

Genesis 17:1-27 (ESV)

Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty;[a] walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” 3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, 4 “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram,[b] but your name shall be Abraham,[c] for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

9 And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. 10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, 13 both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Isaac's Birth Promised 15 And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah[d] shall be her name.

16 I will bless her, and moreover, I will give[e] you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” 18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” 19 God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac.[f] I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. 20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.

21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

22 When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. 23 Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. 24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26 That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. 27 And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Genesis 18:9-15 (ESV)

9 They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” 10 The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” 13 The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’

14 Is anything too hard[a] for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” 15 But Sarah denied it,[b] saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Questions

1. Are you going through some struggles lately?
Do you feel that God has abandoned you and is not hearing your prayers?
2. Are you faithfully staying the course and waiting patiently for God direction or taking matter into your own hands?



BELATED REWARDS
Genesis 17:1-27; 18:9-15



GOD PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

THE LAND THAT I SHOW YOU

– Genesis 12:1

ALL THE LAND THAT YOU SEE

– Genesis 13:15

**THE RIVER OF EGYPT TO THE GREAT RIVER, THE
RIVER EUPHRATES**

– Genesis 15:19

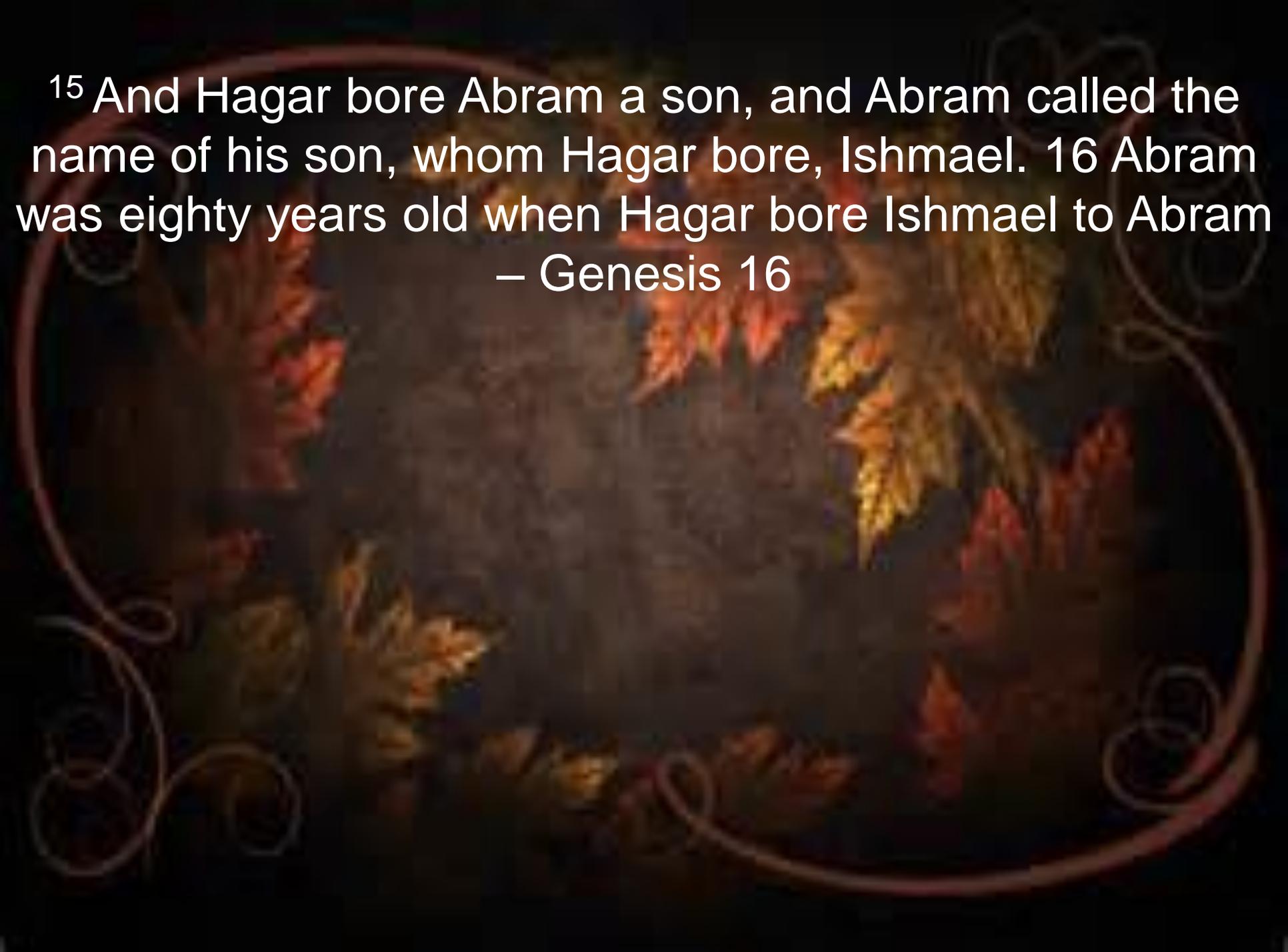
² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And **God said to him**, ⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be **the father of a multitude of nations.** ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And **I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings,** all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.— Genesis 17”

GOD PROMISE OF DESCENDANTS

- 1. GREAT NATION – Genesis 12:2**
- 2. DESCENDANTS – Genesis 13:16**
- 3. SON – Genesis 15:4**
- 4. ISAAC – Genesis 17:19**

God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

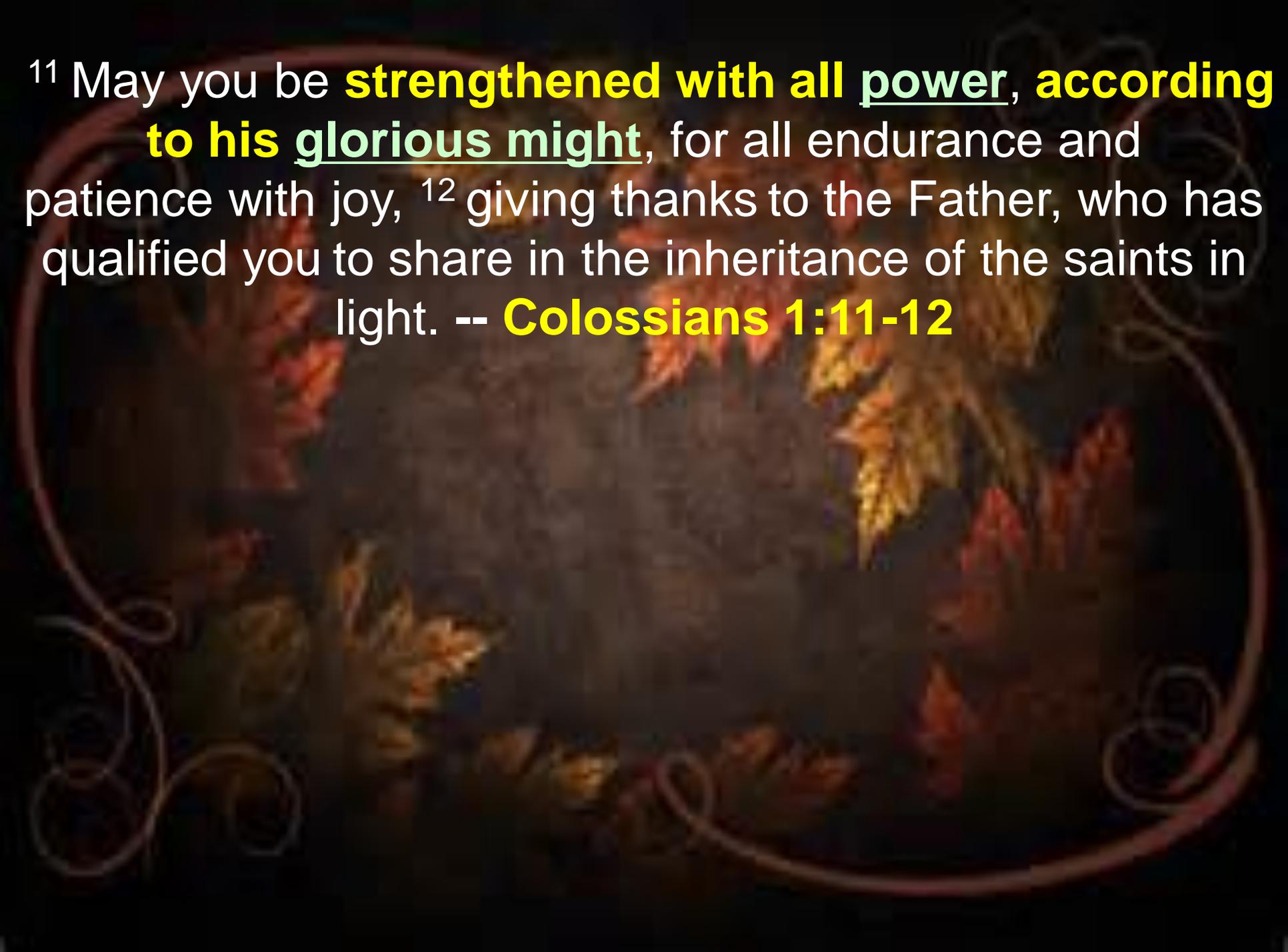
¹⁵ And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram
– Genesis 16

The background of the slide is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric, adorned with several clusters of autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, and yellow. A thin, dark circular line frames the entire scene, with decorative, swirling patterns extending from the bottom and sides.

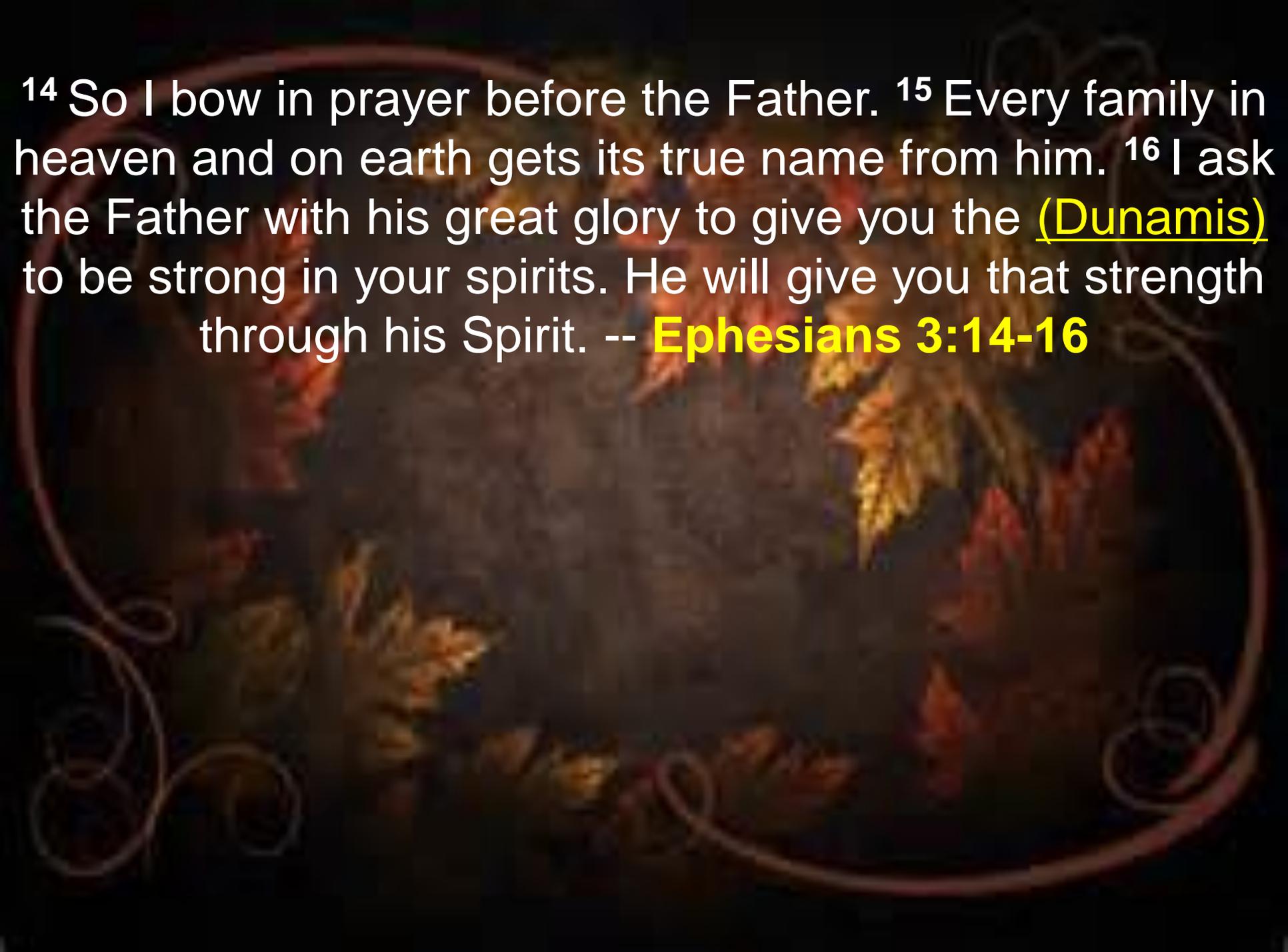
¹ When Abram was **ninety-nine years old**
the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am
God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, --
Genesis 17

Both Abram and Sarai had yet to discover and trust the Lord as “God Almighty” – El Shaddai. (Genesis 17:1a)

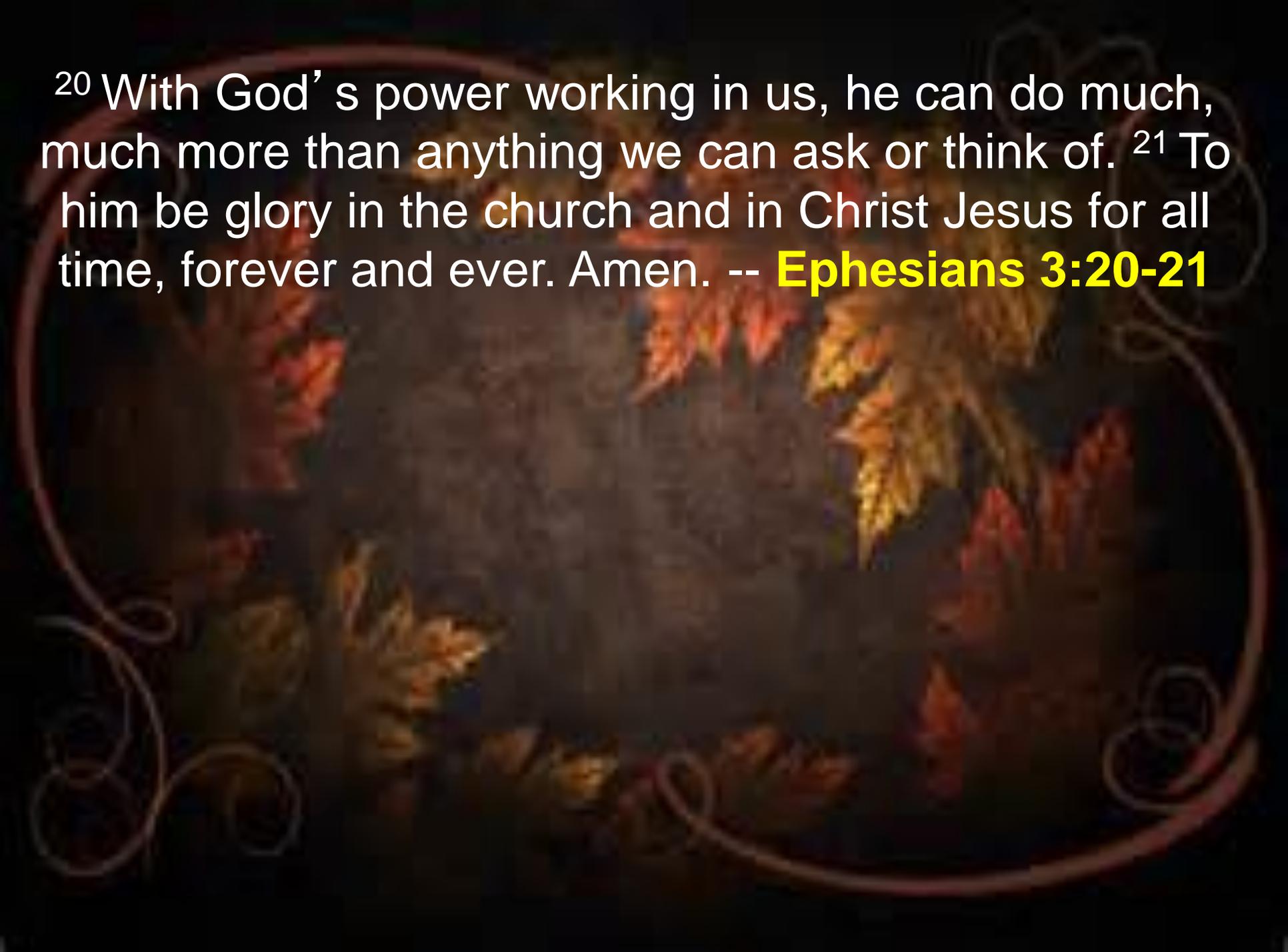




¹¹ May you be **strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might**, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. -- **Colossians 1:11-12**



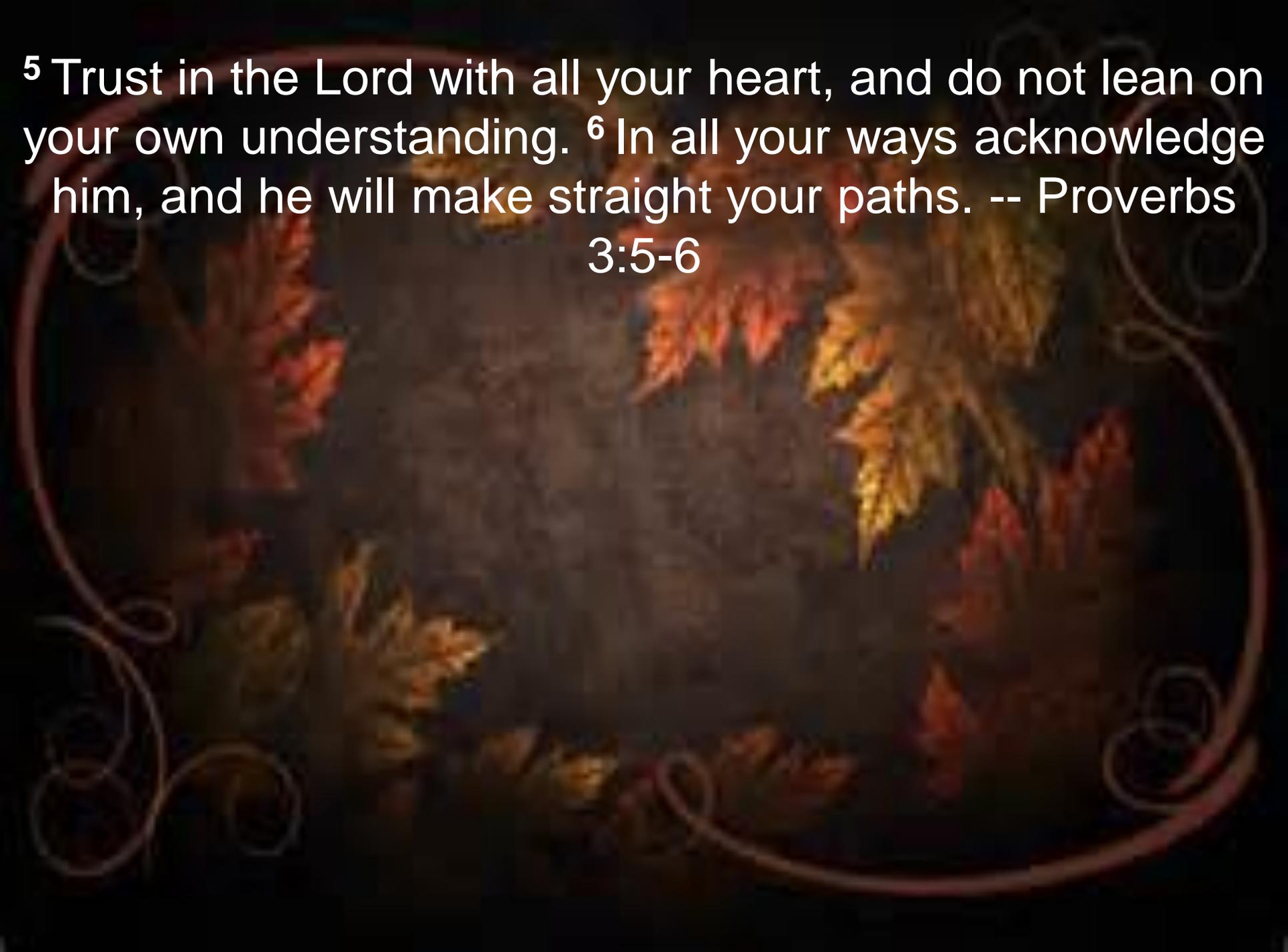
¹⁴ So I bow in prayer before the Father. ¹⁵ Every family in heaven and on earth gets its true name from him. ¹⁶ I ask the Father with his great glory to give you the (Dunamis) to be strong in your spirits. He will give you that strength through his Spirit. -- **Ephesians 3:14-16**



²⁰ With God's power working in us, he can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of. ²¹ To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever. Amen. -- **Ephesians 3:20-21**

¹⁵ And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” – Genesis 17

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. -- Proverbs 3:5-6



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also **lay aside every weight**, and sin which clings so closely, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**, ² **looking to Jesus**, the **founder and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. -- Hebrews 12

²² When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. ²³ Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. ²⁴ Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁵ And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁶ That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. ²⁷ And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him. – Genesis 17

¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as **a seal of the righteousness** that he had **by faith while he was still uncircumcised**. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well . –

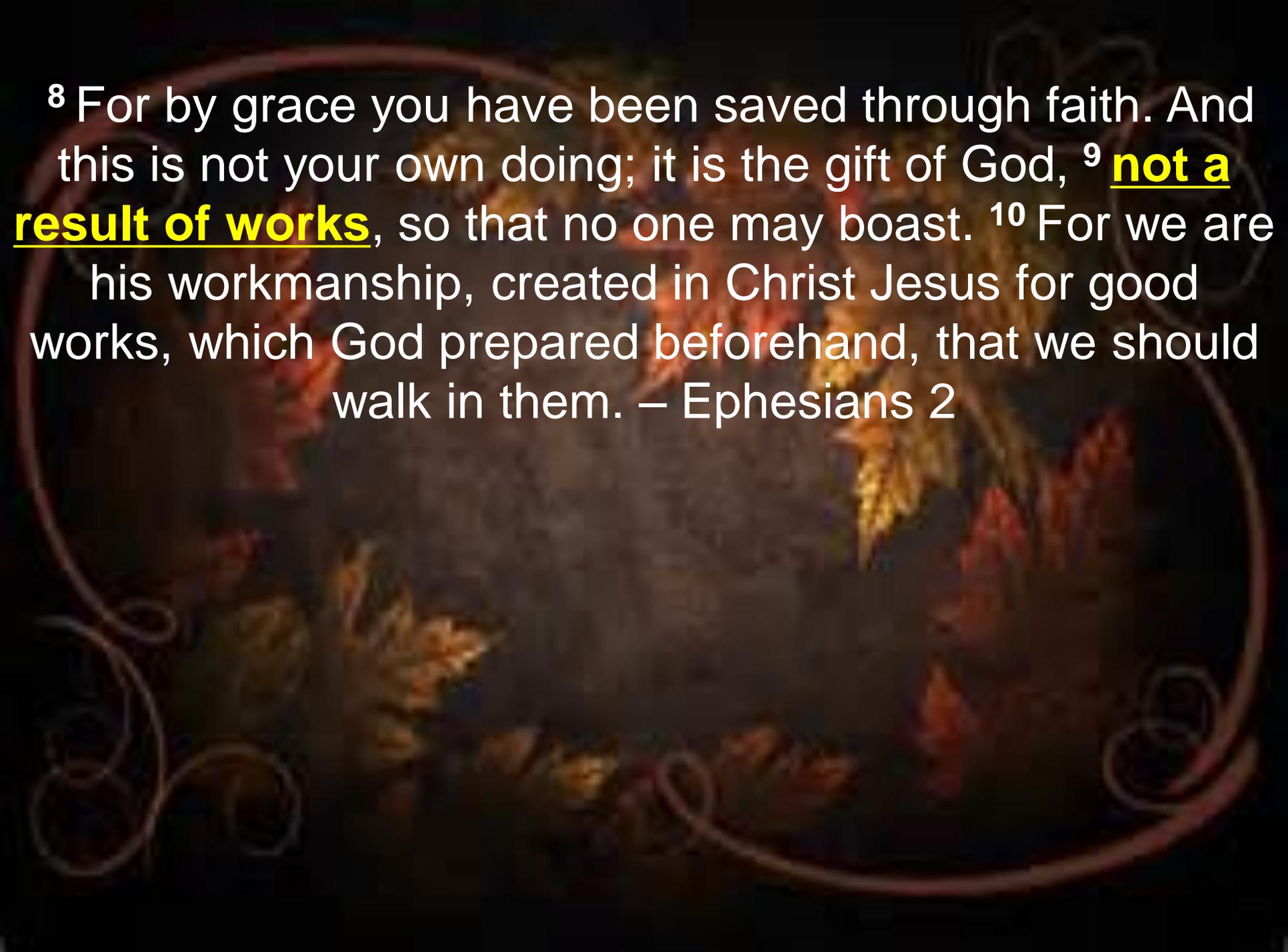
Romans 4



¹⁹ **Go** therefore and **make** disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
-- Matthew 28

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

-- Galatians 3



⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2

²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” —and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. -- James 2

⁹ They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” ¹⁰ The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵ But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.” -- **Genesis 18**

11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

– Hebrews 11:11



**7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power
and love and self-control.**

– 2 Timothy 1



Questions

1. Tell us your story. When has God come through for you when things looked impossible?
2. What are we to do when it looks like God is taking a long time to act?
3. What are we to avoid doing when it looks like God is taking a long time to act?

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

-- 1 Peter 2:9

GOD PROMISE TO US

- 5b for he has said,

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” --

Hebrews 13