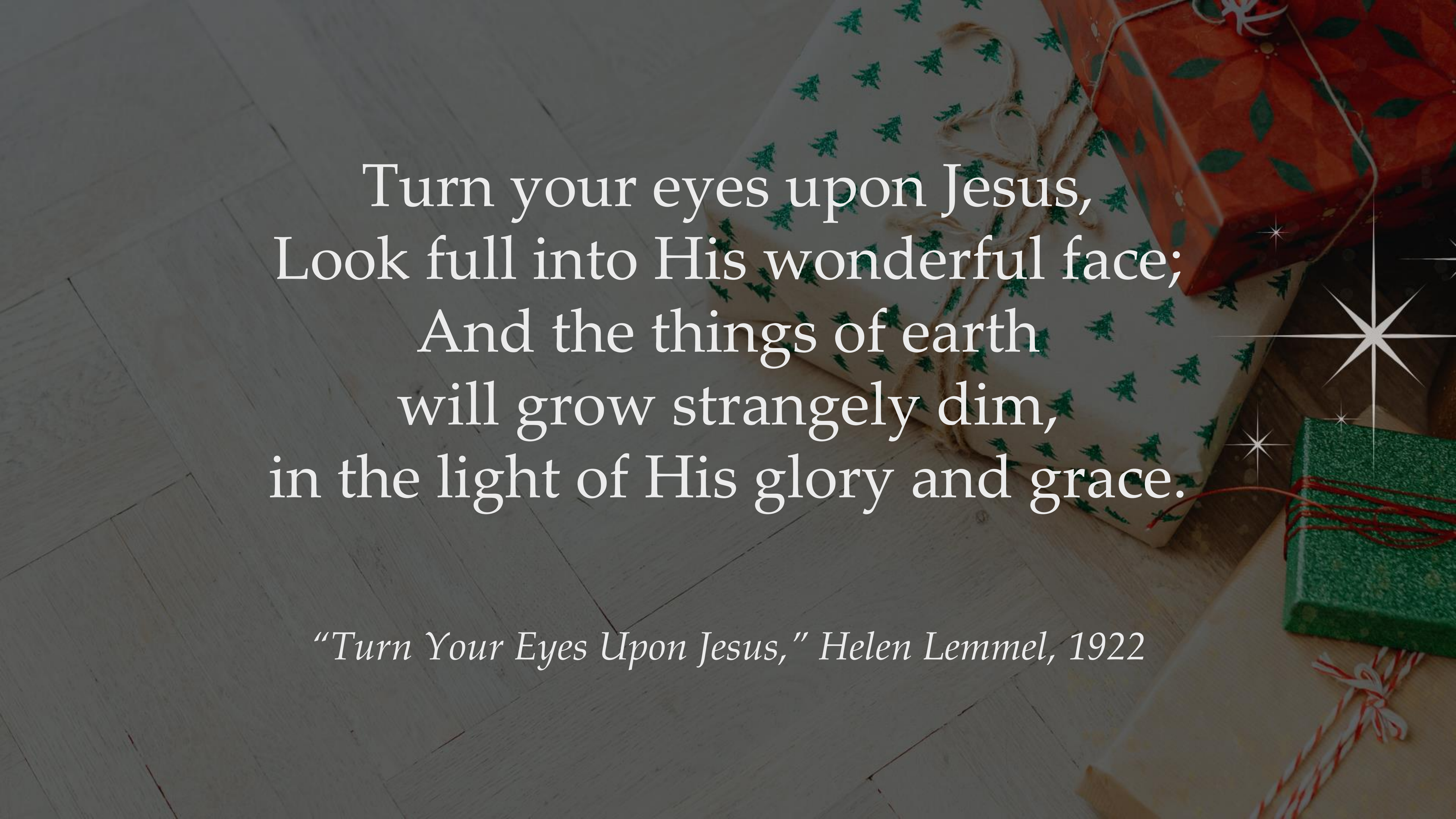


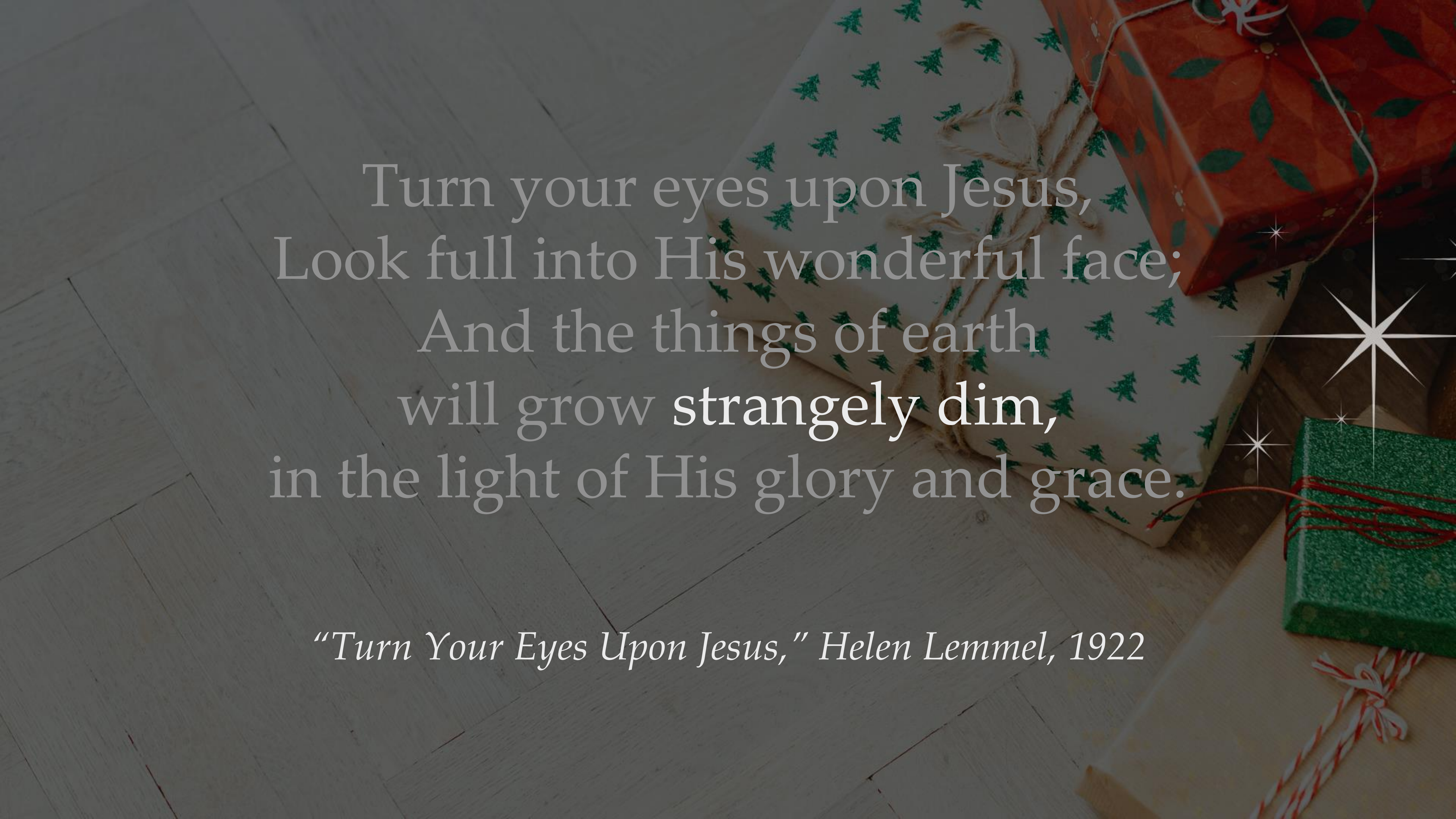


CRAVING
contentment

The background of the image shows several Christmas gifts wrapped in various papers (red with green leaves, white with green trees, and green with red stripes) on a light-colored wooden floor. A dark, semi-transparent overlay covers the entire image, and several white starburst graphics are scattered on the right side.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full into His wonderful face;
And the things of earth
will grow strangely dim,
in the light of His glory and grace.

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” Helen Lemmel, 1922



Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full into His wonderful face;
And the things of earth
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Christmas Wish List

1. Bike
 2. New smart phone
 3. Crayons
 4. Ball
 5. House on the beach
 6. Personal trainer
 7. New shoes
 8. Dog
 9. Book about Dinosaurs
 10. Red Dress
 11. Sweets
 12. New Toys
 13. Gift Cards
- 



CRAVING
contentment

I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

You shall not covet your neighbor's house;
you shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
or his male servant, or his female servant,
or his ox, or his donkey,
or anything that is your neighbor's.
(Exodus 20:17)

I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

A. What is *coveting*?

“the overwhelming desire to possess
what you don't, can't, or shouldn't have”



“Never in the history of civilization have people been as pushed to possess as we are. Marketing research is a billion dollar a year business. Thousands of people across this country spend forty fours a week designing ways to trigger our buying mechanisms. They use music, slogans, sights, sounds, and colors to inflame our passion to possess...



...Often they attempt to stimulate fear, nostalgia, pride, sexual arousal, jealousy, or some other intense emotion. Their ultimate goal, though is to impair our self-control just long enough for us to decide that we simply must have their product. In short, they are trying to make us covet.”

Bill Hybels, Laws that Liberate

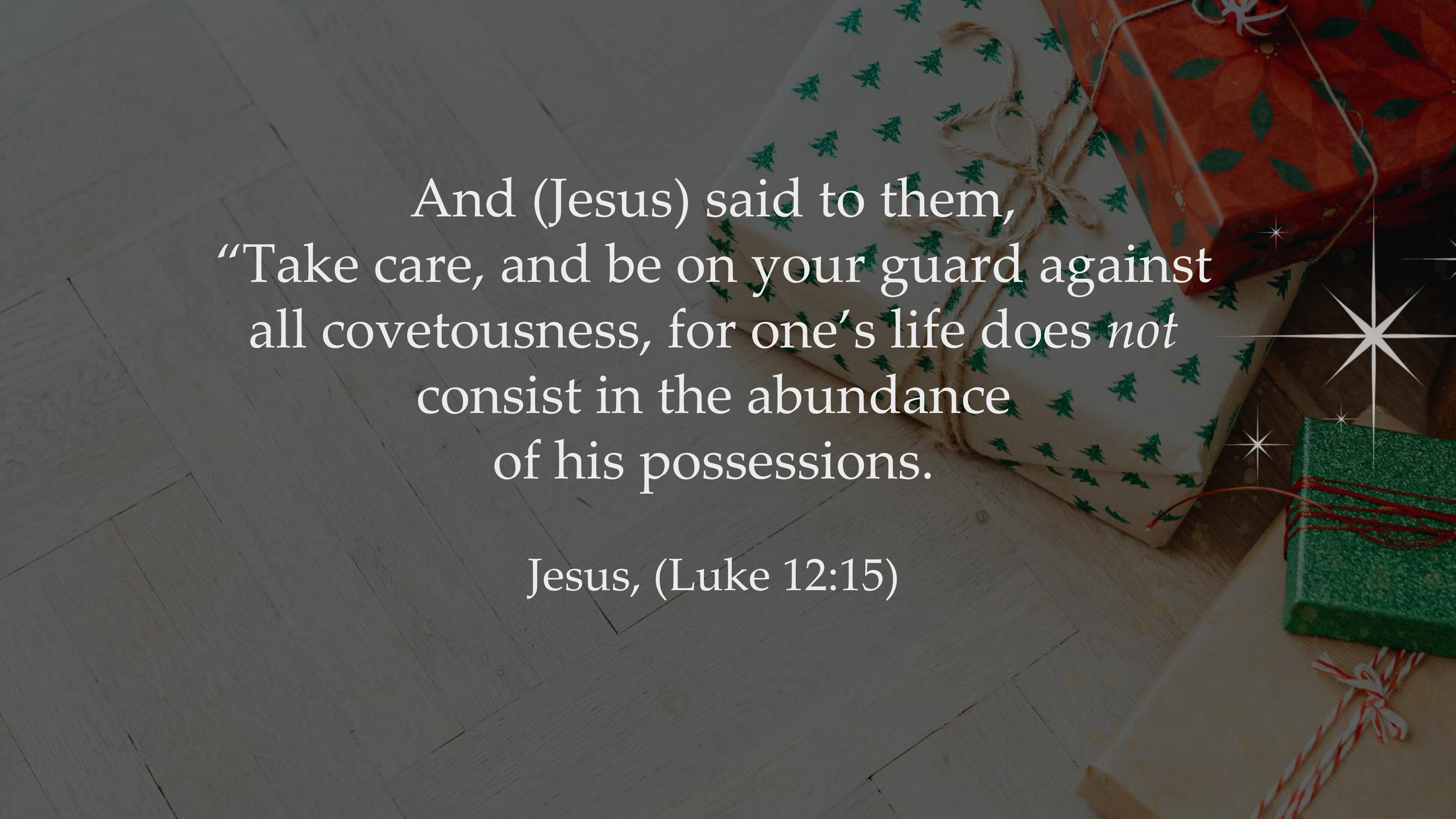


I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

A. What is *coveting*?

“the overwhelming desire to possess
what you don't, can't, or shouldn't have”





And (Jesus) said to them,
“Take care, and be on your guard against
all covetousness, for one’s life does *not*
consist in the abundance
of his possessions.

Jesus, (Luke 12:15)

I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

A. What is *coveting*?

“the overwhelming desire to possess
what you don't, can't, or shouldn't have”



I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

B. What's wrong with what I want?

1. It may be the wrong time: “Not now.”
2. It may be the wrong item: “Not this.”
3. It may be a forbidden item: “Not ever!”

“This is God’s universe, and
God does things His way.

You may have a better way,
but you don’t have a universe.



J. Vernon McGee,
Thru the Bible Radio

I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

B. What's wrong with what I want?

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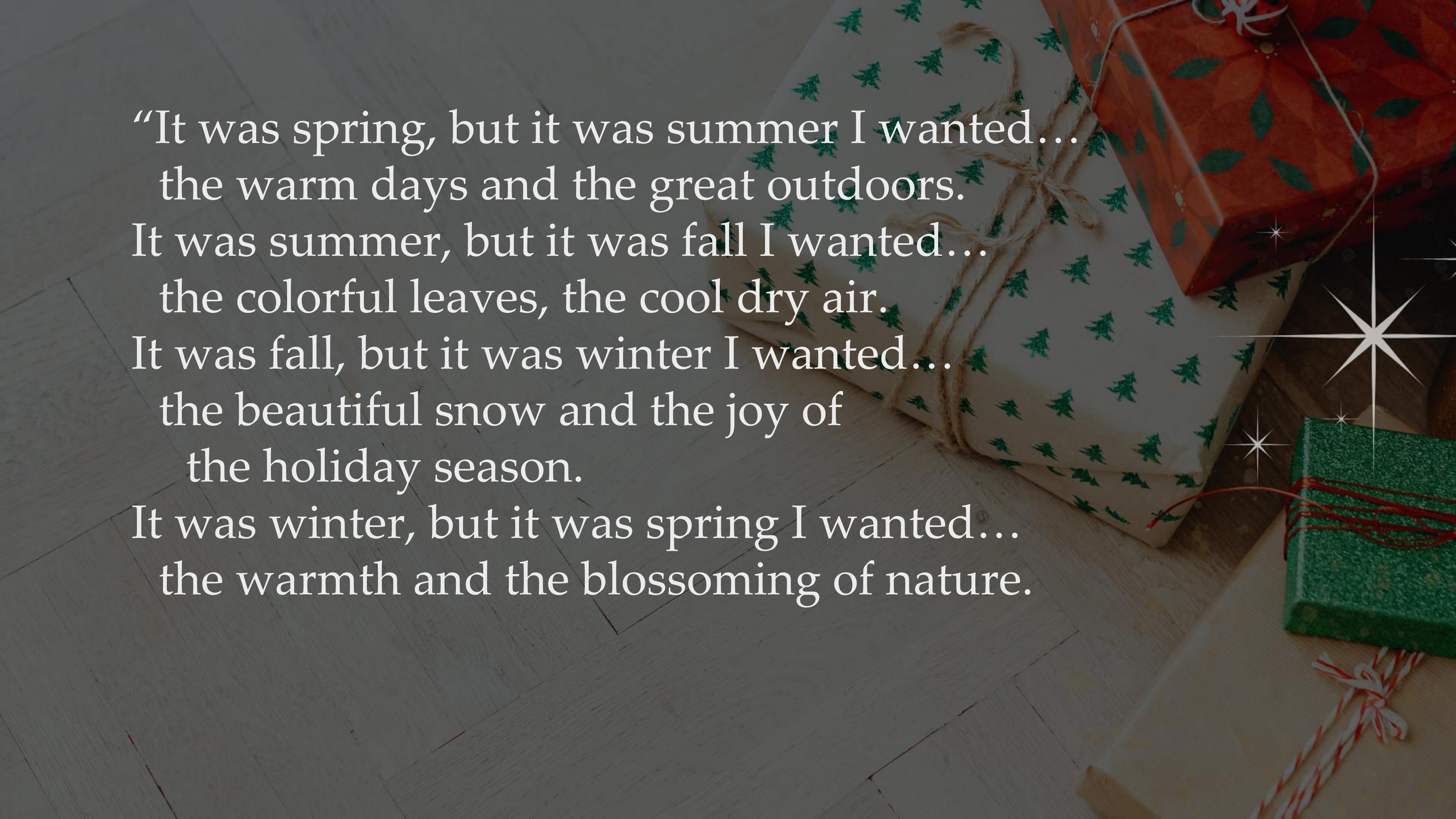
I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

C. Why is coveting so bad?

1. It sours our taste

He who loves money will not be satisfied
with money, nor he who loves wealth
with his income. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

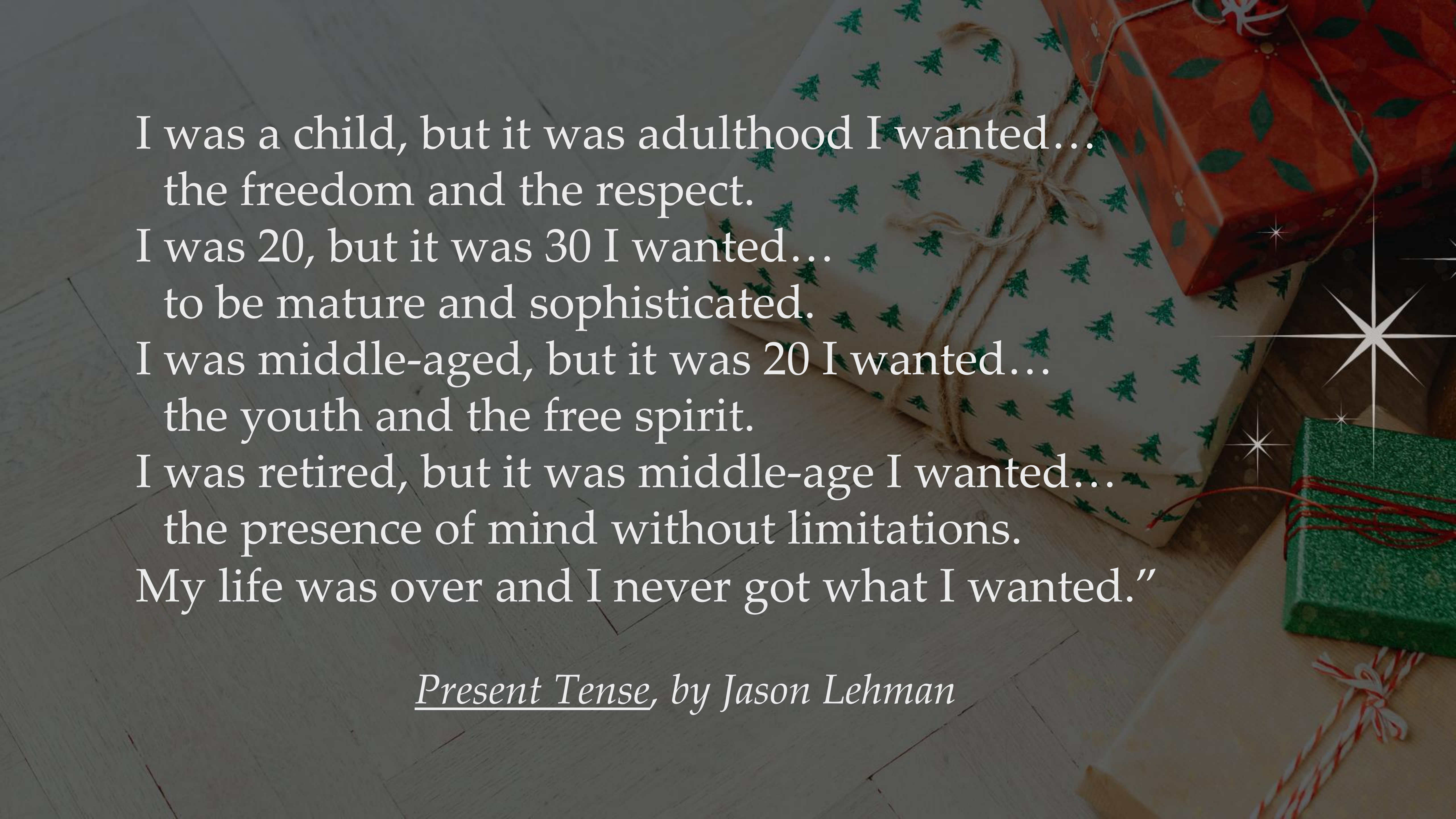


“It was spring, but it was summer I wanted...
the warm days and the great outdoors.

It was summer, but it was fall I wanted...
the colorful leaves, the cool dry air.

It was fall, but it was winter I wanted...
the beautiful snow and the joy of
the holiday season.

It was winter, but it was spring I wanted...
the warmth and the blossoming of nature.

The background of the image shows several wrapped Christmas gifts on a light-colored wooden floor. One gift is wrapped in red paper with a green leaf pattern, another in white paper with a green tree pattern, and a third in green paper with a red ribbon. There are also some white starburst decorations on the right side.

I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted...
the freedom and the respect.
I was 20, but it was 30 I wanted...
to be mature and sophisticated.
I was middle-aged, but it was 20 I wanted...
the youth and the free spirit.
I was retired, but it was middle-age I wanted...
the presence of mind without limitations.
My life was over and I never got what I wanted.”

Present Tense, by Jason Lehman

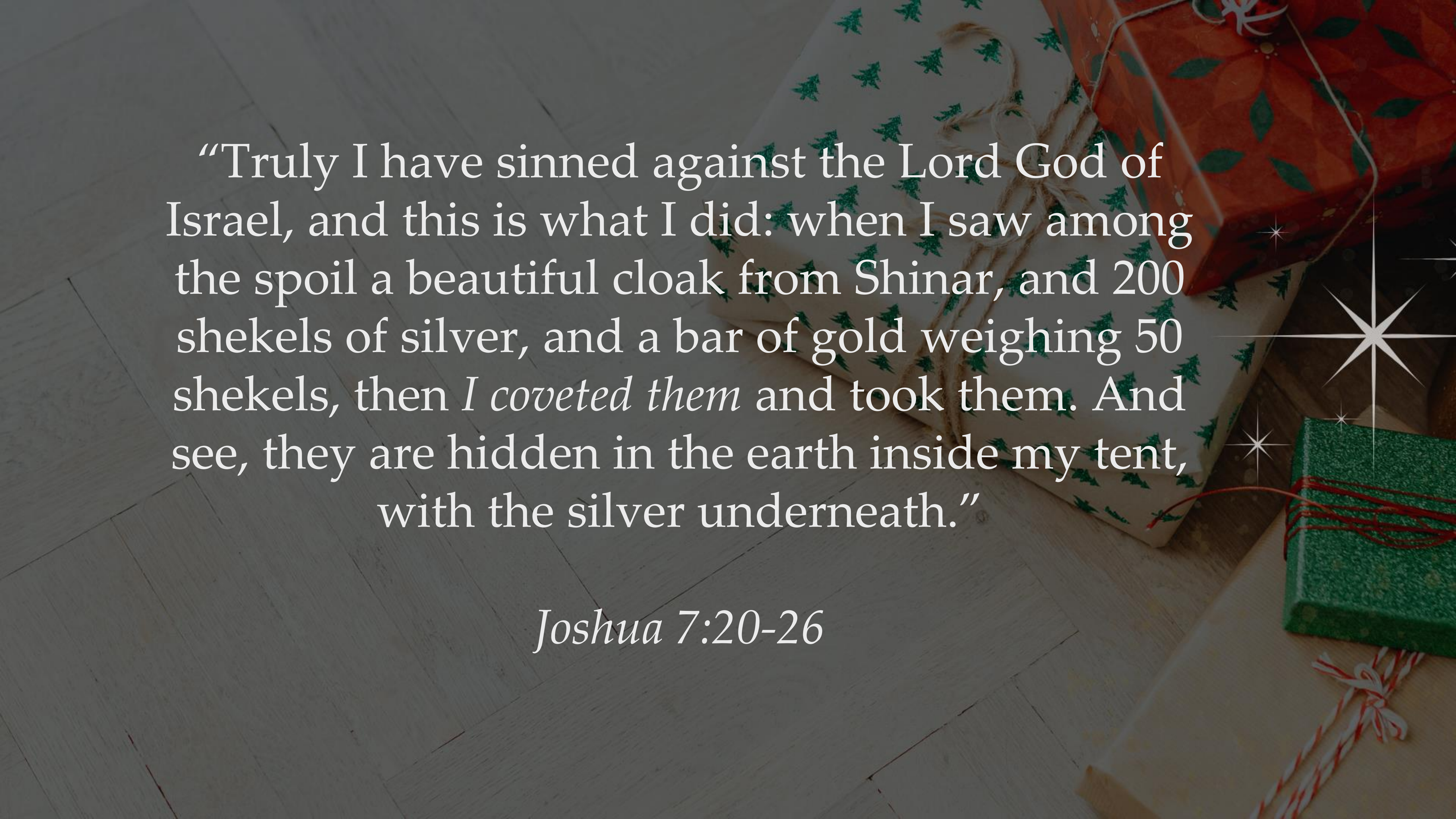
I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

C. Why is coveting so bad?

1. It sours our taste

2. It affects our judgment



The background of the image shows a wooden floor with several wrapped Christmas gifts. One gift is wrapped in red paper with a green floral pattern, another in brown paper with a green pine tree pattern, and a third in green paper with a red ribbon. There are also some white starburst decorations on the right side.

“Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then *I coveted them* and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

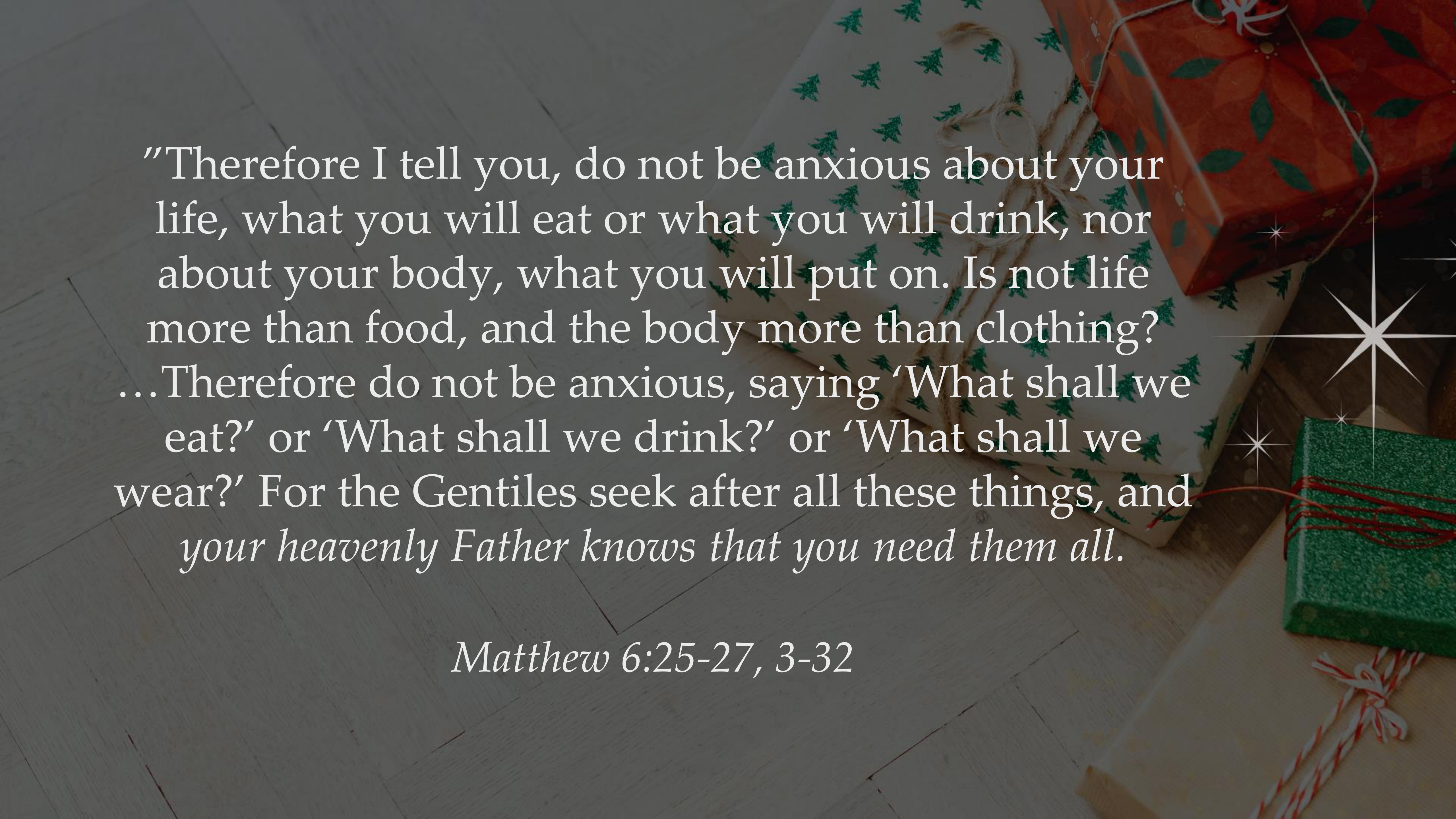
Joshua 7:20-26

I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

C. Why is coveting so bad?

1. It sours our taste
2. It affects our judgment
3. It questions God's care



The background of the image features several Christmas gifts wrapped in various papers (red with green leaves, brown with green trees, and green with red stripes) on a light-colored wooden floor. A large, bright white star with multiple points is positioned on the right side of the image. The text is overlaid on the left and center of the image in a white serif font.

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ...Therefore do not be anxious, saying ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and *your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.*

Matthew 6:25-27, 3-32

I. THE SIN: *COVETING*

C. Why is coveting so bad?

1. It sours our taste
2. It affects our judgment
3. It questions God's care





“Give a man everything he wants,
and at that moment,
everything will not be everything.”

Immanuel Kant

II. THE ALTERNATIVE: *CONTENTMENT*

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:11-13

II. THE ALTERNATIVE: *CONTENTMENT*

A. What is *contentment*?

“being able to truthfully say, it is enough”

B. Implications:

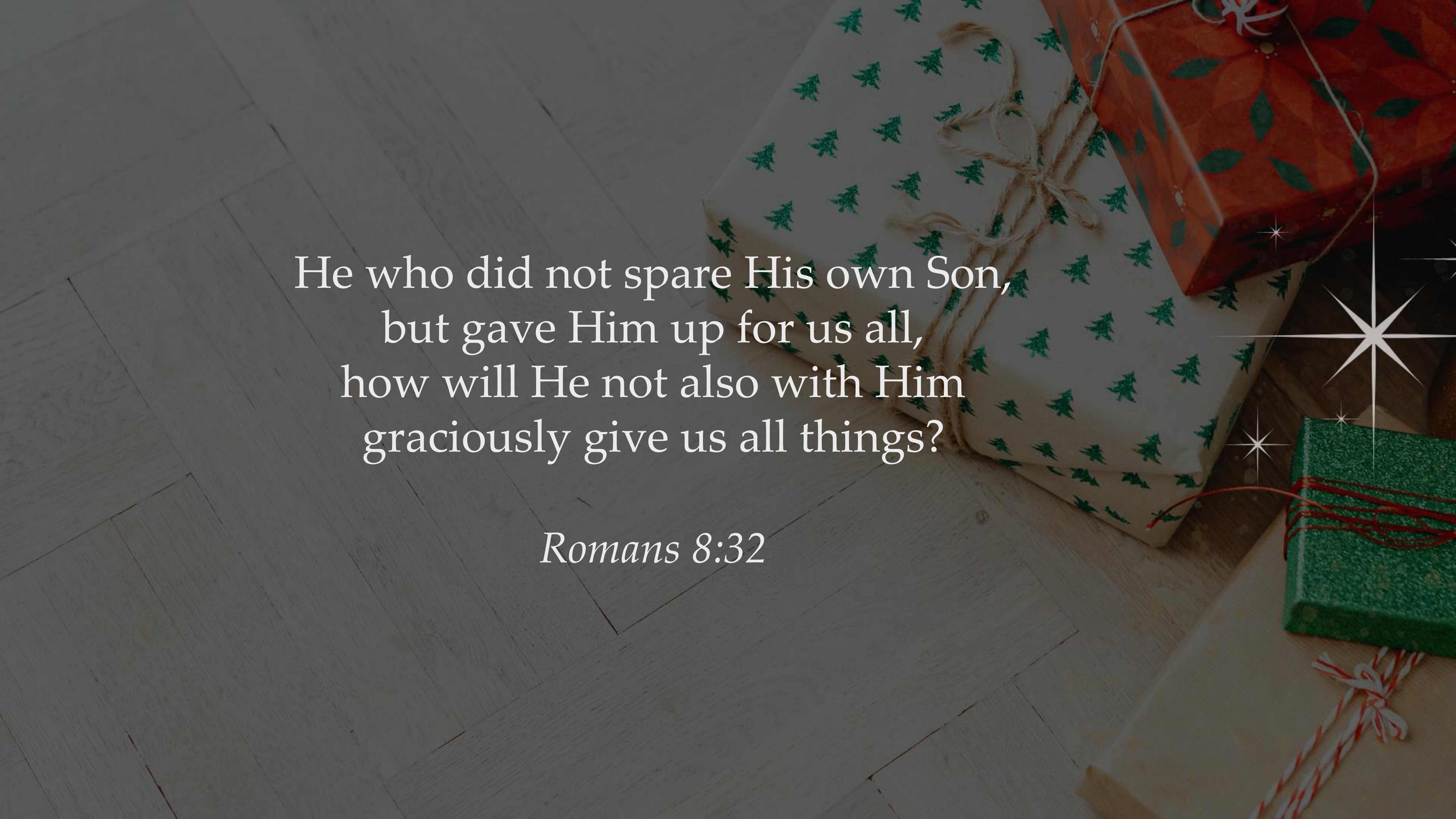
1. It is a lesson you learn
2. It is a discipline you practice

II. THE ALTERNATIVE: *CONTENTMENT*

C. How do I learn it?

1. Believe that God cares for you



The background of the image shows several Christmas gifts wrapped in various papers (red with green leaves, white with green trees, and green with red stripes) tied with twine and ribbons, resting on a light-colored wooden floor. A dark, semi-transparent overlay covers the entire image, and several white starburst graphics are scattered on the right side.

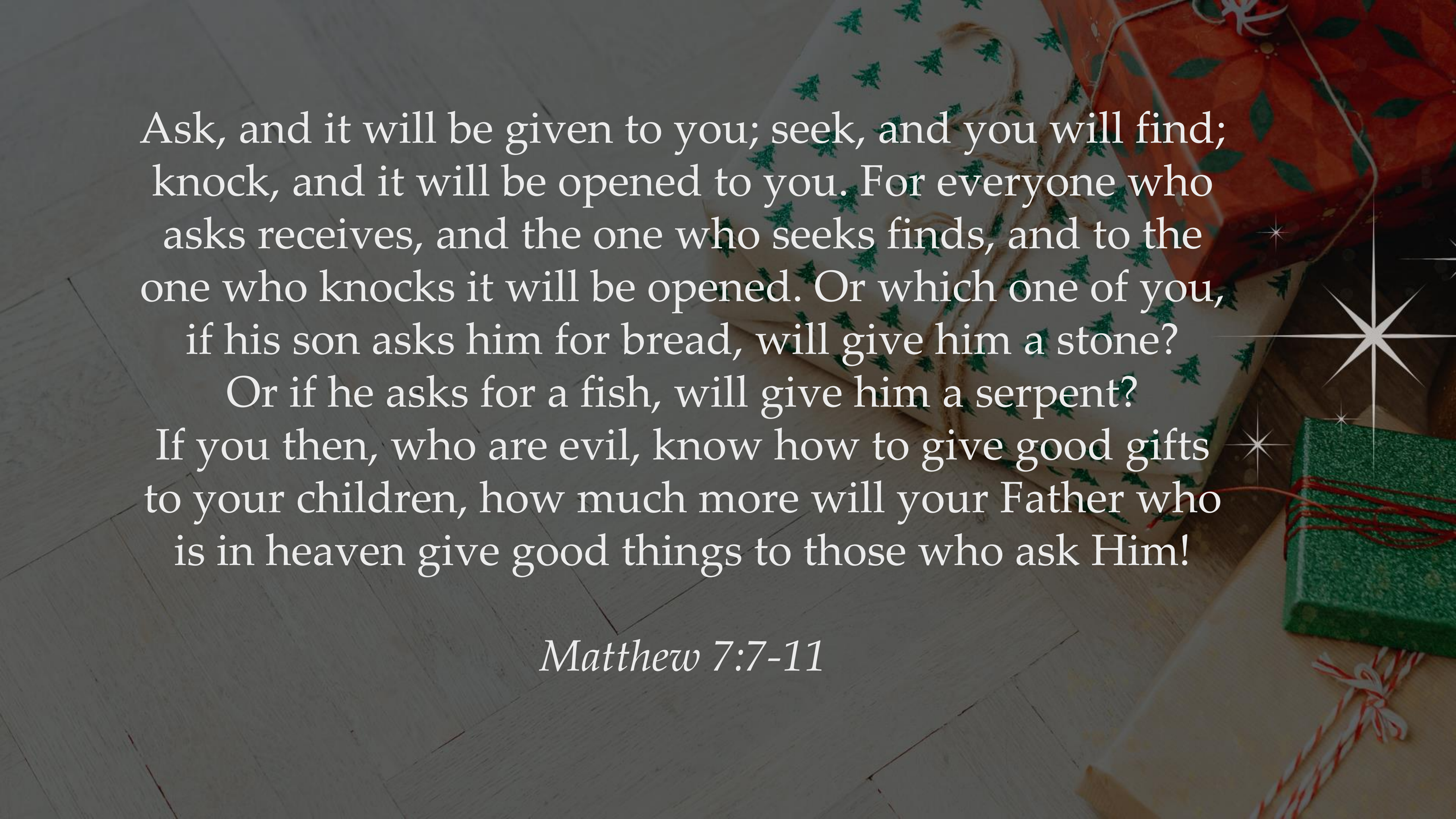
He who did not spare His own Son,
but gave Him up for us all,
how will He not also with Him
graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:32

II. THE ALTERNATIVE: *CONTENTMENT*

C. How do I learn it?

1. Believe that God cares for you
2. Give Him a chance to provide for you



Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

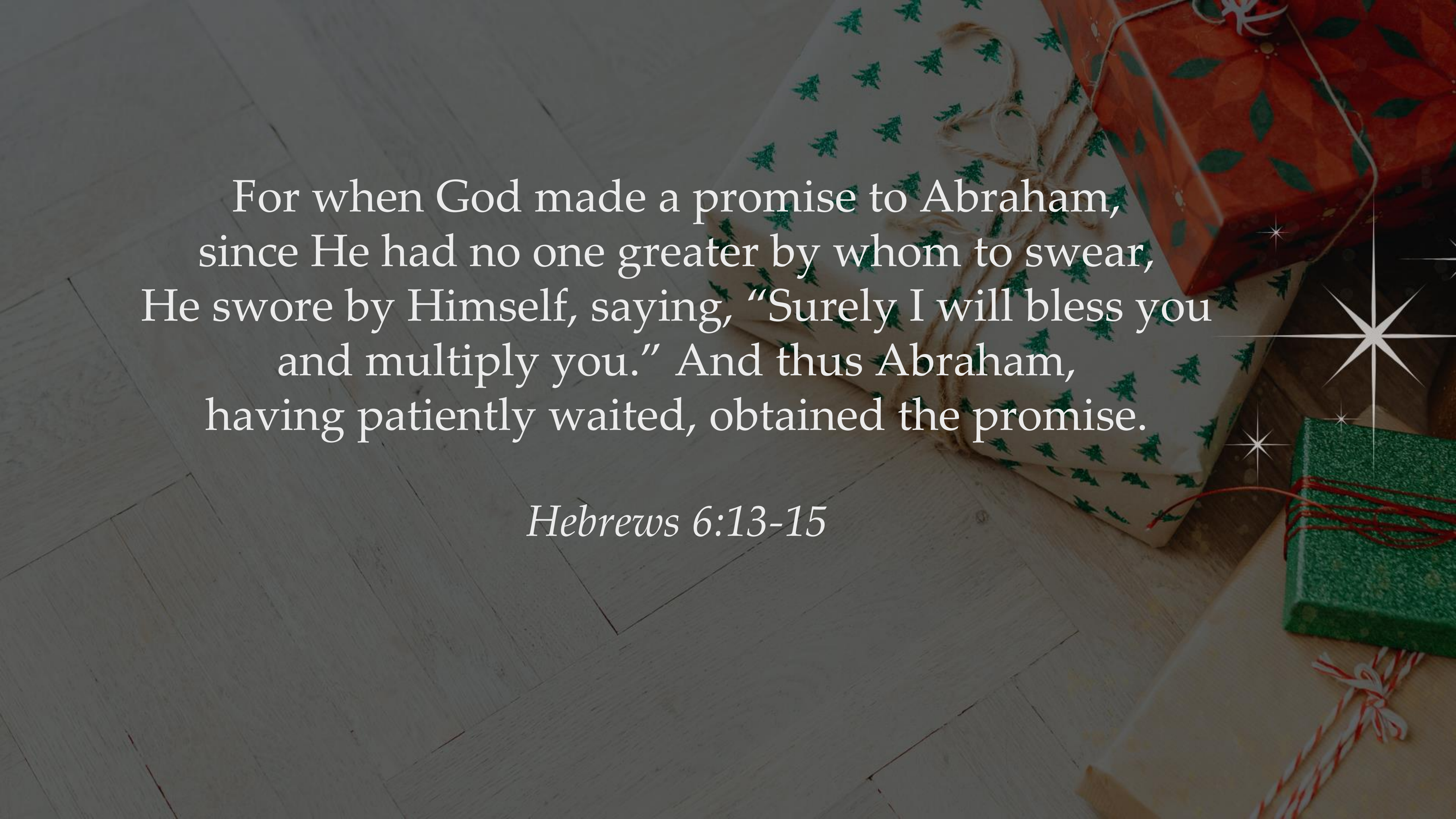
Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?
If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Matthew 7:7-11

II. THE ALTERNATIVE: *CONTENTMENT*

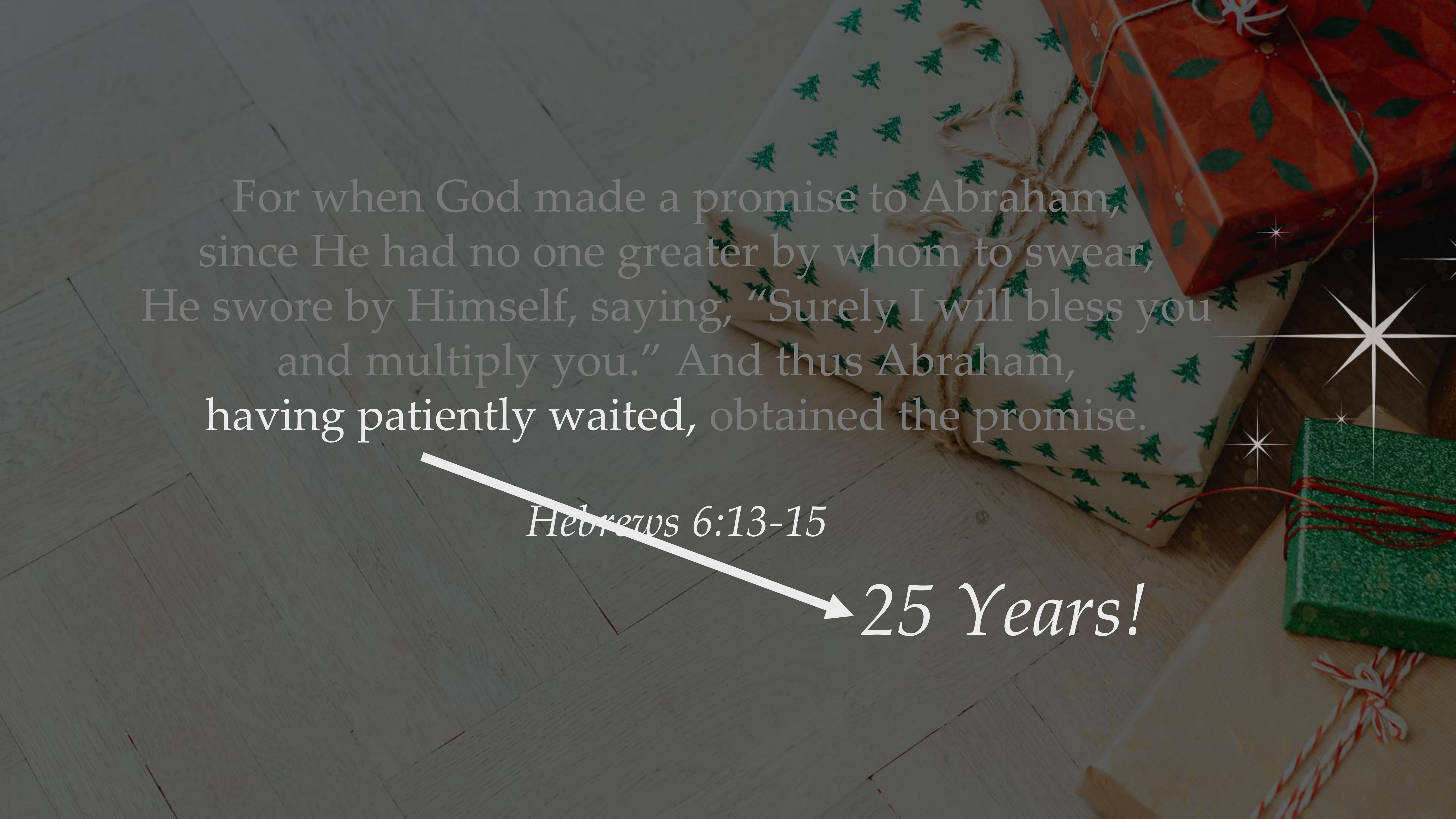
C. How do I learn it?

1. Believe that God cares for you
2. Give Him a chance to provide for you
3. When He doesn't, be patient



For when God made a promise to Abraham,
since He had no one greater by whom to swear,
He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you
and multiply you.” And thus Abraham,
having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

Hebrews 6:13-15

The background of the slide is a photograph of several Christmas gifts wrapped in various papers (red with green leaves, white with green trees, and green with red stripes) and tied with ribbons, resting on a light-colored wooden floor. The image is dimmed to allow the text to be read clearly.

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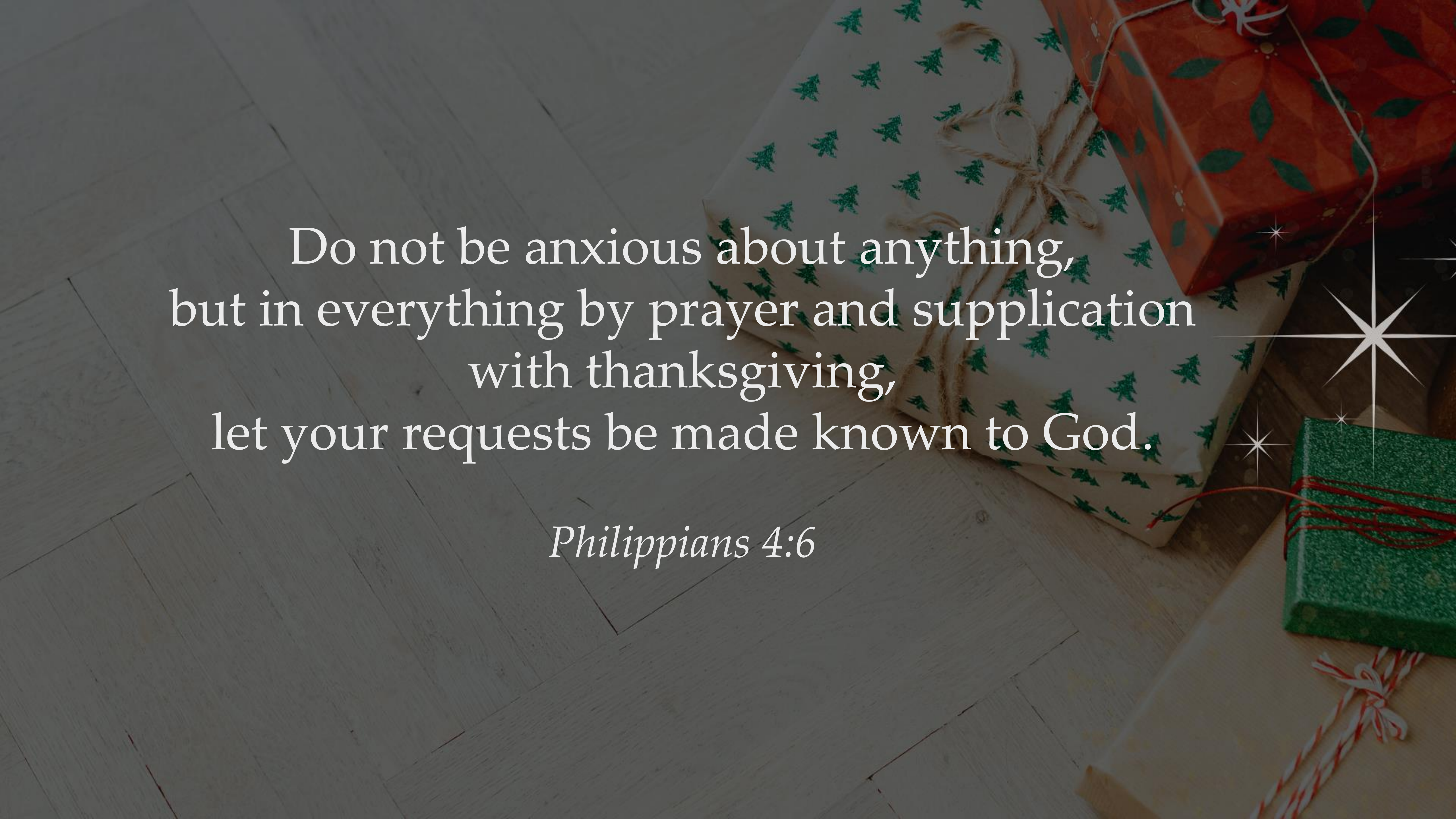


25 Years!

II. THE ALTERNATIVE: *CONTENTMENT*

C. How do I learn it?

1. Believe that God cares for you
2. Give Him a chance to provide for you
3. When He doesn't, be patient
4. If He doesn't, cultivate thanksgiving



Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

II. THE ALTERNATIVE: *CONTENTMENT*

C. How do I learn it?

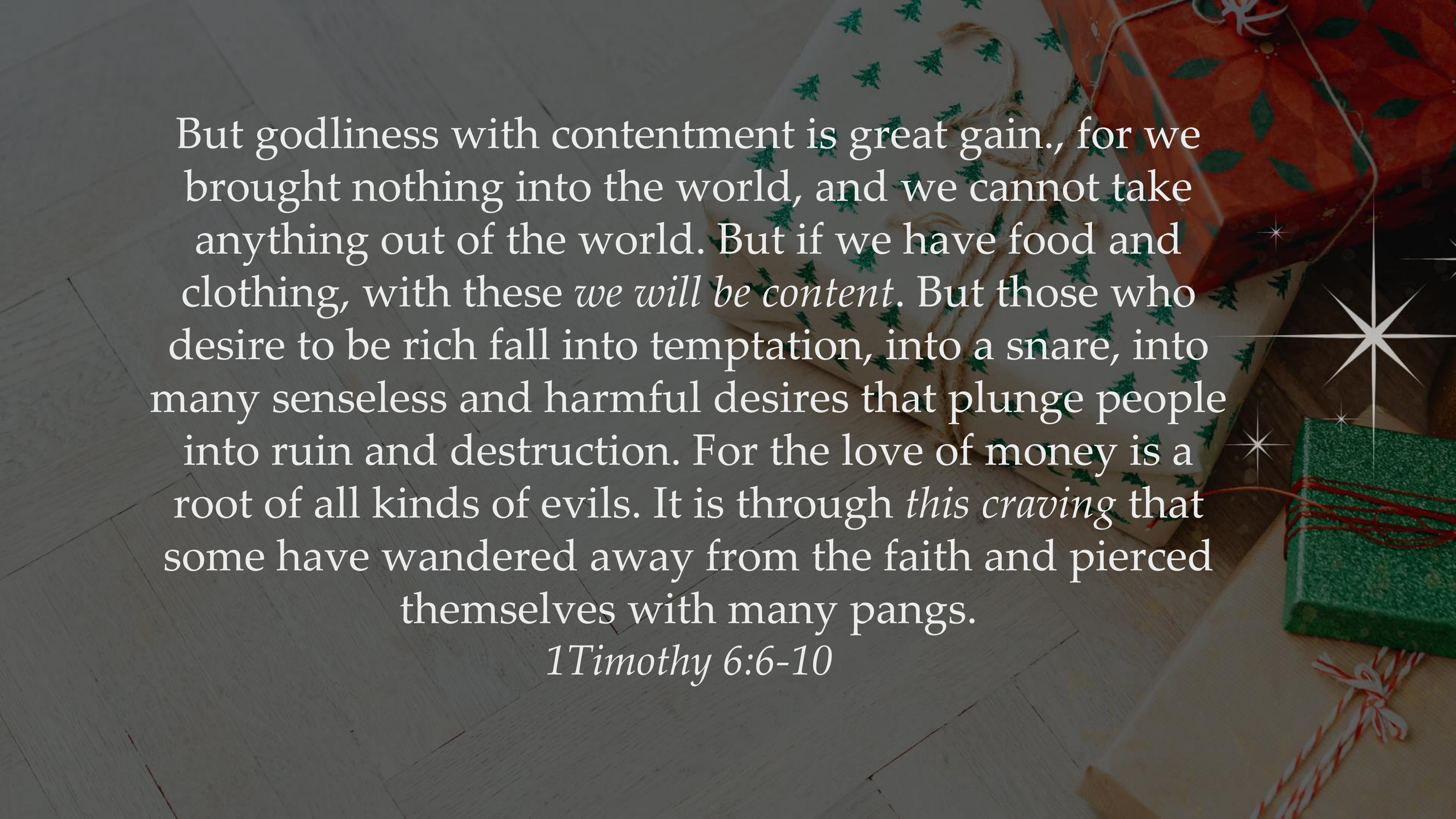
1. Believe that God cares for you
2. Give Him a chance to provide for you
3. When He doesn't, be patient
4. If He doesn't, cultivate thanksgiving



II. THE ALTERNATIVE: *CONTENTMENT*

C. How do I learn it?

1. Believe that God cares for you
2. Give Him a chance to provide for you
3. When He doesn't, be patient
4. If He doesn't, cultivate thanksgiving
5. Regardless, put stuff in perspective

The background of the image shows several Christmas gifts wrapped in various papers (brown, red, green) and tied with ribbons, resting on a light-colored wooden floor. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangle is overlaid on the left and center of the image, containing the text. On the right side, there are several white, multi-pointed starburst graphics.

But godliness with contentment is great gain., for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these *we will be content*. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through *this craving* that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

1Timothy 6:6-10

The background of the image shows several Christmas gifts wrapped in various papers (brown with green trees, red with green leaves, green with red stripes) and tied with twine or ribbon, resting on a light-colored wooden floor. The image is dimmed to allow the text to stand out.

Godliness + Contentment = Great Gain

NOT:

Godliness + Great Gain = Contentment



CRAVING
contentment