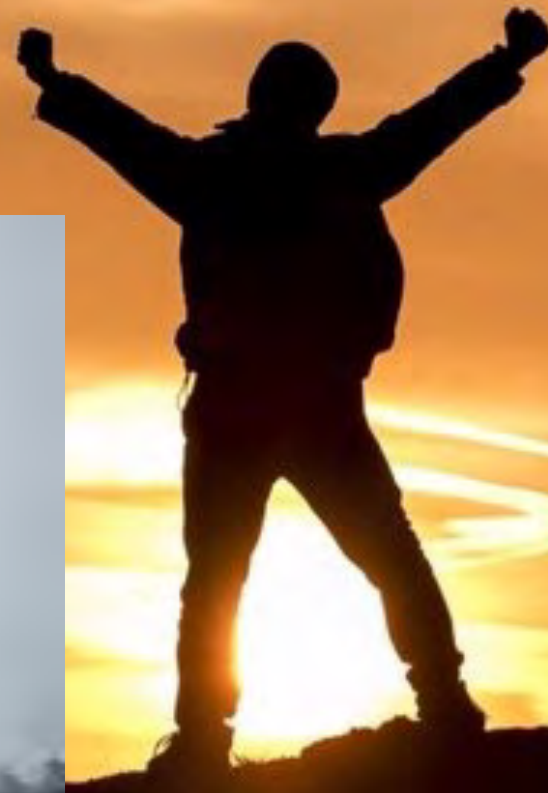


Be Affirmed

2 Thessalonians

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

Affirmation

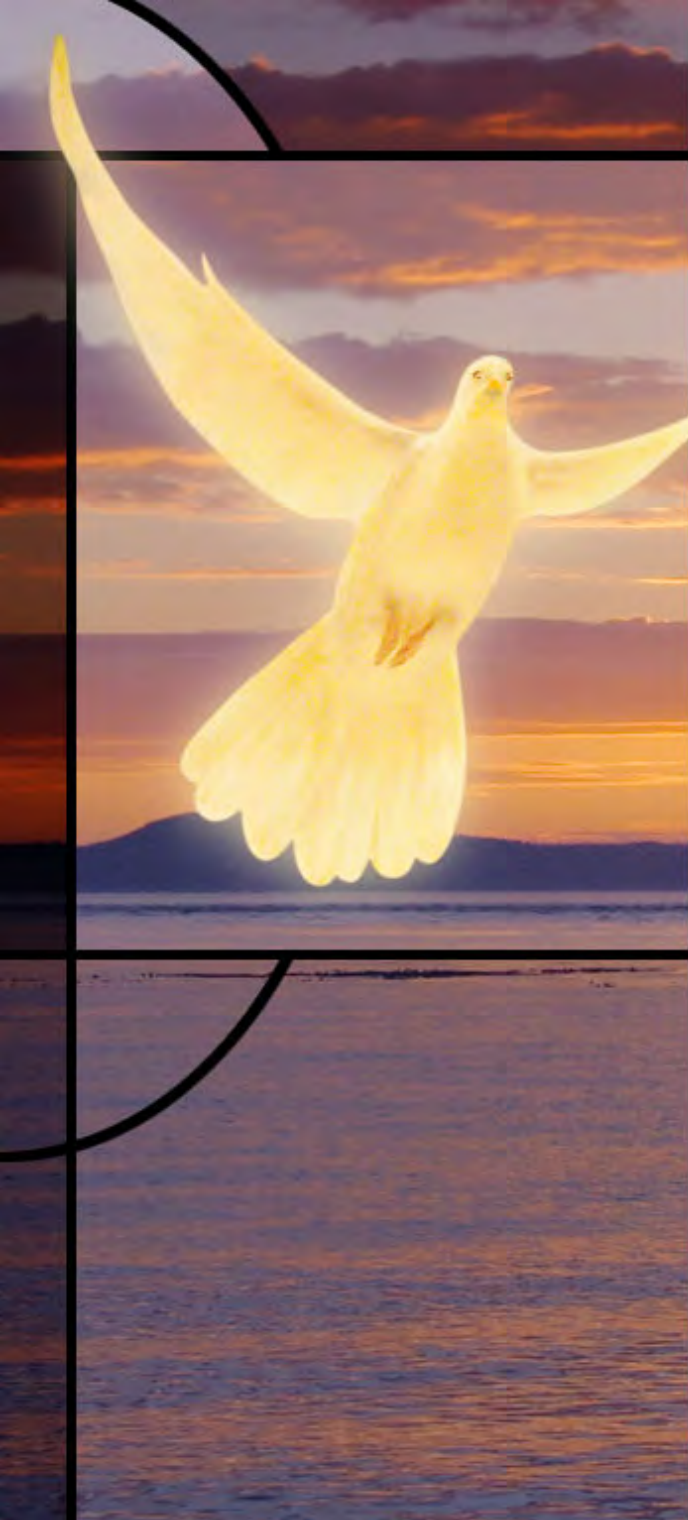


Our Mission

The image is a composite graphic divided into four quadrants by a black grid. The top-right quadrant contains the title 'Our Mission'. The bottom-right quadrant contains the mission statement. The left two quadrants (top-left and bottom-left) feature a white dove in flight, its wings spread wide, set against a sunset sky with orange and purple clouds. The dove is positioned in the top-left quadrant, with its wings extending across the top-right quadrant. The sunset background is visible in all four quadrants, with the sun low on the horizon in the right half.

The mission of
Crossroads is to reach
the nations by reaching
internationals residing
in Singapore

Our Vision



The vision of Crossroads is to lead internationals into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ as disciples who can transform their unique spheres of influence (2 Tim. 2:2). In particular, Crossroads focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on reaching the English-speaking community

Our Priorities



Love the Nations

Love the Church

Love
God

Words can affirm

A word cloud featuring various affirmations in different colors and sizes. The words are arranged in a way that they overlap and flow together. The colors include shades of brown, tan, and dark blue. The words are: wonderful, special, handsome, love, you, world, empowering, best, pretty, encouraging, loving, powerful, heart, glorious, fantastic, tender, caring, kind, and beautiful.

wonderful
special
handsome
love
you
world
empowering
best
pretty
encouraging
loving
powerful
heart
glorious
fantastic
tender
caring
kind
beautiful

Self Affirmation

Be The Best
Version of You!

Feel great,
act great
and approve
of yourself.

Self Affirmation

1,000
Self Confidence
Affirmations

youtube.com/GrowingForever

Self Affirmation

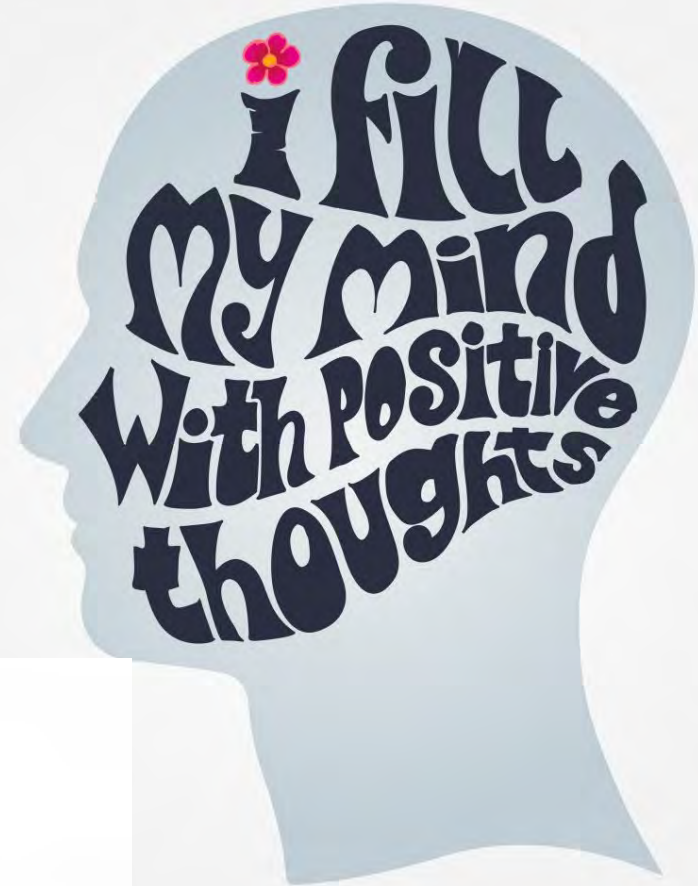
I ♥
ME

I believe
in me



Self Affirmation

i am
ENOUGH



I AM
more
THAN ENOUGH

Is self affirmation enough?

**WHO IS THE MOST
AWESOME
PERSON TODAY?**



2 Thessalonians

**I LOVE MYSELF
UNCONDITIONALLY**



**I don't deserve
self-esteem**

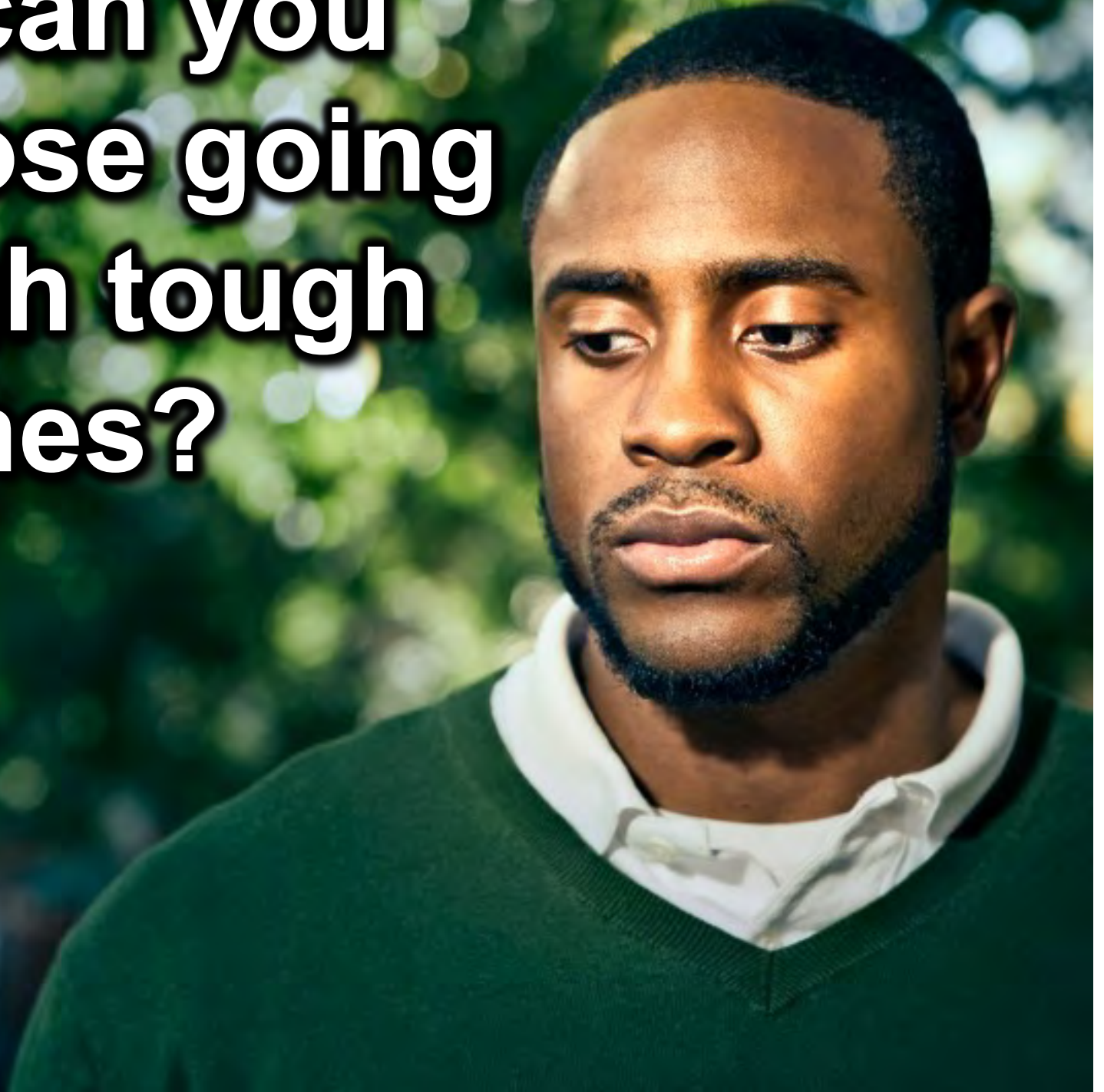
**I'm not sure how many
problems I have
because math is
one of them.**





**How many
of us notice
when others
are caught
in a spiral?**

**How can you
help those going
through tough
times?**



How does God **affirm** us when
we face tough times?



3 ways...

Background to 2 Thessalonians


- Port city at the Thermaic Gulf





- Port city at the Thermaic Gulf
- Knitted together 26 villages
- Main seaport and naval base of Macedonia
- The Egnatian Way (Via Egnatia) ran through the city





Down with
Paul!

Throw him
in jail!

What to do?...

This epistle was written in AD 51



• Three ways we can encourage others...

Written in Corinth after hearing Tim's report

Be Prepared



1 Thessalonians

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1 Thessalonians

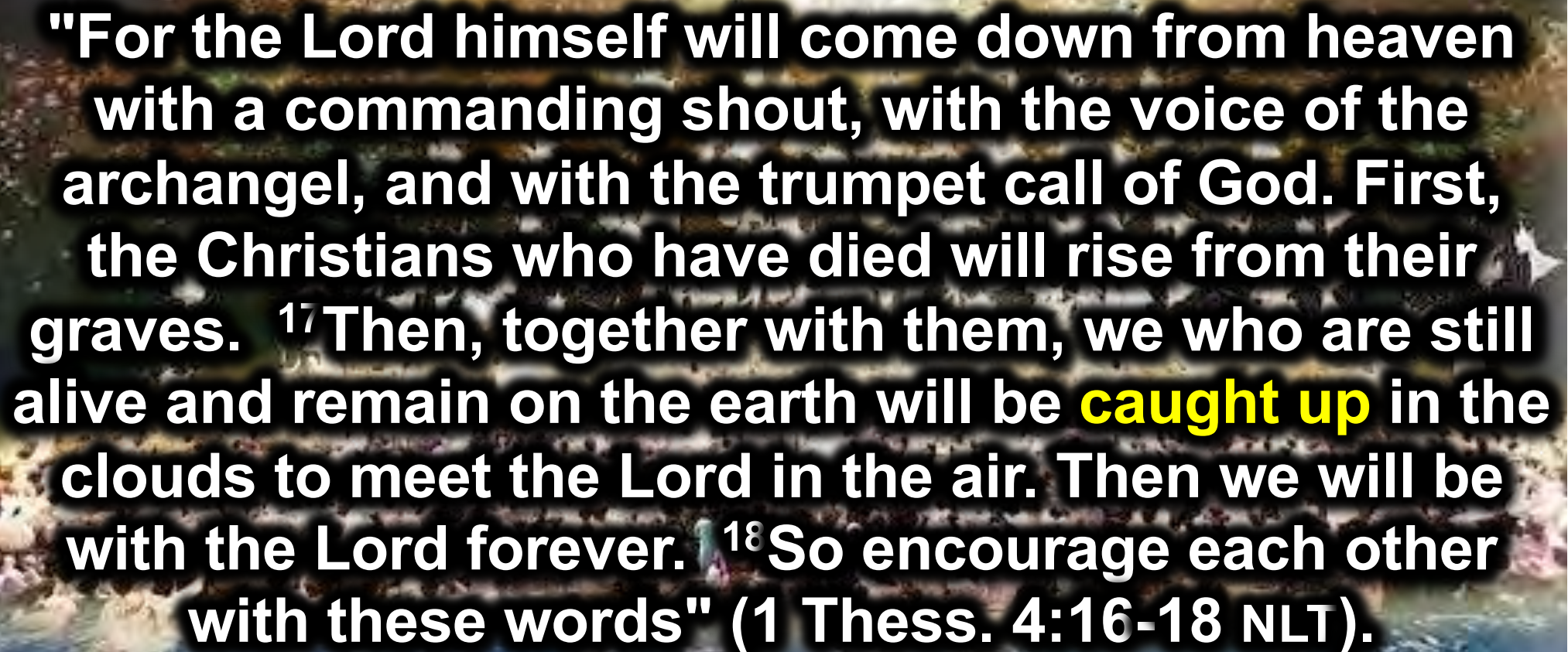


The Rapture

"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. ¹⁴For 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. ¹⁷Then, 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. ¹⁸So encourage each other with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18 NLT).**



How can you be prepared
for the Rapture?

2 ways...

1 Thessalonians

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



1 Thessalonians

II. Care about both **people** and **theology** (Chapters 4–5).



1 Thessalonians

Main Idea

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

1 Thessalonians

We will all give an account



1 Thessalonians

"like a thief in the night"



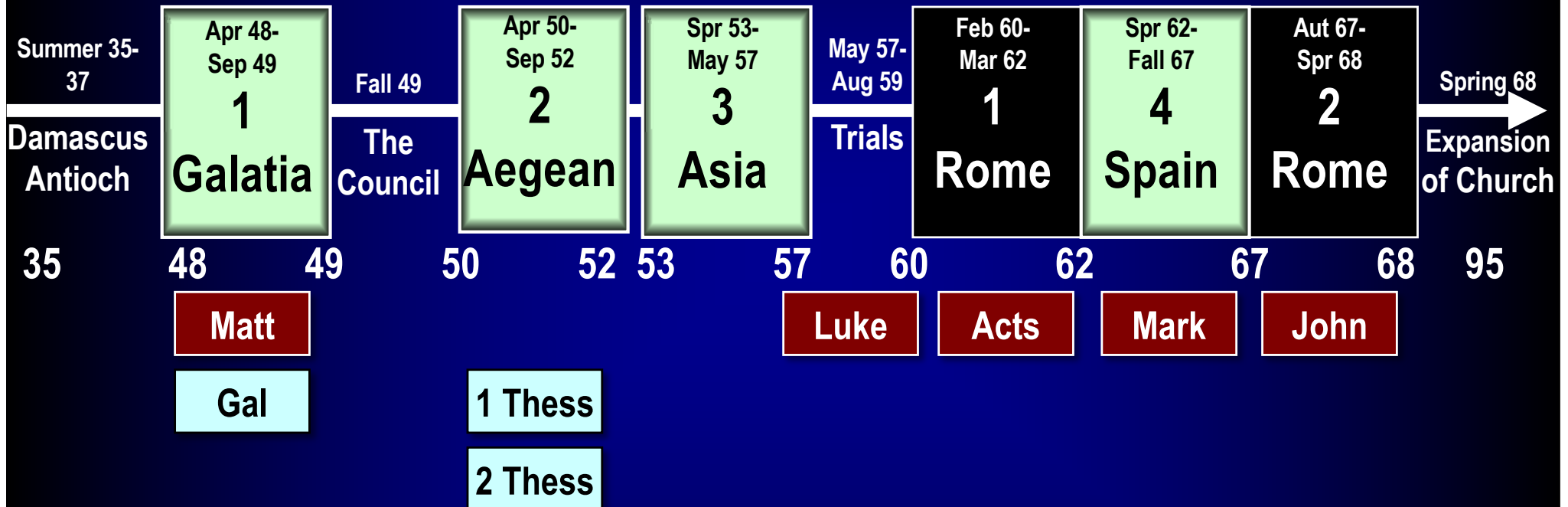
1 Thessalonians 5:2

NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

38
124
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Gospels & Acts

Pauline Epistles

1234

Journeys

Rome

Imprisonments

Pauline

Macedonia

Thessalonica

Corinth

1-2 Thessalonians



Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians to help the believers handle **three difficulties** facing the church:

1. Increased **persecution** (1:3-10),
2. False **teaching** that the day of the Lord had already come (2:1-12), and
3. Idleness in some **lazy** Thessalonian Christians who were "waiting for the rapture" (3:6-15).

Paul wrote to **encourage** perseverance based upon their future reward at the day of the Lord (ch. 1) and to **correct** their false notion of the day of the Lord (ch. 2) so he **exhorted** discipline instead of idleness (ch. 3). The key theme is the day of the Lord and its implications on behavior.

How does God **affirm** us when
we face tough times?



3 ways...

2 Thessalonians 1

How God affirms...

Emotions

1

Outline of 2 Thessalonians

I. *Emotionally:* God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).



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

Focus on God in the Thessalonian Epistles

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

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

MAIN IDEA OF MATTHEW

Serve the Lord Jesus Christ

GOD

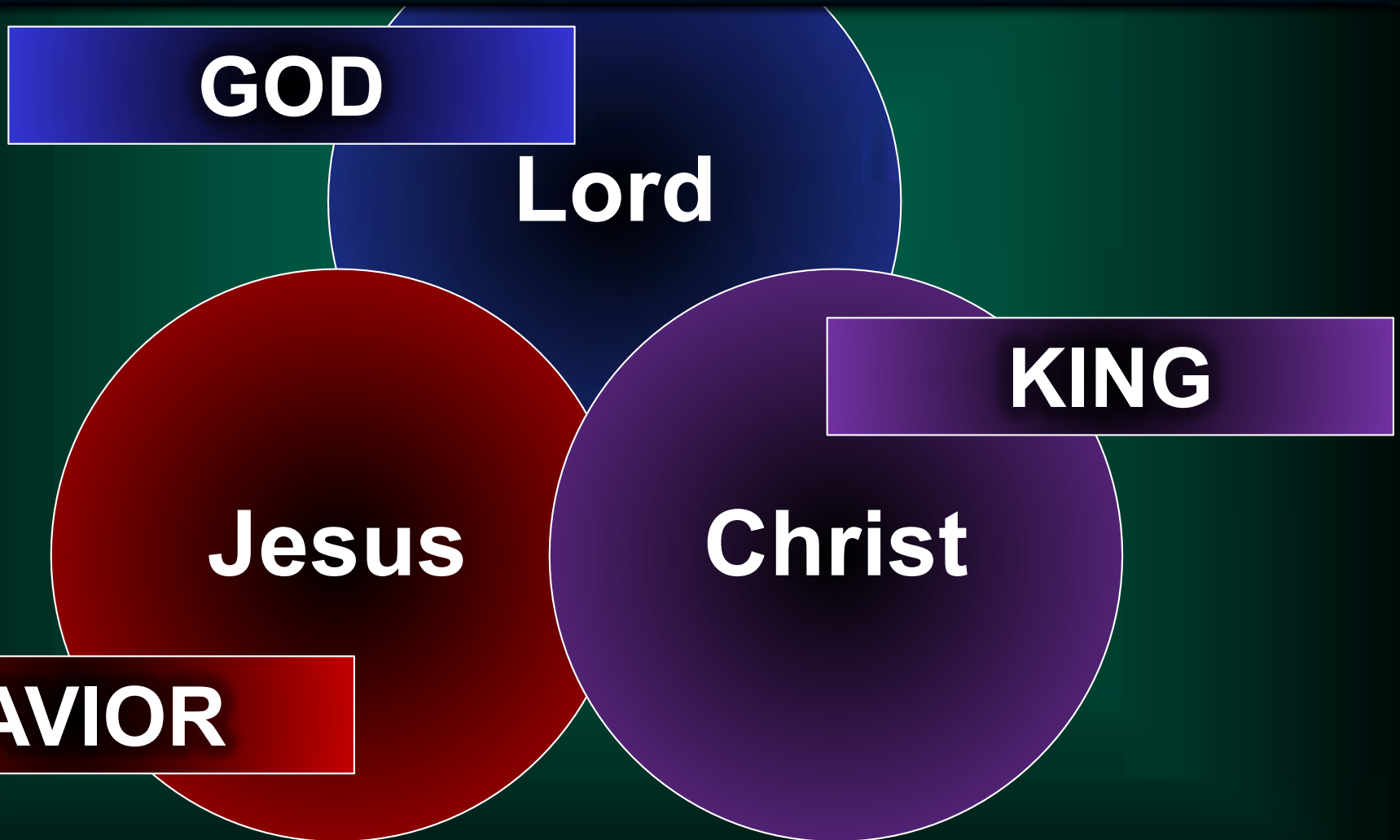
Lord

KING

Jesus

Christ

SAVIOR



A Worthy Name to Repeat

2 Thess 1

**Lord Jesus Christ
(1:1)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(1:2)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(1:12)**

2 Thess 2

**Lord Jesus Christ
(2:1)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(2:14)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(2:16)**

2 Thess 3

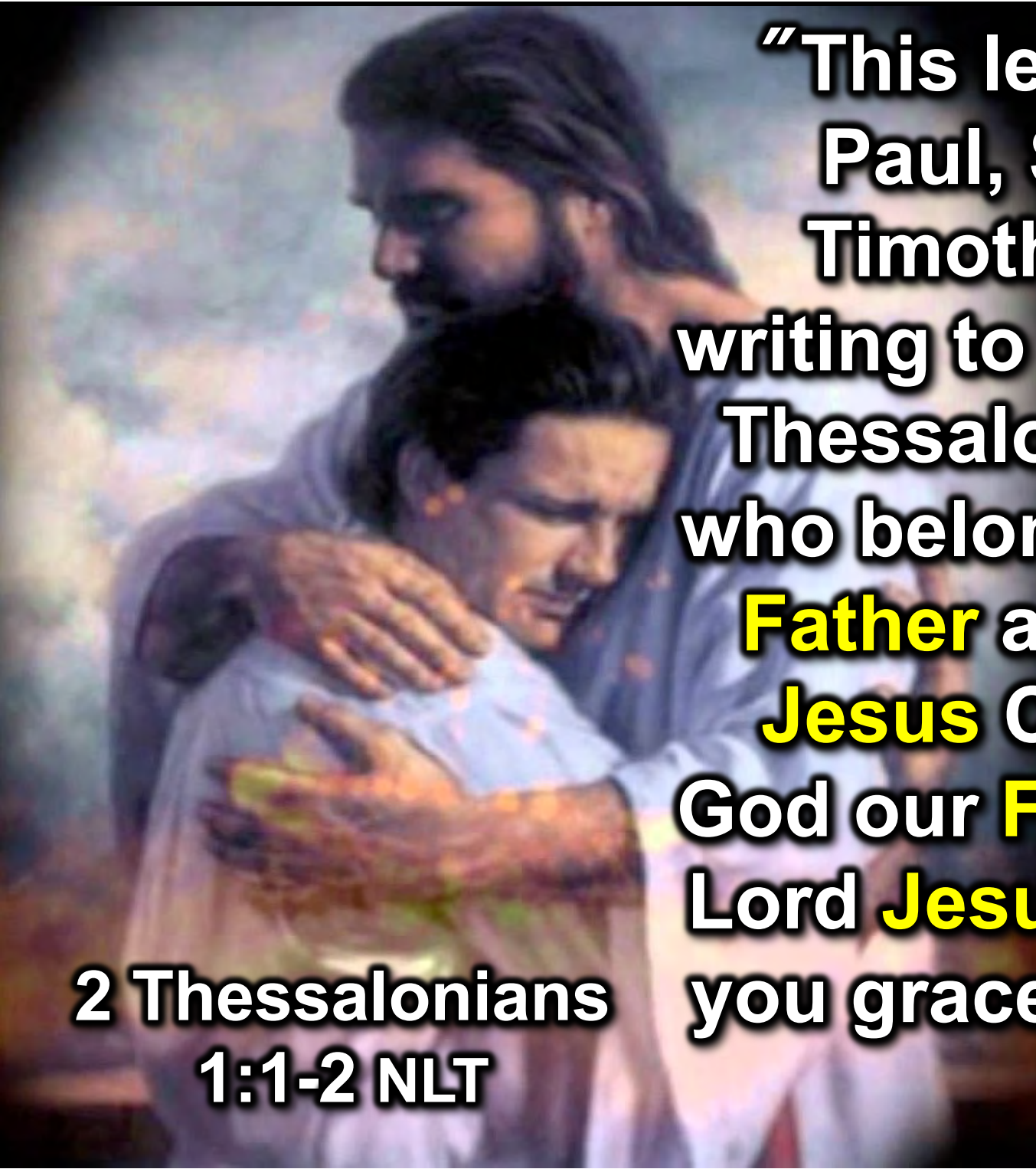
**Lord Jesus Christ
(3:6)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(3:12)**

**Lord Jesus Christ
(3:18)**

See **God's** perspective
on trials (1:1-2).





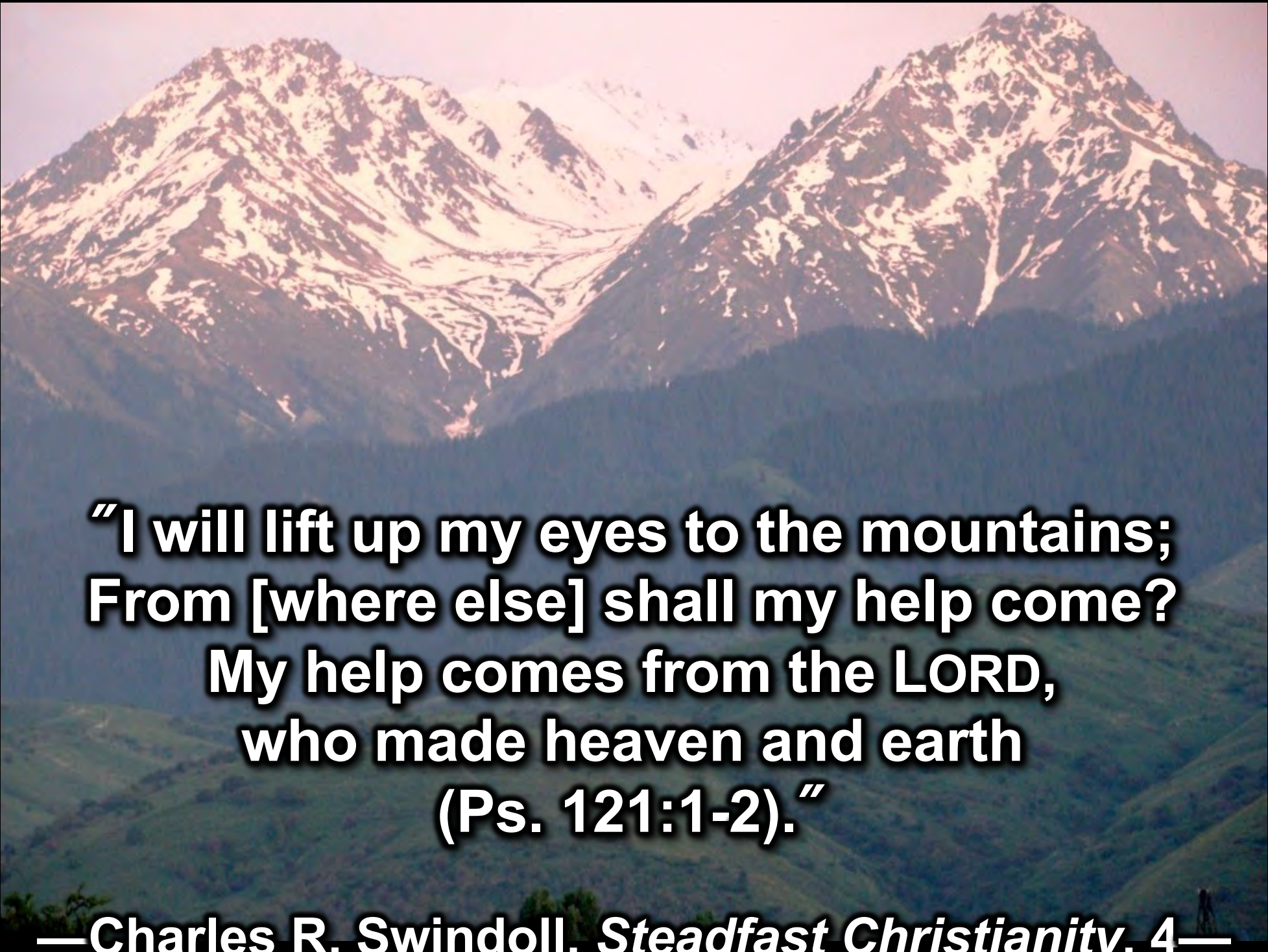
"This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God our **Father and the Lord **Jesus** Christ. ²May God our **Father** and the Lord **Jesus** Christ give you grace and peace."**

**2 Thessalonians
1:1-2 NLT**

A dramatic painting depicting Jesus Christ with long dark hair and a beard, looking down with a compassionate expression. In the foreground, a person with long dark hair is kneeling on a rocky shore, their head bowed in prayer. The background features a stormy sea with white-capped waves, a full moon in a cloudy sky, and a bright lightning bolt striking the water. The overall mood is one of divine presence and human devotion.

**"By looking to our lofty Lord
Jesus Christ we realize that
He is not looking away from
us in complacency but
looking down on us in
compassion."**

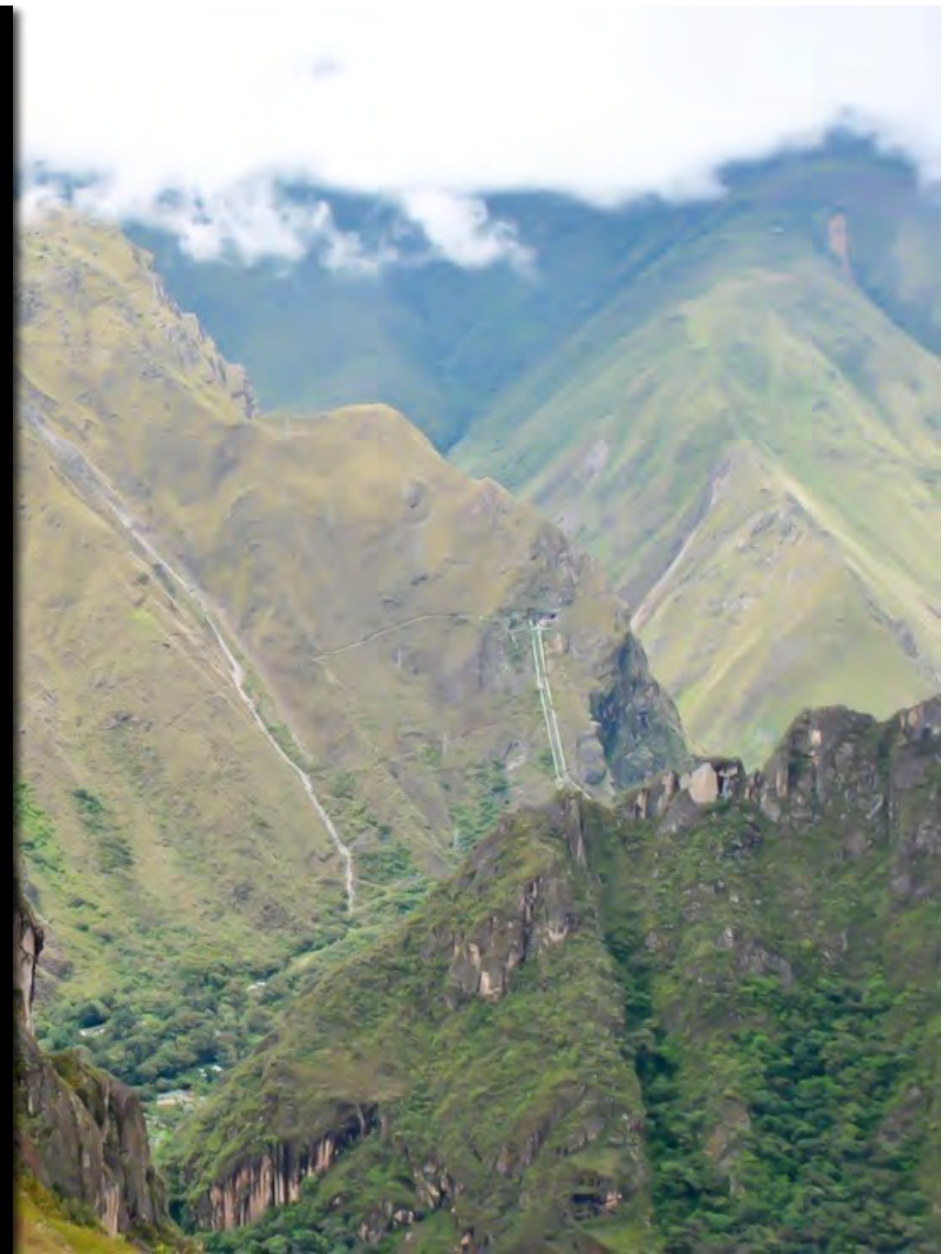
—Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 4—



**"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From [where else] shall my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth
(Ps. 121:1-2)."**

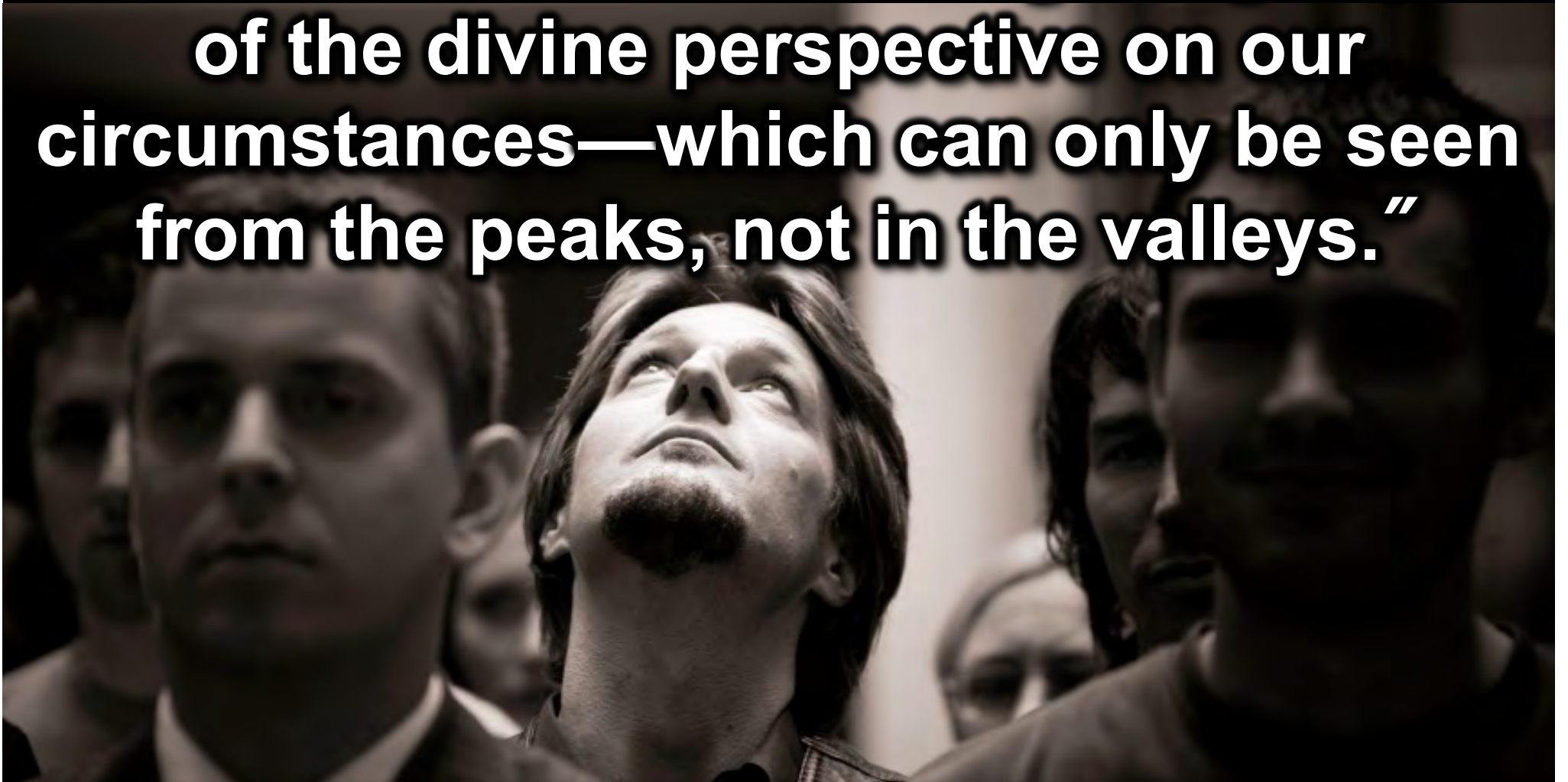
—Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 4—

“Do you look to the peaks when you’re in the valleys? Or are you so rutted in the valleys that you’ve forgotten the mountains are even there? People who fail to affirm usually do so because they fail to see the Lord in the midst of it all.”



—Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 4—

“When we look up, we are reminded that God is not removed... not absent... not out of touch. And then we get a glimpse of the divine perspective on our circumstances—which can only be seen from the peaks, not in the valleys.”



—Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 4—

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and tie stands on a tall ladder, looking through binoculars. He is positioned on the left side of the frame. The background shows a vast cityscape with numerous skyscrapers under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A black rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

SEEING LIFE FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

*Your life's experiences can be different
when viewed from God's perspective.*

**We also need to help others focus
on the Lord in their difficulty**



Turn others to the Lord

- 
- A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayerful grip. The hands are positioned diagonally across the frame, with the fingers of one hand interlaced with the fingers of the other. The lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the veins on the hands. The background is a blurred, warm-toned surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric, creating a sense of intimacy and focus on the hands.
- **By saying nothing at all**
 - **By sharing a Bible reference**

Thank God for others'
growth (1:3).



**“Dear brothers and sisters, we can’t help
but thank God for you, because your
faith is flourishing and your **love** for one
another is growing”
(2 Thessalonians 1:3 NLT).**



He affirmed them that their love for one another kept increasing—so we see Paul affirming their affirmation!



Prayer Affirms



Publicly **brag** about
others' spiritual growth
(1:4).

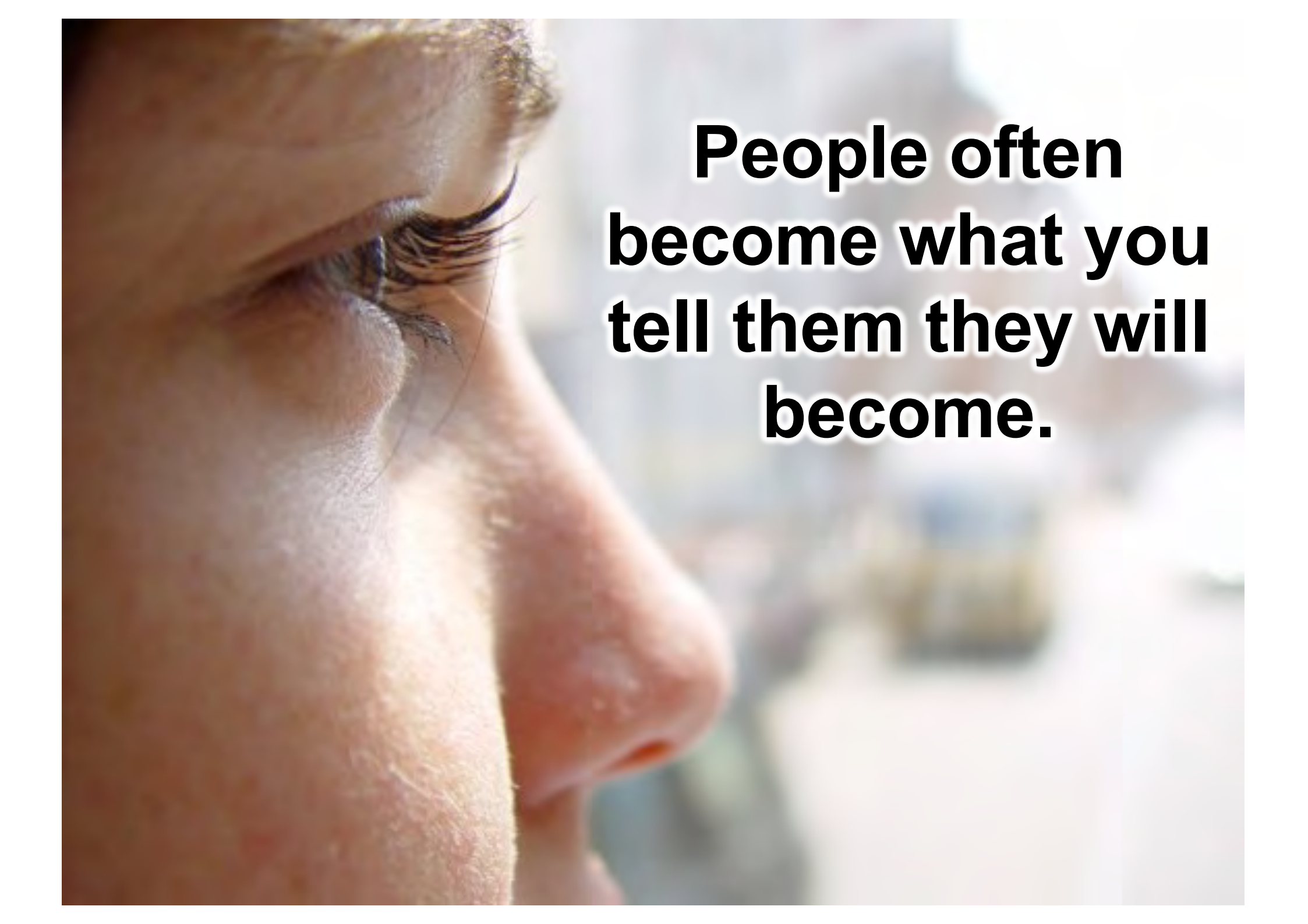


**“We proudly tell
God’s other
churches about
your endurance
and faithfulness
in all the
persecutions
and hardships
you are
suffering.”**



**2 Thessalonians 1:4
NLT**





**People often
become what you
tell them they will
become.**

Jim Sundberg



“How many of you had parents that told you that you would end up in prison one day?”



Affirm
the afflicted to help
them mature in Christ.

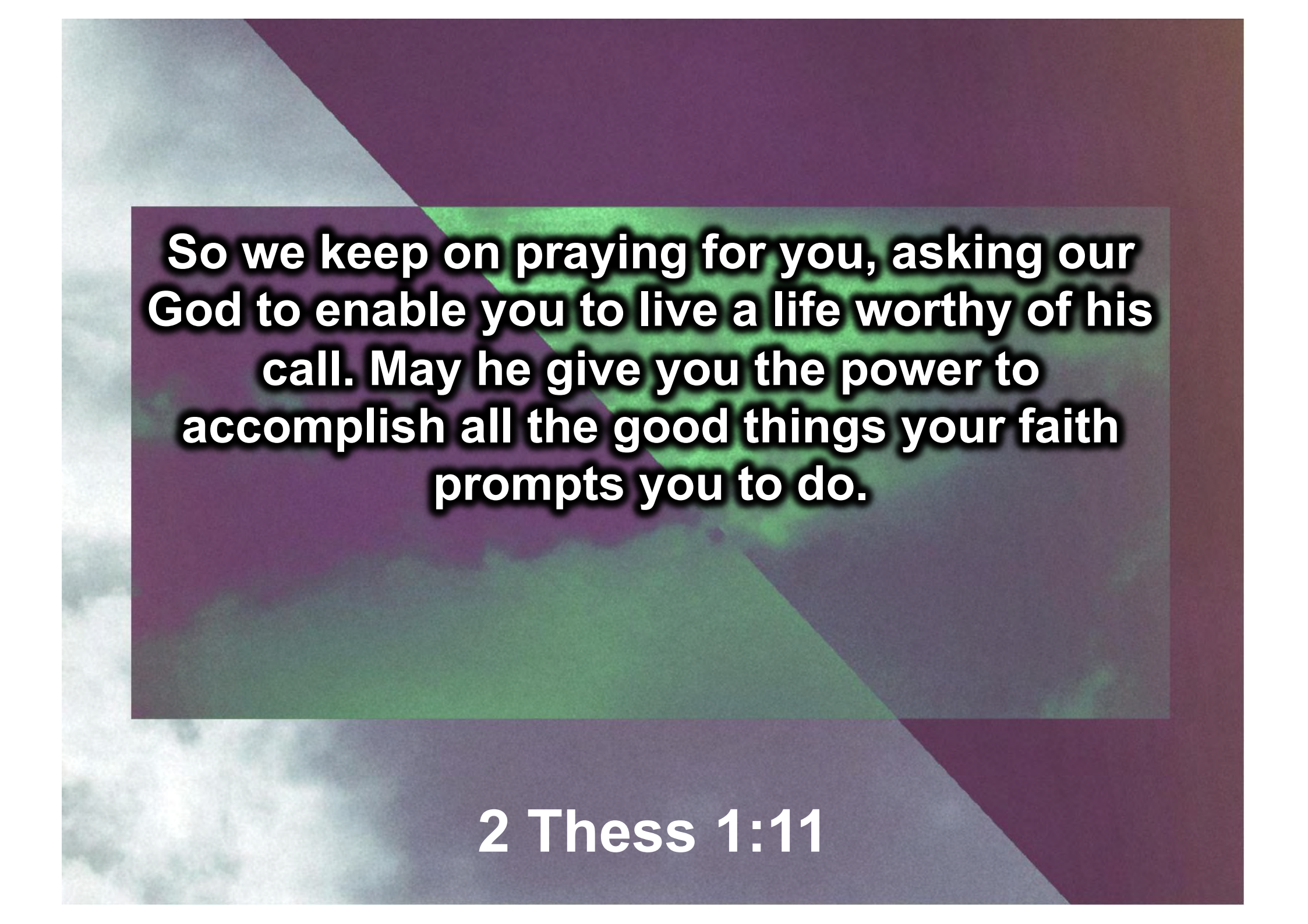
Main Idea of 2 Thess 1:1-4



**"And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering. ⁶In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you"
(2 Thess 1:5-6 NLT).**

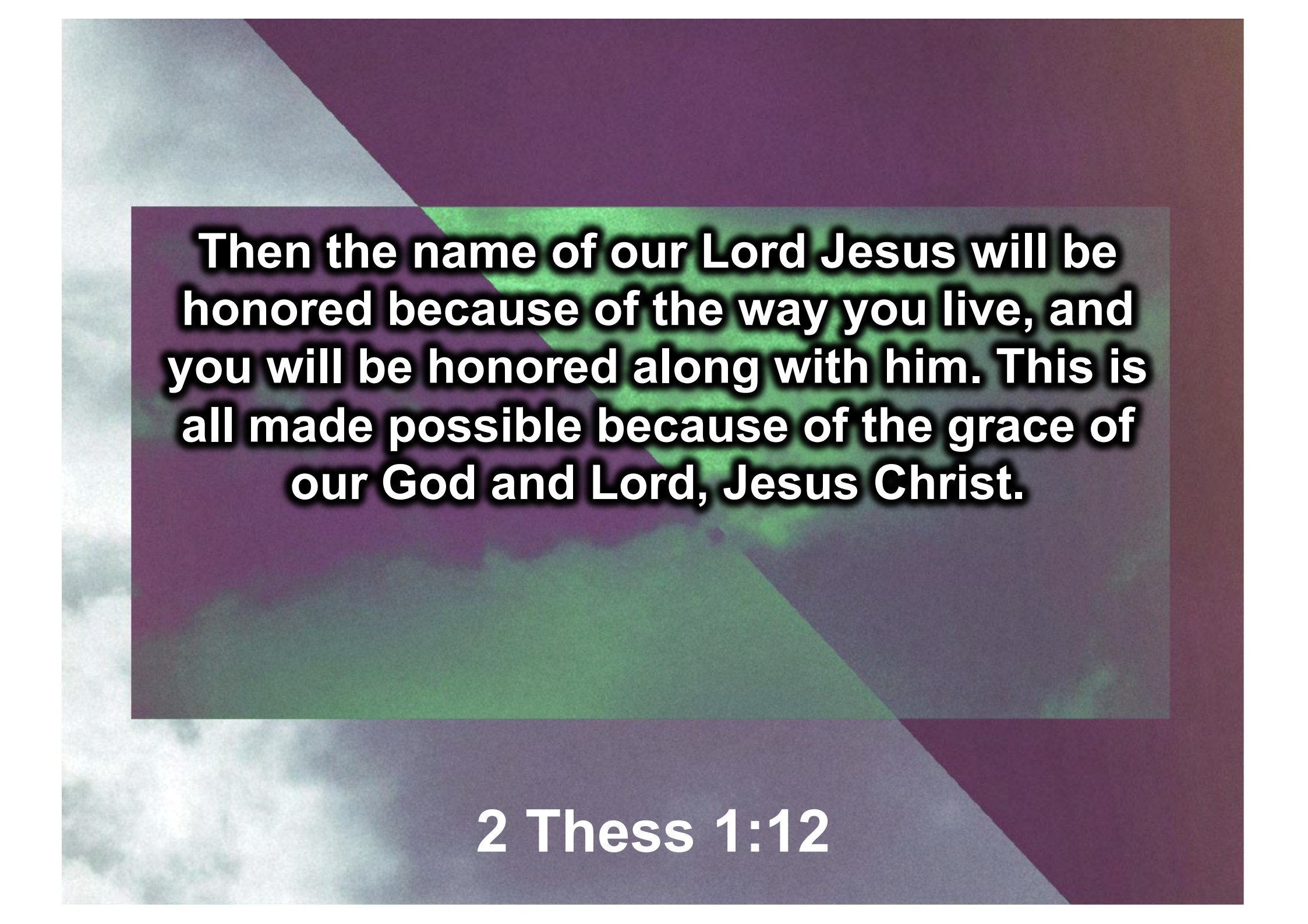
**"And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus"
(2 Thess 1:7-8 NLT).**

"They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. ¹⁰When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him" (2 Thess 1:9-10 NLT).



**So we keep on praying for you, asking our
God to enable you to live a life worthy of his
call. May he give you the power to
accomplish all the good things your faith
prompts you to do.**

2 Thess 1:11



Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 1:12

Persevering through affliction develops maturity



Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 3

Marbles or Grapes?



My Defensiveness



How does God **affirm** us when
we face tough times?

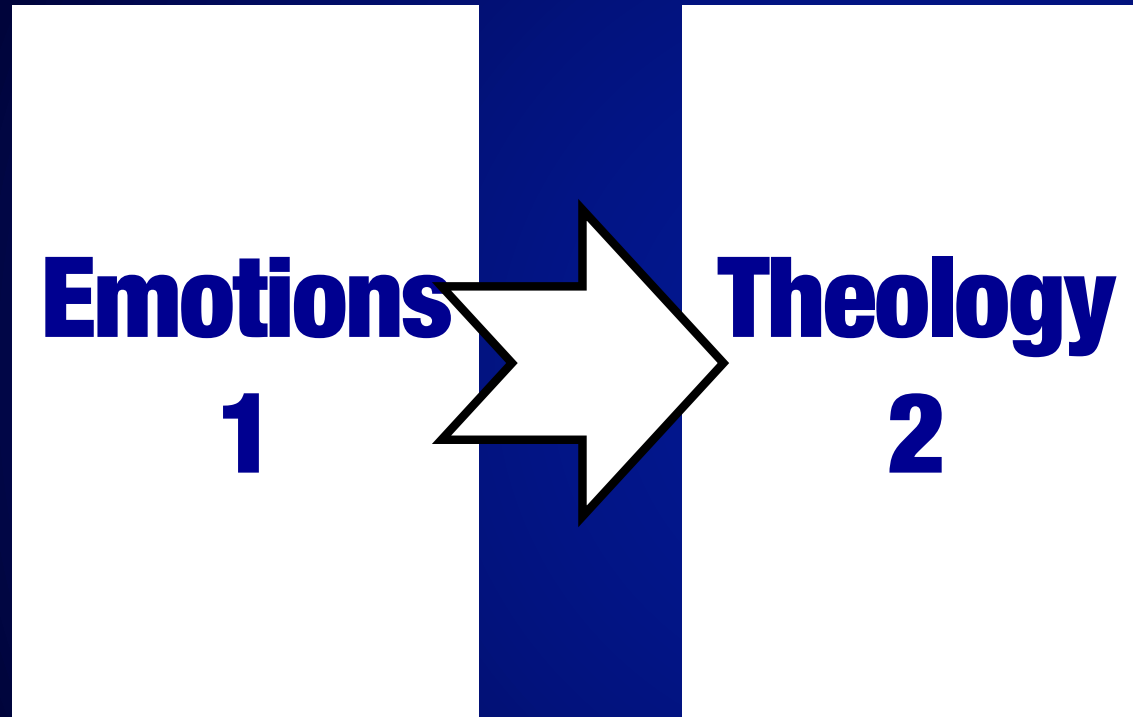


I. *Emotionally*: God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).



2 Thessalonians 2

How God affirms...

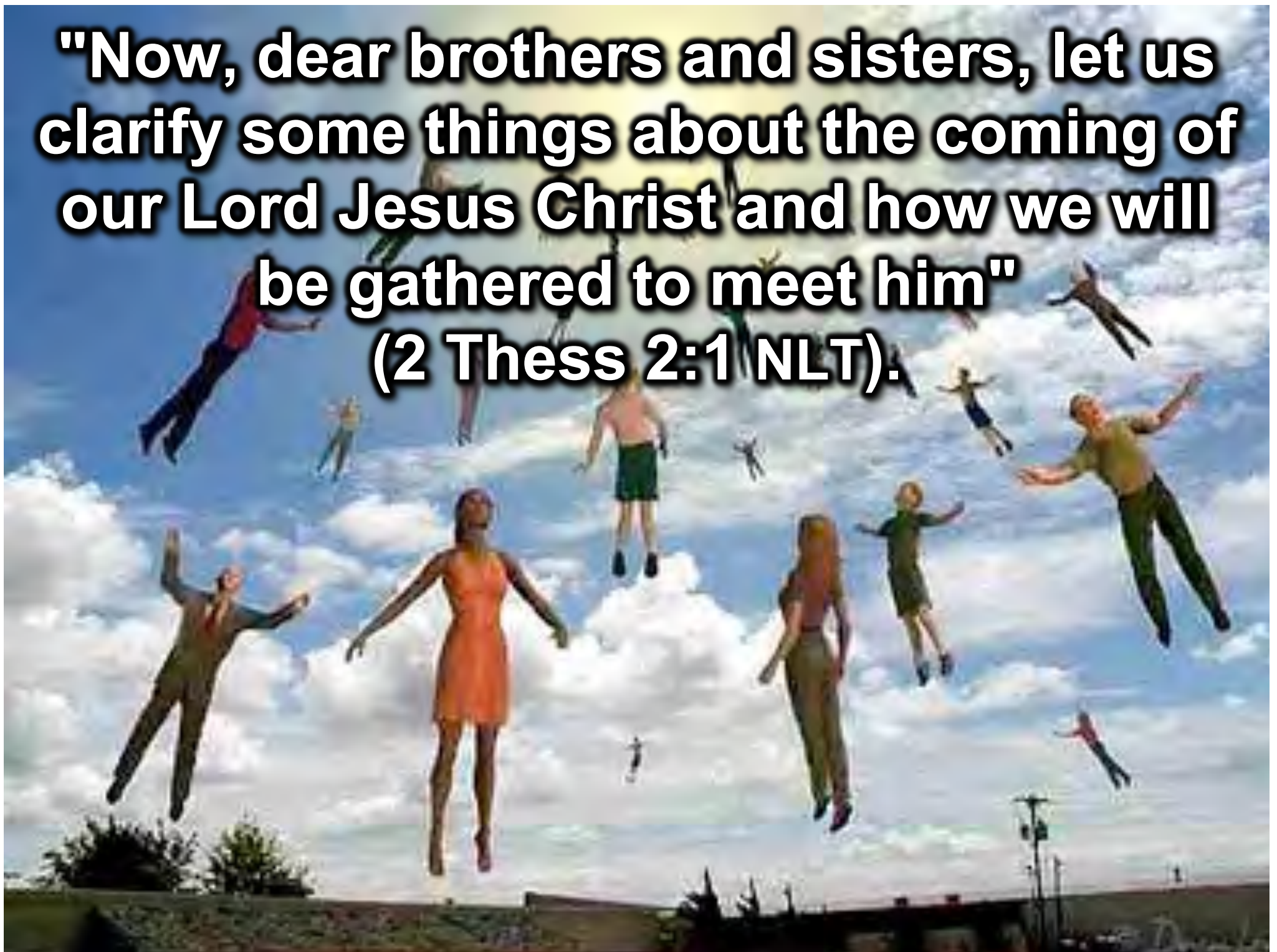


Outline of 2 Thessalonians

II. *Theologically:* God gives us **truth to bring stability (2 Thess 2).**



**"Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him"
(2 Thess 2:1 NLT).**



Key Verse

211

"Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us" (2 Thess 2:2 NLT).

2 Thessalonians

Judgment!

followed by...

A high-angle photograph of a vast, rolling green landscape. A large flock of sheep, appearing as numerous small, light-colored dots, is scattered across the middle ground, grazing on the vibrant green grass. The hills in the background are also covered in green vegetation, with some darker, possibly wooded areas visible on the far slopes. The overall scene is peaceful and pastoral.

Blessing!

The Day of the LORD

Judgment +

Blessing

Tribulation

Millennium

Rev. 6–19

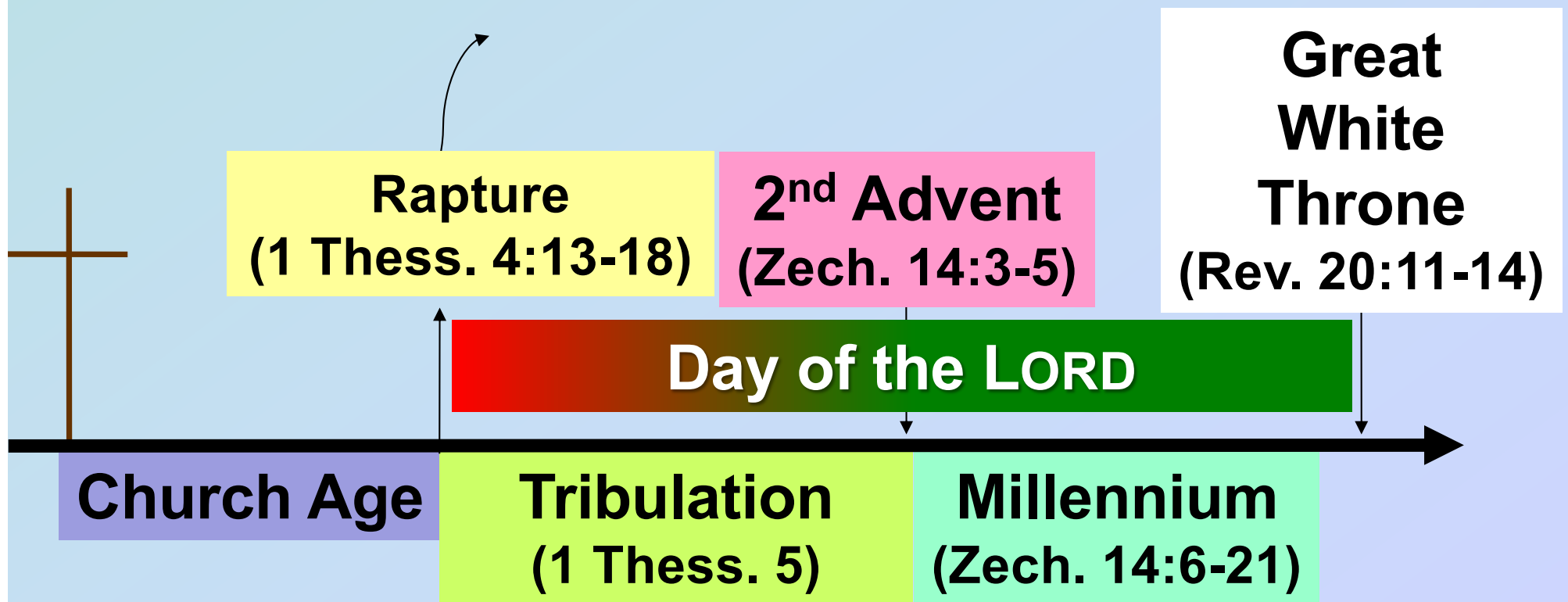
Rev. 20

7 years

1000 years

A Dispensational Timeline

437



Antichrist Sets Up Image for Worship (2 Thess. 2:3-4 NLT)



"Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. ⁴He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God."

"That day will not come until..." (2:3a)

1. "the rebellion (**apostasy**) occurs" (3b)
= *Christendom is completely apostate*
2. "the **man** of lawlessness is revealed" (3c)
= *Antichrist signs covenant with Israel*
(*Dan. 9:27*)
3. "the one who now holds [lawlessness] back will be **taken out** of the way" (7b)
= *restraining influence of the Holy Spirit in the Church is taken to heaven*

"Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? ⁶And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. ⁷For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. ⁸Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming" (2 Thess 2:5-8 NLT).

The Restrainer

The Spirit's restraining evil through the Church will be absent (2 Thess. 2:6-7):

⁶And now you know **what is holding him back**, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but **the one who now holds it back** will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way (NIV).

τὸ κατέχον ("what restrains" = neuter, 2:6 = gospel preaching)

ὁ κατέχων ("he who restrains" = masculine, 2:7 = a person)

πνεῦμα ("Spirit" = neuter noun but used of a person)

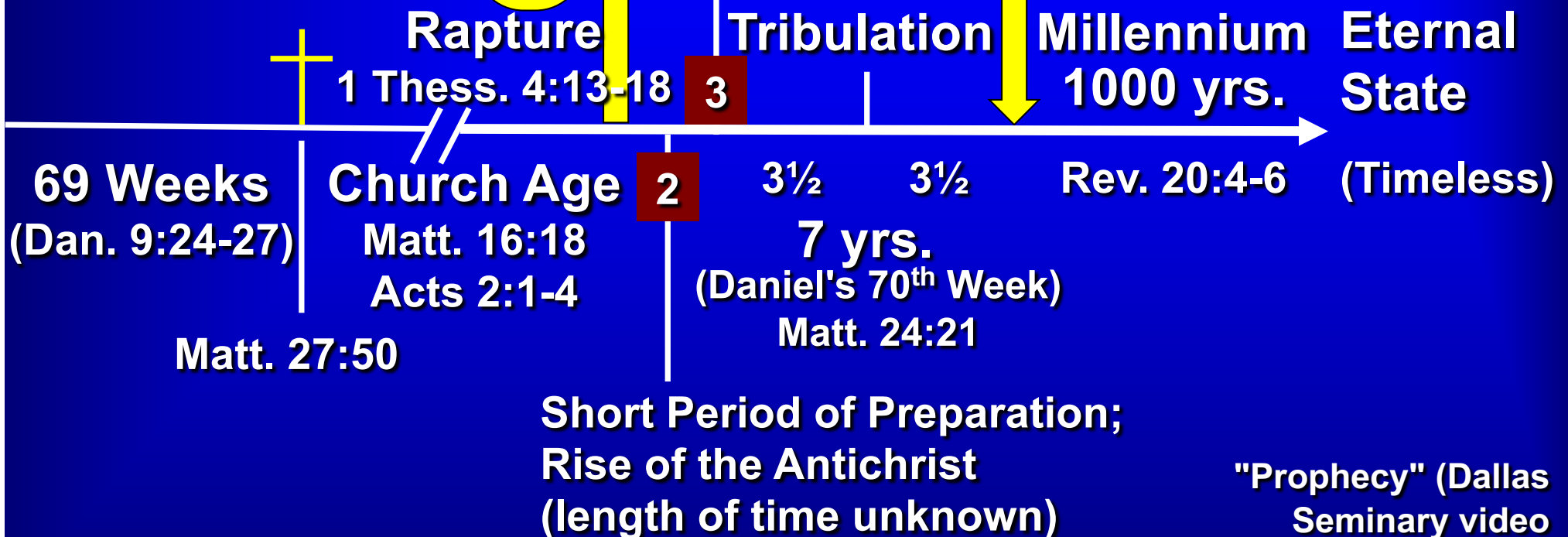
2 Thess. 2:3-7 Prerequisites Before Day of the Lord (3 of them): 213

- 1 Restrainer (2:7b)
- 2 Apostasy (2:3b)
- 3 Antichrist (2:3c)

Judgment Seat in Heaven
2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15

The Day of the Lord

Second Coming
Rev. 19:11-21



"Prophecy" (Dallas
Seminary video
series, 1980s)

"This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. ¹⁰He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. ¹¹So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. ¹²Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth" (2 Thess 2:9-12 NLT).

A Huge Leadership Vacuum



**Difficult times always set
the stage for dictators to
rise to the occasion.**

Names for the Antichrist

Bloody & Deceitful Man (Ps 5:6)

Little Horn (Dan. 7:8)

Beast from the Sea (Rev. 13:1)

Man of Sin
(2 Thess. 2:3)

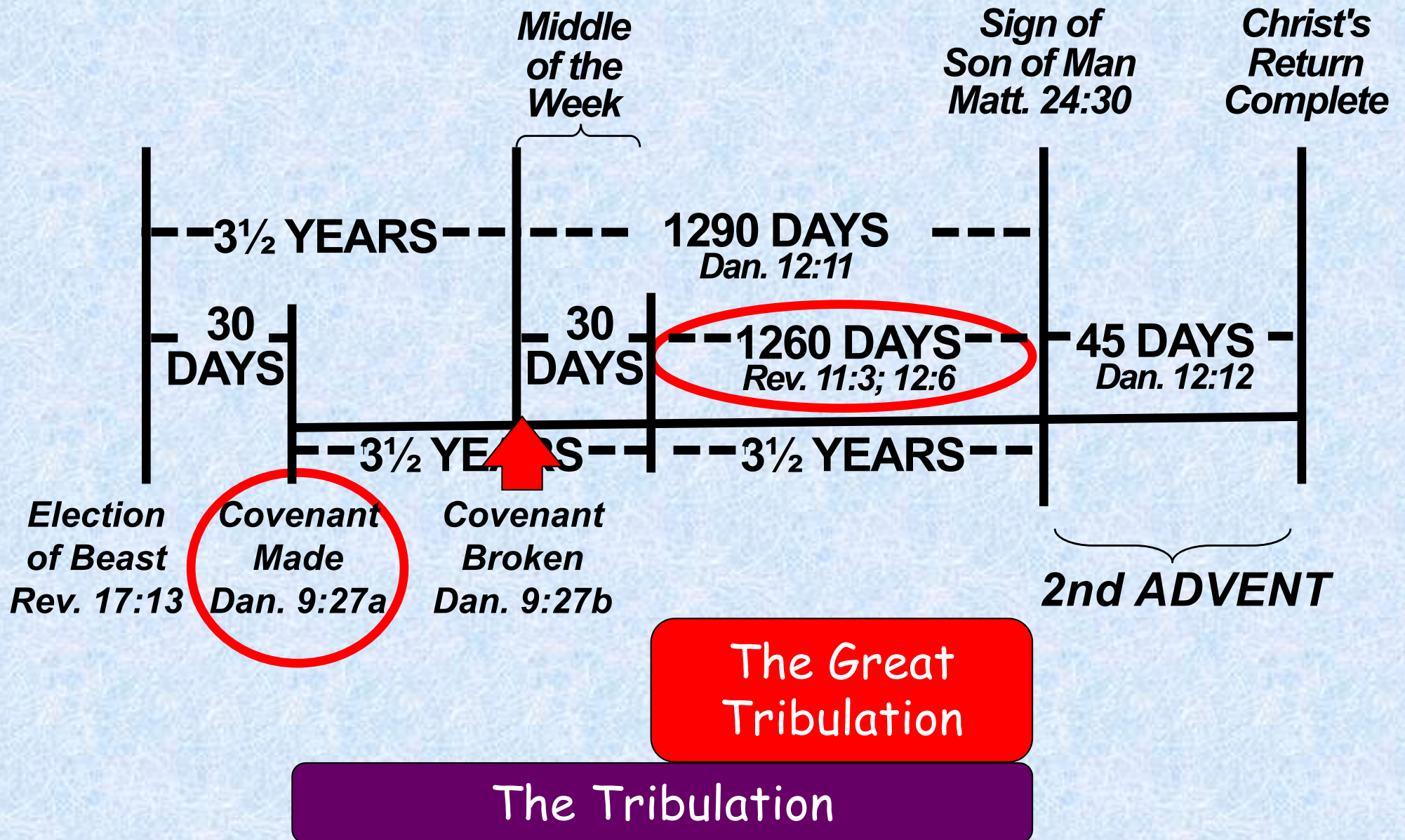
One Causing Desolation (Dan. 9:27)

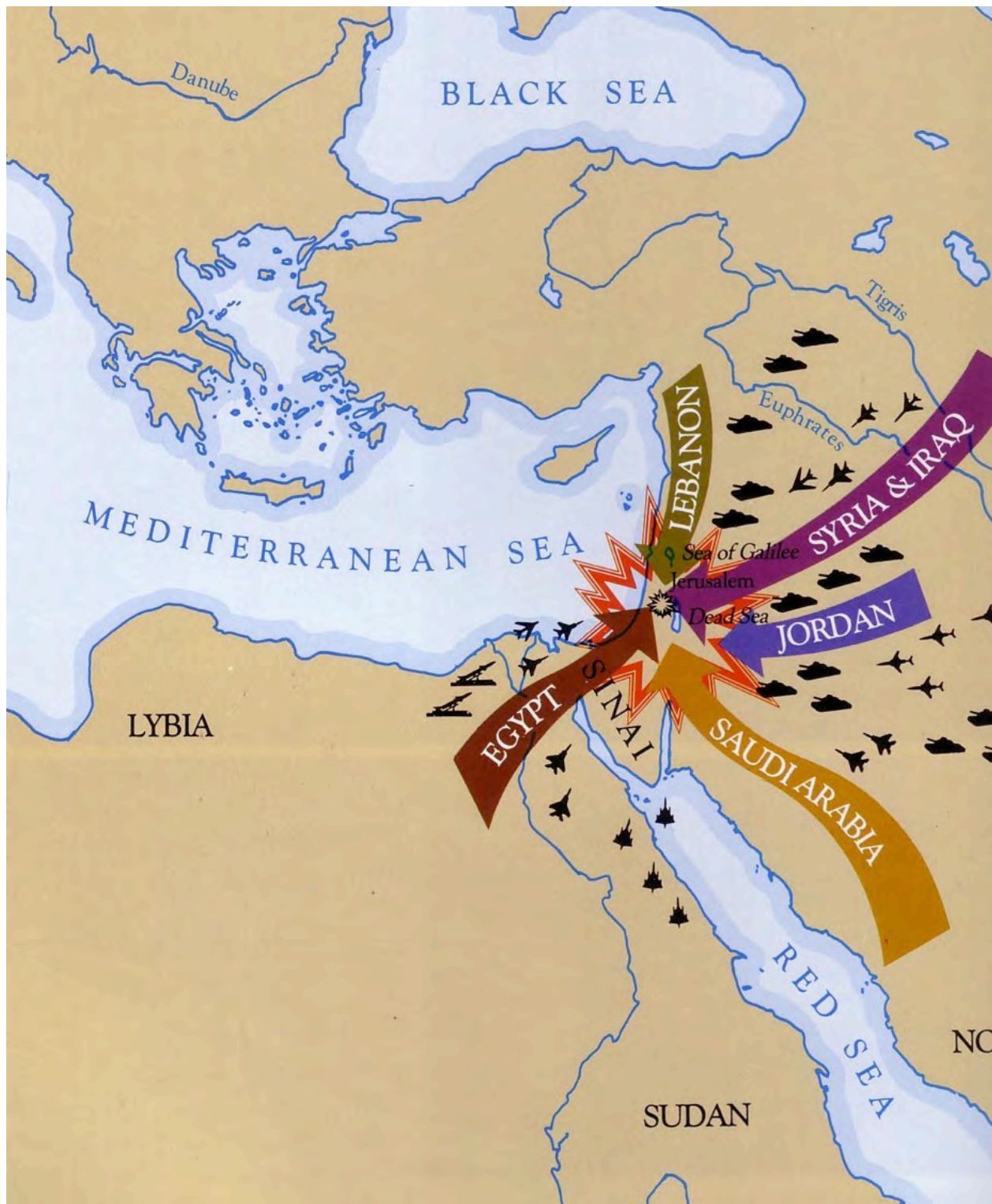
The Activity of the Antichrist

Chronology of the 70th "Week"

333

Adapted from J. Dwight Pentecost, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1988





Daniel 11:40

- Israel's enemies will invade her land

Daniel 11:40-45

- Even ships in the Mediterranean will join the battle



West Meets East (Dan. 11:44)



Beasts of Rev. 13



**Dragon =
Satan**

**Sea Beast =
Antichrist**

**Land Beast =
False Prophet**

Used with permission

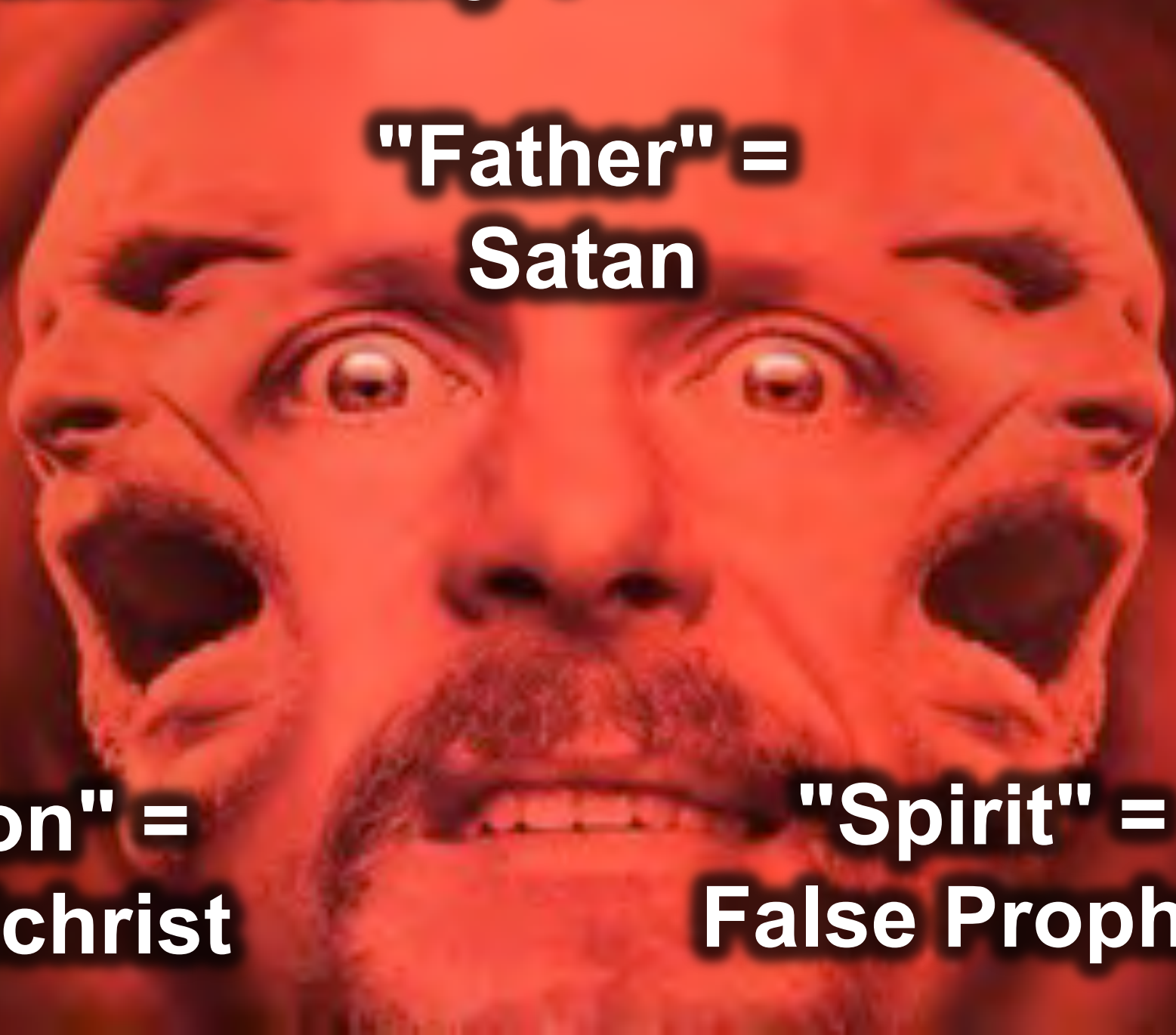
A Satanic "Trinity":

387

**"Father" =
Satan**

**"Son" =
Antichrist**

**"Spirit" =
False Prophet**



The world will
worship the beast



He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelation 13:16-17



The Mark
in the
Right Hand

"As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth. ¹⁴He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess 2:13-14 NLT).

"With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter. ¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, ¹⁷comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say" (2 Thess 2:15-17 NLT).

**Trusting amidst confusion
produces stability**



Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 3

How does God **affirm** us when
we face tough times?



I. *Emotionally*: God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).



II. *Theologically:* God gives us **truth to bring stability (2 Thess 2).**



2 Thessalonians 3

How God affirms...



Outline of 2 Thessalonians

III. Practically: God cultivates **discipline** in us to build responsibility (2 Thess 3).



"Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you. ²Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer" (2 Thess 3:1-2 NLT).

**"But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴And we are confident in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we commanded you. ⁵May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ"
(2 Thess 3:3-5 NLT).**

**"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. ⁷For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you"
(2 Thess 3:6-7 NLT).**

Discipline the Idle (3:6-15)

A photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt, lying on a brown corduroy couch. He is sleeping with his eyes closed. A black remote control is resting on his chest. The background is a textured brown wall.

"...Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us" (3:6 NLT)

"We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow" (2 Thess 3:8-9 NLT).

Discipline the Idle (3:6-15)

A photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt, lying on a brown corduroy couch. He is sleeping with his eyes closed. A black remote control is resting on his chest. The background is a textured brown wall.

"...**Stay away from all believers who live idle lives** and don't follow the tradition they received from us" (3:6 NLT)

"Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: '**Those unwilling to work will not get to eat**'" (3:10 NLT)

"Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. ¹²We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. ¹³As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good" (2 Thess 3:11-13 NLT).

"We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies" (2 Thess 3:11 NIV).

"Take note of those who refuse to obey what we say in this letter. Stay away from them so they will be ashamed. ¹⁵Don't think of them as enemies, but warn them as you would a brother or sister" (2 Thess 3:14-15 NLT).

Benediction

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all.

2 Thess 3:16 (NLT)

**"HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN
HANDWRITING: PAUL. I DO THIS IN ALL MY
LETTERS TO PROVE THEY ARE FROM ME.**

**¹⁸May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be
with you all" (2 Thess 3:17-18 NLT).**

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together, resting on a wooden surface. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The person on the left is wearing a dark blue sleeve with white polka dots and a thin gold bracelet. The person on the right is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and a dark beaded bracelet. The background is softly blurred, showing a bright, indoor setting.

**Waiting with discipline
cultivates responsibility**

Charles R. Swindoll, *Steadfast Christianity*, 3

How does God **affirm** us when
we face tough times?



God affirms



Emotions

1



Theology

2



Practice

3

God affirms *holistically*

(Main Idea of 2 Thessalonians)

I. *Emotionally*: God gives **perseverance** to bring maturity (2 Thess 1).



II. *Theologically:* God gives us **truth** to bring stability (2 Thess 2).



III. Practically: God cultivates **discipline** in us to build responsibility (2 Thess 3).



Sister Mrosia's Third Grade Class

St. Mary's School in Morris, Minnesota



Helen P. Mrosla



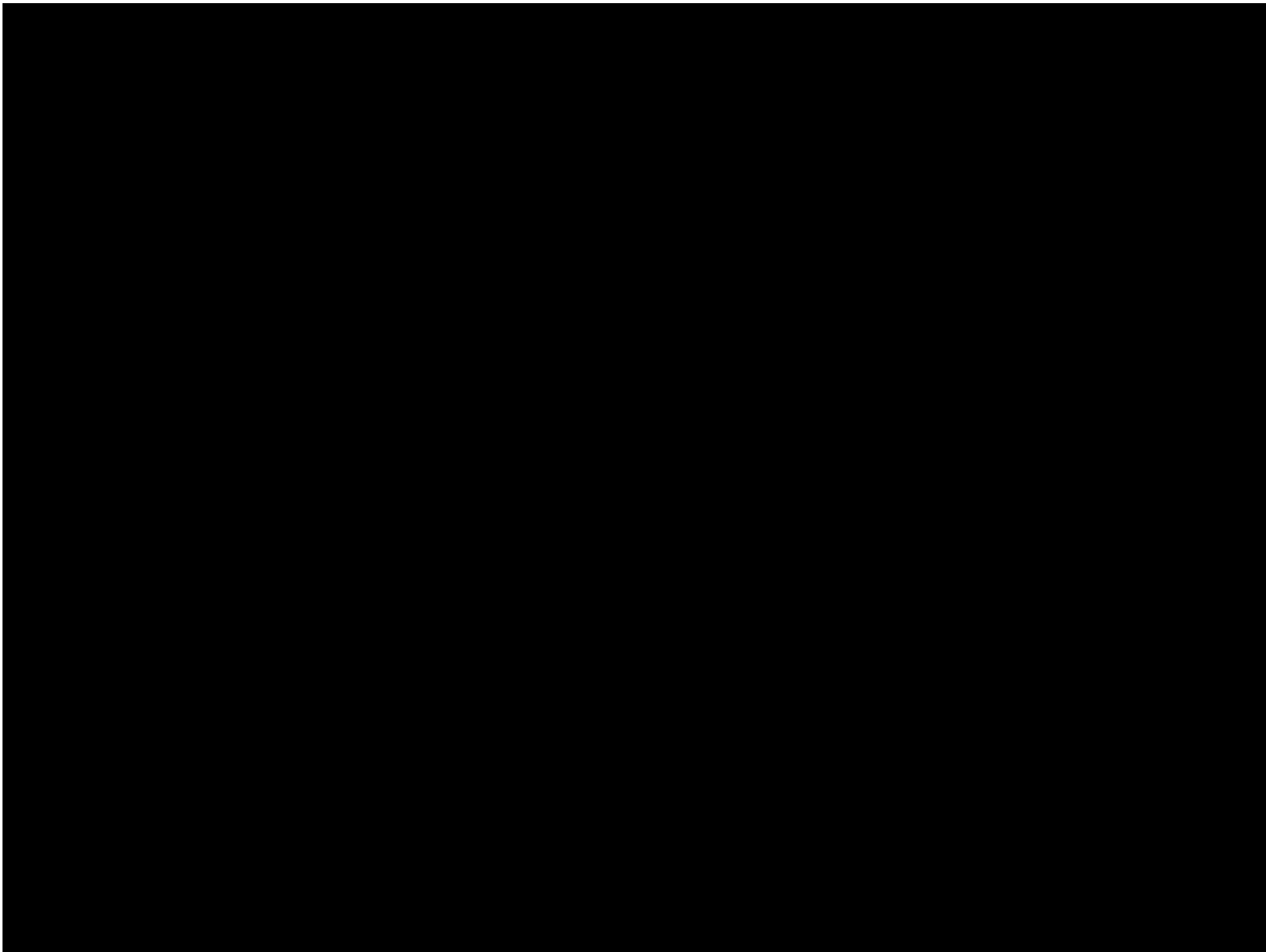
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