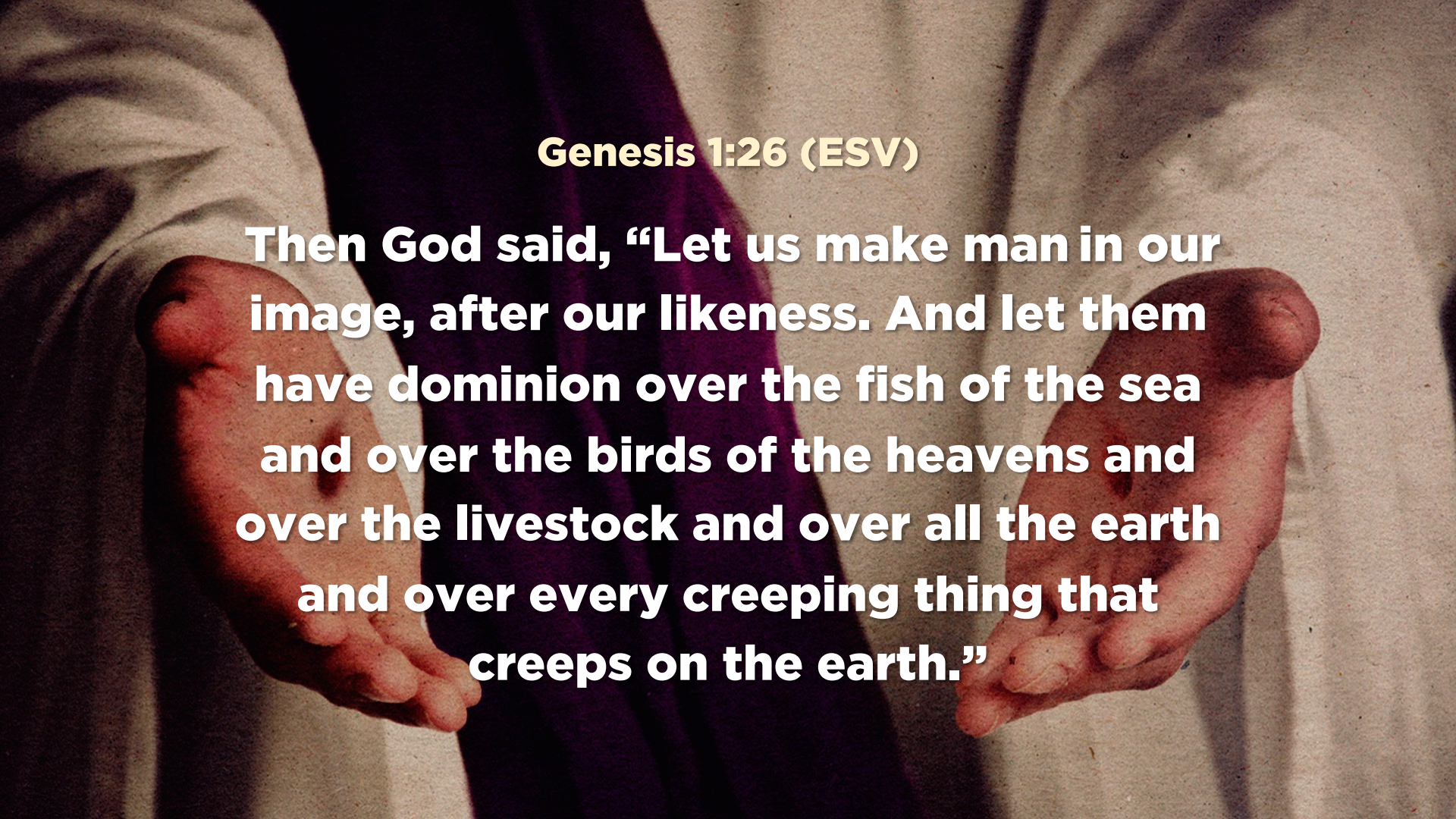

Partnering with
GOD
Lee Pey Woan
14 May 2023

Introduction

- partnership originates from the Greek word "*koinonia*"
- koinonia embeds the ideas of:
  - sharing
  - communion
  - participation
  - *partnership*



Genesis 1:26 (ESV)

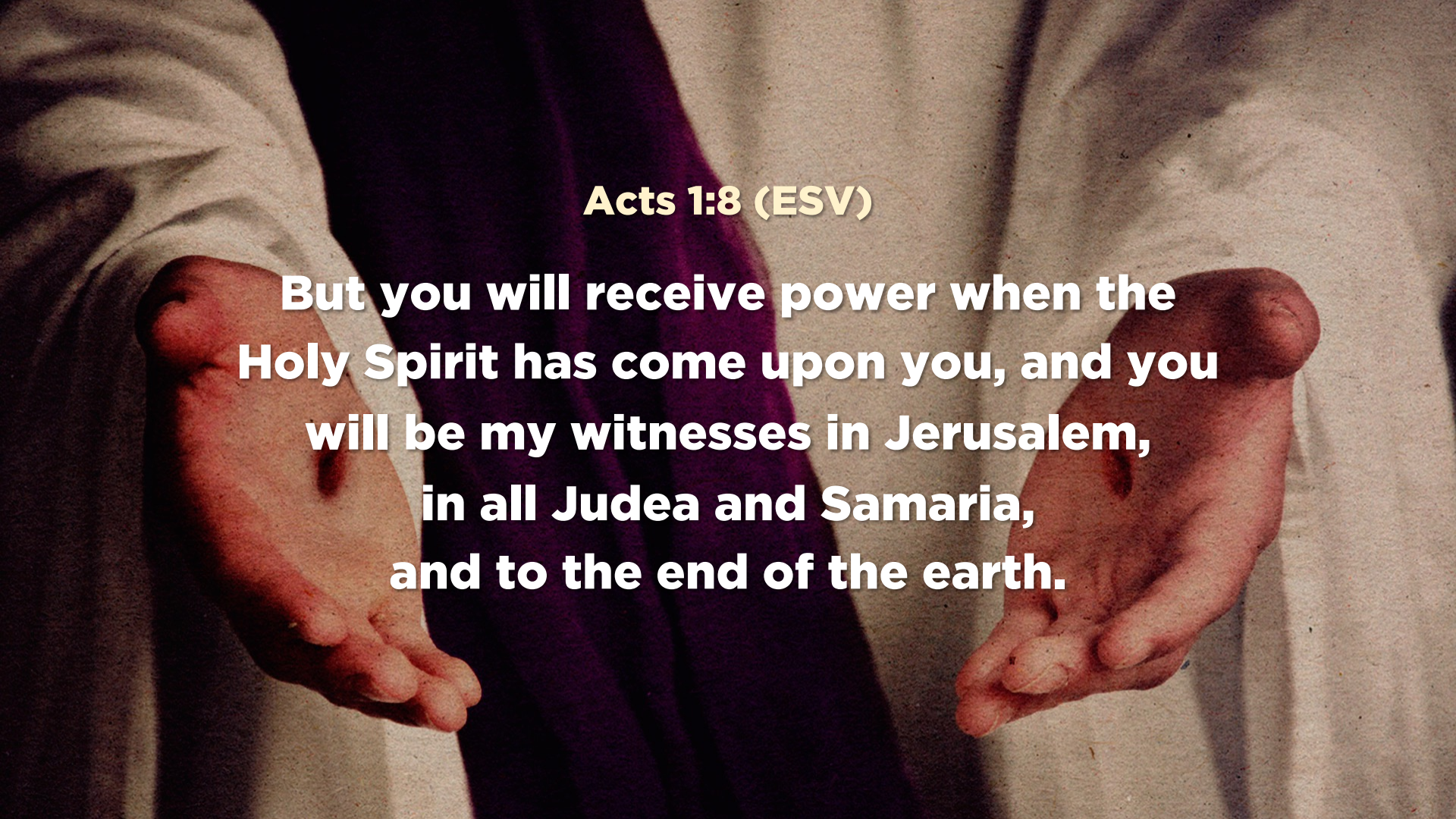
Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

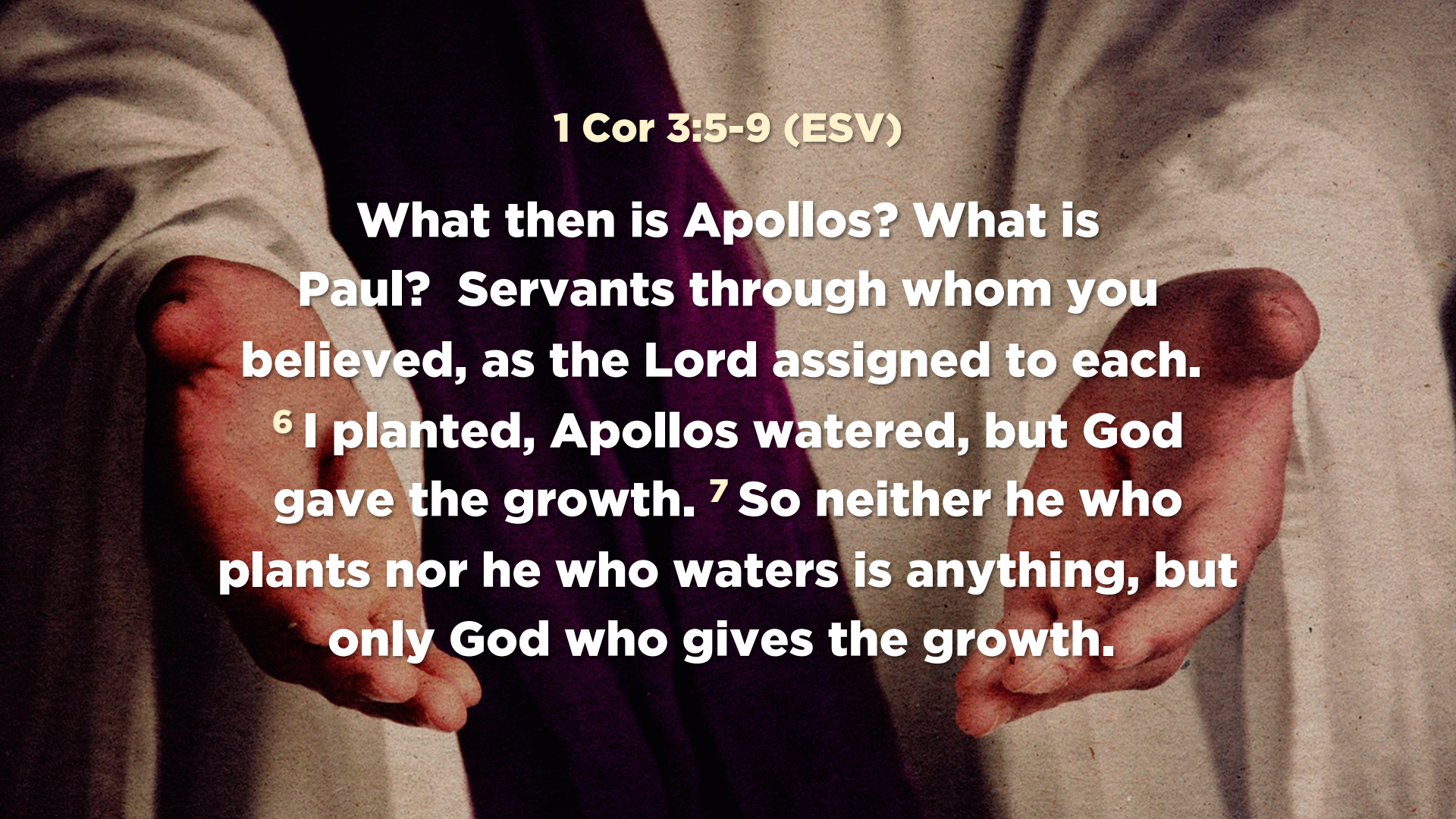
Introduction

- He planted a garden in Eden, then He placed the man there to work it and keep it (Genesis 2:8 & 15)
- Why does God bother?
- Does God really *need* us as partners?

Introduction

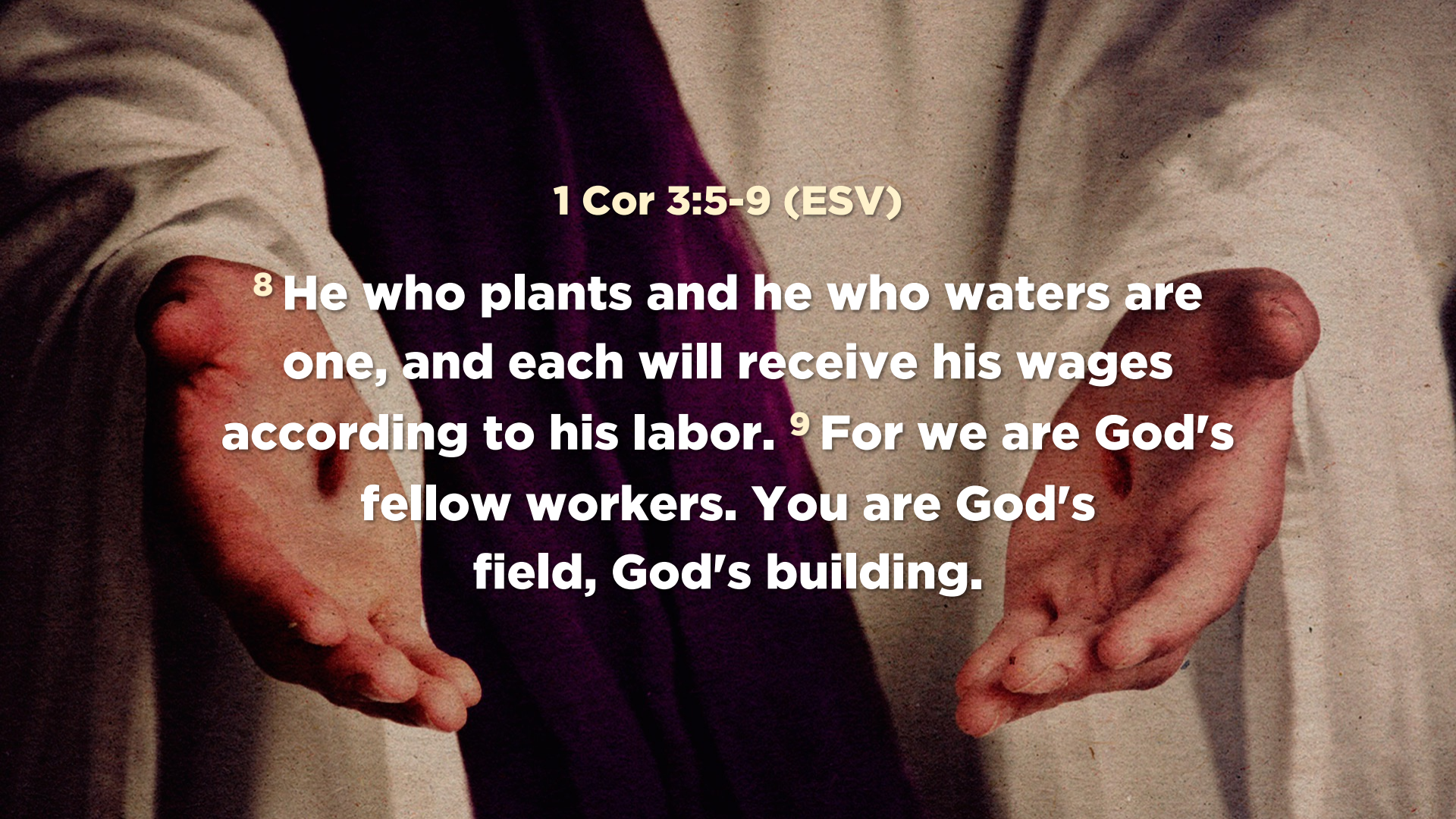
- God does not need us.
- But He had ordained some things to be achieved in partnership with humans.


Acts 1:8 (ESV)
But you will receive power when the
Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you
will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth.



1 Cor 3:5-9 (ESV)

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.



1 Cor 3:5-9 (ESV)

8 He who plants and he who waters are
one, and each will receive his wages
according to his labor. 9 For we are God's
fellow workers. You are God's
field, God's building.

Introduction

- It is true that God did not strictly need Paul and Apollos to sow the seeds and water the plants, *yet He assigned to them very important responsibility in growing the plants*

Introduction

- God does not need us, but He has chosen to partner with us in his work.
- He chooses to do so because He is by His very nature a loving and relational God.

Introduction

- God is love.
- God desires to share His work with us because partnering with someone is an expression of love.

Introduction

- It is the sense of building something larger than ourselves that gives meaning and direction in our relationships.
- Compared to our earthly partnerships, God's offer of partnership can only be bigger and better.

Introduction

- Recognising that we are called to partnership with God can transform the way we act and serve.

4 Points:

Partnering with God

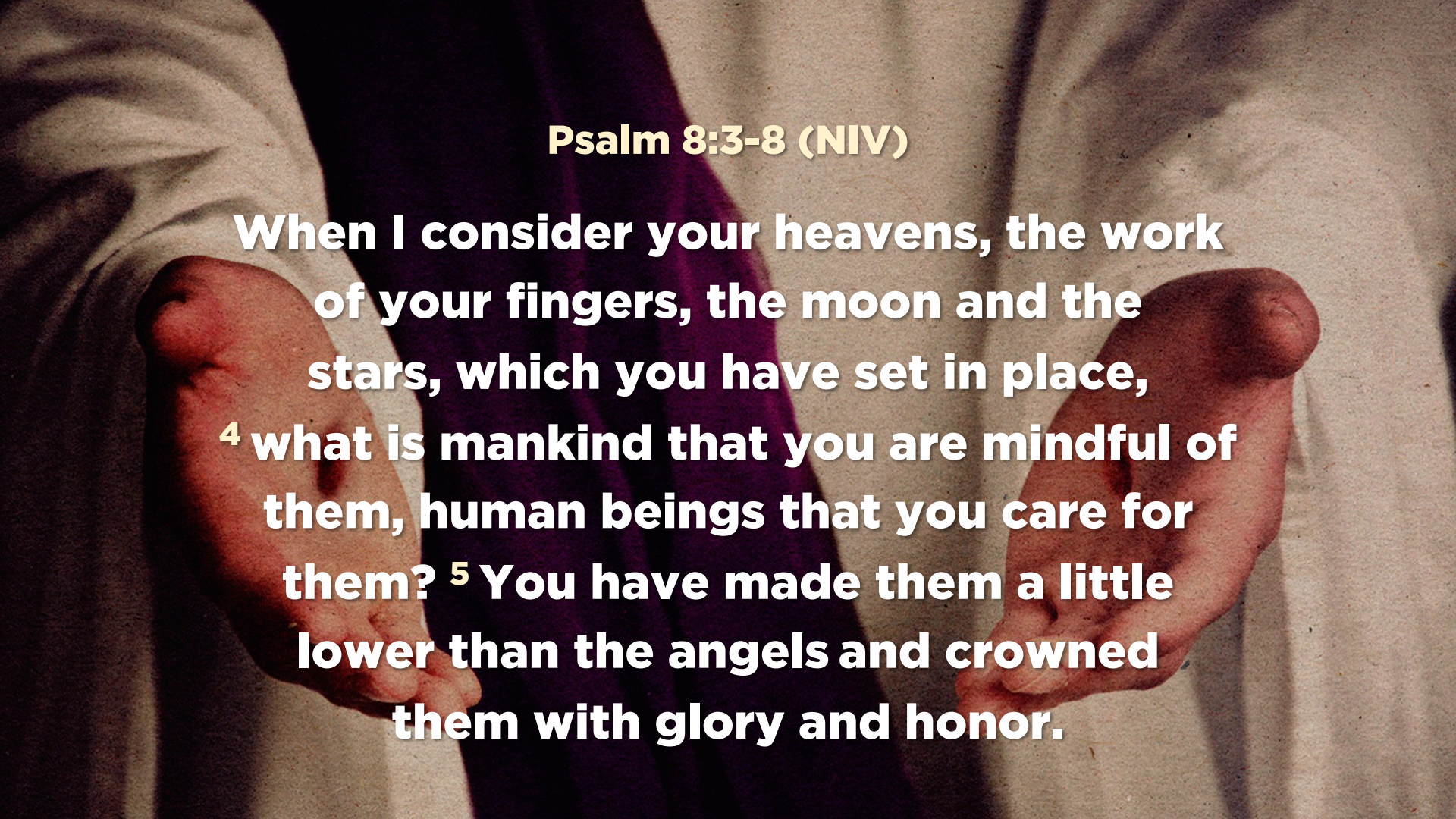
1) is a Privilege

2) gives us Purpose

3) releases his Provision

4) produces an inner Poise


1) Partnering with God
is a Privilege



Psalm 8:3-8 (NIV)

When I consider your heavens, the work
of your fingers, the moon and the
stars, which you have set in place,
4 what is mankind that you are mindful of
them, human beings that you care for
them? 5 You have made them a little
lower than the angels and crowned
them with glory and honor.



Psalm 8:3-8 (NIV)

6 You made them rulers over the works
of your hands; you put everything under
their feet: 7 all flocks and herds, and the
animals of the wild, 8 the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea, all that swim the
paths of the seas.



1) Partnering with God is a Privilege

- God did not make us partners in the sense of mere hired workers.
- God made us “rulers over the work of [His] hands”.



1) Partnering with God is a Privilege

- God makes us His trusted partner when He enables us to steward the resources entrusted to us.



1) Partnering with God is a Privilege

- If we are flattered or honoured when an important person invites us to be a partner, how much more should we be if the invitation comes from God?



1) Partnering with God is a Privilege

- God's invitation to partnership is a privilege.
- It is something we cannot earn and do not deserve.



1) Partnering with God is a Privilege

- Do we live like a privileged partner of God?
- I was not doing God a service.
- But it was always God who was doing me a huge service.



1) Partnering with God is a Privilege

- But for the sheer grace of God that sustained me, I would not have the opportunity to have a part in His work.



1) Partnering with God is a Privilege

- More than the recovery of my physical vision, it was the healing of my spiritual vision that I badly needed.



1) Partnering with God is a Privilege

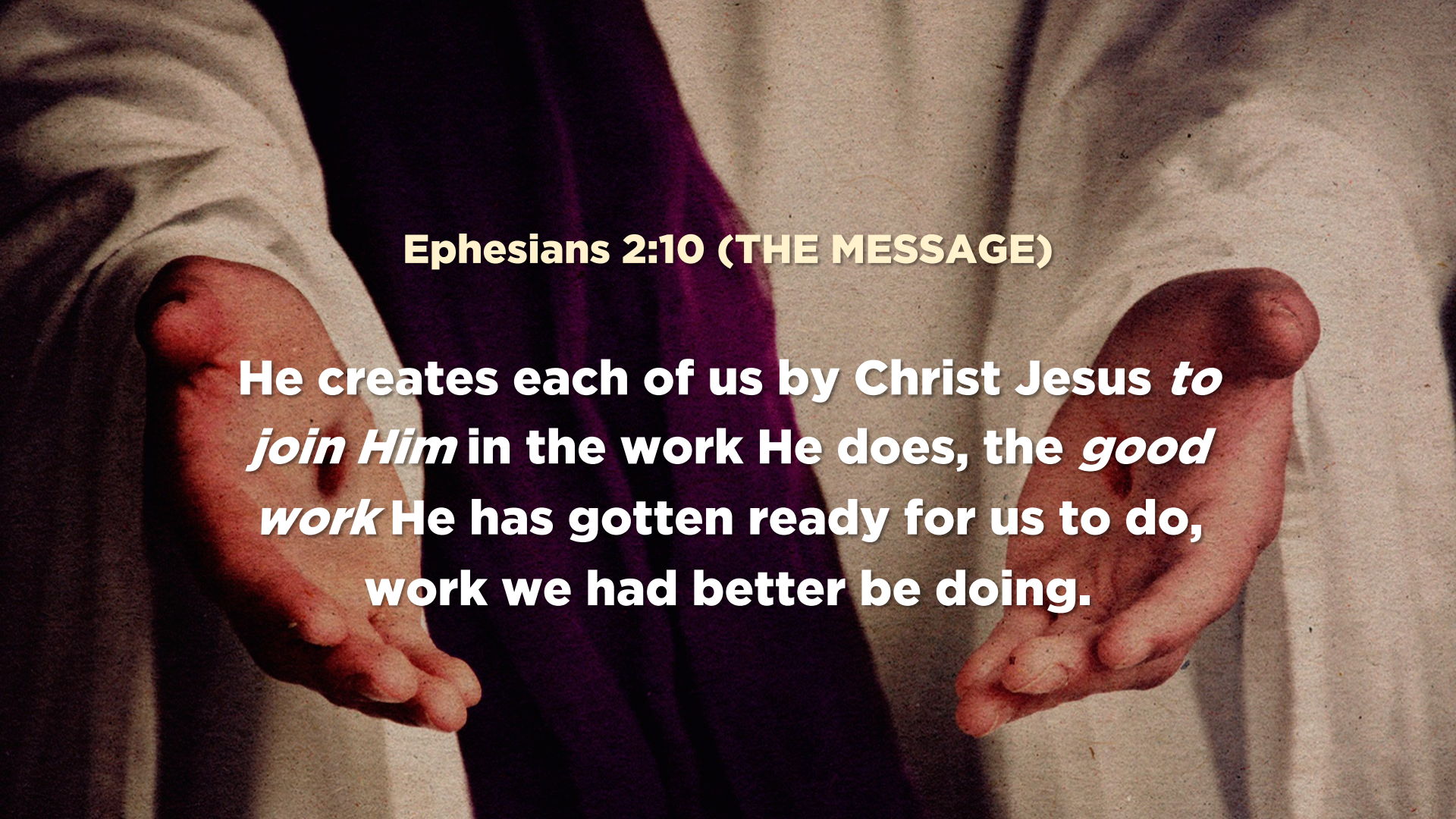
- **Approaching our work – even the most thankless job – through the lens of partnering with God will transform the most thankless job into an opportunity to honour both God and people.**


2) Partnering with God
gives us Purpose



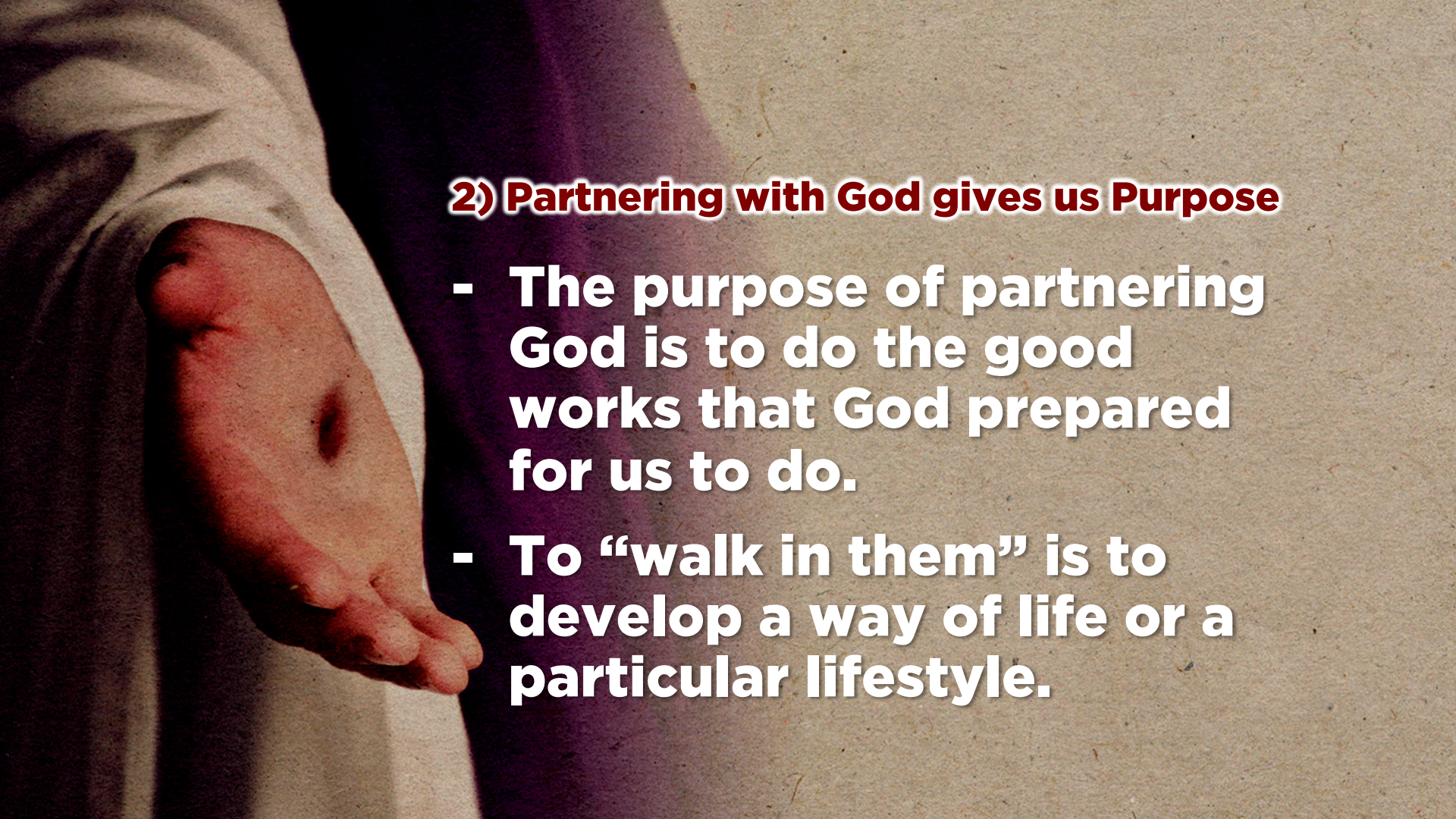
Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

For we are His workmanship [masterpiece], created in Christ Jesus for *good works*, which God prepared beforehand, that *we should walk in them*.



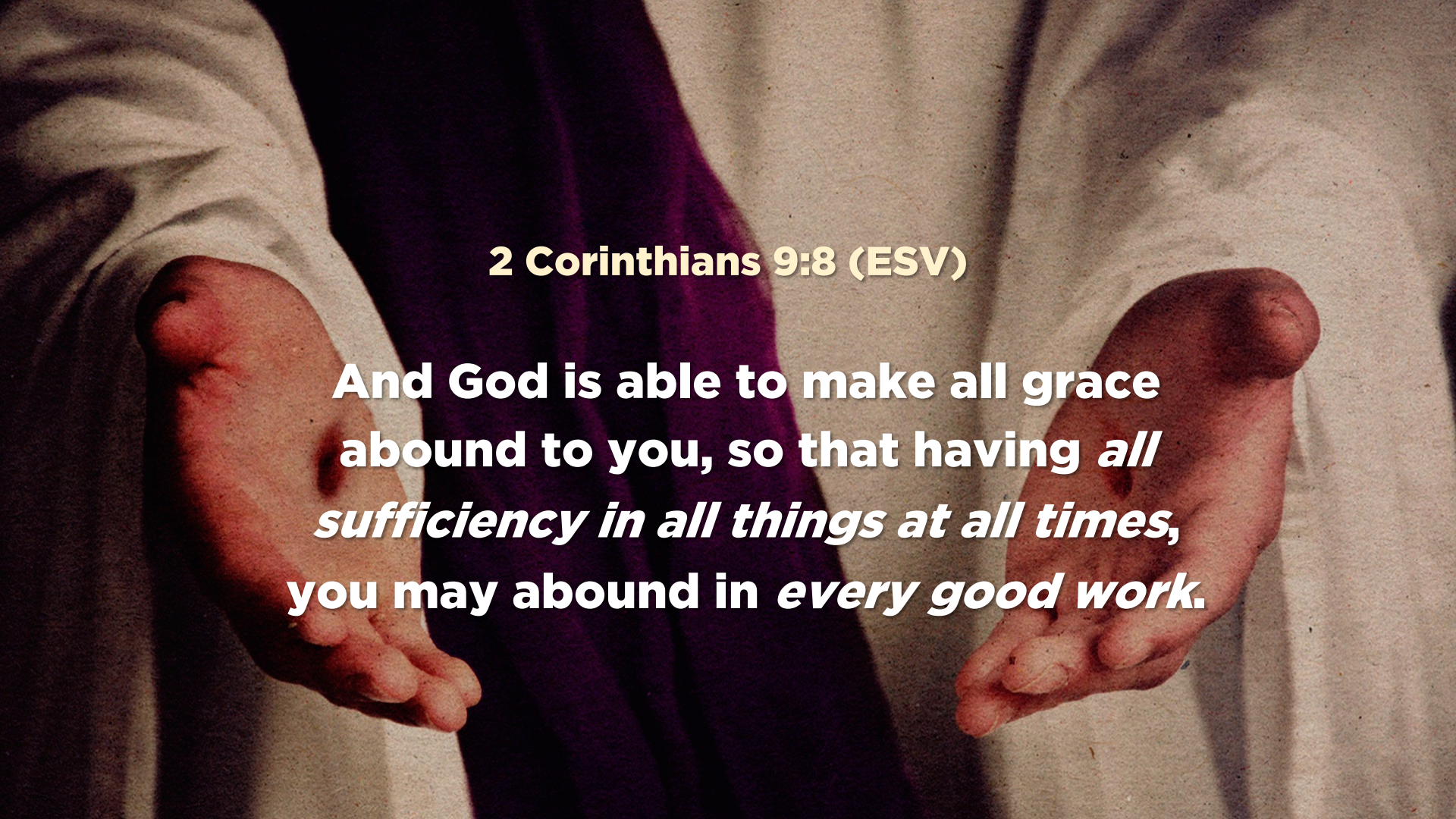
Ephesians 2:10 (THE MESSAGE)

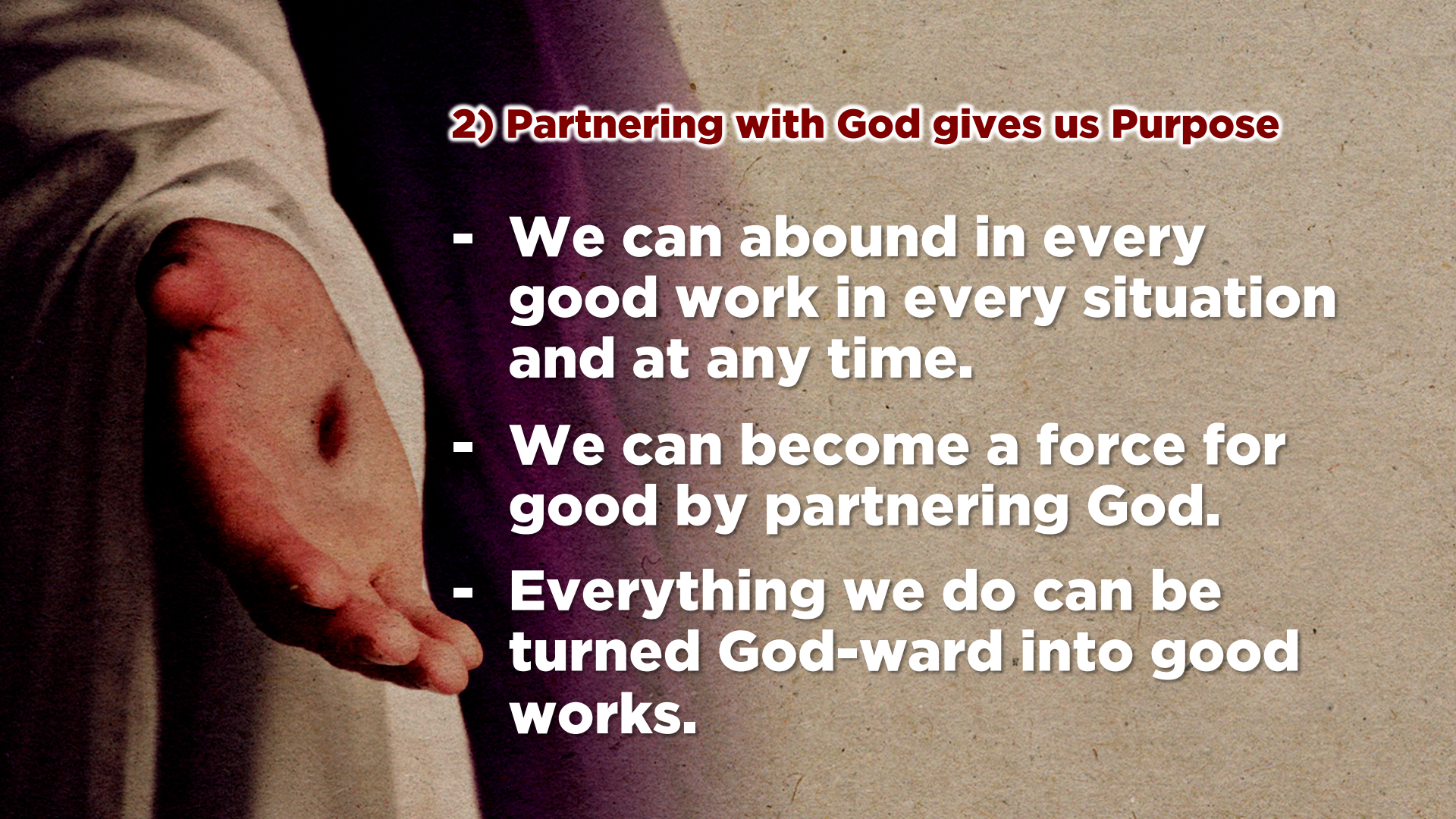
He creates each of us by Christ Jesus *to join Him* in the work He does, the *good work* He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.



2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

- The purpose of partnering God is to do the good works that God prepared for us to do.
- To “walk in them” is to develop a way of life or a particular lifestyle.


2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)
And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having *all sufficiency in all things at all times*, you may abound in *every good work*.



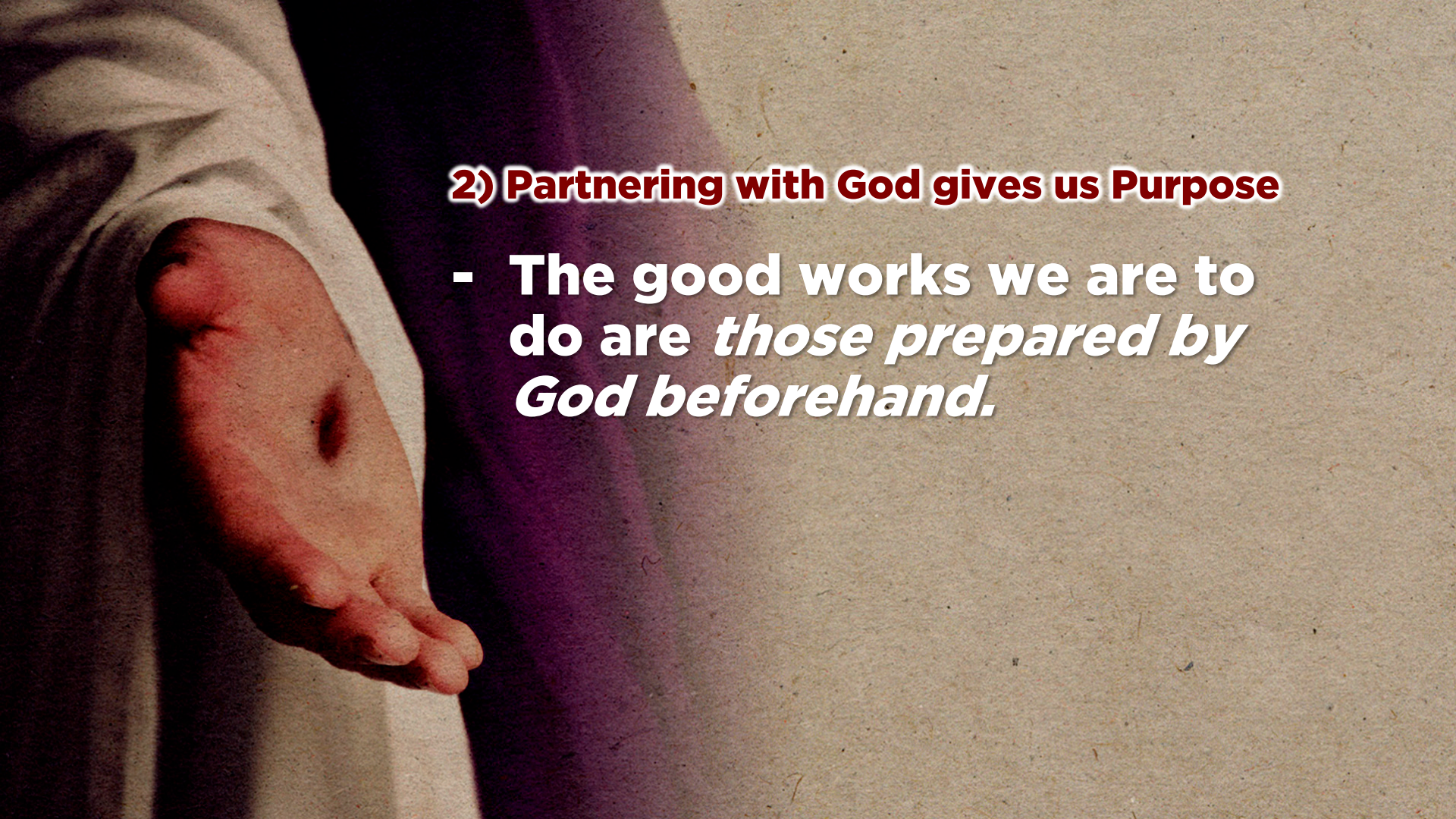
2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

- We can abound in every good work in every situation and at any time.
- We can become a force for good by partnering God.
- Everything we do can be turned God-ward into good works.



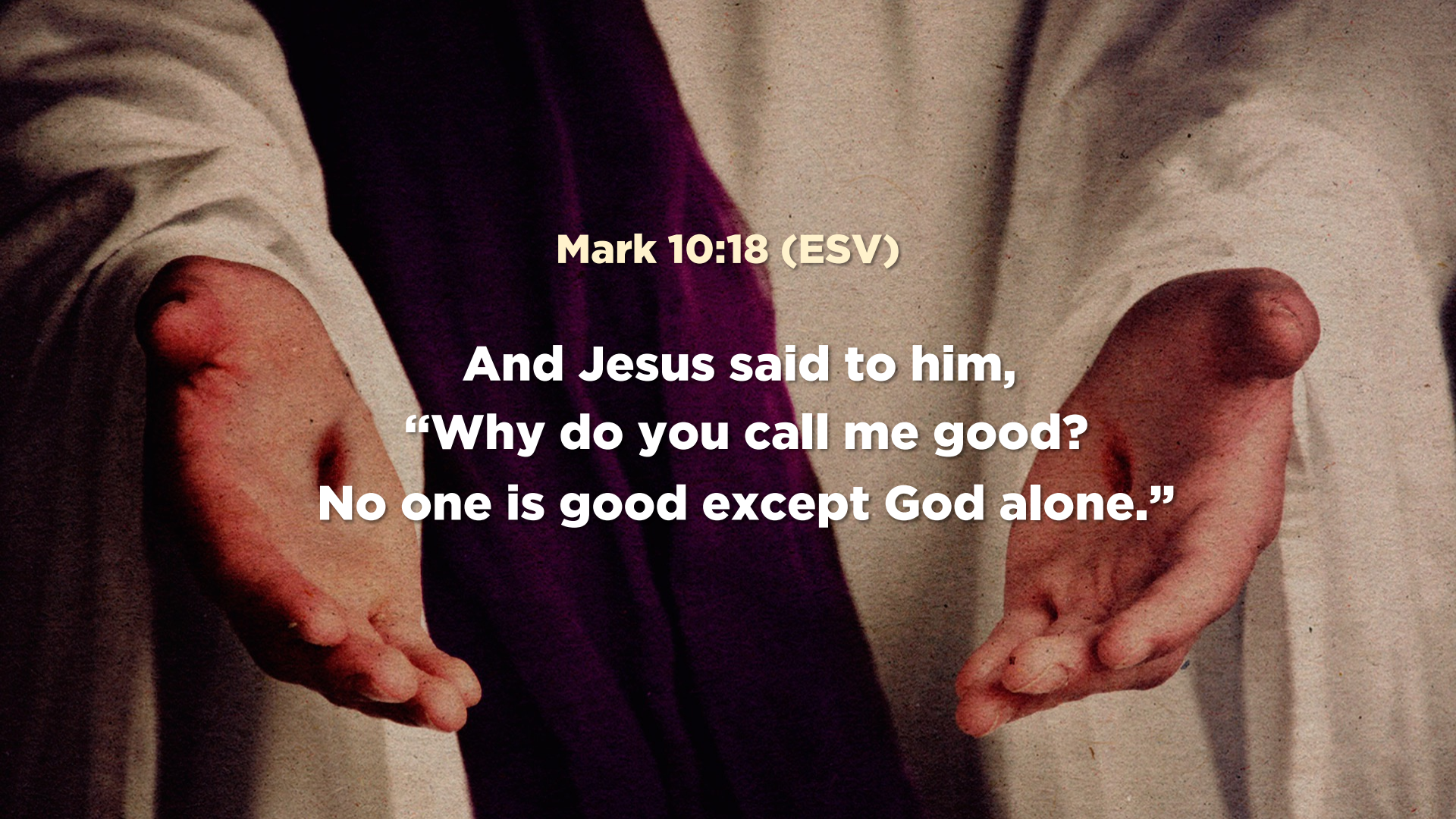
2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

- **Ephesians 2:10** is a vision of the ideal Christian life – a life so filled with goodness designed by God that it can't help but stand out as a masterpiece.



2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

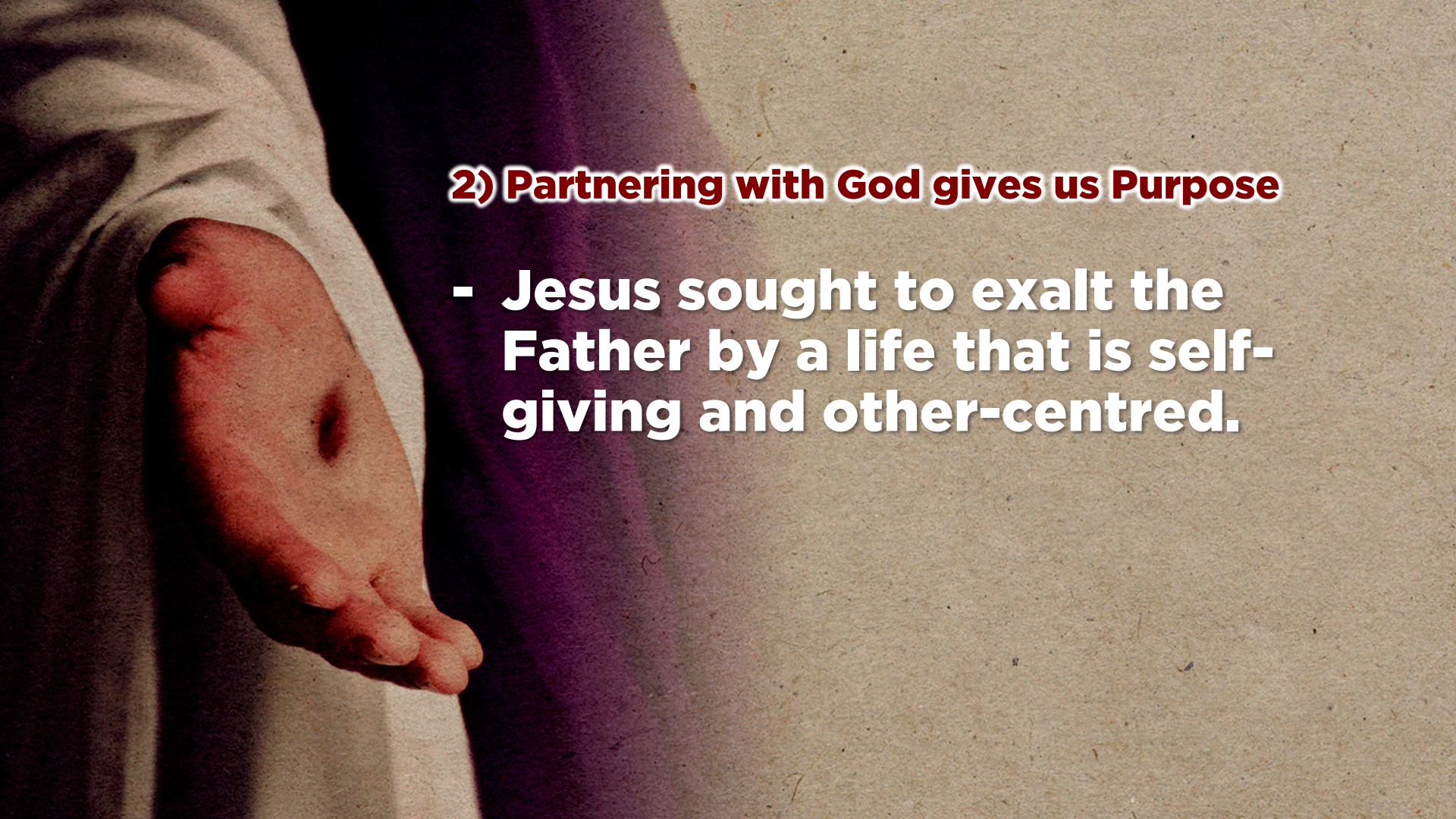
- The good works we are to do are *those prepared by God beforehand.*


Mark 10:18 (ESV)
And Jesus said to him,
“Why do you call me good?
No one is good except God alone.”



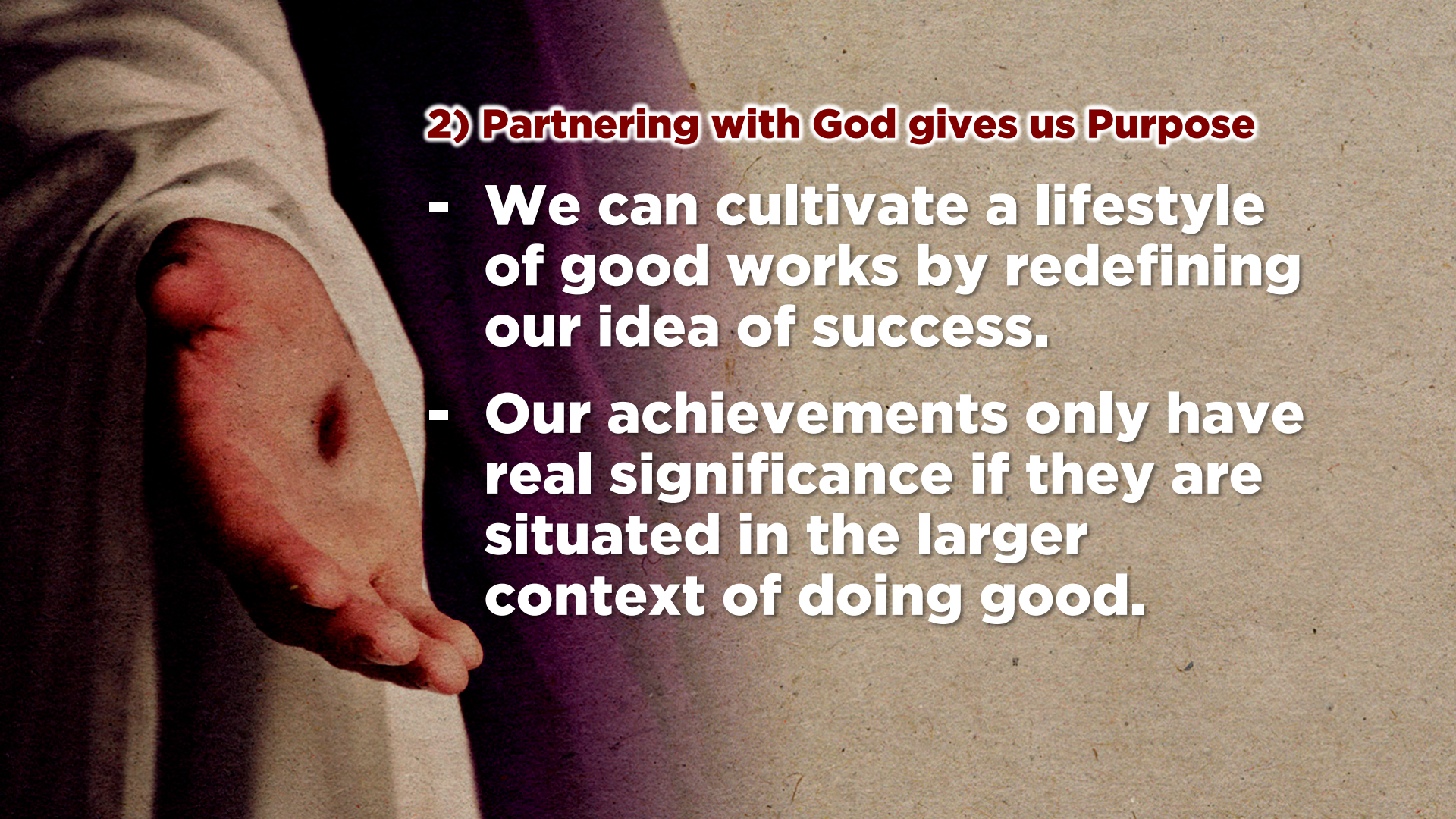
2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

- Partnering with God for good works means to actively pursue those things that are good by reference to God's character and standards.



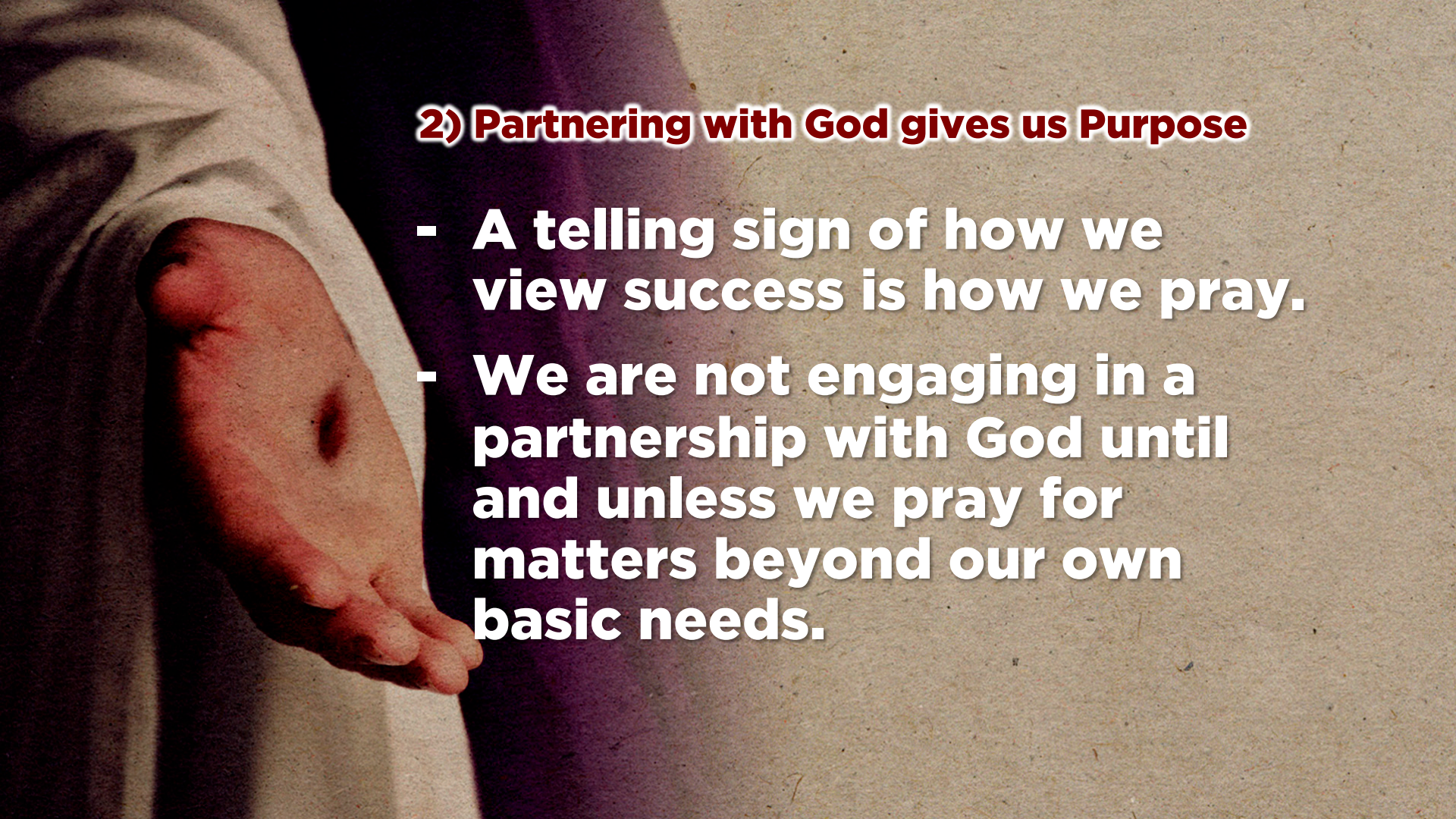
2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

- Jesus sought to exalt the Father by a life that is self-giving and other-centred.



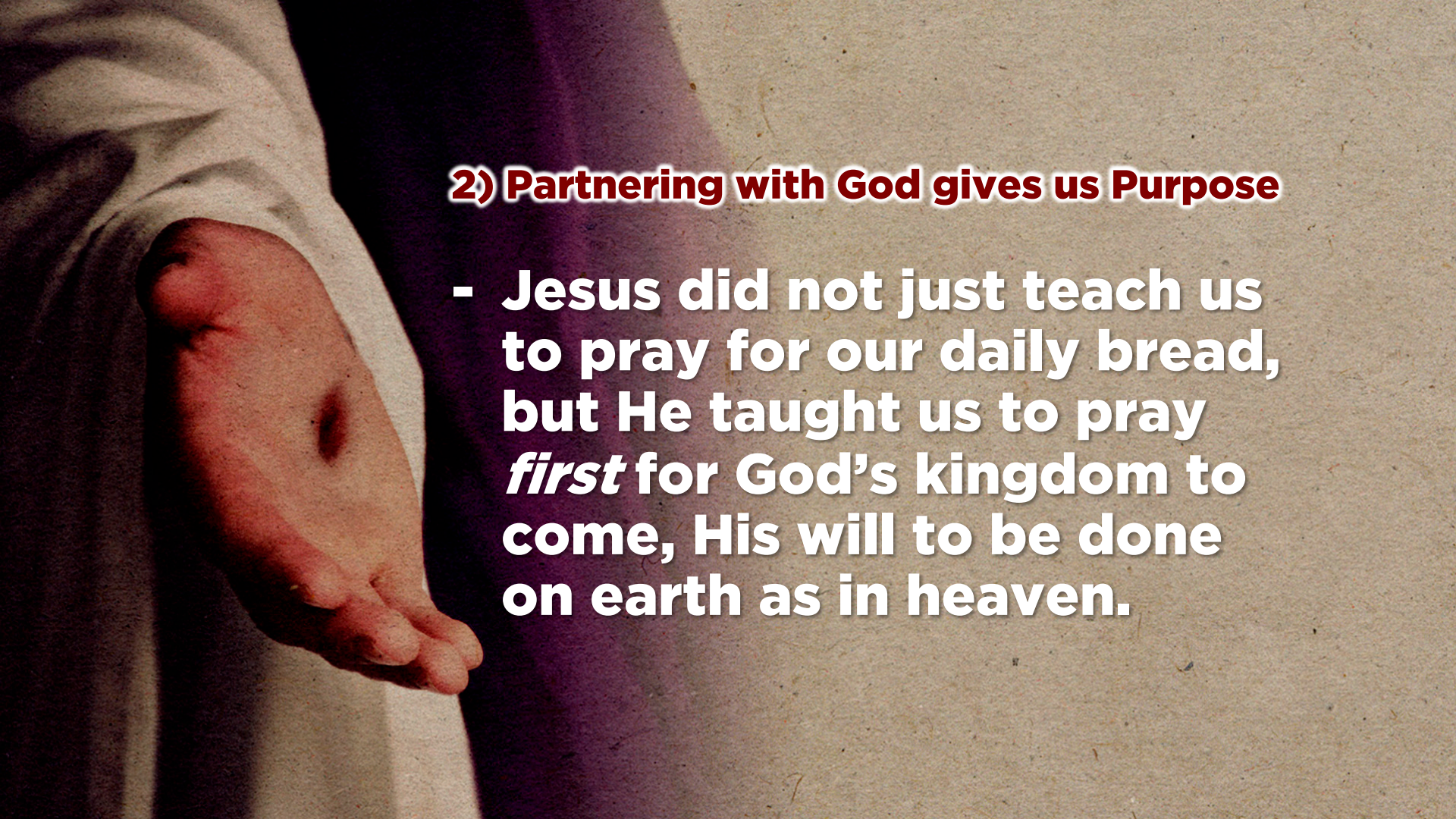
2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

- We can cultivate a lifestyle of good works by redefining our idea of success.
- Our achievements only have real significance if they are situated in the larger context of doing good.



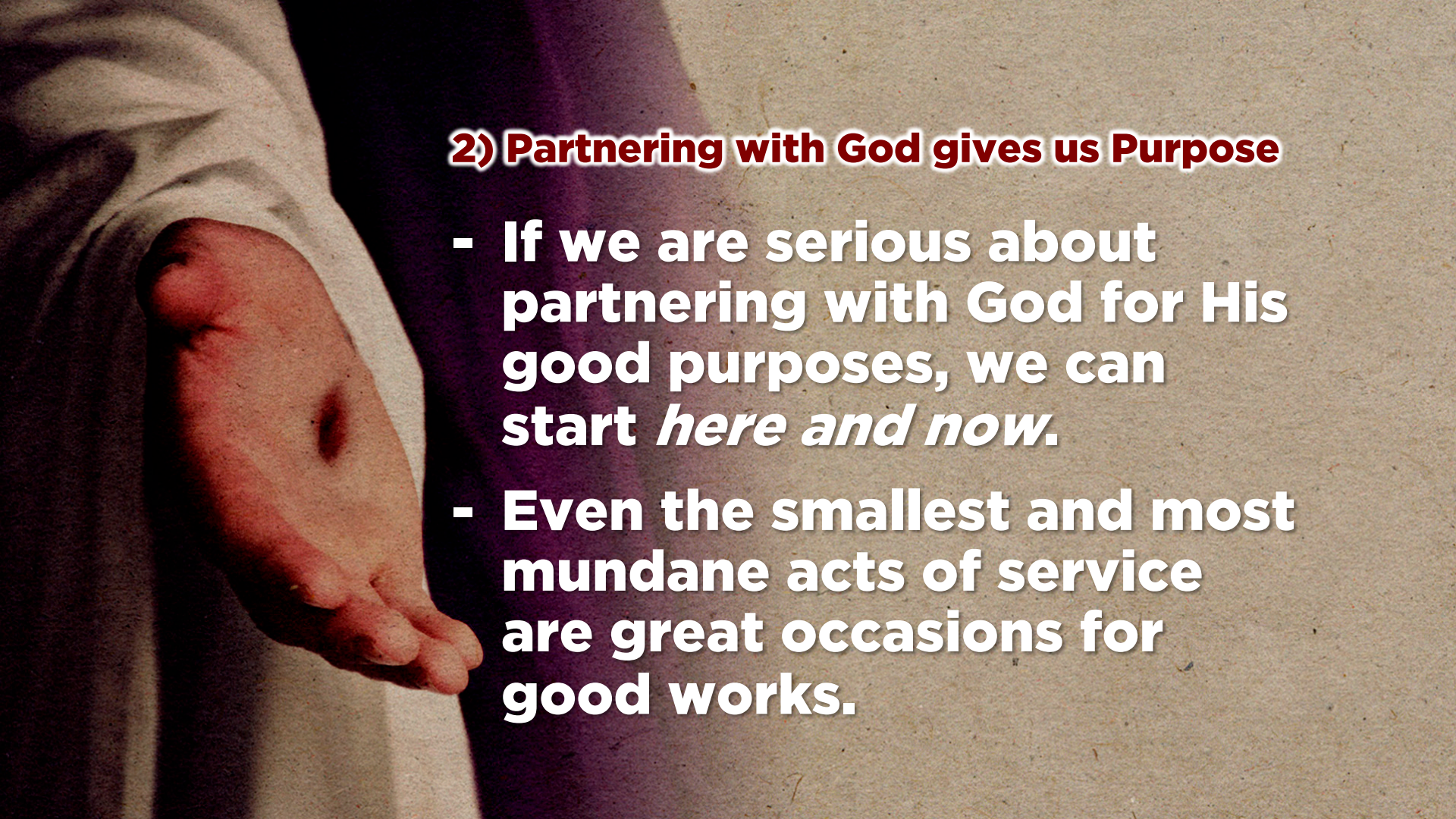
2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

- A telling sign of how we view success is how we pray.
- We are not engaging in a partnership with God until and unless we pray for matters beyond our own basic needs.



2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

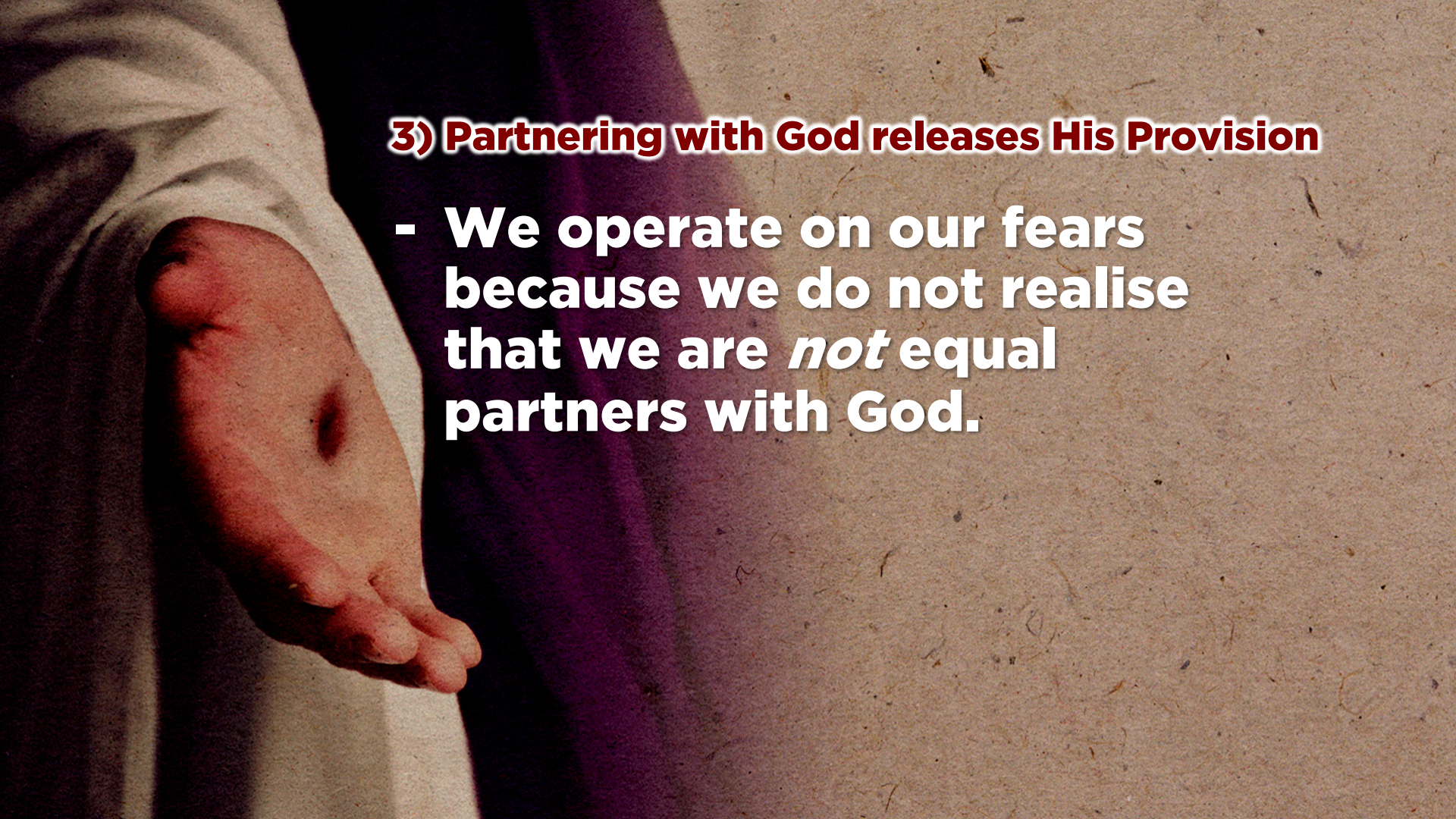
- Jesus did not just teach us to pray for our daily bread, but He taught us to pray *first* for God's kingdom to come, His will to be done on earth as in heaven.



2) Partnering with God gives us Purpose

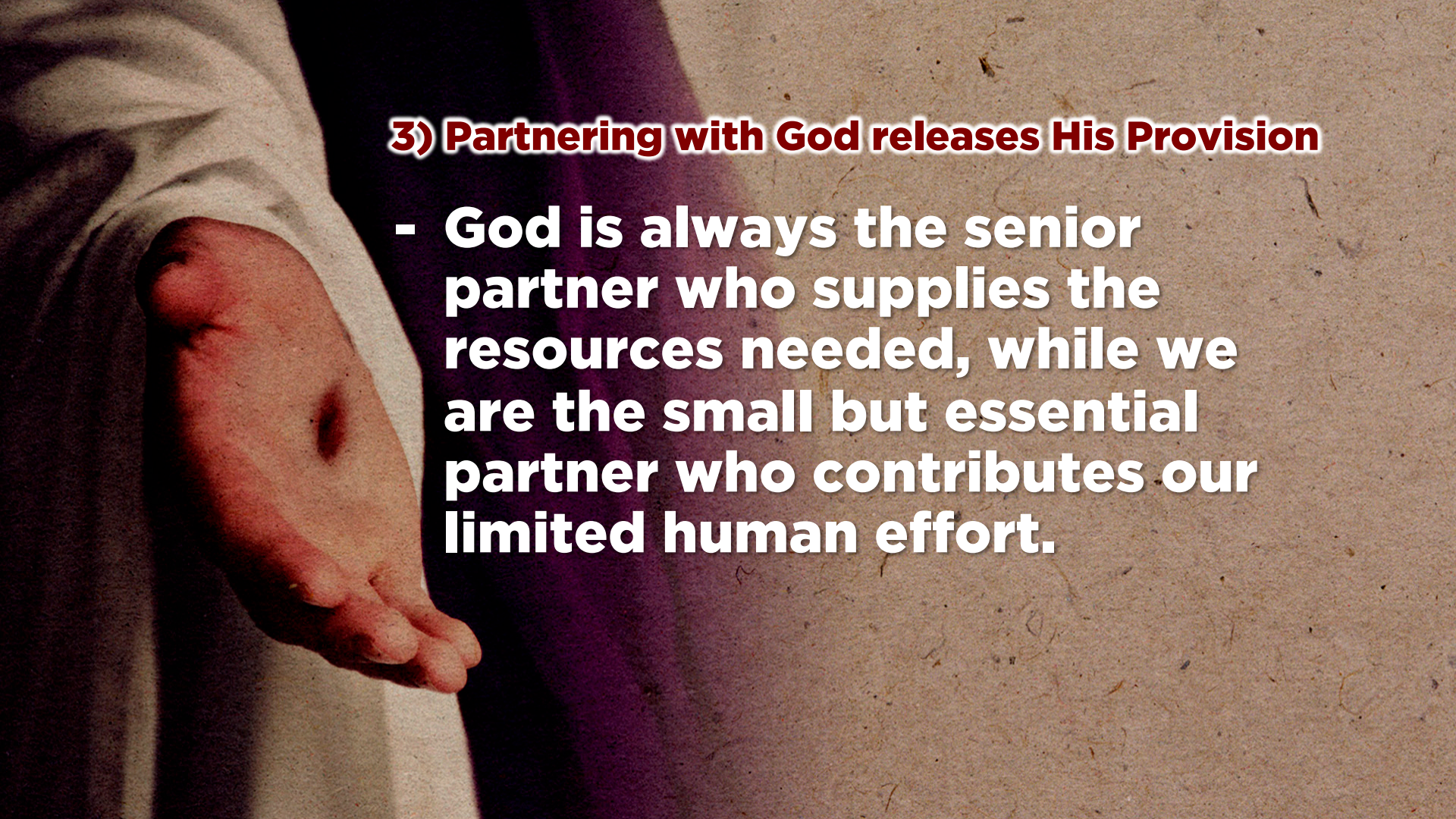
- If we are serious about partnering with God for His good purposes, we can start *here and now*.
- Even the smallest and most mundane acts of service are great occasions for good works.


3) Partnering with God
releases His Provision



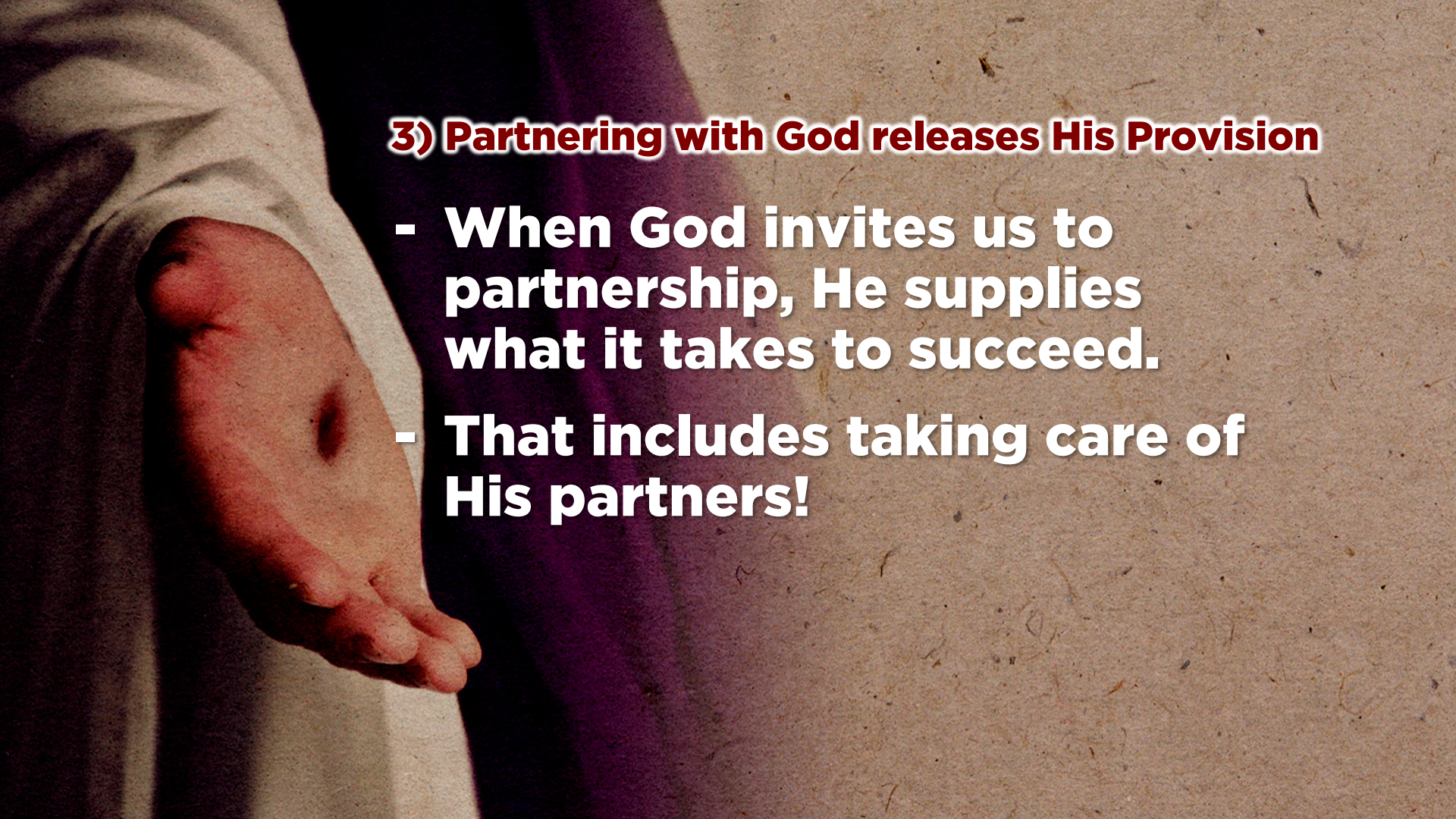
3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- We operate on our fears because we do not realise that we are *not* equal partners with God.



3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- God is always the senior partner who supplies the resources needed, while we are the small but essential partner who contributes our limited human effort.



3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- When God invites us to partnership, He supplies what it takes to succeed.
- That includes taking care of His partners!


Matthew 6:33 (ESV)
“But seek first the kingdom of God,
and all these things shall be
added to you.”


Matthew 6:33 (The Message)
Steep your life in God-reality,
God-initiative, God-provisions.
Don't worry about missing out.
You'll find all your everyday human
concerns will be met.

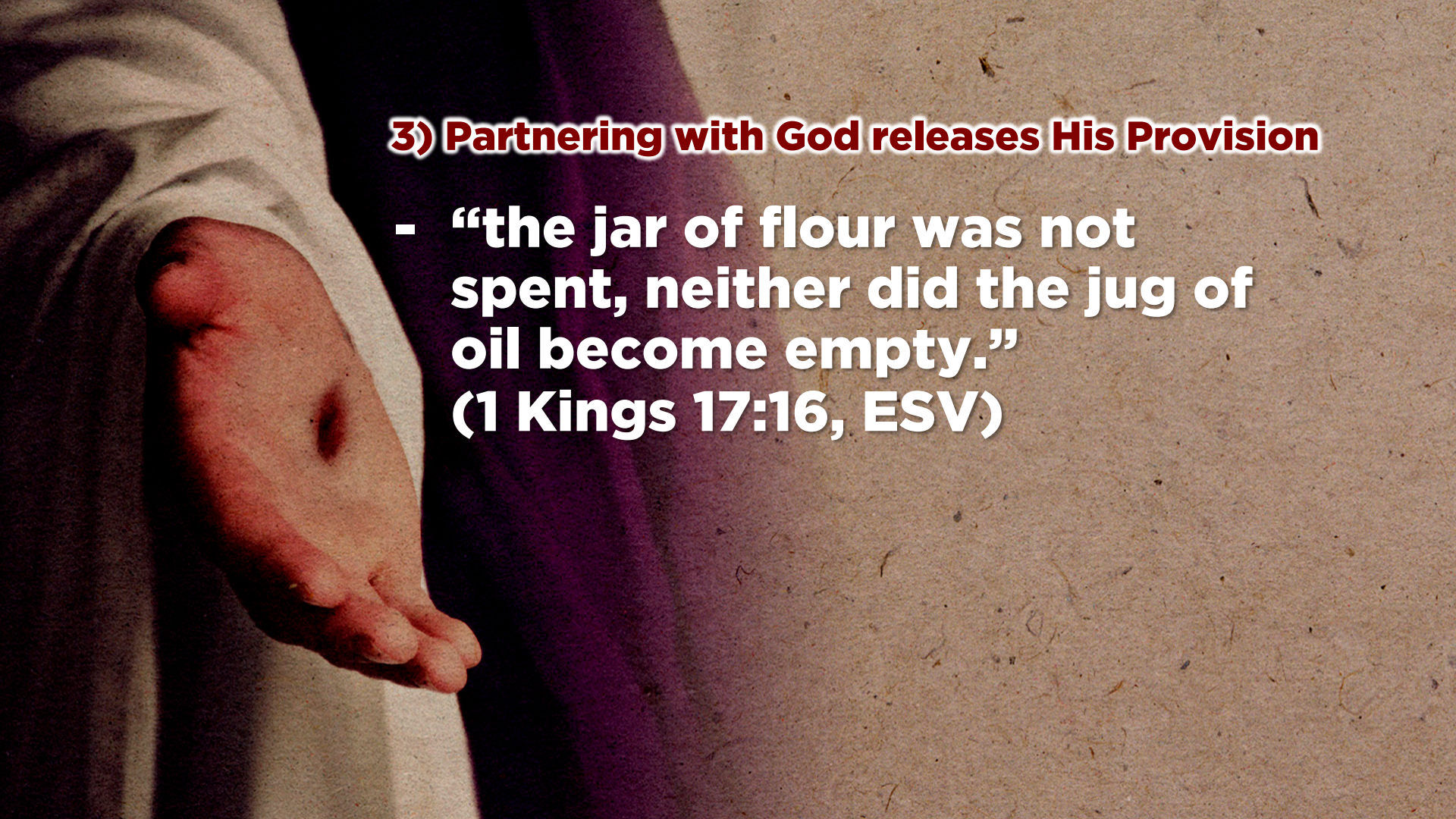


3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- the reason why we find it so hard to prioritise God's purposes is that we are FOMO.
- "project zone"

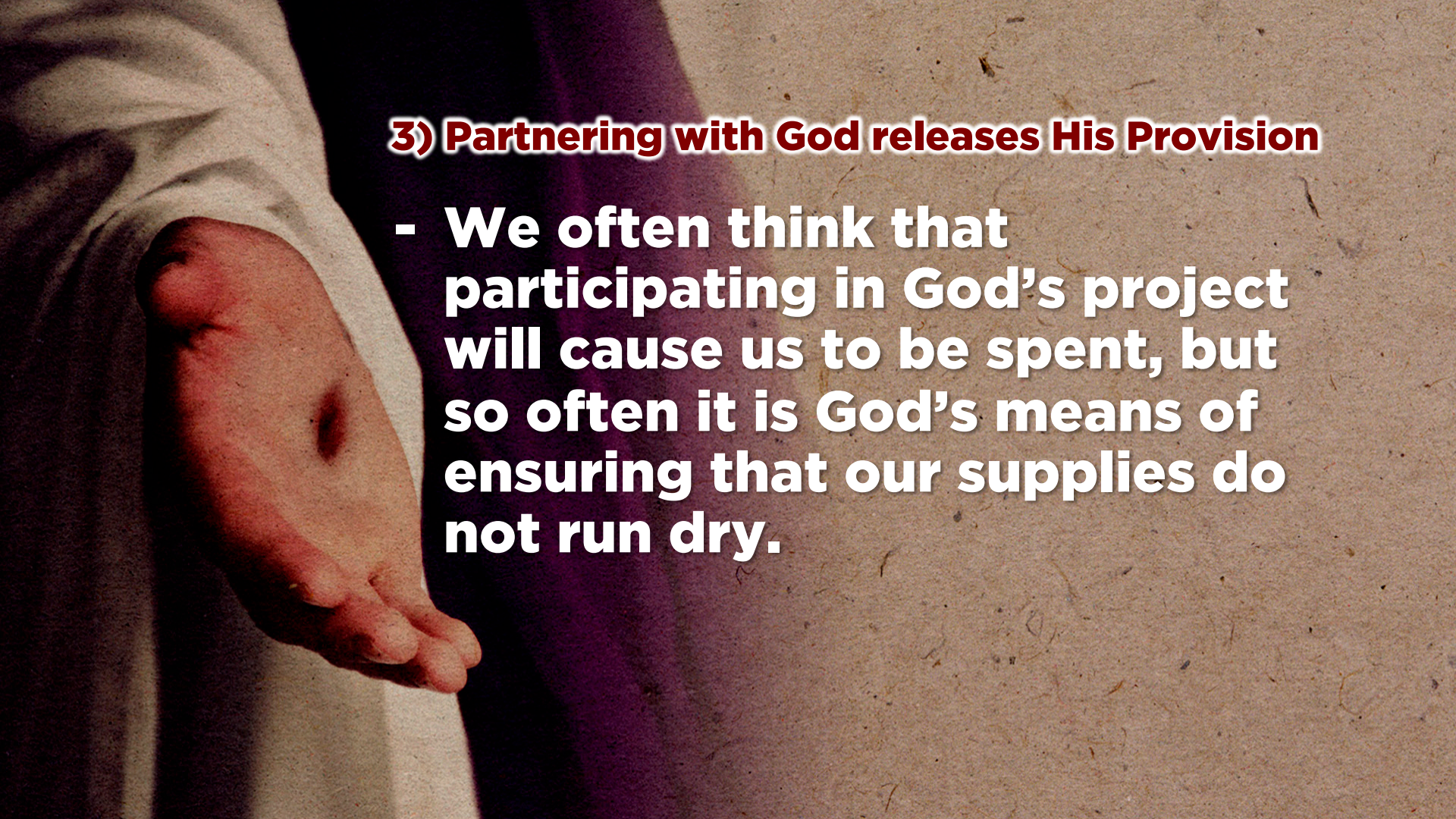
3) Partnering with God releases His Provision





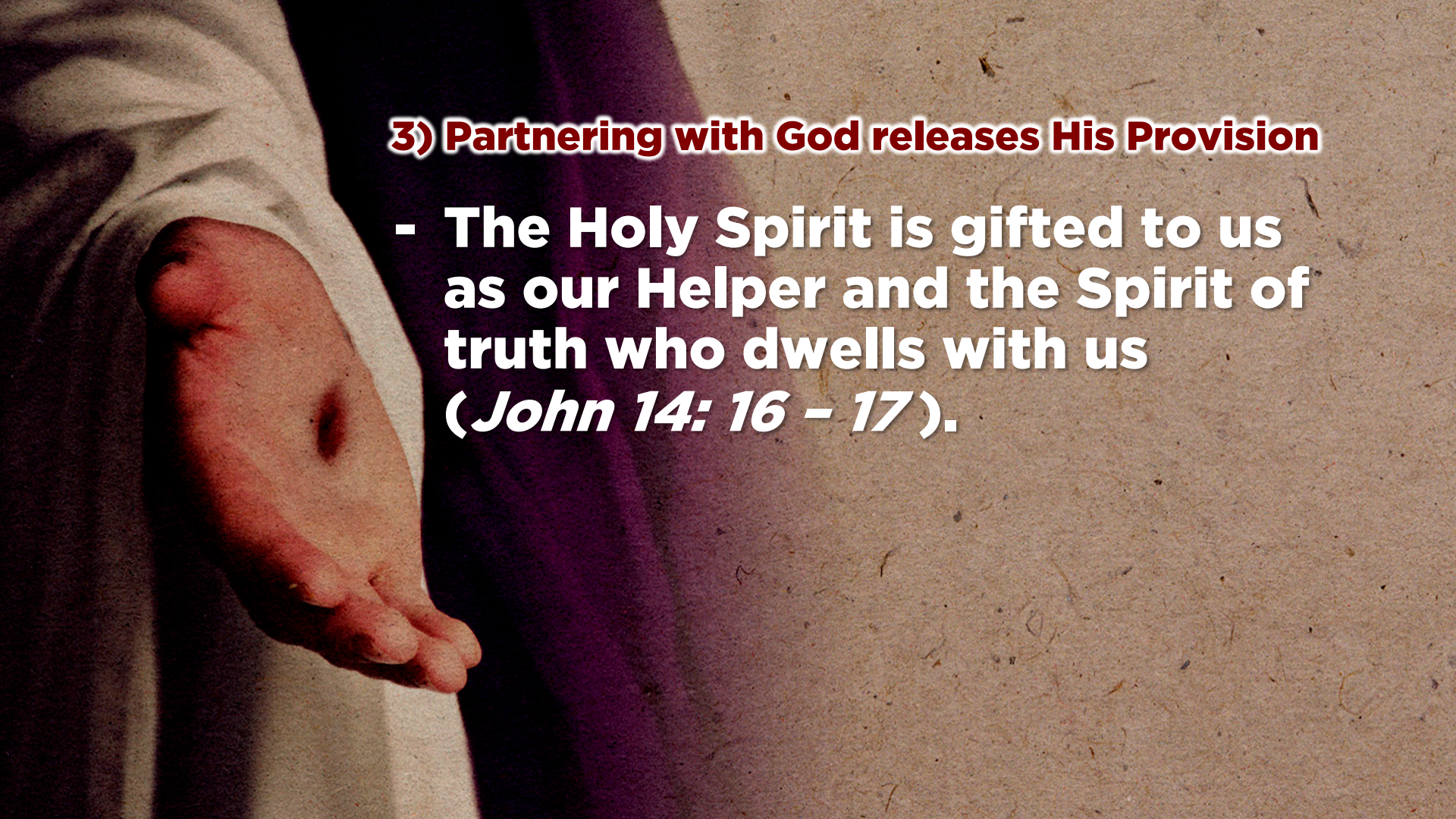
3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- “the jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty.” (1 Kings 17:16, ESV)



3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- We often think that participating in God's project will cause us to be spent, but so often it is God's means of ensuring that our supplies do not run dry.



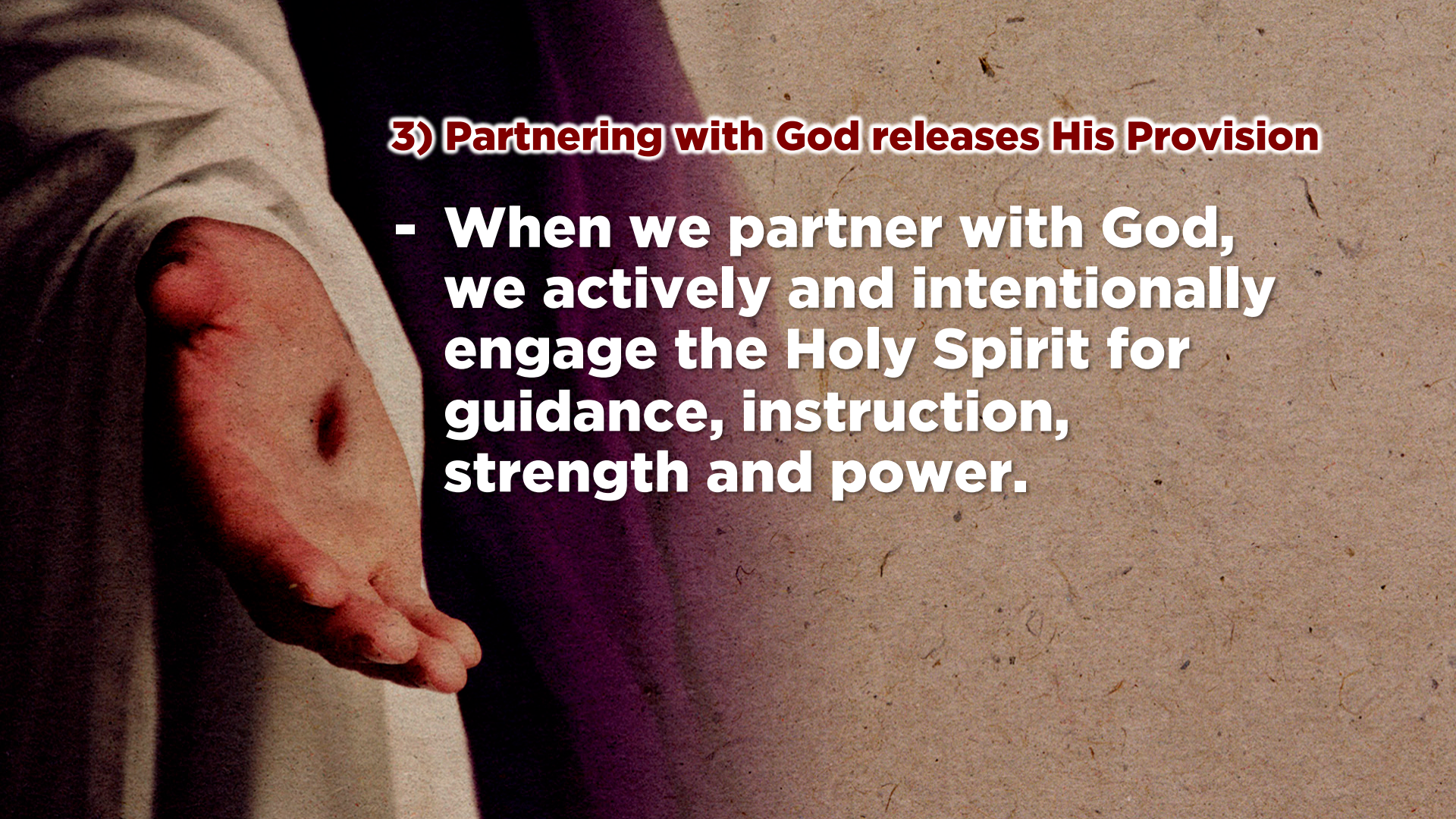
3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- The Holy Spirit is gifted to us as our Helper and the Spirit of truth who dwells with us (*John 14: 16 – 17*).



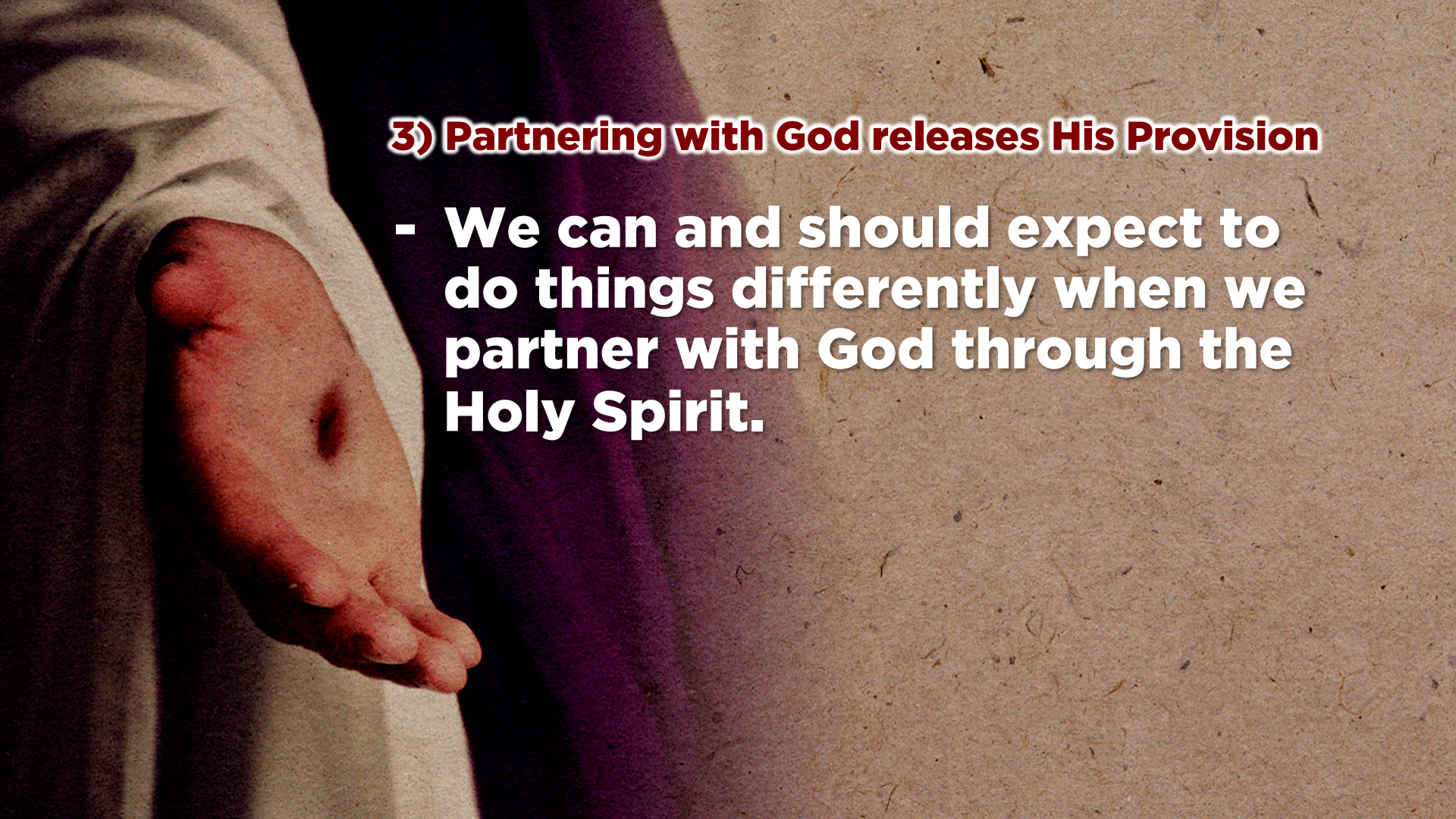
3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- He will teach us all things, and bring to our minds all that Jesus has taught (*John 14: 26*).
- He will empower us to be effective witnesses for Christ (*Acts 1:8*).



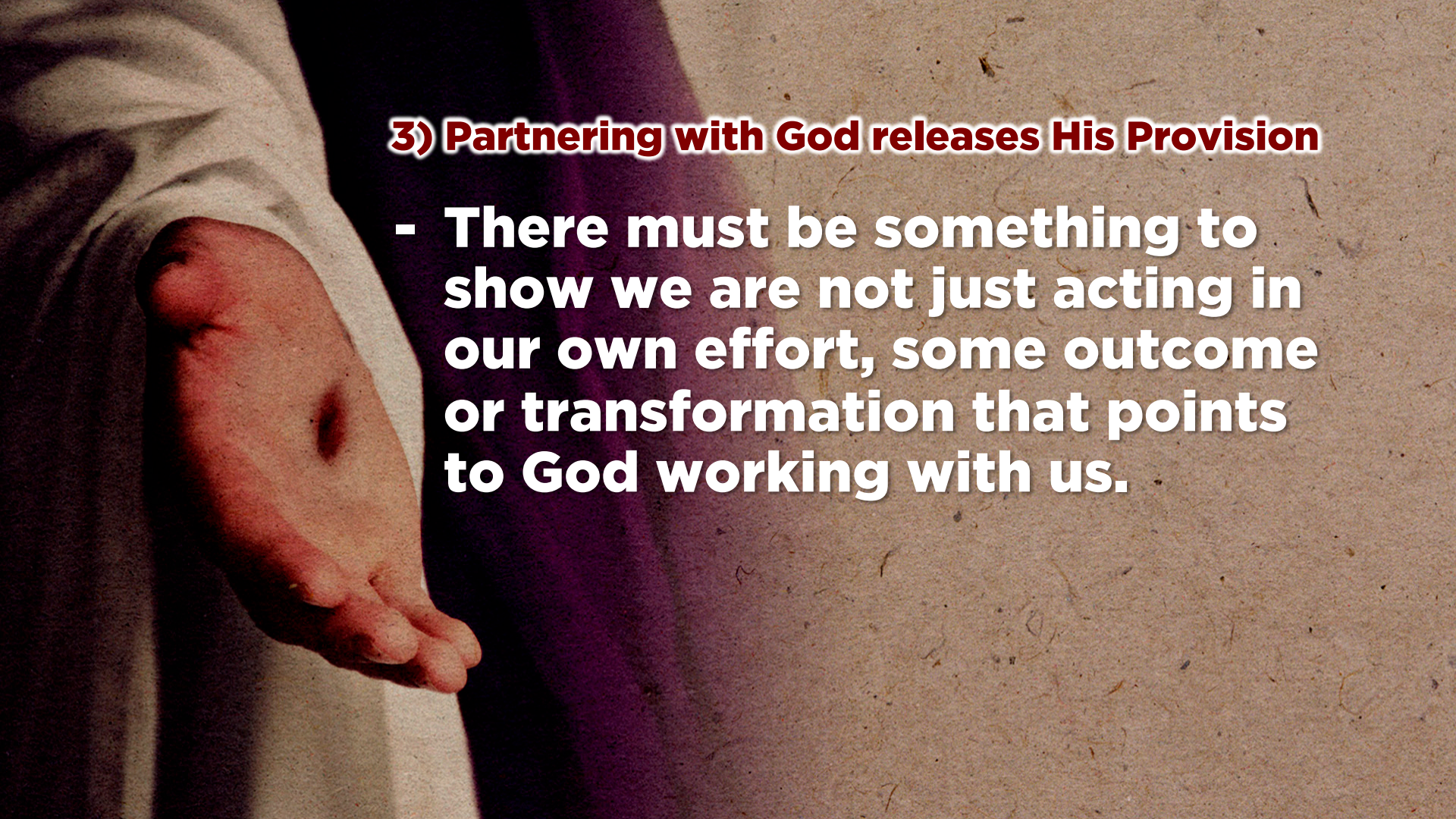
3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

- When we partner with God, we actively and intentionally engage the Holy Spirit for guidance, instruction, strength and power.



3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

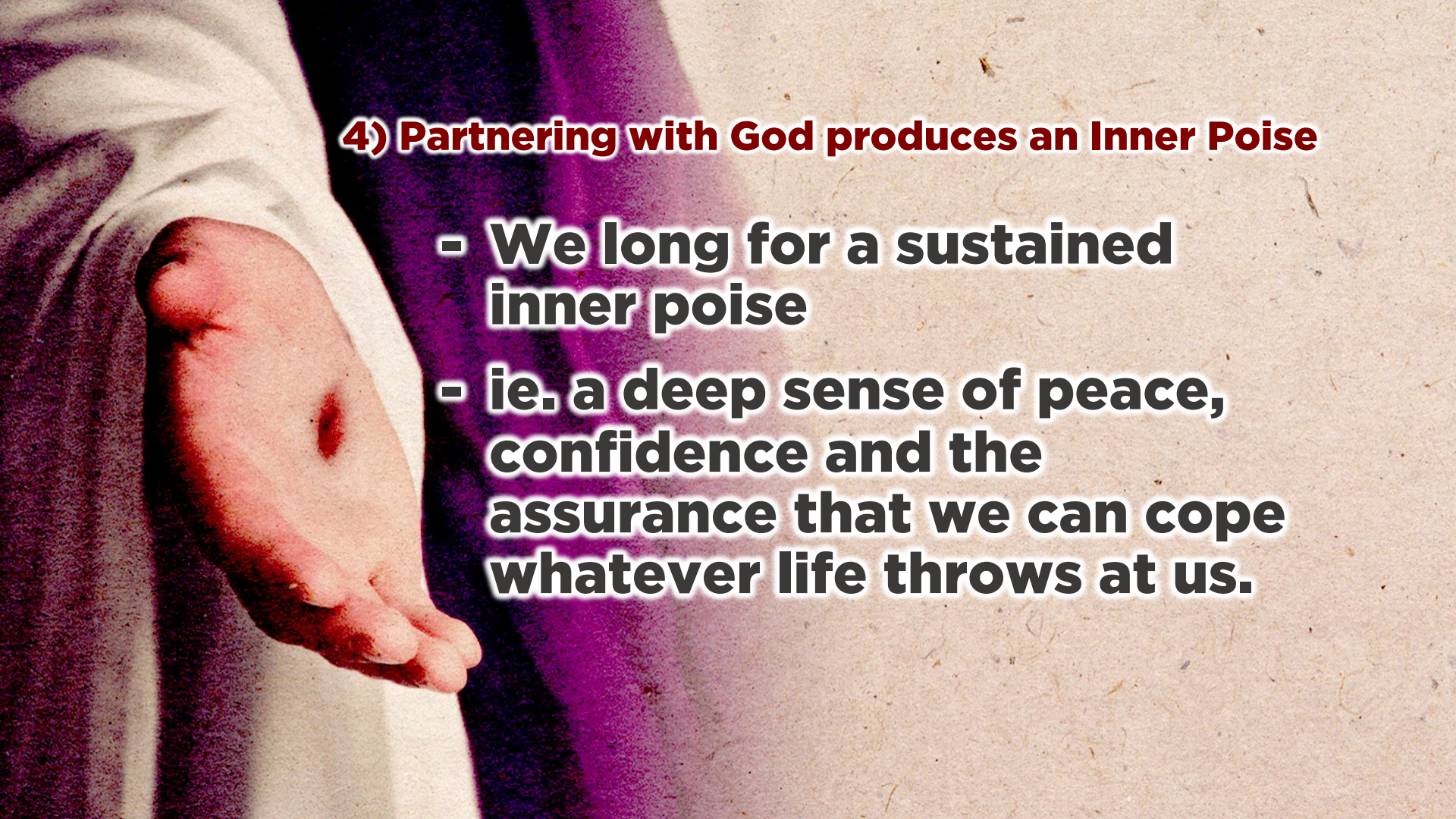
- We can and should expect to do things differently when we partner with God through the Holy Spirit.



3) Partnering with God releases His Provision

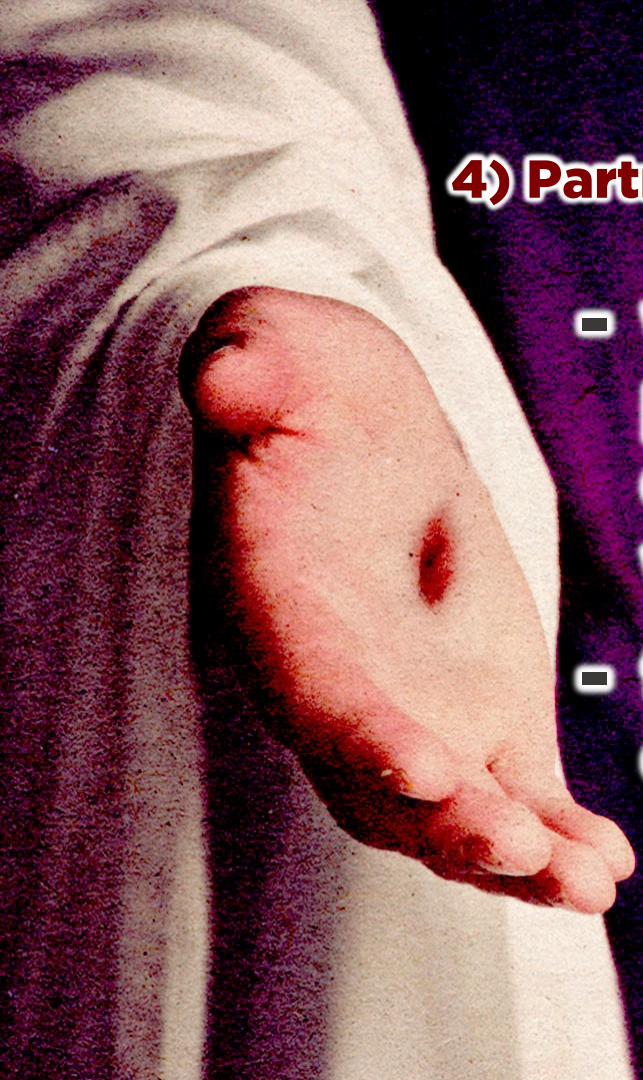
- There must be something to show we are not just acting in our own effort, some outcome or transformation that points to God working with us.


4) Partnering with God
produces an Inner Poise



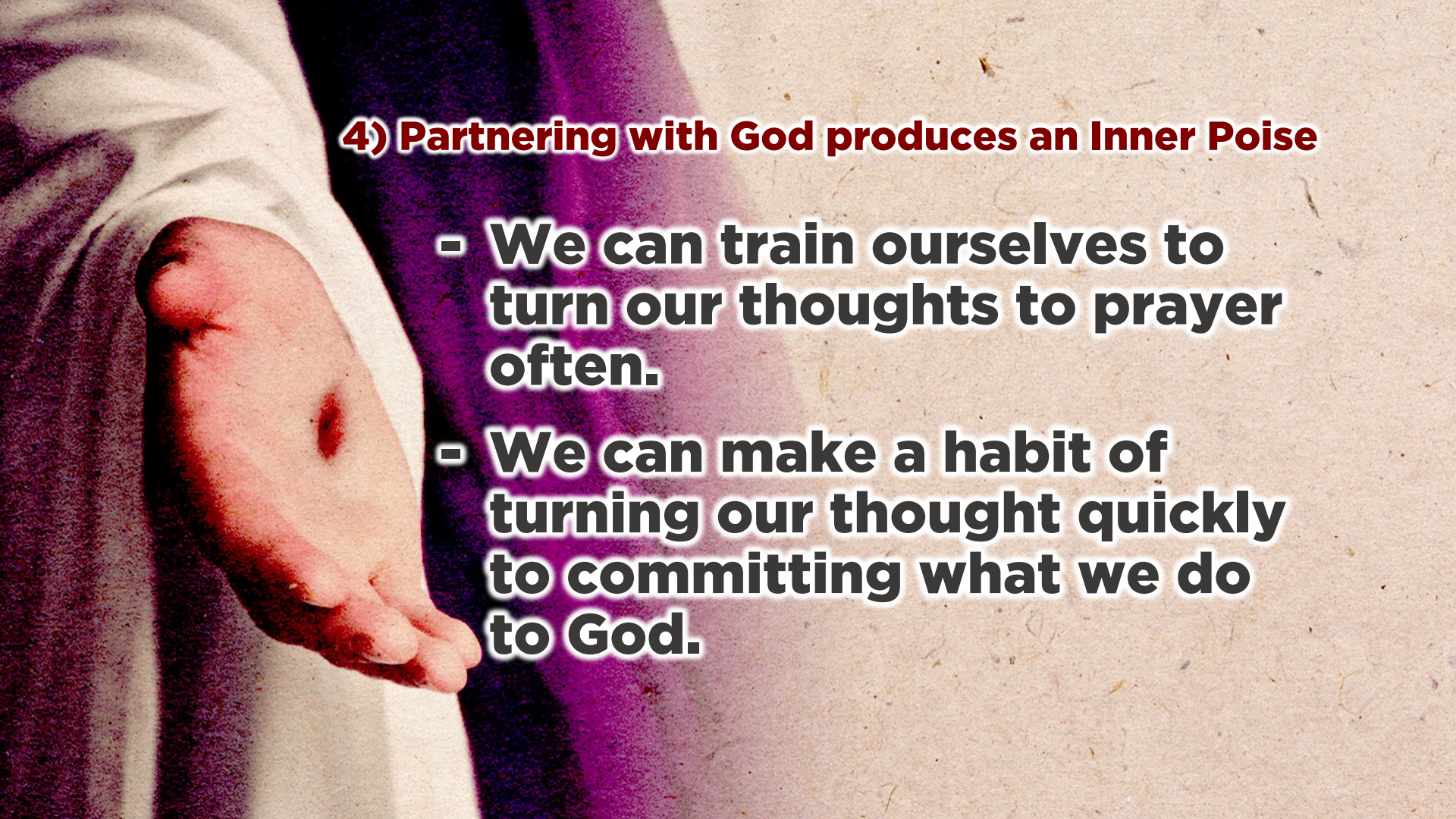
4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

- We long for a sustained inner poise
- ie. a deep sense of peace, confidence and the assurance that we can cope whatever life throws at us.



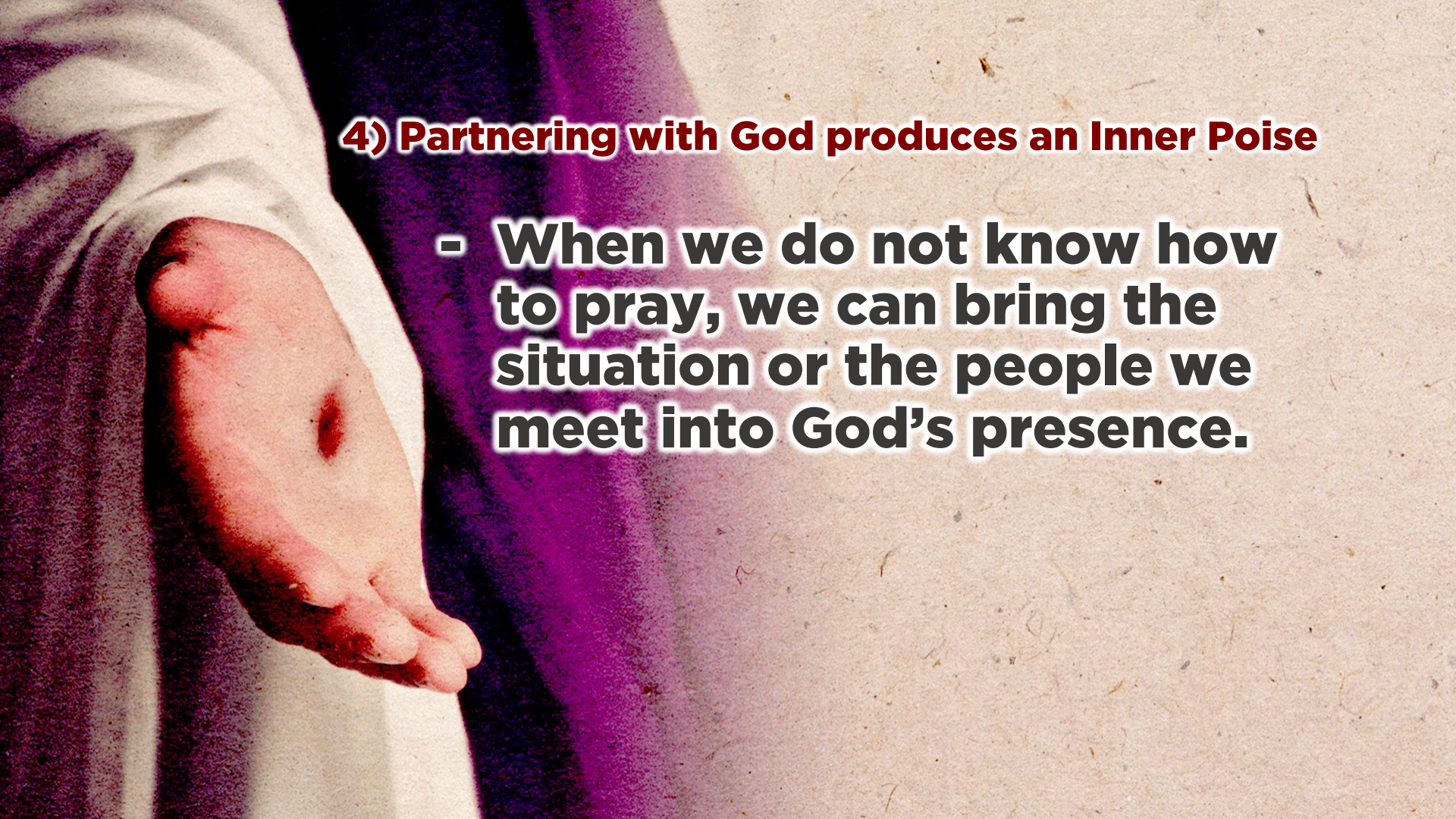
4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

- we can attain that inner poise if we intentionally cultivate our partnership with God
- turn to God in prayer very often



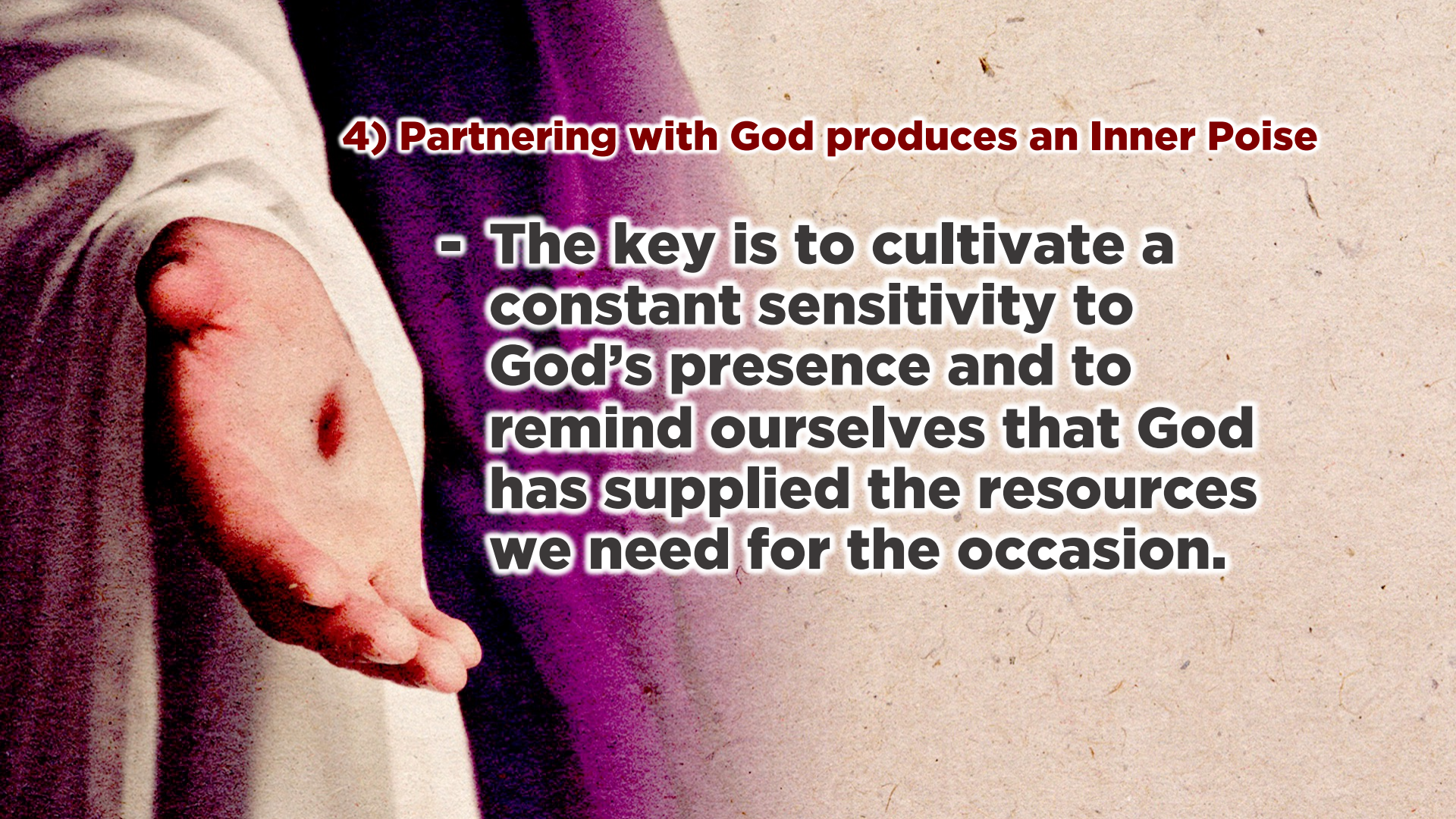
4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

- We can train ourselves to turn our thoughts to prayer often.
- We can make a habit of turning our thought quickly to committing what we do to God.



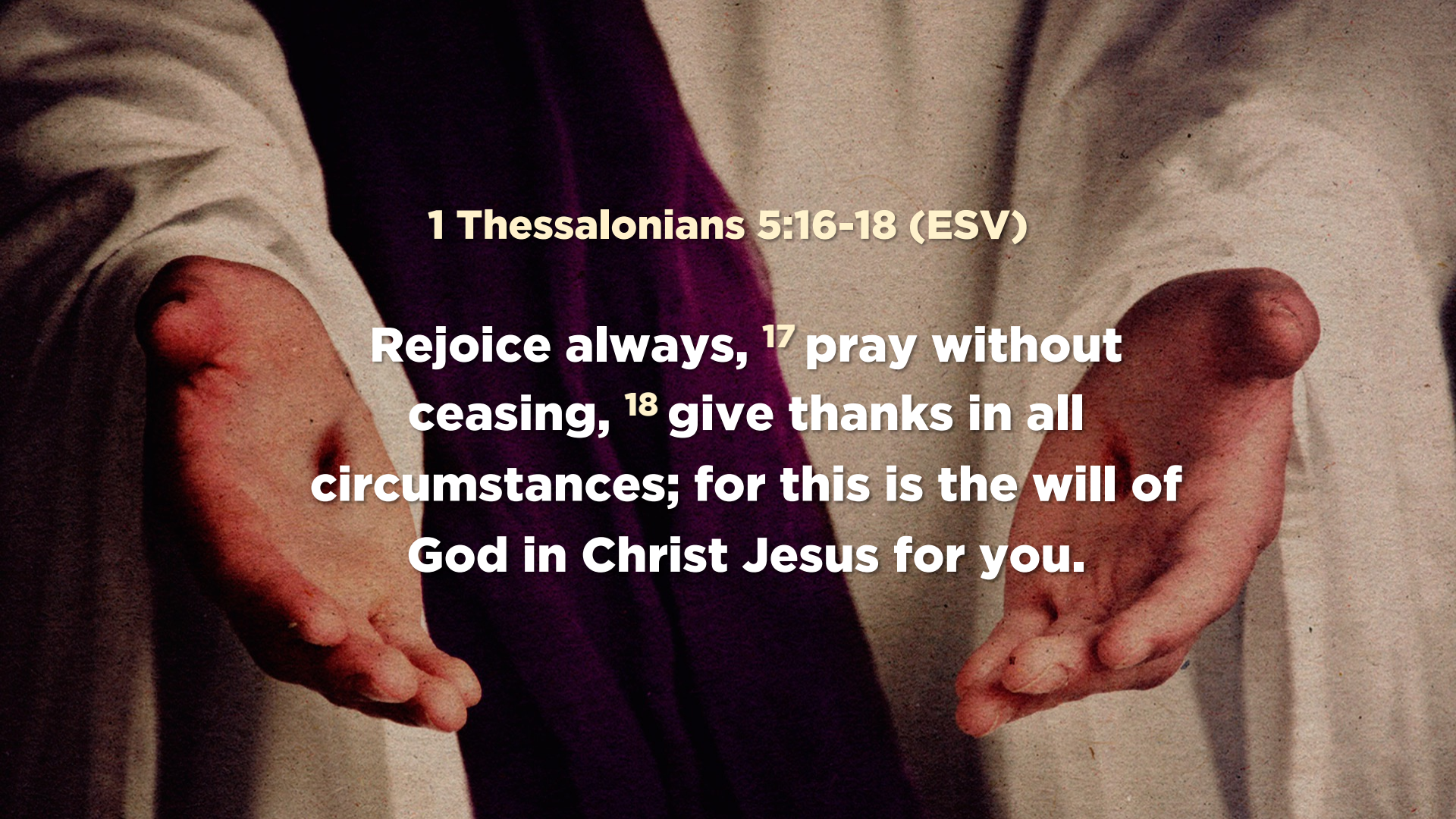
4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

- When we do not know how to pray, we can bring the situation or the people we meet into God's presence.



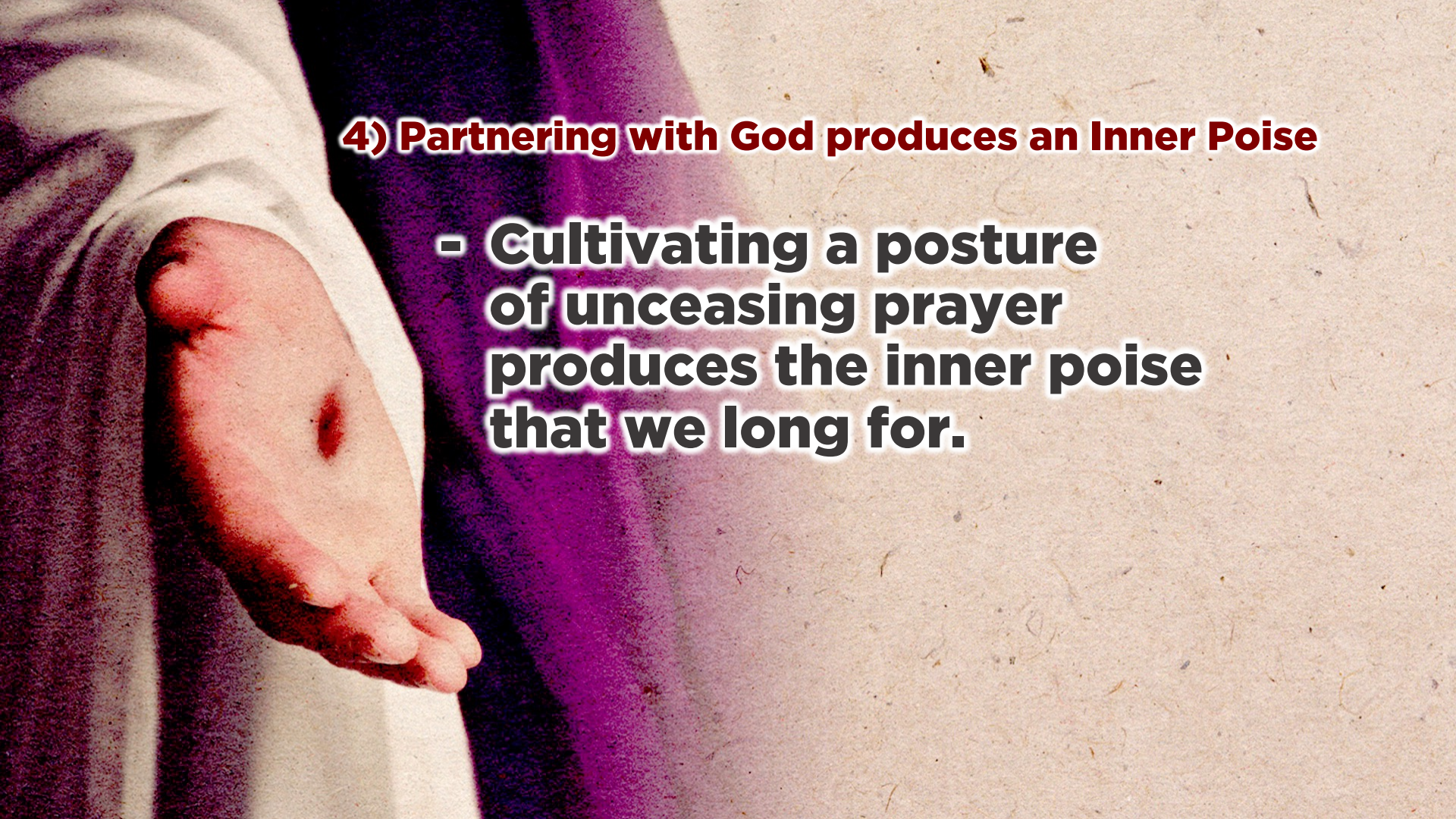
4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

- The key is to cultivate a constant sensitivity to God's presence and to remind ourselves that God has supplied the resources we need for the occasion.



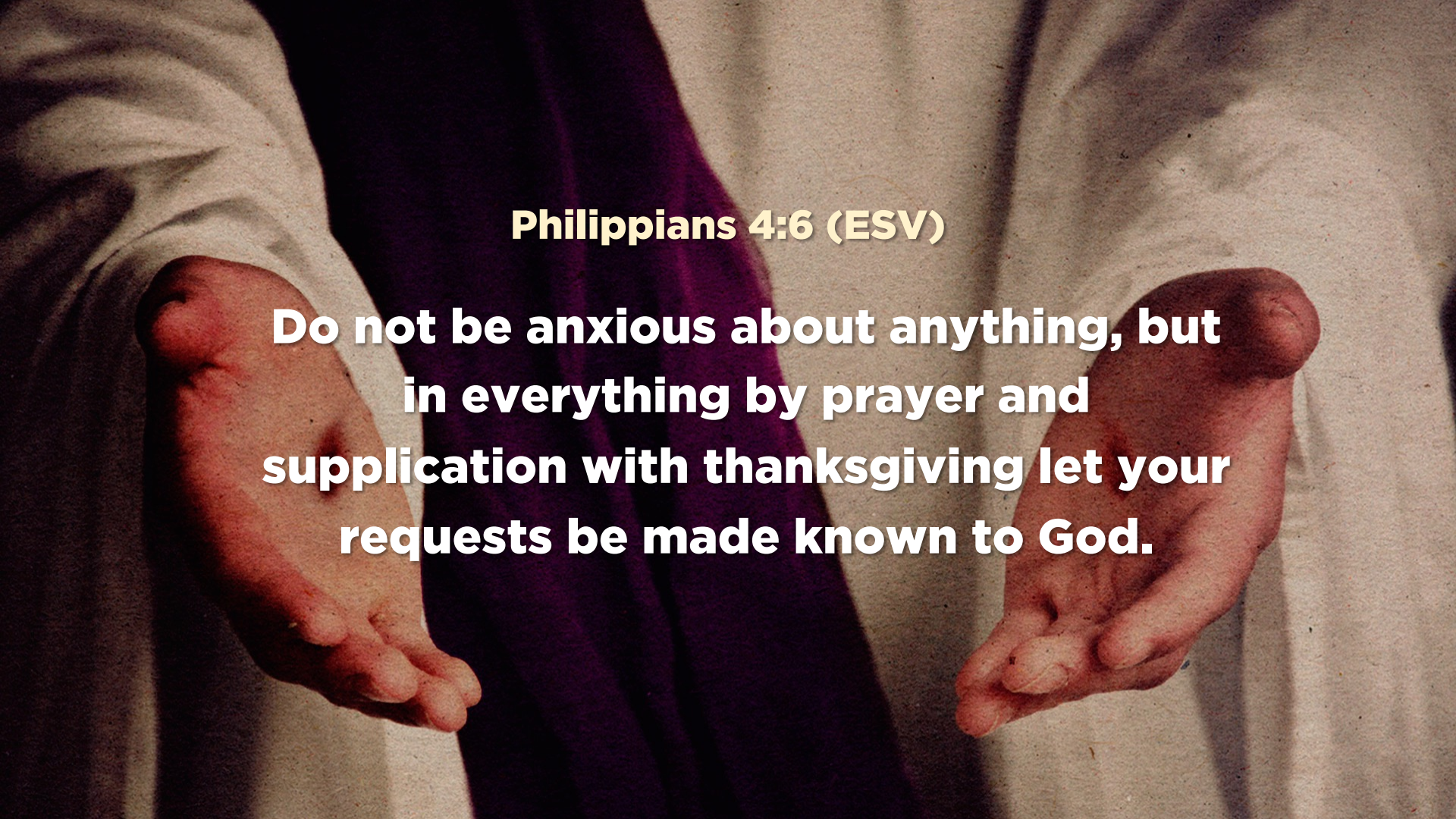
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

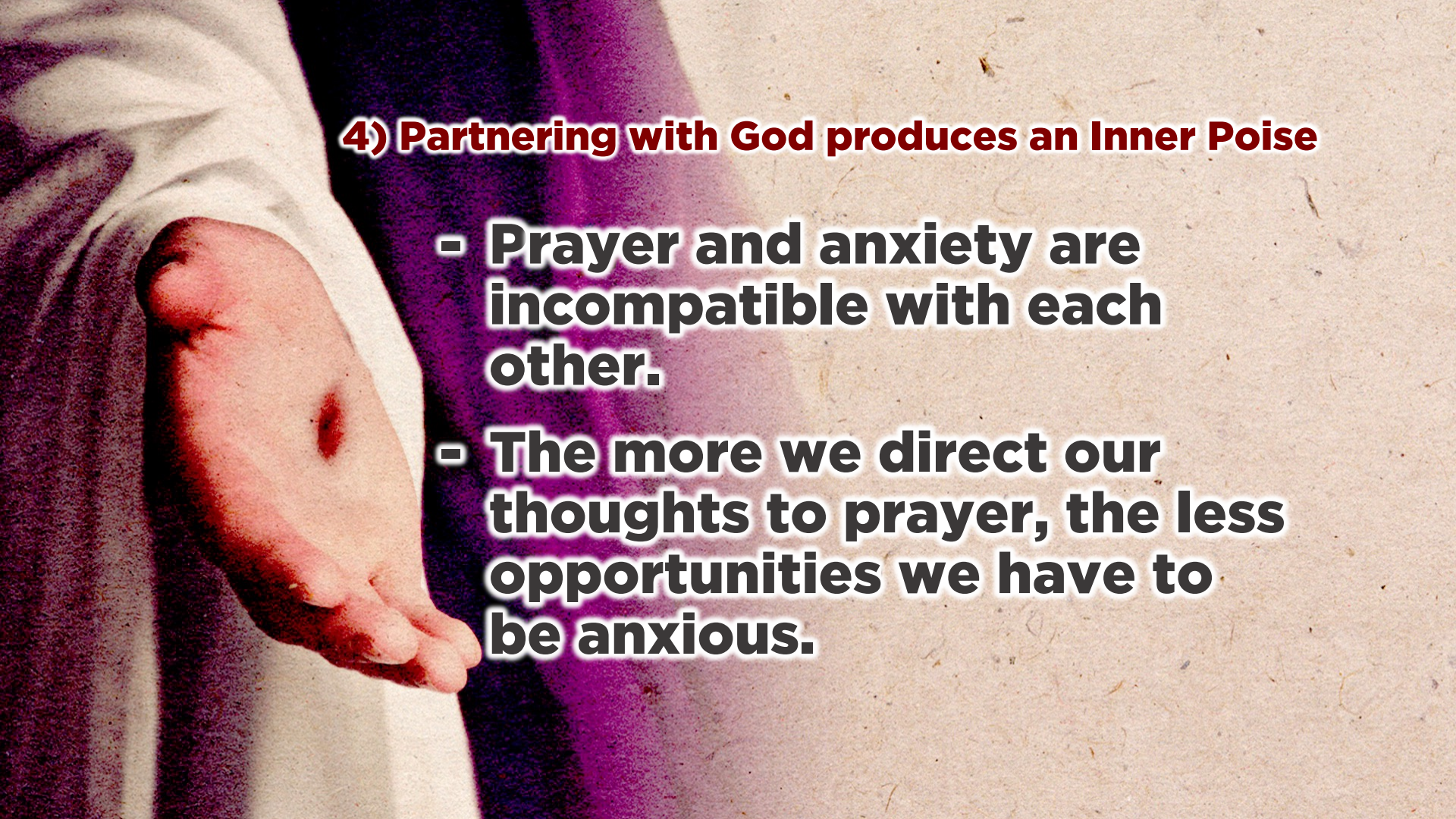
Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

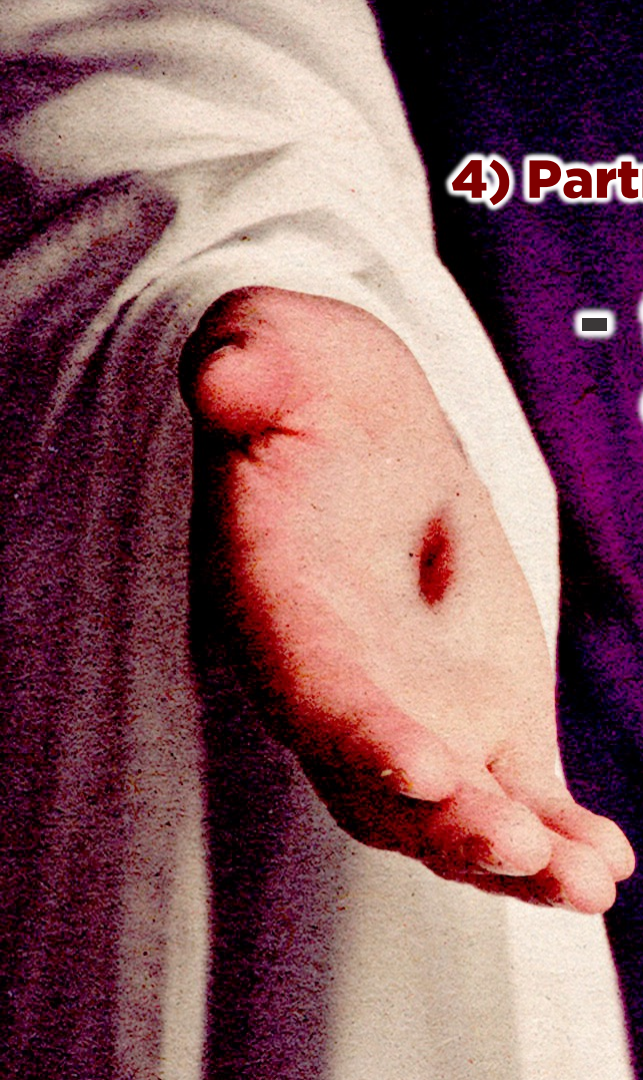
- Cultivating a posture of unceasing prayer produces the inner poise that we long for.


Philippians 4:6 (ESV)
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

- Prayer and anxiety are incompatible with each other.
- The more we direct our thoughts to prayer, the less opportunities we have to be anxious.



4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

- the tree planted by streams of water



4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

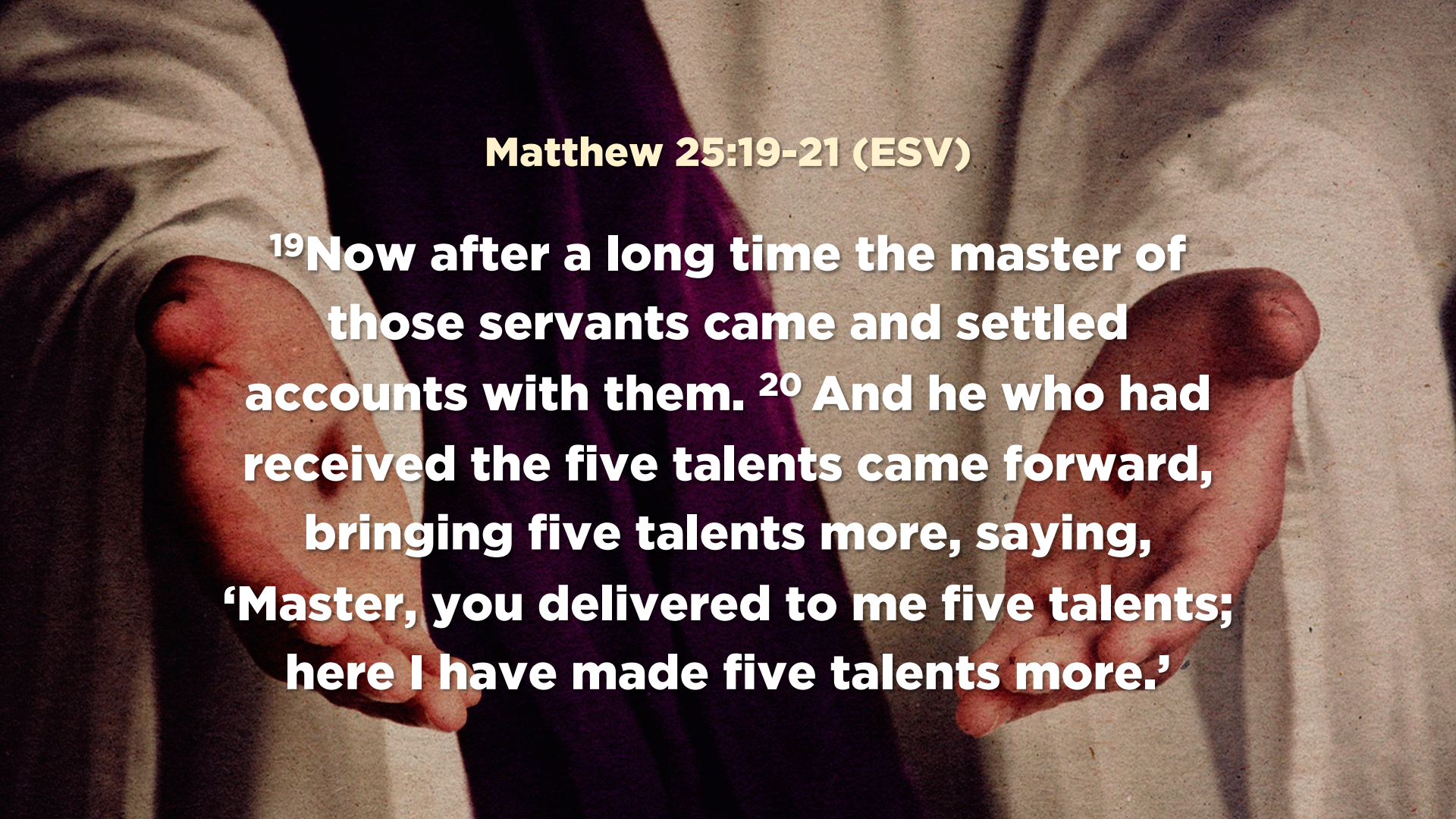
- Just as the tree will not be strong and fruitful by occasionally drinking from the stream, we cannot expect to become strong and poised by running to Him only when we are in trouble or need.



4) Partnering with God produces an Inner Poise

- The reason why the tree is unshaken by inclement weather, and bears fruits in all seasons, is because it is *planted* next to the stream.

Conclusion



Matthew 25:19-21 (ESV)

19 Now after a long time the master of
those servants came and settled
accounts with them. 20 And he who had
received the five talents came forward,
bringing five talents more, saying,
‘Master, you delivered to me five talents;
here I have made five talents more.’


Matthew 25:19-21 (ESV)
21His master said to him,
‘Well done, good and faithful servant.
You have been faithful over a little;
I will set you over much.
Enter into the joy of your master.’