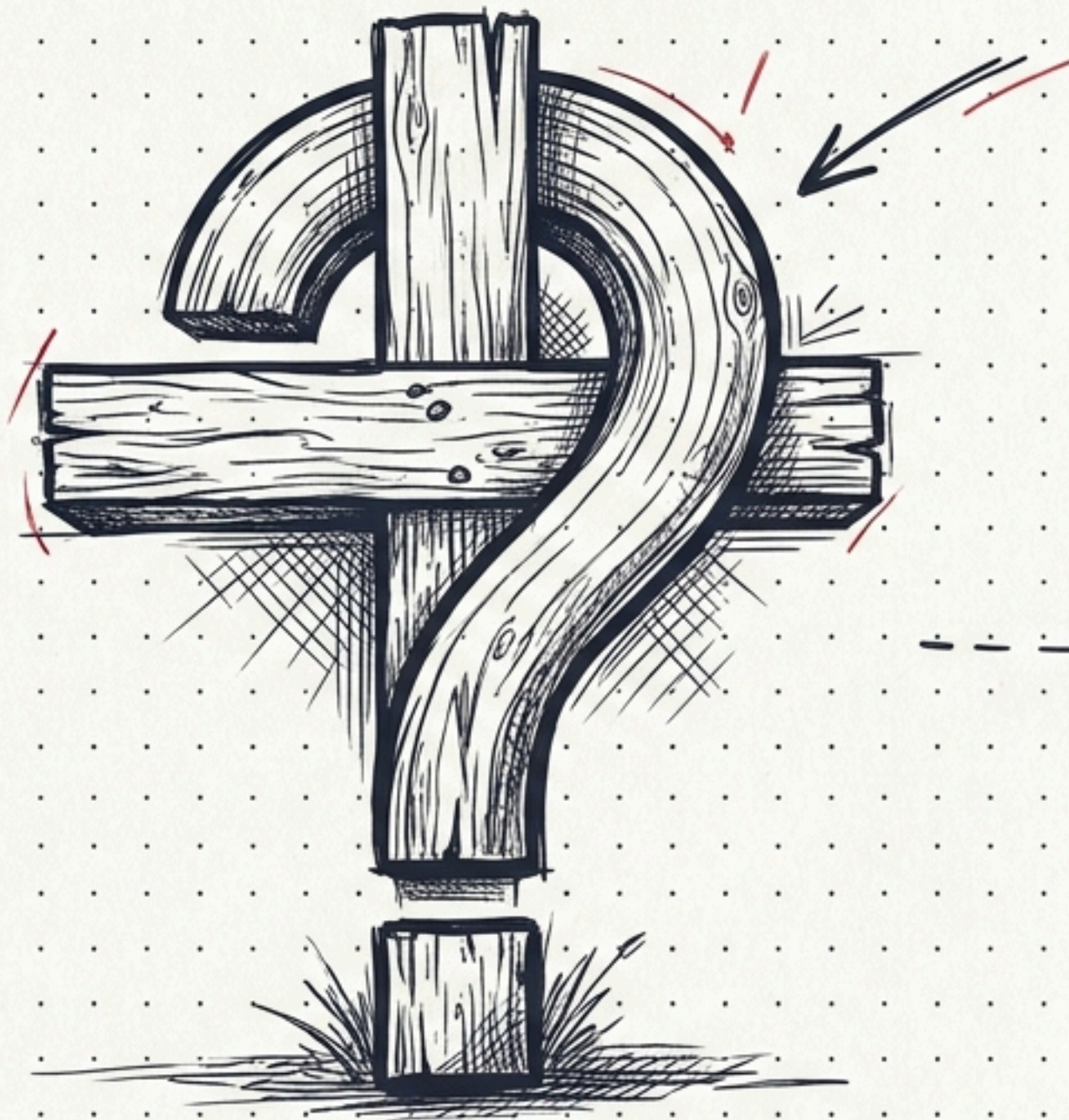




The Dynamic Covenant

Can Salvation Be Lost? Unpacking the Biblical Evidence.



The 2 A.M. Question

This might be the single most terrifying question a Christian can ask. It has ended friendships, split churches, and kept sincere believers awake at 2 a.m.

Can a genuine, born-again believer choose to walk away and be lost forever? The modern church gives two conflicting answers. We need to look at the biblical evidence.

Redefining Salvation

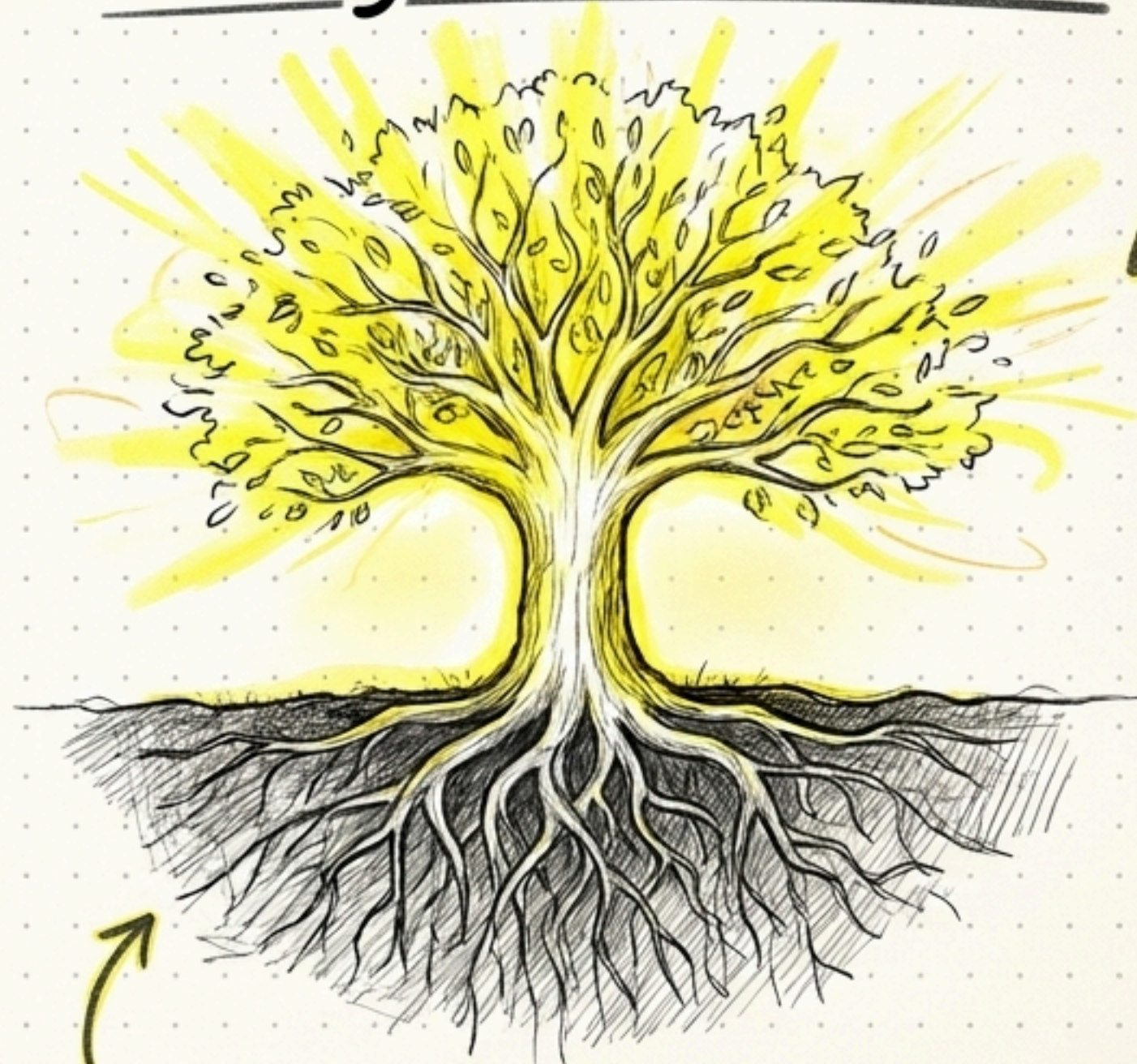
The Transaction



In the New Testament, the Greek word for faith is pistis. It doesn't just mean intellectual agreement. It means trust, allegiance, and fidelity.

A one-time past event.
You sign the line, get your ticket, and put it in your wallet.

The Dynamic Covenant



An ongoing, living relationship.

The Anatomy of Free Will

Salvation is by grace through faith. God provides the grace; we respond with faith. God honors human free will. He does not magically lobotomize your volition the moment you get baptized. The same free will used to follow Jesus can be used to stop following Him.



God's Faithfulness: He never breaks His side of the covenant.

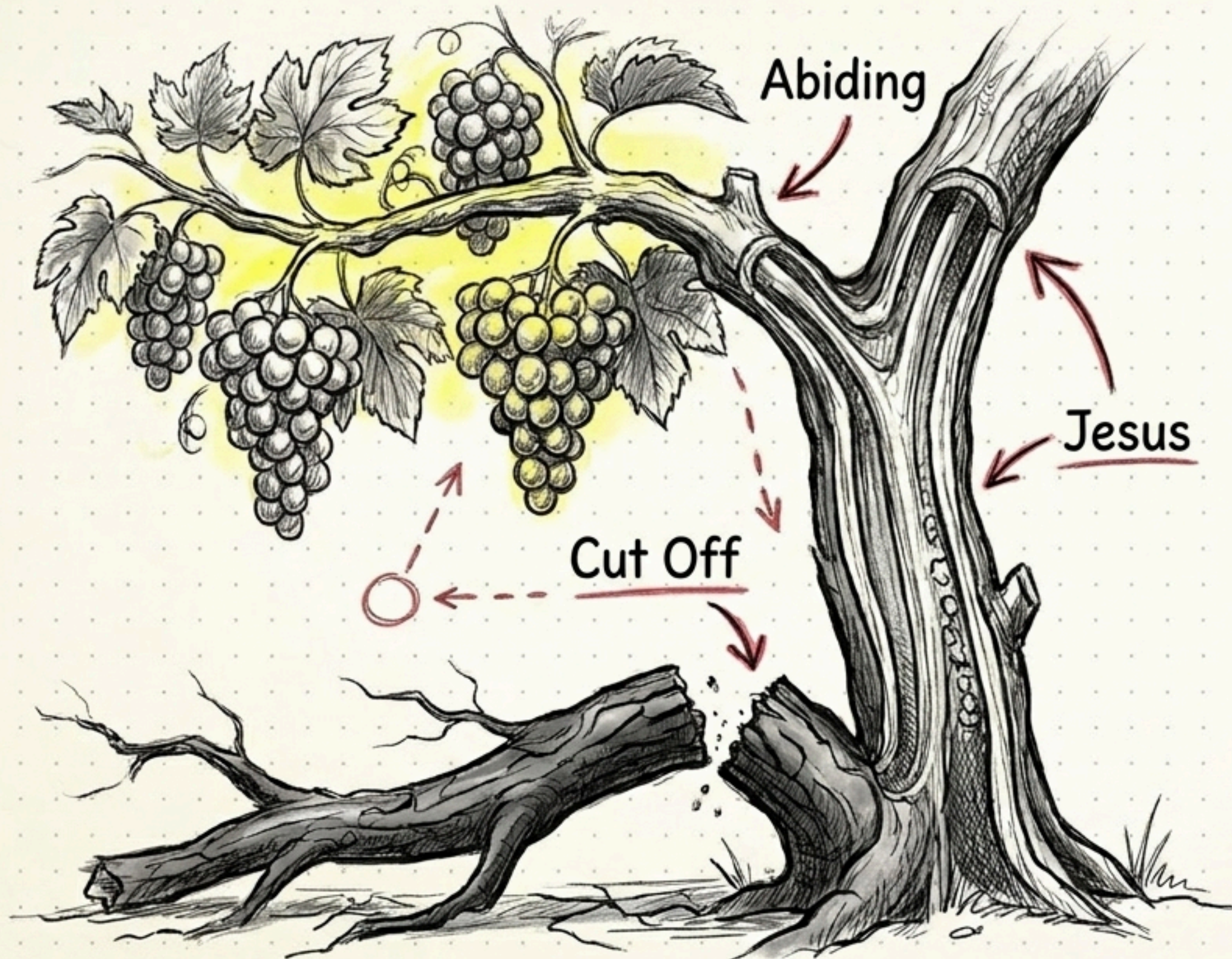


God's Faithfulness: He never breaks His side of the covenant.

Human Free Will:
The weak link is always us.



The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-6)



Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away... thrown into the fire, and burned.



Notice the phrase "Every branch in me." You cannot be cut off from a vine unless you were originally, organically attached to it. These are not outsiders; these are connected believers who failed to remain.

The Warning Signs (Hebrews 6:4-6)

Written to persecuted Jewish Christians tempted to slide back into old covenants, the author drops a sobering warning.

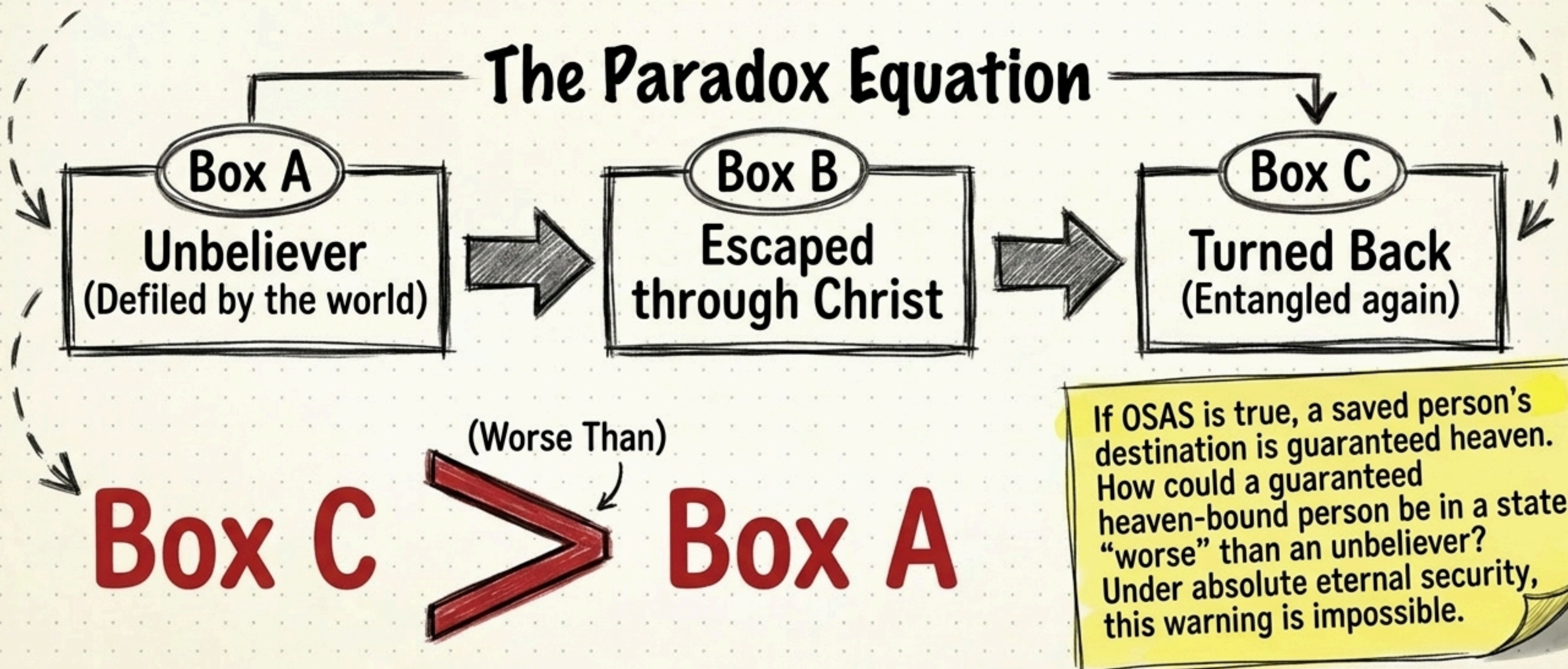


This vocabulary exhaustively describes a completely transformed, born-again Christian (you cannot "share in the Holy Spirit" if you are faking it). Yet, the text says it is possible for them to *parapipto*—to completely fall away from the path.

The "Last State" Paradox (2 Peter 2:20-22)

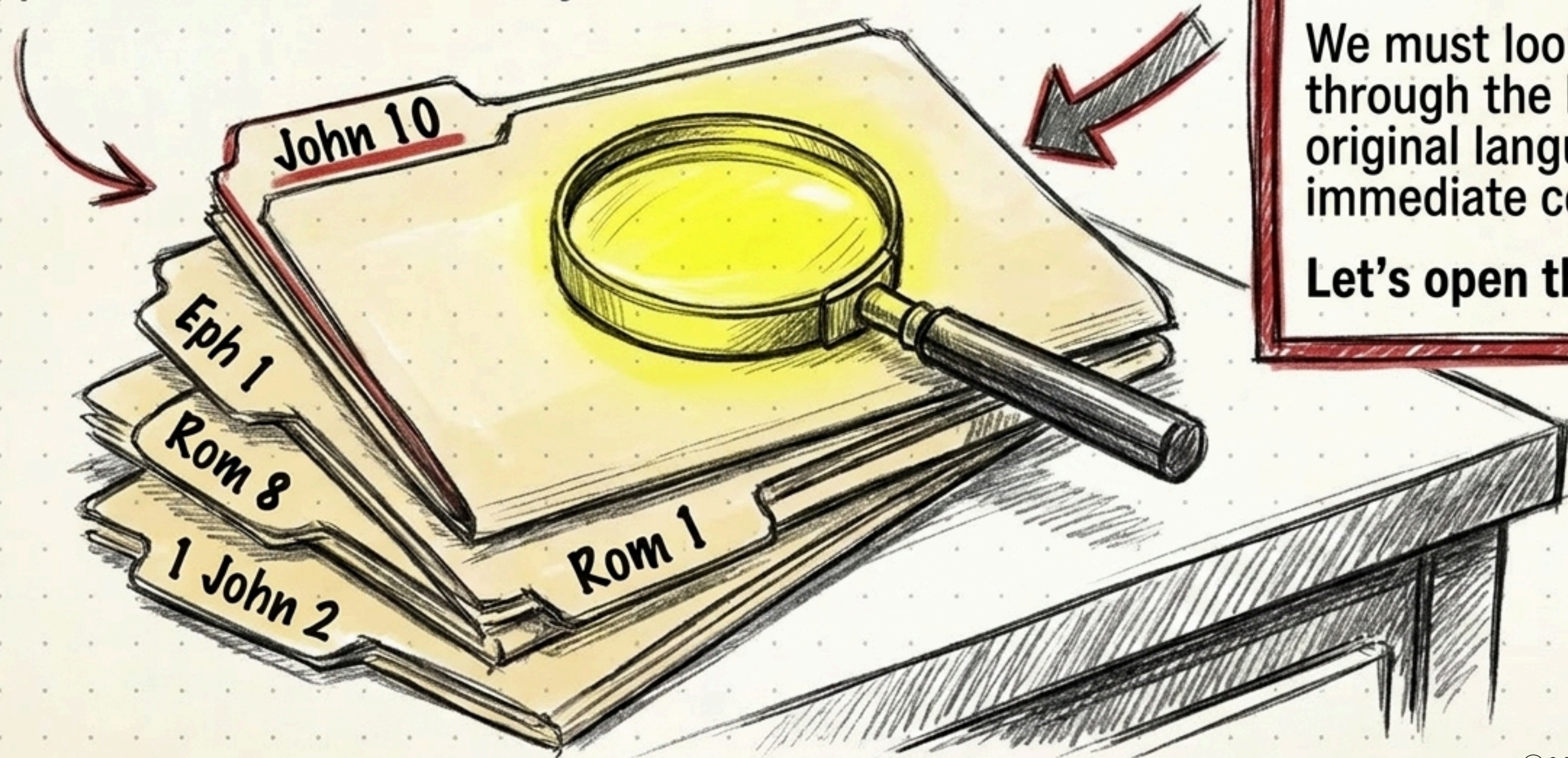
Peter explicitly states that knowing the truth and then totally abandoning it places a person in a far more dangerous position than if they had never heard the gospel at all.

The Paradox Equation



Deconstructing the Defenses

Proponents of “Once Saved, Always Saved” point to specific proof-texts that, at first glance, seem to support unconditional security.

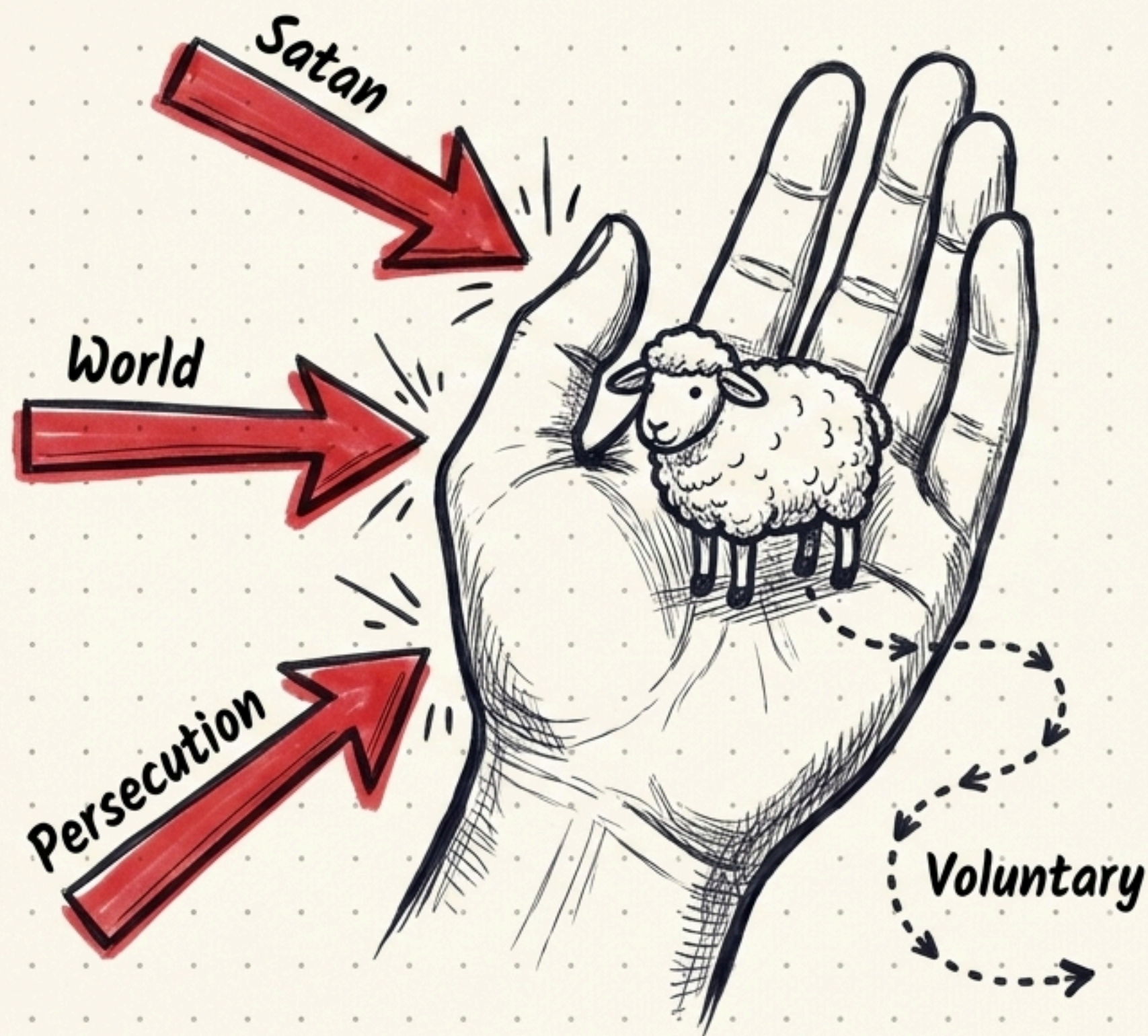


To find the truth,
we cannot just lift
single verses.

We must look
through the lens of
original language and
immediate context.

Let's open the files.

Case 1: The Snatching (John 10:28)



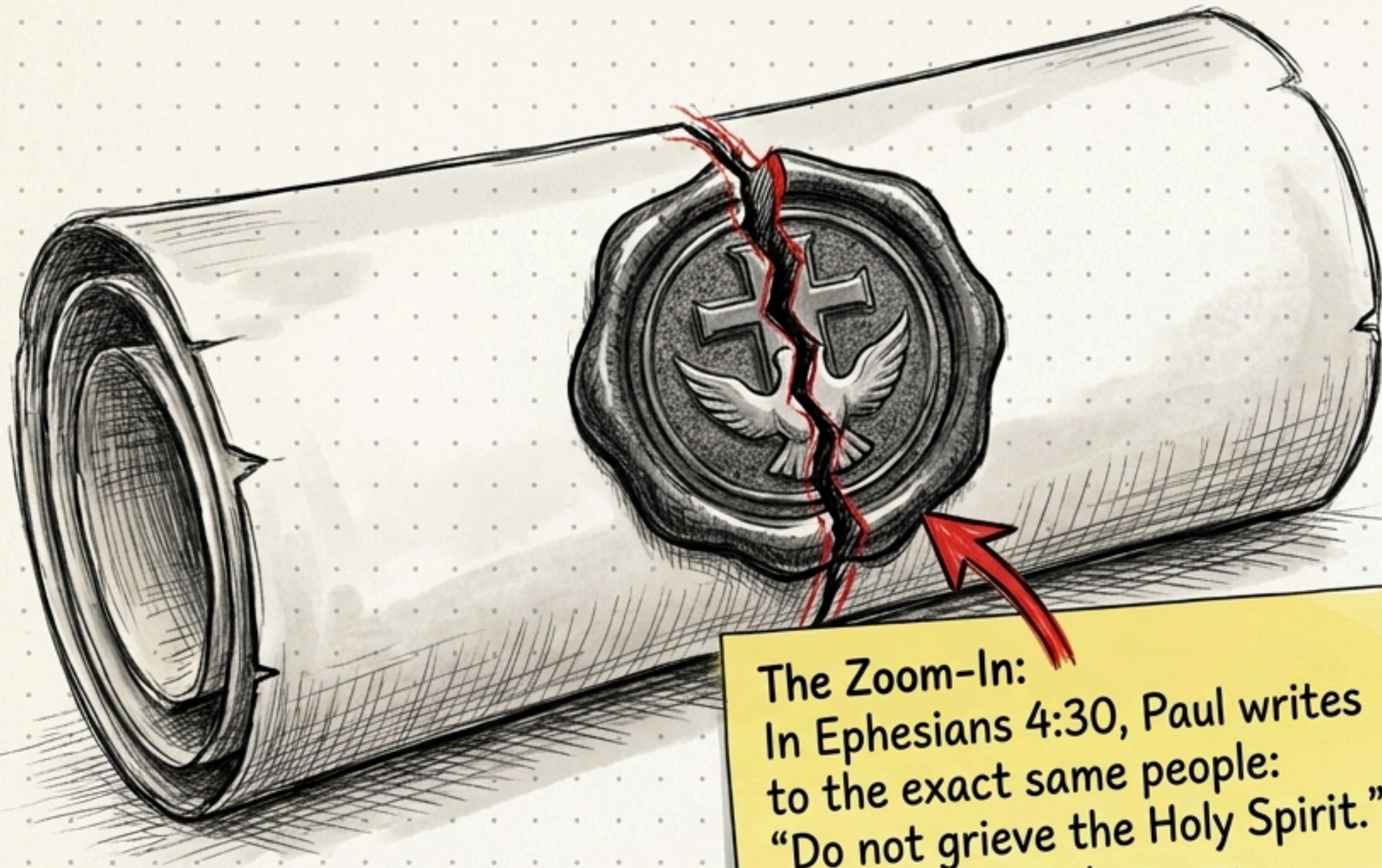
The Claim: "No one will snatch them out of my hand." (Absolute security).

The Zoom-In: Look at verse 27. "My sheep hear my voice... and follow me." In the original Greek text, "hear" and "follow" are in the present continuous tense.



Conclusion: Jesus promises absolute protection from external forces to those actively maintaining their relationship. He does not say a sheep cannot willingly choose to stop listening and walk away.

Case 2: The Seal (Ephesians 1:13)

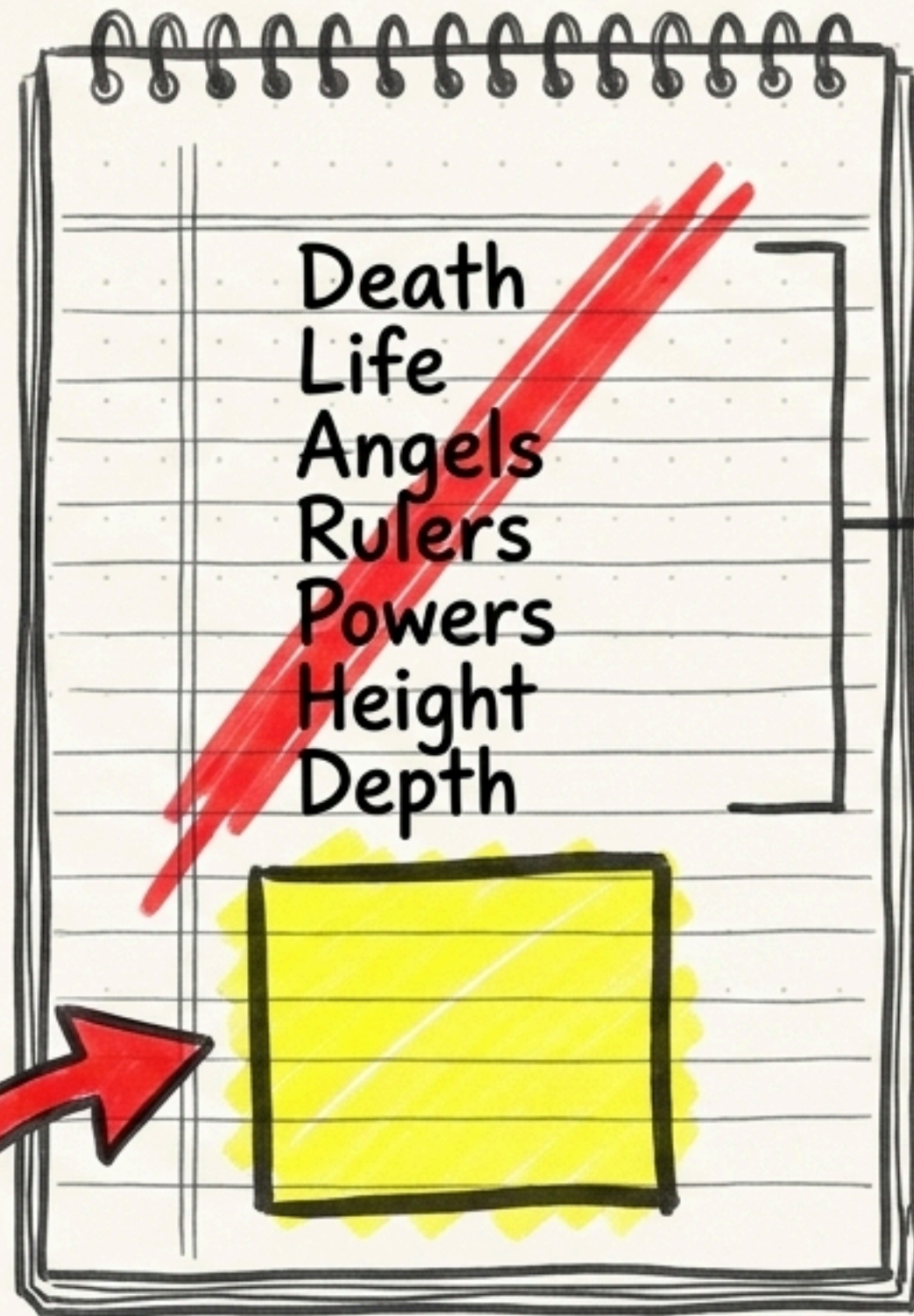


The Zoom-In:
In Ephesians 4:30, Paul writes to the exact same people:
“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.”
In 1 Thess 5:19, he says:
“Do not quench the Spirit.”

The Claim: We are “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.” The box is locked permanently.

Conclusion: An ancient seal indicated security, but it wasn't a magic spell erasing human agency. The seal remains as long as you remain in the covenant. If you break the covenant through unrepentant rebellion, you break the seal.

Case 3: The Separation (Romans 8:38-39)



Noticeably Absent: YOU.

The Claim: "Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God."

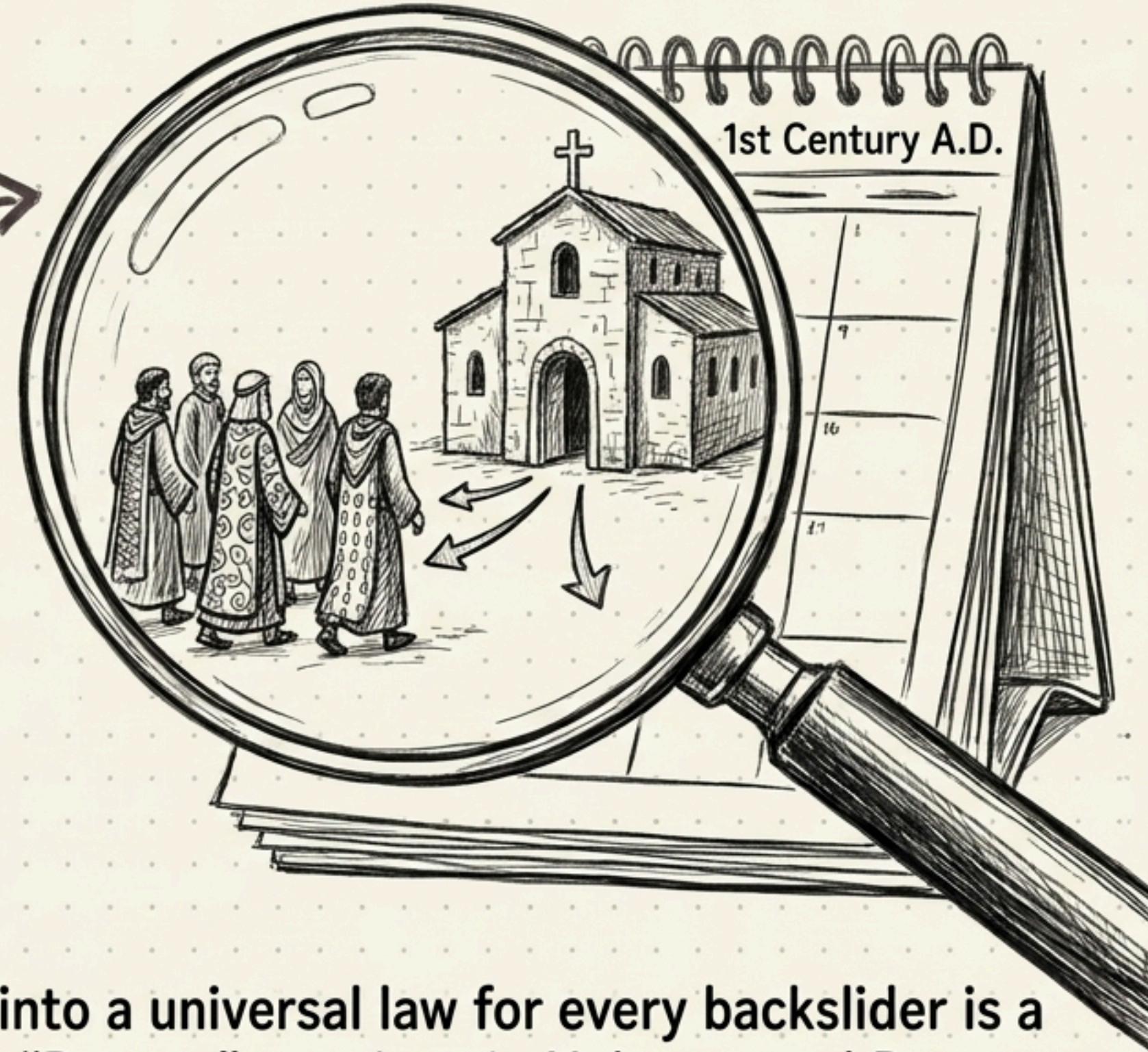
The Zoom-In: Look carefully at the exhaustive list. Paul lists physical death, spiritual principalities, and cosmic powers to reassure a persecuted church that a hostile world cannot break their bond with Jesus.

External things cannot separate you from God, but Paul never says you cannot separate yourself from God through persistent unfaithfulness.

Case 4: “Never Truly Saved” (1 John 2:19)

The Claim: “They went out from us... that it might become plain they all are not of us.” (If you leave, you were faking it all along).

The Zoom-In: Context matters. John is writing about a specific group of early false teachers (pre-Gnostic antichrists) who infiltrated the church. They left because they never shared the true apostolic faith.



Conclusion: Turning a specific historical observation into a universal law for every backslider is a theological leap. If it were a universal law, the severe “Danger” warnings in Hebrews and Peter would be nonsensical. You don’t warn people of a cliff they are physically incapable of walking off.

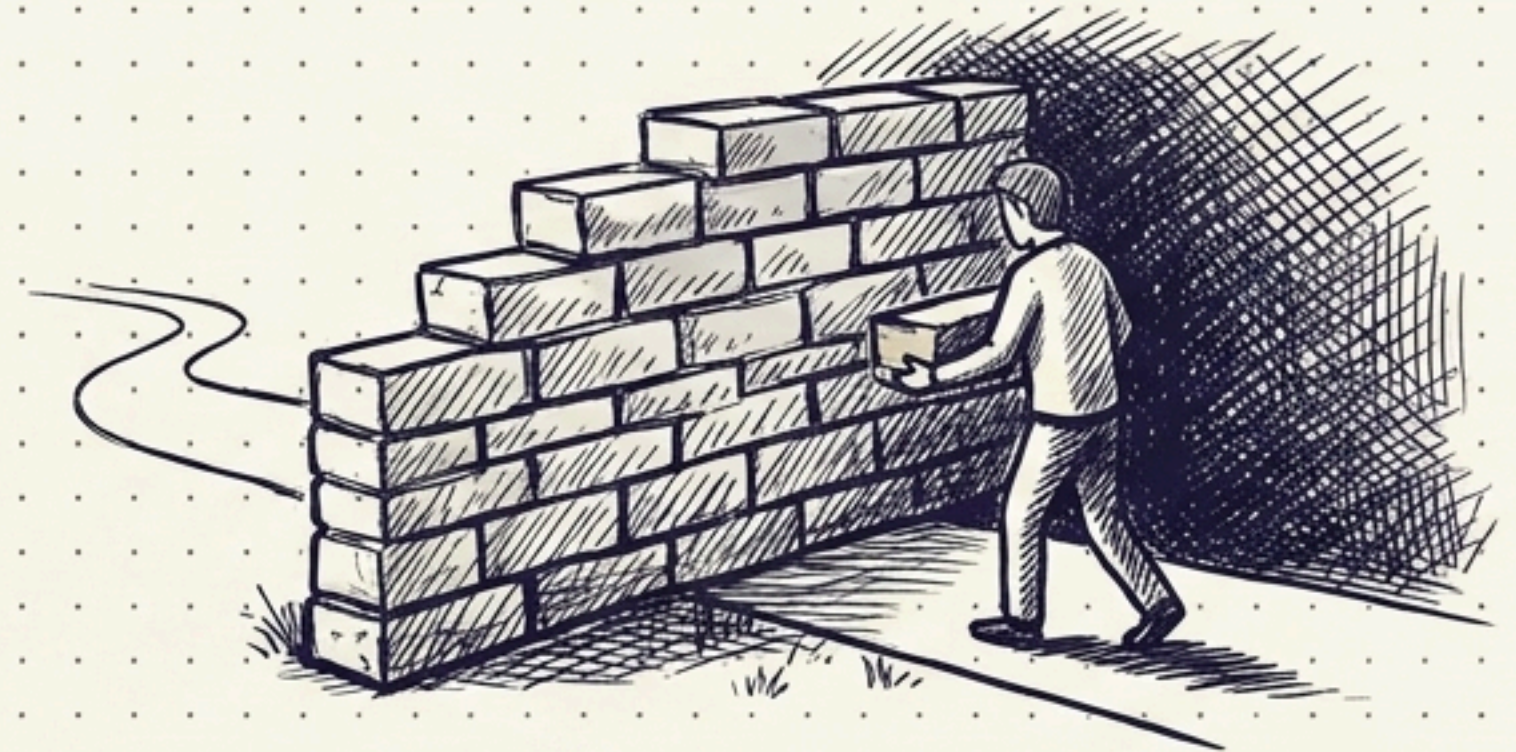
Stumbling vs. Apostasy

Stumbling



Dry seasons, temptation, deep doubts, momentary failure (e.g., Peter denying Jesus). The heart is soft, broken, and trajectory is still toward the Shepherd. God has immense patience for dust (Psalm 103).

Apostasy

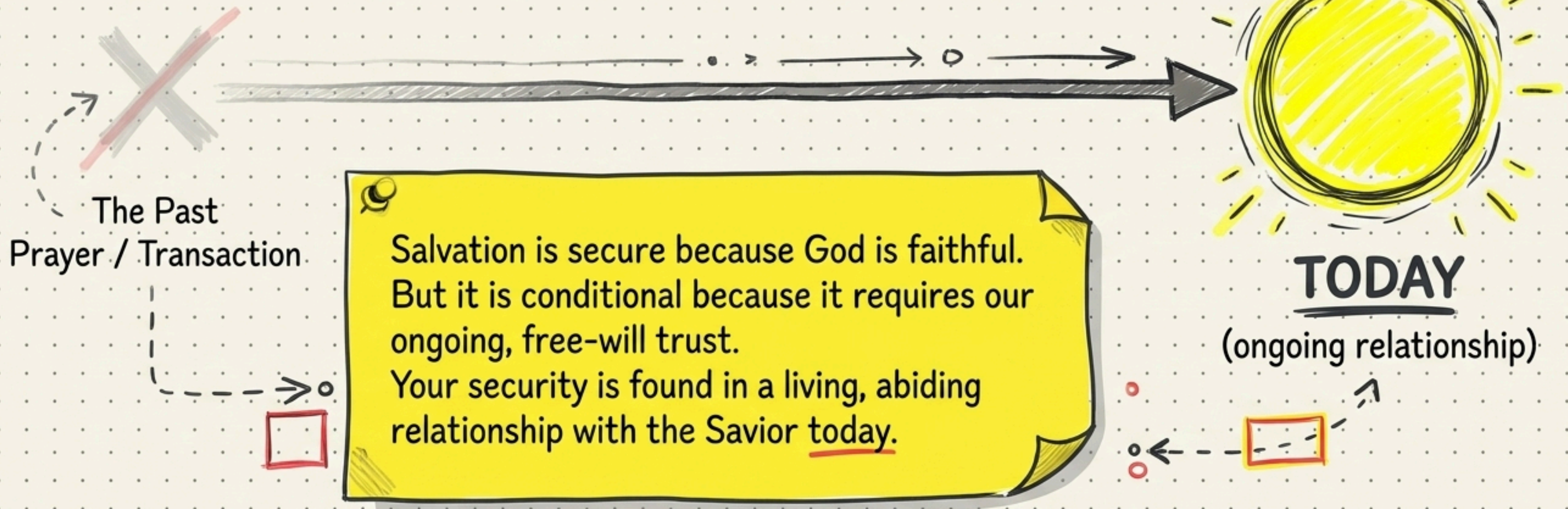


A deliberate, persistent, final decision to harden your heart, reject the Holy Spirit, stop repenting, and consciously walk away.

→ Losing salvation is not an accident or an administrative mistake. It is not stumbling in the mud; it is choosing to build a house in the mud and renouncing the home you left behind.

The True Foundation of Assurance

The OSAS doctrine tries to give you peace by pointing you backward to an old moment—a card signed or a prayer prayed decades ago. But the New Testament tells us true assurance is found right now.



Where Do You Stand?

If our current relationship is what matters, how do you evaluate it?

If you are struggling with doubt, how do you know if you are just stumbling, or if you are quietly drifting away?

The Bible does not leave us guessing. Join us in the next part of this series as we look at the 3 concrete, biblical signs to get unshakeable assurance that you are truly walking with God.

