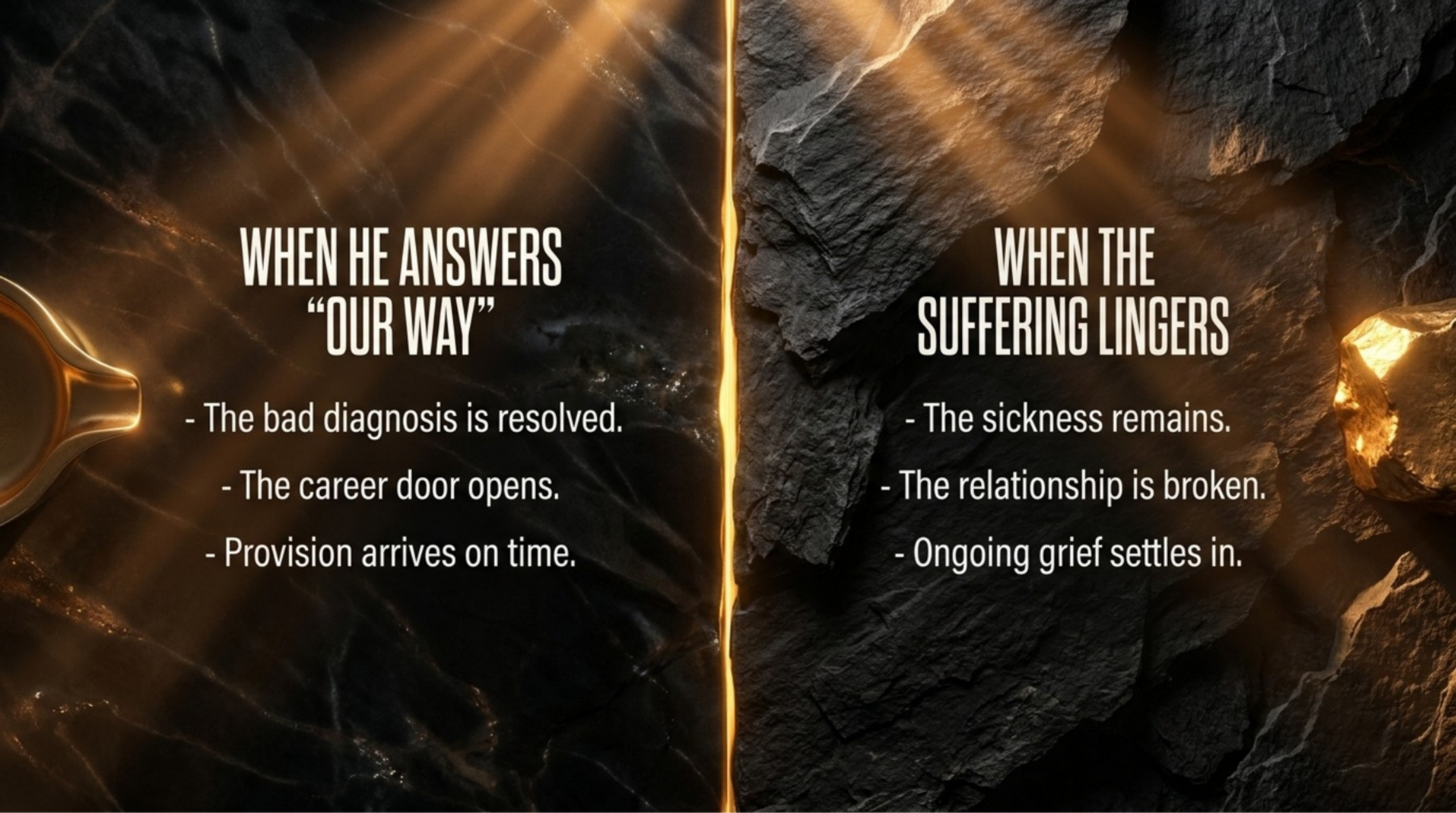




WHEN SUFFERING LINGERS

1 Peter 1 & 4



WHEN HE ANSWERS “OUR WAY”

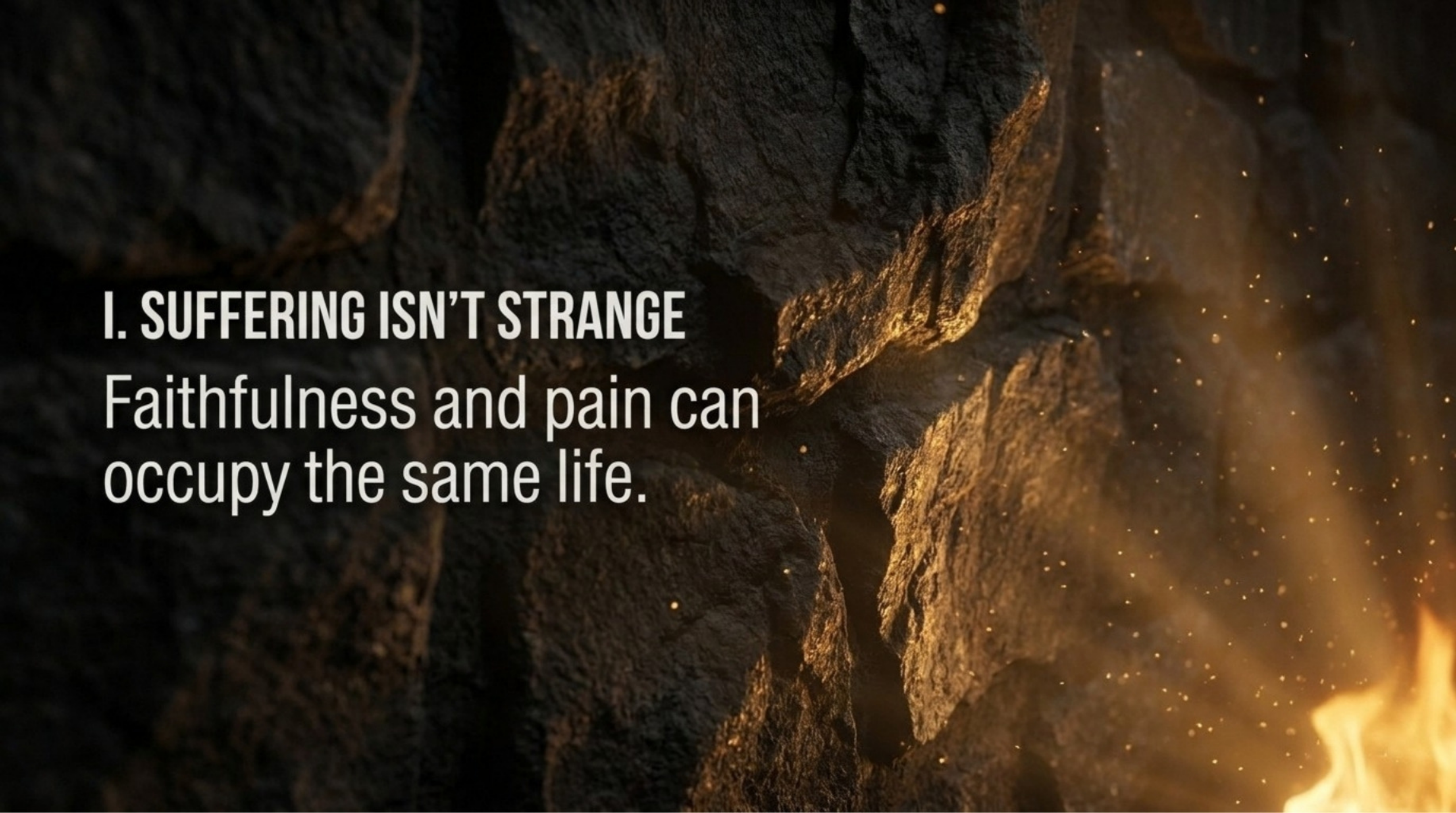
- The bad diagnosis is resolved.
- The career door opens.
- Provision arrives on time.

WHEN THE SUFFERING LINGERS

- The sickness remains.
- The relationship is broken.
- Ongoing grief settles in.

How do I remain faithful to Jesus
while I am still in the middle of suffering?



The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a rock or a piece of wood, with a fire-like glow on the right side. The glow is a mix of orange and yellow, with many small, bright sparks or embers floating in the air. The overall mood is somber and intense.

I. SUFFERING ISN'T STRANGE

Faithfulness and pain can
occupy the same life.

Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:12 (CSB)

...you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith (more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire) may result in praise, glory, and honor at revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (CSB)

GRIEF

Speaks about what is happening right now.

Acknowledges the reality of the brokenness.

HOPE

Gives reassurance about what God has done.

Anchors to where He is taking His people.

Followers of Jesus can experience terrible loss while simultaneously rejoicing in what God has promised.

Romans 8:18–20 (CSB)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of him who subjected it—in the hope...

Romans 8:21–23 (CSB)

...that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:24–27 (CSB)

Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen isn't hope, because who hopes for what he sees? Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience. In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Suffering tries to interpret the whole story from the pain of the present.

Don't let present circumstances have the final say. The resurrection does.

II. ENDURANCE MEANS CONTINUING

Faithful allegiance
under pressure.



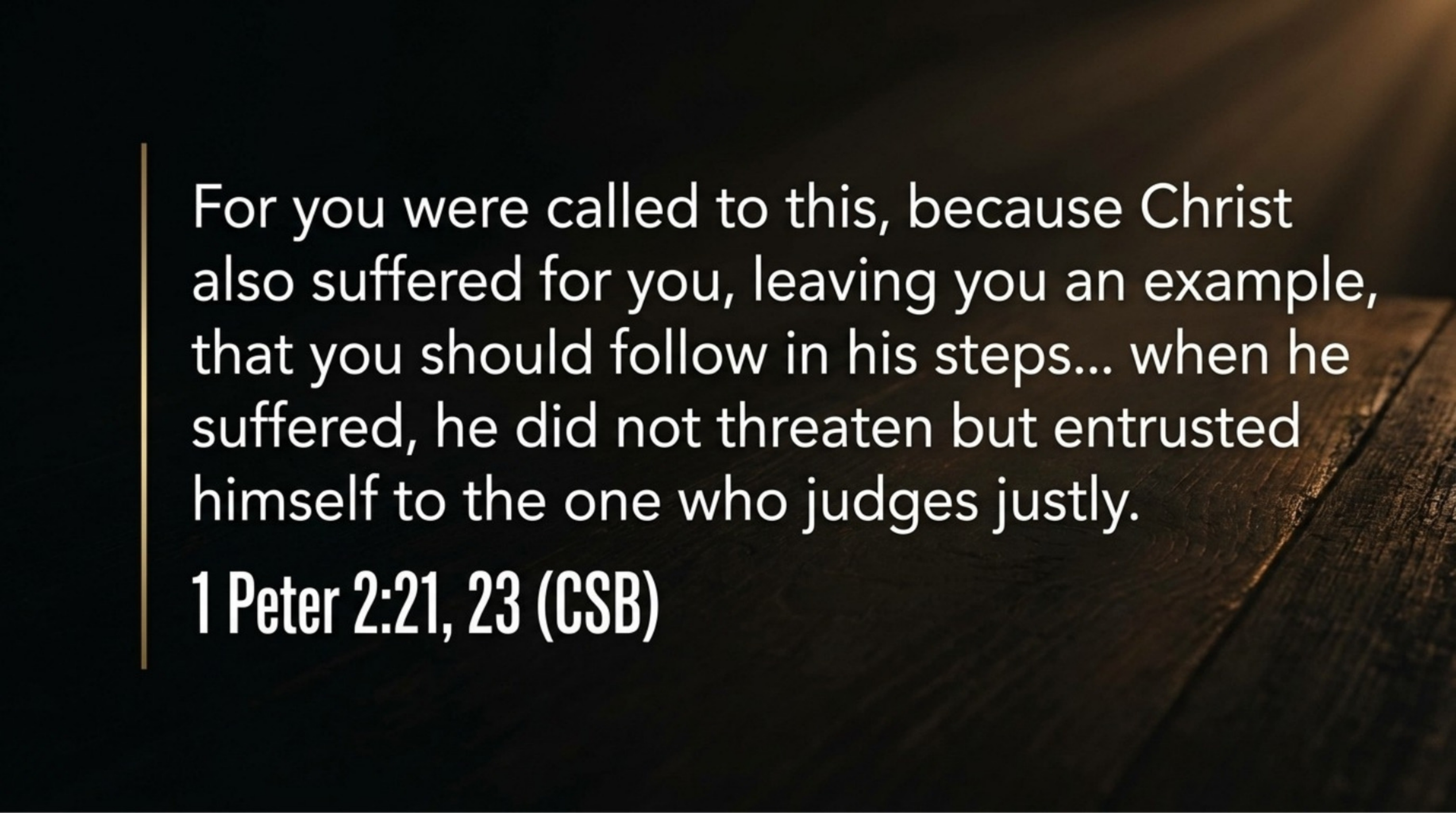
Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed. If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God in having that name.

1 Peter 4:13-16 (CSB)

When allegiance becomes costly.

- Would compromise make life easier?
- Would silence reduce the pressure?
- Would retaliation feel more satisfying than obedience?

Faithful endurance answers: “No, because I still belong to Jesus even though this is hard.”



For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps... when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:21, 23 (CSB)



Endurance isn't human grit. It is continuing to abide in the One who gave Himself for us and rose from the dead.



III. FAITH ISN'T MEASURED BY DELIVERANCE

The refining fire
of salvation.

For the time has come for judgment to begin with God's household, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God? And if a righteous person is saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?

1 Peter 4:17-18 (CSB)

Not a “Free Pass”

Judgment begins with God’s household. He is actively refining us into “Gold” ambassadors.

“Saved with Difficulty”

This doesn’t mean barely making it. It acknowledges the hard road traveled through fires of trial.



To Refine, Not Destroy

The fire relieves us of the dross of sin and disobedience.

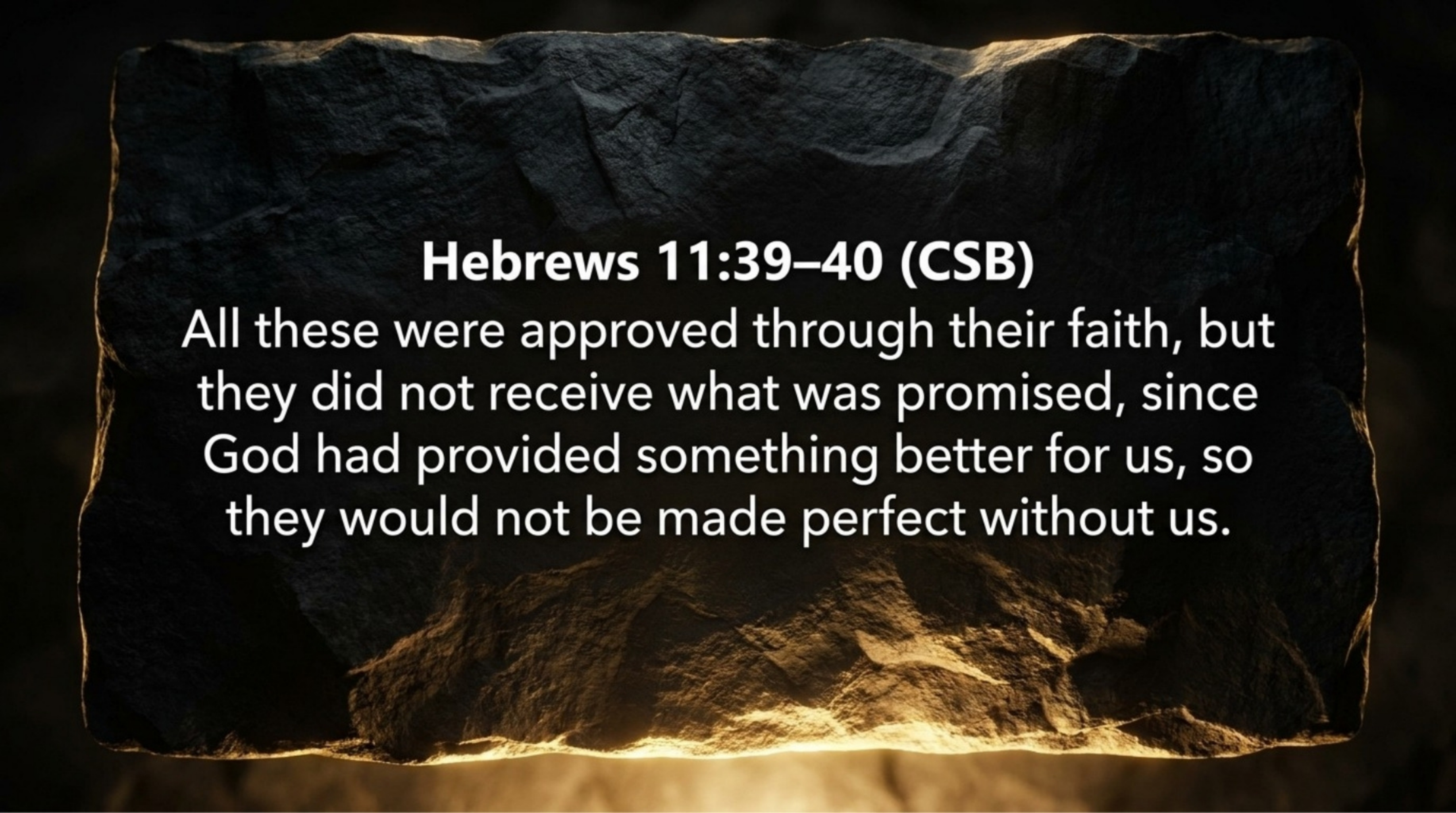
God’s redeemed people undergo severe testing yet emerge saved.

Hebrews 11:32–35a (CSB)

And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength in weakness, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead, raised to life again.

Hebrews 11:35b–38 (CSB)

Other people were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.



Hebrews 11:39–40 (CSB)

All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, so they would not be made perfect without us.

Two Outcomes, One Verdict (Hebrews 11)

EARTHLY DELIVERANCE

Conquered kingdoms,
shut the mouths of lions,
escaped the edge of
the sword.

EARTHLY MARTYRDOM

Experienced mockings,
imprisonment, tortured,
destitute, afflicted.

All these were approved through their faith. The difference was the earthly outcome, not the authenticity of their faith.

Three Sovereign Paths to Deliverance

FROM
Suffering

The door opens, the body heals, the danger passes, and the prayer is answered exactly as hoped.

THROUGH
Suffering

The condition remains, but God's sustaining grace remains too (e.g., Paul's thorn).

BEYOND
Suffering

Promises remain unresolved in this life. Death cannot interrupt God's ability to keep His promise in eternity.

Reject the False Equation

Delivered
Now = Strong
Faith

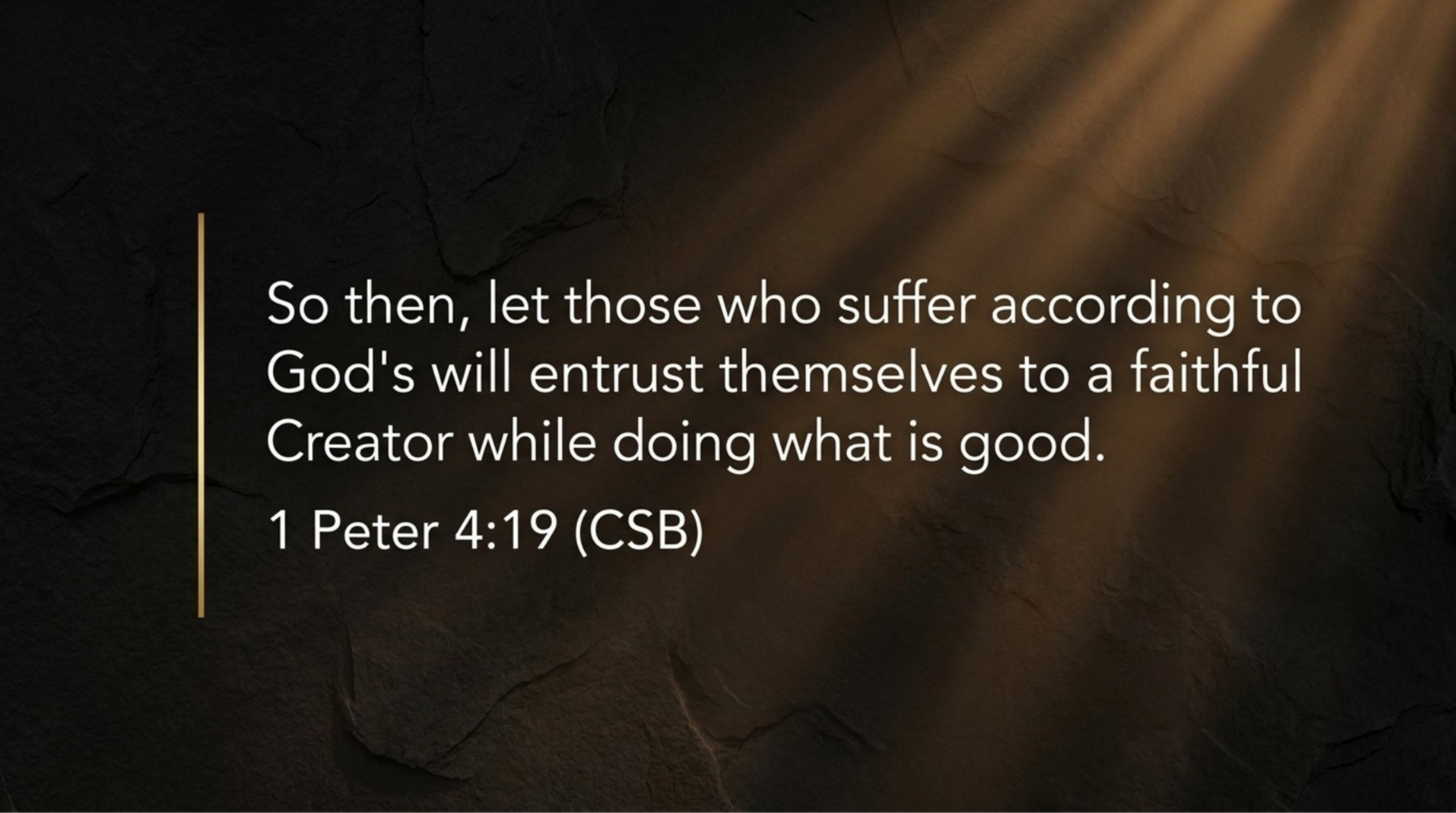


Still
Suffering = Weak
Faith

IV. ENTRUST YOURSELF & KEEP DOING GOOD

The dual action of endurance.





So then, let those who suffer according to
God's will entrust themselves to a faithful
Creator while doing what is good.

1 Peter 4:19 (CSB)

Entrust the Outcome

We don't have to explain every detail, control the outcome, or retaliate. We place ourselves in the loving care of the One who judges rightly.

Continue Doing Good

Endurance is trusting God with what we cannot control while remaining obedient in what He has placed before us.

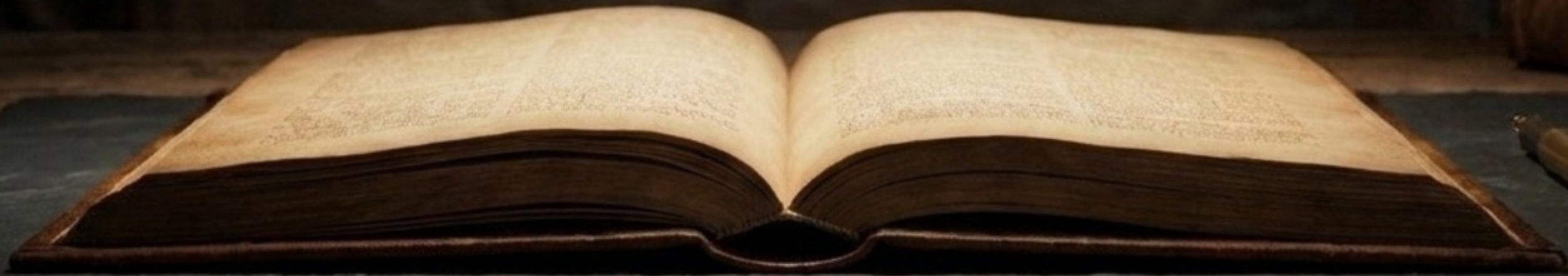
Knowing God holds the final outcome grants us true freedom.

**Christian endurance is trusting God
with what we cannot control while
remaining obedient in what He has
placed before us.**



What does faithfulness to Jesus look like for me today?

It means doing the next right thing. One day at a time.
Grieving honestly, accepting help, and continuing to worship
with gratitude even when questions remain.



Become a
prayer warrior.

Accept help instead
of retreating into
isolation.

Grieve honestly,
but as one who
has hope.

Tell the truth
without
retaliating.

Continue
treatment or
counsel.

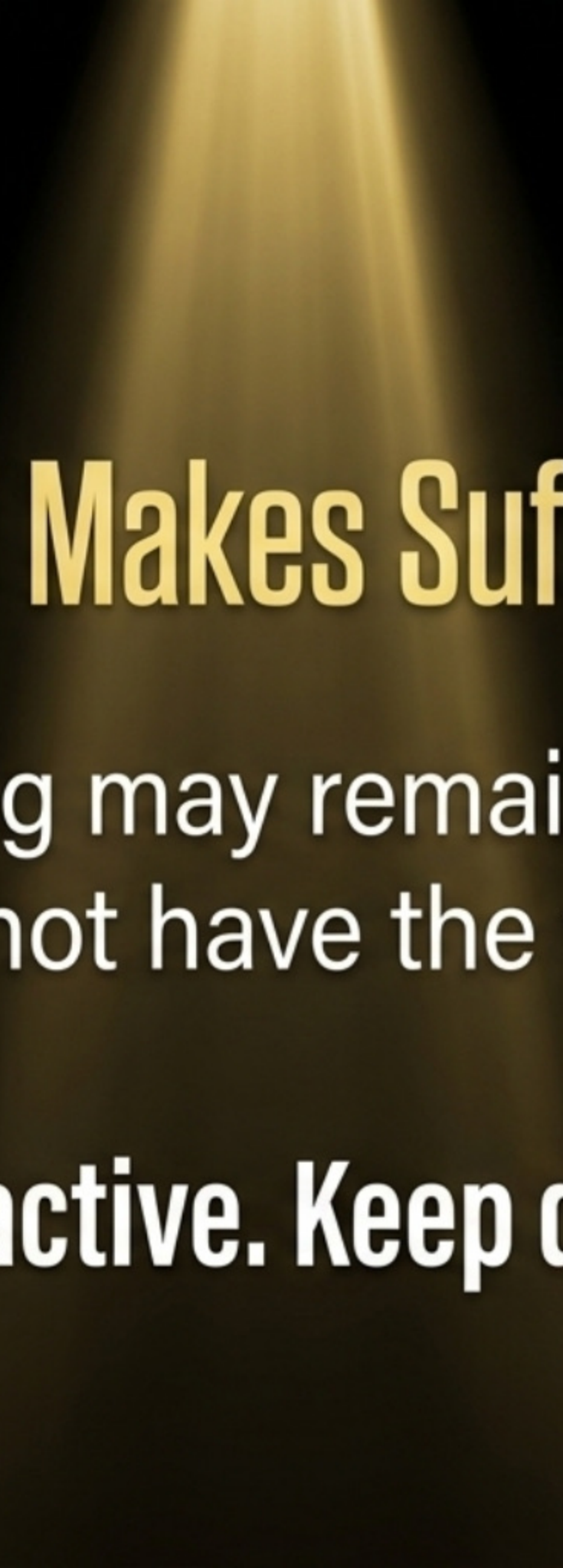
Worship with
gratitude even
when questions
remain.

Keep Both Prayers Together

Ask boldly for the Lord to remove your suffering.



Pray: "Lord, keep me faithful to You while I am in the thick of the mess."



The Resurrection Makes Suffering Temporary

The suffering may remain for a time,
but it will not have the final word.

Stay faithful. Stay active. Keep doing what is good.

THE FINAL CHAPTER

Suffering is real, but it is never ultimate. It will not have the final word. We aren't enduring for human vindication. We endure toward the promise of our own resurrection, and ultimately, the restoration of all things.

Jesus is risen. Keep doing that which is good.

