



LIVING FAITH

A STUDY OF THE
BOOK OF JAMES

James 2:14-19

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ESV



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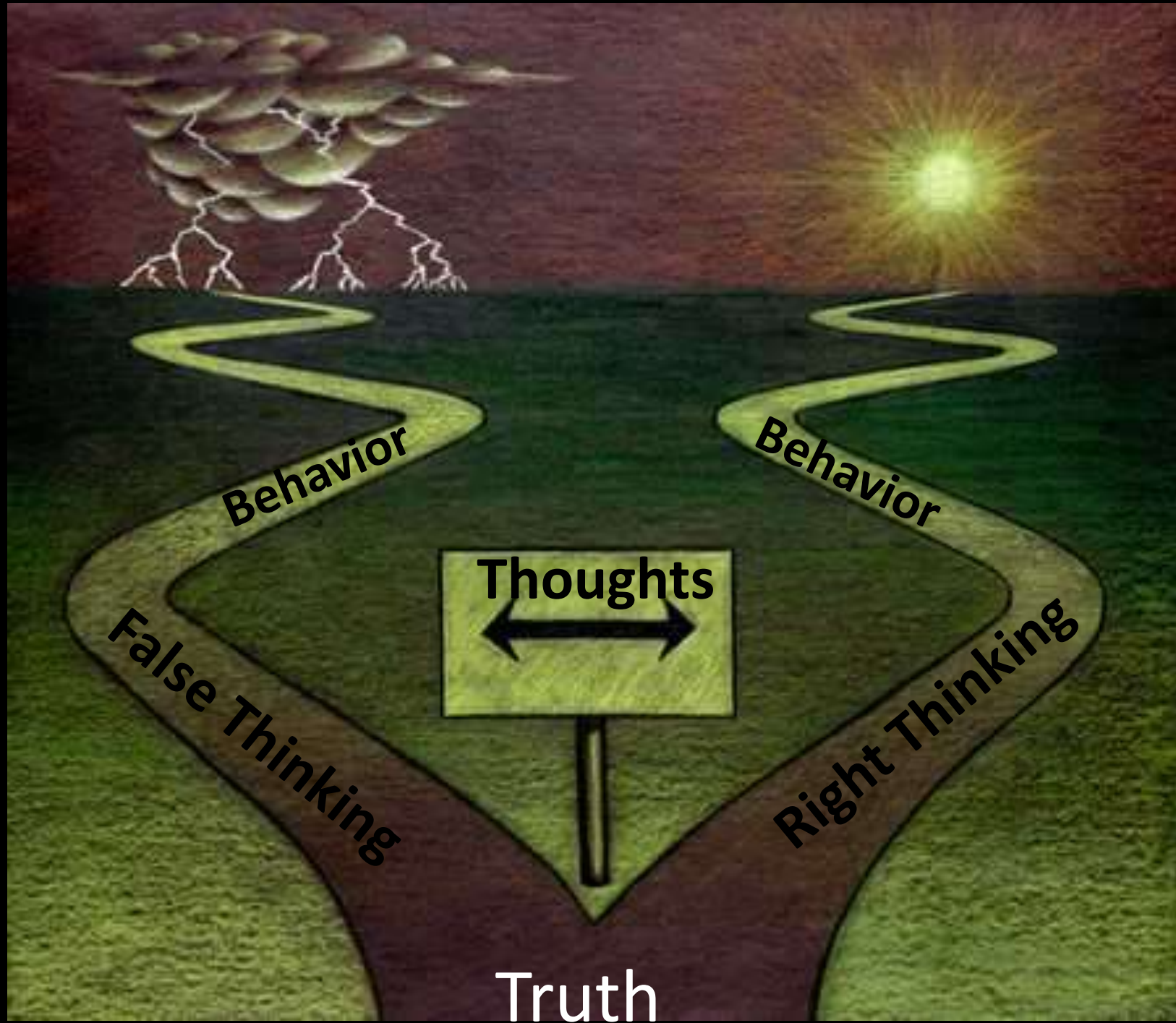
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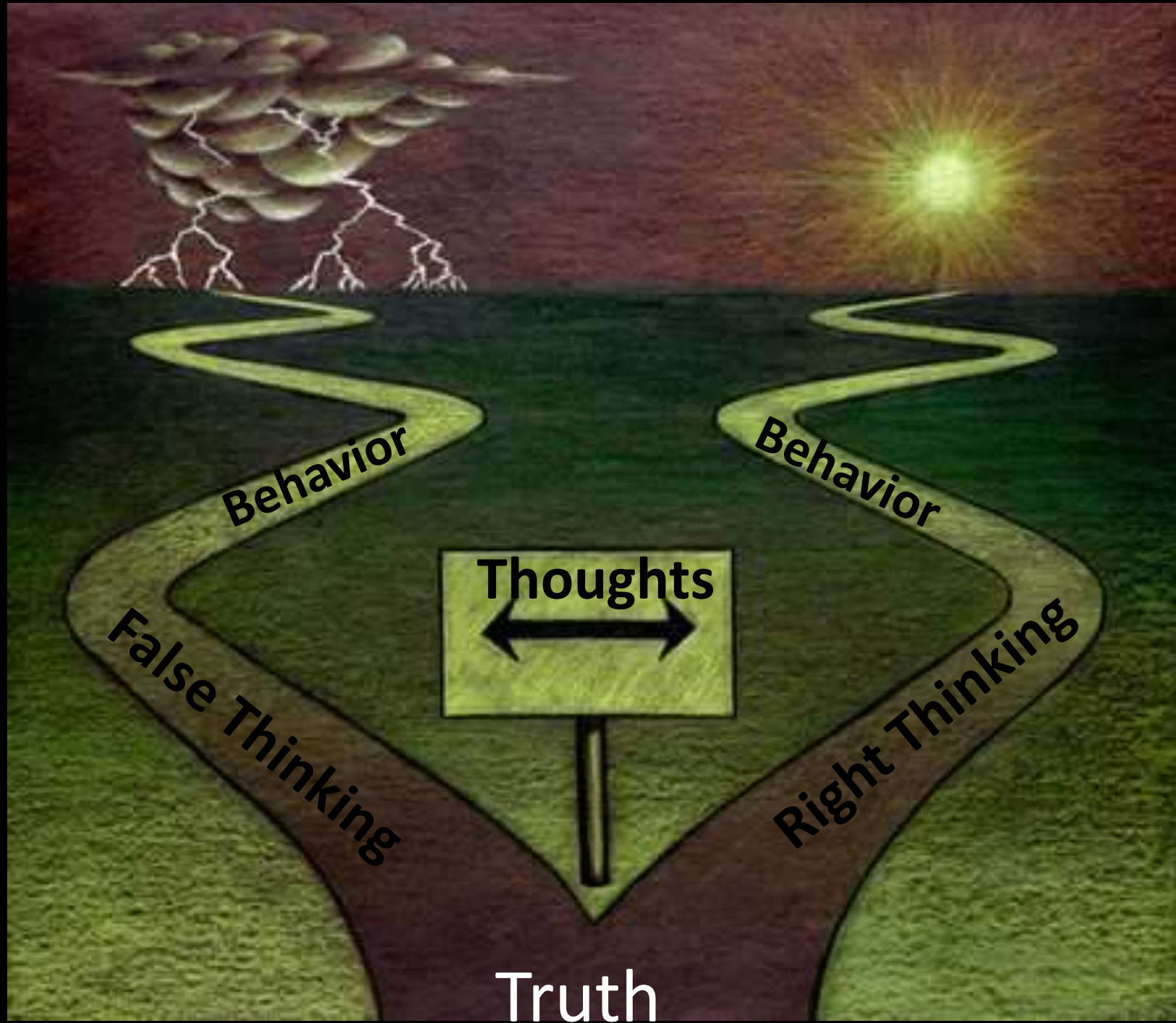
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Truth

- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27 ESV)
- “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” (Ephesians 1:7-8 NIV)
- “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV)

False Thinking

- I can not hear God's voice, I have tried and I just can't. I believe He speaks to some people but I'm different, God doesn't do that with me.
- I've done some things that might not be forgiven by God. I've asked God to forgive me but I'm not sure. It's impossible to know for sure if I'm really, totally, forgiven. I hope I end up in heaven when this is all over.
- Only pastors and missionaries have an important role in God's story. Oh, and maybe worship leaders too, and I guess Sunday school teachers, but that's it.

Behavior

- I will not talk with God, I will talk to God. I will make personal decisions based on my best judgment of what I think God would want me to do.
- I will stay in the background at church and I'm not going to have any close relationships with Christians. Church and fellowship only remind me that God is probably mad at me. Close relationship with God? Are you kidding? I'm not one to hang out with someone who is disappointed in me. Not sure He wants to spend time with me either.
- I will find my real fulfillment in something besides joining God in His mission. My skills and abilities don't really match with anything God would want to use.

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. NIV



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