



ENTRUSTED

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-16

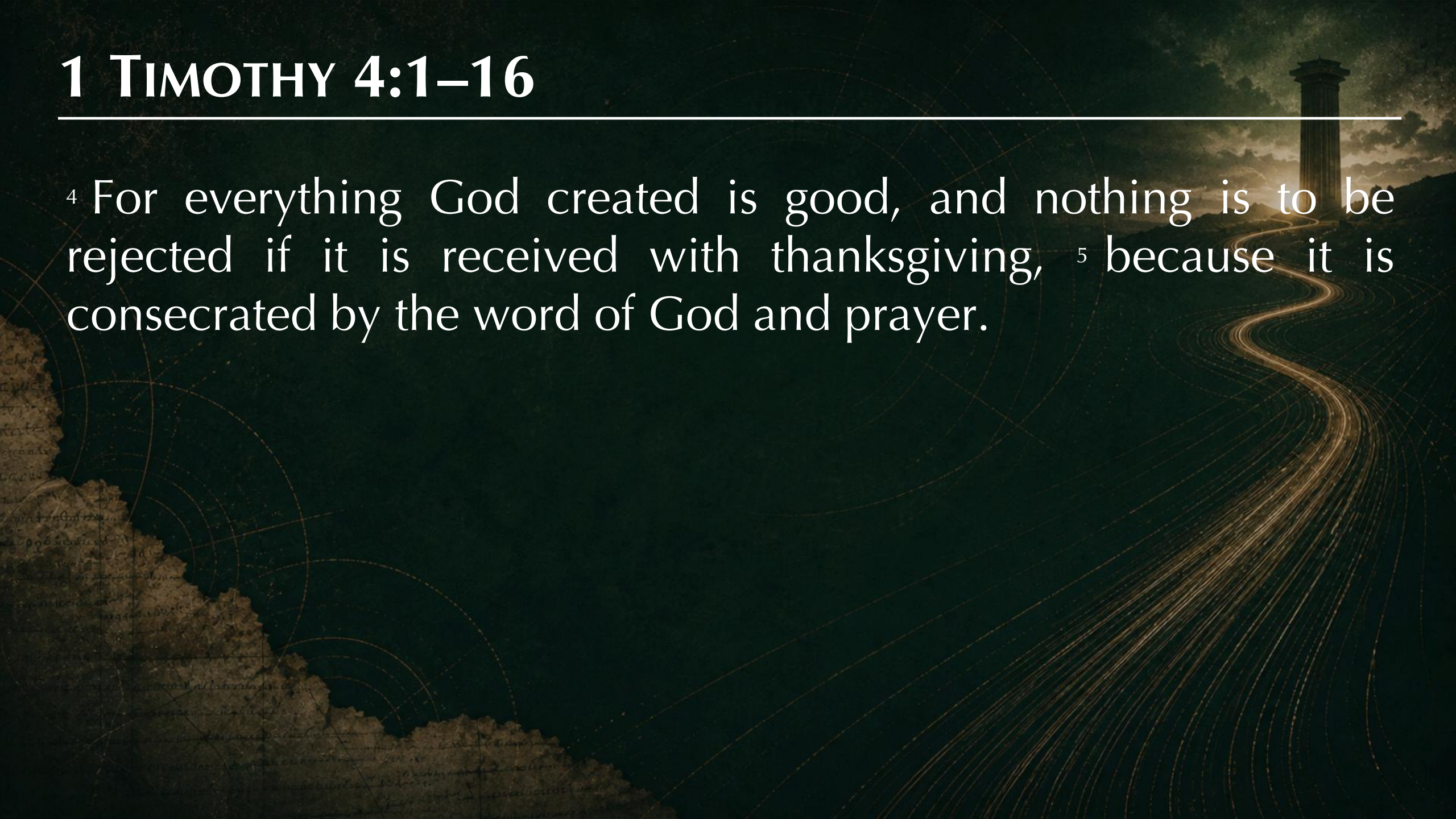
TRAINING FOR GODLINESS

1 TIMOTHY 4:1–16

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. ³ 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.

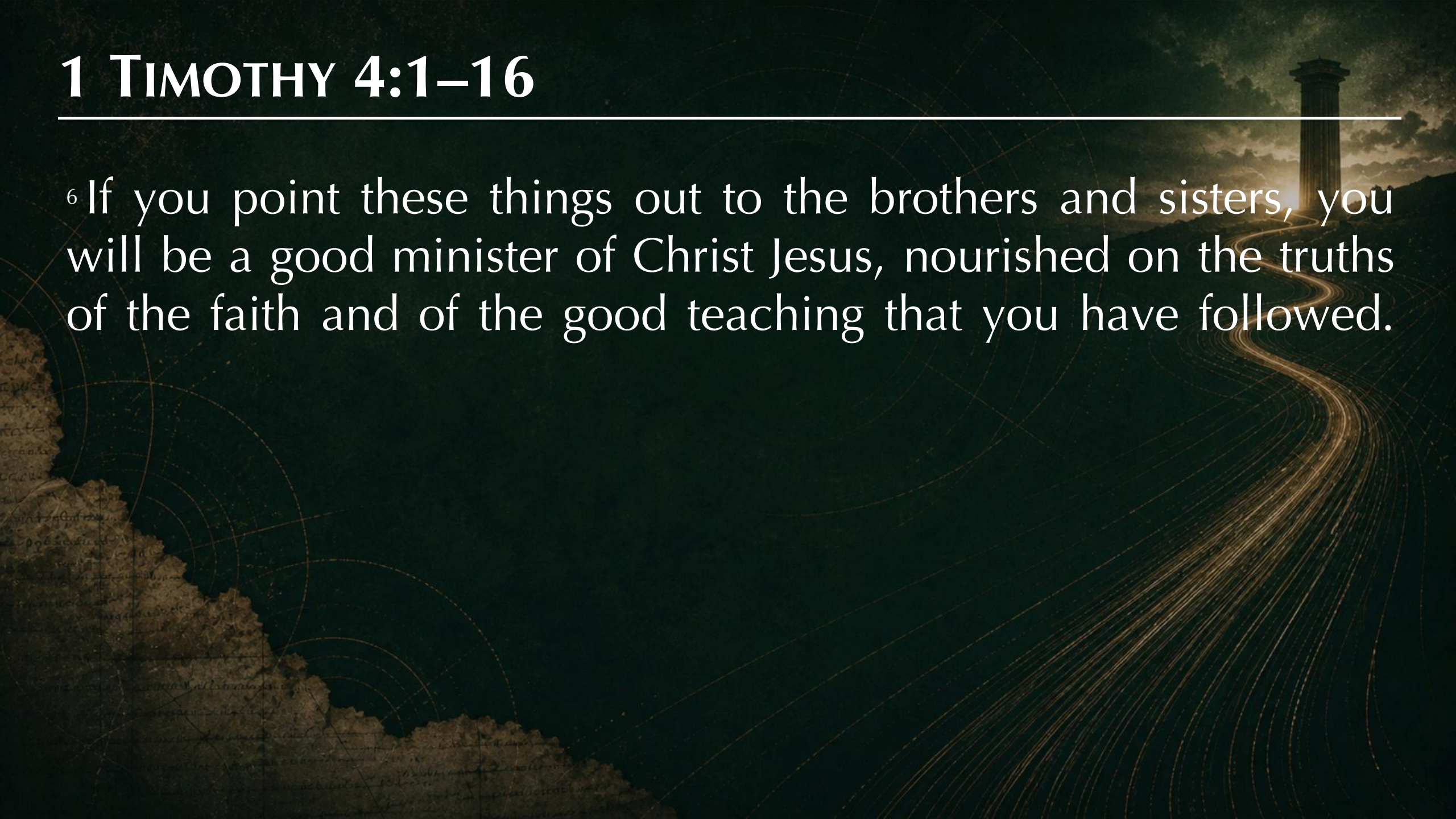
1 TIMOTHY 4:1–16

⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.



1 TIMOTHY 4:1–16

⁶ 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.

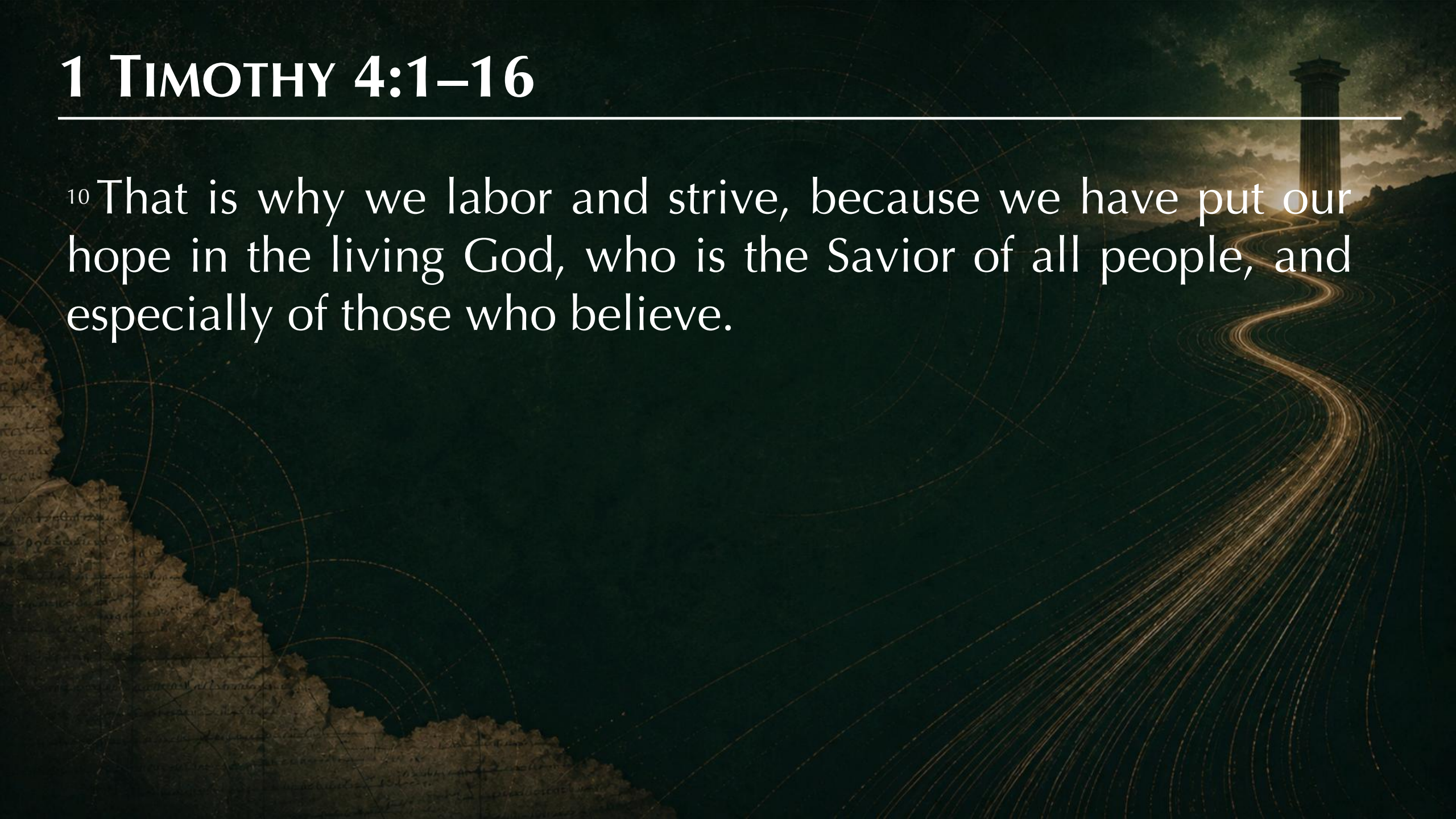


1 TIMOTHY 4:1–16

⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1–16

¹⁰ That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.



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¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

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¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1–16

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.



TIMOTHY AND THE PRESSURES OF EPHESUS

- **COMPETING VOICES:**
Trade, gurus, and claims of secret knowledge.
- **TIMOTHY'S TASK:**
Guide a spiritual family through deception.
- **A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR US:**
Paul's counsel speaks to our pressures.



I. LIVING IN THE LATER TIMES

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

- **THE OVERLAP OF TWO AGES—**

Christ has come. We await His return.

- **A SPIRITUAL BATTLE—**

False teaching will draw people away from faith.

- **APOSTASY (APHISTĒMI)—**

A deliberate withdrawal from the truth.

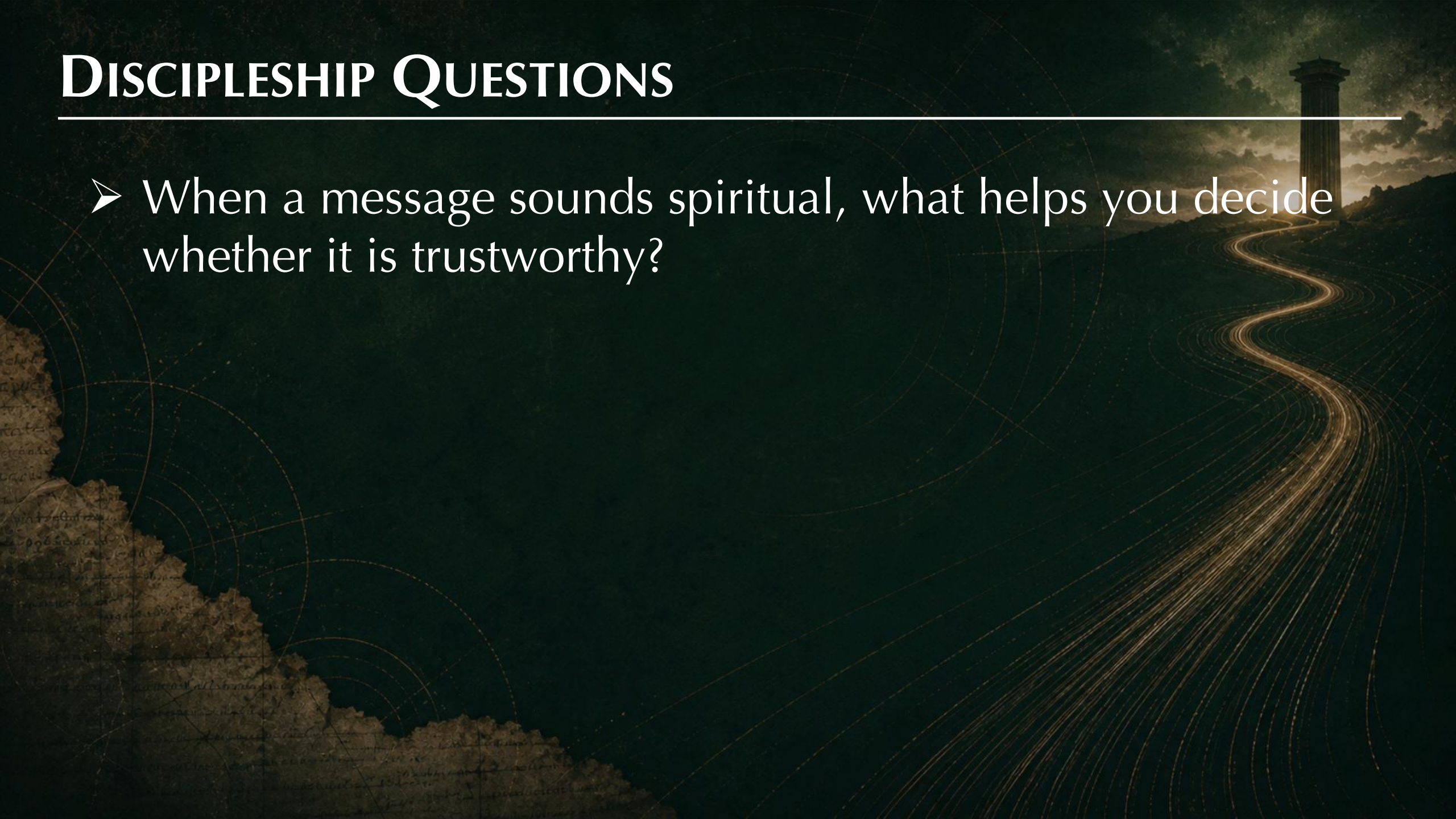
I. DECEPTION AND THE SEARED CONSCIENCE

²Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

- **DECEPTION THROUGH IDEAS:**
False teaching can look attractive.
- **A DAMAGED WARNING SYSTEM:**
Lies can silence the conscience.
- **DISCERNMENT:**
Assess the teaching and the teacher's character.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- When a message sounds spiritual, what helps you decide whether it is trustworthy?



I. RESTRICTIONS ON MARRIAGE AND FOOD

³ 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.

- **FALSE RESTRICTIONS—**

They forbade marriage and certain foods.

- **A DISTORTED VIEW OF CREATION—**

They treated creation as evil.

- **AN ARTIFICIAL HIERARCHY—**

Rejecting gifts implied superiority.

I. THE GOODNESS OF CREATION

⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

- ***P. God created food to be received with thanksgiving.***
 - ***P. Since He created it, it's good.***
-

C. Since it's good, you shouldn't reject it.

I. THE GOODNESS OF CREATION

⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

A suspicion of the goodness of **creation**,
ultimately calls into question the goodness of the **Creator**.

When we accept His gifts with **gratitude**,
we glorify God for **who He is**.

When we come before God with a heart of **humility**,
then gratitude will be our **natural response**.

I. THE PLACE OF THANKSGIVING

⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

**The good gifts of creation can be made holy—
set apart for God's purposes:**

- (1) by God's own Word**
- (2) through our prayers**

II. FAITHFUL SERVICE

⁶If 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.

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

Submit faithfully to the Master.

CHRIST'S DOCTRINE

Teach truth, refute what contradicts.

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

Practice what you preach.

CHRIST'S GRACE

Acknowledge your need.

(J. Brock, Adapted)

II. THE REFUSAL OF EMPTY SPECULATION

⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

- **RESIST GODLESS MYTHS**

Rumors and conspiracies waste our energy for ministry.

- **PURSUE FAITHFUL TEACHING**

Helps the church detect and resist falsehood.

- **A PRODUCTIVE USE OF ENERGY**

Train for godliness.

II. TRAINING IN GODLINESS

⁸For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

⁹This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

- **PHYSICAL TRAINING—**

Value for *some things*. Benefits for our present, mortal lives.

- **GODLINESS—**

Value for *all things*, now and in the life to come.

II. THE LASTING VALUE OF GODLINESS

⁸For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

⁹This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

- **PEACE—**

Godliness grounds us in unending peace.

- **WISDOM—**

Godliness forms wisdom unto salvation.

- **CHARACTER—**

Godliness shapes us after Christ.

II. HOPE IN THE LIVING GOD

¹⁰ That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

- **OUR REASON TO LABOR—**

We have put our hope in the living God.

- **GOD'S CARE FOR ALL—**

All people depend on Him for life.

- **ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO BELIEVE—**

Know Him as life's source, now and to come.

III. SPIRITUAL FORMATION

¹¹ *Command and teach these things.*

¹² *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*

- **HEART AND LIFE—**

Put biblical knowledge into practice.

- **DISCIPLINES—**

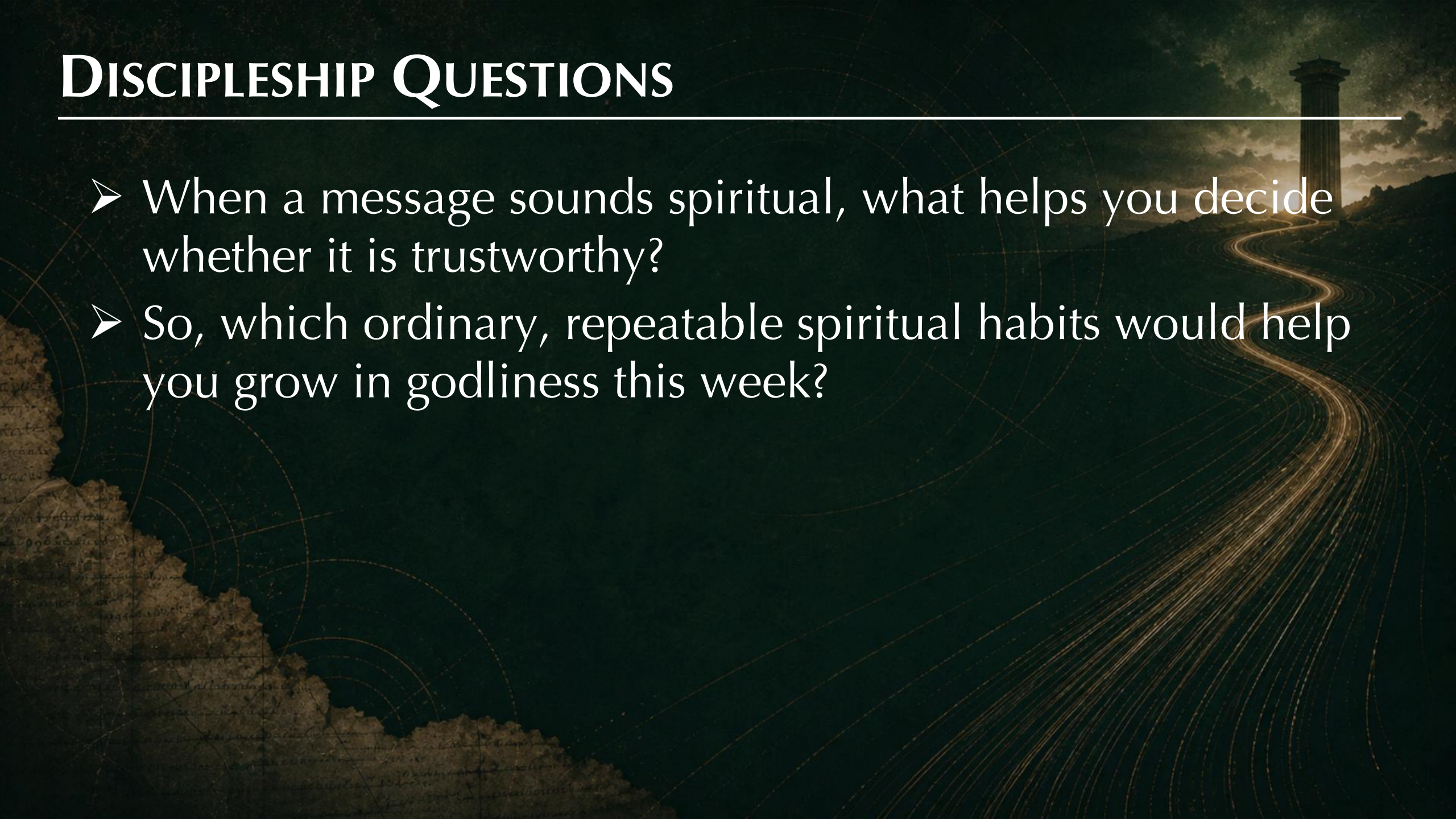
Prayer, fasting, study, silence, service, and obedience.

- **DAILY HABITS—**

Consistent practice forms resilient character.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- When a message sounds spiritual, what helps you decide whether it is trustworthy?
- So, which ordinary, repeatable spiritual habits would help you grow in godliness this week?



III. LEADERSHIP AND AGE

¹² *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*

- **TIMOTHY'S CHALLENGE—**

A young leader in a culture that reveres age.

- **PAUL'S COUNSEL—**

Earn respect through a transformed life.

- **REAL AUTHORITY—**

Let consistent character speak.

III. AN EXAMPLE FOR THE BELIEVERS

¹² *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*

- **SPEECH** *Truthful and gracious words.*
- **CONDUCT** *A daily life that agrees with your faith.*
- **LOVE** *A heart turned toward God and others.*
- **FAITH** *Steady trust in God.*
- **PURITY** *A life devoted to holiness.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- When a message sounds spiritual, what helps you decide whether it is trustworthy?
- So, which ordinary, repeatable spiritual habits would help you grow in godliness this week?
- In which of these five areas is your example strongest, and where does it need attention?

IV. A SCRIPTURE-CENTERED MINISTRY

¹³ *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.*

- **PUBLIC READING**

Keeps the Scriptures at the center of our ministry.

- **PREACHING AND TEACHING**

Nourishes the body of Christ.

IV. USING THE GIFT GOD HAD GIVEN

¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

- **GOD'S PROVISION—**

The Spirit equips us for the task.

- **FAITHFUL USE—**

Exercise the gift God has given you.

- **A FIRST STEP—**

Recognize opportunity and begin serving.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- When a message sounds spiritual, what helps you decide whether it is trustworthy?
- So, which ordinary, repeatable spiritual habits would help you grow in godliness this week?
- In which of these five areas is your example strongest, and where does it need attention?
- What opportunities has God made available for you to use the gifts He has given you?

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- When a message sounds spiritual, what helps you decide whether it is trustworthy?
- So, which ordinary, repeatable spiritual habits would help you grow in godliness this week?
- In which of these five areas is your example strongest, and where does it need attention?
- What opportunities has God made available for you to use the gifts He has given you?
- Has putting off serving become a bad habit in this season of life? What would a first step look like for you, this week?

V. WATCHING LIFE AND DOCTRINE

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- **DILIGENCE—**

Give yourself wholly to the work.

- **VISIBLE PROGRESS—**

Let others see your growth in godliness.

- **CLOSE ATTENTION—**

Watch both your conduct and your doctrine.

V. PERSEVERANCE AND OUR INFLUENCE

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- **PERSONAL GODLINESS:**

Unseen habits influence those watching.

- **A SHARED RACE:**

The world *needs* your faithfulness.

- **PERSEVERANCE:**

Keep moving forward, together.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- So, which ordinary, repeatable spiritual habits would help you grow in godliness this week?
- In which of these five areas is your example strongest, and where does it need attention?
- What opportunities has God made available for you to use the gifts He has given you?
- Has putting off serving become a bad habit in this season of life? What would a first step look like for you, this week?
- Where could a change in your personal spiritual formation habits strengthen your positive influence on others?



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