



PHILIPPIANS 1-4

A New Series of Studies



Paul's 2nd
Missionary
Journey

Where is Philippi anyways ?!

Hellenistic Temple

Roman Crypt

Temple

Atrium

To Acropolis

Basilica A
(ca. 500 CE)

Theater

2nd Century
Forum

Agora

Palaestra

Library

VIA EGNATIA

To the
River

CITY WALLS

Basilica B
(ca. 560 CE)

Early
Christian
Basilica

PHILIPPI





The Letter to THE PHILIPPIANS...

This letter was written by Paul from Rome, about 61AD, while under house arrest there for 2 years (Acts 28).

Philippi was named after Philip II of Macedon, father of the great Greek conqueror – Alexander the Great.

It was a prosperous colony of Roman citizens, many descended from retired military men & their families.

No synagogue is mentioned, so likely they were all or mostly gentiles. This letter does not quote the OT at all!



THE STORY of Philippi from Acts 16...

In Philippi Lydia & her household was converted...

The slave-girl was set free from the spirit of divination...

Paul & Silas were punished and imprisoned...

God set them free by an earthquake...

The jailer and his family were converted & baptised...

Next day the magistrates released them...

They encouraged the believers in Lydia's house...

Then left for Thessalonica & Berea & Athens & Corinth...



PHILIPPIANS
Chapter 1



G R A C E



P E A C E

1:1-2 God's Grace and Peace is for all Believers!

Paul and Timothy = “servants” ...

→ Is this my attitude also?!

Written to “the saints”, “overseers” and “deacons”...

The only distinctions in the NT church...

→ We are ALL saints in Christ Jesus, set apart for God!

→ We are all called to serve in the church!

We ALL receive **GRACE** (unmerited favour) and...

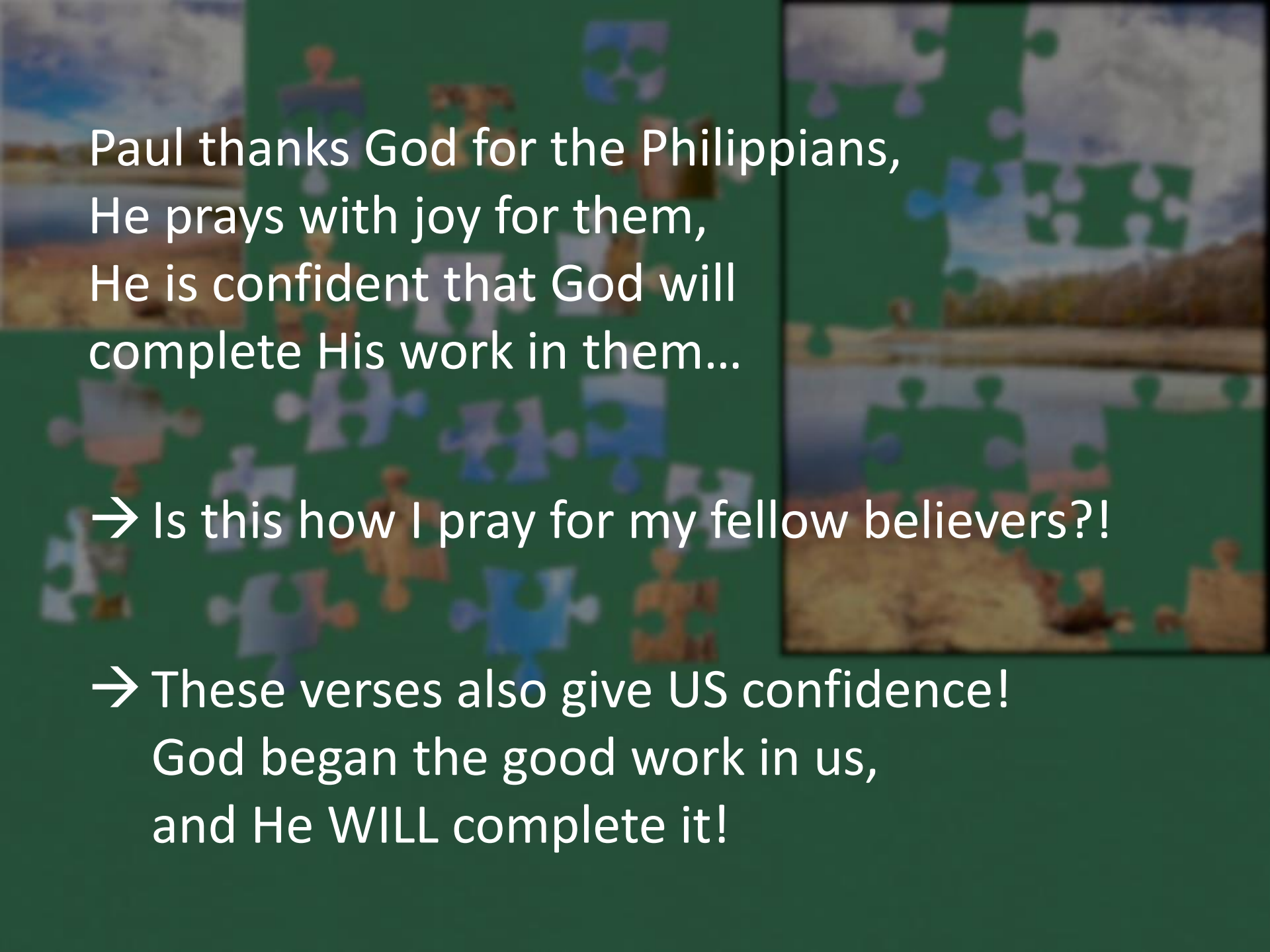
PEACE (no longer enemies but friends)

from God (our FATHER) and Jesus Christ (our LORD)

→ Have you received these two gifts also?!



1:3-6 Paul Prays for the Philippians with Confidence



Paul thanks God for the Philippians,
He prays with joy for them,
He is confident that God will
complete His work in them...

→ Is this how I pray for my fellow believers?!

→ These verses also give US confidence!
God began the good work in us,
and He WILL complete it!

1:7-8 Paul's Deep Love for the Philippians





Paul had the Philippians always in his heart...

→ An example for me: to love my fellow believers in the same way!

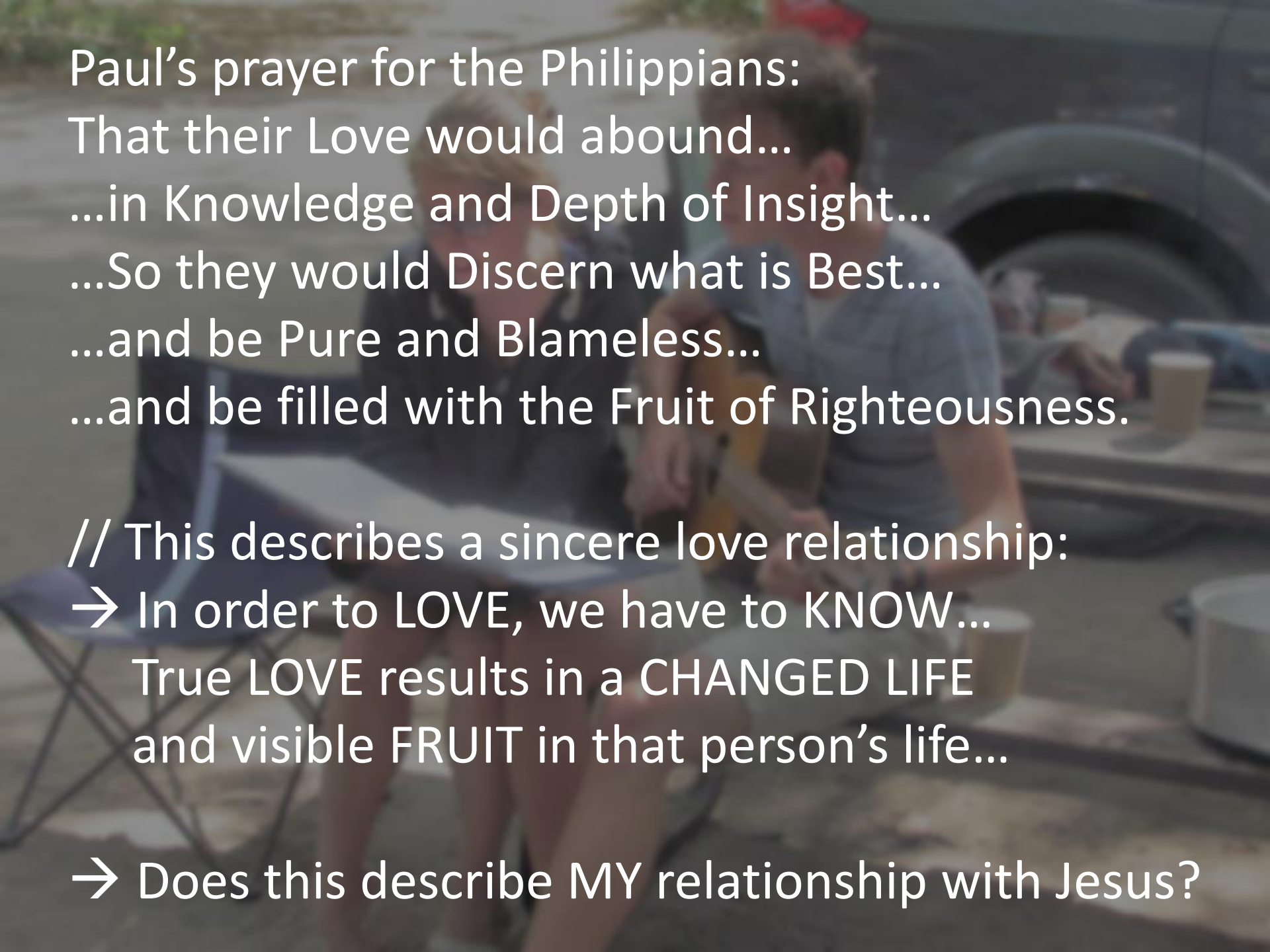
God knew how he longed for them with Christ's affection... >> Human friendship!

→ Do I love others with the Love of Christ?

They ALL shared in God's grace with Paul...
(received freely through the gospel)



1:9-11 Love & Knowledge & Fruitfulness



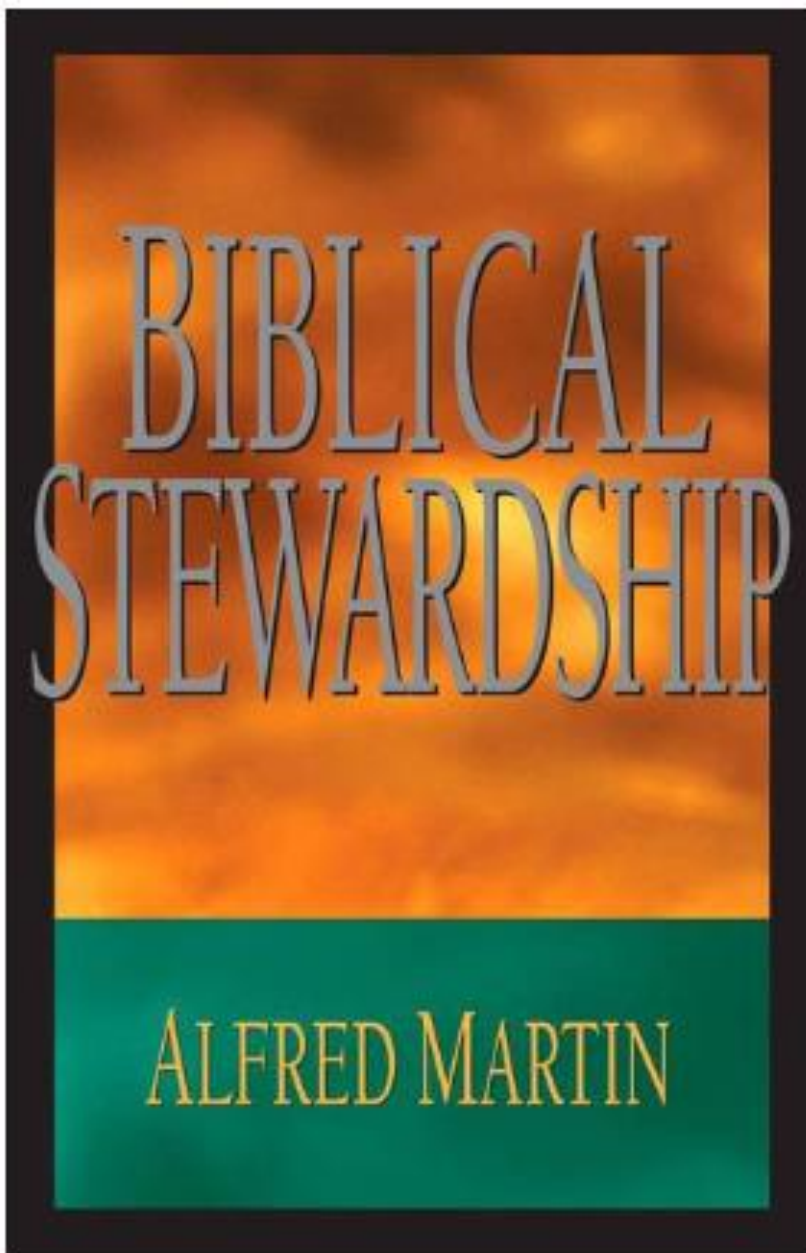
Paul's prayer for the Philippians:
That their Love would abound...
...in Knowledge and Depth of Insight...
...So they would Discern what is Best...
...and be Pure and Blameless...
...and be filled with the Fruit of Righteousness.

// This describes a sincere love relationship:

→ In order to LOVE, we have to KNOW...

True LOVE results in a CHANGED LIFE
and visible FRUIT in that person's life...

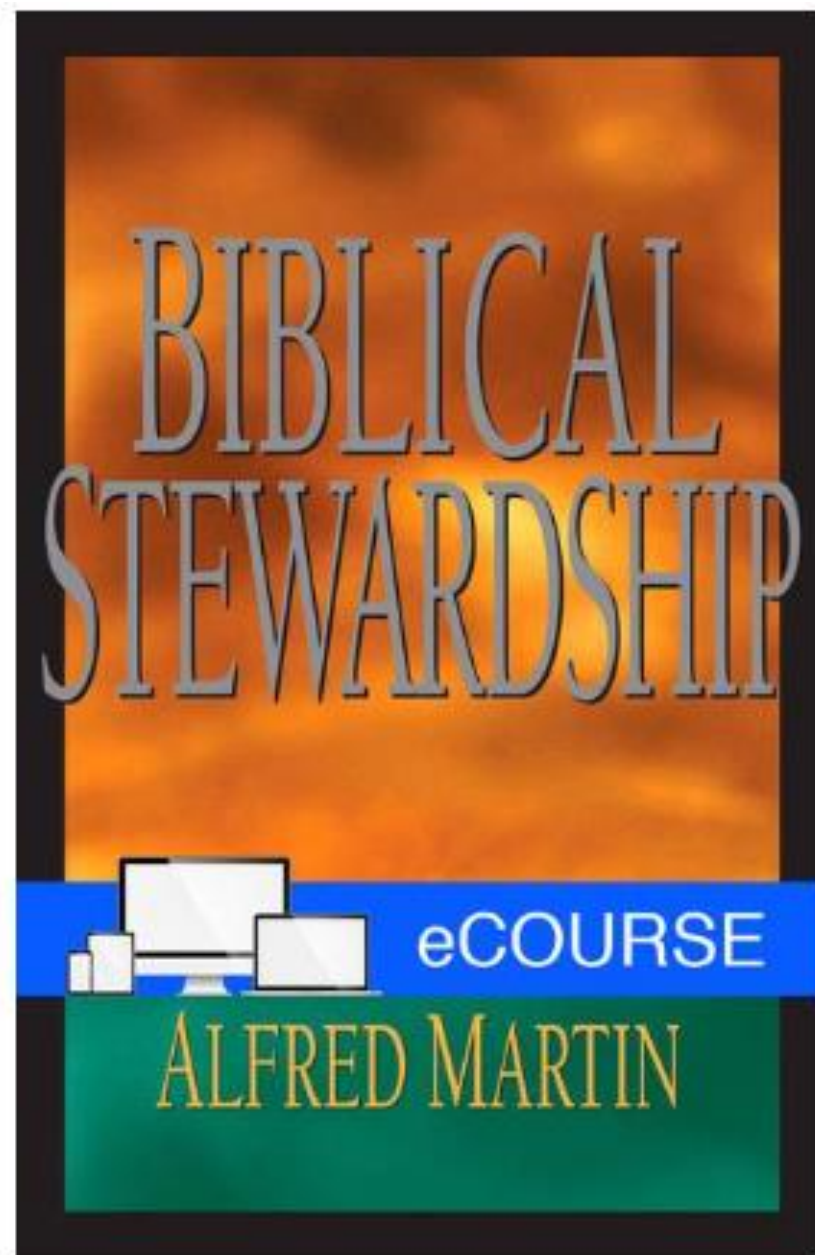
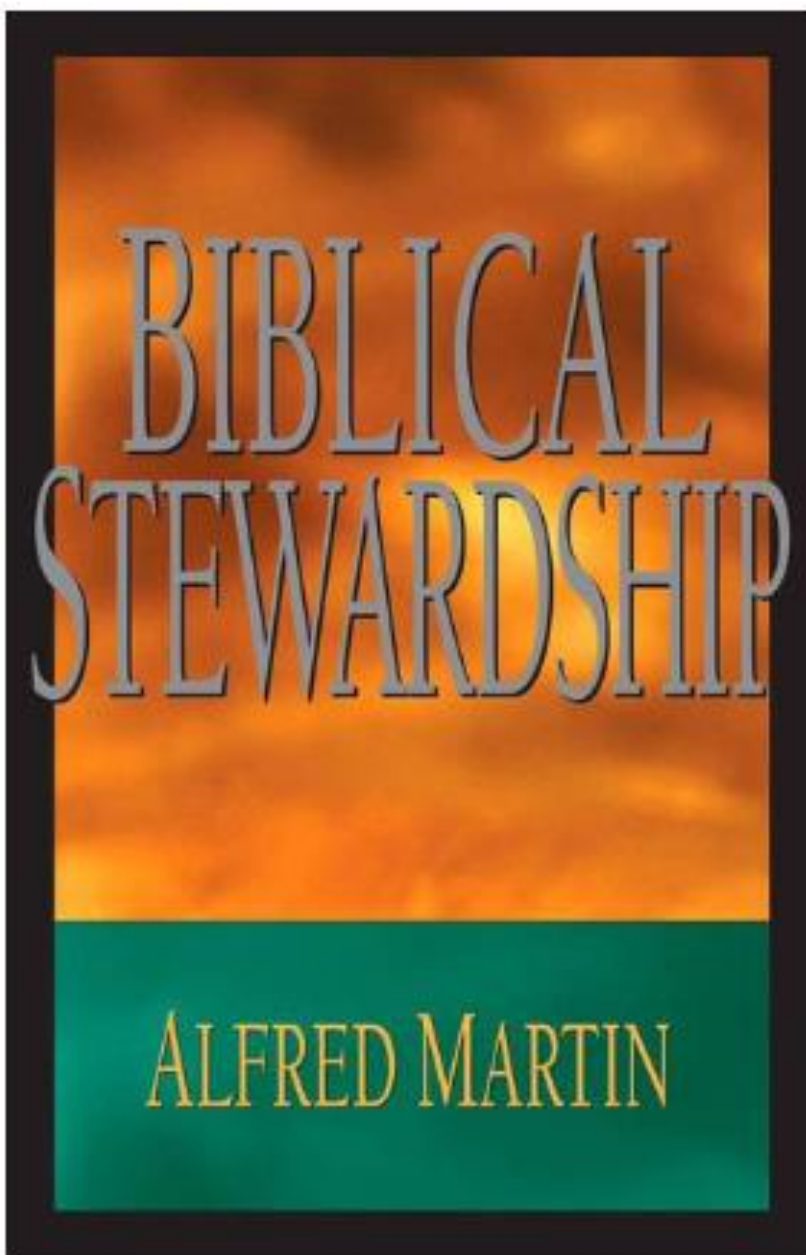
→ Does this describe MY relationship with Jesus?



Sunday evenings @ 6:30 PM:

1. God's Ownership through Creation
2. The Meaning of Stewardship
3. Legal Obligation and Grace Giving
4. The First Essential in Giving
5. The Extent of Christ's Grace
6. The Results of Christ's Poverty
7. The Christian's Willing Mind
8. Money – For Self or for God?
9. Stewardship of Body and Mind
10. Stewardship of Time, Speech & Action

Find further details at – <http://ecsministries.org>

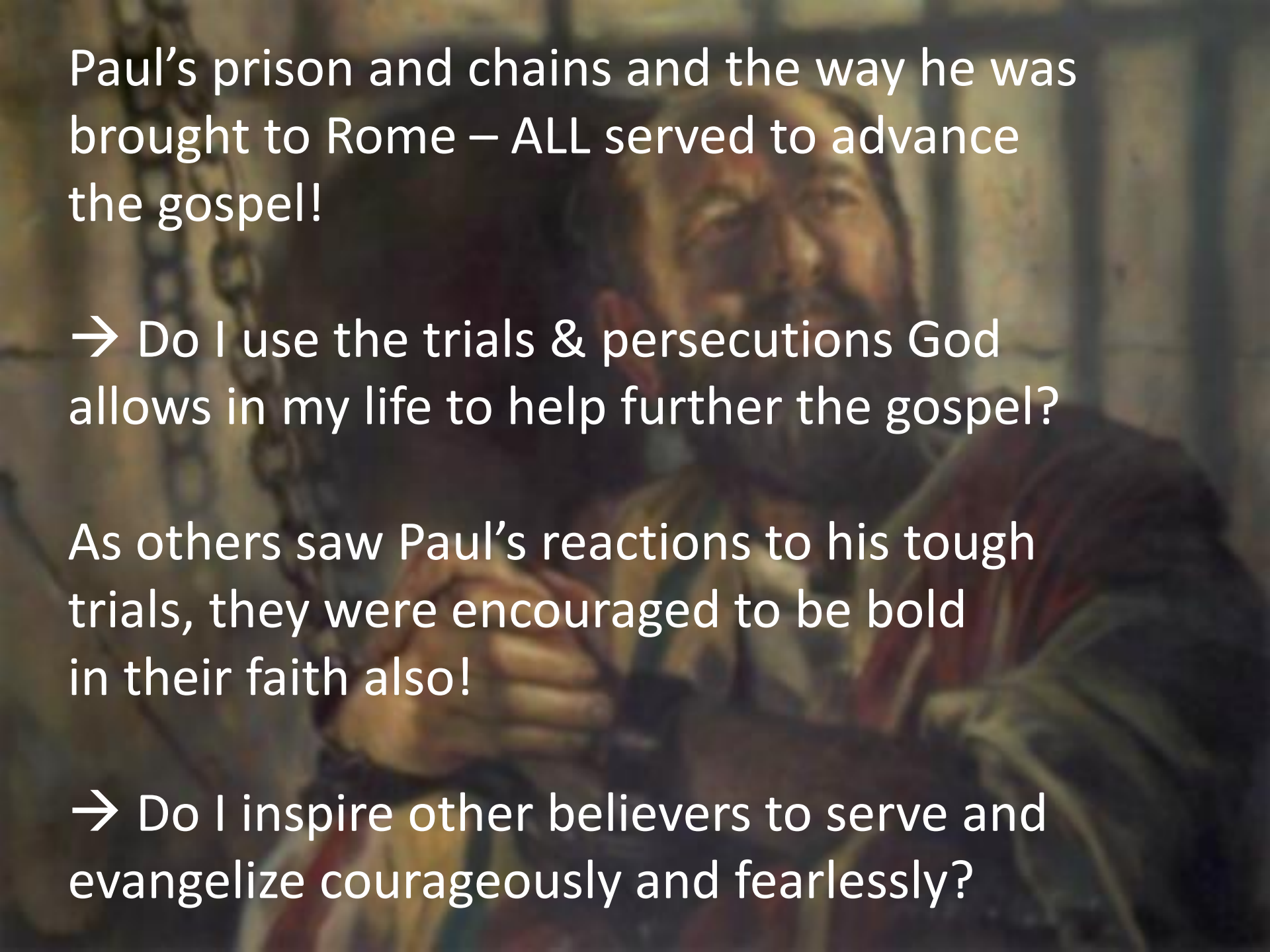


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DATE	JOSHUA = Tuesdays 7:30-9:00 PM – Prayer & Bible Study
Aug 9	Joshua's Preparation in the desert under Moses
Aug 16	The Twelve Spies explore Canaan. The faith of Joshua & Caleb
Aug 23	God Calls Joshua to be Courageous and Faithful
Aug 30	Lessons from the Spies and Rahab in Jericho
Sept 6	Israel Crosses the Jordan River
Sept 13	The Twelve Memorial Stones
Sept 20	The Significance of Circumcision at Gilgal
Sept 27	The Miraculous Victory at Jericho
Oct 4	Achan's Secret Sin is Discovered: The sad Consequences
Oct 11	Victory at Ai and Joshua Renews the Covenant at Ebal
Oct 18	The Gibeonite Deception and Joshua's Response
Oct 25	Israel defeats 5 Kings & the Lord makes the Sun stand still
Nov 1	Joshua's Victory over the Northern Kingdoms. The War Ends
Nov 8	Israel divides the Land. The Inheritances of Caleb and Joshua
Nov 15	The Eastern Tribes return Home. The Altar of Witness
Nov 22	Joshua's Farewell & Challenge to the Leaders of Israel
Nov 29	The Example of Joshua. The Covenant is Renewed at Shechem



**1:12-14 God used
Trials in Paul's life to
advance the Gospel**



Paul's prison and chains and the way he was brought to Rome – ALL served to advance the gospel!

→ Do I use the trials & persecutions God allows in my life to help further the gospel?

As others saw Paul's reactions to his tough trials, they were encouraged to be bold in their faith also!

→ Do I inspire other believers to serve and evangelize courageously and fearlessly?

1:15-18 Paul's response to Selfish & Ambitious & Insincere Preachers



Even though some preached out of envy & rivalry & selfishness & ambition & insincerity...
... Paul REJOICED because the Name of Jesus was being preached...

→ Is this my gracious attitude also ?!

→ For those of us who are Preachers / Teachers:
What are OUR motives? Goodwill? Sincerity?

...

OR: Envy & Rivalry & Selfishness & Ambition?

1:19-20 Keep Trusting God for Future Strength

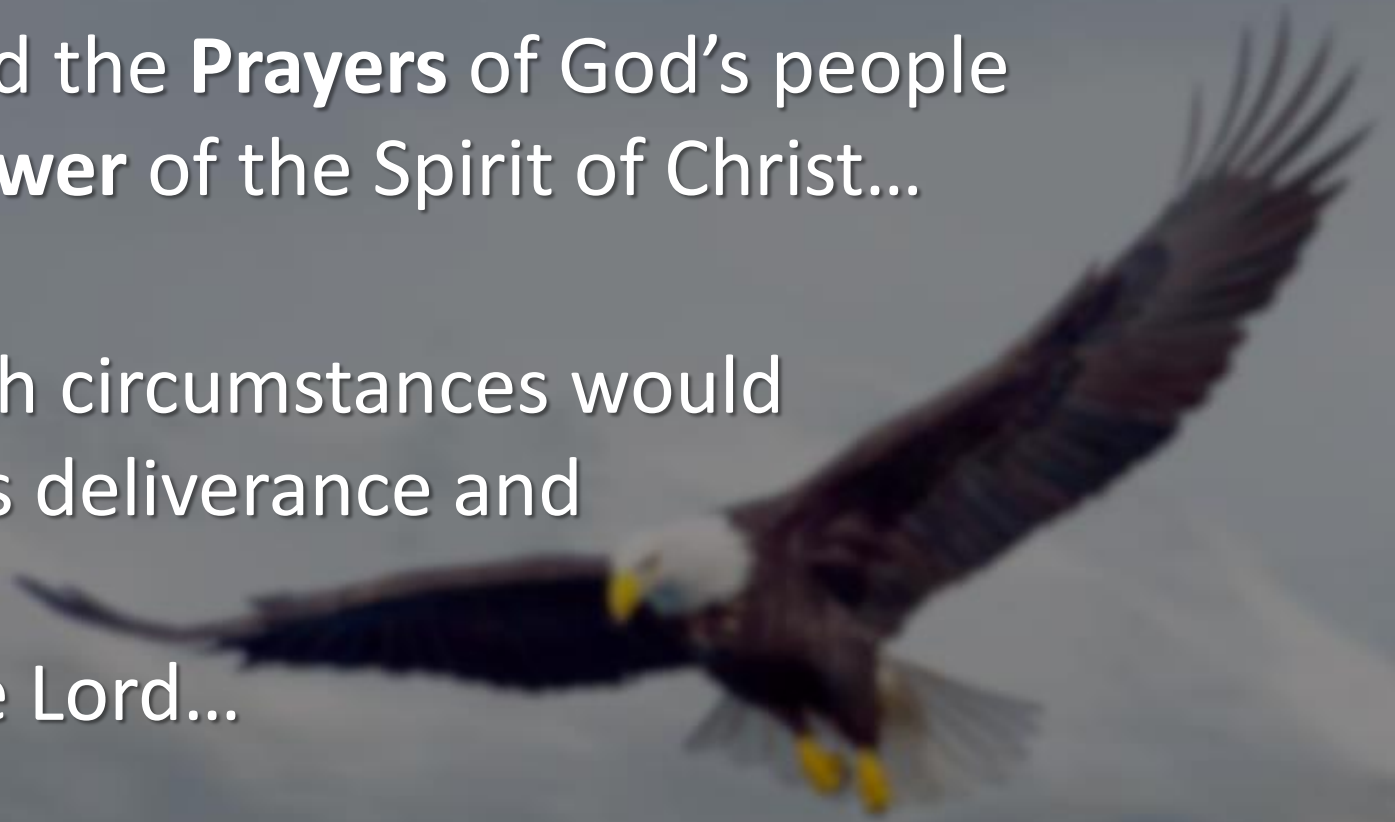


Paul trusted the **Prayers** of God's people
and the **Power** of the Spirit of Christ...

So his tough circumstances would
result in his deliverance and
courage
to exalt the Lord...

Whether in Life or in Death...

→ These “dual wings” (Prayer & Spirit's Power) are
also available to us, to help us soar like eagles!



1:21-26 Life with Christ and/or Death with Christ ?



Paul had two options:

(1) Living in fruitful labour with Christ (useful)...

(2) Departing to be with Christ (better by far)...

→ Which to choose?! Both are GOOD options!

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain...”

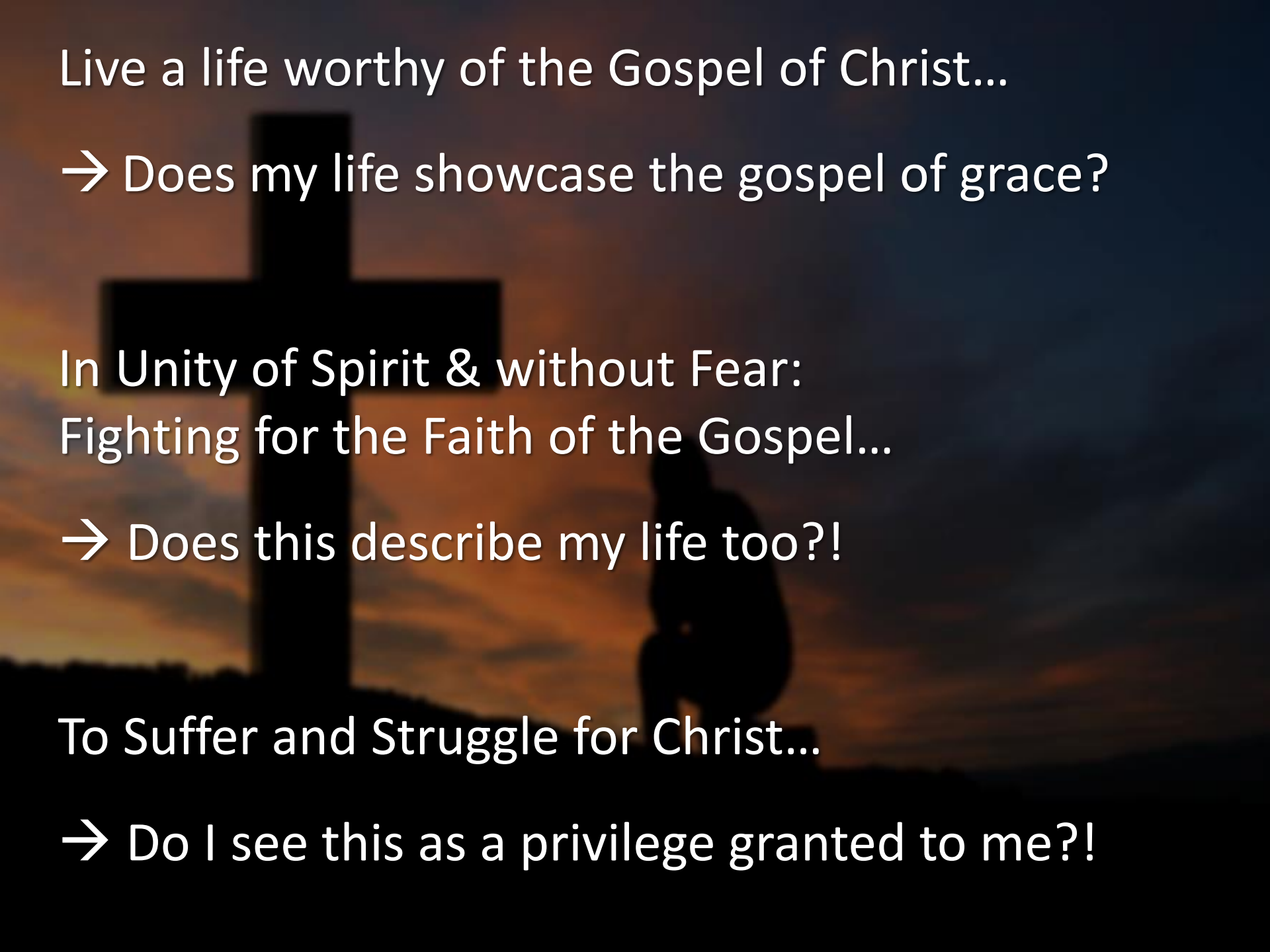
→ Is the same true for me?

Paul lived his life: “for your progress & joy in the faith... that your joy in Christ will overflow...”

→ Do my interactions with fellow believers produce Progress & encourage Joy in them too?

1:27-30 Living our lives in Unity
in a manner Worthy of the Gospel
Believing & Suffering with Christ





Live a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ...

→ Does my life showcase the gospel of grace?

In Unity of Spirit & without Fear:
Fighting for the Faith of the Gospel...

→ Does this describe my life too?!

To Suffer and Struggle for Christ...

→ Do I see this as a privilege granted to me?!



Key verse for this week?