

FILLED – WITH JOY (1 Corinthians 15:12-22)

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

August 25, 2019

We live in a world that saps us and drains us at every turn. If it's not the demanding work schedule, it's the cost of living. If it's not the cut-throat competition, it's the hair-pulling traffic. And if it's not strife in the news or on social media, it's strife in our relationships. Isn't there something that can fill us up rather than wear us down? Yes there is, but it's not a something, it's a Someone. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11, ESV). Come and be filled by the joy that only comes through Jesus, the Son of God.

Be FILLED with ...

1. The Joy of God's _____.

Matthew 9, Luke 5, Luke 7

Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." – Matthew 9:2, NIV

Forgiveness is God's _____.

The Empty Tomb = _____.

"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." – 1 Corinthians 15:17, NIV

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." – 1 Corinthians 15:20, ESV

2. The Joy of God's _____.

The Empty Tomb = _____.

"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead..." – Ephesians 1:19-20a, NLT

3. The Joy of God's _____.

John 5:24, John 15:11

The Empty Tomb = _____.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." – John 5:24, NIV

Questions for individual or group reflection:

What are some things that sap your joy in life?

What works for you to re-energize?

Do you agree that "I forgive you" is one of the most important things that people need to hear?

For what do you need to be forgiven?

Do you believe that God forgives you because of His Son Jesus?

How does the Resurrection of Jesus show that sin is forgiven?

Where is your greatest source of power?

If you have access to the same power that raised Jesus from the grave, then what can't you do in faith?

How should you live if you know that death has been defeated?

What hope do you have beyond the grave?

Do you trust God that He has prepared a place for you in eternity?



Pray: Lord God, fill me with your joy. Restore to me the joy of your salvation knowing that I have been forgiven all of my sins because of your Son Jesus. Thank you, God! Help me to remain in you as a branch remains in the vine, and by abiding in you cause your power to flow into me and out through me to those around me. Cause me to live for you and to know that even after I leave this earth I will have eternal life in you because you have triumphed over the grave. As Jesus prayed, may your joy be in me and may my joy be full. Amen!

Do:

- Receive God's complete forgiveness for any and all of your sins. Confess. Repent. Believe and Receive!
- Live as though the power of the Resurrection is available to you.
- Live without fear of death – not recklessly, but hopefully – knowing that your life in Christ begins now and continues for all eternity!

Memory Verse: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." – John 15:11, ESV



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1. The Joy of God's Forgiveness

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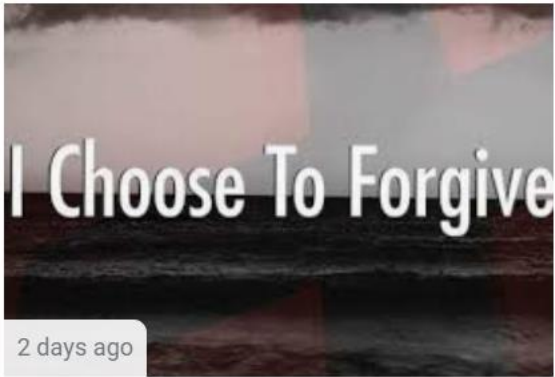
Forgiveness is God's Greatest Gift



Forgiveness can improve mental and ...
[apa.org](https://www.apa.org)



Forgiveness Can Improve Your Emotional ...
[mental-health-matters.com](https://www.mental-health-matters.com)



Forgiveness Can Improve Mental And ...
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Forgiveness: Your Health Depends on It ...
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Effect of Forgiveness on Health ...
[journeywithparkinsons.com](https://www.journeywithparkinsons.com)



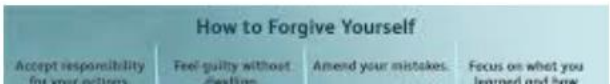
Forgiveness: Your Health Depends on It ...
[hopkinsmedicine.org](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org)



The power of forgiveness - Harvard Health
[health.harvard.edu](https://www.health.harvard.edu)



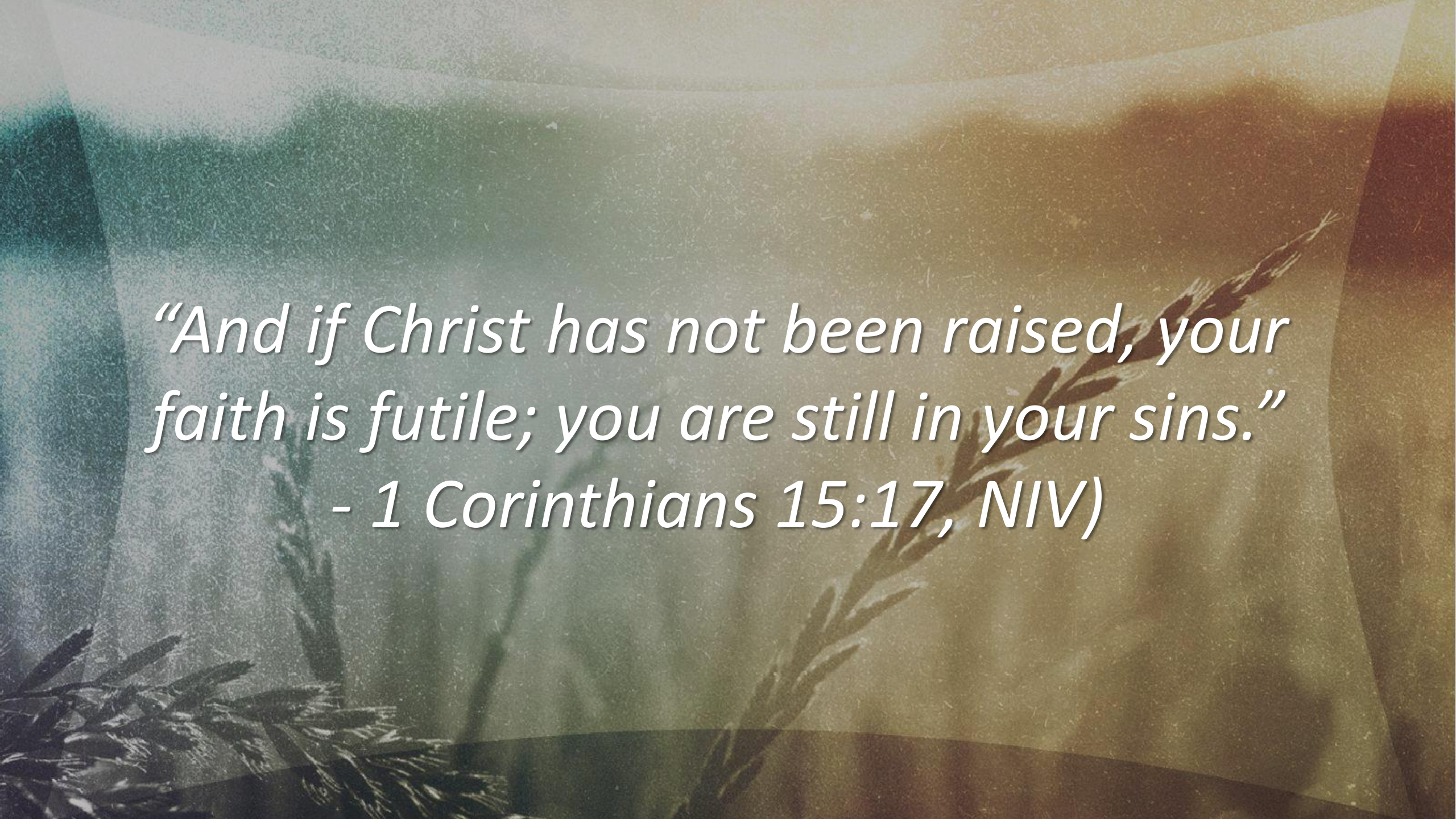
Forgiveness is for you, not anyone else ...
[alustforlife.com](https://www.alustforlife.com)



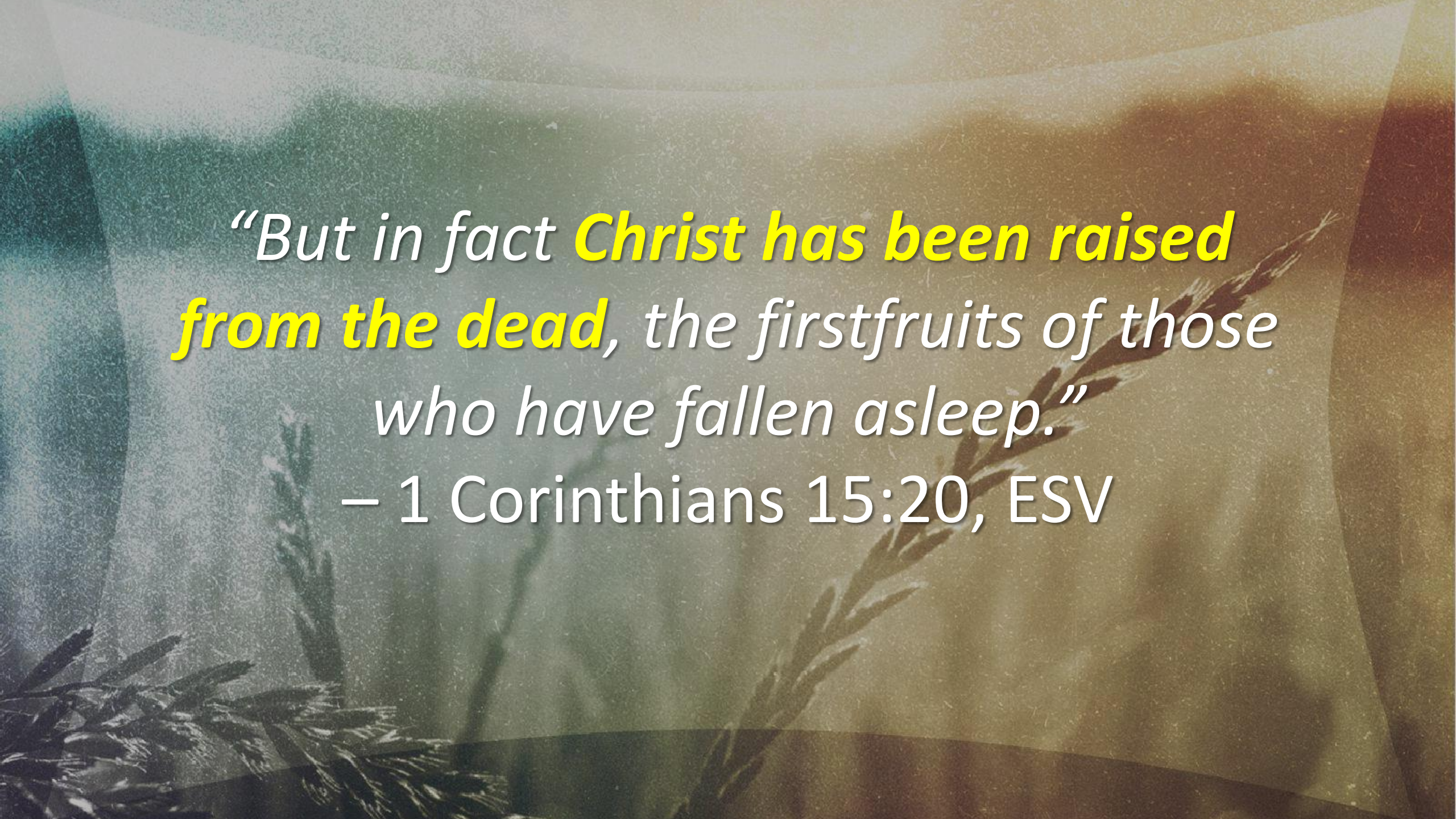
*Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; **your sins are forgiven.**" – Matthew 9:2*

A dramatic scene viewed through the irregular, jagged opening of a dark, rocky tomb. The opening frames a bright, hazy sunrise or sunset with a golden glow and soft clouds. In the distance, three crosses are silhouetted against the horizon line. The foreground inside the tomb is dark and textured, with some dry grass visible at the base of the opening.

The Empty Tomb = Forgiveness



*“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:17, NIV)*



*“But in fact **Christ has been raised from the dead**, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”*

– 1 Corinthians 15:20, ESV



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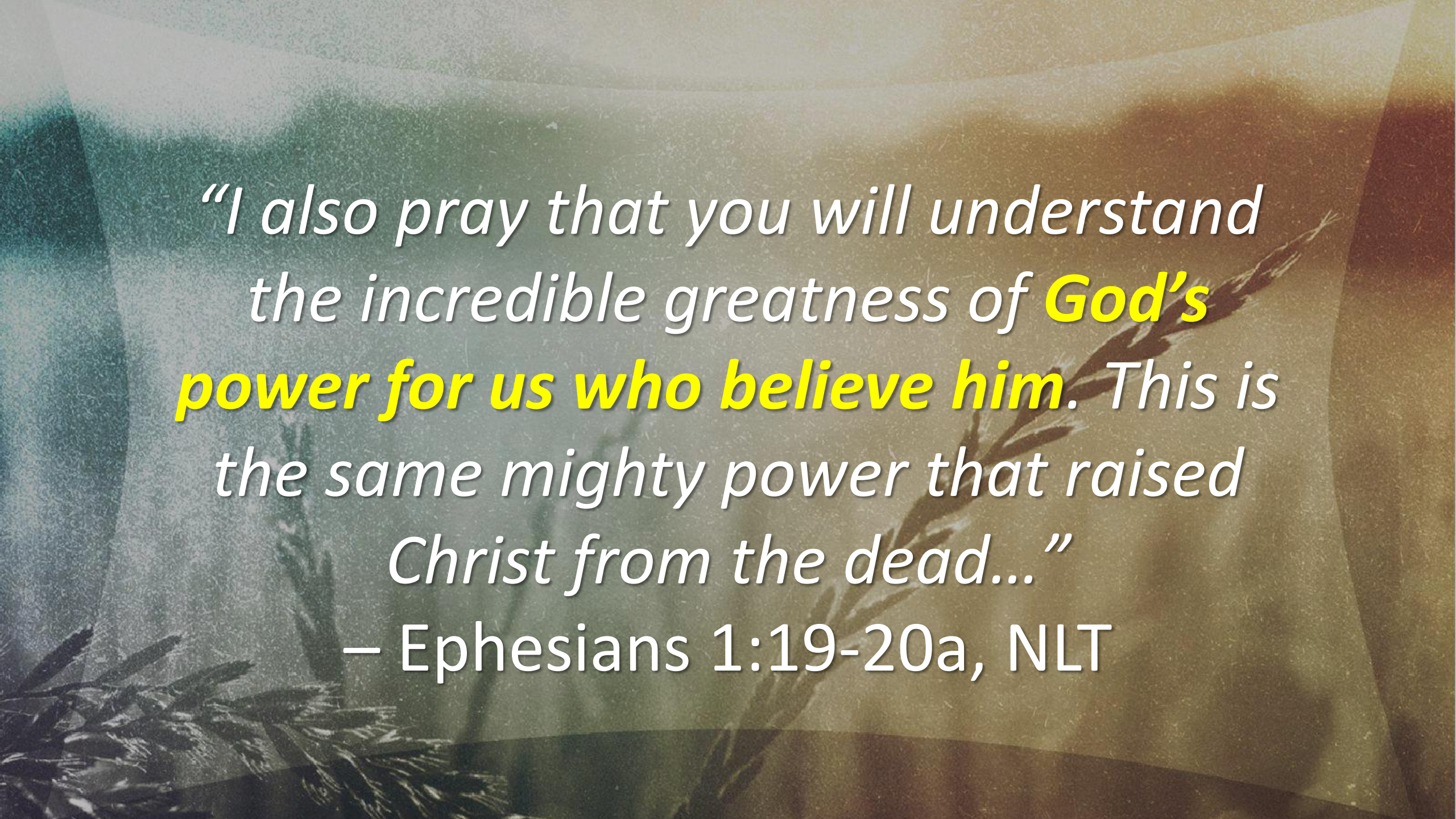
...with JOY

Be FILLED with ...

2. The Joy of God's Power

A dramatic scene viewed through the irregular, jagged opening of a dark, rocky tomb. The opening frames a bright sunrise or sunset over a dark, silhouetted landscape. The sky is filled with soft, glowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and pink. On the horizon, three crosses are visible, with the central one being the tallest. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the interior of the tomb. The overall mood is one of hope and divine power.

The Empty Tomb = God's Power



*“I also pray that you will understand
the incredible greatness of **God’s
power for us who believe him**. This is
the same mighty power that raised
Christ from the dead...”*

— Ephesians 1:19-20a, NLT





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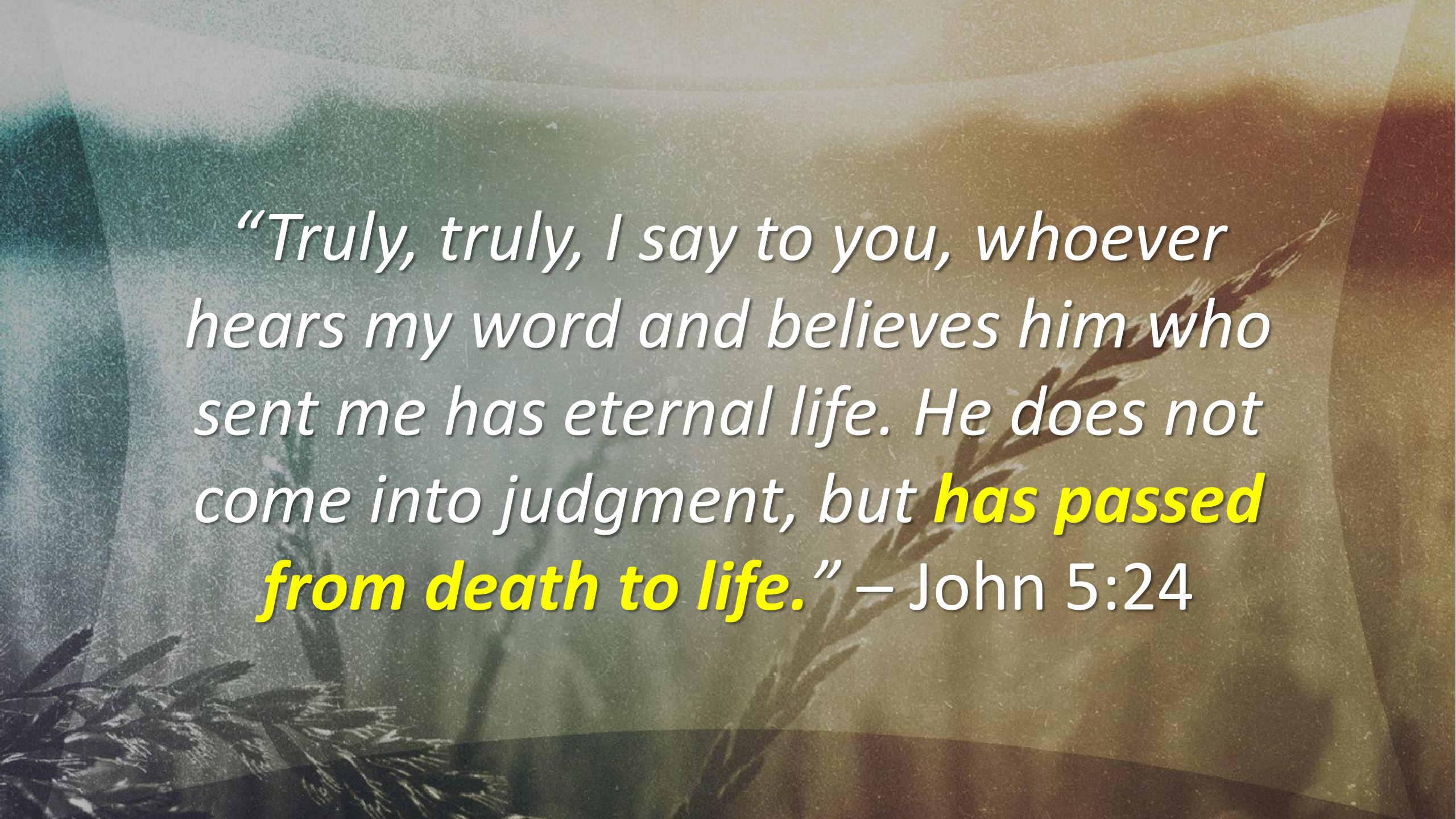
3. The Joy of God's Triumph

“death is the bully on the block of life.
‘Your time is coming!’ he taunts. Oh
we try and prove him wrong. We jog.
We diet. But we know that we will
only, at best, postpone it.”

- Max Lucado

A dramatic scene viewed through the irregular, jagged opening of a dark, rocky tomb. The interior of the tomb is in deep shadow. Outside, a bright sunrise or sunset fills the sky with vibrant orange and yellow light, with soft white clouds catching the low sun. On the horizon line, three black crosses are visible against the glowing sky. The foreground inside the tomb shows some dry, yellowish grass and the rough texture of the rock floor.

The Empty Tomb = Triumph over death.



*“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but **has passed from death to life.**” — John 5:24*



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- 1. The Joy of God's Forgiveness**
- 2. The Joy of God's Power**
- 3. The Joy of God's Triumph**

