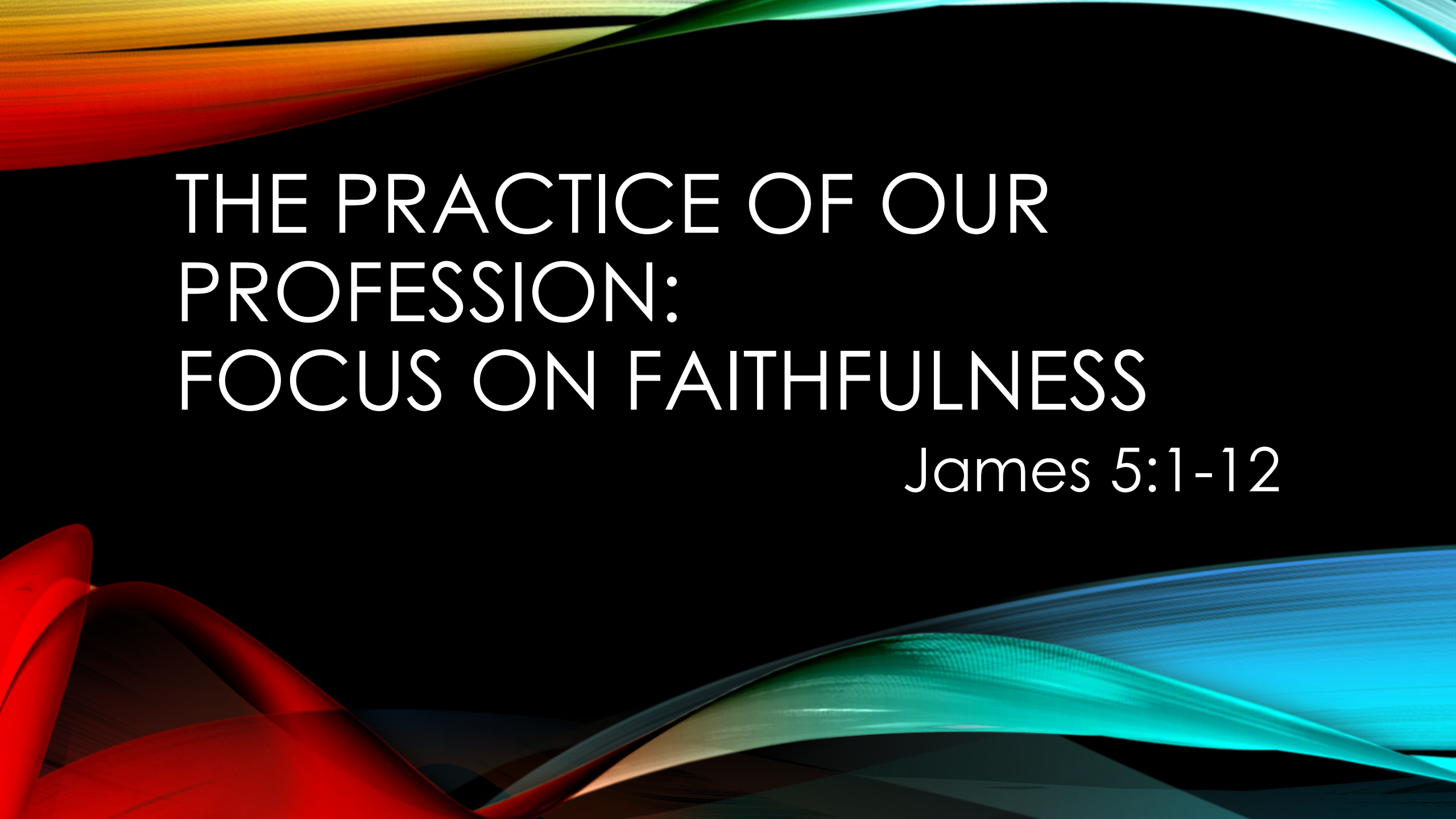




THE PRACTICE OF OUR PROFESSION: FOCUS ON FAITHFULNESS

James 5:1-12

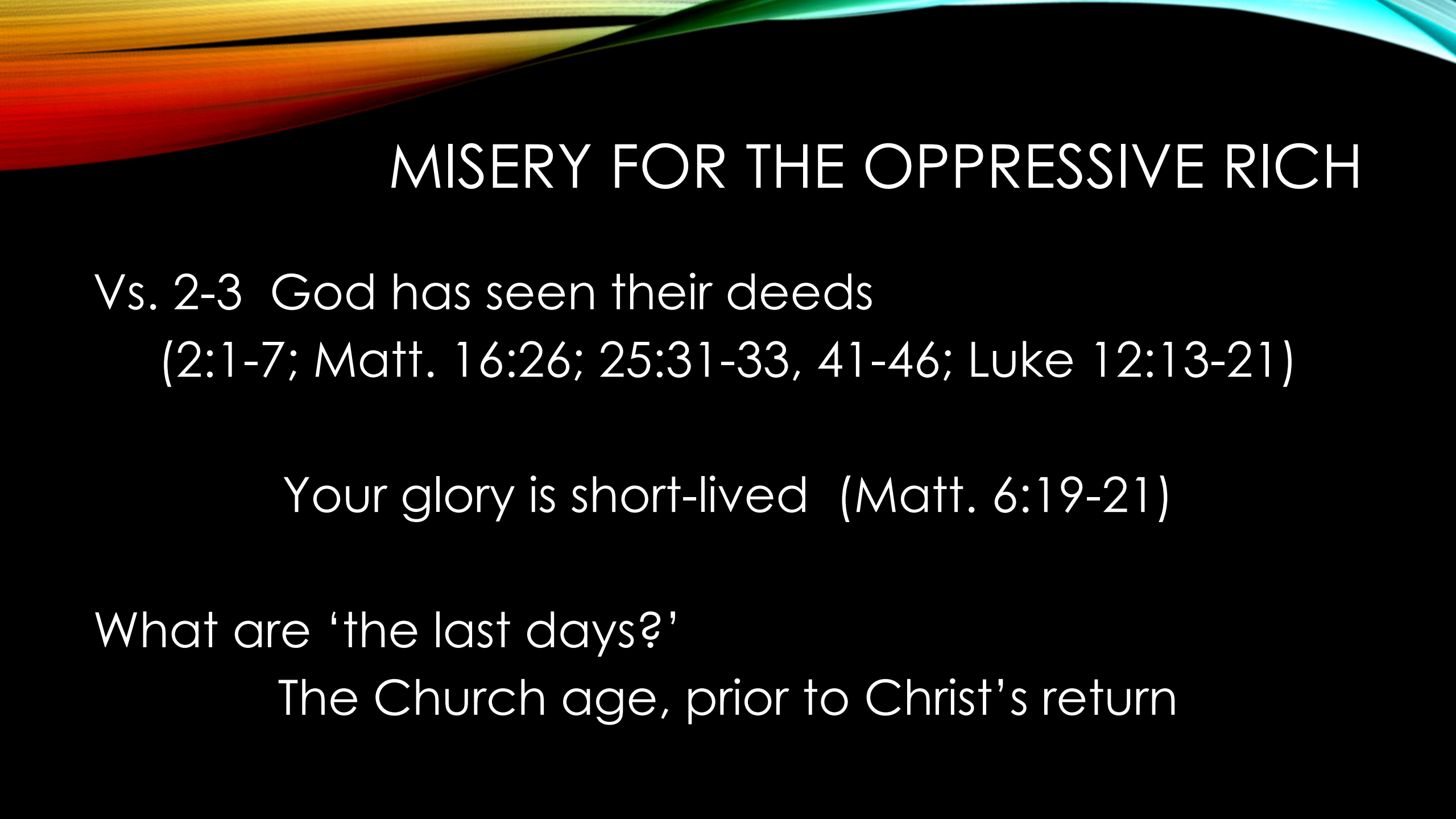


VS. 1-6

To whom (or of whom) is James speaking?

The letter is written to believers, but there is no reference to 'brothers' here, and the behavior described is clearly not godly.

Any unbelievers within earshot of the letter may be warned of coming misery/judgement. Any oppressed believers may be encouraged. (Isa. 40 : 27-31)



MISERY FOR THE OPPRESSIVE RICH

Vs. 2-3 God has seen their deeds

(2:1-7; Matt. 16:26; 25:31-33, 41-46; Luke 12:13-21)

Your glory is short-lived (Matt. 6:19-21)

What are 'the last days?'

The Church age, prior to Christ's return



VSS. 4 - 6

See Isaiah 58

Judgment is coming

NOTE: imagery in vs. 5. The rich oppressors have become the fatted calf, ripe for slaughter

VS. 7 AND NOW, BROTHERS...

In the face of such oppression, James reminds Christ-followers that theirs must be a living faith.

“Be patient” Longsuffering in regard to people. Not ***hupomone*** (Gr.), patience in regard to things or circumstances

“Until the Lord’s coming.” The end to our suffering is in sight. Hang in there! (Remember – our oppressors will get theirs, vss. 1-6)



VSS. 8-9

And how are we to wait? Faithfully.

This would be a great time to be sure
we have put on the full armor of God...

See Rev. 2:10; John 21:20-23

Don't position yourself for judgment
(See Rom. 12:17-21)



VSS. 10-11

Consider men of old

Job, in particular

Hebrews 11 ('Faith's Hall of Fame')

Also Jesus (Heb. 12:1-3)

*Hmmm...what kind of example am I setting
for those who come behind me?*

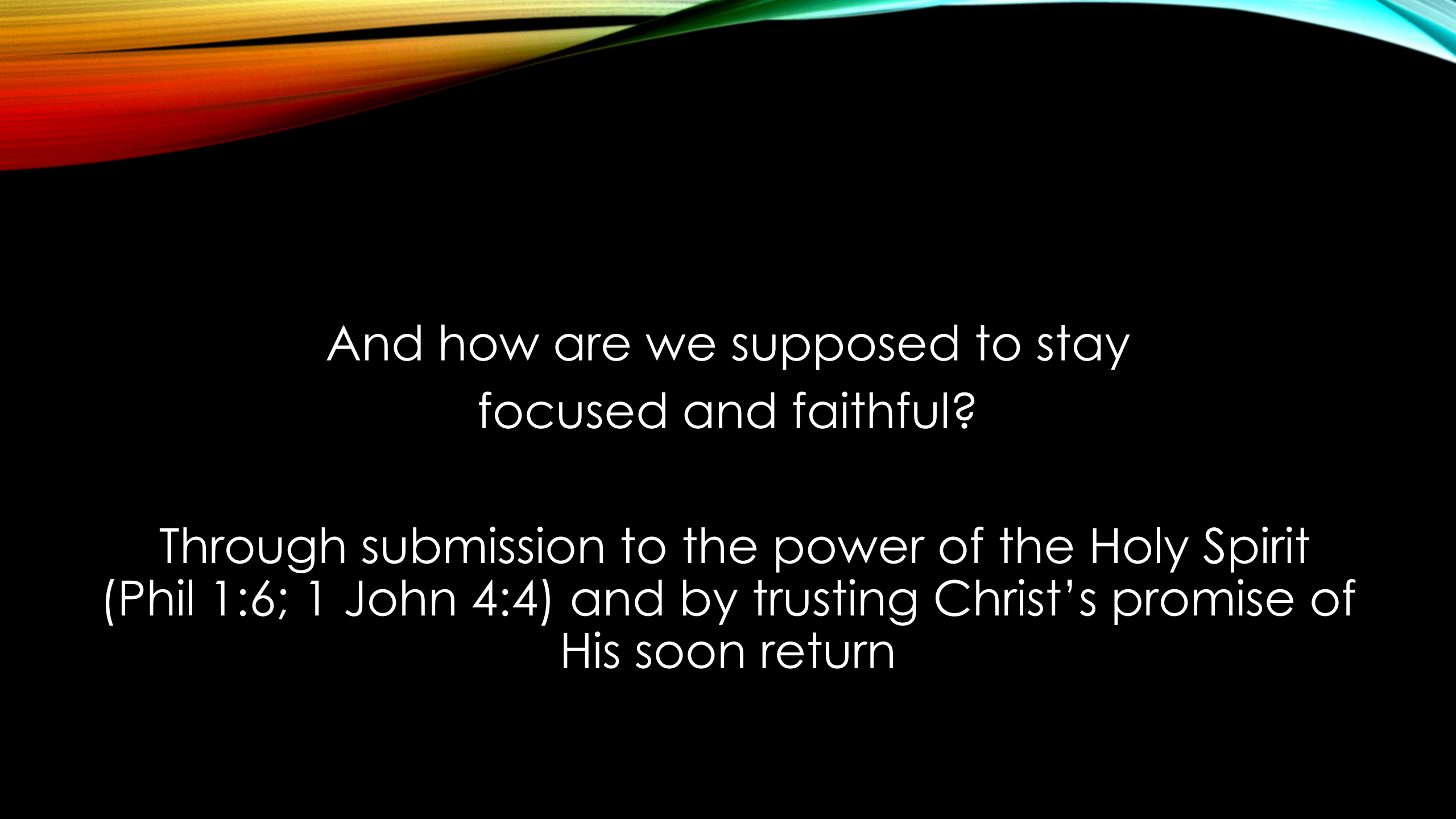


VS. 12

Again, a reminder to watch our mouth.

Specifically in regard to avoiding rash/hasty vows
while suffering (1-7)

Matt. 5:33-37



And how are we supposed to stay
focused and faithful?

Through submission to the power of the Holy Spirit
(Phil 1:6; 1 John 4:4) and by trusting Christ's promise of
His soon return