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# THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES:

*Living in the already-not yet kingdom of God*

A HEALTHY CHURCH COMMUNITY

**Salah Farah**

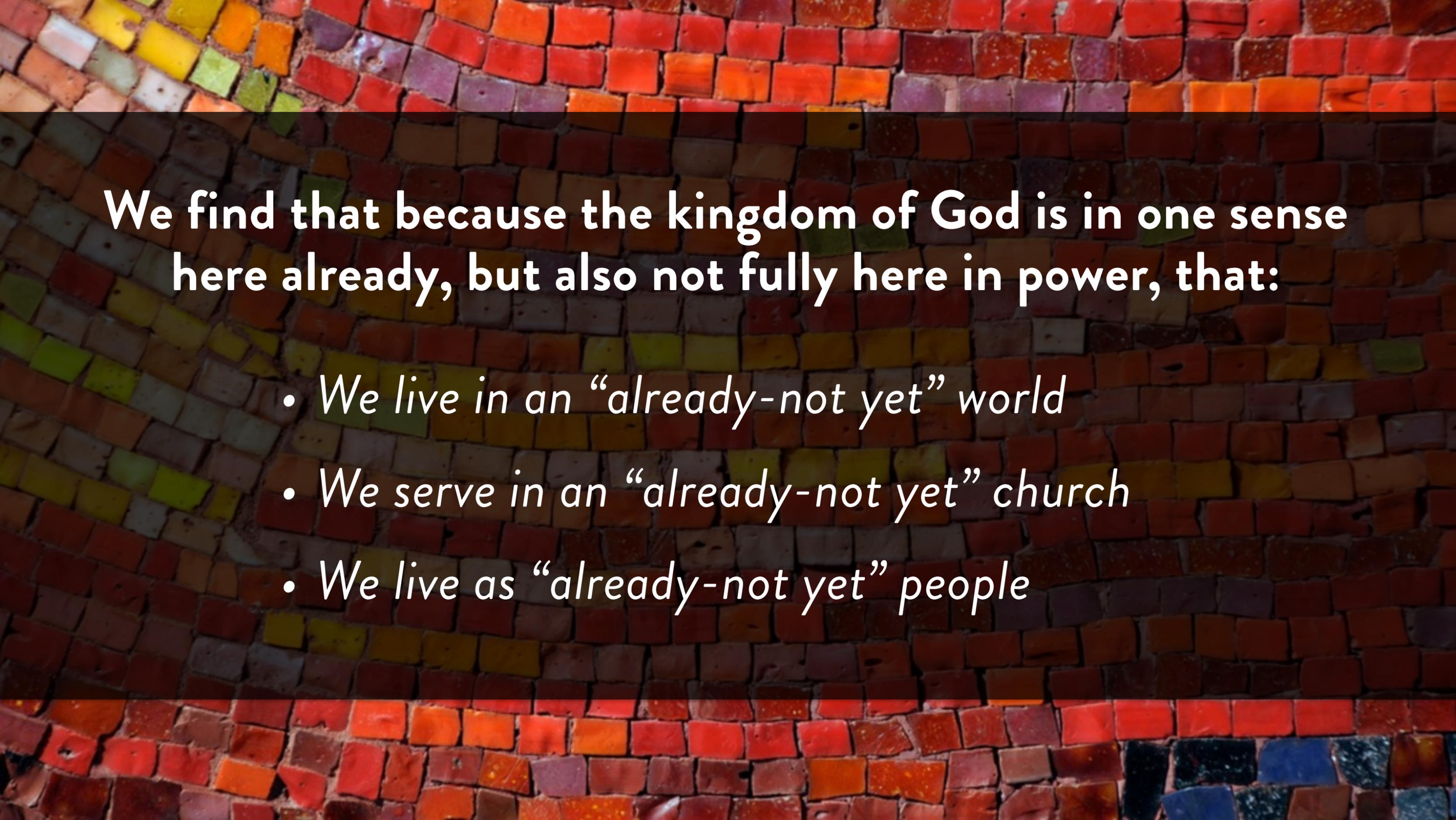




THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES:

*Living in the already-not yet kingdom of God*

A HEALTHY CHURCH COMMUNITY

The background is a mosaic of small, irregular tiles in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and purple. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, containing white text.

**We find that because the kingdom of God is in one sense here already, but also not fully here in power, that:**

- *We live in an “already-not yet” world*
- *We serve in an “already-not yet” church*
- *We live as “already-not yet” people*

The image features a mosaic background composed of small, irregular tiles in various shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the center of the image, containing the text "An Already-Not Yet Kingdom" in a white, sans-serif font. The mosaic pattern is dense and textured, with some tiles appearing more vibrant than others due to lighting or color variations.

# An Already-Not Yet Kingdom

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

Mark 4:30-32



# Christians worldwide

**2.3**  
BILLION

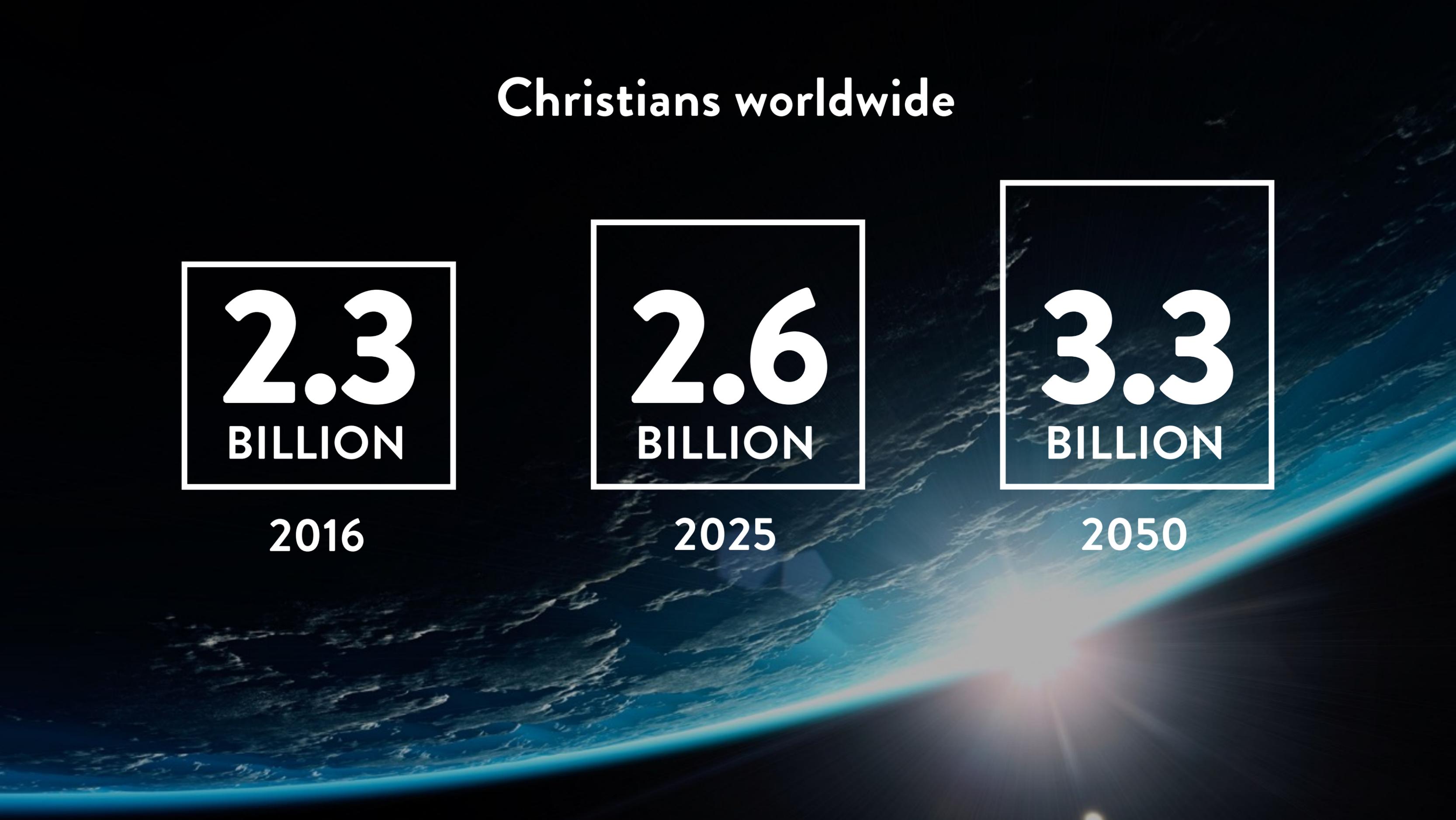
2016

**2.6**  
BILLION

2025

**3.3**  
BILLION

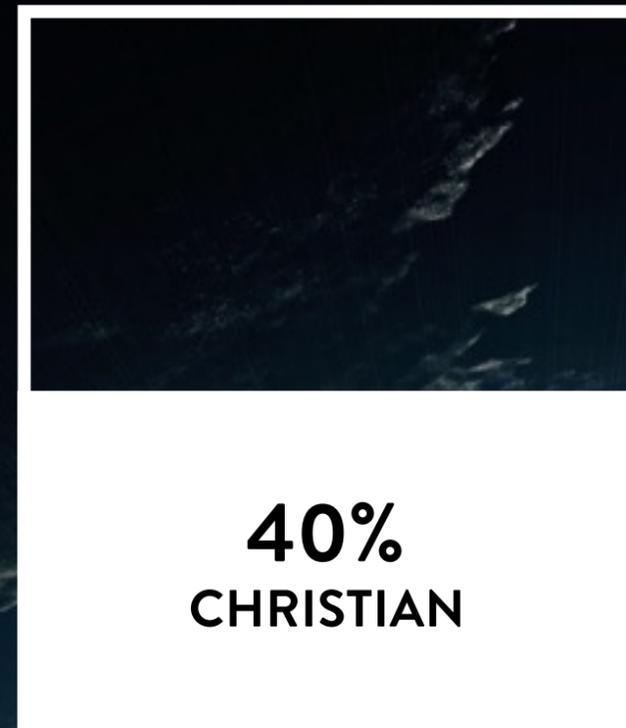
2050



# Christianity in comparison to overall population



**7.3 BILLION**  
**2016**



**9.5 BILLION**  
**2050**

A satellite view of the Earth, showing the continent of Africa in the center, surrounded by the Middle East and parts of Europe and Asia. The image is a high-resolution satellite photograph with a white text overlay.

**By 2050, more than  
1.2 billion Christians  
will live in Africa**



*12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Ephesians 6:12



The image features a mosaic background composed of small, irregular tiles in various shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the center of the image, containing white text. The text is centered and reads: "Because the kingdom of God is *becoming* triumphant, We live in an already-not yet world." The word "becoming" is italicized in the original image.

Because the kingdom of God is *becoming* triumphant,  
We live in an already-not yet world.

The image features a mosaic background composed of small, irregular tiles in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and grey. The mosaic is arranged in a pattern that suggests a curved surface, possibly a dome or a large bowl. A prominent dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the center of the image, containing the text "An Already-Not Yet World" in a white, sans-serif font. The text is centered within this band and is the primary focus of the image.

**An Already-Not Yet World**

<sup>14</sup> *If it were his intention  
and he withdrew his Spirit and breath,  
<sup>15</sup> all humanity would perish together  
and mankind would return to the dust.*

Job 34:14-15



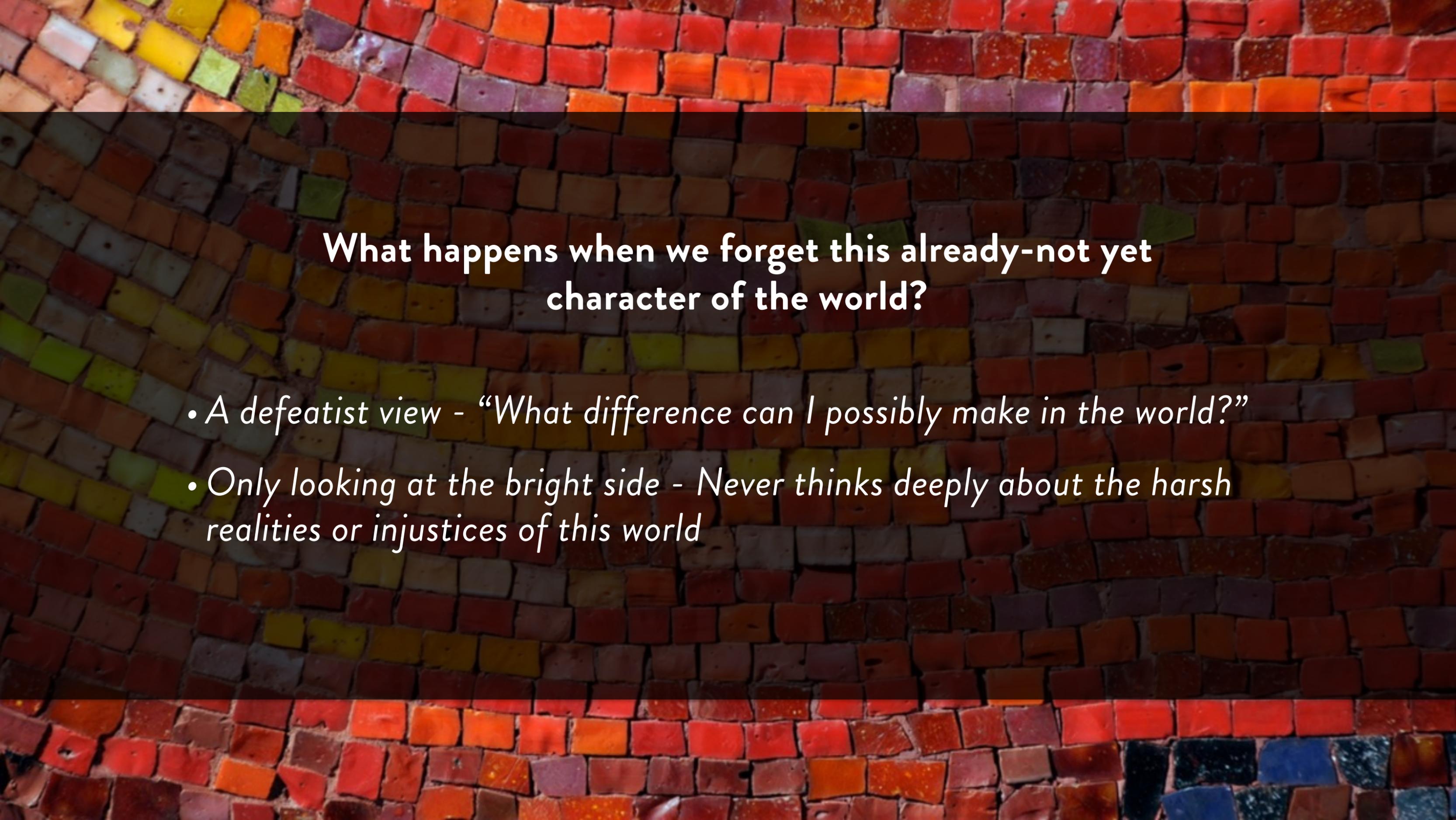
The image features a mosaic background composed of small, irregular tiles in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and grey. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the center of the image, containing the text "An Already-Not Yet World" in a white, sans-serif font. The mosaic pattern is dense and textured, with the tiles arranged in a somewhat circular or curved pattern, suggesting a dome or a similar architectural feature. The lighting is somewhat uneven, with the top and bottom edges of the mosaic appearing brighter than the center.

**An Already-Not Yet World**

The background is a mosaic of small, irregular tiles in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and grey. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the center of the image, containing white text. The text is centered and consists of two lines: a bold title and a subtitle in italics.

**An Already-Not Yet World**

*It's okay to not understand*



**What happens when we forget this already-not yet  
character of the world?**

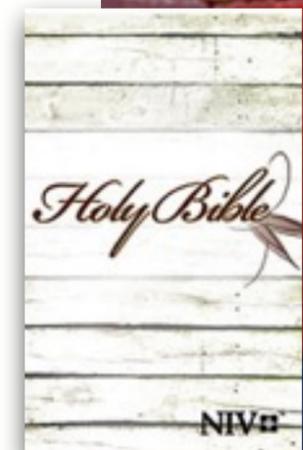
- *A defeatist view - “What difference can I possibly make in the world?”*
- *Only looking at the bright side - Never thinks deeply about the harsh realities or injustices of this world*

The image features a mosaic background composed of small, irregular tiles in various shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. A horizontal dark band runs across the center of the image, containing the text "An Already-Not Yet Church" in a white, sans-serif font. The mosaic pattern is dense and textured, with some tiles appearing more vibrant than others due to lighting or color variations.

# An Already-Not Yet Church

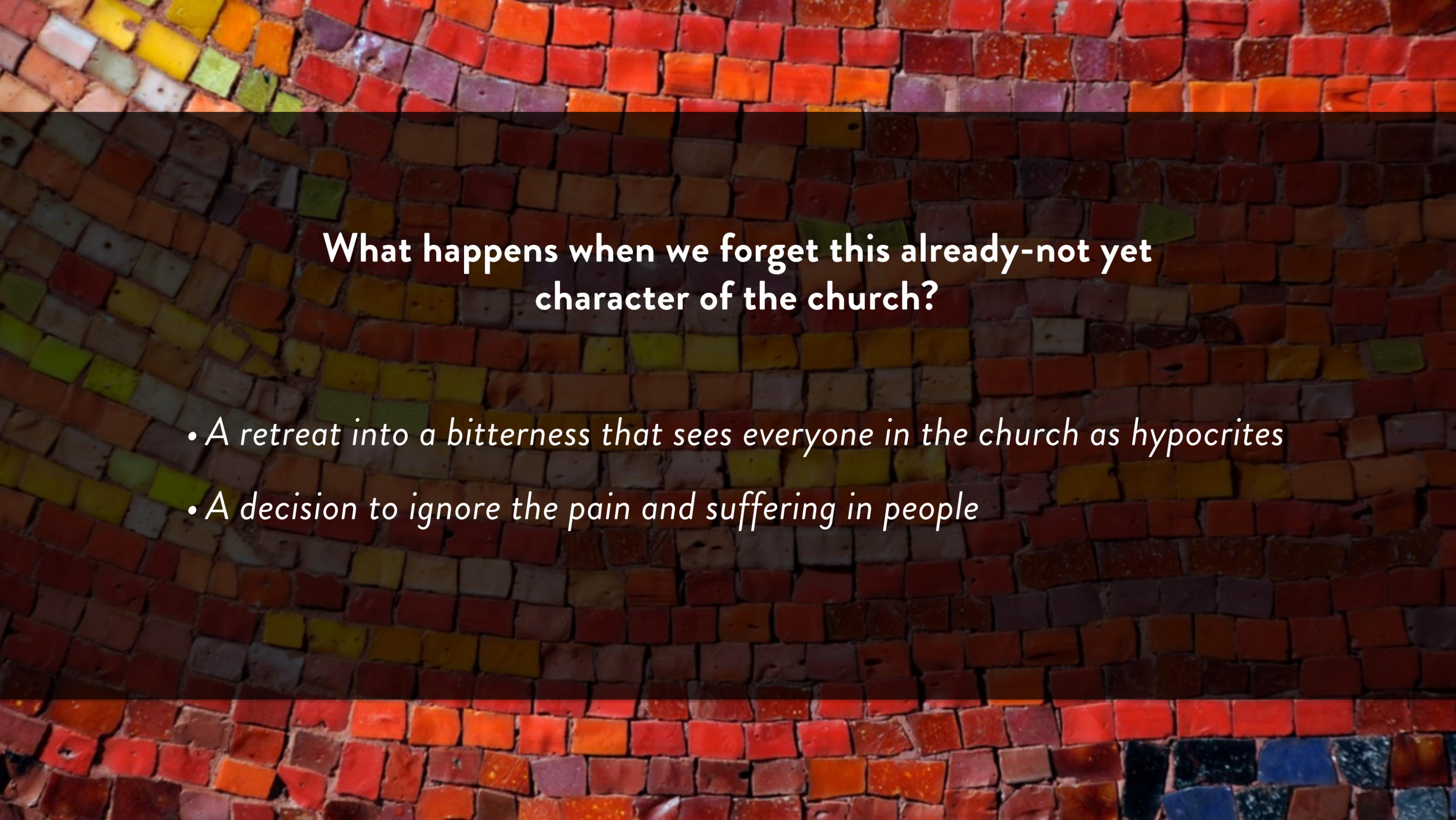
*<sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.*

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)



The image features a mosaic background composed of small, irregular tiles in various shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. A dark, semi-circular shape is centered on the page, and a white horizontal band runs across the middle, containing the text. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**BUT the church is NOT-YET  
the church its going to be!**

The background is a mosaic of small, irregular tiles in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and grey. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the center of the image, containing white text. The text is centered and reads: "What happens when we forget this already-not yet character of the church?"

What happens when we forget this already-not yet  
character of the church?

- *A retreat into a bitterness that sees everyone in the church as hypocrites*
- *A decision to ignore the pain and suffering in people*



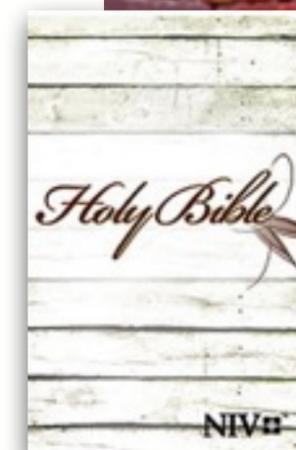
The Opposite Of Dysfunctional Is Not Perfect...  
It's Functional

The image features a mosaic background composed of small, irregular tiles in various shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the center of the image, containing the text "An Already-Not Yet People" in a white, sans-serif font. The mosaic pattern is dense and textured, with the tiles arranged in a somewhat circular or curved pattern, suggesting a dome or a similar architectural feature. The overall color palette is warm and earthy, with the dark band providing a stark contrast for the white text.

**An Already-Not Yet People**

*<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

2 Corinthians 4:7-9



<sup>4</sup> Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;  
<sup>5</sup> in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup> in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

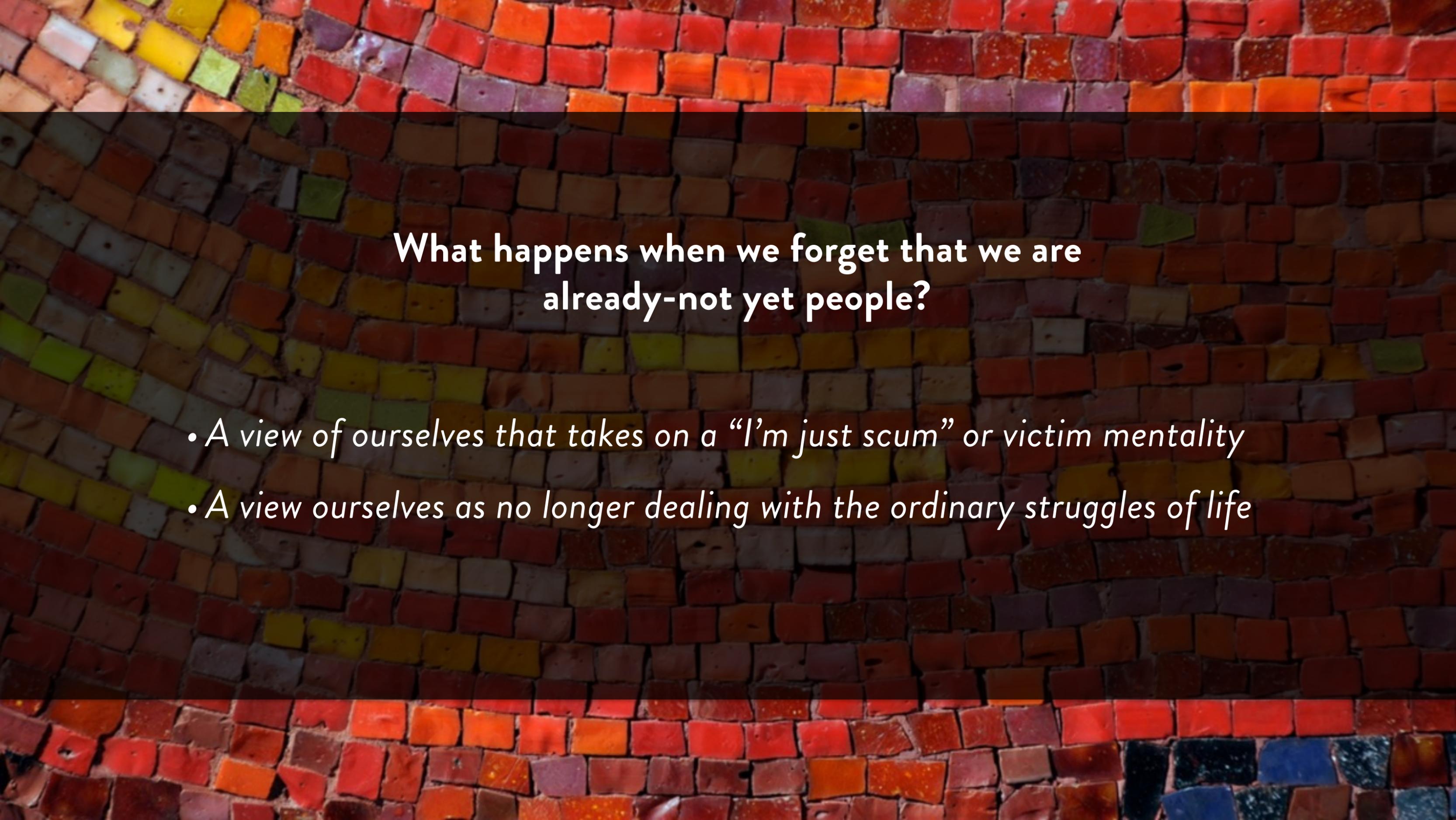
2 Corinthians 6:4-10



*<sup>8</sup>through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup>known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*

2 Corinthians 6:4-10



The background is a mosaic of small, irregular tiles in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and grey. A dark, semi-circular shadow is cast over the center of the image, framing the text.

**What happens when we forget that we are  
already-not yet people?**

- *A view of ourselves that takes on a “I’m just scum” or victim mentality*
- *A view ourselves as no longer dealing with the ordinary struggles of life*

The image features a mosaic background composed of small, irregular tiles in various shades of red, orange, yellow, and green. A large, dark semi-circular shape is centered on the page, and a white text overlay is positioned within this dark area. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font and reads: "The more we let the Holy Spirit move in our life, the more we will ache for the fullness of the kingdom".

**The more we let the Holy Spirit move in our life,  
the more we will ache for the fullness of the kingdom**