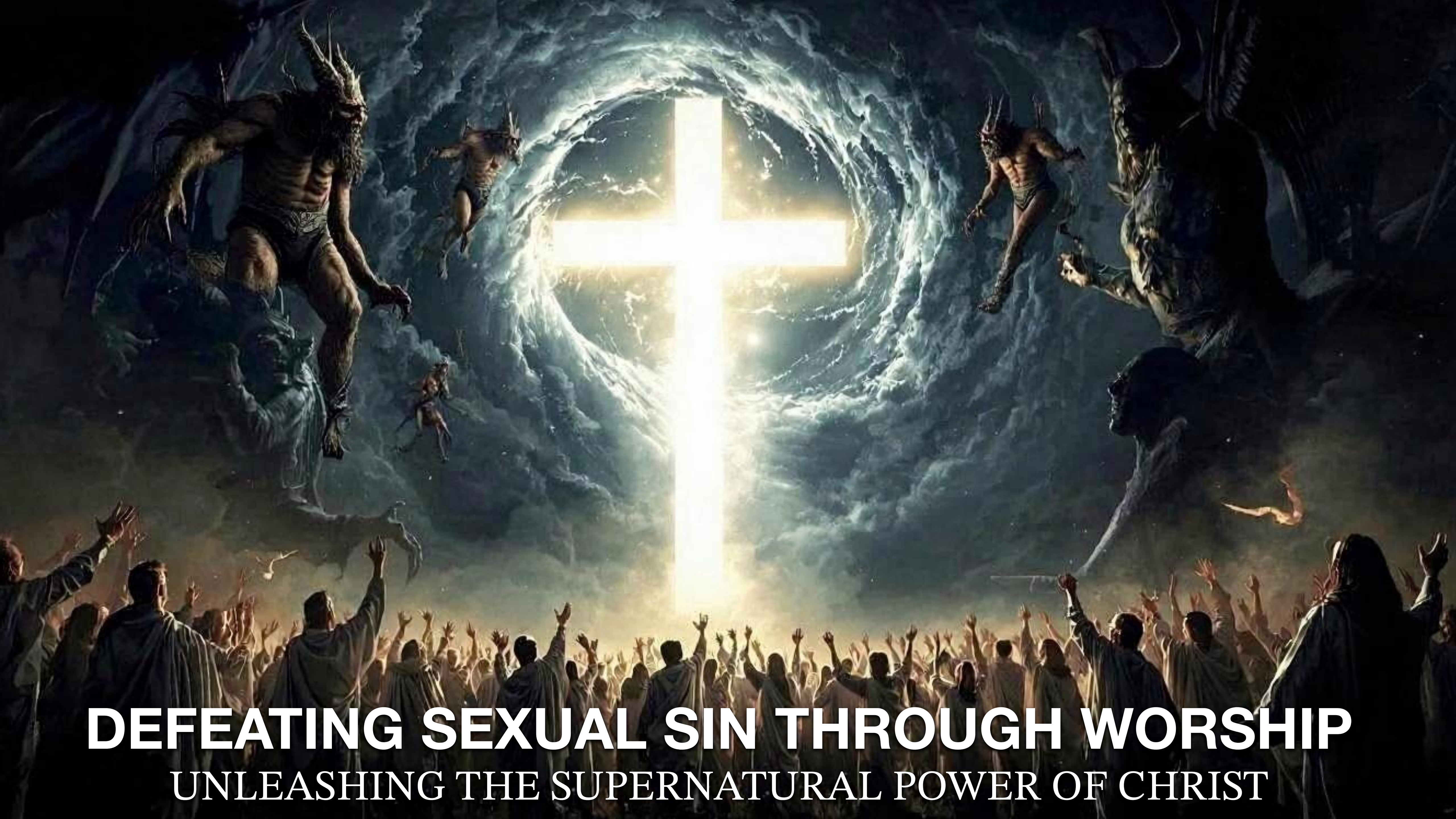




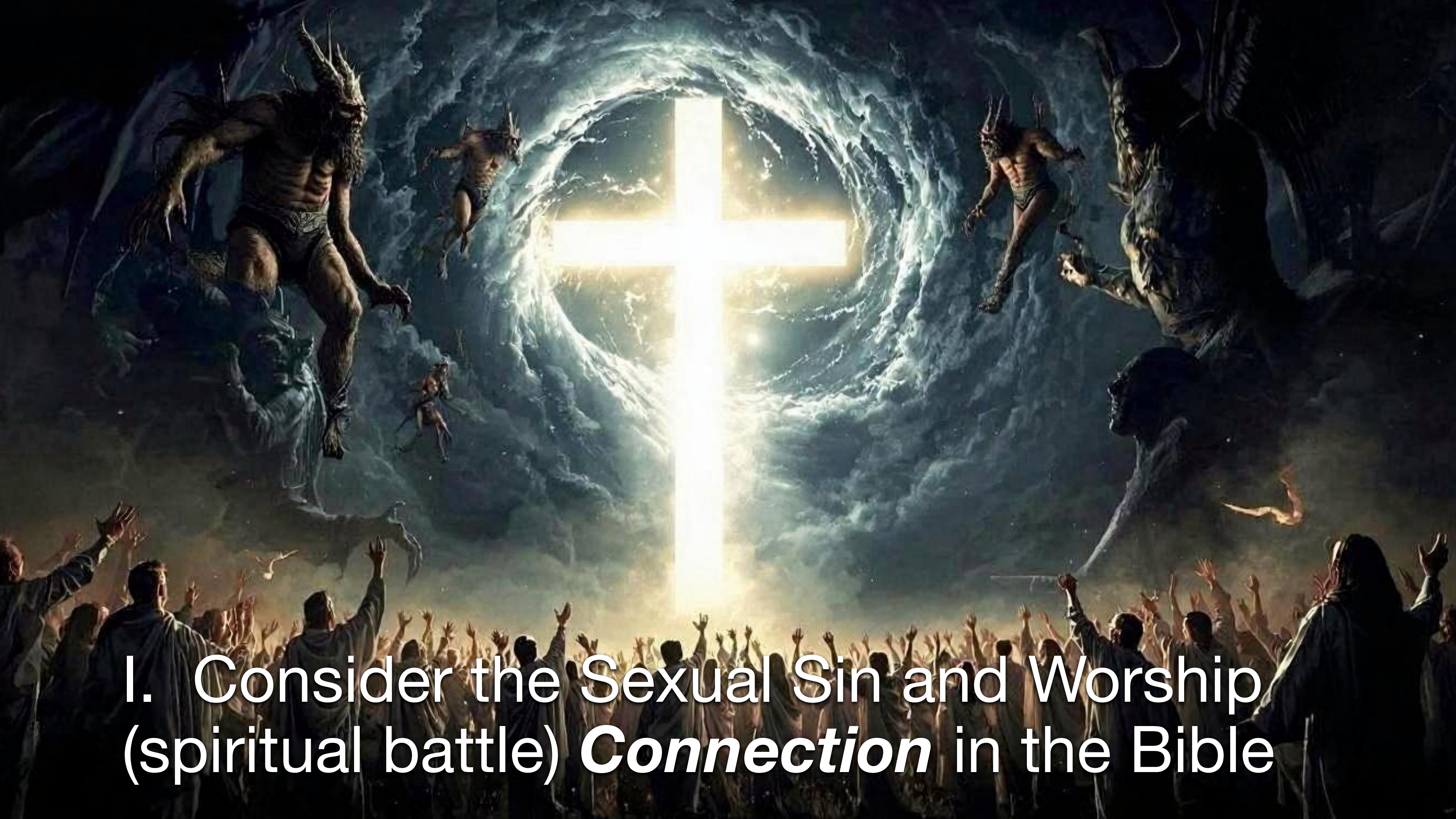
DEFEATING SEXUAL SIN THROUGH WORSHIP
UNLEASHING THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF CHRIST

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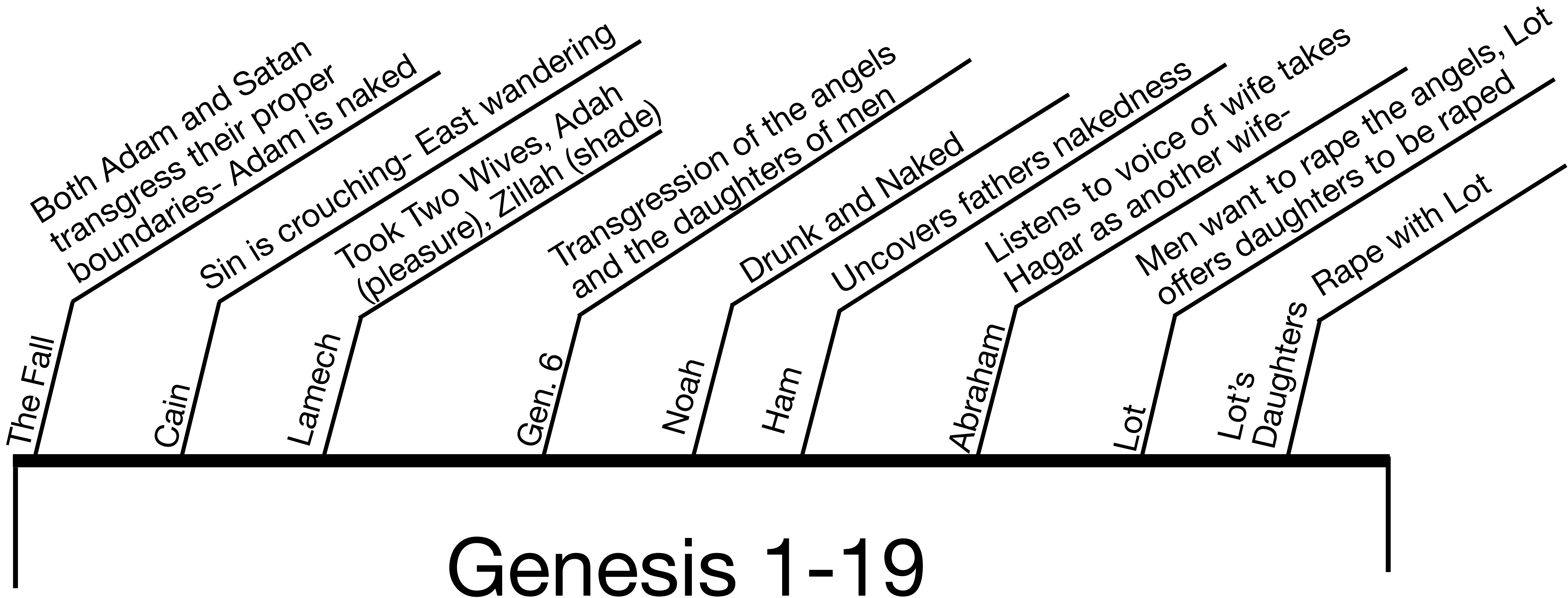
I. Consider the Sexual Sin and Worship
(spiritual battle) *Connection* in the Bible

II. Consider the Sexual Sin and Worship
(spiritual battle) *Solution* in the Bible

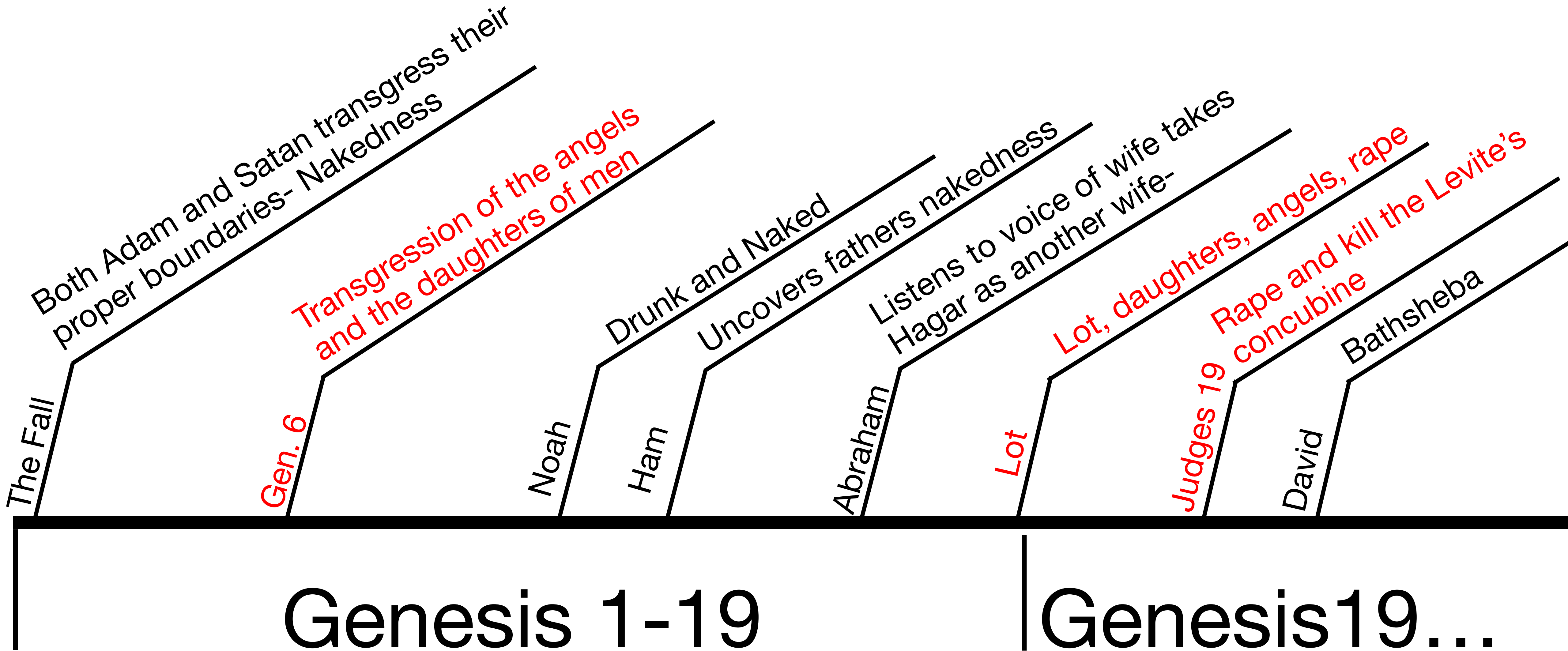


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(spiritual battle) ***Connection*** in the Bible

Sexual Sin, the Spiritual battle, and Worship



Sexual Sin, the Spiritual battle, and Worship



Sexual Sin and Worship

Romans 1:24–27 (ESV) — 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. **26** For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27** and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

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1. What is Sexual Immorality?

Transgression

Transgression involves the *action* of crossing a boundary, doing what is prohibited by God



Sin

Missing the Mark. Not *doing* what you are commanded to do.



Iniquity

The twisting that happens inside a persons heart and mind that perverts and distorts that which is true and that which God has made good.

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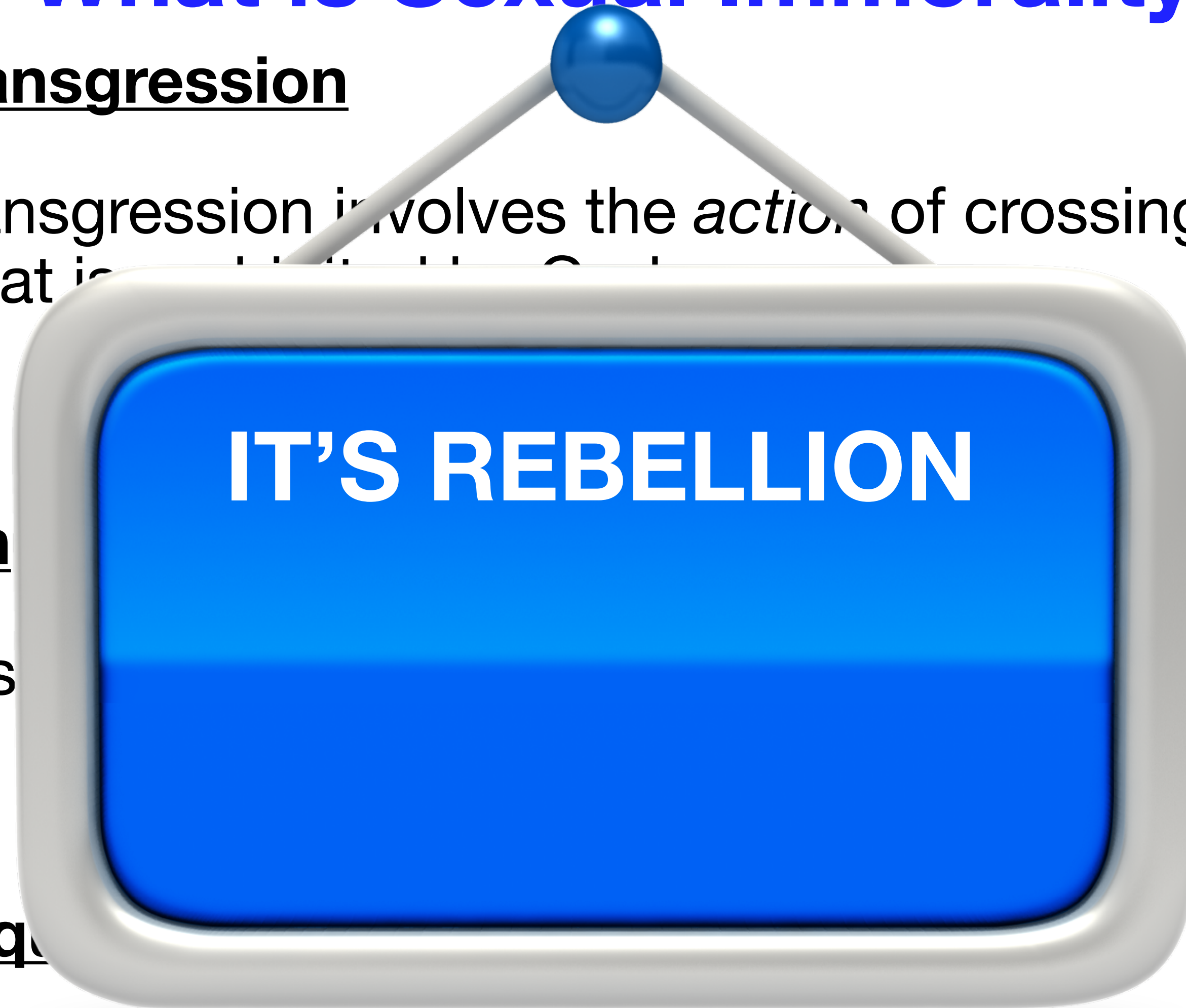
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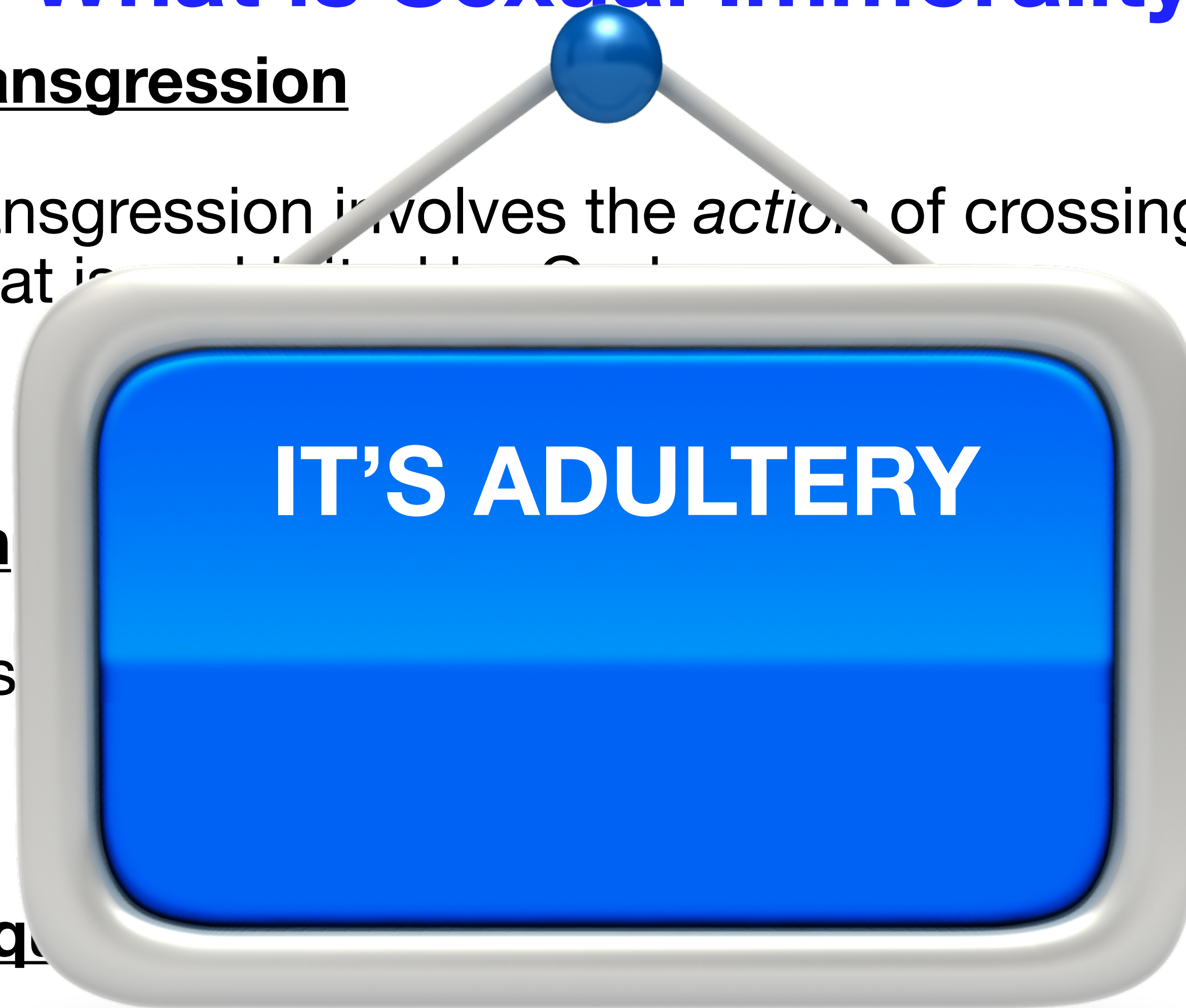
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The first (transgression) signifies the passing over a boundary, doing what is prohibited. The second (Sin) signifies the missing of a mark, not doing what was commanded; but it is often taken to express sinfulness, or sin in the nature, producing transgression in the life. The third signifies what is turned out of its proper course or situation; anything morally distorted or perverted.

Spurgeon, C. H. (n.d.). The treasury of David: Psalms 27-57 (Vol. 2, p. 88). Marshall Brothers.



What is good?

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.



Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



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Genesis 2:22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” **24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

What is going on in Leviticus?

The book that describes how one is to worship and be in relationship with Yahweh?

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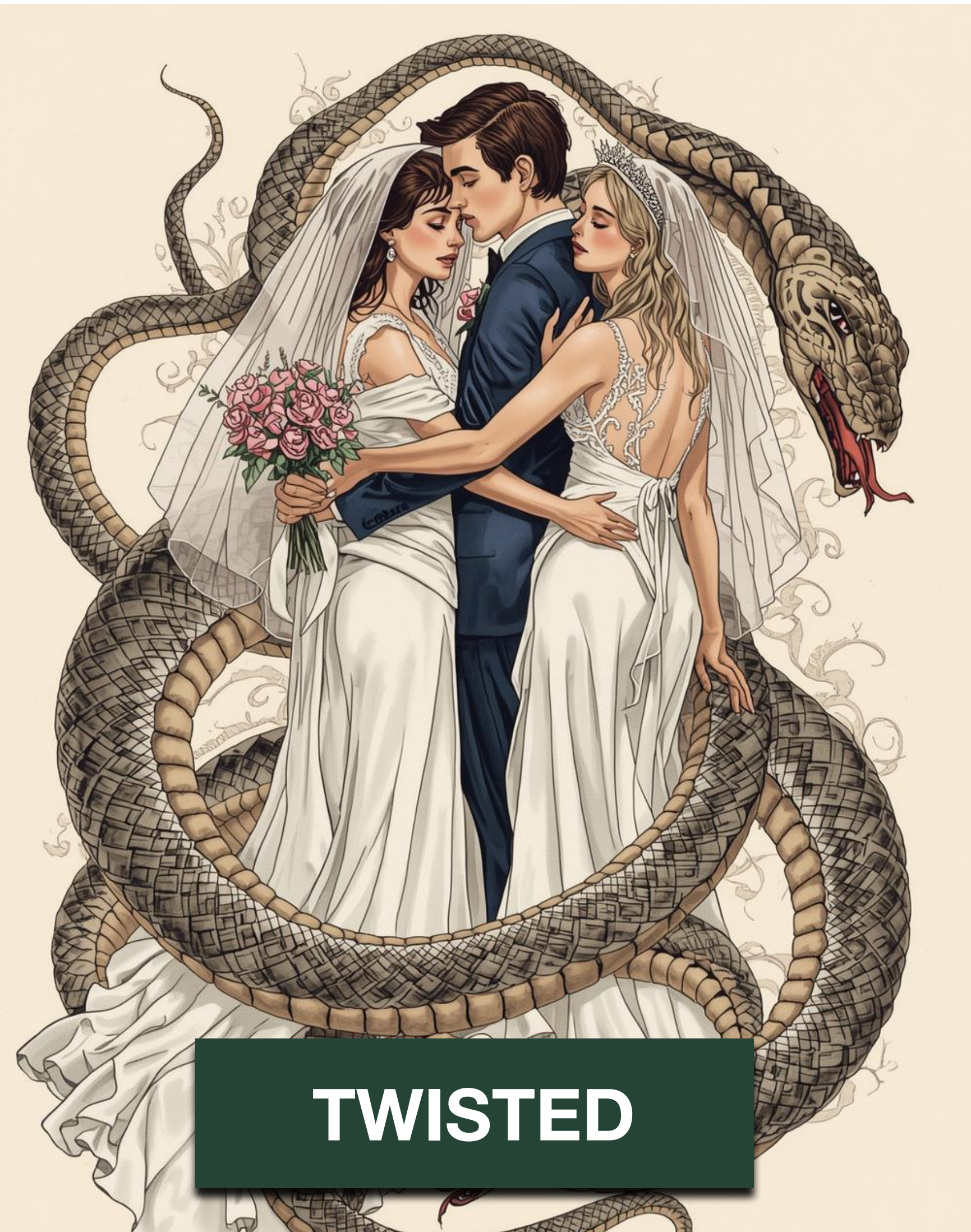
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MISSING THE MARK

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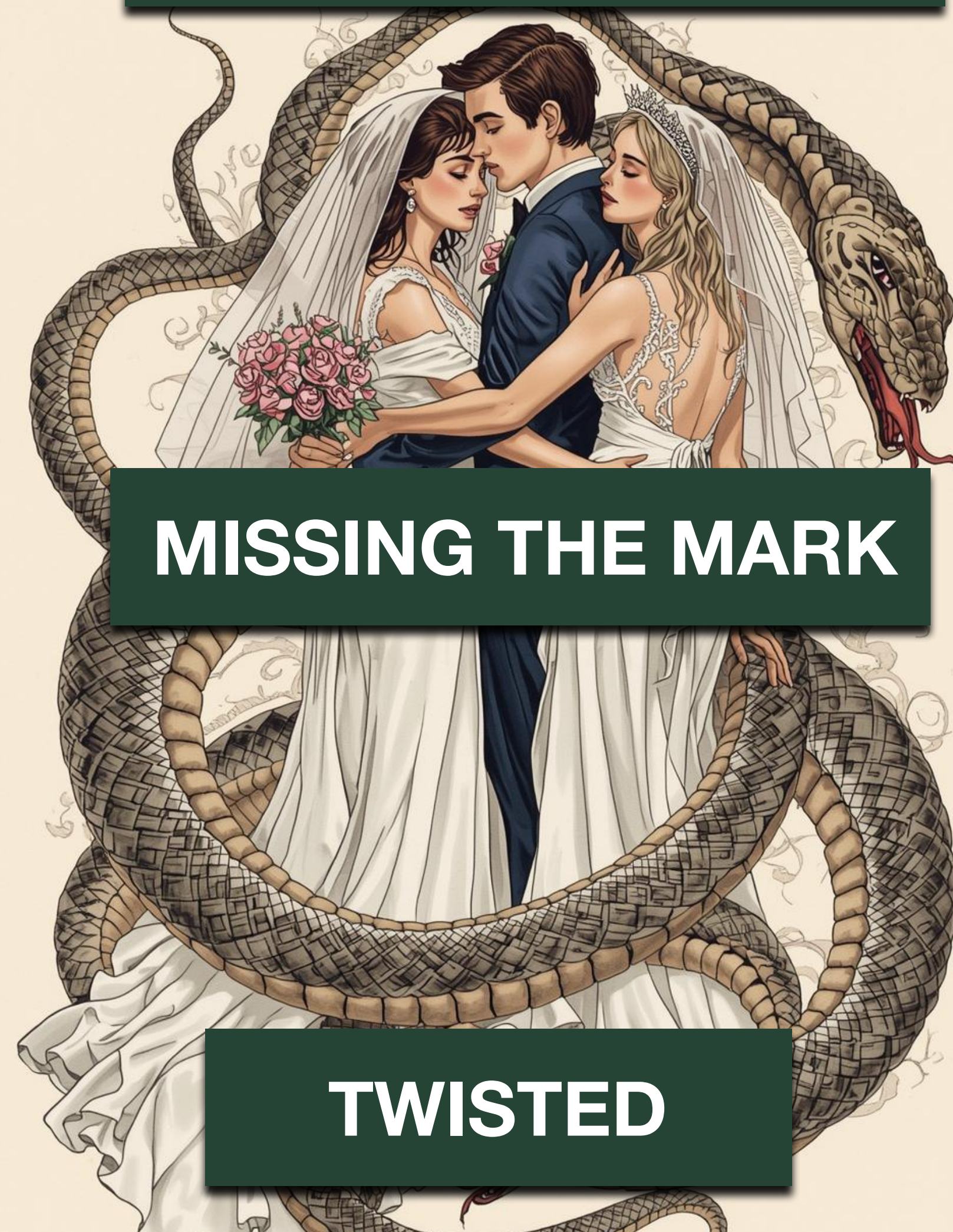
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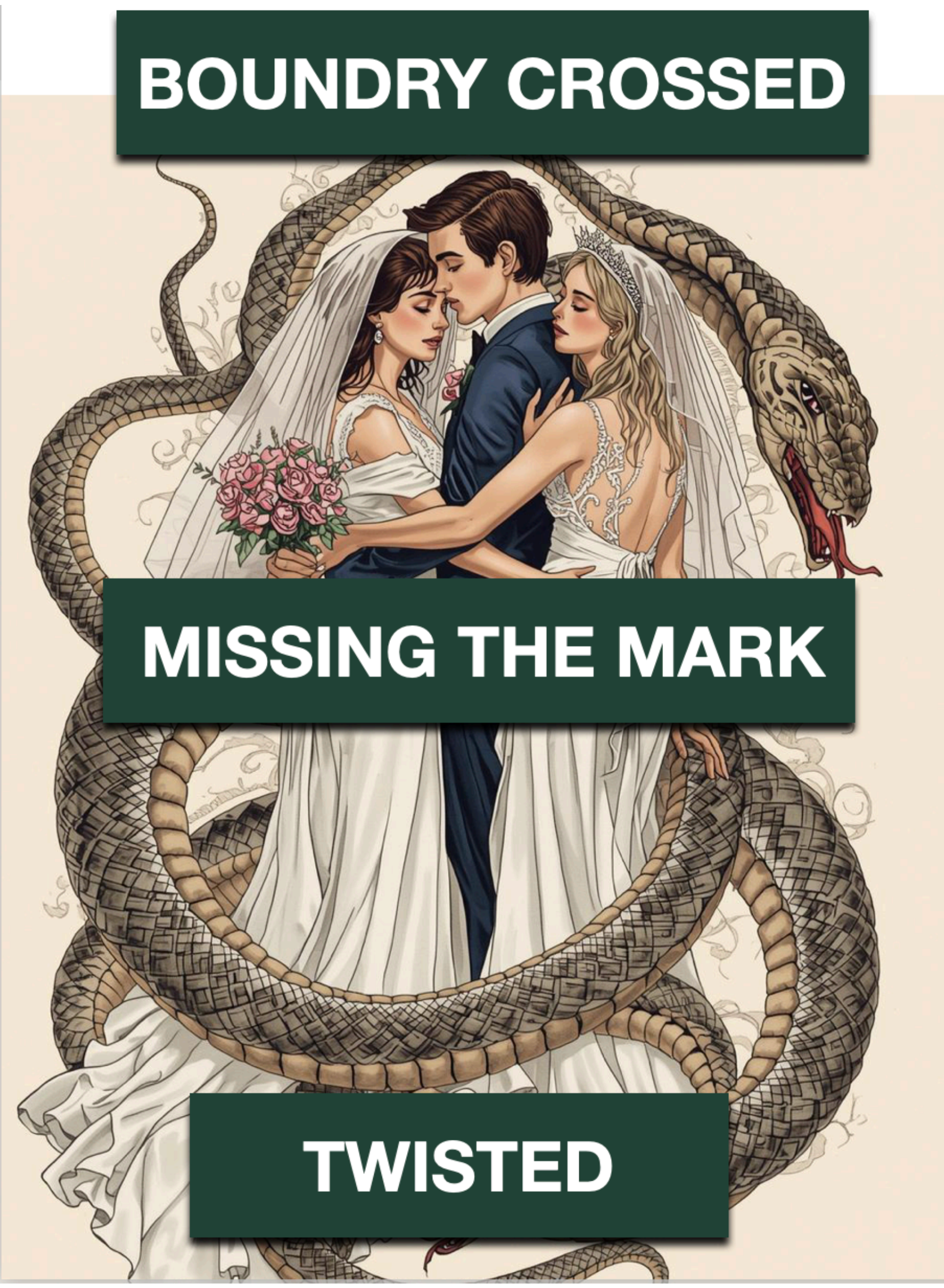
Leviticus 18:6–12 (ESV) — **6** “None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the Lord. **7** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. **8** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s wife; it is your father’s nakedness. **9** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home. **10** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son’s daughter or of your daughter’s daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness.

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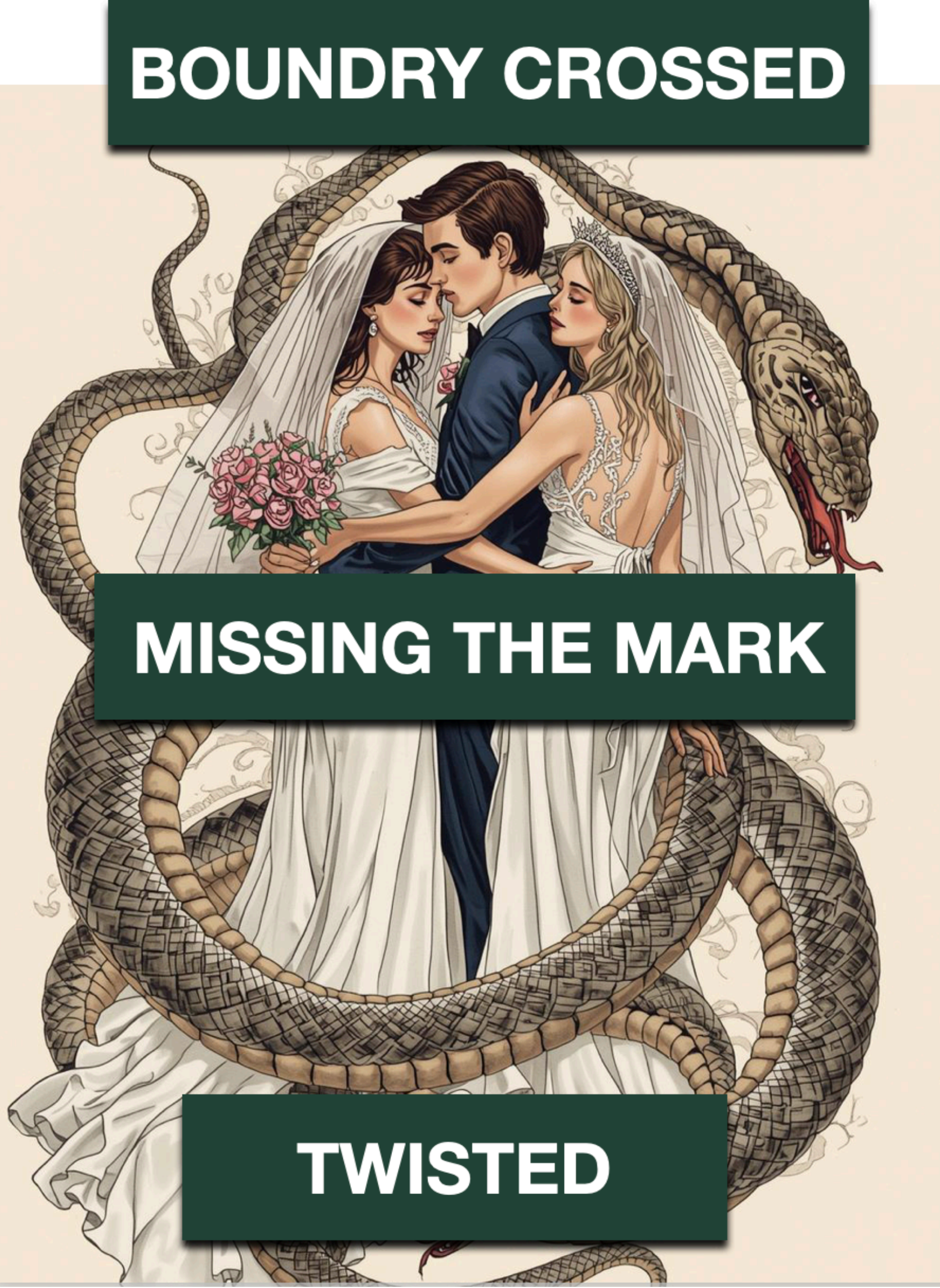


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Leviticus 18:10–14 (ESV) — 10 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness. **11** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, brought up in your father's family, since she is your sister. **12** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's relative. **13** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's relative. **14** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother, that is, you shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.

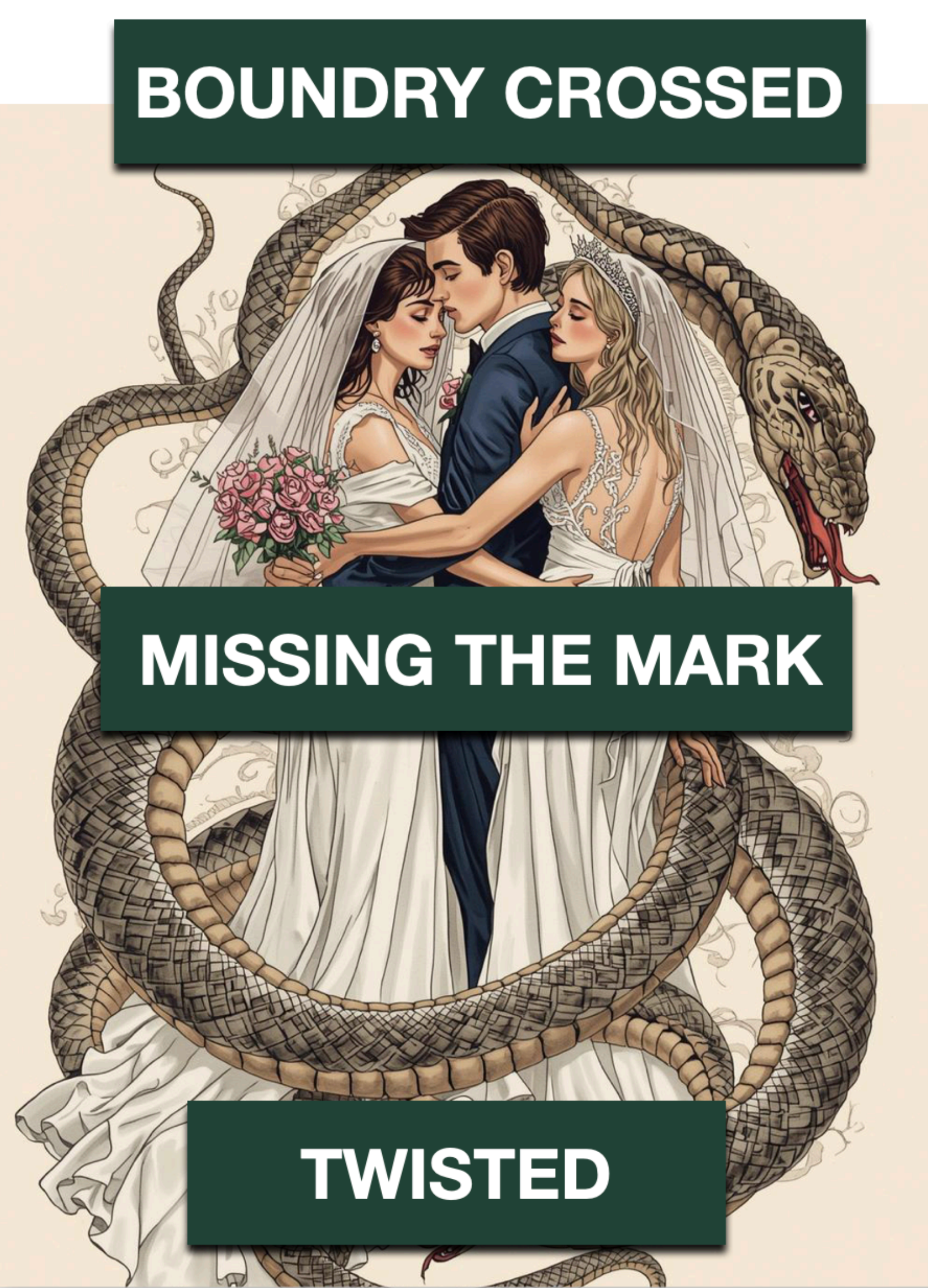


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Leviticus 18:15–18 (ESV) — 15 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness. **16** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. **17** You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, and you shall not take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter to uncover her nakedness; they are relatives; it is depravity. **18** And you shall not take a woman as a rival wife to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive.

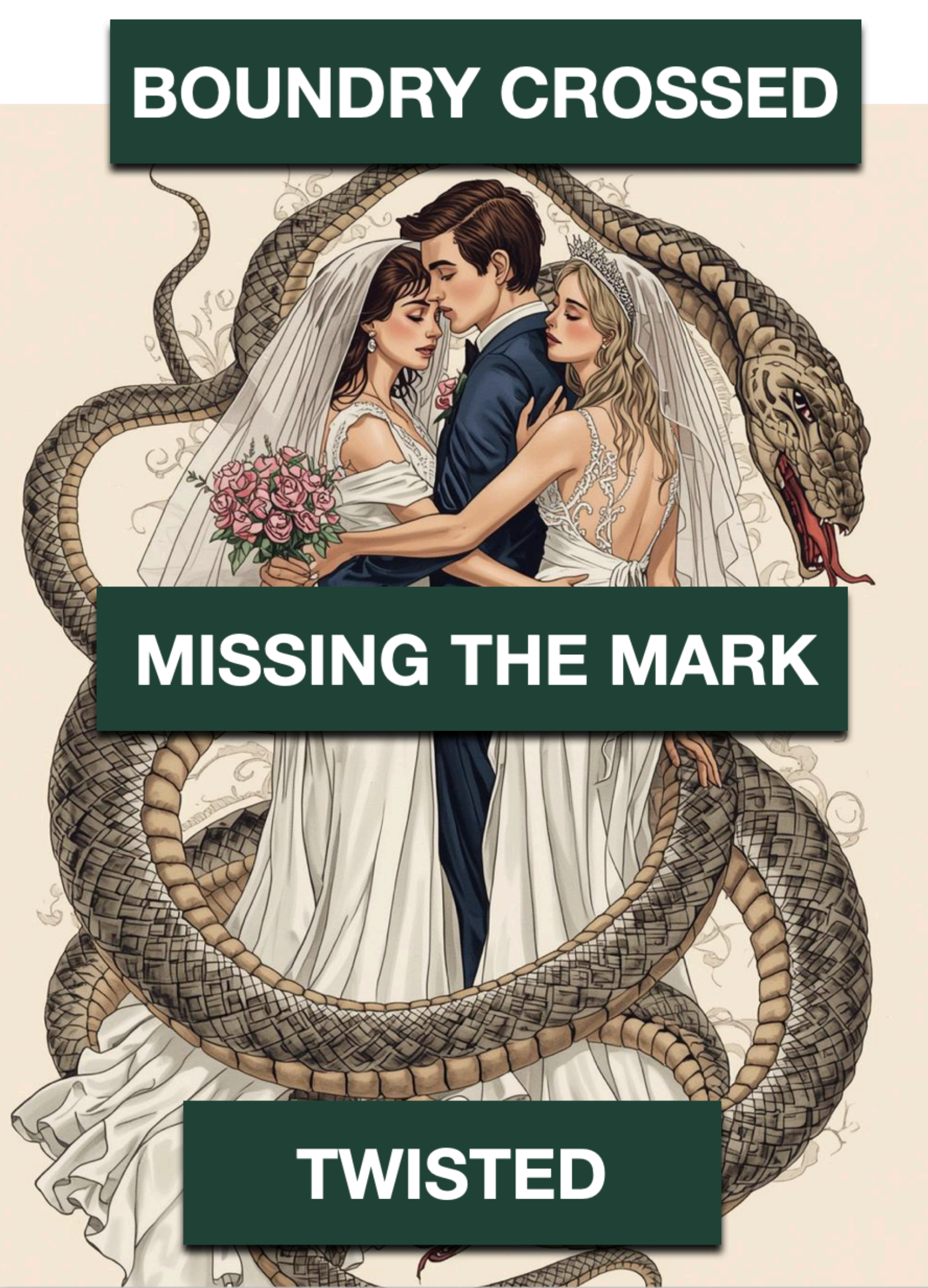


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Leviticus 18:19–23 (ESV) — 19 “You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness. 20 And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor’s wife and so make yourself unclean with her. **21 *You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech,*** and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. 22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. 23 And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

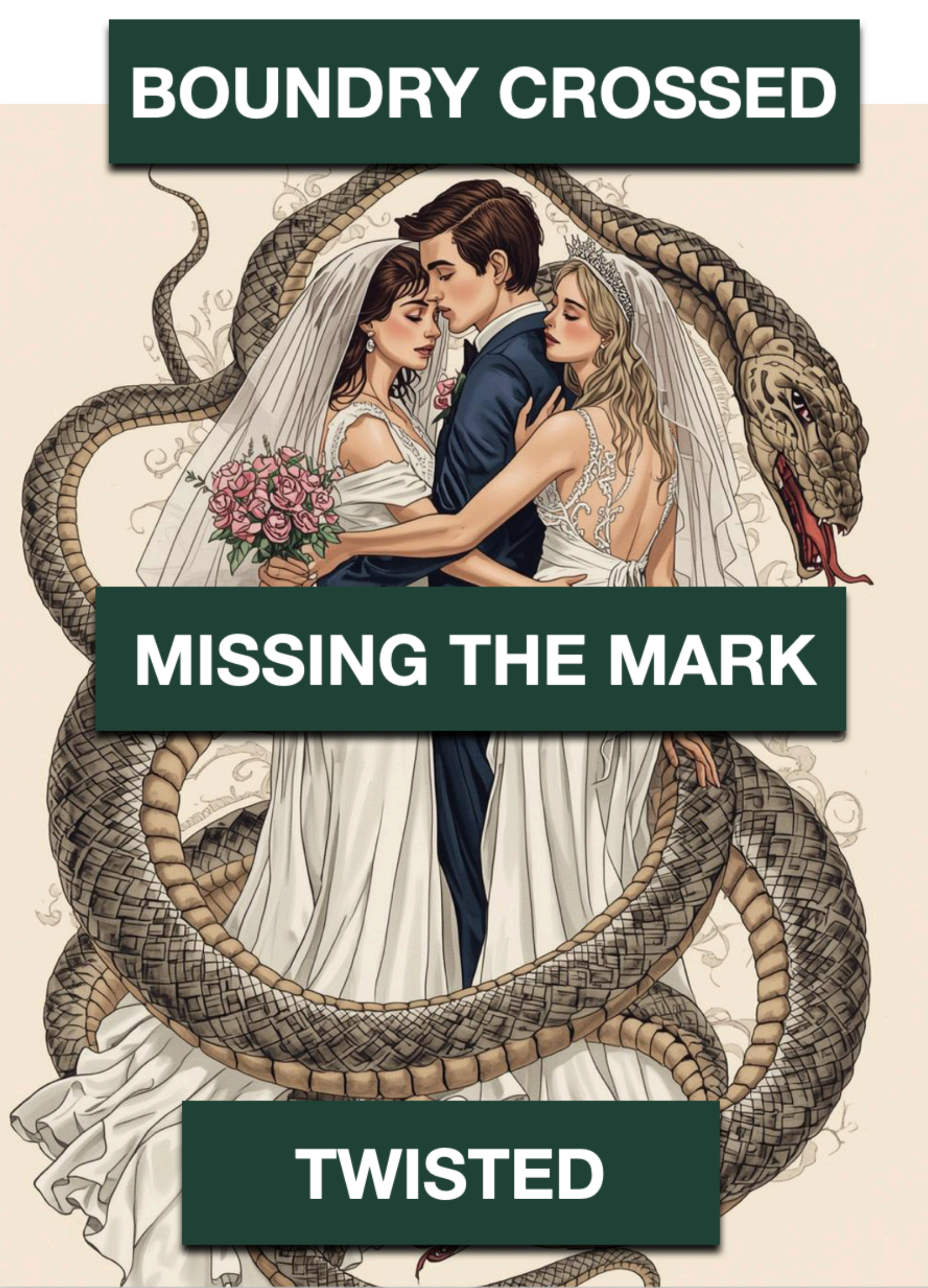


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Leviticus 18:24–27“Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, **for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean,** 25 and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. 26 But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you 27 (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean),



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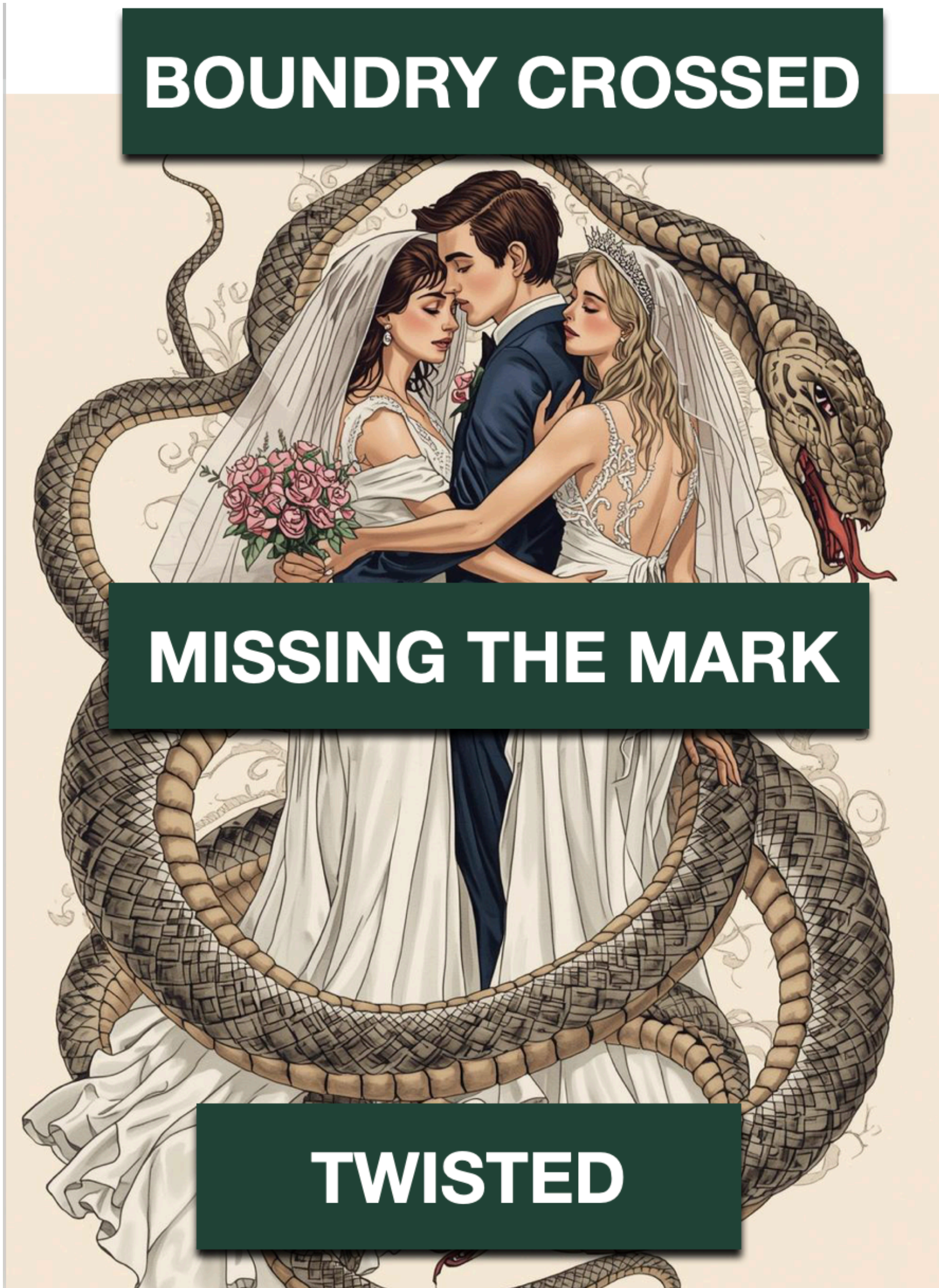
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Leviticus 18:28 lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you. **29** For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. **30** So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: **I am the Lord your God.**”

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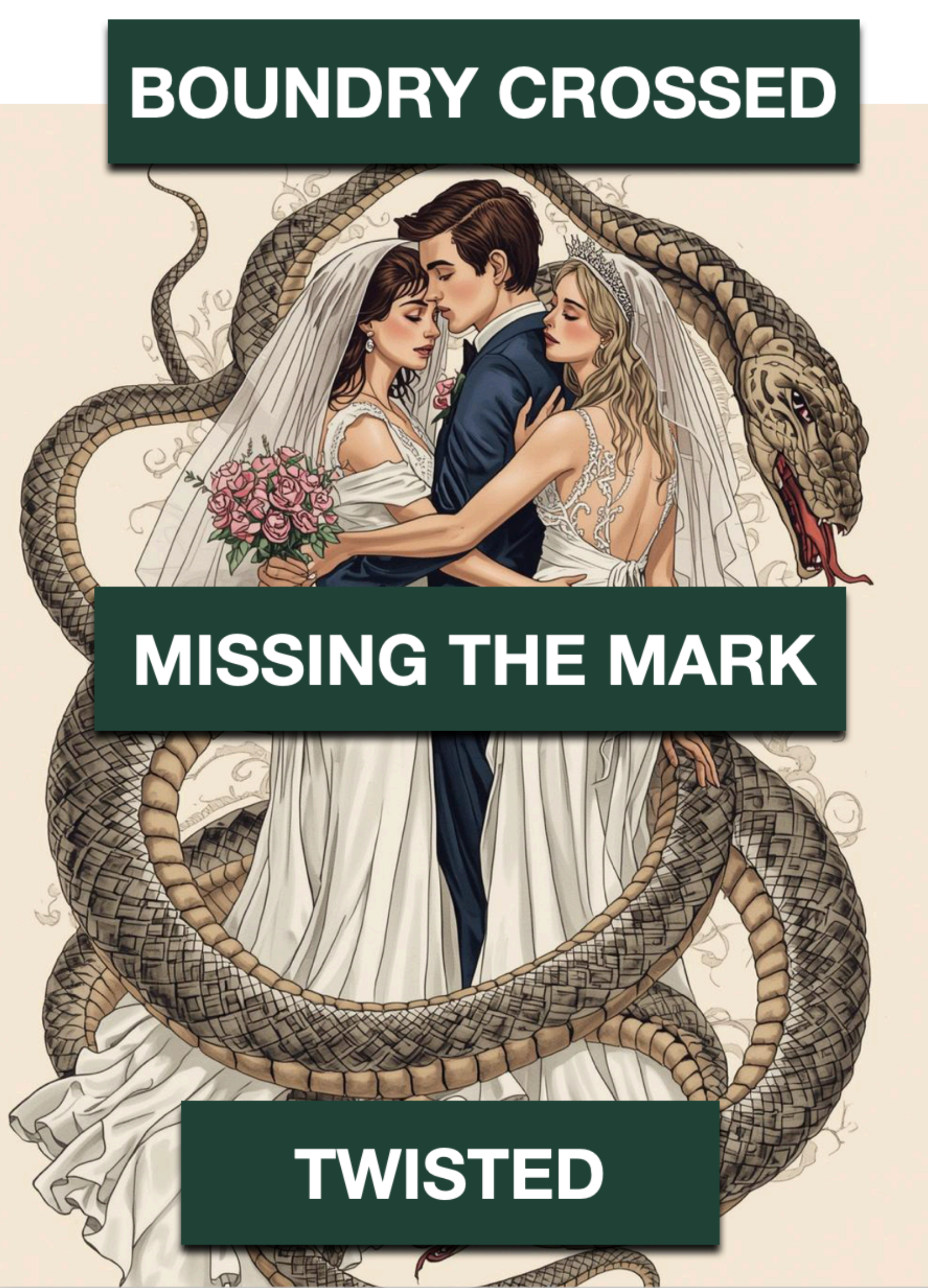
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Leviticus 19:26 (ESV) — 26 “You shall not eat any flesh with the blood in it. You shall not interpret omens or tell fortunes.

Leviticus 19:31 (ESV) — 31 “Do not turn to **mediums or necromancers**; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the Lord your God.

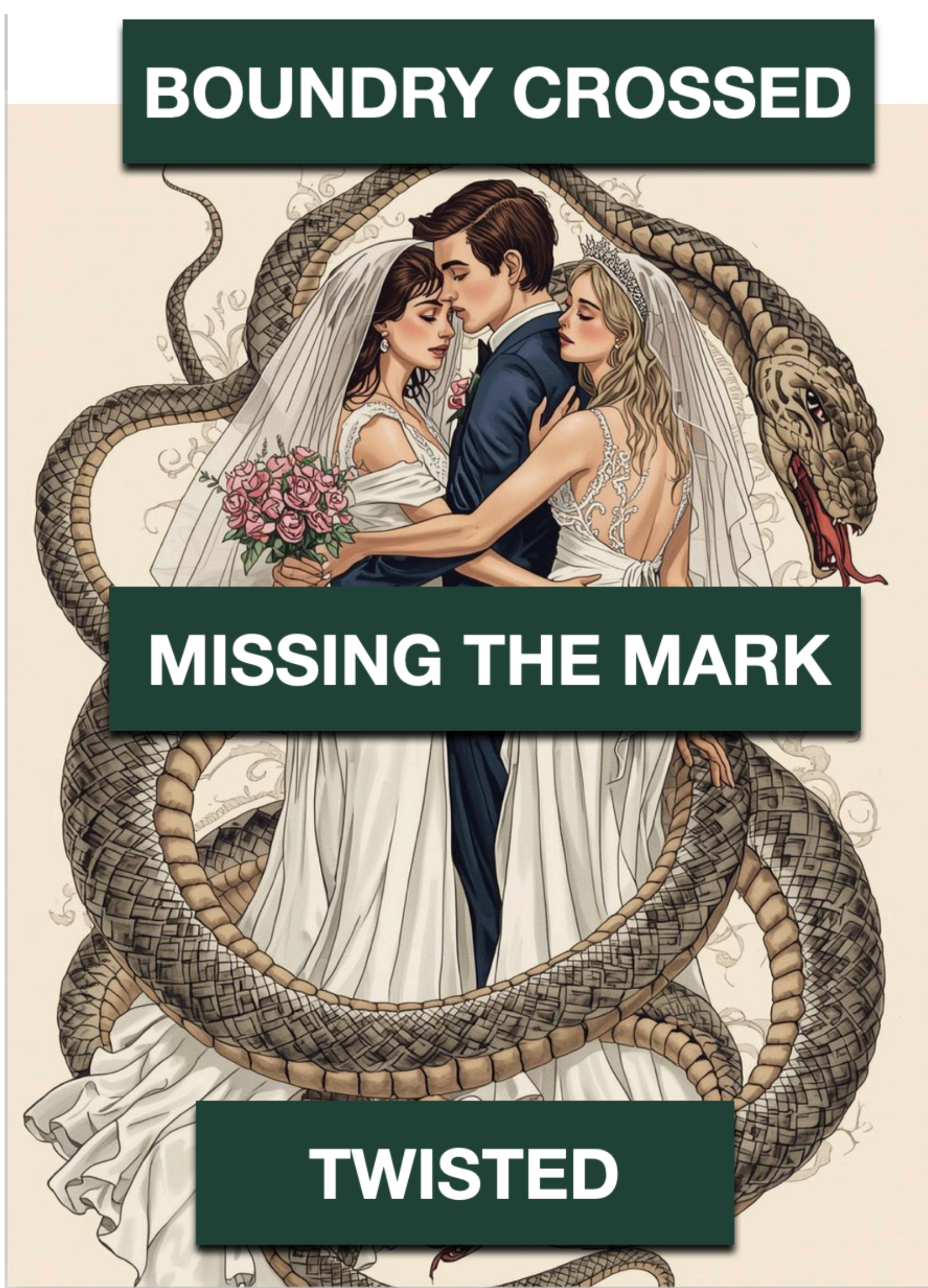


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Leviticus 20:1 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **2** “Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who ***gives any of his children to Molech*** shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. **3** I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has ***given one of his children to Molech***, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name.

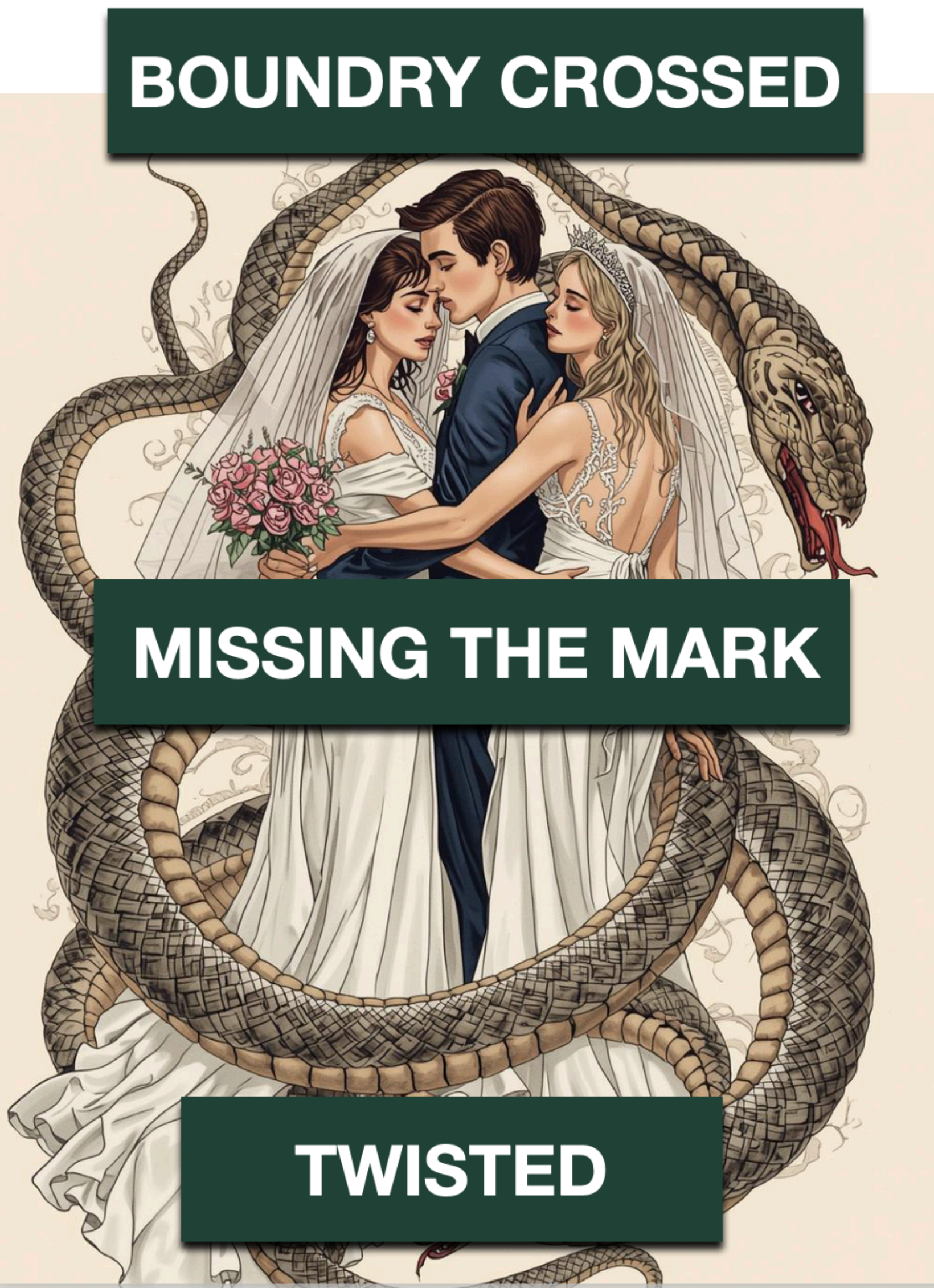


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4 And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he ***gives one of his children to Molech***, and do not put him to death, 5 then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in ***whoring after Molech***. 6 ***“If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them***, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. 7 Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for ***I am the Lord your God***. 8 ***Keep my statutes and do them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you.***

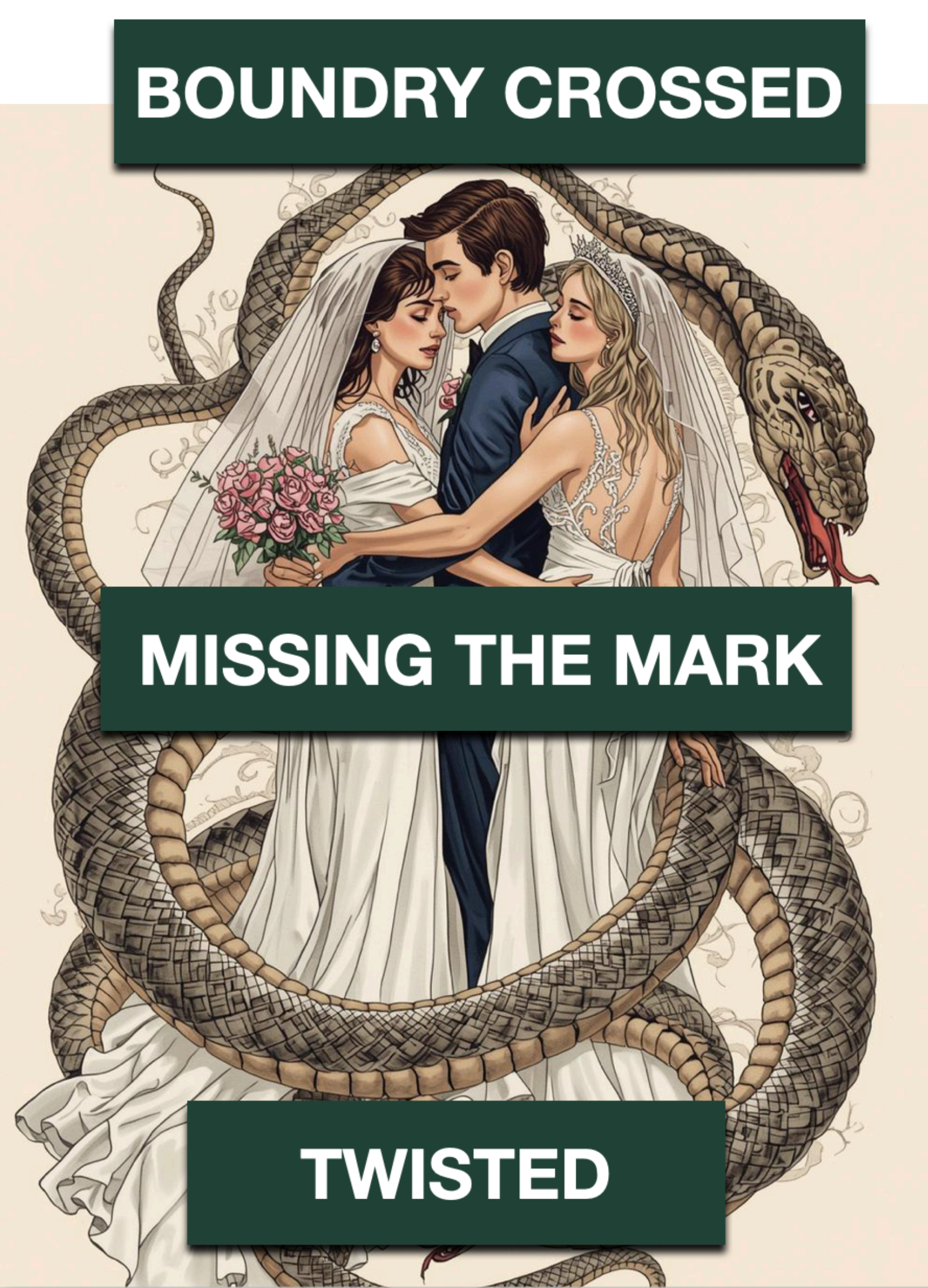


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Leviticus 20:10–16 (ESV) — 10 “If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. **11** If a man lies with his father’s wife, he has uncovered his father’s nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. **12** If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed perversion; their blood is upon them. **13** If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. **14** If a man takes a woman and her mother also, it is depravity; he and they shall be burned with fire, that there may be no depravity among you. **15** If a man lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal. **16** If a woman approaches any animal and lies with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

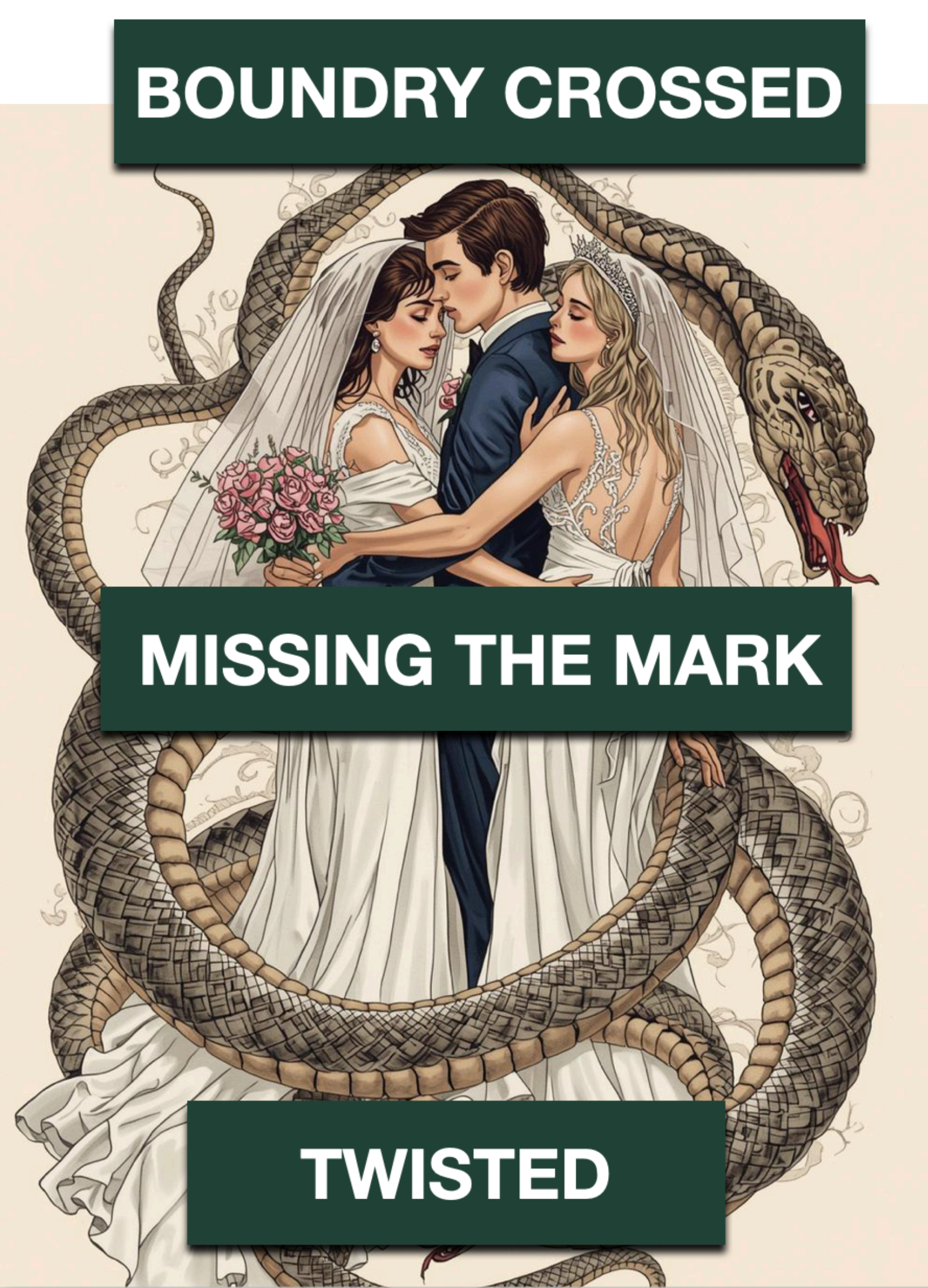


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Leviticus 20:26–27 (ESV) — 26 *You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy* and have separated you from the peoples, *that you should be mine.* 27 *“A man or a woman who is a medium or a necromancer* shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood shall be upon them.”



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Wow, God's for worship involve a lot of “Do not cross all these sexual boundaries and do not cross these spiritual boundaries.” Do you see the connection of between sexual sin and the worship of dark evil powers, yet?

An illustration of a wedding couple in white dresses and a blue suit, embracing. A large, grey, scaly snake is coiled around them, its head raised and tongue flicking out. The snake's body is thick and textured, with a pattern of scales. The background is a light beige color.

BOUNDRY CROSSSED

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Acts 15:19–21 (ESV) — 19 Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, **20** but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. **21** For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”



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“Idols Food offered to pagan gods...”

"Sexual Immorality- Sexual sins in general, but particularly the orgies associated with the worship of pagan gods.”

-MacArthur Study Bible



A Levite and His Concubine

Judges 19

Judges 19:13–30 (ESV) — 13 And he said to his young man, “Come and let us draw near to one of these places and spend the night at Gibeah or at Ramah.” **14** So they passed on and went their way. And the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, **15** and they turned aside there, to go in and spend the night at Gibeah. And he went in and sat down in the open square of the city, for no one took them into his house to spend the night. **16** And behold, an old man was coming from his work in the field at evening. The man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was sojourning in Gibeah. The men of the place were Benjaminites. **17** And he lifted up his eyes and saw the traveler in the open square of the city. And the old man said, “Where are you going? And where do you come from?”

18 And he said to him, “We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah to the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, from which I come. I went to Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to the house of the Lord, but no one has taken me into his house. **19** We have straw and feed for our donkeys, with bread and wine for me and your female servant and the young man with your servants. There is no lack of anything.” **20** And the old man said, “Peace be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square.” **21** So he brought him into his house and gave the donkeys feed. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank. **22** As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, “Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him.

” **23** And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, “No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing. **24** Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing.” **25** But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go. **26** And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man’s house where her master was, until it was light.

27 And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold. **28** He said to her, “Get up, let us be going.” But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home. **29** And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. **30** And all who saw it said, “Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak.”



How did it get that bad?



Judges 2:1–4 (ESV) — 1 Now the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, 2 **and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.**’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? 3 So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and **their gods** shall be a snare to you.” 4 As soon as the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.



Judges 2:16–17 (ESV) — 16 Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. **17** Yet they did not listen to their judges, for **they whored after other gods and bowed down to them.** They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so.



Judges 2:18–19 (ESV) — 18 Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. **19** But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.



Judges 3:5–7 (ESV) — 5 So the people of Israel lived among the **Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites,** and the Jebusites. **6** And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and **they served their gods.** **7** And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God and **served the Baals and the Asheroth.**



Judges 8:30–34 (ESV) — 30 Now Gideon had seventy sons, his own offspring, for he had many wives. 31 And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech. 32 And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, at Ophrah of the Abiezrites. 33 As soon as Gideon died, the people of Israel turned again and **whored after the Baals and made Baal-berith their god. 34 And the people of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hand of all their enemies on every side,**



Judges 10:6 (ESV) — 6 The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the Lord and did not serve him.



Cult Prostitutes and Pagan worship

1 Kings 14:22–24 (ESV) - Rehoboam's reign— 22 And Judah did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. **23 For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, 24 and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land.** They did according to all the abominations of the nations that the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.

Job 36:13–14 (ESV) — 13 “The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help when he binds them. **14** They die in youth, and their life ends among the cult prostitutes.



Hosea 4:7–15 (ESV) — 7 The more they (Israel) increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame. **8** They feed on the sin of my people; they are **greedy for their iniquity.** **9** And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds. **10** They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, **because they have forsaken the Lord to cherish** **11 whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding.** **12** My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. **For a *spirit* of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.**



13 They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the whore, and your brides commit adultery.

14 I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin. **15** Though you play the whore, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty.

What did the nations hope to get from the gods through their sexual worship practices?

“The idea is that the gods were encouraged to make the land fertile through acts of “sympathetic magic.” **Religious worshipers paid for and performed sexual acts with cult prostitutes. This was supposed to encourage the gods and goddesses so worshiped to make the land fertile through their own sexual activity.** The rain, in such a scenario, is the life-giving seed of the god(s) worshiped. A number of ancient Near Eastern texts link religion and sex. **Herodotus, for example, informs us that every Babylonian woman had to prostitute herself once in her life, to a stranger within the temple of Ishtar. Neo-Babylonian records from Uruk show that the temple hired out females as concubines for private citizens.**³¹ Old Testament texts such as Deuteronomy 23:17–18 and Hosea 4:14 are cited to demonstrate the existence of cult prostitutes.”

Kissling, P. (2009). Genesis (Vol. 2, p. 447). College Press Publishing Company.



Why do the gods of the nations all seem to be worshiped in a similar manner? Often it is through child sacrifice and perverse sexual acts on high places, under trees, and beneath the Asherim poles etc...?



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2. Under trees and on high places are places are thought of where the spiritual realm and earthly realm cross and where they could cross the boundaries
3. They desire to destroy the image of God in man because they hate God and know that through the seed of the women they will be destroyed

So is sexual temptation and sin in our lives merely the results of indwelling sin in our flesh?

Is the solution ...

- Just be more disciplined in the spiritual disciplines
- More Accountability and accountability software
- Just be more consistent in my Bible reading
- Watch better movies

Or is there another part of the problem that we are ignorant to, or maybe something we know about but like to pretend like it isn't really there.

If we don't understand our enemy, then we cannot understand the battle, and the importance of our need to fight with supernatural power.



Consider the connection we have seen throughout the scripture between dark spiritual forces of evil and sexual sin. What do you think is going on when someone is a willing participant in sexual sin?

Lustful thinking

Fornication

Adultery

Pornography

Homosexuality

Beastiality

Incest

Sexting

Etc...



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Romans 1:24–27 (ESV) — 24 Therefore **God gave them up in the lusts** of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and **worshiped** and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. **26** For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27** and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.



II. The Sexual Sin and Worship (spiritual battle) ***Solution*** in the Bible

Walking in the Spirit



Walking in the Spirit





Confess
Transgression
of God's Law

ENTERTAINMENT

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'Bachelor' star Madison Prewett says 'secret sexual sin' battle led to shame: 'I was living this double life'

By **Janelle Ash** | Fox News

Published February 10, 2026 5:53pm CST

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SEPTEMBER 12

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MADISON PREWETT TROUTT | FMR CONTESTANT, "THE BACHELOR"

HUNDREDS BAPTIZED AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY REVIVAL

SUNDAY NIGHT IN AMERICA
w/ TREY GOWDY
TONIGHT 9PM ET

Hundreds of students baptized at Auburn Univ. 'just the beginning': Madison Prewett Troutt

'The Love Everybody Wants' author Madison Prewett Troutt helped baptize students at the 'Unite Auburn' service at Auburn University, and tells 'Fox & Friends Weekend' that she is 'excited for what God's doing.'

👍 Agree

👍🇺🇸 37

"[The Bachelor](#)" star Madison Prewett is finally coming clean after years of living in "secret

"I finally was able to [break free from that addiction](#) and that cycle. I think a lot of times we think with our sin, that if we confess it or if we finally tell someone about it, they will judge us, people will think we're gross, they will think we are a bad Christian. If we say that, maybe they won't want to be my friend anymore," the 29-year-old admitted.

4 Images

Madison Prewett rose to fame on "The Bachelor."
(Amy Sussman)

Prewett shared that for her, [confessing her sin](#) allowed herself to feel "lighter" and immediate relief. To this day, the reality TV alum doesn't allow herself to keep her sin bottled up and encourages others to "just confess" what they've been struggling with.



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Admit
Inability to keep
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Look
To Christ who
kept God's law



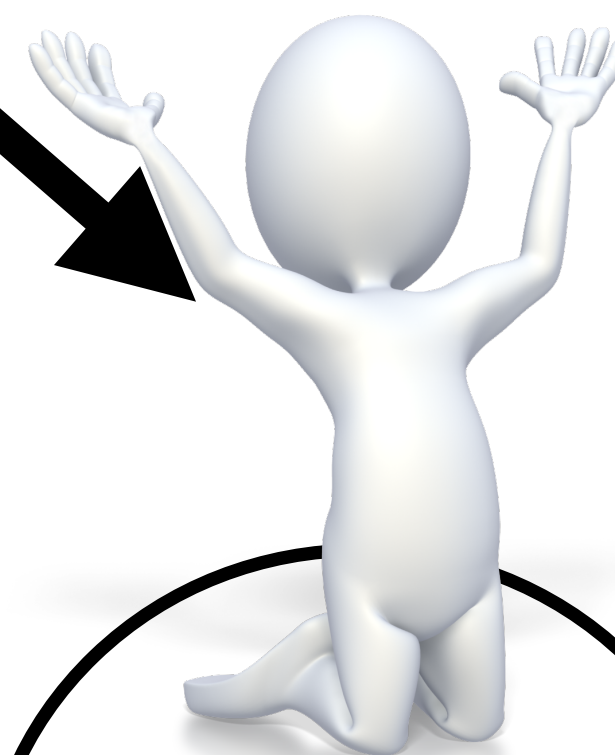
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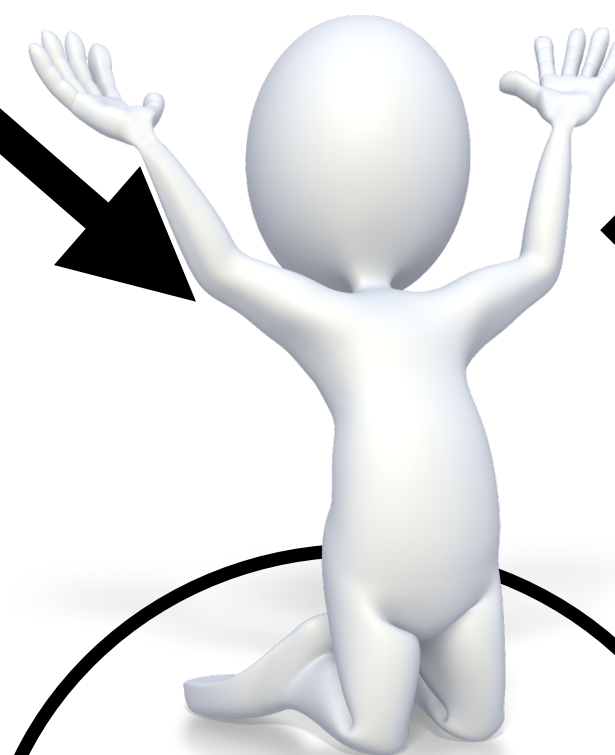
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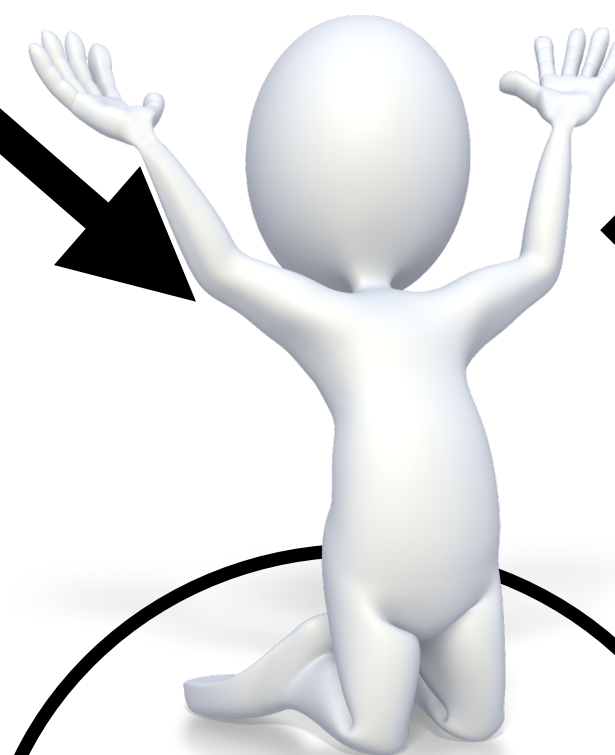
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Look
To Christ who
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Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive



Walking in the Spirit



Confess
Transgression
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Look
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Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive



Where is repentance?

Walking in the Spirit



Confess
Transgression
of God's Law

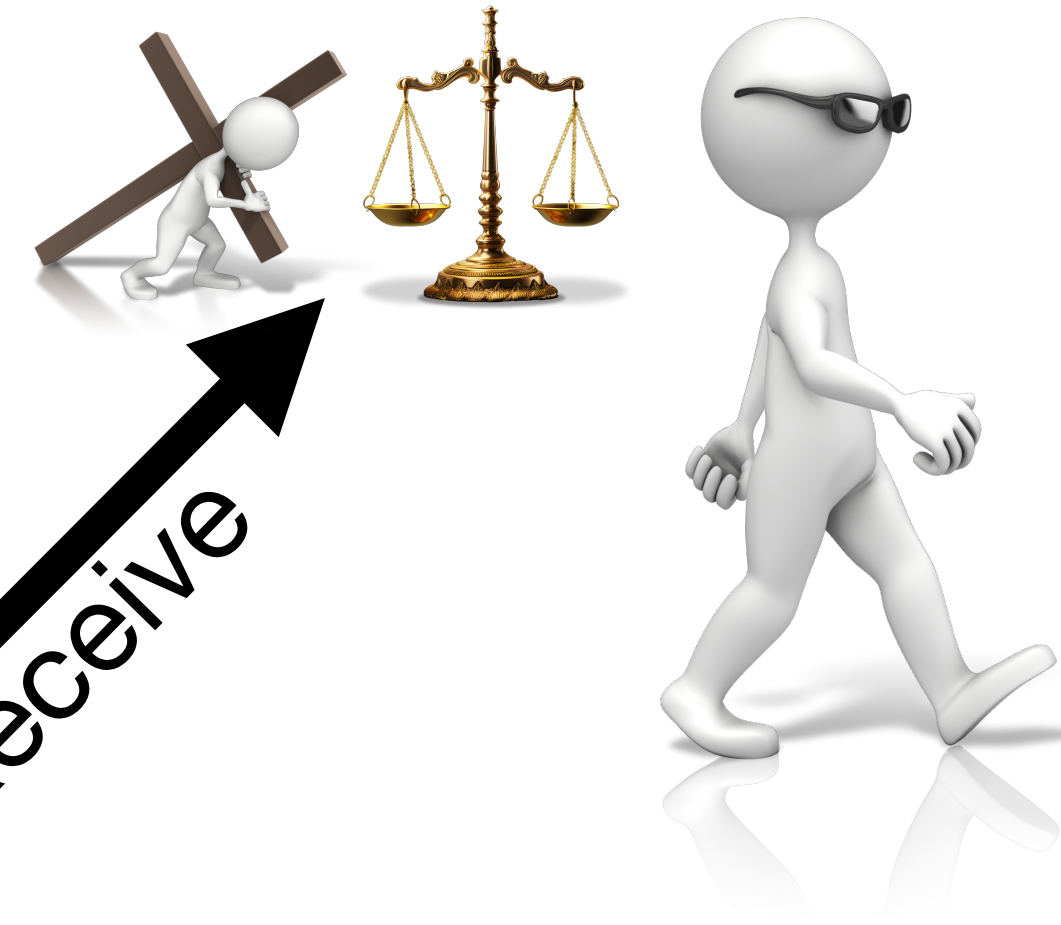


Admit
Inability to keep
God's Law



Look
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Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive



Where is repentance?

Repentance - Gk. metanoia (μετάνοια)

Meta (Change) - noia (Mind)

Walking in the Spirit



Confess
Transgression
of God's Law

Change of mind about self



Admit
Inability to keep
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Look
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Look
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Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive



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Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive



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Walking in the Spirit

Repentance is a work of God's grace that God works in us.



Cor
Transg
of God

God's Law



Look

To Christ who
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Where is repentance?

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Repentance is a work of God's grace that God works in us.

2 Timothy 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps *grant them repentance* leading to a knowledge of the truth,

Cor
Transg
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God's Law

Look

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Walking in the Spirit

Repentance is a work of God's grace that God works in us.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has *granted repentance* that leads to life."

Cor
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God's Law

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Look

To Christ who
kept God's law

Walking in the Spirit



Confess
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Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive



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Walking in the Spirit



Confess
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Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive



Where is repentance?

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What about bearing fruit...

Walking in the Spirit



Confess
Transgression
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Change of mind about self



Admit
Inability to keep
God's Law



Look
To Christ who
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Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive



Where is repentance?

Repentance - Gk. metanoia (μετάνοια)
Meta (Change) - noia (Mind)

What about bearing fruit...

in keeping with repentance (Matt. 3:8,
Lk 3:8)

Walking in the Spirit



Confess
Transgression
of God's Law

Change of mind about self



Admit
Inability to keep
God's Law



Look
To Christ who
kept God's law

Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive

Walk
In the Spirit's
power



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Change of mind about self



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Inability to keep
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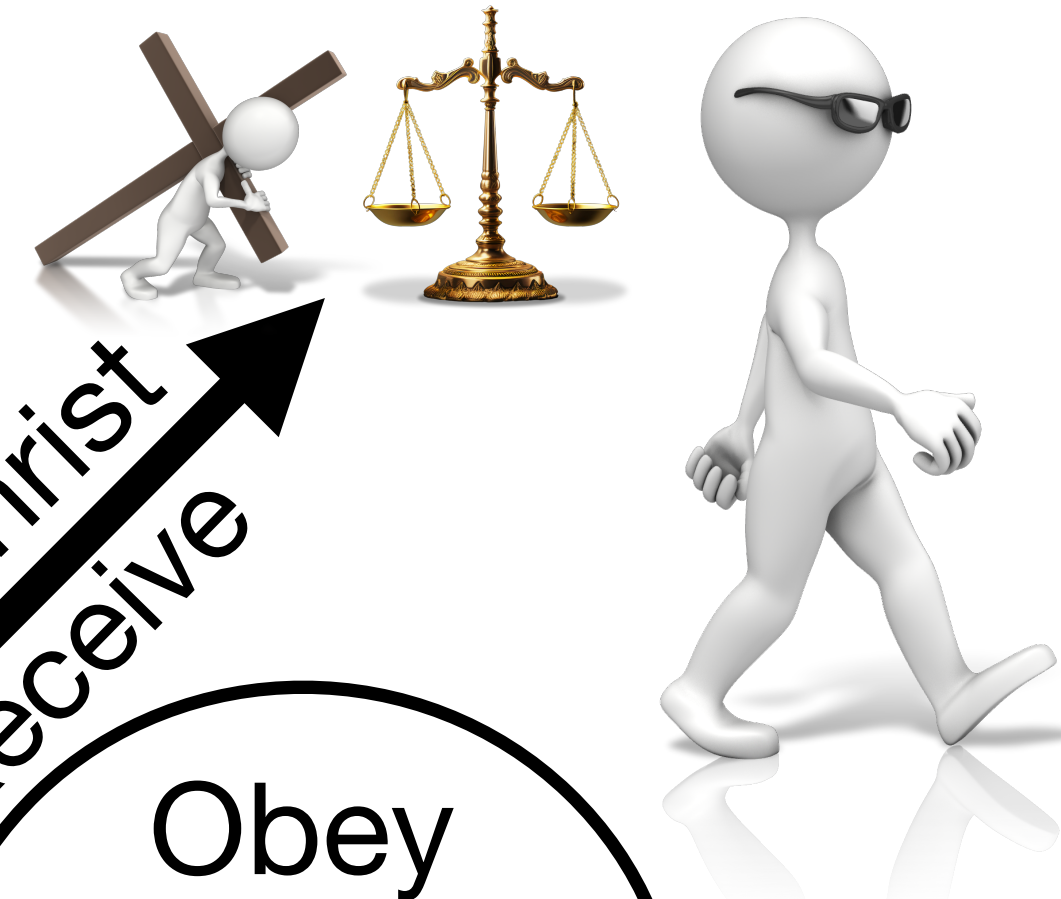


Look
To Christ who
kept God's law

Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive

Walk
In the Spirit's
power

Obey
Grace-
motivated
obedience to
God's law



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Change of mind about self

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Inability to keep
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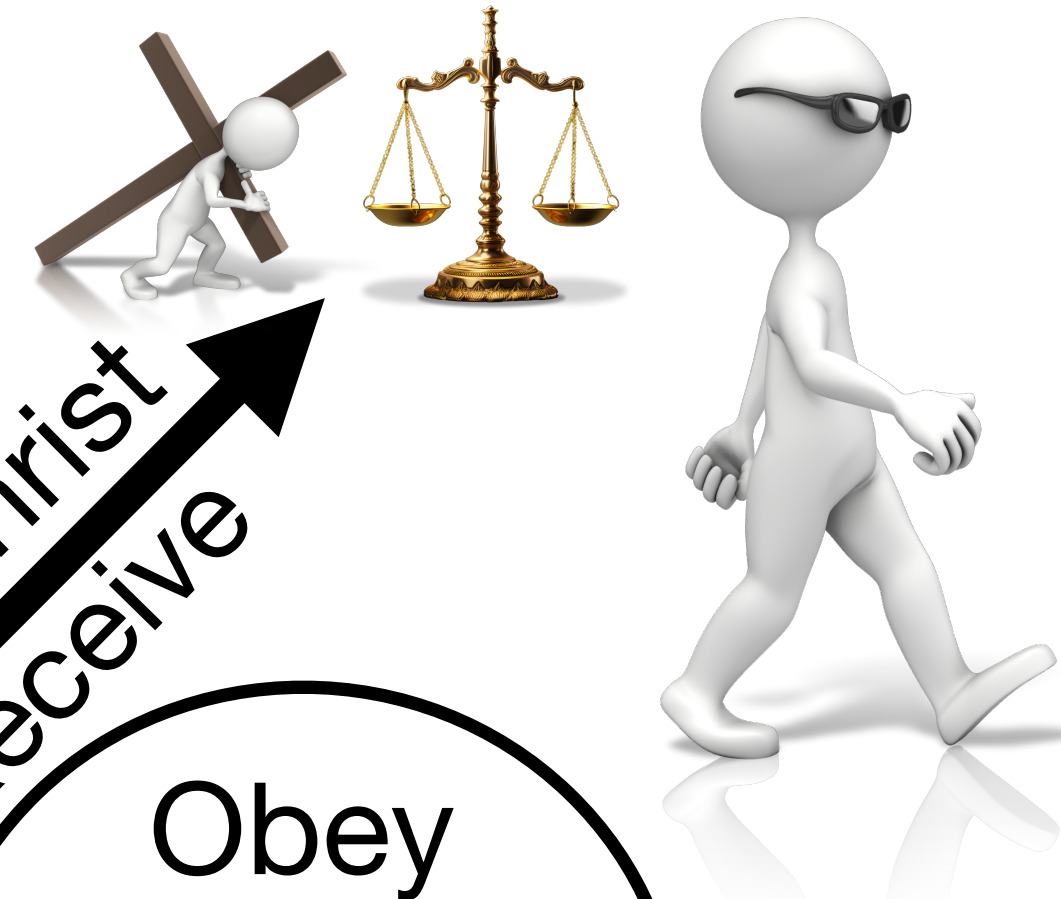
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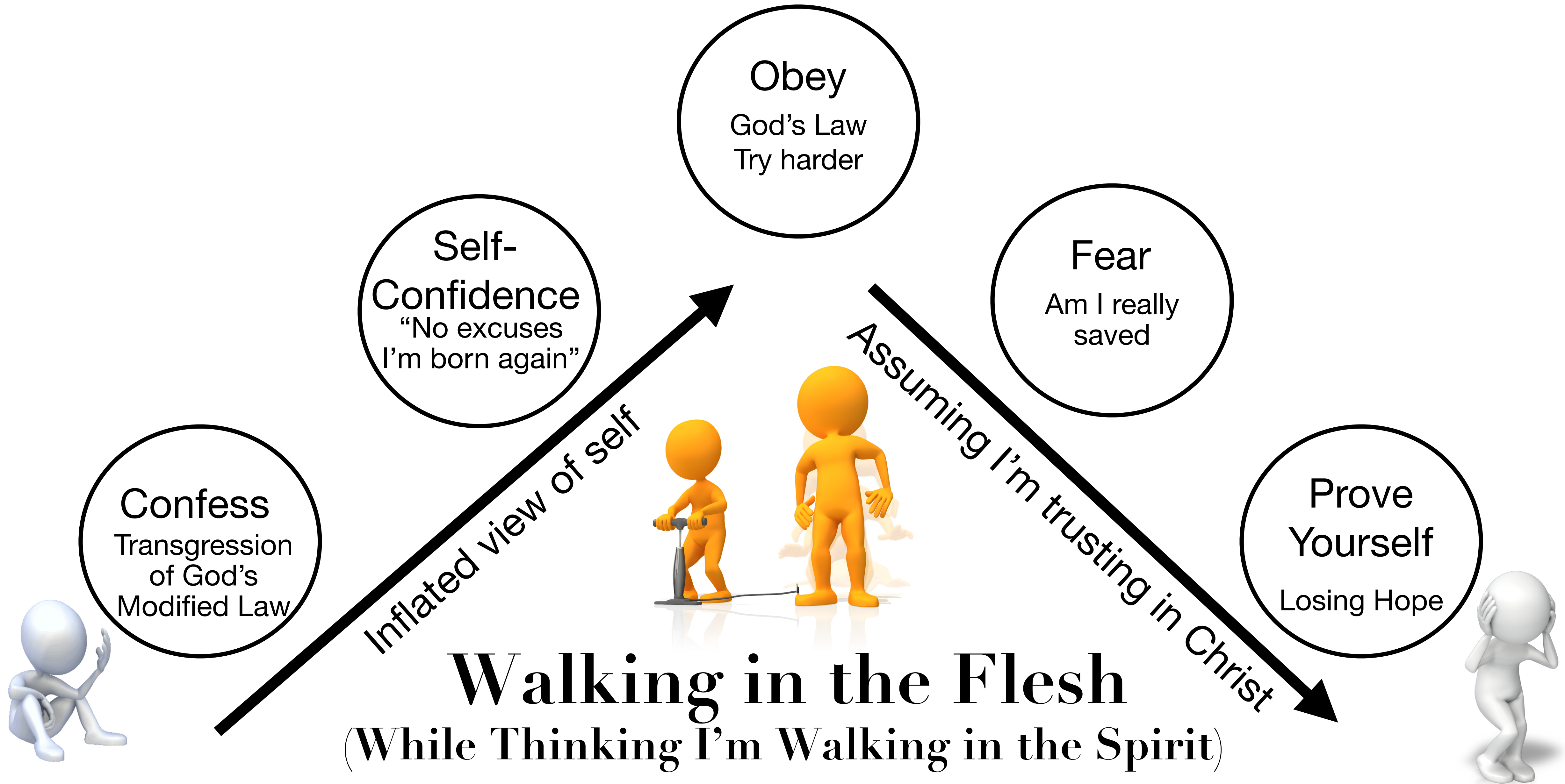


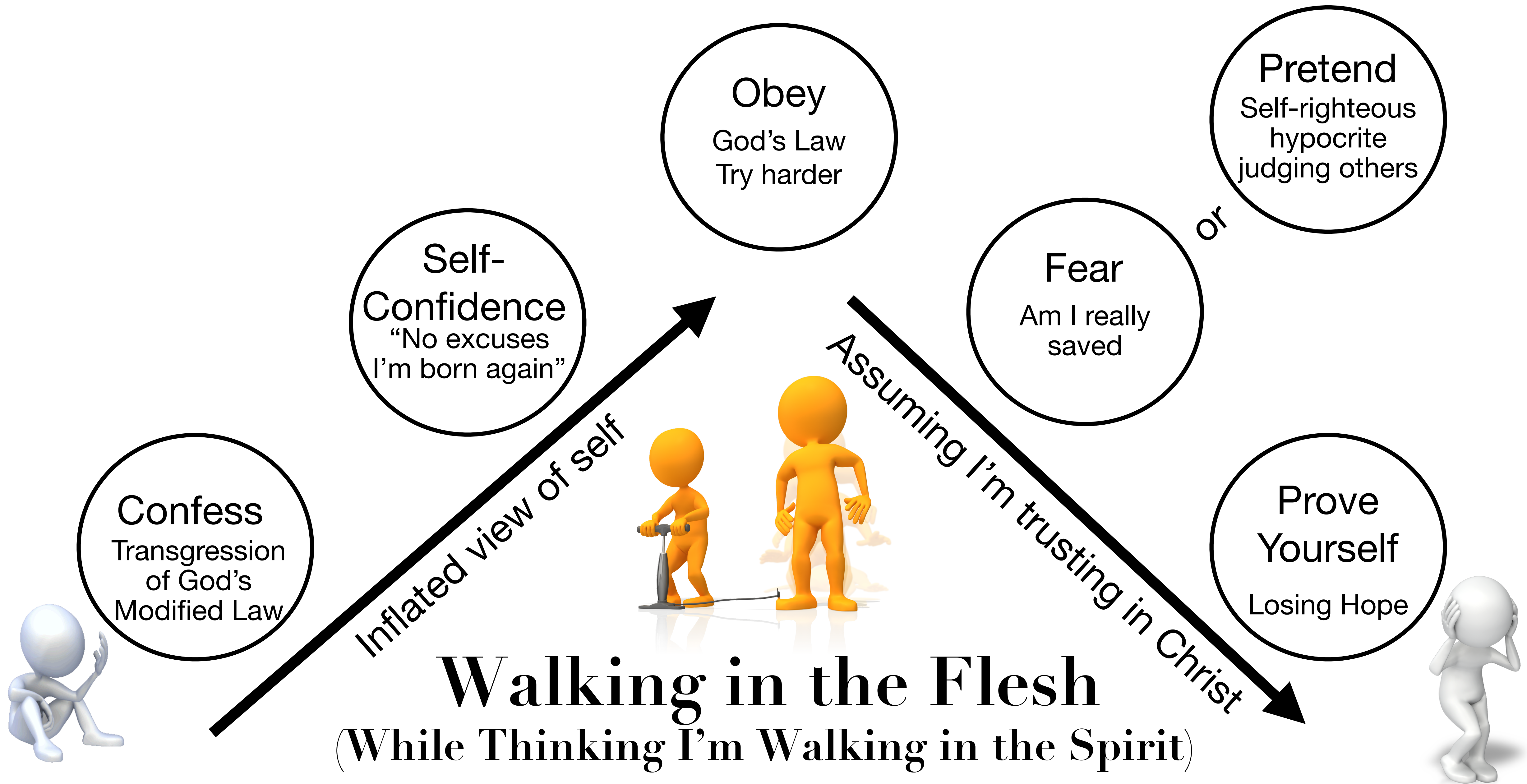
Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive

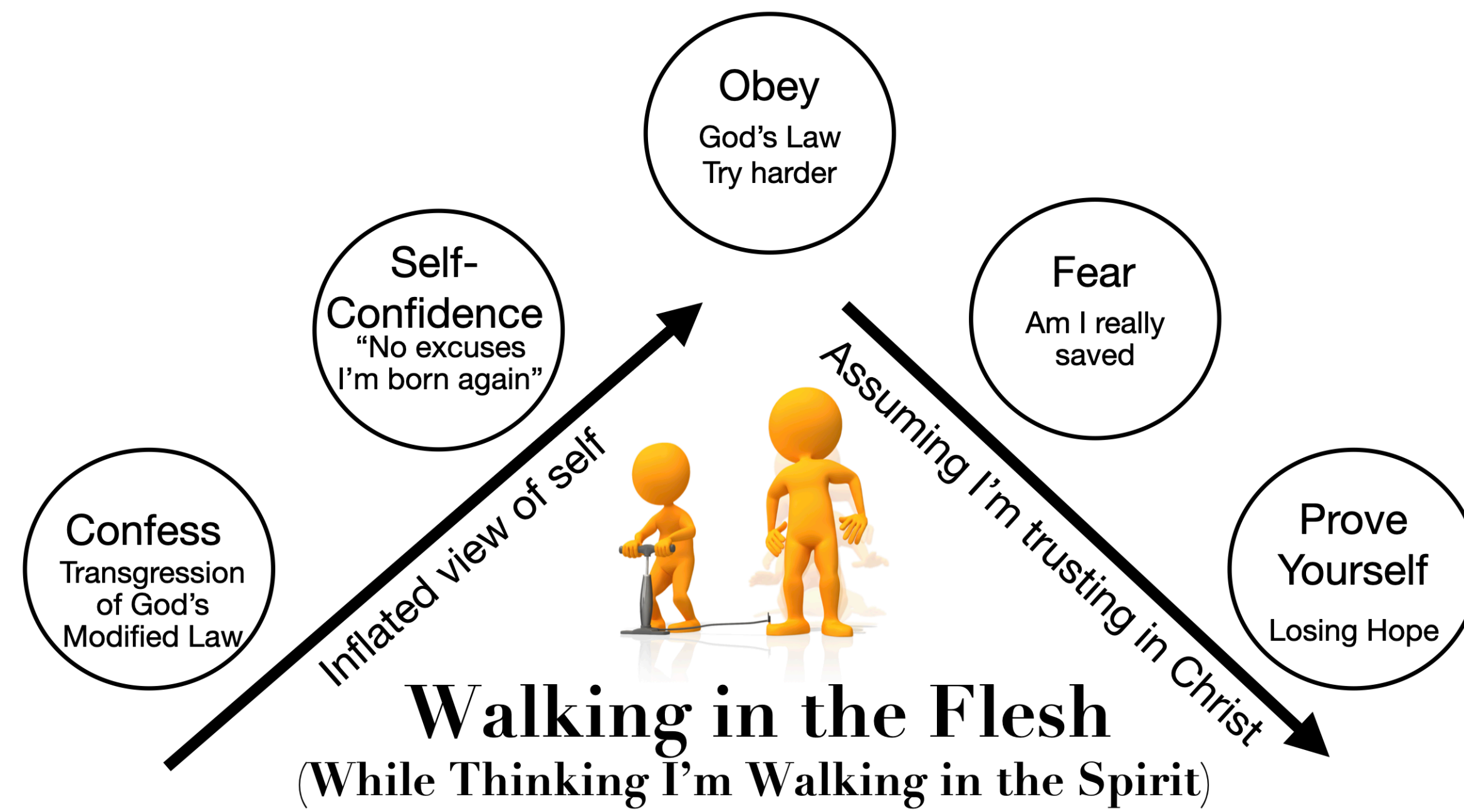
Walk
In the Spirit's
power

Obey
Grace-
motivated
obedience to
God's law

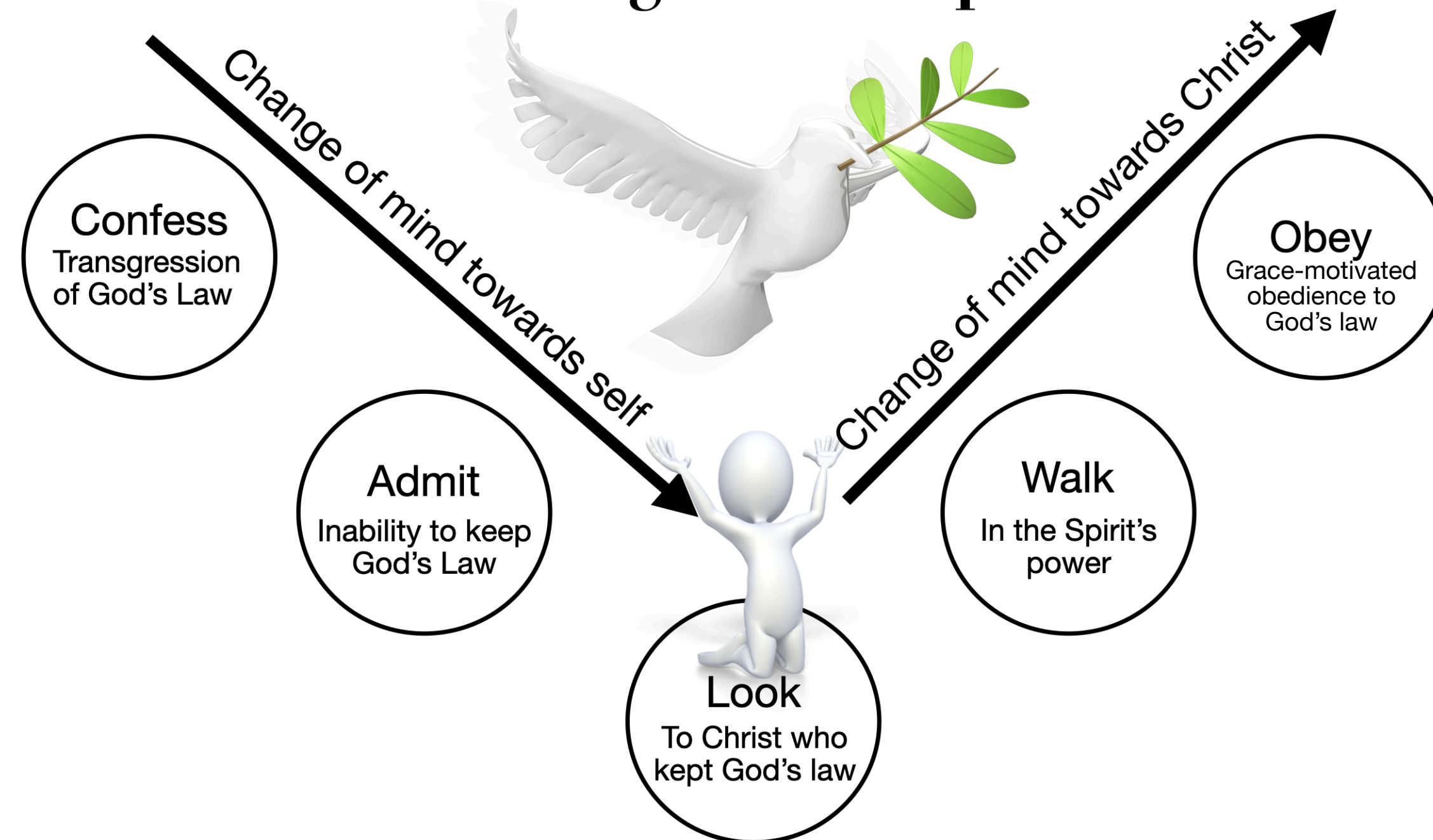


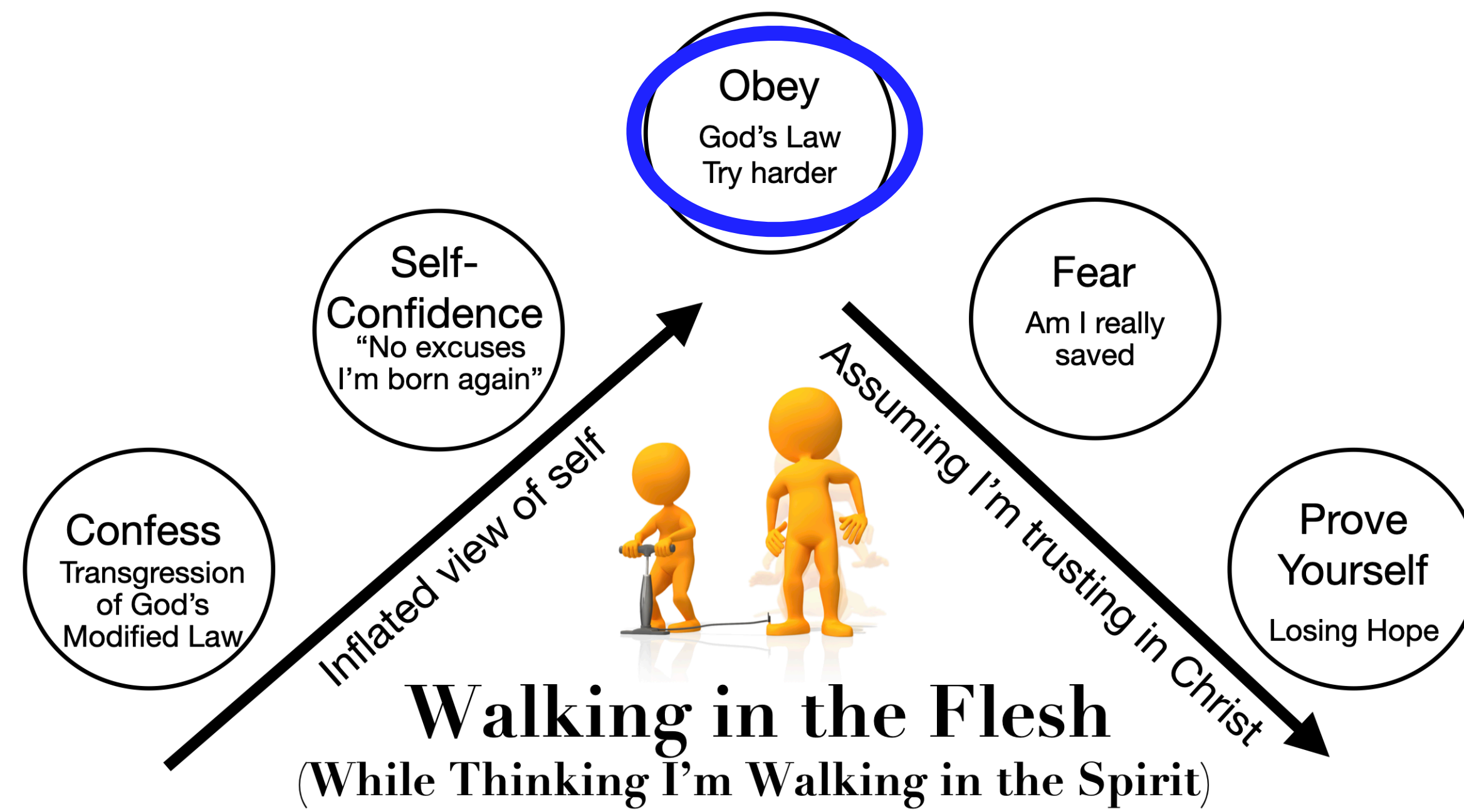




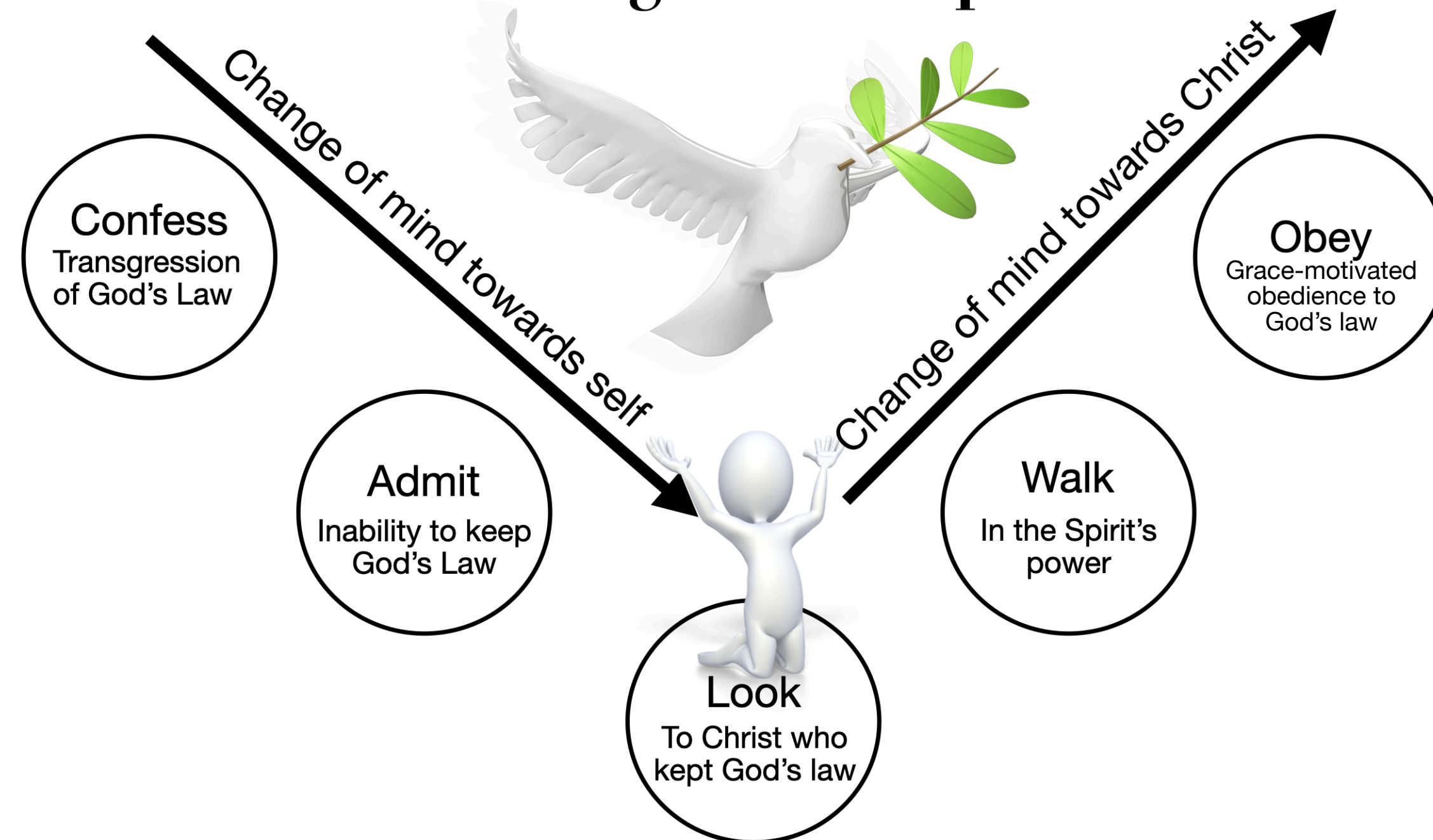


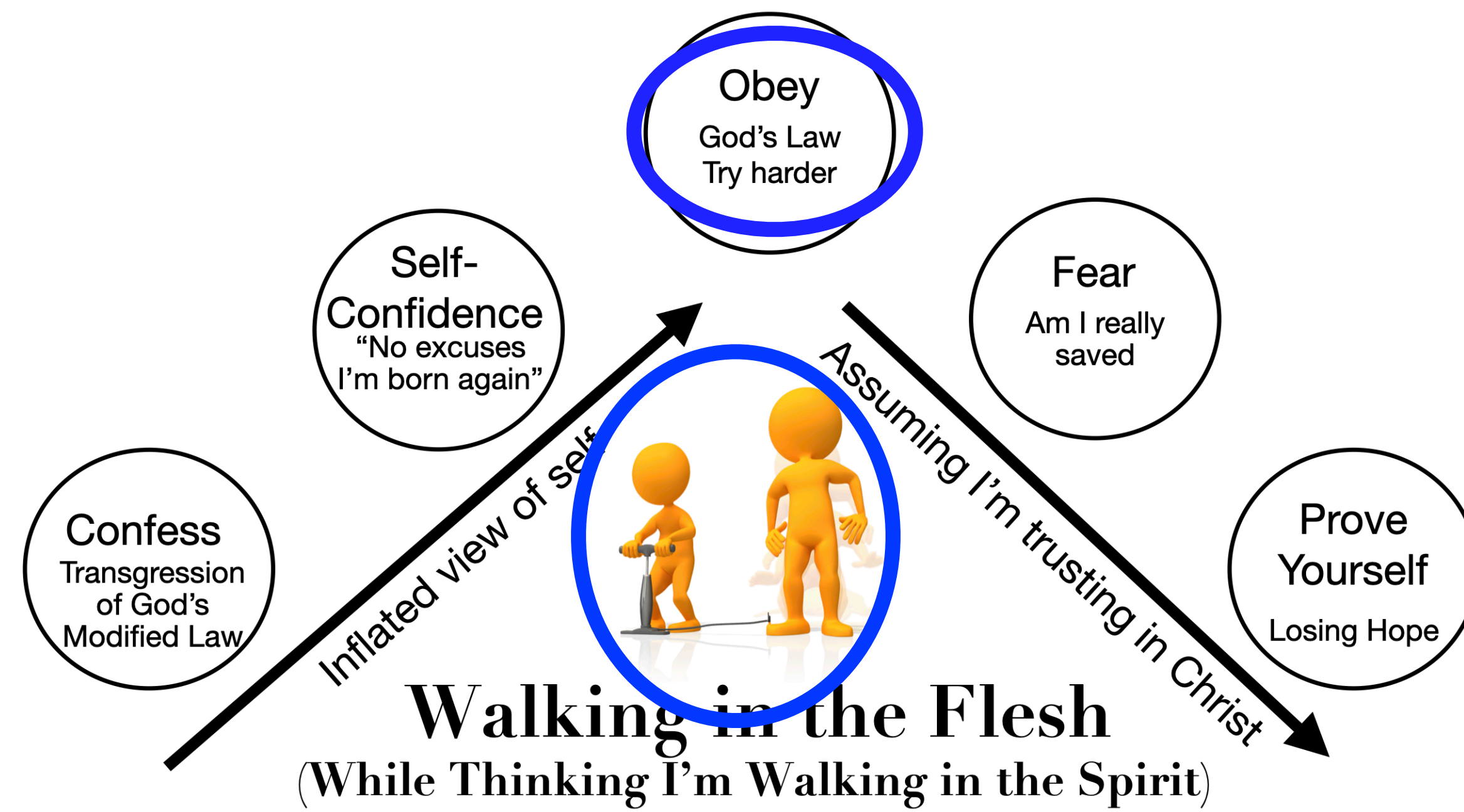
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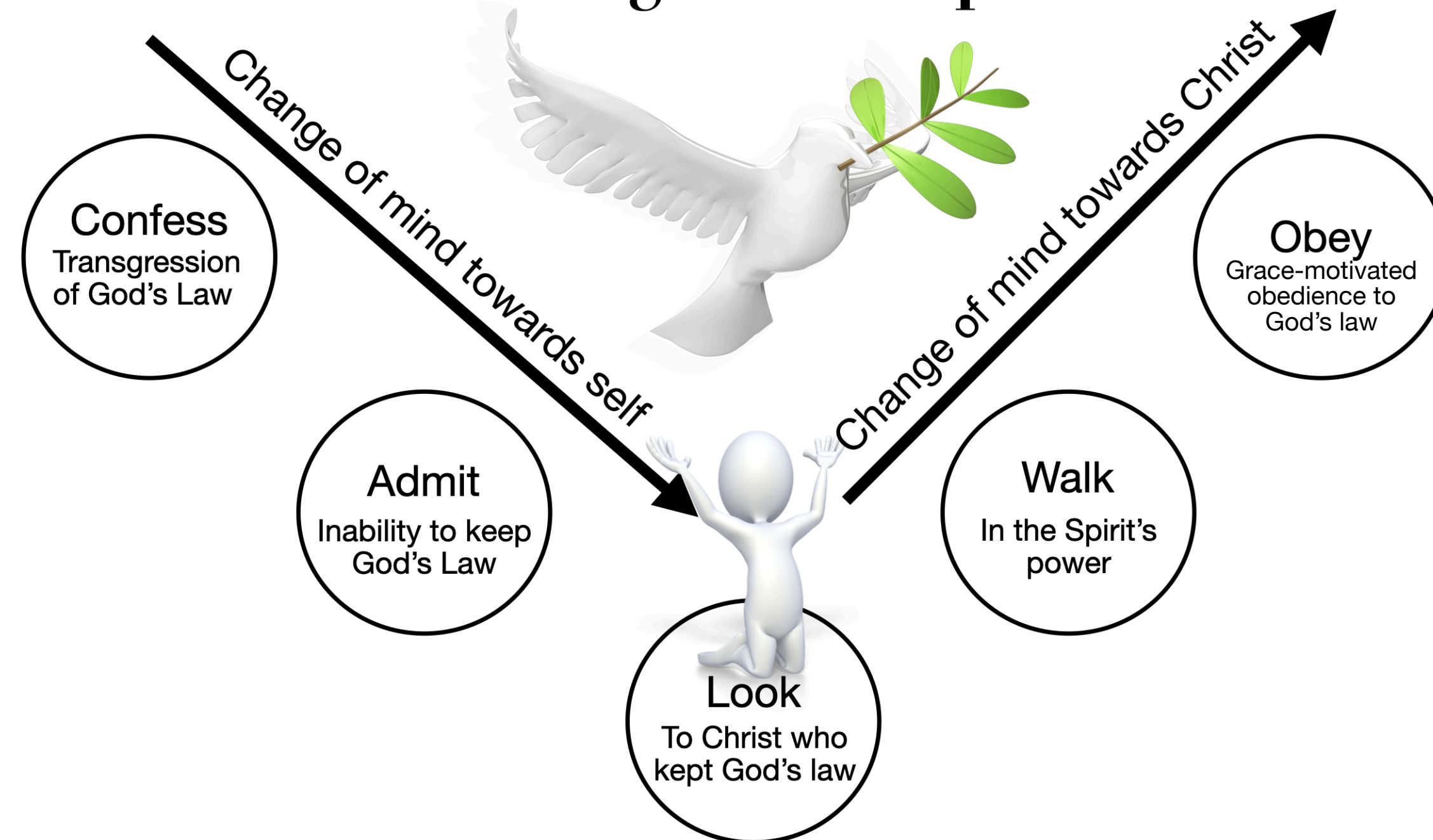


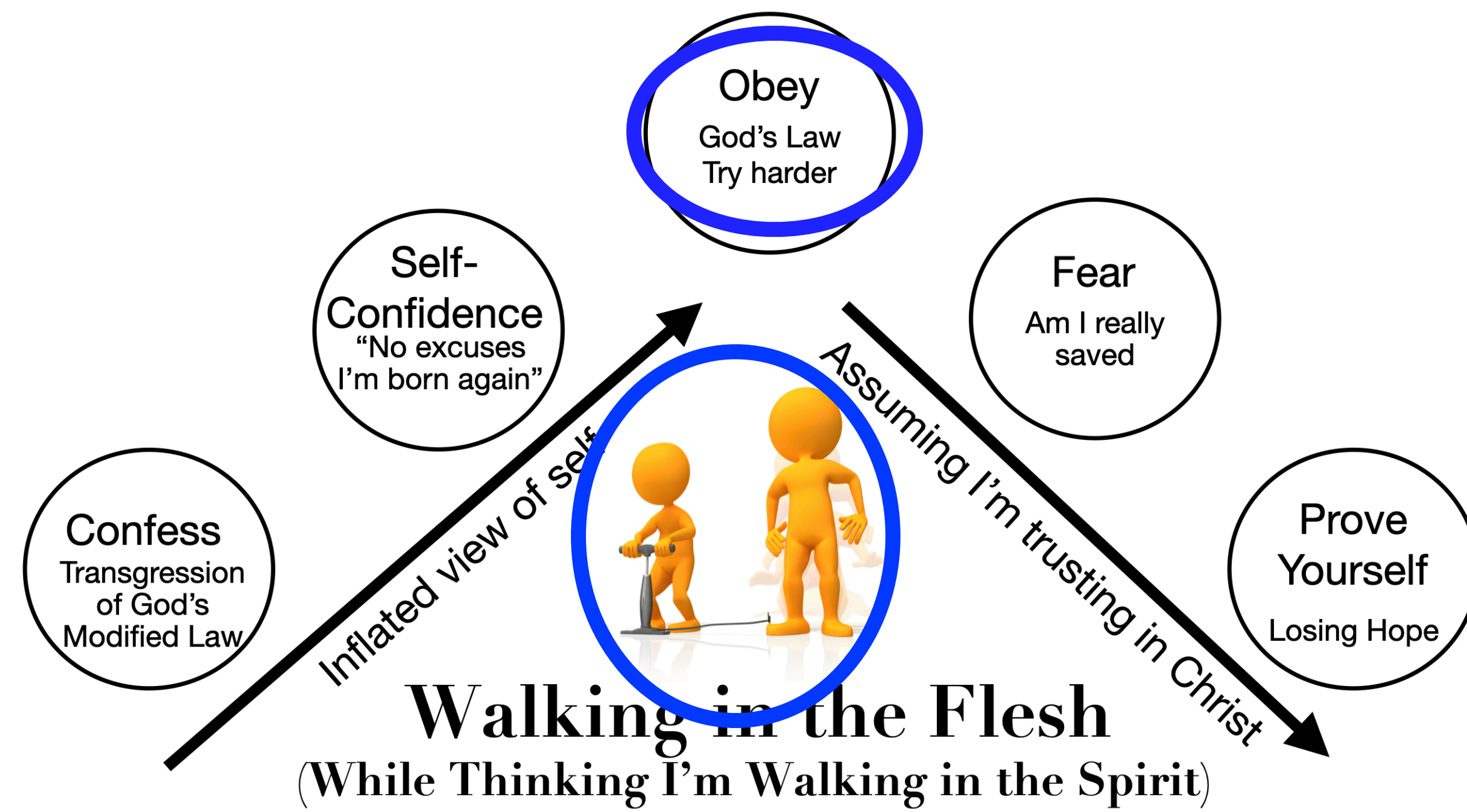
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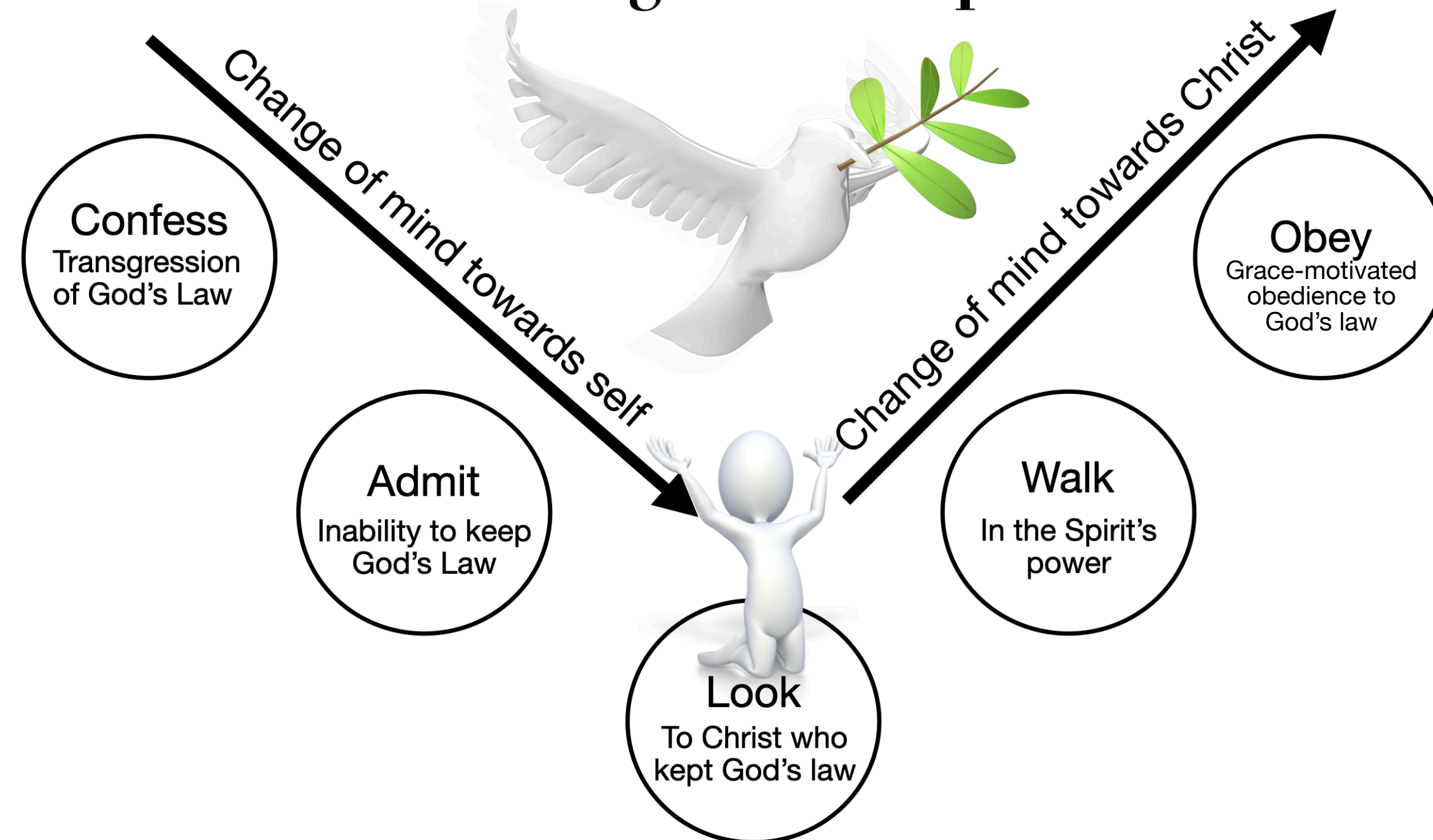


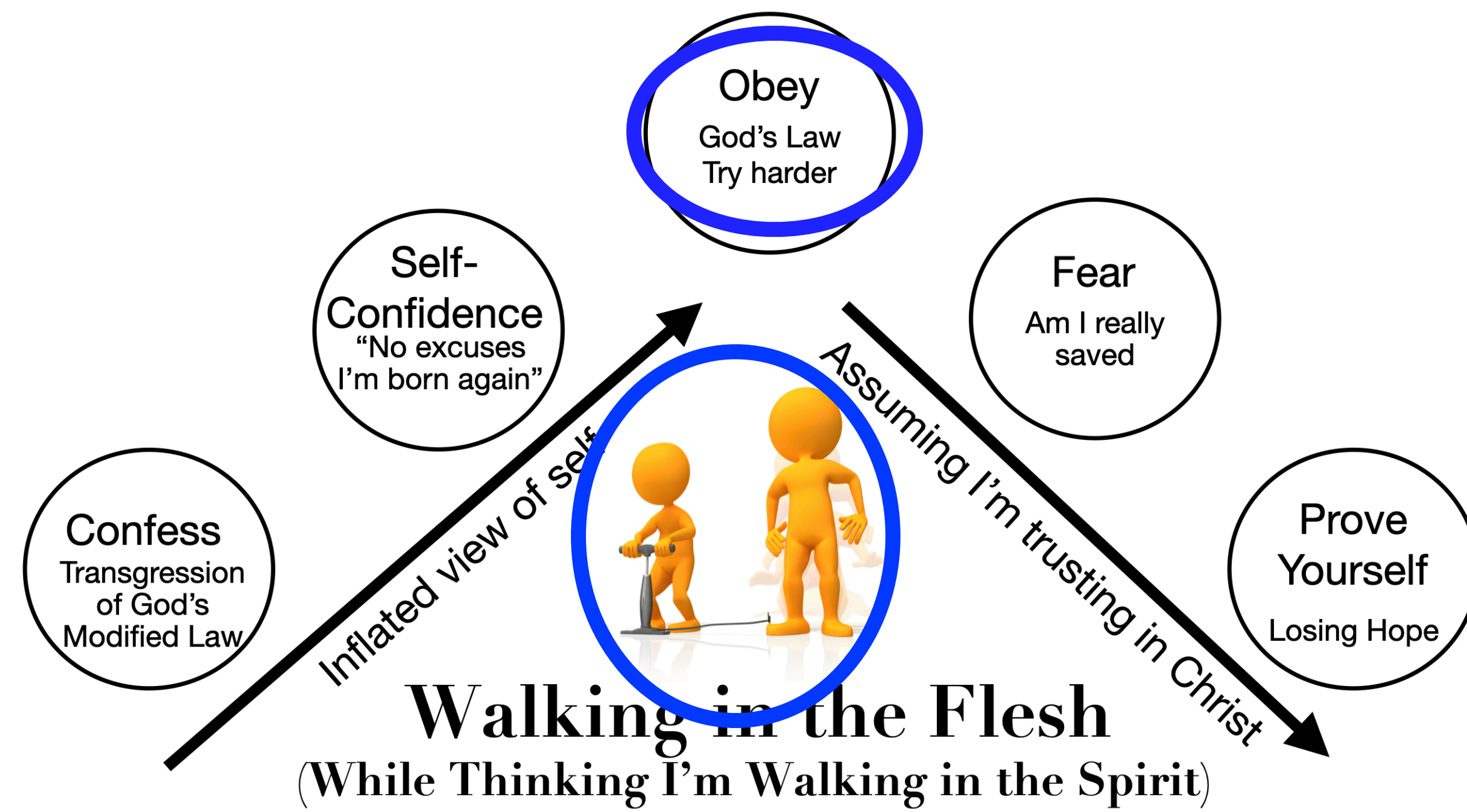
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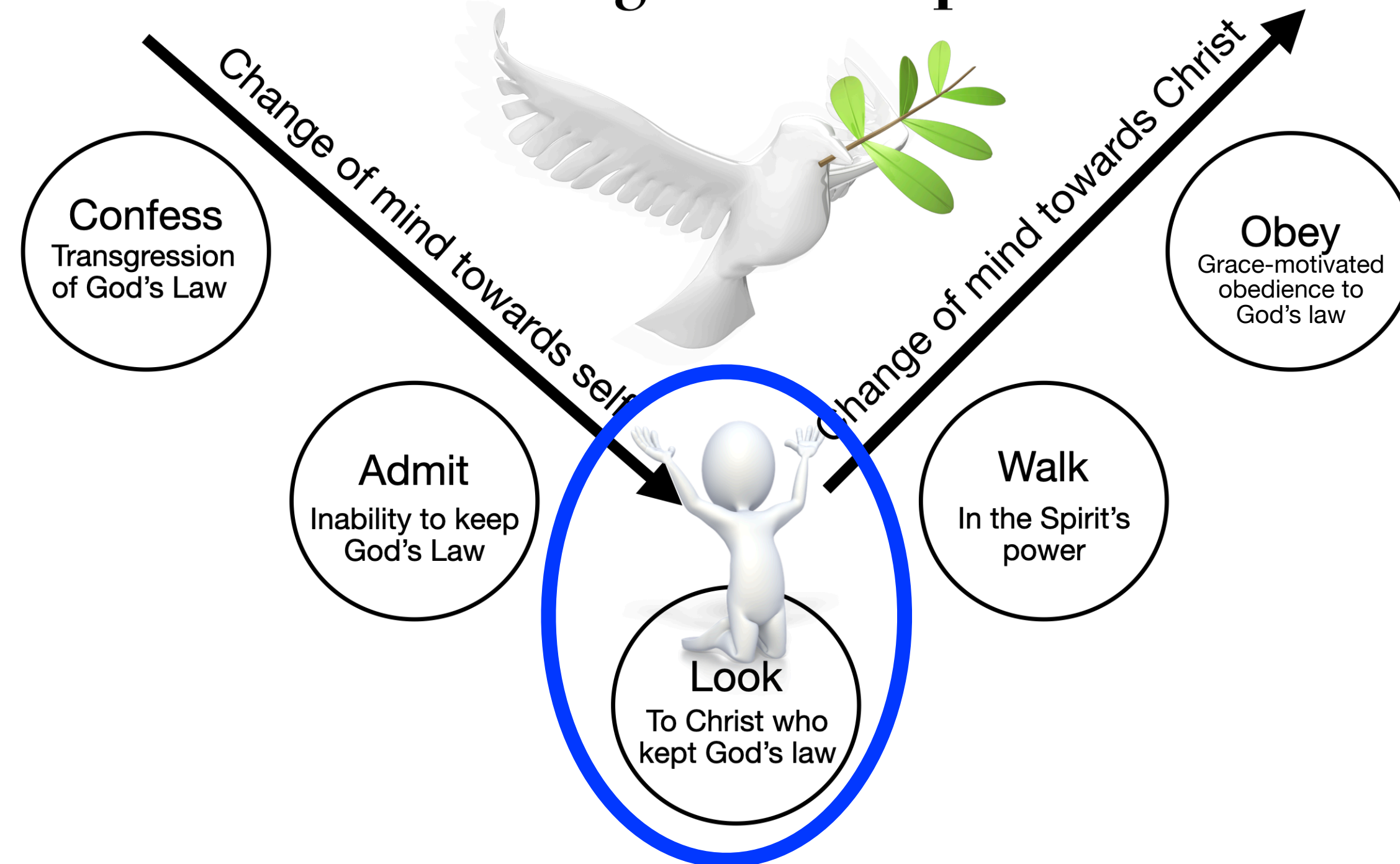


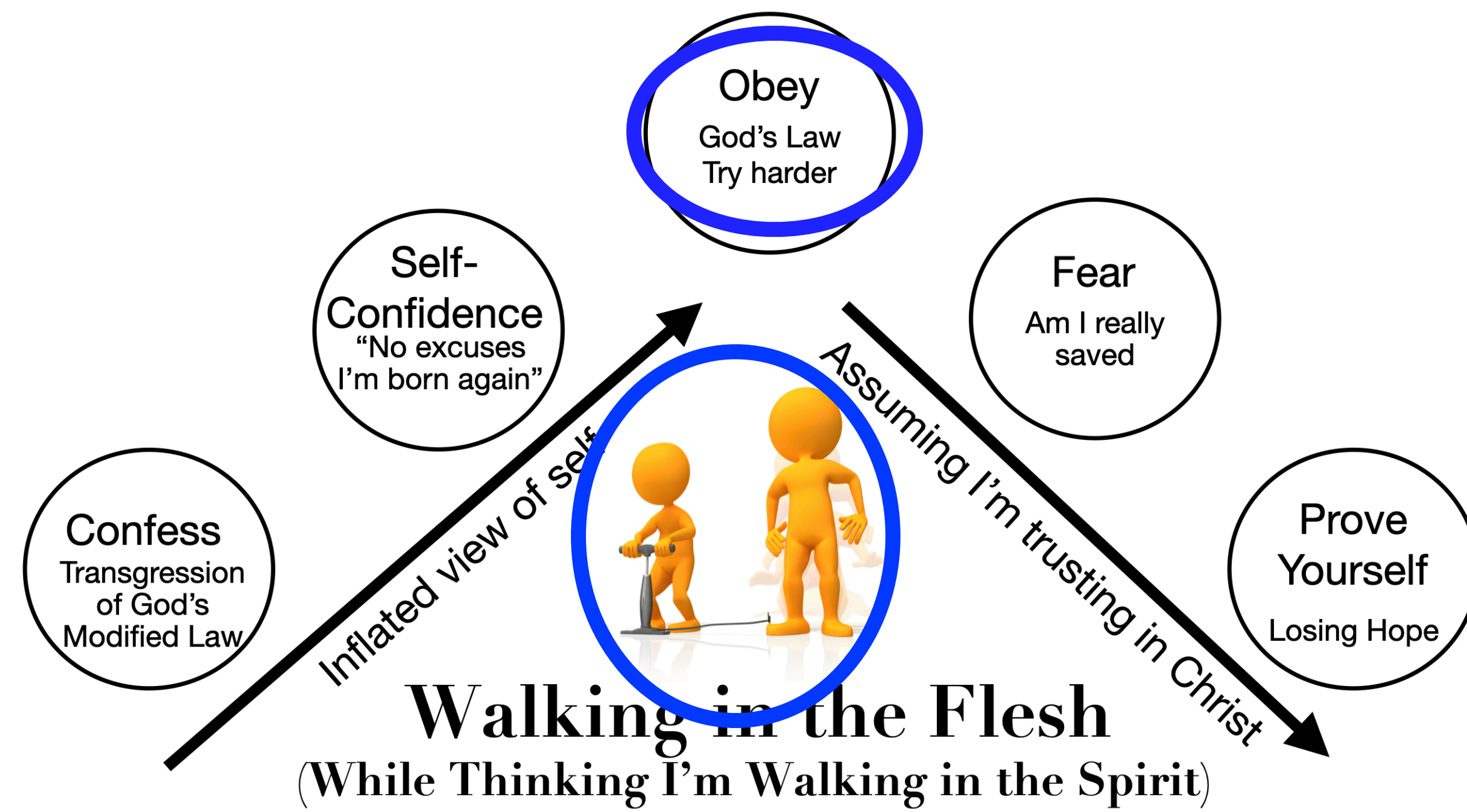
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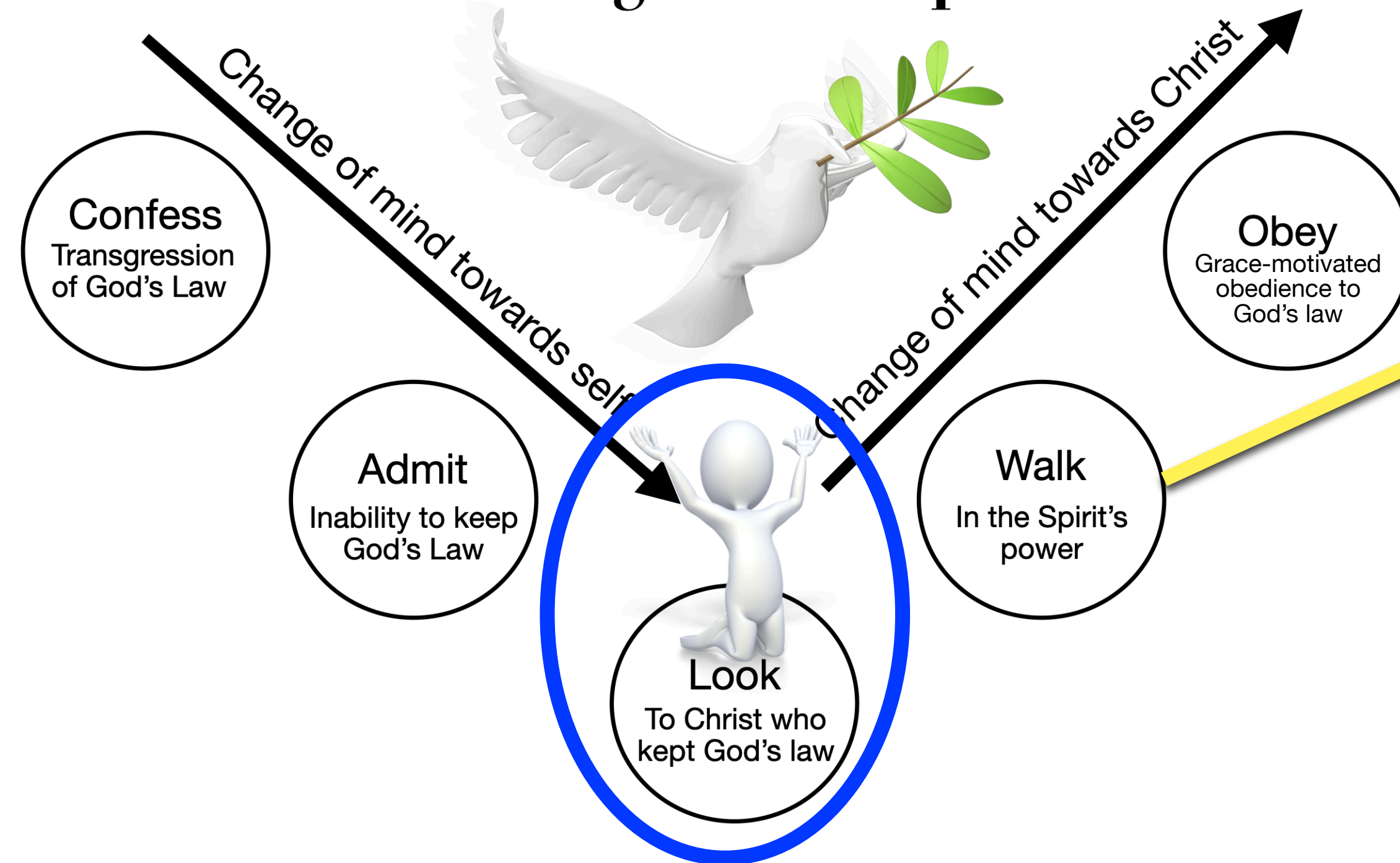


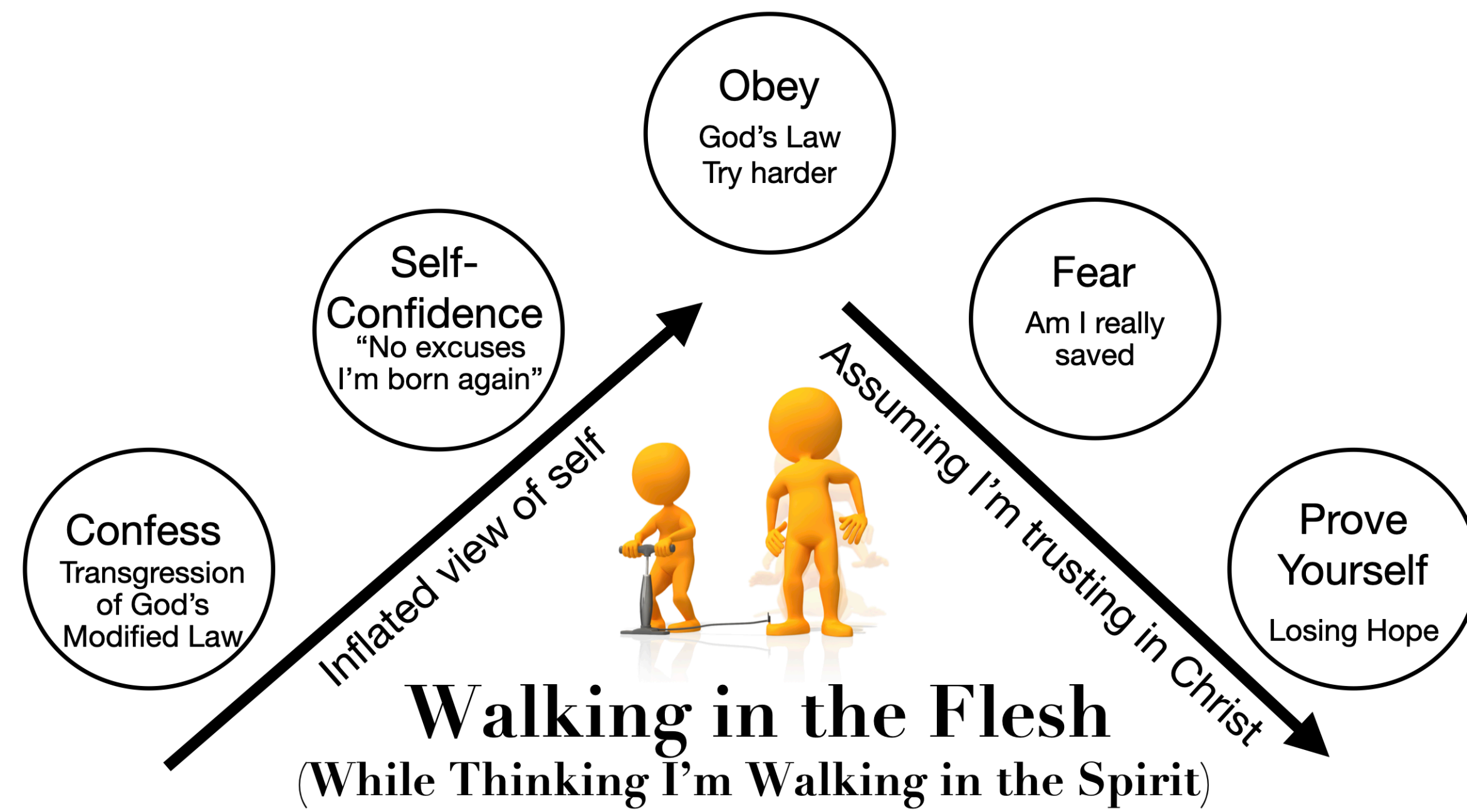
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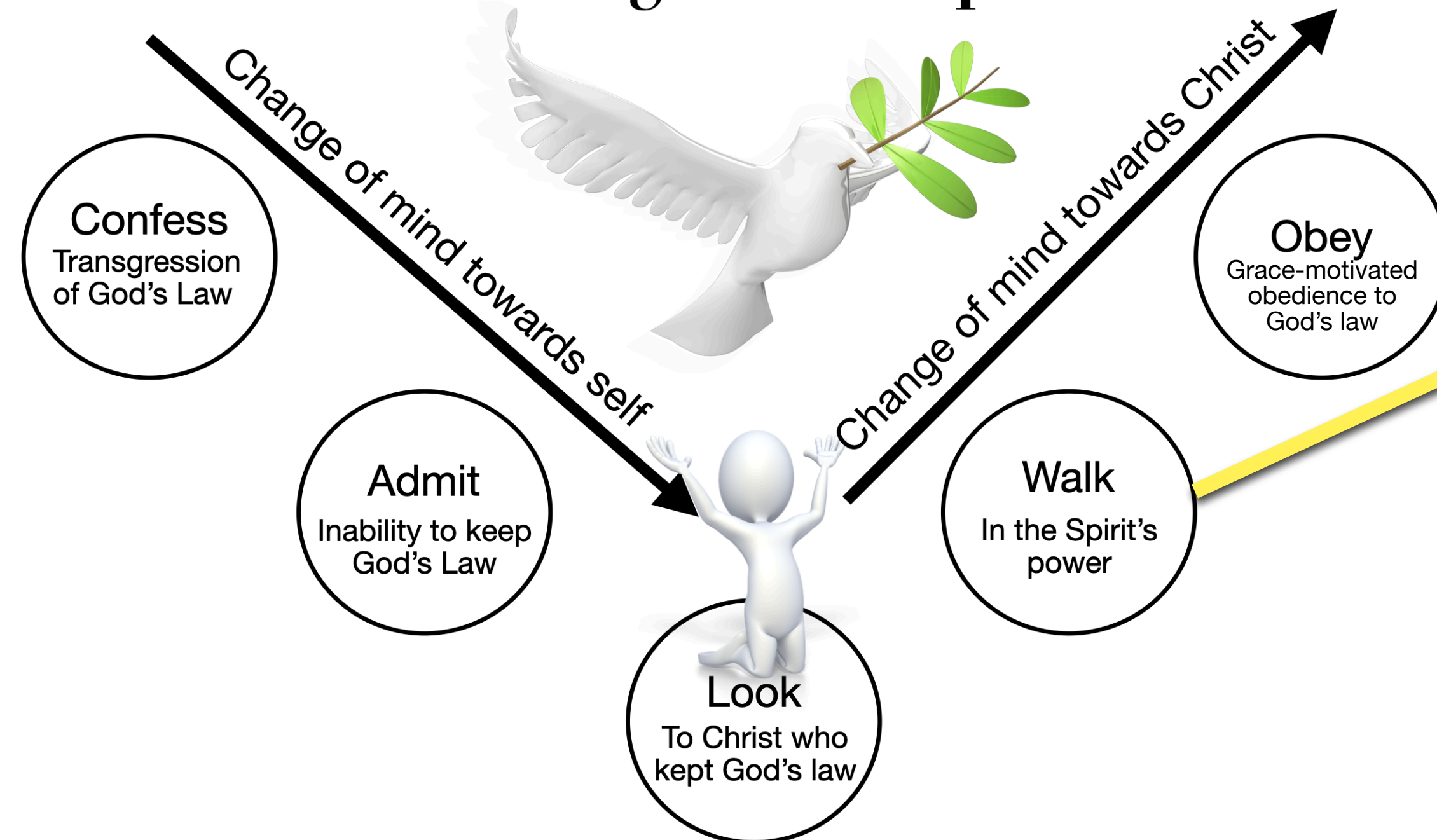


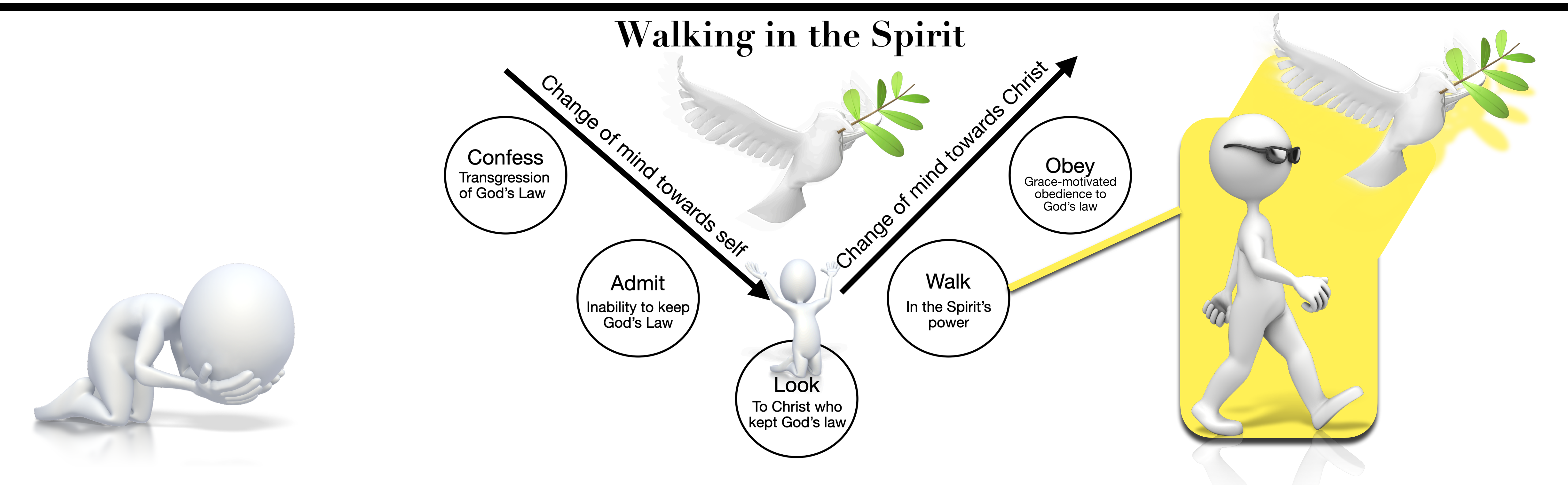
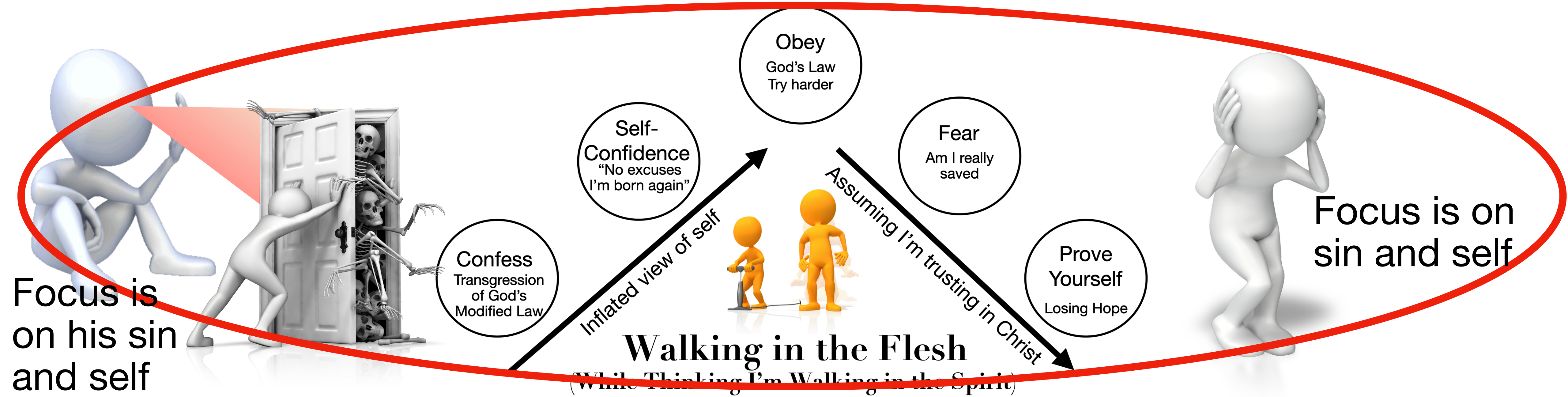
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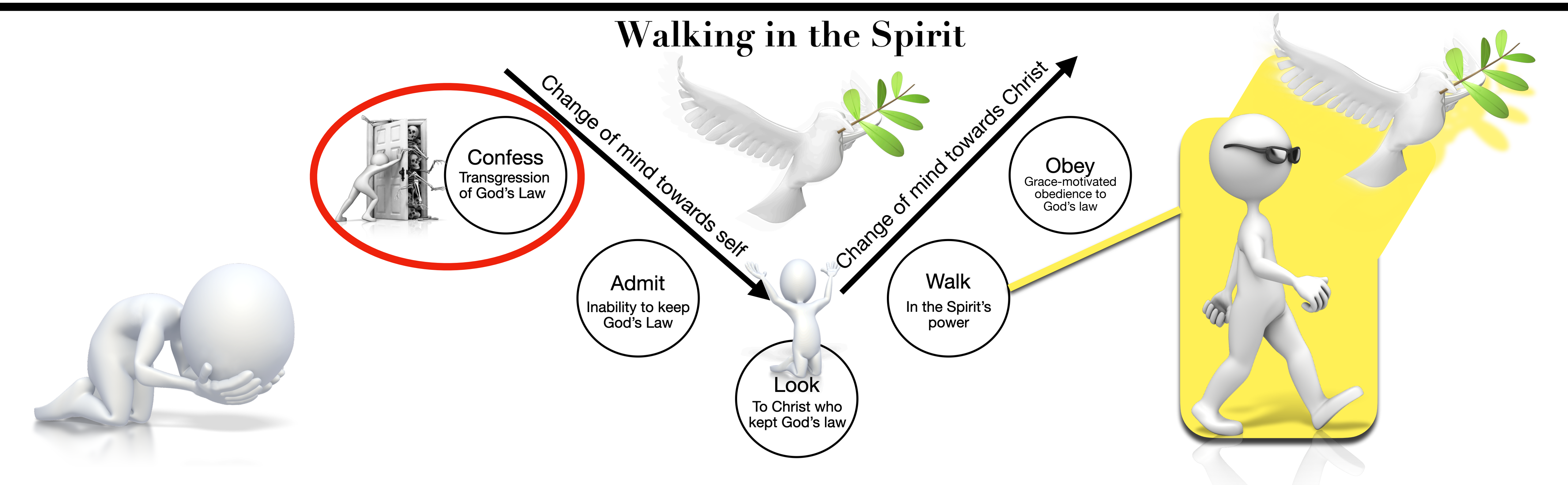
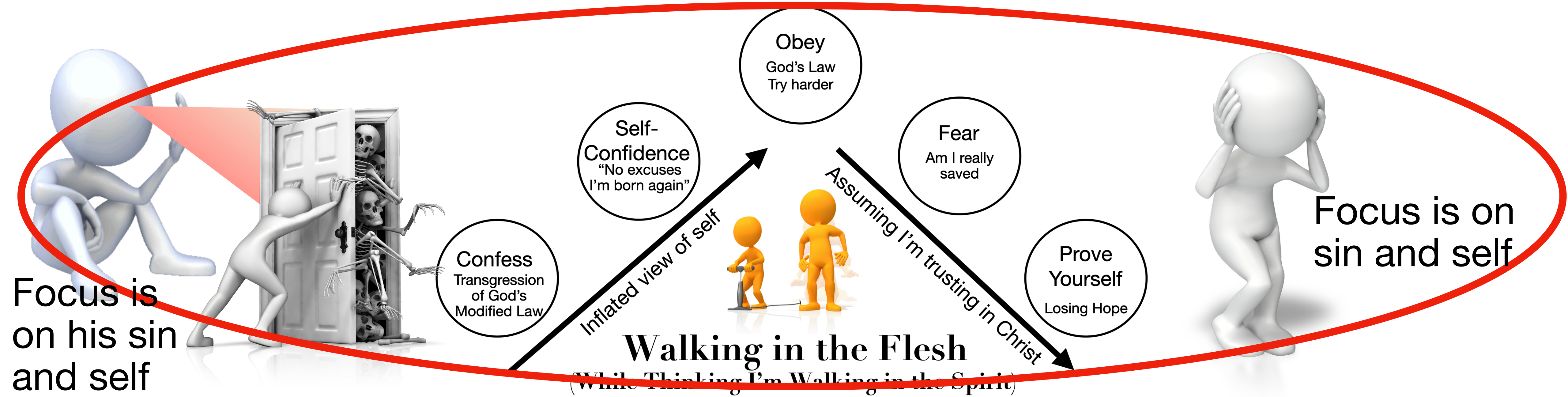


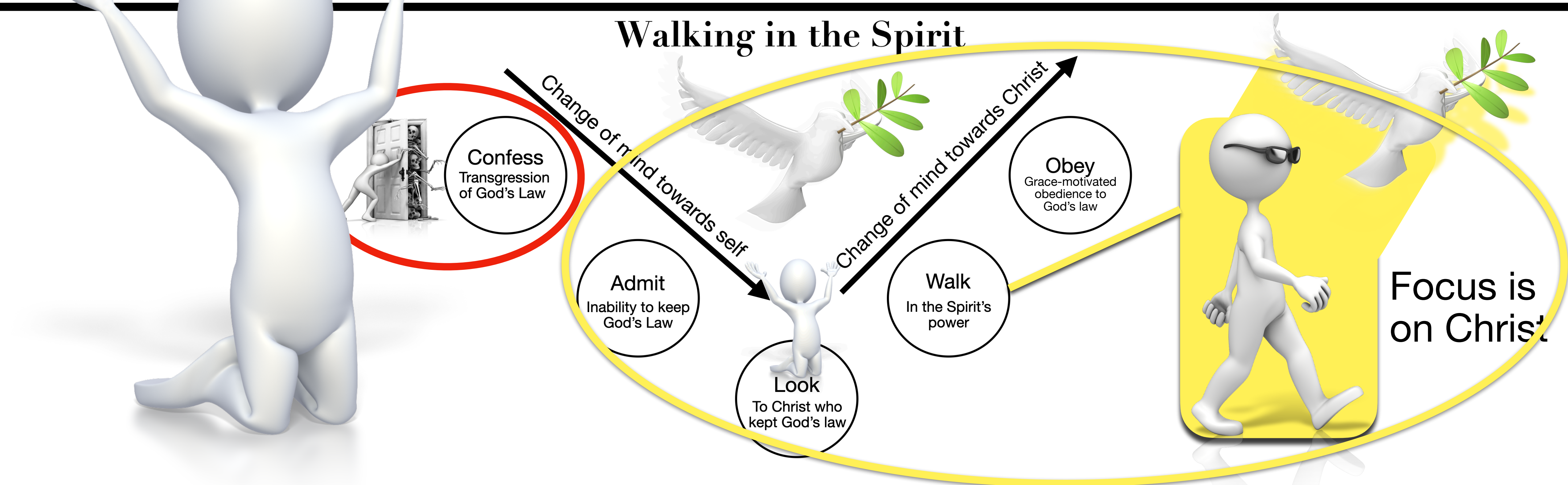
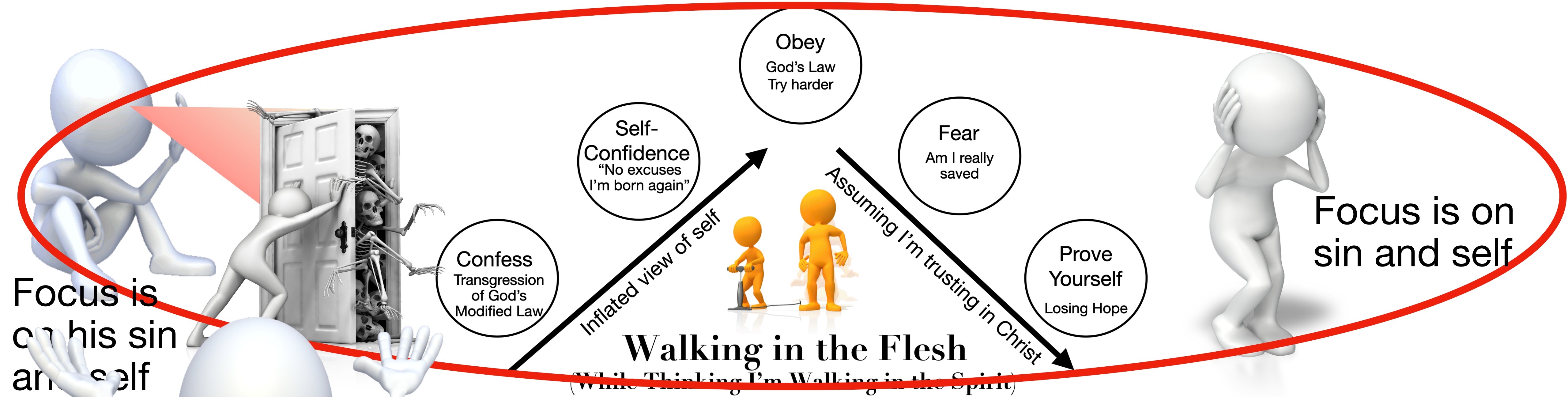


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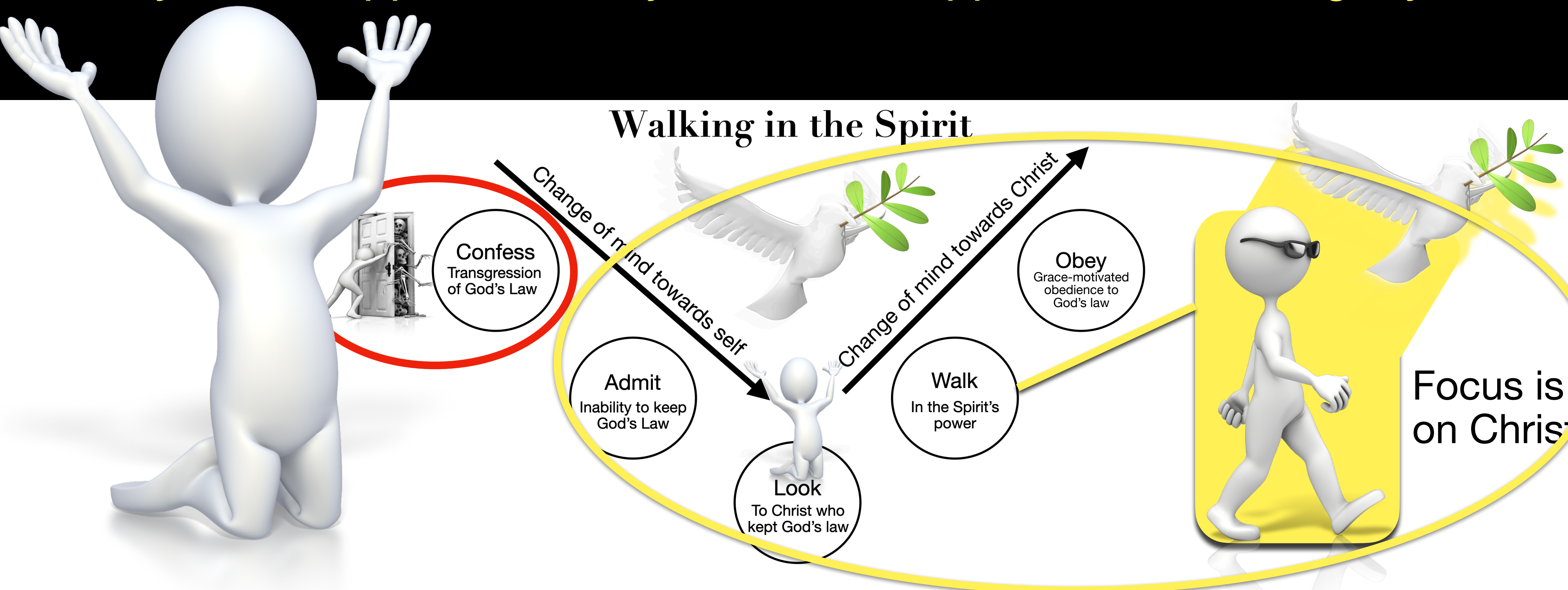








Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.



Fighting sexual sin in the power of Christ is a corporate (church wide) battle!

Ephesians 5:1–11 (ESV) — **1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved *children*. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved *us* and gave himself up for *us*, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **3** But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among *you*, as is proper among saints. **4** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. **5** For *you* may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 5:7–14 (ESV) — 7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time *you* were darkness, but now *you* are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Ephesians 5:15–21 (ESV) — 15 Look carefully then how **you** walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19 *addressing one another*** in *psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* **21 *submitting to one another*** out of *reverence for Christ.*

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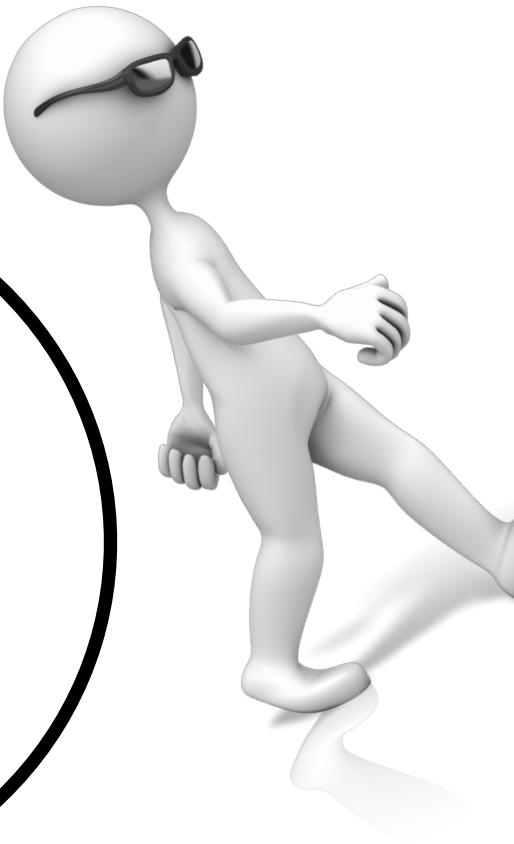
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Ephesians 6:10–20 (ESV) — 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that *you* may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** For *we* do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that *you* may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and, as shoes for *your* feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which *you* can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, *making supplication for all the saints*, **19** and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

2 Timothy 2:22–26 (ESV) — 22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, *along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.* **23** Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. **24** And the Lord's servant must not be **quarrelsome** but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, **25** correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from **the snare of the devil**, after being captured by him to do his will.

Walking in the Spirit



Confess
Transgression
of God's Law

Admit
Inability to keep
God's Law

Look
To Christ who
kept God's law

Walk
In the Spirit's
power

Obey
Grace-
motivated
obedience to
God's law

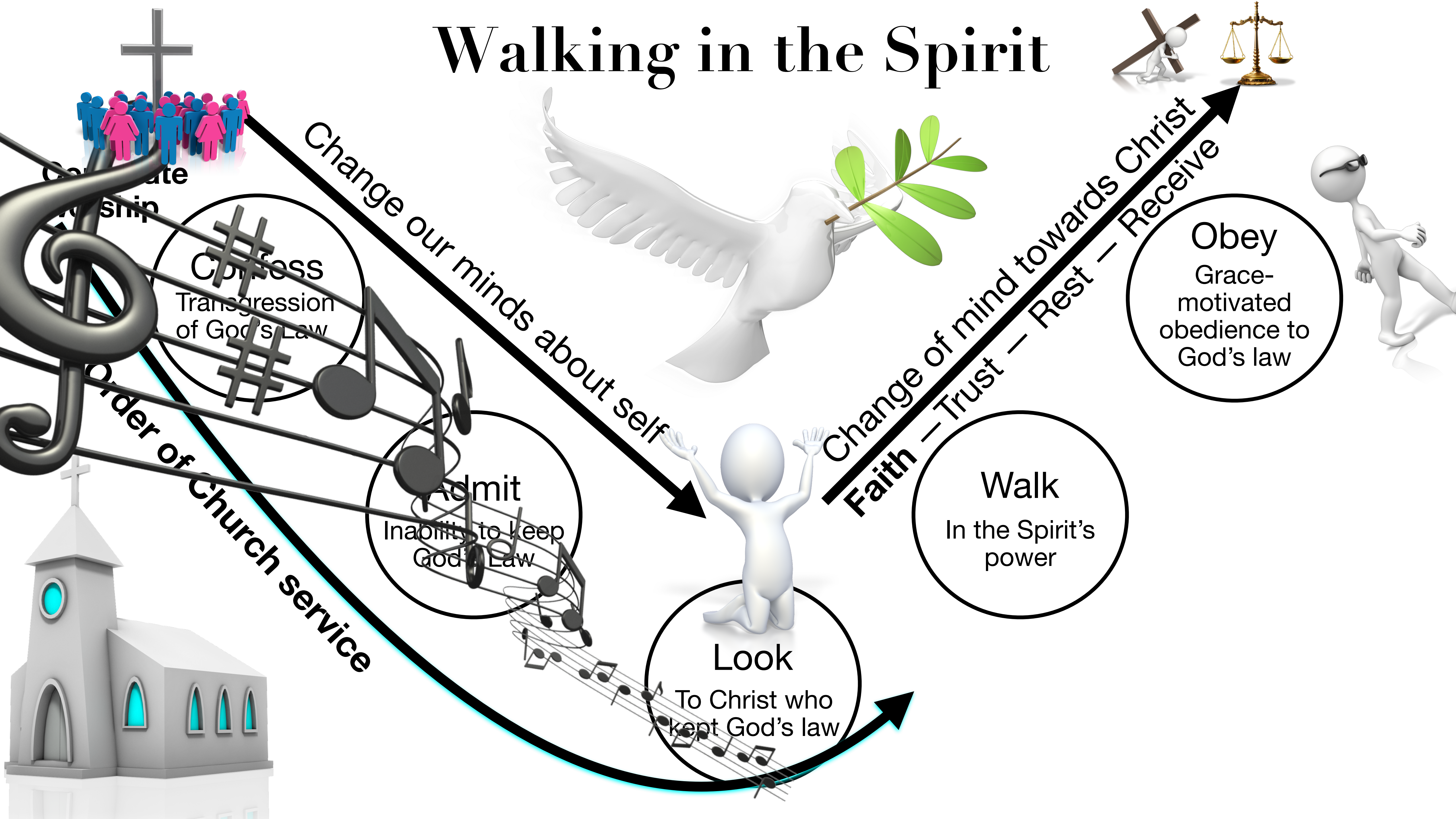
Change our minds about self

Change of mind towards Christ
Faith — Trust — Rest — Receive

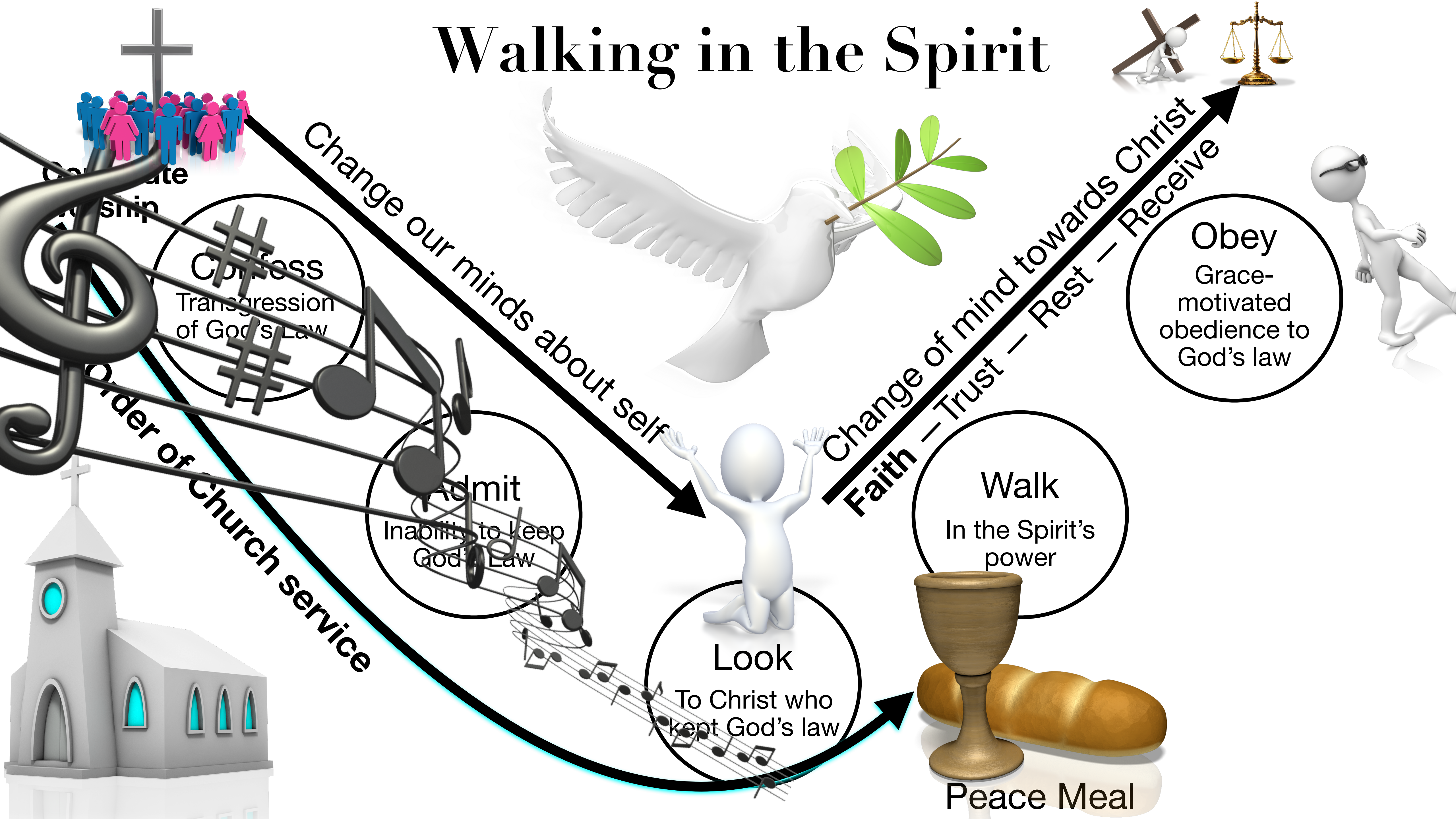
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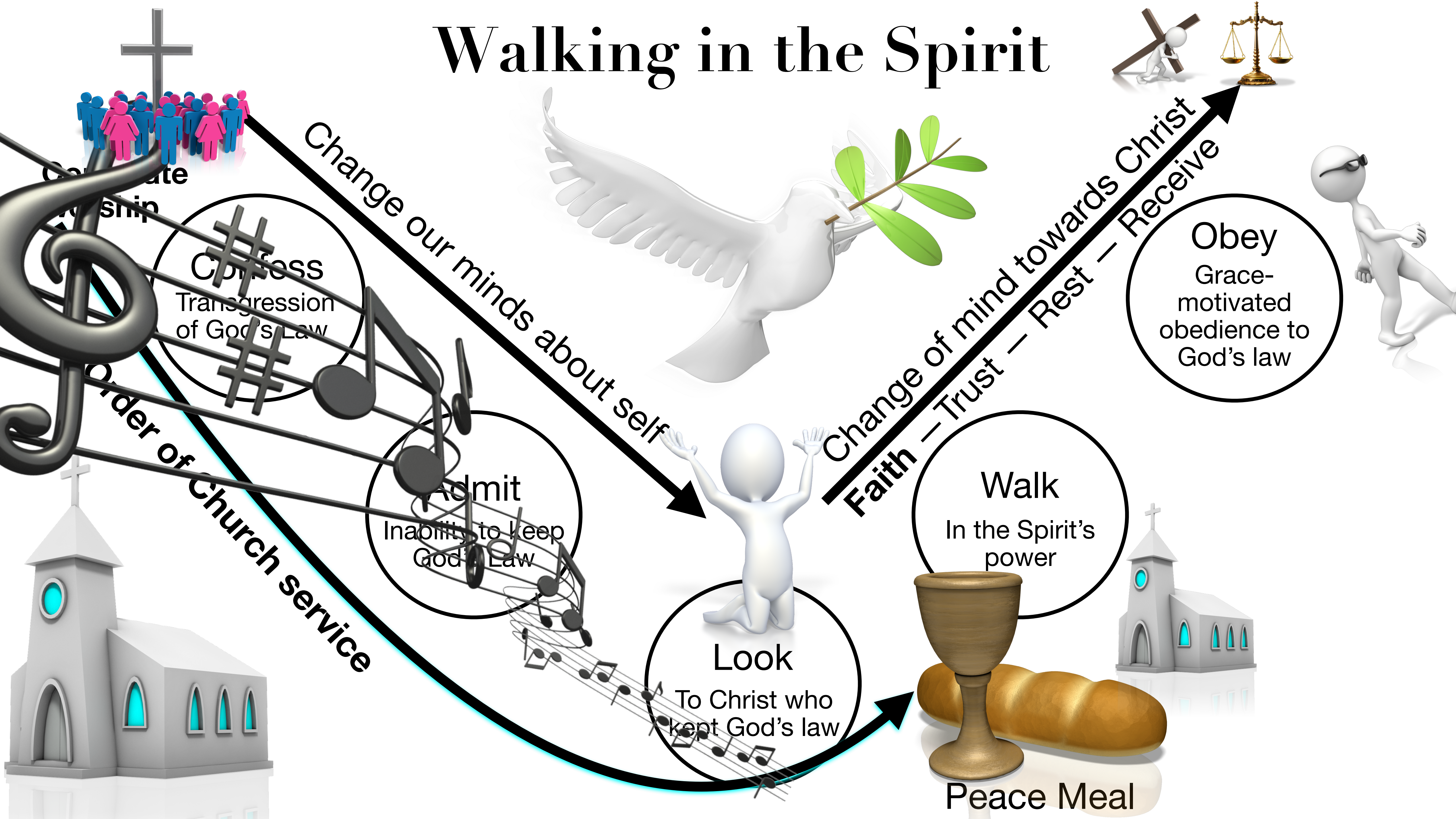


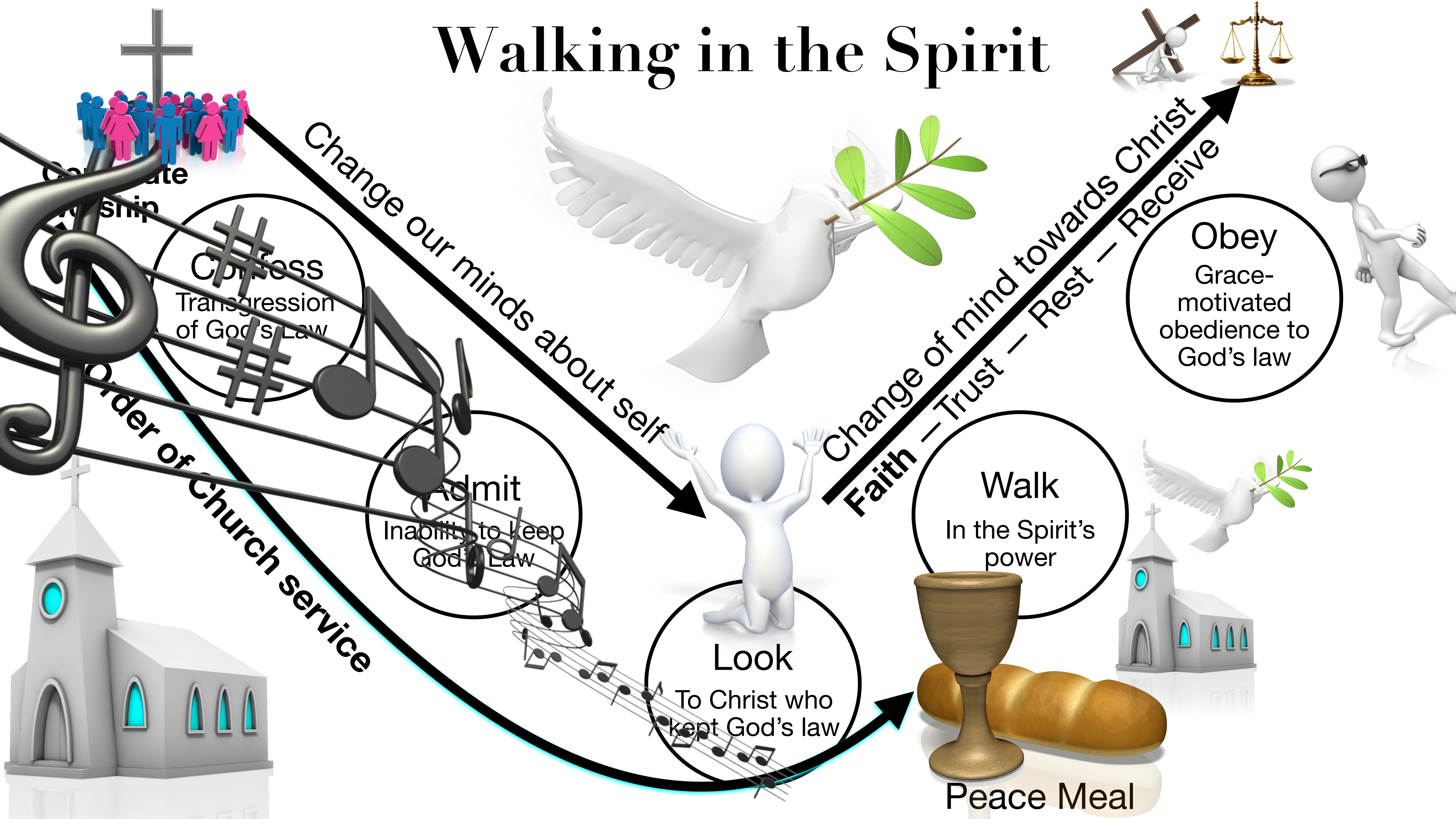
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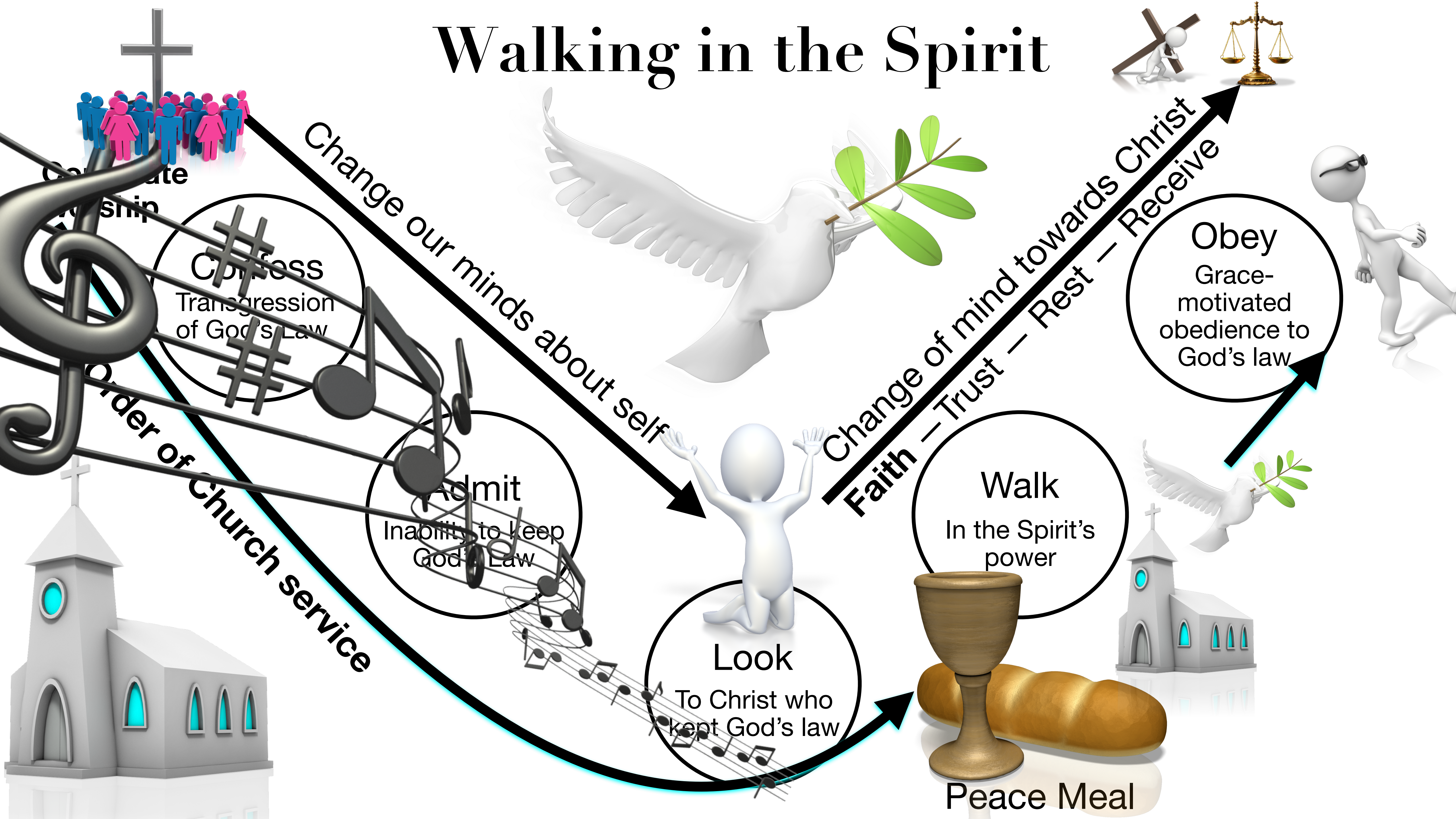
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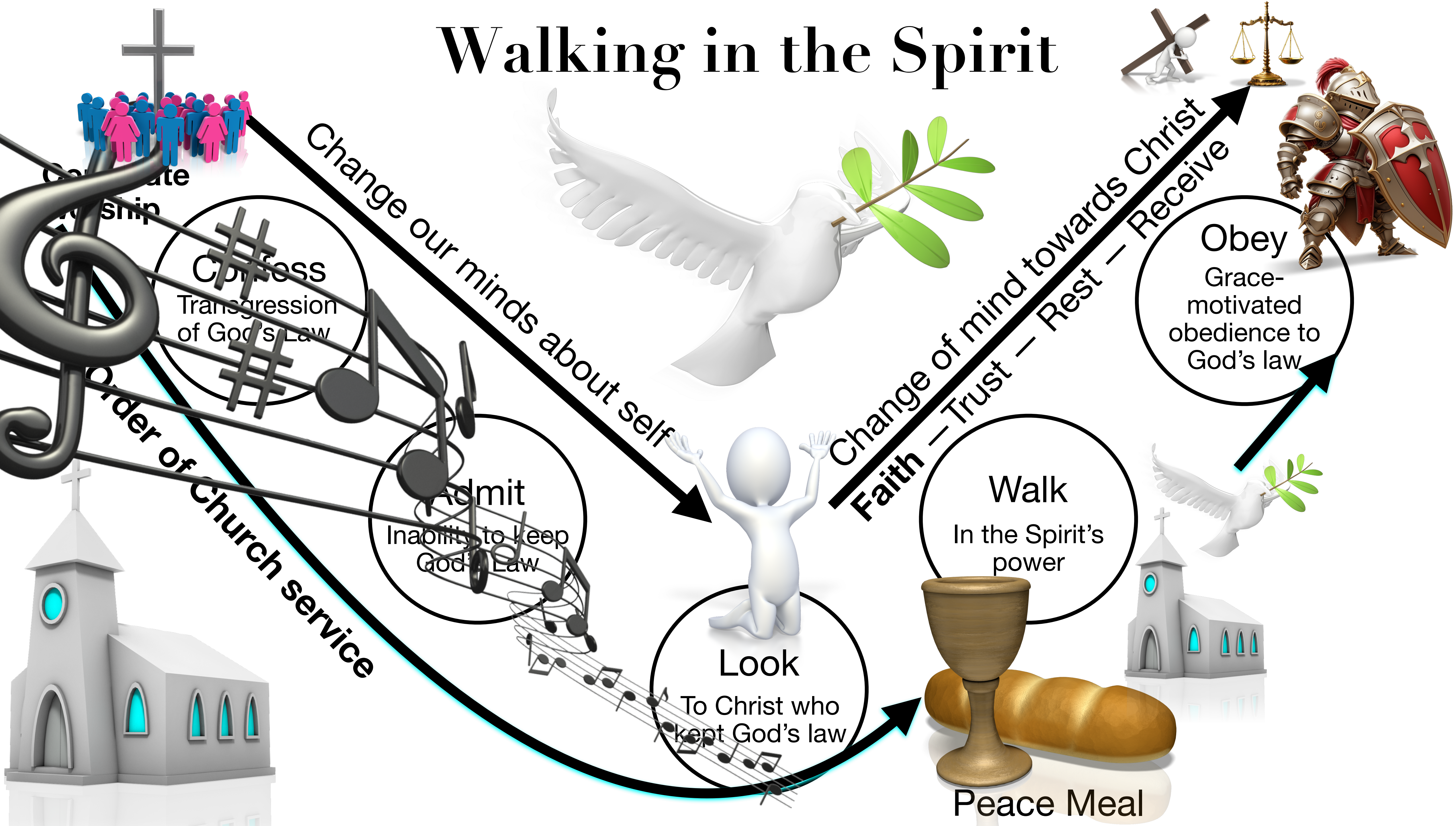




Walking in the Spirit



Walking in the Spirit



Satan Wants You Alone This Sunday



Article by [Garrett Kell](#) 

Pastor, Alexandria, Virginia

A war is raging in your church. I'm not alluding to drama among the deacons or complaints by a few congregants. I'm talking about a battle that is not "against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). Satan wars against our faith, but God promises to hold us fast. And one of the ways he sustains us is through the church's weekly assembly.

When most of us think of going to church, we don't consider what is happening behind the scenes. But understand this: *Sunday morning is a spiritual-warfare battleground*. Satan's attacks aim at hindering faith (Luke 22:31–32). God's aim in the assembly is to edify faith (1 Corinthians 14:26; Colossians 3:16). Gathering with the flock is akin to assembling for war. Liturgy is our battle plan given by the Lord of hosts.

Assemble for War

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Assemble for War



Assemble for war

1. Distraction

2. Discouragement

3. Division

4. Disbelief

Protect the Assembly

3. Division

Jesus delights in the church's unity; Satan devotes himself to undermining it. I recently spoke with a friend who was struggling with another church member. As he shared about the situation, I could see how cleverly Satan had intervened in the strained relationship. He had stoked suspicion and assured my brother that the other person thought ill of him. Comparison had allowed his insecure heart to spiral into deception. But thankfully, after the two spoke, the air was cleared, and the Lord helped them disentangle from the evil one's snare.

Whether rifts are small or large doesn't matter to the adversary as long as believers' affections are cooled for one another. Temptations to post thoughtlessly online or to cultivate twisted assumptions are constant. Satan is an opportunist who seeks open doors for easy access into relationships, which is why we must "give no opportunity to the devil" (Ephesians 4:26–27).

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Worship Will Be Worth It

Satan, the world, and our flesh can offer countless reasons not to gather with the church. But the Almighty calls us to believe it will be worth it. In the assembly, we see the preciousness of Jesus again. Every element of the service lifts the eyes of our hearts to behold him and believe in him afresh.

Satan would have us experience anything but that. His aim is our apostasy; neglecting the assembly is one of his most potent schemes. But in the words of the apostle, “Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world” (1 Peter 5:9). So, keep fighting, family of God, because “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Romans 16:20).

Garrett Kell (@pastorjgkell) is the author of Pure in Heart: Sexual Sin and the Promises of God. He also serves as pastor of Del Ray Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. He is married to Carrie and they have seven children.

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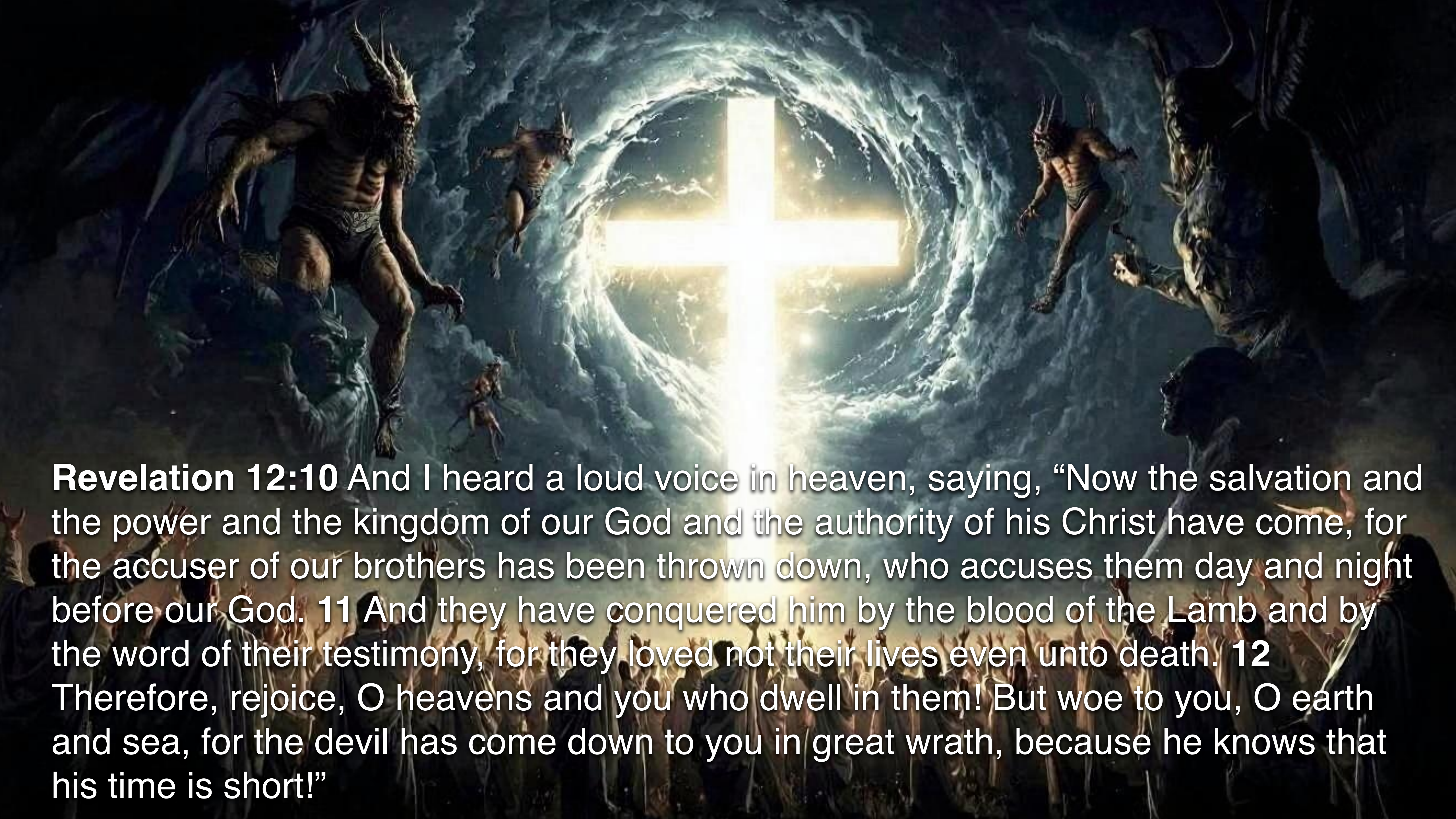
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“For my own warfare ... I am at a loss what course to pursue, what alliance, what word of wisdom, what grace to devise, with what panoply to arm myself against the wiles of the wicked one [see Eph 6:11]. What Moses did is to conquer him by stretching out his hands upon the mount, in order that the cross, thus typified and prefigured”

Gregory of Nazianzus: 4 Century



Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. **11** And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. **12** Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”