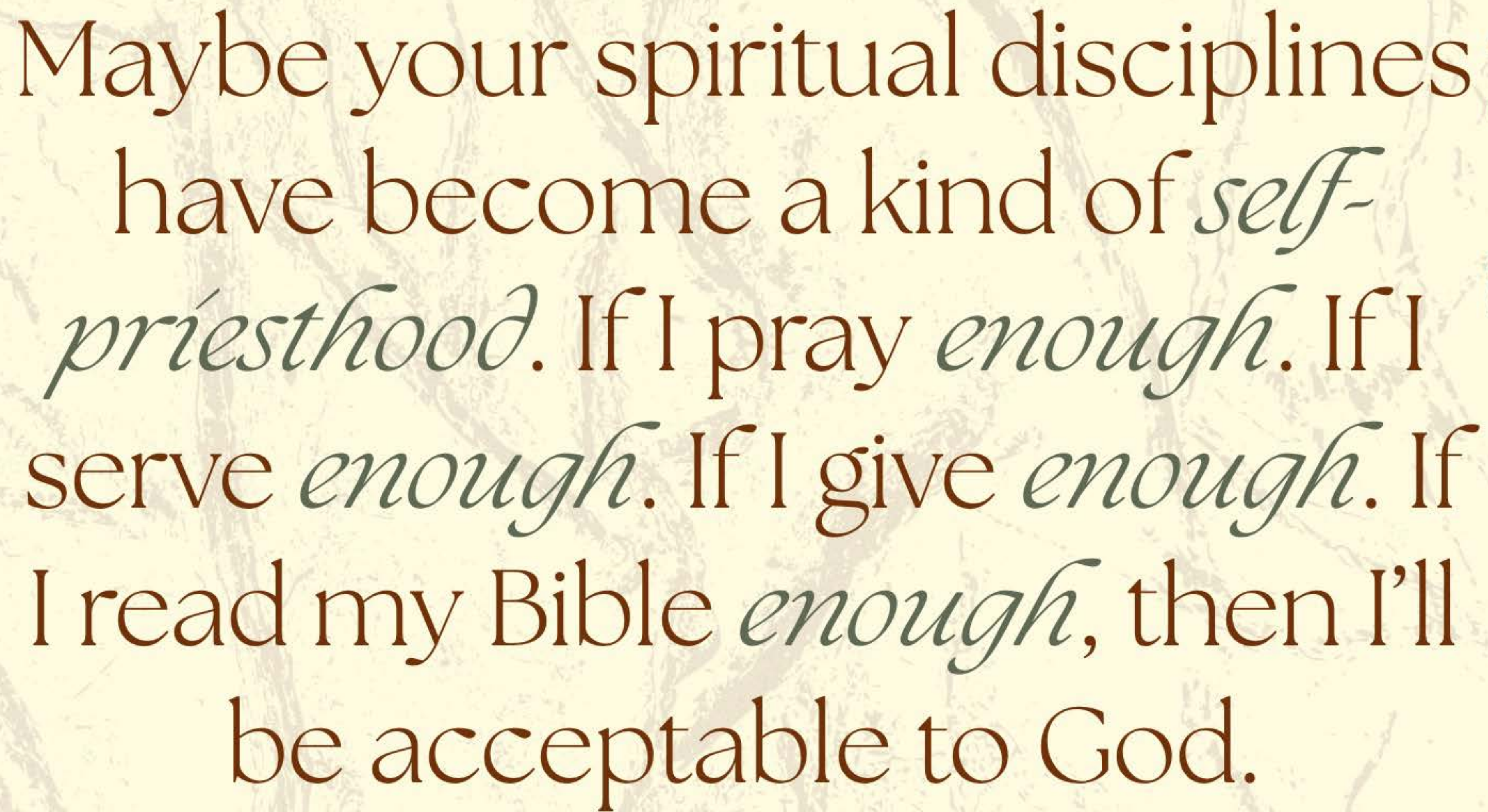


Jesus is *better* than
the entire
priesthood.

Can I *actually* approach God?

Am I *acceptable*?

Is there *anything* standing
between me and the
presence of the Holy One?



Maybe your spiritual disciplines
have become a kind of *self-*
priesthood. If I pray *enough*. If I
serve *enough*. If I give *enough*. If
I read my Bible *enough*, then I'll
be acceptable to God.

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

Hebrews 5:1-4

The background features a light-colored, marbled texture with swirling patterns in shades of cream and pale yellow. Overlaid on this are several dark orange, leafless tree branches that frame the central text.

The Priest We Need

The Priest We Wish We Didn't Need



You have appointed a
priest who cannot save *you*.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place 'You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:5-6

The background features a light beige, marbled texture. Overlaid on this are dark brown, stylized tree branches that frame the central text. In the center, there is a faint, light-colored silhouette of a person, possibly Jesus, with arms outstretched, standing on a path or ground.

The Priest We Need

The Priest We Wish We Didn't Need

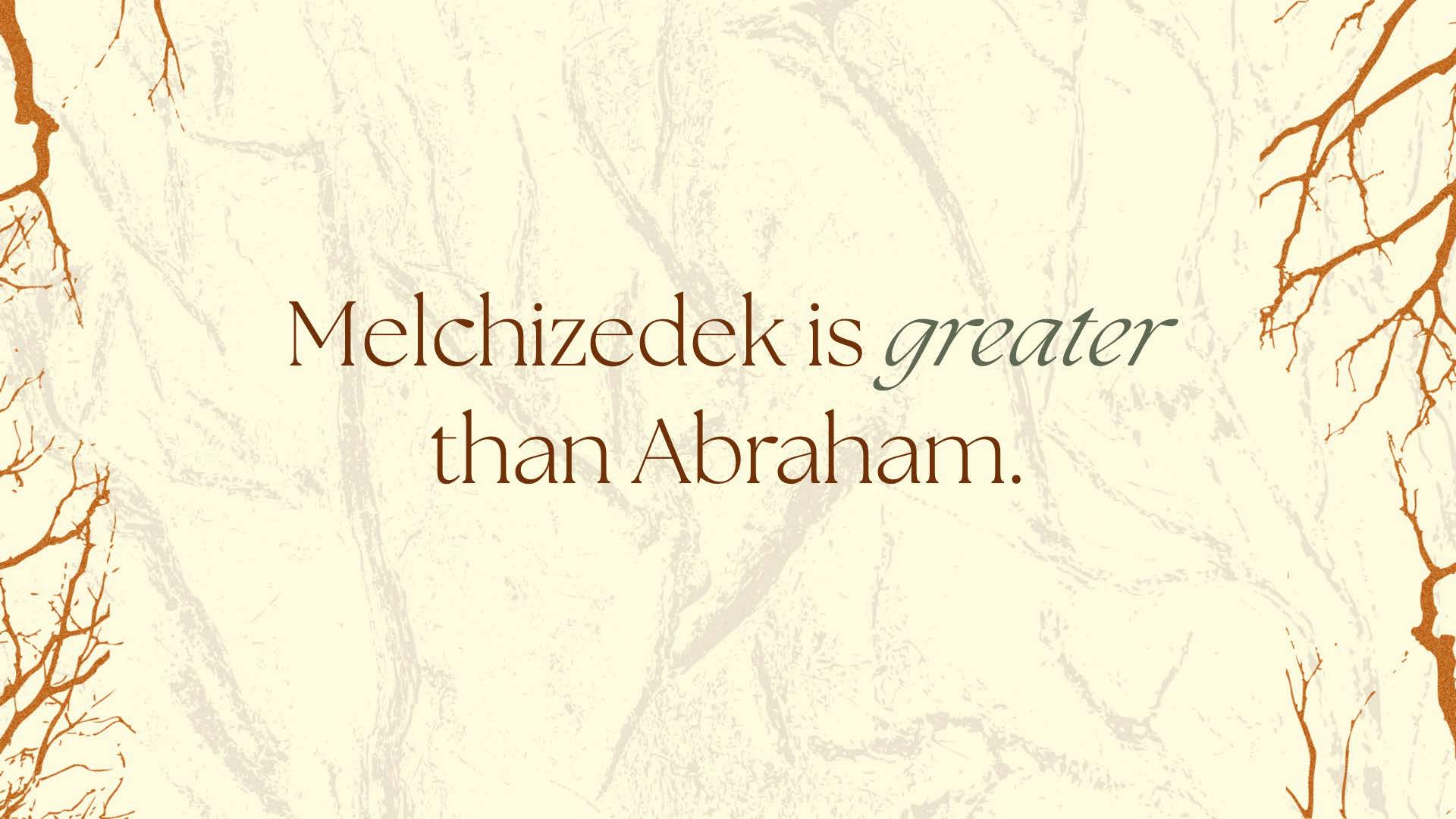
Jesus Called By God

He argues that God doesn't *orchestrate* our suffering from above—God *enters* our suffering from within. The cross isn't God *inflicting* pain; it's God *absorbing* pain. And a God like that—a priest like that—can be trusted.

Greg Boyd

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:7-10



Melchizedek is *greater*
than Abraham.

This 'King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him'; and to him Abraham apportioned 'one-tenth of everything.' His name, in the first place, means 'king of righteousness'; next he is also king of Salem, that is, 'king of peace.' Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

Hebrews 7:1-3

The Priest We Need

The Priest We Wish We Didn't Need

Jesus Called By God

The Priest from a Different Order

It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life. For it is attested of him, 'You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

Hebrews 7:15-17

For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Hebrews 7:11-14

Now if perfection had been attainable through the levitical priesthood—for the people received the law under this priesthood—what further need would there have been to speak of another priest arising according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one according to the order of Aaron?

Hebrews 7:11-14

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able to save completely those who approach God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 7:23-25

Series Bottom Line

Hebrews teaches us that Jesus is better and His work is finished. Because we have everything we need in Jesus, our lives are anchored in worship and thus frees us from fear to live sacrificially toward one another.

There is, on the one hand, the abrogation of an earlier commandment because it was weak and ineffectual (for the law made nothing perfect); there is, on the other hand, the introduction of a better hope, through which we approach God.

Hebrews 7:18-19

The Priest We Need

The Priest We Wish We Didn't Need

Jesus Called By God

The Priest from a Different Order

The Priest Who Saves Completely

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 7:26-28



Jesus Christ is
“*our man* at court.”

N.T. Wright

If Jesus' work is finished

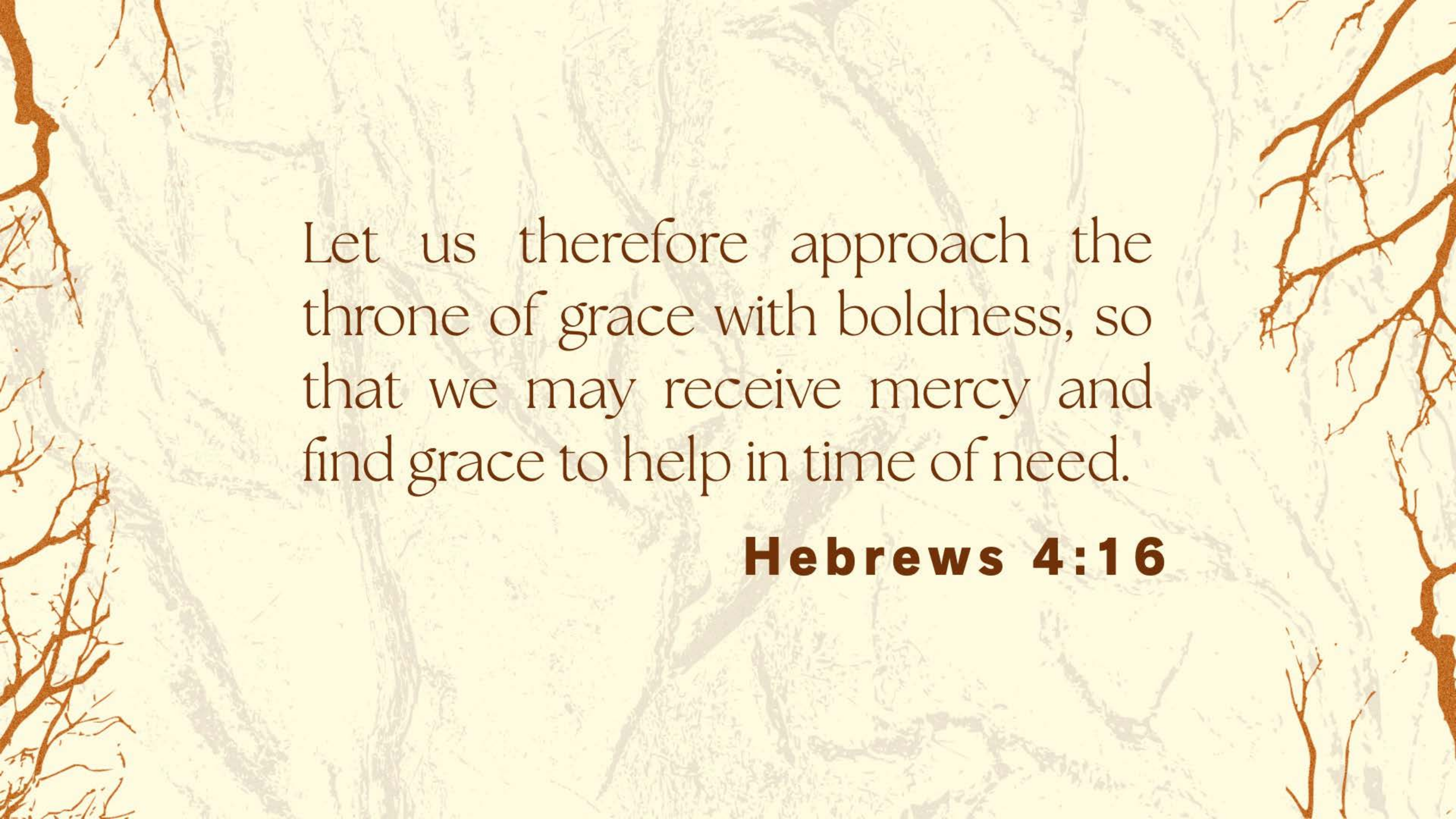
...you
you can STOP...

Trying to earn access to God.

Beating yourself up as a form of spiritual discipline.

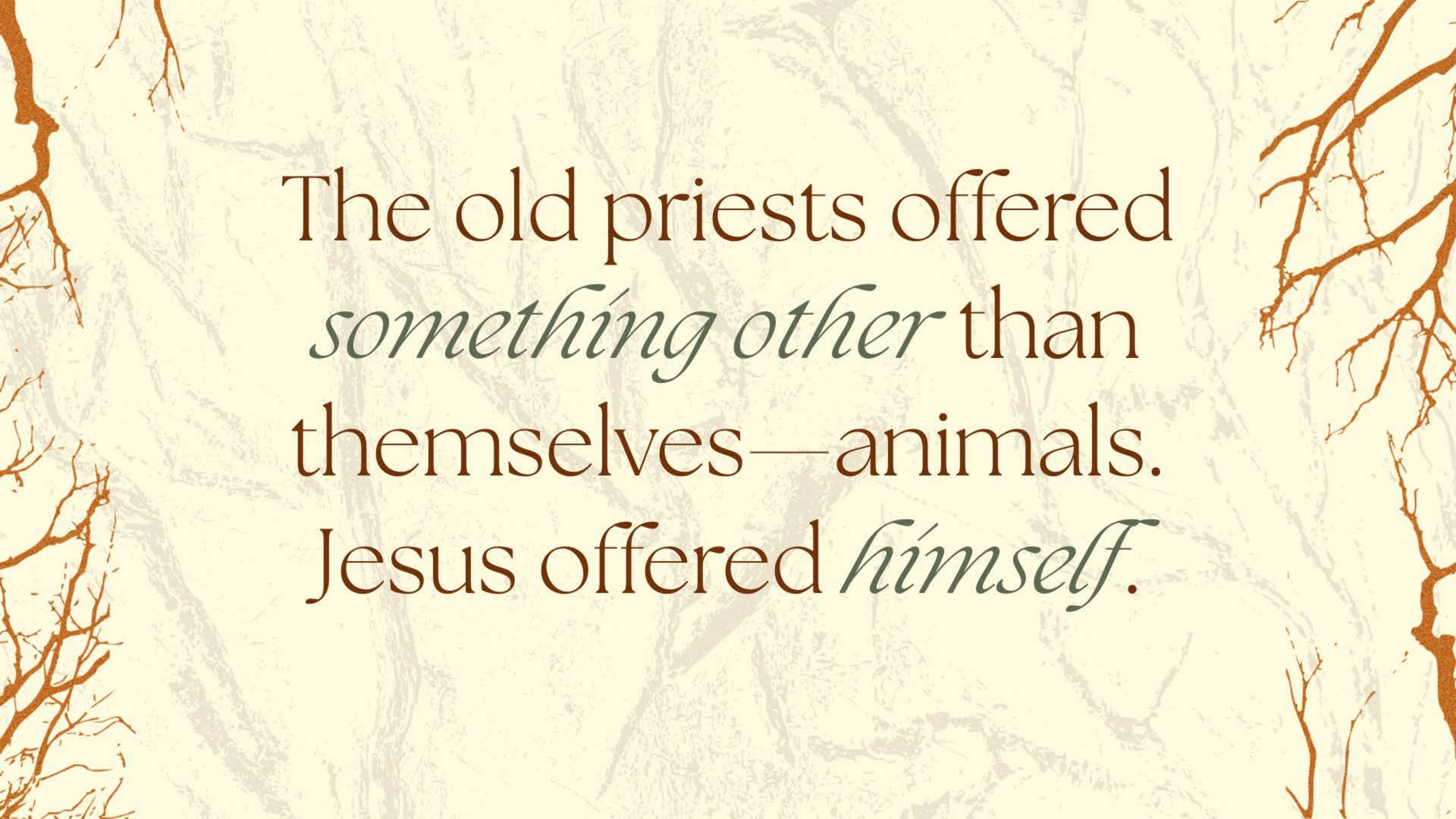
Wondering if you've done enough to stay in God's grace.

Treating your failures as disqualifications.

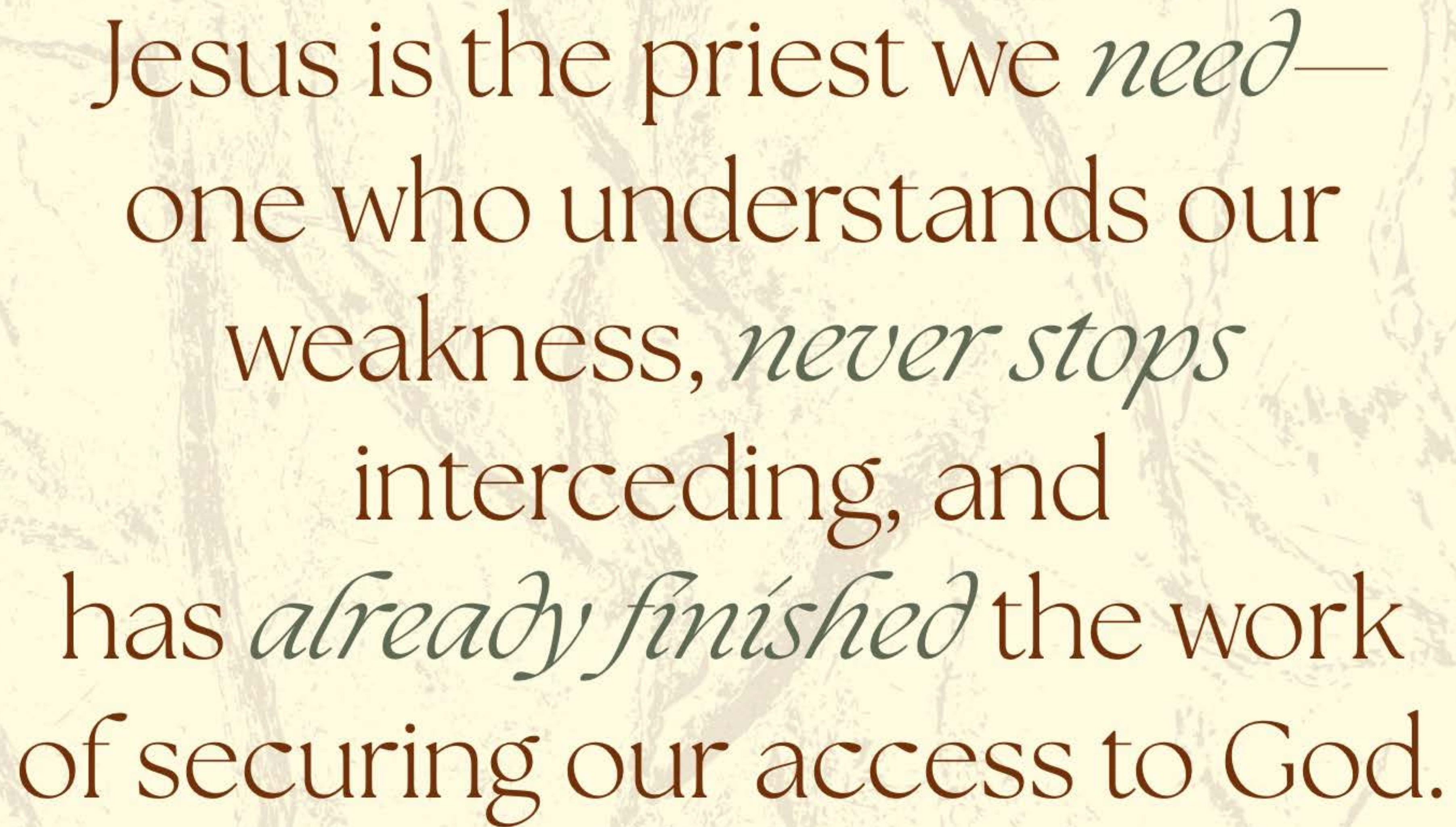


Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16



The old priests offered
something other than
themselves—animals.
Jesus offered *himself*.



Jesus is the priest we *need*—
one who understands our
weakness, *never stops*
interceding, and
has *already finished* the work
of securing our access to God.

If Jesus always lives to intercede
...you
you can START...

Approaching God with honesty about your actual life.

Resting in salvation you didn't secure and you can't lose.

Living sacrificially.

Extending to others patience your priest extends to you.