



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

UNDERSTANDING WHAT JESUS WANTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE AND TO DO

Week 2

A Christian's Character.



Matthew 5:3-12 ESV

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”.

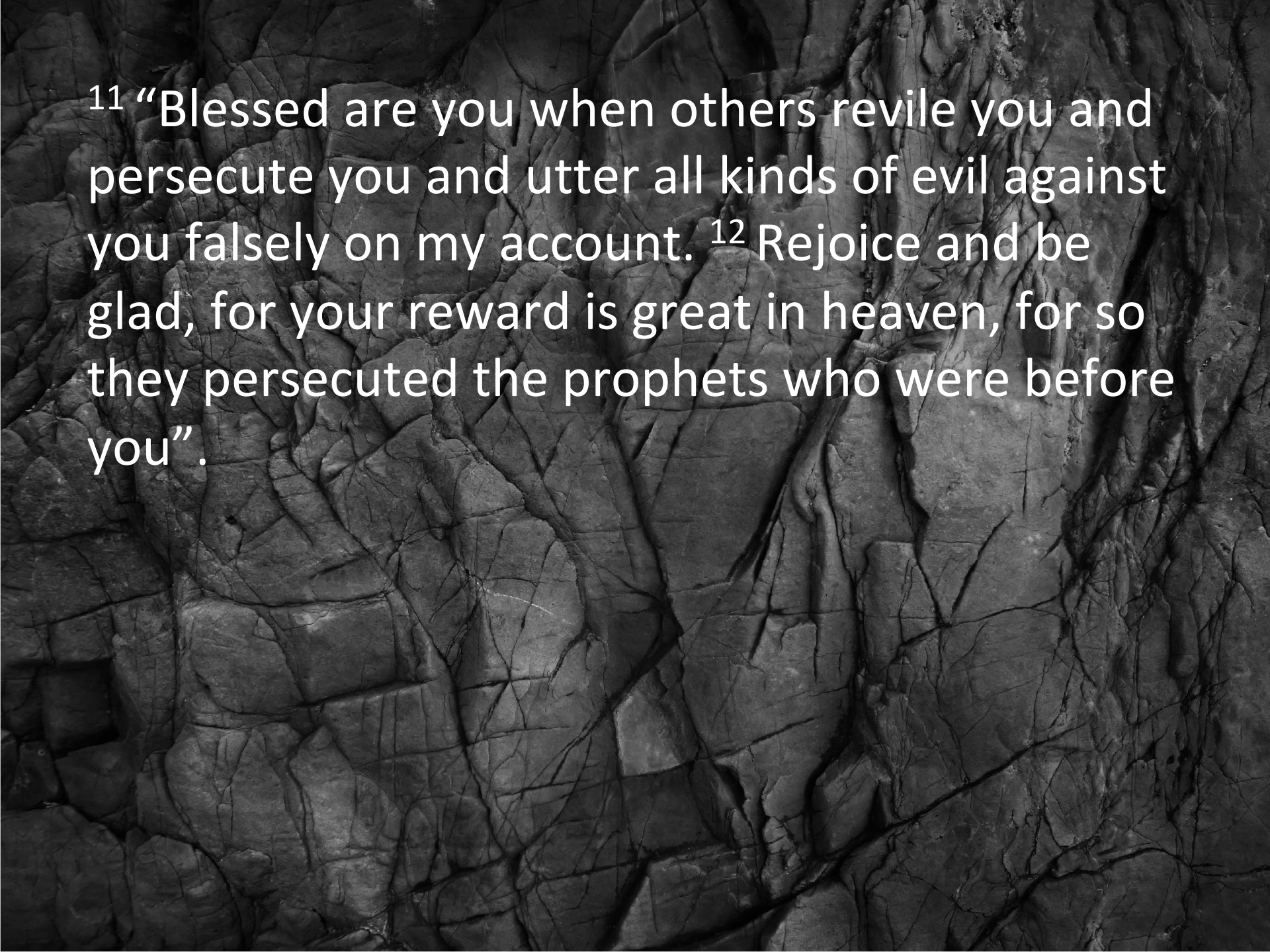
⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy”.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”.



¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you”.

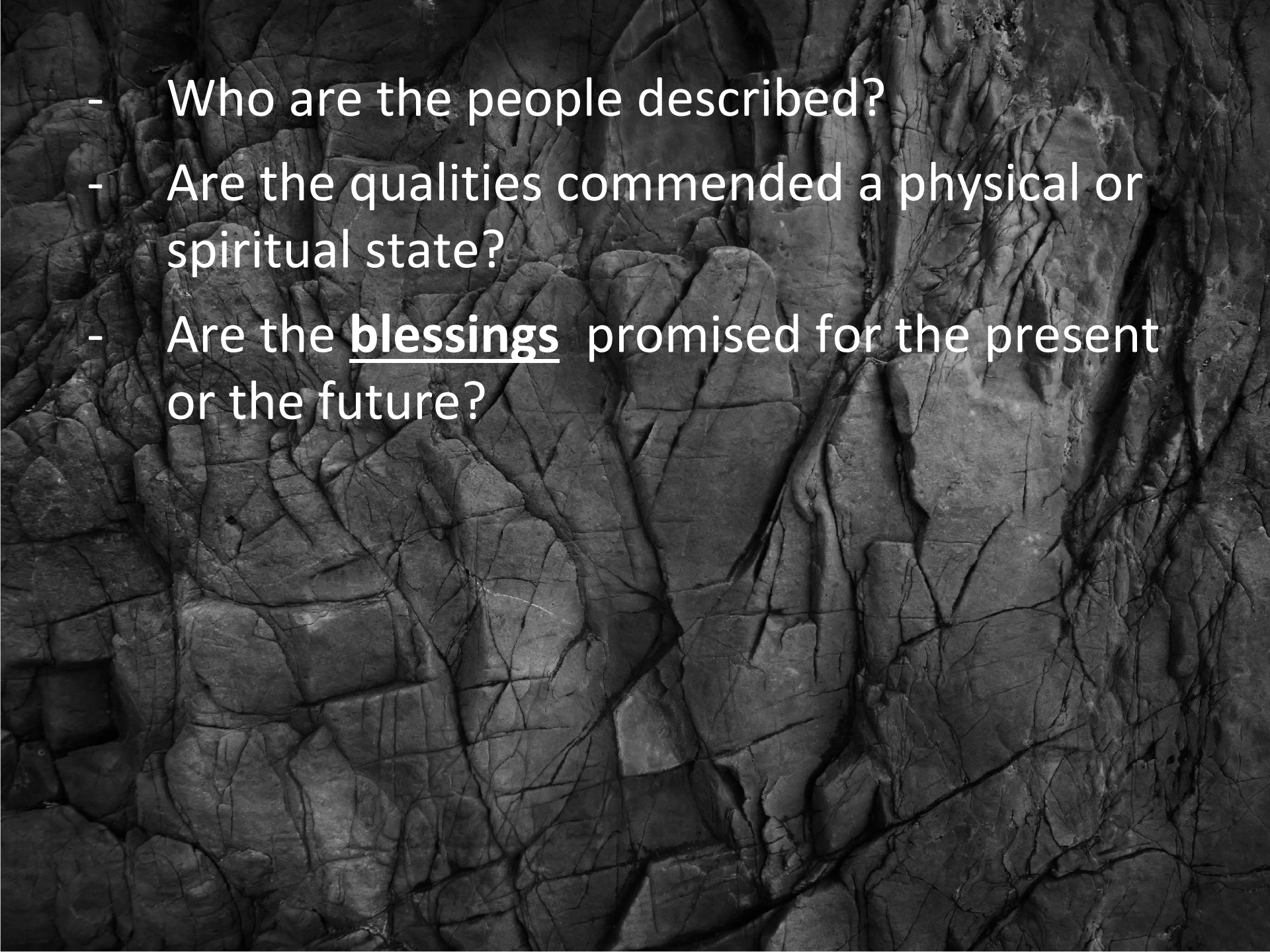


I. Three questions that need to answered about the beatitudes.

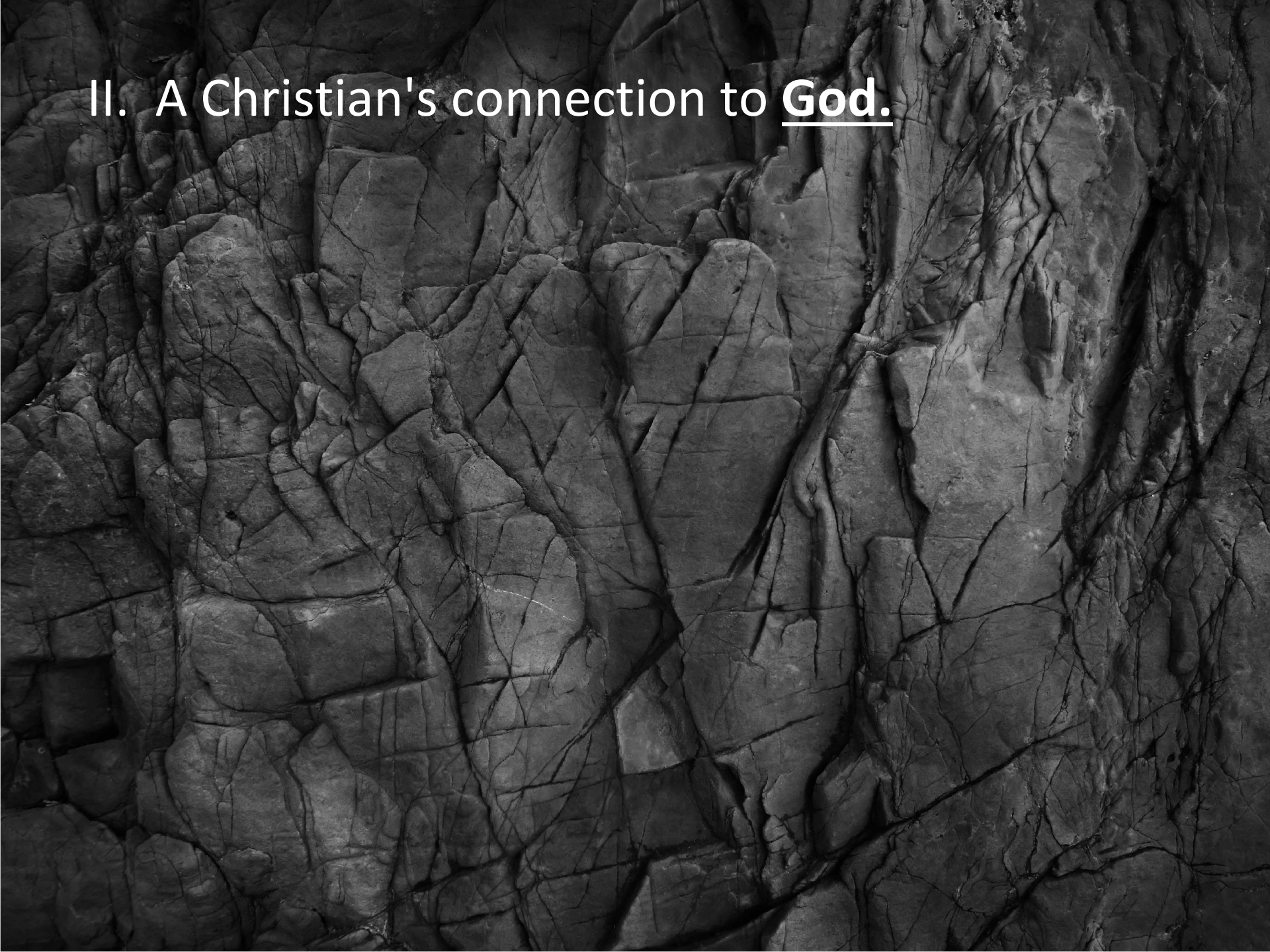


- Who are the people described?

- 
- Who are the people described?
 - Are the qualities commended a physical or spiritual state?

- 
- Who are the people described?
 - Are the qualities commended a physical or spiritual state?
 - Are the blessings promised for the present or the future?

II. A Christian's connection to God.





- The Poor in Spirit.

Matthew 5:3 ESV

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”.

- The Poor in Spirit.

Matthew 5:3 ESV

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

To be poor in spirit is to acknowledge our spiritual bankruptcy before God.



- Those who mourn.

Matthew 5:4 ESV

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”.

- Those who mourn.

Matthew 5:4 ESV

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”.

Jesus does not speak of casual sorrow for the consequences of our sin, but a deep grief before God over our fallen state.

2 Cor. 7:10 NLT

¹⁰ For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.



- The meek.

Matthew 5:5 ESV

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”.

- The meek.

Matthew 5:5 ESV

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”.

In the vocabulary of the ancient Greek language, the meek person was not passive or easily pushed around. The main idea behind the word “meek” was strength under control.

- Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Matthew 5:6 ESV

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”.

III. A Christian's connection to others.





- The merciful.

Matthew 5:7 ESV

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy”.

- The merciful.

Matthew 5:7 ESV

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Mercy is compassion for people in need.



- The pure in heart.

Matthew 5:8 ESV

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”.

- The pure in heart.

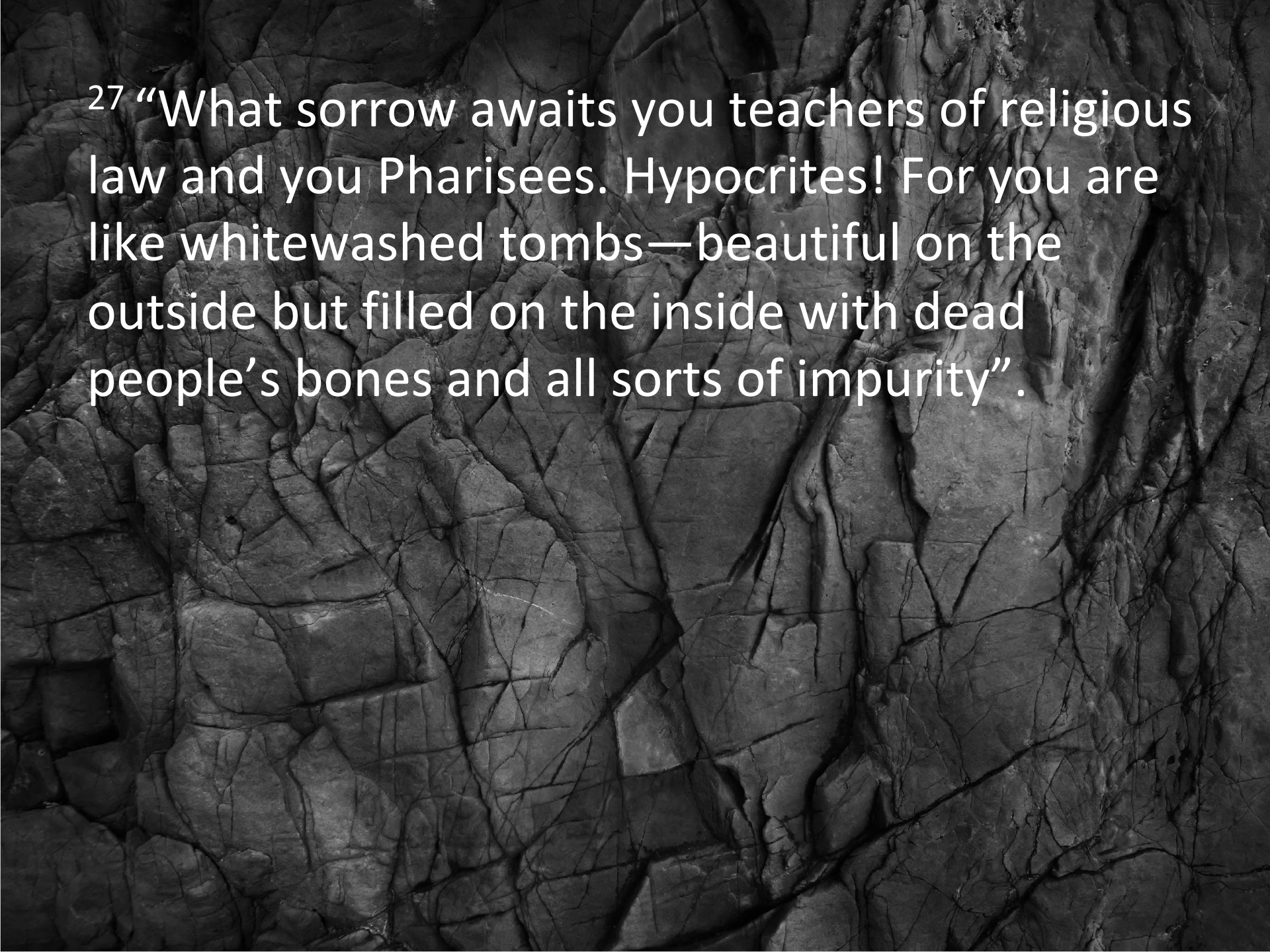
Matthew 5:8 ESV

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”.

Jesus is speaking of inner moral purity as opposed to the image of purity or ceremonial purity.

Matthew 23:25-29 NLT

²⁵ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too”.



²⁷ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity”.



- The peacemakers.

Matthew 5:9 ESV

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”.

- The peacemakers.

Matthew 5:9 ESV

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”.

This does not describe those who live in peace, but those who actually bring about peace, overcoming evil with good.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 ESV

¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

- Those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

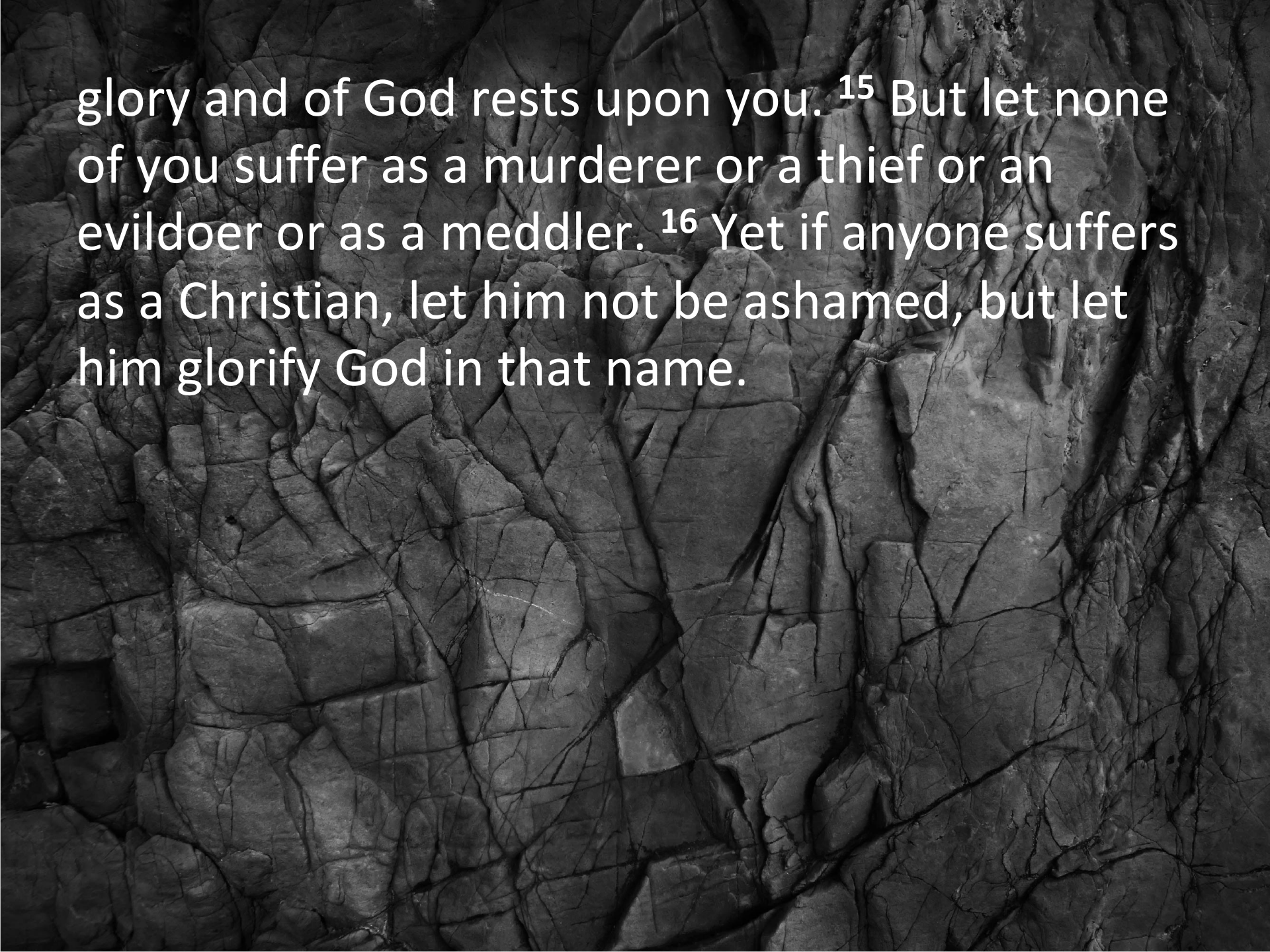
Matthew 5:10-12 ESV

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you”.

1 Peter 4:12-16 ESV

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of



glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.



Literally, we could translate the phrase "rejoice and be glad" to say that the persecuted should leap for joy.

