

A dark, atmospheric painting of a forest. The trees are tall and thin, with bare branches. The ground is covered in a dense carpet of fallen leaves or grass. In the distance, a woman in a long, white, flowing dress stands on a path, looking towards the viewer. The overall mood is mysterious and somber.

# Confession and Intimacy

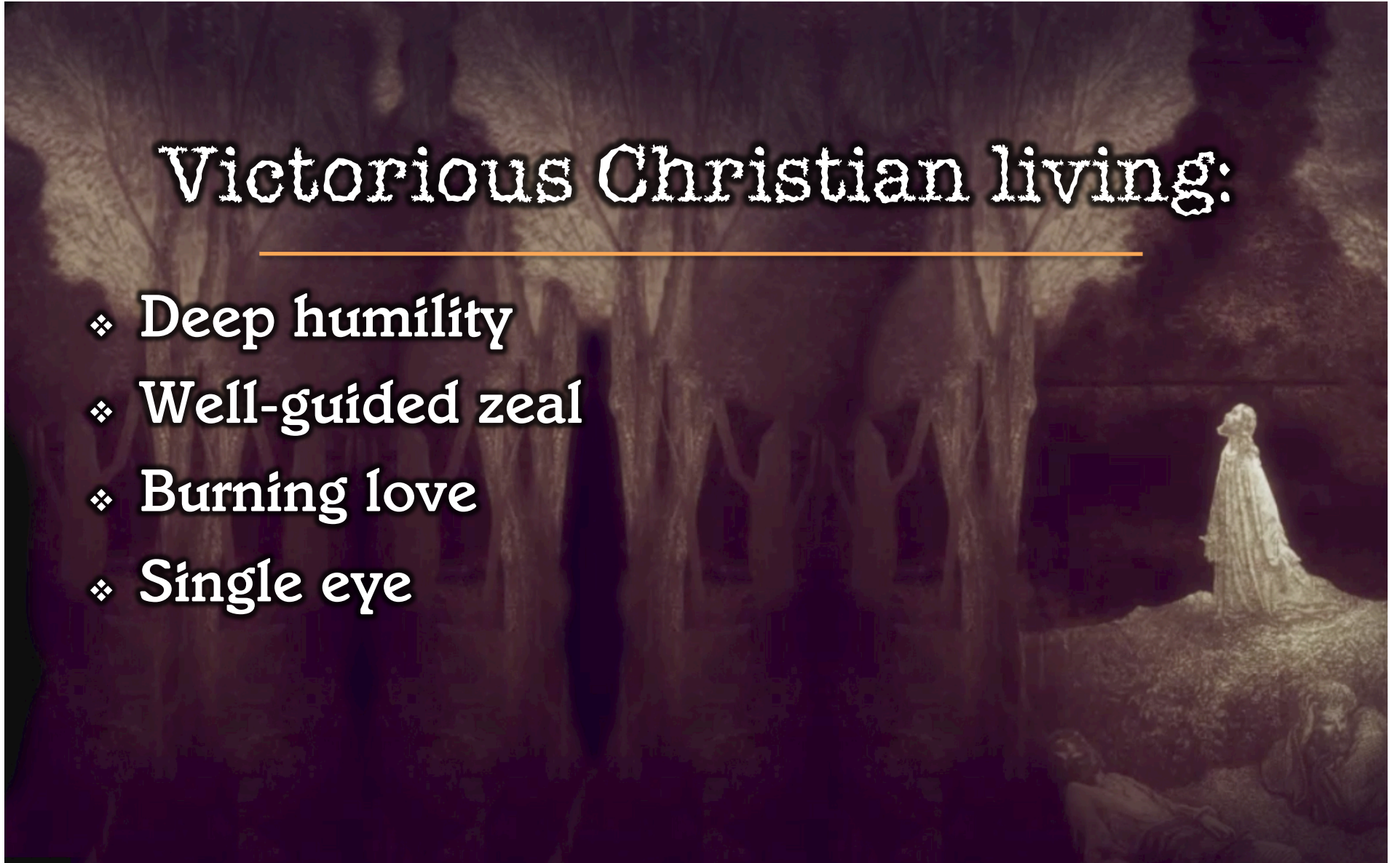
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Curt Deming  
Melbourne Community Church  
January 24, 2016

# Victorious Christian living:

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- ❖ Deep humility
- ❖ Well-guided zeal
- ❖ Burning love
- ❖ Single eye





# Prayer Professors:

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- ❖ Bible
  - ❖ Jesus
  - ❖ David and other Psalmists
  - ❖ Paul



# Prayer Professors:

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- ❖ Church history
  - ❖ Augustine
  - ❖ Martin Luther
  - ❖ John Calvin





# Prayer Professors:

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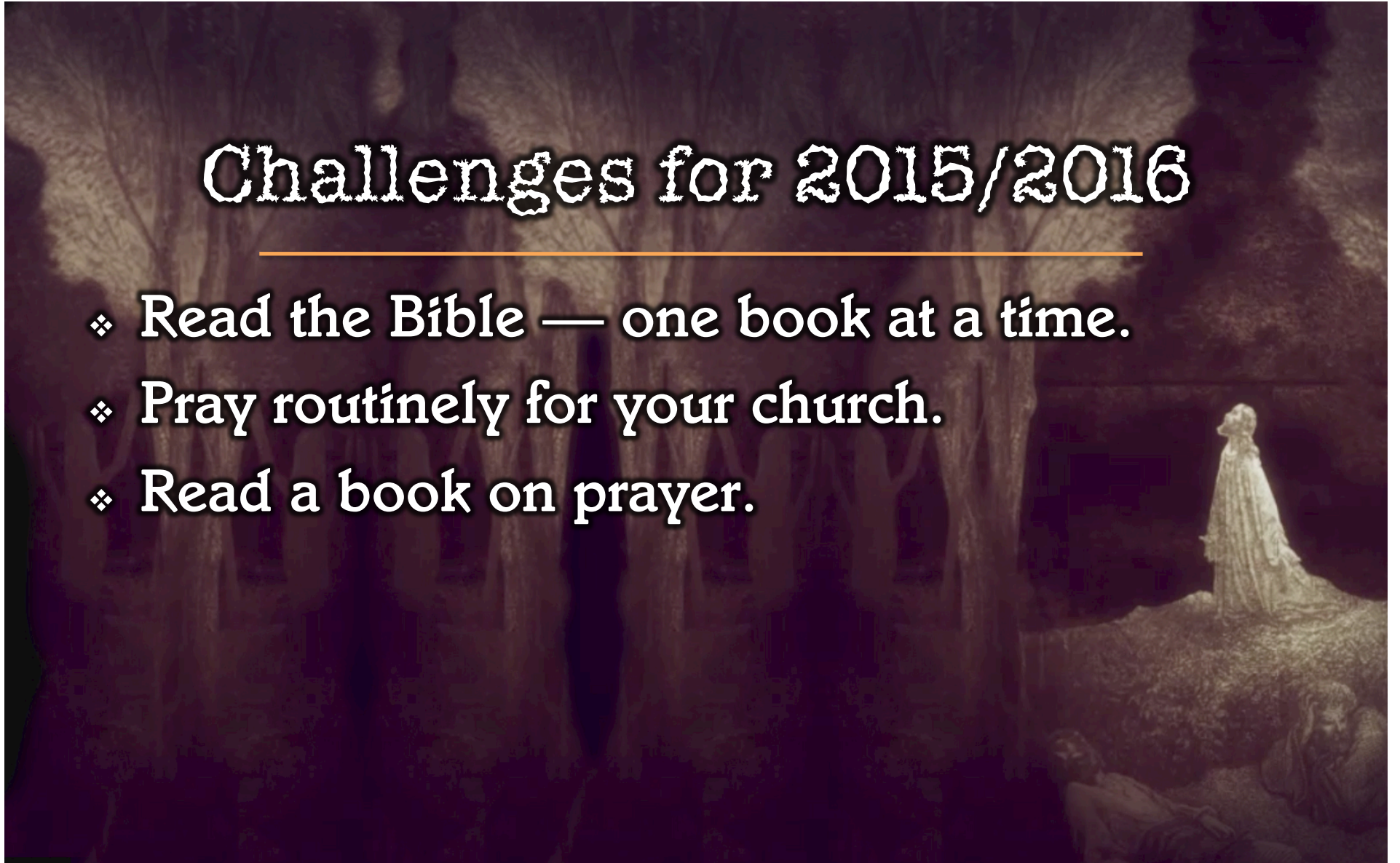
- ❖ Contemporary
  - ❖ Richard Foster
  - ❖ Tim Keller



# Challenges for 2015/2016

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- ❖ Read the Bible — one book at a time.
- ❖ Pray routinely for your church.
- ❖ Read a book on prayer.

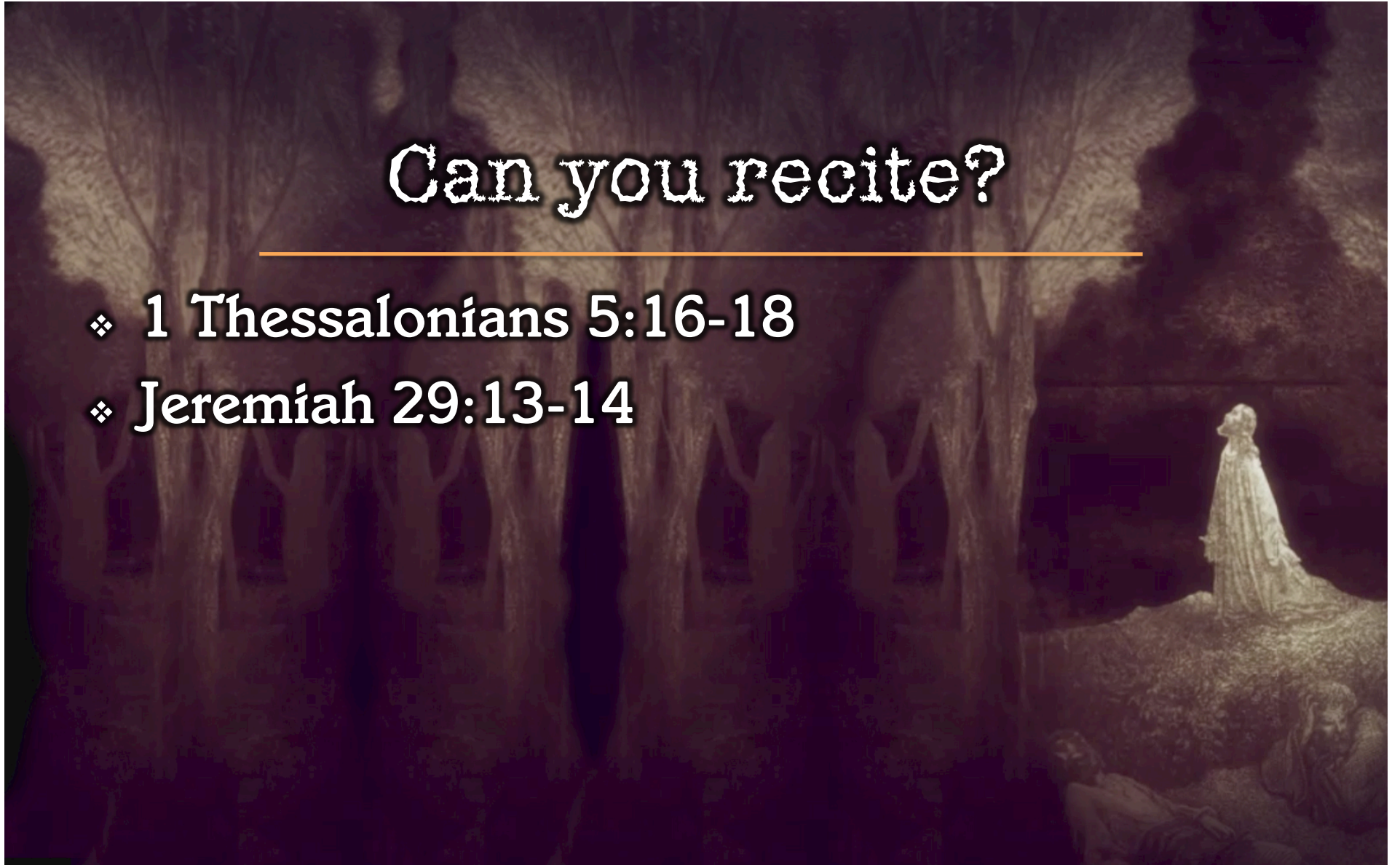




# Can you recite?

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- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- ❖ Jeremiah 29:13-14



# 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.





## Jeremiah 29:13-14

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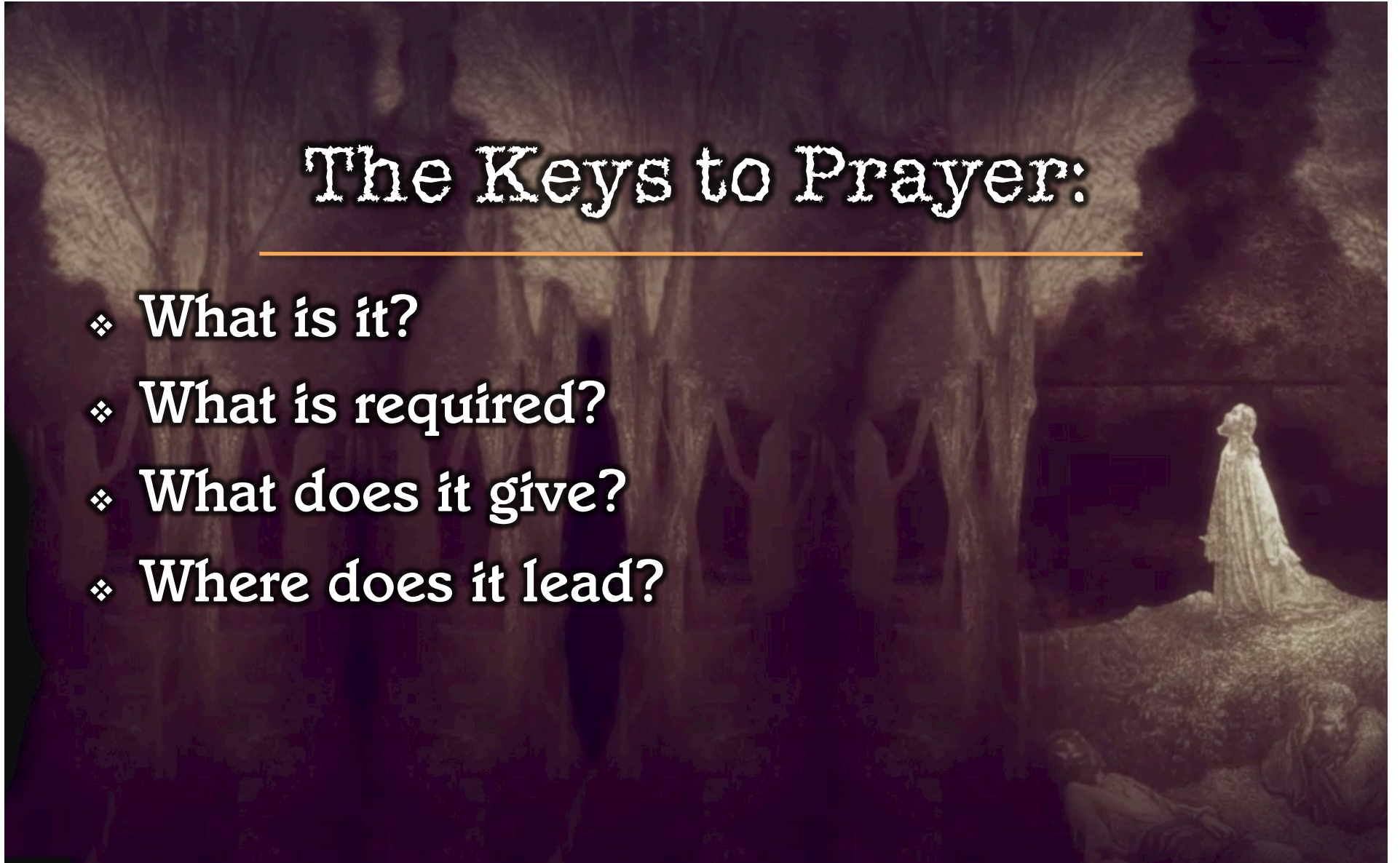
You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity.



# The Keys to Prayer:

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- ❖ What is it?
- ❖ What is required?
- ❖ What does it give?
- ❖ Where does it lead?

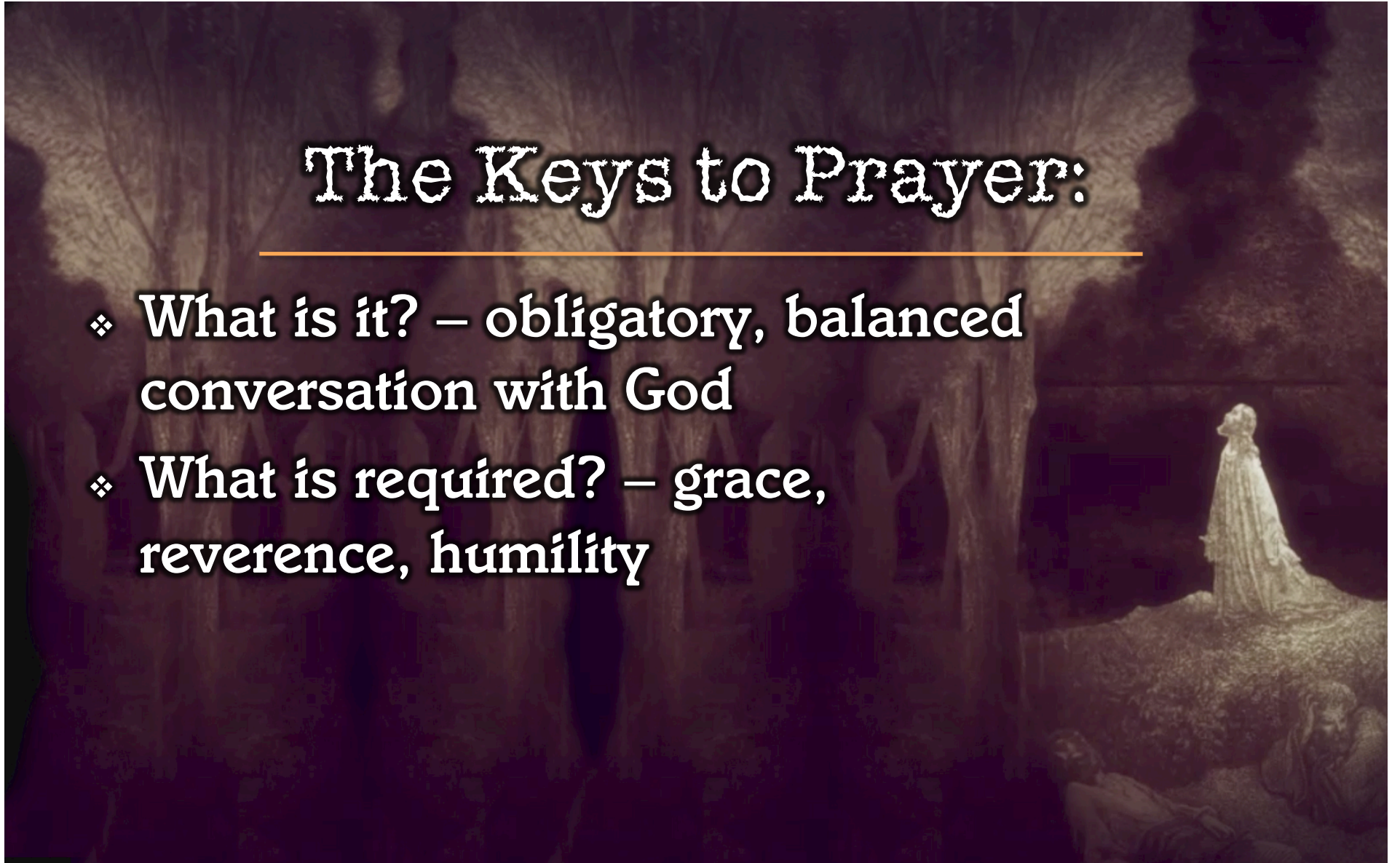




# The Keys to Prayer:

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- ❖ What is it? – obligatory, balanced conversation with God
- ❖ What is required? – grace, reverence, humility



# The Keys to Prayer:

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- ❖ What does it give? – perspective, strength, intimacy with God
- ❖ Where does it lead? – self-awareness, trust, surrender

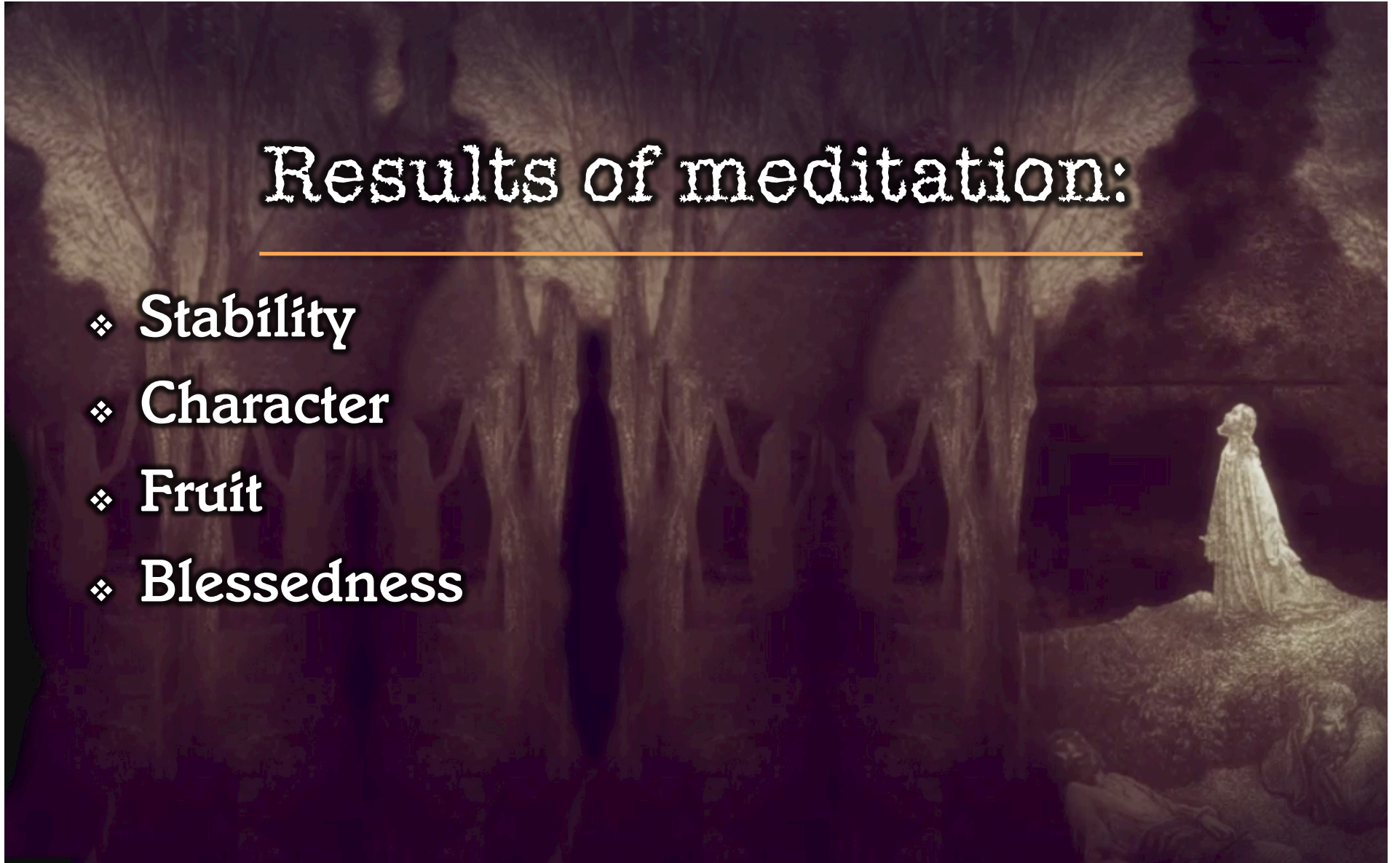




# Results of meditation:

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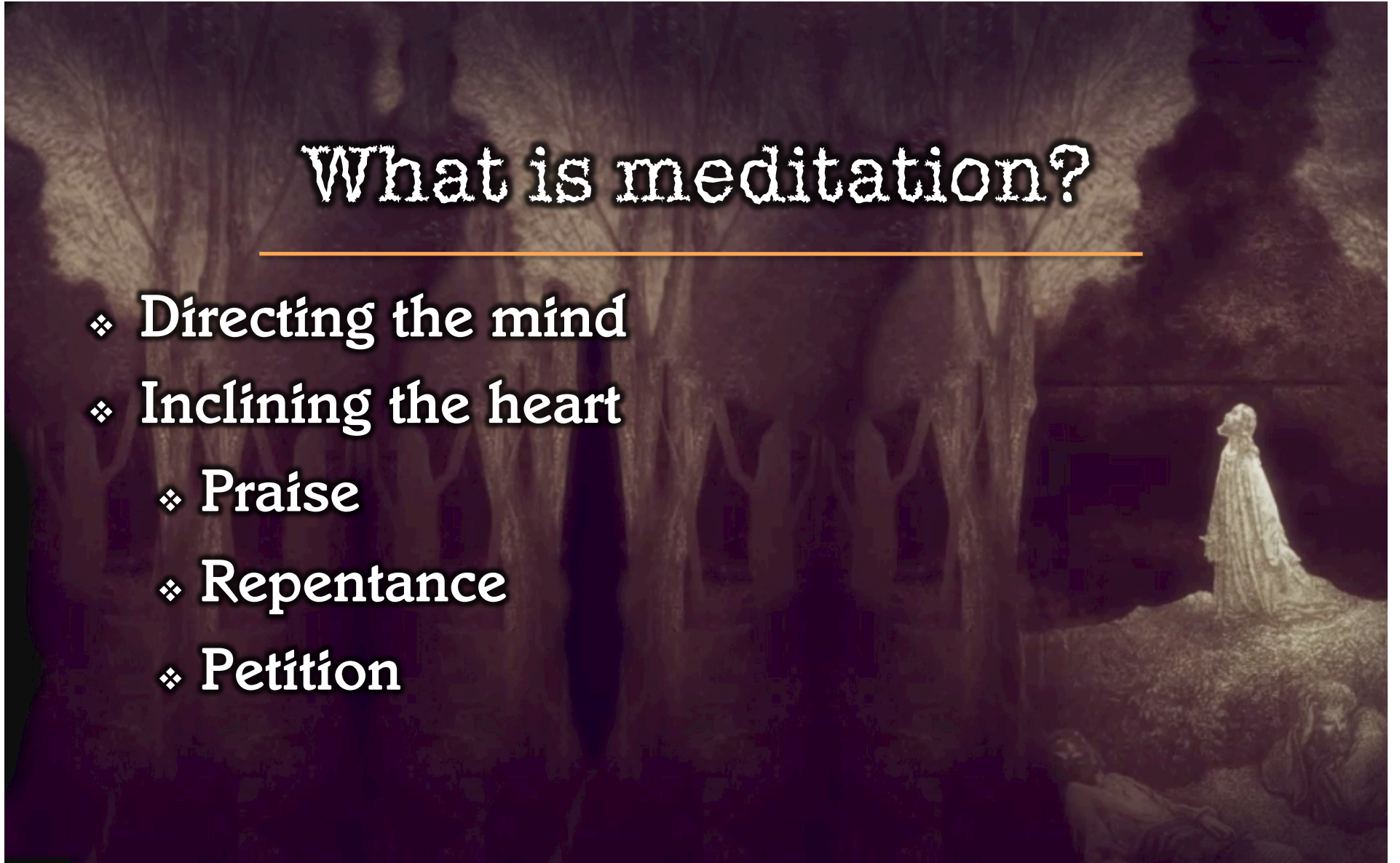
- ❖ Stability
- ❖ Character
- ❖ Fruit
- ❖ Blessedness



# What is meditation?

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- ❖ Directing the mind
- ❖ Inclining the heart
  - ❖ Praise
  - ❖ Repentance
  - ❖ Petition

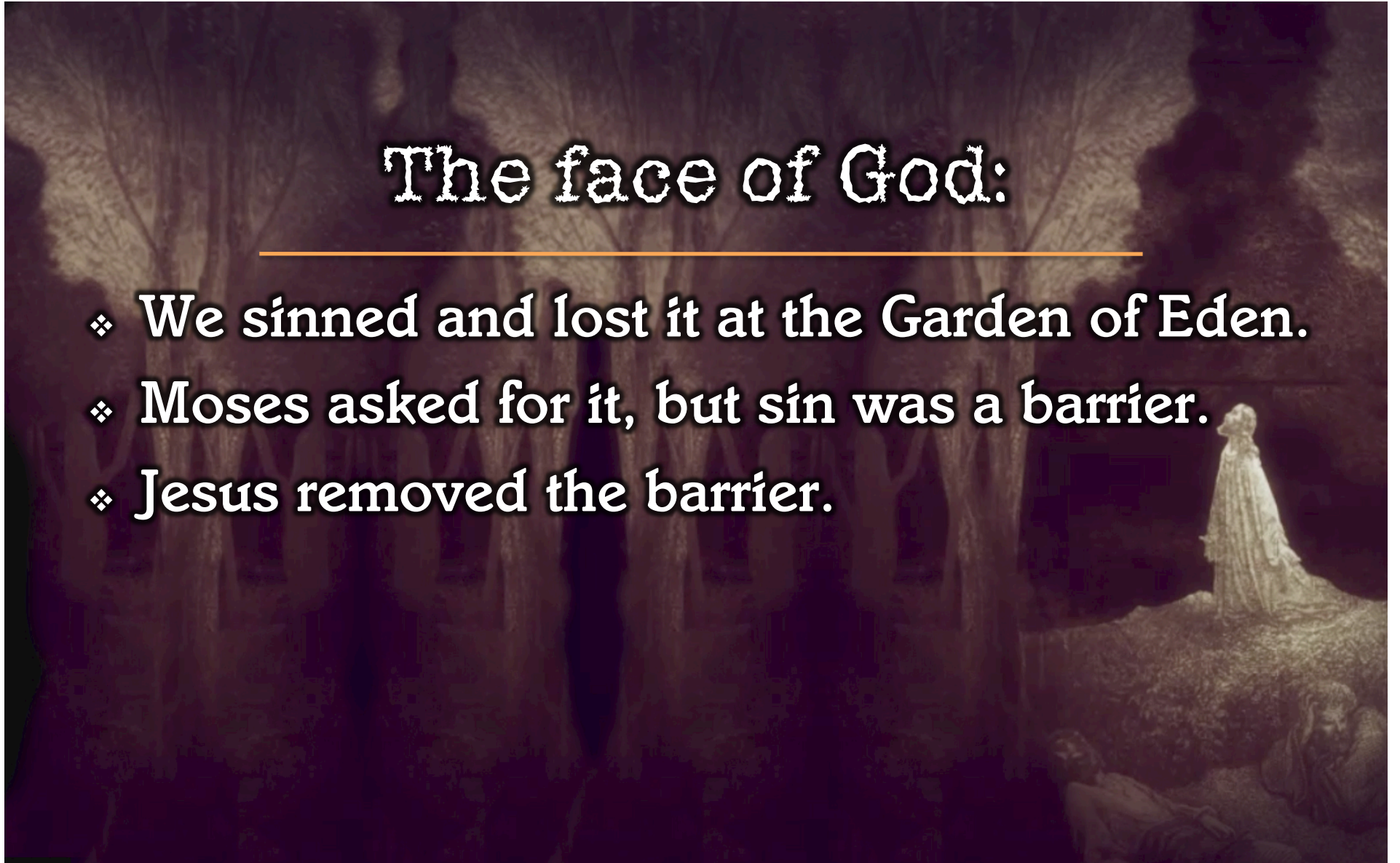




# The face of God:

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- ❖ We sinned and lost it at the Garden of Eden.
- ❖ Moses asked for it, but sin was a barrier.
- ❖ Jesus removed the barrier.



# Basic kinds of prayer:

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- ❖ Upward – praise
- ❖ Inward – confession
- ❖ Outward – petition
  - ❖ Supplication
  - ❖ Intercession

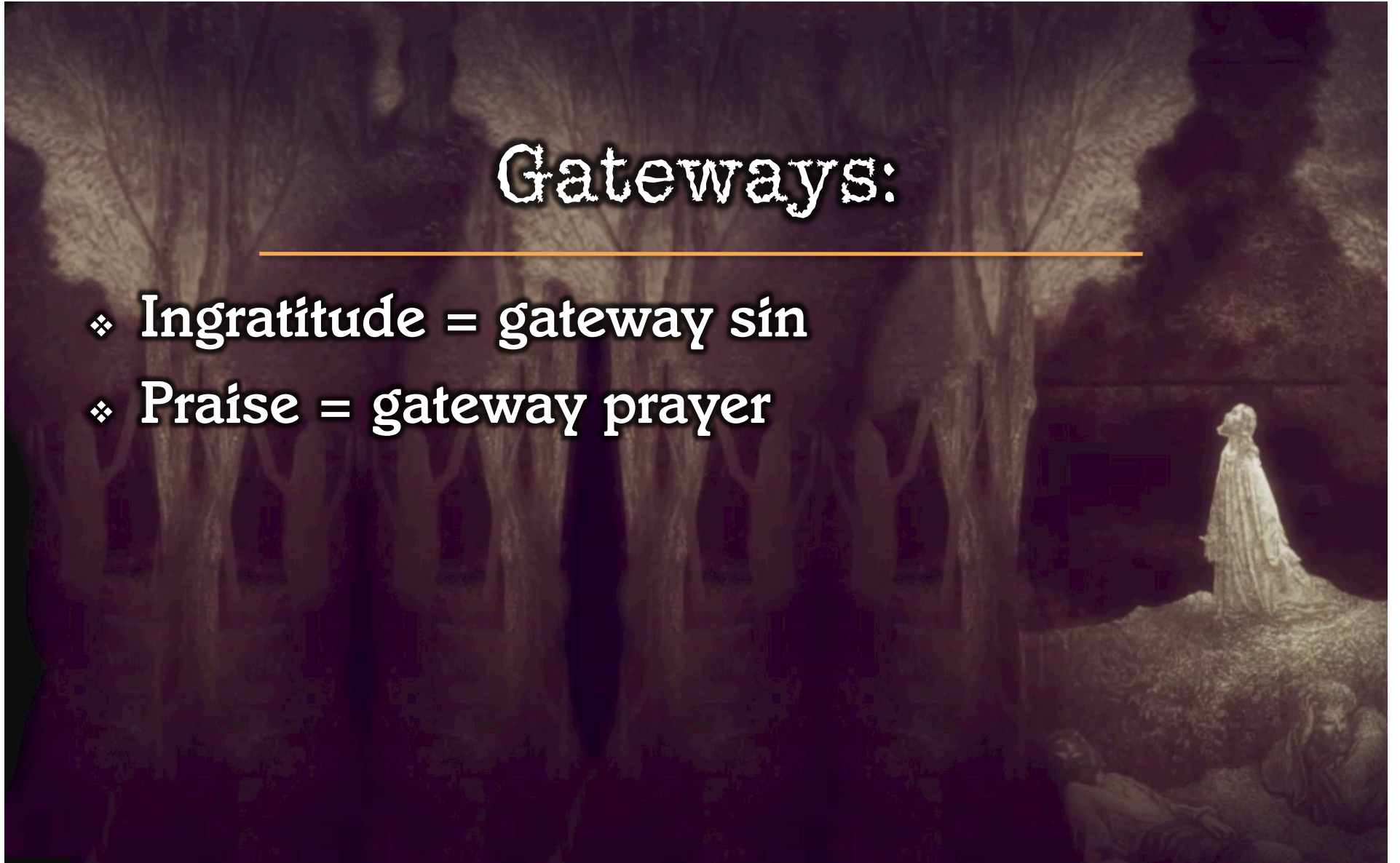




# Gateways:

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- ❖ Ingratitude = gateway sin
- ❖ Praise = gateway prayer



## Disordered loves:

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- ❖ We love what we ought not to love.
- ❖ We fail to love what we ought to love.
- ❖ We love more what we should love less.
- ❖ We love less what we should love more.





A dark, atmospheric painting of a forest. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light emanating from the right side, possibly from a source of light or a path. In the foreground, several large, gnarled tree trunks stand in a row, their forms silhouetted against the dark background. In the distance, on the right, a figure in a long, flowing white or light-colored robe stands on a slightly elevated path, looking towards the viewer. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

Augustine:

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“You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.”

# Worship and adoration of God:

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- ❖ It can reshape your personality.
- ❖ It can create healthy community.

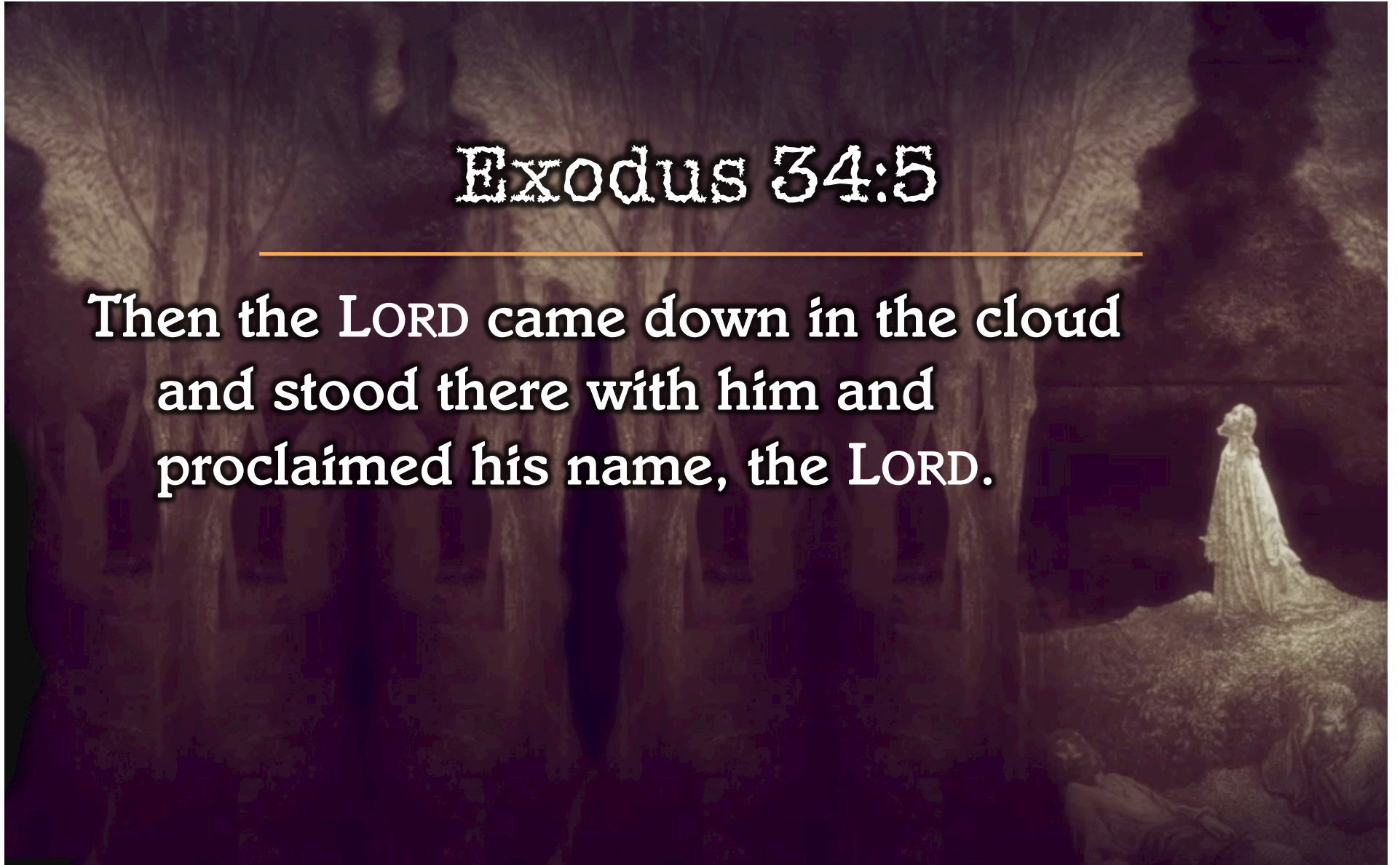




## Exodus 34:5

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Then the LORD came down in the cloud  
and stood there with him and  
proclaimed his name, the LORD.



## Exodus 34:6-7

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And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."

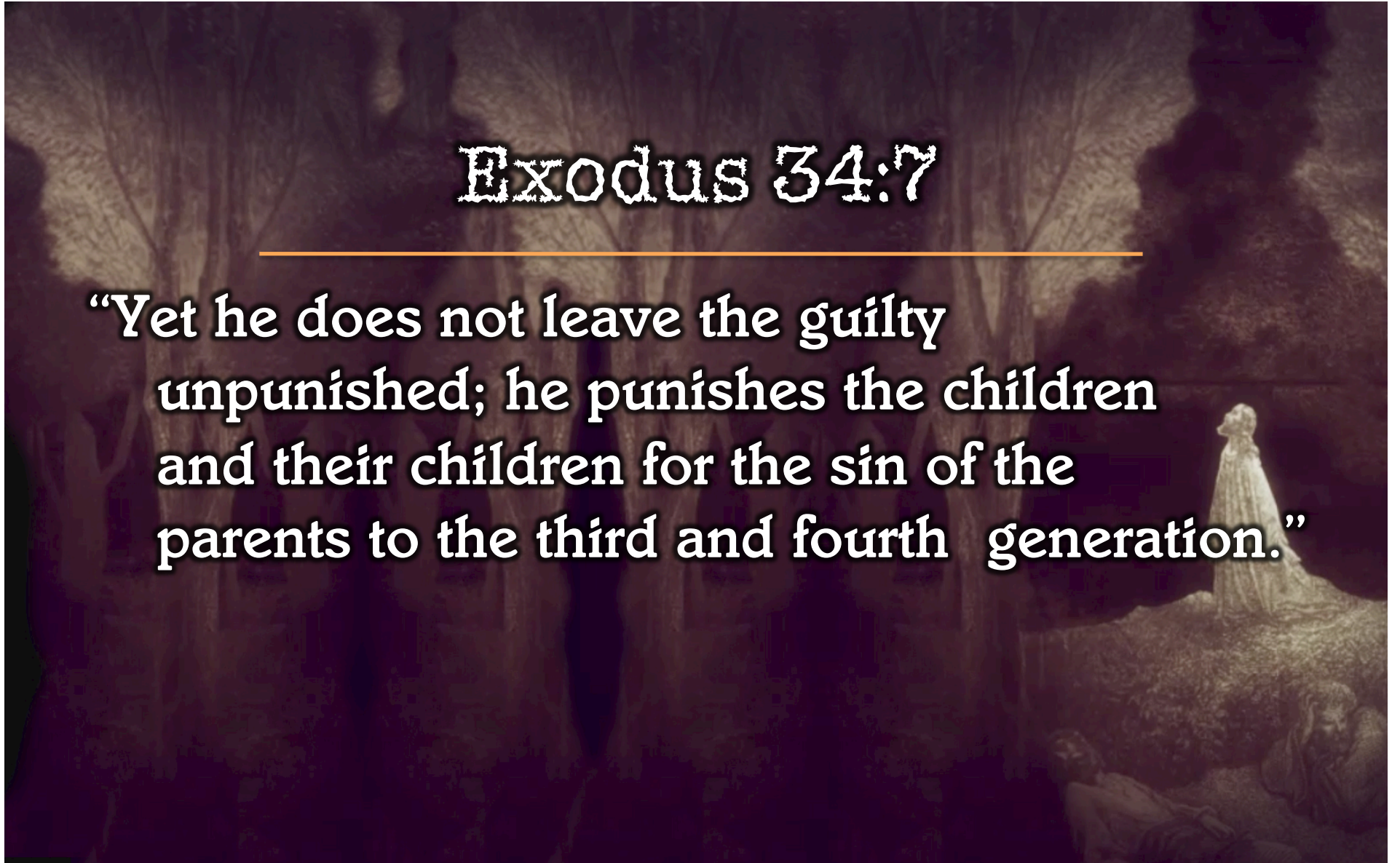




## Exodus 34:7

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**“Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”**



# Contradiction?

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- ❖ “forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.”
- ❖ “Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished”





## Psalm 130:3-4

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If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.



## Micah 7:18

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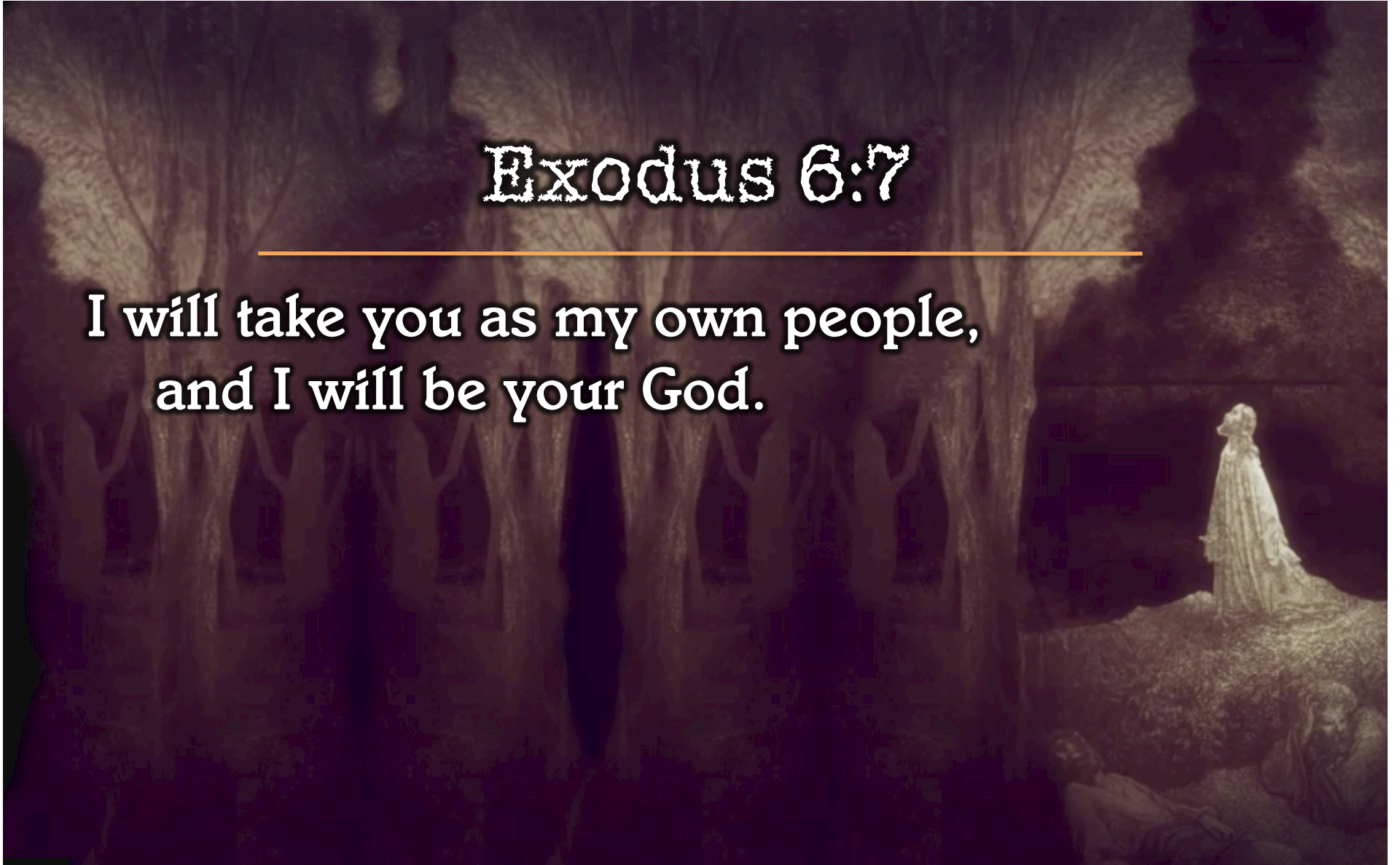
Who is a God like you,  
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression  
of the remnant of his inheritance?  
You do not stay angry forever  
but delight to show mercy.



## Exodus 6:7

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I will take you as my own people,  
and I will be your God.





## Jeremiah 31:34

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**“For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.”**



## Ezekiel 36:24-25

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**“For I will take you out of the nations;  
I will gather you from all the countries  
and bring you back into your own  
land. I will sprinkle clean water on  
you, and you will be clean; I will  
cleans you from all your impurities  
and from all your idols.**



## Ezekiel 36:26-27

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**“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.**

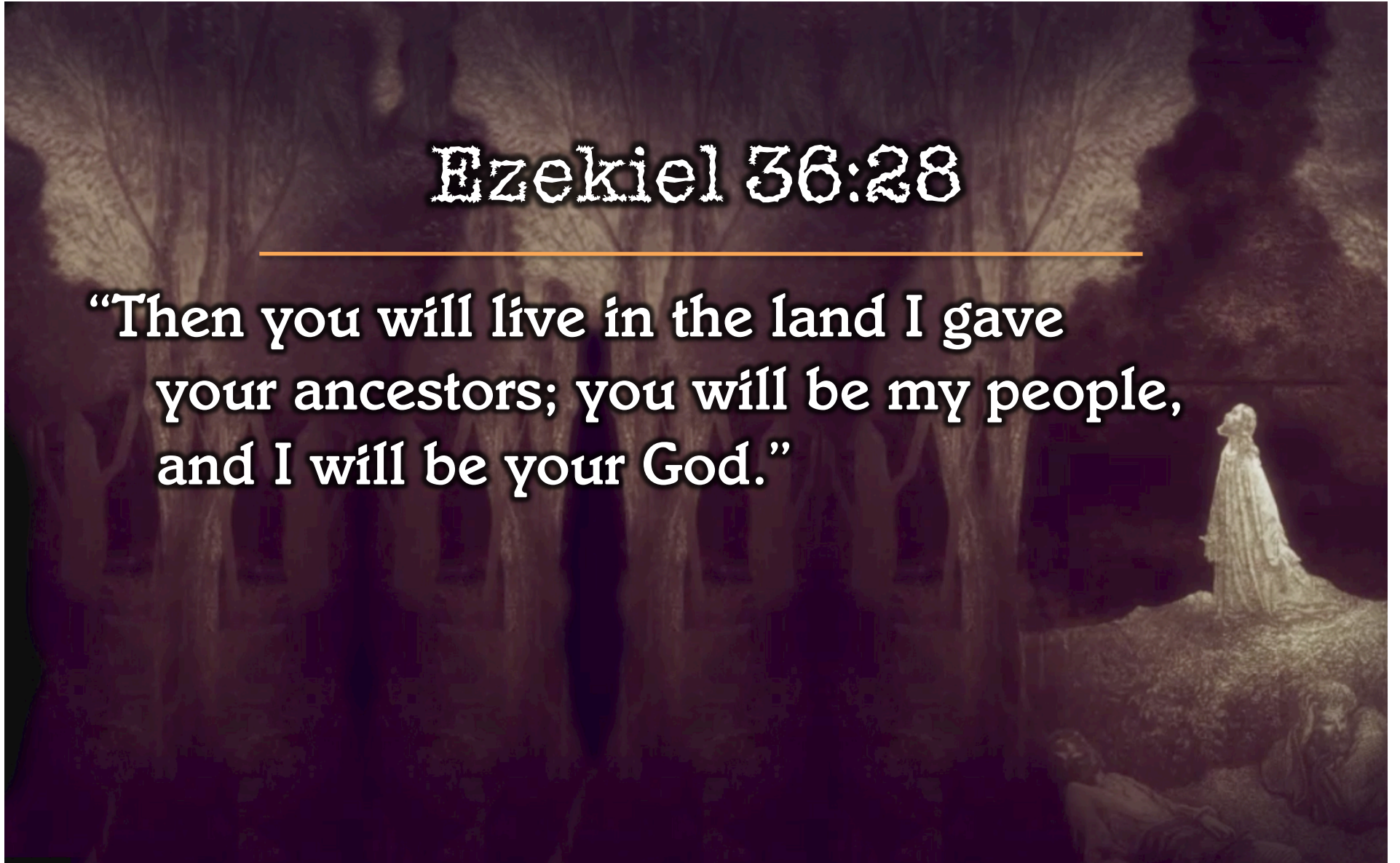




## Ezekiel 36:28

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**“Then you will live in the land I gave  
your ancestors; you will be my people,  
and I will be your God.”**



## Romans 3:25

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God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood — to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished —





## Romans 3:26

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he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.



## Galatians 3:10-11

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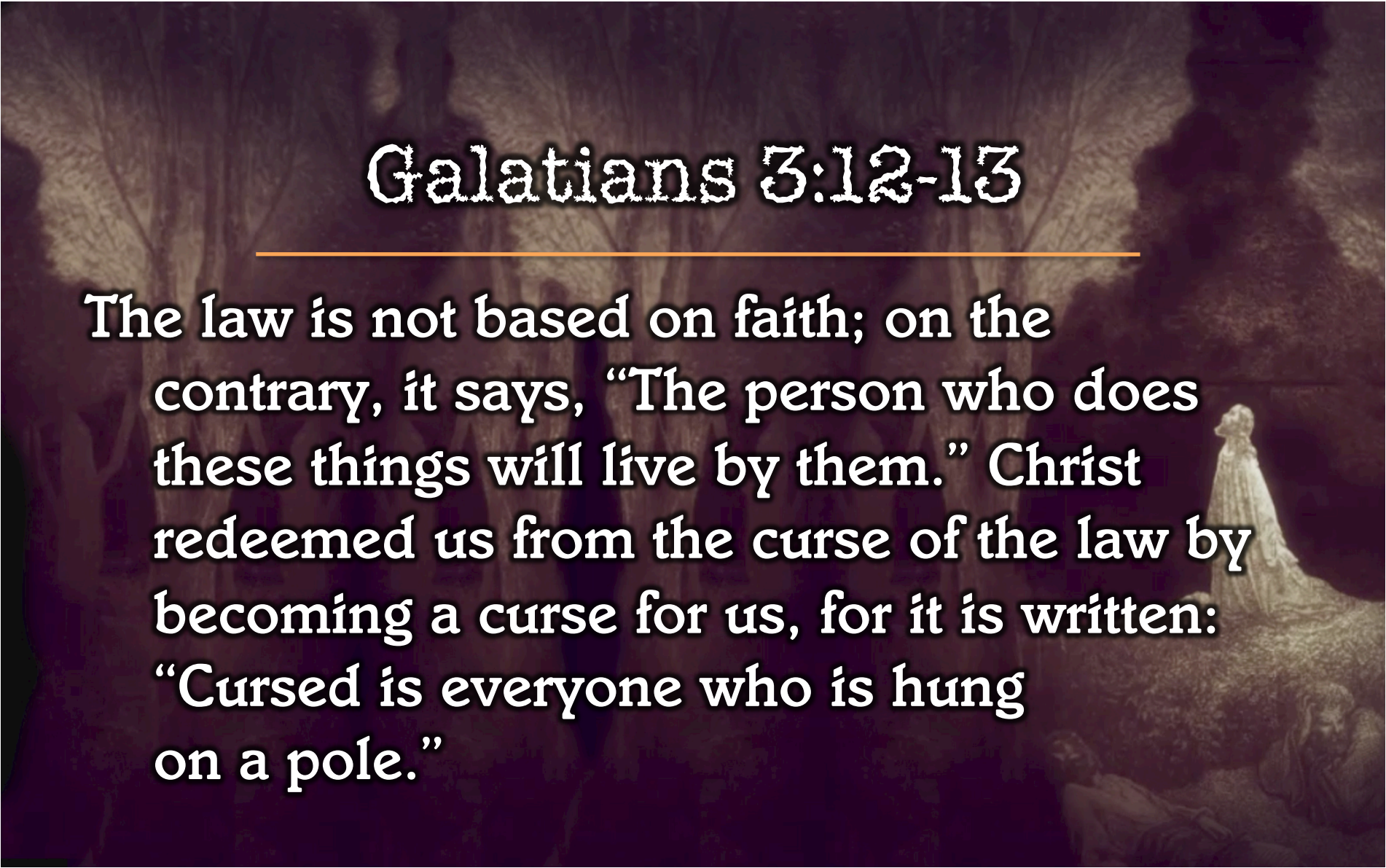
For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”



## Galatians 3:12-13

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The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric painting. It depicts a landscape with a figure on a cross in the distance, possibly a crucifixion scene. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light emanating from the right side, creating a dramatic and somber mood. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of brown, black, and muted gold.

## Galatians 3:14

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He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

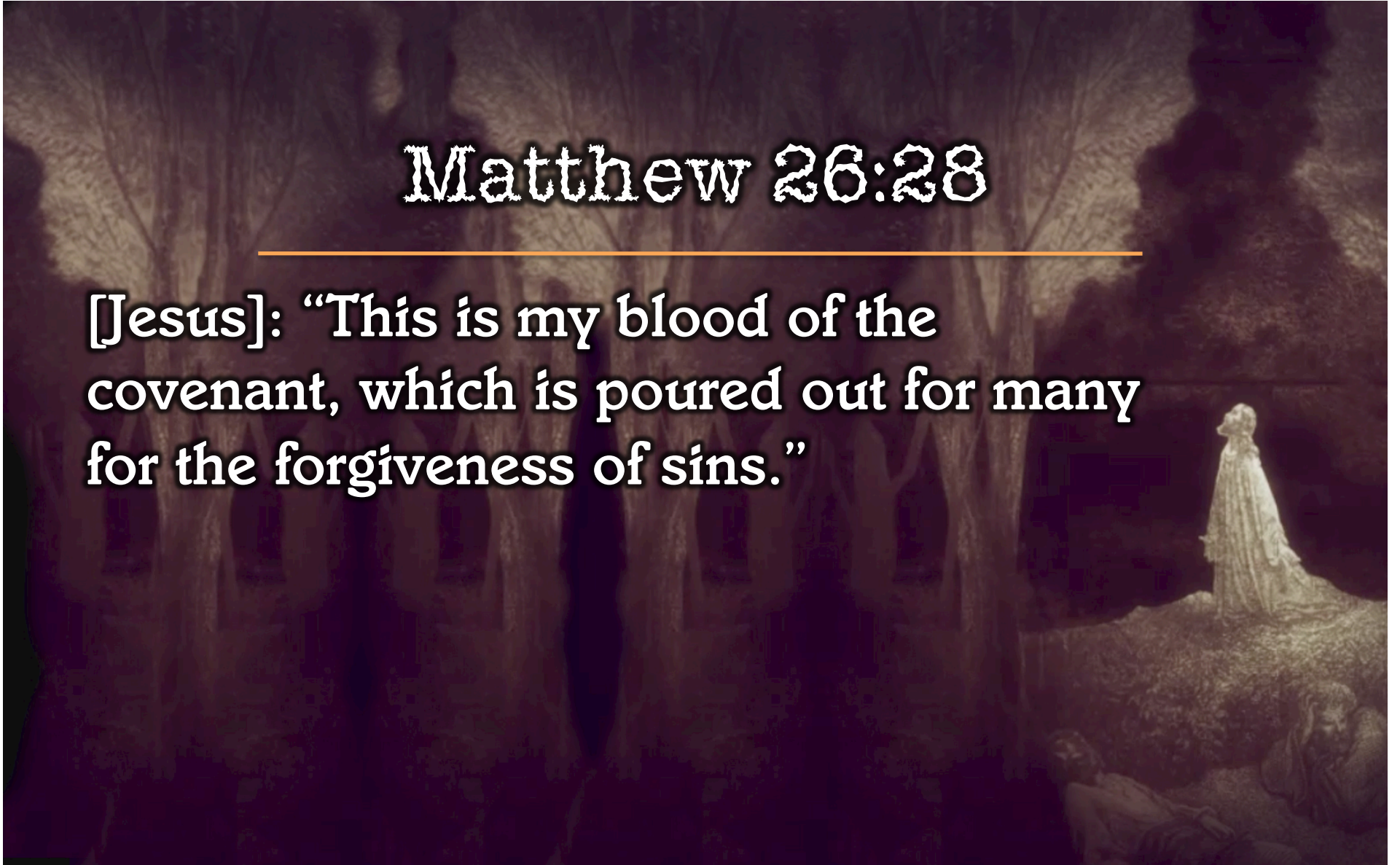




## Matthew 26:28

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[Jesus]: “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”



## Acts 5:31

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[Peter]: “God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.”





## Luke 24:46-47

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He told them, “This is what is written:  
The Messiah will suffer and rise from  
the dead on the third day, and  
repentance for the forgiveness of sins  
will be preached in his name to all  
nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”



## Ephesians 1:7-8

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In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.

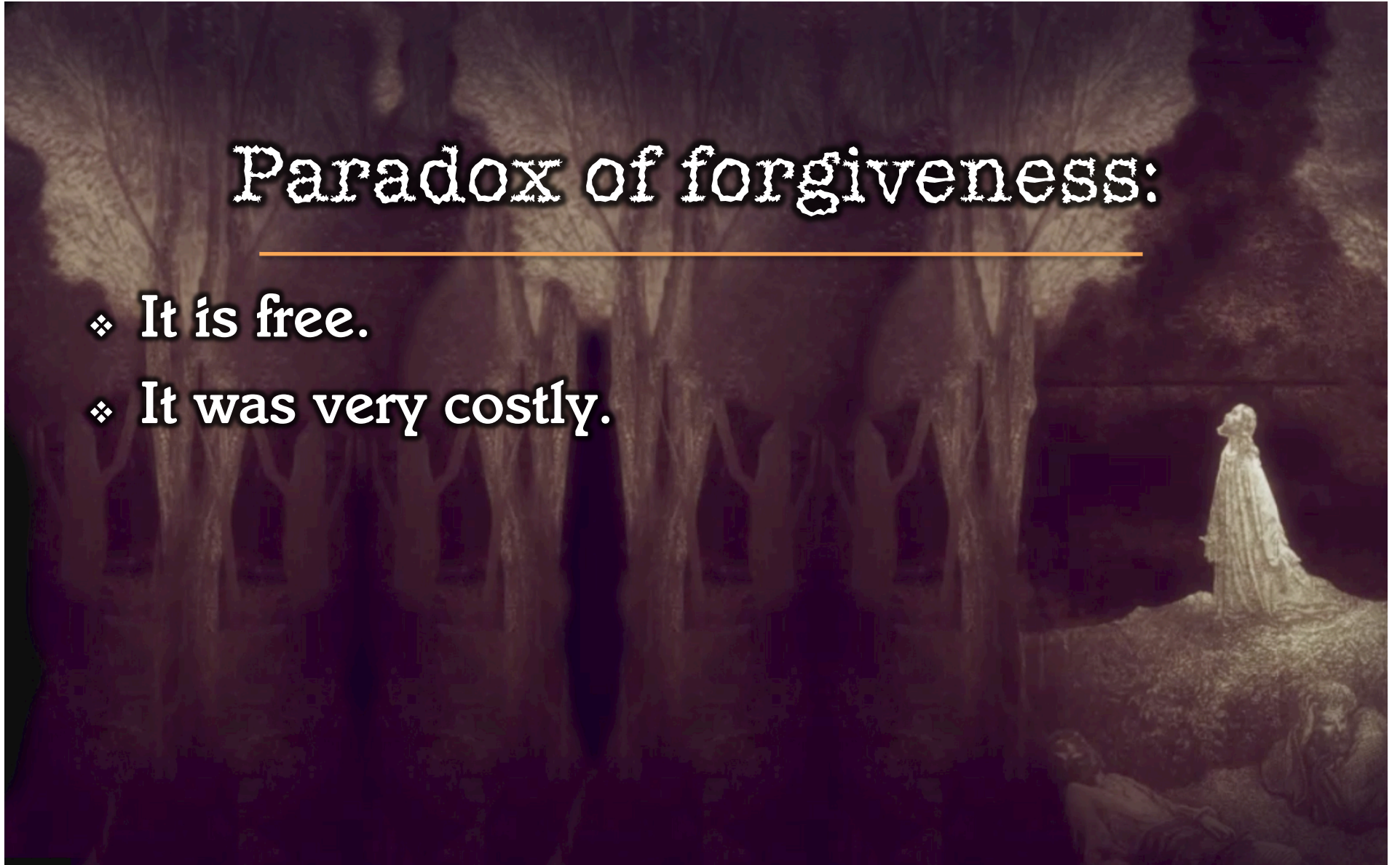




# Paradox of forgiveness:

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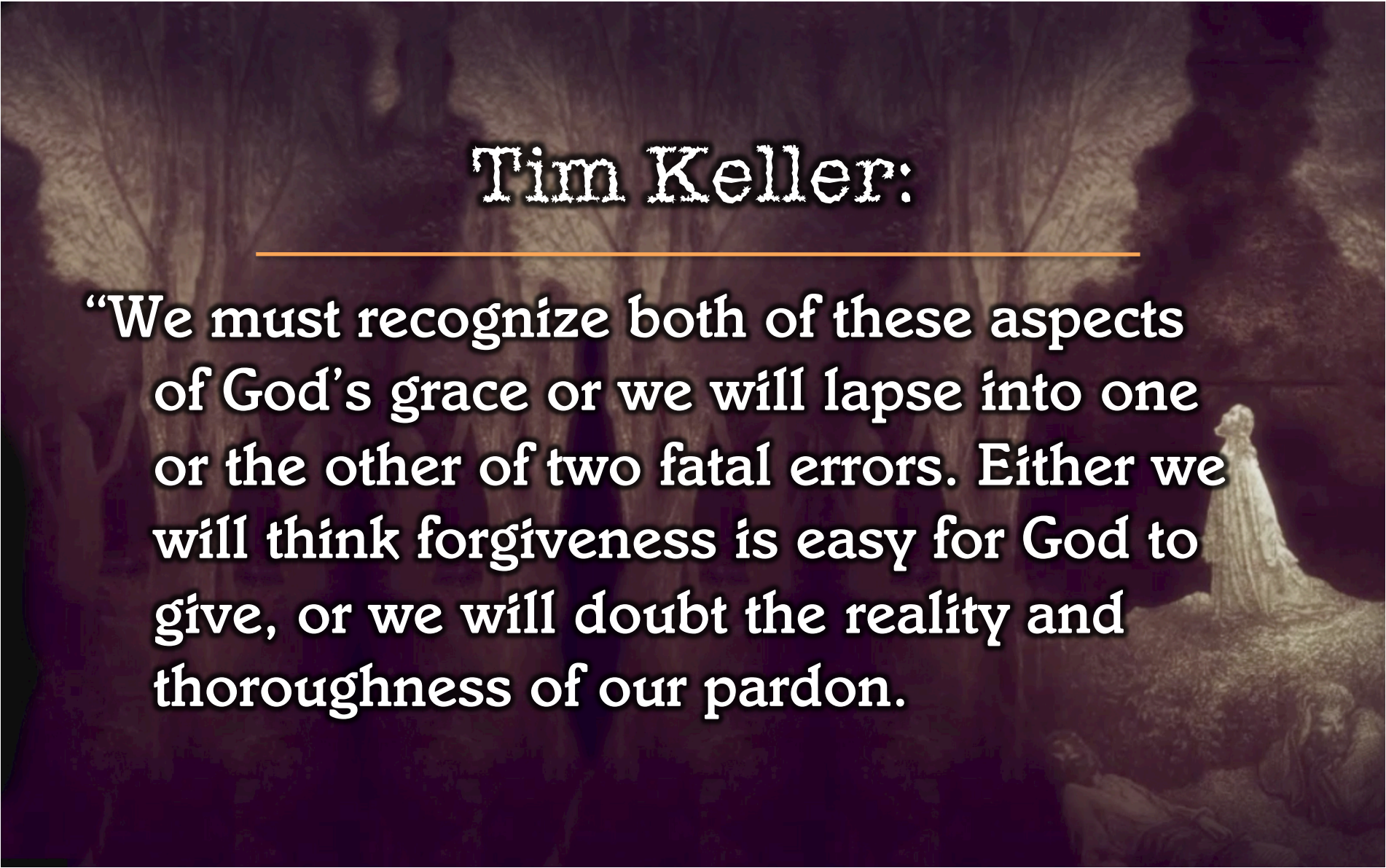
- ❖ It is free.
- ❖ It was very costly.



## Tim Keller:

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**“We must recognize both of these aspects of God’s grace or we will lapse into one or the other of two fatal errors. Either we will think forgiveness is easy for God to give, or we will doubt the reality and thoroughness of our pardon.**





## Tim Keller:

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“Both mistakes are spiritually deadly. To lose our grip on the costliness of forgiveness will result in a superficial, perfunctory confession that does not lead to any real change of heart. There will be no life-change. To lose our grip on the freeness of forgiveness, however, will lead to continued guilt, shame, and self-loathing. There will be no relief.

## Tim Keller:

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**“Only when we see both the freeness and the cost of forgiveness will we get relief from the guilt as well as liberation from the power of sin in our lives.”**





## Romans 8:1-2

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Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.



## 1 John 1:9

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If we confess our sins, he is faithful  
and just and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.





## 2 Corinthians 7:10

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Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.



A dark, atmospheric illustration of a forest. The scene is dimly lit, with a woman in a long, flowing white dress standing on a path on the right side. She is looking back over her shoulder towards the viewer. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees, and the overall mood is mysterious and somber.

## John Stott:

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**“We forsake it, rejecting and repudiating it [and] adopt a right attitude towards both God and the sin itself.”**



## Psalm 51:1-2

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Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.



## Psalm 51:3-4

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For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.





## Psalm 32:1-2

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Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one  
whose sin the LORD does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

## Psalm 32:3-4

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When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night  
your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer.





## Psalm 32:5

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Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, "I will confess  
my transgressions to the LORD."  
And you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.



## Psalm 32:6-7

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Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
while you may be found;  
surely the rising of the mighty waters  
will not reach them.

You are my hiding place;  
you will protect me from trouble  
and surround me with songs of deliverance.





## Psalm 32:8-9

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I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.  
Do not be like the horse or the mule,  
which have no understanding  
but must be controlled by bit and bridle  
or they will not come to you.

## Psalm 32:10-11

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Many are the woes of the wicked,  
but the LORD's unfailing love  
surrounds the one who trusts in him.

Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;  
sing, all you who are upright in heart!



## George Whitefield:

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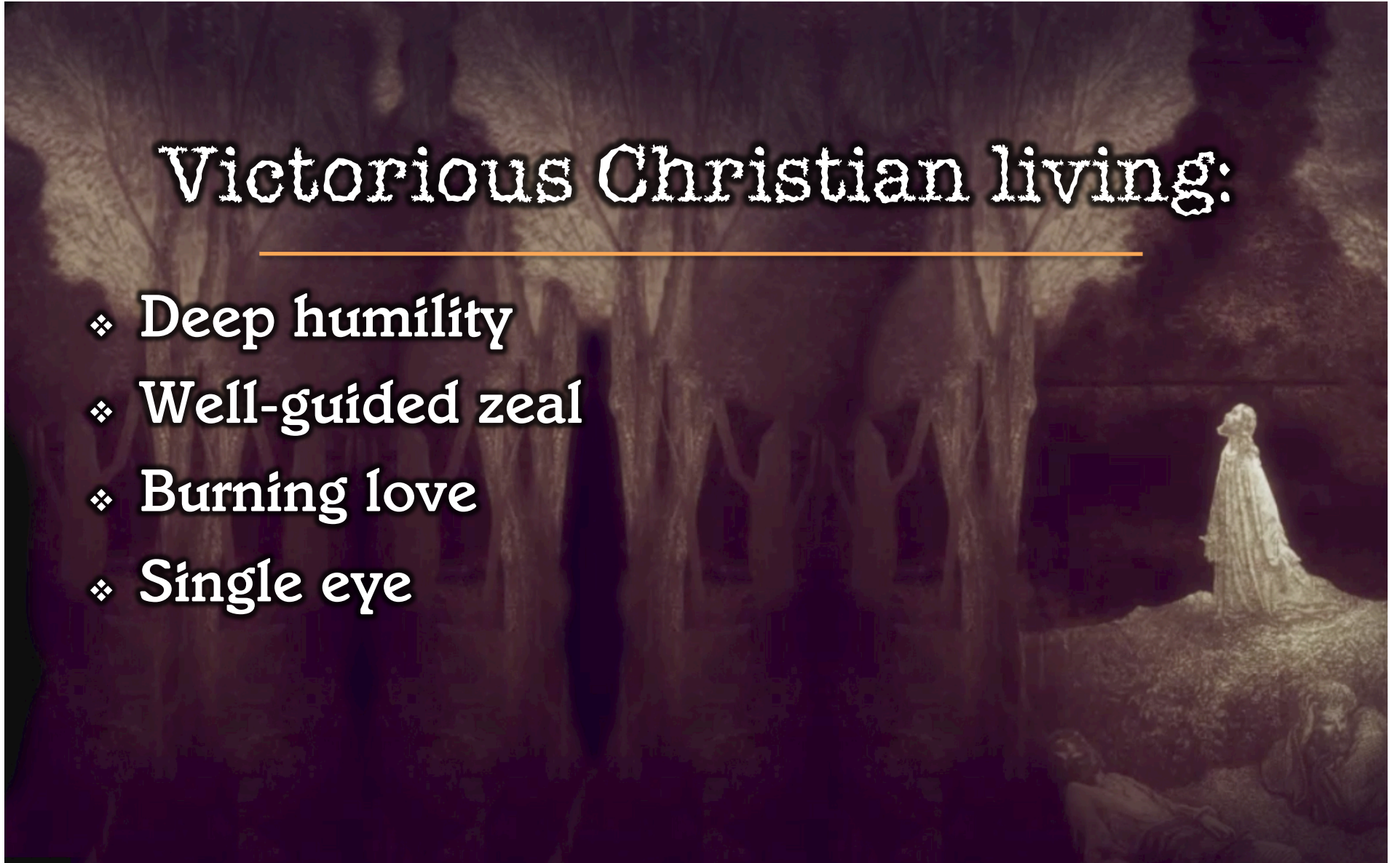
**“God give me a deep humility, a well-guided zeal, a burning love and a single eye, and then let men or devils do their worst!”**



# Victorious Christian living:

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- ❖ Deep humility
- ❖ Well-guided zeal
- ❖ Burning love
- ❖ Single eye

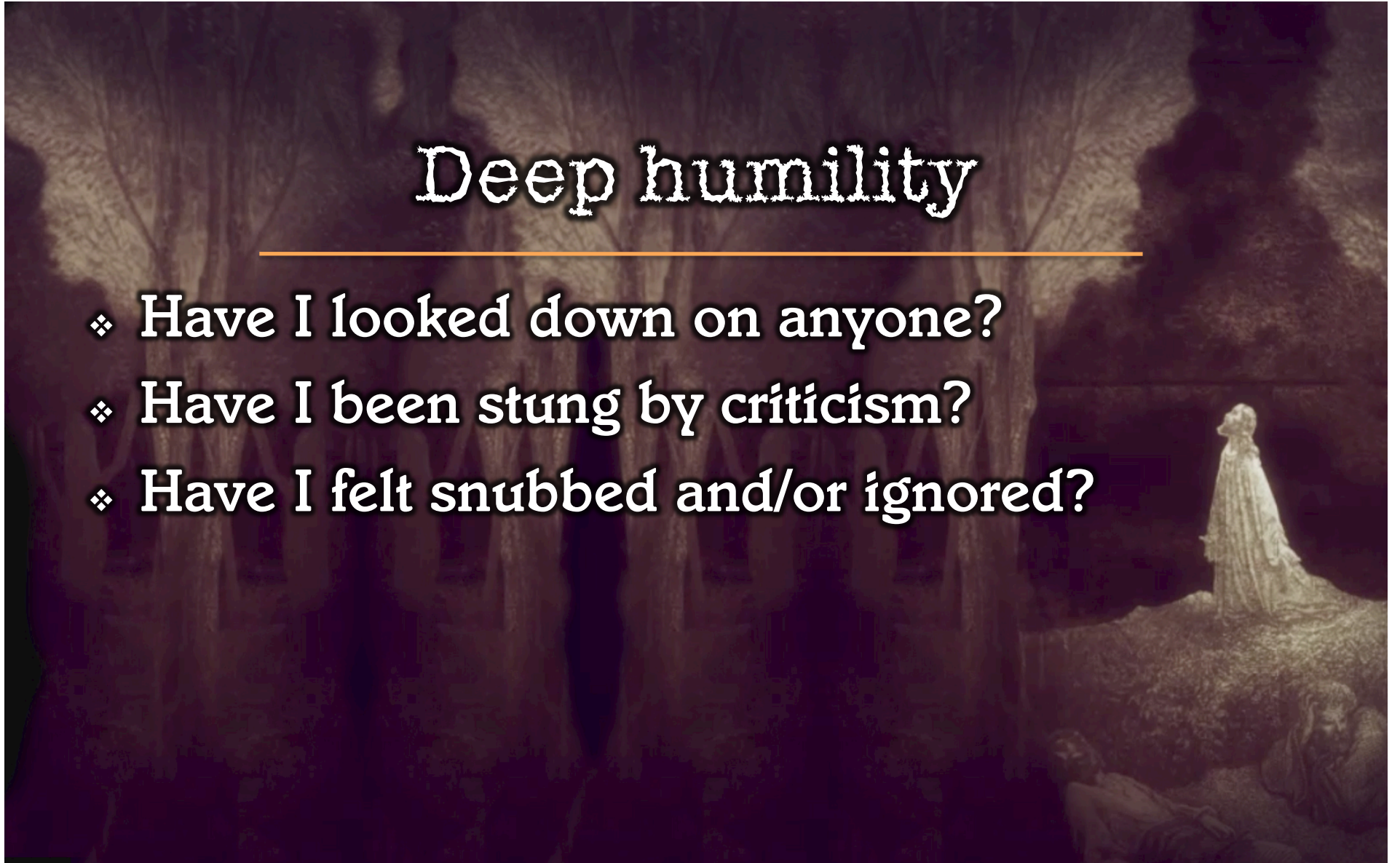




# Deep humility

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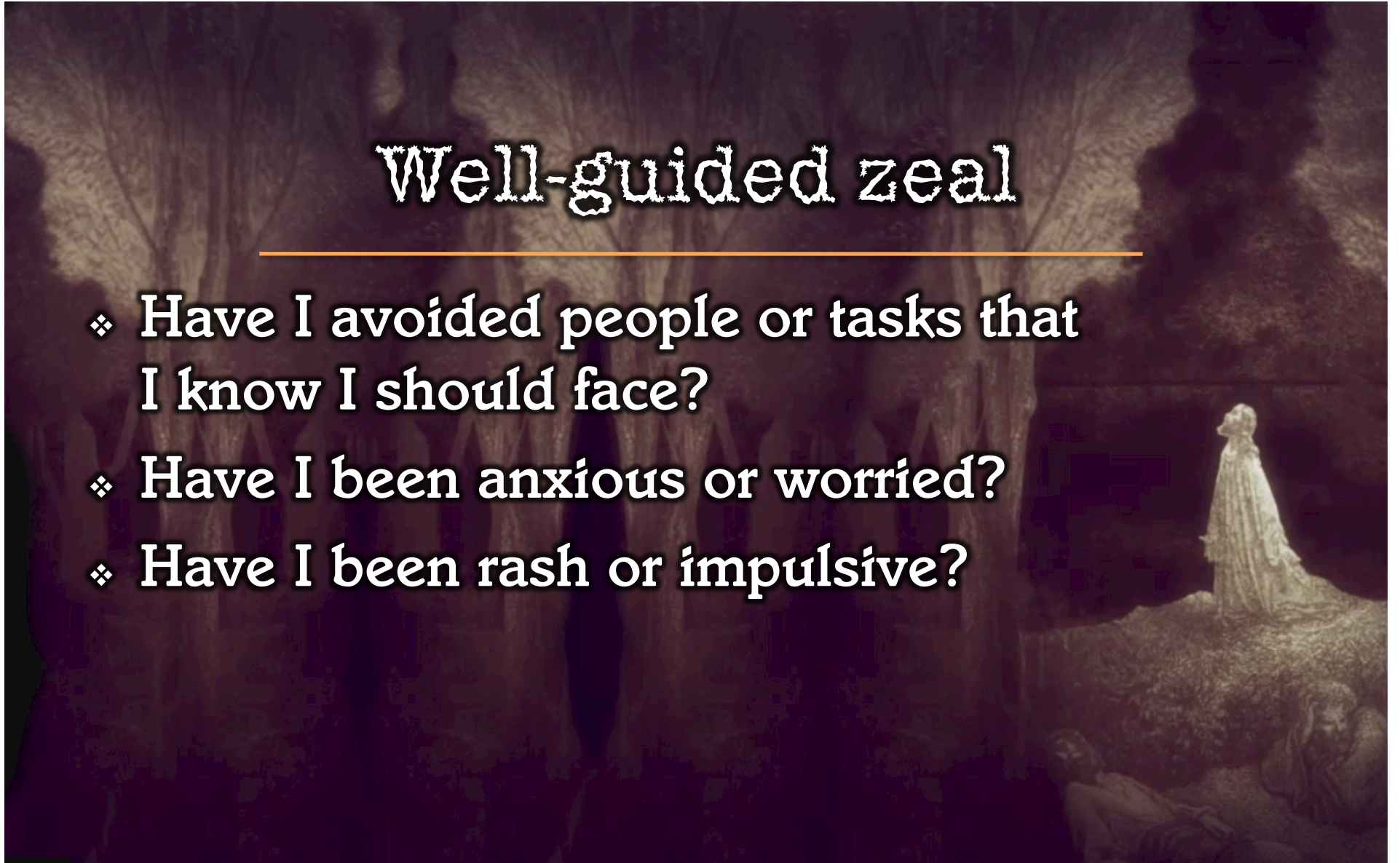
- ❖ Have I looked down on anyone?
- ❖ Have I been stung by criticism?
- ❖ Have I felt snubbed and/or ignored?



# Well-guided zeal

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- ❖ Have I avoided people or tasks that I know I should face?
- ❖ Have I been anxious or worried?
- ❖ Have I been rash or impulsive?





# Burning love

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- ❖ Have I spoken (or even thought) unkindly of anyone?
- ❖ Am I justifying myself by demonizing someone else?
- ❖ Have I been impatient or irritable?
- ❖ Have I been self-absorbed, indifferent or inattentive?



# Single eye

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- ❖ Am I working for the glory of God and the good of others, or am I driven by fear, need for approval or desire for control?
- ❖ Am I envious?
- ❖ Am I giving in to lust or gluttony?
- ❖ Am I spending my time on urgent things over important things?



# Victorious Christian living:

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- ❖ Deep humility
- ❖ Well-guided zeal
- ❖ Burning love
- ❖ Single eye







# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper

