



WELCOME
TO
SELAH
סלה

Our annual journey to the cross is here

Relax. Rest. Breathe. For the next two hours nothing else matters but you, us, & God.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES



LENT



*A reminder of invitation in this
season of Lent*

Come and See..

-Jesus

& a reminder of who we are and why we are here.

We are a community of seekers trying to live with God in this world




**Our liturgy, Our service to God,
Our work of God, Our Opus Dei**

The Invitatory

Blow the ram's horn, God is here...





The Lord be with you
And Also with you.

Breathe deeply, God is here.
Here is this place of rest and refuge.

God is our lamp
He makes our darkness bright.



The Preparation

We are somber in your presence

Father prepare our hearts

We remember your blessings

Father prepare our hearts

We relinquish our hearts

Father prepare our hearts



The Peace

Quiet the noise in our lives;
that we might better hear Your word

Turn down the volume;
that we might better hear Your word

Quiet the storm;
that we might better hear Your word



The Promise

We understand what truly matters

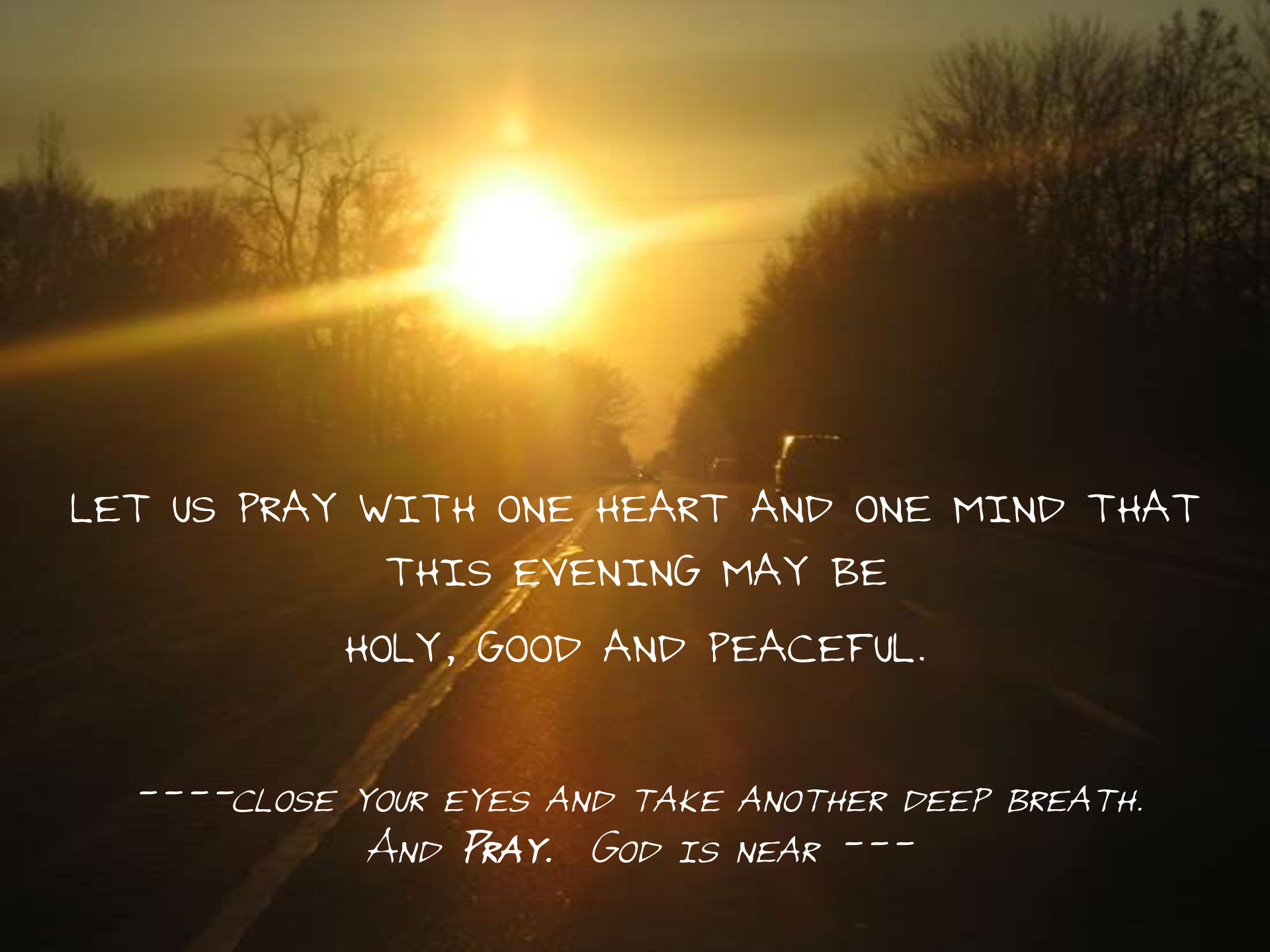
Keep us focused on Your word

We're not giving up to gain approval

Keep us focused on Your word

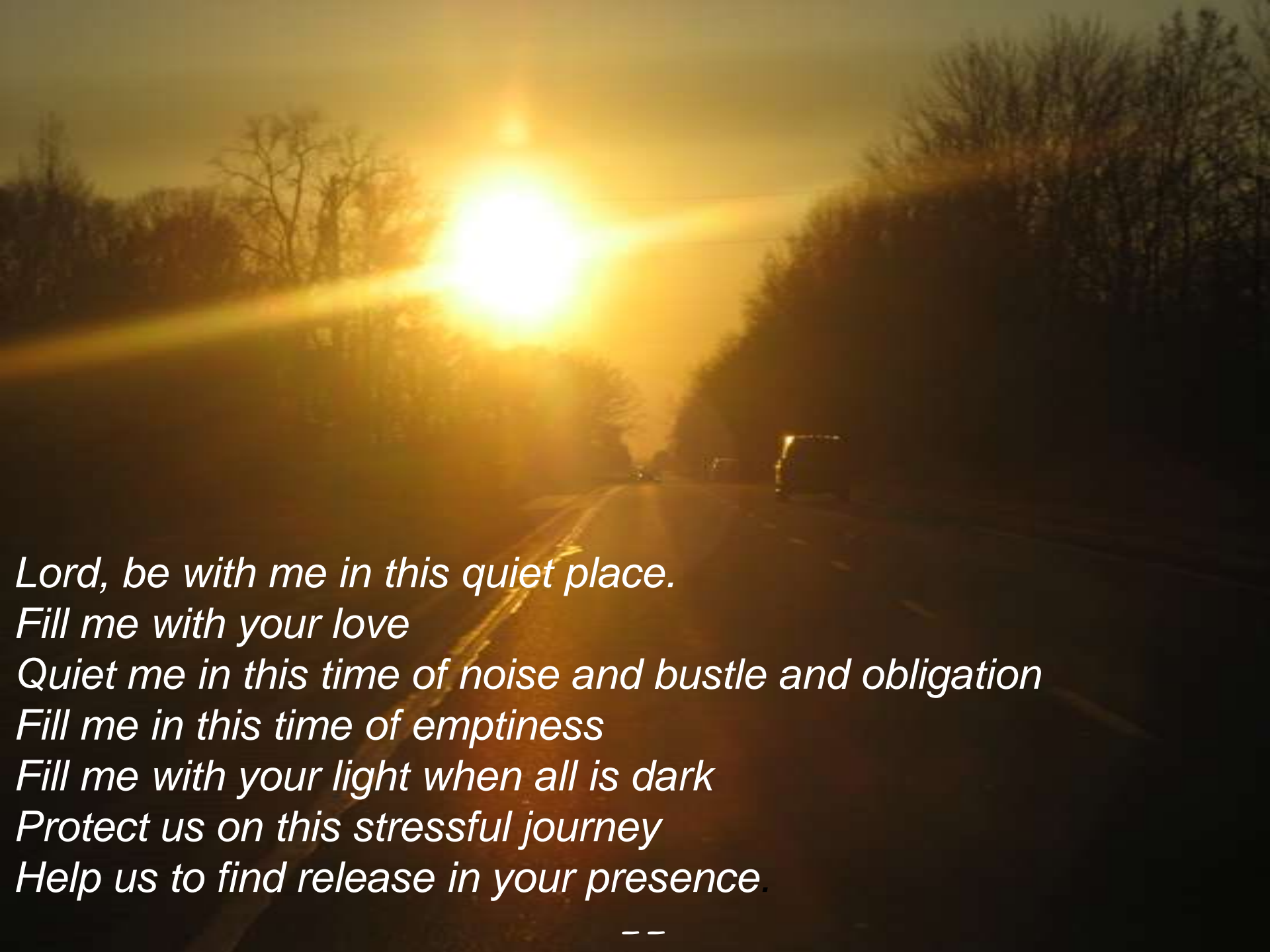
We wish to remember your presence in our lives

Keep us focused on Your word



LET US PRAY WITH ONE HEART AND ONE MIND THAT
THIS EVENING MAY BE
HOLY, GOOD AND PEACEFUL.

-----CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE ANOTHER DEEP BREATH.
AND PRAY. GOD IS NEAR ----



*Lord, be with me in this quiet place.
Fill me with your love
Quiet me in this time of noise and bustle and obligation
Fill me in this time of emptiness
Fill me with your light when all is dark
Protect us on this stressful journey
Help us to find release in your presence.*

A Sound bite from God:



**Blessed be God, who has given peace to his people Israel
just as he said he'd do.**

**Not one of all those good and wonderful words
that he spoke through Moses has misfired.**

**May God, our very own God, continue to be with us just as he was with our ancestors—
may he never give up and walk out on us.**

**May he keep us centered and devoted to him, following the life path he has cleared,
watching the signposts, walking at the pace and rhythms
he laid down for our ancestors.**

From the first book of Kings, Chap 8, 56-58



COME.
STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC...

FOR TWO HOURS STEP AWAY FROM... FOR TWO HOURS STEP OUT OF...
FOR TWO HOURS LEAVE BEHIND...
FOR TWO HOURS...

Step out of the traffic & take a long loving look at God



Be here. Be with each other. Be with God.

The lighting of the candles



Praying with the Church:

All we have came only from You
Everything we hope for
Will only come from Your love
All that we enjoy You gave us freely.
Everything we ask for is only Yours to give.

Give us the light to understand.
Put fire behind our will.
Be at the beginning of all we begin.
Excite our love, strengthen our weakness, encompass our desire.

Shield our thoughts and cradles our bodies
And as we breathe this prayer, in our hearts may we feel Your presence.

We are a thankful people.

We give thanks to God:

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW

PRAISE HIM ABOVE YE HEAVENLY HOSTS

PRAISE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST.



We are a thankful people.

We pause to remember
Our friend Affisu
And our commitment
To be community with him.



We are thankful for the food that has been
lovingly prepared for us by our parents.

And we give thanks for each other:



LET'S

Eat

the Searching

*Hear God's invitation
Hear God's call*



In lent we are encouraged to care for those things which ultimately matter and to leave behind those things which inhibit our participation in the life of God and the life around us”

- Steven Purcell



**Our liturgy, Our service to God,
Our work of God, Our Opus Dei**

A person is lying on their back on a rocky shore, looking up at the sky with hands clasped in prayer. The person is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background shows a body of water and a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

The Lenten Postures:

Helping us return to God.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in *the way* everlasting. *From Psalm 139*

The Lenten Practice.



Help us to be more peaceful and rested;

According to your word, Father

Help us to be the people we seek to be;

According to your word, Father

Help us to come out of our human denial;

According to Your word, Father

**Help us to come out of our protective shell
And to spread our wings;**

According to Your word, Father

Help us to make time to praise you;

According to Your word, Father

**Lent:
Seeking
new
Life
from
Old
bones**

Indescribable

**From the highest of heights to the
depths of the sea**

Creation's revealing your majesty

**From the colors of Fall to the Fragrance
of Spring**

**Every creature unique in the song that
is sings, All exclaiming**



Indescribable Uncontainable

You placed the stars in the sky and you
know them by name

You are amazing, God

All powerful untamable

**Awestruck we fall to our knees as we
humbly proclaim**

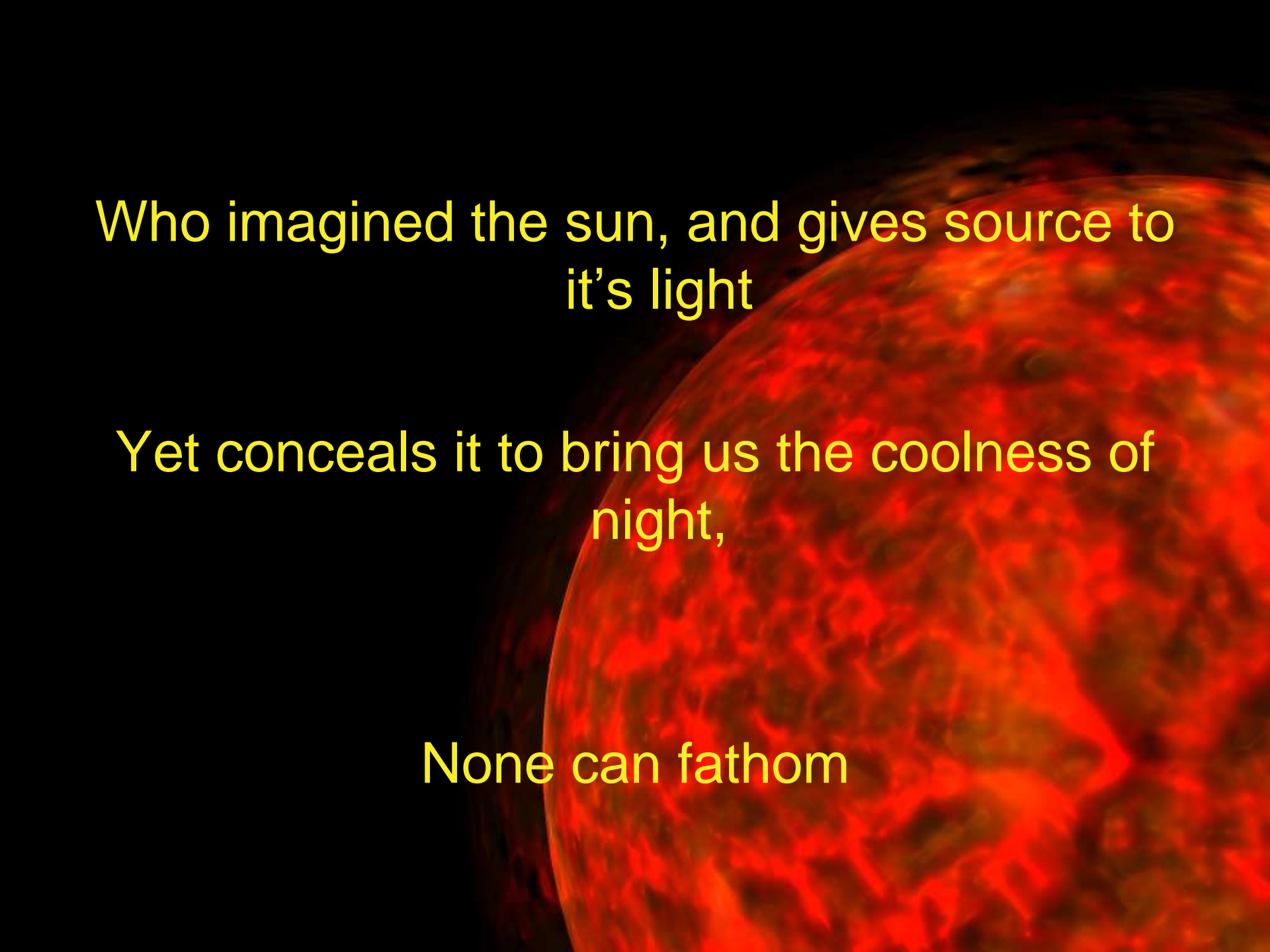
You are amazing God



A winter scene with a snow-covered ground and evergreen trees. The sun is shining from the top left, creating a bright glow and casting shadows. The text is overlaid in red with a black outline.

**Who has told every lightning bolt where
it should go.**

**Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with
snow.**



Who imagined the sun, and gives source to
it's light

Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of
night,

None can fathom



Indescribable Uncontainable

You placed the stars in the sky and you
know them by name

You are amazing, God

All powerful untamable

**Awestruck we fall to our knees as we
humbly proclaim**

You are amazing God

You are amazing God



Incomparable, unchangeable

**You see the depths of my heart and you
love me the same**

You are amazing God

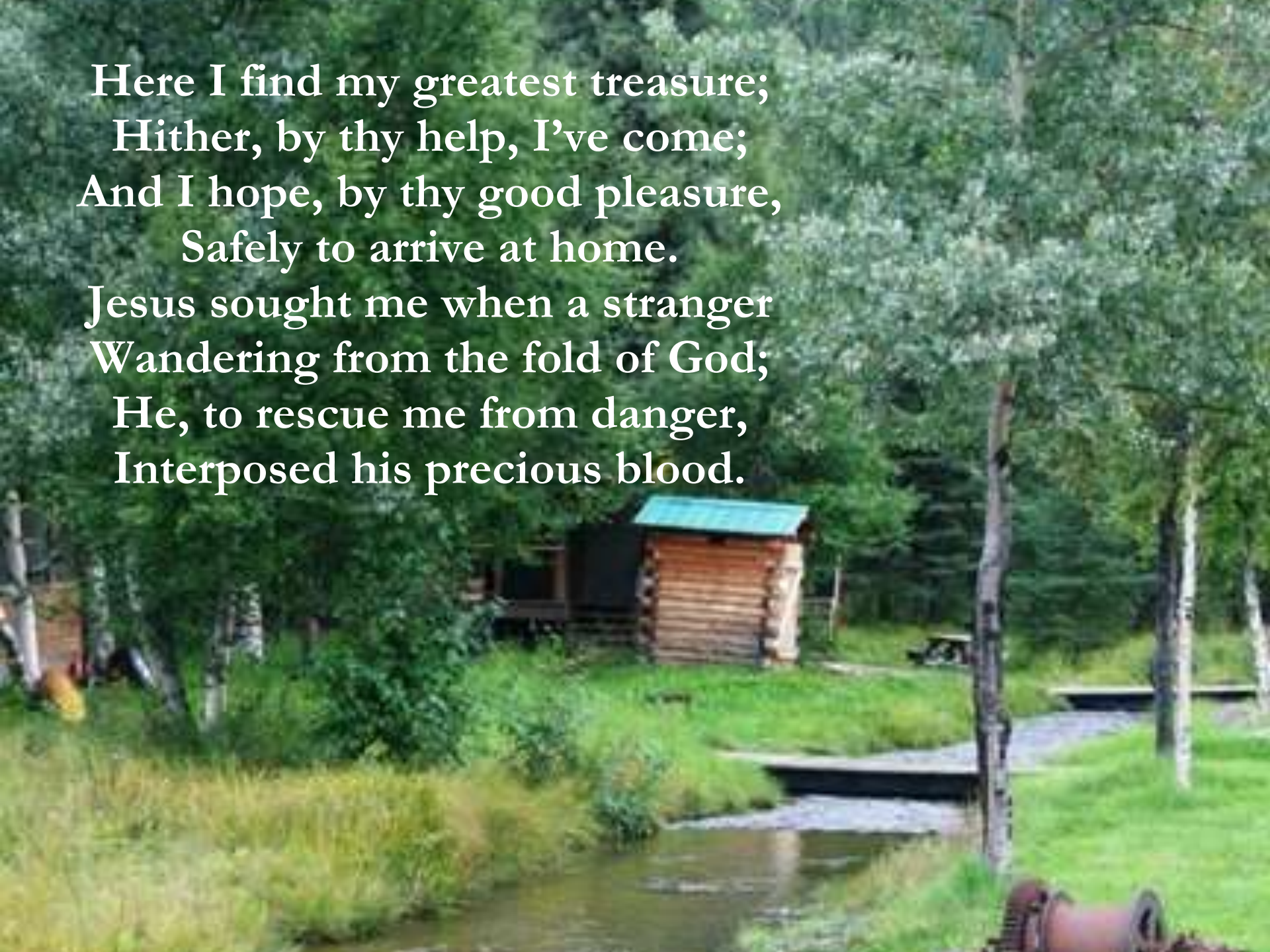
You are amazing God

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
Hither, by thy help, I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.





Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thou goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee;
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Oh, take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Psalm 20

¹May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

²May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

³May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices!

Selah

⁴May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!

⁵May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions!

⁶Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.

⁷Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

⁸They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.

⁹O LORD, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

The Practice: making it more than words we read.

As a deer for flowing water longs
So my soul, O Lord longs for you.



*As it was
in the
beginning
Is now
And will be
FOREVER MORE*





“Come let
us reason
together.”
says the
Lord.

*-through the
Prophet Isaiah
chapter 1:19*

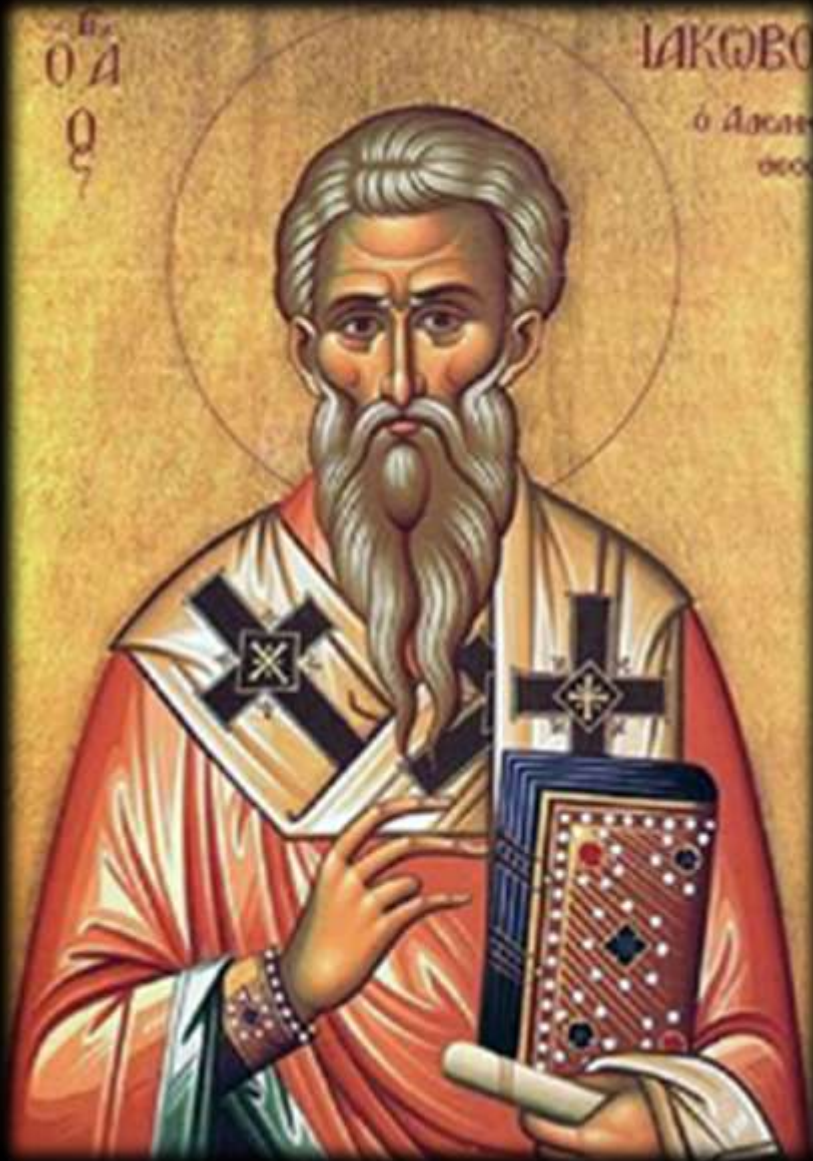
Why we read from The Bible.

- The map of God's reality.
- A compass to help us through this world.
- Not a code of behavior, a list of do's and don'ts.
- Helps us return to the created order.
- Points us to the way life was intended to be.
- The story contained within the scriptures help us to make sense of the story we live in today.
- The point isn't the story itself, the point is God and God's work in this world and in our lives.

Isn't this the carpenter? The son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?



The letter of James *the Just*, the brother of Jesus.
One of the three pillars of the early church.
The “Adelphotheos” in Greek.



About the Letter of James

- James was Bishop in Jerusalem
- Written to Jewish Christian house churches outside of Palestine
- James was martyred 62 AD
- We think the letter was written mid 40's
- Conflict with the world and conflict within the church
- Basic theme: living the faith versus knowing the faith.
- Doesn't have the format of an "epistle" but rather is a collection of wisdom sayings.

Faith in Action

¹⁴⁻¹⁷Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? ¹⁸I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department."

Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.

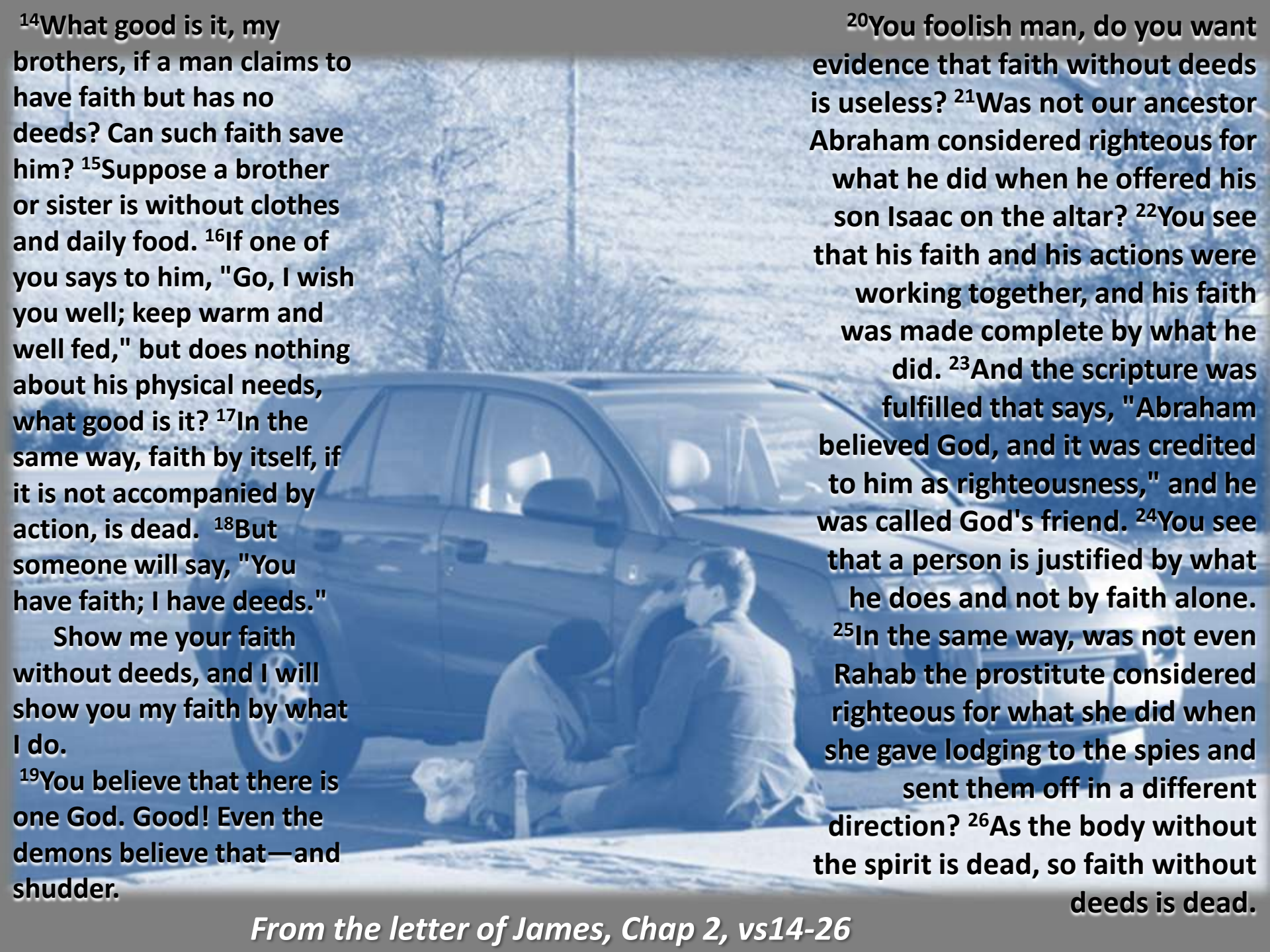
¹⁹⁻²⁰Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them?

From the letter of James, Chap 2, vs14-26

Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

²¹⁻²⁴Wasn't our ancestor Abraham "made right with God by works" when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? Isn't it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are "works of faith"? The full meaning of "believe" in the Scripture sentence, "Abraham believed God and was set right with God," includes his action. It's that mesh of believing and acting that got Abraham named "God's friend." Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?

²⁵⁻²⁶The same with Rahab, the Jericho harlot. Wasn't her action in hiding God's spies and helping them escape—that seamless unity of believing and doing—what counted with God? The very moment you separate body and spirit, you end up with a corpse. Separate faith and works and you get the same thing: a corpse.



¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

¹⁹You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. ²⁵In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

From the letter of James, Chap 2, vs14-26



A Practice:
Listening and Responding to God

CONVERSATIONS

Because *WE'RE IN THIS THING TOGETHER.*



LENT AS TRAINING GROUND

And we don't want to just talk about it but we want
To work this out into the details of our everyday life.

Benediction:

May you go from here unafraid and in peace holding close the hands with which you share this way. May you find yourself this lent returning to life as it should be, life lived with God and with each other. May you hear God inviting you to get in on his work in this world. And may you come to find your place in the story God has been telling since the beginning of time.

Go in peace and heal your world.

SHALOM



Peace · Be · Unto · You