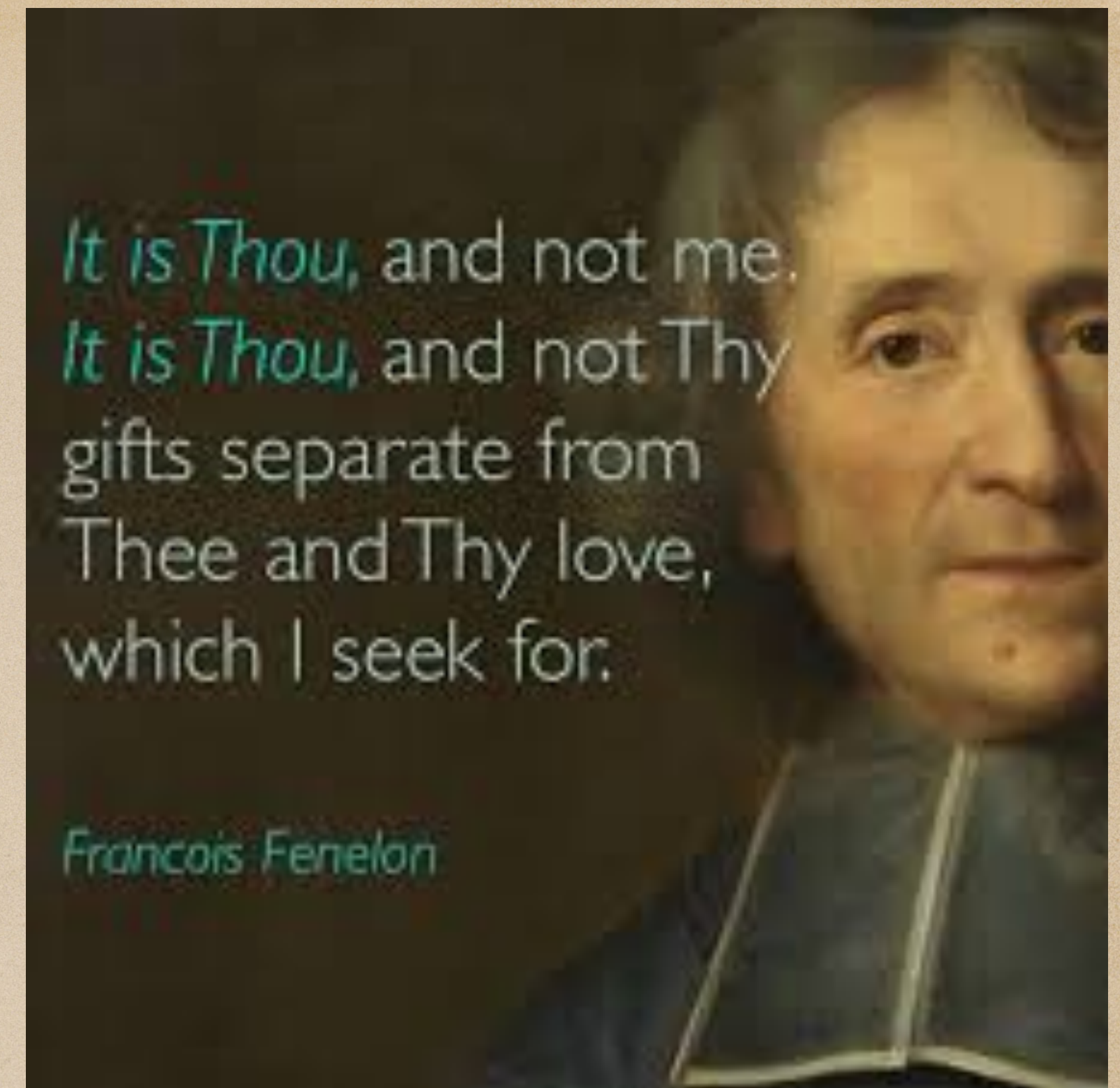


Outward Disciplines: SIMPLICITY

“When we are truly in this interior simplicity, our whole appearance is frank, more natural. This true simplicity makes us conscious of a certain openness, gentleness, innocence, gaiety, and serenity, which is charming when we see it with pure eyes. Oh, how amiable this simplicity is! Who will give it to me? I leave all for this. It is the Pearl of the Gospel.”



17th c. archbishop (France)

Jesus said, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.” (Matthew 13:45-46)

What is SIMPLICITY?

1. FREEDOM

...from DUPLICITY

Leads to bondage, fear, anxiety

Freedom that leads to joy and balance



What is SIMPLICITY?

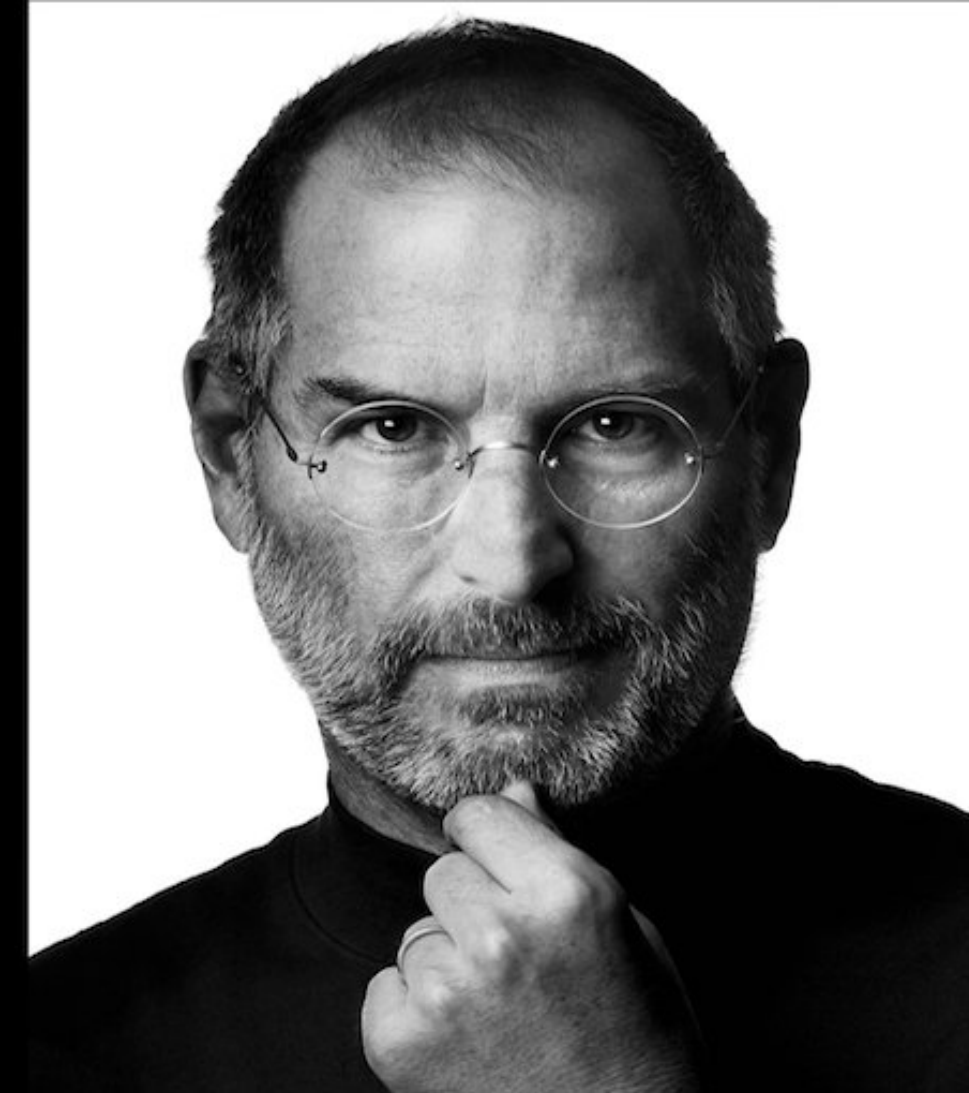
2. CLARITY

Of essentials v non-essentials

“Simple can be harder than complex: You have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it’s worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains.”

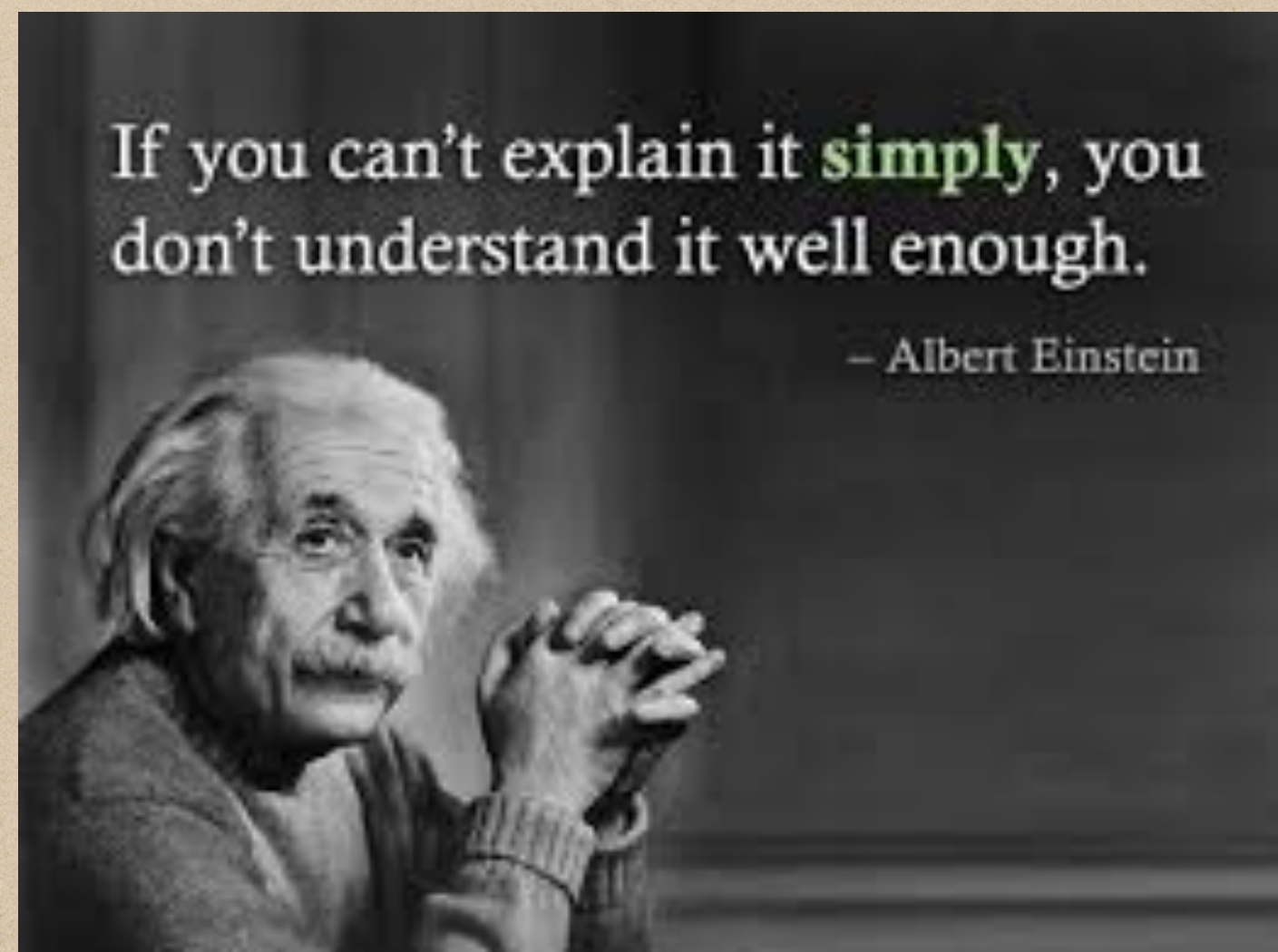
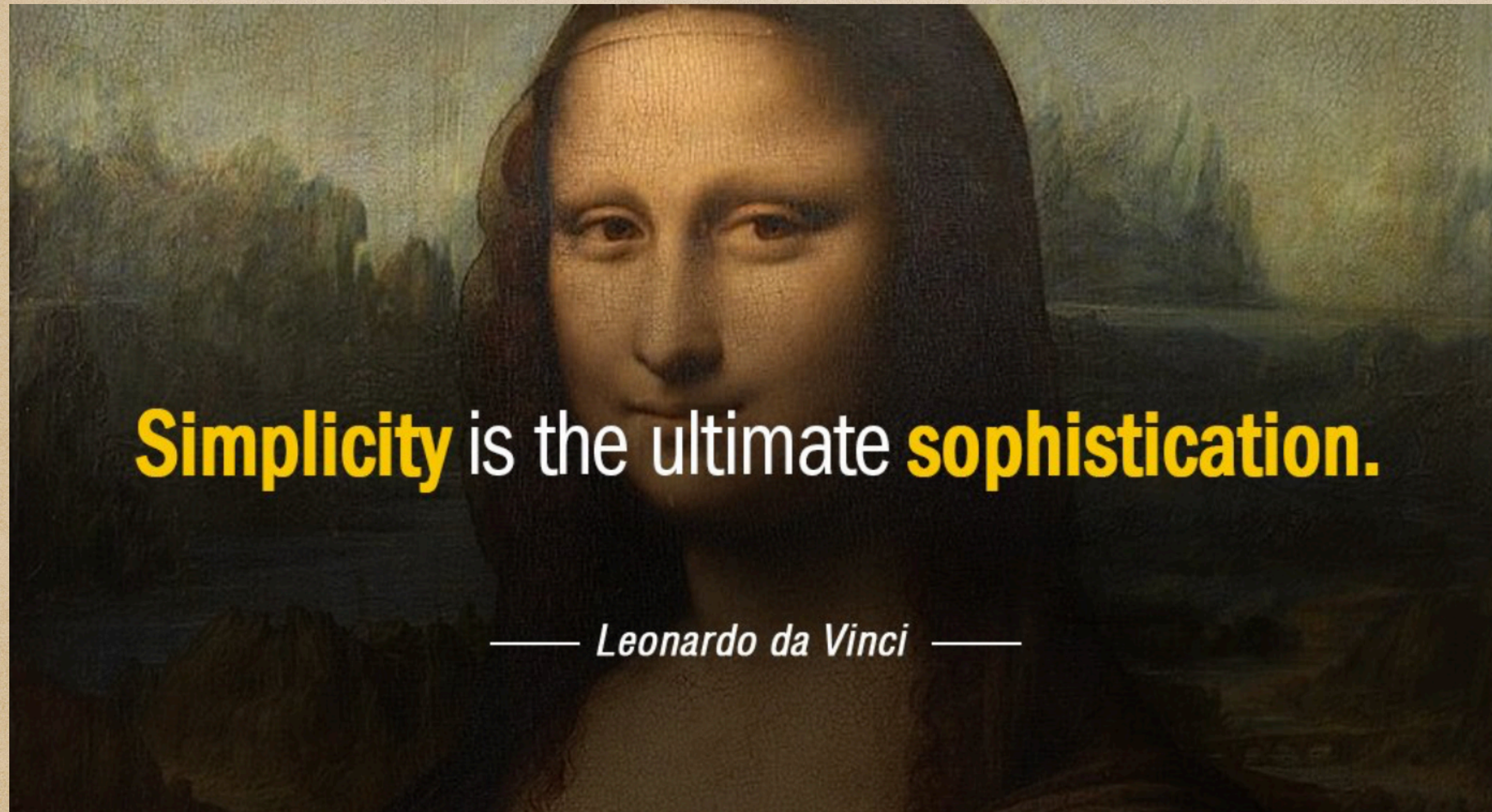
Steve Jobs

@PHHSI



Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, “Be taken up and thrown into the sea”, and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you.
(Mark 11:23)

What is SIMPLICITY?

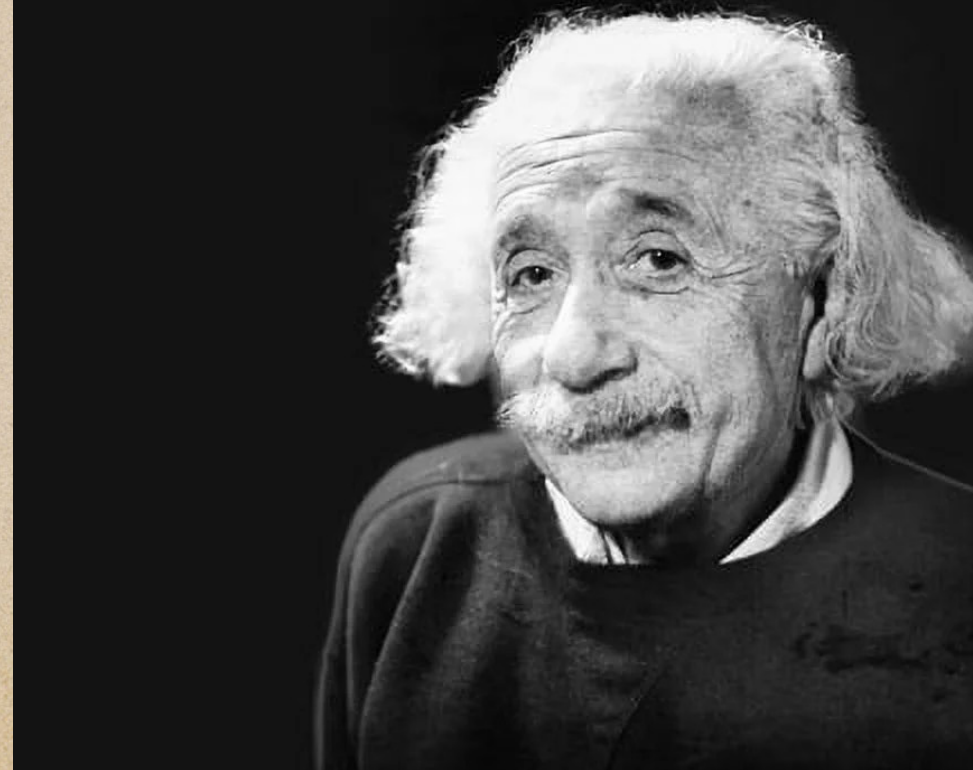


The Bible and SIMPLICITY

“See, this alone I found, that God made human beings simple, but they have devised many schemes.” (Ecclesiastes 7:29)

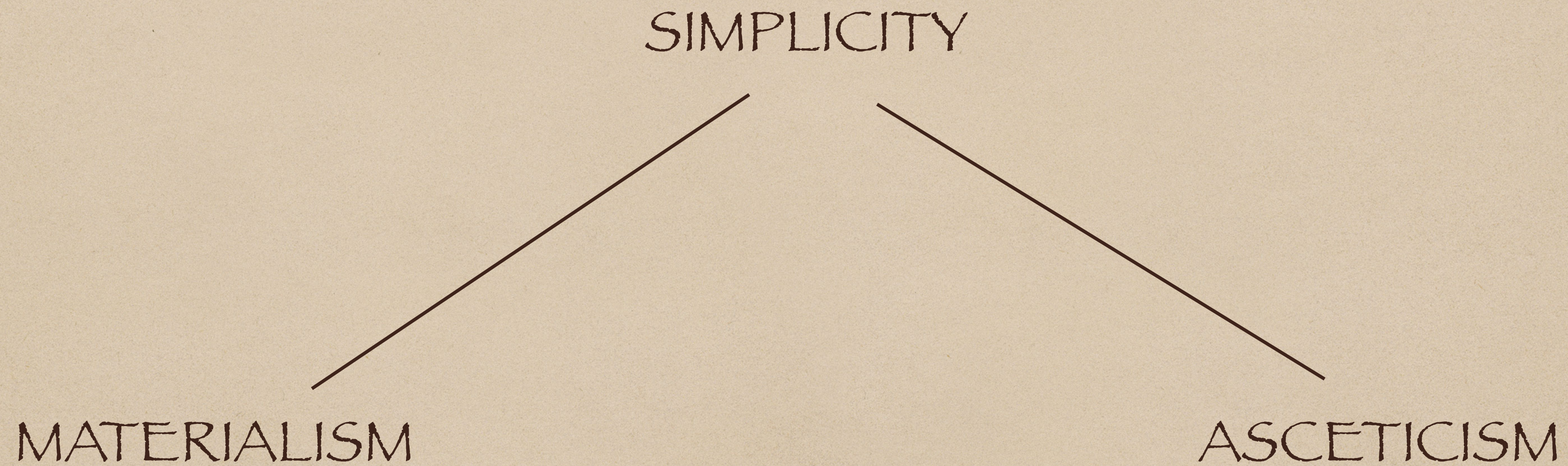
We cannot solve
our problems with
the same thinking
we used when we
created them.

ALBERT EINSTEIN



REPENTANCE

The Bible and SIMPLICITY



The Bible and SIMPLICITY

The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants. (Lev. 25:23)

If riches increase, do not set your heart on them. (Ps. 62:10)

Those who trust in their riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves. (Prof. 11:28)

No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.' (Luke 16:13)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt 6:19-21)

The Bible and SIMPLICITY

...in the letters

Paul: “Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful, desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.” (1 Timothy 6:9)

James: “Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask.” (James 4:1-2)

The Bible and SIMPLICITY

The spiritual discipline of simplicity provides needed perspective in a society focused on acquisition of things to fill hunger. Simple provision is good enough. Simplicity sets us free to receive everything as God's gift that is not ours to keep or own, but to enjoy and freely share with others. Once we recognize that the Bible denounces the materialist and the aesthetic with equal vigor, we are free to be with God entirely. — **Richard Foster**



SIMPLICITY: A Place to Stand

The Inward Fruits



The K.I.S.S. RULE ???

The majority of Christians have never seriously wrestled with the problem of simplicity, conveniently, ignoring Jesus as many words on the subject. The reason is simple: this discipline directly challenges are vested interests in an affluent lifestyle. — **Richard Foster**

Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matt 6:33)



SIMPLICITY

The Inward Fruits



“When the kingdom of God is genuinely placed first, ecological concerns, the poor, the equitable distribution of wealth, and other things will be given their proper attention. As Jesus made clear in our central passage, freedom from anxiety is one of the inward evidences of seeking first the kingdom of God. The inward reality of simplicity involves a life of joyful unconcern for possessions. Neither the greedy nor the miserly know this liberty. It has nothing to do with abundance of possessions or their lack. It is an inward spirit of trust. The sheer fact that a person is living without things is no guarantee that he or she is living in simplicity.” — **Richard Foster**



Simplicity is not a
simple thing.

Charlie Chaplin

SIMPLICITY

3 Inner Attitudes

1. Receive what we have as a gift from God.
2. Only God is able to protect what we steward.
3. Have our goods available to others.

Consider how this could impact stewardship campaigns!

...all these things will be given to you as well.
(Matt 6:33)

SIMPLICITY

The Outward Expressions: 10 Principles to try

1. By for usefulness rather than to impress.
2. Reject anything that produces addiction.
3. Periodically GIVE things away.
4. Refuse to be propaganda by the custodians of modern gadgetry.
5. Enjoy things without feeling the need to own them.
6. Appreciate creation/nature.
7. Avoid buy now/pay later plans.
8. Keep speech plain and honest.
9. Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others.
10. Shun anything that distracts you from your primary pursuit of the kingdom.

