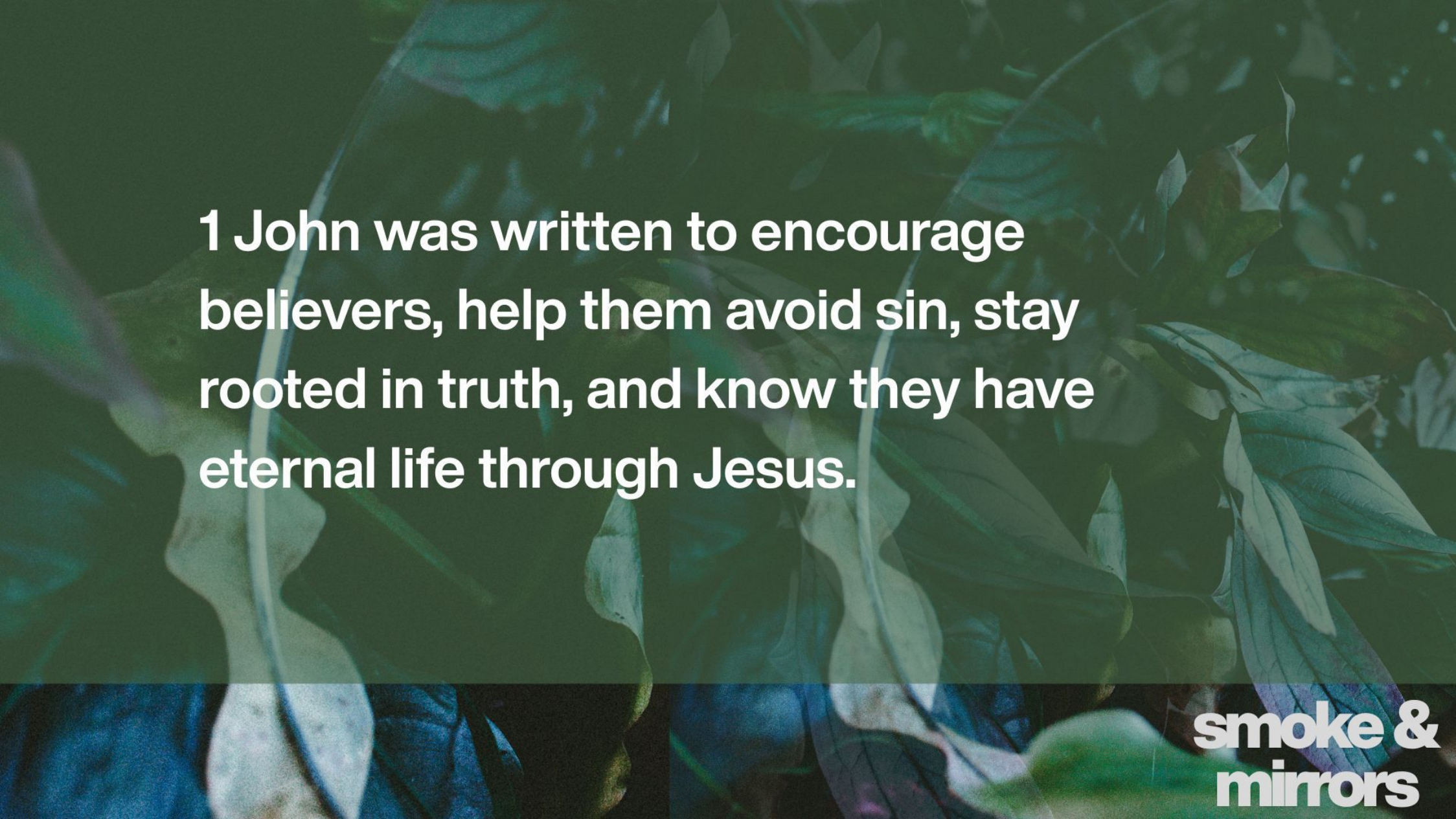




smoke & mirrors

A SERMON SERIES ON 1 JOHN



**1 John was written to encourage
believers, help them avoid sin, stay
rooted in truth, and know they have
eternal life through Jesus.**

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1. To promote fellowship and joy

“We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.” (1 John 1:4 CSB)

2. To help believers avoid sin and walk in forgiveness

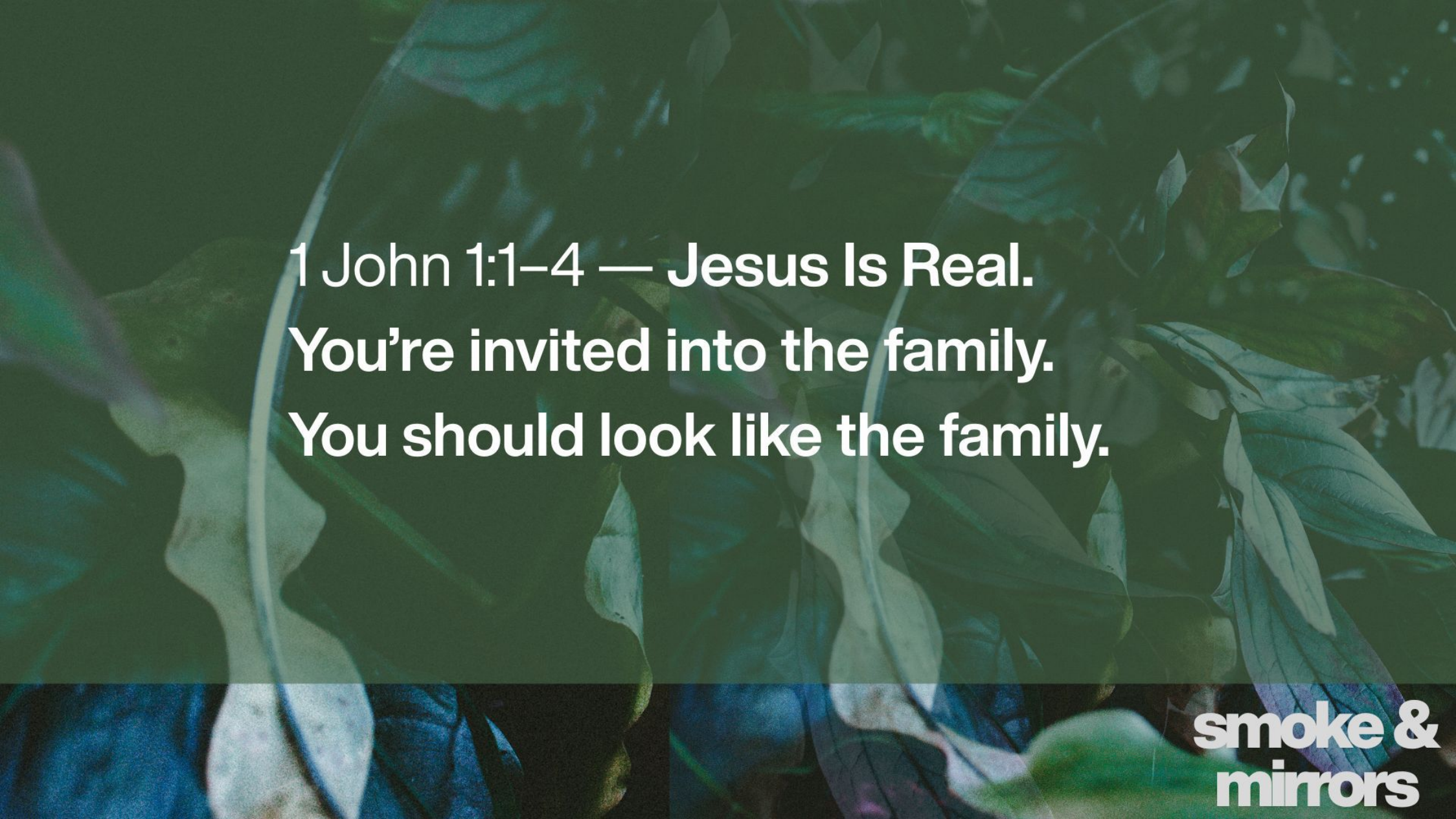
“My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin.” (1 John 2:1 CSB)

3. To protect them from false teachers

“I have written these things to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.” (1 John 2:26 CSB)

4. To give assurance of eternal life

“I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13 CSB)



1 John 1:1–4 — Jesus Is Real.
You're invited into the family.
You should look like the family.

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[1] What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— [2] that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— [3] what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. [4] We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. (CSB)

To Mary Magdalene	John 20:11–18	1	To the disciples in Galilee	Matthew 28:16–20	11
To the other women	Matthew 28:8–10	2+	To 500+ people at one time	1 Corinthians 15:6	500+
To the two disciples on the road to Emmaus	Luke 24:13–35	2	To James (Jesus' brother)	1 Corinthians 15:7	1
To Peter (Cephas)	Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5	1	To the apostles at the Ascension	Acts 1:3–9, Luke 24:44–53	11+
To the 10 disciples (Thomas absent)	John 20:19–23, Luke 24:36–43	10	To Paul (later, post-Ascension)	1 Corinthians 15:8, Acts 9	1
To the 11 disciples (with Thomas)	John 20:24–29	11			
To seven disciples by the Sea	John 21:1–14	7			



But the goal isn't just to prove
Jesus is real—it's to invite others
into relationship:

**“So that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our
fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ” (vs 3)**

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“My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death” (Philippians 3:10 CSB)

In 1 John, the goal is fellowship—with the father, Jesus, and other believers (1 John 1:3). In Philippians 3:10, Paul shows us what deep fellowship with Jesus looks like:

Knowing Him personally | Experiencing His power

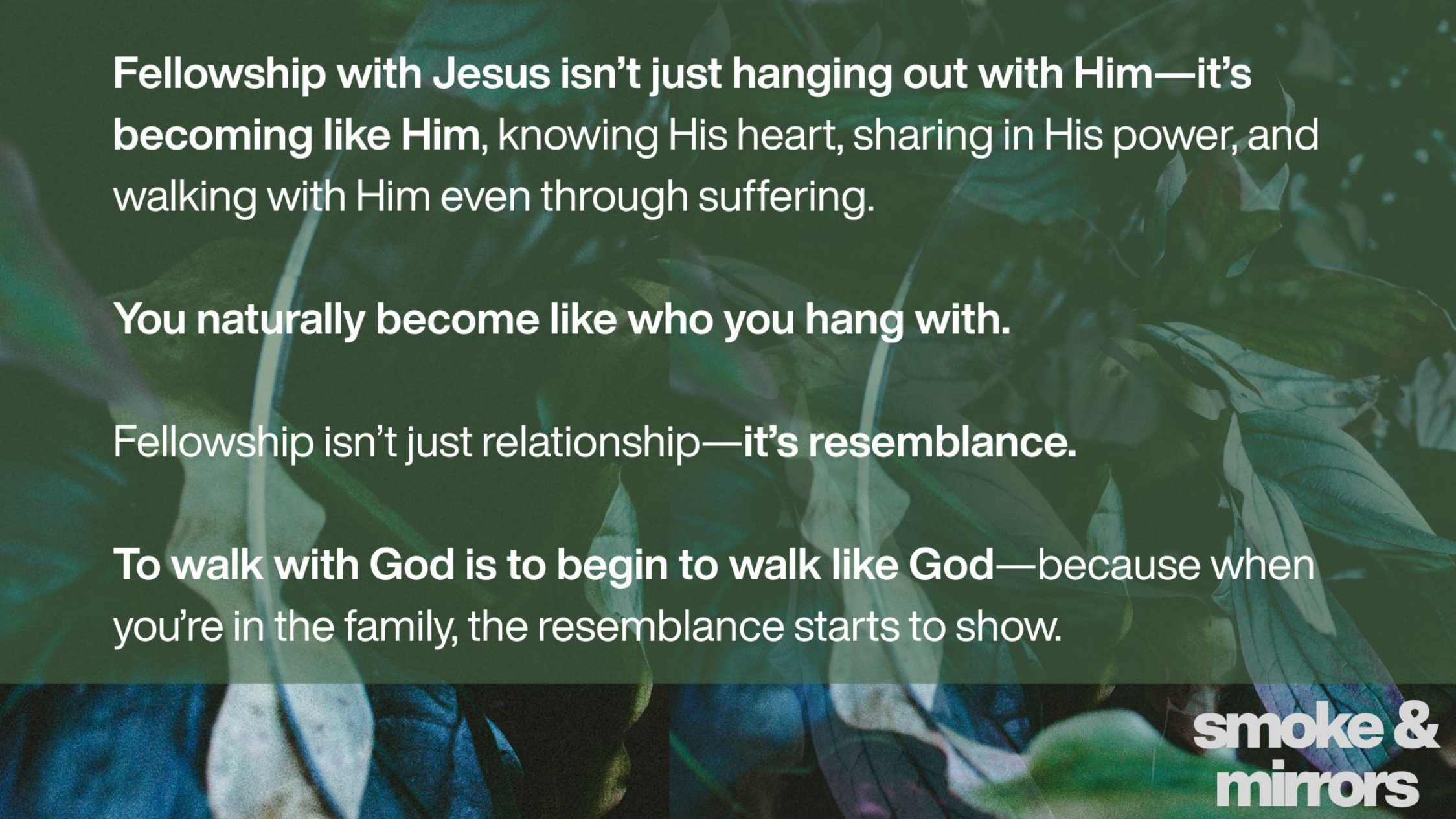
Walking with Him even in suffering | Becoming more like Him

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Knowing Him personally | Experiencing His power

Walking with Him even in suffering | Becoming more like Him



Fellowship with Jesus isn't just hanging out with Him—it's becoming like Him, knowing His heart, sharing in His power, and walking with Him even through suffering.

You naturally become like who you hang with.

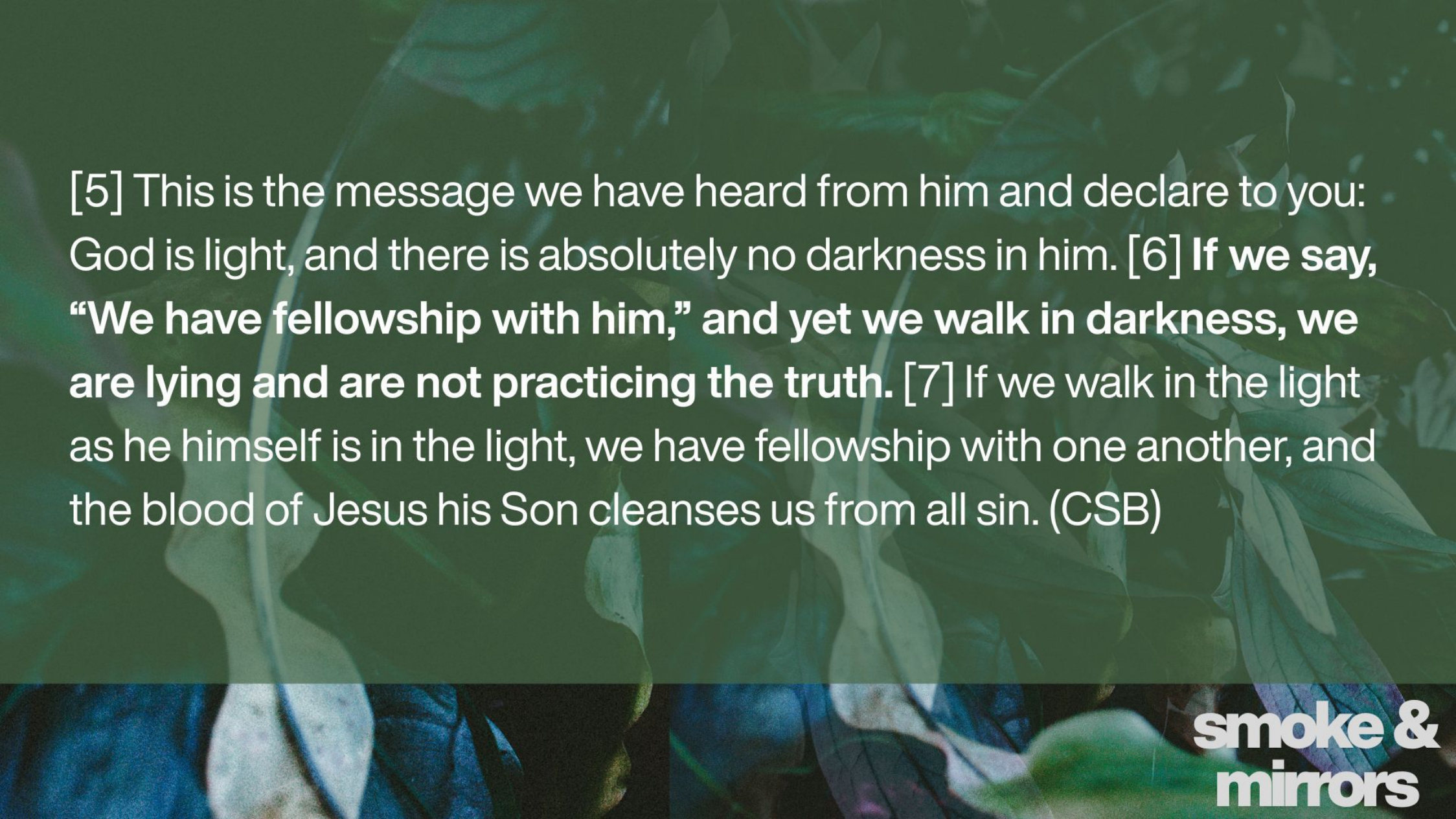
Fellowship isn't just relationship—it's **resemblance**.

To walk with God is to begin to walk like God—because when you're in the family, the resemblance starts to show.

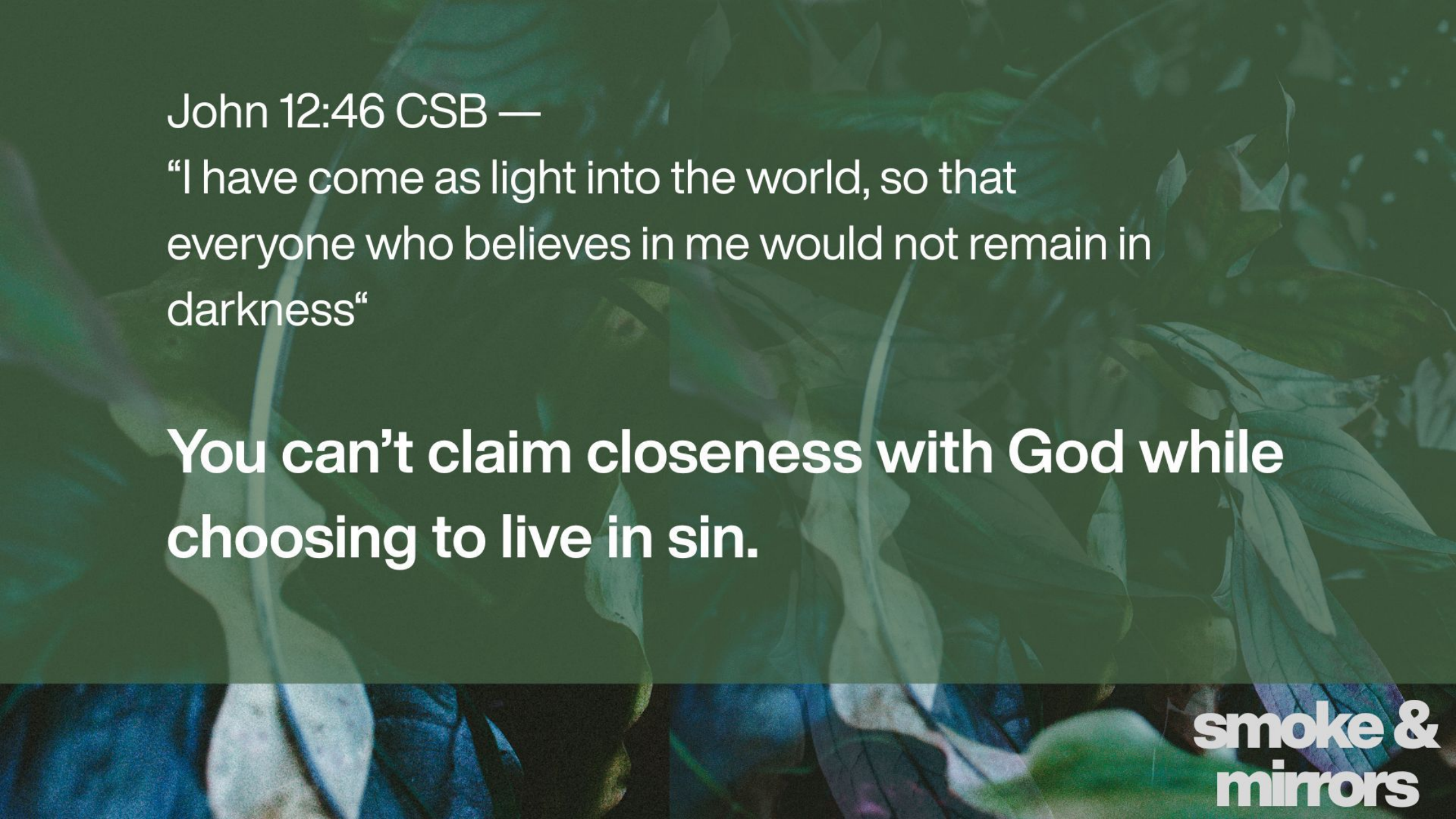
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**1 John 1:5–7 — Walking in the Light:
The Evidence of Real Fellowship**

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[5] This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him. [6] **If we say, “We have fellowship with him,” and yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth.** [7] If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (CSB)

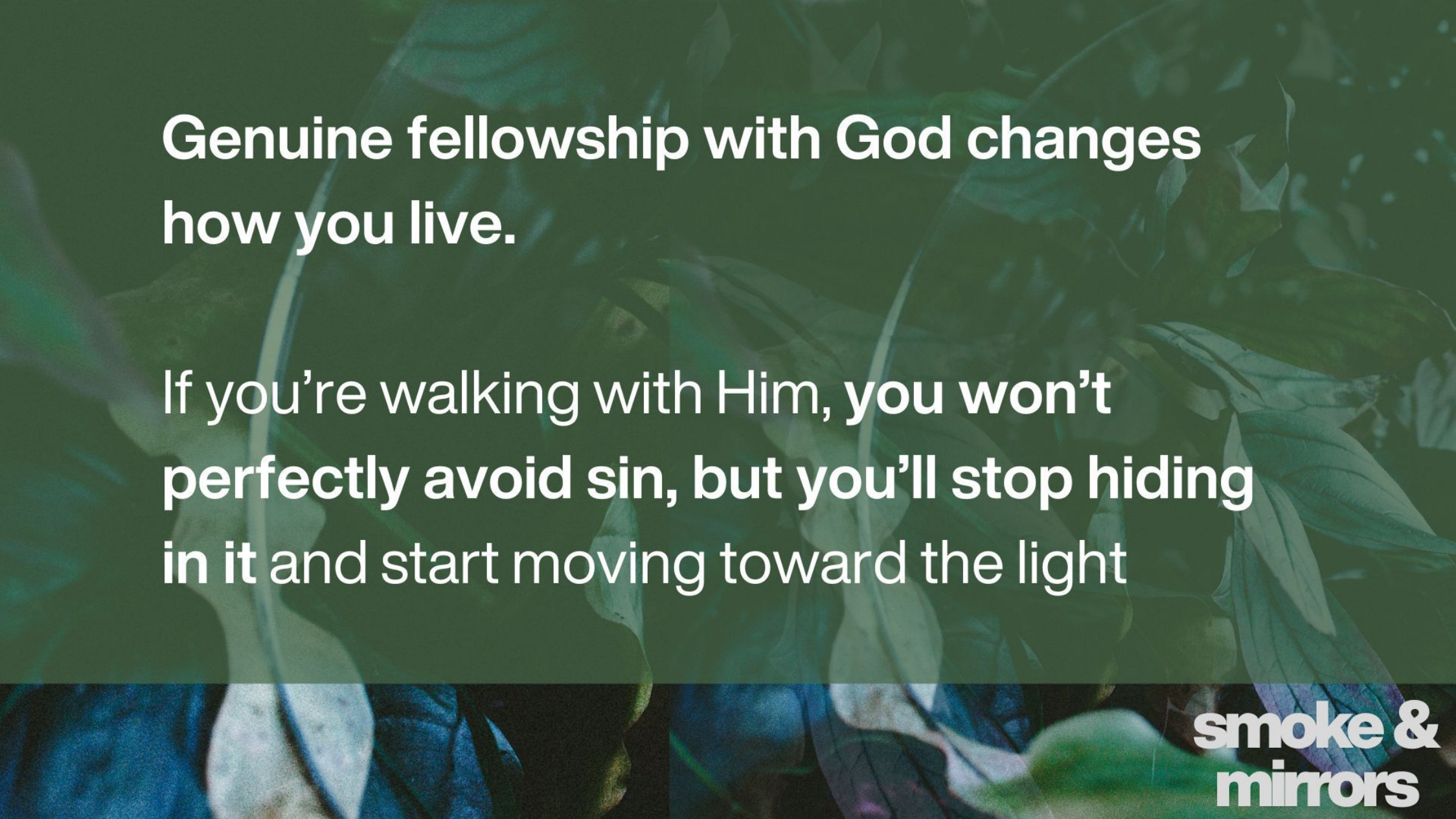


John 12:46 CSB —

“I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness”

You can't claim closeness with God while choosing to live in sin.

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Genuine fellowship with God changes
how you live.

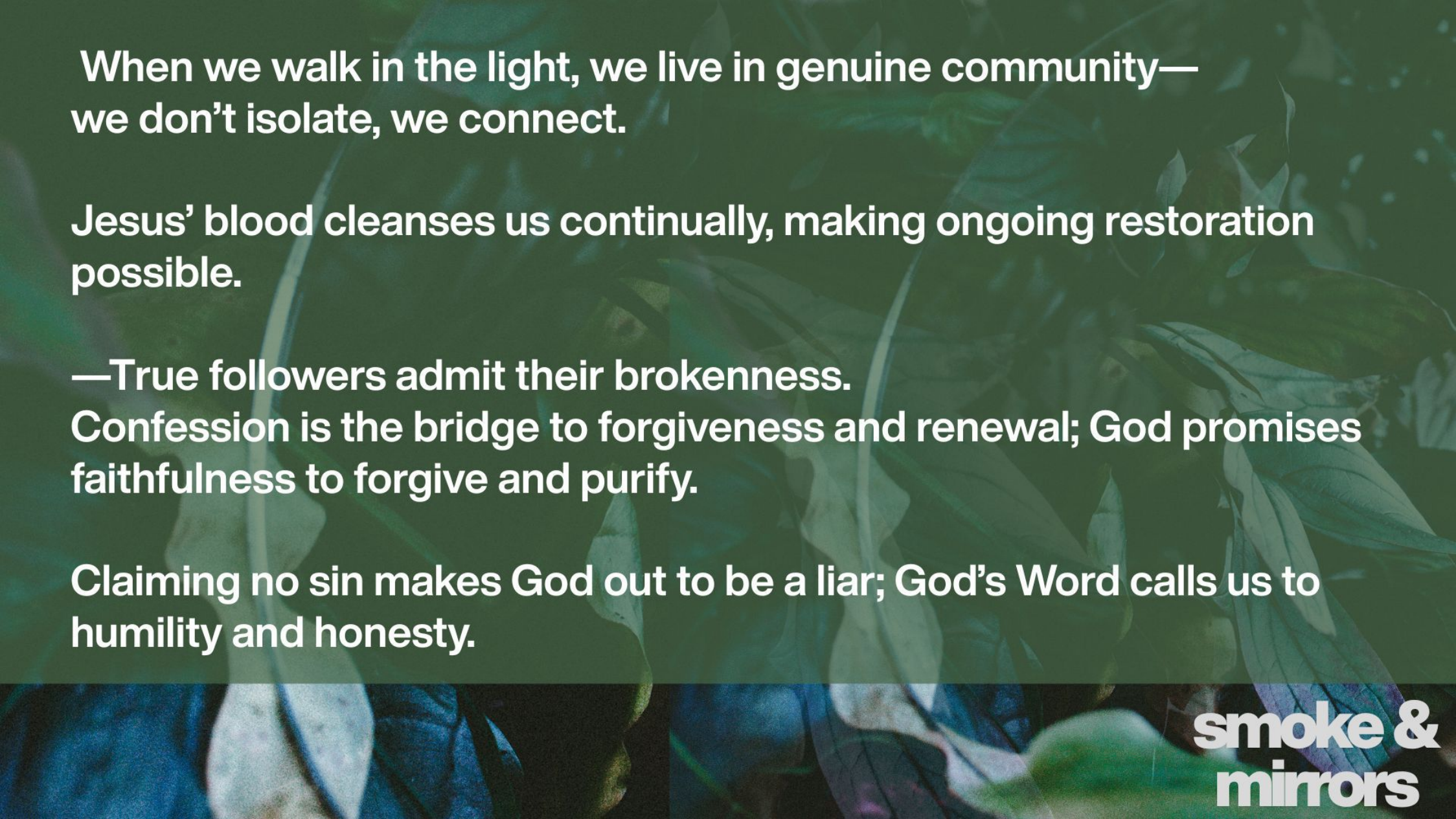
If you're walking with Him, you won't
perfectly avoid sin, but you'll stop hiding
in it and start moving toward the light

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**1 John 1:7-10— Walking in the Light Means
Owning Your Sin, Confessing It, and
Being Cleansed**

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[7] But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. [8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.



When we walk in the light, we live in genuine community—
we don't isolate, we connect.

Jesus' blood cleanses us continually, making ongoing restoration
possible.

—True followers admit their brokenness.
Confession is the bridge to forgiveness and renewal; God promises
faithfulness to forgive and purify.

Claiming no sin makes God out to be a liar; God's Word calls us to
humility and honesty.

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