
THE
DANGER
OF
DECEPTION

How Believers Combat Deception



01

Anchor Yourself in Scripture

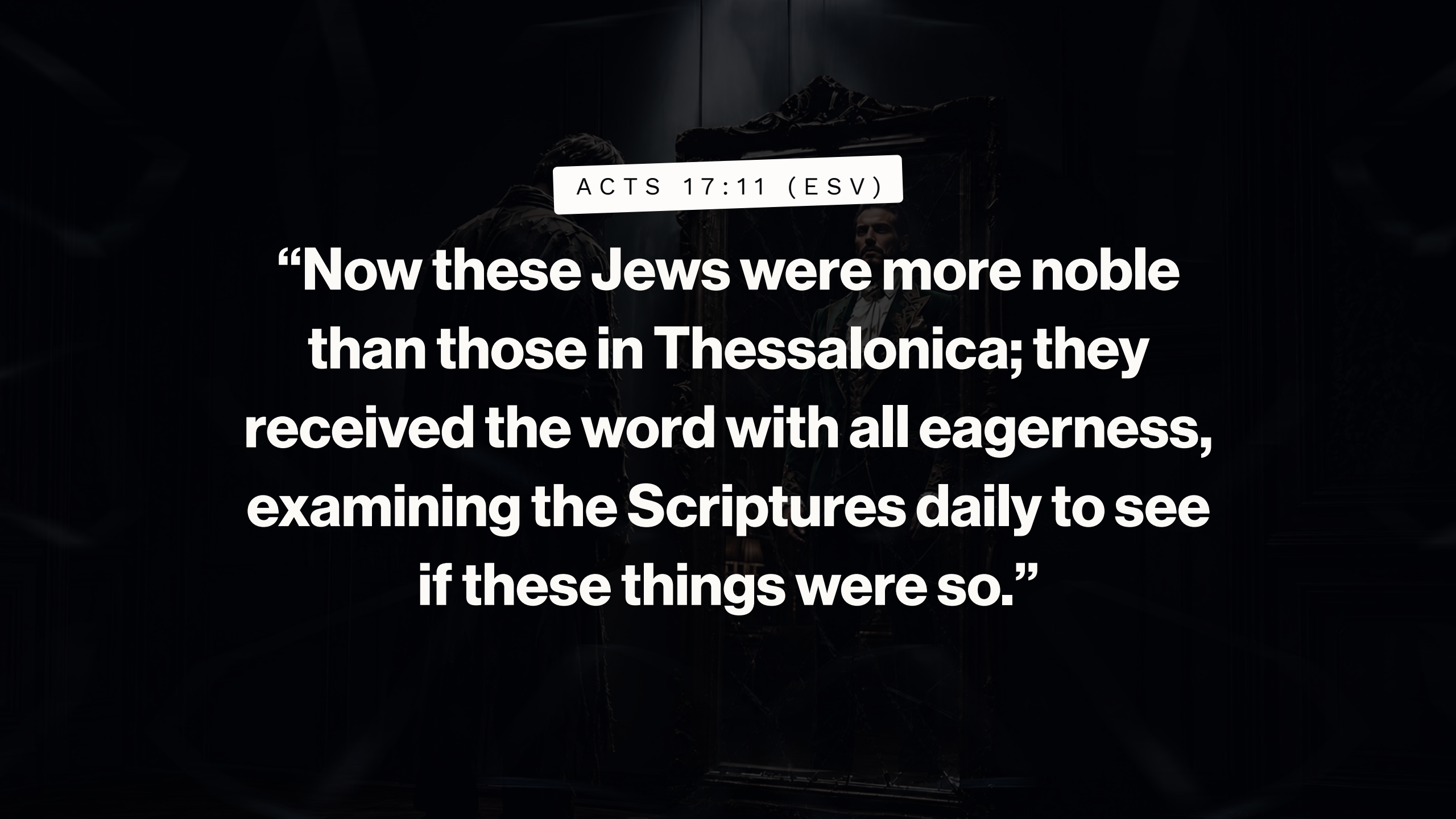
God’s Word provides the foundational defense against false teaching.





- Know Scripture deeply
- Focus continually on authentic Scripture to recognize distorted teaching

ANCHOR YOURSELF
IN SCRIPTURE



ACTS 17:11 (ESV)

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

“be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

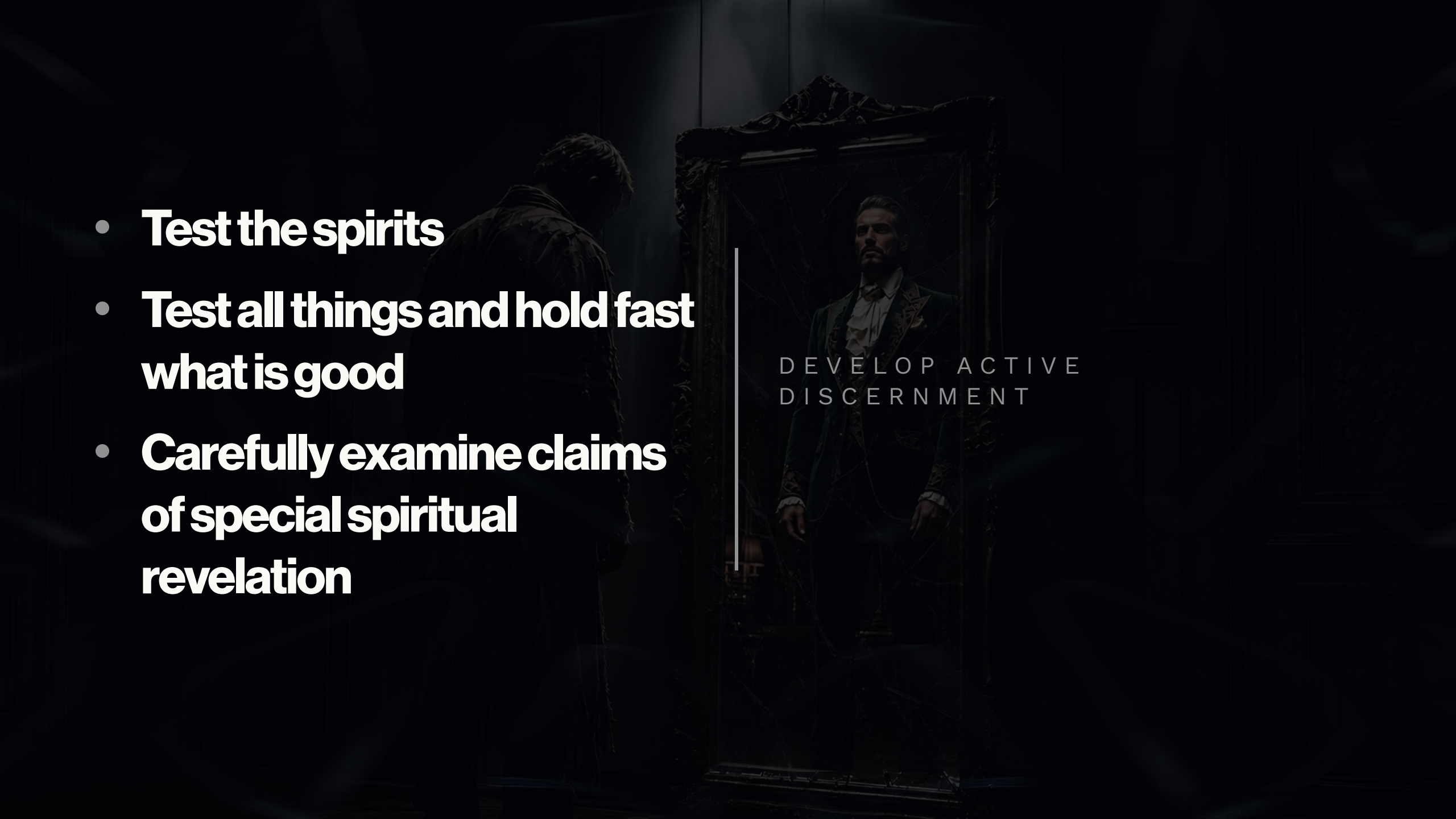




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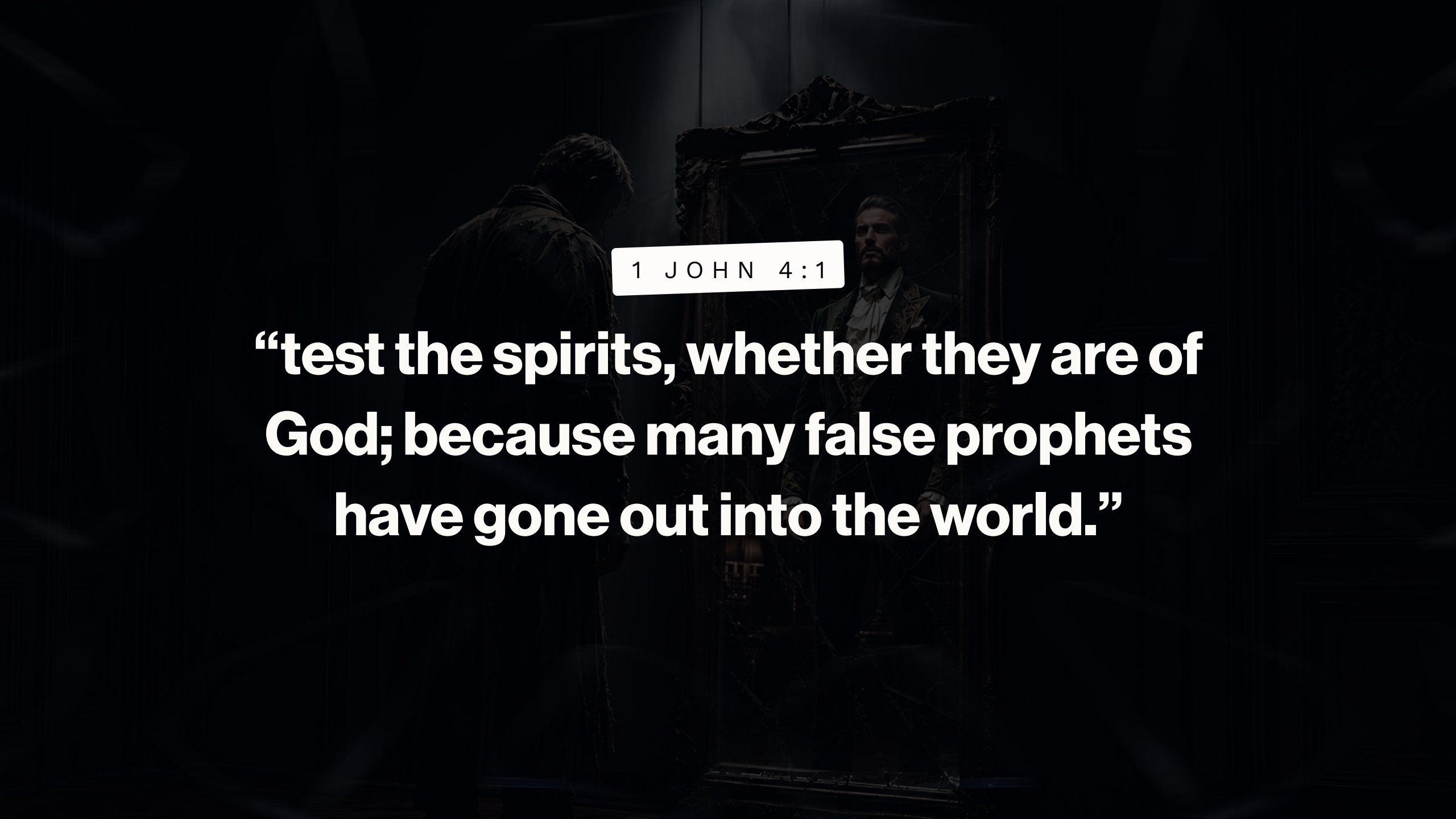
Develop Active Discernment

Do not believe every spirit.



- Test the spirits
- Test all things and hold fast what is good
- Carefully examine claims of special spiritual revelation

DEVELOP ACTIVE DISCERNMENT



1 JOHN 4:1

“test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”



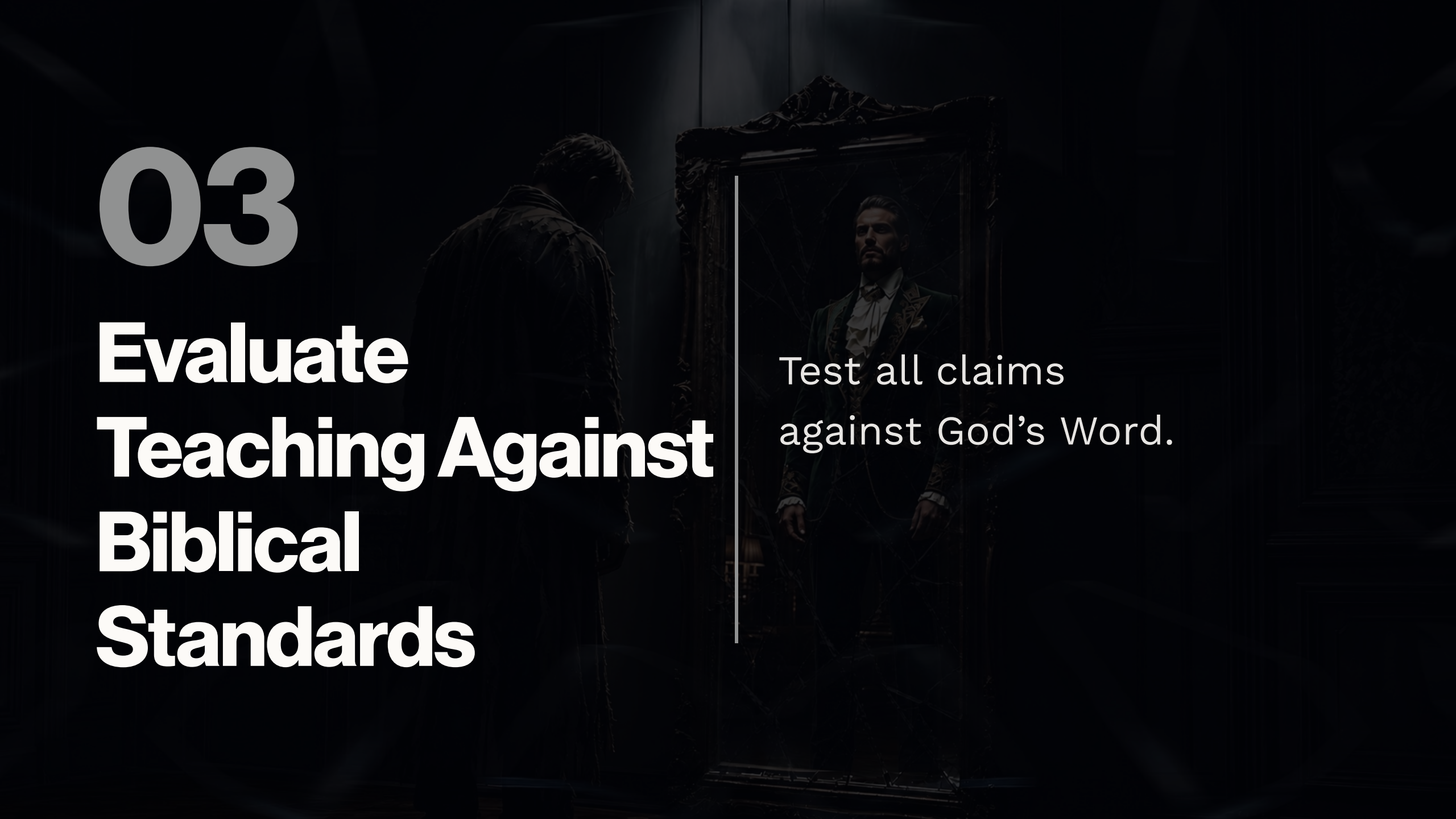
1 THESSALONIANS 5:21

“Test all things and hold fast what is good.”



HEBREWS 5:14

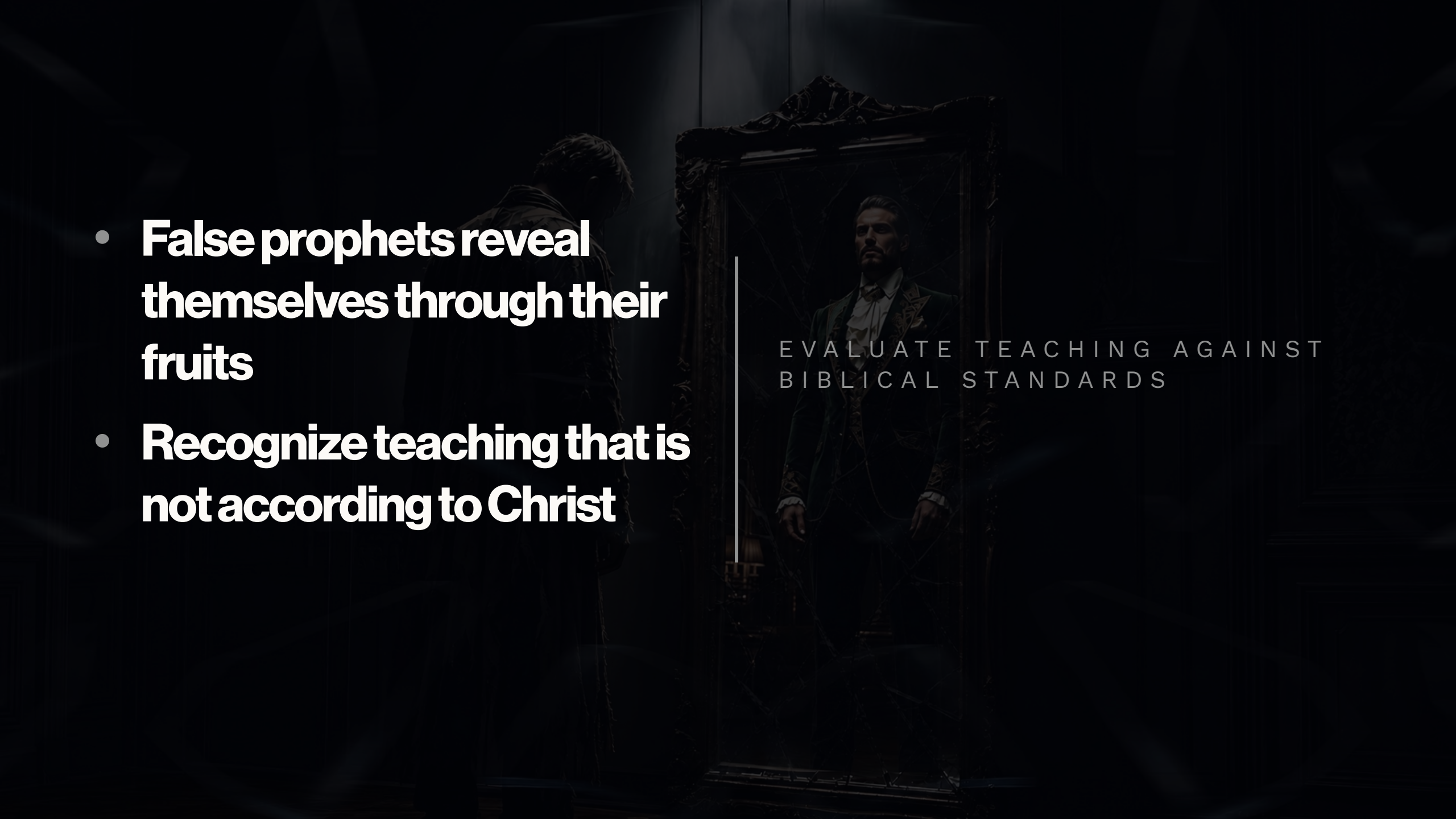
“their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”



03

Evaluate Teaching Against Biblical Standards

Test all claims against God’s Word.



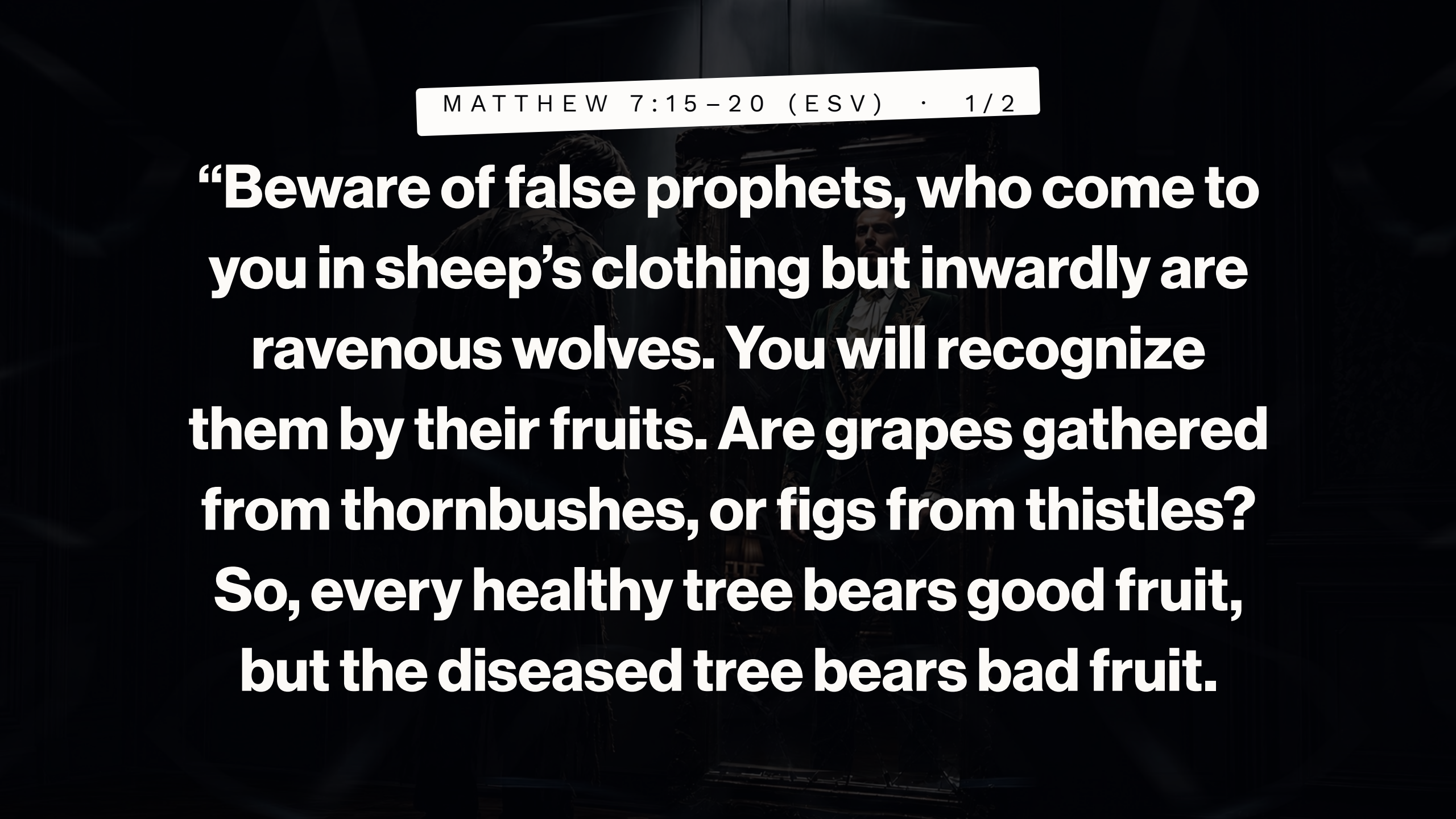
- False prophets reveal themselves through their fruits
- Recognize teaching that is not according to Christ

EVALUATE TEACHING AGAINST BIBLICAL STANDARDS

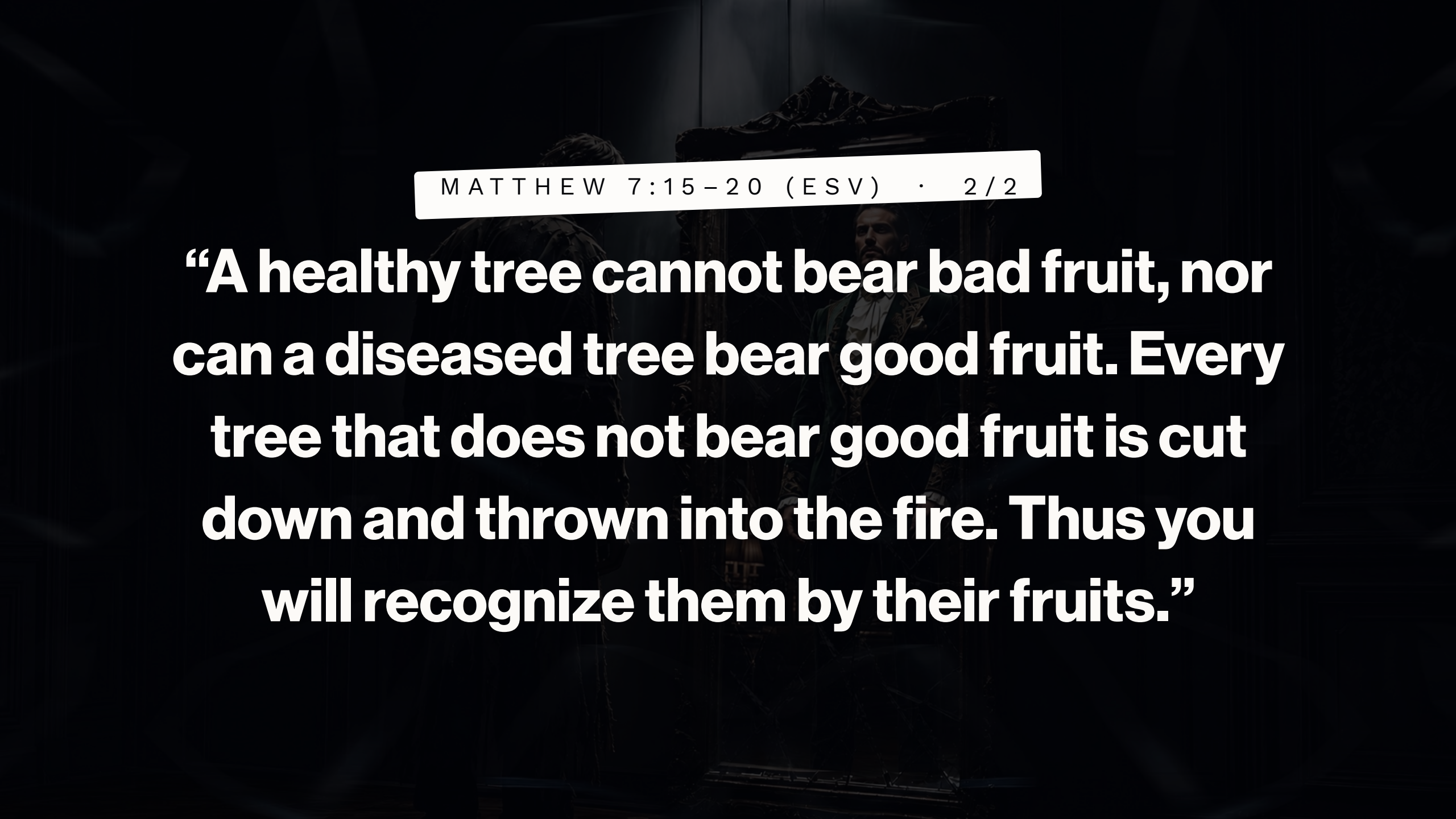
COLOSSIANS 2:8

“philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”



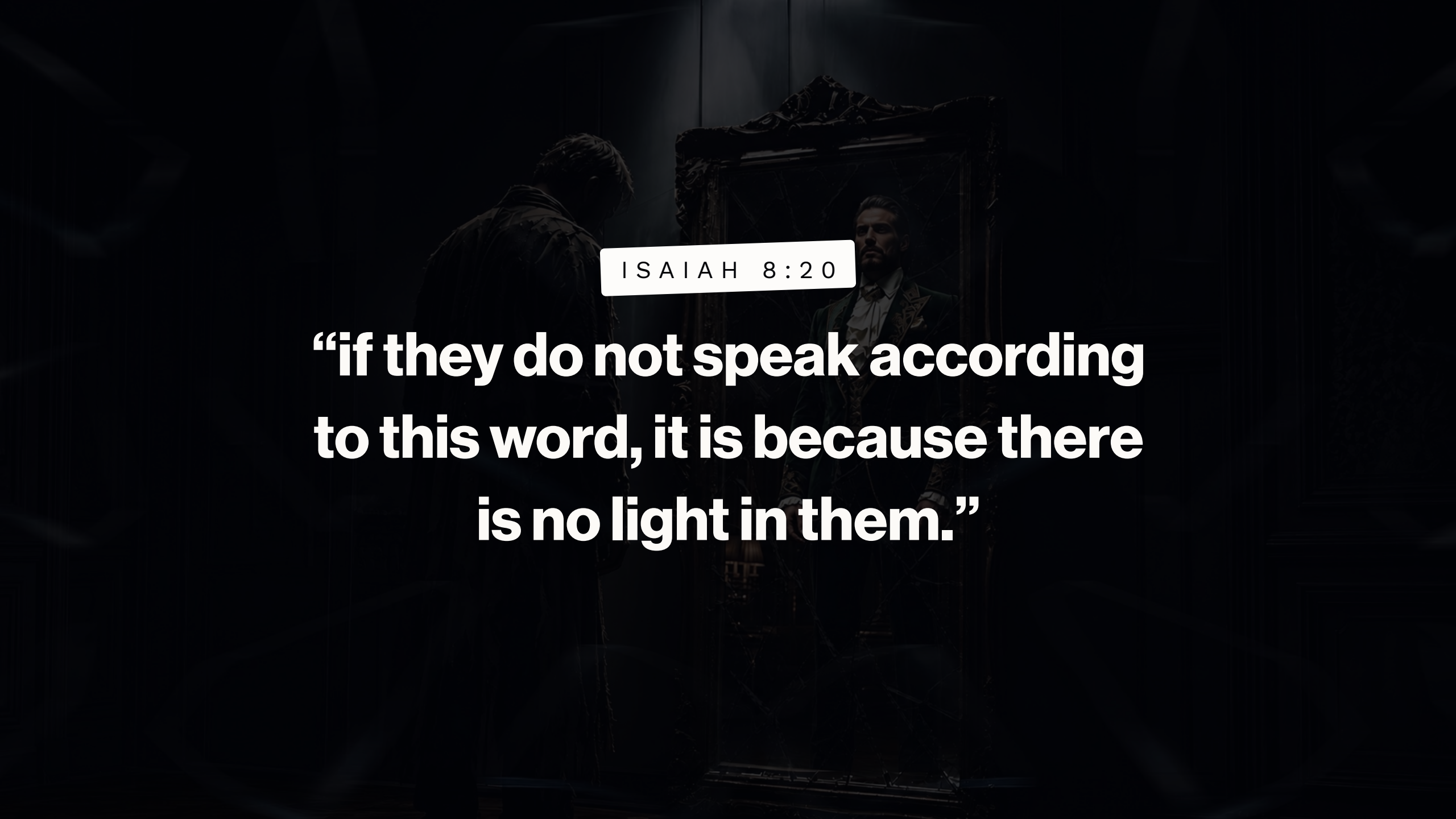


“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.



MATTHEW 7:15–20 (ESV) · 2/2

“A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

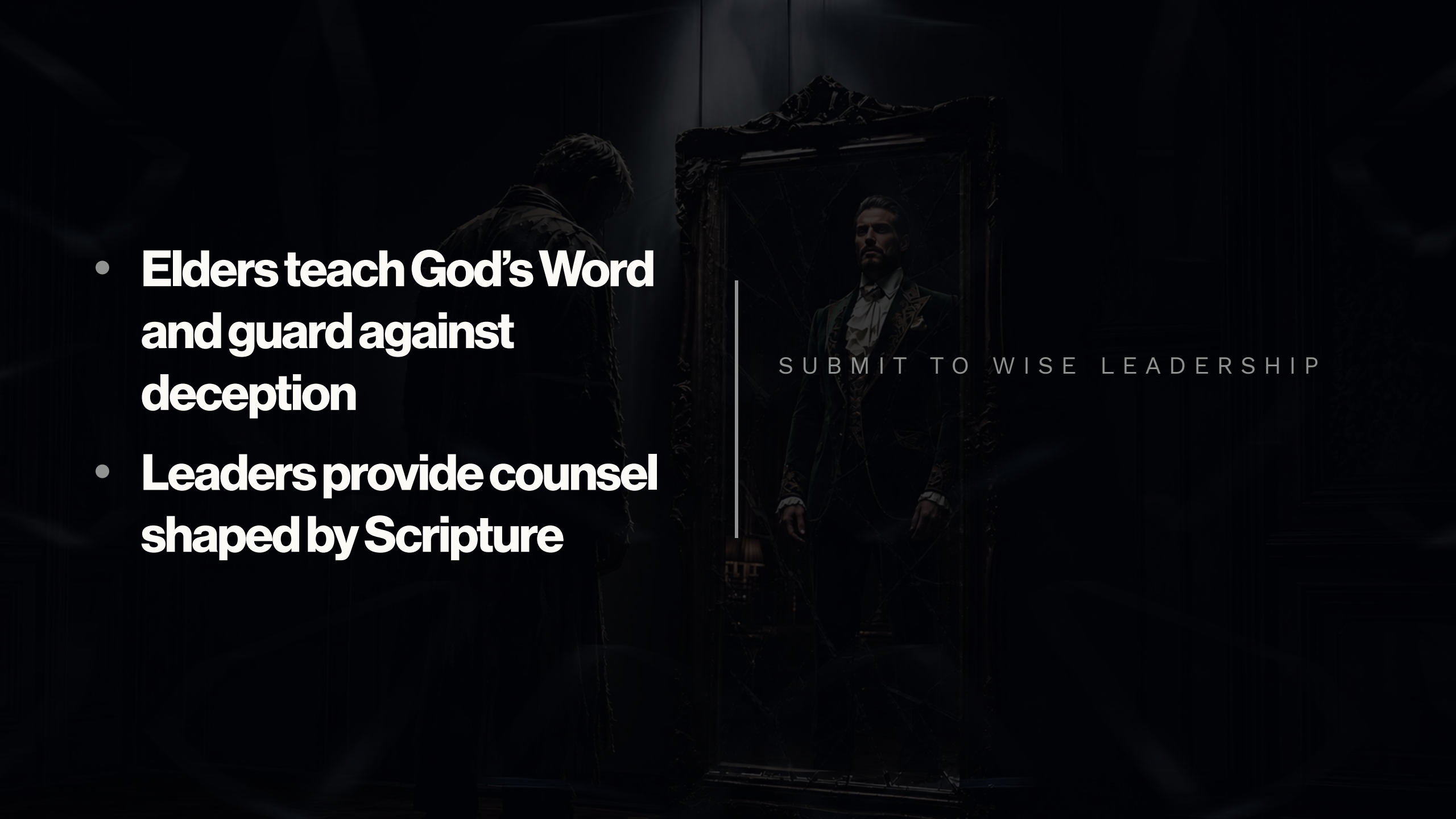

ISAIAH 8:20
“if they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”



04

Submit to Wise Leadership

Submission to wise shepherds protects believers from deception.



- Elders teach God’s Word and guard against deception
- Leaders provide counsel shaped by Scripture

SUBMIT TO WISE LEADERSHIP

ROMANS 16:17–18

“deceive the hearts of the simple; smooth words and flattering speech.”

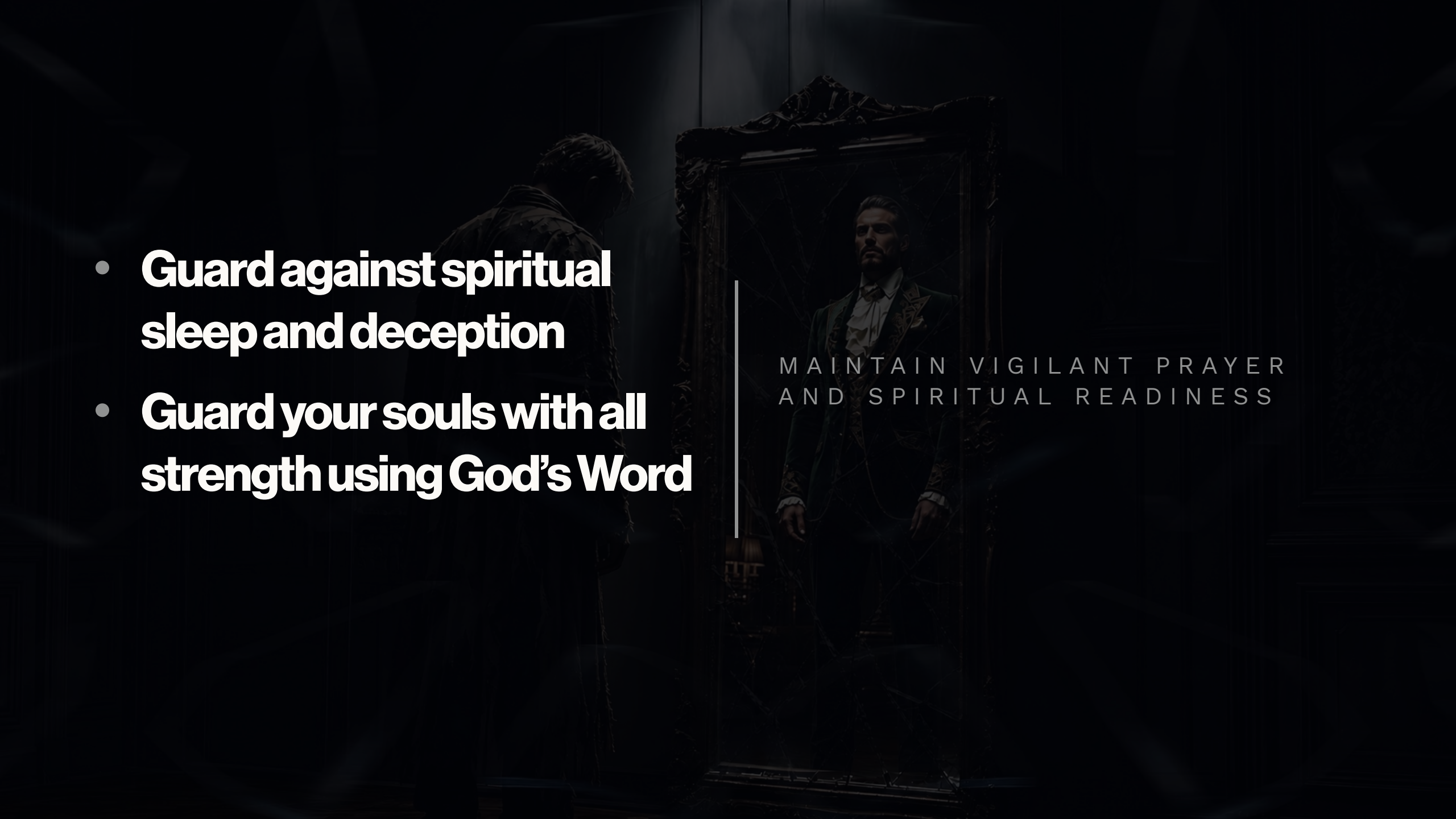




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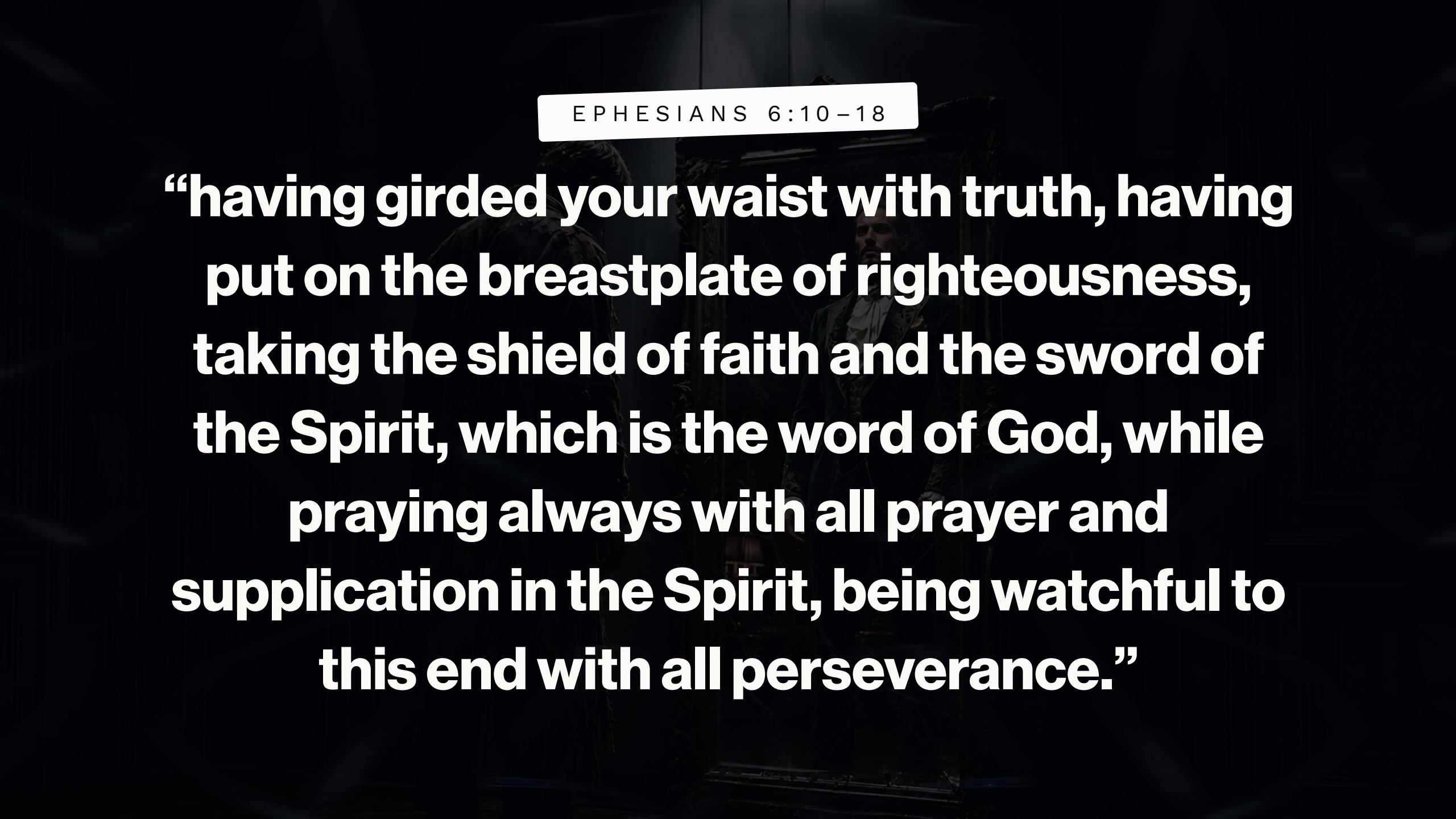
Maintain Vigilant Prayer and Spiritual Readiness

Stand firm and be watchful with all perseverance.



- **Guard against spiritual sleep and deception**
- **Guard your souls with all strength using God's Word**

MAINTAIN VIGILANT PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL READINESS



EPHESIANS 6:10–18

“having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, taking the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, while praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance.”