

A group of people are gathered around a wooden table in a casual setting. On the table are several items: a cup of coffee, a plate of pastries, and some fruit. A large green plant is in the background. The word "BREATHING" is written in large, bold, white, italicized capital letters across the center of the image. The overall atmosphere is warm and communal.

BREATHING

THE WORD IN & THROUGH US

CUT FLOWER SYNDROME

“Cut flowers retain their original beauty and fragrance, but only so long as they retain the vitality that they have drawn from their now-severed roots, after that is exhausted, they wither and die.”

– Will Herberg

BREATHING

“The West is still post-Christian rather than non-Christian, but the crisis is well advanced and the difference between the two terms is harder and harder to distinguish.”

– Os Guinness

BREATHING

NORMALCY BIAS

“Normalcy bias, or normality bias, is a cognitive bias which leads people to disbelieve or minimize threat warnings.”

BREATHING

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

– 1 Timothy 4:1-2

BREATHING

Timothy, protect what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly, empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge” — which some have professed and thereby have gone astray from the faith.

– 1 Timothy 6:20-21 NASB

BREATHING

DISCERNMENT

“To identify the true nature of a spirit, doctrine, practice or group; to distinguish truth from error, the divine from the human and the demonic.”

BREATHING

FIVE TYPES OF CHURCHES

- 1. The Compromising Church Partners with a Rebellious Spirit*
- 2. The Complacent Church Partners with a Reluctant Spirit*
- 3. The Consumer Church Partners with a Replacing Spirit*
- 4. The Combative Church Partners with a Religious Spirit*
- 5. The Compelling Church Partners with a Renewing Spirit*

BREATHING

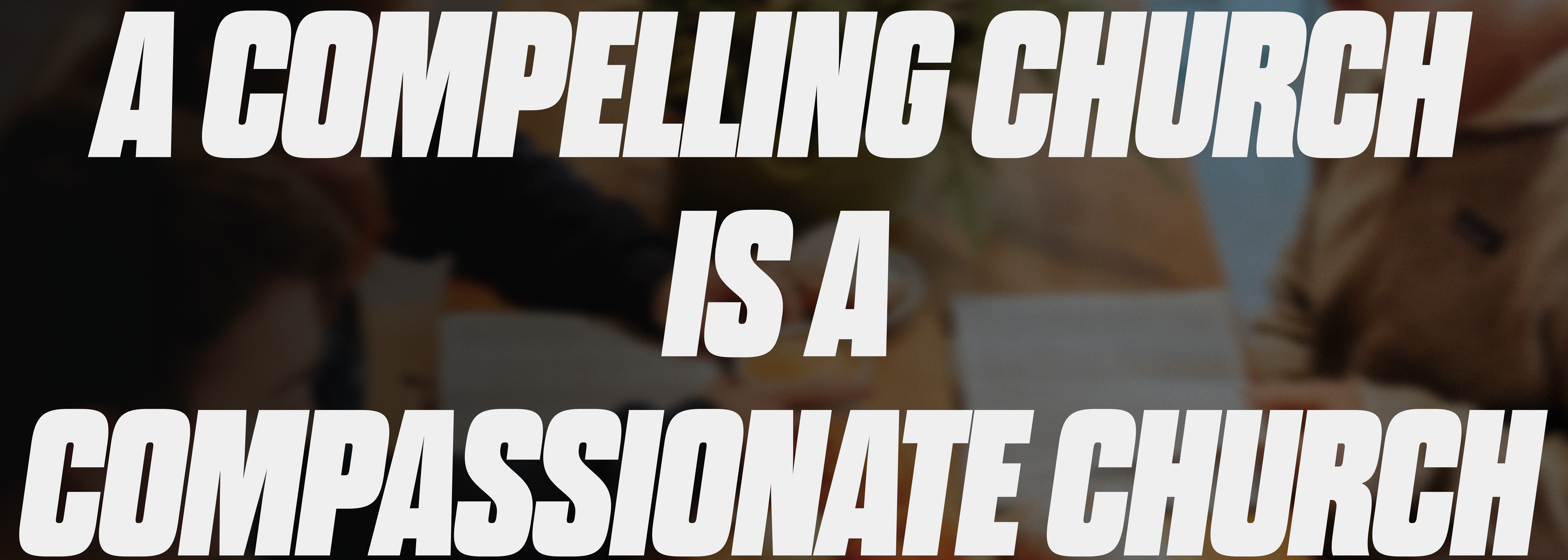
COMPELLING

“Evoking interest, attention, or conviction in a powerfully irresistible way.”

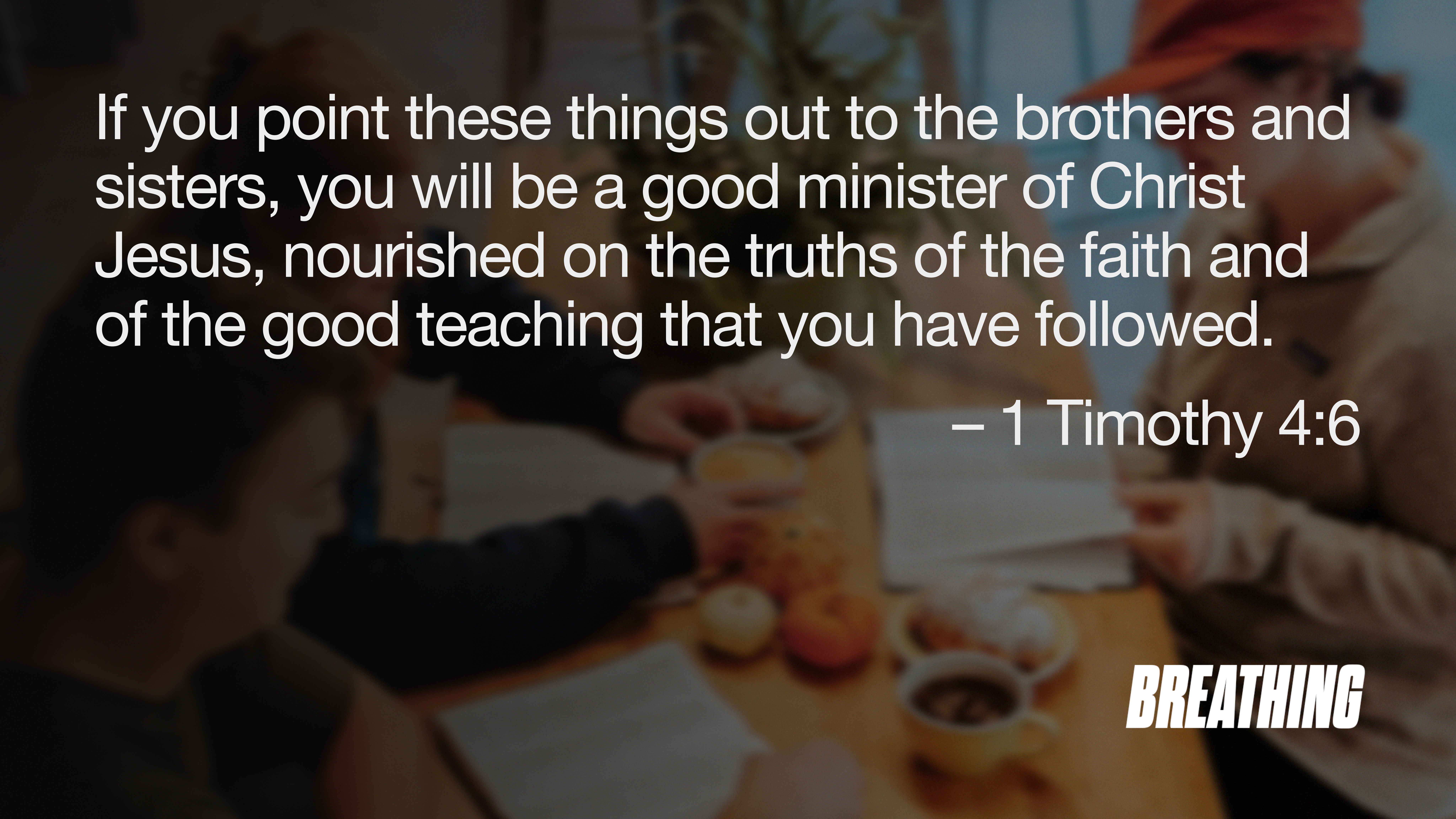
BREATHING



BREATHING



A COMPELLING CHURCH
IS A
COMPASSIONATE CHURCH



If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

– 1 Timothy 4:6

BREATHING

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

– 2 Timothy 2:25-26

BREATHING



“Cultural engagement without cultural discernment leads to cultural captivity.”

– Ken Meyers

BREATHING

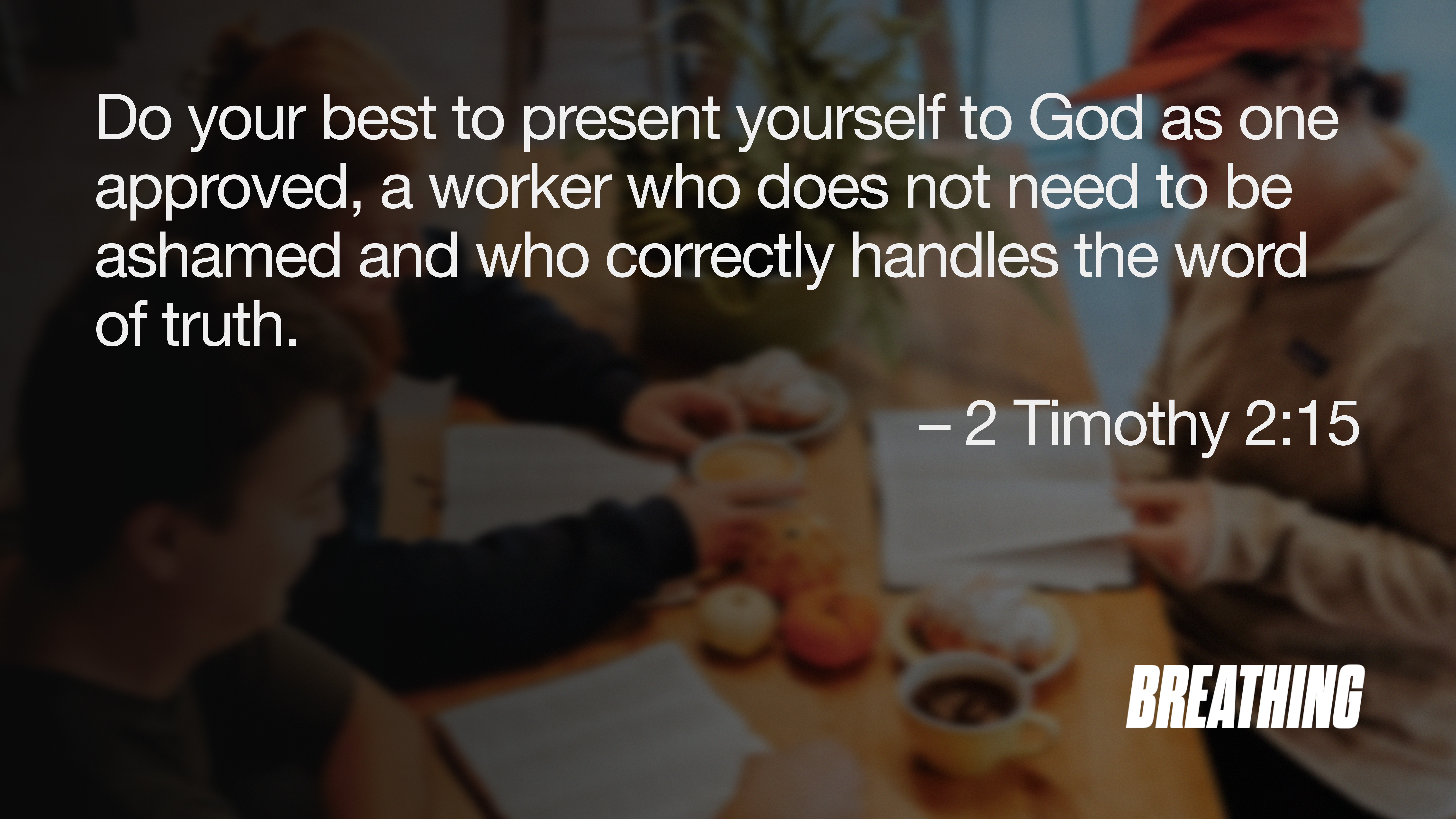


BREATHING

A COMPELLING CHURCH

IS A

COURAGEOUS CHURCH



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

– 2 Timothy 2:15

BREATHING

FOUR SPACES FOR NAVIGATING DOCTRINAL VIEWS

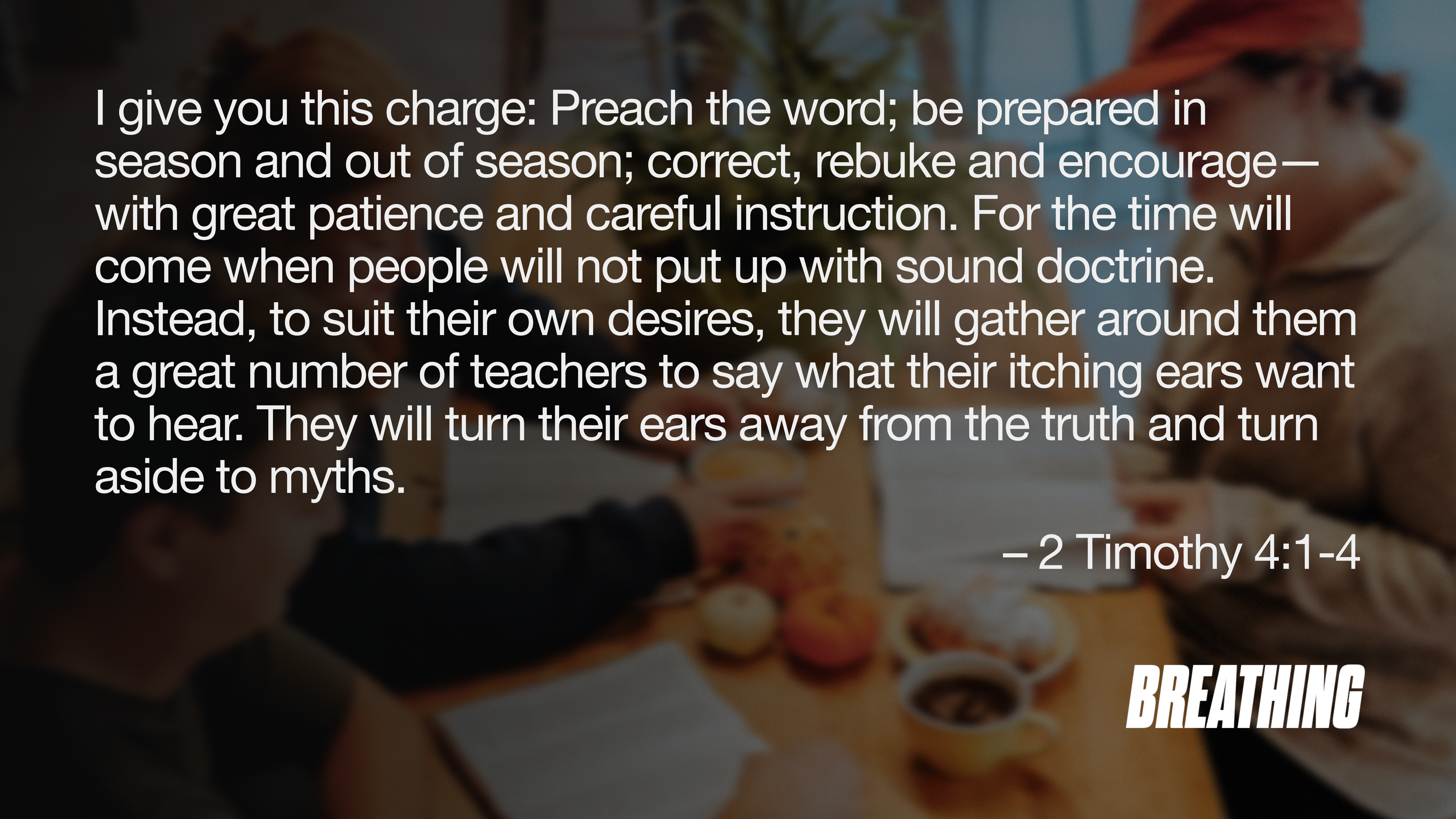
A. Issues to Die For - Bible Essentials

B. Issues to Divide For - Passionate Commitments

C. Issues to Debate For - Areas of Tension

D. Issues to Decide For - Non-Critical Issues

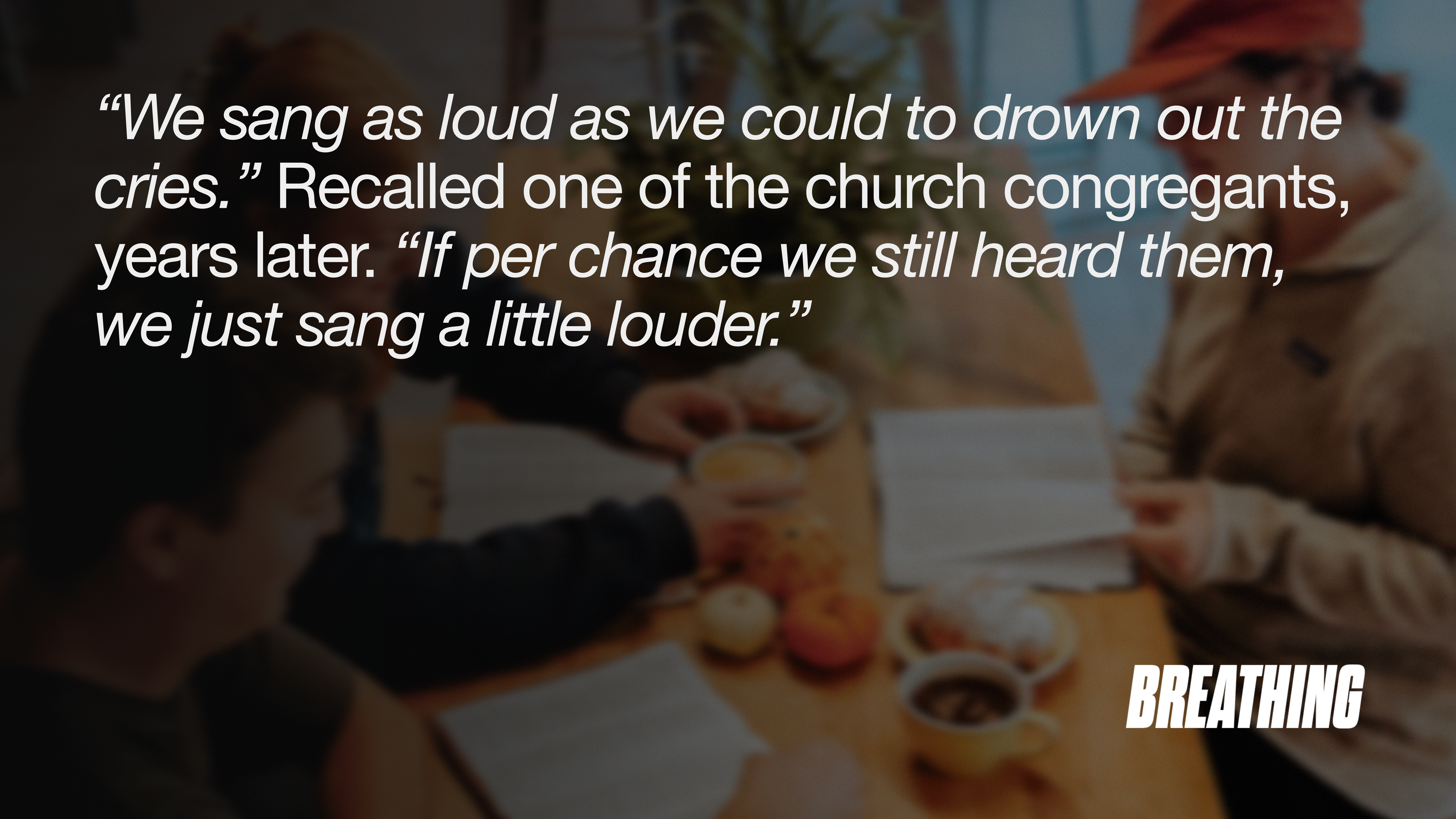
BREATHING



I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

– 2 Timothy 4:1-4

BREATHING

A group of people are seated around a wooden table, looking at papers and coffee cups. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor setting like a library or study. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

“We sang as loud as we could to drown out the cries.” Recalled one of the church congregants, years later. *“If per chance we still heard them, we just sang a little louder.”*

BREATHING



BREATHING

A COMPELLING CHURCH

IS A

CONTENDING CHURCH

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of

– 2 Timothy 3:12-14

BREATHING

They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good

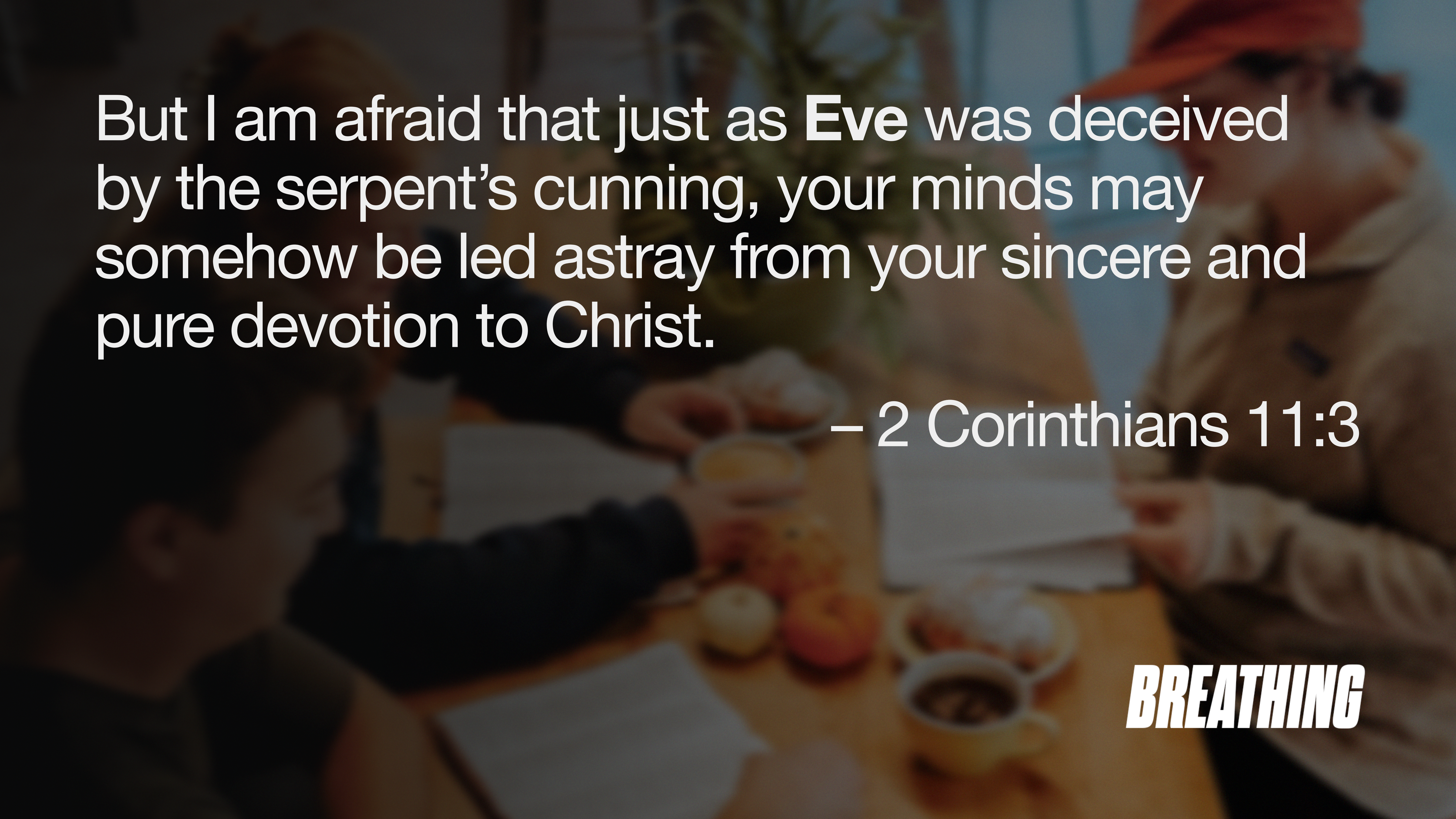
– 1 Timothy 4:3-4

BREATHING

SATAN'S TACTIC

*Disruption, Division, Definition, Demonization,
Deification, Dehumanization*

BREATHING



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

BREATHING

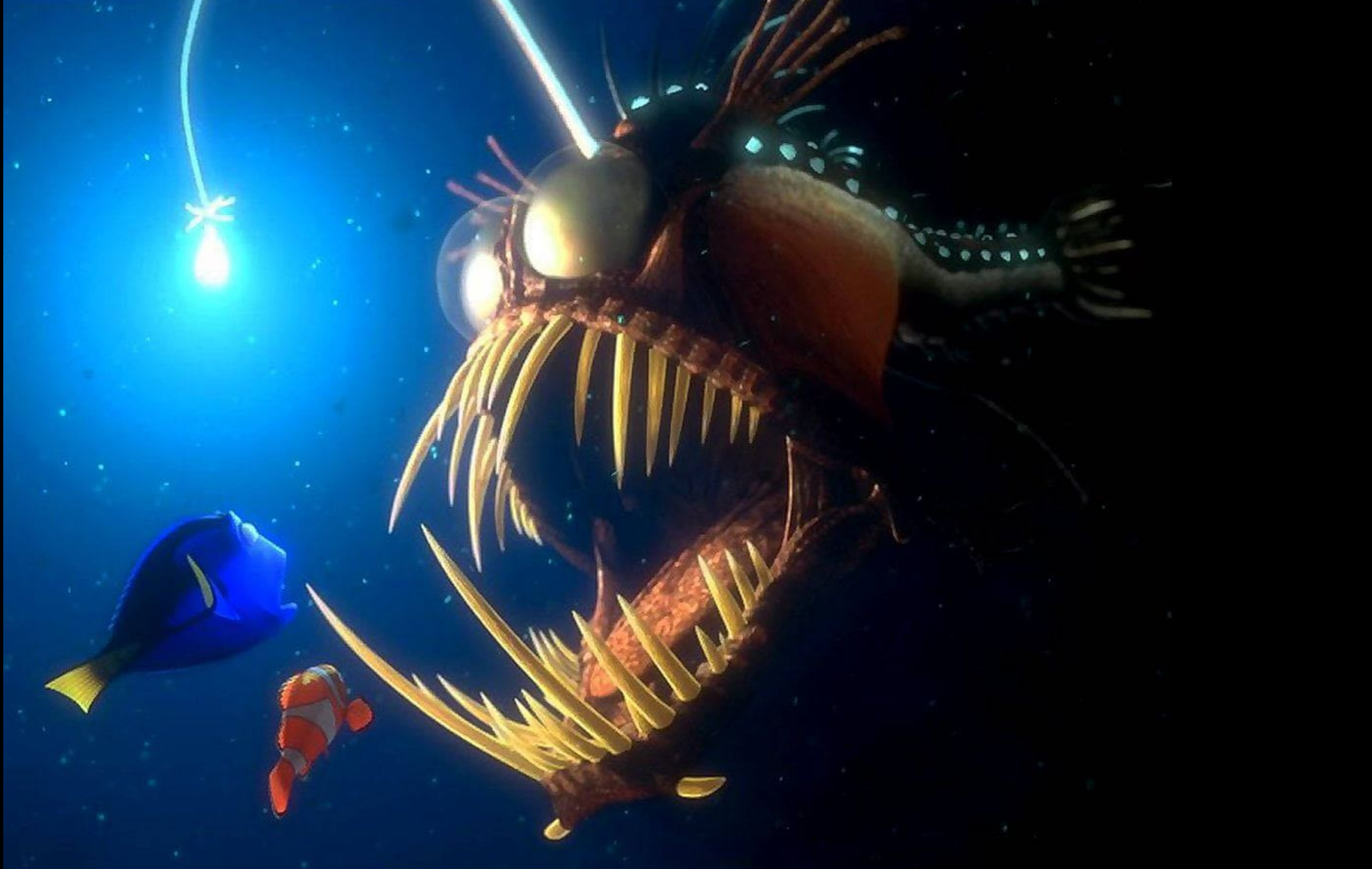
For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness.

– 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

BREATHING



BREATHING



We moved from the lies of *secularization*

[GOD IS NOT REAL]

To the lies of *victimization*

[GOD IS NOT GOOD]

BREATHING

DARVO

Is an acronym for Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender.

It is a deceitful mechanism used by manipulators to make the abuser look like the victim.

***DARVO** is a fusion of gaslighting and blame-shifting.*

BREATHING

GOD IS THE HERO

FALL TO



SOLUTION

TRUTH

RESTORE

DEFINE

EXPERIENCE



COUNTERFEIT

ACCUSE

DIVIDE

DISTORT

EXPLOIT

FALL AWAY



GOD IS THE VILLAIN



“The same people that talk of peace, lobby for it and convene peace conferences, are often the same people who are blinded by Satan who does not want the world to recognize the Source of peace. Satan does everything in his power to steer peace seekers away from the Peacemaker, Jesus Christ.”

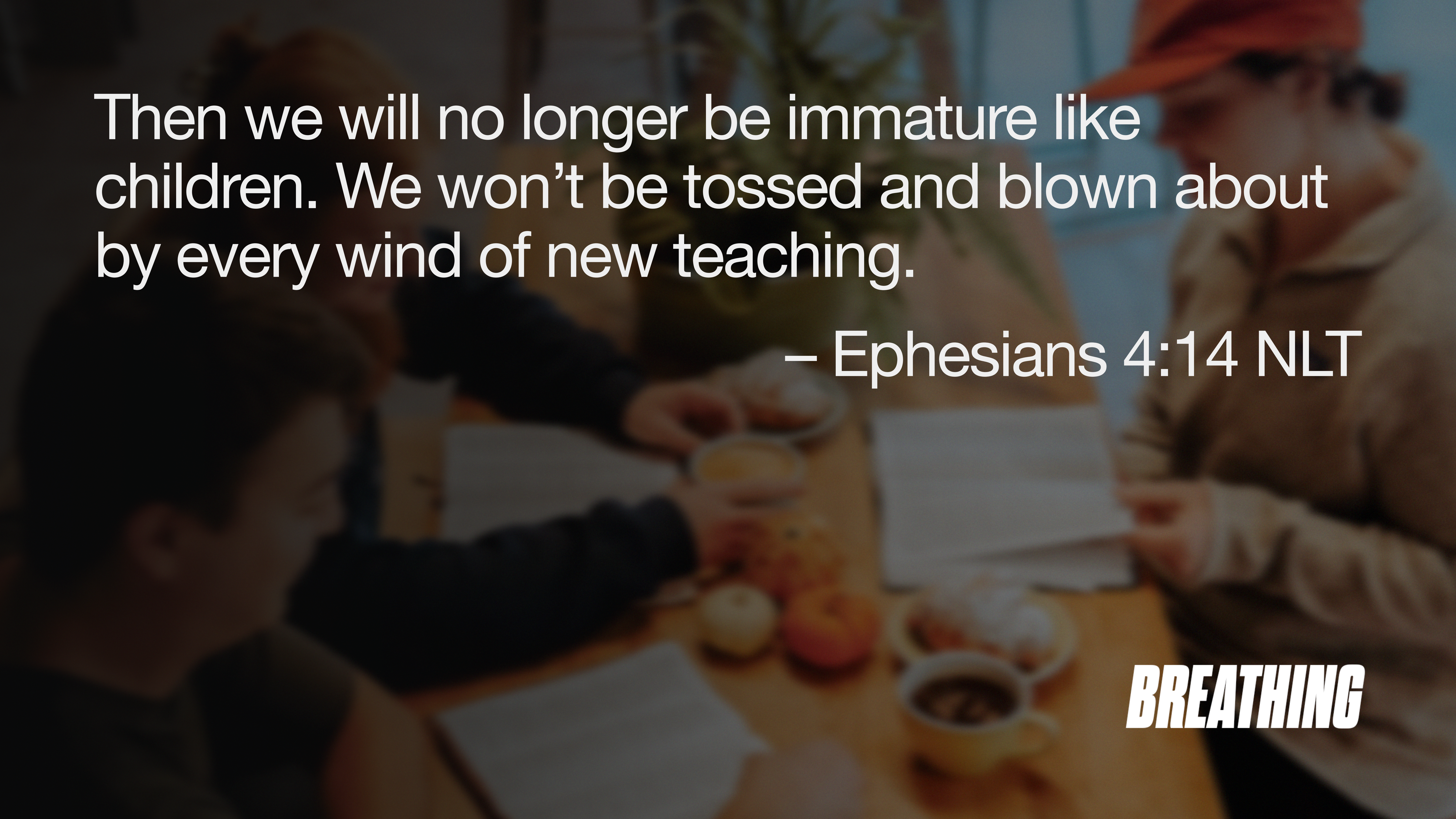
– Billy Graham

BREATHING

These are the kind of people who smooth-talk themselves into the homes of unstable and needy women and take advantage of them; women who, depressed by their sinfulness, take up with every new religious fad that calls itself “truth.” They get exploited every time and never really learn.

– 2 Timothy 3:6 MSG

BREATHING



Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching.

– Ephesians 4:14 NLT

BREATHING



BREATHING



A COMPELLING CHURCH

IS A

COUNTER NARRATIVE

CHURCH

A group of people are gathered around a wooden table in a casual setting. On the table are several items: a cup of coffee, a plate of pastries, and some fruit. A large, bold, white text overlay reads "BREATHING".

BREATHING

THE WORD IN & THROUGH US