

Ephesians 5:8 – 14

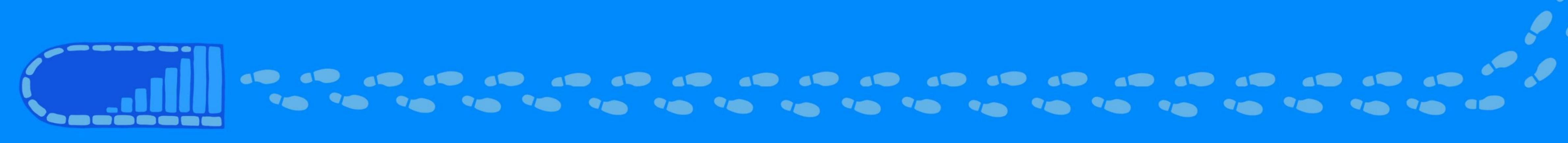
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Ephesians 5:8-14

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live [walk] as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them...

"...For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: 'Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Imitate God by walking as light.

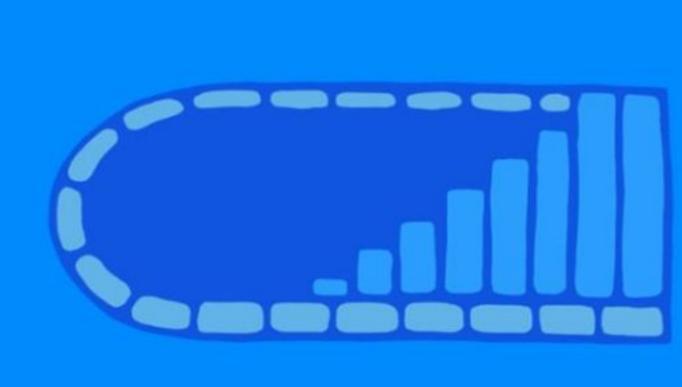


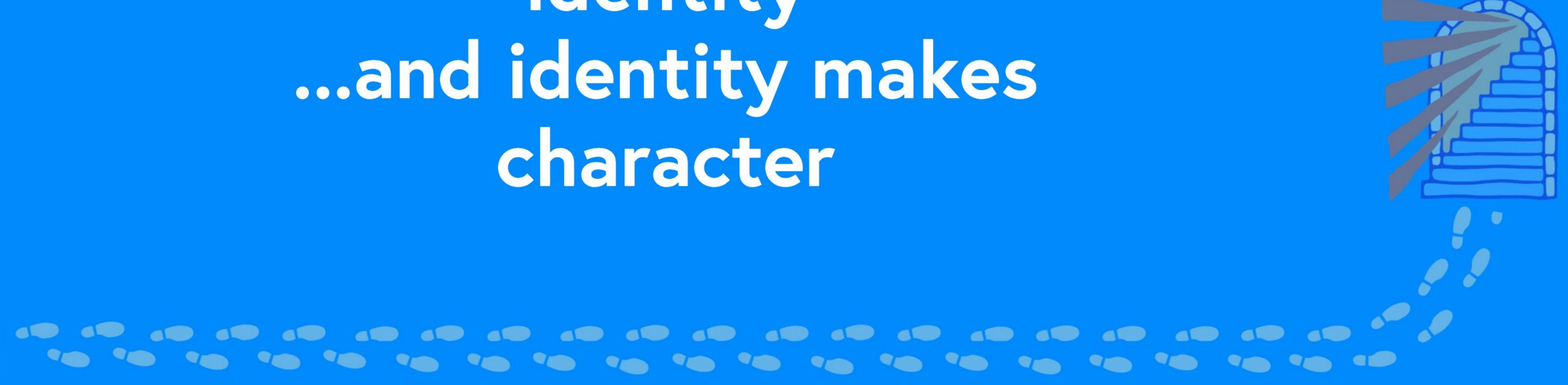
"you aren't IN ____, you ARE ___."
matters.



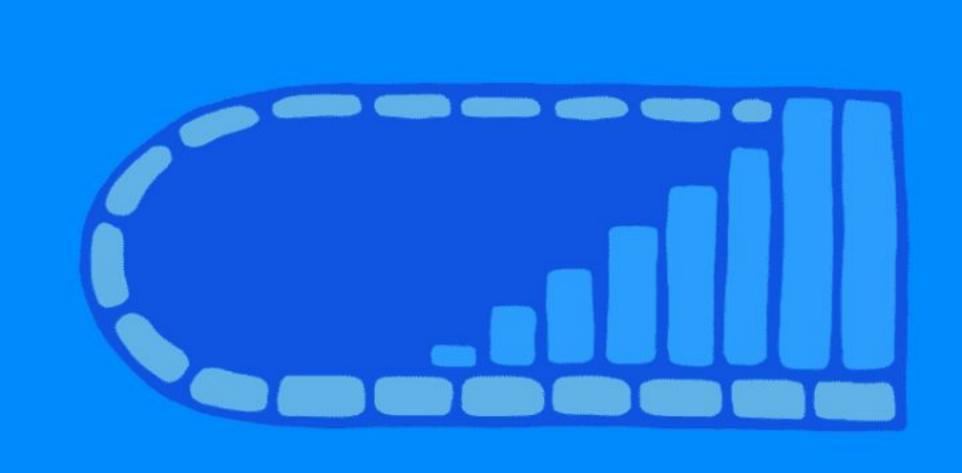
It's not just words, it's meaning.

...and meaning makes identity ...and identity makes character





Choosing your identity is loyalty to yourself. To decide against it is to lose who you think you are.



Not to choose your identity is to choose against integrity.

1. You ARE light

Ephesians 5:8-10

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.

2. Being light takes becoming

Ephesians 5:8-10

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Philippians 1:9-11

"...And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Other passages: Galatians 6:4, 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 5:21, 1 Timothy 3:10, 1 Peter 1:7, 2 Corinthians 13:5, 8:22, 1 Corinthians 11:28, 1 Corinthians 3:13, Romans 1:28

3. Light exposes darkness

Ephesians 5:11–14

...nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible.

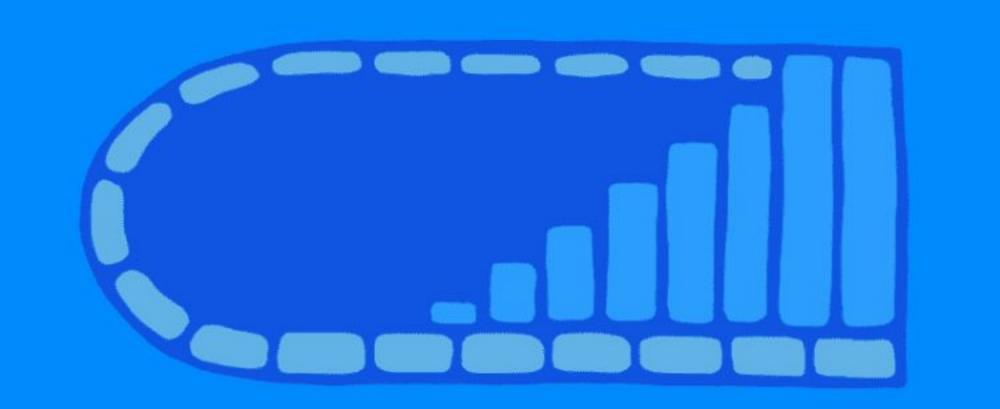


John 3:19-21

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

1 Corinthians 3:11–13

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.



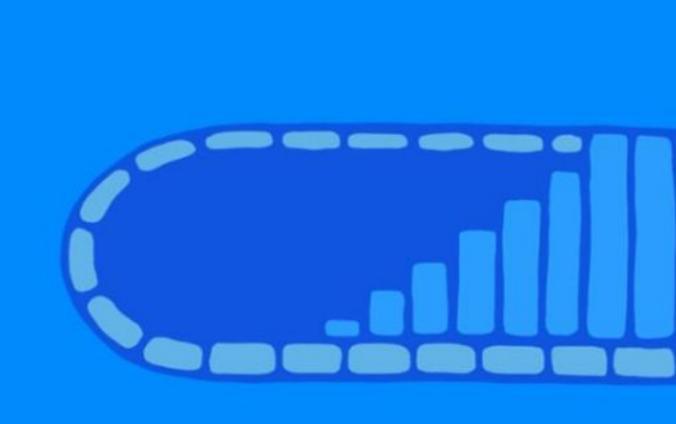
4. Exposing darkness is the soul's awakening, resurrection and sunrise.

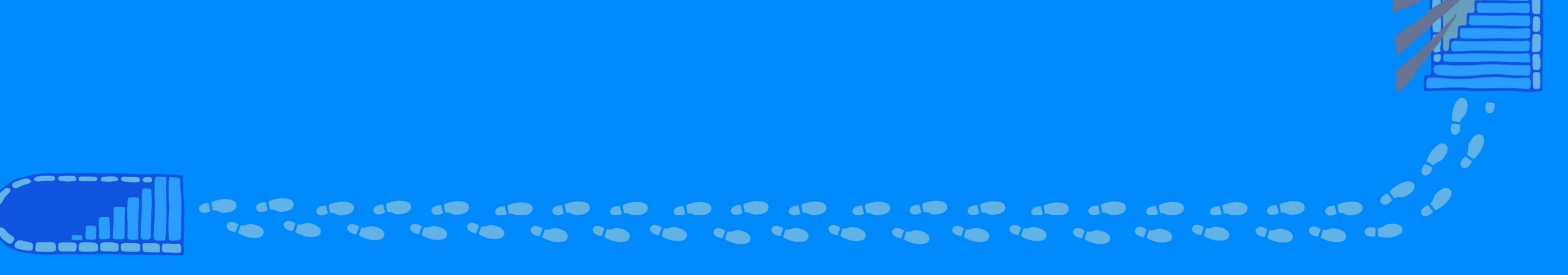


Ephesians 5:13-14

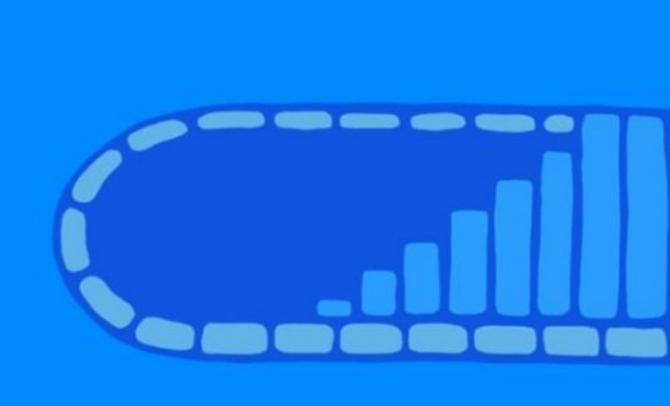
...But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

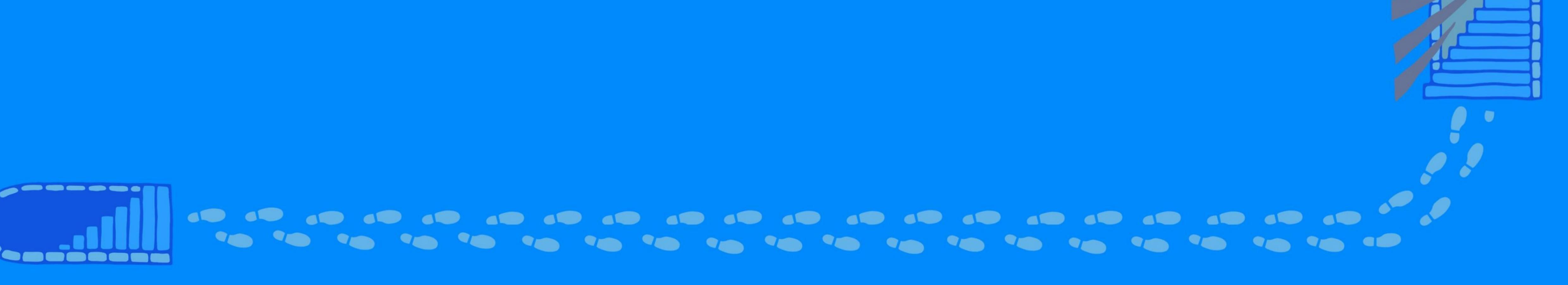
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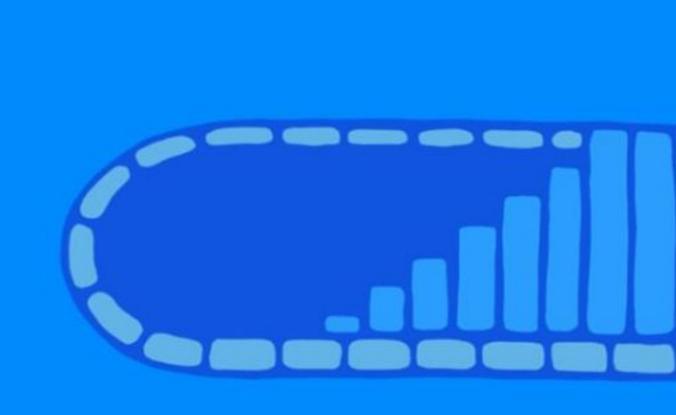


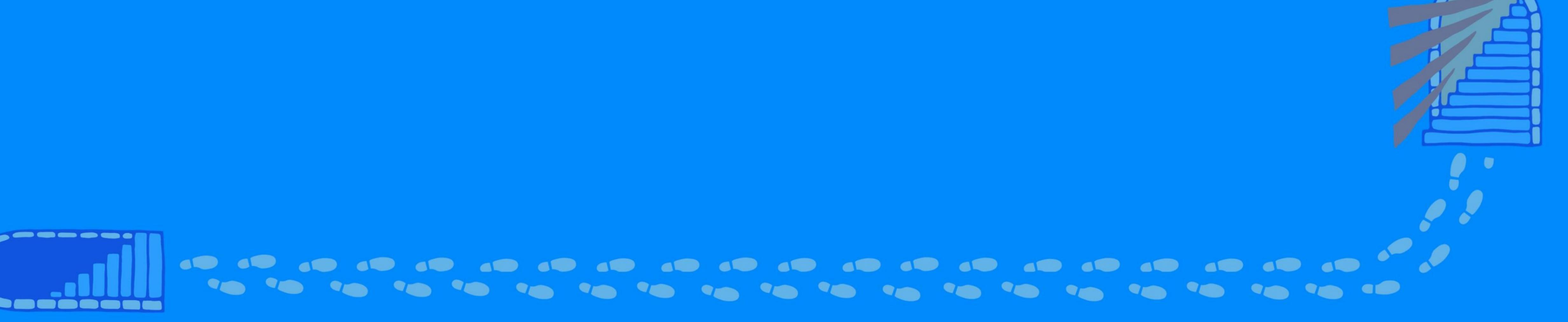
Rise from the Dead





Christ will shine on you





So What?

- 1. Stop willingly partnering with darkness out of presumption.
- 2. Move from thinking about "what will happen to me" to "who I am".
- 3. Integrity in Christ means aiming at goodness, righteousness and truth.

4. We are meant to explore the will of God experimentally—developing the mind of Christ.

5. Are you willing to accept the exposing effect AND work of light?

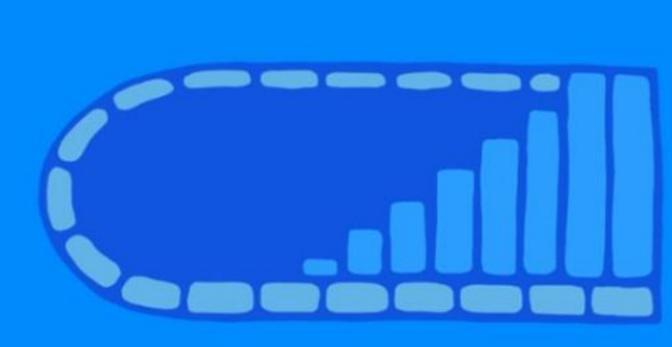
6. What are you unwilling to expose?

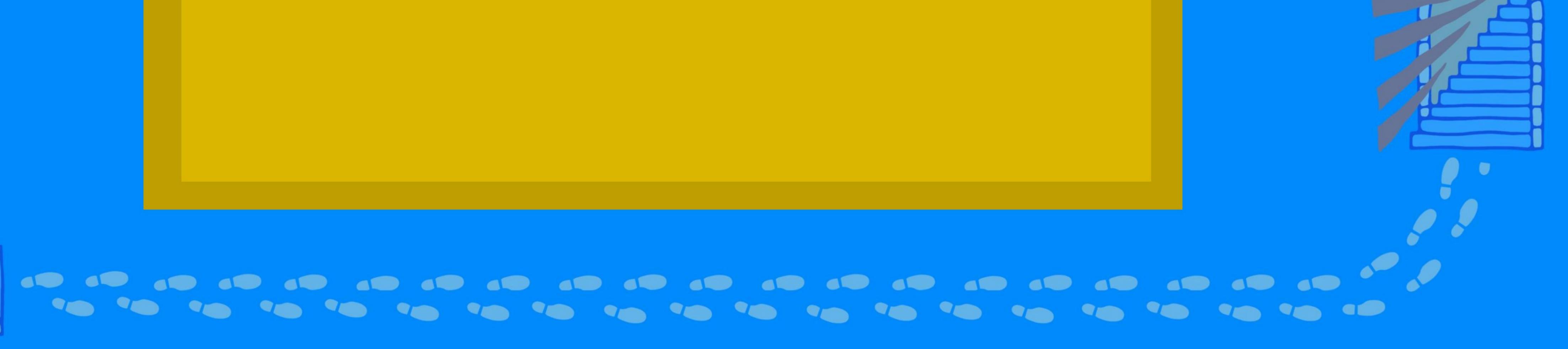
7. Every act of exposing light should be aimed at awakening, rising and Christ shining.

8. Believe in Christ yourself.

9. Be baptized—the ritual of awaking, rising and Christ's shining.

If we are light, what is something you are supposed to make visible? How are you to be illuminating?





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