

Acts.



Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

ACTS 13:1-3 NIV

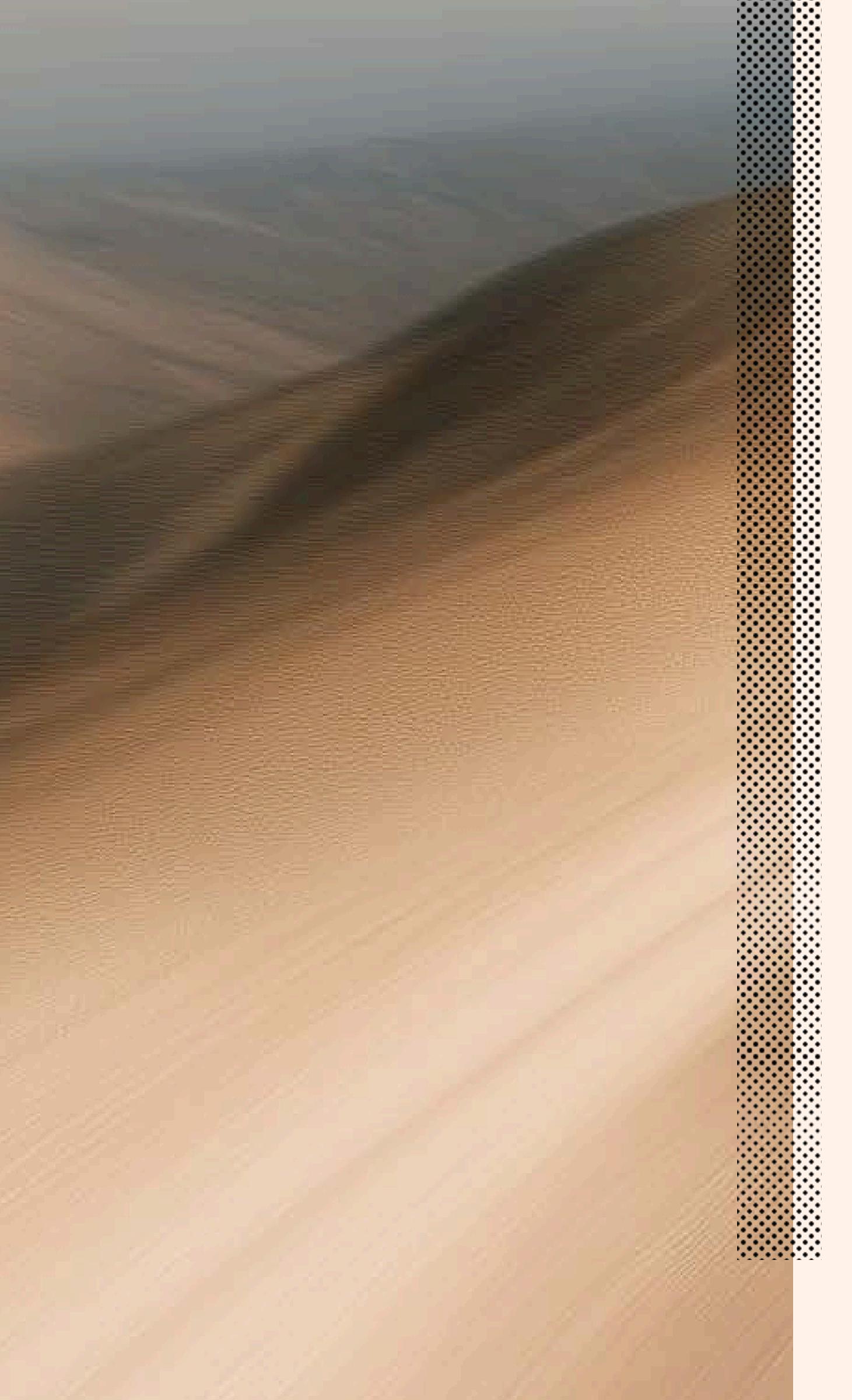


They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

ACTS 2:42 NIV

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,²⁶ and when he found him,
he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with
the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called
Christians first at Antioch.

ACTS 11:25-26 NIV



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ACTS 13:1-3 NIV

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Discerning God's Will

- + Look to Scripture for guidance.
- + Develop a heart for God with desires that reflect Him.
- + Seek wise counsel from other Christians.
- + Look for God's providence in circumstances.
- + Ask yourself what makes logical sense.
- + Be prepared for, but do not expect, divine intervention.

“FINDING THE WILL OF GOD” | BRUCE WALTKE

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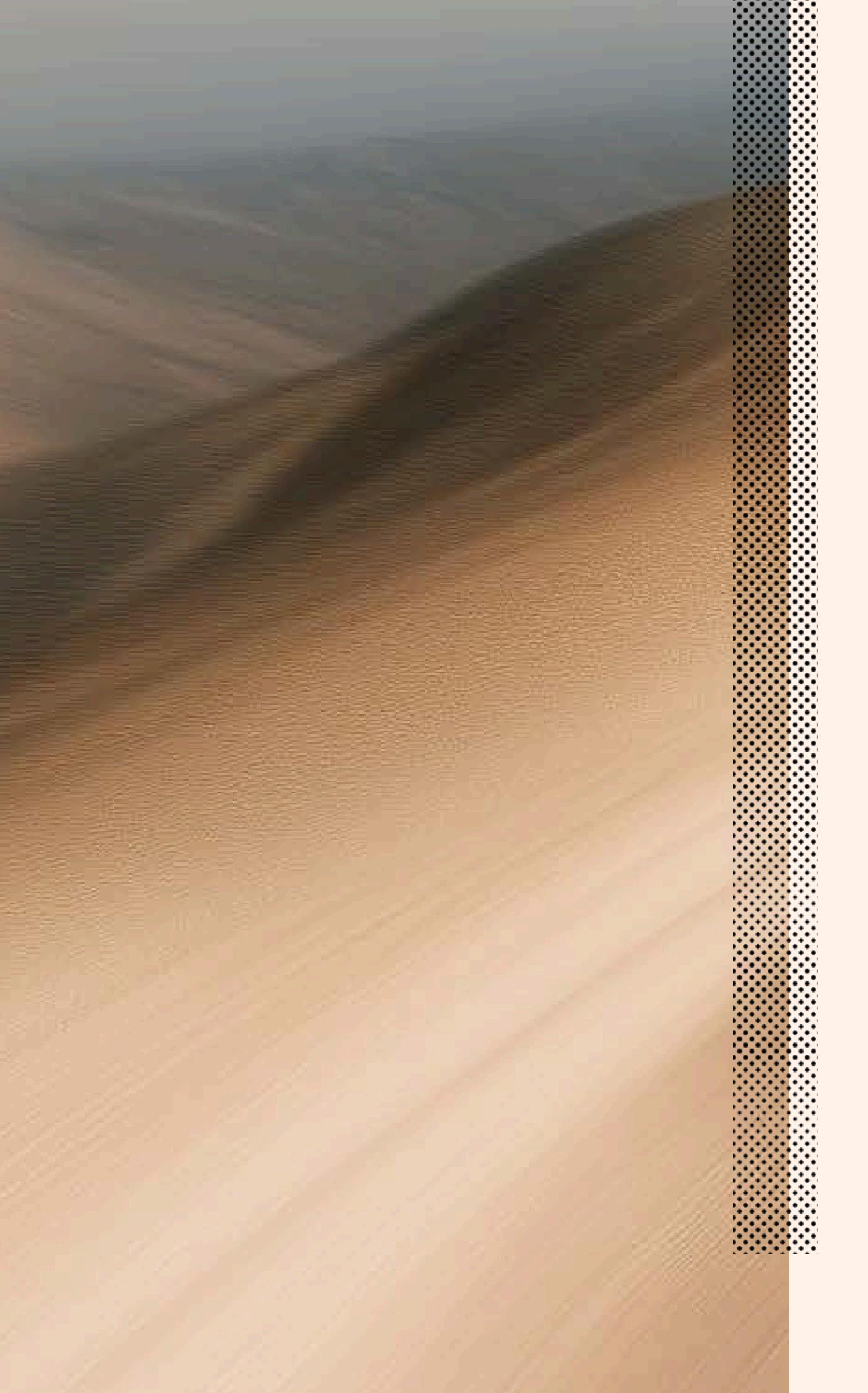
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Scripture & Decisions

- + Does Scripture require this action?
- + Does Scripture support this action?
- + Is Scripture silent?
- + Does Scripture forbid this action?



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ACTS 13:1-3 NIV

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Paul's Mission in Cyprus, Galatia, and Pamphylia

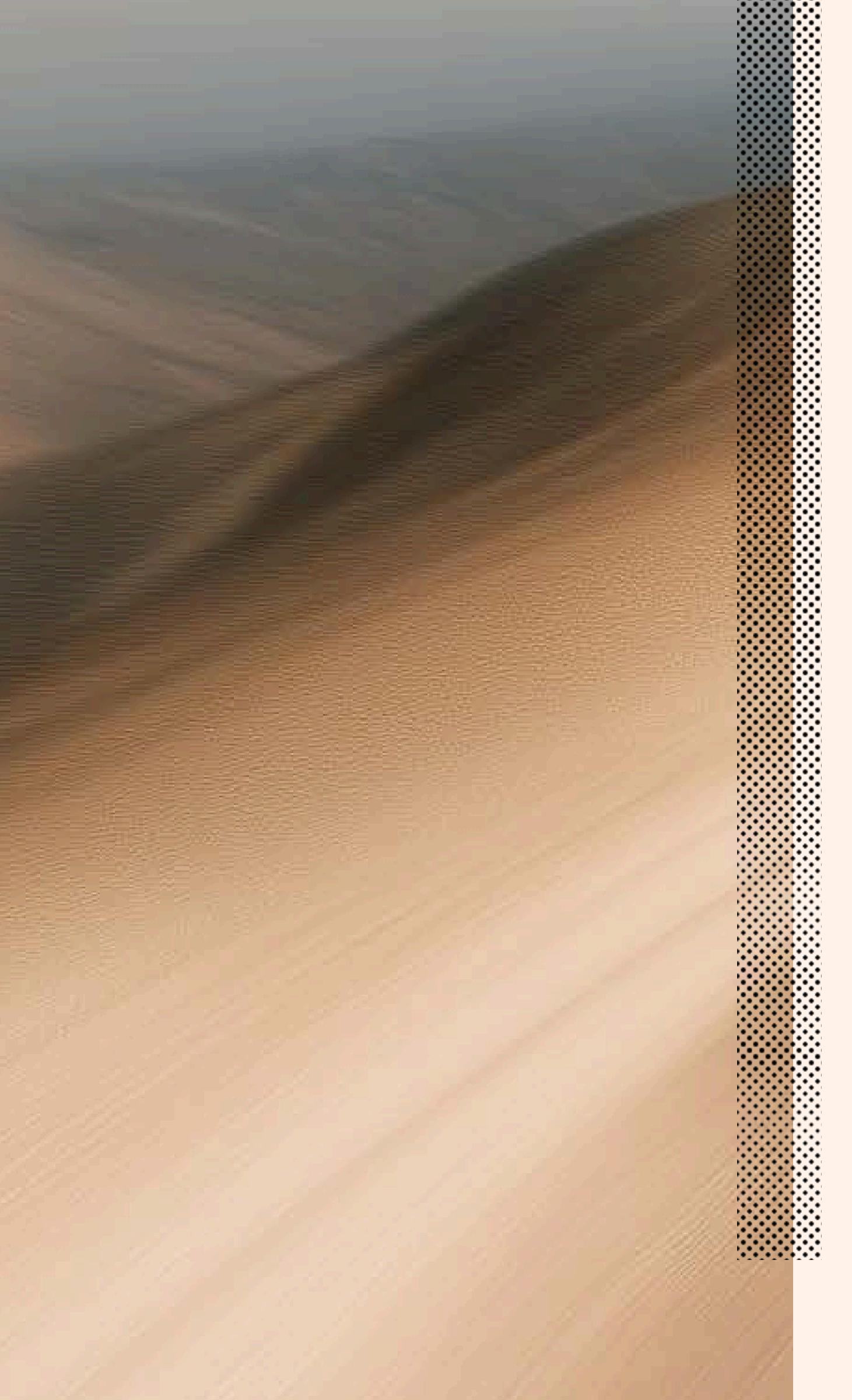
- Paul's route from Antioch (Syria) to Salamis
- Paul's route from Salamis to Paphos
- Paul's route from Paphos to Perga
- Paul's route from Perga to Pisidian Antioch via the western route
- Paul's route from Pisidian Antioch to Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe
- Paul's route from Derbe to Pisidian Antioch
- Paul's route from Pisidian Antioch to Perga via the central route
- Paul's route from Perga to Antioch (Syria)



0 80 km
0 80 mi

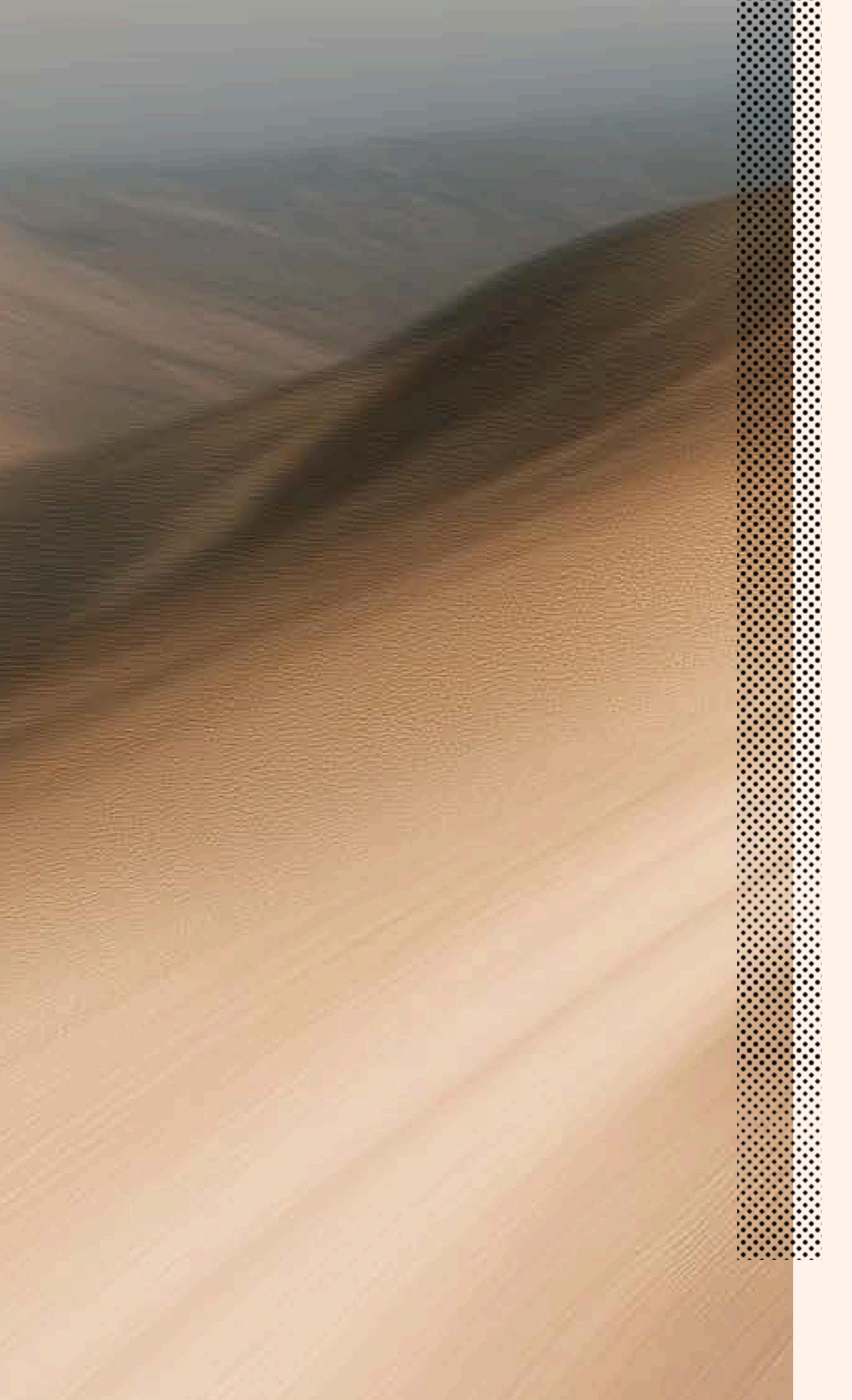
ACTS 13:4-5





They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus,⁷ who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

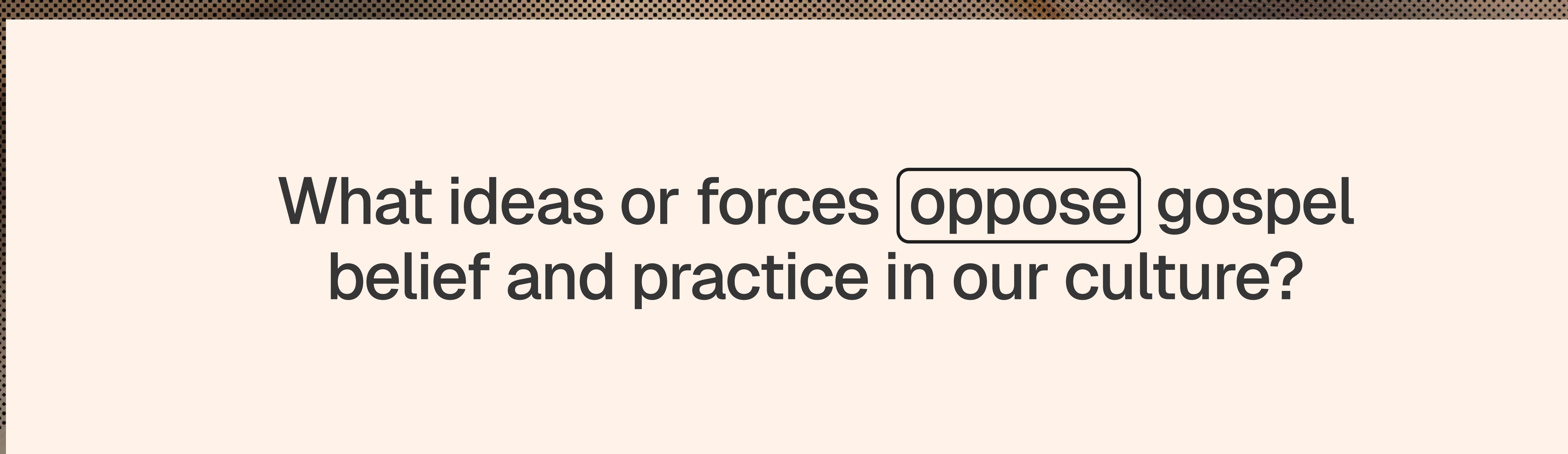
ACTS 13:6-8 NIV



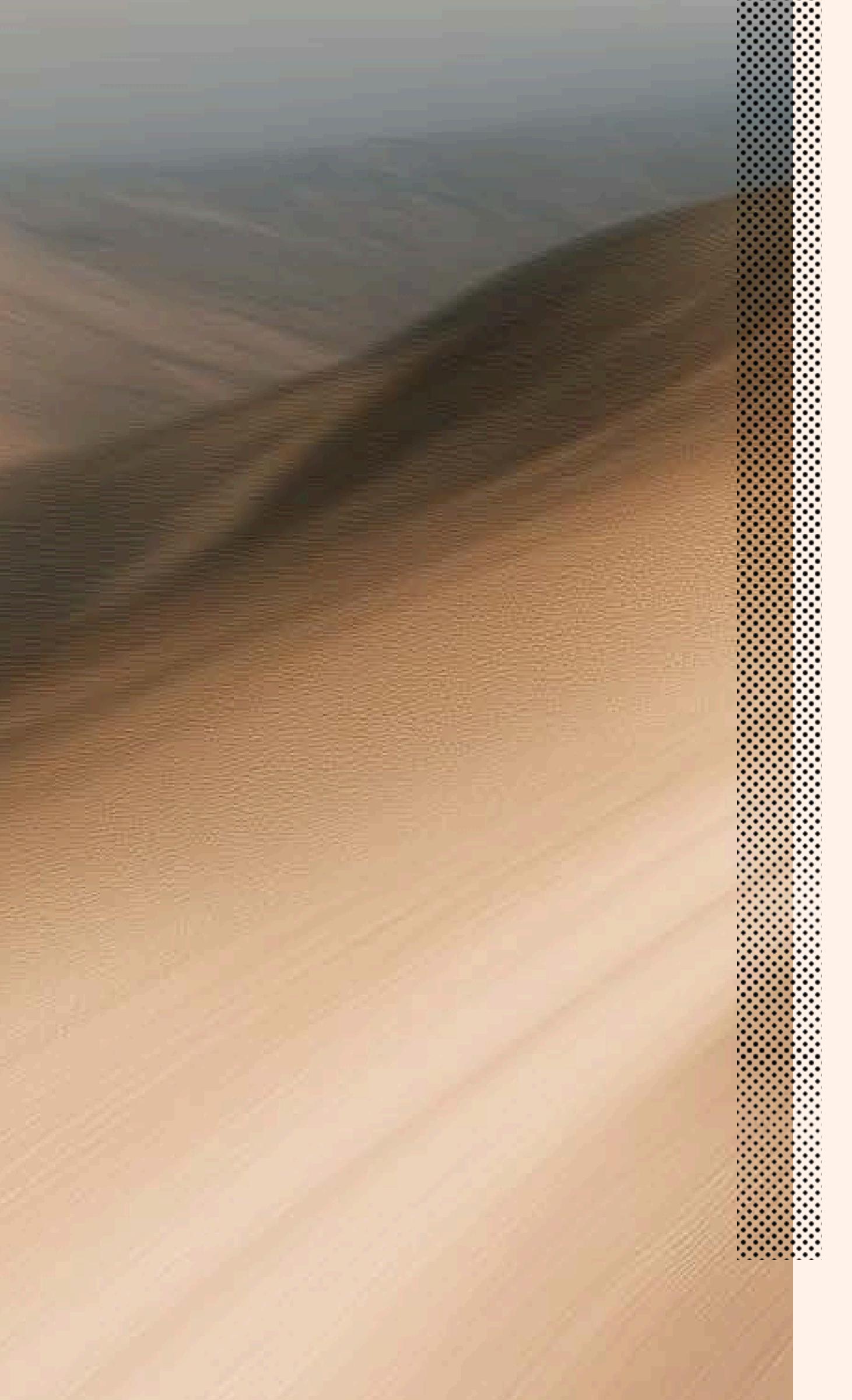
Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said,¹⁰ “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? ¹¹ Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.”

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

ACTS 13:9-12 NIV



What ideas or forces **oppose** gospel
belief and practice in our culture?



Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

LUKE 12:13-15 NIV

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“No, we look specifically at the seven letters to the seven churches because the context of that is so relevant, where you have a lot of political strife that is the backdrop of these letters, where you have people who are being oppressed, they are being persecuted, they are being martyred. Some of the churches that Jesus is addressing, they have literally had people in their church die.”

SHARON HODDE MILLER

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“And what was so fascinating to me, and you really see this throughout most of the New Testament as well, that Jesus, he acknowledges that, and much of Revelation is sort of pointing to, there's this other level, the spiritual realm, that is informing these things”

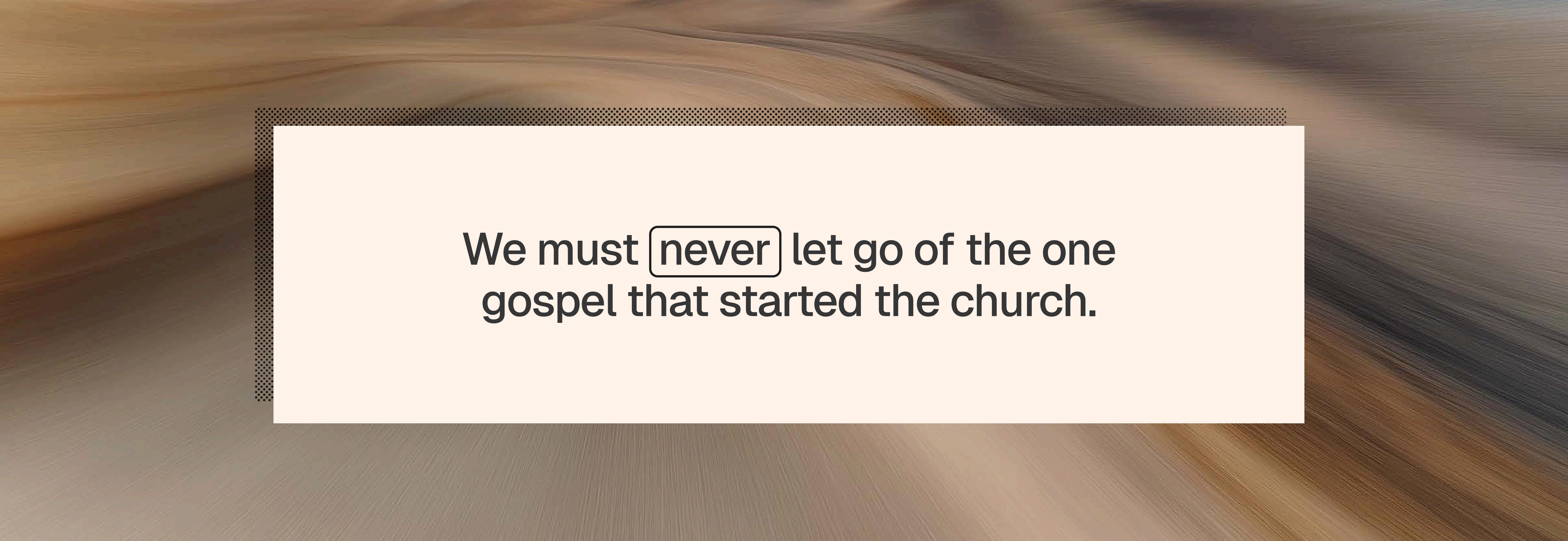
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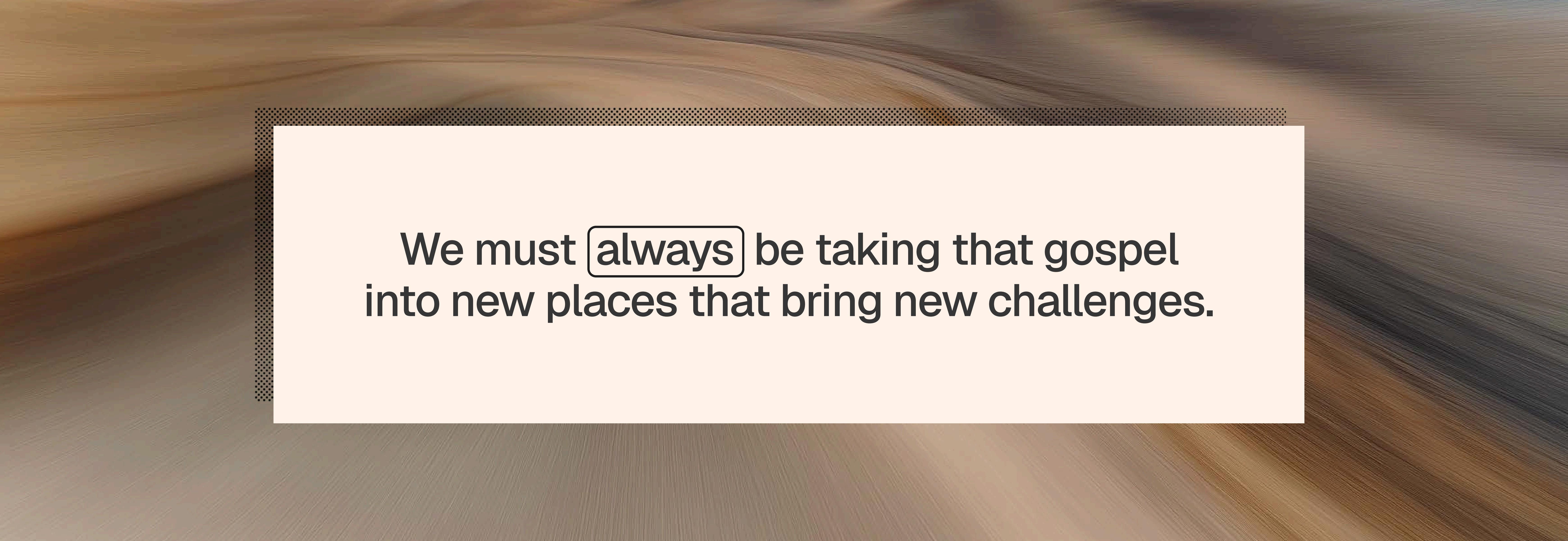
“But overall, the point of those letters was not, ‘and therefore, you need to change the government. Therefore, you need to change the culture.’

Don't hear me saying that those things don't matter. But the driving message again and again of those seven letters is that... your distinct identity as the people of God is your superpower. That is, your greatest influence in culture.”

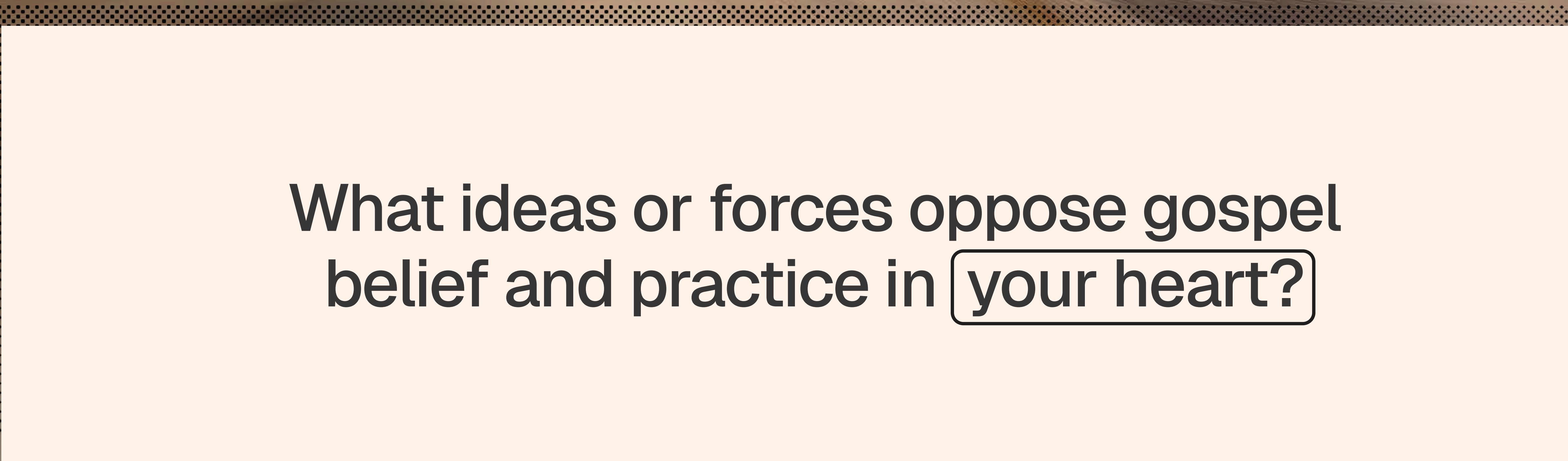
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We must **never** let go of the one
gospel that started the church.



We must **always** be taking that gospel
into new places that bring new challenges.



What ideas or forces oppose gospel
belief and practice in **your heart?**