

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some faint light trails. The overall mood is celebratory and joyful.

The Essential Ingredient of a Well-Lived Life

— Philippians 1:9-11 —

A hand holding a lit sparkler against a dark background. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The hand is wearing a dark, textured glove. The background is dark and out of focus.

Finding Joy

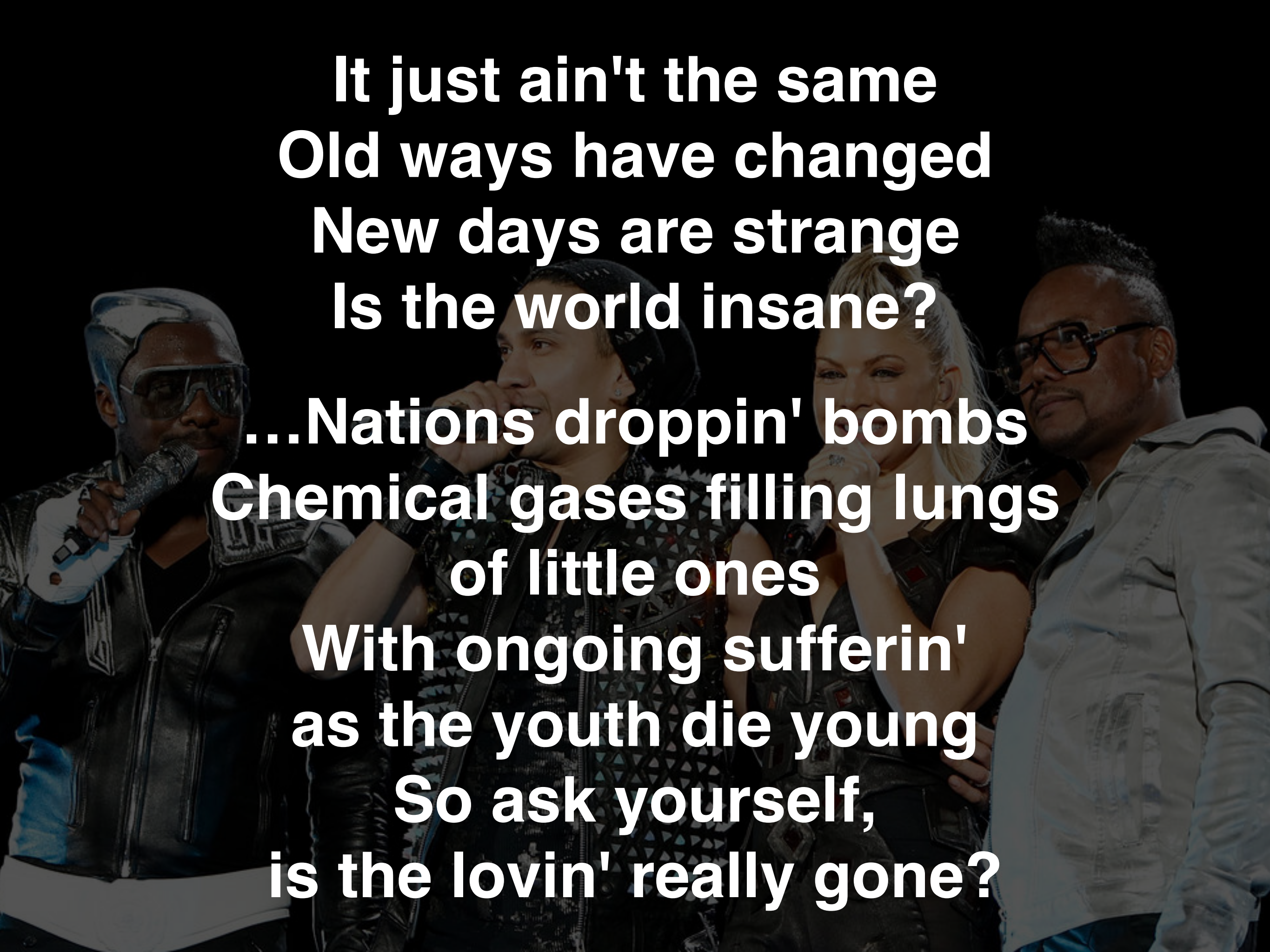
PHILIPPIANS

Right Where You Are

“Where Is The Love?”

— The Black Eyed Peas —

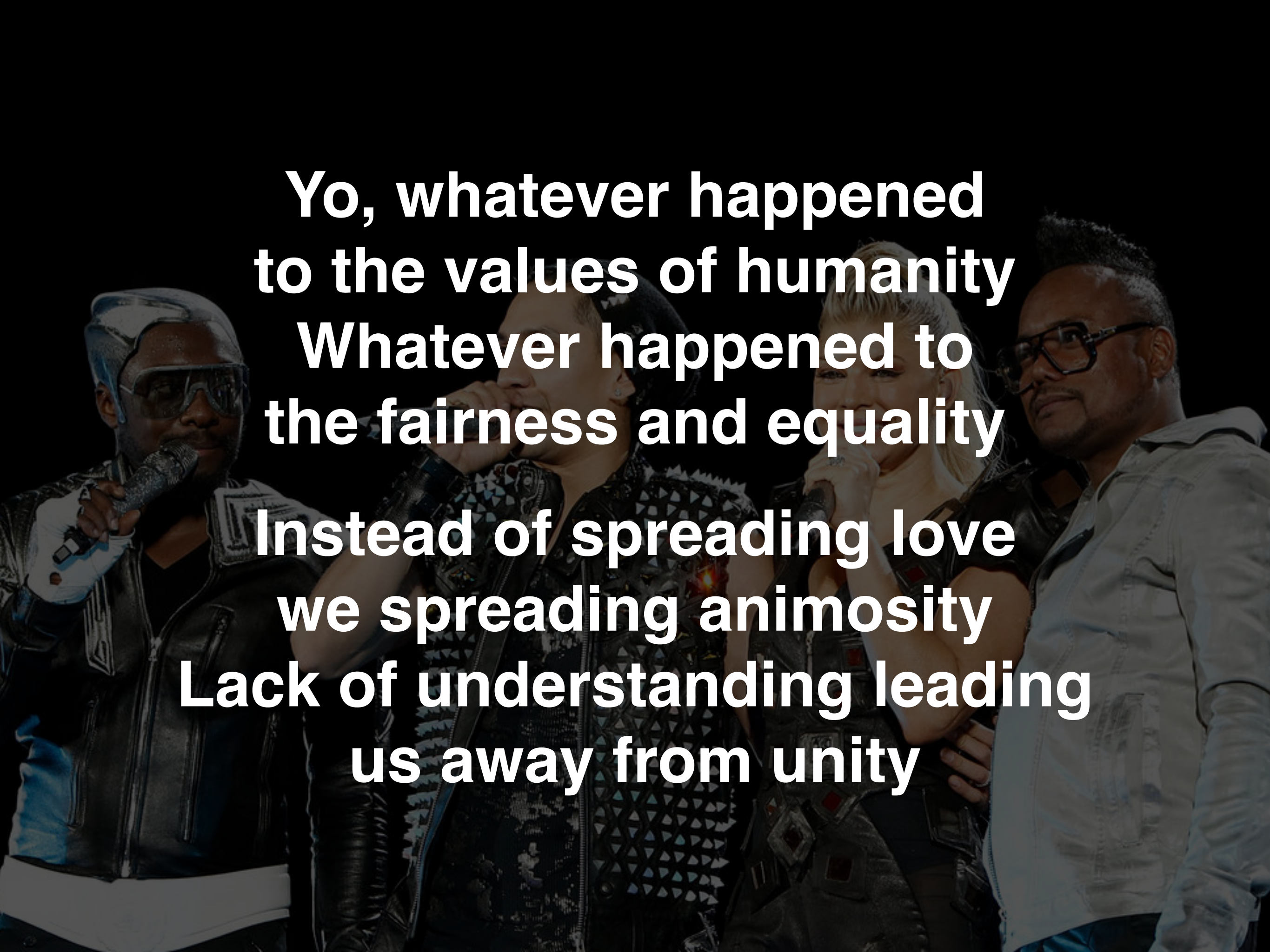




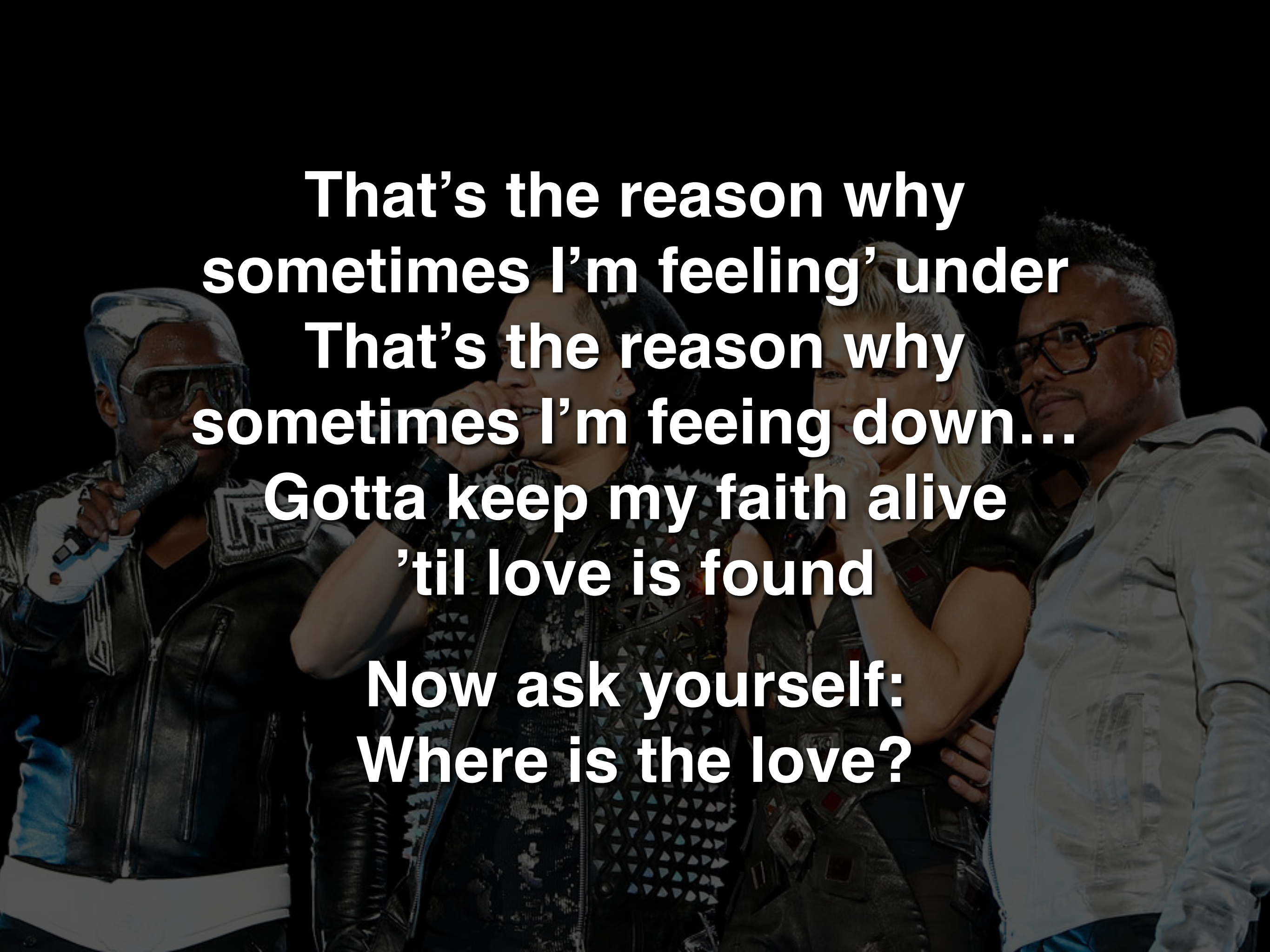
**It just ain't the same
Old ways have changed
New days are strange
Is the world insane?**

**...Nations droppin' bombs
Chemical gases filling lungs
of little ones**

**With ongoing sufferin'
as the youth die young
So ask yourself,
is the lovin' really gone?**

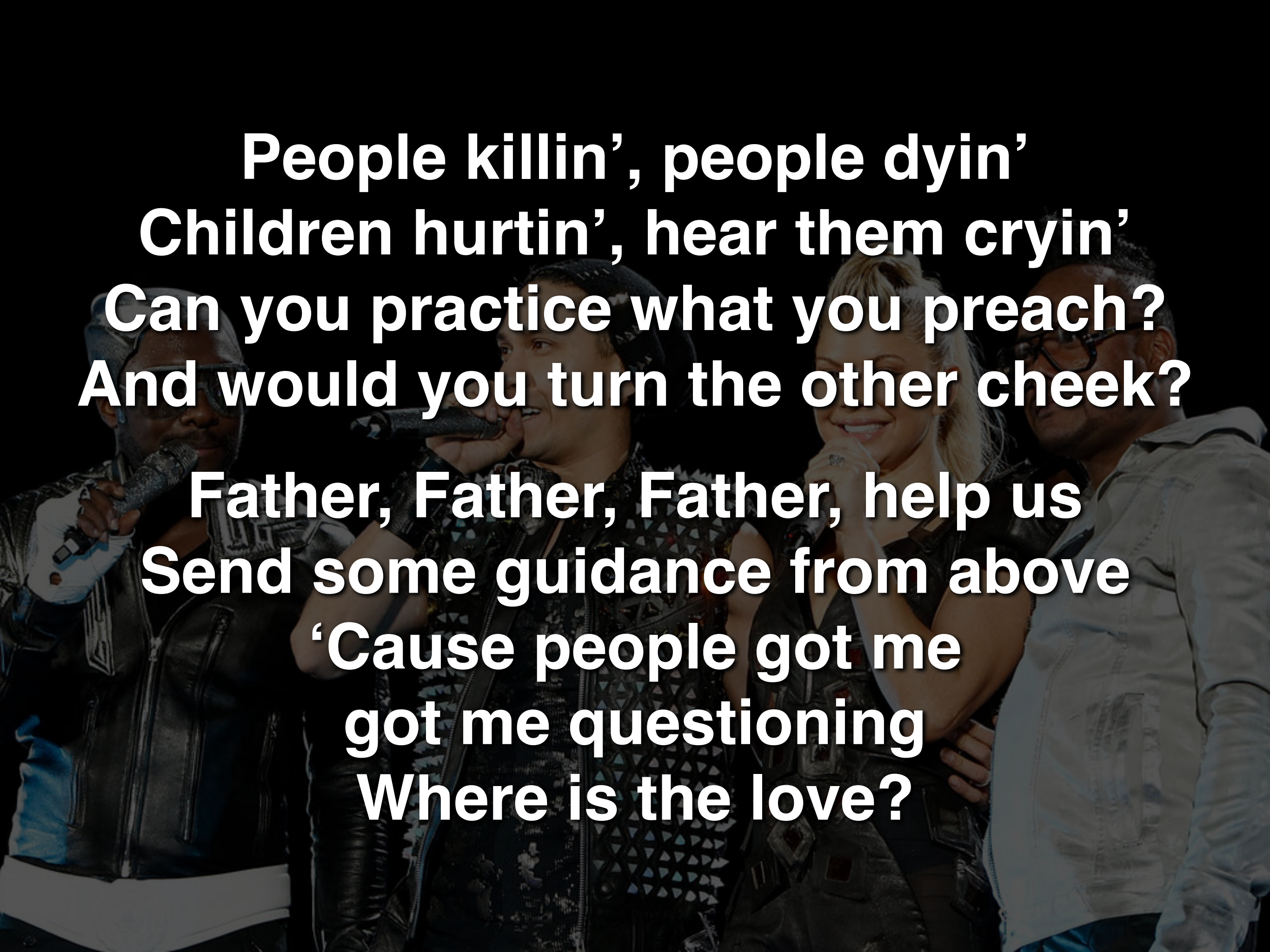
A group of four performers on stage, including a man in a silver jacket and goggles, a woman in a patterned jacket, a woman in a black jacket, and a man in a light blue jacket. They are all holding microphones. The image is overlaid with a dark semi-transparent box containing white text.

**Yo, whatever happened
to the values of humanity
Whatever happened to
the fairness and equality
Instead of spreading love
we spreading animosity
Lack of understanding leading
us away from unity**



**That's the reason why
sometimes I'm feeling' under
That's the reason why
sometimes I'm feeling down...
Gotta keep my faith alive
'til love is found**

**Now ask yourself:
Where is the love?**



**People killin', people dyin'
Children hurtin', hear them cryin'
Can you practice what you preach?
And would you turn the other cheek?**

**Father, Father, Father, help us
Send some guidance from above**

**'Cause people got me
got me questioning
Where is the love?**



WHERE IS THE LOVE?



Paul wrote his famous letter from prison to the Philippians to encourage them in their faith.

- **Every time I think of you, I pray with joy to God**
- **It's right for me to feel this way about you, because I hold you in my heart**
- **I yearn for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ**



The Jewish Apostle Paul to Gentile (former pagan) believers

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some faint light trails. The overall mood is celebratory and joyful.

The Essential Ingredient of a Well-Lived Life

— Philippians 1:9-11 —

Philippians 1

3 I **thank** my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every **prayer** of mine for you all making my **prayer** with joy,...

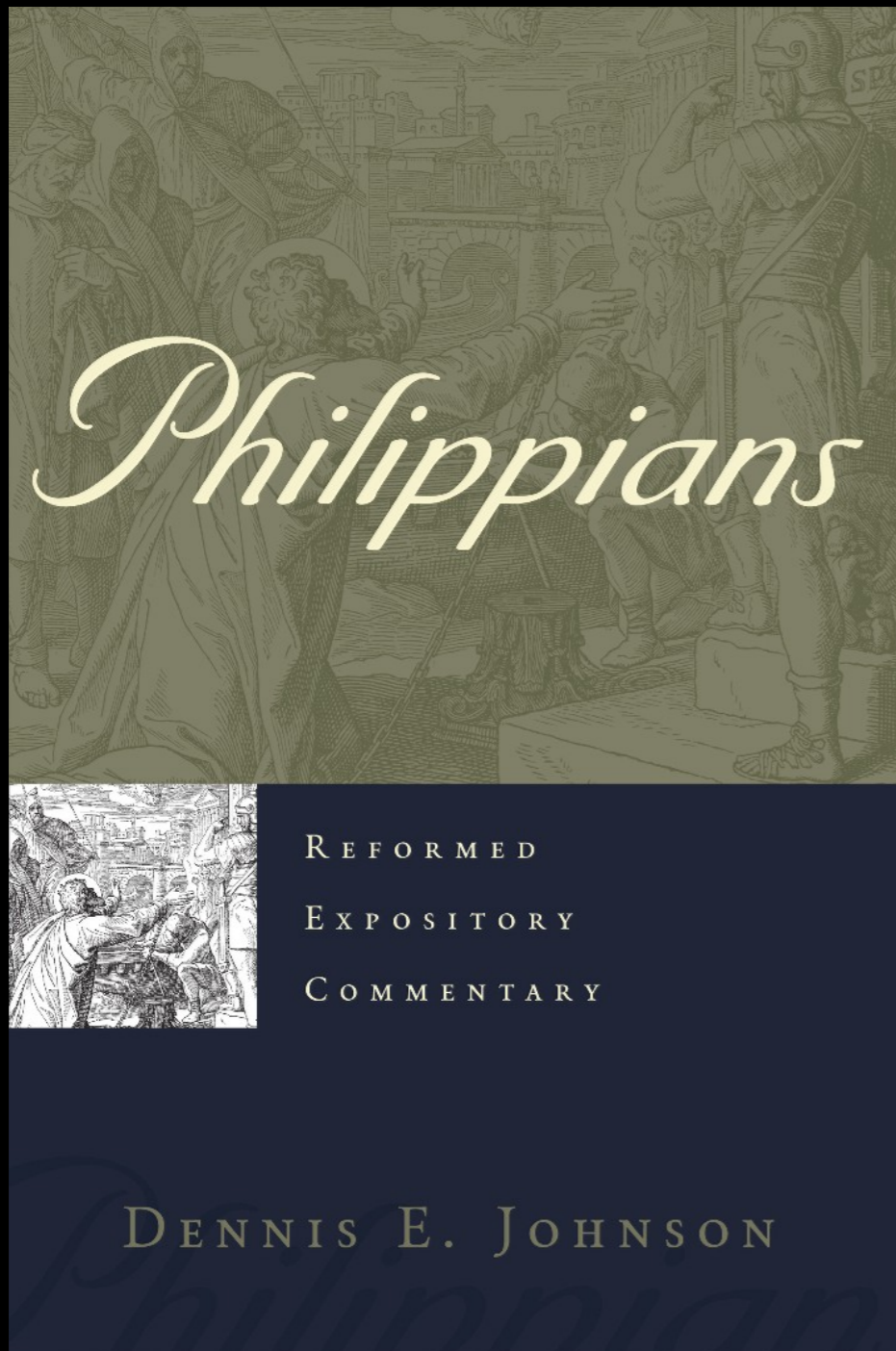
9 And it is **my prayer**...

**What is the one
thing more than
anything you
would ask God
to give to this
community of
Jesus' followers**

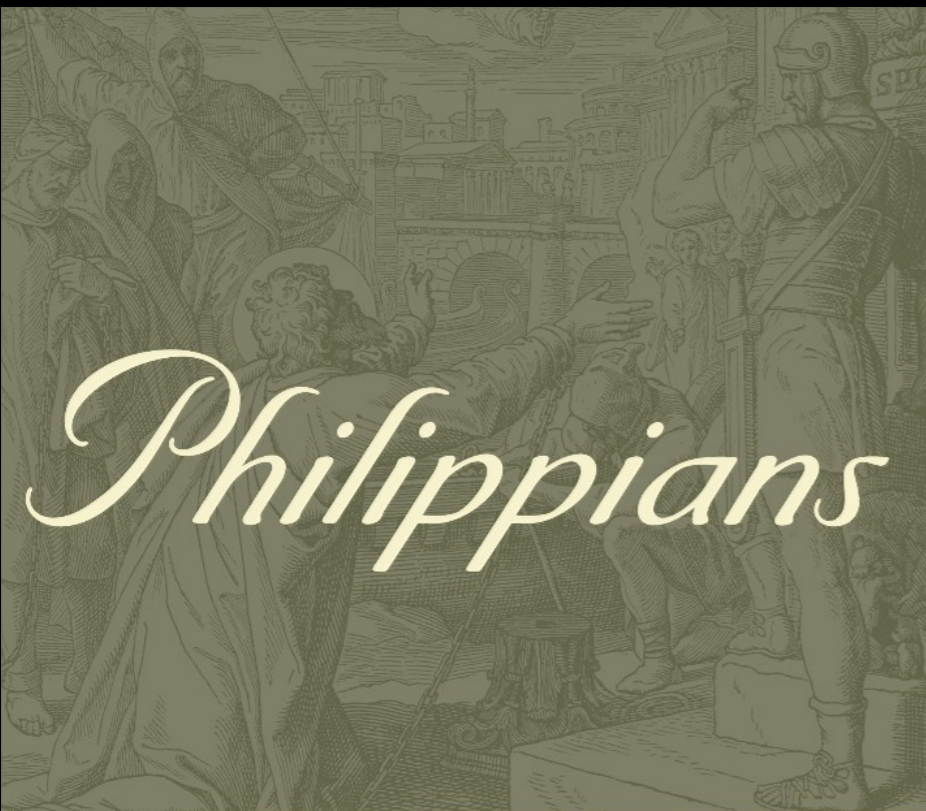


Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that **your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment.**



**Paul has an audience
with the infinitely rich
Sovereign of the
universe, and he can
ask this king to give
the most wonderful
gift imaginable to his
beloved spiritual
children in Philippi.
What will it be?**



Philippians



REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

DENNIS E. JOHNSON

Paul asks God to give the Philippian Christians overflowing love, blended with discerning wisdom.



**Um, to be honest,
that sounds a bit
anti-climatic.**

Key Thought

**You can have a lot of things,
but if you don't have love,
you have missed out
on the most important thing.**

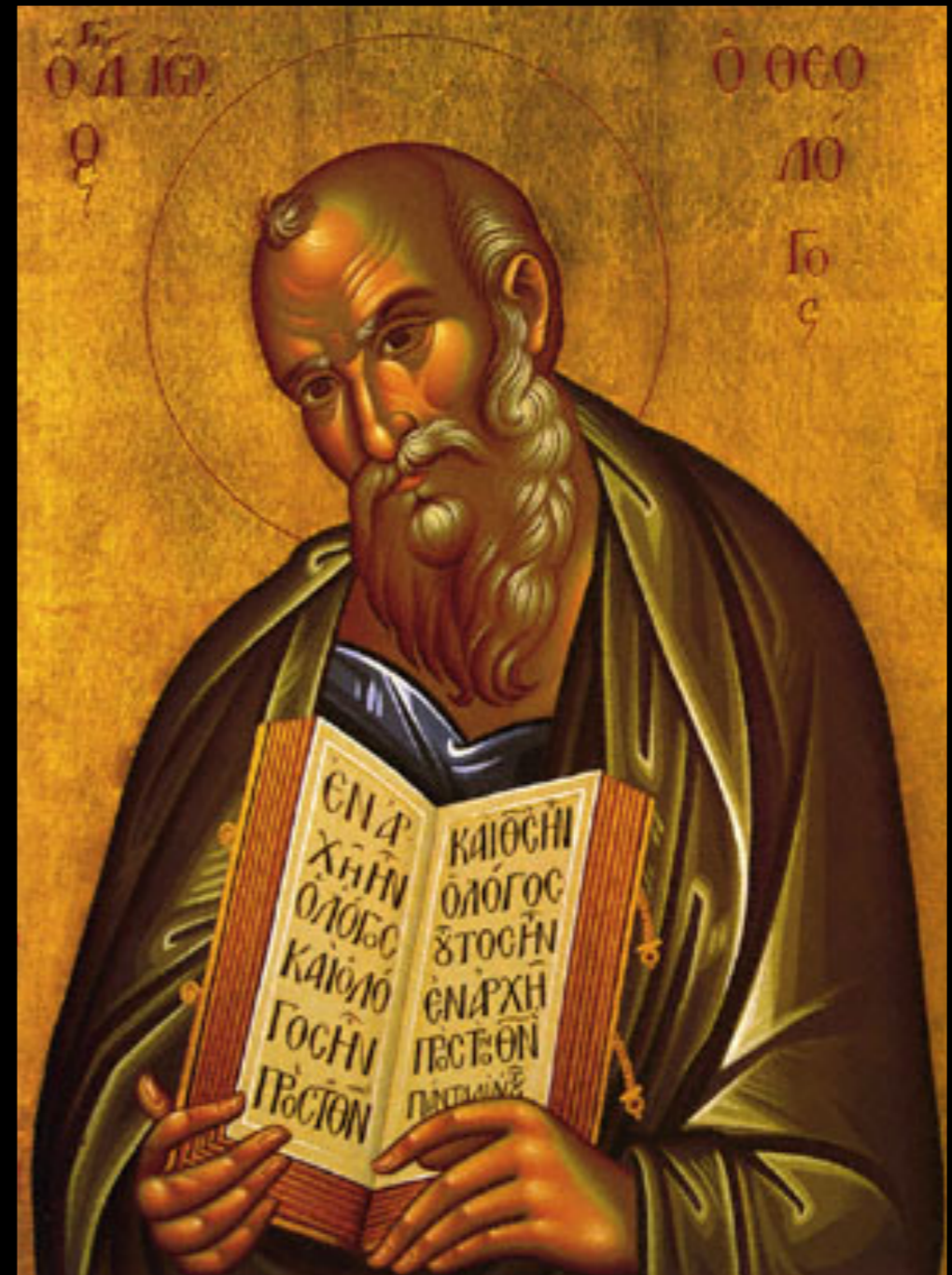
**We all know that
love is a big deal.**

**But why is it
such a big deal?**



God is love.

The Apostle John
— 1 John 4:16 —



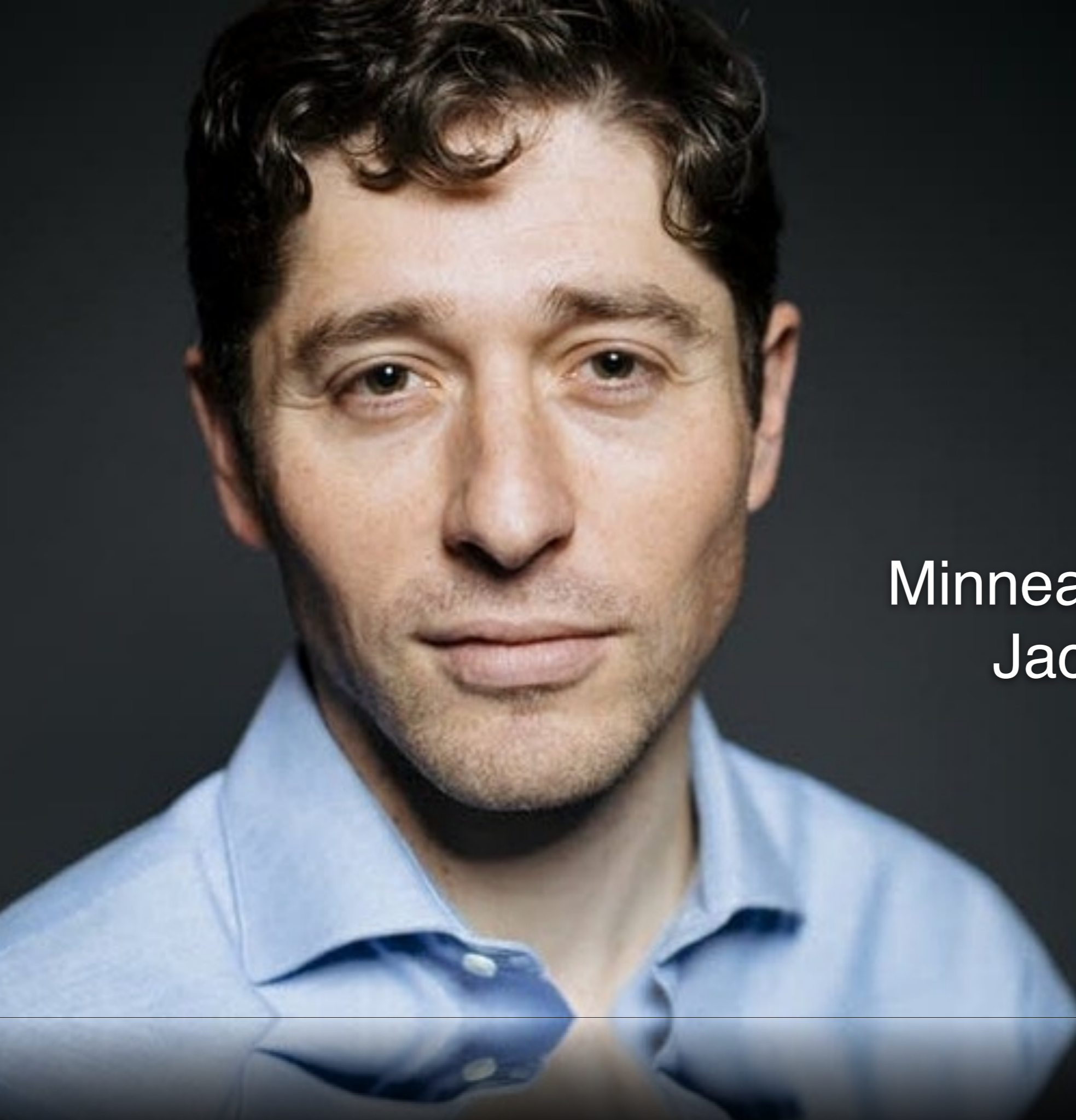
George Floyd Left a Gospel Legacy in Houston

As a person of peace, "Big Floyd" opened up ministry opportunities in the Third Ward housing projects.

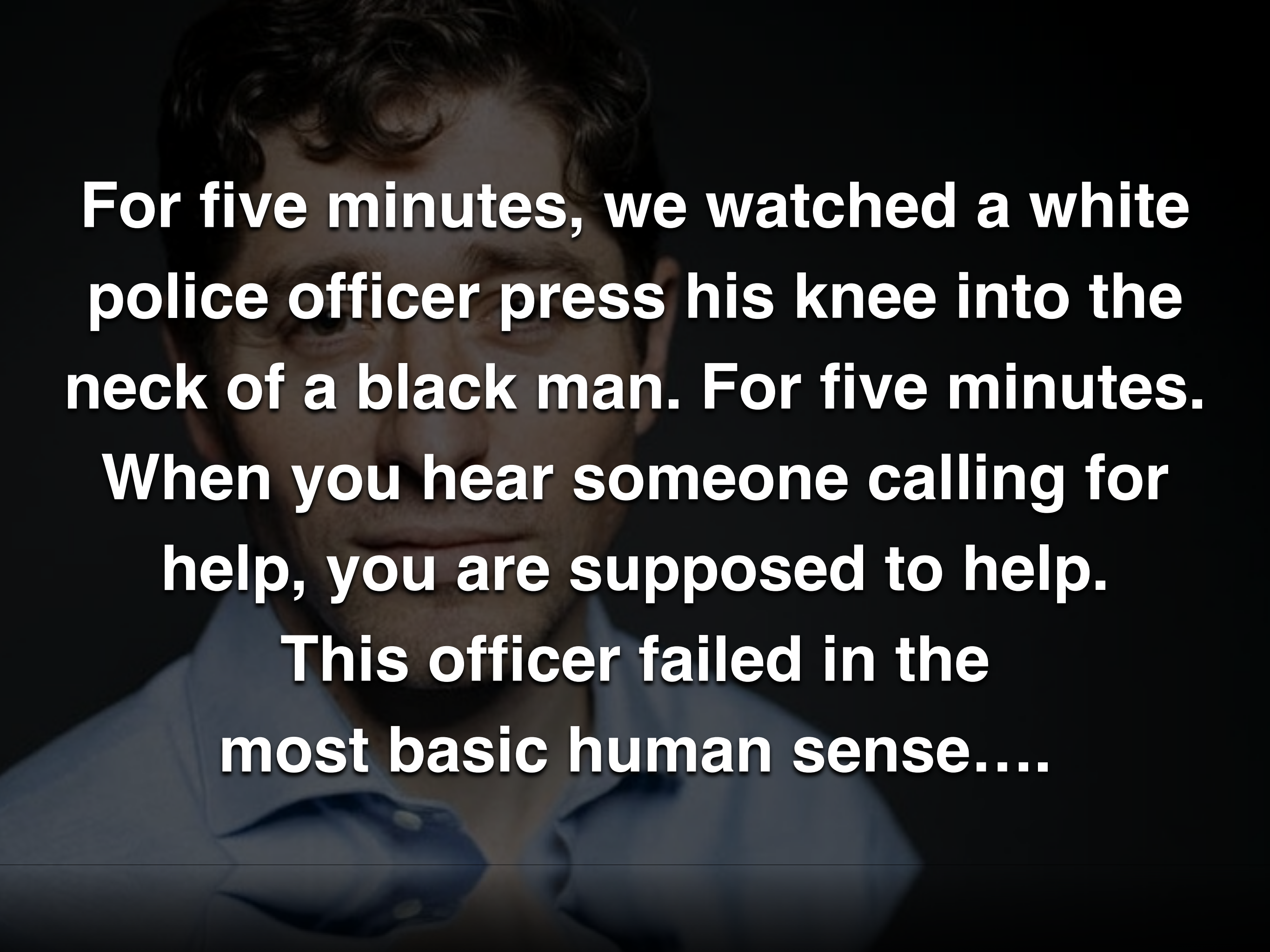
KATE SHELLNUTT | MAY 28, 2020 6:00 PM



Image: Source: Nijalon Dunn / Courtesy of Resurrection Houston



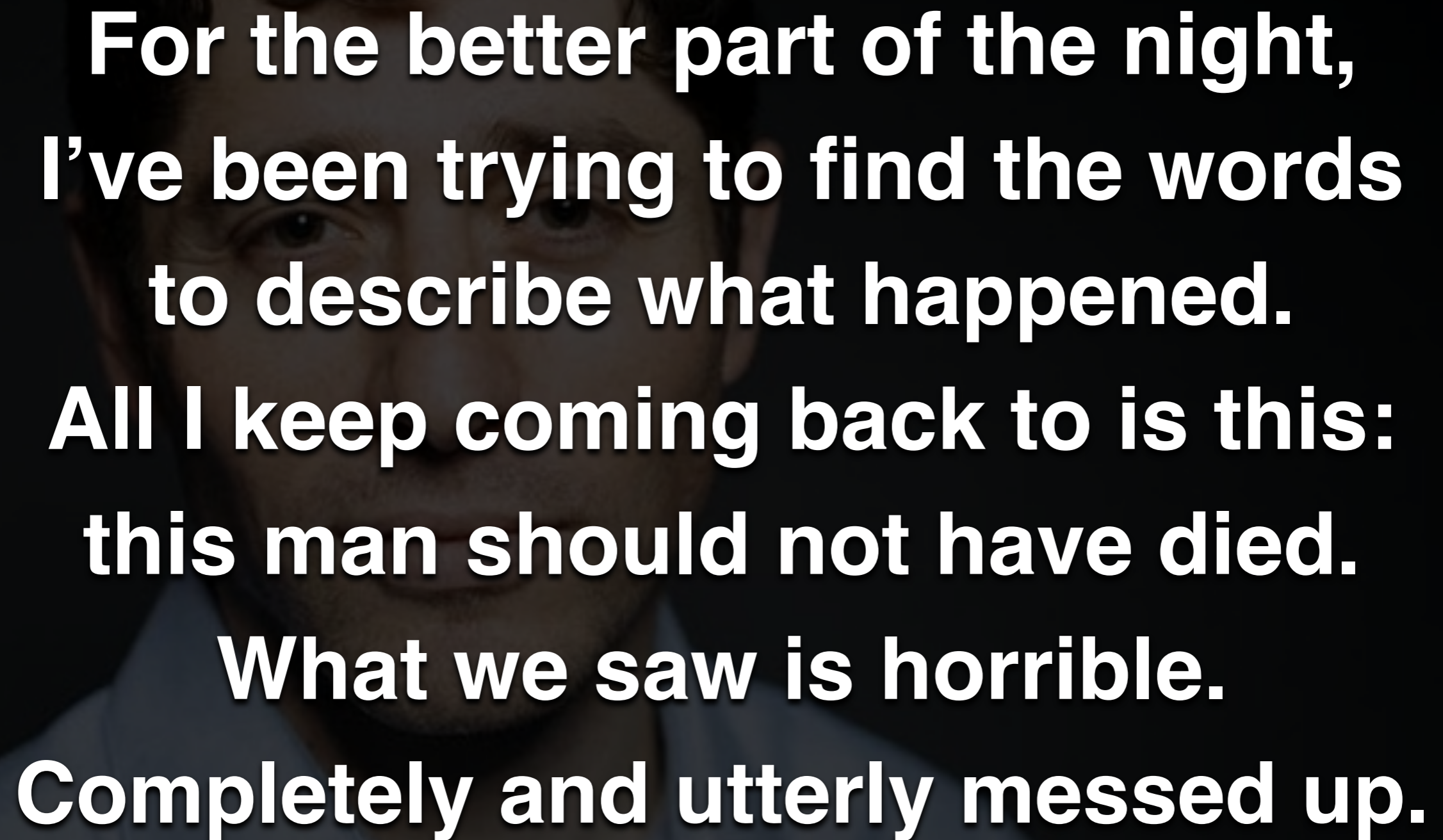
Minneapolis Mayor
Jacob Frey



For five minutes, we watched a white police officer press his knee into the neck of a black man. For five minutes.

When you hear someone calling for help, you are supposed to help.

This officer failed in the most basic human sense....



**For the better part of the night,
I've been trying to find the words
to describe what happened.
All I keep coming back to is this:
this man should not have died.
What we saw is horrible.
Completely and utterly messed up.**

The man's life matters. He matters. He was someone's son. Someone's family member. Someone's friend. He was a human being and his life mattered. Whatever the investigation reveals, it does not change the simple truth, he should still be with us this morning...

— Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey —

— “ ” —

**...failed in the most
basic human sense.**

— Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey —

**What does
it mean to
succeed in
the most basic
human sense**



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

— Jesus of Nazareth in Matthew 22:37-39 —



**The only thing
that counts is faith
expressing itself
through love.**

The Apostle Paul
— Galatians 5:6 —

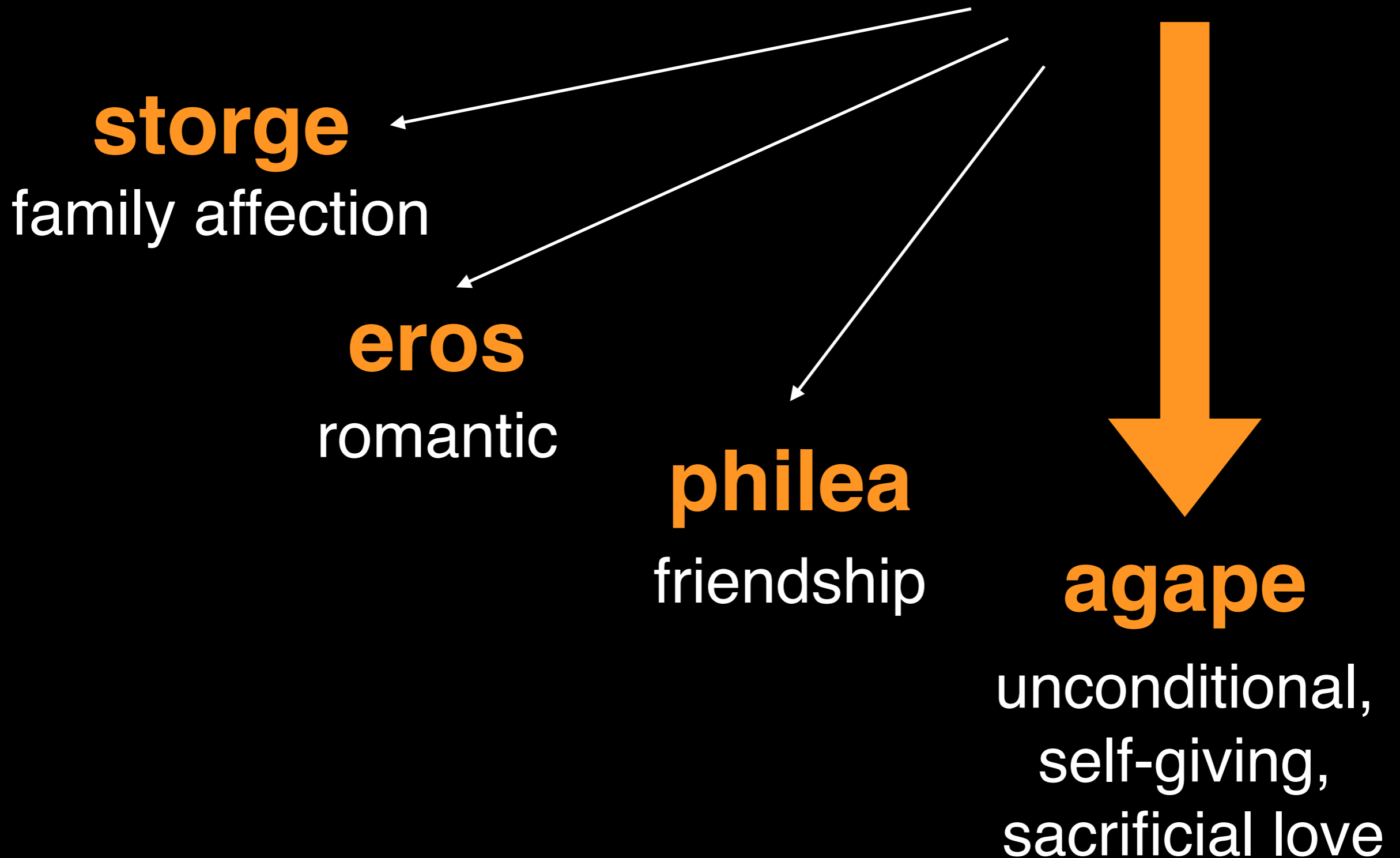


Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that your love may
abound more and more....

GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

Greek has 4 words for “**LOVE**”



A man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie, is seated at a desk. He is looking down at an open book in front of him. The background is a blurred interior with a window. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The Greek word **agape**
(love) seems to have
been virtually a
Christian invention—
a **new word** for
a **new thing**....

— JI Packer —
Your Father Loves You



**Greater love has no one than
this, that someone lay down
his life for his friends.**

Jesus of Nazareth

The Gospel of John 15:13

Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that **your love may abound more and more....**

“to be over and above, superfluous”

— Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary”

**“to super abound (in quantity or quality)...
enough with more to spare”**

- Olive Tree Enhanced Strong’s Dictionary —

“more than enough”

— Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the NT —

**...you yourselves
have been taught by
God to love one ano-
ther, for that indeed is
what you are doing....**

**But we urge you,
brothers and sisters,
to do this more
and more.**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Thessalonians 4:9 —



**Is this kind of love
—sacrificial, agape
love—growing more
and more in my life?**

Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment.

GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

knowledge

epignosis / επίγνωσις



Used some 20x in the NT, it has to do with a spiritual knowledge of God and His truth and His will.

...we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him....



The Apostle Paul
— Colossians 1:9-10 —

GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

discernment

aisthesis / αἴσθησις



**Perception, understanding,
a moral discernment
in ethical matters.**

NT / COMMENTARY

AUTHOR Tony Merida and Francis Chan

SERIES EDITORS David Platt, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida

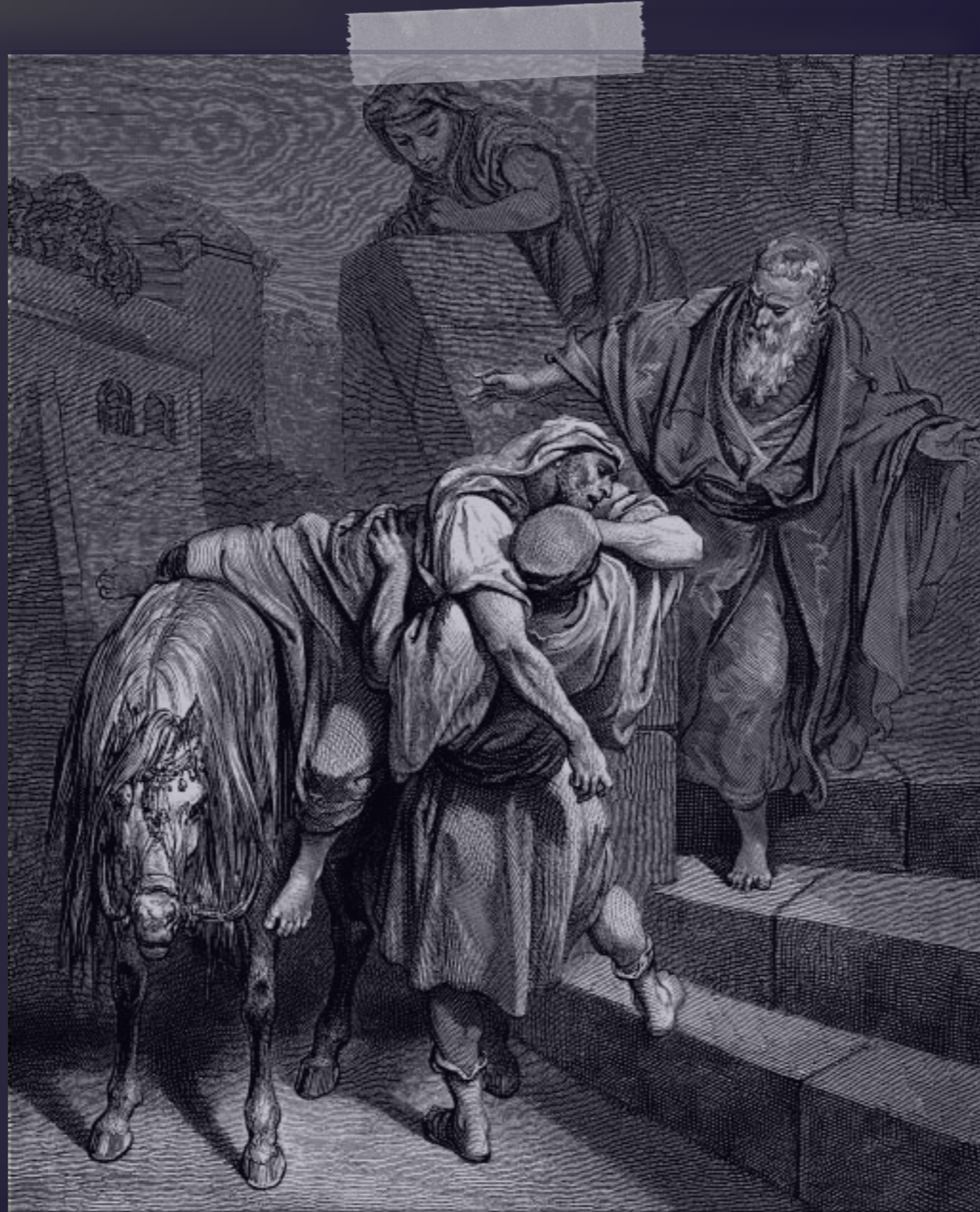
CHRIST-CENTERED
Exposition

EXALTING JESUS IN

PHILIPPIANS



**Knowledge asks the question, ‘What is right?’
Discernment asks the question, ‘What is best?’
...It seems what Paul has in mind is praying for God to help you answer the question, What is the best way for me to love this person based on what your word says?**



— Jesus' Story about the Good Samaritan —

Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, **10** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be **pure** and blameless for the day of Christ,

The Greek word means “judged by sunlight.”

That is, to test something as genuine, authentic.

NKJV: “that you may be sincere....”

(genuine, authentic, the real thing)



**A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another: just as I
have loved you, you also are to love
one another. By this all people will
know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.**

Jesus of Nazareth
The Gospel of John 13:33-34

Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and **blameless** for the day of Christ,

Literally, “not causing offense” either by....

- (1) stumbling into sin (having a clear conscience)
- (2) causing someone else to stumble and sin

The US Department of Justice Is Investigating the SBC. What Does It Mean?

By Bob Smietana

📅 August 18, 2022 ⌚ 10:15 am CDT 💬 14 Comments



The Southern Baptist Convention headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. (Photo courtesy of Baptist Press)

The US Department of Justice Is Investigating the

SBC: What Does It Mean?

By Bob Smietana

More than four decades after sexual abuse claims against a Catholic priest first made national headlines, spurring accusations, lawsuits, a series of newspaper investigations and billions in settlements, the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating a religious group's handling of sexual crimes by clergy and church staff.

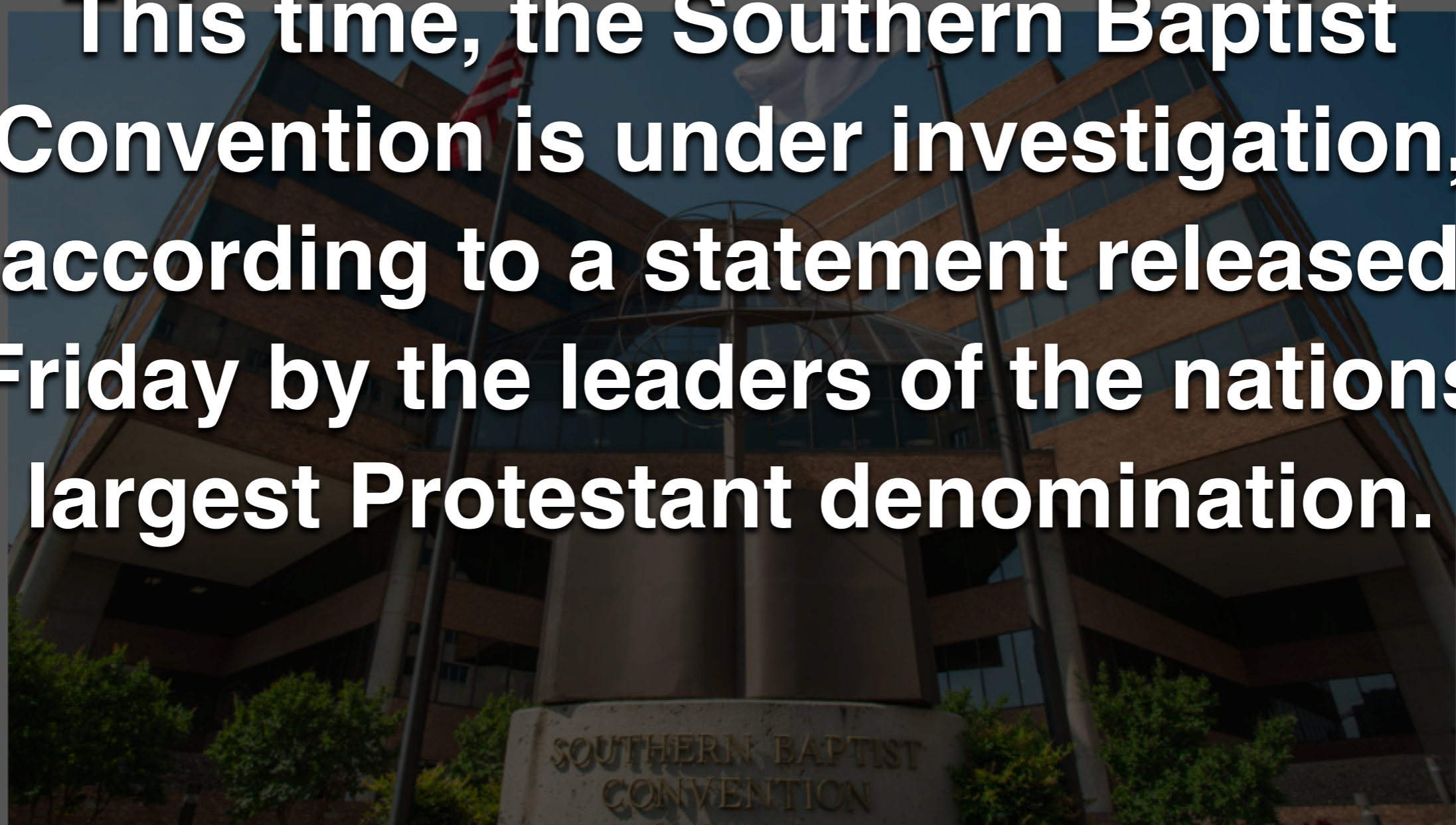
The Southern Baptist Convention headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. (Photo courtesy of Baptist Press)

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This time, the Southern Baptist Convention is under investigation, according to a statement released Friday by the leaders of the nations largest Protestant denomination.



The Southern Baptist Convention headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. (Photo courtesy of Baptist Press)

The US Department of Justice Is Investigating the SBC. What Does It Mean?

By Bob Smietana

News of the investigation came months after the release of a report from the investigative firm Guidepost Solutions found SBC leaders had mistreated abuse survivors and mishandled abuse claims for decades.

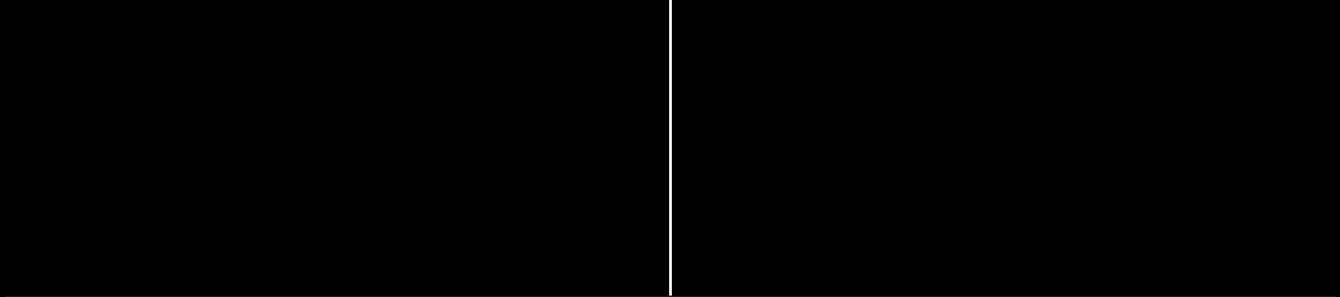
The Southern Baptist Convention headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. (Photo courtesy of Baptist Press)

**They have failed in
the most basic human sense
AND in the most basic
Christian sense.**

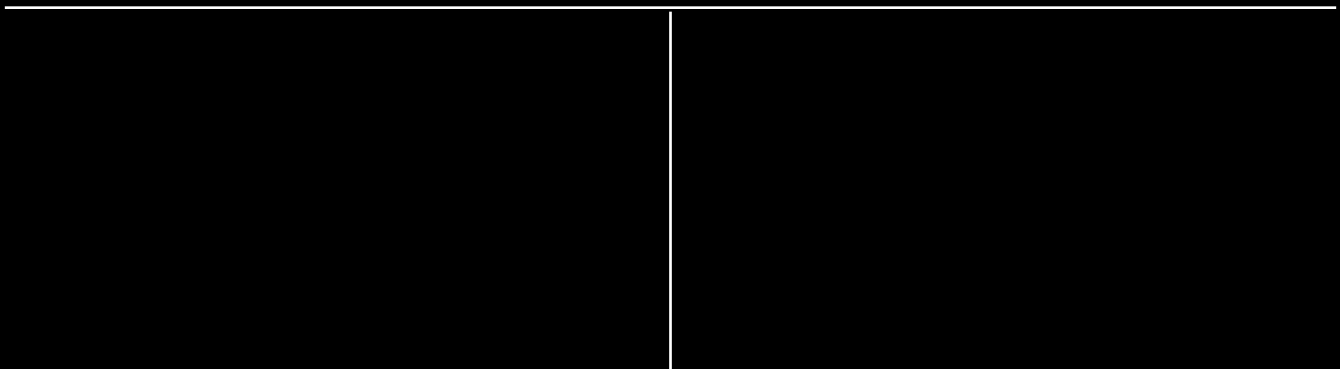
Paul prays that Christians should abound in love
so as to be judged authentic, genuine, the real thing,
not causing scandal or causing others to sin.

Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,



**We should live every day
in light of the coming day
when we will see Jesus
face to face.**



**...may the Lord make
you increase and abound
in love for one another
and for all, as we do for
you, so that he may
establish your hearts
blameless in holiness
before our God and
Father, at the coming
of our Lord Jesus
with all his saints.**



The Apostle Paul

— 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 —

Philippians 1

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and **so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.**

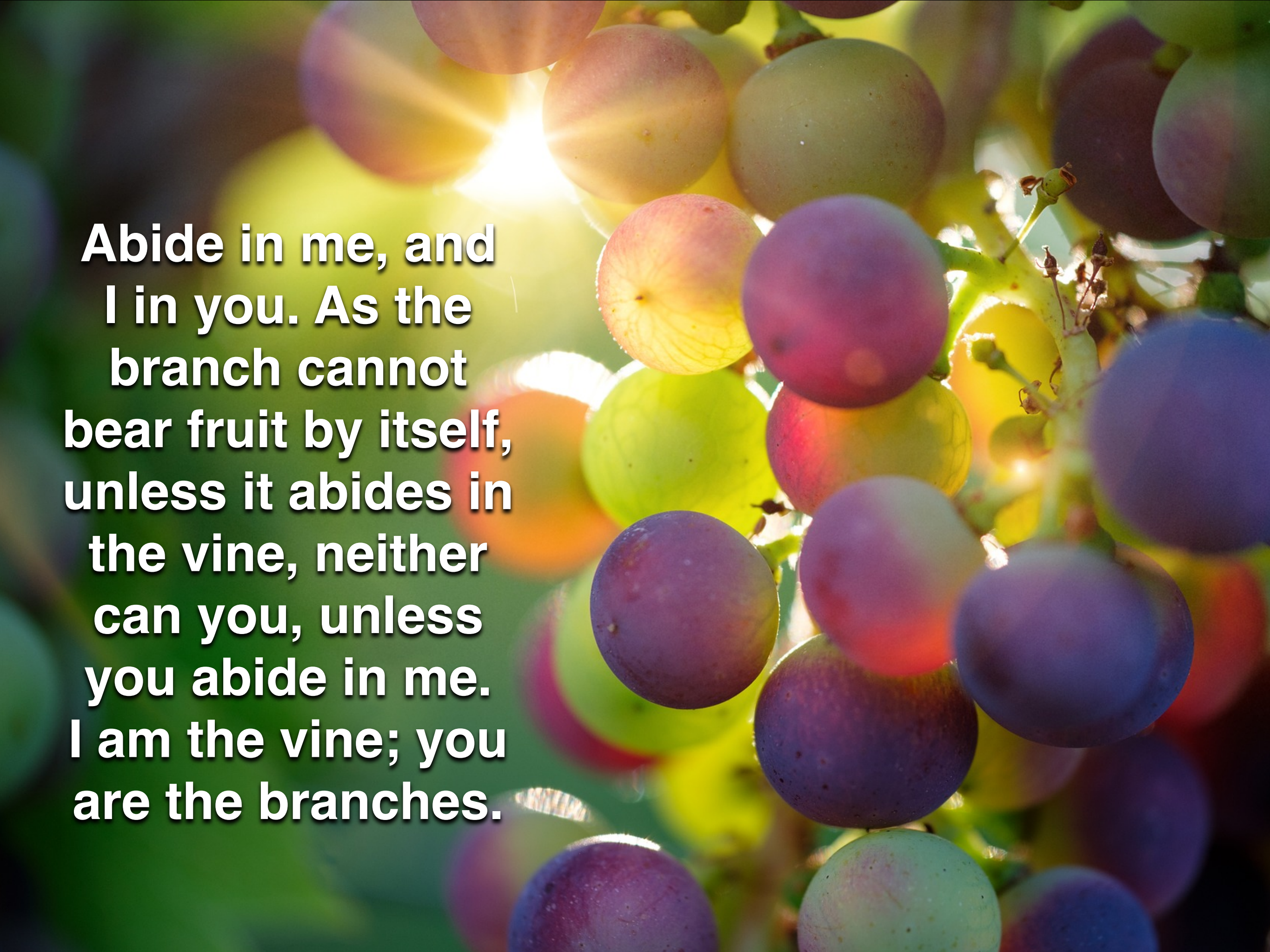


**Christ also suffered once for sins,
the righteous for the unrighteous,
that he might bring us to God.**

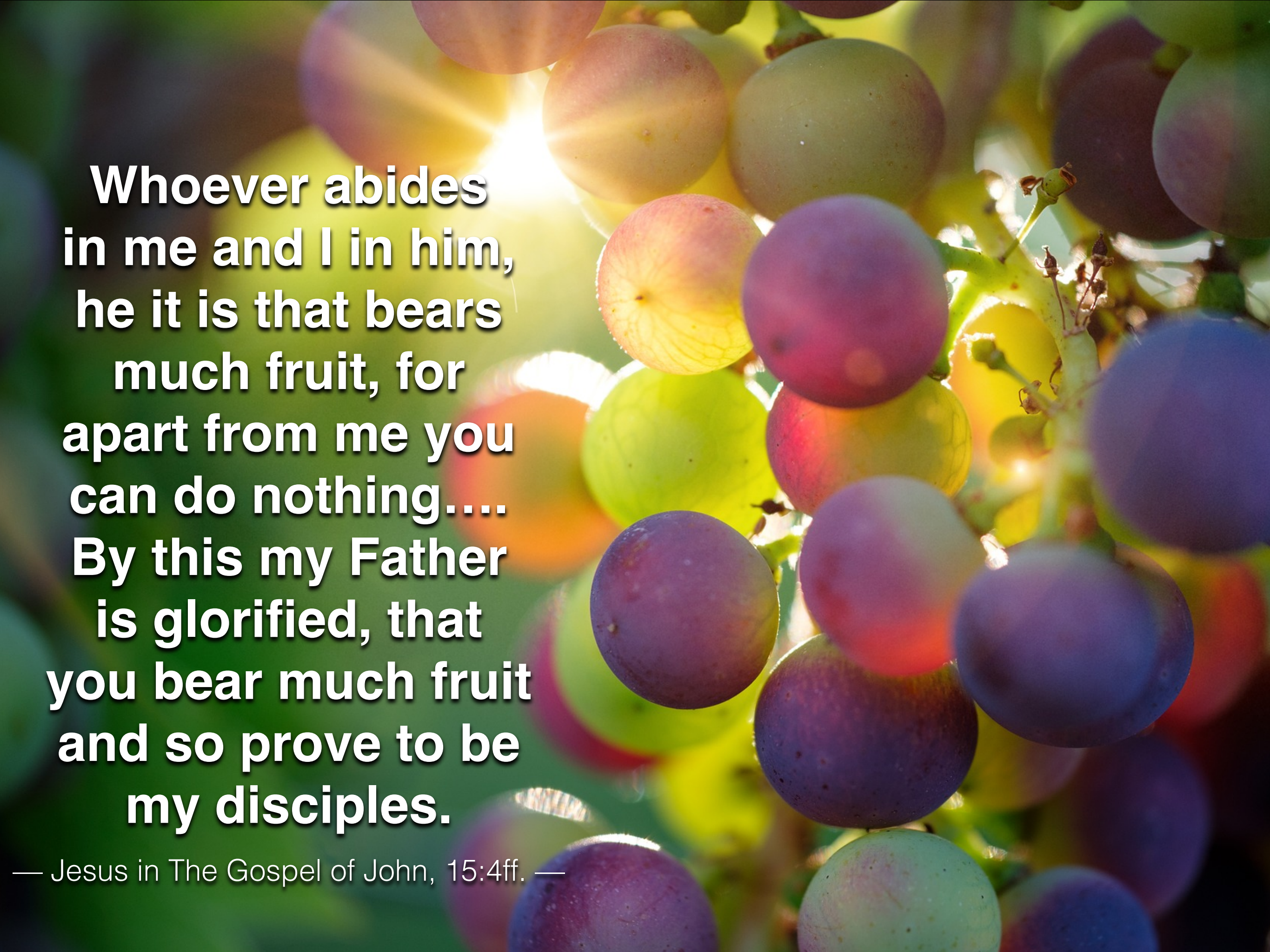
— 1 Peter 3:18 —

Philippians 1

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**Abide in me, and
I in you. As the
branch cannot
bear fruit by itself,
unless it abides in
the vine, neither
can you, unless
you abide in me.
I am the vine; you
are the branches.**



**Whoever abides
in me and I in him,
he it is that bears
much fruit, for
apart from me you
can do nothing....
By this my Father
is glorified, that
you bear much fruit
and so prove to be
my disciples.**

— Jesus in The Gospel of John, 15:4ff. —

Philippians 1

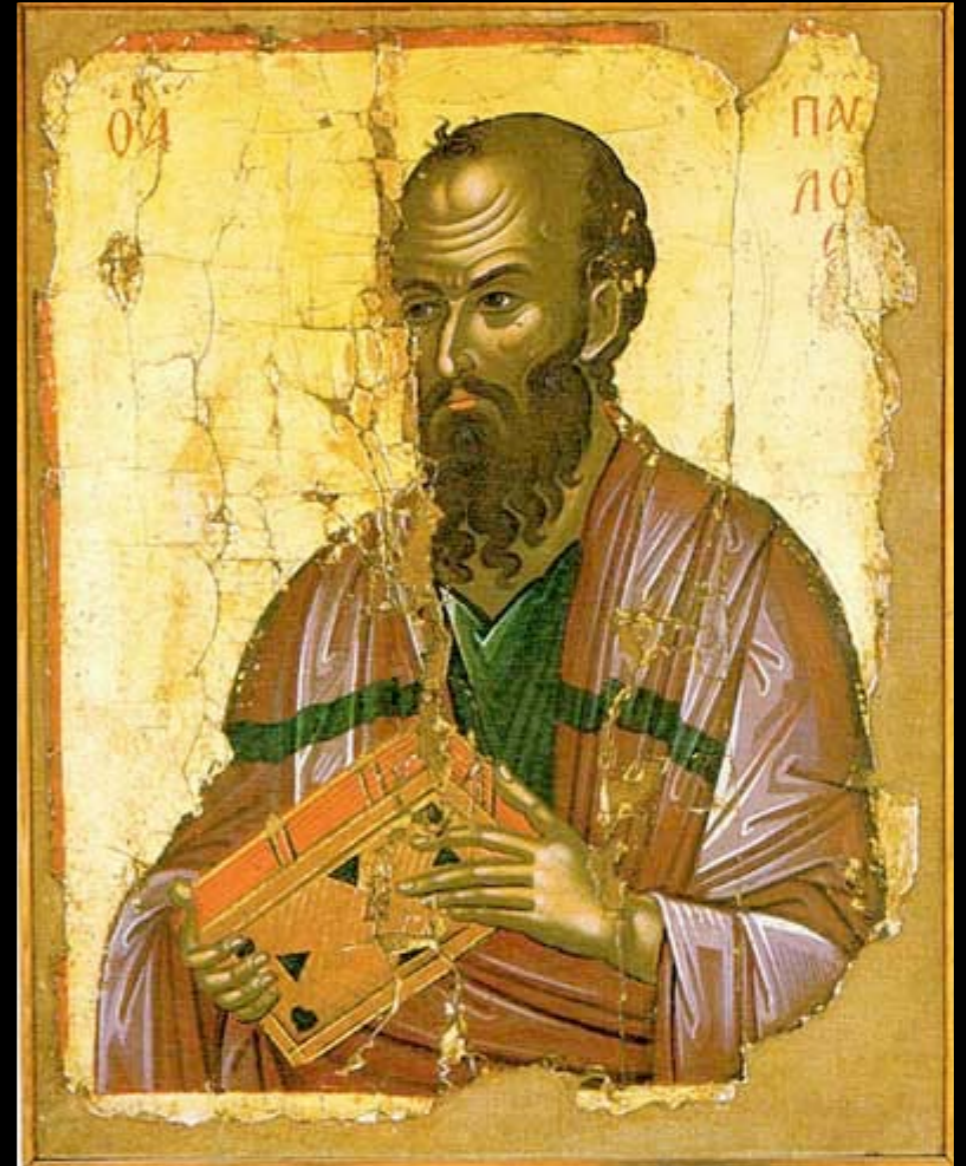
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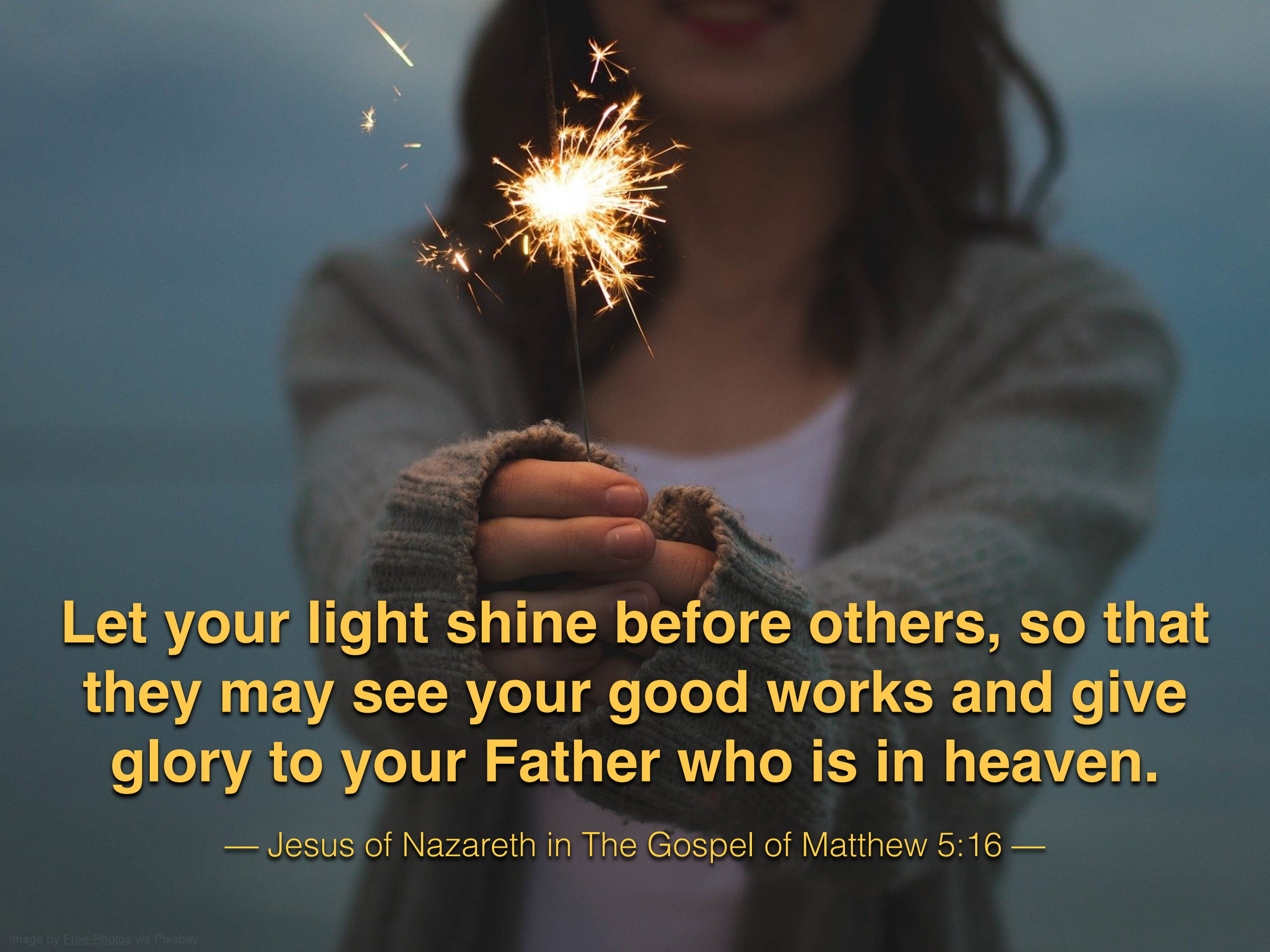


Philippians 2:11, "...to the glory fo God the Father";
4:20, "To our God and Father be glory forever and ever"

**So, whether you eat
or drink, or whatever
you do, do all to the
glory of God.**

The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 10:31 —



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The person is wearing a grey, textured sweater. The background is a dark, solid blue color. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of Matthew 5:16 —

**In essence, Paul is saying,
“I’m keep asking God to grow your
love more and more so that when
Jesus comes back and asks, ‘Where
is the love?’, He finds it among His
followers who are overflowing with
love for everyone more and more.”**

**The ultimate goal of this prayer
is that we would love others
in such a way that God is
adored more and more.**



1

**Let's Marinate In The Good News
Of God's Love To Us In Christ**



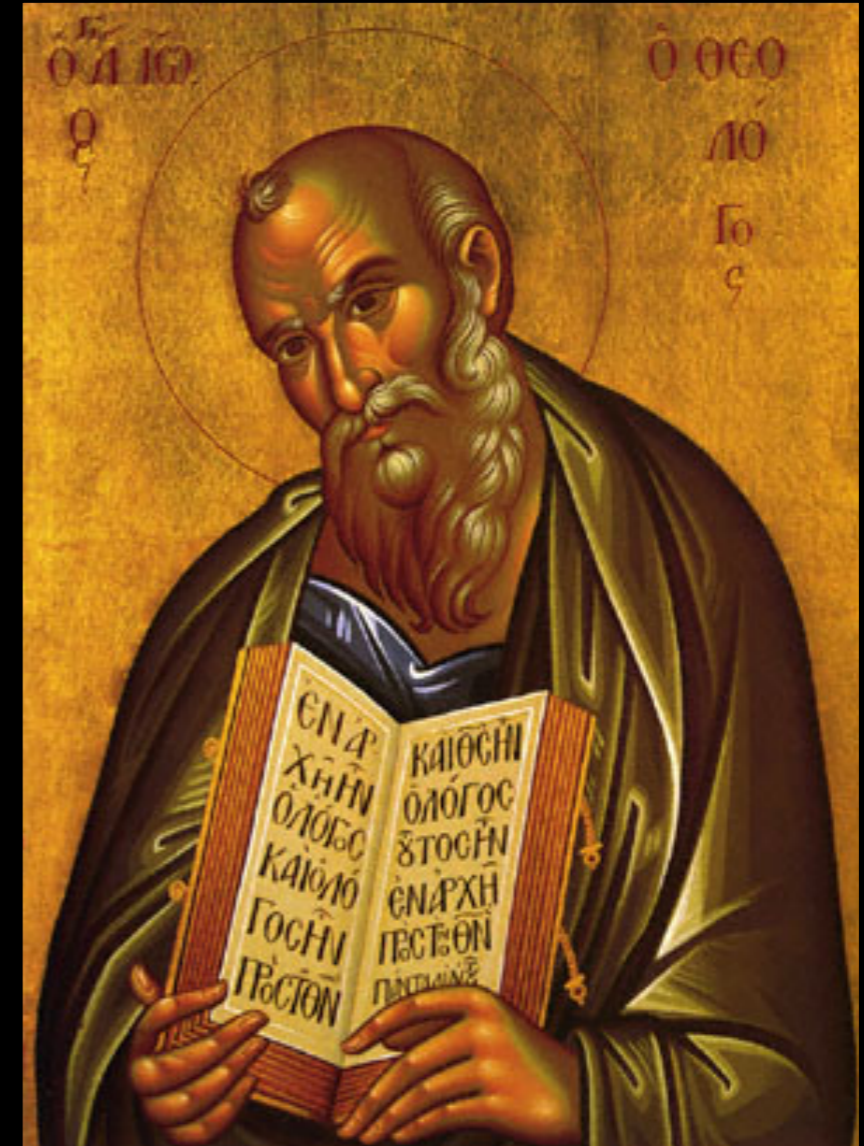


**The Son of God
loved me and
gave Himself
for me.**

— Galatians 2:20 —

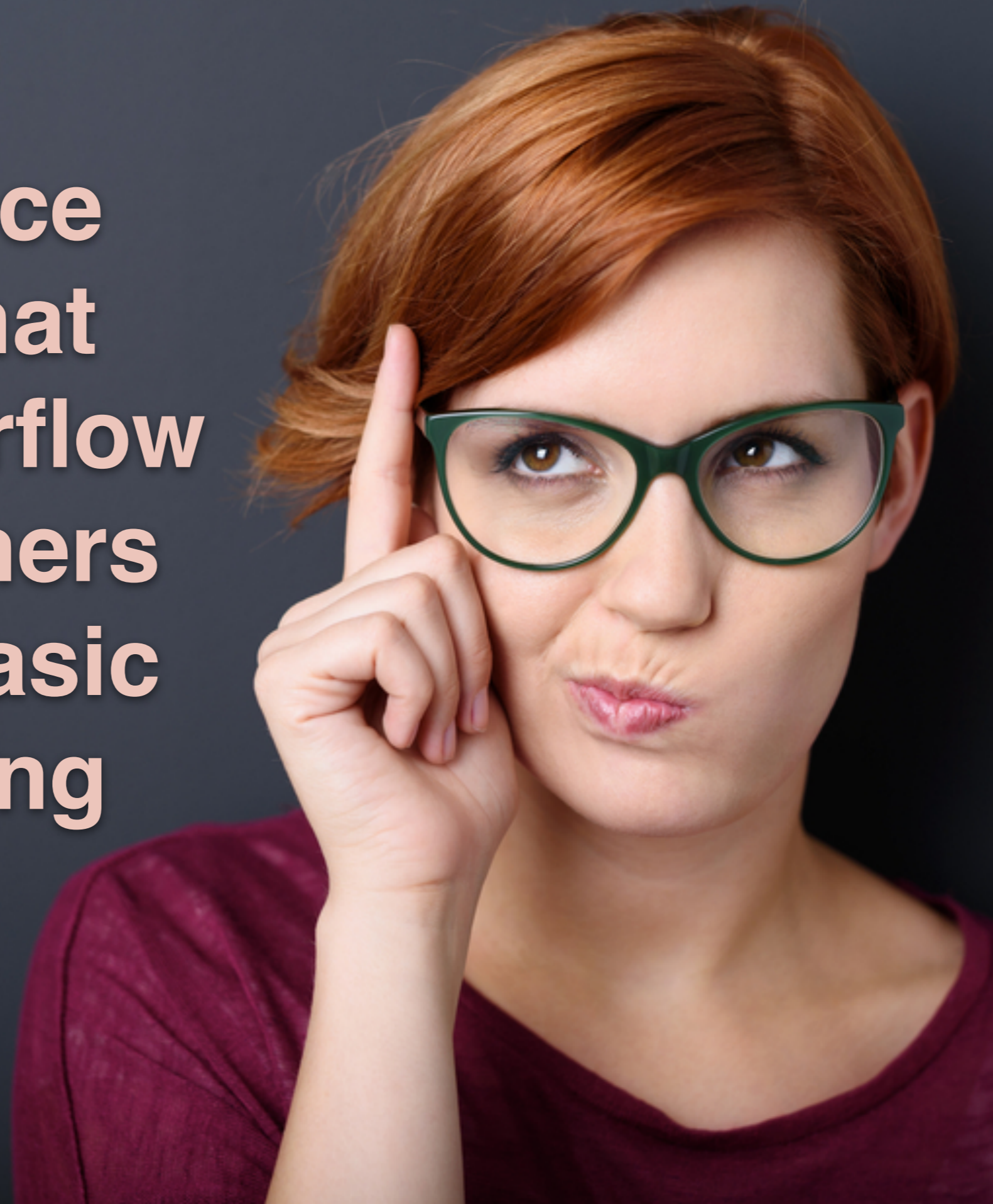
**We love because
He first loved us.**

The Apostle John
— 1 John 4:19 —



2

Let's convince ourselves that the call to overflow in love for others is the most basic sense of being human.



**If I speak in the
tongues of men and
of angels, but have
not love, I am a noisy
gong or a clanging
cymbal.**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 —

**And if I have
prophetic powers,
and understand all
mysteries and all
knowledge, and if I
have all faith, so as to
remove mountains,
but have not love,
I am nothing.**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 —

**If I give away all I
have, and if I deliver
up my body to be
burned, but have not
love, I gain nothing.**



The Apostle Paul

— 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 —

**Part of finding
joy right where
you are is learning
to love more and
more right
where you are.**



**God's love has been
poured into our hearts
through the Holy
Spirit who has been
given to us.**

The Apostle Paul
— Romans 5:5 —



**How about making a
“to love today” list?**

My Agape List

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**



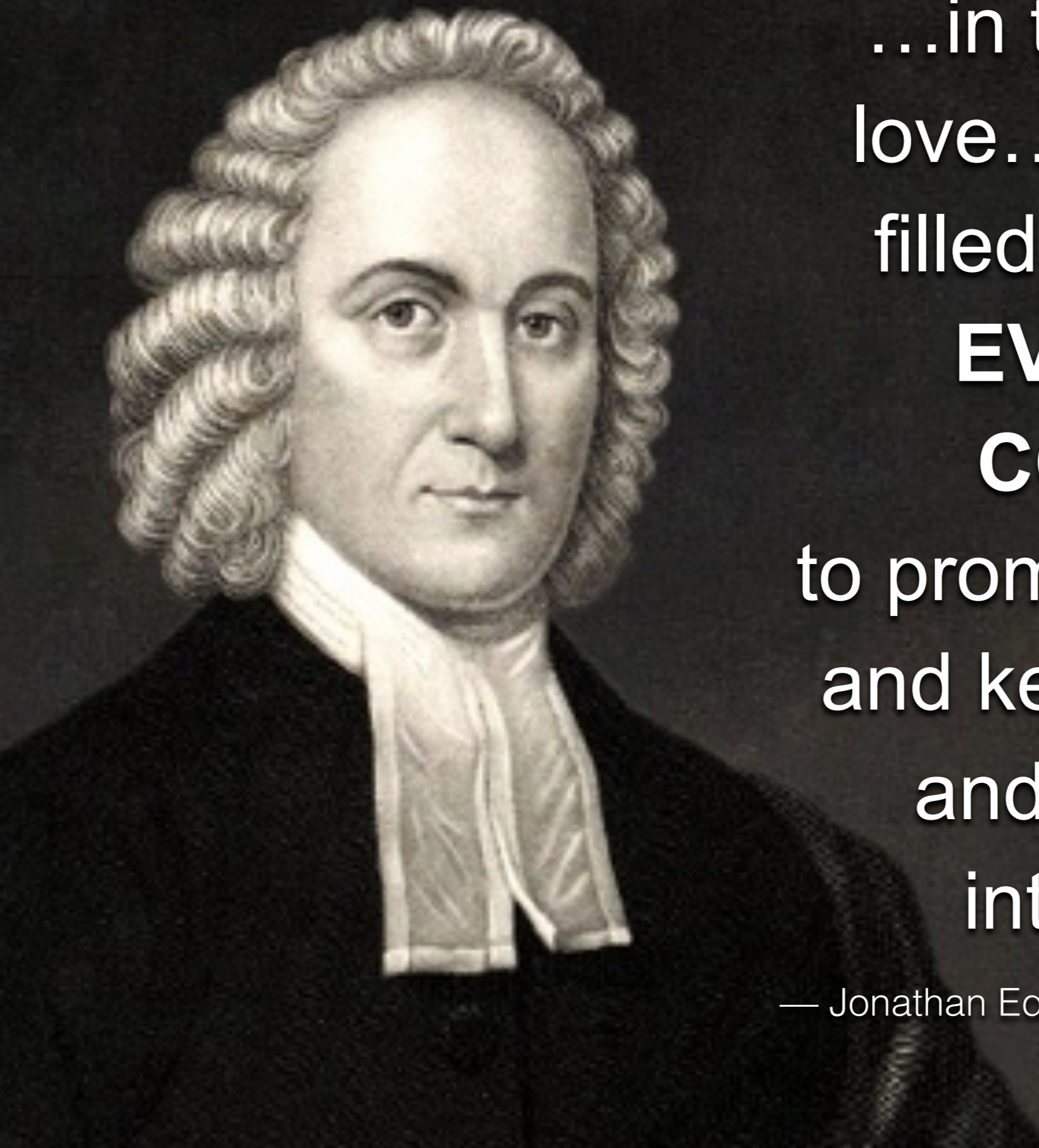
**Show me today,
Lord, ways in which
I can overflow in love
for others today.**





3

Let's Pray This Prayer For One Another



...in the paradise of
love..., everything is
filled with love, and

**EVERYTHING
CONSPIRES**

to promote and kindle it,
and keep up its flame,
and nothing ever
interrupts it....

— Jonathan Edwards, *Heaven: A World of Love* —



WHERE IS THE LOVE?

**It's right here among the followers
of the One who loved best!**