



James 3:18

Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace. They will reap of harvest of goodness.

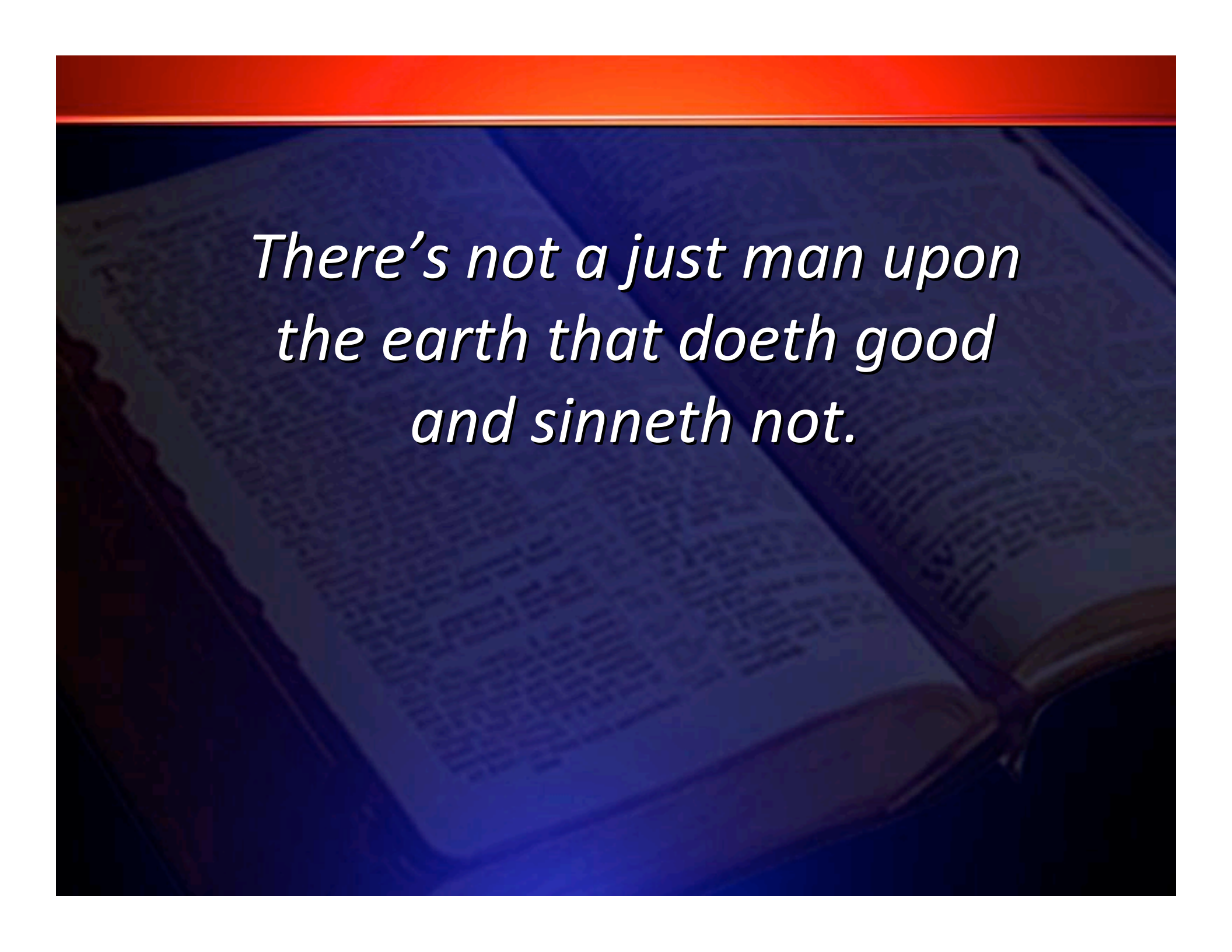


The CAUSE of CONFLICT

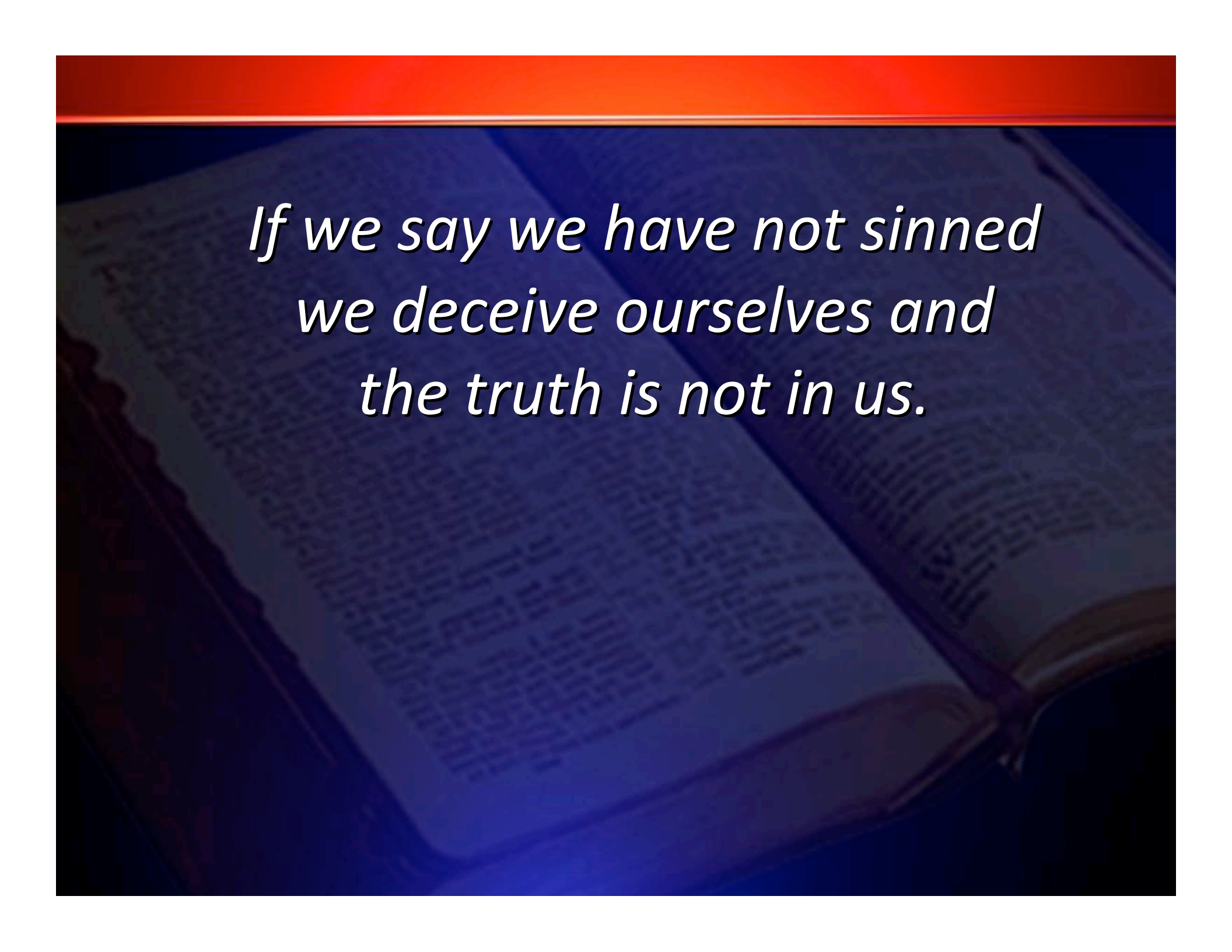
Sinfulness & Selfishness

The image features a dark blue background with a faint, high-angle view of an open book. The pages are filled with text, but it is too blurry to read. At the top of the image, there is a horizontal bar with a red-to-orange gradient. Centered over the book is the text "All have sinned...." in a white, italicized, serif font with a black outline.

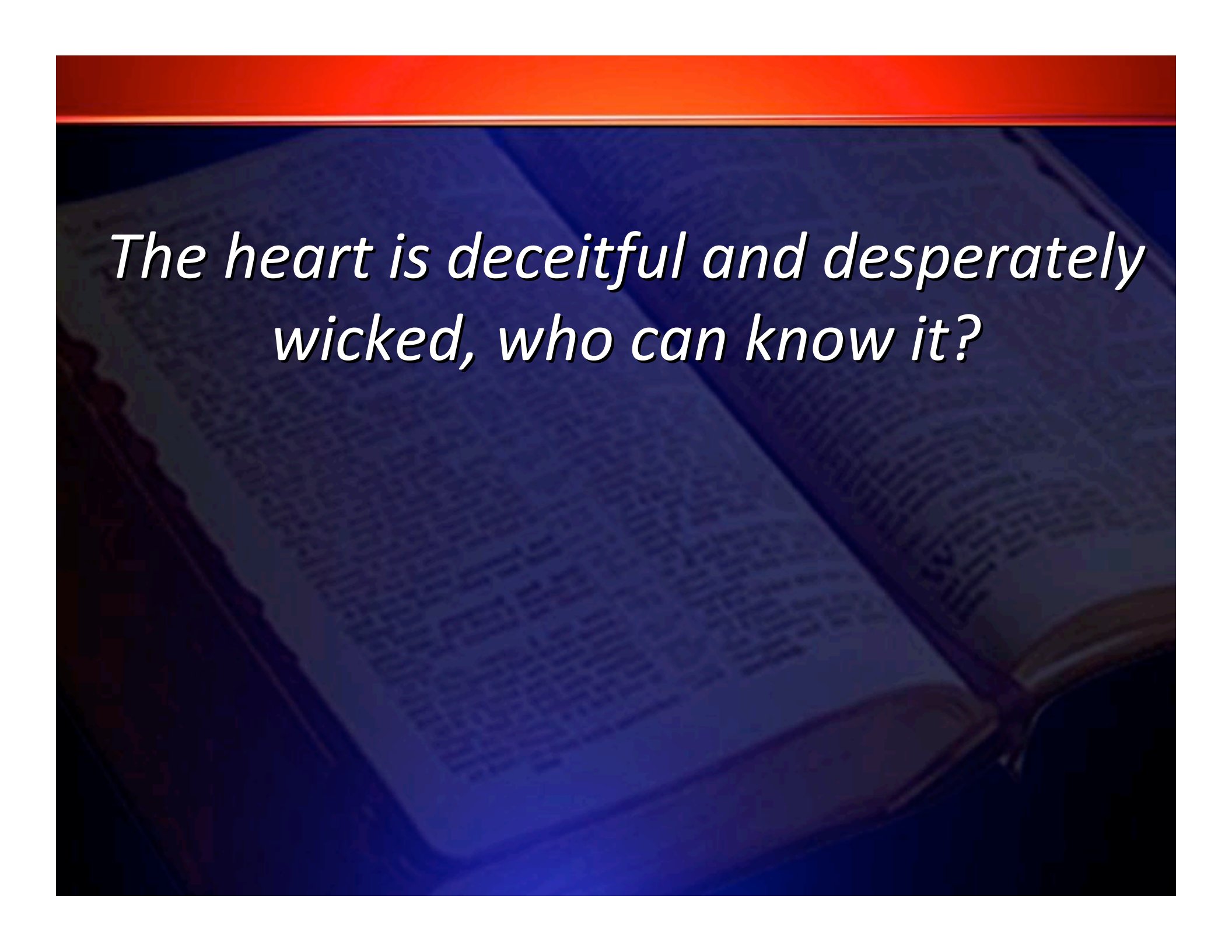
All have sinned....



*There's not a just man upon
the earth that doeth good
and sinneth not.*



*If we say we have not sinned
we deceive ourselves and
the truth is not in us.*

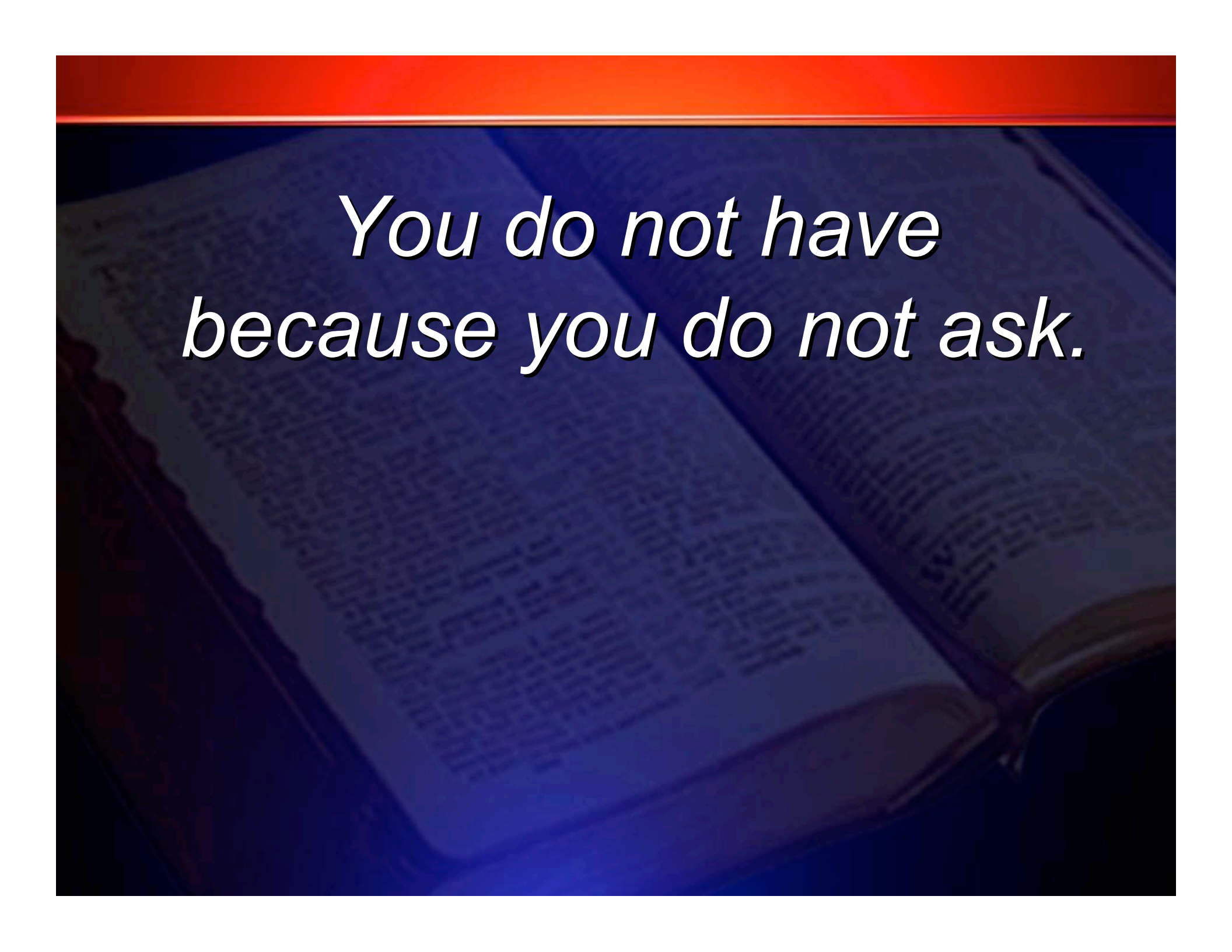


The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it?



James 4:1-2

What leads to strife and discord and feuds? How do conflicts and quarrels and fighting originate among you? They arise from your own selfish and sinful desires that have always been at war inside of you. You're jealous and you covet what others have. You burn with envy and anger and you aren't able to obtain the gratification you seek. So you fight and you war and you do not have because you don't ask God.



*You do not have
because you do not ask.*



Paul writes in the letter to Rome

For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.

The CAUSE of CONFLICT
Sinfulness & Selfishness

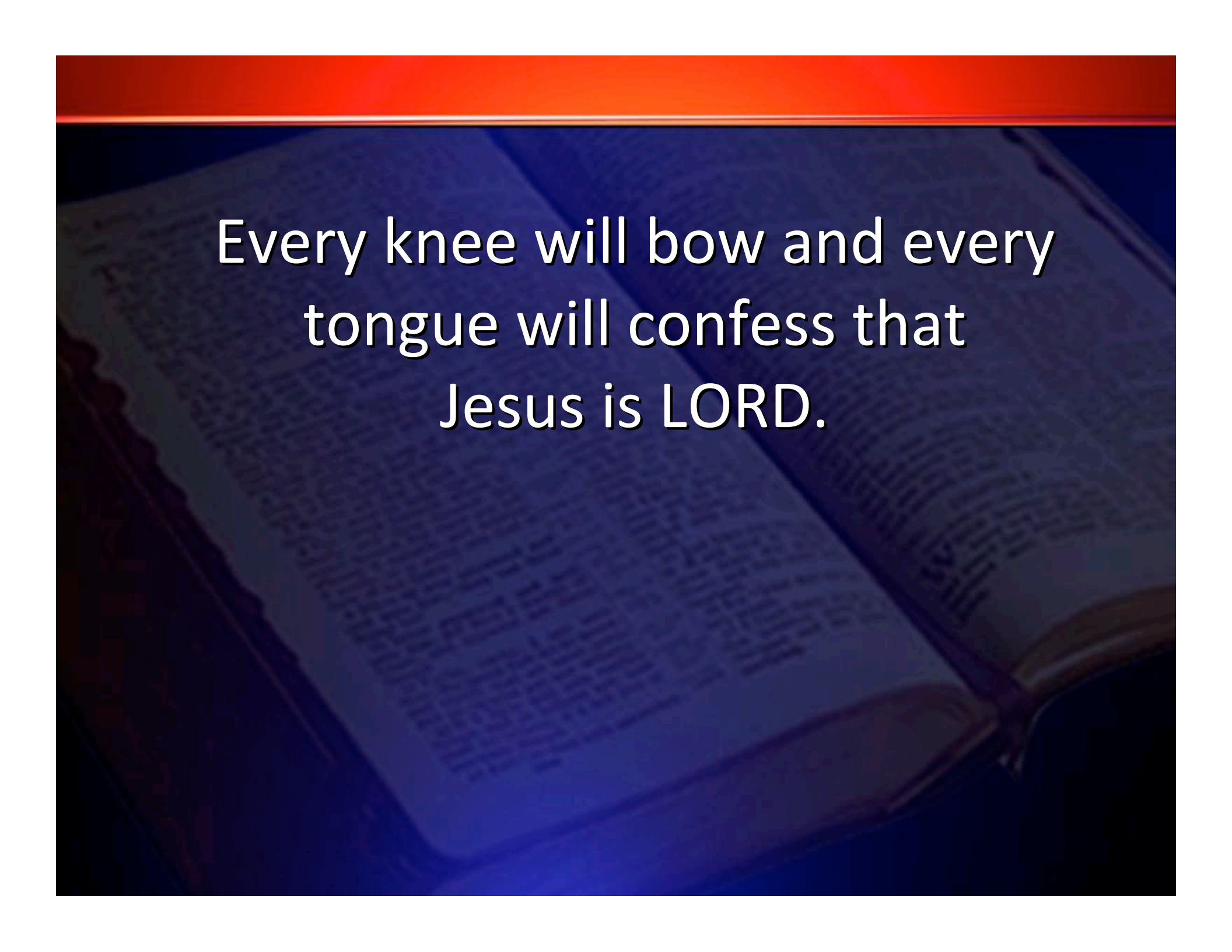
The CURE for CONFLICT is
Reconciliation





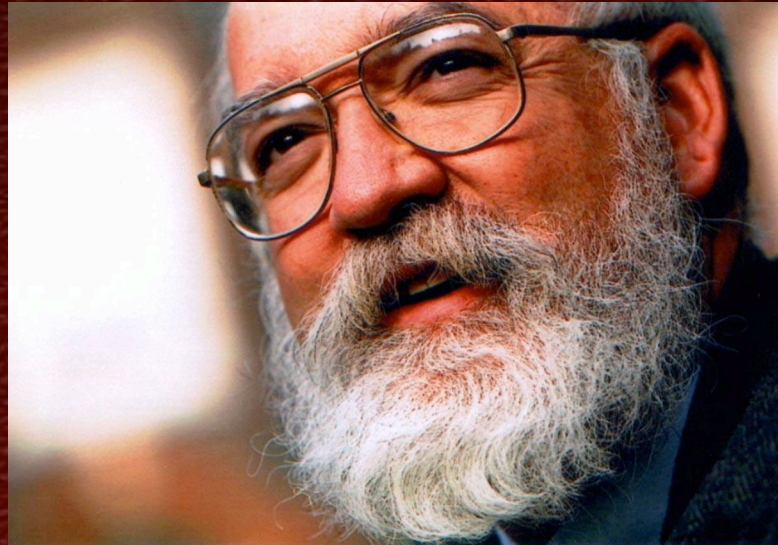
The Biblical Pattern of Reconciliation:

1. Make Peace With God.

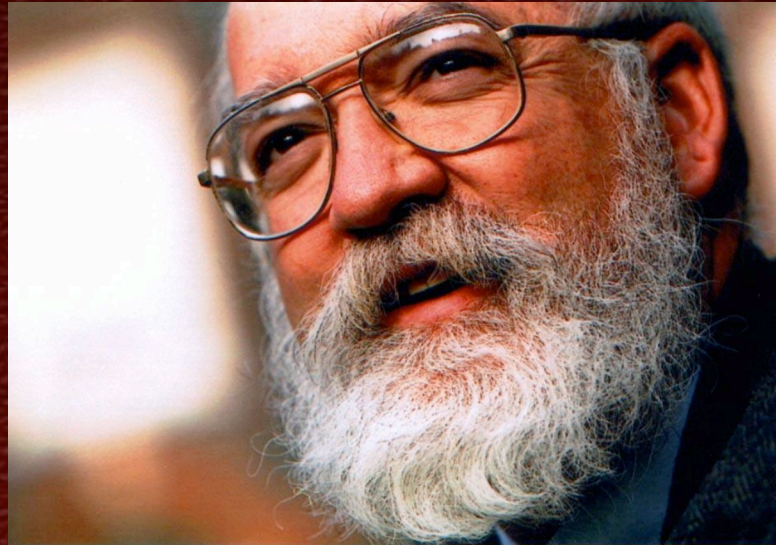


Every knee will bow and every
tongue will confess that
Jesus is LORD.

Dan Dennet



Dan Dennet



“Why would I want to surrender to anything? I’m not about to surrender my life to anything else or anybody else. Or to any god. I want to be in charge of my life.”

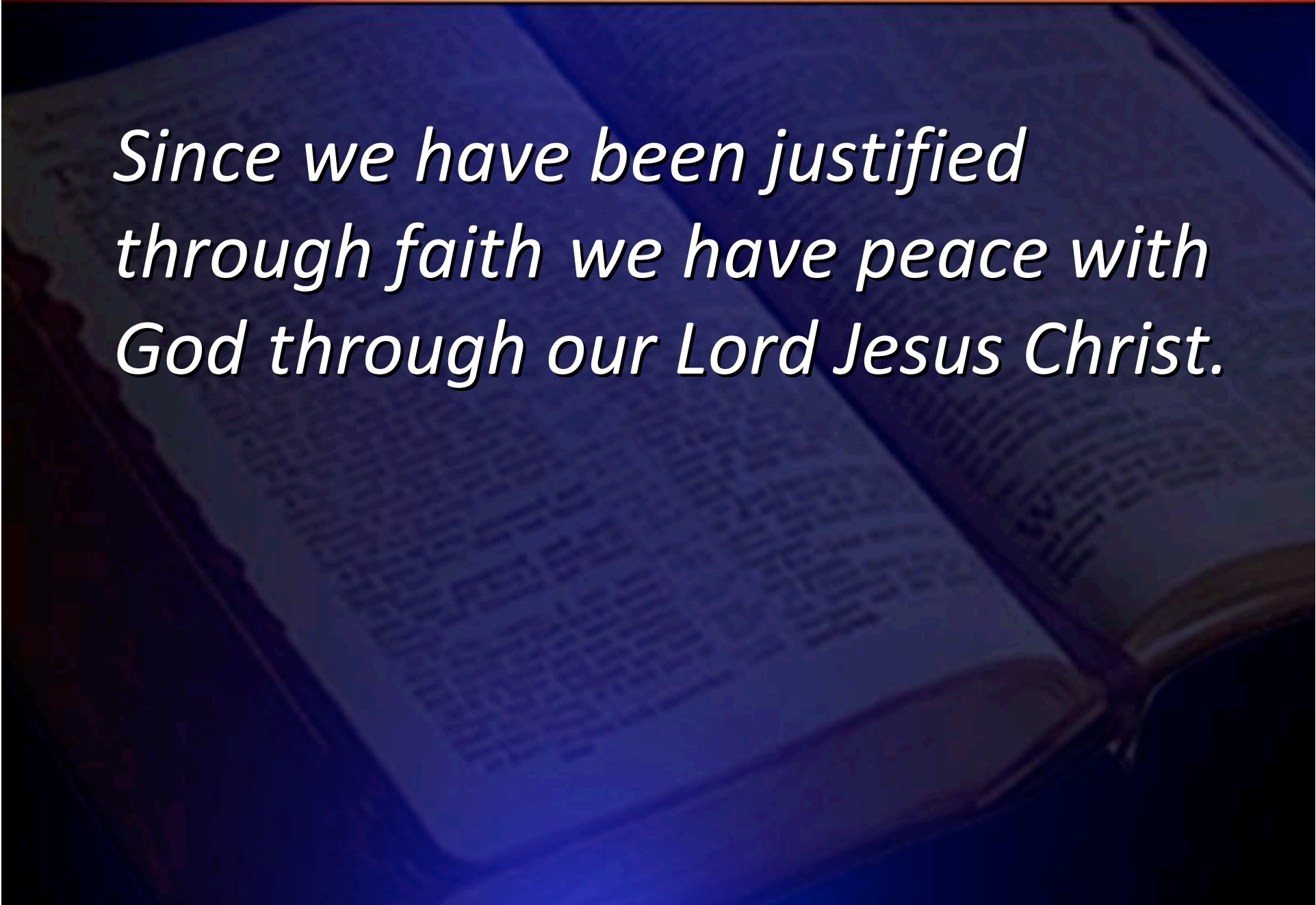


Colossians 1:21-22

At one time you were far away from God and were His enemies because of the evil things you did and you thought. But now, by means of the death of His Son, [that's Jesus] God has made you His friends in order to bring you holy, pure and faultless into His presence.

Romans 5:1

Since we have been justified through faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of an open Bible. The pages are filled with text, and the overall color scheme is a deep blue with a gradient, giving it a serene and spiritual appearance. The text is overlaid on this background in a white, italicized font.

Acts 13:39

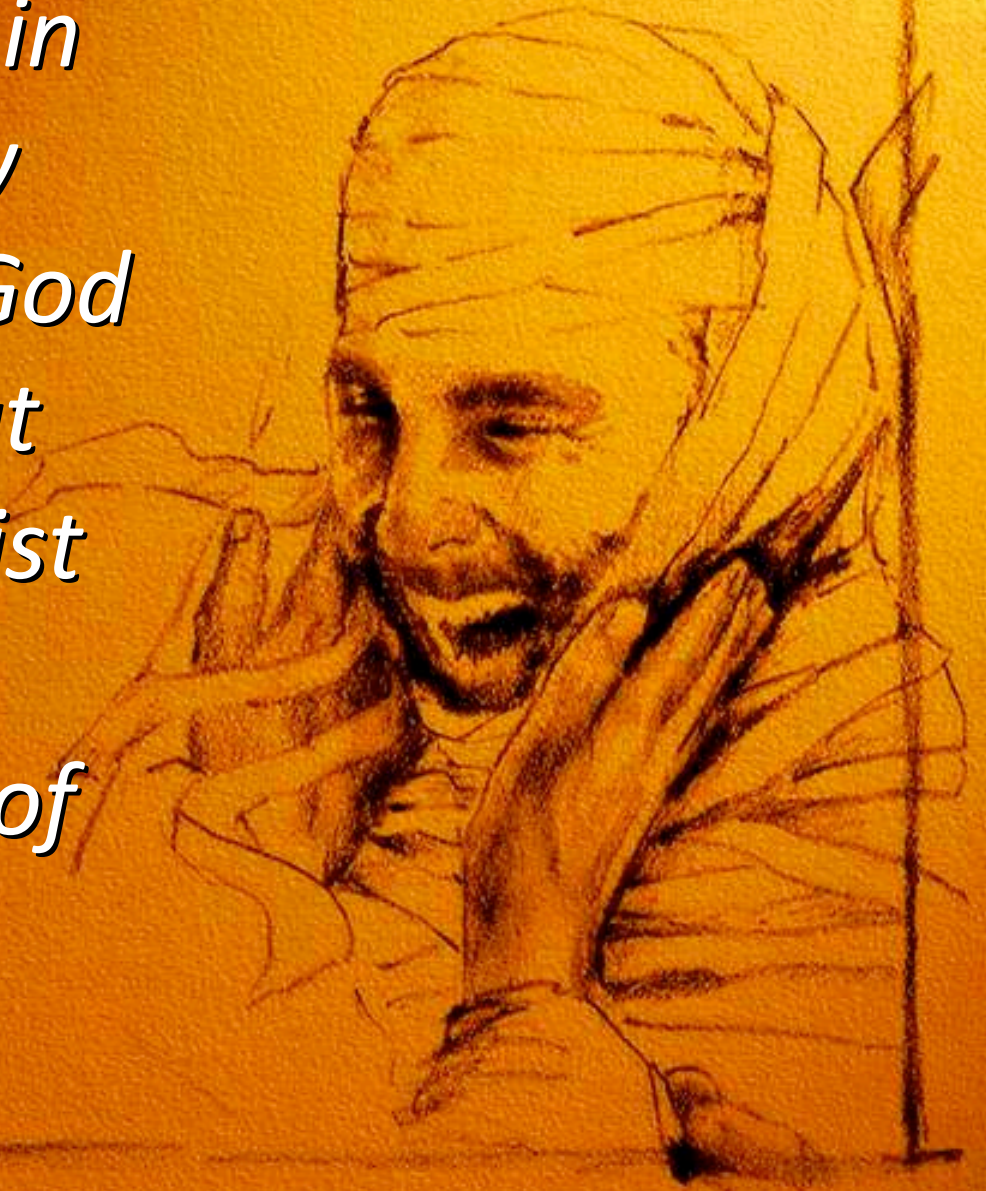
Everyone who believes in Jesus is freed from all guilt and declared right with God. Something the law of Moses could never do.

Isaiah 53

*He was wounded for
our rebellion
and crushed because
of our guilt
And we have been
healed by His bruises.*



*So now we rejoice in
our wonderful new
relationship with God
all because of what
our Lord Jesus Christ
has done for us
making us friends of
God. Romans 5:11*



The Biblical Pattern of Reconciliation:

2. How Much of It is My Fault?

James 1:5

If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you.

The Biblical Pattern of Reconciliation:

3. Arrange a Time to Talk

Matthew 5

If you're standing before the altar in the temple, and you're giving an offering to God, and you suddenly remember someone has something against you, leave your offering there beside the altar. Go first and be reconciled to that person. Then come back and offer your gift to God.

The Biblical Pattern of Reconciliation:

4. I start by confessing my part of the conflict.

Matthew 7

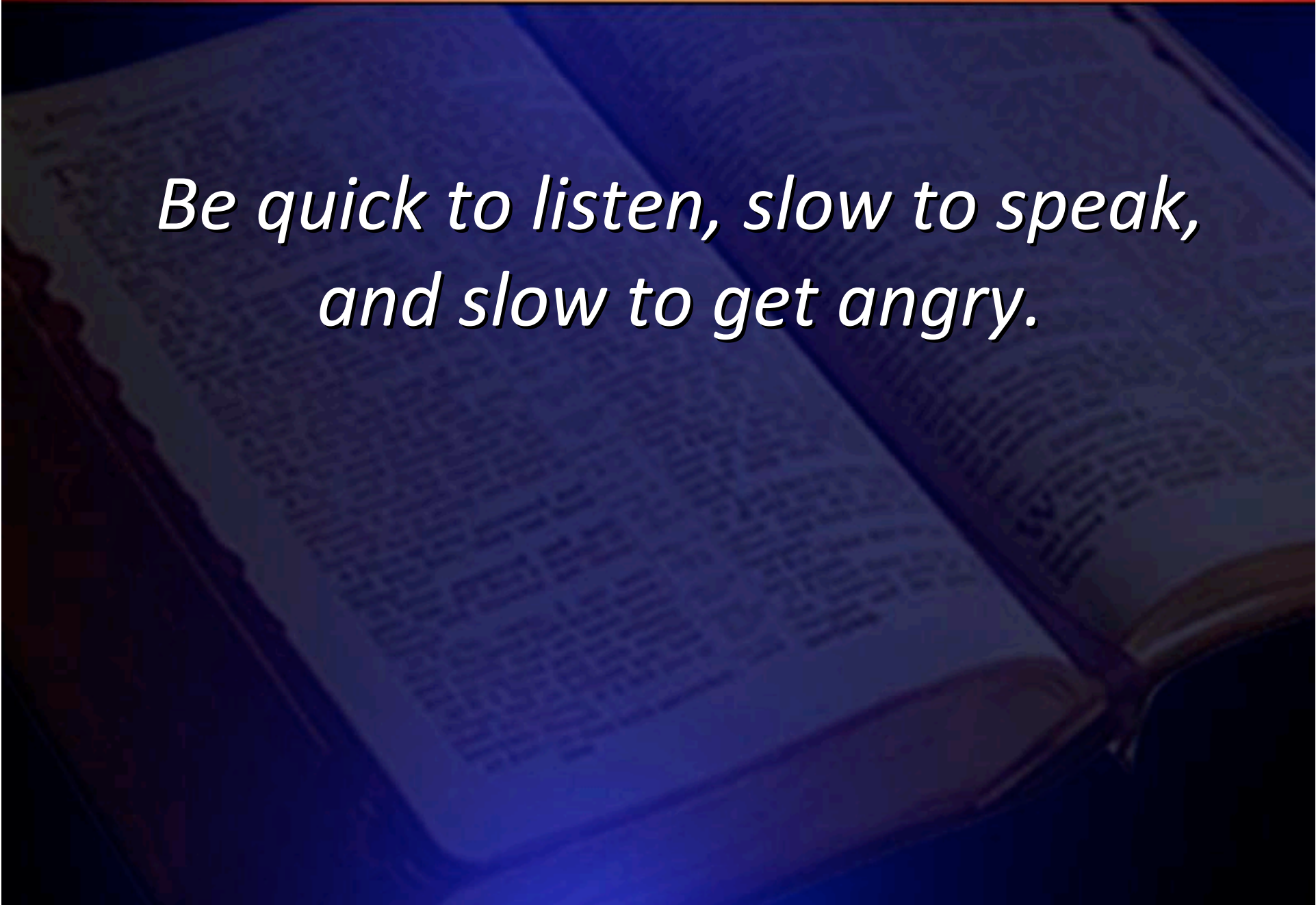
Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend's eye.

The Biblical Pattern of Reconciliation:

5. Listen for Their Hurt

James 1:19

*Be quick to listen, slow to speak,
and slow to get angry.*

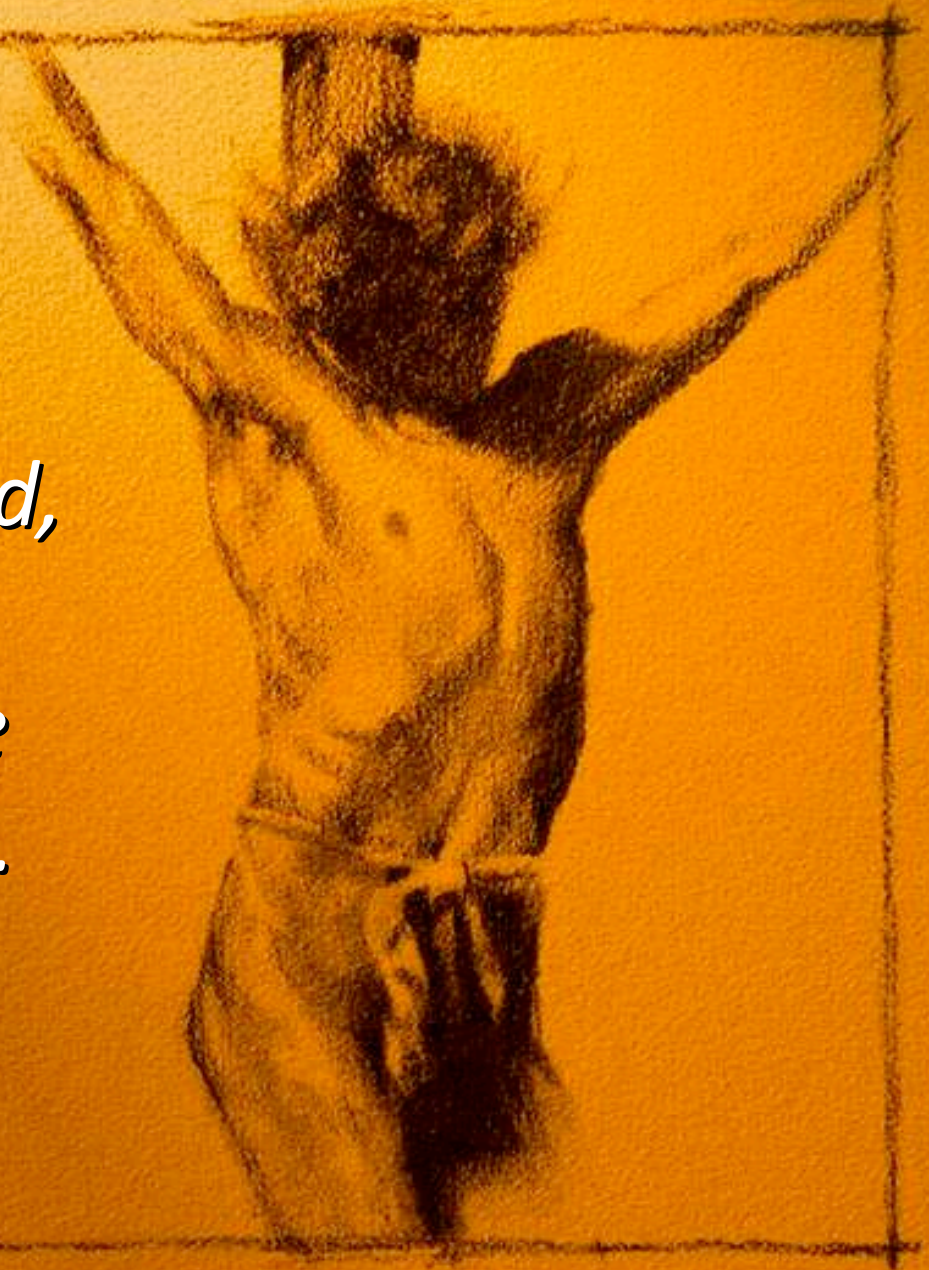
An open book is shown from a high angle, with its pages filled with text. The book is set against a dark blue background that has a subtle gradient and a slight glow. The text on the pages is mostly illegible due to the low contrast and the blue overlay.

The Biblical Pattern of Reconciliation:

**6. Be Willing to Absorb
Some Pain**

*When we were
unable to help
ourselves at the
moment of our need,
Christ died for us.
Although we were
living against God.*

Romans 5:6



*We were God's enemies, but we
were reconciled to Him through the
death of His Son. Romans 5:10*





James 2:13

There will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. But if you have been merciful then God's mercy towards you will win out over His judgment against you. Mercy triumphs over justice.

The Biblical Pattern of Reconciliation:

**7. Emphasize reconciliation,
not resolution.**

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.



God has restored our relationship with Him through Christ, and He has given us the ministry of restoring relationships. He did not hold people's faults against them, and He's given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. We are Christ's representatives and we beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Matthew 5:9

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

