in pursuit of the Living truth. It is the greatest work we have to do for ourselves and none will be held guiltless who does not engage in this work while he knows how to read and has the Holy Bible within his reach.

“My people are **destroyed for lack of knowledge**: because thou hast **rejected knowledge**, I will also **reject thee**, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

Hosea 4:6

“For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the **knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings.”

Hosea 6:6

God desires that we know Him. That we know His will for us.

That is the first step. **We have to know the truth for ourselves.** Unfortunately, many just have an intellectual understanding of the truth and stop there. They are often puzzled at what it is. They look at it as one would look at a foreign object fallen on earth from Jupiter. They look at the pastor as a religious genius. Such are considered despisers.

“Behold, ye despisers, and **wonder, and perish**”

Acts 13:41

ACCEPTING THE TRUTH

The truth must not only be understood, it must be accepted. It must be cherished. It must not be sold for any tinsel that may appear to look like it. But what do most people do even after receiving the truth? Let's get what the Bible says.

“ Why [then] is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? **they hold fast deceit**, they refuse to return.

I hearkened and heard, [but] **they spake not aright**: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.”

Jeremiah 8:5-6.

Instead, it is found out that preachers, fake preachers work night and day to invent a lie. They work so hard to preach error. Those who who once believed the truth are fascinated by these lies, the vain philosophies of men and start holding loosely on the truth and more strongly on the lie till in the very end, they hold fast the lie and hate and mock the truth and its advocates.

How do ye say, We [are] wise, and the law of the LORD [is] with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he [it]; the pen of the scribes [is] in vain.

The wise [men] are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, **they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom [is] in them?"**

Jeremiah 8:8, 9.

“And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding
Israel hath **justified herself** more than
treacherous Judah.”

Jeremiah 3:11

“If we say that we **have no sin**, we deceive
ourselves, and the truth is not in us...

If we say that we **have not sinned**, we make **him**
a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:6, 10.

“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah 8:12

But those that love God accept the truth and concede that they have transgressed against God. They do not hide their sins in the vain philosophies of men, the rudiments of human philosophy.

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Be ye not as the horse, [or] as the mule, [which] have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.”

Psalms 32:8

“How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity [foolishness]? and **the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?**

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Because I have called, and ye **refused**; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; **But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:**”

Prov. 1:22-25.

After getting to know the truth and having accepted it, a conviction is aroused in the heart of the evil that we have for so long delighted in unknowingly. A need is created to make peace with God. Forgiveness is sought for earnestly.

The child of God goes on his knees and confesses his sins before God, asking Him to pardon and blot out the sins recorded against his name in the book that is above.

CONFESSING THE WRONG

“I hearkened and heard, [but] they spake not aright: **no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done?** every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.”

Jeremiah 8:6

“ **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Romans 10:10.

It is not enough to believe the truth. We must show remorse for the sins we have committed. Sins not confessed and forsaken shall not be forgiven. When you wrong somebody, to make peace with him means that you must be sorry to him for what you did and not repeat the same.

“Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah 3:13

“ I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. For this shall every one that is **godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.”**

Psalms 32:5-6.

But many having resisted the truth, see absolutely no need to confess their sins before God. They continue in the path of error because they had rejected the light. To them sin is no more sin but righteousness. They love it. They indulge in it. They cherish it. To resist it never even flashes in their mind. They are on the death lane cruising to their eternal destruction. It is with a thrill that they go to death and are so drunk with it that they cannot resist temptation. They are drowsy till the day they shall awake in hell when real death knocks at their lives.

RESISTING TEMPTATION

After confession, one prays for strength to overcome temptation and sin.

We have the devil to resist and temptation to overcome. Satan never forces himself on any one. So is God. We choose who will reign in our hearts. This involves deliberate effort to stay away from tempting situations and a fervent prayer to overcome whenever one comes our way. We are not machines. We are free human beings with a will to exercise. No temptation that comes to any one is too strong for him to overcome. We therefore can live a victorious life over sin.

“And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah 3:10

We are to return unto God wholeheartedly. We are to forsake our sins completely, never to return to them.

“blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.”

James 1:12

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and **he will flee from you**. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

James 4:7

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you **to be tempted above that ye are able**; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].”

1 Corinthians 10:13.

Many are not working out their salvation with fear and trembling. They are not diligent in fighting against sin. They give a fainting half will to God, and soon they are overcome. They have cherished sins that please them and these they do not want to forsake. Rebukes and admonitions avail less if not nothing to them. They have not the eye of faith to see sin in its real nature and how God abhors it. They still palliate with some. We can overcome all through Jesus Christ who gives us strength to do all things to His glory.

“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”

Hebrews 12:4

No wonder many have a sickly christian experience. There is no life in their expereince.

They do not cherish the Bible. They do not diligently study it. These are not given to unceasing prayer. They profess godliness but deny the power thereof.

The New Man cannot be formed within. Jesus cannot occupy a divided heart. They cannot reflect the character of Jesus because they do not have Him within their hearts.

THE NEW MAN

“But as many as **received him**, to them **gave he power to become the sons of God**, [even] to them that believe on his name:”

John 1:12

To receive Christ is to receive the Word of God which is the Bible. See Revelation 19:13. It is to receive that word wholly and apply it in your daily life. It is being baptized in Him.

“For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**”

Galatians 3:27

It is walking in the light as you receive it.

“While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.”

John 12:36

All are God's creation. Only those that are led by the Holy Spirit, only those that walk in the Light of the Bible are God's children.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

Romans 8:14

ONLY THOSE THAT DELIGHTFULLY DO GOD'S
WILL ARE TRUELY CONVERTED. JESUS
CHRIST WHO DELIGHTED IN KEEPING GOD'S
COMMANDMENTS IS FULLY FORMED WITHIN.
THESE MOURN WHENEVER THEY FALL,
REPENT AND RISE UP.

Sin in their lives,
the world and the Church grieves their heart.

DO YOU?
ARE YOU HIS CHILD?

WHERE COULD BE THE PROBLEM?

- Many people go to church, but only for what to do. They are not given to The Living God.
- Few Christians study the Bible, and few of those do it daily. Few of the few study diligently and yet few of the few **pay keen attention** to what they read. They read to confirm what they already believe, not to get what God has for them. They are prejudiced.
- Many understand the truth when spoken and that's the furthest they are willing to go. Later some become brave to mock the truth they once believed.

- Of the few who accept the truth, few hold fast to them till the end, but only intellectually. The rest become corrupted somewhere along the way.
- Of the few who receive the truth, **few, a lot many few ever feel remorse for the sins they have committed.** This is where the **MAJOR PROBLEM IS.** The majority wonder at the truth and soon will perish. Their consciences are dead and is hardly awakened from the spiritual stupor. They learn but never come to the living knowledge of the Truth. They do not confess of their exposed sins.

They do not ask themselves...

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WHAT HAVE I DONE

They do not feel sorry for what they have done.

They therefore continue in their sins because they do not deeply feel the wrong they have committed.

These will MISS THE SEAL OF GOD ON THEIR FOREHEADS.

THEY DO NOT CRY AND SIGH FOR THE SINS THAT
ARE DONE IN THE LAND, FOR THEY ARE PART OF
IT.

THEY CANNOT PRAY FOR POWER TO OVERCOME.
INDEED THEY CANNOT REMEMBER WHEN THEY
LAST PRAYED FOR STRENGTH TO OVERCOME SIN
EXCEPT IN ROUTINE CHANTING OF THE LORD'S
PRAYER.

COULD YOU BE SUCH A ONE?
COULD YOU BE SUCH A ONE?

COULD YOU BE SUCH A ONE?
HAVE YOU EVER FELT SORRY FOR.....

- THE WAY YOU DRESS,
- EAT,
- SPEAK,
- DEAL WITH YOUR CHILDREN,
- DISOBEY YOUR PARENTS,
- PROFANE THE HOLLY SABBATH OF THE LORD,
- STEAL FROM GOD IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS,
- THE THINGS YOU WATCH,
- THE MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO,
- YOUR UNFAITHFULNESS TO YOUR SPOUSE

E.T.C

Have you ever gone back home after a sermon and confessed to God your sins that were revealed to you in the service? Have you ever then followed it with a prayer to overcome never to go back?

What do you often do? Be puzzled at the truth, then ignore it. Later totally feel unmoved by subsequent preaching of the same. Still you descend lower and mock the truth and her advocates. You have no desire to persue after God. None whatsoever! You know it and God does too. You have not submitted your will to Him to control and guide. No wonder even the most stirring sermons do not benefit you!

ONLY **ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SINS** AND
COME BACK TO GOD.

HAVE A **DESIRE** TO CHANGE FOR THE
BETTER.

THEN **CRY TO GOD FOR POWER** AND YOU
WILL OVERCOME.

*There is no other way. You **must** have a desire
to change.*

“I hearkened and heard, [but] they spake not aright: **no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done?** every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.”

Jeremiah 8:6

“**Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.**”

Jeremiah 3:13

“And I will give them **one heart**, and I will put a **new spirit** within you; and I will take the **stony heart** out of their flesh, and will give them an **heart of flesh**: that they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”

Ezekiel 11:19-20.

“A **new heart** also will I give you, and a **new spirit** will I put within you: and I will take away the **stony heart** out of your flesh, and I give you an **heart of flesh**. And I will put **my spirit** within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgements, and do them.”

Ezekiel 36:26, 27.

Let Jesus Change You.

Learn from the parable of the sower. Be the good soil which brought forth abundant fruit.

Let God Change you.