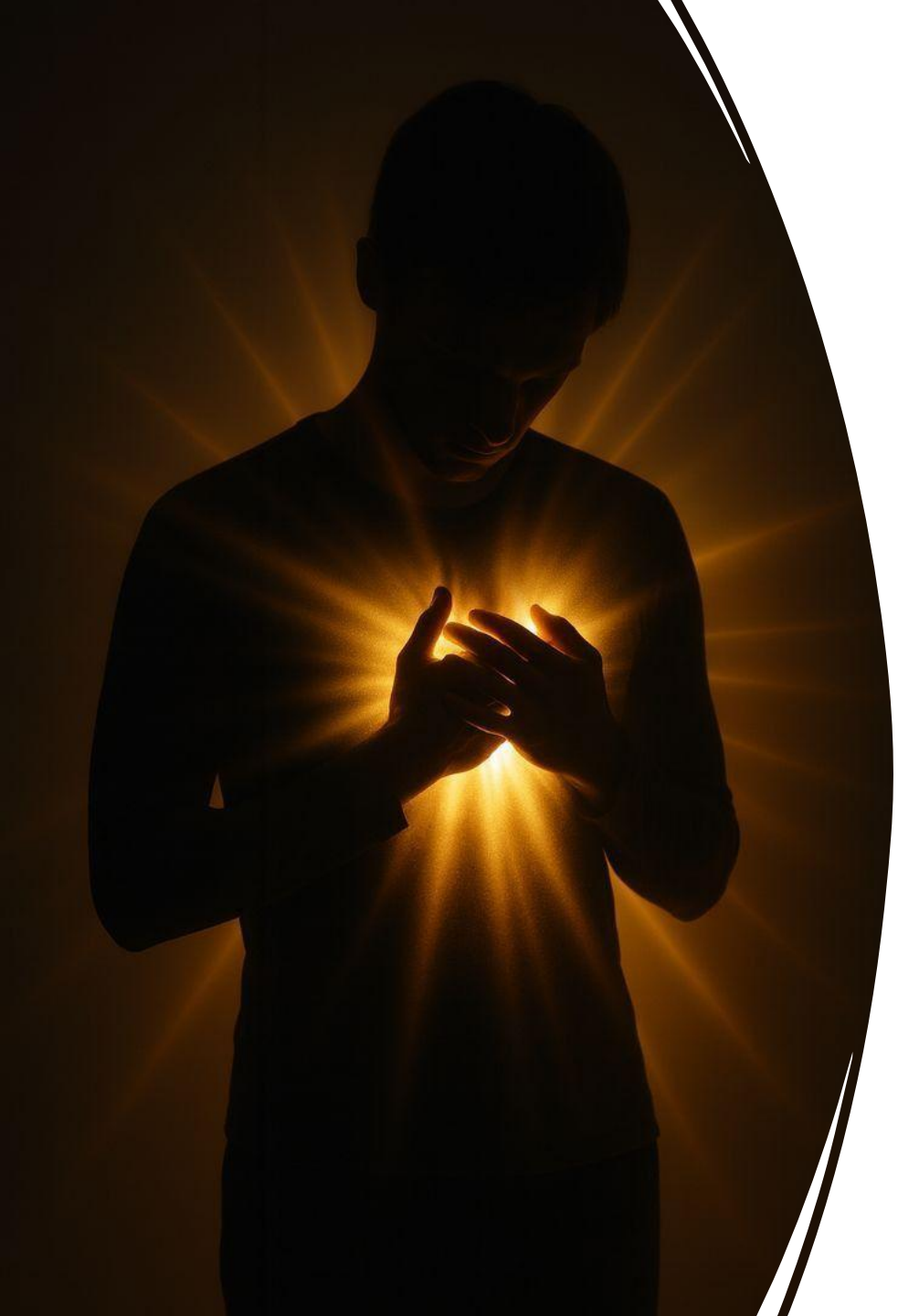


1 Timothy 1:18-19

The Call to Courageous Ministry!

Fight the Good Fight.



1 Timothy 1:18-19

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck.

Ministry Is Not a Career — It Is a Campaign

- **Charge** (parangelia, a military order),
- **Wage warfare** (strateuomai, to campaign), and
- **Warfare** (strateia, a military campaign).



Charge — parangelia, a military order



Wage warfare

—

strateuomai, to campaign



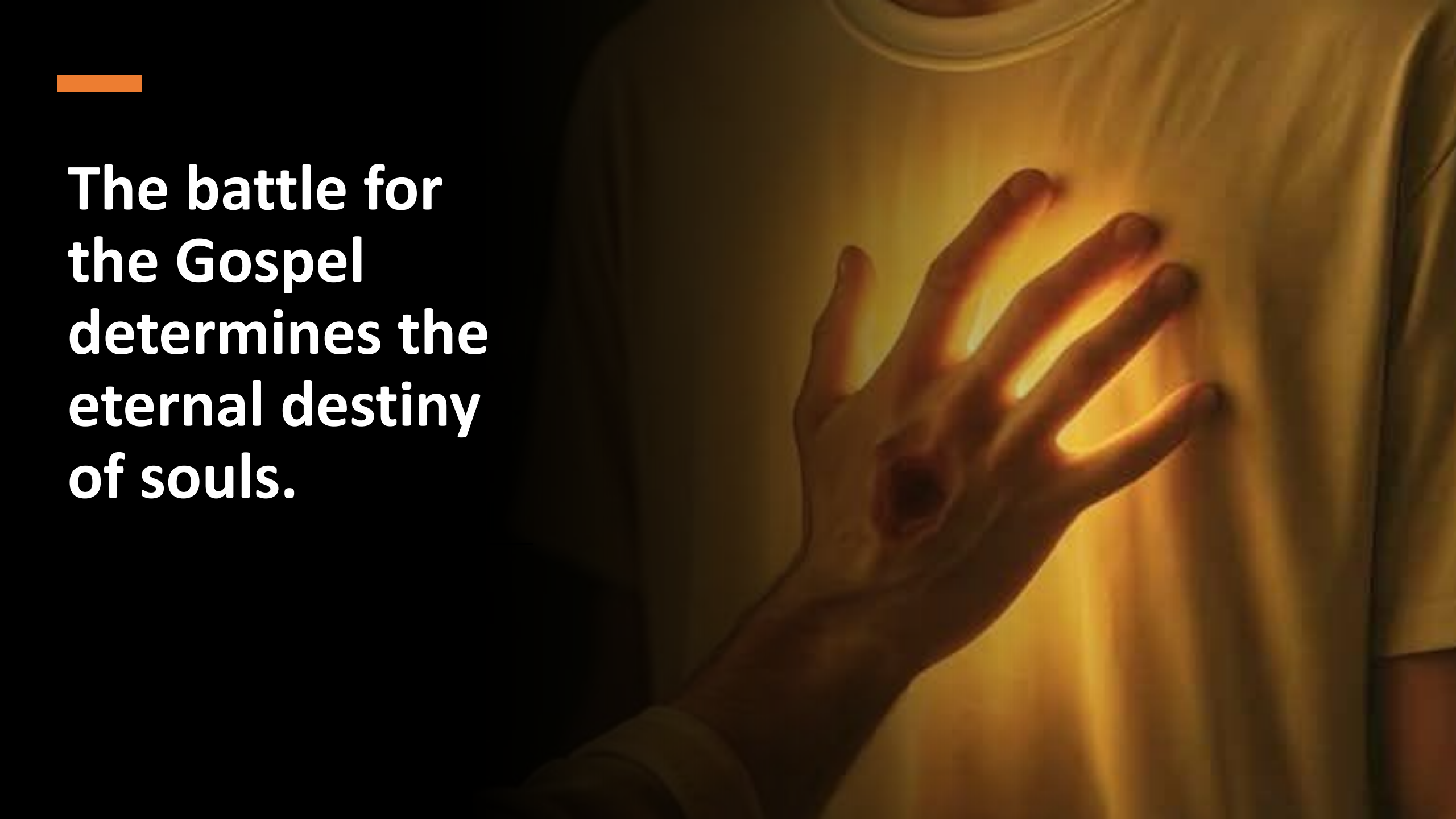
Warfare — strateia, a military campaign



Military campaigns determined the political boundaries of nations.



The battle for the Gospel determines the eternal destiny of souls.



The Charge Committed

The word committed in Greek ***Paratithemi*** means to deposit for safekeeping, to entrust to a trusted guardian.



The Language of Sacred Trust

The word committed in Greek ***Paratithemi*** means to deposit for safekeeping, to entrust to a trusted guardian.



Luke 23:46

Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.



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.



1 Timothy 6:20

O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge.



He is a steward, not an owner.



2 Timothy 1:14

That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.



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.



Son Timothy! The Relational Context

He begins with a name and a relationship: **son Timothy**.

The charge is not merely professional; **it is personal**.





The Confirmation of Calling

Paul refers to prophecies previously made concerning Timothy.



What Were the Prophecies?

Paul refers to prophecies previously made concerning Timothy.

1 Timothy 4:14

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.



Acts 13:2-3

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.



The commission came from God.



The confirmation came from the community.



By Them You May Wage the Good Warfare

Paul gives Timothy a strategic instruction. Use the prophecies as weapons in the warfare. By them, he says, you may wage the good warfare.



Joshua 1:9

Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.



Jeremiah 1:8

Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.



Acts 18:9-10

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.’



The Role of the Church in Confirming Calling

The reference to prophecies also highlights the communal dimension of ministry calling.



Calling is initiated by God.



Tested by life.



Confirmed by the community.





Ratified by the church through the laying on of hands



Acts 13

it with the commissioning of Paul and Barnabas.



1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1

it in the qualifications for elders and deacons that must be publicly evaluated before appointment.



The individual is protected from the self-deception that can afflict even genuinely gifted people.





The congregation is protected from the ambitions of those who have gifts but lack the character and community accountability that genuine ministry requires.



The Nature of the Battle

Wage the Good Warfare

Paul uses military language extensively in his letters

The Military Metaphor in Paul's Letters

Wage the Good Warfare

Paul uses military language extensively in his letters





2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.



Ephesians 6:10-18

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.



Ephesians 6:12-13

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Philippians 2:25

Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need.



Philemon 1:2

To the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house.



Luke 12:51

Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.



2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.



What Makes It Good?

The difficulty of the battle does not alter the goodness of the cause.



The Enemy and the Theatre of War

The warfare Timothy is engaged in has multiple fronts



John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.



The Two Weapons: Faith and a Good Conscience

Paul specifies two weapons with which Timothy is to wage the good warfare:

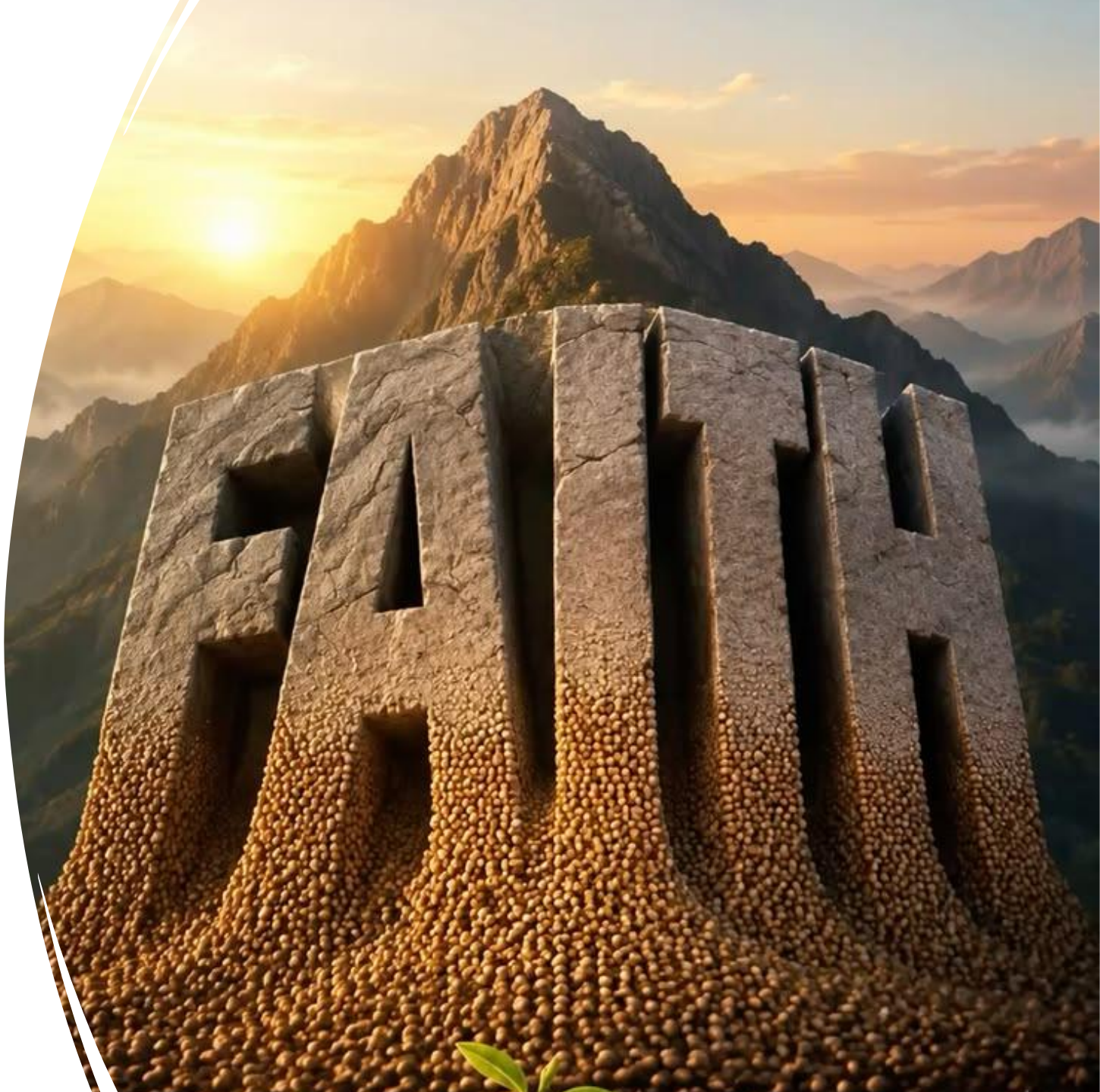


Faith: The Foundation of the Soldier

Paul specifies two weapons with which Timothy is to wage the good warfare:



Faith



Good conscienc e



pistis

πίστις

- **Meaning:** Settled, personal trust and confidence.
- **Usage:** Paul's first weapon for the good warfare — trust in God and in the truth of the Gospel that gives the minister authority, motivation, and perseverance.



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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.



Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.



1 Timothy 1:18

Timothy my son, I give you the following charge. And may I say, before I give it to you, that it is in full accord with those prophecies made at your ordination which sent you out to battle for the right armed only with your faith and a clear conscience.
(Philipps)



A Good Conscience: The Soldier’s Integrity

where he identified a good conscience as one of the three roots from which genuine love grows. Here it appears again as one of the two essential weapons for spiritual warfare.

1 Timothy 1:5



Faith without moral integrity becomes presumption

Conscience without faith becomes a crushing burden



Together, **faith and a good conscience produce the character of the faithful minister**:

- **own sinfulness and failure (conscience),**
- **the grace of God and the finished work of Christ (faith).**



The Armour of God

Ephesians 6:13-18 provides the extended commentary on these two weapons.



The Belt of Truth

Just as a soldier's belt gathers and secures his clothing for battle, truth holds everything else in place — the structural foundation that makes the other pieces functional.





The Breastplate of Righteousness

Includes both the imputed righteousness of justification and the practical righteousness of holy living; without it, a soldier's vital organs are exposed to fatal attack.

The Gospel Shoes

The readiness of the Gospel of peace — the mobility of the Christian soldier who is ready at all times to share the Gospel.



The Shield of Faith

Faith in God's promises deflects the enemy's most effective weapon: doubt. Every flaming dart is extinguished by the shield of faith.



The Helmet of Salvation

Protects the mind — the settled confidence in the completed work of Christ against every attack on the believer's assurance.



The Sword of the Spirit

The only offensive weapon in the list — the specific, precise, two-edged sword of , wielded the way Jesus wielded it against Satan in the wilderness.



Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.



Matthew 4:4-10

The same way Jesus wielded it against Satan in the wilderness: it is written, it is written



What the Pastoral Epistles teach about Ministry Calling?

They address **calling, gifting, character qualifications, commissioning, and the ongoing maintenance of ministry integrity.**



1 Timothy 3:2-3

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous.



Above reproach



Faithful to his wife



Temperate



Self-control led



Respectable



Hospitable




Able to teach

Not given to drunkenness



Not violent but gentle



Not quarrelsome





Not a lover of money

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.



2 Timothy 2:1-7

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ … And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.



The soldier

who endures hardship and does not entangle himself in civilian affairs.



The athlete — who competes according to the rules.



The farmer

who works hard before he shares in the crops.



Titus 1:6-8

If a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled.




Blameless

Faithful to his wife



With believing children



Hospitable





Not self-willed



Not quick-tempered



Not given to wine

Not violent



Not greedy



The Prophetic Tradition and Ministry Confirmation





- **Moses** was called at the burning bush with a divine theophany.
- **Aaron** was confirmed as high priest by the budding of his rod; Samuel received his prophetic calling through a direct divine word.
- In the New Testament, **Agabus** prophesied a famine and later Paul's imprisonment — specific divine guidance for specific situations.



Exodus 3:10

Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

Numbers 17:8

Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds.



1 Samuel 3:10

Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel answered, ‘Speak, for Your servant hears.’



Acts 11:28

Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.



Acts 21:10-11

•A certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, ‘Thus says the Holy Spirit: So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’



The Function of Prophecy in Ministry Confirmation

This is not superstition or mysticism. It is the application of a basic principle of biblical faith.



Psalm 77:11-12

I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds.



The Single-Mindedness of the Gospel Soldier

No One Engaged in Warfare Entangles Himself.



2 Timothy 2:4

No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.



The military illustration is precise.

A soldier on campaign cannot simultaneously run a business, maintain a farm, and fight a war. The demands of warfare require total concentration of resources and attention.



Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



Please Him Who Enlisted

The goal is to please him who enlisted him.



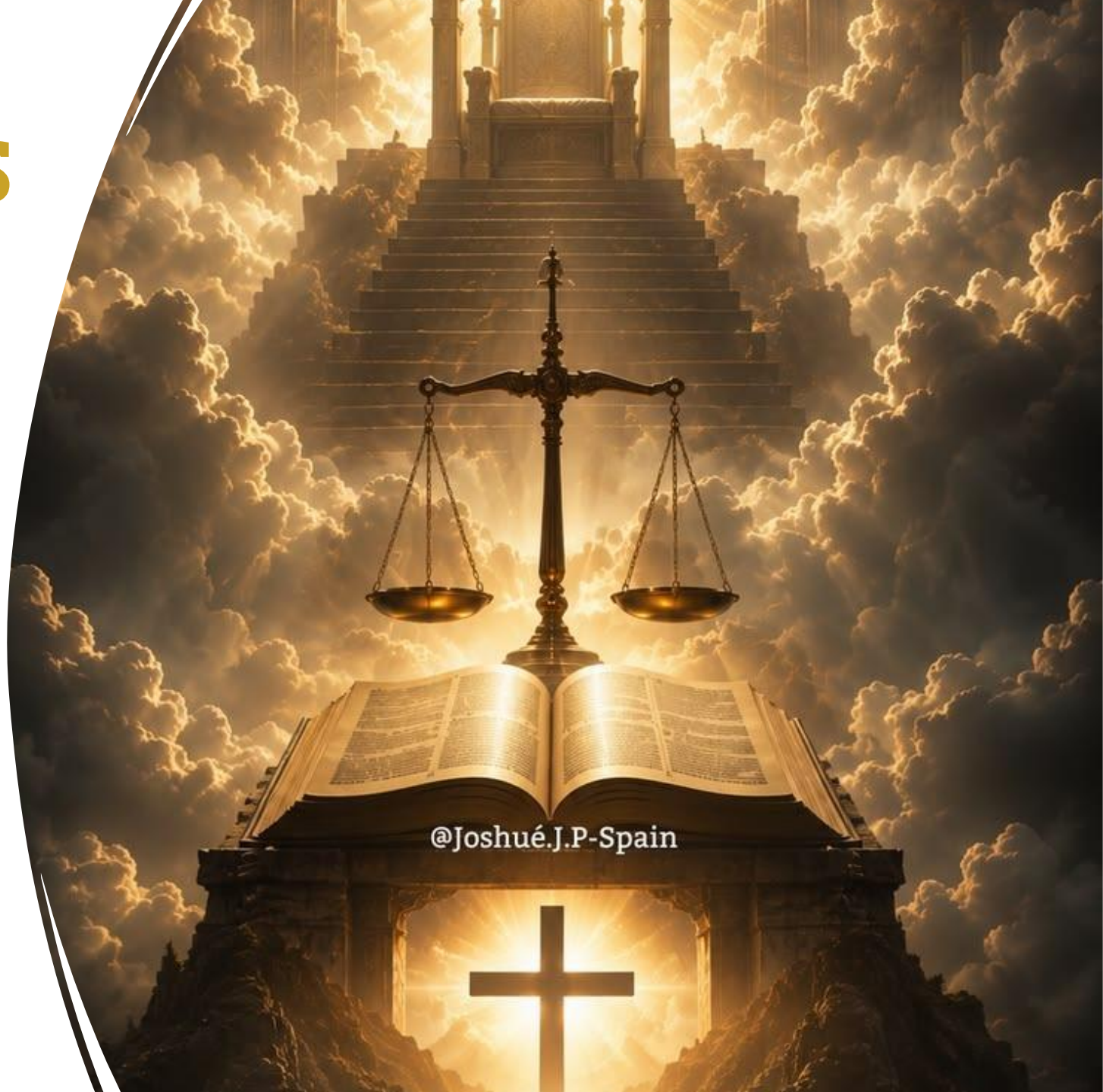
2 Corinthians 5:9

We make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.



1 Corinthians 4:3-4

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.





*In **1960**, a young **Dutch Reformed pastor named Andrew van der Bijl** — known to the world as **Brother Andrew***

*the **Iron Curtain to deliver Bibles** to persecuted Christians.*



I have been reading this verse for twenty minutes and I cannot move past it. I have been given a charge. I have been given prophecies. The missionary organisation that sent me out, the elders who prayed over me, the whispers of the Spirit in the years of preparation — all of it points to this: I have been commissioned for this campaign. I must go.

Brother Andrew — journal entry, the night before crossing the Iron Curtain

Lord, You made
blind eyes see. M
please make se
eyes blind.

The Brother Andrew Prayer — prayed at the border checkpoint



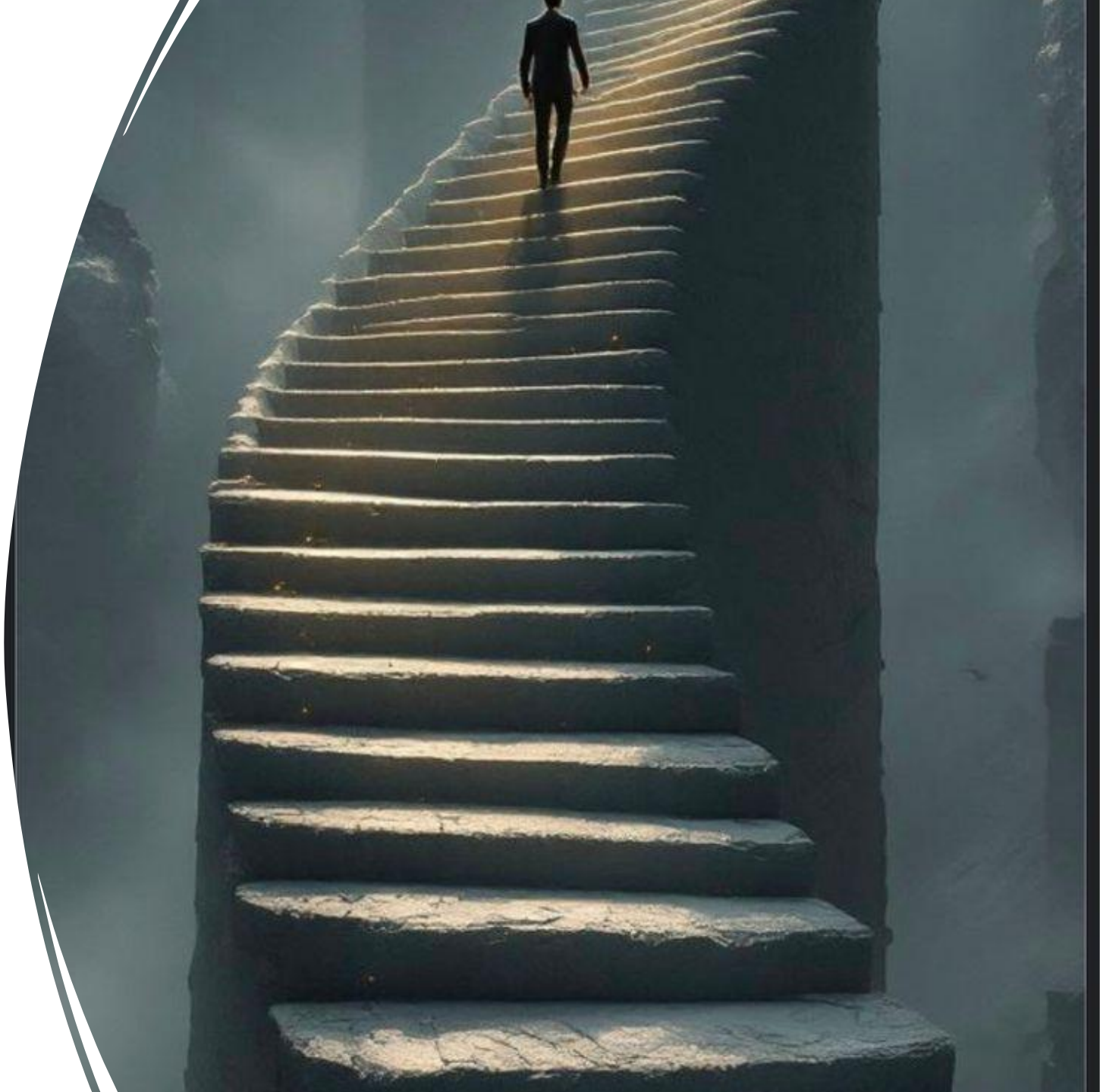


I found the courage in the charge. Not in my own bravery, which is minimal. Not in my assessment of the risks, which was always sobering. But in the conviction that I had been charged with this campaign by a commanding officer whose orders take precedence over the regulations of every border guard and every secret police force in the world. The charge came from above. And that charge, held in faith and a clear conscience, was my armour.

Brother Andrew — on how he found the courage to keep going

Application for Daily Life

Seven practical steps for living out the charge to wage the good warfare this week.



Write down the specific ways God has confirmed your callin in Christ — prophecies, s, the counsel of trusted believers, circumstances, or inner conviction. Collect them and use them as your courage reserve this week.





entify which piece of the
ed in your daily spiritual
lress that gap this week.

The good war
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civilian enta
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Faith and ... ons Paul
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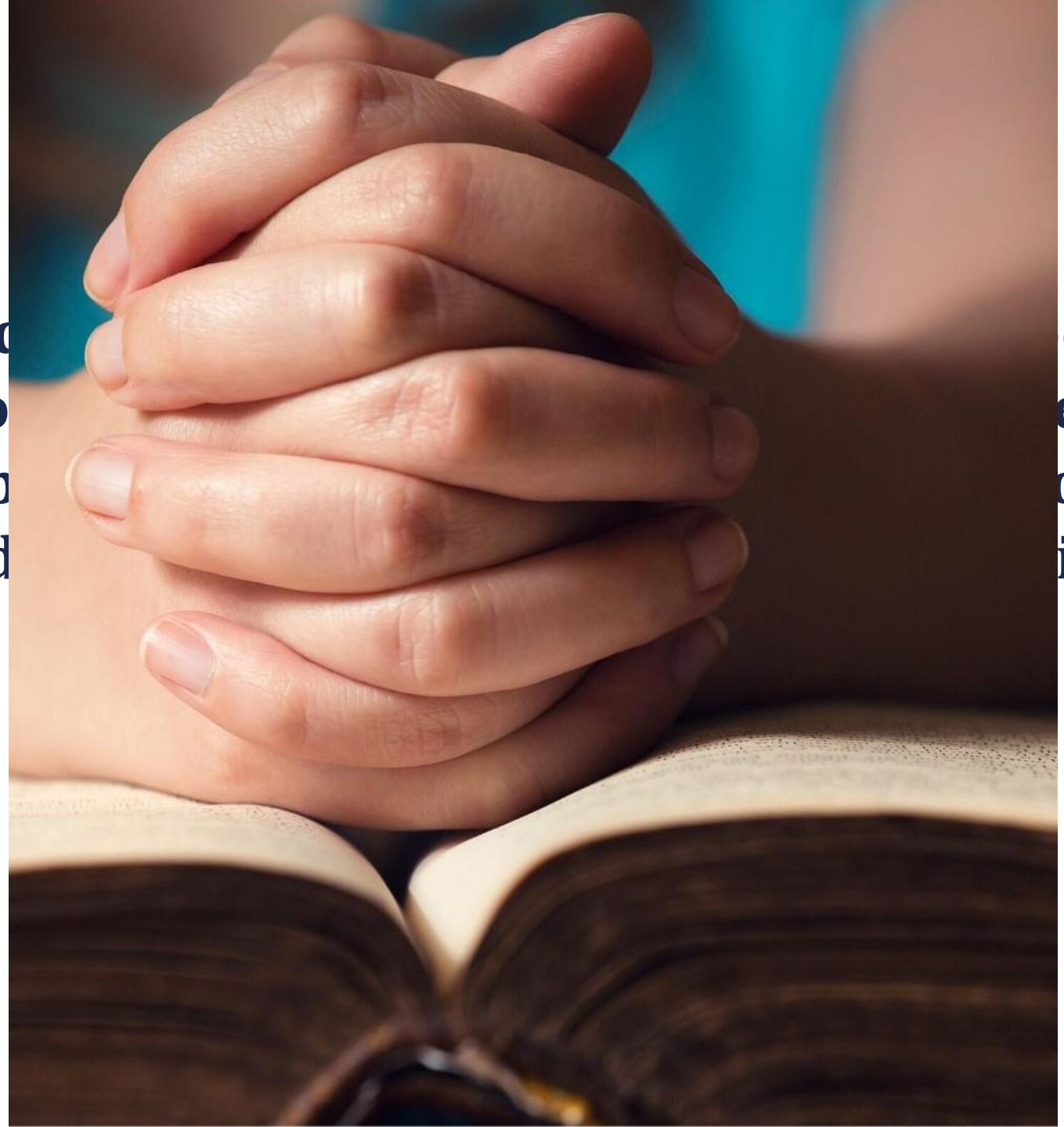
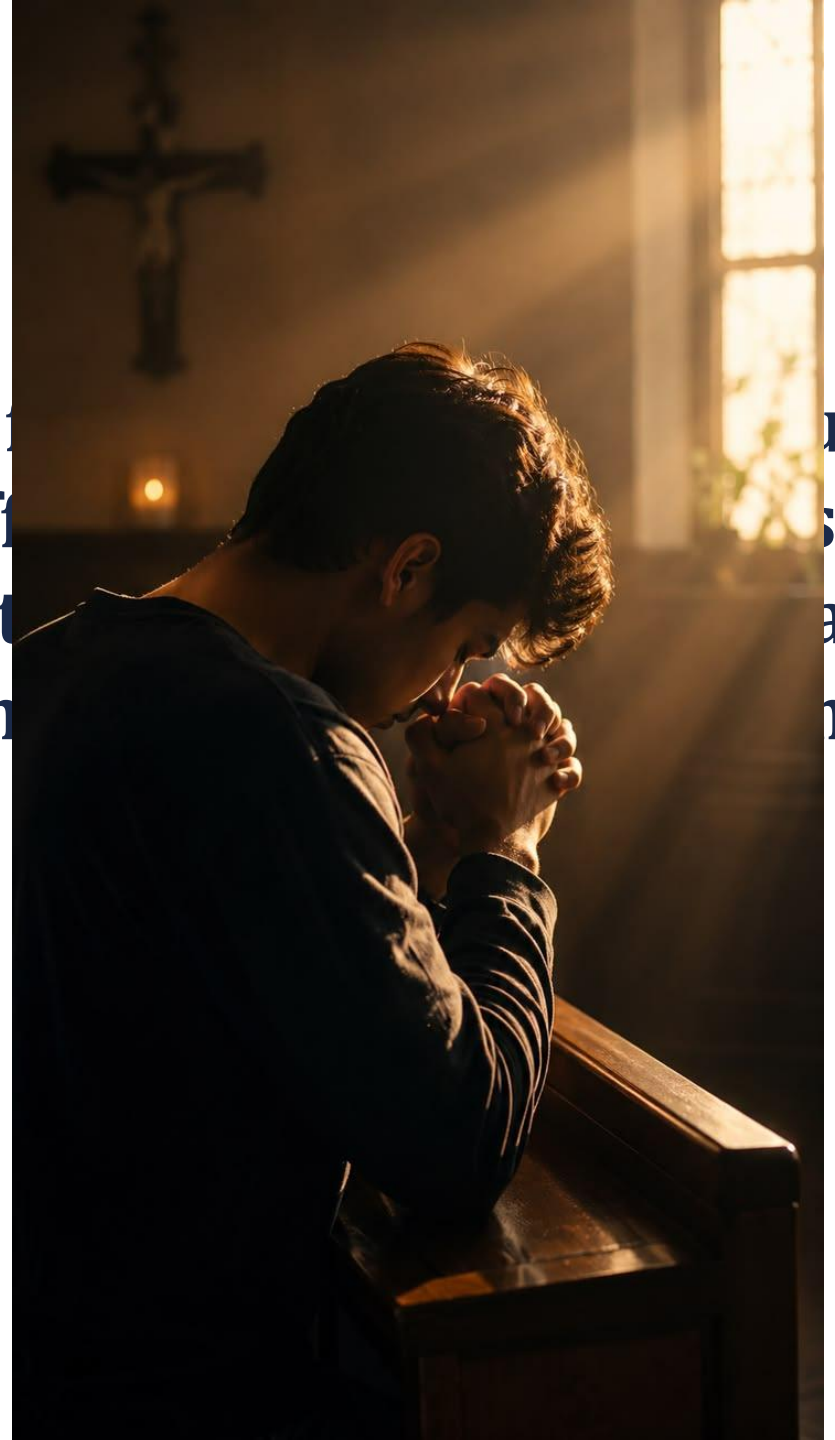


Pray specifically f urrently waging a particularly diff spel, whether in ministry, in t amily, or in a persecuted con hem faith and a



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