

A still life painting of autumn produce. In the center, a woven basket is overflowing with various items: several pumpkins of different sizes and colors (orange, white, green), a large bunch of dark red grapes, a bunch of green grapes, and several round loaves of bread. To the right, there are more pumpkins, a green apple, and a few red tomatoes. The background is dark and textured, and the overall lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the produce.

Feeding My Faith

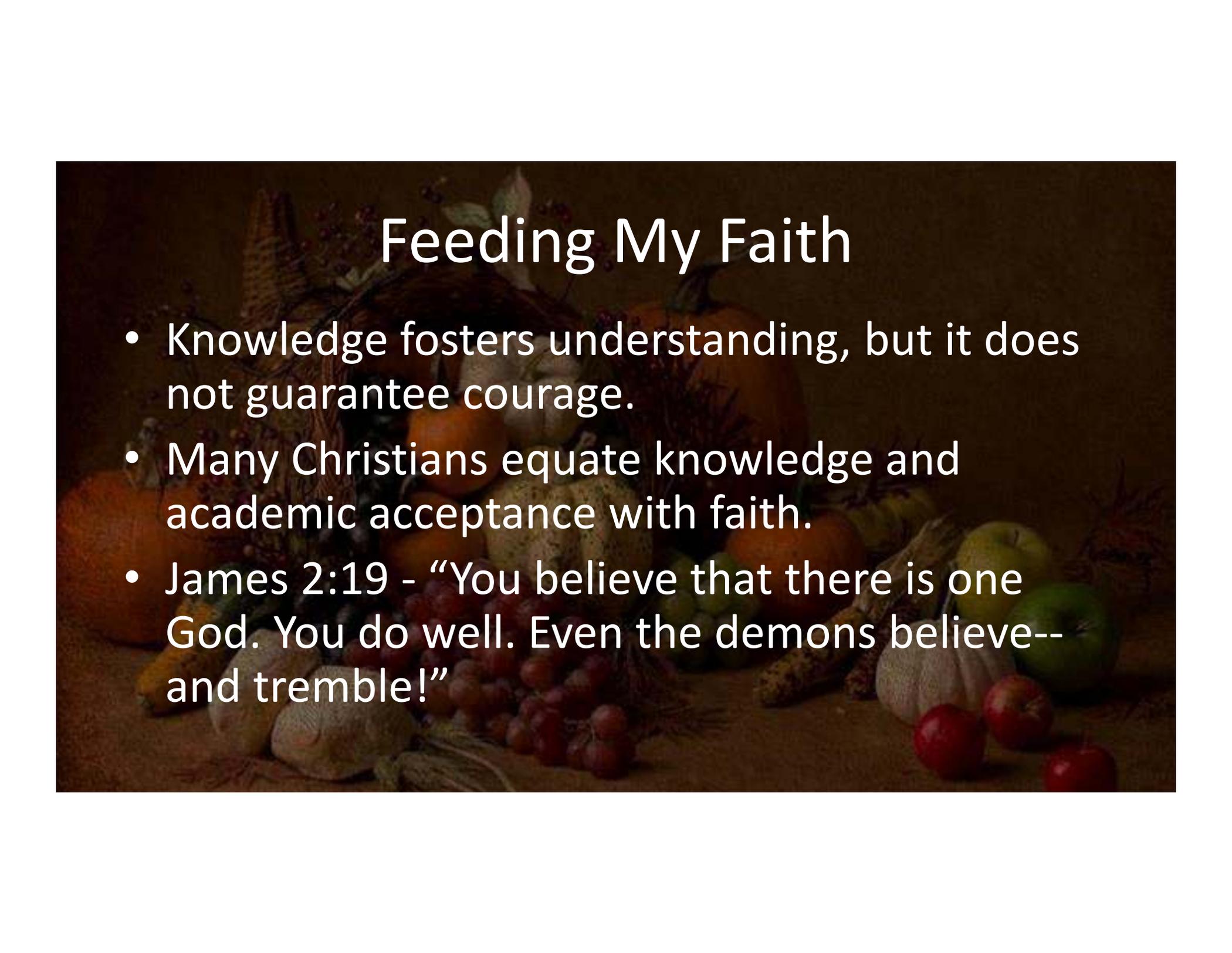
1Kings 17:1-16

1Kings 17:1-9

- “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word. 2 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 3 Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there. 5 So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. 7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 9 Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.”

1Kings 17:10-16

- “So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand. 12 So she said, As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said to her, Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD God of Israel: The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth. 15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.”



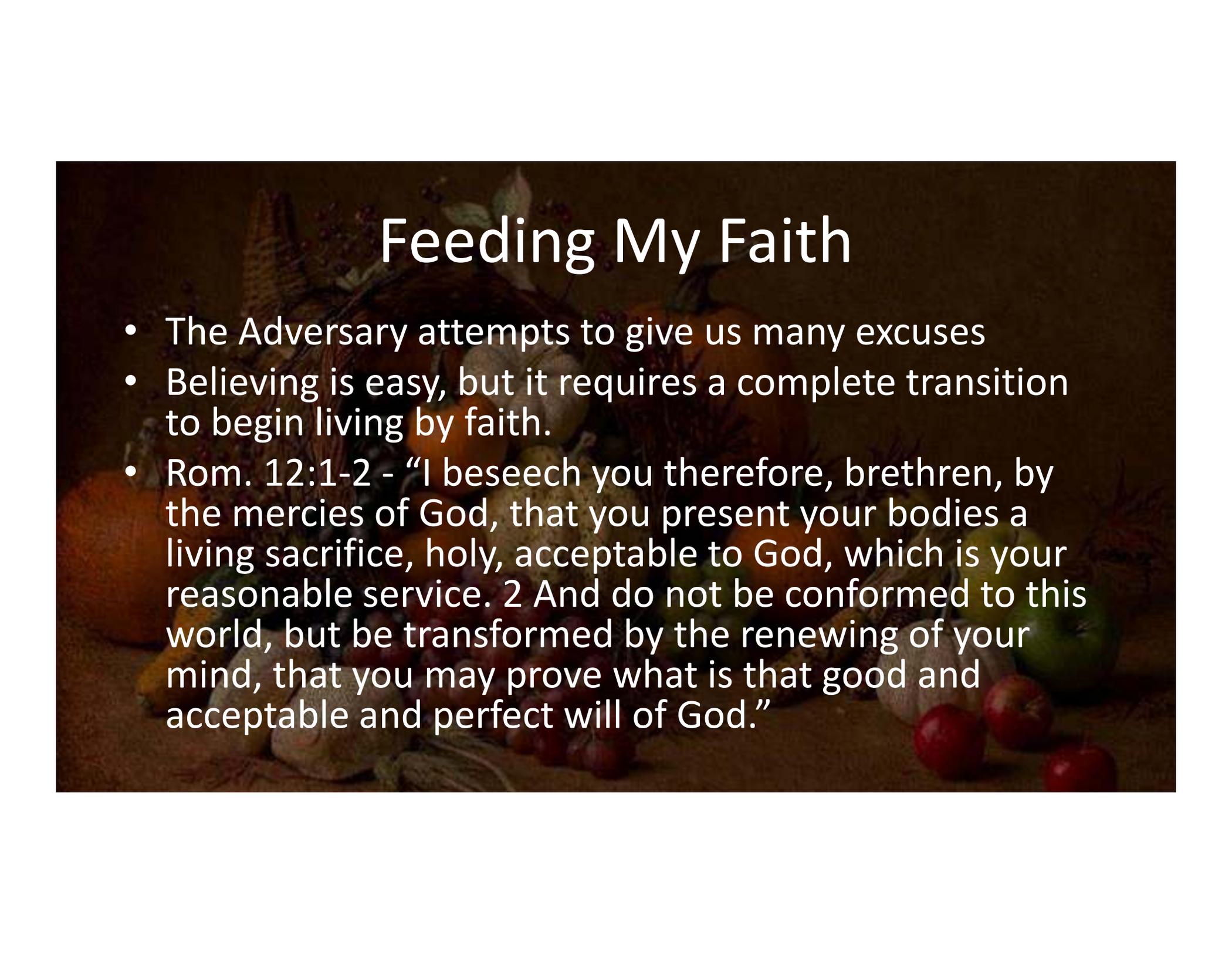
Feeding My Faith

- Knowledge fosters understanding, but it does not guarantee courage.
- Many Christians equate knowledge and academic acceptance with faith.
- James 2:19 - “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-- and tremble!”



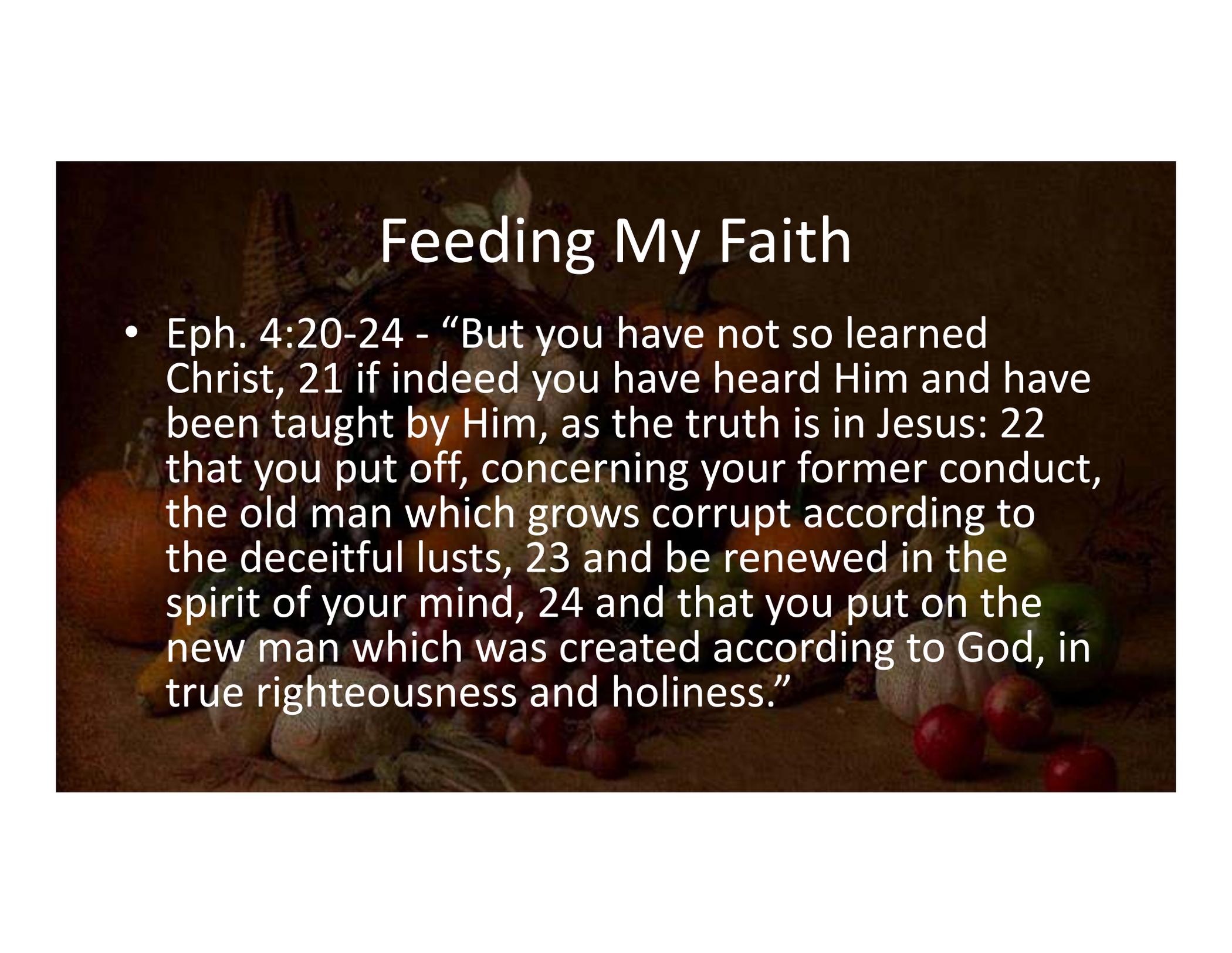
Feeding My Faith

- Trust God completely. Anything that we can do for ourselves is not done by faith.
- In the normal course of events, an overwhelming percentage of our lives are lived by sight.
- Walking by faith is the willingness to step completely out of our comfort zone and trust God to sustain us.



Feeding My Faith

- The Adversary attempts to give us many excuses
- Believing is easy, but it requires a complete transition to begin living by faith.
- Rom. 12:1-2 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

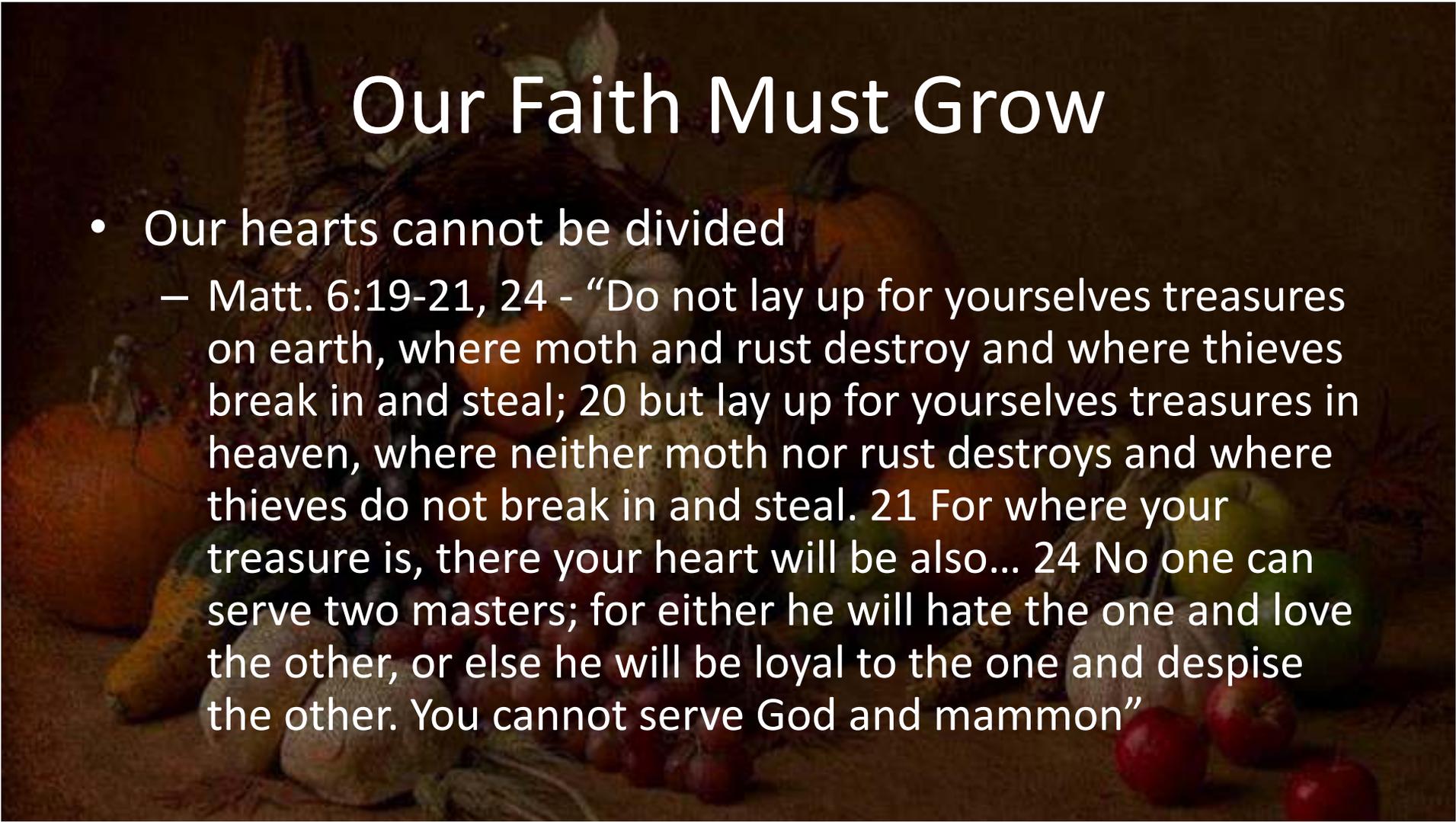


Feeding My Faith

- Eph. 4:20-24 - “But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

Feeding My Faith

- The Lord knew how much trouble we would have with material things while living in this world as a soul housed in flesh. Note the emphasis in His teaching:
- “Jesus taught more parables about money and things than anything else (16 of 38 parables). One out of every ten verses in the gospel accounts is about money and things (288 verses). In the Bible there are: about 500 verses on prayer, 500 verses on faith, and over 2000 about money and possessions.” (*Howard Dalton, Leadership Magazine*)



Our Faith Must Grow

- Our hearts cannot be divided
 - Matt. 6:19-21, 24 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... 24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon”

Our Faith Must Grow

- Therefore, we must choose loyalty to God and act on it
 - Matt. 6:25-35 - “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Our Faith Must Grow

- “Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

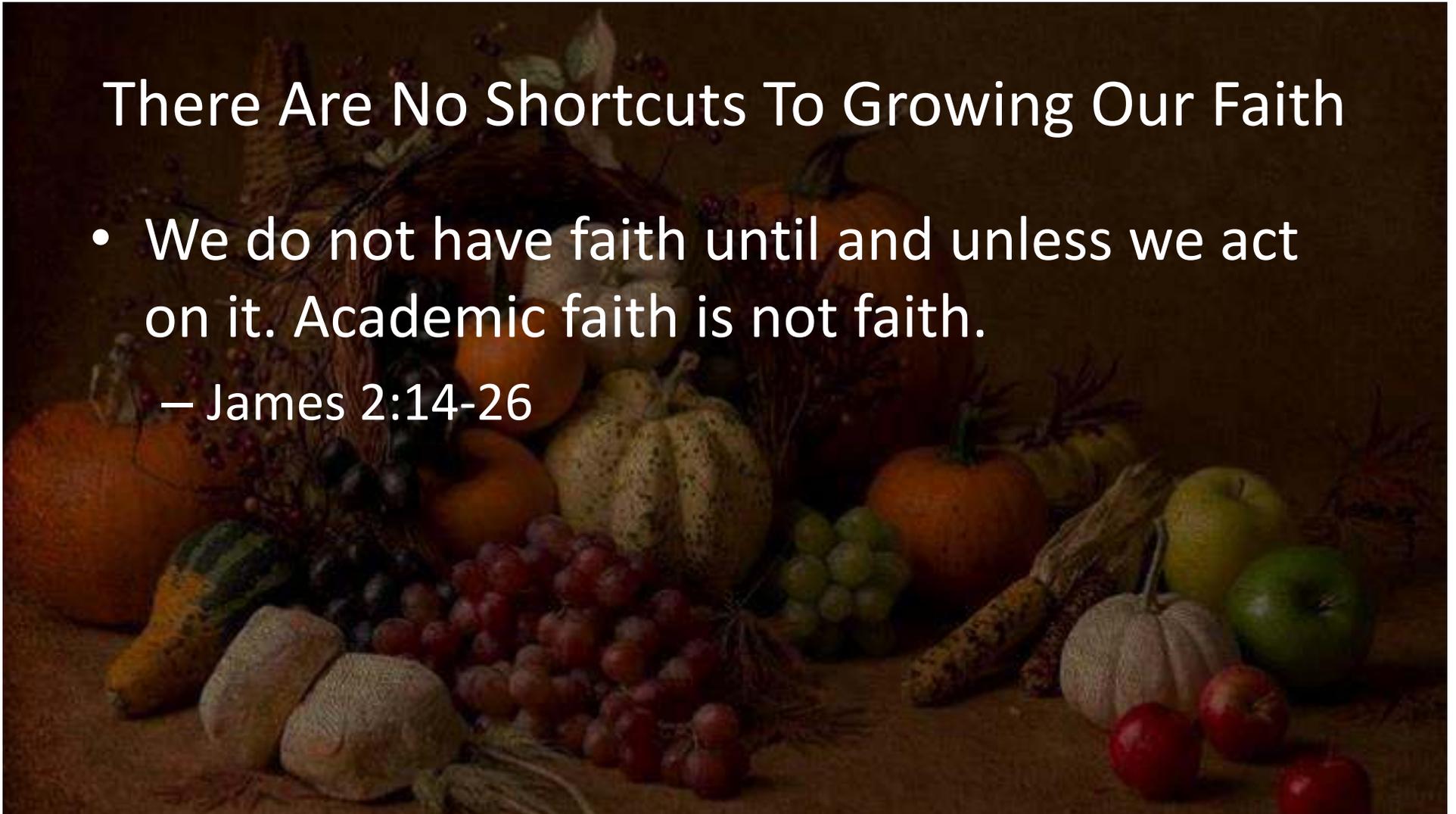
There Are No Shortcuts To Growing Our Faith

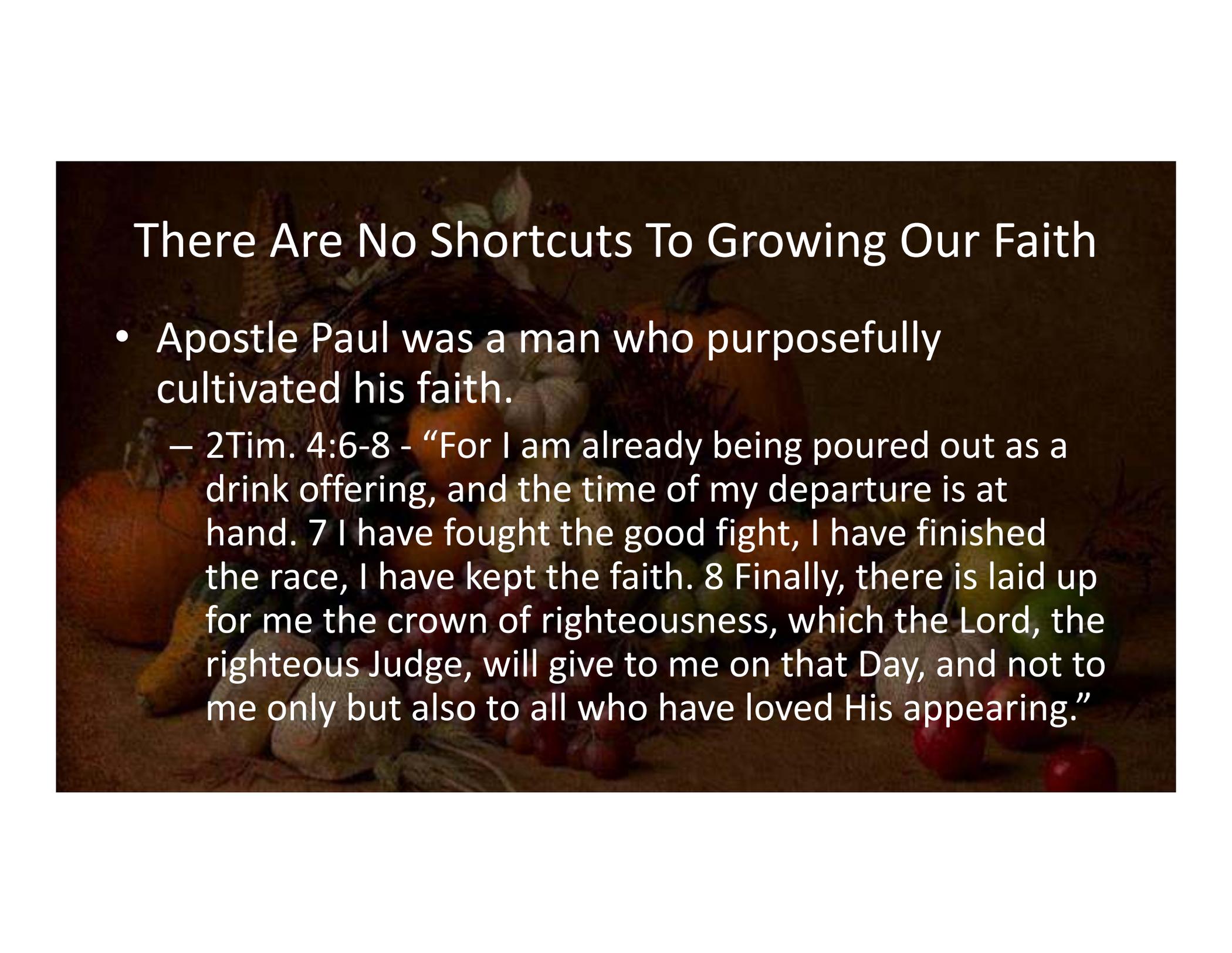
- We cannot develop faith without knowledge
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - James. 1:21-22 - “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves”
 - Luke 8:15 - “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

There Are No Shortcuts To Growing Our Faith

- We do not have faith until and unless we act on it. Academic faith is not faith.

— James 2:14-26





There Are No Shortcuts To Growing Our Faith

- Apostle Paul was a man who purposefully cultivated his faith.
 - 2Tim. 4:6-8 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”