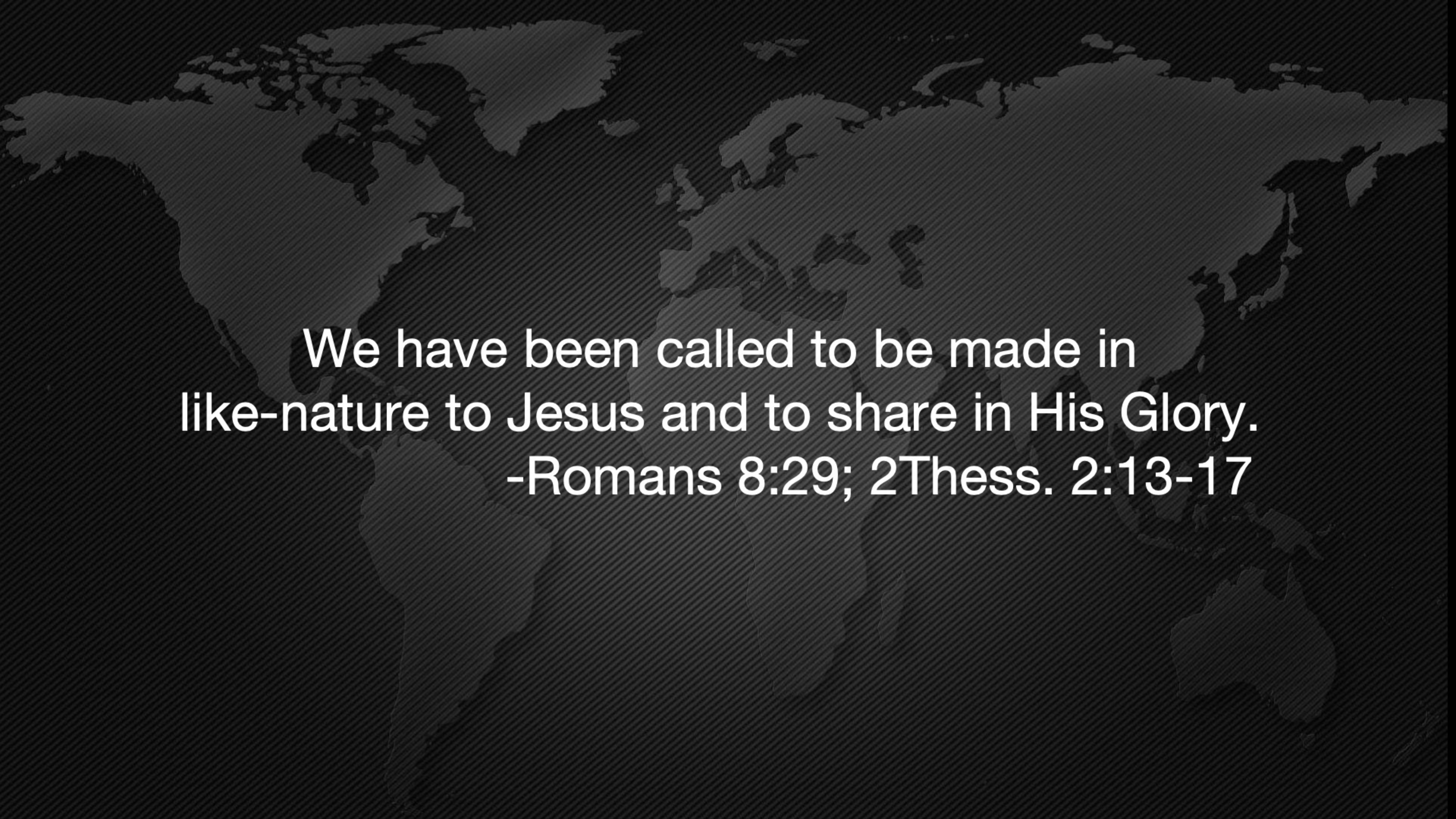




Called to His Purpose

A dark, textured world map background with the title "Identifying Your Calling" overlaid in white text. The map is rendered in a dark gray color with a fine, grid-like texture. The text is centered horizontally and vertically on the map.

Identifying Your Calling



We have been called to be made in
like-nature to Jesus and to share in His Glory.
-Romans 8:29; 2Thess. 2:13-17



The question is how do we identify our calling
and how do we use it?

A dark, textured world map background with the text "What are your passion(s)?" overlaid in white. The map is rendered in a dark grey color with a fine, grid-like texture. The text is centered horizontally and vertically, using a clean, sans-serif font.

What are your passion(s)?



Romans 15:20 (ESV)

20 and thus I [*Paul*] make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation,...

A dark, textured world map background with the text "Passions are built in you by the Lord." centered in white. The map is rendered in a dark grey color with a fine, grid-like texture. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font.

Passions are built in you by the Lord.



What people groups peak your passion?

Acropolis Acts 17





Paul searched and listened for the Holy Spirit
to give him direction and opportunity.

A dark, textured world map background with the text "What are your life experiences?" overlaid in white. The map is rendered in a dark grey color with a fine, grid-like texture. The text is centered horizontally and vertically, using a clean, sans-serif font.

What are your life experiences?

Genesis 45:1-8

45:1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

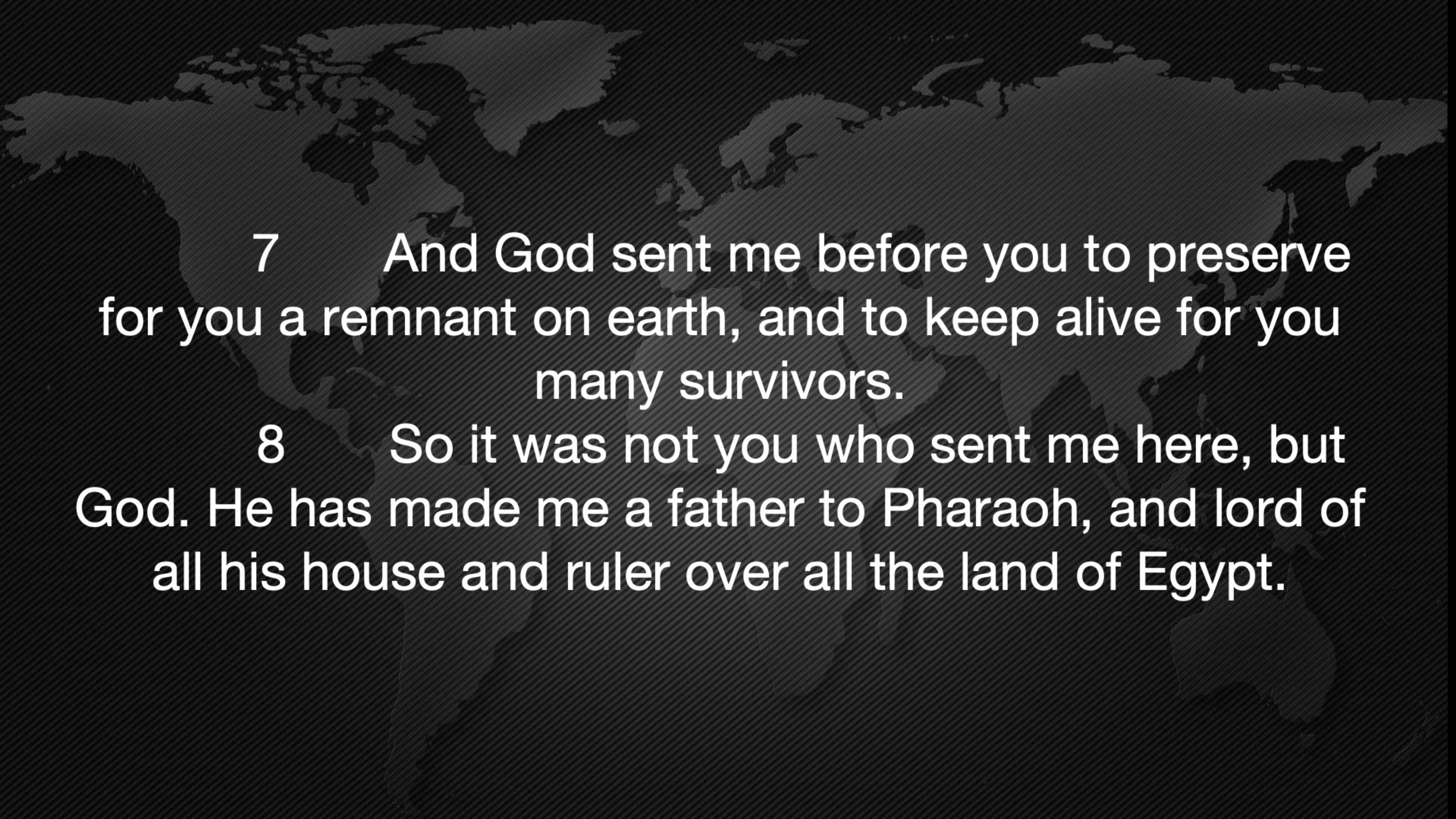
2 And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

3 And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

4 So Joseph said to his brothers,
“Come near to me, please.” And they came near.
And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom
you sold into Egypt.


5 And now do not be distressed or
angry with yourselves because you sold me here,
for God sent me before you to preserve life.

6 For the famine has been in the land
these two years, and there are yet five years in
which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.



7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

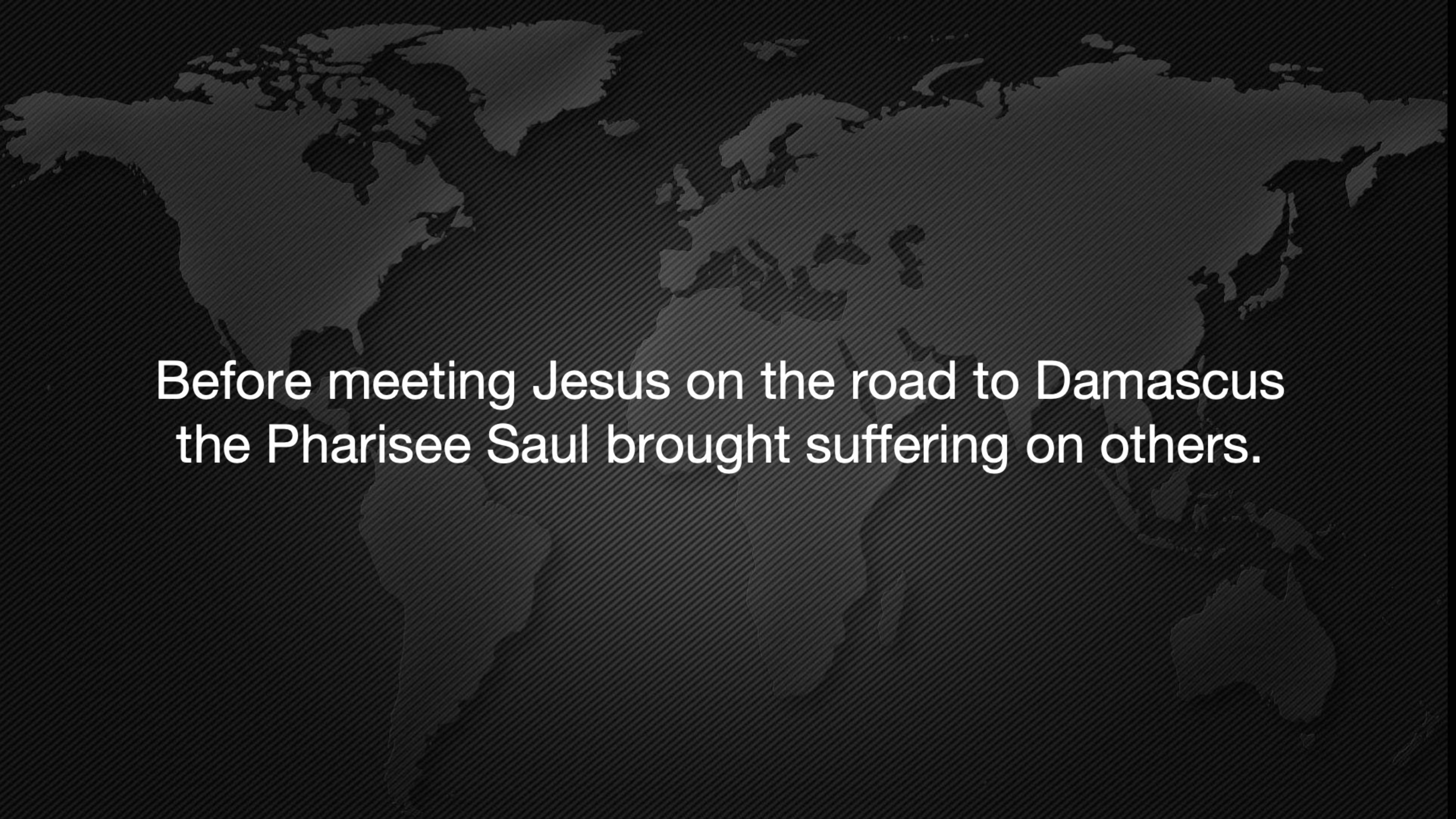
8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

A dark, textured world map background with a fine, repeating pattern. The map is centered and shows the outlines of the continents in a slightly lighter shade than the background.

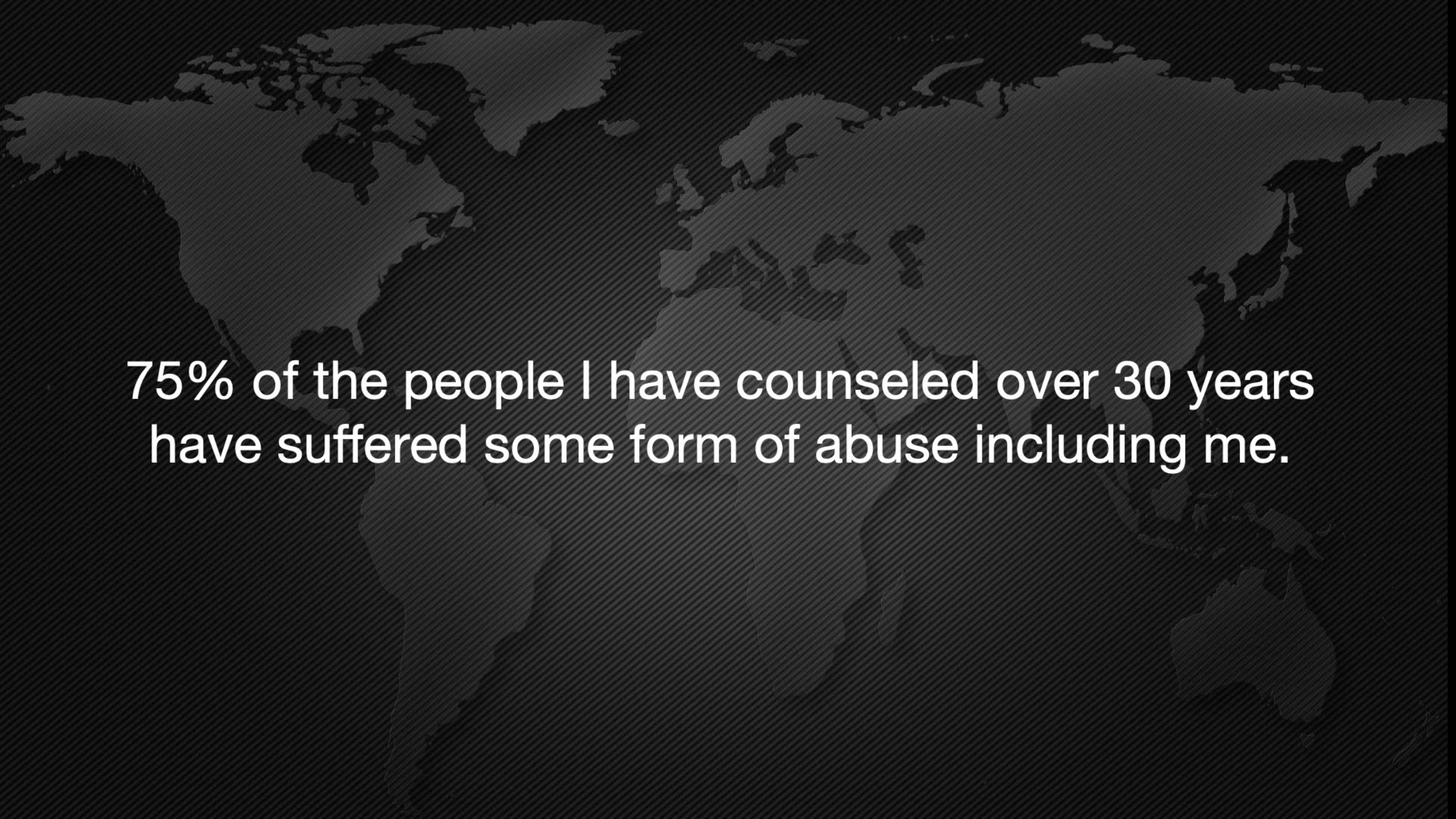
Some believe sufferings are a wasted part
of our lives.



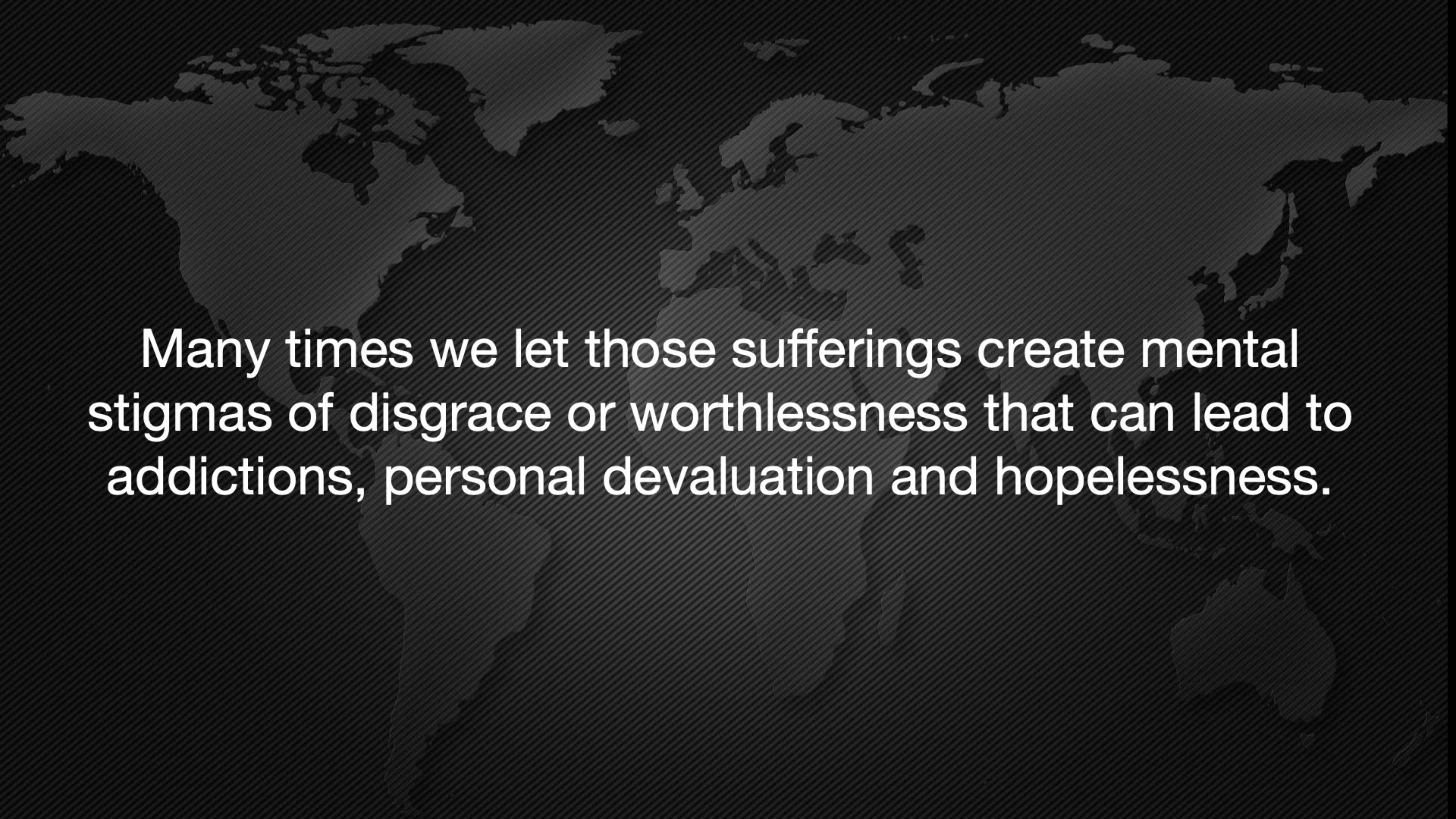
Foolishness is wasted time but not suffering.



Before meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus
the Pharisee Saul brought suffering on others.



75% of the people I have counseled over 30 years
have suffered some form of abuse including me.

The background is a dark, charcoal-colored surface with a fine, repeating geometric pattern of small, light-colored lines. Overlaid on this is a faint, light-colored silhouette of a world map, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Australia. The map is centered horizontally and vertically.

Many times we let those sufferings create mental stigmas of disgrace or worthlessness that can lead to addictions, personal devaluation and hopelessness.



As born-again believers nothing is wasted
or lost in Christ.



Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 2:1–6 (ESV)

1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

3. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,

4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

1 Corinthians 2:5–8 (ESV)

5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1 Corinthians 2:9–11 (ESV)

9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” —

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

11 For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12–14 (ESV)

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

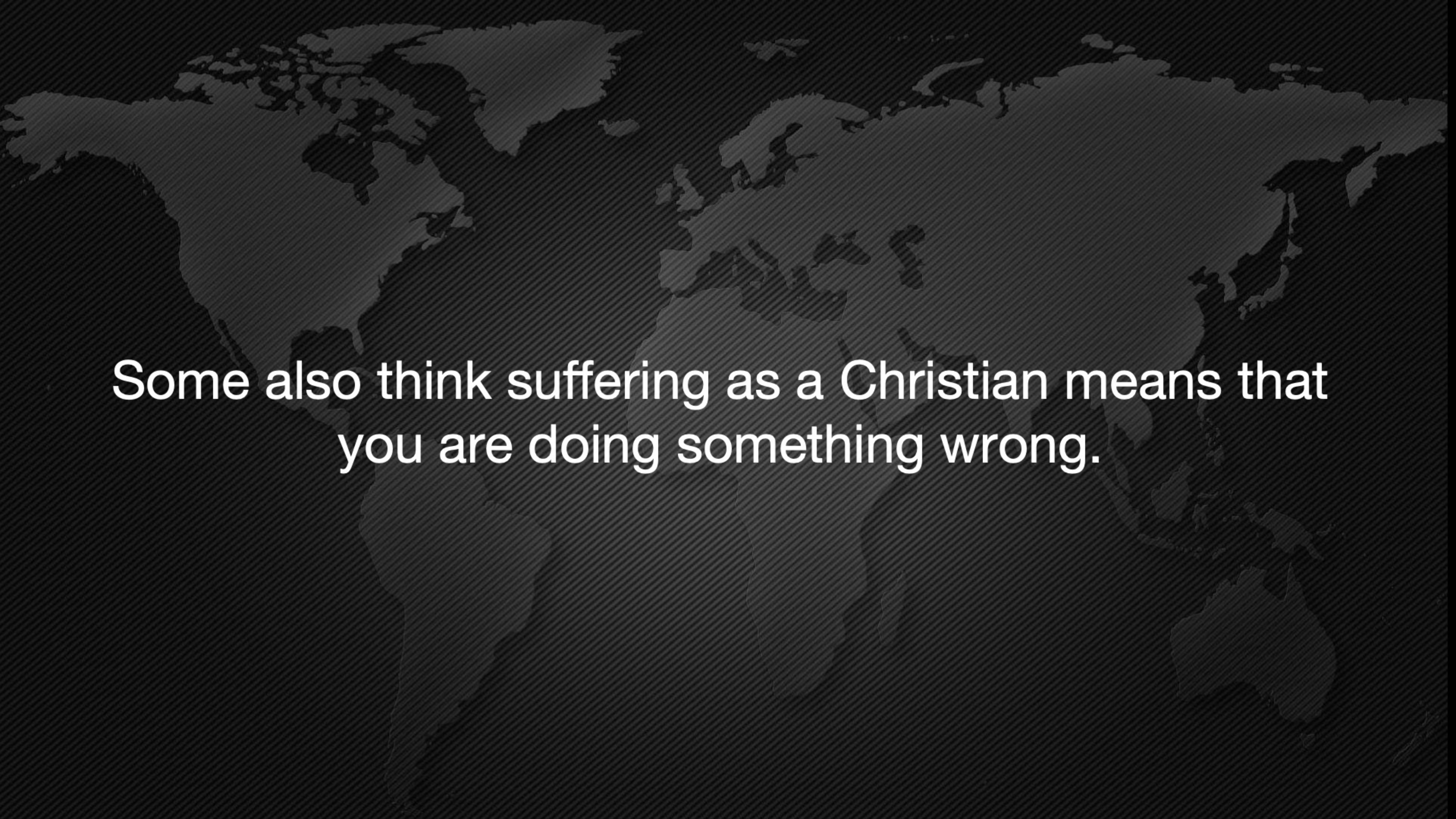
14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.



1 Corinthians 2:15–16 (ESV)

15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.



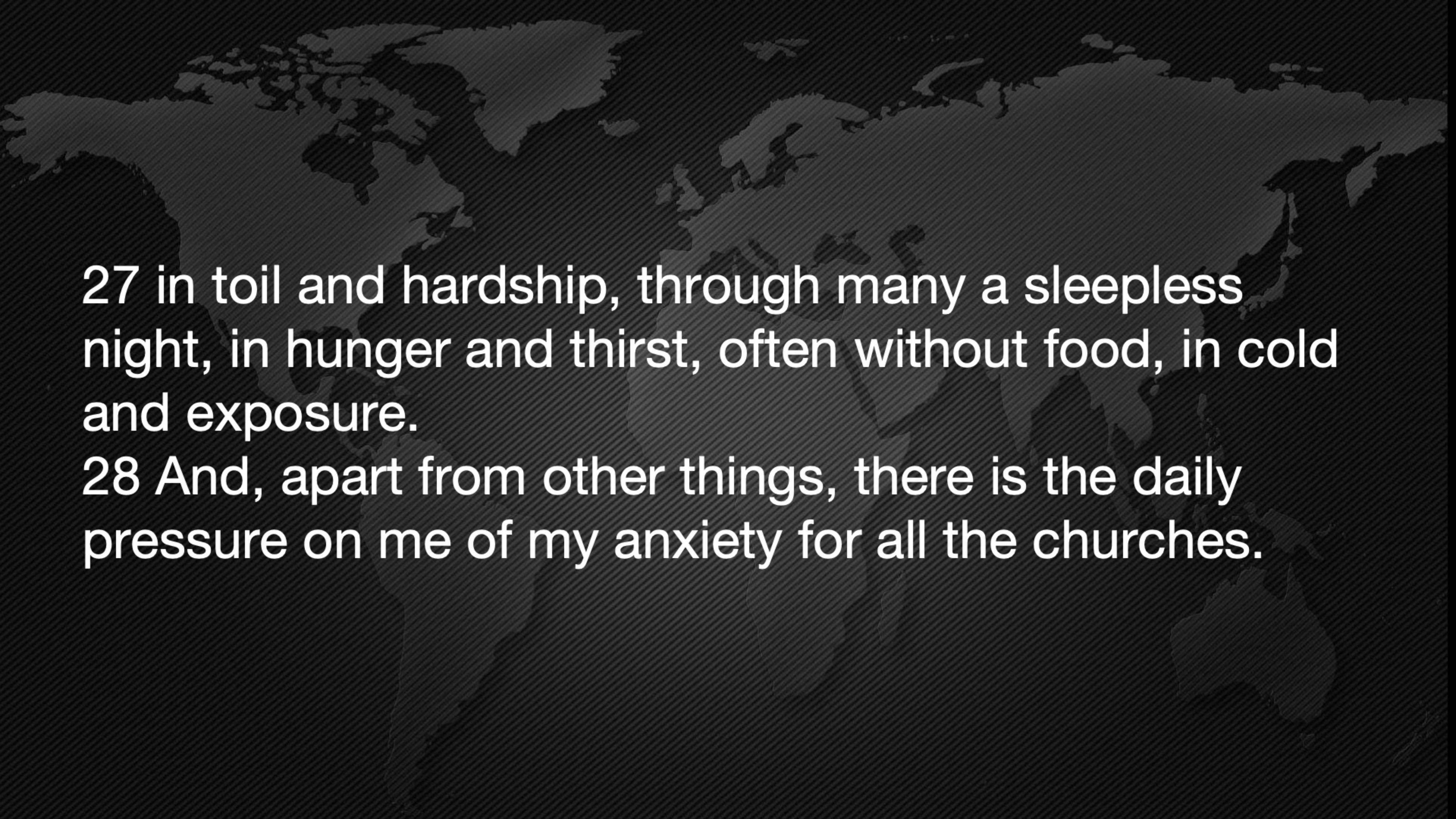
Some also think suffering as a Christian means that
you are doing something wrong.

2 Corinthians 11:24–28 (ESV)

24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;

26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ...

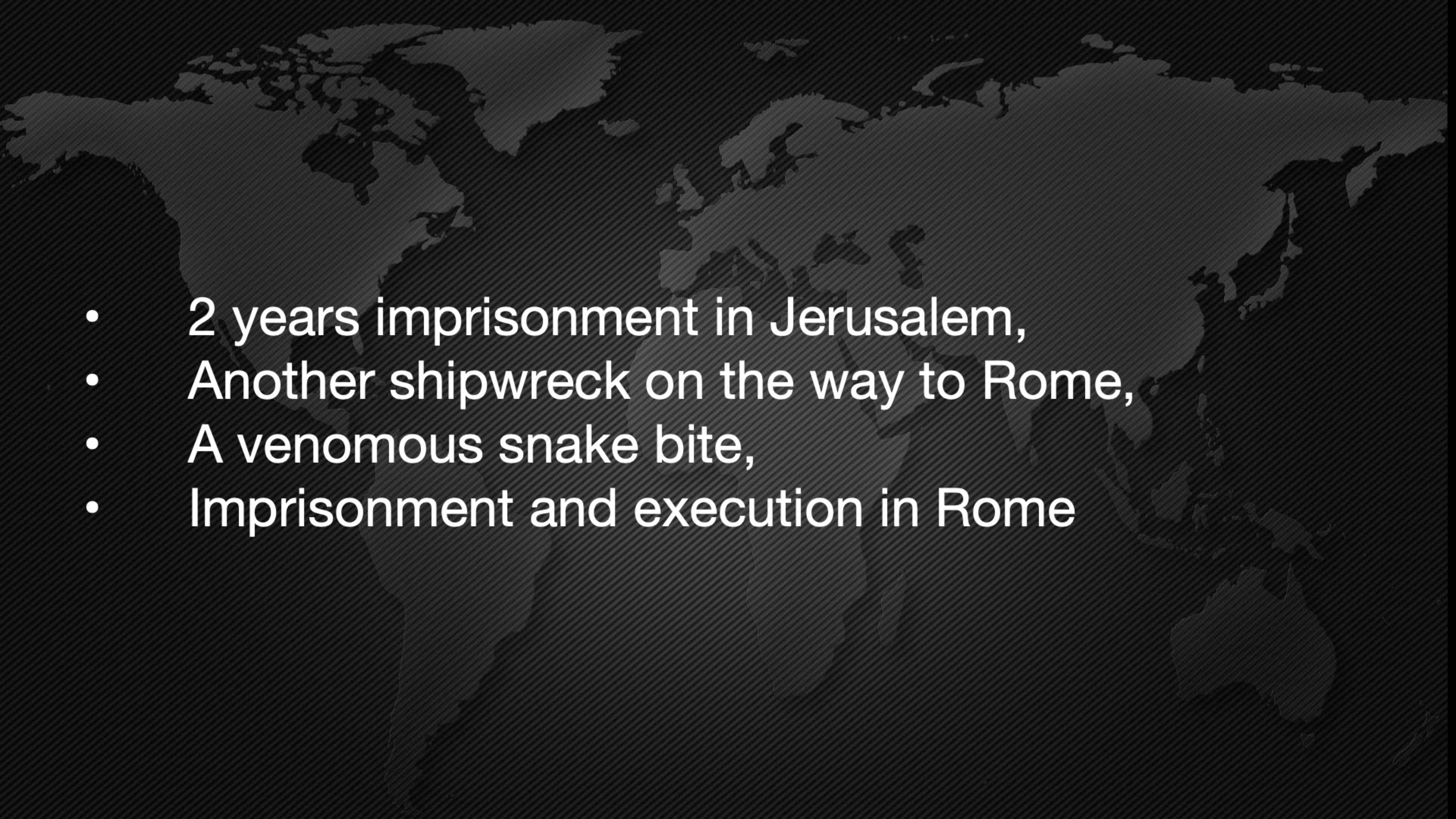



27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

A dark, textured world map background with a fine, grid-like pattern. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The text is overlaid on the map in a white, sans-serif font.

That's just the first 21 years of Paul's 32 year ministry.

- 
- 2 years imprisonment in Jerusalem,
 - Another shipwreck on the way to Rome,
 - A venomous snake bite,
 - Imprisonment and execution in Rome



What are the gifts you have been given
by the Holy Spirit?



Romans
1 Corinthians
Ephesians
1 Peter

Leadership

Administration

Discernment

Teaching

Knowledge

Wisdom

Service

Preaching

Encouraging/Motivate

Shepherding

Faith

Evangelism

Mercy

Giving

Hospitality

A dark, textured world map background with a fine, grid-like pattern. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The text is overlaid on the map.

Where are you using these gifts?

A dark, textured world map background with the text "Your career is your mission field." overlaid in white. The map is rendered in a dark grey color with a fine, grid-like texture. The text is centered horizontally and vertically, using a clean, sans-serif font.

Your career is your mission field.

Acts 18:1–4 (ESV)

1After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

2And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,
3and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

4And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 16:13–14 (ESV)

13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.



Acts 16:15 (ESV)

15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

Lydia from the Region of Lydia



The background is a dark, textured surface with a faint, light-colored world map. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The texture consists of fine, parallel lines that create a subtle, grid-like pattern across the entire image.

We are complex creations of power equipped by
the Lord that find satisfaction in adversity.



Called to His Purpose