



Welcome Home

CONNECTING AND ENGAGING PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH



Welcome Home

CONNECTING AND ENGAGING PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

AND THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Welcome Home

CONNECTING AND ENGAGING PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

I Thessalonians 1:1-10



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The joy that we can have personally and share with one another is anchored in an intimate relationship with Christ.

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I Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,

3 remembering before our God and Father your

-work of faith

-and labor of love

-and steadfastness of hope

in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



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Silas

Silas



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Timothy

Silas

Silas



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Timothy

Silas

Silas



Philippi

Timothy

Silas

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Timothy

Silas

Silas

Thessalonica

Corinth

Philippi

Athens

Berea

CRETE

CYPRUS

ASIA

AEGEAN SEA

ACHAIA

MACEDONIA

THRACE

Adriatic Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Black Sea



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

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4 For we know, brothers loved by God,
that He has chosen you,
5 because our gospel came to you not only in word,
but also in power
and in the Holy Spirit
and with full conviction.

You know what kind of men we proved to be among
you for your sake.

6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord,
for you received the word in much affliction,
with the joy of the Holy Spirit,
7 so that you became an example to all the believers in
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8 For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

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Learning to live in the middle:

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Dionysus (Greek) or Bacchus (Roman),

the thirteenth God of the Greeks, was the son of the divine Zeus and of the mortal Semele. He was often depicted as the inventor of wine, abandon, and revelry.

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The Party God

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What some might resist as the lustful desires of the carnal man, followers of Dionysus embraced as the incarnation of power that would, in the next life, liberate the souls of men from the constraints of this present world and from the customs which sought to define respectability through obedience to moral law. Until that day arrived, worshippers of Dionysus attempted to bring themselves into union with their god through a ritual casting off of the bonds of sexual denial and primal constraint by inviting him into themselves via a state of sexual and drug induced ecstasy.

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Greek: *anameno*
to earnestly wait (to linger, to abide);

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Learning to live in the middle:



Greek: *anameno*

to earnestly wait (to linger, to abide);

*to actively wait with rising intensity and clarity
regarding what is hoped for.*

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“Settled indignation” which adds up against that which wrongs the holiness of God and demeans the value of humanity.

10

and

Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Learning to live in the middle:



the middle:

Learning to live in the middle:



The
unfortunate
brokenness of
our past...

Learning to live in the middle:



The
unfortunate
brokenness of
our past...

The
anticipated
beauty of
our future...

Learning to live in **the middle:**

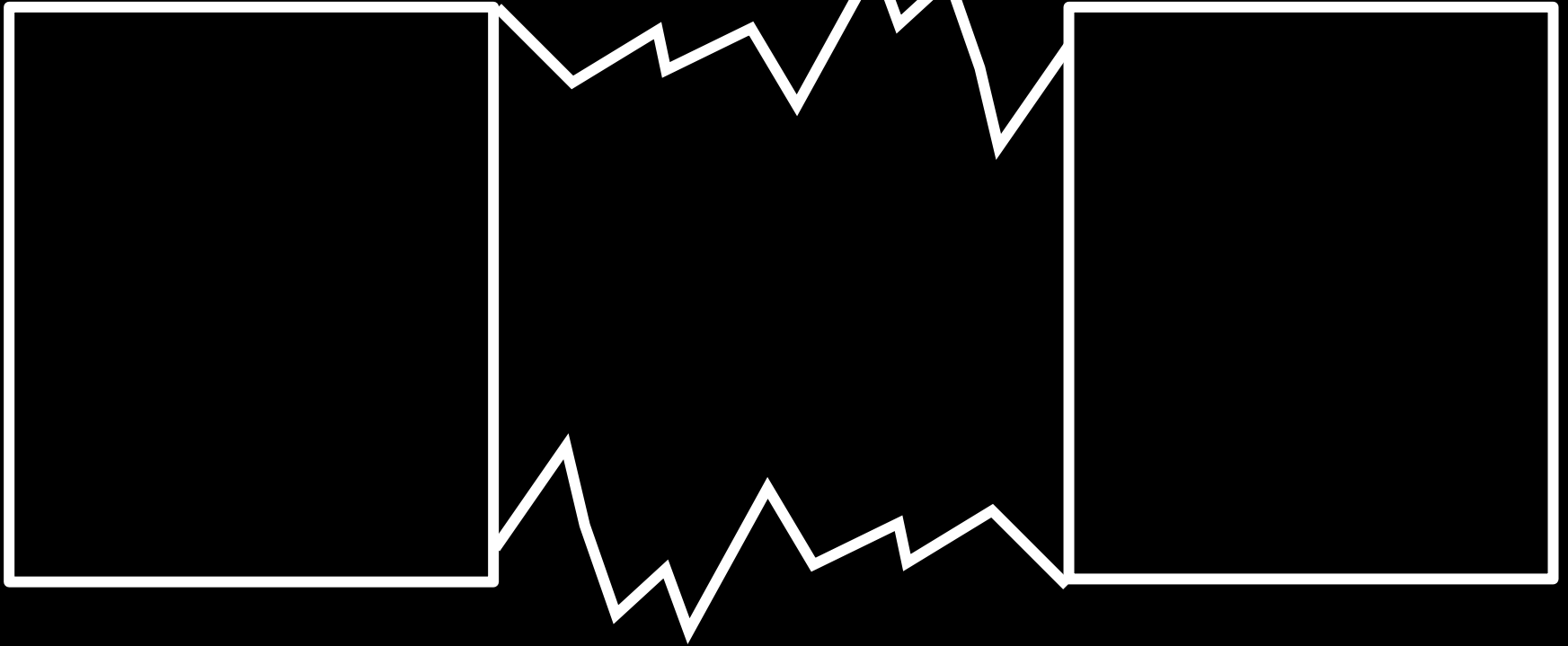


The
unfortunate
brokenness of
our past...

The
ragged
reality of
our present.

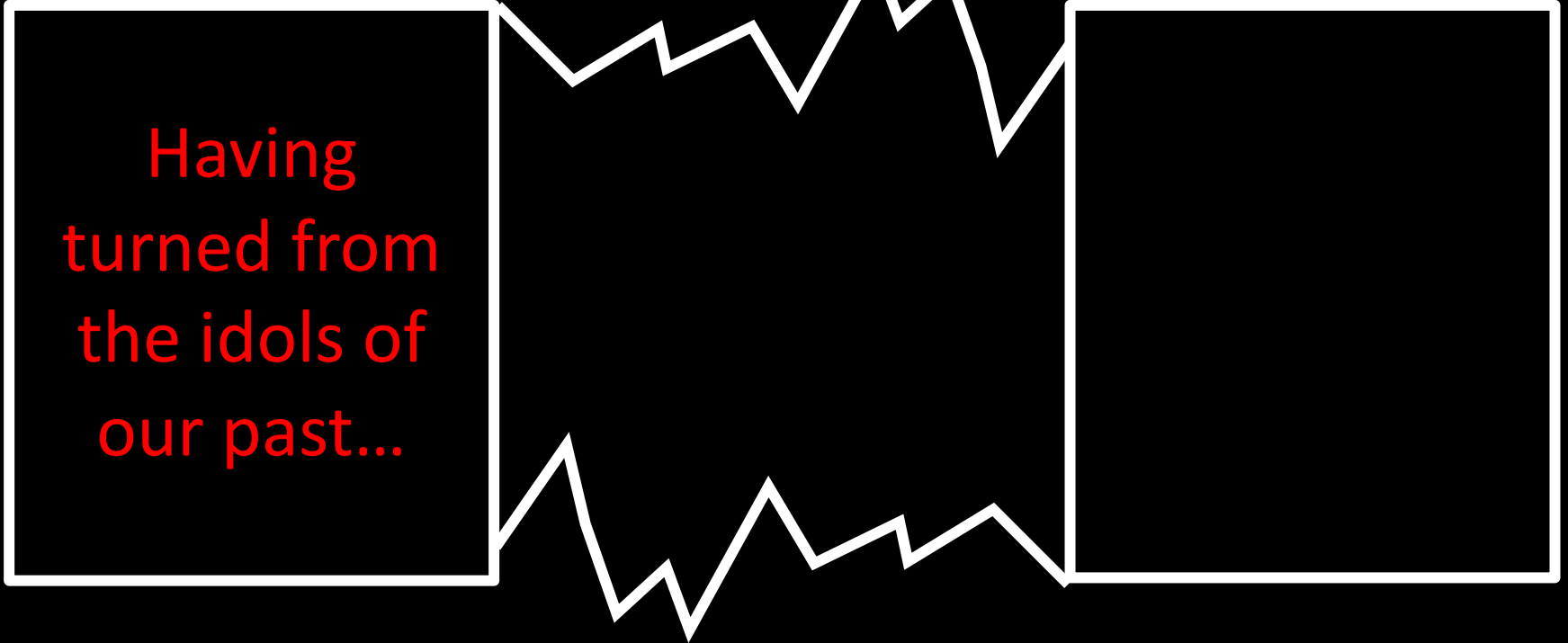
The
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Learning to live in the middle:



Learning to live in the middle:

Having
turned from
the idols of
our past...



Learning to live in the middle:

Having
turned from
the idols of
our past...

Being
delivered from
the wrath that
was our
future...

Learning to live in the middle:

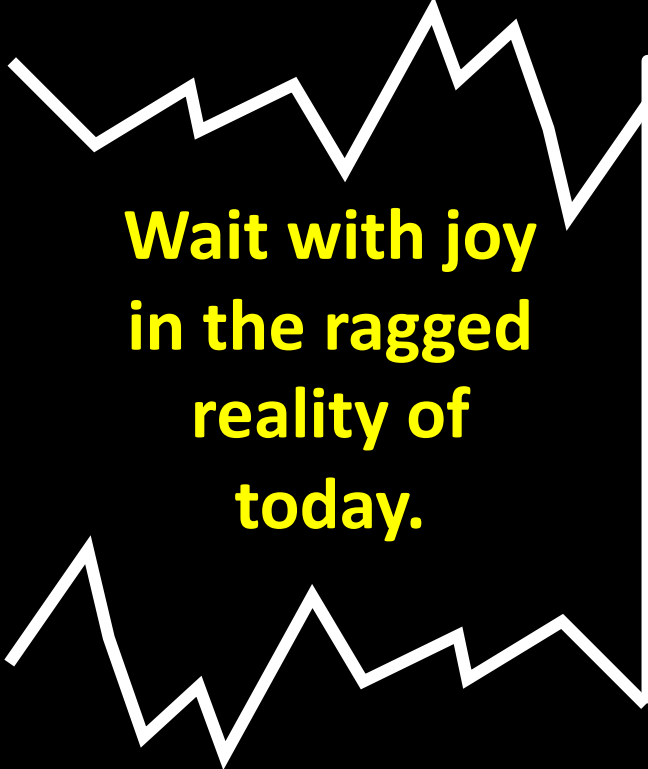


Having
turned from
the idols of
our past...

Wait with joy
in the ragged
reality of
today.

Being
delivered from
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future...

Learning to live in the middle:



**Wait with joy
in the ragged
reality of
today.**

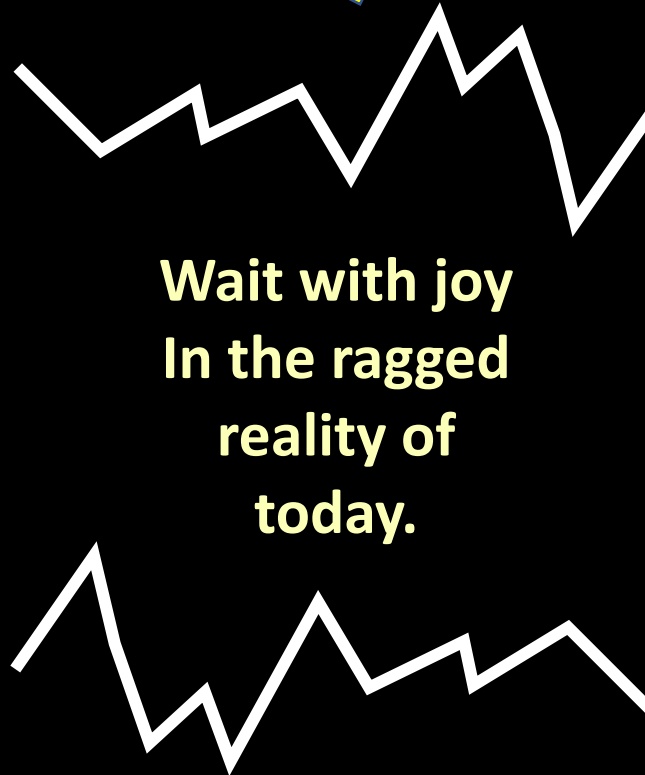
Being
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Learning to live in **the middle:**



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Learning to live in the middle:



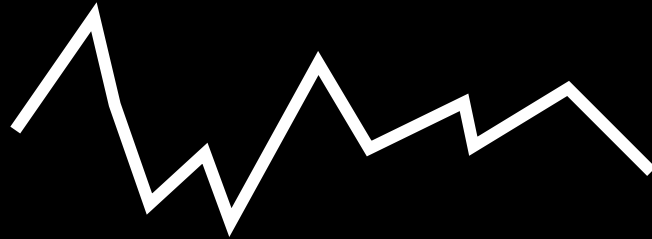
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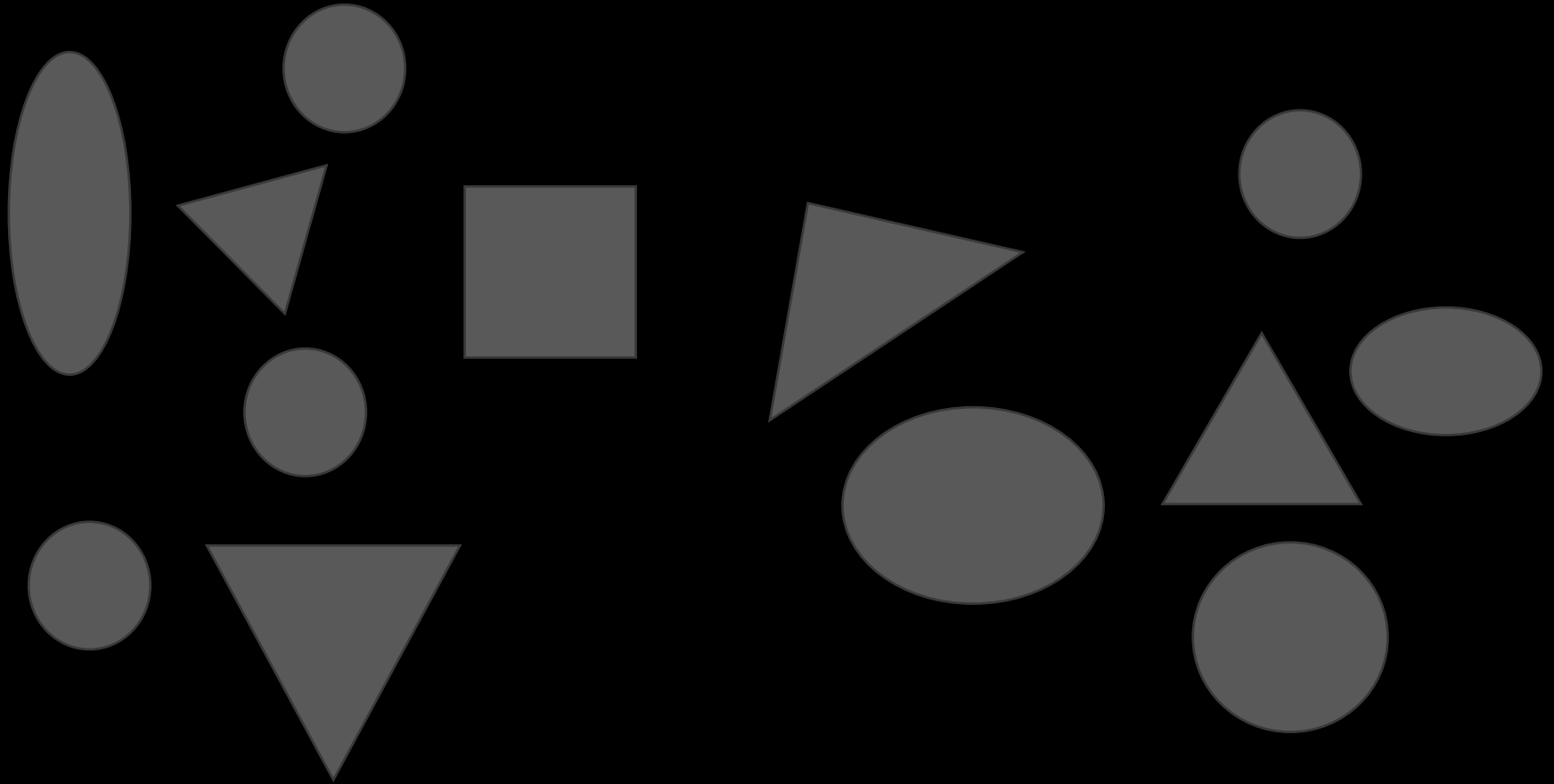


Learning to live in the middle:

A modified, watered down,
and totally inadequate

Christian-ish' kind of self-selected moralism.

Learning to live



Learning to live

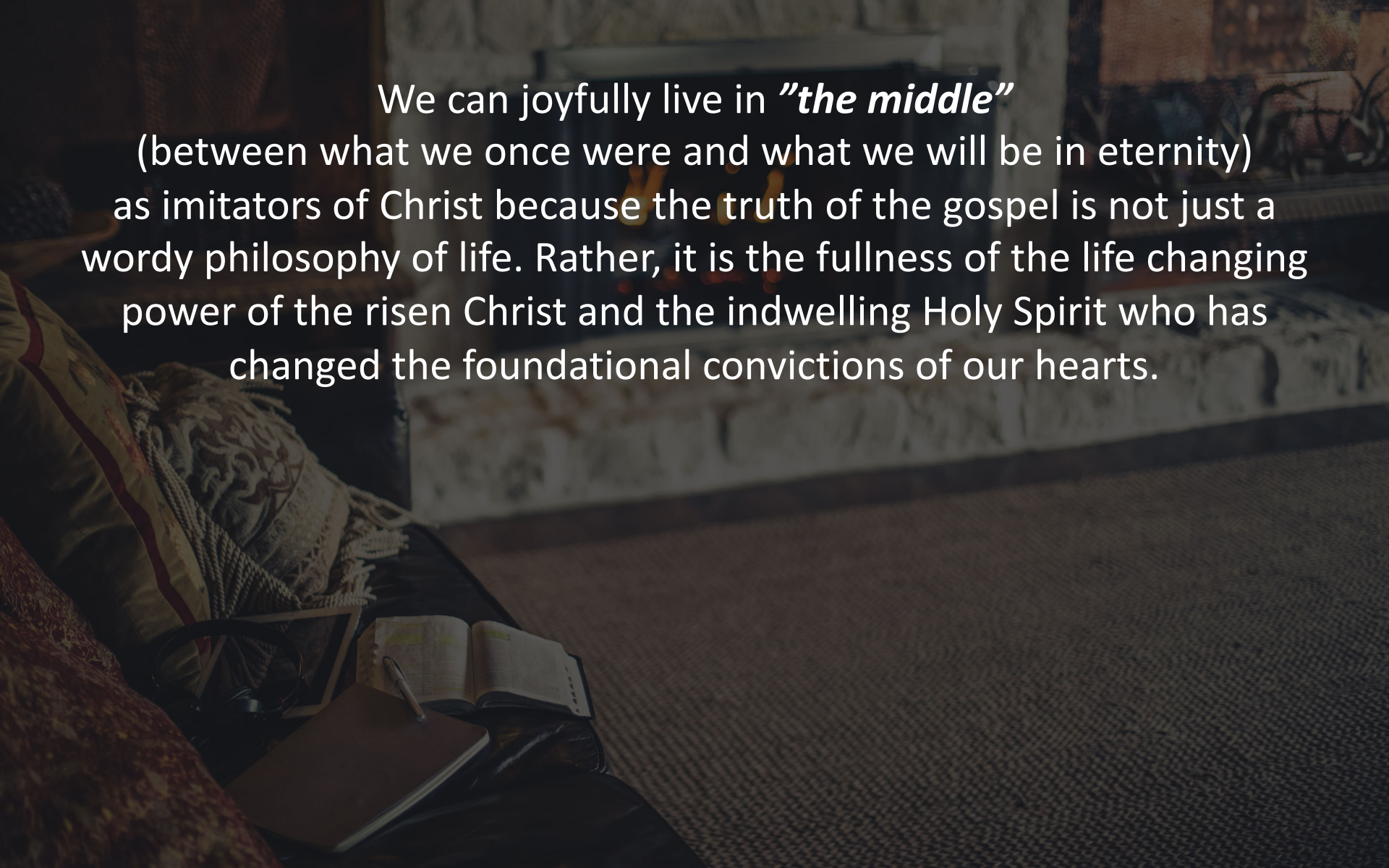
**Personal Peace
&
Affluence**

The background of the slide is black and features several abstract geometric shapes in a medium gray color. These shapes include circles of various sizes, triangles pointing in different directions, a square, and an elongated oval. The shapes are scattered across the page, with some overlapping the central text.

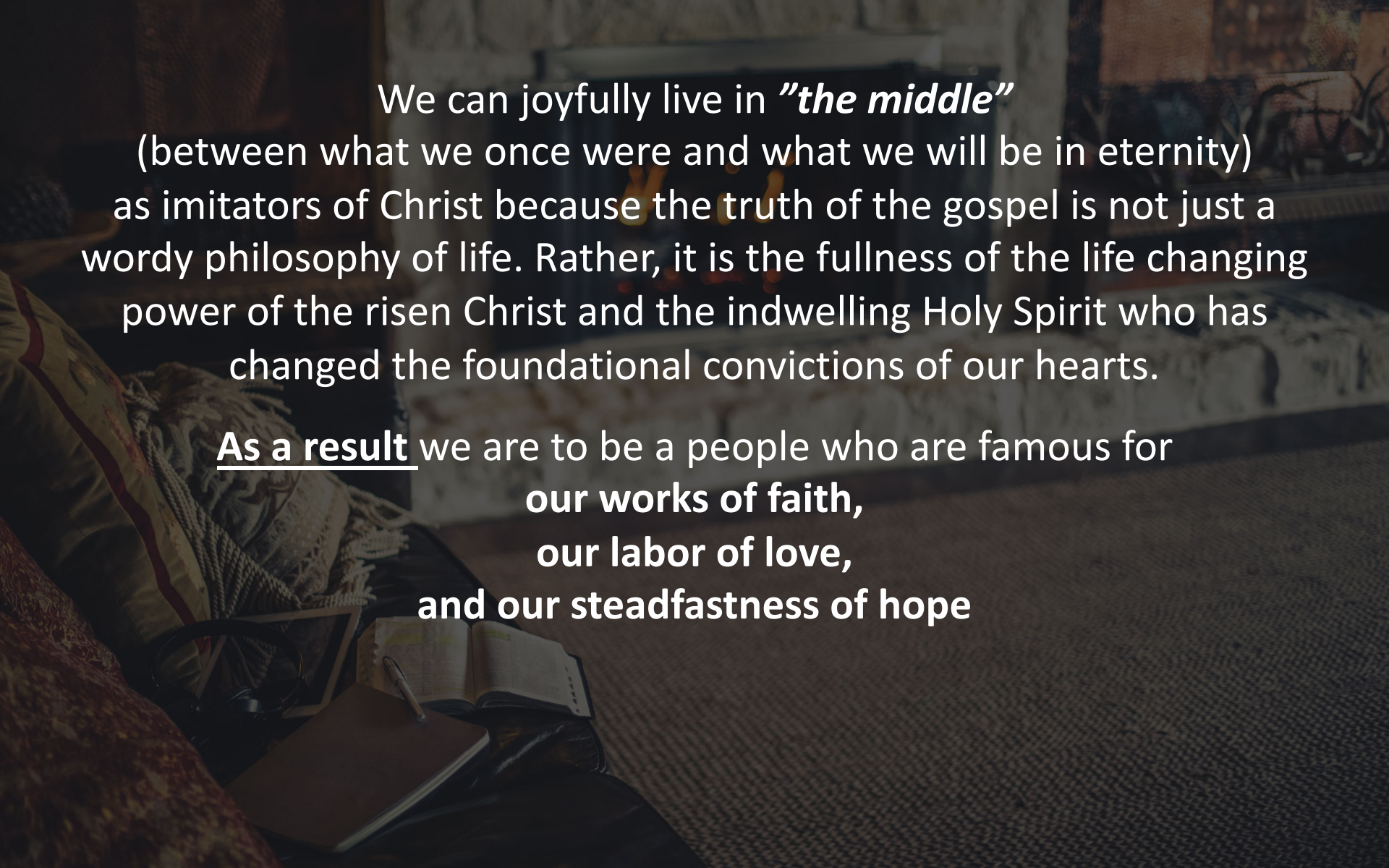
Learning to live

**Personal Pleasure
&
Appeasement**



A dimly lit room with a fireplace in the background. In the foreground, there is a desk with an open notebook, a pen, and a pair of glasses. The text is overlaid on the image.

We can joyfully live in *"the middle"*
(between what we once were and what we will be in eternity)
as imitators of Christ because the truth of the gospel is not just a
wordy philosophy of life. Rather, it is the fullness of the life changing
power of the risen Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit who has
changed the foundational convictions of our hearts.



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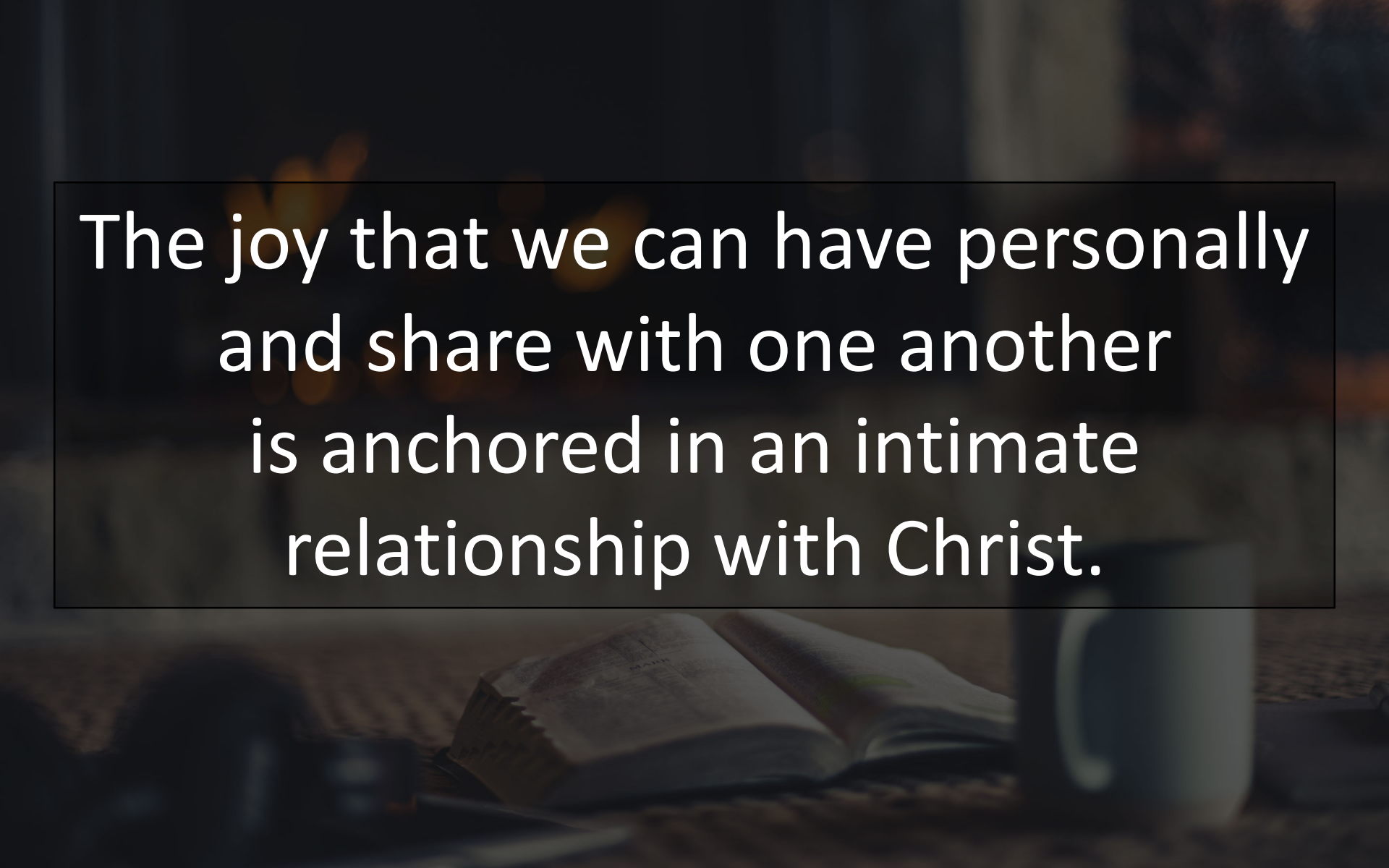
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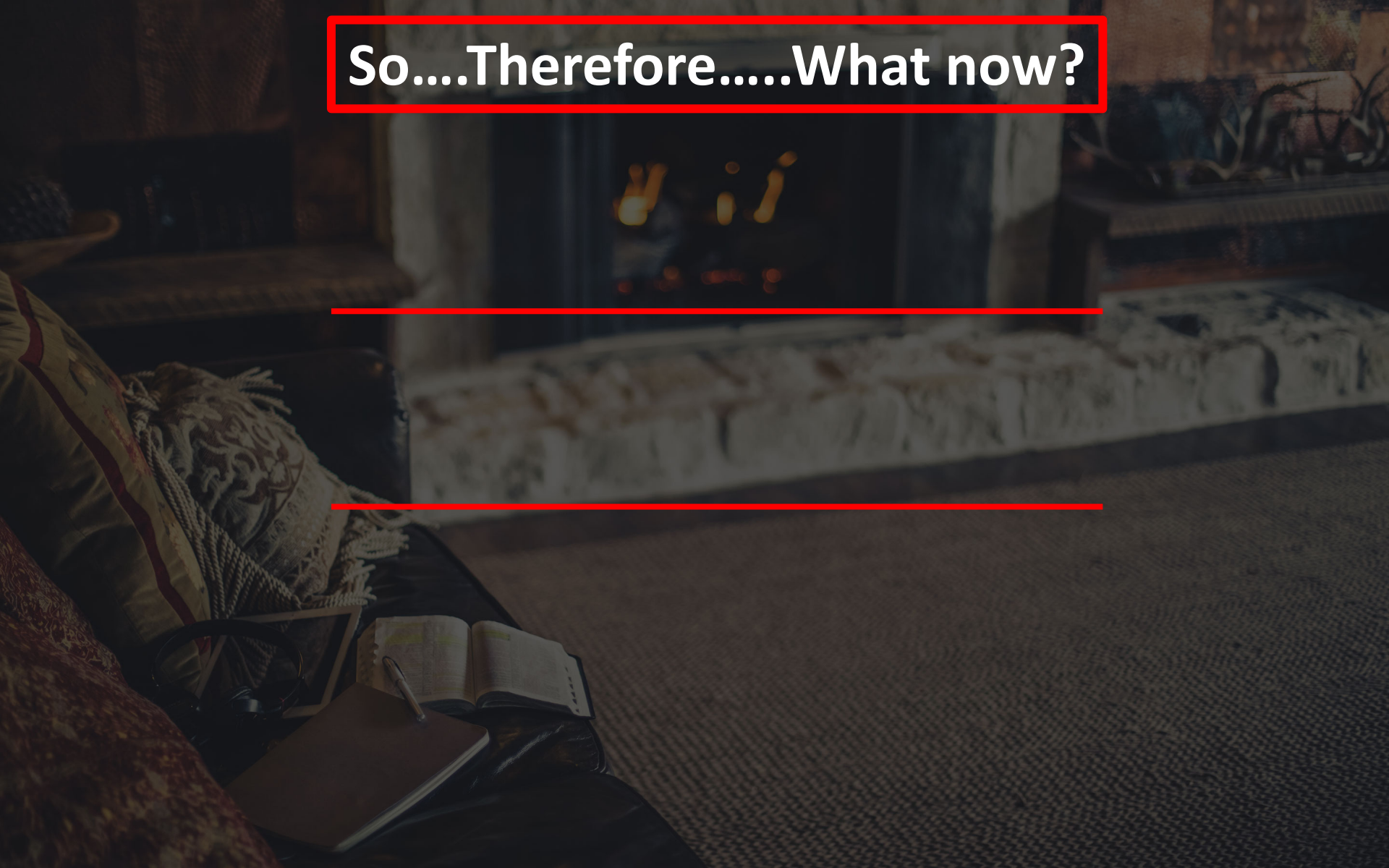
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our works of faith,
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and our steadfastness of hope
in a world that
has in large part abandoned faith
yet searches for love
and is desperate for hope.

The background is a dark, out-of-focus photograph. In the lower portion, an open book with white pages is visible, resting on a surface. To the right of the book, a white mug is partially visible. The overall lighting is dim, with some warm, bokeh-like light spots in the upper left area.

The joy that we can have personally
and share with one another
is anchored in an intimate
relationship with Christ.

So....Therefore....What now?



So....Therefore....What now?

**What are the idols in your life
that have taken the place of the living and true God?**

So....Therefore....What now?

**What are the idols in your life
that have taken the place of the living and true God?**

**Are you willing to abandon those empty and deadly idols
in favor of the Lordship of Christ?**

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**Are you willing to abandon those empty and deadly idols
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**If you have never made the decision to entrust yourself
to the work of Christ that pays the penalty for your sin,
delivers you from the power of that sin, and sets you
free to await His return with joy....how about today?**