A photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, a large, gnarled tree trunk is visible on the left, with its roots spreading out and growing over a large, moss-covered rock. The roots are thick and textured, showing signs of age and weathering. The rock is dark and covered in green moss. In the background, there are many other trees, some with bright green leaves and others with darker foliage, creating a dense forest atmosphere. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

# RESILIENT FAITH

resilient | rə'zilēənt |

adjective

1. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
2. able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed

RESILIENT  
FAITH

# Calvin and Hobbes

by WATERSON

HEY DAD,  
REMEMBER  
OUR CAR?

WHY SURE.



RESILIENT  
FAITH

WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "REMEMBER"?



RESILIENT  
FAITH

A photograph of a forest scene. A large, ancient-looking tree with thick, gnarled roots is the central focus. The roots are exposed and spread out over a large, grey rock. The background is filled with other trees and green foliage, creating a dense forest atmosphere. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

RESILIENT  
FAITH

Resilient  
Remembering

Remember  
What?  
Acts 7:1-57



RECUENT



1.

# Remember His Calling

RESILIENT  
FAITH

## Acts 7:1-5

*Then the high priest asked Stephen,  
“Are these accusations true?” 2 This  
was Stephen’s reply: “Brothers and  
fathers, listen to me.*



*Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. 3 God told him, 'Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.'*

*4 So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran until his father died. Then God brought him here to the land where you now live.*

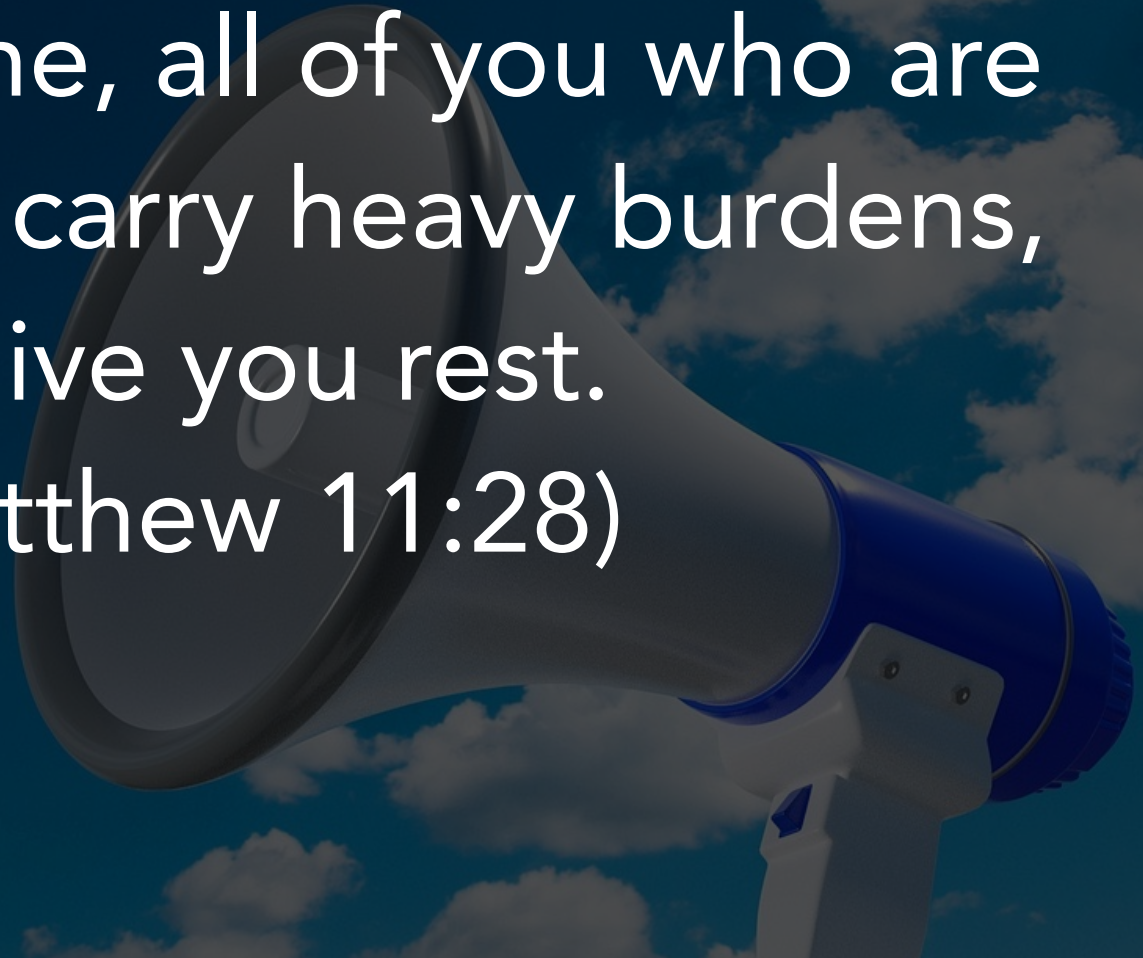
5 *“But God gave him no inheritance here, not even one square foot of land. God did promise, however, that eventually the whole land would belong to Abraham and his descendants—even though he had no children yet.*

- **The Invitation**



Come to me, all of you who are  
weary and carry heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.

-Jesus (Matthew 11:28)

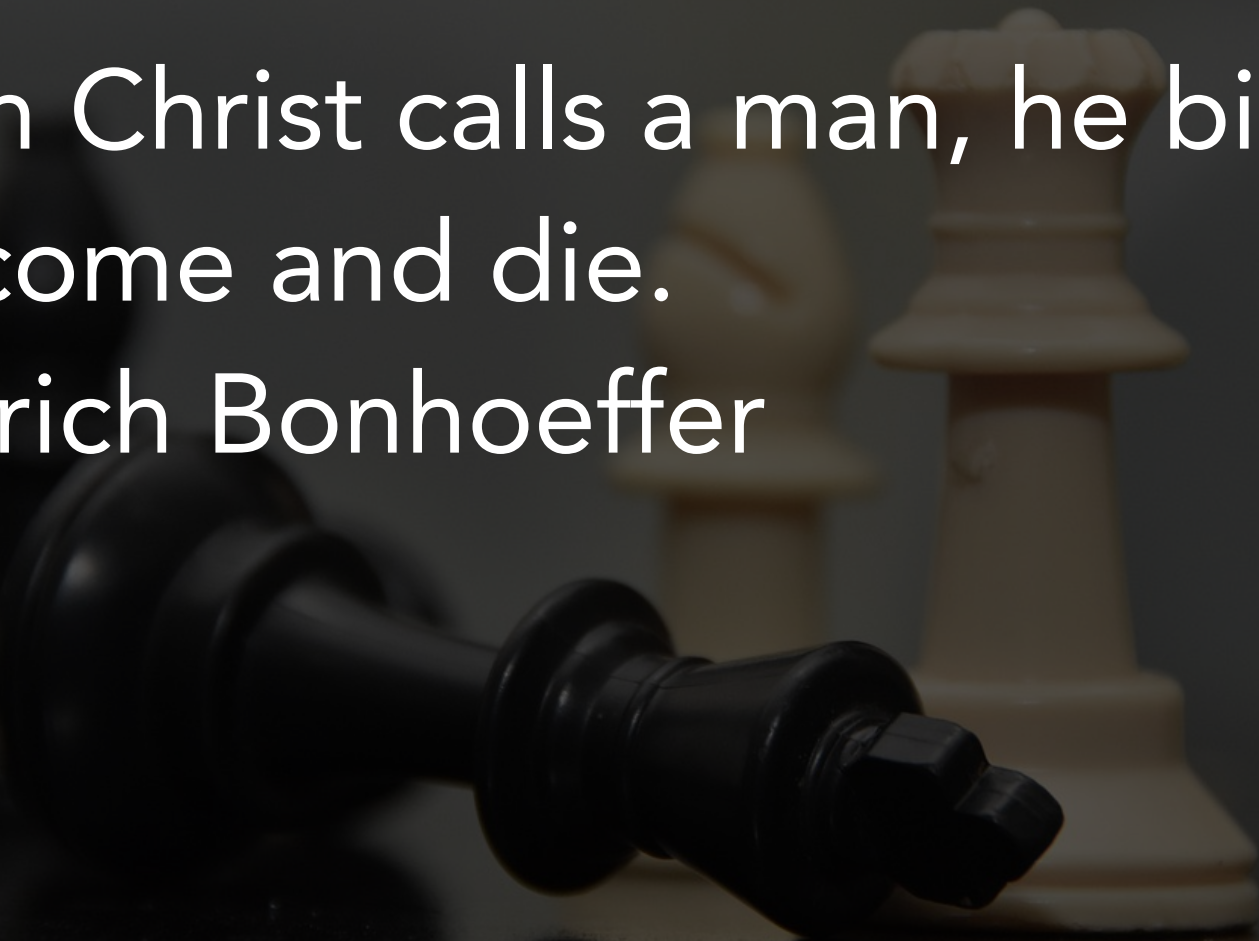


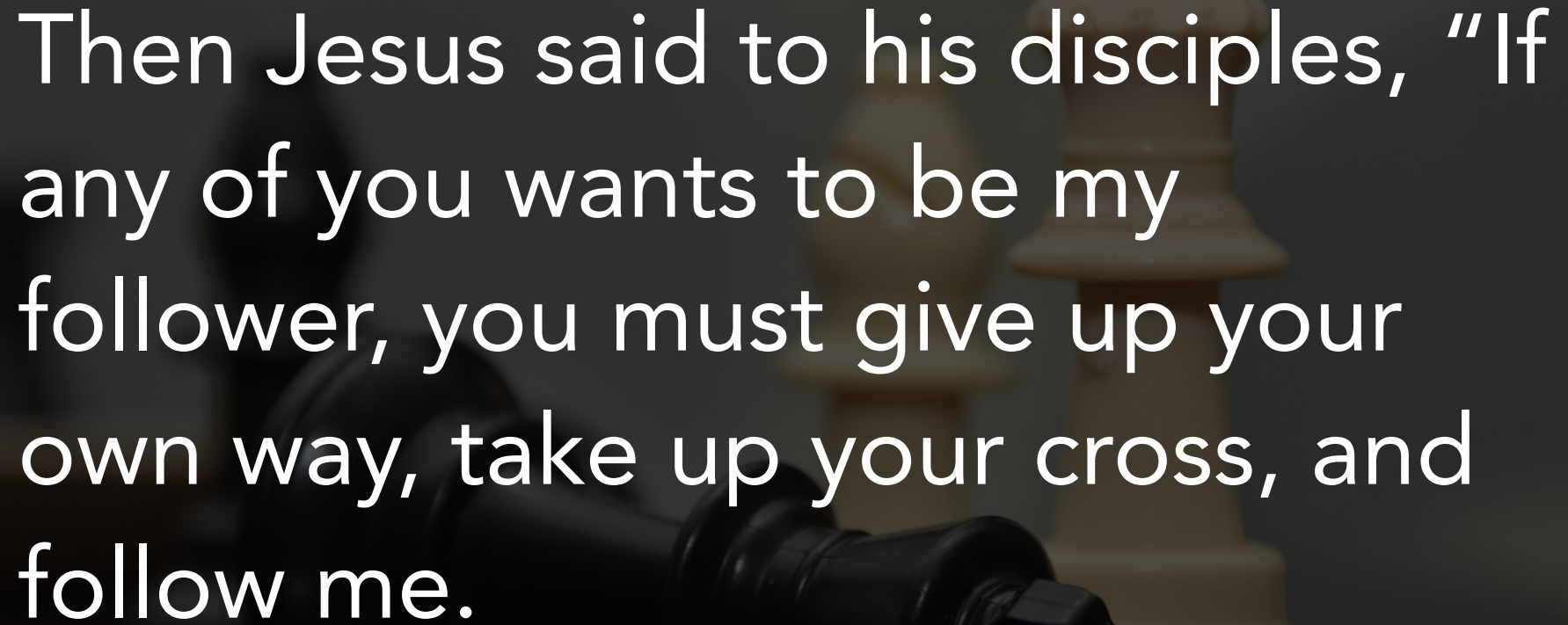
# •The Leaving



When Christ calls a man, he bids  
him come and die.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer





Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

-Jesus (Matthew 16:24)





To be crucified means,

1. the man of the cross is facing only one direction
2. he is not going back
3. he has no further plans of his own.

-A.W. Tozer

A chessboard with a black king piece lying on its side in the foreground and several white pieces standing upright in the background.

**Question:**

What is God inviting you to leave  
these days?



- **The Unfulfilled Longing**

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FAITH

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

-Hebrews 11:6

# What is Faith?

Faith is trusting God in the midst of unfulfilled longing.

2.

Remember He is  
With You

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FAITH

## Acts 7:9-16

9 "These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him 10 and rescued him from all his troubles.

*And God gave him favor before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God also gave Joseph unusual wisdom, so that Pharaoh appointed him governor over all of Egypt and put him in charge of the palace.*



11 *“But a famine came upon Egypt and Canaan. There was great misery, and our ancestors ran out of food. 12 Jacob heard that there was still grain in Egypt, so he sent his sons—our ancestors—to buy some.*

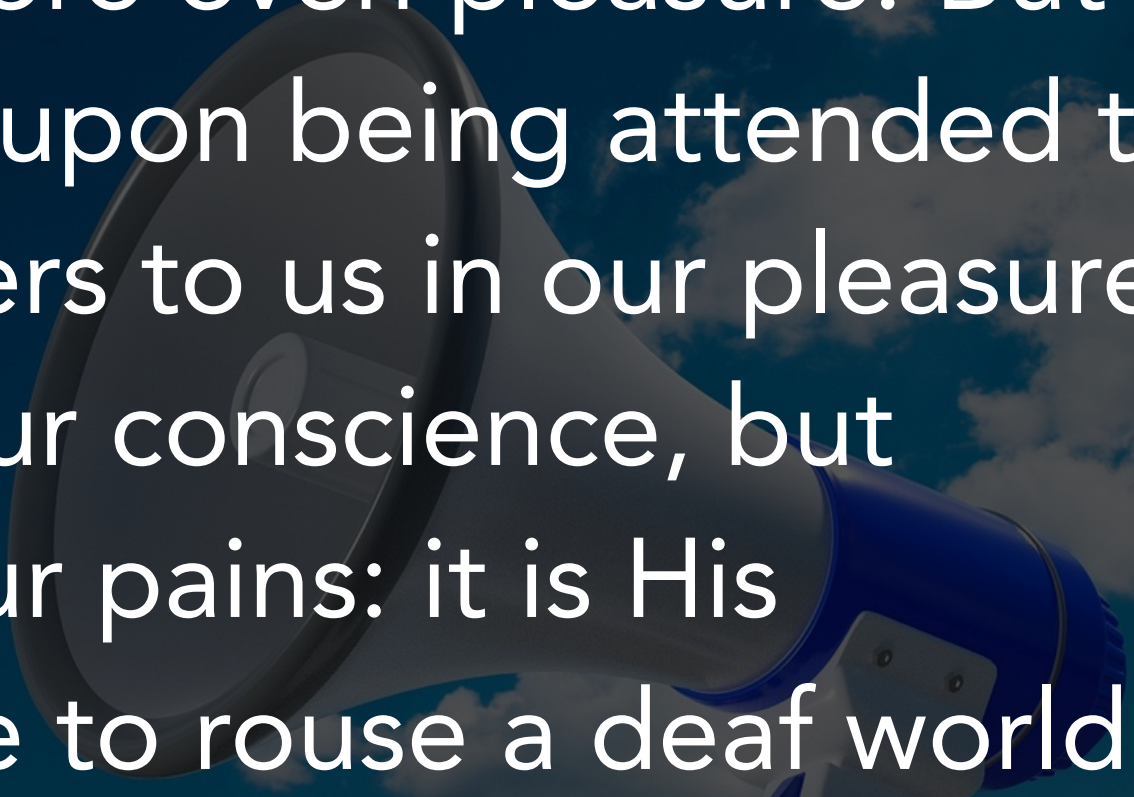
*13 The second time they went, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, and they were introduced to Pharaoh. 14 Then Joseph sent for his father, Jacob, and all his relatives to come to Egypt, seventy-five persons in all.*

15 So Jacob went to Egypt. He died there, as did our ancestors. 16 Their bodies were taken to Shechem and buried in the tomb Abraham had bought for a certain price from Hamor's sons in Shechem.



- Suffering

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FAITH



We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

-C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain



- But God

RESILIENT  
FAITH

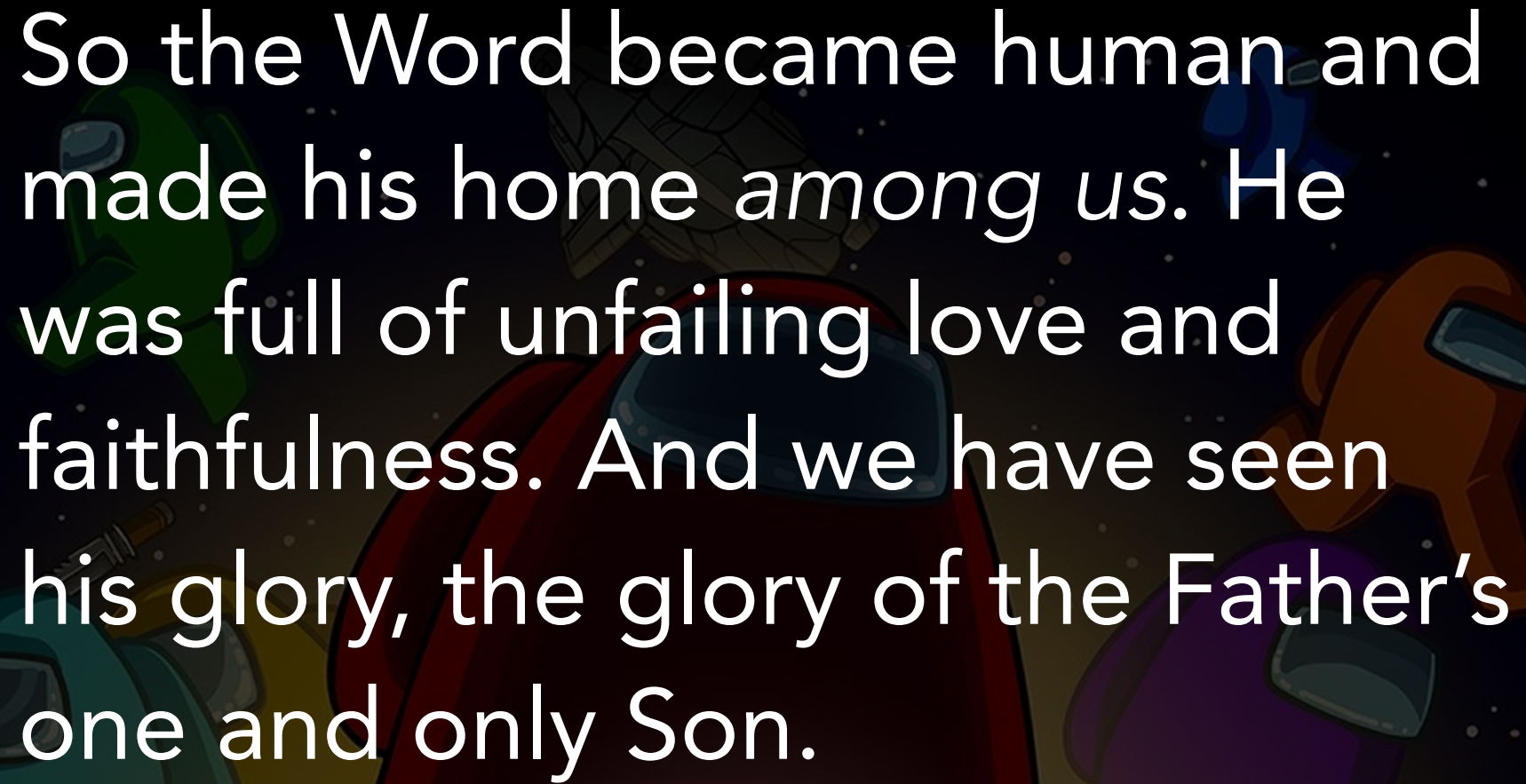
When life  
isn't going  
your way, do  
you ever  
forget that  
God is with  
you?

WITNESS

Fear not, for I am with you; be  
not dismayed, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help  
you, I will uphold you with my  
righteous right hand.

-Isaiah 41:10



The background features a dark, starry space with several stylized, colorful figures. A large red figure is prominent in the center, with a blue visor. To its right is a purple figure with a blue visor. Above the purple figure is a brown figure with a blue visor. On the left, there are green and teal figures, also with blue visors. The overall style is reminiscent of a sci-fi or space-themed illustration.

So the Word became human and made his home *among us*. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

-John 1:14



- Oh NOW I get it

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FAITH

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

-Romans 8:28

3.

Remember Who  
He Is

RESILIENT  
FAITH

## Acts 7:48-50

48 *However, the Most High doesn't live in temples made by human hands. As the prophet says,*

49 *'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.*

*Could you build me a temple as good as that?' asks the Lord. 'Could you build me such a resting place? 50 Didn't my hands make both heaven and earth?'*

- He is the creator

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
2. The universe began to exist.
3. Therefore the universe has a cause.



COLDSPRINGS

BLOG



COLDSPRINGS

BLOG



Therefore, there exists a Personal Creator of the universe, who, sans the universe, is timeless, spaceless, beginningless, changeless, necessary, uncaused, and enormously powerful.

-William Lane Craig





- **The Need**

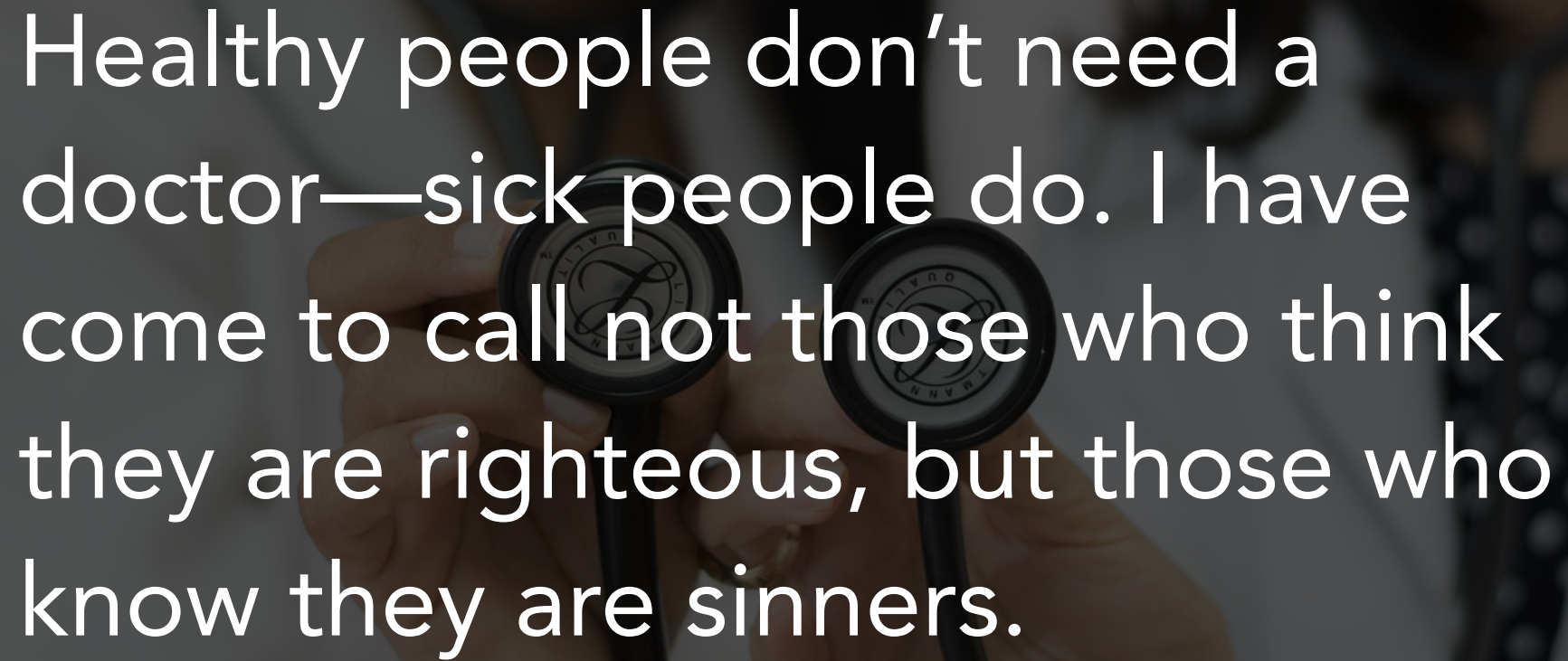
RESILIENT  
FAITH

God doesn't need us;  
we need Him.

“No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!”

Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.”

-John 13:8

A close-up photograph of a doctor's hands holding a stethoscope over a patient's chest. The doctor is wearing a white lab coat and a black patterned tie. The patient's chest is visible, and the stethoscope is positioned over the heart area. The image is slightly blurred, focusing on the hands and the stethoscope.

Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.

-Jesus (Mark 2:17)

4.

Remember It's All  
About The Heart

RESILIENT  
FAITH

## Acts 7:51-53

*51 "You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you!*

*52 Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered.*

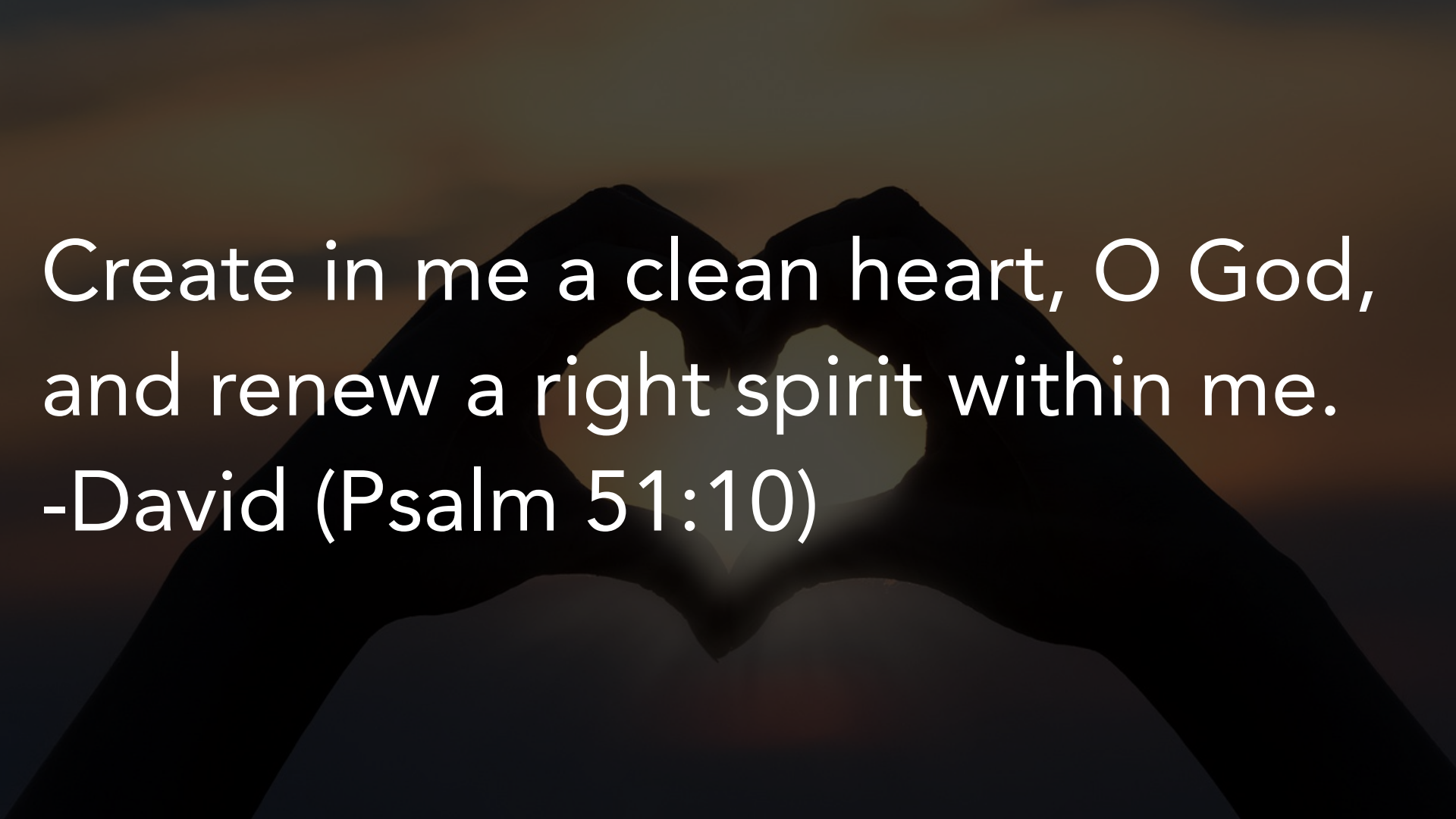


*53 You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels."*




- **The most important question!**

RESILIENT  
FAITH



Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
-David (Psalm 51:10)

A silhouette of two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are dark against a lighter, gradient background that transitions from dark brown at the top to a lighter, almost white glow in the center where the heart is formed. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

How to have a right  
heart toward God?

Resilient Remembering!



COLDSPRINGS  
**CHURCH**

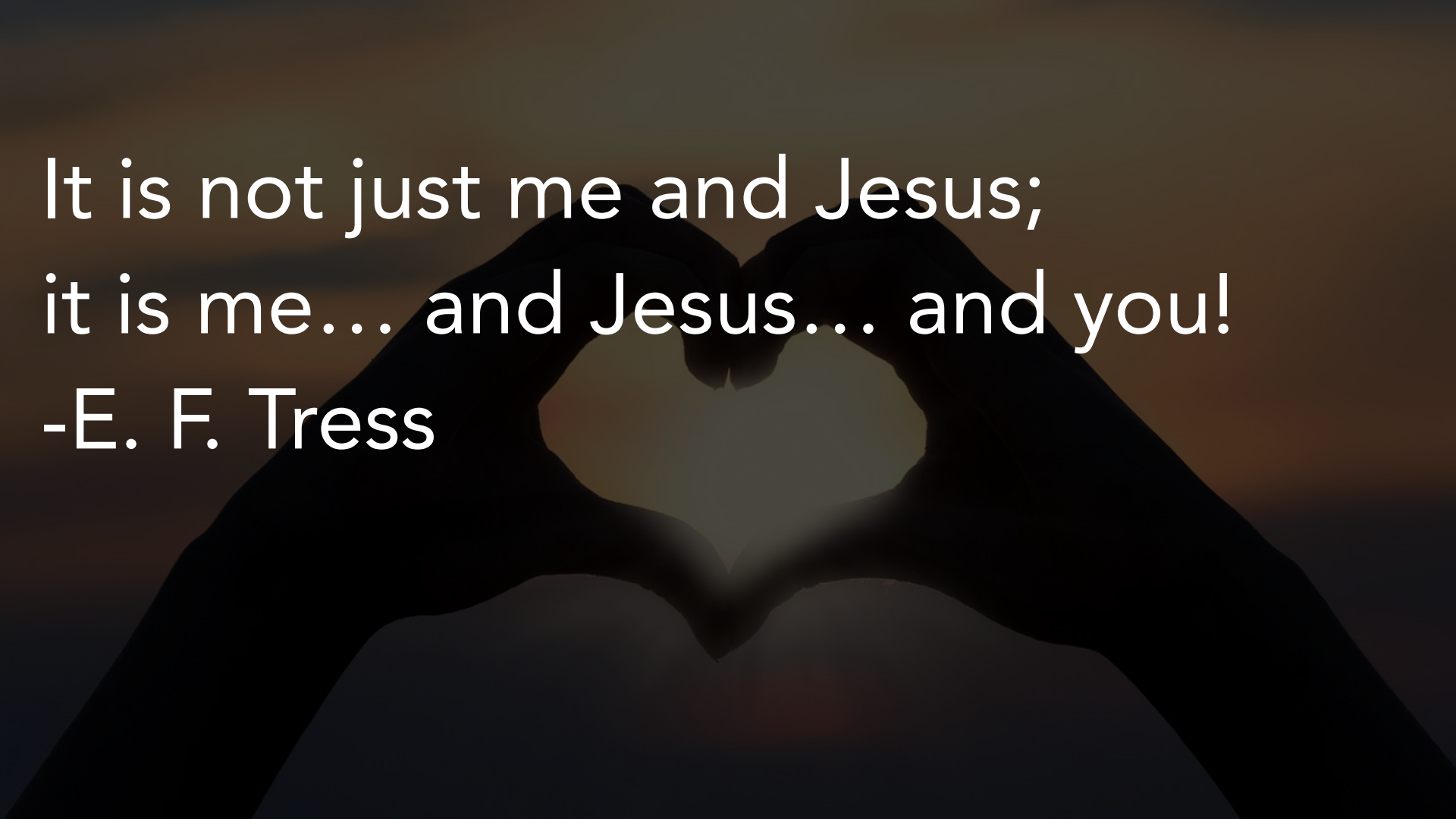
restoring and strengthening

**BELONG**  
IN COMMUNITY



- > life groups
- > 3g faith
- > starting point





It is not just me and Jesus;  
it is me... and Jesus... and you!

-E. F. Tress

## Closing Quote

Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; Where your treasure is, there is your heart; Where your heart is, there is your happiness.

-Augustine

## Closing Scripture

59 As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died. -Acts 7:54-60



# Closing Question #1


What is your story of experiencing God's calling?

## Closing Question #2

How have you experienced God being WITH you in difficult times?

## Closing Question #3

What is God inviting you to remember these days?

A photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, a large, ancient tree trunk is visible on the left, with its thick, gnarled roots spreading out and resting on a large, moss-covered rock. The roots are light-colored and contrast with the darker bark and the green moss. The background is filled with a dense forest of tall, thin trees, mostly evergreens, with some deciduous trees showing bright green leaves. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

# RESILIENT FAITH