
COME FOLLOW ME

Come follow me

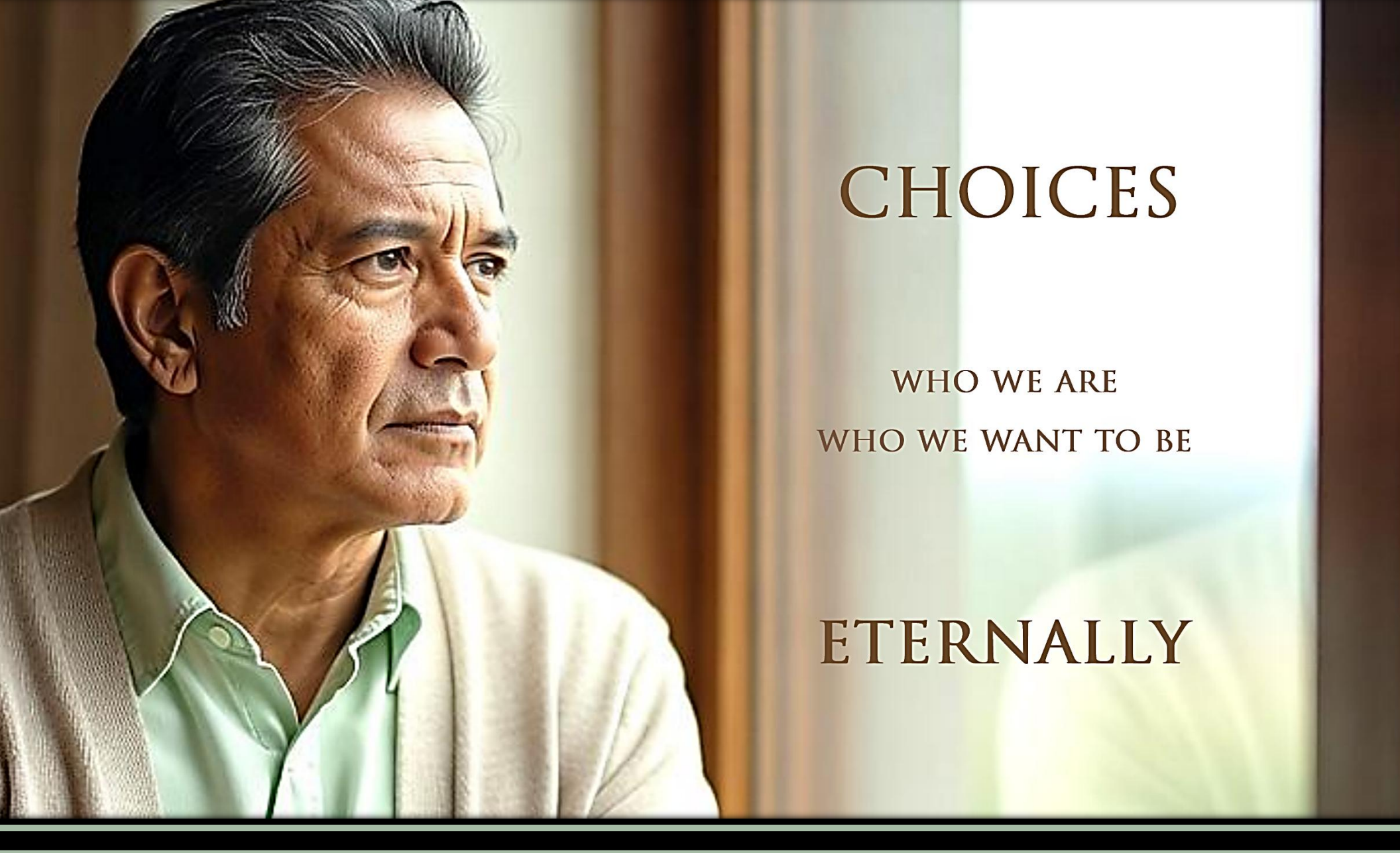


HOW FAR?

HOW MUCH?

Come, follow me, the Savior said.

How far will we go to do that? How much effort will we put in? Will this be our focus?



These are choices that literally define who we are now and who we want to be.

For Eternity.

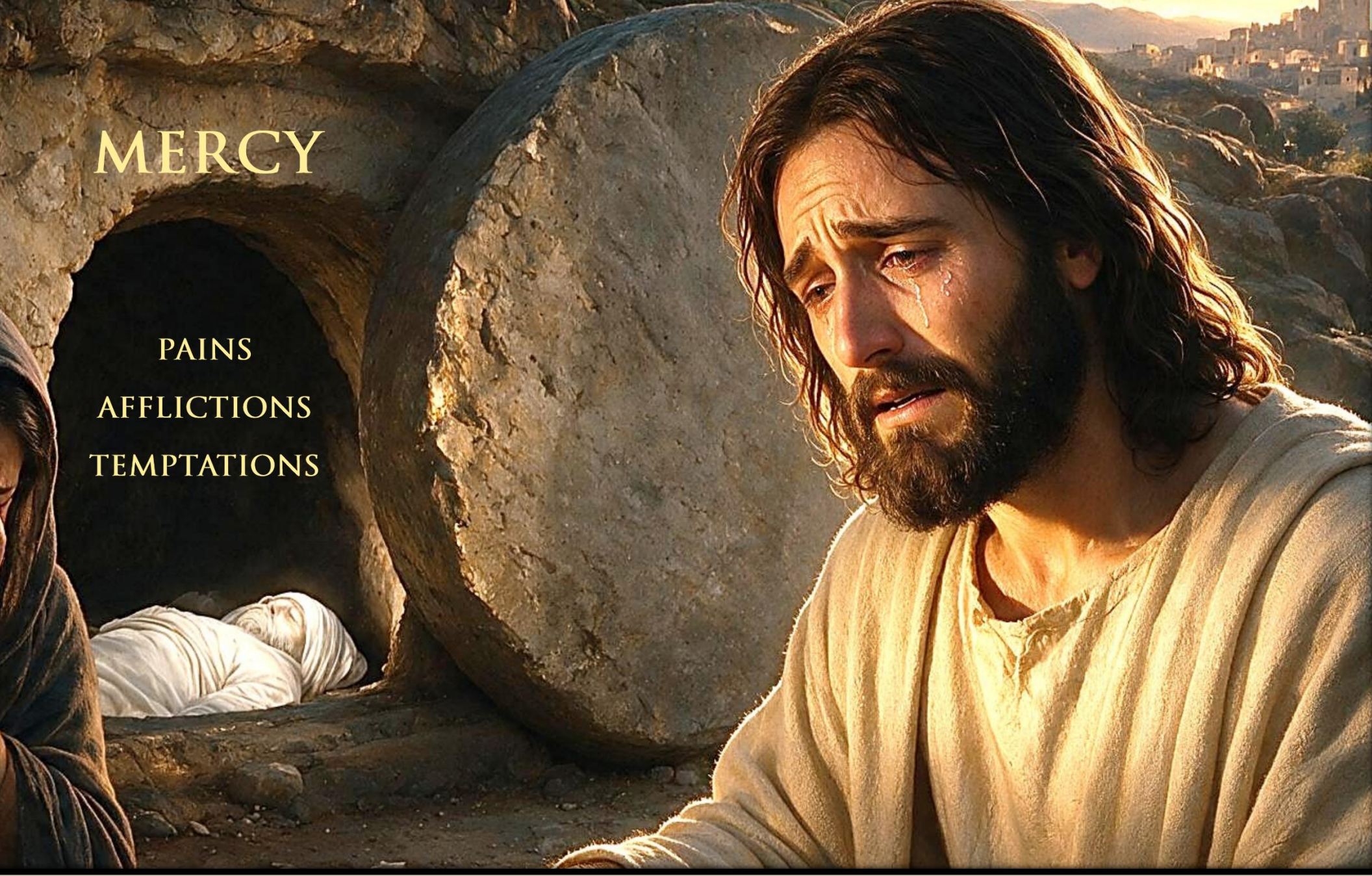


Does abiding His commandments, obeying His laws, and making and keeping the covenants made when we received the empowering ordinances of the priesthood constitute what following Him means?

We know, through our own experience, that doing these things brings us peace.



But there is more to following Him than this. To know joy, to have a fulness of joy, which defines Jesus Christ, we must also experience His sorrow.



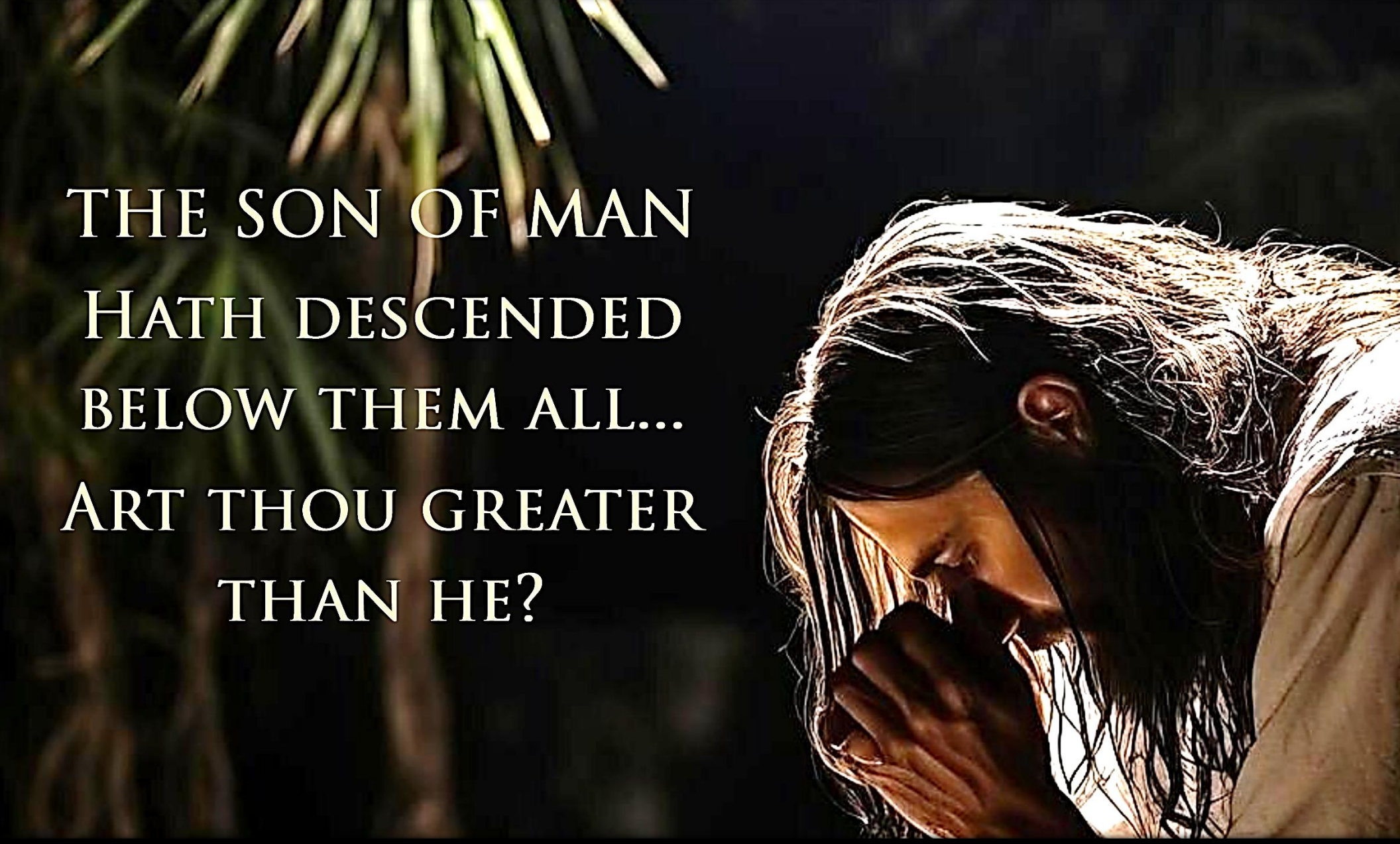
Jesus Christ suffered pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind so He might be filled with mercy. And the depths of His sorrow defined the heights of His joy.



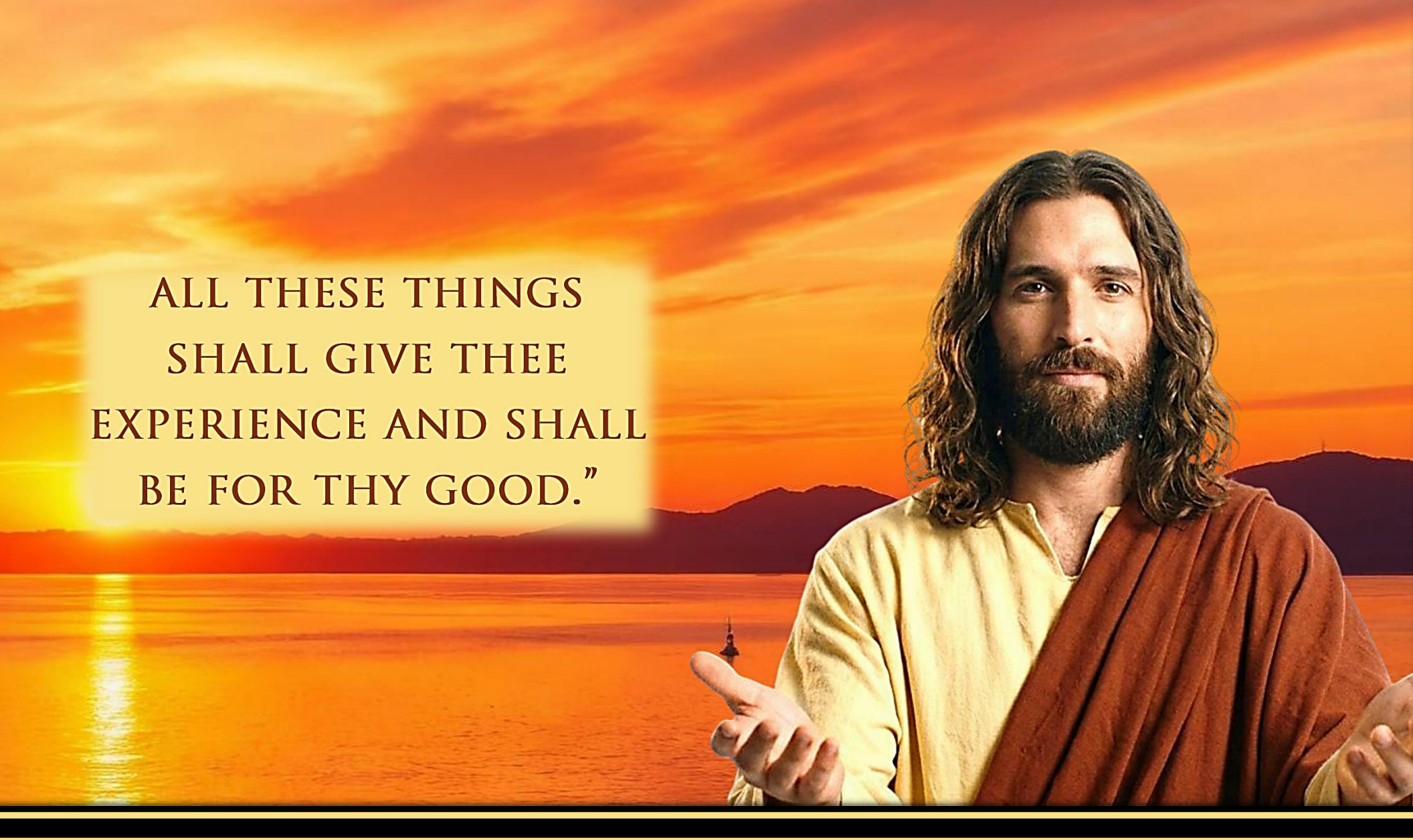
To become like Him, to follow Him in every way, we need to have our own defining experiences with sorrowing challenges that ultimately lead us to His fulness of joy. For you cannot have joy without sorrow.



For in that process, we learn how to succor and lift and bless others with empathy and mercy. We learn to love. And we experience both the sorrow and the joy of those we are helping. Just as Christ does.



To underscore the importance of this aspect of following Him, Jesus Christ said to Joseph Smith in Liberty Jail, "The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than He?" (Doctrine & Covenants 122:8)



To unconditionally follow Jesus Christ is to also have experiences like His. There is no other way to a fulness of light and truth. A fulness of joy. His promise to Joseph, and to all of us as we follow Him through our own sorrows and challenges is that "all these things shall give thee experience and shall be for thy good." (Doctrine & Covenants 122:7)



To follow Him in every way is to offer our broken heart, and contrite spirit. It is to offer Him our whole soul.



What is a broken heart and a contrite spirit? It is to persistently see ourselves in our eternal context. Our no beginning, no ending reality. It is to understand we are on earth temporarily to learn and choose and become. It is to see that our experiences here will pass. What we learn from them and who we determine to become as a result is what lasts.

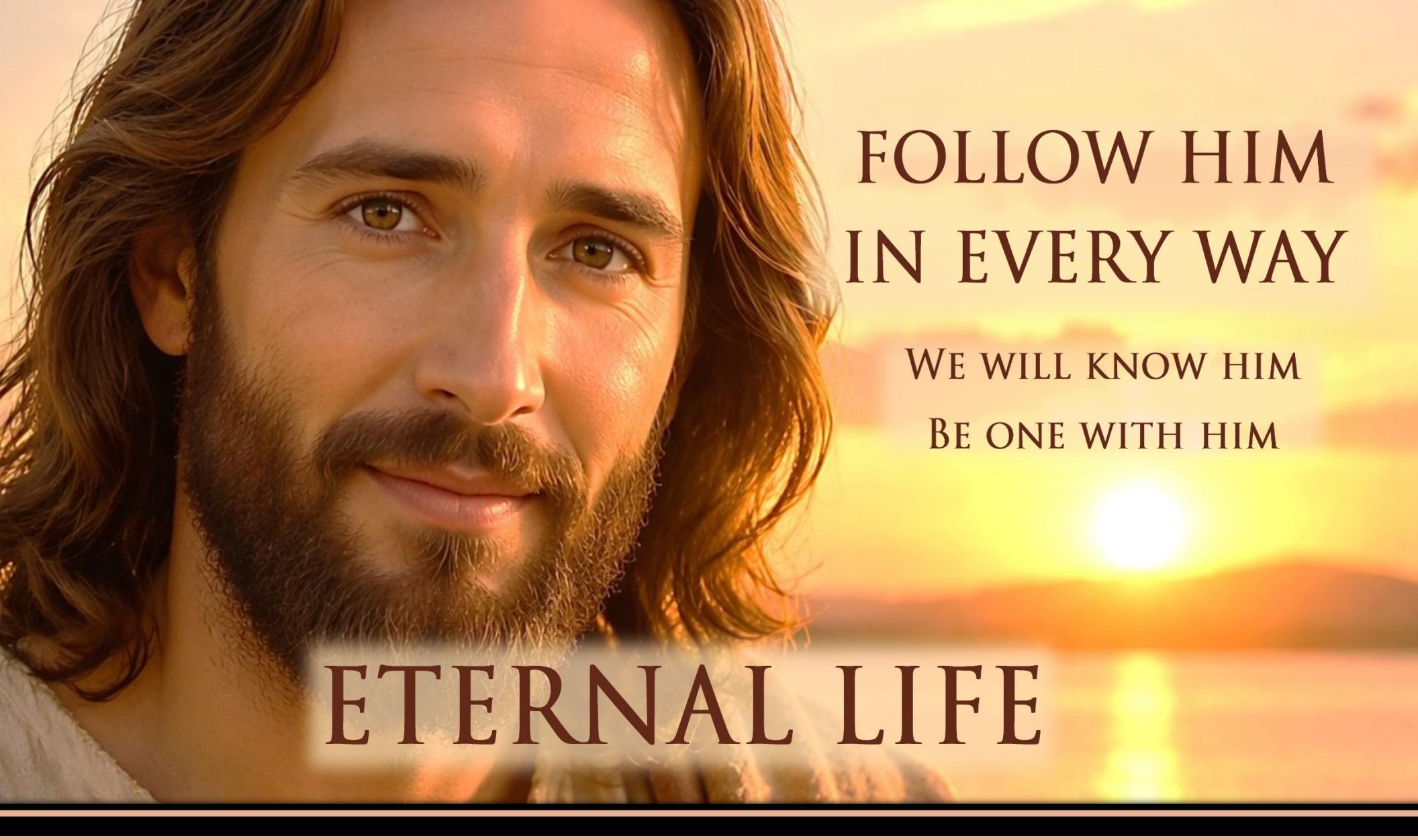
BROKEN HEART EXPERIENCES



With a contrite spirit, maybe hesitantly but willingly, we subject ourselves to every event, condition, and circumstance necessary for us to understand and know and become as Jesus Christ. Including broken heart experiences with sorrow and adversity that are like His own.



We do not need to actively seek such broken heart experiences, for they will naturally come. And like Christ in the midst of His trials, our prayer also might be, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." And, like Him, our contrite spirit sincerely adds, "Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39) Then, with His grace, we seek to learn from our experiences so we can become as He is



Following Jesus Christ in every way, is the way. If we choose to follow Him completely, we will know Him. We will be one with Him. And we, like Him, will have Eternal Life.