

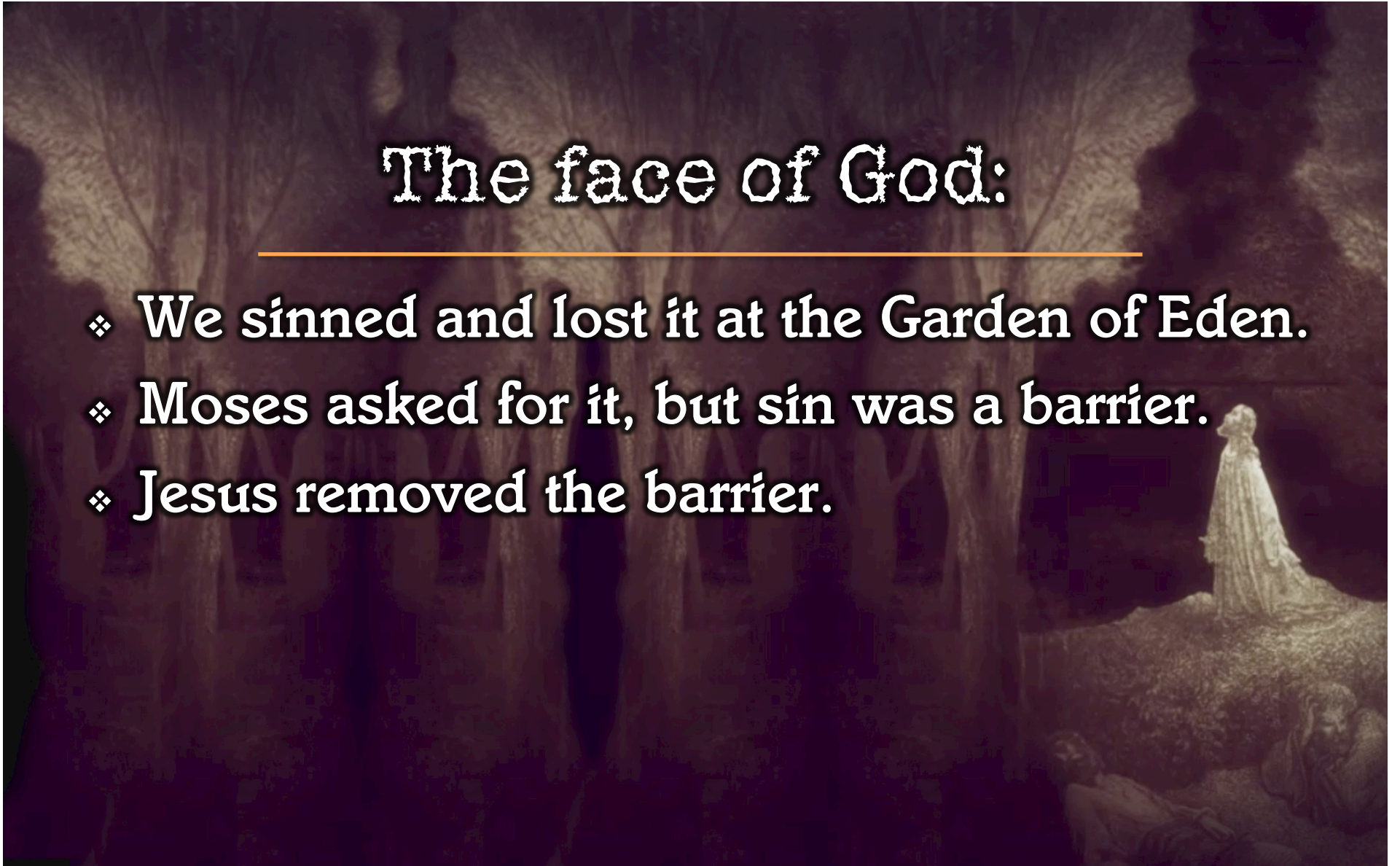


Seeking the Face of God

Curt Deming
Melbourne Community Church
January 10, 2016

The face of God:

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



Prayer Professors:

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



Prayer Professors:

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



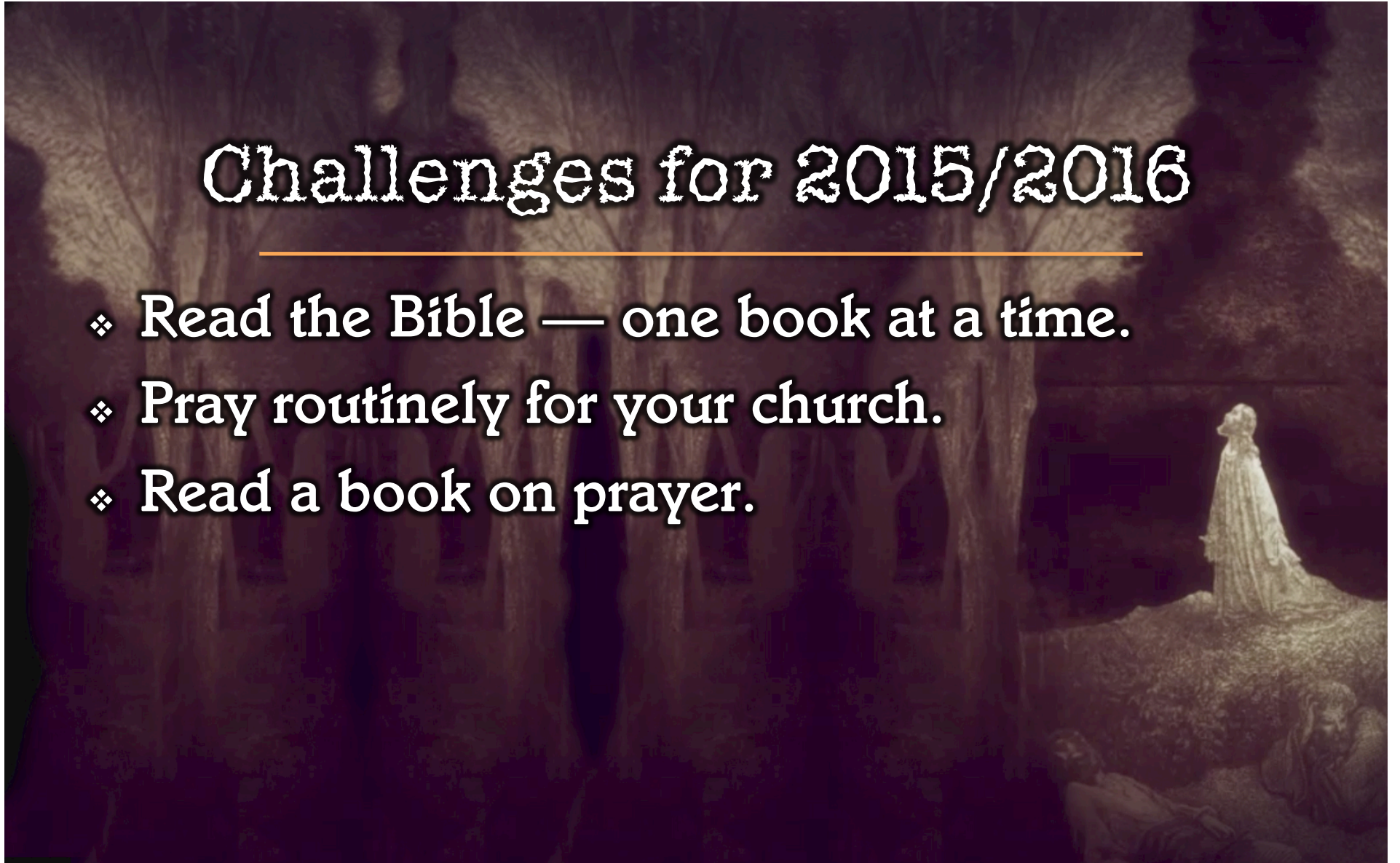
Prayer Professors:

- ❖ Contemporary
 - ❖ Richard Foster
 - ❖ Tim Keller



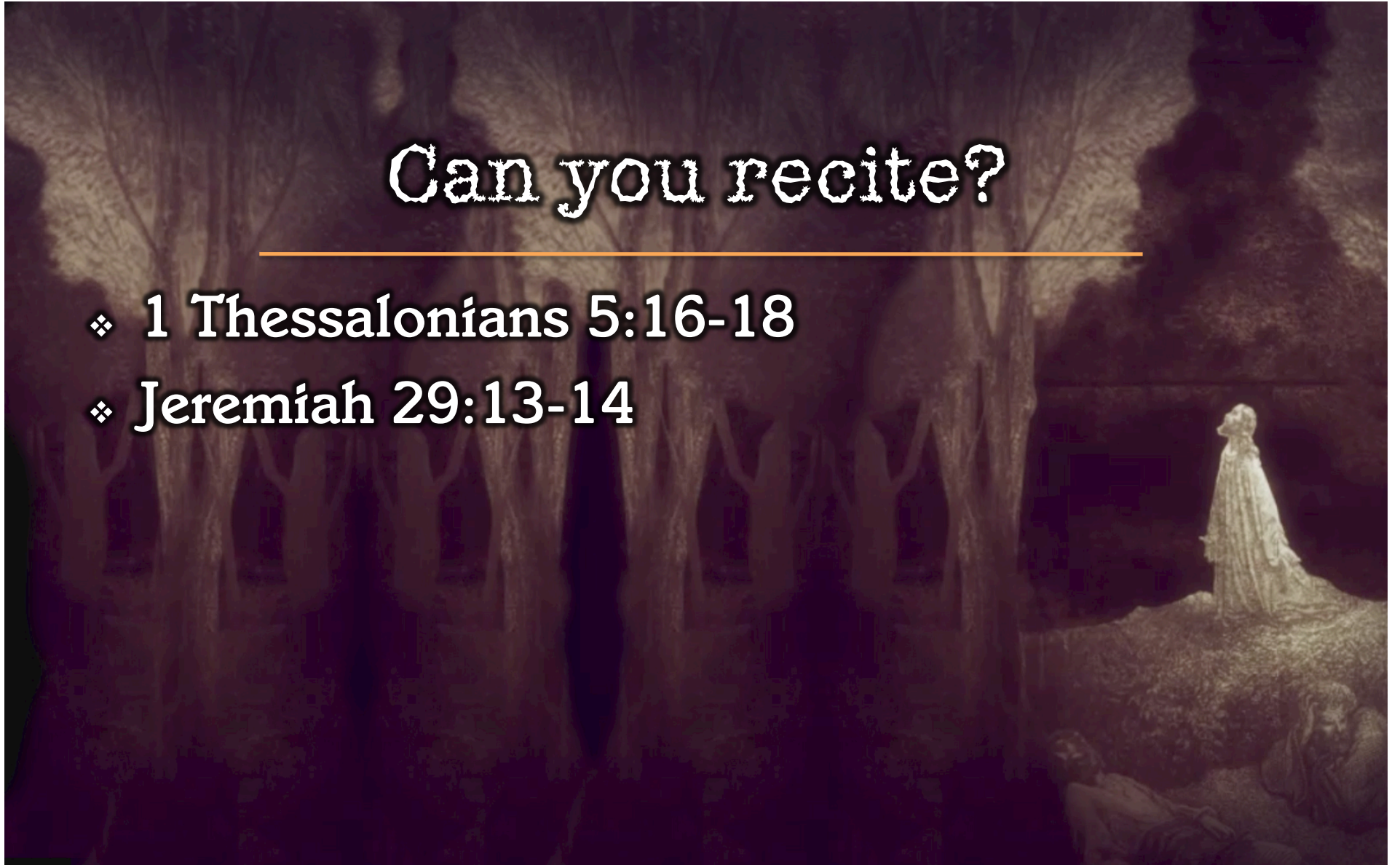
Challenges for 2015/2016

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



Can you recite?

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



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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



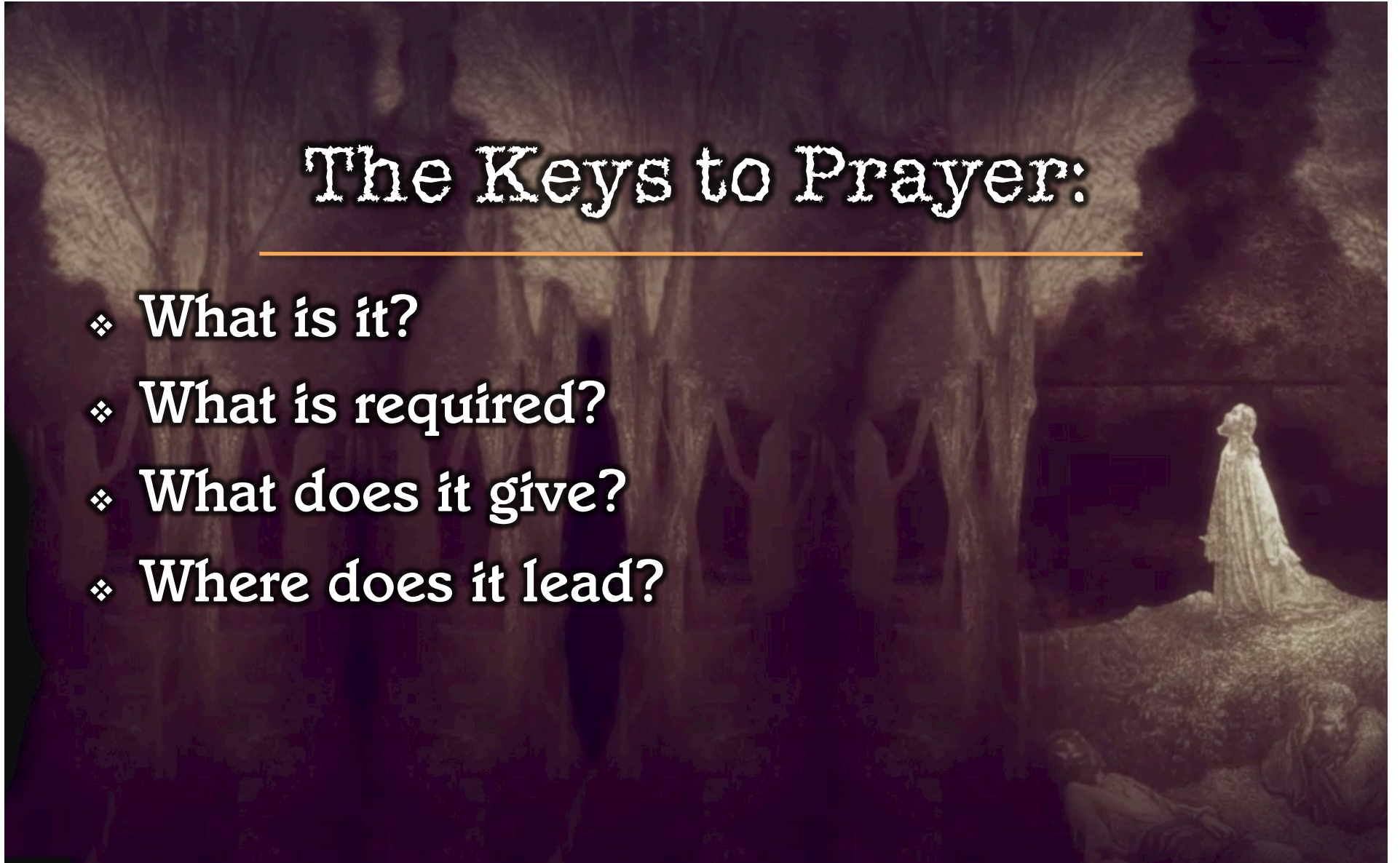
Jeremiah 29:13-14

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:

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



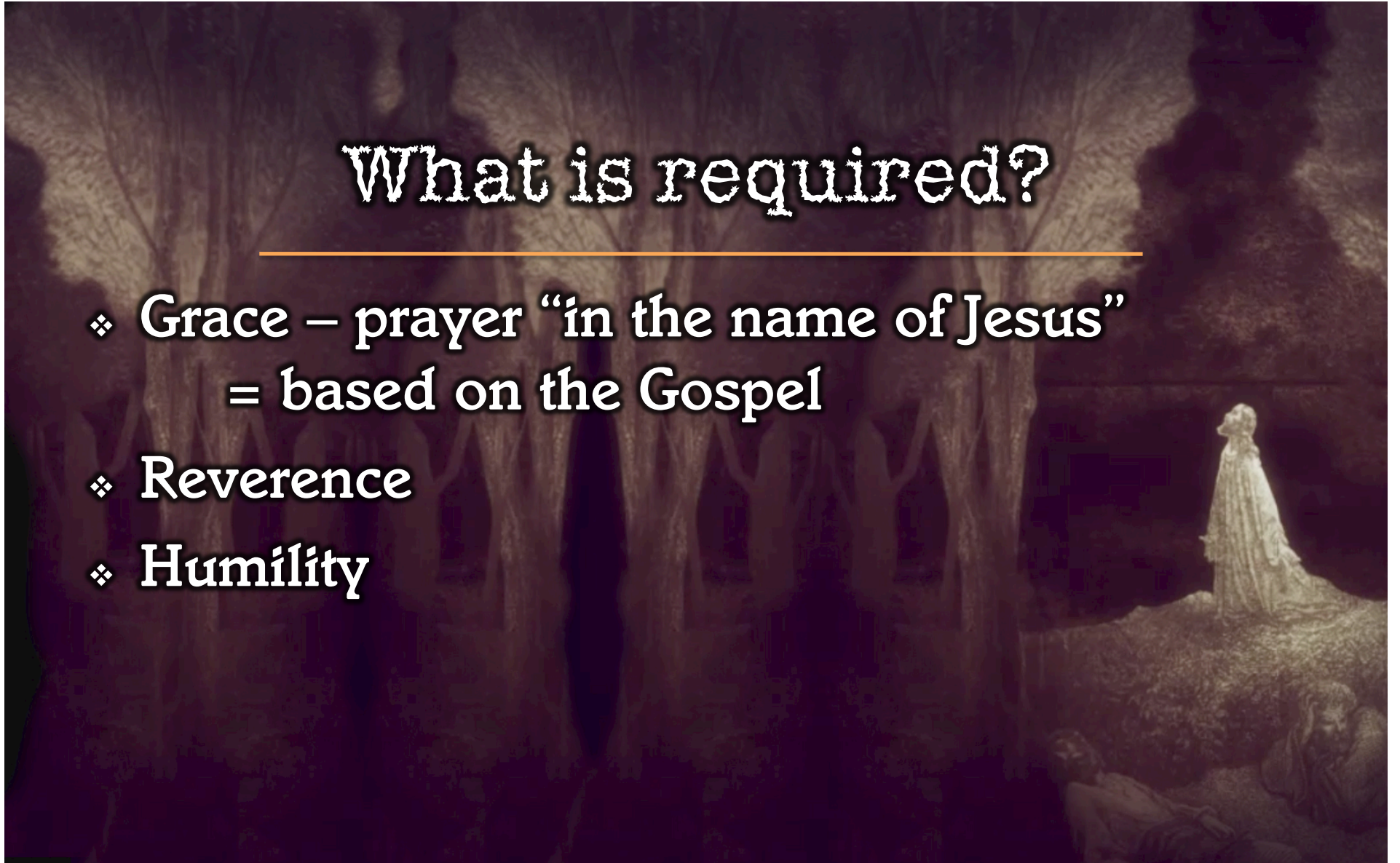
What is prayer?

- ❖ It is a duty.
- ❖ It is a conversation with God, initiated by God.
- ❖ It is balanced.
 - ❖ Praise
 - ❖ Confession
 - ❖ Thanks
 - ❖ Petition



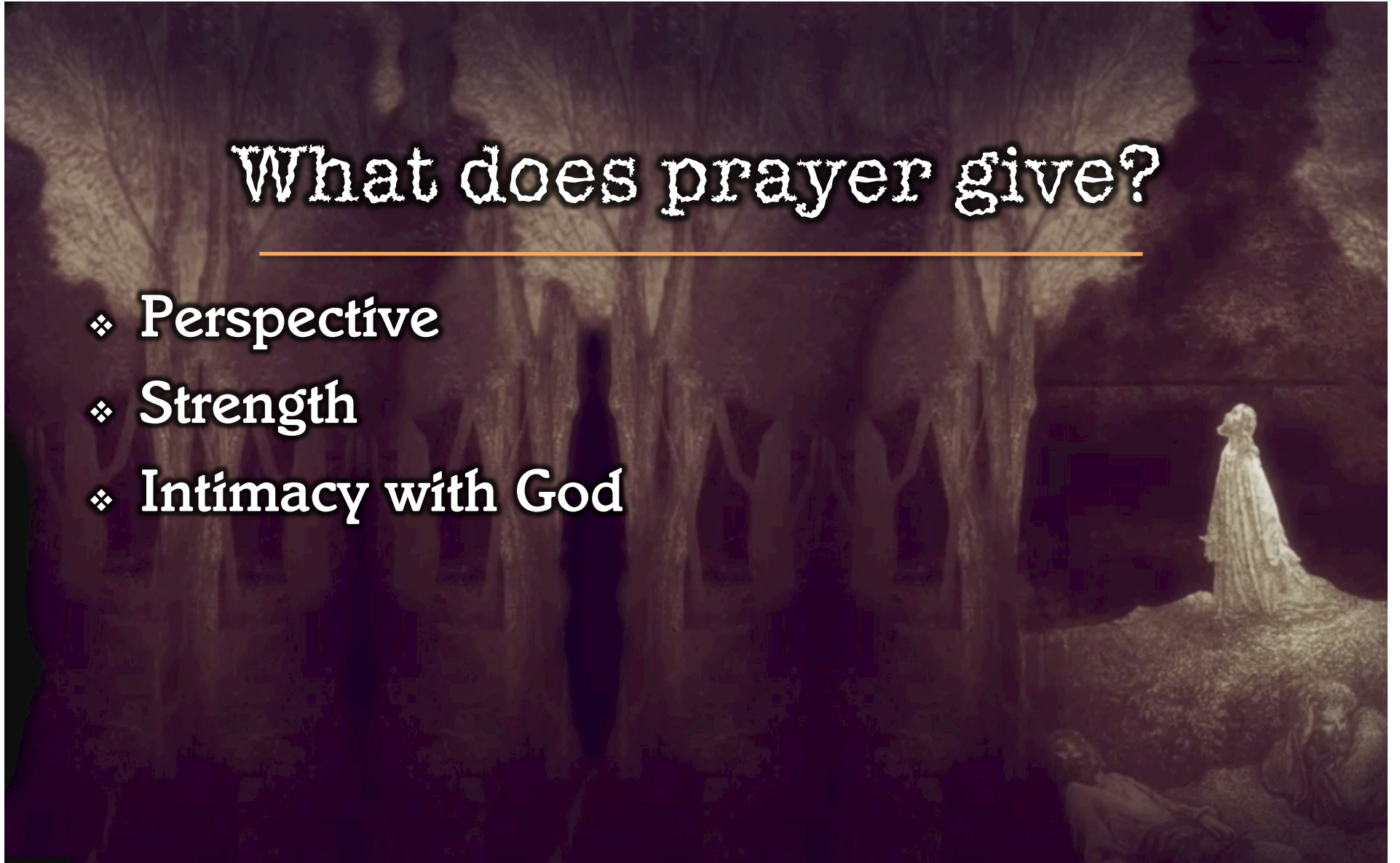
What is required?

- ❖ Grace – prayer “in the name of Jesus”
= based on the Gospel
- ❖ Reverence
- ❖ Humility



What does prayer give?

- ❖ Perspective
- ❖ Strength
- ❖ Intimacy with God



Where does prayer lead?

- ❖ Self-awareness
- ❖ Trust: restful submission
+ confident hope
- ❖ Surrender



The Keys to Prayer:

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



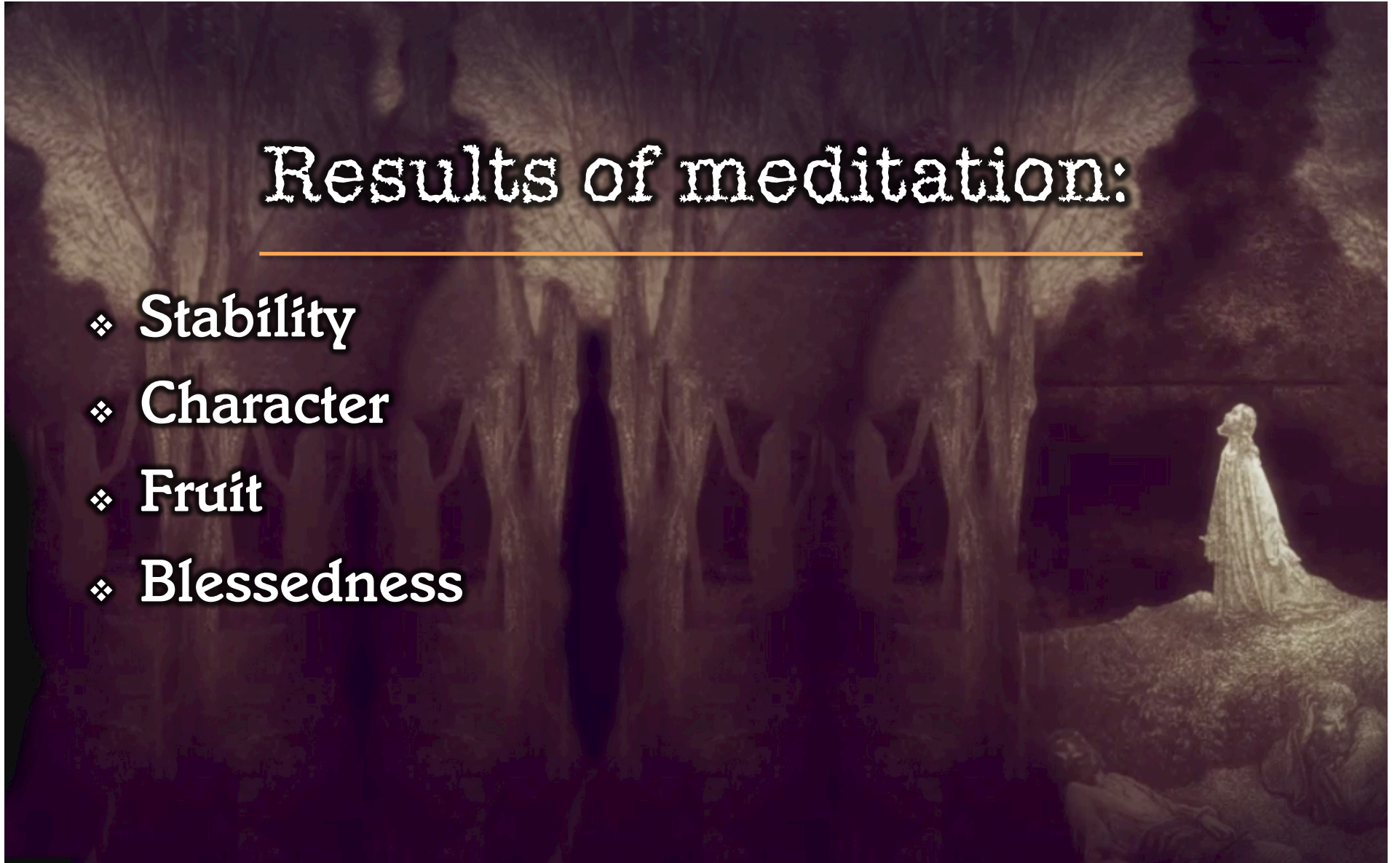
The Keys to Prayer:

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



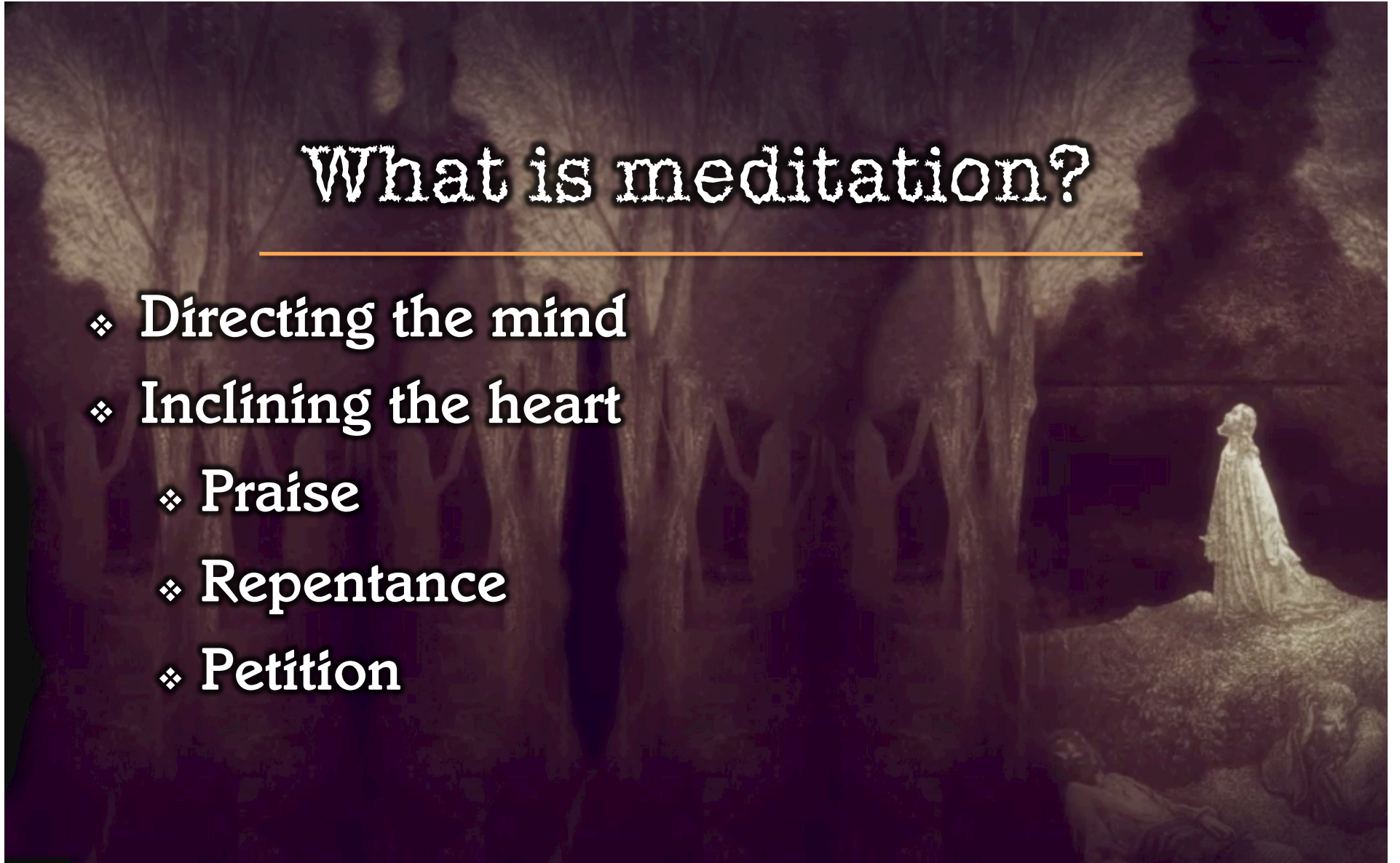
Results of meditation:

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



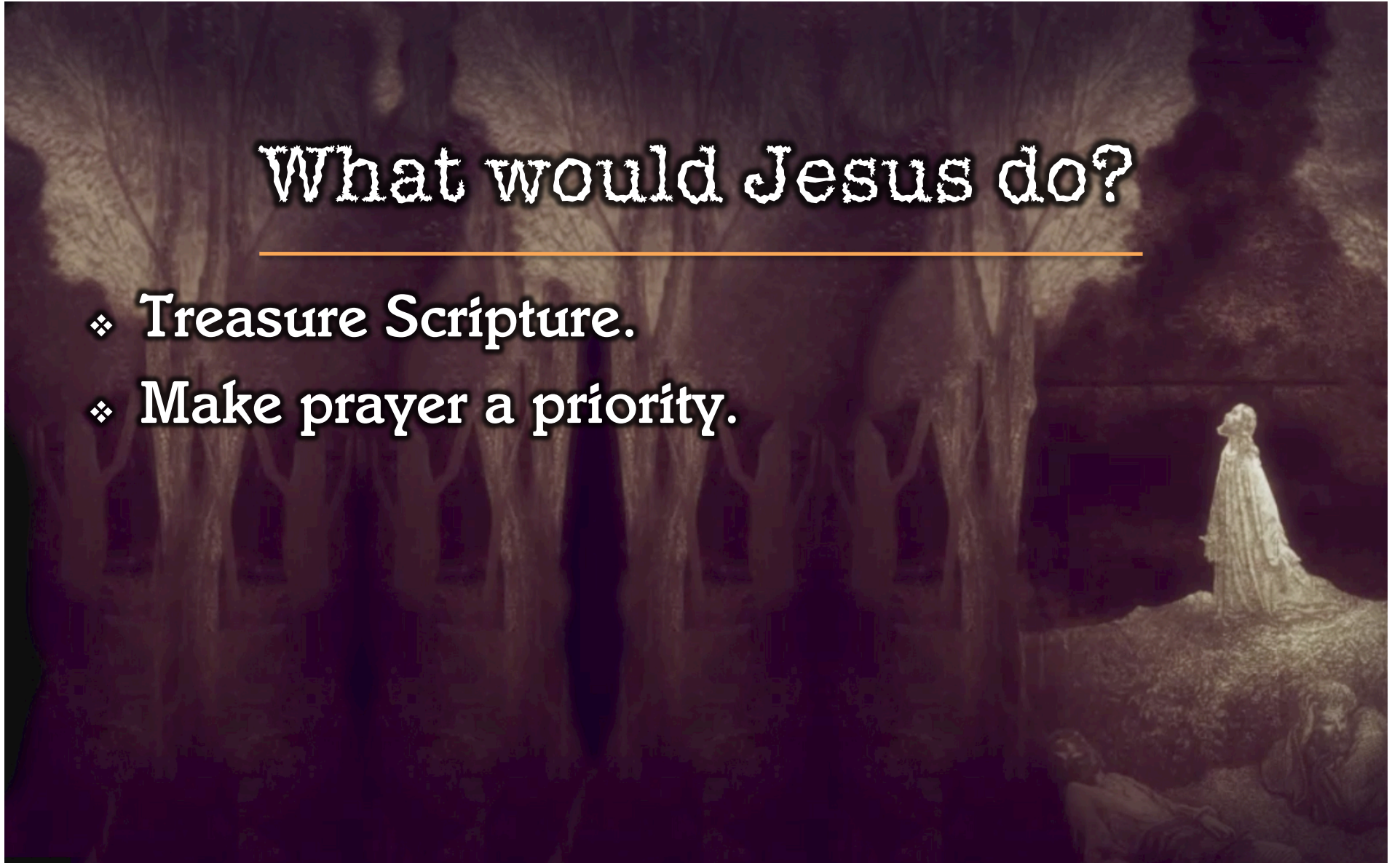
What is meditation?

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




What would Jesus do?

- ❖ Treasure Scripture.
- ❖ Make prayer a priority.



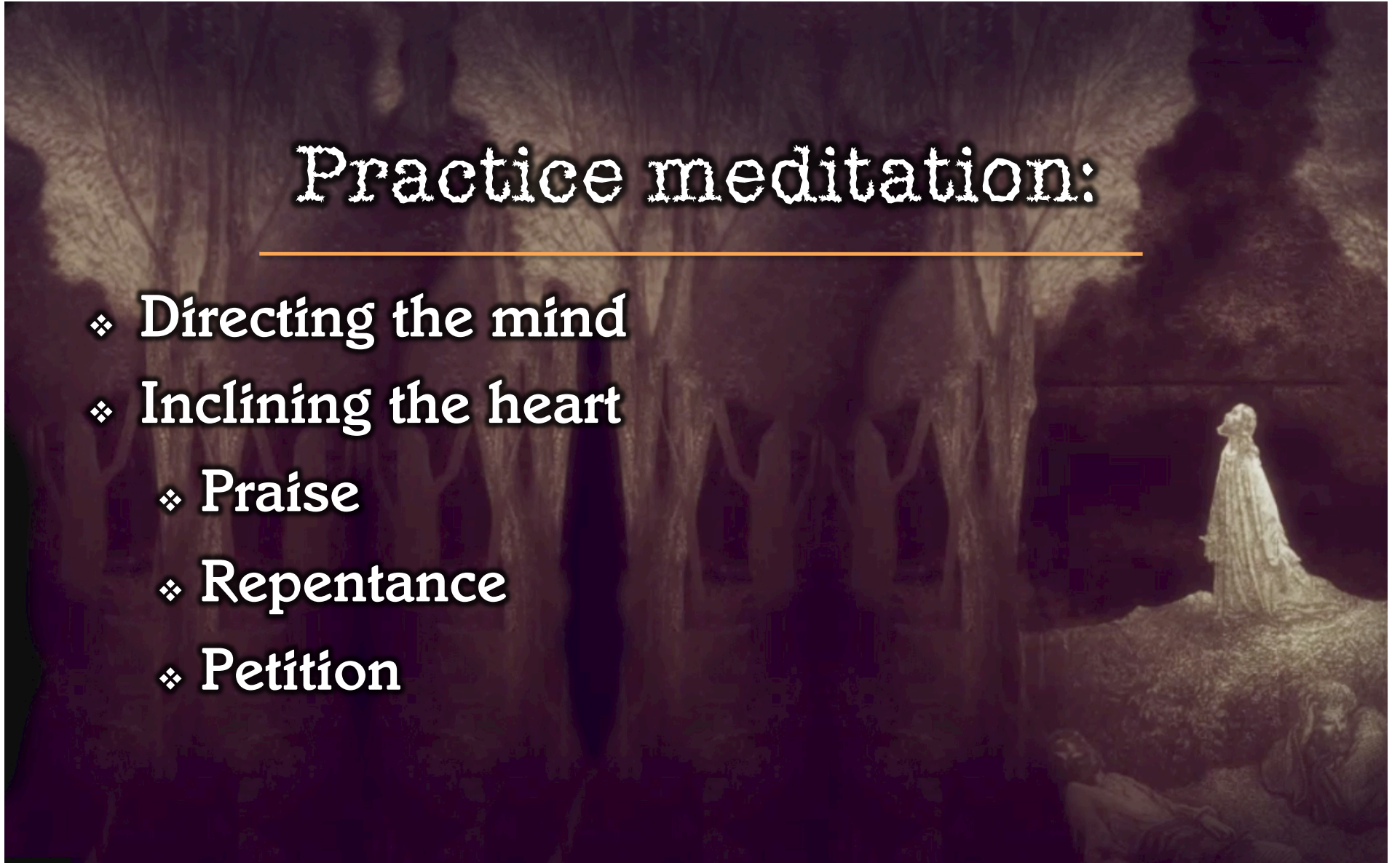
Zephaniah 3:17

**“The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”**



Practice meditation:

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



John Calvin:

“For the Word of God is not received by faith as it flits about in the top of the brain, but when it takes root in the depth of the heart.”



Paul's petitions (Ephesians 3):

- ❖ “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” (17)
- ❖ “grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (18)
- ❖ “that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (19)



Blaise Pascal:

“In the year 1654, Monday, twenty-third November, from about half past ten in the evening until half an hour after midnight ...
FIRE ... God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, and not of the philosophers and of the learned. Certainty. Certainty. Feeling. Joy. Peace.”

Dwight L. Moody:

“One day in the city of New York — oh what a day! — I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name ... I can only say that God revealed himself to me, and I had such an experience of his love that I had to ask him to stay his hand.”

Tim Keller:

“What is common to all these moments is that you sense the power of what you have been given in Christ so that your attitudes, feelings and behavior are altered.”

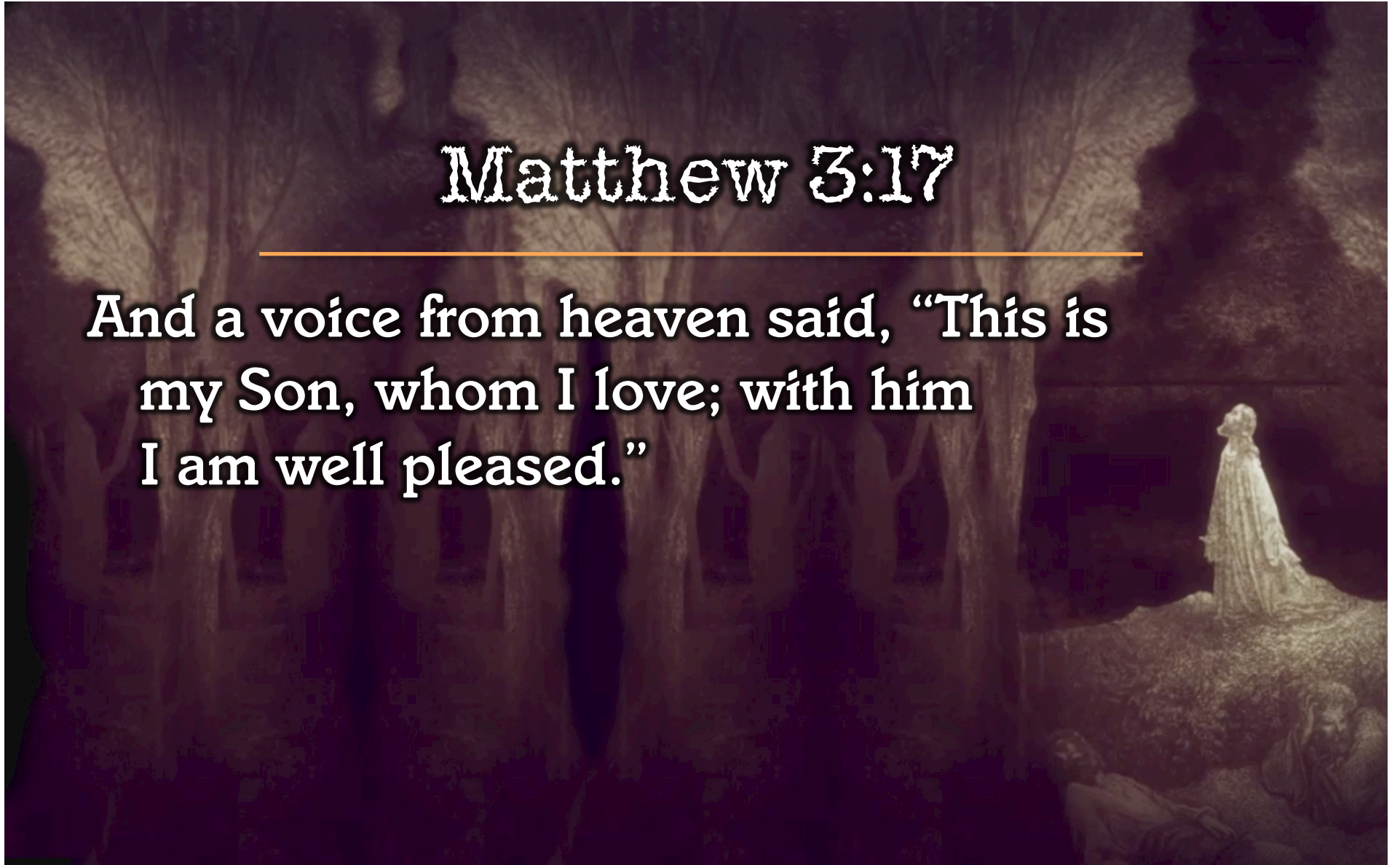


Ephesians 1:18-19

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

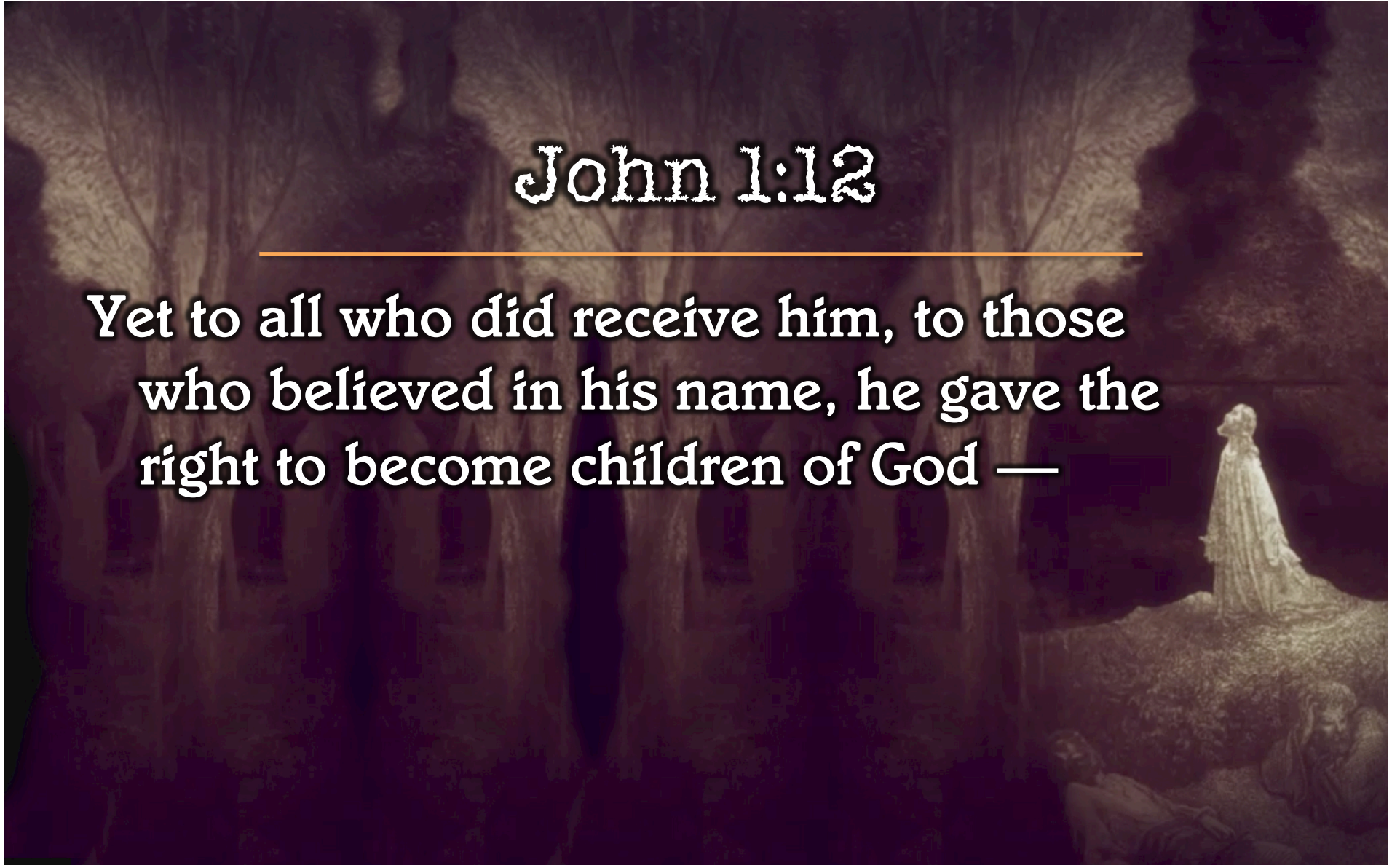
Matthew 3:17

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God —



Romans 8:14-15

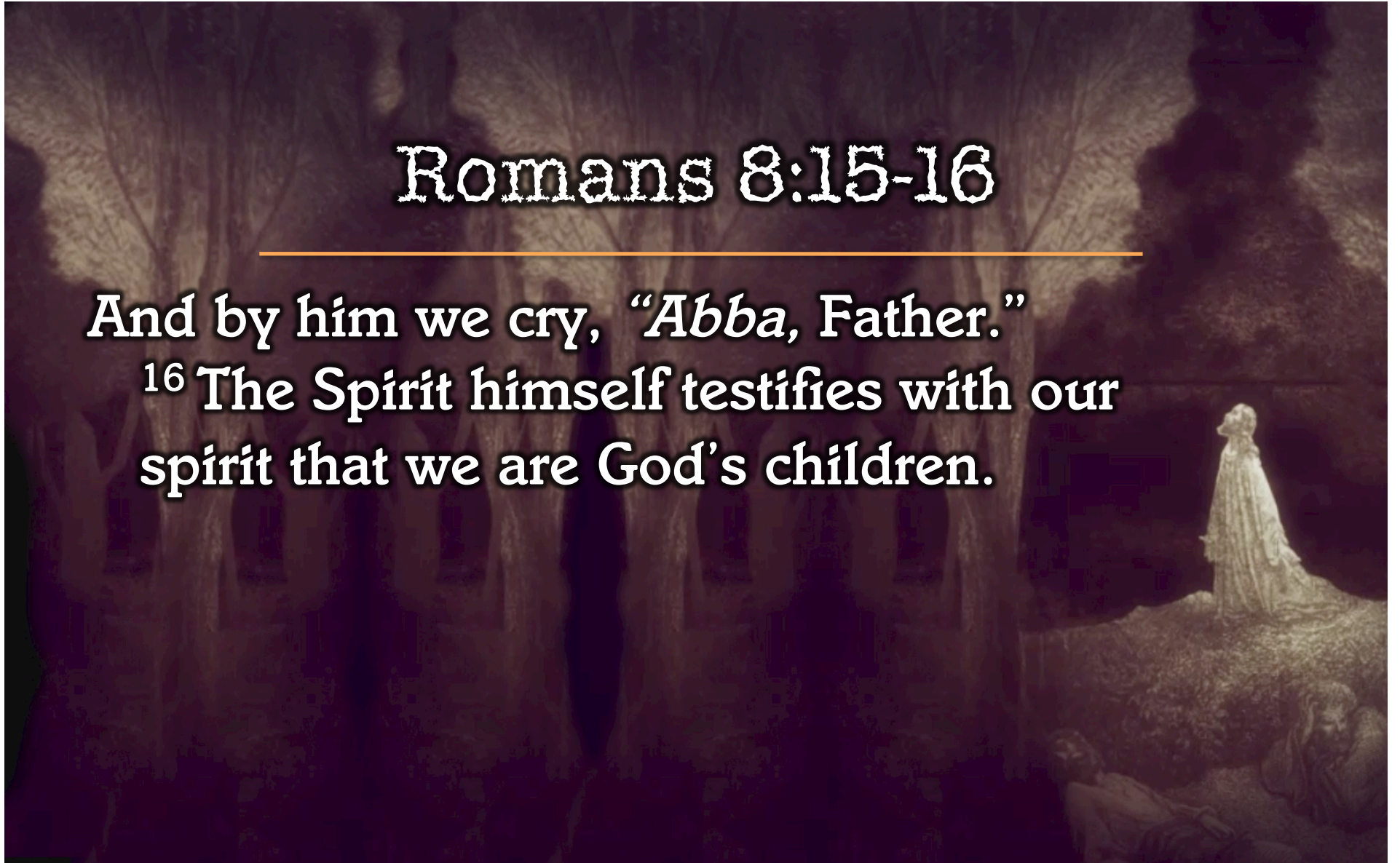
For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.



Romans 8:15-16

And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*”

¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

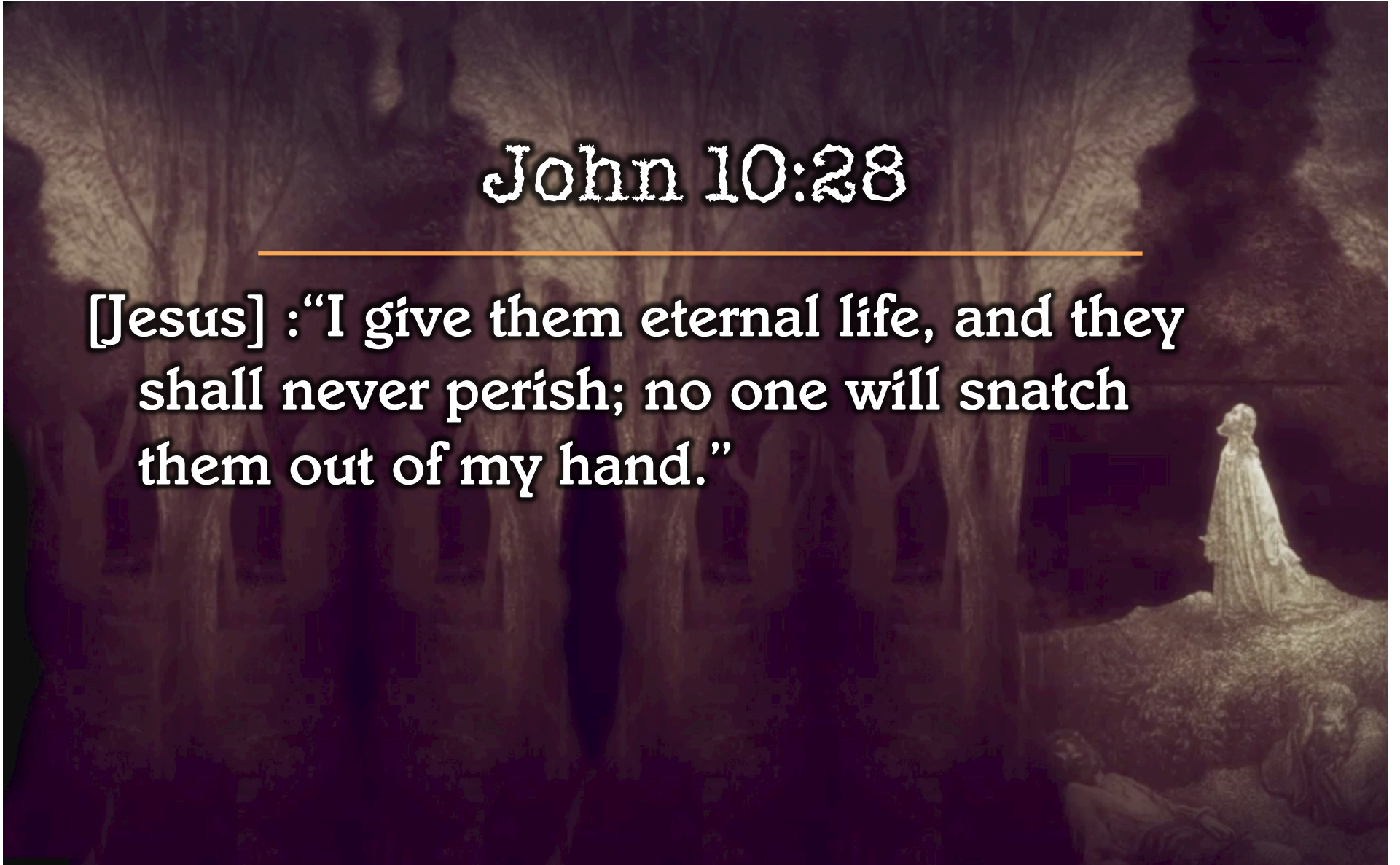


The love of God in Christ

- ❖ How wide? Isaiah 1:18
- ❖ How long? John 10:28; Philippians 1:6
- ❖ How deep? Matthew 27:46 (and Psalm 22:1)
- ❖ How high? John 17:24

John 10:28

[Jesus] :“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”



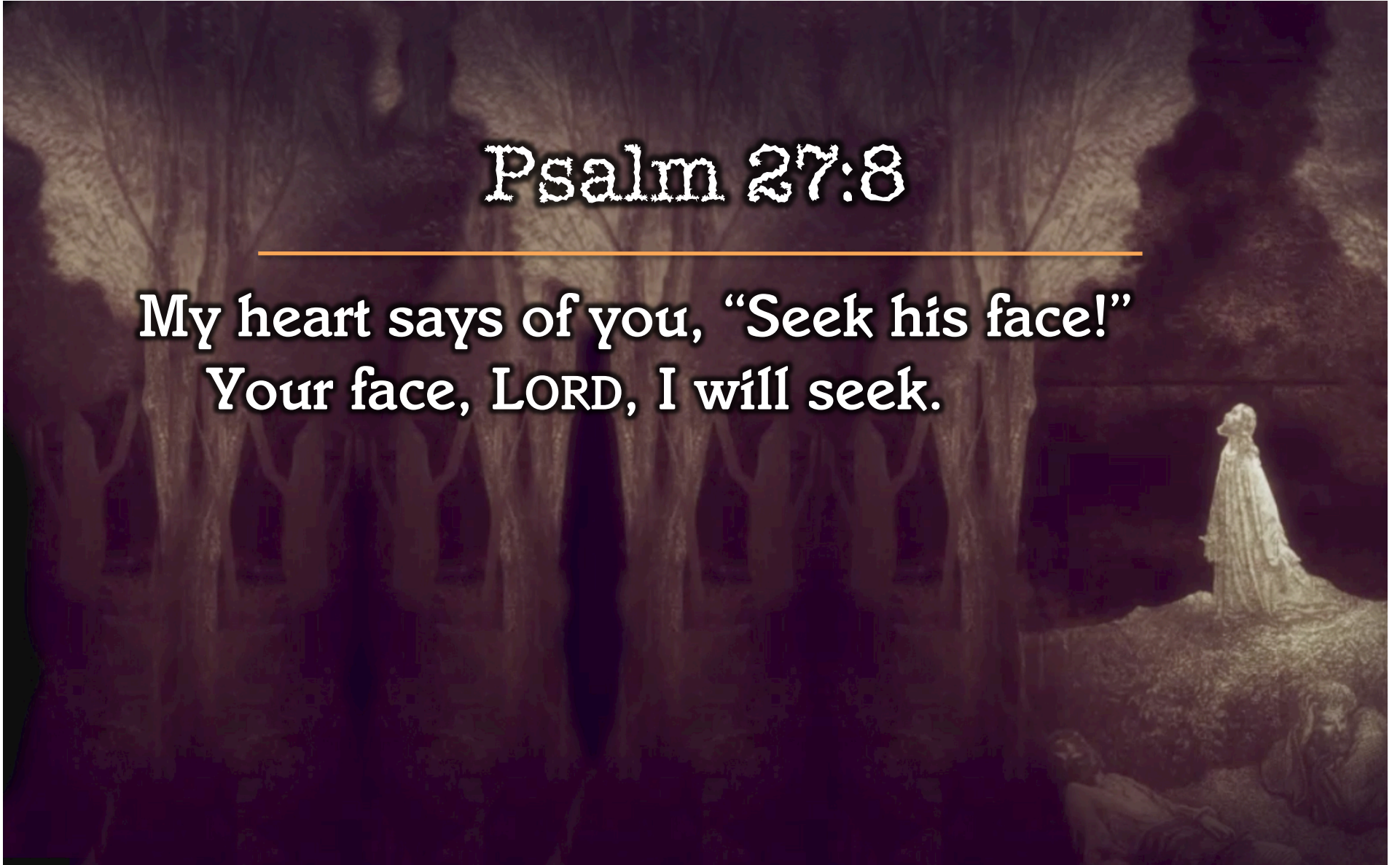
John 17:24

[Jesus]: ““Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”



Psalm 27:8

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, LORD, I will seek.



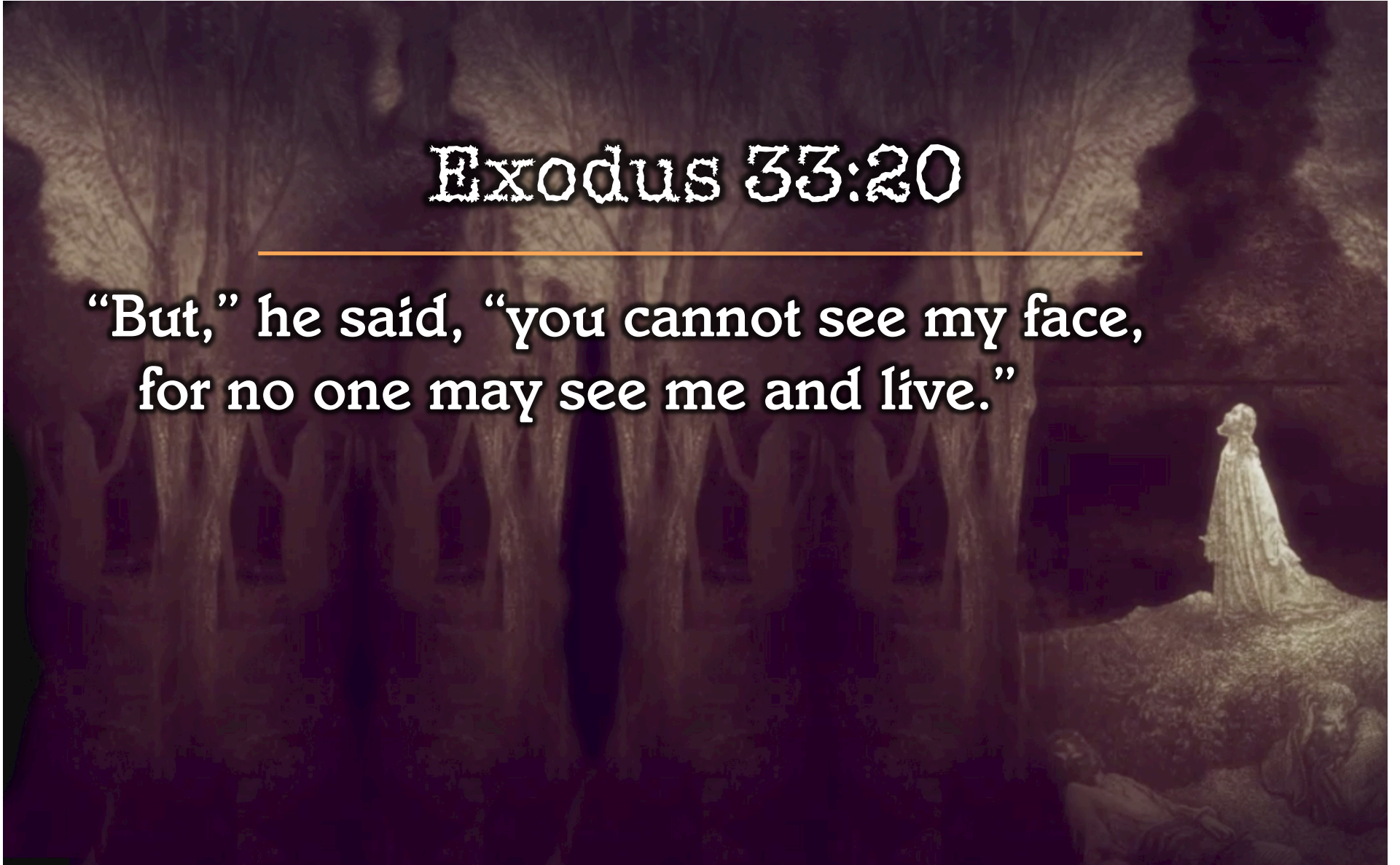
Exodus 33:19

And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.



Exodus 33:20

“But,” he said, “you cannot see my face,
for no one may see me and live.”



John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

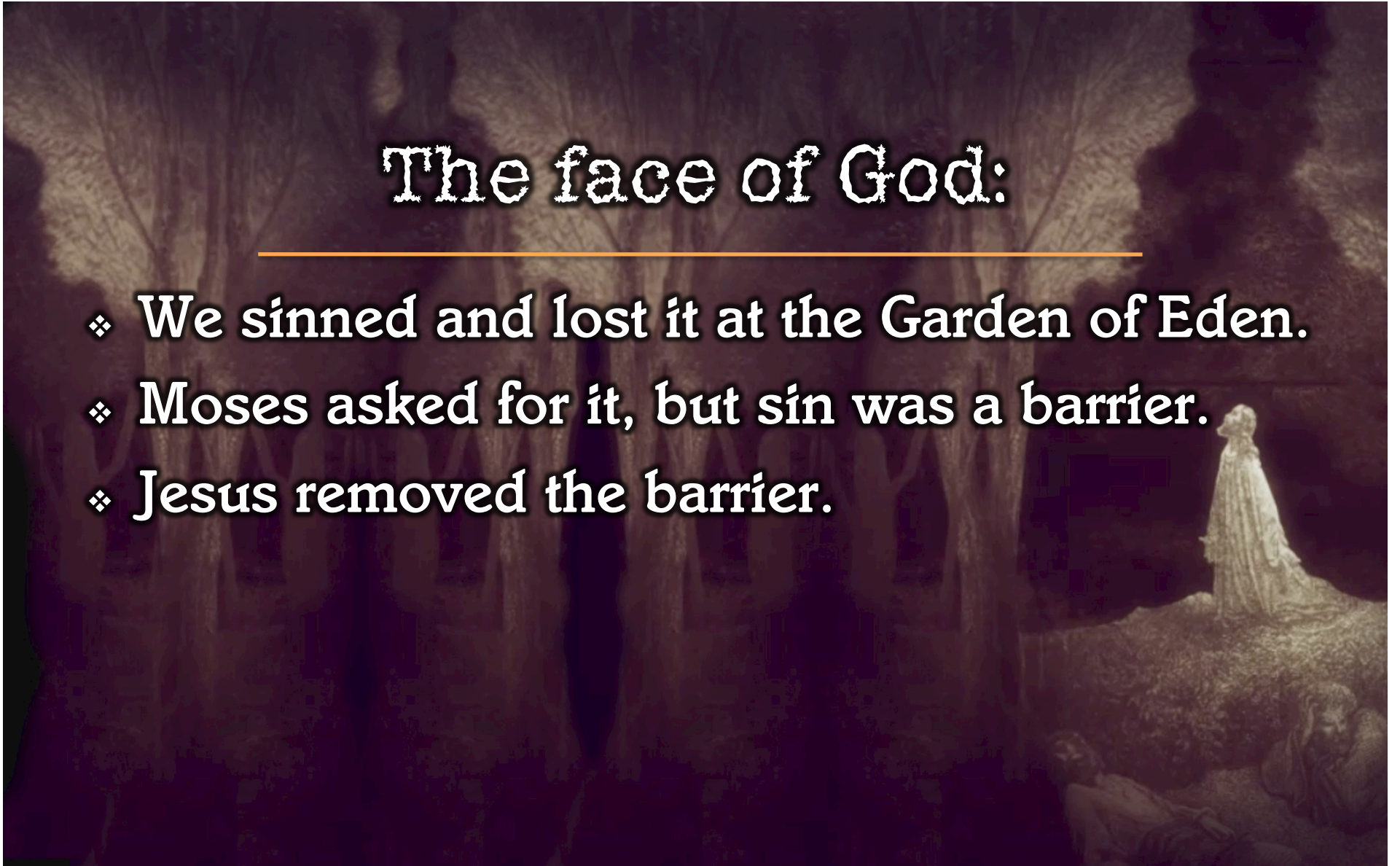


Tim Keller:

“It means a kind of prayer in which we are not simply coming to him to get his forgiveness, his help for our needs, his favor and blessing. Rather, the consideration of his character, words, and work on our behalf becomes inherently satisfying, enjoyable, comforting, and strengthening.”

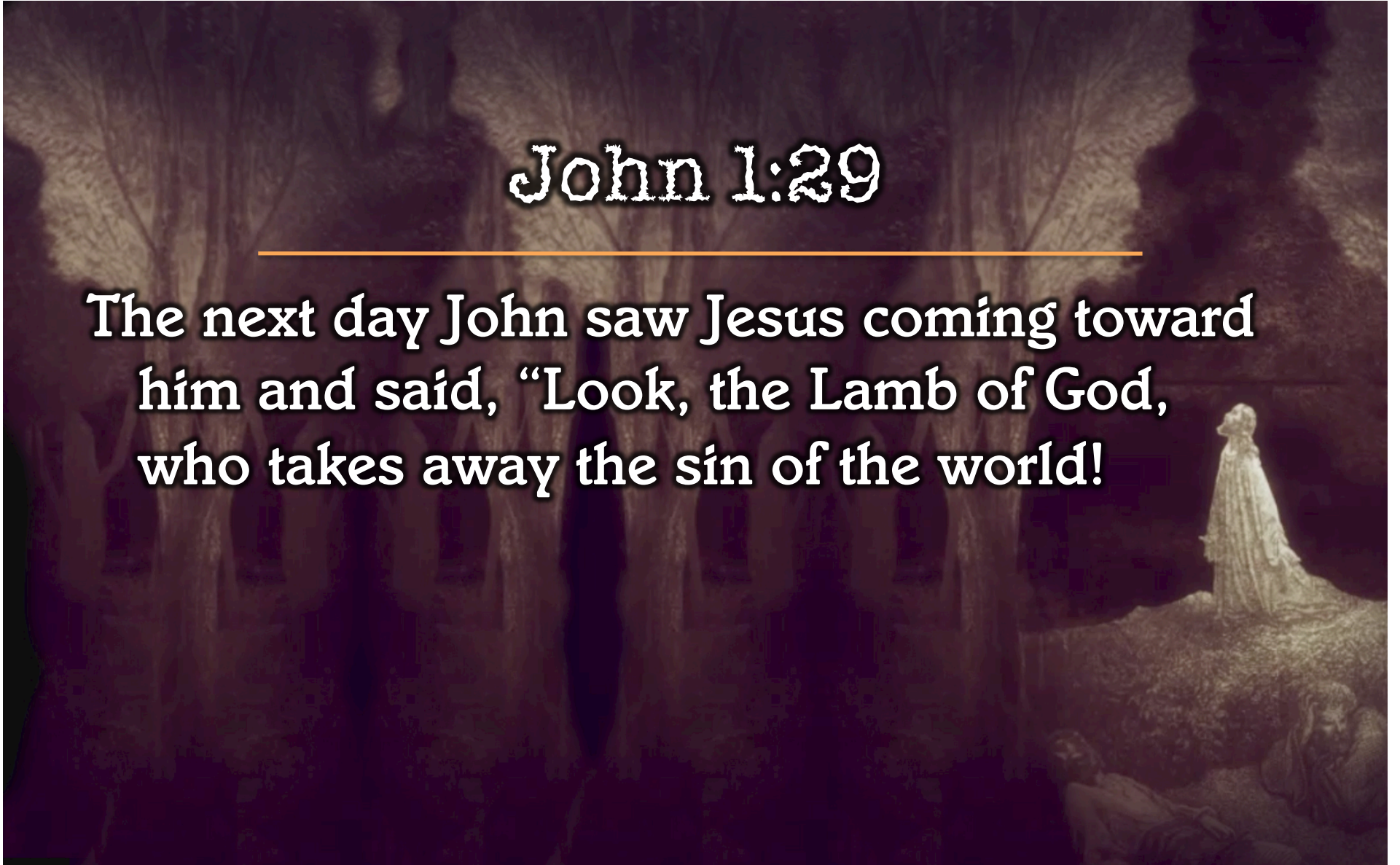
The face of God:

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



John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"



1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.



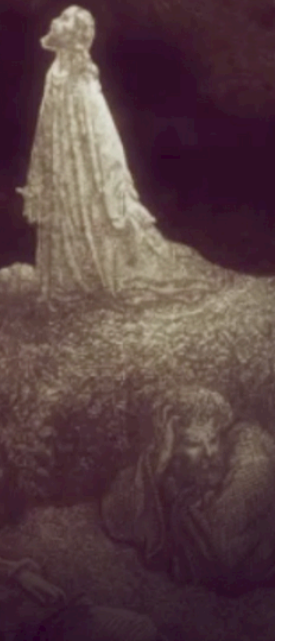
Revelation 22:1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.



Revelation 22:2-3

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.



Revelation 22:3-4

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.



Revelation 22:5

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.





Are you being called?

- ❖ 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

