



We share both positive and negative experiences with people in authority.



Chaplain Barry Black

“Pray that I keep my moral authority as I minister to our U.S. Senators, their families, and staff.”



MORAL AUTHORITY

**Loving Jesus.
Overcoming Evil.
Influencing Others.**



**Truth is under attack and the need
for moral authority has never been
more consequential.**

Loving Jesus — Overcoming Evil — Influencing Others

Reading from 1 Peter, why is moral authority important?

- 1. Christians are scattered strangers and aliens.**
- 2. Christians are experiencing suffering and persecution.**
- 3. Christians are called to be faithful witnesses who live holy lives in an unholy society.**



**The gospel is strong, and it calls its
messengers to live it faithfully.**

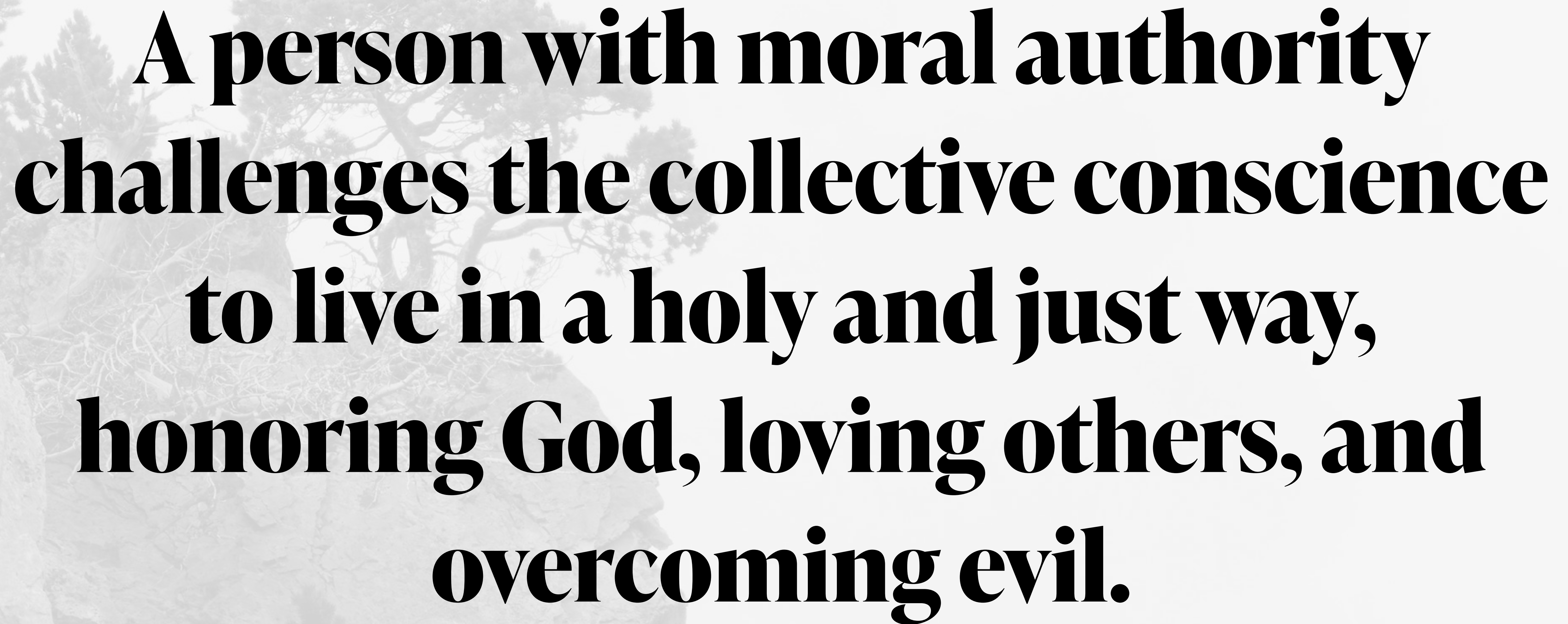
Romans 1:18, 1 Peter 4:19

Loving Jesus — Overcoming Evil — Influencing Others



**We are given moral authority when
we live our beliefs despite suffering,
earning the trust of others.**

Loving Jesus — Overcoming Evil — Influencing Others



**A person with moral authority
challenges the collective conscience
to live in a holy and just way,
honoring God, loving others, and
overcoming evil.**

Loving Jesus — Overcoming Evil — Influencing Others



Moral authority is the consistent sowing and growing of integrity through hopeful perseverance.

Loving Jesus — Overcoming Evil — Influencing Others



Attaining moral authority is not our focus; it's our fruit. It's the result of faithfully living for Jesus in the long haul.

Loving Jesus — Overcoming Evil — Influencing Others



FOUNDATION:

Divine mercy and love are the foundations for moral authority.

1 Peter 1:2, 2:10

FURNACE:

The furnace of moral authority is a crucible for development, not deliverance.

1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:12, 5:10



FOCUS:

Unwavering focus on eternal glory has an earthly application for moral authority.


1 Peter 1:17, 4:5, 13, 17, 5:4

FERTILITY

**Fertile soil is essential for the growth
of moral authority.**

1 Peter 1:3, 22-23, 2:2, 12, 20-21, 3:15, 4:4, 7-11

JIM WILDER &
MICHEL HENDRICKS



Christian Community,
Brain Science, and
Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation

**The Other Half
of Church**

“Our inner character transformation drives everything we do, [so] discipleship must be central.”

- Michel Hendricks

THE NUTRIENTS FOR FERTILE SOIL:

- 1. Joy (found in the face of Christ and others.)**
- 2. Heseed**
- 3. Group identity**
- 4. Healthy conflict**



JOY:

“Our brains desire joy more than any other thing.” - Jim Wilder

1 Peter 1:6-9, 4:13



HESED:

**Enduring covenant love described as
*attachment.***

1 Peter 1:22, 2:10, 4:8

GROUP IDENTITY:

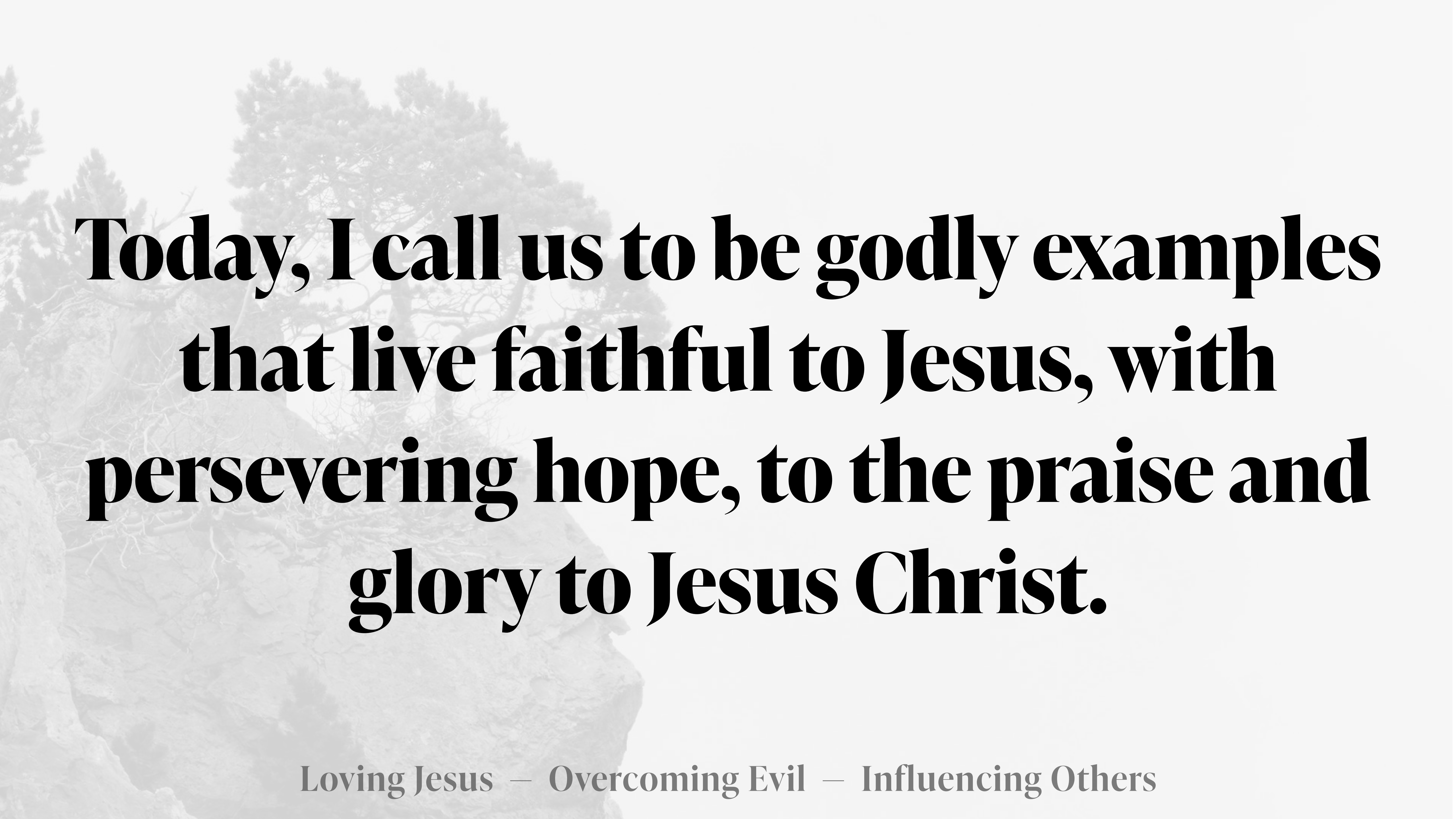
Our group identity comes from Jesus. It deepens and spreads when we remind each other of who we are.

1 Peter 2:9

HEALTHY CONFLICT:

We must update our library of responses to life with better, godly examples.

1 Peter 3:8-12



**Today, I call us to be godly examples
that live faithful to Jesus, with
persevering hope, to the praise and
glory to Jesus Christ.**

Loving Jesus — Overcoming Evil — Influencing Others



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