

God is Like...

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Matthew 1: 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was **faithful to the law**, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Matthew 1: 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law...(NIV)

Matthew 1: 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame...(ESV)

Matthew 1: 19 Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man...(NRSV)

Joseph was a “righteous” man.

2 Corinthians 5: 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Timothy 2: 22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness...

1 Peter 2: 24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...

Joseph was a “righteous” man.
Joseph stayed true to God’s
word.

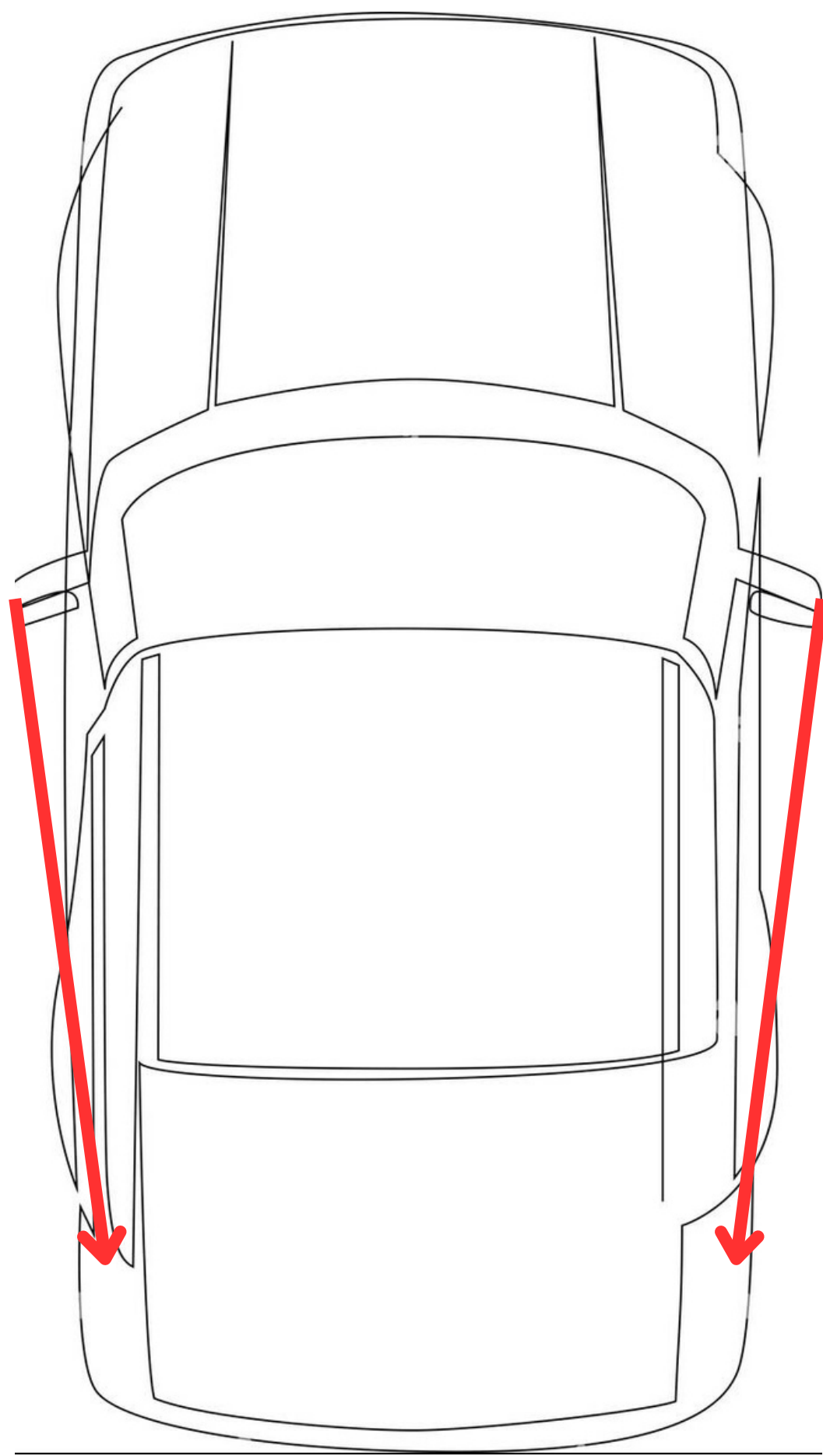
Matthew 1: 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1: 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). **24** When Joseph woke up, **he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him** and took Mary home as his wife. **25** But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Just because you know God, it
doesn't mean you're applying
that knowledge **correctly**.

God is like...
a rearview mirror





We use our relationship with God
incorrectly...

When we limit our relationship to
what we can see and control.

Malachi 3: 8 “Will a mere mortal rob God? **Yet you rob me.**

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. **9** You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

Malachi 3: Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty,

Malachi 3: Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty
“and see if I will not **throw open the floodgates of**
heaven and pour out so much blessing that there
will not be room enough to store it.

We use our relationship with God
incorrectly...

When we miss the blind spots.

Spiritual blindspots include:

the pursuit of wealth

Spiritual blindspots include:

the pursuit of wealth
desire for comfort

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measuring worth by worldly
standards

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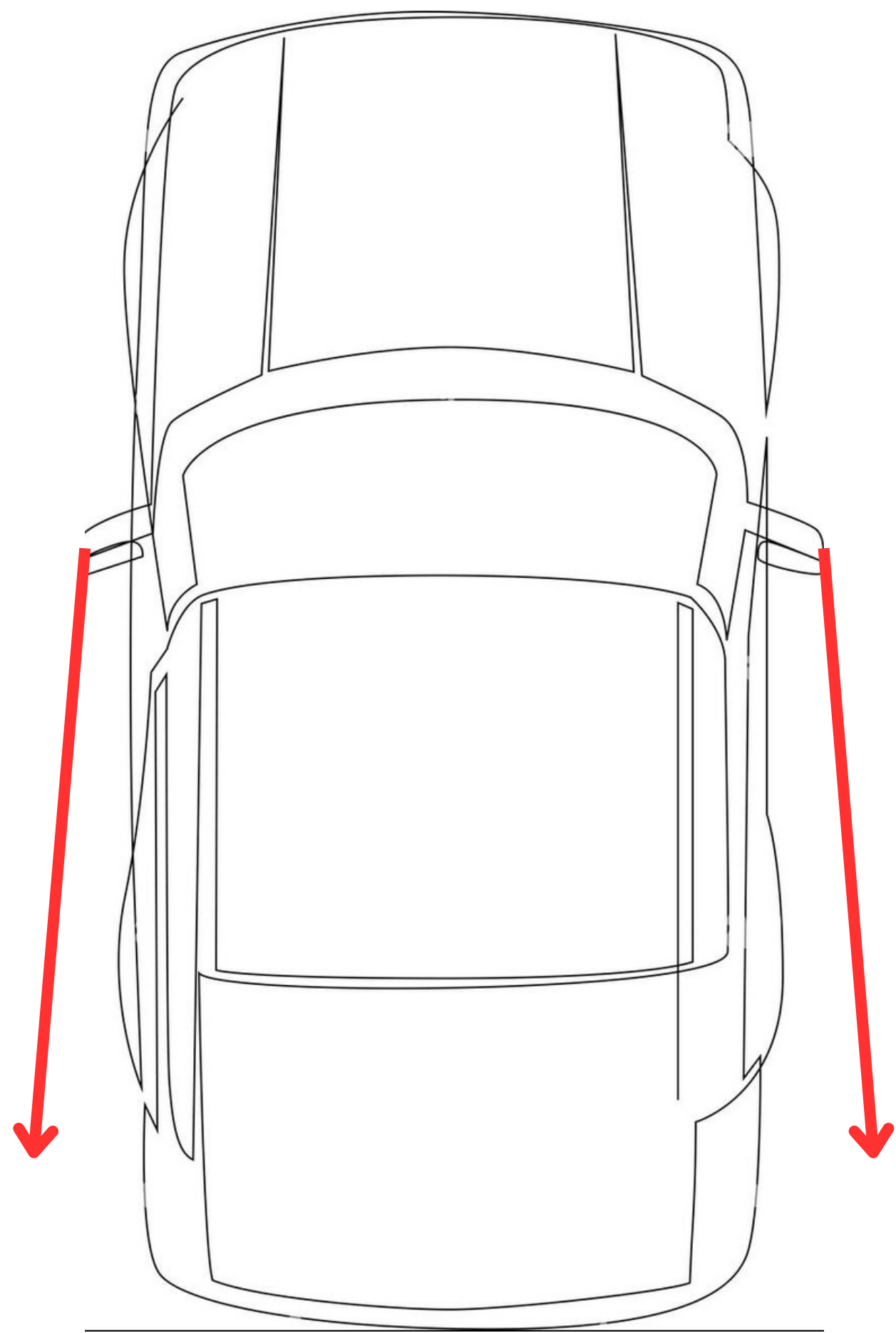
measuring worth by worldly

standards

busyness

Luke 10: 40 But Martha was **distracted by all the preparations** that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

Luke 10: 41 “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered,
“you are **worried and upset about many things**, 42
but few things are needed—or indeed only one.
Mary has **chosen what is better**, and it will not be
taken away from her.”



We use our relationship with God
correctly...

When we live by faith and not by
sight.

2 Corinthians 5: 6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, **7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.**

Living by faith does not mean

believing with your heart
something that makes no sense to
your brain.

Living by faith means

to confidently live righteously
(justly) in complete obedience.

Living by faith is manifested
when we make decisions
according to God's promises

Living by faith is manifested
when we view present
circumstances through an
eternal lens.

2 Corinthians 4: 16-18 So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though **on the outside** it often looks like things are falling apart on us, **on the inside**, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to **the coming good times**, the lavish celebration prepared for us.

2 Corinthians 4: There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are **here today, gone tomorrow.** But the things we can't see now will last forever.

Living by faith is manifested
when we are resilient in times
of difficulty.

2 Corinthians 4: 8 We are **hard pressed** on every side, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not in despair; 9 **persecuted**, but not abandoned; **struck down**, but not destroyed. 10 We **always carry** around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart.

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