

What If ... It's All True?

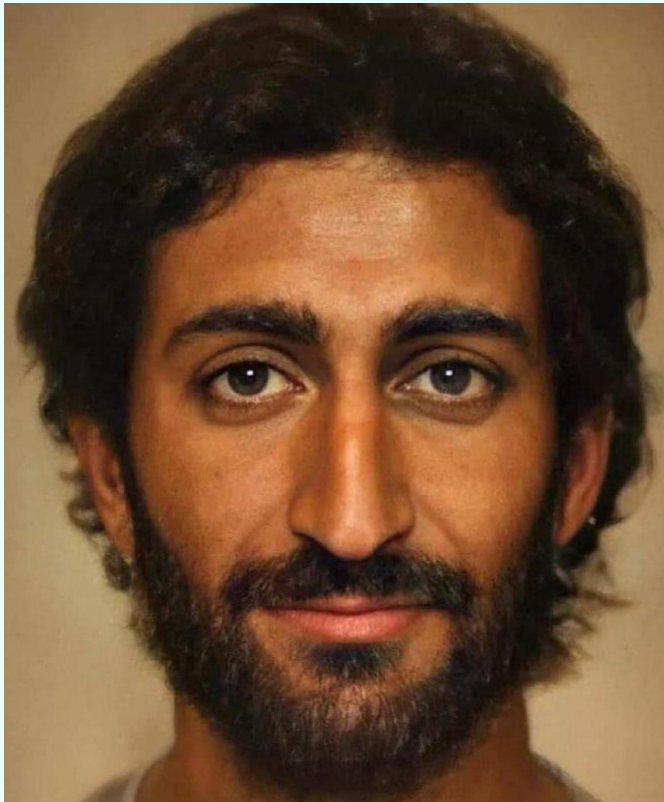
Jesus...

- **His Identity**
- **His Mission**
- **His Message**
 - **His Gift**

2026 Spring Conference
April 25, 2026
9:30 a.m. to noon
Pluckemin Presbyterian Church



His Identity



- **The Prophets**
- **The Prophecies**
- **The Name**

The Prophets

“You may be wondering among yourselves,
“How can we tell the difference,
whether it was GOD who spoke or not?”

Here’s how:

If what the prophet spoke in GOD’s name
doesn’t happen,
then obviously GOD wasn’t behind it;
the prophet made it up. Forget about him..”

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 MSG

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Micah
Zechariah
Daniel
Moses
Malachi
Hosea
Nathan
David

WHAT IF...

...all the Hebrew
Scripture prophecies are
true?

The Prophecies (14/351)

Virgin Birth	Isaiah 7:14
Mighty God/Prince of Peace/Wonderful Counselor	Isaiah 9:6
Bethlehem birthplace	Micah 5:2
Ride a donkey into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9
Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9 (David)
Crucified/Barter for his clothing	Psalms 22
Resurrected	Psalms 16:10
Coming & Sacrificial Death	Daniel 9:24-27
Prophet/Messenger/"New Elijah"	Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (Moses); Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6
Time spent in Egypt	Hosea 11:1
A New Covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-34
"Everlasting Kingdom"	2 Samuel 7:16 (Nathan)
"Suffering Servant"	Isaiah 53

Prophecies, Prophets, and Probabilities

1. The probability that an individual would fulfill **all 351 prophecies** is a number greater than even AI can calculate ... And AI tried.
2. The probability that an individual would fulfill **8 prophecies** is:

TEN QUADRILLION to 1

$$10^{17} = 100,000,000,000,000,000$$

\$1 million/day for 27 billion years....

THINK ABOUT: Jesus and His Life and the impact on Scripture validity...:

Prophecies & The Arguments

What Was Prophesied	What Jesus Promised ... And Seemed to “Fail”
World Peace	John 14:27 (Isaiah 2:4)
Rebuild the Temple	John 2:19 (Ezekiel 40-48)
Unify Chosen People	Matthew 15:24 (Isaiah 11:12)
Universal Knowledge of God	Matthew 24:14 (Habakkuk 2:14)

WHAT IF...

**...the Messiah didn't fail to fulfill the promises...
but began fulfilling them in a way we didn't recognize?**

The Name

עִמָּנוּאֵל

Emmanuel

MATTHEW 1:23

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23

- **Immanu – “With Us”**
- **El – “God”**

- 1. A theological declaration** – unlike any other.
- 2. A threat** to those in opposition to God – that God’s plan for humanity continues.
- 3. A promise** – of hope.
- 4. An answer** – about God’s ultimate love for all of creation.



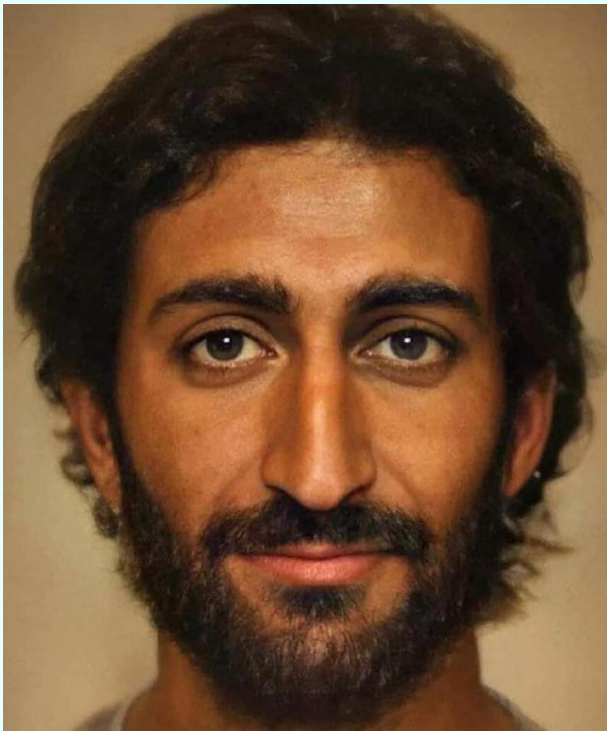
**Wonderful
Counselor**

Mighty God

**Everlasting
Father**

**Prince of
Peace
Is.9:6**

His Identity

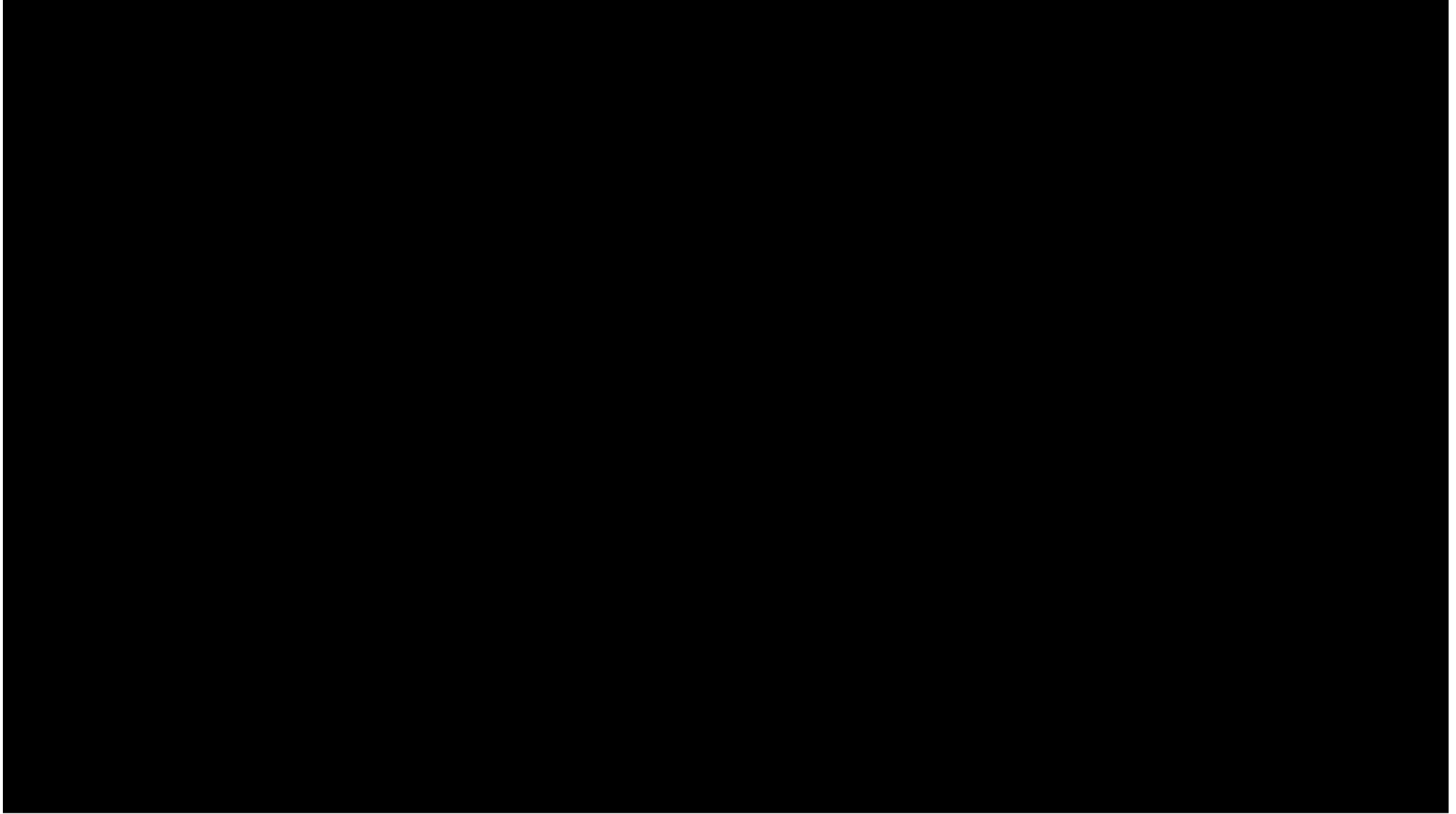


“Immanuel”

means God with us...
not once we figure everything out...
not once we get our lives together...
but right in the middle of it all.

WHAT IF...

... Jesus really was Immanuel,
God with us?
Matthew 1:23





His Mission...

- The Purpose
- The Process

Purpose #1: God's Presence in Creation

To rescue all of creation.

To inaugurate and restore
God's Kingdom on earth.

To Accomplish. At. All. Costs.

Matt. 6:10

WHAT IF...

... all hopes are assured?

Hebrews 11:1



Purpose #2: To Be a True Human

He was what humanity was meant to be.



- Do everything with **love**
- Speak only what was **God's Truth**
- **Live** what He preached
- Live a human life that was **perfect**
- **Obey** God ... even to death
- Be **victorious** over human death

He is what humanity looks like as God intended.

WHAT IF...

... all things really work together for good?

Romans 8:28

The Process: To Expand God's Called People



WHAT IF...

... we will only be known
by how we love others?

John 15:12

BUILD A COMMUNITY

- **Merciful:** Matthew 9:13 (Mercy, not sacrifice)
- **Diverse:** John 10:16 (Other sheep)
- **Global:** Matthew 28:19 (disciples of all nations)

The boundary markers moved...
not because God changed —
but because
God's heart was always
bigger than we imagined.



His Mission...

He didn't come just to fix behavior...

He came to restore what it means to be human... and to show that God's family was always meant to be bigger than we thought.

WHAT IF...

...the mission wasn't smaller than we expected...but far more personal ...and far more expansive?



His Message...



- The Truth
- The Focus

The Truth: Love Is God's Way

**“The first in importance is, ‘The Lord your God is one;
so love the Lord God with all your
passion and
prayer and
intelligence and
energy.’**

**“And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you
love yourself.’**

**There is no other commandment that ranks with
these.”**

Mark 12:29-31 (MSG)

WHAT IF...

**...the message isn't just something to believe...
but something that actually changes us?**



The Focus #1: The Jesus Way

The OLD WAY TAUGHT and PRACTICED

- Nonnegotiable
 - Notes
 - Culture (widely shared, foreign)
 - Religious
 - Political
- Who are today's "OTHERS"?
- ...the Have
...premiers
...tax collectors, wealthy, powerful elite

WHAT IF...
...this was nothing like God intended?

New Perception

The OLD WAY vs. Jesus' NEW WAY

Nonnegotiable Rules: The Haves
and the Have Nots:
Clean/Unclean

**“Healthy people don’t
need a doctor—
sick people do.”**

Luke 5:31



New Identity

The OLD WAY vs. Jesus' NEW WAY

Cultural Identity Markers: Women
(widowed/)childless,
divorced/rejected, foreign/pagan -
Gender/Morality

**“True worshipers will
worship the Father in
spirit and in truth.”**

John 4:23



The Woman at the Well – John 4

New Community

The OLD WAY vs. Jesus' NEW WAY

Religious Belief Systems: Gentiles,
blasphemers - Outsider/Wrong
Theology

**“Now which one of these
would you say was a
neighbor?”** Luke 10:36



The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37

New Beginning

The OLD WAY vs. Jesus' NEW WAY

Politically Despised Collaborators:
tax collectors, wealthy land
owners, powerful elite; rejected
by society

**“Follow me and be my
disciple.”** Matthew 9:9



Matthew, the Tax Collector – Matthew 9:9-10

The Focus: Live the True Way of “Being Human”

Jesus’ WAY

There is no such thing as “clean or unclean”

**There is no distinction between gender,
race, social class...**

**All are wanted regardless of religious or
cultural background**

**All is forgiven for those who ask and forgive
as well**

WHAT IF...

**...abundant life is
within everyone’s
grasp?**

John 10:10





New Identity

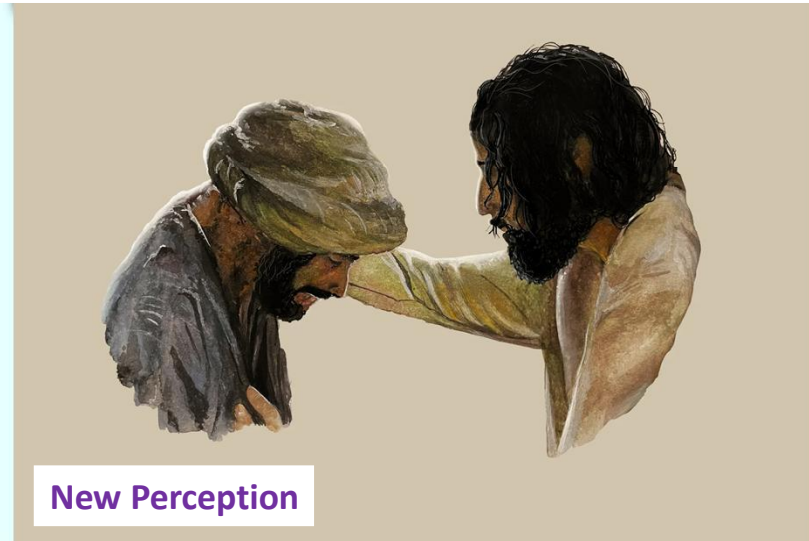


New Start

True Way of "Being Human"



New Community



New Perception

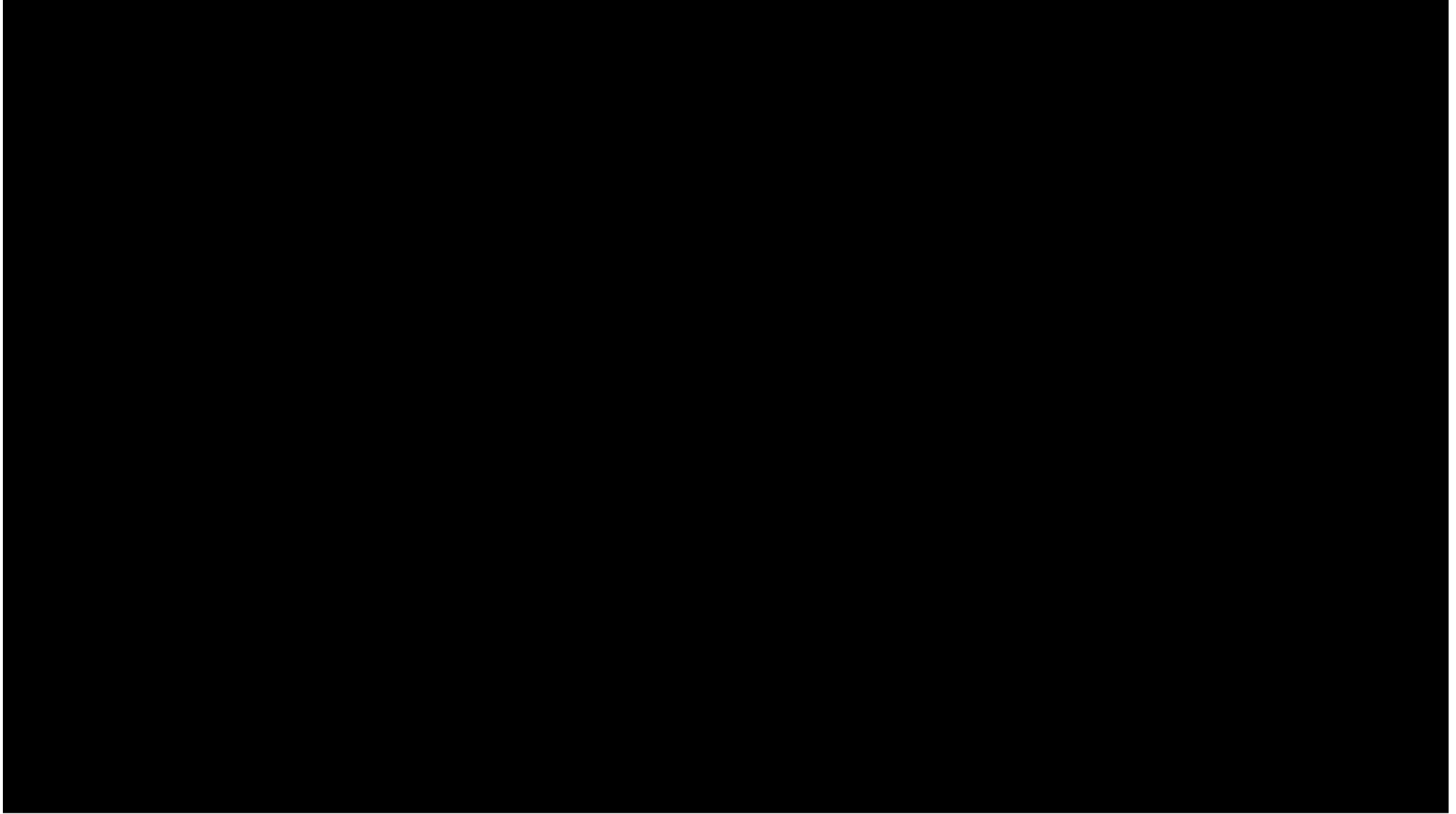
His Message...



NOT belief systems alone.
NOT identity markers.
NOT rule keeping.
It was costly love
- relational and lived - on which
everything depended.

WHAT IF...

...crossing lines that
exclude is more important
than making lines?



His Gift...



- **The Presence**
- **The Promise**

The Presence: The Spirit

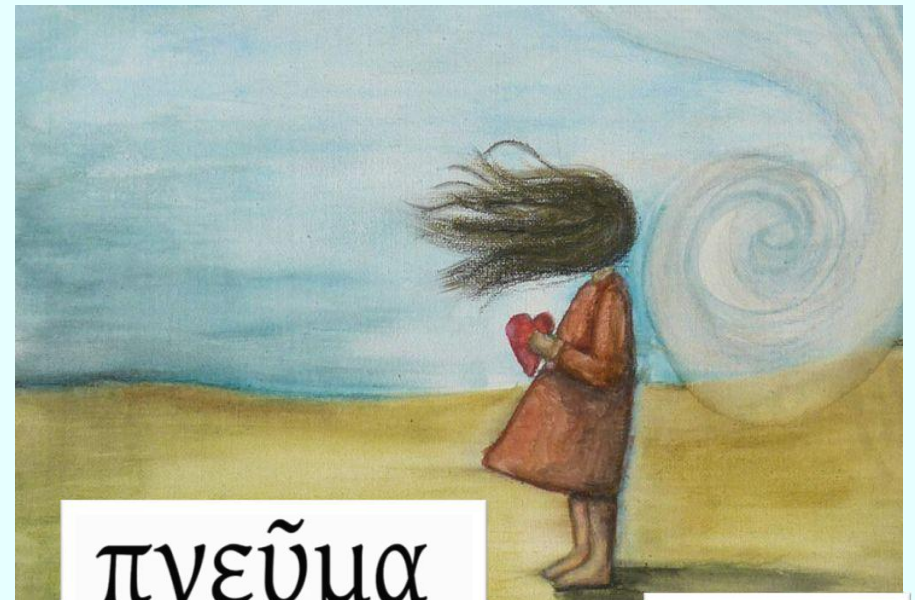
Literally the breath of God; it means breath, wind, spirit... *Life!* Genesis 2:7, John 20:22

Not limited to Jesus' physical presence
John 16:7

Makes believers the new temple of God
Ezekiel 36:26-27, I Corinthians 6:19-20

Gives us incredible power: courage, knowledge, insight, peace, comfort...
Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:22-23

Immanuel means God *with us*...
But Jesus makes an even more astonishing promise —
that God would be *in us*."



πνεῦμα

pneuma / breath; spirit

רוּחַ

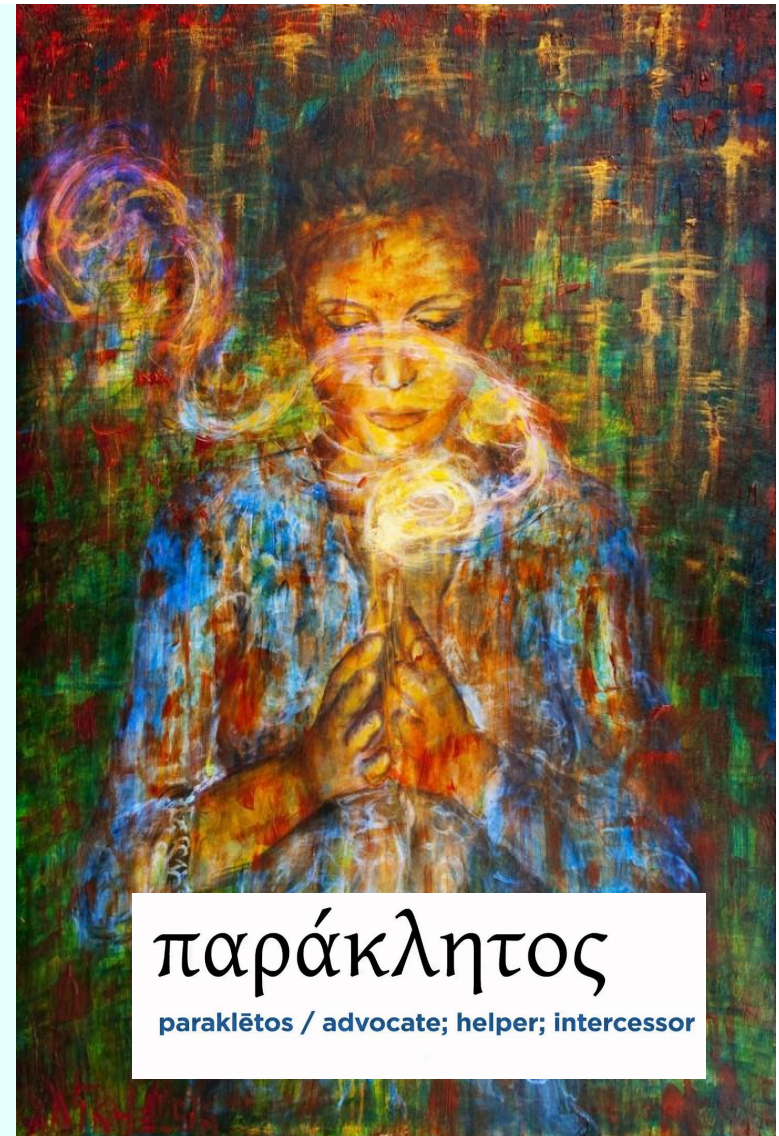
Ru'ach

The Presence: Never Alone

- Comforter
- Advocate
- Helper

“I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you...” John 16:7

Jesus didn't just tell us *what* to do...
Jesus made sure we would never have to
do it alone.



παράκλητος

paraklētōs / advocate; helper; intercessor

**There is an unseen Deity present,
a knowing, feeling, personality ...
indivisible from the God of the Hebrew
Scriptures and
the Son of the Christian Scriptures ...
such that
if you were to be suddenly transferred to
heaven itself
you wouldn't be any closer to God
than you are now,
*for God is already here.***

(A. W. Tozer)



WHAT IF...

**... The Spirit means
God is present in
every place, at every
time, and within
every believer?**

The Promise: Full Transformation

- **Like the Samaritan**, the one who showed mercy ... this is the kind of person the Spirit is forming us to become.
- **Like the Woman at the Well**, from hiding and isolation ... to bold witness empowered by the Spirit within us.
- **Like Matthew the Tax Collector**, from exploitation... to restoration and generosity – seeing the world as God does.
- **Like the Leper**, no longer excluded and unwanted ... but restored – our stories becoming meaningful, necessary, and life-giving.

WHAT IF...

... it really will be
better than we can
ask or imagine?

Ephesians 3:20

**Jesus didn't just tell us the truth...
He promised the power to live it.**

The Promise:

All Things Will Be New

- **A new covenant** – “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people – an agreement confirmed with my blood...”
Luke 22:20
- **A new life** – “Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I’m here inviting outsiders, not insiders—an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out.” Luke 5:32 (MSG)
- **A new community** – “Go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19-20
- **A renewed way of living with God in creation** - “...those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them.” John 6:37

WHAT IF...

...God didn’t just
come close...
what if God came
inside...
to remake us from
the inside out?

His Gift...

We are not alone...
We are not stuck...
We are not finished.

I John 3:2 (MSG)



The power of the Spirit doesn't
make us impressive ...
it makes us faithful.

The "now" and the "not yet"...
What God begins within us ...
God will complete.

The same love
Jesus called us to live...
is **the same love**
the Spirit is growing in us...
and **the same love**
that will one day define
everything.

WHAT IF...
... God really is *in us*?

I Cor. 6:19

**The Transforming
Power of Jesus'
Mission & Message**

**THE
NEW
US**

**OUR
Gift ...**

**Do one
small thing
that reflects
Jesus daily**

**THE
OLD
US**

WHAT IF...

**... it really is as simple as
ask, confess, and believe?**

Acts 16:31

**You don't have to change
everything...
just don't walk out
unchanged.**

**It doesn't start with the
world...
it starts with the next person
in front of you.**

The Truth is...
**...it *isn't* too much to
believe,
...it's *more* than you
can ask or imagine!**