



You Are What You Say

Recap

My **dear** brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you **favour some people over others?** **2:1**

The rich, powerful and famous have always been the desired “converts.” James believes that the Kingdom is built by outcasts

Recap

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? **Can that kind of faith save anyone? vs 14**

This may be one of the most dangerous statements in the New Testament

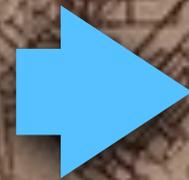
Recap

The reason James offends us, is that we have seen Christianity as binary

Faith



complete

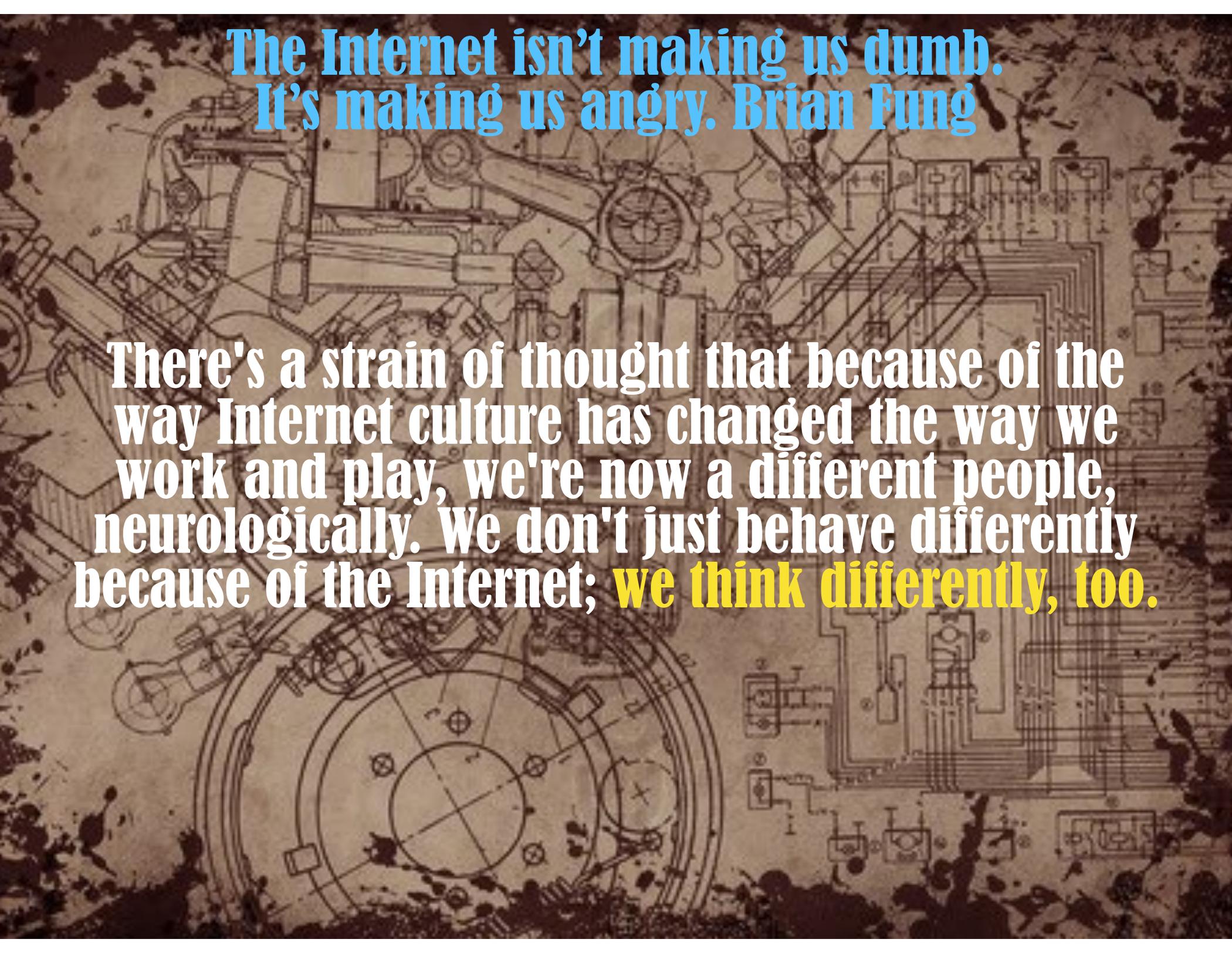


Works

Spiritual
inner life-
prayer, bible
reading etc

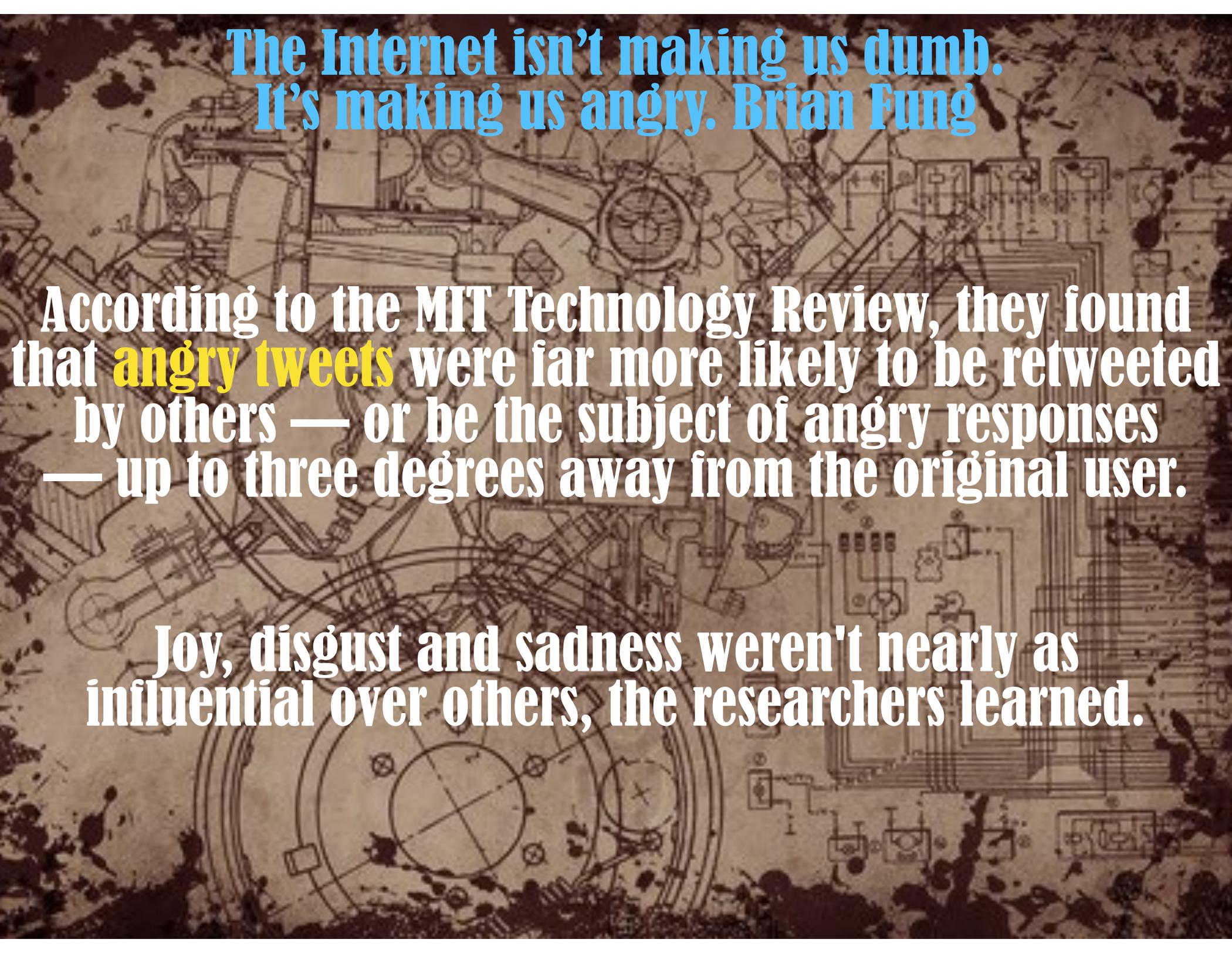
serving,
giving,
witnessing etc

Think of actions as a symptom of a faith that is alive



**The Internet isn't making us dumb.
It's making us angry. Brian Fung**

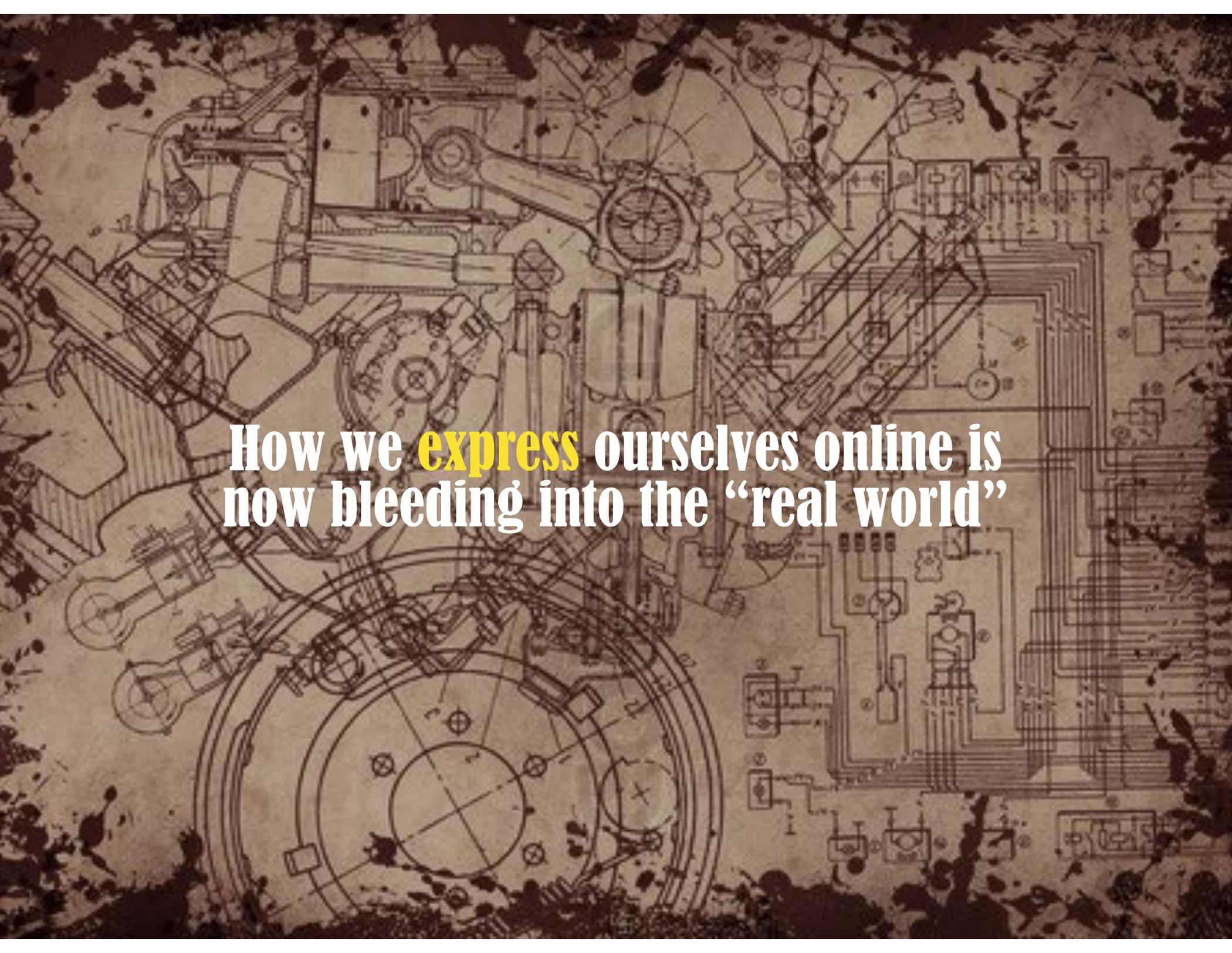
There's a strain of thought that because of the way Internet culture has changed the way we work and play, we're now a different people, neurologically. We don't just behave differently because of the Internet; **we think differently, too.**



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According to the MIT Technology Review, they found that **angry tweets were far more likely to be retweeted by others — or be the subject of angry responses — up to three degrees away from the original user.**

Joy, disgust and sadness weren't nearly as influential over others, the researchers learned.



How we **express** ourselves online is now bleeding into the “real world”

The Problem

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For **if we could control our tongues**, we would be **perfect** and could also **control ourselves** in every other way. **3:1-2**

James now moves on to our interactions with others

The Problem

the tongue is a **flame of fire.** vs 6

It is a whole world of wickedness, **corrupting your entire body.** It can set your **whole life** on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

James believes that what we say can convey who we are more than any other aspects of our lives

The Problem

Guard your **heart** above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Avoid all **perverse talk**; stay away from **corrupt speech**. **Proverbs 4:23-24**

You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? **For whatever is in your heart determines what you say**. **Matthew 12:34**

In the ancient world, the tongue (speech) was seen as a direct conduit to the **heart**

The Problem

Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. **And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth.** Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! **vs 9-10**

We have the potential for good and evil

The Problem

For the past few chapters, James has been trying to connect the **outer life** with the **inner life**

hearing and doing

whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free

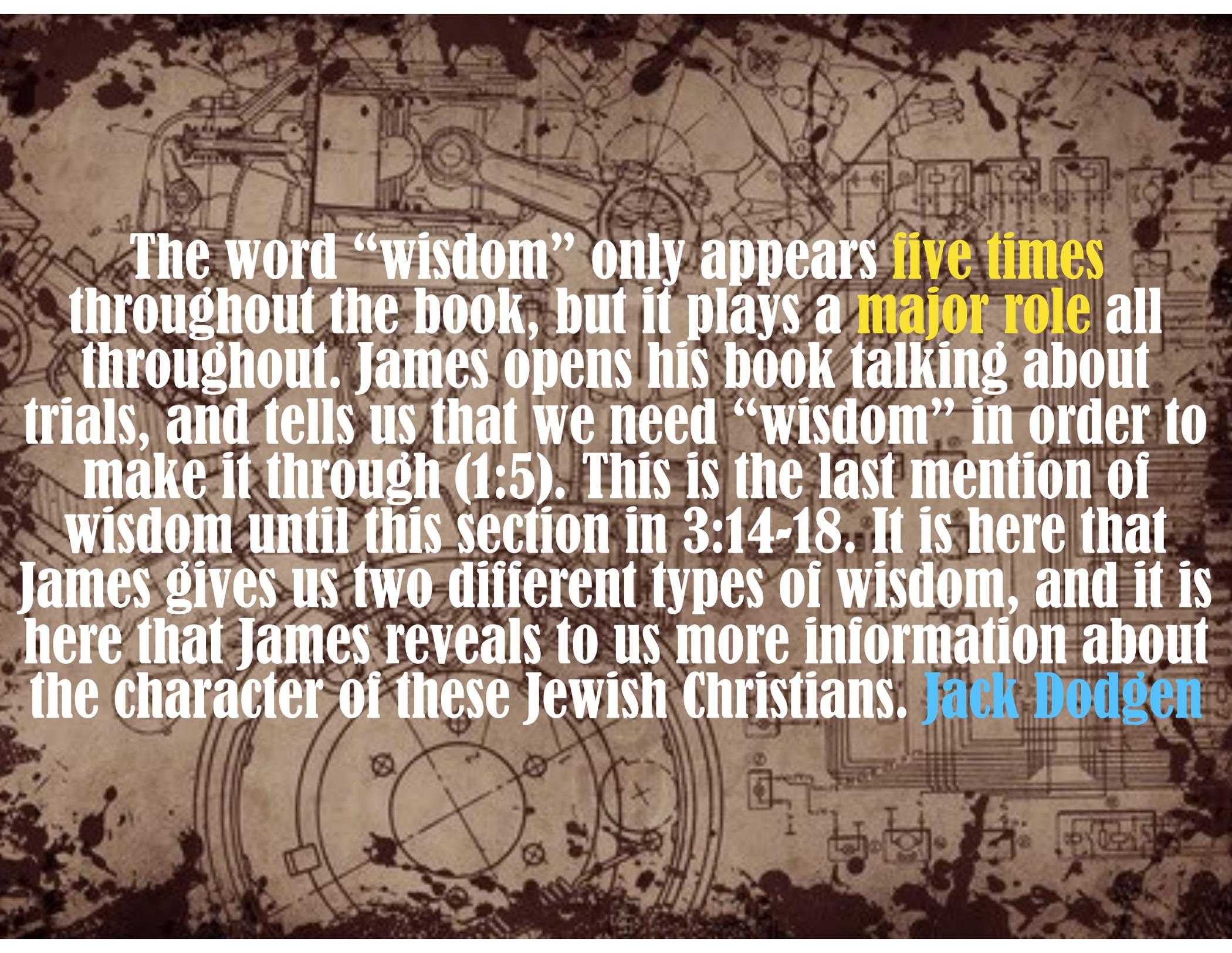
faith and actions

And the point might be that he believes that both (outer/inner) reveal our **true natures**

The Solution

If you are wise and understand
God's ways, **prove it...** vs 13a

...by living an **honourable** life, doing **good works**
with the **humility** that comes from wisdom. vs 13b

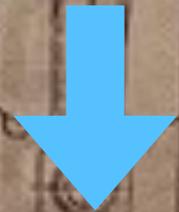


The word “wisdom” only appears **five times** throughout the book, but it plays a **major role** all throughout. James opens his book talking about trials, and tells us that we need “wisdom” in order to make it through (1:5). This is the last mention of wisdom until this section in 3:14-18. It is here that James gives us two different types of wisdom, and it is here that James reveals to us more information about the character of these Jewish Christians. **Jack Dodgen**

know



If you are **wise** and **understand** God's ways **vs 13**



practice

Sophos-wise, skilled in letters, cultivated, learned

Epistemon-experienced, one having the knowledge of an expert, hands on

But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition **in your heart**, don't cover up the truth with **boasting (inflation)** and **lying (deception)**. **vs 14**

For jealousy and selfishness are **not God's kind of wisdom**. Such things are **earthly, unspiritual, and demonic**. **vs 15**

Bad

Worse

**Forget
about it**

For **if** we could control our tongues **vs 2**

If you are wise and understand
God's ways, prove it **vs 13**

But **if** you are bitterly jealous and there
is selfish ambition in your heart **vs 14**

Choice matters

The Wise Life

Honourable Life-Kalos, godly, genuine, authentic, inner and outer life being consistent

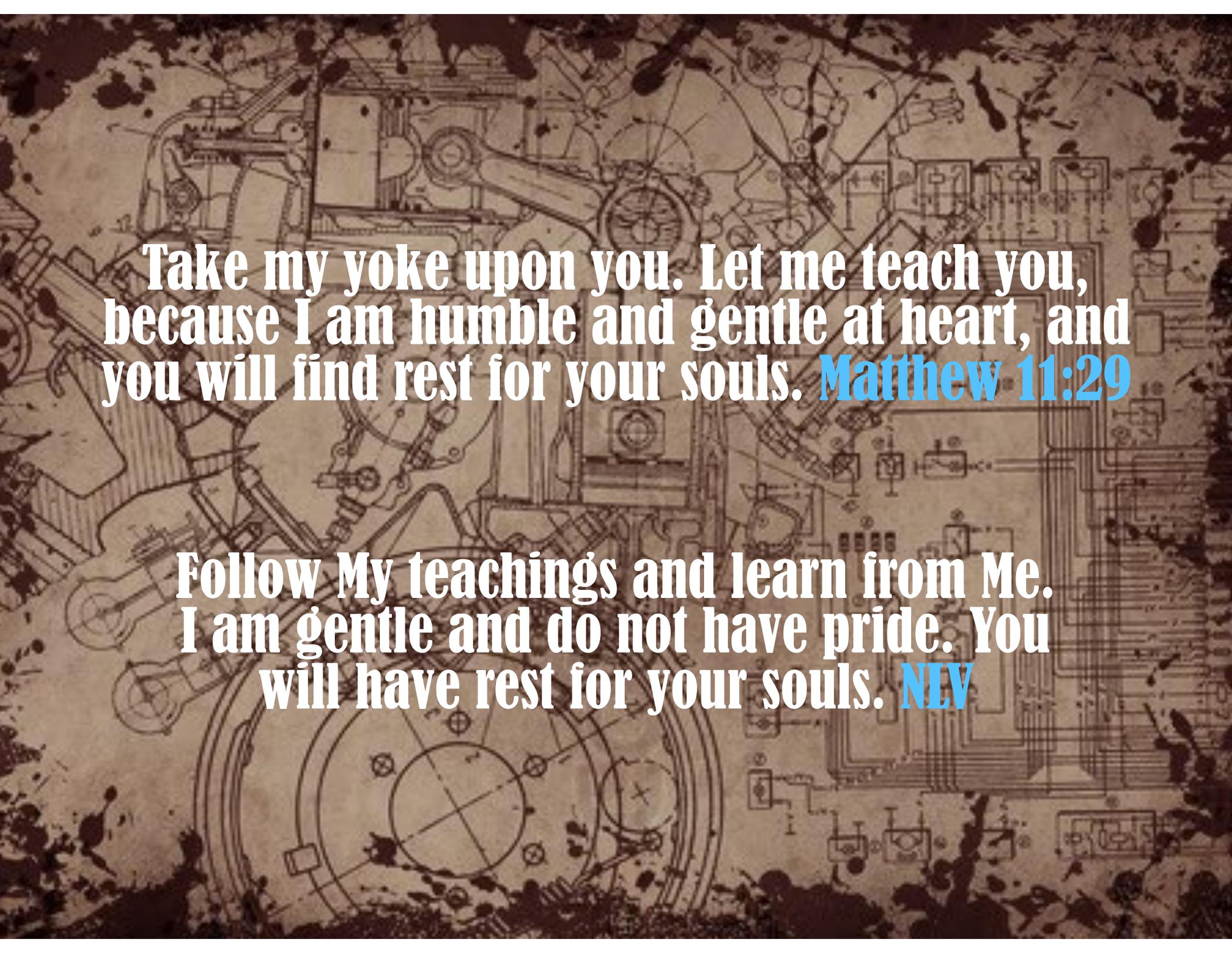
Good Works-outward expression of an inward reality

Humility-Aristotle had this to say about “prautes”
“the ability to **bear reproaches** and slights with moderation, and not to embark on revenge quickly, and **not to be easily provoked to anger**, but to be free from bitterness and contentiousness, having tranquillity and stability in the spirit.”

But the **wisdom from above** is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favouritism and is always sincere. **vs 17**

And those who are peacemakers will **plant** seeds of peace and **reap** a harvest of righteousness. **vs 18**

James' wisdom resembles Jesus

The background of the image is a complex technical drawing or blueprint, rendered in a dark brown or sepia tone. It features various geometric shapes, lines, and circular patterns, resembling a mechanical or architectural plan. The drawing is overlaid with a dark, textured pattern that looks like ink splatters or a grainy surface.

**Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you,
because I am humble and gentle at heart, and
you will find rest for your souls. **Matthew 11:29****

**Follow My teachings and learn from Me.
I am gentle and do not have pride. You
will have rest for your souls. **NIV****