



THE LIFE OF PAUL

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-8



Overview

1. History & Background

2. Saul's Conversion

**3. Paul's Thorn In The
Flesh**

Philippians 3:4-8

4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: **5** Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; **6** Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **7** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. **8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of an old, open book. The pages are aged and yellowed, with some faint, illegible handwriting visible. The lighting is warm and focused on the center of the book, creating a sense of history and depth. The text is overlaid on this background in a bright yellow color.

SECTION 1

HISTORY &

BACKGROUND

History & Background

1. First mentioned under his original name Saul at the stoning of Stephen and he consented to his execution (Acts 7:58 & Acts 8:1)
2. He was a son of a Pharisee and a Pharisee himself (Acts 23:6)
3. He was of the tribe of Benjamin and a Hebrew of Hebrews (Philippians 3:5)
4. He lived in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a Roman province of Asia Minor (Acts 22:3)
5. He was extremely well educated under Gamaliel, who was a rabbi / doctor of the Jewish Law (Acts 22:3)
6. He practiced the law blamelessly without fault (Philippians 3:6)
7. His zeal and passion for the law caused him to persecute the church prior to his conversion (Philippians 3:6)
8. He made havoc of the church, going house to house, arresting men and women and putting them in prison (Acts 8:1)

SECTION 2

PAUL'S

CONVERSION

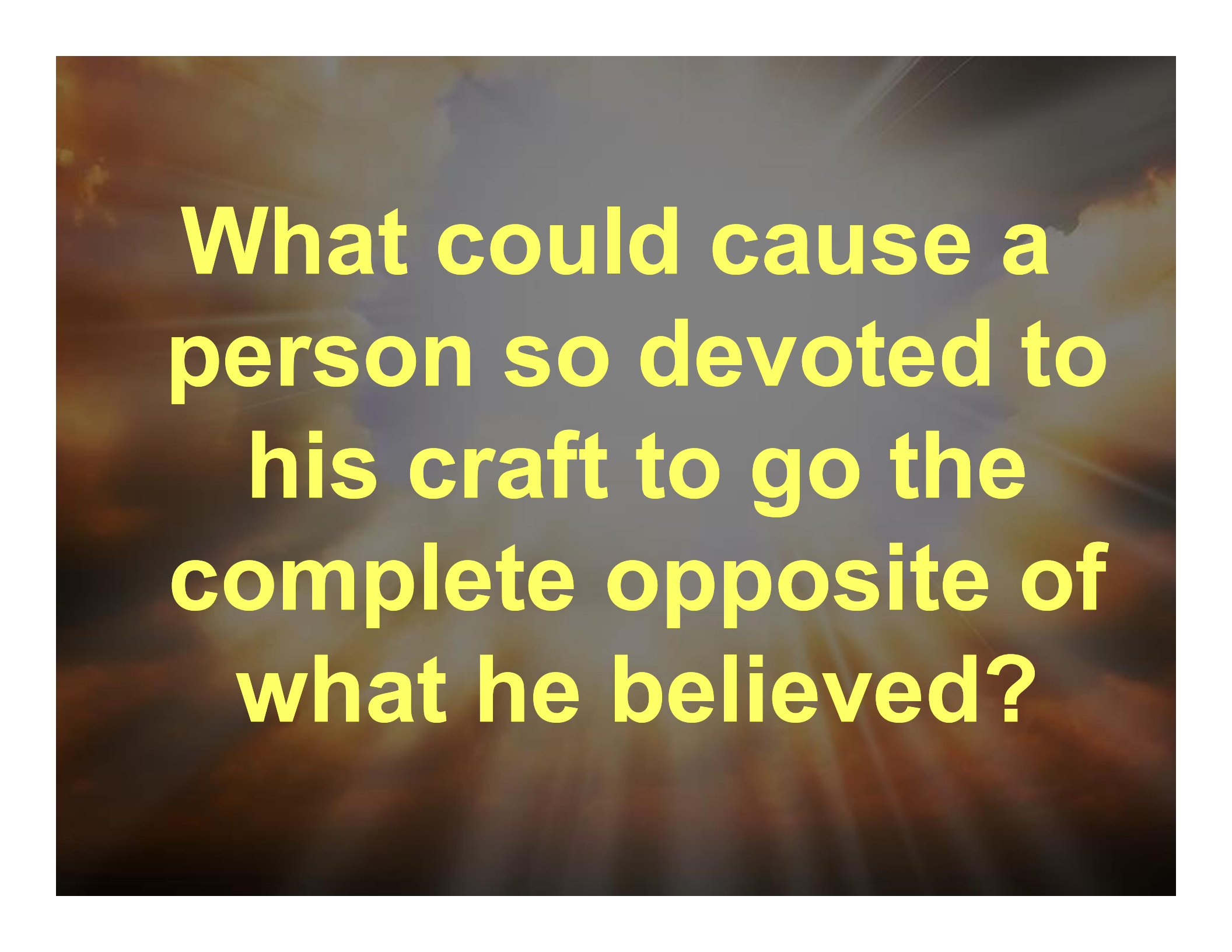


Acts 9:1-9

1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, **2** And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. **3** And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: **4** And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? **5** And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. **6** And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. **7** And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. **8** And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. **9** And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

Acts 9:10-11

10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. 11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

The background of the slide is a dramatic, cloudy sky. A bright light source, possibly the sun or moon, is positioned behind the clouds, creating a strong lens flare effect with rays of light radiating outwards. The clouds are dark and textured, with the light illuminating parts of them, creating a high-contrast, atmospheric scene.

**What could cause a
person so devoted to
his craft to go the
complete opposite of
what he believed?**

Conversion

1. Saul Elements
2. The City of Damascus
3. Straight Street
4. The House of Judas
5. Ananias

Saul Desired or demanded



Paul's Conversion

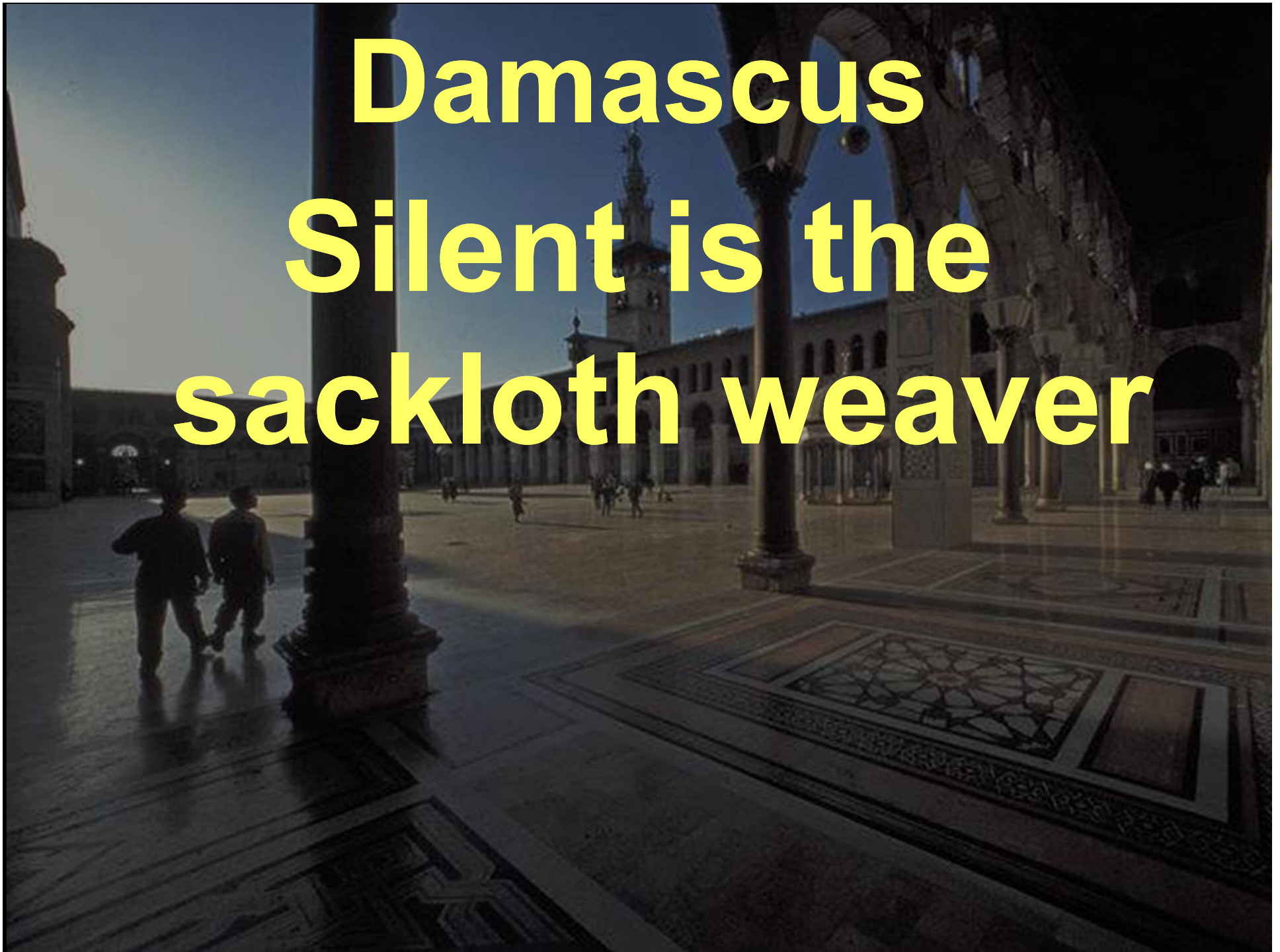
Saul was desired and demanded by those of the Jews religion. He had status, influence, position, and possibly wealth considering his background.

What caused him to forsake all of that was when he realized that the person he didn't want was the one who desired or demanded of him the most being Jesus Christ.

Luke 19:10

**For the Son of man is
come to seek and to
save that which was
lost.**

**Damascus
Silent is the
sackcloth weaver**





Sackcloth
Coarse cloth worn as
a sign of mourning or
repentance.

Nehemiah 9:1

Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them.





The Street Called Straight

Matthew 7:13-14

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate:
for wide is the gate, and broad is
the way, that leadeth to
destruction, and many there be
which go in thereat: 14 Because
strait is the gate, and narrow is
the way, which leadeth unto life,
and few there be that find it.

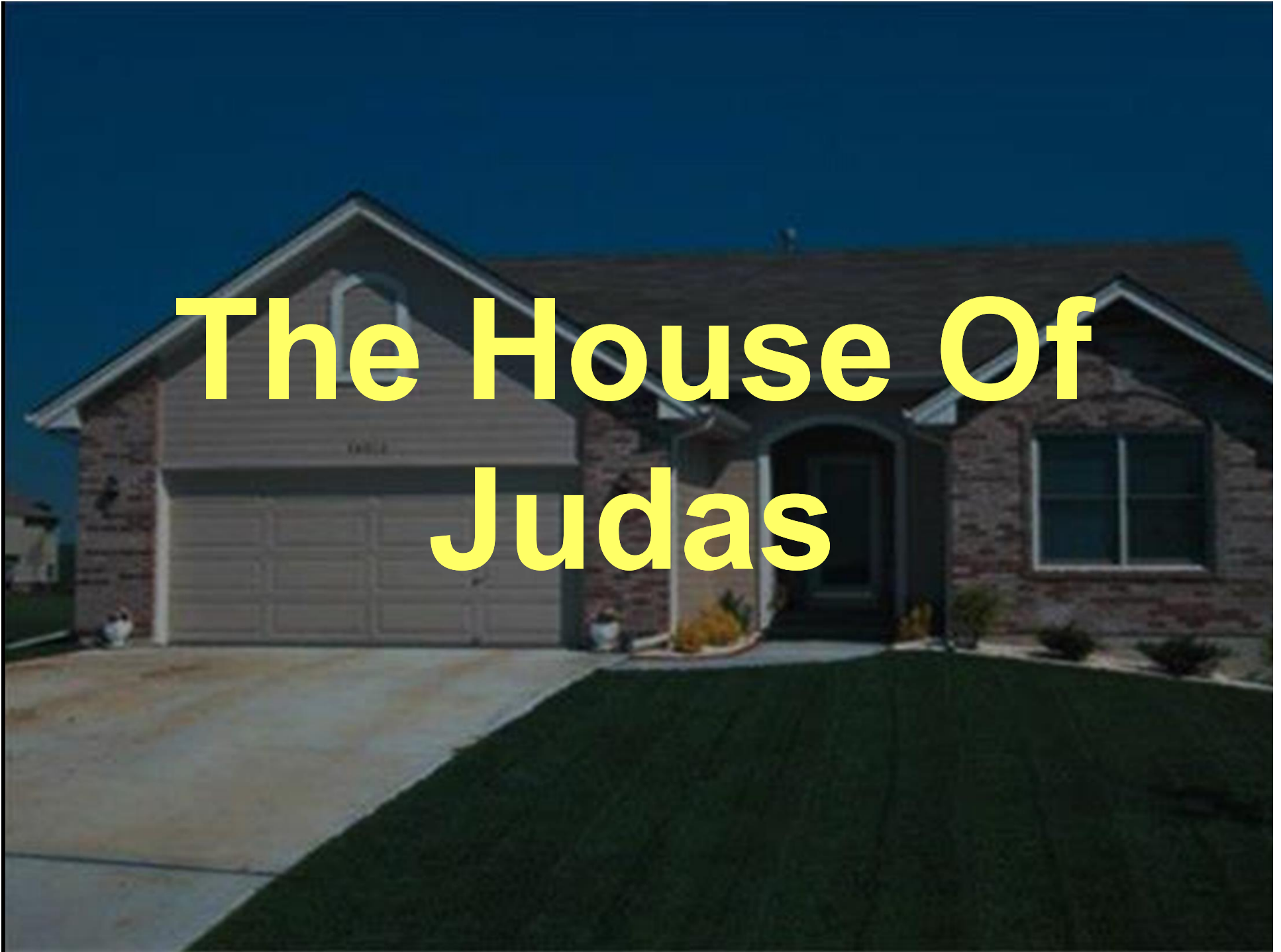


John 14:6

**Jesus saith unto him, I
am the way, the truth,
and the life: no man
cometh unto the
Father, but by me.**

*Road to Heaven
Andrea - Andrea*

The House Of Judas



Judas

Is the Greek rendering
of the name Judah
which means praise.

A person is kneeling in a field of tall grass and wildflowers, with their arms raised high towards a dramatic, cloudy sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and a lens flare effect. The person's silhouette is visible against the bright sky.

Psalms 33:1

**Rejoice in the LORD, O
ye righteous: for praise
is comely for the
upright.**

Ananias

Means Grace, God
has favored, mercy



Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Conversion Analysis

- 1. Saul: Desired or Demanded**
- 2. Damascus: Silent is the sackloth weaver**
- 3. Straight: True or sincere**
- 4. Judas: aka Judah means Praise**
- 5. Ananias: Grace, God has favored, mercy.**

Conversion Revelation

When we truly recognize that we are desired or demanded by Christ (Saul) God's light will blind or prevent us from walking in sin. It will lead us to (Damascus) a place where the sackcloth weaver, the maker of the garments of mourning and death is silent. In this place is a path or street that is Straight. That path will lead us to a house of (Judah) praise where (Ananias) God's grace, favor, gift, and mercy will find us.

Philippians 3:4-8

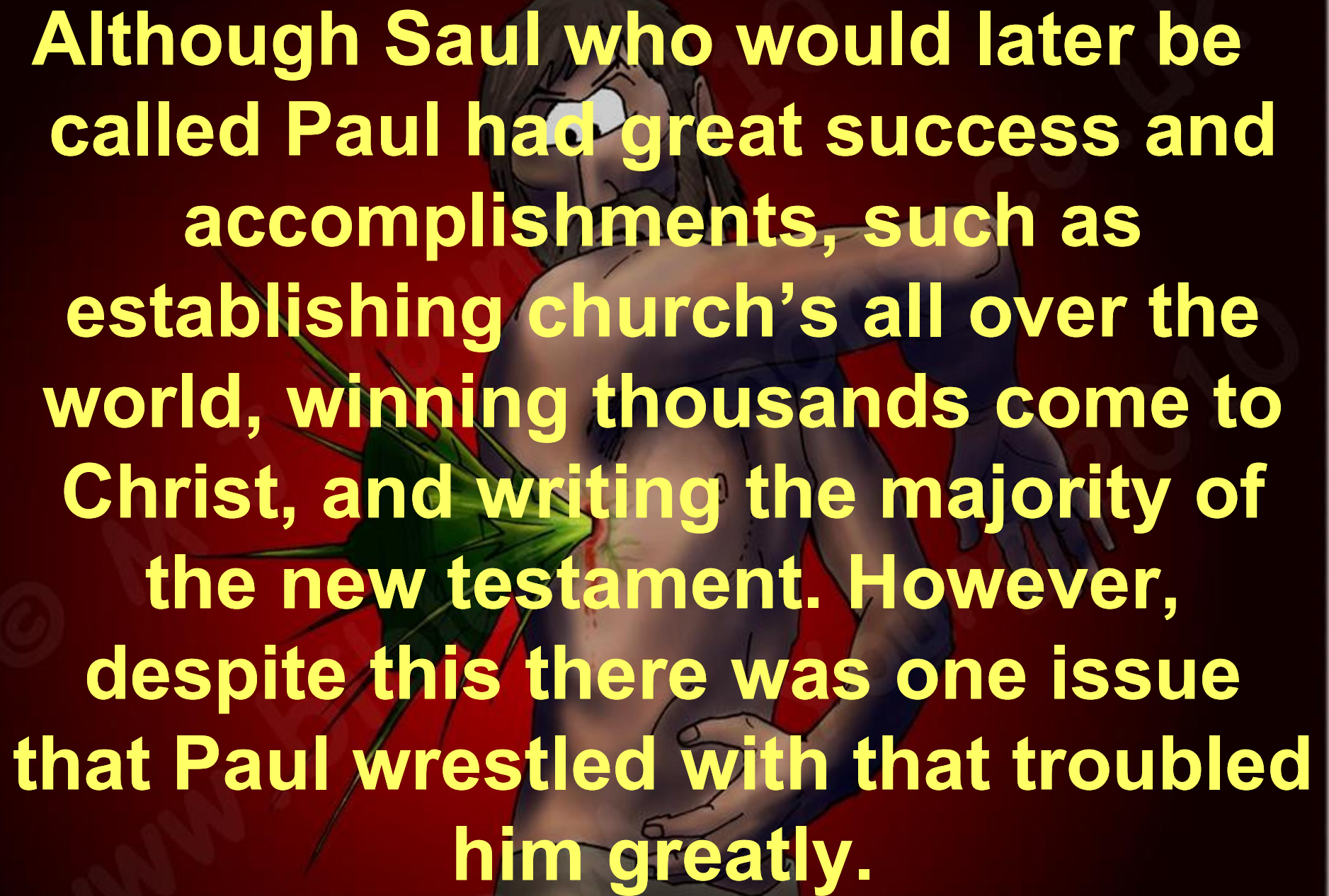
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1 Timothy 1:12-13

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

POWERPOINT GUYS

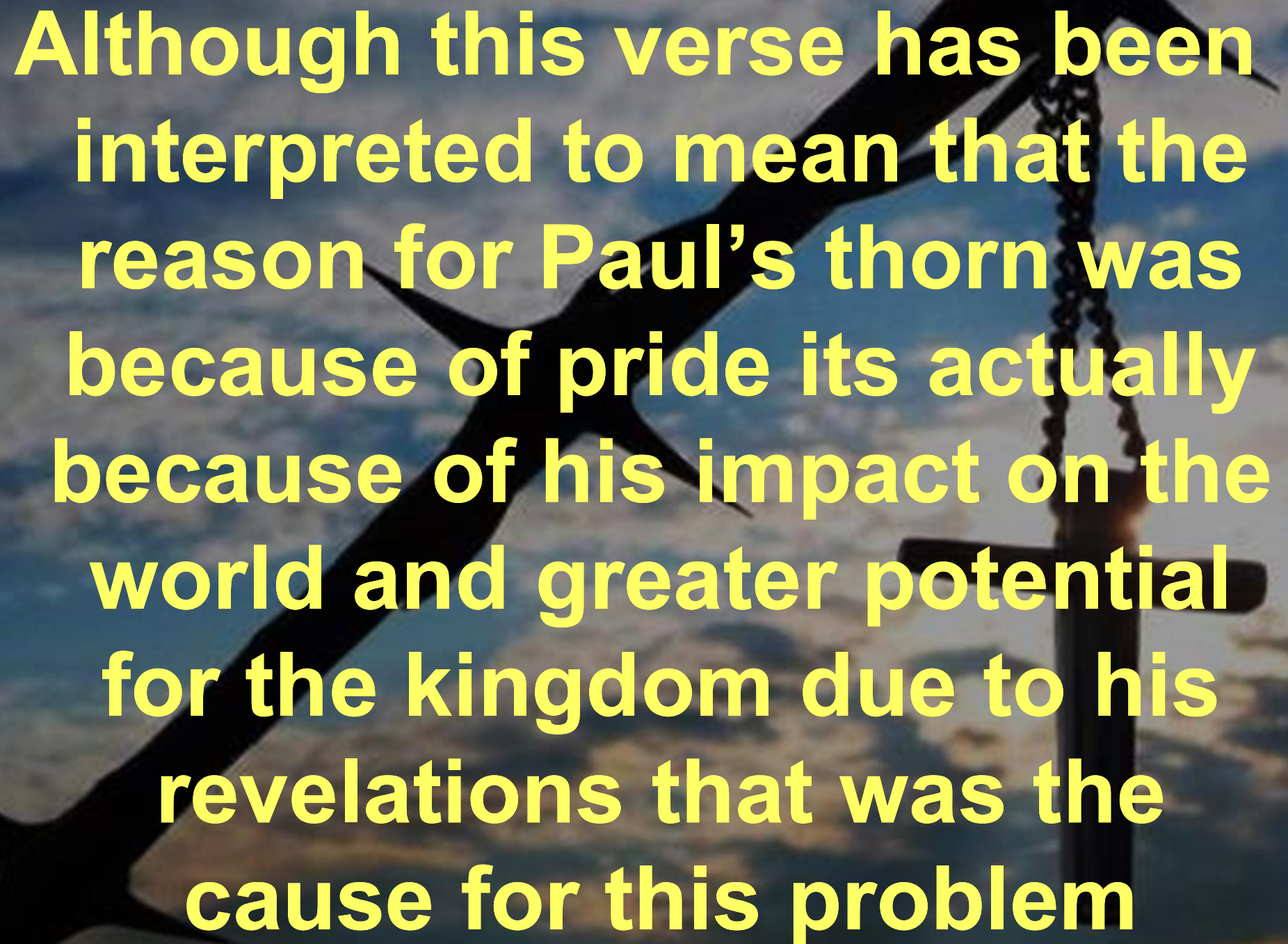
SECTION 3 PAUL'S THORN IN THE FLESH



Although Saul who would later be called Paul had great success and accomplishments, such as establishing church's all over the world, winning thousands come to Christ, and writing the majority of the new testament. However, despite this there was one issue that Paul wrestled with that troubled him greatly.

2 Corinthians 12:5-10

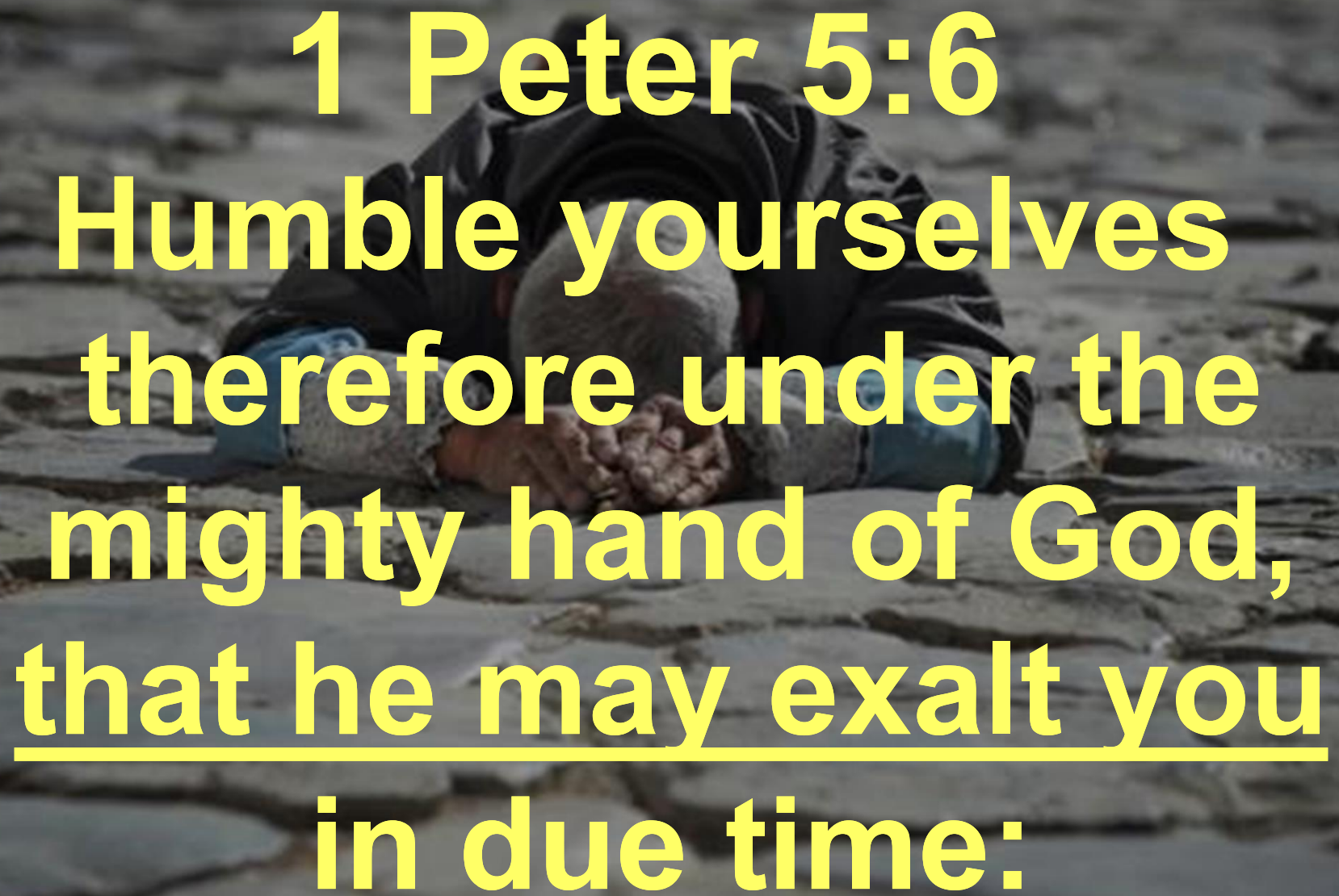
5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. 6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.



Although this verse has been interpreted to mean that the reason for Paul's thorn was because of pride its actually because of his impact on the world and greater potential for the kingdom due to his revelations that was the cause for this problem

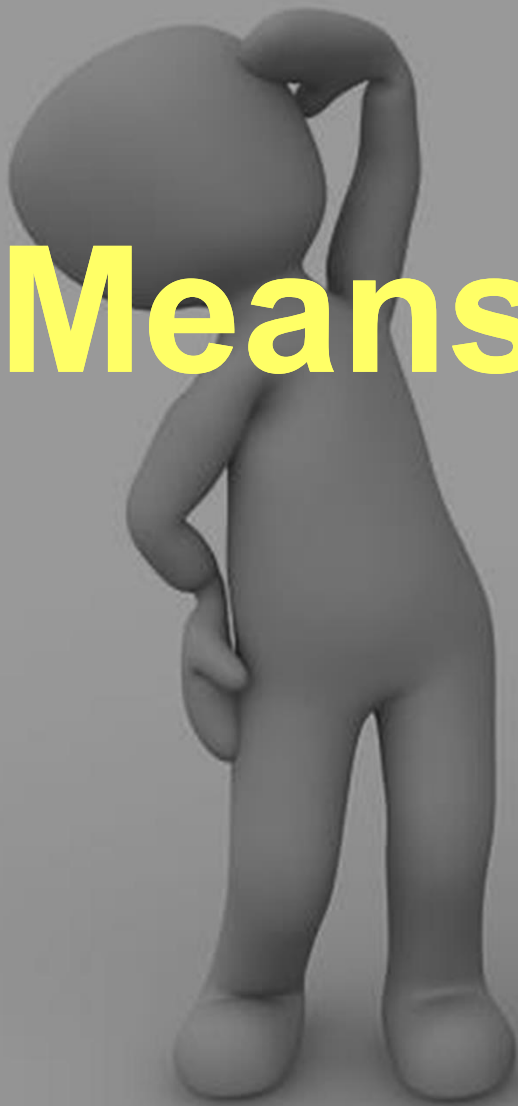
Colossians 1:25-29

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

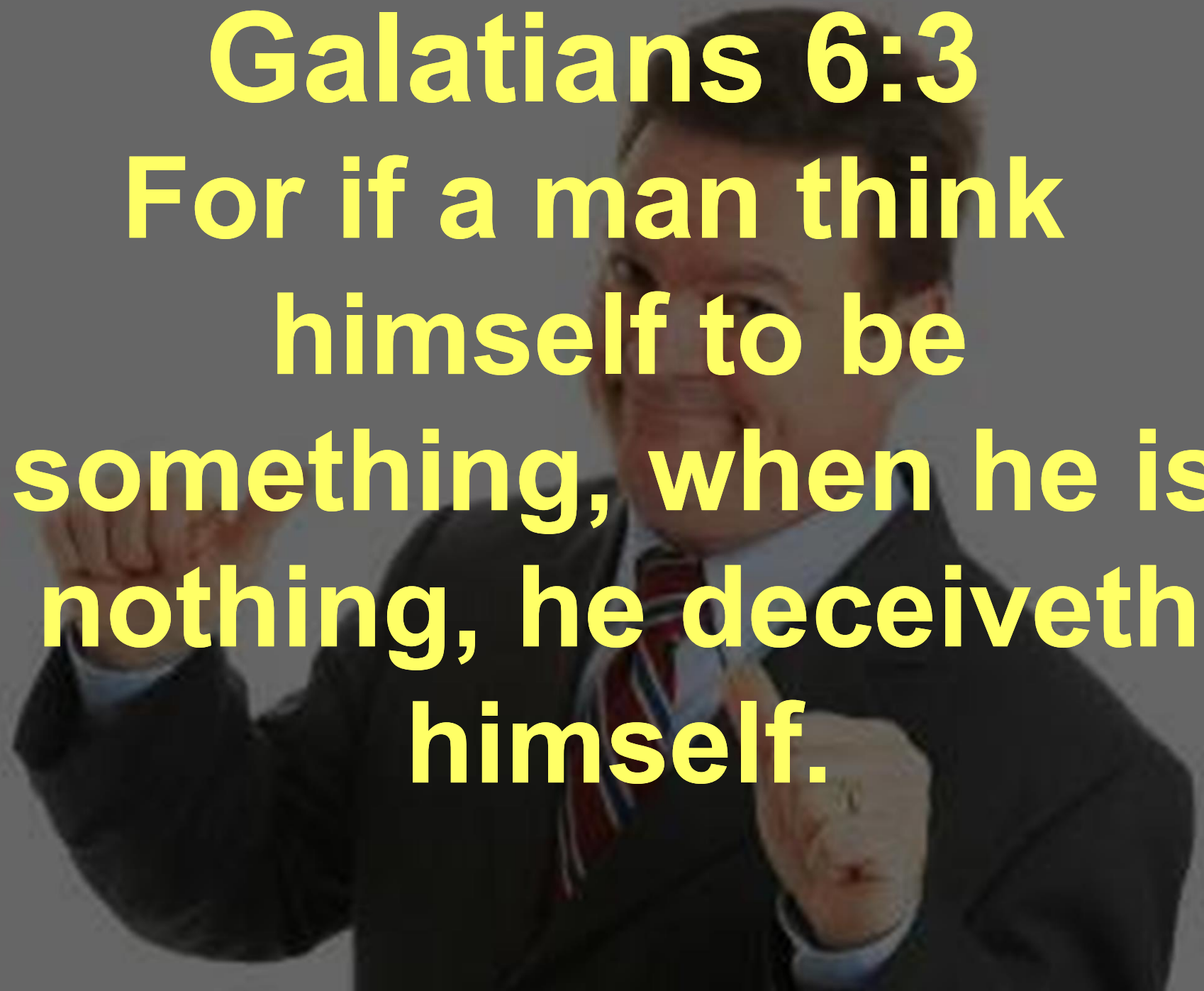
A person wearing a dark jacket and blue gloves is kneeling on a rocky, uneven surface. Their hands are clasped together in a prayerful gesture, resting on the ground. The background is a blurred, natural setting with more rocks and some greenery.

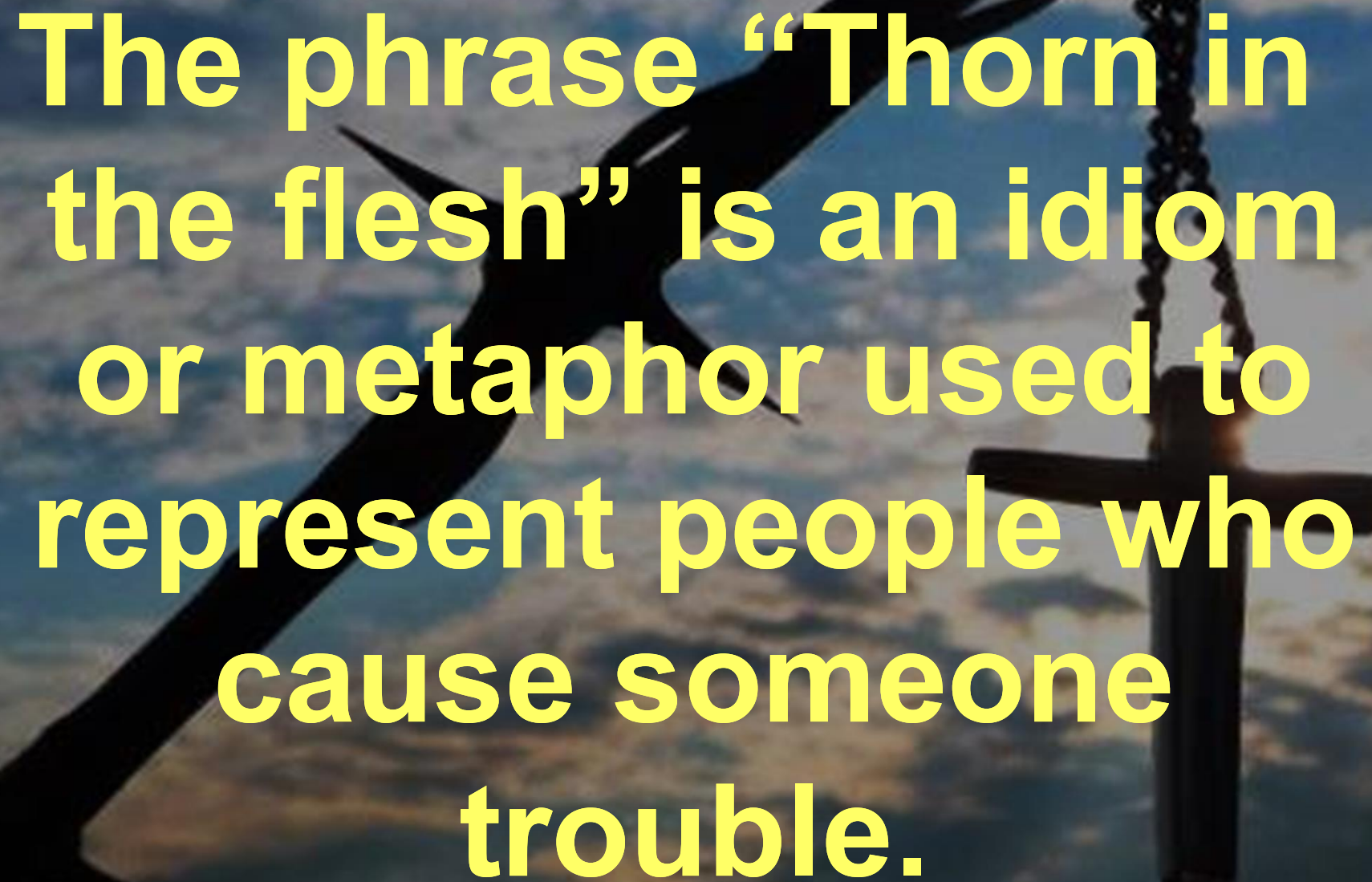
1 Peter 5:6
Humble yourselves
therefore under the
mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you
in due time:

Paul
Means small or little



Galatians 6:3
For if a man think
himself to be
something, when he is
nothing, he deceiveth
himself.





The phrase “Thorn in the flesh” is an idiom or metaphor used to represent people who cause someone trouble.

Numbers 33:55

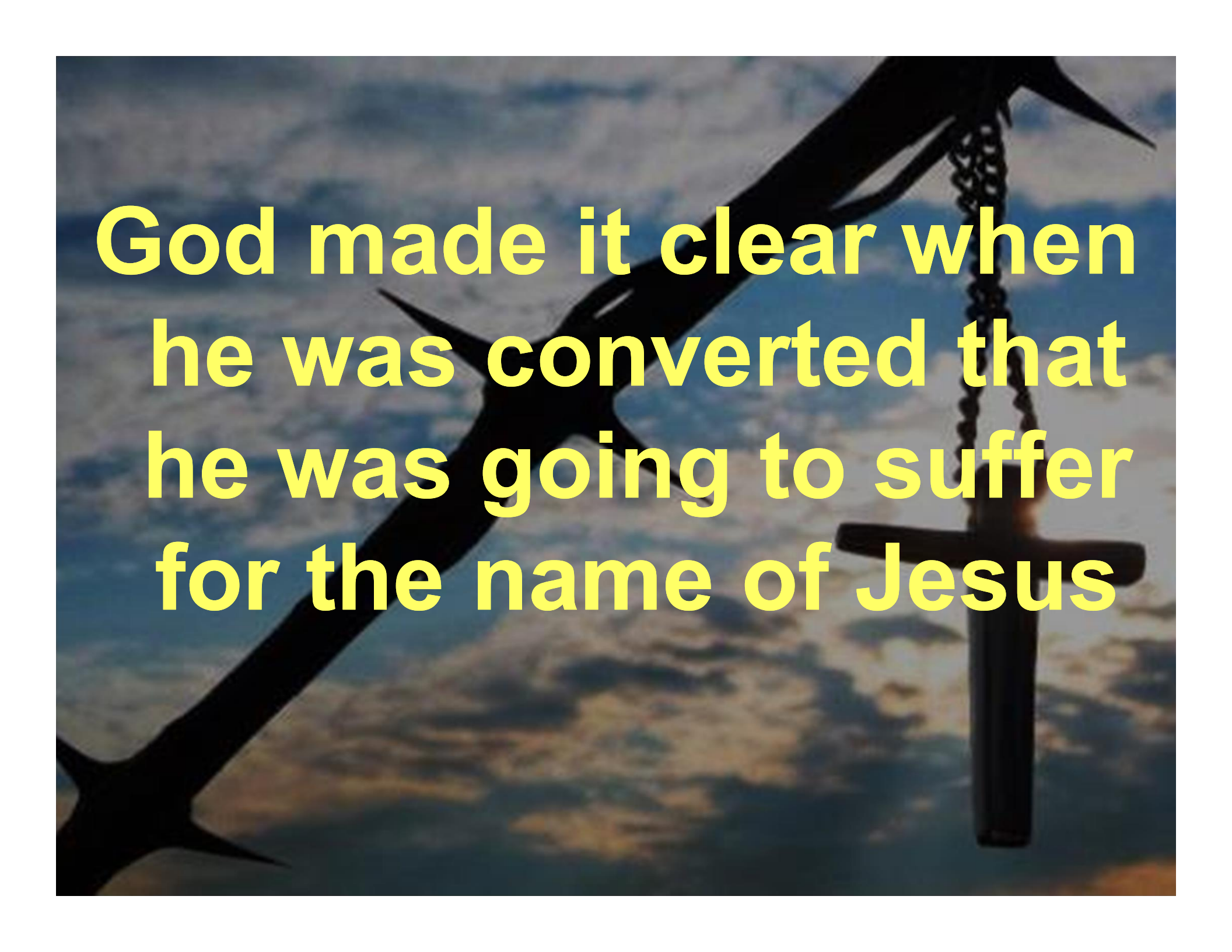
But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.

Joshua 23:13

Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

Judges 2:3

Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.

A silhouette of a cross is centered against a background of a cloudy sky. In the foreground, a dark, thorny branch, likely from a rose bush, extends diagonally across the frame. The text is overlaid in a bold, yellow font.

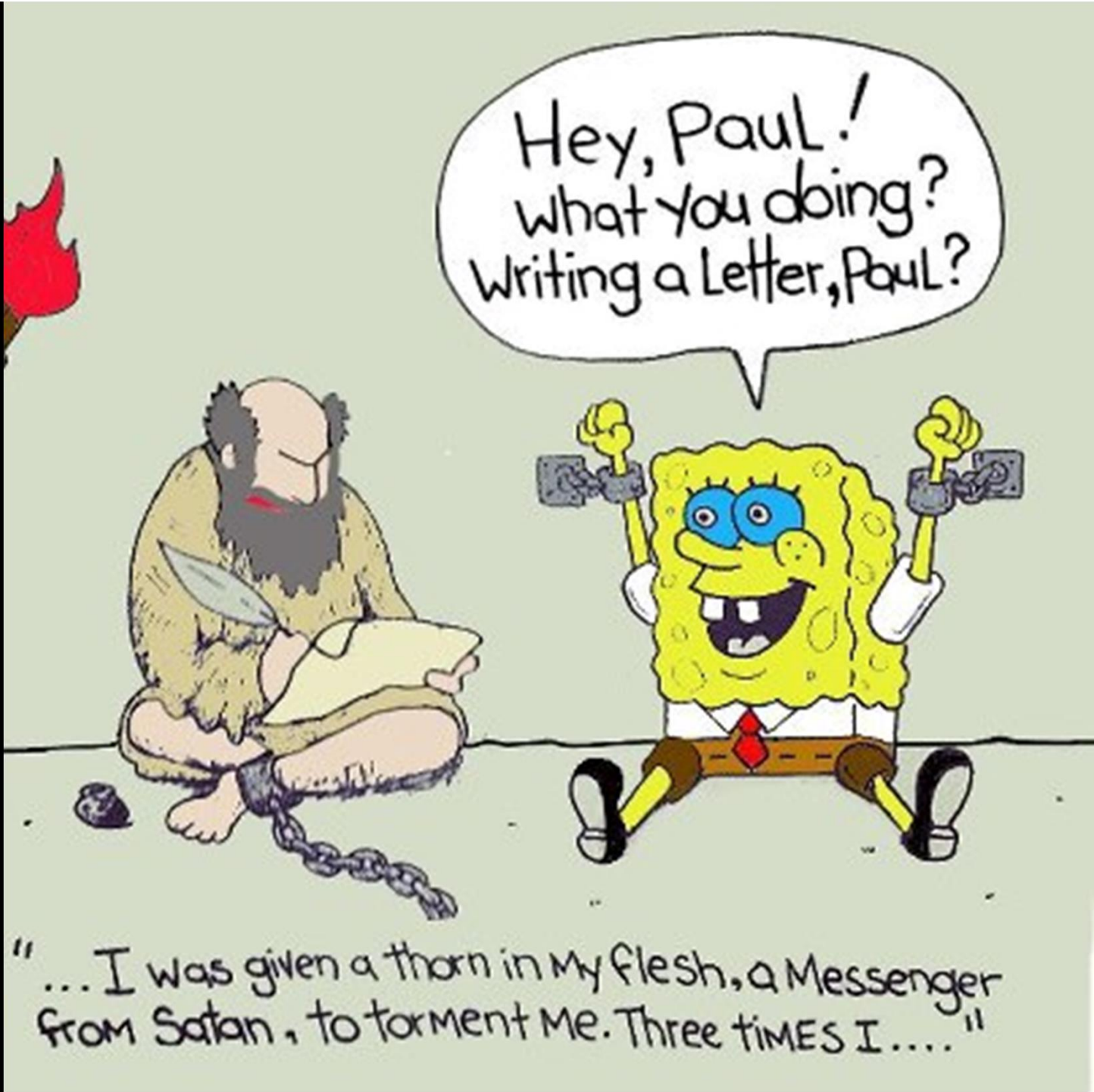
**God made it clear when
he was converted that
he was going to suffer
for the name of Jesus**

Acts 9:15-16

**But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:
16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.**

A silhouette of a cross is centered against a background of a cloudy sky. A chain hangs from the top right arm of the cross. The text "Where did this suffering come from? People" is overlaid in yellow.

**Where did this
suffering come
from? People**

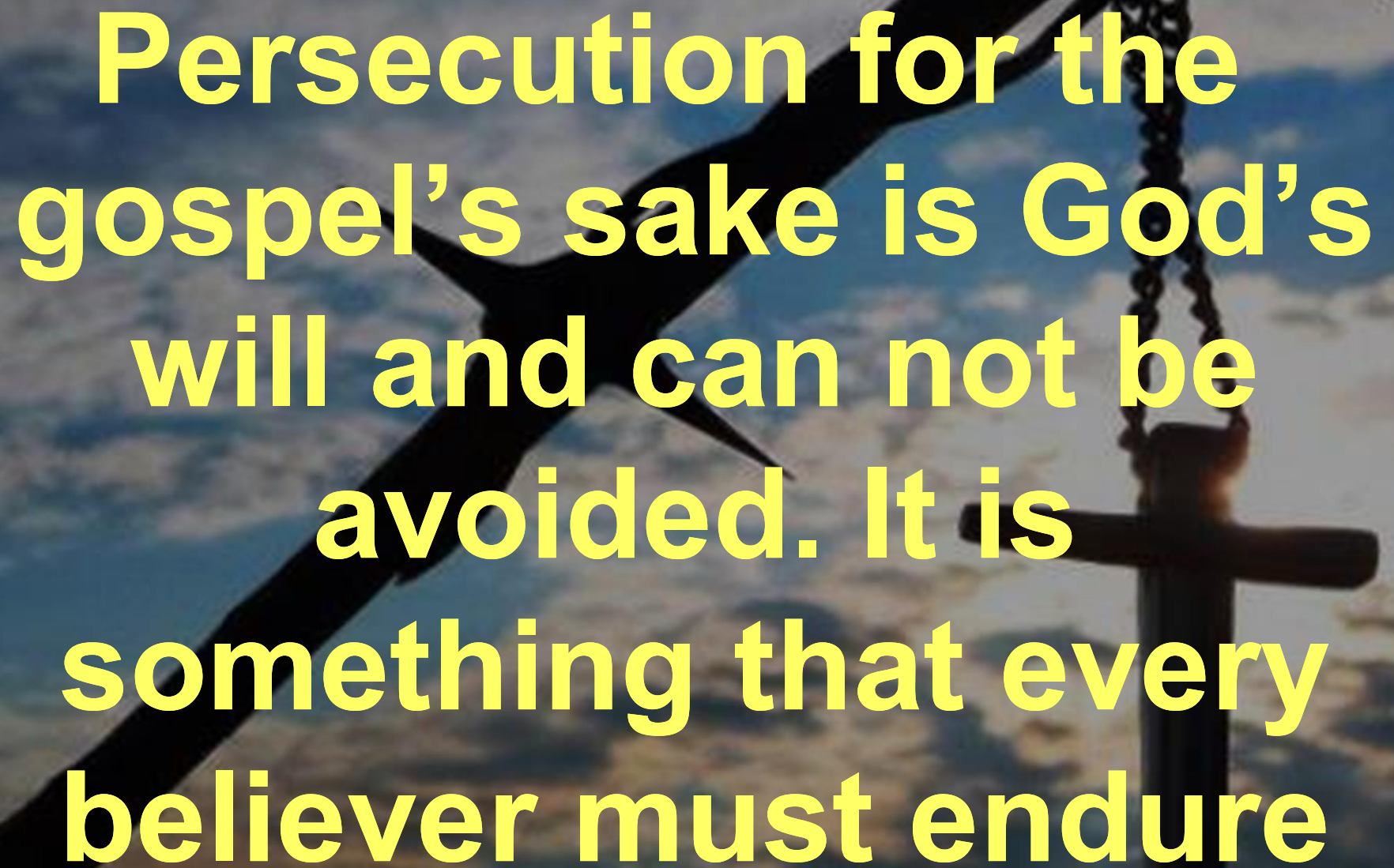


Hey, Paul!
What you doing?
Writing a Letter, Paul?

"...I was given a thorn in my flesh, a Messenger from Satan, to torment me. Three times I...."

2 Corinthians 11:23-30

Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? 30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.



**Persecution for the
gospel's sake is God's
will and can not be
avoided. It is
something that every
believer must endure**

2 Timothy 3:12

Yea, and all that will live
godly in Christ Jesus
shall suffer
persecution.

Thorny Points



1. **Sickness or disease is never mentioned in the text**
2. **The Thorn came from Satan and not God**
3. **The thorn was a person or messenger**
4. **The phrase thorn in the flesh symbolically always refers to people who cause trouble or persecute.**
5. **Paul's thorn therefore is persecution from people for the gospel's sake**

Thorny lessons

1. When God gives you revelation be prepared for an increase in persecution and Satanic attacks.
2. Sickness and disease has nothing to do with suffering for Christ. It should never be identified as such and it should be resisted and overcome by the power of God's word and his spirit.
3. Suffering for the cause of Christ or the gospel's sake is unavoidable and must be endured by all believers.