

A Walk Through

the

Love

of

GOD



Truth: Love is what validates & empowers who a Christian is and what they do.

- It is possible to be obviously gifted by God, yet have no heavenly impact on anyone ... including myself.
 - to have obvious *spiritual gifts*, but produce no *spiritual fruit*.

The only environment in which following Jesus works is that of love ... like our Savior, it must be the air that we breathe in, speak in, proclaim in and serve in.



Issue: Just like us, the Christians of Corinth had everything they needed to follow Jesus effectively.

- they had all the gifts ... they were lacking in nothing. (12:27)
- they had the Holy Spirit ... they were filled with His presence. (12:13)

What they were missing was Love ... God's supernatural, irrational, selfless, unending Love - *Agape*.

1 Corinthians 12.

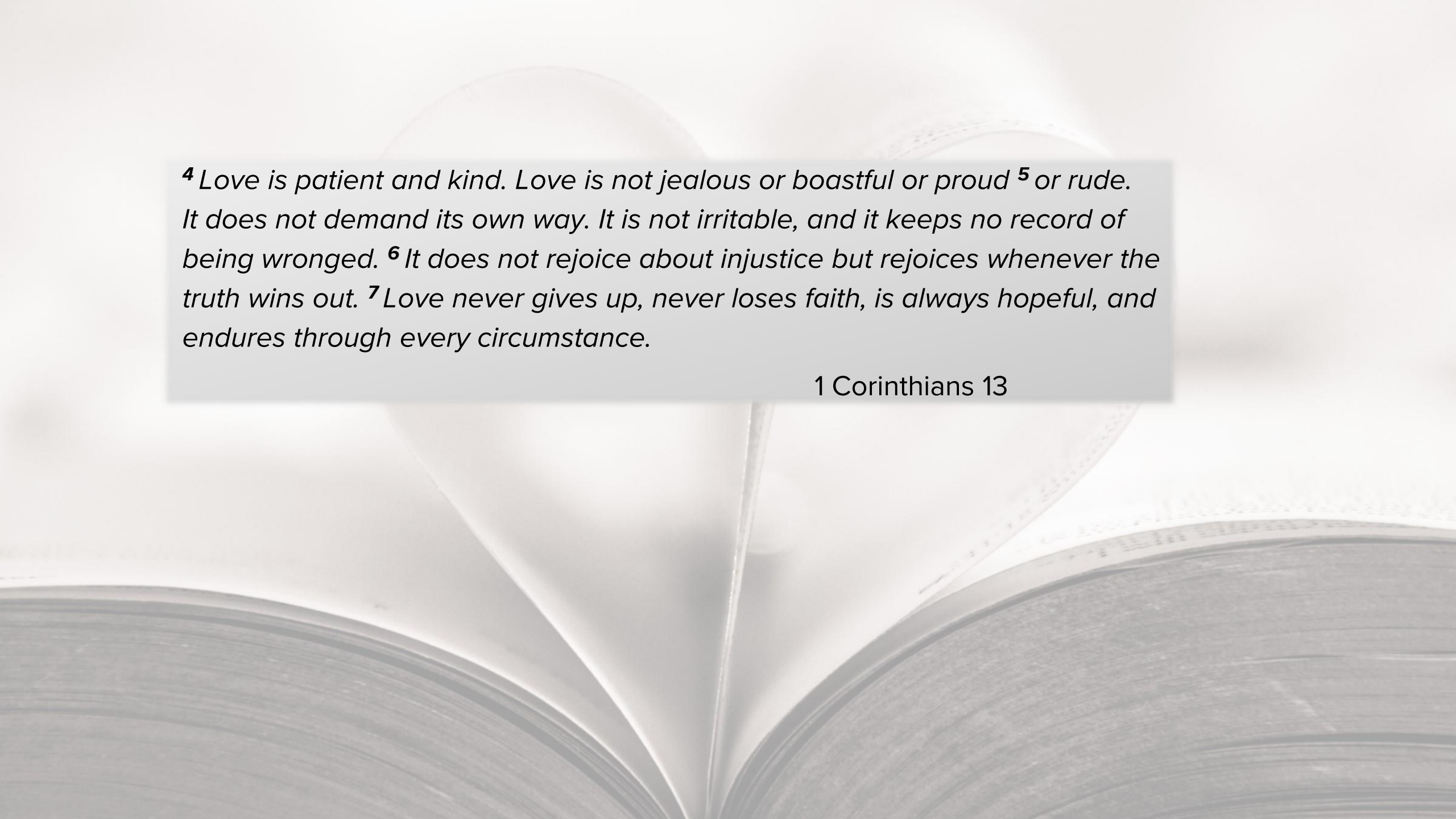
- *“Now about spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be uniformed.” (12:1)*

1 Corinthians 13

- *“Now I will show you the way of living that is best of all.” (12:31)*

1 Corinthians 14

- *“When you meet together, everything should be done in a orderly way, so that the congregation may be built up.” (14:26)*



⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Corinthians 13

Last Week: *What Love is not.* (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

1. Love is not **Words** ... it's not what I say. (v.1)

¹If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Last Week: *What Love is not*

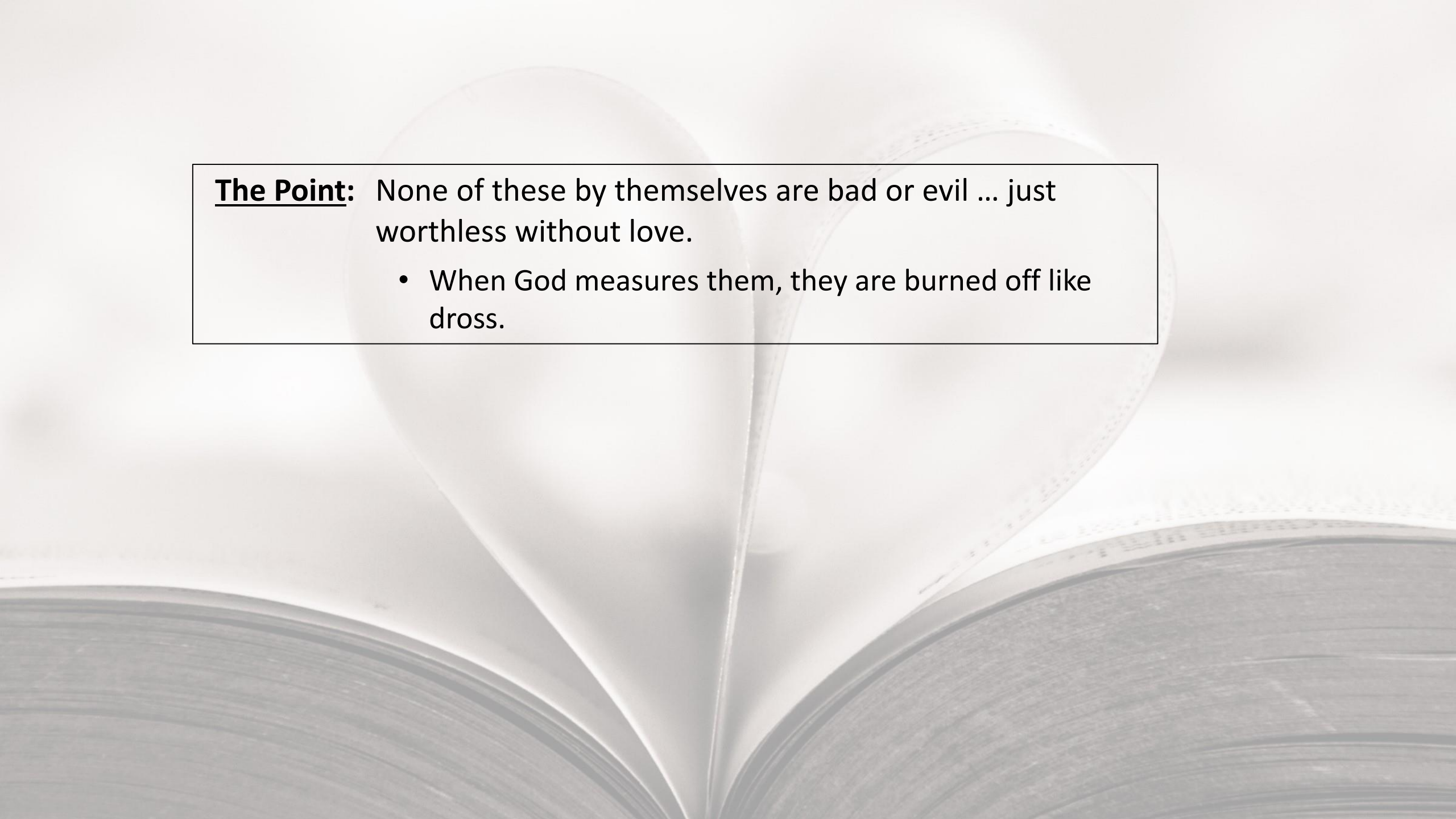
1. Love is not **Words** ... it's not what I say. (v. 1)
2. Love is not **Knowledge** ... it's not what I know. (v. 2)

² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.

Last Week: *What Love is not*

1. Love is not **Words** ... it's not what I say. (v. 1)
2. Love is not **Knowledge** ... it's not what I know. (v. 2)
3. Love is not **Self-sacrifice** ... it's not what I do. (v. 3)

³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with the pages fanned out. A large, white, heart-shaped cutout is centered over the book, revealing the pages underneath. The background is a soft, light gray gradient.

The Point: None of these by themselves are bad or evil ... just worthless without love.

- When God measures them, they are burned off like dross.

This Week: *What is Love?*

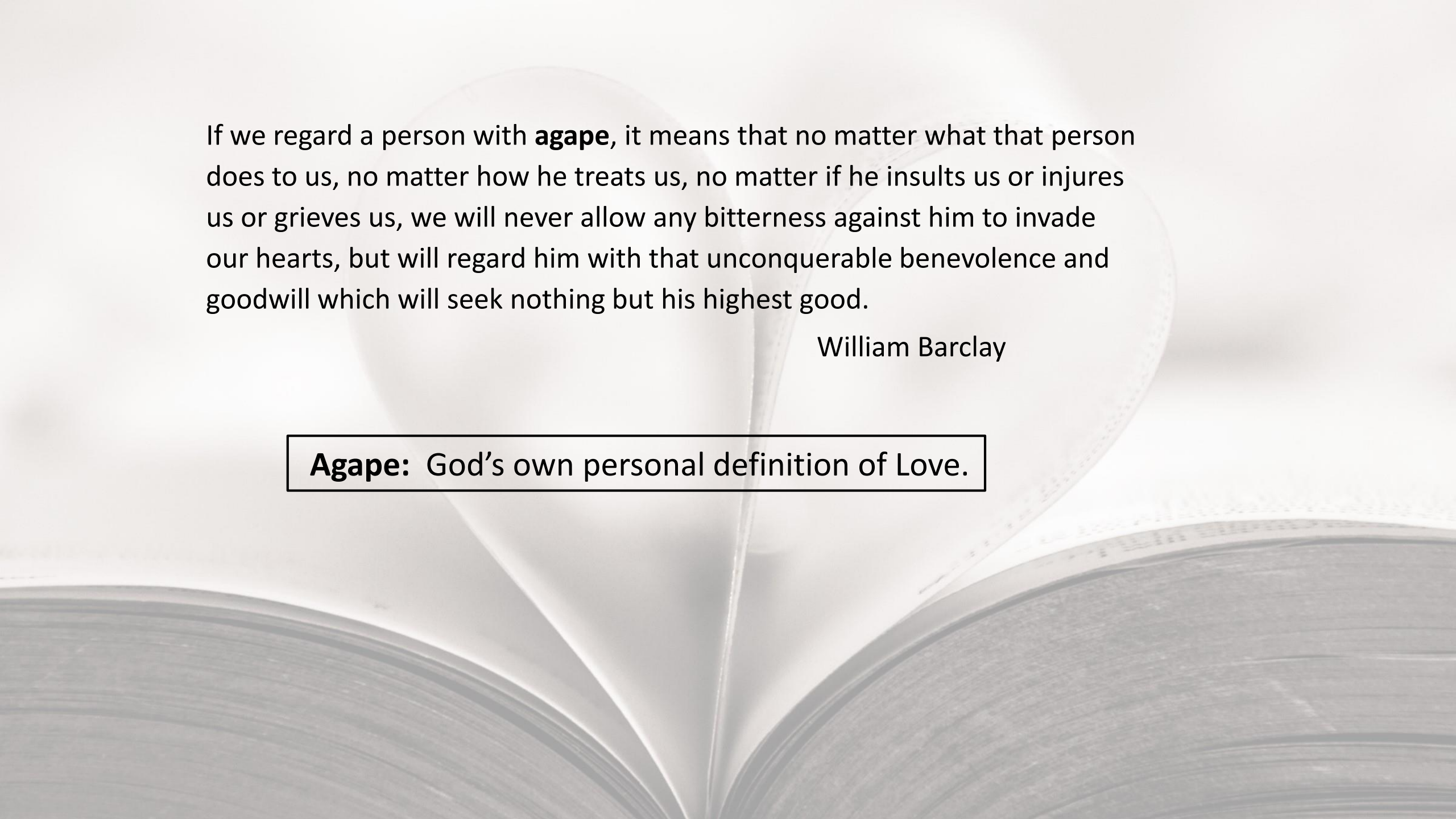
⁴ Love is patient and kind.

1. Love

Gk. – agape

- F.B. Meyer: affection acted out in sacrificial service.
- Wuest: love awakened by a sense of value in the object which causes one to prize it.
- MacArthur: disposition of the heart to seek the welfare and meet the needs of others.

Pastor Ken: Unrestricted, unrestrained, unconditional and willful choice to put another before myself.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages fanning out. A white dove is captured in flight, its wings spread wide, positioned centrally above the book. The background is a soft, light gray, creating a serene and spiritual atmosphere.

If we regard a person with **agape**, it means that no matter what that person does to us, no matter how he treats us, no matter if he insults us or injures us or grieves us, we will never allow any bitterness against him to invade our hearts, but will regard him with that unconquerable benevolence and goodwill which will seek nothing but his highest good.

William Barclay

Agape: God's own personal definition of Love.

This Week: *What is Love?*

⁴ Love is patient and kind.

2. Patient.

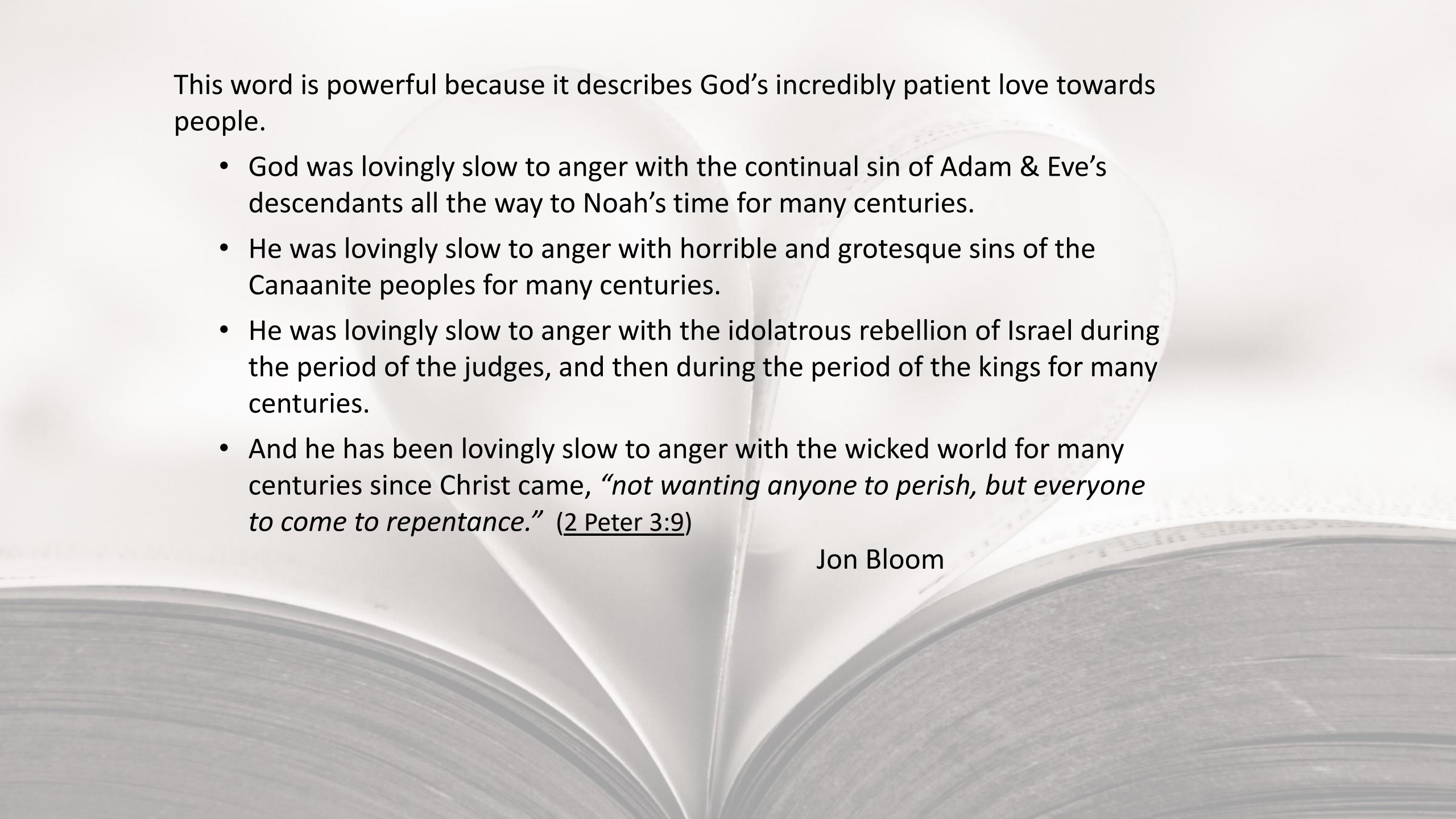
Gk. – *makrothymia* a quiet enduring with respect to people.

hypomone: with respect to things. (Heb 12:1)

the strength to be wronged repeatedly, refusing to retaliate, though having the power to do so.

- Note: a choice of my will, not my circumstances.

Patience: Possessing a long fuse ...!



This word is powerful because it describes God's incredibly patient love towards people.

- God was lovingly slow to anger with the continual sin of Adam & Eve's descendants all the way to Noah's time for many centuries.
- He was lovingly slow to anger with horrible and grotesque sins of the Canaanite peoples for many centuries.
- He was lovingly slow to anger with the idolatrous rebellion of Israel during the period of the judges, and then during the period of the kings for many centuries.
- And he has been lovingly slow to anger with the wicked world for many centuries since Christ came, *“not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9)

Jon Bloom

*⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is long suffering (**makrothumei**) with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance ... ¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's (**makrothymian**) patience means salvation ...*

2 Peter 3

God has a long fuse, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance ...

⁴ Love “suffers long” with others ...

Note: “*patience*” was not considered a virtue in Paul’s world ... retaliation was!
... this is what makes it so powerful!

Challenge: What happens when I refuse to retaliate, and practice patience instead?

This Week: *What is Love?*

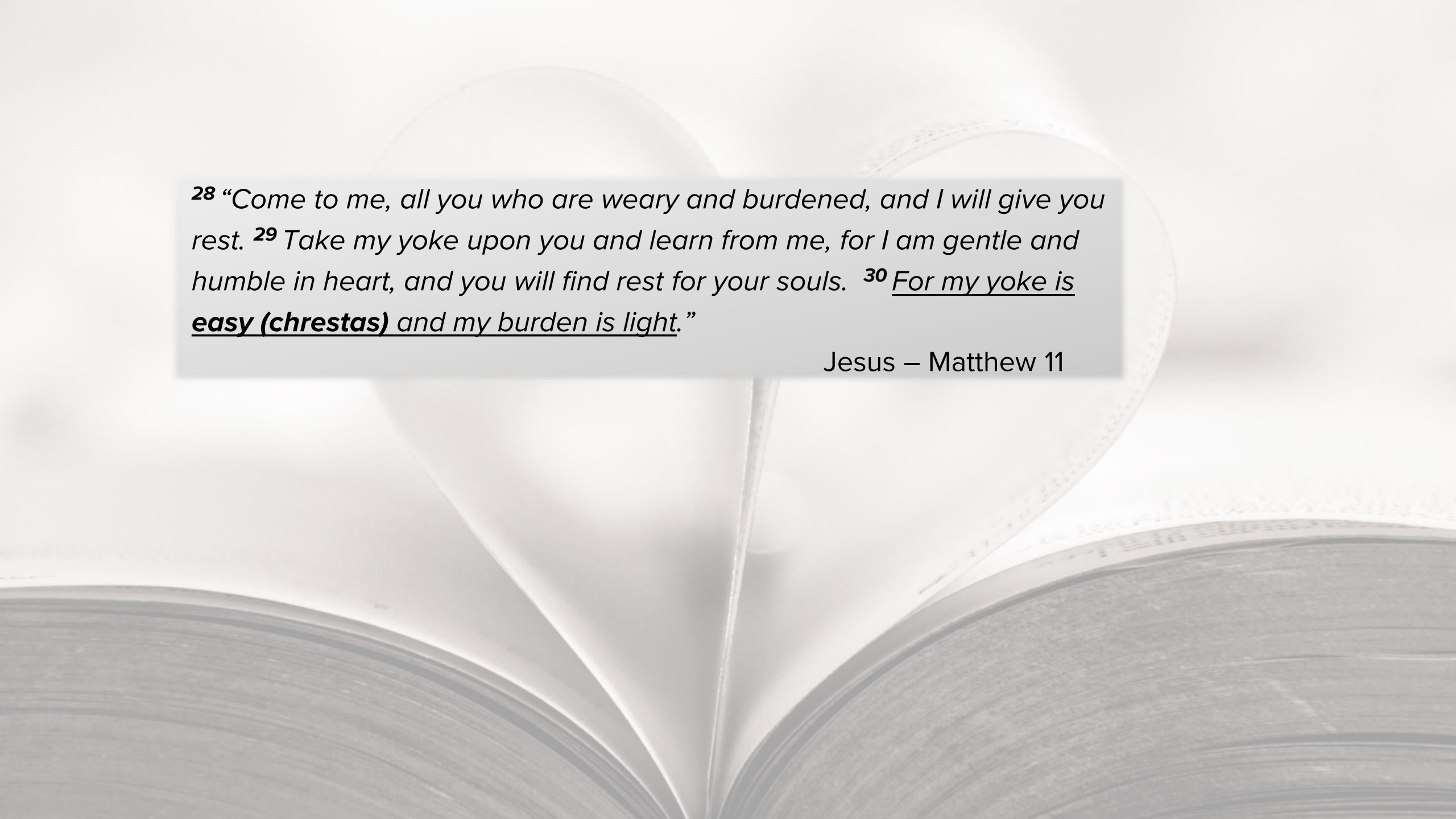
⁴ *Love is patient and kind.*

3. Kind.

Gk. – chresteuetai - *useful; suitable; helpful.*

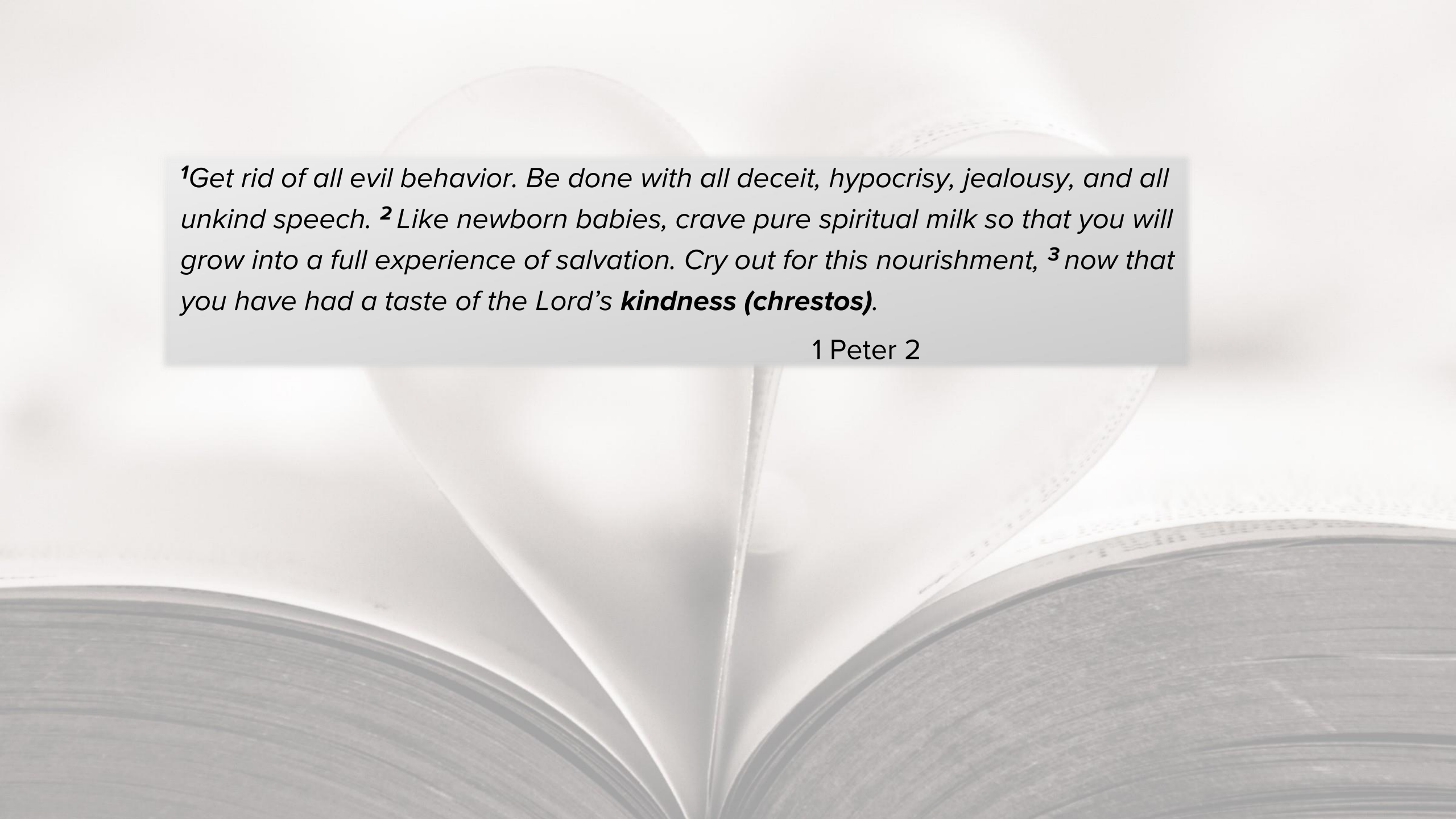
- Pritchard: quick to help others & eager to reach out to those in need, with no expectation of being repaid.
- Mark Twain: a language that the deaf can hear, the blind can read and all people easily understand.

Note: ***Chrestus*** (*n*) was a common slave name in the Graeco-Roman World.



²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy (chrestas) and my burden is light.”

Jesus – Matthew 11

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages fanned out. A white rectangular card is placed over the center of the book, containing text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

*¹Get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ²Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's **kindness (chrestos)**.*

1 Peter 2

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages fanned out. A white paper airplane is flying upwards from the center of the book, its wings spread wide. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray.

Summary in a Sentence:

Patience endures the wounds of others, and ***Kindness*** pays them back with generous good.

The Power of Patience & Kindness:

1. Because it is not natural ... it causes people to pause & ponder.
2. Because it targets the heart ... it inspires others to also be patient & kind ...
3. Because it reminds me of Jesus and His love ... it humbles me when I remember how patient and kind God has been with me.

God is patient and kind ...