

"THE GOD WHO EMPOWERS"

The word **empower** means to give authority or permission.

The Holy Spirit is God's presence and power in our lives.

God grants us the authority to live a Christ-like life.

The good news is that the Holy Spirit empowers us to reach this goal.

When we step out in faith to follow Jesus, God gives us power from within to do so.

The Holy Spirit pardons us.

We don't earn God's love by changing ourselves; instead, God accepts us as we are. We change because of God's love and ongoing offer of new beginnings.

The Holy Spirit perfects us.

Conversion is an ongoing process of turning from sin and embracing what is good and true. By staying focused on Christ, the Spirit helps us identify and remove negative traits, making room for positive growth that benefits others.

The Holy Spirit gives us peace.

We are not perfect in love, but the Spirit gives us peace by guiding us. Our peace doesn't come from feeling superior, but from a fuller life through our relationship with God. This inner peace frees us from proving ourselves or acting self-righteous. With God's help, we let go of pride, prejudice, and hatred, allowing us to live peacefully.

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

The Spirit helps us accept others, forgive those who hurt us, and love our enemies. This enables Christians to do what is right, even in difficult times, by providing strength to avoid gossip, harmful actions, and to follow through on positive intentions.

The Holy Spirit gives us purpose.

The Holy Spirit provides us with gifts for ministry, enabling us to serve as the body of Christ and share our abilities to help others.

HOW TO BE EMPOWERED BY GOD

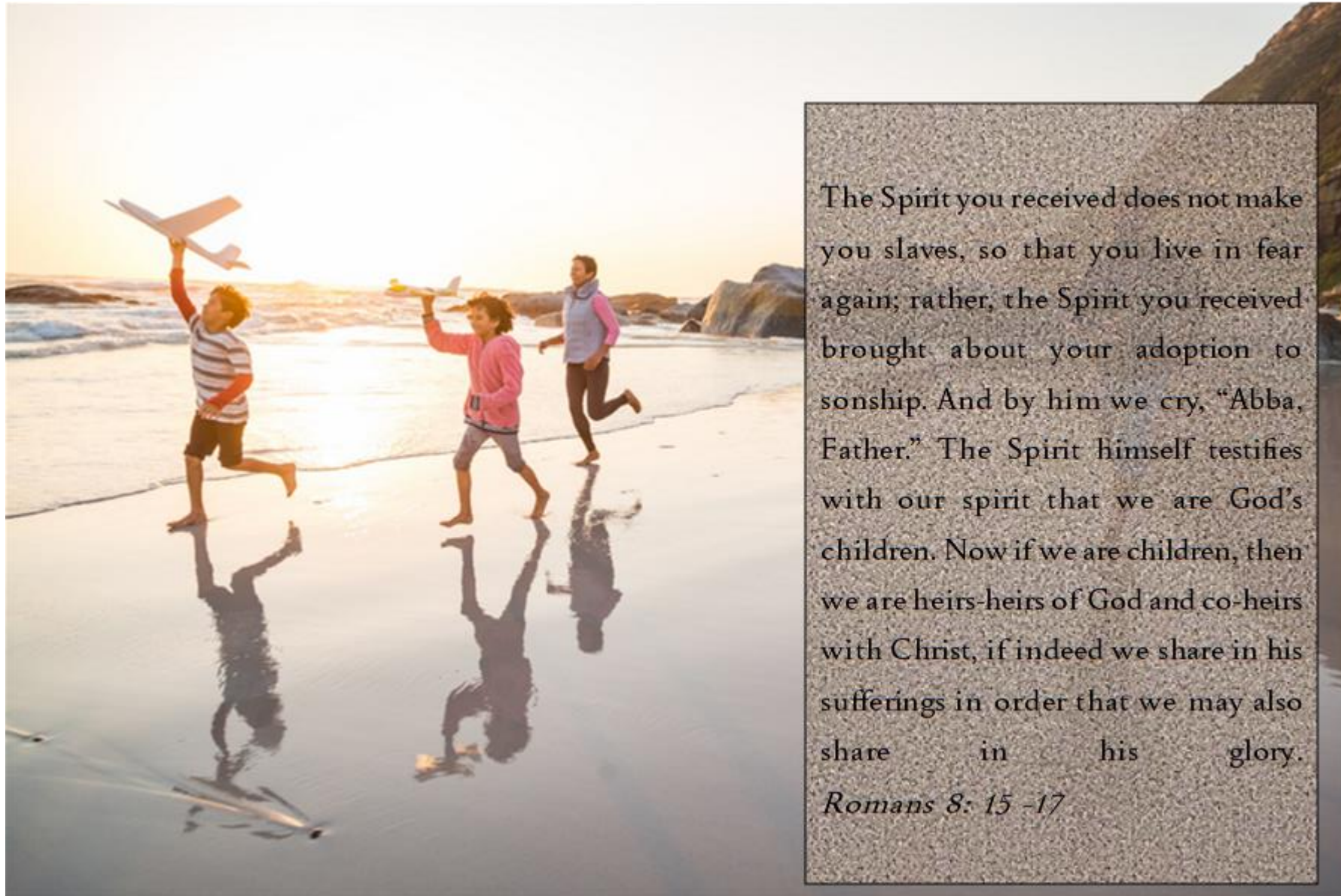
God's empowerment for ministry and maturity begins by making ourselves available to the Holy Spirit.

“Here I am, Lord, send me.”

We must connect with Christ.

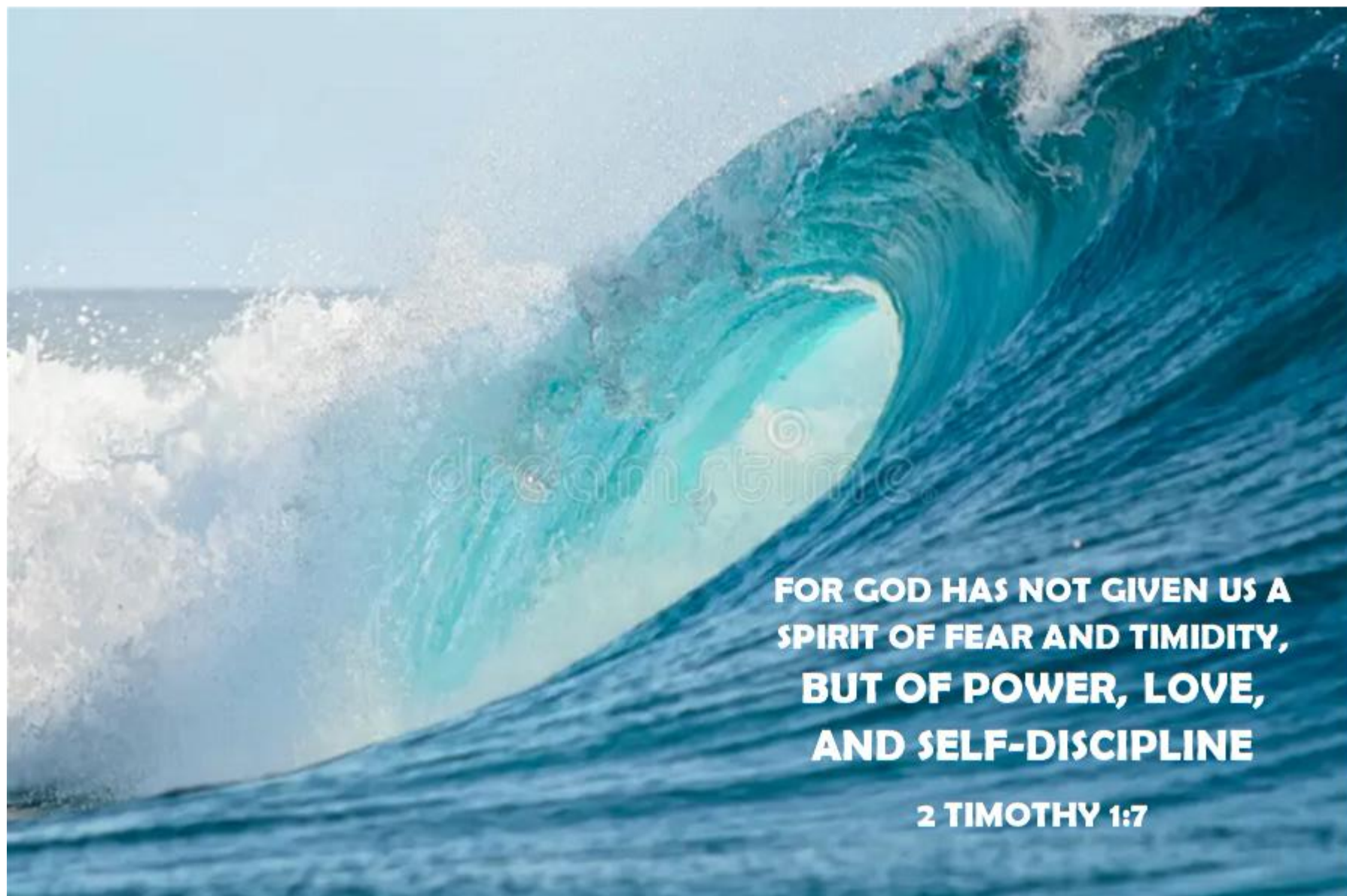
- Through prayer and worship. We give our hearts to God and grow in the heart of Christ.
- Through the study of the Bible. We give our minds to Christ and grow in the mind of Christ.
- Through Christian action or service our relationship with God bears fruit. We give our hands to God and grow in the work of Christ.
- Through supporting one another in our church community. We are many branches on the vine, giving strength to one another, coming alive together in Christ, learning to count ourselves as no better than others and having in us the mind that was in Christ Jesus, helping one another stay rooted and grounded in God's love.

Have you made yourself available to the Holy Spirit in your journey of Christian maturity and ministry?



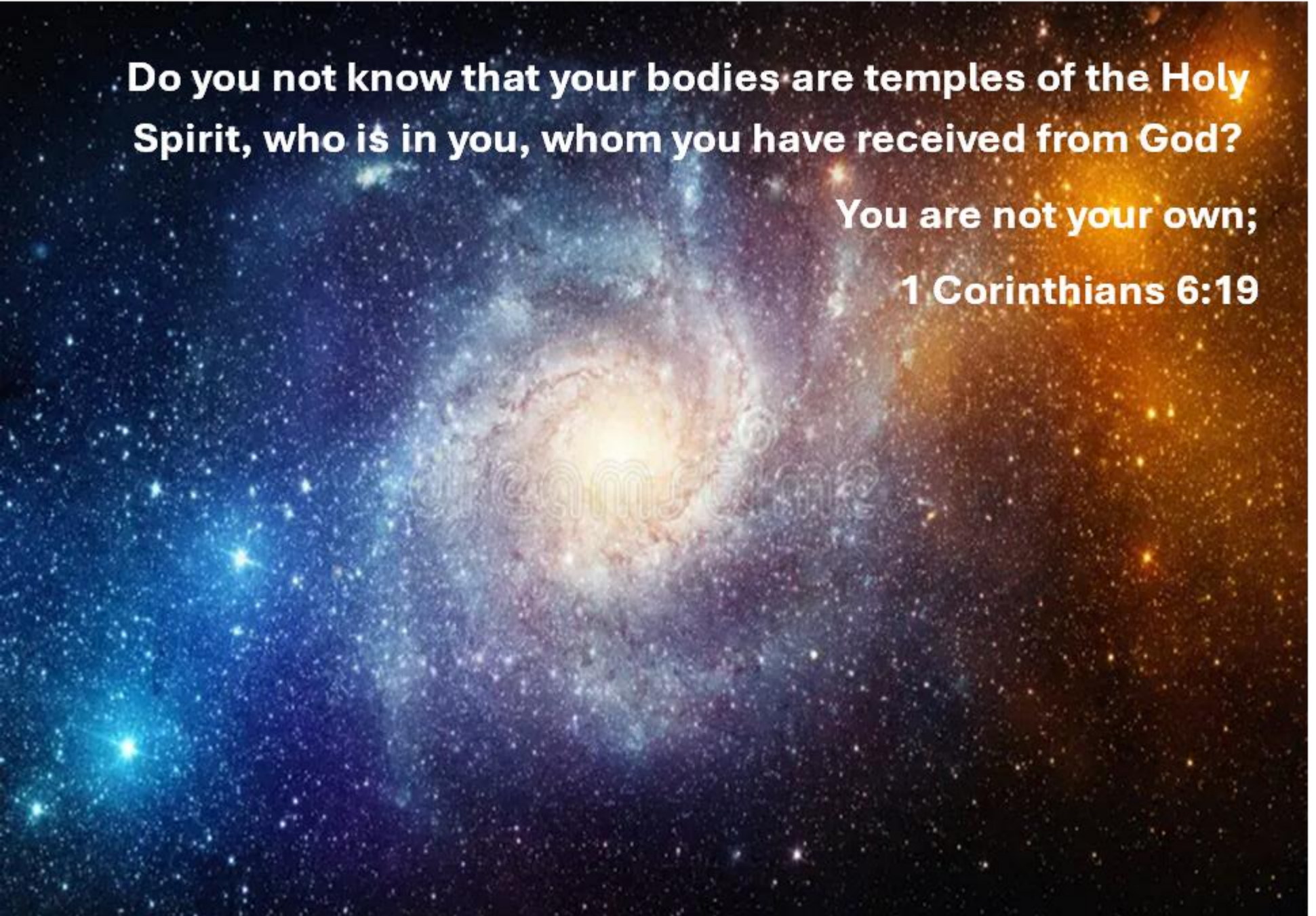
The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8: 15 -17



**FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A
SPIRIT OF FEAR AND TIMIDITY,
BUT OF POWER, LOVE,
AND SELF-DISCIPLINE**

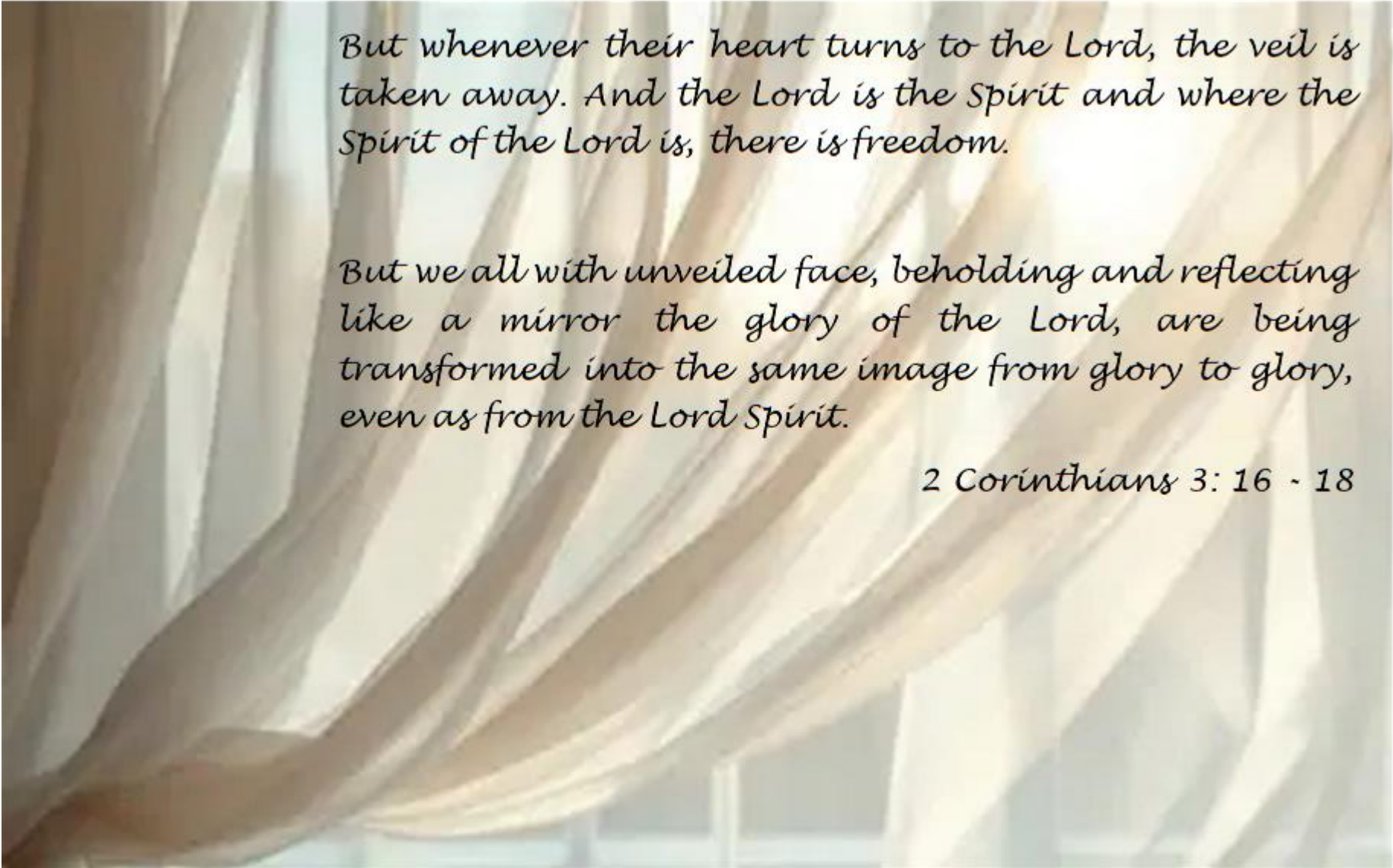
2 TIMOTHY 1:7



Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

You are not your own;

1 Corinthians 6:19



But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. And the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3: 16 - 18



For if you live according to the flesh,

You will die;

But if by the Spirit you put to death the
misdeeds of the body,

You will live.

Romans 8:13

**I PRAY THAT OUT OF HIS
GLORIOUS RICHES HE MAY
STRENGTHEN YOU WITH
POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT
IN YOUR INNER BEING.**

Ephesians 3:16

