



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

God has been leading us here

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a sword with an ornate hilt resting on a dark, textured book. The book's cover has the words 'HOLY BIBLE' embossed in gold lettering. The sword's blade is partially visible, extending towards the top right. The overall tone is solemn and historical.

The Reality of the Battle

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

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Ephesians 6:10-20

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

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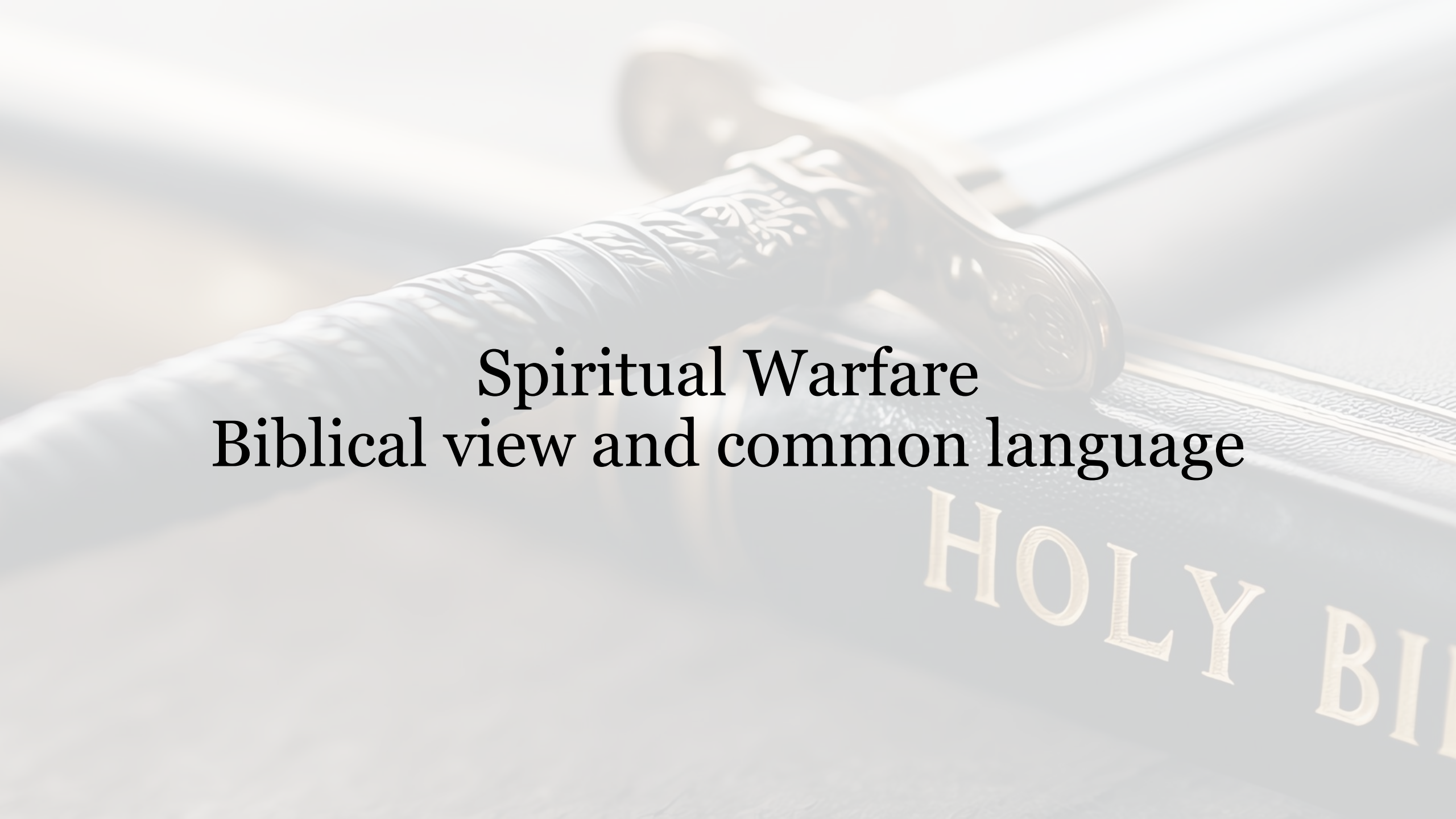
Ephesians 6:10-20

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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Ephesians 6:10-20

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a sword with a detailed, possibly leather-wrapped hilt, resting diagonally across the cover of a book. The book's cover is dark and textured, with the words 'HOLY BIBLE' embossed in large, gold-colored capital letters. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

Spiritual Warfare

Biblical view and common language

The battle is real

Ephesians 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians written by Paul in prison AD 60-62

Backdrop: Acts 19 (Paul in Ephesus - AD 53-55)

The battle was to stop the spread of the Gospel

The plan against you

For those without Christ, to keep you from salvation

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. - Matthew 13:19

For those in Christ, to discourage, distract, derail and disengage

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. - 2 Corinthians 11:3

To keep your eyes off of Jesus

... let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus... - Hebrews 12:1-2

The battlefield

Internal: the fight against sin, temptation, the flesh, and lies in the heart/mind

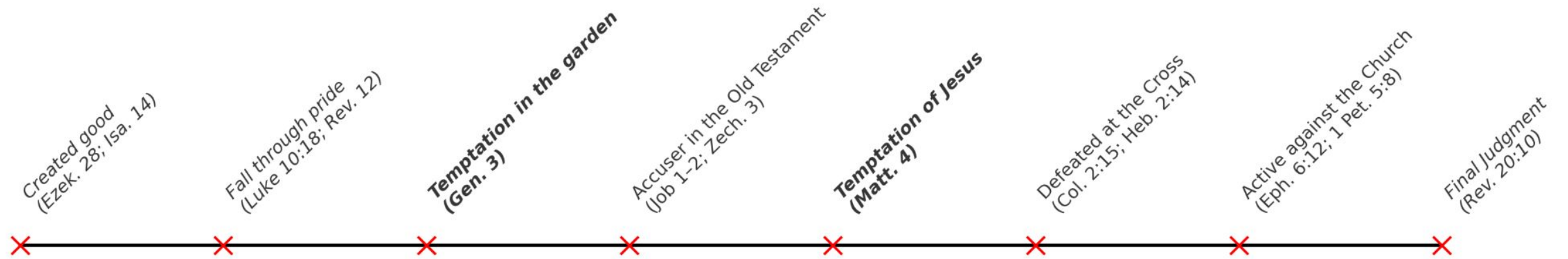
Romans 7:22–23 – “For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.”

External: resistance against Satan, demons, and worldly systems opposed to God

1 Peter 5:8–9 – “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

Our enemy is the devil

Biblical Timeline of Satan



John 10:10 - “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Created good - Ezekiel 28 / Isaiah 14

Fall through pride - Luke 10:18; Revelation 12

Temptation in the garden - Genesis 3

Accuser in the Old Testament - Job 1,2 ; Zechariah 3

Temptation of Jesus - Matthew 4

Defeated at the Cross - Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14

Active against the Church - Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8

Final Judgement - Revelation 20:10

Christ's victory on the Cross

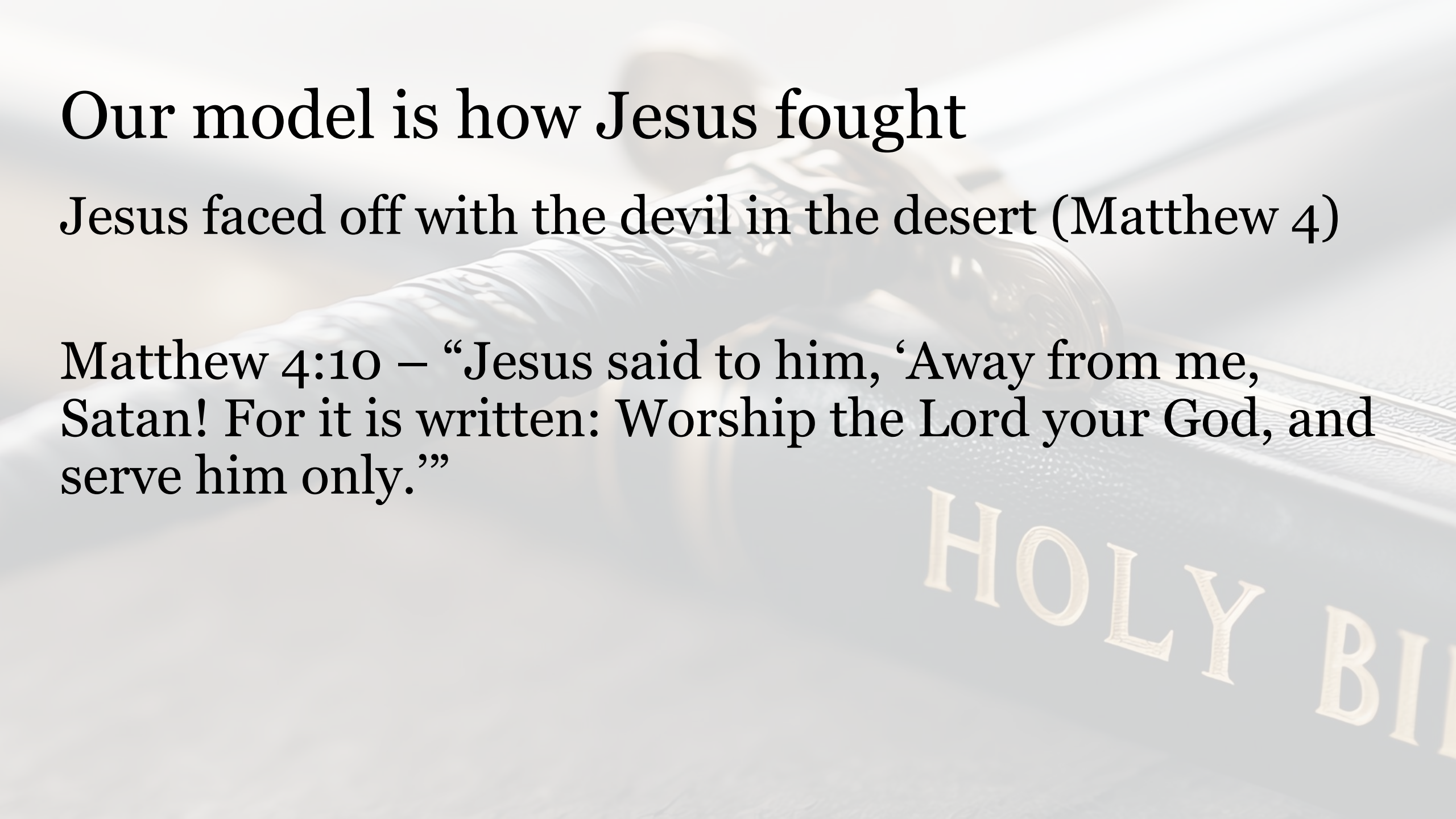
Colossians 2:15 – “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

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We still face battles

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms - Ephesians 6:11-12

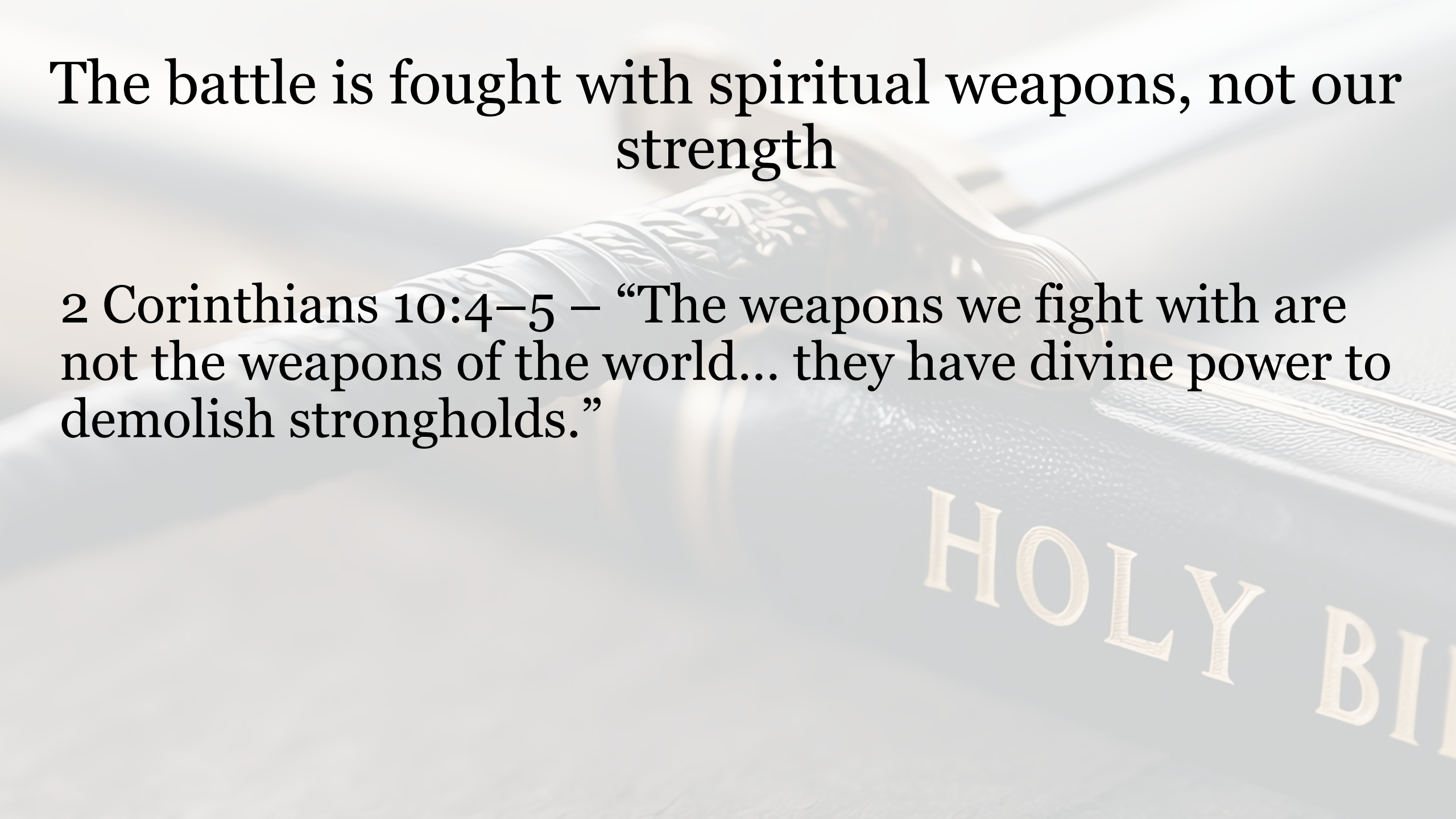
For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5



Our model is how Jesus fought

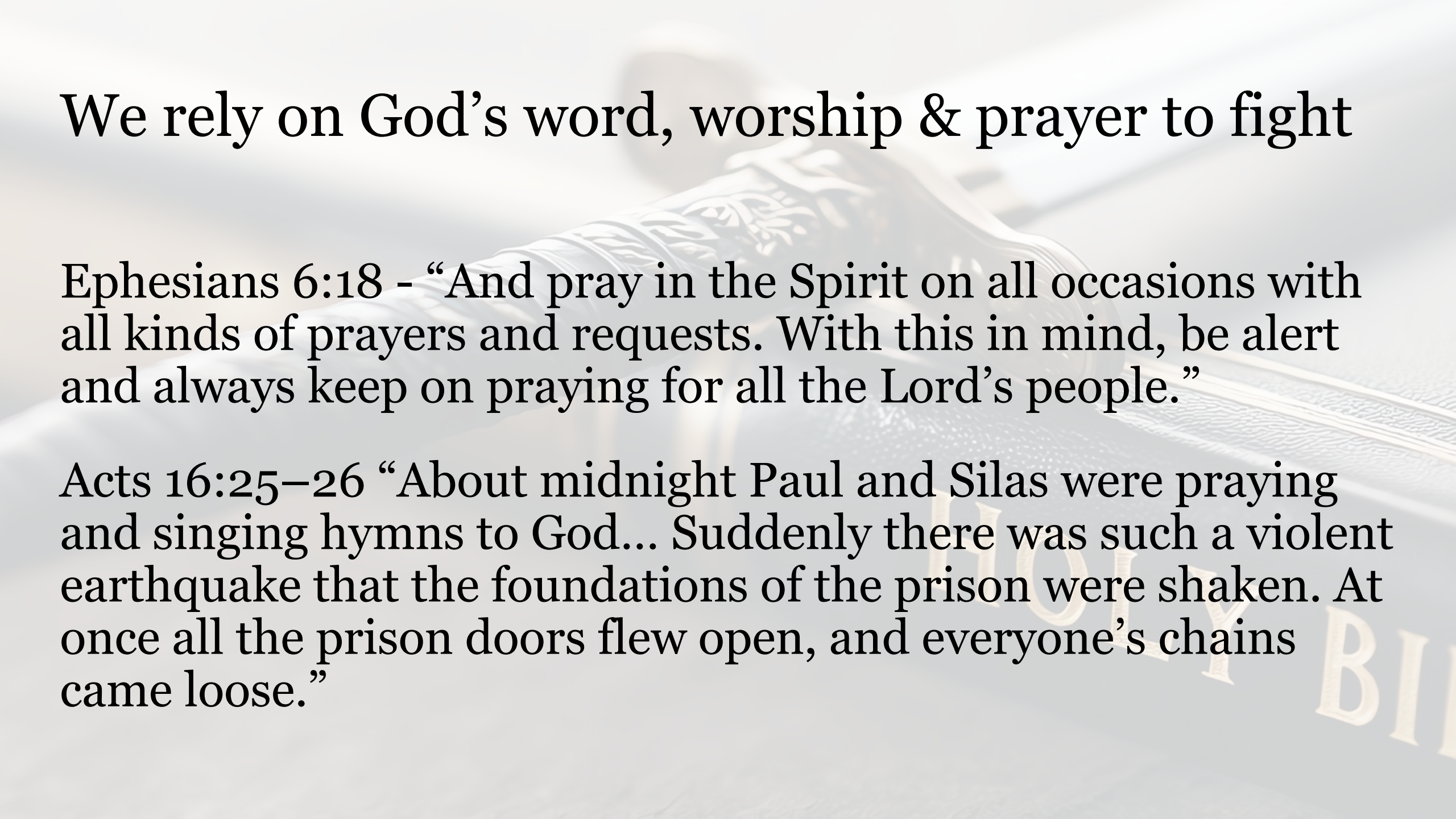
Jesus faced off with the devil in the desert (Matthew 4)

Matthew 4:10 – “Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”



The battle is fought with spiritual weapons, not our
strength

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 – “The weapons we fight with are
not the weapons of the world... they have divine power to
demolish strongholds.”



We rely on God's word, worship & prayer to fight

Ephesians 6:18 - "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

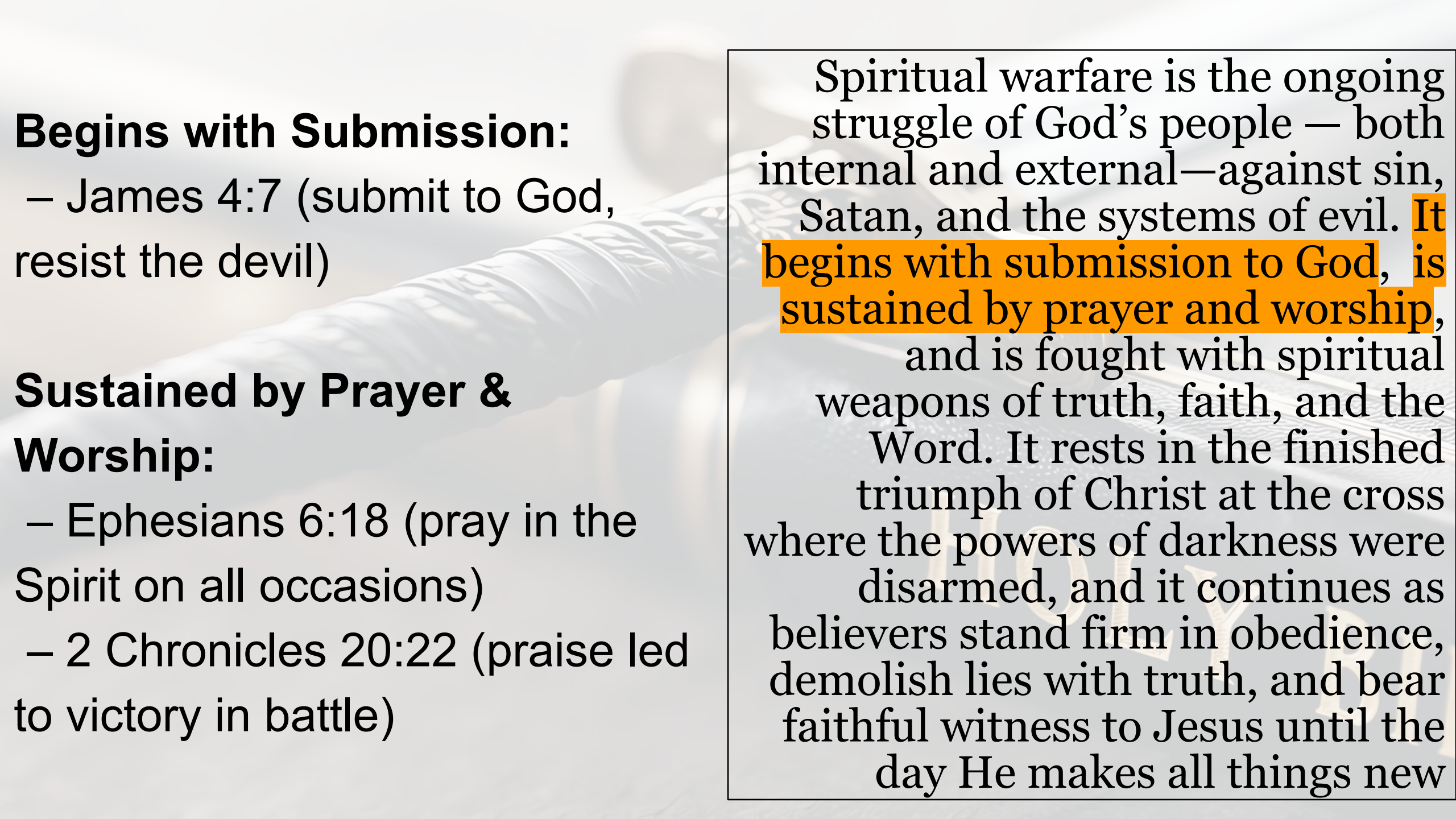
Acts 16:25–26 "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God... Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose."

Spiritual warfare is the ongoing struggle of God's people (1 John 4:1; Romans 8:38-39) —both internal and external—against sin, Satan, and the systems of evil. It begins with **submission to God** (James 4:7), is sustained by **prayer and worship** (Ephesians 6:18; 2 Chronicles 20:22), and is fought with **spiritual weapons of truth, faith, and the Word** (2 Corinthians 10:4–5; Ephesians 6:13–17). It rests in the finished triumph of Christ at the cross (Colossians 2:15), where the powers of darkness were disarmed, and it continues as believers **stand firm in obedience** (1 Peter 5:8–9), **demolish lies with truth** (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 10:5), and **bear faithful witness to Jesus** (Revelation 12:11) until the day He makes all things new (Revelation 21:5).

The Battle is Real (Internal & External):

- 1 John 4:1 (the reality of the battle around us)
- Romans 8:38-39 (many things attempt to separate us from God's love)
- Romans 7:22–23 (inner war with sin)
- Ephesians 6:12 (external forces of evil)

Spiritual warfare is the ongoing struggle of God's people — both internal and external—against sin, Satan, and the systems of evil. It begins with submission to God, is sustained by prayer and worship, and is fought with spiritual weapons of truth, faith, and the Word. It rests in the finished triumph of Christ at the cross where the powers of darkness were disarmed, and it continues as believers stand firm in obedience, demolish lies with truth, and bear faithful witness to Jesus until the day He makes all things new



Begins with Submission:

- James 4:7 (submit to God, resist the devil)

Sustained by Prayer & Worship:

- Ephesians 6:18 (pray in the Spirit on all occasions)
- 2 Chronicles 20:22 (praise led to victory in battle)

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Fought with Spiritual Weapons:

- 2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (divine power to demolish strongholds)
- Ephesians 6:13–17 (armor of God: truth, faith, Word, etc.)

Grounded in Christ's Victory:

- Colossians 2:15 (Christ disarmed powers at the cross)

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Lived Out by Obedience & Endurance:

- 1 Peter 5:8–9 (resist him, standing firm in the faith)

Demolishing Lies with Truth:

- John 8:44 (Satan is the father of lies)
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 (take every thought captive)

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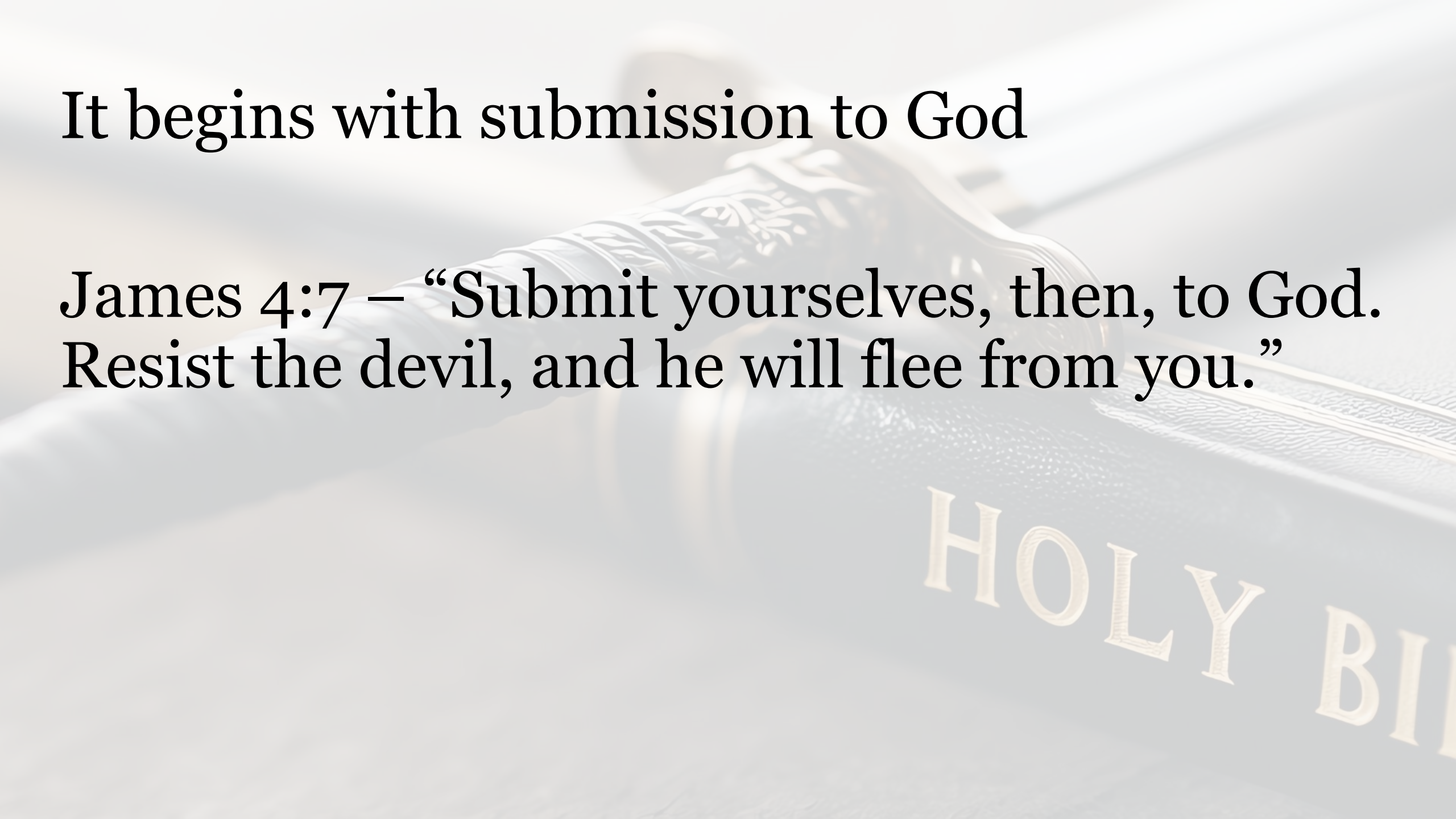
Testimony & Witness:

– Revelation 12:11 (overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony)

Our Hope in Christ's Renewal:

– Revelation 21:5 (Christ makes all things new)

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It begins with submission to God

James 4:7 – “Submit yourselves, then, to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”



Faith that Works – James 1:22; 2:14–26

Trials as Tests – James 1:2–5

Control of the Tongue – James 3:1–12

Warning Against Worldliness – James 4:1–10

Call to Patient Endurance – James 5:7–20

James 4:7 – “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Submit to God

Greek: Submit = ὑποτάγητε (hupotagēte) - military context: lining up in formation under a commanding officer's authority

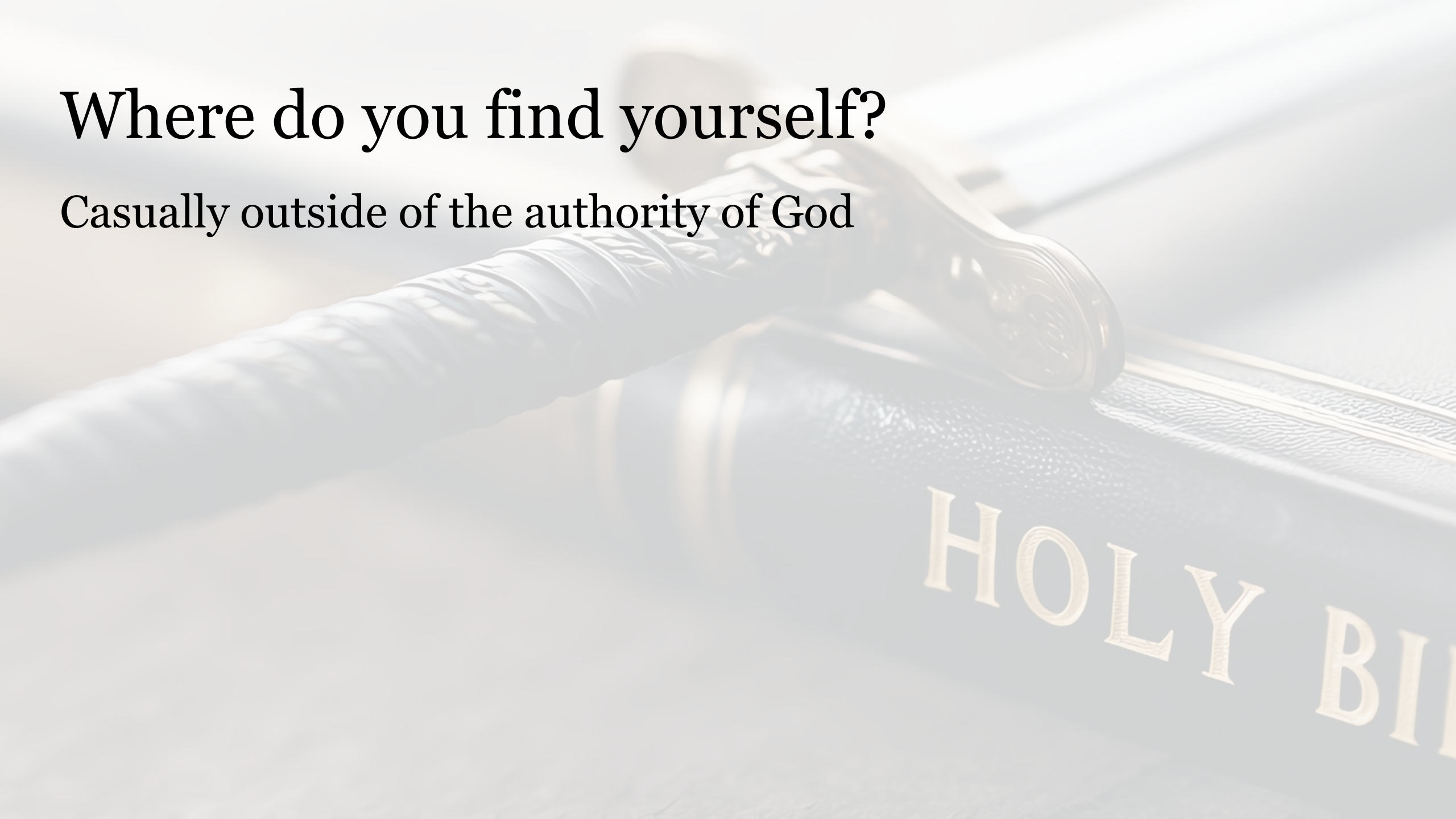
Resist the devil

Greek: Resist = ἀντίστητε (antistēte) -standing one's ground against an opponent

He will flee from you

Where do you find yourself?

Casually outside of the authority of God



Where do you find yourself?

Casually outside of the authority of God

James 4:6-7

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

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Where do you find yourself?

Casually outside of the authority of God

Unaware of the battle around us

Proverbs 7:7-

I saw among the simple,

I noticed among the young men,
a youth who had no sense.

8 He was going down the street near her corner,
walking along in the direction of her house

9 at twilight, as the day was fading,
as the dark of night set in

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Where do you find yourself?

Casually outside of the authority of God

Unaware of the battle around us

Seeing the attack in everything

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith



Our response to God

What are we going to do about it?

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