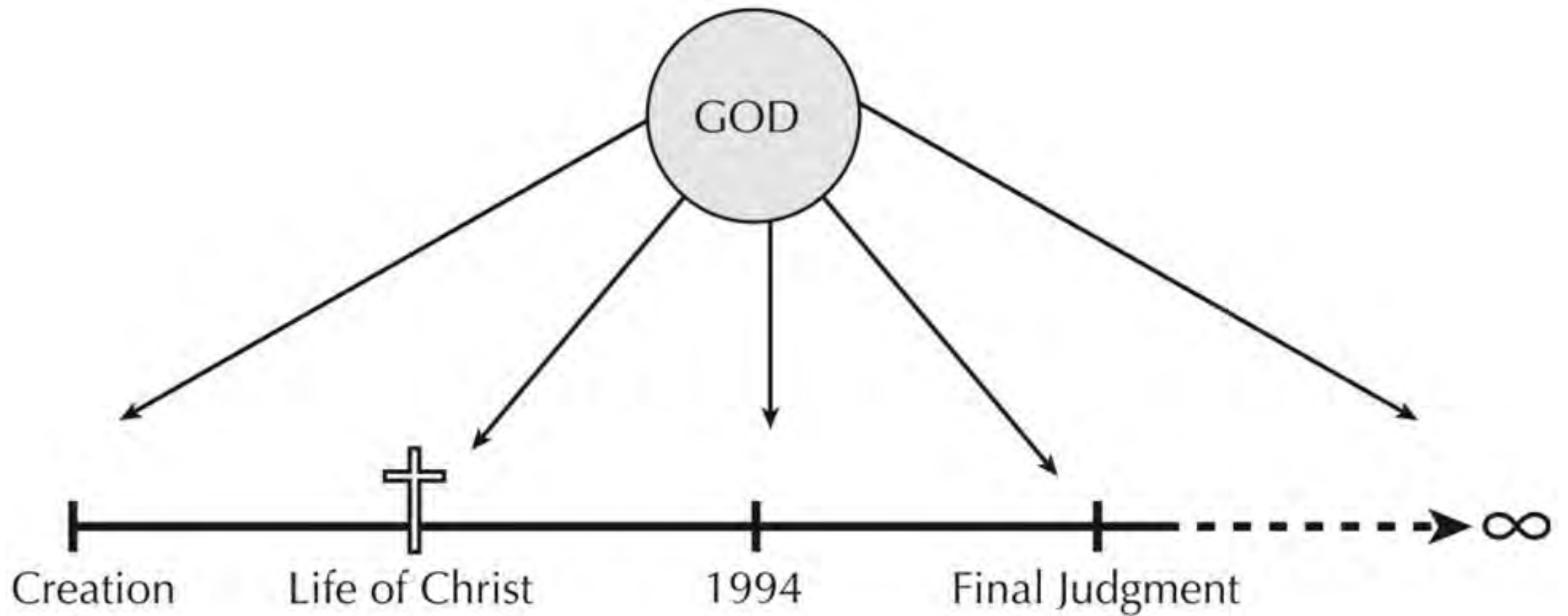


# The Faith-Rest Life in a World of Turmoil

Matthew 17: 14-21

January 8, 2023



## THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOD TO TIME

*Figure 11.1*



**Outer Circle of Care**

**Circle of Influence**

**Inner Circle  
of Intimacy**

### **Outer Circle of Care**

The 100-120 people that you know and care about. You hope that good things happen to them.

### **Circle of Influence**

The 10-15 people who influence who you are, what you do, and how you do it.

### **Inner Circle of Intimacy**

The 3-5 people in your life that you care the most about, who you spend the most time with, and who know the most about you

# Where did we come from? (Origins)

Beliefs  
NOW



Beliefs  
TRANSFORMED





“ a miracle can be defined as a periodic and temporary interference with the laws of nature so that God's presence, power, and/or purpose might be understood.

Verse 14 - 16

DOUBT - The Enemy of *FAITH*

**Faith** = “*pistis*” = being persuaded;  
confidence in divine truths;  
confidence in God

**True Faith** = believing in and trusting God  
through it all – **Hebrews 11: 1**

*“Now faith is being sure of what we hope  
for and certain of what we do not see”*

**Jesus and the inner circle descend to the plains and face a multitude in turmoil**

**The issue:**

**The disciples could not cure an epileptic (*means moonstruck*)**



σεληνιαζομαι  
*selēniazomai*

**Selene: Greek goddess of the moon**

**Latin: Luna**

**To be moonstruck was to be a *lunatic*, or loony.**



With opposition comes **DOUBT**, doubting what was previously believed

## The Percentage of Christian Pastors That Possess a Biblical Worldview

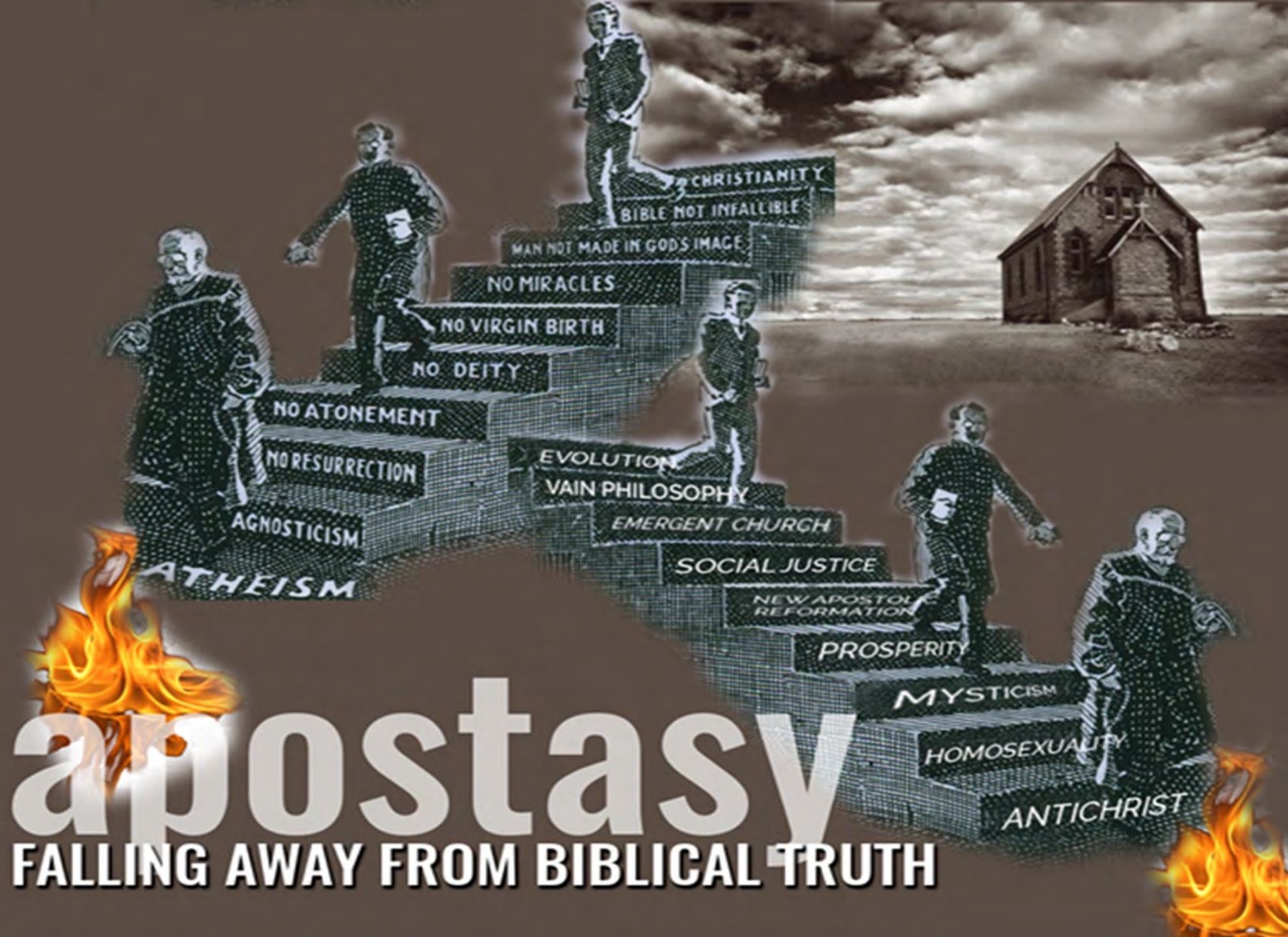
|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| All Christian pastors      | 37% |
| Senior/Lead Pastor         | 41% |
| Associate/Assistant Pastor | 28% |
| Teaching Pastor            | 13% |
| Children's/Youth Pastor    | 12% |
| Executive Pastor           | 4%  |

This is termed ***“apostasy”*** - a falling away  
from the true Biblical faith

**The result:**

**COMPROMISE!**





**apostasy**  
**FALLING AWAY FROM BIBLICAL TRUTH**

Scripture warns us this will be so . . . . .

*Expect this!!* 2 Timothy 3: 1-5

The vast majority of churches in America are  
***MOONSTRUCK / LOONY!***

No one can throw out Biblical teaching  
and not be ***LOONY!***



Verse 17 - 18

Jesus sternly addresses the *FAITHLESS*

## **7 signs of John's Gospel**

Water into wine - 2:1

Healing of the official's son – 4:46

Healing at the Pool of Bethesda – 5:1

Feeding of 5,000 – 6:1

Walking on Water – 6:14

Healing of a man born blind – 9:1

Raising Lazarus from the dead – 11:38

**Seeing is not believing; believing is of the heart, *not the senses!***

“  
Seeing is not believing. Seeing is seeing.  
Believing is being confident without seeing.”

G. Campbell Morgan

**The disciples saw plenty** and still struggled with believing (*faith*)

**The disciples were given the power to do,** but their lack of faith nullified their power

**A believer's lack of faith does not please God**



## **Hebrews 11:6**

And without faith it  
is impossible to  
please God,  
because anyone  
who comes to him  
must believe that  
he exists and that  
he rewards those  
who earnestly seek  
him.

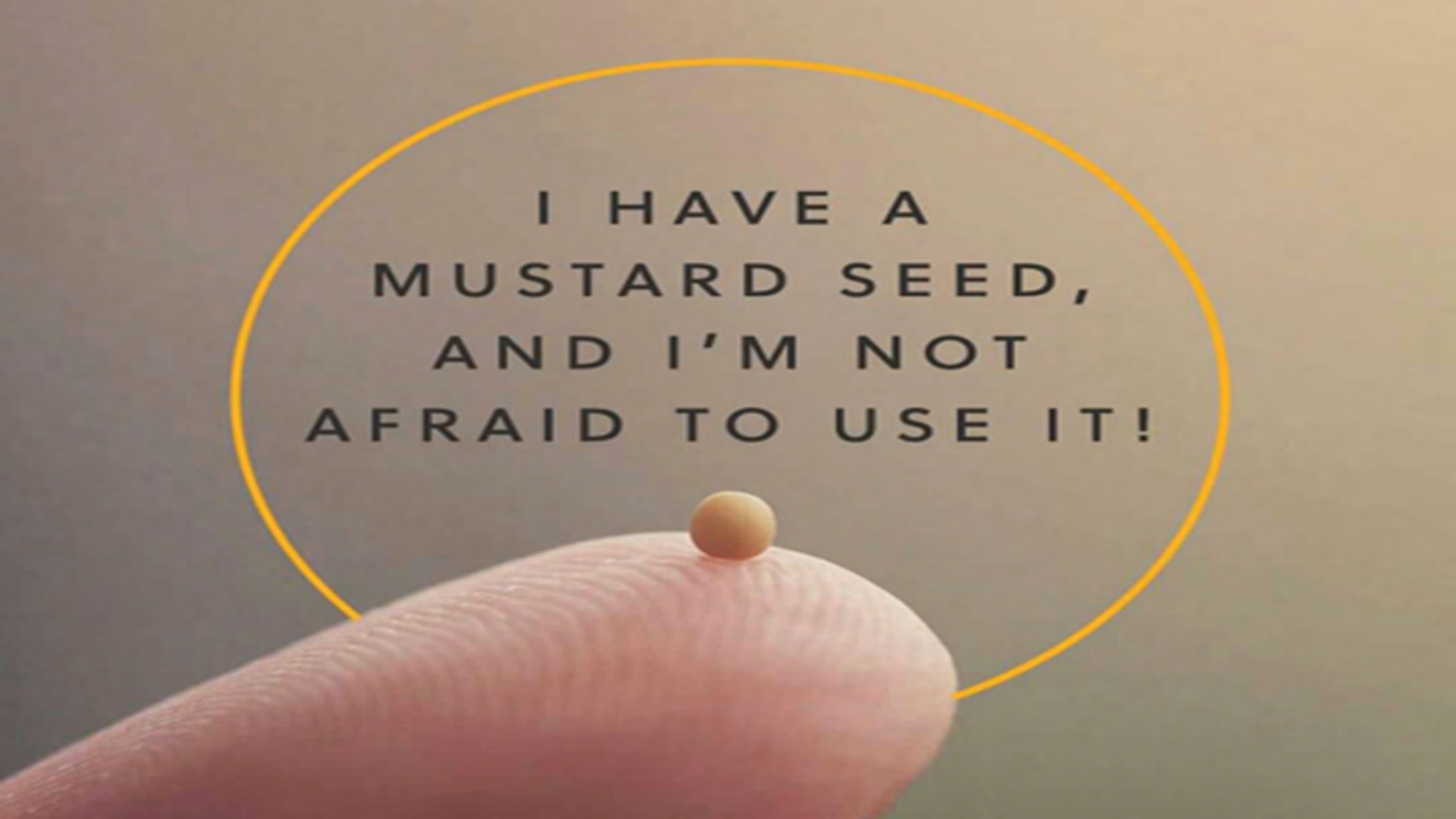


Verse 19 - 21

The FAITHLESS (unbelief) problem

Unbelief = not trusting or believing in God's  
power to do

Even little faith, *mustard seed faith*, can  
move mountains



I HAVE A  
MUSTARD SEED,  
AND I'M NOT  
AFRAID TO USE IT!

*“If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move, nothing will be impossible for you.”*

**Faith problem:** Faith in the wrong object – self, our ability; in what we see as possible

**Key Point:** *“nothing will be impossible”* does not mean we have what we want, when we want

Nothing impossible is all about our faith surrendering to God’s will

**We will not, *we must not*, have all we want or ask for; *we only have partial knowledge!***

**Be careful with being angry at God with our *partial* knowledge – **1 Corinthians 13: 12****





**Psalm 37: 4** is often quoted to get what **you** want:

***“Delight yourself also in the Lord,  
and He shall give you the  
desires of your heart”***

**Full context in surrounding verses helps us:**

Verse 3 - Trust in the LORD and do good

Verse 4 - Delight yourself in the LORD

Verse 5 - Commit your way to the LORD  
- Trust also in Him

Verse 7 - Rest in the LORD and wait patiently  
for Him

Verse 8 - Cease from anger, do not fret, it  
only causes harm

**IT'S ALL ABOUT GOD'S WILL,  
*NOT MY WILL!***

The cure for unbelief (*not trusting in God's power to do*) is **FAITH!!**

**2 Corinthians 5: 7**

**Hebrews 10: 8**



**CLOSING THOUGHTS: *The FAITH-REST LIFE*  
*in a World of Turmoil***

Jesus has an expectation of those who are  
His: *To trust Him through all the  
impossibilities of life*

In trusting, you will find the **FAITH-REST LIFE**

The **FAITH-REST LIFE** is trusting God no  
matter what!



Our faith in God pleases God – Hebrews 11:6

We are living in the closing hours of time, as we know it on our planet, *we must walk by faith!!*

Jesus told us the days would be like the days of Noah – Genesis 6: 5

This is the trajectory of our world today:  
*at war with God, ignoring God,  
and despising God*



**LET YOUR FAITH  
BE BIGGER  
THAN YOUR FEAR**

In living the **FAITH-REST LIFE**, we  
experience the peace of God *by resting  
in God*

**One step at a time**, I simply trust the  
One I am following . . . . .

*step by step . . . . .*



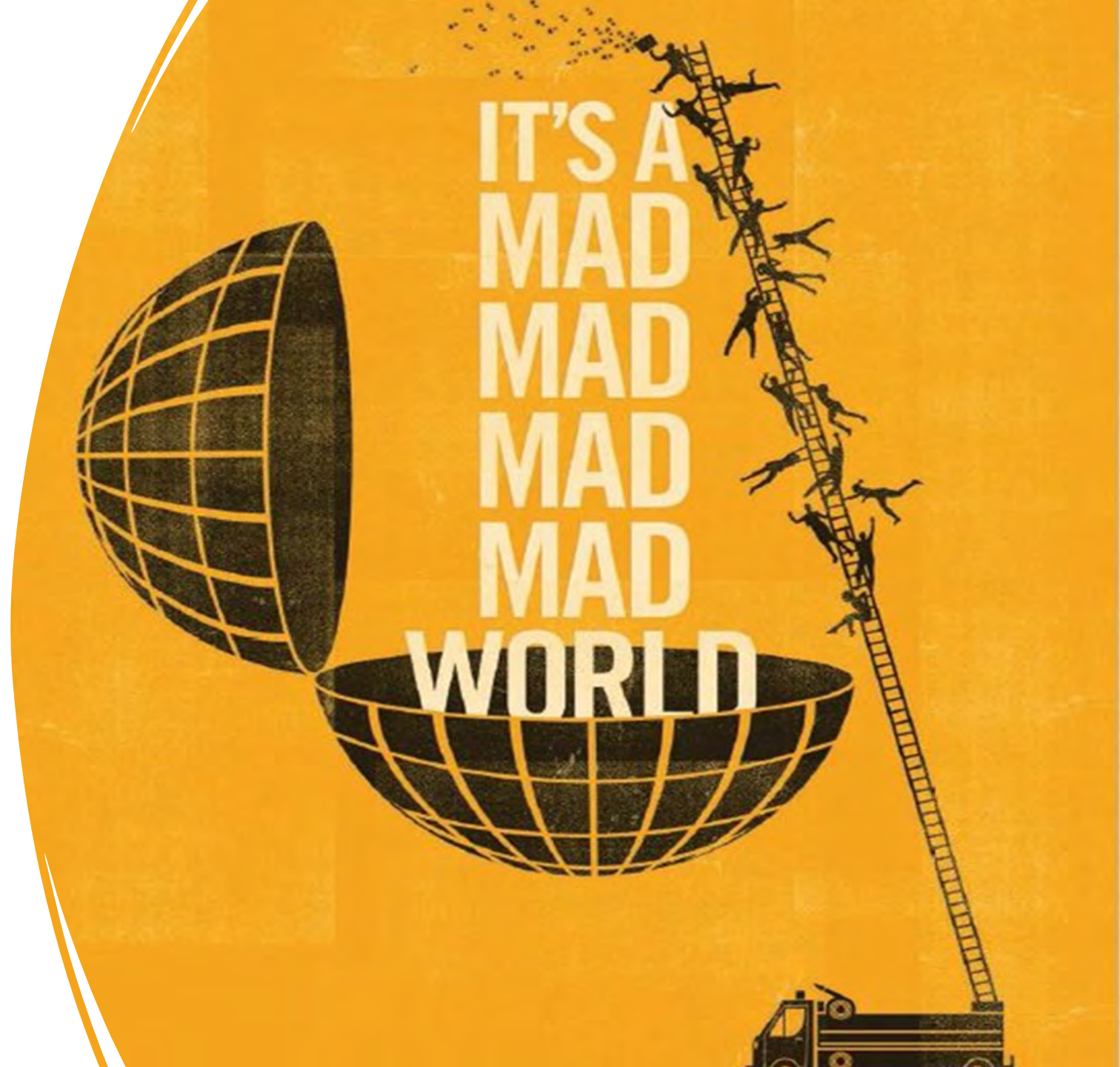
FAITH





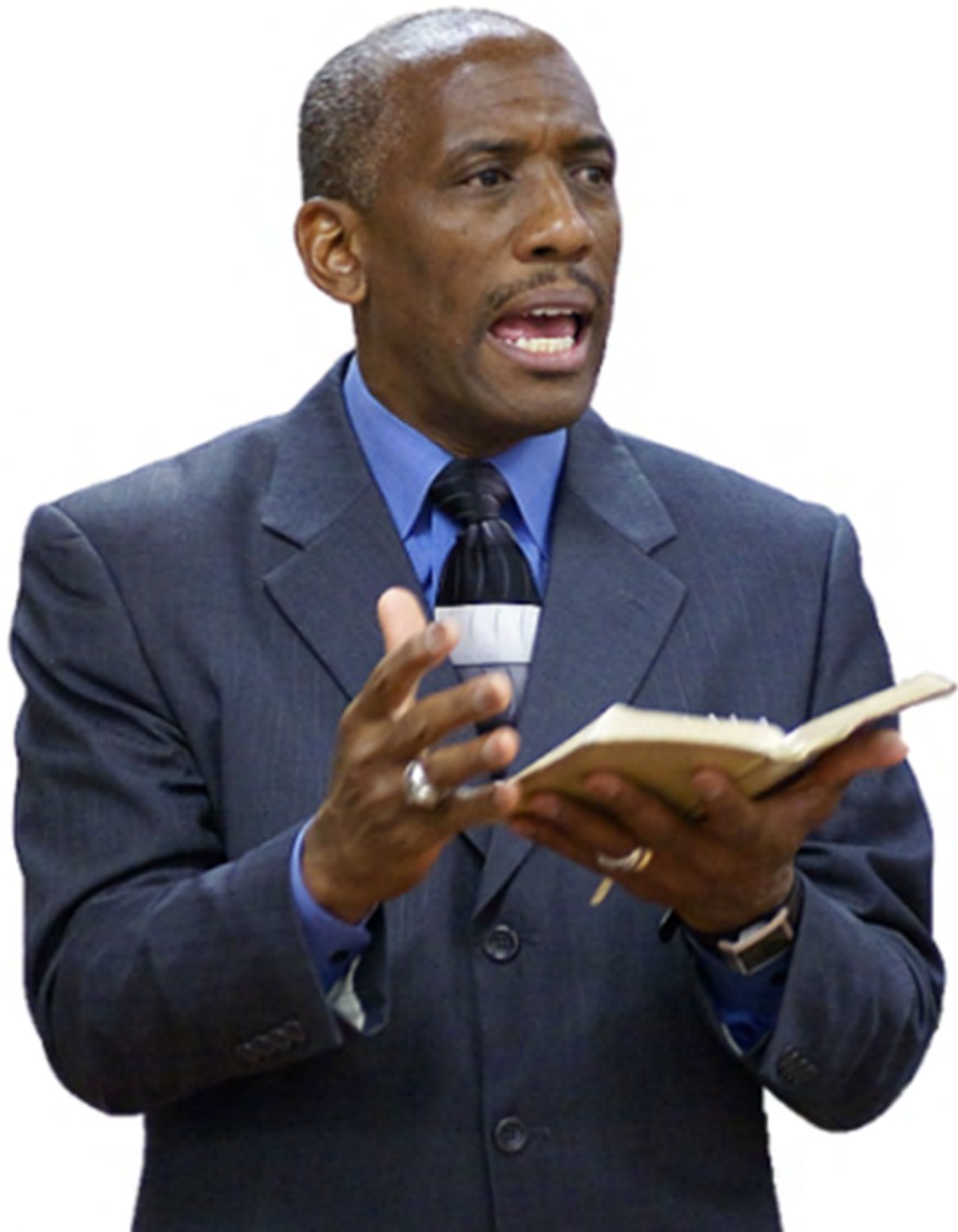
**Our nation is  
becoming  
darker;  
running from  
God, chaos,  
change, and  
turmoil  
abound**

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In the midst of chaos, faith steps are essential to not become “*moonstruck*”, loony!



*“I WILL  
TRUST IN  
THE LORD  
UNTIL I DIE”*

YOU CAN LIVE A **FAITH-REST LIFE**  
IN A WORLD OF TURMOIL

MAKE A **FAITH** CHOICE  
AND NOT A FEAR CHOICE