



# Invitation to Daily Prayer

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Melbourne Community Church  
February 7, 2016

A dark, atmospheric painting of a forest at night. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source on the right side, possibly a window or a fire, casting a glow on the trees and a figure in the foreground. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

# John Calvin's prayer:

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— Upon waking —

“My God, Father, and Savior, since you have been pleased to give me the grace to come through the night to the present day, now grant that I may employ it entirely in your service,



## John Calvin's prayer:

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“so that all my works may be to the glory of your name and the edification of my neighbors. As you have been pleased to make your sun shine upon the earth to give us bodily light, grant the light of your Spirit to illumine my understanding and my heart.”

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, several people are seen from behind, kneeling in prayer on a dark floor. The background shows a church with tall, thin columns and a high, vaulted ceiling. The lighting is dim, creating a solemn and reverent mood. The text is overlaid on this image.

## John Calvin's prayer:

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“And because it means nothing to begin well if one does not persevere, I ask that you would continue to increase your grace in me until you have led me into full communion with your Son, Jesus Christ our LORD,



## John Calvin's prayer:

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“who is the true Sun of our souls, shining day and night, eternally and without end. Hear me, merciful Father, by our LORD Jesus Christ, Amen.”



# 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

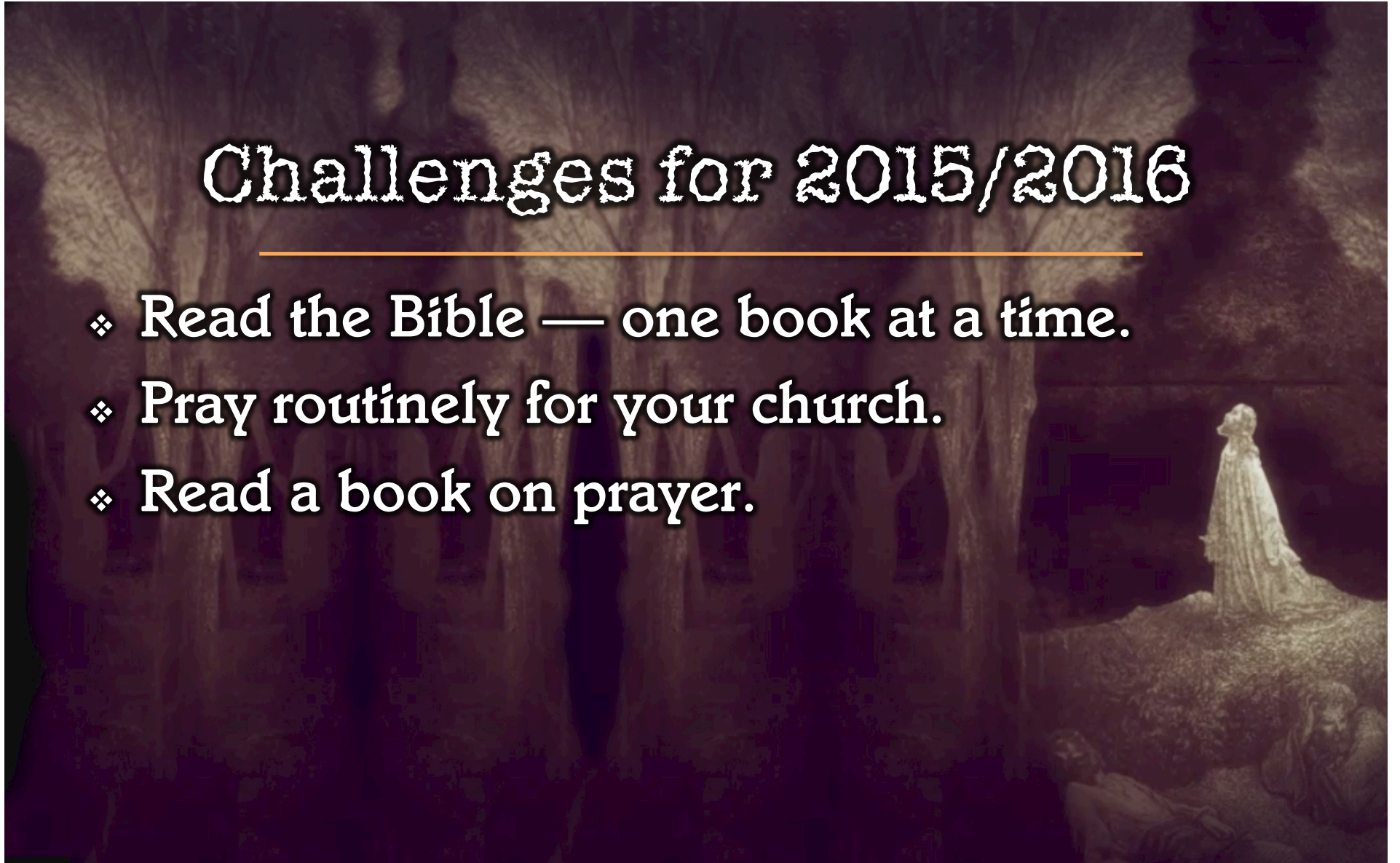




# Challenges for 2015/2016

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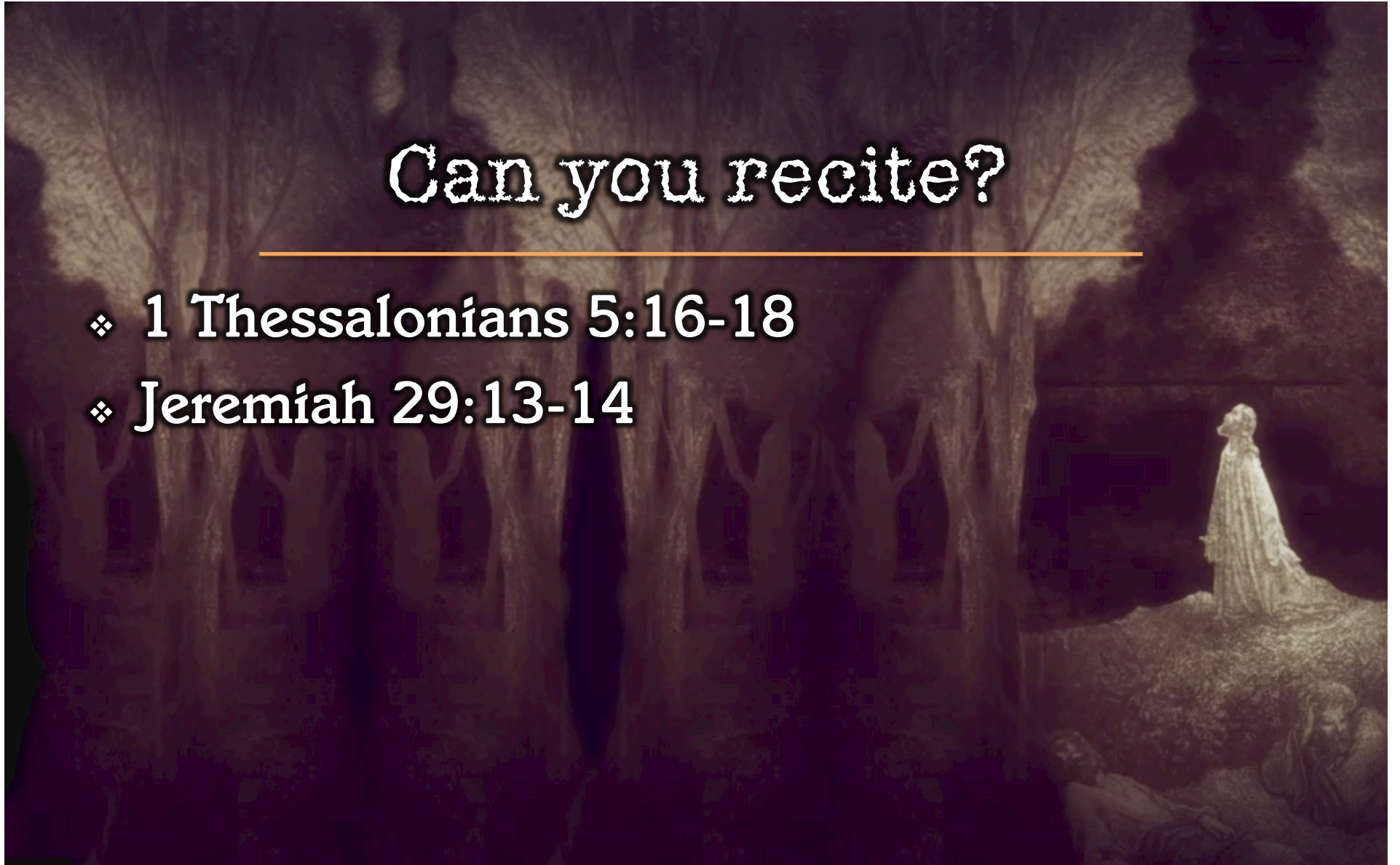
- ❖ Read the Bible — one book at a time.
- ❖ Pray routinely for your church.
- ❖ Read a book on prayer.



# Can you recite?

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

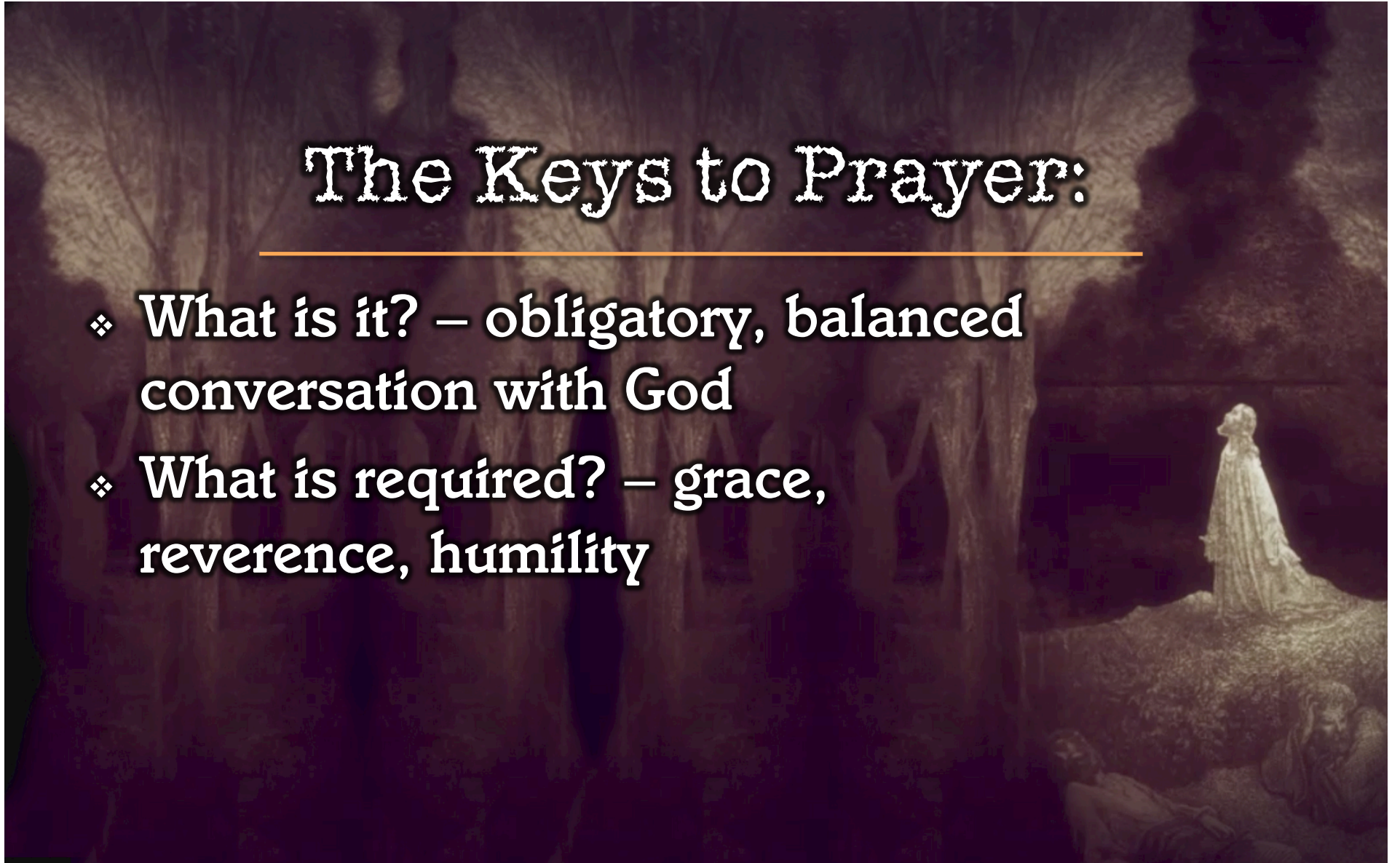




# The Keys to Prayer:

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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





# Basic kinds of prayer:

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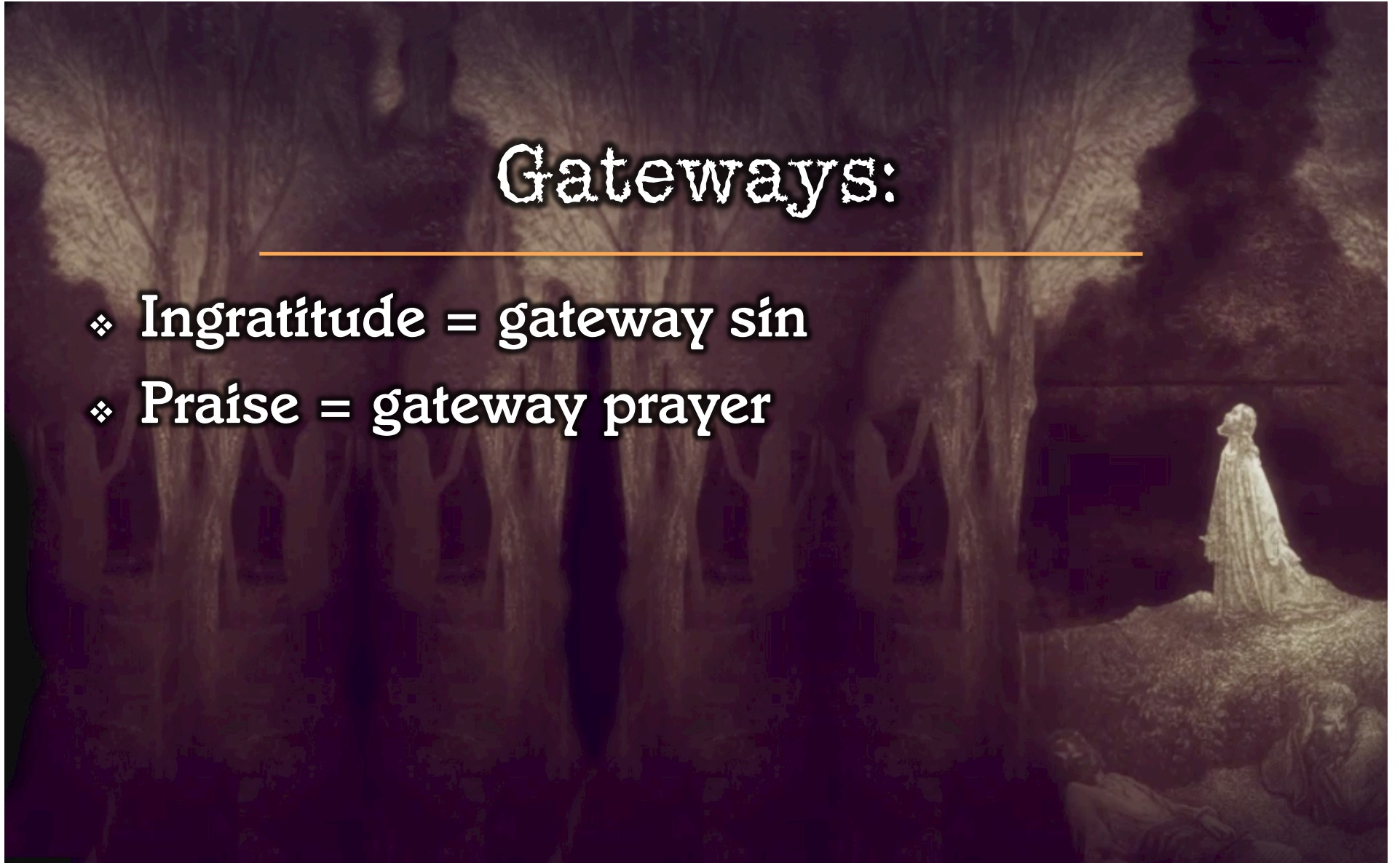
- ❖ Upward – praise
- ❖ Inward – confession
- ❖ Outward – petition
  - ❖ Supplication
  - ❖ Intercession



# Gateways:

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





# Worship and adoration of God:

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



# Contradiction?

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

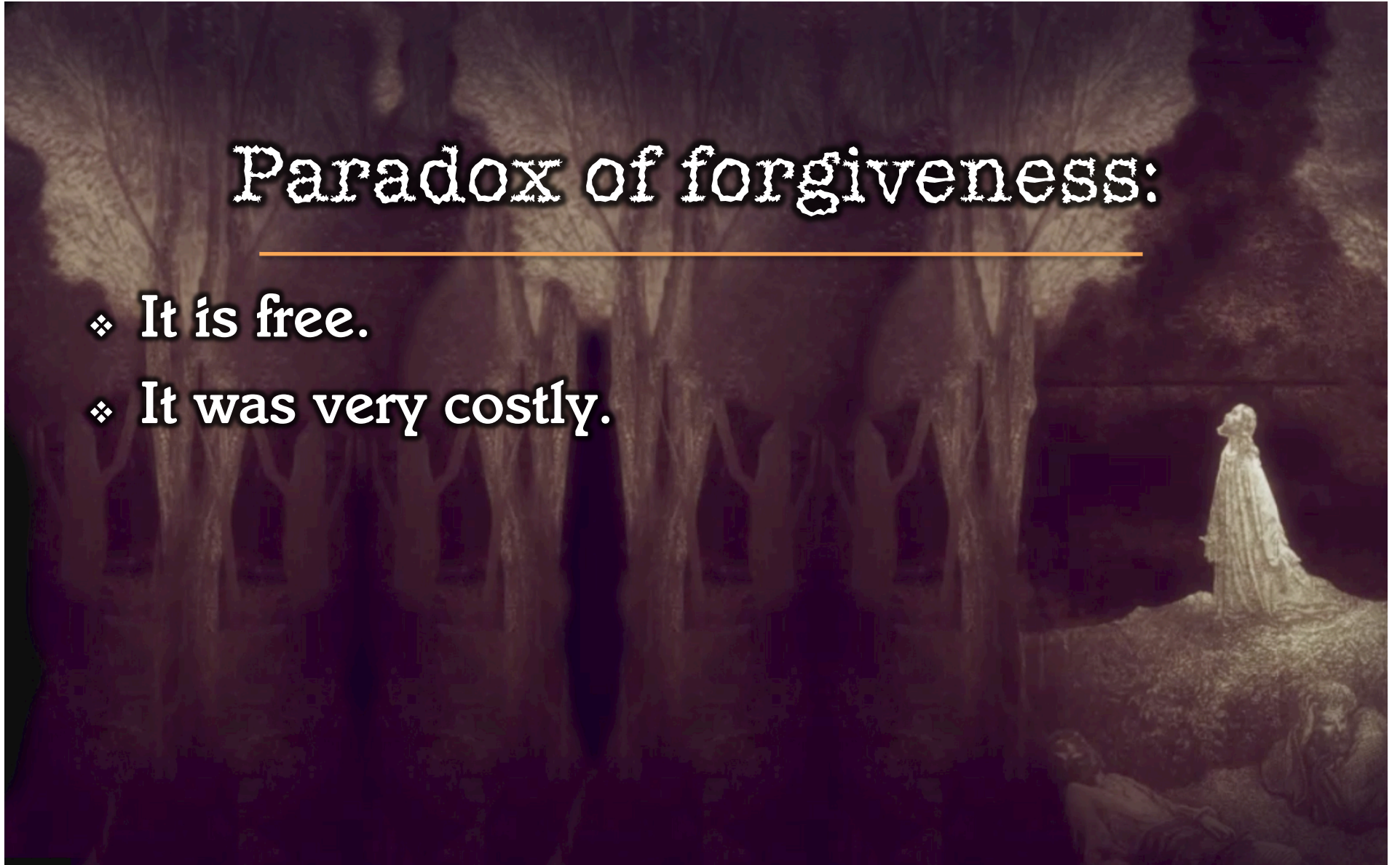




# Paradox of forgiveness:

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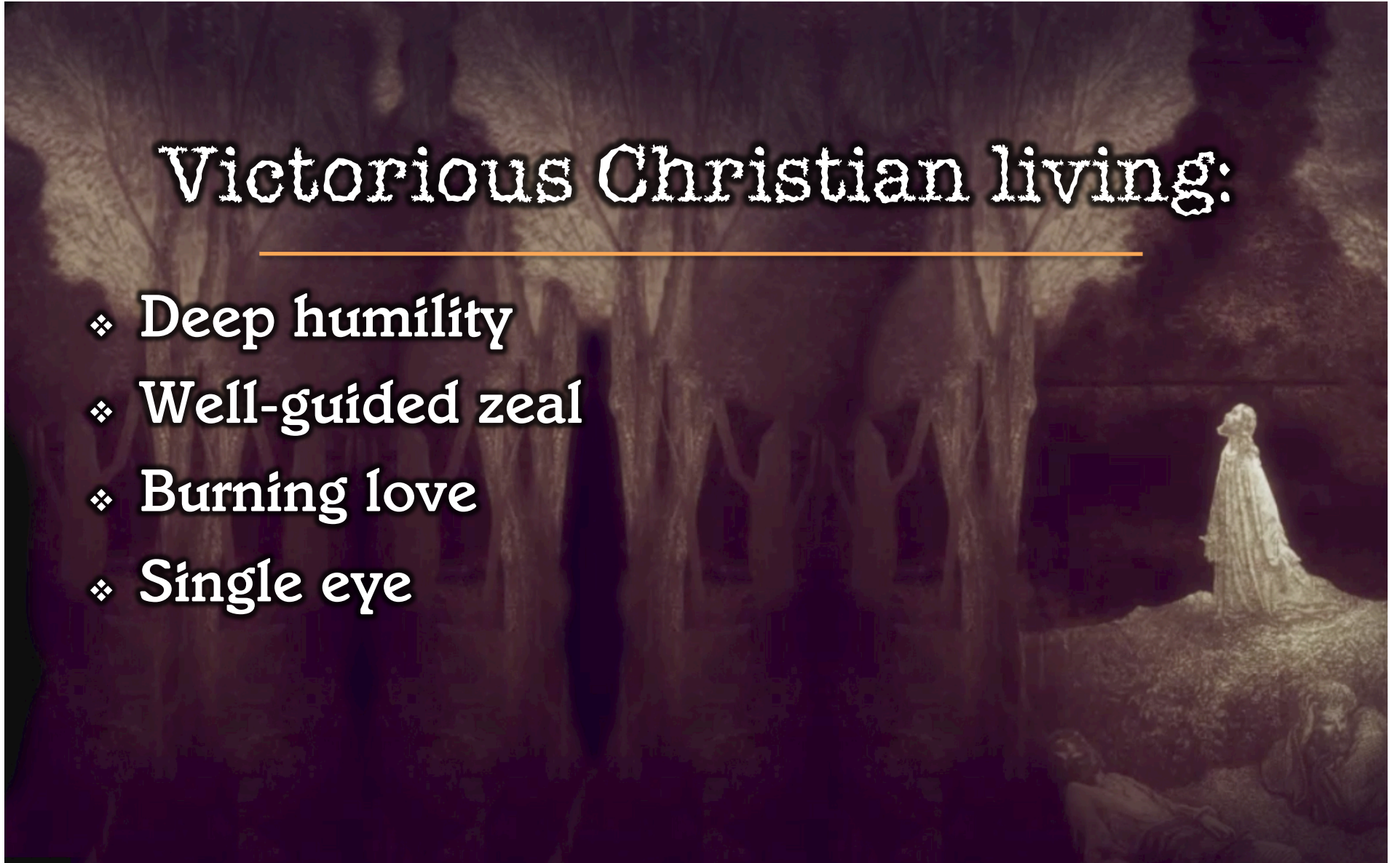
- ❖ It is free.
- ❖ It was very costly.



# Victorious Christian living:

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

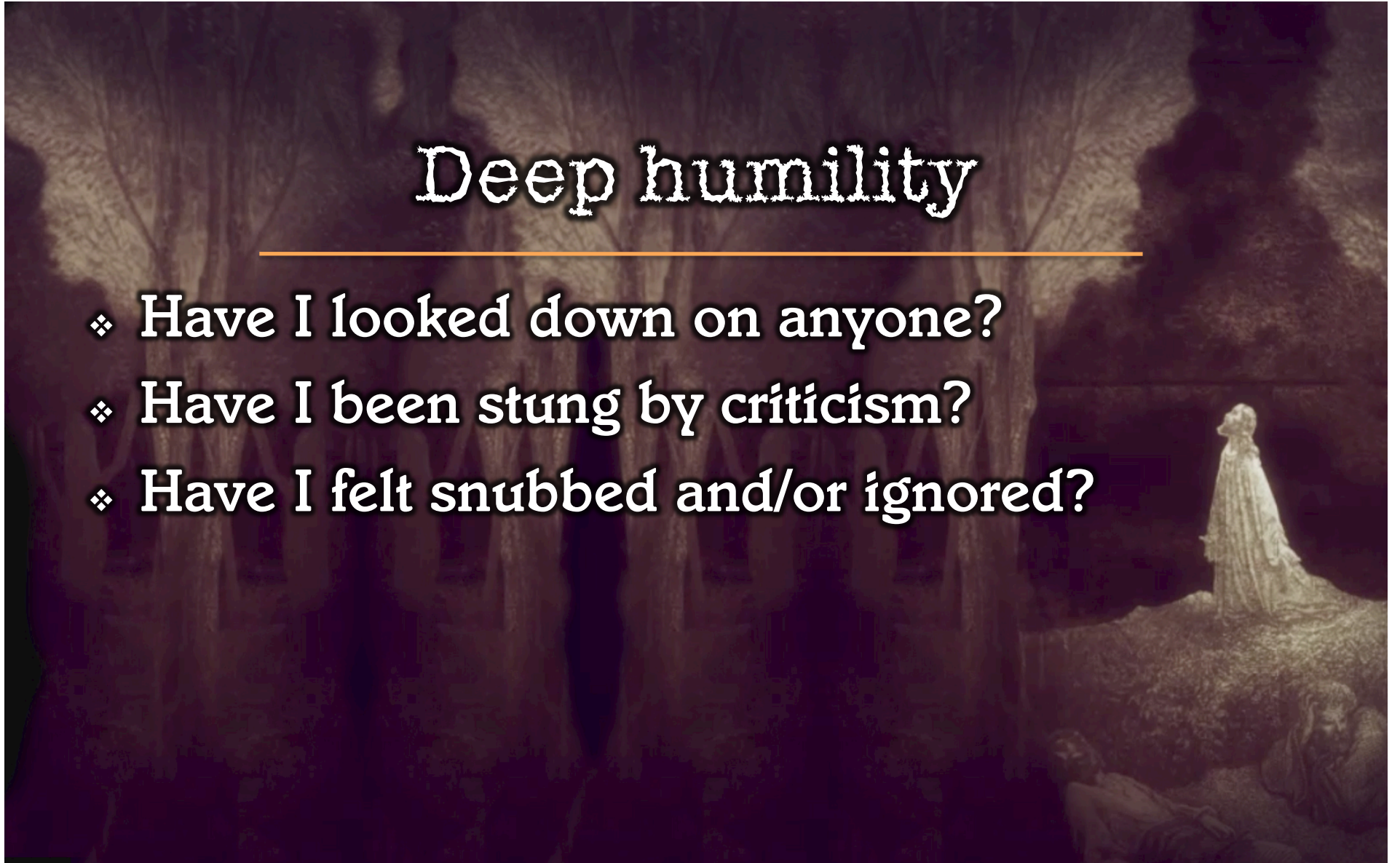




# Deep humility

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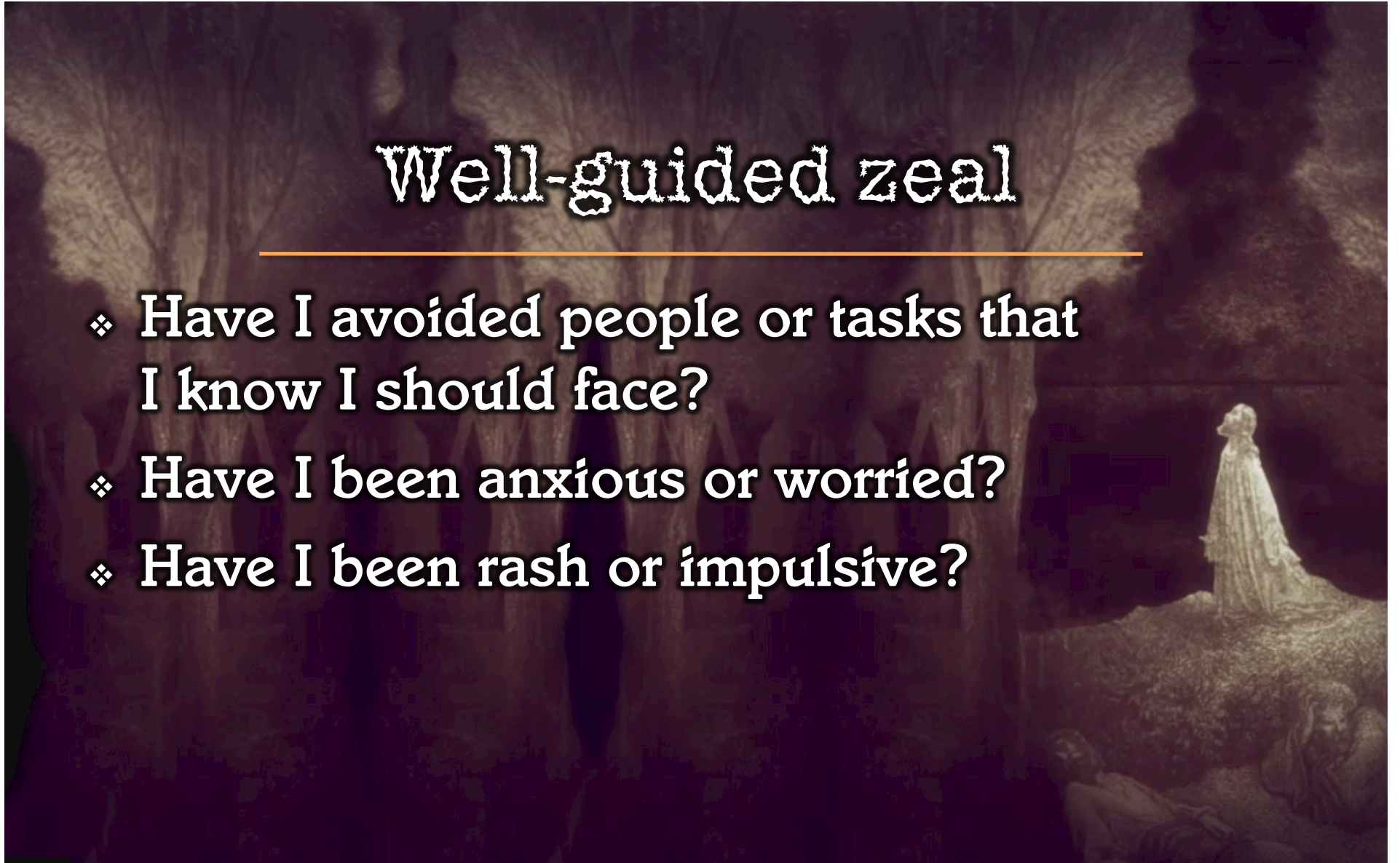
- ❖ Have I looked down on anyone?
- ❖ Have I been stung by criticism?
- ❖ Have I felt snubbed and/or ignored?



# Well-guided zeal

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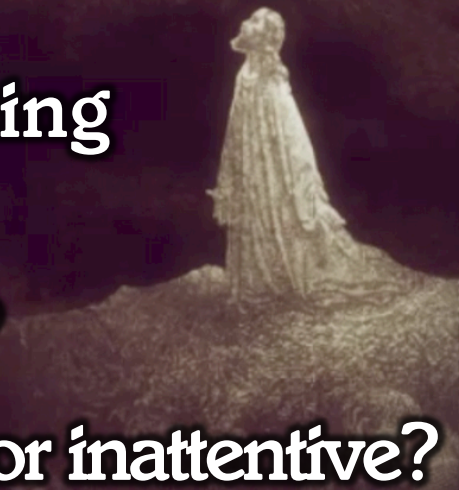
- ❖ Have I avoided people or tasks that I know I should face?
- ❖ Have I been anxious or worried?
- ❖ Have I been rash or impulsive?





# 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?
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- A woman in a long, flowing white dress stands in a dark, wooded area, looking towards the left. The scene is dimly lit, with a soft glow around her, suggesting a ghostly or ethereal presence. The background consists of dark, silhouetted trees.

# Single eye

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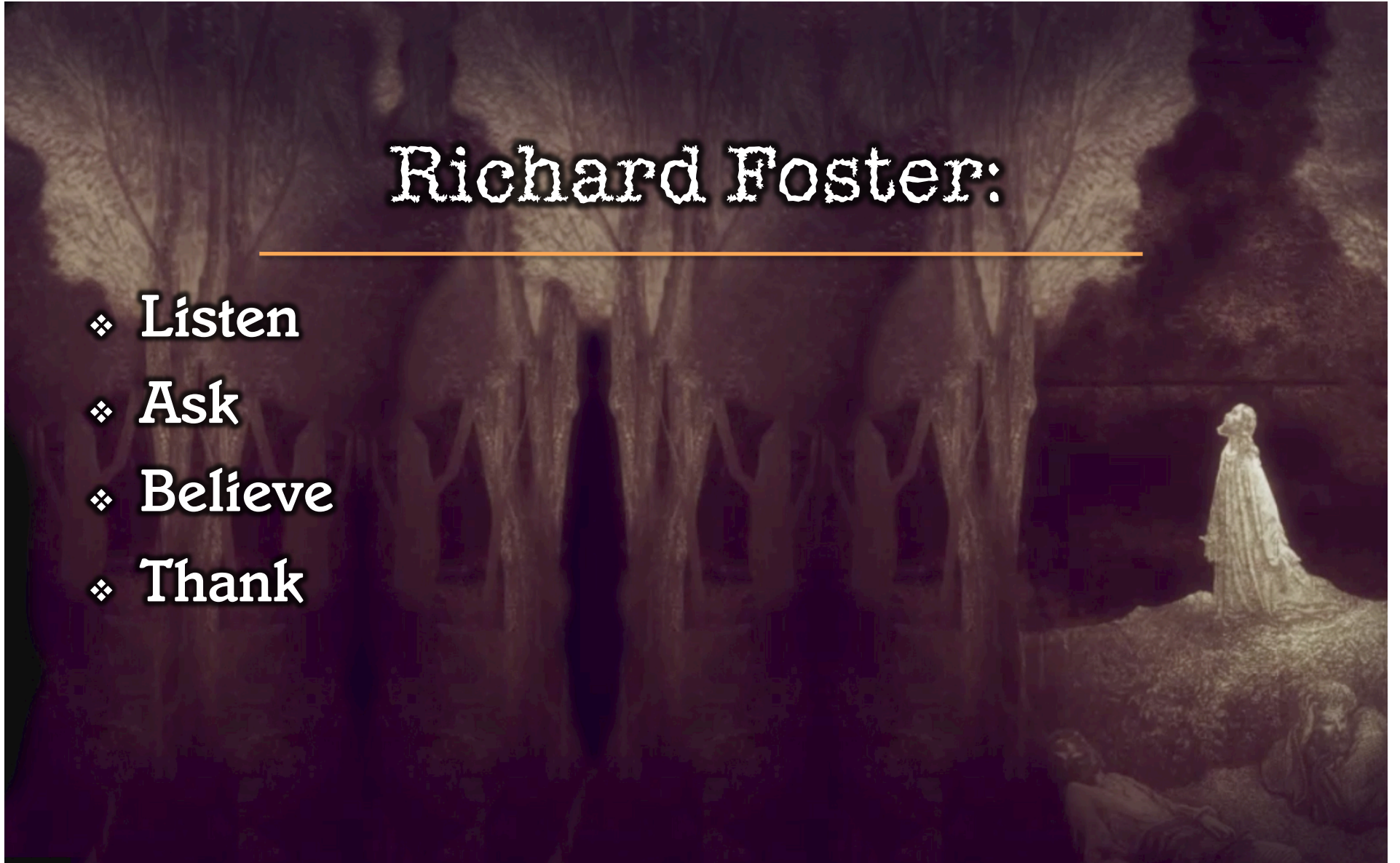
- ❖ Am I working for the glory of God and the good of others, or am I driven by fear, need for approval or desire for control?
- ❖ Am I envious?
- ❖ Am I giving in to lust or gluttony?
- ❖ Am I spending my time on urgent things over important things?



# Richard Foster:

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- ❖ Listen
- ❖ Ask
- ❖ Believe
- ❖ Thank



# Pray boldly:

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- ❖ Our bad things will turn out for good (Romans 8:28).
- ❖ Our good things can never be taken away from us (Psalm 4:6-7).
- ❖ The best things are yet to come (1 Corinthians 2:9).





# John Calvin's prayer:

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— Upon starting work —

“My good God, Father, and Savior, grant me aid by your Holy Spirit to now work fruitfully in my vocation, which is from you, all in order to love you and the people around me rather than for my own gain and glory.

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, several people are seen from behind, kneeling in prayer on the floor. The lighting is dim, with a warm, golden glow emanating from a source in the distance, possibly a window or a chandelier, creating a sense of solemnity and devotion. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

## John Calvin's prayer:

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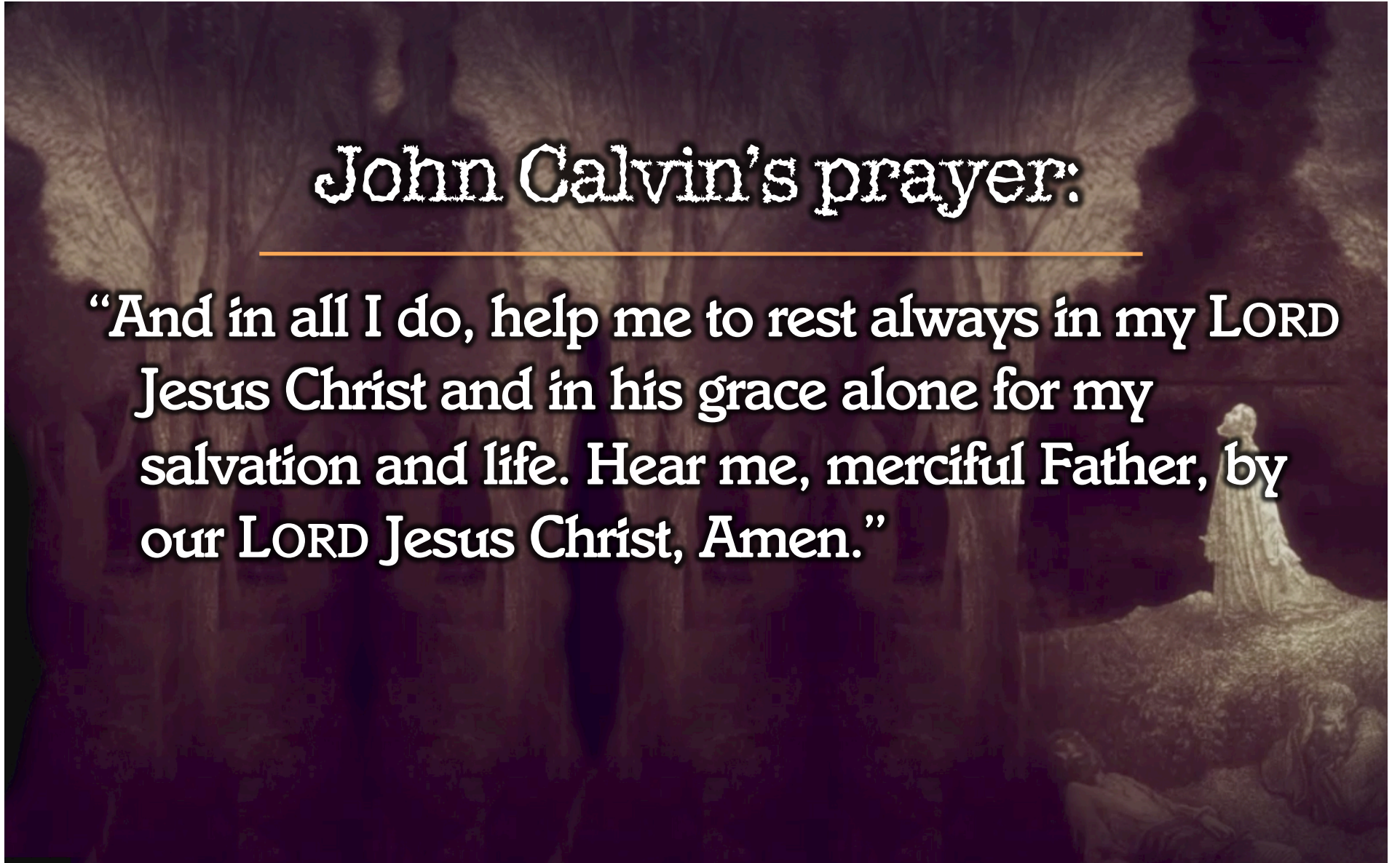
**“Give me wisdom, judgment and prudence, and freedom from my besetting sins. Bring me under the rule of true humility. Let me accept with patience whatever amount of fruitfulness or difficulty in my work that you give me this day.**”



## John Calvin's prayer:

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“And in all I do, help me to rest always in my LORD Jesus Christ and in his grace alone for my salvation and life. Hear me, merciful Father, by our LORD Jesus Christ, Amen.”



# 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.





## Colossians 3:15

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Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.



## Colossians 3:16

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Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.





## Colossians 3:17

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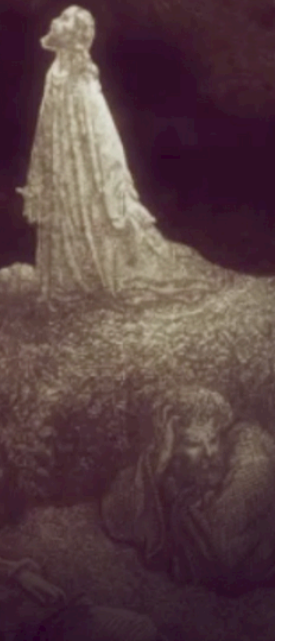
And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the LORD Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



## Daniel 6:10

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Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

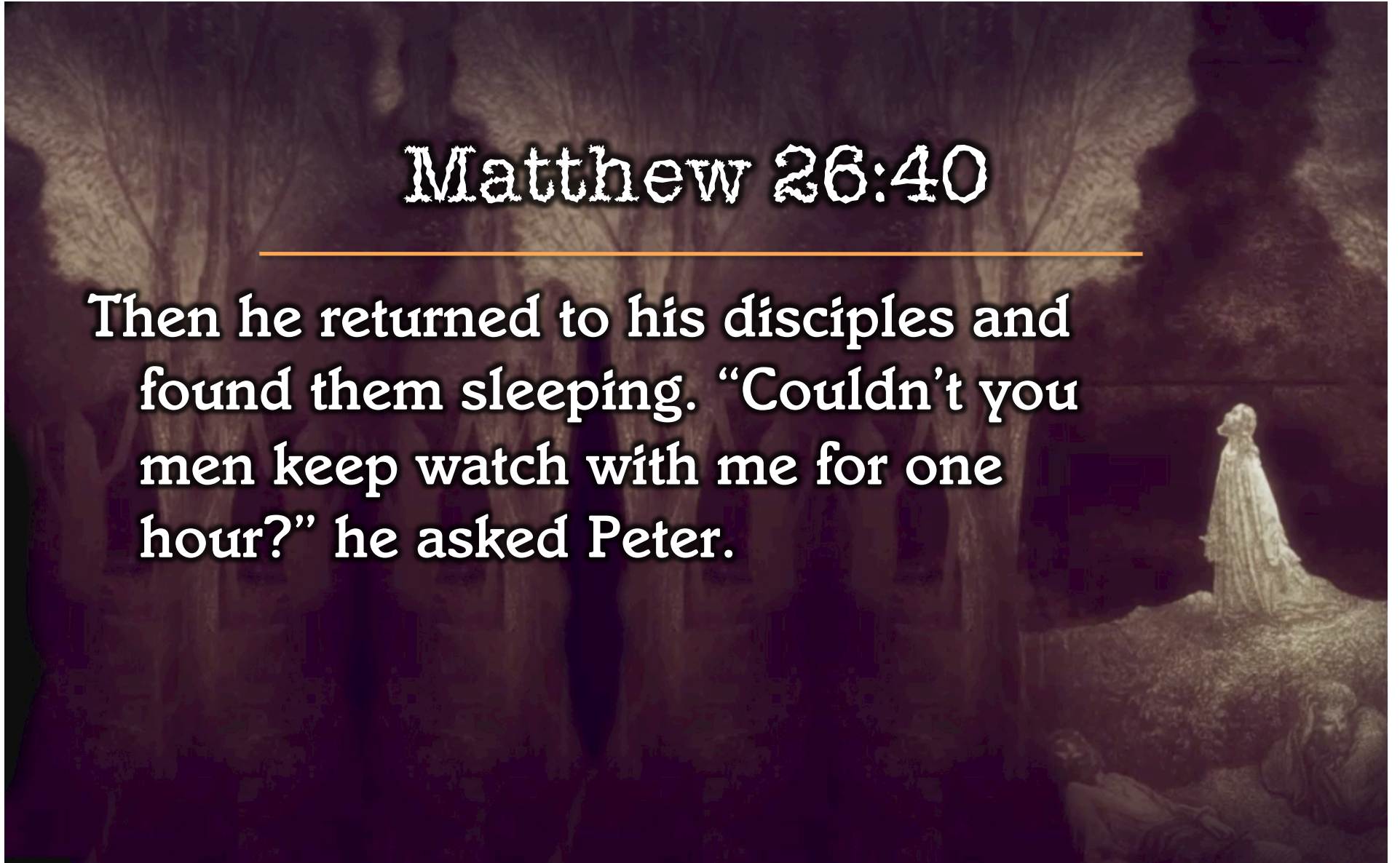




## Matthew 26:40

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Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter.



# Monastic prayer:

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❖ Midnight

❖ 3:00 AM

❖ 6:00 AM

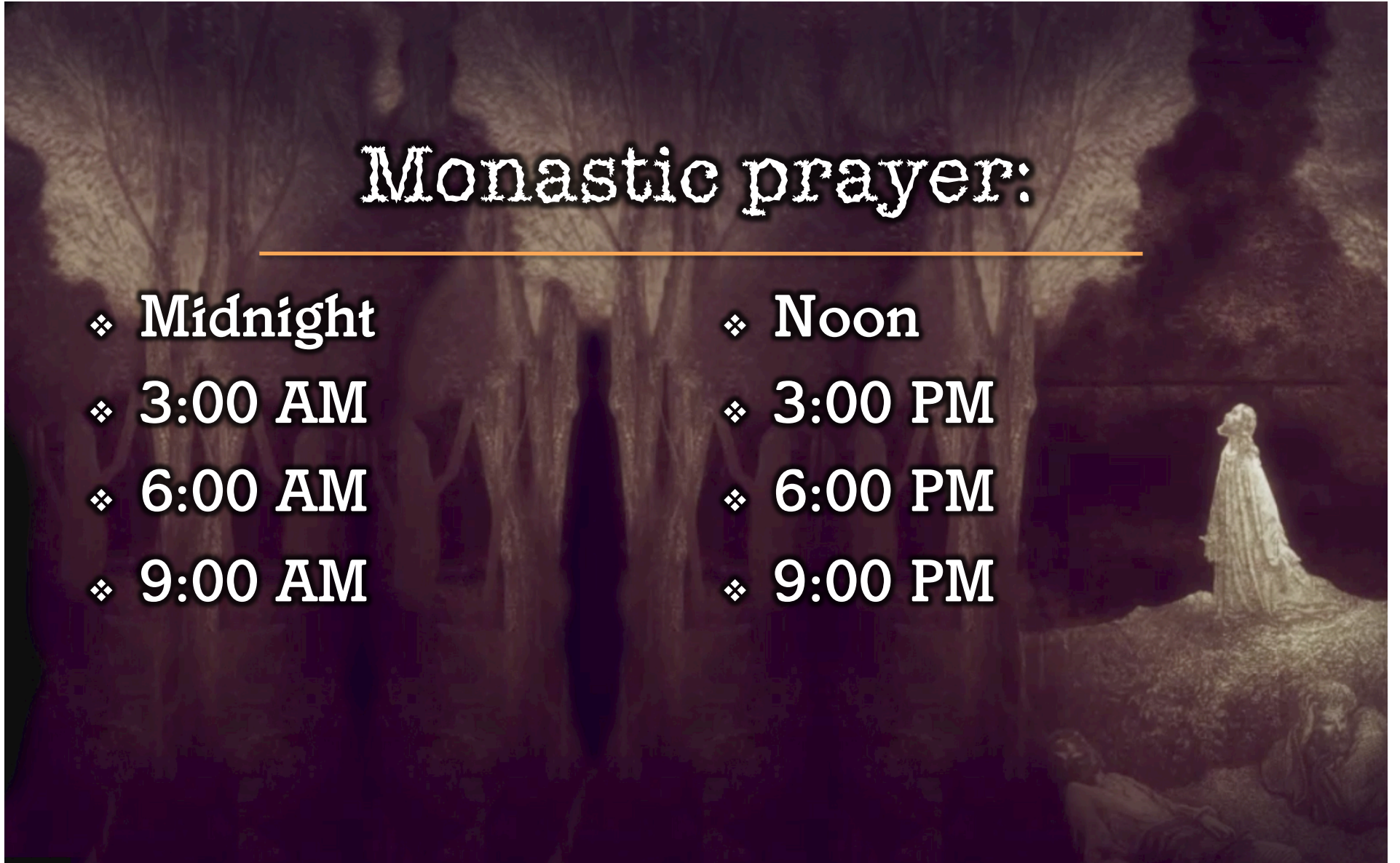
❖ 9:00 AM

❖ Noon

❖ 3:00 PM

❖ 6:00 PM

❖ 9:00 PM





# Guides to daily prayer:

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- ❖ *Book of Common Prayer*
- ❖ *Quiet Time: A Practical Guide to Daily Devotions*
- ❖ *My Path of Prayer*



# George Mueller's questions:

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- ❖ Is there any example for me to follow?
- ❖ Is there any command for me to obey?
- ❖ Is there any error for me to avoid?
- ❖ Is there any sin for me to forsake?
- ❖ Is there any promise for me to claim?
- ❖ Is there any new thought about God Himself?



## Expert advice:

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- ❖ Martin Luther: 2X per day
- ❖ John Calvin: more often, but brief



# Expert advice:

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- ❖ **Tim Keller:**
  - ❖ **More often**
  - ❖ **More Biblical**
  - ❖ **More interwoven with corporate prayer of the church**
  - ❖ **More expectant**





# Framework for daily prayer

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- ❖ Evocation
- ❖ Meditation
- ❖ Word prayer
- ❖ Free prayer
- ❖ Contemplation




# John Calvin's prayer:

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— After midday meal —

“O LORD God, I give you thanks for all the benefits and gifts you constantly shower on me. Thank you for sustaining my physical life through food and shelter; for giving me new life through the gospel; and for the certainty of the best and perfect life, which is yet to come.





## John Calvin's prayer:

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“In light of all of these blessings, I now ask that you would not allow my affections to be tangled in inordinate desires for the things of this world, but let me always set my heart on things above, where Christ, who is my life, is seated at your right hand. Hear me, merciful Father, by our LORD Jesus Christ, Amen.”

## Athanasius on the Psalms:

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“Under all the circumstances of life, we shall find that these divine songs suit ourselves and meet our own souls’ need at every turn.”

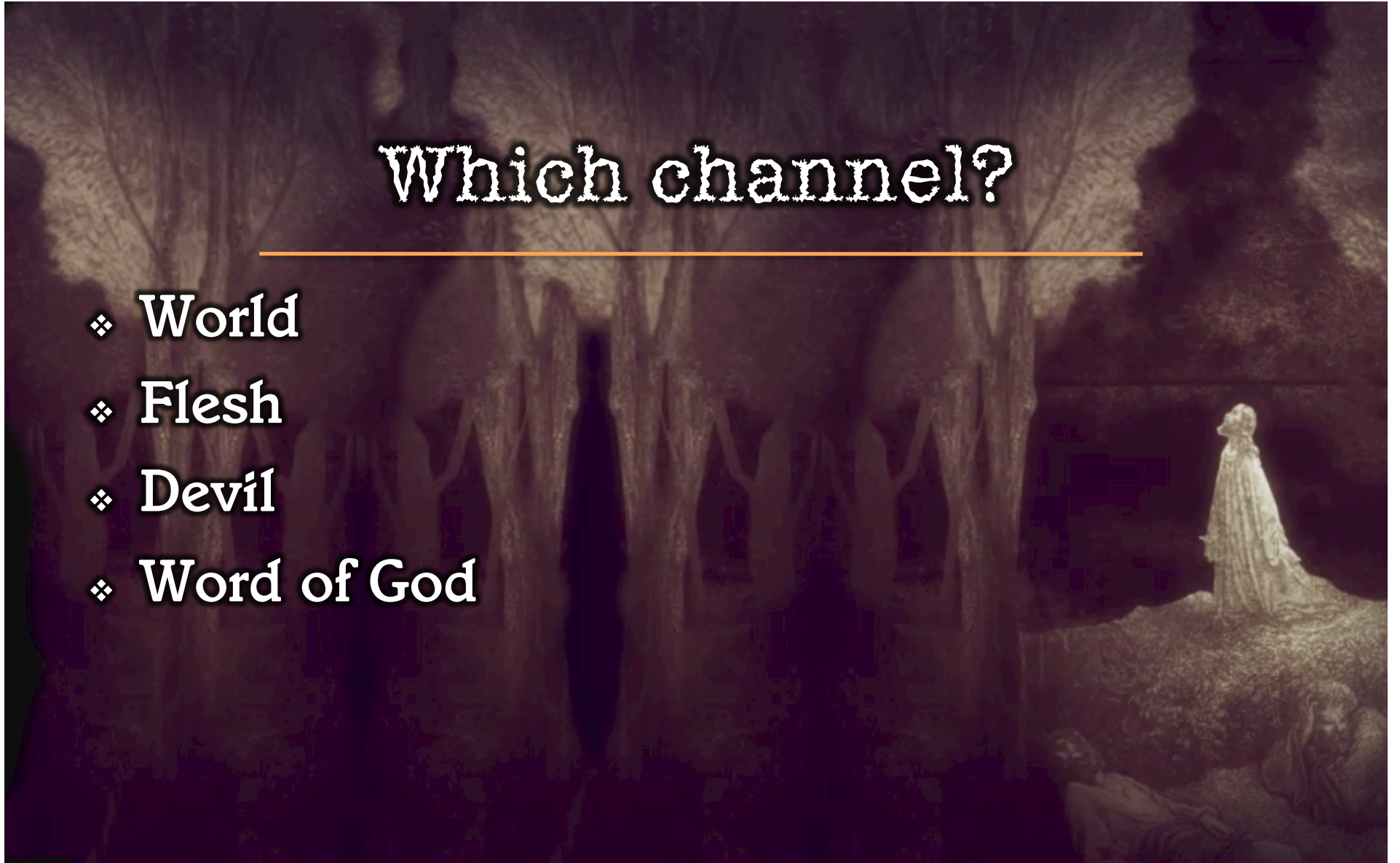




# Which channel?

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- ❖ World
- ❖ Flesh
- ❖ Devil
- ❖ Word of God



## Psalm 116:1-2

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I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.  
Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.

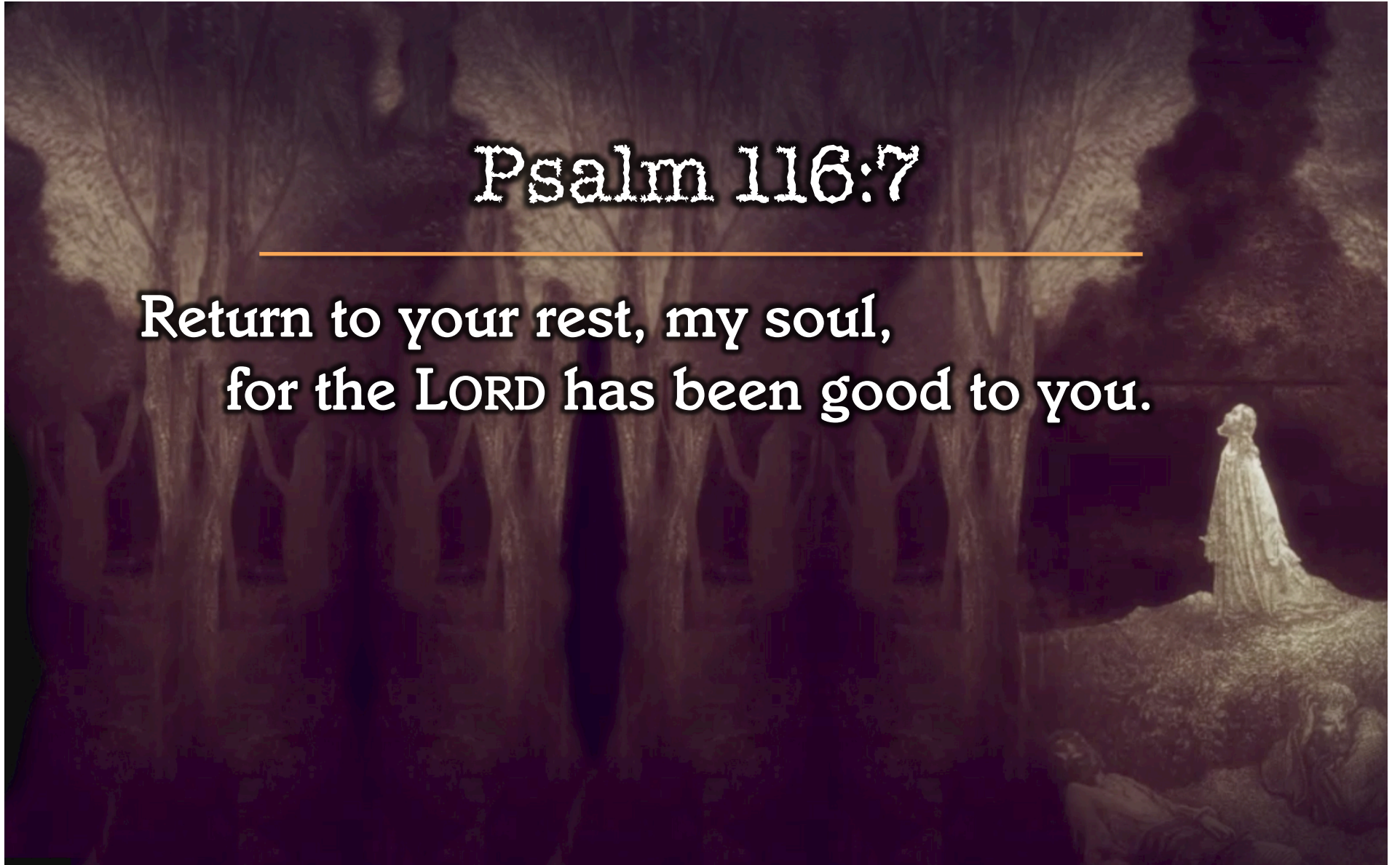




# Psalm 116:7

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Return to your rest, my soul,  
for the LORD has been good to you.



## Psalm 116:17-18

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I will sacrifice a thank offering to you  
and call on the name of the LORD.  
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,





# Your discipleship boat?

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- ❖ Sailing
- ❖ Rowing
- ❖ Drifting
- ❖ Sinking



## 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.”**

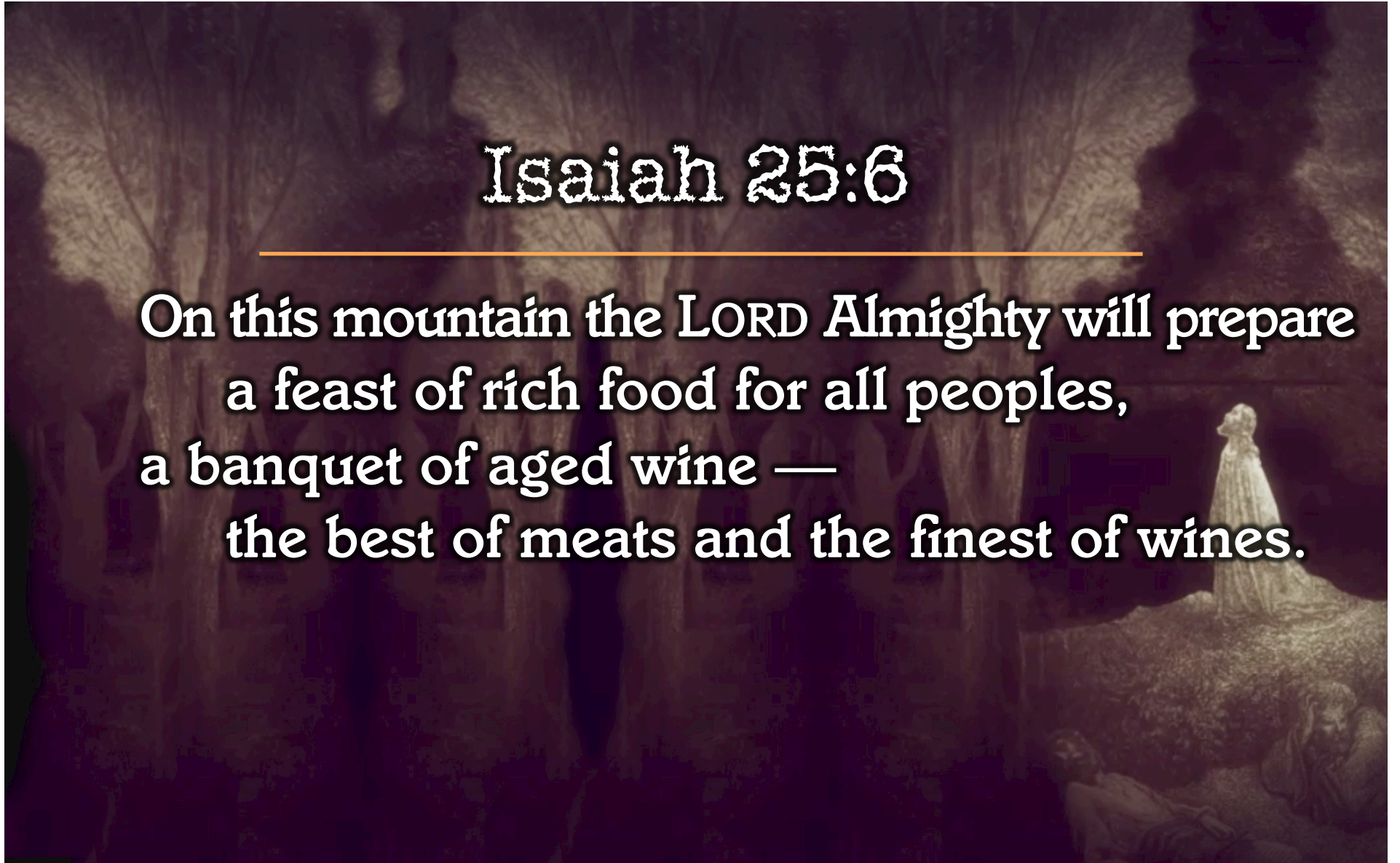




## Isaiah 25:6

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On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare  
a feast of rich food for all peoples,  
a banquet of aged wine —  
the best of meats and the finest of wines.



## Isaiah 25:7-8

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On this mountain he will destroy  
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;  
he will swallow up death forever.





## Isaiah 25:8

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The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears  
from all faces;  
he will remove his people's disgrace  
from all the earth.  
The LORD has spoken.



## Revelation 19:5

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Then a voice came from the throne, saying:  
“Praise our God,  
all you his servants,  
you who fear him,  
both great and small!”





## Revelation 19:6

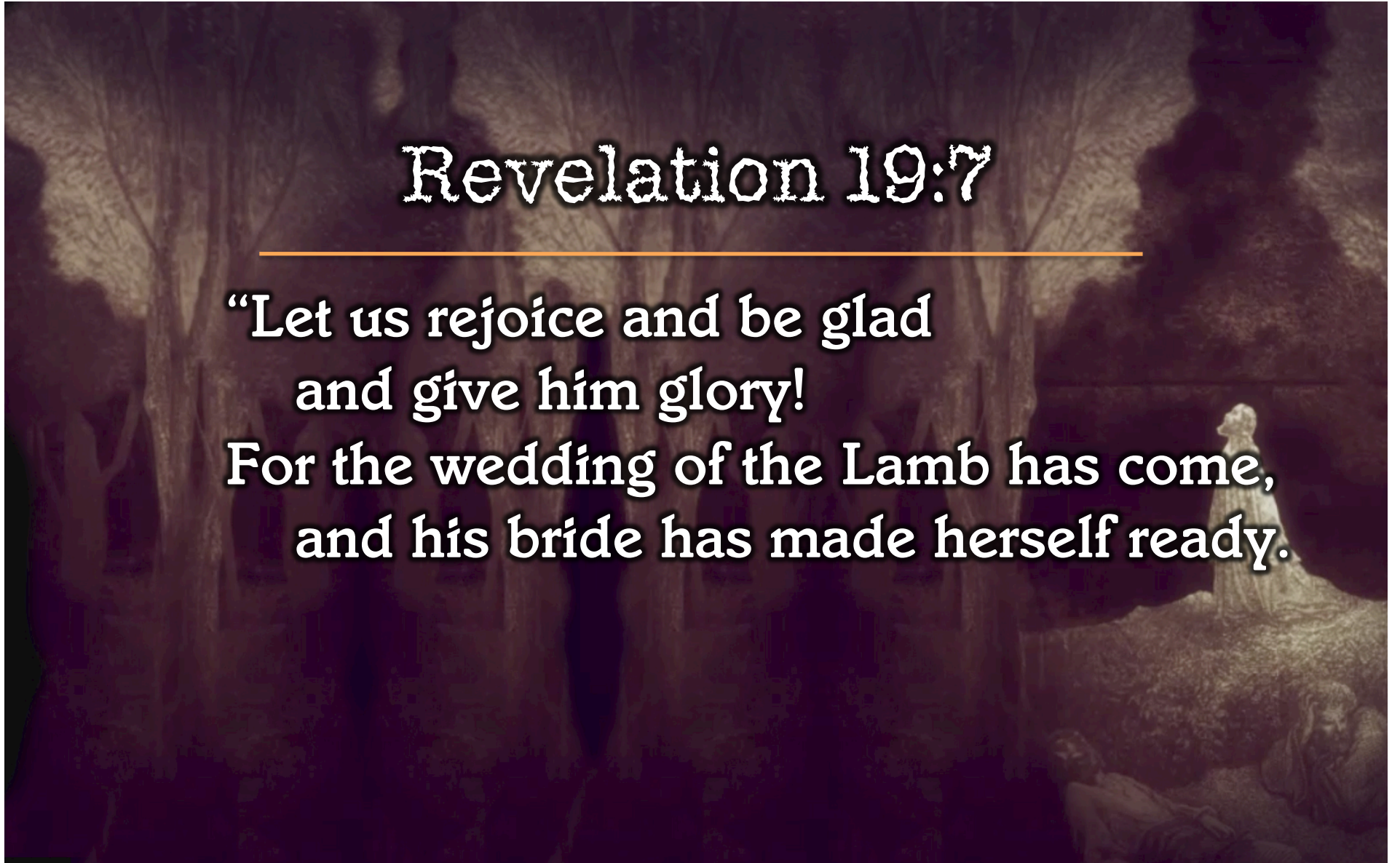
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Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:  
“Hallelujah!  
For our LORD God Almighty reigns.

## Revelation 19:7

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“Let us rejoice and be glad  
and give him glory!  
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.”





## Revelation 19:8

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“Fine linen, bright and clean,  
was given her to wear,”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts  
of God’s holy people.)



## Revelation 19:9

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Then the angel said to me, "Write this:  
Blessed are those who are invited to  
the wedding supper of the Lamb!"  
And he added, "These are the true  
words of God."





## Revelation 21:2

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I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.



## Revelation 21:3

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And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.





## Revelation 21:4-5

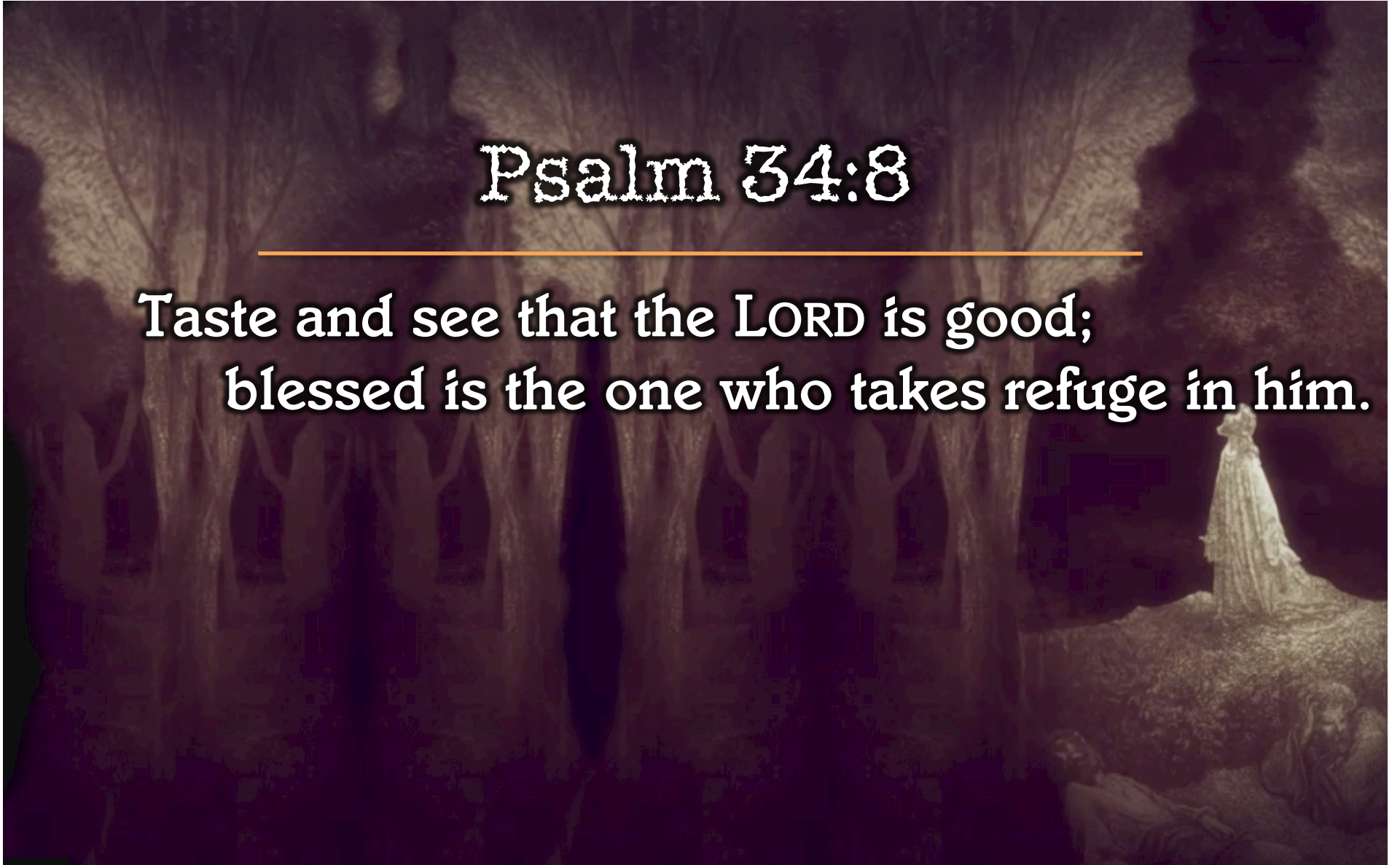
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“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

## Psalm 34:8

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Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.





# John Calvin's prayer:

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— At bedtime —

“O LORD God, now grant me the grace not only to rest my body this night, but to have my spiritual repose, in soul and conscience, in your grace and love, that I may let go of all earthly cares so I might be comforted and eased in all ways.

## John Calvin's prayer:

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“And because no day passes that I do not sin in so many ways, please bury all my offenses in your mercy, that I might not lose your presence. Forgive me, merciful Father, for Christ's sake.”



## John Calvin's prayer:

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“And as I lay down to sleep to safely wake again only by your grace, keep me in a joyful, lively remembrance that whatever happens, I will someday know my final rising — the resurrection — because Jesus Christ lay down in death for me, and rose for my justification. In his name I pray, Amen.”





# 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

