

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
faith. **8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which
the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not
only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.





Once Upon a
HOLIDAY







ARE YOU
WITH ME?

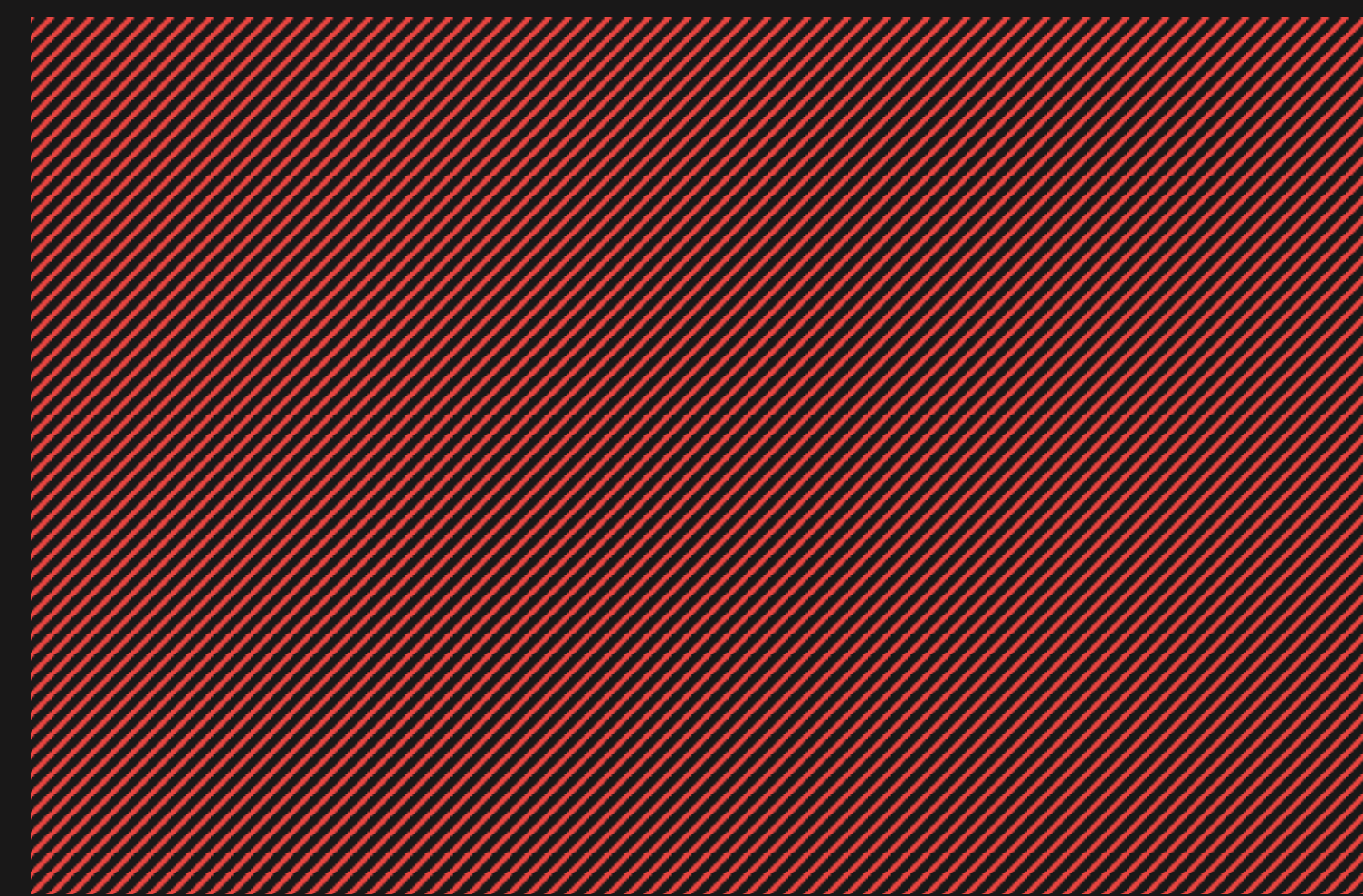
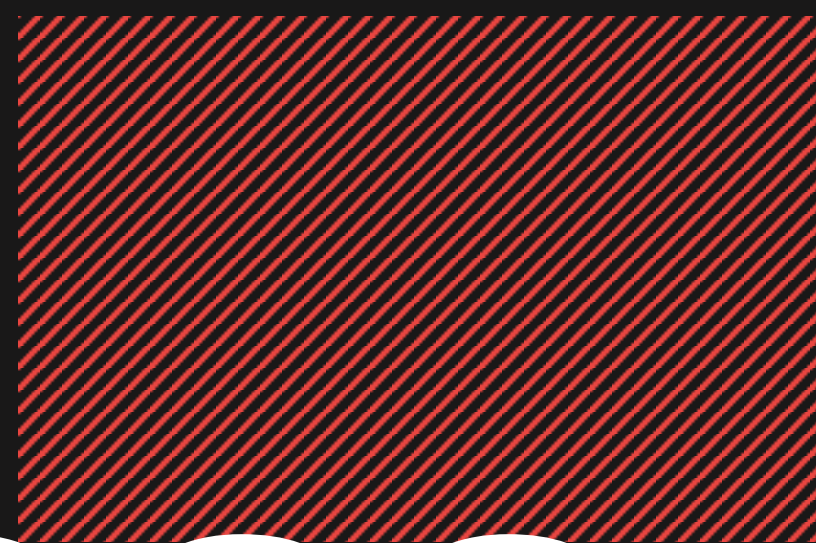





There are two questions that we have to ask ourselves. The first is 'Where am I going?' and the second is 'Who will go with me?'

— *Howard Thurman* —

The Loneliness Epidemic



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- **Nearly half** of Americans report sometimes or always feeling alone (46 percent) or left out (47 percent).
 - **One in four** Americans (27 percent) rarely or never feel as though there are people who really understand them.
 - **Two in five** Americans sometimes or always feel that their relationships are not meaningful (43 percent) and that they are isolated from others (43 percent).
 - **One in five** people report they rarely or never feel close to people (20 percent) or feel like there are people they can talk to (18 percent).

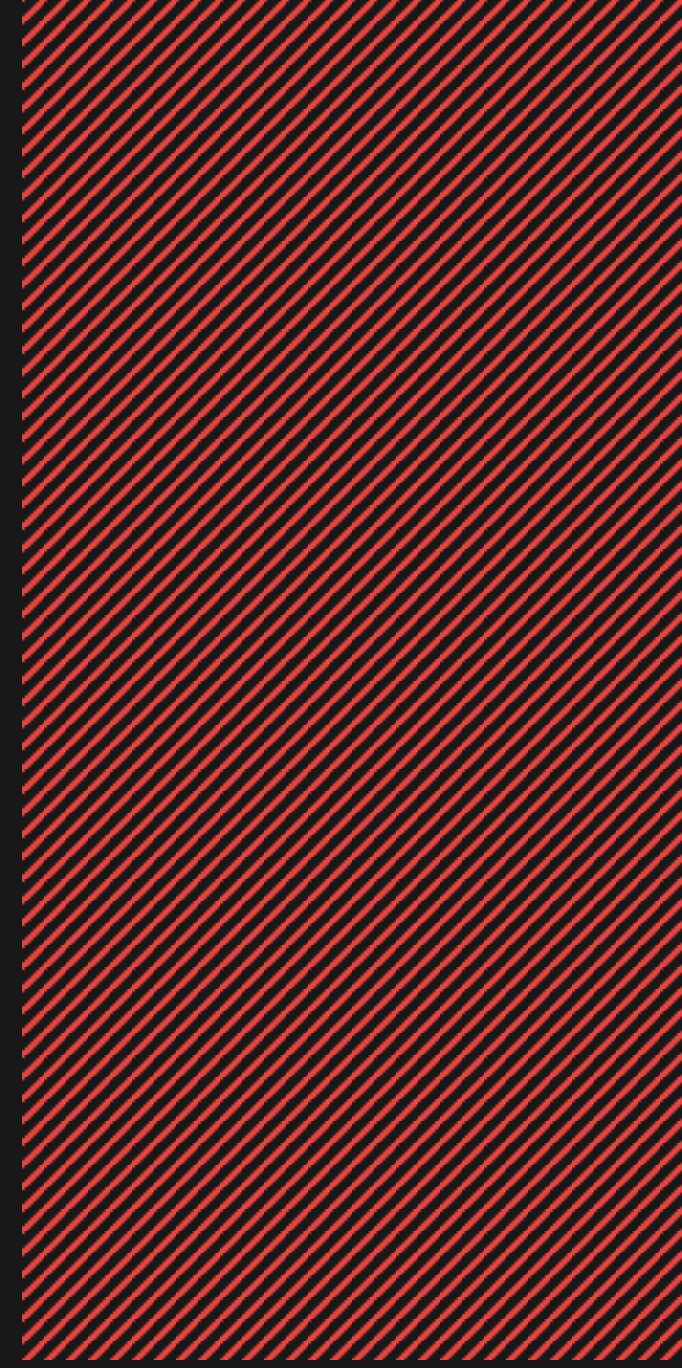
- Americans who live with others are less likely to be lonely (average loneliness score of 43.5) compared to those who live alone (46.4). However, this does not apply to single parents/guardians (average loneliness score of 48.2) – **even though they live with children, they are more likely to be lonely.**
- **Only around half of Americans (53 percent)** have meaningful in-person social interactions, such as having an extended conversation with a friend or spending quality time with family, on a daily basis.
- Generation Z (adults ages 18-22) is the loneliest generation and claims to be in worse health than older generations.



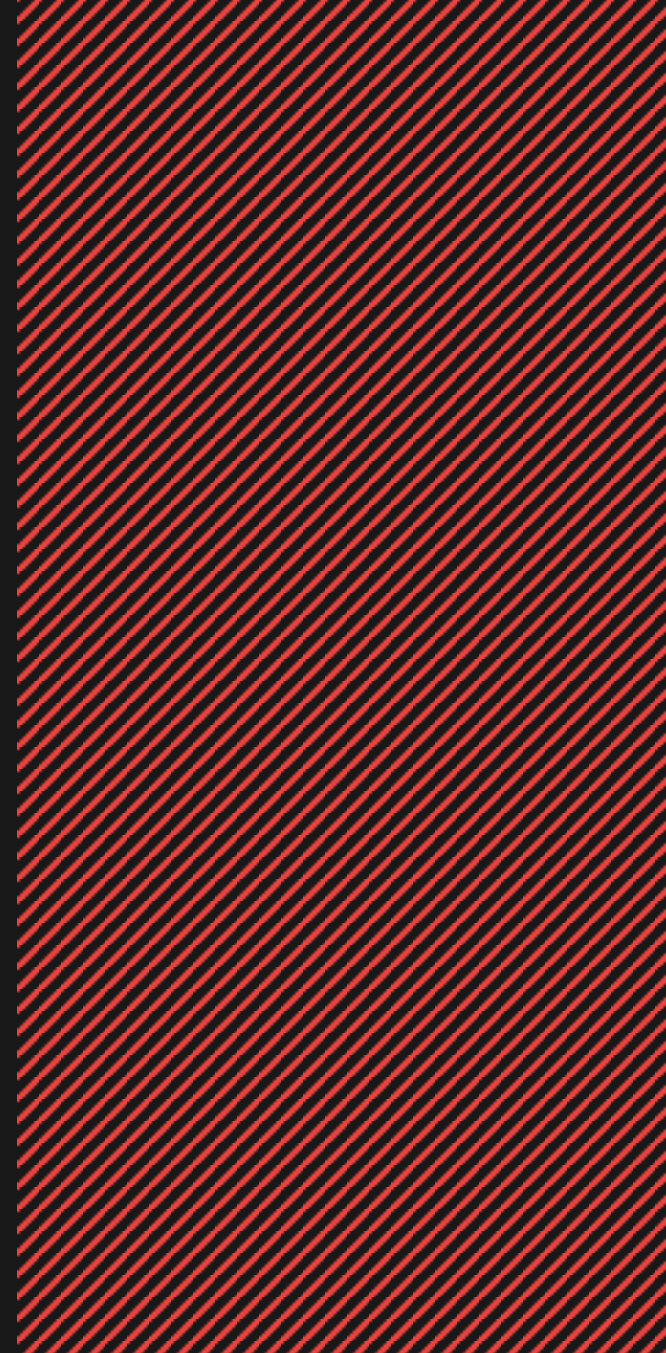
**The power of your purpose is
directly related to the
quality of your community**

Genesis 2:18

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”



**Human beings were not designed
to flourish in isolation**



**The power of your purpose is
directly related to the
quality of your community**

2 Timothy 4:7-8

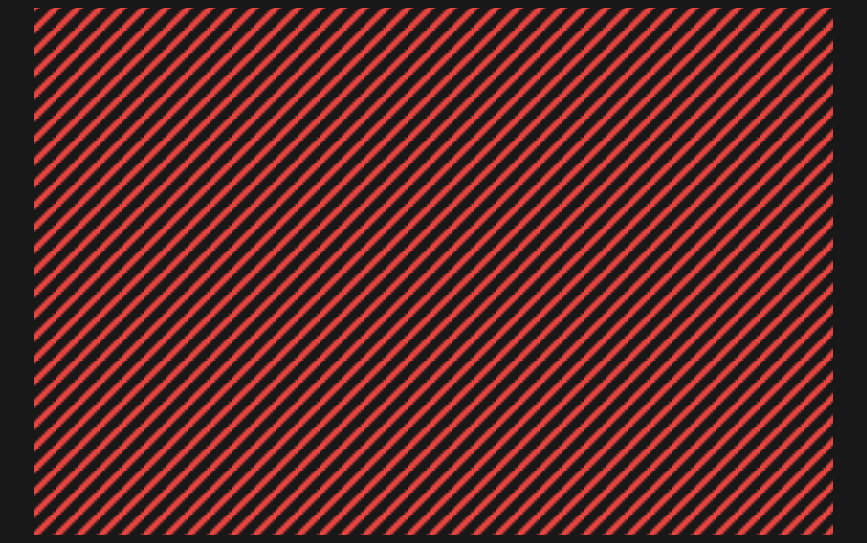
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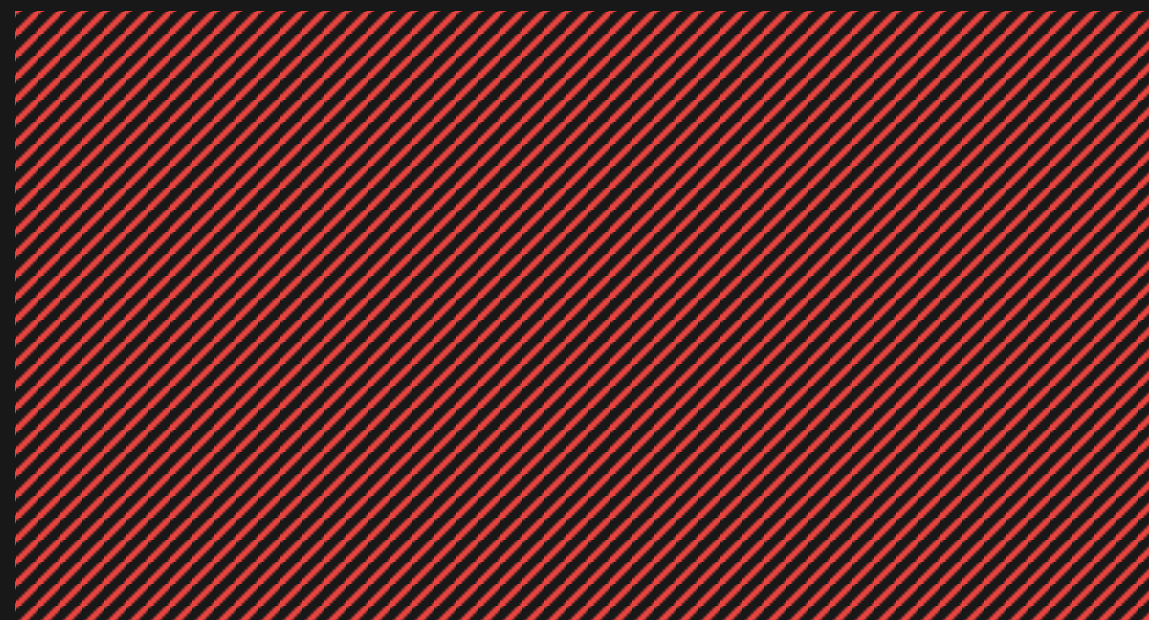
2 Timothy 4:10

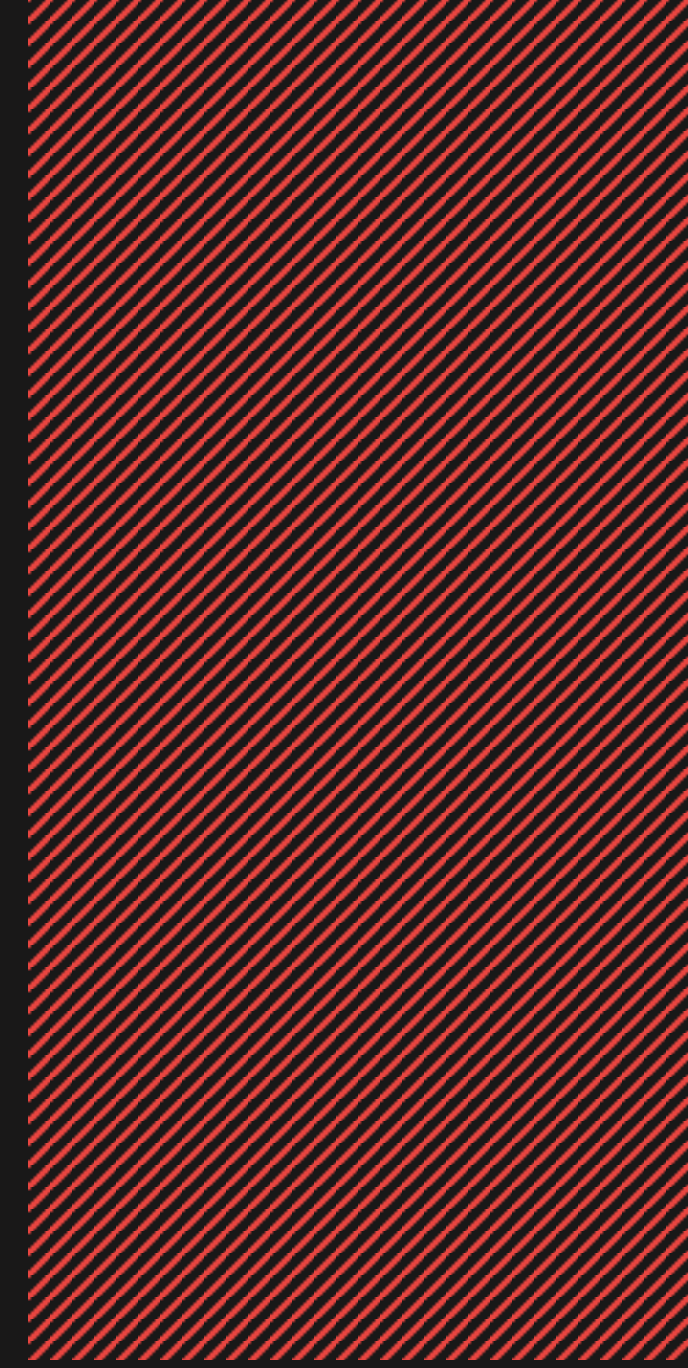
Only Luke is with me.



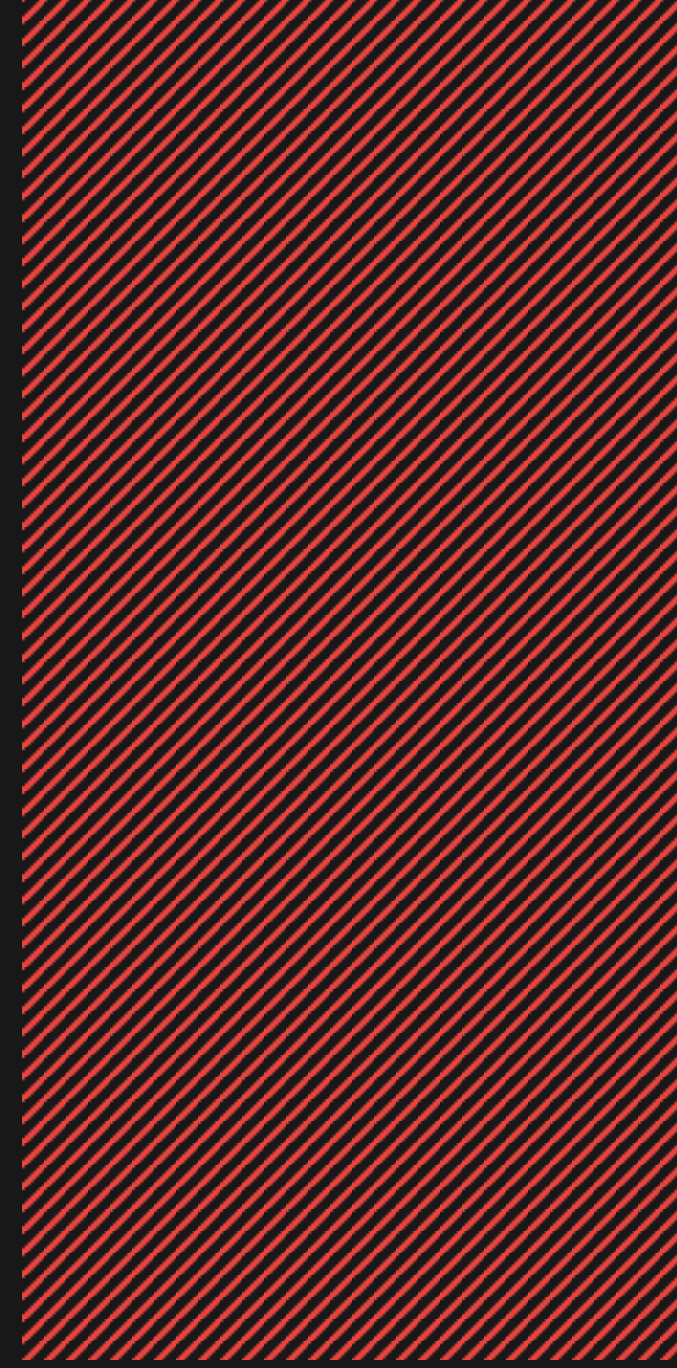


1. Covenant Companions

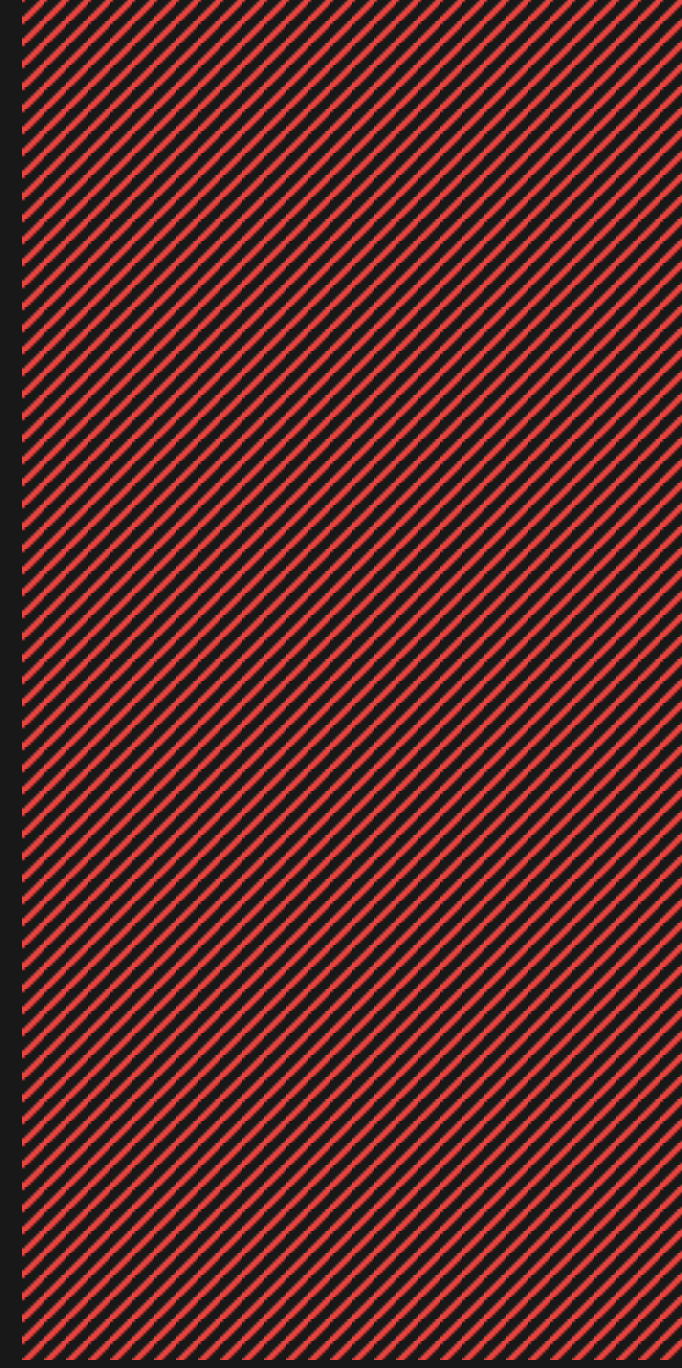




**Covenant Companions test our
loyalty**



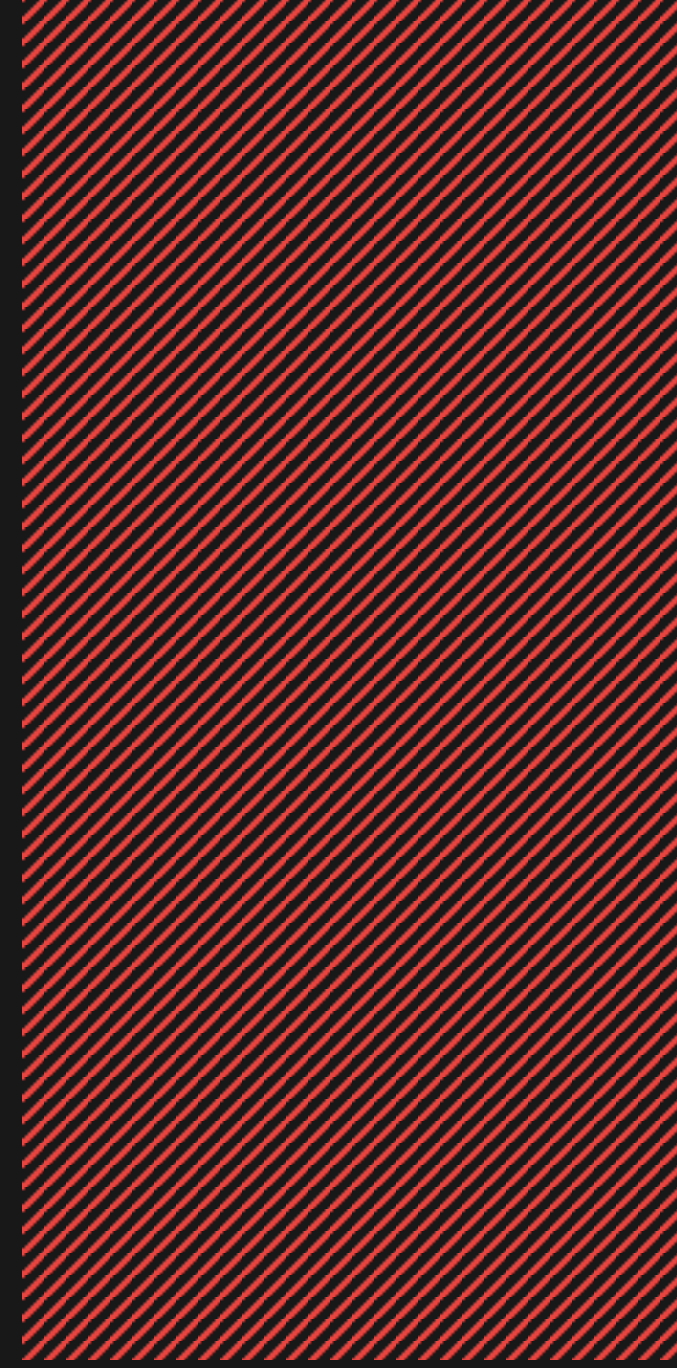
Who is allowed to see the real you?



Covenant Companions challenge

this idea:

“I just need to be by myself”



**Covenant companions are costly
but the returns outweigh
the investments**



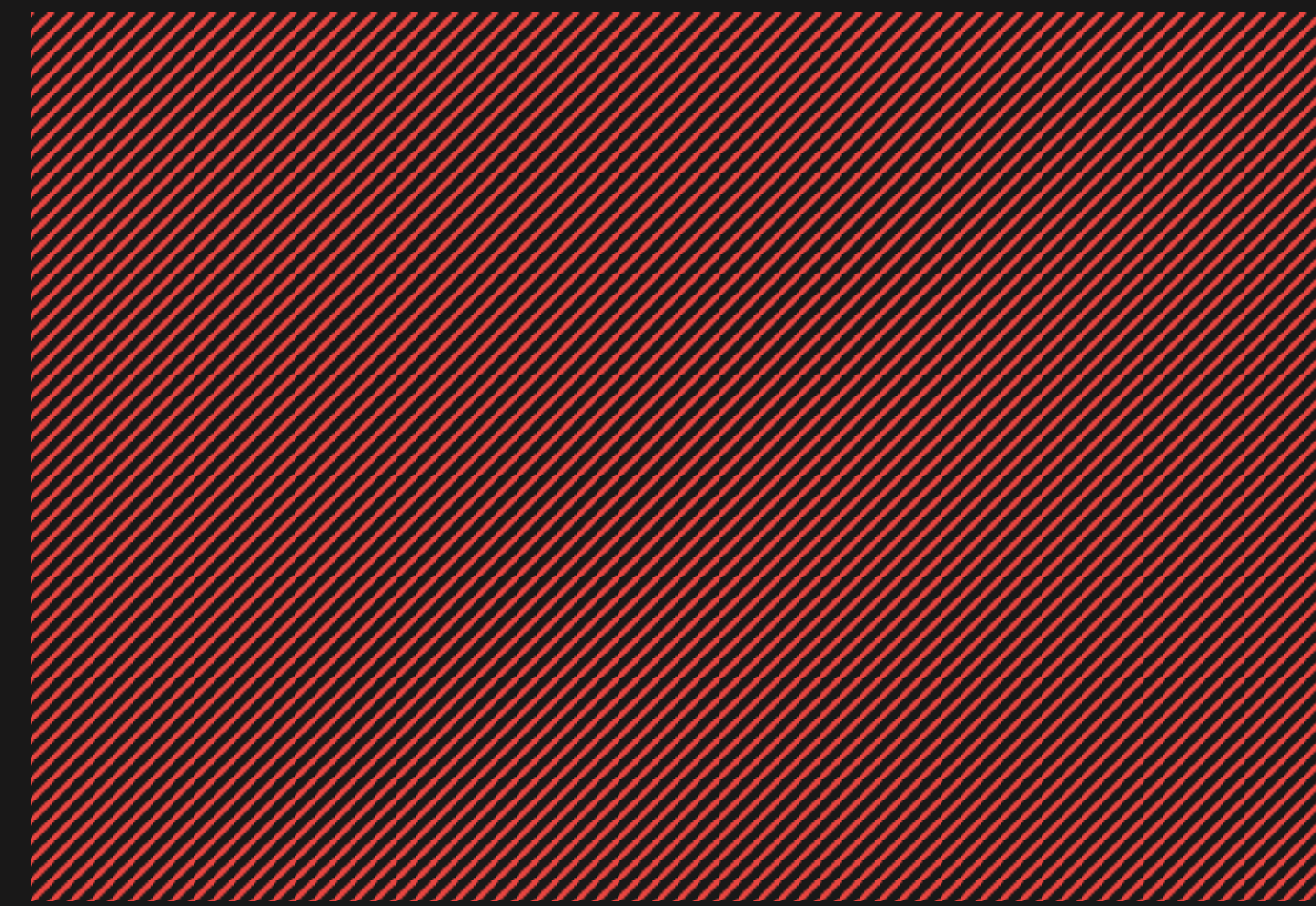
2 Timothy 4:11

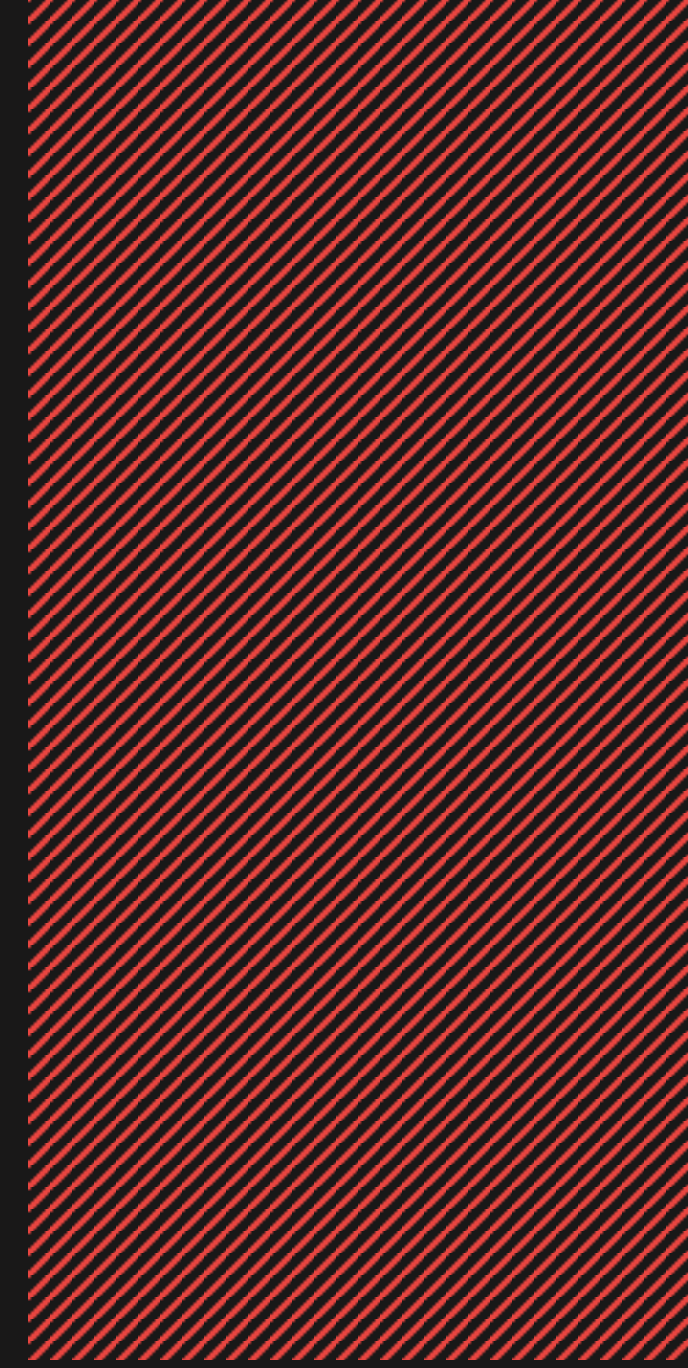
11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you,
because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

2 Timothy 4:19

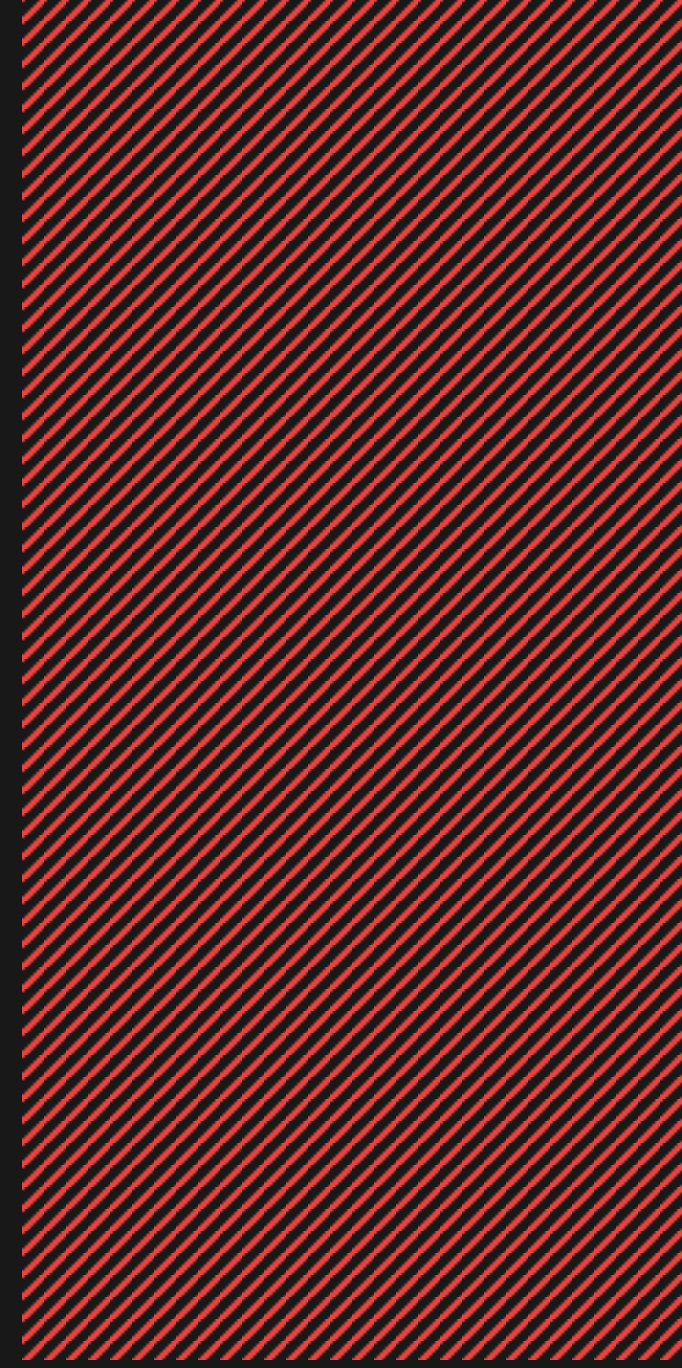
19 Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus.

2. Assignment Associates

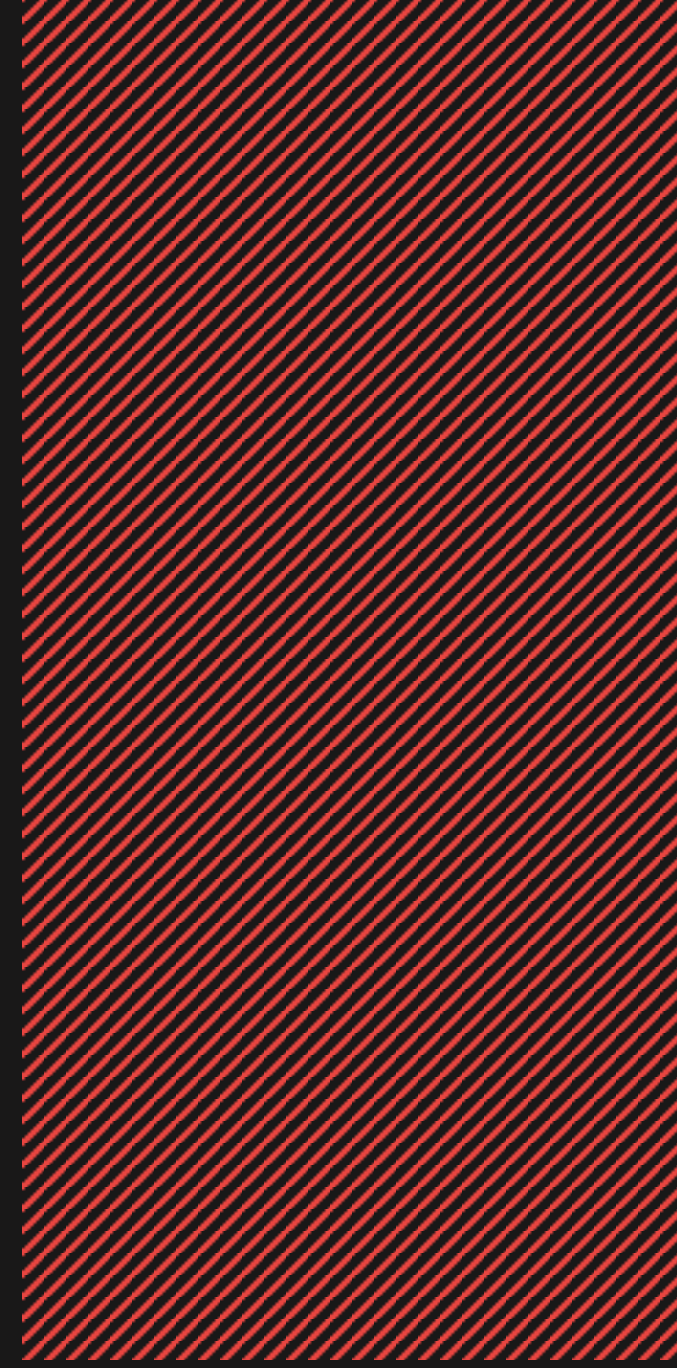




**Assignment Associates test our
capacity**



Associates are seasonal but powerful

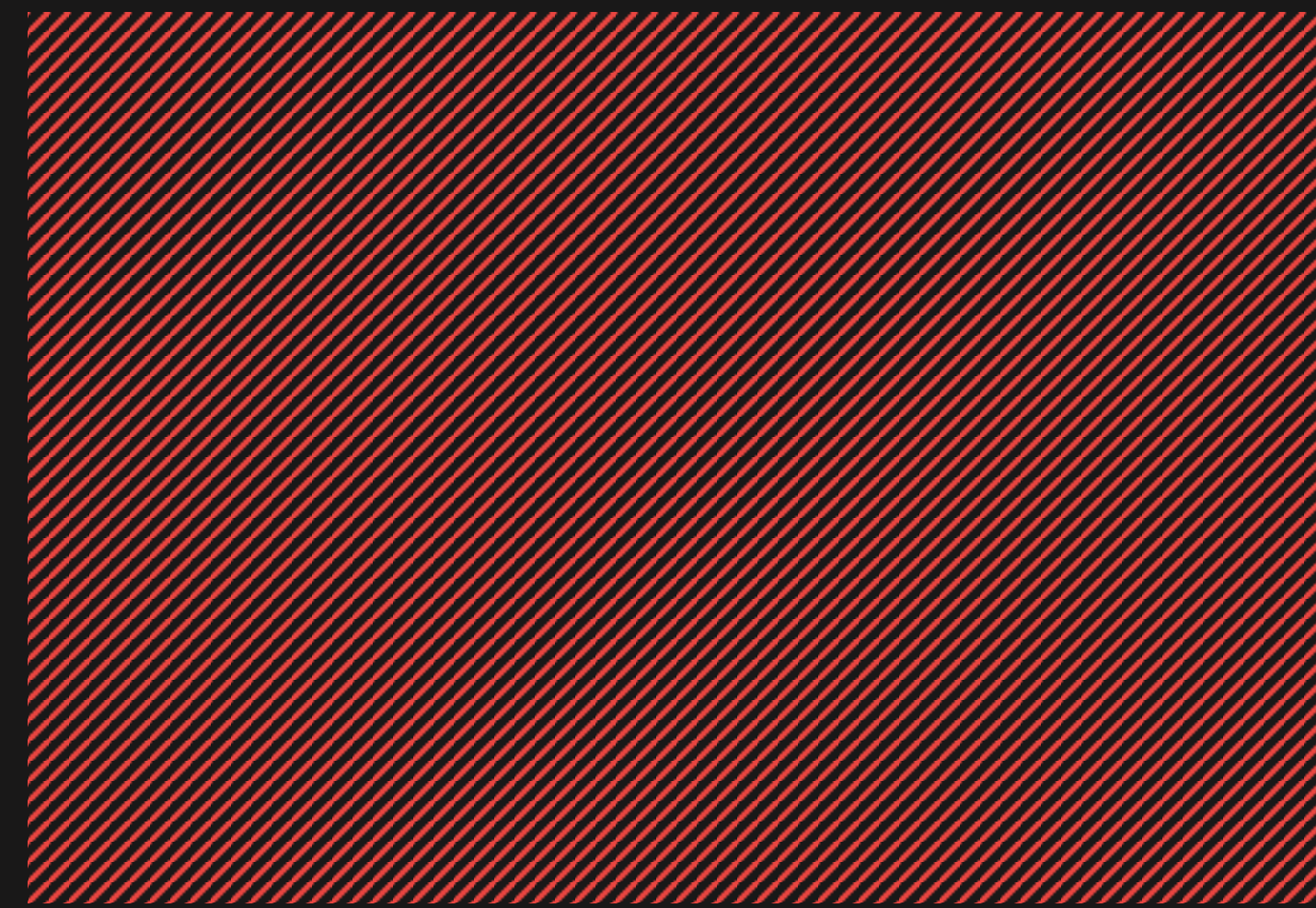
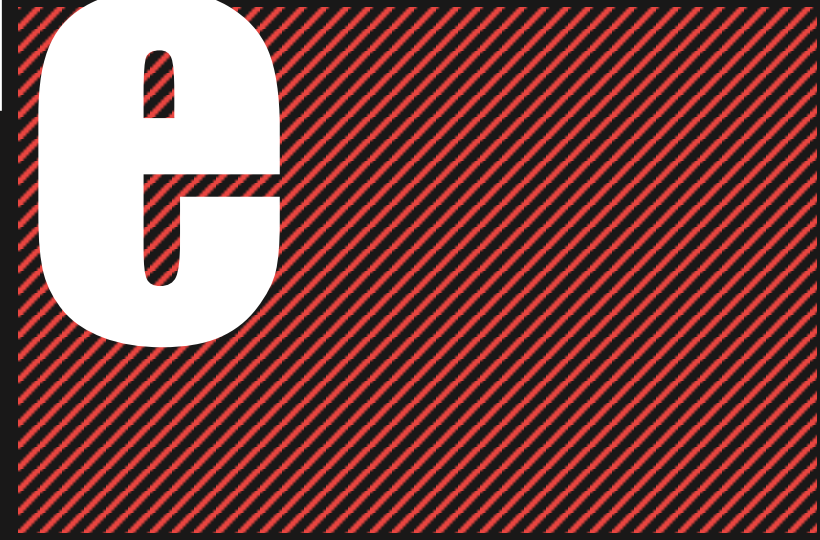


Assignment Associations challenge

this idea:

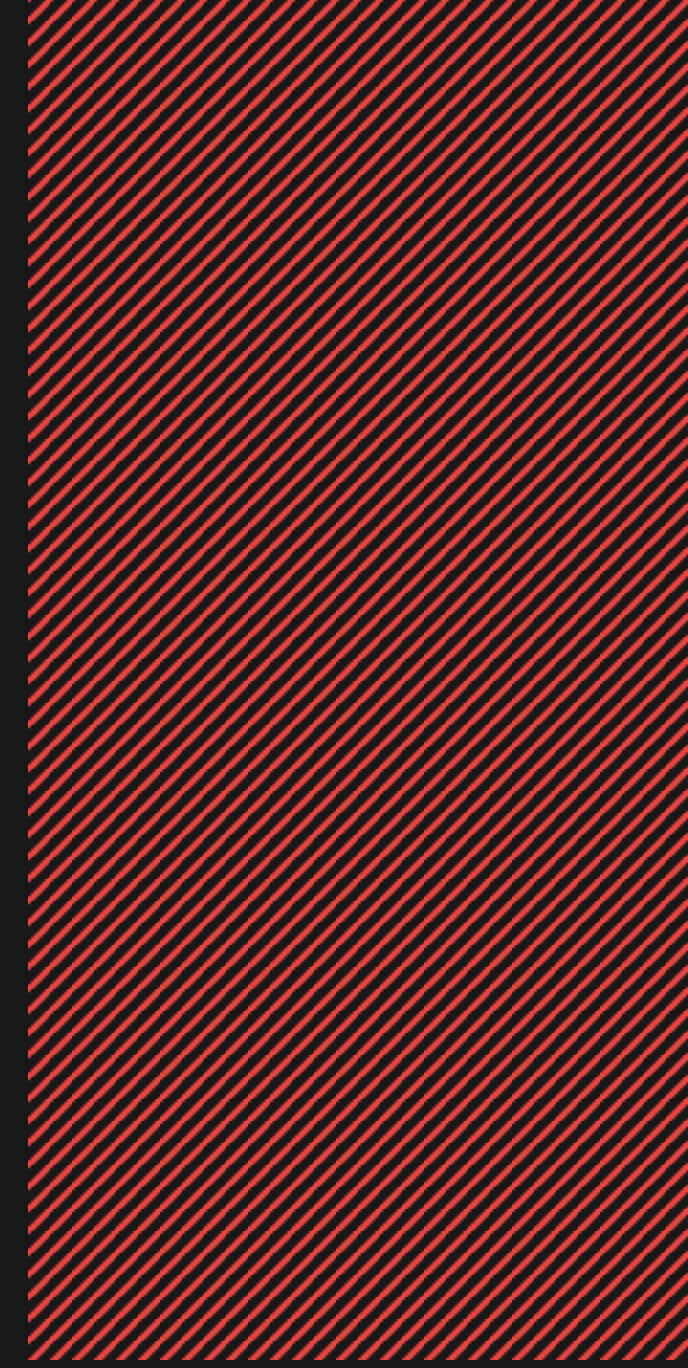
“I don’t do _____”

3. Mature Mentors

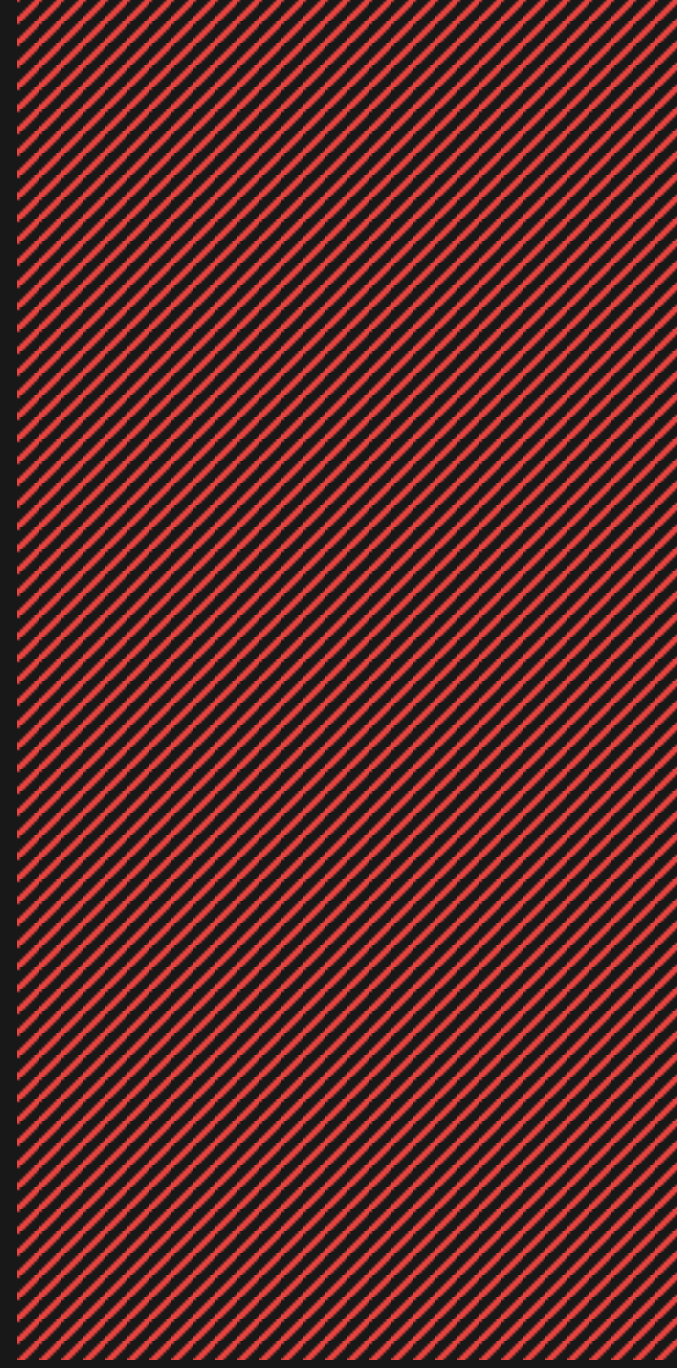


Acts 22:12-16

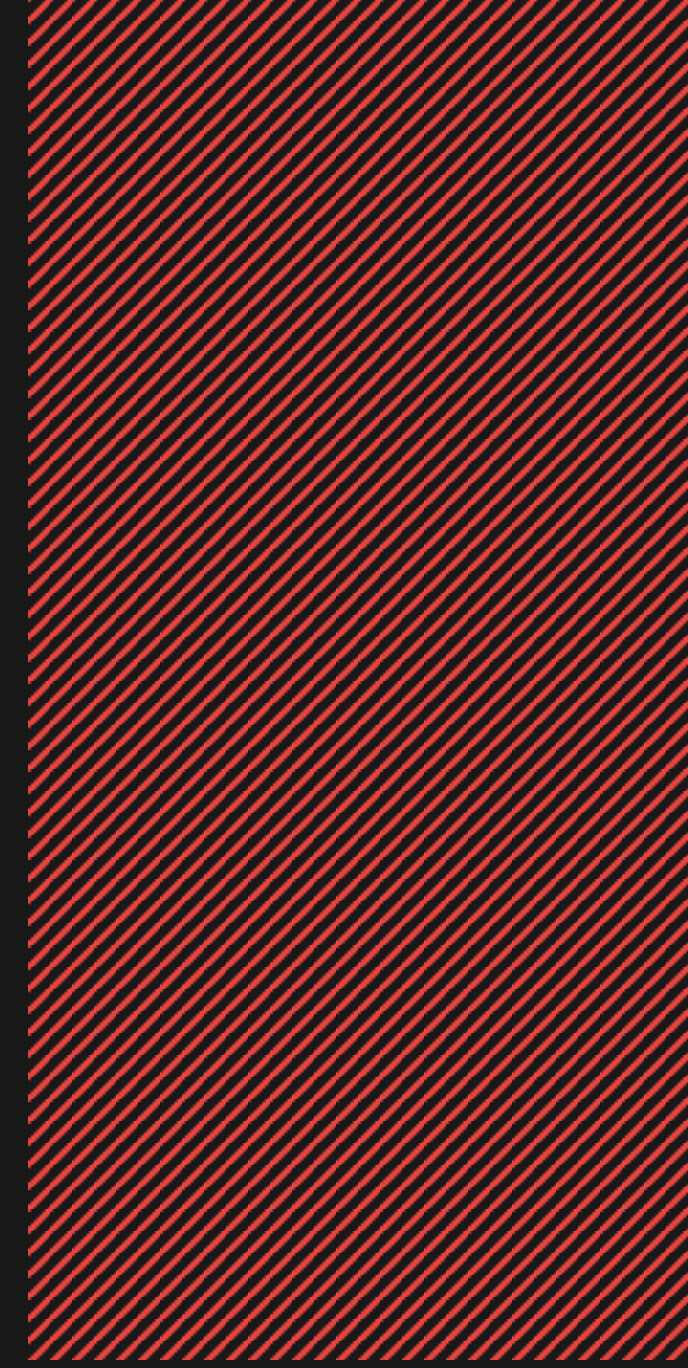
“A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him. 14 “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’



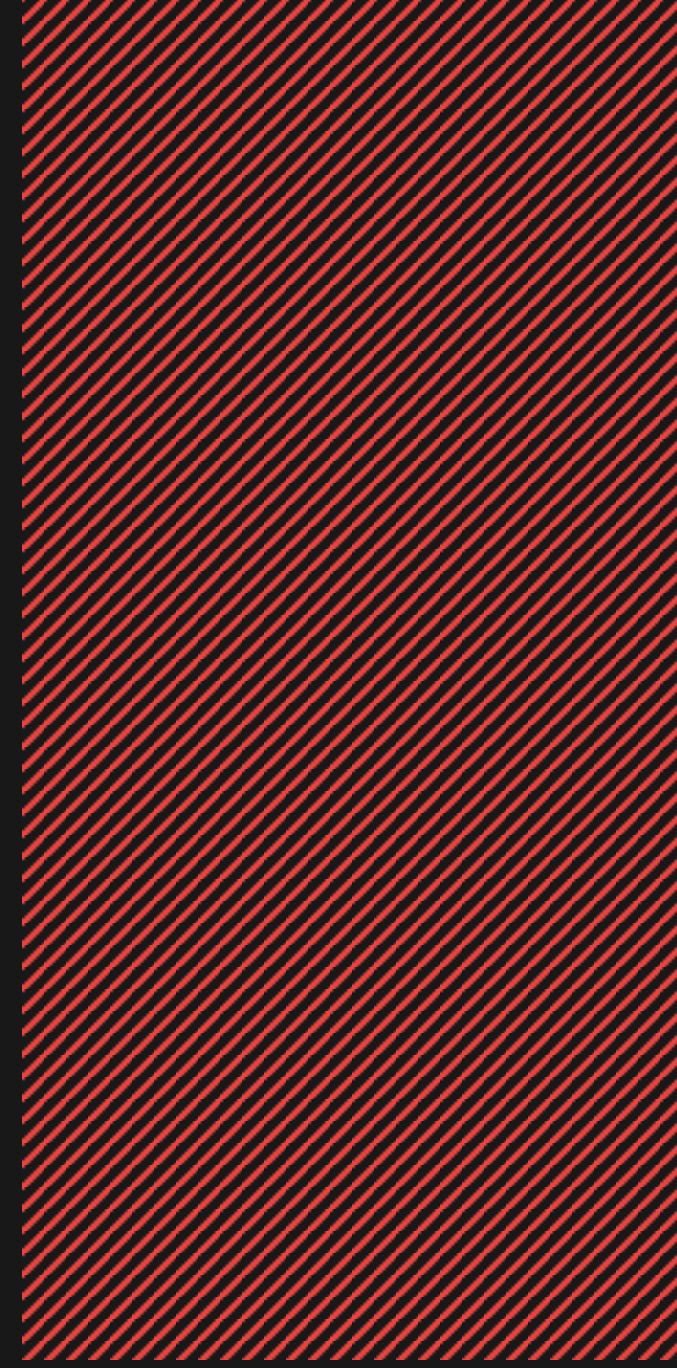
**Mature Mentors fill the gap
between where you are
and where you should be**



**Mature Mentors test our
humility**



**Mature Mentors challenge
this idea:
“I don’t need help”**



Who is allowed to hurt your feelings?

4. Deceivers and Deserters



2 Timothy 4:9-10, 14, 16

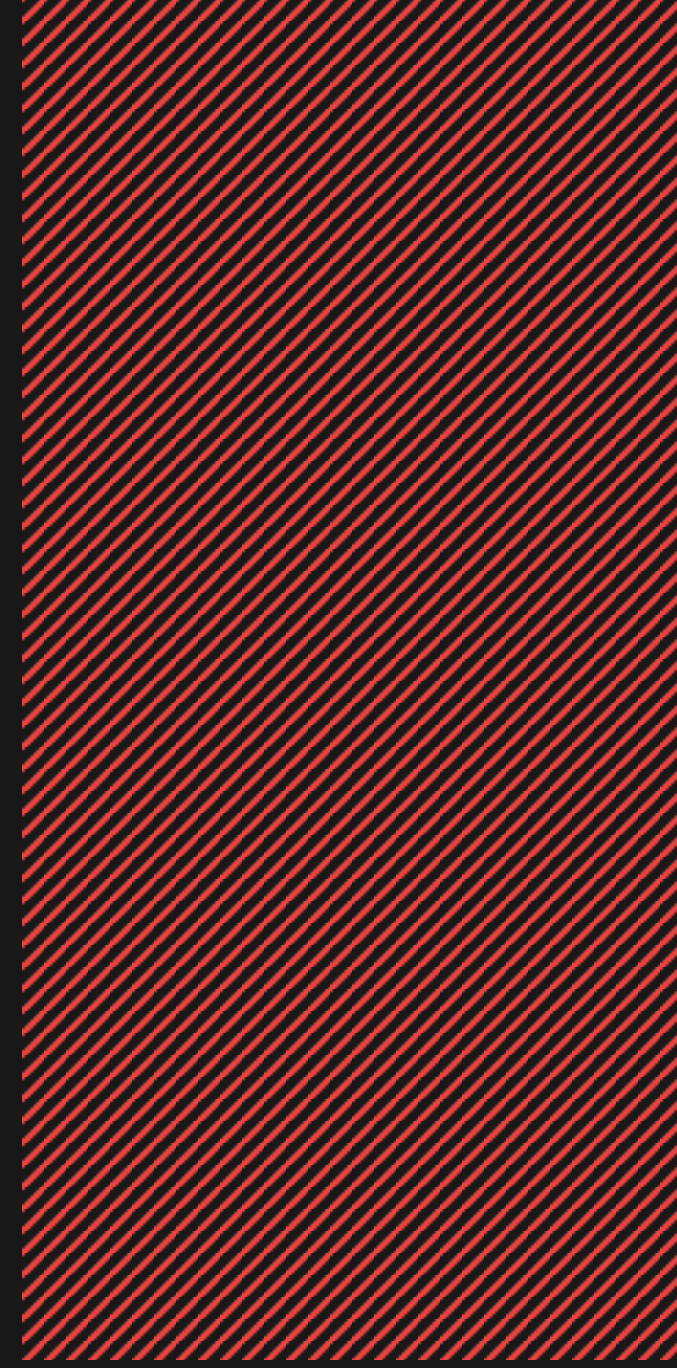
9 Do your best to come to me quickly, **10** for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm.

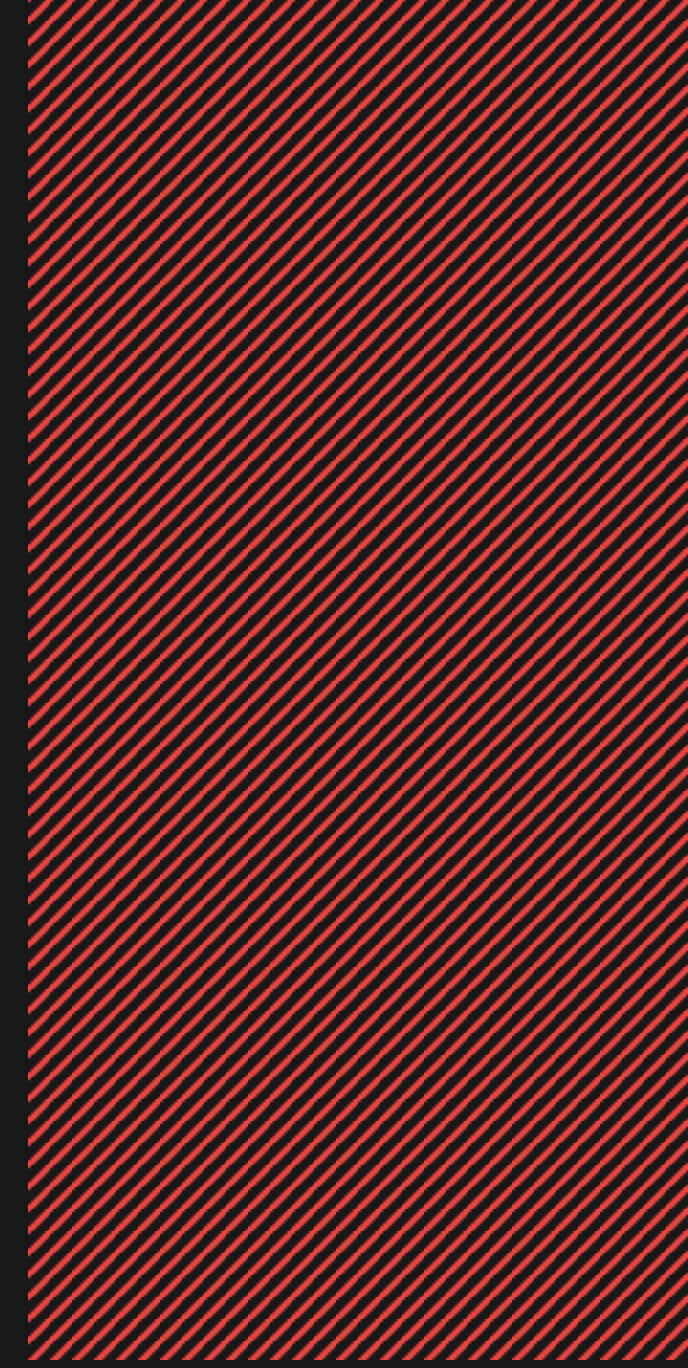
16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me.

2 Timothy 3:12

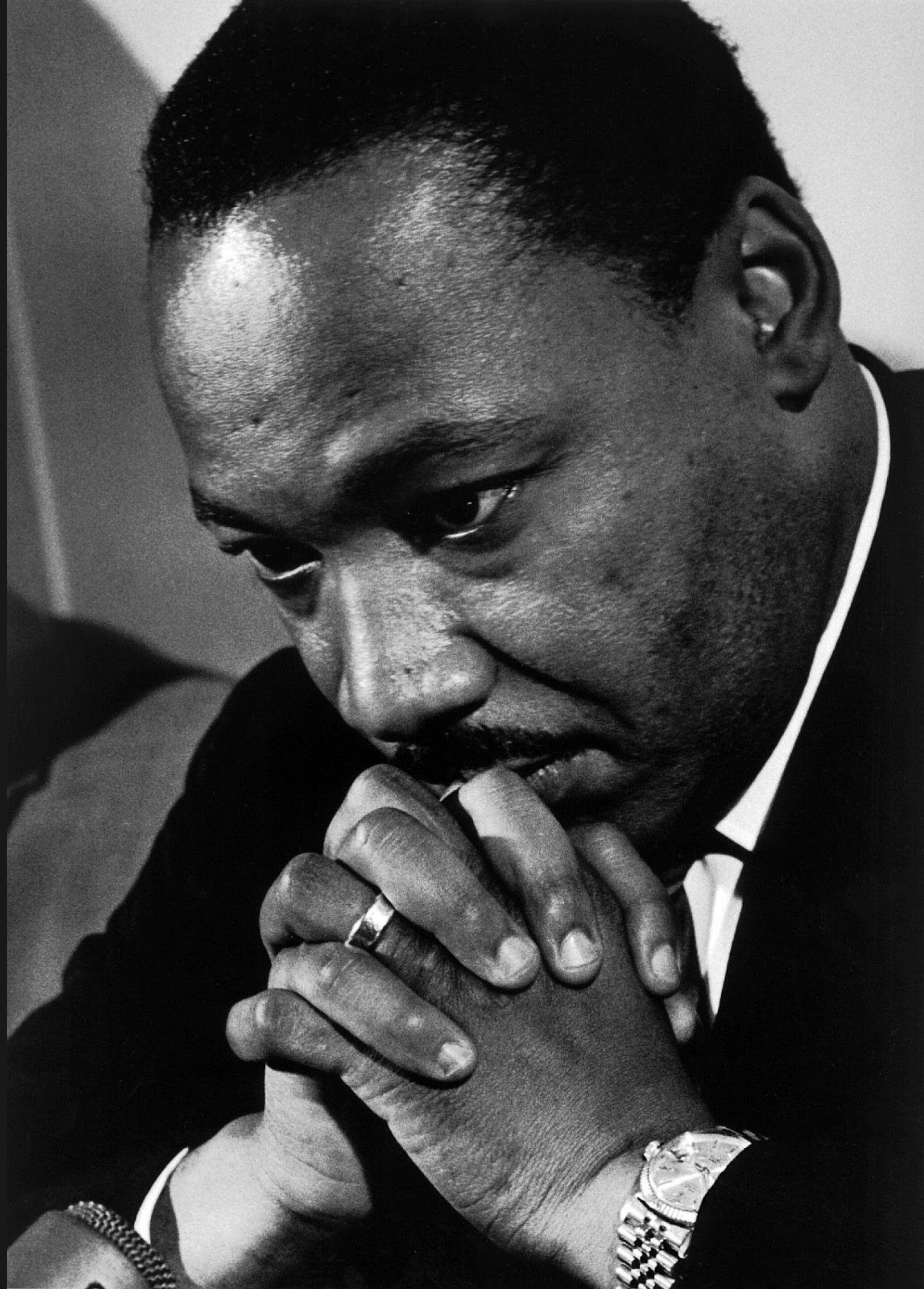
In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ
Jesus will be persecuted,



**Deceivers and Deserters test our
purity**



Who has deeply hurt you?



2 Timothy 4:9-10, 14, 16

9 Do your best to come to me quickly, **10** for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done.

16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

2 Timothy 4:17-18

17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth **18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.