


the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church



the book of
ACTS

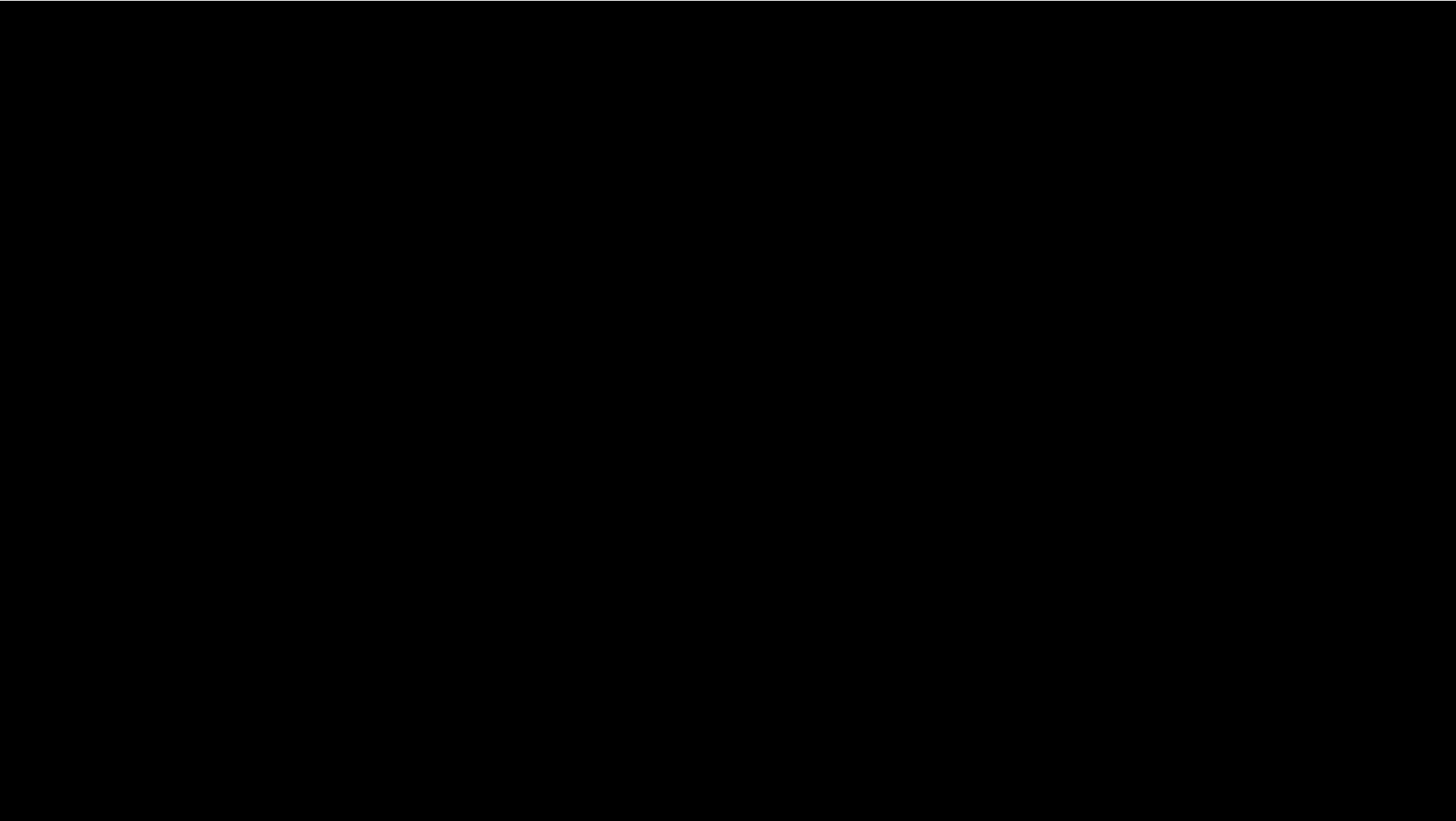
The account of the growth of the Church



"The gospel is this,"
Pastor Tim Keller said:

*"We are more sinful and
flawed in ourselves than
we ever dared believe, yet
at the very same time we
are more loved and
accepted in Jesus Christ
than we ever dared hope."*

And they stayed there
a long time with the
disciples. Acts 14:28



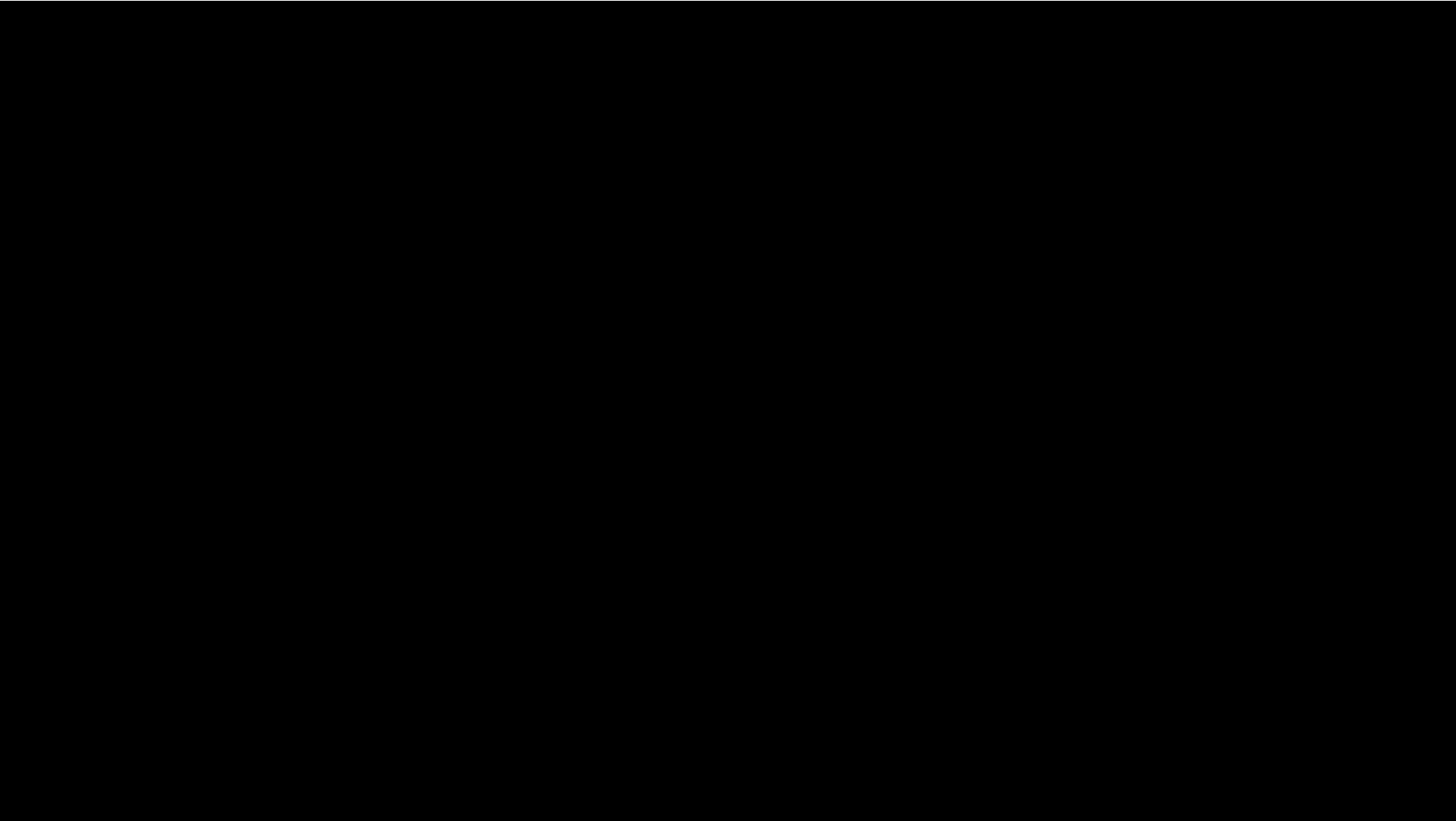
Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

Acts 15:1



“Like kids with crayons trying to touch up a Rembrandt.”

John MacArthur



This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. [Acts 15:2](#)

(Jesus) appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, ... ⁷ Then he appeared to James, ...⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also...

1 Corinthians 15:5-8



⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.⁵ Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."
⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

Acts 15:4-6

After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the ***Gentiles might hear from my lips*** the message of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:7

Peter's Proof #1
for grace alone is:

You were there.



While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Acts 10:44-46

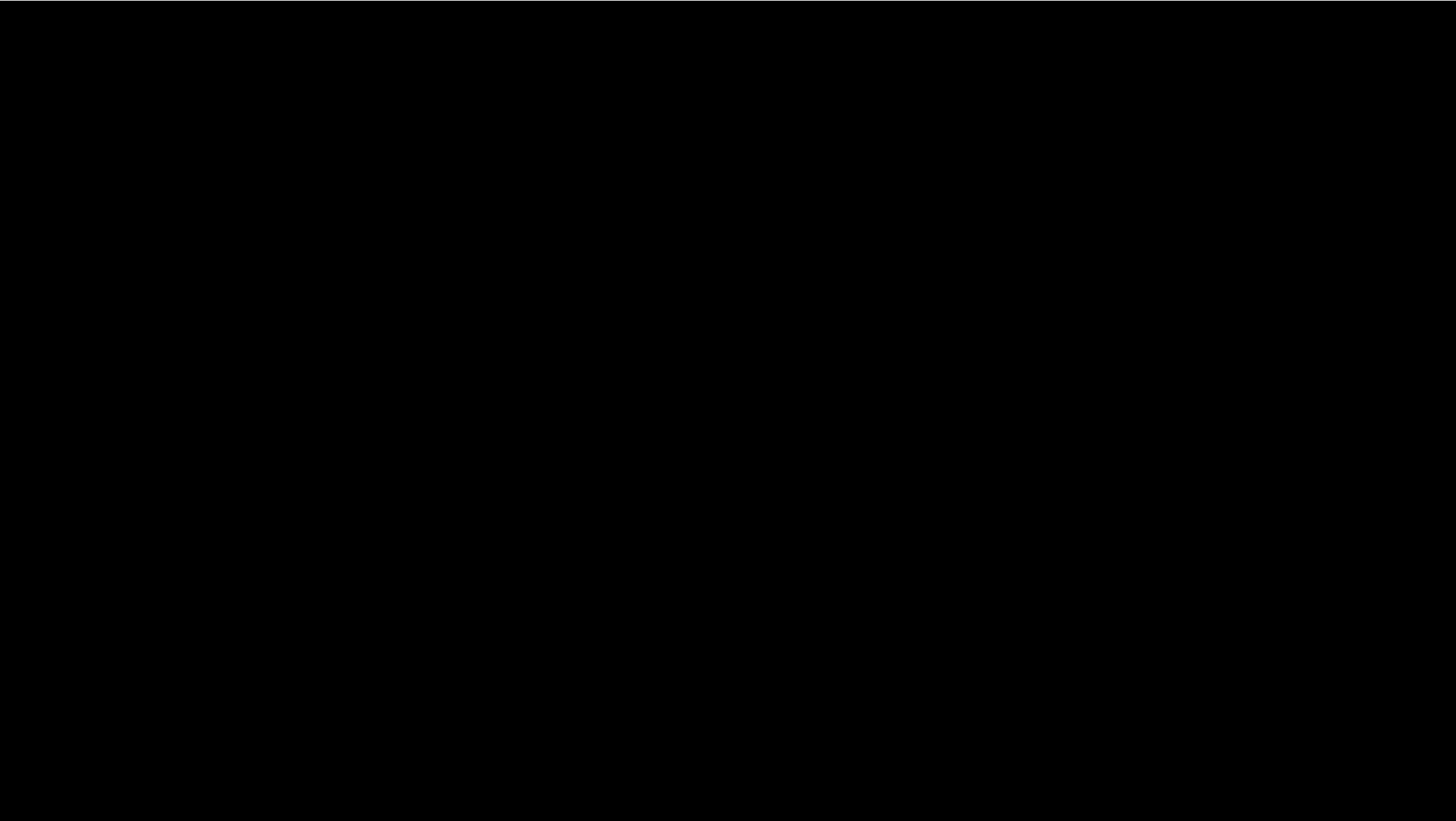


Peter's Proof #2
for grace alone is:

They've got the Holy Spirit



God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. [Acts 15:8](#)



For those who are led by the Spirit of
God are the children of God.

Romans 8:14



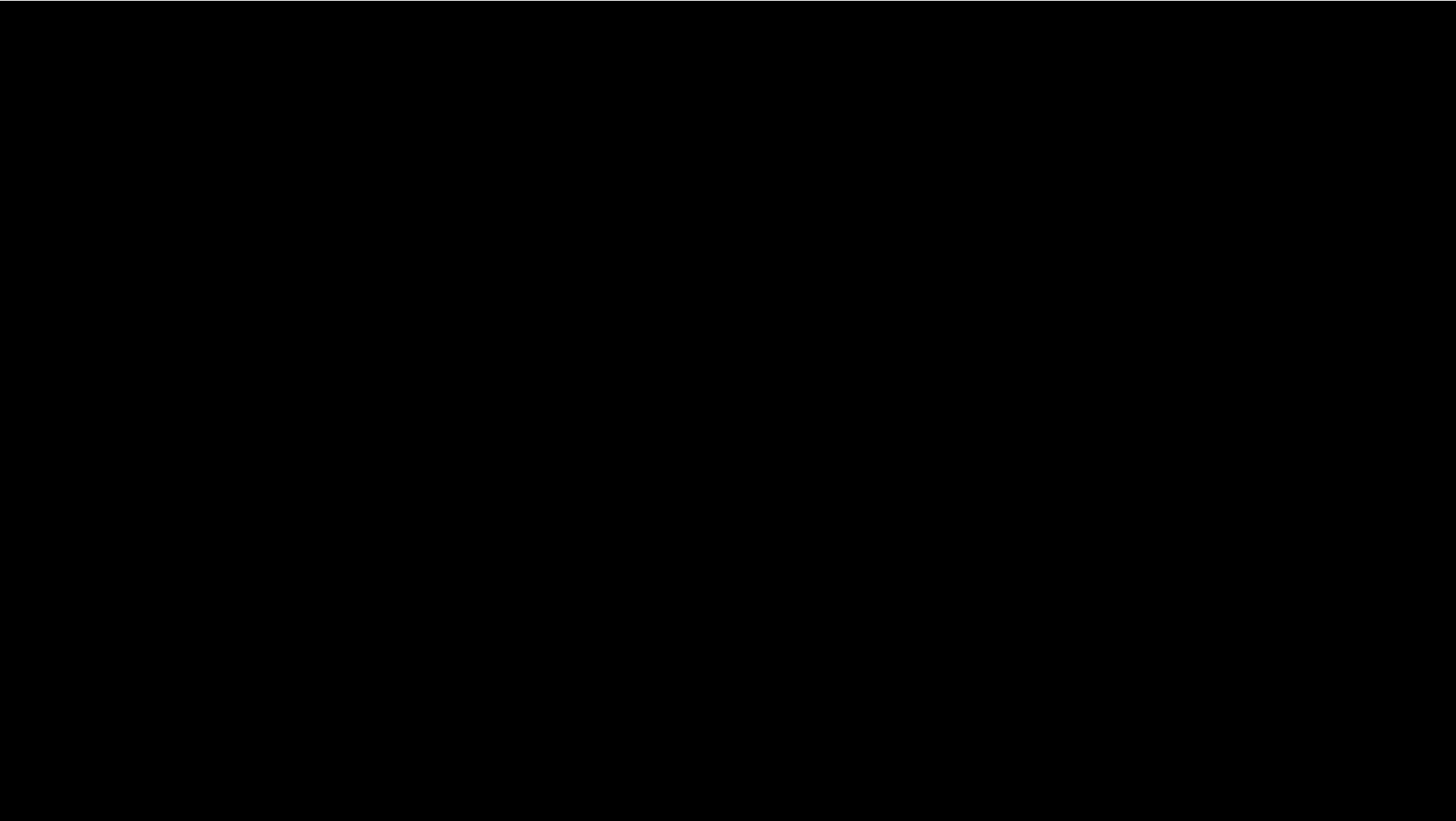
There he found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance.



He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

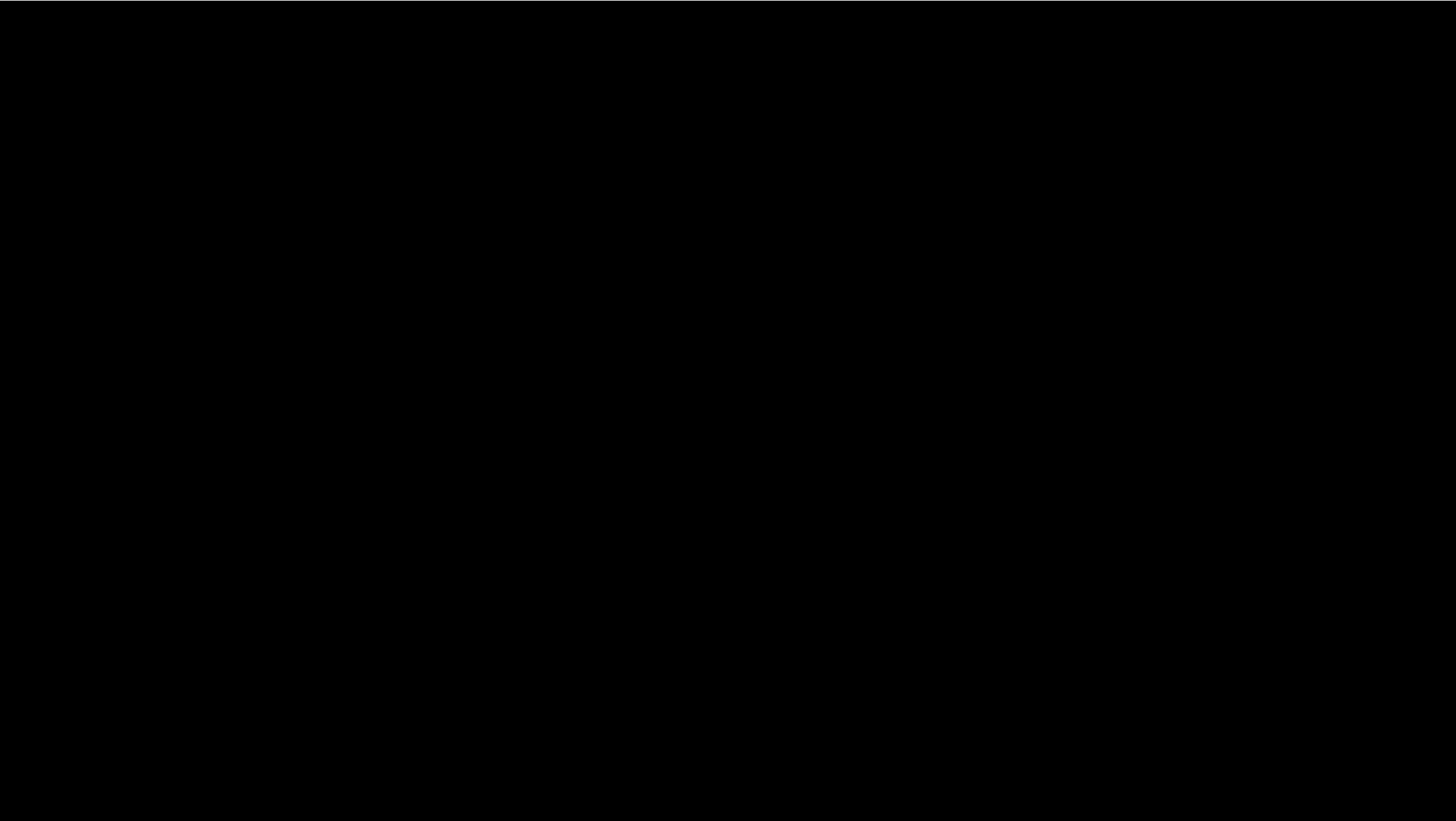
Acts 19:1-6





There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither
slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for
you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28





Peter's Proof #3
for grace alone is:

Gentiles were forgiven

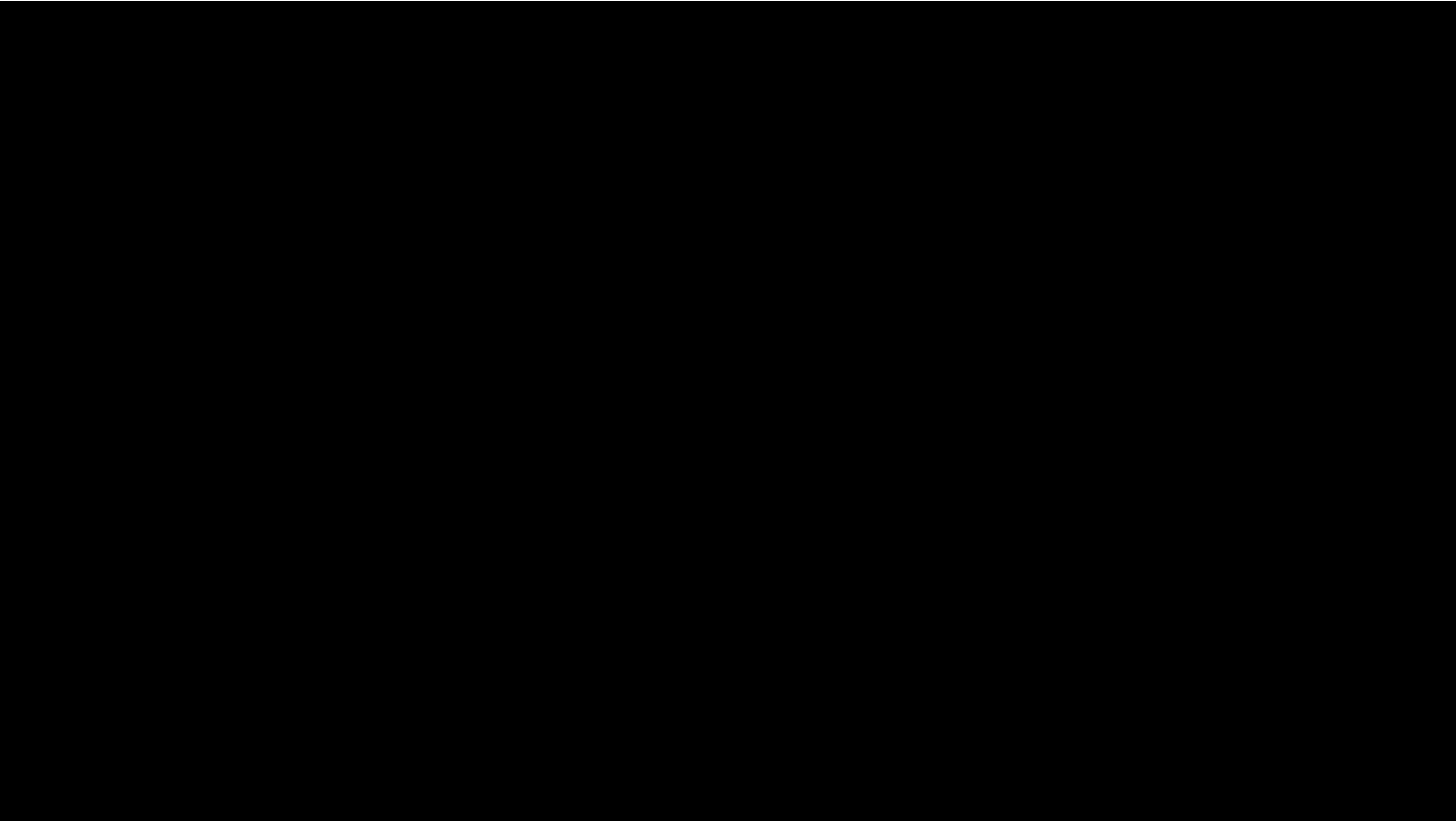


He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

Acts 15:9

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1:7





God who knows their heart, ...for he purified
their hearts by faith. Acts 15:8,9

Peter's Proof #4
for grace alone is:

The Law can't save you



Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?

Acts 15:10

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in
God's sight by the works of the law; rather,
through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Romans 3:20



Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

Philippians 3:2,3



No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord
Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.

Acts 15:11

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. [Acts 15:12](#)

Peter's Proof #5
for grace alone is:

Miracles confirming salvation



After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. ²⁰ Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Mark 16:19



This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Hebrews 2:3,4



For it is by grace you have been saved, through
faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift
of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can
boast.


Ephesians 2:8,9



For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. **For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,**

Ephesians 2:8-10





the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church