



From Sinners
to Saints:
Separation Anxiety

Luke 15:11-24

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them. ...

Luke 15:11-24

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a ...

Luke 15:11-24

severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ...

Luke 15:11-24

He longed to fill his stomach
with the pods that the pigs
were eating, but no one
gave him anything. ...

Luke 15:11-24

When he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: ...

Luke 15:11-24

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.” So he got up and went to his father. ...

Luke 15:11-24

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ...

Luke 15:11-24

The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. ...”

Luke 15:11-24

But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ...”

Luke 15:11-24

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

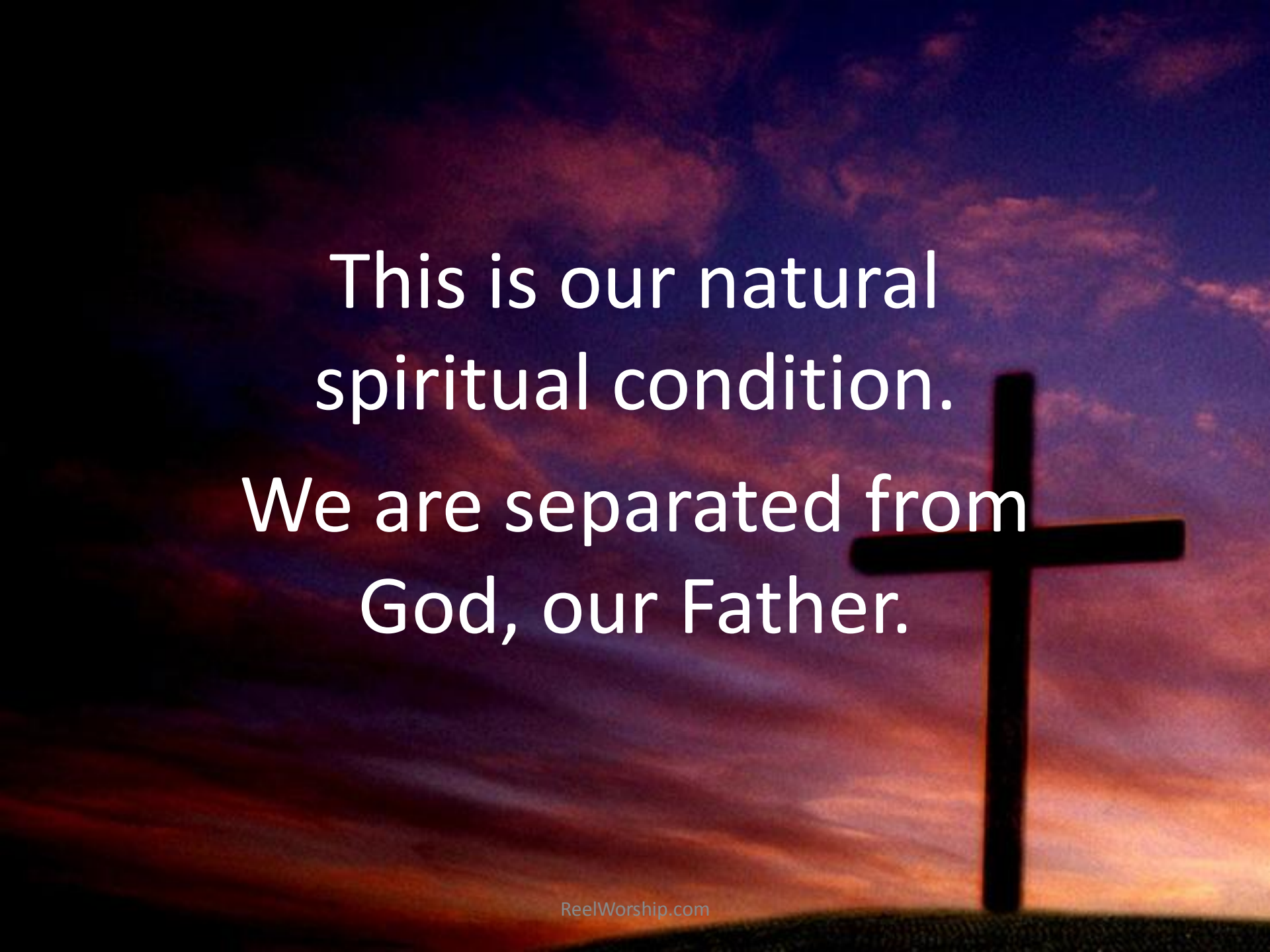
Separated from his father

Gathered everything

Moved to a distant country

Made himself a servant

Fed pigs



This is our natural
spiritual condition.
We are separated from
God, our Father.

Ephesians 2:1-3

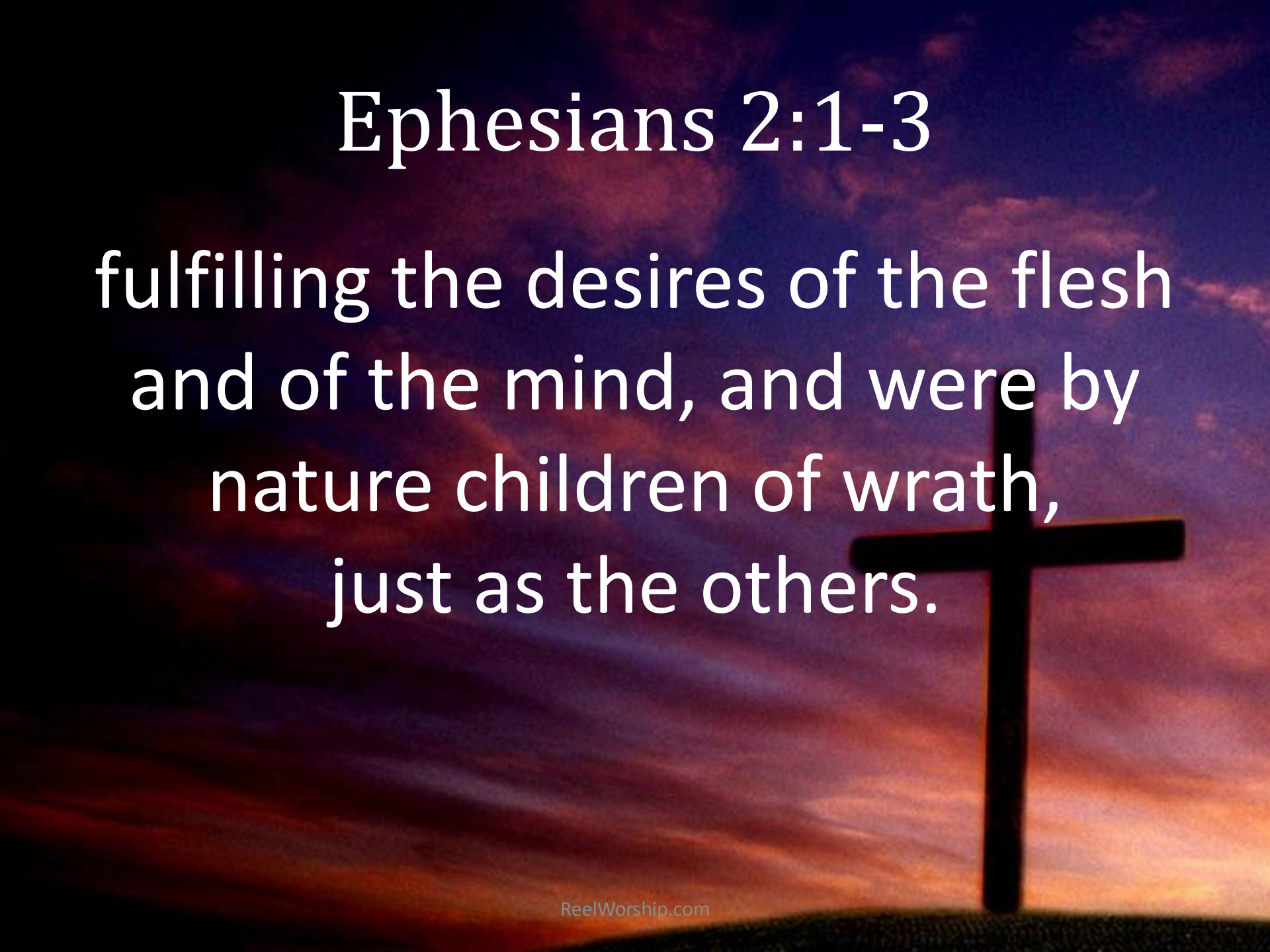
And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, ...

Ephesians 2:1-3

the spirit who now works in the
sons of disobedience, among
whom also we all once
conducted ourselves in the
lusts of our flesh, ...

Ephesians 2:1-3

fulfilling the desires of the flesh
and of the mind, and were by
nature children of wrath,
just as the others.

A black silhouette of a cross is positioned on the right side of the image, extending from the bottom to the top. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky with vibrant colors of orange, red, and purple. The text is overlaid on the left and center of the image.

Ephesians 2:1-3 summary

Dead in trespasses and sins

Follow the prince this world

Sons of disobedience

Fulfill the lusts of the flesh

and of the mind

Children of wrath by nature

God has a solution:

Grace



Ephesians 2:4-5

God, who is rich in mercy,
because of His great love...,
even when we were dead in
trespasses, made us alive
together with Christ (by grace
you have been saved)

Romans 5:10

For if when we were enemies
we were reconciled to God
through the death of His Son,
much more, having been
reconciled, we shall be
saved by His life.

Facets of Grace

Reconciled by Christ's Death
Jesus paid it all

Facets of Grace

Saved by Christ's Life
Jesus spent most of His
time healing

Our main problem:

Death,
not Debt



1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Do you not know that the
unrighteous will not inherit the
kingdom of God?
Do not be deceived. ...

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Neither fornicators, idolaters,
adulterers, homosexuals,
sodomites, thieves, covetous,
drunkards, revilers, nor
extortioners will inherit the
kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Past tense:

“Such were some of you...”

Washed = cleansed

Sanctified = purified, separated

Justified = ??????????



Justify
dikaioō

- 1) to make one to be just
- 2) to prove one to be just
- 3) to declare one to be just

Sin no more,
not some more.

John 5:14 – Stop sinning.

John 8:11 – Leave your life of
sin.

Joint effort

Son's part: Luke 15:20

He got up and went
to his father.

He left the pigs behind.

Joint effort

Father's part: Luke 15:22

Brought out the best robe and
put it on his son.

He replaced his son's filthy rags.

Zechariah 3:3-4

Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, ...

Zechariah 3:3-4

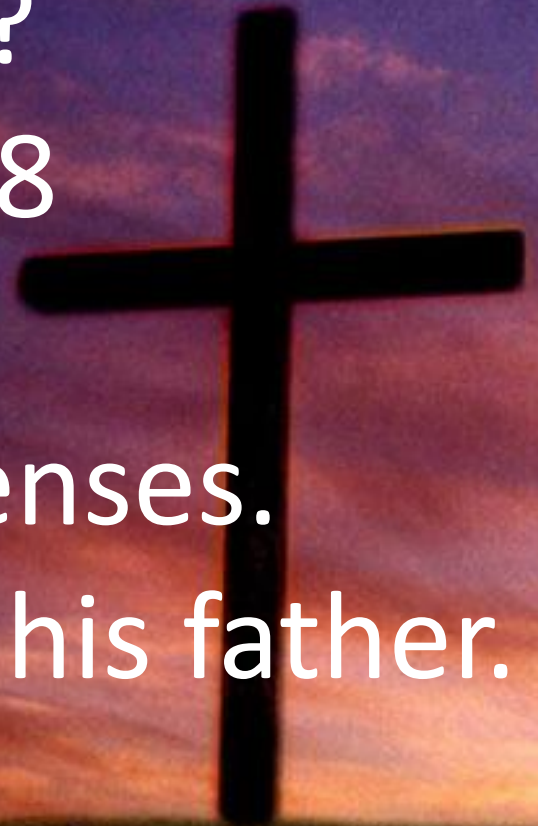
“Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said,
“See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”

Joint effort

Result: Luke 15:24
Dead son is alive again.
Lost son is found.

How did the son get
to this point?

Luke 15:17-18



He came to his senses.
He chose to return to his father.



He wanted to separate from the world and join his father again.

We must want to separate from sin and join the Father.

Some do not like the idea of
separating from sin.



Our greatest battle
is against self.





How do we fight this battle?

We must give ourselves to God.
We must give up anything that
separates us from God.

What might separate us from God?

Evil actions

Evil words

Evil thoughts and feelings

Money





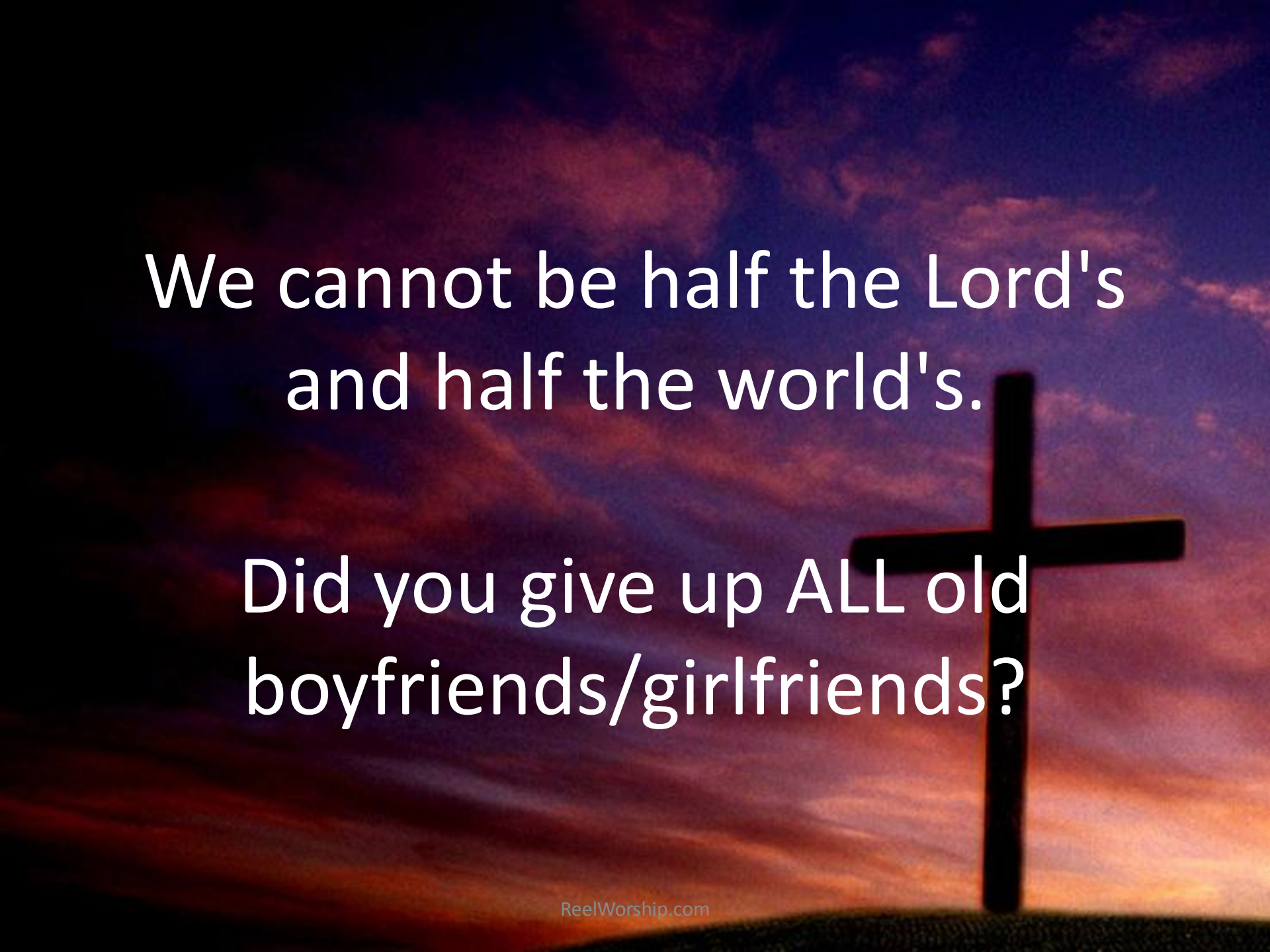
What might separate us from God?

Reputation and honor

Freedom from responsibility

Pride

Selfishness



We cannot be half the Lord's
and half the world's.

Did you give up ALL old
boyfriends/girlfriends?

We must choose:

Do we want God?

Or

Do we want sin?



Luke 14:33

So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.





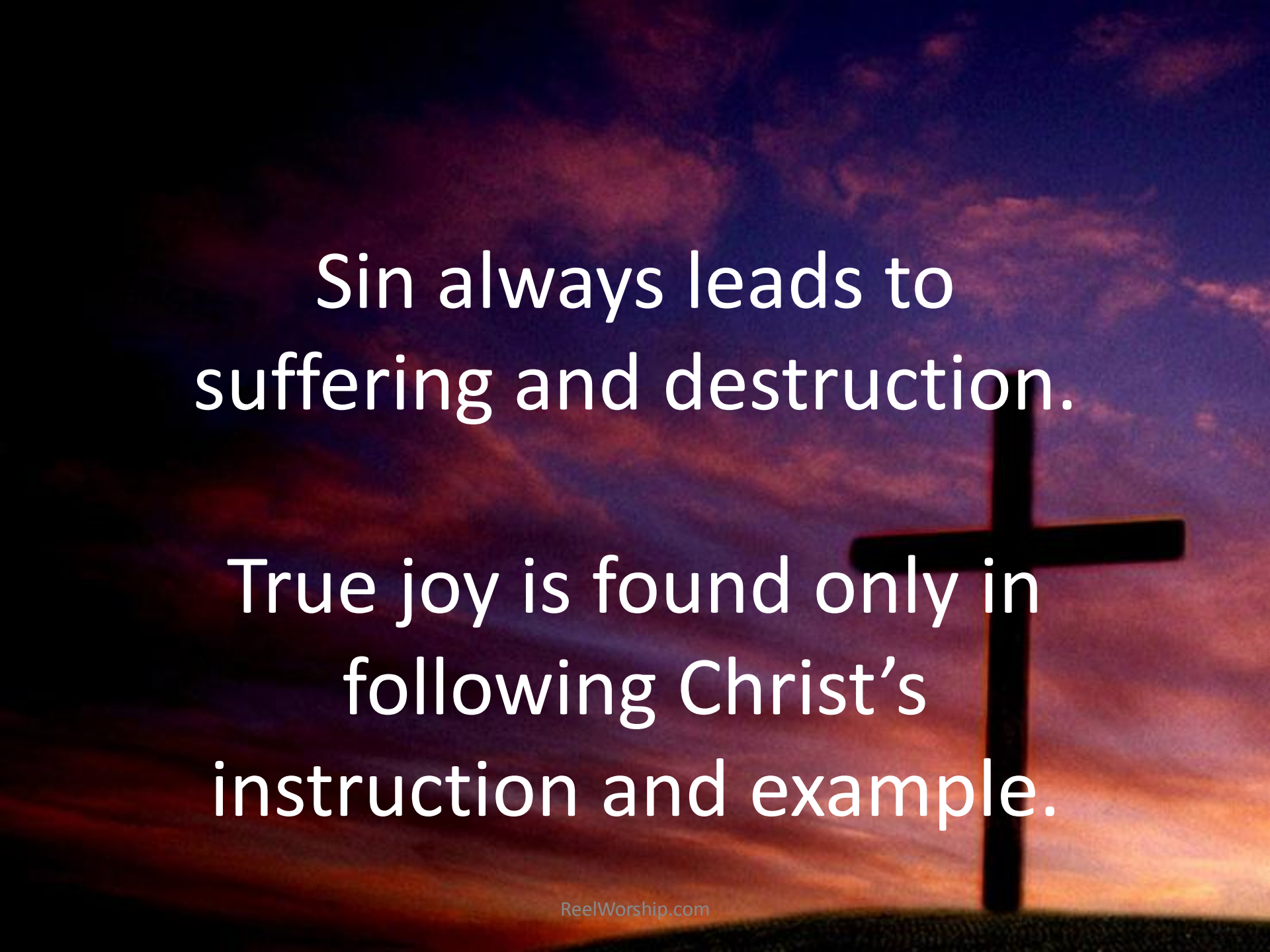
What are we giving up?

A sinful, corrupted heart
that Jesus will
wash, sanctify, and justify.

God wants only the best for us.

Forsake only that which would
bring suffering.

Perform only that which will
lead to happiness.

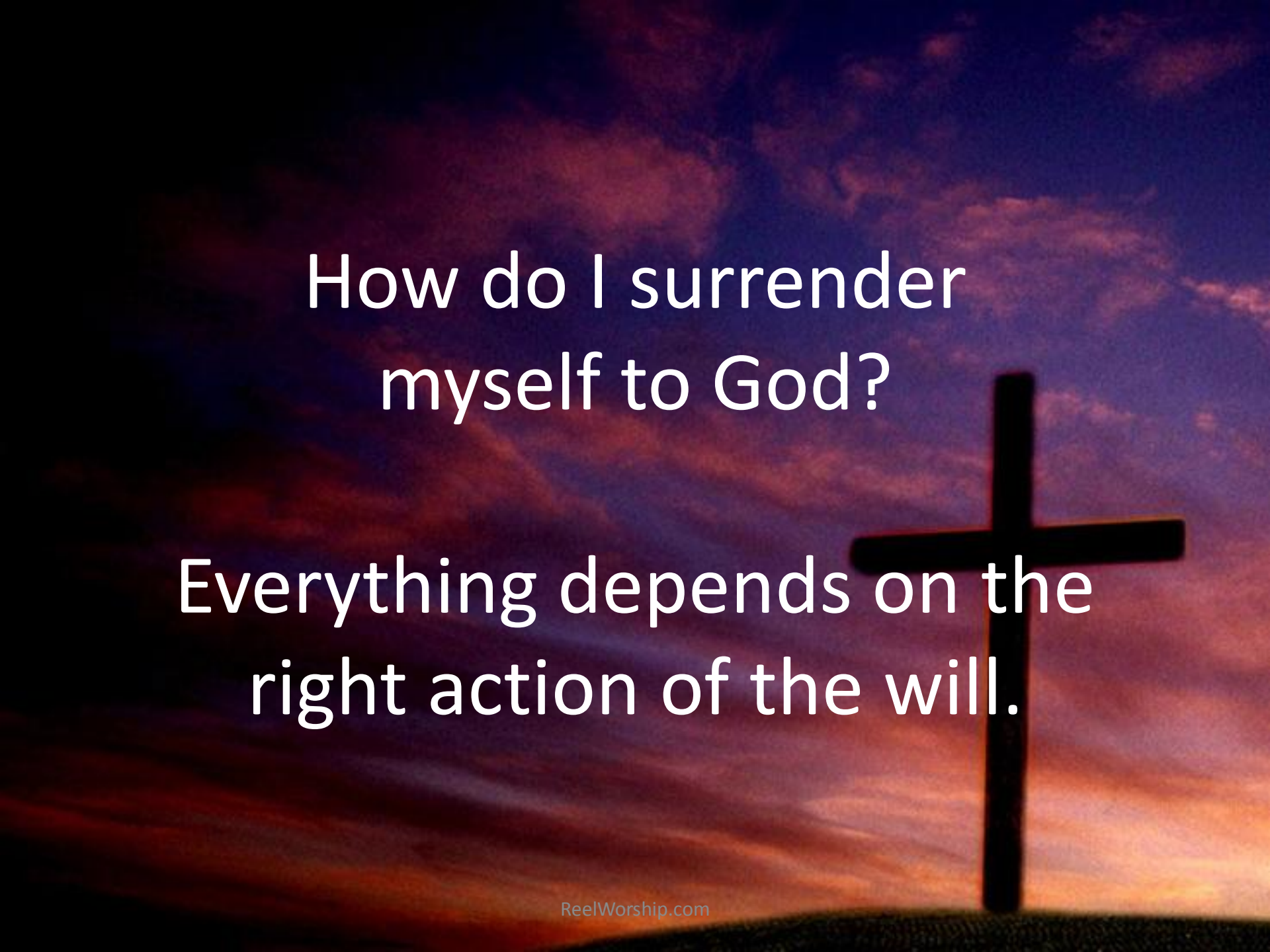


Sin always leads to
suffering and destruction.

True joy is found only in
following Christ's
instruction and example.

God wants to heal us.

But we must submit
completely to Him.



How do I surrender
myself to God?

Everything depends on the
right action of the will.



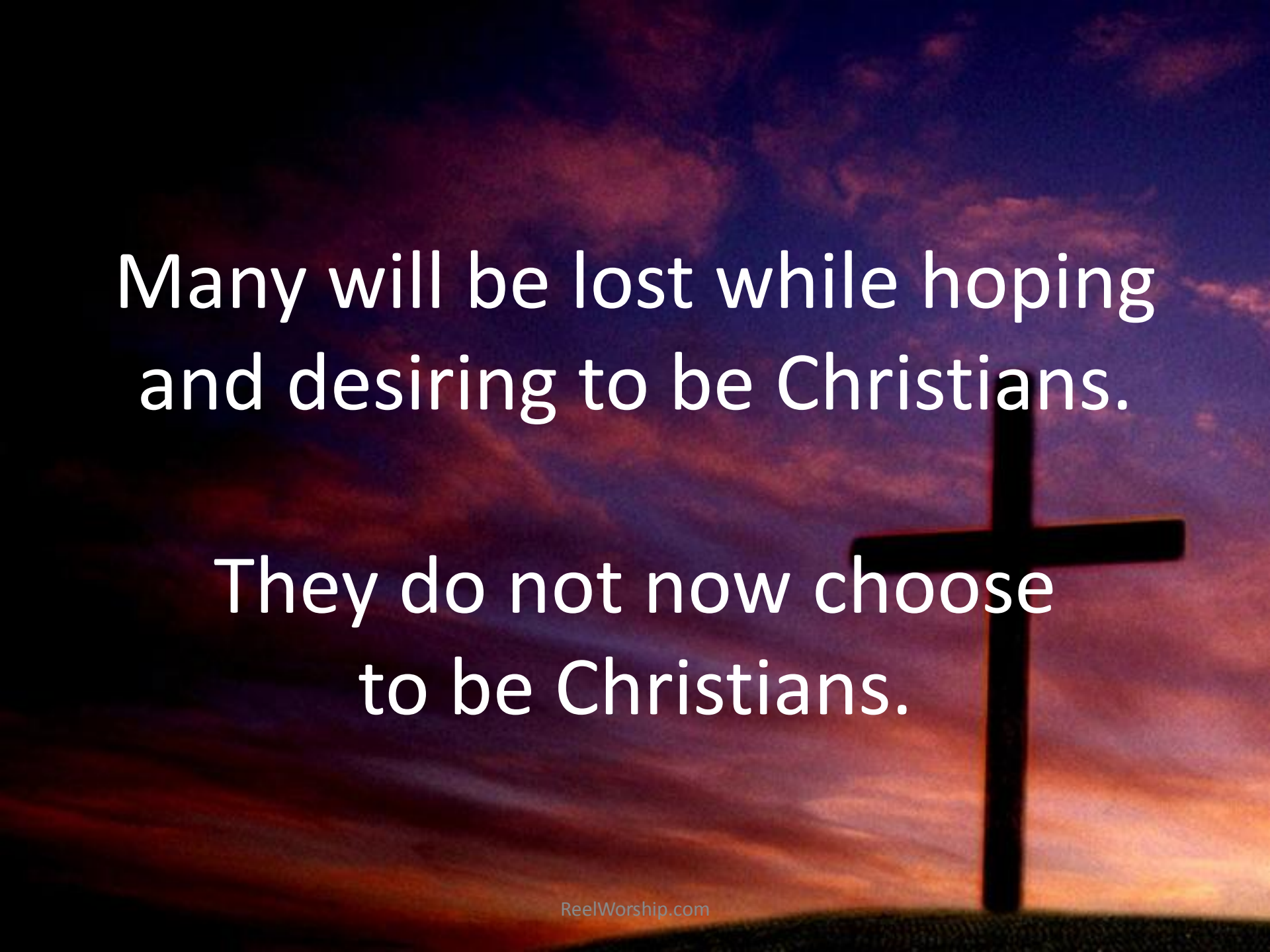
You cannot change your heart.
Some things are beyond
your control.

You can choose to serve God.

Give God full control.

Your affections will be
centered upon Him.

Your thoughts will be
in harmony with Him.

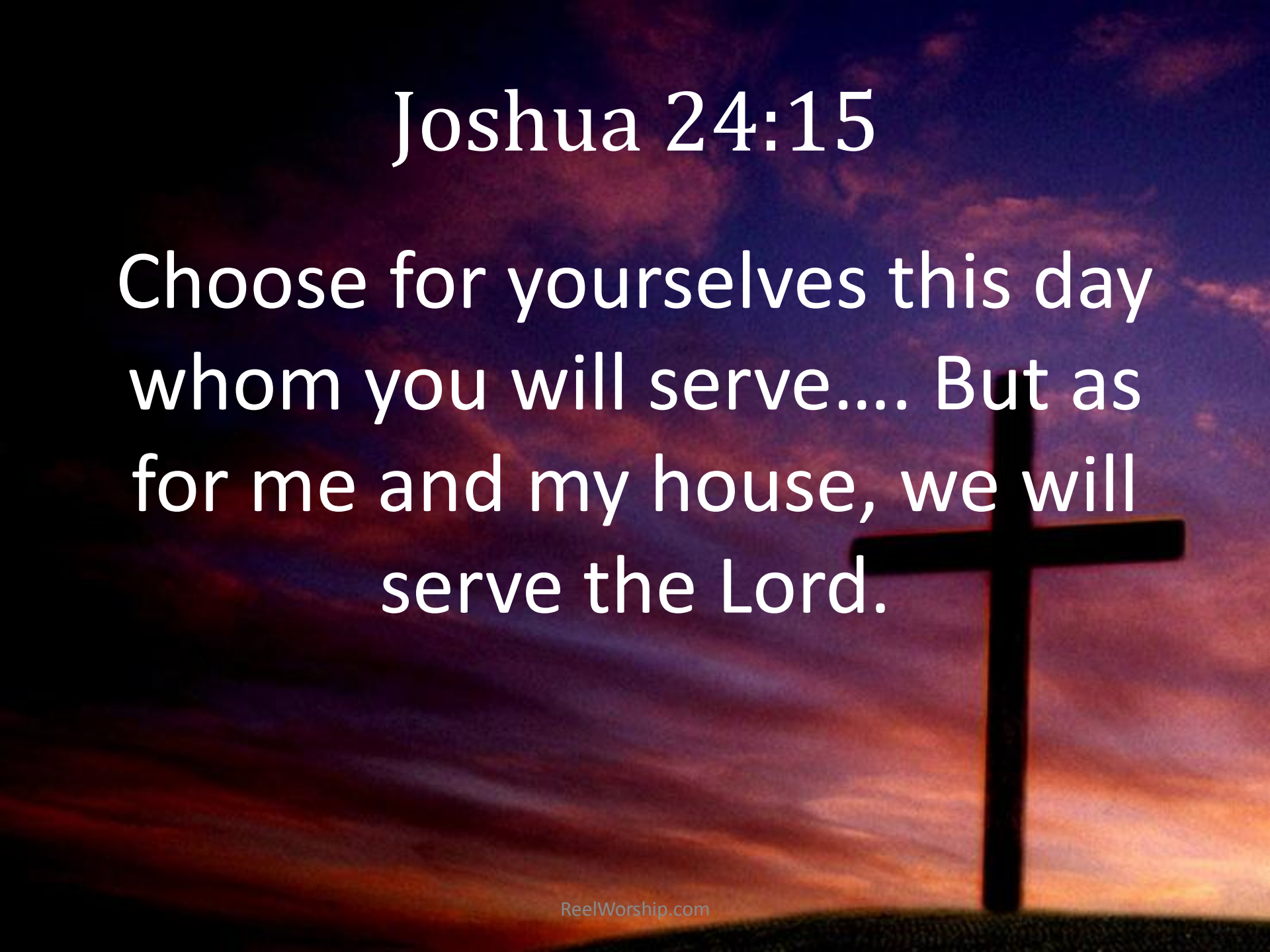


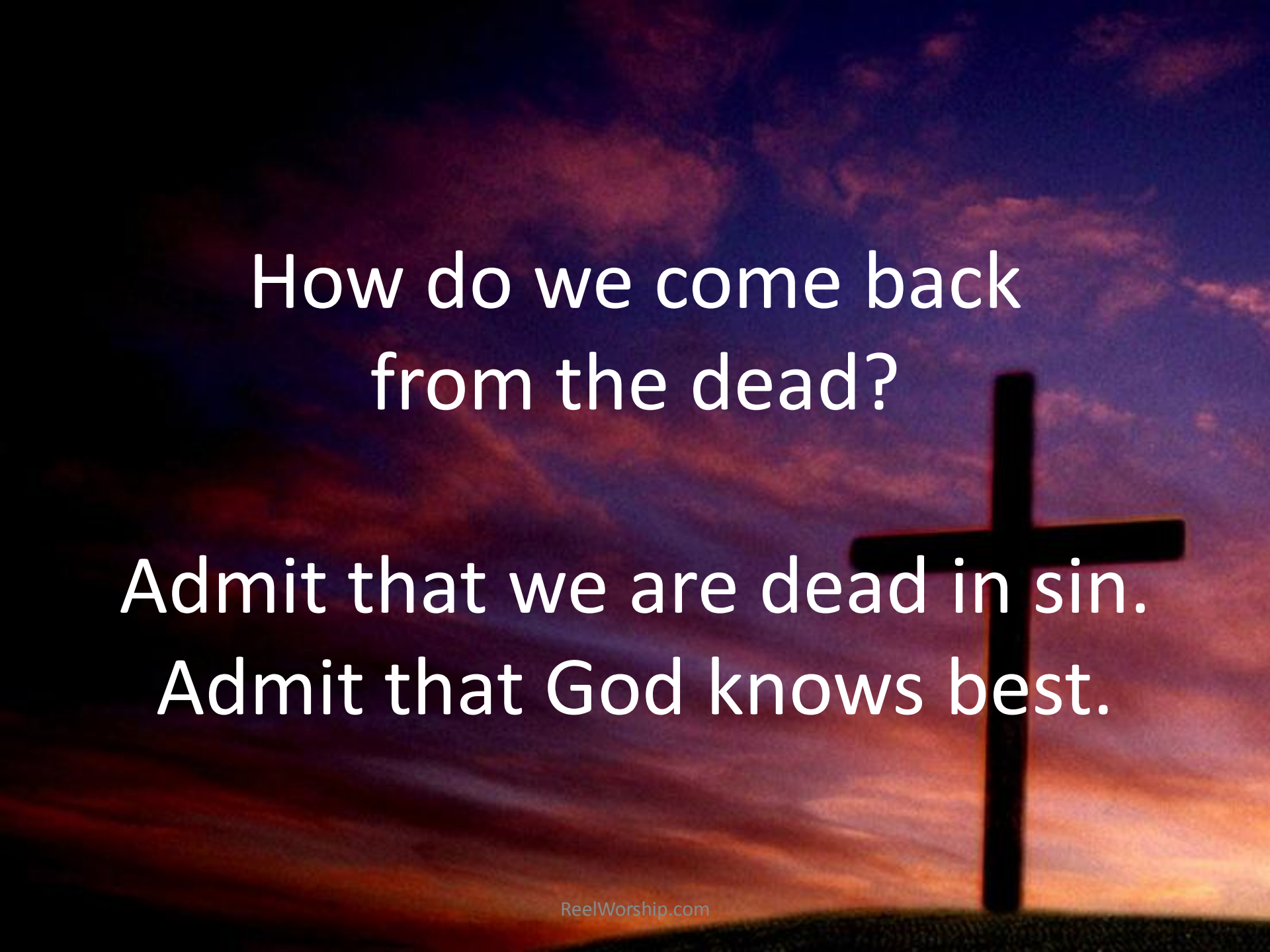
Many will be lost while hoping
and desiring to be Christians.

They do not now choose
to be Christians.

Joshua 24:15

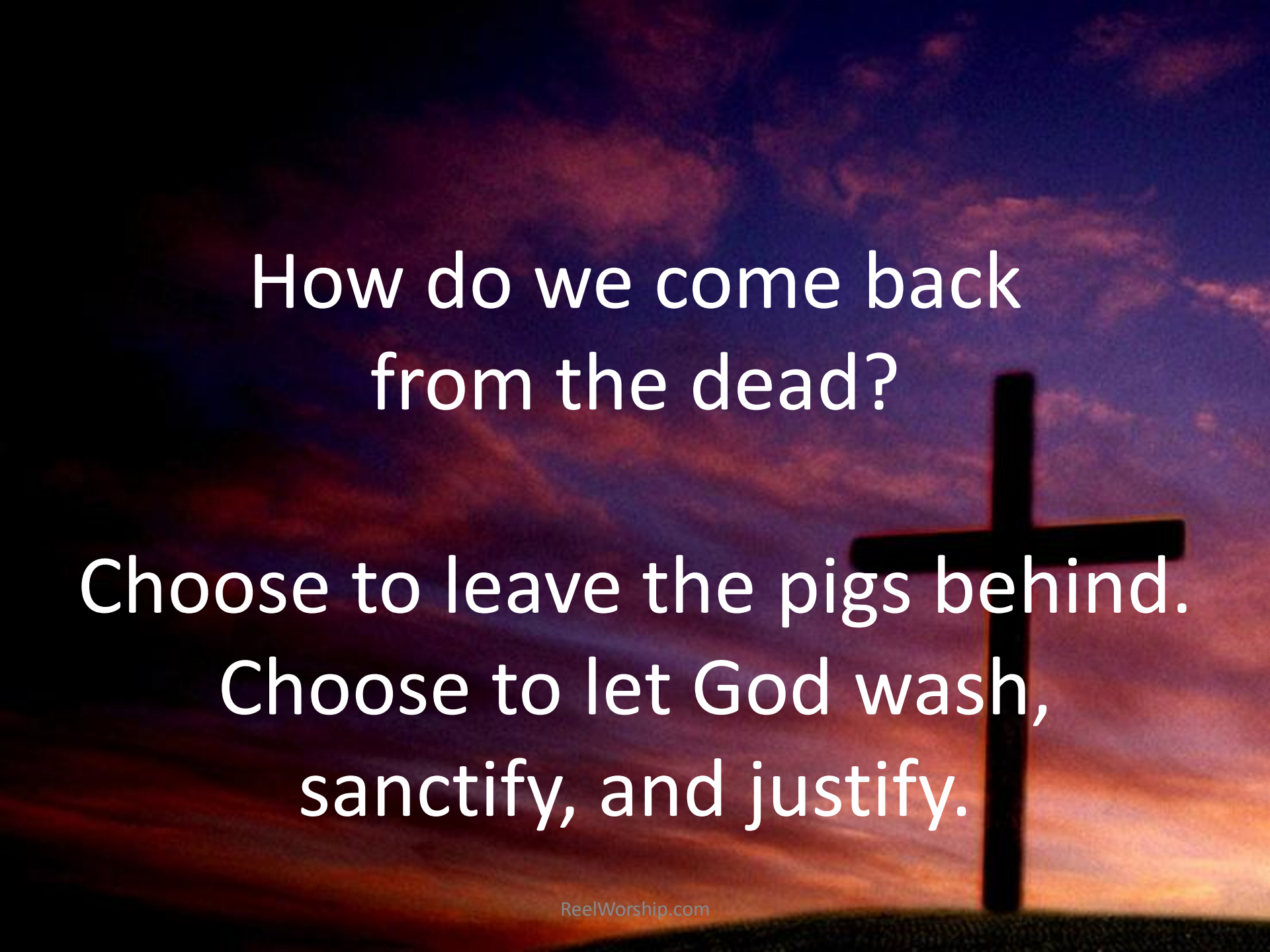
Choose for yourselves this day
whom you will serve... But as
for me and my house, we will
serve the Lord.





How do we come back
from the dead?

Admit that we are dead in sin.
Admit that God knows best.



How do we come back
from the dead?

Choose to leave the pigs behind.
Choose to let God wash,
sanctify, and justify.

