

MAY

2 Corinthians

1. 1:1-11

2. 1:12-24

3. Rest & Reflect

4. 2

5. 3

6. 4

7. 5

8. 6

9. 7

10. Rest & Reflect

11. 8

12. 9

13. 10

14. 11:1-15

15. 11:16-33

16. 12:1-10

17. Rest & Reflect

18. 12:11-21

19. 13

Galatians

20. 1

21. 2

22. 3:1-14

23. 3:15-29

24. Rest & Reflect

25. 4:1-20

26. 4:21-31

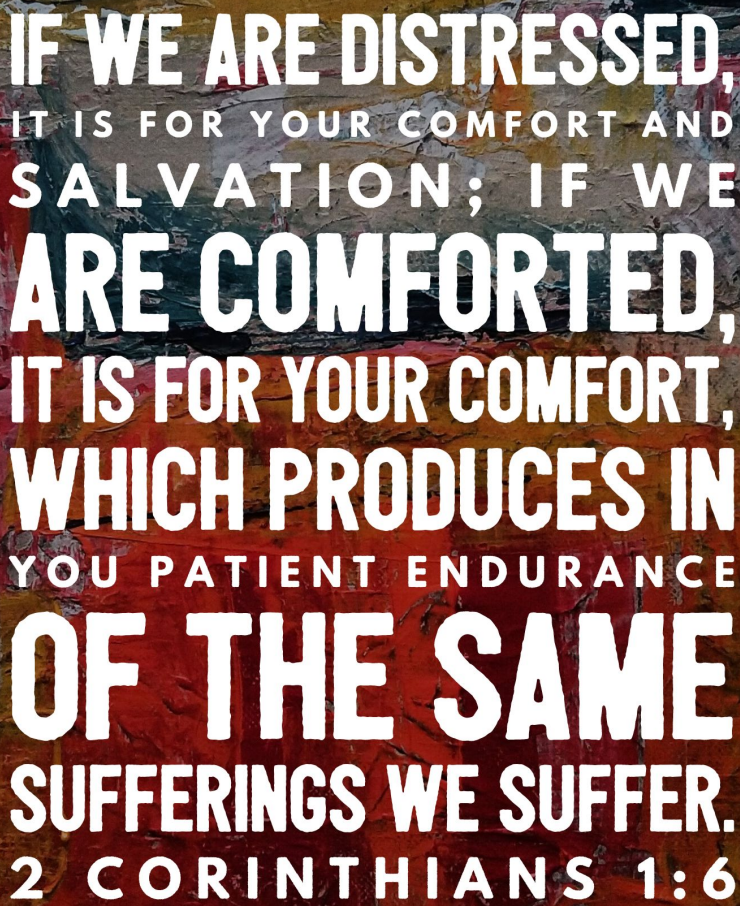
27. 5:1-12

28. 5:13-26

29. 6

30. Rest & Reflect

31. Rest & Reflect



**IF WE ARE DISTRESSED,
IT IS FOR YOUR COMFORT AND
SALVATION; IF WE
ARE COMFORTED,
IT IS FOR YOUR COMFORT,
WHICH PRODUCES IN
YOU PATIENT ENDURANCE
OF THE SAME
SUFFERINGS WE SUFFER.
2 CORINTHIANS 1:6**

READ: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

THINK: Most of us are not regularly suffering for our faith. While you might not find yourself persecuted for your beliefs, we share a faith with people who are. People you wake up every day scared of how the world will treat them because they follow Jesus. Some, like Paul, choose to go to places they know they will suffer in order to offer hope to people who would never know Christ otherwise. These men and women are heroes who work alongside Christ regardless of the cost.

PRAY: for a missionary we support.



FOR WE ARE TO GOD
THE PLEASING AROMA
OF CHRIST AMONG THOSE

WHO ARE BEING SAVED

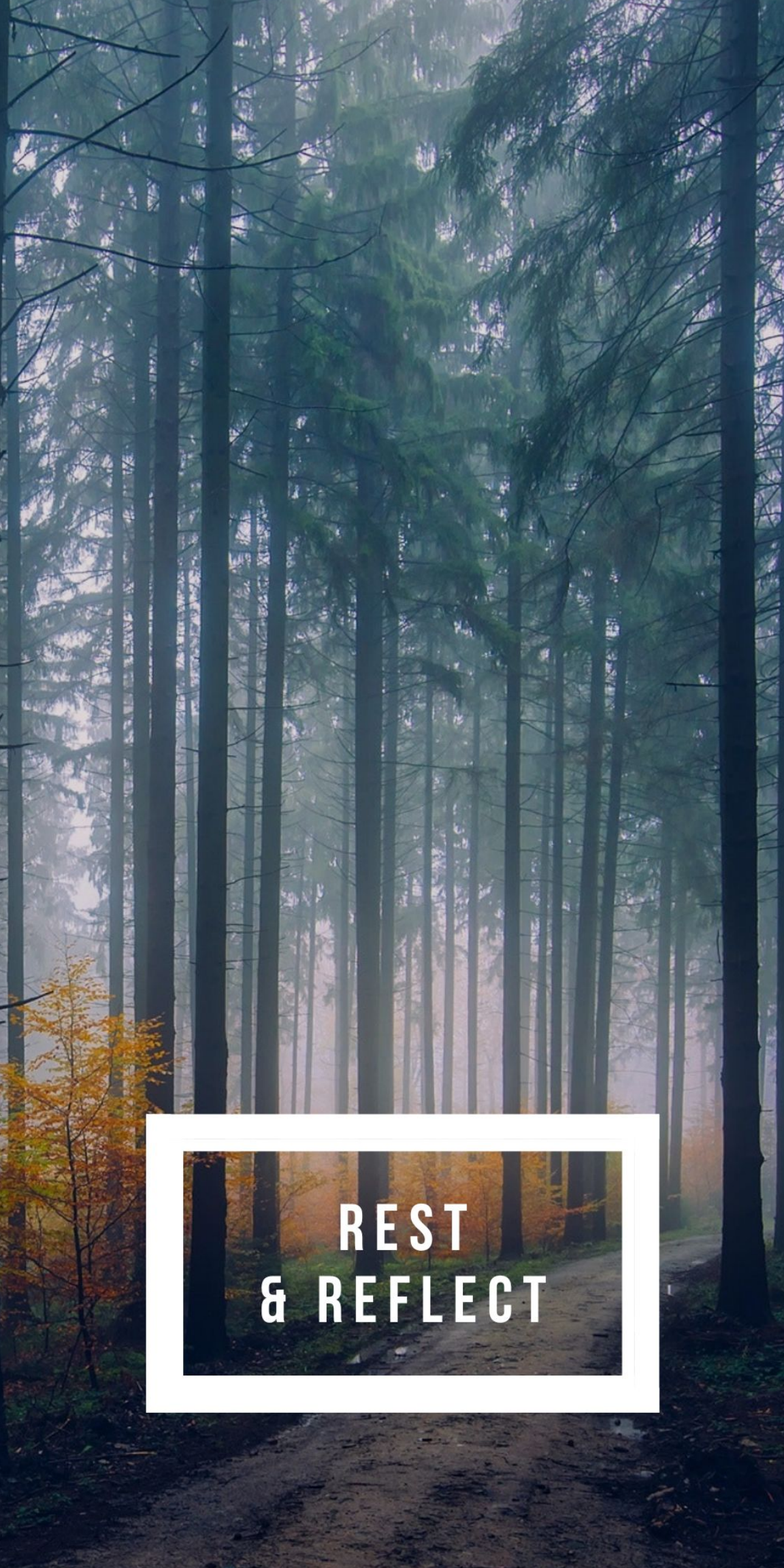
AND THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:15

READ: 2 Corinthians 1:12-24

THINK: When sacrifices were burned on the altar in the Old Testament, the smell was described as “an aroma pleasing to the Lord.” We don't burn bulls or doves, but we do offer our lives as a living sacrifice. We offer all we have and all we are as a gift to God's purposes to use as He chooses. That is the hardest part, as He chooses. It might not seem glamorous, it might not seem all that important, but we serve at and for God's pleasure.

PRAY: through the places you feel like you are disappointed with how God is using you.



**REST
& REFLECT**



NOW INSTEAD,

YOU OUGHT TO

FORGIVE AND COMFORT HIM,

SO THAT HE WILL NOT BE

OVERWHELMED BY

EXCESSIVE SORROW.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:7

READ: 2 Corinthians 2

THINK: There is one constant that you will find within any community, you will get hurt by those close to you. Christians are broken people who hurt one another. What sets us apart is how we respond to one another when we are hurt. We live in a faith which is founded on mercy and finds its completion in forgiveness. Our concern is not for the offender to be appropriately punished, but for that person to be restored to the community he or she hurt.

PRAY: for someone in Church you aren't on good terms with.



NOW THE
LORD IS
THE SPIRIT,
AND WHERE
THE SPIRIT
OF THE
LORD IS,
THERE IS
FREEDOM.
2 CORINTHIANS
3:17

READ: 2 Corinthians 3

THINK: This is one of the most quoted Bible verses in contemporary American Christianity. We love our freedom, but this passage doesn't refer to freedom to do what we want, it refers to the freedom to be righteous. To Paul, the Old Covenant made people keenly aware of how unrighteous they are. The New Covenant, however, brings the freedom to be grown and perfected by the Spirit. This is the freedom we have, the freedom to be transformed by the Spirit who lives in us into a righteous son or daughter of God.

PRAY: and ask for the Spirit's presence.



FOR OUR LIGHT
AND MOMENTARY
TROUBLES
ARE ACHIEVING
FOR US
AN ETERNAL
GLORY THAT
FAR OUTWEIGHS
THEM ALL.
2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

READ: 2 Corinthians 4

THINK: Paul refers to periodic beatings, food and housing insecurity, continual persecution, and imprisonment as “light and momentary.” By no modern standard are these light or momentary. In fact, they aren’t light or momentary by any standard from any time. Paul, however, isn’t using the standards of any time or age. He measures it against the expanse of eternity. You have an eternity with God which stretches out ahead of you. What can the enemy possibly bring against you that compares with that?

PRAY: for God to use you, even if it brings troubles.

FOR WHILE WE ARE

In This Tent,

we groan and are burdened,

because we do not wish

TO BE UNCLOTHED BUT TO

be clothed instead with

OUR HEAVENLY DWELLING.

so that what is mortal may

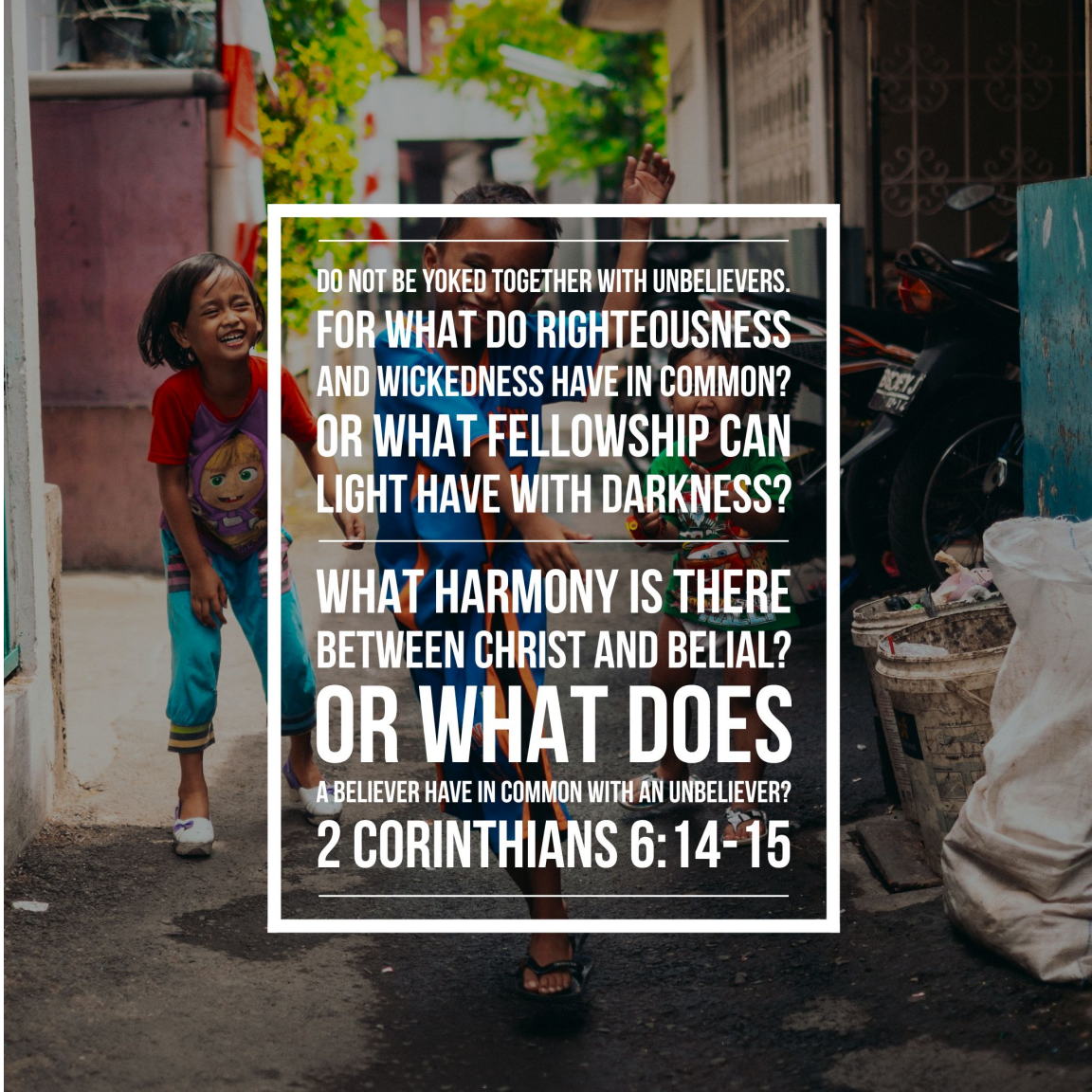
BE SWALLOWED UP BY LIFE.

2 corinthians 5:4

READ: 2 Corinthians 5

THINK: Here is your hope: that God will give you a new and perfect body. We hope to be taken from this body which is broken and infected by sin, and reclothed as a perfected and heavenly body. Back pain, chronic diseases, and mental illness will be swallowed by life. Cancer, strokes, and pimples will be swallowed by life. There is hope today that God can and may heal, but our hope is perfected in the future when all that ails and restricts is swallowed by life.

PRAY: and thank God for His promises.



DO NOT BE YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS.
FOR WHAT DO RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND WICKEDNESS HAVE IN COMMON?
OR WHAT FELLOWSHIP CAN
LIGHT HAVE WITH DARKNESS?

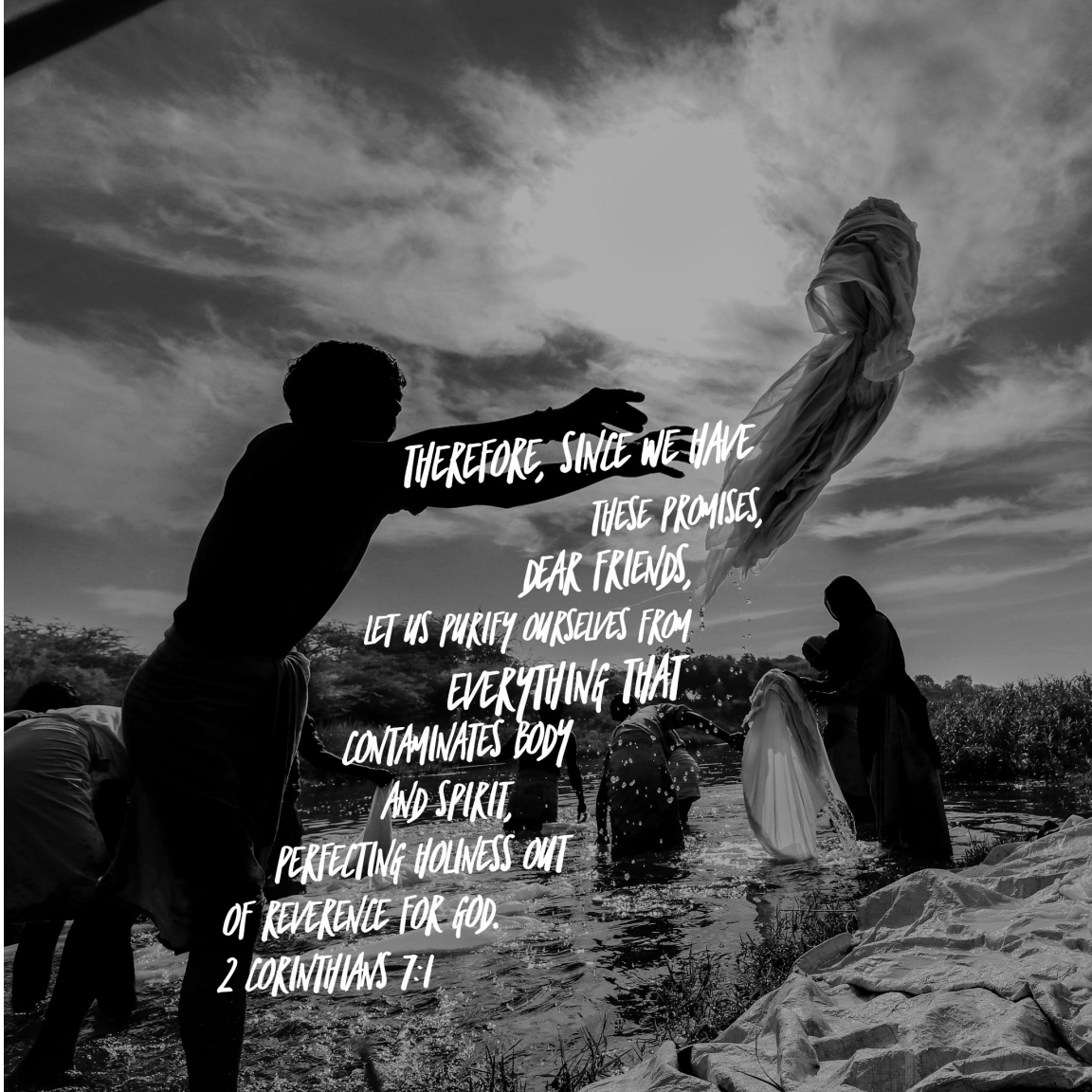
WHAT HARMONY IS THERE
BETWEEN CHRIST AND BELIAL?
OR WHAT DOES
A BELIEVER HAVE IN COMMON WITH AN UNBELIEVER?
2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-15

READ: 2 Corinthians 6

THINK: What does light share with darkness, righteousness with wickedness, or Christ with a Demon? Nothing. What does a believer share with a an unbeliever? A lot.

Unbelief does not change a person's foundational identity as child of God made in the image of God. We have an inherent tension in Scripture of how to see an unbeliever. On the one hand, they stand against God's purposes on the other, they are His beloved children. We then, hold in tension distancing ourselves to avoid their beliefs draining our faith and drawing close in love to remind them of who they are.

PRAY: for someone far from God.



THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE
THESE PROMISES,
DEAR FRIENDS,
LET US PURIFY OURSELVES FROM
EVERYTHING THAT
CONTAMINATES BODY
AND SPIRIT,
PERFECTING HOLINESS OUT
OF REVERENCE FOR GOD.
2 CORINTHIANS 7:1

READ: 2 Corinthians 7

THINK: Paul doesn't believe in part time Christians. We run with perseverance, throw off everything that hinders, and purify ourselves. It's easy to think that Church or Youth Group alone are enough to grow your faith. They aren't. The personal dedication it takes to truly run after God and His will begin in moments like this, when you sit with His word in His presence and look to devote yourself to Him. We look to be purified of *everything* that contaminates us, not just what people at church might see.

PRAY: and confess where you see impurity in your life.



REST & REFLECT



BUT SINCE YOU EXCEL
IN EVERYTHING—IN
FAITH, IN SPEECH,
IN KNOWLEDGE,
IN COMPLETE EARNESTNESS AND
IN THE LOVE WE HAVE KINDLED
IN YOU—SEE THAT
YOU ALSO EXCEL
IN THIS GRACE OF GIVING.
2 CORINTHIANS 8:7

READ: 1 Corinthians 8

THINK: This is not the grace of tithing for the church and our common mission. It is the grace of giving to support other Christians. Not necessarily missionaries or ministers, but believers who have little when we have plenty. The grace of giving turns the church into a family. If your brother couldn't feed his kids, wouldn't you feed your nieces and nephews gladly? Would you pick up the grocery bill for a fellow congregant as willingly? Or conversely, if you have too little, are you comfortable asking that we carry you so that you don't have too little?

PRAY: for our church to excel in the grace of giving.

An aerial photograph of a combine harvester working in a field. The harvester is moving from the top left towards the bottom right, leaving a trail of harvested grain. The field is divided into sections of golden-brown harvested grain and rows of blue-green standing crops. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, with horizontal white lines separating the lines of text.

NOW HE WHO SUPPLIES

SEED TO THE SOWER

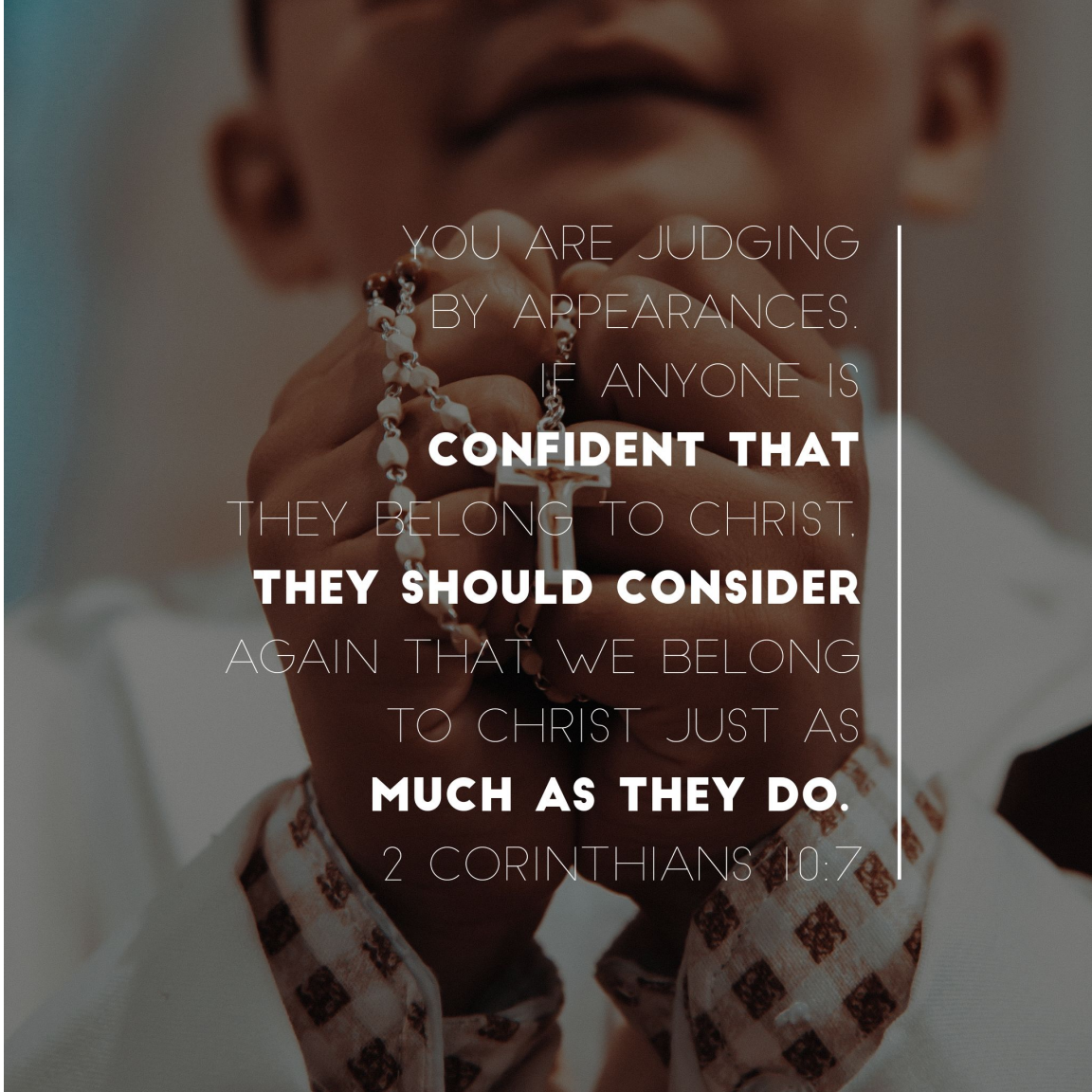
AND BREAD FOR FOOD WILL ALSO SUPPLY
AND INCREASE YOUR STORE
OF SEED AND WILL ENLARGE
THE HARVEST OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10

READ: 2 Corinthians 9

THINK: You work hard for your money. You work hard to provide for your family or to take care of the family so your spouse can make the money. Yet Christianity continually proposes that while you do work hard, it is God who provides for you. It is He who supplies the seed, the bread, the job, the abilities, the opportunities, and yes, the money. We give of what we have because what we have was a gift to begin with.

PRAY: that God would help you see your possessions and money as a gift.

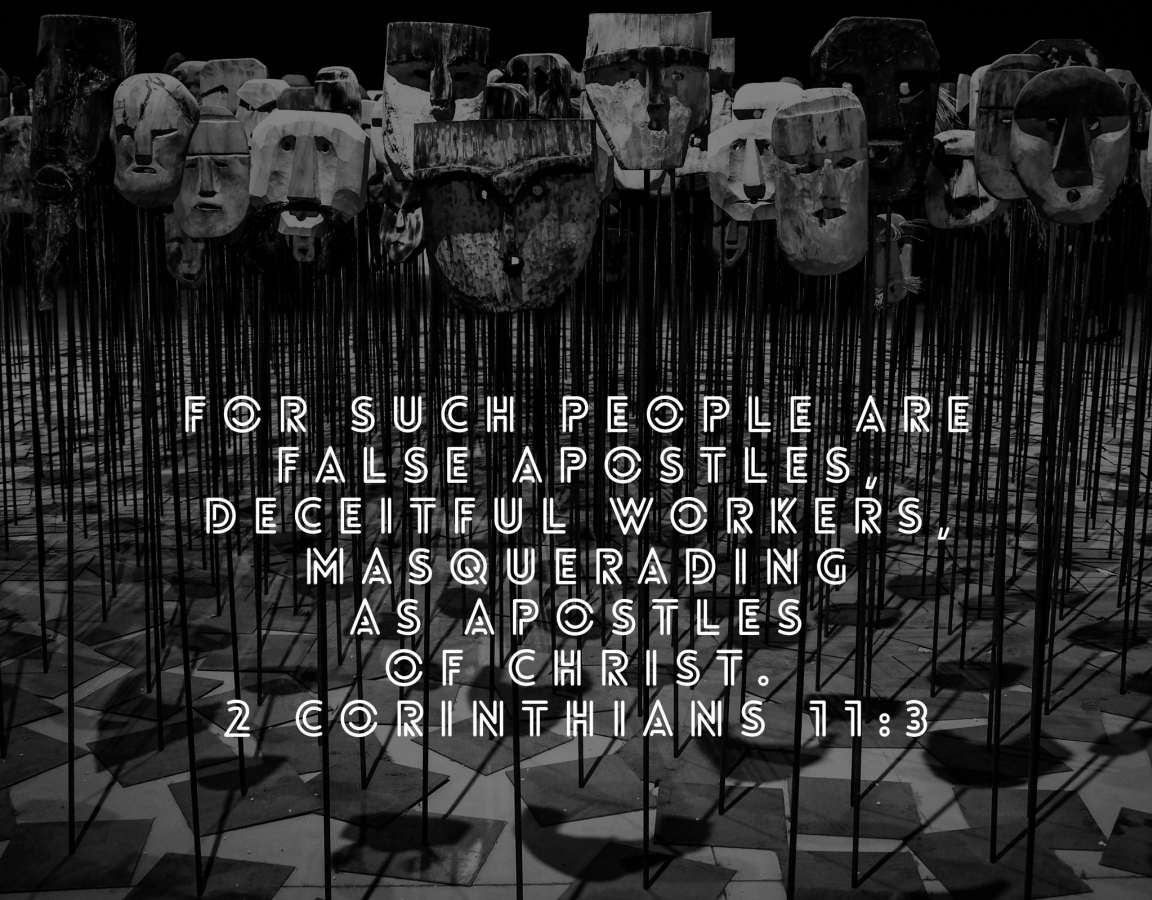


YOU ARE JUDGING
BY APPEARANCES.
IF ANYONE IS
CONFIDENT THAT
THEY BELONG TO CHRIST,
THEY SHOULD CONSIDER
AGAIN THAT WE BELONG
TO CHRIST JUST AS
MUCH AS THEY DO.
2 CORINTHIANS 10:7

READ: 2 Corinthians 10

THINK: Christians have a reputation for internal squabbles. At times that reputation is well founded. We argue and schism over points of interpretation or ways of living out faith. We make judgements about the genuineness of another's faith because it looks different than ours. Paul reminds us that we all belong to the same Christ. We are on the same team. Regardless of interpretation or difference in Christian practice, what unites us is always stronger than what divides us.

PRAY: for another Christian you tend to disagree with.

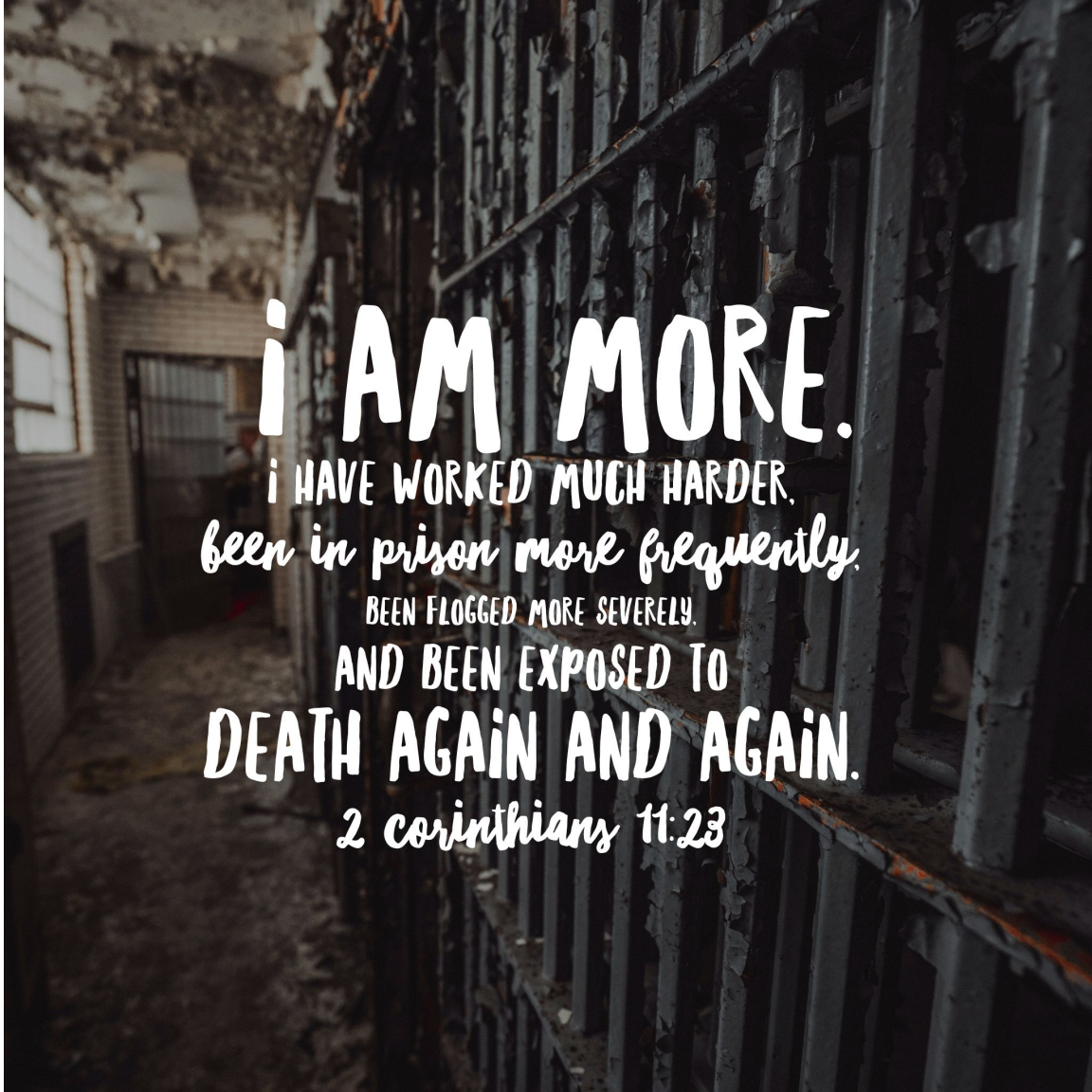


FOR SUCH PEOPLE ARE
FALSE APOSTLES,
DECEITFUL WORKERS,
MASQUERADING
AS APOSTLES
OF CHRIST.
2 CORINTHIANS 11:3

READ: 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

THINK: How do you tell who is true and who is false anymore? We don't have the benefit of knowing Paul personally, and even Paul found himself disagreeing with other apostles like Peter. Clearly there is a rule of Scripture, that their beliefs coincide with what is found in the Bible, but there are many ways to read the same passage. This multiplicity of interpretation has many Christians feeling like the foundational certainty has fallen out from their faith, but it is also the reality of faith in the 2020.

PRAY: through how you feel about the changing landscape of the world.



i AM MORE.
i HAVE WORKED MUCH HARDER,
been in prison more frequently.
BEEN FLOGGED MORE SEVERELY.
AND BEEN EXPOSED TO
DEATH AGAIN AND AGAIN.
2 corinthians 11:23

READ: 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

THINK: Here is Paul's argument for why the Corinthians should trust him and not another teacher: he has suffered more. Sharing in the sufferings of Christ is more important than living the good life. Most often, we trust people who seems like they are living the life we want, people who seem like they have it all together. Jesus, though, never promises us an easy life. He promises us the opposite, to follow Him is to share in His sufferings. Paul's pedigree is to boast in his weakness.

PRAY: for endurance to grow faith even when you're drained or distracted.

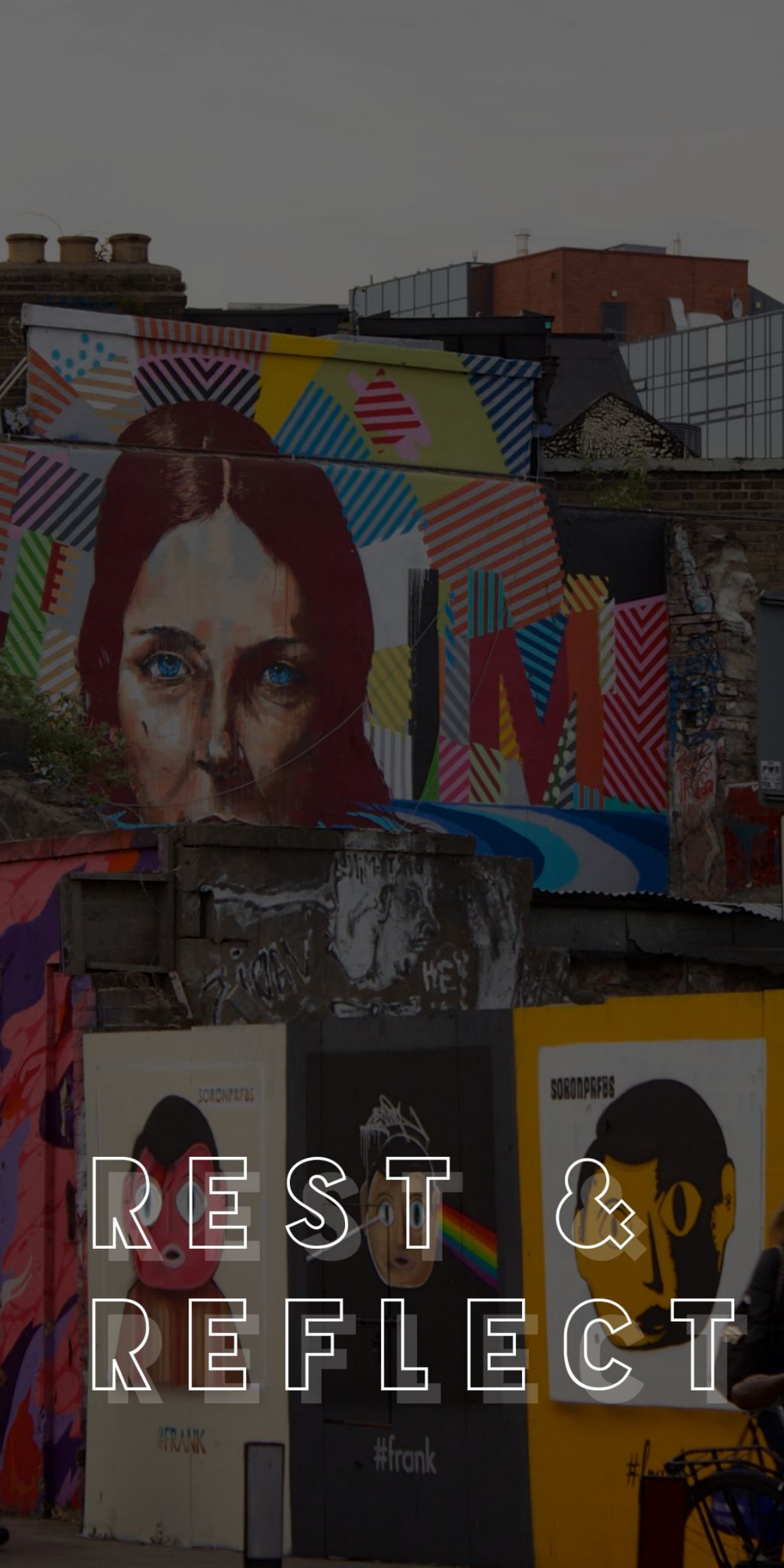


***THREE TIMES I PLEADED
WITH THE LORD TO
TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME.
2 CORINTHIANS 12:8***

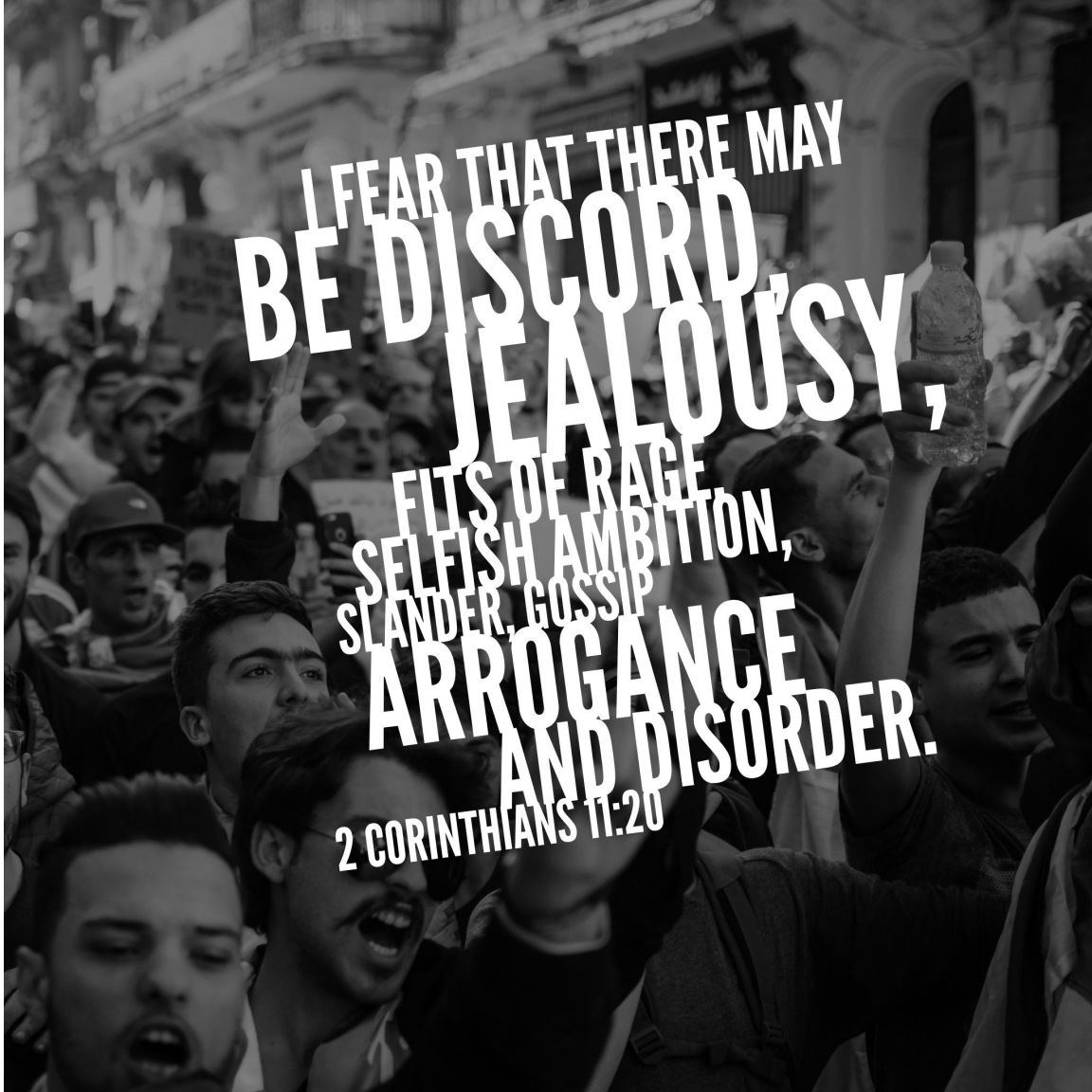
READ: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

THINK: Something painful was happening in Paul's life. We don't know what or who it was, but we do know that though it was hurtful and though Paul prayed earnestly, God did not solve it. Instead, He reminded Paul that grace is enough even when life hurts. Prayer is asking God, but God still gets to choose. Asking for good things, asking in faith, asking repeatedly, none of these force God to do what we want. When God doesn't give you what you ask for, is grace enough?

PRAY: and talk with God about what His grace means to you.



REST & REFLECT



READ: 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

THINK: Periodically throughout Scripture, we get these sin lists. Compared to some of the others, this might seem like a list of minor sins, but few sins are as corrosive to the Church as these. These are the sins which undercut trust and unity the most and the sins that seem small enough to slip under the radar. We put up with gossip as a way of filling idle time, jealousy as a natural reaction, and selfish ambition as self interest.

PRAY: for the ways these sins have become present in your life and our church.

A romantic image of a couple in silhouette, kissing and embracing. The background is a vibrant sunset sky with streaks of orange, pink, and purple, transitioning into a dark blue night sky filled with stars. The couple is positioned in the center, their forms dark against the bright, colorful light of the setting or rising sun.

GREET ONE ANOTHER

With a holy kiss.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:12

READ: 2 Corinthians 13

THINK: Even though its in Scripture, please don't kiss people in church. While it might not be our custom to greet each other with a "holy kiss," we should greet one another with love, compassion, and recognition. The warmth of our community is often the best witness to the grace and peace we have received from the Spirit. When you welcome one another warmly you extend that grace to one another as a precursor to the welcome we will one day receive from our Father.

PRAY: for God to give you the opportunity to welcome this week.

I AM ASTONISHED THAT YOU

ARE SO QUICKLY

DESERTING THE

ONE WHO CALLED YOU TO LIVE

IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST

AND ARE TURNING TO

A DIFFERENT GOSPEL-

WHICH IS REALLY

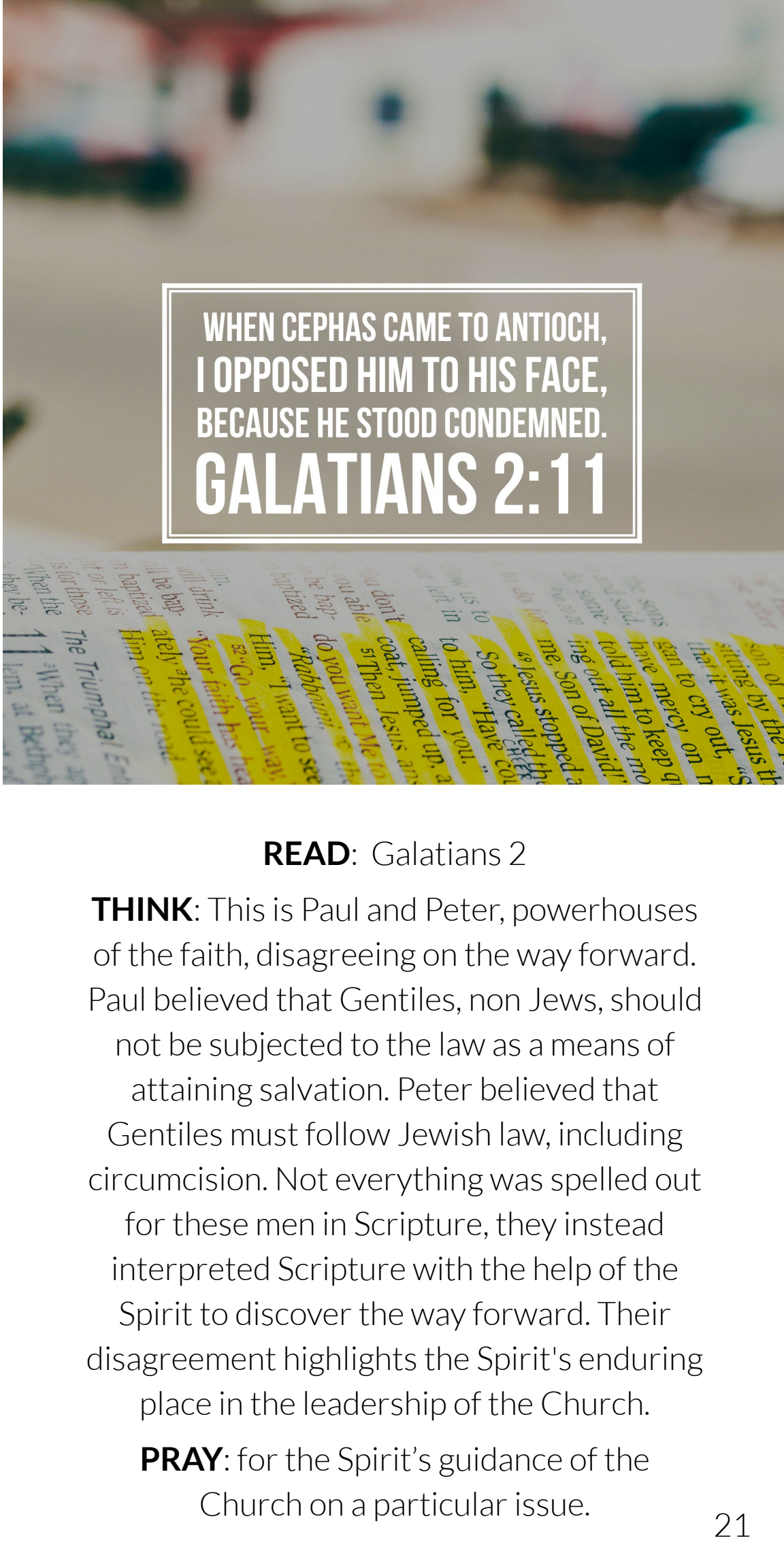
NO GOSPEL AT ALL.

GALATIANS 1:6-7

READ: Galatians 1

THINK: All of Galatians is about circumcision. Circumcision was the mark of belonging to God's people, the mark of being an Israelite, and of being committed to the law. Paul could not be more clear that this is not the way forward. New converts to Christianity do not need to become Israelites to become saved and they certainly don't need to follow the markers of Israelite life. We don't wear tassles, we eat pork, and we don't need to be circumcised. The gospel we receive is salvation by the work of Jesus, not by the enactment of the law.

PRAY: and thank God for doing the work of the Gospel.




WHEN CEPHAS CAME TO ANTIOCH,
I OPPOSED HIM TO HIS FACE,
BECAUSE HE STOOD CONDEMNED.
GALATIANS 2:11

READ: Galatians 2

THINK: This is Paul and Peter, powerhouses of the faith, disagreeing on the way forward. Paul believed that Gentiles, non Jews, should not be subjected to the law as a means of attaining salvation. Peter believed that Gentiles must follow Jewish law, including circumcision. Not everything was spelled out for these men in Scripture, they instead interpreted Scripture with the help of the Spirit to discover the way forward. Their disagreement highlights the Spirit's enduring place in the leadership of the Church.

PRAY: for the Spirit's guidance of the Church on a particular issue.

A photograph of a man in a desert setting, wearing a pink and white patterned headscarf and a purple vest over a white shirt. He is holding a rope, leading a brown camel. In the background, another camel is visible in the distance under a clear blue sky.

UNDERSTAND, THEN,
THAT THOSE
WHO HAVE FAITH
ARE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM.
GALATIANS 3:7

READ: Galatians 3:1-14

THINK: From the beginning of God forging a relationship and agreement with humans, it started with trust. Abraham trusted/had faith in/believed God's promises. Faith came first. We normally use certain actions to set boundary markers for Christian community. We think Christians speak a certain way, act a certain way, or look a certain way. None of those, though, are the foundational truth which marks a Christian. Long before a person's thinking or actions change, they trust God. Here is how we know who is Christian, they have faith.

PRAY: for a person you tend to judge.

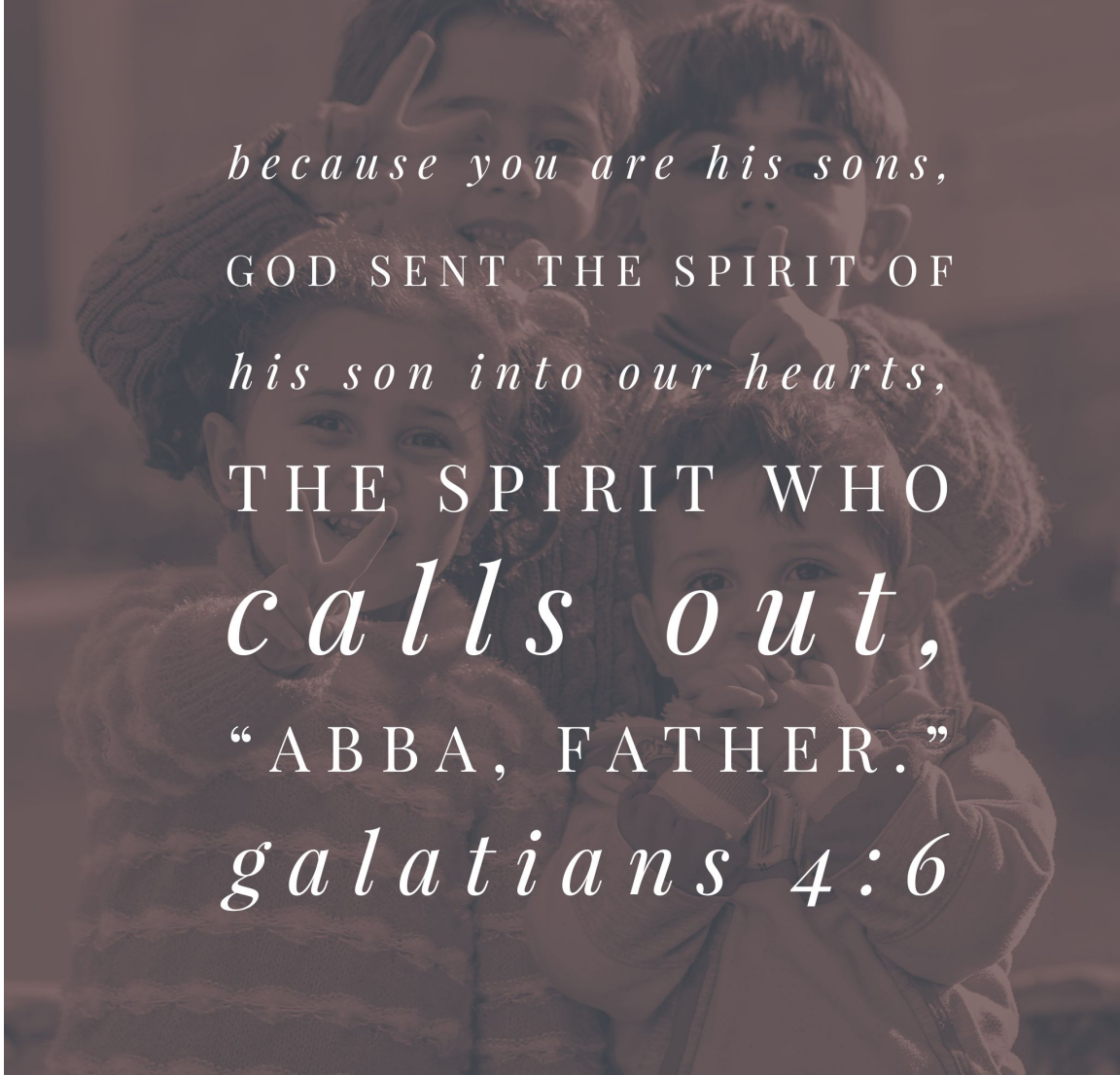


SO THE LAW WAS
OUR GUARDIAN UNTIL
CHRIST CAME THAT
WE MIGHT BE
JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.
GALATIANS 3:24

READ: Galatians 3:15-29

THINK: Paul does something unprecedented here, he refers to the hope of the Hebrew people and the way they lived for centuries, the law, with the same word one would refer to a nanny or tutor. Just like a nanny, it was great and necessary, but now we have outgrown the direct need of it. We live in a New Testament, a new covenant, a new way not of law but of grace. That doesn't mean that the call to righteousness flaggs in any way, but that it does not work as a way of salvation. You cannot be good enough or righteous enough, you can only be forgiven enough.

PRAY: and a praise God for his grace.

A group of children, including a girl in the foreground and several boys behind her, are all making peace signs with their hands. They are smiling and looking towards the camera. The image has a warm, slightly desaturated brown tone.

because you are his sons,
GOD SENT THE SPIRIT OF
his son into our hearts,
THE SPIRIT WHO
calls out,
“ABBA, FATHER.”
galatians 4:6

READ: Galatians 4:1-20

THINK: We forget that we are daughters and sons of God. We forget that we are heirs to his kingdom. We forget that we are adopted not simply as servants, but as the beloved ones. Though Jesus gave His own life for us, we forget that God likes to be with us and wants the best for us. In those moments when the lies of the world break in and break you down, stop listening. Instead, listen to the the the voice of the Spirit, the very Spirit who empowered Christ throughout his life, remind you that you are God's child and He is your Father.

PRAY: and listen to the Spirit's reminder.



rest
& REFLECT

FOR IT

IS WRITTEN
THAT ABRAHAM

HAD TWO
SONS, ONE

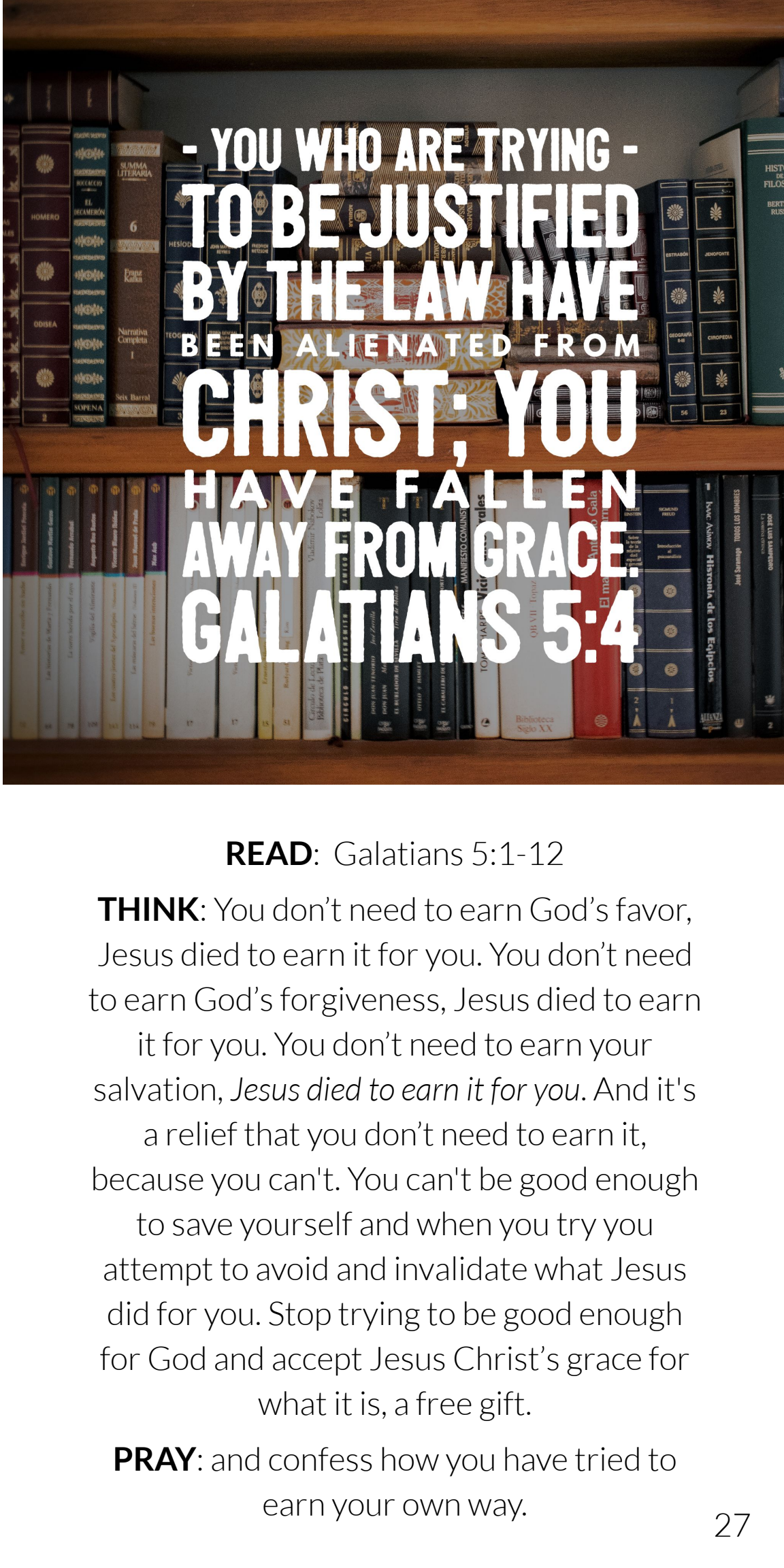
BY THE
SLAVE WOMAN
AND THE
OTHER BY
THE FREE
WOMAN. GALATIANS

4 : 2 2

READ: Galatians 4:21-31

THINK: There would have been some Jews upset at Paul when this letter came out. Follow his logic, Abraham's first son was from a slave and his second was from a free woman. The Jews were the first children of God, the Gentiles the second. Paul says the children of the law, the Jews, are more like Ishmael than Isaac. Clinging to the law after the revelation of grace by Christ's death and resurrection is like bragging over being the descendant of Abraham's illegitimate child Ishmael. We are people that cling to Christ's grace, not our own righteousness.

PRAY: to value grace more than law.



- YOU WHO ARE TRYING -
TO BE JUSTIFIED
BY THE LAW HAVE
BEEN ALIENATED FROM
CHRIST; YOU
HAVE FALLEN
AWAY FROM GRACE.
GALATIANS 5:4

READ: Galatians 5:1-12

THINK: You don't need to earn God's favor, Jesus died to earn it for you. You don't need to earn God's forgiveness, Jesus died to earn it for you. You don't need to earn your salvation, *Jesus died to earn it for you*. And it's a relief that you don't need to earn it, because you can't. You can't be good enough to save yourself and when you try you attempt to avoid and invalidate what Jesus did for you. Stop trying to be good enough for God and accept Jesus Christ's grace for what it is, a free gift.

PRAY: and confess how you have tried to earn your own way.



FOR THE
FLESH DESIRES
WHAT IS
CONTRARY TO
THE SPIRIT
AND THE
SPIRIT WHAT
IS CONTRARY TO
THE FLESH
GALATIANS 5:17

READ: Galatians 5:13-26

THINK: Paul, here, speaks of the “flesh” which refers to sins inherent in our present life. This is not the same when he talks about our “body” which is the physical form that

God intended and created for us. For centuries, Christians have struggled to make this distinction and have seen the body as a negative element to be overcome. Your body is a good thing. God made you to be an embodied person and in the resurrection will remake you with a perfected body. Your sinful desires are against God’s will, your body is God’s good and intended creation.

PRAY: that God would bring your sinful will (flesh) in line with His.



THEREFORE, AS WE

HAVE OPPORTUNITY,

LET US DO GOOD TO ALL PEOPLE,

especially to

those who belong

TO THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS.

Galatians 6:10

READ: Galatians 6

THINK: You have to love moments when there is little room for interpretation and the rule of Christian living is brought into focus.

“Do good to all people.” Christians are the ones who do good to all people. Paul invites us to take every opportunity, leverage every moment, to do good for people. Normally people use *carpe diem* to describe opportunities for personal advancement or personal enjoyment. The Christian emphasis through, is to seize this day as a day where we can do good to and for someone.

PRAY: that God would show you what good you can do today.



***REST
&
REFLECT***

A stylized white line drawing of a person's head and shoulders, overlaid on a background image of a wooden table with food and drink. The drawing is composed of thick white lines, with the head being a large circle and the shoulders and arms forming a jagged, angular shape. The background is a photograph of a wooden table with various items: a plate of food (possibly pancakes or waffles) with a small cup of sauce, a glass of water, and a hand holding a knife. The overall composition suggests a connection between the person and the environment.

REFLECT





APPENDIX/FAQ

1. HOW DO I DEVOTE?

2. WHAT IS REST & REFLECT?

3. HOW DO I PRAY?

4. WHAT DO I DO WHEN I MISS A FEW DAYS?

5. WHAT ABOUT TRANSLATIONS?



WHY SHOULD I DEVOTE?

Devote is not a word we use all the often. We use it to refer to a daily practice of reading your Bible and spending time in prayer with God. Each day we look to devote ourselves to God and align our will with His through this practice.

We devote ourselves to God because

The benefits of devoting ourselves to God are enumerable. It's though time in devotional reading and prayer that you grow closer to God, learn more about God and His plan, start to trust Him more, hear his call for your life, ingrian God's word in your mind, and write it on your heart.

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of an open Bible. The pages are filled with text, and several lines are highlighted in yellow. A white rectangular box is positioned in the upper center of the image, containing the title 'HOW DO I DEVOTE?'.

HOW DO I DEVOTE?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the Word and in prayer.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

WHAT IS REST & REFLECT?



Rest and Reflect is how we talk about Sabbath. Sabbath is a Biblical concept for how to spend a day to enjoy the good gifts God has given you. It is a chance to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.

While it might look simple, but we understand that Sabbath is a hard practice to start and a harder one to continue. It takes planning and intentionality to take a full day of rest. If the idea of one full day is too much for you, consider starting with an evening or a morning. Take a half a day and see how God uses it.

This should not become a legalistic practice for how to please God, but a good gift for how to enjoy the life He has given you. A good rule of thumb for Sabbath is "If it feels like work, let it wait until tomorrow."

WHAT IS REST & REFLECT?



SABBATH POINTERS

- 1. Get your work done.** Sabbath starts in by preparing in the week to give a full day to rest.
- 2. Sabbath with someone.** This isn't essential, but a Sabbath is normally better together.
- 3. Start in prayer.** Sabbath is a day with God. Go to Him. Confess, give thanks, and enjoy His presence.
- 4. Enjoy the day.** Walk, play, worship, nap, hangout with friends and family. Sabbath isn't spending all day in church, it's partaking of God's good gifts with Him and His people.
- 5. End in prayer.** Recap the day with God. Thank Him for the gift of rest, maybe pray together with someone you enjoyed the day with.

SABBATH IDEAS

Play. Spend time with friends and family. Think through what God did this week. Nap. Listen to a favorite worship song. Catch up with an old friend. Go to church.



HOW DO I PRAY?

The first answer is “Simply.” Many of us have been trained to use our grown up words when talking to God. We subconsciously want to speak eloquently and impactfully as if God is impressed by big words. He isn’t. God is only impressed by your desire for Him. So use kid words. Don’t feel like you need to speak good. Just talk to God.

That being said, there are some practices that we have found helpful in our prayer life. But don’t feel like you have to do each of them every time.

Thank him. You are blessed, actually say thank you for what God gives you. **Confess.** Confession is not beating yourself up, it is admitting where you have fallen short and letting yourself be forgiven. **Share.** Just talk. What’s going on at work? How is your best friend? You get the idea. **Ask.** we never “just pray.” When you pray you call on the one who has the power to change the shape of the world. Pray boldly and ask for His work to be done. **Wait.** Don’t do all the talking. Sometimes a good time in prayer, is a time spent waiting on Him and listening to Him.



WHAT DO I DO IF I MISS A FEW DAYS?

DON'T TRY TO CATCH UP.

Let's be honest for a minute. Many of us have tried a reading plan in the past and 4 weeks in you realize you are like a week behind and it feels like an insurmountable task to catch up, so instead you give up.

if you miss a day, there is important stuff there, but it's more important to build the habit of spending time with God each day. This plan will continue to cycle through to this same reading in a couple years. You will have lots of opportunities in your life to read what you missed. Reading is not a homework assignment and there is no due date. Just enjoy your time reading.

JUMP BACK IN

When you get behind, or when you take a break, or when you forget for a *long* time, Just jump back in. Don't wait for a new years resolution or a new months reminder. Take any opportunity to Jump back in.

The background of the top section is a photograph of an ancient Greek manuscript. It features handwritten text in dark ink on aged, yellowish parchment. Red ink is used for decorative initials and some rubrics. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the manuscript, containing the title of the page.

WHAT ABOUT DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS?

There are a LOT of translations. Like a lot. Some are not so good, but on the whole, most of them are pretty great. Below are some translations we recommend, try one out sometime, it might bring a new flavor to your reading, but at the end of the day, the most important thing is that you will actually read it.

The Message/The Voice: A different feeling Bible aimed at being translated idea for idea instead of word for word. You gain some good images, but might lose out on some word study.

NIV / CSB: A happy middle ground for most people. Balances ideas for idea and word for word translating.

NRSV / ESV: A strong study Bible aimed at translating the words and structure the same as the original language. This can create some struggles with readability, but you find how an author is using words throughout a book.

King James: Thou Mayst notst likest thist onest.