


FACING THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE (PSALM 145)

N.T. WRIGHT, "GOD AND THE PANDEMIC"

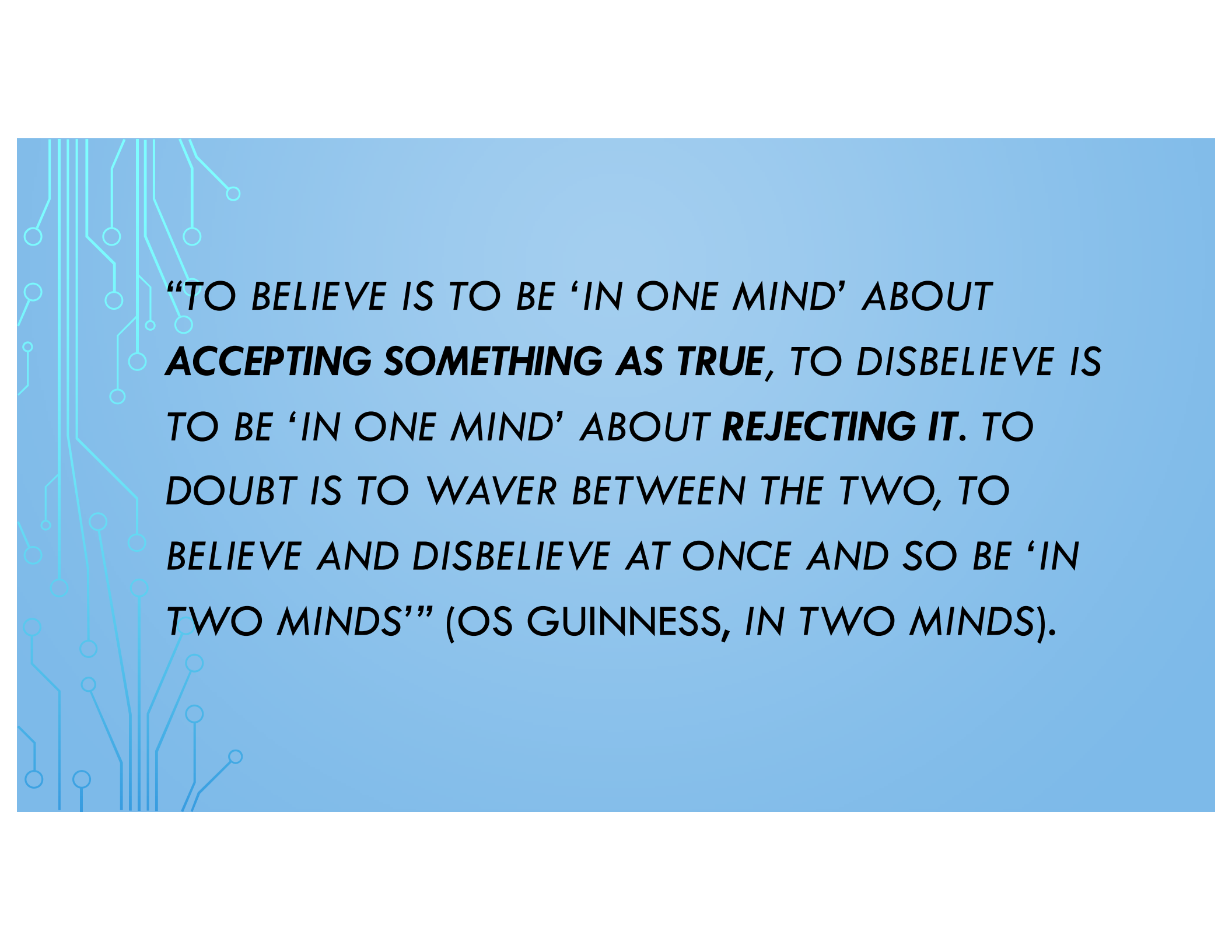
- **THE STOICS**

EVERYTHING IS PROGRAMMED TO TURN OUT THE WAY IT DOES. YOU CAN'T CHANGE IT; JUST LEARN TO FIT IN.



- **THE EPICUREANS-** EVERYTHING IS RANDOM. YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. MAKE YOURSELF AS COMFORTABLE AS YOU CAN.

- **THE PLATONIST-** THE PRESENT LIFE IS JUST A SHADOW OF REALITY. BAD THINGS HAPPEN HERE BUT WE ARE DESTINED FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD.



*“TO BELIEVE IS TO BE ‘IN ONE MIND’ ABOUT **ACCEPTING SOMETHING AS TRUE**, TO DISBELIEVE IS TO BE ‘IN ONE MIND’ ABOUT **REJECTING IT**. TO DOUBT IS TO WAVER BETWEEN THE TWO, TO BELIEVE AND DISBELIEVE AT ONCE AND SO BE ‘IN TWO MINDS’” (OS GUINNESS, IN TWO MINDS).*



- AN OLD TESTAMENT STORY OF KING JEHOSHAPHAT
(2 CHRONICLES 20)

- WITH THANKSGIVING TO GOD THEY GATHERED IN
THE VALLEY OF BERACAH (PRAISE) AND OFFERED
PRAISE TO GOD.

- **A TIMELESS PRINCIPLE FOR OUR TIMES OF DOUBT:**
- THE ANTIDOTE TO DOUBT AND FEAR IS **PRAISE.**

- WHAT DO YOU DO IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY?

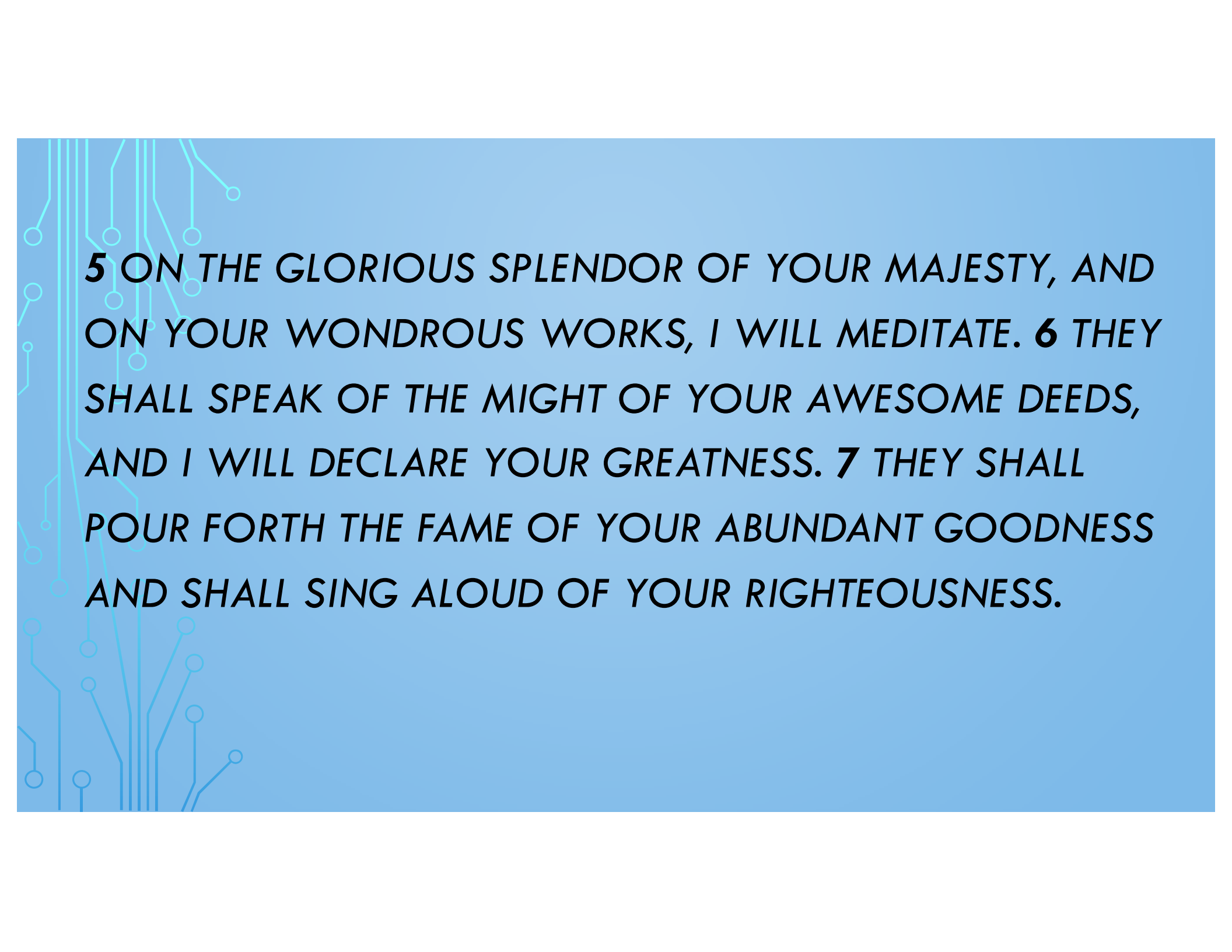
1. CHOOSE TO PRAISE GOD

I WILL EXTOL YOU, MY GOD AND KING, AND BLESS YOUR NAME (HIS REVEALED ATTRIBUTES) FOREVER AND EVER. 2 EVERY DAY I WILL BLESS YOU AND PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER AND EVER.



2. VERBALIZE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GREATNESS

3 GREAT IS THE LORD, AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED, AND HIS GREATNESS IS UNSEARCHABLE. 4 ONE GENERATION SHALL COMMEND YOUR WORKS TO ANOTHER, AND SHALL DECLARE YOUR MIGHTY ACTS.



**5 ON THE GLORIOUS SPLENDOR OF YOUR MAJESTY, AND
ON YOUR WONDROUS WORKS, I WILL MEDITATE. 6 THEY
SHALL SPEAK OF THE MIGHT OF YOUR AWESOME DEEDS,
AND I WILL DECLARE YOUR GREATNESS. 7 THEY SHALL
POUR FORTH THE FAME OF YOUR ABUNDANT GOODNESS
AND SHALL SING ALOUD OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

3. FOCUS ON GOD'S CHARACTER AND WORSHIP HIM

- HE IS GOOD

*8 THE LORD IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER AND ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE. 9 THE LORD IS **GOOD** TO ALL, AND HIS MERCY IS OVER ALL THAT HE HAS MADE.*

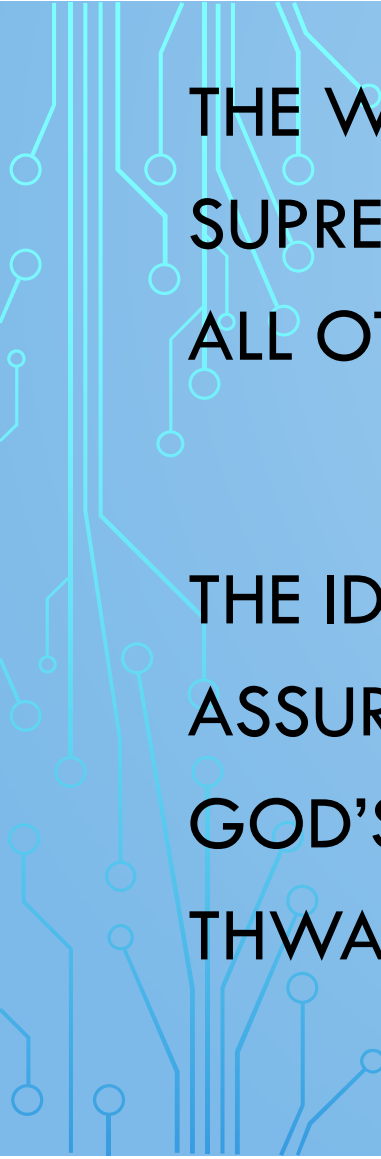
DEFINING “THE GOODNESS OF GOD”

- ENGLISH DICTIONARIES DEFINE GOODNESS AS THE STATE OR QUALITY OF BEING GOOD AND WITH SYNONYMS LIKE **GENEROSITY, KINDNESS, MORAL EXCELLENCE, PIETY AND VIRTUE.**
- IN THE BIBLE, THE WORD GOODNESS REFERS TO THAT QUALITY IN GOD THAT CAUSES HIM TO BLESS PEOPLE, DELIVER THEM, AND STORE UP FUTURE GIFTS FOR THEM.

- **HE IS SOVEREIGN:**

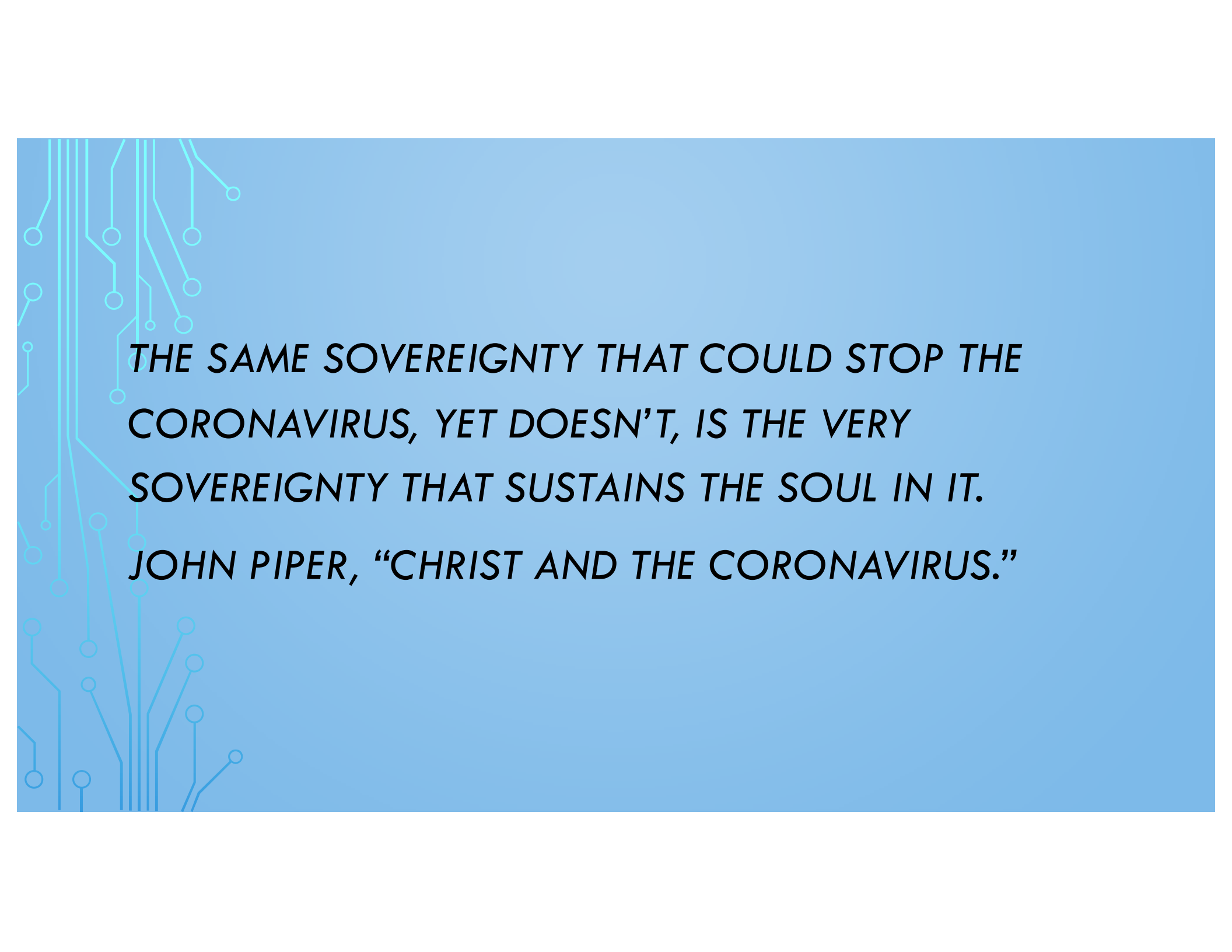
ALL YOUR WORKS SHALL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD, AND ALL YOUR SAINTS SHALL BLESS YOU!

***11** THEY SHALL SPEAK OF THE GLORY OF YOUR KINGDOM AND TELL OF YOUR POWER, **12** TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE CHILDREN OF MAN YOUR MIGHTY DEEDS, AND THE GLORIOUS SPLENDOR OF YOUR KINGDOM. **13** YOUR KINGDOM IS AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM, AND YOUR DOMINION ENDURES THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS.*



THE WORD *SOVEREIGN* MEANS CHIEF OR HIGHEST, SUPREME IN POWER, OR SUPERIOR IN POSITION TO ALL OTHERS.

THE IDEA OF SOVEREIGNTY IS ENCOURAGING, FOR IT ASSURES THE CHRISTIAN THAT NOTHING IS OUT OF GOD'S CONTROL AND THAT HIS PLANS CANNOT BE THWARTED (ROM. 8:28)



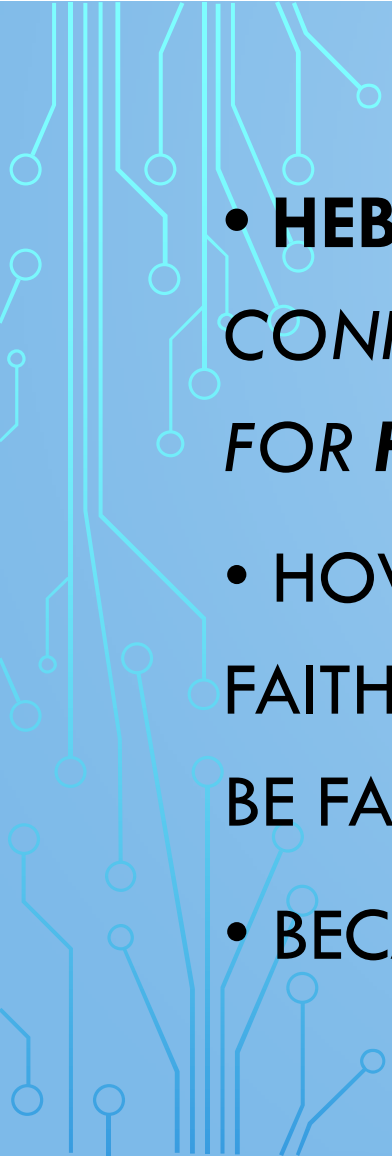
*THE SAME SOVEREIGNTY THAT COULD STOP THE
CORONAVIRUS, YET DOESN'T, IS THE VERY
SOVEREIGNTY THAT SUSTAINS THE SOUL IN IT.
JOHN PIPER, "CHRIST AND THE CORONAVIRUS."*

- **HE IS FAITHFUL**

*THE LORD IS FAITHFUL IN ALL HIS WORDS AND KIND IN ALL HIS WORKS. **14** THE LORD UPHOLDS ALL WHO ARE FALLING AND RAISES UP ALL WHO ARE BOWED DOWN. **15** THE EYES OF ALL LOOK TO YOU, AND YOU GIVE THEM THEIR FOOD IN DUE SEASON. **16** YOU OPEN YOUR HAND; YOU SATISFY THE DESIRE OF EVERY LIVING THING.*

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- THE WORD FAITHFULNESS OF GOD MEANS HE IS STEADFAST IN AFFECTION OR ALLEGIANCE.

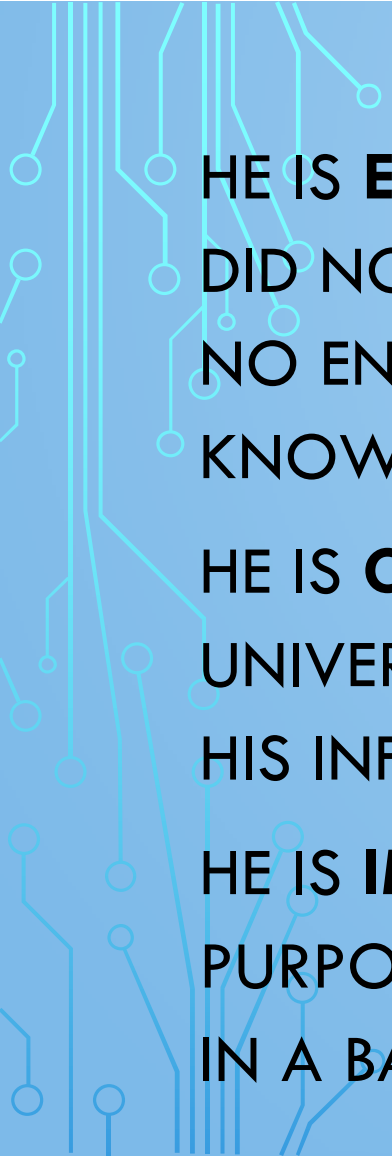
SYNONYMS: DEPENDABLE, TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, STAUNCH, RESOLUTE, CONSTANT, RELIABLE, TRUE TO ONE'S WORD, KEEPS ONE'S PROMISES, SOMEONE "WHO WILL COME THROUGH FOR YOU."

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- **HEBREWS 10:23** - *LET US HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE WITHOUT WAVERING, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL.*
 - HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT “HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL? IN OTHER WORDS, WHY IS GOD ABLE TO BE FAITHFUL 100% OF THE TIME?
 - BECAUSE...

HE IS **ALL-KNOWING**- GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS PRESENT AND FUTURE. NOTHING TAKES HIM BY SURPRISE. HE IS NEVER CAUGHT OFF GUARD.

HE IS **ALL-POWERFUL**, HAVING MORE THAN ENOUGH STRENGTH TO DO ANYTHING. HE NEVER ENCOUNTERS ANYTHING OR ANYONE WHO CAN THWART HIS PLANS OR PURPOSES.

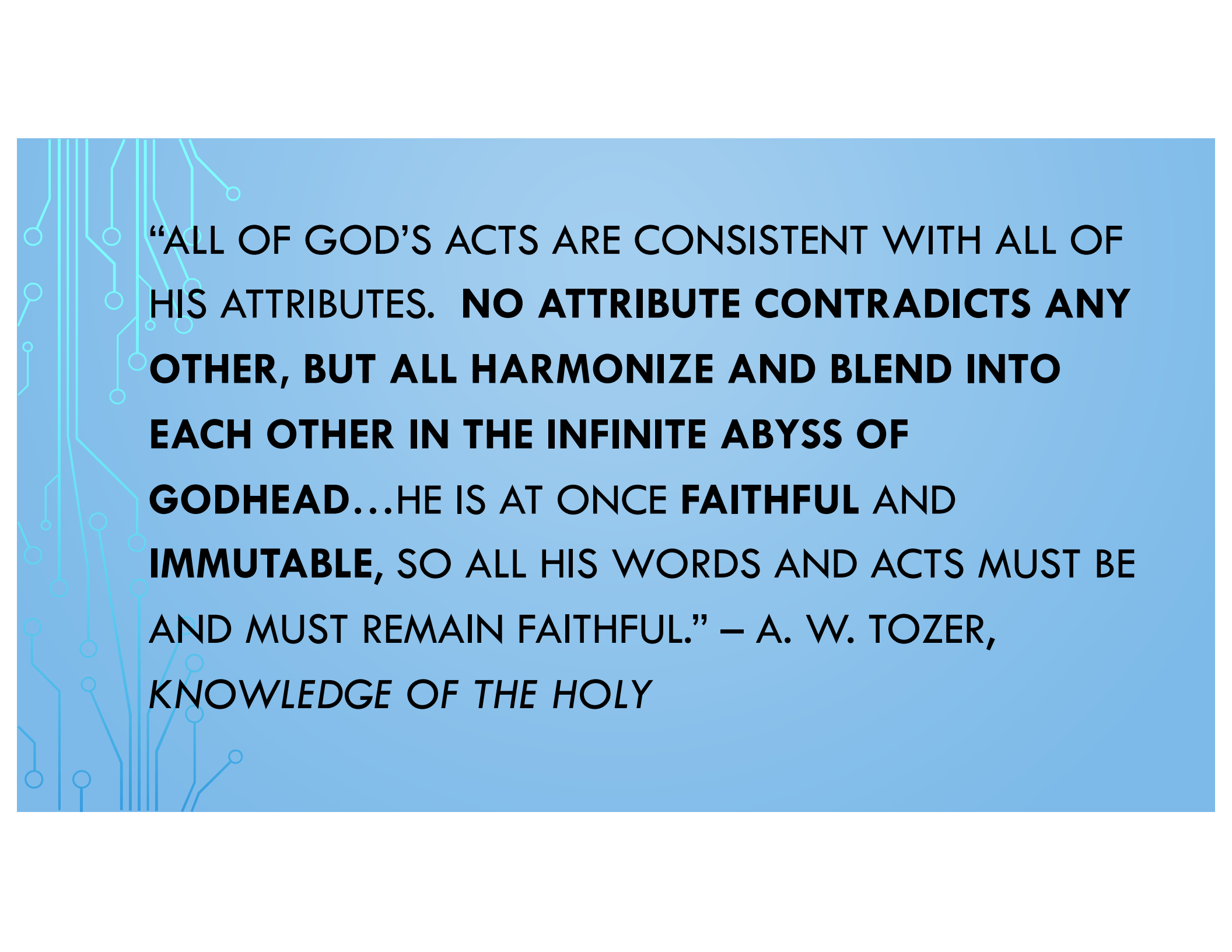
HE IS **HOLY**- HE IS UNTOUCHED AND UNSTAINED BY EVIL IN THE WORLD. HE IS PURE, HONEST, FULL OF INTEGRITY, UNABLE TO LIE, AND THERE IS ALWAYS CONSISTENT WITH HIS CHARACTER AND HIS WORD.



HE IS **ETERNAL**- THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A TIME WHEN HE DID NOT EXIST. HE HAD NO BEGINNING AND WILL HAVE NO END. HE IS NOT AFFECTED BY SPACE OR TIME; HE KNOWS THE END FROM THE BEGINNING.

HE IS **OMNIPRESENT**- GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE. NOTHING CAN HAPPEN OUTSIDE THE SPHERE OF HIS INFLUENCE.

HE IS **IMMUTABLE**- HE NEVER CHANGES IN HIS NATURE OR PURPOSE; IS NEVER DIFFERENT THAN HE IS NOW, IS NEVER IN A BAD MOOD AND HAS A BAD DAY.



“ALL OF GOD’S ACTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH ALL OF HIS ATTRIBUTES. NO ATTRIBUTE CONTRADICTS ANY OTHER, BUT ALL HARMONIZE AND BLEND INTO EACH OTHER IN THE INFINITE ABYSS OF GODHEAD...HE IS AT ONCE FAITHFUL AND IMMUTABLE, SO ALL HIS WORDS AND ACTS MUST BE AND MUST REMAIN FAITHFUL.” – A. W. TOZER, KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY

- **HE IS RIGHTEOUS**

*THE LORD IS **RIGHTEOUS** IN ALL HIS WAYS AND KIND IN ALL HIS WORKS. **18** THE LORD IS NEAR TO ALL WHO CALL ON HIM, TO ALL WHO CALL ON HIM IN TRUTH. **19** HE FULFILLS THE DESIRE OF THOSE WHO FEAR HIM; HE ALSO HEARS THEIR CRY AND SAVES THEM. **20** THE LORD PRESERVES ALL WHO LOVE HIM, BUT ALL THE WICKED HE WILL DESTROY.*

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE ARE DERIVED FROM THE SAME ROOT WORD IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF NEW TESTAMENT. THE MEANING IS BEING ***RIGHT*** OR ***JUST***.

RIGHTEOUSNESS DESIGNATES THE PERFECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOD'S NATURE AND HIS ACTS. JUSTICE IS THE WAY GOD LEGISLATES HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.




4. INVITE OTHERS TO PRAISE HIM.

***21 MY MOUTH WILL SPEAK THE PRAISE OF THE LORD,
AND LET ALL FLESH BLESS HIS HOLY NAME FOREVER
AND EVER.***

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE YOU MOST PRONE TO DOUBT GOD'S LOVE AND PLANS FOR YOUR LIFE?

- GOD WILL MEET MY FINANCIAL NEEDS.
- GOD WILL GUIDE ME CONCERNING BIG DECISIONS I MUST MAKE.
- GOD WILL PROTECT MY CHILDREN/LOVED ONES.

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- GOD WILL USE MY LIFE IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY.
 - GOD CARES ABOUT MY LIFE, MY DREAMS, AND MY FUTURE.
 - GOD WILL GIVE ME POWER TO OVERCOME AREAS OF TEMPTATION AND STRUGGLE.



**2. WHAT ONE THING COULD YOU DO TO MAKE
PRAISING GOD MORE A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY
LIFE?**

- **WHAT GOD IS DOING DURING THE PANDEMIC?**

THE CORONAVIRUS IS GOD'S CALL TO HIS PEOPLE TO OVERCOME SELF-PITY AND FEAR, AND WITH COURAGEOUS JOY, TO DO THE GOOD WORKS OF LOVE THAT GLORIFY GOD.

IN THE CORONAVIRUS GOD IS LOOSENING THE ROOTS OF SETTLED CHRISTIANS, ALL OVER THE WORLD, TO MAKE THEM FREE FOR SOMETHING NEW AND RADICAL AND TO SEND THEM WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO THE UNREACHED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.