

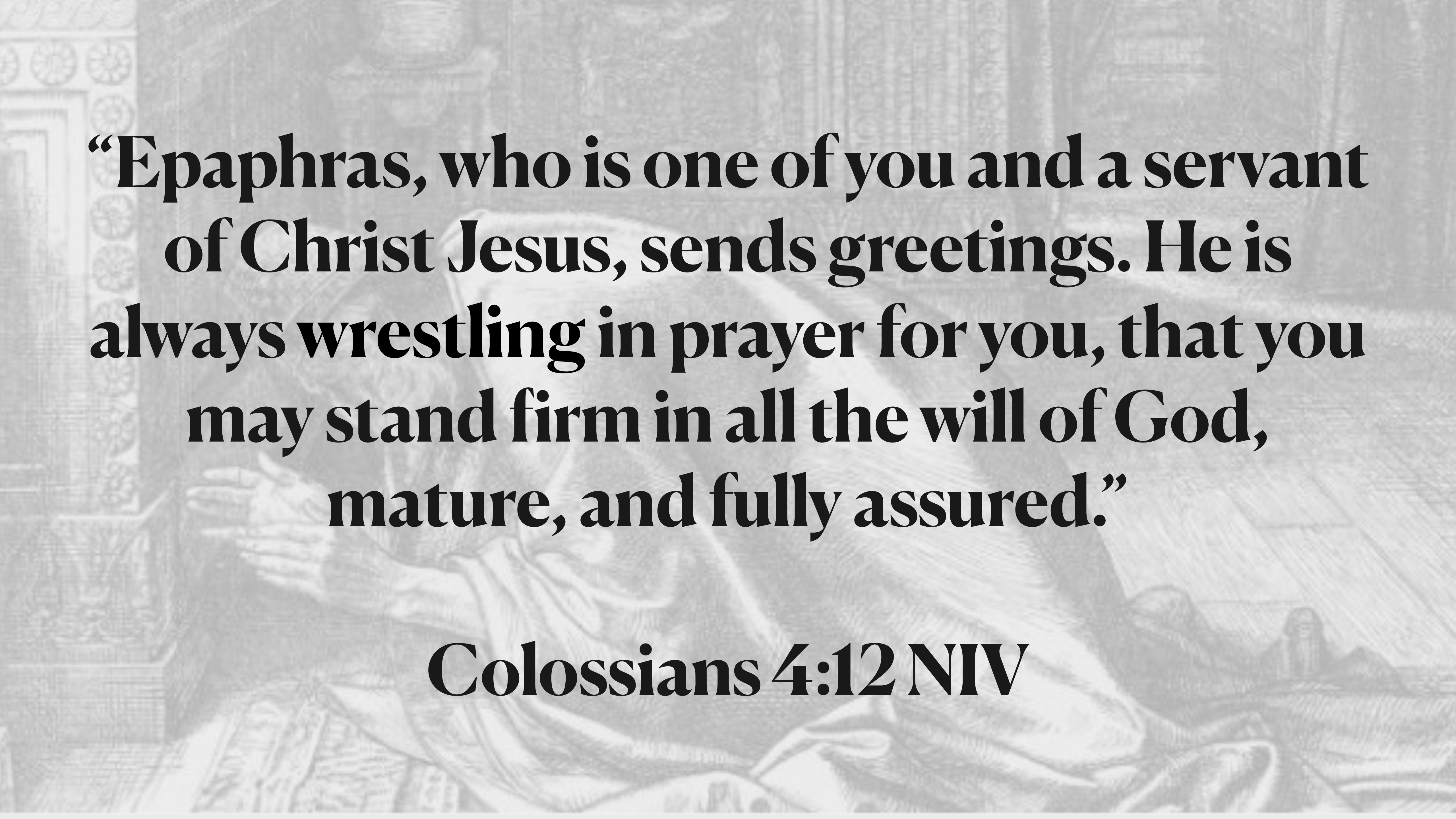


Let's declare together:

This is God's word.

It gives us life.

We believe it.

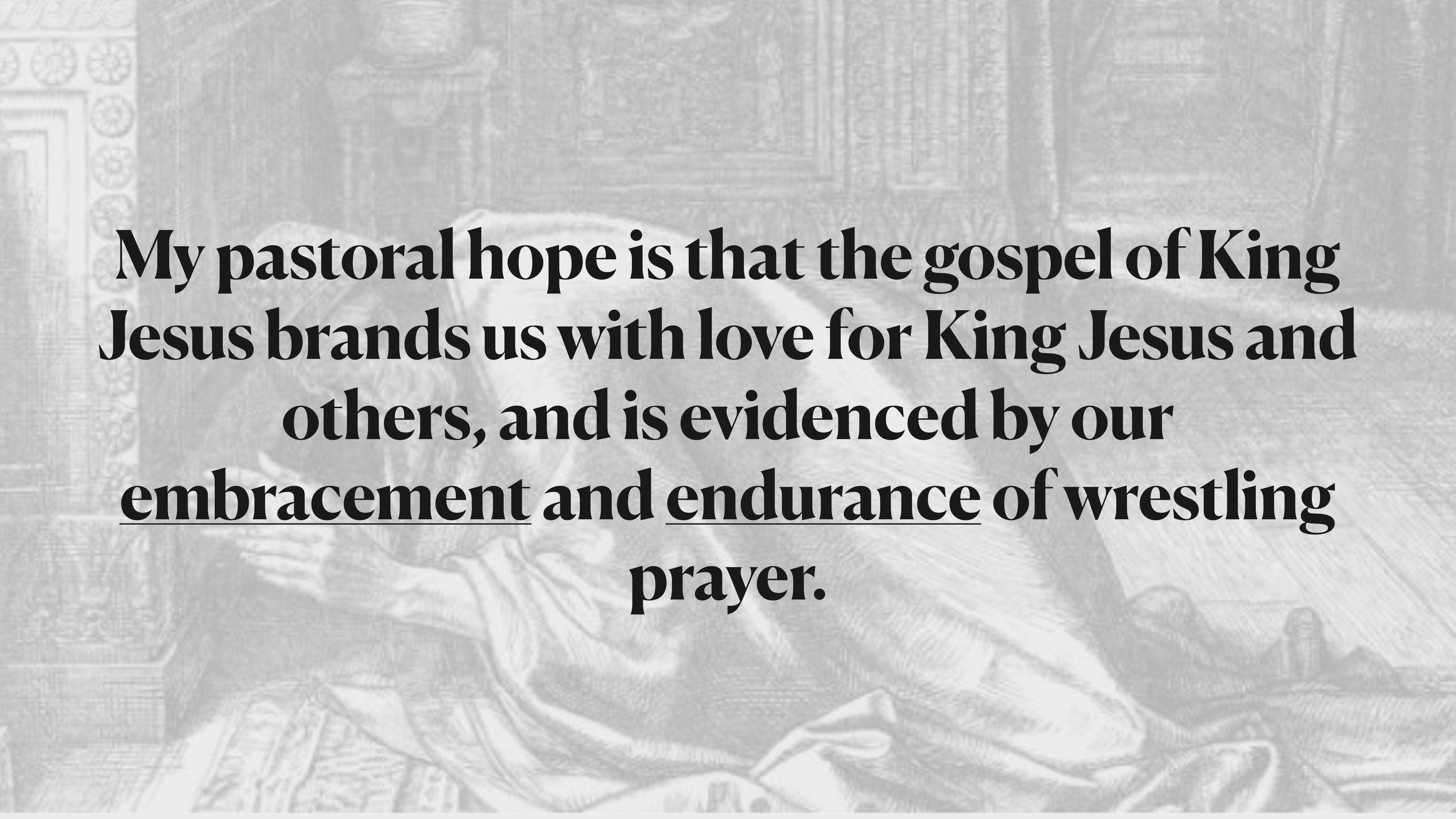


“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature, and fully assured.”

Colossians 4:12 NIV



A faithful and fruitful, Jesus-centered life requires wrestling prayer.

The background is a faded, grayscale illustration of a church interior. In the foreground, a person is shown in a prayerful pose, with arms outstretched and hands clasped. Behind them, other figures are visible, some appearing to be in prayer or conversation. The architecture includes a doorway on the left and a window or altar area in the background. The overall tone is solemn and spiritual.

**My pastoral hope is that the gospel of King
Jesus brands us with love for King Jesus and
others, and is evidenced by our
embracement and endurance of wrestling
prayer.**



**The finished work of Jesus and the
supremacy of Christological truth
require a responsible and reverent
prayerful response.**

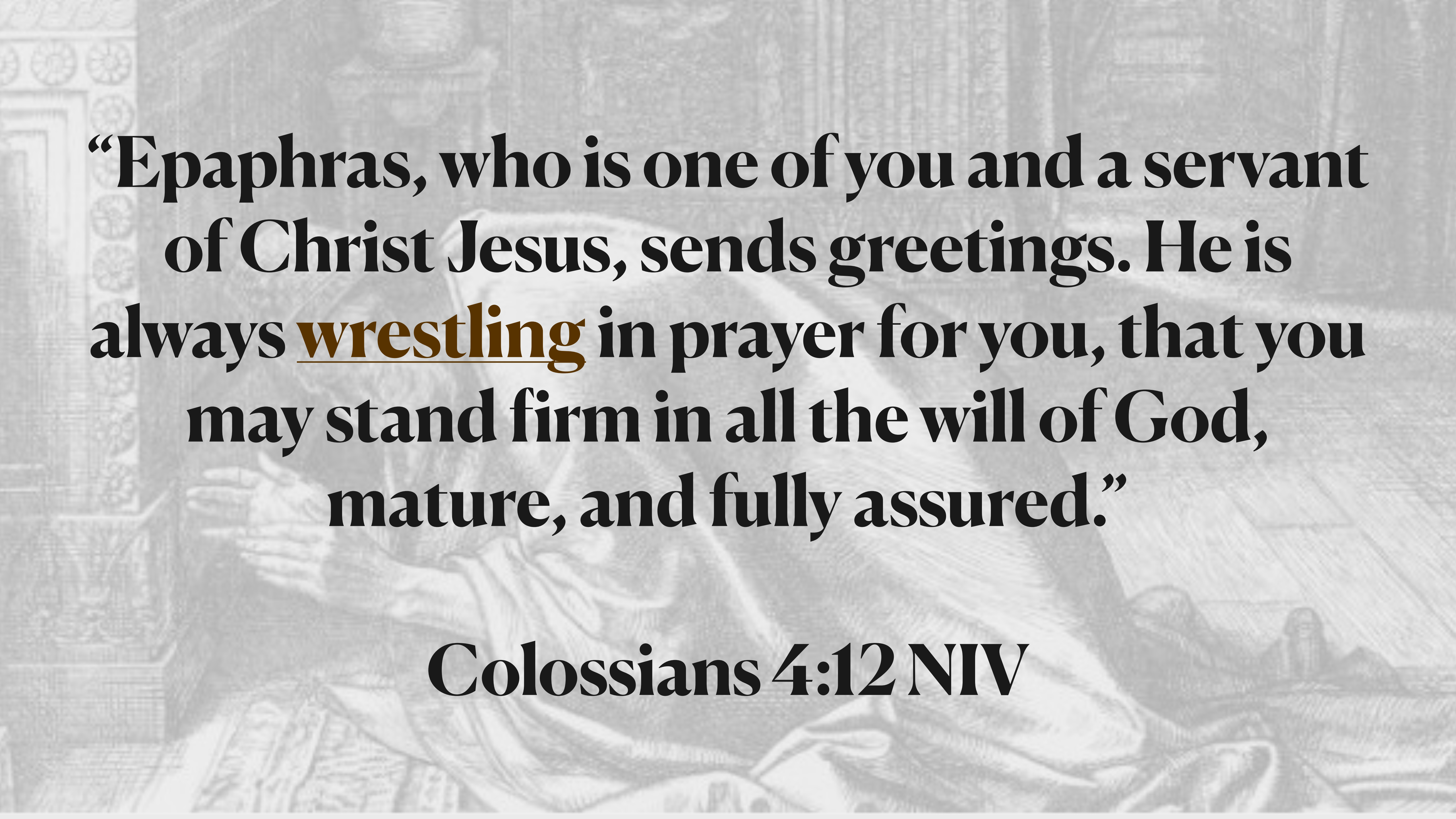


WRESTLING PRAYER

A GATEWAY COLLECTION

Wrestling Prayer

- 1. Why do we wrestle?**
- 2. What do we wrestle?**
- 3. How do wrestle?**



“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature, and fully assured.”

Colossians 4:12 NIV



Professional
Christianity is:

When pain-based identity is a greater reality than God-given identity.



Professional
Christianity is:

**When our reputation is more important
than our character.**



Professional
Christianity is:

**When the gifts of the Spirit are developed
and the fruits of the Spirit are ignored.**

A grayscale illustration of a church interior. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit is kneeling in prayer, his hands clasped. Behind him, a woman in a white dress is also kneeling. In the background, other people are visible, some standing and some kneeling, in a church setting with a large window and architectural details.

Professional **Christianity is:**

**When ease is more important than
perseverance.**



Professional
Christianity is:

**When what we want is more important
than discipleship.**



Professional
Christianity is:

**When being right is more important than
being loving.**

A faint, grayscale background image of a church interior. In the foreground, a person is kneeling in prayer with their hands clasped. In the background, other people are visible, some standing and some kneeling, in a church setting with architectural details like columns and arches.

Epaphras prayed (and so did Paul):

- 1. To stand firm in ALL the will of God.**
- 2. To mature.**
- 3. To be fully assured**



**To fulfill the will of God, a
person must stand firm
IN the will of God.**

Stand Firm in All the Will of God

- 1. Bear fruit in every good work.**
- 2. Grow in the knowledge of God and by it.**
- 3. Be strengthened with all power according to His glorious might, so that you have great endurance and patience.**
- 4. Joyfully give thanks because we are qualified to share in the inheritance of His holy people who live in His light.**

Mature

- 1. Rooted and built up (2:7)**
- 2. Set your hearts on things above (3:1)**
- 3. Set your minds on things above (3:2)**
- 4. Put to death what belongs to your earthly nature (3:5)**
- 5. Rid yourselves (3:8)**



**Maturity is willing to
relinquish personal liberty
for the benefit of another.**

Be Fully Assured

- 1. Fully assured that Christ is your source for life, wisdom, direction, and provision.**
- 2. Fully assured that Christ's purpose for us is better than our own, even when it's illogical.**
- 3. Fully assured that Christ is enough and nothing needs to be added to the gospel of His kingdom.**

I'm telling you all of this because:

- 1. The church that can wrestle in prayer will flourish and resist the end time apostasy.**
- 2. The church that can wrestle in prayer will be trusted with greater things of God's kingdom.**
- 3. The church that can wrestle in prayer will fully experience the magnificent reality of Christ's awesome presence.**

Application:

- 1. Persevere.**
- 2. Daily, practice being specific when giving thanks.**
- 3. Picturize how you want to grow in God.**
- 4. Find a verse in Colossians, memorize it, meditate on it, pray it, and live it.**



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