

## 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

A decorative banner with a green-to-gold gradient background. The banner is slightly curved and has a textured, paper-like appearance. In the foreground, there are several stalks of wheat or grain, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The overall mood is warm and celebratory.

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**Be FILLED with ...**

**1. The Joy of God's Forgiveness**

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**Forgiveness is God's Greatest Gift**



Forgiveness can improve mental and ...  
apa.org



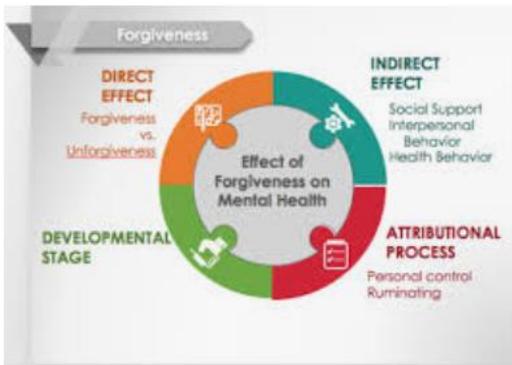
Forgiveness Can Improve Your Emotional ...  
mental-health-matters.com



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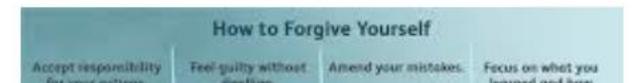
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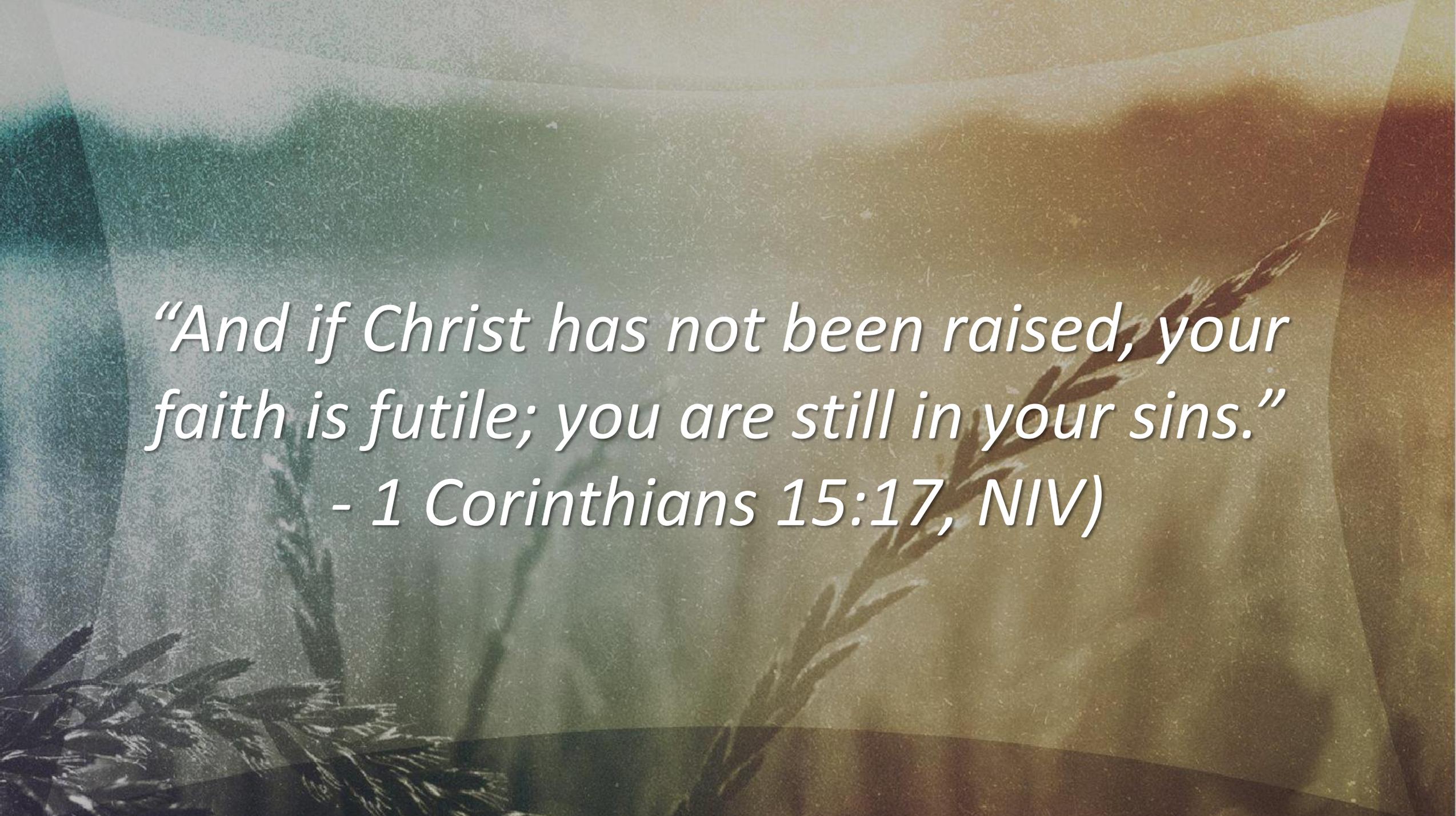
Forgiveness is for you, not anyone else ...  
alustforlife.com



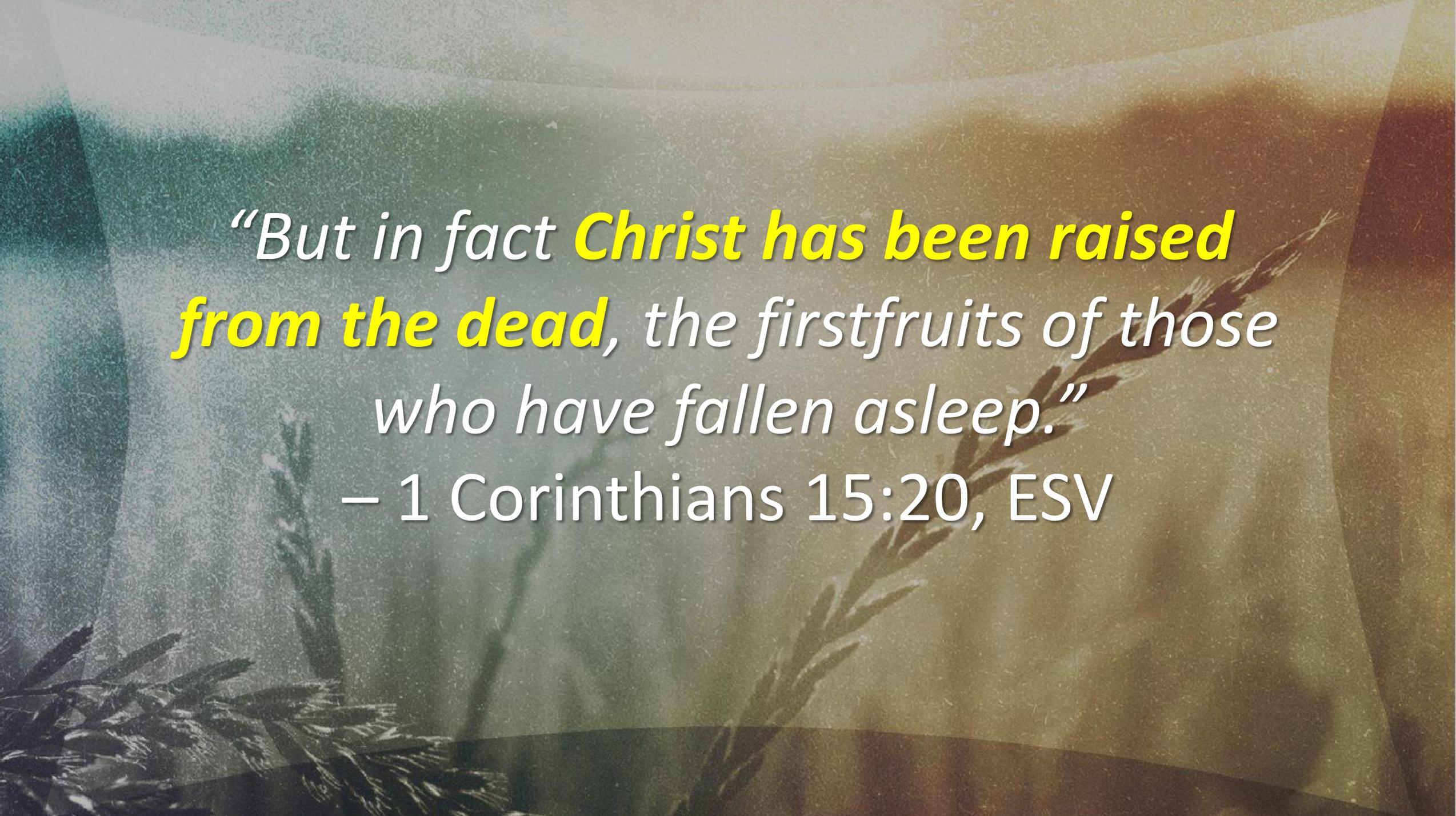
*Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; **your sins are forgiven.**" – Matthew 9:2*

A photograph showing a view through a stone tomb opening. The scene is illuminated by a bright sunrise or sunset, with a golden glow and a pinkish-purple sky. In the distance, three crosses are visible on a hill. The foreground shows some dry grass and the rough, textured interior of the tomb.

**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

A decorative banner with a green-to-gold gradient background and wheat stalks. The banner is slightly curved and has a textured, paper-like appearance. The word "FILLED" is written in a large, bold, dark green font across the center of the banner. Below the banner, the text "...with JOY" is written in a white, bold font. The background features a soft, out-of-focus image of wheat stalks, with some stalks in the foreground being more detailed than others.

**FILLED**

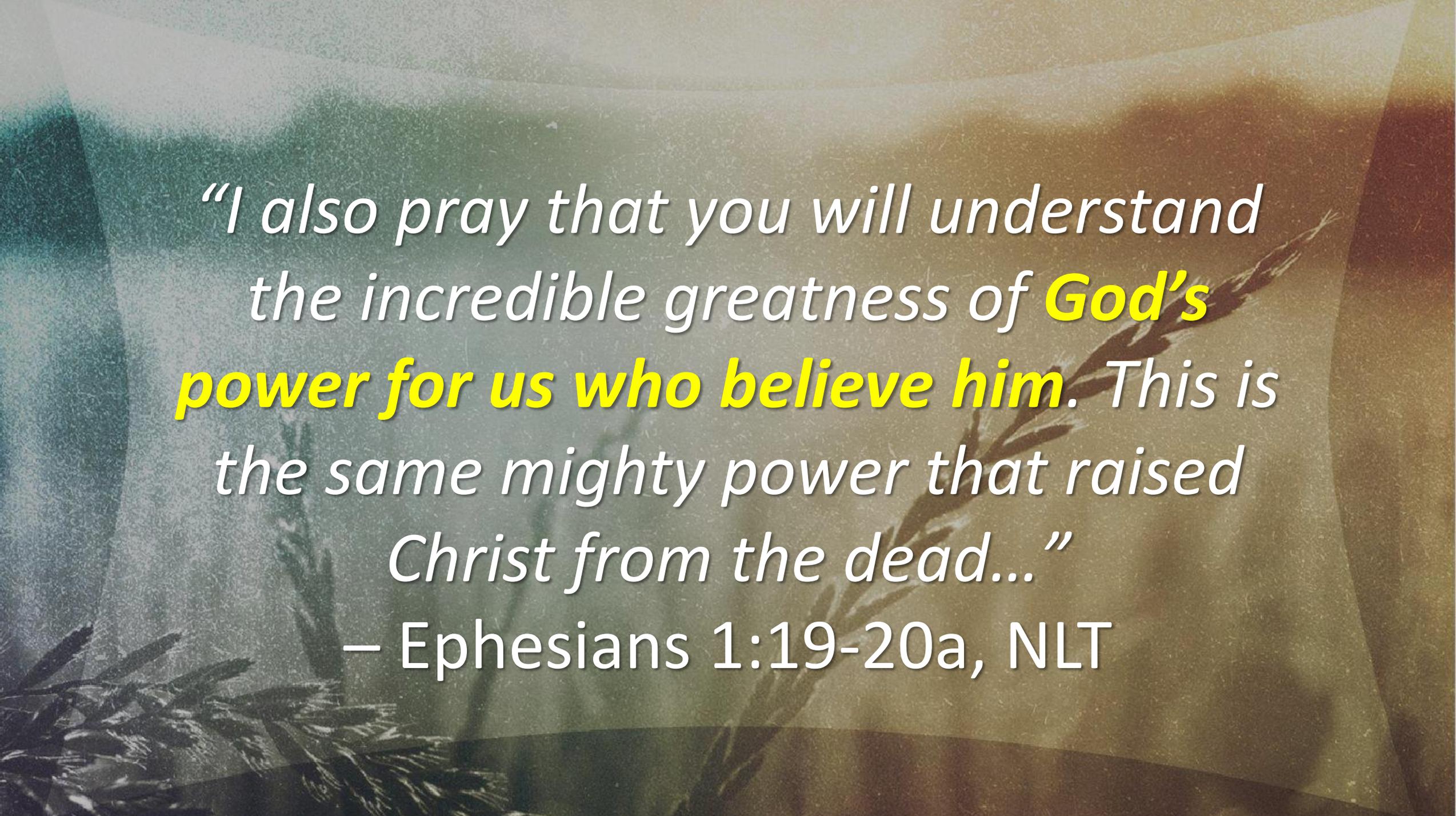
**...with JOY**

**Be FILLED with ...**

**2. The Joy of God's Power**

A photograph showing the interior of a dark, stone tomb. The entrance is an irregular, jagged hole in the rock. Through this opening, a bright sunrise is visible, with the sun low on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. In the distance, a dark silhouette of a hill or mountain range is visible, with three crosses standing on its crest. The overall scene is one of hope and resurrection.

**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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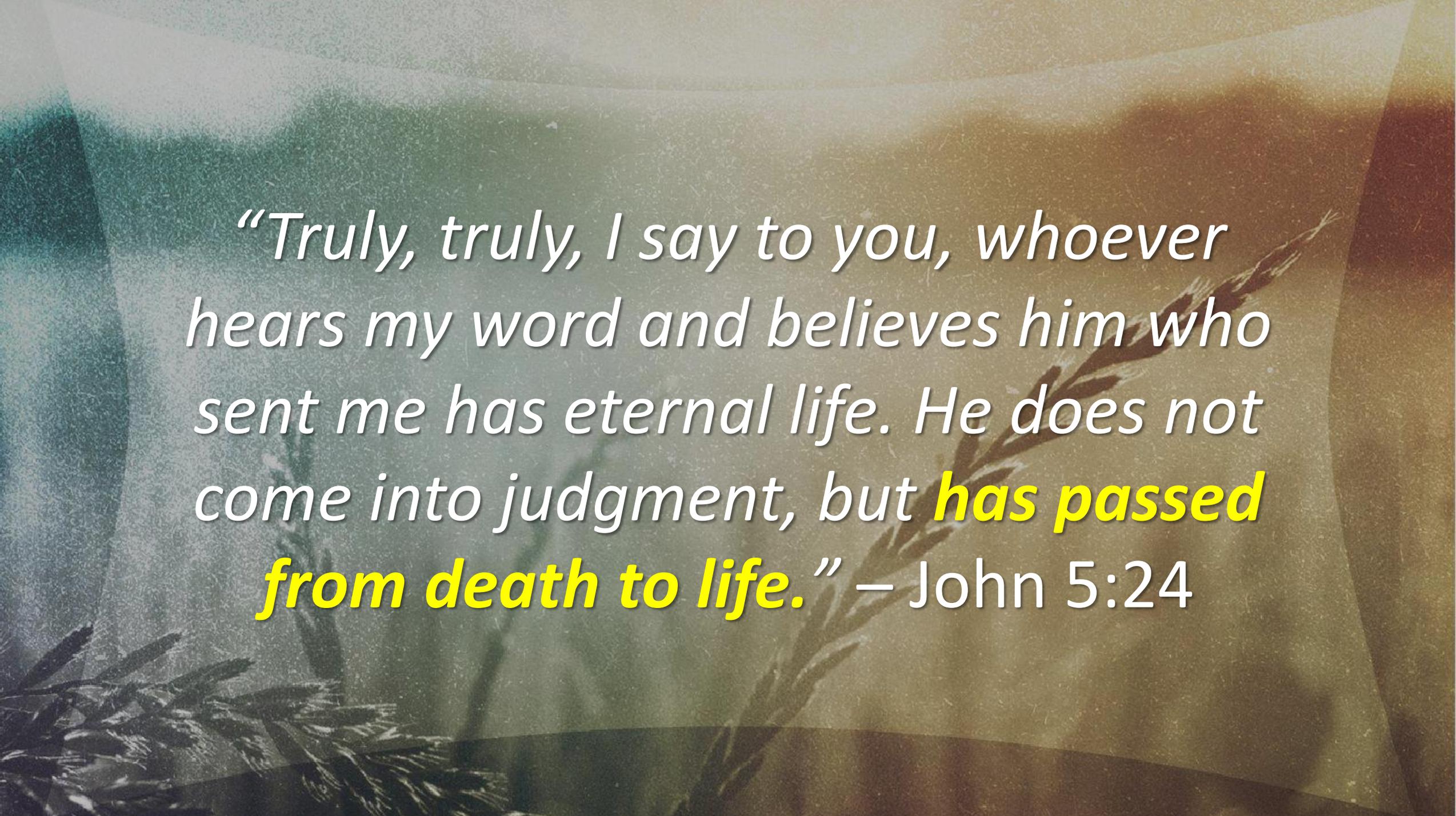
**3. The Joy of God's Triumph**

“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



**The Empty Tomb = Triumph over death.**

The background of the image shows a field of wheat under a soft, hazy sky. The wheat stalks are in the foreground, slightly out of focus, and extend towards the right side of the frame. The sky is a mix of light blue and pale yellow, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. A semi-transparent, light-colored rectangular area is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

*“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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**2. The Joy of God's Power**

**3. The Joy of God's Triumph**

