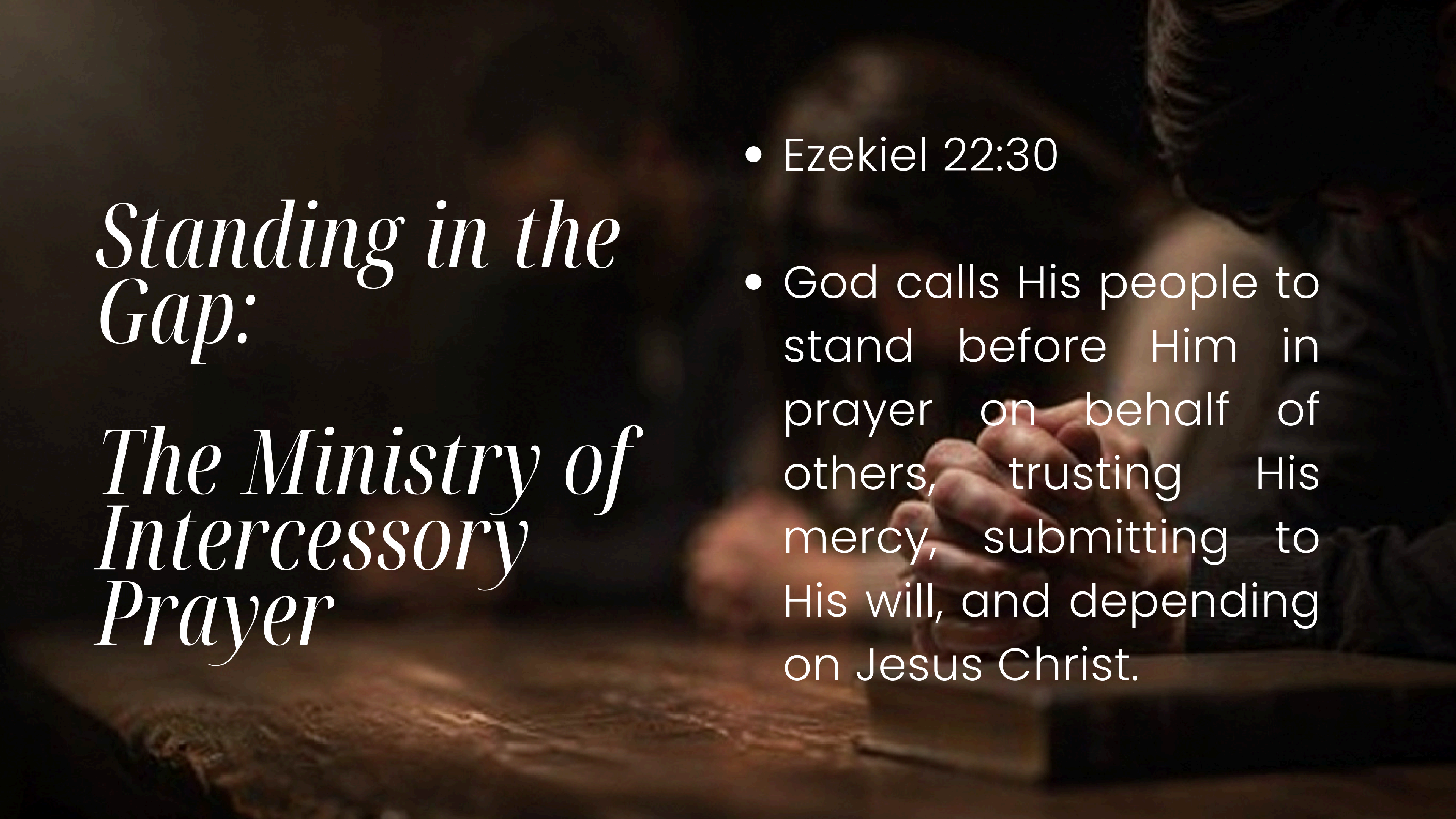


A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The person's face is partially visible in the upper right, looking down. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other people in a similar posture. The lighting is warm and focused on the hands and the Bible.

Standing in the Gap:

The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer

- Ezekiel 22:30
- God calls His people to stand before Him in prayer on behalf of others, trusting His mercy, submitting to His will, and depending on Jesus Christ.

Introduction —

The Call to Stand

- **The Reality:** Intercession carries burdens in secret before God.
- **The Main Text:** Ezekiel 22:30 "And I sought for a man among them... that should stand in the gap..."
- **The Tragedy:** Not that there was a gap, but that no one was found standing in it.
- **The Challenge:** When God looks upon our generation, will He find people willing to pray?

What is Intercessory Prayer?

- **Definition:** Praying to God on behalf of others for mercy, help, healing, and His will.
- **The Foundation:** “Supplications, prayers, intercessions... be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1).
- **Key Distinction:** All intercession is prayer, but not all prayer is intercession.

Three Elements of Intercession

- **Directed to God:** Taking our concerns to the One upon whom we depend.
- **On Behalf of Others:** Extending our prayer life beyond personal needs.
- **Seeking God's Will:** Submitting to His wisdom and sovereignty without trying to manipulate outcomes.

God Calls His People to Stand

- **The Image:** Ancient city walls depended on protection; a broken wall created a dangerous gap.
- **A. Recognizing the Gap:** An intercessor does not pretend brokenness doesn't exist (in families, churches, or communities).
- **B. God Seeks Willing People:** "I sought for a man..." (Ezekiel 22:30).
- **C. Taking Responsibility:** Moving past criticism and complaints into active prayer and practical response.

The Heart and Burden of an Intercessor

- **The Motivation:** Intercession flows from a heart moved by the needs of others.
- **Moses:** Pleading for a sinful Israel (Exodus 32:9–14) — recognizing sin without abandoning the sinner.
- **Nehemiah:** Turning painful news into mourning, fasting, and prayer (Nehemiah 1:3–11).
- **Paul:** Carrying a deep spiritual burden for others (Romans 9:1–3).

Humility and a Right Heart

- **Daniel's Example:** Identifying with the people and confessing sin ("We have sinned" — Daniel 9:5).
- **A. Guarding Against Self-Righteousness:** Never acting as though we are immune to failure.
- **B. Repentance Over Replacement:** Prayer is never a substitute for personal obedience, forgiveness, and walking in God's ways (Psalm 66:18).
- **C. Seeking Restoration:** Praying for healing and recovery rather than eager exposure of failure.

Spiritual Battle and Alertness

- **The Reality:** "We wrestle not against flesh and blood..." (Ephesians 6:12).
- **A. Praying for Spiritual Strength:** Standing firm against temptation and discouragement.
- **B. Protection and Perseverance:** Guarding against deception and destructive choices.

Spiritual Battle and Alertness

- **C. Advancing the Gospel:** Praying for boldness in witness and mission (Ephesians 6:19–20).
- **D. Biblical Balance:** Avoiding fear, speculation, and blaming every hardship on unseen forces.

Sovereignty and the Power of Prayer

- **The Tension:** If God is sovereign and already knows, why pray? (Matthew 6:8).
- **A. Relationship & Invitation:** God commands us to seek Him.
- **B. Aligning with His Will:** “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done” (Matthew 6:9–10).

Sovereignty and the Power of Prayer

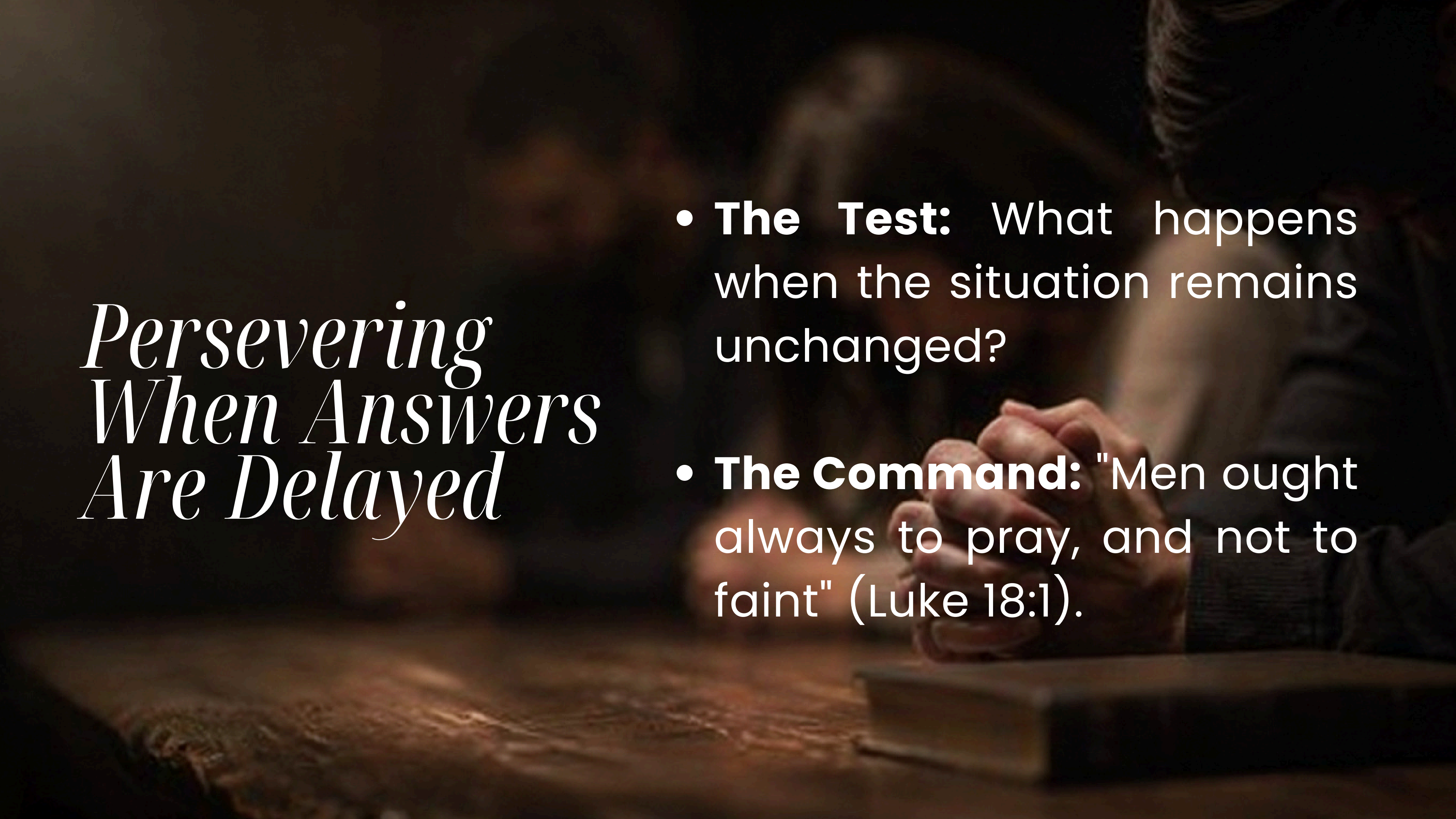
- **C. Prayer Matters:** “The effectual fervent prayer... availeth much” (James 5:16).
- **D. Faith vs. Control:** Bold requests coupled with humble submission to God's wisdom.

Jesus Christ, Our Great Intercessor

- **Jesus' Example:** Praying for His disciples and future believers (John 17).
- **A. Present Intercession:** Christ lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34).
- **B. The Holy Spirit's Help:** Weakness met by the Spirit when we lack words (Romans 8:26).
- **C. The Unique Mediator:** "One mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

The Church as a Community of Intercessors

- **The Early Church Model:** Gathering to lift their voices together in unity (Acts 4:23–31; Acts 12:5).
- **A. Cultivating a Culture of Prayer:** Preventing church activity from replacing true communion with God.
- **B. Praying for Leaders:** Interceding for those in authority regardless of agreement (1 Timothy 2:1–2).
- **C. Shared Burdens:** Carrying one another's trials as the body of Christ.

A close-up, dimly lit photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer over an open Bible. The person is wearing a dark, textured sweater. The background is blurred, showing other people in a similar setting, suggesting a church or a group prayer session. The overall mood is solemn and focused.

Persevering When Answers Are Delayed

- **The Test:** What happens when the situation remains unchanged?
- **The Command:** "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).



Practical Intercession:

What Should We Pray For?

- **Families:** Marriages, parenting, provision, and healing.
- **The Church:** Spiritual growth, unity, holiness, and faithful leadership.
- **The Lost:** Open doors and courage to share the gospel.
- **The Sick & Suffering:** Bold prayers for healing, comfort, and wise care.

*Practical
Intercession:
What Should
We Pray For?*

- **Leaders & Nations:** Wisdom, justice, peace, and protection of the vulnerable.
- **Those Who Oppose Us:** Loving enemies and praying for transformation instead of revenge (Matthew 5:44).
- **Spiritual Maturity:** Praying for inner strength, character, and deeper knowledge of Christ (Ephesians 3:16–19).

How to Develop a Life of Intercession

- **A. Establish a Regular Time:** Build a consistent daily rhythm.
- **B. Allow Scripture to Shape Prayers:** Let God's Word guide your requests.
- **C. Be Specific:** Name specific people, families, and situations.
- **D. Keep a Prayer List:** Stay organized and focused.

How to Develop a Life of Intercession

- **E. Persevere with Thanksgiving:** Trust God's character through delays.
- **F. Pray with Others:** Share burdens in corporate prayer settings.
- **G. Respond with Action:** Let prayer fuel practical service and obedience (Nehemiah).

Will You Stand in the Gap?

- **Review:** Intercession requires compassion, humility, spiritual alertness, and perseverance.
- **The Ultimate Foundation:** Jesus Christ is our Great Intercessor.
- **The Decision:** Will we move past criticism and complaint to become a people of prayer?

A Call to Personal Commitment

Three Searching Questions:

1-Who has God placed on your heart to pray for?

2-What burden have you been discussing instead of bringing to God?

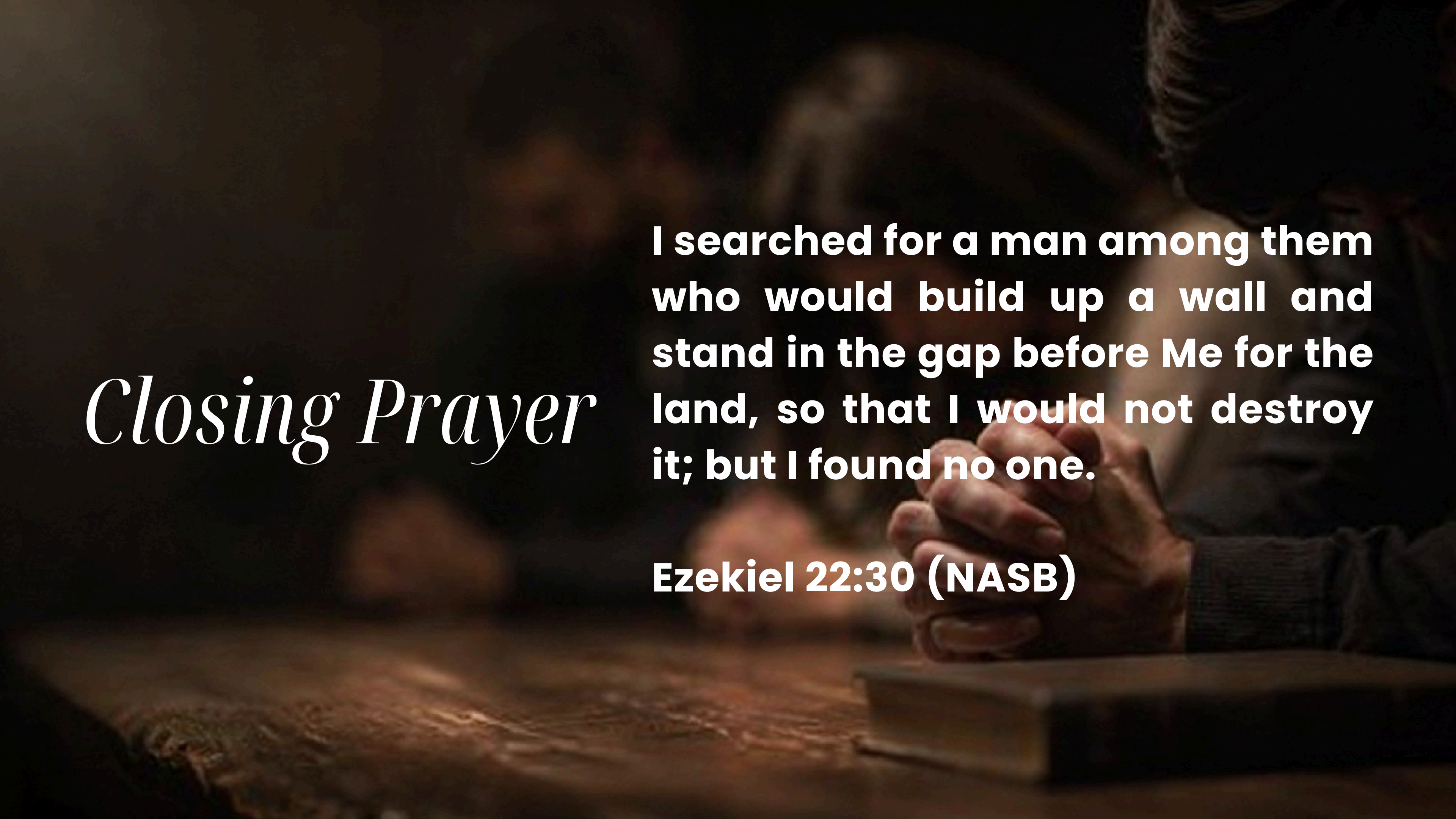
3-What practical commitment will you make to the ministry of prayer?



Entering a Time of Focused Prayer Together:

- Families and children
- The church and its leaders
- The lost and unreached
- The sick and suffering
- Community and national leaders
- Personal commitment to a prayer life

Let Us Pray

A person wearing a dark sweater is shown from the chest up, with their hands clasped in a prayer position over an open book. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a dimly lit room. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Closing Prayer

**I searched for a man among them
who would build up a wall and
stand in the gap before Me for the
land, so that I would not destroy
it; but I found no one.**

Ezekiel 22:30 (NASB)

