

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a plaid shirt is smiling and leaning forward. The background shows a rural scene with people and a wooden structure.

FAITH LIKE POTATOES

How To Pray Effectively?



A stage with red curtains on the left and right sides. A bright light source is positioned at the top center, creating a lens flare effect. The floor of the stage is blue with a radial pattern of lines extending from the center towards the edges.

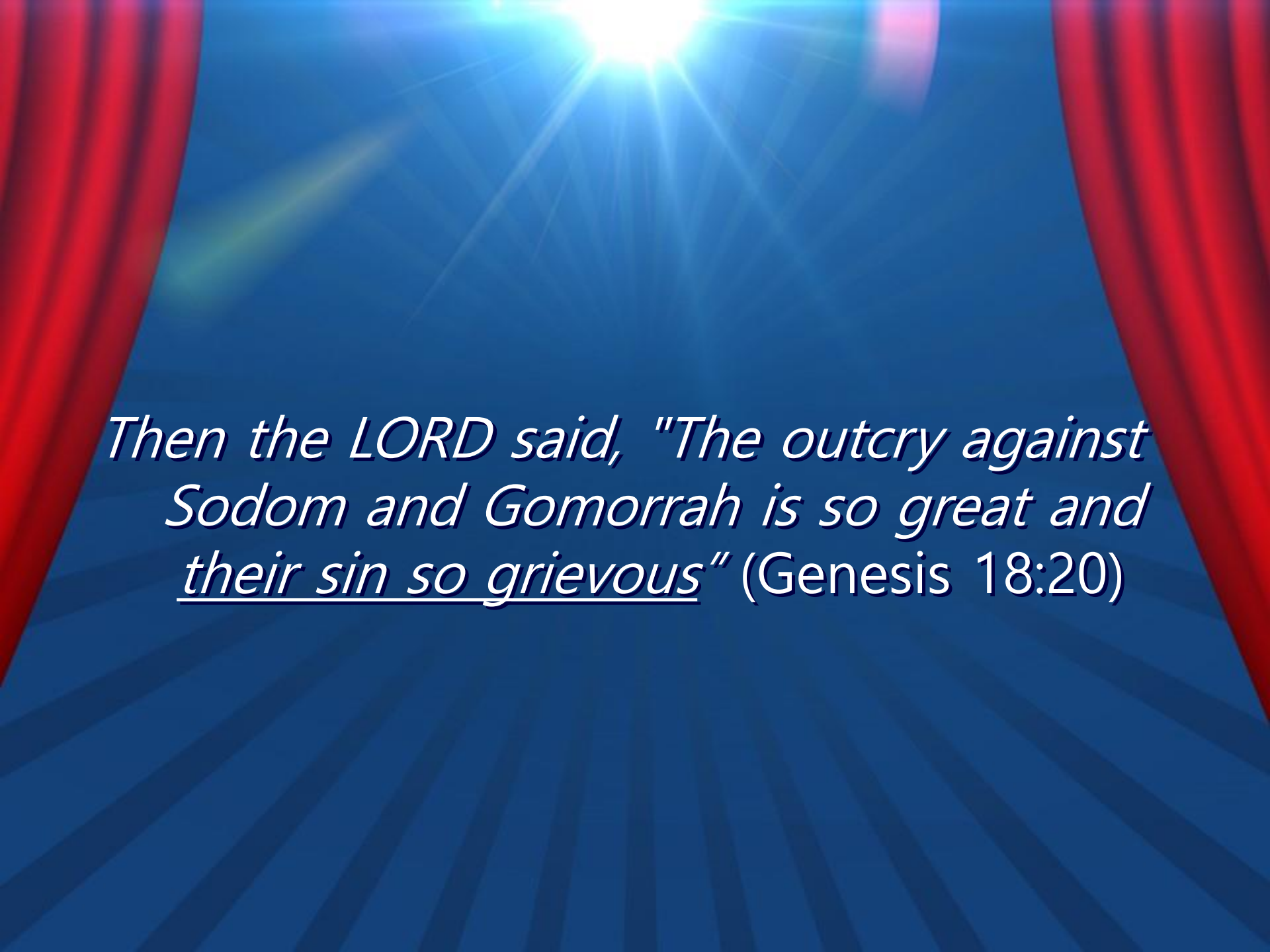
1. HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A stage with red curtains on the left and right sides. At the top center, there is a bright, glowing light source, possibly a sun or a stage light, creating a lens flare effect. The background is a deep blue color with a subtle pattern of diagonal lines radiating from the bottom center.

1. HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A. Praying to the WRONG GOD

And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. (1 Samuel 8:7)



Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous" (Genesis 18:20)



1. HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

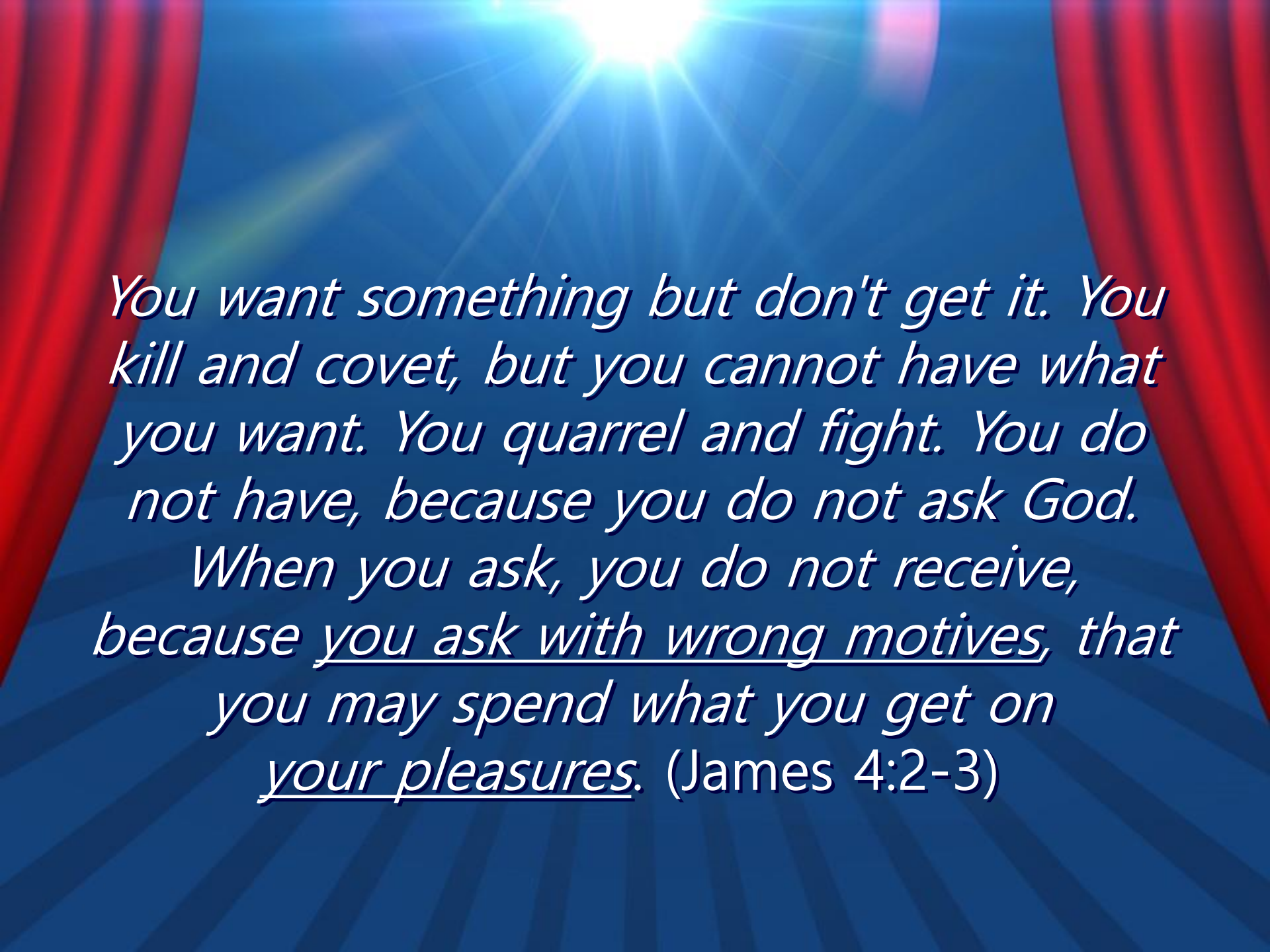
A. Praying to the WRONG GOD



1. HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A. Praying to the WRONG GOD

B. Praying for the WRONG THINGS



You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:2-3)



1. HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A. Praying to the WRONG GOD

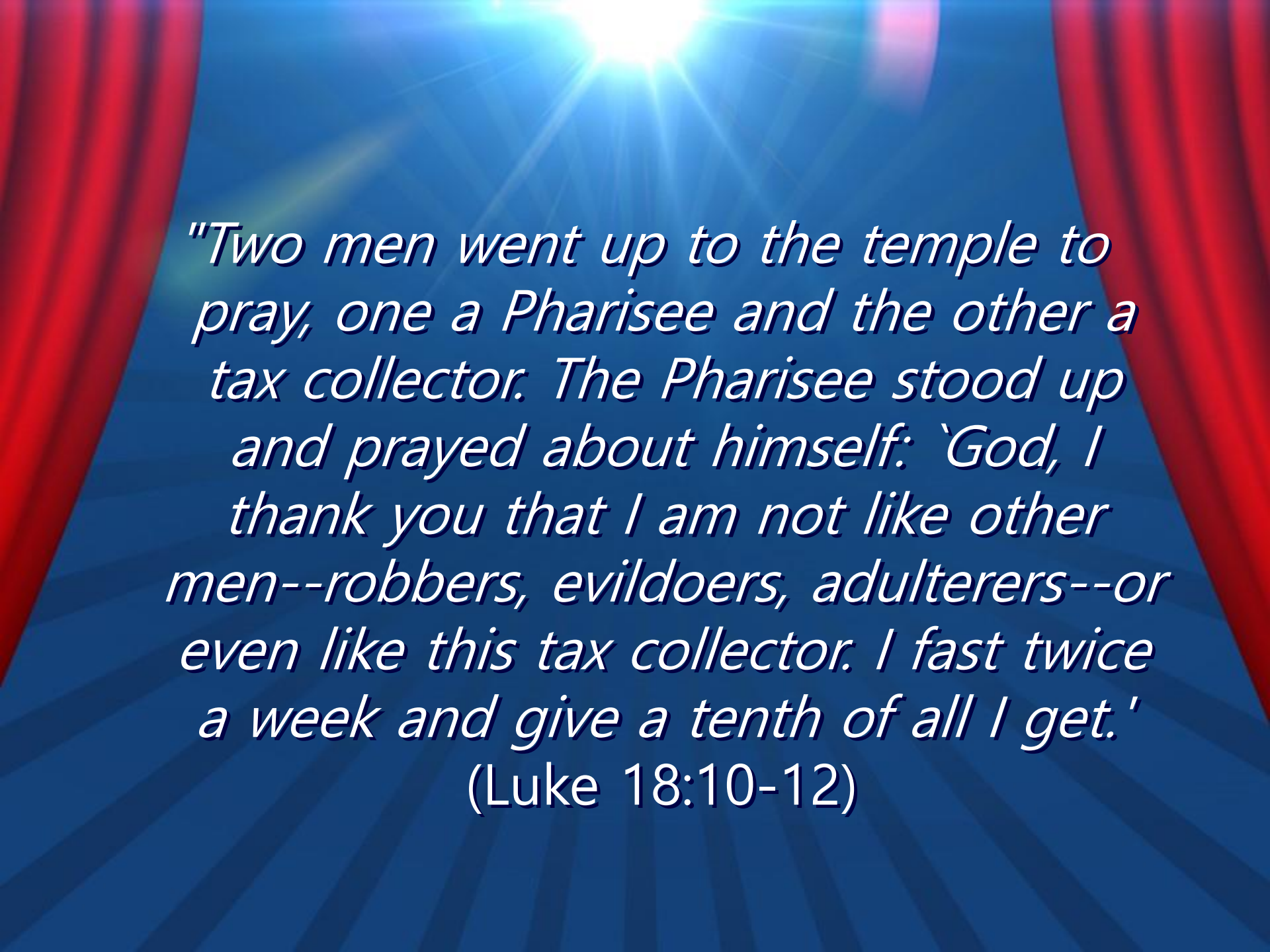
B. Praying for the WRONG THINGS

C. Praying in the WRONG WAY

C. Praying in the **WRONG WAY**

“Mirror Prayers”





"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

(Luke 18:10-12)

**C. Praying in the WRONG WAY
“Magic 8-ball”**



C. Praying in the WRONG WAY
“Magic 8-ball”

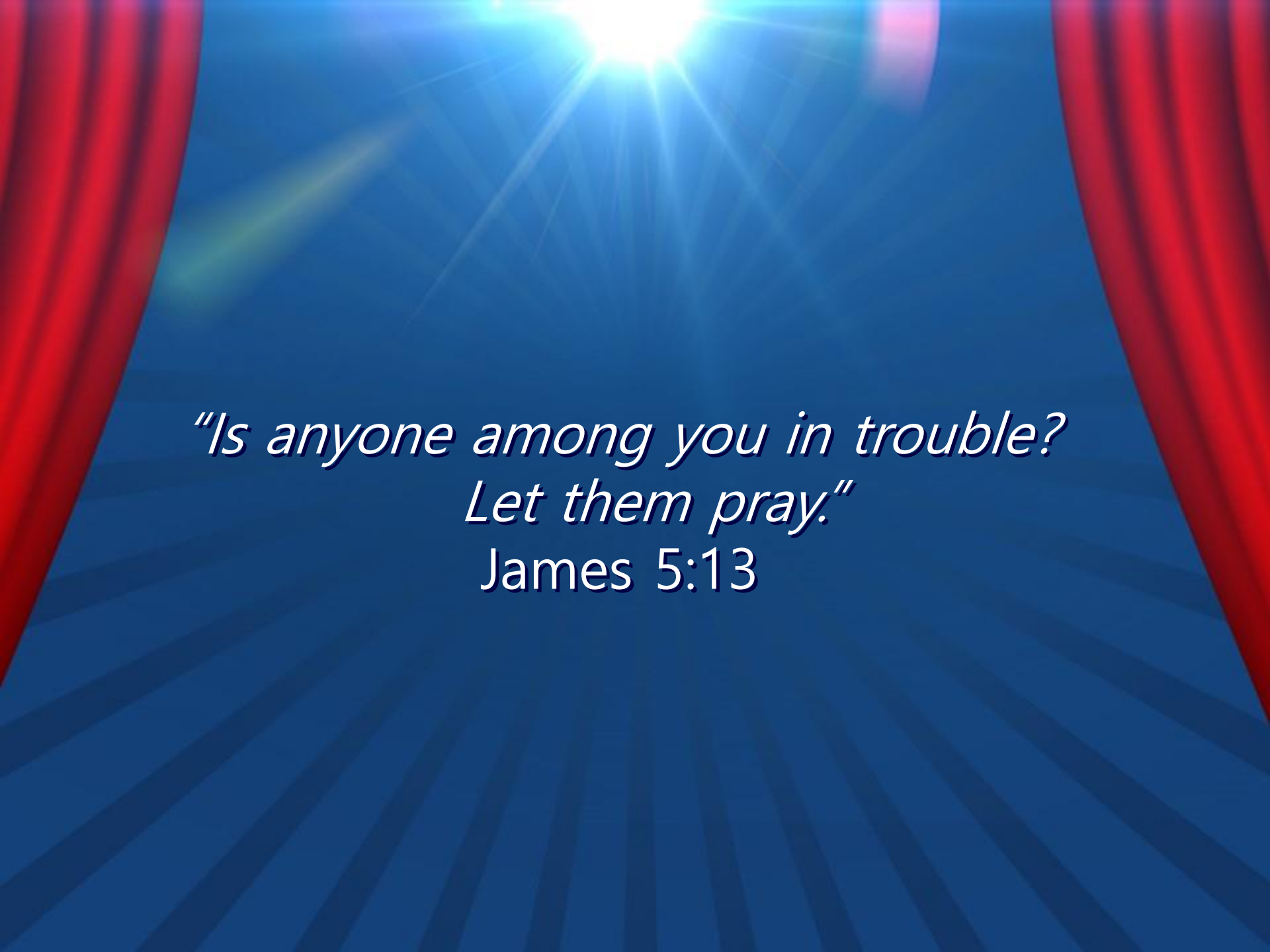


C. Praying in the **WRONG WAY** “Vending Machine”



C. Praying in the WRONG WAY
“Genie in the Bottle”





*"Is anyone among you in trouble?
Let them pray."*
James 5:13

2. JESUS' DIRECTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

Open Bibles to Luke 11
(*p. 919* in the church Bibles)

2. JESUS' DIRECTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A. Praying to the RIGHT GOD


*He said to them, "When you pray, say:
" Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come."* (Luke 11:2)

A blue stage with red curtains on the left and right sides. A bright light source is at the top center, creating a lens flare effect. The text is centered on the stage.

2. JESUS' DIRECTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A. Praying to the RIGHT GOD

B. Praying for the RIGHT THINGS



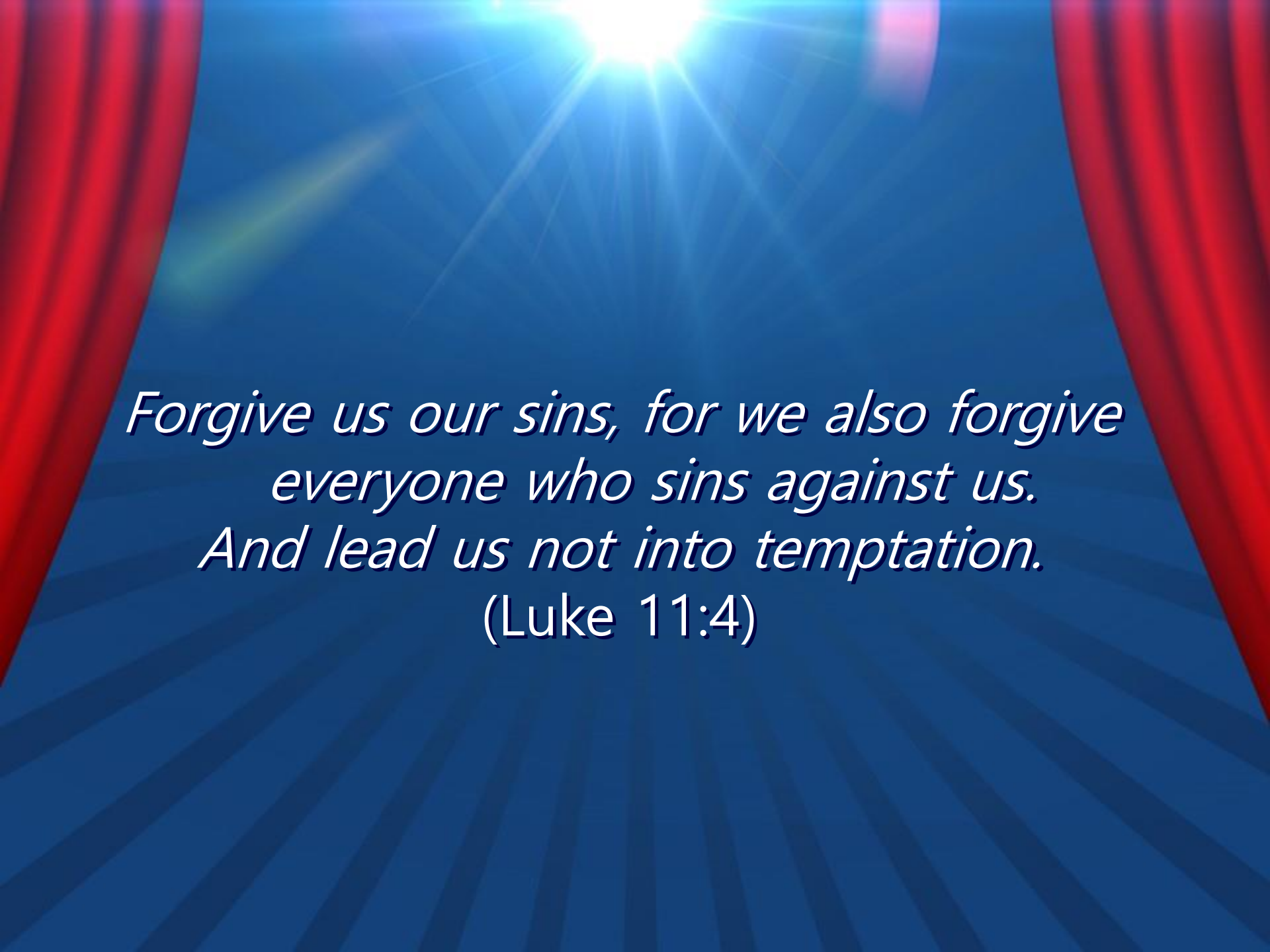
Give us each day our daily bread.
(Luke 11:3)



2. JESUS' DIRECTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A. Praying to the RIGHT GOD

B. Praying for the RIGHT THINGS



*Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive
everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.
(Luke 11:4)*



2. JESUS' DIRECTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A. Praying to the RIGHT GOD

B. Praying for the RIGHT THINGS

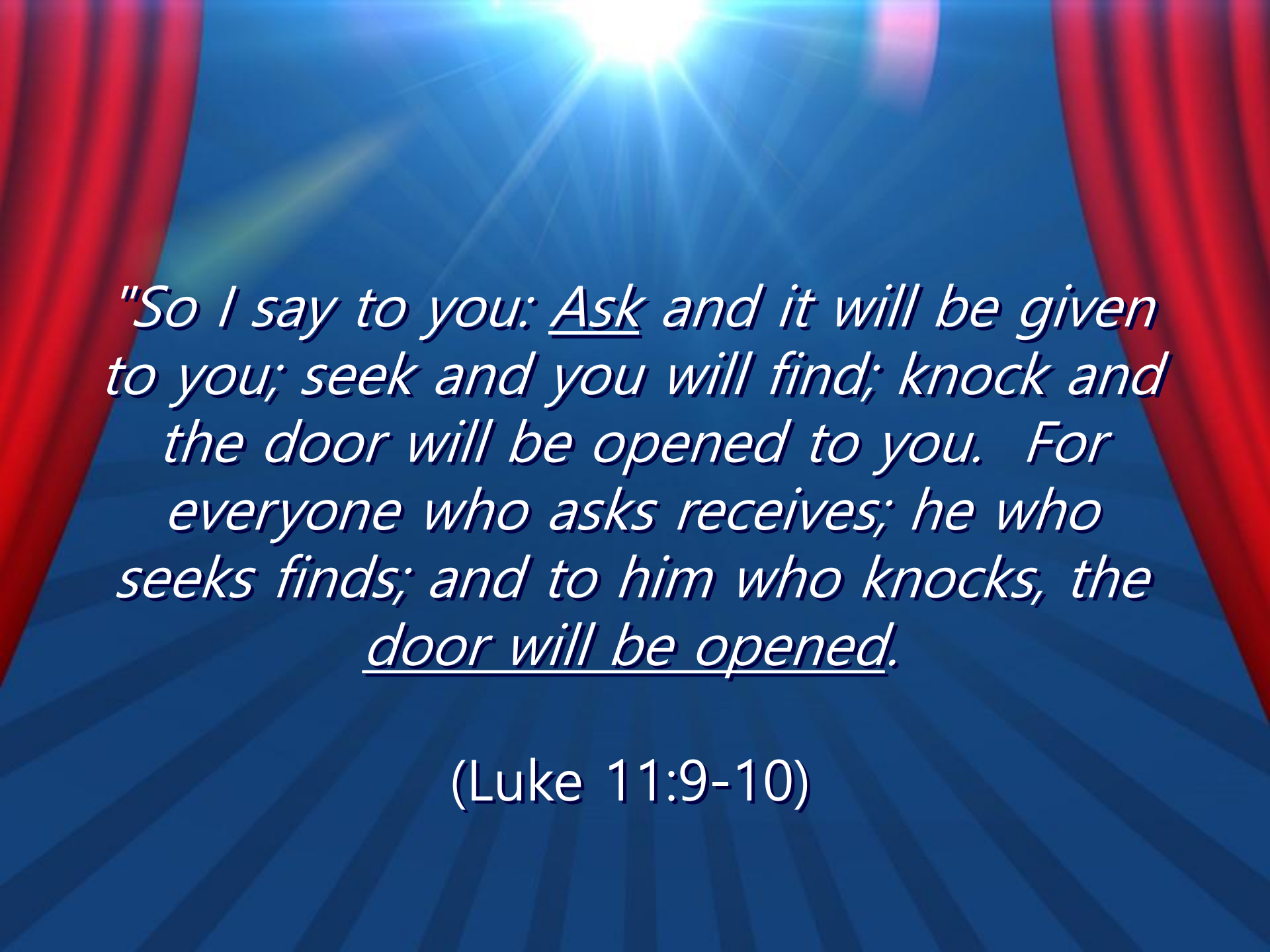
A stage with red curtains on the left and right sides. At the top center, there is a bright, glowing light source, possibly a sun or a stage light, creating a lens flare effect. The background is a deep blue color with a subtle pattern of diagonal lines.

2. JESUS' DIRECTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER:

A. Praying to the RIGHT GOD

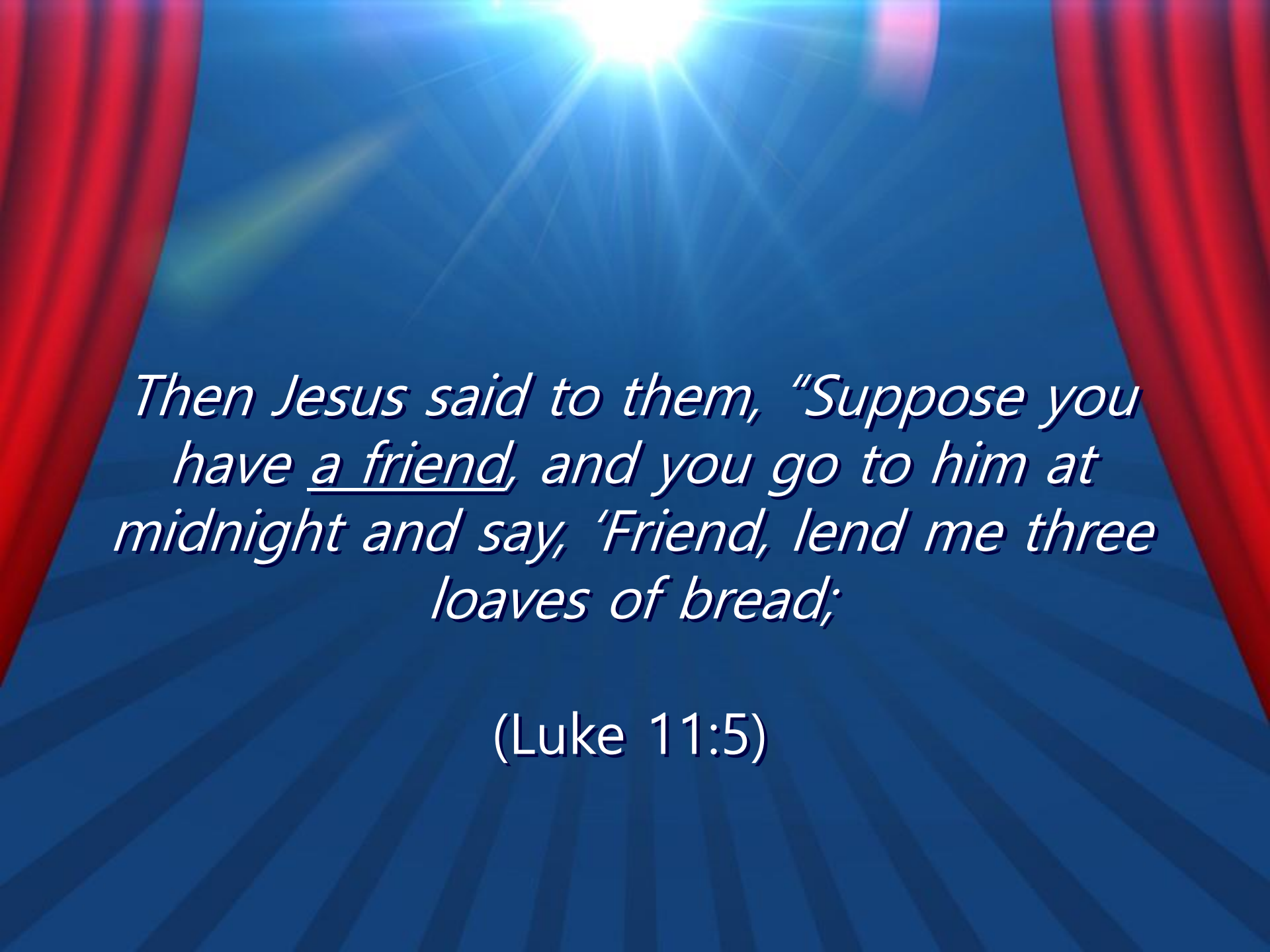
B. Praying for the RIGHT THINGS

C. Praying in the RIGHT WAY



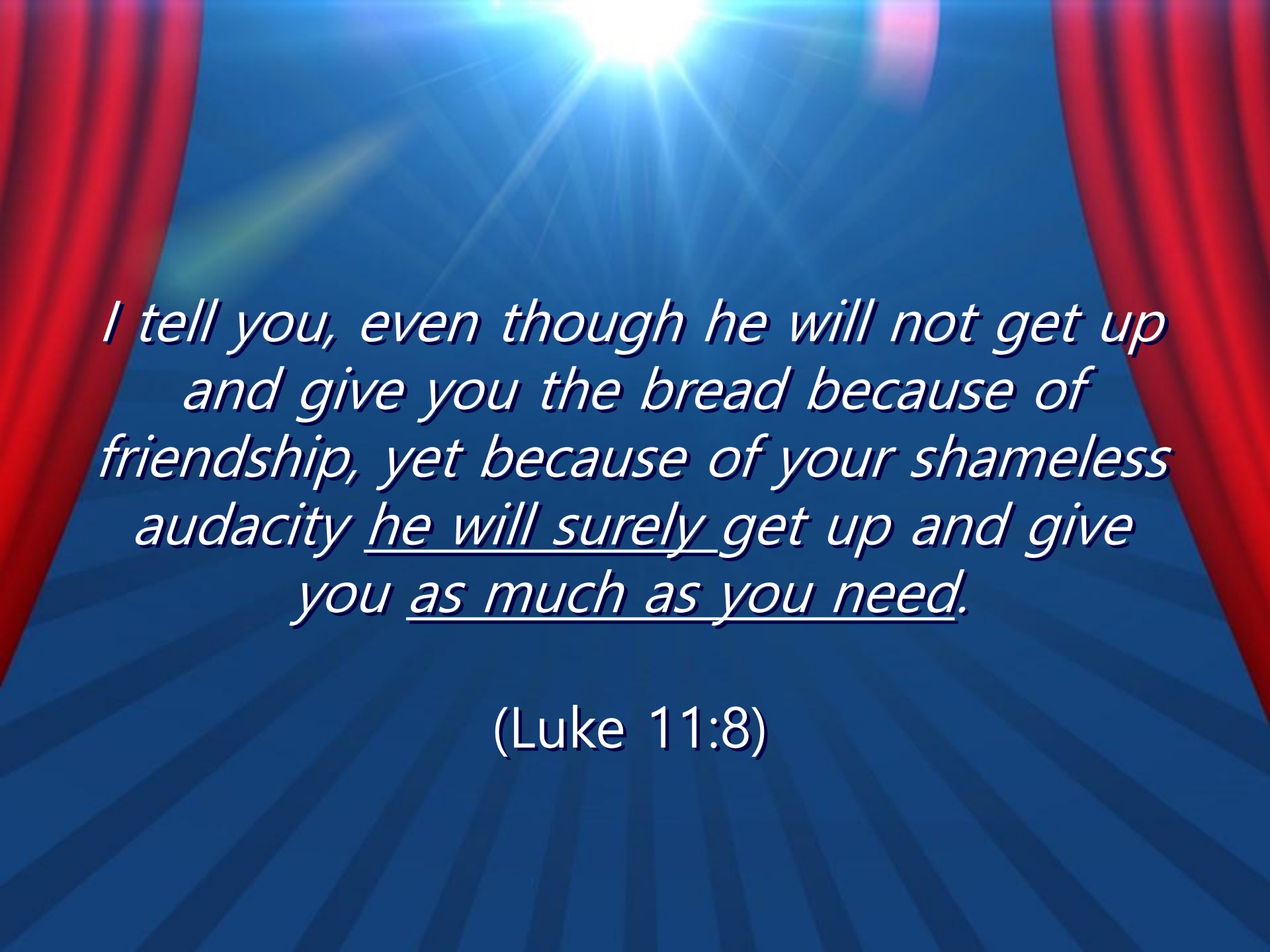
"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

(Luke 11:9-10)



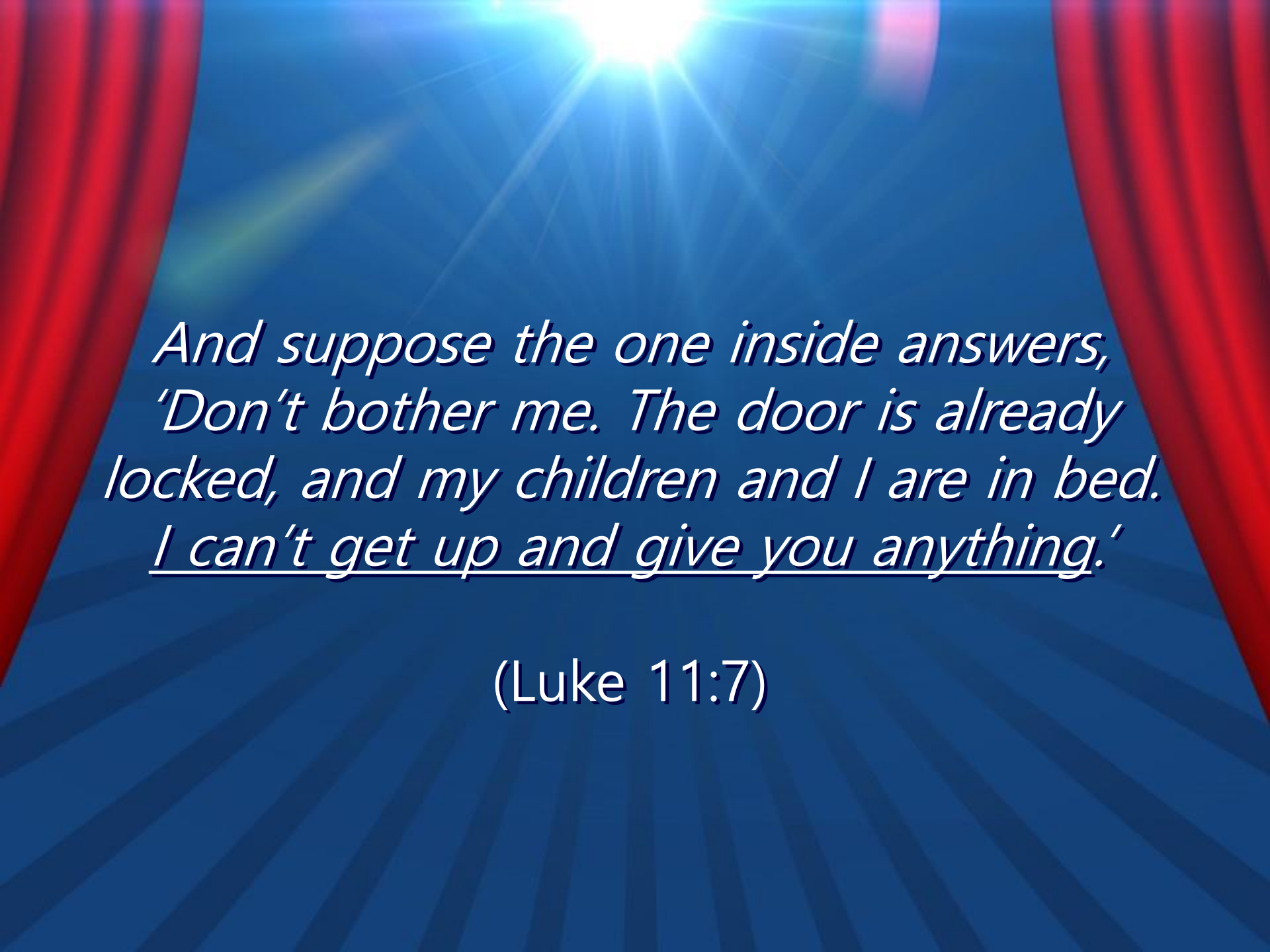
Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;

(Luke 11:5)



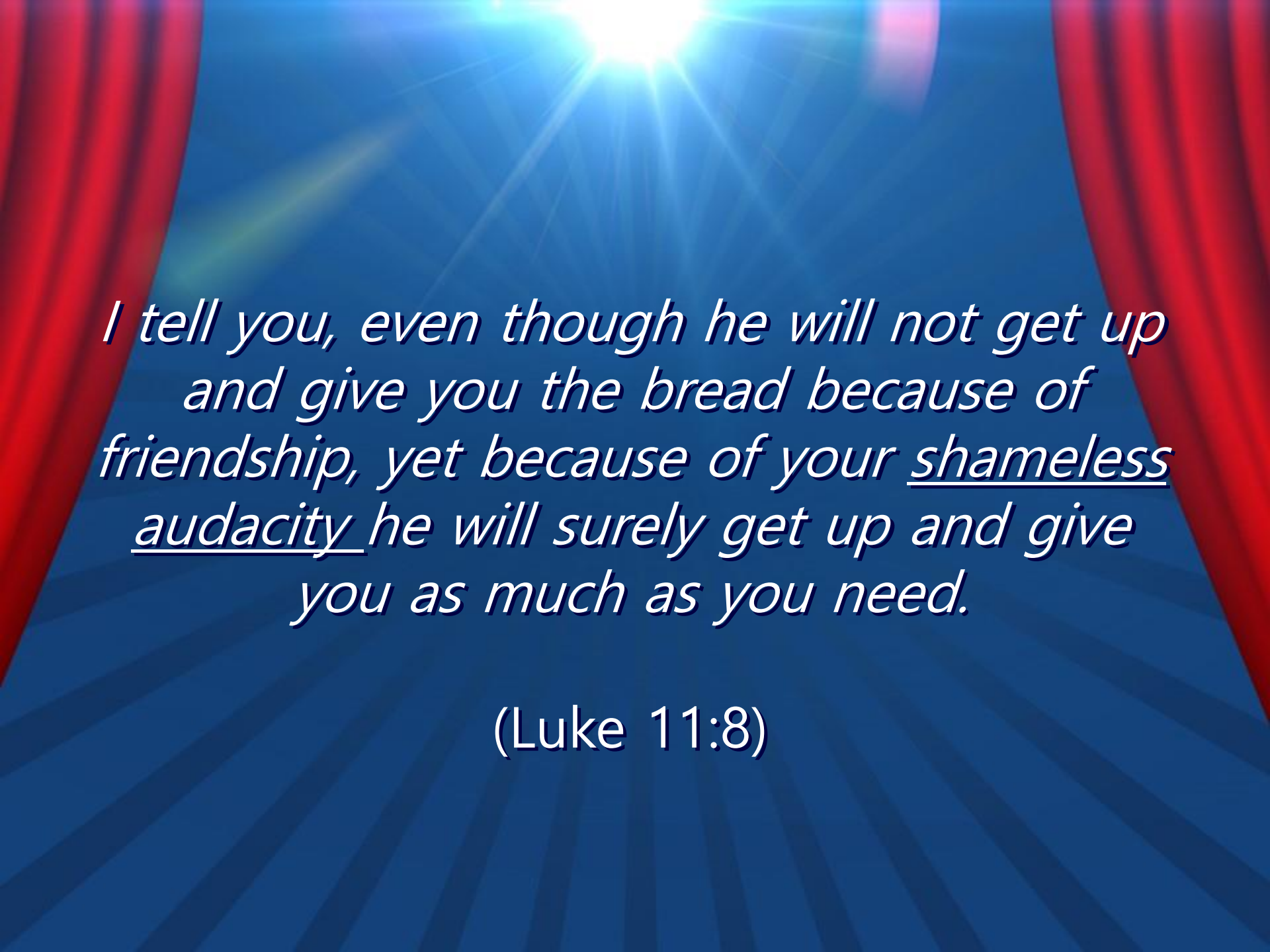
I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

(Luke 11:8)



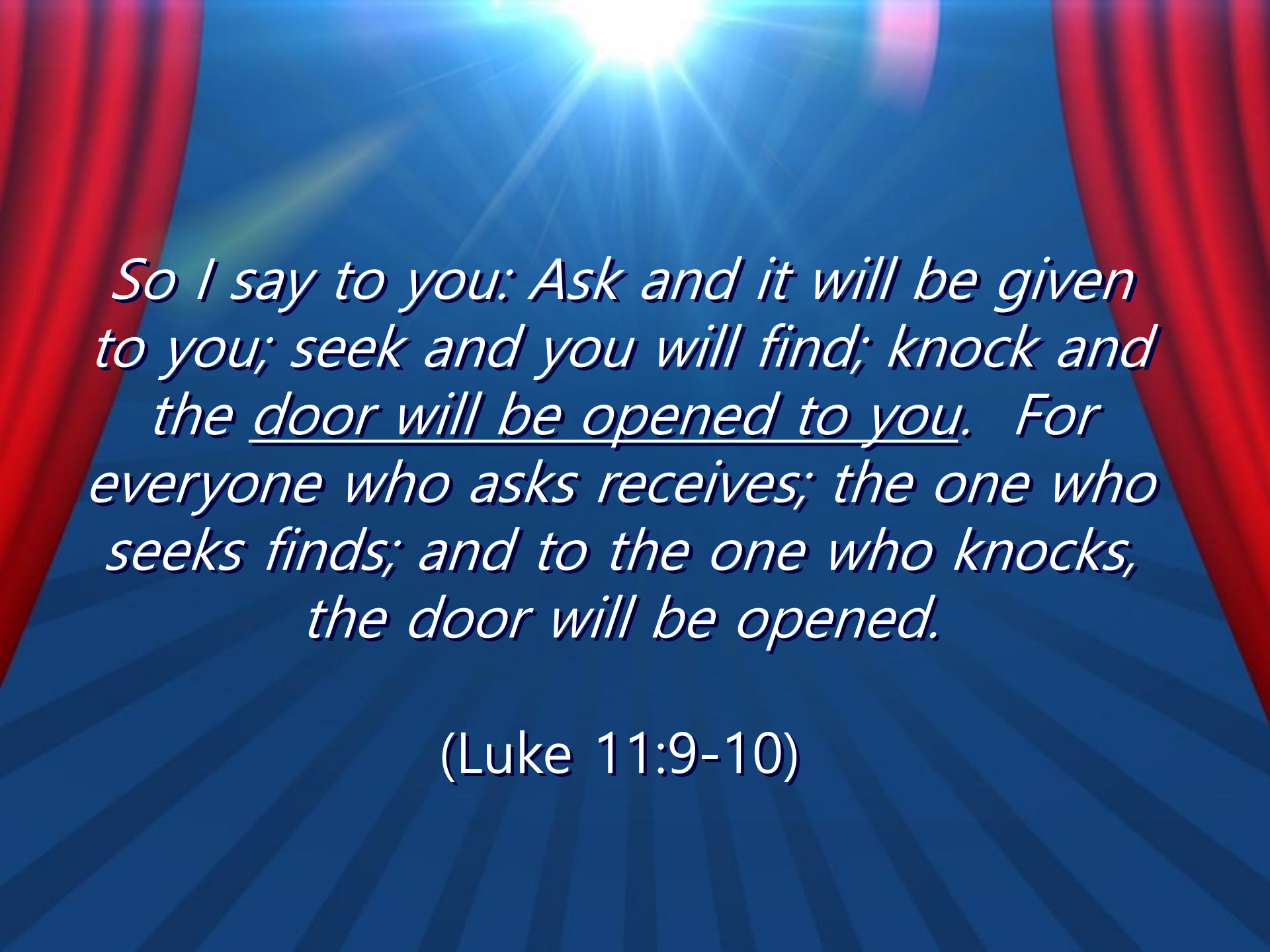
*And suppose the one inside answers,
'Don't bother me. The door is already
locked, and my children and I are in bed.
I can't get up and give you anything.'*

(Luke 11:7)



I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

(Luke 11:8)

A blue stage with red curtains on the sides. A bright light source at the top center creates a lens flare effect, illuminating the stage. The text is centered on the stage.

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

(Luke 11:9-10)

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

(Luke 11:11-13)

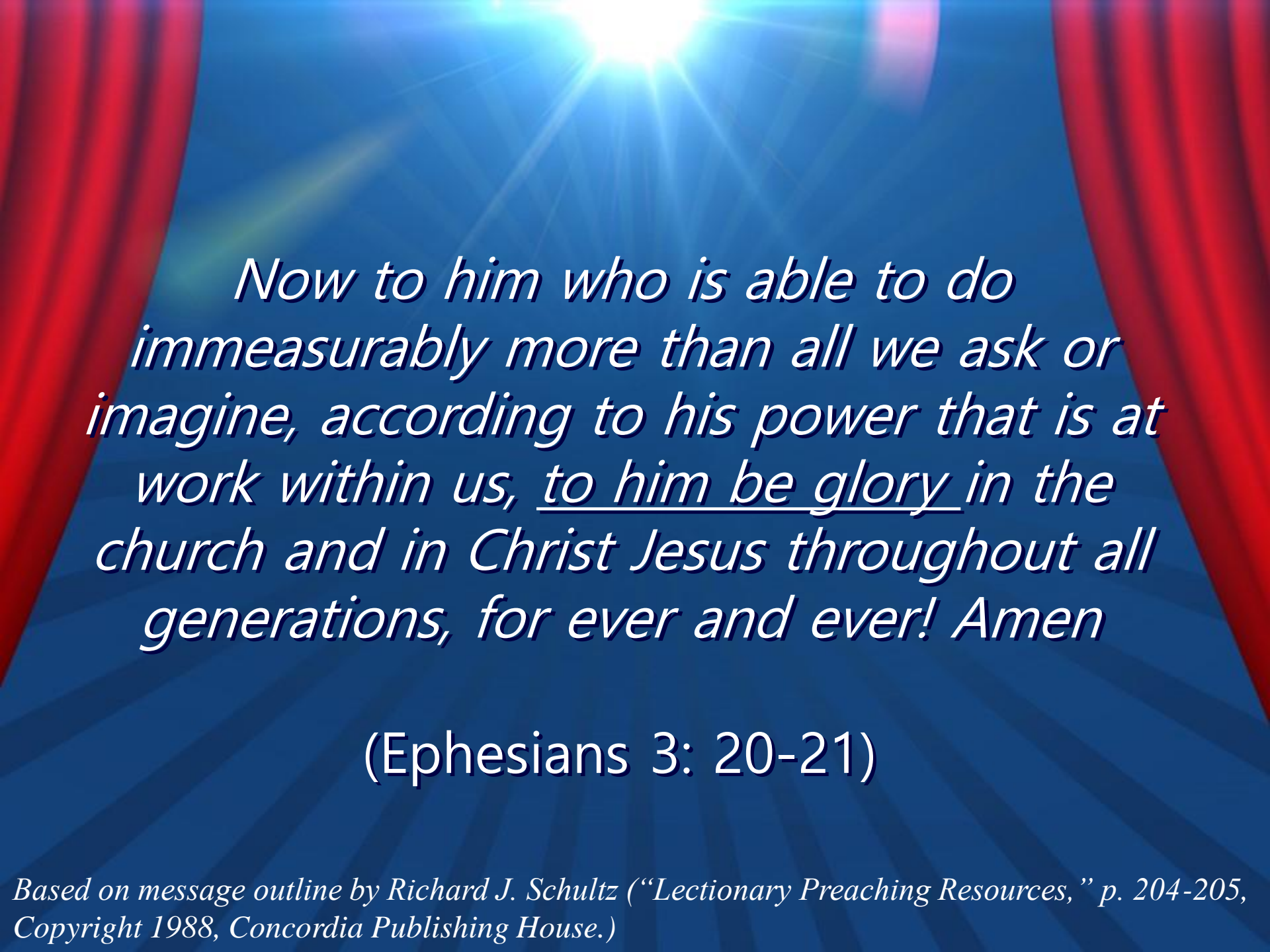
*... How
much
MORE?*



“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

(Luke 11:11-13)





Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen

(Ephesians 3: 20-21)

Based on message outline by Richard J. Schultz (“Lectionary Preaching Resources,” p. 204-205, Copyright 1988, Concordia Publishing House.)