

part one:
the 'essence' of a witness



Sojourn of a Son

1. He stood there on the mount in glory bright

He must have had his Father in his sight

But He chose the valley road he saw our plight

He set his face - He bore his cross

-it was the sojourn of a son unto the throne

Sojourn of a Son

Chorus

It's the sojourn of a son, Where the world is not a home
Just an alien who pitched his tent along this lonely
road

A cross defines the way as faith endures its test

A distant joy, with pilgrim friends,

To cheer him to the end

Sojourn of a Son

2. With every step we take our heart gains light

As single eyes see heaven's view at night

Convinced till Kingdom come we must press on

Though sojourn may bring suffering

A soul's allegiance must be solely to the King

Sojourn of a Son

Chorus

It's the sojourn of a son, Where the world is not a home
Just an alien who pitched his tent along this lonely
road

A cross defines the way as faith endures its test

A distant joy, with pilgrim friends,

To cheer him to the end

Sojourn of a Son

Bridge:

Lower and slower and harder is the road

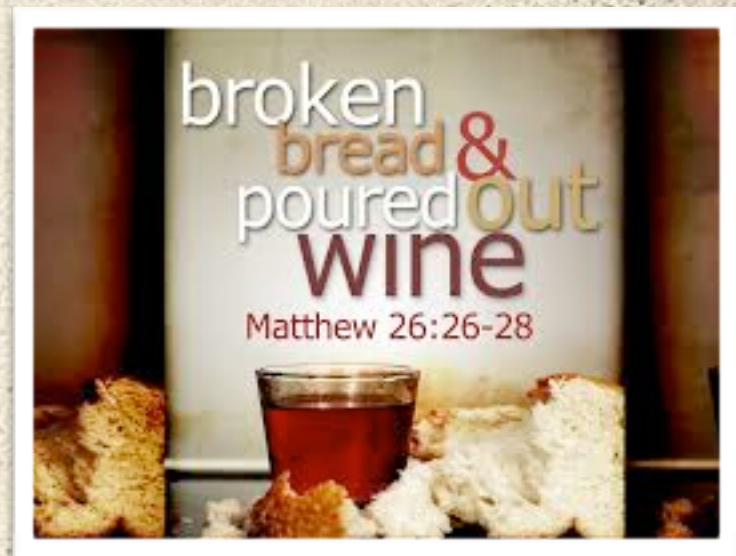
Higher and brighter and finer is the goal

Fewer and poorer and weaker here below

Fuller and deeper and richer in the soul

-it is the sojourn of a son unto the throne (2x)

part one: the 'essence' of a witness



“MY witnesses”

Acts 1.8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

“MY witnesses”

what does this
mean?



"MY witnesses"

are we to be
preachers?



street hawkers?

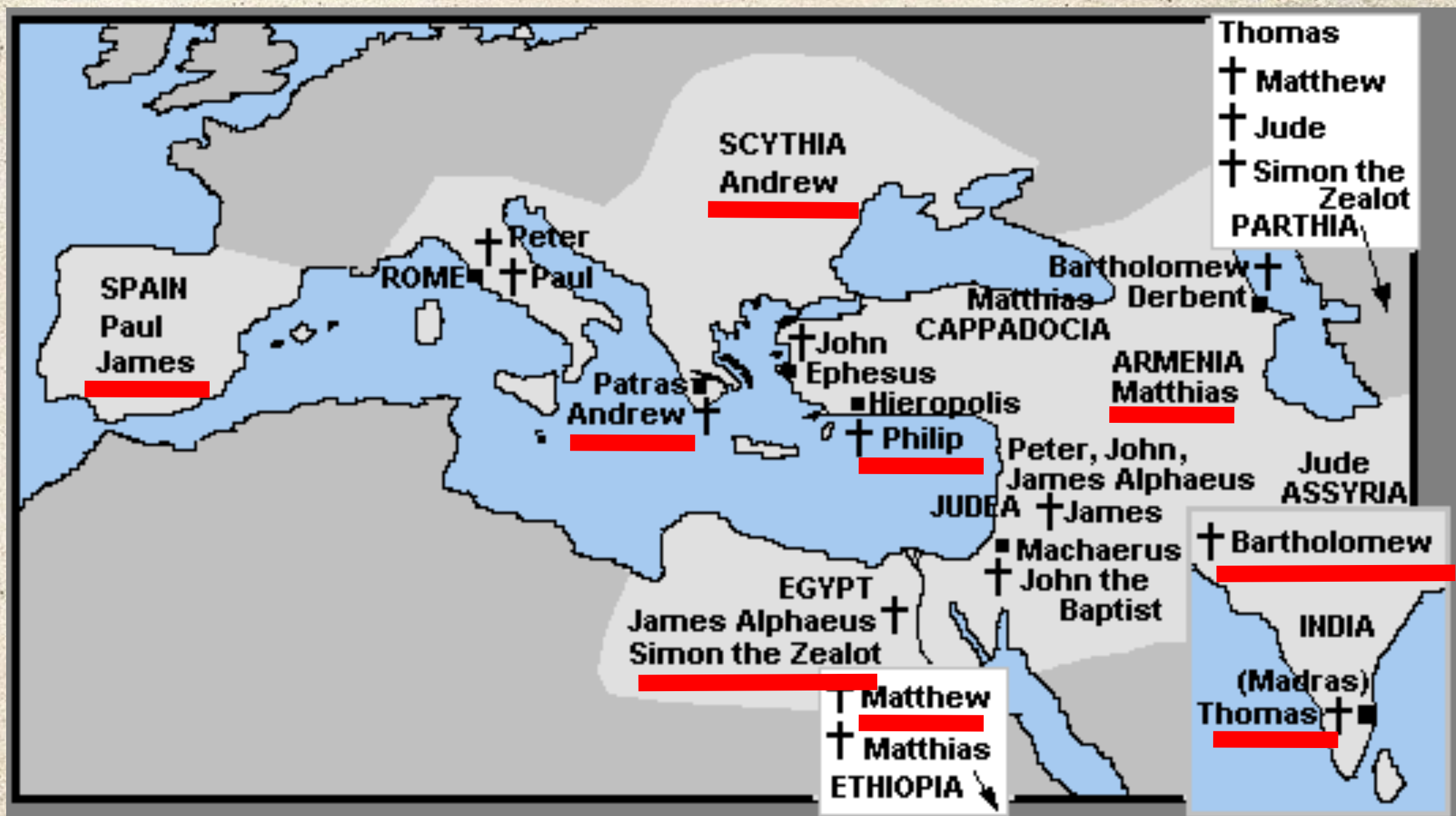


door-to-door
salesmen?



"MY witnesses"

the 12 disciples went to the 'uttermost'



"MY witnesses"

"My witnesses" is something very
big, important, wonderful

Isaiah 41-44 and "I AM"

Isa. 41.21ff. there is a case
pending in the global courtroom

the
case:
who is
the real
'God'?



Is. 41.21 ¶ “Present your case,” the
LORD says.

“Bring forward your strong
arguments,”

The King of Jacob says.

Isa. 41-44 the "I AM" is pitted
against little gods and idols

Is. 41.21 - the "I AM"
challenges the so-
called gods

Is. 41.24 "Behold, ye
are of nothing, and
your work is
nothing"

I AM

VS.



the "I AM" declares His 'absolute Sovereignty'

Isa. 43.9-13

- who understands the past?
- no god before my Face
- no savior beside me
- from eternity "I am"
- none can deliver but me
- I act irreversibly



Witnesses are also necessary in
this global court proceeding

Is. 44.8 'Do not tremble and do not be afraid;
Have I not long since announced it to you and
declared it?

And you **are My witnesses**.

Is there any God besides Me, or is there any other
Rock? I know of none.””

Is. 44.12 “It is I who have declared and saved and
proclaimed, and you **are my witnesses**” declares the
LORD, and I AM God.”

the importance of "MY witnesses"
becomes obvious

Israel's calling: ~ Israel's greatness was
to be **there was only one problem**
to ~ in fact the I AM
the "I AM" in the blessed and chose her
world court so she could witness (as
a light to the nations)

Israel failed as a witness

~ Israel was blind and
could not witness

Is. 42.18-20

~ what blinded God's
people to the I AM?

Is. 44.9



Idol

So God raised up His beloved Servant

- Isaiah 40-66 reveals the servant of God

* he came to witness to the nations of the I AM Is. 49.6

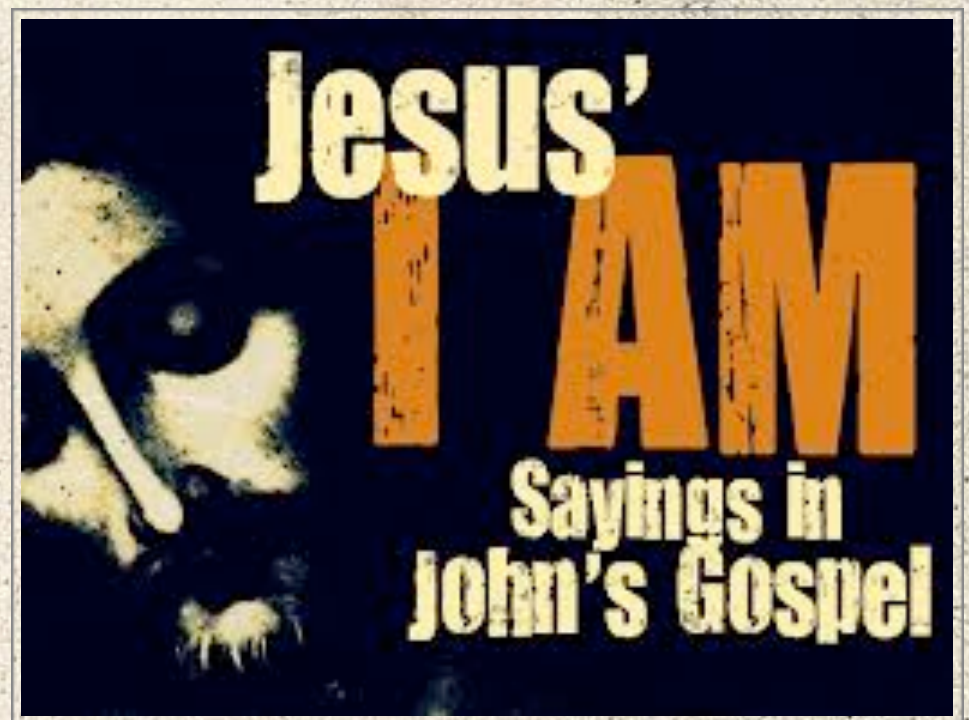
* he came as a witness to the truth of God Is. 55.4

* he came to give sight to his blind people Is. 42.7



Jesus came both as the I AM and died
as THE faithful and true witness

- in life revealed God's love
- in resurrection His Glory
- in ascension poured forth
the witnessing Holy Spirit
from heaven upon believers
- now Christians are to be
witnesses of the 'I AM'



when we witness, the Holy Spirit
always adds his witness

Acts 5.32

“And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

John 15.26-27 ¶ “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

How important is our calling

together we witness

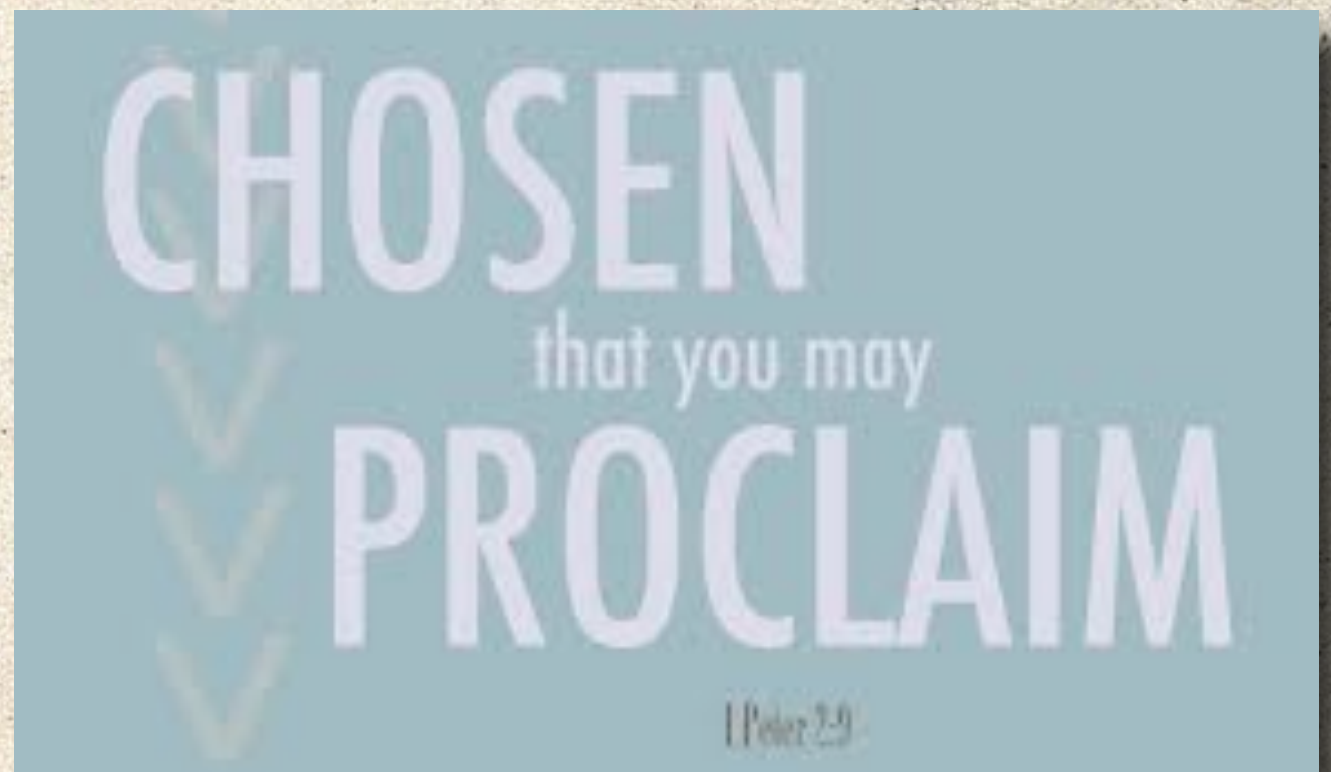
- who He is
- His sovereignty
- His redeeming love
- the truth of Jesus Christ

We are eyewitnesses



our 'reason for being'
is witnessing

1Pet. 2.9 ¶ But you are
A CHOSEN RACE, A
royal PRIESTHOOD,
A HOLY NATION, A
PEOPLE FOR God's
OWN POSSESSION,
so that you may
proclaim the
excellencies of Him
who has called you
out of darkness into
His marvelous light;



your act of witnessing flows out
of your essence as a witness

- Matt. 5.16 “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.



By contrast, in the world there are those
with 'large' souls but no 'spirit'

Gaining the world

- big intellect

- big money

- big ego

- big name

- big game

= big soul, dead spirit



witnesses are those whose full spirit
produces 'expansiveness of soul'

Knowing the Lord

- generous heart
- compassion for others
- bigger picture of life
- sees beauty inside and out
- spiritual largeness because of
an inner relationship with God



a witness has an incredible largeness of being

it's the largeness of the I AM in you

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poised in crisis

includes the 'God' view of things

elevates the lives of those around them

embraces a large view in all plans

filled with the Holy Spirit

"Got tired of living large."

why is being a witness such a significant spiritual issue?

three reasons:

1. the enemy loses ground whenever a witness can identify the I AM from experience

Matt. 10.22 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Matt. 10.25 "It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!

why is being a witness such a significant spiritual issue?

2nd reason: it is the primary meaning of bearing our cross

Luke 9.23 ¶ And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Luke 9.24 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

Luke 9.25 "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

Luke 9.26 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

the cross of witnessing sometimes
includes denying ourselves 'good' things'



why is being a witness such a significant spiritual issue?

3rd reason: being a witness (= marturia) is costly, and therefore exudes a beautiful fragrance—a sacrifice worthy of kingdom reward



God receives an aromatic offering through
the sacrificial life of devoted witnesses

C. T. Studd

1860-1931

**English missionary to China, India,
and Africa**

**Some want to live
within the sound
of church or chapel bell;
I want to run
a rescue shop**



**"If Jesus Christ is God and died for me,
then no sacrifice can be too great
for me to make for Him."**

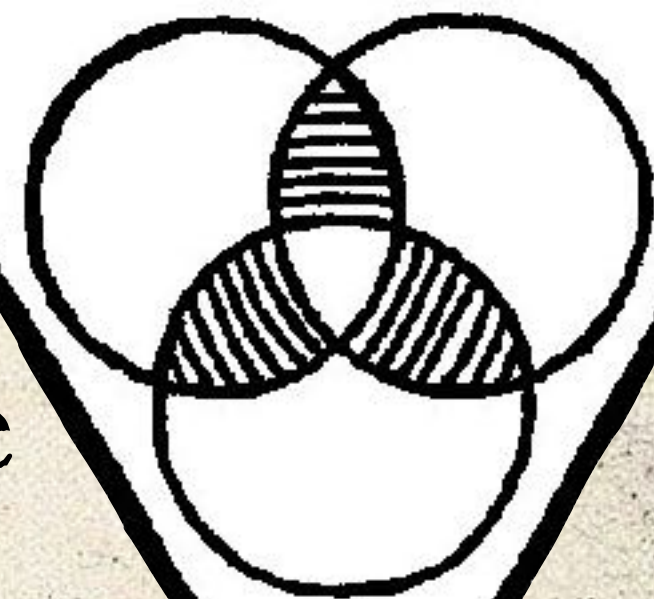
a door waits before us

the Lord is looking for a
consecrated witness to
testify of His salvation
to the world



a door waits before us

ZEITGEIST



His call is generation-
specific because the
zeitgeist varies with
each generation

You are the door



The catch of witness is: your generation
produced the present zeitgeist so
you hold the keys to its modality

You are the door

The 'old' gospel
wineskins cannot
hold the new wine
witness

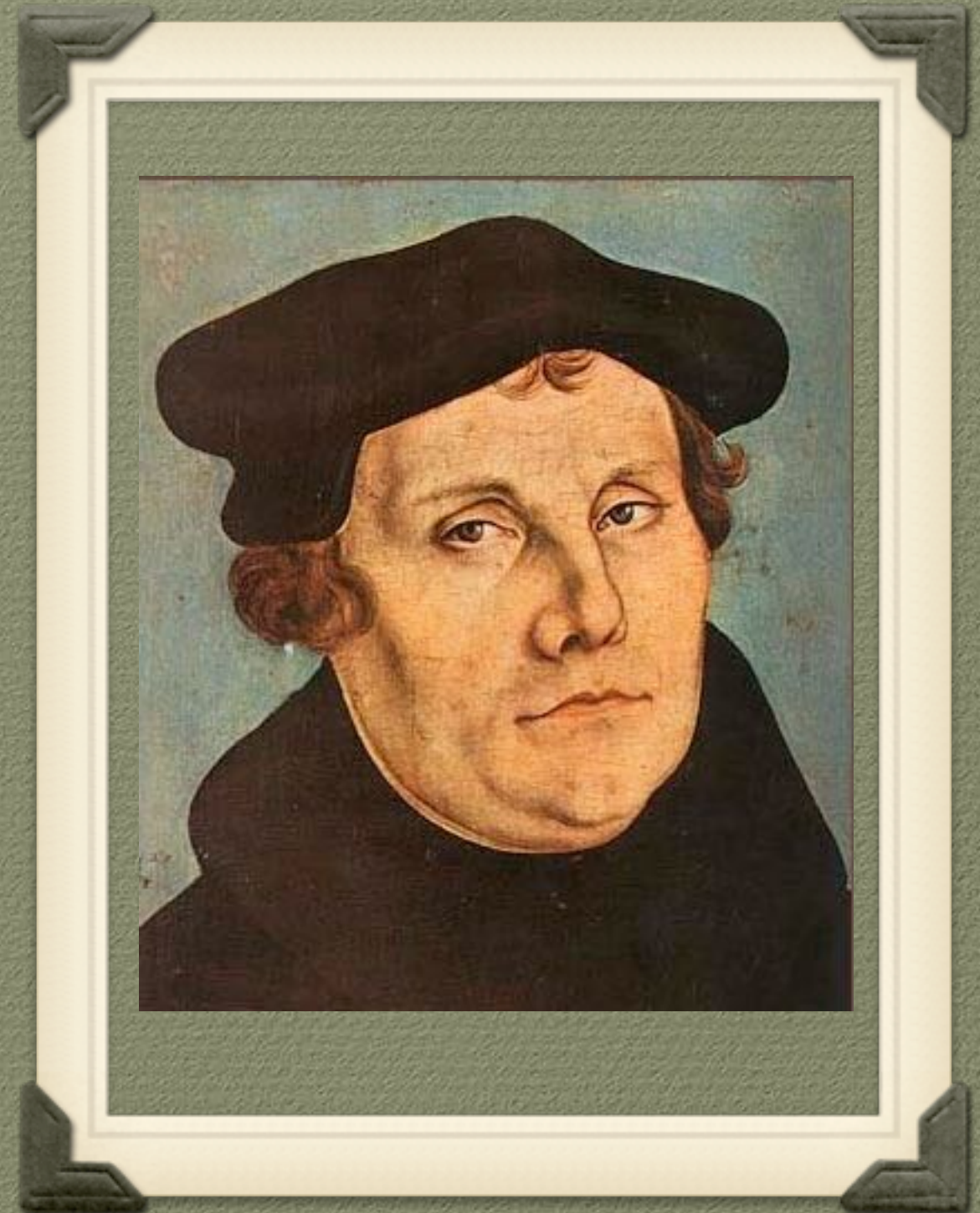


You are the door

The one great lie
that hinders the
‘I am’ witness is
believing you’re
still too young



MARTIN LUTHER -
AT 33YRS.
STOOD AGAINST
THE ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



ZWINGLI
AT 34 YRS.
FREED THE
SWISS FROM THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH



JOHN CALVIN
WROTE
“INSTITUTES”,
RULED AND LED
CHRISTIANS IN
GENEVA BY 26
YRS.



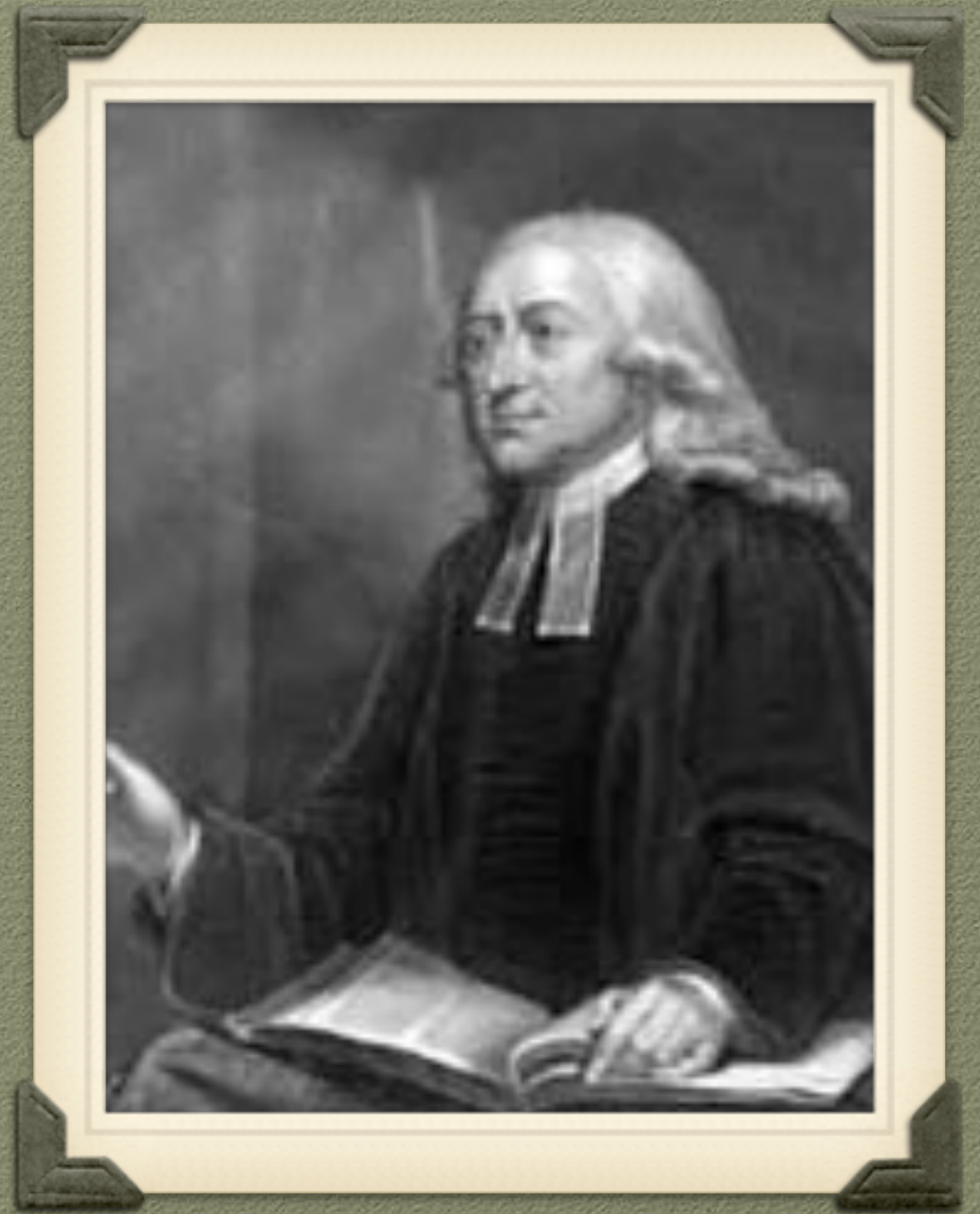
JOHN KNOX
CALVINIST WHO
ESTABLISHED THE
CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND AT 30
YRS.



GEORGE FOX
AT 19YRS. BEGAN
ITINERANT
PREACHING AND
SEARCH FOR
SPIRITUAL
REALITY =
QUAKERS

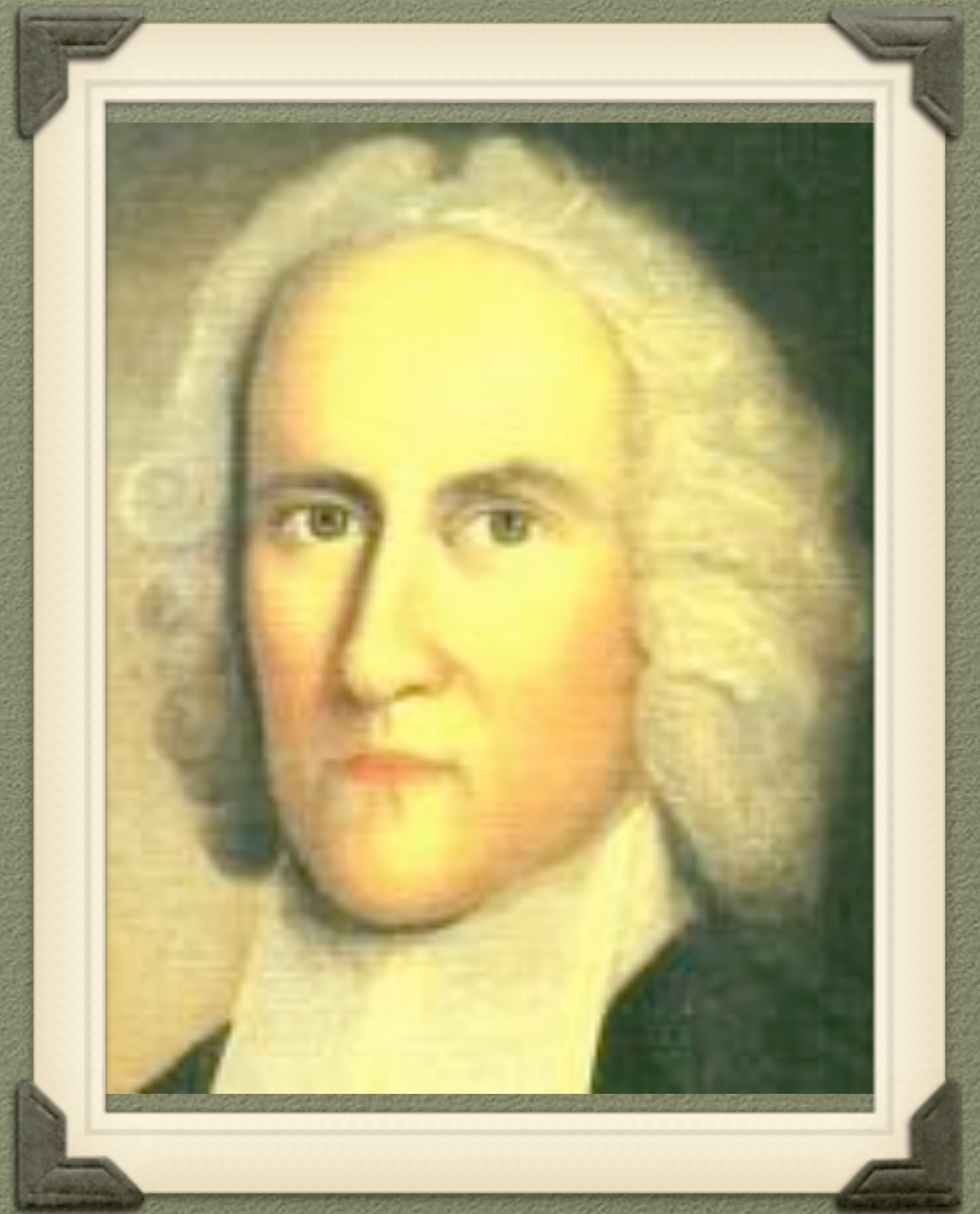


JOHN WESLEY
AT 20YRS.
BECAME A
MISSIONARY AND
'SANCTIFIED' AT
35 YRS.



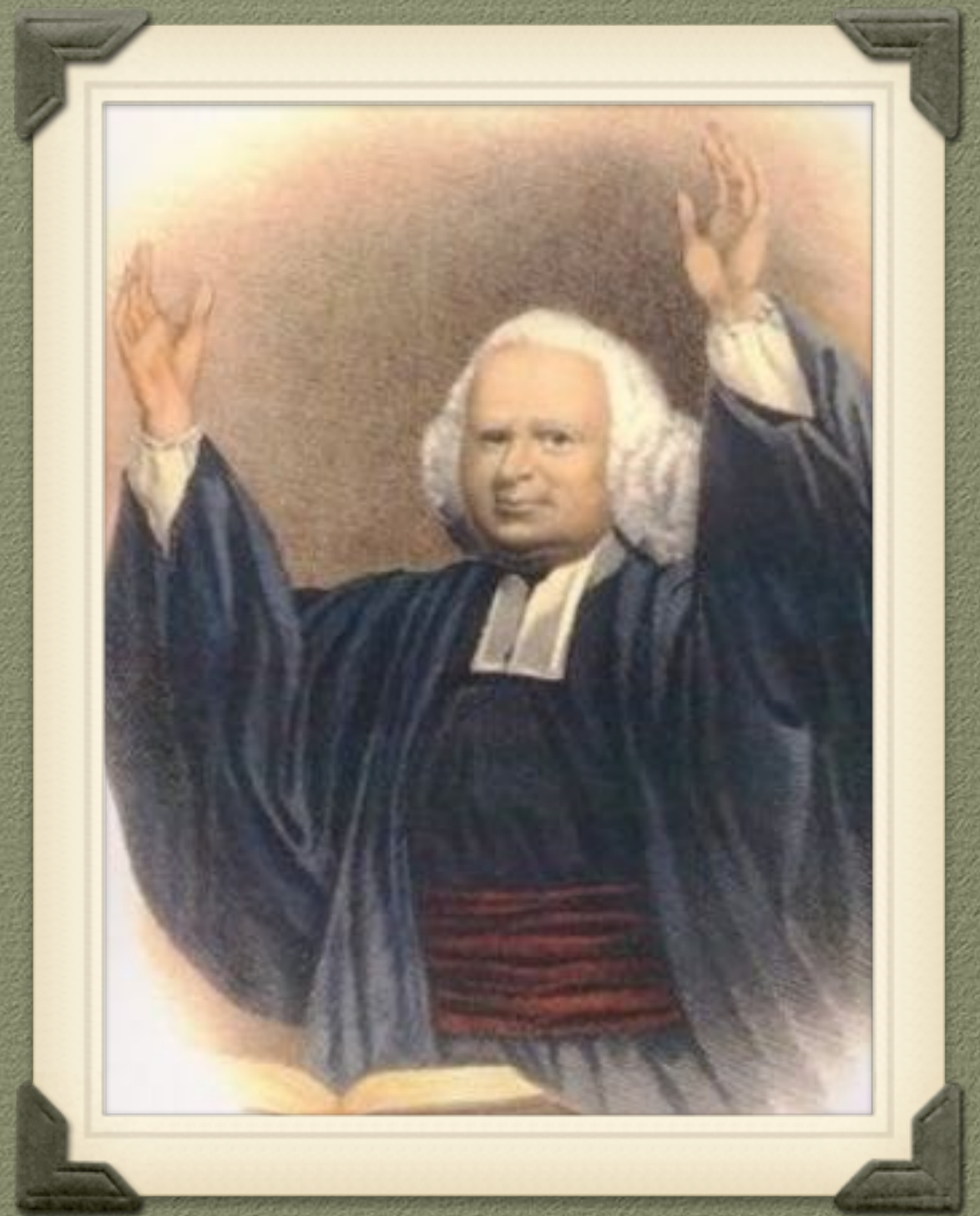
JONATHAN
EDWARDS

AT 24 BECAME
PASTOR IN CONN.
AND AT 31
STARTED
AMERICA'S GREAT
AWAKENING OF
THE 1730's



GEORGE
WHITEFIELD

AT 18 YRS.
PREACHED THROUGH
ENGLAND. AT
24YRS. PREACHED
POWERFULLY IN
AMERICA'S GREAT
AWAKENING OF THE
1730's

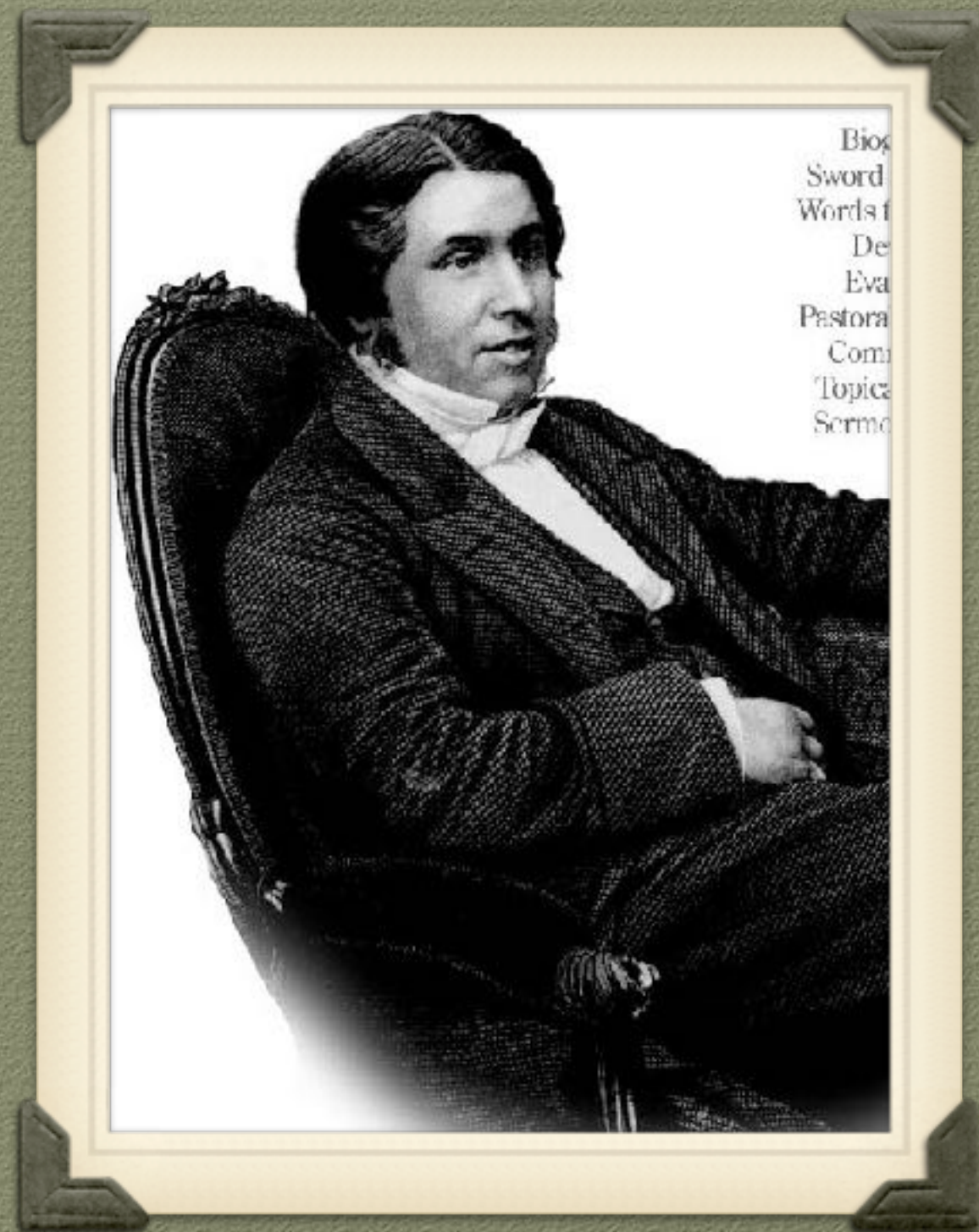


D.L. MOODY
- AT 20 YRS.
STARTED THE SS
MOVEMENT IN
CHICAGO WITH
650 KIDS- AT 35
BROUGHT
REVIVAL TO
ENGLAND



CHARLES SPURGEON

- AT 16 STARTED
PREACHING AND
BY 21 BECAME
PASTOR OF
6000 MEMBER
METROPOLITAN
TABERNACLE



J.N. DARBY

- AT 25 LEFT
LAWYERING TO
BECOME A
PREACHER AND
AT 27 FOUNDED
THE BRETHREN
MOVEMENT



GEORGE MUELLER

- AT 25 CAME
FROM GERMANY
AS A PREACHER
AND BY 30 HAD
ESTABLISHED
AN ORPHANAGE



HUDSON TAYLOR

LEFT MEDICAL
STUDIES TO GO
TO CHINA AT 22
YRS. WITH A
VISION OF THE
CHINA INLAND
MISSION



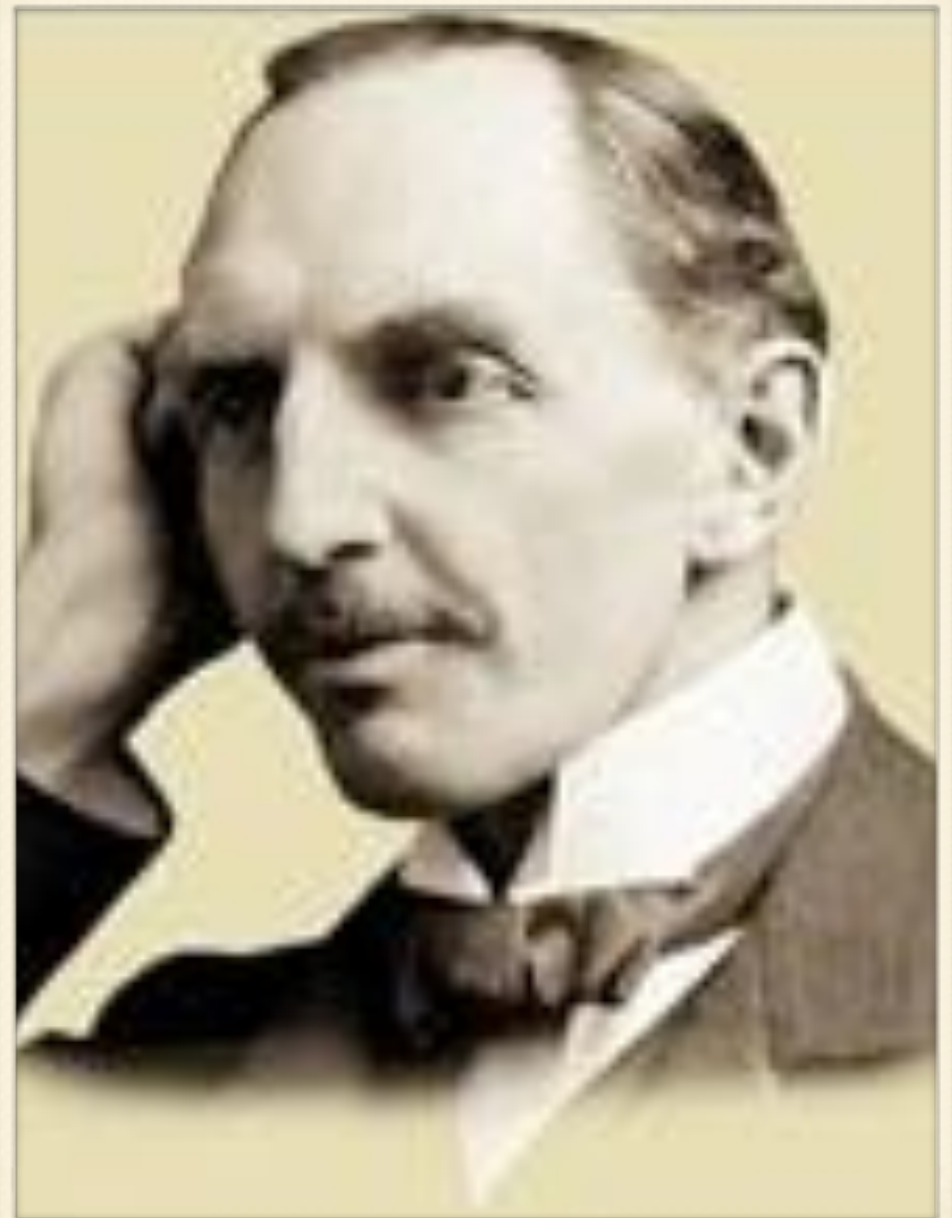
MARGARET
BARBER

AT 30YRS. FIRST
WENT OUT TO
CHINA. PRAYED
20 YRS. FOR GOD
TO RAISE UP
YOUNG MEN. MET
NEE AT 54 YRS.



C.T. STUDD

AT 25 YRS. LEFT
WITH THE
'CAMBRIDGE 7' TO
BECOME A
MISSIONARY IN
CHINA, INDIA AND
AFRICA



WATCHMAN NEE

AT 21 YRS. STARTED
SERVING GOD IN
FOOCHOW AND
SHANGHAI WITH A
VISION FOR ALL
CHINA



EVAN ROBERTS

AT 26 YRS. WAS THE
INSTRUMENT THE
LORD USED TO
CARRY THE WELSH
REVIVAL OF 1904-5

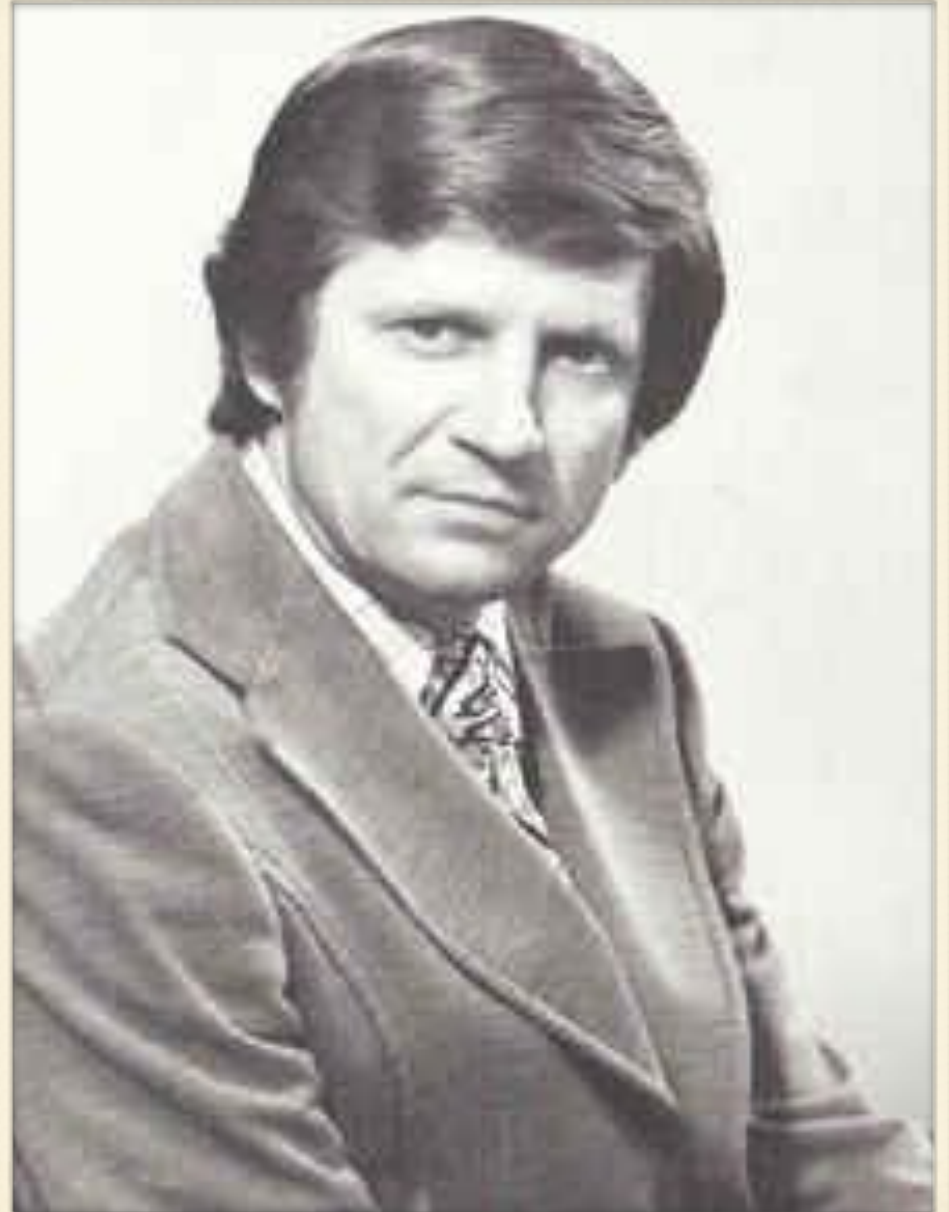


STEPHEN KAUNG

AT 20 YRS. WAS
PREACHING THE
GOSPEL AND
WORKING WITH
WATCHMAN NEE



DAVID WILKERSON
AT 14 YRS BEGAN
PREACHING AND AT
27 YRS STARTED
TEEN CHALLENGE
TO HELP GANG
MEMBERS OVERCOME
DRUG ADDICTION



FRANCIS CHAN
AT 27 YRS STARTED
MEGA CHURCH
CORNERSTONE IN
CALIFORNIA. IN 2008
GAVE ALL HIS \$2
MILLION IN ASSETS
AWAY TO SERVE GOD
IN A HOUSE CHURCH
MOVEMENT IN SAN
FRANCISCO BAY AREA



GREG LOWRY

AT 17 WAS SAVED
DURING THE JESUS
MOVEMENT AND BEGAN
A BIBLE STUDY 2 YRS
LATER THAT BECAME
THE MEGA CHURCH
HARVEST CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP AND
HOLDS LARGE YOUTH
HARVEST CRUSADES
AROUND THE WORLD.



JEREMIAH THE PROPHET

JER. 1.4-7 ¶ Now the word of the
LORD came to me saying,
“Before I formed you in the
womb I knew you,
And before you were born I
consecrated you;
I have appointed you a prophet
to the nations.”
Then I said, “Alas, Lord GOD!
Behold, I do not know how to
speak,
Because I am a youth.”
But the LORD said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’
Because everywhere I send you,
you shall go,
And all that I command you, you
shall speak.



YOU?

CALLING TO
MINISTRY USUALLY
BEGINS WITH BEING
A DOOR OF
WITNESS. WHAT
DOOR ARE YOU
KNOCKING FOR
JESUS?



next time: the doing
of a witness



We are His witness

We are the Lord's, We are His witness

We're unashamed of the gospel's power

So let's start sharing;

There's a cross we've taken,

We're sowing gospel seed

It's time to heed the Master's call.

O Lord, send me