



# *FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS!*

**In the Old & New Testament**  
*A Study in the  
book of Hebrews*



*FIXING OUR*

*EYES ON*

*JESUS!*

BETTER FAITH








# But Remember

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- “We tend to remember what we are to forget and forget what we are to remember”!
- Heb 10:3, 17, 23, 32
- The Principle of displacement!

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# CHRISTIAN FAITH

**Hebrews 10:32-33** Updated American Standard Version (UASV)

32 But remember the former days in which, after you were enlightened, you endured a great struggle with sufferings, 33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

## HOW STRONG IS YOUR FAITH?



# Enlightened?

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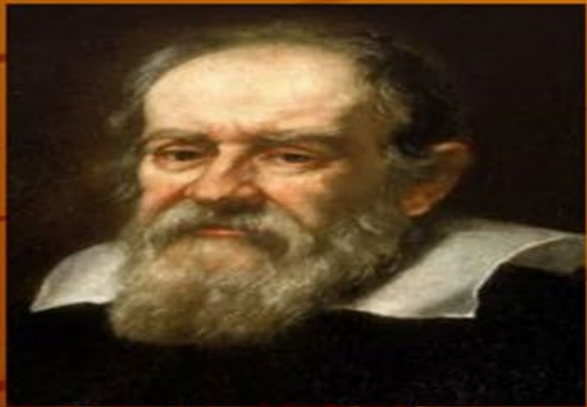
- **What is enlightenment?**
- **“a better lasting possession”**
- **What/who really matters?!**
- **Therefore...we do not lose heart**

*FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS!*

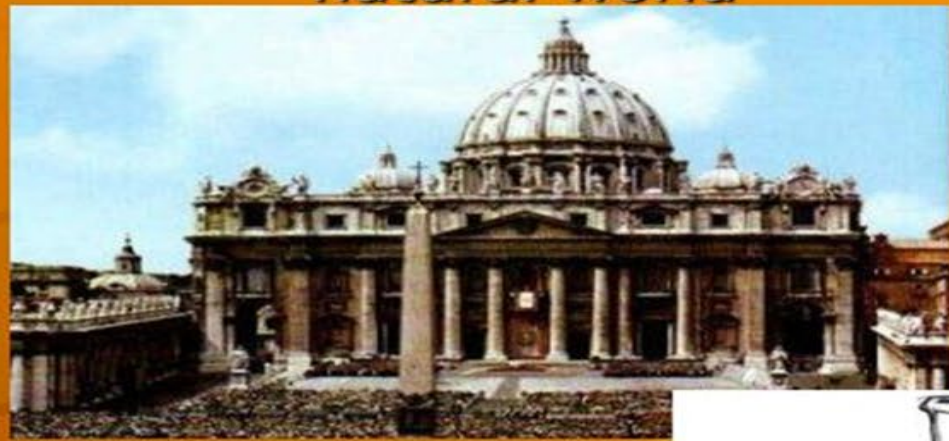


# The Age of Enlightenment

- ◆ Heavily influenced by the Scientific Revolution in Europe during the 1600s



- Scientific Revolution: the time period where scientists in Europe began to observe, hypothesize, and experiment to reach conclusions about the natural world



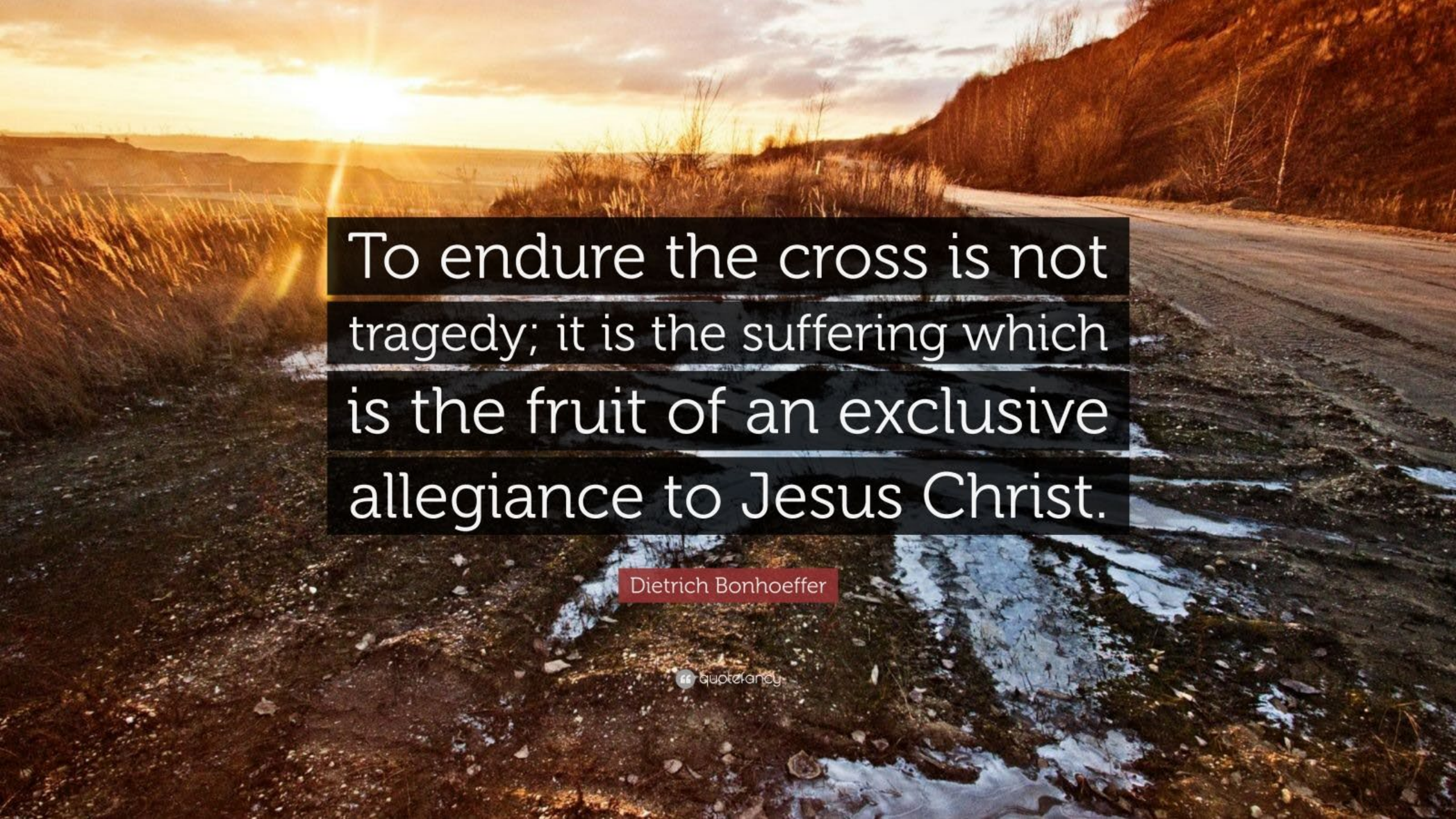
- ◆ Challenged prevailing religious beliefs and the Catholic Church's authority on all things relating to the natural world:

- ◆ Ex Galileo was excommunicated from the Church for arguing that the Earth revolved around the sun (Helio-centered universe) instead of other way around



- ◆ Developed the Scientific Method



A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. In the foreground, a dirt road with patches of snow or ice leads towards the horizon. To the left, there is a field of tall, dry grass. To the right, a steep, grassy hillside rises. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

To endure the cross is not  
tragedy; it is the suffering which  
is the fruit of an exclusive  
allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



# Endure!

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- “stood your ground”, Persevered
- Never retreat/surrender!
- “Shrink back” – 38-39
- What would you suffer for?

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But recall the former days when,

after you were enlightened, you

# ENDURED

a hard struggle with sufferings...

Heb 10:32



# Great conflict of...

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- Sufferings
  - A public spectacle
  - Insults
  - Distress
  - Accepted joyfully the seizure of your property

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"THE EARLY CHURCH  
WAS MARRIED TO  
**POVERTY, PRISONS,  
AND PERSECUTIONS.**

TODAY, 'THE CHURCH'  
IS MARRIED TO  
**PROSPERITY,  
PERSONALITY,  
AND POPULARITY."**

— LEONARD RAVENHILL



# Health, wealth, prosperity?

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- What can we get from Jesus?
- Circumstances, comfort, cash
- Traitors always sought for self!
- The Devil knows your price!

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The background of the image shows a close-up, low-angle view of a person's feet standing on a grey, cracked concrete pavement. The person is wearing dark trousers and dark sneakers with white laces and soles. The lighting is natural, casting soft shadows on the ground.

**False  
teaching:**

Come to Jesus to get  
health/wealth/prosperity.

**NO.**

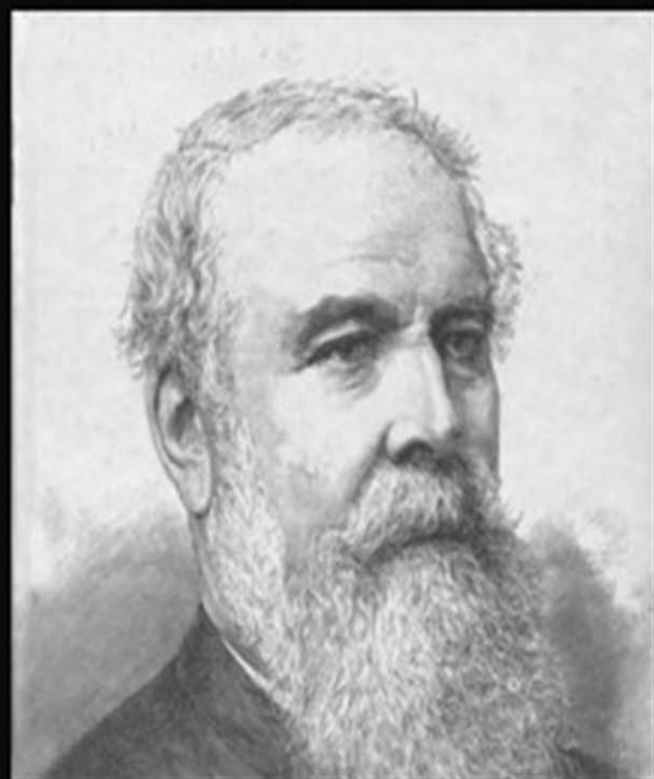
Come to Jesus  
to get Jesus.



**PROSPERITY CANNOT  
BE A PROOF OF GOD'S  
FAVOR, SINCE IT IS  
WHAT THE DEVIL  
PROMISES TO THOSE  
WHO WORSHIP HIM.**

**JOHN PIPER**





Wealth is no mark of God's favor. Poverty is no mark of God's displeasure.

~ J. C. Ryle

The problem with Prosperity Theology is not that it promises too much, but that it aims for so little. What God promises us in Christ is far above anything that can be measured in earthly wealth - and believers are not promised earthly wealth nor the gift of health.

— *Albert Mohler* —

**AZ** QUOTES



Trouble, hardship, difficulty, pain,  
suffering, conflict, tragedy, evil -  
they're all part of the [Christian]  
Story. Indeed, the problem of evil is  
the reason there's any Story at all.

— *Greg Kouss* —

**REMEMBER,**

**God's will**

**was for John to be exiled, Paul to  
be jailed, Jesus to be executed.**

**WHY**

**do we assume  
God's will for us is to have a  
great job, a happy life,  
and a LARGE  
bank account ?**



**MEN ARE UNDOUBTEDLY  
MORE IN DANGER FROM  
PROSPERITY THAN FROM  
ADVERSITY. FOR WHEN  
MATTERS GO SMOOTHLY,  
THEY FLATTER THEMSELVES,  
AND ARE INTOXICATED BY  
THEIR SUCCESS.**

**JOHN CALVIN**





***"If persecution should arise, you should be willing to part with all that you possess — with your liberty, with your life itself, **for Christ** — or you cannot be his disciple"***

***C. H. Spurgeon***





Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness' sake.



THINK ABOUT ALL HE ENDURED  
WHEN SINFUL PEOPLE DID SUCH  
TERRIBLE THINGS TO HIM, SO  
THAT YOU DON'T BECOME WEARY  
AND GIVE UP.

HEBREWS 12:3



# COME, AND SEE THE VICTORIES OF THE CROSS

Christ's wounds are thy **HEALINGS**

His agonies thy **REPOSE**

His conflicts thy **CONQUESTS**

His groans thy **SONGS**

His pains thine **EASE**

His shame thy **GLORY**

His death thy **LIFE**

His sufferings thy

**SALVATION**

Matthew  
**HENRY**




*For the sake of Christ, then, I am  
content with weaknesses, insults,  
hardships, persecutions, and  
calamities. For when I am weak,  
then I am strong.*

*2nd Cor 12:10*



Is our church more  
like a cruise ship  
or a battleship?





**“DON'T BOTHER  
TO GIVE GOD INSTRUCTIONS;  
JUST REPORT FOR DUTY.”**

**– CORRIE TEN BOOM**





**THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE  
WHEN I COMPLAIN TO JESUS  
ABOUT HOW HARD MY LIFE IS.**




for you it has been granted to  
**SUFFER**

for  
His  
sake

Philippians 1:29





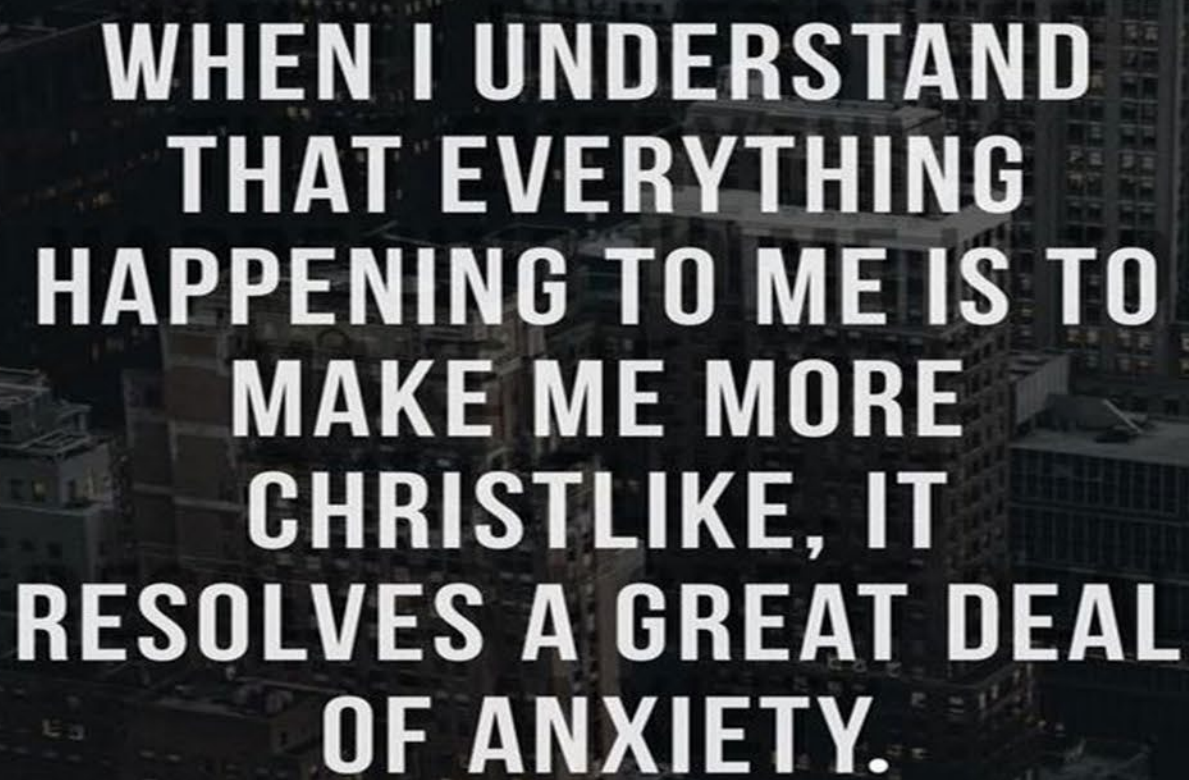


2 Timothy 3:12  
Indeed,  
all who  
desire to  
live a  
godly life  
in Christ Jesus  
will be persecuted.



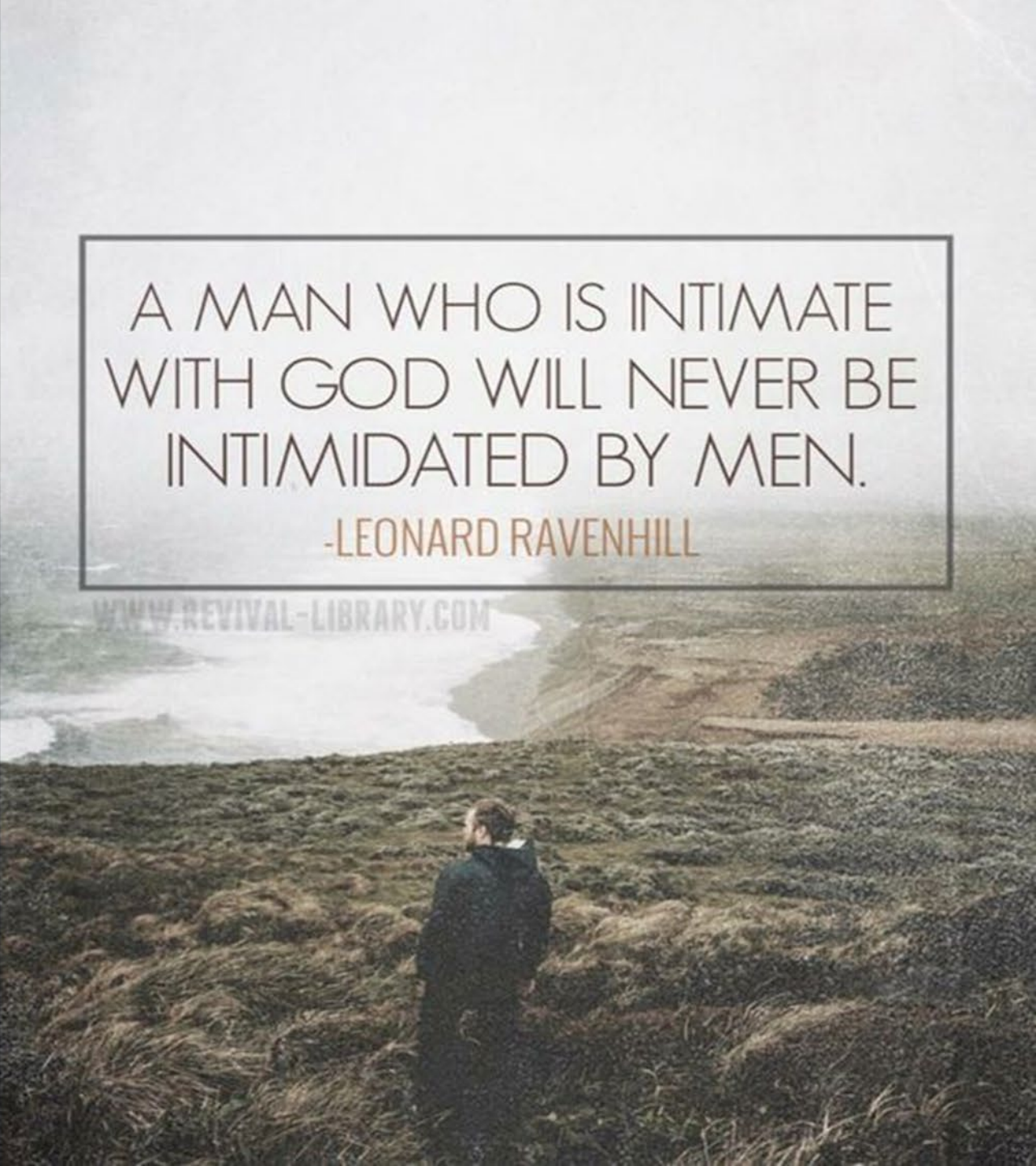






**WHEN I UNDERSTAND  
THAT EVERYTHING  
HAPPENING TO ME IS TO  
MAKE ME MORE  
CHRISTLIKE, IT  
RESOLVES A GREAT DEAL  
OF ANXIETY.**

**A.W. TOZER**  
[WWW.REVIVAL-LIBRARY.COM](http://WWW.REVIVAL-LIBRARY.COM)



A MAN WHO IS INTIMATE  
WITH GOD WILL NEVER BE  
INTIMIDATED BY MEN.

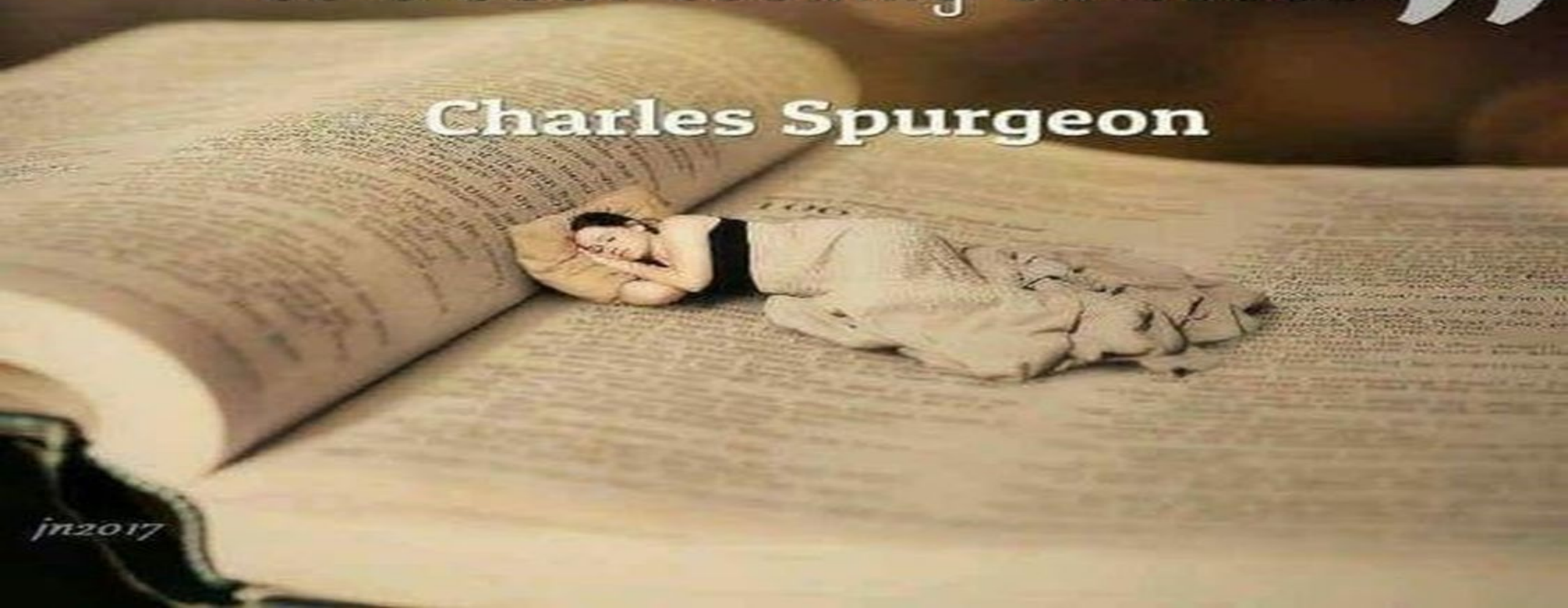
-LEONARD RAVENHILL

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“Earth has no words that  
can convey the holy calm  
of a soul leaning on Jesus”

**Charles Spurgeon**





# Jesus is Worth it!

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- **Pray/give for the Persecuted!**
- **Purpose to live/love God above!**
- **Prepare to suffer! Prudence!**
- **Practice prayerful discernment**

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The prudent see danger and take refuge,  
but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

**Proverbs 27:12**



...the battle is  
the LORD's

1 Samuel 17:47





“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts...”









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IT'S GOD'S WILL FOR YOU TO  
LIVE IN PROSPERITY INSTEAD  
OF POVERTY. IT'S GOD'S WILL  
FOR YOU TO PAY YOUR BILLS  
AND NOT BE IN DEBT.

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Joel Osteen

[quotefreed.com](http://quotefreed.com)







Remember those earlier days after you had received the light,  
when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering.  
Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution;  
at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated.  
You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the  
confiscation of your property, because you knew that you  
yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

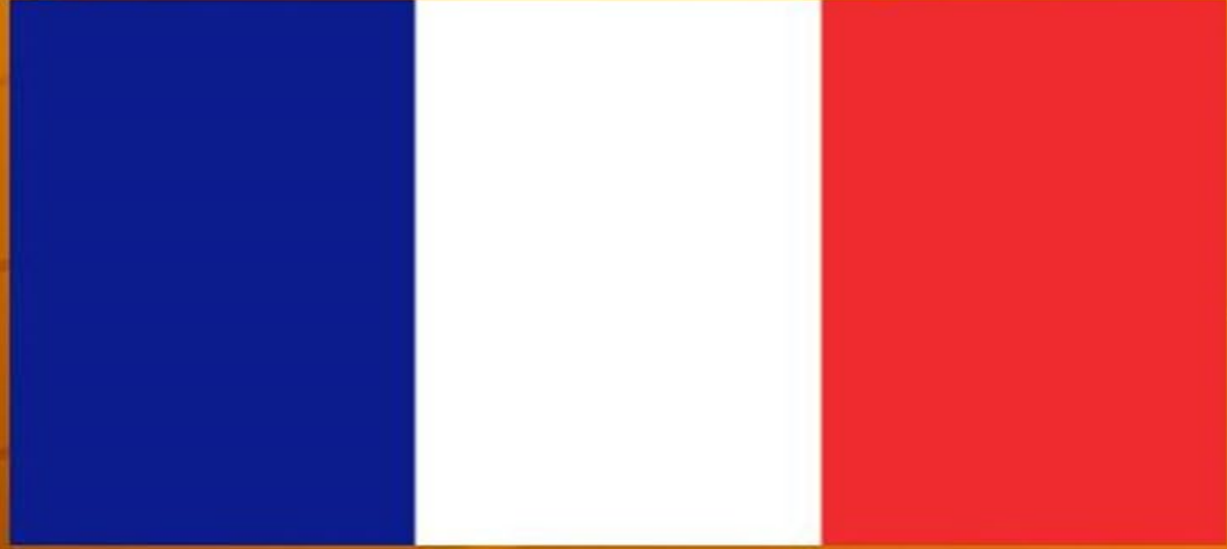
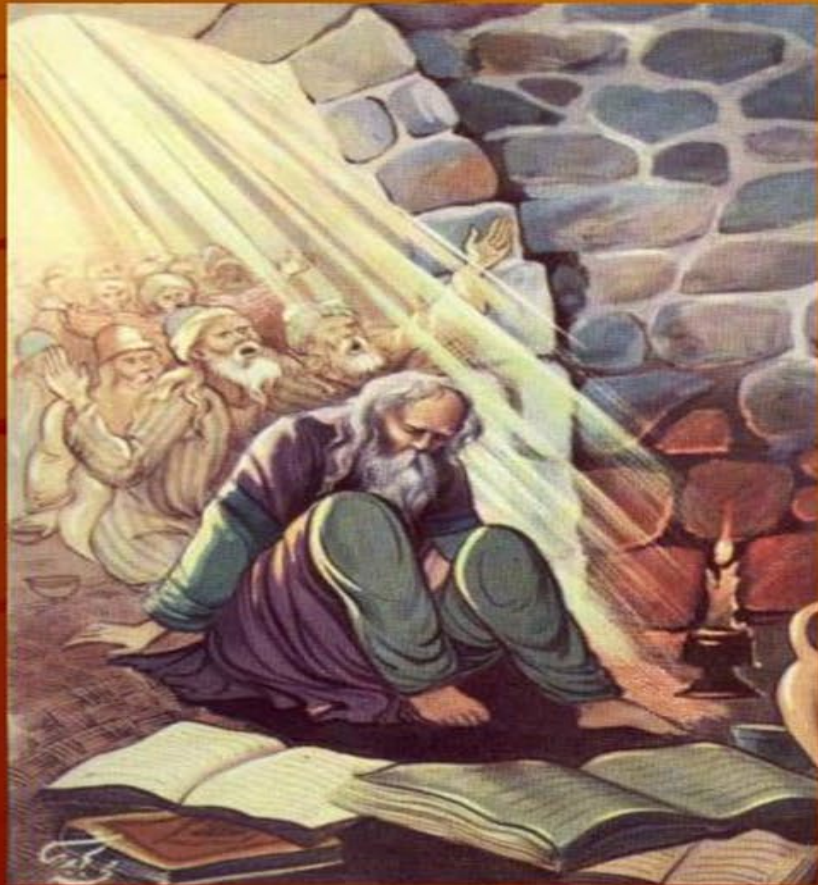
So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.  
You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God,  
you will receive what he has promised.

Hebrews 10:32-36



# The Age of Enlightenment

- ✦ The Enlightenment, a philosophical movement beginning in France that advocated Reason and **logic** as the basis of authority and all decisions and using reason and logic to solve social problems





**REMEMBER,**  
**IT IS BETTER TO**  
**SUFFER**  
**FOR DOING**  
**GOOD**

**IF THAT IS**  
**WHAT GOD WANTS,**  
**THAN TO SUFFER**  
**FOR DOING**  
**WRONG!**

1 PETER 3:17 NLT

