

A landscape photograph featuring a single, leafy tree on the left side of a vast, flat, golden-brown field. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The text 'RESOLVING everyday CONFLICT' is overlaid in the upper center of the image.

RESOLVING *everyday* CONFLICT



The Nature of Conflict

Who are Peacemakers?

Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. They draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ. Then they bring His love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom to the conflicts of daily life. God delights in breathing His grace through peacemakers and in using them to dissipate anger, improve understanding, promote justice, and encourage repentance and reconciliation.

What is Conflict?

Our English word 'conflict' comes from a Latin compound that means "to strike together" (*con* – together + *flīgĕre* – to strike).

DEFINITION: Conflict is when two parties set themselves against one another sinfully.



The “Spark”

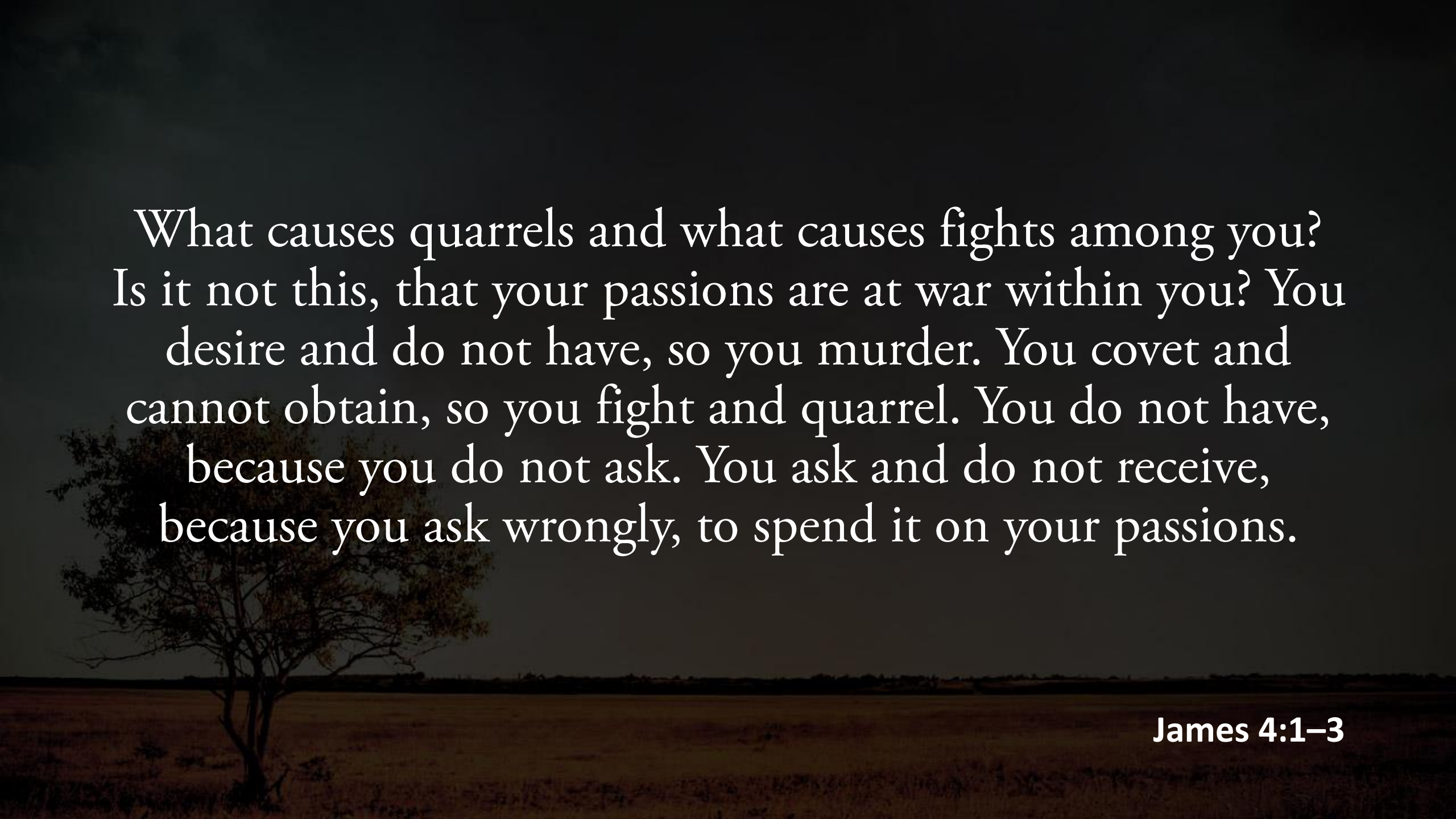
What Sparks Conflict?

1. Diversity
2. Miscommunication
3. Misunderstanding
4. Expectations





The “Gasoline”



What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

James 4:1–3

Progression of an Idol

1. I DESIRE
2. I DEMAND



Check Your Desires

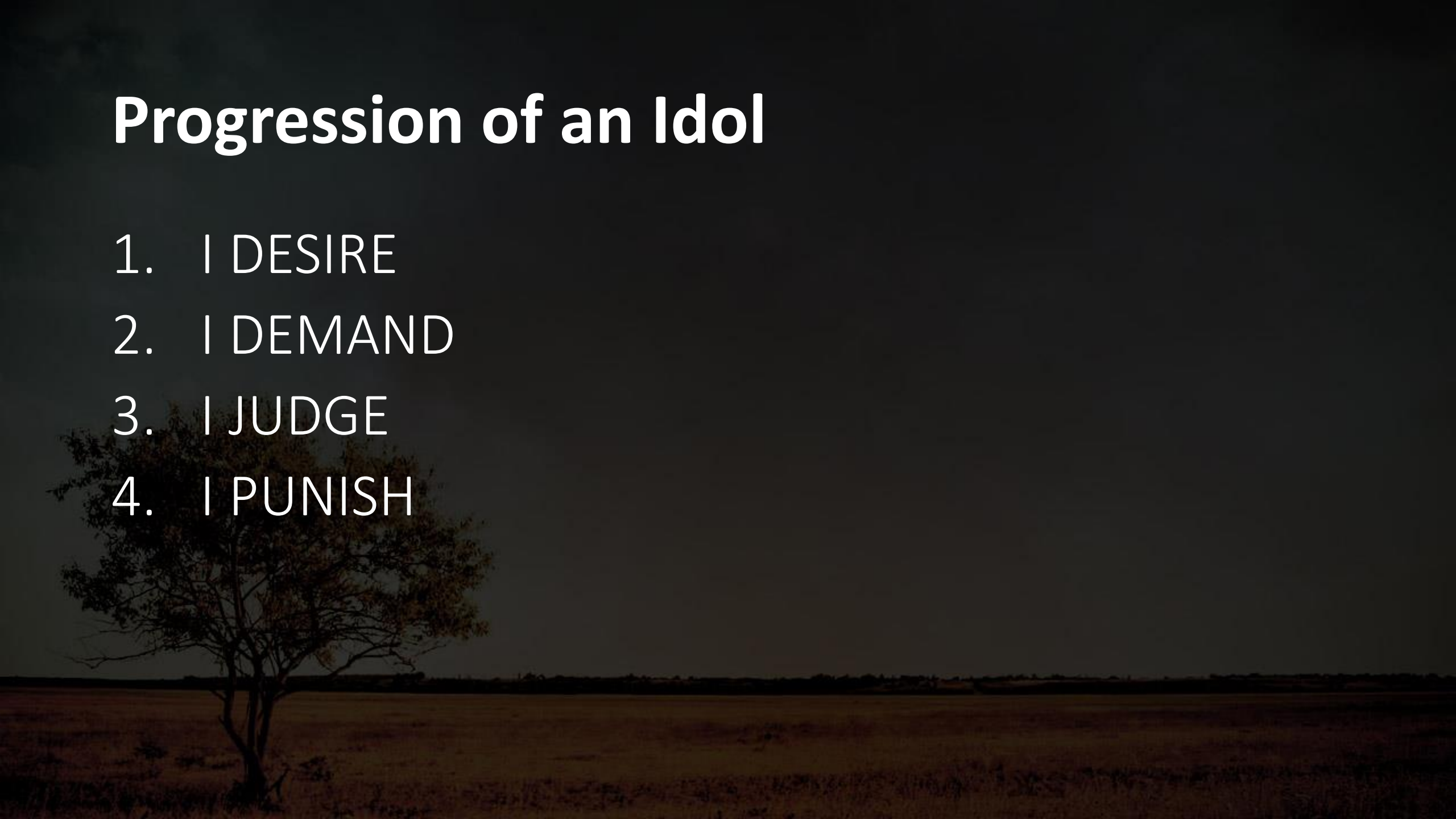
- What am I preoccupied with?
- What is the first thing on my mind in the morning and the last thing on my mind at night?
- How would I answer the question: “If only _____, then I would be happy, fulfilled, and secure”?
- What do I want to preserve or to avoid at all costs?

Check Your Desires

- Where do I put my trust?
- What do I fear?
- When a certain desire is not met, do I feel frustration, anxiety, resentment, bitterness, anger, or depression?
- Is there something I desire so much that I am willing to disappoint or hurt others in order to have it?

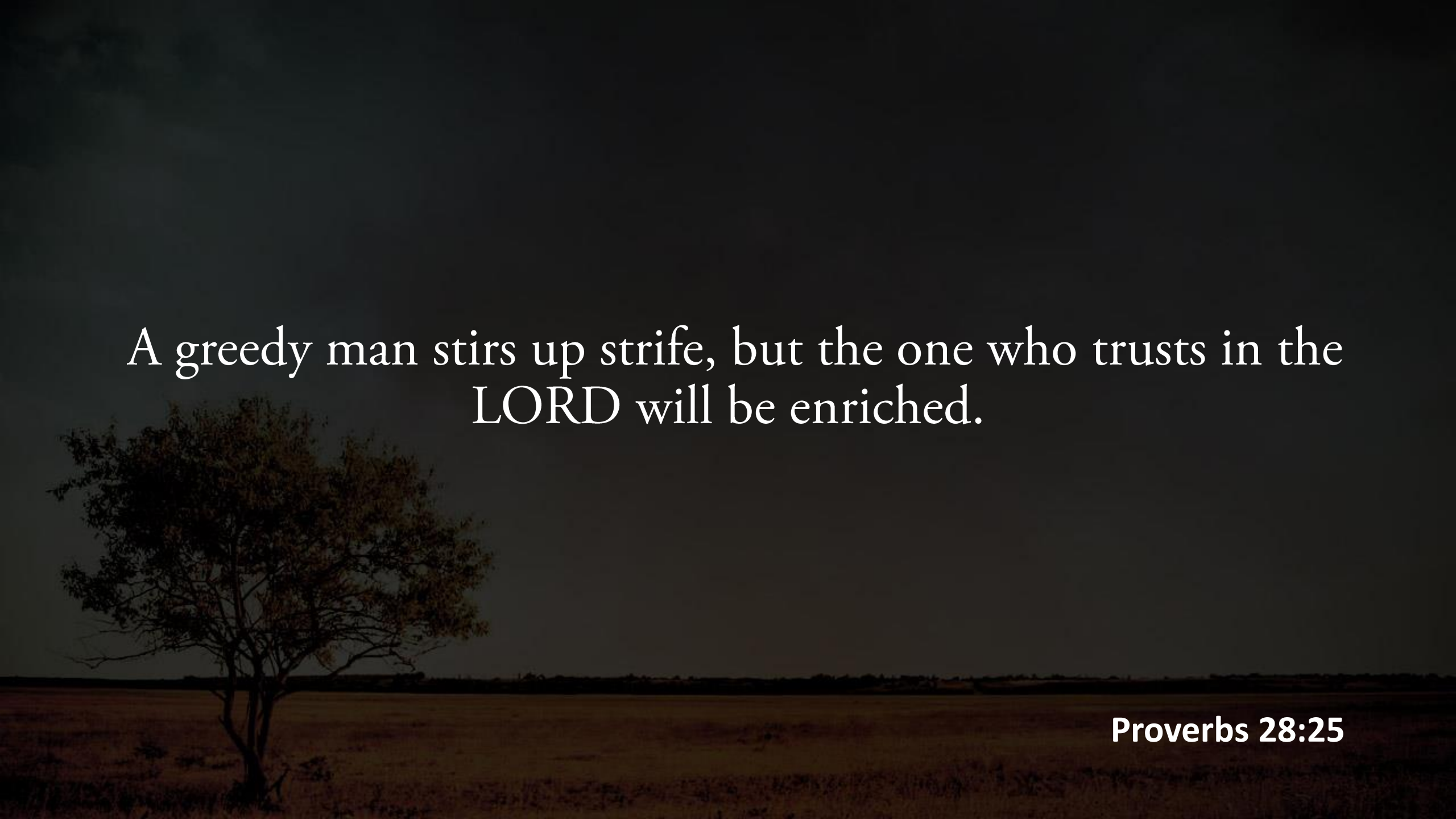
Progression of an Idol

1. I DESIRE
2. I DEMAND
3. I JUDGE
4. I PUNISH



Ways We Punish

- Acting cold, unresponsive, uninterested
- Withholding affection or physical contact
- Acting sad or gloomy
- Refusing to look at the other person in the eyes
- Fits of anger
- Manipulation: giving to get (contrasted to love: giving to give)
- Controlling, threatening
- Abandoning the relationship
- Our sinful anger is the wrath of the god of self

A lone tree stands in a vast, dark field under a dark sky. The tree is silhouetted against the lighter background of the sky and the horizon. The field is a uniform dark brown, and the sky is a deep, dark blue-grey. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

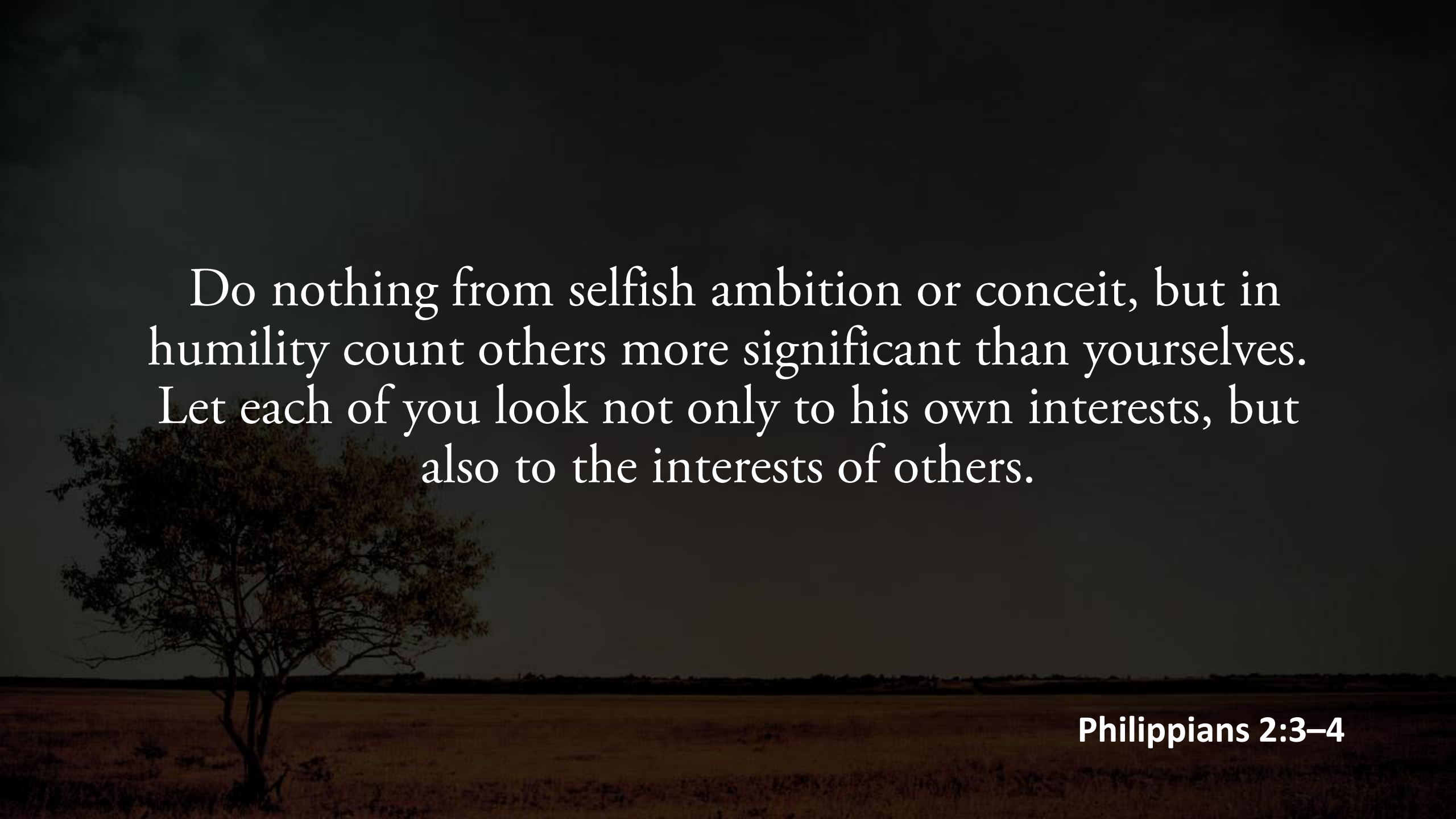
A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the
LORD will be enriched.

Proverbs 28:25

A lone tree stands in a vast, flat landscape under a dark sky. The tree is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its branches spreading out. The ground is a flat, open field, and the horizon is visible in the distance. The sky is a deep, dark blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.


By insolence comes nothing but strife, but with those
who take advice is wisdom.

Proverbs 13:10

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Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in
humility count others more significant than yourselves.
Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but
also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3–4

A lone tree stands in a field under a dark sky. The tree is on the left side of the frame, with its branches spread out. The field is a flat, open expanse of land, and the sky is a deep, dark blue or black. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

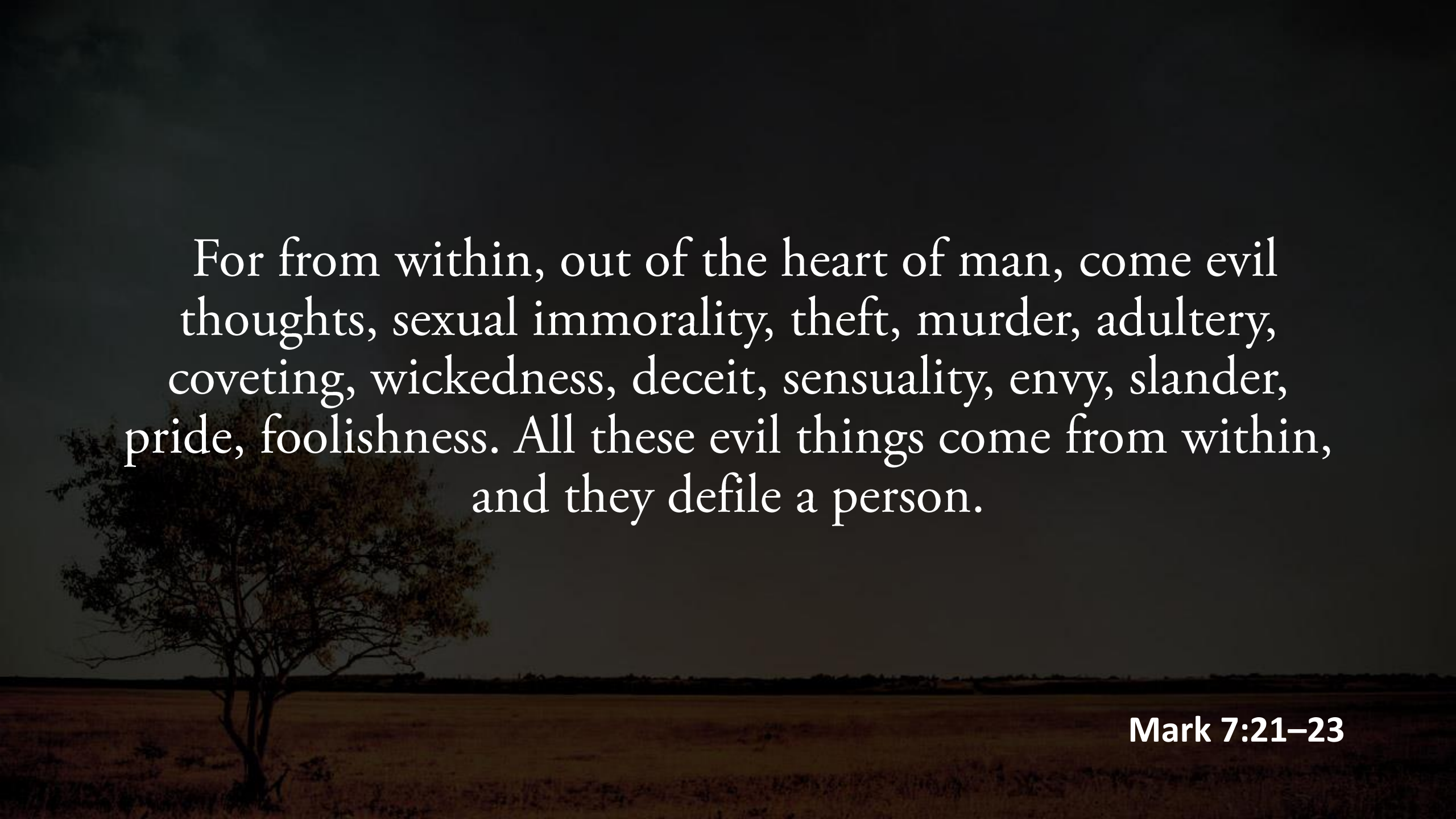
Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

1 Corinthians 13:4–5

A lone tree stands in the lower-left foreground of a vast, flat landscape. The ground is a mix of brown and tan, suggesting dry earth or sparse vegetation. The horizon is a straight line in the distance. The sky is a deep, dark blue-grey, with some faint, wispy clouds visible near the top. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his
neighbor.

1 Corinthians 10:24



For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.

Mark 7:21–23



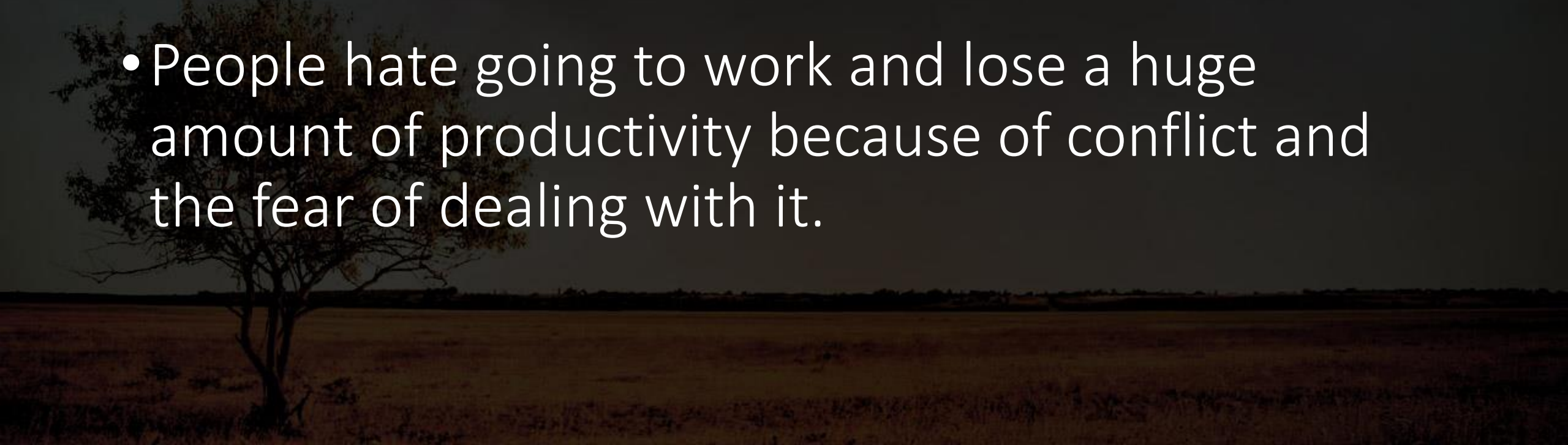
The “Fire”

The Destructive Effects of Conflict

- Thousands of people, including Christians, leave their jobs, neighborhoods, and friends every year due to unresolved conflict, with many people left hurting and scarred on all sides.
- Parents are estranged from children and extended family. They dread Christmas or other family gatherings because of all the unresolved conflict.

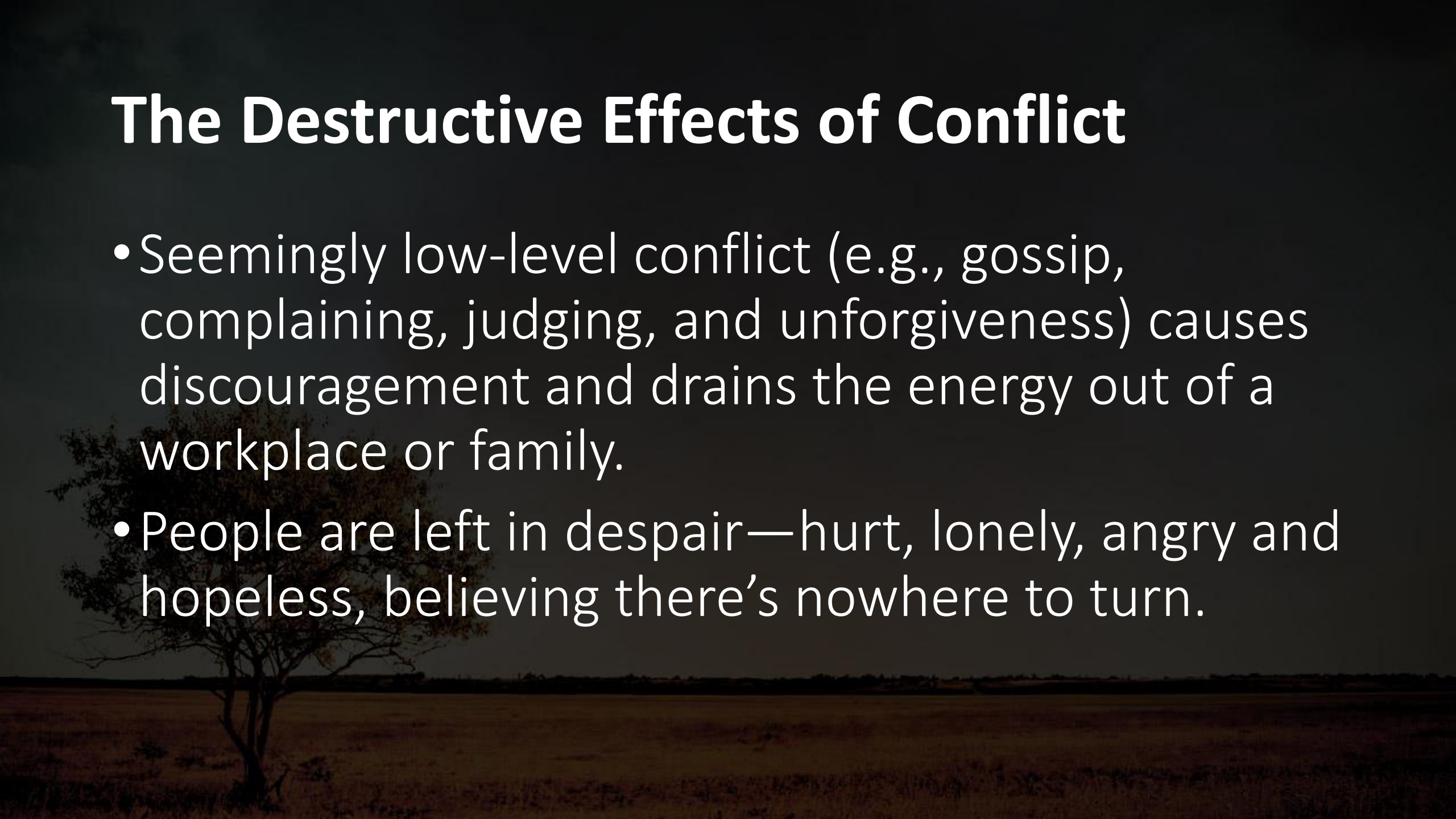
The Destructive Effects of Conflict

- Families are shattered and broken by divorce because of an inability or unwillingness to reconcile.
- People hate going to work and lose a huge amount of productivity because of conflict and the fear of dealing with it.



The Destructive Effects of Conflict

- Seemingly low-level conflict (e.g., gossip, complaining, judging, and unforgiveness) causes discouragement and drains the energy out of a workplace or family.
- People are left in despair—hurt, lonely, angry and hopeless, believing there's nowhere to turn.

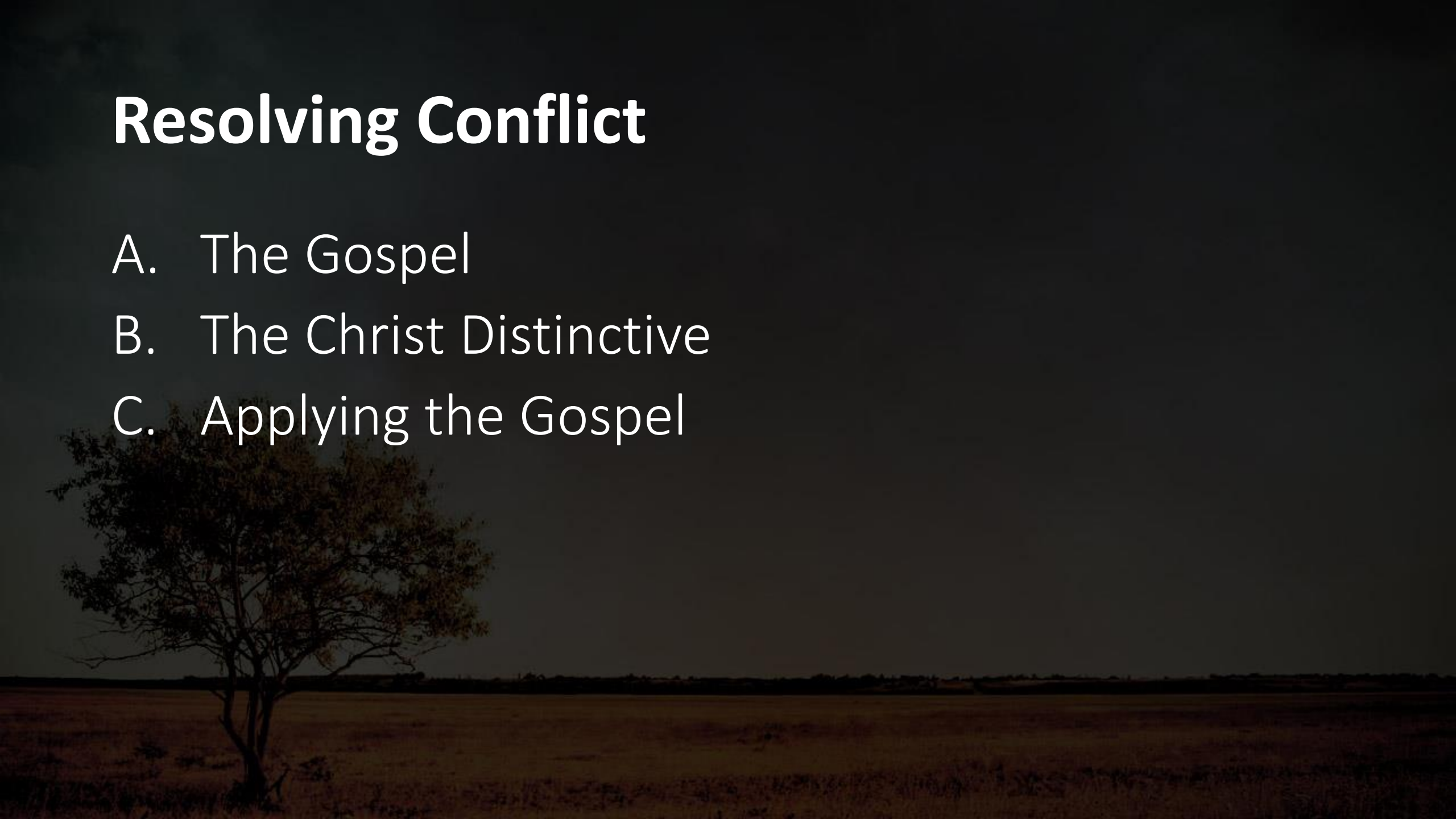


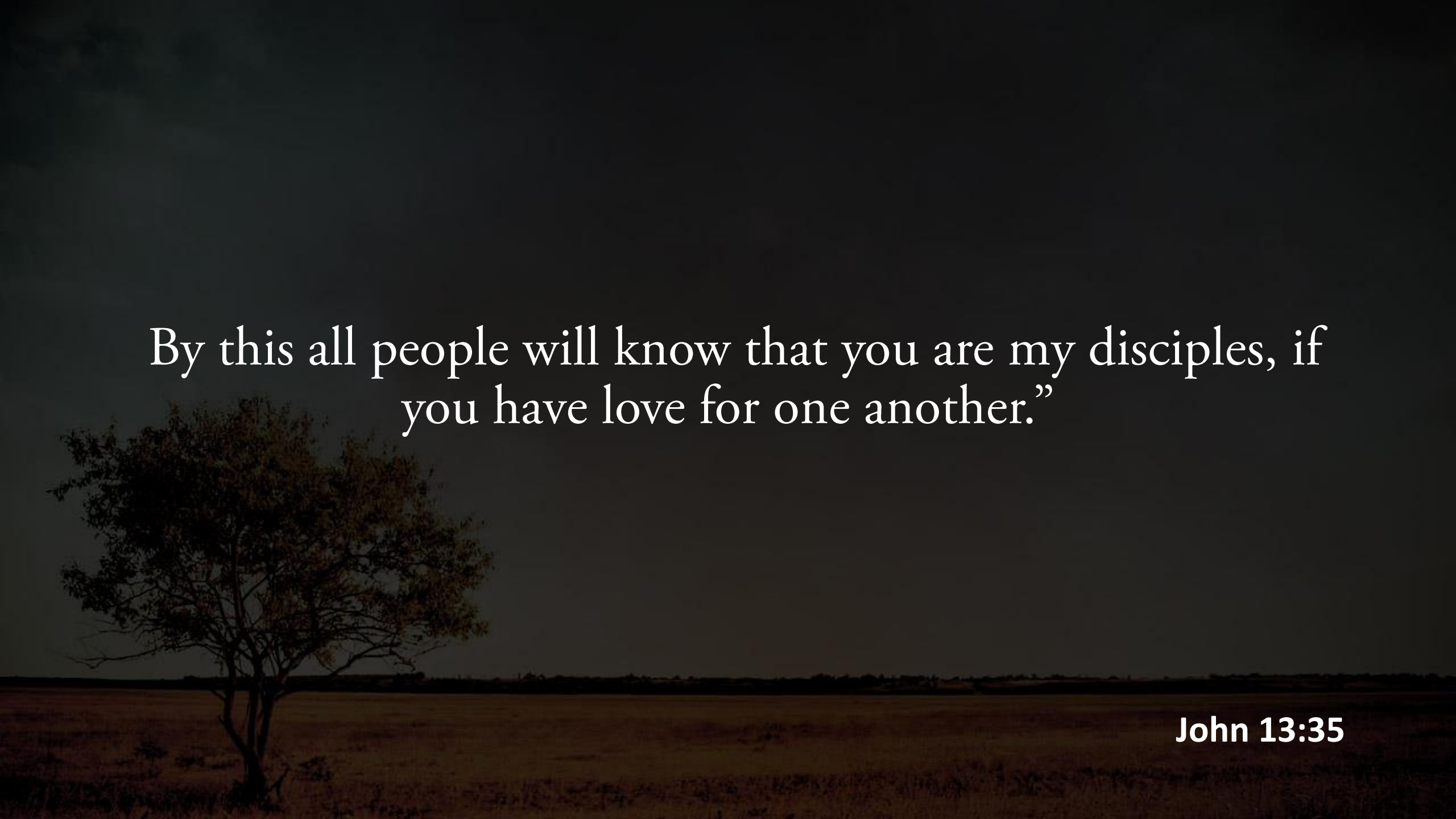


The HOPE

Resolving Conflict

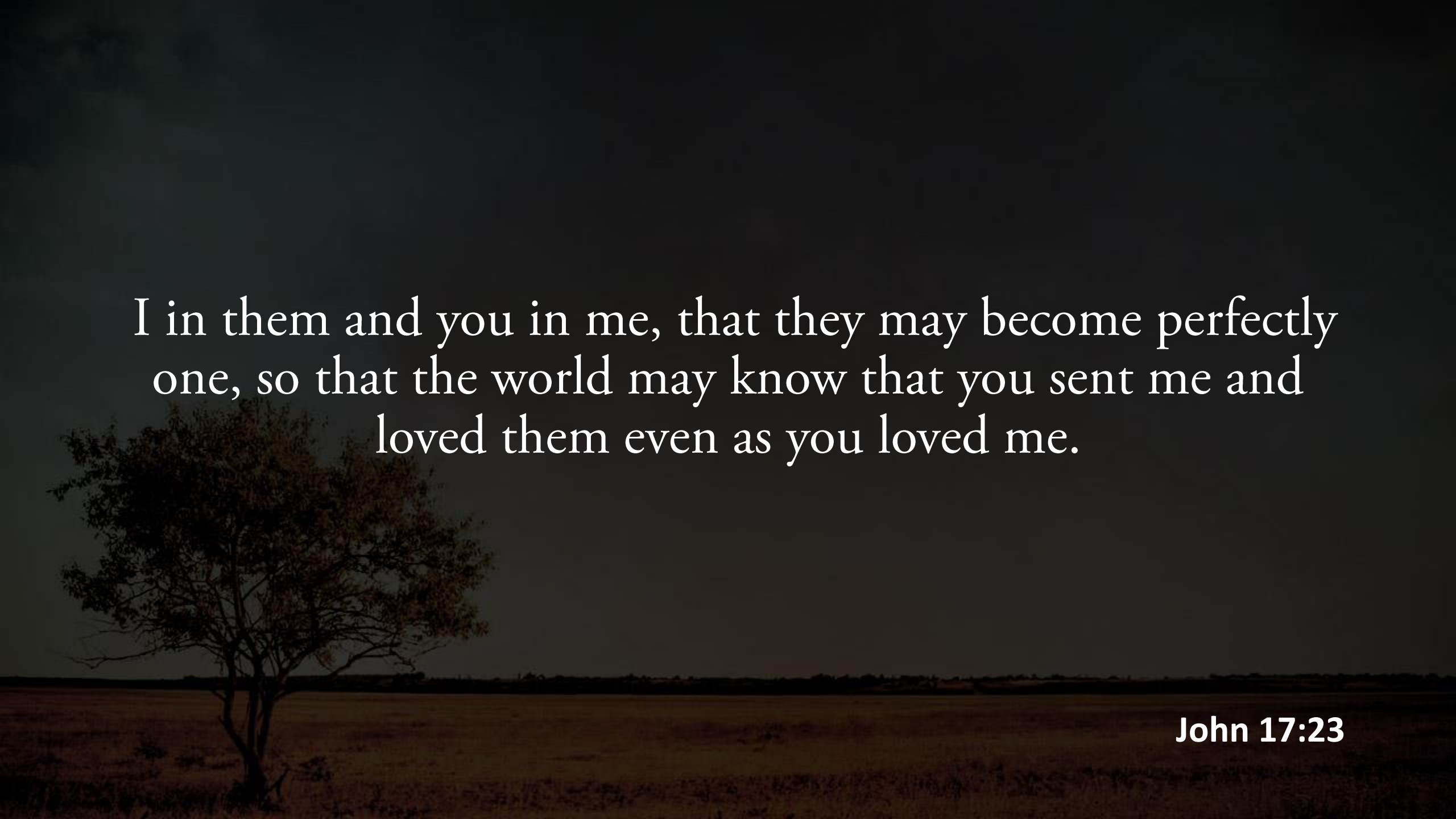
- A. The Gospel
- B. The Christ Distinctive
- C. Applying the Gospel



A lone, leafy tree stands in the lower-left foreground of a dark, flat landscape. The sky is a deep, uniform black, and the ground is a dark, textured expanse. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if
you have love for one another.”

John 13:35

A lone tree stands in a field under a dark sky. The tree is on the left side of the frame, and its branches are silhouetted against the dark background. The ground is a flat, open field. The sky is a deep, dark blue or black, with some faint clouds visible. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23

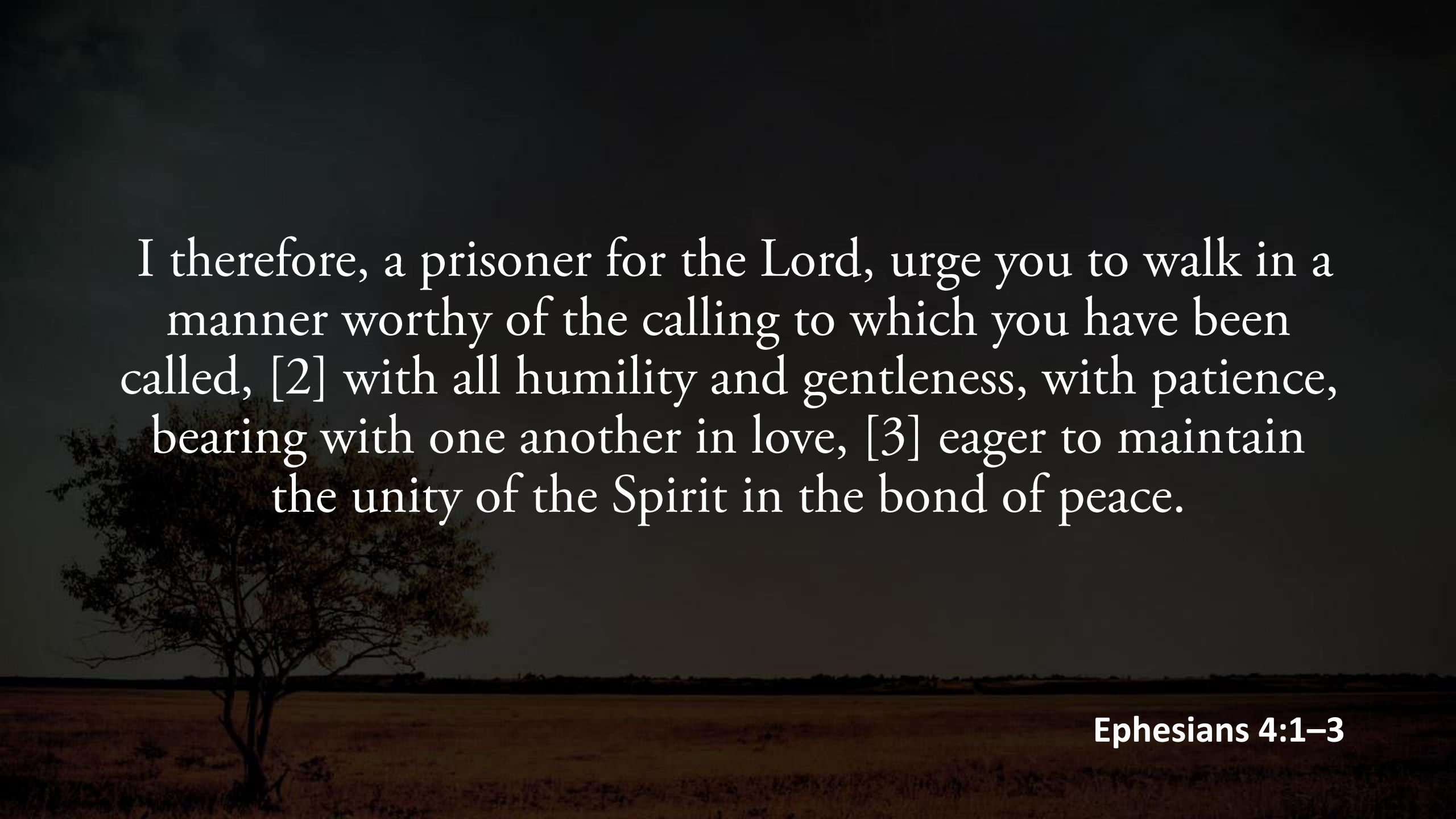
A lone, leafy tree stands on the left side of a vast, flat, brownish landscape. The sky is a deep, dark grey, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32



Christ is our Peace



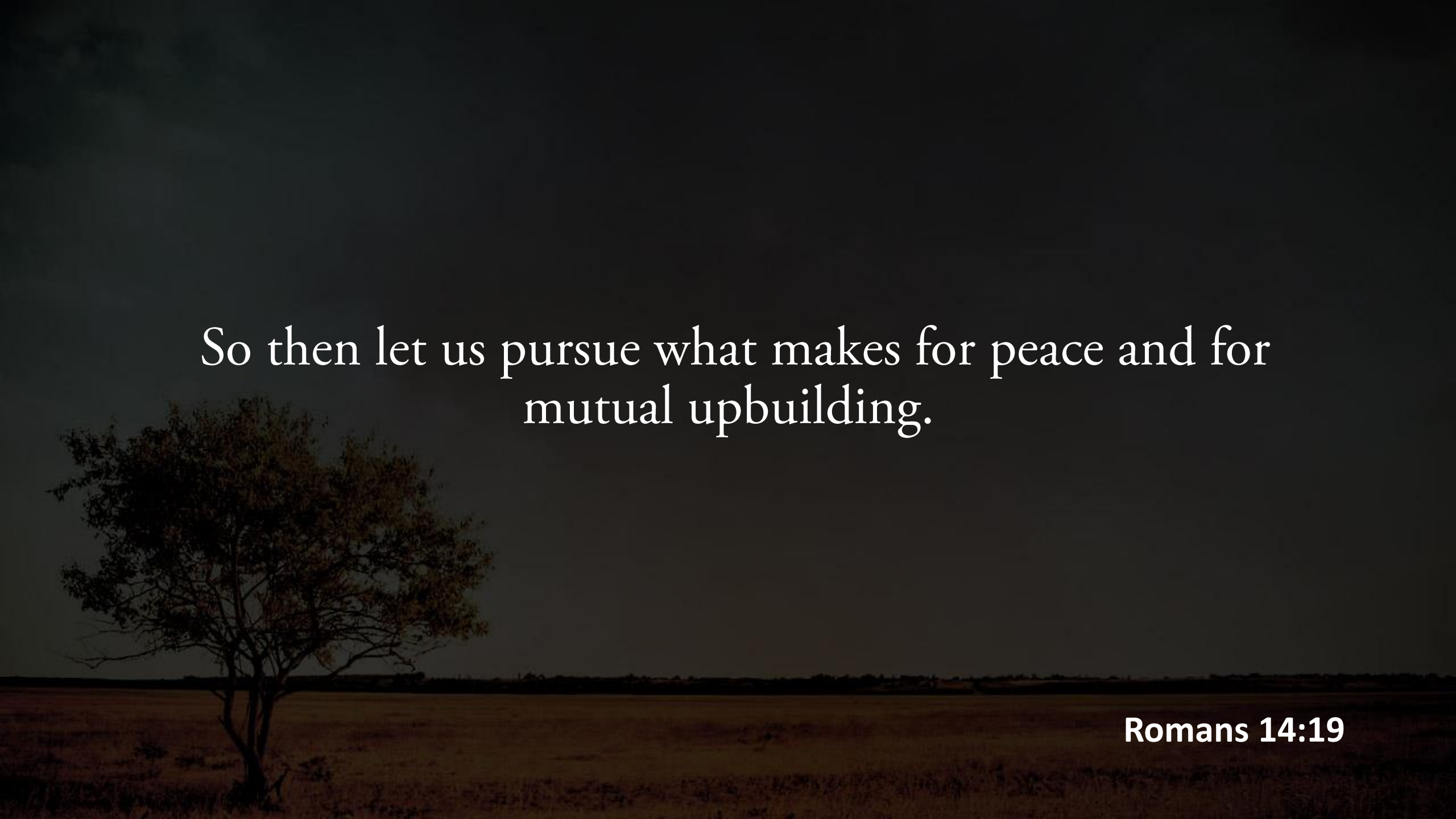
I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1–3

A lone tree stands in the lower-left foreground of a vast, flat landscape. The ground is a mix of brown and green, suggesting dry grass and some vegetation. The horizon is a straight line in the distance. The sky is a deep, dark blue, almost black, with some faint, wispy clouds. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

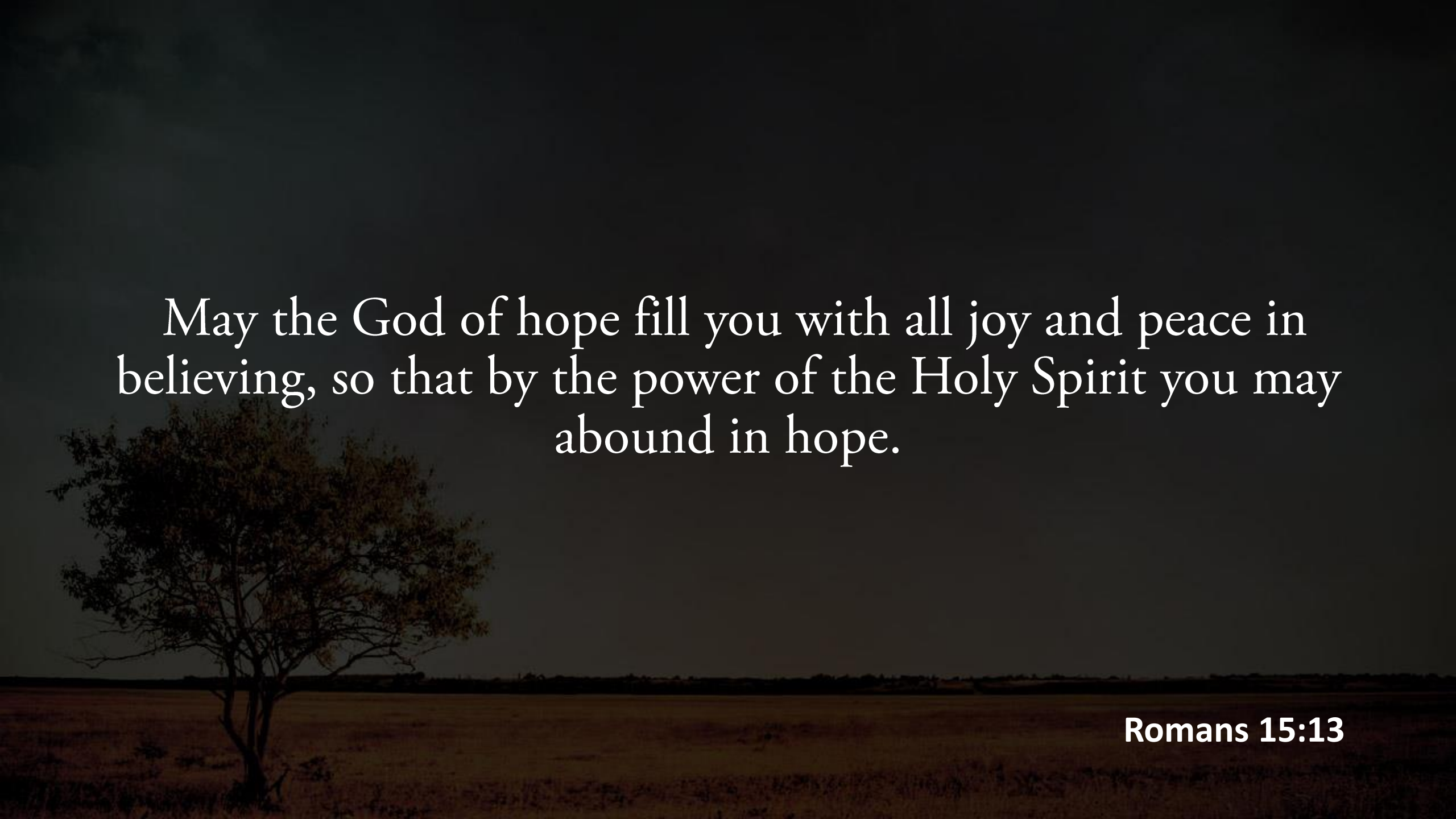
If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably
with all.

Romans 12:18

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So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for
mutual upbuilding.

Romans 14:19

A lone tree stands in the foreground on the left side of the frame, its branches silhouetted against a dark, overcast sky. The ground is a flat, open field, and the horizon is visible in the distance. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

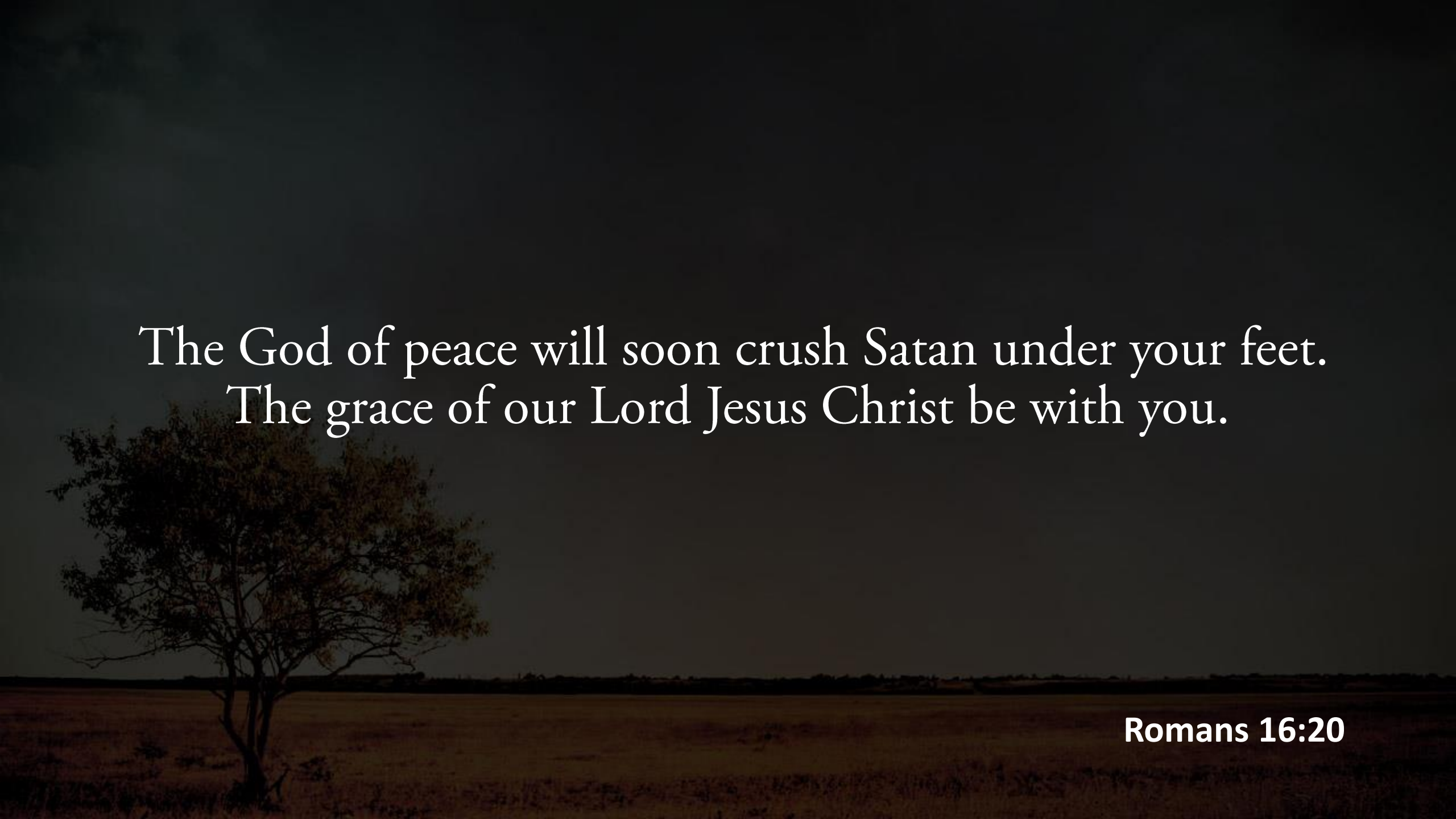
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

A lone, leafy tree stands on the left side of a vast, flat, brownish landscape. The sky is a deep, dark grey, suggesting dusk or dawn. The horizon is a straight line in the distance.

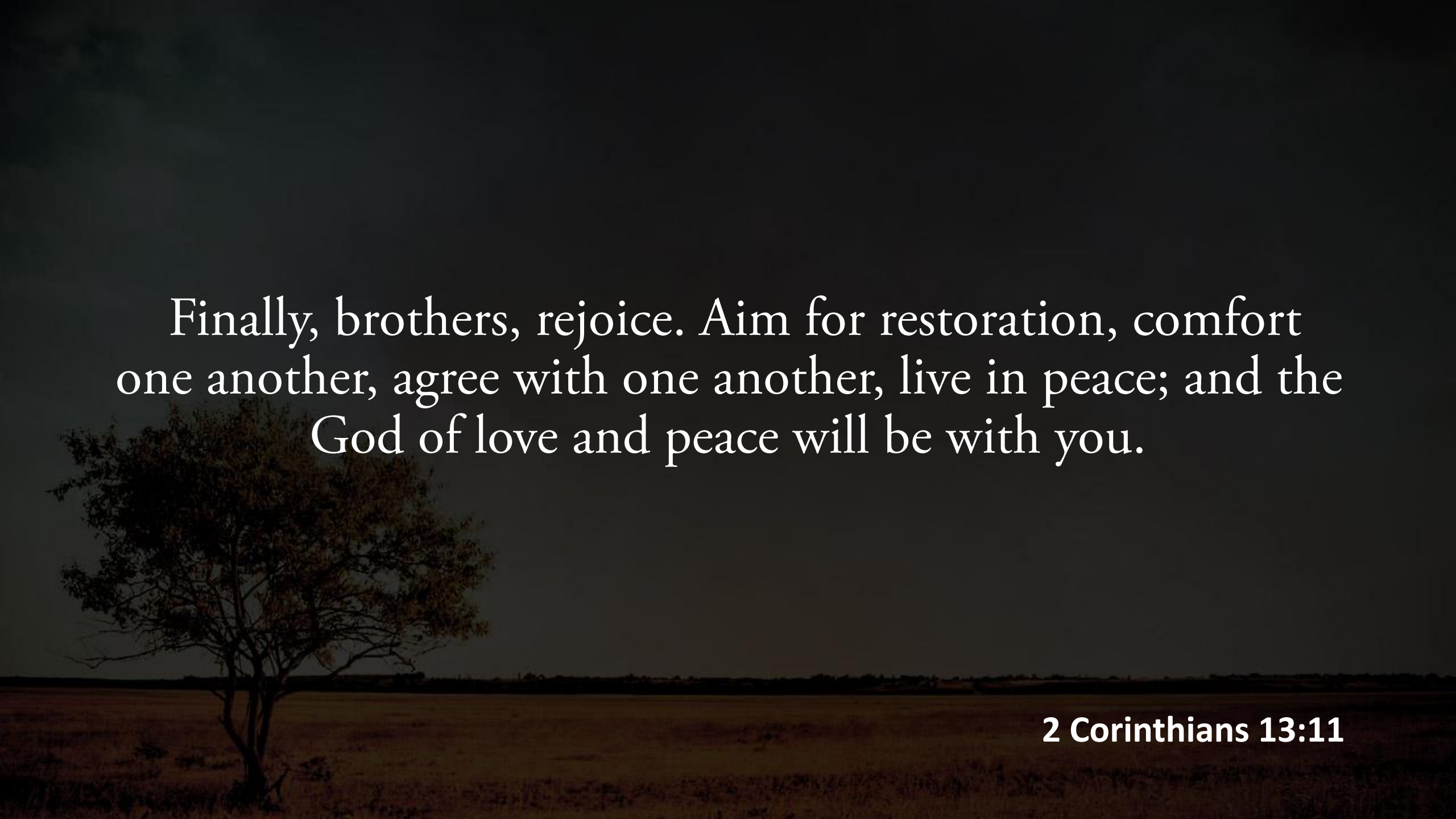
May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Romans 15:33

A lone, leafy tree stands in the lower-left foreground of a dark, flat landscape. The sky is a deep, uniform black, and the horizon is a thin, dark line. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.


The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Romans 16:20

A lone tree stands in a field under a dark, twilight sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

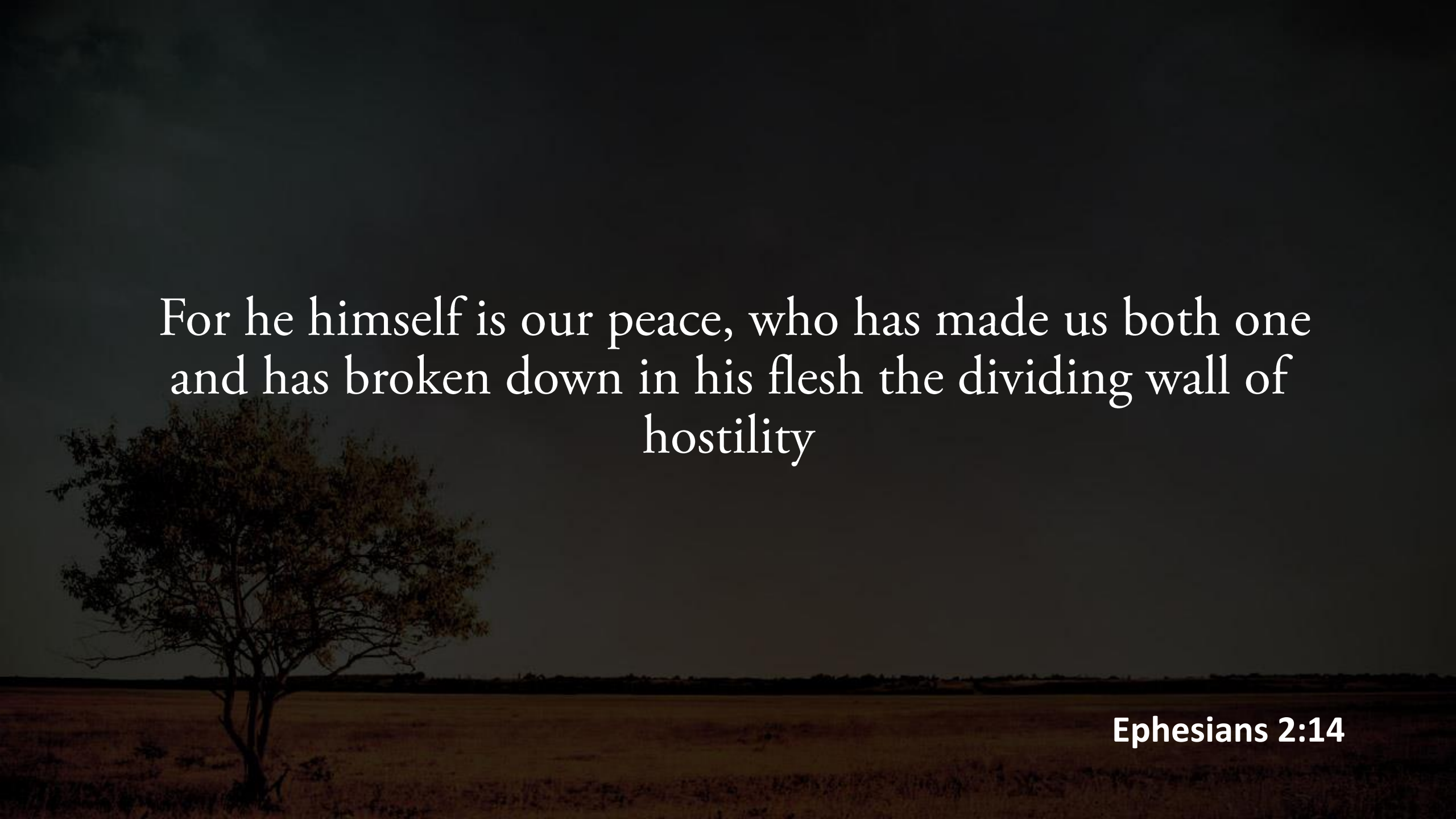
Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11

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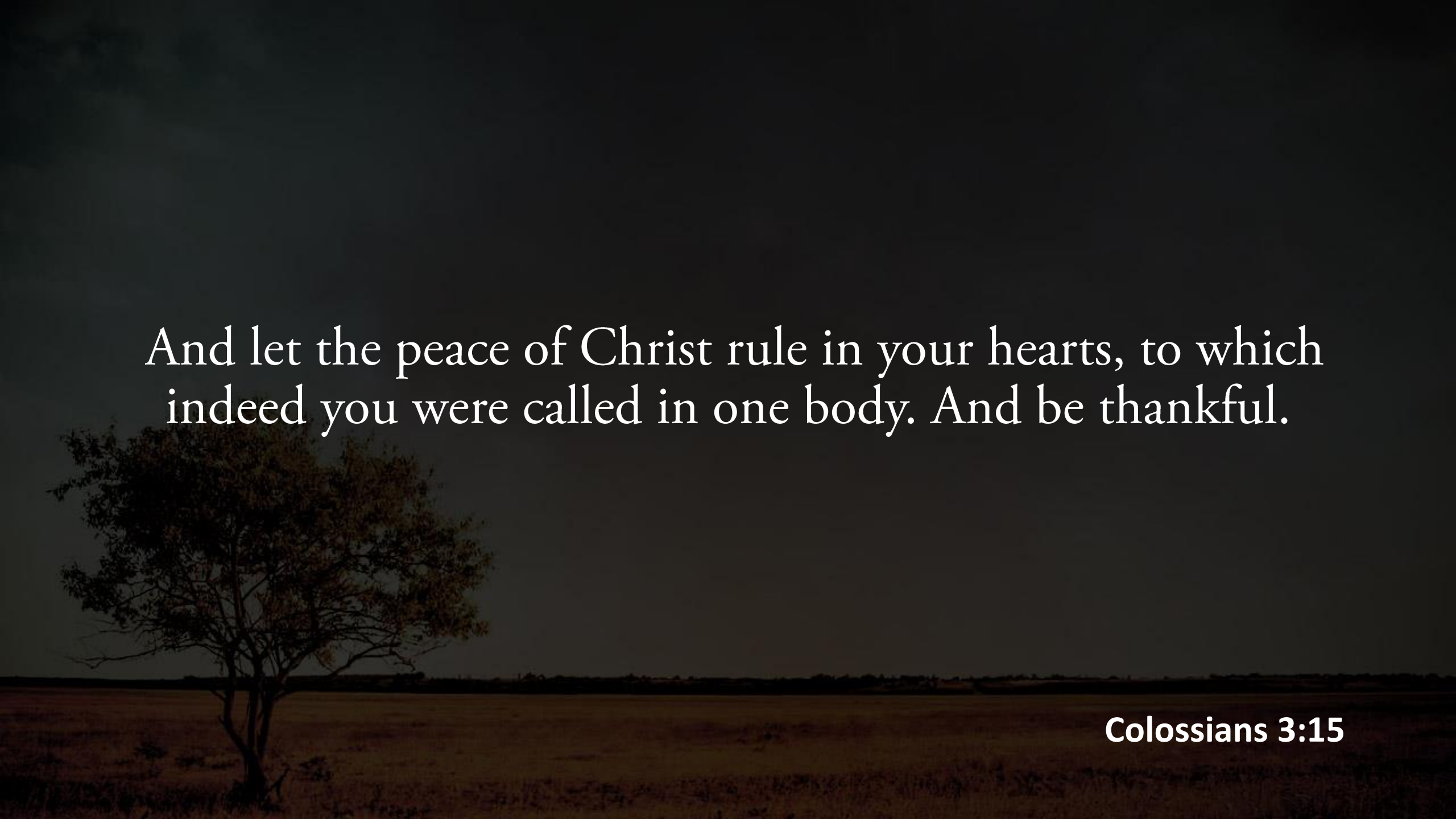
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:22

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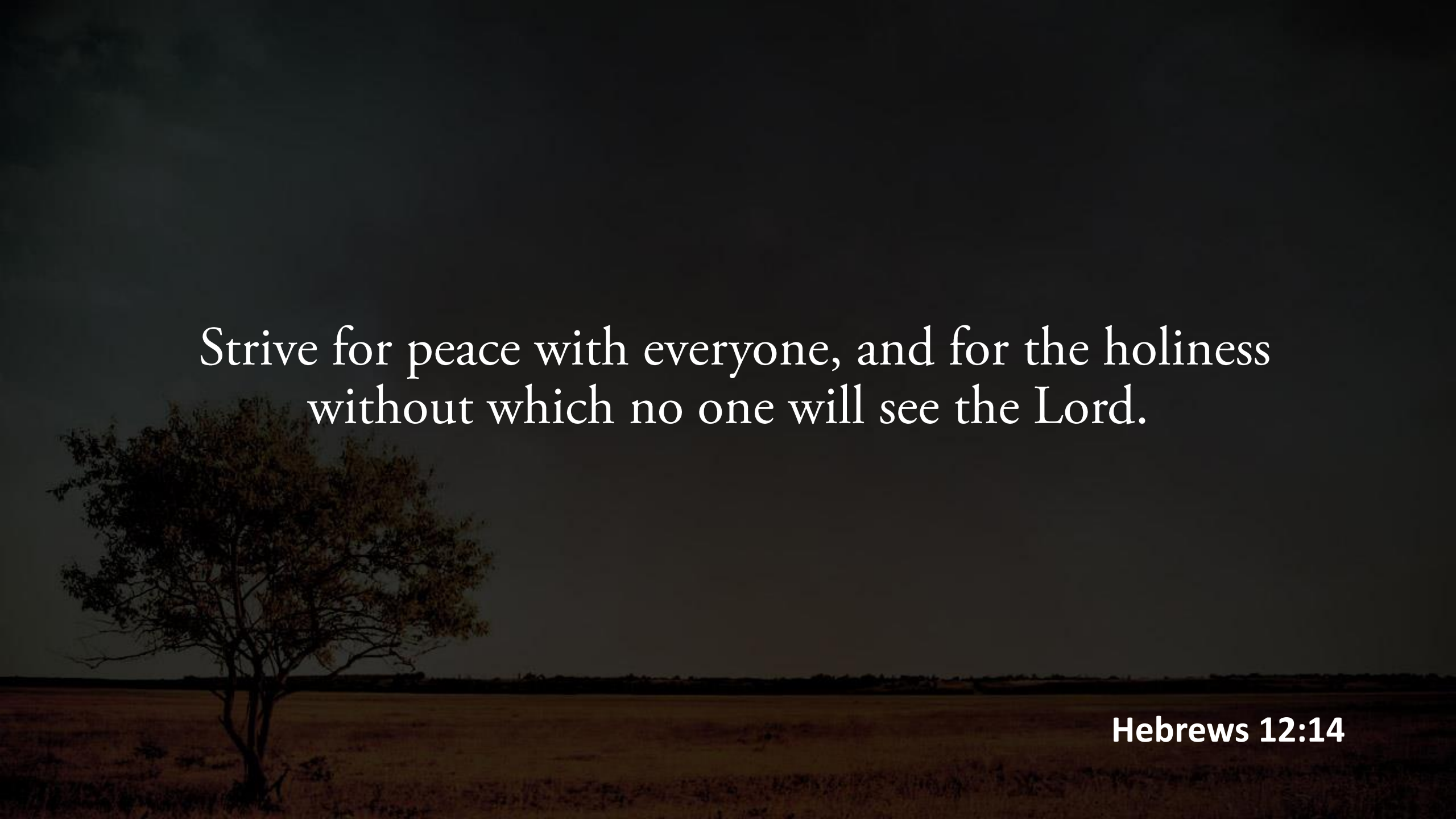
For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one
and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of
hostility

Ephesians 2:14

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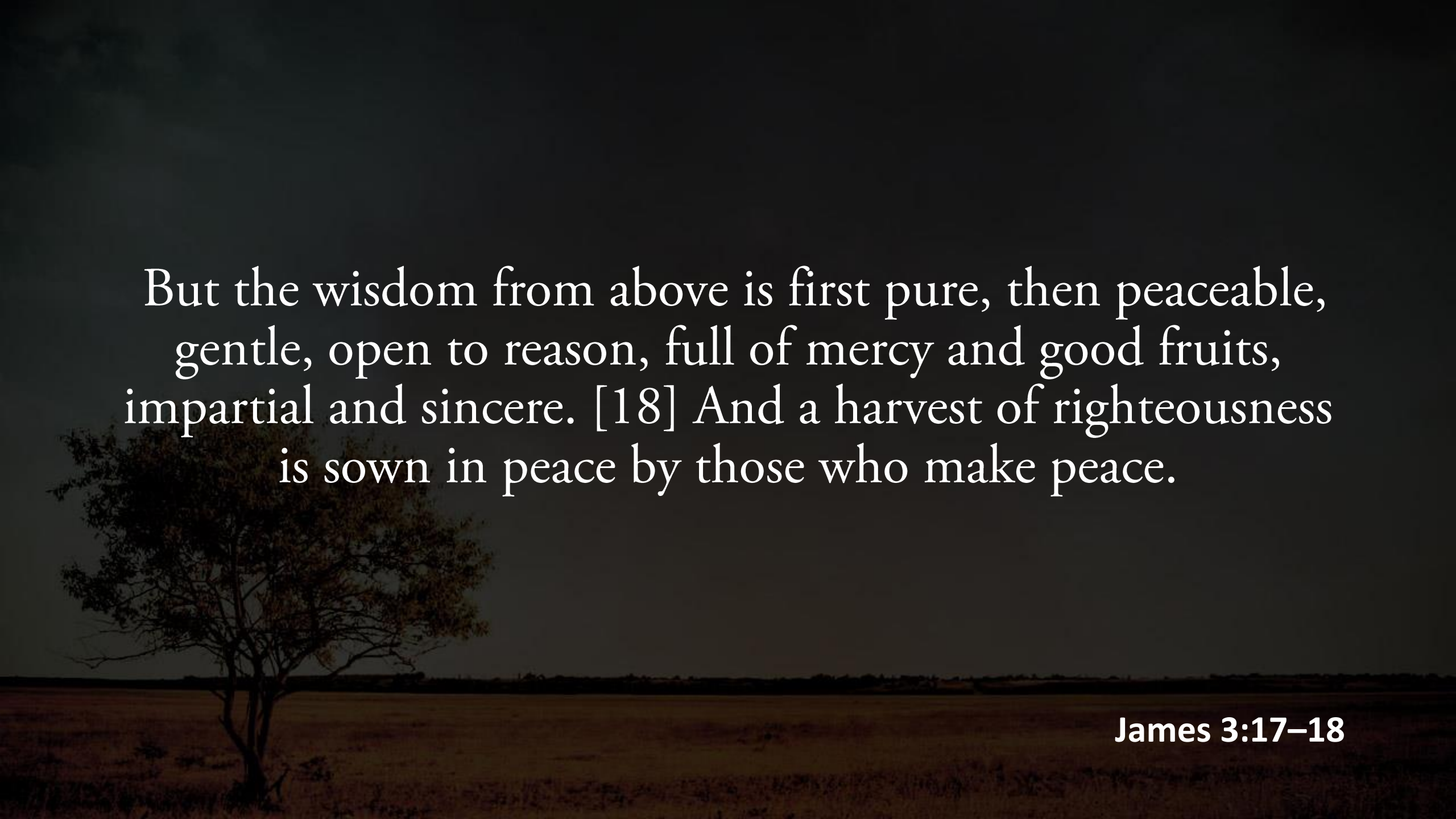
And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

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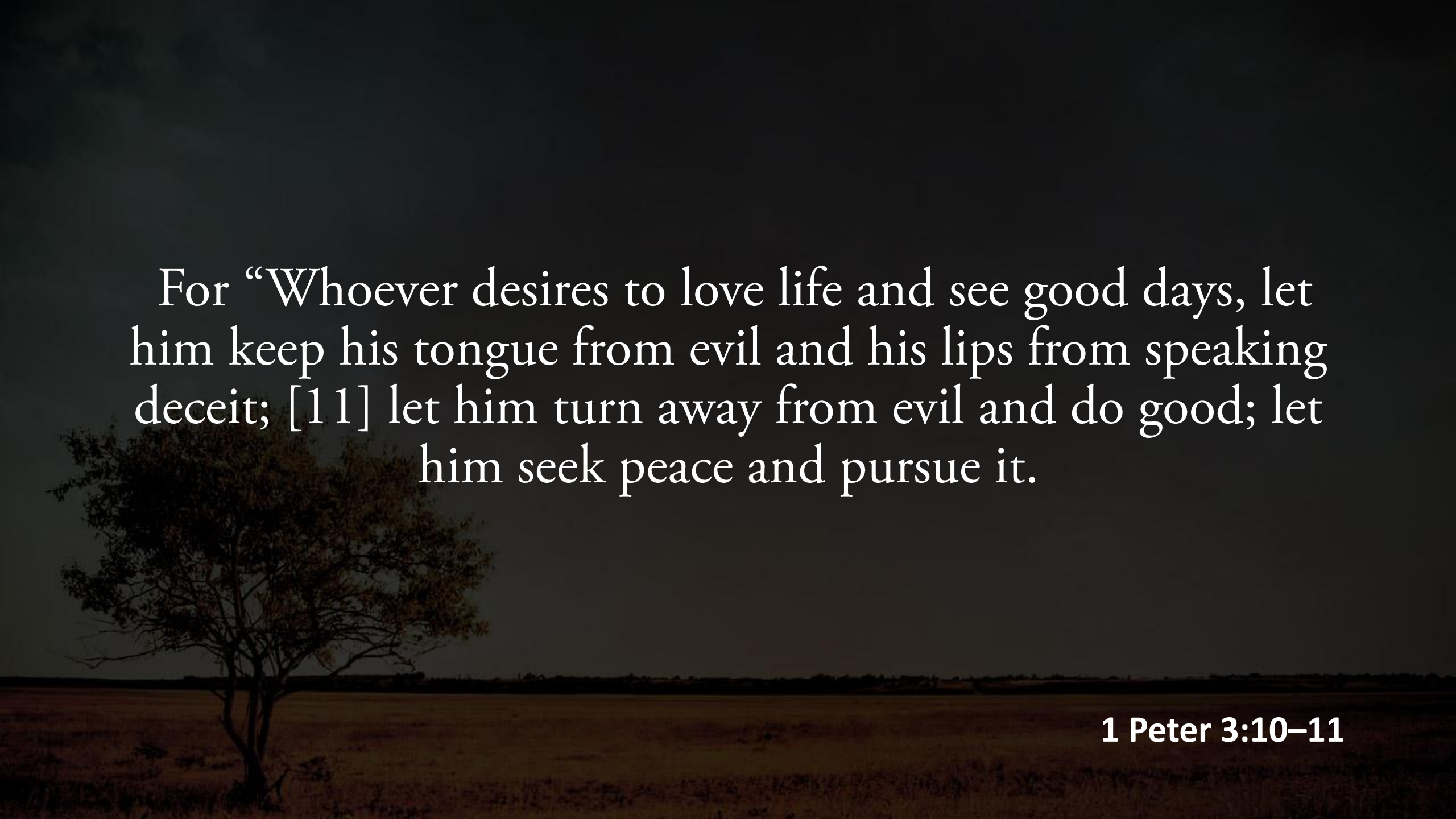
Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness
without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14




But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable,
gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits,
impartial and sincere. [18] And a harvest of righteousness
is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17–18

A lone, leafy tree stands in the foreground on the left side of the frame. The ground is a flat, dry field. The background is a dark, overcast sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; [11] let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

1 Peter 3:10–11

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

Matthew 5:9