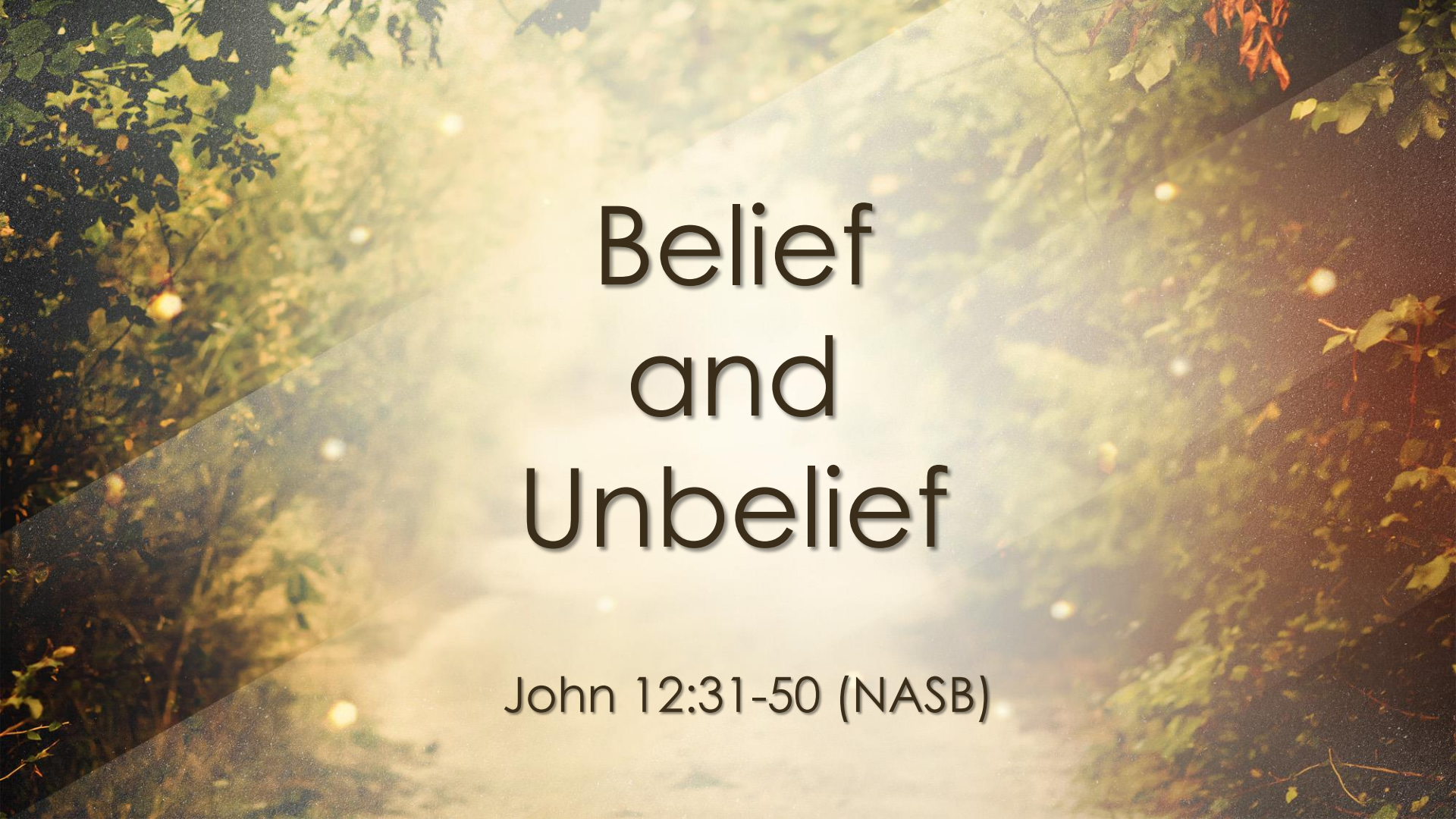


J E S U S

I AM the life



The background is a photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow and lens flare effects. The path is partially obscured by a semi-transparent white overlay that serves as a background for the text.

# Belief and Unbelief

John 12:31-50 (NASB)



# Belief and Unbelief

I. Unbelief      Jn 12:37-40





John 12:37 (NASB)

<sup>37</sup> But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.



John 12:38 (NASB)

<sup>38</sup> *This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: “  
LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED  
OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM  
HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN  
REVEALED?”*



John 12:40 (NASB)

40 "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM."



Isaiah 6:10 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing.”



John 12:35 (NASB)

35 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.



John 12:36 (NASB)

36 "While you have the Light,  
believe in the Light, so that  
you may become sons of Light."  
These things Jesus spoke, and  
He went away and hid  
Himself from them.



# Belief and Unbelief


- I. Unbelief      Jn 12:37-40
- II. Belief?      Jn 12:42-43



## John 12:42 (NASB)

42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing *Him*, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;





John 12:43 (NASB)

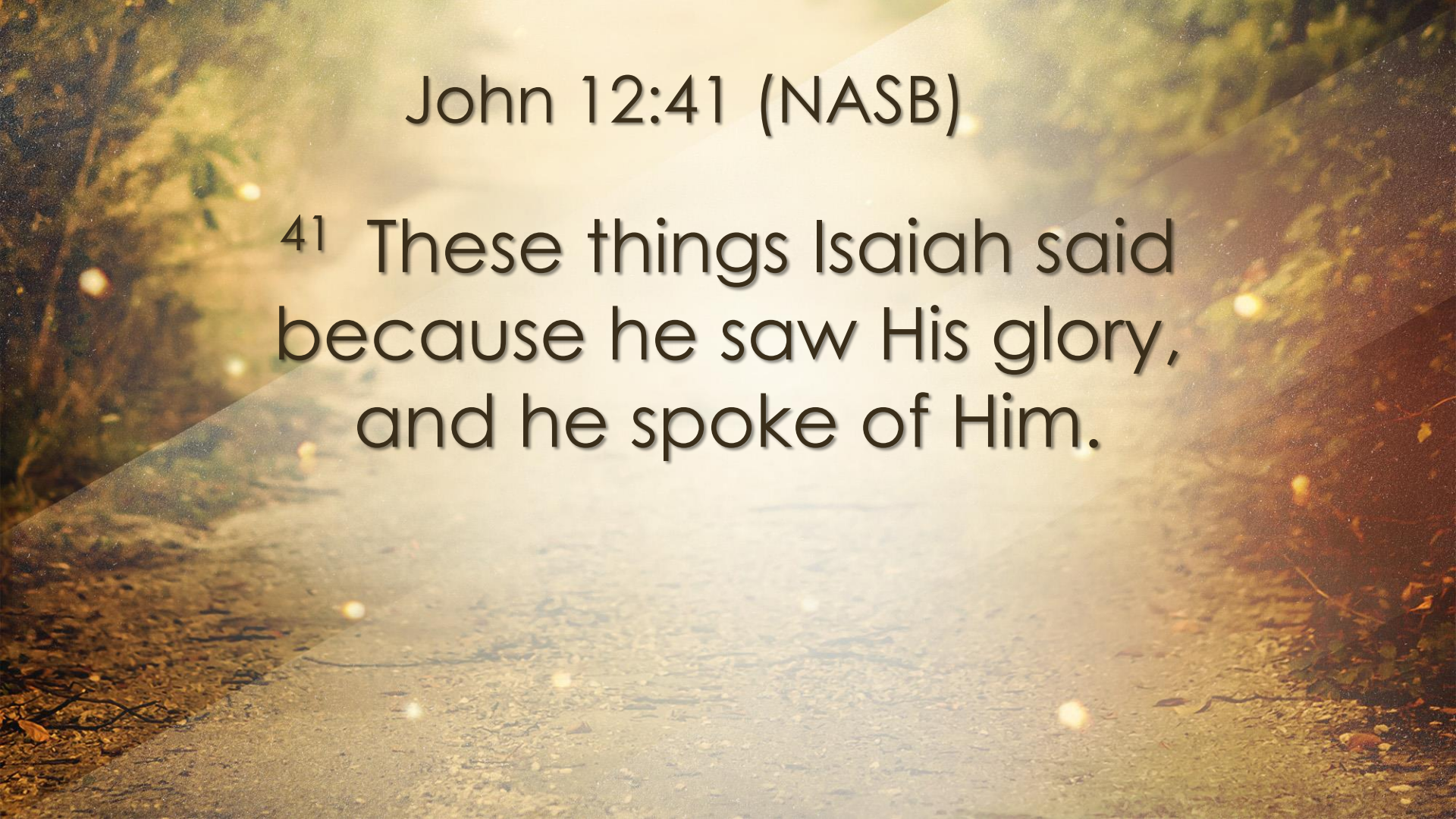
<sup>43</sup> for they loved the  
approval of men rather  
than the approval of God.



# Belief and Unbelief

- I. Unbelief      Jn 12:37-40
- II. Belief?      Jn 12:42-43
- III. Belief      Jn 12:41,44-50





John 12:41 (NASB)

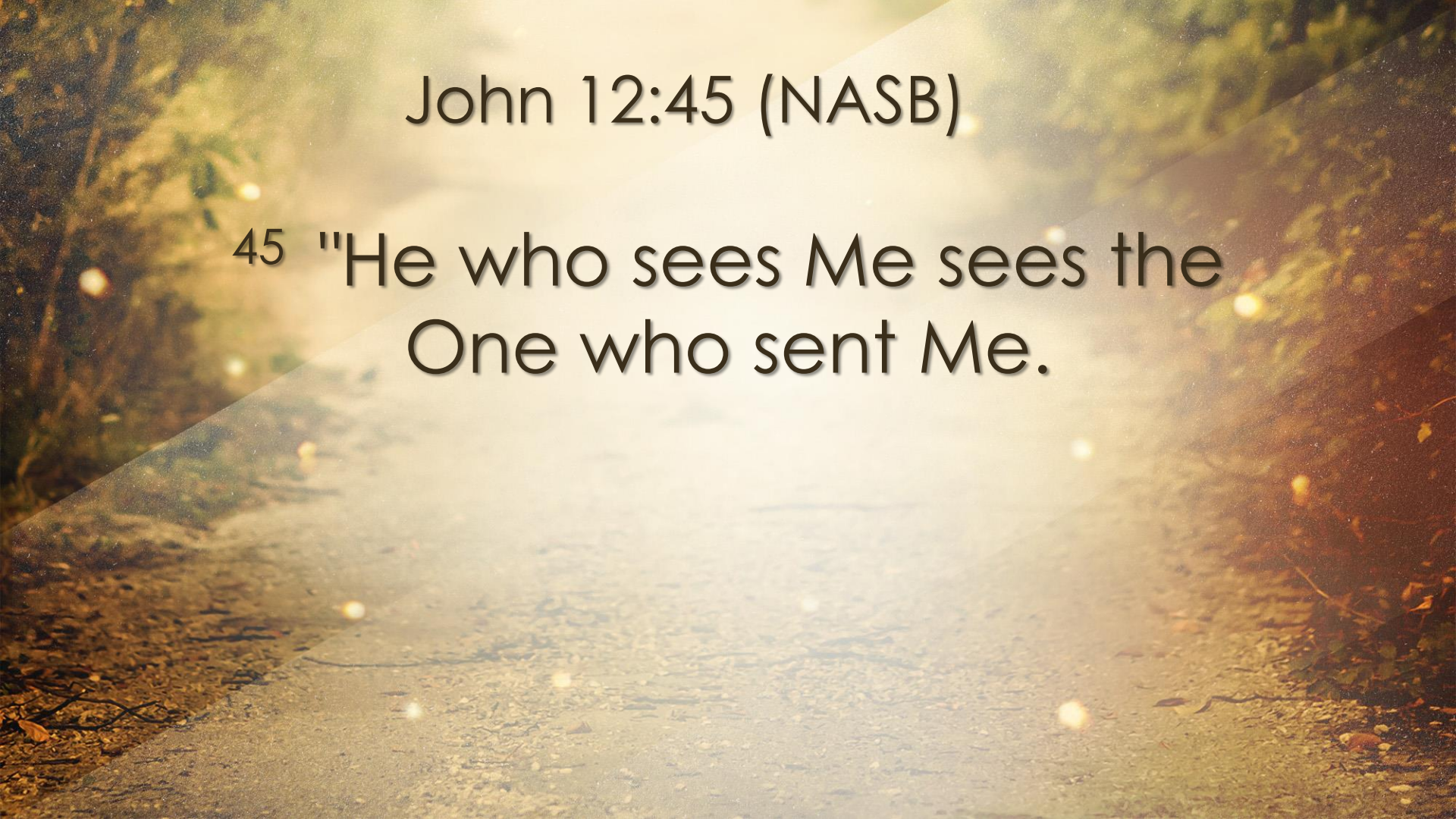
41 These things Isaiah said  
because he saw His glory,  
and he spoke of Him.



John 12:44 (NASB)

44 And Jesus cried out and said,  
"He who believes in Me, does  
not believe in Me but in Him  
who sent Me.

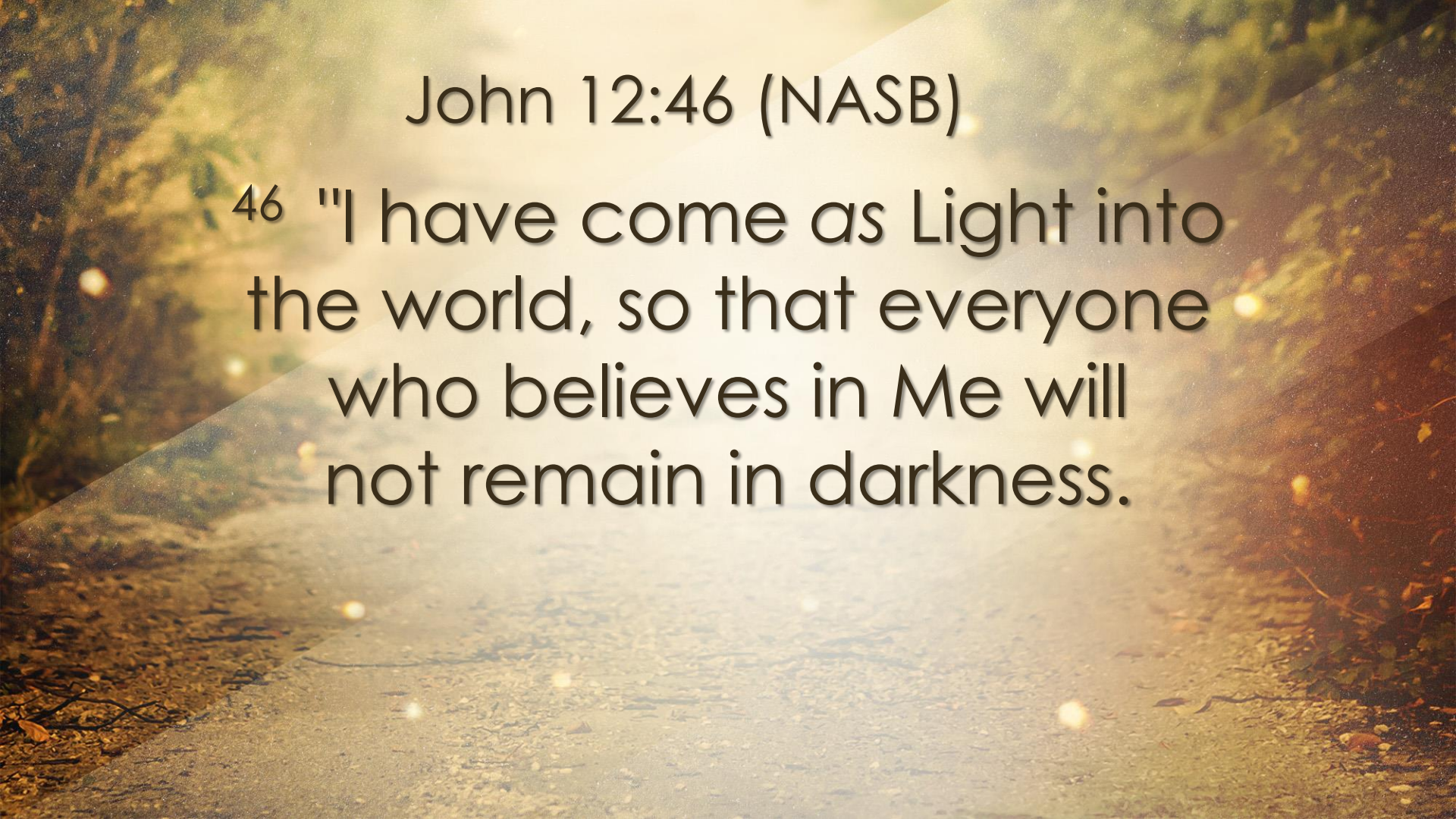




John 12:45 (NASB)

45 "He who sees Me sees the  
One who sent Me.





John 12:46 (NASB)

46 "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.



John 12:47 (NASB)

47 "If anyone hears *My* sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.



## John 12:48 (NASB)

<sup>48</sup> "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.



## John 12:49 (NASB)

49 "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to what to say and what to speak.*



## John 12:50 (NASB)

<sup>50</sup> "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."





# Peter Parker Principle

“With great power comes great responsibility.”





# Witnessing Principles

“With great light comes great responsibility.”





Witnessing Principles

Whoever Principle Jn 12:46



# Witnessing Principles

Whoever Principle Jn 12:46

Compassion Principle Jn 12:46



# Witnessing Principles

Whoever Principle Jn 12:46

Compassion Principle Jn 12:46

Judgment Principle Jn 12:48



# Witnessing Principles

Whoever Principle Jn 12:46

Compassion Principle Jn 12:46

Judgment Principle Jn 12:48

Urgency Principle Jn 12:36



# Questions

1. Does God keep a person from believing?  
(John 12:39-40)
2. Who or what did Pastor Randy say was the cause of hardening of the heart in the Bible? What do you think?
  - a) God
  - b) Heart of people themselves
  - c) Miracles and signs
  - d) Revelation of God and His Word
  - e) Sin, pride, stubbornness
  - f) All of the above



# Questions

For those who want the original research of hardening of the heart, here are some verses:

God hardens = Exodus 4:21; 7:3-5; 9:12; 10:1-3,20,27; 11:10; 14:4,8,17; Lamentations 3:64-65; Ezek 3:8-9

Humans harden their own hearts = Exodus 8:15,32,34-35; 13:15; 1 Sam 6:5-6; 2 Chron 36:11-13; Psalm 95:8-11; Prov 28:14; Prov 29:1; Jer 5:3,21-31 Zech 7:11-14; Eph 4:17-19

Bible simply says "the hearts were hardened" = Exodus 7:13-14,22; 8:19; 9:7

Through preaching of Isaiah = Isaiah 6:8-13

Miracles combined with humans own disbelief = Mark 6:49-52; 16:14

Hardening of the Jews was for the purpose of reaching the Gentiles = Romans 11:25



# Questions

3. When we stubbornly refuse to believe, what happens to our spiritual senses, and why (Jn 12:37-41)?
4. Why did the “authorities” who believed in Jesus remain silent? Jn 12:42-43 Why is it easy to fall into the trap of loving the praise of men more than the praise of God?
5. What are your beliefs about the statement “secret discipleship is a contradiction in terms: for either the secrecy kills the discipleship, or the discipleship kills the secrecy.” Do you believe that these “believers” were true believers? (see John 3:1-2; 19:28-29 were Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimethea “secret believers?”; see also Mt 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10 and even John 12:24-26 for the opposite side).



# Questions

6. Can you be a secret believer in Jesus Christ (like a Christian in a Muslim context still going to the mosque or a Hindu who still goes to the Hindu temples and feasts (John 12:42-43))?
7. Jesus' last public message to his people is recorded in Jn 12:44-50. What indications do you find that He is still reaching out in love and grace to those who have rejected him?



# Questions

8. Of the Witnessing Principles that were shared at the end of the message, which of them motivates you the most to be a more verbal and vibrant witness for Christ?

- a) Whoever principle                      Jn 12:46
- b) Compassion principle                Jn 12:46
- c) Judgment principle                  Jn 12:48
- d) Urgency principle                      Jn 12:36

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NASB) 1 And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— 2 for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"—