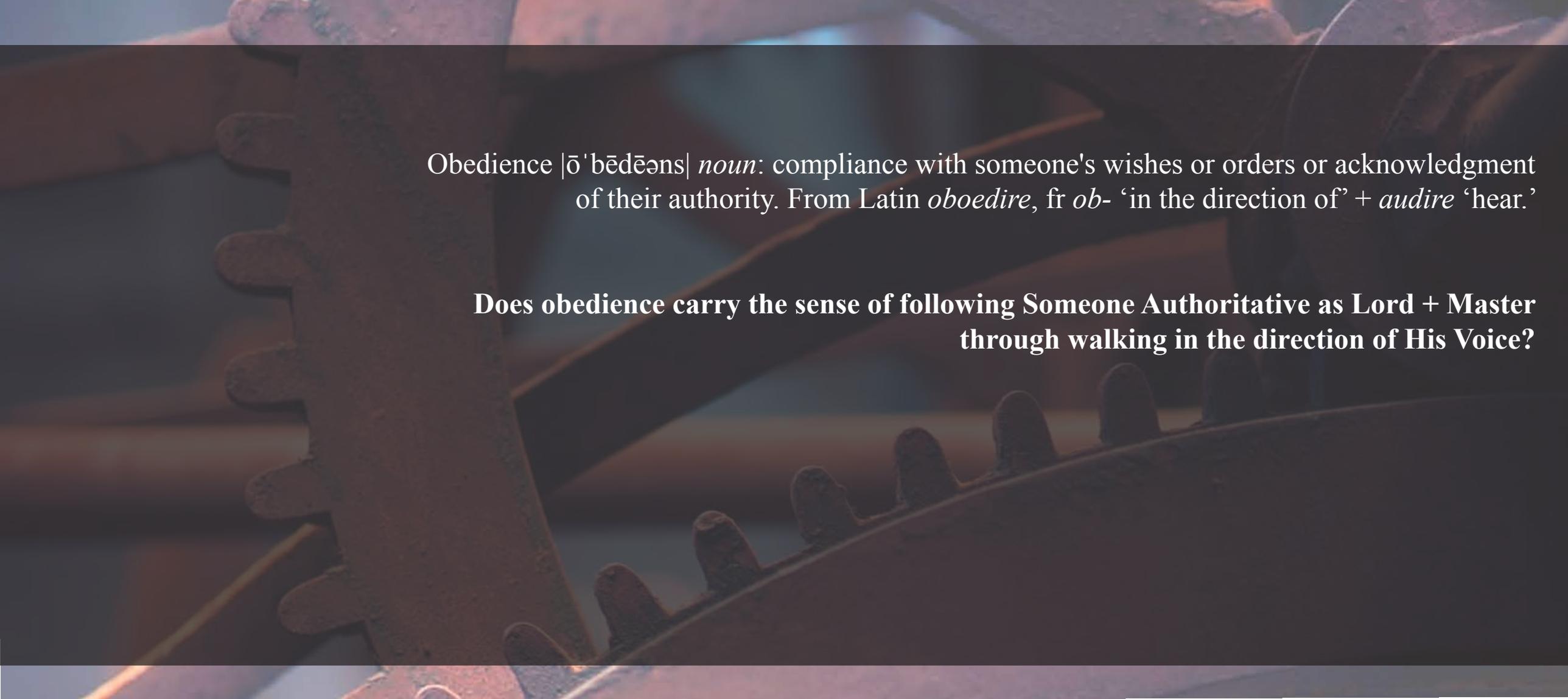




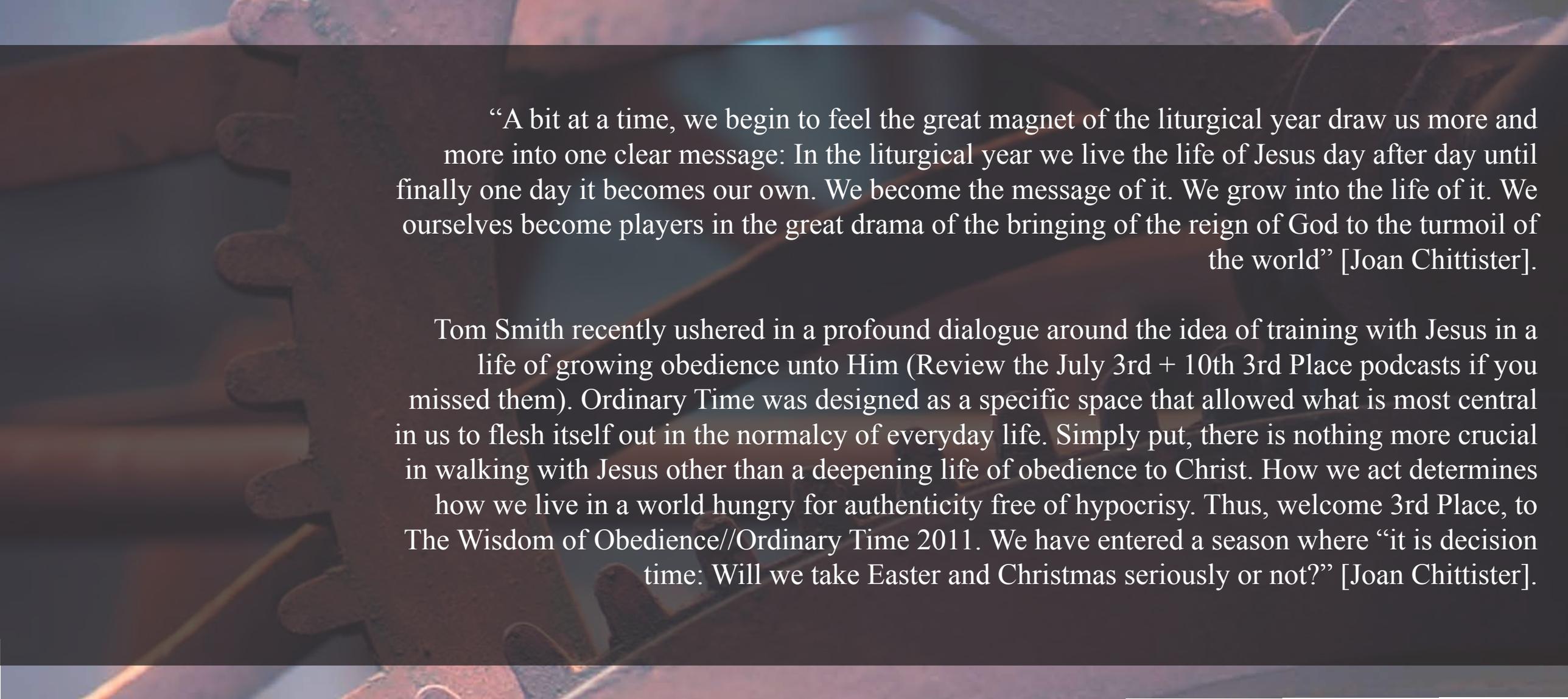
# Ordinary time

THE WISDOM OF OBEDIENCE



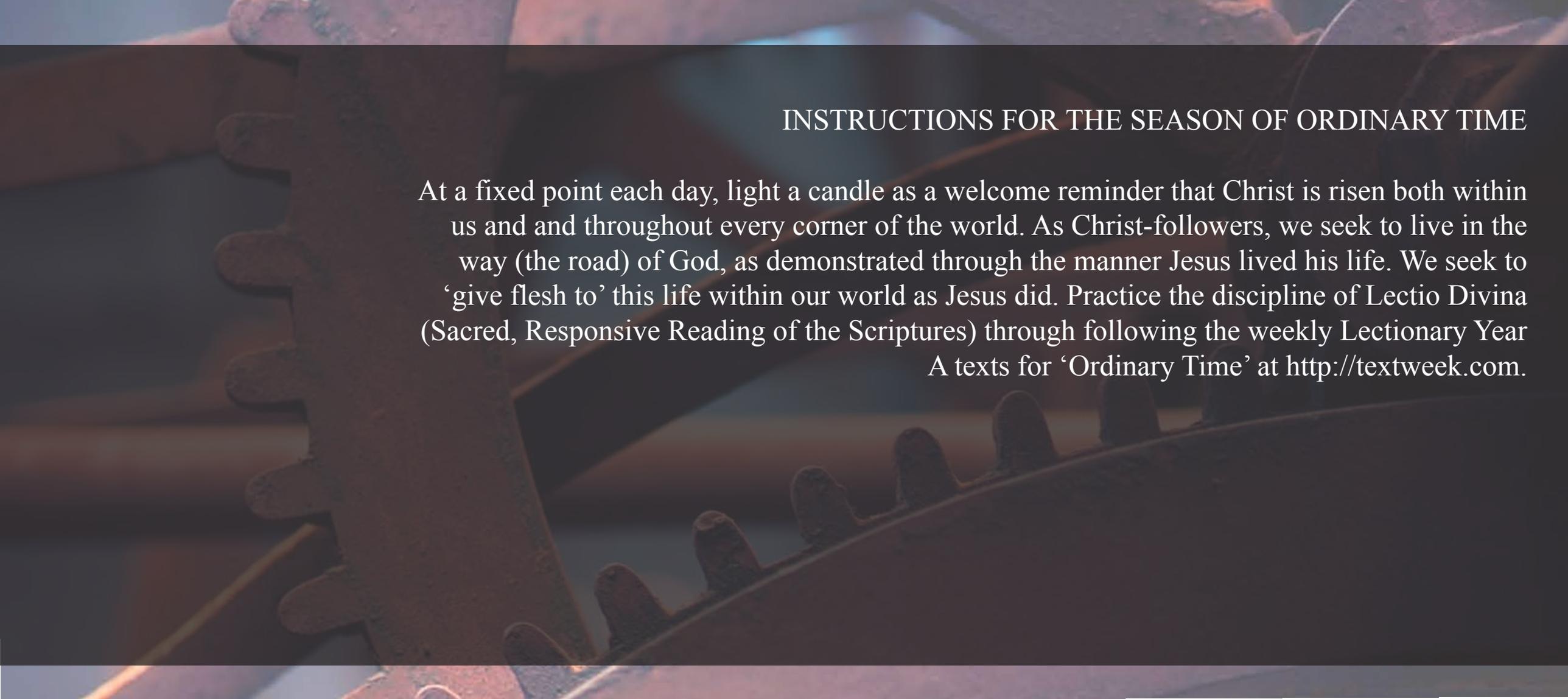
Obedience |ō'bēdēəns| *noun*: compliance with someone's wishes or orders or acknowledgment of their authority. From Latin *oboedire*, fr *ob-* 'in the direction of' + *audire* 'hear.'

**Does obedience carry the sense of following Someone Authoritative as Lord + Master through walking in the direction of His Voice?**



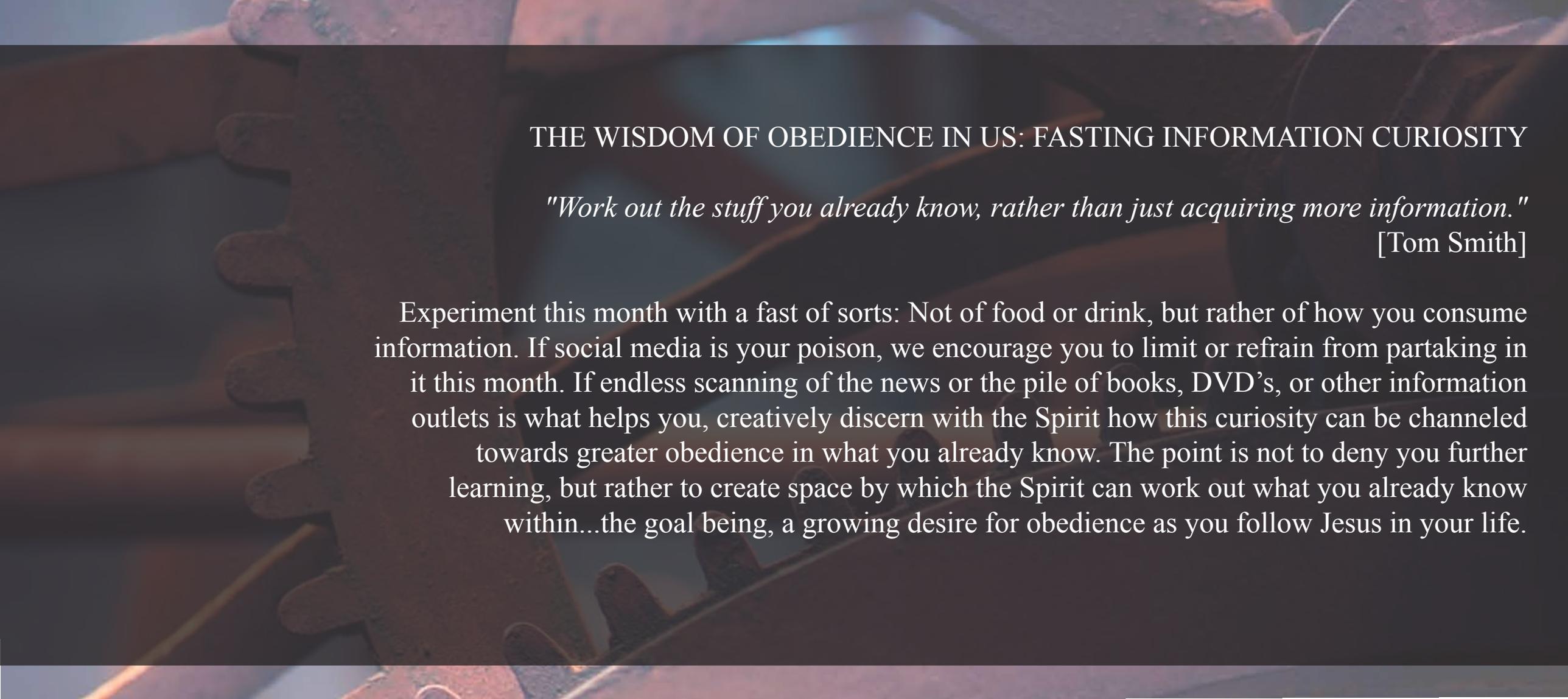
“A bit at a time, we begin to feel the great magnet of the liturgical year draw us more and more into one clear message: In the liturgical year we live the life of Jesus day after day until finally one day it becomes our own. We become the message of it. We grow into the life of it. We ourselves become players in the great drama of the bringing of the reign of God to the turmoil of the world” [Joan Chittister].

Tom Smith recently ushered in a profound dialogue around the idea of training with Jesus in a life of growing obedience unto Him (Review the July 3rd + 10th 3rd Place podcasts if you missed them). Ordinary Time was designed as a specific space that allowed what is most central in us to flesh itself out in the normalcy of everyday life. Simply put, there is nothing more crucial in walking with Jesus other than a deepening life of obedience to Christ. How we act determines how we live in a world hungry for authenticity free of hypocrisy. Thus, welcome 3rd Place, to The Wisdom of Obedience//Ordinary Time 2011. We have entered a season where “it is decision time: Will we take Easter and Christmas seriously or not?” [Joan Chittister].



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SEASON OF ORDINARY TIME

At a fixed point each day, light a candle as a welcome reminder that Christ is risen both within us and throughout every corner of the world. As Christ-followers, we seek to live in the way (the road) of God, as demonstrated through the manner Jesus lived his life. We seek to ‘give flesh to’ this life within our world as Jesus did. Practice the discipline of Lectio Divina (Sacred, Responsive Reading of the Scriptures) through following the weekly Lectionary Year A texts for ‘Ordinary Time’ at <http://textweek.com>.

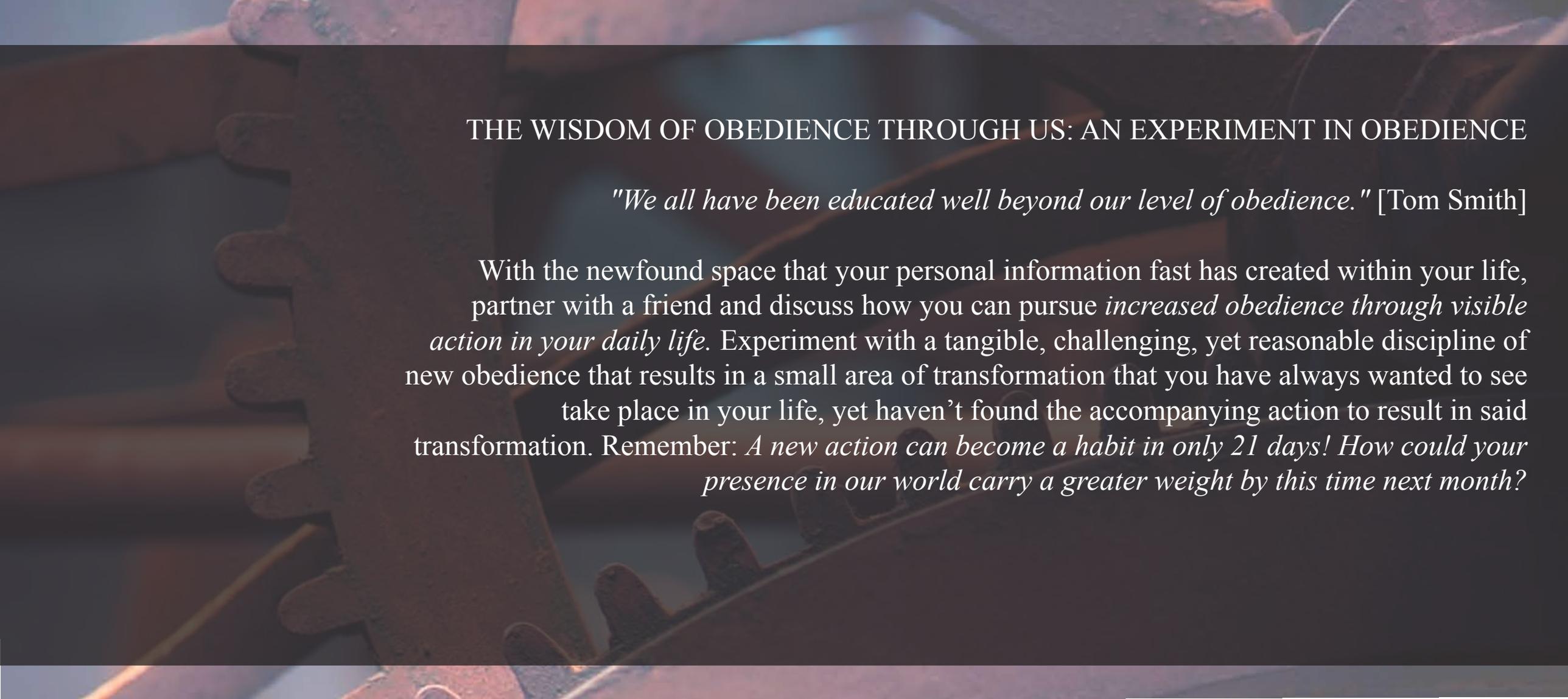


## THE WISDOM OF OBEDIENCE IN US: FASTING INFORMATION CURIOSITY

*"Work out the stuff you already know, rather than just acquiring more information."*

[Tom Smith]

Experiment this month with a fast of sorts: Not of food or drink, but rather of how you consume information. If social media is your poison, we encourage you to limit or refrain from partaking in it this month. If endless scanning of the news or the pile of books, DVD's, or other information outlets is what helps you, creatively discern with the Spirit how this curiosity can be channeled towards greater obedience in what you already know. The point is not to deny you further learning, but rather to create space by which the Spirit can work out what you already know within...the goal being, a growing desire for obedience as you follow Jesus in your life.



## THE WISDOM OF OBEDIENCE THROUGH US: AN EXPERIMENT IN OBEDIENCE

*"We all have been educated well beyond our level of obedience."* [Tom Smith]

With the newfound space that your personal information fast has created within your life, partner with a friend and discuss how you can pursue *increased obedience through visible action in your daily life*. Experiment with a tangible, challenging, yet reasonable discipline of new obedience that results in a small area of transformation that you have always wanted to see take place in your life, yet haven't found the accompanying action to result in said transformation. Remember: *A new action can become a habit in only 21 days! How could your presence in our world carry a greater weight by this time next month?*