



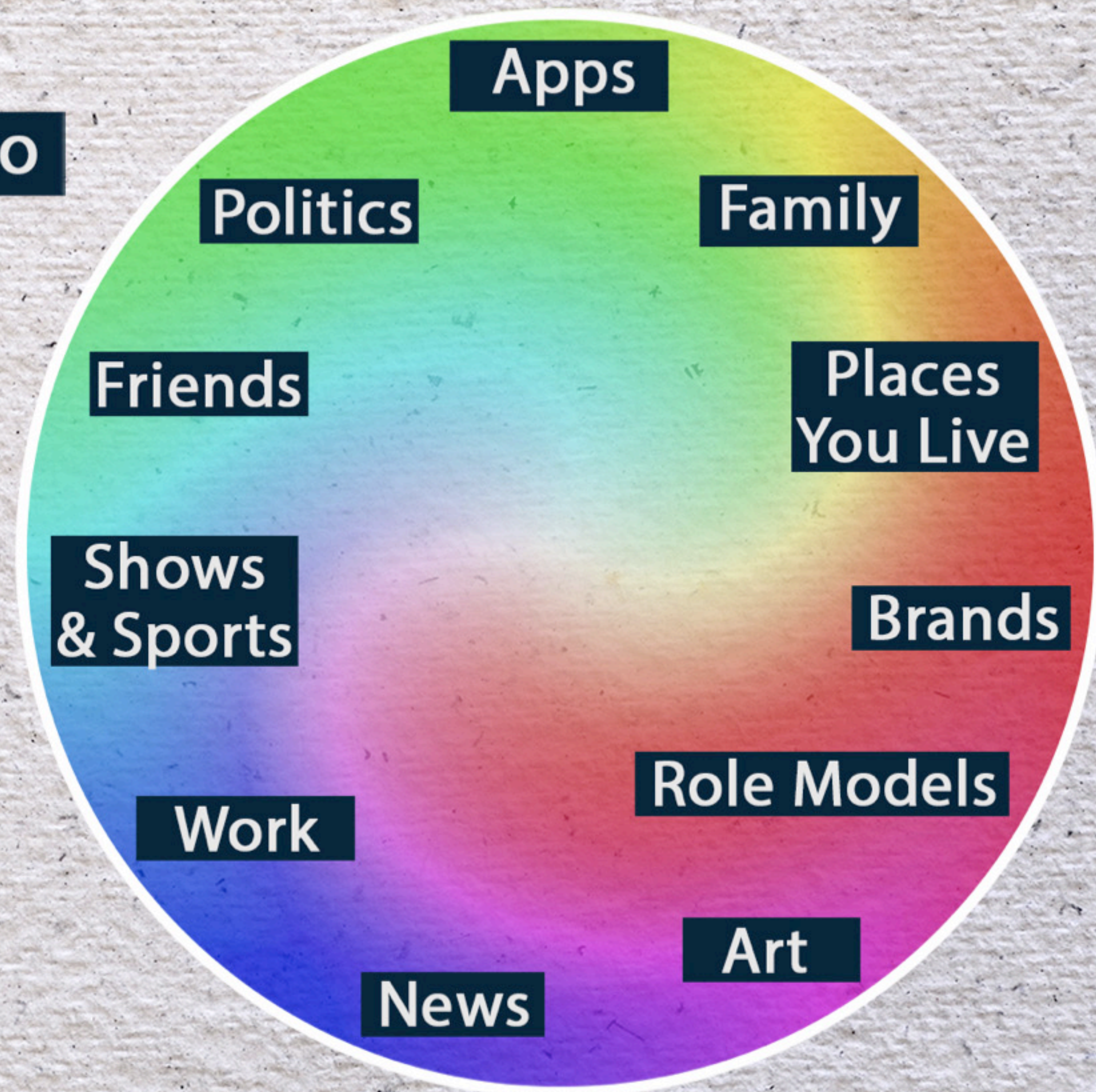
VOICES

A VOICE AUDIT

Ephesians 4:14-16

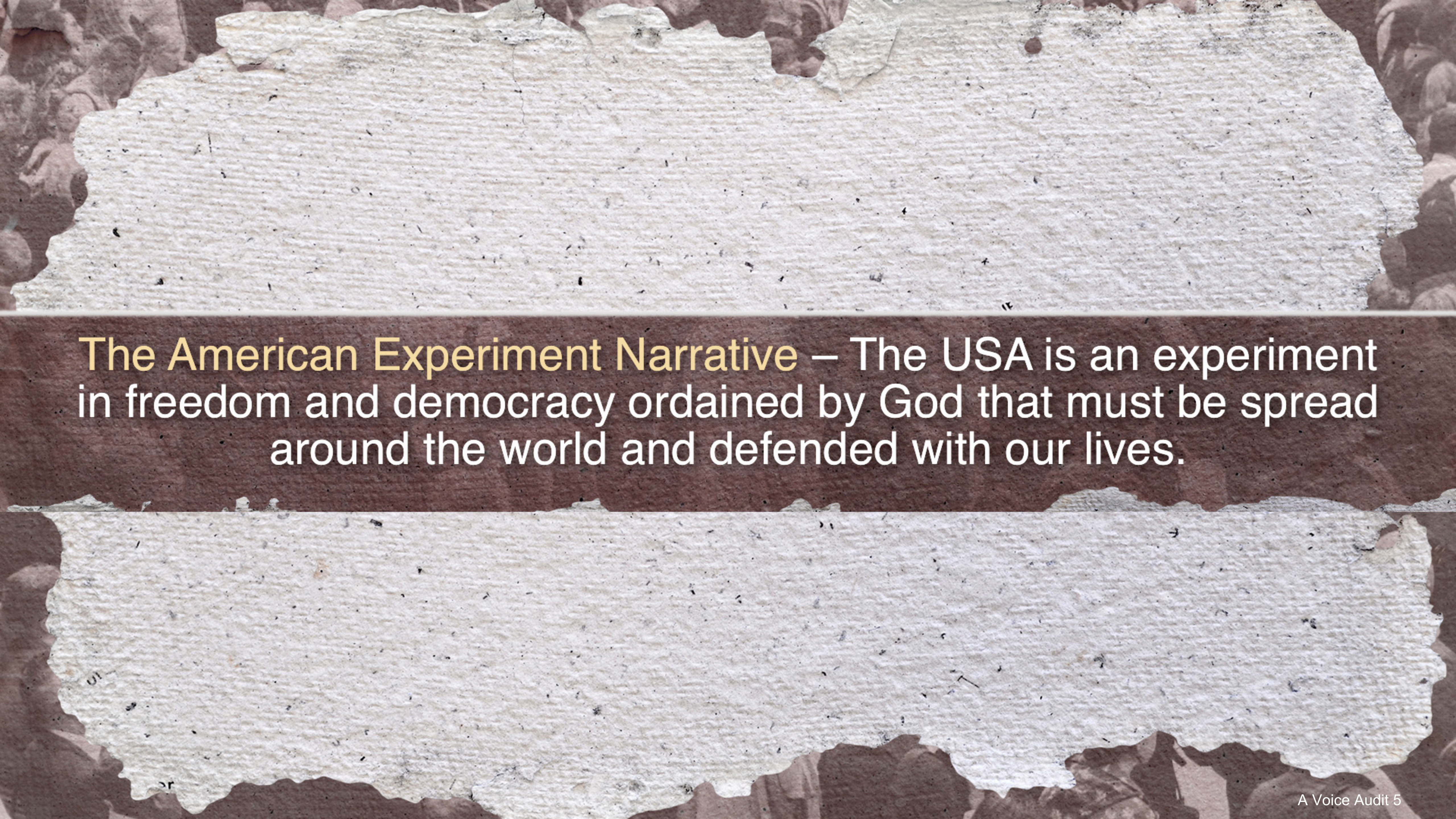
We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**The voices you listen to
are the voices
that disciple you.**

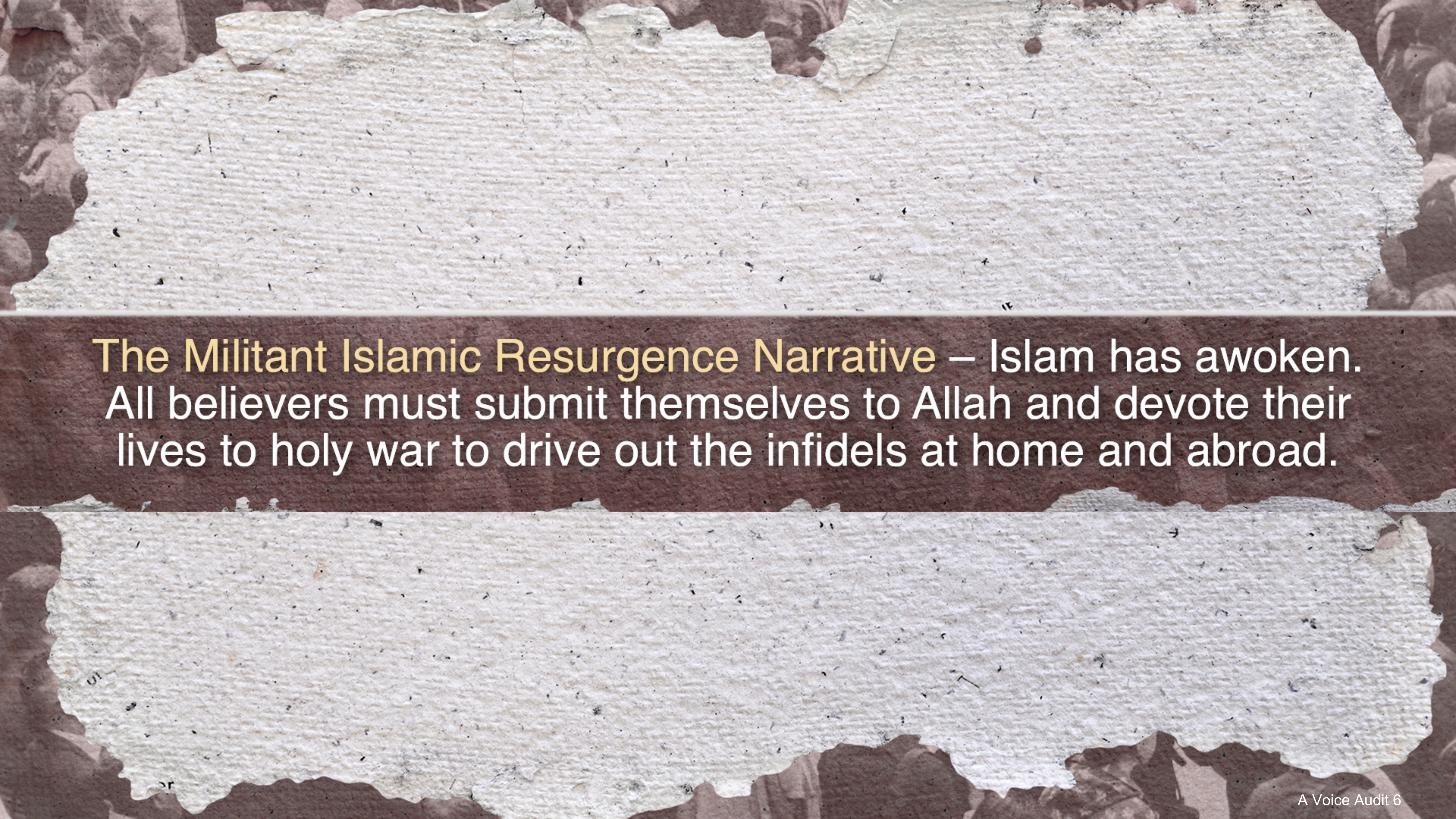


“We not only continue to be animals who make stories but also animals who are made by our stories. We tell and retell narratives that themselves come fundamentally to constitute and direct our lives. We, every bit as much as the most primitive or traditional of our ancestors, are animals who must fundamentally understand what reality is, who we are, and how we ought to live by locating ourselves within larger narratives that we hear and tell, and that constitute what is for us real and significant.”

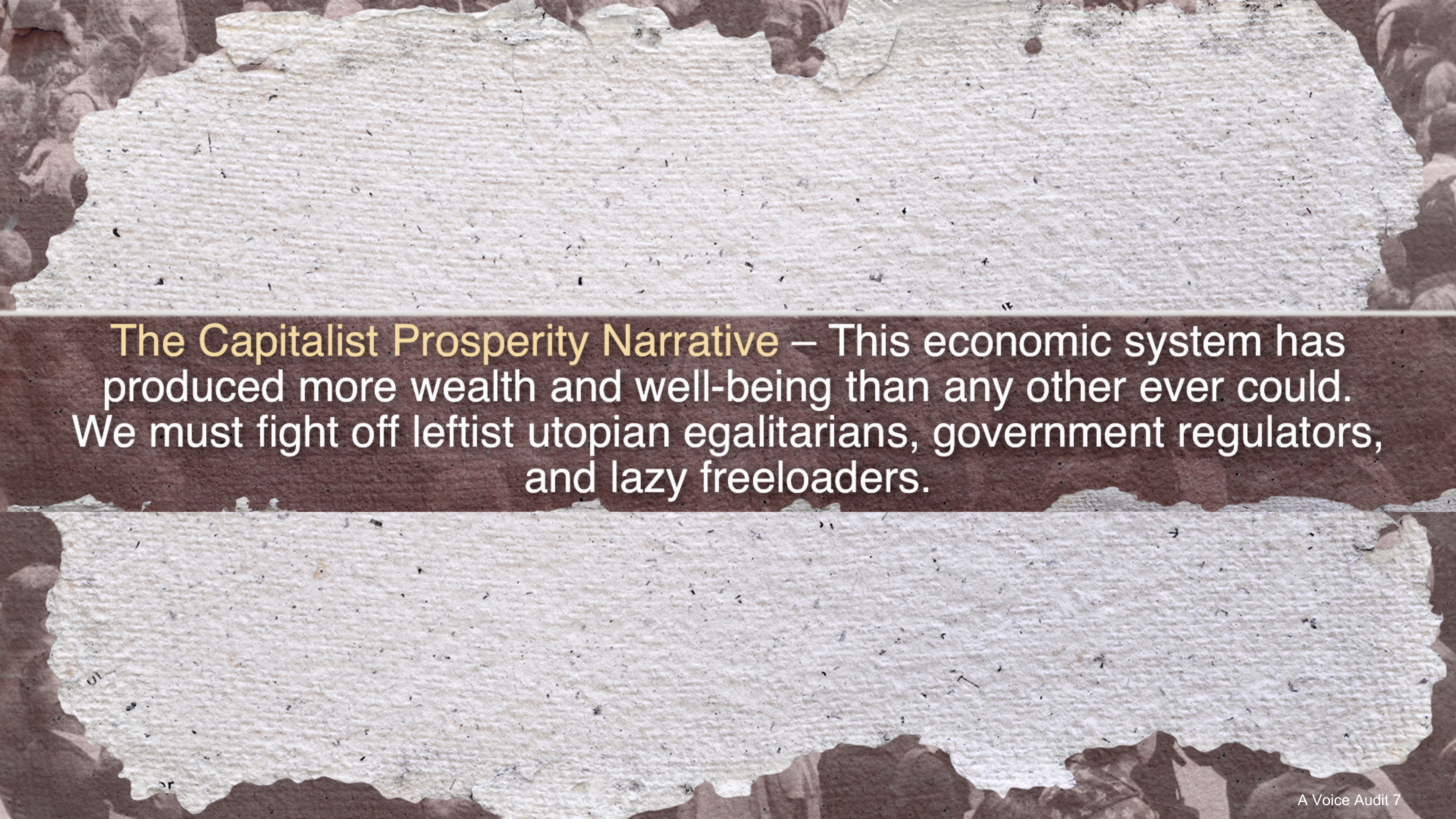
- Christian Smith, *Moral Believing Animals*



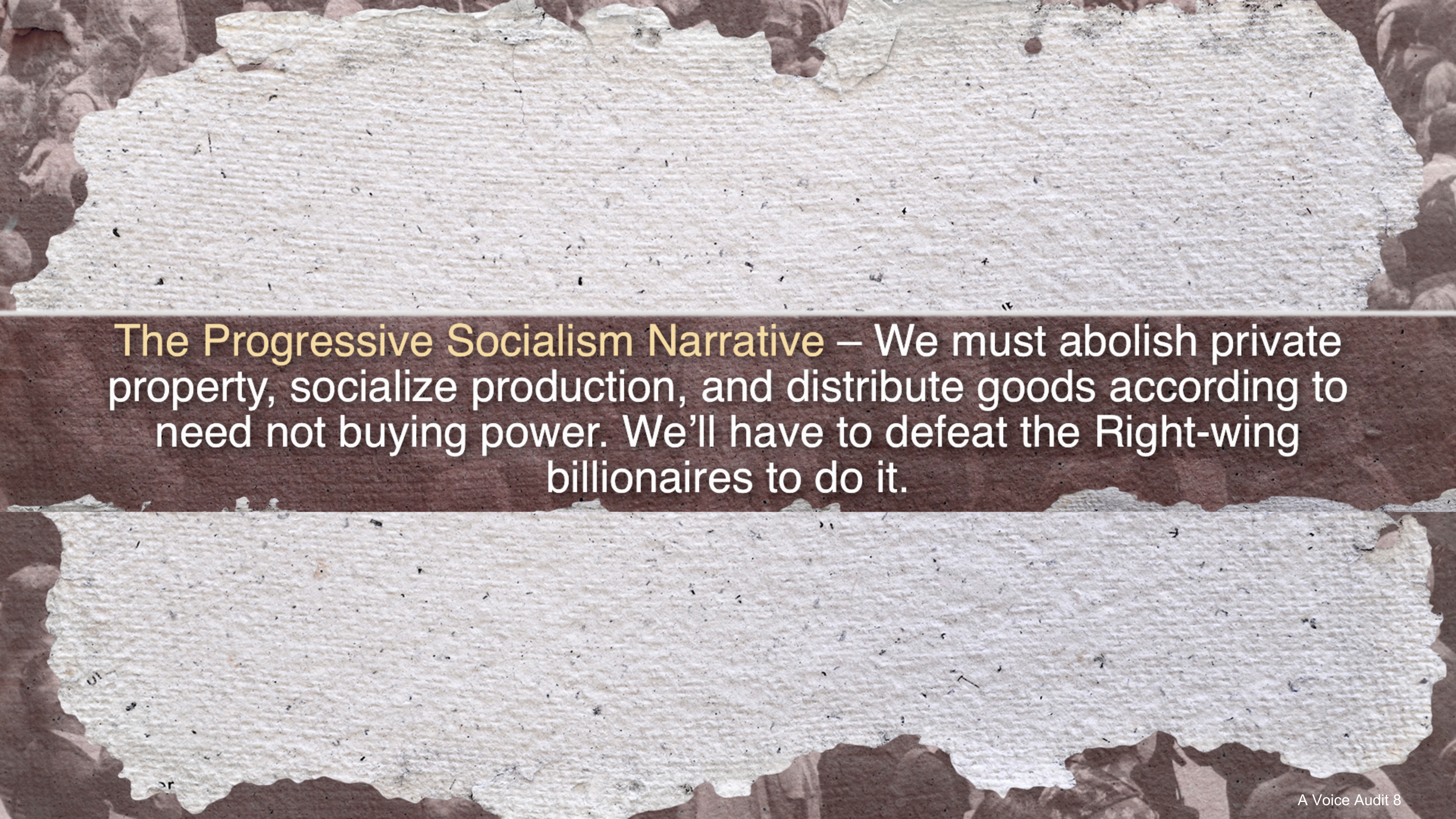
The American Experiment Narrative – The USA is an experiment in freedom and democracy ordained by God that must be spread around the world and defended with our lives.



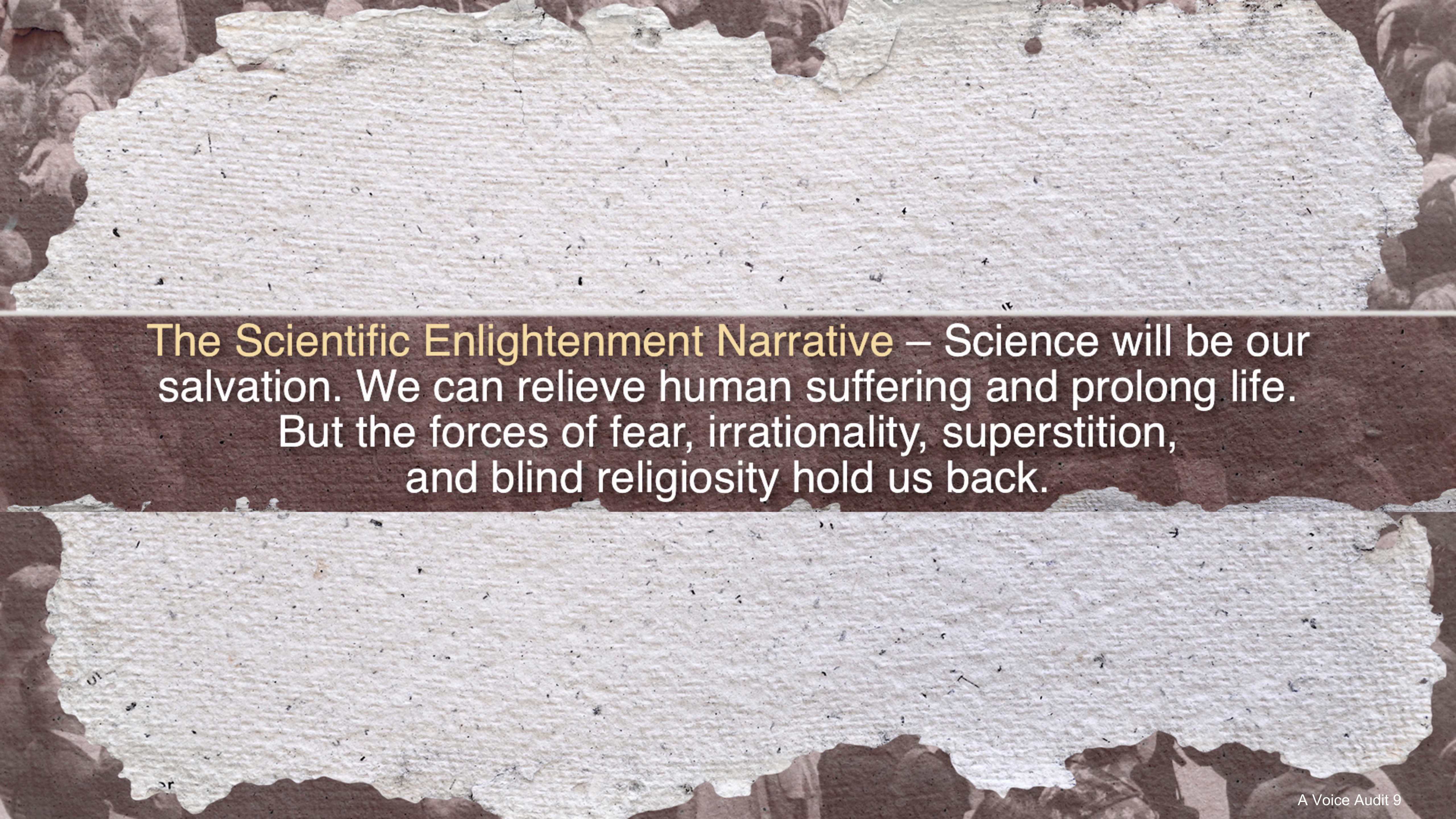
The Militant Islamic Resurgence Narrative – Islam has awoken. All believers must submit themselves to Allah and devote their lives to holy war to drive out the infidels at home and abroad.



The Capitalist Prosperity Narrative – This economic system has produced more wealth and well-being than any other ever could. We must fight off leftist utopian egalitarians, government regulators, and lazy freeloaders.



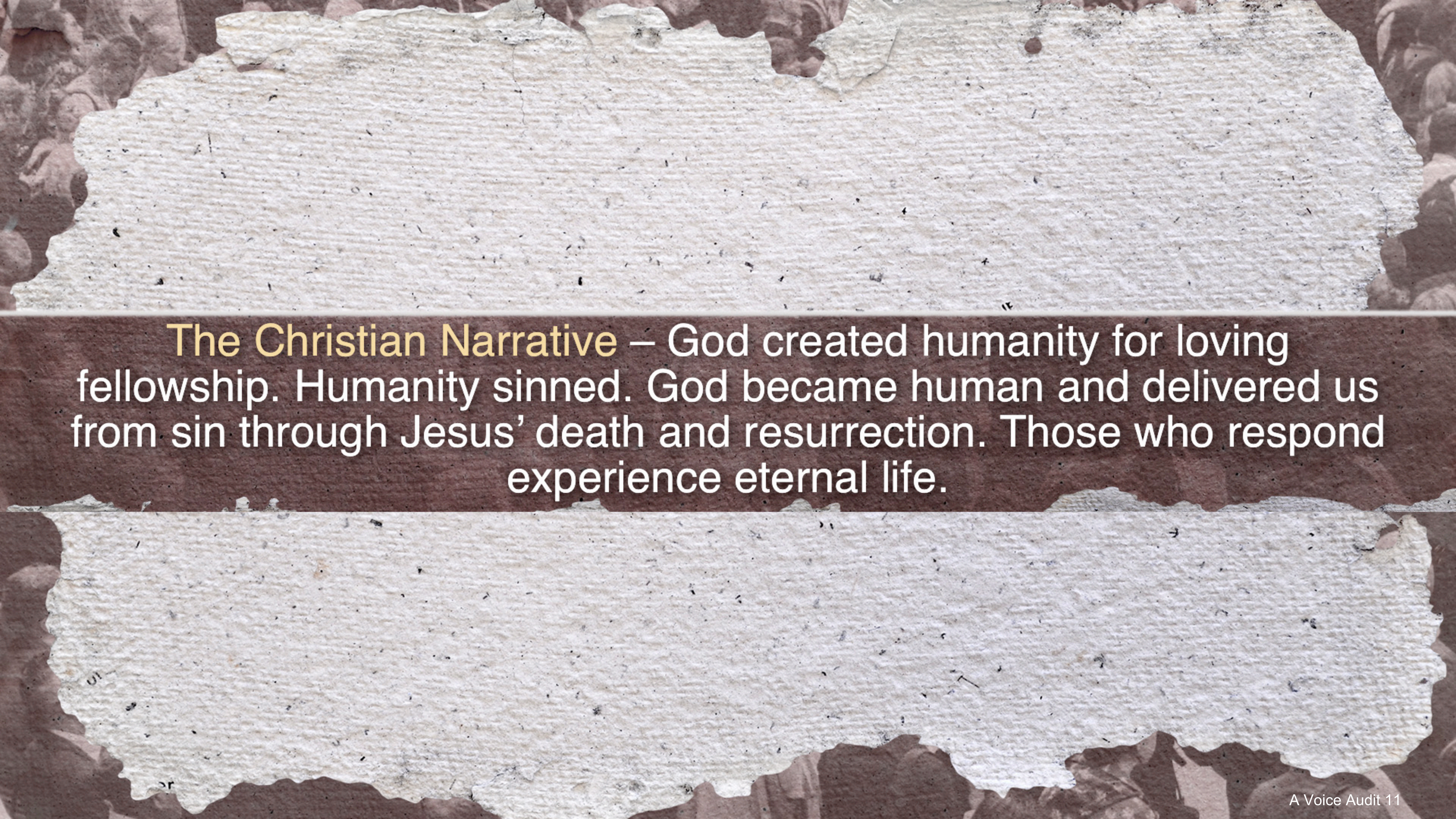
The Progressive Socialism Narrative – We must abolish private property, socialize production, and distribute goods according to need not buying power. We'll have to defeat the Right-wing billionaires to do it.



The Scientific Enlightenment Narrative – Science will be our salvation. We can relieve human suffering and prolong life. But the forces of fear, irrationality, superstition, and blind religiosity hold us back.

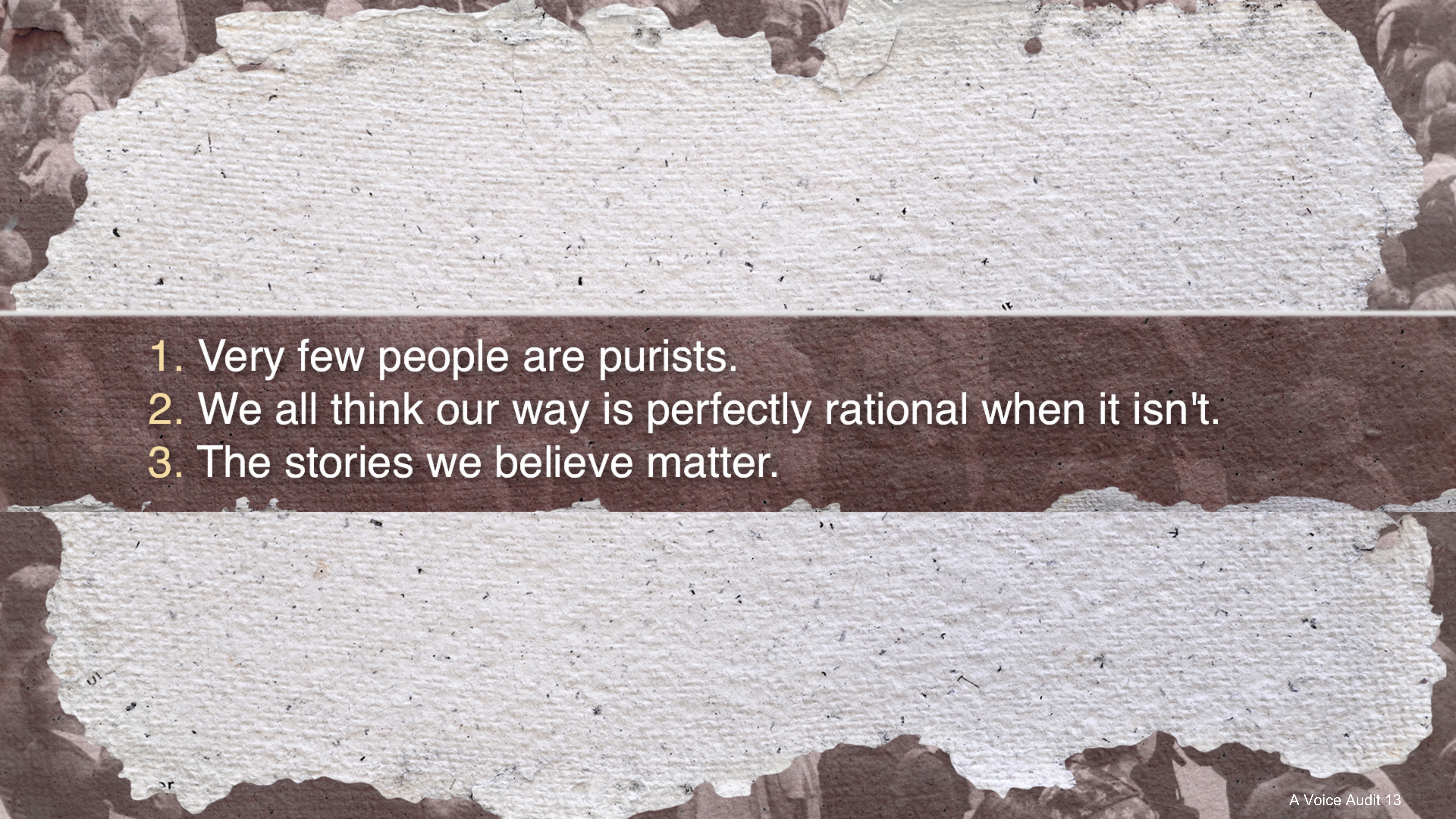


The Expressive Romantic Narrative – Free thinkers who shed the domesticating restraints of society, get in touch with their emotions, and act on their desire are those who discover their deepest selves and an authentic life.



The Christian Narrative – God created humanity for loving fellowship. Humanity sinned. God became human and delivered us from sin through Jesus' death and resurrection. Those who respond experience eternal life.

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 - The Progressive Socialism Narrative
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 - The Expressive Romantic Narrative
 - The Christian Narrative

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1. Very few people are purists.
 2. We all think our way is perfectly rational when it isn't.
 3. The stories we believe matter.

Week 1

What voices are you listening to? What stories are they telling you? What moral universe are they giving you?

Week 2

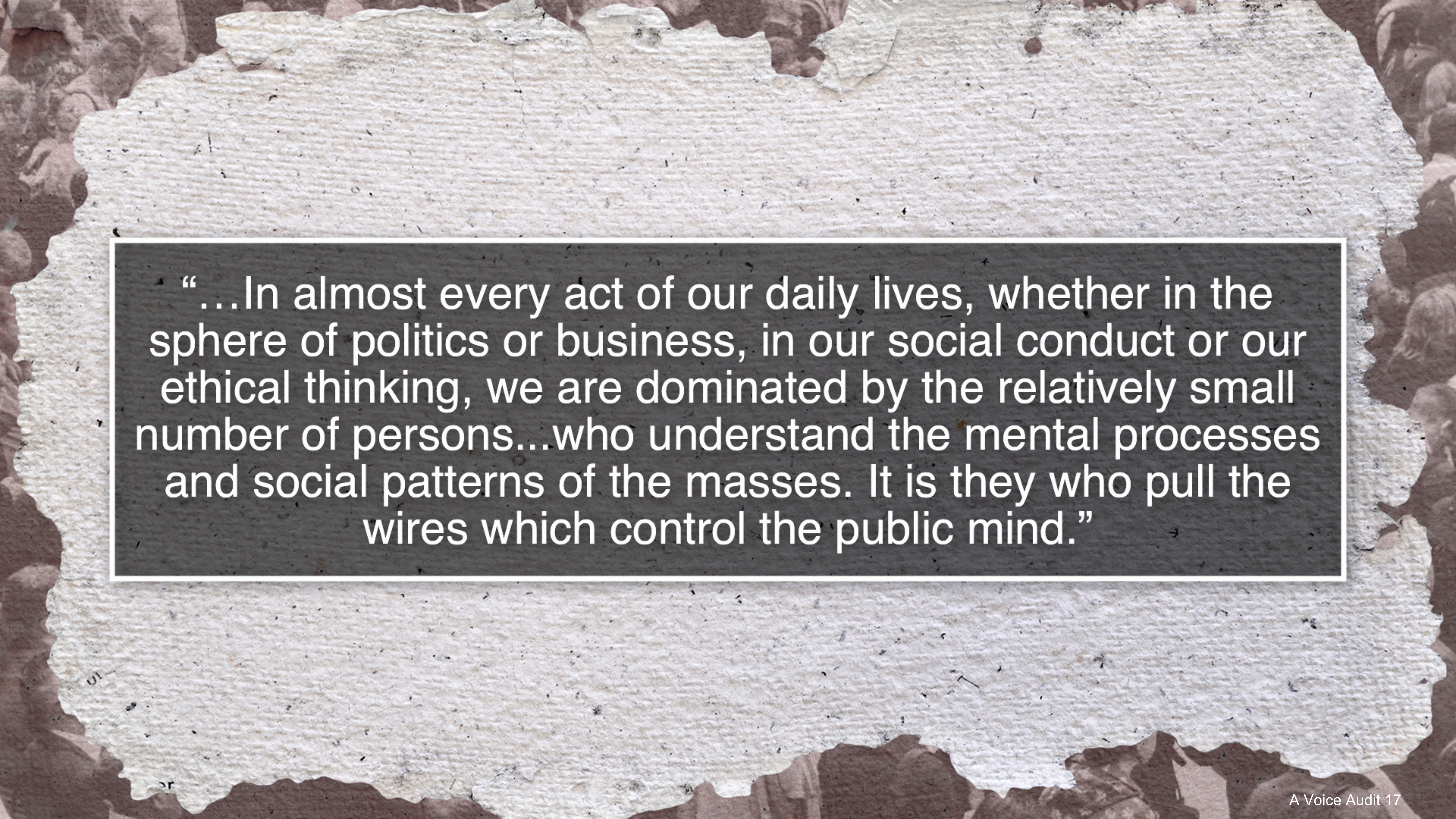
How do I know if they're wrong?

Week 3 & 4

What voices should I be listening to?



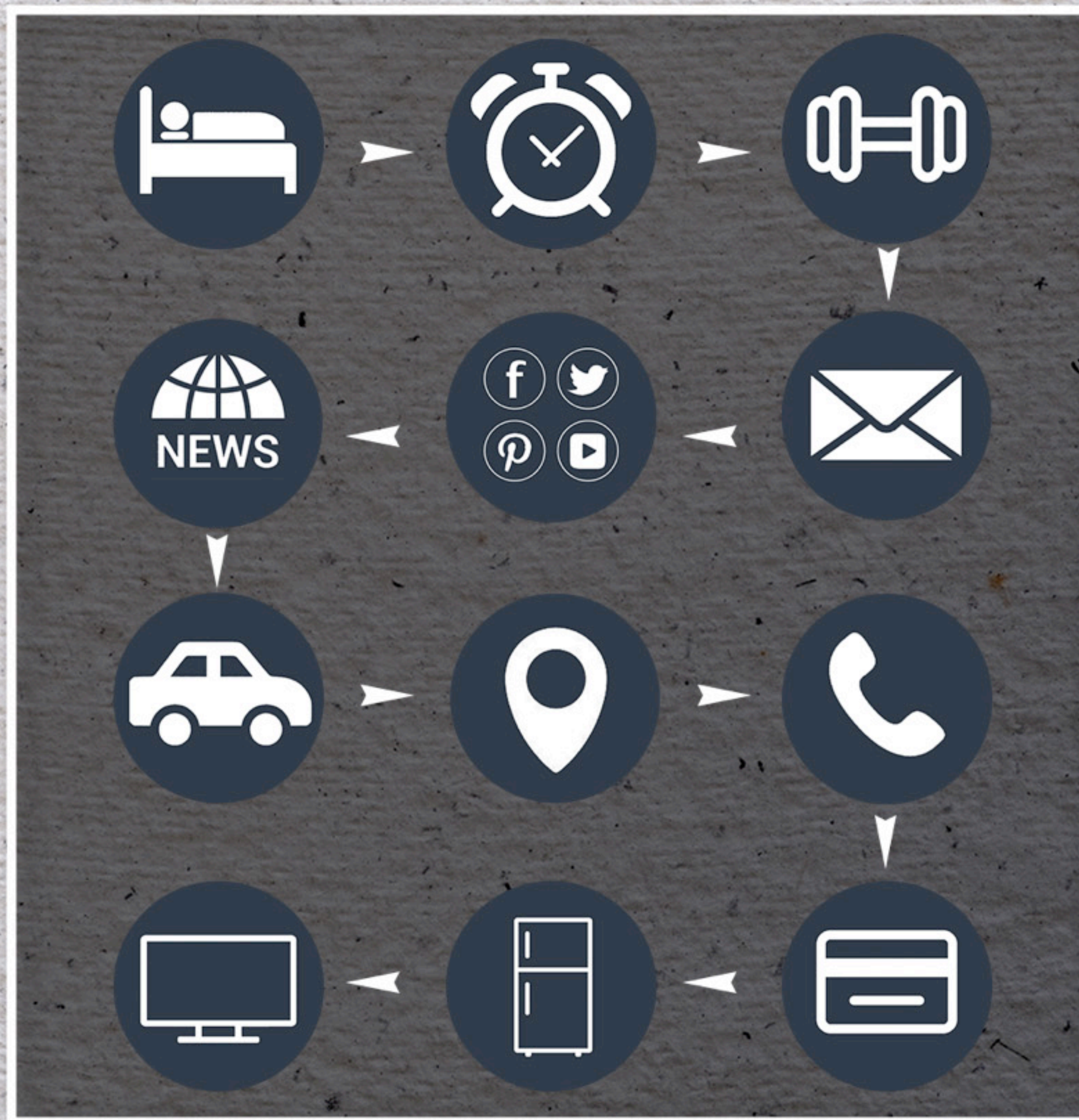
“The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an **invisible government** which is the true ruling power of our country....We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of. This is a logical result of the way in which our democratic society is organized. Vast numbers of human beings must cooperate in this manner if they are to live together as a smoothly functioning society.”

The background of the image is a piece of light-colored, textured paper with irregular, torn edges. This paper is placed on a dark brown, marbled surface. In the center of the light paper is a dark gray rectangular box with a thin white border. Inside this box is a quote in white text.

“...In almost every act of our daily lives, whether in the sphere of politics or business, in our social conduct or our ethical thinking, we are dominated by the relatively small number of persons...who understand the mental processes and social patterns of the masses. It is they who pull the wires which control the public mind.”

Surveillance Technology

Technologies you welcome into your life because they aid your lifestyle, provide convenience, or offer entertainment. All the while they gather detailed personal data about you and then analyze it with sophisticated algorithms to predict your behavior in order to pitch goods and services tailored to your preferences.

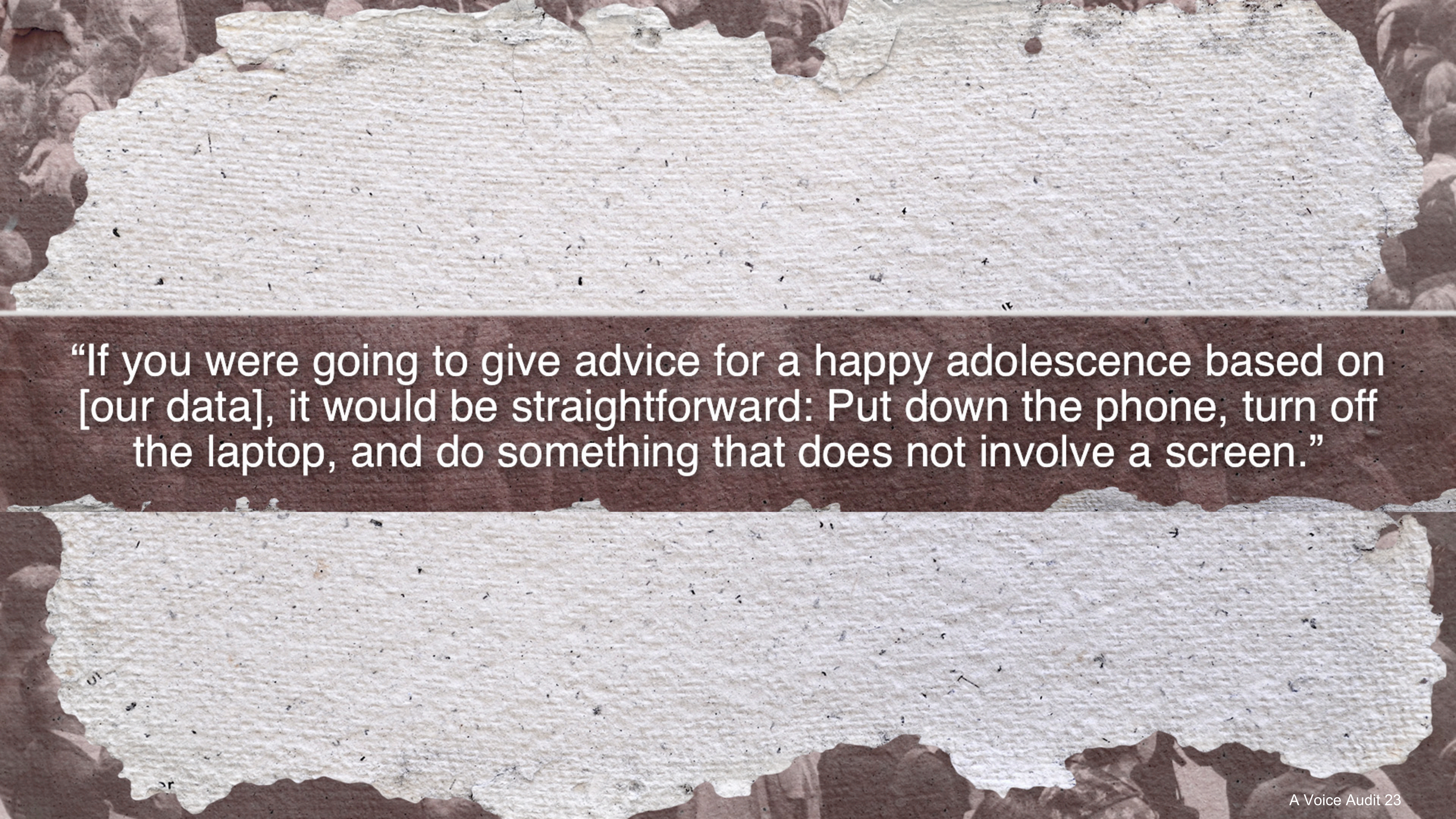


“Even when a seismic event—a war, a technological leap, a free concert in the mud—plays an outsized role in shaping a group of young people, no single factor ever defines a generation. Parenting styles continue to change, as do school curricula and culture, and these things matter. But the twin rise of the smartphone and social media has caused an earthquake of a magnitude we’ve not seen in a very long time, if ever. There is compelling evidence that the devices we’ve placed in young people’s hands are having profound effects on their lives —and making them seriously unhappy.”

Gene Twengy, How Smart Phones Destroyed a Generation

- iGen is experiencing the worst mental-health crisis in decades.
- 12th graders in 2015 were going out less often than eighth-graders as recently as 2009.
- Only 56% of high-school seniors in 2015 went out on dates; for Boomers and Xers, the number was 85 percent.
- Nearly all Boomer high-school students had their driver's license by senior year but more than one in four teens today still lack one at the end of high school.
- While they spend far more time under the same roof as their parents, today's teens are not closer to their parents than their predecessors.

- The number of teens who get together with friends nearly every day dropped by more than 40% from 2000 to 2015.
- Teens who spend more time than average on screen activities are more likely to be unhappy while those who spend more time than average on non-screen activities are more likely to be happy.
- 57% more teens were sleep deprived in 2015 than in 1991.
- In just the four years from 2012 to 2015, 22% more teens failed to get seven hours of sleep.



“If you were going to give advice for a happy adolescence based on [our data], it would be straightforward: Put down the phone, turn off the laptop, and do something that does not involve a screen.”









Stop listening to the voices of this world.
Start listening to the voice of God.

VOICE AUDIT

MONDAY

WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY

SUNDAY

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

SATURDAY

Voice

Time

News

2 hrs

Social Media

1.5 hrs

Netflix

2 hrs

Group Text Thread

40 min

Bible

ummm...

Small Group

1.5 hrs

Ephesians 4:14-16

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