



LOOKING
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —

Elul 29



Elul 29, 2001 = September 17, 2001

The background of the image is a night sky filled with numerous small, bright stars. A thick layer of white and grey clouds stretches across the middle of the frame, appearing to be illuminated from below, which gives them a golden-yellow glow. The sky above the clouds is a deep, dark blue, while the sky below the clouds is a lighter, hazy blue. The overall effect is a serene and ethereal celestial scene.

Elul 29, 2001 = September 17, 2001

Elul 29, 2008 = September 29, 2008



Elul 29, 2001 = September 17, 2001
Elul 29, 2008 = September 29, 2008
Elul 29, 2015 = September 13, 2015





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Worldviews:

Culture - Security is found in money and possessions.

Biblical - Security is found in a relationship with God and His people.



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1 Thessalonians 3





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1 Thessalonians 3:1 (NLT)

Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens,

1 Thessalonians 3:2a (NLT)

and we sent Timothy to visit you.

**He is our brother and God's co-
worker in proclaiming the Good
News of Christ.**

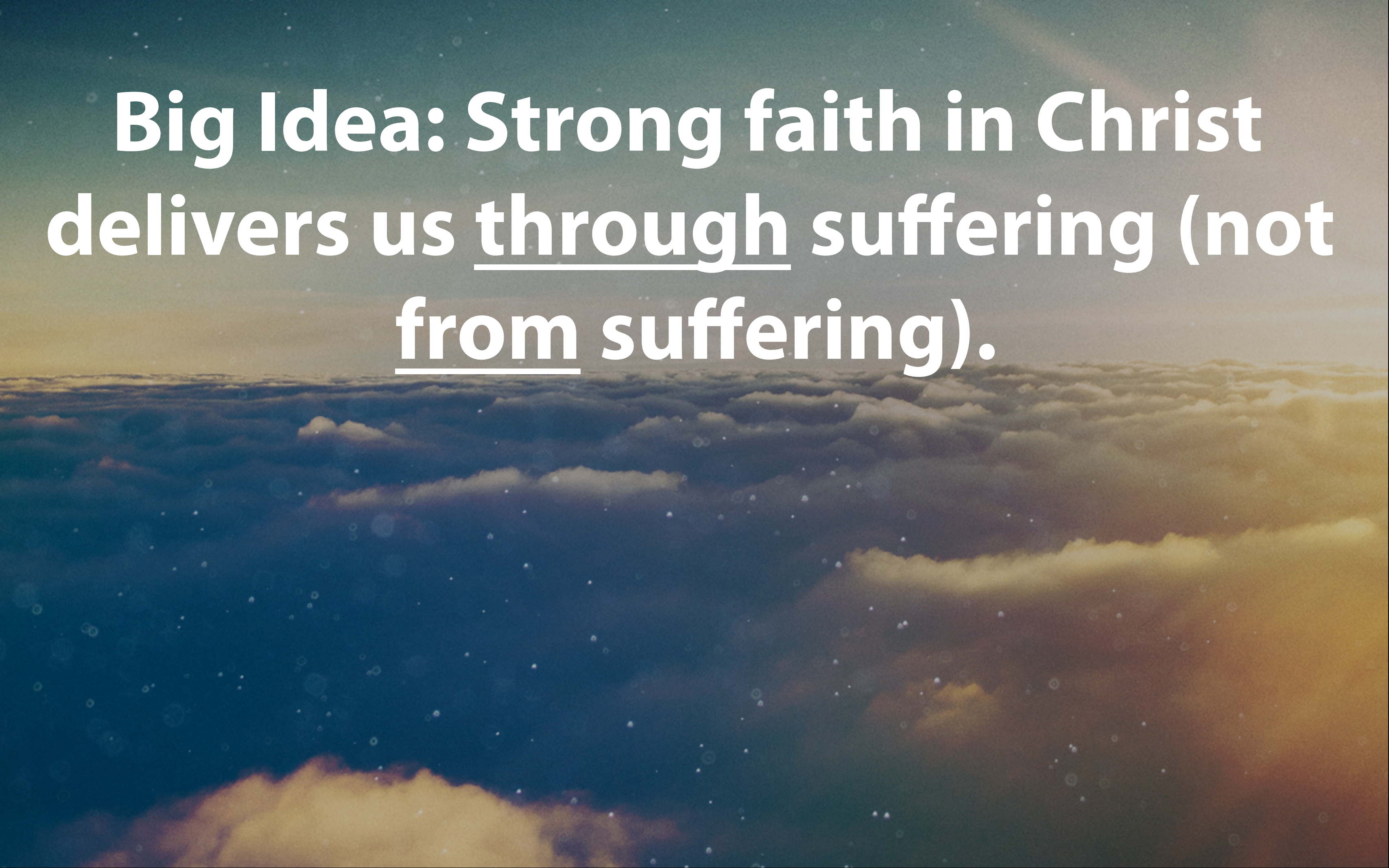
1 Thessalonians 3:2b (NLT)

We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith,



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**Big Idea: Strong faith in Christ
delivers us through suffering (not
from suffering).**



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1 Thessalonians 3:3 (NLT)

and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such troubles.

1 Thessalonians 3:4 (NLT)

**4 Even while we were with you,
we warned you that troubles
would soon come—and they did,
as you well know.**

1 Thessalonians 3:5a (NLT)

5 That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong.

1 Thessalonians 3:5b (NLT)

I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.



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Strong faith...
Recognizes God's activity in the
suffering.



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Philippians 1:29 (NLT)

For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

1 Peter 4:12 (NLT)

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.



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James 1:2 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

James 1:3 (NLT)

For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

James 1:4 (NLT)

**So let it grow, for when your
endurance is fully developed, you
will be perfect and complete,
needing nothing.**



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Strong faith...
Recognizes God's activity in the
suffering.



Strong faith...
Does not yield to temptation.



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1 Thessalonians 3:5a (NLT)

That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong.

1 Thessalonians 3:5b (NLT)

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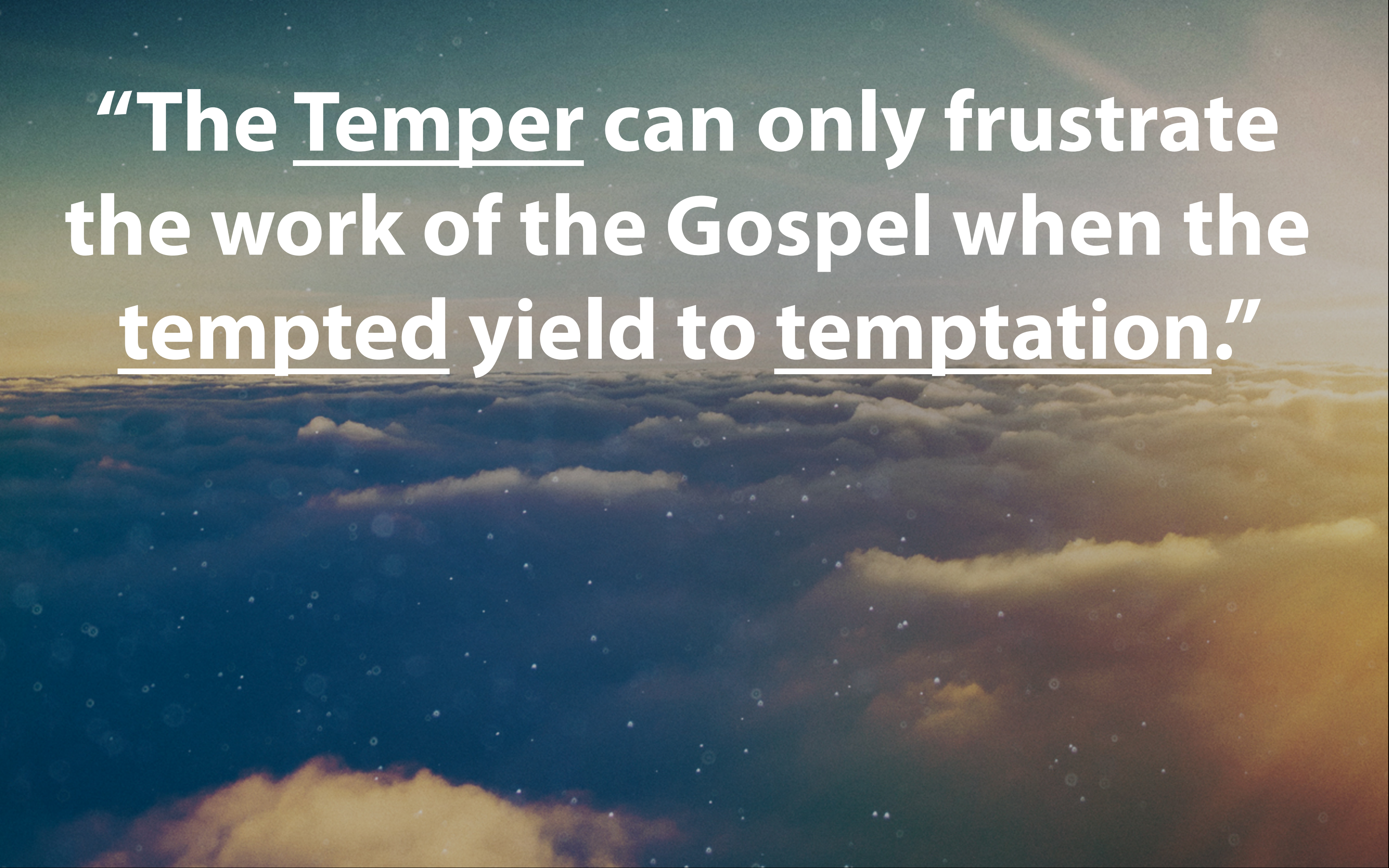
1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.



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**“The Temper can only frustrate
the work of the Gospel when the
tempted yield to temptation.”**



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1 Corinthians 10:13a (NLT)

**The temptations in your life are
no different from what others
experience. And God is faithful.**

1 Corinthians 10:13b (NLT)

He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand.

When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.



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Fight or Flight

An aerial view of a vast, flat landscape of clouds, likely from an airplane. The clouds are illuminated from the right, creating a gradient from dark blue on the left to bright yellow on the right. The sky above is dark with many small, bright stars. The overall scene is serene and expansive.



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Strong faith...
Does not yield to temptation.

1 Thessalonians 3:6a (NLT)

But now Timothy has just returned, bringing us good news about your faith and love.

1 Thessalonians 3:6b (NLT)

He reports that you always remember our visit with joy and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you.

1 Thessalonians 3:7 (NLT)

So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:8 (NLT)

It gives us new life to know that you are standing firm in the Lord.

**9 How we thank God for you!
Because of you we have great joy
as we enter God's presence.**

1 Thessalonians 3:9 (NLT)

How we thank God for you!

**Because of you we have great joy
as we enter God's presence.**



Strong faith...
Fuels others to stand strong, too.



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**“Your most difficult misery will be
your most effective ministry.”**





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1 Thessalonians 3:10 (NLT)

**Night and day we pray earnestly
for you, asking God to let us see
you again to fill the gaps in your
faith.**

1 Thessalonians 3:11 (NLT)

**May God our Father and our Lord
Jesus bring us to you very soon.**

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NLT)

**And may the Lord make your love
for one another and for all people
grow and overflow, just as our
love for you overflows.**

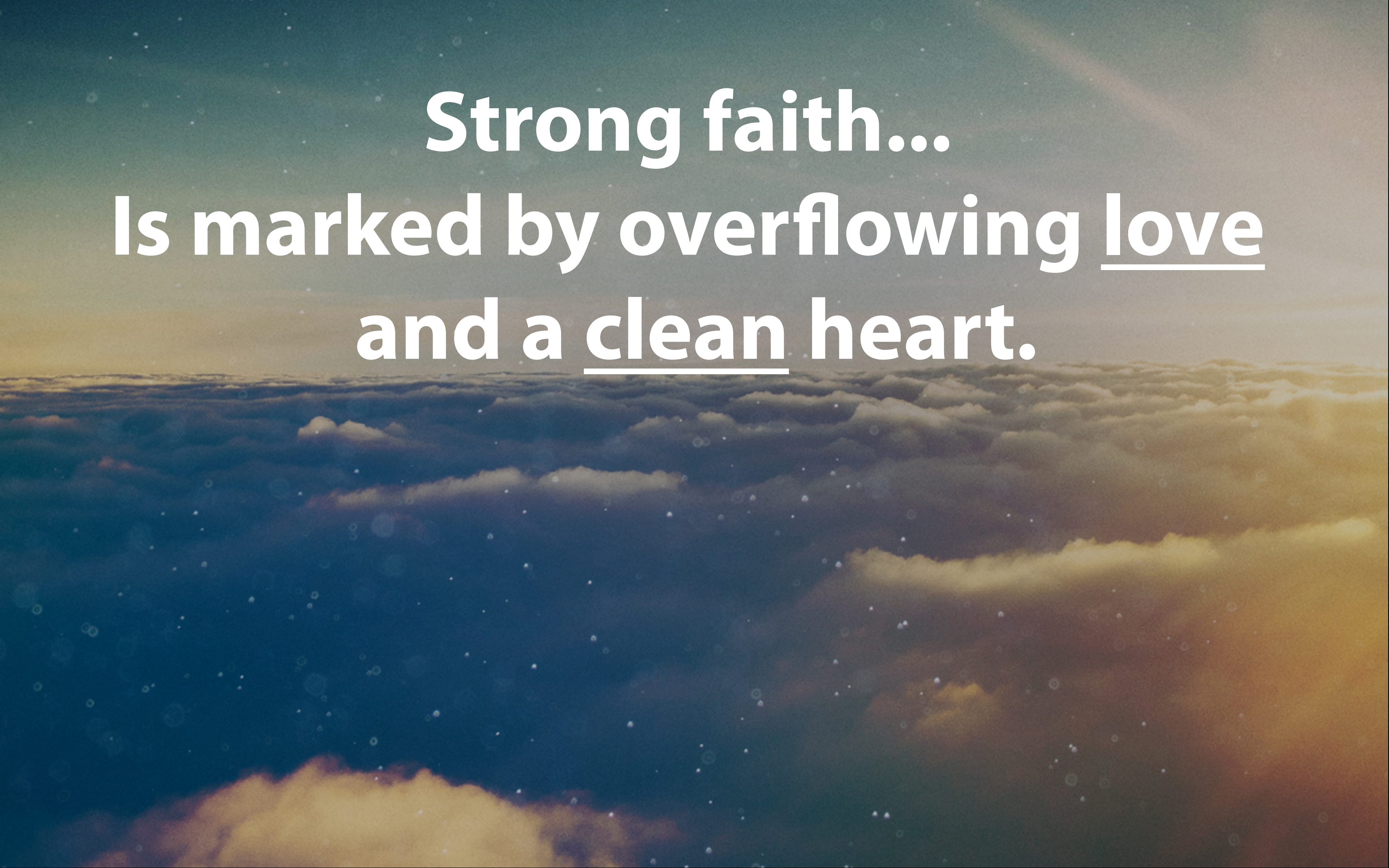
1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NLT)

May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen.



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Strong faith...
Is marked by overflowing love
and a clean heart.



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Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her

Ephesians 5:26 (NLT)

**to make her holy and clean,
washed by the cleansing of God's
word.**


Ephesians 5:27 (NLT)

He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.



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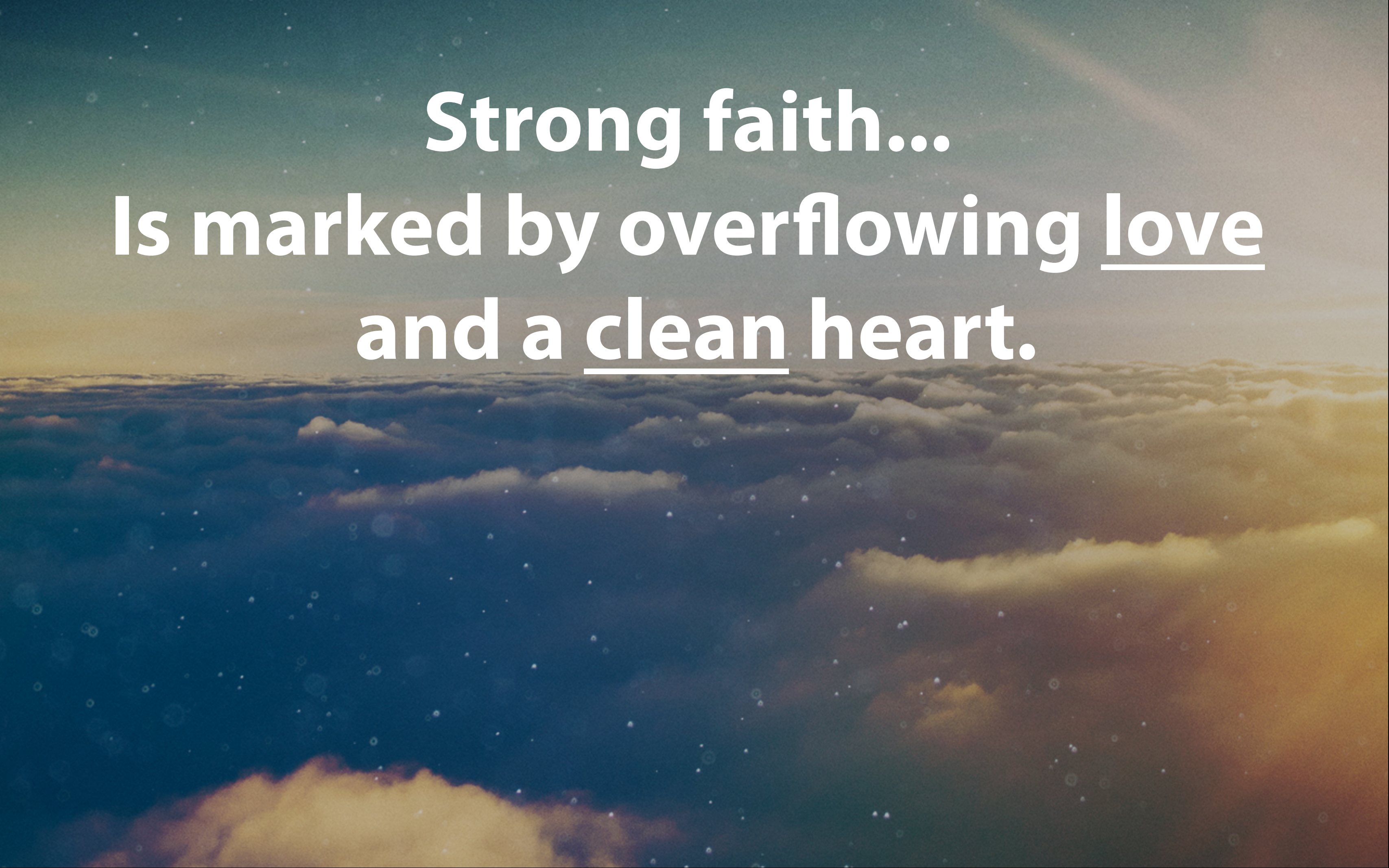
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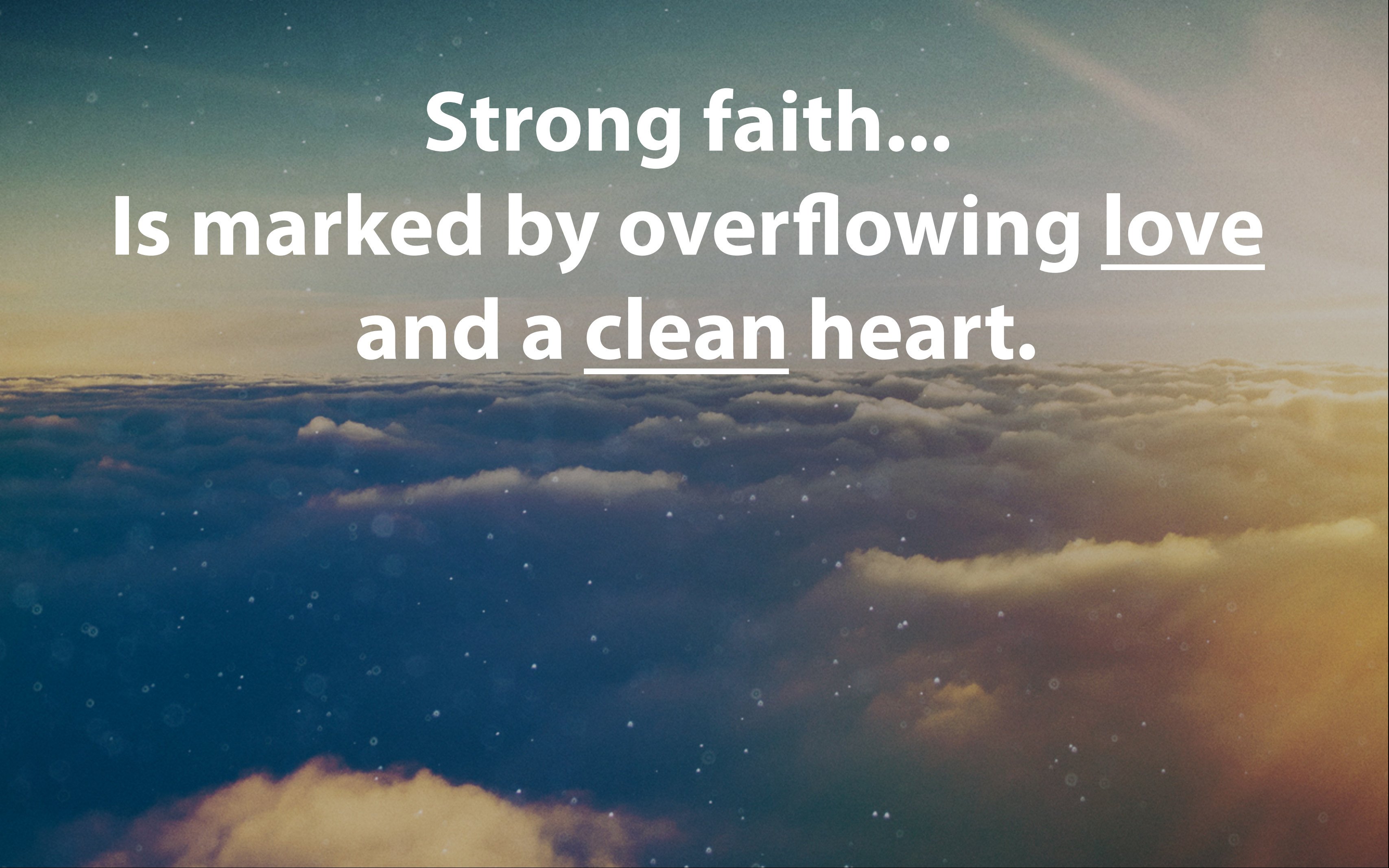


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Get In→
Get Healthy→
Get Strong→
Get Going



Get Strong:
God's Word
God's People
God's Spirit



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