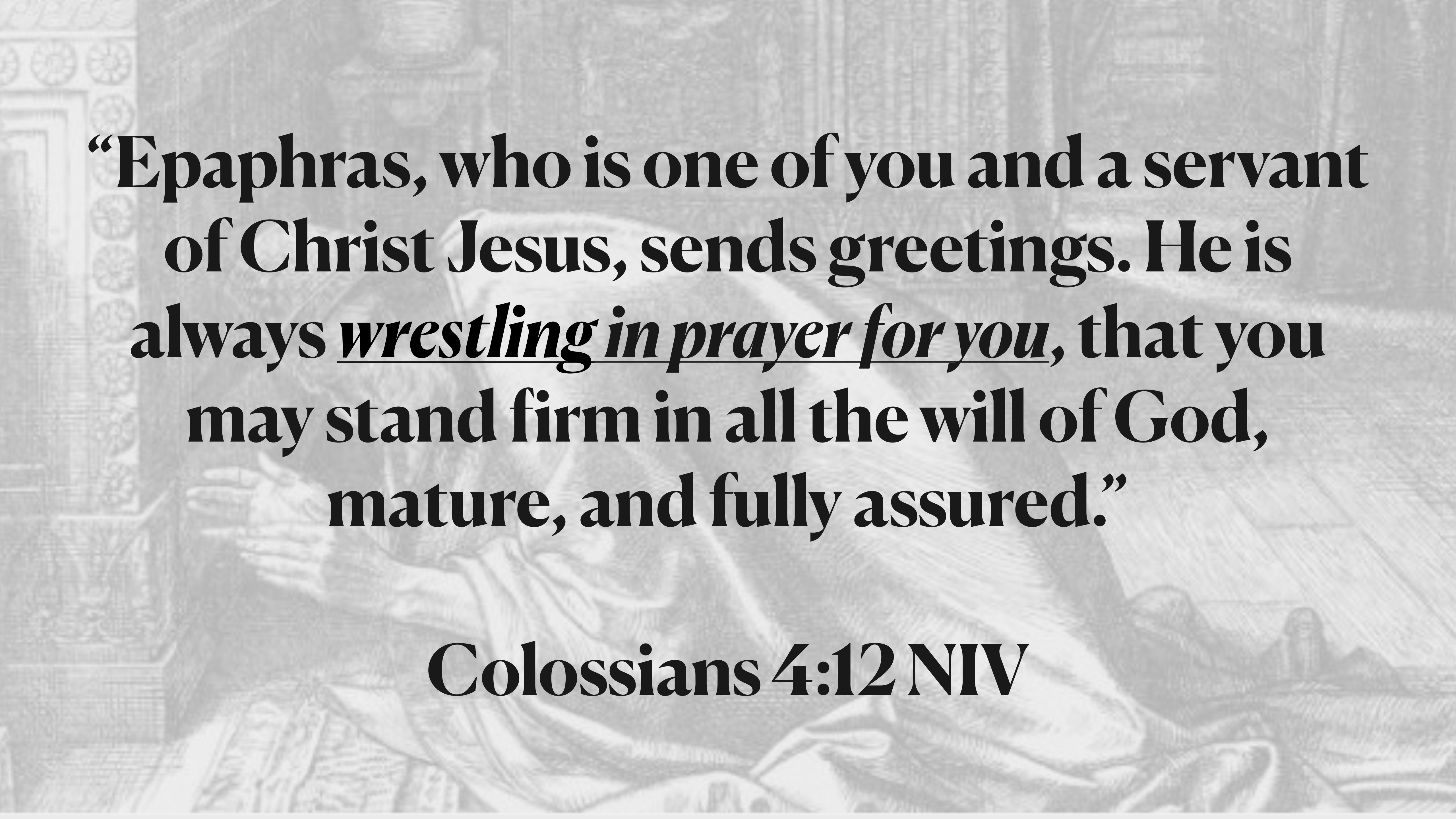




WRESTLING PRAYER

A GATEWAY COLLECTION



“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



**Behind every face is a story of
pain and triumph.**

Wrestling Prayer

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

“This is not a wrestling match against a human opponent. We are wrestling with rulers, authorities, the powers who govern this world of darkness, and spiritual forces that control evil in the heavenly world.”

Ephesians 6:12

God’s Word Translation

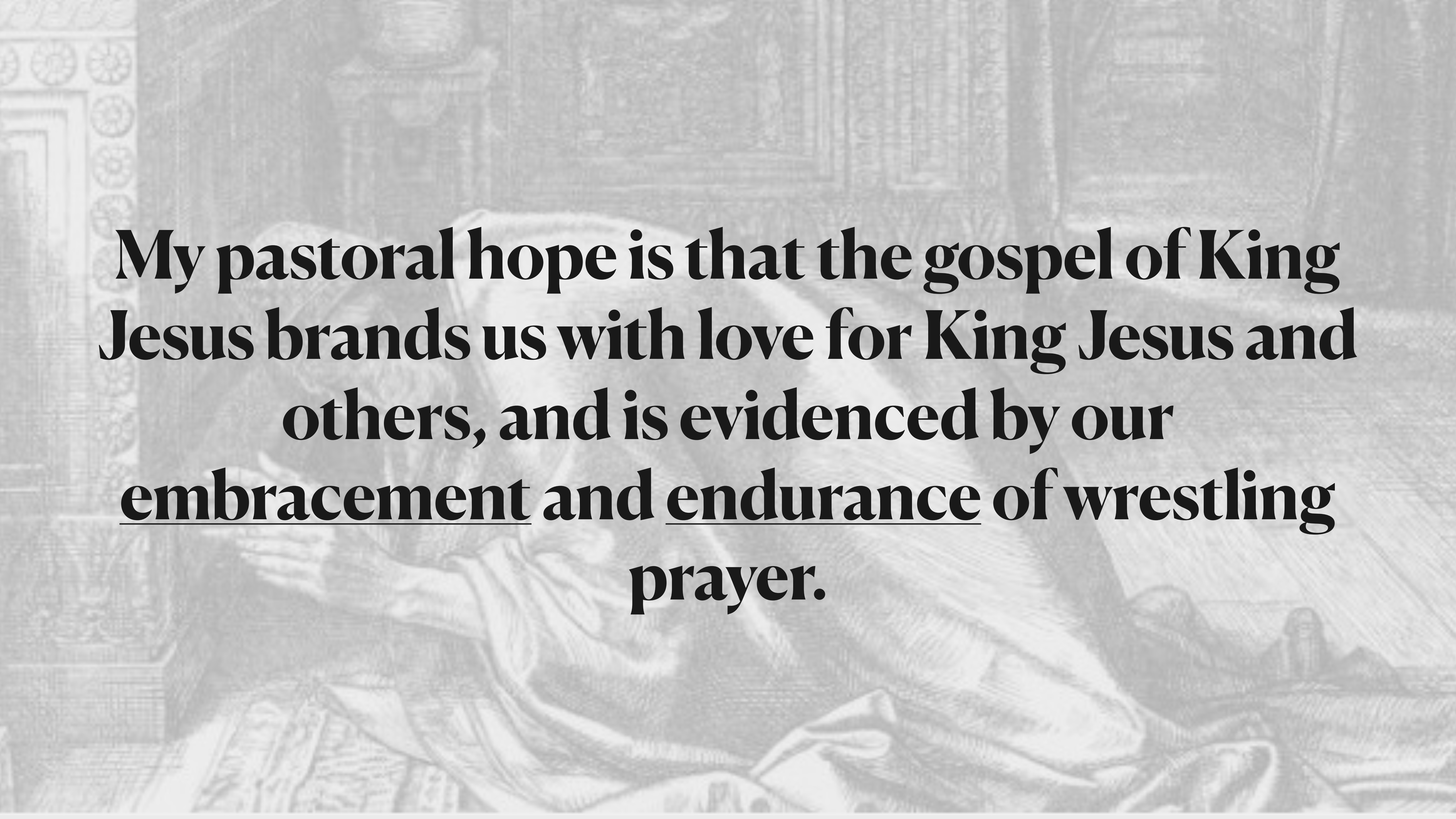
“This is no weekend war that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.”

Ephesians 6:12

The Message Translation



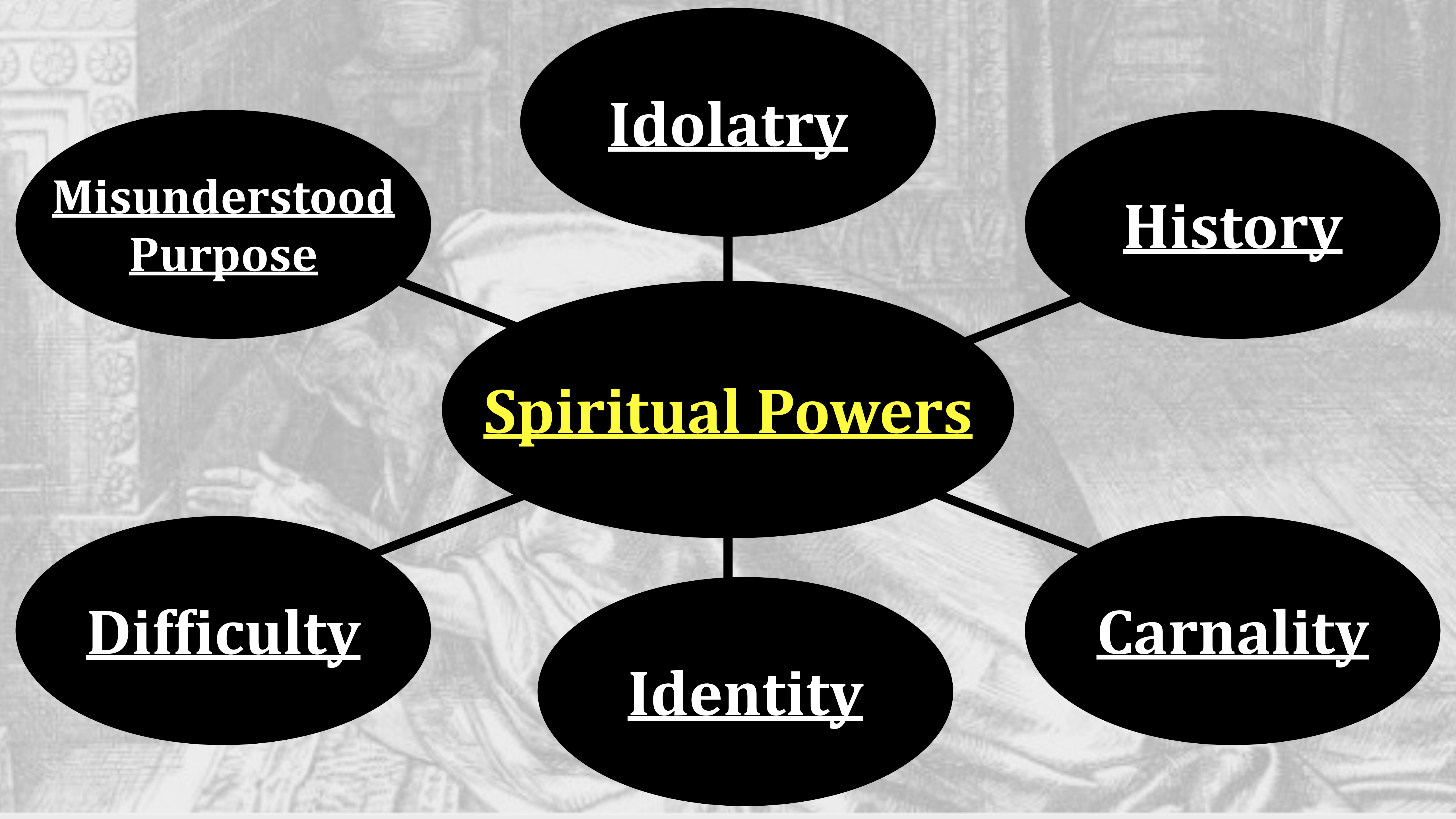
A faithful and fruitful, Jesus-centered life requires wrestling prayer.

The background is a grayscale, semi-transparent image of a church interior. In the foreground, a person is seen from behind, kneeling in prayer with their hands raised. In the background, other people are visible, some sitting and some standing, in a similar posture of prayer. The architecture includes a doorway on the left and a large window or altar area in the distance.

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.**



Idolatry

History

Misunderstood
Purpose

Spiritual Powers

Carnality

Difficulty

Identity



Spiritual powers will steal, kill, and destroy us by utilizing fear, pride, and lies, so that we will not experience Trinitarian love from God, and hence will not love others.



**“Our deepest longing is to know
God in the center of our being,
and out of that place to offer
ourselves for the sake of others.”**

C.S. Lewis

Incurvatos se:

a life turned or curved inward on oneself

Excurvatos se:

a life lived outward

The Right Gospel Grammar

1. Indicative: a statement of fact; truth
2. Imperative: a command to take action

Truth in action.

1. Misunderstood Purpose

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.”

Colossians 1:1 NIV

Truth-in-Action:

**Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,
set your heart and mind on things above, not on
earthly things.**

Colossians 3:1-2 GW

2. Idolatry

“Therefore, put to death whatever is worldly in you.”

Colossians 3:5 GW

Truth-in-Action:

You received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live as Christ’s people. Sink your roots in Him and build on Him.

Colossians 2:6-7 GW

3. History

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son he loves in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13-14 GW

Truth-in-Action:

You are reconciled and holy to God because of Jesus’ death, so continue in your faith established and firm.

Colossians 1:22-23 GW

4. Carnality

“You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Christ is your life. When he appears, then you, too, will appear with him in glory. Therefore, put to death whatever is worldly in you.”

Colossians 3:3-5

Truth-in-Action:

Christ is your life, therefore, put to death whatever is worldly in you.

Colossians 3:4-5

5. Identity

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27 NIV

Truth-in-Action:

**Therefore as God’s chosen people, put on love.
*Colossians 3:12, 14***

6. Difficulty

“I am in chains. Remember my chains.” Colossians 4:3, 18

Truth-in-Action:

Since we are members of one body called to peace, devote yourselves to prayer, be watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:15, 4:2



The Voice of God > The Voice of Spiritual Powers

I'm telling us all of this because:

I want us to be well-informed about how spiritual powers resist us, and how through wrestling in prayer and being anchored by truth in action, we can stand firm in God's will, mature, and be fully assured.

Application:

- 1. Apply Truth-in-Action.**
- 2. Identify a helpful indicative in Colossians.
Memorize it. Meditate upon it. Pray it.**
- 3. Identify a needed imperative in
Colossians and live it faithfully this week.**



WRESTLING PRAYER

A GATEWAY COLLECTION