


# WALK THE WALK

A serious look at the the letter from James

A person is walking away from the camera down a long, dark tunnel. The tunnel is illuminated by a bright light at the far end, creating a strong silhouette of the person. The walls of the tunnel are made of concrete and have a reflective surface, showing some light reflections. The floor is also reflective, showing the person's reflection. The overall atmosphere is one of a journey or a path leading to a bright future.

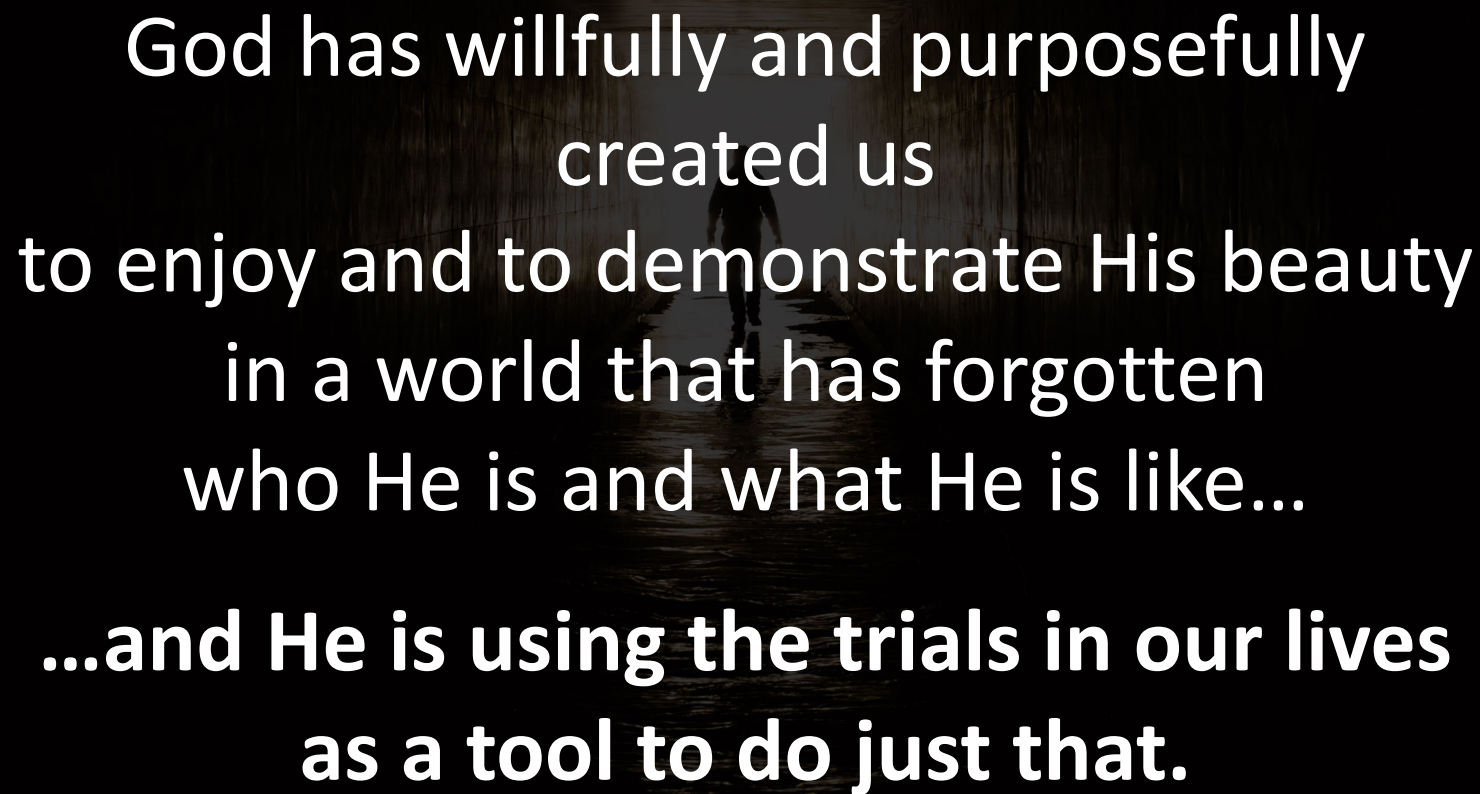
If the church is going to be relevant  
in the 21st century, it will have to be  
mature, trustworthy, and faithful.

## James 1:2-4


- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
- 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

A person is walking away from the camera down a long, dark hallway. The floor is highly reflective, creating a clear mirror image of the person and the hallway's walls. The lighting is dim, with a brighter area at the end of the hallway where the person is walking. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

Trials are tools  
God uses  
to grow our character  
and make us mature.

A person is walking away from the camera down a long, dark hallway with highly reflective floors. The person's reflection is clearly visible on the floor. The hallway is dimly lit, with light reflecting off the floor and walls, creating a sense of depth and solitude. The overall mood is contemplative and somewhat somber.

God has willfully and purposefully  
created us  
to enjoy and to demonstrate His beauty  
in a world that has forgotten  
who He is and what He is like...  
**...and He is using the trials in our lives  
as a tool to do just that.**



## v.5-8

Trials force us to need wisdom beyond ourselves, and God is pleased to give it.

## v.9-11

Trials force us to remember what is actually important in life.

## v.12-15

Trials can deceive us when we begin to think that God is trying to trick us.

## v.16-18

The deceptive side of trials prevent us from seeing God for who He actually is.

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**v.19-21**

The anger of man  
has never accomplished  
the purposes of God.

**v.22-25**

There is an inherent  
blessing that comes with  
responding obediently to  
God's Word.

**v.26-27**

Real "religion"  
bridles the tongue,  
cares for the disenfranchised,  
and distances itself from  
what is wrong.

**2:1-13**

Partiality and favoritism  
is a cancer in the body of  
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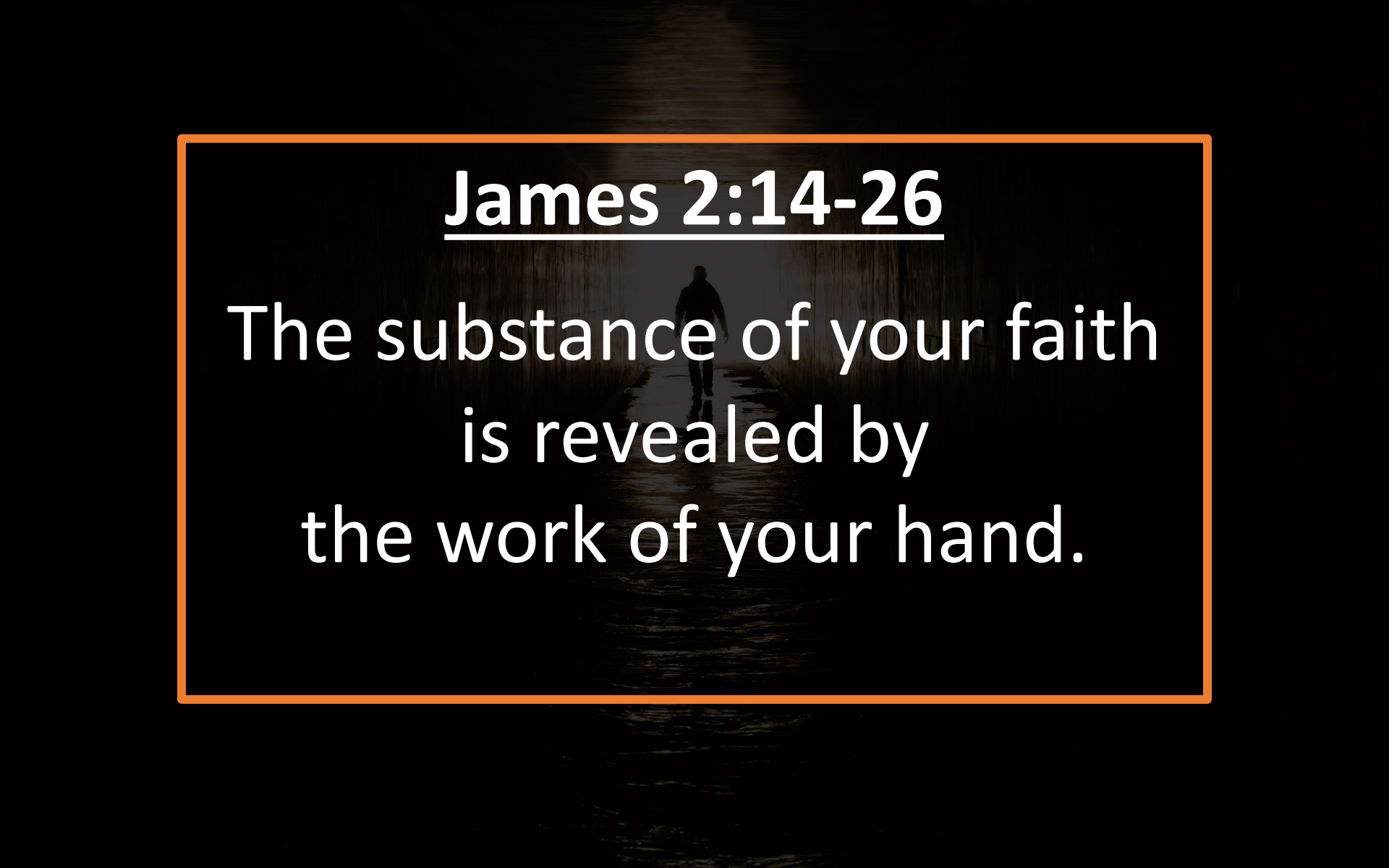
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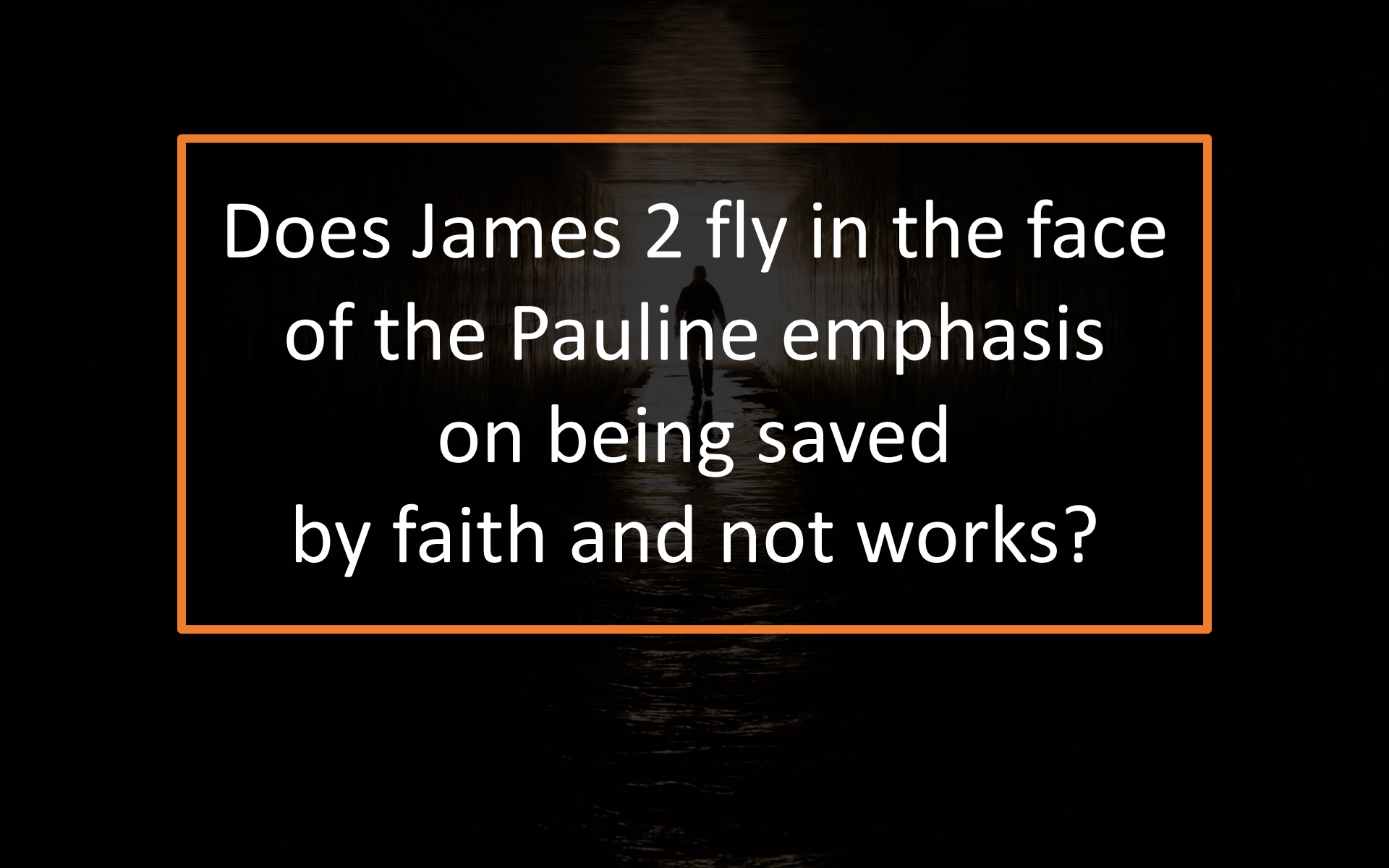
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James 2:14-26

The substance of your faith  
is revealed by  
the work of your hand.

A person is walking away from the viewer down a long, dark tunnel. The tunnel walls are dark and textured, and the floor is also dark. At the far end of the tunnel, there is a bright light source, creating a strong glow and a silhouette of the person walking towards it. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and contemplative.

Does James 2 fly in the face  
of the Pauline emphasis  
on being saved  
by faith and not works?



*He saved us,  
**not because of righteous things we had done,**  
but because of His mercy. He saved us through the  
washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.  
– Titus 3:5*

***For by grace you have been saved through faith.**  
And this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God,  
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.  
-- Ephesians 2:8-9*

***By grace alone,  
through faith alone,  
in Christ alone!***

## **God's Grace** by LeRoy Eims

All during my growing-up years, what little religious instruction I was given led me to believe that good works was the key to going to heaven.

But through a series of events, I did something that turned my life upside-down, or maybe I should say right-side-up. I bought a Bible and read it from cover to cover, and God took hold of my heart.

My wife and I gave our lives to Christ and vowed to follow Him all our days. My mother, although relieved to see me change my behavior, continued to believe that the real key to heaven was good works.

One day I was in the kitchen at my parents' home, reading John 6:28-29, and I came across these words,

***“Then they asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’ Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent.’”***

I ran into the living room shouting, “Ma, Ma, look at this!” She read it, reread it, and believed it. From that moment on, she placed her faith in Jesus Christ.

The person depending on good works never knows where he or she stands with God. How many good works are necessary? People who do not understand the grace of God will go to great lengths to try to please God. I met a lady in an oriental temple who had burned off her index finger to show God she would do anything to gain His favor.

***Christian, what a message we have for people  
burdened by their efforts to please God!***

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,

16 and one of you says to them,

***“Go in peace, be warmed and filled,”***

without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

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**17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**

18 But someone will say,

***“You have faith and I have works.”***

Show me your faith apart from works,  
and I will show you my faith by my works.

19 You believe that God is one; you do well.

Even the demons believe— and shudder!

20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person,  
that faith apart from works is useless?



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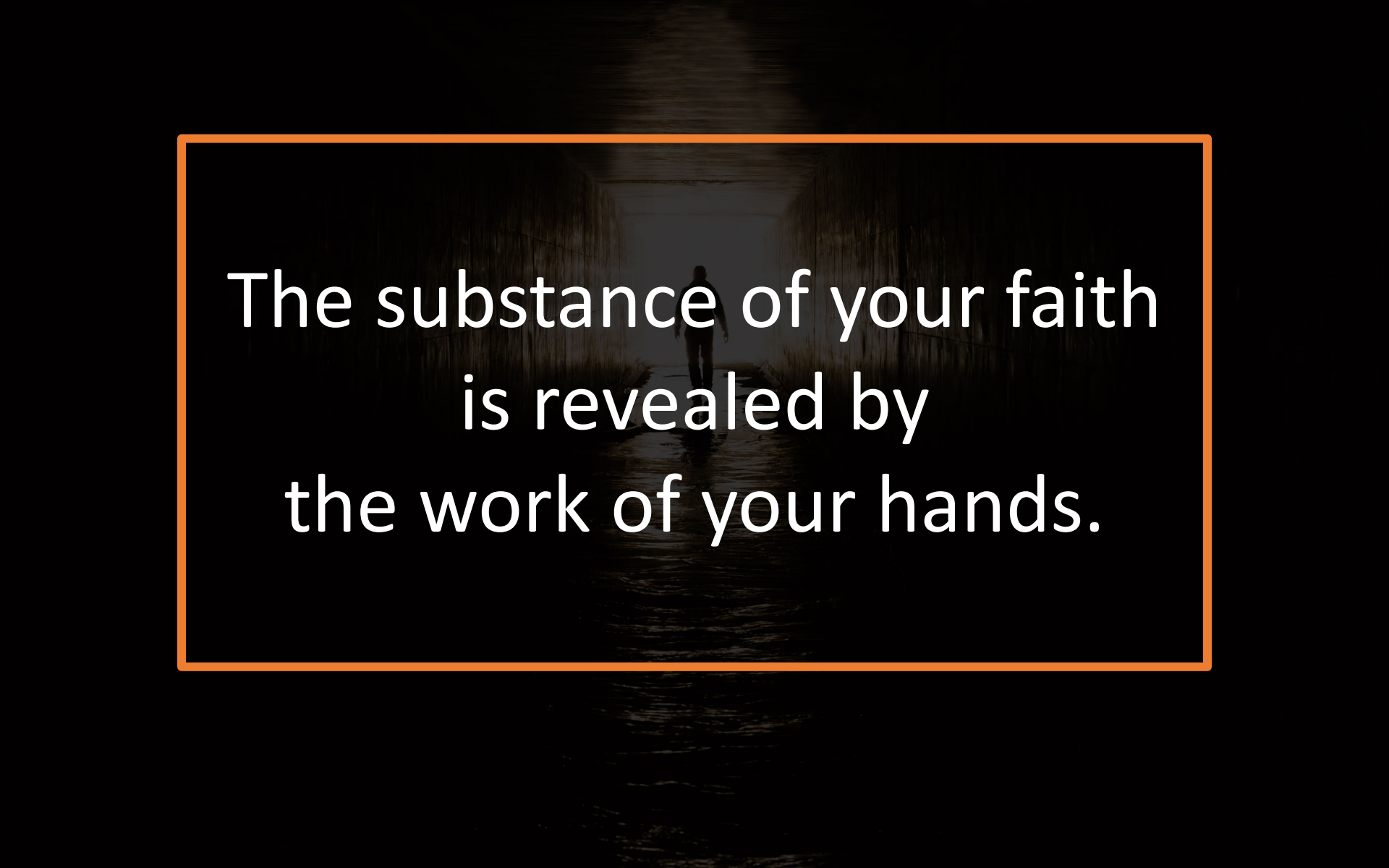
3 illustrations



# Marriage Proposal

- 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?
- 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;
- 23 and Scripture was fulfilled that says,  
***“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”***—  
and he was called a friend of God.
- 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

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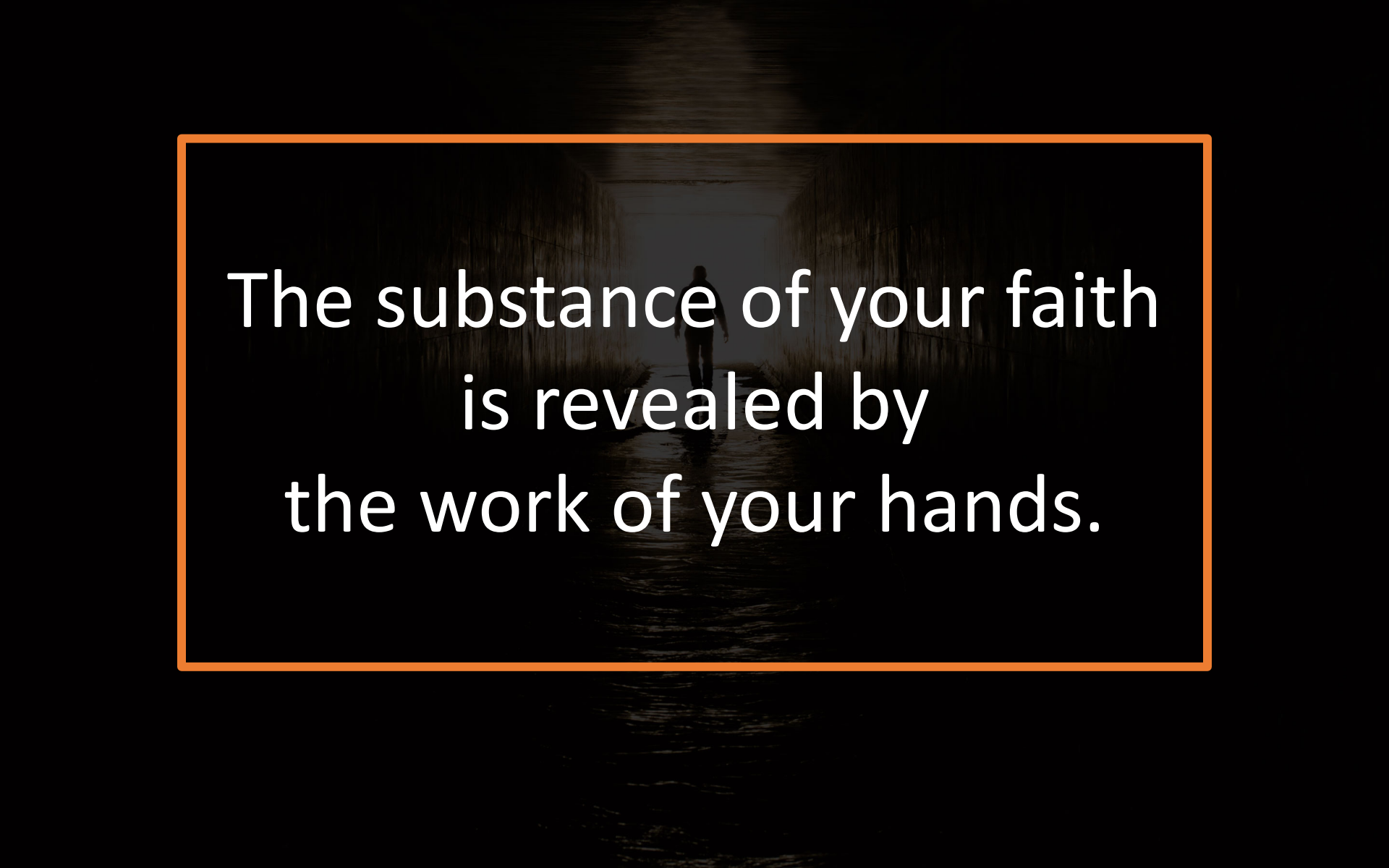
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The substance of your faith  
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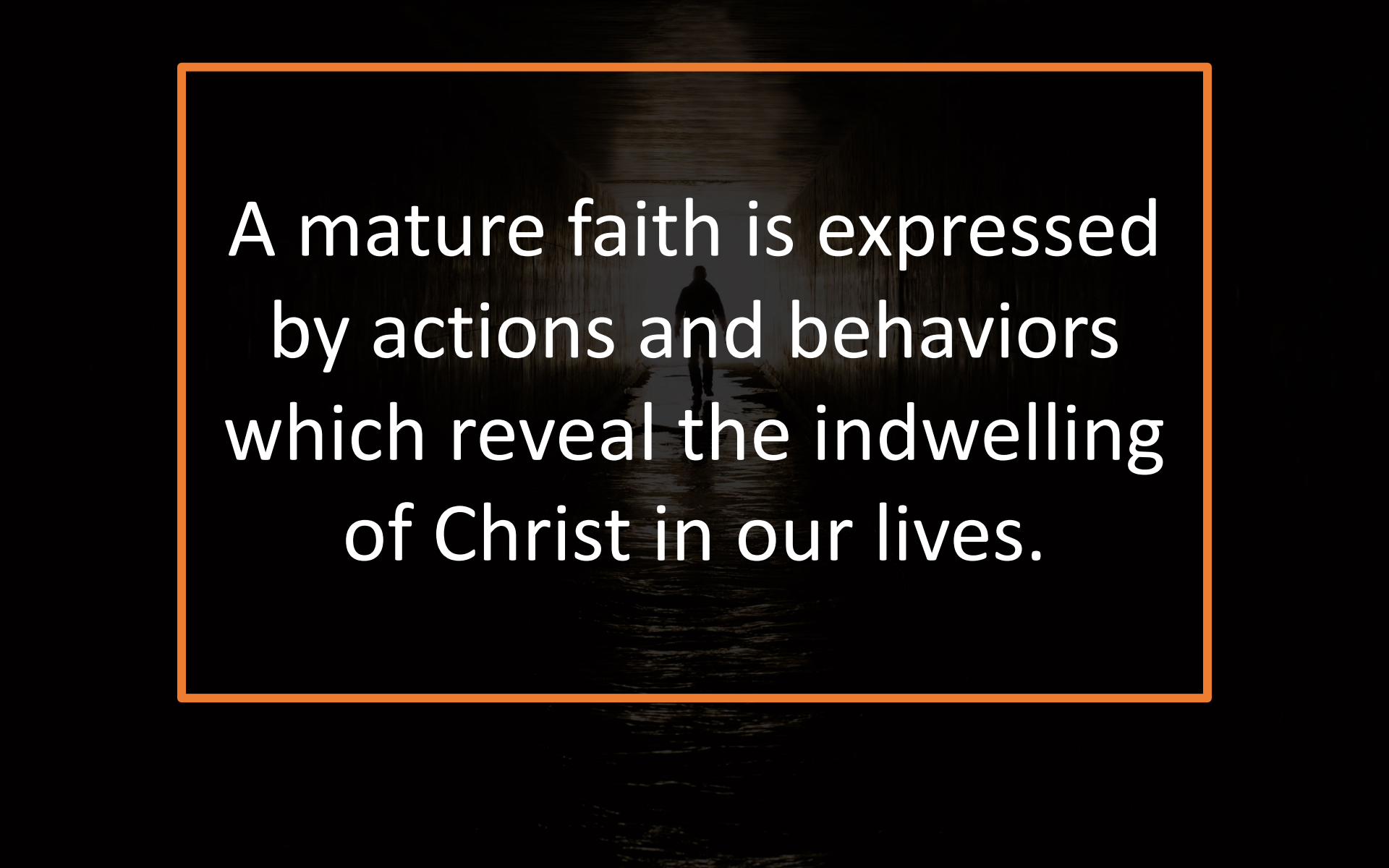
- 25 And in the same way was not also **Rahab** the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?
- 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

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A mature faith is expressed  
by actions and behaviors  
which reveal the indwelling  
of Christ in our lives.

## To Ponder

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

***For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8-10).***

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## To Pray

Lord, thank You for Your grace in which I stand. Give me the strength to live out the substance of my faith. ***Amen.***

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in the 21st century,  
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