

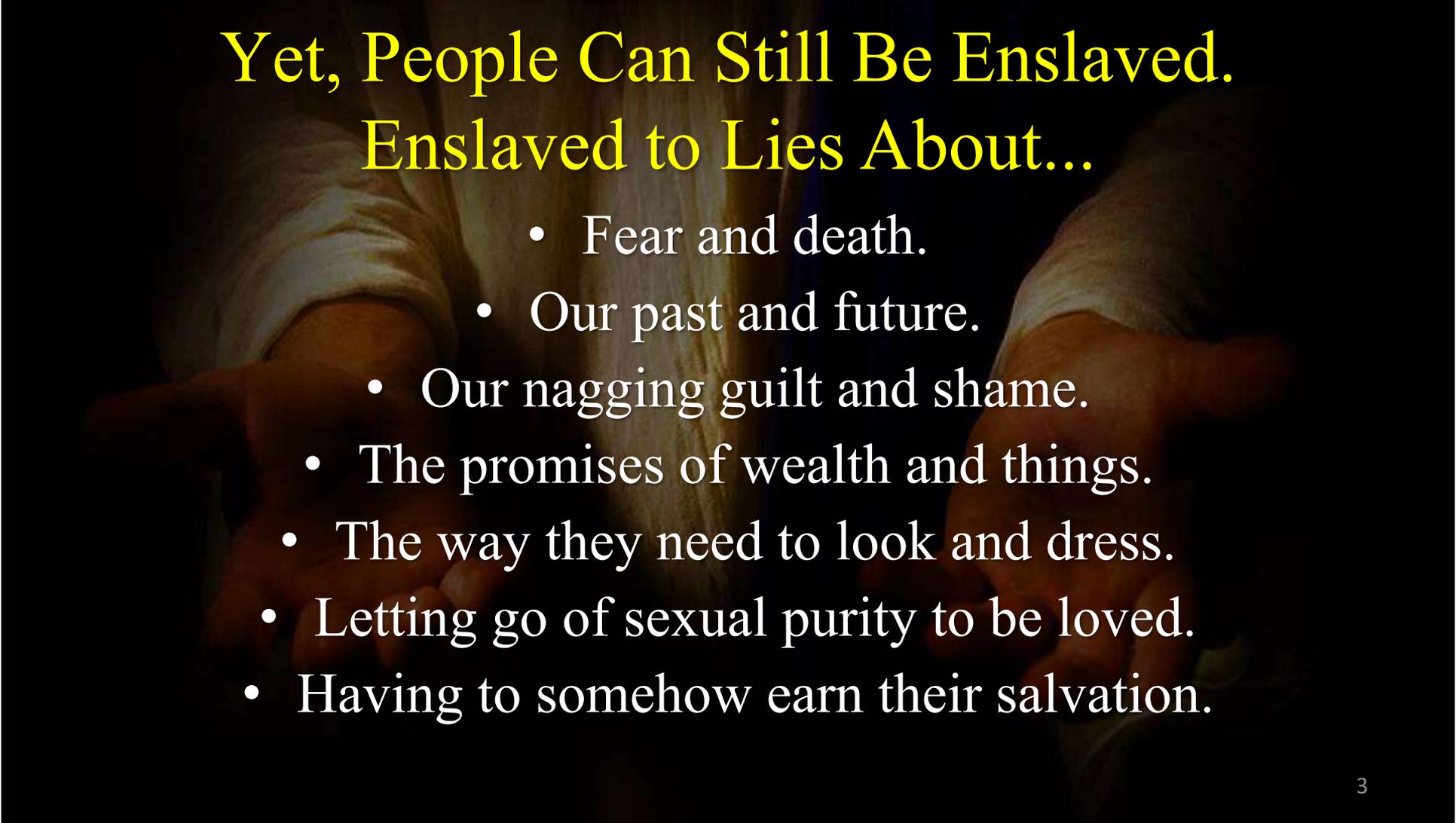


*By His Wounds We Are
Free!*

“The Land of the Free”

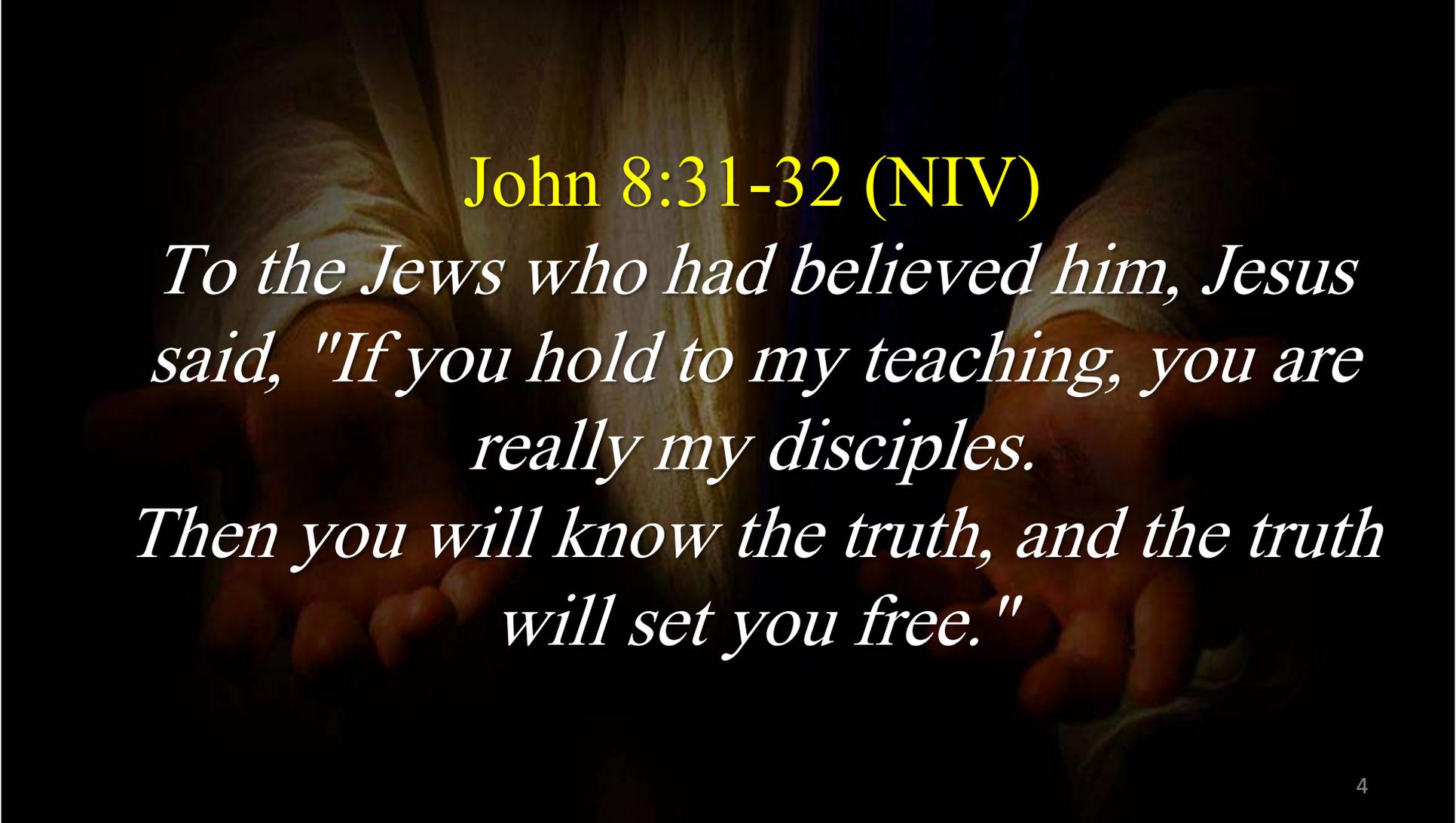
“we hold these truths to be self-evident,
that all men are created equal,
that they are endowed by their creator with
certain unalienable rights, that among these
are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

-Declaration of Independence



Yet, People Can Still Be Enslaved. Enslaved to Lies About...

- Fear and death.
- Our past and future.
 - Our nagging guilt and shame.
- The promises of wealth and things.
- The way they need to look and dress.
- Letting go of sexual purity to be loved.
- Having to somehow earn their salvation.



John 8:31-32 (NIV)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."



John 8:36 (NIV)

*So if the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed.*

This Has Always Been Jesus' Mission.

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Seen Throughout His Ministry

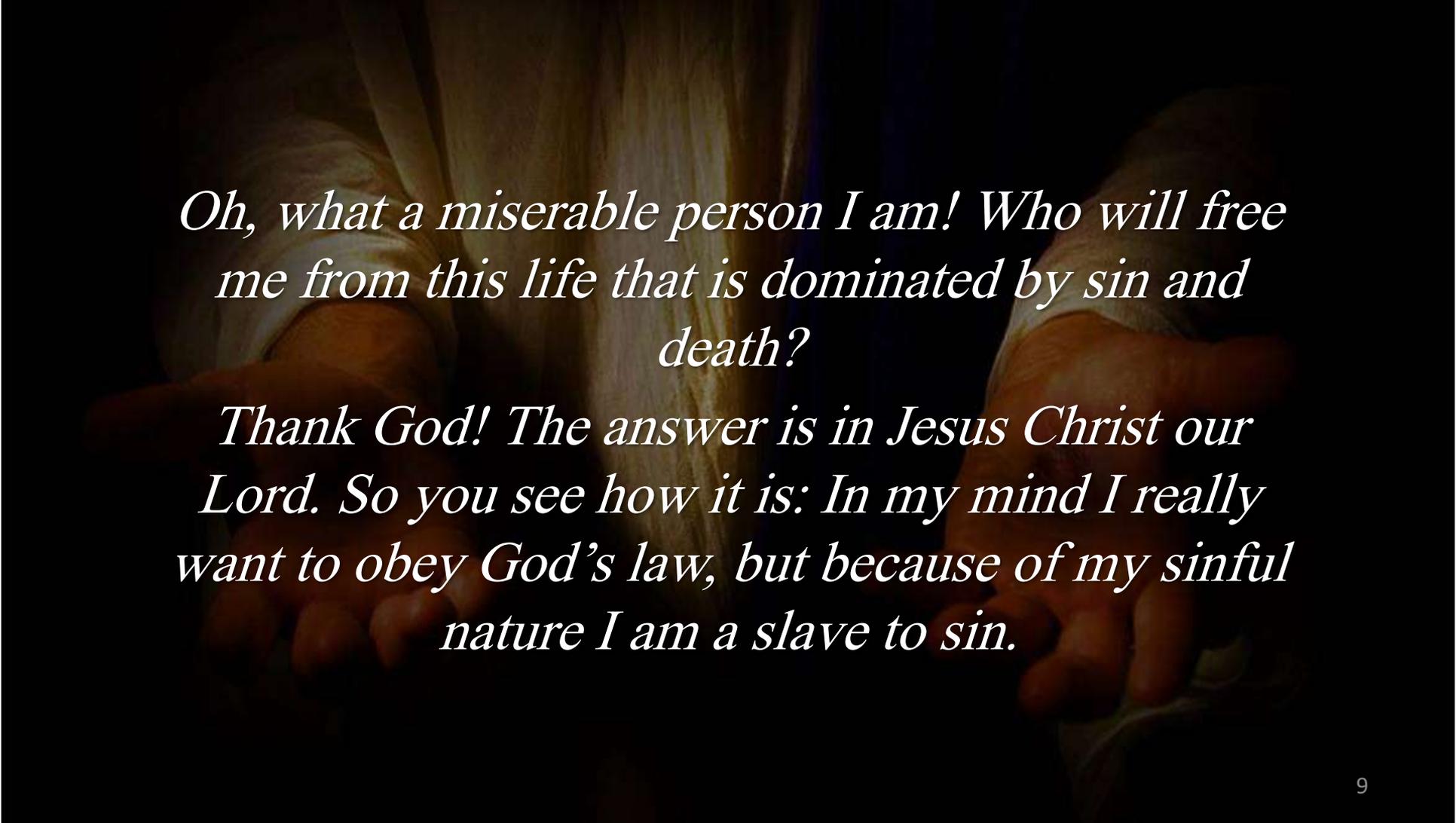
- A Woman Touches Jesus' Garment And Is Healed
- A Demoniac Is Set Free And Given His Right Mind
 - A Widow's Dead Son Is Given New Life
 - A Man Born Blind Is Given Sight
- A Woman Bent Over 18 Years Stands Up Straight
- Lazarus, In The Grave Three Days, Is Resurrected

Yet, An Inner Battle Still Rages!

Romans 7:21-25 (NLT2)

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart.

But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.



Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.



Romans 8:1-2 (NLT2)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Martin Luther Wrote About The Paradox Of Faith And Love

Luther wrote...

“By faith alone, God sets a man utterly, completely, free in Christ. He is lord of all, subject to none.”

But then he says...

“Love binds him as an utterly dutiful servant to the neighbor, subject to everyone.”

“The paradox of Christian freedom then plays out in faith and love.”

Even Christ Was Subject To This Paradox. And, So Are We.

Galatians 4:4-7a (NLT2)

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child...

This Freedom Is a Gift From Christ

Romans 3:28 (NLT2)

*So we are made right with God through faith
and not by obeying the law.*

Galatians 5:1 (NLT2)

*So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you
stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.*

Paul Describes The Paradox This Way...

Romans 13:8 (NLT2)

Owe nothing to anyone – except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law.

1 Corinthians 9:19 (NLT2)

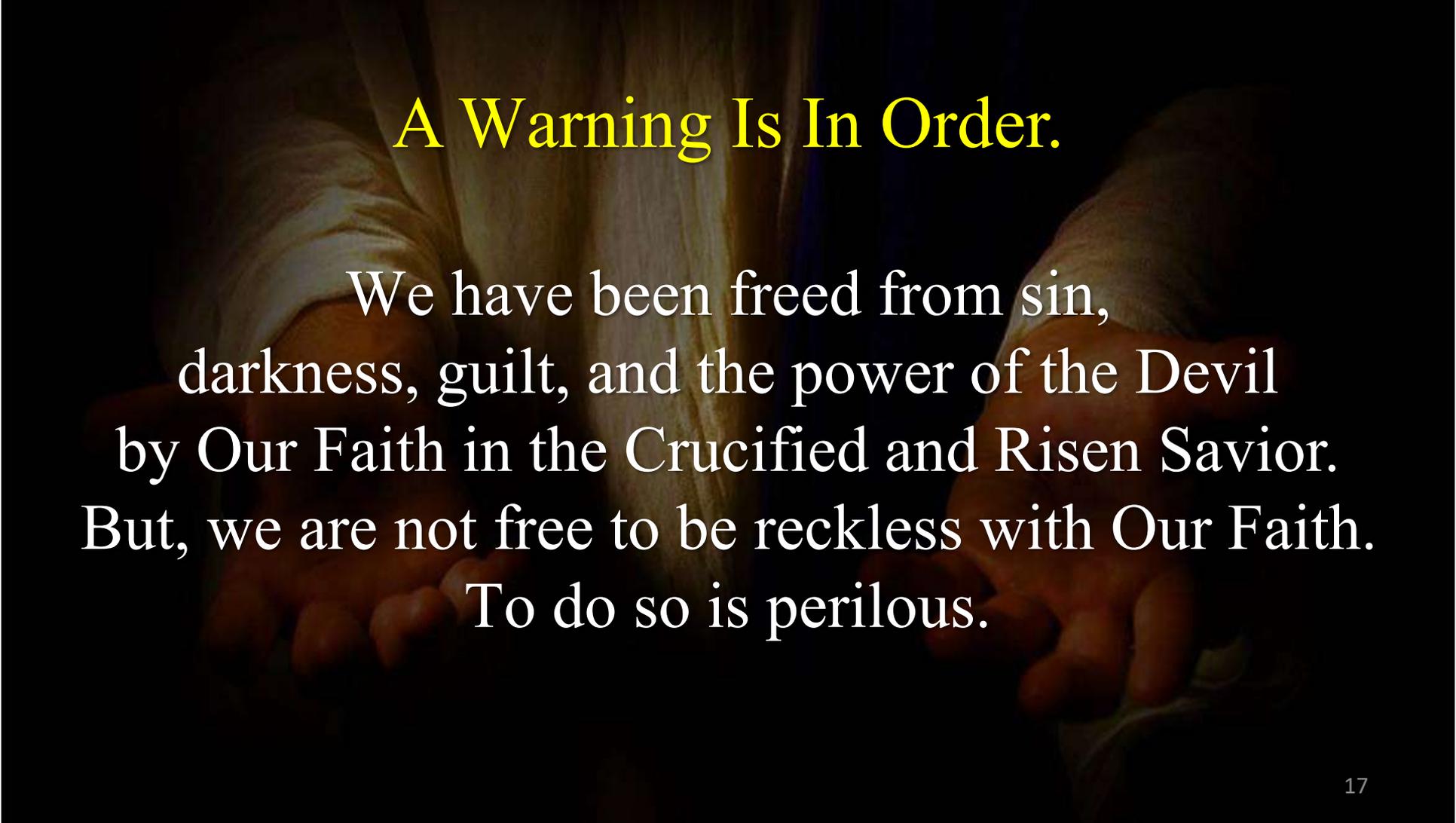
Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.



What Does Our Freedom Look Like?

Or, How Do We Know We Are Free?

- He has poured out his love on us, as sinners.
- He has forgiven our sin and removed guilt and shame.
- He has given us his Spirit when we were baptized.
- We belong to Jesus. The Spirit is his seal of ownership.
- He is continually transforming us into His image.
- The lies of the Devil have been revealed in scripture.
- He has given us access to the full armor of God.
- He has promised to be with us to the end of the age.



A Warning Is In Order.

We have been freed from sin,
darkness, guilt, and the power of the Devil
by Our Faith in the Crucified and Risen Savior.
But, we are not free to be reckless with Our Faith.
To do so is perilous.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (NIV)

"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss, they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

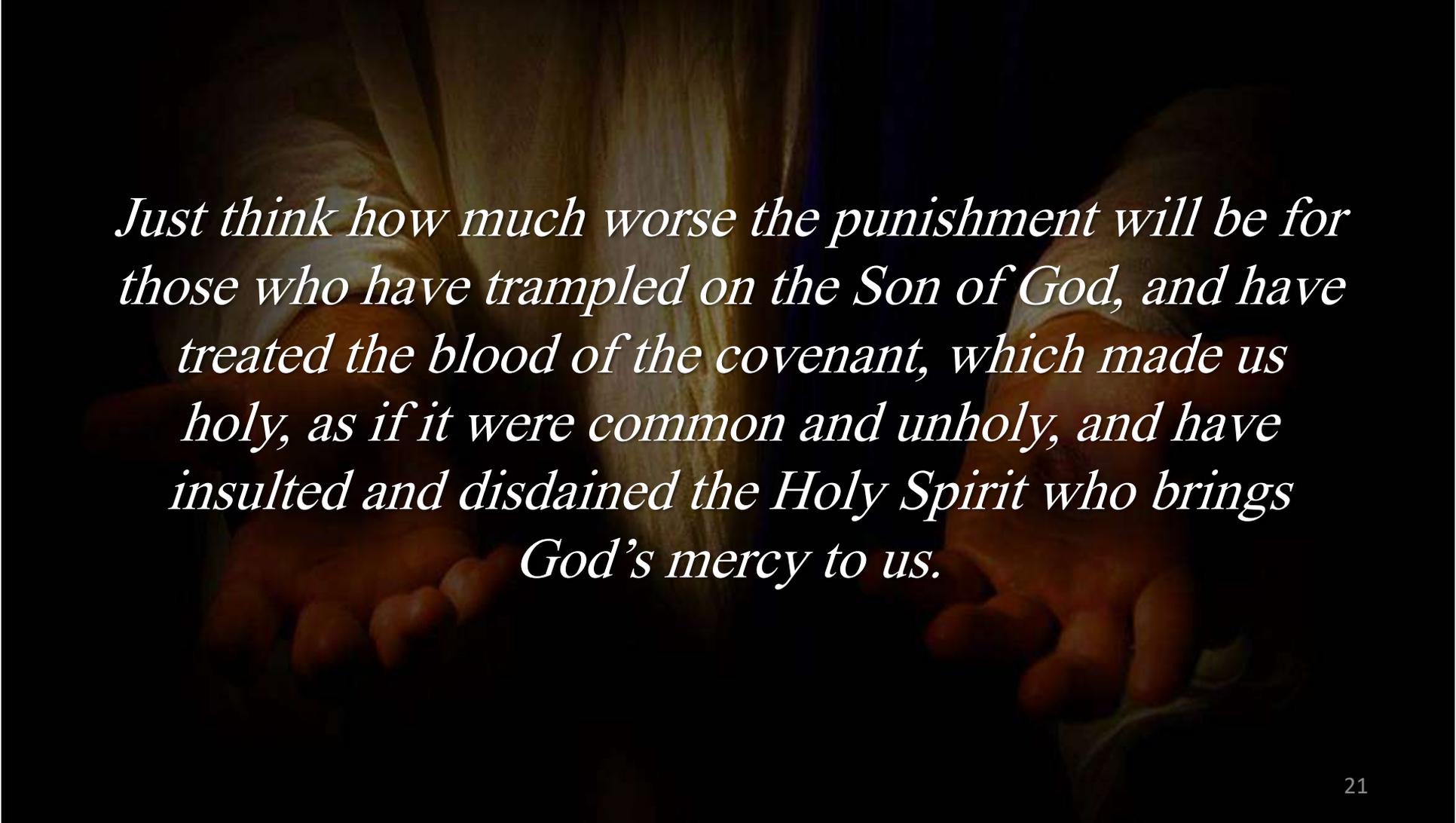
Four Hard Truths

1. It is possible to fall away.
2. The text considers them to have been, in fact, Christians at some point.
3. Those who persist in a flagrant and public rejection of Christ cannot be restored.
4. God will be faithful in his response.

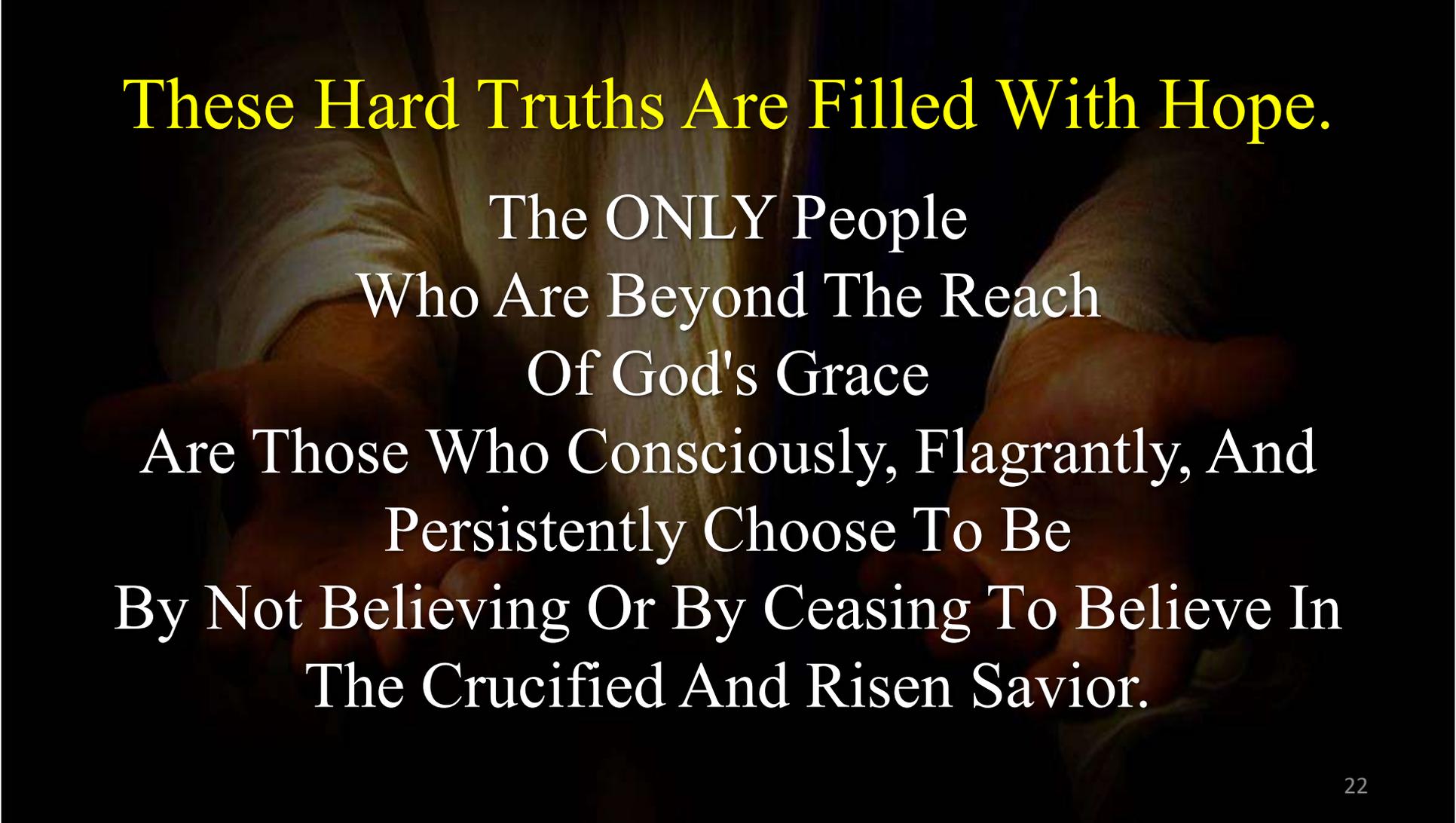
Hebrews 10:26-29 (NLT2)

Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies.

For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.



Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us.



These Hard Truths Are Filled With Hope.

The ONLY People
Who Are Beyond The Reach
Of God's Grace
Are Those Who Consciously, Flagrantly, And
Persistently Choose To Be
By Not Believing Or By Ceasing To Believe In
The Crucified And Risen Savior.



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