

ONE BODY

saints standing side by side



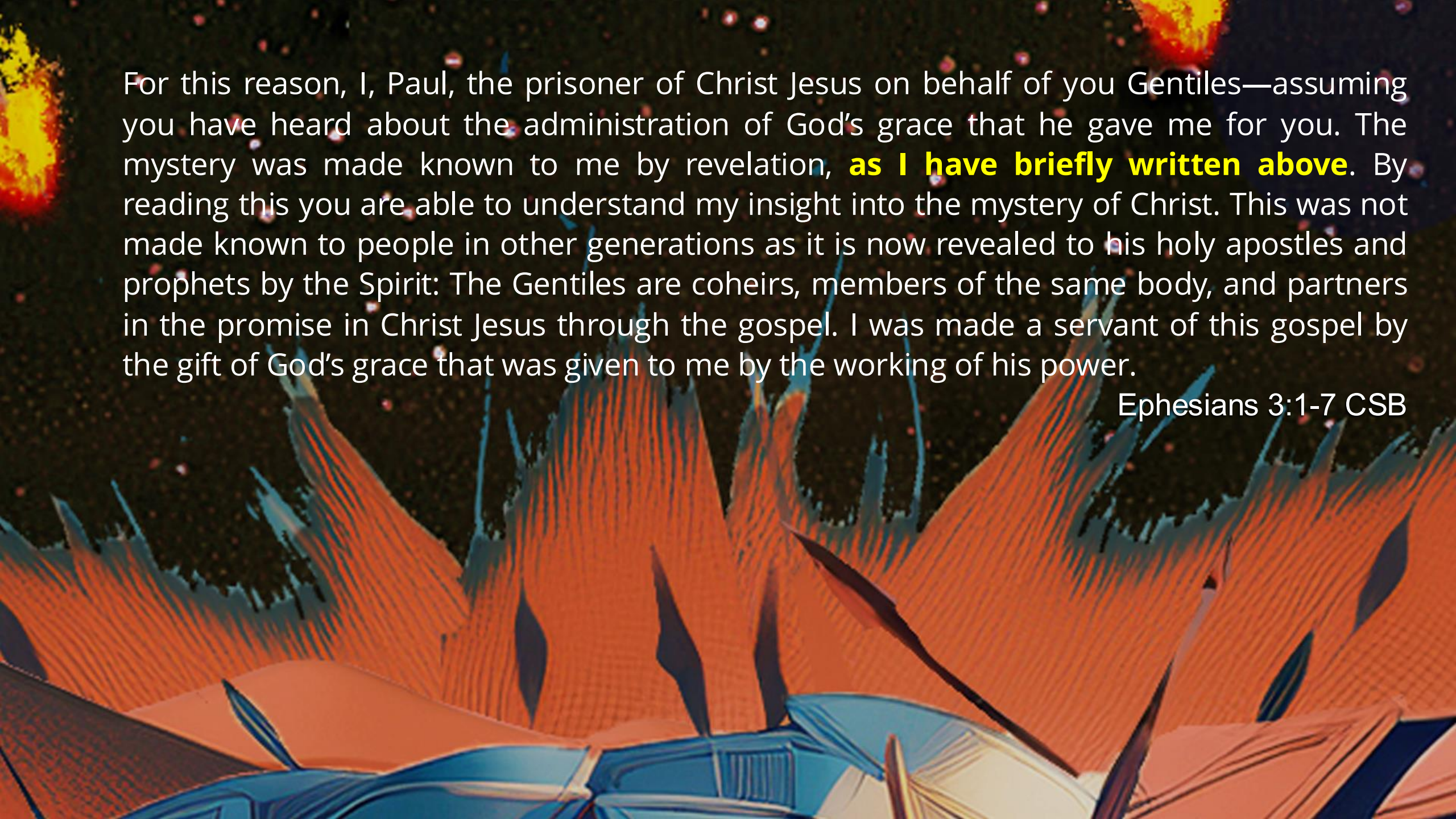
What is your reason for serving the Lord?





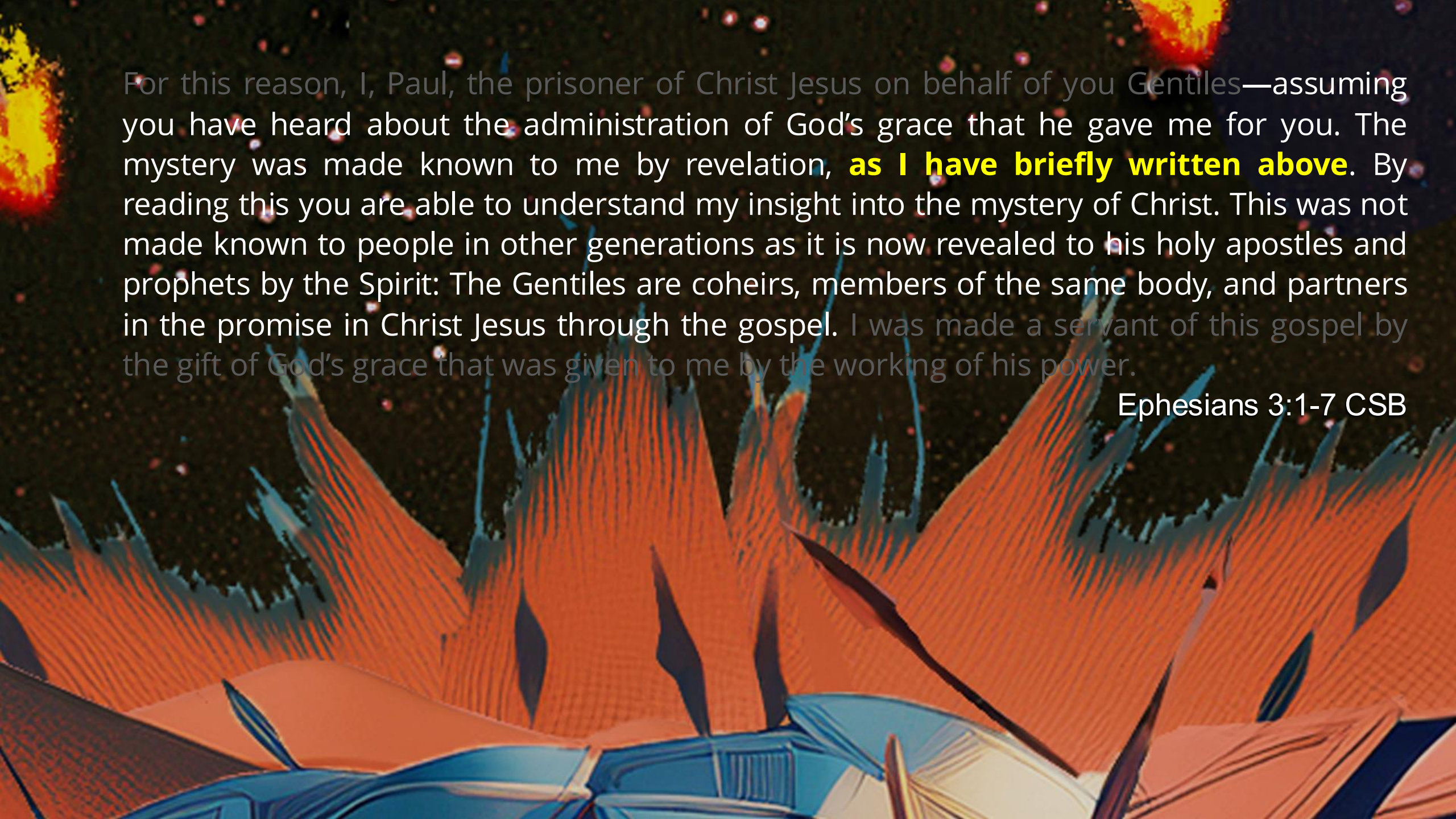
What is your reason for serving the Lord?

Recall how Saul of Tarsus became a servant of the Gospel



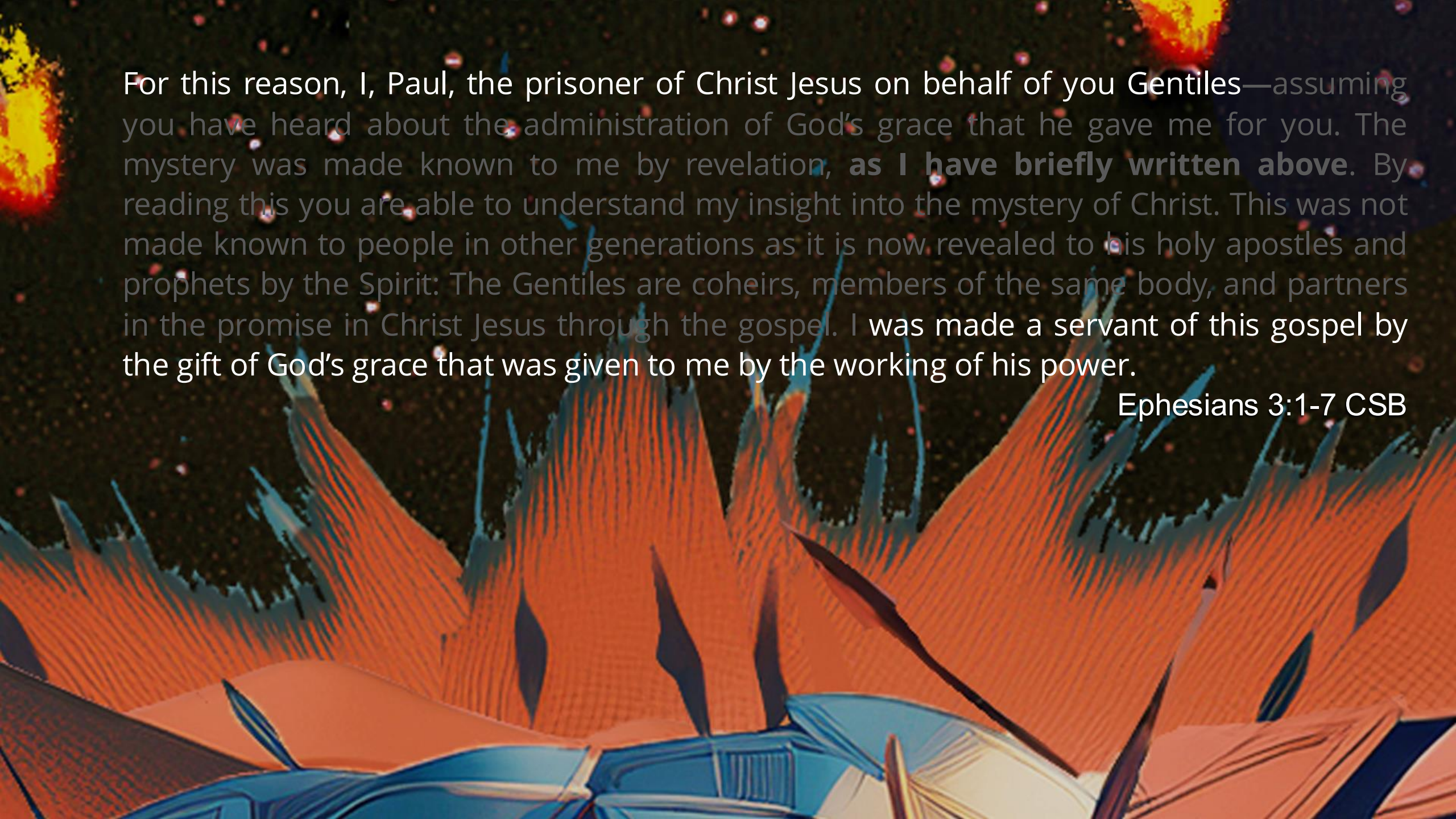
For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that he gave me for you. The mystery was made known to me by revelation, **as I have briefly written above**. By reading this you are able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. This was not made known to people in other generations as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power.

Ephesians 3:1-7 CSB



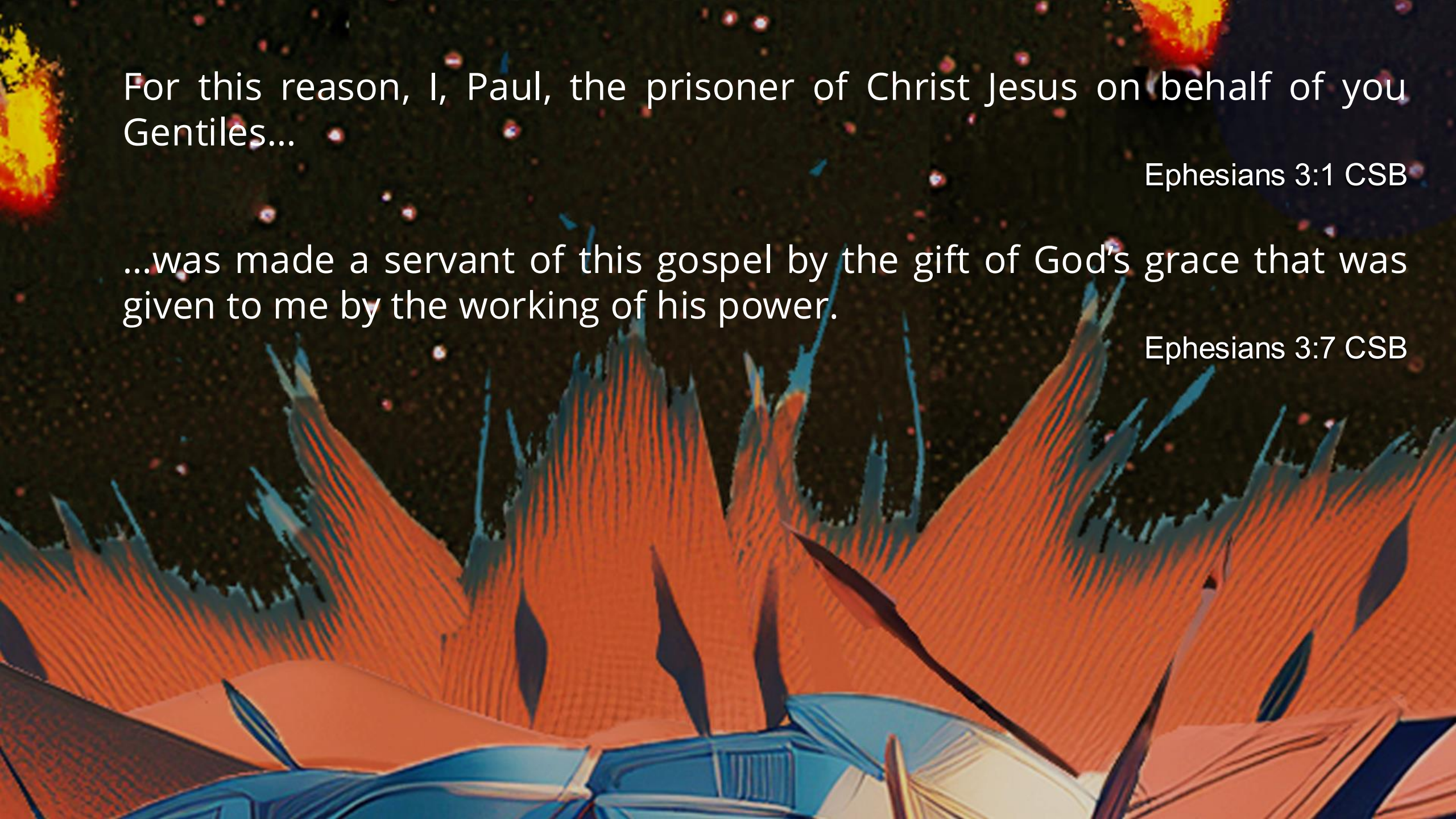
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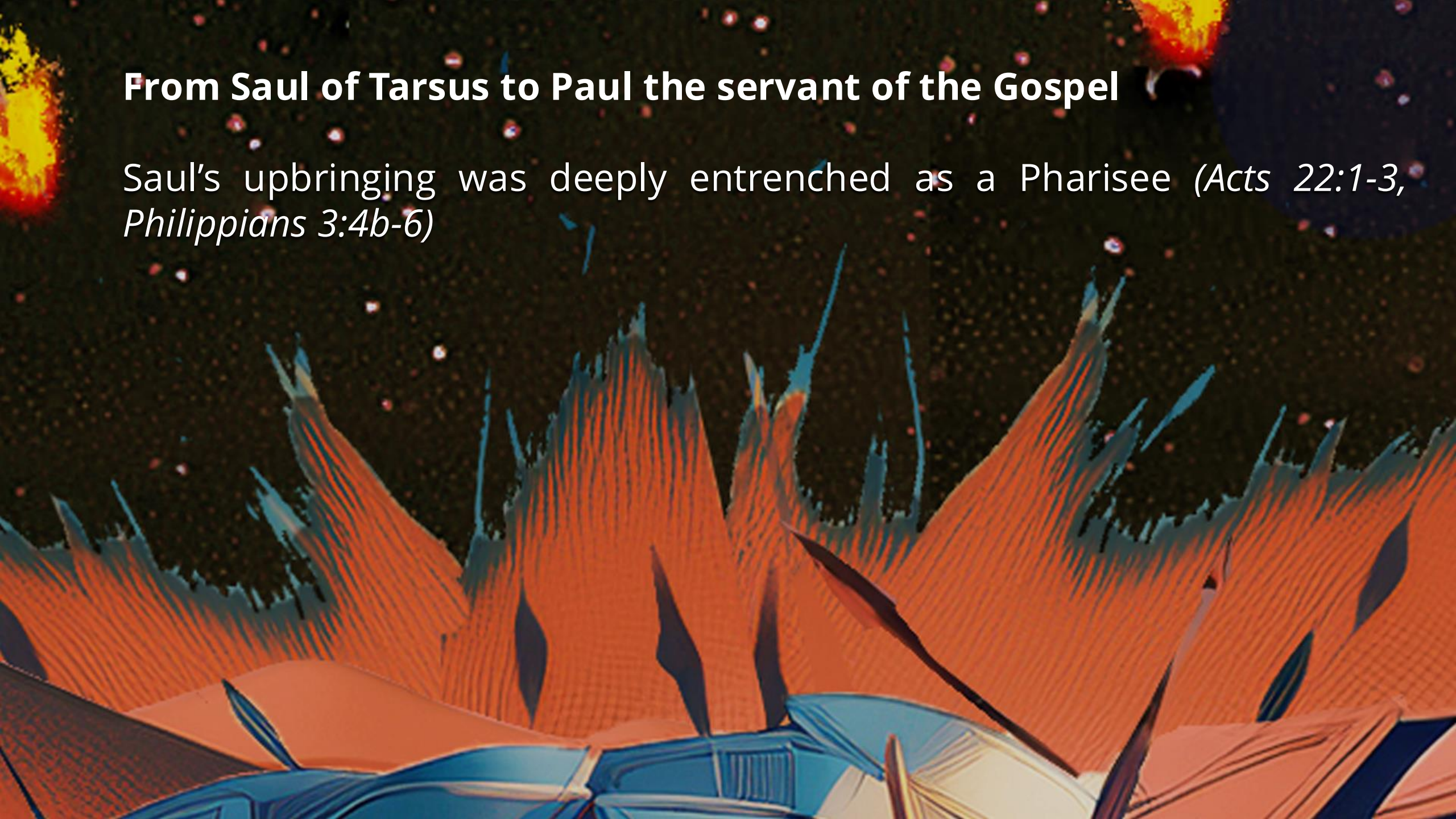
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Ephesians 3:7 CSB

From Saul of Tarsus to Paul the servant of the Gospel

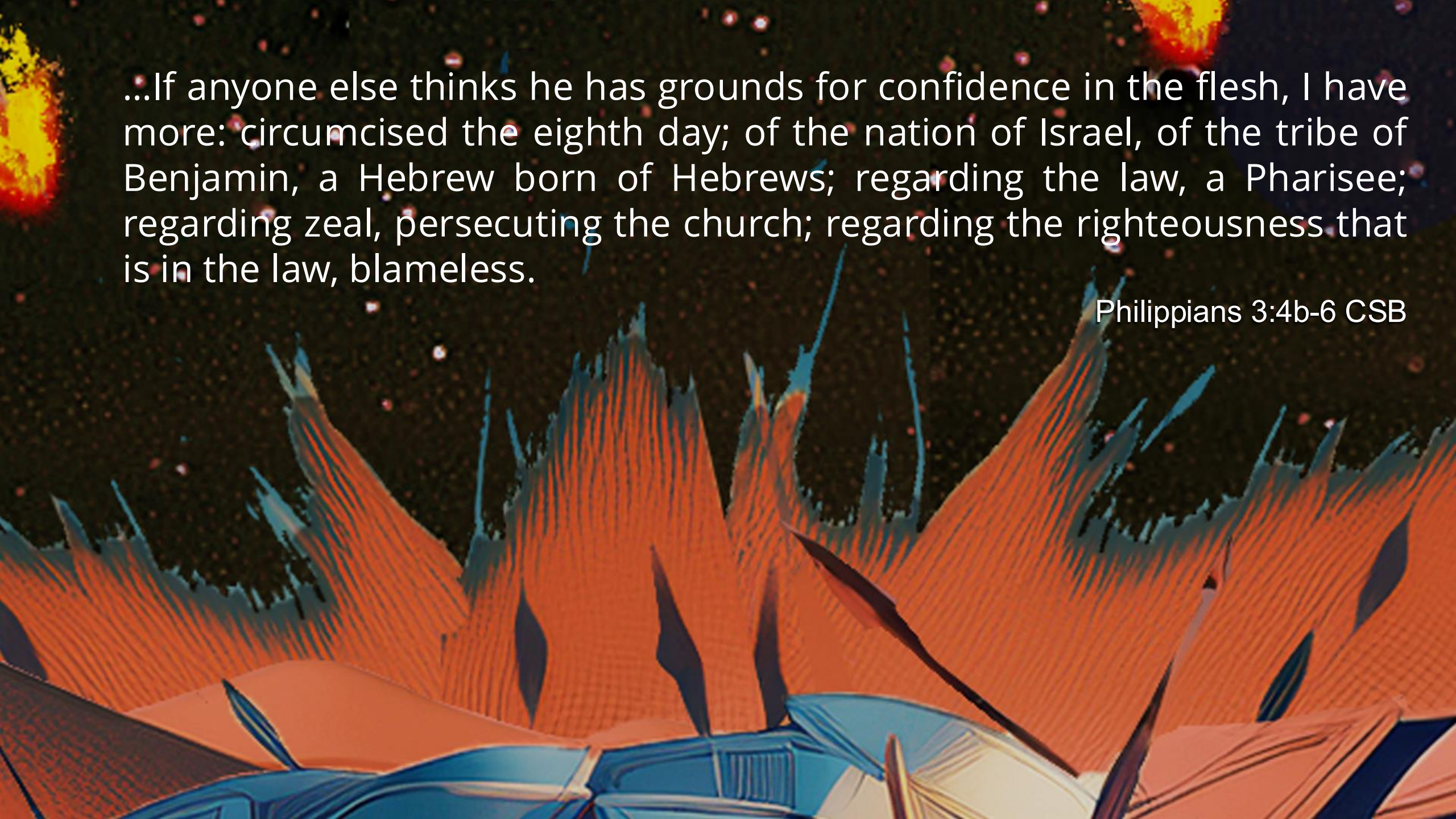
Saul's upbringing was deeply entrenched as a Pharisee (*Acts 22:1-3, Philippians 3:4b-6*)





“Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you... I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strictness of our ancestral law. I was zealous for God, just as all of you are today.

Acts 22:1, 3 CSB

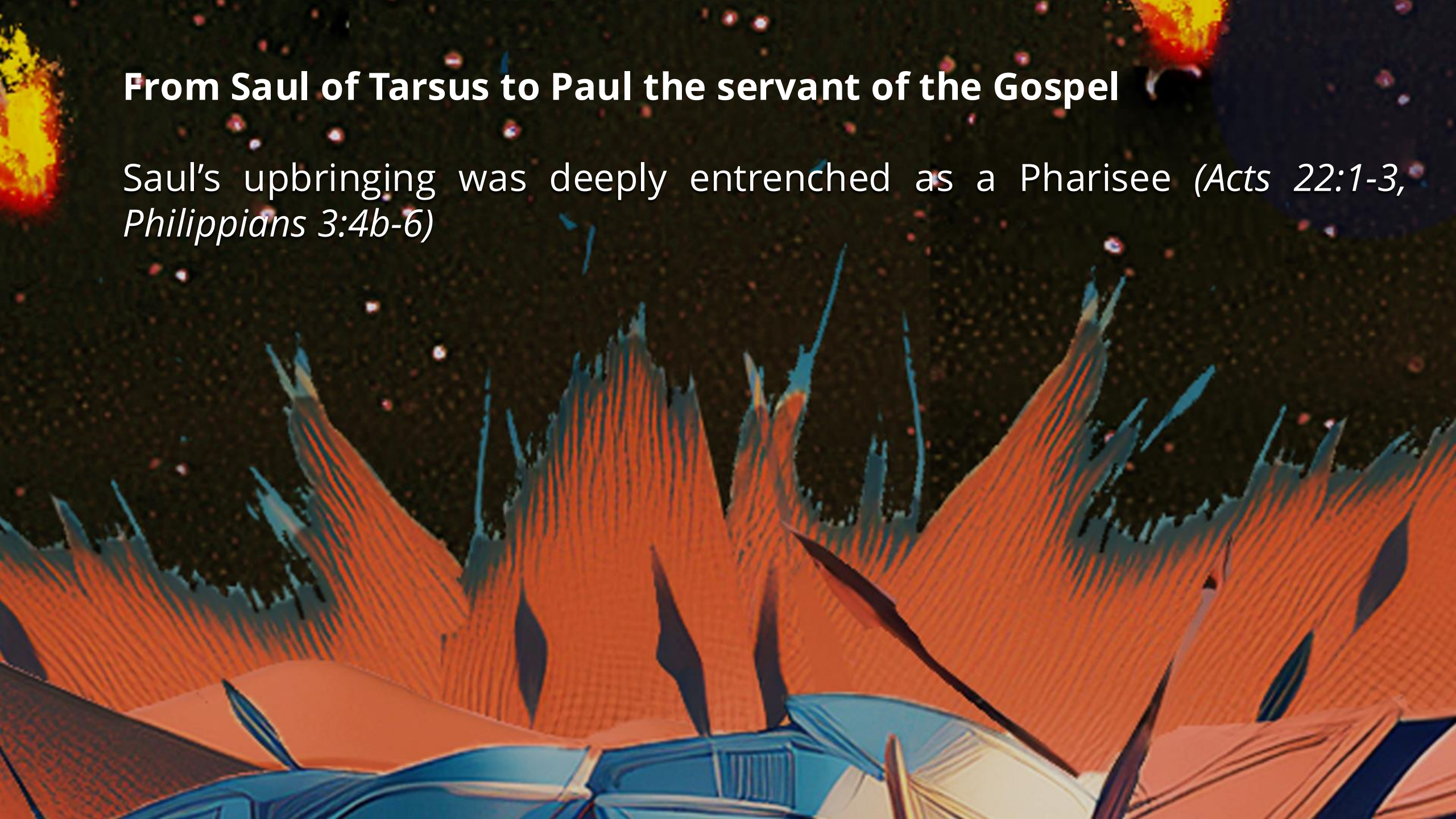


...If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee; regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

Philippians 3:4b-6 CSB

From Saul of Tarsus to Paul the servant of the Gospel

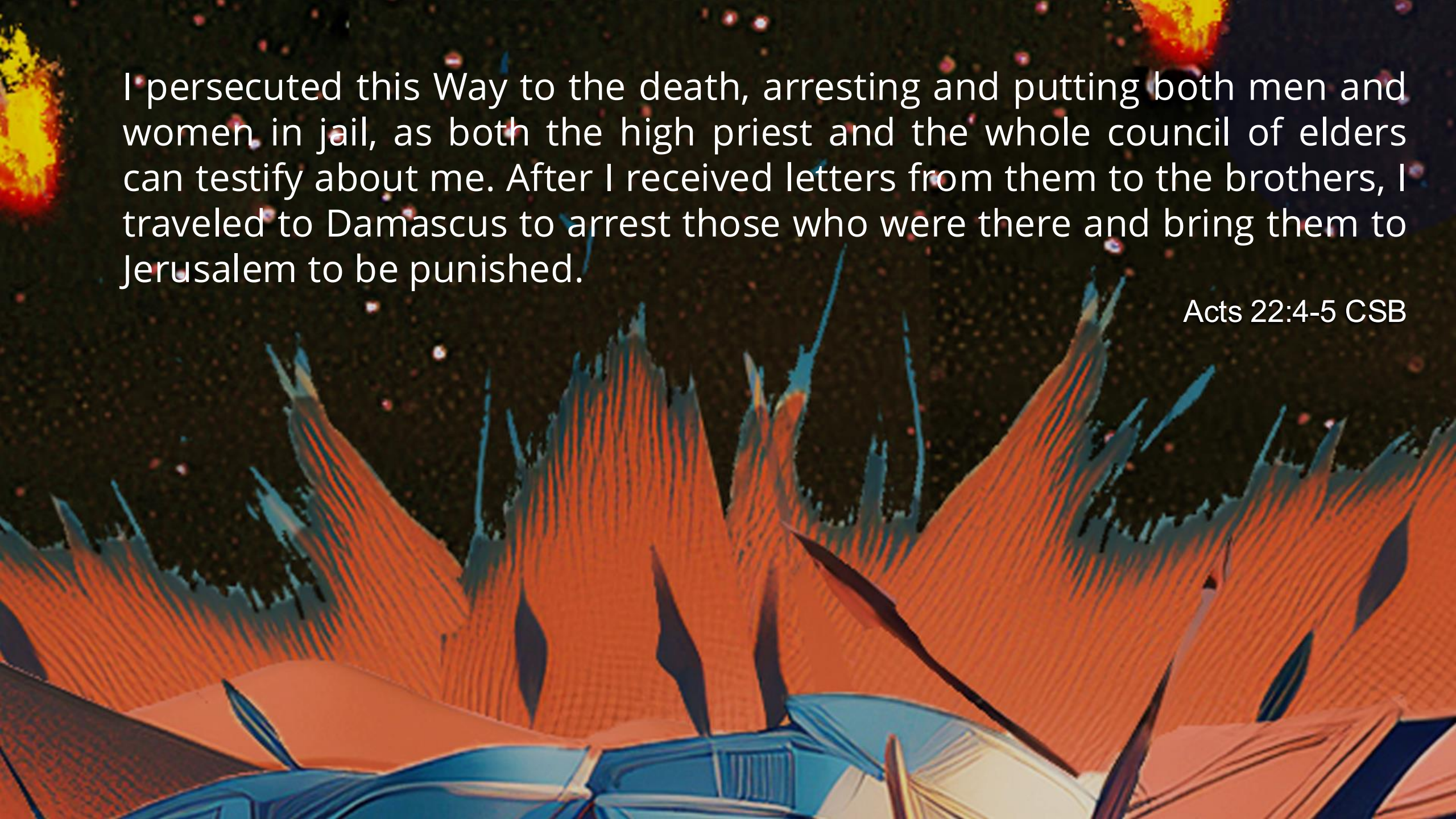
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Saul's hatred of Christians was well known (*Acts 7:57-58, 8:1-3, 22:4-5*)



I persecuted this Way to the death, arresting and putting both men and women in jail, as both the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. After I received letters from them to the brothers, I traveled to Damascus to arrest those who were there and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.

Acts 22:4-5 CSB

From Saul of Tarsus to Paul the servant of the Gospel

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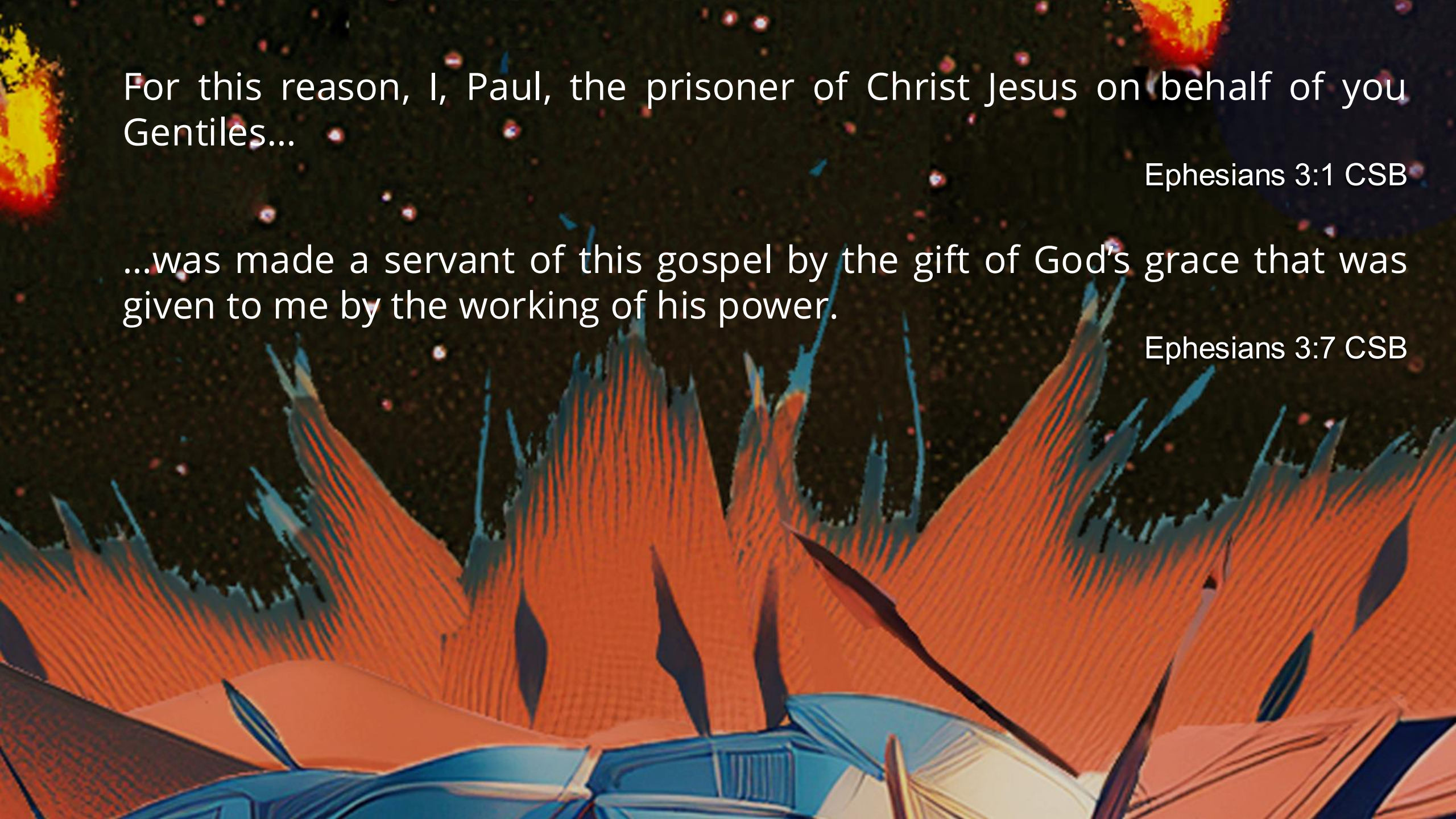
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Saul's testimony of his conversion was abundant concerning how radically he was changed (*Acts 22, Philipians 3, Galatians 1, Ephesians 3*)



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Ephesians 3:1 CSB

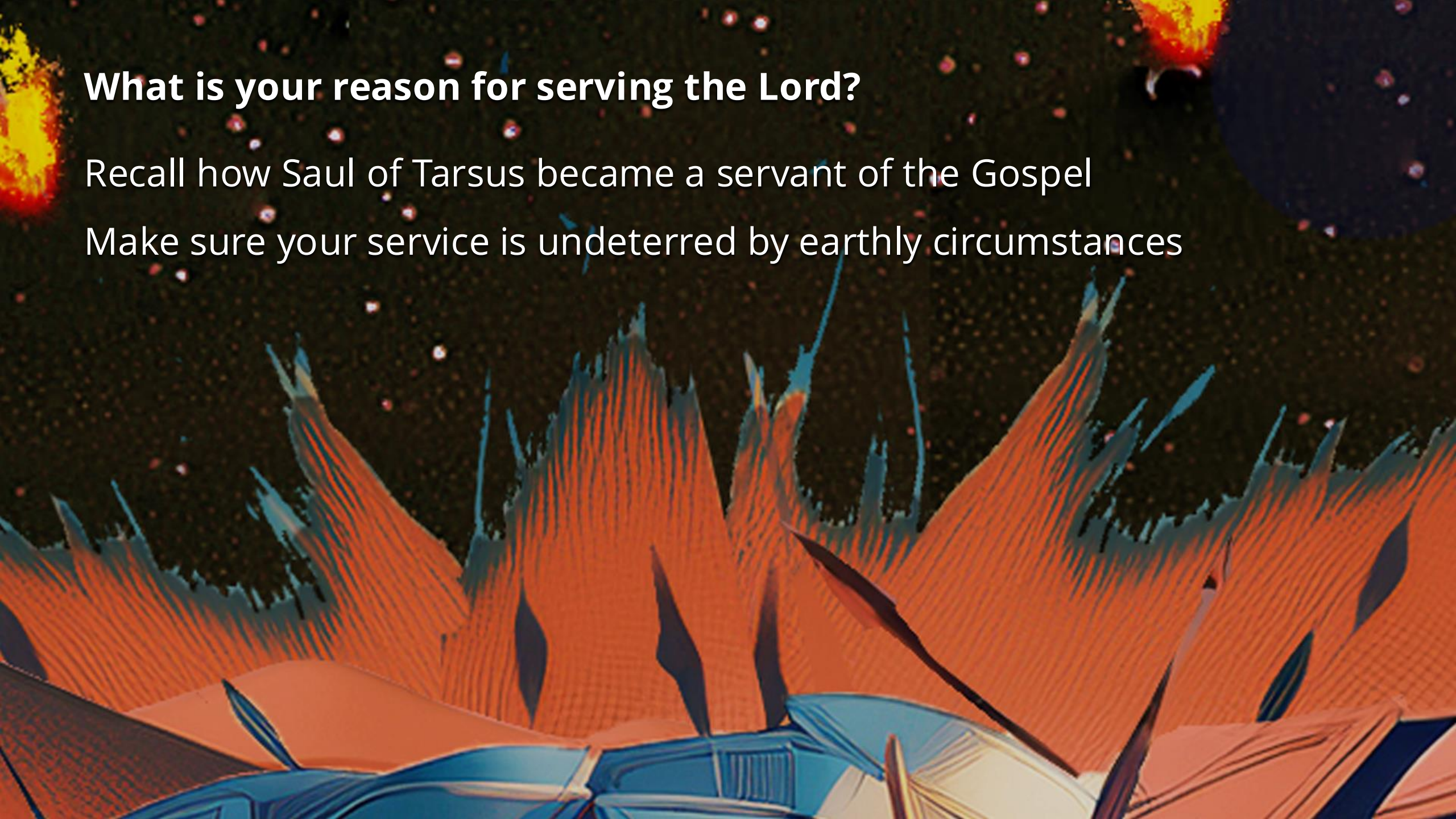
...was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power.

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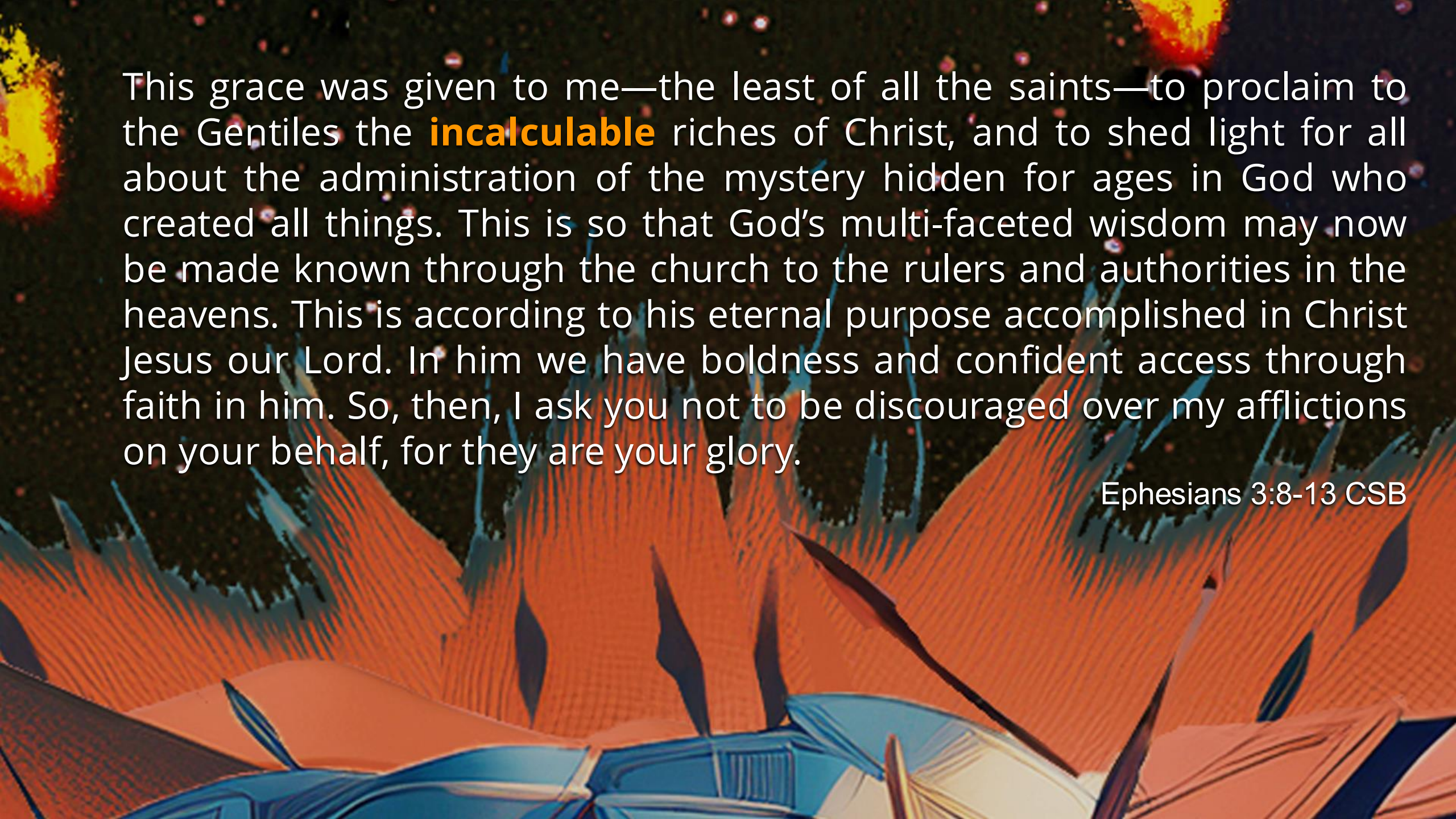
Recall how Saul of Tarsus became a servant of the Gospel



What is your reason for serving the Lord?

Recall how Saul of Tarsus became a servant of the Gospel

Make sure your service is undeterred by earthly circumstances



This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the **incalculable** riches of Christ, and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. This is so that God’s multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. This is according to his eternal purpose accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him we have boldness and confident access through faith in him. So, then, I ask you not to be discouraged over my afflictions on your behalf, for they are your glory.

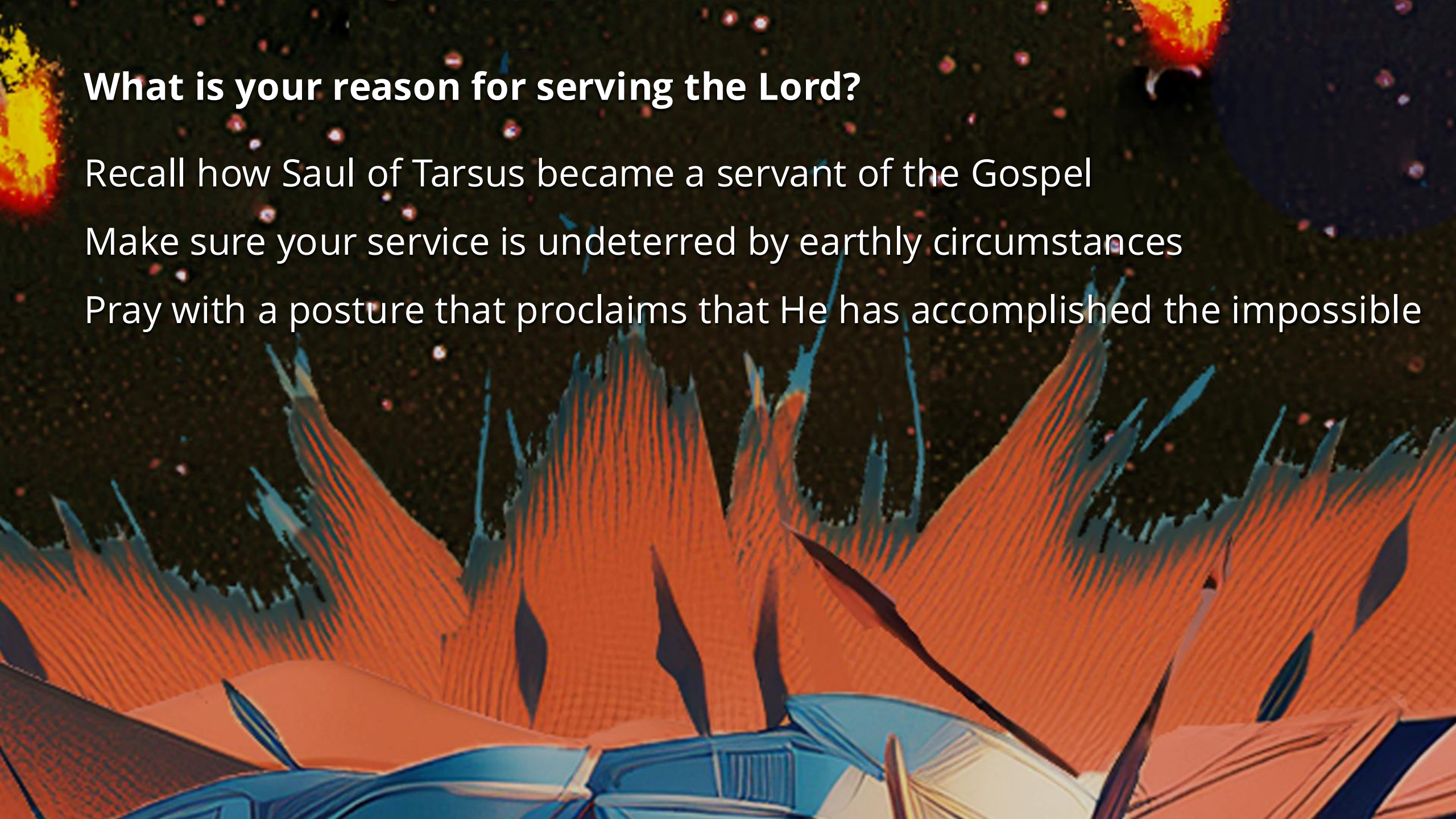
Ephesians 3:8-13 CSB



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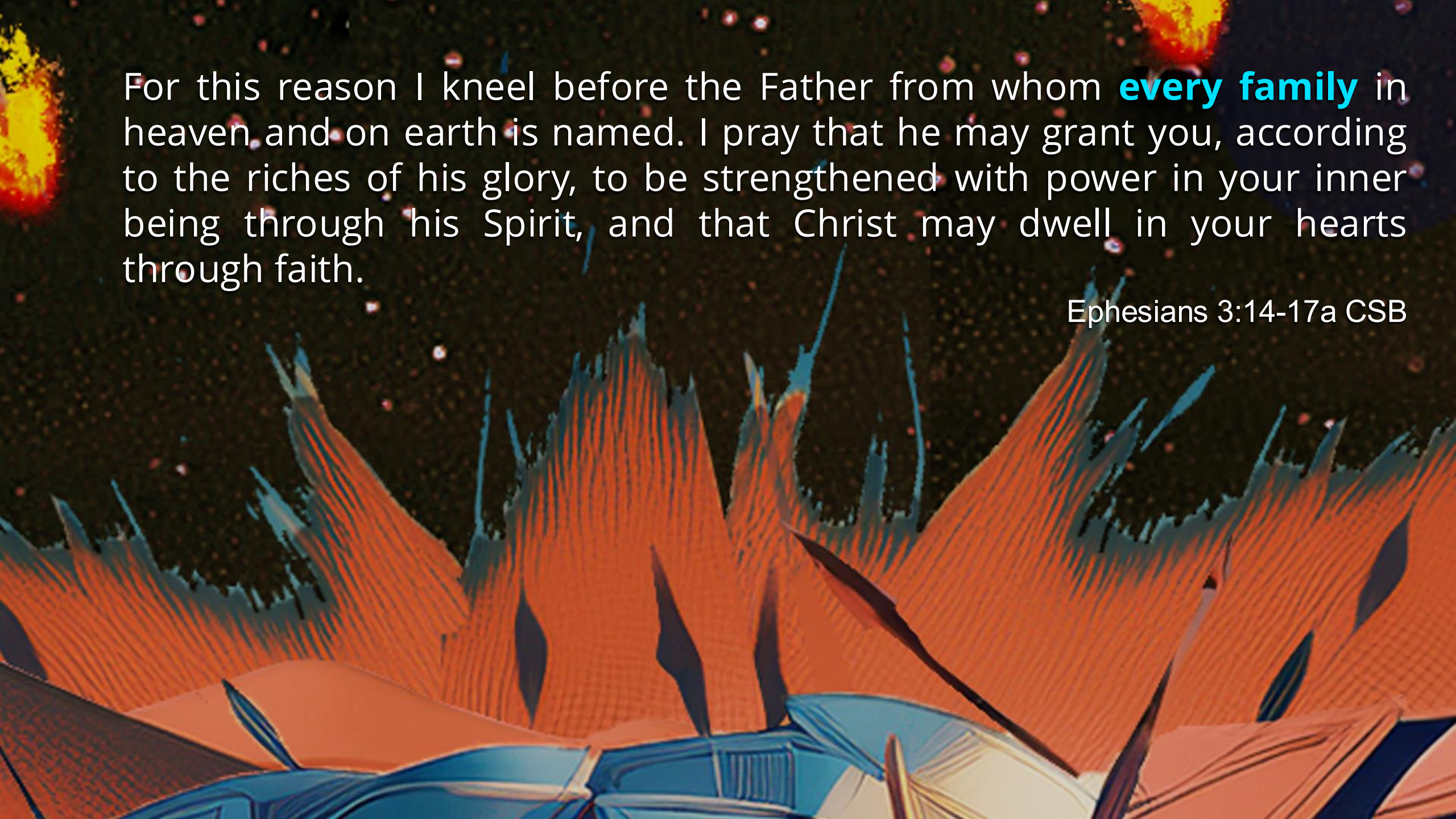


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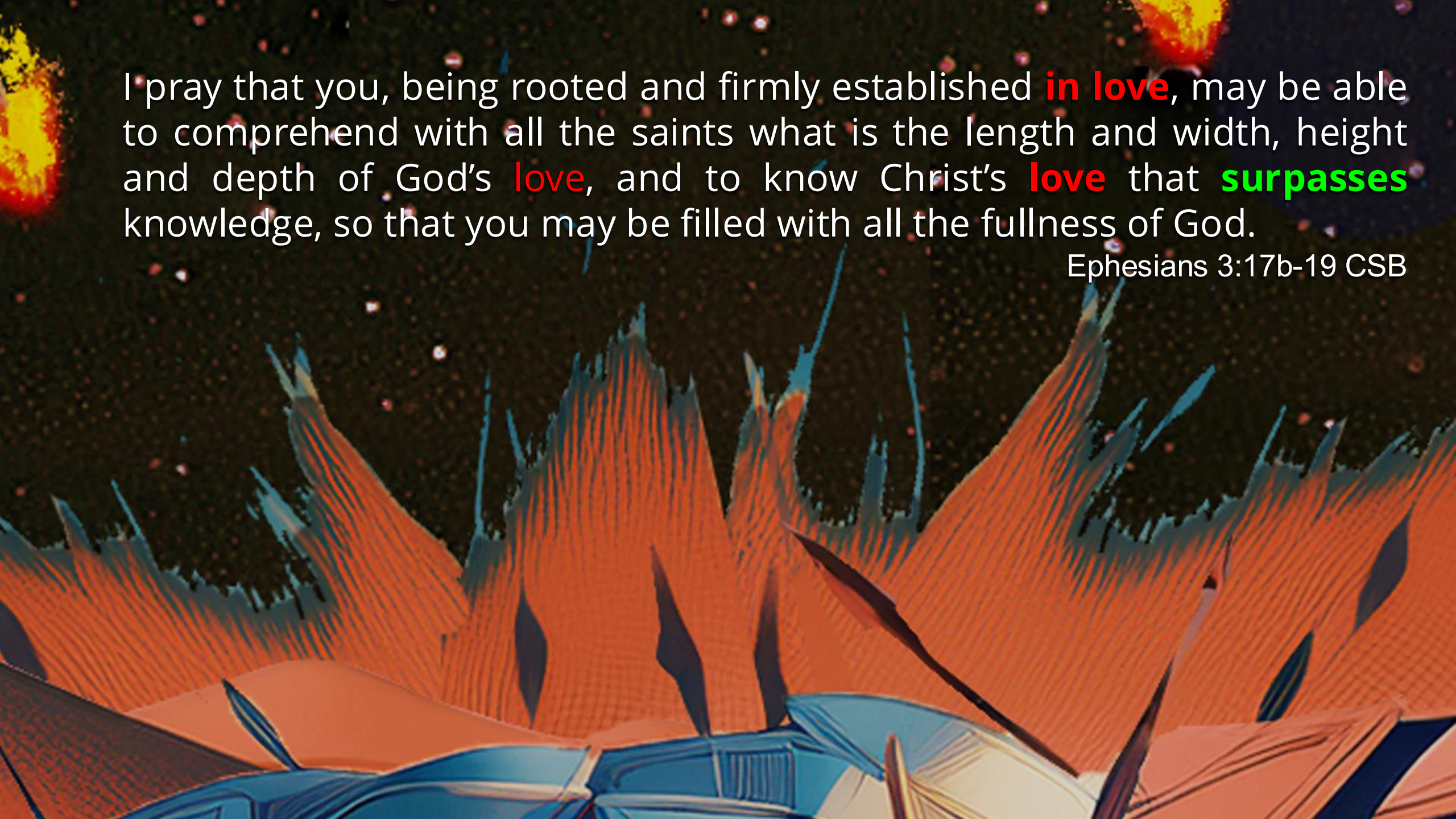
Make sure your service is undeterred by earthly circumstances

Pray with a posture that proclaims that He has accomplished the impossible



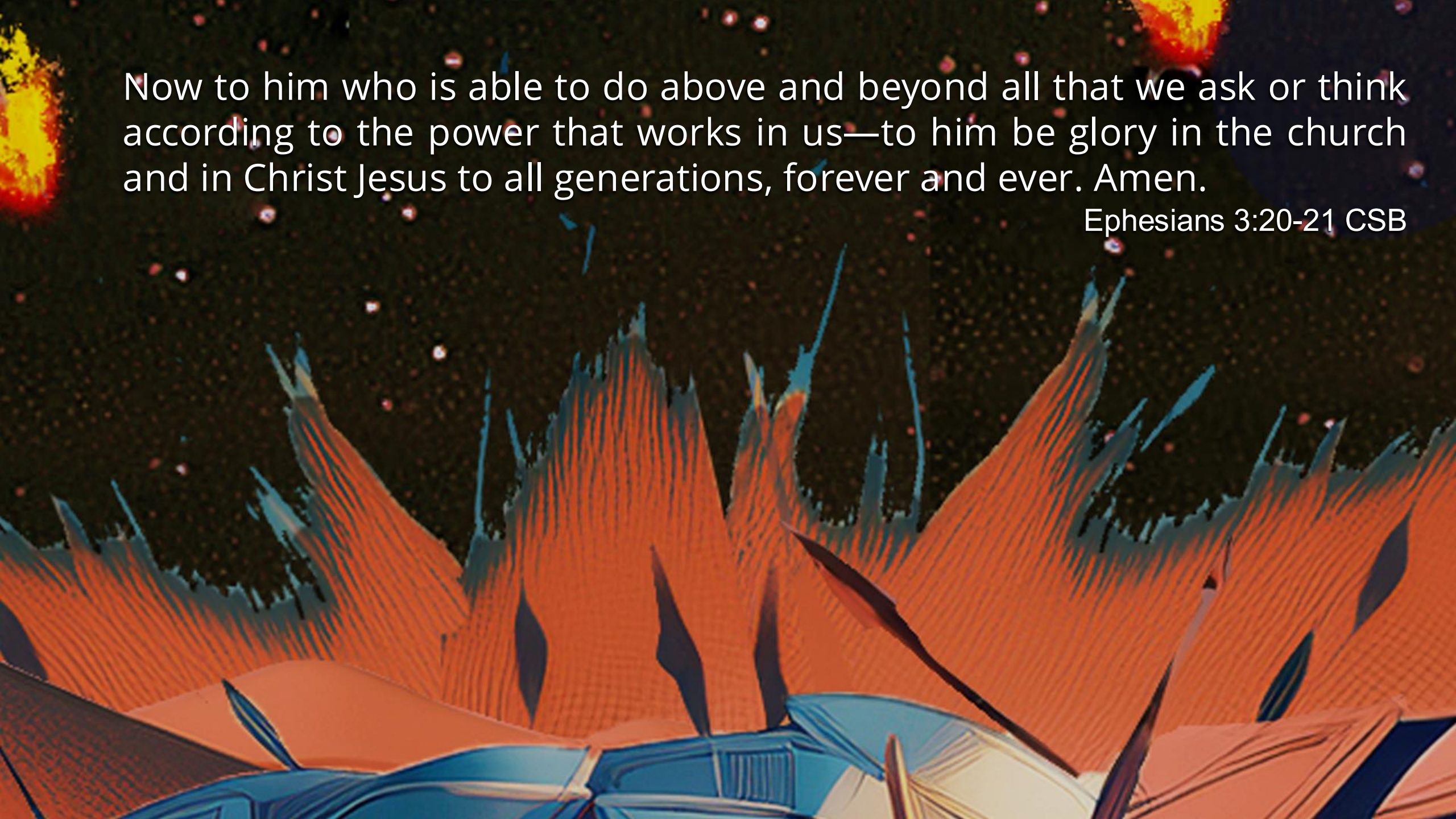
For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom **every family** in heaven and on earth is named. I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Ephesians 3:14-17a CSB



I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established **in love**, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's **love**, and to know Christ's **love** that **surpasses** knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17b-19 CSB



Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21 CSB



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What is your reason for serving the Lord?

Because of His immeasurable power that brought me from dead to alive, His immeasurable grace that He richly poured out on me, and His immeasurable love by which He has chosen me to be His child from before the foundation of creation to be a masterpiece of His glory for all eternity, I serve God doing the works He prepared for me that others would also become saints who know His power, grace, and love.

