

# Be Prepared



***1 Thessalonians***

**Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore**  
**[BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)**







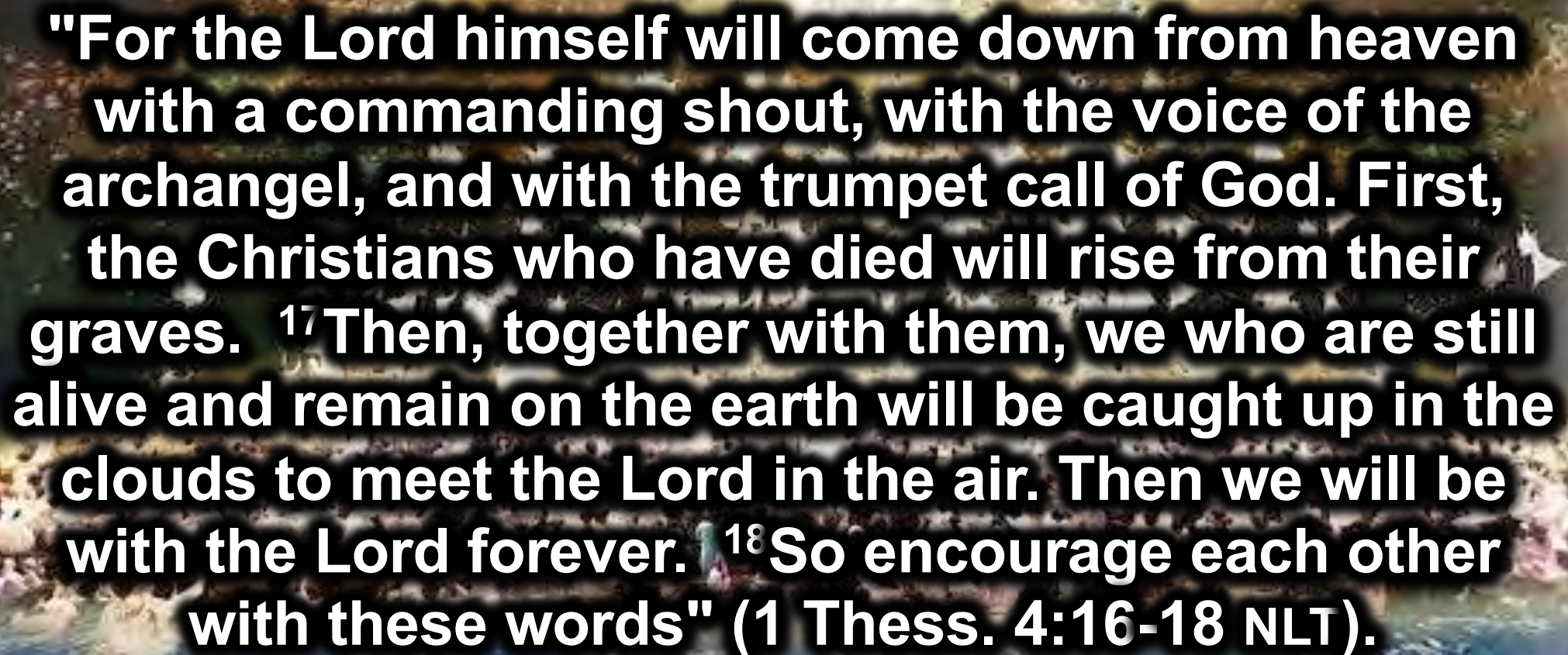
# The Rapture

**"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died" (1 Thess. 4:13-14 NLT).**





# The Rapture



**"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. <sup>17</sup>Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>So encourage each other with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18 NLT).**

# Our Need



PLAN AHEAD



# Christ's Return



# Are you ready for his return?

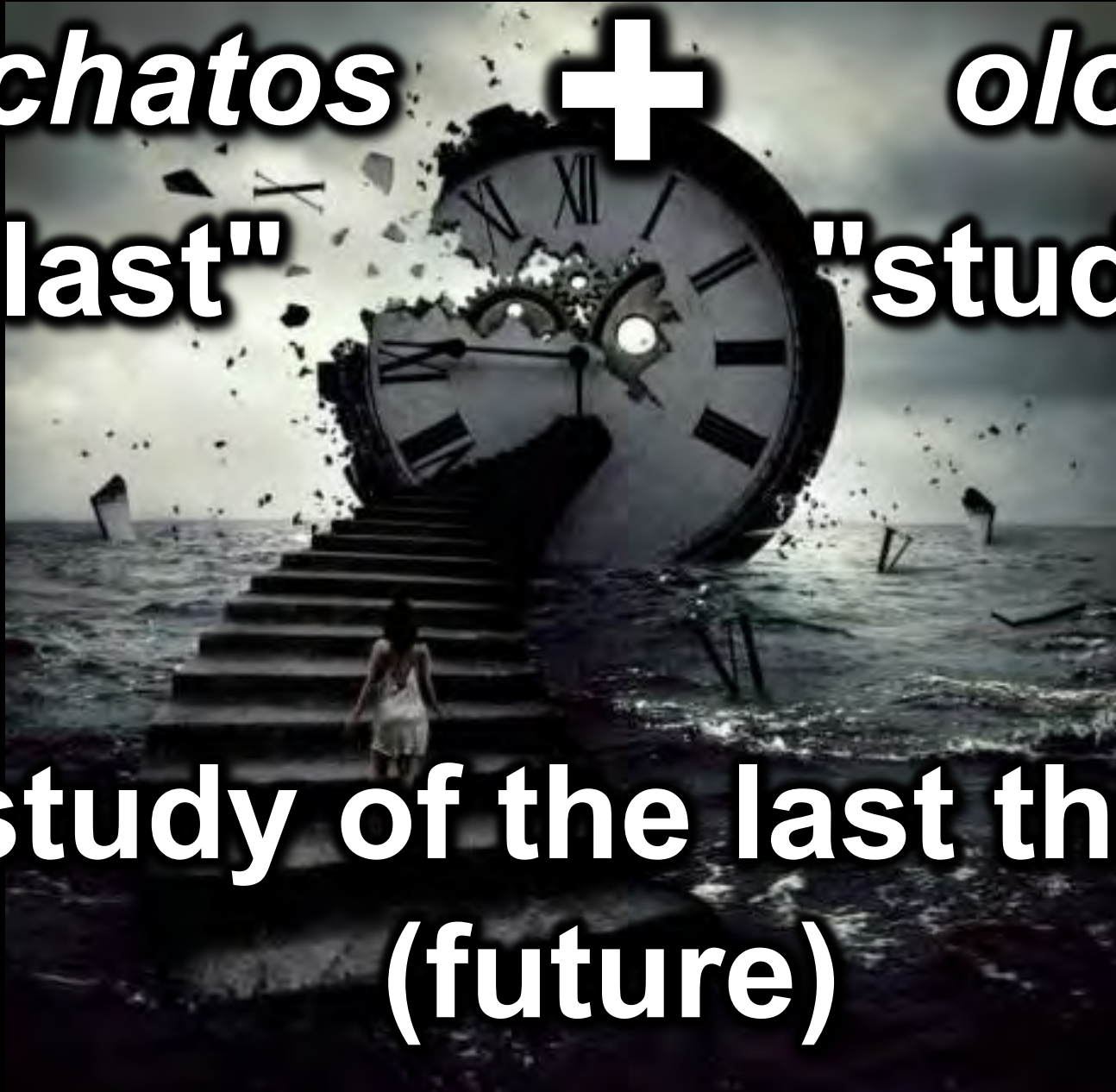




# Eschatology

*eschatos* + *ology*  
"last" "study of"

= study of the last things  
(future)



# Two Stages of His Return

**Literal  
Christ  
Future  
"Coming"**

**Rapture**

**Revelation**





# The Rapture



**How** can you be prepared  
for the Rapture?





Harold Camping • ~~1994~~

~~21 May 2011~~

~~21 Oct 2011~~



# **Let's Study Through Scripture**

## **The Bible: Book by Book**



**Theme**

**23  
203**

# **Preparation for the Rapture**

**1 Thessalonians**





Down with  
Paul!

Throw him  
in jail!

*What to do...*



Some Geographical Perspective

# 1 Thessalonians: Preparation for the Rapture

203

Innocence of Greed			Principles for Growth		
Chapters 1–3			Chapters 4–5		
Personal			Practical		
Silence Slanders			Strengthen Stand		
Historical			Hortatory		
Reflections			Exhortations		
Looking Back			Looking Forward		
Commendation 1:1-10	Conduct 2:1-16	Concern 2:17–3:13	Love 4:1-12	Eschatology 4:13–5:11	Church Life 5:12-28
"You're great!"	"I'm innocent!"	"I care for you"	"Please God"	"Be comforted but watchful"	"Live holy"
Corinth					
Early Summer AD 51 (on second missionary journey)					





**How** can you be prepared  
for the Rapture?

**2 ways...**

# I. Serve Jesus without **greed** (1 Thess 1–3).



# 1 Thessalonians 1

**Silas and Timothy (co-laborers in Thessalonica) wrote with Paul, who did not note his apostleship to show his concern (1:1).**

**“This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you grace and peace” (1:1 NLT).**





**Paul commended their  
lifestyle of godly living...**



**in view of Christ's return  
(1:2-10).**

# Paul's Advice to Troubled Thessalonians: Focus on God!

Total Verses	"God"	"Jesus"	"Lord"	"Christ"	Total
1 Thess. (89)	36	16	24	10	86
2 Thess. (47)	18	13	22	10	63
Total (136)	54	29	46	20	149

Number of Greek occurrences from Elwell & Yarbrough,  
*Encountering the New Testament*, 332

# 1 Thessalonians 2

**Paul was not motivated by greed  
since he made tents and cared  
for them (2:1-16).**

**“Don’t you remember, dear brothers and  
sisters, how hard we worked among you?  
Night and day we toiled to earn a living so  
that we would not be a burden to any of you  
as we preached God’s Good News to you”  
(2:9 NLT).**





I'm so proud of  
them! I must  
write to encourage  
them!

# *The Suzuki Method*





How can we **strengthen** others?



# This epistle was written in AD 51



• Three ways we can encourage others...

Written in Corinth after hearing Tim's report

How can we **strengthen** others?



Go in  
**person**  
(2:17-20).



# Paul Tried to Go in Person

But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing **we made every effort to see you.** <sup>18</sup>For **we wanted to come to you**—certainly I, Paul, did, **again and again**—but Satan stopped us" (1 Thess 2:17-18 NIV)



Paul's greatest blessing = People!

"For what is our **hope**, our **joy**, or the **crown** in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not **you**? <sup>20</sup>Indeed, **you** are our **glory** and **joy**"  
(1 Thess 2:19-20 NIV)



The best way to  
show **people** how  
valuable they are  
is **in person**





How can we **strengthen** others?



Go in  
**person**  
(2:17-20).

# 1 Thessalonians 3

How can we ***strengthen*** others?

Bring **others** into their lives (3:1-9).



# **Paul sent Timothy** **to strengthen the church (3:1-5)**

So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. <sup>2</sup>**We sent Timothy**, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, **to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,** <sup>3</sup>so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them.

# Paul sent Timothy to strengthen the church (3:1-5)

<sup>4</sup>In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. <sup>5</sup>For this reason, **when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith.** I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.



# Paul was encouraged (3:6-9)

<sup>6</sup>But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. <sup>8</sup>For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. <sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?



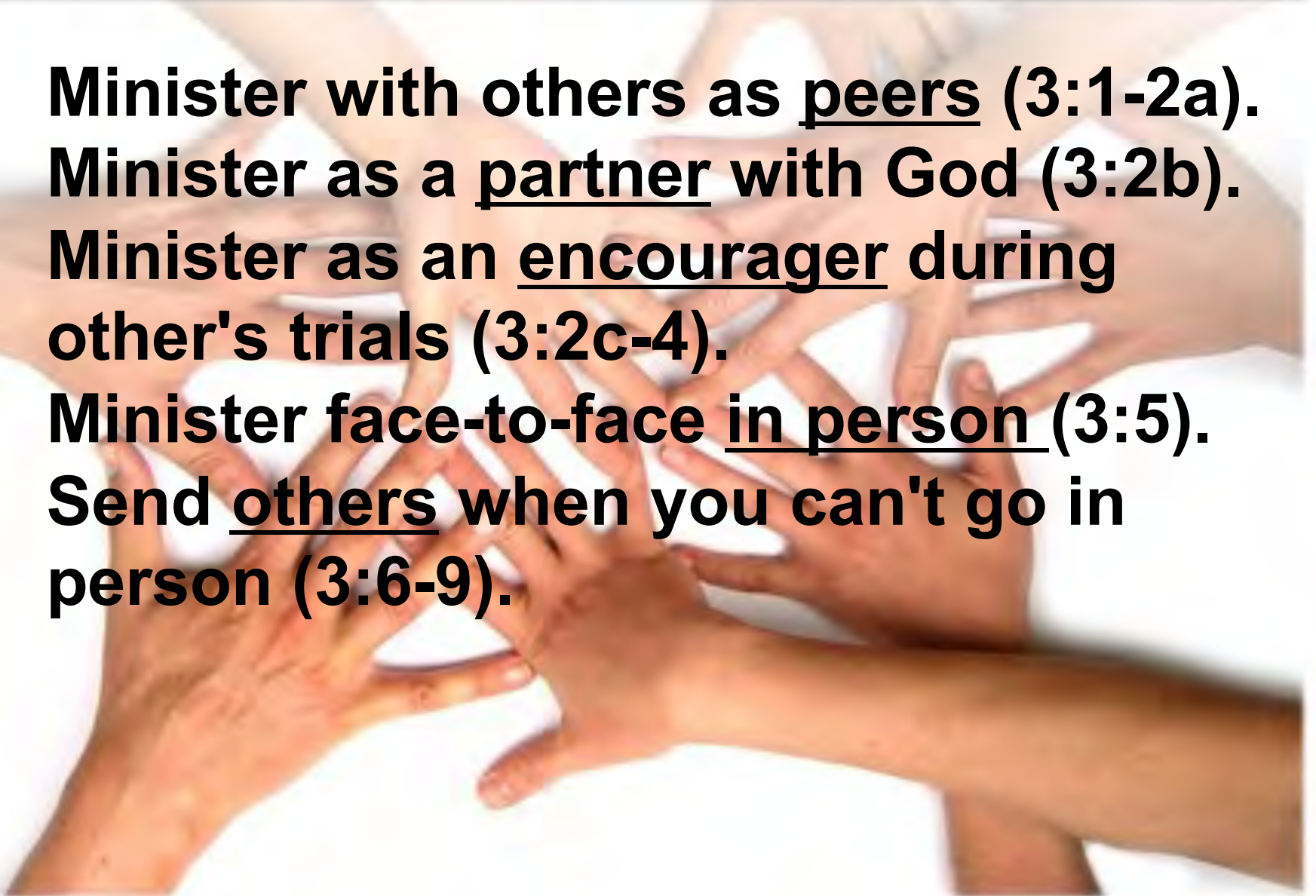


**Send others when you can't go**

How can we ***strengthen*** others?

**Bring **others** into their lives (3:1-9).**

- A. Minister with others as peers (3:1-2a).**
- B. Minister as a partner with God (3:2b).**
- C. Minister as an encourager during other's trials (3:2c-4).**
- D. Minister face-to-face in person (3:5).**
- E. Send others when you can't go in person (3:6-9).**



How can we ***strengthen*** others?

**Pray** for them (3:10-13).

<sup>10</sup> Night and day we **pray** most earnestly **that we may see you again** and supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus **clear the way for us to come** to you.





How can we *strengthen* others?

**Pray** for them (3:10-13).

<sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your **love** increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

<sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be **blameless and holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.



# Main Idea of 1 Thess 2:17–3:13

Strengthen others to show you  
**care** for them

## How?

- Visits: Go in **person** (2:17-20)
- Co-laborers: Bring **others** (3:1-9)
- Prayer: **Pray** for them (3:10-13)





**Encouragement**



**Live on what you need and  
invest the rest for eternity.**

**“Lay up for yourselves  
treasures in heaven  
—not on earth”  
(Matthew 6:20)**



# **A RICH YOUNG MAN QUESTIONS JESUS**

**Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30**

**[www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org)**



**How** can you be prepared  
for the Rapture?

**2 ways...**



# I. Serve Jesus without **greed** (1 Thess 1–3).



## II. Care about both **people** and **theology** (1 Thess 4–5).



+



# 1 Thessalonians 4



# What's Most Important?



Mark 12:29-31 -- Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord.’<sup>30</sup> And you must **love the Lord** your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’

<sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: **‘Love your neighbor** as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

# Our Vision

The image features three concentric hearts on a black background. The outermost heart is green and contains the text 'Love the Nations'. Inside it is a blue heart containing the text 'Love the Church'. The innermost heart is red and contains the text 'Love God'.

**Love the Nations**

**Love the Church**

**Love  
God**

# Preparing for the Rapture

Although Paul appeared to be writing about and addressing 5 different issues in his letter, there is one topic which he repeatedly mentions: **the Rapture**.

--> Exhortations on the Rapture of believers to meet the Lord as end markers ending each chapter:

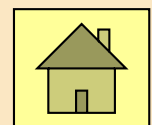
**1:10** - "...and to wait for his Son from heaven..."

**2:19** - "...in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes..."

**3:13** - "...when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."

**4:16-18** - "...we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..."

**5:23** - "...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."





# The Rapture will be both a comfort and a warning



**1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11**



# Christ's First Coming



# Are you ready for his return?





# Christ's Two Comings

420

## FIRST COMING

Laid in a manger

Came as a lamb

Lowly and poor

Died *for* His enemies

Tempted by Satan

Lived in a world of unrighteousness

Died for sins and rose again

(CHURCH AGE)

## SECOND COMING

Lands on a mountain

Comes as the Lord

Lavish and powerful

Death *to* His enemies

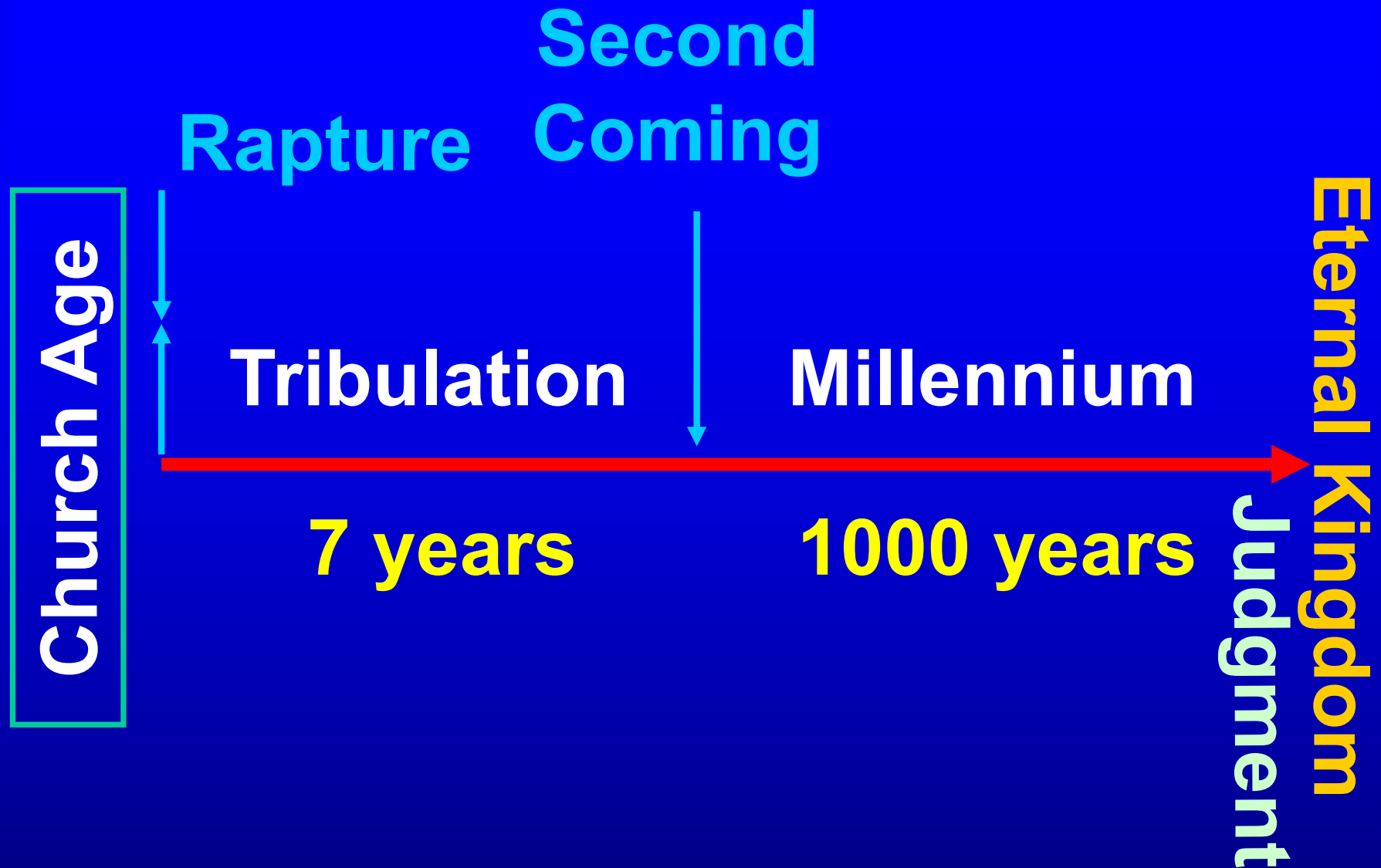
Traps Satan in bottomless pit

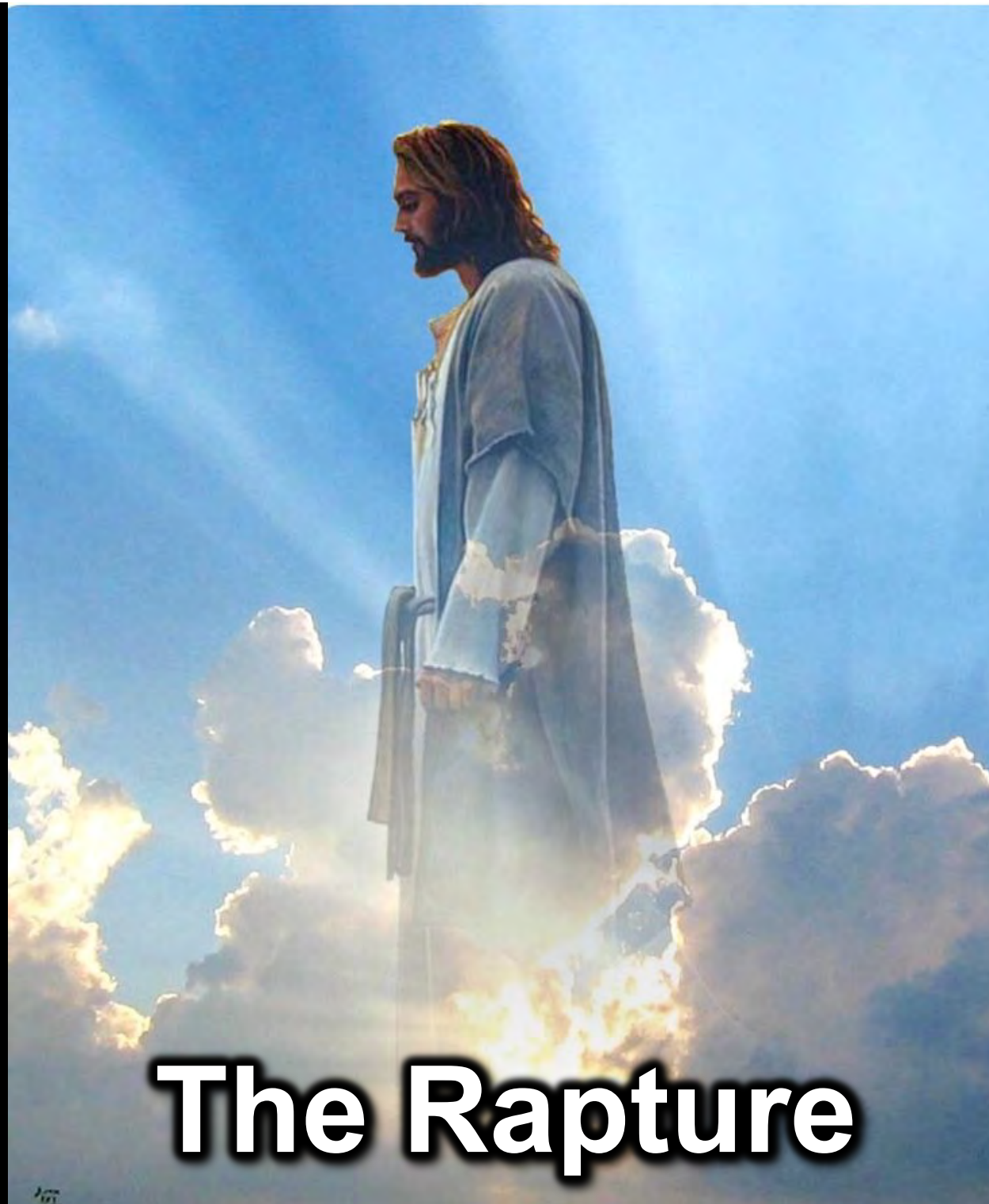
Leads the world in righteousness

Directs and reigns



# "Pre-Trib" Rapture





# The Rapture



Why should we look forward to the Rapture with **expectancy**?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

3 Reasons

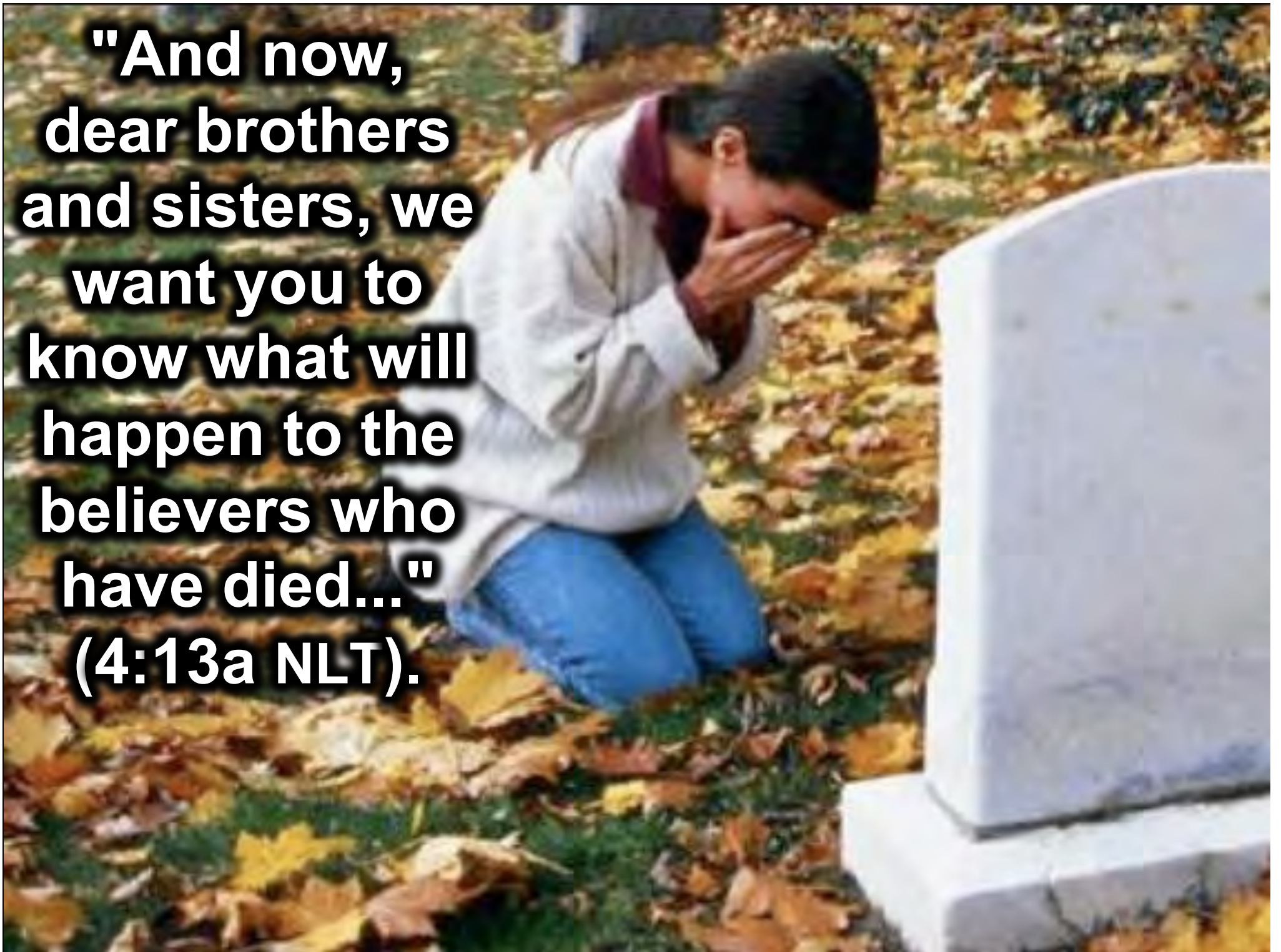
**1. The Rapture helps  
us grieve with**

**hope**

**(1 Thess 4:13-14).**



**"And now,  
dear brothers  
and sisters, we  
want you to  
know what will  
happen to the  
believers who  
have died..."  
(4:13a NLT).**







**Know about the future destiny of  
believers who die (4:13a).**





**Grief is hard**



*"Grief is the price we pay for love."  
Queen Elizabeth II*

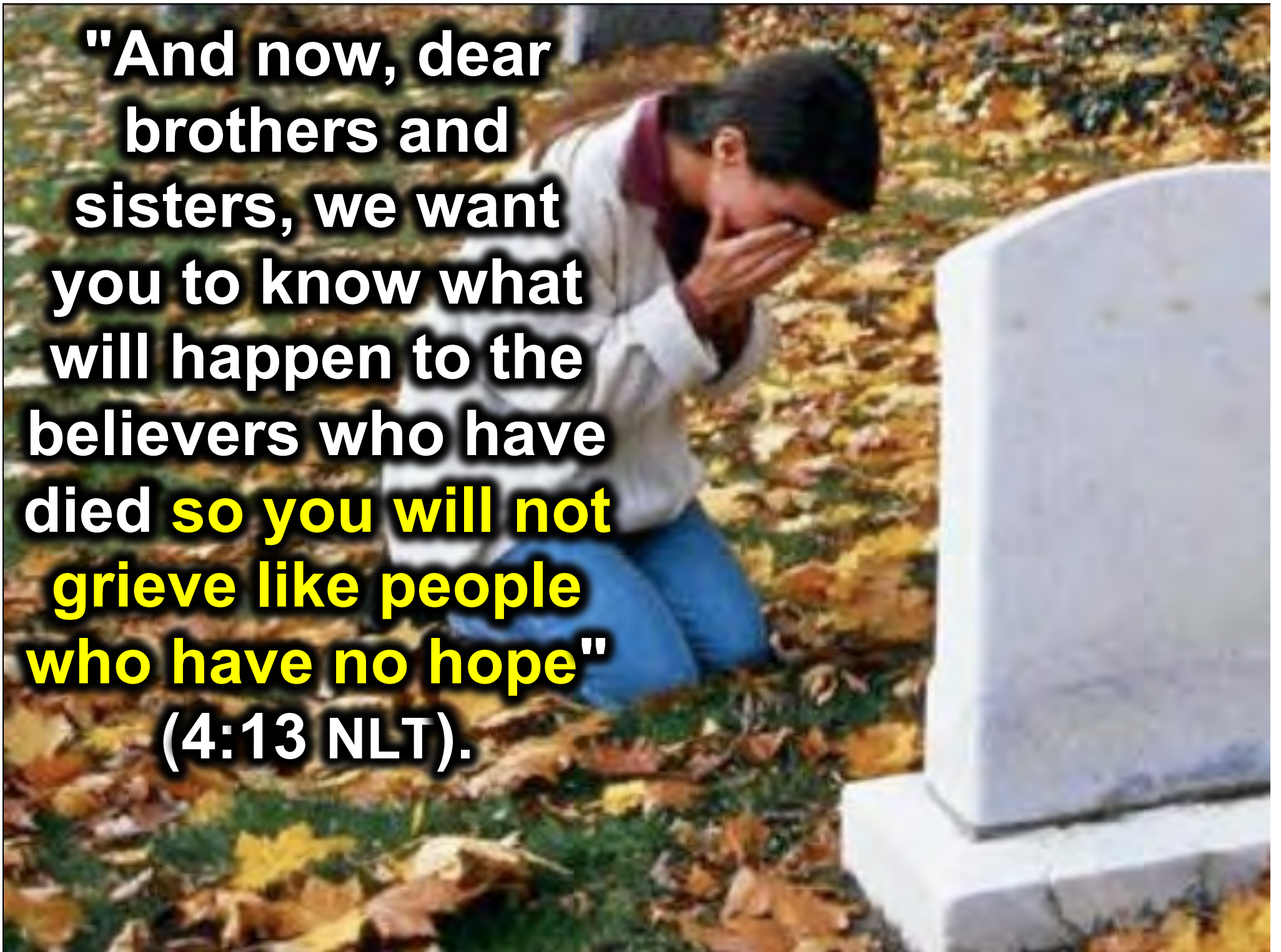


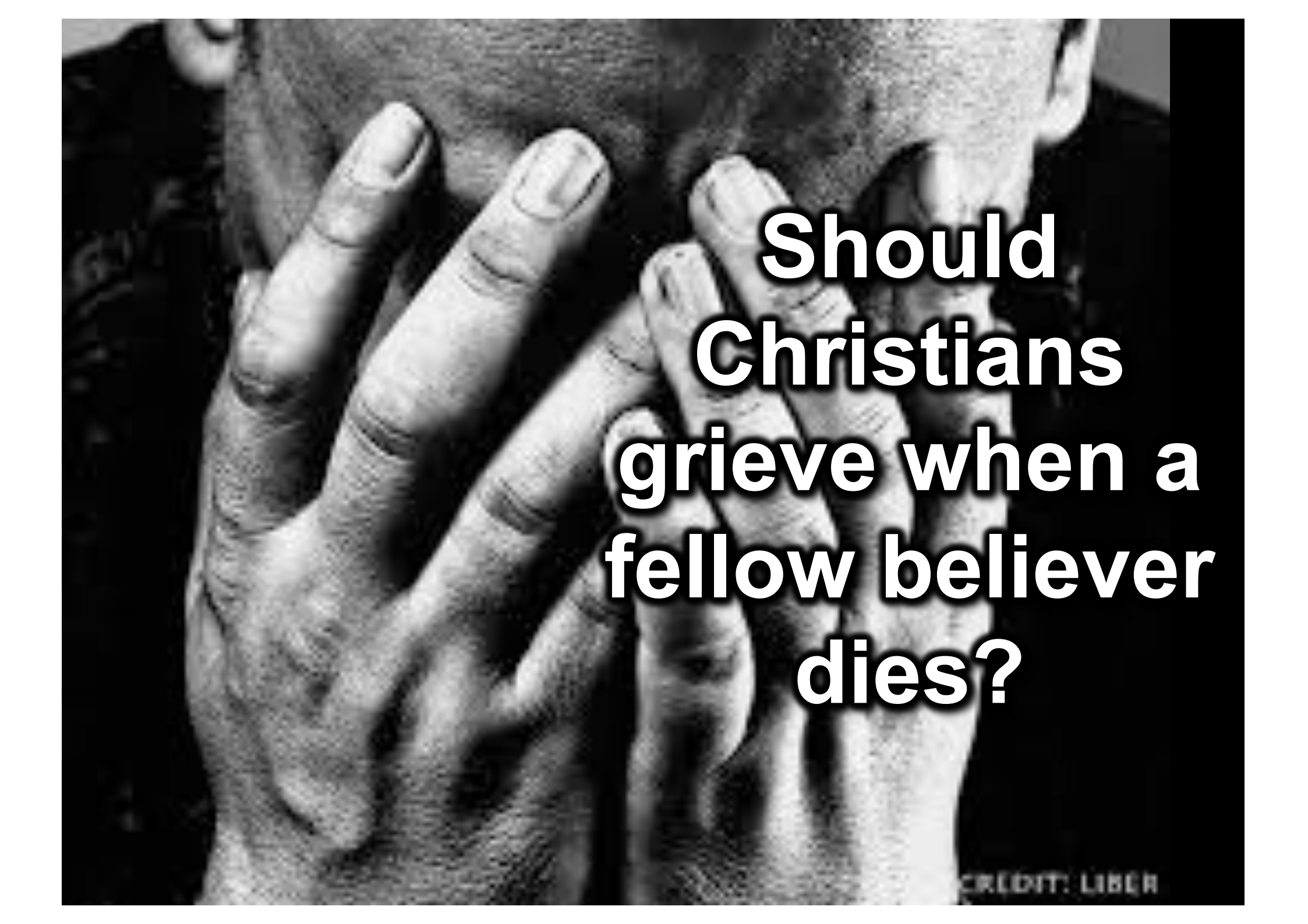




**Being informed about believers  
who have died will prevent us  
from hopeless grief (4:13b).**

**"And now, dear  
brothers and  
sisters, we want  
you to know what  
will happen to the  
believers who have  
died **so you will not  
grieve like people  
who have no hope**"  
(4:13 NLT).**



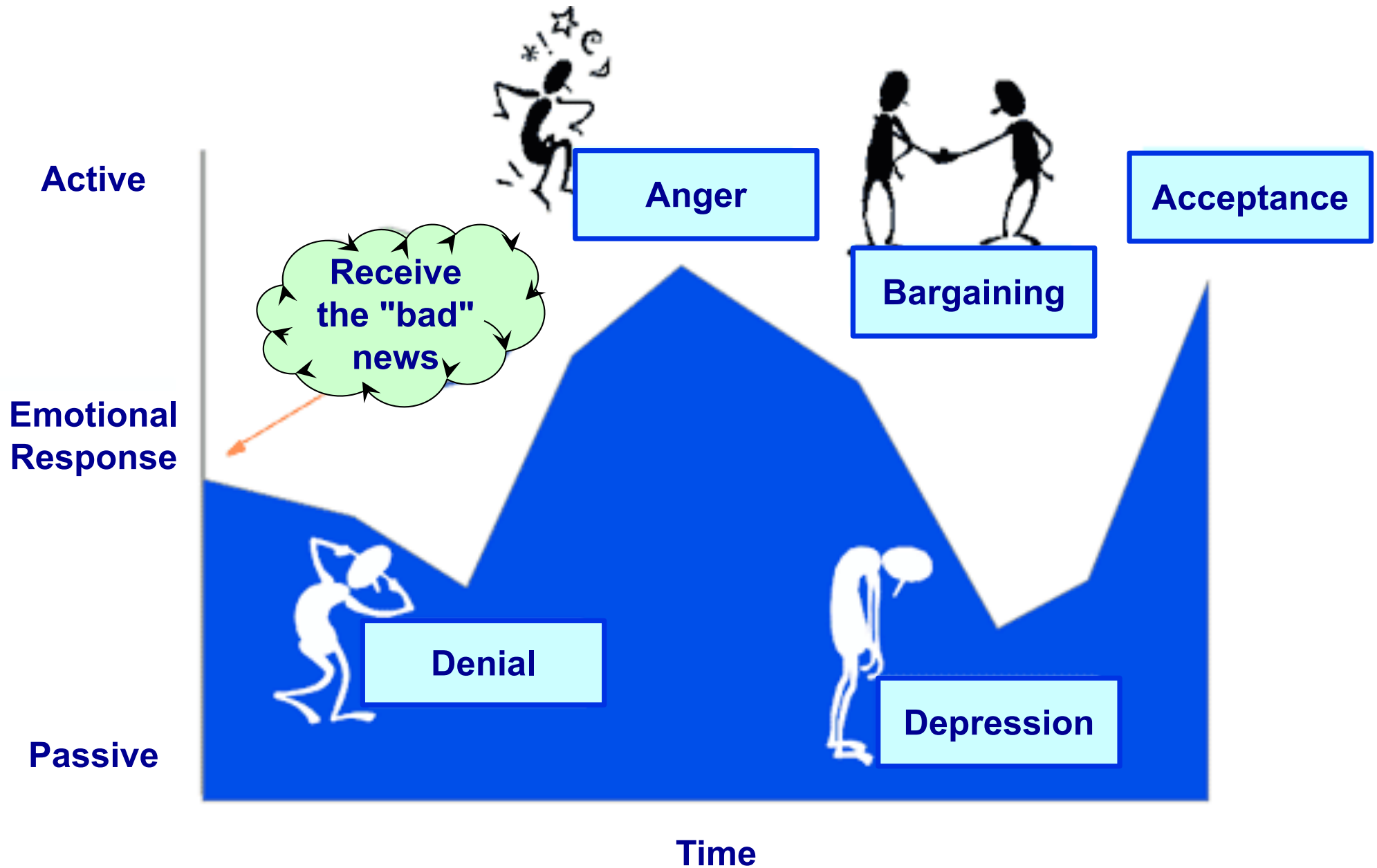


**Should  
Christians  
grieve when a  
fellow believer  
dies?**

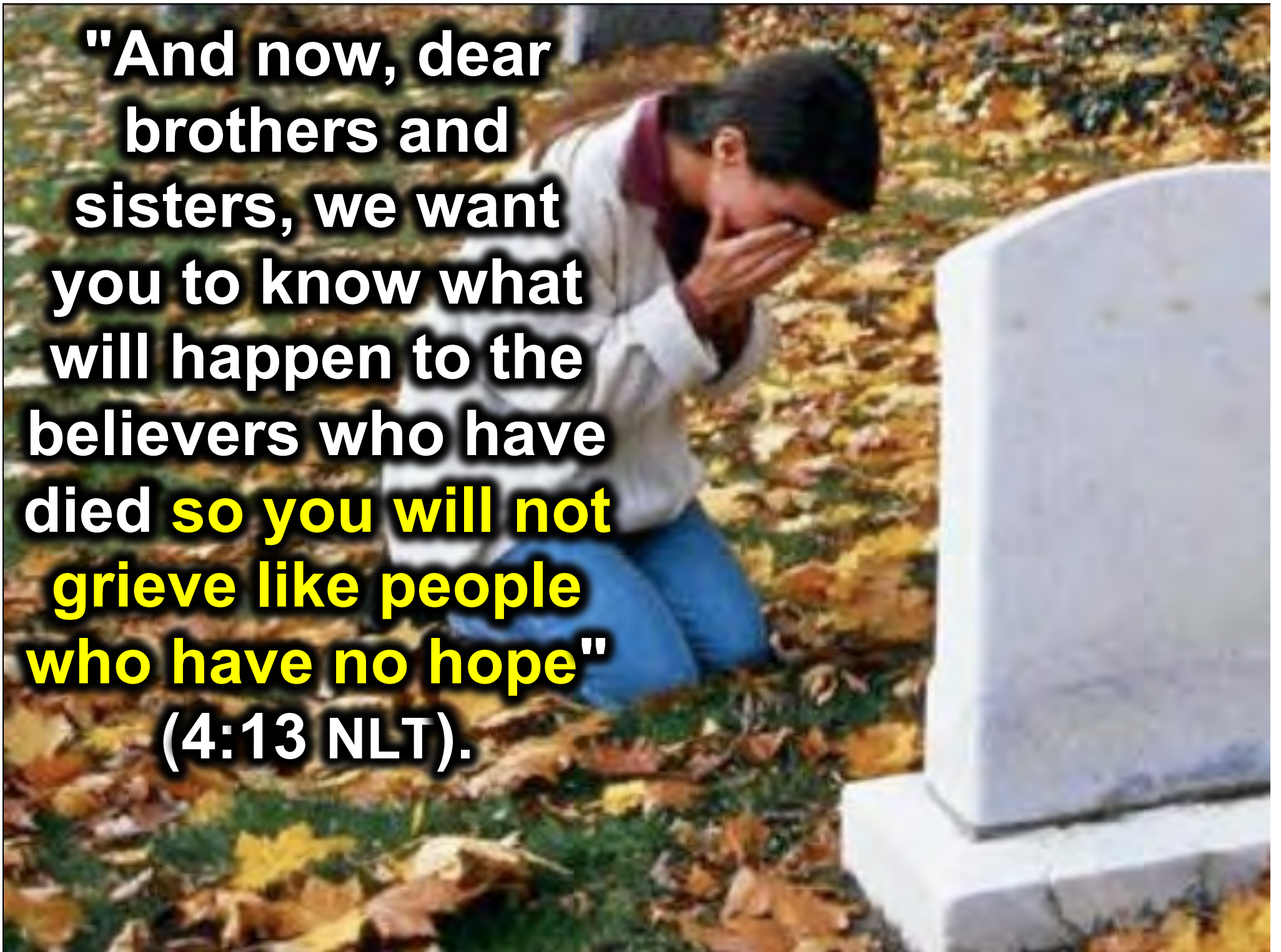
CREDIT: LIBER



# Five Stages of Grief



**"And now, dear  
brothers and  
sisters, we want  
you to know what  
will happen to the  
believers who have  
died **so you will not  
grieve like people  
who have no hope**"  
(4:13 NLT).**





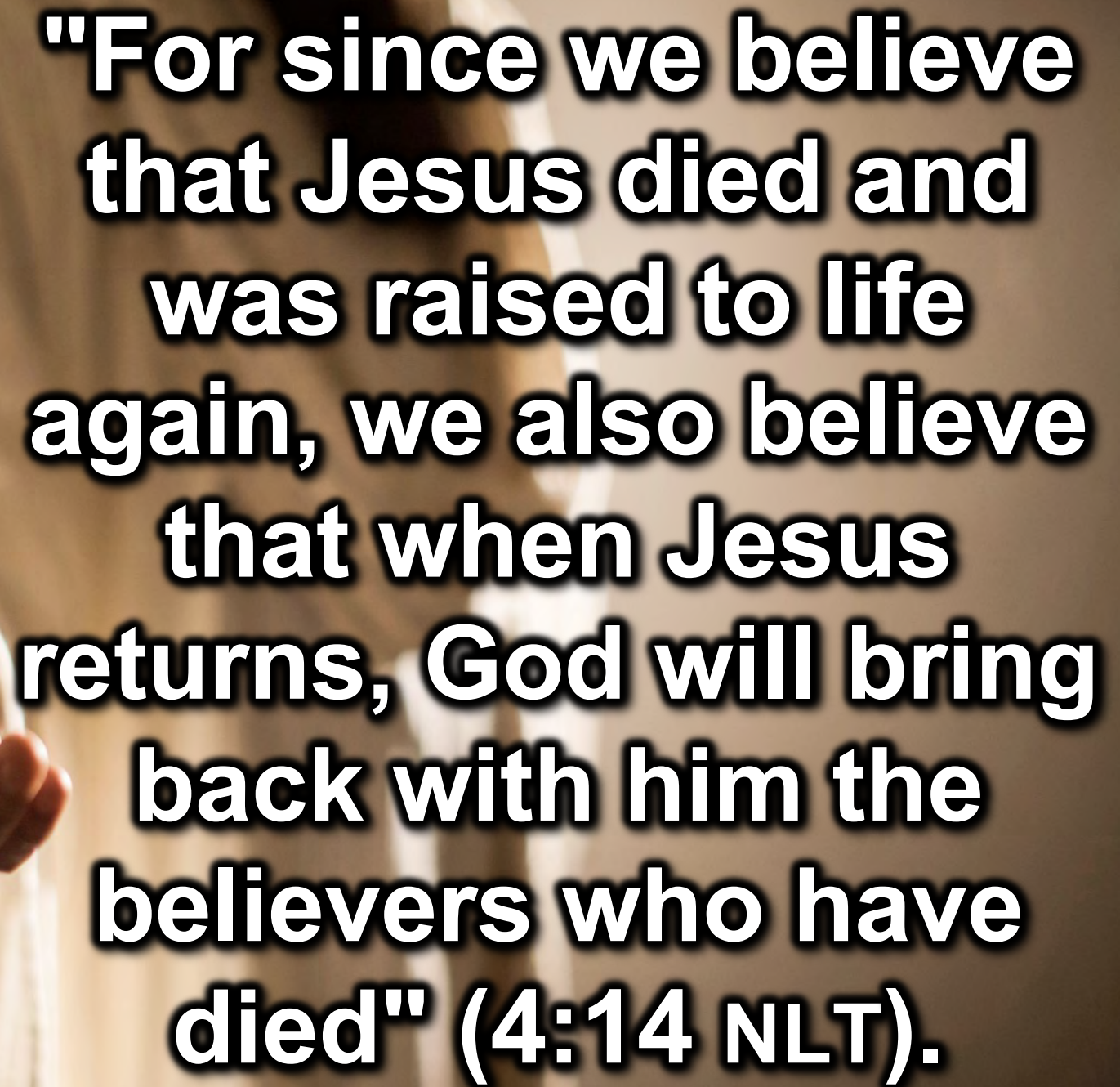
# The Rapture







**Christ's resurrection guarantees the believer's resurrection (4:14).**

A person wearing a white robe, possibly a religious figure, with their right arm extended forward, palm facing up. The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

**"For since we believe  
that Jesus died and  
was raised to life  
again, we also believe  
that when Jesus  
returns, God will bring  
back with him the  
believers who have  
died" (4:14 NLT).**



# The Implications





**1. The Rapture helps  
us grieve with**

**hope**

**(1 Thess 4:13-14).**



**2. Christians who have died  
will meet Christ in the air  
*before* those living (4:15-17).**





**"We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died" (1 Thess 4:15 NLT).**







Some future day  
**4 amazing events**  
will happen without  
a moment's notice  
(4:16-17)

# Return

"For the Lord  
himself will come  
down from heaven  
with a commanding  
**shout**, with the **voice**  
of the archangel, and  
with the **trumpet** call  
of God"  
(1 Thess 4:16a NLT).





**Christ's Commanding Shout**





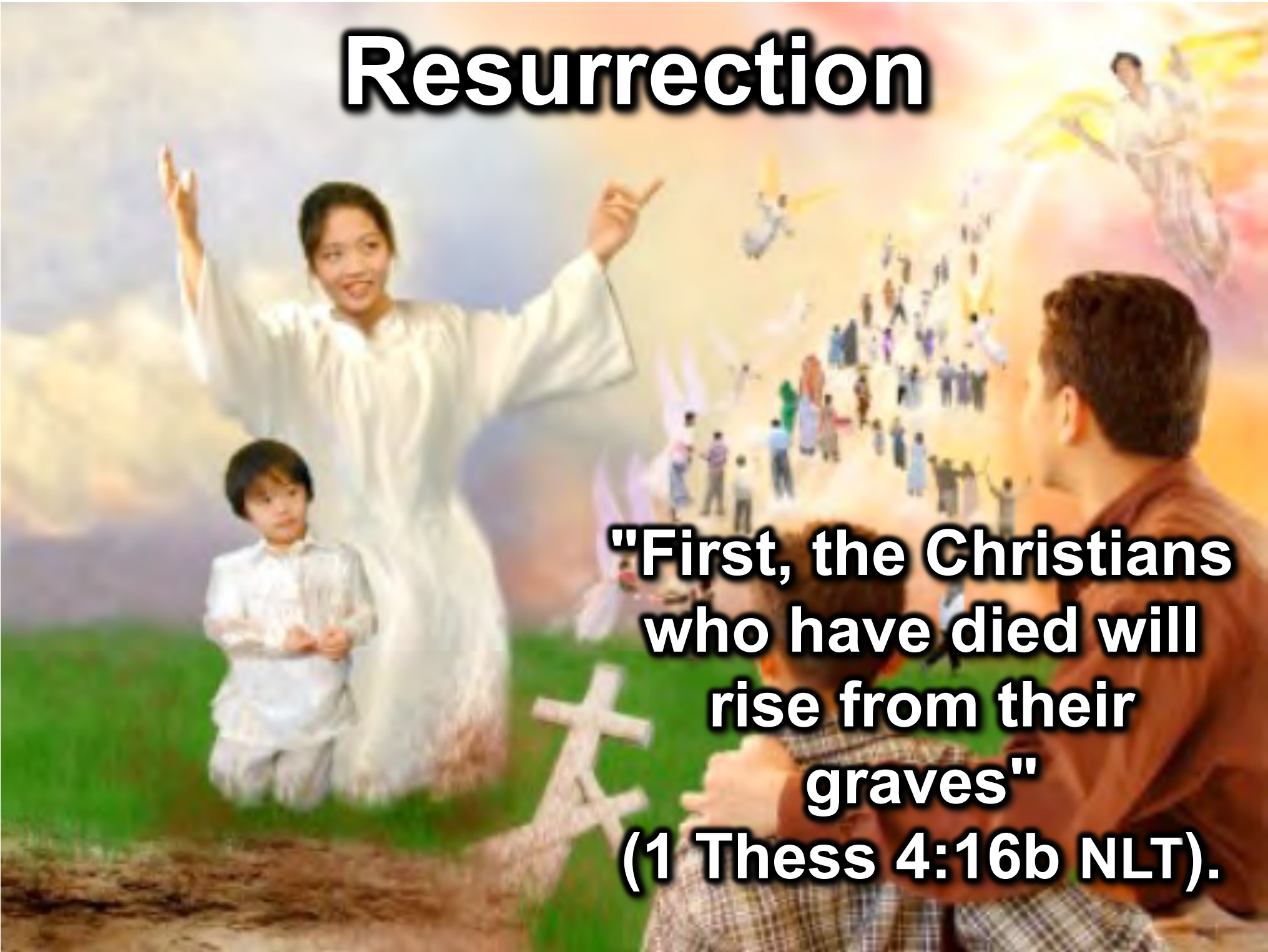
**Voice of the Archangel**



# The Trumpet Call of God



# Resurrection



**"First, the Christians  
who have died will  
rise from their  
graves"  
(1 Thess 4:16b NLT).**



**“The dead in  
Christ will rise  
first”  
(1 Thess. 4:16b)**



# Rapture

"Then,  
together with  
them, we who  
are still alive  
and remain on  
the earth will  
be **caught up** in  
the clouds to  
meet the Lord  
in the air"

(1 Thess 4:17a  
NLT).

"**caught up**"—  
not "disappear"



From *rapturo*, "to catch up" (Latin)







ripped by the  
**binary vixen**

An illustration featuring a pair of feet in brown sandals walking on a turbulent, blue-green sea with white-capped waves. The feet are positioned at the top center of the frame. In the background, dark, jagged mountains rise from the water under a stormy sky. Overlaid on the sea is the text 'ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD, AND HE WAS NOT, FOR GOD TOOK HIM.' in a dark, serif font. The text is arranged in two lines, with the second line being significantly larger and bolder than the first. Below the main text, the reference 'GENESIS 5:24' is written in a smaller, simpler font.

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD, AND HE WAS NOT,  
**FOR GOD TOOK HIM.**

GENESIS 5:24



# Rapture Chaos







# The Translation

# Reunion

**"Then we will be with the Lord forever"  
(1 Thess 4:17b NLT).**







**3. Christ's return helps us  
encourage one another (4:18).**



Why should we look forward to the Rapture with **expectancy**?





**The Rapture  
gives hope and  
encouragement  
that he will  
come for **you**.**

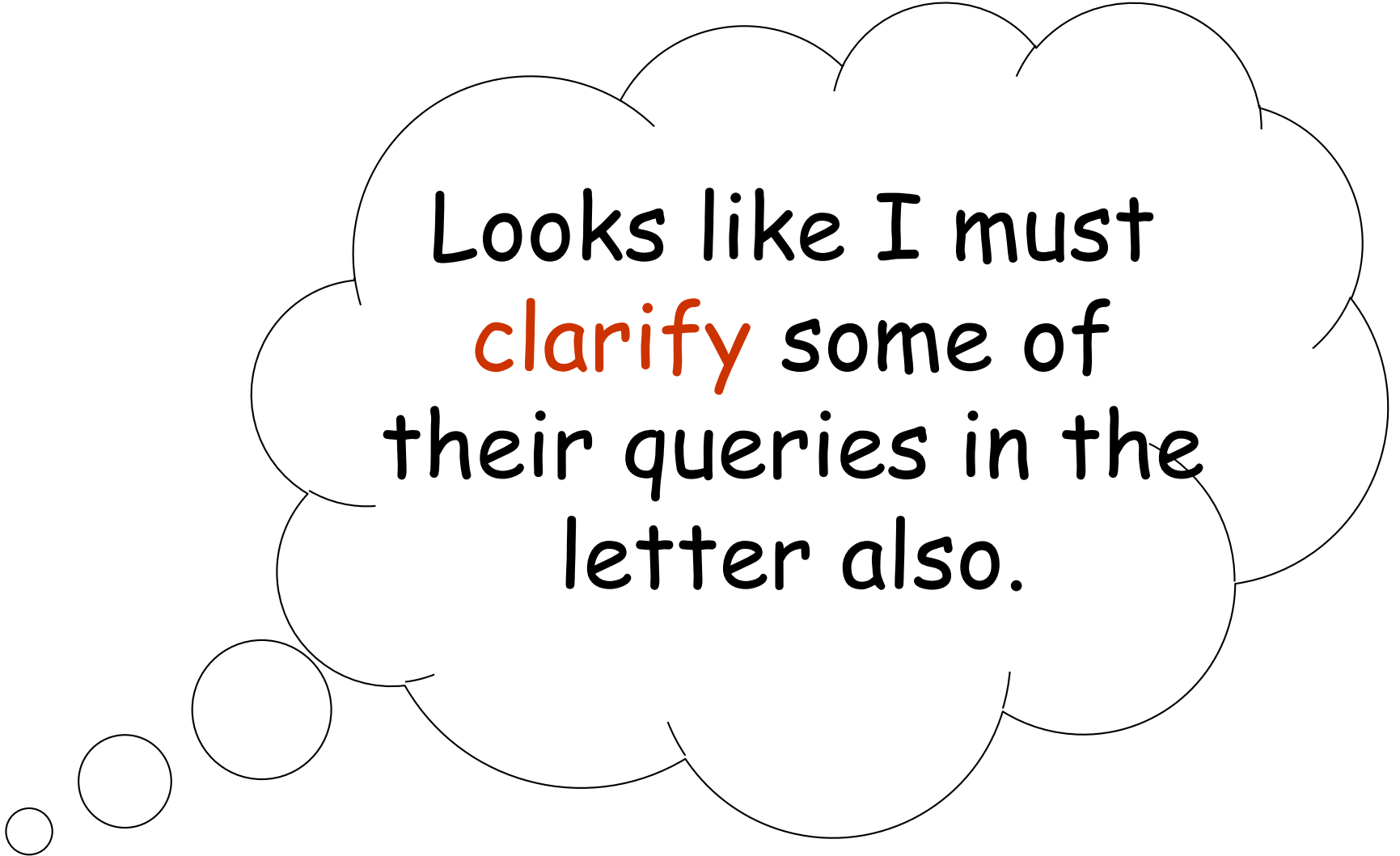
**Main Idea of  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**We will join him in the clouds**





# 1 Thessalonians 5



Looks like I must  
**clarify** some of  
their queries in the  
letter also.

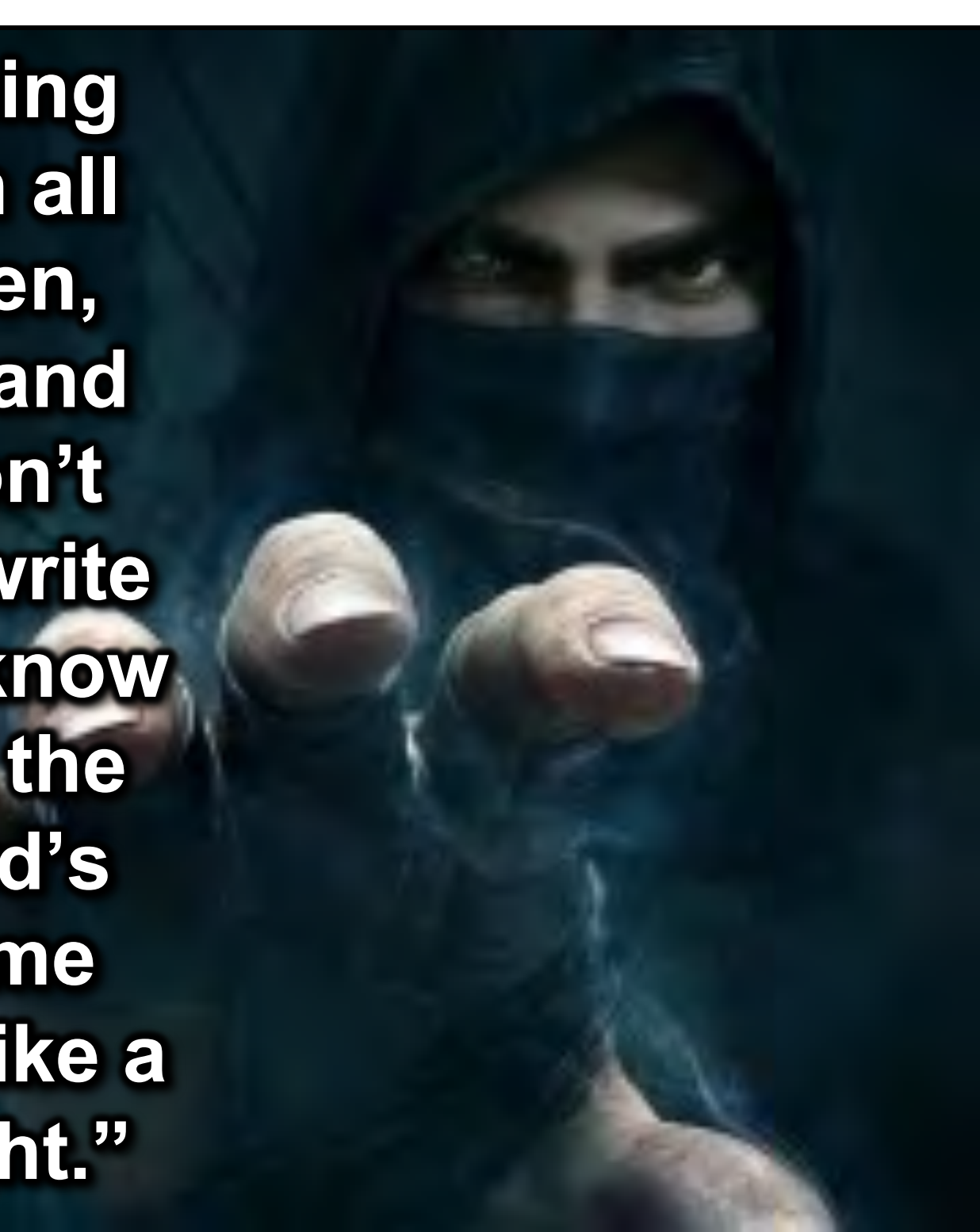
# After the Rapture...



# comes the Tribulation...



**"Now concerning  
how and when all  
this will happen,  
dear brothers and  
sisters, we don't  
really need to write  
you. <sup>2</sup>For you know  
quite well that the  
day of the Lord's  
return will come  
unexpectedly, like a  
thief in the night."**





**"<sup>3</sup>When people are saying, 'Everything is peaceful and secure,' then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape"  
(1 Thess 5:1-3 NLT).**

**"But you aren't in the dark  
about these things, dear  
brothers and sisters, and you  
won't be surprised when the  
day of the Lord comes like a  
thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children  
of the light and of the day; we  
don't belong to darkness and  
night. <sup>6</sup>So be on your guard,  
not asleep like the others. Stay  
alert and be clearheaded"  
(1 Thess 5:4-6 NLT).**





# Paul's Purpose in Writing

203

Encouragement to grow	Defence against opponents	Exhortation to Persevere		Clarification to queries	Instructions for godly living
Commen- dation 1:1-10	Conduct 2:1-16	Concern 2:17- 3:13	Love 4:1-12	Eschatology 4:13-5:11	Church Life 5:12- 28



Healthy church life is where each person fulfills his roles (5:12-28).

I must include some  
**instructions** in the  
letter on how to lead  
a healthy church life.



**“Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.”**



**1 Thessalonians 5:14 NLT**





Always Be  
Joyful

Be joyful (5:16).

1 THESS. 5:16-18





# PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

It's The Will Of God For You  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



NEVER



STOP



PRAYING

— 1 THESS. 5 : 16 - 18 —



≡ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 ≡

GIVE THANKS

IN EVERYTHING

FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN

CHRIST JESUS

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**Be honest  
that while  
the Spirit is  
present, you  
may have  
quenched  
him.**



**DO NOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT (1 THESS 5:19)**



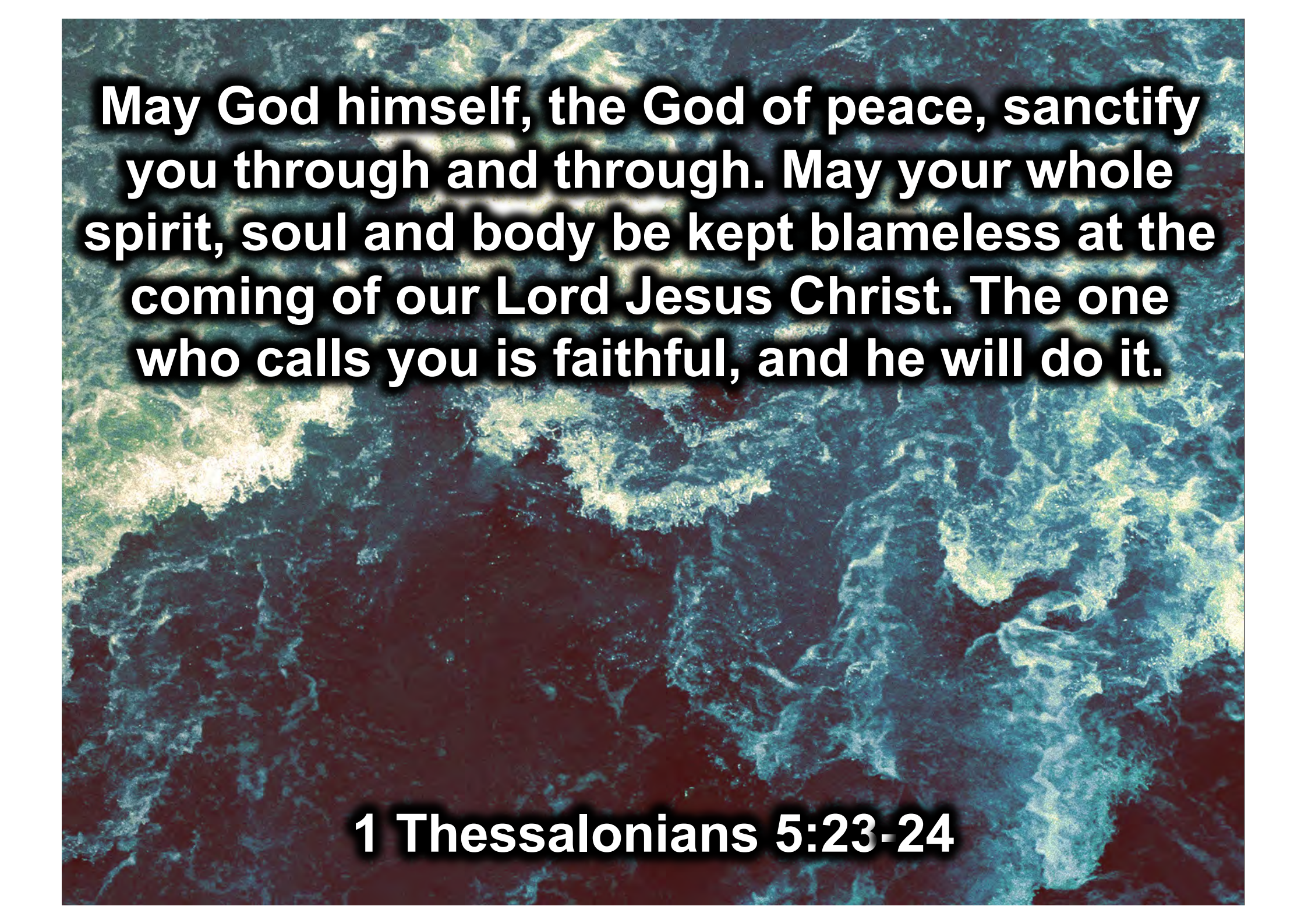
**DO NOT QUENCH  
THE SPIRIT**



An aerial photograph of a turbulent ocean. The water is a deep, dark blue-green color, with numerous white-capped waves and foam scattered across the surface, indicating strong currents or a storm. The lighting is bright, creating high contrast between the dark water and the white foam.

# **Benediction**





**May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**



***So...how about you?***

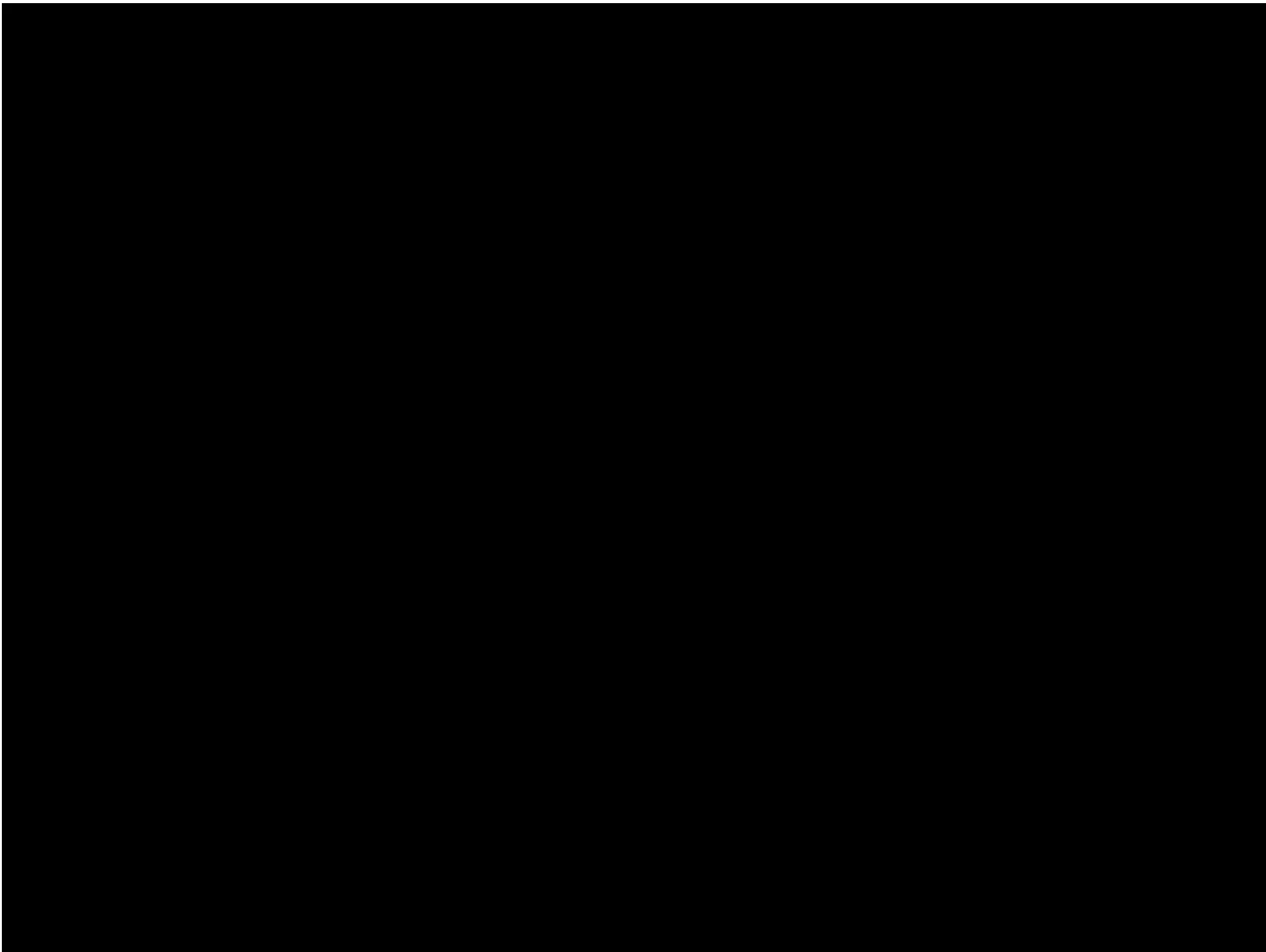
**Are you growing in your  
relational and Bible skills?**



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**How** can you be prepared  
for the Rapture?

**2 ways...**

# **Main Idea**

**Be prepared for Christ's  
return with your money,  
friends and Bible.**

**1 Thessalonians**



# I. Serve Jesus without **greed** (1 Thess 1–3).



## II. Care about both **people** and **theology** (1 Thess 4–5).



+





**He will definitely return**





**We will all give an account**





**The faithful will reign with Christ**



**"I've got time..."**





*Rev 3:11*

**Behold,  
I COME  
QUICKLY**

© JUDAH ARUN  
speakarun@gmail.com



***"like a thief in the night"***



**1 Thessalonians 5:2**

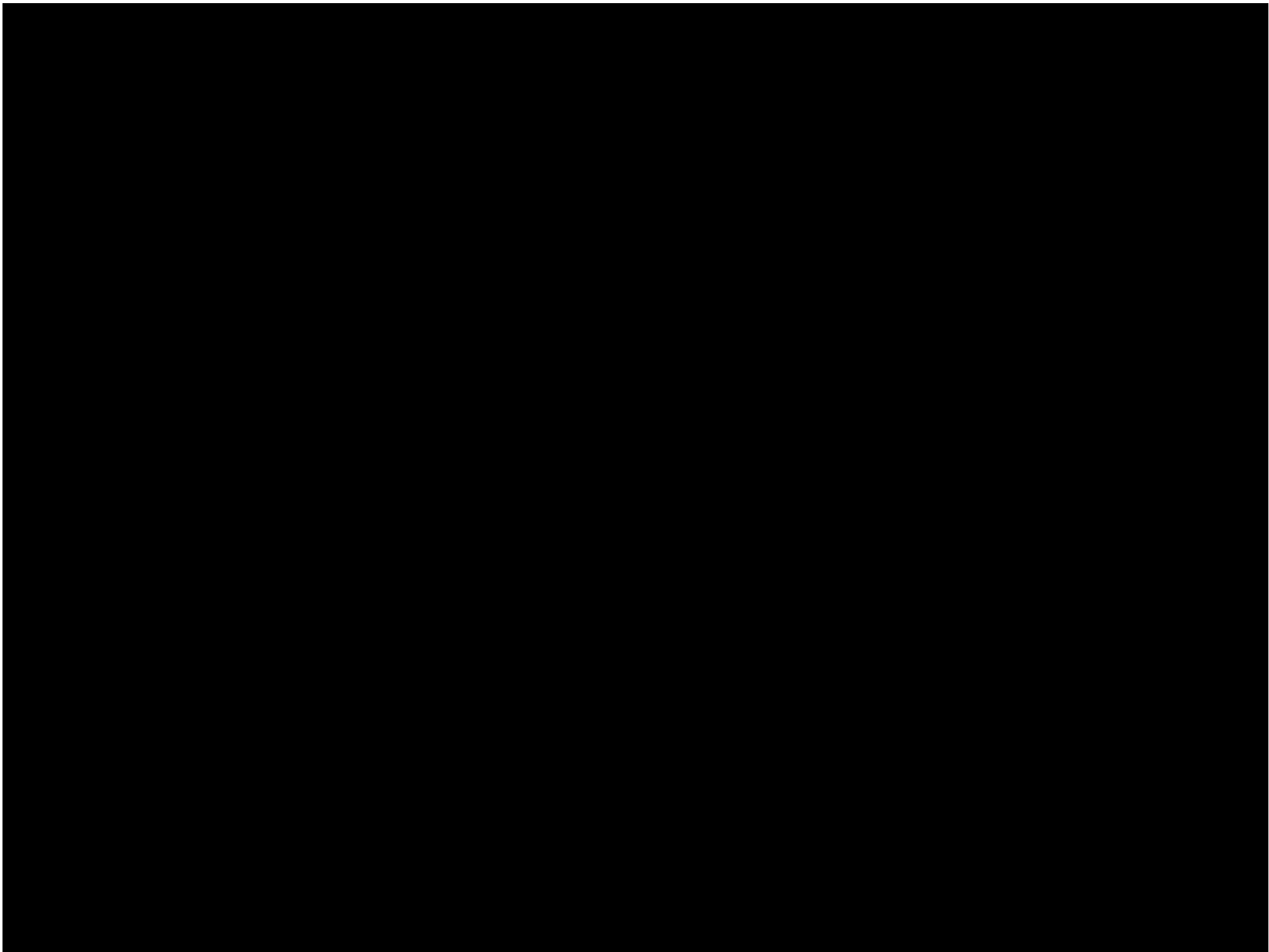


# How to live?

A dramatic sunset or sunrise scene. A large, bright sun is partially obscured by a dark, circular shape, possibly a moon or a shadow, creating a halo effect. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by deep oranges, yellows, and blacks. The scene is reflected in a body of water at the bottom.

**Charles R. Swindoll, *Contagious Christianity*, 47**





# Get this presentation and script for free!

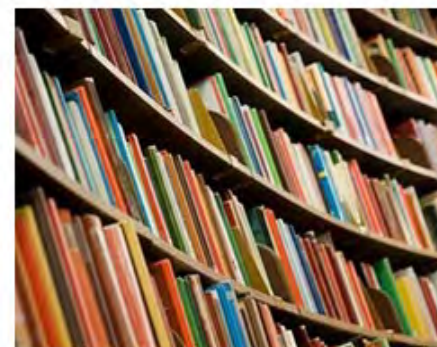


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A large background image for the main banner showing a close-up of a person's hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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