



FEAR IN ACTION

Hard Lessons from **JAMES**



Religion

TRUE RELIGION

BRAND JEANS®

²⁶ Those who consider themselves **religious** (θησκός) and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their **religion** (θησκεία) is worthless. ²⁷ **Religion** (θησκεία) that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:26-27 (NIV)

Religion: θρησκεία (thrēskeia)

Ritual acts that display commitment to a god

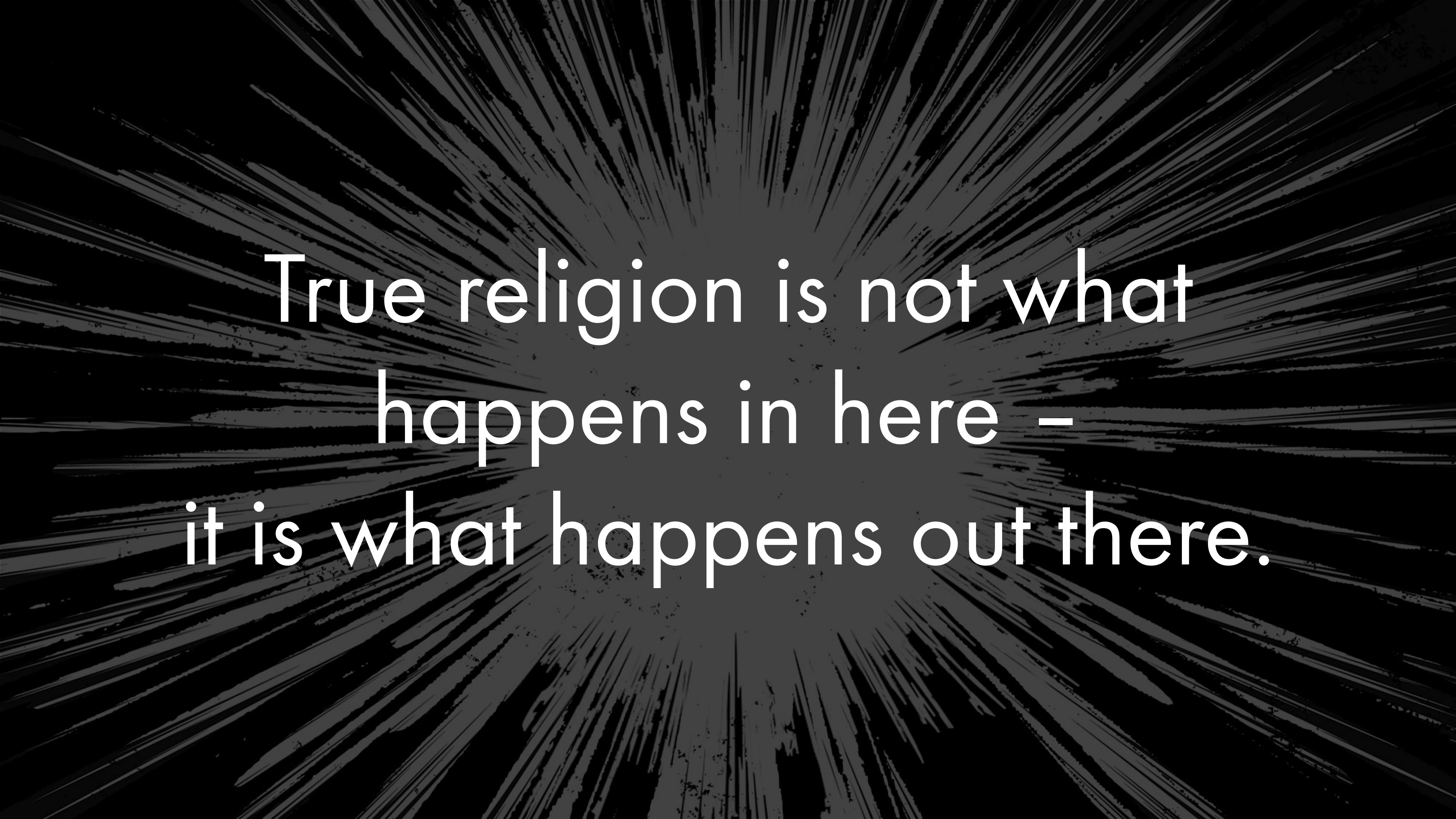
What is True Religion?

Transformation

- Struggle with sin
- New Birth – Word of Truth
- Doing the word

Mission

- Living out the Character of Jesus



True religion is not what
happens in here –
it is what happens out there.



Kingdom Values Conversion

Designed for Christ-followers
living in exile

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,
whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because
you know that the testing of your faith produces
perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so
that you may be mature and complete, not lacking
anything.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire (ἐπιθυμίας) and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire (ἐπιθυμίας) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

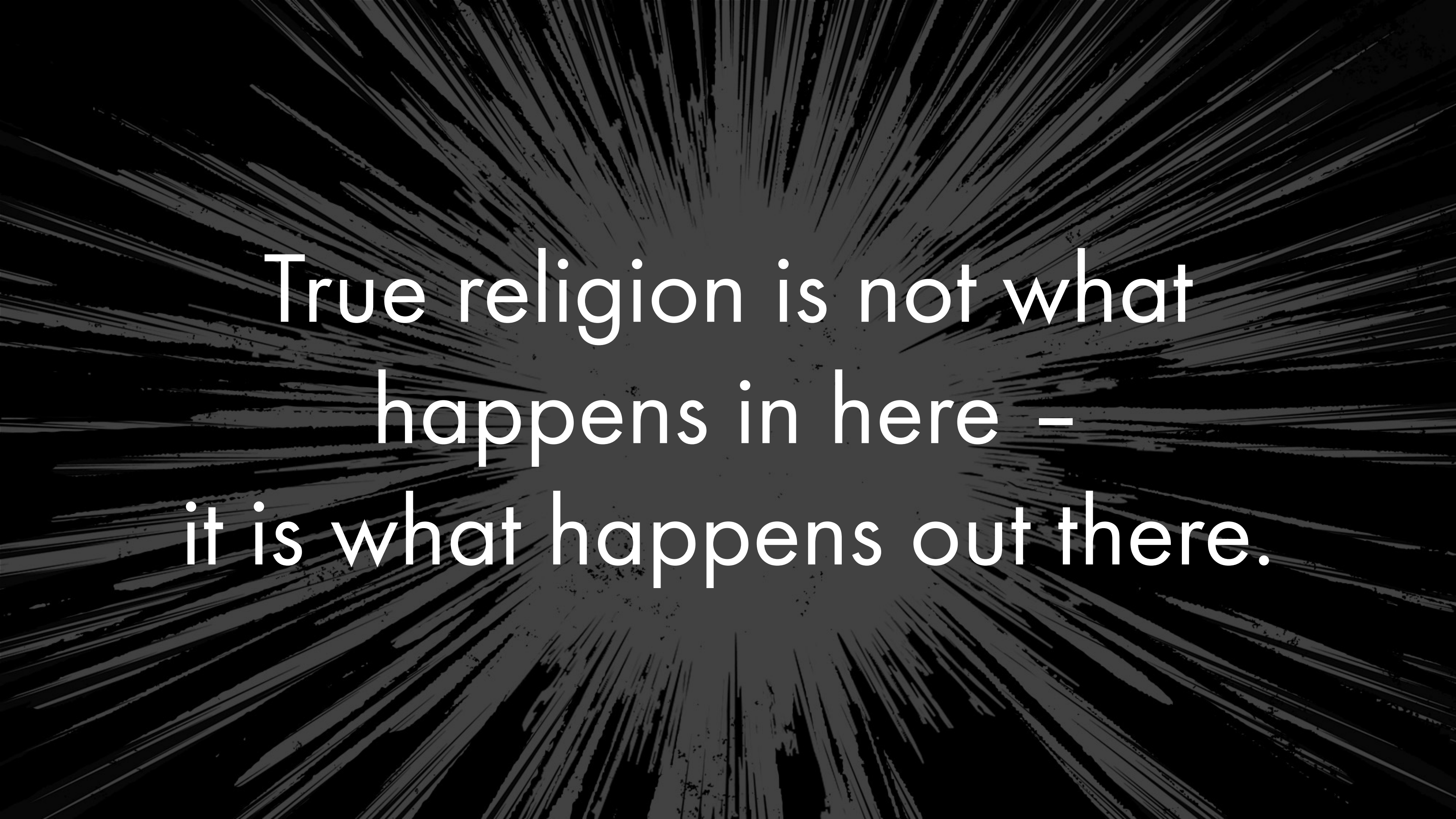
James 1:13-15 (NIV)



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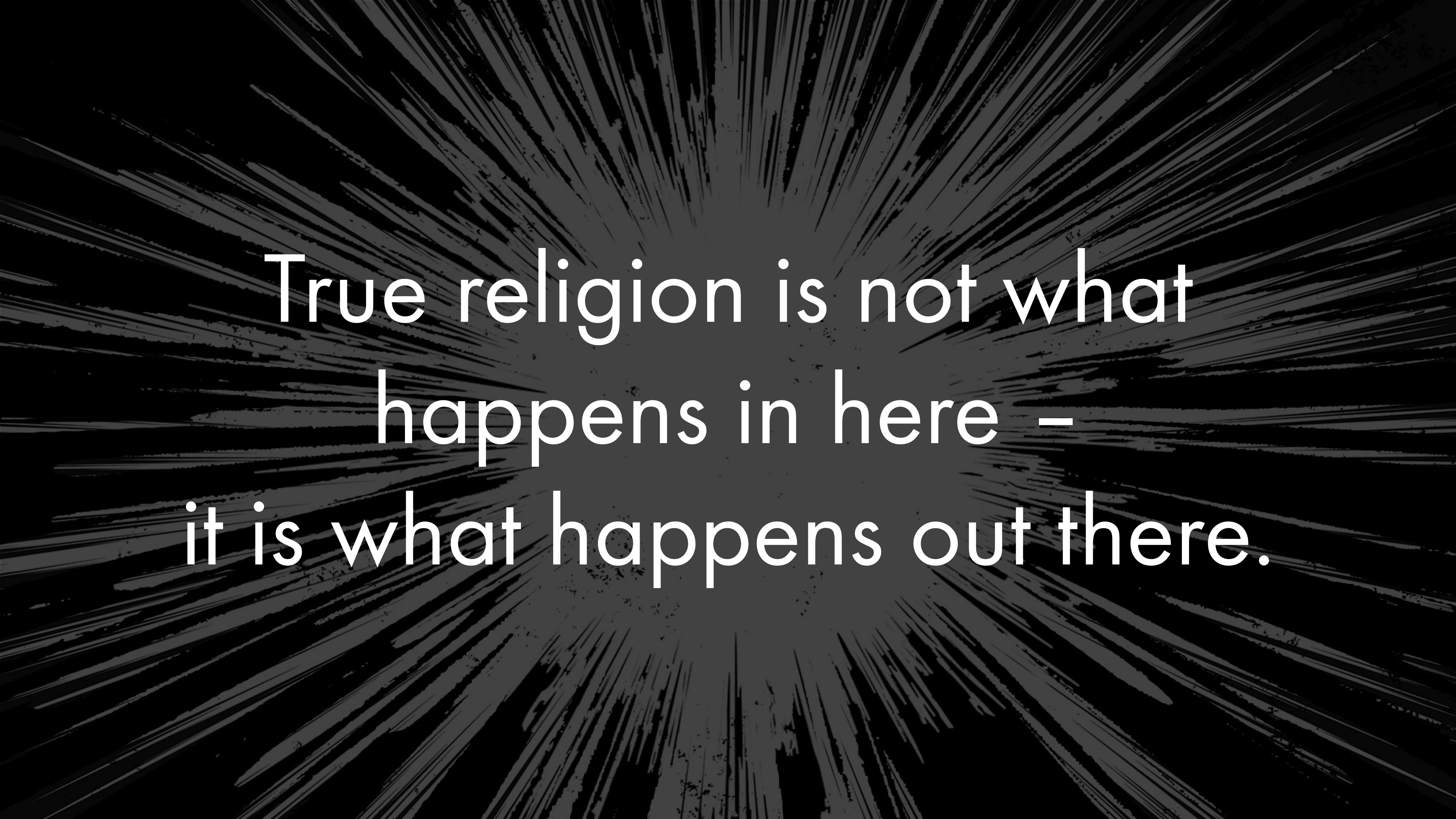


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¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, (λόγῳ ἀληθείας) that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:17-18 (NIV)

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard **the message of truth**, (λόγον τῆς ἀληθείας) the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 1:13 (NIV)

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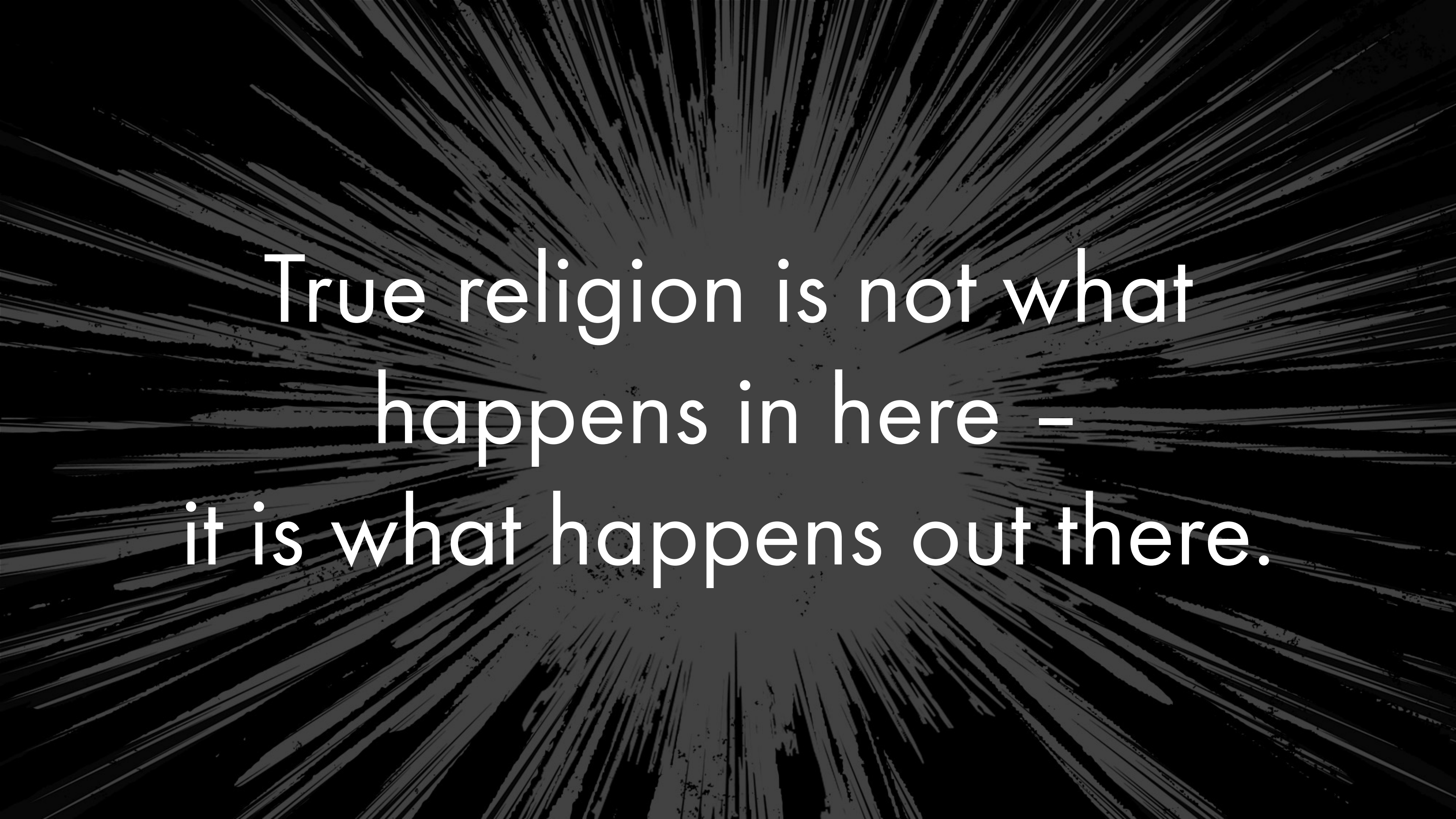
¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word (λόγον) planted in you, which can save you.

James 1:19-21 (NIV)

What is True Religion?

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True religion is not what
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²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

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James 1:22 (NIV)

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James 1:23-25 (NIV)

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James 1:22 (NIV)

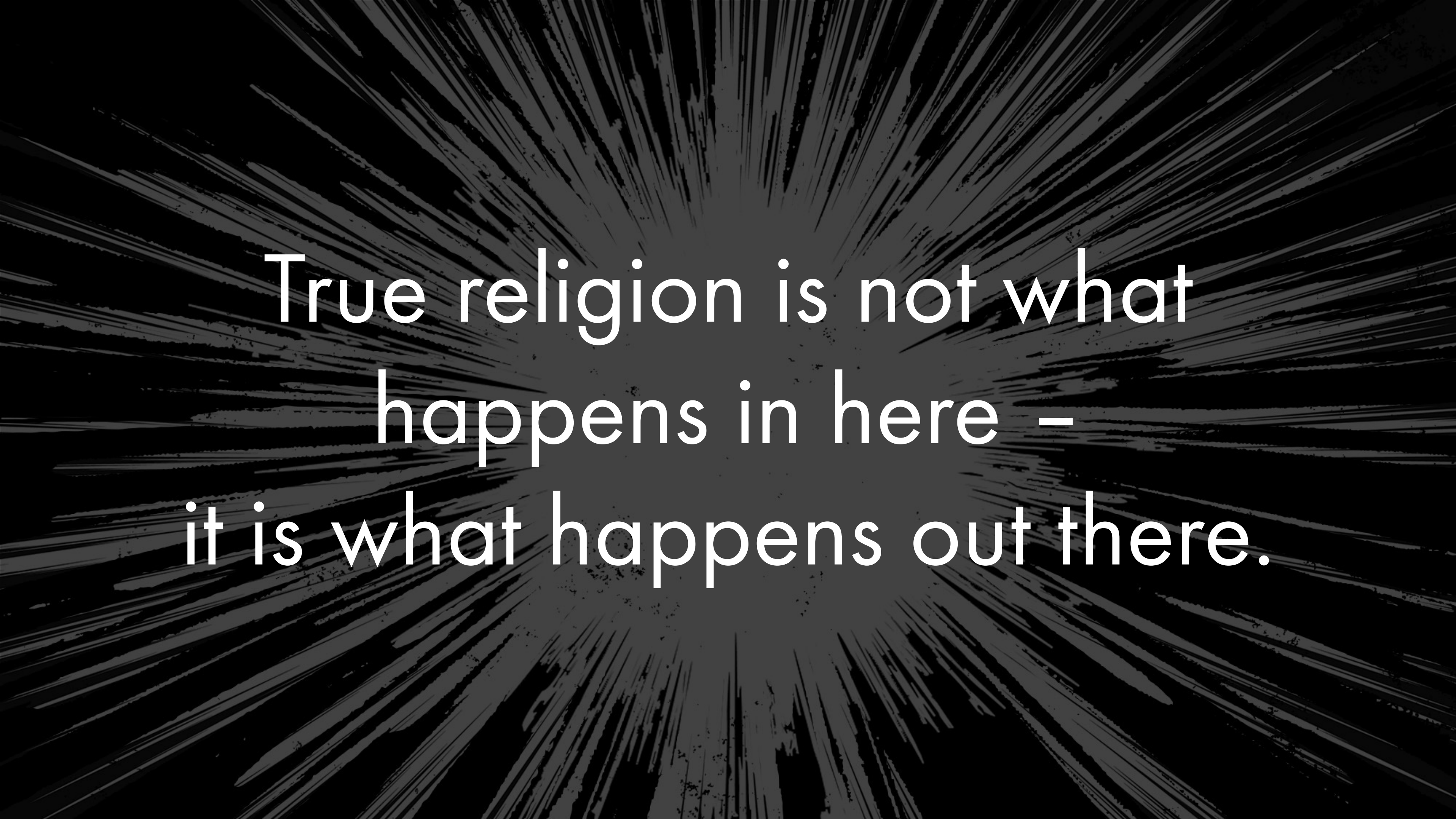
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26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not **keep a tight rein** on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:26-27 (NIV)

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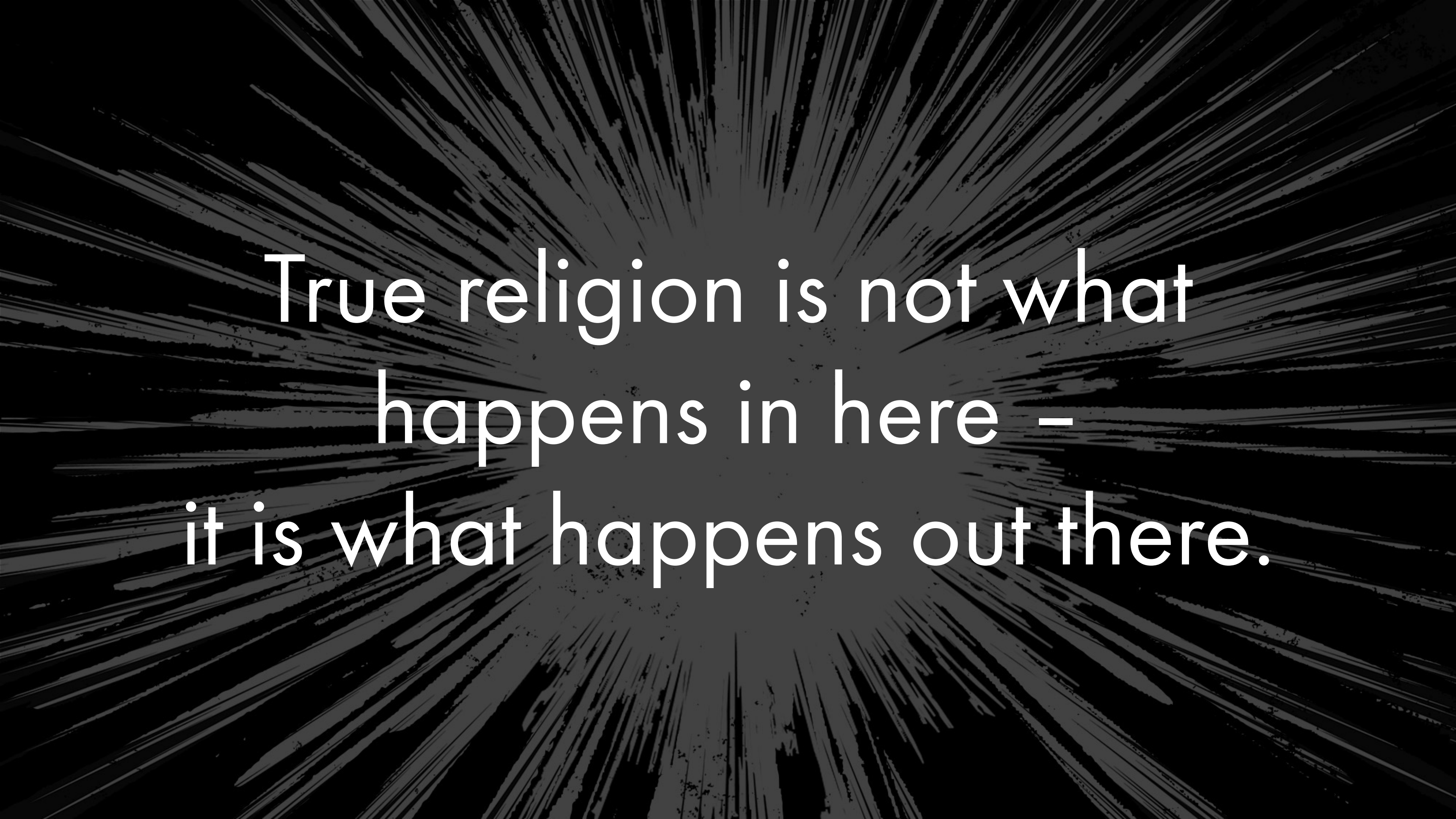
James 1:26-27 (NIV)

¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Deuteronomy 10:18-19 (NIV)

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