

Edward Church

**November 9,
2025**

***“Living the
Message”
(Step 12)
Eph 5:14***

**Wake Up
Walk It Out**

Every Christian Is in Recovery

- **We All Battle Sin, Fear, Pride, Or Shame**
 - **But the Gospel Is a Recovery Story**
 - **Steps 1–3 = The Heart Of Discipleship**
 - **Steps 4-7 = Cleansing & Confession**
 - **Steps 8-9 = The Courage to Make Things Right**
- Come Together**

Step 1: Admit Powerlessness

Romans 7:18 Amp

For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out.]

is real

**FINDING OUR WAY
THROUGH THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE**

Step 2: Believe in God's Power

"We came to believe..."

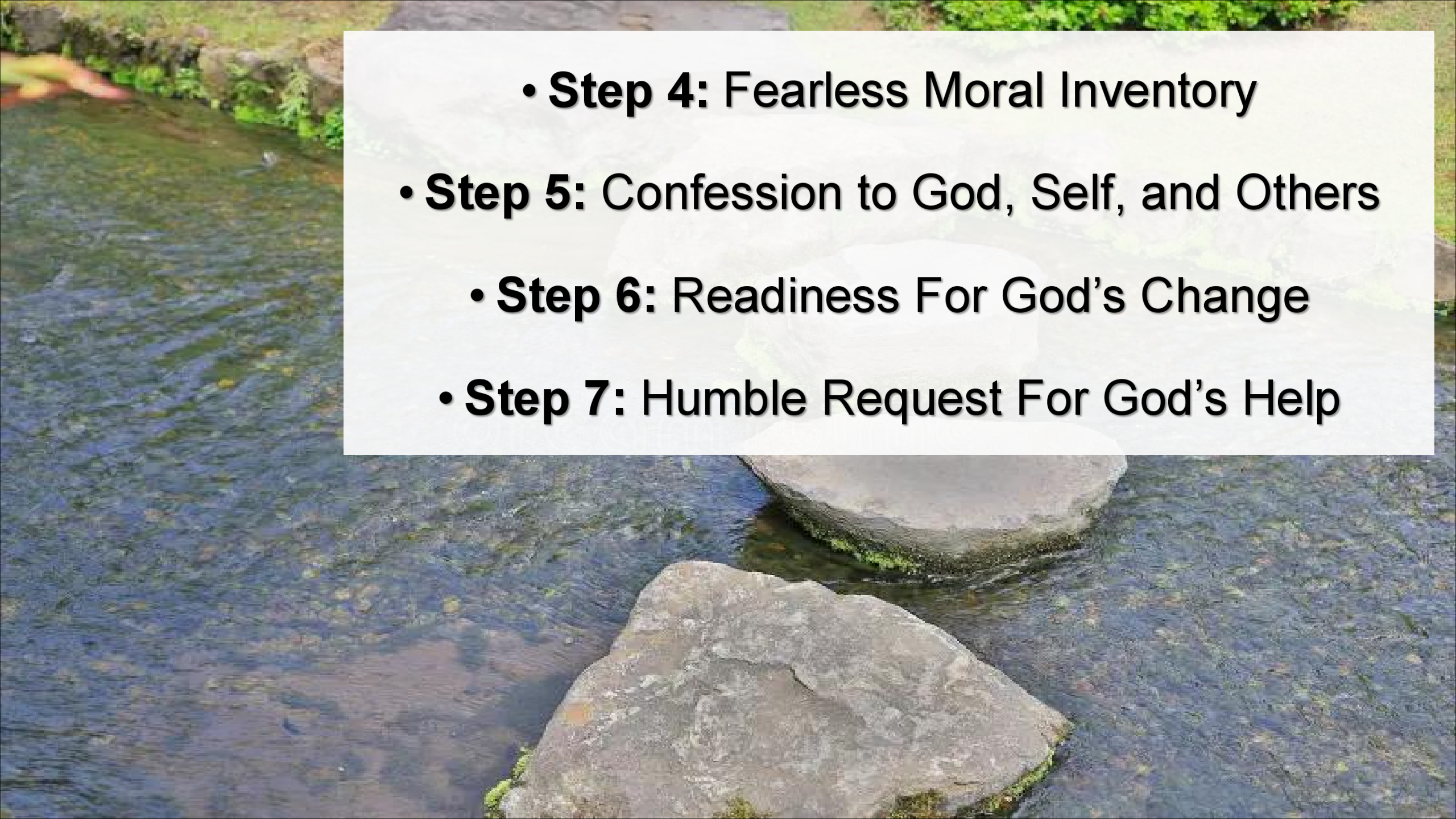
- Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 3:20

Step 3: Surrender to God's Care

"We made a decision to turn our will / lives over..."

Romans 12:1; Proverbs 3:5–6

His good pleasure *and* satisfaction *and* delight.

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- **Step 4: Fearless Moral Inventory**
 - **Step 5: Confession to God, Self, and Others**
 - **Step 6: Readiness For God's Change**
 - **Step 7: Humble Request For God's Help**

The Courage to Make Things Right

Steps 8 & 9

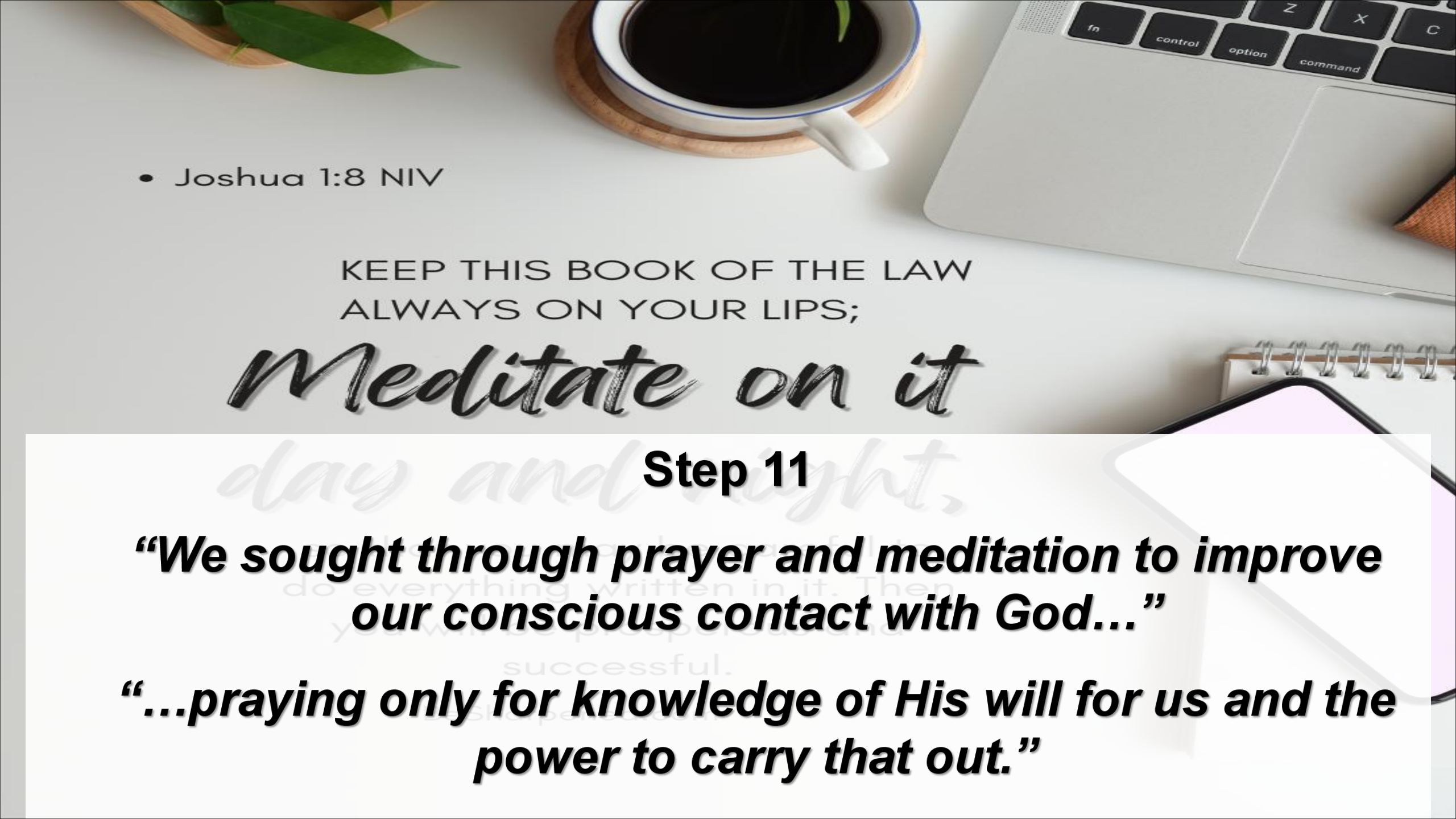
If it is possible,
as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone.

Step 10:

Romans 12:18

***“We continued to take personal inventory and
when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.”***



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- A top-down view of a workspace. In the upper center is a white ceramic cup filled with dark coffee, sitting on a light-colored wooden coaster. To the right is a portion of a silver laptop, showing the 'fn', 'control', 'option', and 'command' keys. In the bottom right corner, a spiral-bound notebook with a pink cover is partially visible. In the top left, there are some green leaves in a wooden tray.
- Joshua 1:8 NIV

KEEP THIS BOOK OF THE LAW
ALWAYS ON YOUR LIPS;

Meditate on it

Step 11

***“We sought through prayer and meditation to improve
our conscious contact with God...”***

***“...praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the
power to carry that out.”***

DON'T FORGET
THAT MAYBE YOU ARE THE
Lighthouse
IN SOMEONE ELSE'S
Storm

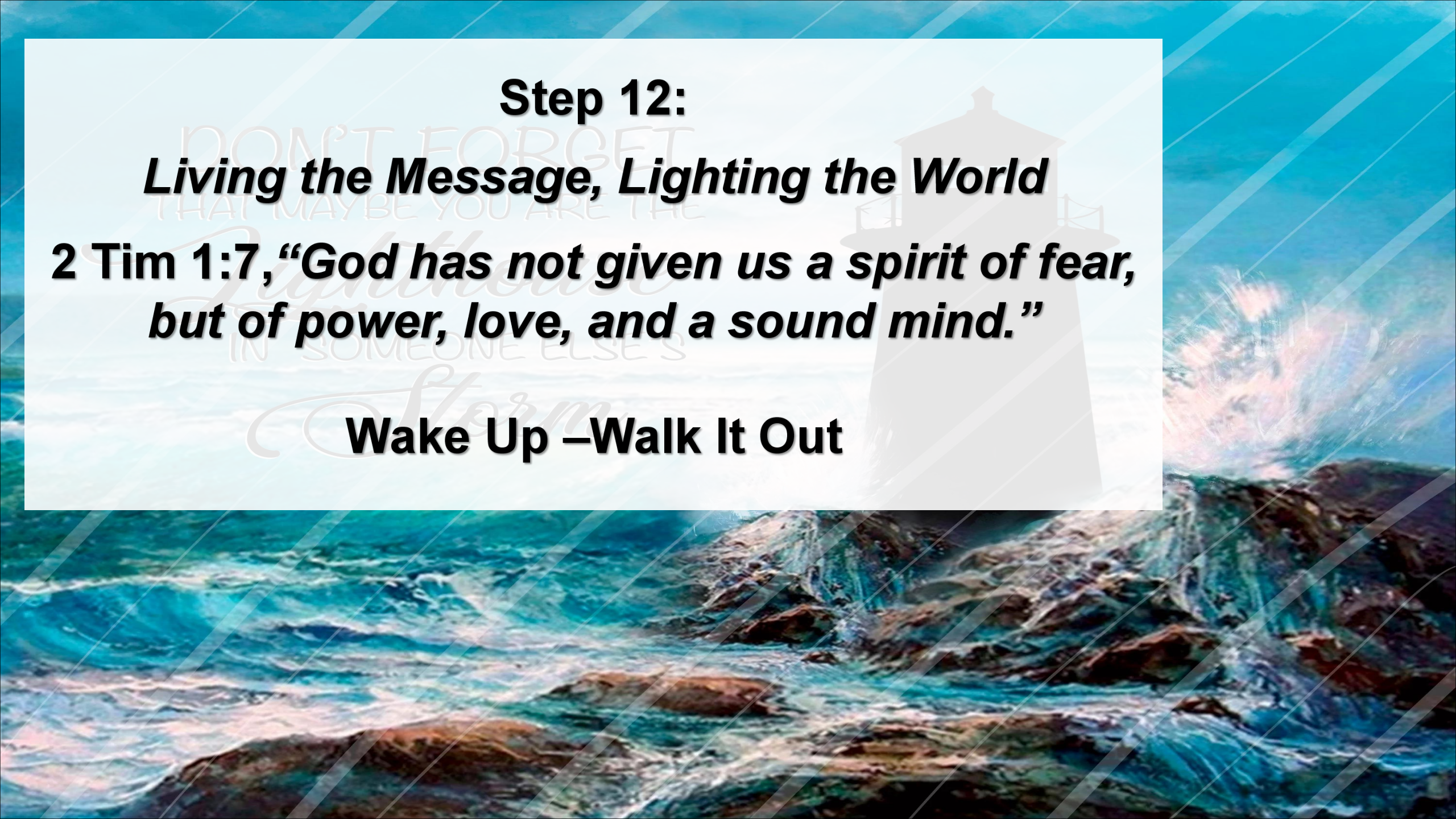


Step 12:

Living the Message, Lighting the World

**2 Tim 1:7, “God has not given us a spirit of fear,
but of power, love, and a sound mind.”**

Wake Up –Walk It Out



A photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other. The hands are positioned as if about to clasp or support each other. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white fabric. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

*“So encourage each other and
build each other up, just as
you are already doing.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Recovery = Redemption.

Step 12 =

The Great Commission in recovery language.

• Mission: Rescued → Rescuers, Healed → Healers, Loved → Lovers.

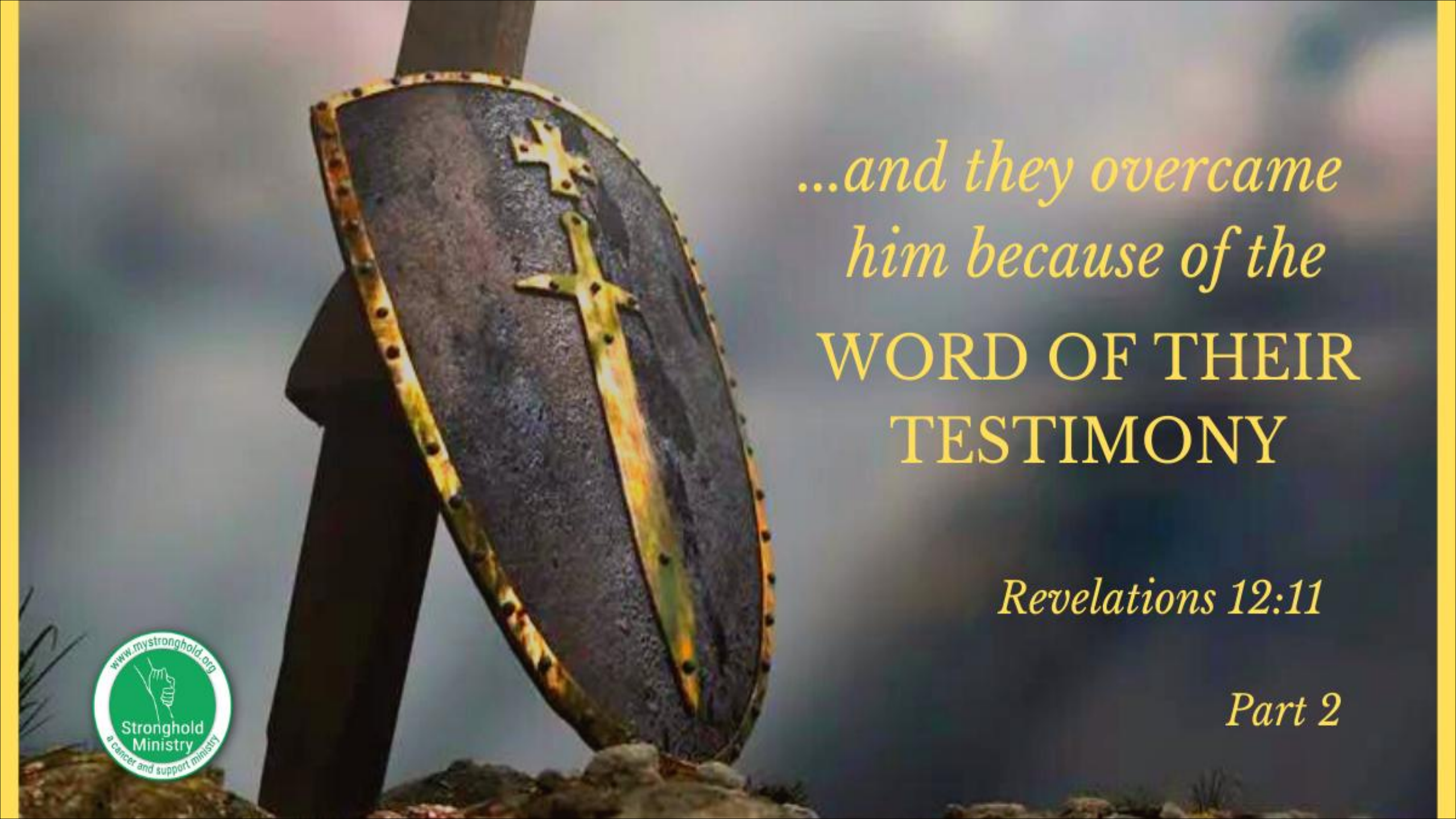
"So encourage

build each other

you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

- Step 12 says: *'Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.'*
- In other words: **You've been rescued — now become a rescuer. You've been healed — now become a healer. You've been loved — now go love."**
- **Scripture Foundation**
- **Matthew 5:14–16** — *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others."*
- **2 Corinthians 1:4** — *"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others."*



*...and they overcame
him because of the*
**WORD OF THEIR
TESTIMONY**

Revelations 12:11

Part 2



Carry the Message with Joy (Visibility Challenge)

Matthew 5:14–16

- **Key Point:**

Light Must Be Visible.

- **Story:**

Woman Baking Cookies For Firefighters.

- **Challenge:**

Share Your Story This Week.

*...and they overcame
him because of the*

**WORD OF THEIR
TESTIMONY**

Revelations 12:11

Part 2



- **Matthew 5:14–16**, *'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.'*
- In **Greek**, '**light**' (**phōs**) means **revelation** — the church is meant to reveal Christ. Jesus says **discipleship is public, not private**.
- **Story**: A woman in recovery baked cookies every Friday and delivered them to the fire station. She said, 'I can't repay the world for saving me, but I can sweeten it.'
- That's Step 12 — carrying the message with joy.
- **Illustration**: Imagine if every Christian carried joy like confetti. You walk into the grocery store, and suddenly people are smiling because you're **sprinkling hope everywhere**.
- **Challenge**: Share your story of redemption with someone outside the church this week. Don't keep your light under a basket."

- “Step 12 begins with *‘having had a spiritual awakening.’* This is not just emotional relief or temporary change — it’s a transformation of the heart.
- **Ephesians 5:14** says, ***‘Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’***
- Spiritual awakening means we **see differently, love differently, and live differently.**
- Illustration: **The Caterpillar and the Butterfly** — A **caterpillar doesn’t just improve; it transforms.** Step 12 is about **living as a butterfly**, not **crawling like a caterpillar anymore.**”

Carrying the Message

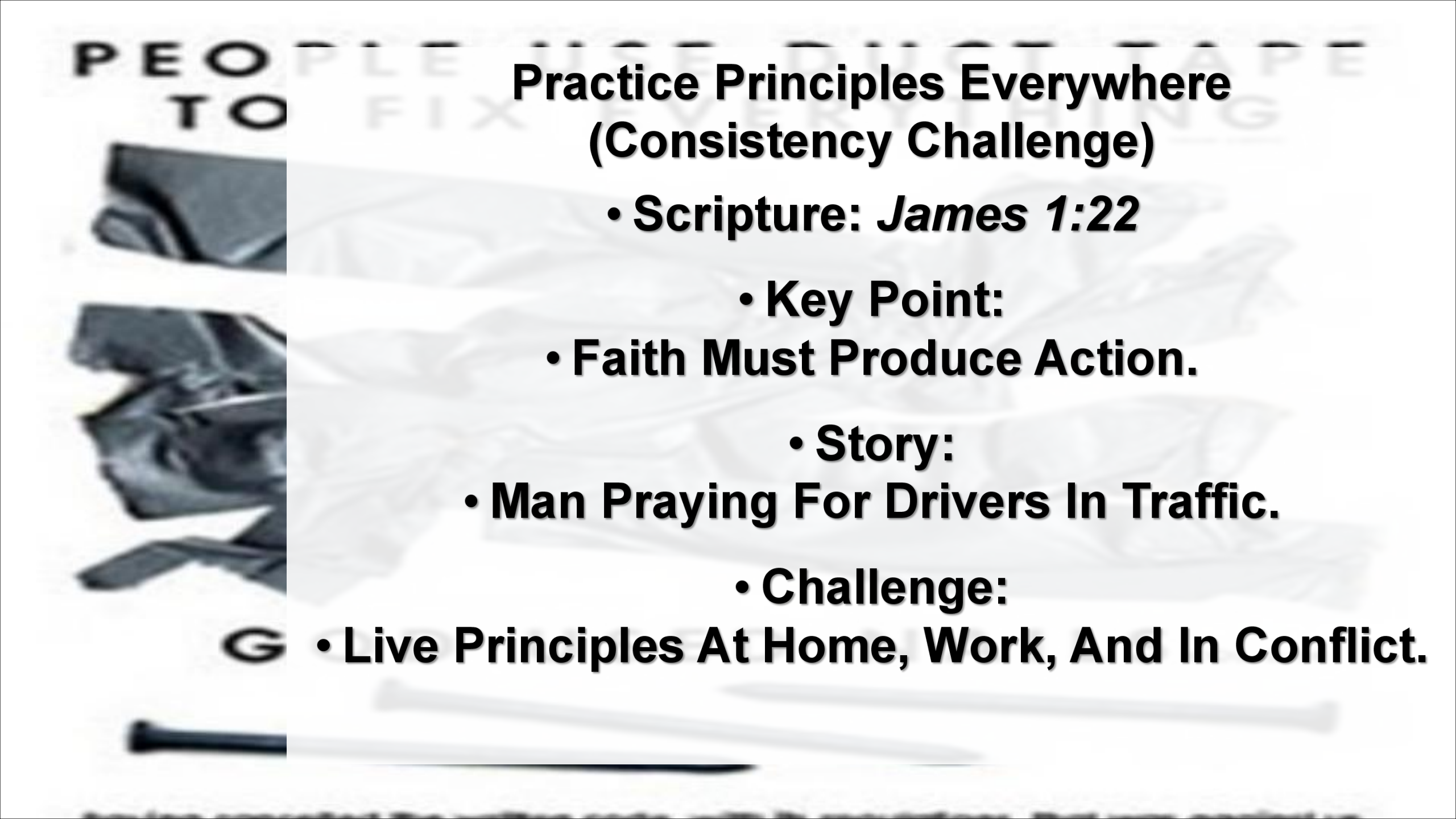
- “Step 12 calls us to *‘carry this message to others.’* Recovery is not meant to be hoarded; it’s meant to be shared.
- **2 Corinthians 1:4** says, *‘God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.’*
 - **Your story is someone else’s survival guide.**

PEOPLE USE DUCT TAPE
TO FIX EVERYTHING



GOD USED NAILS COL 2:14



The background of the slide features a grayscale image of a person in a suit, possibly a man, with their arms crossed. Overlaid on this image is faint, large, white text that reads "PEOPLE USE TRUST TAPE TO FIX EVERYTHING".

Practice Principles Everywhere (Consistency Challenge)

- **Scripture: *James 1:22***

- **Key Point:**

- **Faith Must Produce Action.**

- **Story:**

- **Man Praying For Drivers In Traffic.**

- **Challenge:**

- **Live Principles At Home, Work, And In Conflict.**

- **Point 2 — Practice the Principles Everywhere**

- **“James 1:22** says: *‘Do not merely listen to the word... do what it says.’*

- The Greek word for **‘do’** (*poiētēs*) means **maker, producer**.

- **Faith is not passive; it creates action.**

- **Story:** A man said, ‘I used to lose my temper in traffic. Now I pray for the person who cut me off. **Sometimes I pray they get pulled over...** but I pray!’ That’s practicing principles in all affairs.

- **Illustration: Recovery** principles are like **duct tape**. They hold together cars, shoes, even relationships if you’re creative.

- **Challenge:** Ask yourself daily: ‘Am I living this at home, at work, in traffic, in conflict?’

- Practice the principles everywhere, not just in safe spaces.”

A close-up photograph of a hand gripping a thick, frayed rope. The rope is light-colored and shows significant wear and fraying at the end. The hand is positioned in the upper left, with fingers wrapped around the rope. The background is dark and textured, possibly a piece of machinery or a wall. Overlaid on the image is the text "HIS SCARS COVER YOURS" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**HIS SCARS
COVER YOURS**

Love with Agape (Agape Challenge)

John 13:35

- **Key Point:**

Love is the Evidence of Discipleship.

- **Story:**

- **Pastor chasing chickens = God's relentless love.**

- **Challenge:**

- **Love Someone Hard to Love This Week.**

- **John 13:35** says: *'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'*
- The word 'love' here is *agapē* — unconditional, sacrificial love. Jesus says love is the apologetic of the church.
- Story: A pastor once kept chickens. Every time one escaped, he'd chase it down, scoop it up, and bring it back. He said, 'That's how God loves us — He doesn't stop chasing.' That's agape love in action.
- Illustration: Agape love is like a bottomless soup pot. No matter how many bowls you serve, it never runs out.
- **Challenge:** Love someone who is hard to love this week. Show kindness where it's undeserved. That's agape in action."



Comfort Others Creatively (Creativity Challenge)

2 Corinthians 1:4

- **Key Point:**

God Comforts Us So We Can Comfort Others.

- **Stories:**

Free Lawn Mowing

- **Challenge:**

- Find An Unusual Way to Carry the Message.

- **2 Corinthians 1:4** says: *'He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.'*
- The word '**comfort**' (*parakaleō*) means to **come alongside, to strengthen, to encourage.**
- **God comforts us so we can creatively comfort others.**
- **Story:** A man in recovery started a 'Free Lawn Mowing' ministry.
- He said, 'I can't fix your life, but I can fix your yard.'
- **Story:** A group of recovering friends dressed up as superheroes and visited children's hospitals.
- They said, 'We've been rescued, now we rescue.'
- **Challenge:** Find an unusual way to carry the message. Surprise someone with generosity. Comfort in creative ways."

**Step Into Courage
(Courage Challenge)**

2 Timothy 1:7

Key Point:

- **God Replaces Fear With Power, Love,
And Sound Mind.**

Challenge:

- **Step Into A Conversation Or Situation You've
Been Avoiding.**
- **Visual: Bold Footsteps Forward.**

- **"2 Timothy 1:7** says: *'God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.'*
- **Fear** (*deilia*) means **timidity**. God **replaces** it with **power** (*dynamis*), **love** (*agapē*), and **sound mind** (*sōphronismos*).
- **Challenge:** Step into a situation you've been avoiding.
- Trust God to give you clarity under pressure.
- Courage is not the absence of fear — it's obedience in spite of fear."

TIME TO 'RE-MEMBER'



GOD HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON YOU

**Multiply the Message
(Multiplication Challenge)**

Matthew 28:19–20

- **Discipleship is ongoing.**

Challenge:

- **Mentor someone. Pass on what God has given you.**

**Endure with Joy
(Endurance Challenge)**

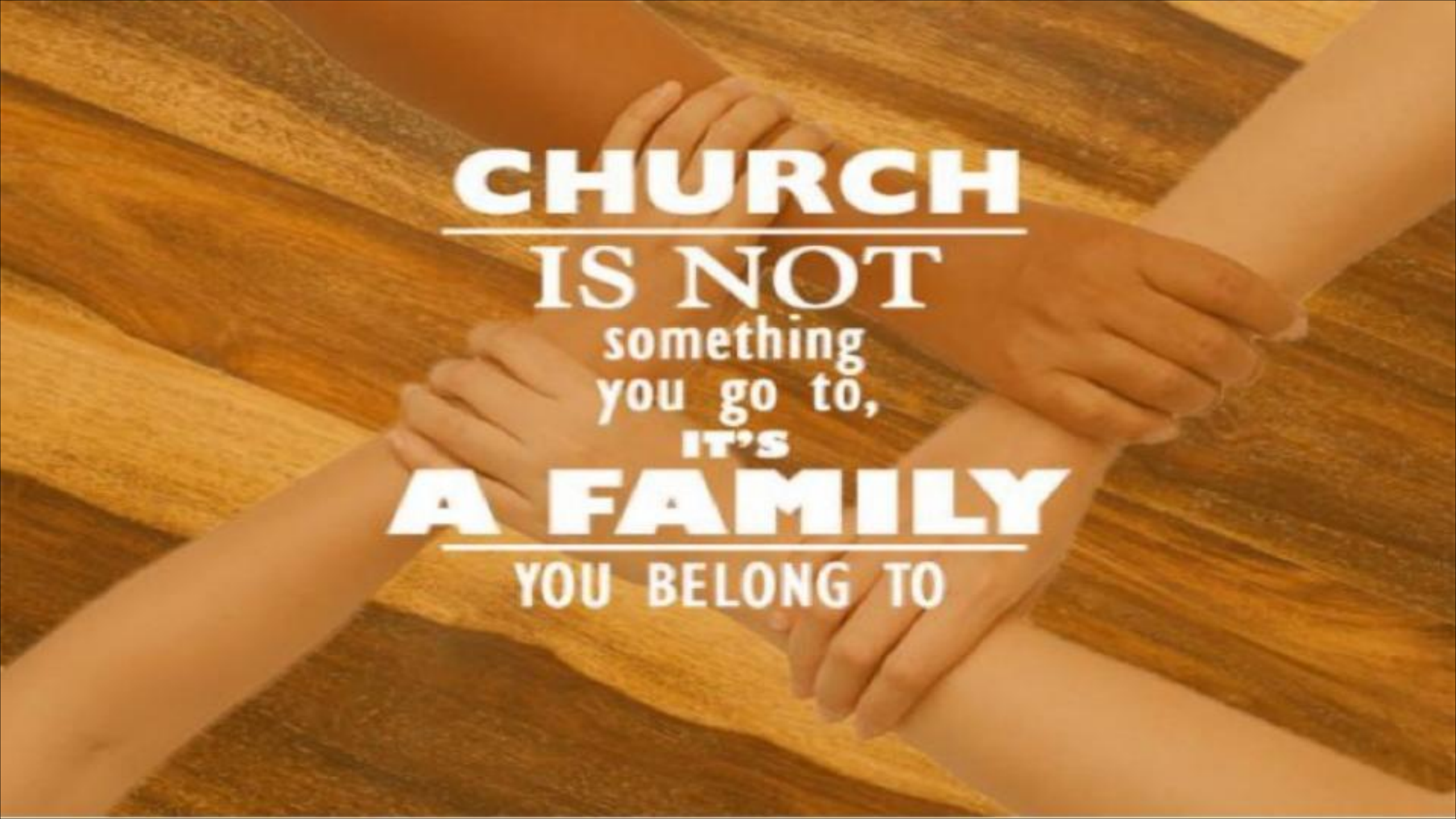
Hebrews 12:1–2

- **Joy comes from fixing eyes on Jesus.**

Challenge:

- **Keep practicing Step 12 even when it's hard.**

- **“Matthew 28:19–20** says: *‘Go and make disciples of all nations.’*
- The verb ‘make disciples’ (*mathēteusate*) is ongoing — it’s not a one-time act but a lifestyle.
- **Challenge:** Mentor someone. Pass on what God has given you.
- Recovery and redemption multiply when we invest in others. Who are you discipling? Who are you pouring into?”
 - **Point 7 — Endure with Joy (Challenge of Joyful Endurance)**
- “Hebrews 12:1–2 says: *‘Let us run with endurance the race set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.’*
- Endurance (*hypomonē*) means steadfastness under trial. Joy comes from looking to Christ, not circumstances.
- **Challenge:** Keep practicing Step 12 even when it’s hard, even when you don’t feel like it. Joy is found in the long obedience. Don’t quit shining when the storm comes.”

A photograph of four hands of different skin tones clasped together in a supportive grip on a light-colored wooden surface with a visible grain. The hands are positioned in a circle, with fingers interlaced, symbolizing unity and community.

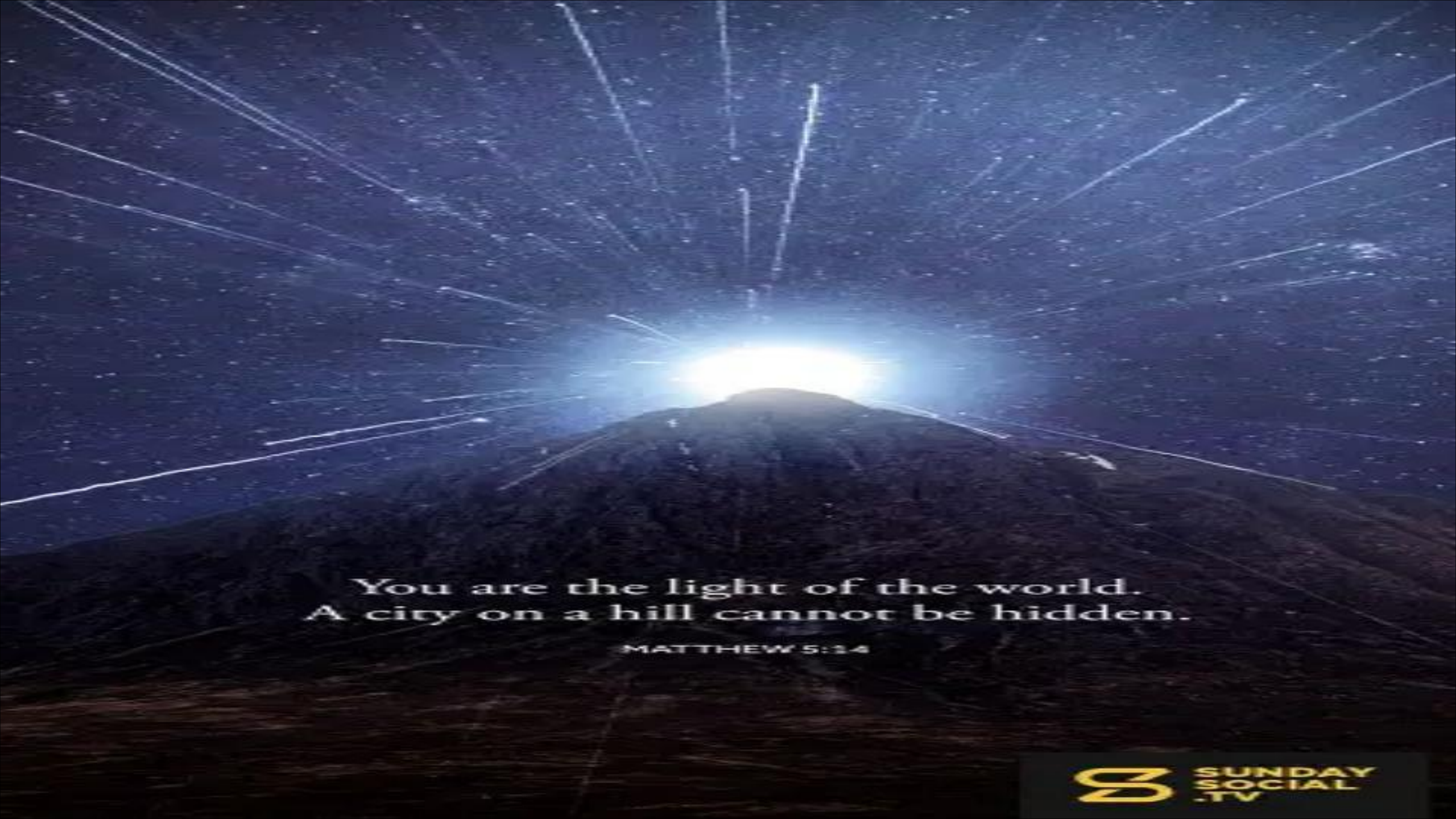
CHURCH

IS NOT
something
you go to,
IT'S
A FAMILY

YOU BELONG TO

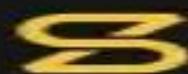
Closing Recap

- **Be Visible — *share your story***
- **Be Consistent — *live principles everywhere***
- **Be Agape- filled — *love the hard to love***
- **Be Creative — *comfort in unusual ways***
- **Be Courageous — *face fear with faith***
 - **Be Multiplying — *disciple others***
- **Be Enduring — *keep shining with joy***



You are the light of the world.
A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

MATTHEW 5:14



SUNDAY
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Closing Scripture & Prayer

Matt 5:16, “*Let your light shine before others...*”

Prayer:

**“Lord, fill us with power, love, and a sound mind.
Make this church a lighthouse of recovery,
redemption, and hope.”**

*You are the light of the world.
A city on a hill cannot be hidden.*

MATTHEW 5:14

- **Pregnant with my third child, I was stricken with a bout of morning sickness and lay down on the living-room couch to rest.**
- **Just then one of the workmen who was doing repairs in my house walked by and gave me a curious look.**
- **"Taking a little break," I explained. "I'm in my first trimester."**
- **"Really?" he said. "What's your major?"**