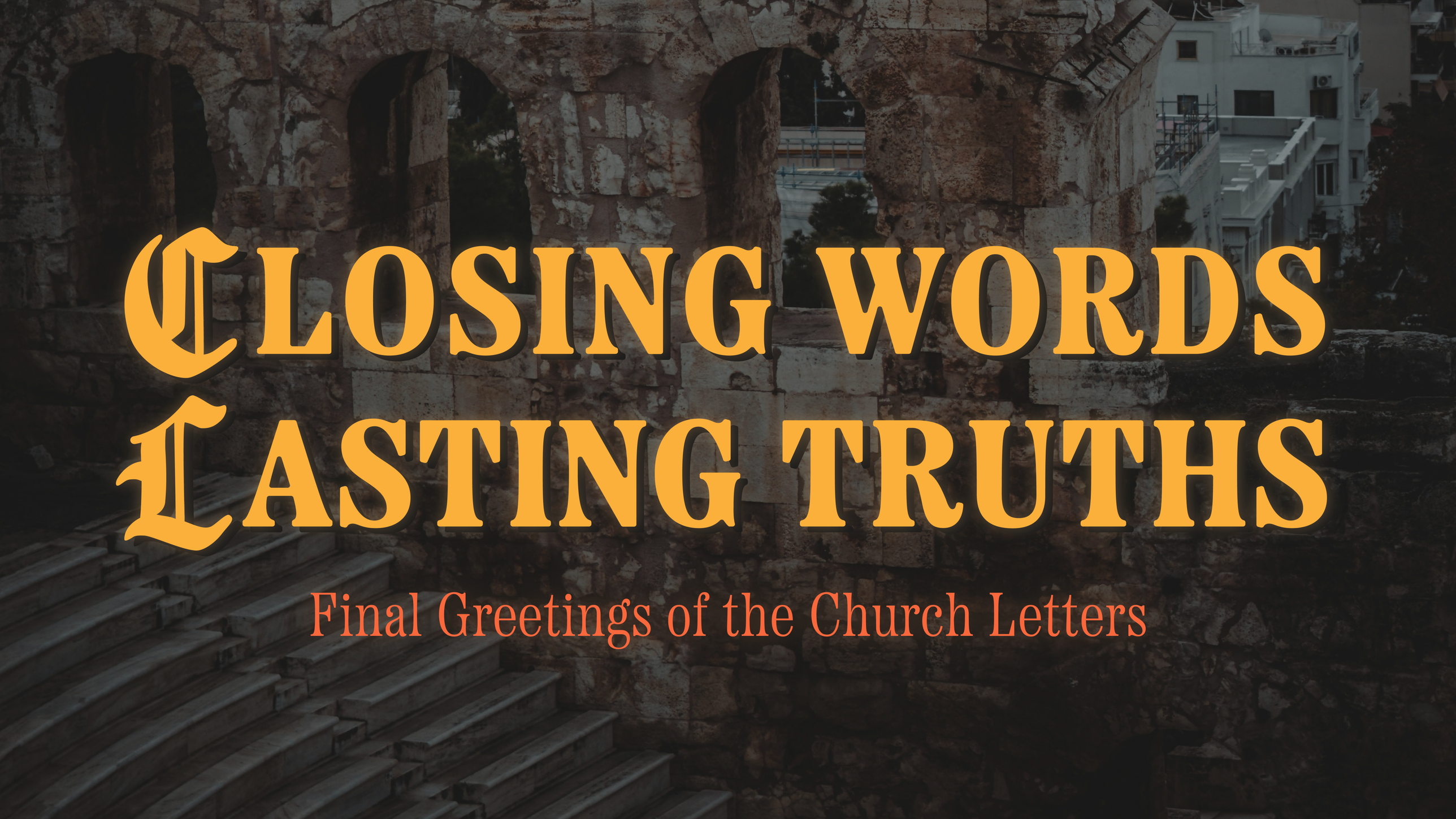
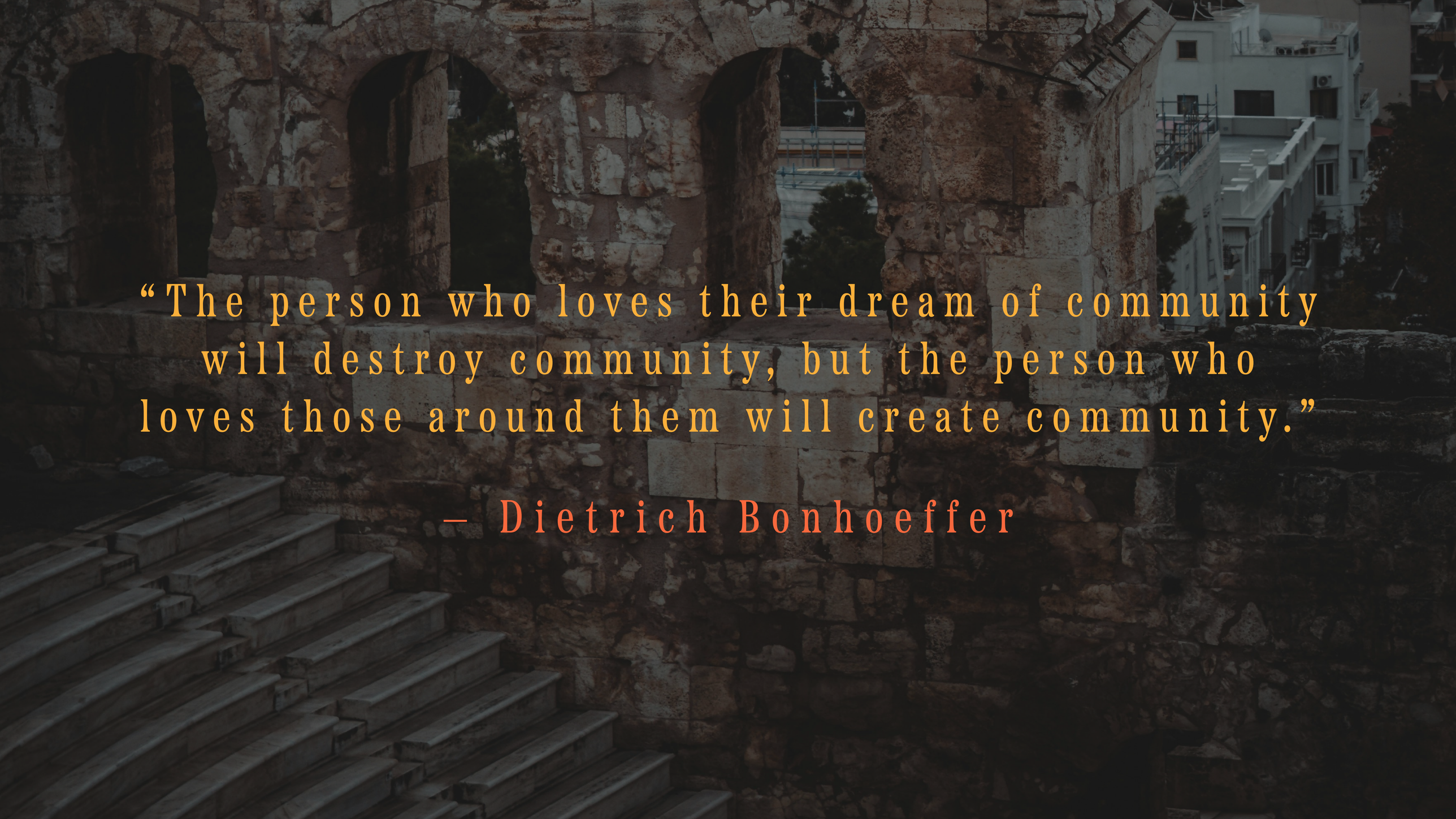
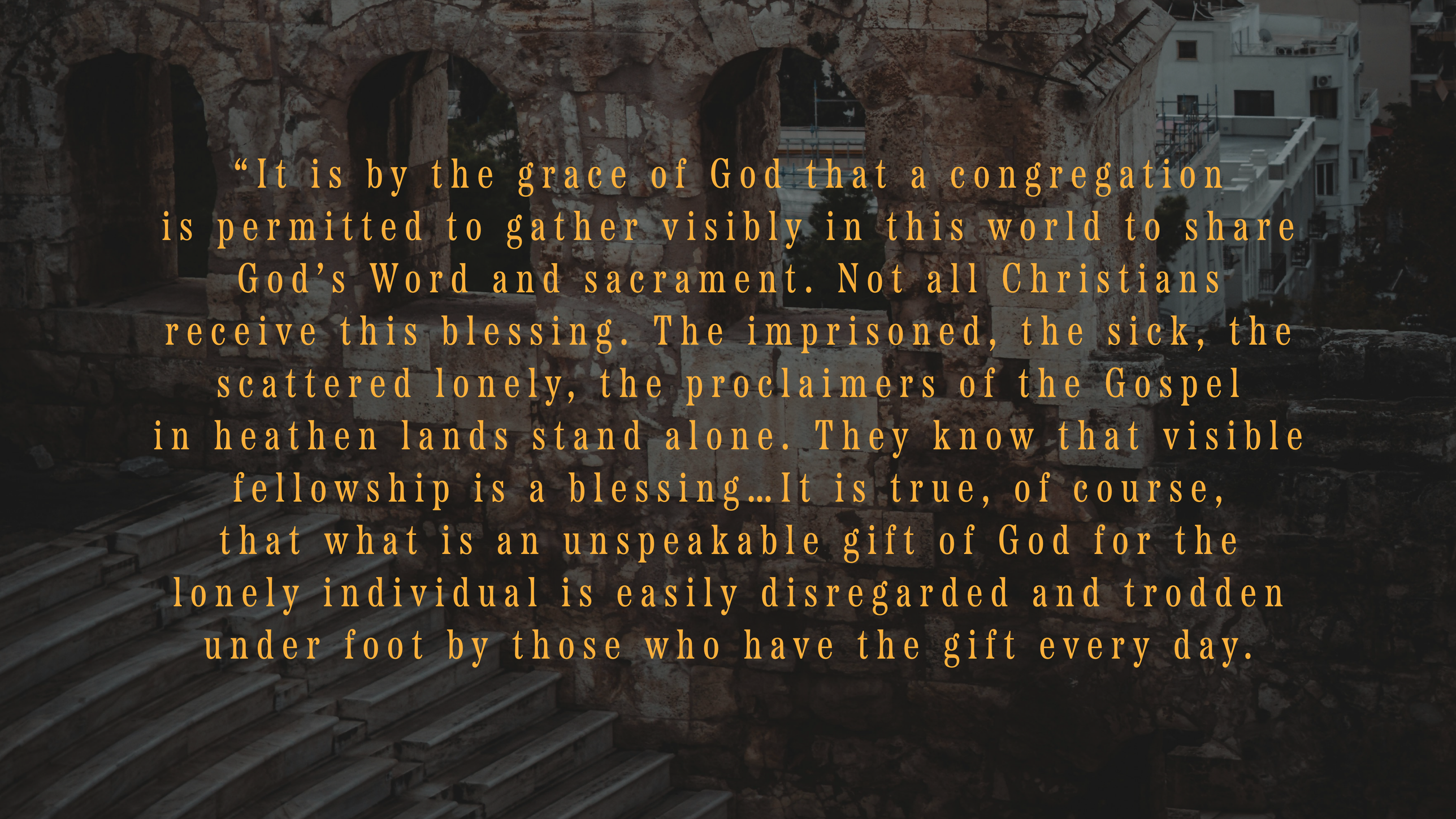


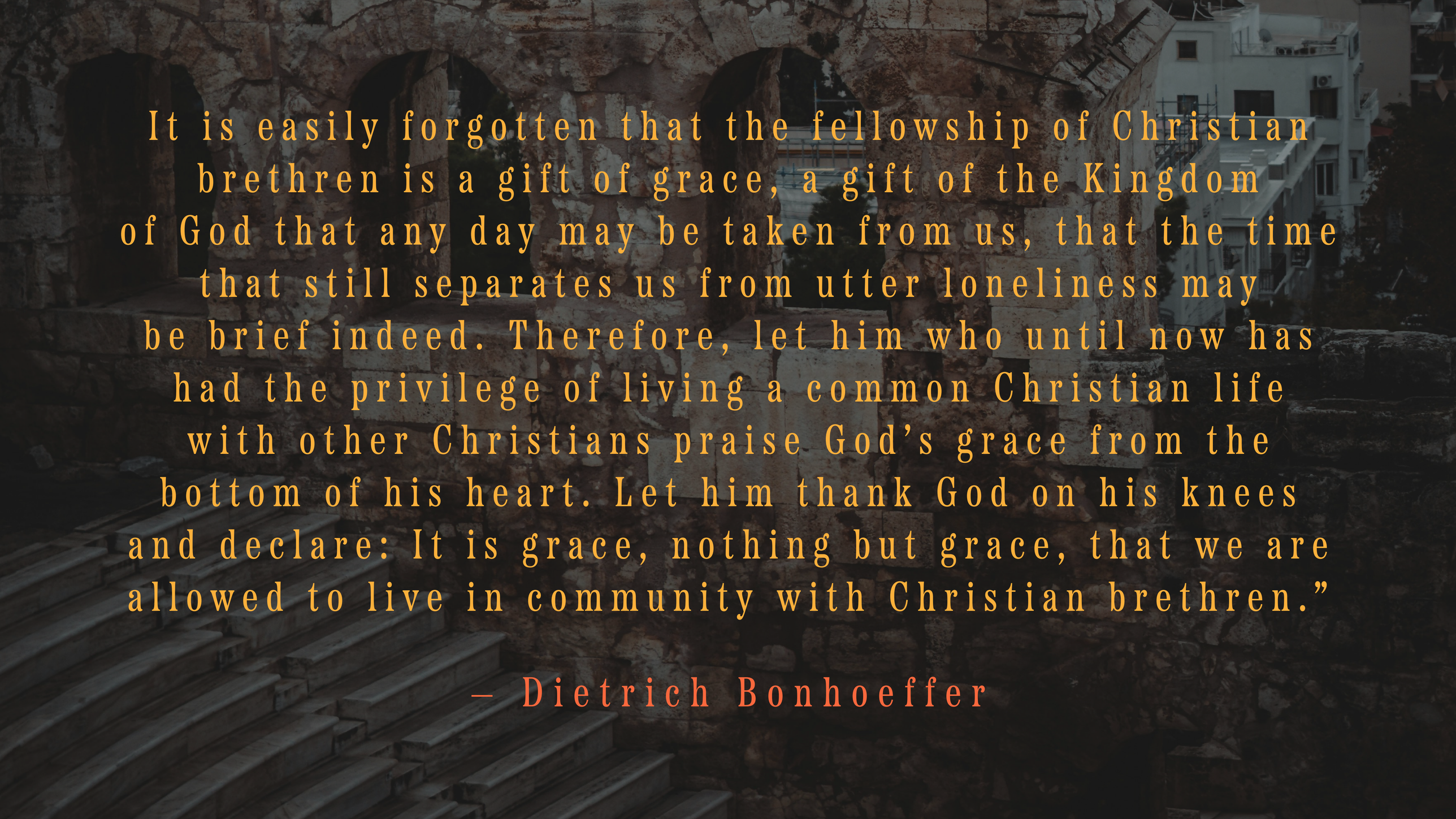
Closing Words Lasting Truths

Final Greetings of the Church Letters


“The person who loves their dream of community
will destroy community, but the person who
loves those around them will create community.”
– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

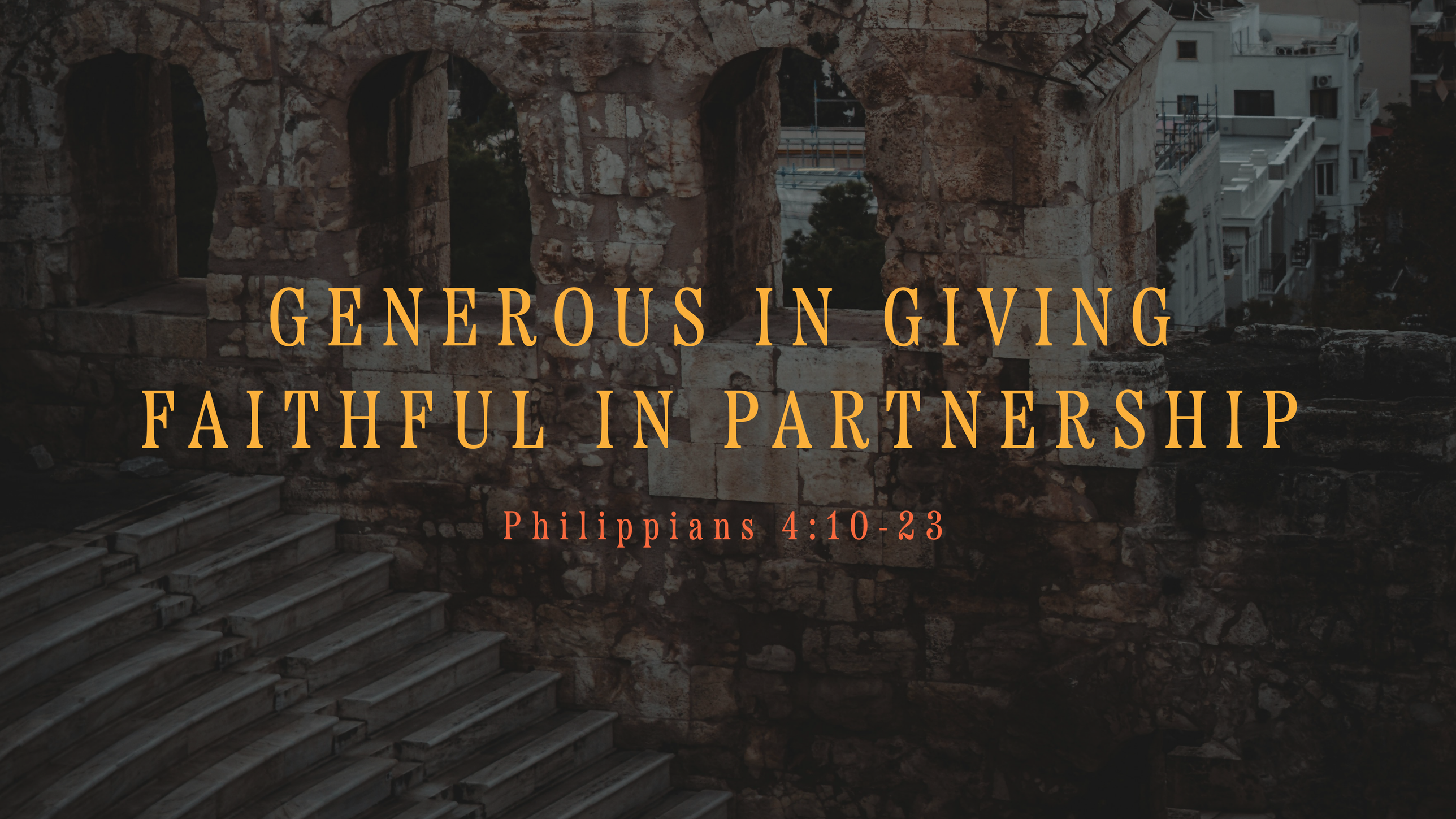


“It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God’s Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing…It is true, of course, that what is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual is easily disregarded and trodden under foot by those who have the gift every day.



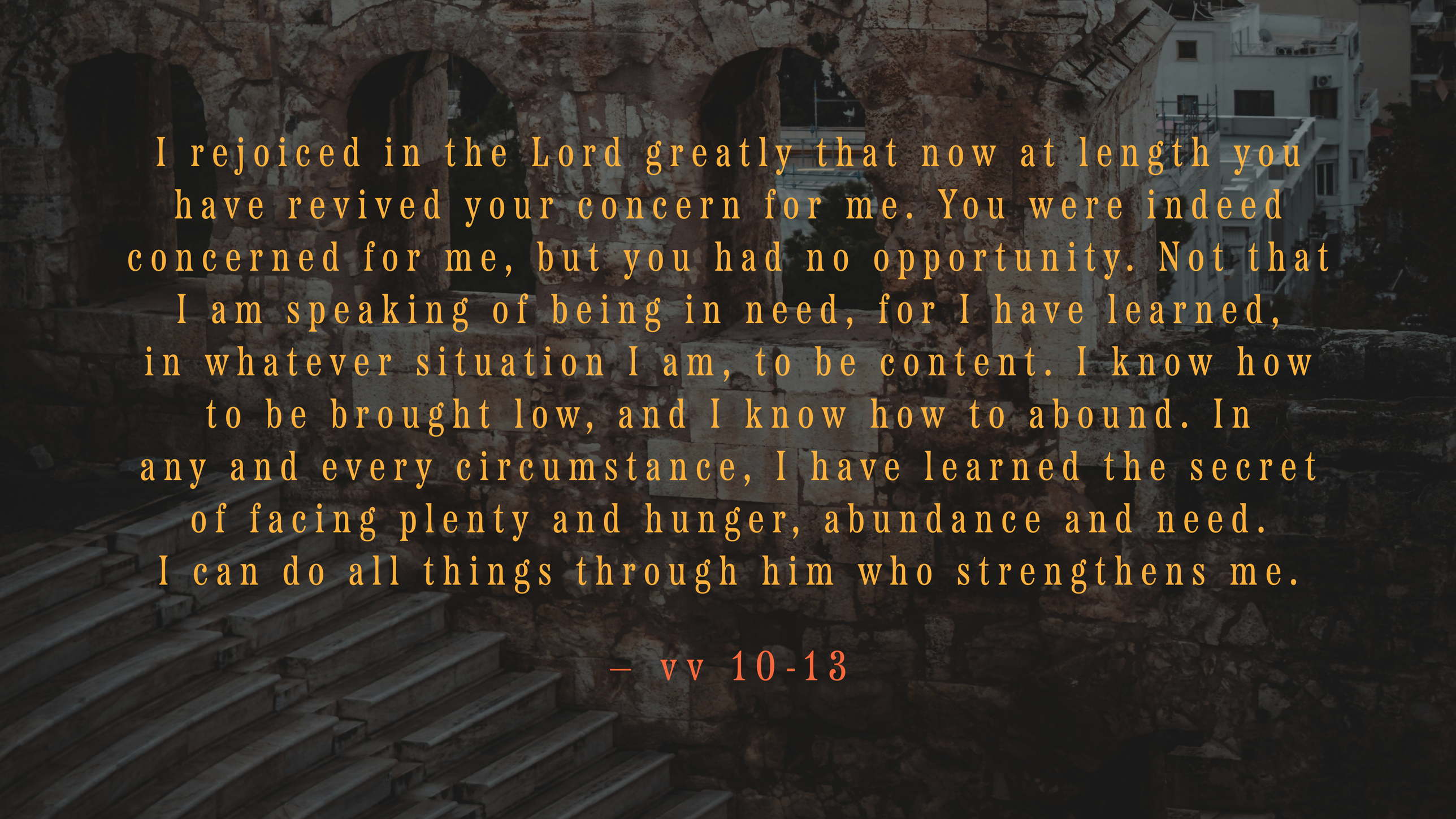
It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us, that the time that still separates us from utter loneliness may be brief indeed. Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer



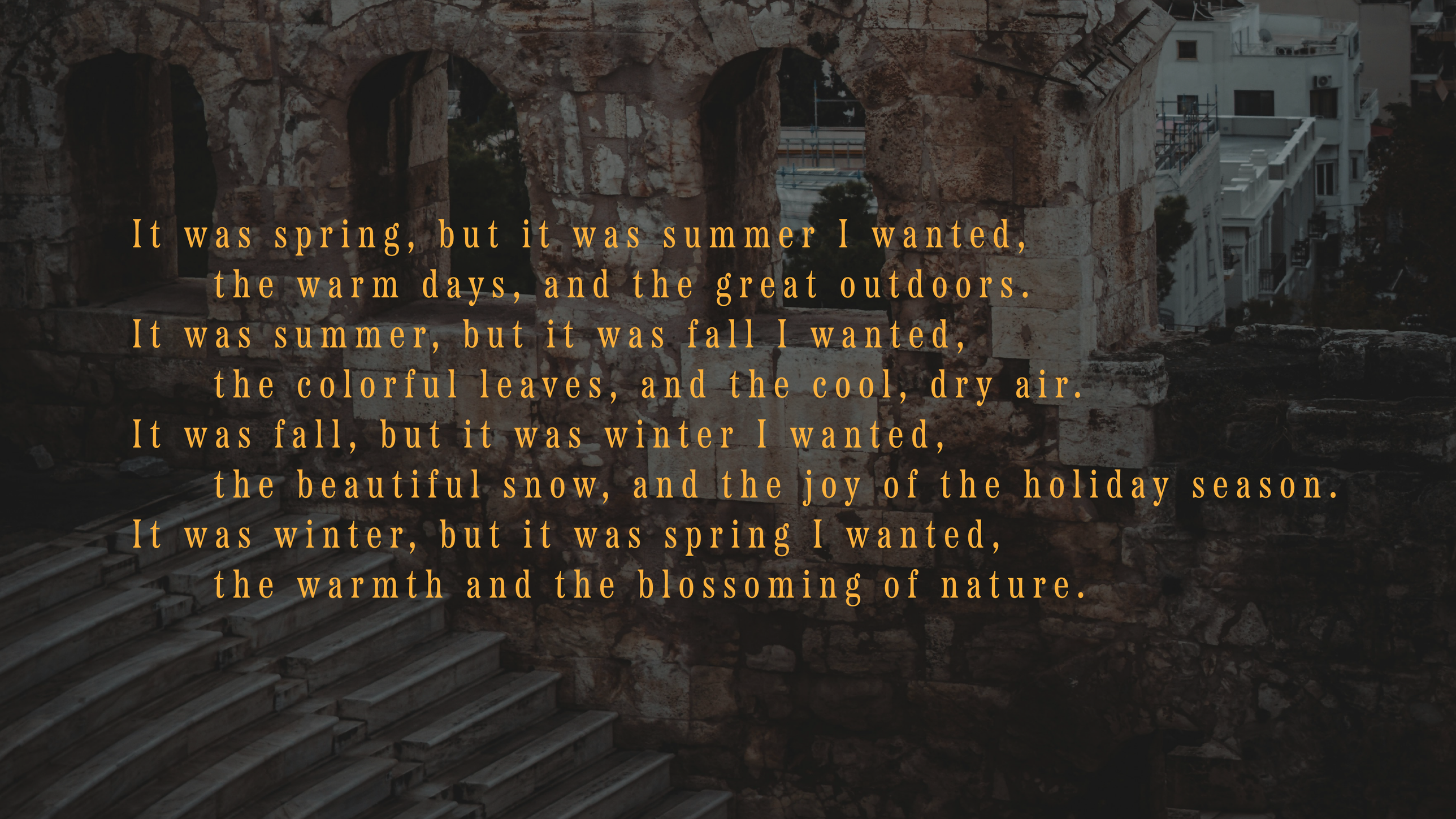
GENEROUS IN GIVING
FAITHFUL IN PARTNERSHIP

Philippians 4:10-23

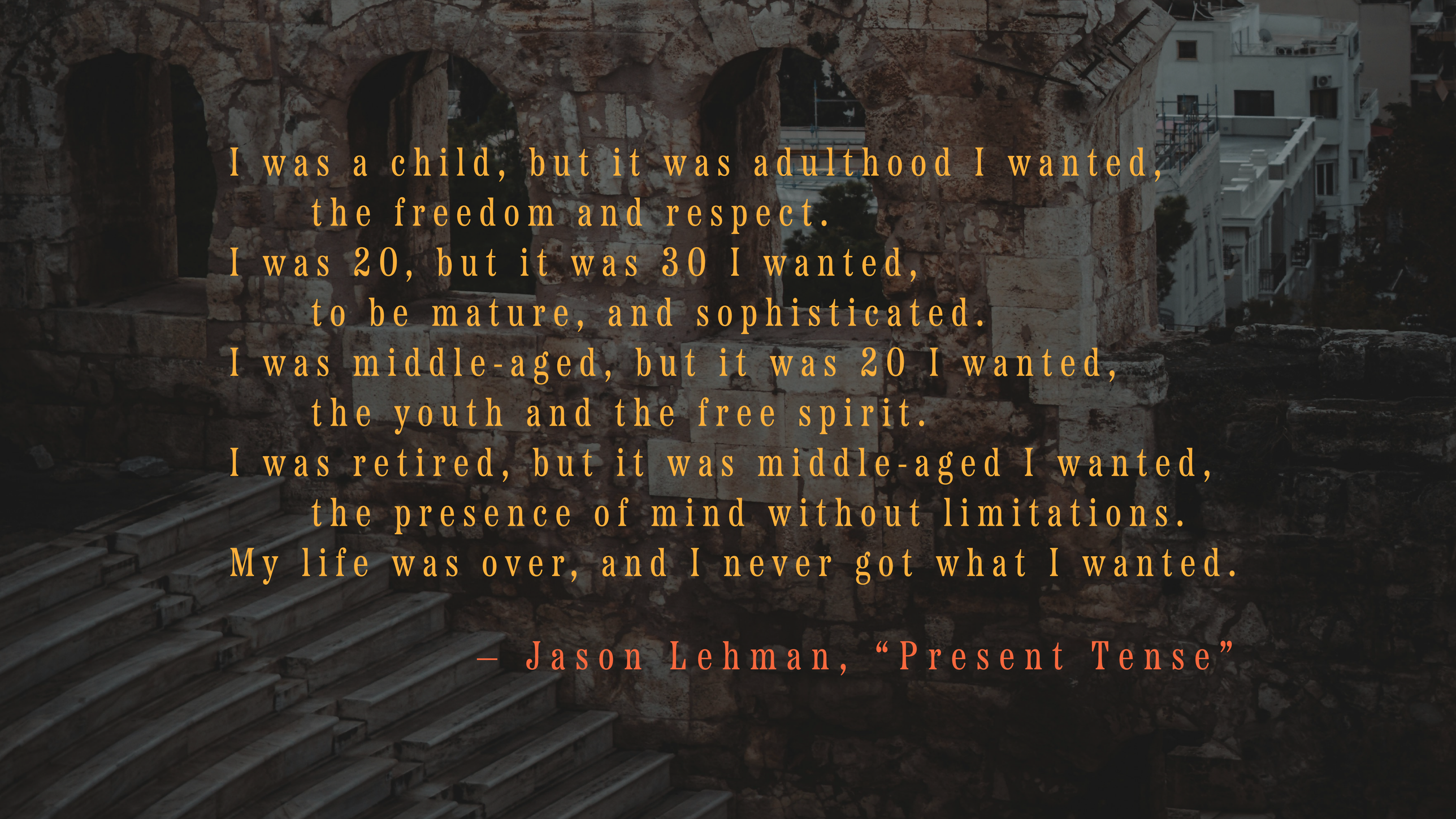


I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to 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.

– vv 10-13

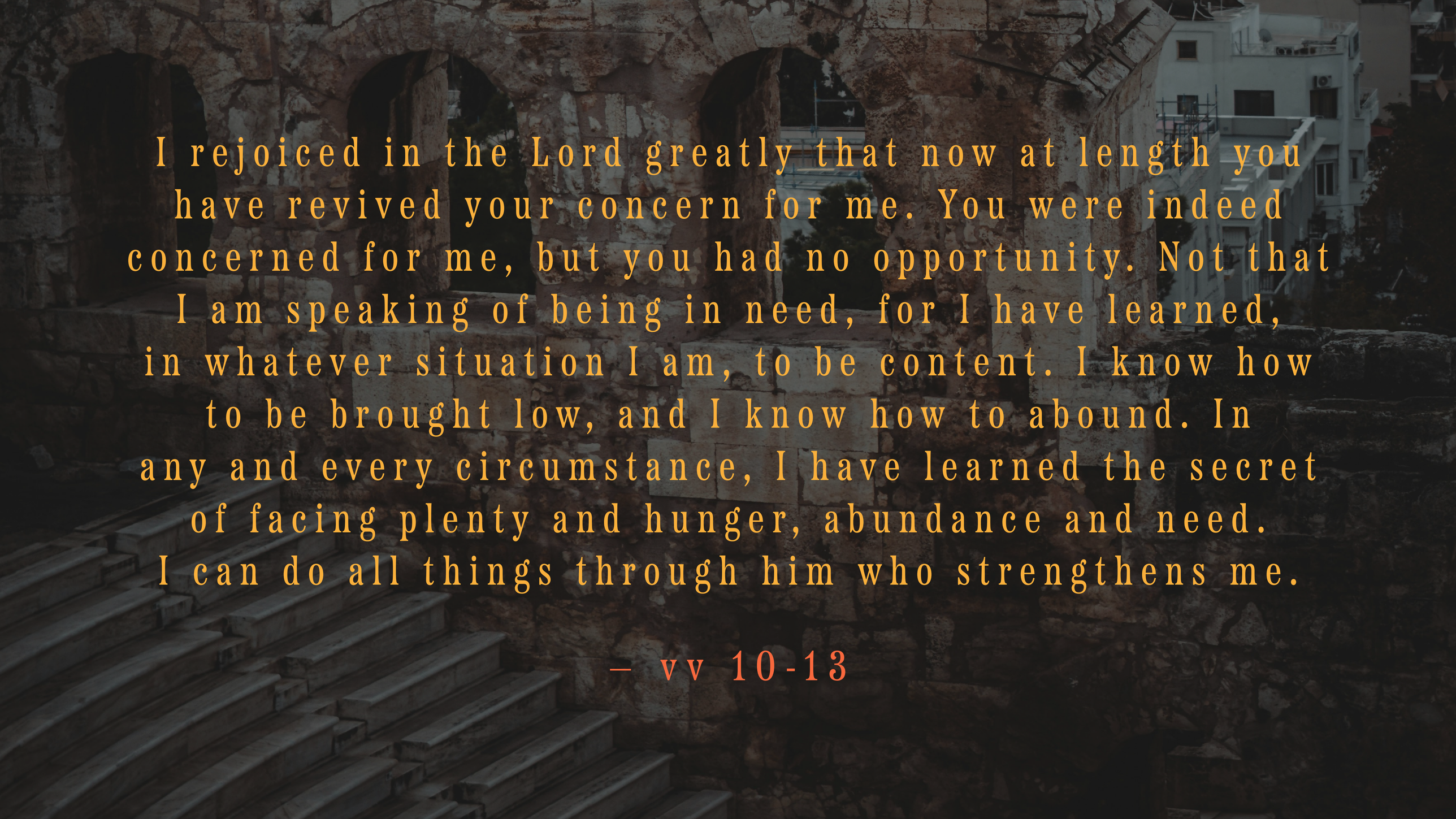


It was spring, but it was summer I wanted,
the warm days, and the great outdoors.
It was summer, but it was fall I wanted,
the colorful leaves, and the cool, dry air.
It was fall, but it was winter I wanted,
the beautiful snow, and the joy of the holiday season.
It was winter, but it was spring I wanted,
the warmth and the blossoming of nature.



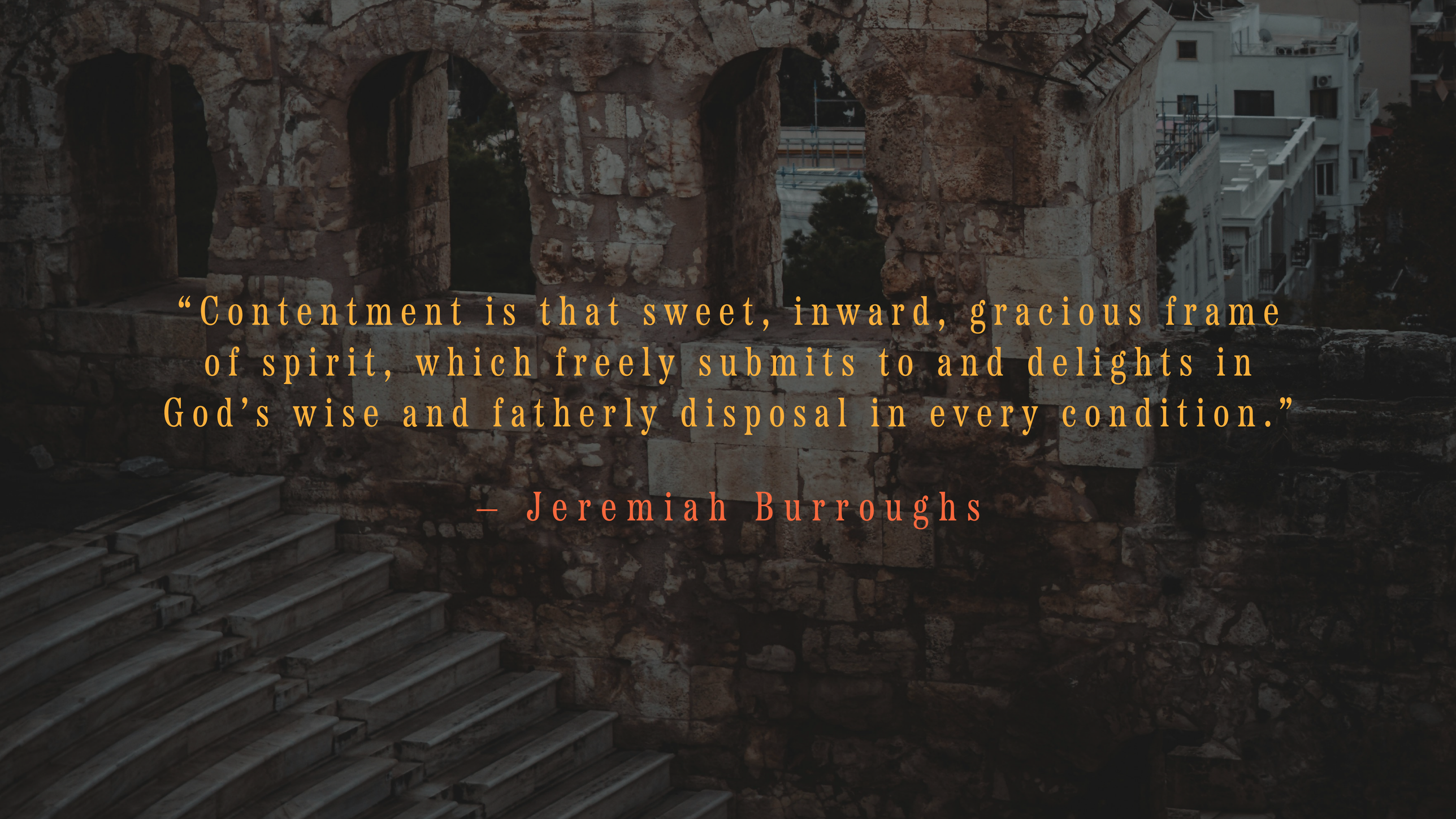
I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted,
the freedom and respect.
I was 20, but it was 30 I wanted,
to be mature, and sophisticated.
I was middle-aged, but it was 20 I wanted,
the youth and the free spirit.
I was retired, but it was middle-aged I wanted,
the presence of mind without limitations.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

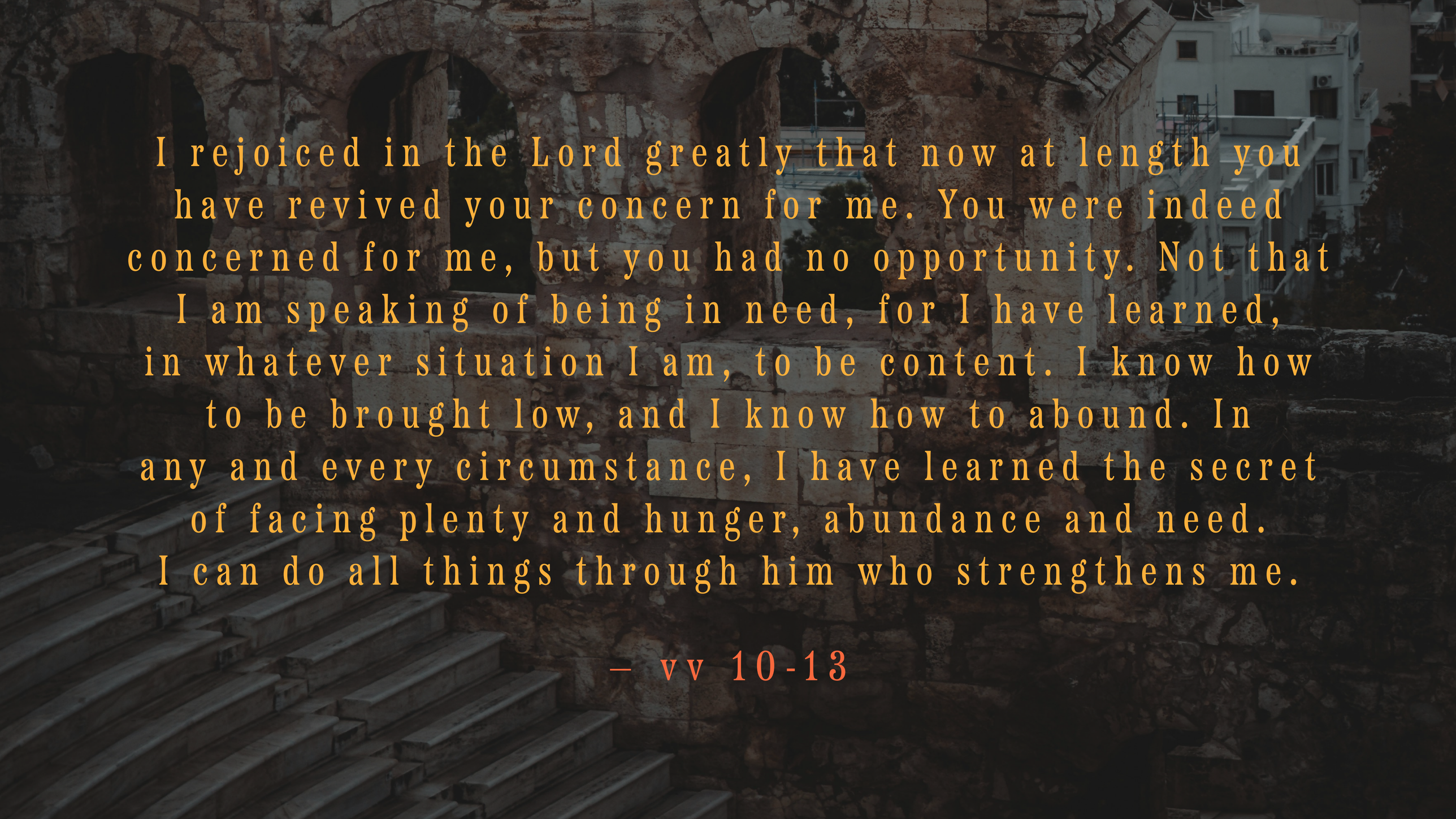
– Jason Lehman, “Present Tense”



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– vv 10-13


“Contentment is that sweet, inward, gracious frame
of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in
God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.”
– Jeremiah Burroughs

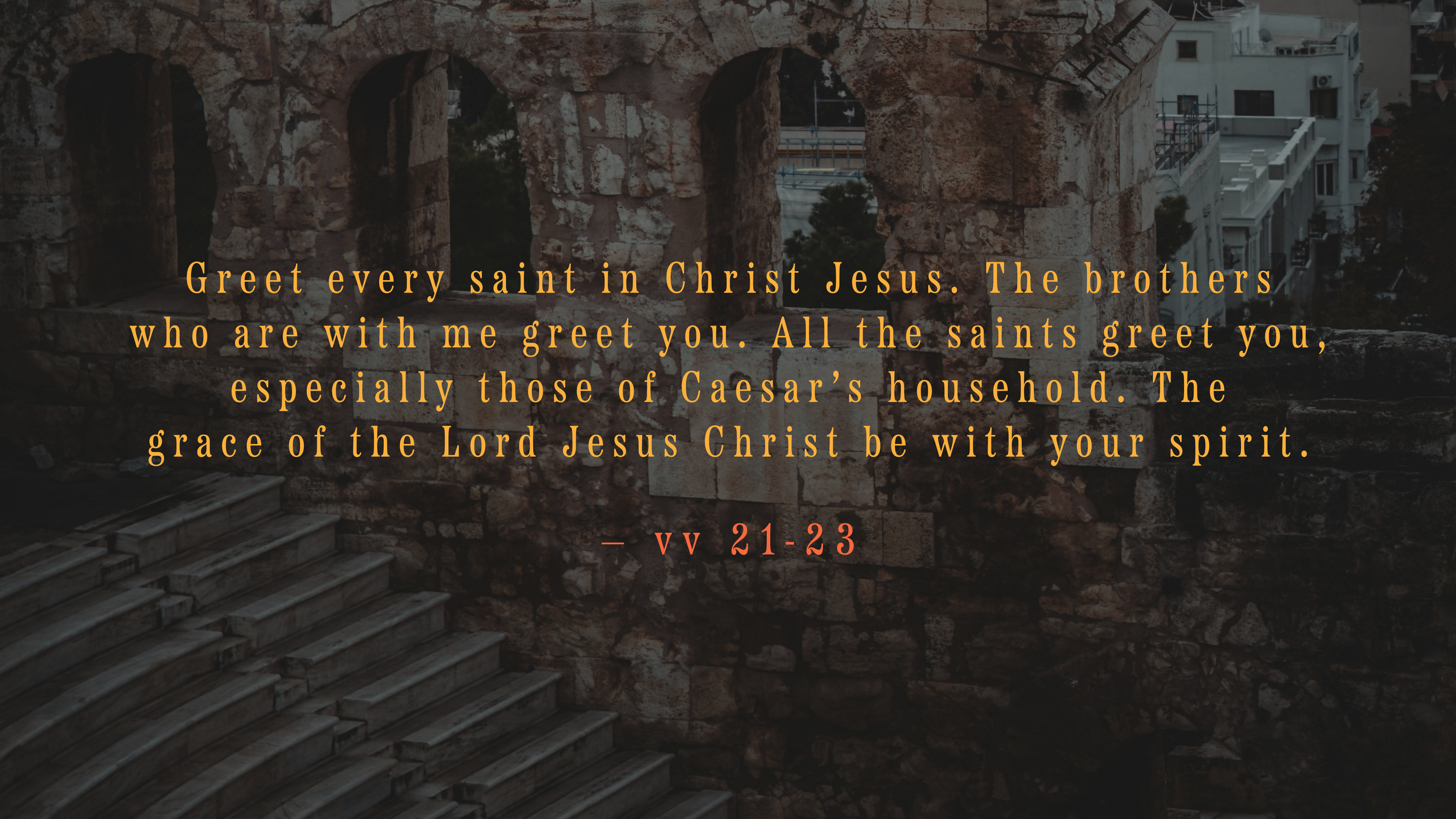


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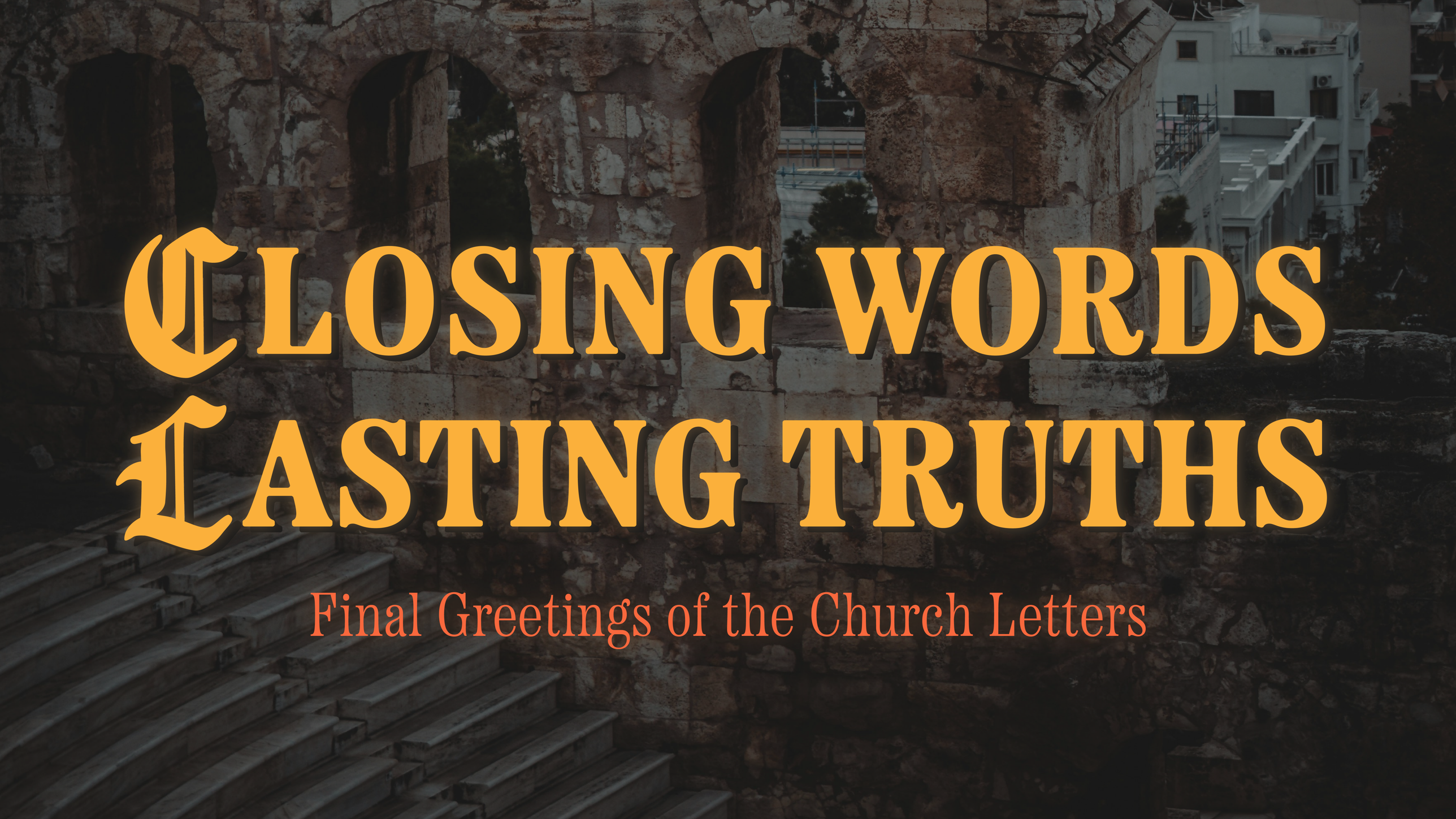
Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except only you. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

— vv 14-20



Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

– vv 21-23



Closing Words Lasting Truths

Final Greetings of the Church Letters