

A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing in a book. The person is wearing a brown, textured garment. They are holding a black quill pen in their right hand and writing on a piece of parchment. The left hand is resting on the book. The background is dark and out of focus.

THE BOOK OF

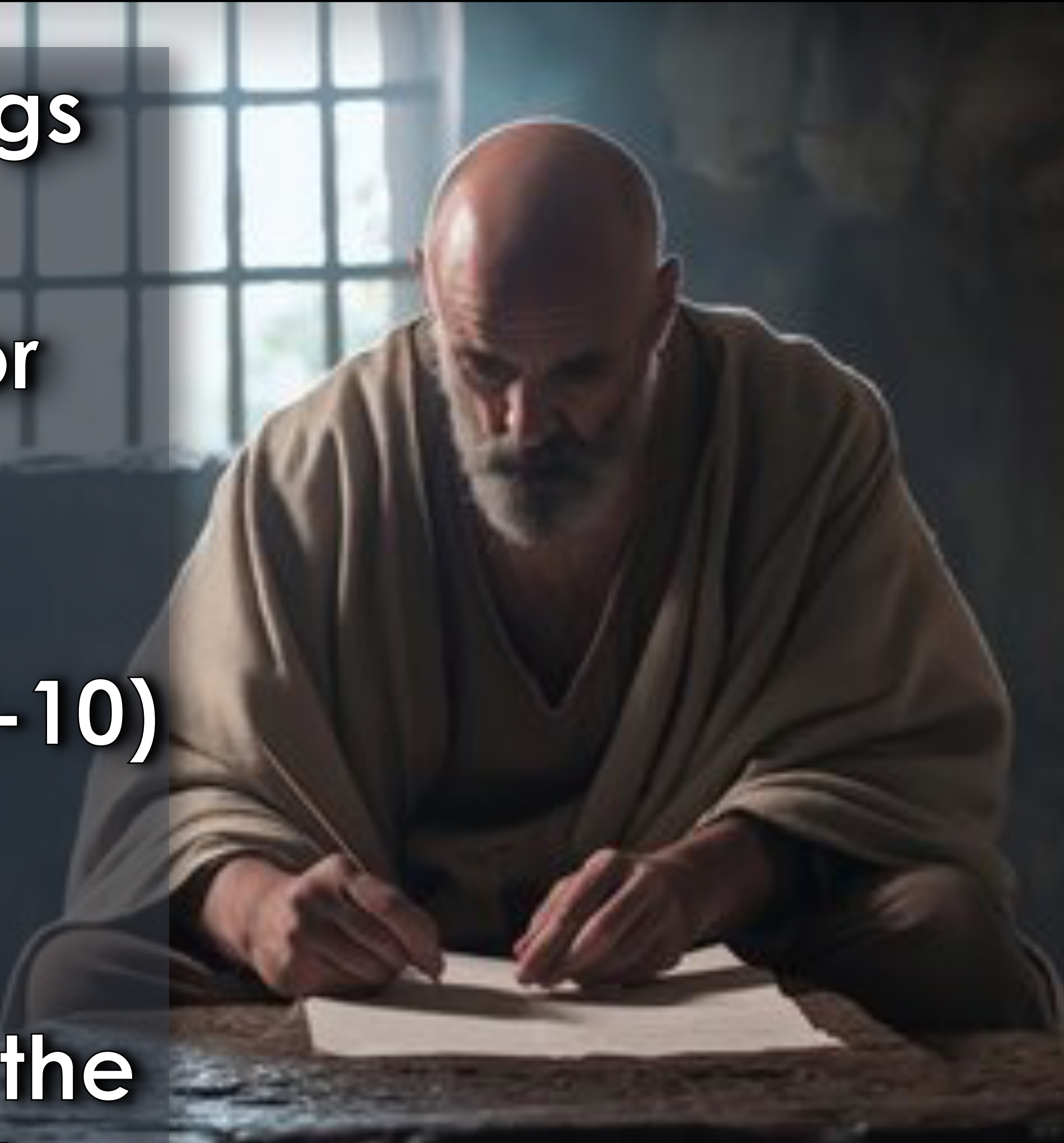
THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

Profession

(Ephesians 3:14-21)

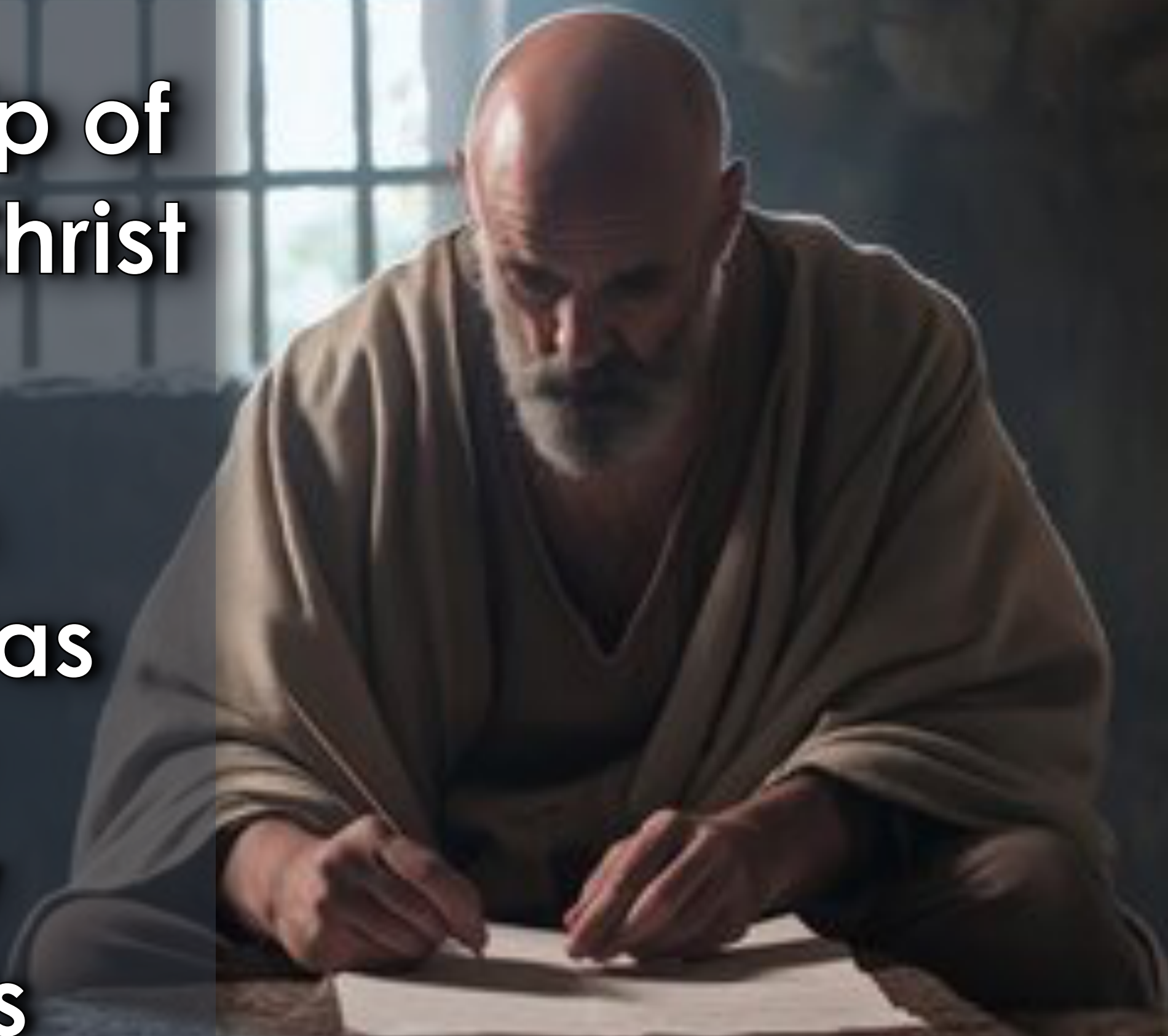
THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

- ▶ All spiritual blessings in Christ (1:3-16)
- ▶ Paul's 1st prayer for them (1:17-23).
- ▶ Saved By Grace Through Faith (2:1-10)
- ▶ Jew and Gentile constitute a new, unified people — the church — as God's dwelling (2:11-22).



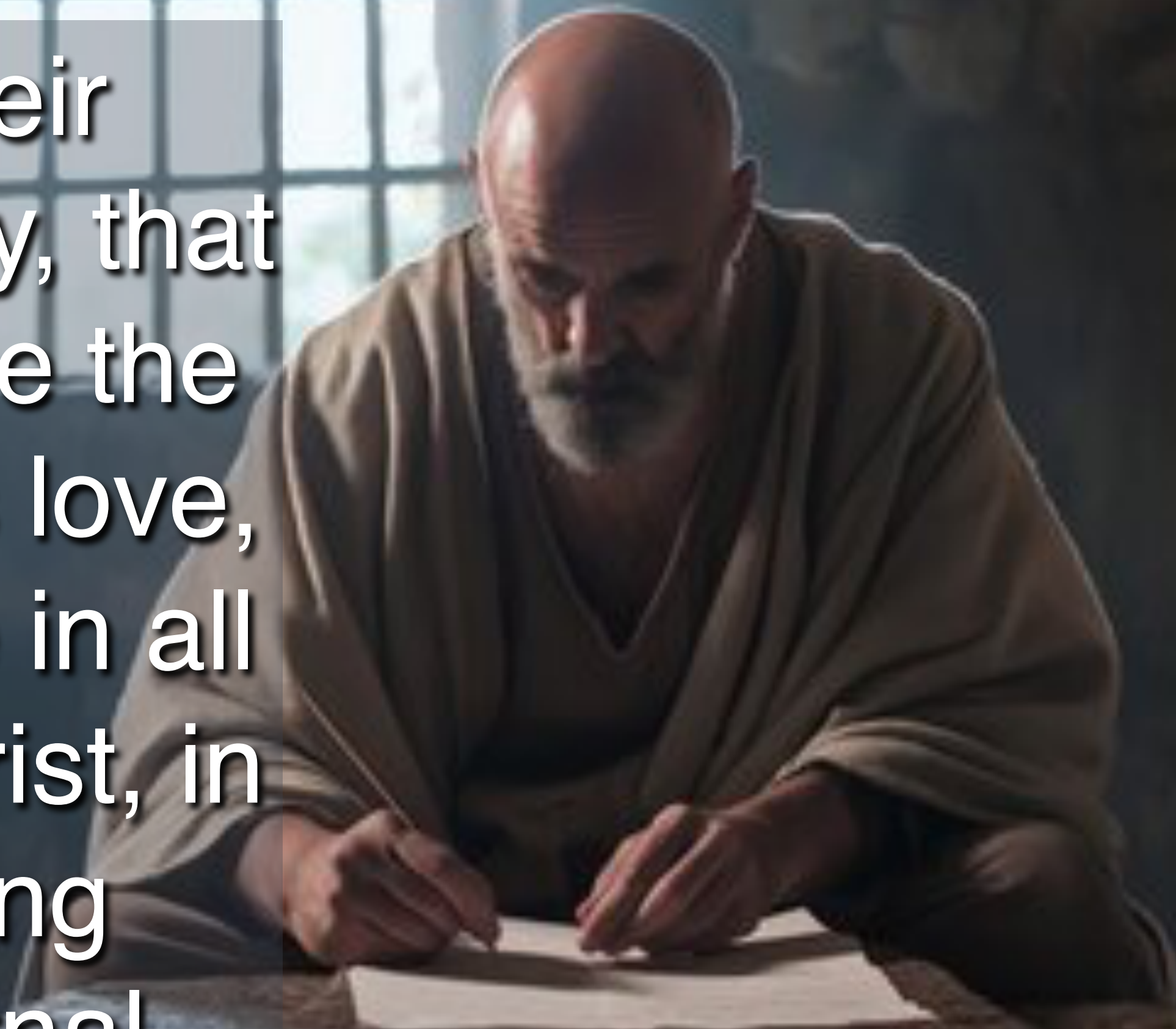
THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

- ▶ Paul explains his unique stewardship of the “mystery” of Christ (3:1-7).
- ▶ Paul reveals God’s eternal purpose was accomplished by Jesus for both Jew and Gentile, and is made known “through the church” (3:8-13).



THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

Paul prays for their strength and security, that they fully experience the knowledge of God's love, and they participate in all God provides in Christ, in the church, making known God's eternal purpose (3:14-21).

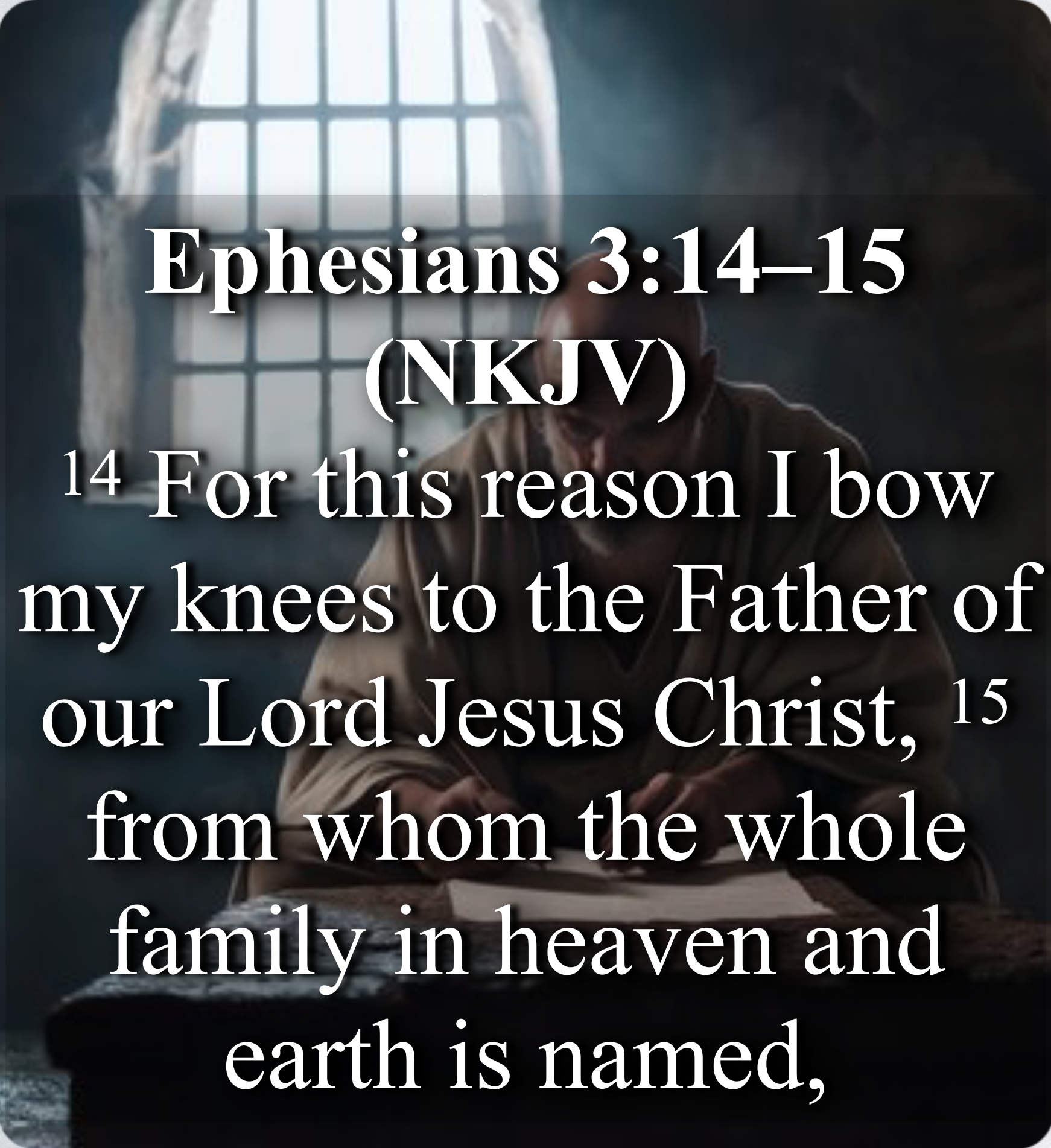


Ephesians 3:14–21 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

Paul's Prayer For Them (3:14–21)



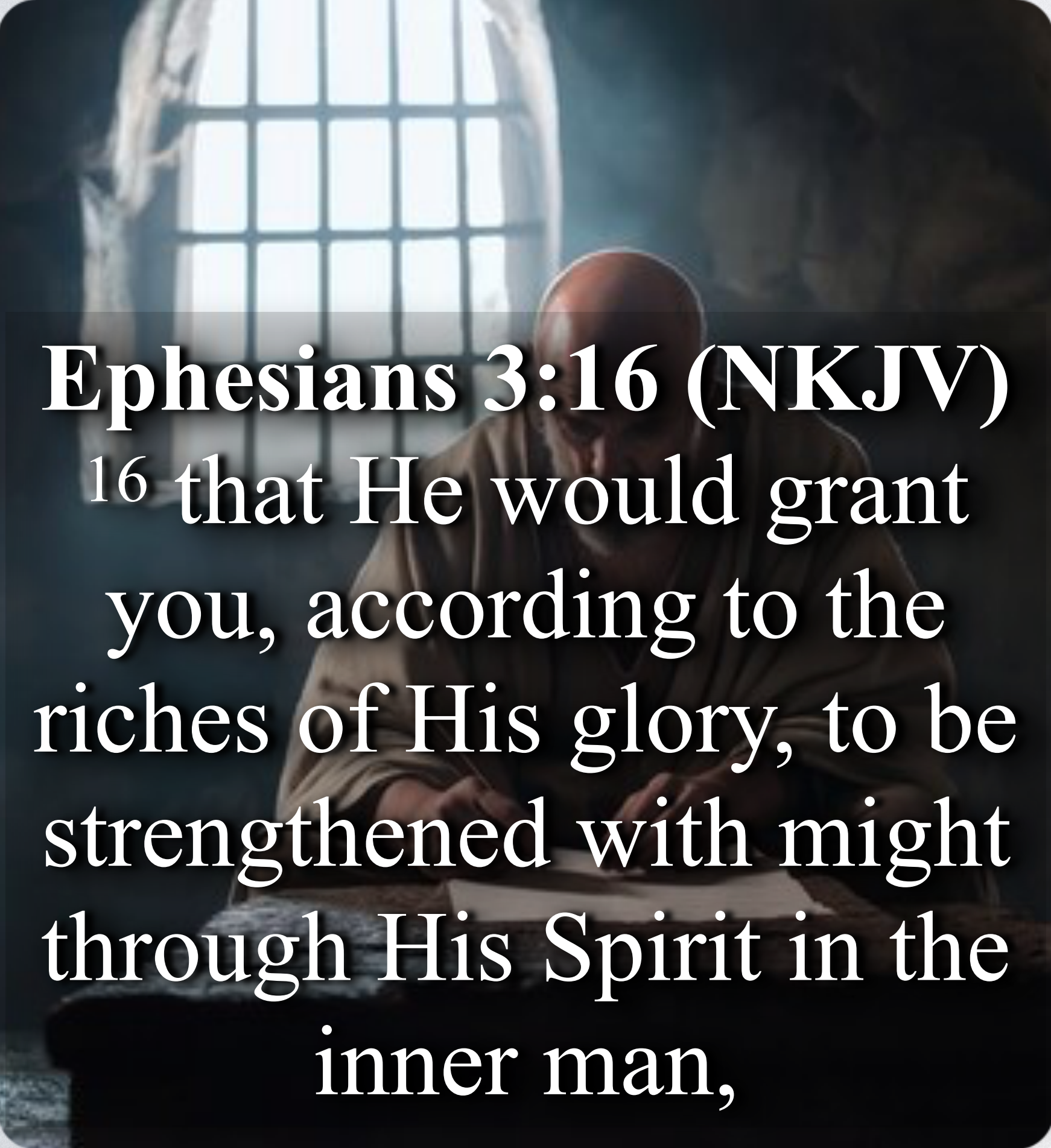
**Ephesians 3:14–15
(NKJV)**

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

- Paul prays to the Father, “**from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named**” — He is saying that we have a common Father, whether Jew or Gentile (6:7).

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH (3:16b-17a)



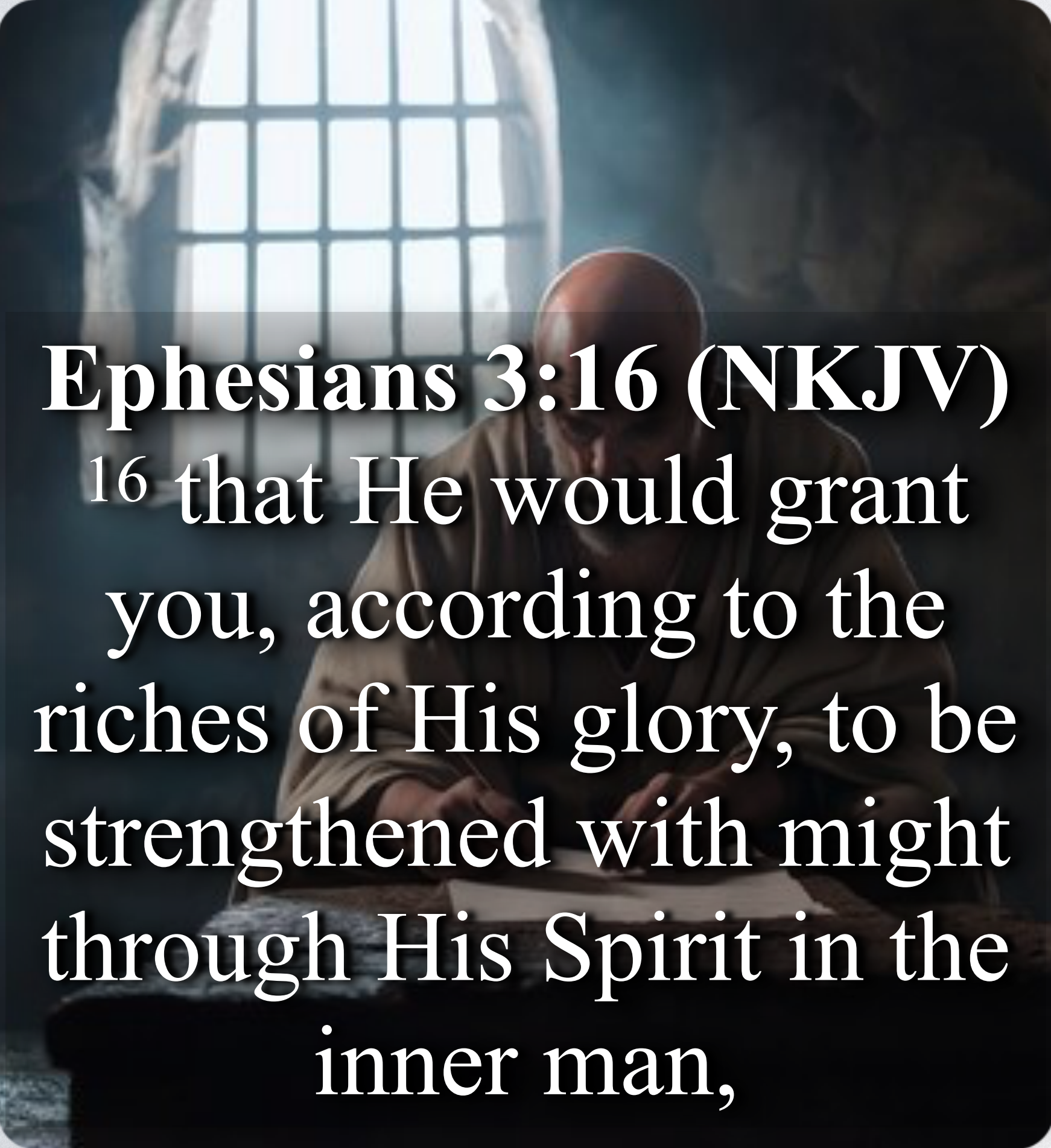
Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

- Paul prays to the Father, **“from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named”** — He is saying that we have a common Father, whether Jew or Gentile (6:7).
- The glory (doxēs) of God is seen in His very nature (Eph. 1:6,17); grace (1:2,6; 2:7-8); love (1:5; 2:4); mercy (2:4); power (1:19; 3:7); and His wisdom (3:10).

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH (3:16b-17a)



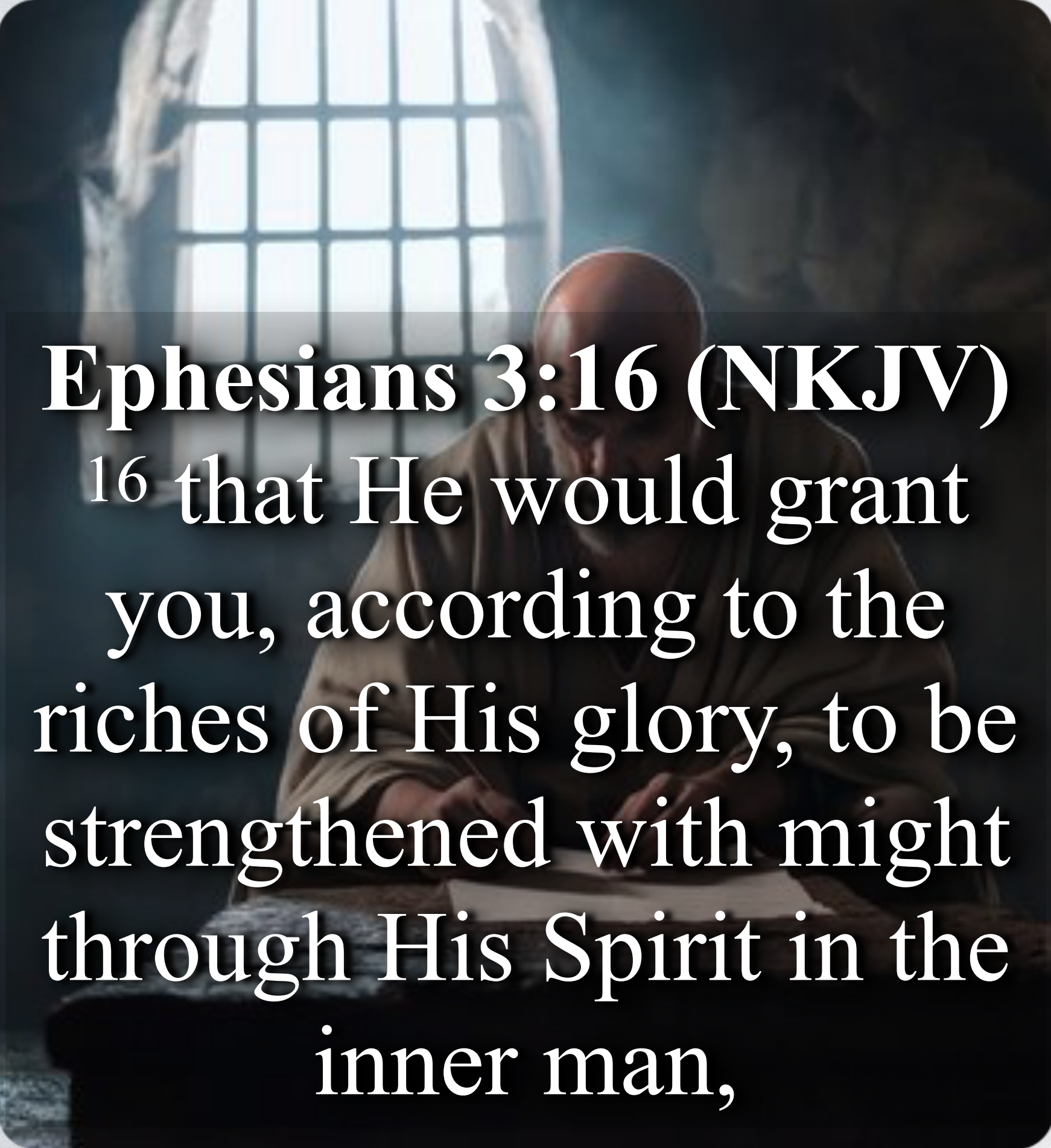
Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

- **“Strengthened”** (*krataiōthēnai*, be strong to overcome resistance,”
- **“with might”** (*dynamis*, dynamic living power; cf. 3:20)
- **“through His Spirit”** — the Holy Spirit is the intermediate agent through Whom this strength and power is provided (cf. 1 Cor. 2:10; Rom 8:11).

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH (3:16b-17a)



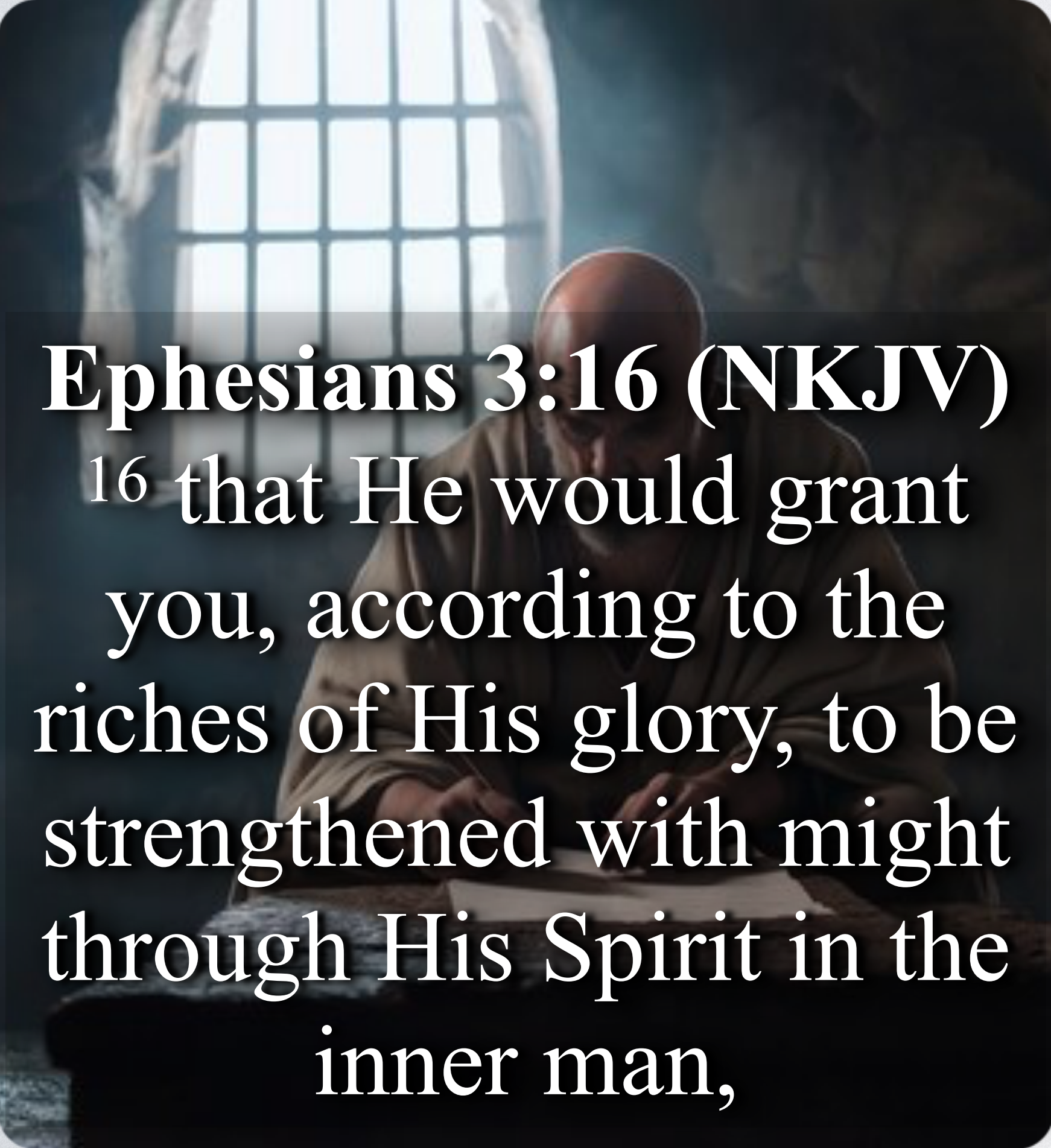
Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (John 1:17).
- He revealed **all truth** to, and through the apostles (John 16:13)
- He instructs, reveals, and feeds by having made known the mind of God in scripture (1 Cor. 2:9-13).
- We receive the Spirit by the hearing of faith (Rom. 1:17; 10:17; Gal. 3:2).

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH (3:16b-17a)



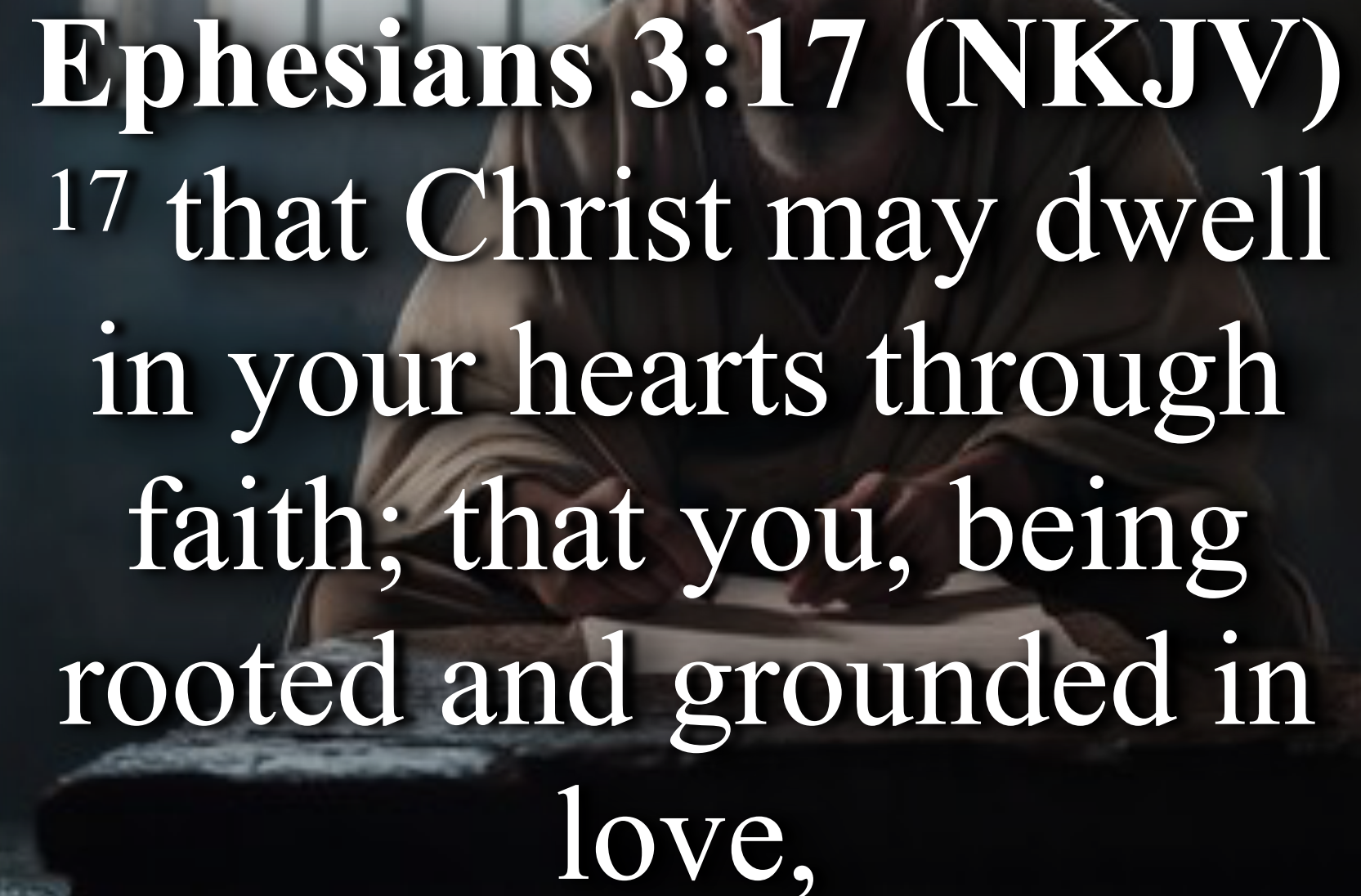
Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

- “strengthened with might ... in the inner man” — fortified inner empowerment—spiritual resilience and Christlike character, (1 Pe. 3:4; Col. 1:11; 2 Co. 12:9).
- The “**Inner man**” points to the renewed heart/new self (cf. 4:23–24), the center of spiritual transformation, (cf. 2 Cor. 4:16–18).

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH (3:16b-17a)



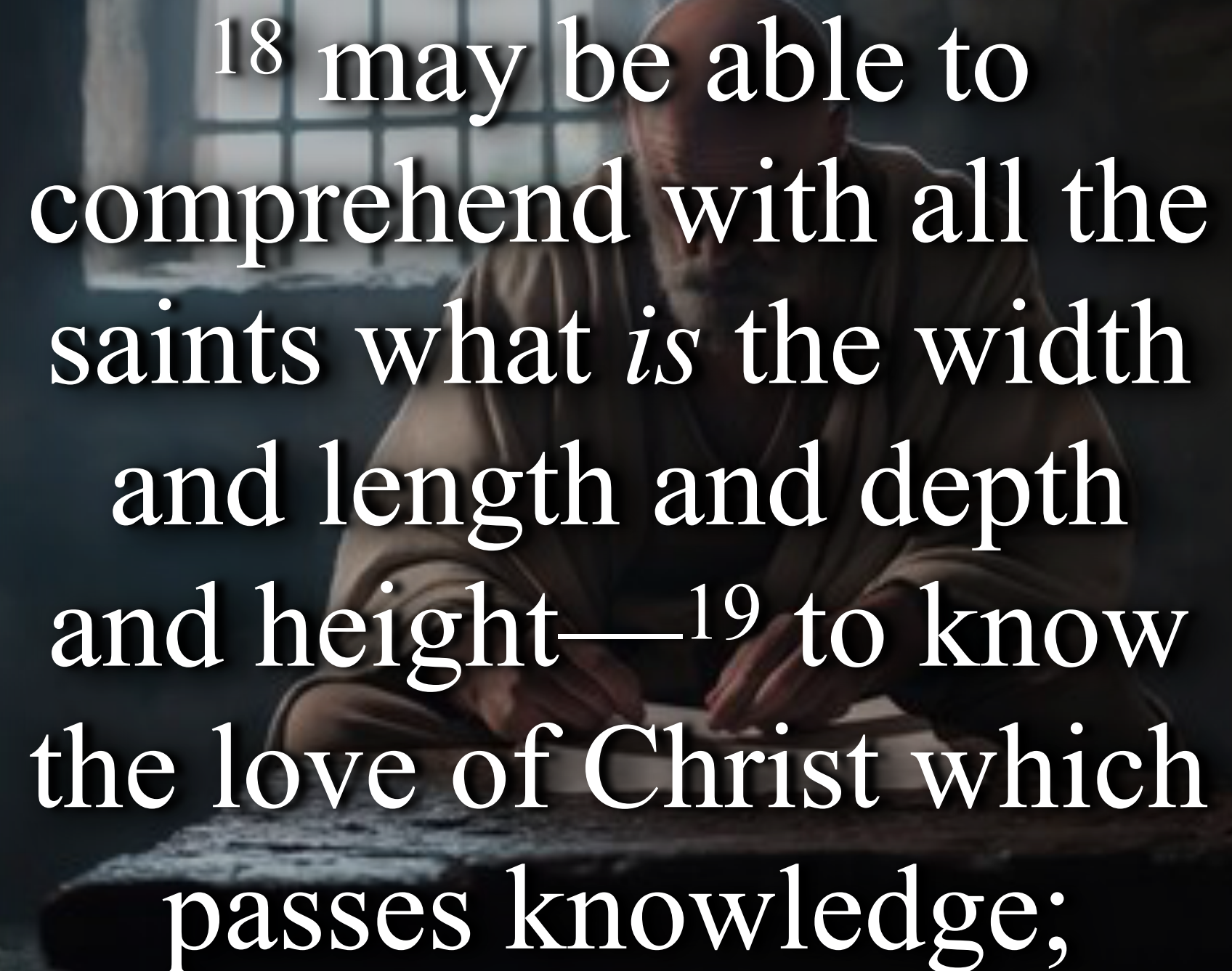
Ephesians 3:17 (NKJV)
17 that Christ may dwell
in your hearts through
faith; that you, being
rooted and grounded in
love,

- Christ dwelling (3:17) — The indwelling of Christ is by FAITH, (Rom. 10:17) and indicates a deep, abiding relationship.
- When Christ dwells in our hearts, we have stability in love, (“rooted and grounded in love”).
- Love is both the foundation and source of spiritual growth and stability in the believer’s life (Col. 2:7).

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

COMPREHENSION OF CHRIST'S LOVE (3:17b-19a)

Ephesians 3:18–19a
(NKJV)

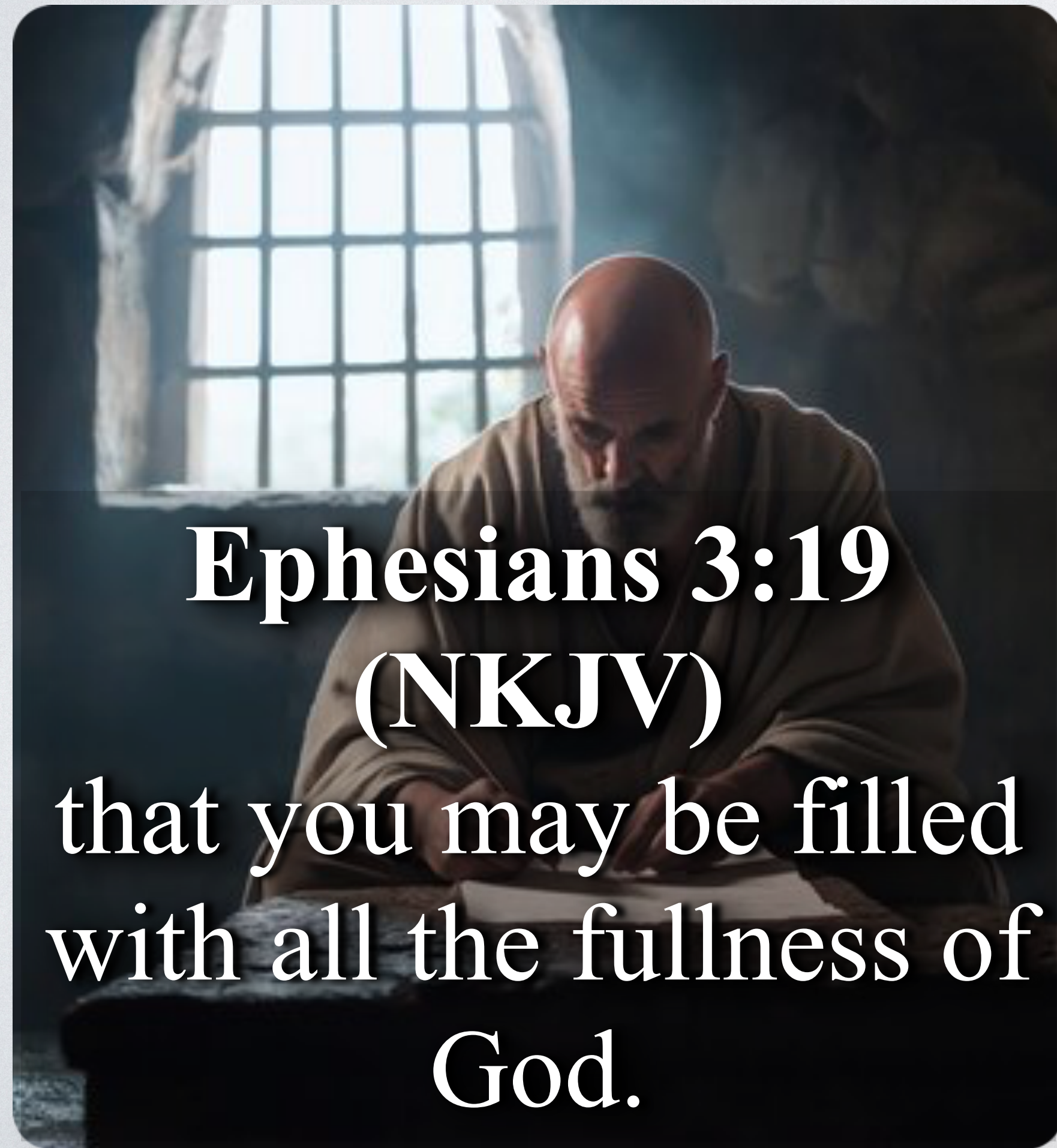


¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;

- Paul prays they may grasp the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love—indicating vastness beyond rational limits.

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

FILLED WITH THE FULLNESS OF GOD (3:19b)



**Ephesians 3:19
(NKJV)**

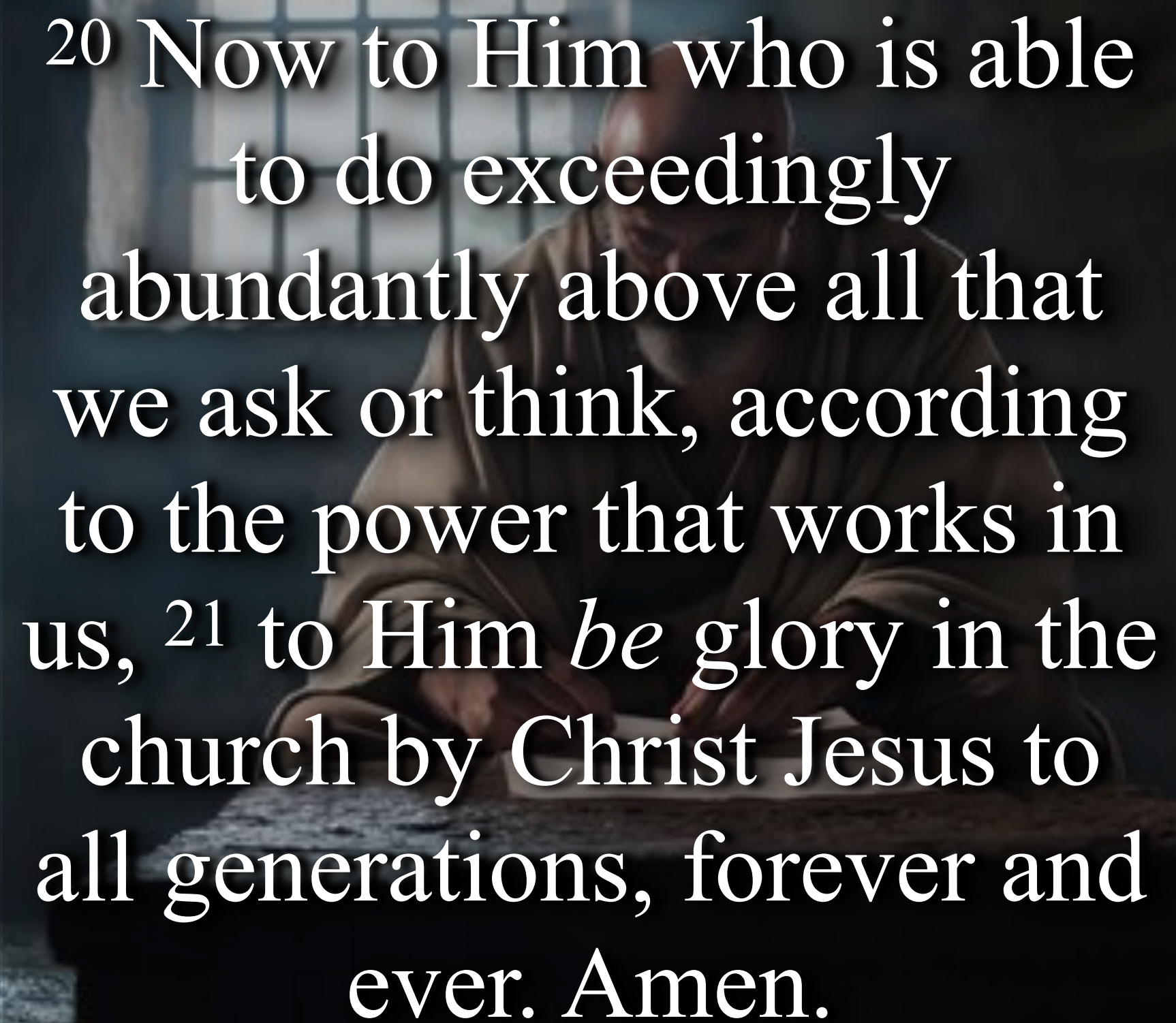
that you may be filled
with all the fullness of
God.

- Paul prays they may grasp the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love—indicating vastness beyond rational limits.
- The end goal is to be filled with the fullness of God (pleroma)—i.e., to share in all God gives to those in Christ (1:23; Col. 2:9,10).

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

THE POWER OF GOD (3:20–21)

Ephesians 3:20–21 (NKJV)

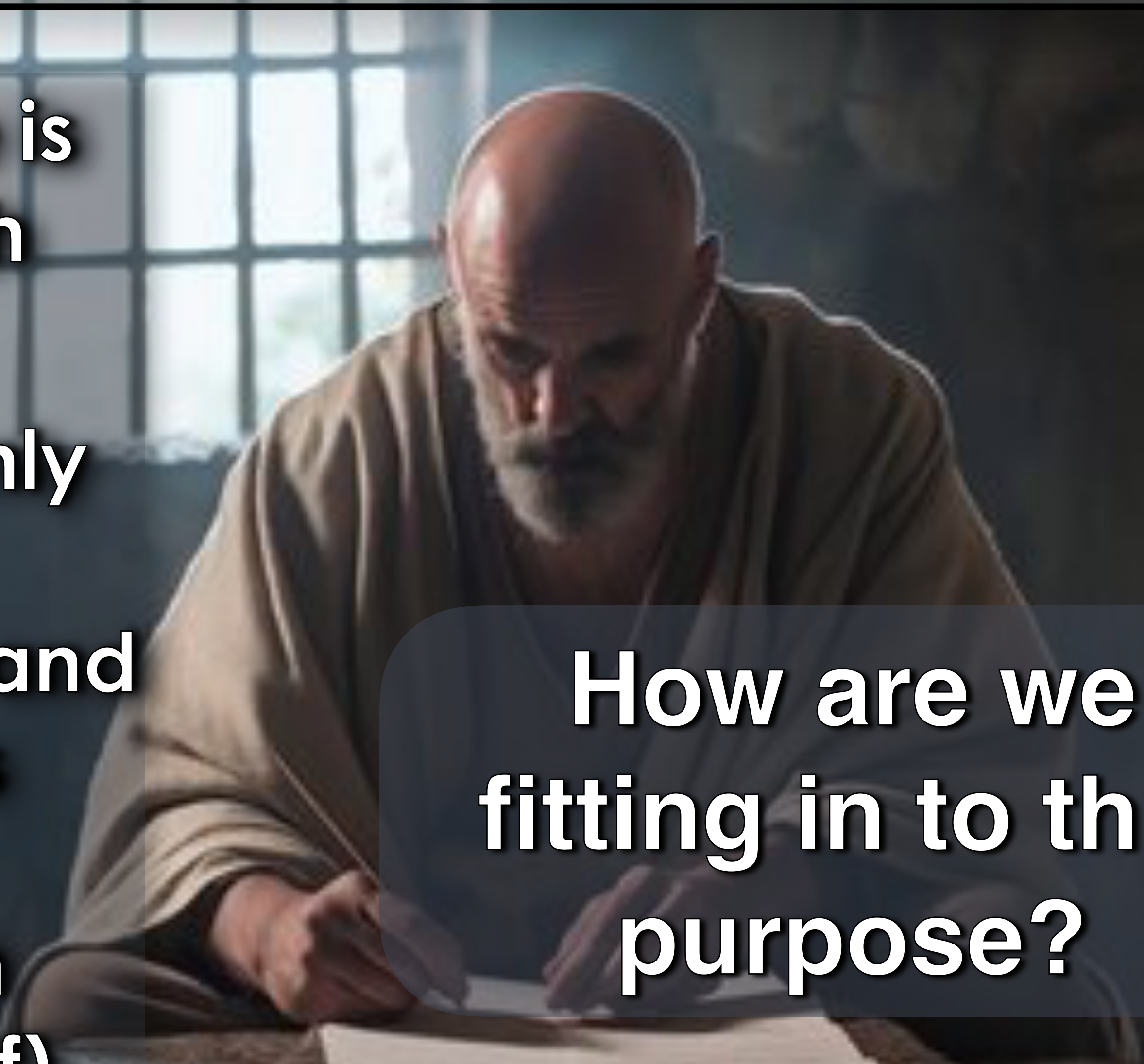


²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- The doxology frames God's capacity as overflowing—transcending human petition.
- The ultimate purpose of the mystery being revealed, Paul's stewardship, and his prayer for them, is to the glory of God, which is displayed in and through the church by Christ Jesus for all generations.

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

- ▶ God's eternal purpose is made known "through the church" (3:8-13),
- ▶ Their success would only be accomplished as they were motivated and empowered by God's will, (Spirit), His love, (Jesus), and filled with His provisions, (Himself).

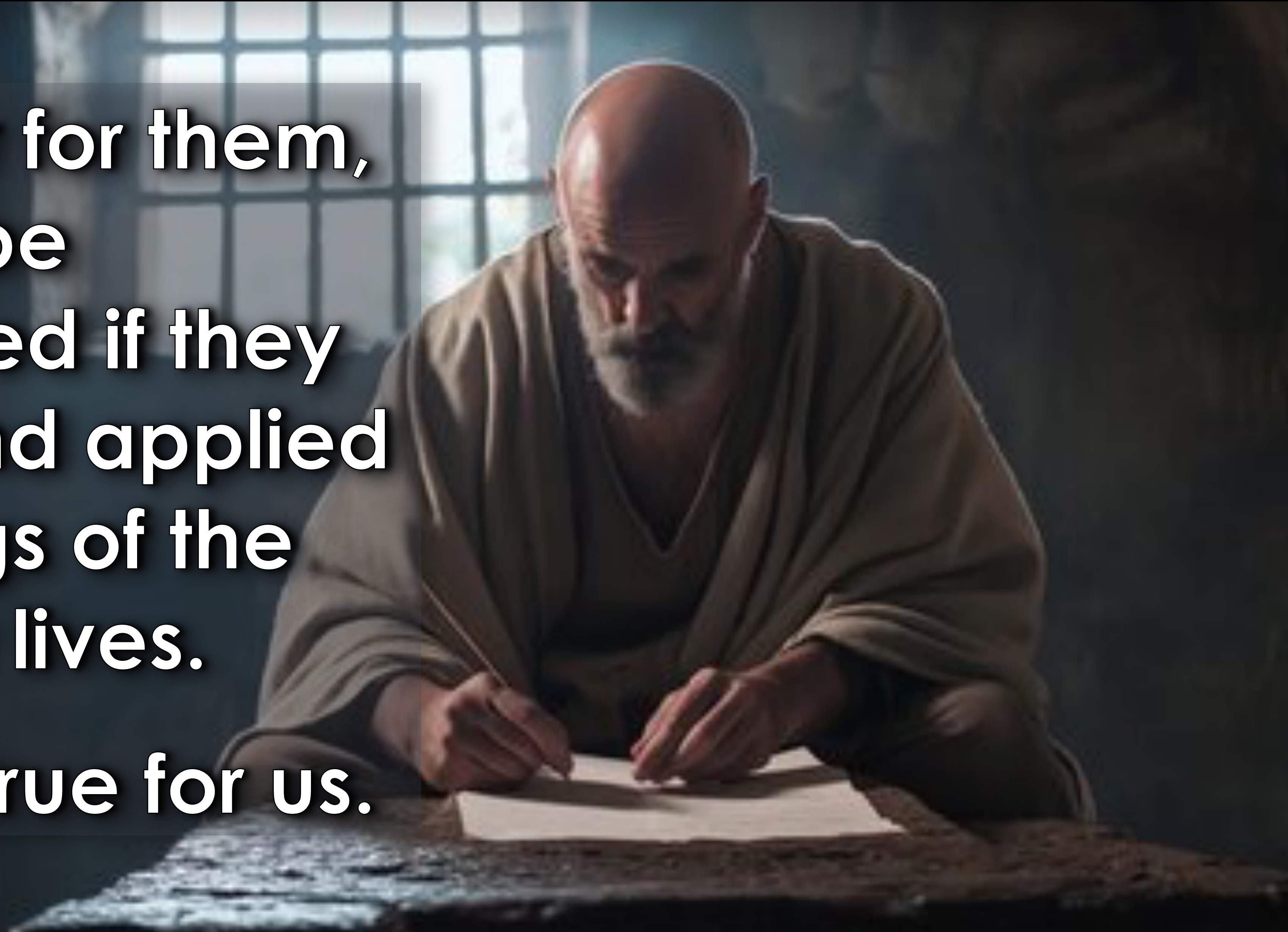


How are we fitting in to this purpose?

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

► Paul's prayer for them, would only be accomplished if they believed, and applied the teachings of the Spirit to their lives.

► The same is true for us.

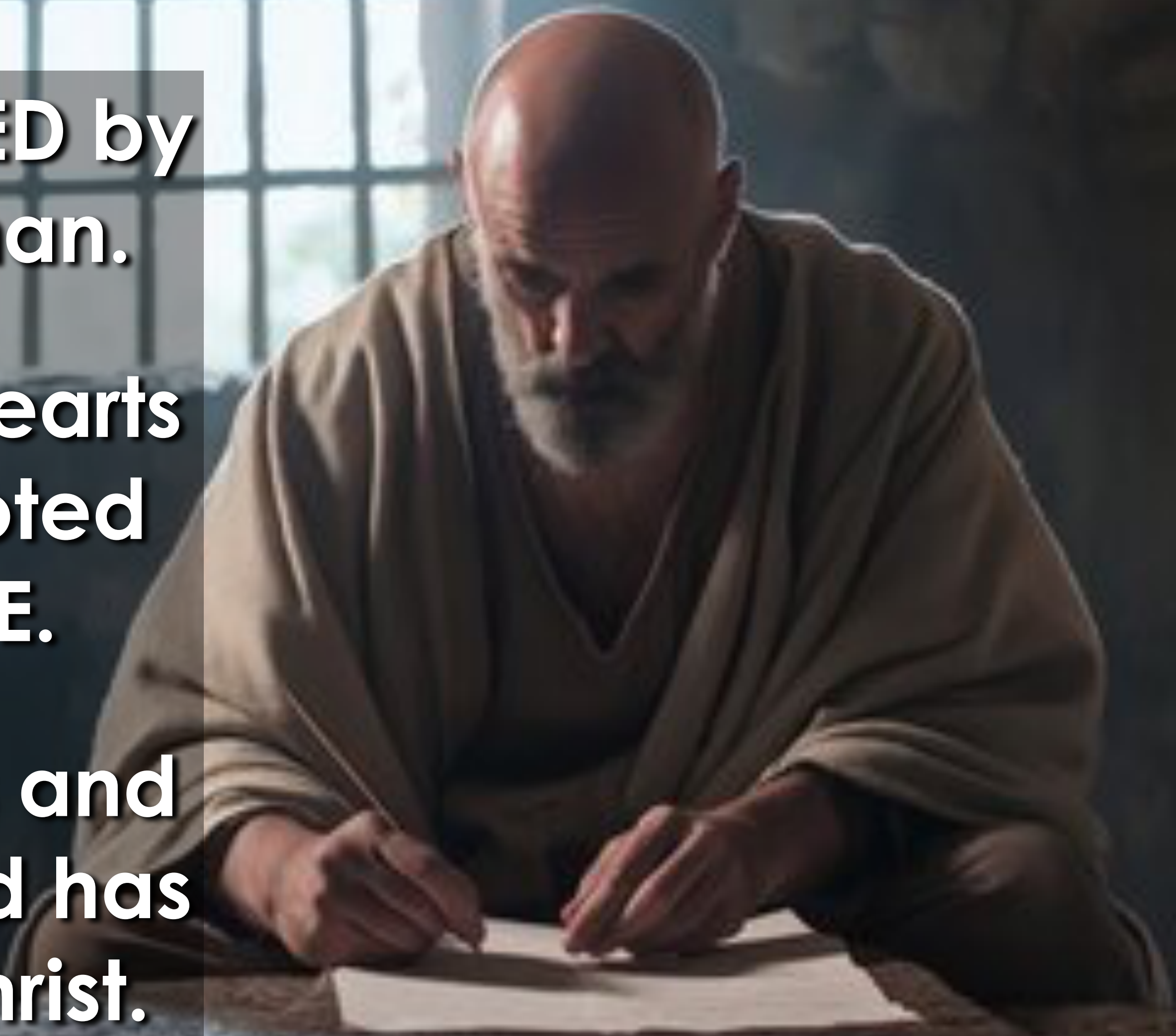


THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

May we be **STRENGTHENED** by
the Spirit in the **INNER** man.

May Christ dwell in our hearts
by **FAITH**, that we be rooted
and grounded in **LOVE**.

May we thereby possess and
participate in all that God has
and is giving those in Christ.



THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

OUTSIDE CHRIST

Lost Without Hope

NO spiritual blessings

NOT chosen

NOT children of God

NOT accepted

NO redemption

NO forgiveness

NO heavenly Inheritance

Saved by
grace through
faith ...

Baptized Into

Rom. 6:3-6

Gal. 3:26,27

Acts 2:38,47

HAS HOPE

CHRIST'S CHURCH

ALL spiritual blessings

Chosen

A child of God

Accepted

Redeemed

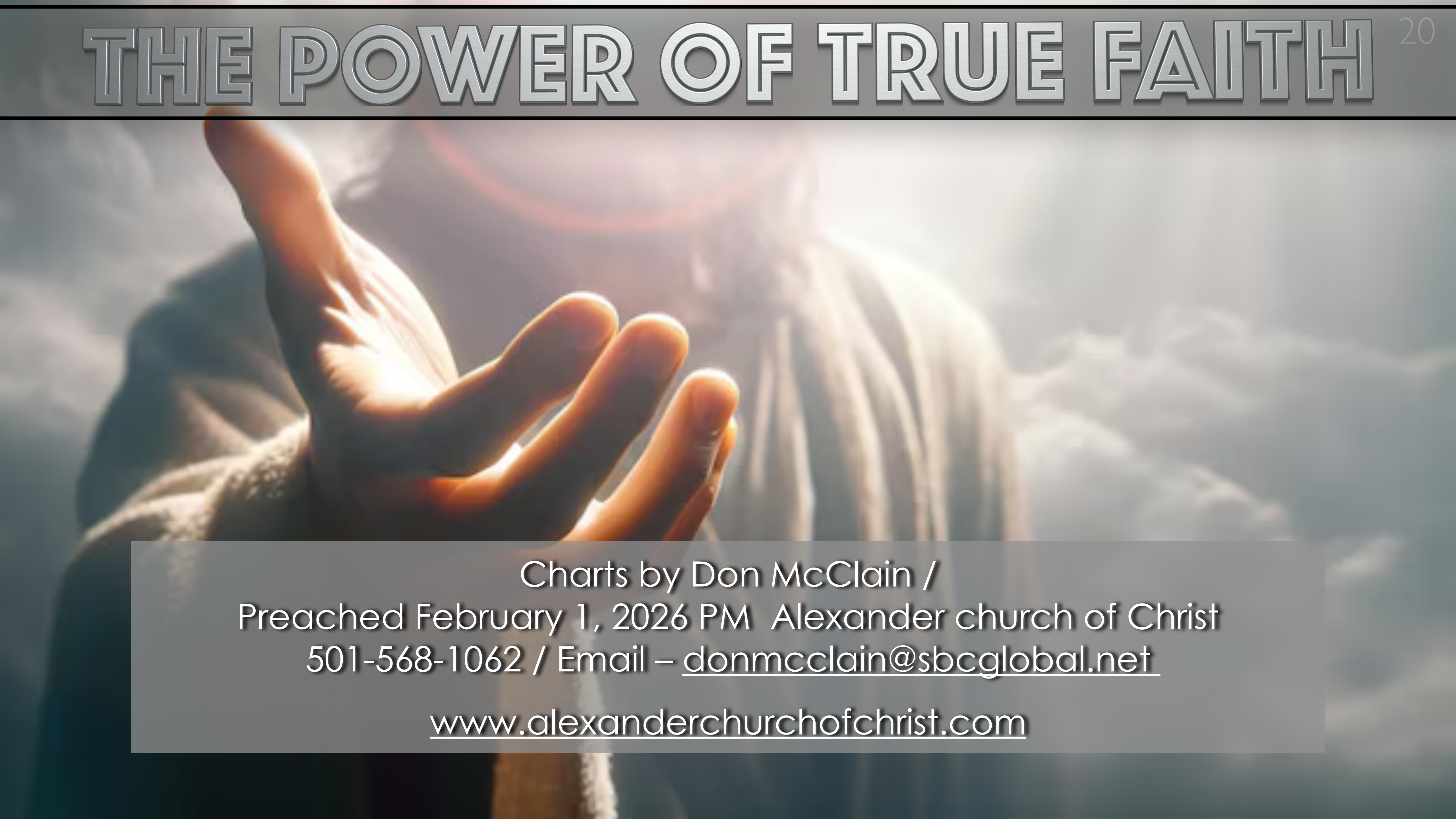
Forgiven

A Heavenly

Inheritance

THE POWER OF TRUE FAITH

20



Charts by Don McClain /
Preached February 1, 2026 PM Alexander church of Christ
501-568-1062 / Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

www.alexanderchurchofchrist.com

Colossians 1:9–12 (NASB95)

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.