

A black and white photograph showing a group of people's hands stacked on top of each other in a circle, symbolizing teamwork, unity, and relationships. The hands are of various skin tones and are positioned in a way that suggests a supportive and collaborative environment. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hands.

Relationships



A. We Are Created for Relationships

**B. We Are Commanded How to be
in Relationship**

1. The Foremost Relationship

2. Family Relationships

a. Husband and Wife

b. Parents to Children

c. Children to Parents



3. Brother to Brother

4. With Our Enemies

C. We are Commissioned to be Reconcilers.

A. We Are Created for Relationships

Genesis 2:19b *And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.*

Genesis 3:1–19 (NKJV) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

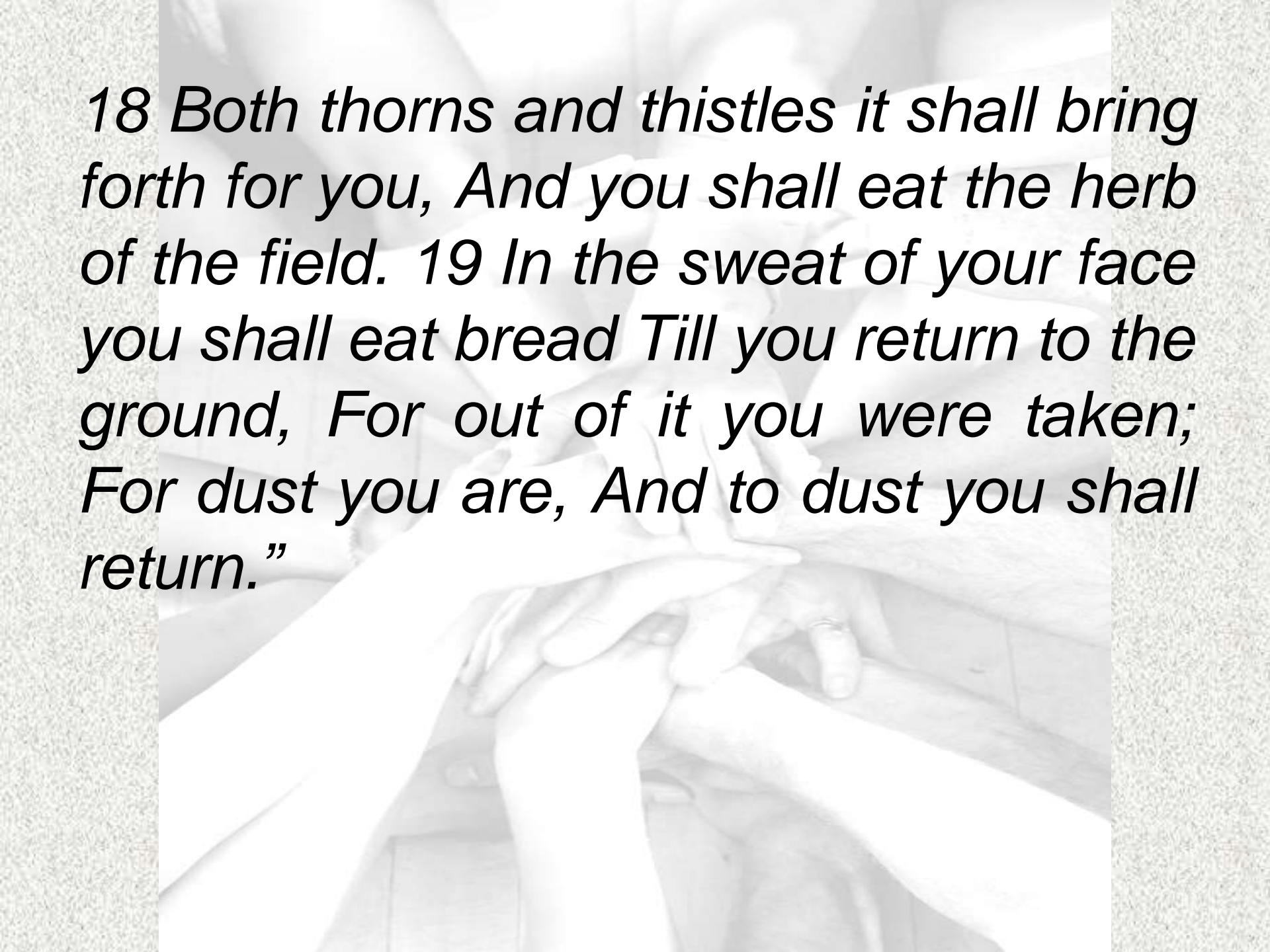
7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.



18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”

Sin makes so many promises. Sin promises joy, it promises fulfillment. Sin promises to be your friend. When you first meet a new friend you reveal only little bits of who you are, what you believe, what is important to you. But over time, if that friendship is to grow, you need to reveal more and more of yourself, you need to open yourself up. Friendship grows out of the vulnerability of allowing another person to see who you really are beneath the polite exterior. Sin asks you to give just a little bit more of yourself to it every time.

Just a bit more. Just a bit more after that. But over time sin comes to own you. It comes to know everything there is to know about you. And then it stabs you in the back and laughs with glee as you are left sputtering and humiliated and destroyed. It laughs as your marriage is destroyed, as your church is shamed, as your friends are betrayed. That's the kind of friend it is.

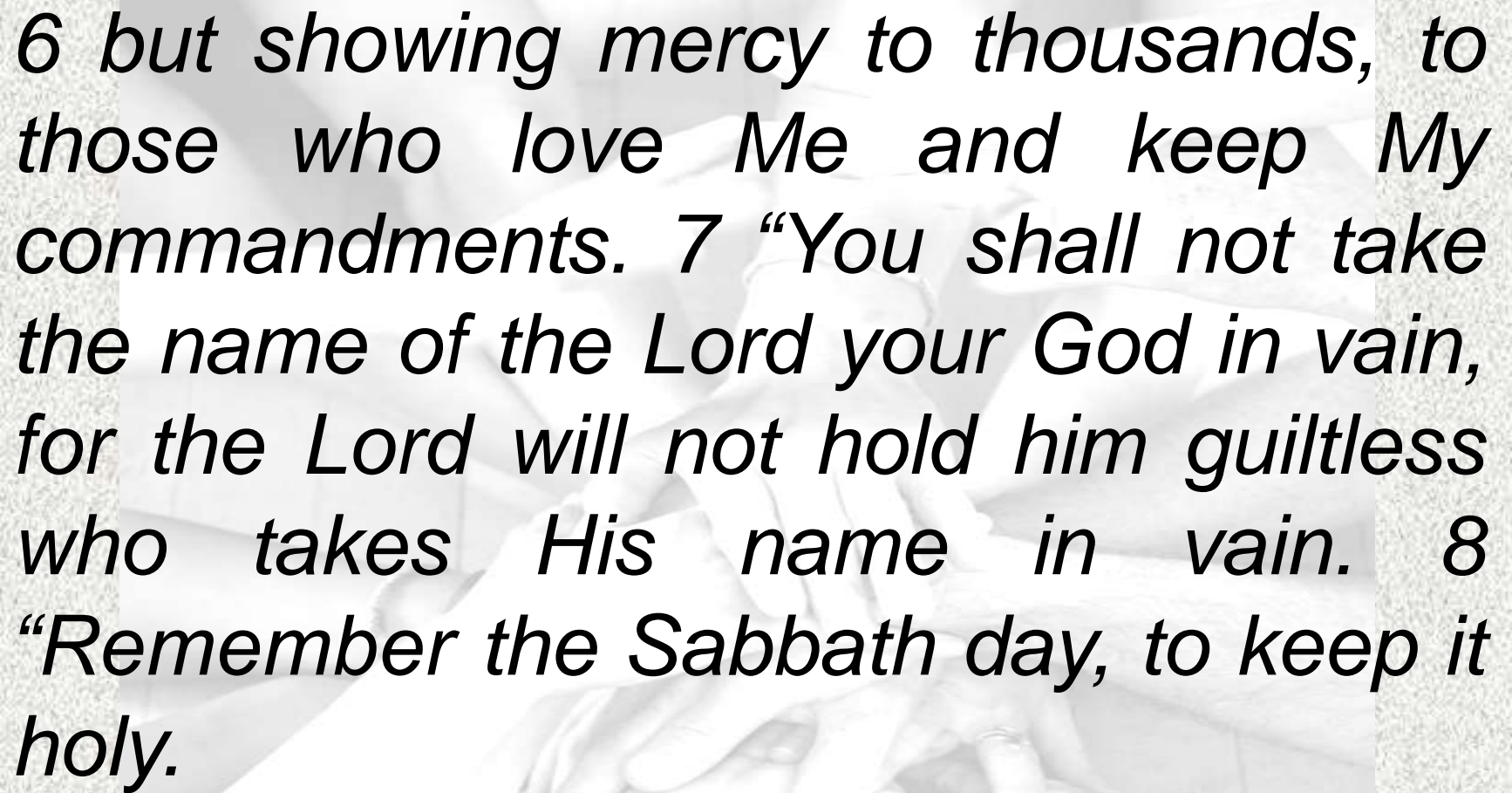
- Tim Challies



B. We Are Commanded How to be in Relationship

1. The Foremost Relationship

Exodus 20:3–8 (NKJV) “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

A black and white photograph of several hands clasped together in a circle, suggesting a group prayer or a supportive gesture. The hands are of various skin tones and are positioned in the center of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. Overlaid on this image is text in a bold, italicized, black font.

6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. 8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Romans 10:9–10 *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*



B. We Are Commanded How to be in Relationship

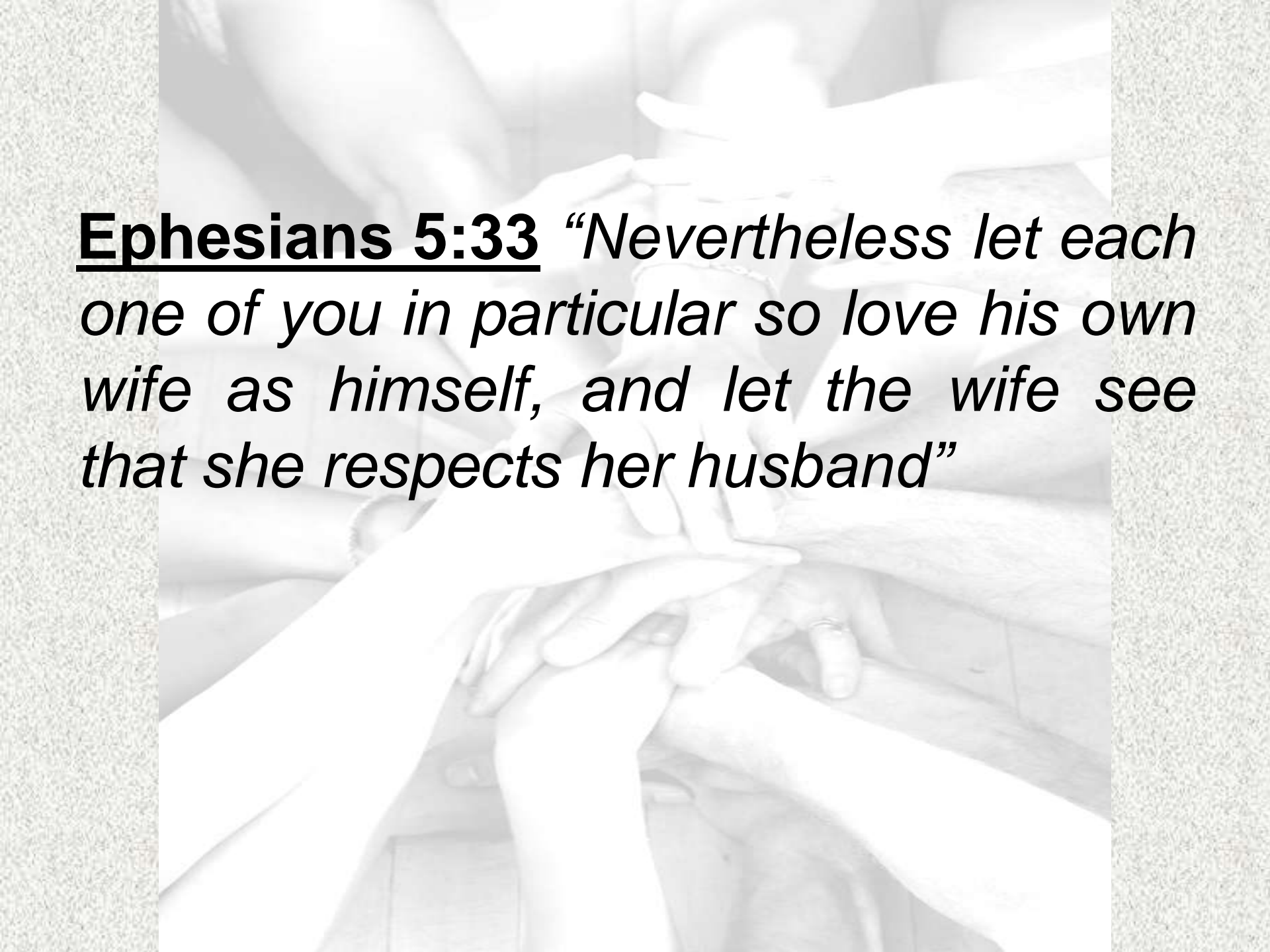
2. Family Relationships

a. Husband and Wife

Ephesians 5:22–33 (NKJV) 22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,*

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

A grayscale photograph showing a group of hands clasped together in a circle, symbolizing unity and support. The hands are of various skin tones and are positioned in a way that suggests a collective effort or a shared purpose. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hands.

Ephesians 5:33 *“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband”*



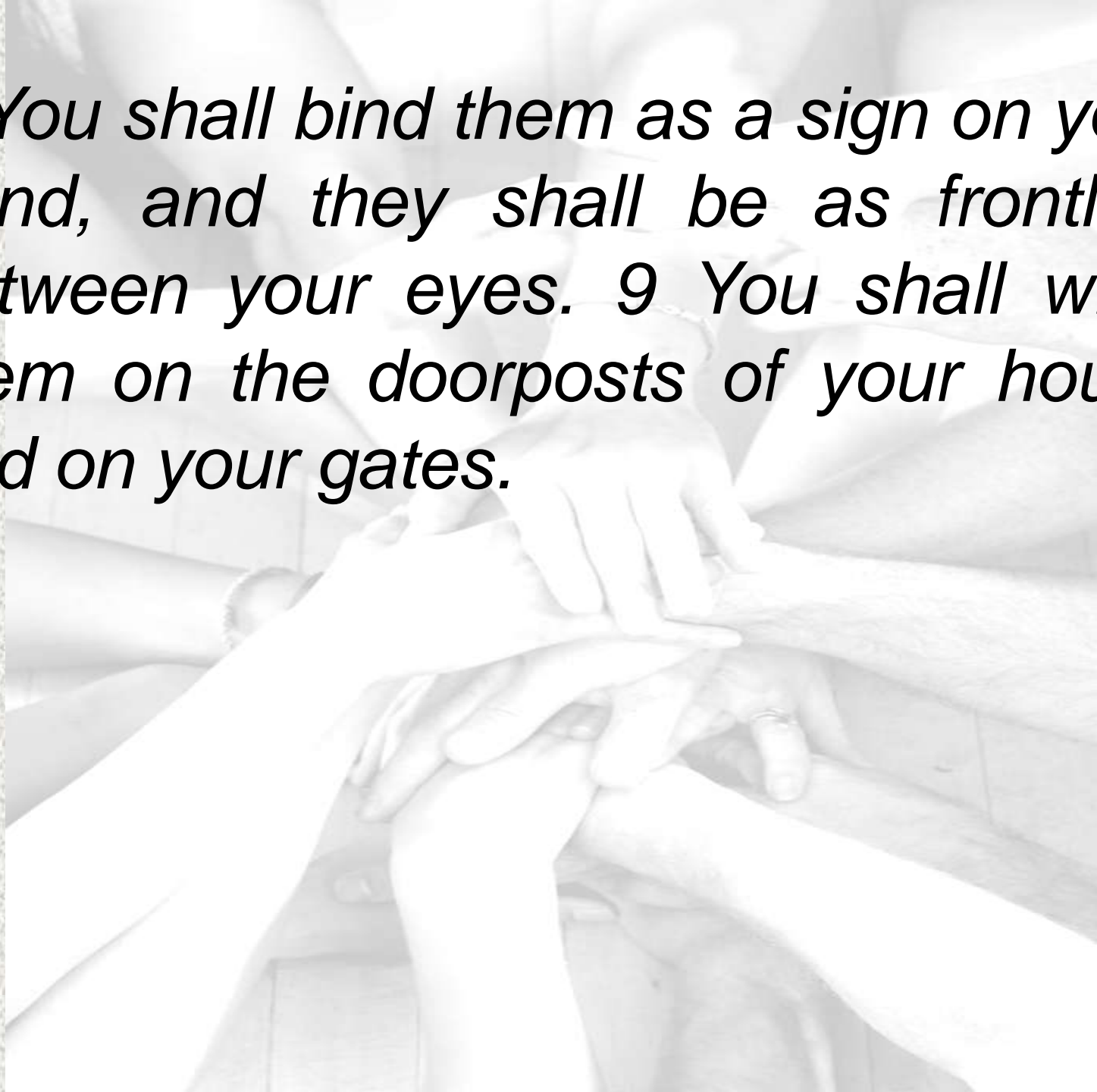
2. Family Relationships

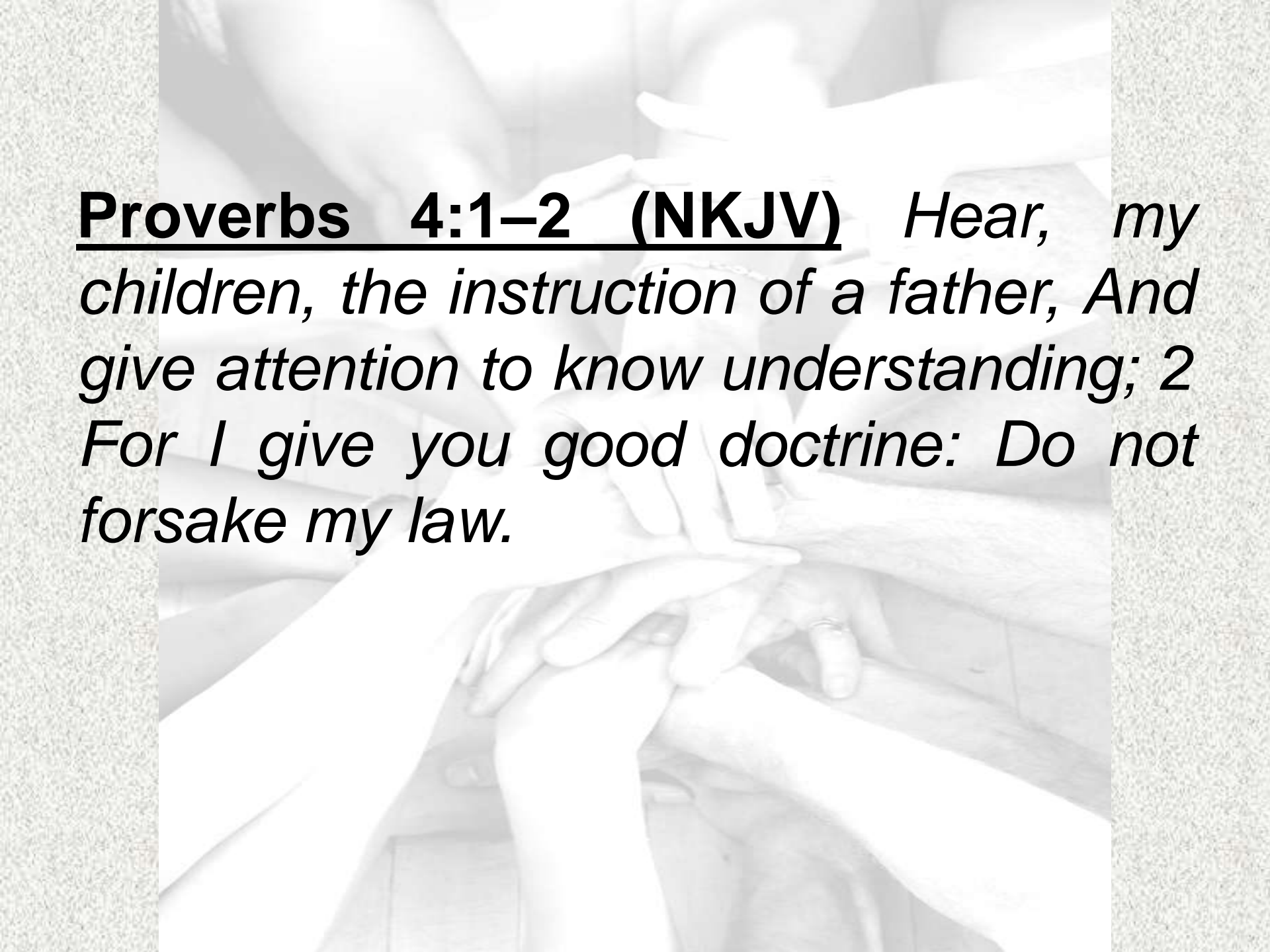
a. Husband and Wife

b. Parents to Children

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV) *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

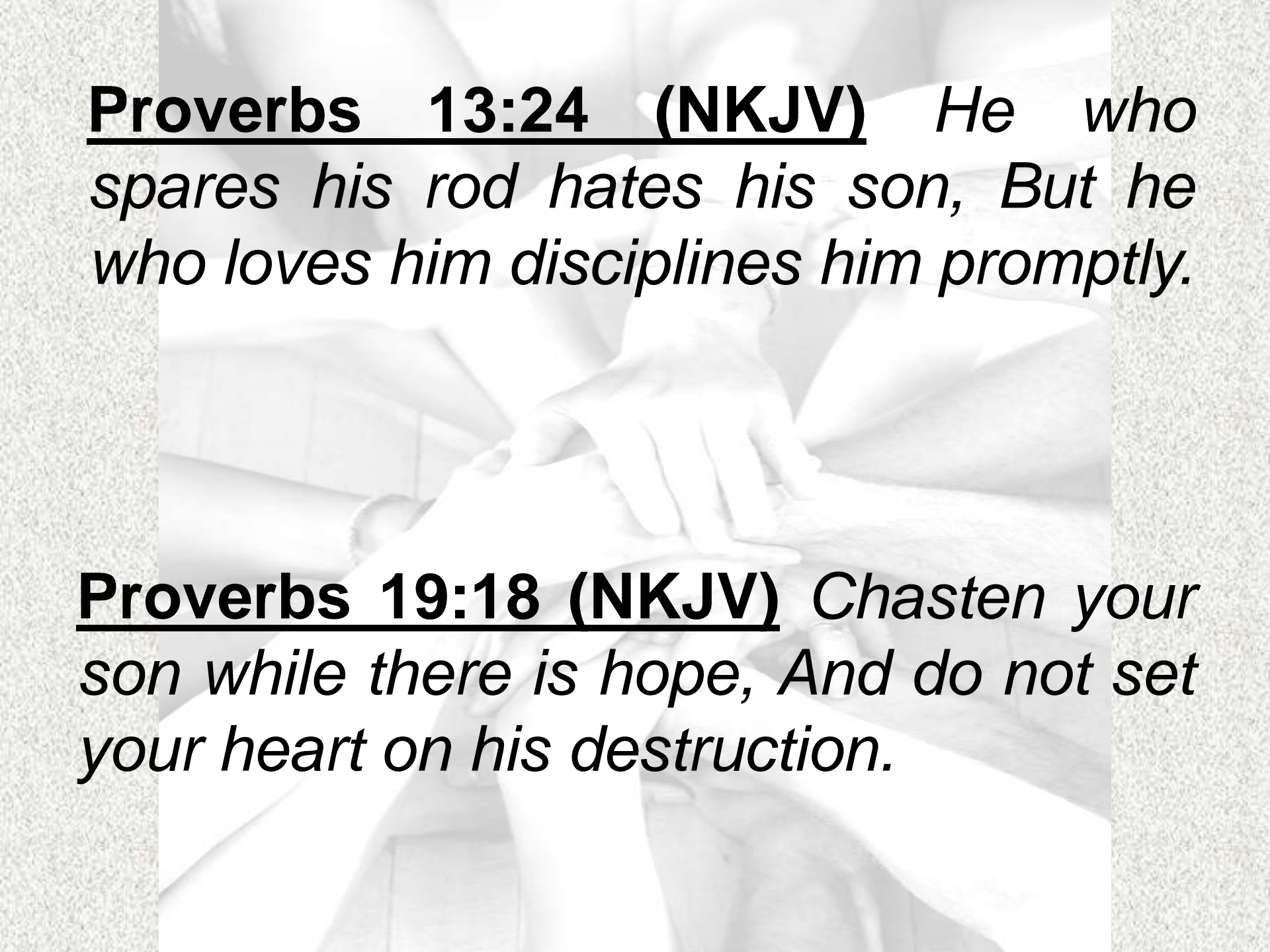
8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.





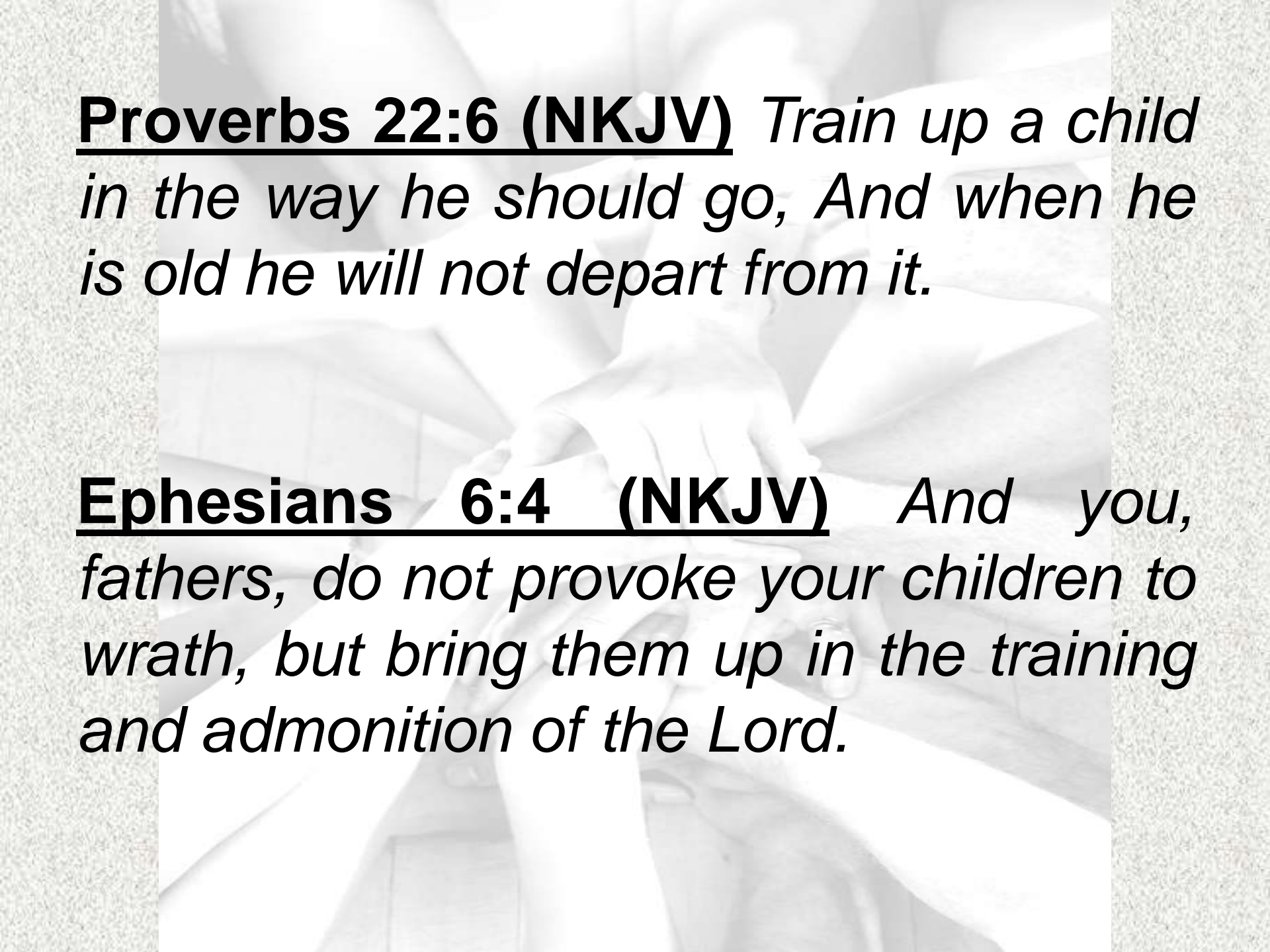
Proverbs 4:1–2 (NKJV) *Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; 2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law.*

Proverbs 4:10–13 (NKJV) *Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. 11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.*




Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV) *He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*

Proverbs 19:18 (NKJV) *Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.*



Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV) *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*



Colossians 3:21 (NKJV) *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

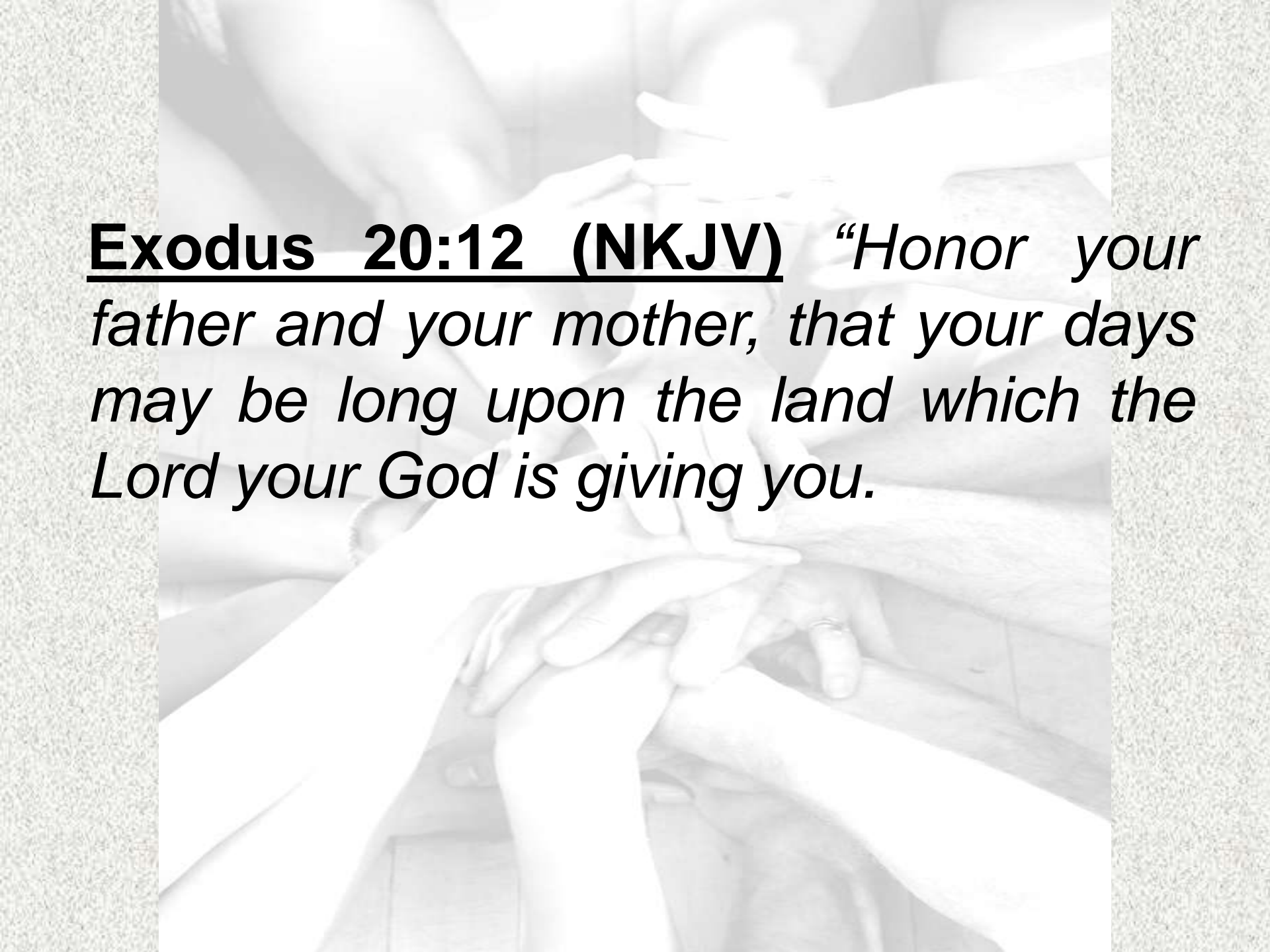


2. Family Relationships

a. Husband and Wife

b. Parents to Children

c. Children to Parents




Exodus 20:12 (NKJV) *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*”

Proverbs 6:20–22 (NKJV) 20 *My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. 21 Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. 22 When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you.*

Proverbs 23:22 (NKJV) *Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.*

Ephesians 6:1–3 (NKJV) *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”*



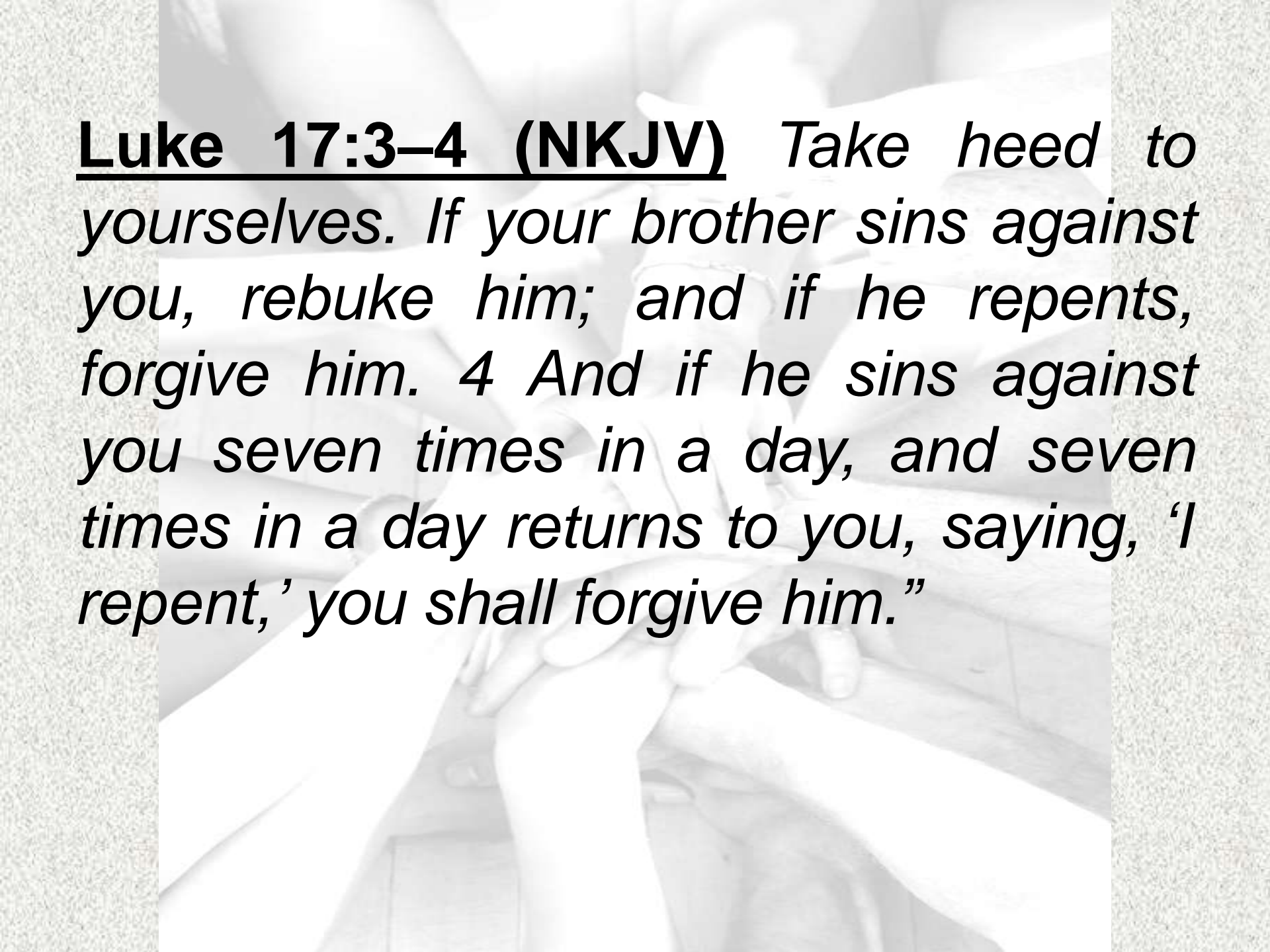
Colossians 3:20 (NKJV) *Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.*

3. Brother to Brother

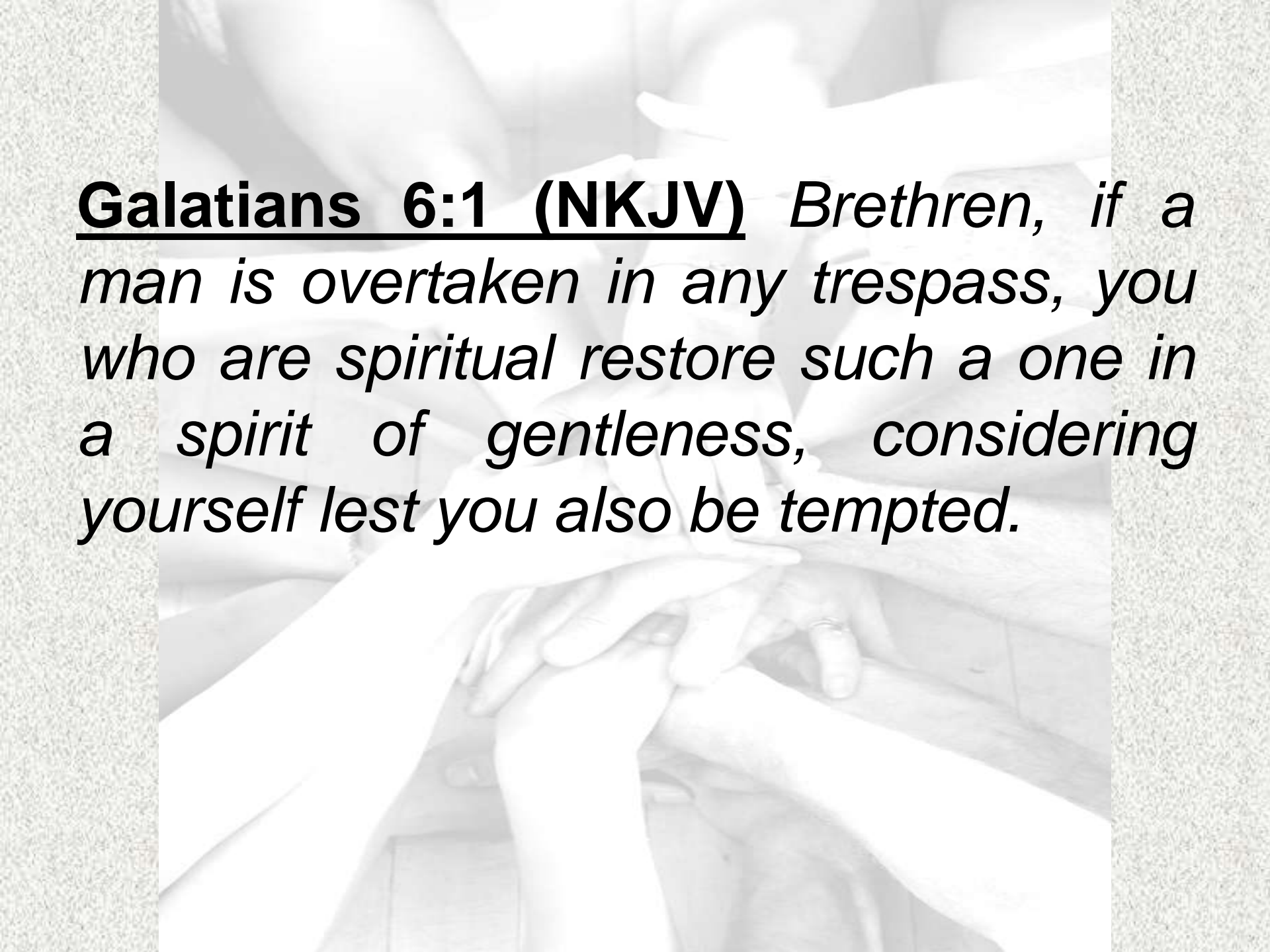
Matthew 5:21–24 (NKJV) *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.*

And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

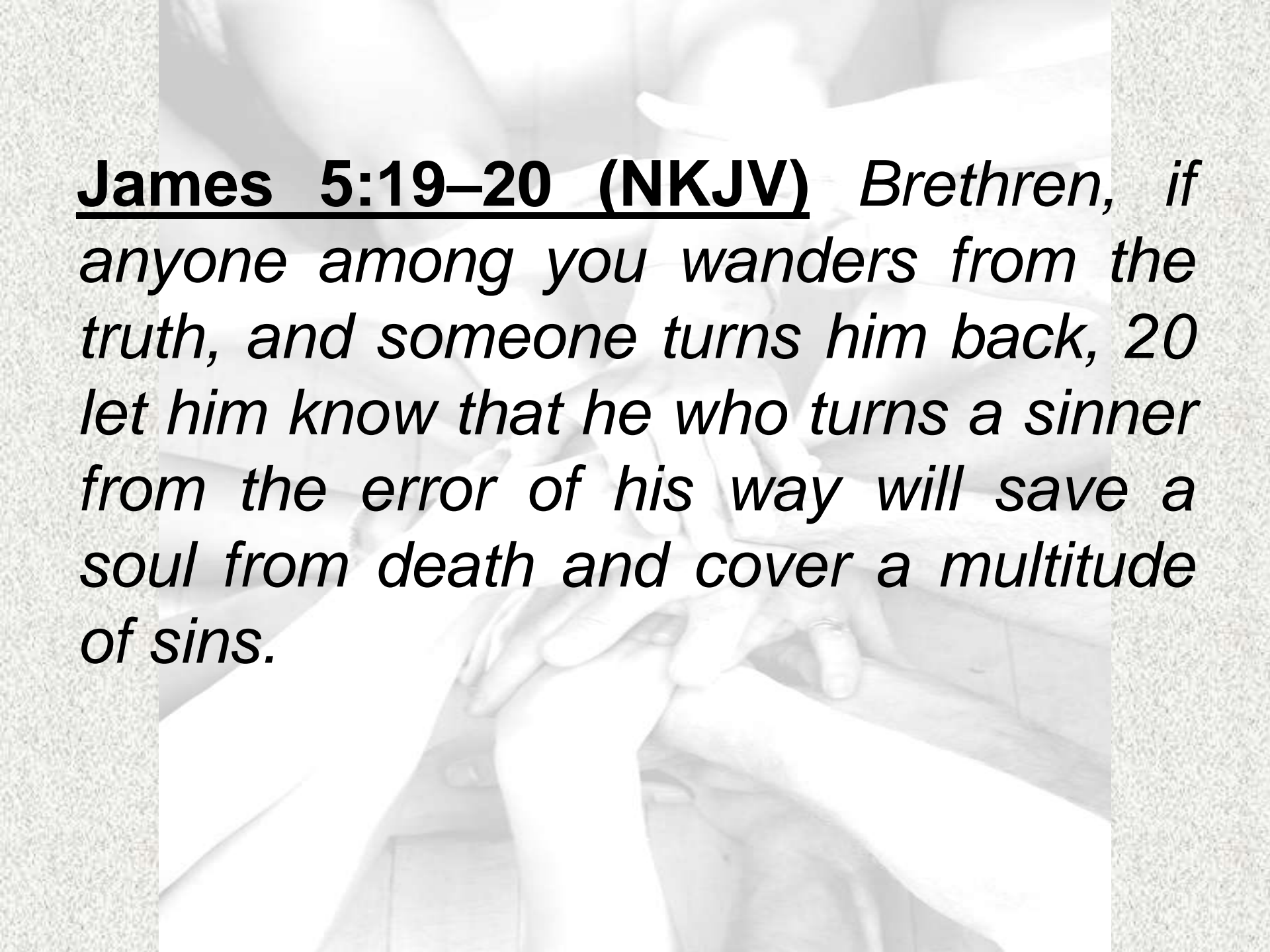
Matthew 18:15–17 (NKJV) *“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.*



Luke 17:3–4 (NKJV) *Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”*



Galatians 6:1 (NKJV) *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

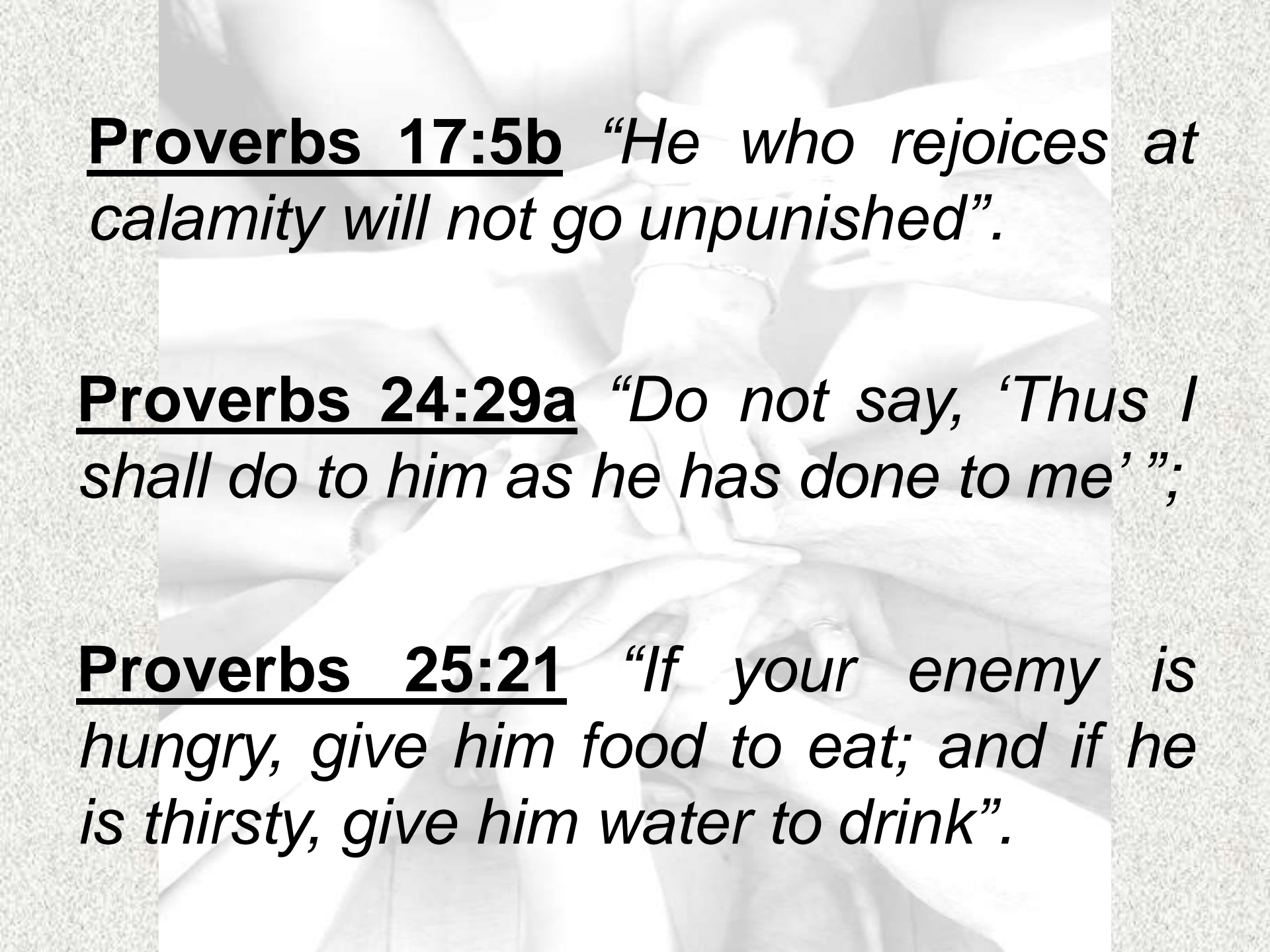


James 5:19–20 (NKJV) *Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

4. With Our Enemies

Matthew 5:43–48 (NKJV) *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;*

for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.



Proverbs 17:5b *“He who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished”.*

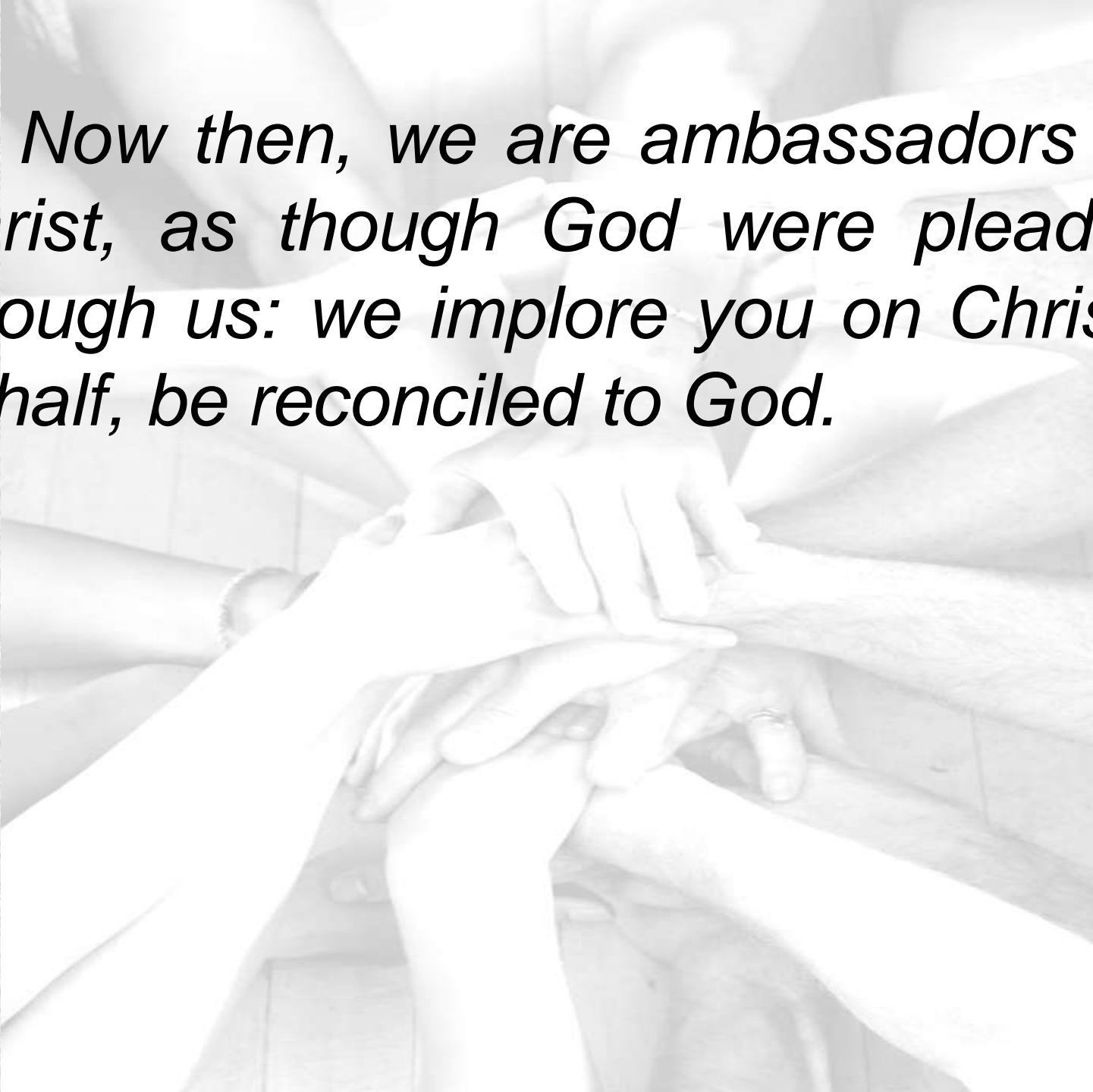
Proverbs 24:29a *“Do not say, ‘Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me’ ”;*

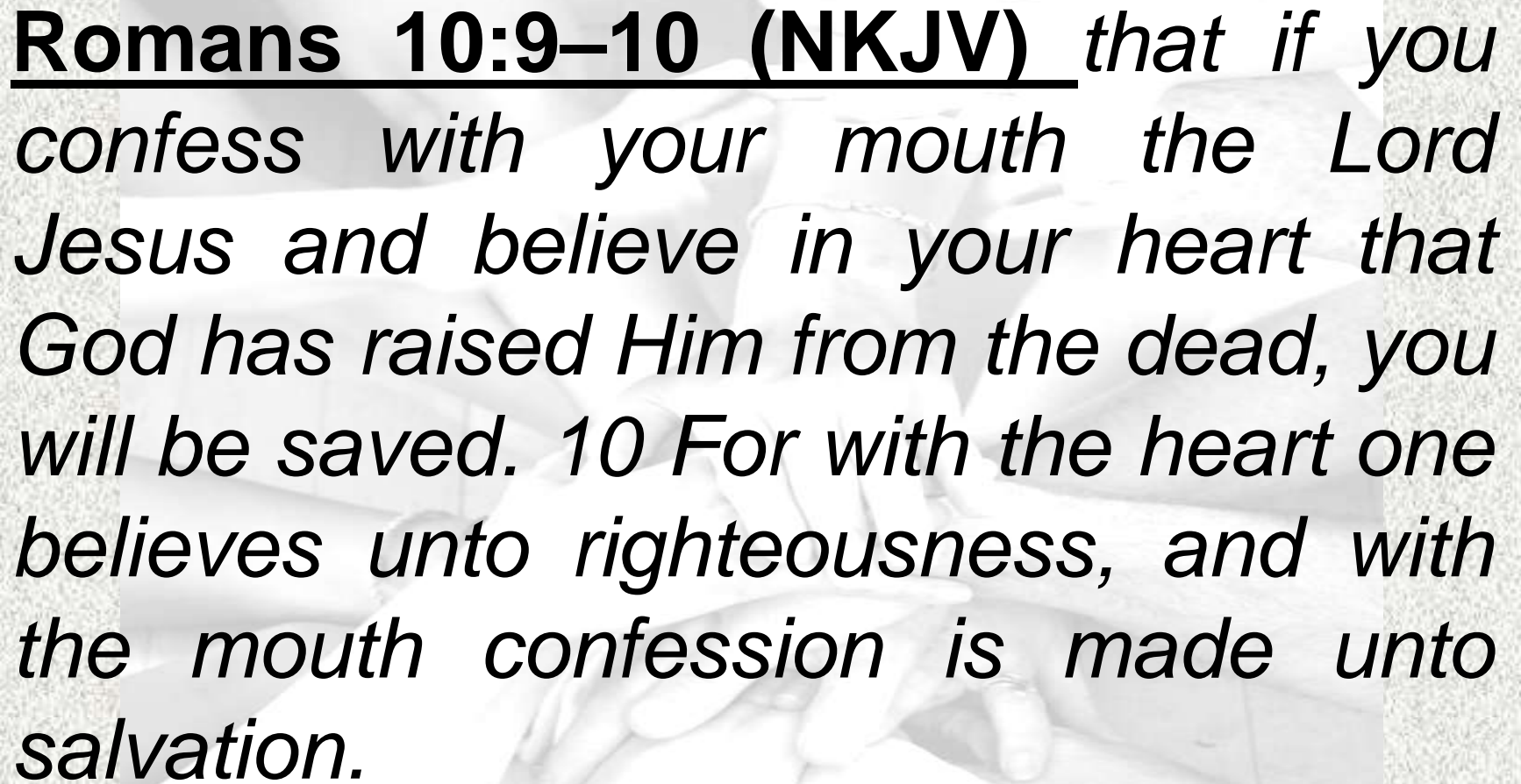
Proverbs 25:21 *“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink”.*

C. We are Commissioned to be Reconcilers.

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 (NKJV) *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.





Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

