

JESUS CHRIST
I AM THAT I AM

*God
is our
Father*

A close-up photograph of a hand with fingers pointing towards the text on the right. The hand is illuminated with a warm, golden light. In the background, an open Bible is visible, with some text from the book of Isaiah legible, including 'I have called you by name, you are mine, you are mine.' and 'the ways of darkness, Young will be pervertedness'.

Great Commission Ministries
Bible Study Series

Tuesday 8:30-10:30pm
Upper Room, Muharraq

FOCUS

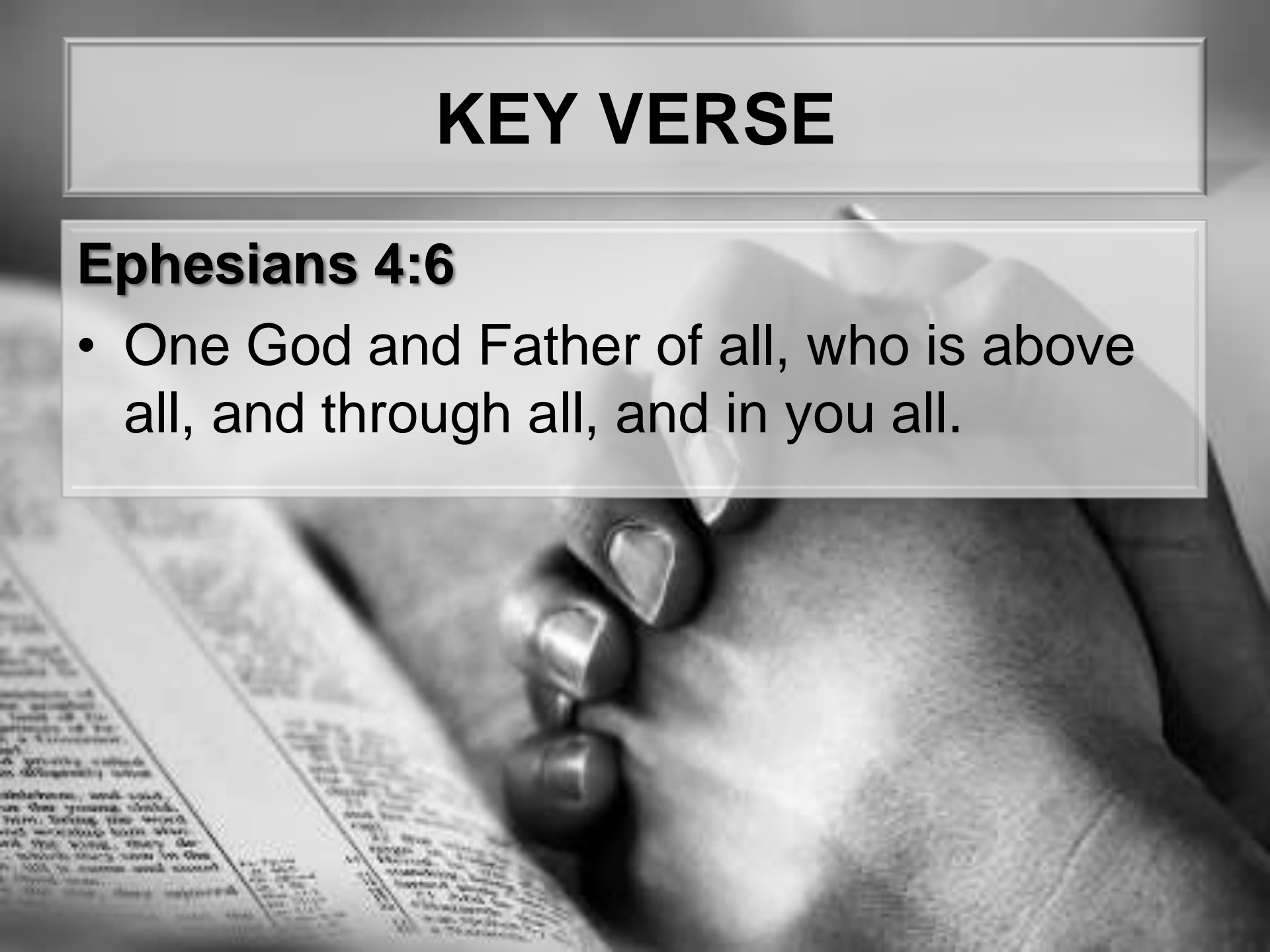


- The new birth is the way to be born into the family of God.
- Every Christian can experience the blessings of his heavenly Father.

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 4:6

- One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.



SCRIPTURE SETTING

- Luke 15:11-32
- Galatians 4:1-7



SCRIPTURE LESSON

- **Luke 11:1-13**
- **Romans 8:14-17**



LESSON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

I. THE FATHER'S FAMILY

- A. Sonship Through the Spirit
- B. We Are Adopted
- C. The Witness of the Spirit

II. THE FATHER'S BLESSINGS

- A. We Can Speak to God as Our Father
- B. God Cares for Us as Our Father

III. THE FATHER'S GIFTS

- A. The Word of God
- B. The Ministry
- C. The Name of Jesus
- D. The Holy Ghost
- E. Eternal Life

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

- In studying the attributes of God this quarter, each lesson portrays God in a different light.
- Each attribute of God is vital and true, however, perhaps the **fatherhood of God is most important of all.**
- If one does not enter into a relationship with God as his heavenly Father through the new-birth experience, every other attribute of God becomes irrelevant to that person.
- But when a person does become a part of the royal family of God, endless benefits are his.

- One of the great benefits of knowing God as our heavenly Father is the abundant joy that He gives to us.

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Peter 1:8).

- Though we have never seen the Lord, our faith has brought us to a joyous experience in Jesus Christ.

***“O taste and see that the LORD is good:
blessed is the man that trusteth in him”
(Psalm 34:8).***

I. THE FATHER'S FAMILY

- The family unit is important to the human race. Families provide nurture, fellowship, and a sense of belonging to each member. Our heavenly Father also has a family, and it is a distinct privilege to be a part of God's royal family.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the children of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy” (I Peter 2:9-10).



- Our Father called us and made us part of His family.
- Now, as a member of the family of God and part of the royal priesthood, we are responsible to behave in a fashion compatible with our status as sons of God.

A. Sonship Through the Spirit

- When a person is born again, he becomes a child of God and is heir to all of the riches of Christ Jesus. *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:16-17).*
- The new-birth experience which makes us children of God culminates in a baptism with the Holy Spirit, where the individual speaks in other tongues by the supernatural utterance of God.

This experience is truly a spiritual birth and is essential to salvation. It is only by receiving the Spirit of Christ that we can call God our Father (Galatians 4:6).



“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9).



- The birth of a baby is cause for excitement and joy, but the joy would soon turn to sorrow if the baby showed no signs of maturation.
- Every parent longs to see growth and development in the newborn.
- In a similar sense, God expects to see spiritual growth in those who are born into His kingdom.



- When one is born into the kingdom of God there is great cause for rejoicing.
- And as it is with the newborn baby, there is also great concern if the new Christian does not grow and develop in the kingdom of God.
- As a child of God, one must grow spiritually and forsake his indulging in the whims of the flesh.

- In contrast to the old lifestyle where a person drifted through life with little or no spiritual direction, it is imperative that he now follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

B. We Are Adopted

- According to *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, "This term, [adoption] as used in a theological sense, commonly denotes that act of God by which he restores penitent and believing men to their privileges as members of the divine family, and makes them heirs of heaven."
- In the Scriptures, this concept is used only by the apostle Paul, and it refers to the new birth that brings us into sonship with God.

- Because human beings are born with a sinful nature, we are victims of bondage by our natural birth.
- David the psalmist declared, “*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me*” (Psalm 51:5).
- It was of this bondage to sin to which David made reference. Born with a sinful nature, we are bound by the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life.
- We are enslaved to serve the flesh, the world, and the devil.
- Bound by habits that promise pleasure but pay dividends of heartache, we are helpless to extricate ourselves. Like the rabbit with the tar baby in the children’s book *Brer Rabbit*, the more we struggle with sin, the more entangled we become.

Adoption by God places us in a unique position, enabling us to cry, "Abba, Father." (See Romans 8:15.) Abba is the Aramaic word for father used in the informal, intimate sense meaning Daddy. This transparency can be used to present this concept.

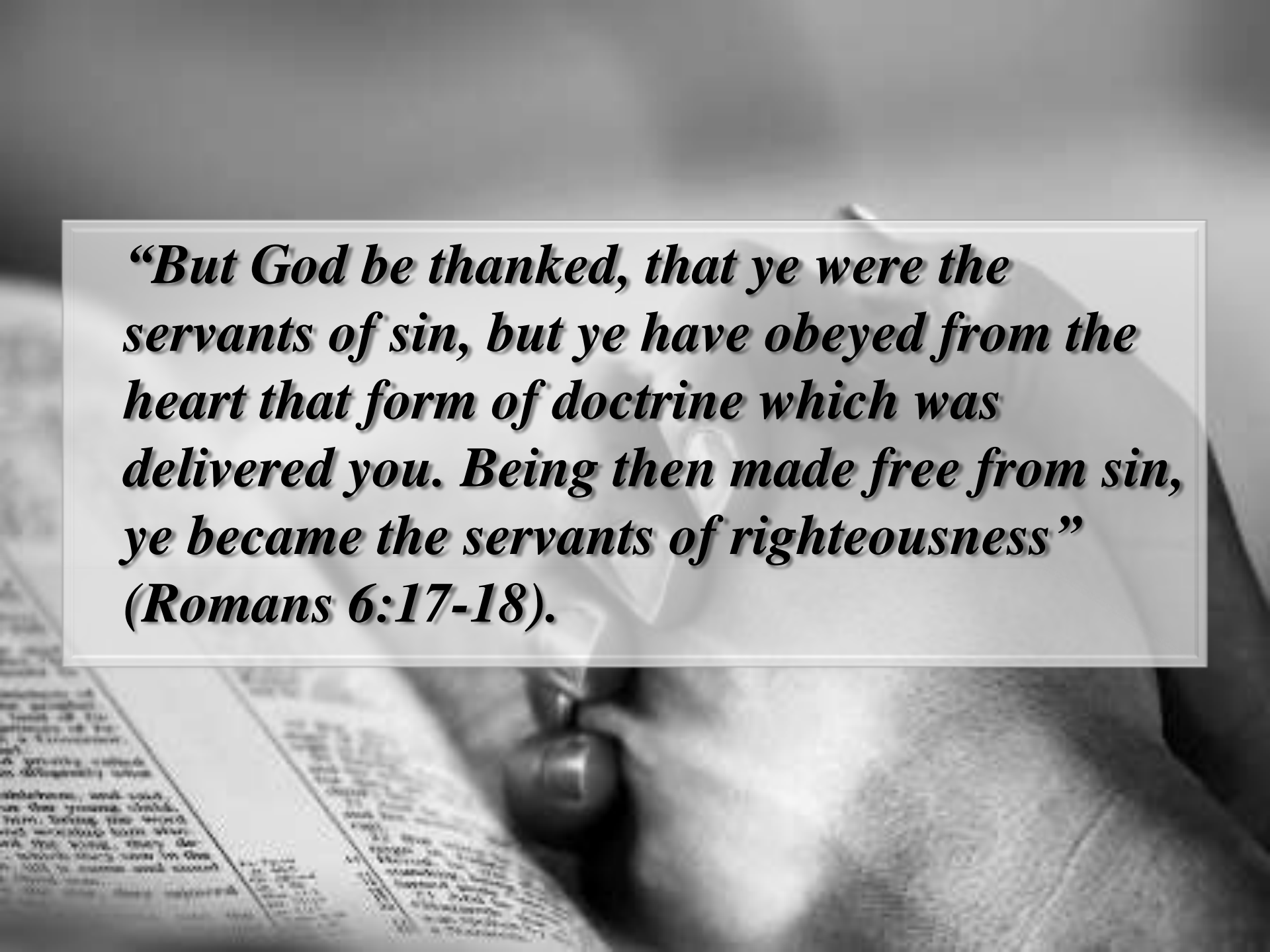
Abba!



Romans 8:15



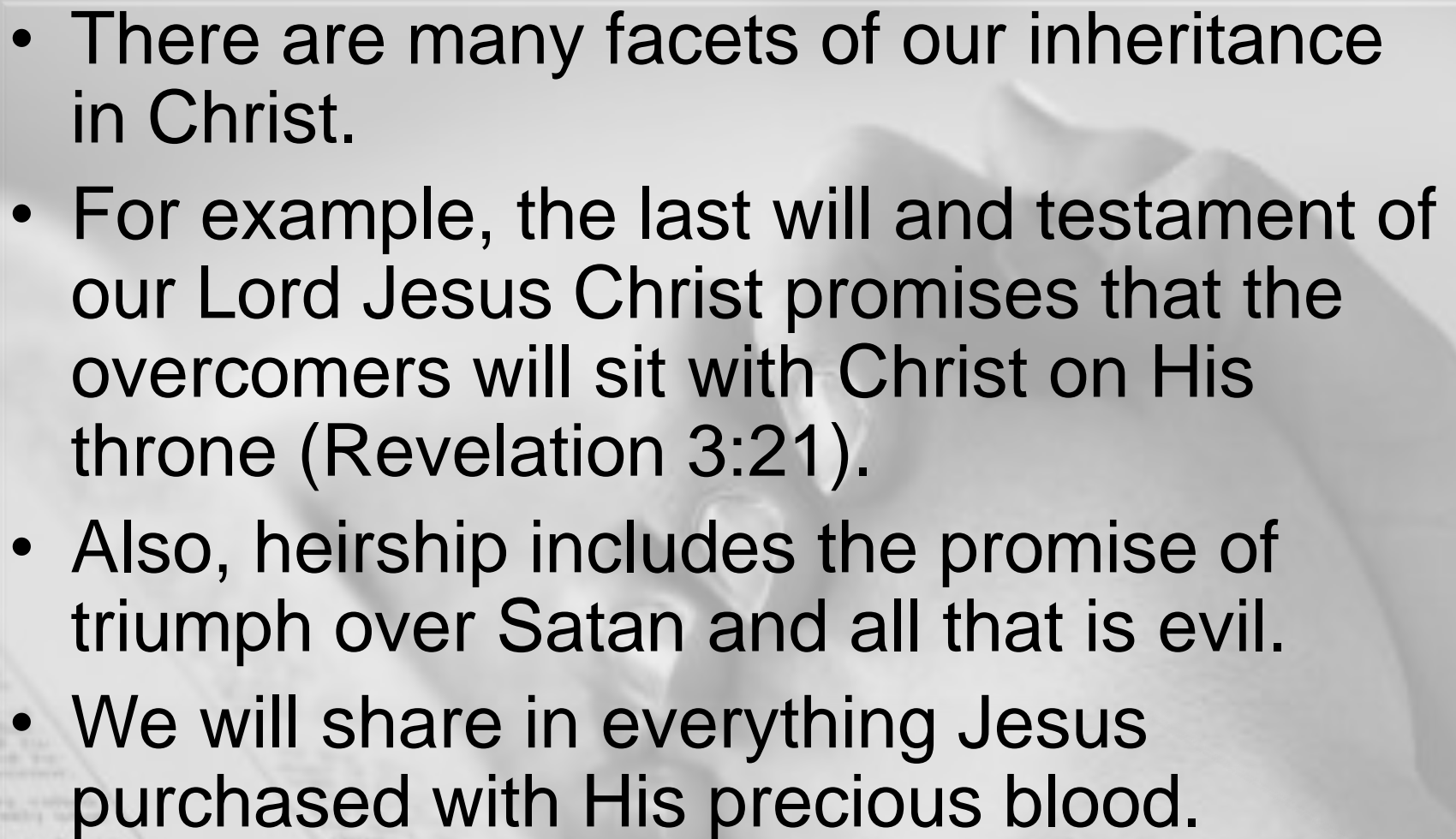
- The spirit of adoption is the rescue of mankind by God's salvation plan.
- His adoption of us through the new-birth experience releases us from every type of bondage.
- The chains of drug addiction, alcohol, tobacco, and immorality have ensnared millions of people, yet when they receive the Holy Ghost every bond of sin is broken.

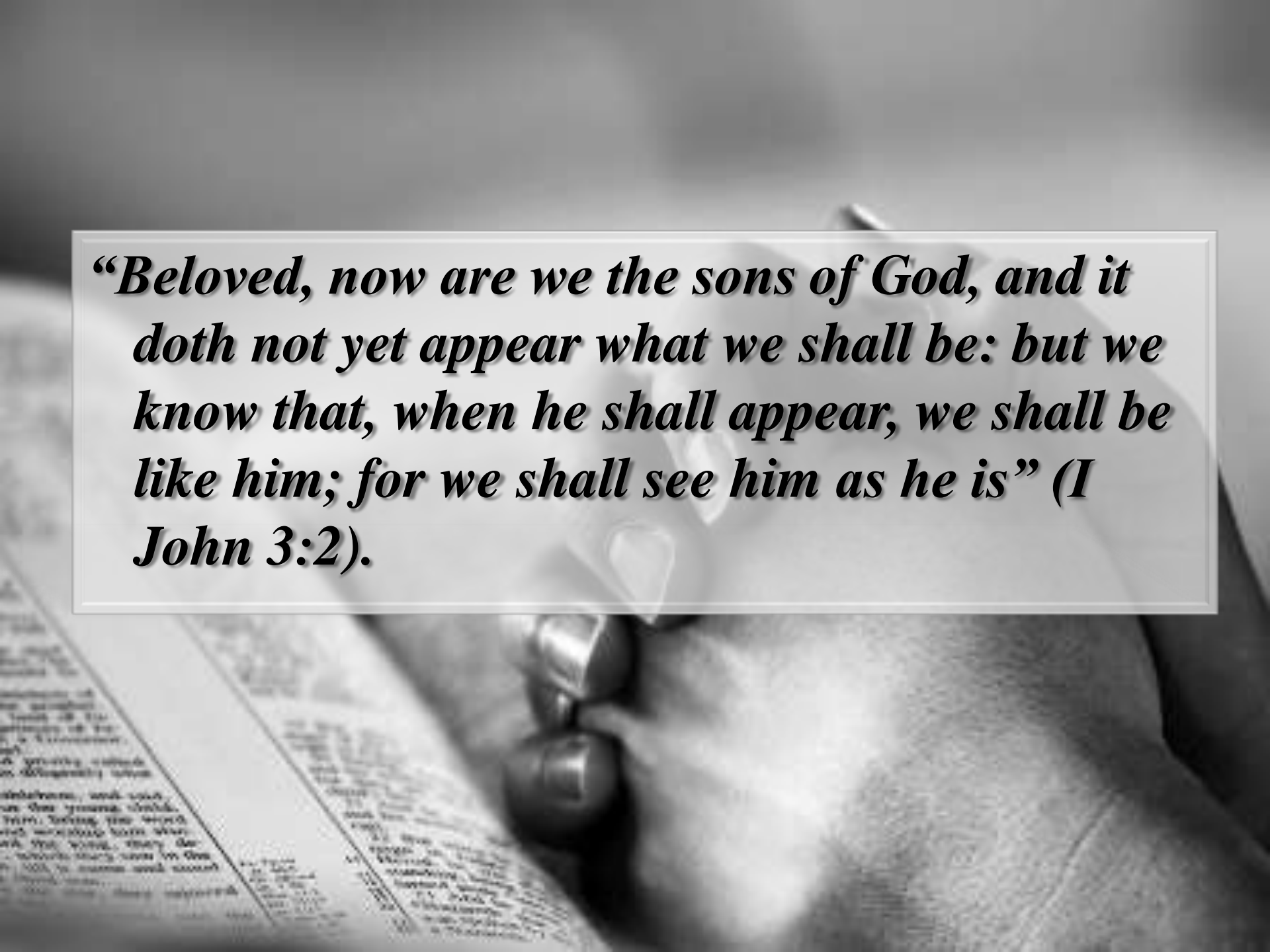
A black and white photograph of a hand holding a pen, writing on a document. The background is blurred, showing the texture of the paper and the movement of the pen. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Romans 6:17-18).

- Adoption places us in a unique position, enabling us to cry, “*Abba, Father.*” (See Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6; Mark 14:36.)
- Abba is the Aramaic word for father used in the informal, intimate sense meaning “Daddy.”
- Use of this word represents a close, loving fellowship between a child and his father.
- In other words, when we receive the Holy Spirit, the spirit of adoption, we attain to a new level of fellowship with our heavenly Father.

- Because we are the sons of God we are also His heirs.
- We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.
- We are beneficiaries to all that God possesses.
- The Holy Ghost is the earnest of our inheritance (Ephesians 1:14).
- In other words, our experience of receiving the Spirit is only the down payment of a marvelous inheritance that far surpasses the greatest imaginations of mankind.

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- There are many facets of our inheritance in Christ.
 - For example, the last will and testament of our Lord Jesus Christ promises that the overcomers will sit with Christ on His throne (Revelation 3:21).
 - Also, heirship includes the promise of triumph over Satan and all that is evil.
 - We will share in everything Jesus purchased with His precious blood.

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a pen over an open book. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hand and the text box. The text box is white with a thin black border and contains a quote in a bold, italicized serif font.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (I John 3:2).

C. The Witness of the Spirit

- When an individual receives the Holy Ghost, the Spirit witnesses to our spirit by joy, peace, and love (the fruit of the Spirit) that we are the sons of God.
- These portions of the fruit witness that we are indeed the children of God.
- No amount of assurance from another source compensates for the lack of the witness of the Spirit.
- The witness of the Spirit clears the mind of any questions or doubt as to our relationship with our heavenly Father.



“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God” (I Corinthians 2:11-12).

II. THE FATHER'S BLESSINGS

- In a well-balanced family, the children covet the blessings of the father on any venture they undertake.
- It matters a great deal whether the father approves or frowns on their efforts.
- But a good relationship with our heavenly Father is more necessary than one with our earthly parents.
- There are certain things on which God places His approval.
- When we engage in prayer, fasting, witnessing, separating ourselves from the world, giving to and working for the kingdom of God with the correct motives and spirit, we have **the blessings of the Father.**

A. We Can Speak to God as Our Father

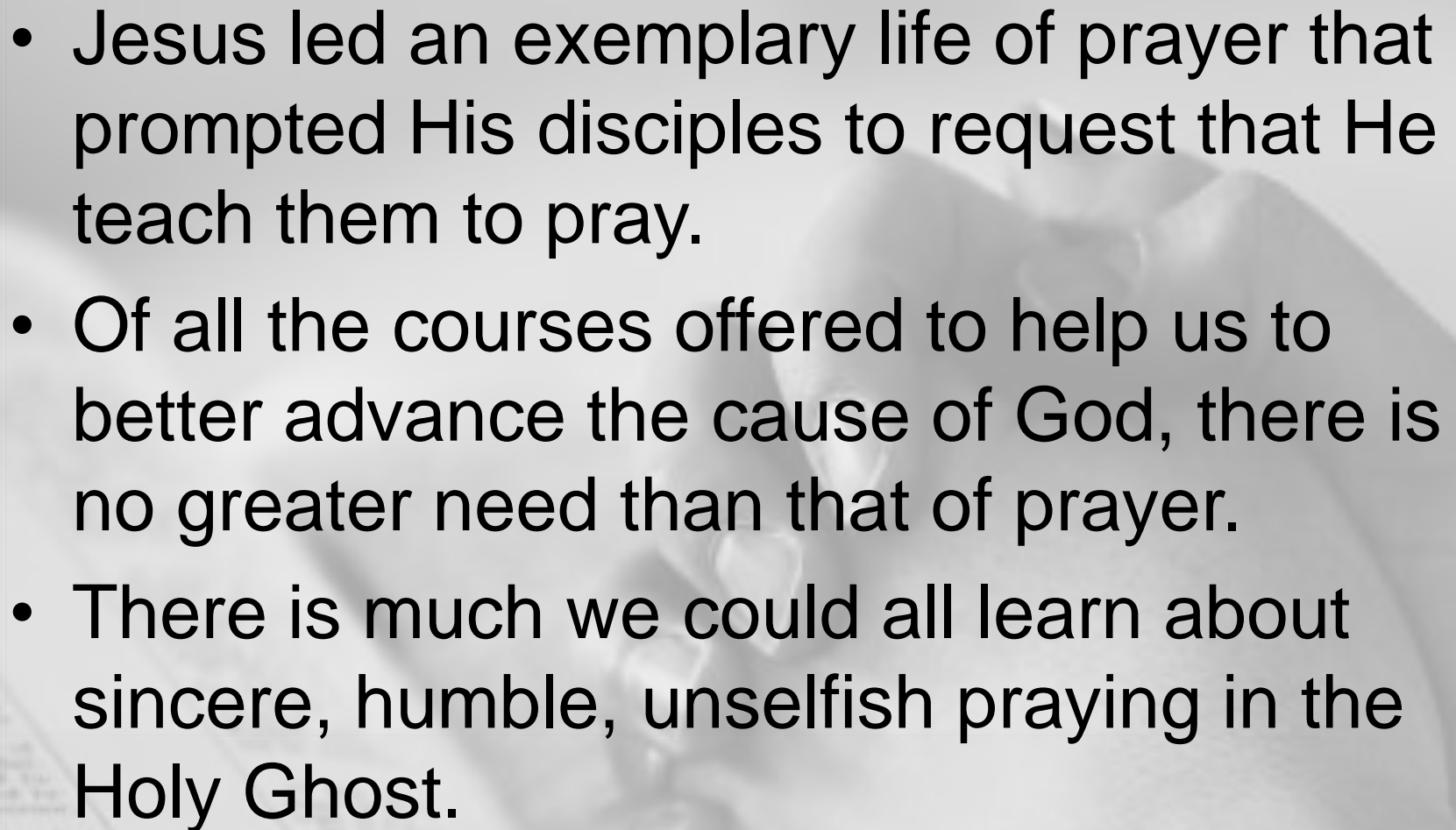


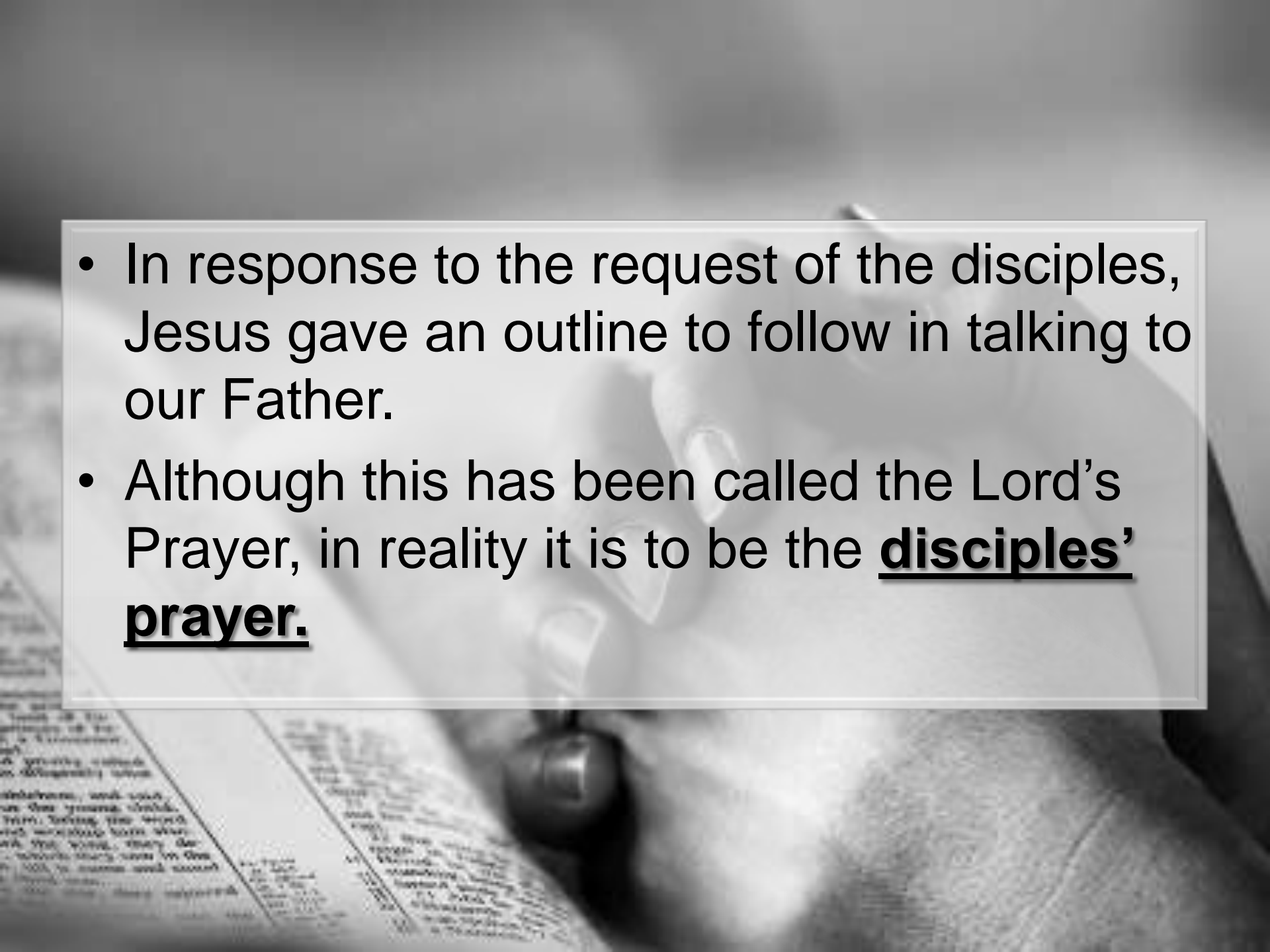
- Imagine a direct line of communication between you and the chief executive of your country.
- What if you could contact the country's most powerful individual at your discretion?
- Although we may not enjoy this privilege, we have a **hotline to the Creator of the universe, the King of kings, and our Father, through prayer.**

The following portion of the lesson deals with the Lord's Prayer. The entire prayer is given on this transparency and can be used as the material is being taught.

The Lord's Prayer

"Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread. And forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into tempta-
tion, but deliver us from evil: For
thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever. Amen."
(Matthew 6:9-13).

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- Jesus led an exemplary life of prayer that prompted His disciples to request that He teach them to pray.
 - Of all the courses offered to help us to better advance the cause of God, there is no greater need than that of prayer.
 - There is much we could all learn about sincere, humble, unselfish praying in the Holy Ghost.

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- In response to the request of the disciples, Jesus gave an outline to follow in talking to our Father.
 - Although this has been called the Lord's Prayer, in reality it is to be the **disciples' prayer.**

Outline

The Lord's Prayer

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- We enter into prayer by first acknowledging God as our heavenly Father and by recognizing that His throne is in heaven. Although His Spirit is Omnipresent, His headquarters, or throne, is above all things.

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- Exalt the name of the Father, which is Jesus. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).*
- His name is wonderful (Isaiah 9:6).
- We must always use the sacred name of Jesus with great care and reverence.

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(Matthew 6:9-13).

- Pray for the establishing of God's kingdom in the hearts of people.
- We should exhibit zeal to see God's will done on earth as it is in heaven.
- Pray for God to supply our daily needs both spiritually and naturally, and for Him to supply the needs of others.

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- Ask forgiveness for trespasses.
- Forgiveness is a necessary part of daily prayer.
- Though pardoned, we are far from perfect.
- We consistently need our Father's forgiveness, and we need to forgive those who wrong us.
- In fact, we must grow in grace until we can forgive all injustices against us or forgiveness will not be afforded to us.

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- Pray that the Spirit would lead us from temptation.
- Evil surrounds us; deliverance from temptation is a necessity.

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- We close our prayer by giving the Father praise and glory (Matthew 6:13).
- It is a privilege to speak to our heavenly Father.
- He stands ready and willing to hear our requests and answer our prayers.



• End of Part I