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Kimberly church of Christ
5-12-19, p.m. Service

5 Keys to Developing
Discernment in the
Word of God



Entropy

A thermodynamic quantity representing the unavailability of a system's thermal energy for conversion into mechanical work, often interpreted as the degree of disorder or randomness in the system.

Lack of order or predictability; gradual decline into disorder.

Stuff stops working.



The early signs of apostacy

- Dependence on speculation over “the stewardship of God which is by faith”
- Confidence in assertions about discussions that do not further a true understanding of God
- Conceit and opposition to sound teaching, leading to strife and constant friction
- “Worldly and empty chatter,” taking the focus away from the revealed word of God

Entropy of the gospel is inevitable
without rigorous attention to truth!

An open book is shown in a grayscale, slightly blurred style. The pages contain faint, legible text, including the words "PSALM 103" and "Glory to you, O Lord, God our Lord." The text is centered on the pages. Overlaid on the book is the main title in a large, black, handwritten-style font.

Keys to developing discernment


1. We need practice

- 1 Tim 4:15-16 – “Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, 1 Timothy 4:15-16...”
- “I will meditate on your precepts/statutes/works/promise,” Psalm 119:15,23,27,148 – “It is my meditation all the day,” v. 97
- “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...”, Col. 3:16
- “... because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil”, Heb. 5:14



2. We need faith

- Why do we drift into speculation?
 - 2 Tim. 3:14-17 – what is there beyond the revealed word that we need?
 - Do we love the law because it brings us closer to God? Or is it a source of curiosity?
- The aim of our study, the aim of our understanding is to be rooted in faith
 - Col. 2:6-8 – the faith defined through Christ
 - The word – nothing else – is the source of faith, Rom. 10:17, Rom. 14:23
- What “vital part” of God’s word is open to honest misunderstanding?



3. We need a desire to be godly above all else

- “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,” Col. 3:17
- Are we content with being “righteous enough?” 1 Cor. 10:1-6, 11-12 (Gal. 5:13)
- Just because it isn’t sinful doesn’t mean it’s a good idea! 1 Cor. 10:14-23
 - Our attitude toward sin wins out over our liberty 1 Cor. 6:18, Ephesians 5:11, 1 Thes. 5:21-22)



4. We need love

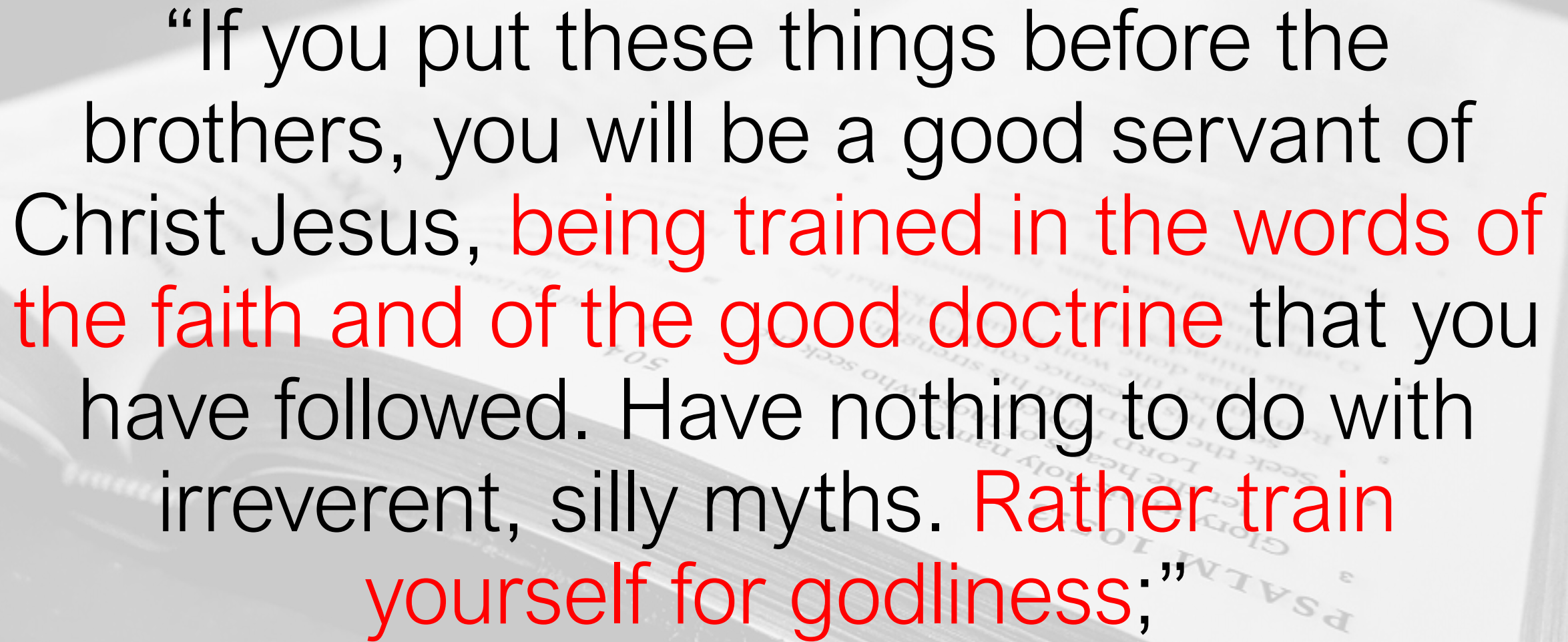
- The role of love in discernment of God's word, Phil. 1:9-11
 - The importance of our attitude in dealing with dissention, error, disagreements, 2 Tim. 2:23-26
 - James 3:13-14 – “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.
- Must we agree on every detail? Rom. 14:1-13
 - Don't look down on those who are “stricter” or “looser” with liberty
 - Remember that we're not the judge
 - Worry about your own conviction
 - Do what you do to God's glory, not your own
 - Whatever you do, do it with thanksgiving
 - It's not about YOU!



5. We need a singular focus on the mission

- Let all be done to glorify God, 1 Cor. 10:31
- Let ALL things be done for edification, 1 Cor. 14:26
- What is the teaching of the word intended to accomplish? Eph. 4:12-15

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” 1 Timothy 1:5



“If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, **being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine** that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. **Rather train yourself for godliness;**”

1 Timothy 4:6-7

How do I put my faith in Christ?

Believe/Obey the word (Acts 16:30-34,
Romans 10:4-17, 1 Peter 4:17)

- Repent (2 Corinthians 7:10, 2 Peter 3:9)
Confess your faith that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9-10)
- Submit to baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:37-38, Acts 8:12)
- Walk "after the spirit" (Romans 8:1-10, Romans 12:1-2)



But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

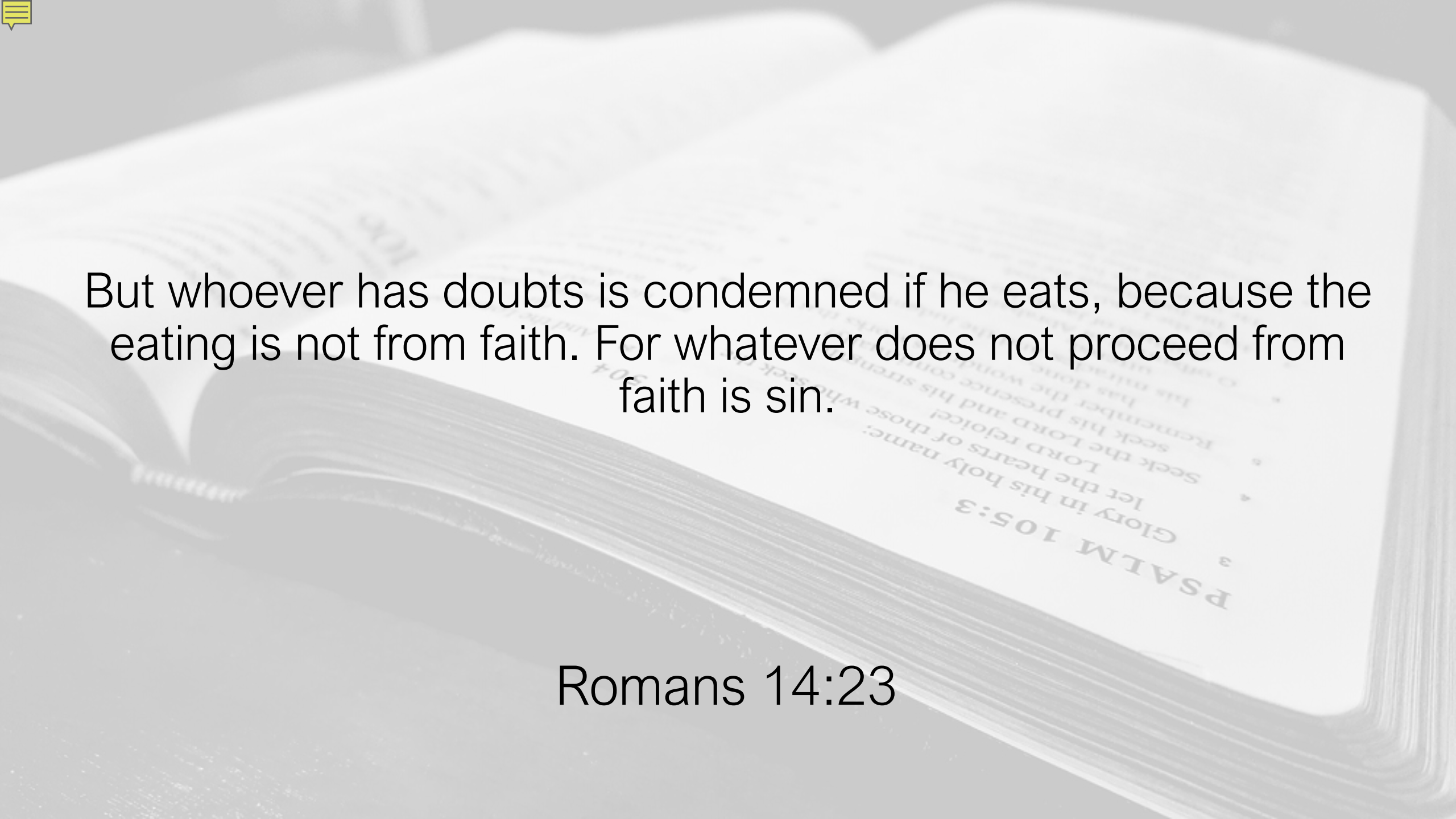
2 Timothy 3:14-17



Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

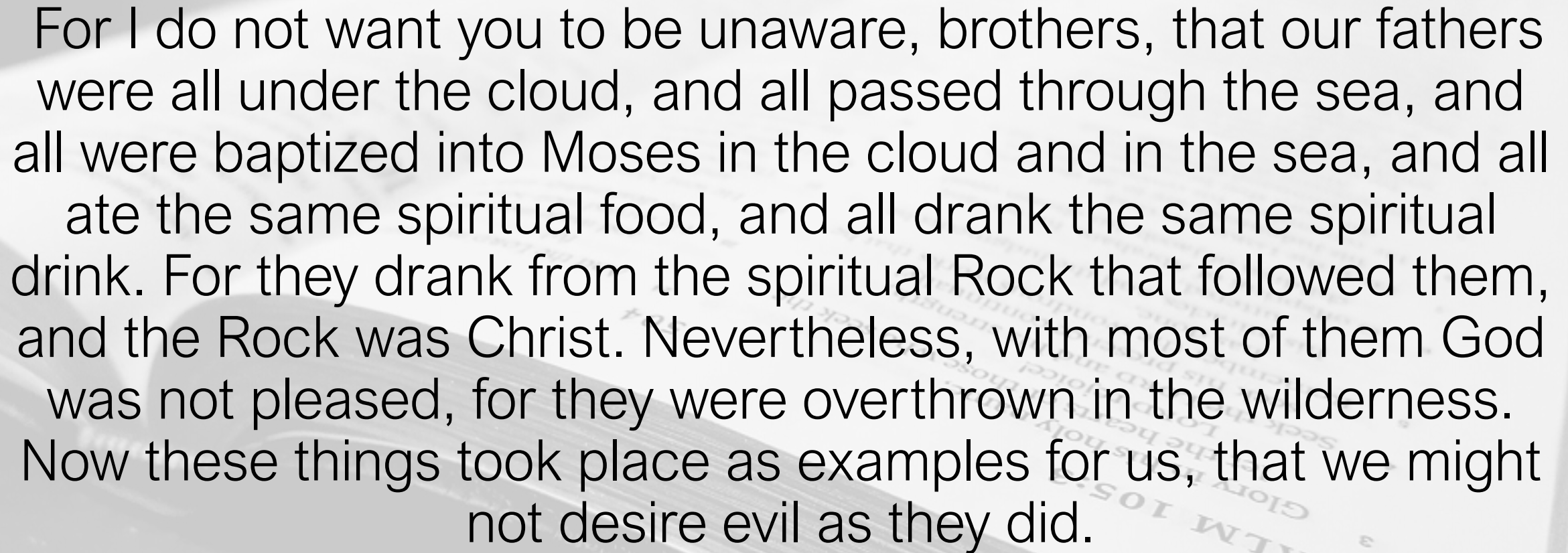
See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 2:6-8

An open book is shown in a grayscale, slightly blurred style. The pages are filled with text, which is mostly illegible due to the blur. In the lower right quadrant, the words "PSALM 105:3" are clearly visible, oriented vertically. Overlaid on the center of the book is a block of text in a clean, black, sans-serif font. The text reads: "But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin." The background of the entire image is a light gray gradient.

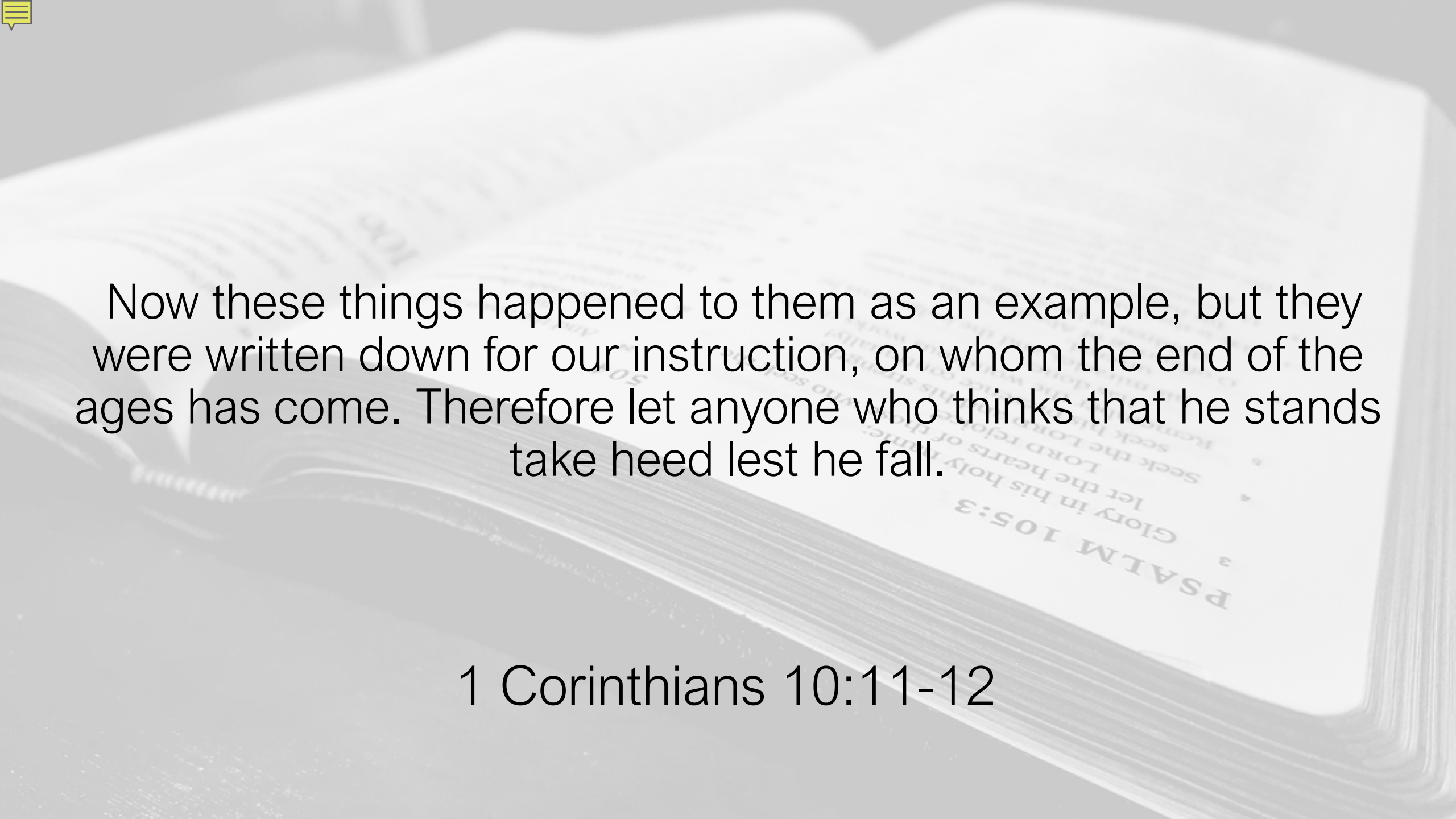
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Romans 14:23

An open book is shown in a grayscale, slightly blurred background. The text of the Bible is visible on the pages, including the words "PSALM 105" and "Glory in the holy".

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6

An open book is shown in a grayscale, slightly blurred style. The pages contain faint, mirrored text, including the words "PSALM 105:3" and "Glory in his holy". A yellow speech bubble icon is located in the top-left corner of the image.

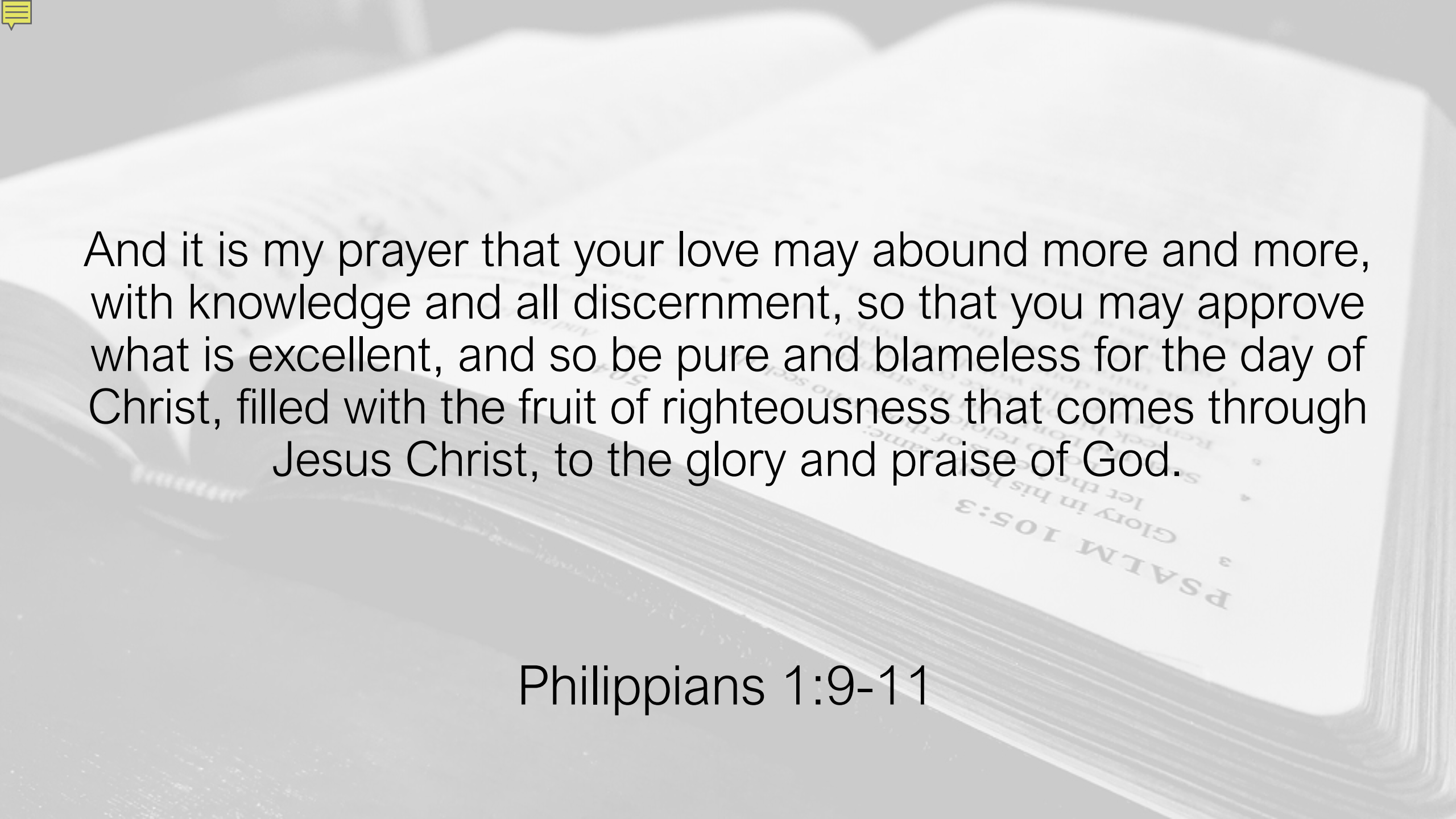
Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12



Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

An open book is shown in a grayscale, slightly blurred background. The pages are white with some faint, illegible text. Overlaid on the book is a large, black, sans-serif text block. The text is centered and reads: "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." Below this text, at the bottom center, is the reference "Philippians 1:9-11".

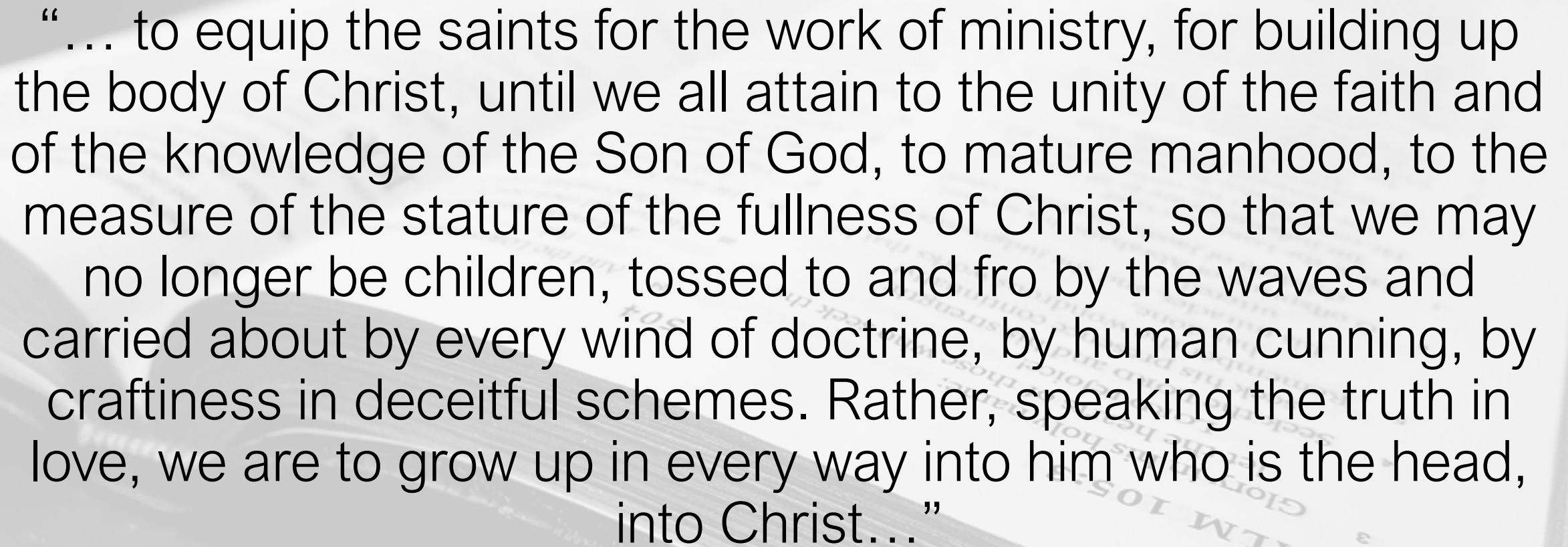
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Philippians 1:9-11



Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:23-26

An open book is shown in a grayscale, slightly blurred background. The text of the Bible is visible on the pages, including the words 'PSALM 105' and 'Gloria in excelsis deo'. The text is centered on the page and reads:

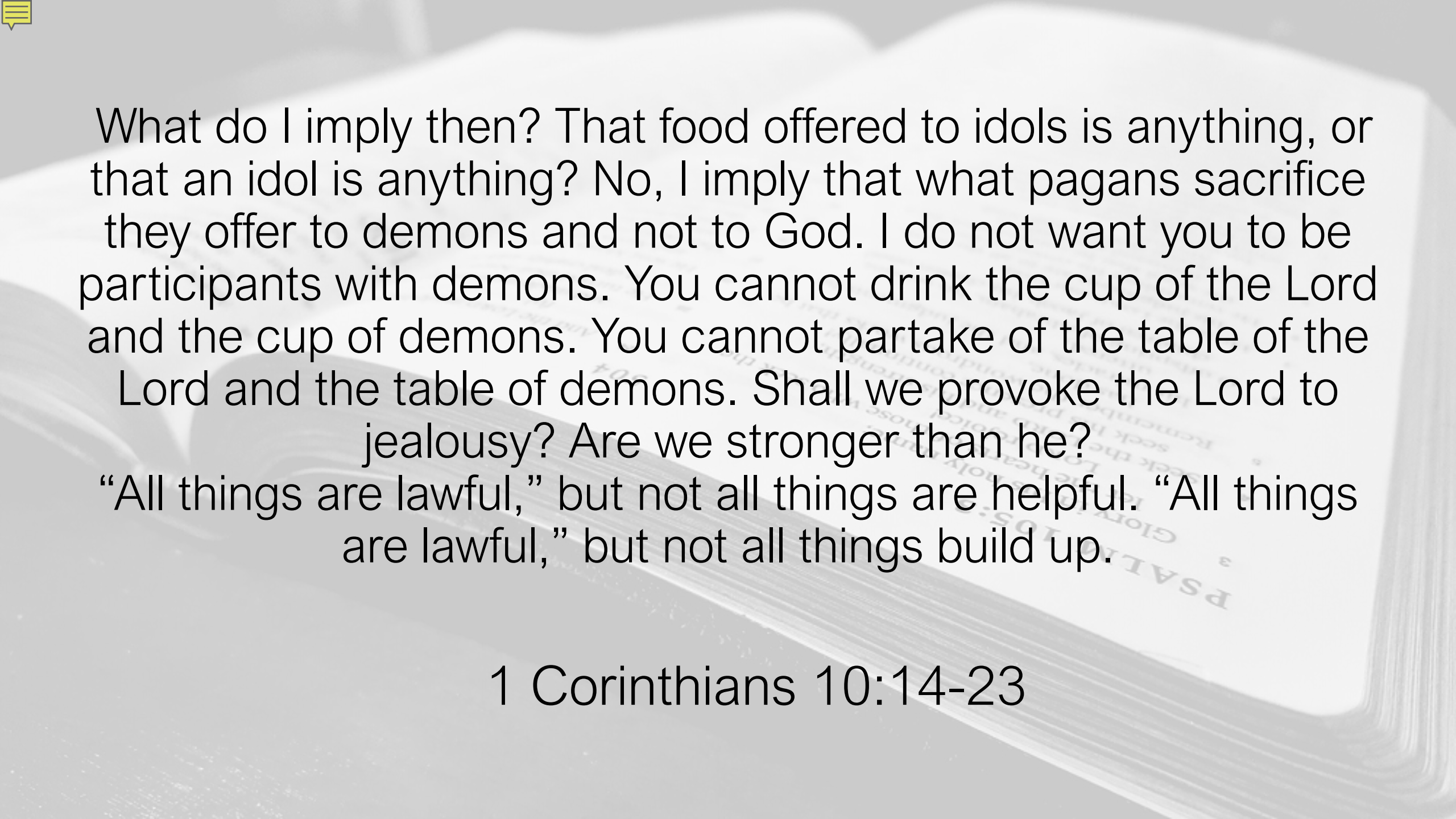
“... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...”

Ephesians 4:12-15



Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?

1 Corinthians 10:14-23



What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up.

1 Corinthians 10:14-23

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Questions? Email us at

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Read more from Paul Hammons at

www.reasonfromtheword.com



Next:

Part 2:

The need for faith



5 Keys to Develop Discernment

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Part 2:

The need for faith



Avoiding Entropy in the Lord's Church

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Part 3:

Discernment in love



Conclusion:

Part 3:

Discernment in love



Part 3:
The Gospel demands
Zeal

PSALM 105:3
Glory in his holy name
let the hearts of those who
seek the LORD rejoice
LORD FOR HIS
wondrous works!
and the judgment
of Abraham, the servant
of the LORD
the LORD
the LORD
the LORD