



Be Love



An iceberg floating in a blue ocean under a blue sky with white clouds. The tip of the iceberg is above the water, while the much larger, jagged base is submerged. Two text boxes are overlaid on the right side of the image.

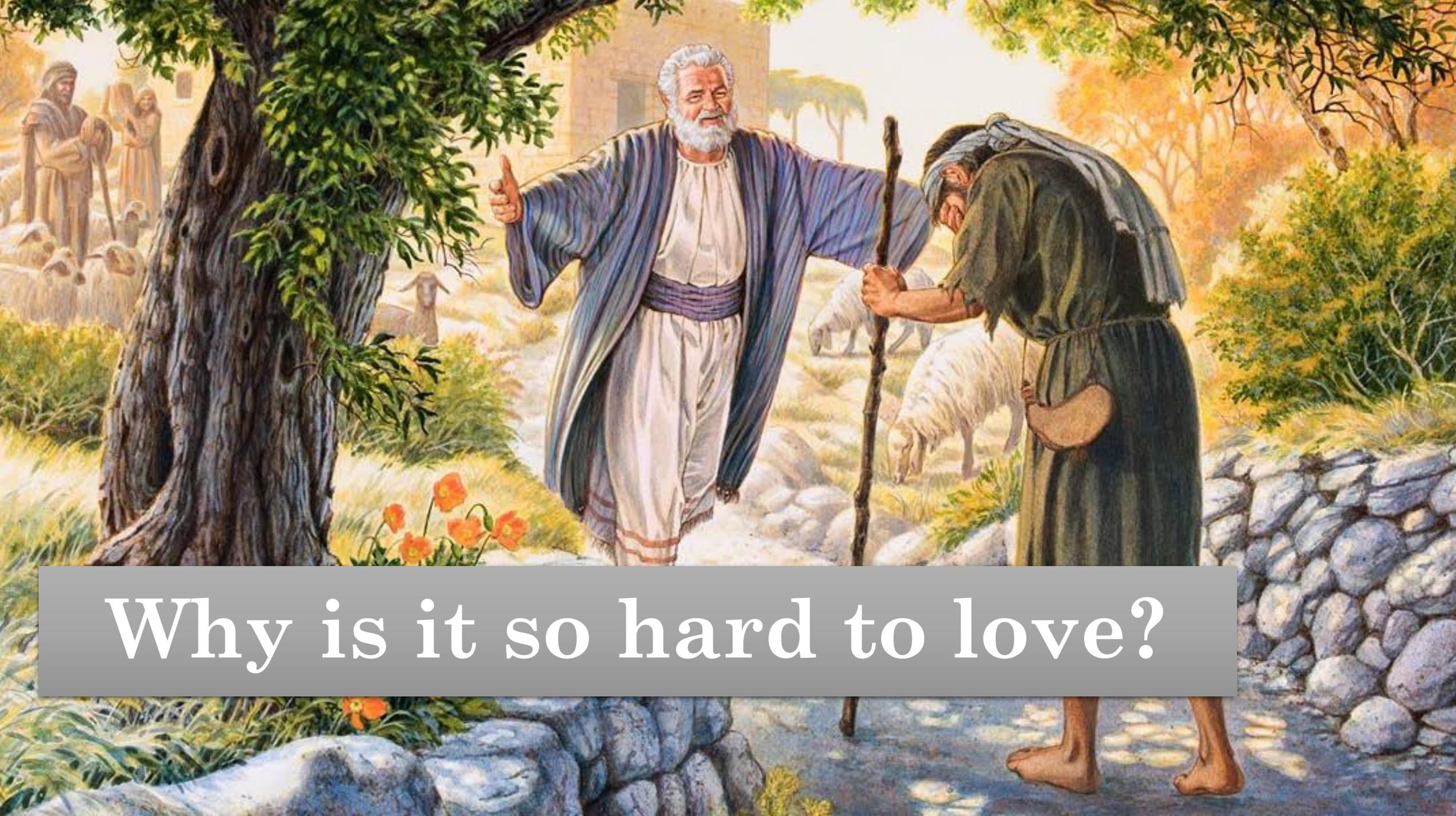
Scriptures

Life



1 John 4:7-13

7 Beloved, let us love one another; for love is ***of*** God; and everyone that loveth is ***born*** of God, and ***knoweth*** God. 8 He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God ***is*** love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 ***Herein is love***, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, ***we ought also to love one another***. 12 No man hath seen God at any time, except them who believe. ***If*** we love one another, God dwelleth ***in us***, and his love is perfected in us. 13 Hereby know we that we dwell ***in him***, and he ***in us***, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

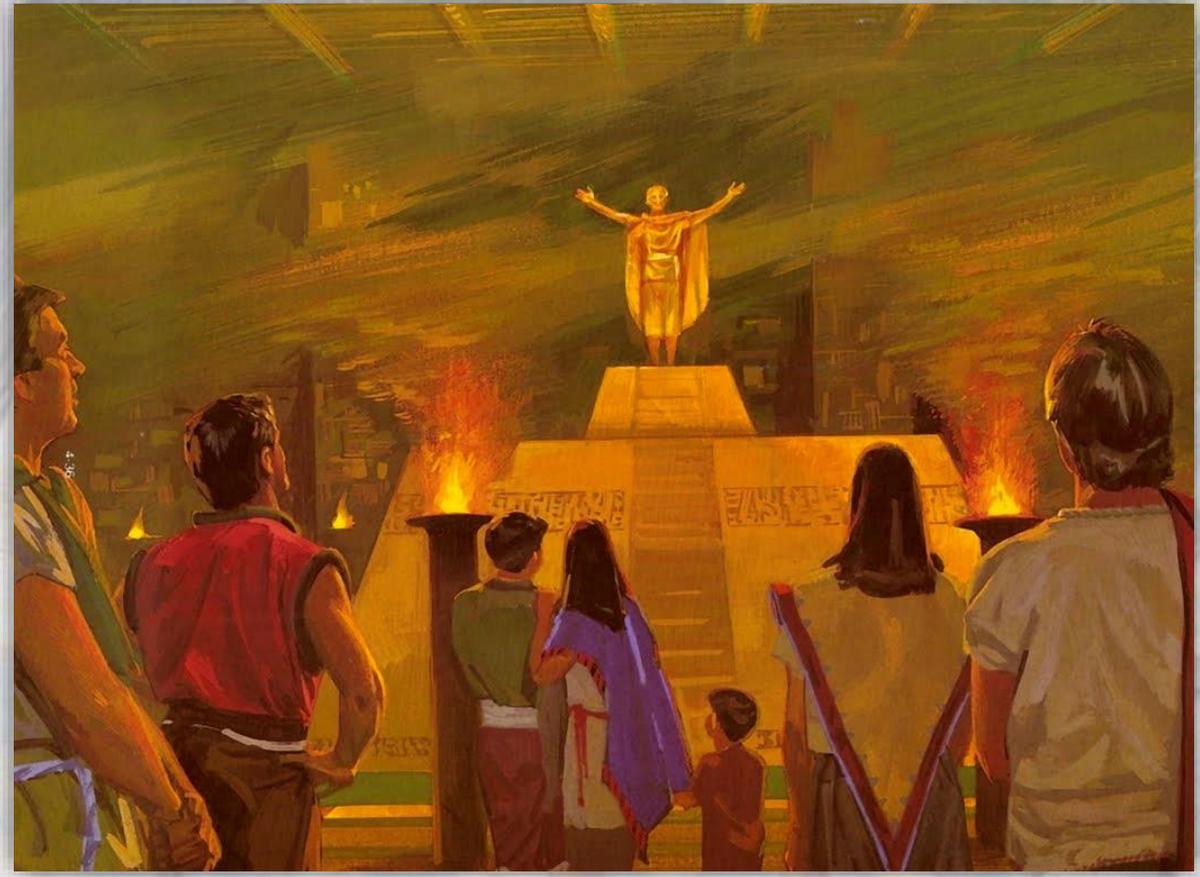


Why is it so hard to love?

Pride



Selfishness





What expands our field of vision?

1 John 4:8

8 He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for **God is love.**

1 John 1:5

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light,** and in him is no darkness at all.

What expands our field of vision?

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light + **love** = **Intelligence** ≠ **Smart**



John 3:16-22

16 For God so loved the world, that he **gave** his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent **not** his Son into the world to **condemn** the world; but that the world through him might be **saved**. **18** He who believeth on him is not condemned; but he who believeth not **is** condemned already, **because** he hath **not believed** on the name of the Only Begotten Son of God, which before was preached by the mouth of the holy prophets; for they testified of me...

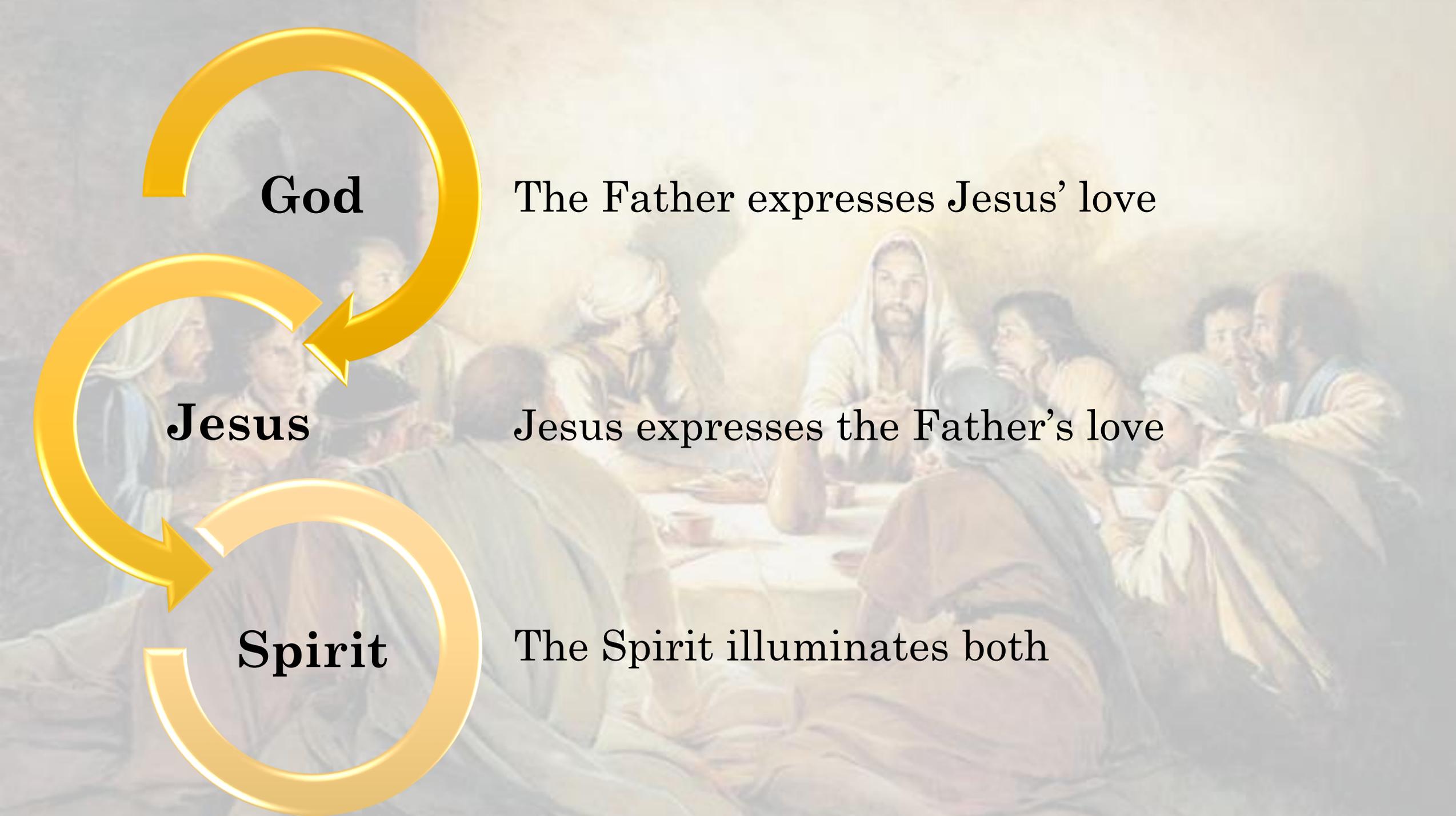
John 3:16-22

19 And this **is** the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness **rather** than light, because their deeds are evil. **20** For every one who doeth evil **hateth** the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. **21** But he who **loveth** truth, **cometh** to the light, that his deeds may be made **manifest**. **22** And he who obeyeth the truth, the works which he doeth they are of God.



John 17:11-26

- [Verse 11-12] Jesus prayed that the Father would keep the disciples in the Father's name, so that they would be **one**.
- [Verse 20-21] Jesus prayed that those who believe might become **one** as the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father
- [Verse 22-23] Jesus gave them the glory that the Father had given Him so that they could become **one** and be perfected
- [Verse 26] Jesus declared the Father's name so that the same measure of love that God had for Jesus might be in them.



God

The Father expresses Jesus' love

Jesus

Jesus expresses the Father's love

Spirit

The Spirit illuminates both



Be One

Matthew 12:21

21 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom **divided** against itself is **brought to desolation**; and every city or house divided against itself, shall not stand....

Matthew 24:31

31 And again, **because** iniquity shall abound, the love of men **shall** wax cold; but he that shall not be overcome, the same shall be saved.

DC 38:6a

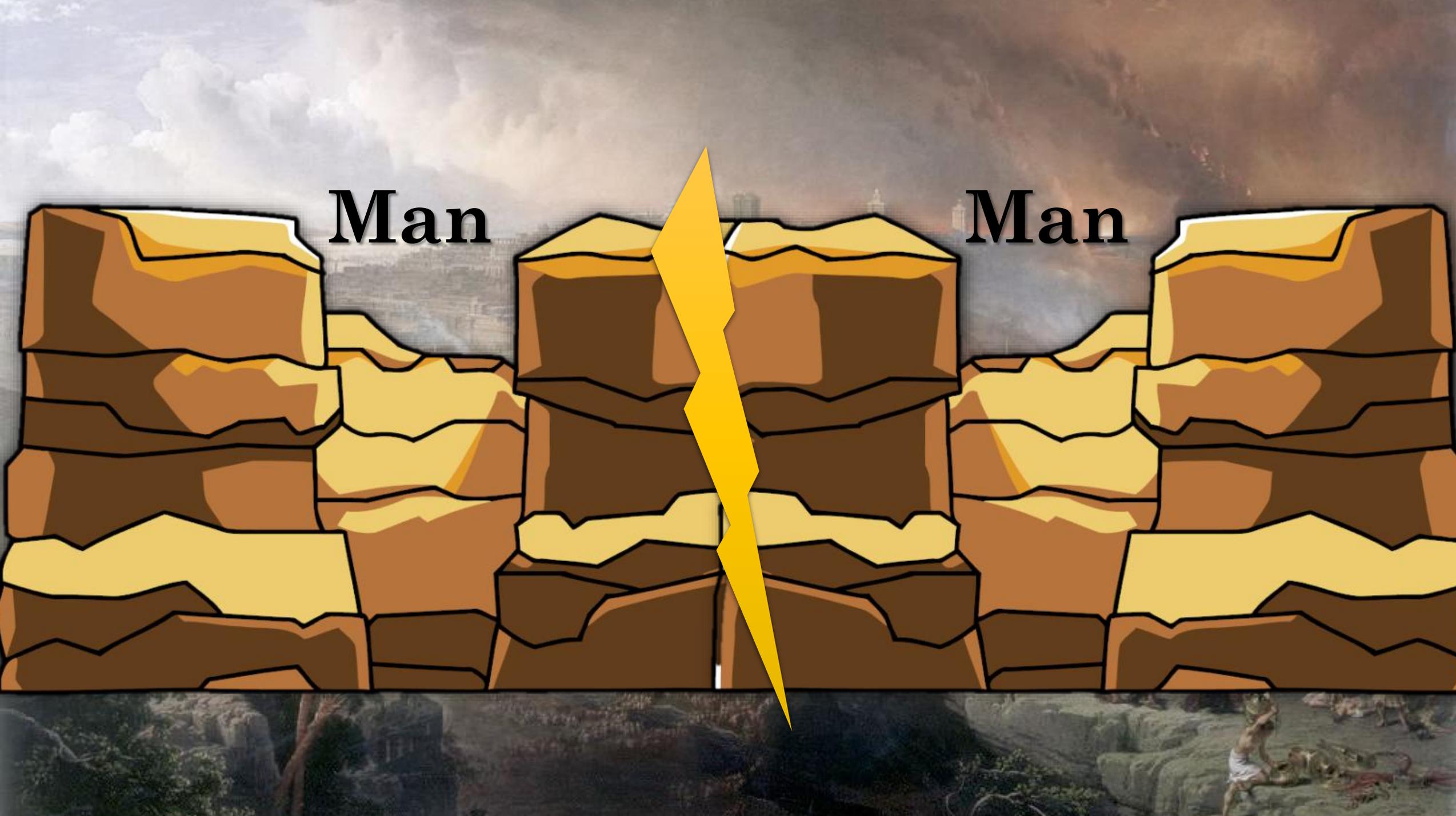
6a Behold, this I have given unto you a parable, and it is even as I am: I say unto you, Be one; and if ye are **not** one, ye are **not** mine.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? **17** For we being many are **one** bread, and **one** body; for we are **all** partakers of that one bread.

Man

Man



Man

Division

Man

Tribulation



Man

Man

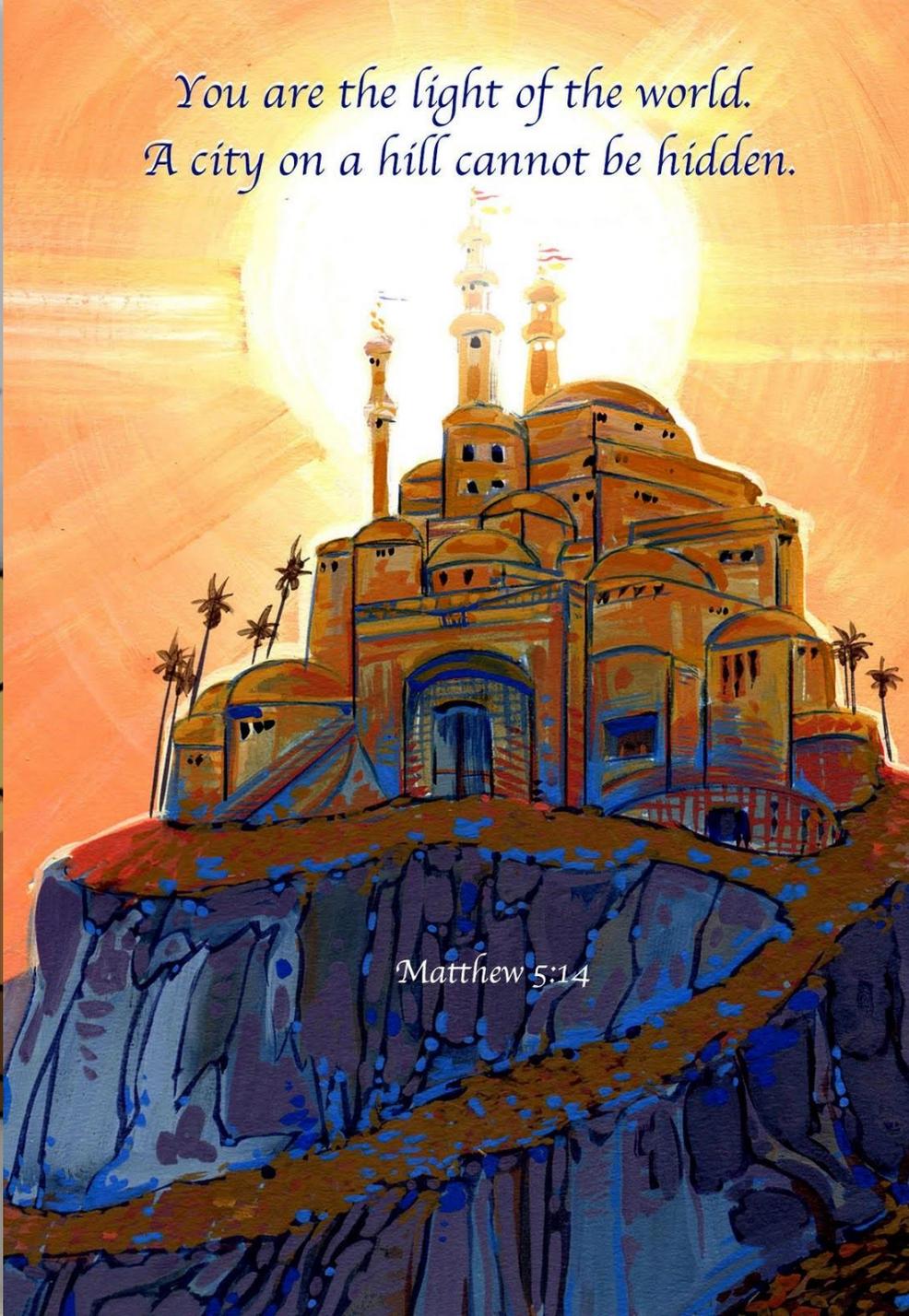


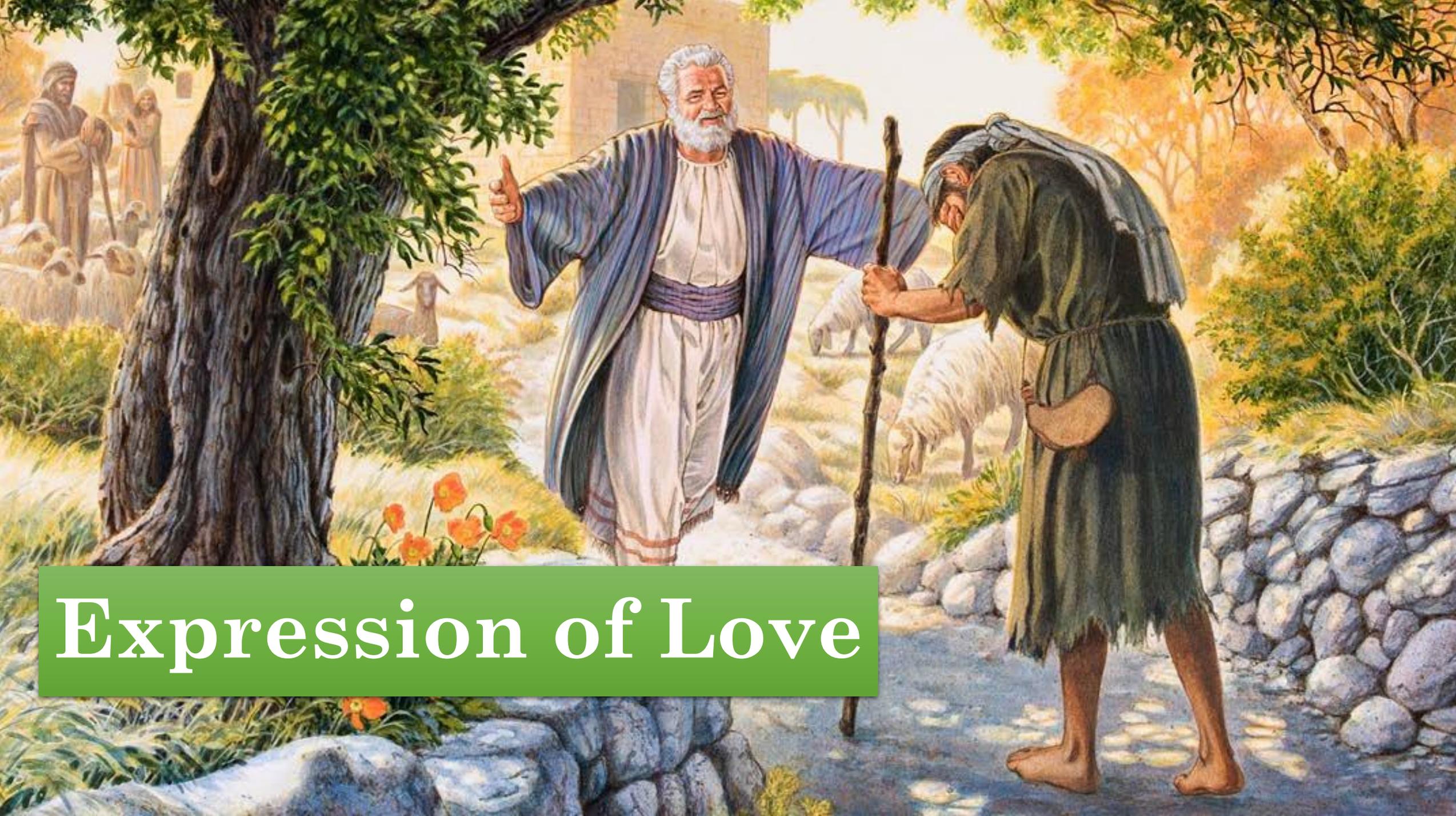
*You are the light of the world.
A city on a hill cannot be hidden.*

Ma

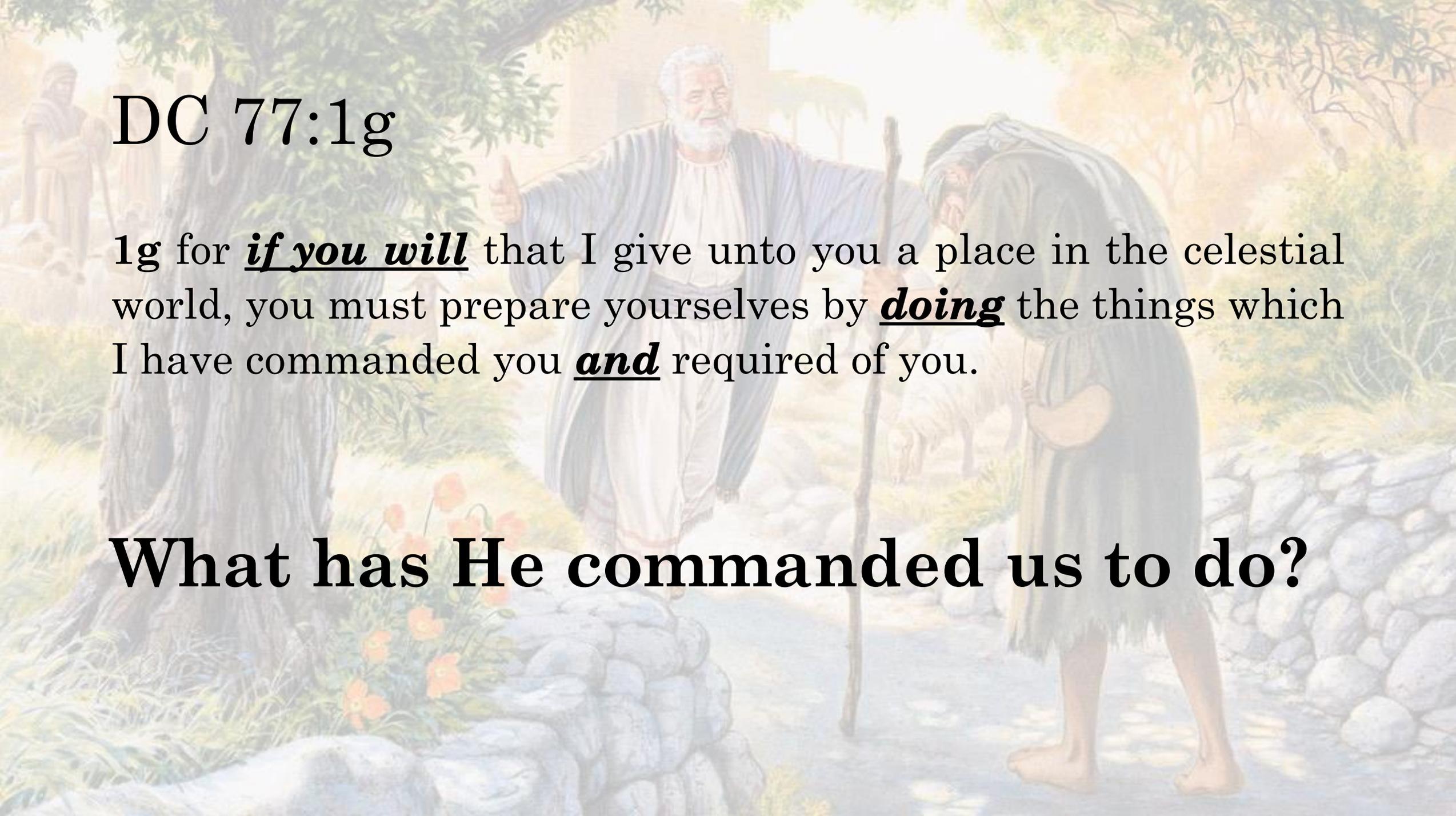
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Matthew 5:14





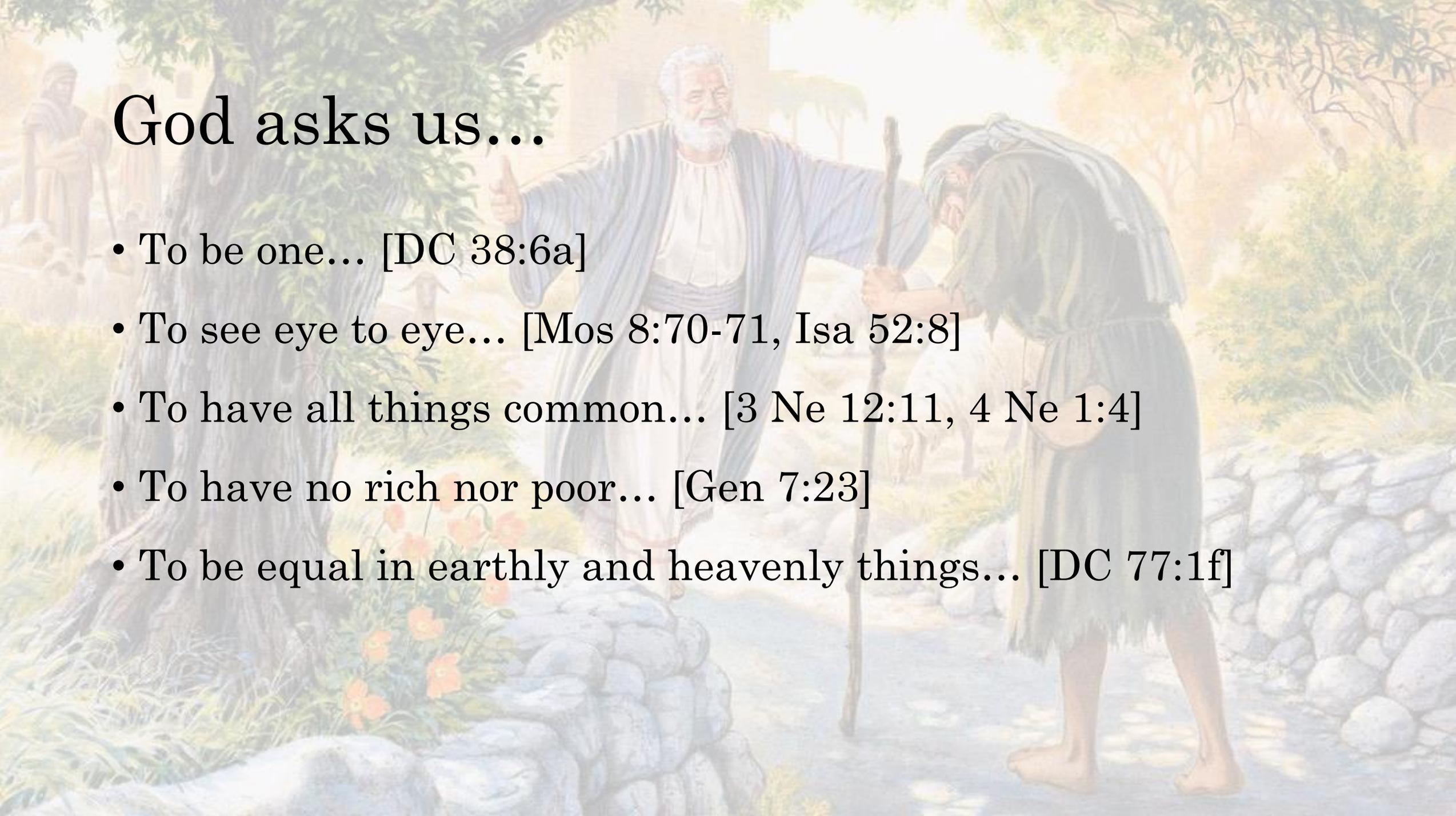
Expression of Love



DC 77:1g

1g for **if you will** that I give unto you a place in the celestial world, you must prepare yourselves by **doing** the things which I have commanded you **and** required of you.

What has He commanded us to do?



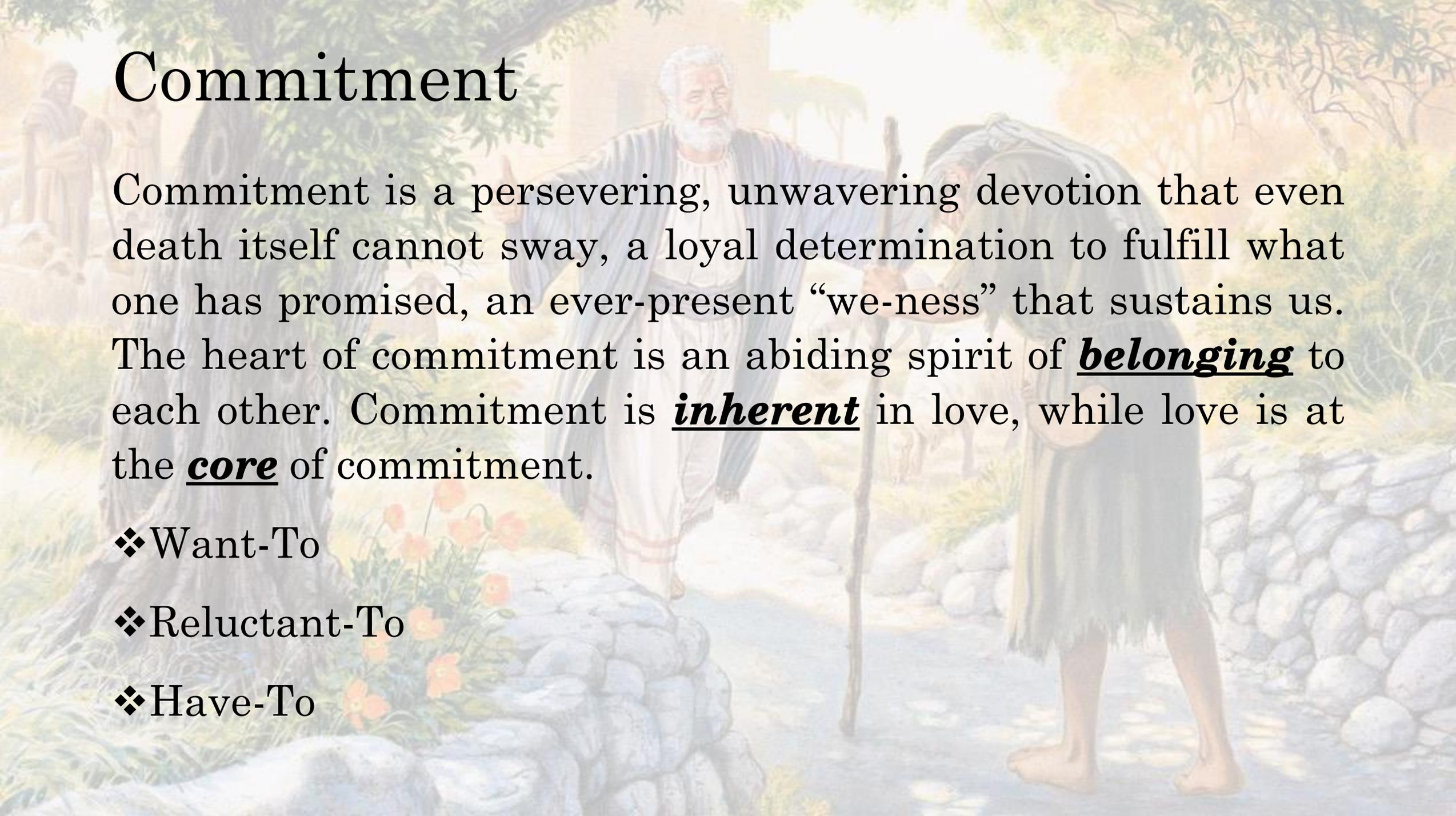
God asks us...

- To be one... [DC 38:6a]
- To see eye to eye... [Mos 8:70-71, Isa 52:8]
- To have all things common... [3 Ne 12:11, 4 Ne 1:4]
- To have no rich nor poor... [Gen 7:23]
- To be equal in earthly and heavenly things... [DC 77:1f]



How do we knit our hearts together?

Commitment



Commitment is a persevering, unwavering devotion that even death itself cannot sway, a loyal determination to fulfill what one has promised, an ever-present “we-ness” that sustains us. The heart of commitment is an abiding spirit of **belonging** to each other. Commitment is **inherent** in love, while love is at the **core** of commitment.

❖ Want-To

❖ Reluctant-To

❖ Have-To

Want-To Commitment



- Do you have a “we” attitude?
- Are we good friends toward each other?
- Do we share?
- Do we give, do we take?
- How do we live out commitment in other areas of our life?
- Do we reach out to each other? Are we inclusive?
- How do we handle guilt when we let each other down?
- Do we initiate apologies and resolutions?
- Do we make sacrifices for each other?
- Do we make each other a priority?

Want-To Commitment



- What do you love about the body of Christ?
- How does your Church family make you feel loved and accepted?
- How do they show you respect?
- What attracts you the most to the Church?

Reluctant-To Commitment



- This strand of commitment says, “I am so very reluctant to let go, say good-bye, hurt my family, start over, be alone, never have anything better, and never get back what I put into our relationship.”

Reluctant-To Commitment



- What causes you reluctance or insecurity about pulling away from the Church family?
- What ways have you invested yourself in the Church?
- What experiences have you shared with the body of Christ?
- What is the extent of openness you have achieved with the branch?
- What are ways you depend on the branch?
- What apprehensions do you have about not being a part of this body?

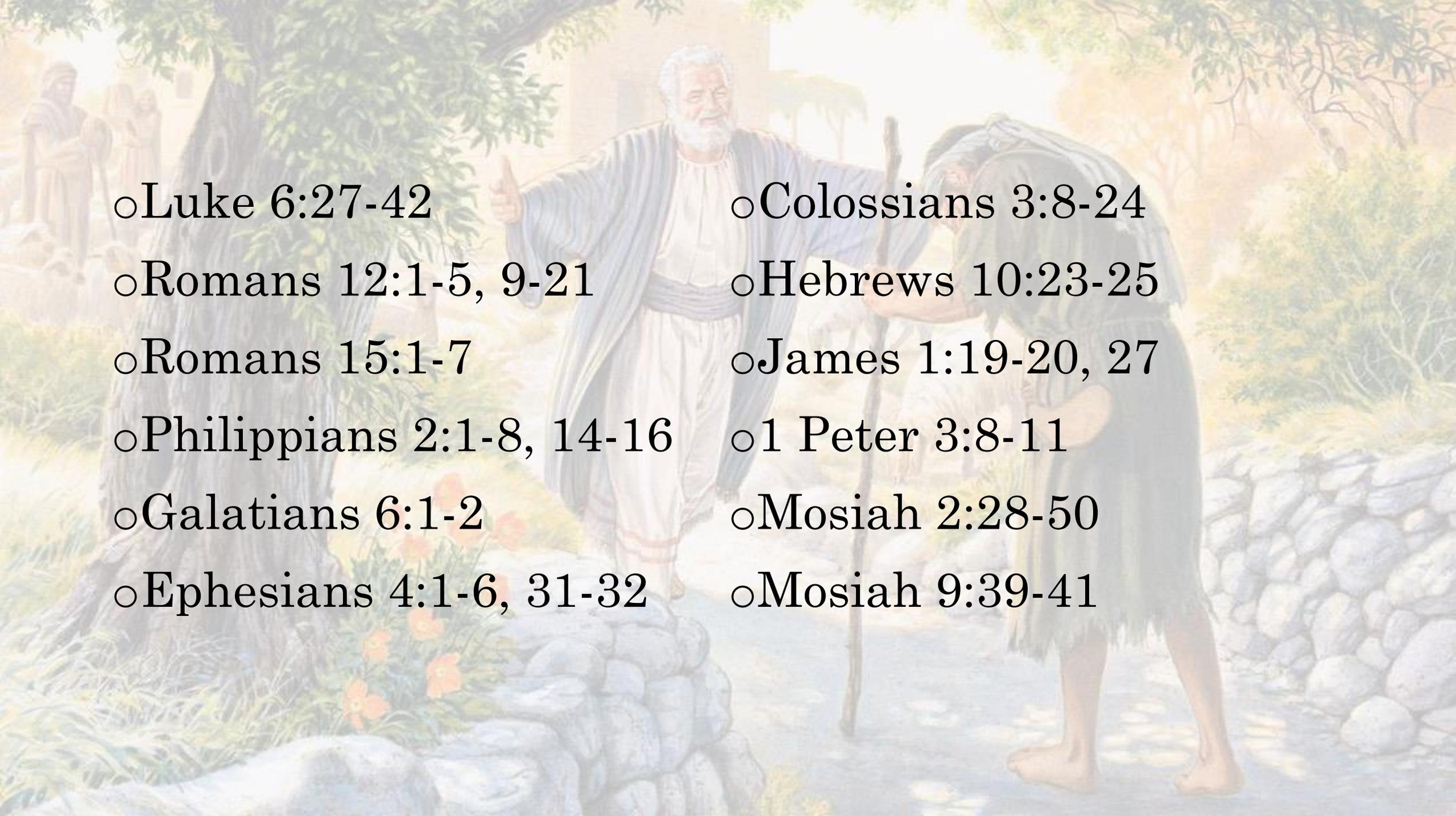
Have-To Commitment



- What are those things we must do in order to seal that commitment to one another?
- Humility
- Forgiveness
- Mercy
- Sacrifice
- Which of these are you committed to work on?



How-To Scriptures



○Luke 6:27-42

○Romans 12:1-5, 9-21

○Romans 15:1-7

○Philippians 2:1-8, 14-16

○Galatians 6:1-2

○Ephesians 4:1-6, 31-32

○Colossians 3:8-24

○Hebrews 10:23-25

○James 1:19-20, 27

○1 Peter 3:8-11

○Mosiah 2:28-50

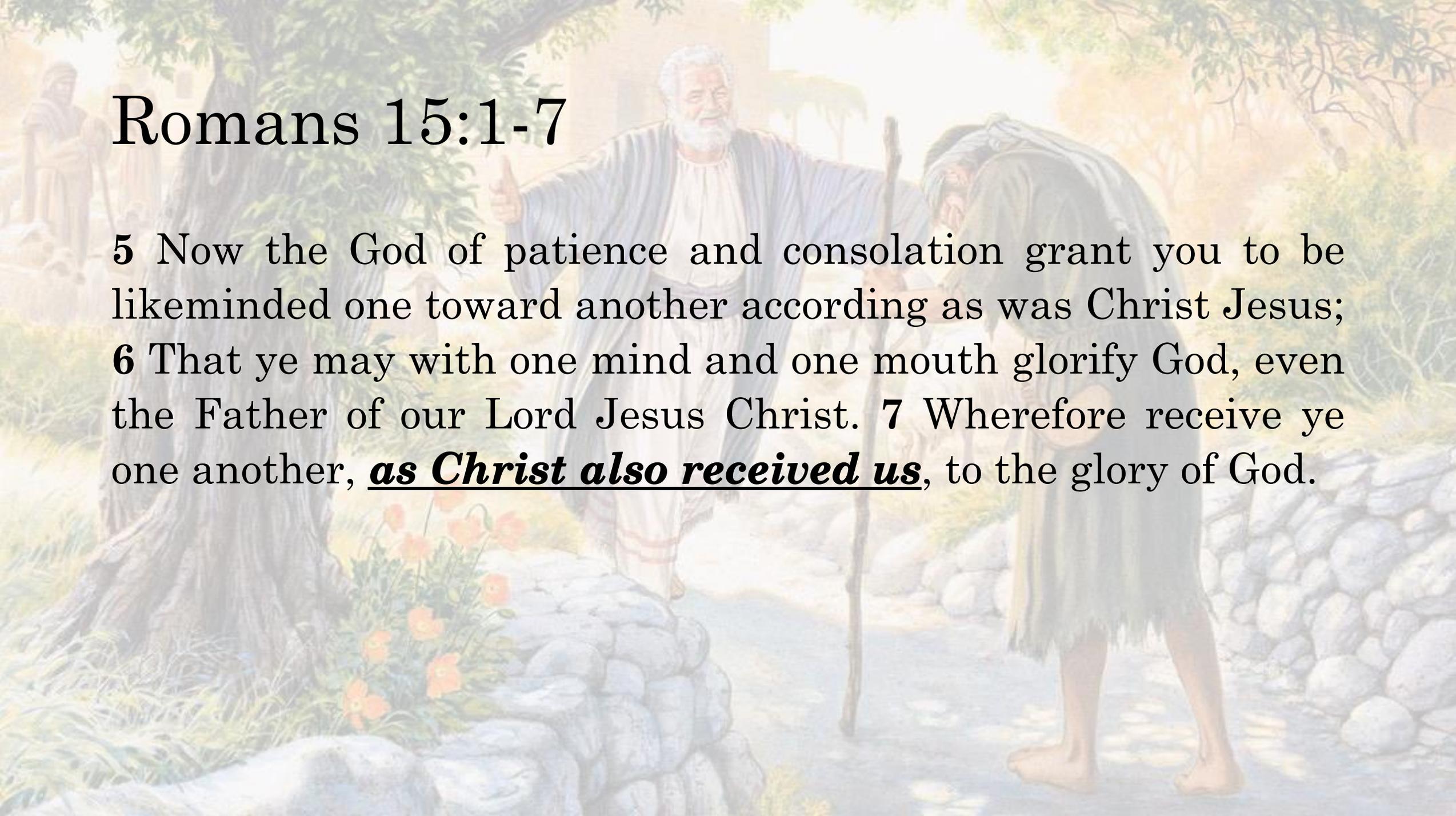
○Mosiah 9:39-41

Luke 6:27-42

26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak **well** of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets. **27** But I say unto you who hear my words, Love your enemies, do good to them who hate you... **33** For if ye love them only who love you, what reward have you? For sinners also do even the same...**35** But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for **nothing** again; and your reward shall be great; and ye shall be the children of the Highest; for he is kind unto the unthankful, and to the evil. **36** Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Romans 12:1-5, 9-21

9 Let love be without **dissimulation**. Abhor that which is evil and cleave to that which is good. **10 Be** kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; **11** Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord... **15** Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. **16** Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. **17** Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.



Romans 15:1-7

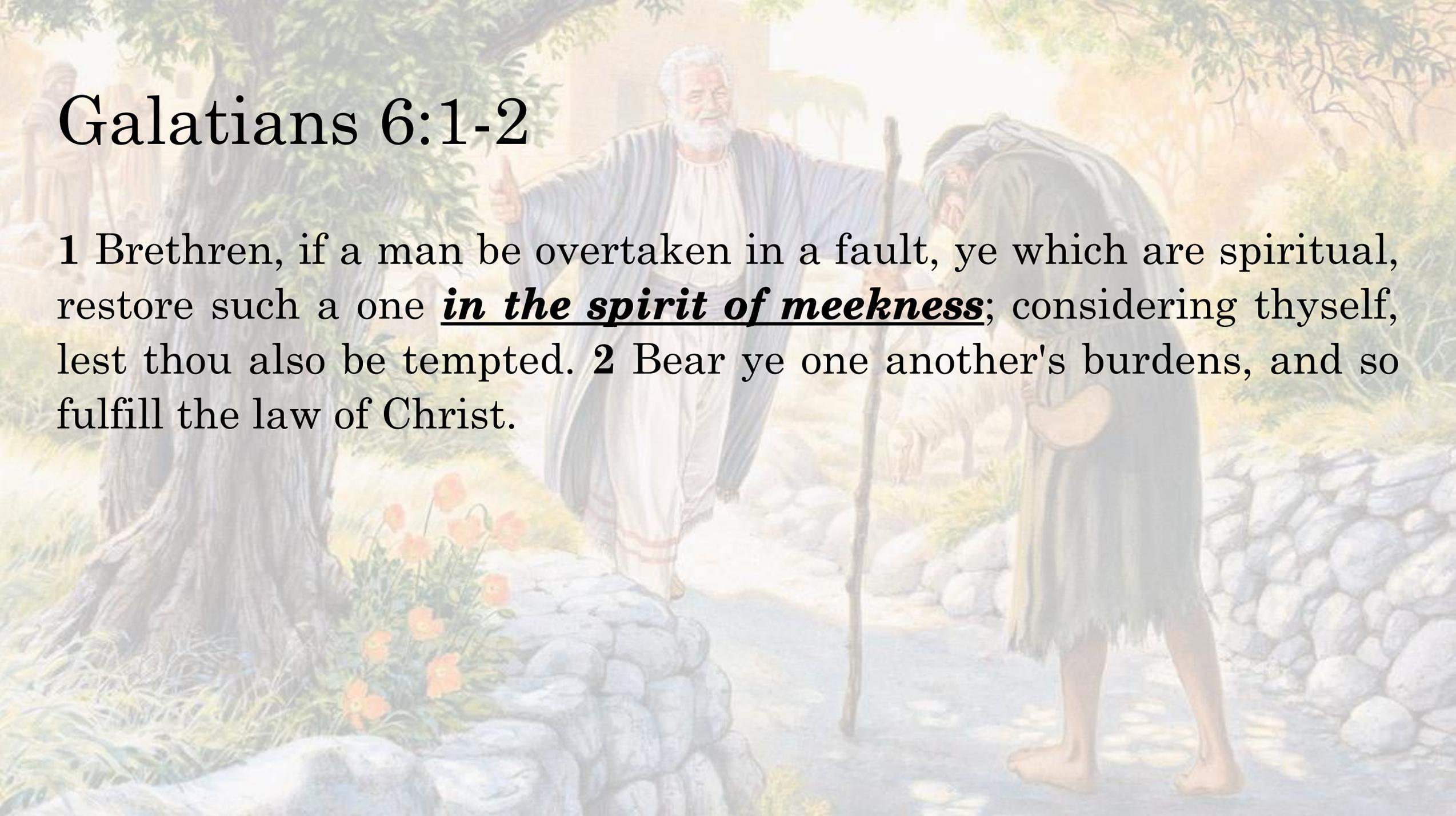
5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according as was Christ Jesus;

6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **7** Wherefore receive ye one another, **as Christ also received us**, to the glory of God.

Philippians 2:1-8, 14-16

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he ***humbled himself***, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Galatians 6:1-2



1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one **in the spirit of meekness**; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

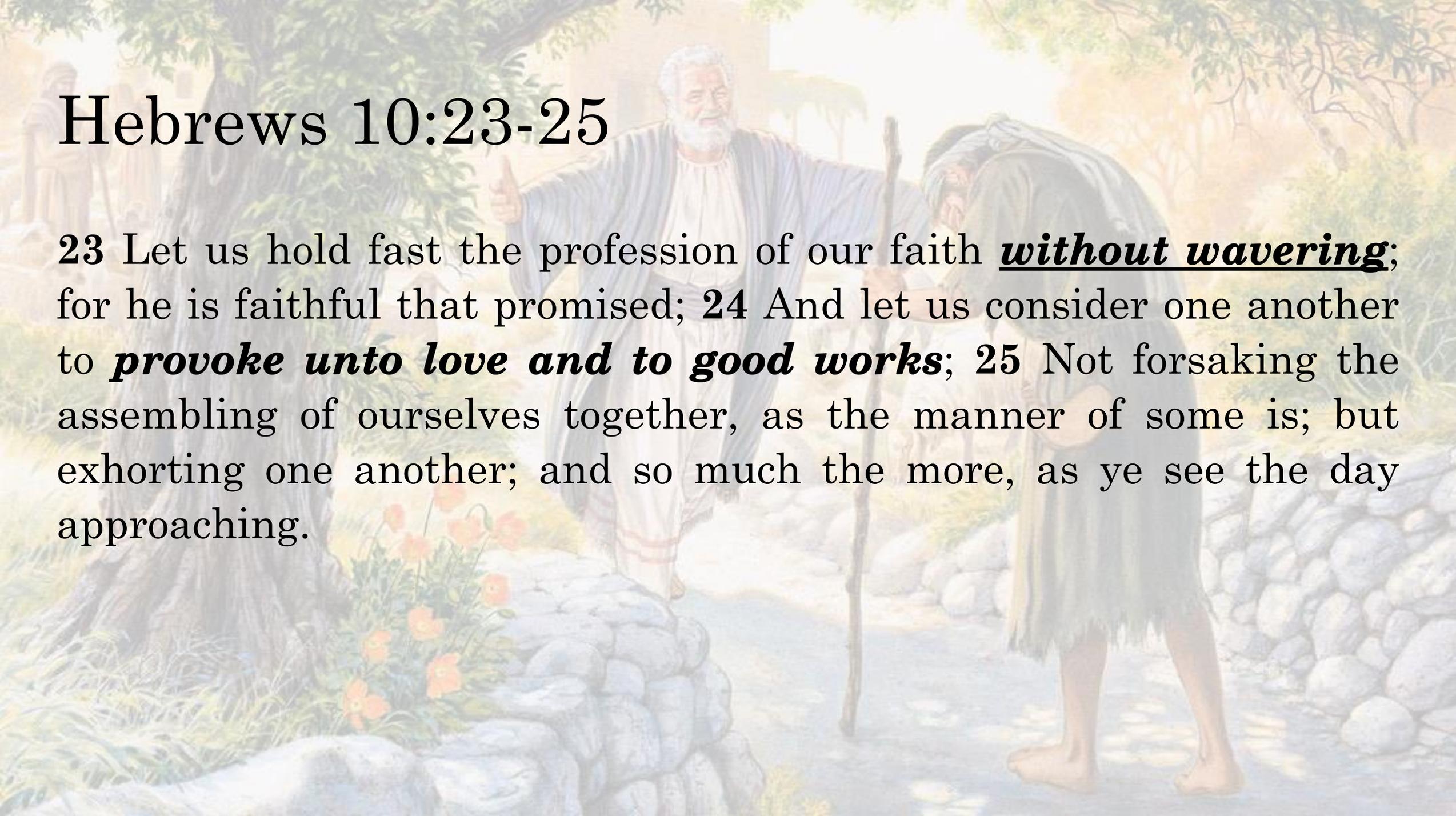
Ephesians 4:1-6, 31-32

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, ***forbearing*** one another in love; 3 Endeavoring to keep the ***unity of the Spirit*** in the bond of peace, 4 In one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all... 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

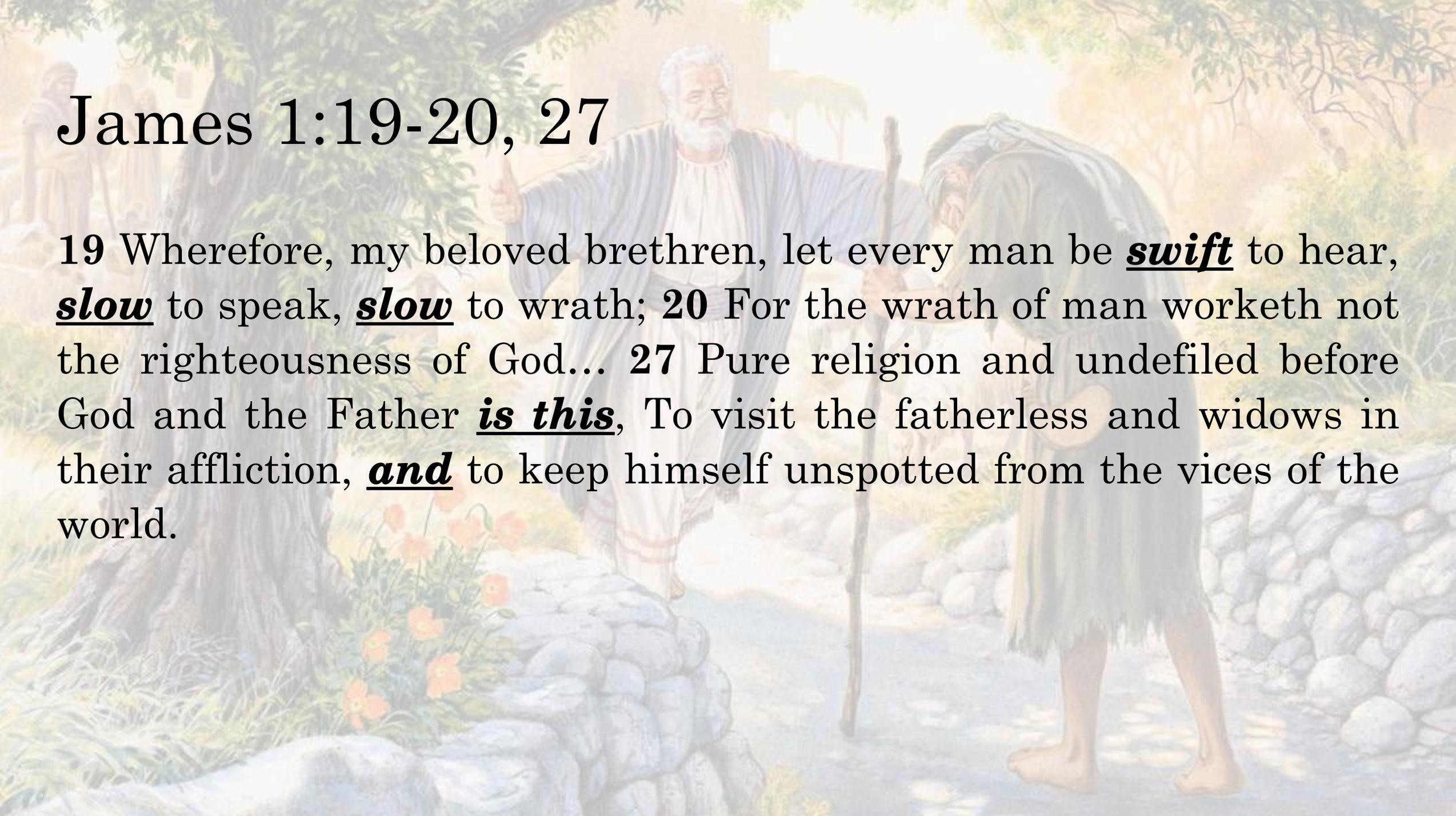
Colossians 3:8-24

8 But now ye also **put off** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him... 12 **Put on** therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Hebrews 10:23-25

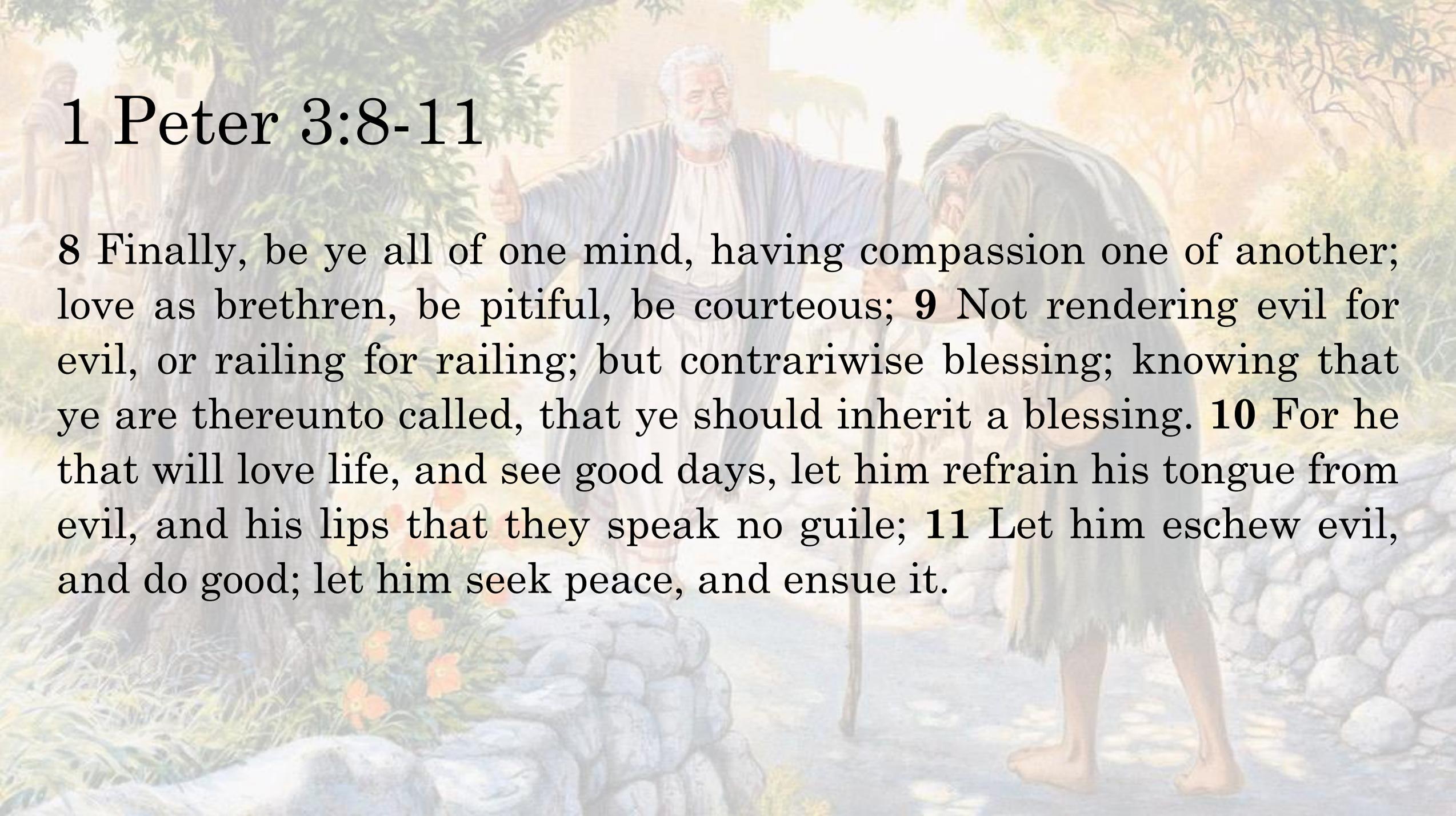


23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith **without wavering**; for he is faithful that promised; **24** And let us consider one another to ***provoke unto love and to good works***; **25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.



James 1:19-20, 27

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be ***swift*** to hear, ***slow*** to speak, ***slow*** to wrath; **20** For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God... **27** Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father ***is this***, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, ***and*** to keep himself unspotted from the vices of the world.



1 Peter 3:8-11

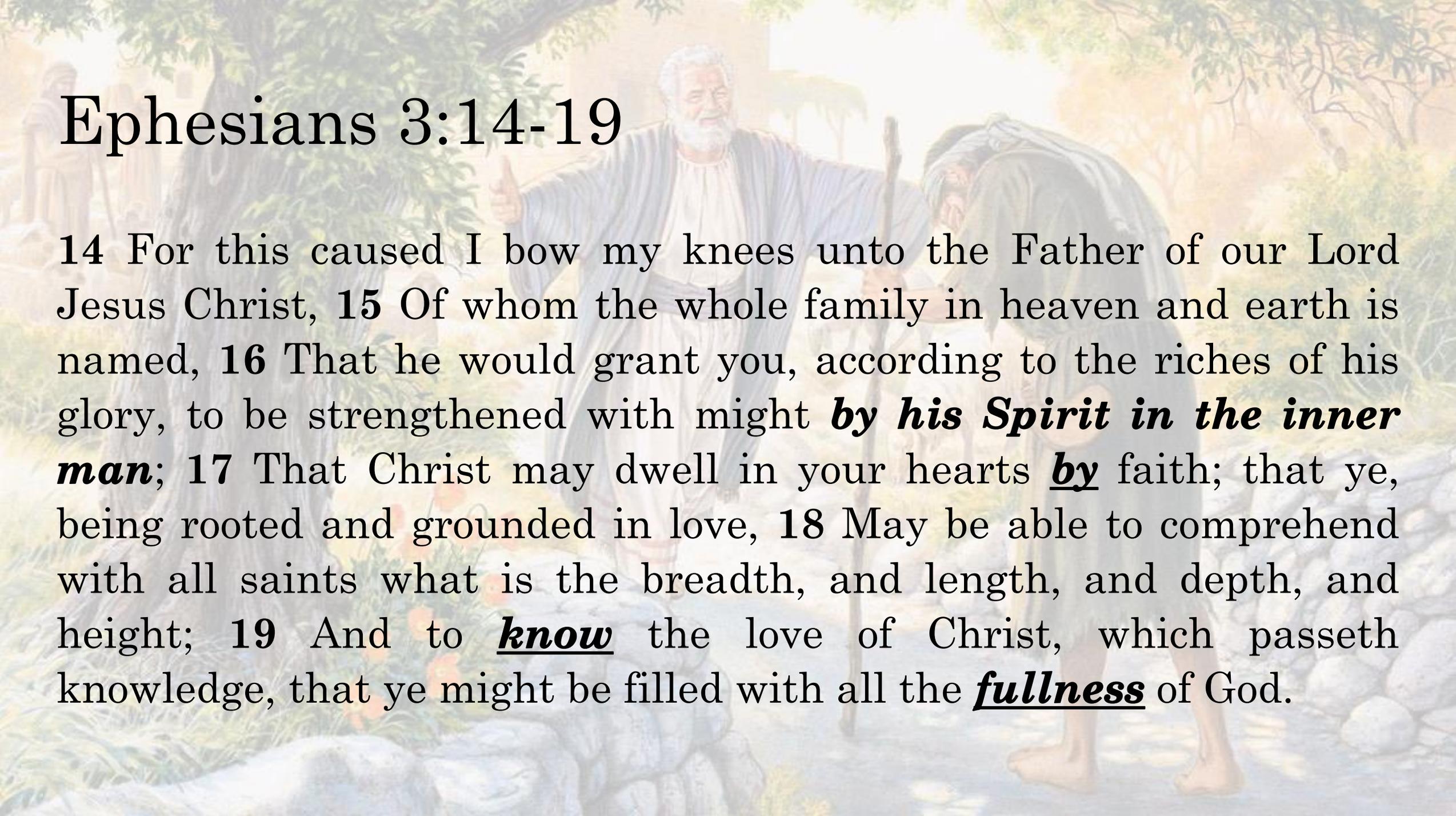
8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous; **9** Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. **10** For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile; **11** Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Mosiah 2:28-50

28 And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; **29** And ye will **not** suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish... **43** I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man ***according to that which he hath***, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants, **44** And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order: for it is **not** requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength.

Mosiah 9:39-41

39 And now, as ye are **desirous** to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are **willing** to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; **40** Yea, and are **willing** to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death... **41** Now I say unto you, If this be the desire of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him that ye **will** serve him and **keep** his commandments, that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you?



Ephesians 3:14-19

14 For this caused I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might ***by his Spirit in the inner man***; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts ***by*** faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to ***know*** the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the ***fullness*** of God.