

Started April 19, 2020 (finished April 24, 2020)

Dear Grandpa Al,

Howdy! As I write this letter to you, you have been in the hospital, skilled nursing facility, and transferred home by ambulance, all while we face a global pandemic with COVID-19, the novel coronavirus. Seeing how quickly life as we once knew it CAN and HAS changed jolts me awake.

It makes me think about something I don't regularly wake up *thinking* about: *my* mortality.

Please allow me to speak personally. If the fright of contracting (and possibly dying from) COVID-19 is what it takes to wake me up and talk about the most important matter with the people I love the most (my family), then I thank God for allowing this Coronavirus and will take this opportunity before it's too late. I ask myself, "If I only had two more weeks to live, what would I want to pass on to the people I would leave behind BEFORE I left this earth?"

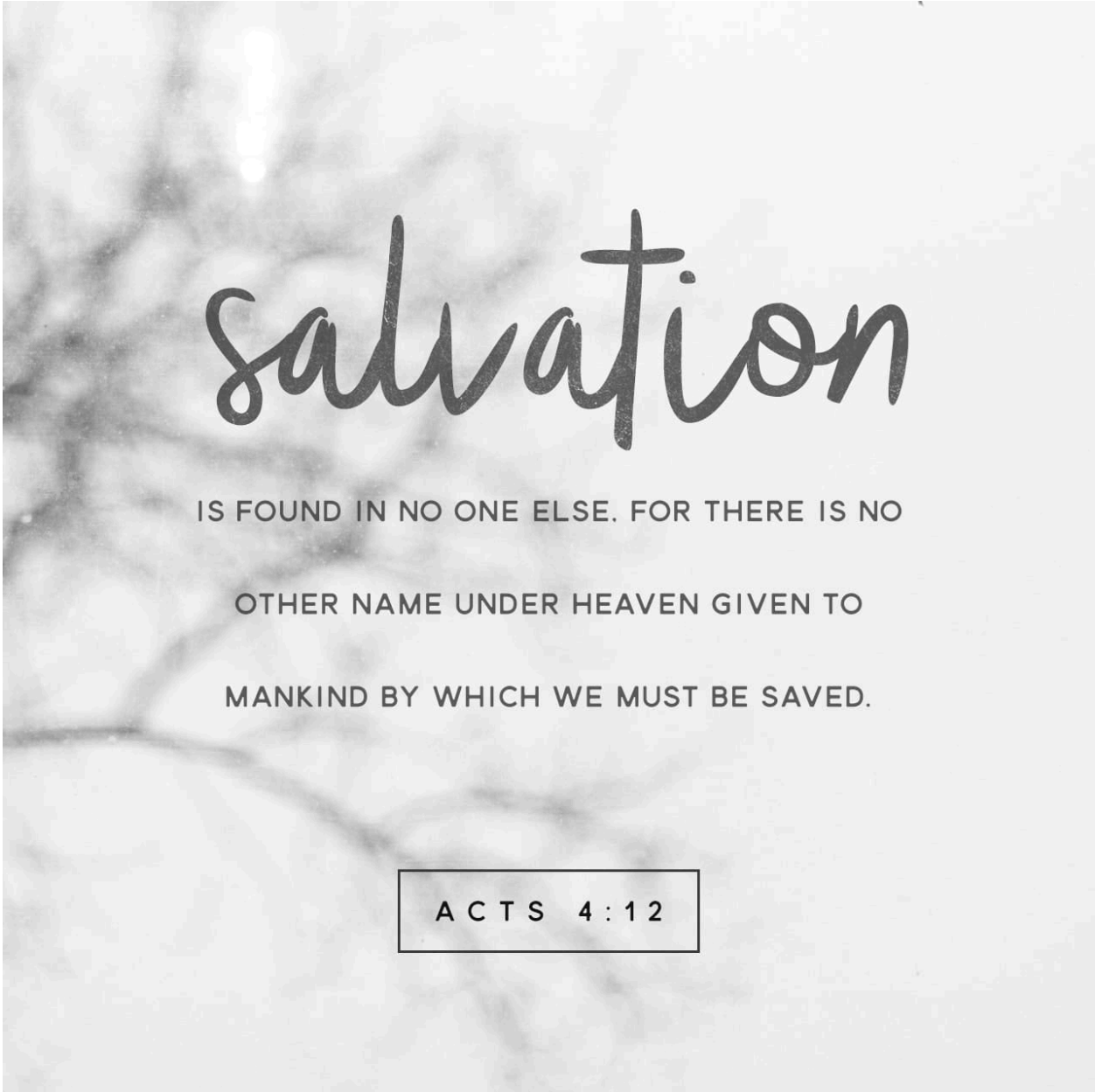
I wouldn't talk about the weather.

I wouldn't talk about what I ate or wore or did that day.

I wouldn't talk about politics or the news.

I would share memories if I had time and remember the good times we've shared. Oh, we've had so many, and I've linked and mentioned a few of them at the end of this letter.

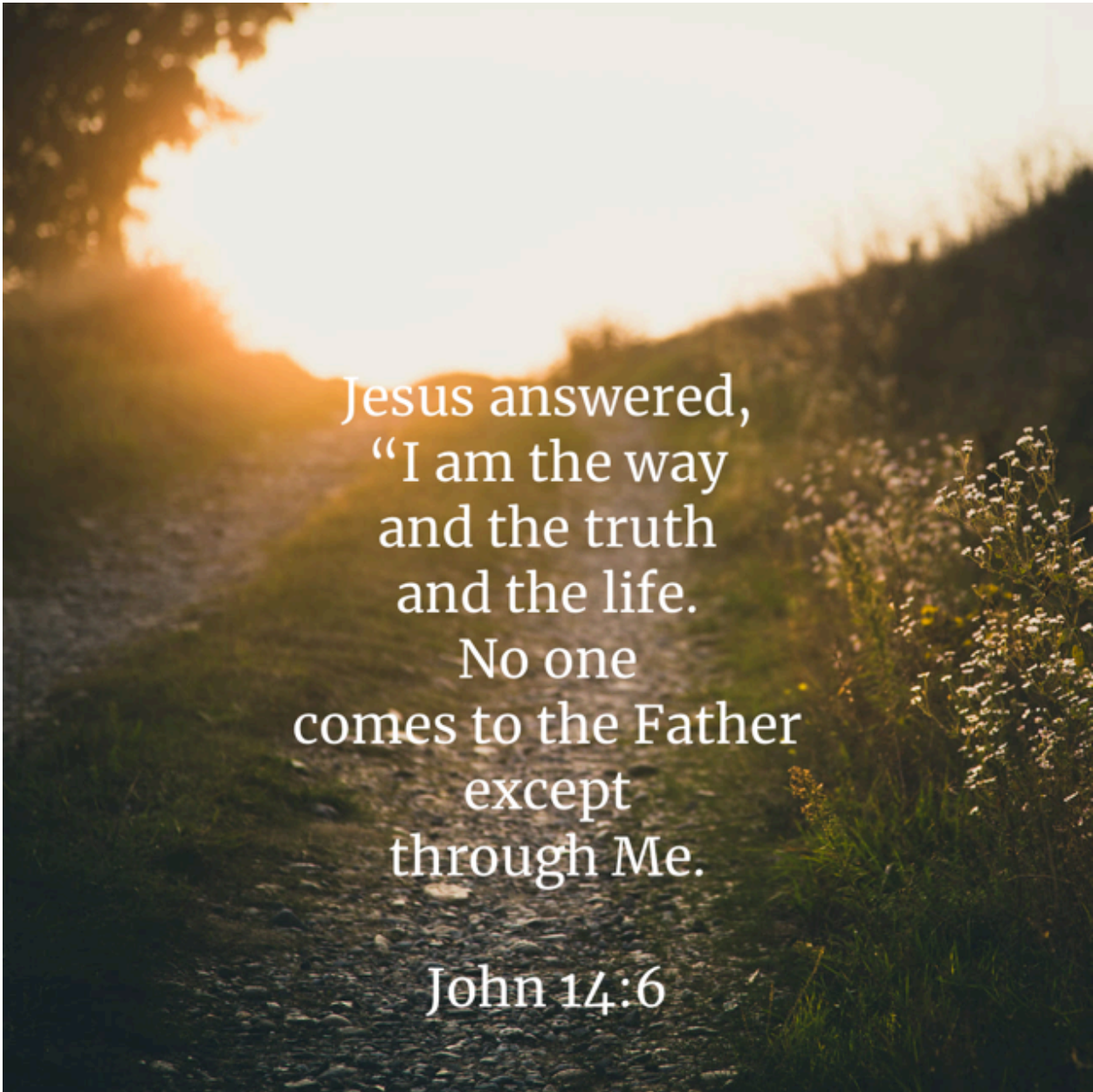
BUT . . . if I only had time to share ONE thing with those I know and love BEFORE I die, it would be this: It is WELL with my soul (Do y-o-u KNOW it's WELL with yours?)--here's why:



salvation

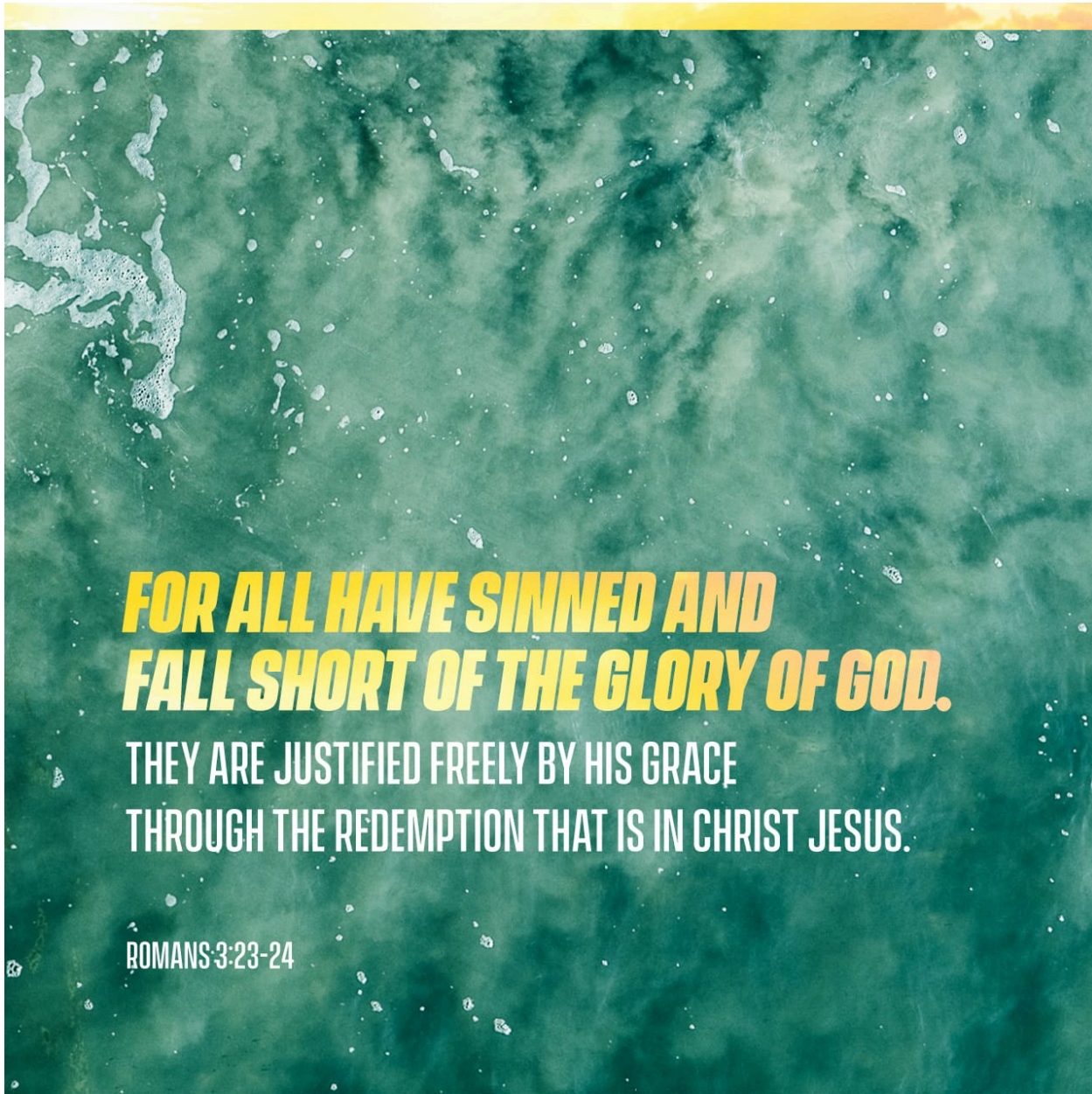
IS FOUND IN NO ONE ELSE. FOR THERE IS NO
OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN TO
MANKIND BY WHICH WE MUST BE SAVED.

ACTS 4:12



Jesus answered,
“I am the way
and the truth
and the life.
No one
comes to the Father
except
through Me.

John 14:6



***FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND
FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.***

THEY ARE JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE
THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS.

ROMANS 3:23-24



For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

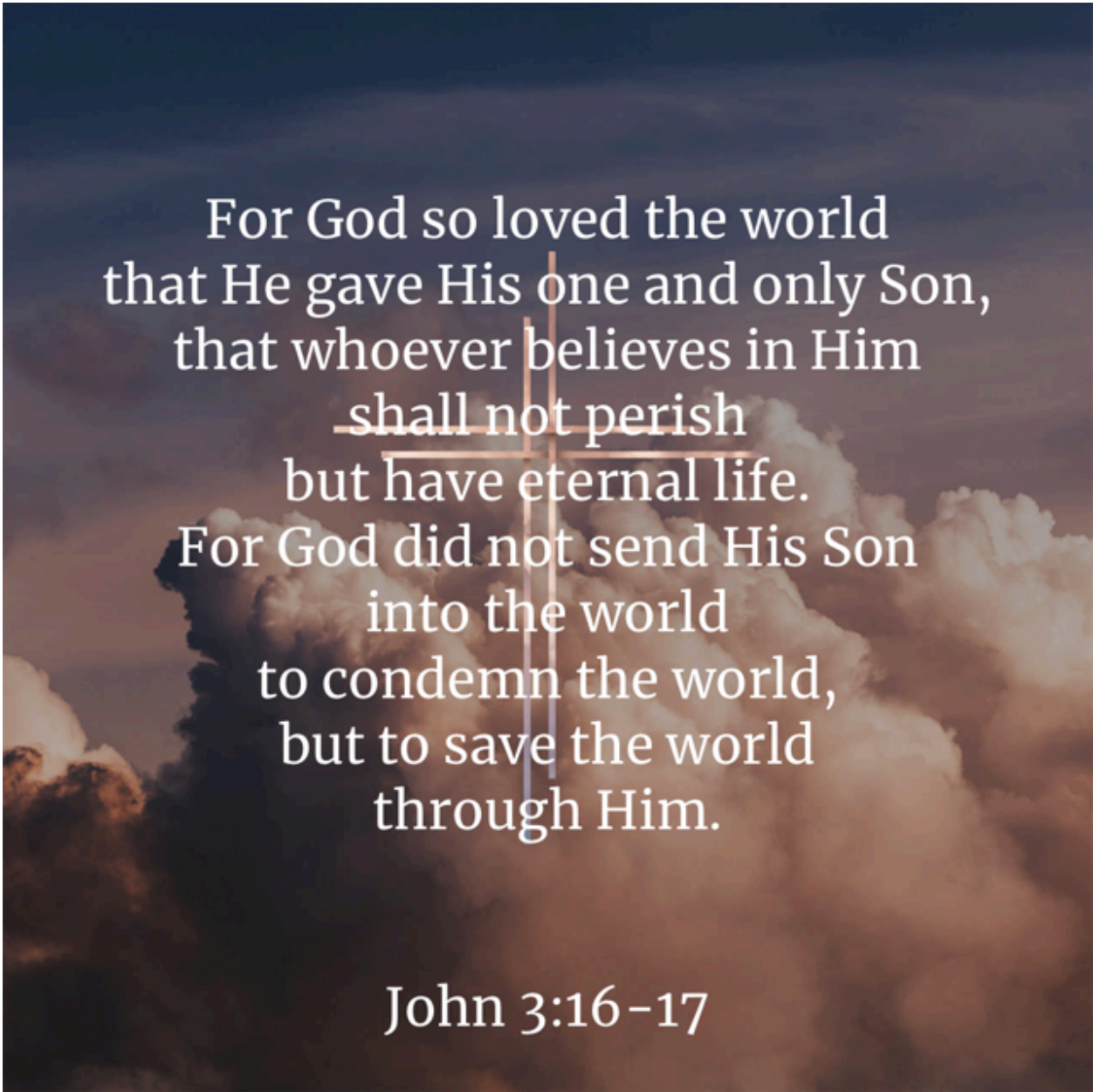


BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN

LOVE

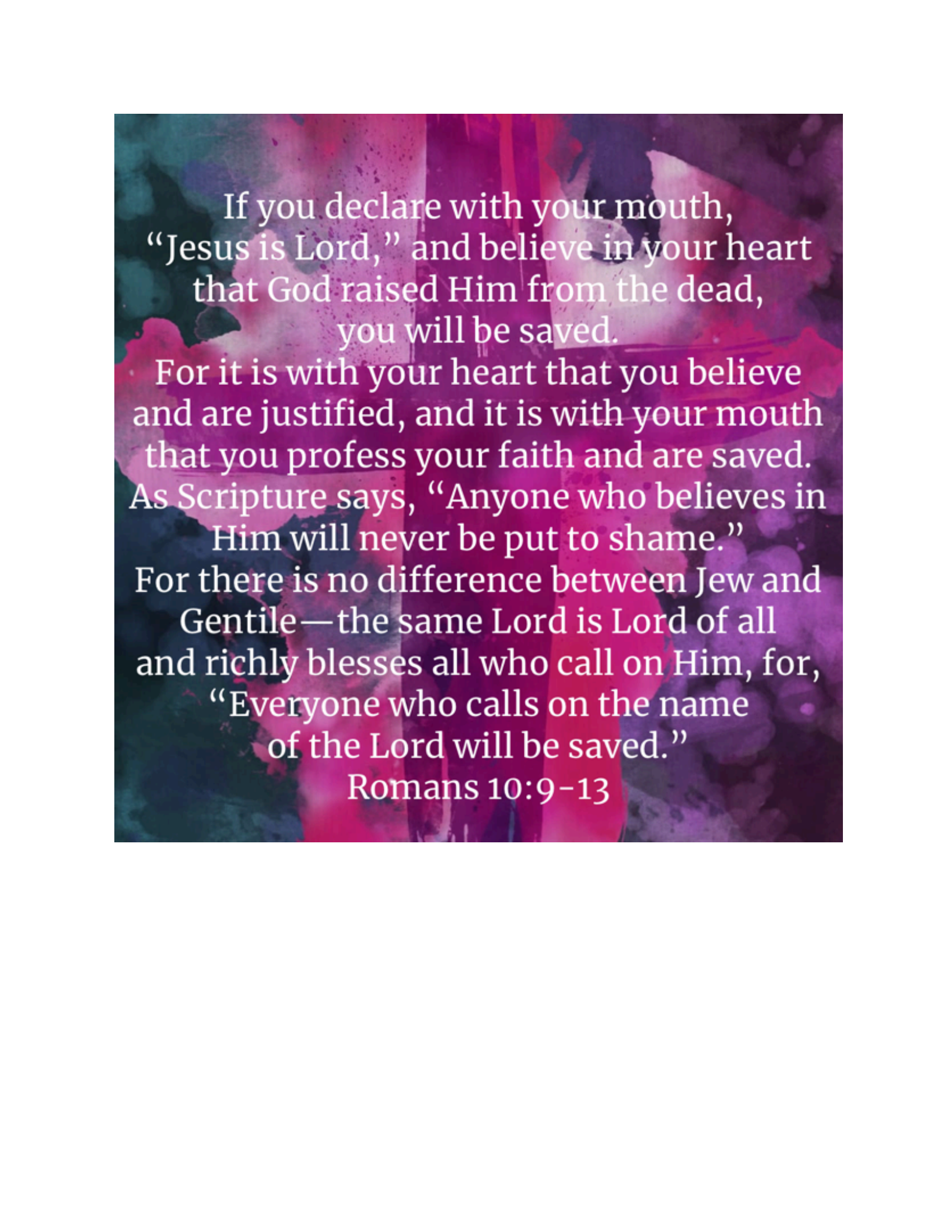
FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE
STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

ROMANS 5:8



For God so loved the world
that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish
but have eternal life.
For God did not send His Son
into the world
to condemn the world,
but to save the world
through Him.

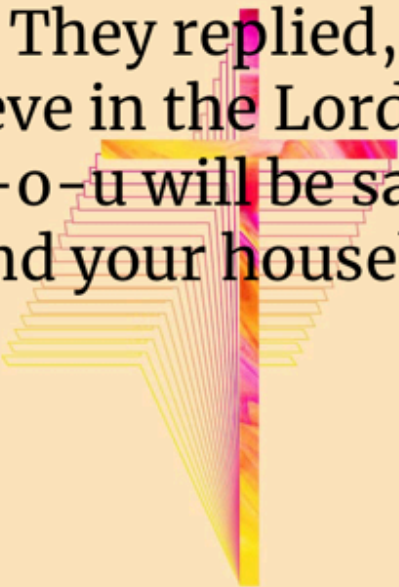
John 3:16-17



If you declare with your mouth,
“Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart
that God raised Him from the dead,
you will be saved.

For it is with your heart that you believe
and are justified, and it is with your mouth
that you profess your faith and are saved.
As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in
Him will never be put to shame.”
For there is no difference between Jew and
Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all
and richly blesses all who call on Him, for,
“Everyone who calls on the name
of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:9–13



They replied,
“Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and y-o-u will be saved—
you and your household.”

Acts 16:31

“

I AM

THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE.

THE ONE WHO

BELIEVES

IN ME WILL

LIVE

EVEN THOUGH
THEY DIE

&

WHOEVER LIVES BY BELIEVING IN ME WILL

~~NEVER DIE~~

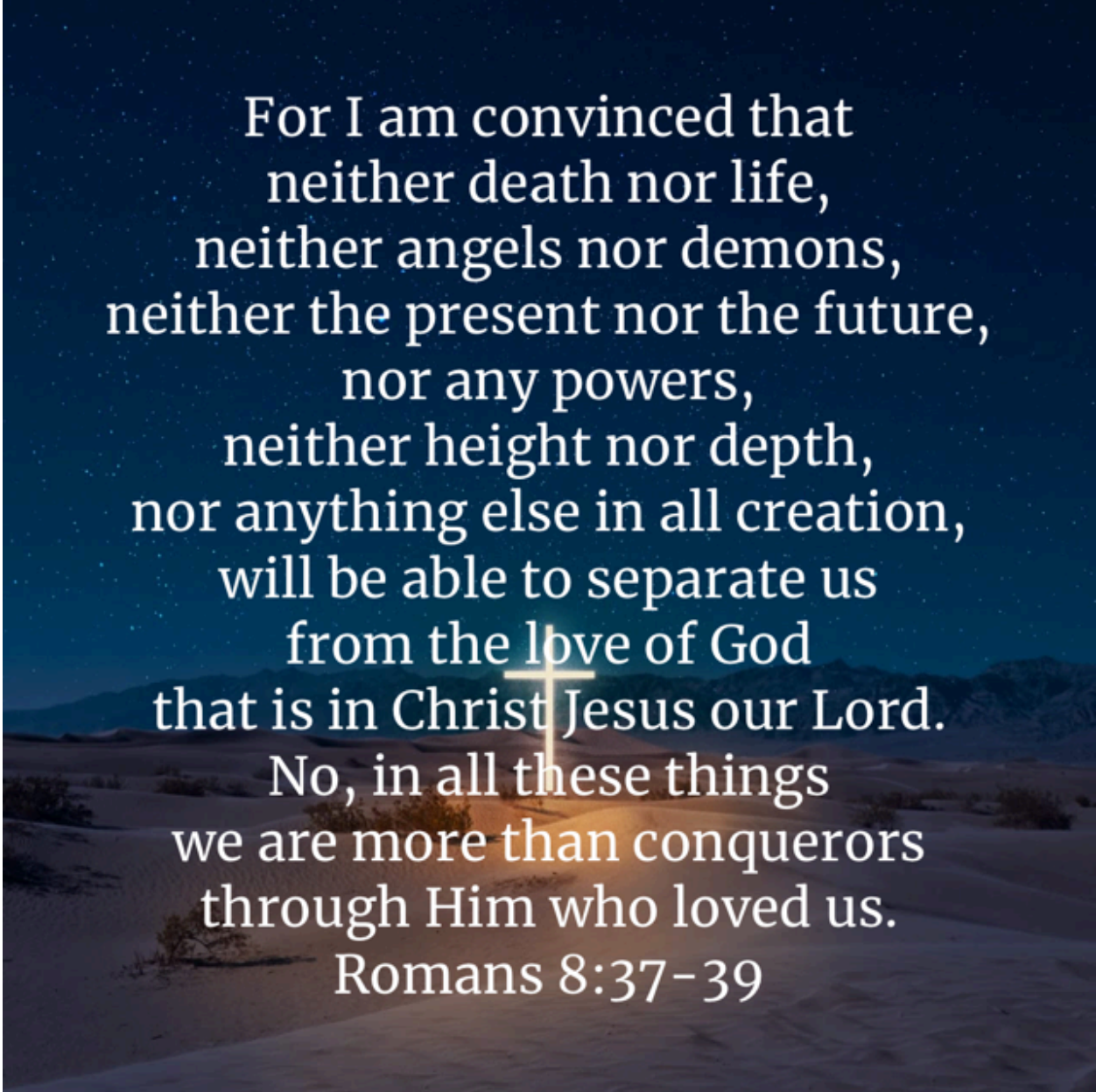
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

”

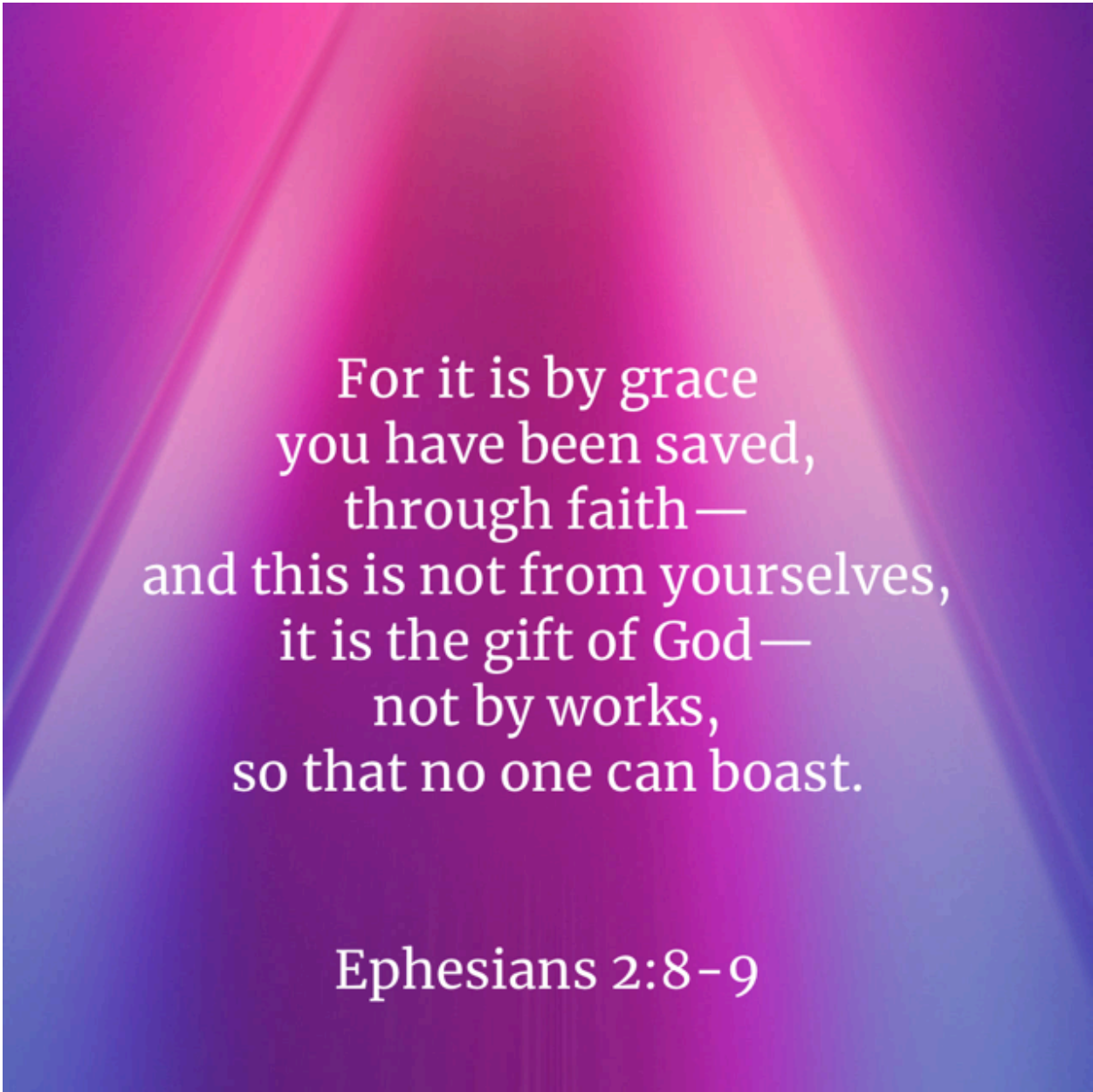
JOHN 11:25-26 NIV

HOLY
BIBLE

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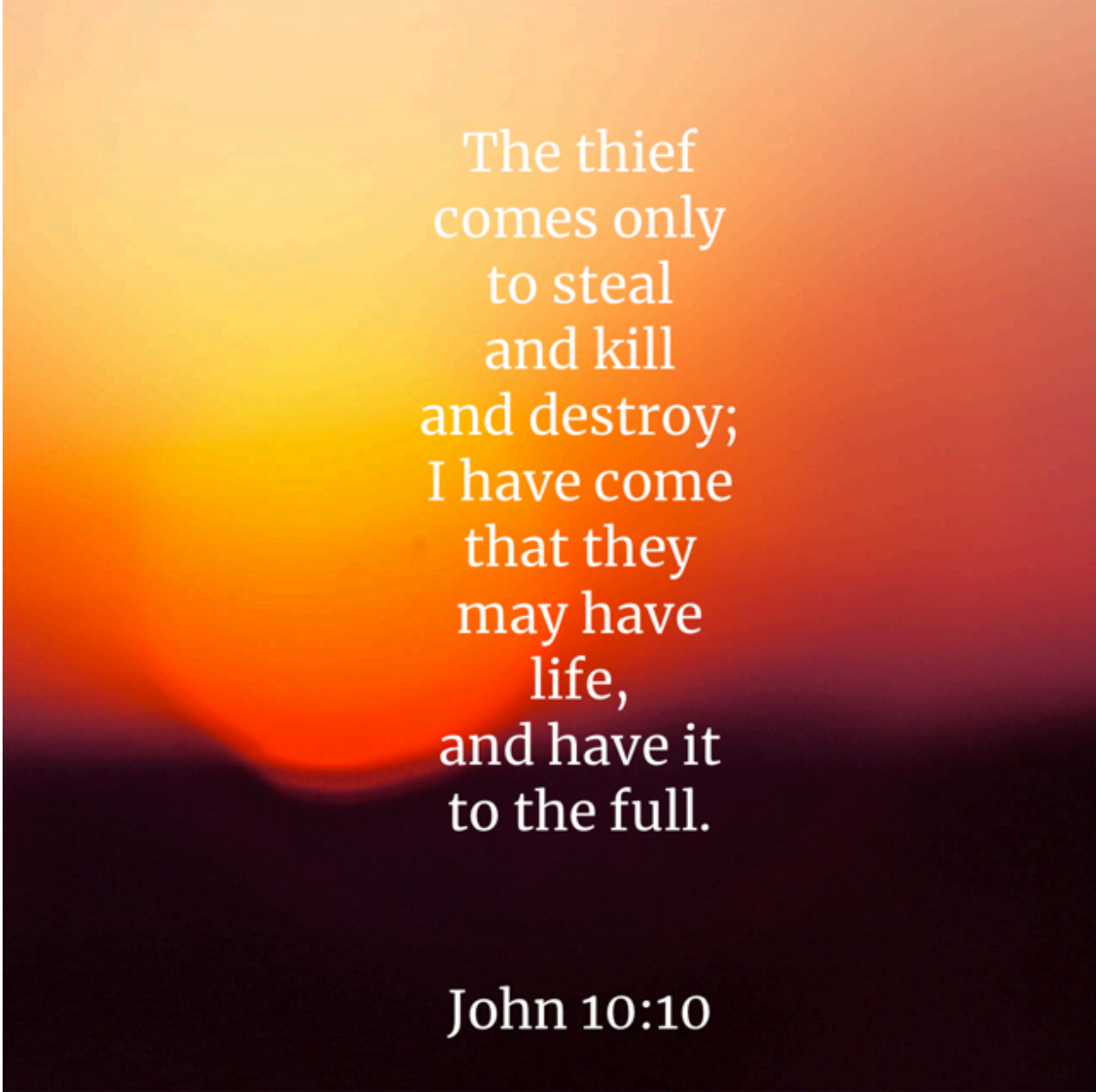
The background of the image is a serene desert scene at night. In the center, a sand dune is illuminated by a warm, golden light, and upon it stands a simple, glowing cross. The sky above is a deep, dark blue, filled with numerous small, bright stars. The foreground shows the soft, undulating lines of sand dunes, with a few small, dark shrubs scattered across the landscape. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and spiritual.

For I am convinced that
neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers,
neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
No, in all these things
we are more than conquerors
through Him who loved us.
Romans 8:37-39



For it is by grace
you have been saved,
through faith—
and this is not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God—
not by works,
so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8–9



The thief
comes only
to steal
and kill
and destroy;
I have come
that they
may have
life,
and have it
to the full.

John 10:10

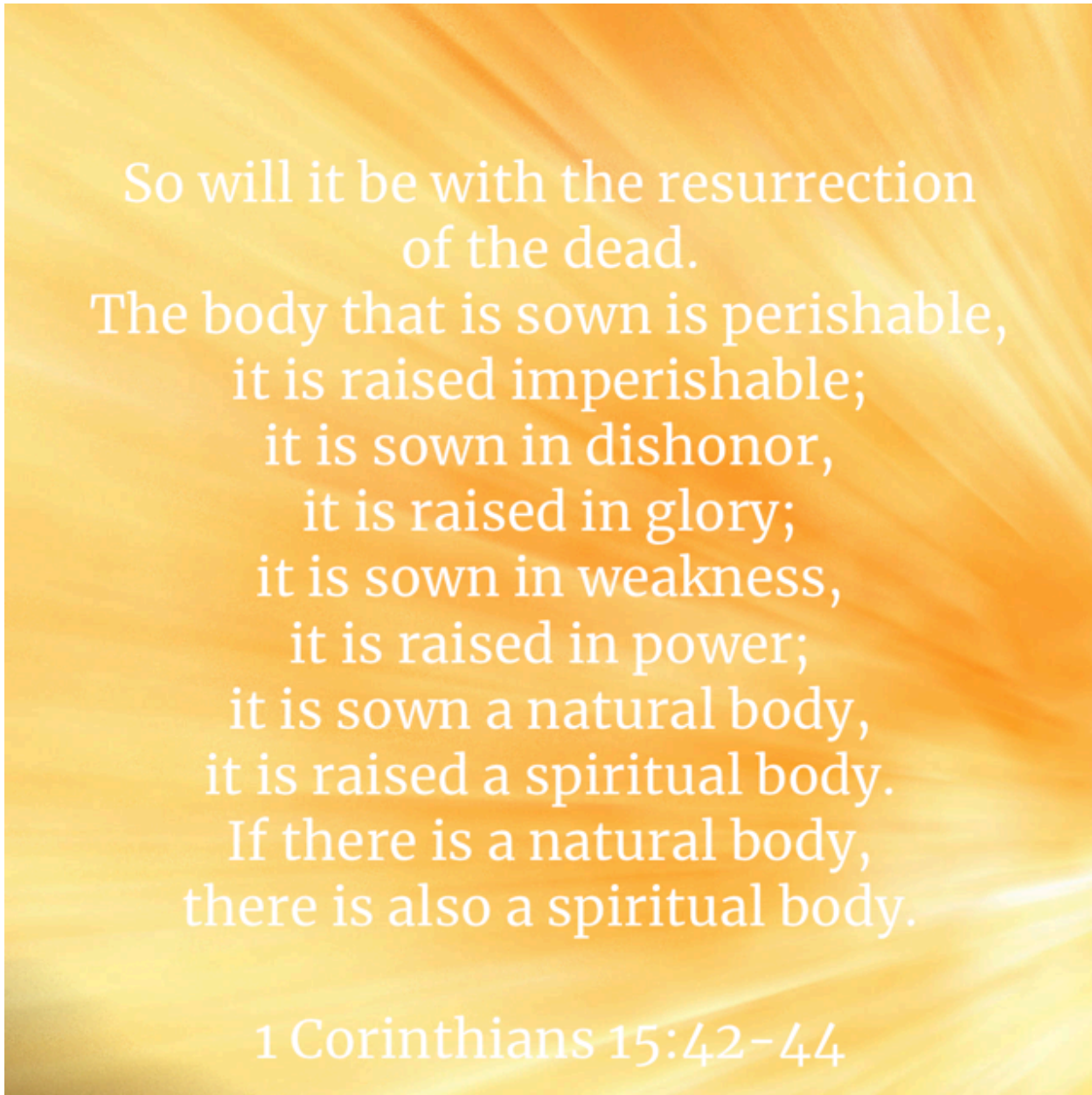
Yes, if I only had time to share ONE thing with my kids, my family, with y-o-u before I died, I would share the ETERNAL HOPE and SECURITY that I have in the ONLY name that can save anyone who believes in Him: [it is WELL with my soul](#) because 'Jesus is Lord' over me.

Have you believed Jesus is Lord over your soul, too?

I pray and hope so because I so want to see y-o-u . . .



. . . in heaven (Revelation 21-22). I can only imagine how snazzy you'll look in your glorified cuff links . . .



So will it be with the resurrection
of the dead.
The body that is sown is perishable,
it is raised imperishable;
it is sown in dishonor,
it is raised in glory;
it is sown in weakness,
it is raised in power;
it is sown a natural body,
it is raised a spiritual body.
If there is a natural body,
there is also a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

I love you, Grandpa Al,



Shannon, your granddaughter :)

Y-o-u are loved by your wife and family!



You and your lovely wife, Sue Ann.



You and my dear Little Mama, your youngest daughter, Teri.



You and my five children, your grandchildren from Matt and Shannon. :)



You and your granddaughter, Shannon, and her three youngest kids.

A Stroll Down My Memory Lane

WHEN I WAS JUST A GIRL

Oh, we had some great times together. I remember staying at your house every summer for the annual Dallas trip. You'd surprise us with a goodie bag full of treasures from the flea market waiting for our arrival. You and Grandma Sue would take us out for a museum day, an IMAX showing, a botanical garden walk, or a trip to the zoo. I loved going to Lake Texoma with you, Grandma Sue, and my family. I learned to water ski there and still recall you talking into your walkie-talkie, "Serendipity, Serendipity, Serendipity, this is Sue Ann." You taught me how to read your fish finder and let me drive your boat. Of course my parents would take Greg and I to Six Flags and Wet 'N Wild (also back-to-school clothes shopping at Northpark Mall) while we were in town. You and Grandma Sue would prepare a delicious, sit-down gourmet dinner in your dining room. I loved how you'd make us a virgin Shirley Temple with a cherry on top. Greg and I would peruse your artwork, especially marveling at your collection of masks on the wall and Grandma Sue's pottery. We'd also watch MTV in the guest bedroom, and it's strange, but I

remember the Dial soap we used for bathing and the lava soap you used to clean your hands after creating art. I always loved how the natural light poured into the windows in your home, and I remember you sitting in your chair. I remember how you used to smoke a pipe (and could blow smoke rings), but you quit.

MORE RECENT VISITS

Although you and Sue came to see my babies and I have conventional pictures of these memories, I have not yet converted them all to digital. Here are some pics and videos of our more recent special visits! We've met at restaurants in both Austin and Dallas for dinner together. Each time, you generously treated us to a FEAST! You got to spend a couple of nights with us in Austin and attend Matthew's high school graduation and his graduation party that followed. I LOVED getting to sit with you (and Matt) at my kitchen table and listen to you share about your many travels. I think you said your favorite place you visited was Cairo, Egypt. We spent our first Thanksgiving ever together in Midland at my parents' home. I'm so thankful that all five of my children are old enough to have spent time with you, their great-grandfather. What a blessing!

Thank you for all the memories!

OUR PHONE CONVERSATION

One day as a young adult, we had a special phone conversation. I asked you several questions about your childhood, young married and family years, and some about your life experiences. I wish I appreciated the opportunity to know you more personally when I was younger, but I didn't think that way when I was just a girl. I know you were an only child and that your parents took you out for "fine dining." You told me your first job was candling eggs, but you confessed, "I didn't know what the heck I was doing!" Shortly thereafter, I think you transitioned to a job as a mechanic and bought your first car with your wages. You married my Gigi and had three beautiful daughters, Sue, Tiffany, and Teri. Thank you for having these special girls or else I wouldn't exist!

But there is ONE question I wasn't awake enough to ask you and it's the most important thing . . .

Grandpa AI, is it well with your soul?

