



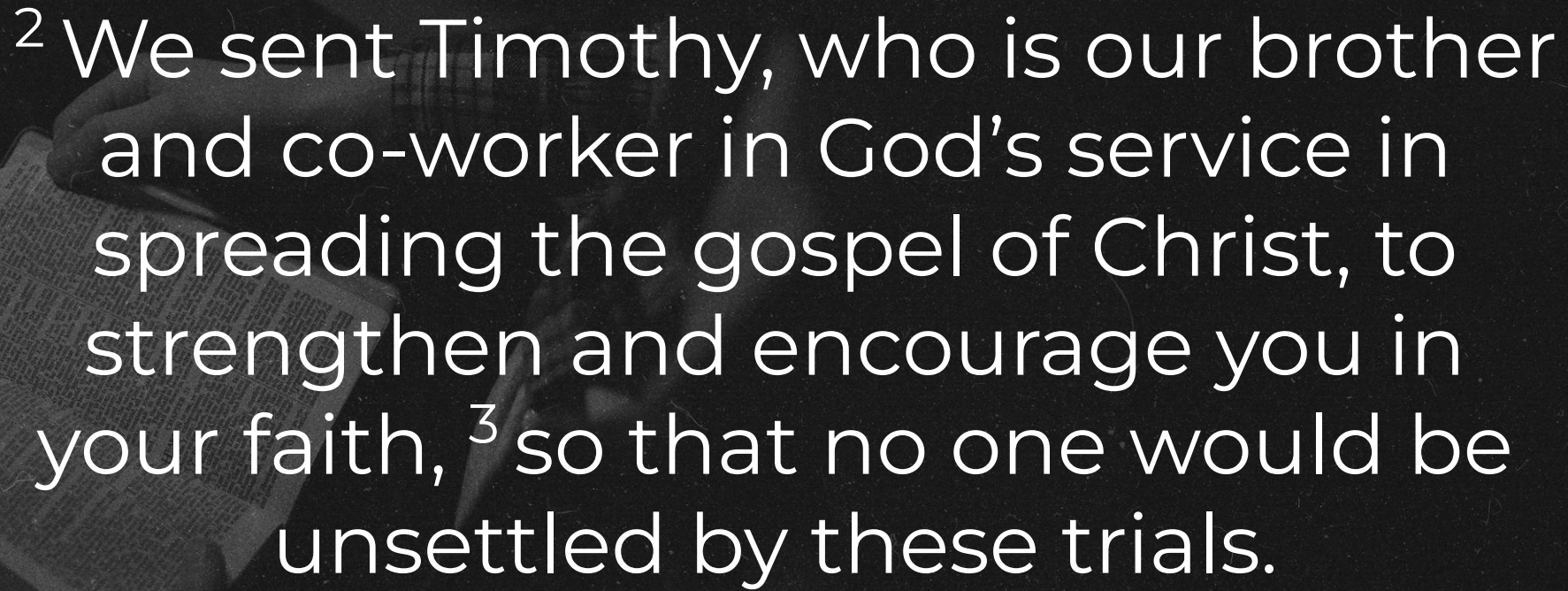
1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

MARANATHA: OUR LORD, COME!

THESSALONIANS
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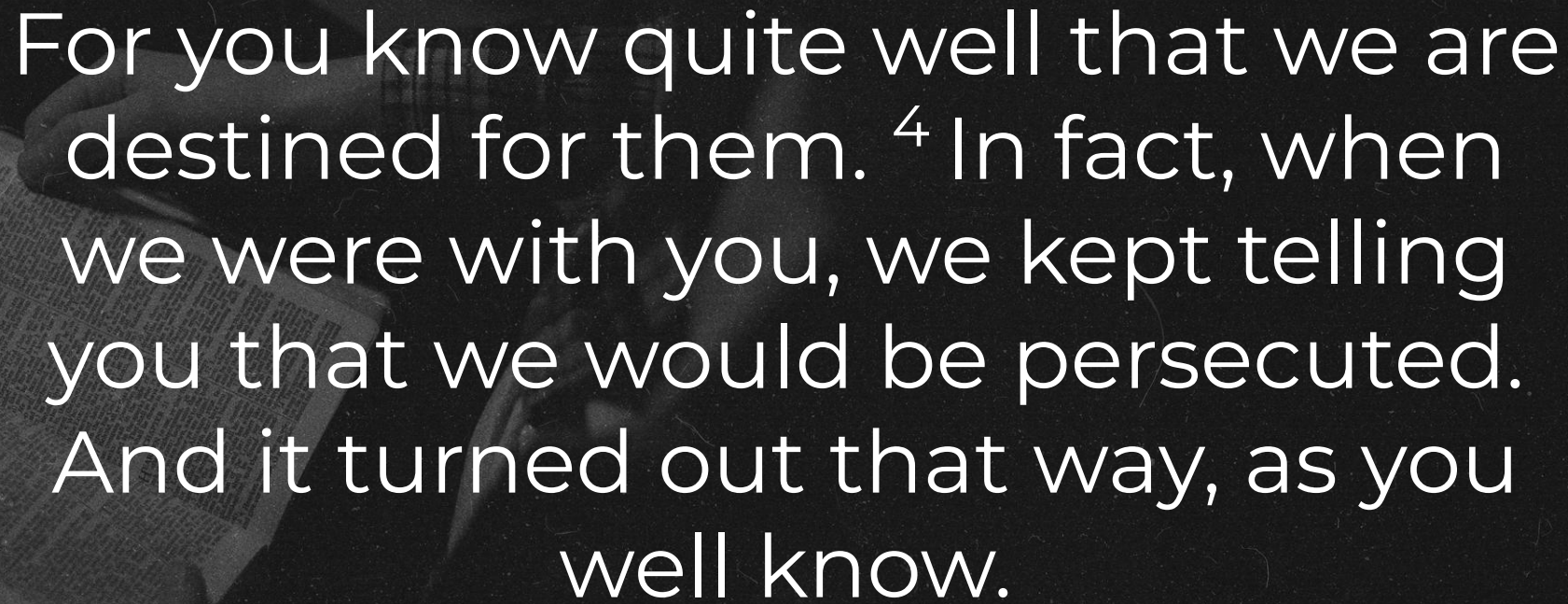
A black and white photograph of a person's arm and hand holding a newspaper. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The newspaper is open, showing columns of text. Overlaid on the image in large, white, serif capital letters is the title 'TIMOTHY'S REPORT'.

TIMOTHY'S REPORT

A grayscale background image showing a person's hands holding and reading an open Bible. The text is overlaid on this image.

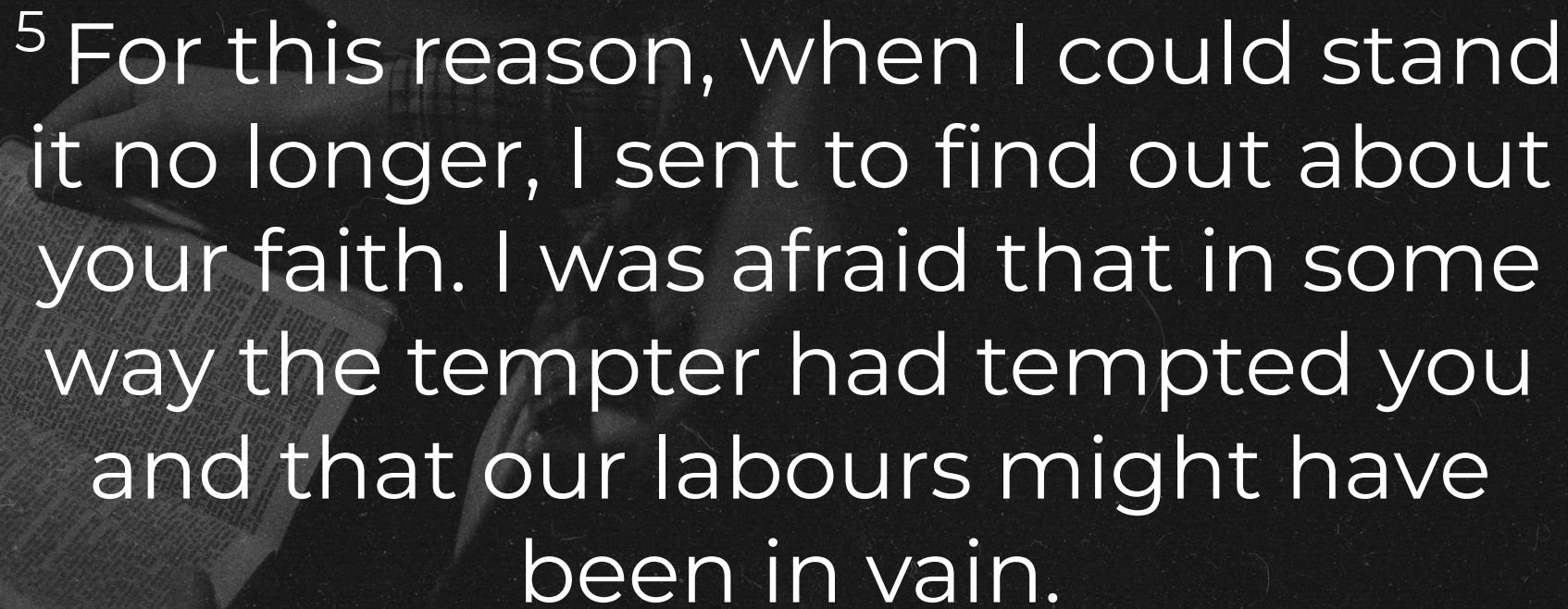
² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2-10

A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible. The text is overlaid in white, making it stand out against the dark background. The person's face is not visible, focusing attention on the text and the act of reading.

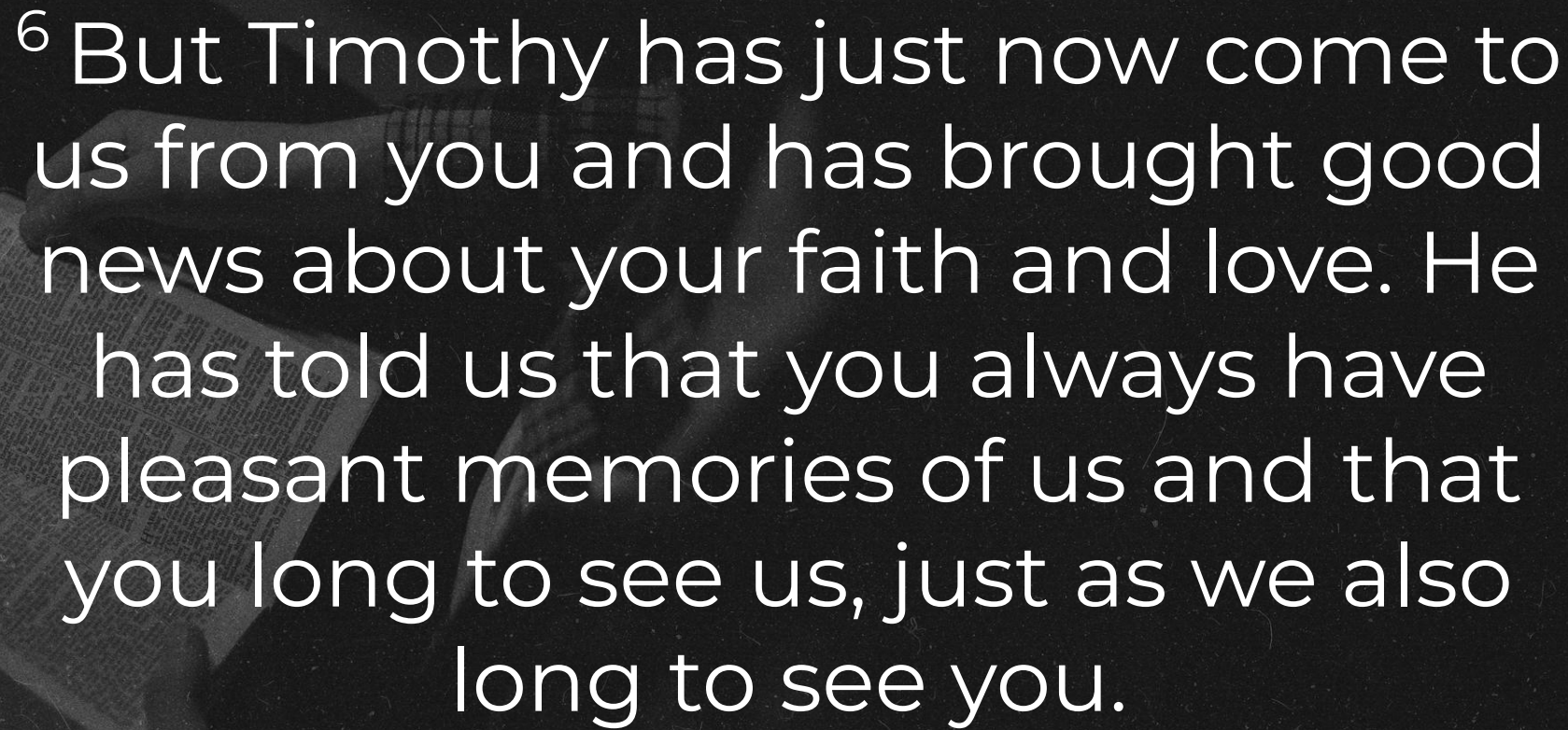
For you know quite well that we are
destined for them. ⁴ In fact, when
we were with you, we kept telling
you that we would be persecuted.
And it turned out that way, as you
well know.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2-10

A person is shown from the side, holding an open Bible and reading. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from the text of the Bible, which is clearly visible. The person's face is partially in shadow, and the background is dark and out of focus.

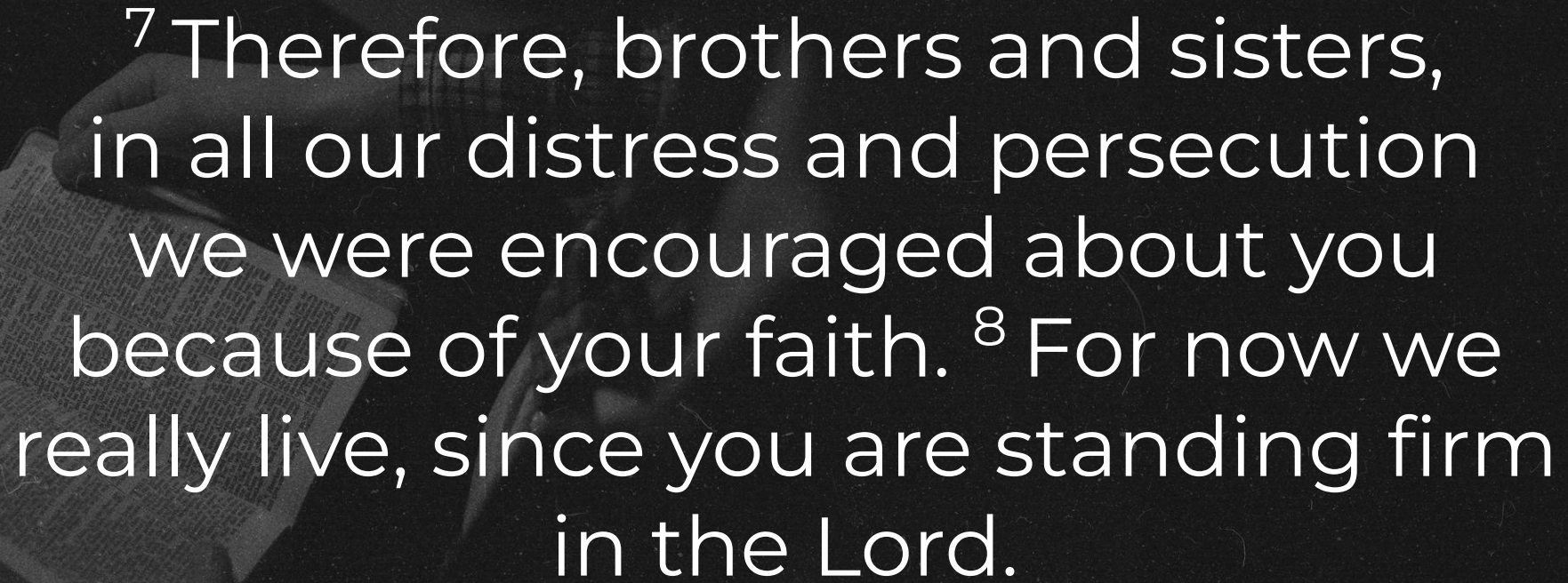
⁵ For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labours might have been in vain.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2-10

A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open book, likely a Bible. The text is overlaid in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in a paragraph, with a superscripted '6' at the beginning. The overall tone is solemn and reflective.

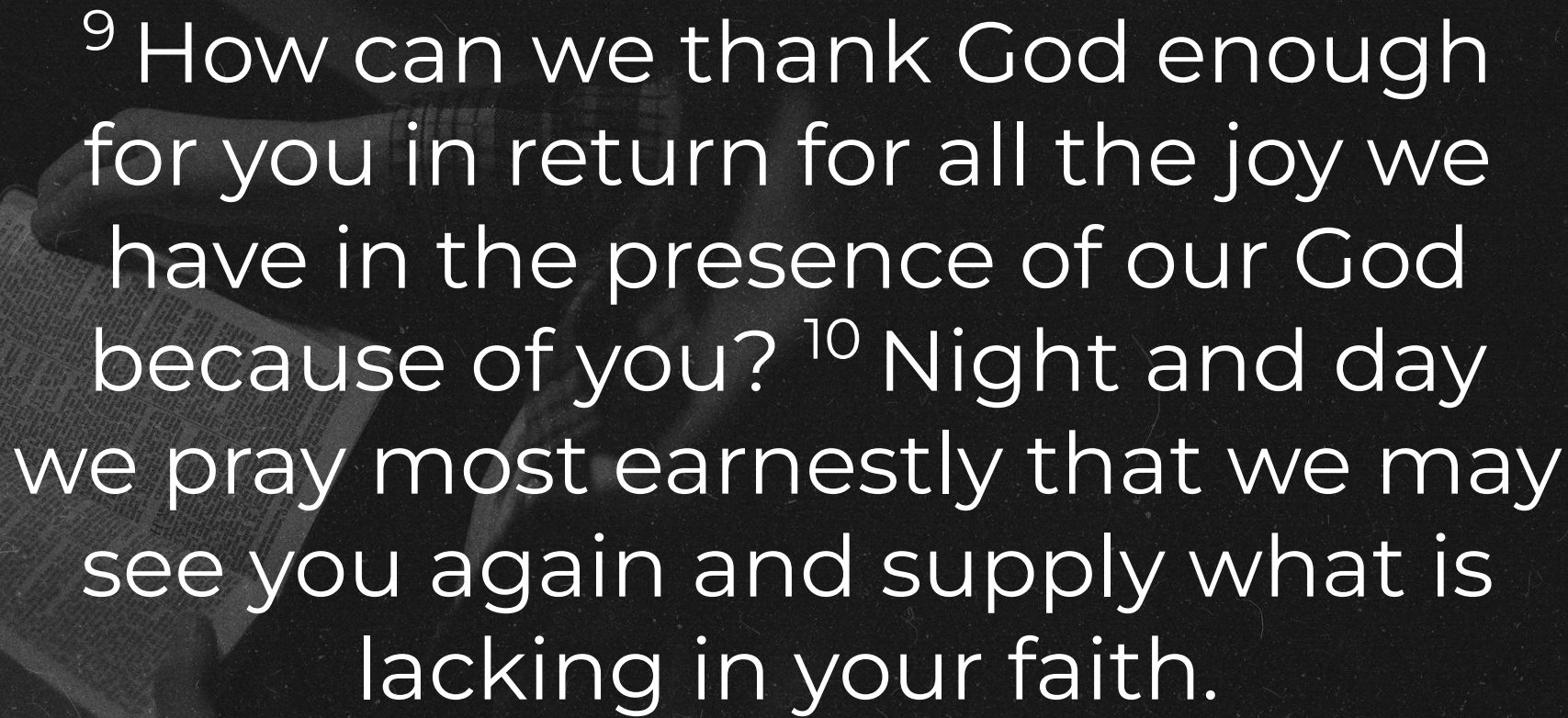
⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2-10

A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible, with the text of the Bible visible on the pages. The lighting is low, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere.

⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters,
in all our distress and persecution
we were encouraged about you
because of your faith. ⁸ For now we
really live, since you are standing firm
in the Lord.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2-10

A grayscale background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The Bible is open to a page with dense text. The overall tone is dark and contemplative.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

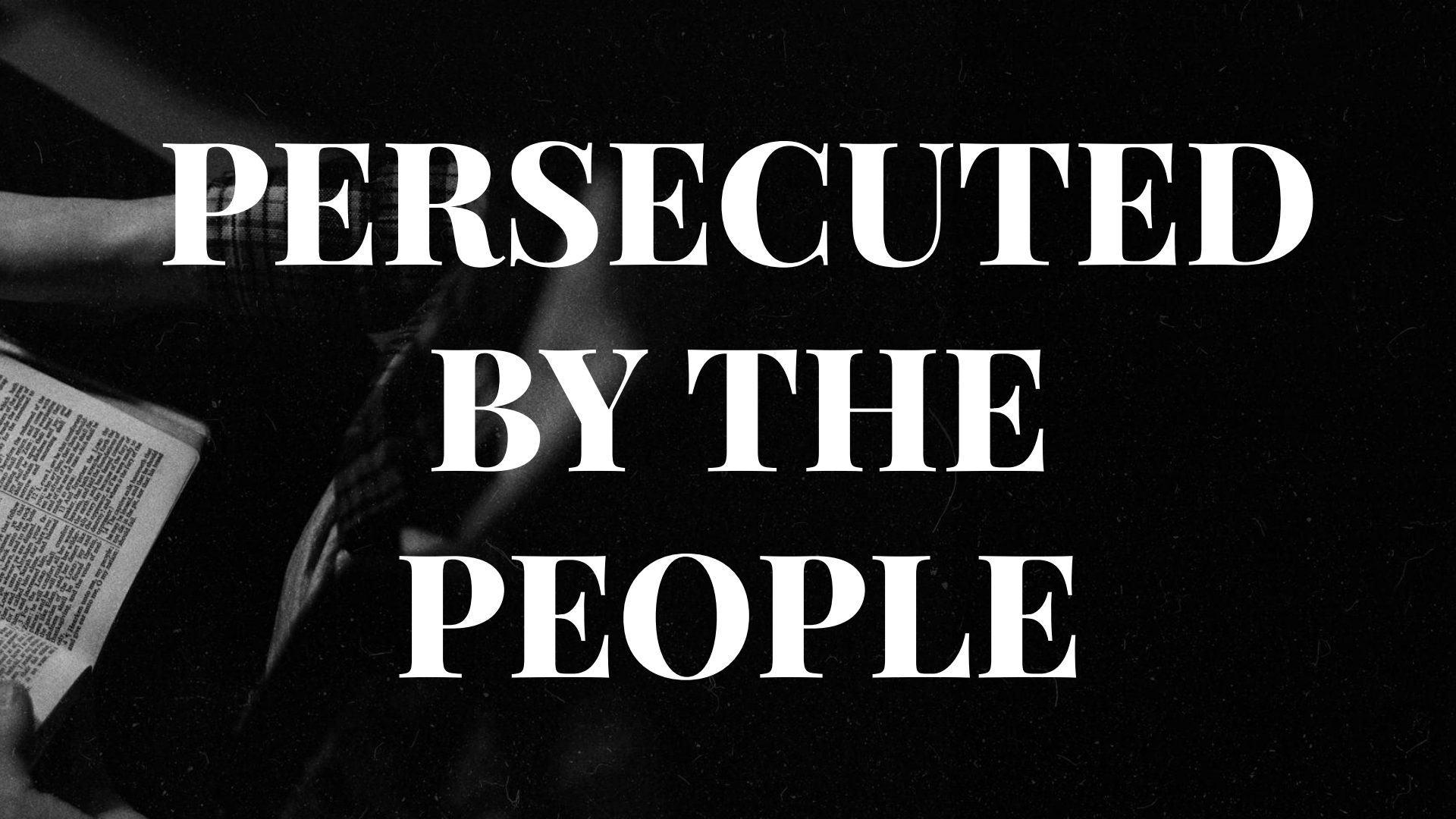
1 THESSALONIANS 3:2-10

A dark, grainy background image showing a person's hands holding and reading a newspaper. The text is overlaid on this image.

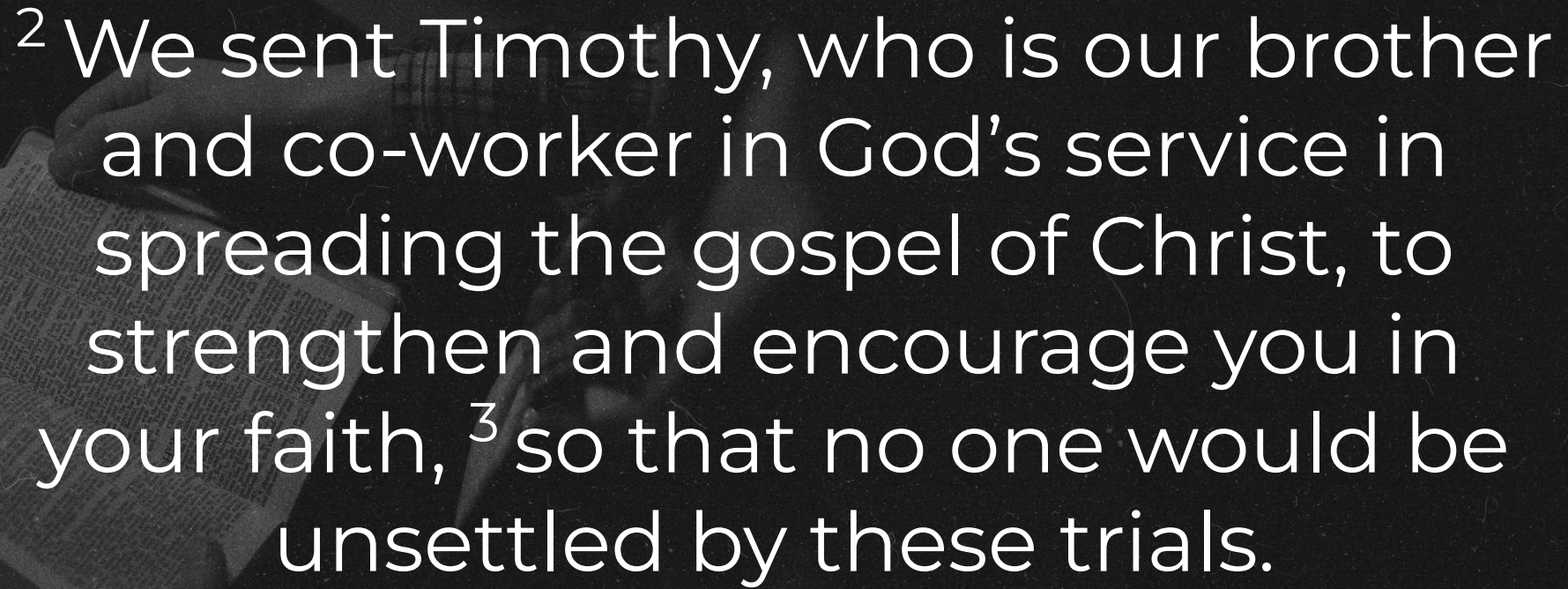
**The church in Thessalonica
was a rare church because
most Early Church were filled
with problems.**

A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open book, likely a Bible, in a dimly lit environment. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The text is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

**We can see the Thessalonians
as a prototypical church.**

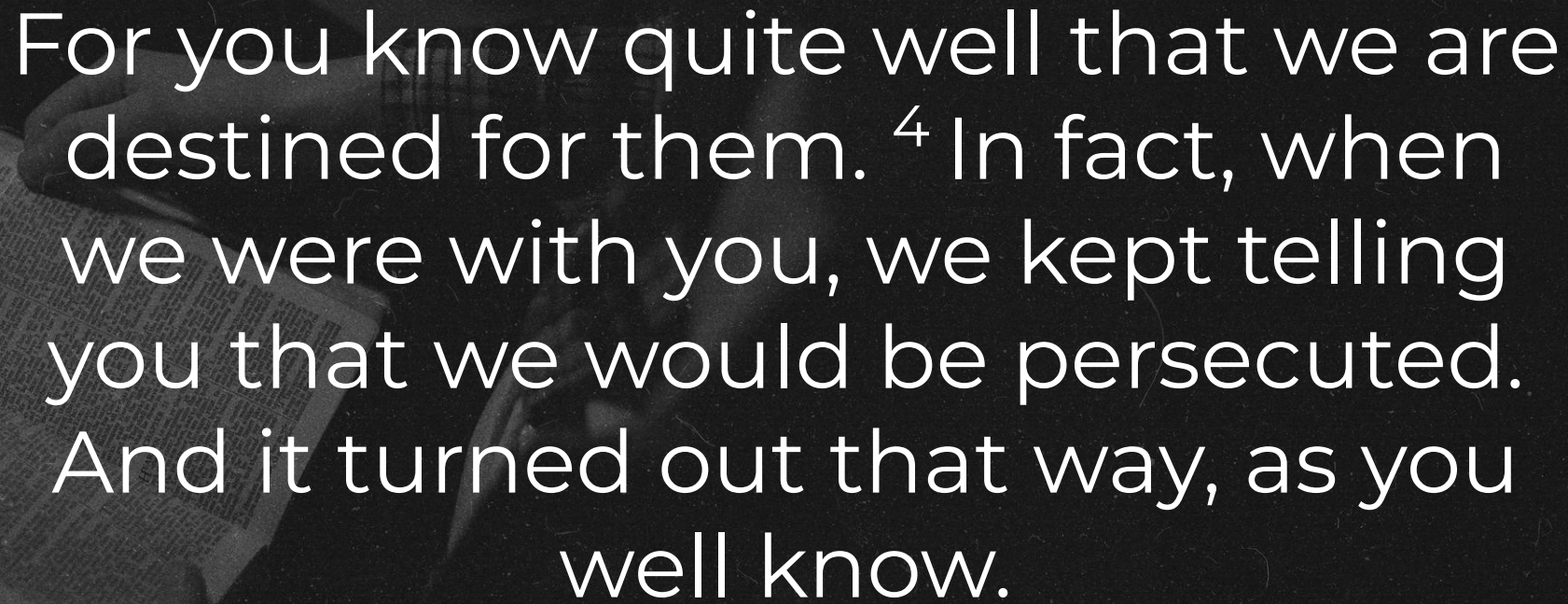


PERSECUTED BY THE PEOPLE

A grayscale background image showing a person's hands holding and reading an open Bible. The text is overlaid on this image.

² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2-4

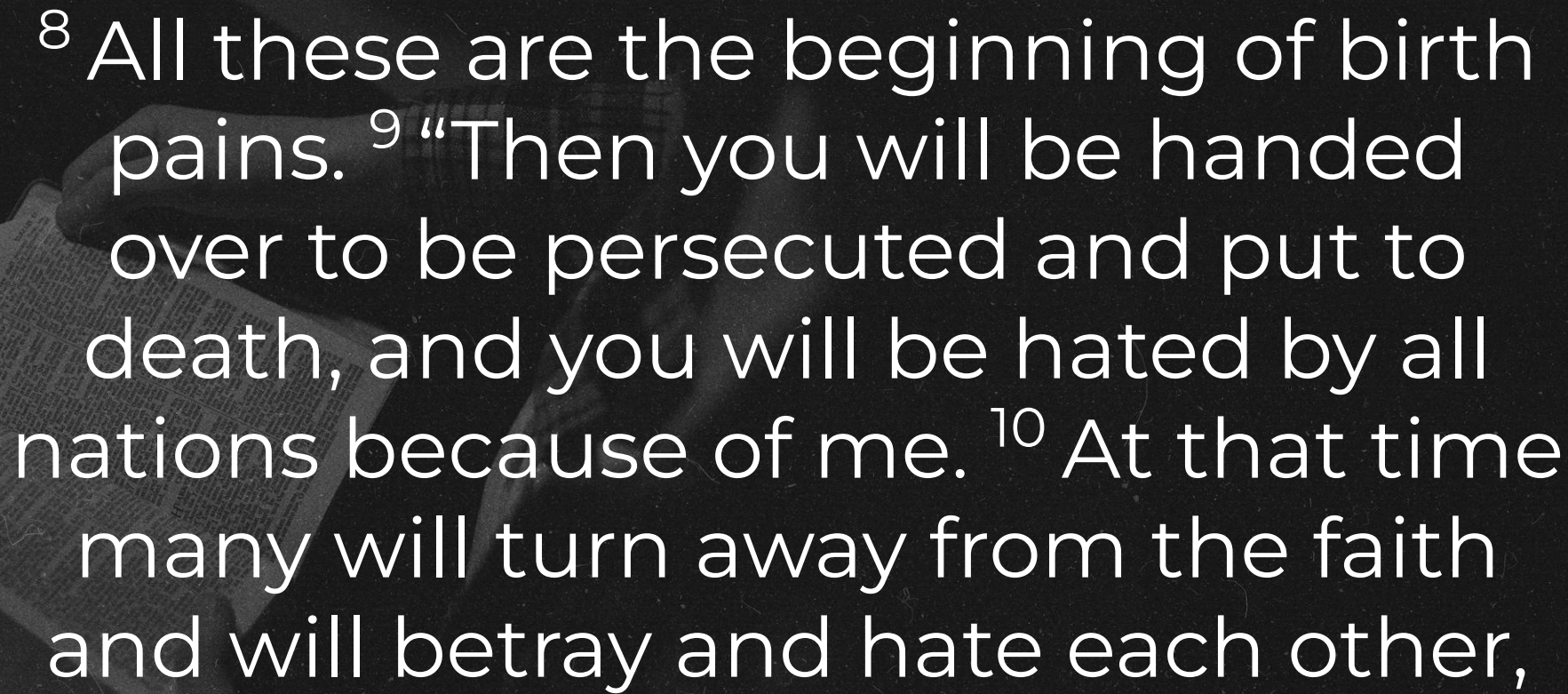
A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible. The text is overlaid in white, making it stand out against the dark background. The person's face is not visible, focusing attention on the text and the act of reading.

For you know quite well that we are
destined for them. ⁴ In fact, when
we were with you, we kept telling
you that we would be persecuted.
And it turned out that way, as you
well know.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2-4

A dark, grainy, black and white photograph of a person's hands holding and reading a newspaper. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and indistinct. The text is overlaid in the center-right of the image.

I am not sure if we have a
proper theology of suffering.



⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

MATTHEW 24:8-13

A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible, with the text of the Bible visible on the pages. The lighting is low, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere.

¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²

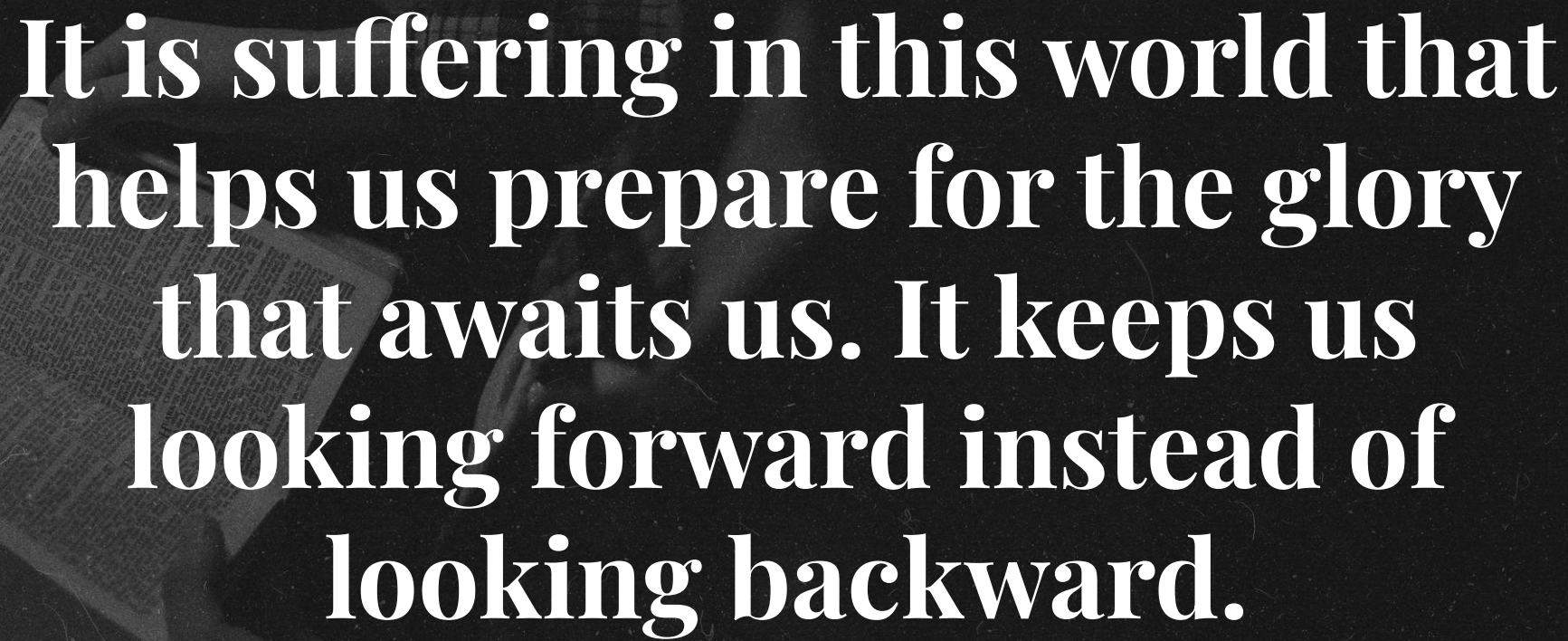
Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

MATTHEW 24:8-13

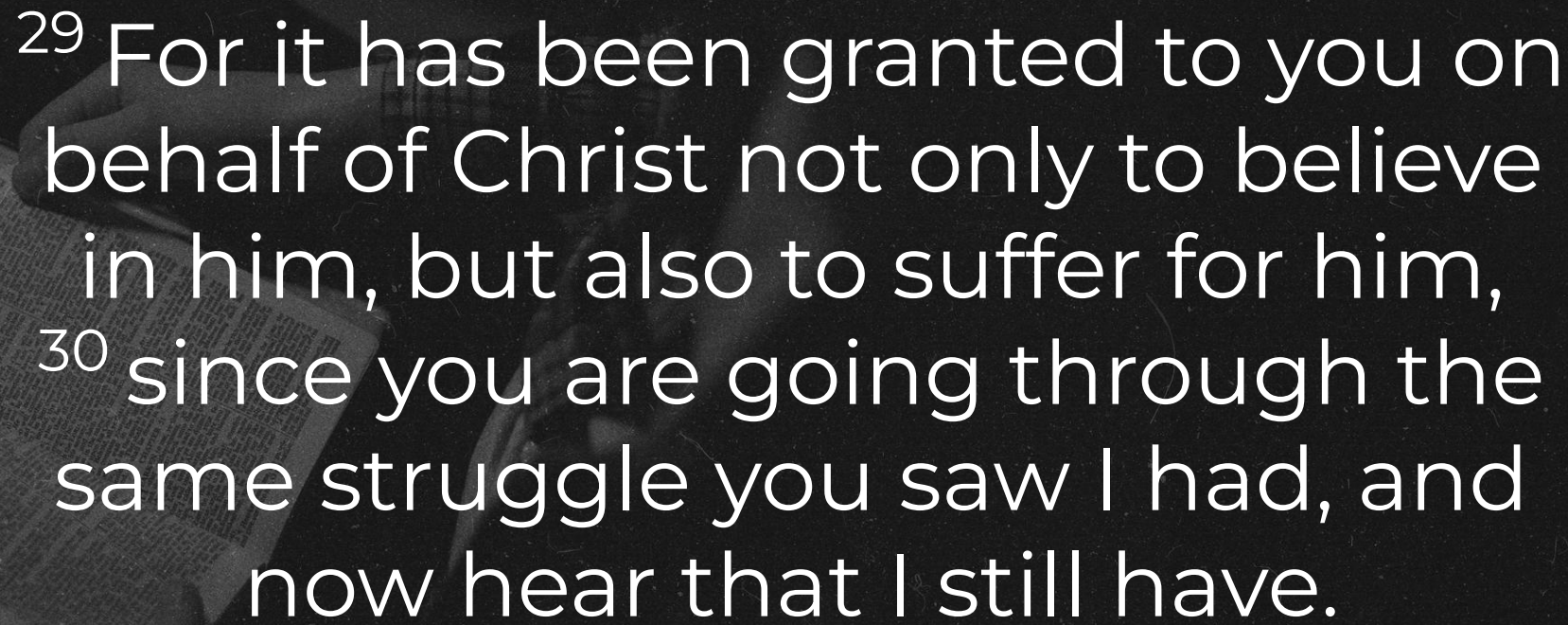
A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The Bible is open to a page with dense text, likely a scriptural passage. The lighting is low, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere. The text of the Bible is visible but not clearly legible due to the low light and focus on the overlaid text.

¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

ACTS 9:16



It is suffering in this world that helps us prepare for the glory that awaits us. It keeps us looking forward instead of looking backward.

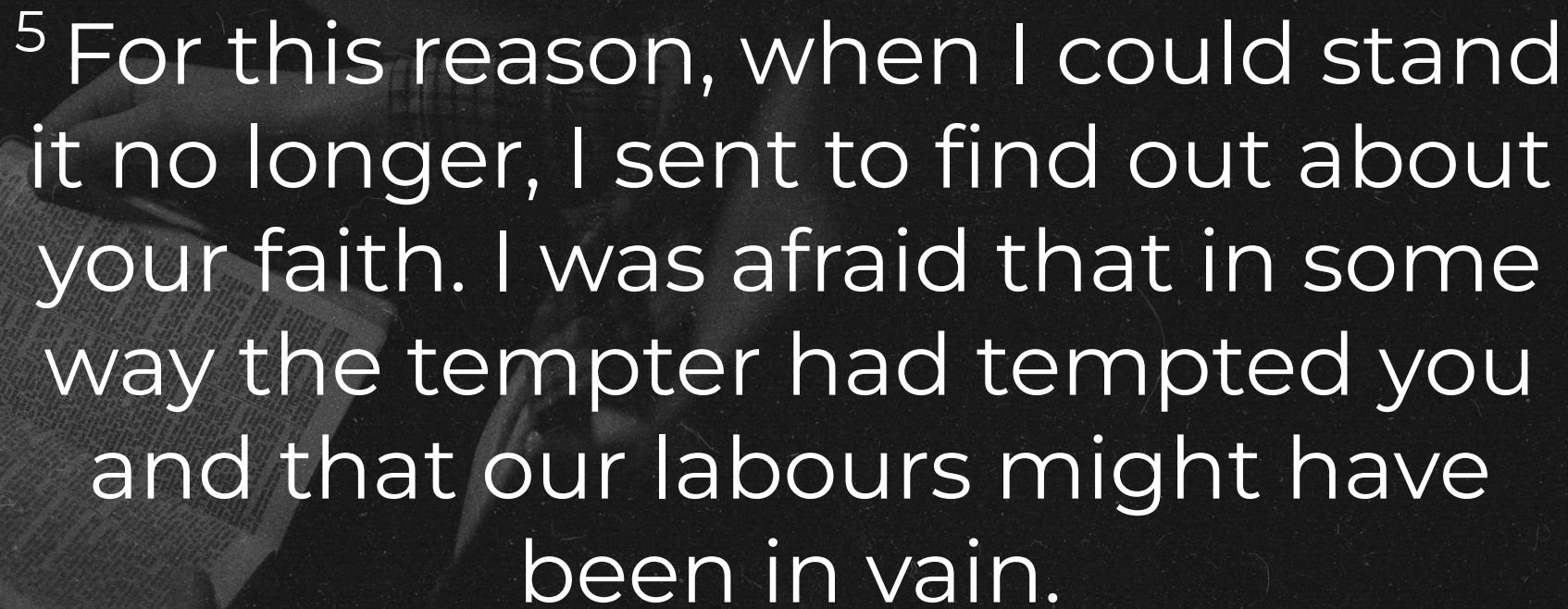
A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The Bible is open to a page with visible text. The background is dark and textured. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif font.

²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,
³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

PHILIPPIANS 1:29-30



TEMPTED BY THE TEMPTER

A person is shown from the side, holding an open Bible and reading. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from the text of the Bible, which is clearly visible. The person's face is partially in shadow, and the background is dark and out of focus.

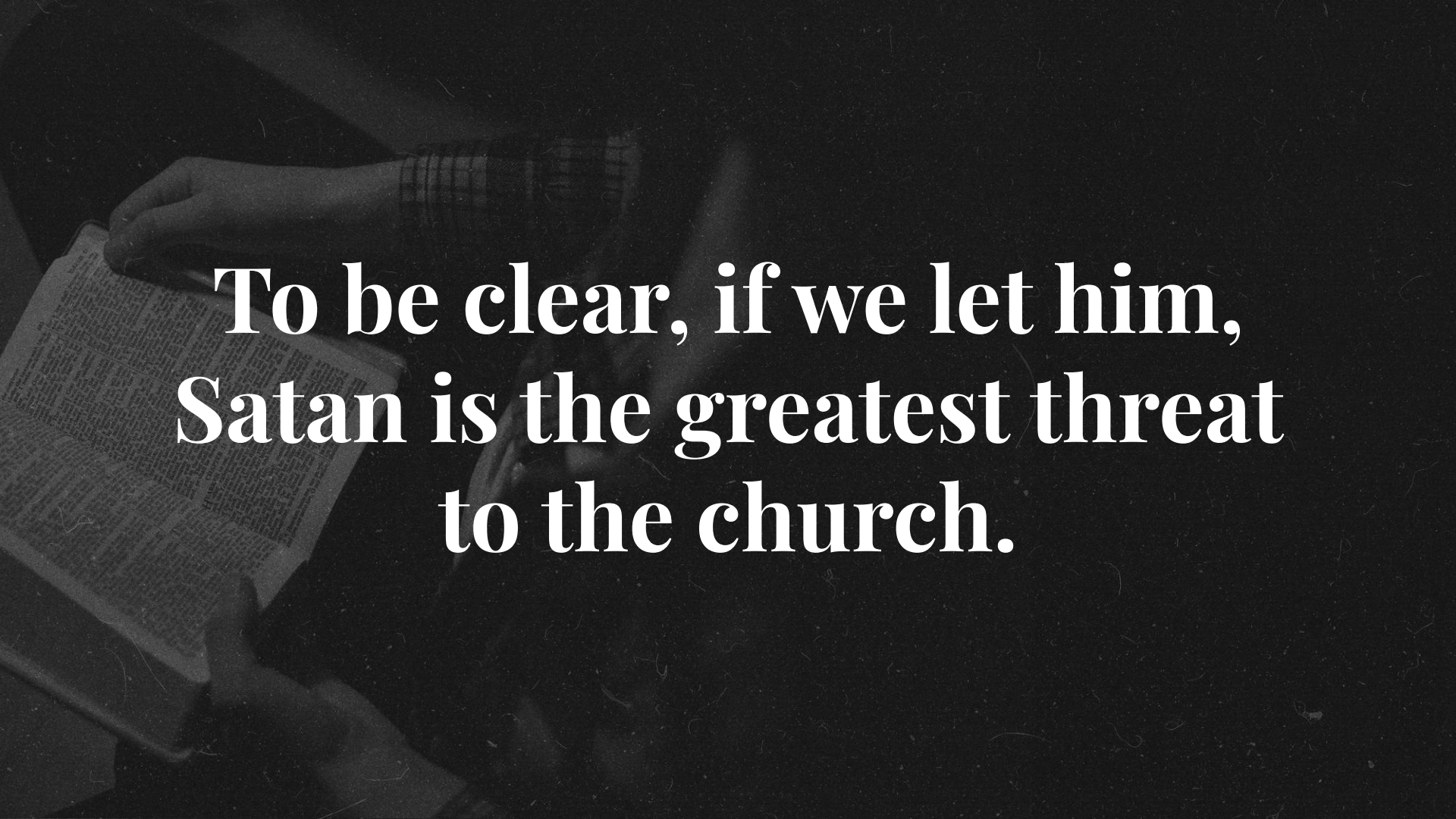
⁵ For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labours might have been in vain.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:5

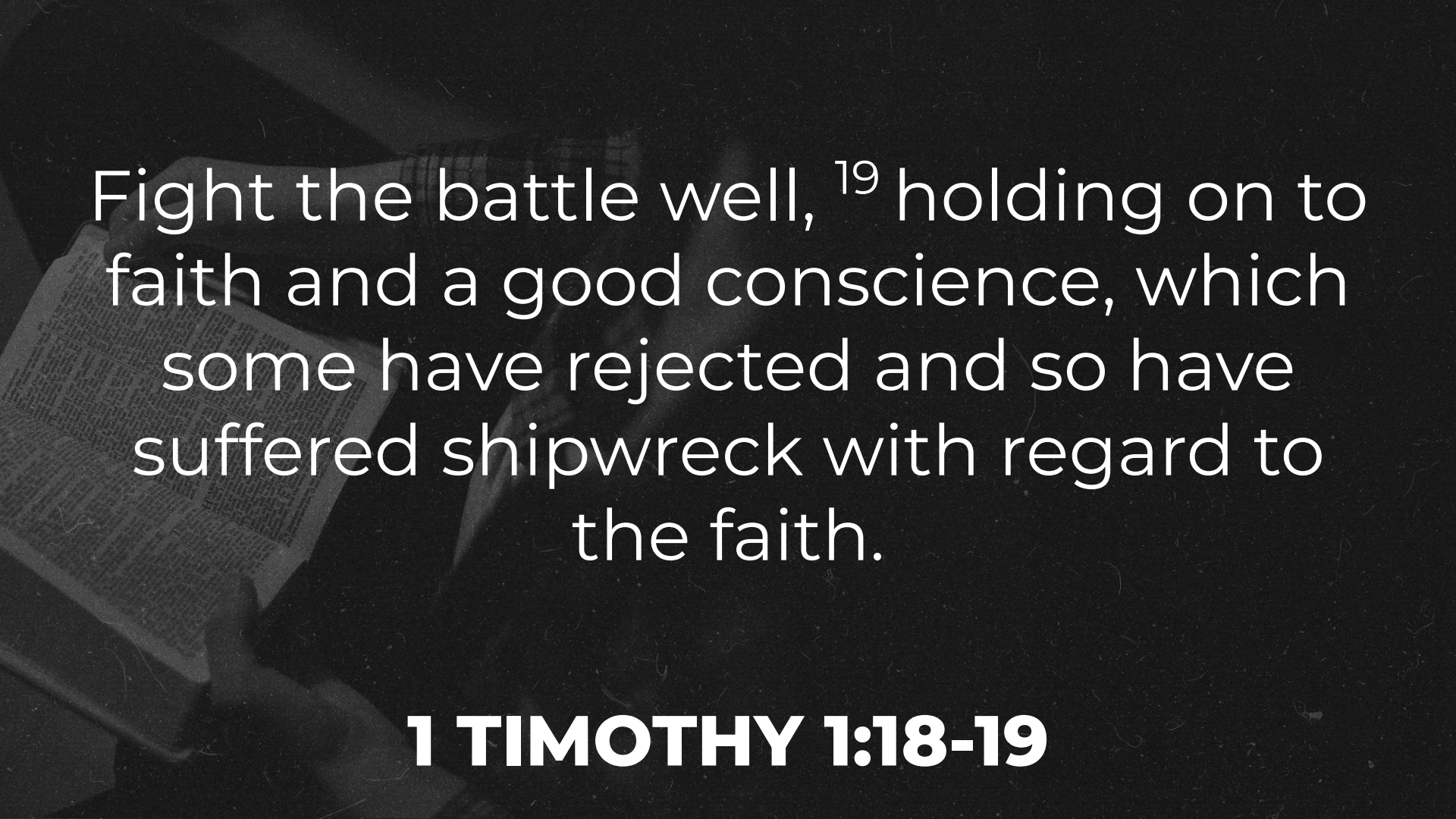
A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and textured. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif font.

Your enemy the devil prowls around
like a roaring lion looking for
someone to devour.

1 PETER 5:8

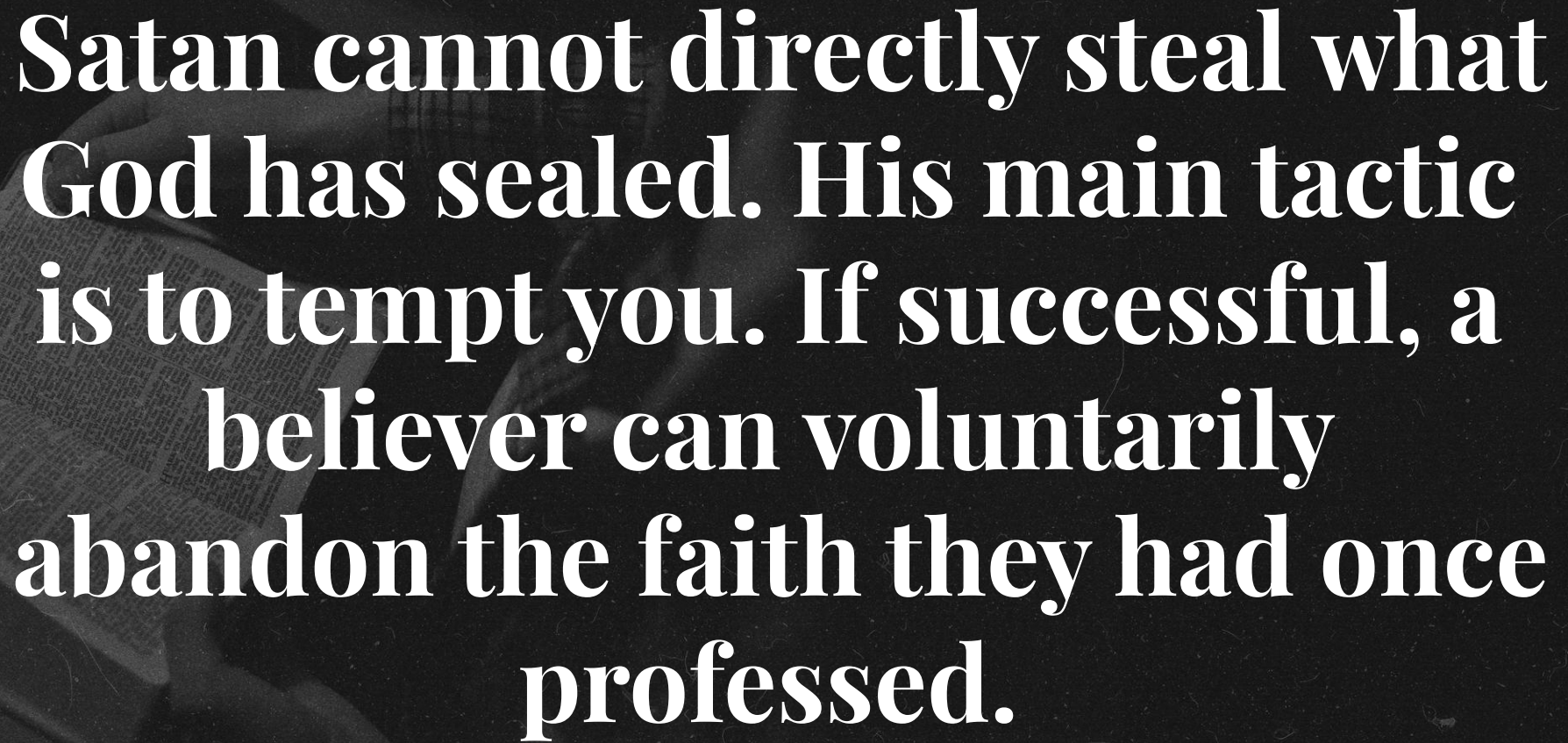
A dark, grainy, black and white photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

**To be clear, if we let him,
Satan is the greatest threat
to the church.**

A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible. The text is overlaid in white, making it stand out against the dark background. The person's face is not visible, focusing attention on the act of reading and the text itself.

Fight the battle well, ¹⁹ holding on to
faith and a good conscience, which
some have rejected and so have
suffered shipwreck with regard to
the faith.

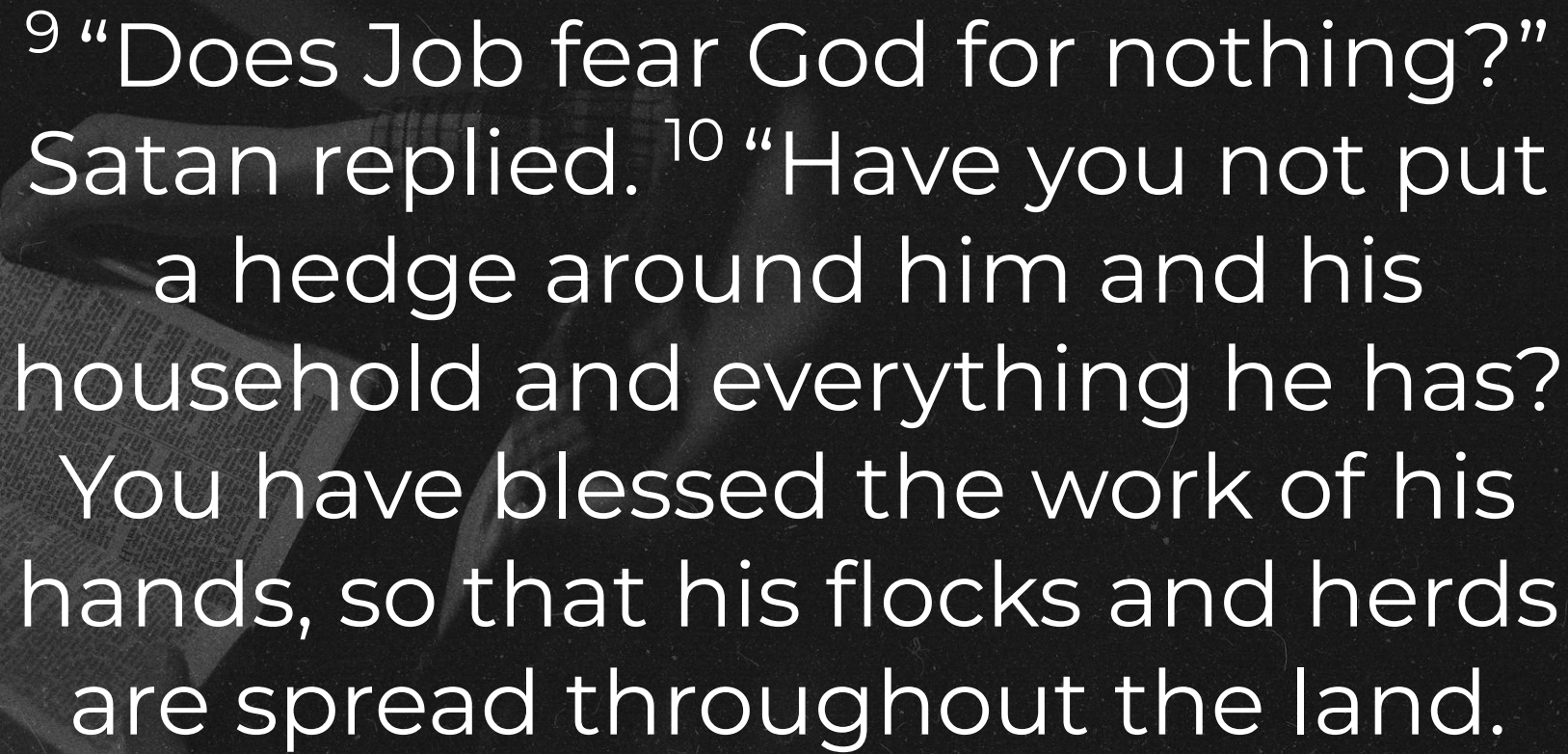
1 TIMOTHY 1:18-19



Satan cannot directly steal what God has sealed. His main tactic is to tempt you. If successful, a believer can voluntarily abandon the faith they had once professed.

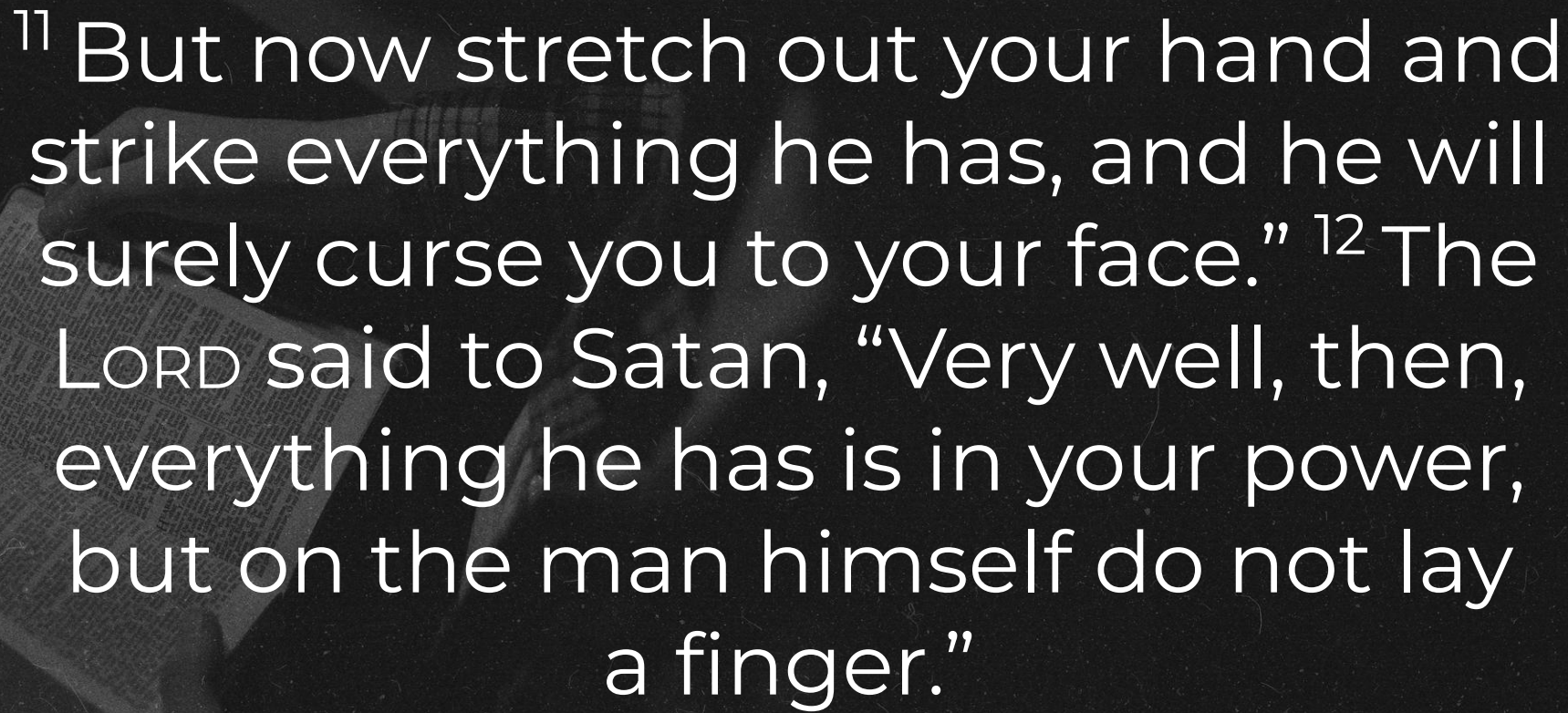
A dark, grainy, black and white photograph of a person's hands holding and reading a newspaper. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and indistinct. The text is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

**Satan wins only when we let
him win. Satan operates on
the basis of consent.**

A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The Bible is open to a page with dense text. The background is dark and textured. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif font.

⁹ “Does Job fear God for nothing?”
Satan replied. ¹⁰ “Have you not put
a hedge around him and his
household and everything he has?
You have blessed the work of his
hands, so that his flocks and herds
are spread throughout the land.

JOB 1:9-12



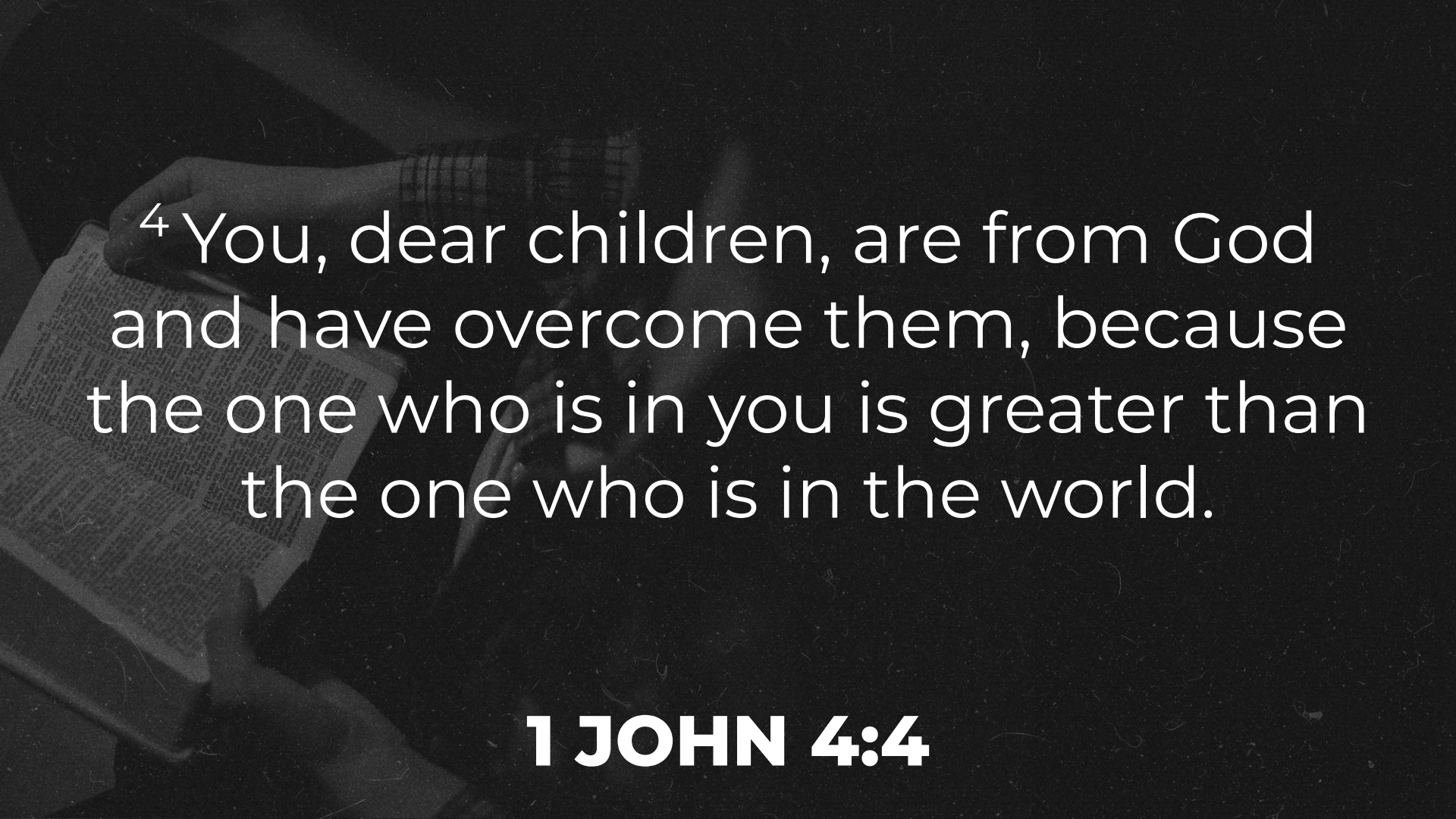
¹¹ But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” ¹² The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”

JOB 1:9-12

A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and textured. The text is overlaid in white.

Blameless and upright, [one] who
fears God and shuns evil.

JOB 1:8

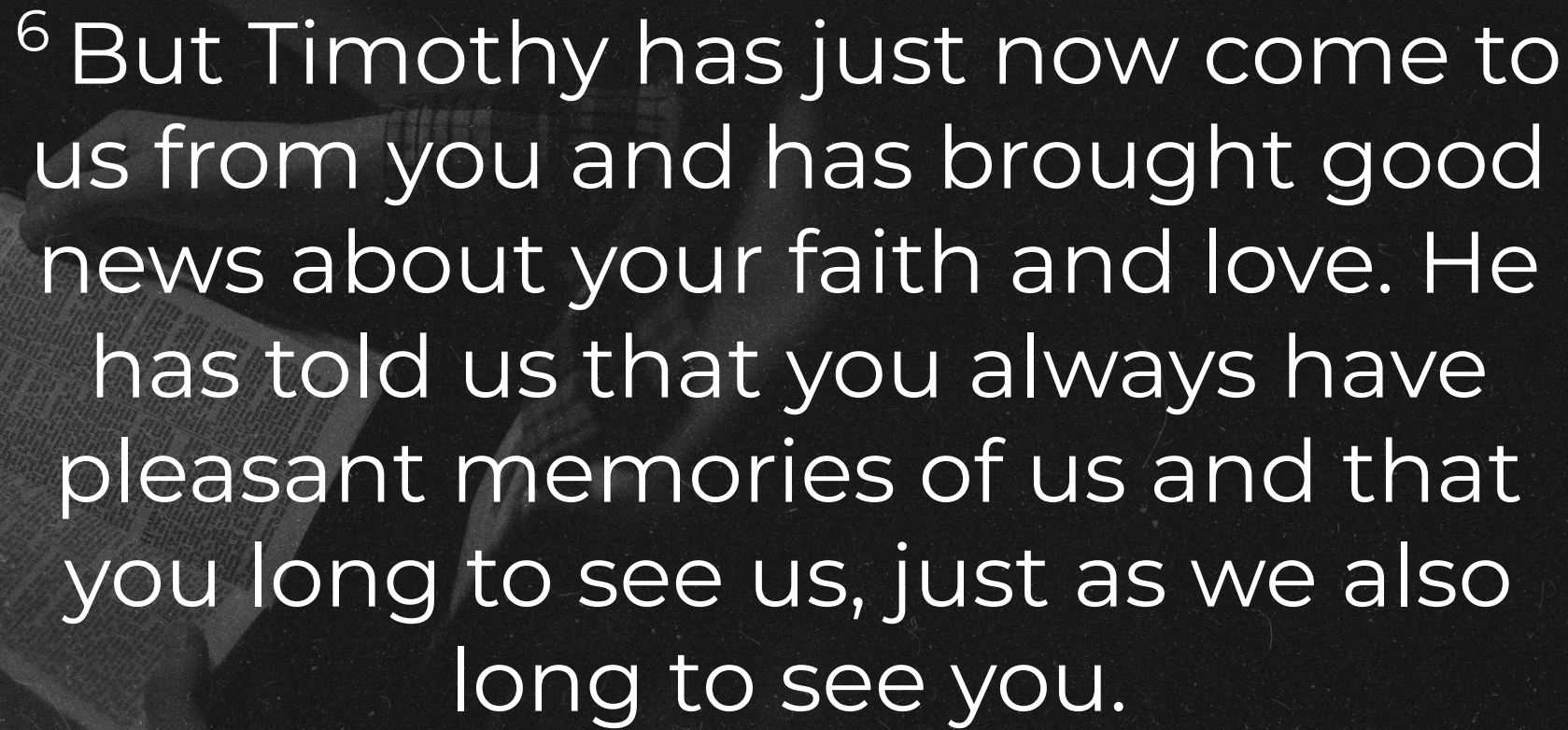
A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif font.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 JOHN 4:4

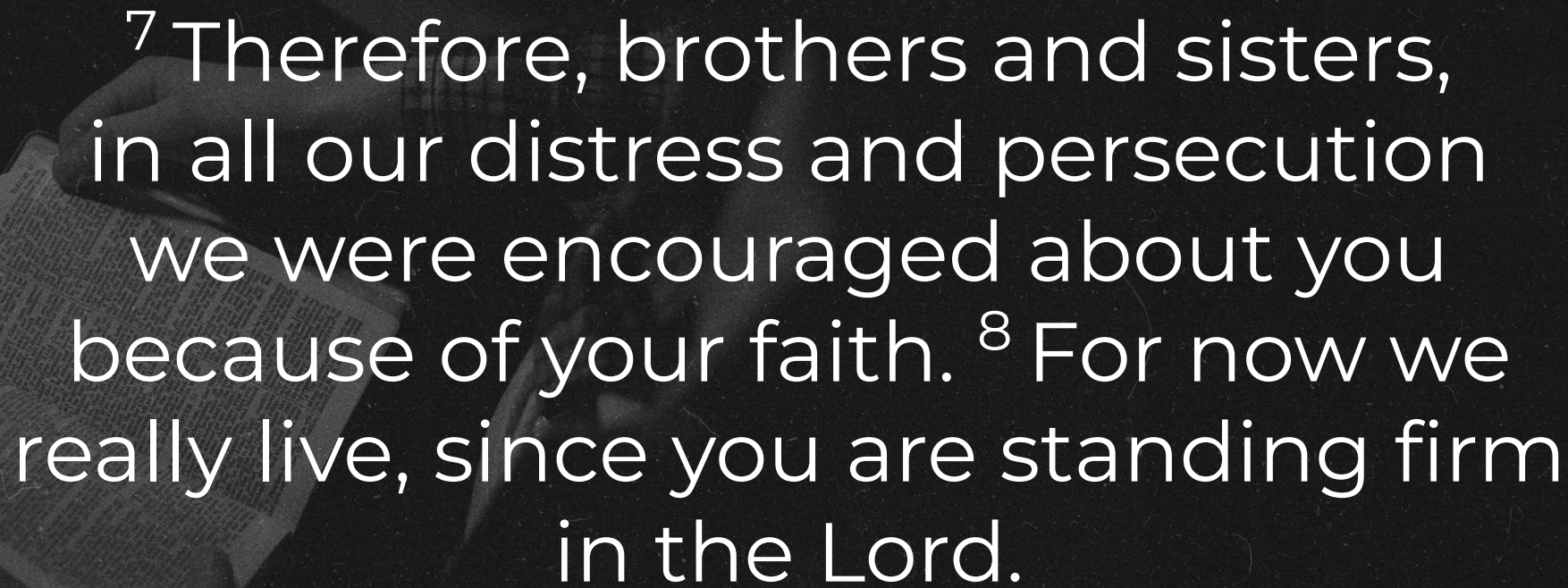
A black and white photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the left creating a bright highlight on the person's arm and the left page of the Bible, while the rest of the scene is in deep shadow. The text 'STANDING FIRM IN THE LORD' is overlaid in large, white, serif capital letters across the center of the image.

STANDING FIRM IN THE LORD

A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open book, likely a Bible. The text is overlaid in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in a paragraph, with a superscript '6' at the beginning of the first line. The overall tone is solemn and reflective.

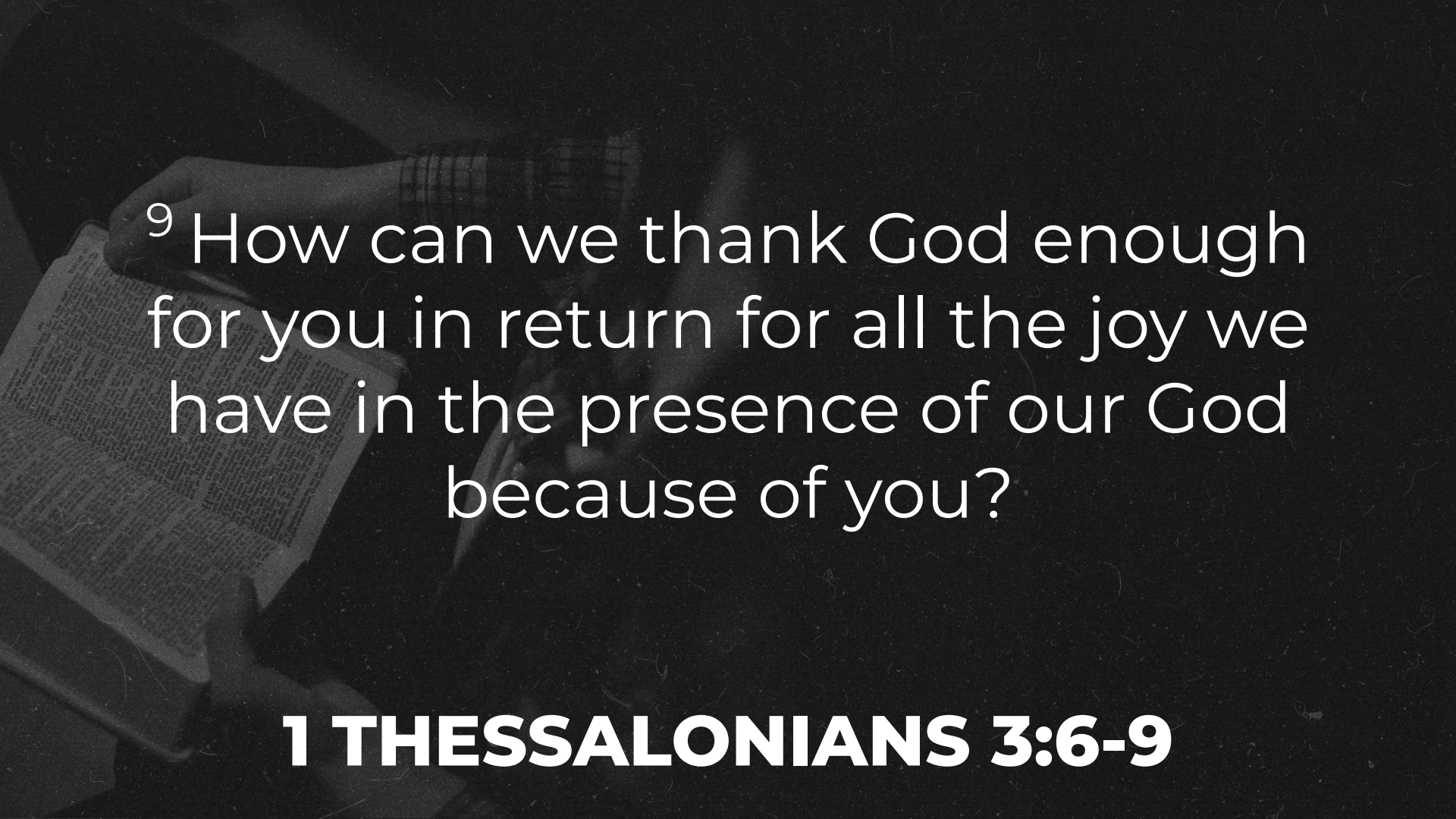
⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-9

A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible, with the text of the Bible visible on the pages. The lighting is low, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere.

⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters,
in all our distress and persecution
we were encouraged about you
because of your faith. ⁸ For now we
really live, since you are standing firm
in the Lord.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-9

A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a plaid shirt, holding an open Bible. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from the Bible's pages, which are clearly visible. The background is dark and out of focus.

⁹ How can we thank God enough
for you in return for all the joy we
have in the presence of our God
because of you?

1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-9

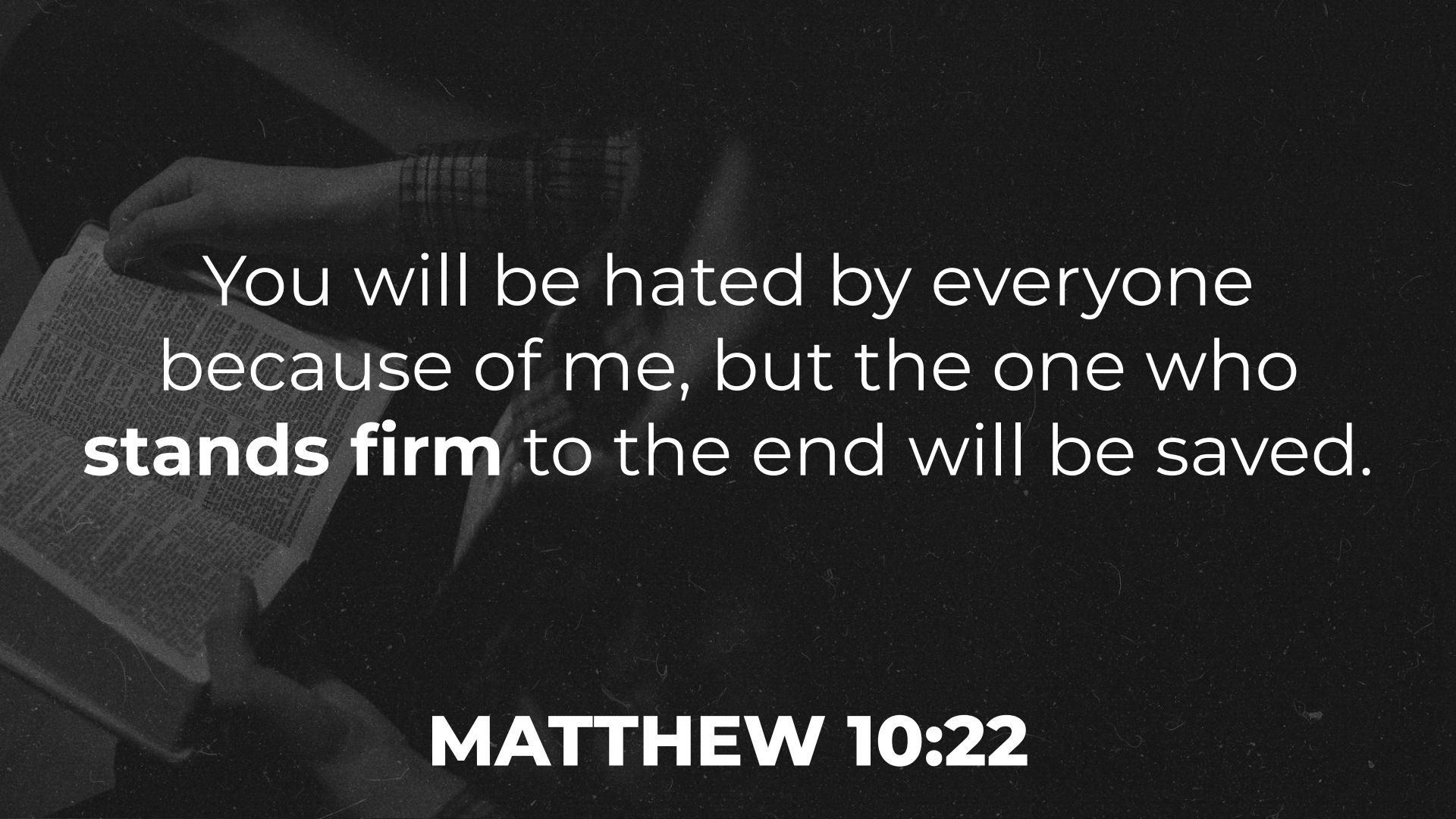
A dark, grainy, black and white photograph of a person's hands holding and reading a newspaper. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong light source from the right creating a bright beam of light across the center. The text is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

Standing firm is the true
test of faith.

A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif font.

Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

PSALM 62:2 & 62:6

A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid in white, with 'stands firm' in bold.

You will be hated by everyone
because of me, but the one who
stands firm to the end will be saved.

MATTHEW 10:22

A dark, grainy photograph of a person's hands holding and reading a newspaper. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

¹⁹ **Stand firm,** and you will win life.

LUKE 21:19

A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

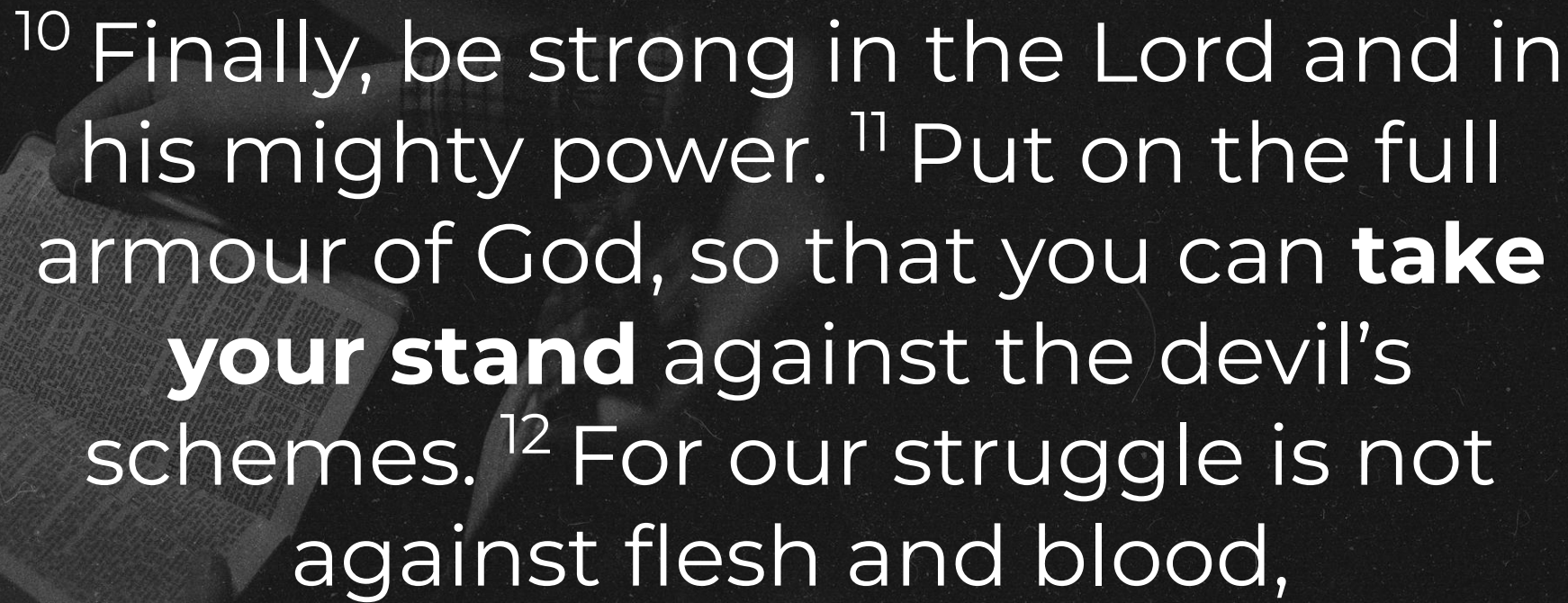
⁸ You too, be patient and **stand firm**,
because the Lord's coming is near.

JAMES 5:8

A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

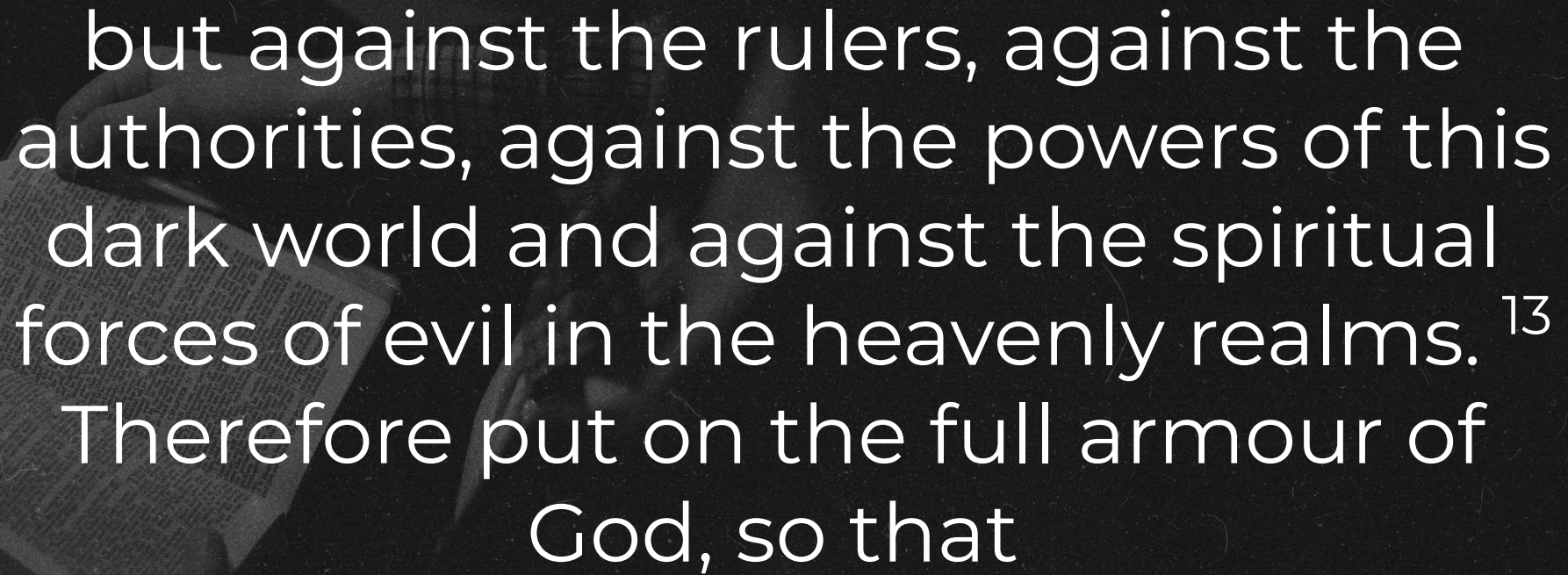
¹² So, if you think you are **standing firm**, be careful that you don't fall!

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12

A grayscale background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can **take your stand** against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,

EPHESIANS 6:10-14



but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.¹³
Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that

EPHESIANS 6:10-14

A dark, moody background image showing a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the person's fingers are visible at the bottom of the frame. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

when the day of evil comes, you may
be able to **stand your ground**, and
after you have done everything, to
stand. ¹⁴ **Stand firm then.**

EPHESIANS 6:10-14

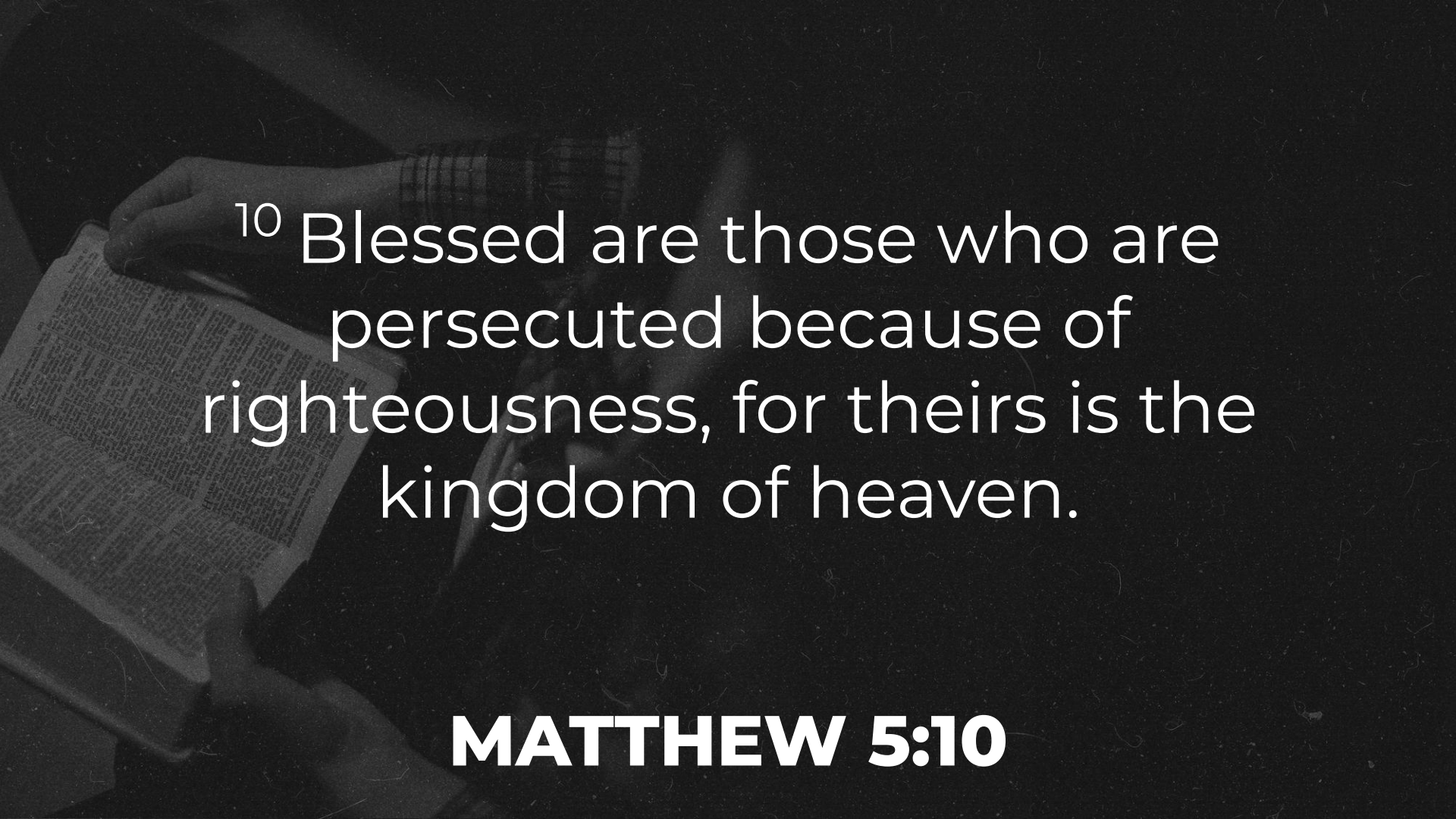
A black and white photograph of a person's arm and hand holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

SERMON RECAP

- 1) PERSECUTED BY THE PEOPLE**
- 2) TEMPTED BY THE TEMPTER**
- 3) STANDING FIRM IN THE LORD**

A dark, grainy, black and white photograph of a person's hands holding and reading a newspaper. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The text is overlaid in the center-right of the image.

**The cry for inclusivity
will include everyone
but Christians.**

A dark, moody photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The Bible is open to a page with dense text. The background is dark and out of focus.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are
persecuted because of
righteousness, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:10



1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

MARANATHA: OUR LORD, COME!

THESSALONIANS
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