

The background of the slide is a photograph of a stone archway. A wooden door with metal hardware is open on the right side, looking out onto a valley at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the landscape. The archway is made of rough-hewn stones, and the floor inside is also stone.

Grace Opens the Door

Acts 15:1–35

LifeSpring Community Church
October 18, 2026

A photograph of a stone archway with a wooden door open to a sunset landscape. The scene is dimly lit, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over a valley with rolling hills and a small town. The stone wall is dark and textured, and the wooden door has a metal ring handle. The ground is paved with stones.

Do I belong here?

Will we welcome the people
God is bringing in?

Acts 15:1 NIV

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Acts 15:2 NIV

This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:3–4 NIV

The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

Acts 15:5–6 NIV

Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.” The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

Acts 15:7–8 NIV

After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

Acts 15:9–10 NIV

He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?

Acts 15:11 NIV

No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

Acts 15:12–13 NIV

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me.

Acts 15:14–15 NIV

Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

Acts 15:16–18 NIV

“After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’ — things known from long ago.

Acts 15:19–20 NIV

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

Acts 15:21 NIV

For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Let's pray



POINT 1

Jesus “alone”

Never Jesus “and”



Jesus “and”...?

Our goodness

Our traditions

Our religious performance



Acts 15:11 NIV

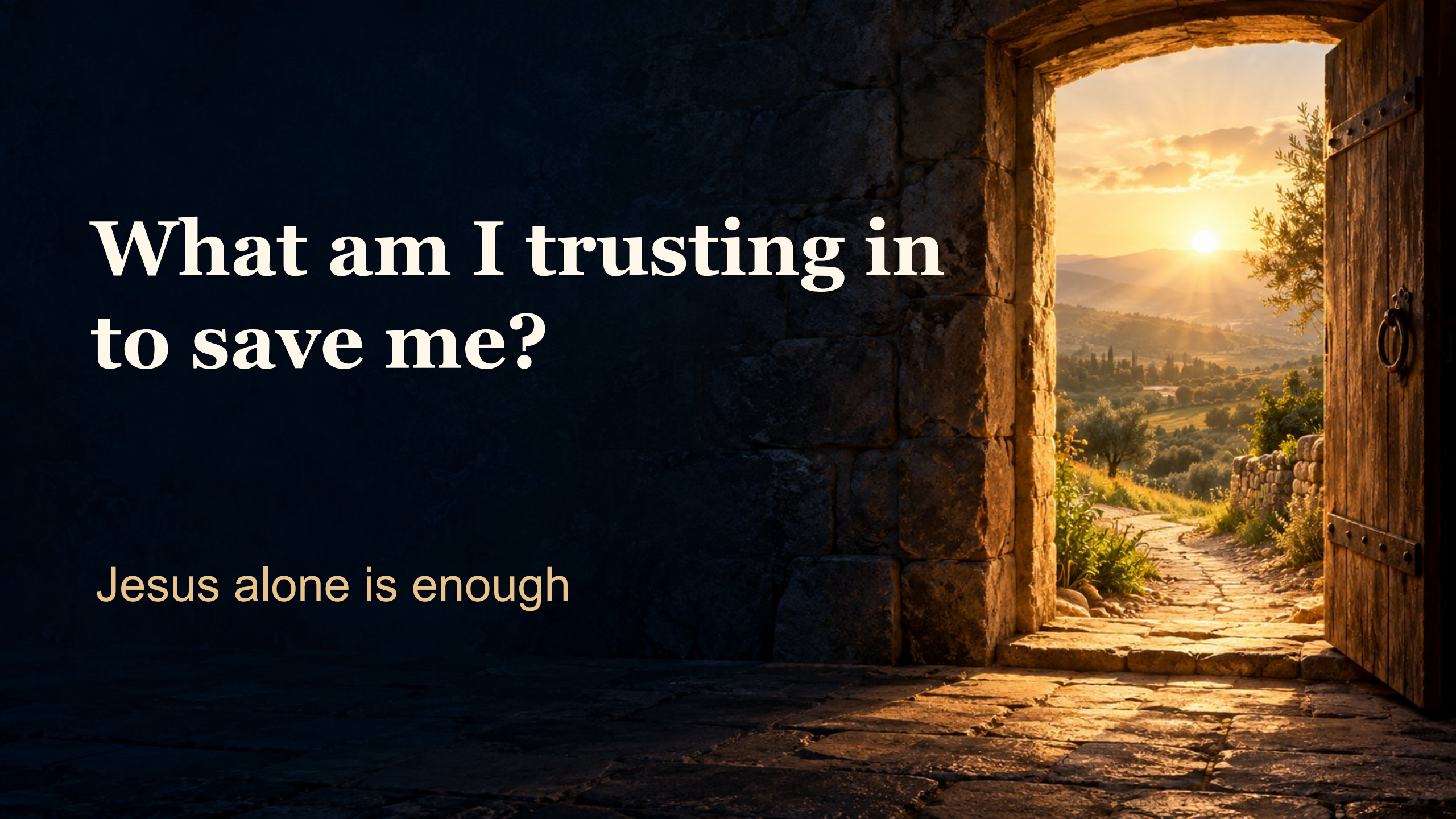
No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

John 14:6 NIV

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**Grace opens the door
of salvation and Jesus
“Alone” is enough!**



The image features a dark, textured stone wall on the left. A stone archway is built into the wall, and a heavy wooden door with metal hardware is swung open to the right. Through the arch, a bright sunset or sunrise is visible, with the sun low on the horizon over a valley. The light from the sun casts a warm glow across the scene, illuminating the stone floor and the interior of the arch. The landscape outside shows rolling hills, trees, and a small town in the distance.

**What am I trusting in
to save me?**

Jesus alone is enough

POINT 2

The Power of Grace Revealed

Grace shapes how we treat one
another



**Being human, means
we will face conflict.**



Acts 15:19 NIV

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

Christ alone is enough for you

God sees you. God knows you.
God loves you.

