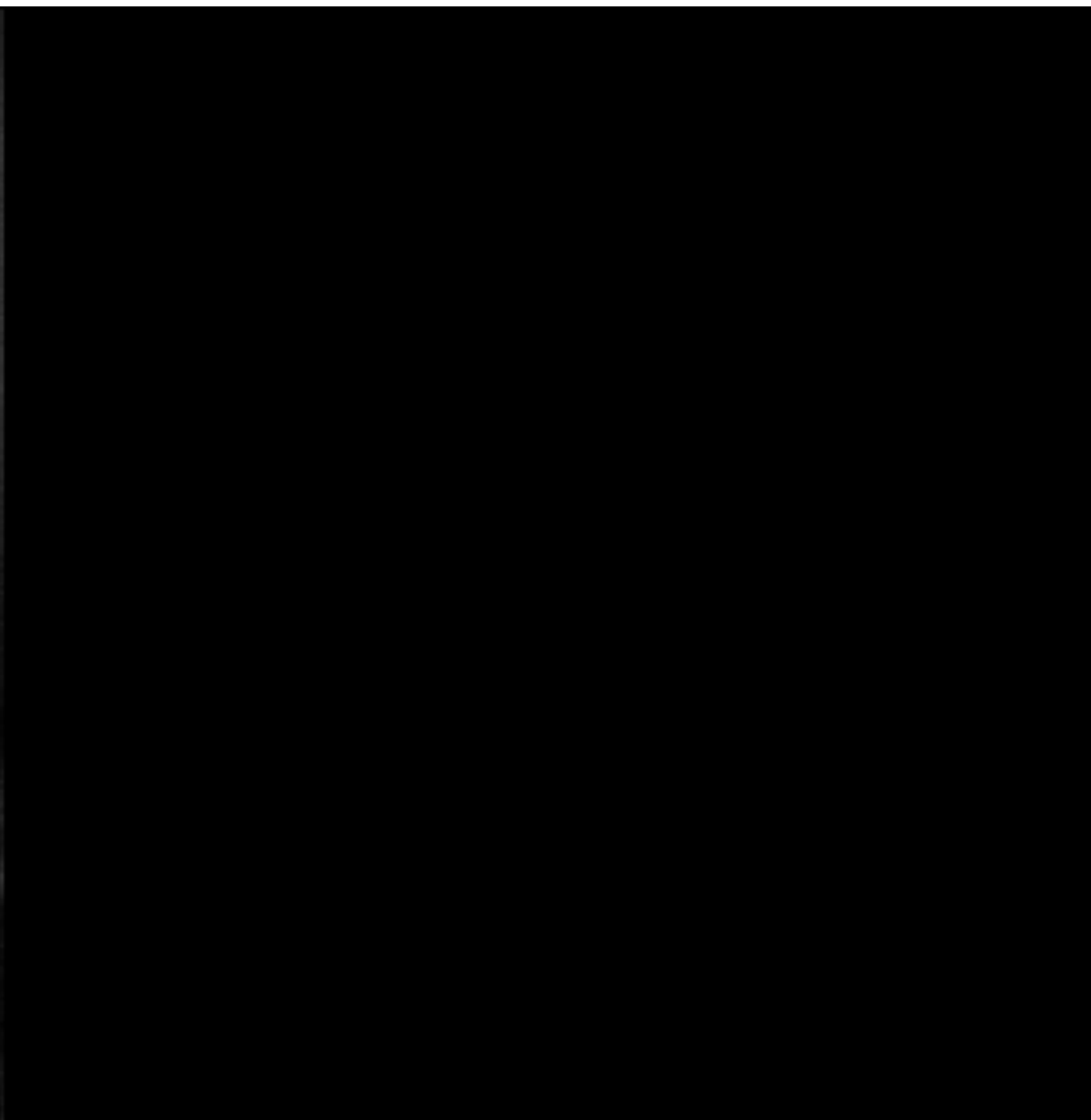


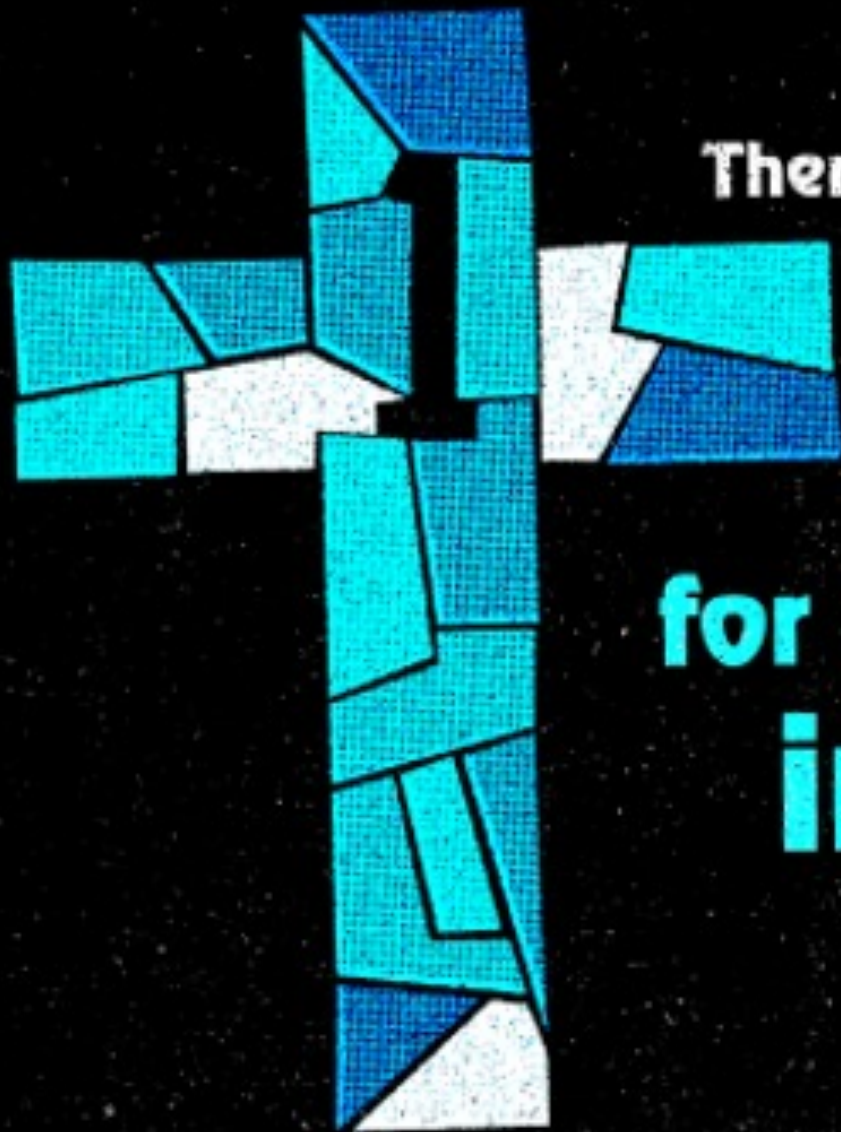
LIVING IN WISDOM
A SERIES IN JAMES







**"If Christians
have caste differences also,
I might as well remain a Hindu."**



**There is neither Jew nor Greek
there is neither slave nor free
there is no male and female**

**for you are all one
in Christ Jesus**

Galatians 3:28


Playing Favorites in Church






RELIGION & FAVORITISM

James 2:1-13




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

[1] My brothers, show no **partiality**
as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of self-interest &/or pride.




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

[1] My brothers, show no partiality
as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

[2] For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing
comes into your assembly,




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

[2] For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing
comes into your assembly,
and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,



1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM


[3] and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place,"



1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM


[3] and if you pay attention to the one who wears
the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place,"
while you say to the poor man,
"You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet,"





1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM


[4] have you not then made distinctions among yourselves
and become judges with evil thoughts?



1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

[4] have you not then made distinctions among yourselves
and become judges with evil thoughts?

v8 “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,”



1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of self-interest &/or pride.



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Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of self-interest &/or pride.


X against helping the elderly/physically challenged/needy



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Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
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X against helping the elderly/physically challenged/needy



1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of self-interest &/or pride.


X against showing appreciation to newcomers



1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM


Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of self-interest &/or pride.

X that we are against the rich & powerful



1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of **self-interest** &/or **pride**.




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of self-interest &/or pride.

NO to ELITISM!






1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of **self-interest** &/or **pride**.

NO to RACISM!






1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of **self-interest** &/or **pride**.

NO to AGEISM!




1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

Giving unfair preferential treatment to one
& despising another,
because of self-interest &/or pride.


NO to SECTARIANISM!





**“Instead of maneuvering for the best possible advantage,
we give ourselves to one another for the sake of Christ”**

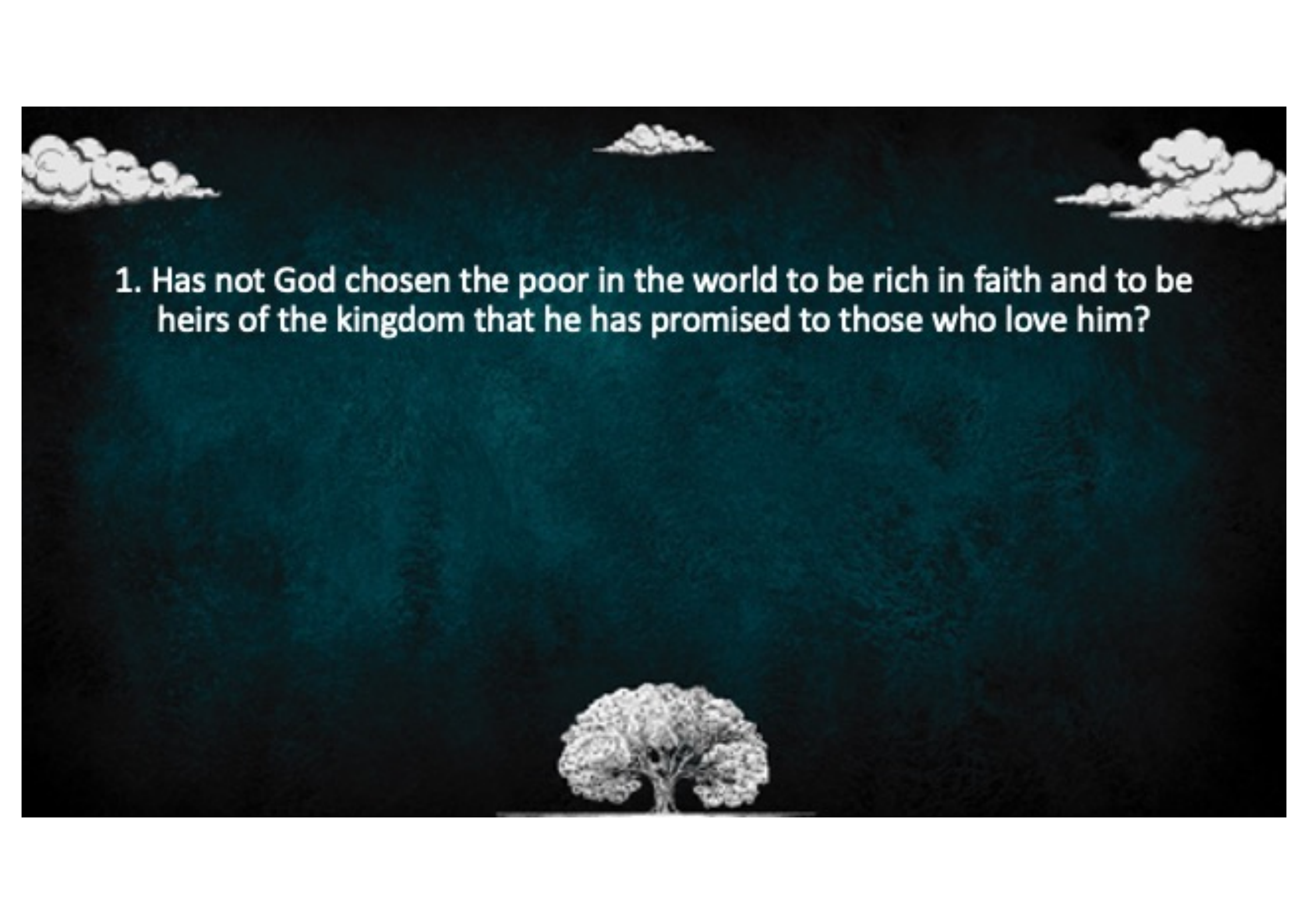
George Stulac



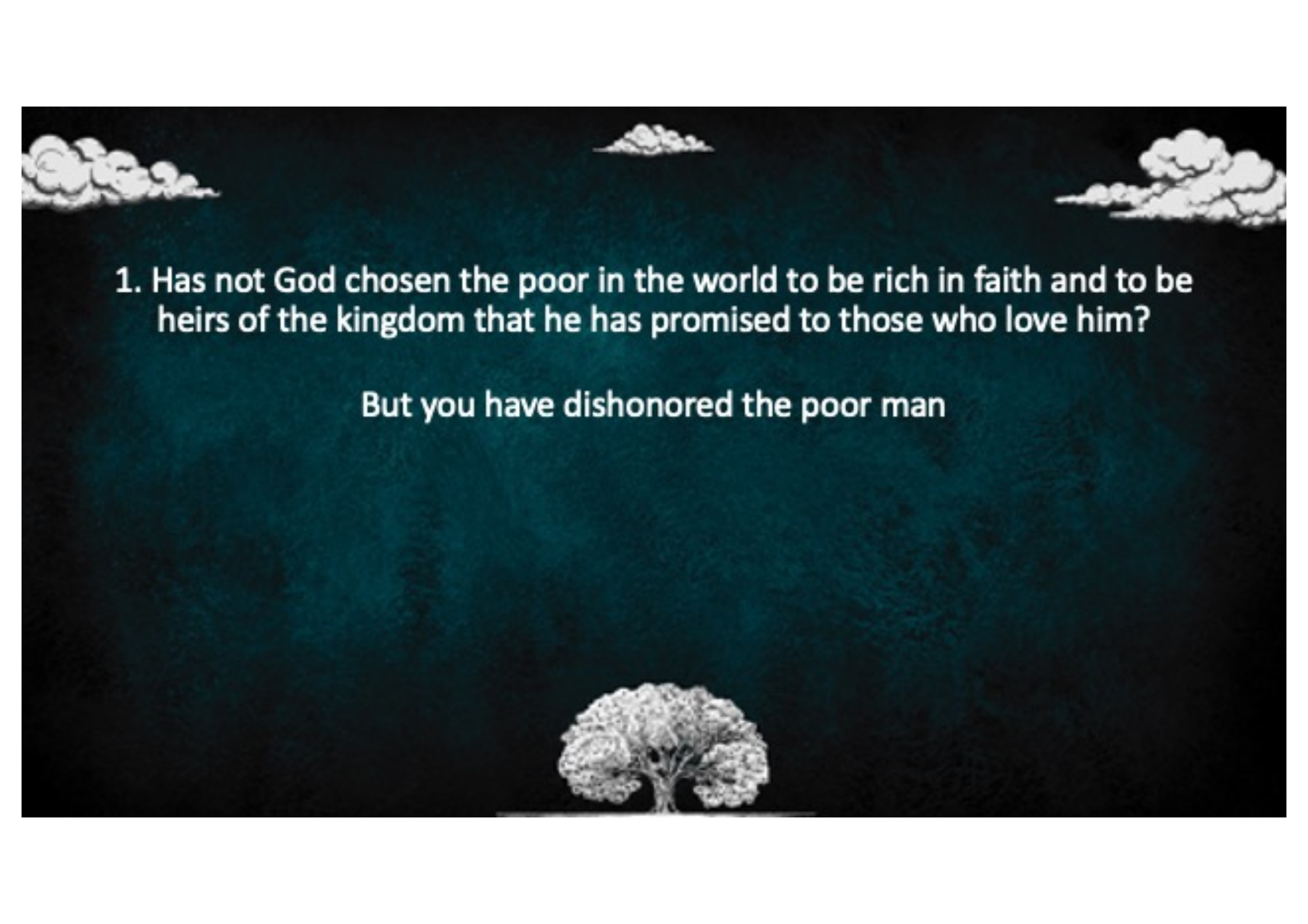
1. THE SINFULNESS OF FAVORITISM

2. THE SILLINESS OF FAVORITISM



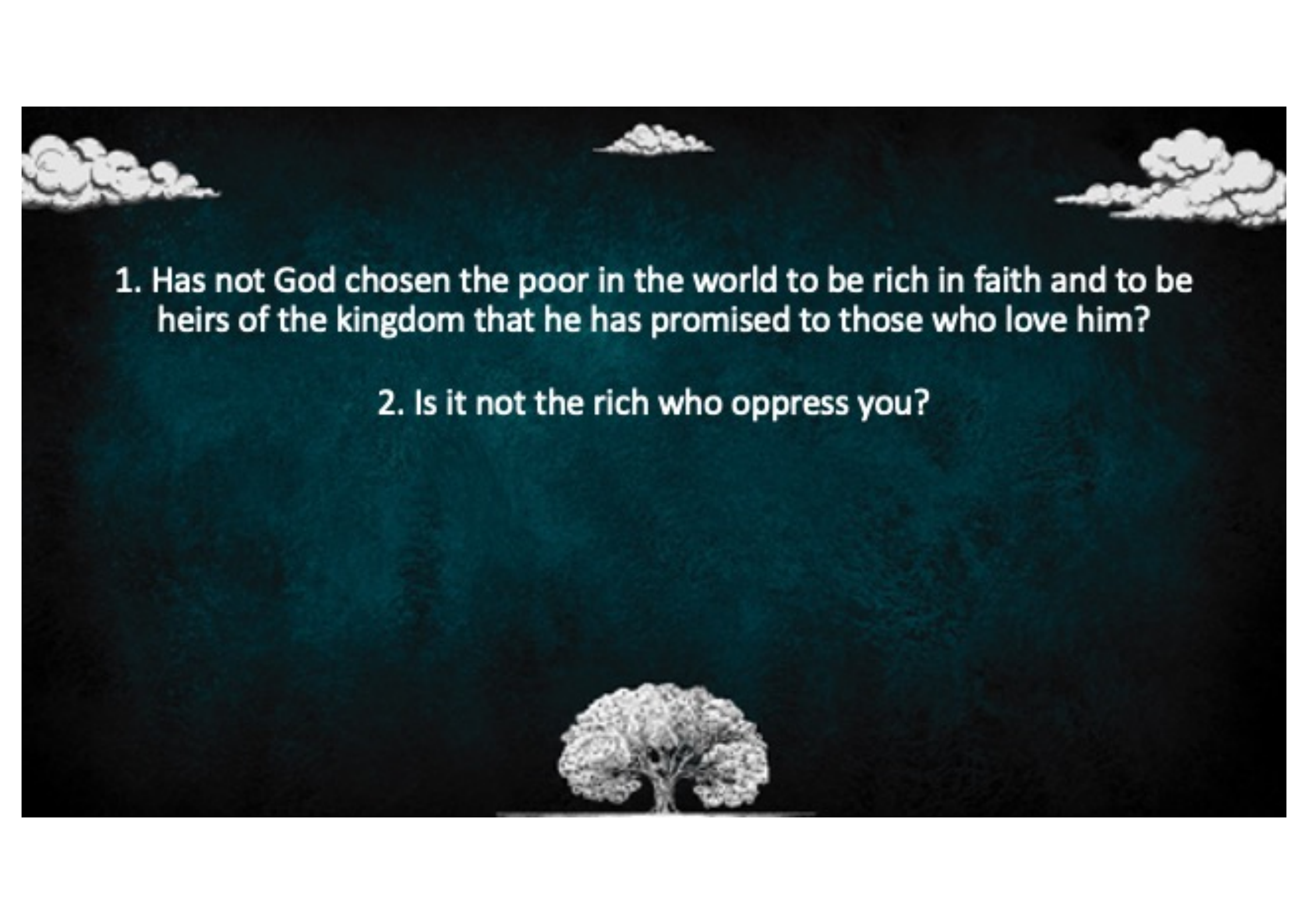
The background is a dark teal color with a subtle, grainy texture. At the top, there are three white, stylized clouds. At the bottom center, there is a single, detailed white tree with a full, rounded canopy. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

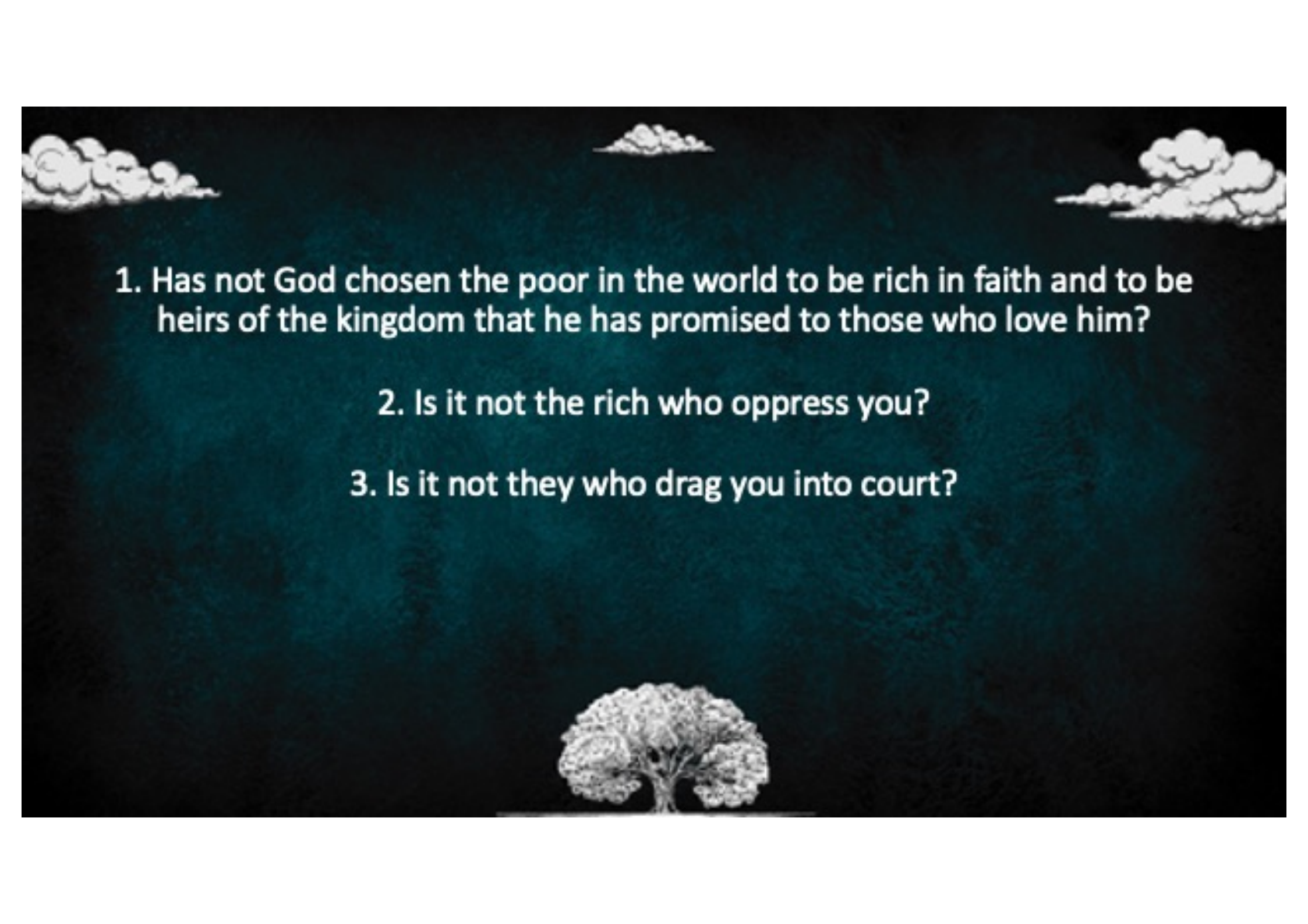
1. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

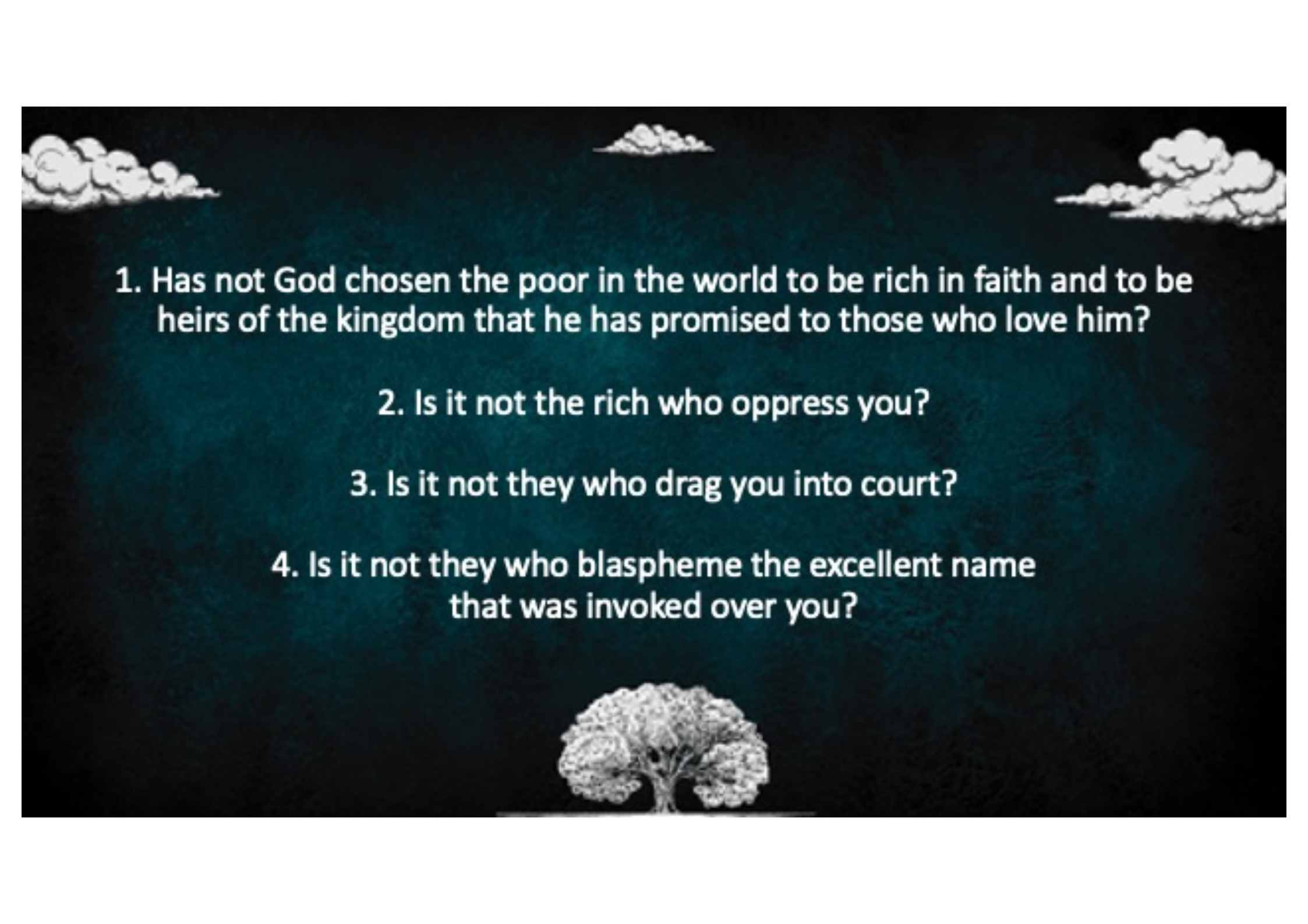


1. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

But you have dishonored the poor man

- 
1. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?
2. Is it not the rich who oppress you?

- 
1. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?
 2. Is it not the rich who oppress you?
 3. Is it not they who drag you into court?

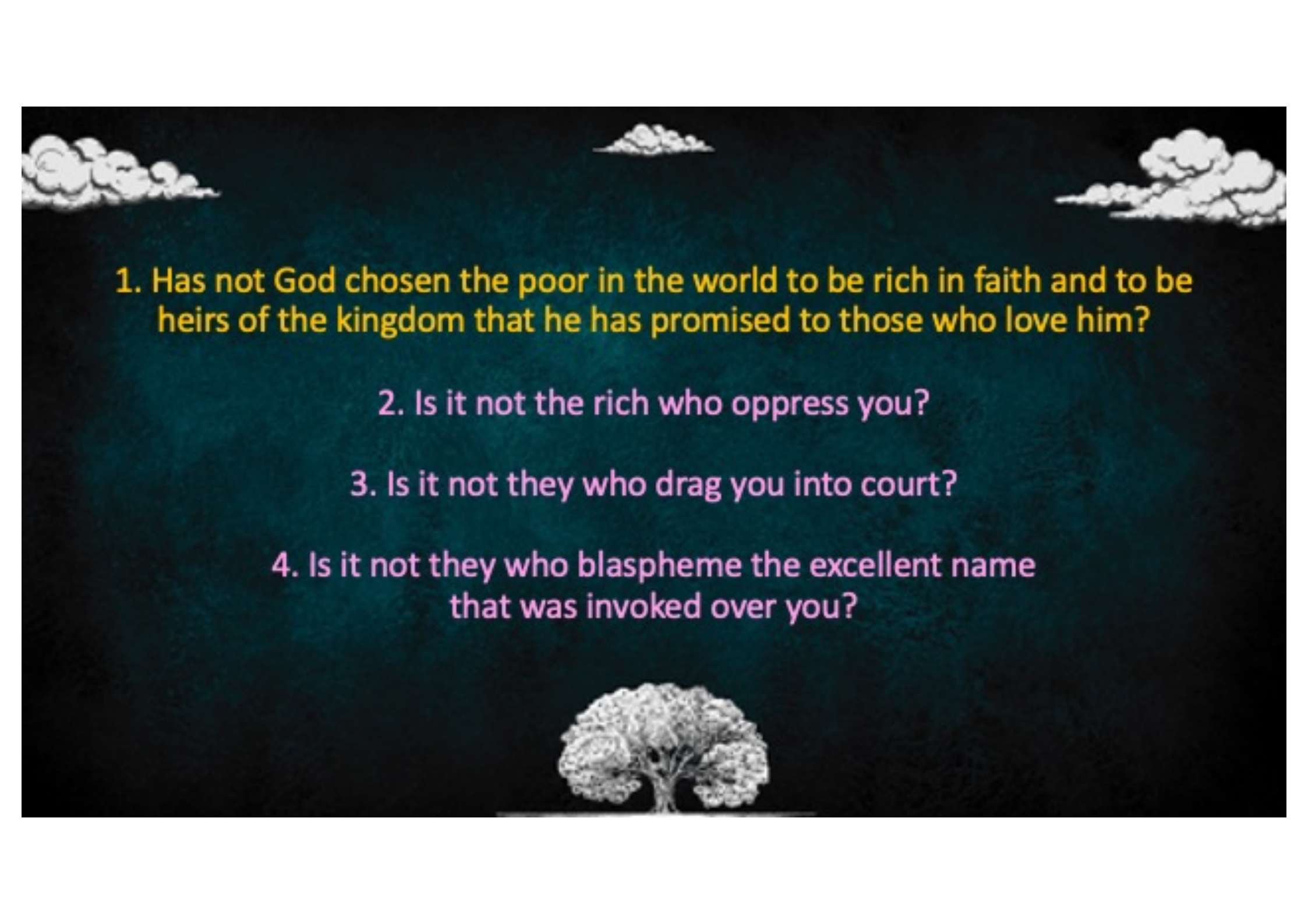


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4. Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?



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2. THE SILLINESS OF FAVORITISM



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM





3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

“What’s the big deal anyway?”



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

Not just the difference between
a good Christian vs a “not-so-good” Christian



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

Not just the difference between
a good Christian vs a “not-so-good” Christian
But a True Christian (Religion) vs False “Christian” (Religion)



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

Not just the difference between
a good Christian vs a “not-so-good” Christian
But a True Christian (Religion) vs False “Christian” (Religion)
Crown of Life vs Death





3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[8] If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[8] If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

→ Live in love & don't show favoritism



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[8] If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture,
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

→ Live in love & don't show favoritism

→ That's true religion





3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[9] But if you show partiality, you are committing sin
and are convicted by the law as transgressors.



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[9] But if you show partiality, you are committing sin
and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

→ Favoritism shows up a transgressor



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[10] For whoever keeps the whole law
but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[11] For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[11] For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

→ Favoritism shows up a transgressor

3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[11] For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

→ Favoritism shows up a transgressor

→ It's not “just 1 sin”





3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[12] So speak and so act as those
who are to be judged under the law of liberty.



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[12] So speak and so act as those
who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

→ Live in love (v8) & not show favoritism



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[12] So speak and so act as those
who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

→ Live in love (v8) & not show favoritism
as those who live & who will be judged in righteousness





3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

Proverbs 14:21

Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner,
but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.





3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[13] For judgment is without mercy
to one who has shown no mercy.



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[13] For judgment is without mercy
to one who has shown no mercy.



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[13] For judgment is without mercy
to one who has shown no mercy.
= transgressor



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[13] For judgment is without mercy
to one who has shown no mercy.

= transgressor

= not of true religion





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[13] For judgment is without mercy
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3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[13] For judgment is without mercy
to one who has shown no mercy.

→ Severe judgment for the transgressor / false religion



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[13] Mercy triumphs over judgment.



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[13] Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Those who are merciful will be spared severe judgment



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[13] Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Those who are merciful will be spared severe judgment
For the merciful evidence true religion





3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

[13] Mercy triumphs over judgment.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM

Not just the difference between
a good Christian vs a “not-so-good” Christian



3. THE SERIOUSNESS OF FAVORITISM


Not just the difference between
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Salvation



Salvation

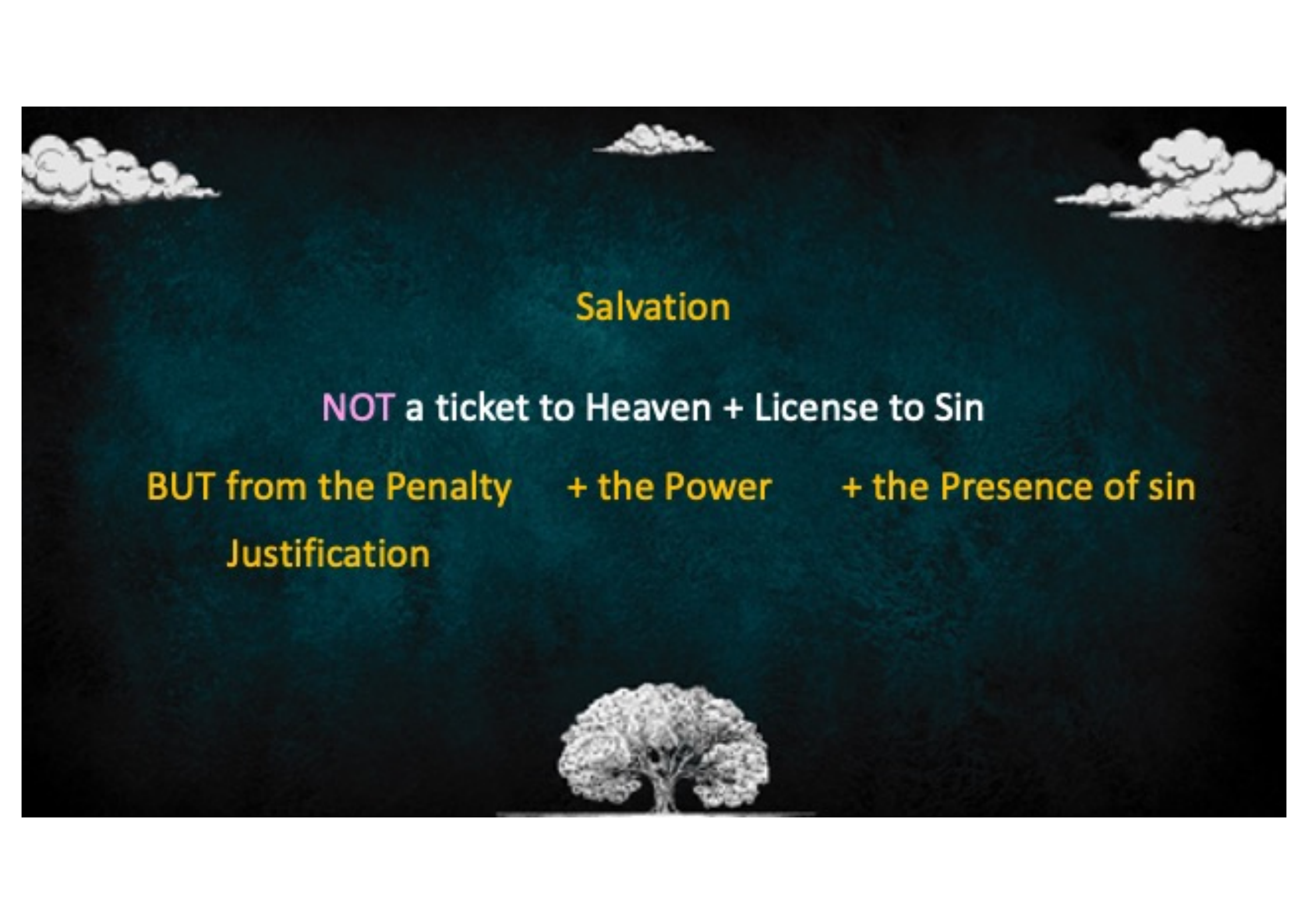
NOT a ticket to Heaven + License to Sin



Salvation

NOT a ticket to Heaven + License to Sin

BUT from the Penalty + the Power + the Presence of sin



Salvation

NOT a ticket to Heaven + License to Sin

BUT from the Penalty + the Power + the Presence of sin

Justification




Salvation

NOT a ticket to Heaven + License to Sin

BUT from the Penalty + the Power + the Presence of sin

Justification


Sanctification



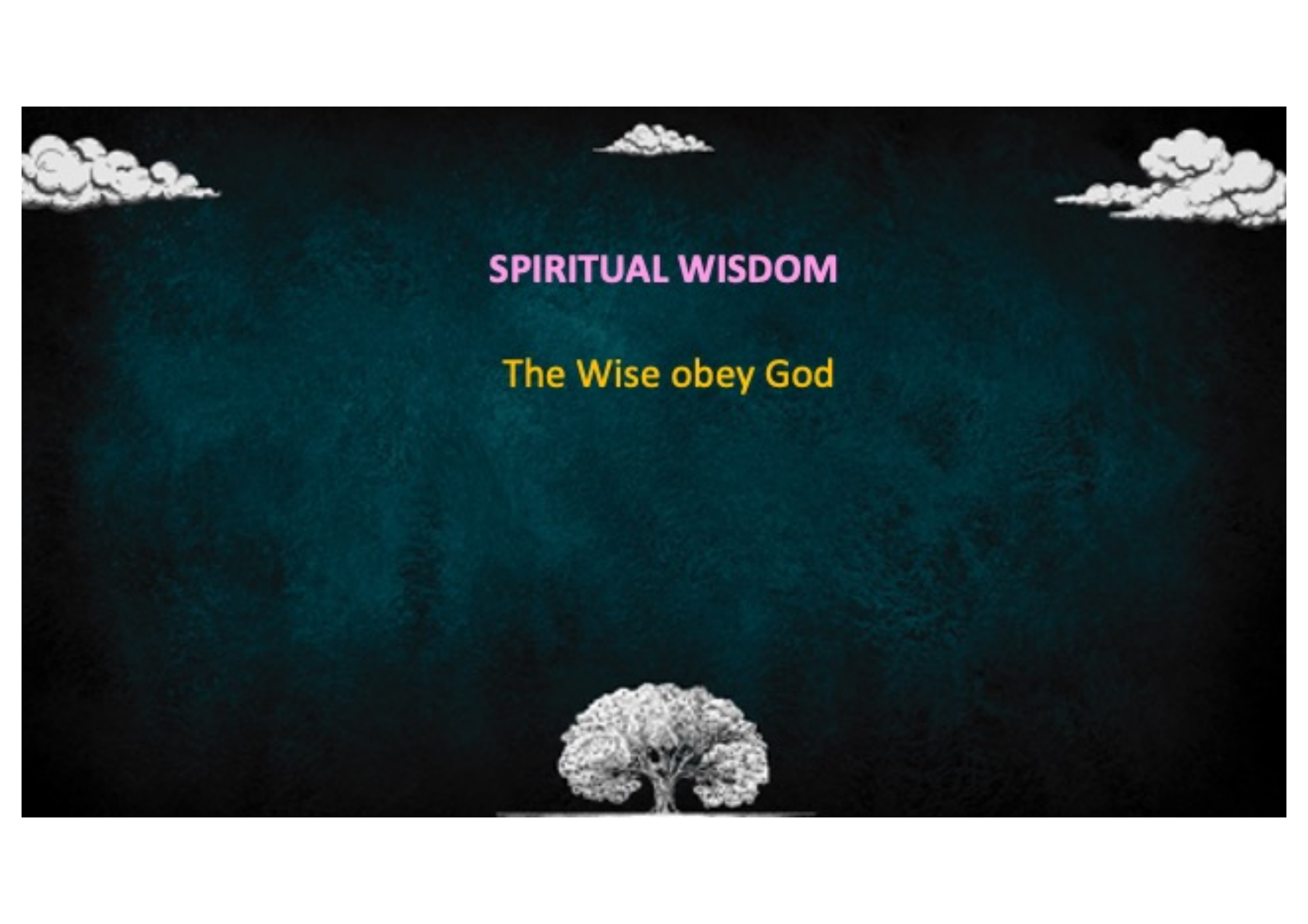
Salvation

NOT a ticket to Heaven + License to Sin

BUT from the Penalty	+ the Power	+ the Presence of sin
Justification	Sanctification	Glorification

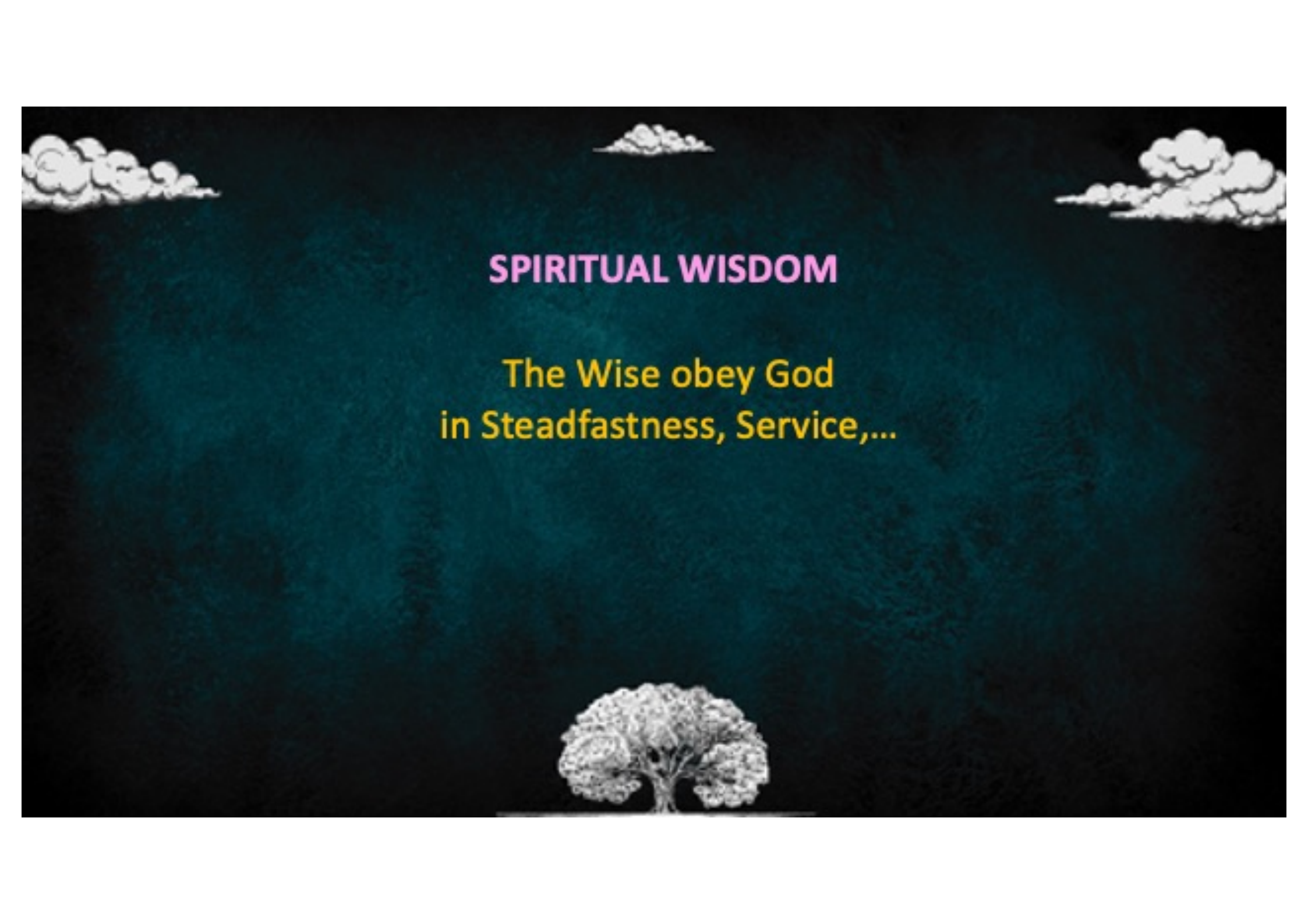


SPIRITUAL WISDOM




SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The Wise obey God



SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The Wise obey God
in Steadfastness, Service,...



SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The Wise obey God
in Steadfastness, Service,...

SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Strife

Strife

Speech

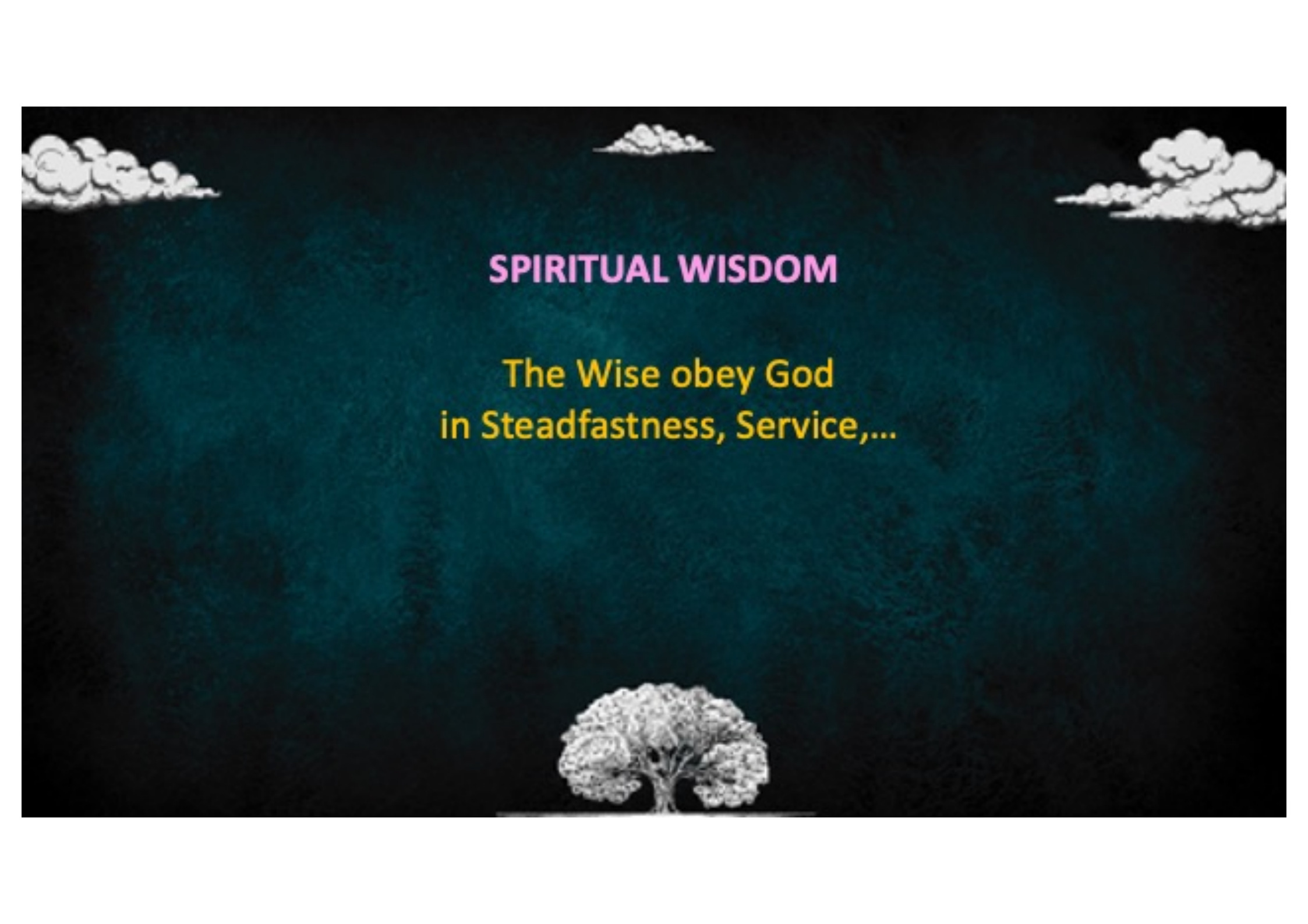
Speech

Self-centredness

Self-centredness

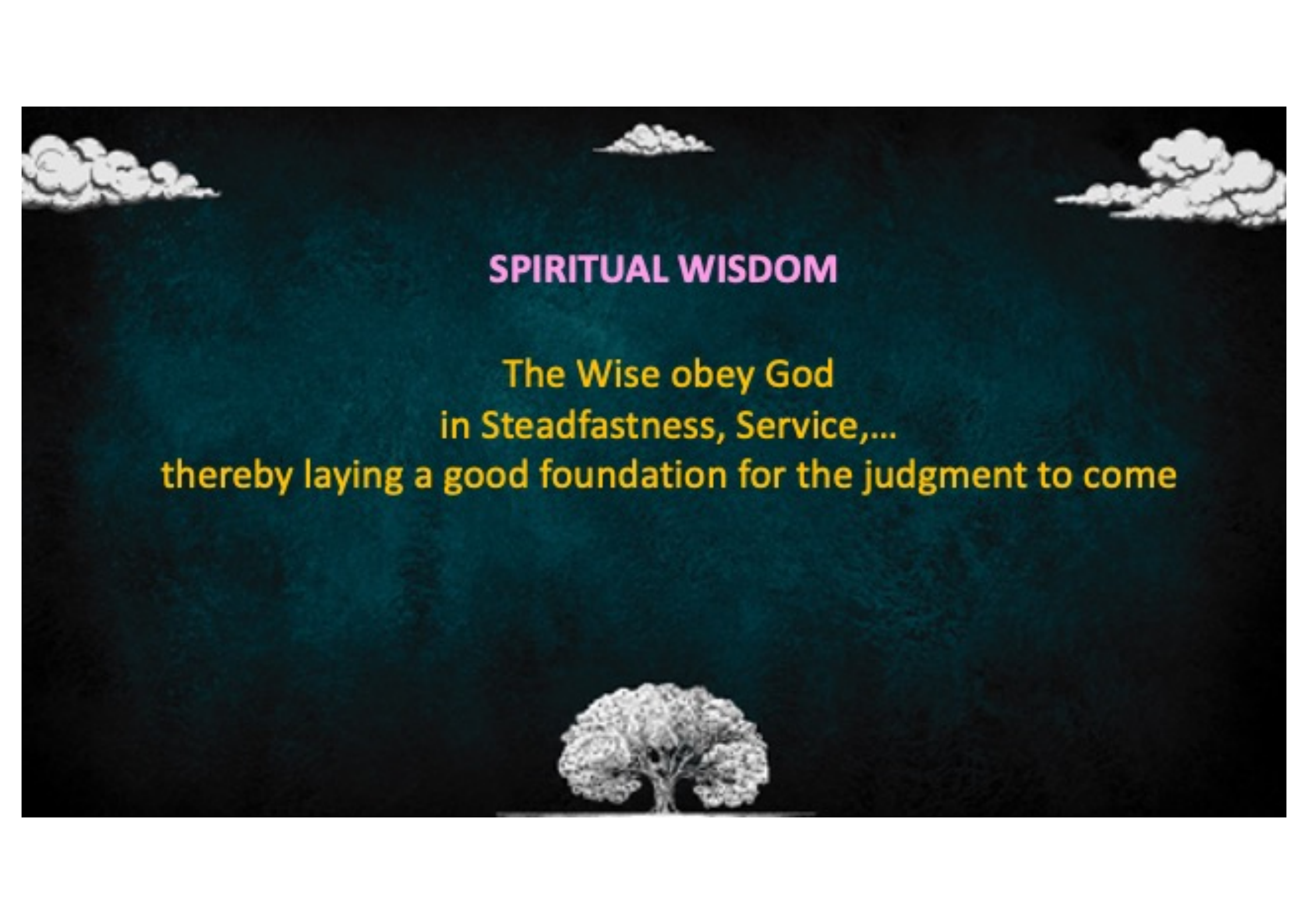
Suffering

Suffering



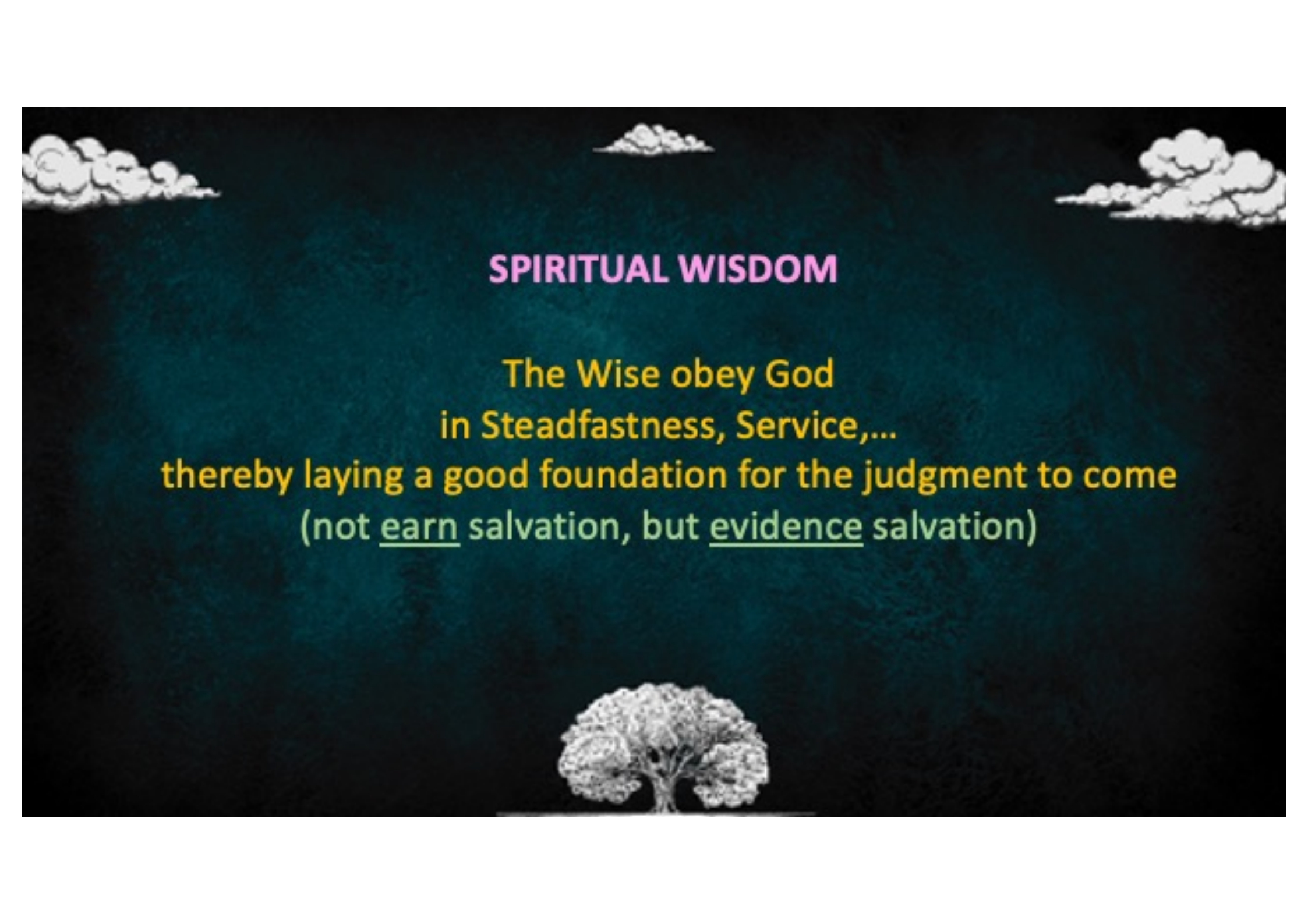
SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The Wise obey God
in Steadfastness, Service,...




SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The Wise obey God
in Steadfastness, Service,...
thereby laying a good foundation for the judgment to come



SPIRITUAL WISDOM


The Wise obey God
in Steadfastness, Service,...
thereby laying a good foundation for the judgment to come
(not earn salvation, but evidence salvation)



SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The Wise obey God
in Steadfastness, Service,...
thereby laying a good foundation for the judgment to come
(not earn salvation, but evidence salvation)
(Not saved by faith plus works, but faith that works)






SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The Wise obey God
in Steadfastness, Service,...
thereby laying a good foundation for the judgment to come
(not earn salvation, but evidence salvation)
(Not saved by faith plus works, but faith that works)

Ch 2 → Spiritual wisdom = show mercy/give/love/serve





**“Instead of maneuvering for the best possible advantage,
we give ourselves to one another for the sake of Christ”**

George Stulac