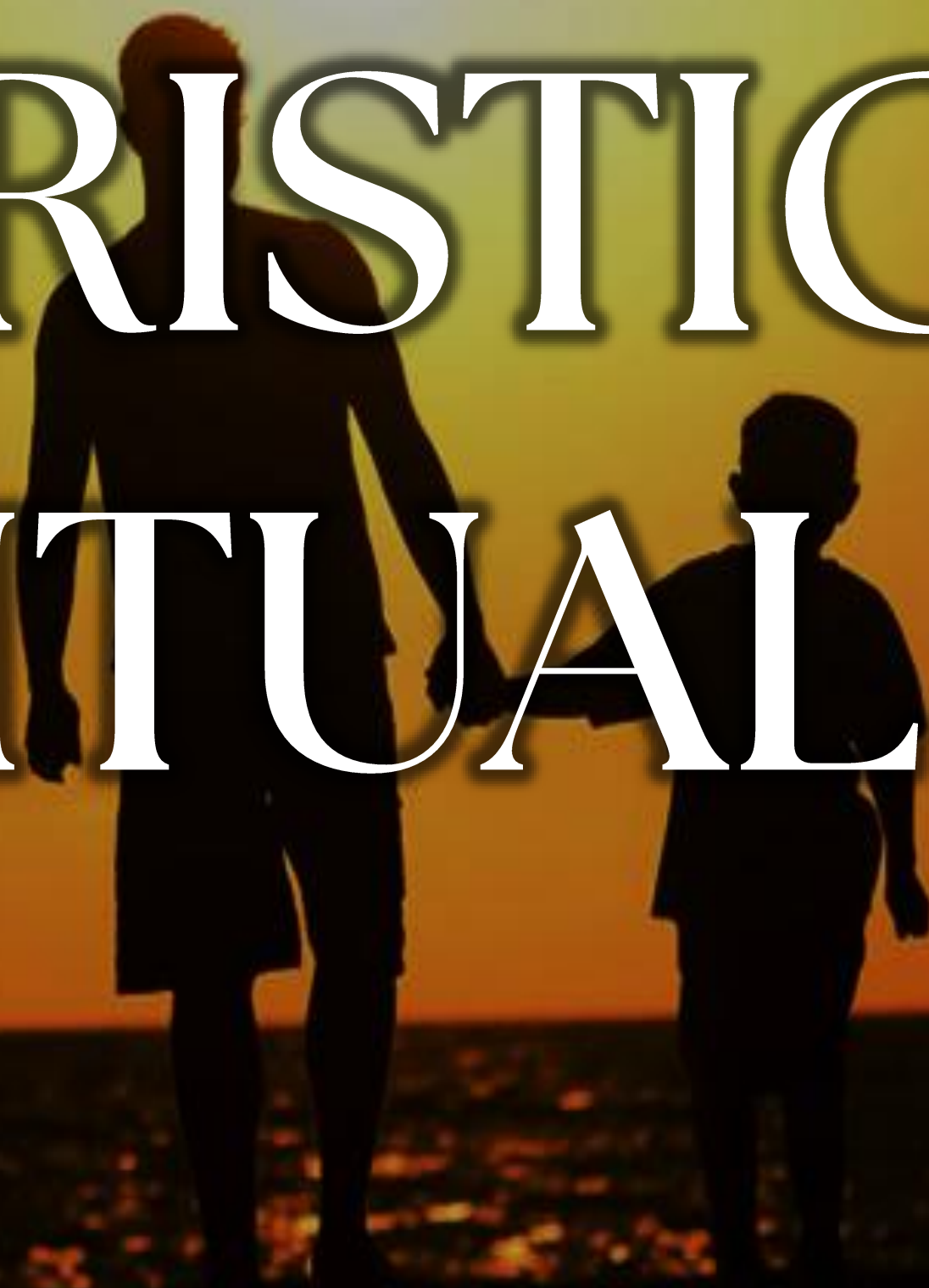
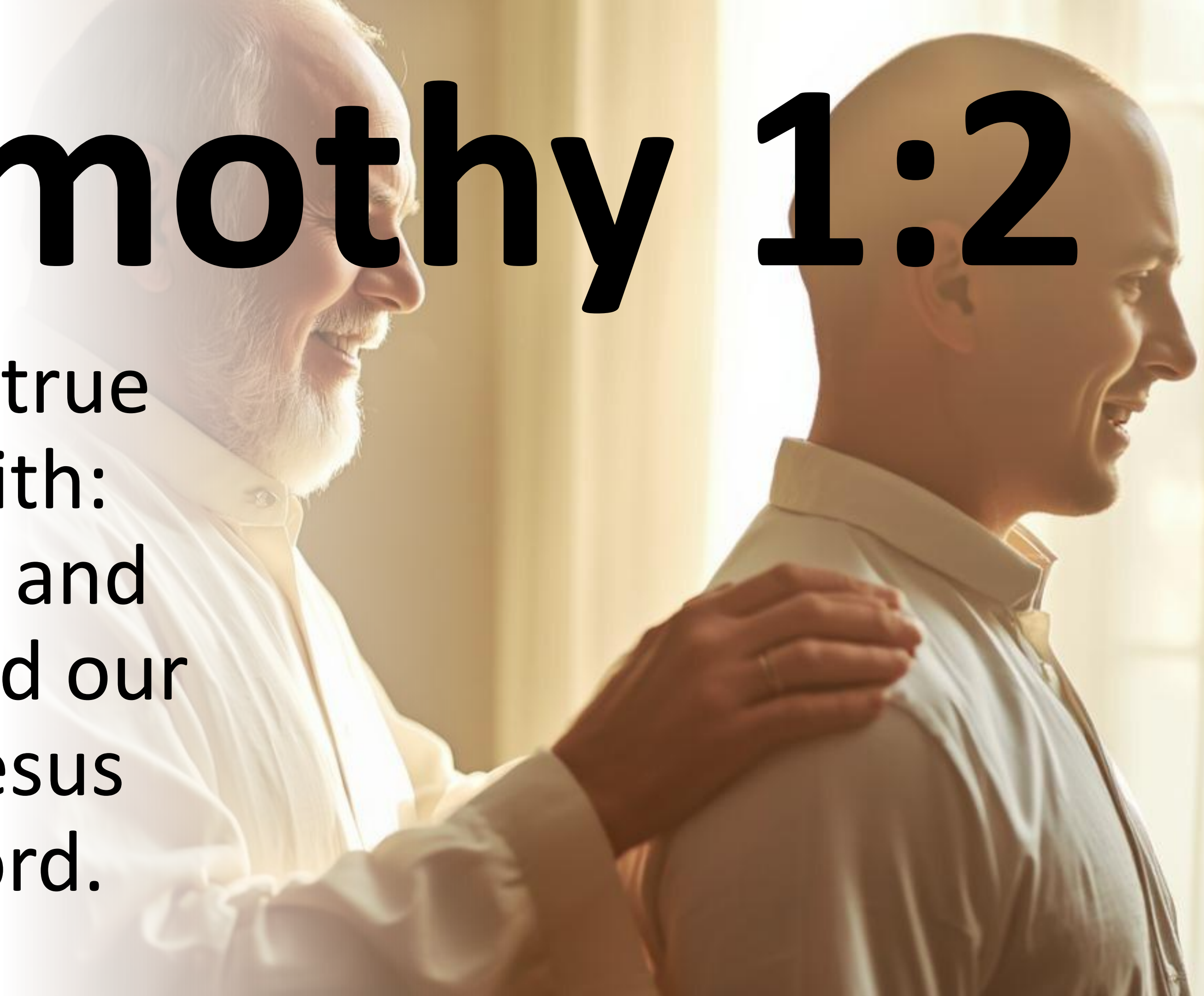


FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SPIRITUAL SON



1 Timothy 1:2

To Timothy, a true
son in the faith:
Grace, mercy, and
peace from God our
Father and Jesus
Christ our Lord.



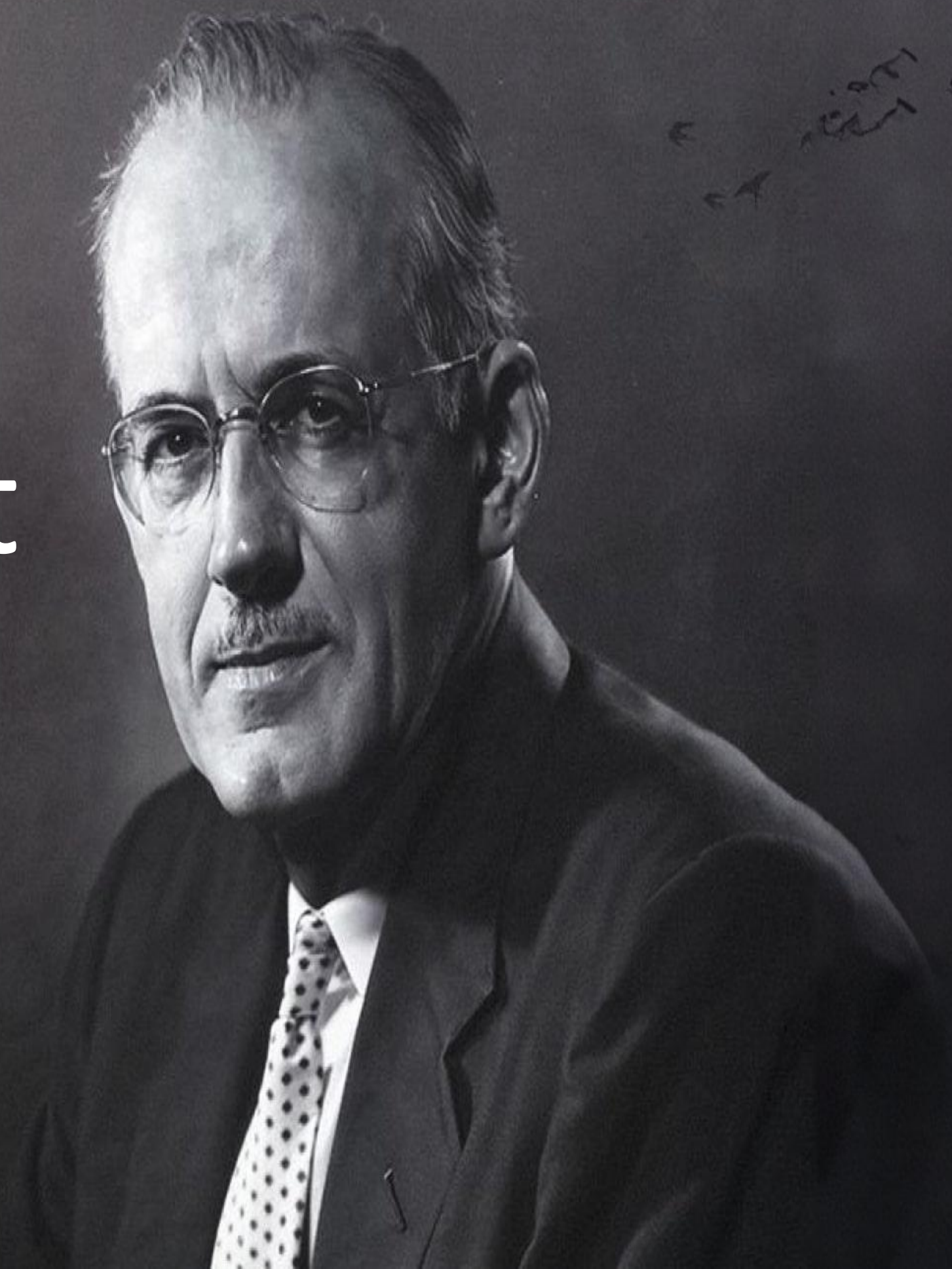
The Crisis of Succession

A prophetic warning about spiritual fatherlessness -- and the cost of leaving no true son behind.



A.W. Tozer, 1955

"We are sending out thousands of preachers but very few true spiritual fathers."



A Legacy That Faltered

A powerhouse ministry,
built without reservation
-- but never poured into a
person. Programmes
replaced passion; a
blazing torch became a
smouldering wick.



POWERHOUSE
MINISTRIES

**Not just the
vision. Not
just the
methods. Not
just the title.**

**But the spirit, the heart,
and the character of the
man of God who had
gone before.**



Paul's Great Concern

Having planted churches across Ephesus, Corinth, Philippi, and Thessalonica, Paul's deepest question was **who would carry the mantle.**



Only Two Called 'A True Child'

**Of all the men Paul
discipled -- Barnabas,
Silas, Luke, Titus, and
dozens more -- only
two did he ever call a
true child in the faith.**



What Made Timothy a True Spiritual Son?



Saving Faith

**Genuine salvation
is the foundation of
spiritual sonship.**



1 Timothy 6:20-21

O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.



"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness."

1 Timothy 6:10



2 Timothy 1:5

When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.



1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.



Signs, Wonders, Miracle at Lystra



a young man who grew up in the church

- He was baptised at ten,
- Sang on the worship team at fourteen,
- Went on three mission trips
- could quote more verses than most of the adults



John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."



2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is
in Christ, he is a new
creation; old things
have passed away;
behold, all things have
become new.



**Would your private
life look different if
you stopped
attending church?
Are you trusting
Christ Himself or
your baptism and
heritage?**



Continuing Obedience

True faith is proven by
long-term, sustained
obedience.



1 Timothy 4:6

If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.



**"which you
have carefully
followed" or
"which you
have always
continued to
observe"**



1 Timothy

4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.



1 Timothy

5:15

For some have already
turned aside after Satan.



1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.



The Sprinter and the Marathon Runner

Any believer can be on fire for six months. The Christian life is measured at the June plateau and the November discouragement -- not the January high.



**Where are
you five
years later?
Ten years
later?**





**A daily Bible reading plan you keep even
when you don't feel like it.**

**Prayer that
continues
through a
dry season,
not just a
crisis.**



**Guarding your
time recognizing
when endless
scrolling or
streaming has
quietly replaced
the time you once
gave to the Word.**



Humble Service

A true spiritual son
serves without
seeking
prominence.



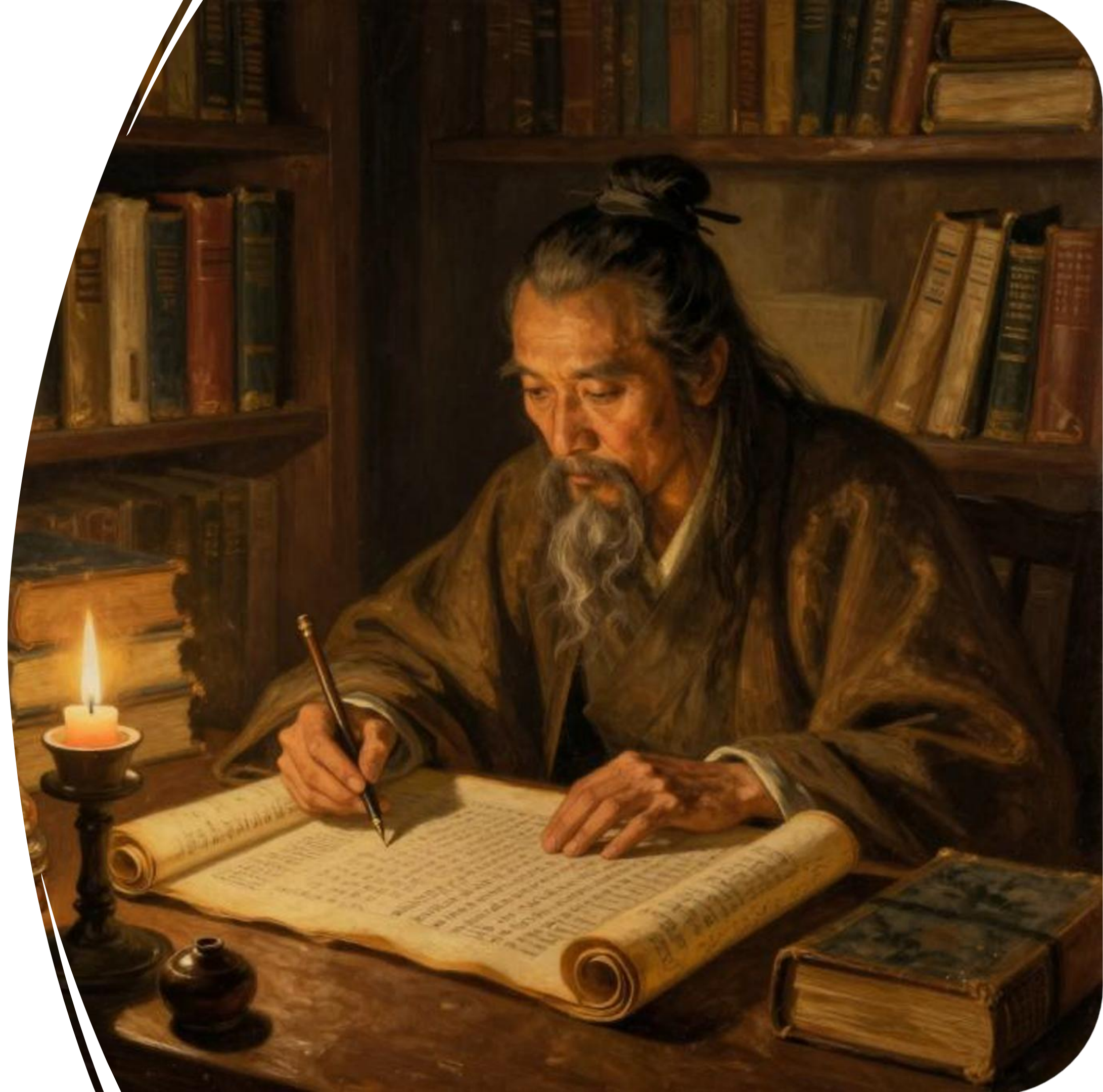
Philippian s 2:20-22

For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.



"All seek their own"

Paul writes this
with profound
sadness.



Timothy's Servant Heart

He genuinely cared
for the welfare of
others, not his own
interests.



Acts 16:3

Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.



1 Timoth y 3:6

"Not a novice, lest being
puffed up with pride he fall
into the same
condemnation as the
devil."



Status vs. Service

Some Ephesian leaders sought office for the status it afforded, not the service it demanded. Timothy bent downward, not upward.



Applying Humble Service

Volunteer for a role with no title and no spotlight. Are you building people who serve the mission -- or an audience that follows you?



Sound Doctrine

Timothy's commitment
to biblical truth in a city
filled with false teaching.



2 Timothy 3:7

Always learning and
never able to come
to the knowledge of
the truth.



1 Timothy 6:3-4

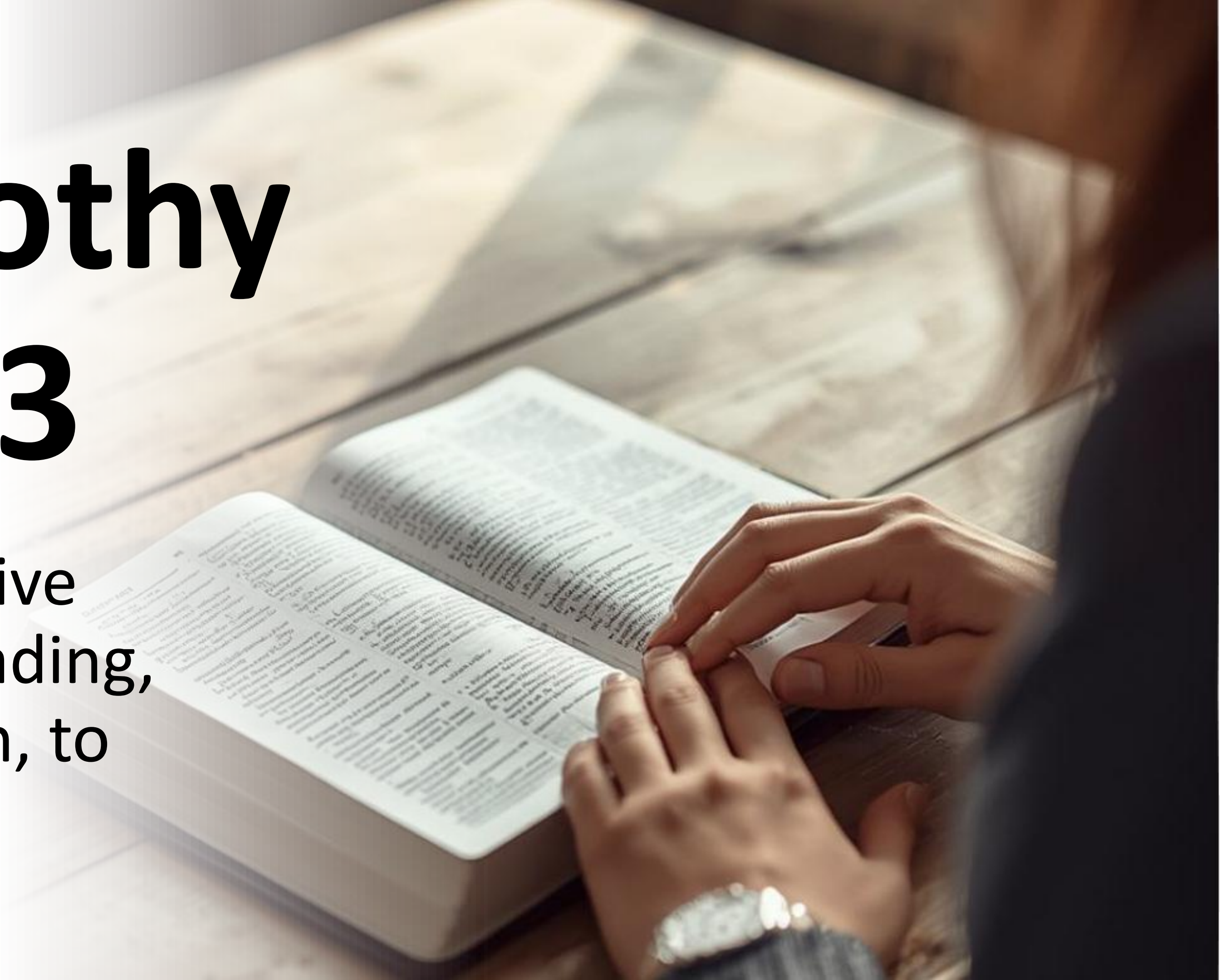
If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions.



1 Timothy

4:13

Till I come, give
attention to reading,
to exhortation, to
doctrine.



1 Timothy 4:16

Take heed to yourself
and to the doctrine.
Continue in them, for
in doing this you will
save both yourself
and those who hear
you.



1 Corinthians 4:17

"I am sending Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ."

— 1 Corinthians 4:17



1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy
great is the mystery of
godliness: God was
manifested in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit, seen
by angels, preached
among the Gentiles,
believed on in the world,
received up in glory.



**Every true
spiritual
son must
be a
student of
the Word**



Acts 17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.



A man in a white t-shirt and dark pants stands in a field of tall grass, facing away from the camera with his arms outstretched towards a bright sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. A large, curved white shape separates the text on the left from the image on the right.

Courageous Conviction

A true spiritual son
stands firm under
pressure.

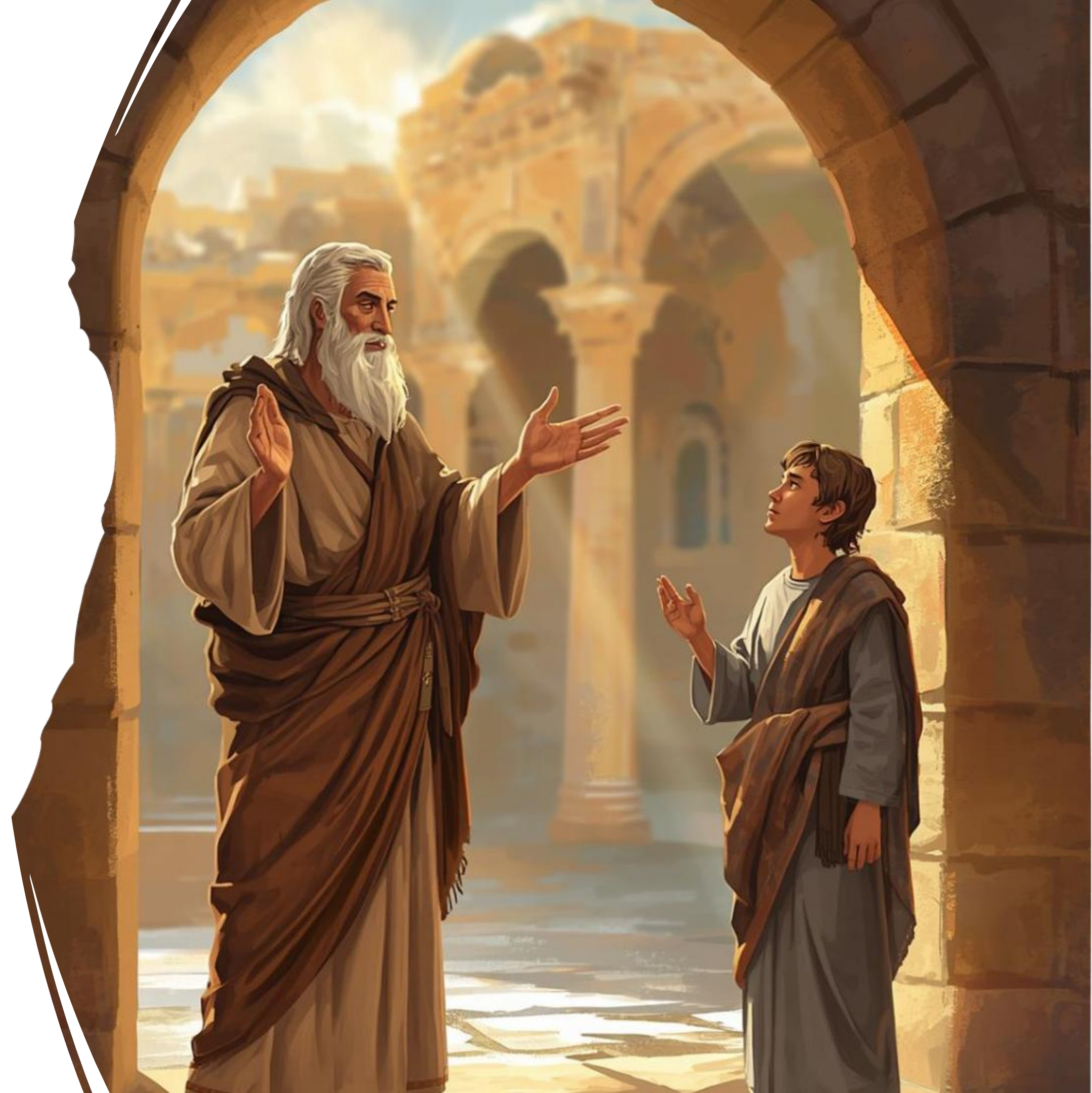
1 Timothy 5:19-20

Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.



1 Timothy 1:3

As I urged you when
I went into
Macedonia—remain
in Ephesus that you
may charge some
that they teach no
other doctrine.



1 Timothy 6:13-14

I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing.



**He refused to
compromise,
even to save
his life.**

"I have been placed here
by God - I will stand."



Applying Courageous Conviction

Ask the Lord to show you one place you've been silent out of fear this week -- then ask for grace to speak the truth in love.



**Courage is rarely loud.
It is usually just one
honest sentence,**

Spoken at the right
moment, by
someone who has
already decided in
advance that they
will not move.



The Mantle and the Man

Every generation
needs a true spiritual
son to carry what was
poured into them.



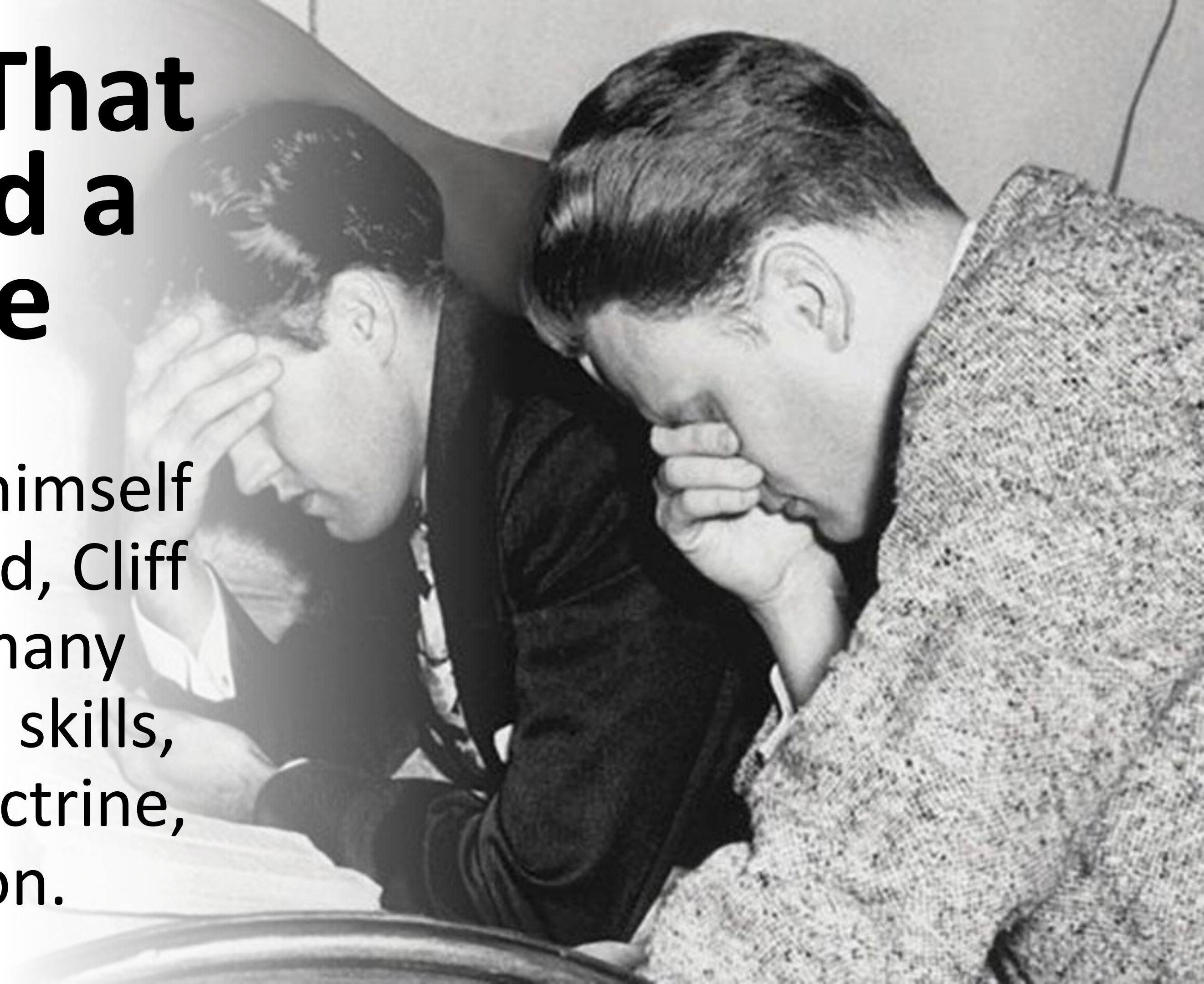


Billy Graham: A True Spiritual Son

Ordained in 1947, disciplined by Mordecai Ham, shaped by Chuck Templeton, and mentored by Dr. Henrietta Mears and Jack Wyrzten.

A Legacy That Outlasted a Lifetime

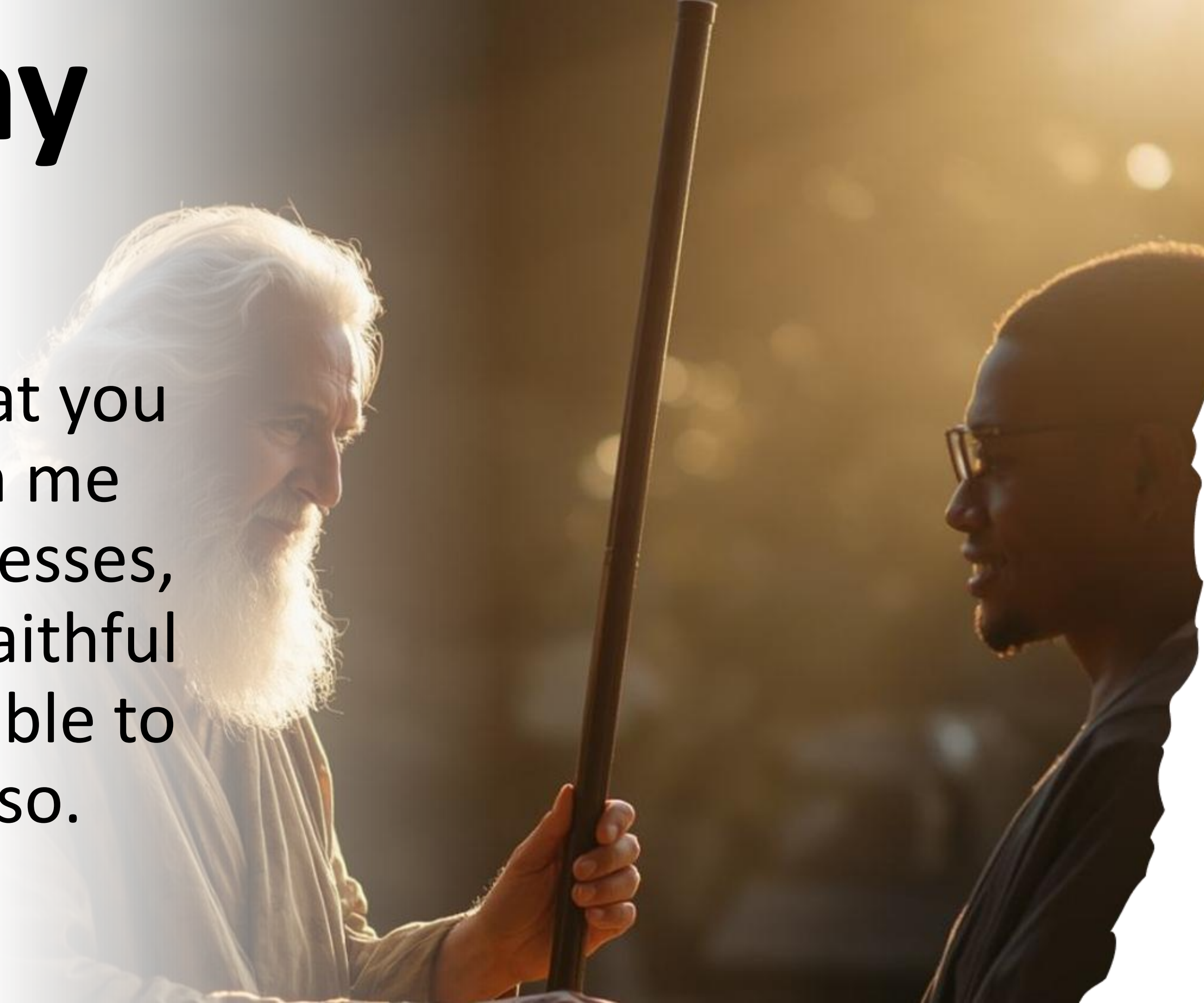
Graham poured himself
into Leighton Ford, Cliff
Barrows, and many
others -- not just skills,
but character, doctrine,
and conviction.



2 Timothy

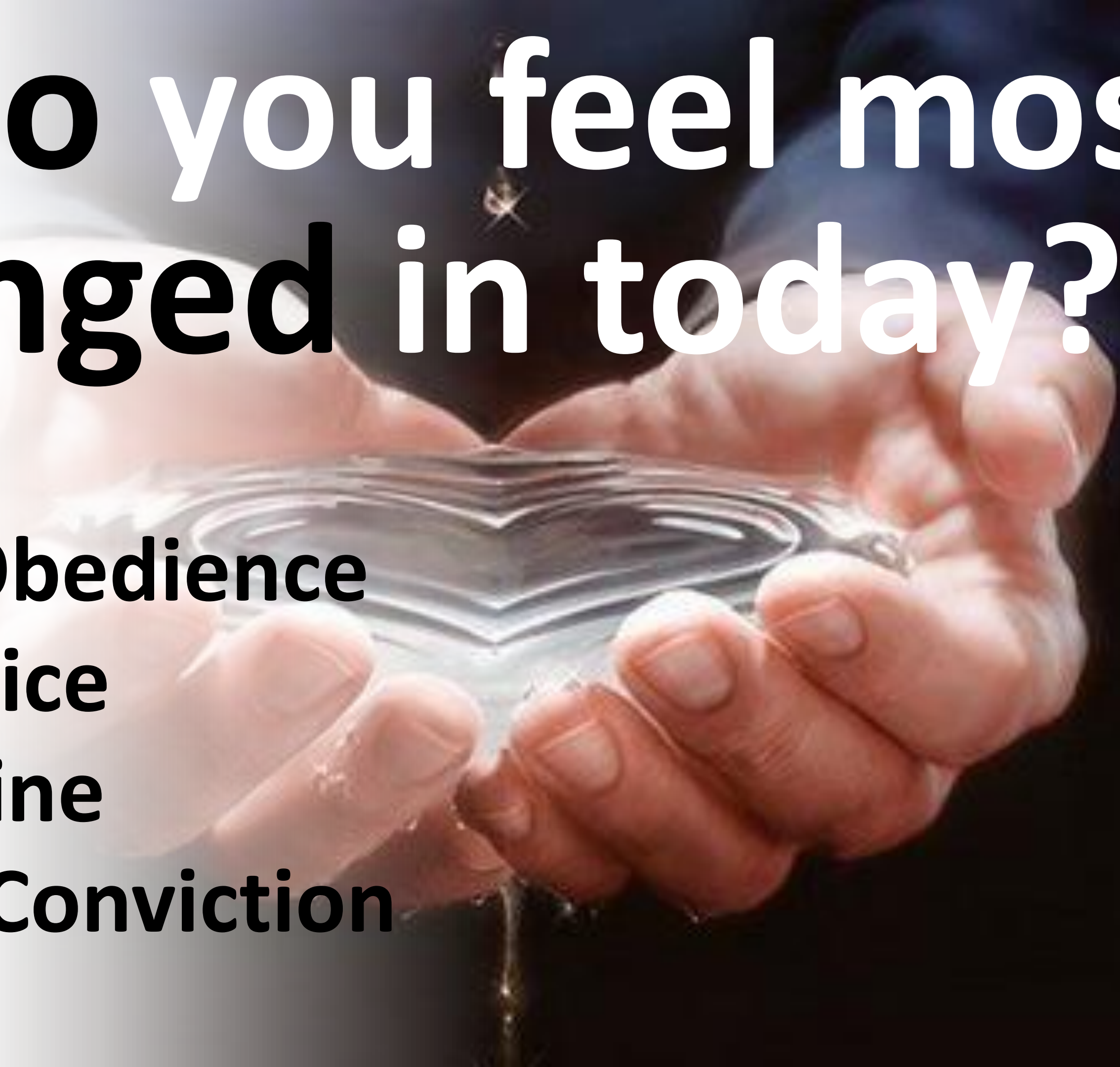
2:2

And the things that you
have heard from me
among many witnesses,
commit these to faithful
men who will be able to
teach others also.



which do you feel most challenged in today?

- **Saving Faith**
- **Continuing Obedience**
- **Humble Service**
- **Sound Doctrine**
- **Courageous Conviction**



**The question is
not whether
this chain will
continue - it
will.**

The question is whether
you will be the link who
receives the mantle and
carries it faithfully.



Questions for Reflection

Who has been a
spiritual father or
mother in your life?
Where do you feel most
challenged? Who is God
calling you to invest in?



**Will you
carry the
mantle with
faithfulness
?**

