



# **LIFE IN THE WORD SERIES**

## **The Balance of Grace and Truth**

# **Lesson Seven:**

## **Developing Biblical Discernment**

**John 1:14, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

# Scripture Lesson:

John 8:31 - 36

**John 8:31-36, Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. “They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone.**

**How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

**“If we want true wisdom feeding our discernment,  
then we can’t underestimate the need to  
consistently go to the source of Truth: God’s Word.”**



# **Lesson Seven:**

## **Developing Biblical Discernment**





**Isaiah 59:14, “Truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter.”**





**“Without the clarity and consistency of absolute moral truth, we are reduced to doing what seems right, what feels good, what produces the least resistance, and what provides the greatest personal fulfilment.”**





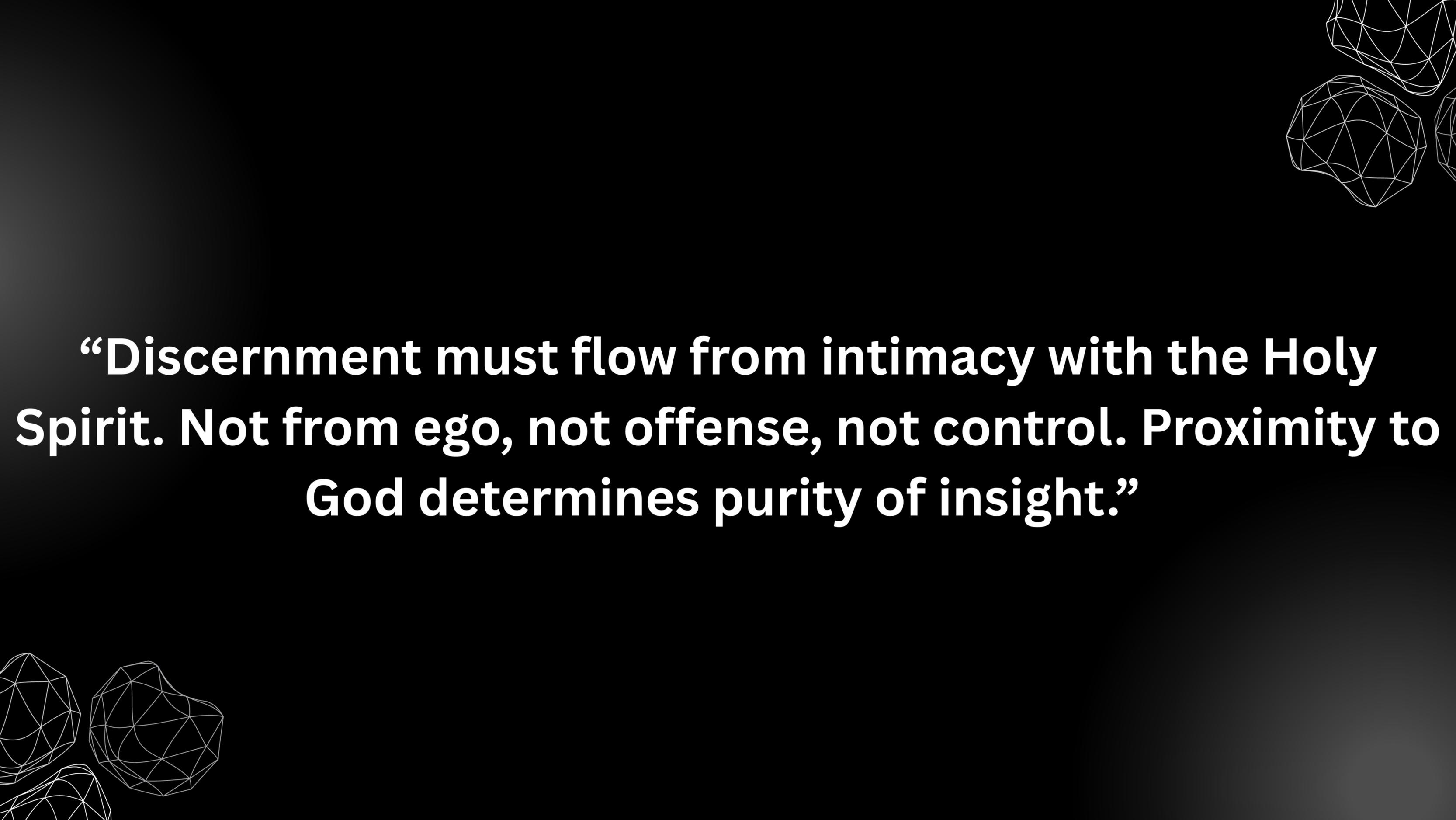
**1 Kings 3:9, “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil...”**



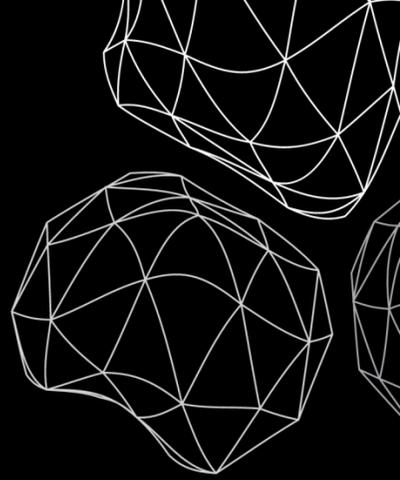


**1 Kings 4:29, “Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore.”**

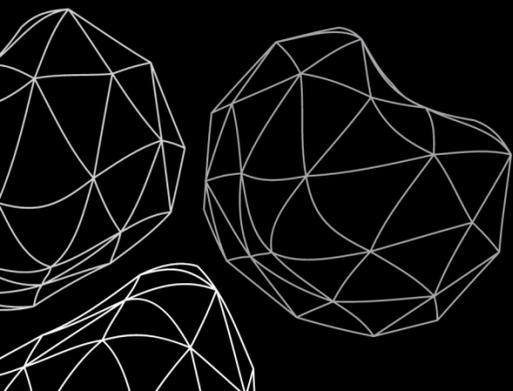


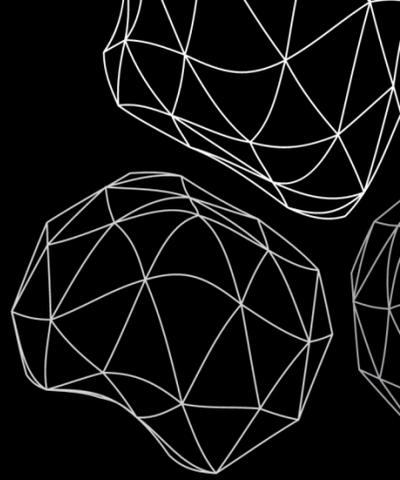


**“Discernment must flow from intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Not from ego, not offense, not control. Proximity to God determines purity of insight.”**

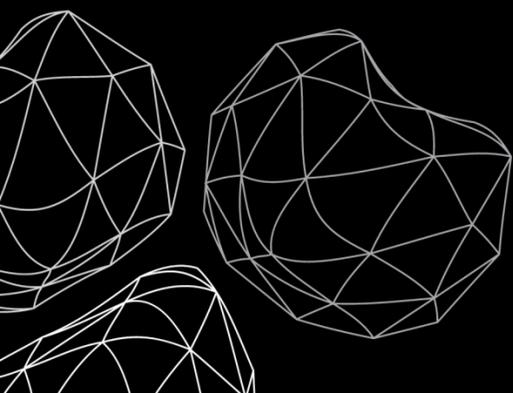


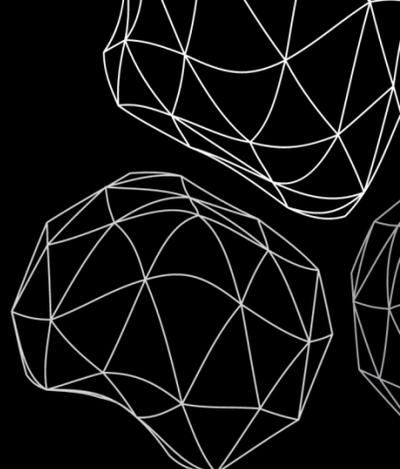
**“It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills...It’s better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with a multitude. It is better to ultimately succeed with truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie.”**



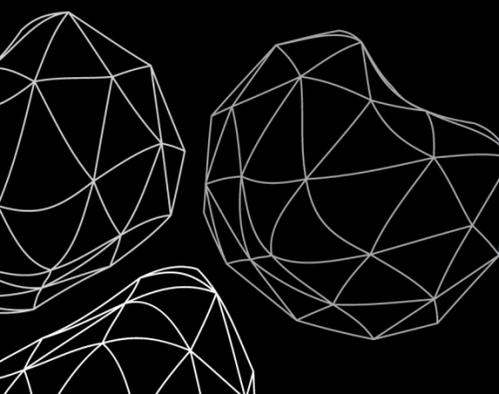


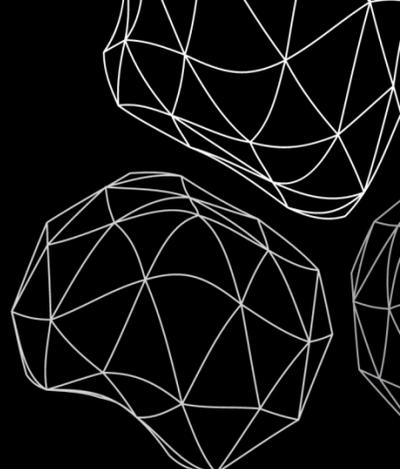
# Five Ways to Develop Biblical Discernment:



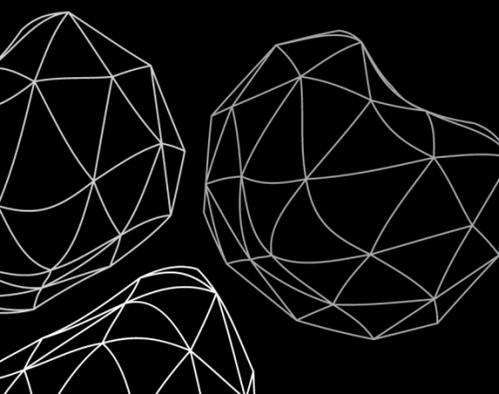


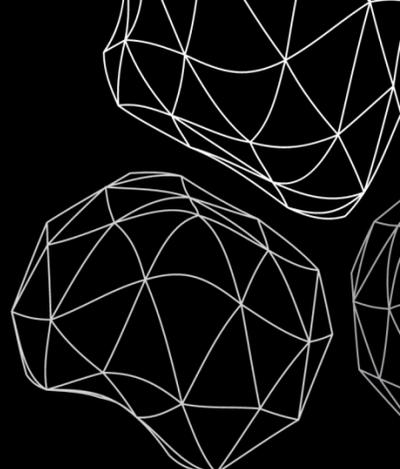
**1. Settle the Source of Truth.**  
**Psalm 119:151**



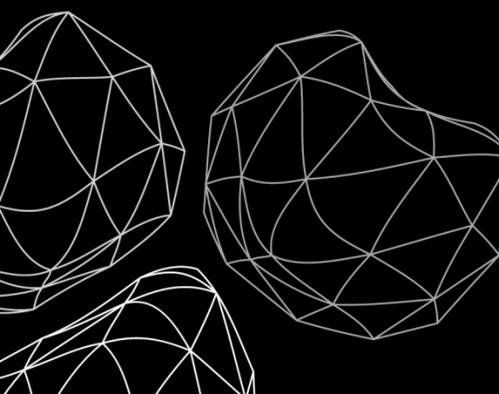


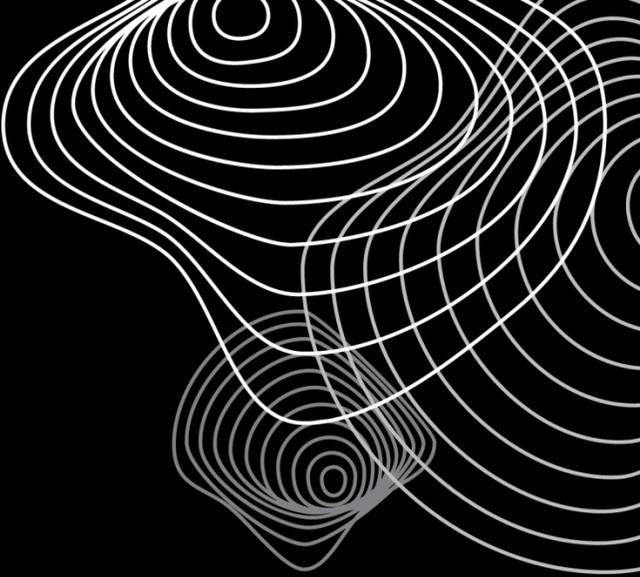
**2. Tell the Truth about Right and Wrong.**  
**Isaiah 5:20**





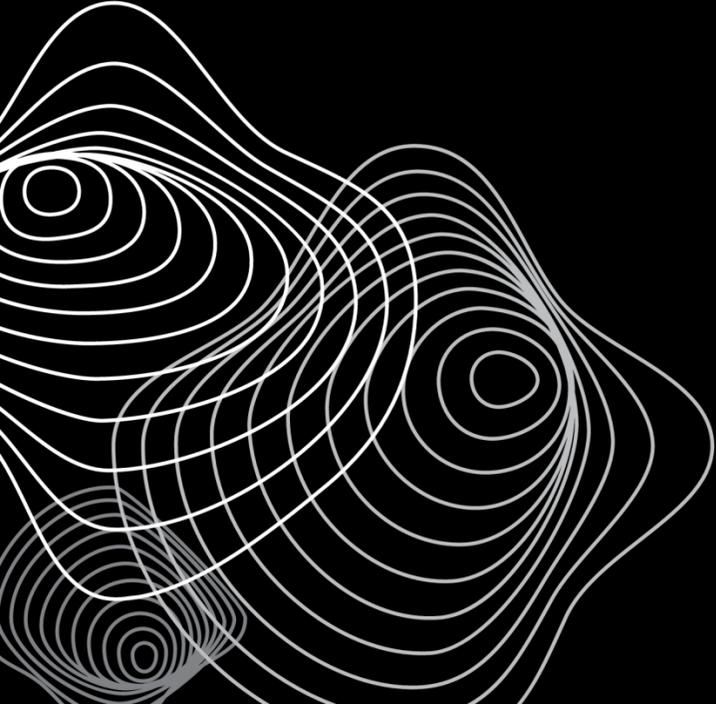
**Isaiah 5:20, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”**

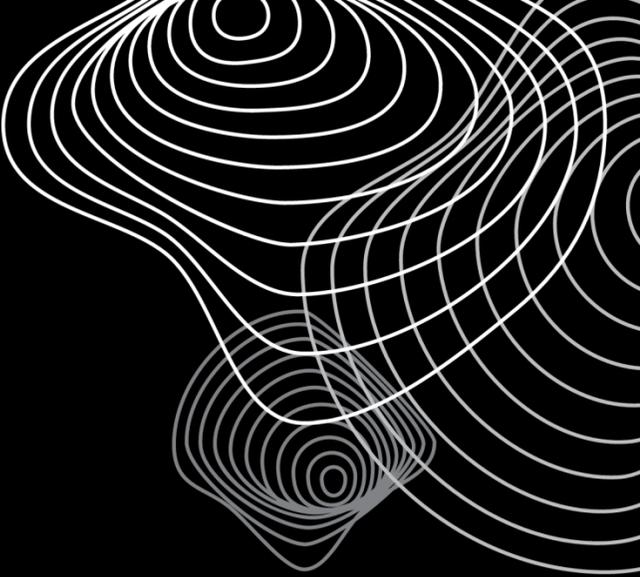




# **3. Test the Teaching You Hear.**

**1 John 4:1**



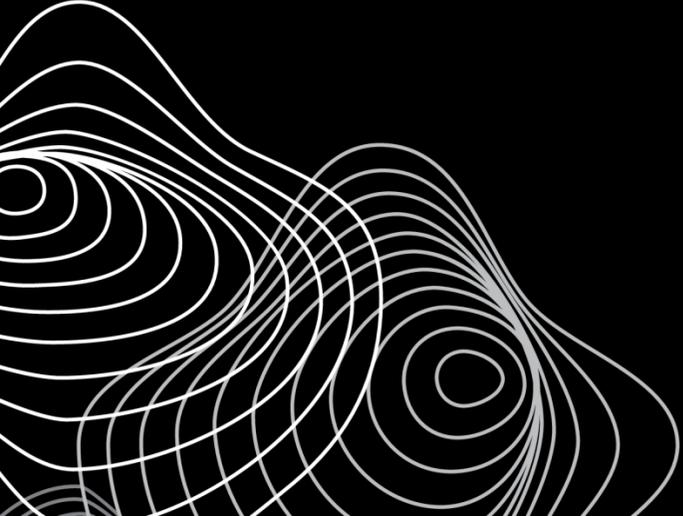


**I John 4:1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”**



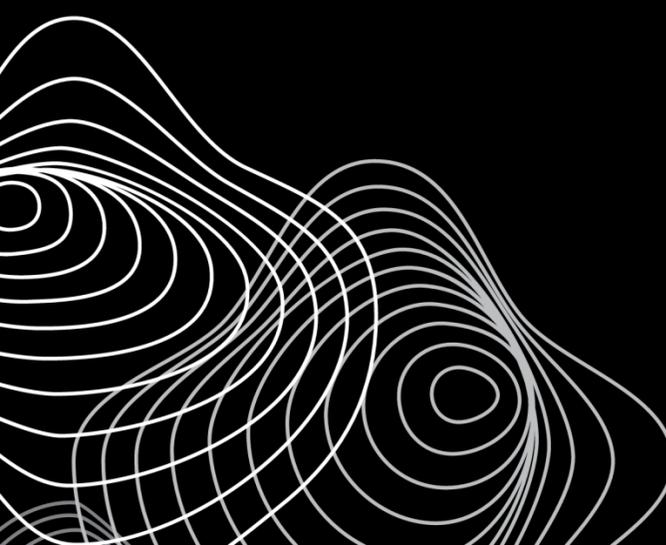


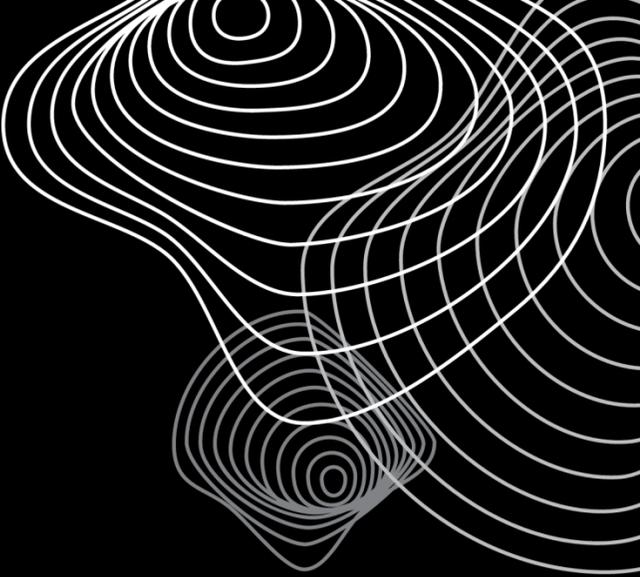
**1 Timothy 4:1-2, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared.”**





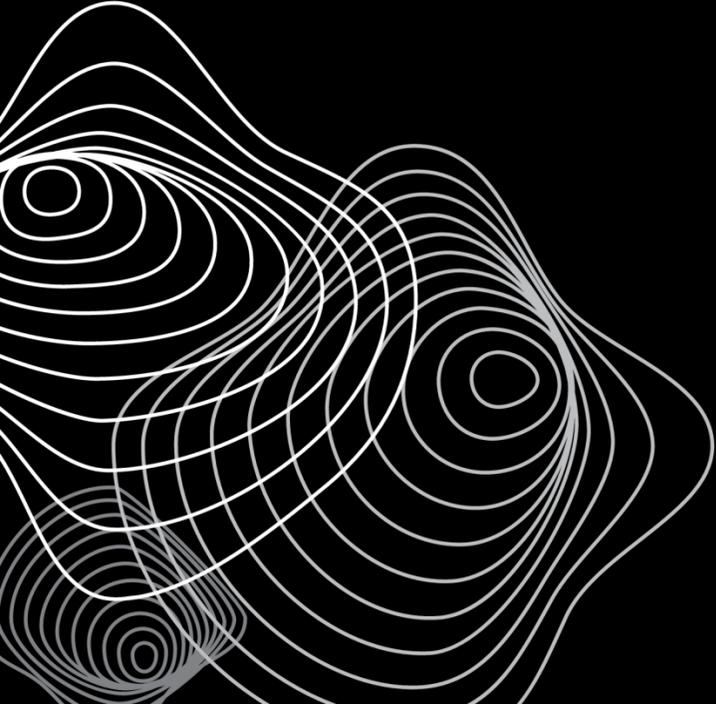
**2 Timothy 4:3-4, “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”**

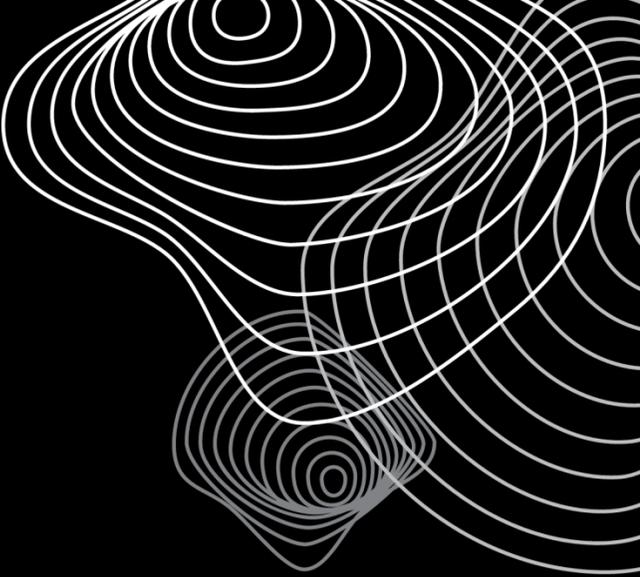




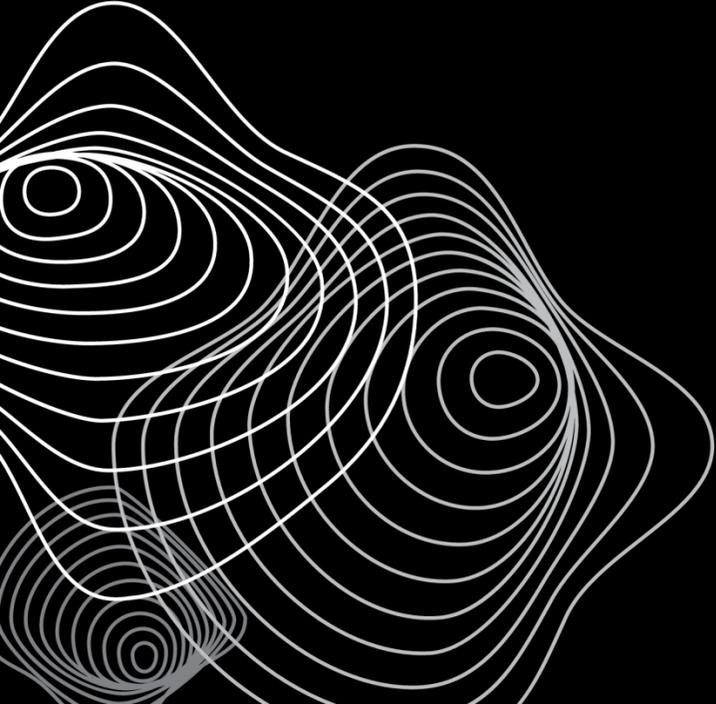
**The church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.**

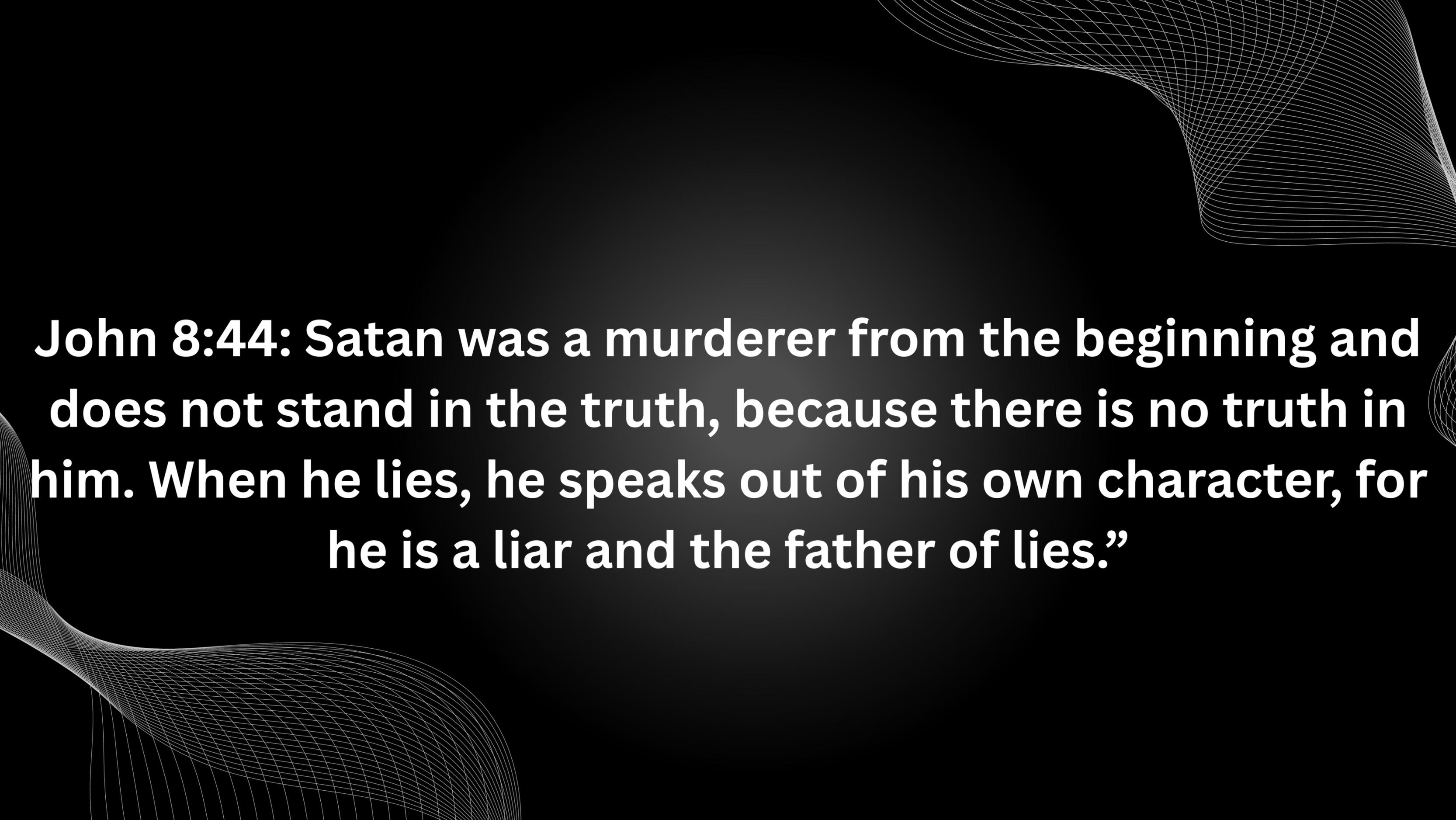
**1 Timothy 3:15**





**4. Recognize Satan is a liar.**  
**John 8:44**

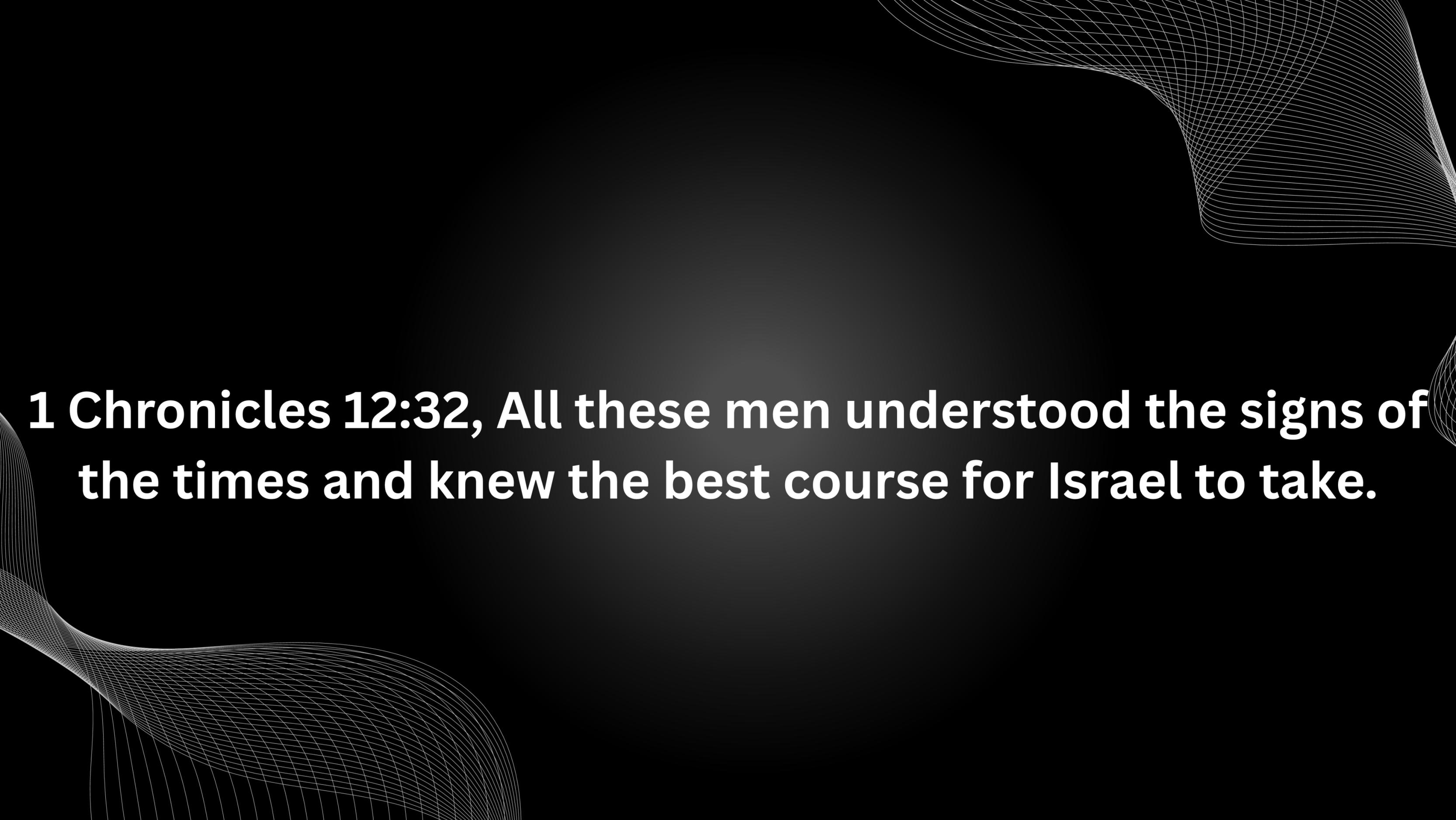




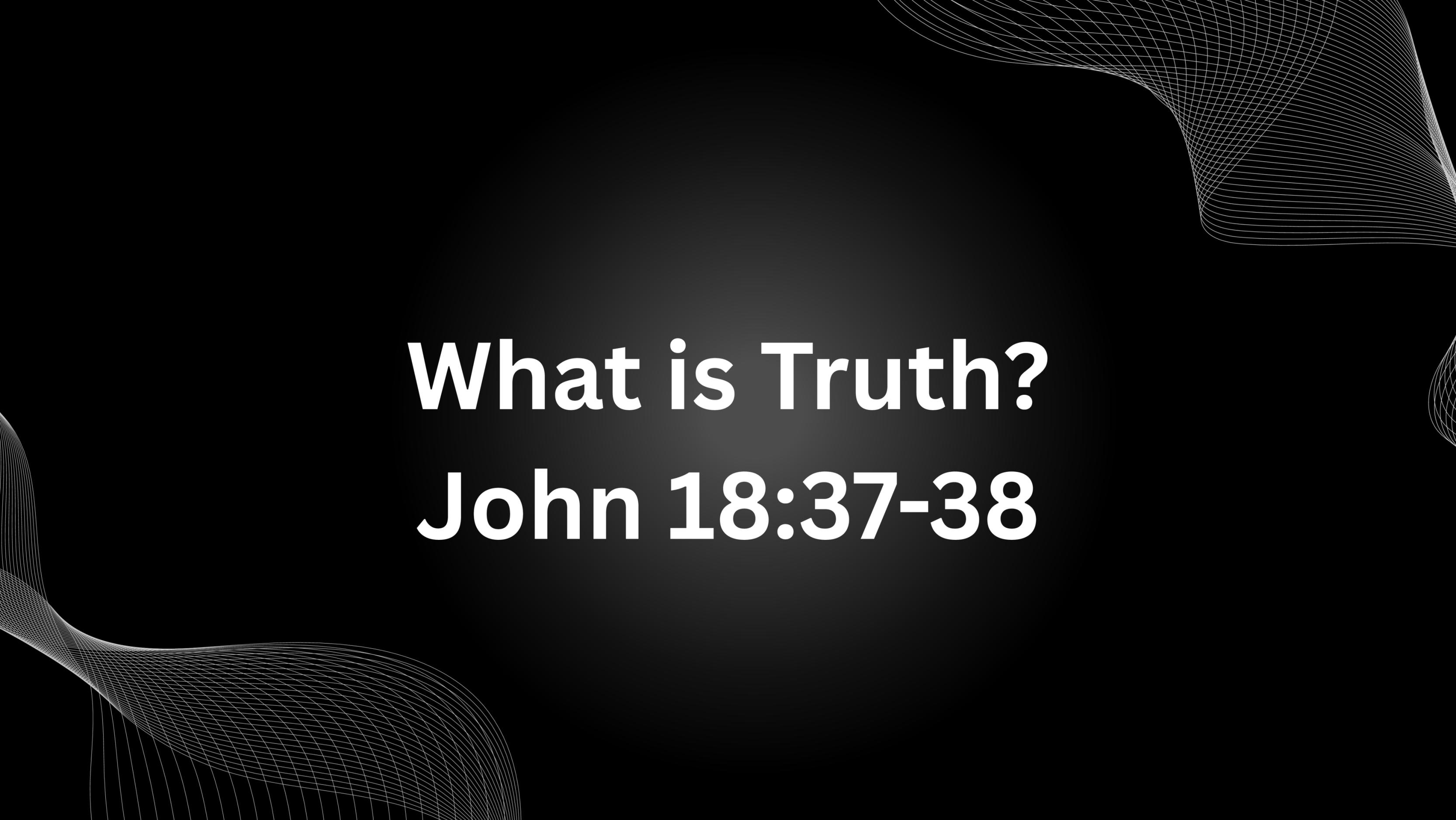
**John 8:44: Satan was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”**



**5. Live on Mission in Our Messed-Up World.  
1 Chronicles 12:32**

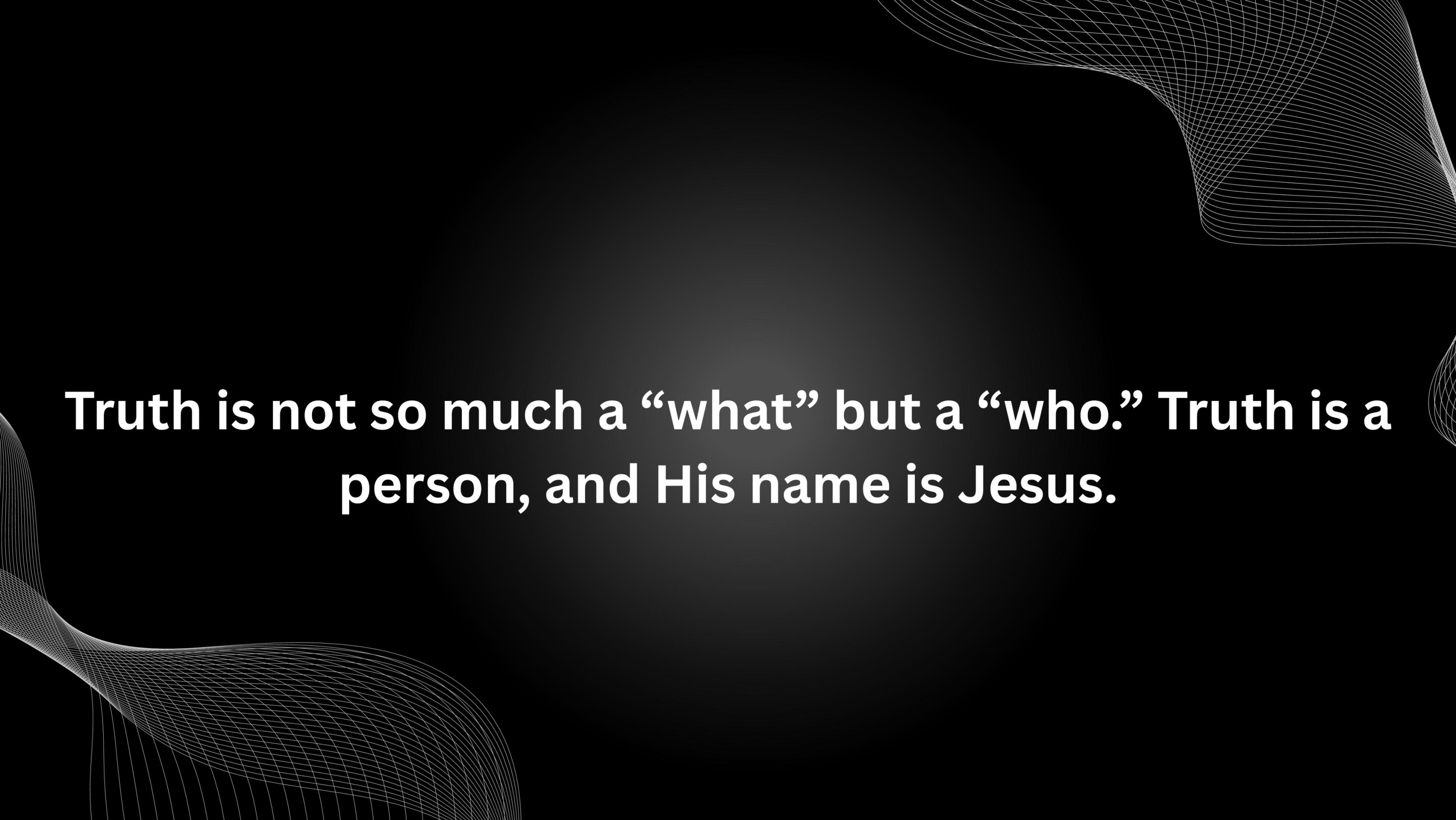


**1 Chronicles 12:32, All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.**



# **What is Truth?**

## **John 18:37-38**



**Truth is not so much a “what” but a “who.” Truth is a person, and His name is Jesus.**



**“You cannot love Christ if you do not love Truth.”**  
**Charles Spurgeon**

# Follow-Up Chat Questions:

- 1. Who or what is the source of spiritual wisdom? Explain.**
- 2. Why has truth become a scarce commodity in the world?**
- 3. Why is Biblical discernment needed today?**
- 4. Proximity to God determines purity of insight.” Explain.**
- 5. List the five ways to develop Biblical discernment. Explain.**
- 6. When was the last time you had to speak up for the truth?**
- 7. What resonates most in today’s lesson?**