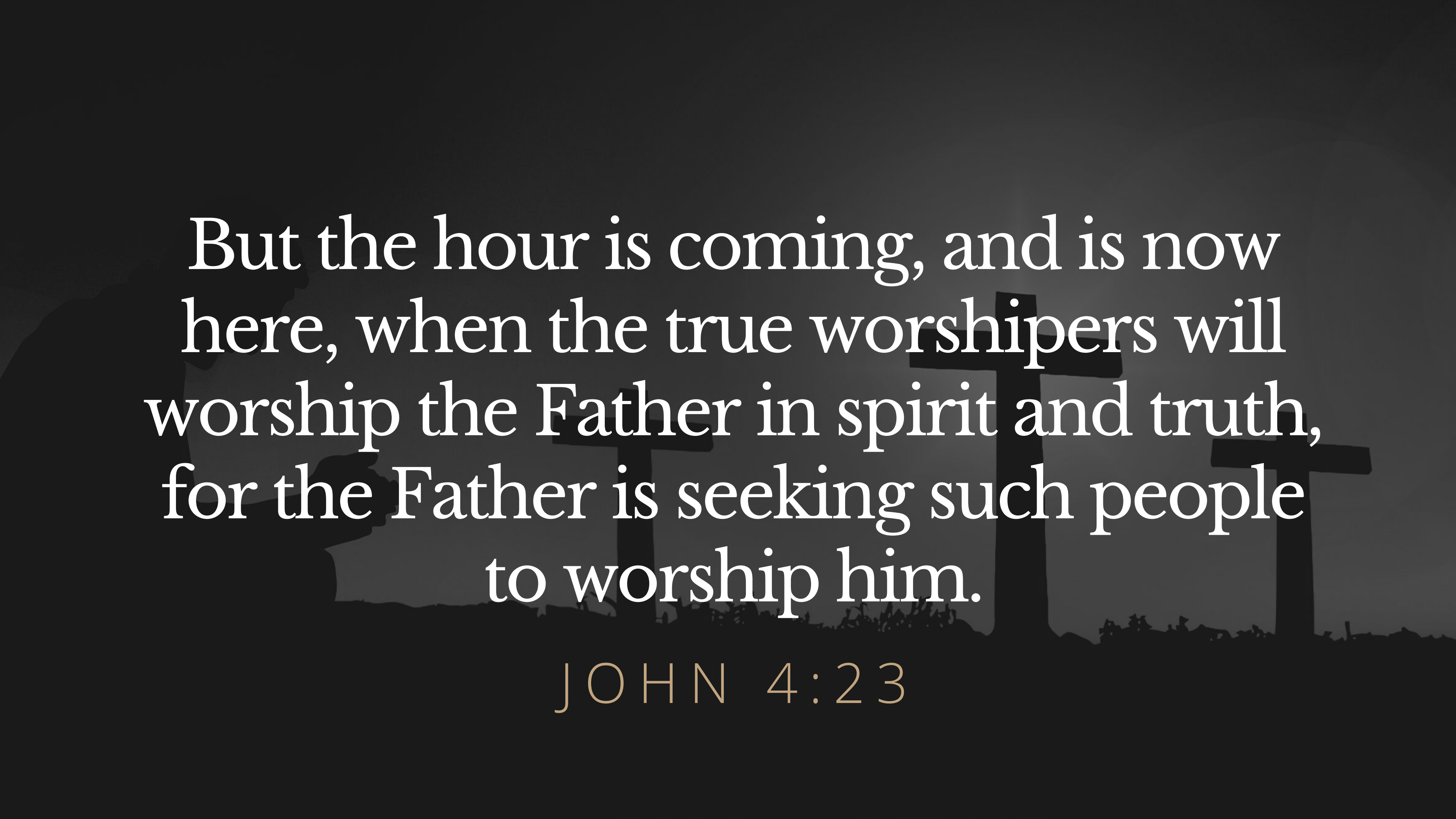




PART 3: TIME, WORK, FINANCES

Spirit and Truth

www.restorationhcn.org

The background of the image shows the interior of a church. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people are visible, some standing and some kneeling in prayer. In the background, three large wooden crosses are mounted on the wall. The lighting is dim, creating a solemn and reverent atmosphere.

But the hour is coming, and is now
here, when the true worshipers will
worship the Father in spirit and truth,
for the Father is seeking such people
to worship him.

JOHN 4:23

Coram Deo

"BEFORE THE FACE OF GOD"

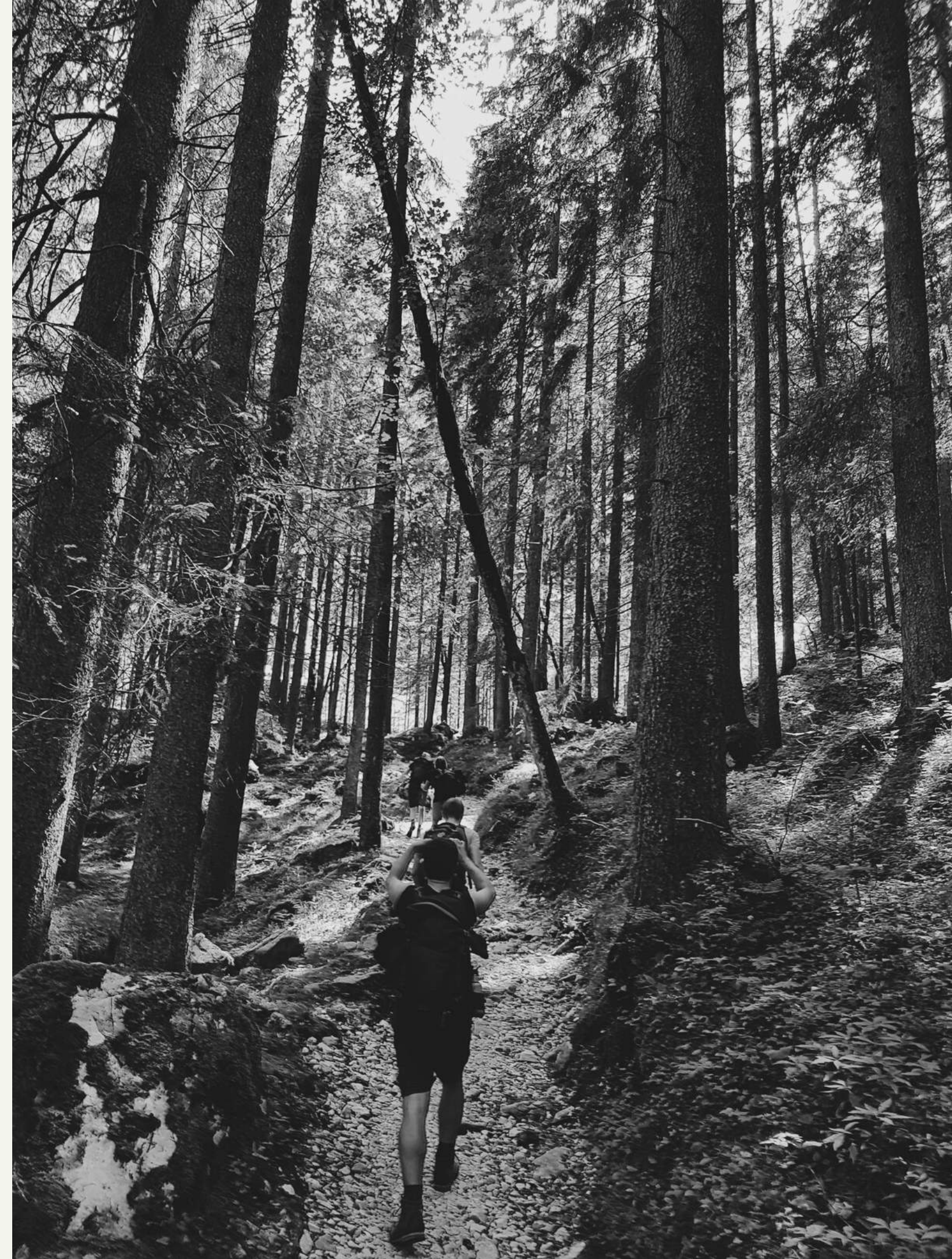
*For you have delivered my soul from death,
yes, my feet from falling,
that I may walk before God
in the light of life.*

-Psalm 56:13

The Latin Vulgate version of this Psalm uses the phrase "*Coram Deo*" to refer to living in the presence of God. The implication is that every part of life is to be lived for God and in His view.

According to R. C. Sproul, the thrust of the of *Coram Deo* is to "live one's entire life in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God".

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-does-coram-deo-mean>



Ways to Worship

WORK

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. -Col. 3:23-24

PRAYER

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. -Phil. 4:6

GIVING

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. -2 Cor. 9:7

STUDY

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. -Joshua 1:8a

SINGING

Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds! -Psalm 9:11

EVANGELISM

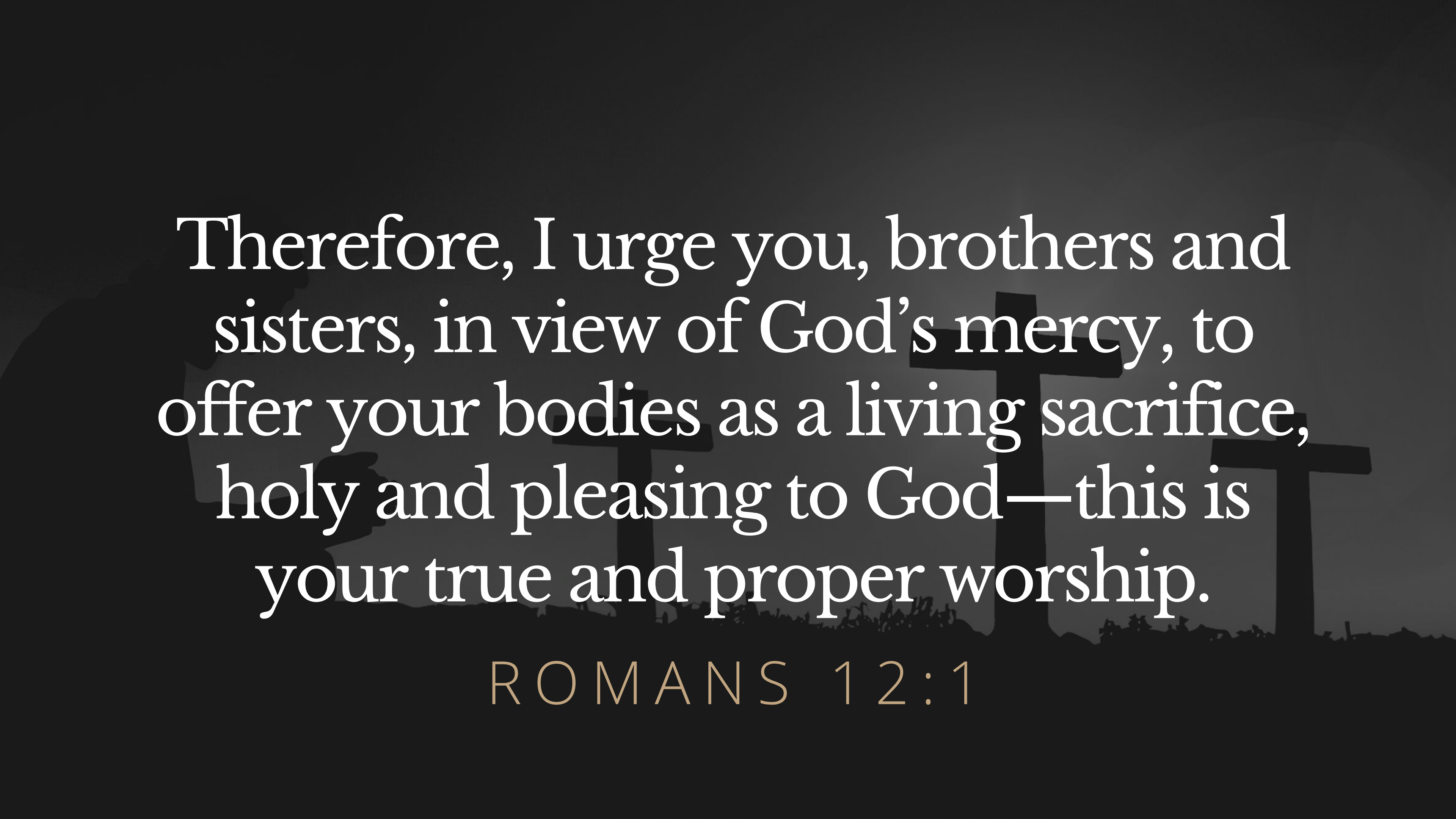
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. -Matthew 28:19

SERVING

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! -Psalm 100:2

ORDINANCES

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." -1 Cor. 11:25

The background of the image shows a church interior. In the foreground, there are several large, dark wooden crosses standing on a dark surface. In the background, a group of people is visible, appearing to be in a church service or prayer. The lighting is dim, creating a solemn and reverent atmosphere.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

ROMANS 12:1

Worship: Time



JAMES 3:13-15

13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

PROVERBS 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

EPHESIANS 5:15-17

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

PSALM 90:12

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

ROMANS 13:11

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.



Our time
belongs to
God. Use it
wisely as a
steward.

Worship: Work

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:10

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13

I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

PROVERBS 16:3

2 Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

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





Our work is a
means of
provision and
glorifying God.
We should
delight in it and
rest from it to
His glory

Worship: Giving

MATT. 6:19-21

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.





JOYFULLY BY CHOICE
(2 COR. 9:7)

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



CONSISTENTLY
(1 COR. 16:2)

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.



BY ABILITY AND MORE
(2 COR. 8:3)

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,



GENEROUSLY
(2 COR. 9:6)

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Principles of Giving

●

2 COR. 9:7 (CHERFUL)

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

●

1 CHRON. 29:14 (RESOURCES ARE GIVEN BY GOD)

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

●

PROV 11: (GOD ENRICHES AS YOU BLESS)

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

●

2 COR. 8:12 (READINESS AND ABILITY)

For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

●

LUKE 6:38 (GIVE AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU)

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Giving

TITHES AND OFFERRINGS

● **PROV. 3:9-10 (HONOR GOD WITH WEALTH)**

Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce. then your barns will
be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

● **MAL. 3:10 (GOD PROVIDES AS WE GIVE)**

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be
food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the
Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for
you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no
more need.

● **MATTHEW 19:21 (RICHES CAN BE A SNARE)**

Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what
you possess and give to the poor, and you will have
treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

● **1 COR. 13:3 (LOVE MATTERS IN GIVING)**

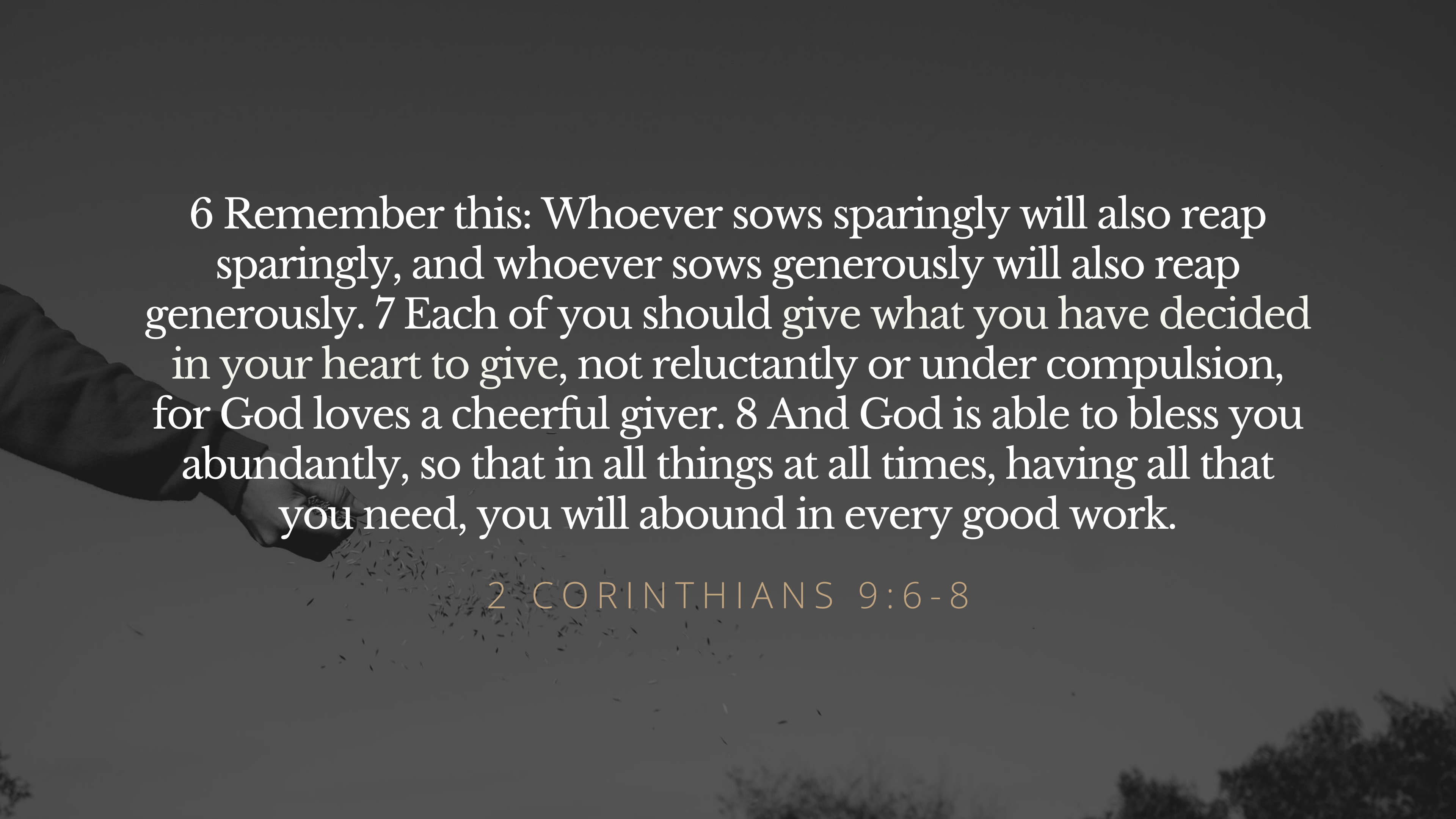
If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be
burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

● **MATTHEW 6:19-21 (HEART WITH TREASURE)**

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where
moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and
steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves
do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.

Giving

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A hand in a dark jacket is shown from the left, sowing seeds into the air. The seeds are falling in a curved path towards the bottom center. The background is a dark, slightly textured grey.

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

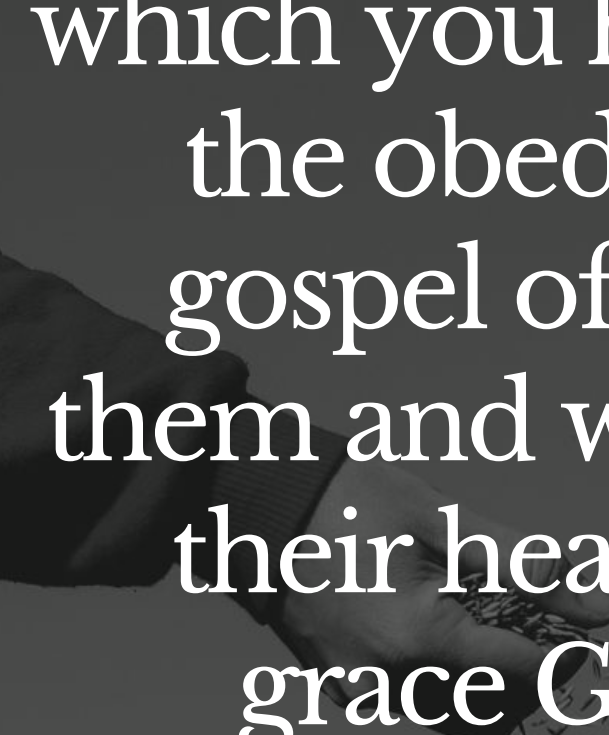
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

9 As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:9-11

A hand in a dark sleeve is shown on the left side of the frame, holding a small amount of rice. Some rice is falling away from the hand, creating a trail of small grains that drifts downwards and to the right. The background is a dark, slightly blurred outdoor scene with some foliage visible at the bottom right.

12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:12-15

Trust is Revealed by Treasure

WHOM OR WHAT DO I PLACE MY TRUST IN?

Scripture speaks often of money, but there is little or no emphasis on increasing wealth. God owns everything (Psalm 24:1) and does not *need* our money. Rather, He desires our trust, worship, and obedience. Our use of material possessions, stewarded to us by God is a reflection of the posture of our hearts in relation to Him. Tithes and offerings are acts of worship and obedience to be given joyfully out of our trust and love for Him, knowing that He supplies our needs and we will never lack.





Where should giving go?

GIVE WHERE YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY FED

If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? -1 Cor. 9:11

TO PROVIDE FOR THE MINISTER(S) AND MISSIONARIES

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."-1 Timothy 5:17-18 (see also Gal. 6:6, 1 Cor. 9:9-14, Philippians 4:16-18)

AND TO HELP BELIEVERS IN NEED

And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. -1 Cor. 16:3 (see also Acts 4:32-35, 6:1-7, Deut. 14:28-29)

Caring for Our Families

MEN ARE COMMANDED TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. -1 Timothy 5:8

WE ARE LIKEWISE ADMONISHED TO PROVIDE HOSPITALITY TO THE POOR

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. -Hebrews 13:16
(see also Deut. 15:7-11, Matt. 5:42)*



TITHE

"Tithe" literally means "tenth." God commanded that one tenth of the harvest belonged to the Lord. He determines the amount.
(Lev. 27:30-32)



VS

OFFERING

Offering is a gift in accordance with ability, sometimes given at a festival as an act of worship and celebration. The amount is determined by the giver.
(Deuteronomy 16:17)

Idolatry and the State

- When Israel asked for a king like other kingdoms, God warned them that such a king would tax them at 10%, a rate considered egregious since that was God's amount.
- The king would likewise claim servitude as his "right" conscripting people for war and work.
- The warning was that the king would act like God. This was a judgement
- The state oversteps its bounds to do that which God's people are tasked to do in obedience to God's Law (care for the poor, defense, etc.)



Types of Tithes in the OT Law



SACRED TITHE

As Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, so the people of God tithed to the Levites as an act of worship to God and a provision for the priests and their families. (Num. 18: 21, 24, Deuteronomy 14:22–27).



TITHE OF FEASTS

Money set aside for going to the feasts. This was essentially a family vacation with a worshipful purpose. (Deut. 14:22–27)



TITHE FOR THE POOR

This tithe occurred every third year and was to serve as a resource to care for Levites, sojourners, orphans, and the widows (Deut. 14:28, 29)

TITHING WAS PART OF THE LAW

Exodus 34:26, Lev. 27:30–32;
Deut. 14:22–24, Num. 18:21–24

TITHING PREDATED THE LEVITICAL LAW

Gen. 14:18-20

JESUS COMMANDS TITHING

Matthew 23:23

OTHER ARGUMENTS

- Tithes were given to priests so they could minister.
- Tithe was tied to the land.
- Jesus affirmed tithing before the New Covenant
- NT does not teach tithing.

SHOULD WE TITHE?

WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER THE LAW

Rom. 6:14–15; 7:5–6; Gal. 3:15–4:7;
2 Cor. 3:4–18, Matthew 5:17-18

JESUS IS A PRIEST AFTER MELCHIZEDEK

Hebrews 7:4-10

JESUS AFFIRMS SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Luke 21:4

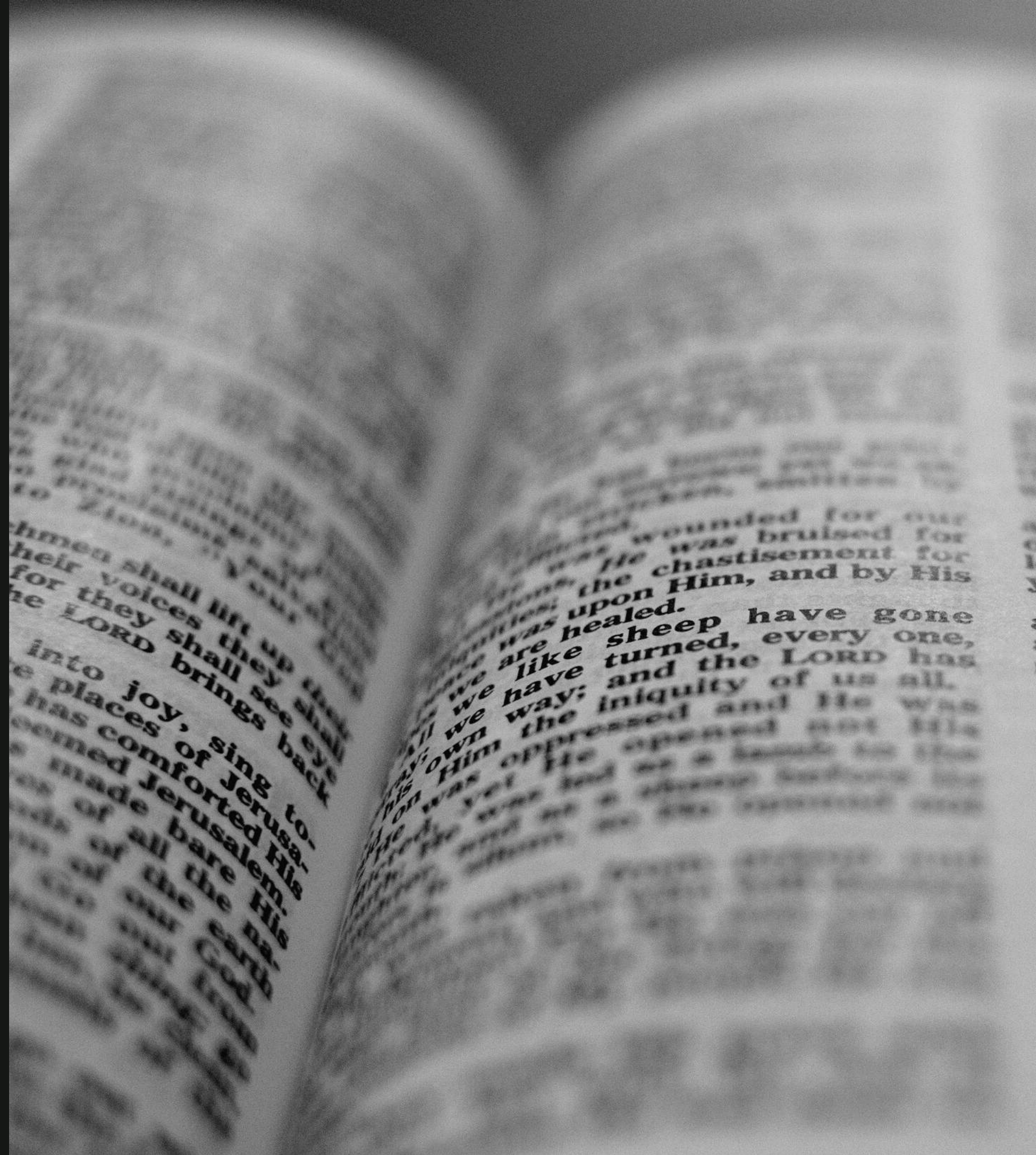
OTHER ARGUMENTS

- Giving goes to ministers so they can minister.
- The whole earth is His.
- Many principles of the Old Covenant carry over.
- NT doesn't teach not tithing.

Conclusion on Tithing

TITHING IS A PRINCIPLE WHICH PREDATES THE LAW AND IS TAUGHT BY JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. AS THE OLD TESTAMENT POINTS TO THE NEW TESTAMENT, SO THE TITHE POINTS FORWARD TO ABUNDANT GIVING. WE SHOULD SEE TITHING AS AN ONGOING PRINCIPLE TO BE JOYFULLY APPLIED IN TRUST RATHER THAN A LABORIOUS DRUDGERY TO BE DUTIFULLY ADHERED TO.

Note: Often arguments against tithing are implemented to avoid any obligation to give 10%. However, if the OT model is to be abandoned, the NT model must be embraced, which would indicate that far more than 10% should be the normal rate of giving.





Our resources
belong to God,
and giving to His
Church and to His
people glorifies
Him and blesses
the giver.

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:19-21