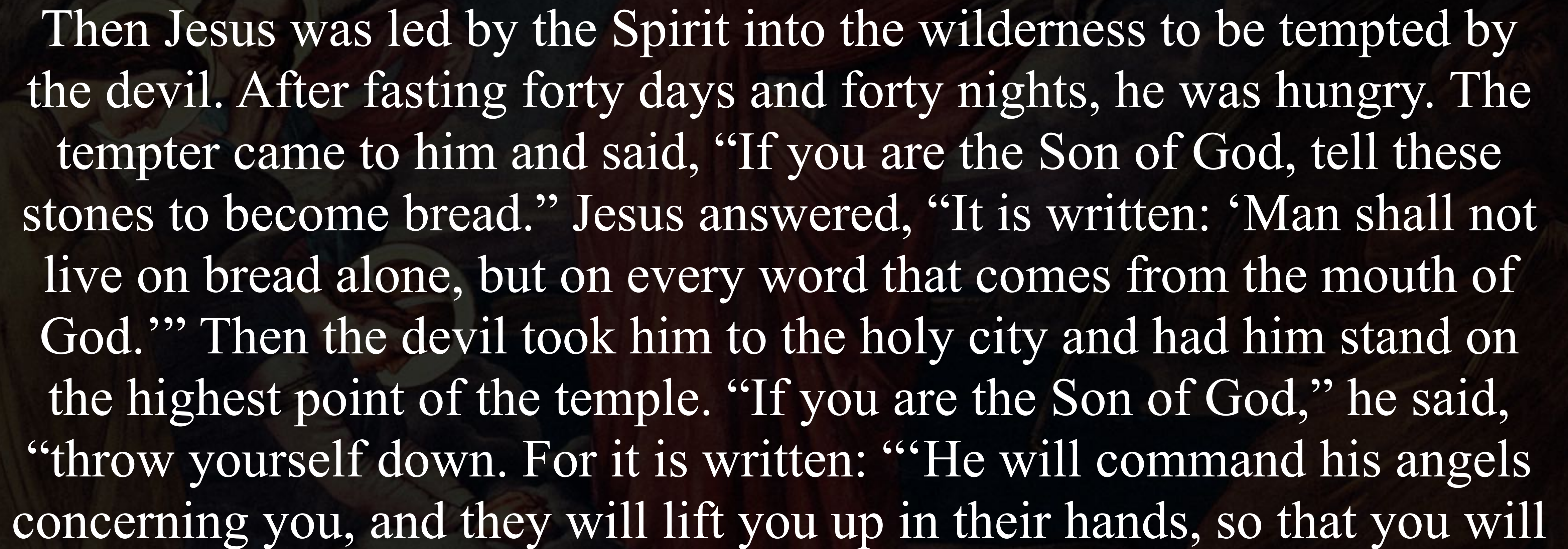


Temptation

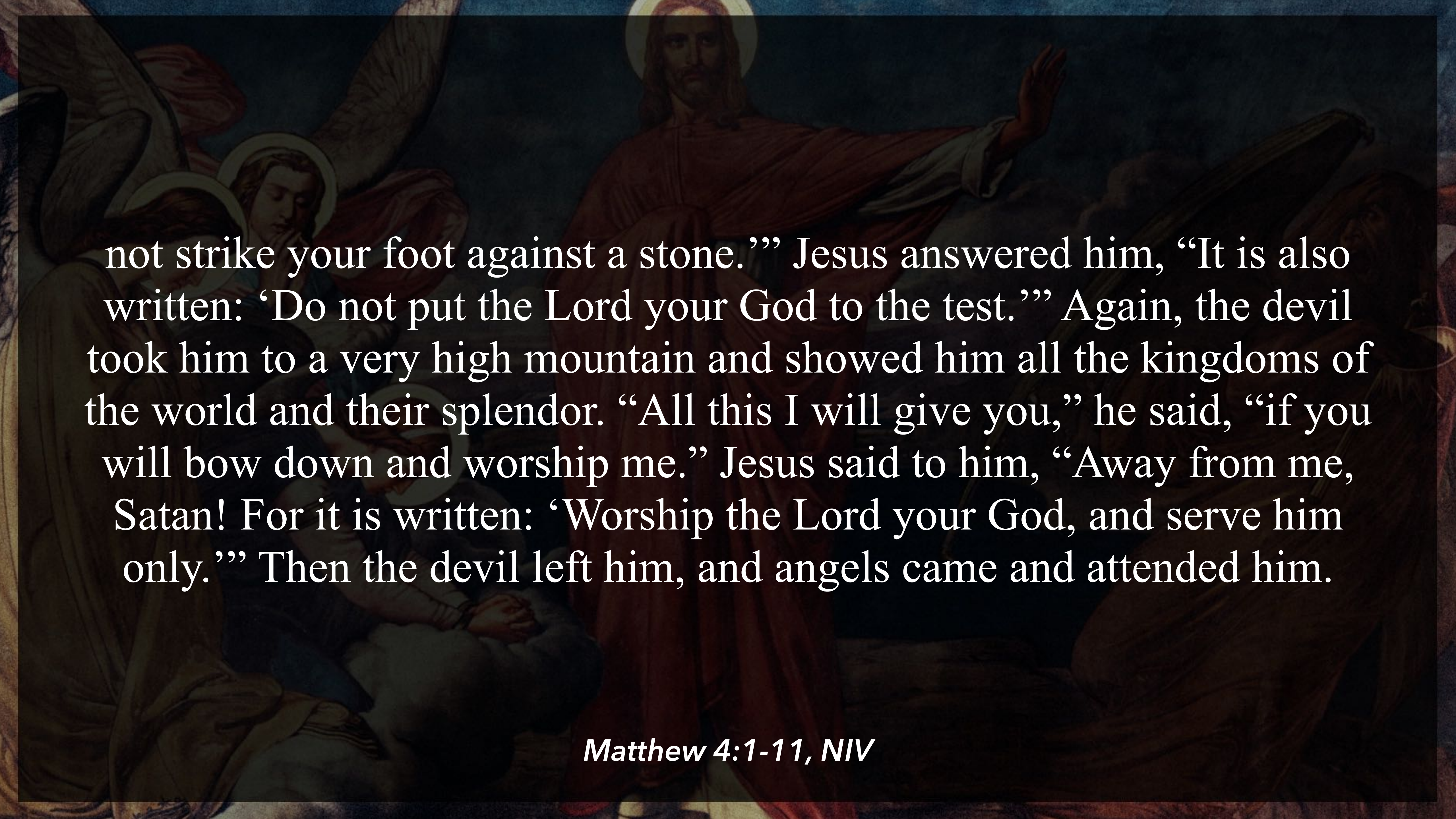
THE WILDERNESS TRIALS OF JESUS

The Urge To Be Proven



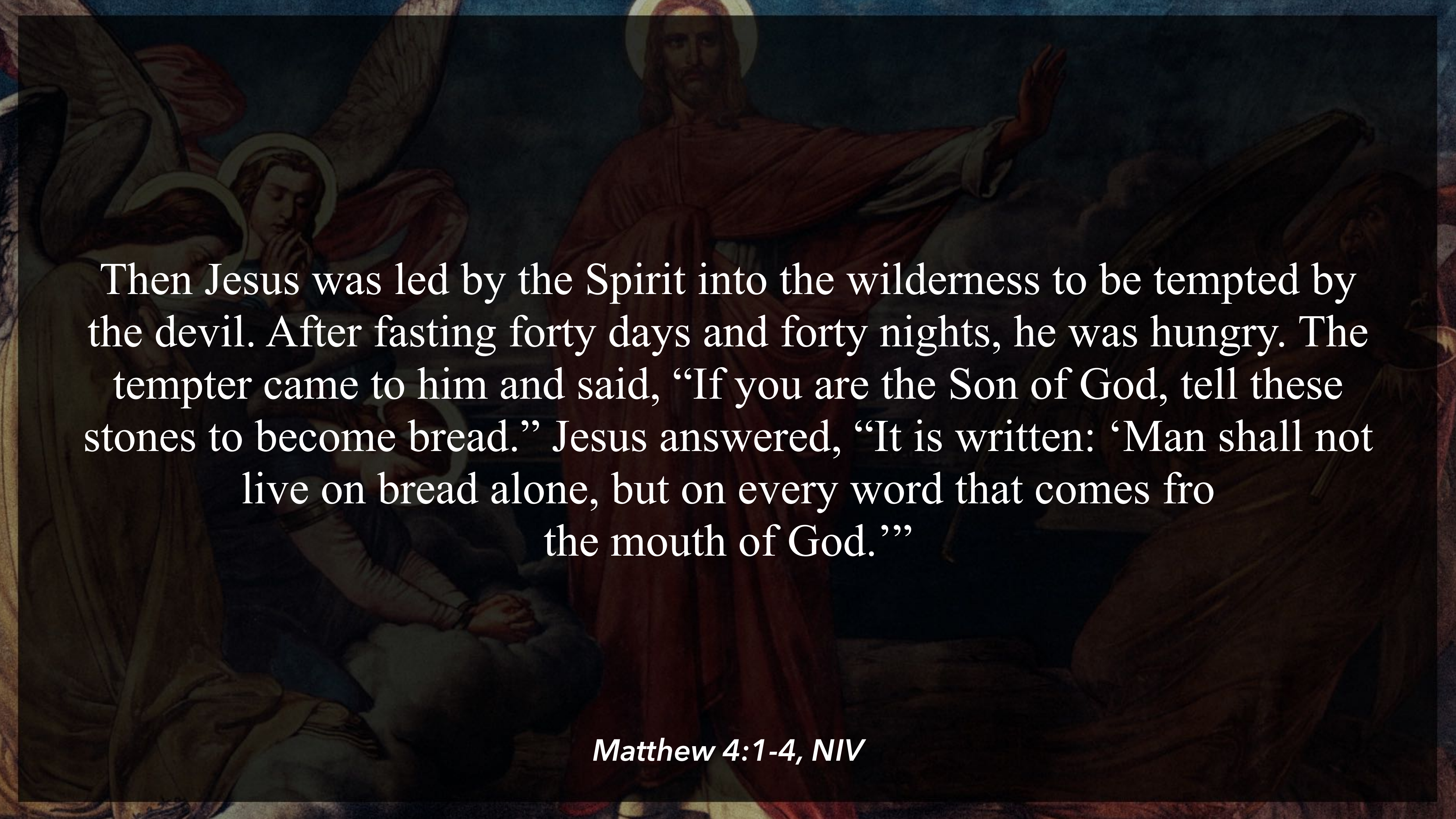
Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will

Matthew 4:1-11, NIV



not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:1-11, NIV

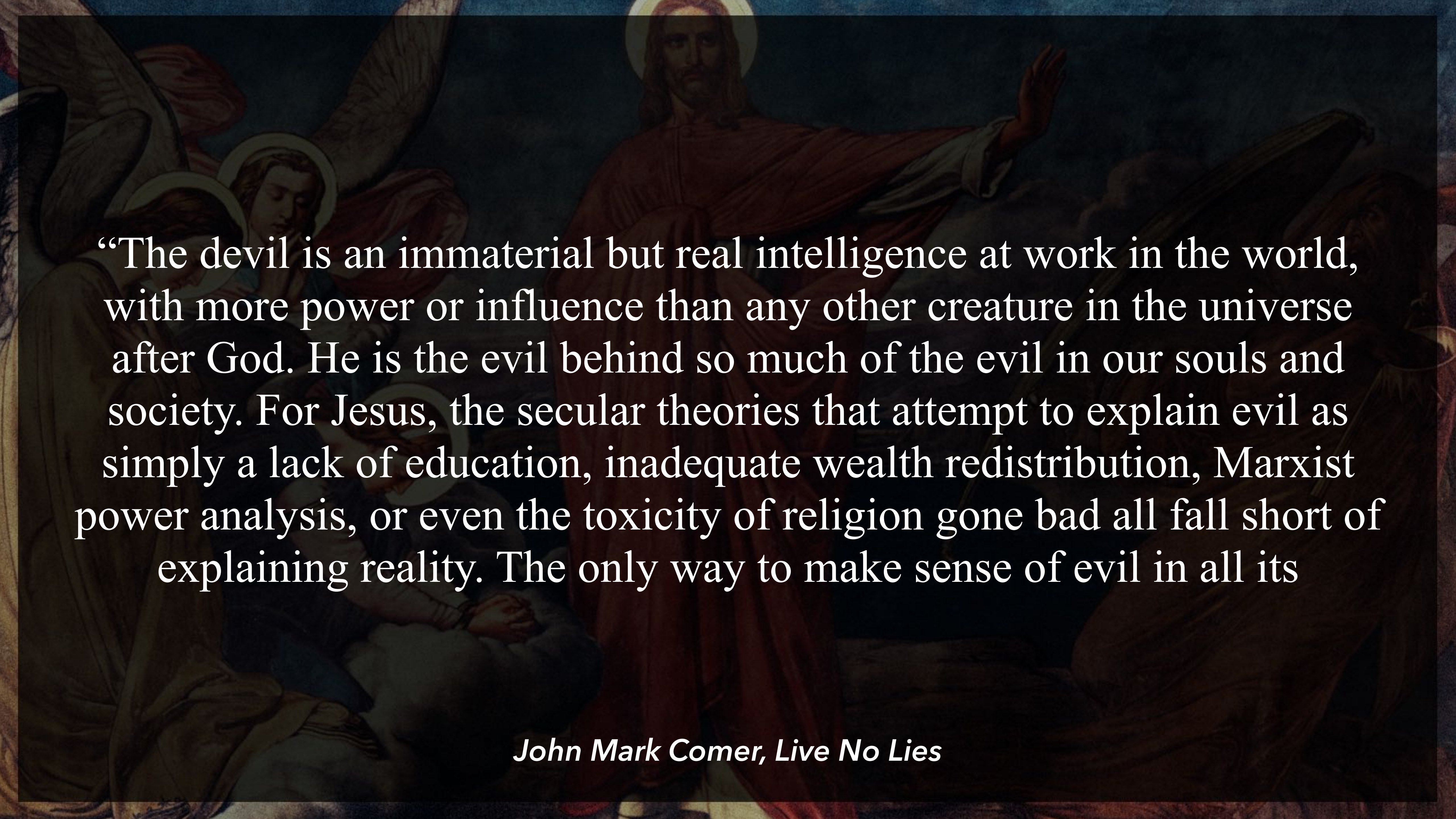


Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:1-4, NIV

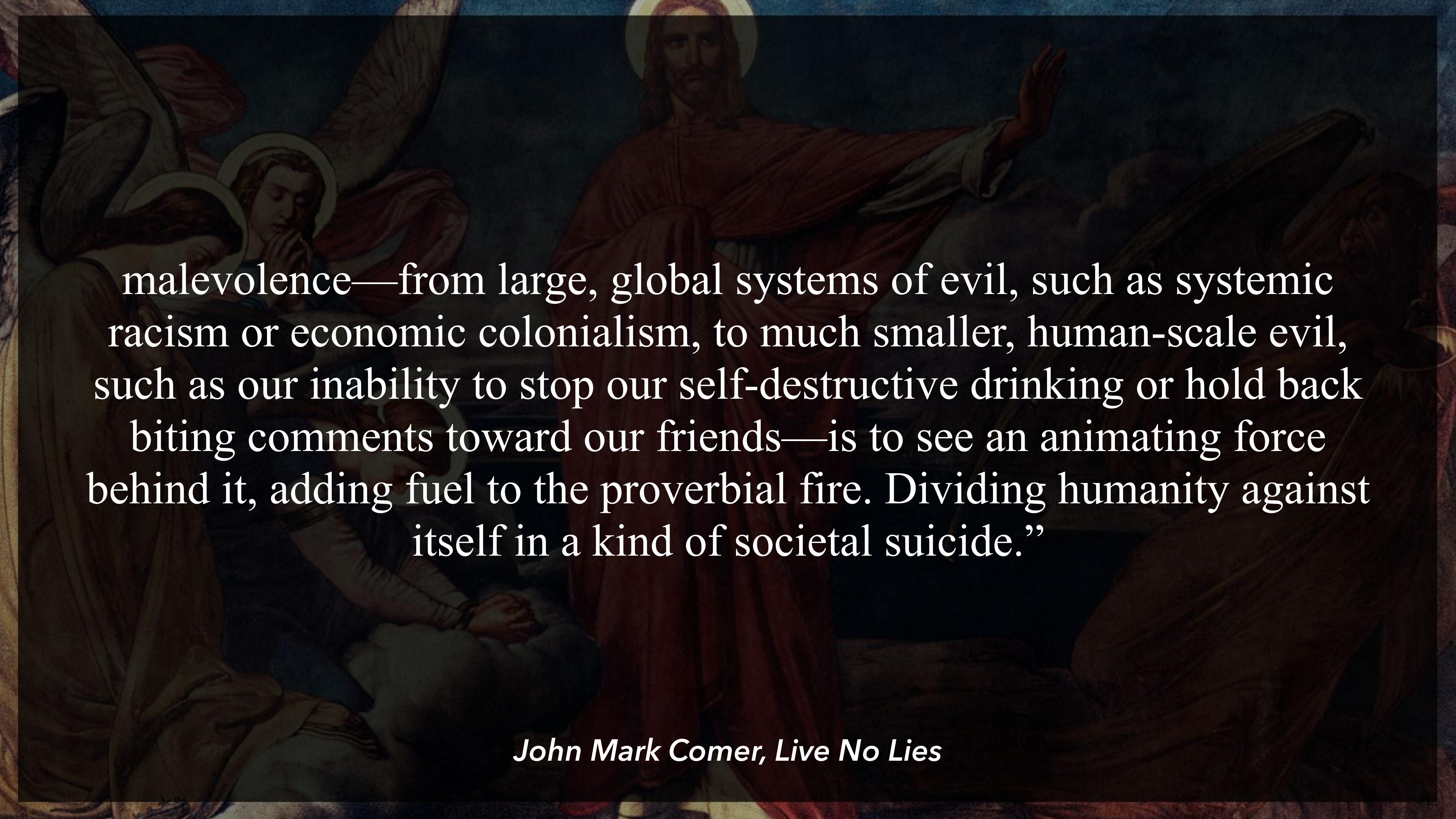
A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ with outstretched arms, surrounded by angels and figures in prayer. The scene is set against a dark, dramatic background. Jesus is the central figure, wearing a red robe and a white sash, with a halo around his head. He has his arms outstretched in a gesture of blessing or teaching. To his left, several angels with large, feathered wings are shown in various poses of prayer and devotion. One angel is kneeling, another is standing with hands clasped, and a third is looking down thoughtfully. To the right, a figure in a dark, heavy robe is shown in a state of distress or prayer, with one hand raised. The overall mood is solemn and spiritual.

The Devil & Spiritual Warfare



“The devil is an immaterial but real intelligence at work in the world, with more power or influence than any other creature in the universe after God. He is the evil behind so much of the evil in our souls and society. For Jesus, the secular theories that attempt to explain evil as simply a lack of education, inadequate wealth redistribution, Marxist power analysis, or even the toxicity of religion gone bad all fall short of explaining reality. The only way to make sense of evil in all its

John Mark Comer, Live No Lies



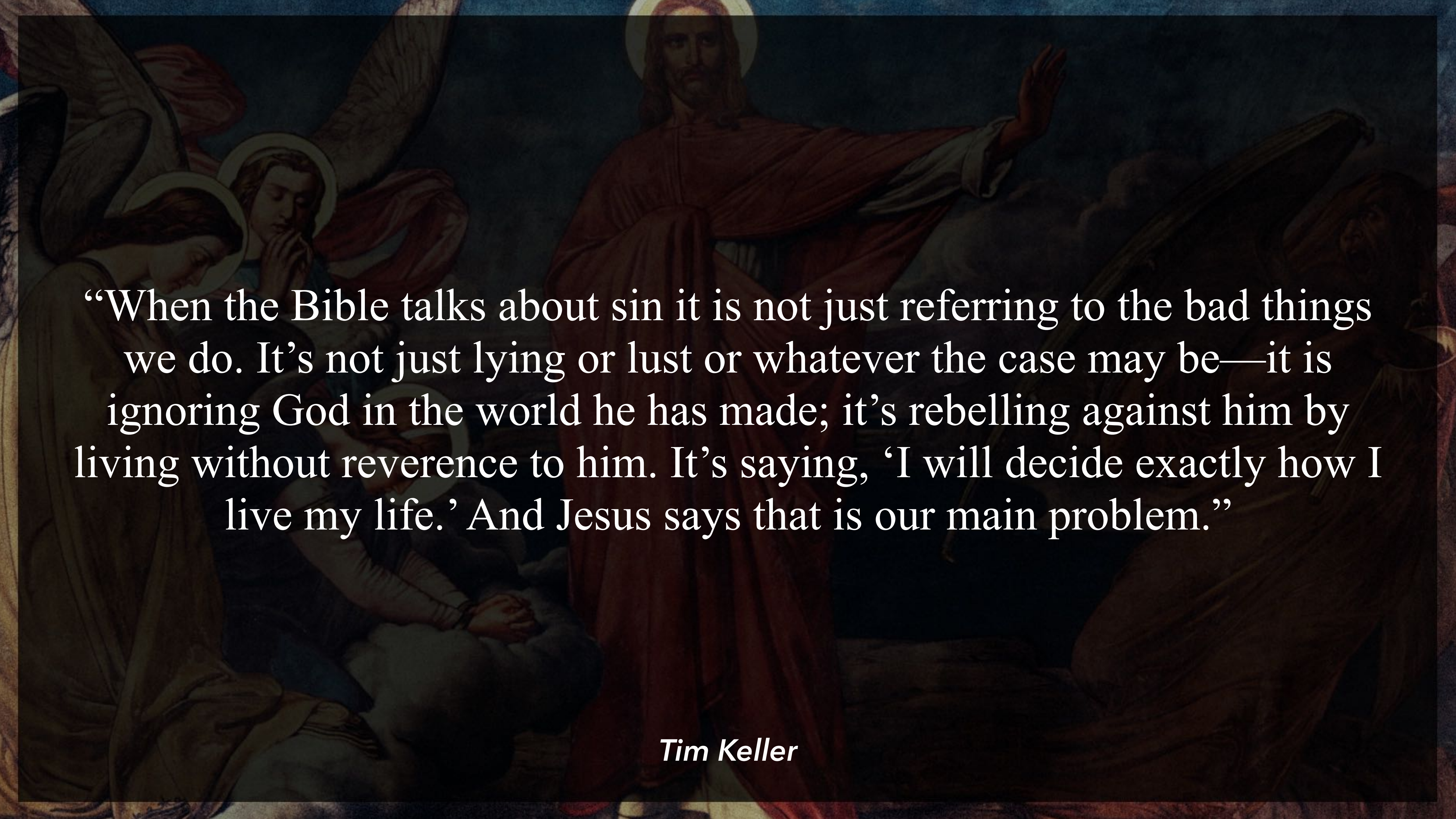
malevolence—from large, global systems of evil, such as systemic racism or economic colonialism, to much smaller, human-scale evil, such as our inability to stop our self-destructive drinking or hold back biting comments toward our friends—is to see an animating force behind it, adding fuel to the proverbial fire. Dividing humanity against itself in a kind of societal suicide.”

John Mark Comer, Live No Lies



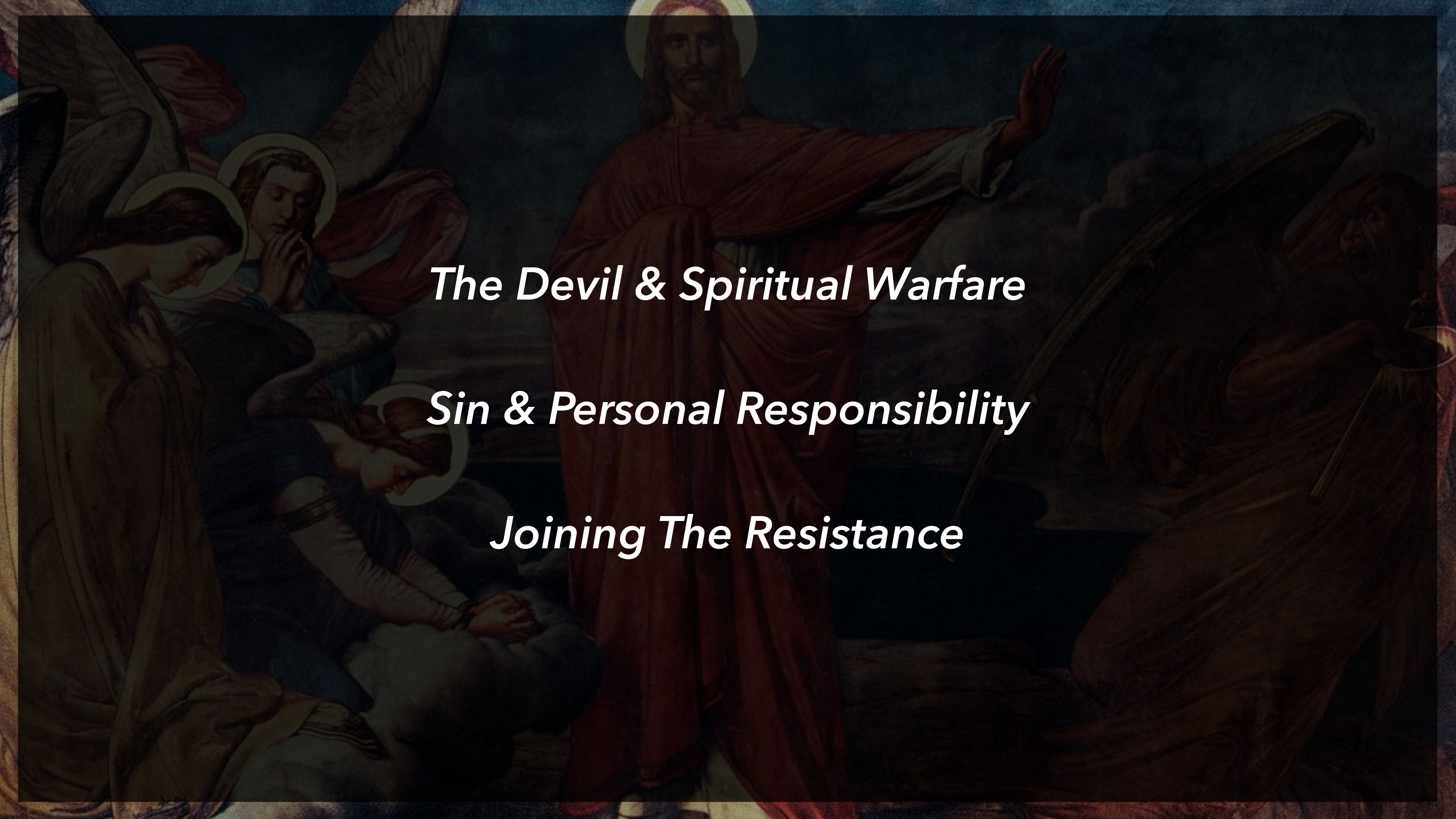
The Devil & Spiritual Warfare

Sin & Personal Responsibility



“When the Bible talks about sin it is not just referring to the bad things we do. It’s not just lying or lust or whatever the case may be—it is ignoring God in the world he has made; it’s rebelling against him by living without reverence to him. It’s saying, ‘I will decide exactly how I live my life.’ And Jesus says that is our main problem.”

Tim Keller

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ with outstretched arms, surrounded by angels and figures in prayer. The scene is set against a dark, dramatic background. Jesus is the central figure, wearing a red robe and a white sash, with a halo around his head. He has his arms outstretched in a gesture of blessing or offering. To his left, several angels with large, feathered wings are shown in various poses of prayer and devotion. One angel is kneeling, another is standing with hands clasped, and a third is looking down thoughtfully. To the right, a group of figures, possibly saints or martyrs, are shown in prayerful poses, some with their hands clasped and others with their heads bowed. The overall mood is solemn and spiritual.

The Devil & Spiritual Warfare

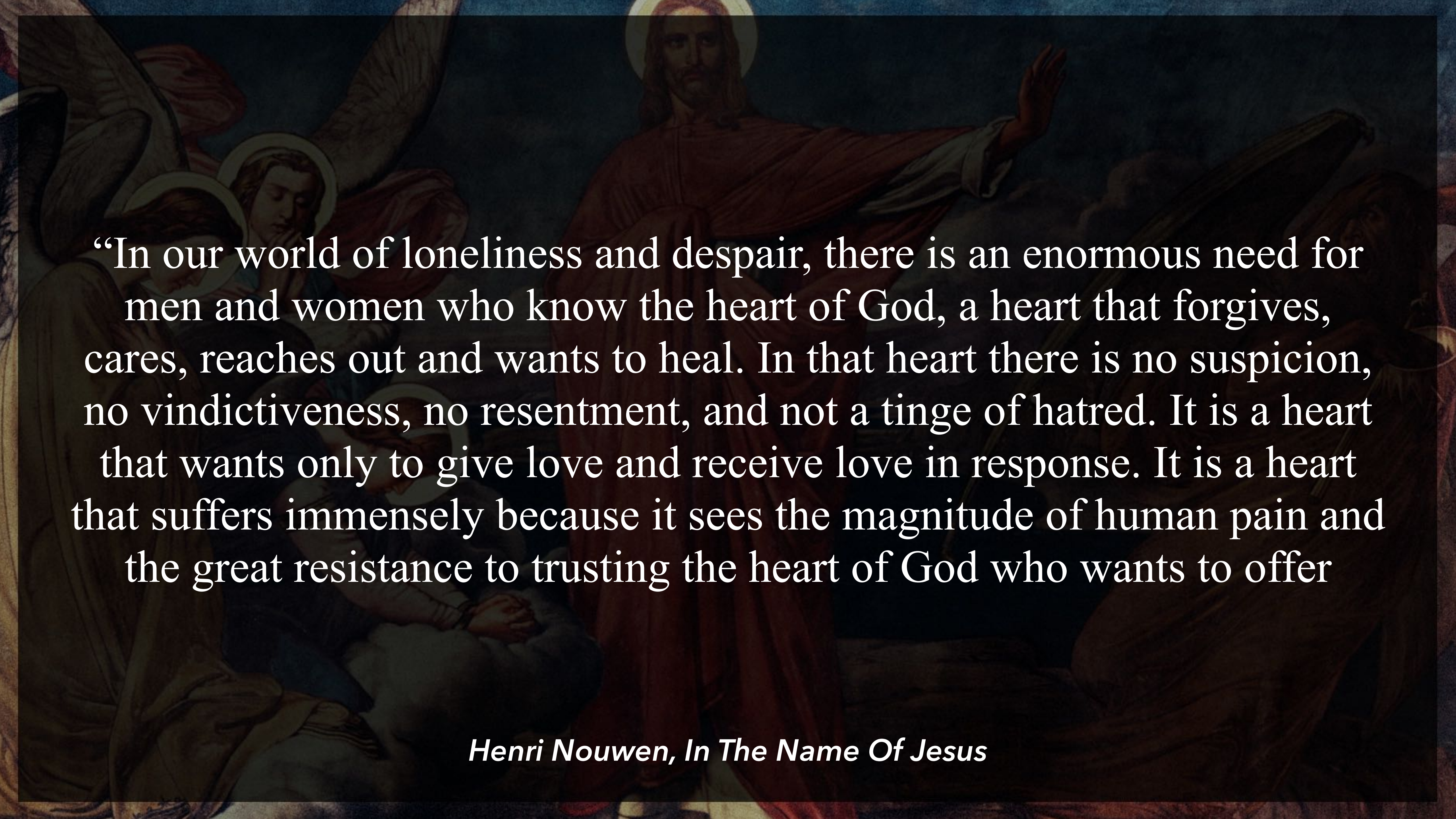
Sin & Personal Responsibility

Joining The Resistance



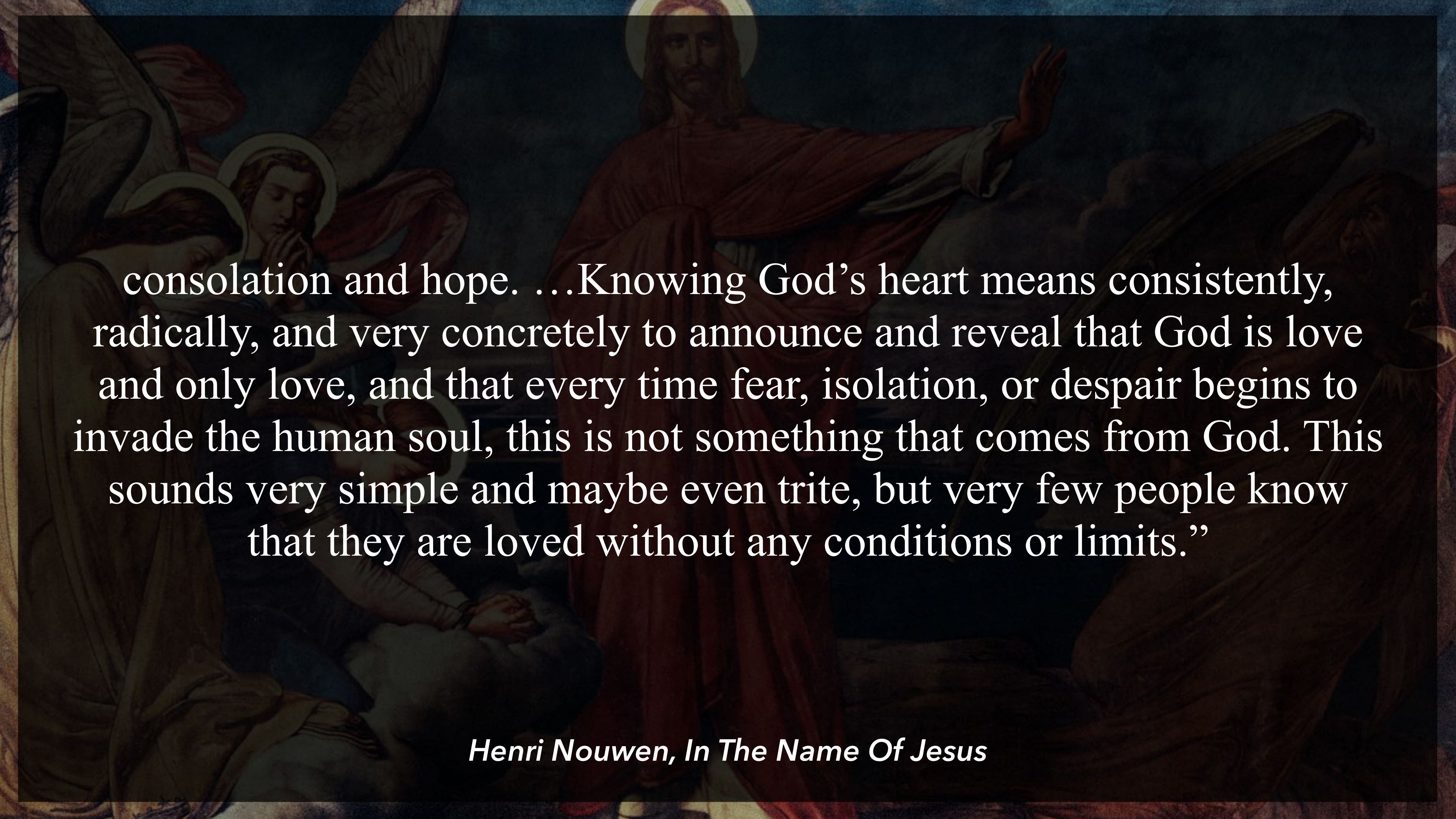
Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

James 4:7-8, NIV

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ with his arms outstretched, surrounded by a group of people in a state of distress or prayer. The scene is set in a dark, atmospheric environment, with Jesus as the central figure, wearing a red robe and a halo. The people around him are shown in various states of grief and supplication, with some holding hands and others looking towards Jesus with expressions of despair. The overall mood is one of profound suffering and a plea for divine intervention.

“In our world of loneliness and despair, there is an enormous need for men and women who know the heart of God, a heart that forgives, cares, reaches out and wants to heal. In that heart there is no suspicion, no vindictiveness, no resentment, and not a tinge of hatred. It is a heart that wants only to give love and receive love in response. It is a heart that suffers immensely because it sees the magnitude of human pain and the great resistance to trusting the heart of God who wants to offer

Henri Nouwen, In The Name Of Jesus



consolation and hope. ...Knowing God's heart means consistently, radically, and very concretely to announce and reveal that God is love and only love, and that every time fear, isolation, or despair begins to invade the human soul, this is not something that comes from God. This sounds very simple and maybe even trite, but very few people know that they are loved without any conditions or limits.”

Henri Nouwen, In The Name Of Jesus



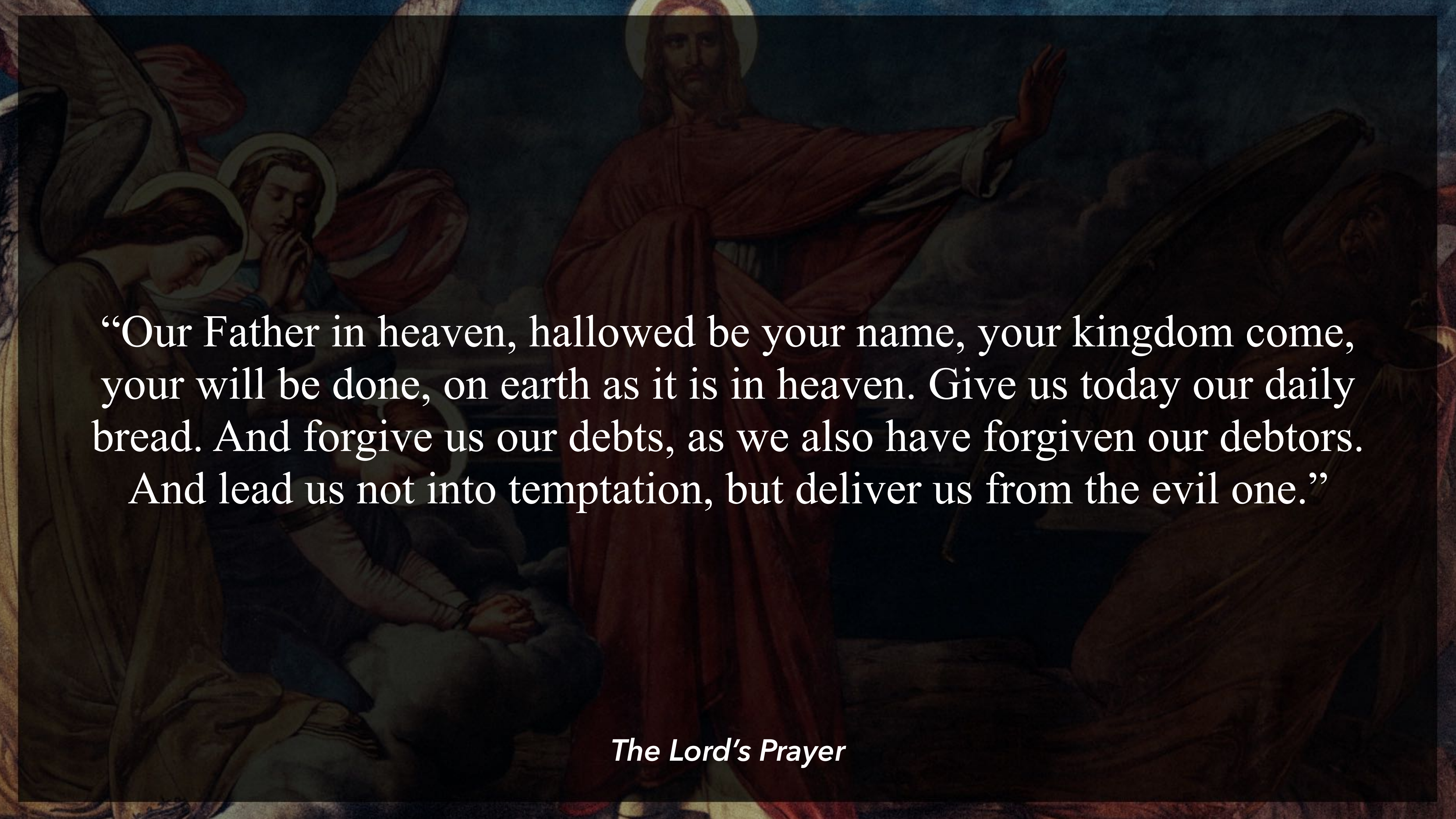
Where do you feel the strongest pull to prove yourself to others?

Put This Into Practice



Pastor Sarah Siders will teach us about Jesus' second temptation

Next Week

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ with outstretched arms, surrounded by kneeling figures in prayer. The scene is set in a dark, atmospheric environment, possibly a church or a sacred space. Jesus is the central figure, wearing a red robe and a white sash, with a halo around his head. He has his arms outstretched in a gesture of blessing or teaching. To his left, a woman with long dark hair and a halo (likely the Virgin Mary) is kneeling in prayer, her hands clasped. Next to her, another figure is also kneeling. To the right, a man with a halo is kneeling, looking towards Jesus. The background is dark and indistinct, focusing attention on the figures. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

The Lord's Prayer