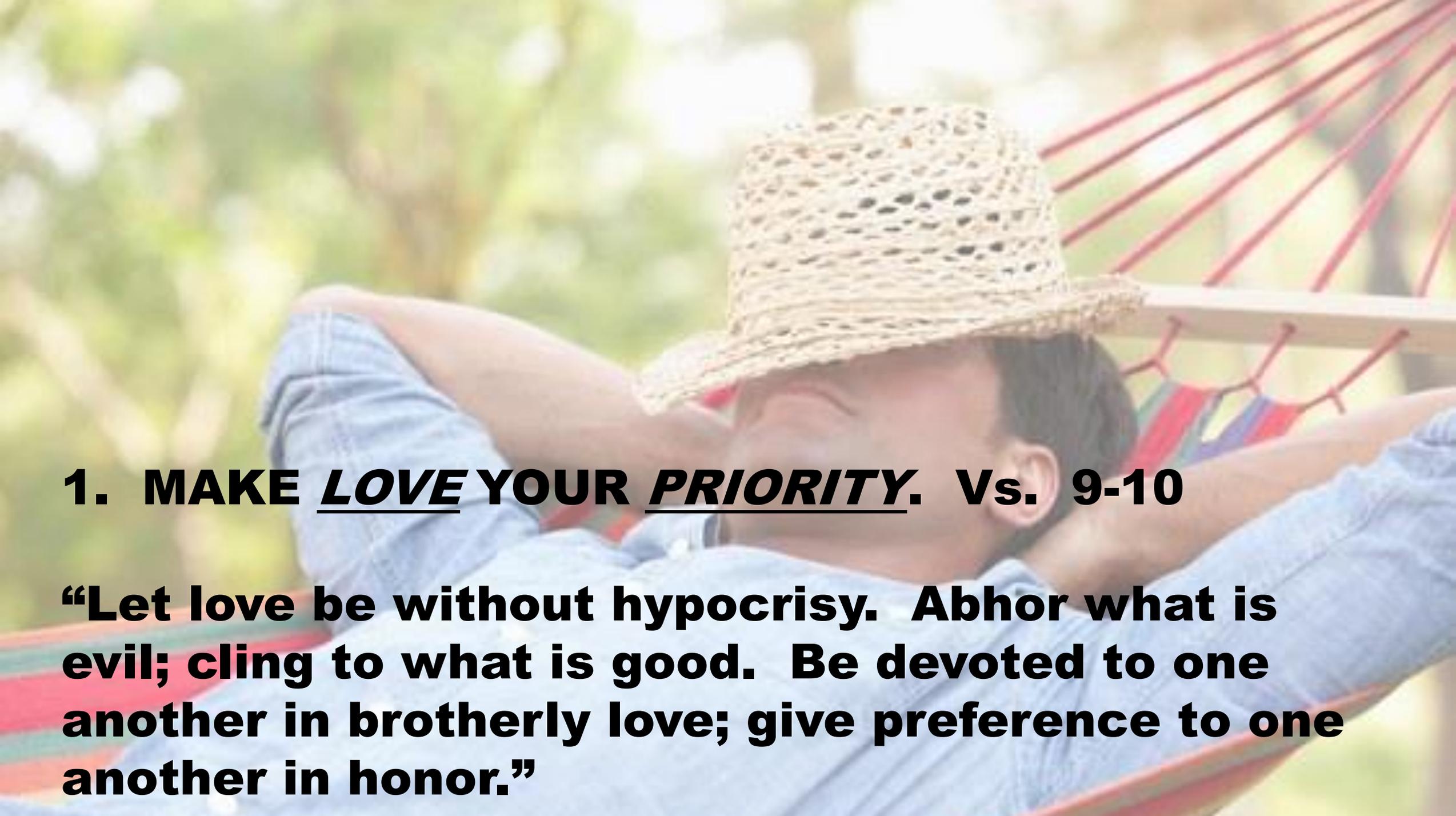


THIS IS THE LIFE





1. MAKE LOVE YOUR PRIORITY. Vs. 9-10

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”





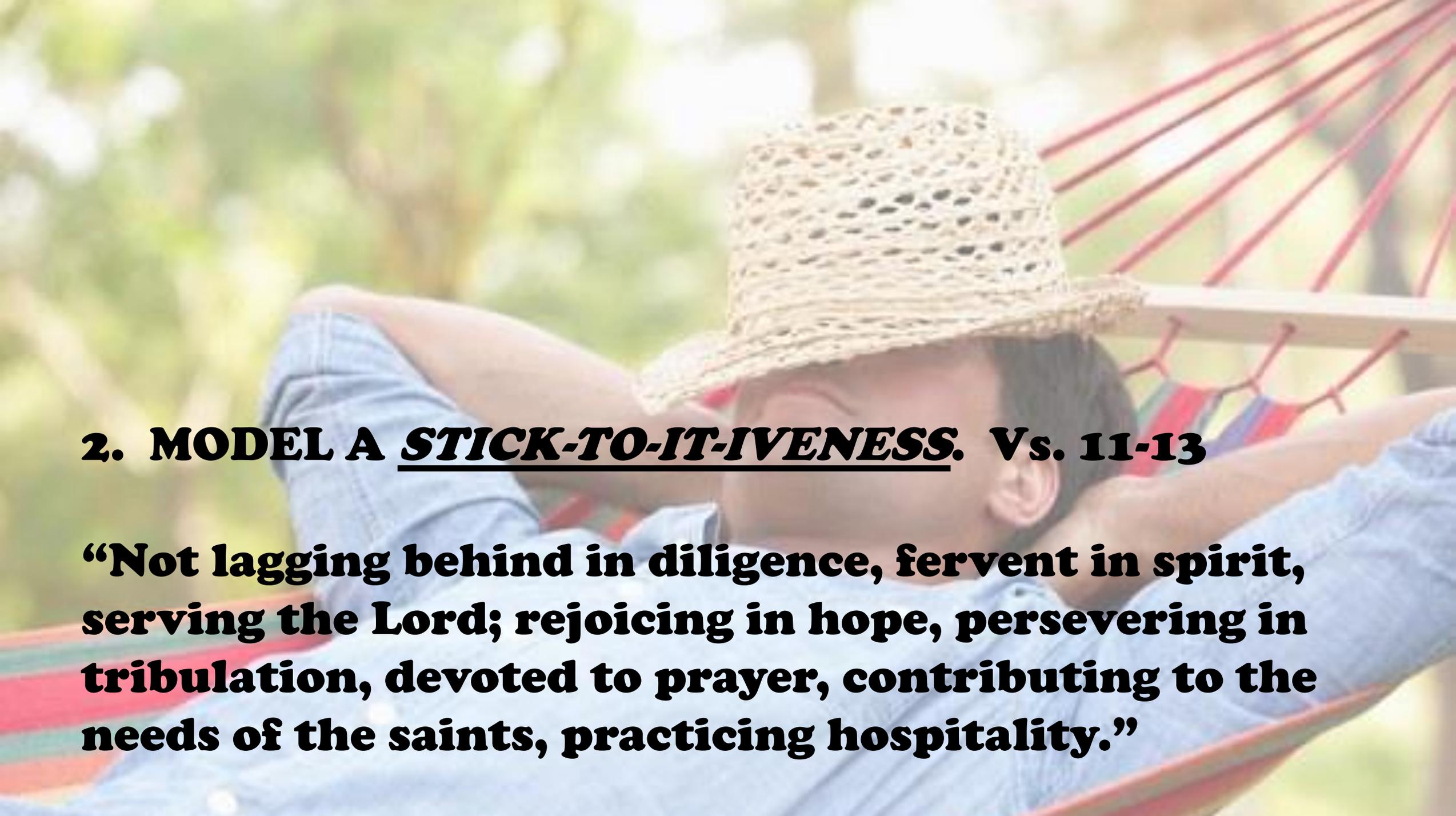
“Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...” 1 Cor. 13:4-8a

“Let love be without hypocrisy...” Rom. 12:9

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love...” vs. 10

“May the Lord show special kindness to Onesiphorus and all his family because he often visited and encouraged me. He was never ashamed of me because I was in chains. When he came to Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me. May the Lord show him special kindness on the day of Christ’s return. And you know very well how helpful he was in Ephesus.” 2 Tim. 1:16-18 (NLT)

“We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.” 2 Thess. 1:3



2. MODEL A STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS. Vs. 11-13

“Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.”

STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS IN YOUR:

A. Passion.

“Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord...”

B. Optimism.

“...rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation...”

**“‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,
‘Therefore I have hope in Him.’”**

Lamentations 3:24

C. Prayer.

“...devoted to prayer.” vs. 12b

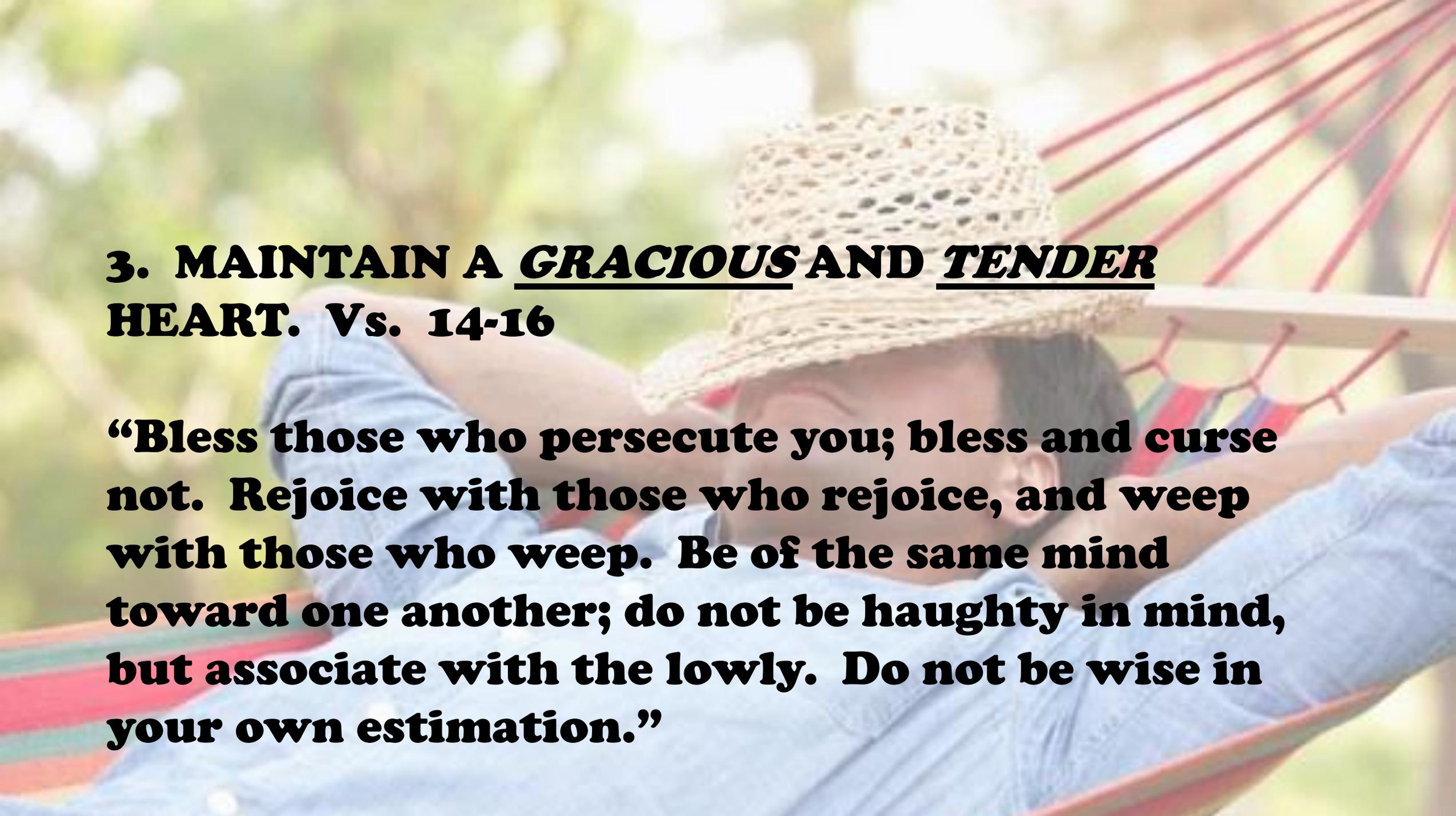
“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.” Col. 4:2

D. Caring for the Body.

“Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.” vs. 13

“She said to her husband, ‘I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God. Let’s build a small room for him on the roof and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a place to stay whenever he comes by.’”

2 Kings 4:9-10



3. MAINTAIN A GRACIOUS AND TENDER HEART. Vs. 14-16

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.”

APPLICATION FOR ME:

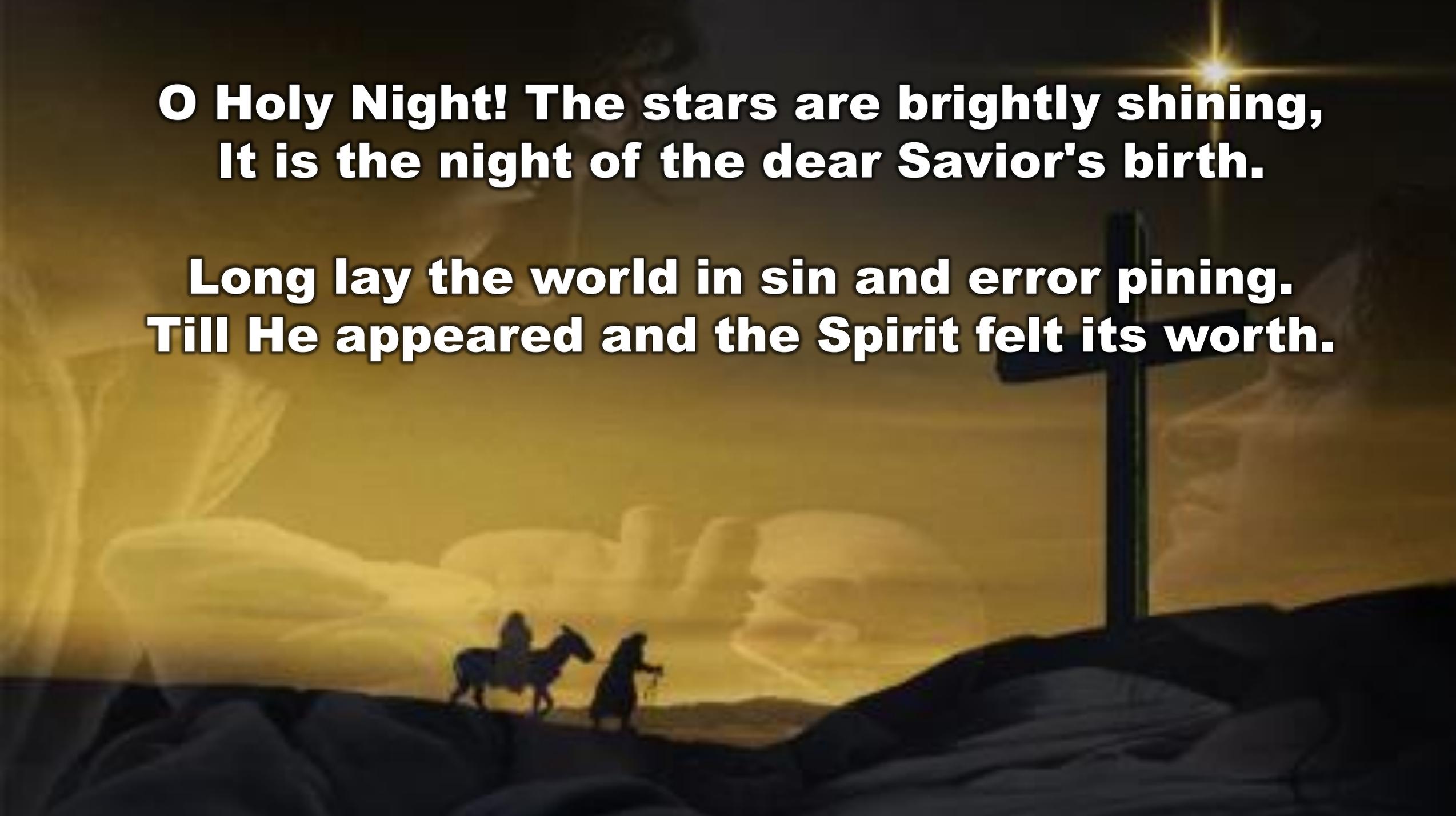
This is the life which the Lord has called you to live!

THIS IS THE LIFE



O HOLY NIGHT!



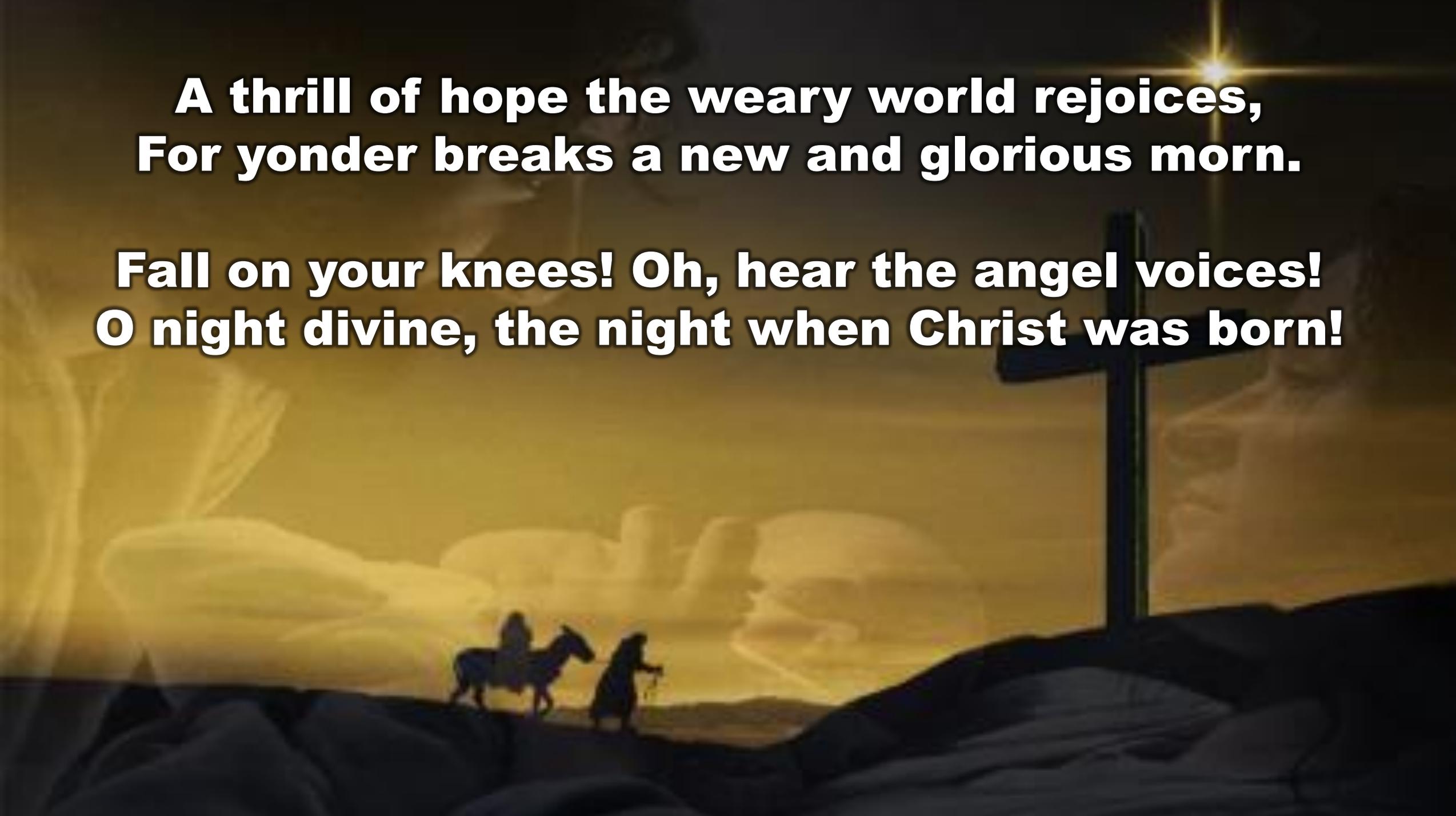
A religious scene set in a landscape. In the foreground, a large, dark cross stands on a dark, rocky outcrop. In the middle ground, two figures are silhouetted against a bright, golden-yellow background. One figure is riding a horse, and the other is walking beside it. The background is a vast, hazy landscape with rolling hills or mountains under a bright sky. A bright star or light source is visible in the upper right corner, casting a glow over the scene.

**O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.**

**Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.**

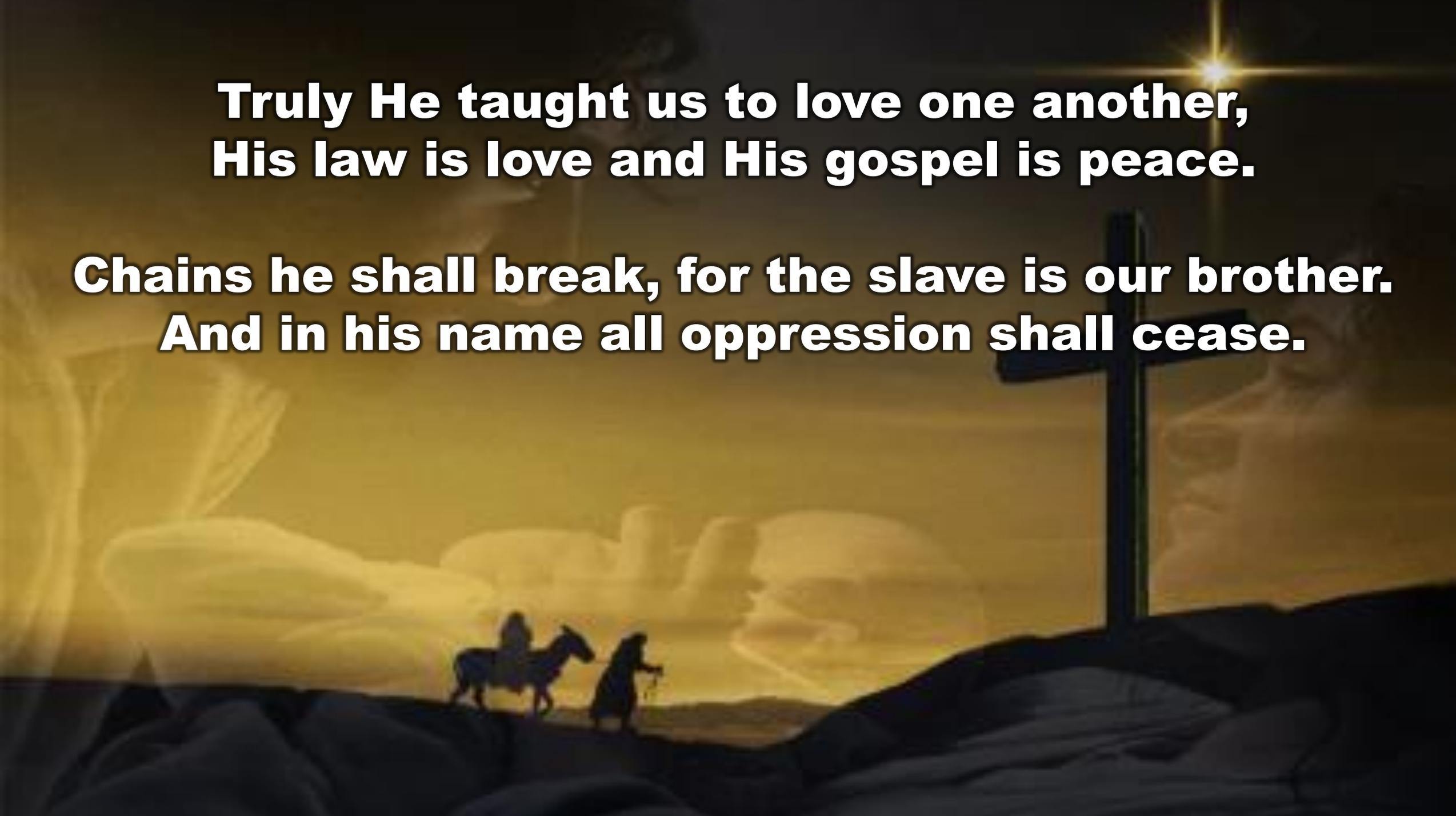
**A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.**

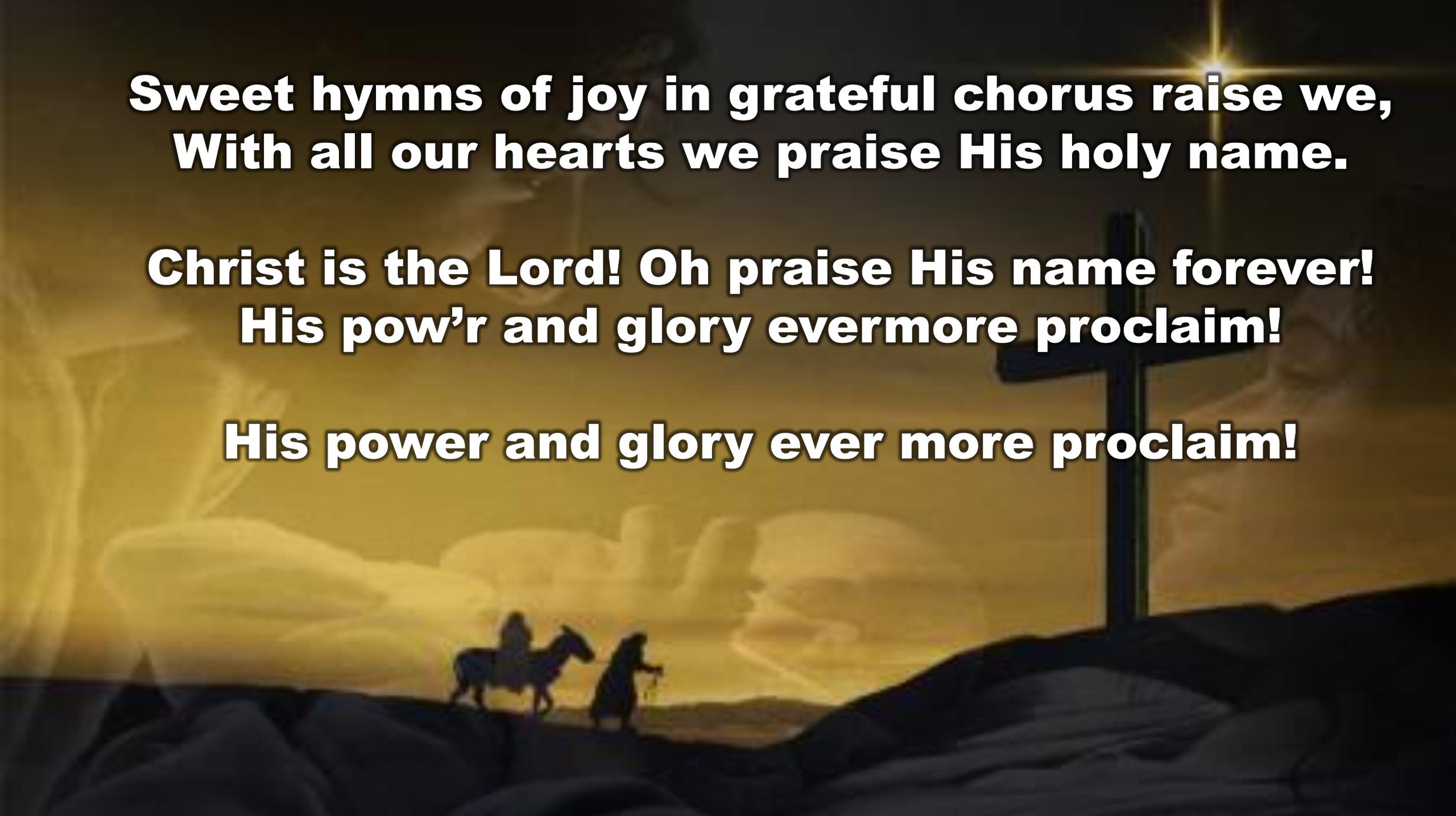
**Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born!**



**Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.**

**Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.**





**Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.**

**Christ is the Lord! Oh praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!**

His power and glory ever more proclaim!

