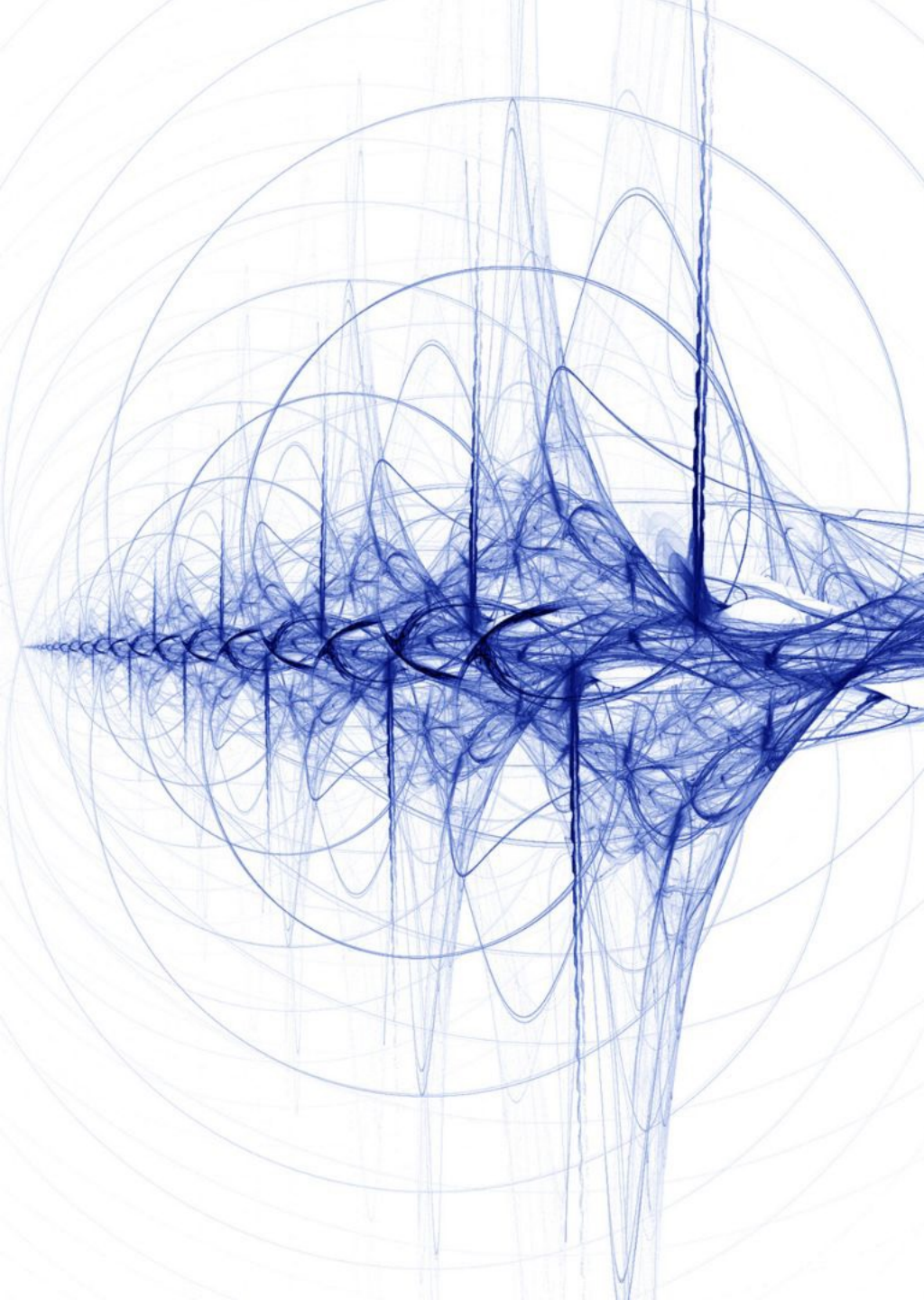


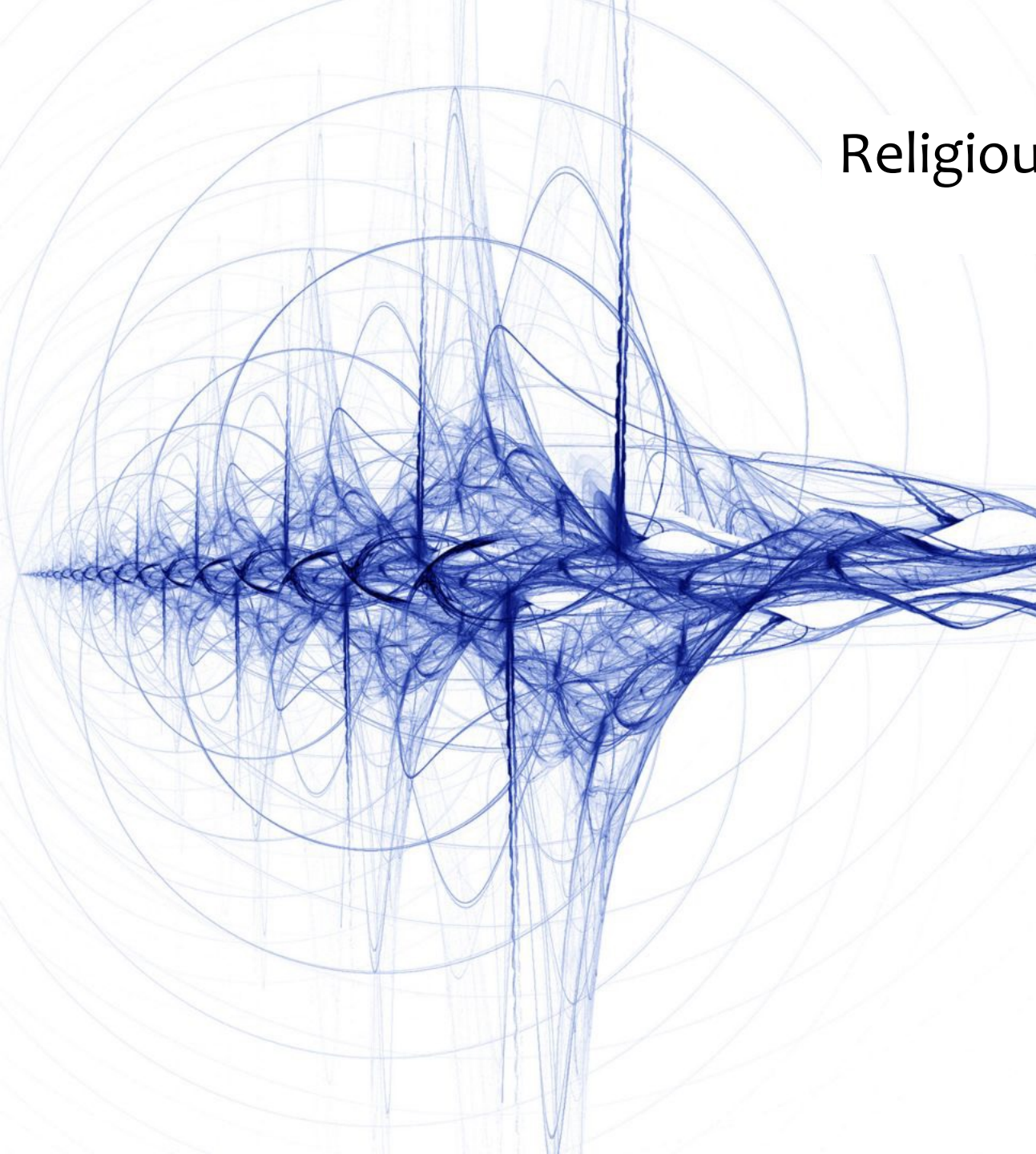
# Hearing Jesus



<sup>1</sup> There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. <sup>2</sup> After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

John 3:1-21 (NLT)

# Religious Drift – Hints of a Culturally Potential Problem





## Religious Drift – Hints of a Culturally Potential Problem

- They looked for *miraculous* signs.

The background of the slide features a complex, abstract pattern of thin, overlapping blue lines. These lines form a dense, chaotic web that resembles a stylized skull or a complex geometric structure. The lines are most concentrated in the center and spread out towards the edges, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is that of a digital or mathematical drawing, possibly representing a signal or a complex system.

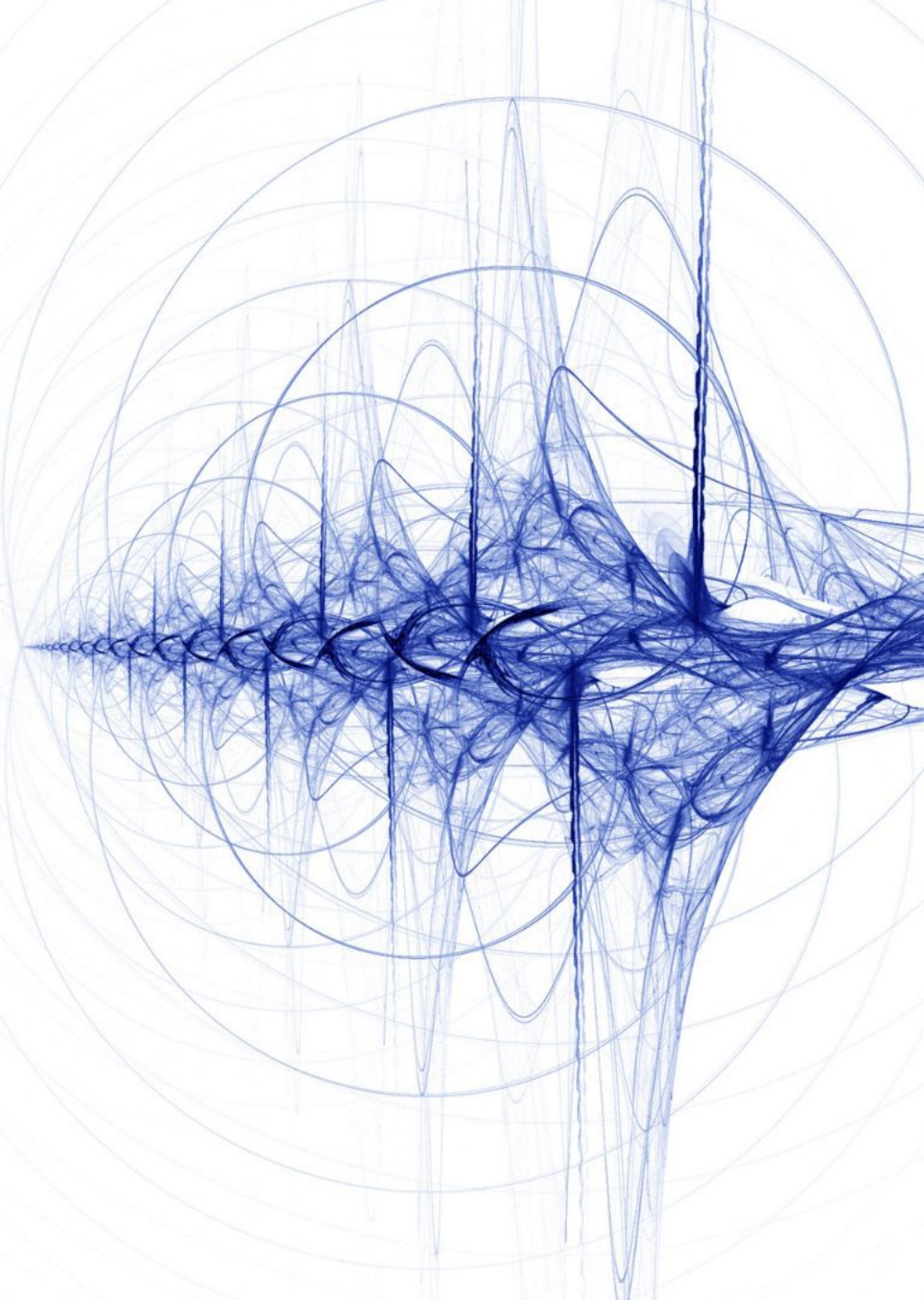
## Religious Drift – Hints of a Culturally Potential Problem

- They looked for ***miraculous*** signs.
- They looked for ***adherence*** to the ***Law***.

The background of the slide is a complex, abstract line drawing in shades of blue. It features a central vertical axis with a dense, intricate web of lines that radiate outwards, creating a sense of depth and complexity. The lines are thin and delicate, forming a structure that resembles a stylized, multi-layered cross or a series of overlapping circles and arcs. The overall effect is one of intricate detail and a sense of movement or flow.

## Religious Drift – Hints of a Culturally Potential Problem

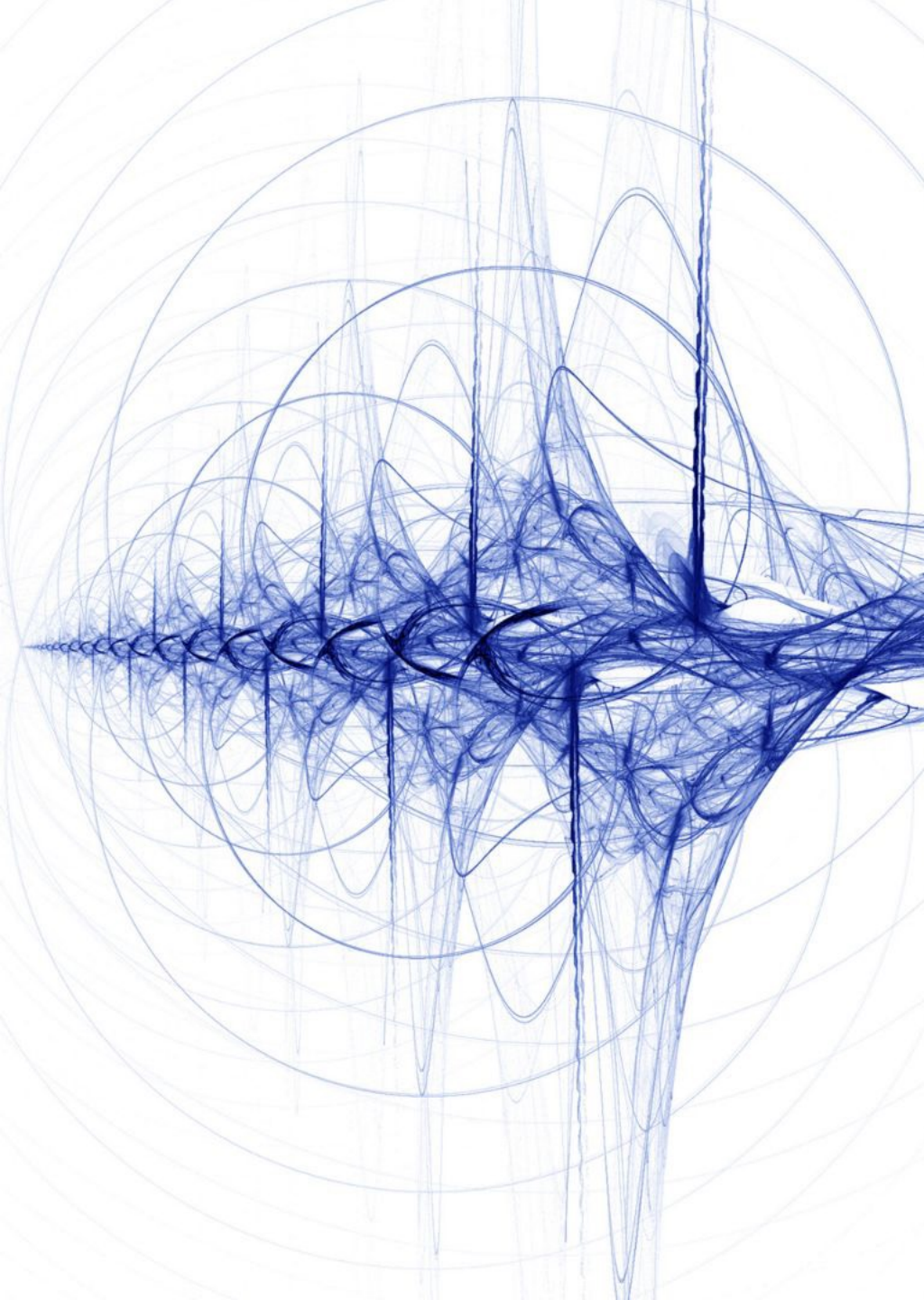
- They looked for ***miraculous*** signs.
- They looked for ***adherence*** to the ***Law***.
- They ignored ***character*** formation and ***helping*** others.



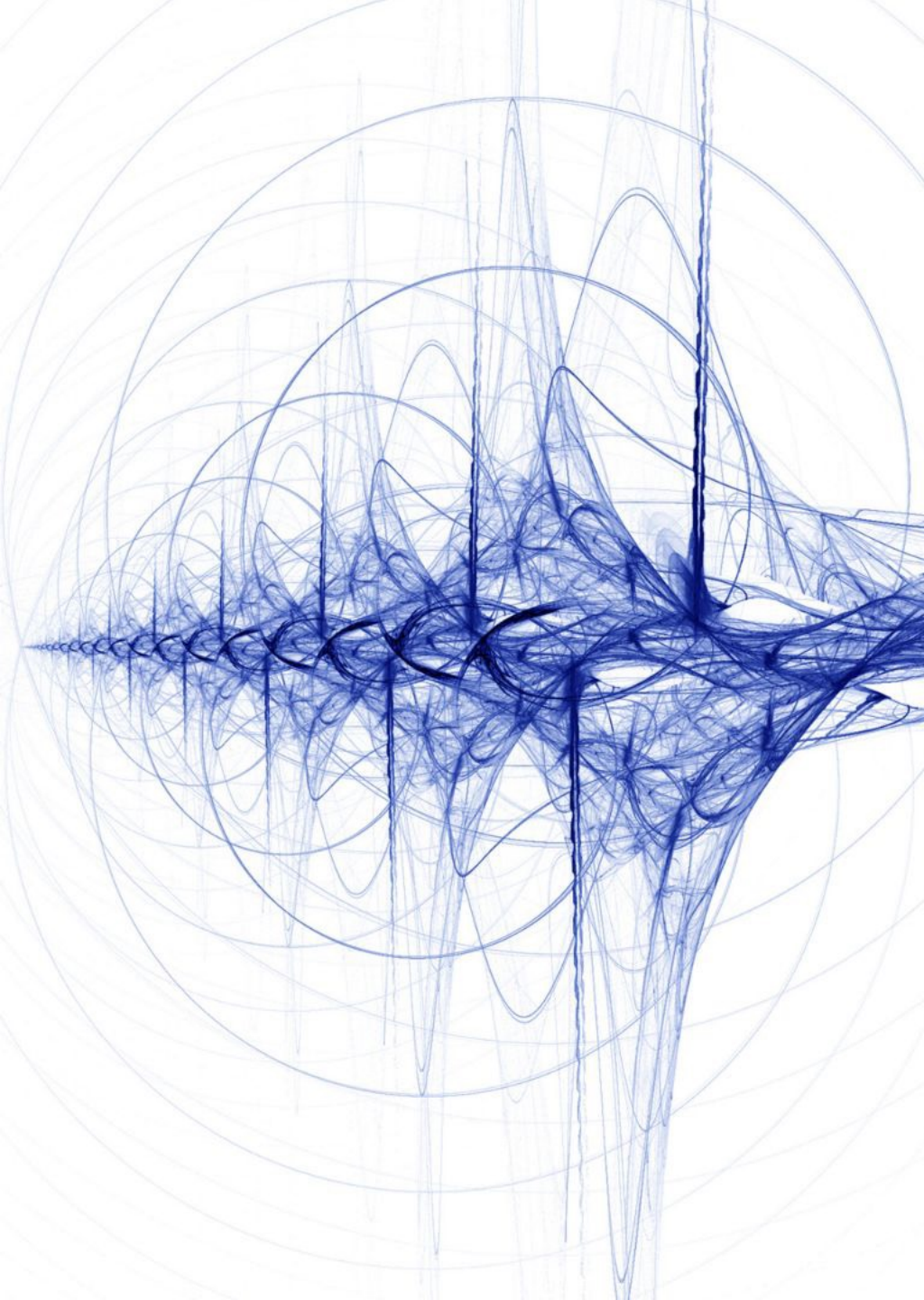
<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

<sup>4</sup> “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

John 3:1-21 (NLT)

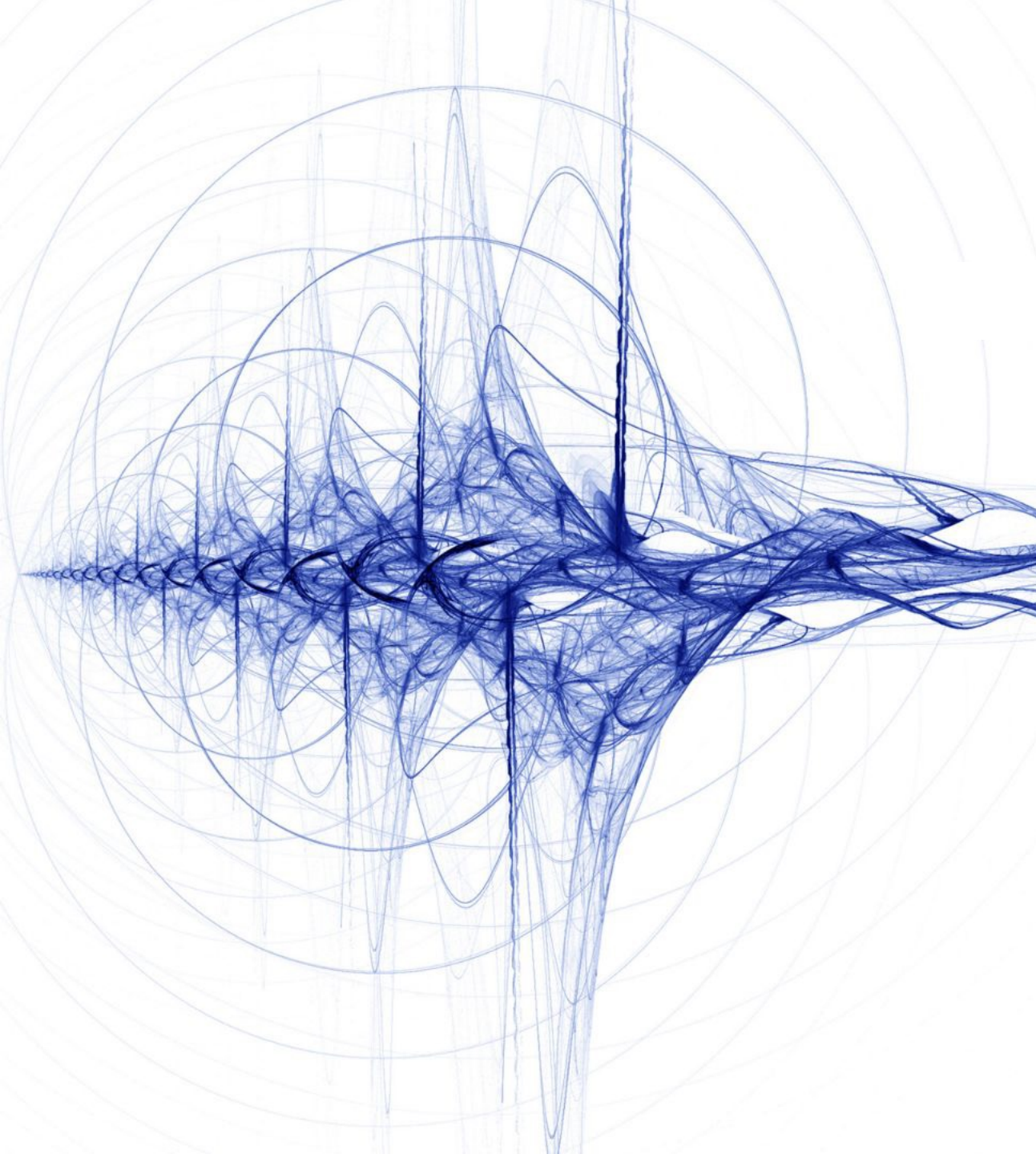


Jesus would sometimes communicate in a way that **tested** who was **really listening** and what they **were understanding**?

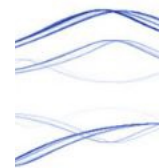


<sup>5</sup> Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. <sup>7</sup> So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

John 3:1-21 (NLT)



# Water and Spirit





## Water and Spirit

- Water – ***Renewal*** and ***Cleansing***.
- 



## Water and Spirit

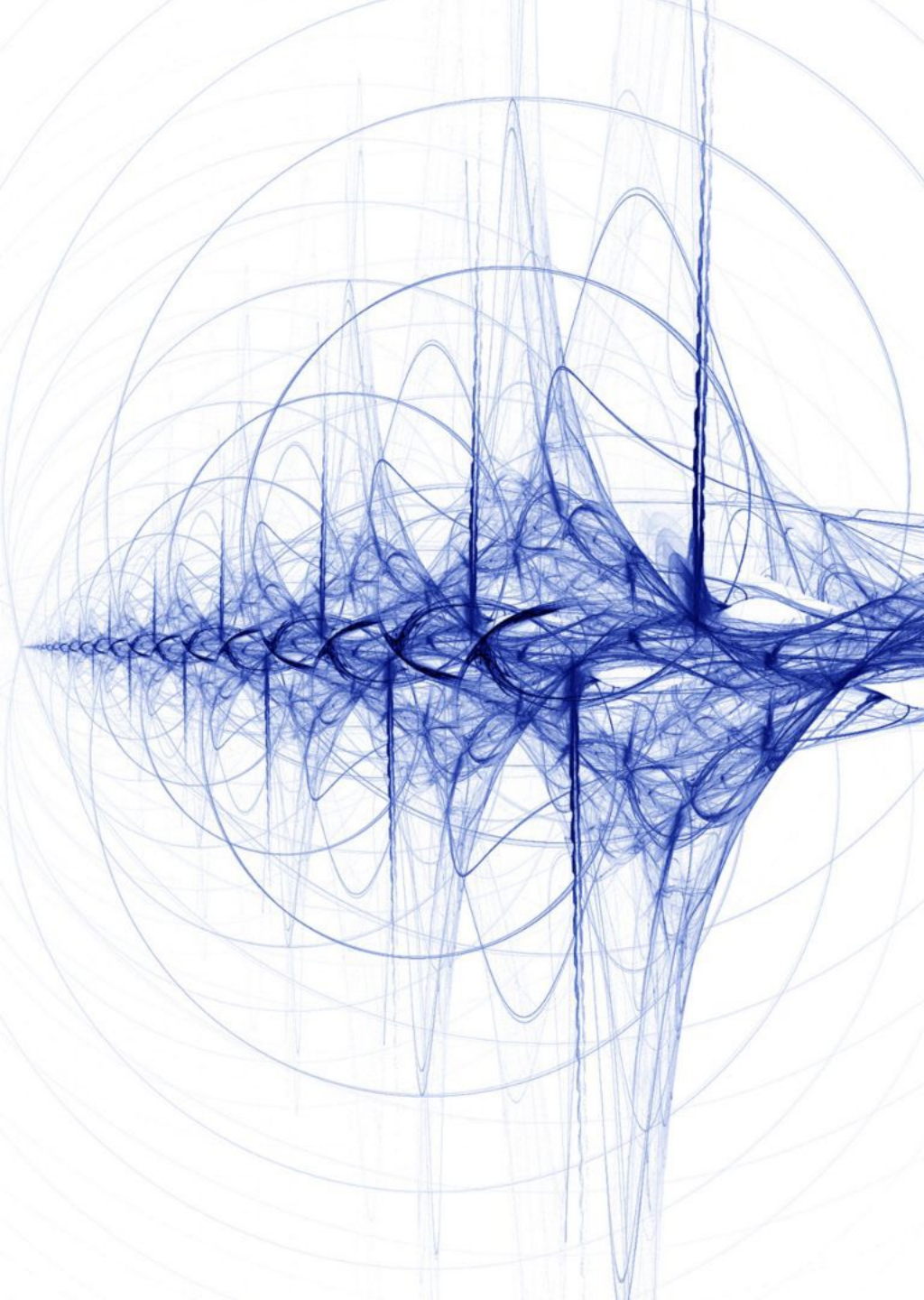
- Water – **Renewal** and **Cleansing**.
- Spirit – **Transformation** of the **Heart**.



<sup>9</sup> “How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? <sup>11</sup> I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won’t believe our testimony. <sup>12</sup> But if you don’t believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

John 3:1-21 (NLT)



<sup>16</sup> “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:1-21 (NLT)



## 3 Foundational Pillars of Christianity



## 3 Foundational Pillars of Christianity

- ***Jesus Christ***



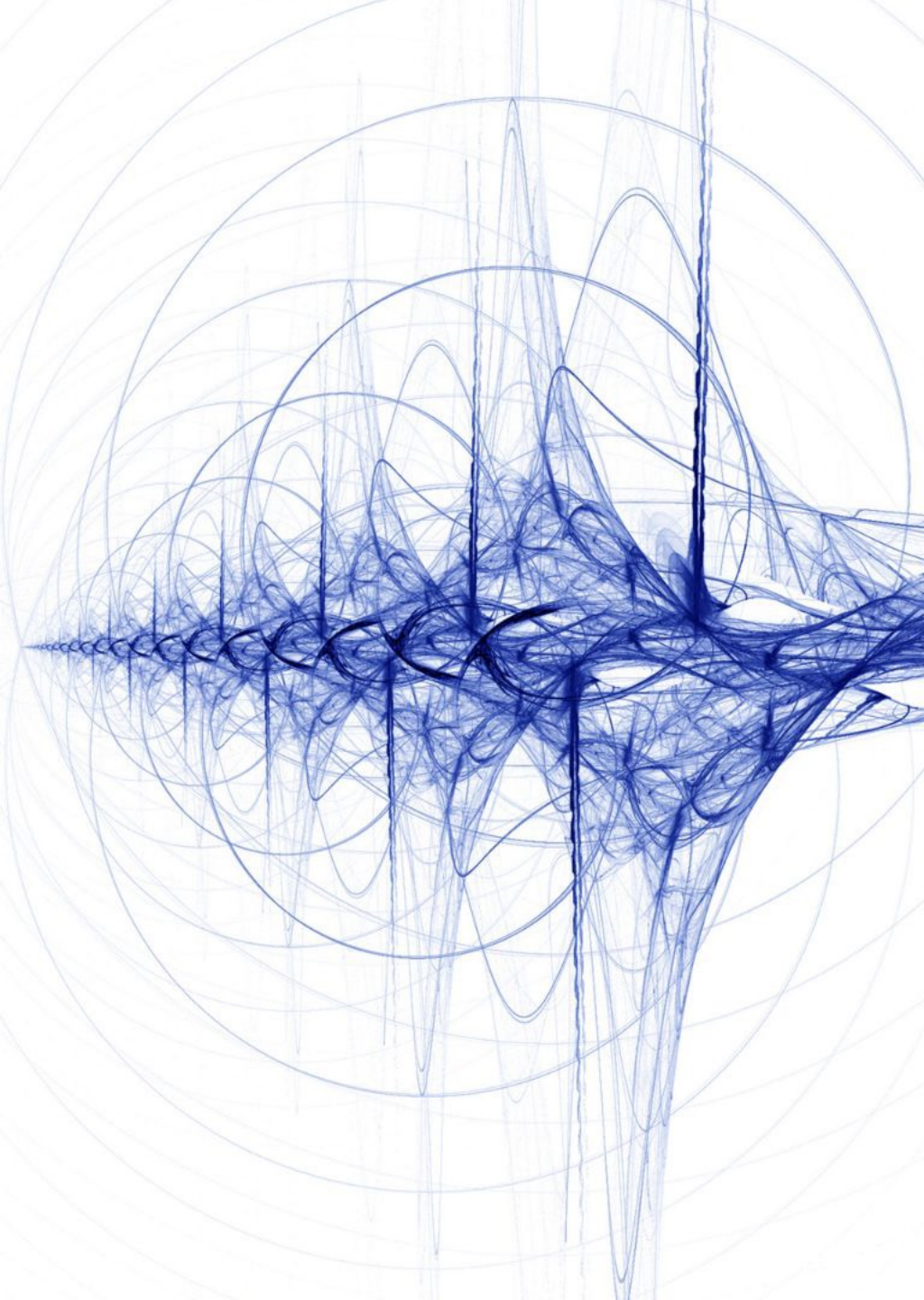
## 3 Foundational Pillars of Christianity

- ***Jesus Christ***
- God's ***Love/Grace***



## 3 Foundational Pillars of Christianity

- ***Jesus Christ***
- God's ***Love/Grace***
- ***First-Hand*** Witness



<sup>18</sup> “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. <sup>20</sup> All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

John 3:1-21 (NLT)



This passage is a warning against 3 types of religion.

- **No** religion.
- **Self-righteous** religion.
- **Transactional** religion.