

THE ROD



& THE STAFF



A Testimony of Two Paths
and One Choice

***Sometimes,
you just step in it.***



“I’m sharing this light-hearted personal account with you... because sometimes we we step into some unwanted stuff you know unknowingly... you step in in faith that nothing is going to be in front of you only to be sorely disappointed... and all that is impure needs to be... gotten rid of. You’ve got to clean it.”

We step into unwanted stuff unknowingly that changes the course of our life.

A Prophecy Received, A Path Rejected



“The section from verse 11 to the chapter’s end was prophesied over me when I first came to faith in 1990... the elders of the church I attended physically and spiritually spoke it out over me.”

“Embarrassingly, I say, because from there I did not follow what was spoken over me, but fell for so many temptations that I would not be able to count my transgressions. For a long time this scripture stood as a testimony against me for reckless living.”

EVERY TRAPDOOR THIS WORLD CAN PRESENT



THE TRIGGER

"After police college, I was taken into work in the riots in Alexandria, dealing with so much death that my soul was crushed."

THE COPING MECHANISM

"I started drinking, fornicating, throwing my life to the scraps."

THE RESULT

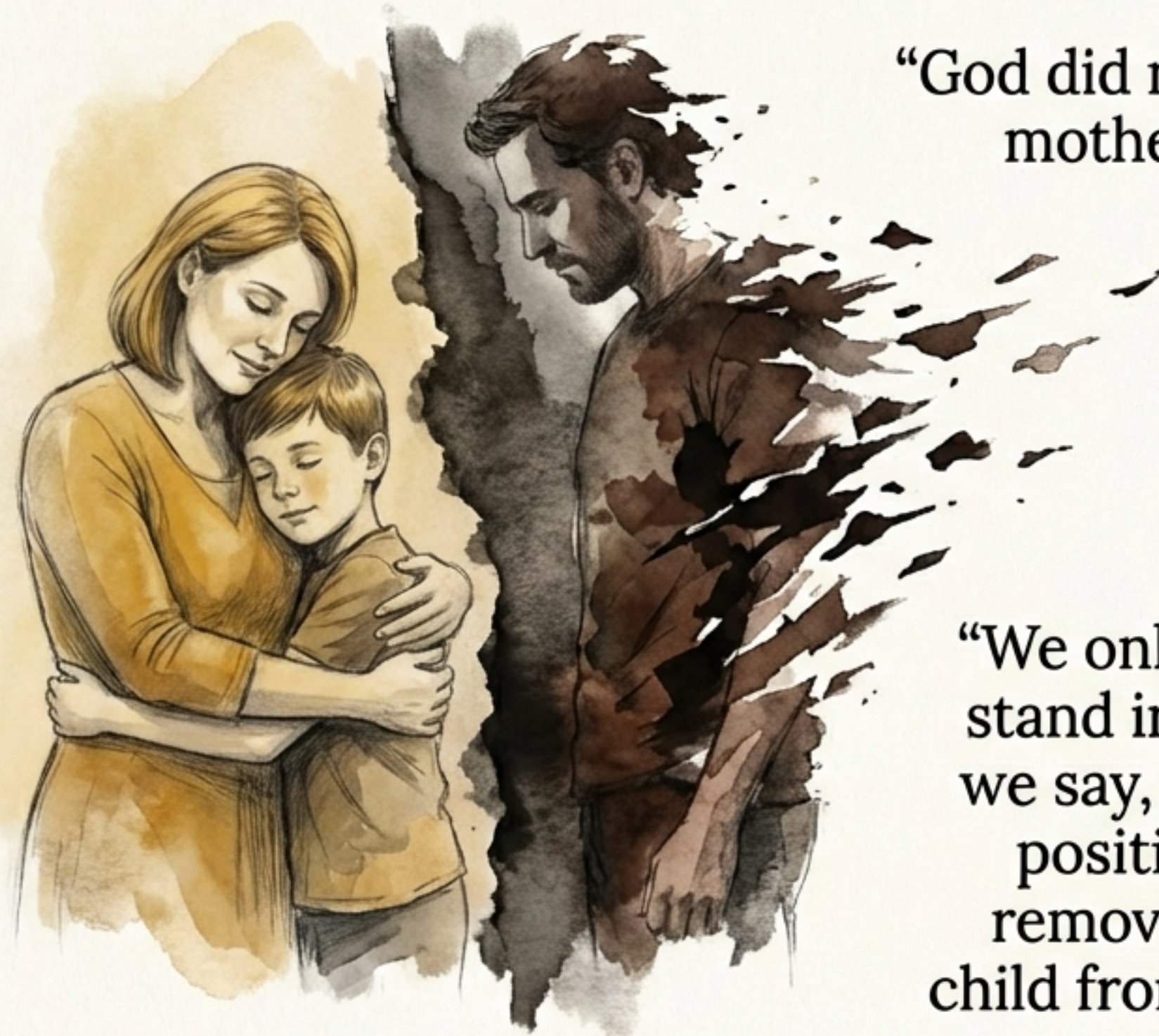
"Eventually, I landed up a full-blown alcoholic."

THE DESPAIR

"Sitting with a gun against my head to end my life because I couldn't bear what was happening inside of me. This was after I repented; I failed in every way."

I KNOW THE PRICE OF MAKING THE WRONG CHOICES. I'VE PAID IT.

“It cost me dearly. My current wife walked out with my son, who I didn't see for 16 or 17 years thereafter.”



“God did not send me to his mother; it was lust.”

“We only mature when we stand in that position and we say, ‘Had I been in that position, I would have removed myself and my child from that person, too.’”

Taught by the Rod

“That is where I met an aluminum baseball bat eight times with my face.”

- My upper jaw... was crushed. It was like gravel.
- The doctor said it was a minimum of eight whacks to my face.
- I was so drunk when they put the 180 stitches in my mouth... they couldn't give me anesthetic. It would kill me.
- The pain was excruciating.

A Choice at the Edge of Eternity

“I happened to have met that temporal space that night with a baseball bat as was received dead on arrival by the hospital. I have been there.”

Do you want to come in,
or do you want to return
and live a better way?

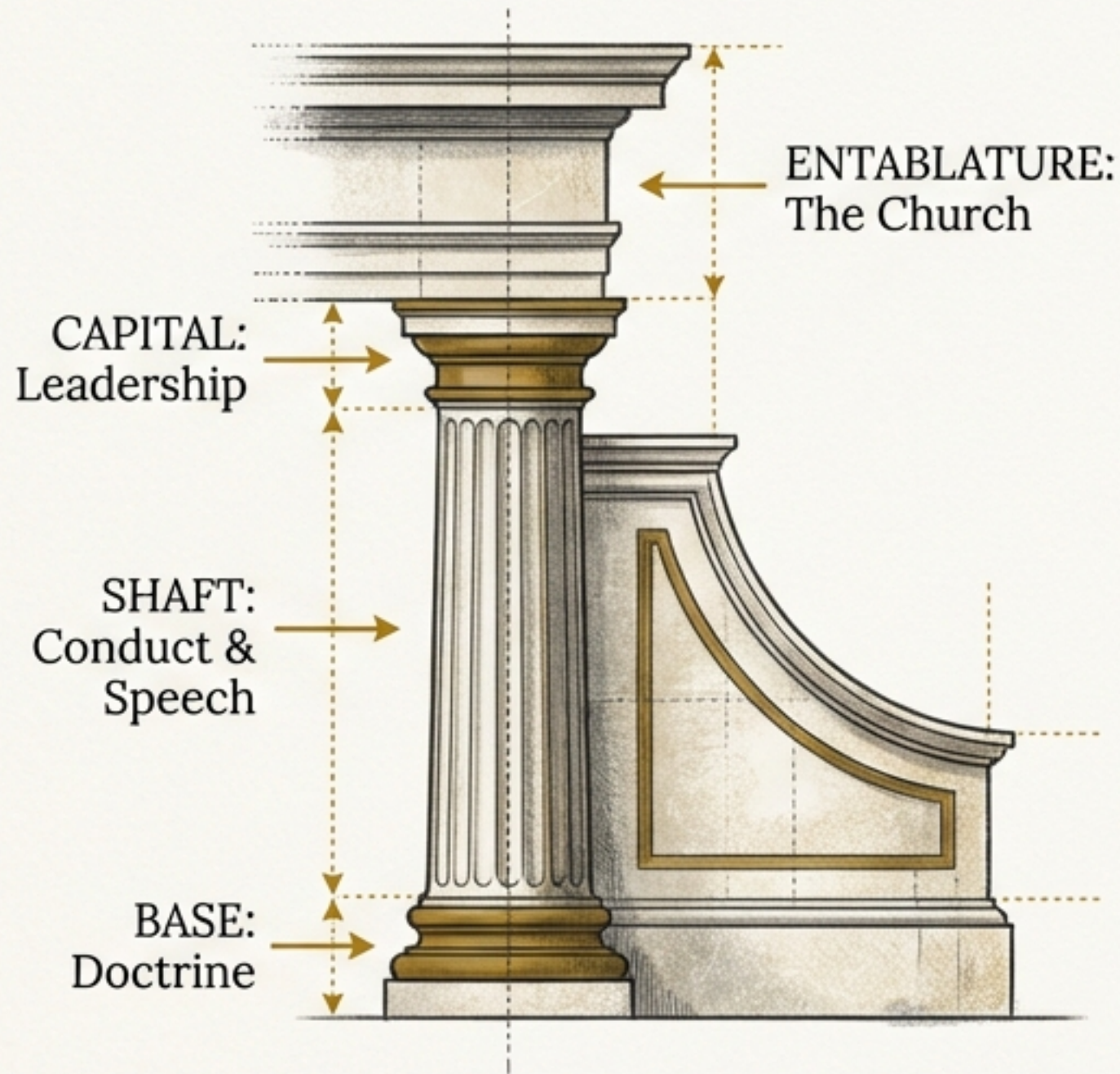
THE BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WAY: EXEMPLARY LIVING

LET NO ONE DESPISE YOU FOR YOUR YOUTH,
BUT SET THE BELIEVERS AN EXAMPLE IN SPEECH,
IN CONDUCT, IN LOVE, IN FAITH, IN PURITY.

— 1 Timothy 4:12

This is the example Paul is talking about.
It is a way of life in submission to the Word of GOD.

THIS IS NOT A “ONE-LINER” APPLICATION. IT’S A FOUNDATION.



“As powerful as the verse of the day is, it does not stand on its own. The entire letter should be seen as one teaching... This is an enormous teaching to Timothy that we should not be ‘chopping up.’”

*“I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, **you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.**” — 1 Timothy 3:14-15*

Paul’s letter sets the example Timothy is to follow—his “walk and talk” must be connected to the doctrine he received.

GODLINESS IS NOT AN ACCIDENT. IT IS A TRAINING.

“Have **nothing** to do with irreverent, silly **myths**.”

“Rather **train yourself** for **godliness**.”

“For while bodily training is of some value, **godliness is of value in every way**, as it **holds promise** for the present life and also for the life to come.”



“Practice these things. In other words, do it to perfection. Immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”

THE FIVE PILLARS OF AN EXEMPLARY LIFE



1. IN SPEECH

How you talk.
The words you use to build up or tear down.



2. IN CONDUCT

How you live.
Your daily actions and behaviors when no one is watching.



3. IN LOVE

How you treat others. The selfless care and compassion you demonstrate.



4. IN FAITH

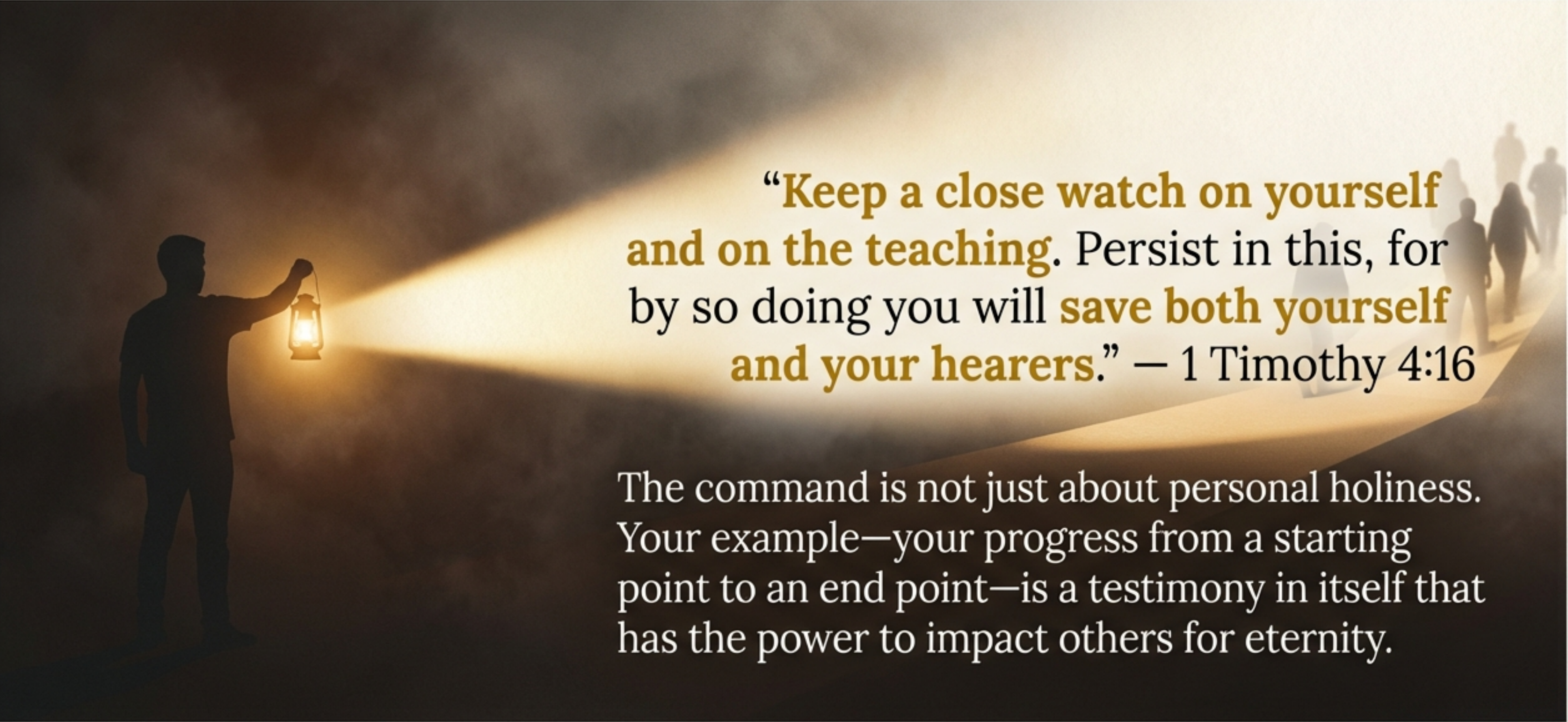
Who you trust.
Your unwavering reliance on God and His promises.



5. IN PURITY

What you hold dear. The holiness you cultivate in heart, mind, and body.

THE STAKES: SAVING YOURSELF AND THOSE WHO HEAR YOU



“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.” — 1 Timothy 4:16

The command is not just about personal holiness. Your example—your progress from a starting point to an end point—is a testimony in itself that has the power to impact others for eternity.

MY FAILURE IS THE PROOF OF GOD'S TRUTH

THE WAY OF THE ROD (MY OWN THINKING)

“The ‘I want’ and the greed of the lust of the flesh.”

“The carnal man stands in enmity with GOD.”



Leads to: **“Troublesome outcomes,”**
“scars,” “shame,” “heart crunching” consequences.

“It is proof in failure and then also in application the truth sets in again.”

THE WAY OF THE STAFF (SUBMISSION TO THE WORD)

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

“Placing GOD'S way above your own.”



Leads to: **“The rest and the peace of God,” “victory,”**
“salvation.”

TODAY, I CHOOSE THE STAFF.



**I AM HARDHEADED. I HAD TO BE TAUGHT BY THE ROD, NOT BY THE STAFF.
TODAY, I CHOOSE THE STAFF BECAUSE I KNOW THE ROD. I PREFER THE STAFF.**

I speak here so you don't have to learn the hard way, as I did. Don't make the same mistakes I made. Take the good advice that Paul gave Timothy. Live your life according to that, not according to your own thinking.

Selah. Shalom.

“You must see my failures so that you can see God.
Help me, his mercy, his grace, because I shouldn’t even be alive today.”

