

BE BRAVE

To Fear or Not to Fear?
That is the Question

“I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.” Psalm 34:4 ESV



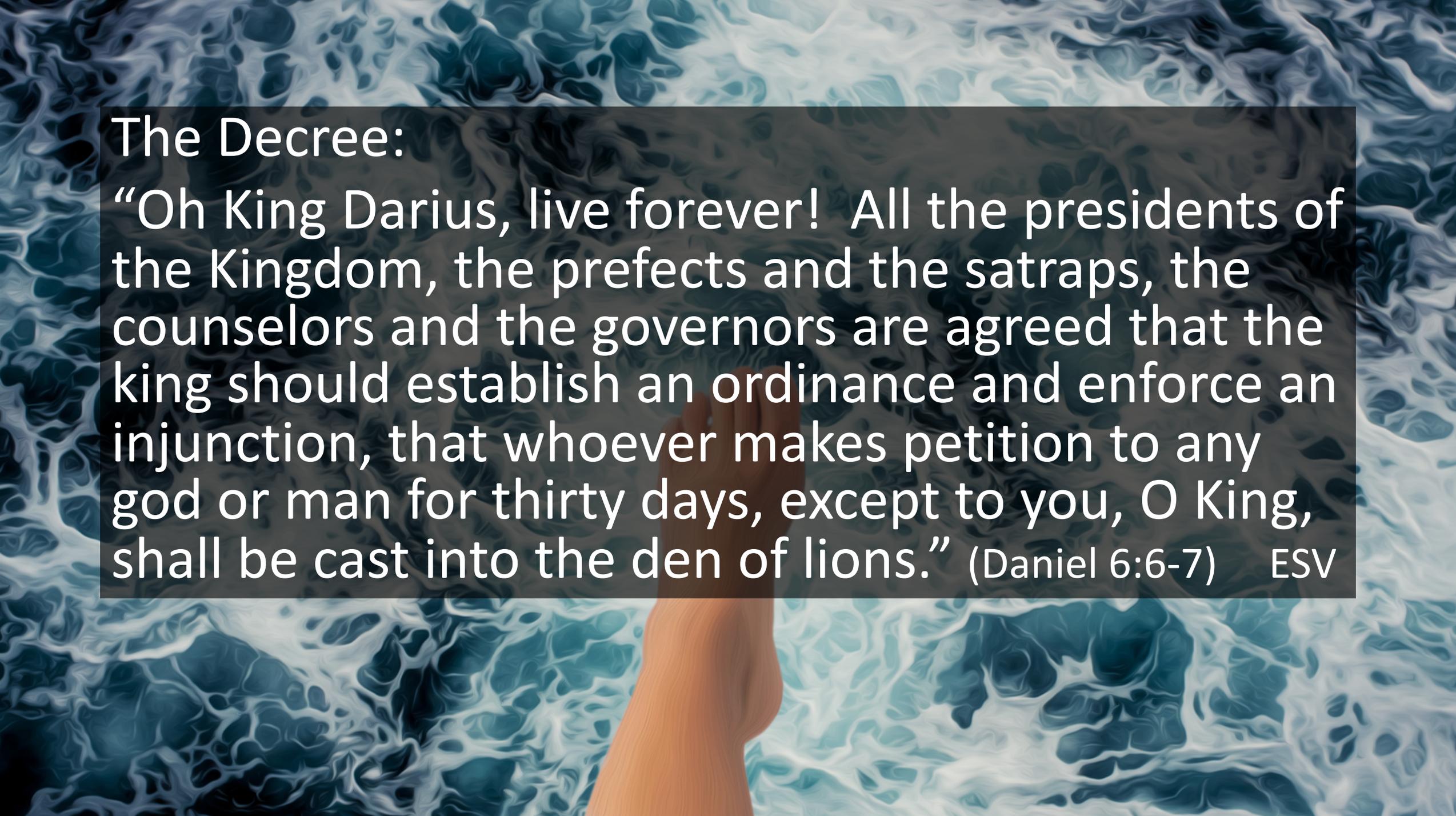
“In God I trust and am not afraid.
What can man do to me?”

Psalm 56:11 ESV



“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”
-Nelson Mandela



The background of the entire image is a blue and white marbled pattern. In the lower center, a hand is shown from the wrist up, pointing its index finger upwards. The hand is rendered in a realistic, slightly textured style.

The Decree:

“Oh King Darius, live forever! All the presidents of the Kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O King, shall be cast into the den of lions.” (Daniel 6:6-7) ESV

Daniel's Response:

“When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.” Daniel 6:10-11 ESV

The Consequence:

“Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, ‘May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!’” Daniel 6:16 ESV



God's Response:

"Then at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, 'Oh Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?' Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lion's mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O King, I have done no harm.' Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God."

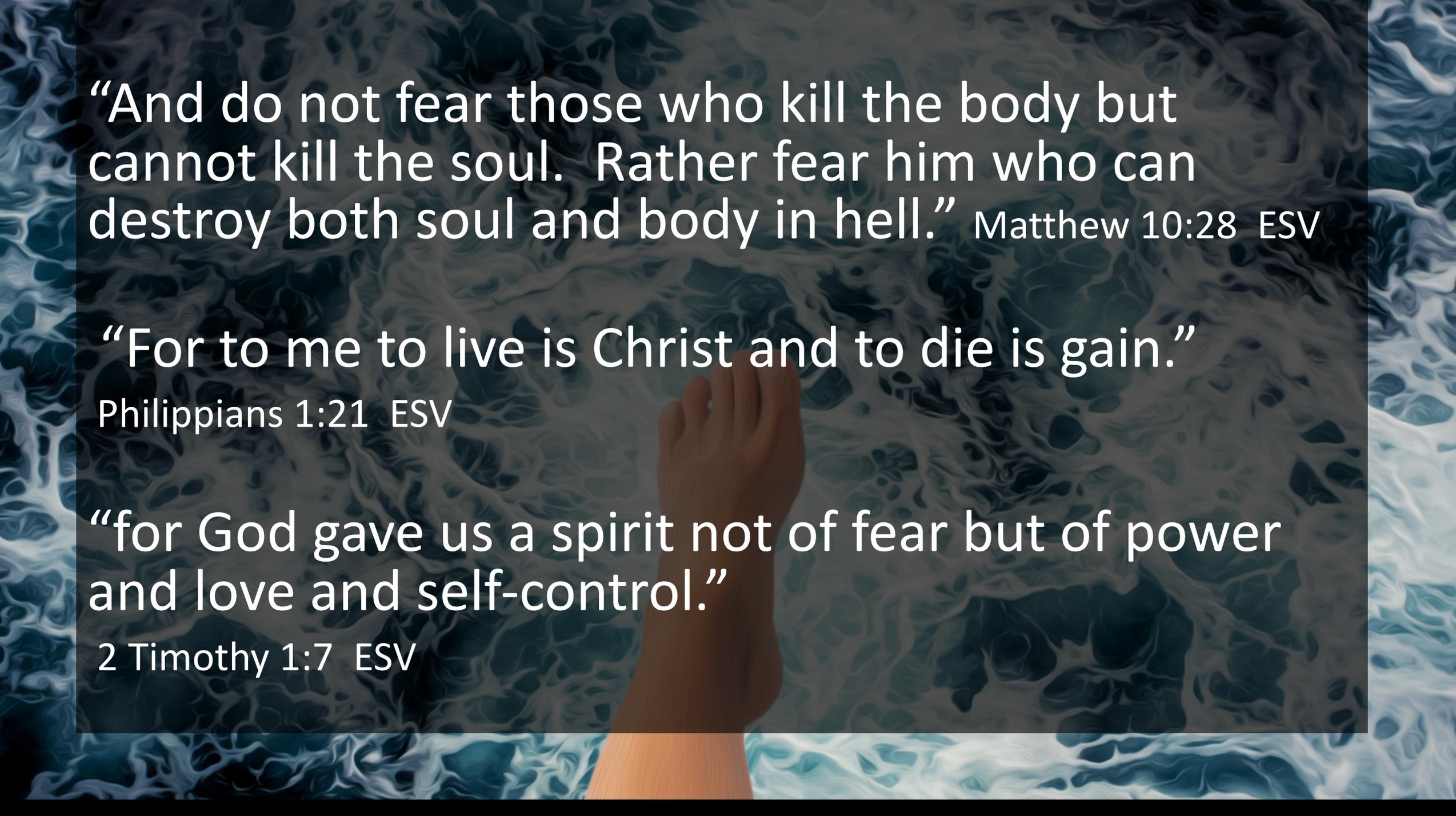
Daniel 6:19-23 ESV

A hand is shown from the bottom center, reaching upwards with fingers slightly curled. The background is a dynamic, swirling pattern of blue and white, resembling turbulent water or a storm. The overall mood is one of struggle and resilience.

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What Could Our Response Be?





“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28 ESV

“For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Philippians 1:21 ESV

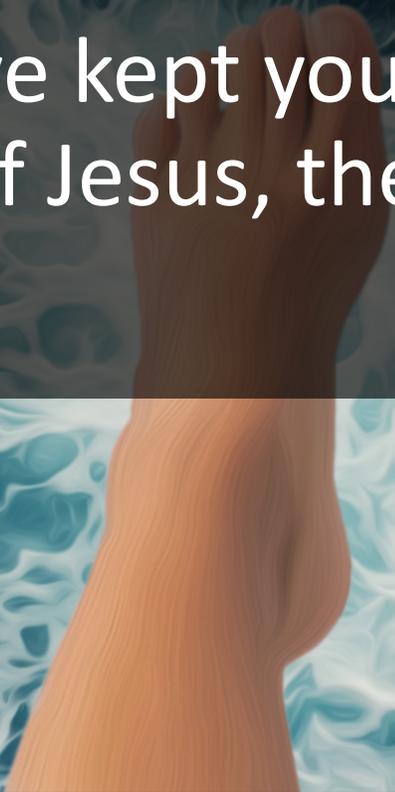
“for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

Some Questions to Consider...

How has your “fear of man” hindered your ability to live fully for God?

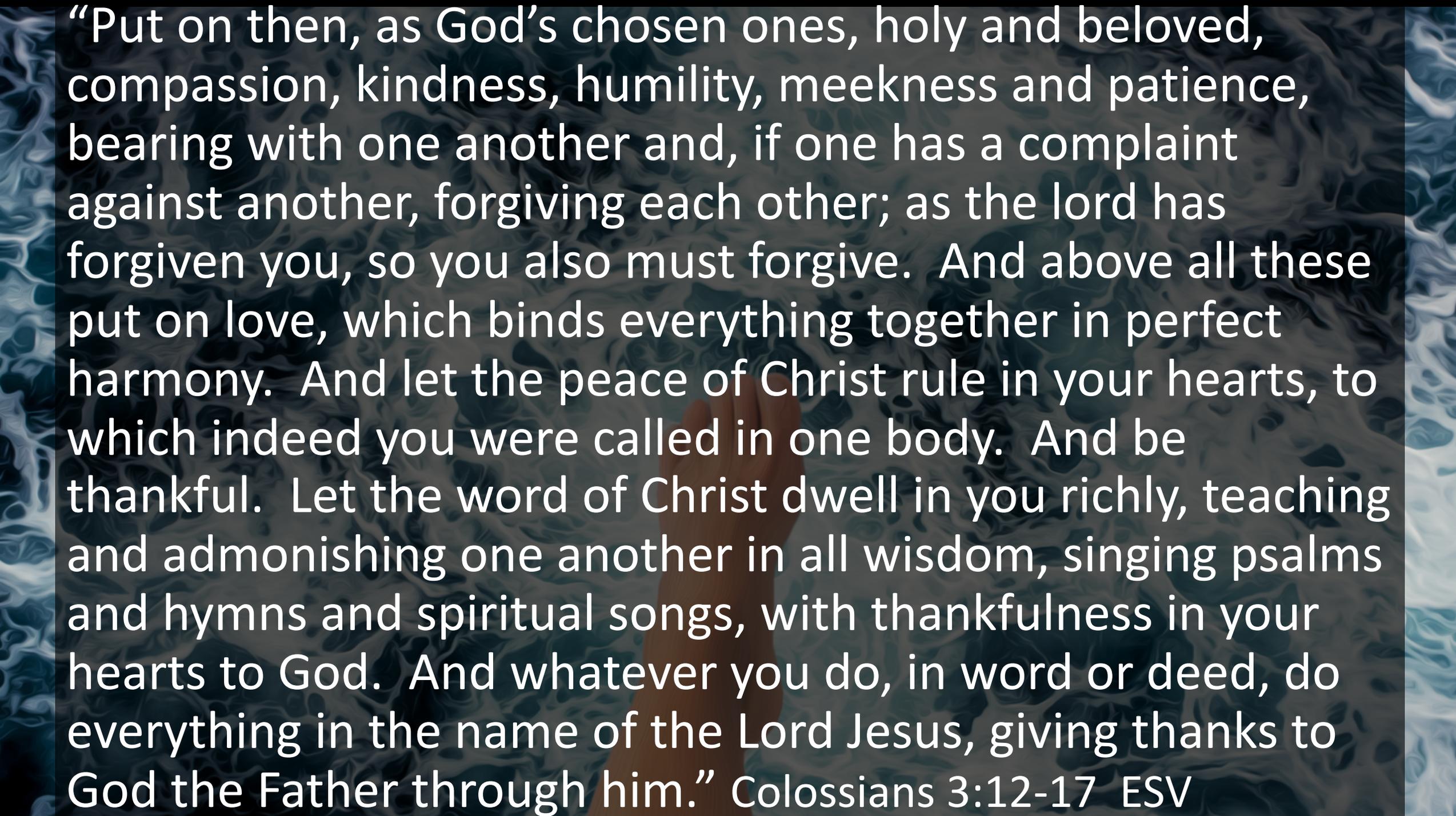
What other fears have kept you in the boat? Or have taken your eyes off of Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith?



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A hand is shown from the bottom center, reaching upwards with fingers slightly curled. The background is a dynamic, swirling pattern of blue and white, resembling turbulent water or a storm. The overall mood is one of struggle and courage.

Like Daniel we can grow in our faithfulness
until our faith overshadows our fear of man...



“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:12-17 ESV