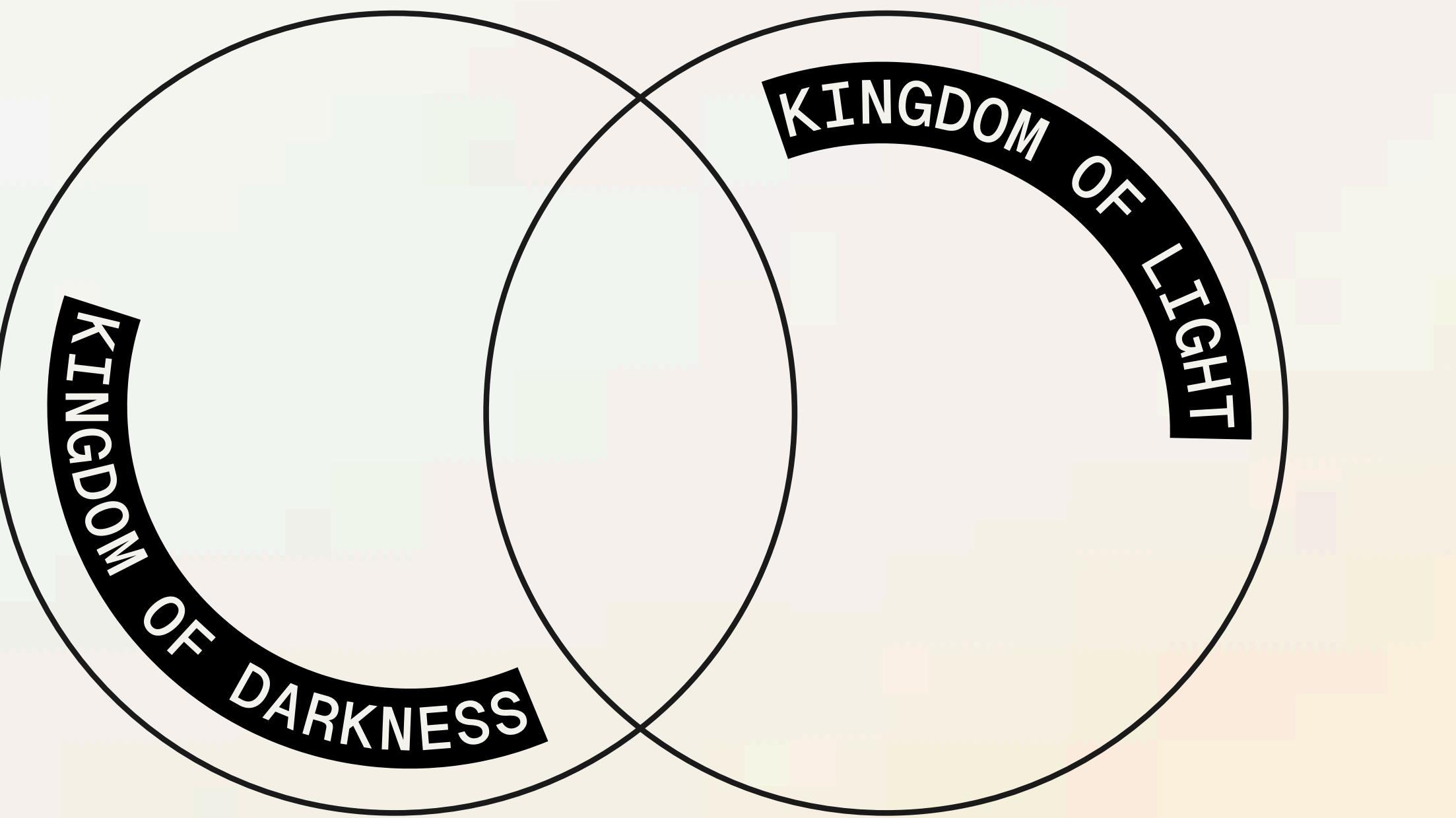


# Acts.



He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14 ESV

“A great many learned men are defending the gospel; no doubt it is a very proper and right thing to do, yet... it is because the gospel itself is not being preached. Suppose a number of persons were to take it into their heads that they had to defend a lion, a full-grown king of beasts! ...Well, I should suggest to them... that they should kindly stand back, and open the door, and let the lion out! I believe that would be the best way of defending him, for he would take care of himself; and the best “apology” for the gospel is to let the gospel out... **preach Jesus Christ and him crucified.** Let the Lion out, and see who will dare to approach him. The Lion of the tribe of Judah will soon drive away all his adversaries.”

- CHARLES SPURGEON, 1886 SERMON

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

<sup>13</sup> None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup> And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup> so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup> The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

ACTS 5:12-16 ESV

# First Opposition

**But the high priest rose up**, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and **filled with jealousy**<sup>18</sup> they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

ACTS 5:17-18 ESV

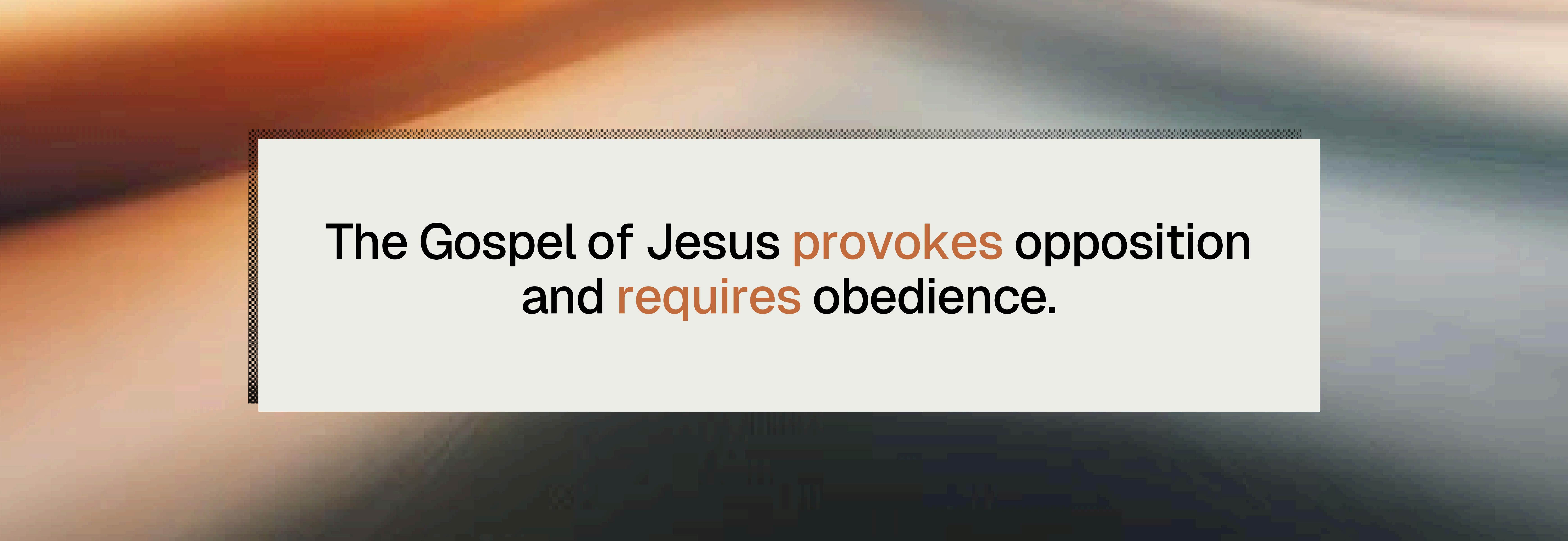
“Jesus promised His disciples three things: that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble.”

WILLIAM BARCLAY

# First Obedience

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup> “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the **words of this Life.**” <sup>21</sup> And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

ACTS 5:19-21A ESV



The Gospel of Jesus **provokes** opposition  
and **requires** obedience.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.<sup>19</sup> **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:18-20 ESV

“**Go** and **stand** in the temple and **speak** to the people all the words of this Life.”<sup>21</sup> And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to **teach**.

ACTS 5:20-21A ESV

Your **response** of opposition or  
obedience **reveals** your true purpose.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought.<sup>22</sup> But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported,<sup>23</sup> “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.”<sup>24</sup> Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to.<sup>25</sup> And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.”<sup>26</sup> Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

ACTS 5:21B-26 ESV

# Second Opposition

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them,<sup>28</sup> saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have **filled Jerusalem with your teaching**, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.”

ACTS 5:27-28 ESV

# Second Obedience

But Peter and the apostles answered, “**We must obey God** rather than men.<sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.<sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as **Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.**<sup>32</sup> And **we are witnesses** to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

ACTS 5:29-32 ESV

**But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.**

ACTS 5:33 NASB

Now when they heard this they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

ACTS 2:37 ESV

But when they heard this, they were **cut to the quick** and intended to kill them.

ACTS 5:33 NASB

But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup> And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup> For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup> So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup> but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice...

ACTS 5:34-39 ESV

# Third Opposition

...and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.<sup>41</sup> Then they left the presence of the council, **rejoicing** that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

ACTS 5:40-41 ESV

“Suffering is unbearable if you aren’t certain  
that God is **for** you and **with** you.”

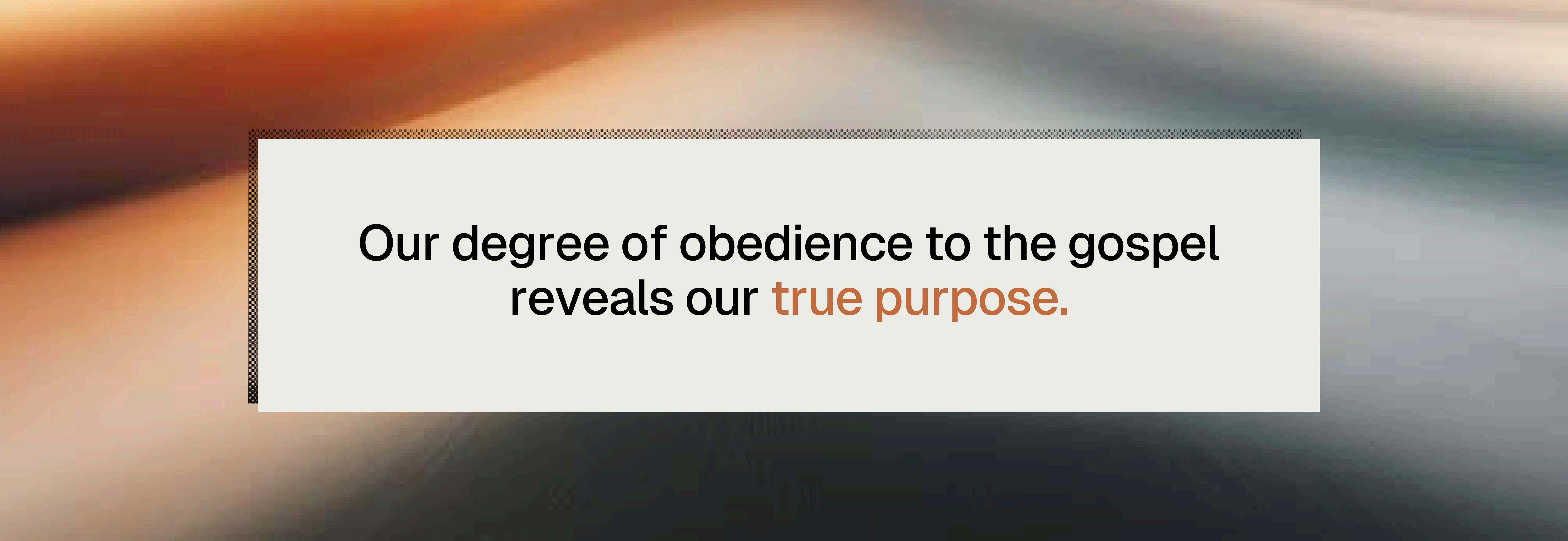
TIM KELLER

WALKING WITH GOD IN PAIN AND SUFFERING

# Third Obedience

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

ACTS 5:42 ESV



Our degree of obedience to the gospel  
reveals our **true purpose.**