

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuJ7-s3gN4k&t=47s>

For the Sake of Joy

By faith the people passed through  
the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but

# Gathering Music



# Welcome and Announcements

<https://www.farwellumc.com/>

*For the Sake of Joy*

*By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do the same they were drowned. They took their bodies with them but left their souls behind. They were not saved because they did not have faith in God.*

For the Sake of Joy

For the Sake of

By faith the people passed through  
the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but  
when the Egyptians attempted to do  
the same, they were drowned. They passed the  
Red Sea on dry ground, but when they  
attempted to do the same, they were  
drowned.

<https://www.farwellumc.com/>





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVAthnl8ogc>

J  
Joy Of The Lord

For the Sake of Joy

By faith the people passed through  
the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but  
the Egyptians attempted to do  
the same and were drowned.

**Prelude**





For the Sake of Joy

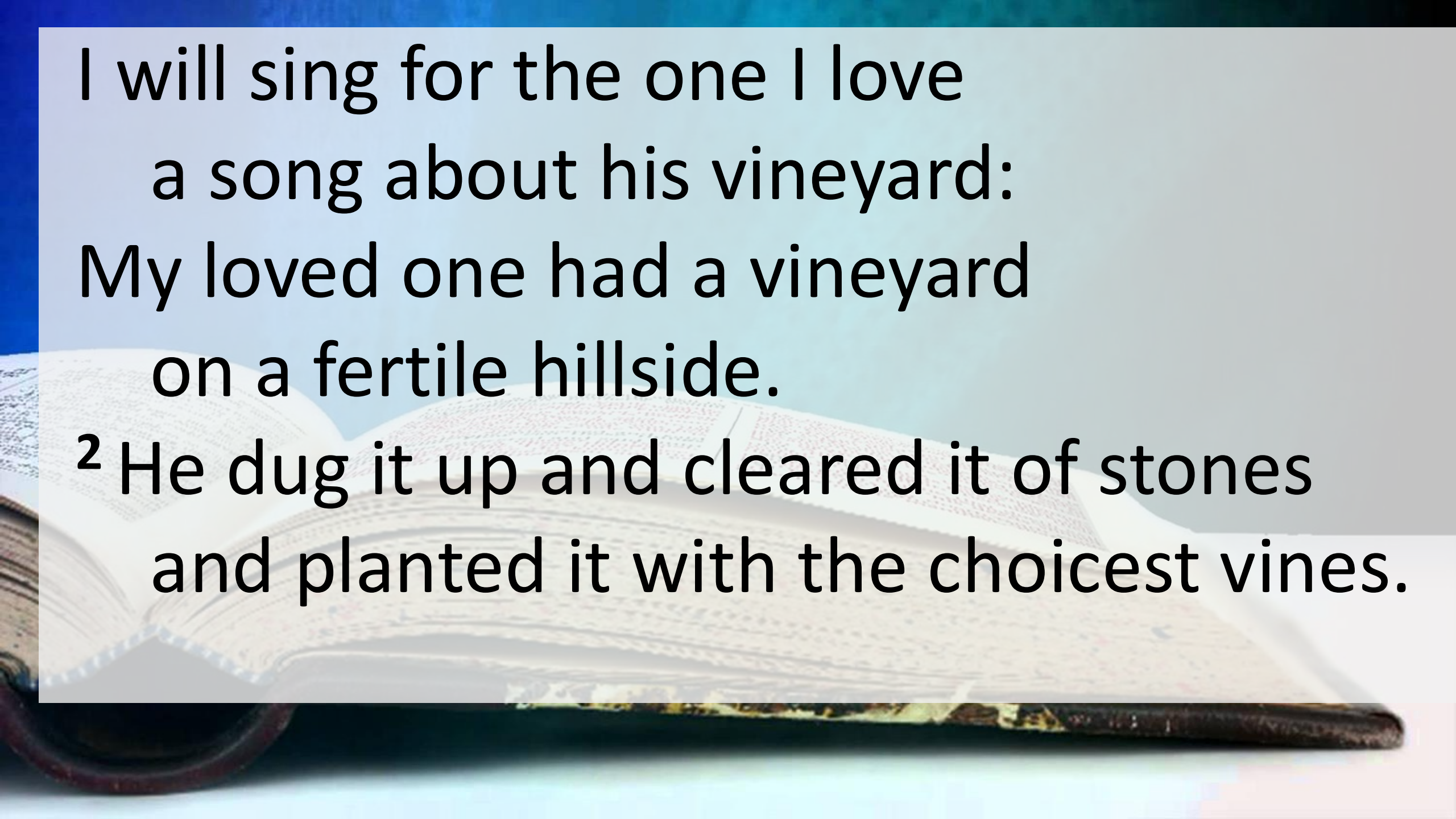
By faith the people passed through  
the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but

# Opening Prayer



# Isaiah 5:1-7

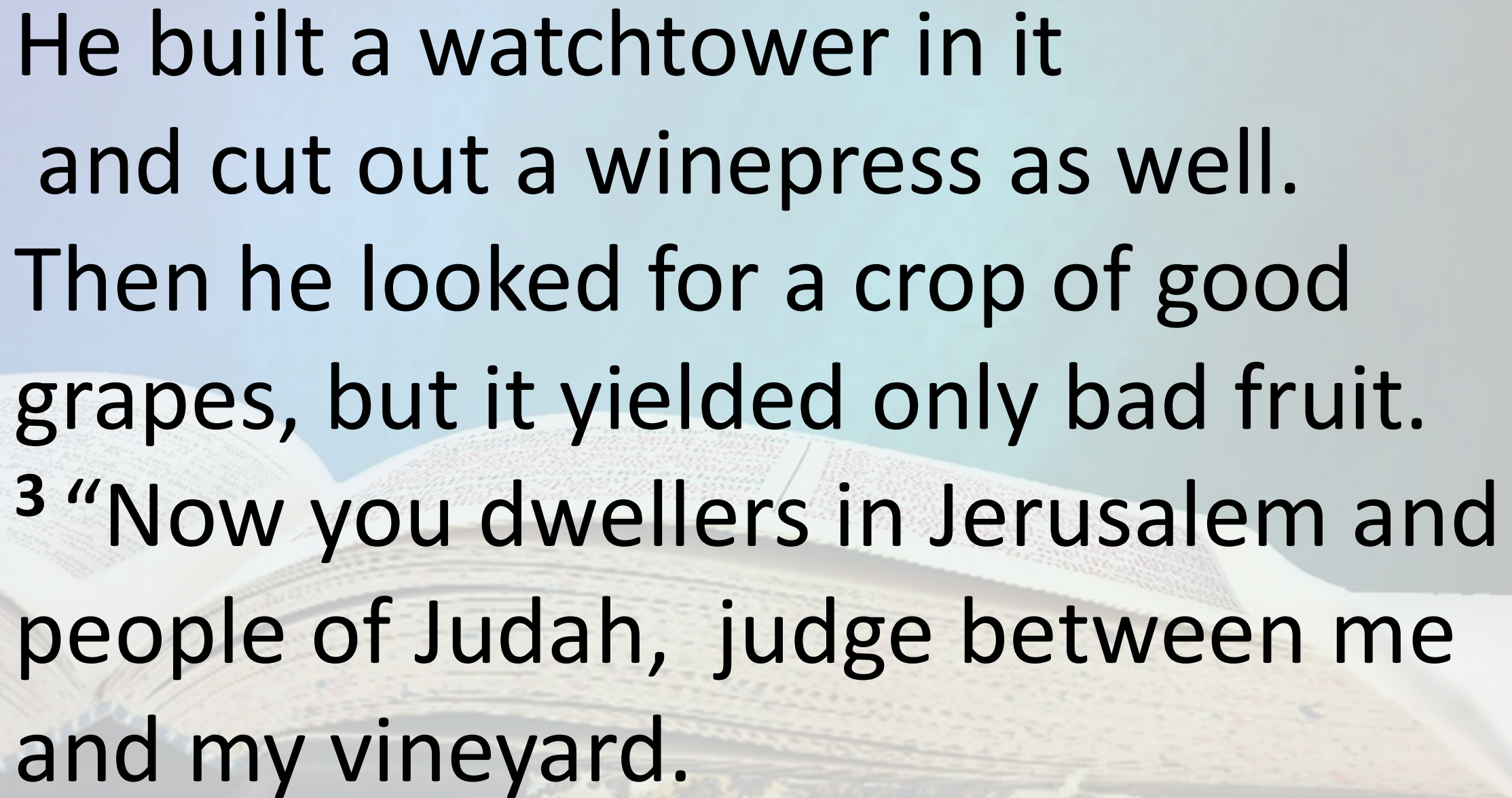




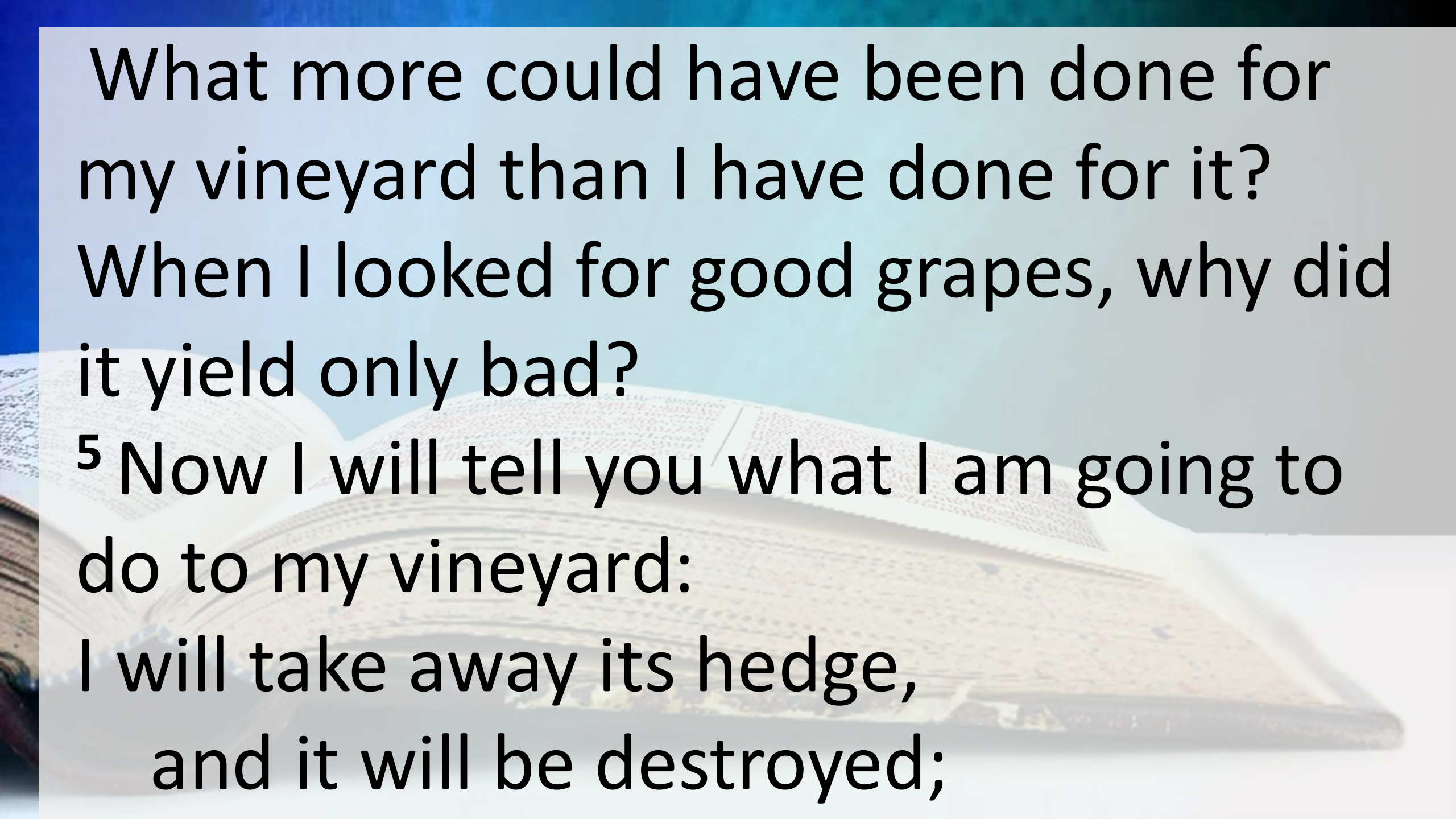
I will sing for the one I love  
a song about his vineyard:  
My loved one had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it up and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with the choicest vines.



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of an open book. The pages are filled with text in Hebrew script, written in dark ink on light-colored paper. The book is open, showing two pages, and the text is arranged in columns. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the clarity of the script. The overall tone is scholarly and historical.

He built a watchtower in it  
and cut out a winepress as well.  
Then he looked for a crop of good  
grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.  
<sup>3</sup> “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and  
people of Judah, judge between me  
and my vineyard.

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of an open book. The pages are filled with dense, handwritten text in a dark ink, which appears to be Hebrew. The book is open, showing two pages, and the text is arranged in columns. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the ink. The overall tone is scholarly and historical.

What more could have been done for  
my vineyard than I have done for it?  
When I looked for good grapes, why did  
it yield only bad?

<sup>5</sup> Now I will tell you what I am going to  
do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge,  
and it will be destroyed;



I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland,  
neither pruned nor cultivated,  
and briers and thorns will grow there.  
I will command the clouds  
not to rain on it.”

<sup>7</sup> The vineyard of the LORD Almighty  
is the nation of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are the vines he delighted in.

And he looked for justice, but saw  
bloodshed;

for righteousness, but heard cries of  
distress.



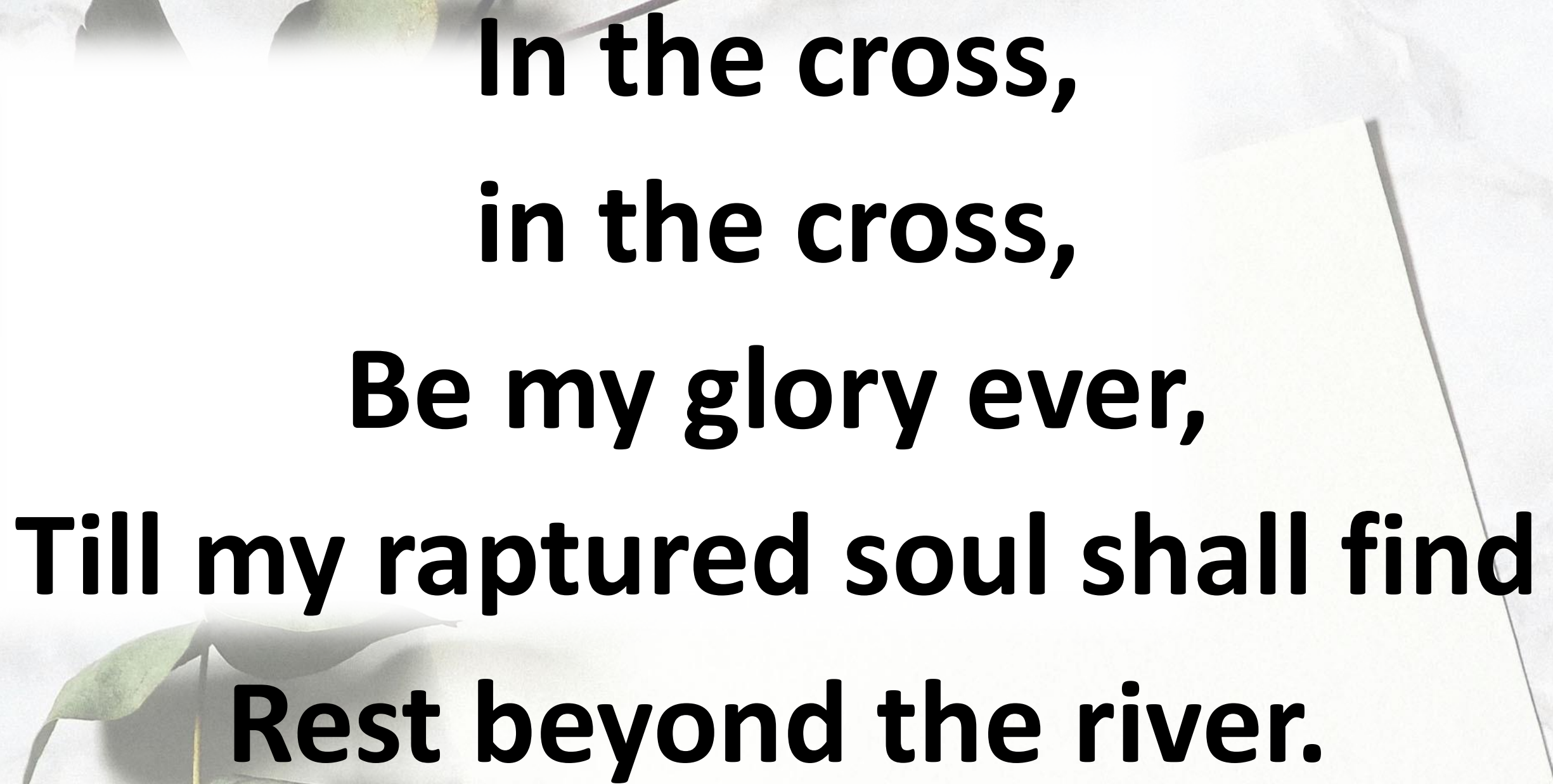


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xrmlv806bGM>

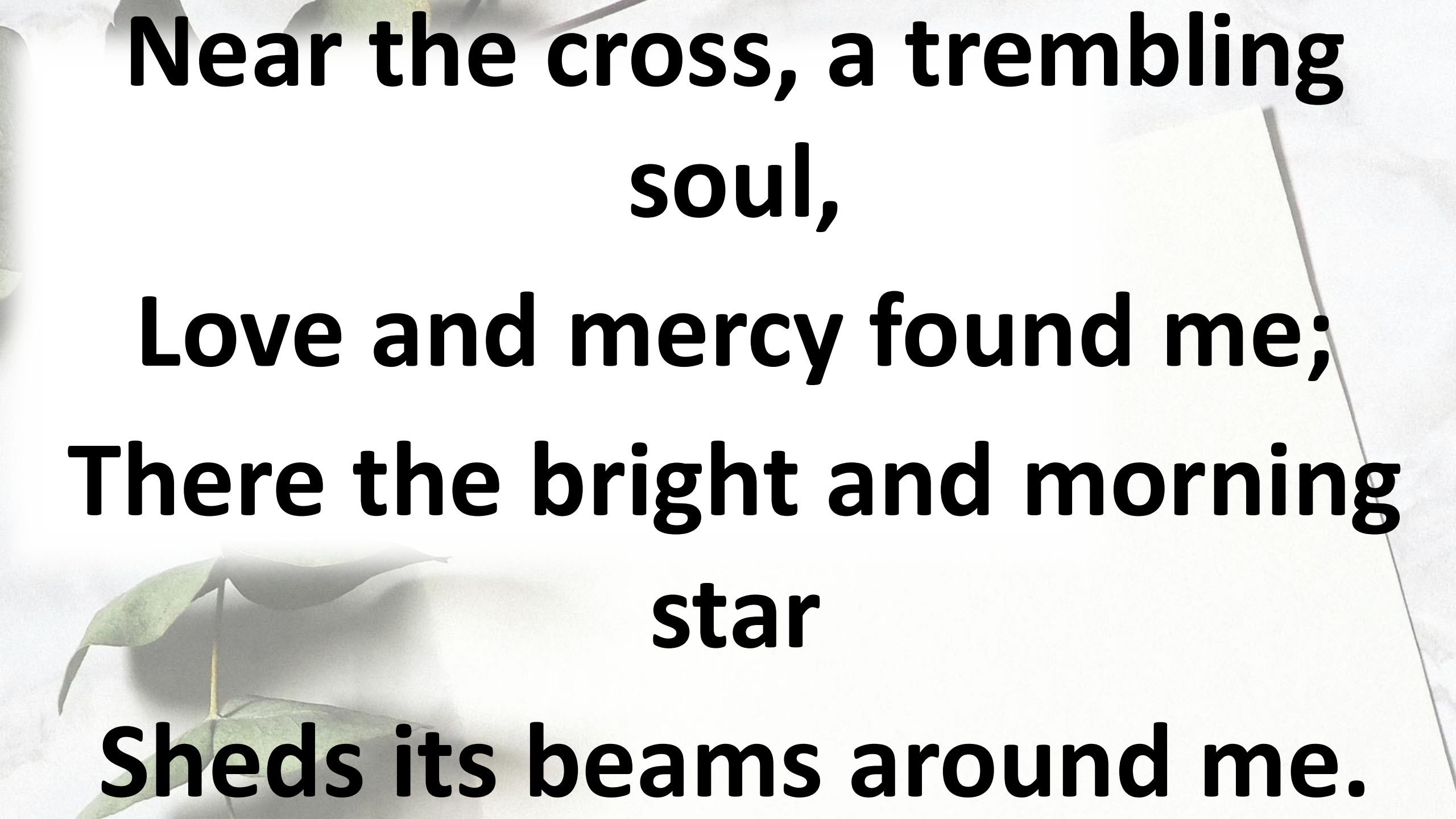
# **JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS UMH #301**

**Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
There a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream,  
Flows from Calvary's  
mountain.**





**In the cross,  
in the cross,  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.**

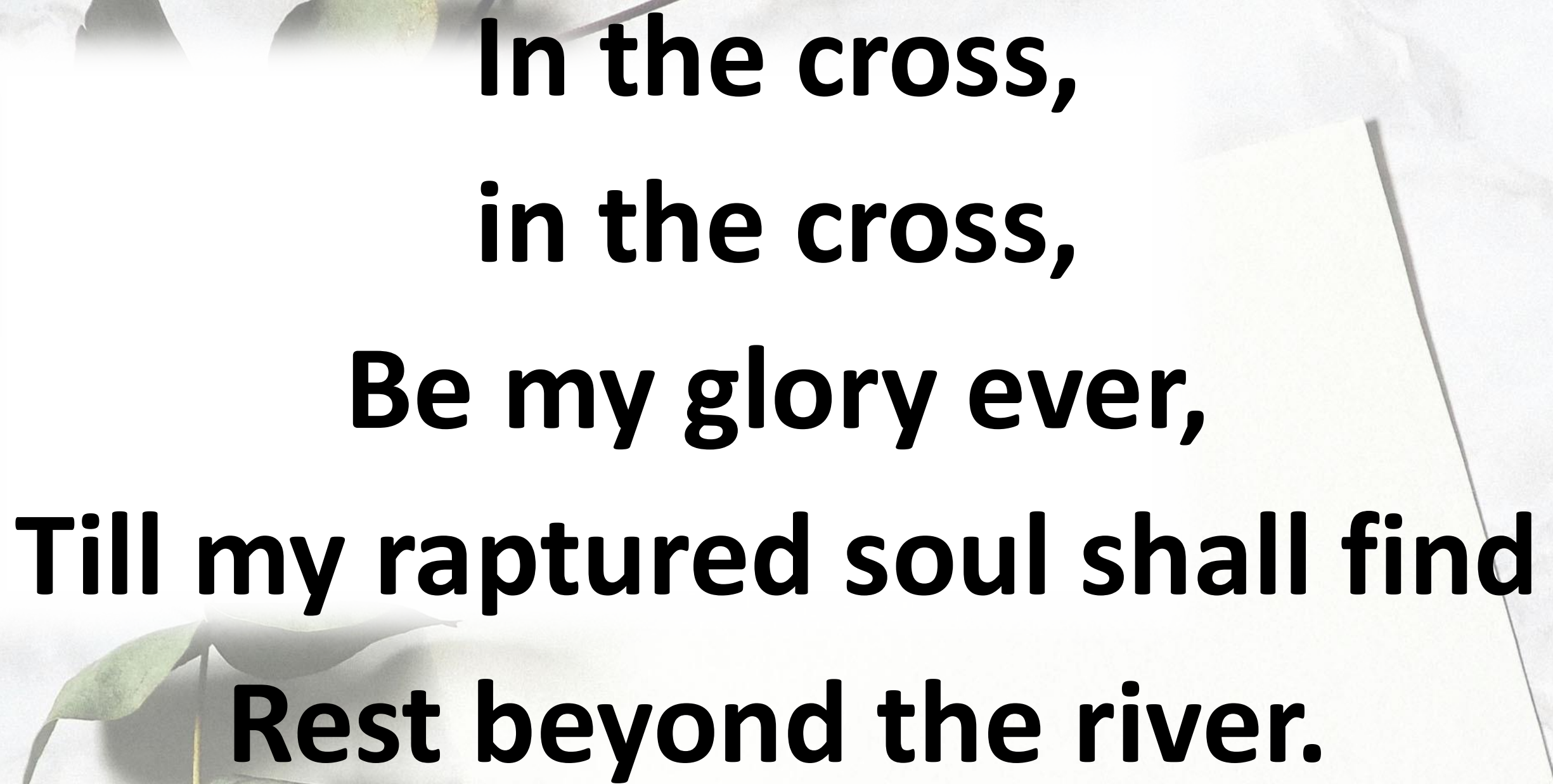
The background features a soft-focus image of green leaves, with a white, torn-edge paper strip running diagonally from the top right towards the bottom right.

**Near the cross, a trembling  
soul,**

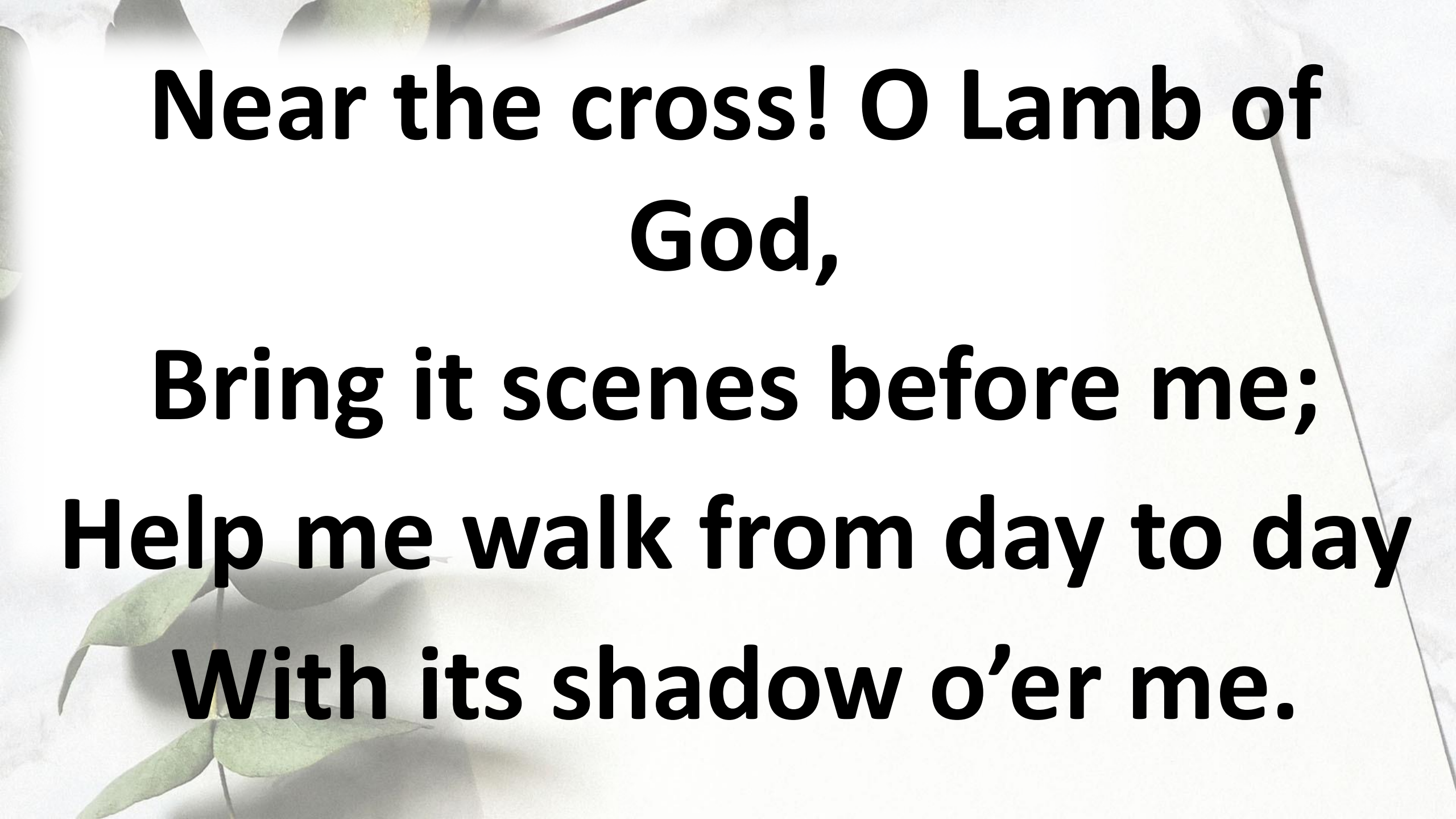
**Love and mercy found me;  
There the bright and morning  
star**

**Sheds its beams around me.**





**In the cross,  
in the cross,  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.**



**Near the cross! O Lamb of  
God,**

**Bring it scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadow o'er me.**

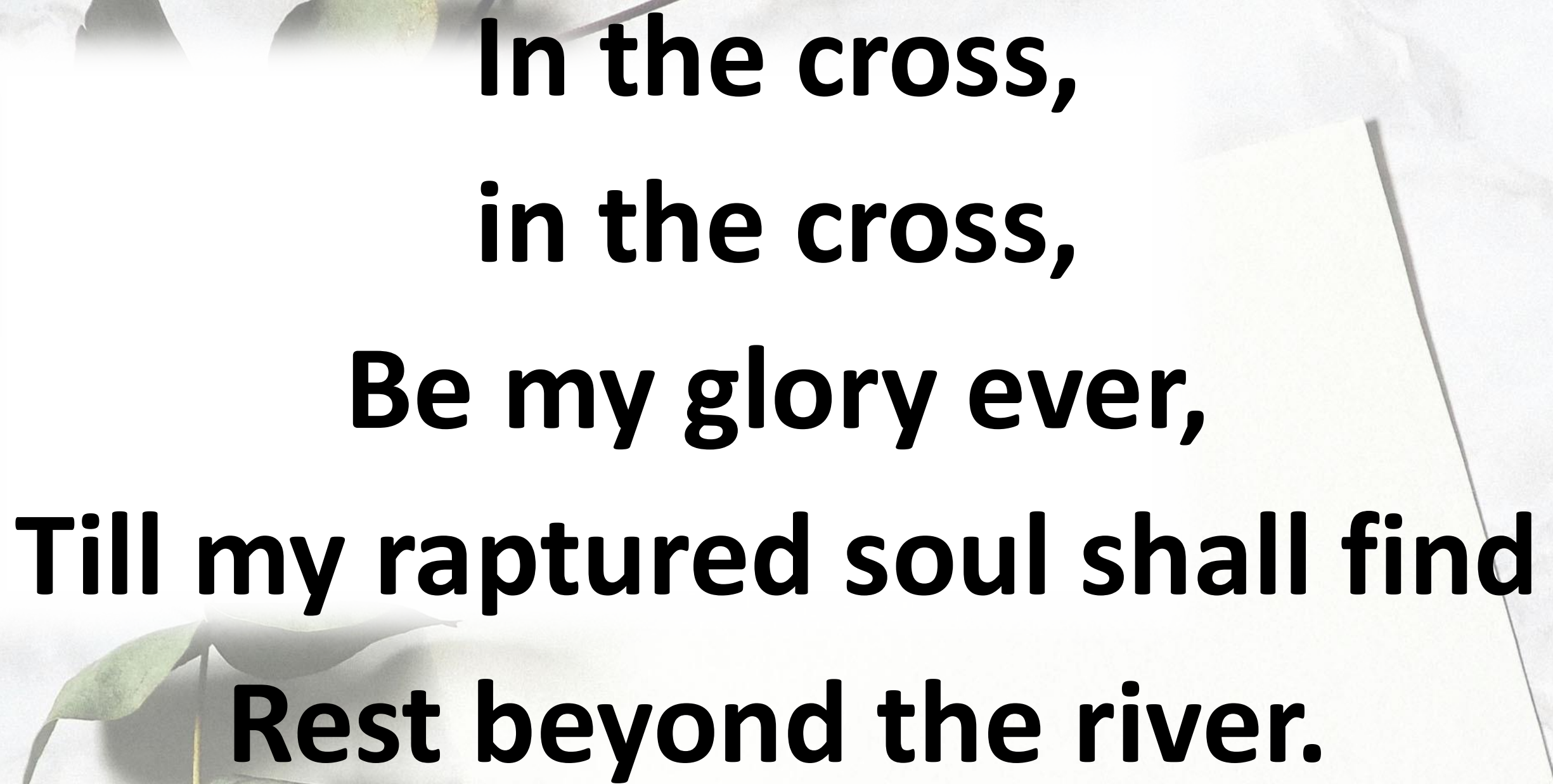


**In the cross,  
in the cross,  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.**

**Near the cross I'll watch and  
wait,**

**Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand  
Just beyond the river.**





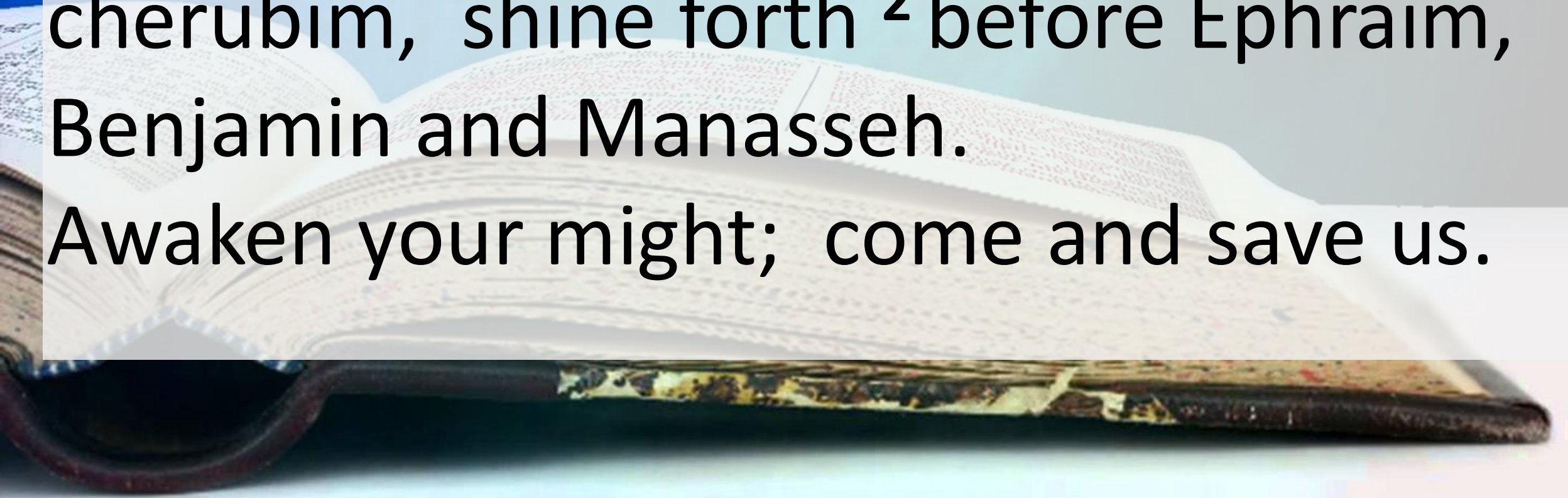
**In the cross,  
in the cross,  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.**

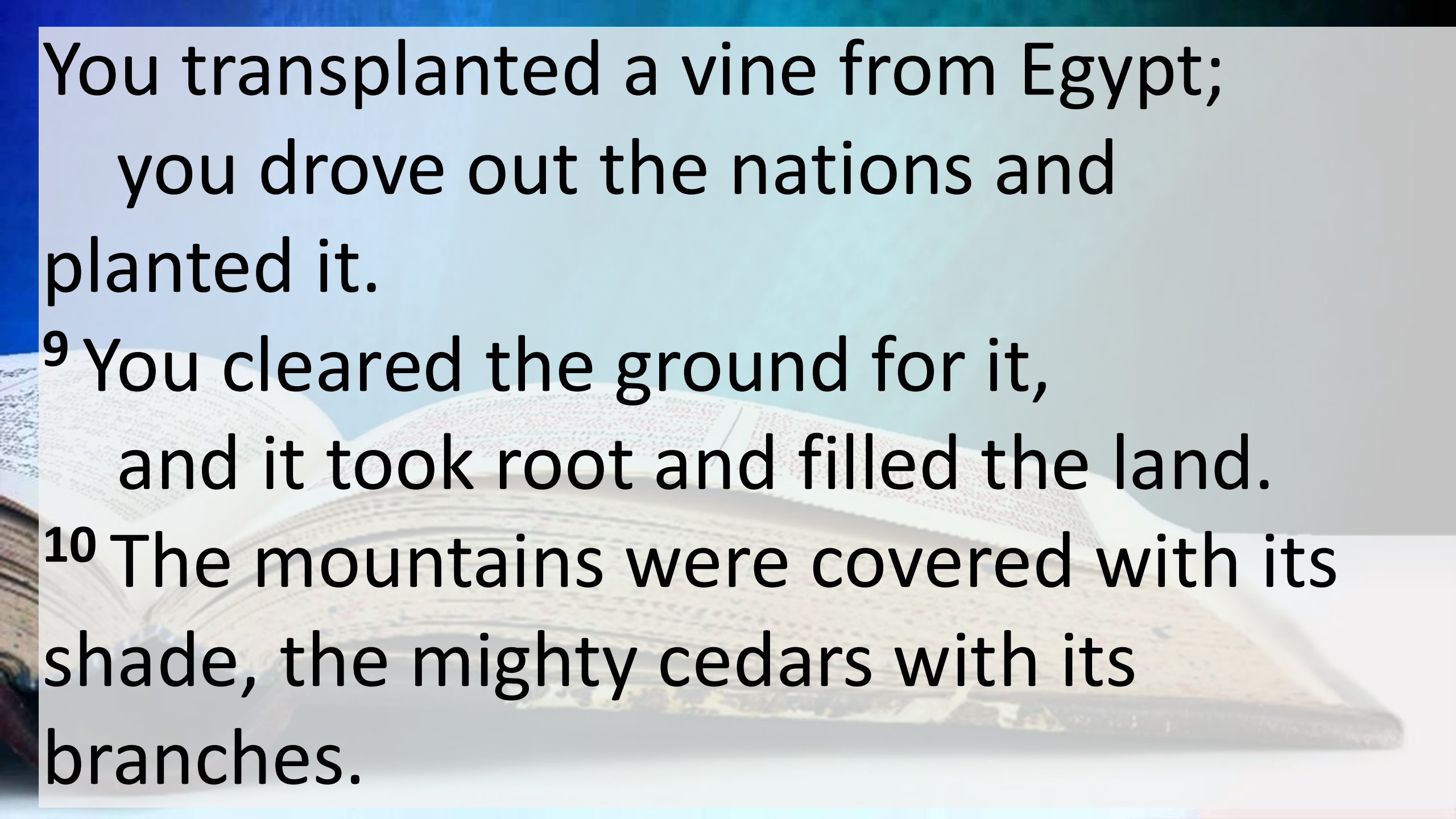
# Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19





Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock.  
You who sit enthroned between the  
cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim,  
Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Awaken your might; come and save us.



The background of the image is a photograph of an open book, likely a Bible, with Hebrew text visible on the pages. The book is open to a page with a large, ornate initial letter. The text is in a traditional Hebrew script. The book is resting on a surface, and the lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the ink of the text.

You transplanted a vine from Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and  
planted it.

<sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it,  
and it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its  
shade, the mighty cedars with its  
branches.



Its branches reached as far as the Sea,<sup>[c]</sup>  
its shoots as far as the River.<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Why have you broken down its walls  
so that all who pass by pick its  
grapes?

<sup>13</sup> Boars from the forest ravage it,  
and insects from the fields feed on it.

<sup>14</sup> Return to us, God Almighty!

Look down from heaven and see!  
Watch over this vine,  
15 the root your right hand has  
planted, the son<sup>[e]</sup> you have raised up  
for yourself.

16 Your vine is cut down, it is burned  
with fire; at your rebuke your people  
perish.



<sup>17</sup> Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

**This is the Word of God for the people of God.**

**Thanks Be to God.**







For the Sake of Joy

By faith the people passed through  
the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Children of God, for the sake of the  
joy, we gather...

**We gather to worship, to encounter  
grace, to grow in faith.**

For the sake of the joy, we  
proclaim...



**We proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, the love of God that surrounds us and forms us into a community marked by love for God, self, neighbor, and all creation.**

For the sake of the joy, we respond...

**We respond with our lives, ready to embody our faith as agents of God's already-and-not-yet kingdom.**



For the sake of the joy, God sends  
us...

**God sends us into the world to  
meet our neighbors with the  
defiant joy and persevering love of  
the gospel today and every day.**

Come, let us worship the Triune God  
who dwells with us as we gather,  
proclaim, respond, and go forth  
from this place.

**Come, let us worship! Thanks be to  
God. Amen.**



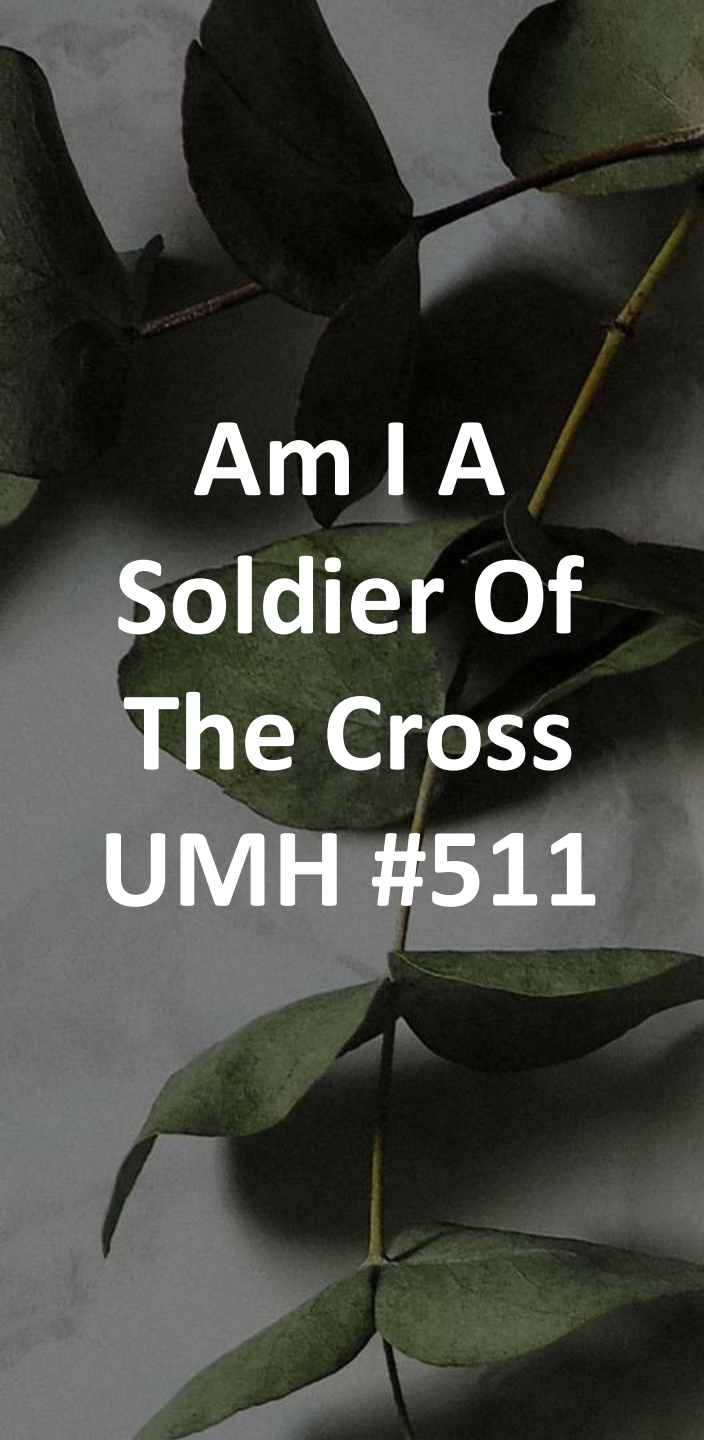


# I am A Soldier Of The Cross

## UMH 511

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siTLLiMvp3o>

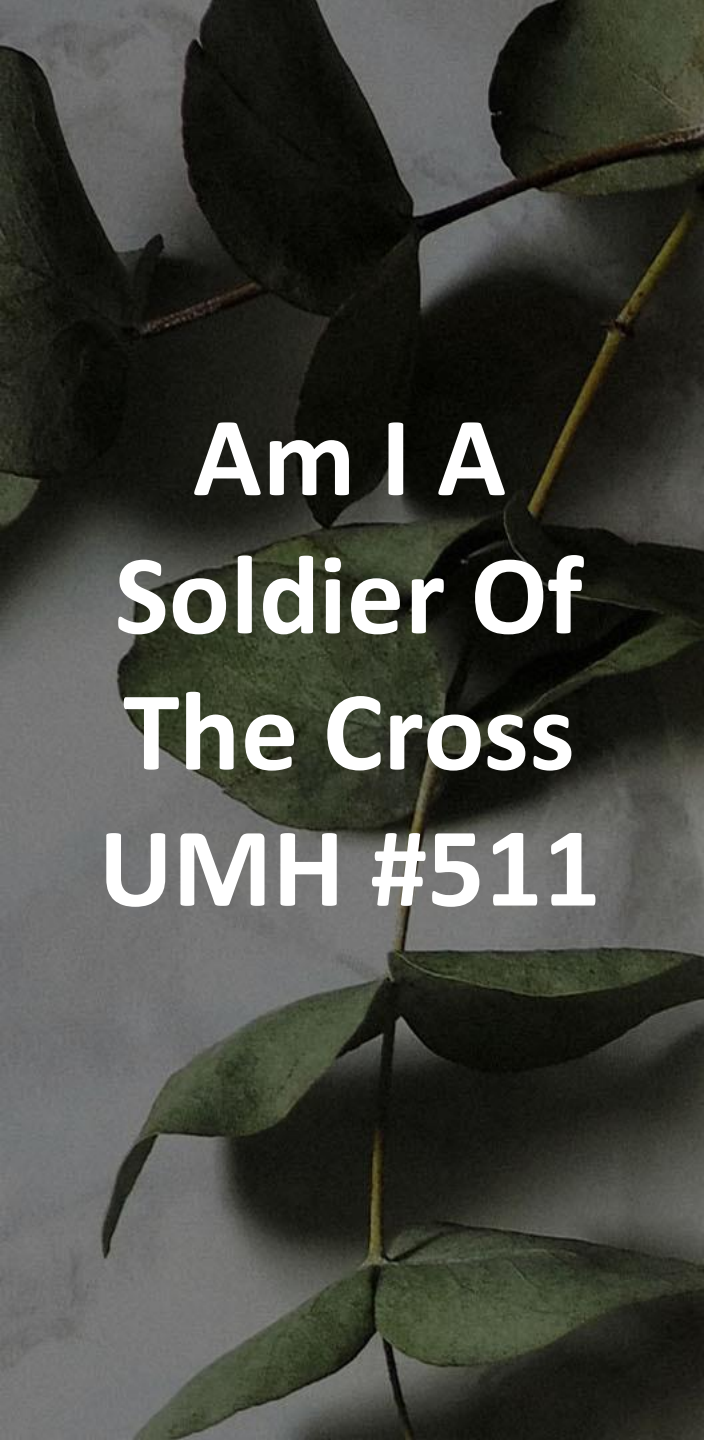
### Please stand if able



**Am I A  
Soldier Of  
The Cross  
UMH #511**

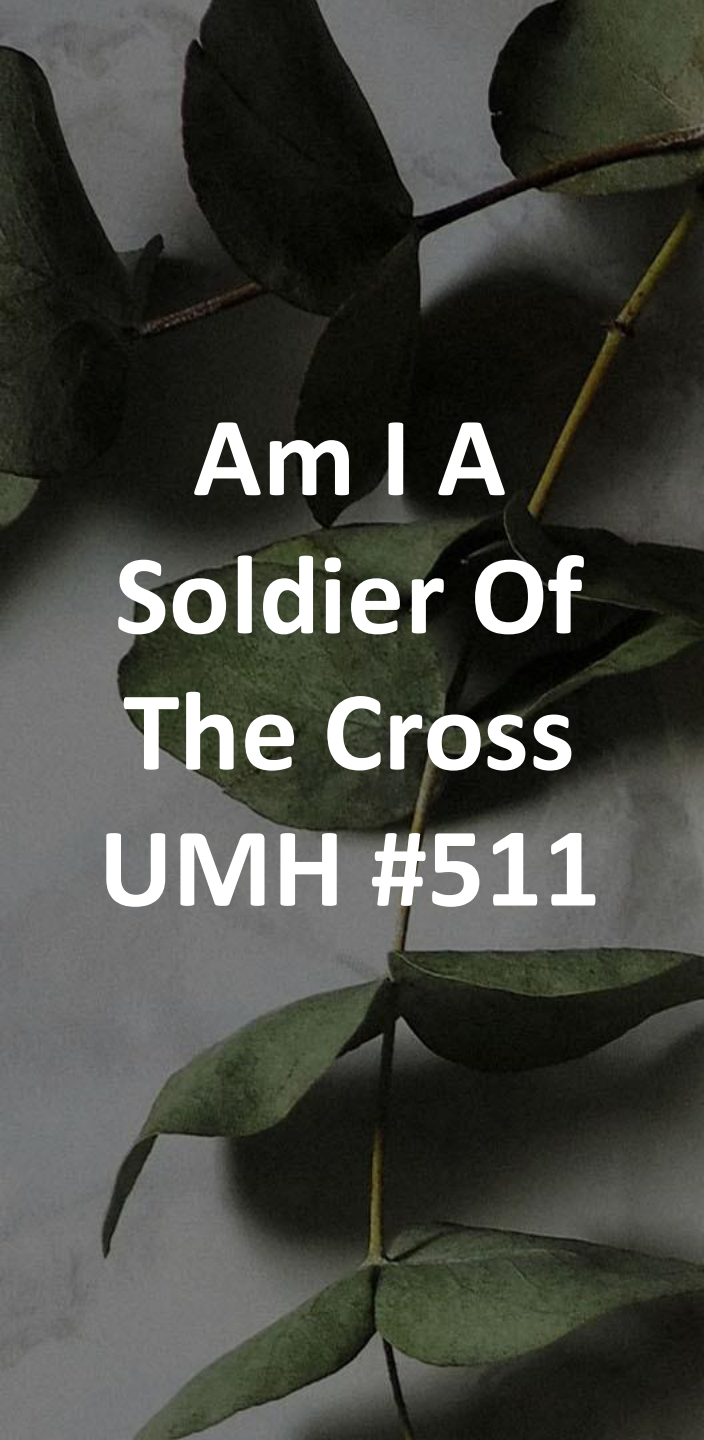
**Am I a soldier of the  
cross,  
A follower of the Lamb,  
And shall I fear to own  
his cause,  
Or blush to speak his  
name?**





**Am I A  
Soldier Of  
The Cross  
UMH #511**

**Must I be carried to the  
skies  
On flowery beds of ease,  
While others fought to  
win the prize,  
And sailed through  
bloody seas?**



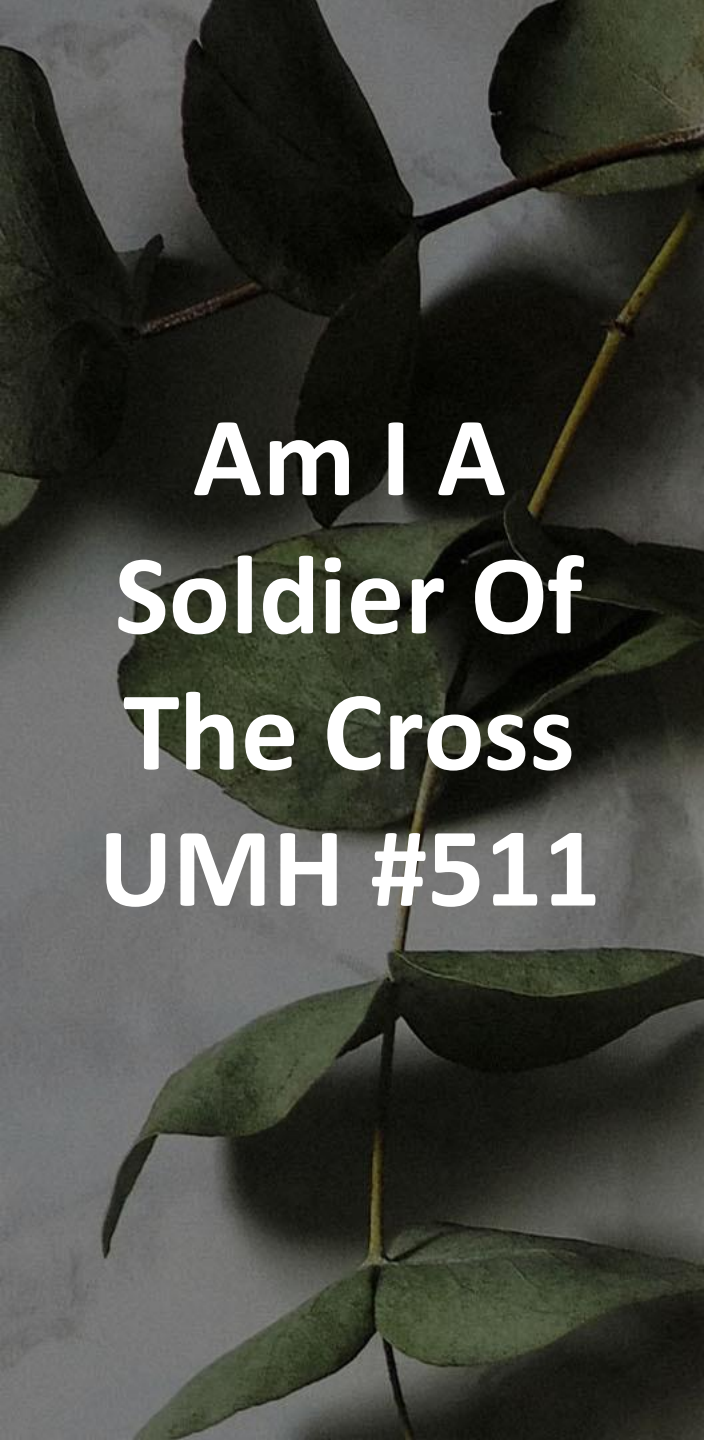
**Am I A  
Soldier Of  
The Cross  
UMH #511**

**Are there no foes for me  
to face?**

**Must I not stem the  
flood?**

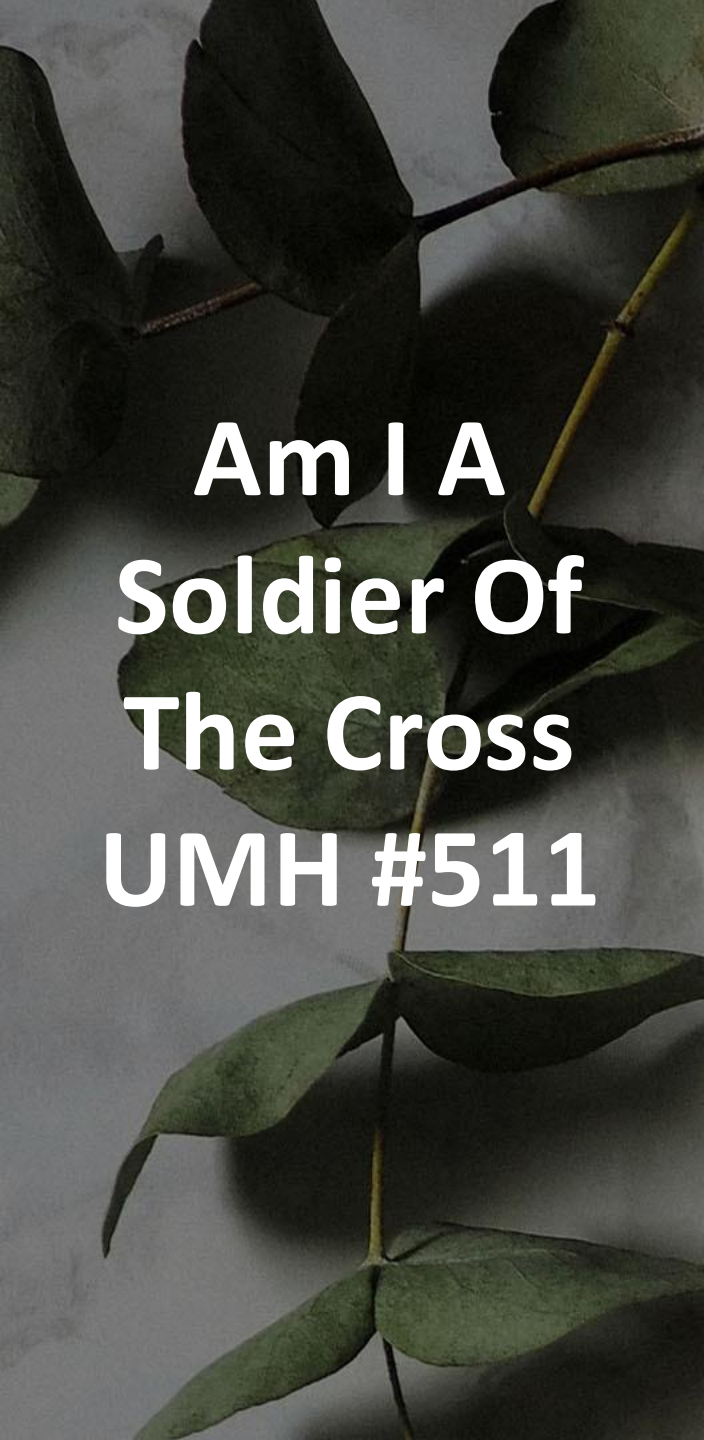
**Is this vile world a  
friend to grace,  
To help me on to God?**





**Am I A  
Soldier Of  
The Cross  
UMH #511**

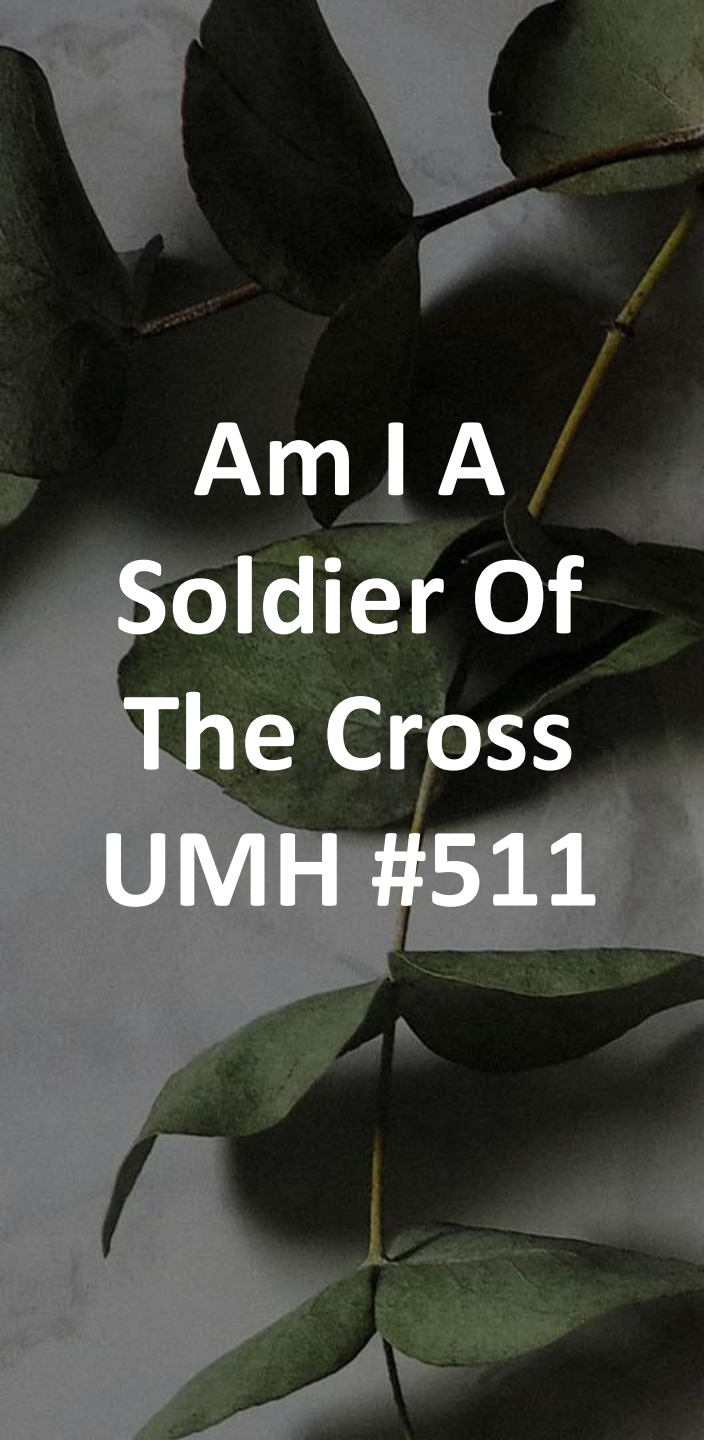
**Sure I must fight, if I  
would reign;  
Increase my courage,  
Lord.  
I'll bear the toil, endure  
the pain,  
Supported by thy word.**



**Am I A  
Soldier Of  
The Cross  
UMH #511**


**Thy saints in all this  
glorious war  
Shall conquer though  
they die;  
They see the triumph  
from afar,  
By faith they bring it  
nigh.**





**Am I A  
Soldier Of  
The Cross  
UMH #511**

**When that illustrious  
day shall rise,  
And all thy armies shine  
In robes of victory  
through the skies,  
The glory shall be thine.**



**Immortal, Invisible,  
God only wise,**

**In light in accessible  
hid from our eyes,**

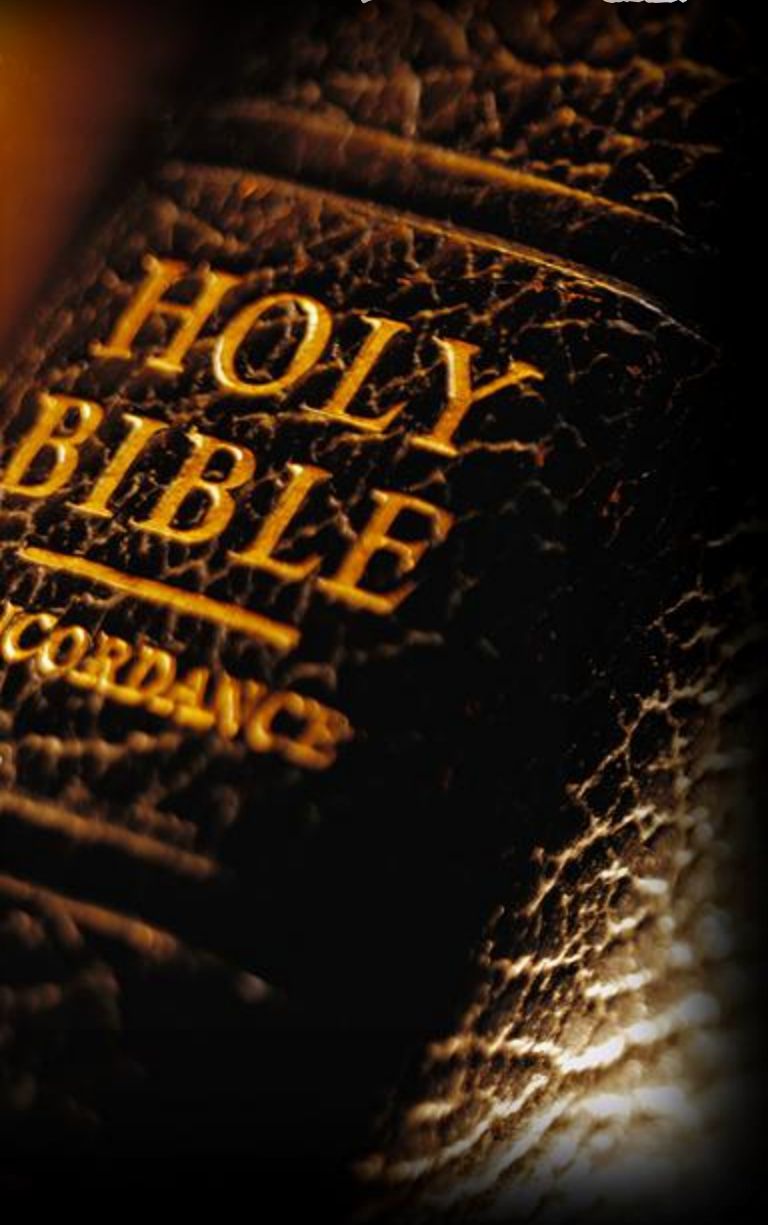


A close-up photograph of two hands, palms up, holding a small, lit white candle. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers slightly curled. The candle is lit, and its flame is bright yellow and orange. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some indistinct shapes and colors. The overall mood is warm and spiritual.

# Joys and Prayer Requests

# The Lord's Prayer

**Our father,  
Who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done**





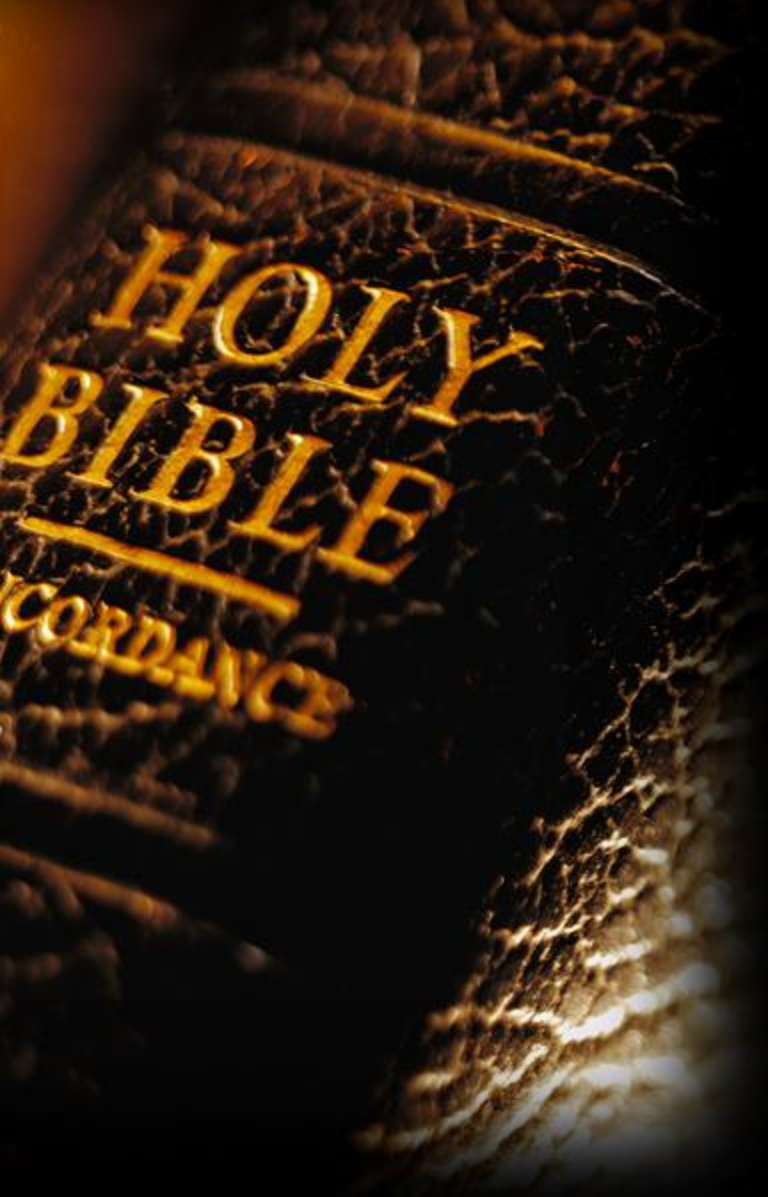
# The Lord's Prayer



**On earth  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day  
Our daily bread  
And forgive us  
Our trespasses**

# The Lord's Prayer

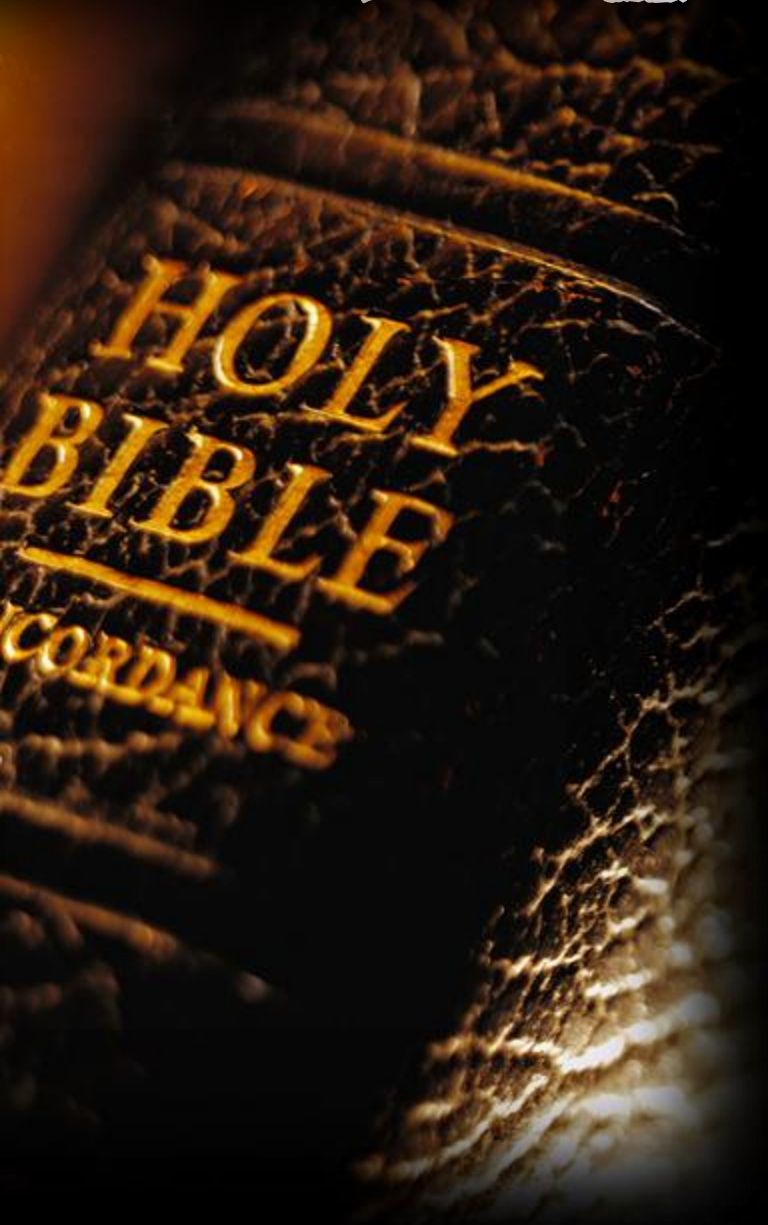
**As we forgive those  
Who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into  
Temptation  
But deliver us from evil**





# The Lord's Prayer

**For thine is the kingdom  
And the power,  
And the glory forever.  
Amen**



# *Offering*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPwFLDPZ-GM>



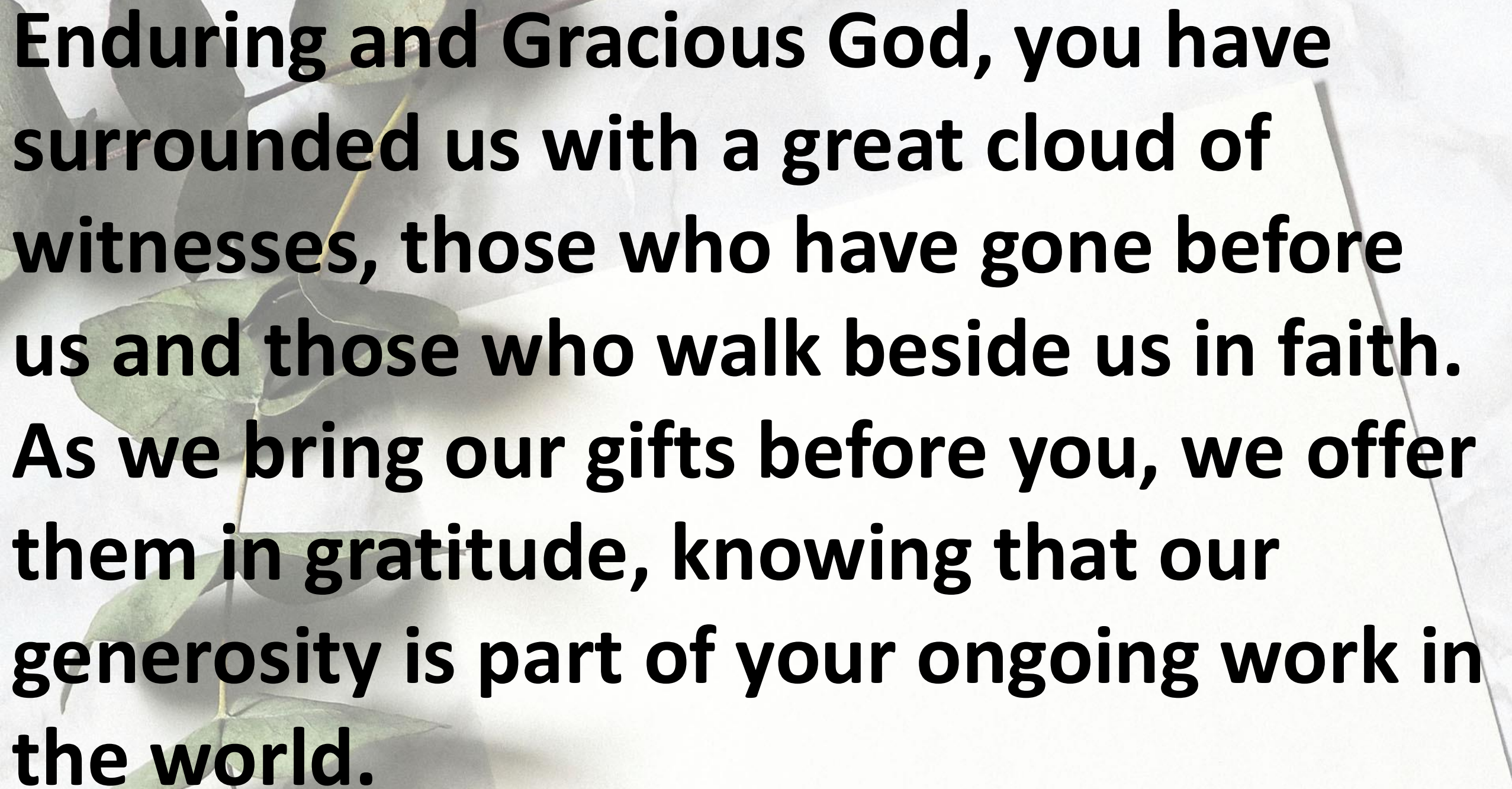
## Doxology

**Praise the Lord who  
reigns above and  
Keeps his court below;  
Praise the holy God of  
love and  
All his greatness show;**

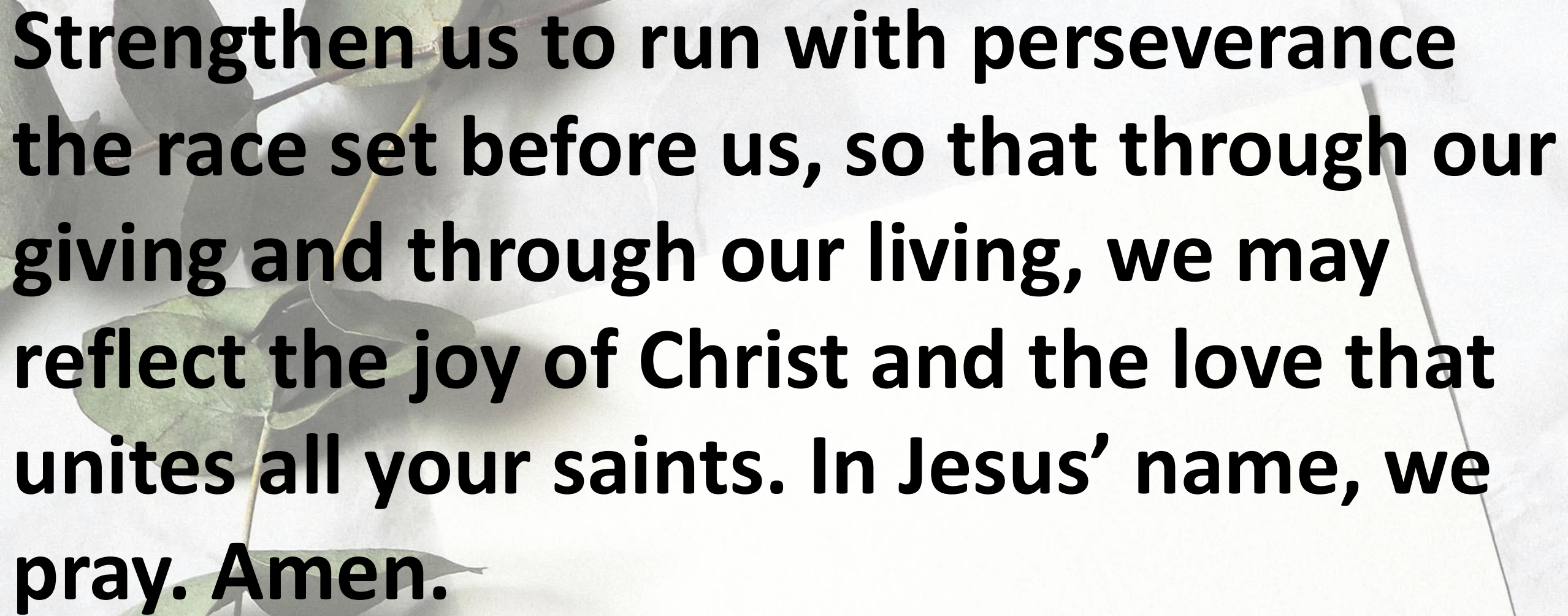
# Doxology

praise him for his noble  
deeds,  
Praise him for his  
matchless power;  
Him from whom all good  
proceeds let  
Earth and heaven adore.






**Enduring and Gracious God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, those who have gone before us and those who walk beside us in faith. As we bring our gifts before you, we offer them in gratitude, knowing that our generosity is part of your ongoing work in the world.**



**Strengthen us to run with perseverance  
the race set before us, so that through our  
giving and through our living, we may  
reflect the joy of Christ and the love that  
unites all your saints. In Jesus' name, we  
pray. Amen.**



A white cloth is draped over a dark, textured surface, possibly a piece of wood or stone. Dry, golden-brown grass is scattered across the cloth and the surface. A single wooden stick lies on the dark surface in the foreground. The scene is brightly lit, creating strong shadows.

The Cross of Christ

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9lqgFAqKyQ&list=RDD9lqgFAqKyQ&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9lqgFAqKyQ&list=RDD9lqgFAqKyQ&start_radio=1)





For the Sake of Joy

By faith the people passed through  
the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but  
when the Egyptians attempted to do  
the same, they were drowned.

**Dr Ray Francis**



# Defining Joy!

- “Happiness is temporary and ephemeral, whereas joy is more enduring.” – returning to
- Sosnowski – positive emotions, relationships, meaning, accomplishment
- From the inside out! – internal rather than external.

Recent Trip

Happiness

vs

Joy



# Recognize the Source of Joy! Psalm 80:1-2

- God is our Shepherd – lead, protect, care, love
- It is our connection that brings us Joy!
- From within us

## Remember your identity in God! Psalm 80:8-13

- We are God's vine – planted, cultivated, given purpose, bearing fruit,
- Need to cultivate our Spiritual Health! – prayer, God's Word, fellowship, grace, love, avoiding neglect (withering) – building capacity for Joy.
- Bearing fruit brings Joy into our lives. – internal and not external, enduring, Israel as the vine.



# Understand Joy and Lament Co-Exist! Psalm 80:14-17

- Express pain and concern while seeking God.  
Honesty and building relationships
- Honest and sincere prayer invites God's intervention. God cares.
- Petitioning God leads to Revival – Shine on us, favor, blessing, responses to prayer

## Embrace God's Restoration! Psalm 80:18-19

- God renews us as we seek and find Joy!
- Within our own revival we find restoration, healing, repairing, relationships, faith.
- As God's face shines on us it drives away fear, restores hope, reinvigorates the soul, gives light, allows Joy.



## Live for the sake of Joy! Psalm 80:19

- Joy is a form of testimony and reflects God's presence in our lives.
- Shared joy with others is a way to witness. Encourage the struggling, show love and kindness and grow in joy.
- Living Joyfully becomes an act of praise. Expresses gratitude to God for restoration and blessings.

# Reflections and Lessons

- **As Shepherd**, He leads and protects us.
- **As Cultivator of the Vine**, He nurtures us to bear spiritual fruit.
- **As the Source of Light**, His presence illuminates and blesses us.
- **As Restorer**, He revives our hearts and communities.
- Live intentionally to reflect God's joy. Let your life inspire others and glorify God in both actions and attitudes.



## Congregational Challenge

- This week, I challenge each of you to **identify one area of your life where God's joy needs to be restored in your life**. Pray daily for that area, journal how God's presence brings light, and share your experience with someone to multiply the joy. Let us commit to living for the sake of joy not for fleeting pleasures, forgo the grumbling, and seek the enduring joy that only comes from God.

# Soon and Very Soon

## UMH#706

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxarZBxK0iQ>


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wolvS8uHZHY>



**Soon and  
Very Soon  
UMH #706**

**Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the  
King;  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the  
King;**





**Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the  
King.**

**Soon and  
Very Soon  
UMH #706**


**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
We're going to see the  
King.**



**Soon and  
Very Soon  
UMH #706**

**No more dying there,  
We are going to see the  
King;  
No more dying there,  
We are going to see the  
King;**





**No more dying there,  
We are going to see the  
King.**

**Soon and  
Very Soon  
UMH #706**


**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
We're going to see the  
King**





**Soon and  
Very Soon  
UMH #706**

**No more crying there,  
We are going to see the  
King;  
No more crying there,  
We are going to see the  
King;**

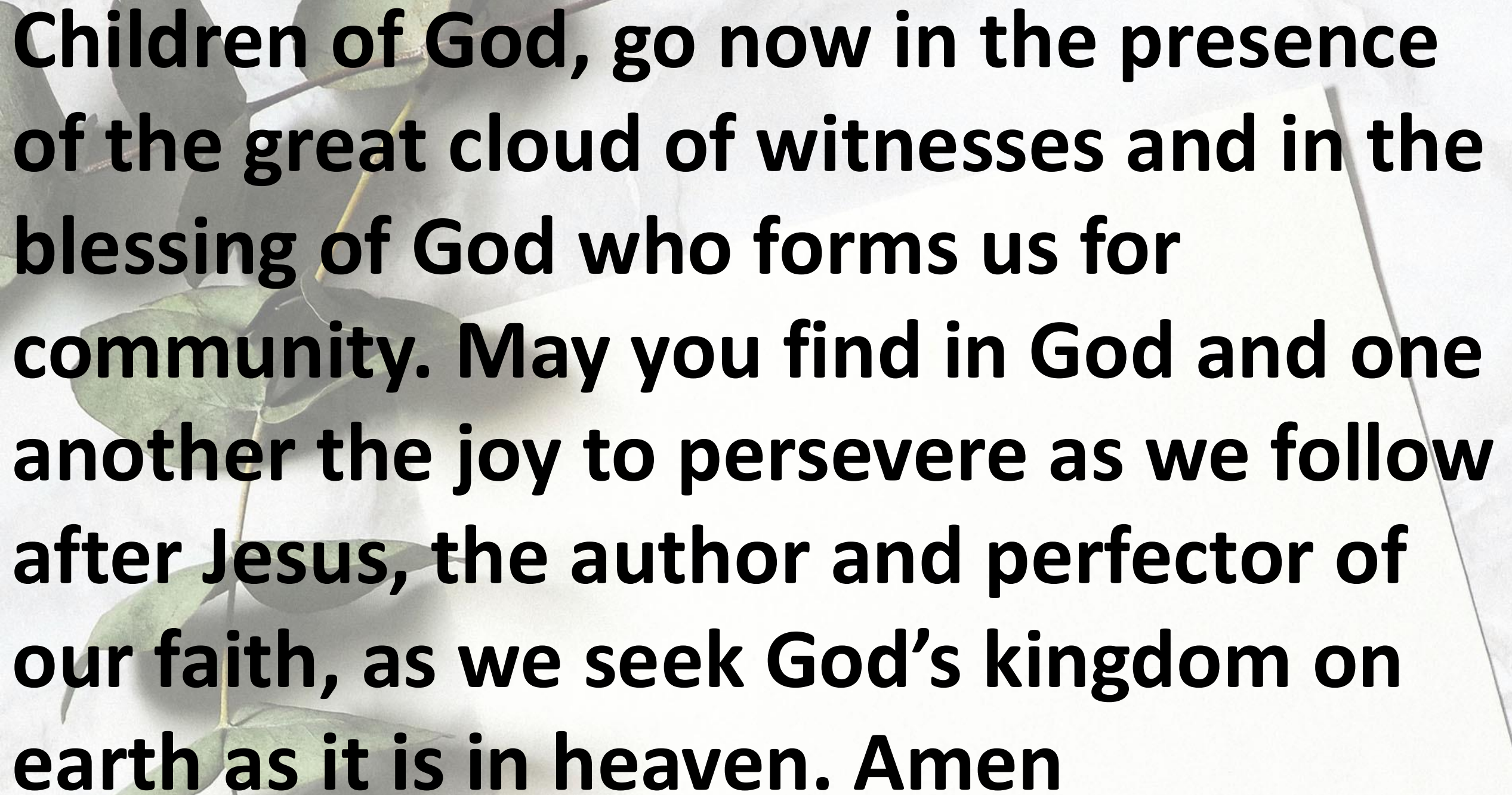


**No more crying there,  
We are going to see the  
King.**

**Soon and  
Very Soon  
UMH #706**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
We're going to see the  
King.**





**Children of God, go now in the presence of the great cloud of witnesses and in the blessing of God who forms us for community. May you find in God and one another the joy to persevere as we follow after Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, as we seek God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen**





Apostle Paul

Dear Children of God: Part 3

