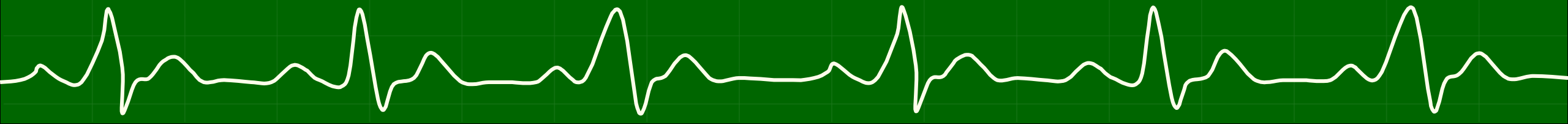


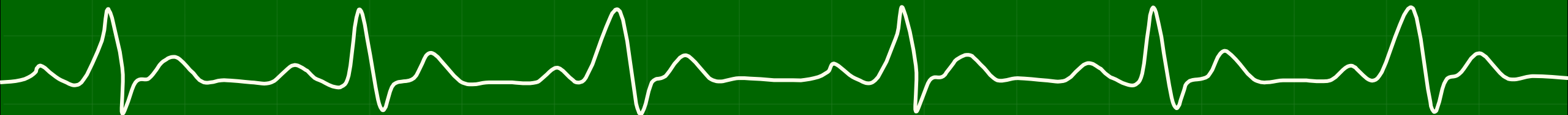
The First and Greatest



The Heart of it All!

What our World Thinks

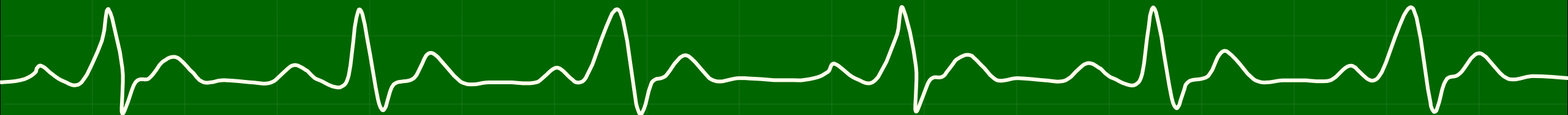


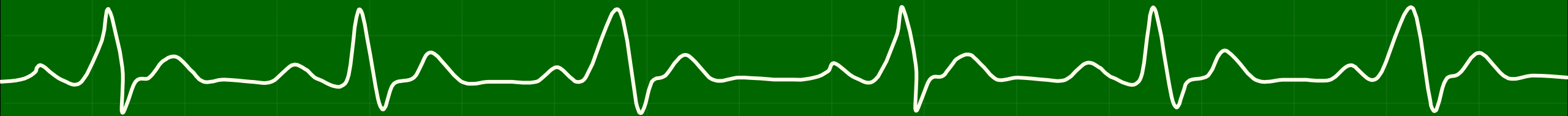


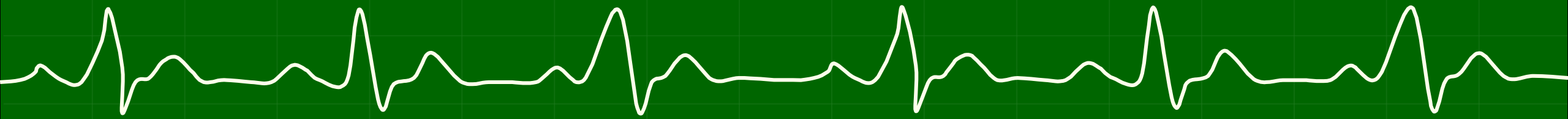
MOONWALK ONE

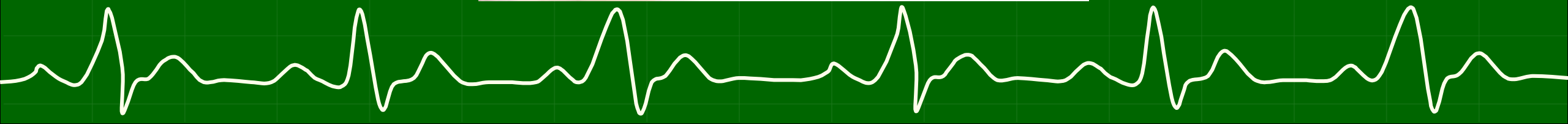
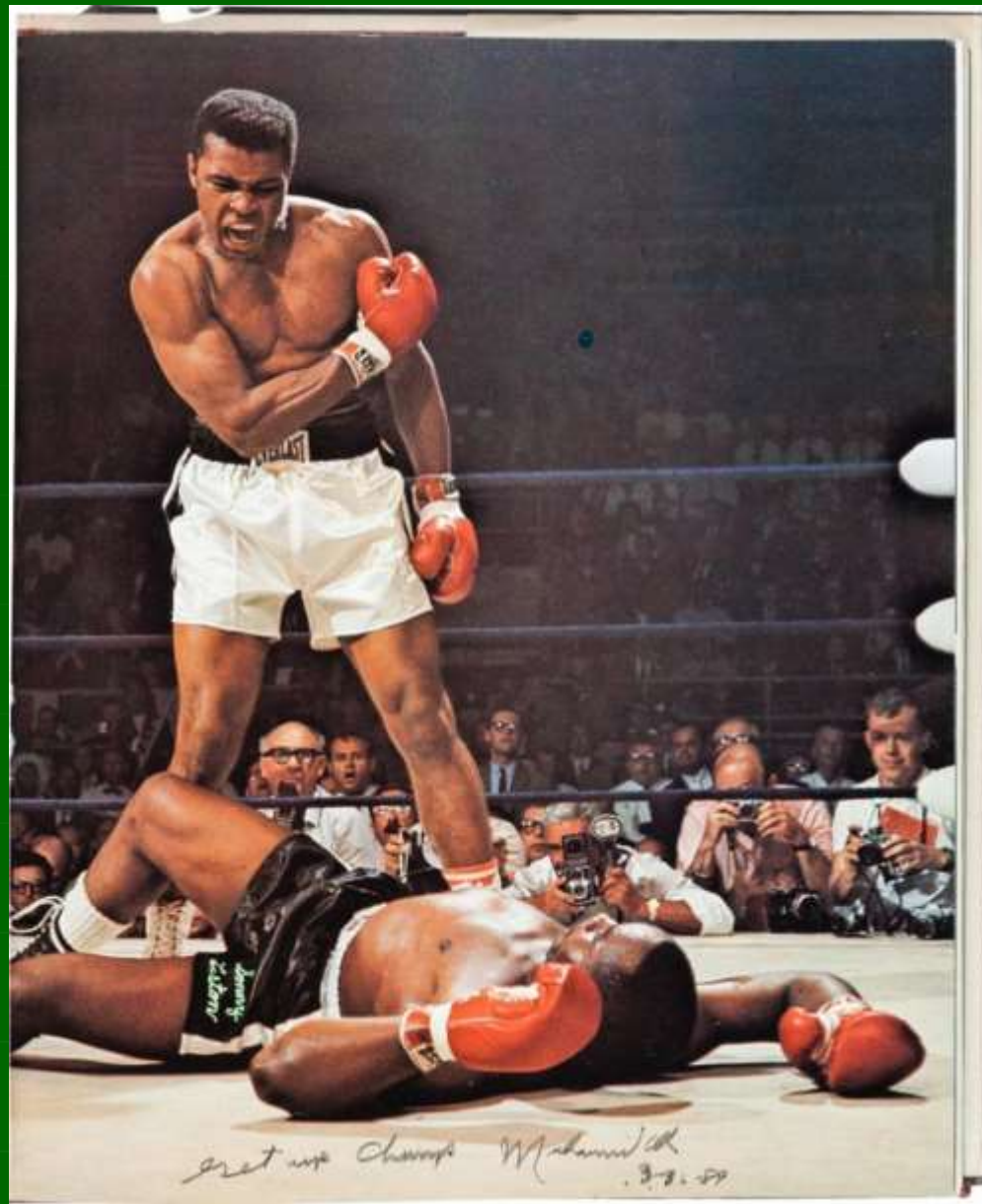


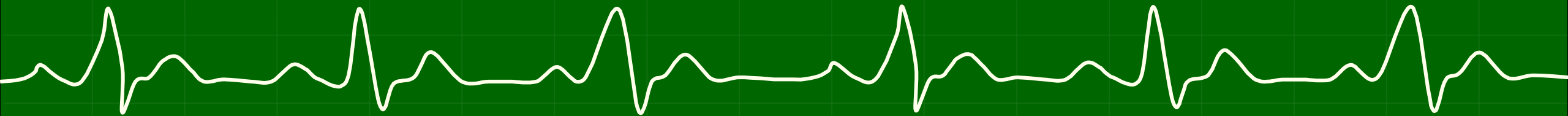
Neil Armstrong

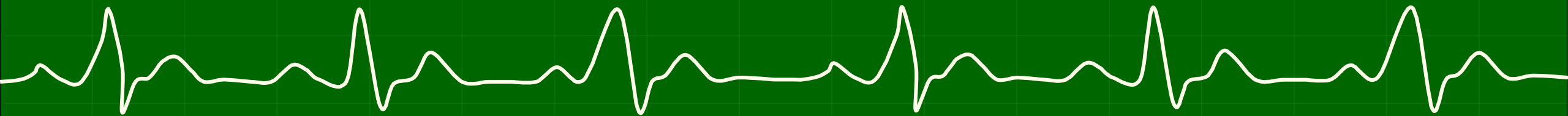


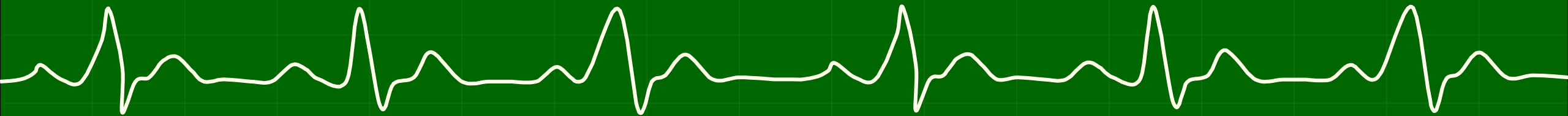


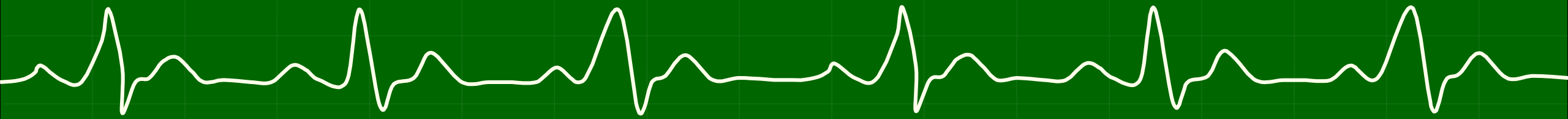
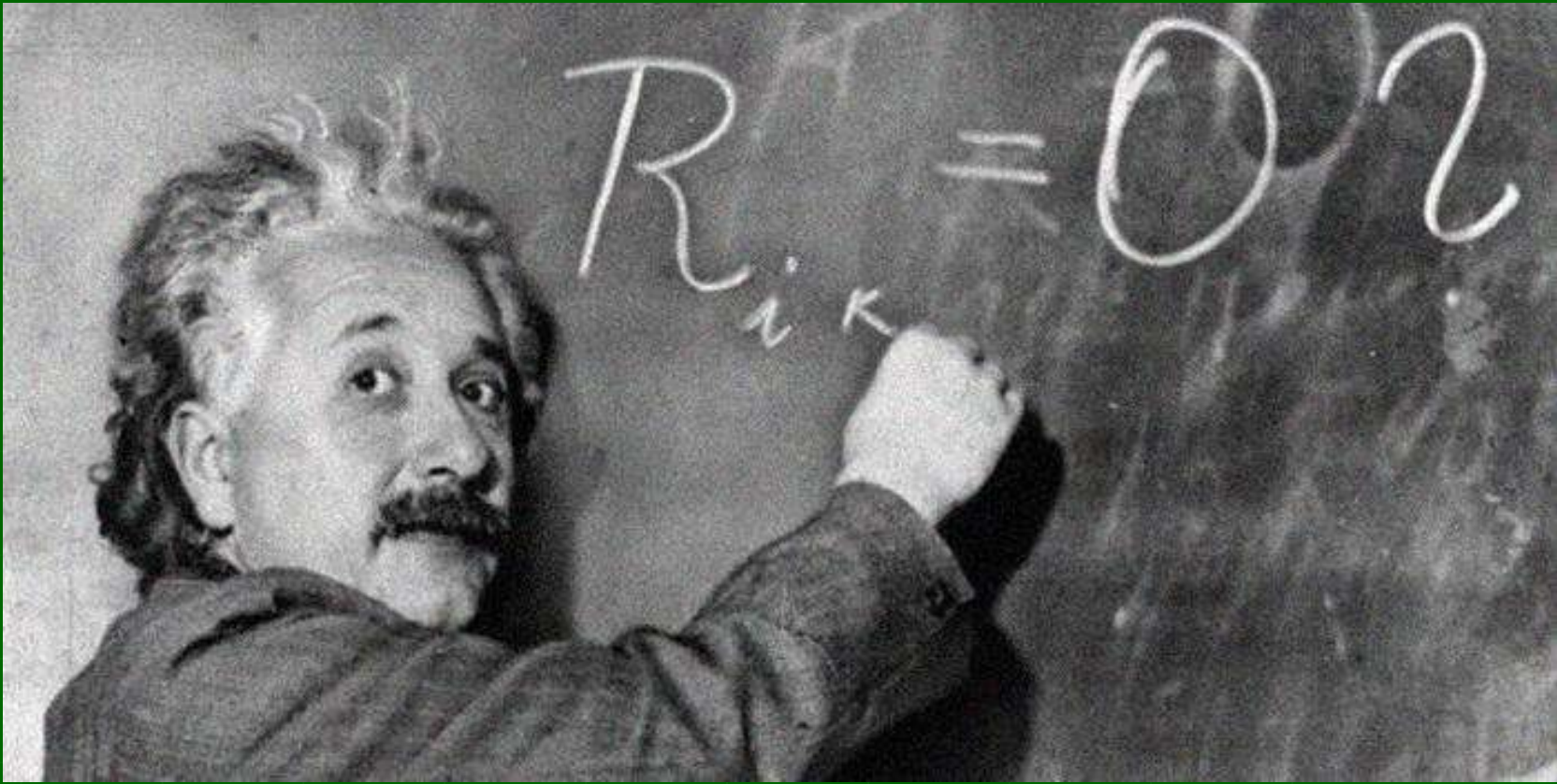


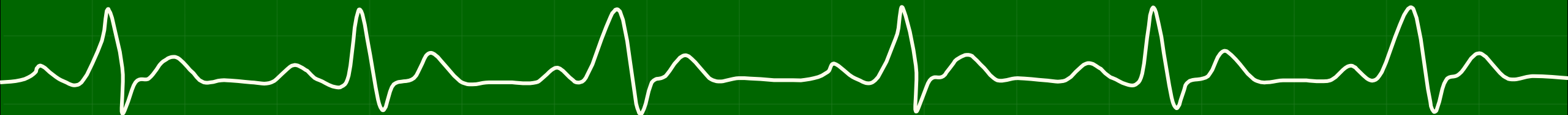










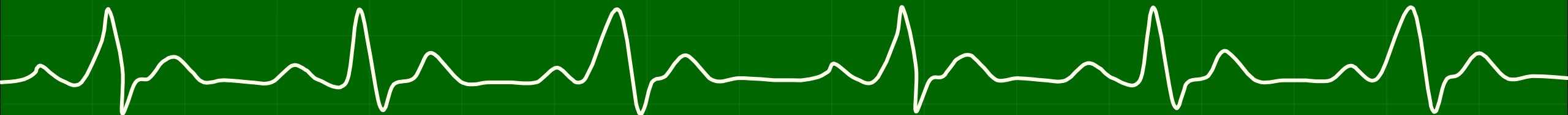


What the Bible says...

Matthew 22

34Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:36“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^c 38This is the first and greatest commandment. 39And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^d 40All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

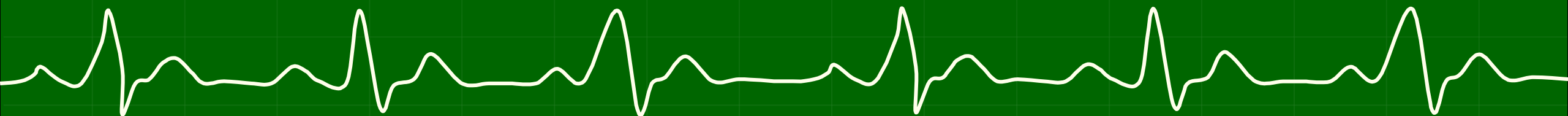


What the Bible says...

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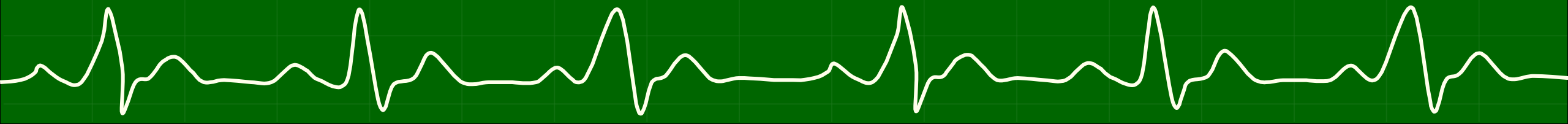
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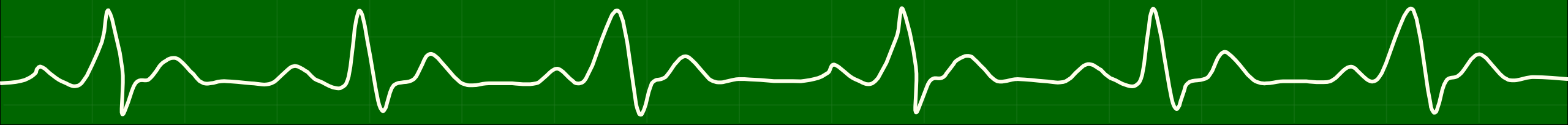


What is the Heart?

An illustration!

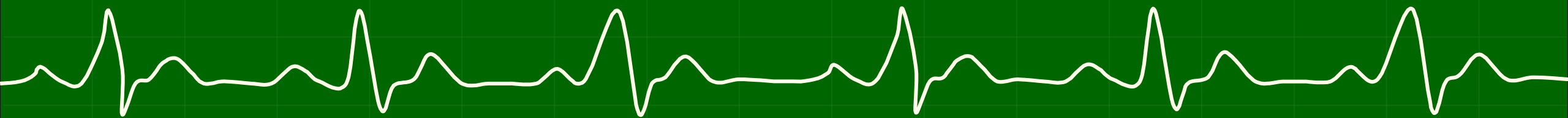


The Heart – Why do we do What we Do?



The Heart – Why do we do What we Do?

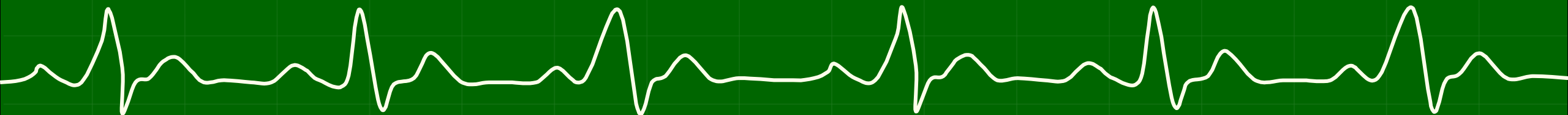
Because



The Heart – Why do we do What we Do?

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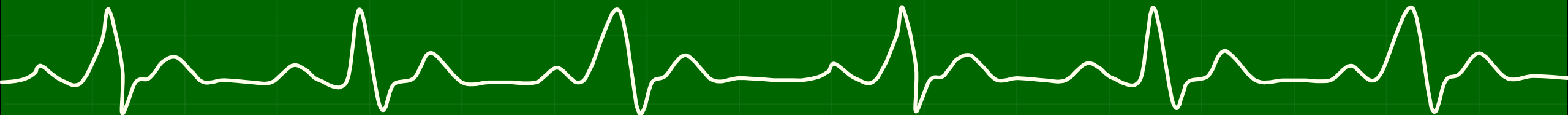
We want What we Want!



What is the Heart?

Matthew 15:19

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.



What is the Heart?

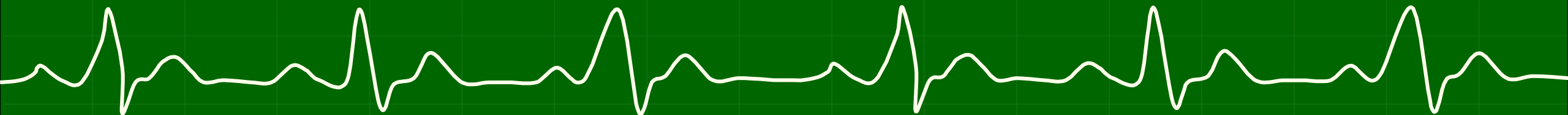
Proverbs:

4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

6:14 Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord.

12:25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

14:30 A sound heart *is* life to the body, But envy *is* rottenness to the bones.



What is the Heart?

Proverbs:

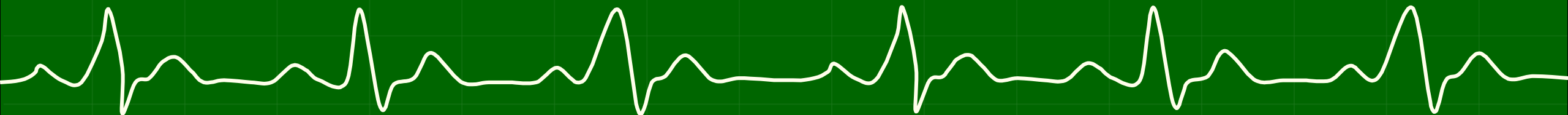
5:13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

16:9 A man's heart plans his way.

16:23 The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips.

20:5 Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water

23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.



Default Bent of our Heart is Spiritual Adultery

Exodus 20

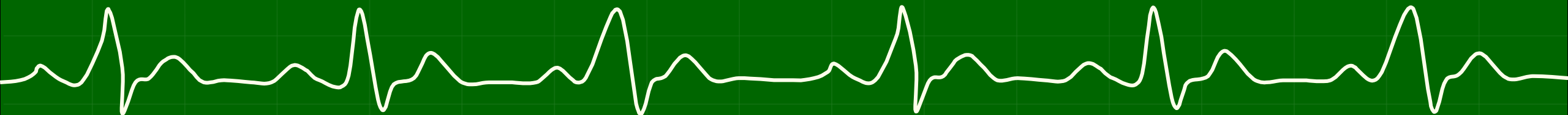
And God spoke all these words, saying:

³ “You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

Ezekiel 14

³ “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity.



Default Bent of our Heart is Spiritual Adultery

We Lust after the wrong things!

Titus 3

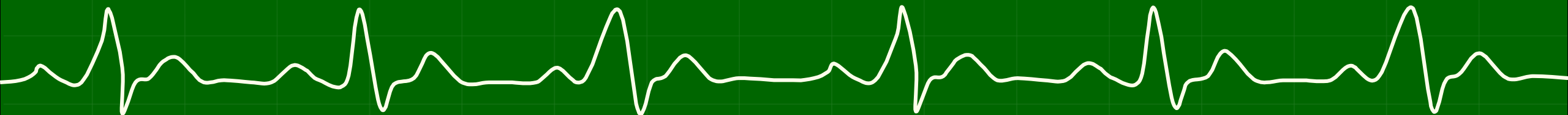
³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

1 John 2

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Ephesians 4

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires



What is an Idol?

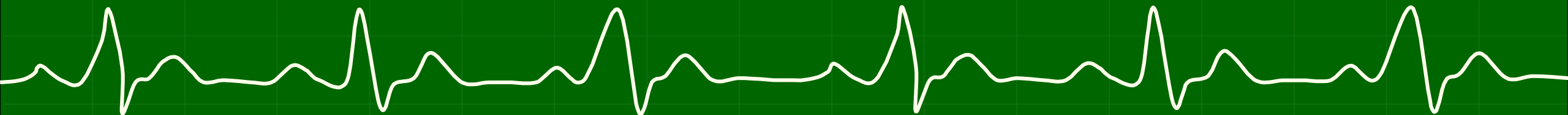
The idols mentioned in the 2nd Commandment are generally carved and crafted statues.

What are the idols of the Heart (Ezek 14:3)?

We could also call them “Ruling Desires”

Anything that you put as a priority above God.

If you are willing to sin to get something, then it is an idol of your Heart.



What is an Idol?

Words we might use today:

Control

Manipulation, Aggression, Intimidation, Domination

Peace/Comfort

Escapism, Avoidance, Fleeing, Unavailability

People Pleasing

Deception, Insincerity, Appeasement, Compliance

Entitlement

Demanding, Pouting, Forceful, Merit

Prosperity/

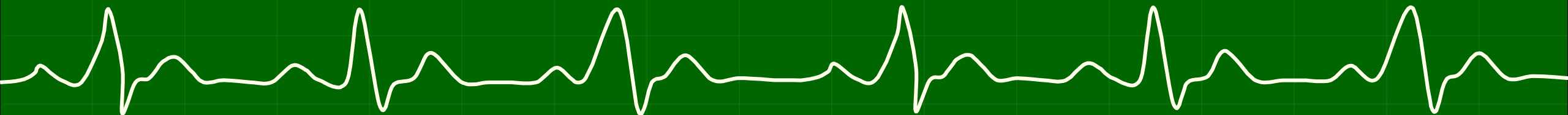
Possessions

Materialism, Stinginess, Discontentment

Recognition/Respect

Self-Righteous, Criticism, Compromise, Self-Pity

Root of all of these is PRIDE!



Default Bent of our Heart is Spiritual Adultery

What should we seek/lust after?

1 Corinthians 10

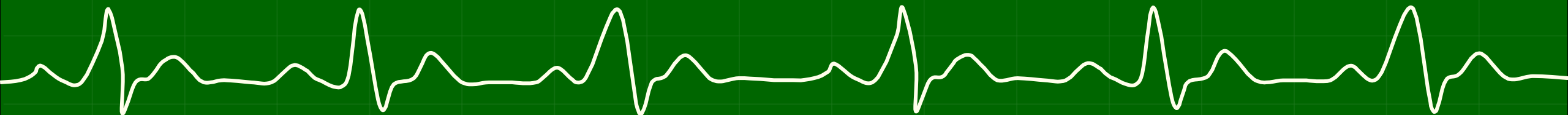
³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 5

⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

Psalms 42

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.



Benefits of a Godly Heart

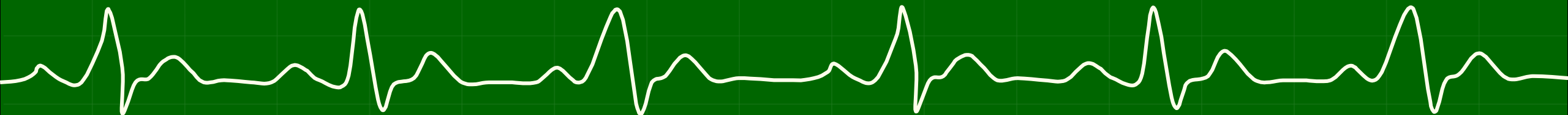
God has numerous promises for those with a Godly Heart

Blessedness, Joy, Peace – Fruit of the Spirit

Implications when our Heart is not bent toward God

Anger, Depression, Anxious, Tense, Fearful

These are like a check engine light on a car:



Benefits of a Godly Heart

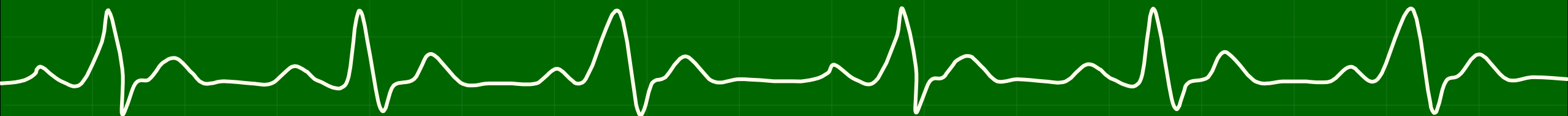
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What is the Solution to this Heart Problem?

The Gospel!

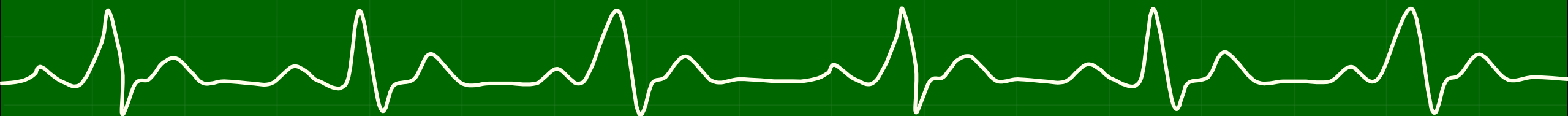
We need a new Heart!

2 Corinthians 5

¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Exekiel 36

²⁶ Moreover, I will give you a new **heart** and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the **heart** of stone from your flesh and give you a **heart** of flesh.



What is the Solution to this Heart Problem?

Yet, even Christians still stumble, putting ruling desires (Idols of the Heart) before God

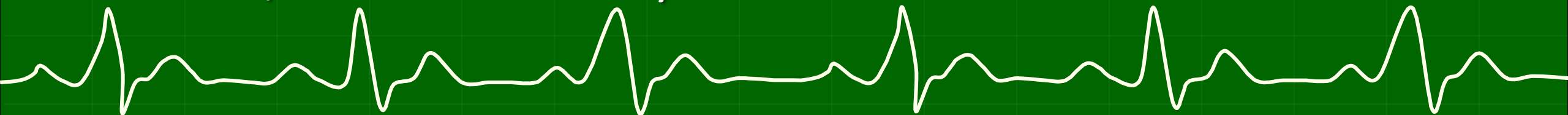
If our spiritual check engine light comes on – what do we do?



What is the Solution to this Heart Problem?

James 4

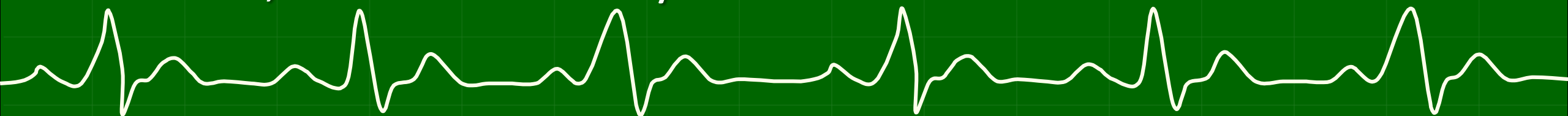
⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” ⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.



What is the Solution to this Heart Problem?

James 4

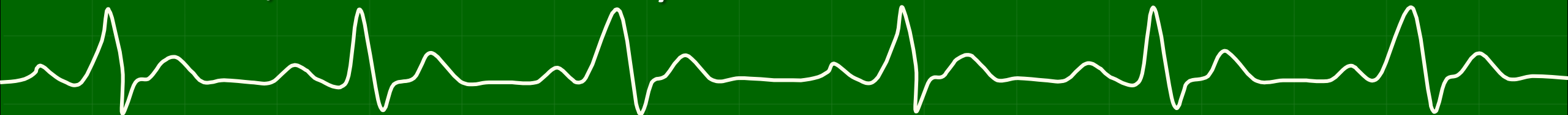
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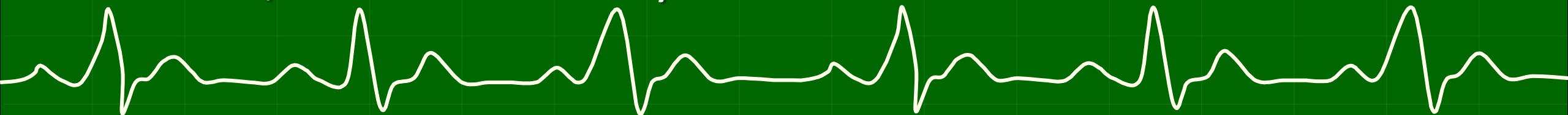
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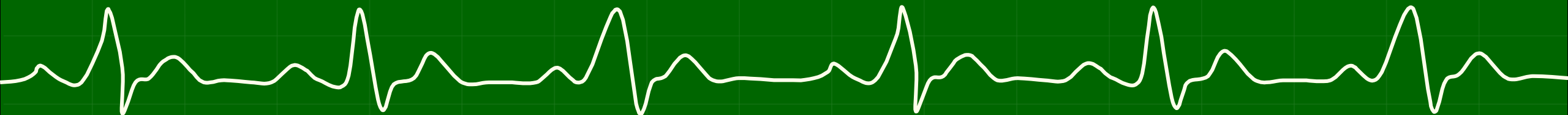
How do we draw near to God?

Ecclesiastes 5

¹ Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil.

Isaiah 34

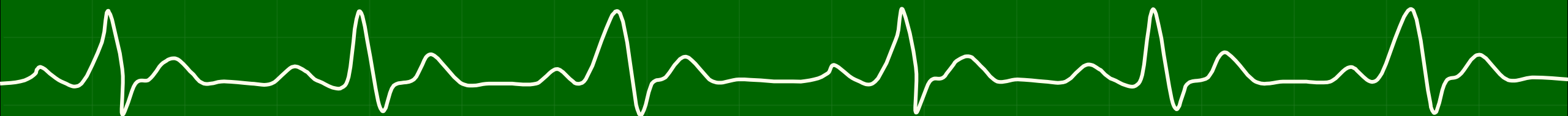
¹ Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples!
Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it



How do we draw near to God?

Hebrews 4

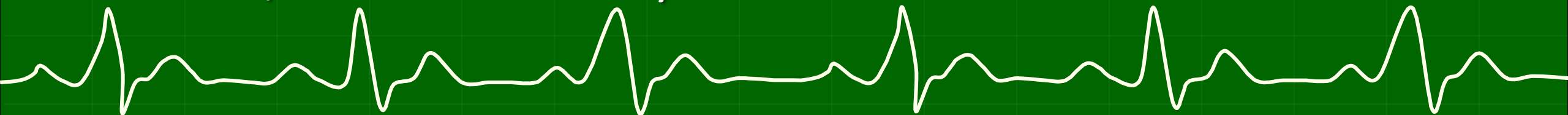
¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



What is the Solution to this Heart Problem?

James 4

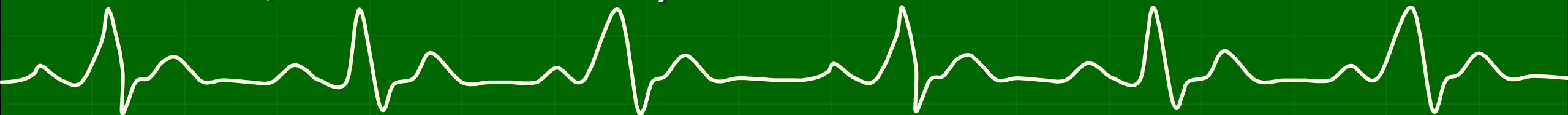
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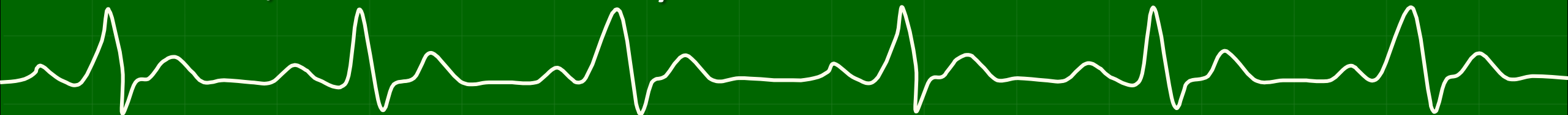
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What is the Solution to this Heart Problem?

James 4

Submit therefore to God.

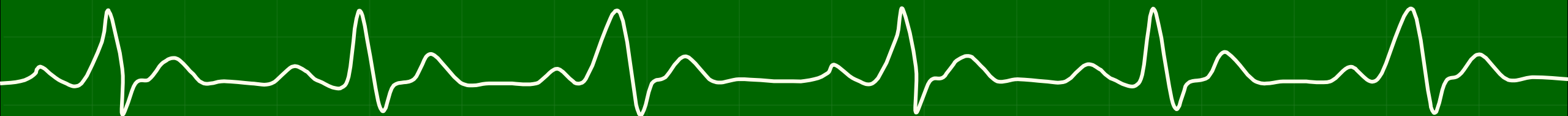
Resist the devil

Draw near to God

Cleanse your hands; and purify your hearts,

Be miserable and mourn and weep

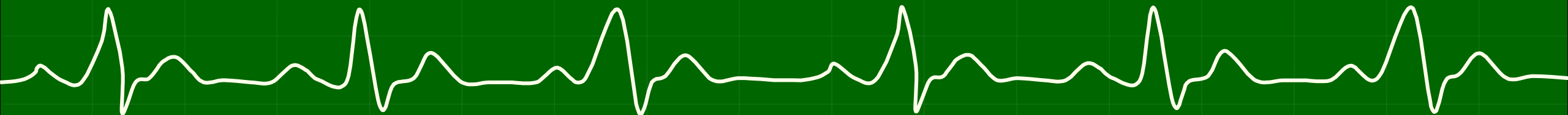
Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.



Putting it into Practice – Loving with all your HEART!

When your spiritual check engine light comes on. Ask yourself these questions:

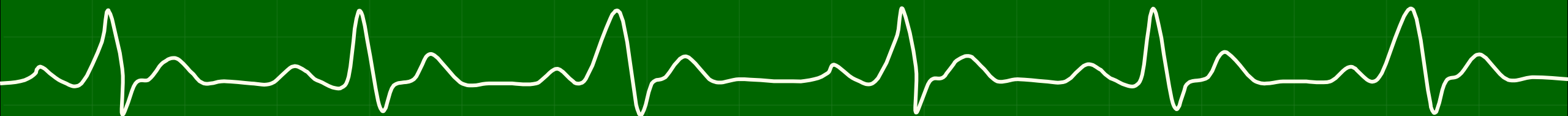
1. What is the situation?
2. How am I responding?
3. What am I wanting?
4. What does the Bible say about my situation and my response?
5. What should I be wanting?
6. What should I do now?



The Heart of it All !

Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your
mind.'

This is the first and greatest commandment.



The First and Greatest



The Heart of it All!