

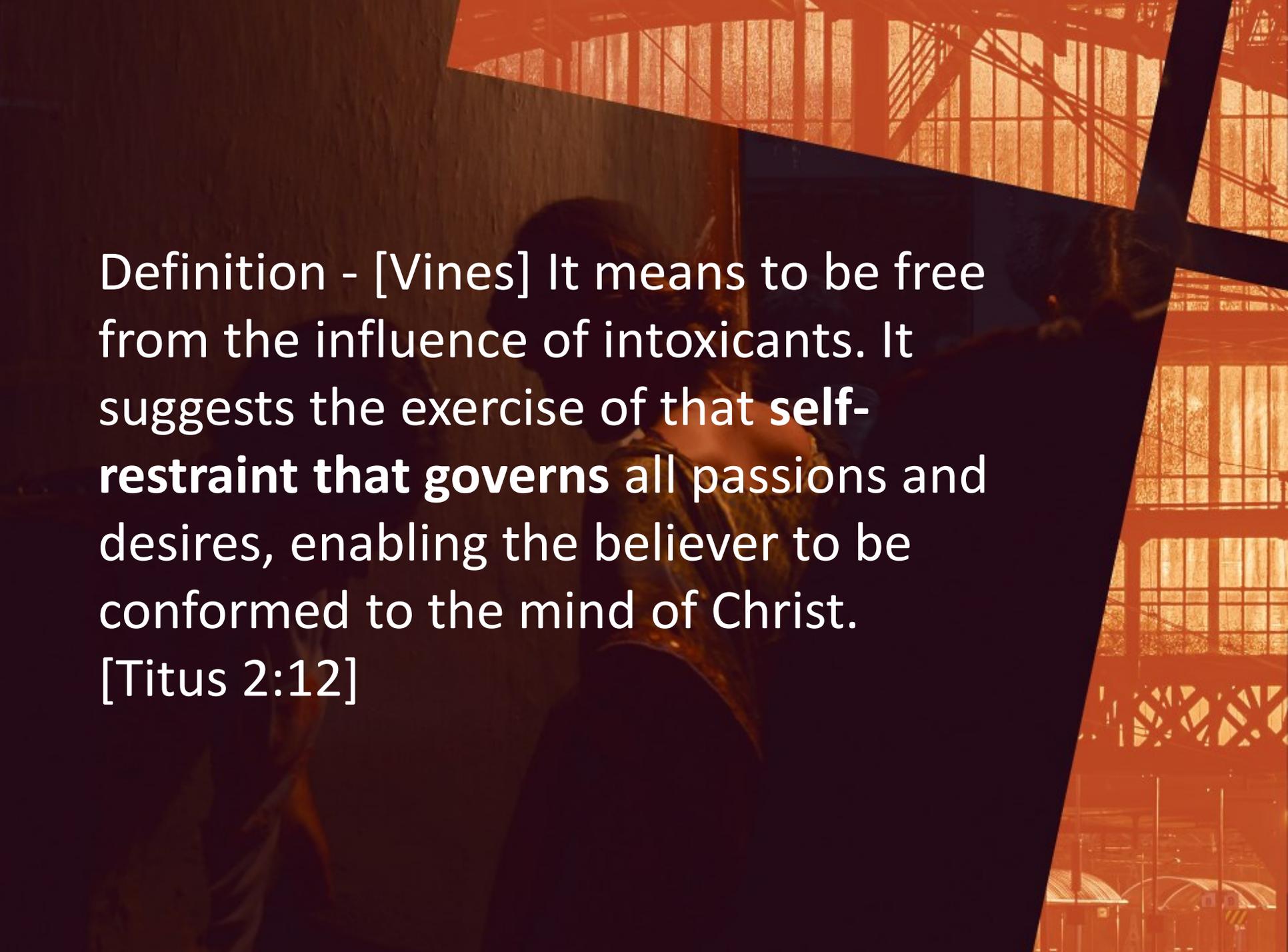
The background is a collage of three images. The top-left image shows a city street at sunset with a prominent archway in the distance. The bottom-left image shows a large, curved industrial structure, possibly a tunnel or a large pipe, with a person walking on a platform. The right side of the image shows a large, multi-level industrial structure, possibly a train station or a large factory, with a person walking on a platform. The text "Season of Sobriety" and "Fred May" is overlaid on the center of the image.

Season of Sobriety

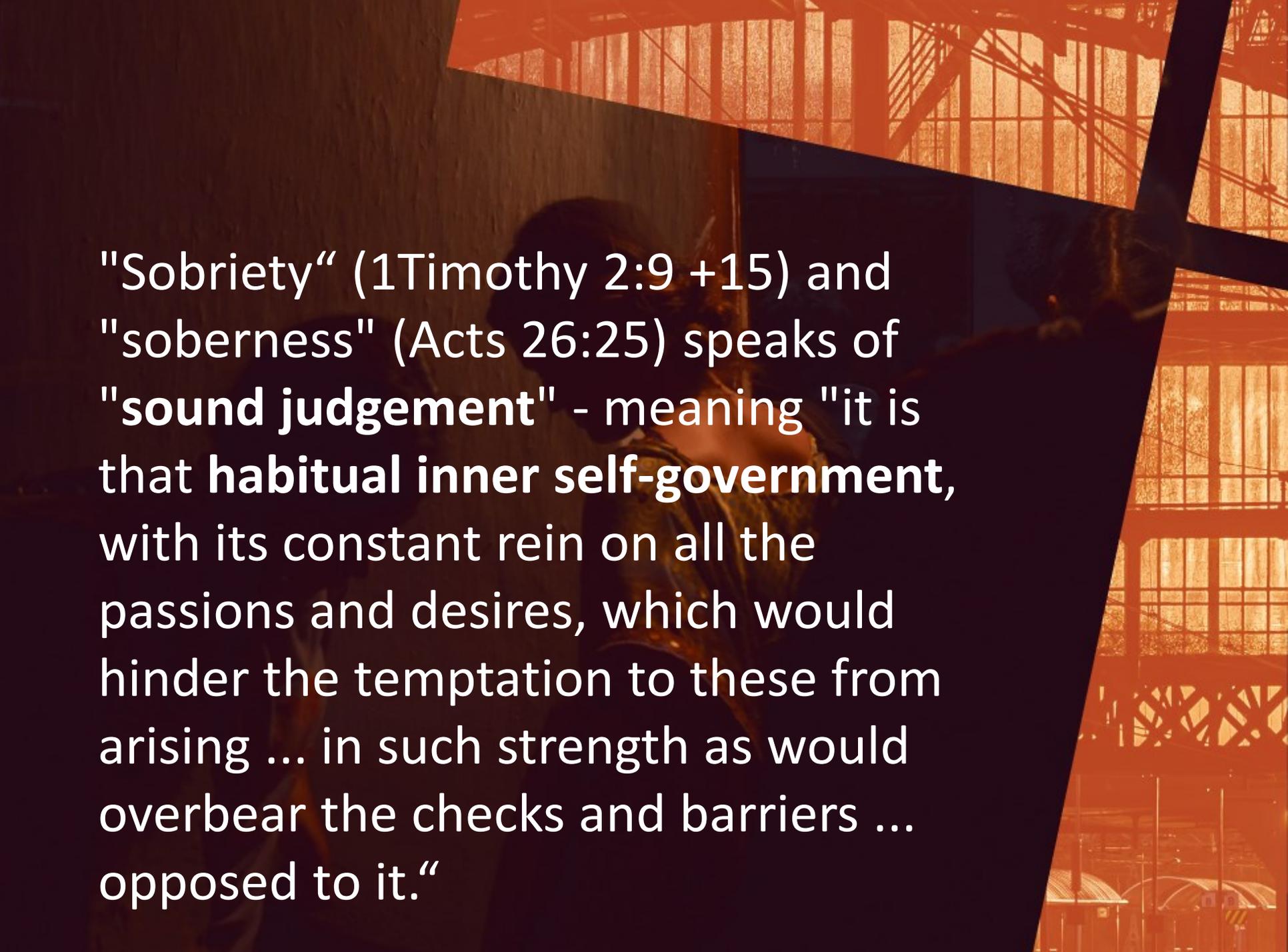
Fred May

I Thessalonians 5:7-8 (NKJV)

"Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation."



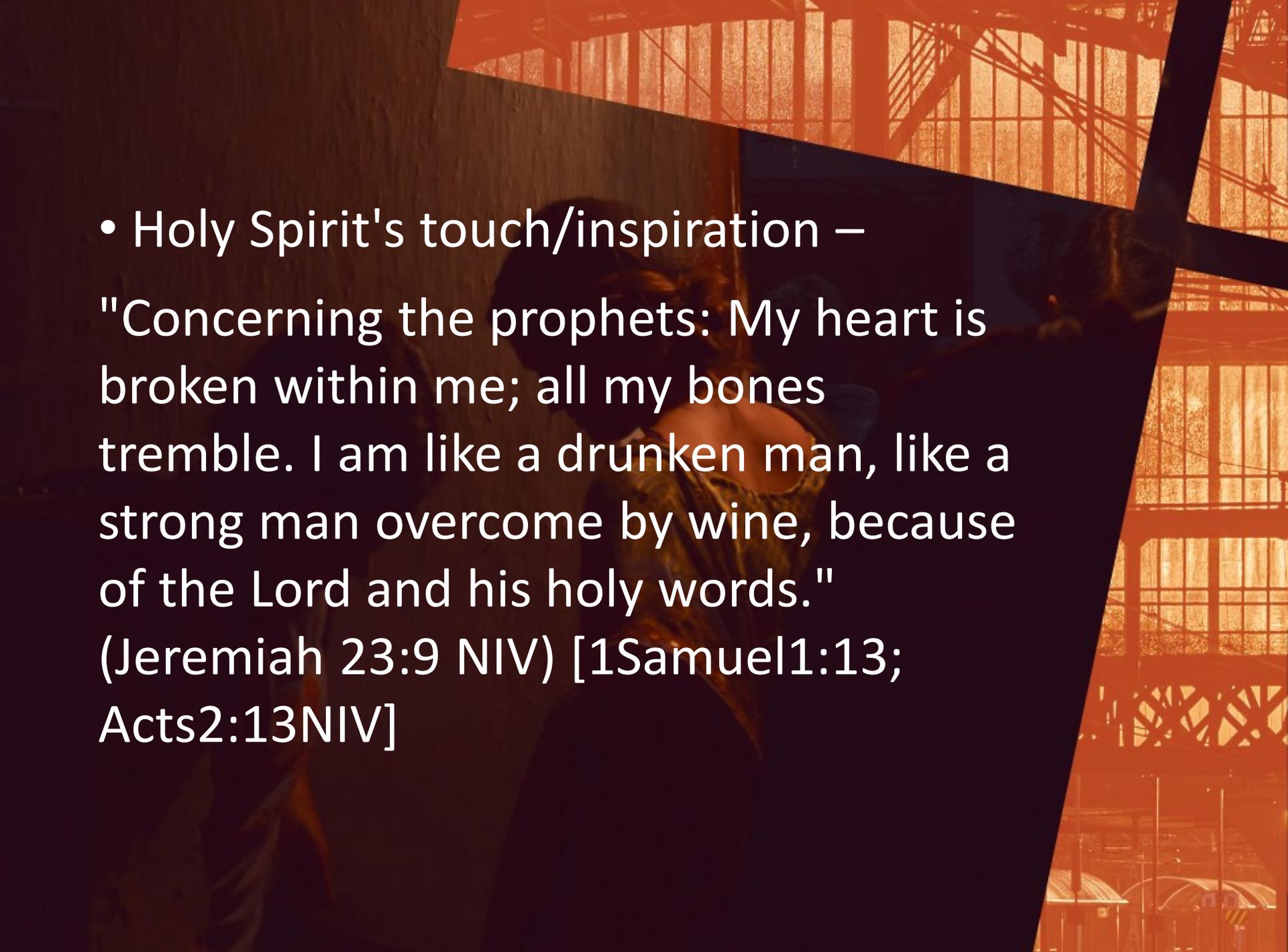
Definition - [Vines] It means to be free from the influence of intoxicants. It suggests the exercise of that **self-restraint that governs** all passions and desires, enabling the believer to be conformed to the mind of Christ.
[Titus 2:12]



"Sobriety" (1Timothy 2:9 +15) and "soberness" (Acts 26:25) speaks of **"sound judgement"** - meaning "it is that **habitual inner self-government**, with its constant rein on all the passions and desires, which would hinder the temptation to these from arising ... in such strength as would overbear the checks and barriers ... opposed to it."

The image is a complex collage. It features several overlapping layers. In the foreground, there are dark, almost black silhouettes of people, possibly in a social setting. Behind these, there's a large, bright orange-red area that contains a grid-like pattern, resembling a window or a screen. The overall color palette is dominated by dark tones and a strong orange-red hue. The text 'Figurative 'Intoxication'' is centered in a white, bold font.

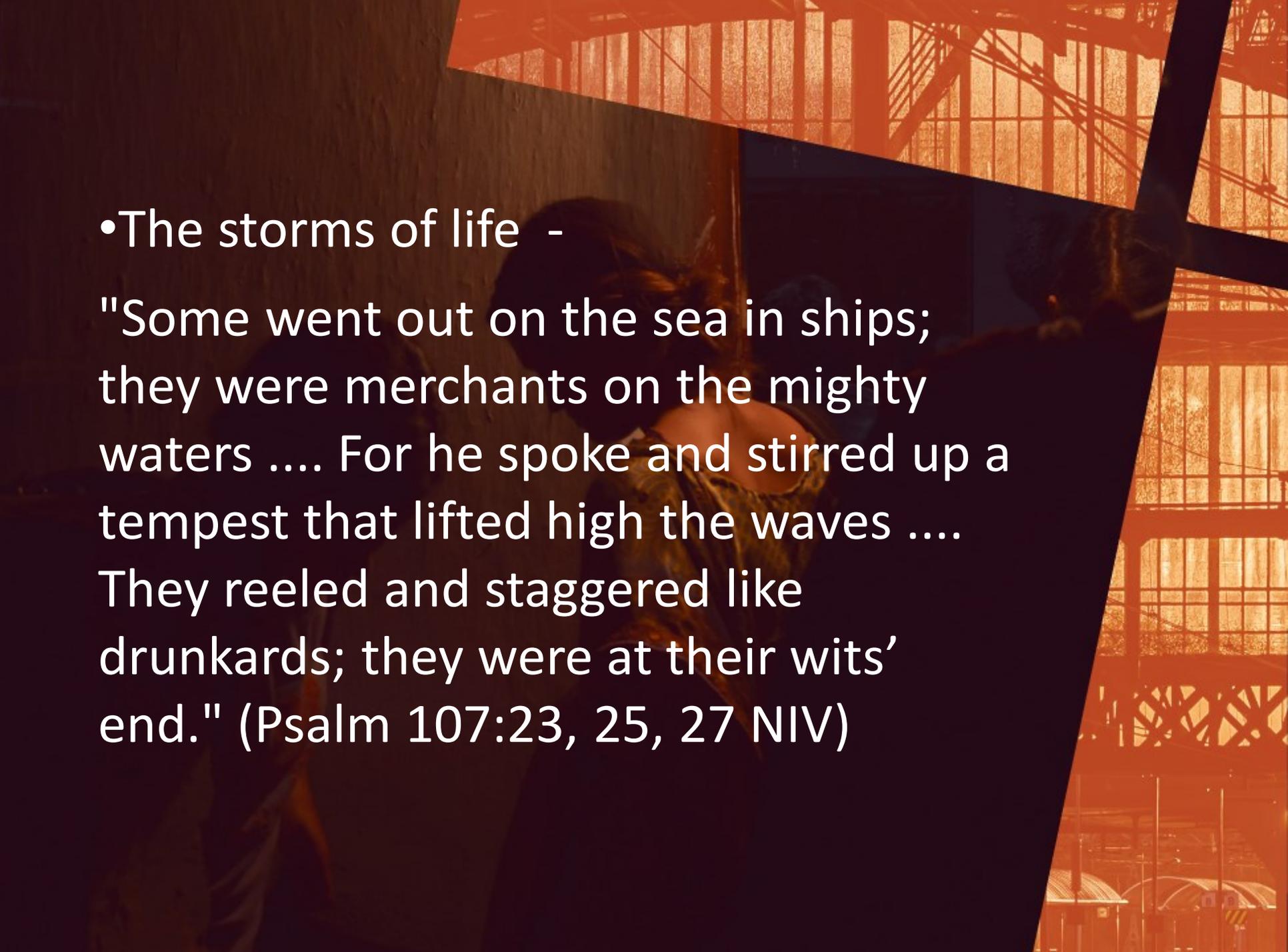
Figurative 'Intoxication'



- Holy Spirit's touch/inspiration –

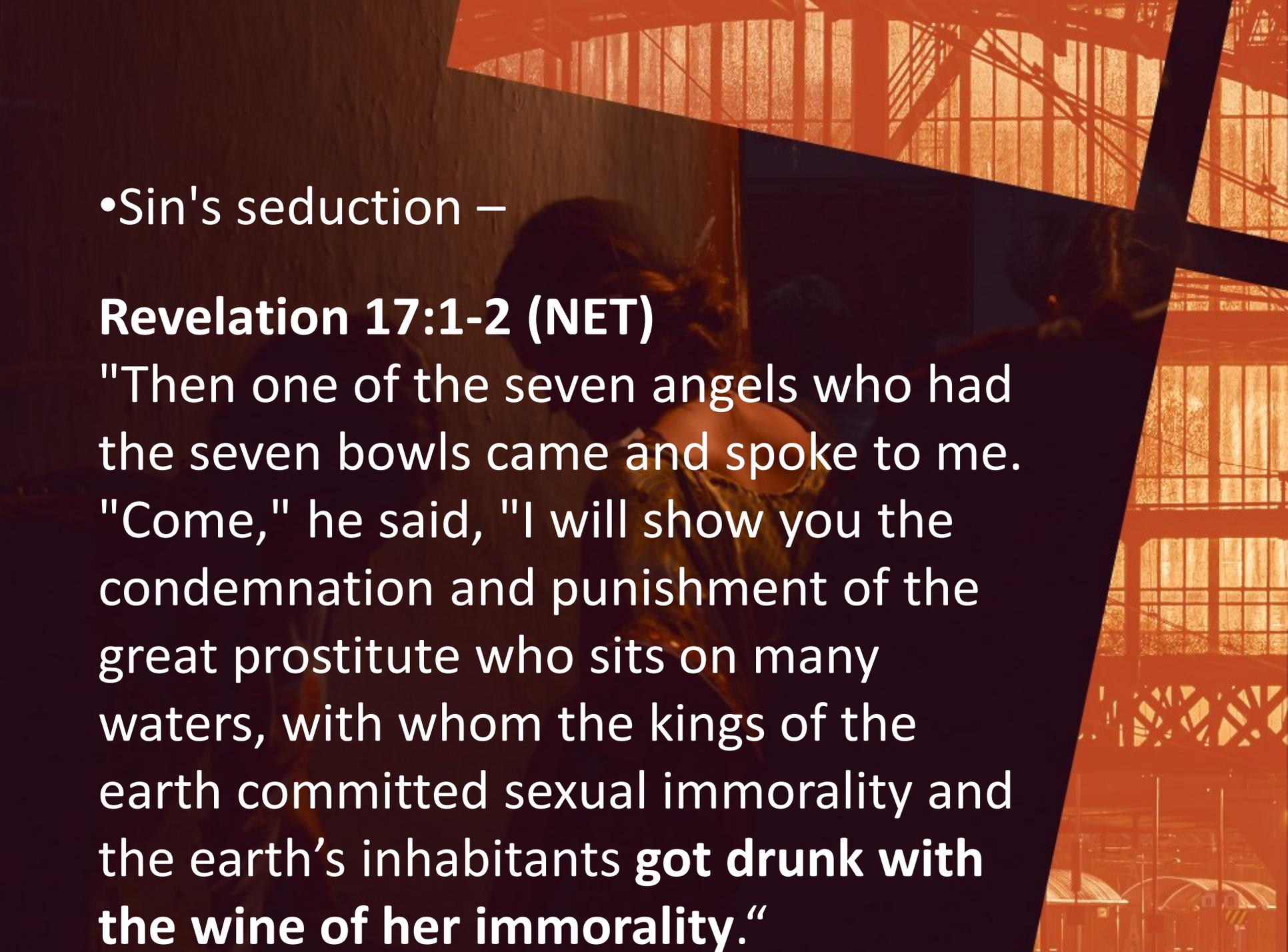
"Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me; all my bones tremble. I am like a drunken man, like a strong man overcome by wine, because of the Lord and his holy words."

(Jeremiah 23:9 NIV) [1Samuel1:13;
Acts2:13NIV]



- The storms of life -

"Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty
waters For he spoke and stirred up a
tempest that lifted high the waves
They reeled and staggered like
drunkards; they were at their wits'
end." (Psalm 107:23, 25, 27 NIV)

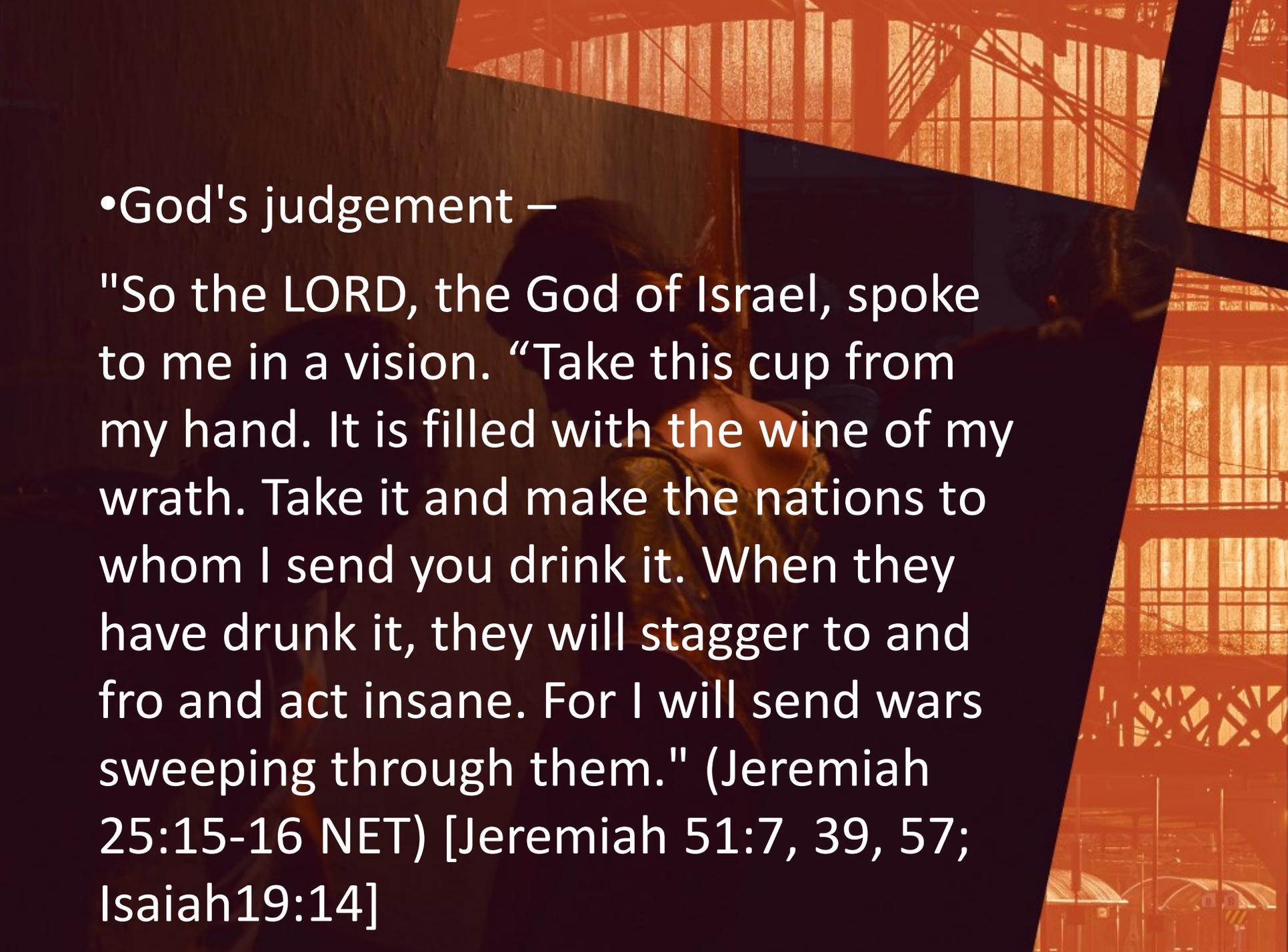


•Sin's seduction –

Revelation 17:1-2 (NET)

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke to me.

"Come," he said, "I will show you the condemnation and punishment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality and the earth's inhabitants **got drunk with the wine of her immorality.**"

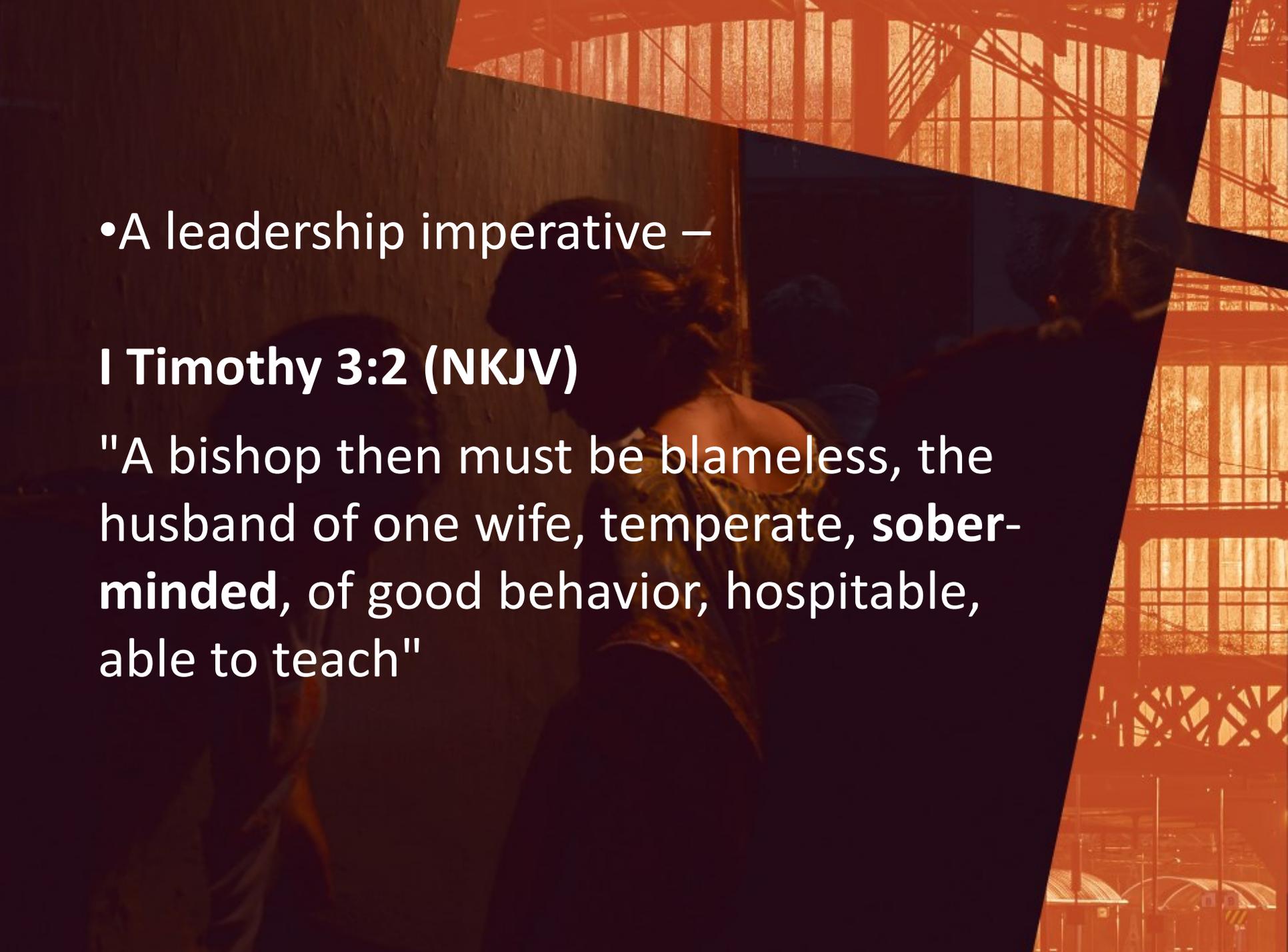


•God's judgement –

"So the LORD, the God of Israel, spoke to me in a vision. "Take this cup from my hand. It is filled with the wine of my wrath. Take it and make the nations to whom I send you drink it. When they have drunk it, they will stagger to and fro and act insane. For I will send wars sweeping through them." (Jeremiah 25:15-16 NET) [Jeremiah 51:7, 39, 57; Isaiah 19:14]



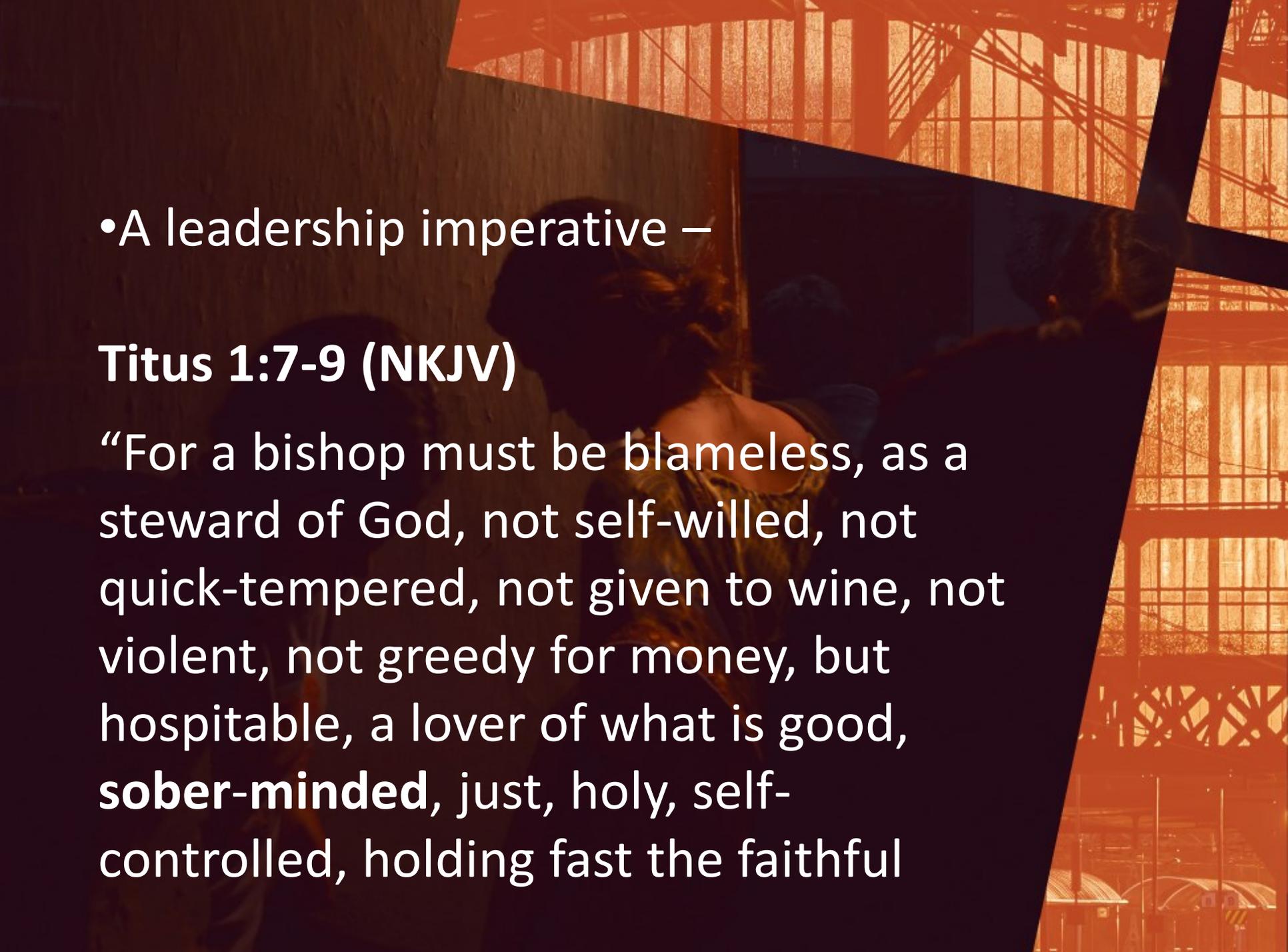
Importance of sobriety



- A leadership imperative –

I Timothy 3:2 (NKJV)

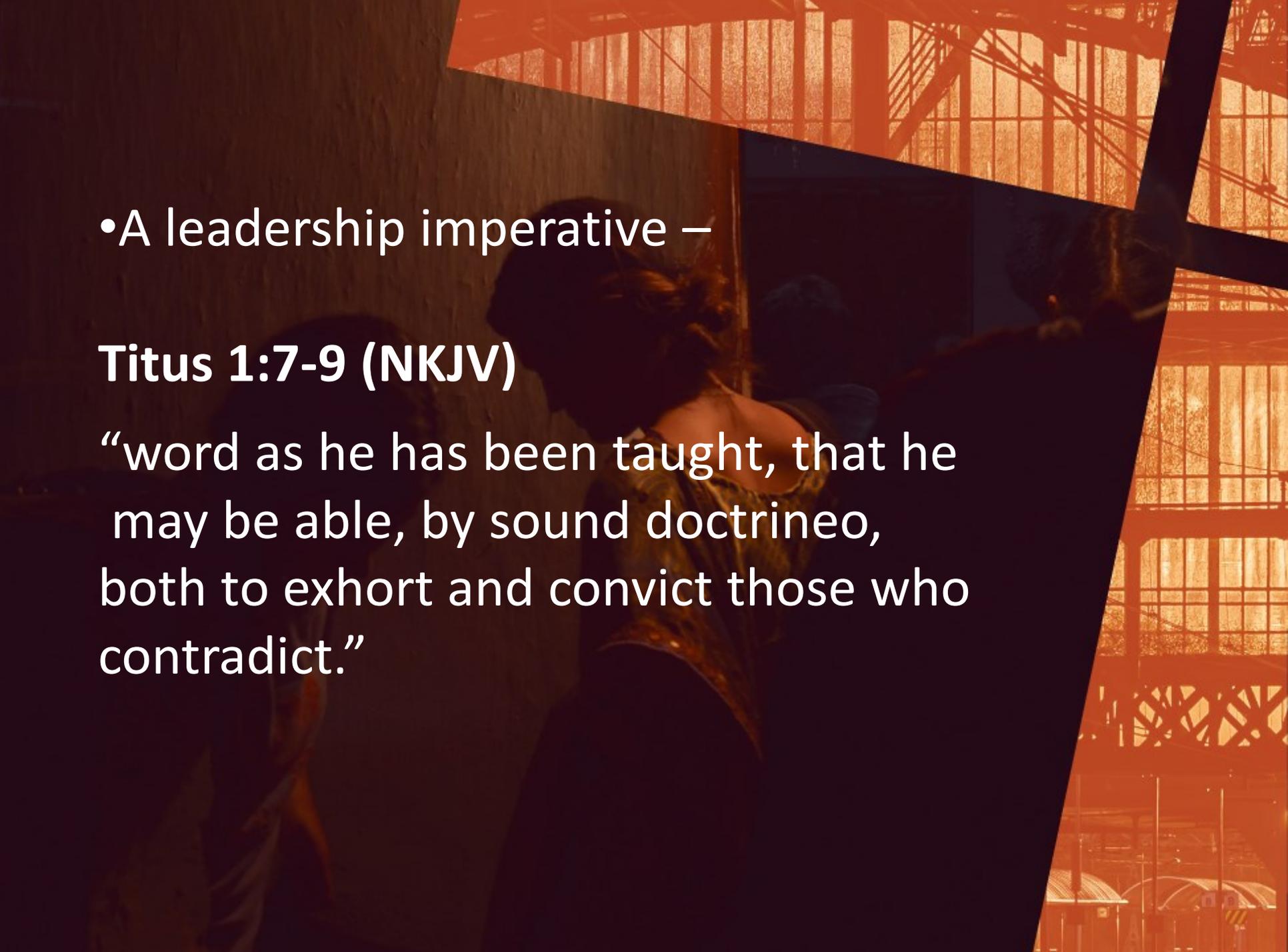
"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, **sober-minded**, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach"



•A leadership imperative –

Titus 1:7-9 (NKJV)

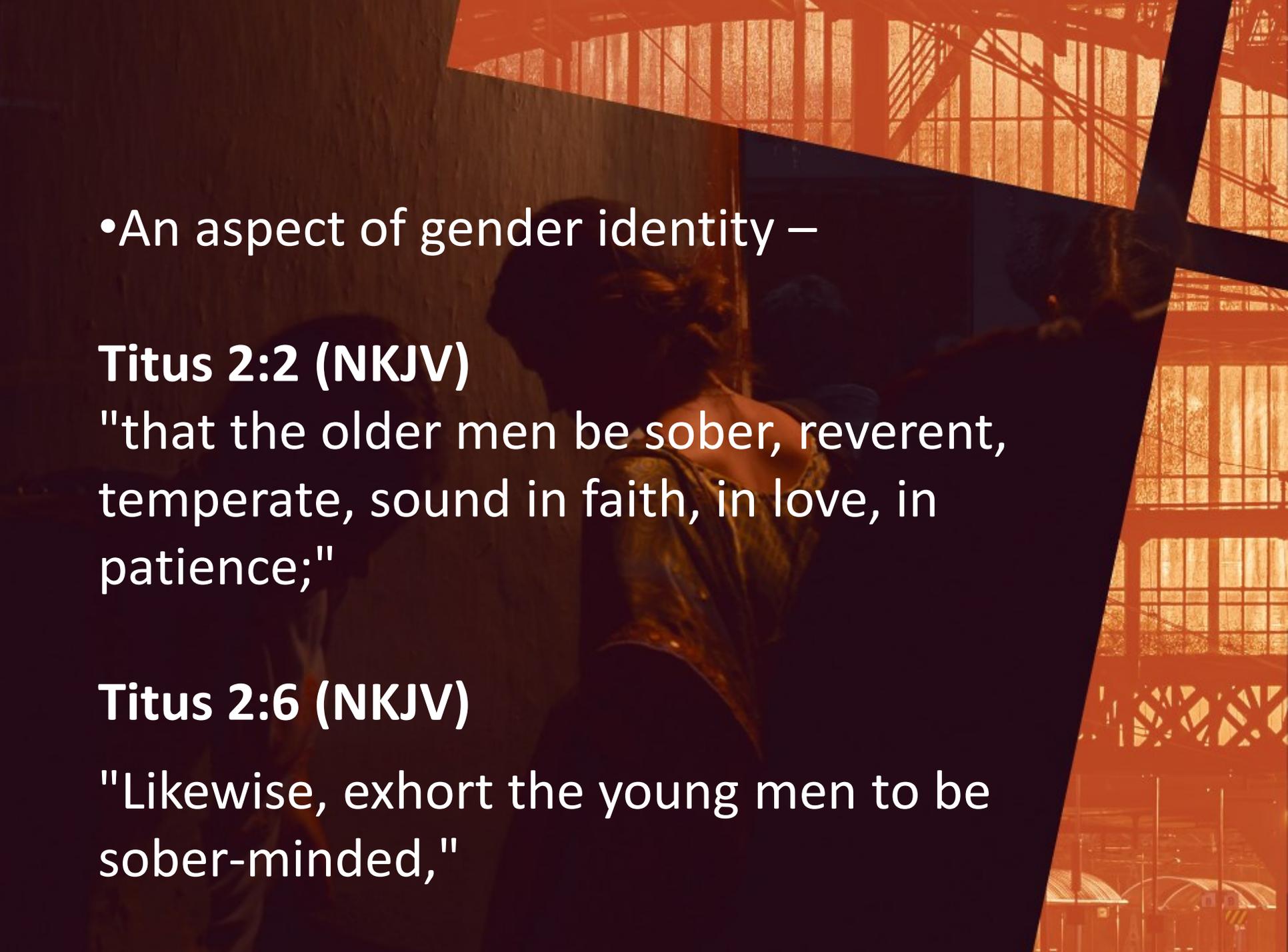
“For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, **sober-minded**, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful



•A leadership imperative –

Titus 1:7-9 (NKJV)

“word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrineo, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”



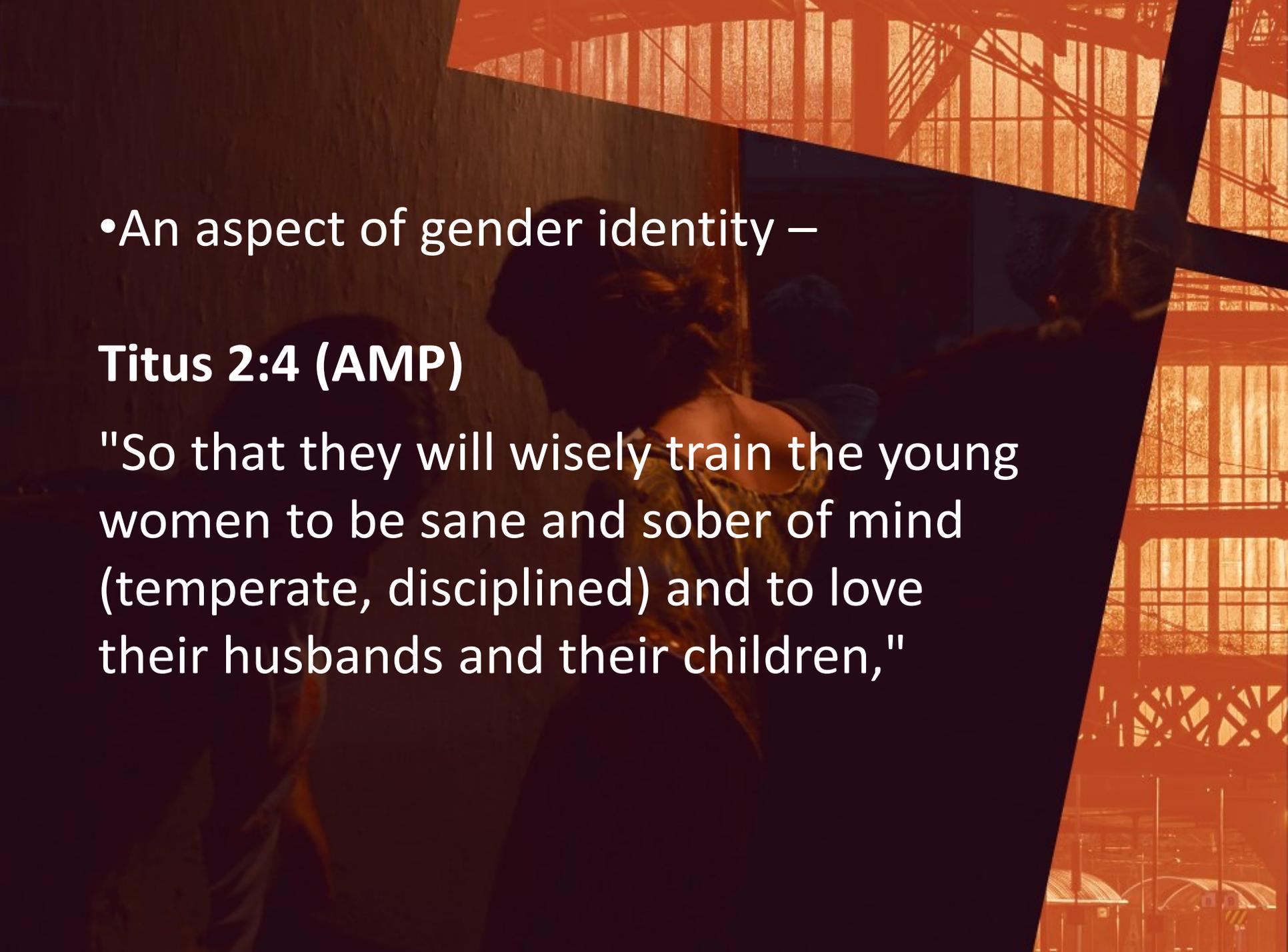
- An aspect of gender identity –

Titus 2:2 (NKJV)

"that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;"

Titus 2:6 (NKJV)

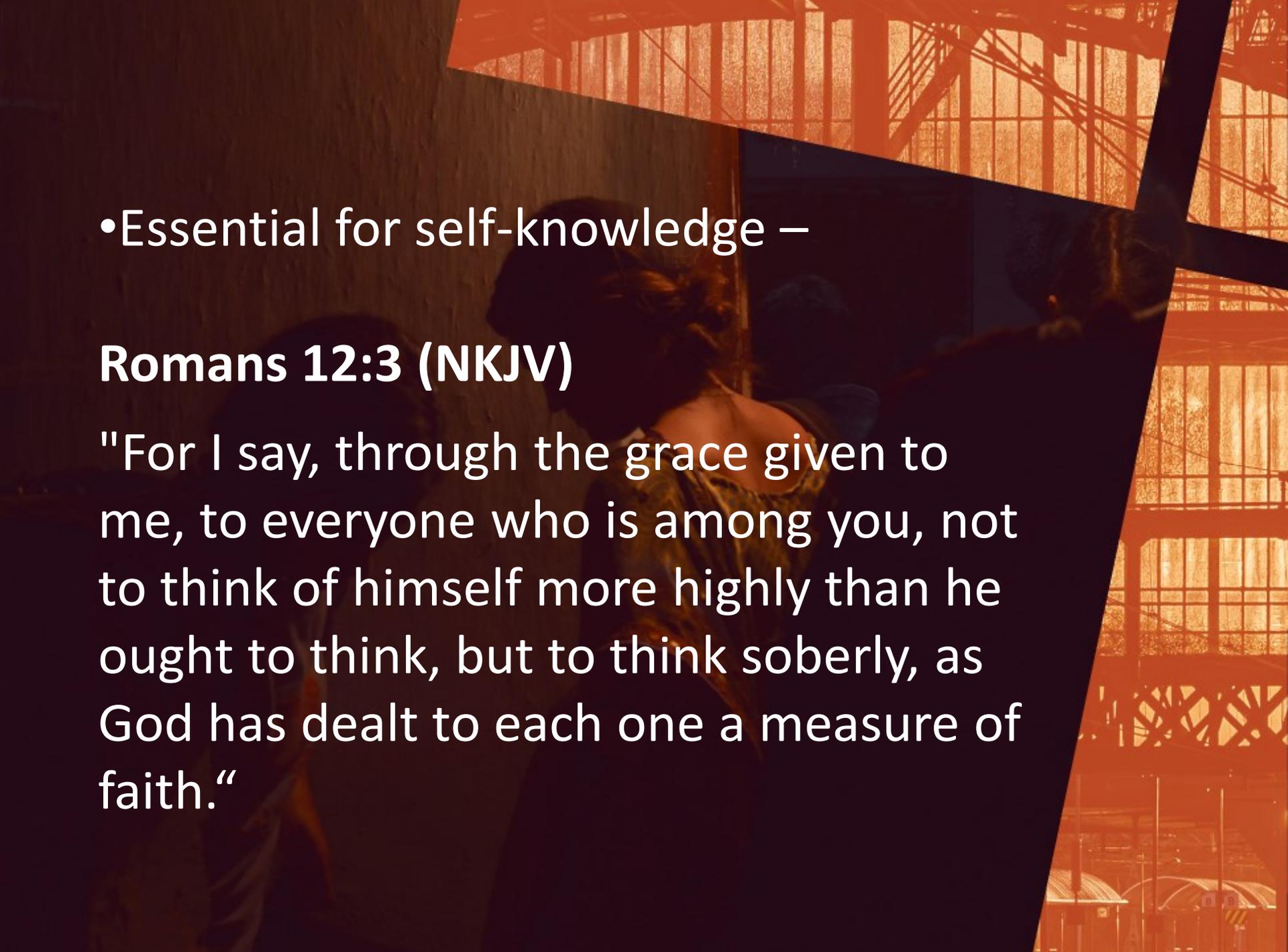
"Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,"



- An aspect of gender identity –

Titus 2:4 (AMP)

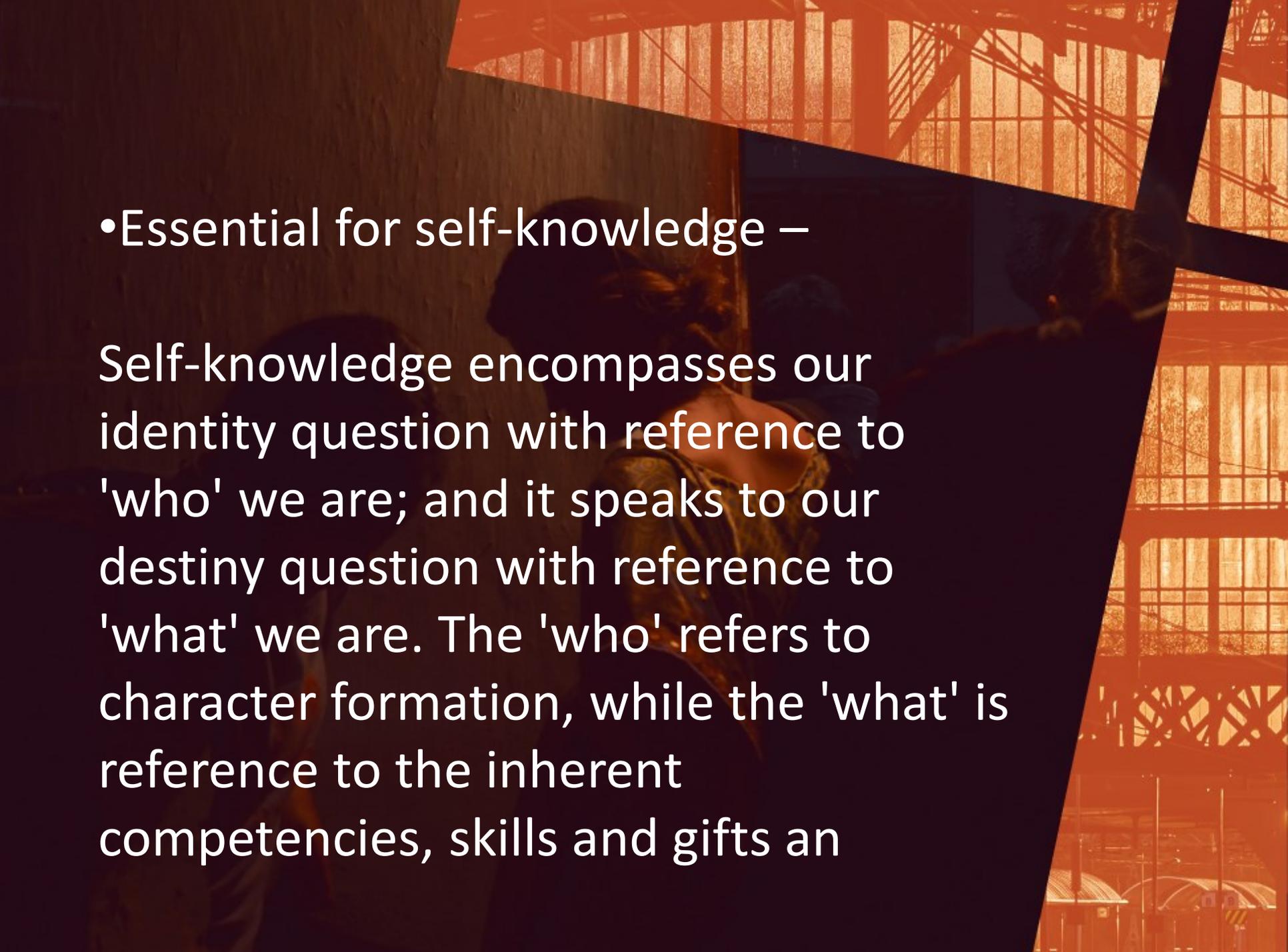
"So that they will wisely train the young women to be sane and sober of mind (temperate, disciplined) and to love their husbands and their children,"



•Essential for self-knowledge –

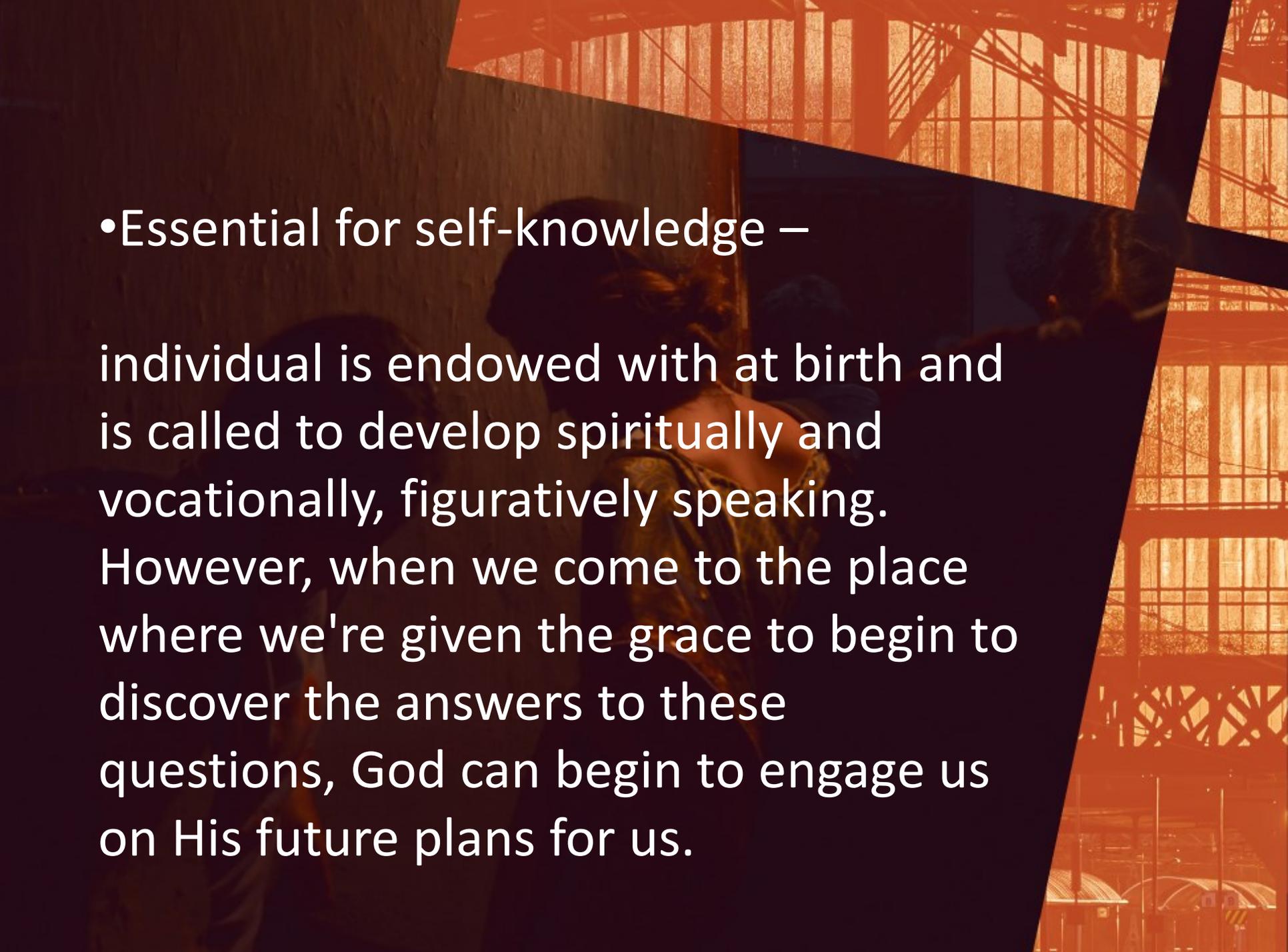
Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."

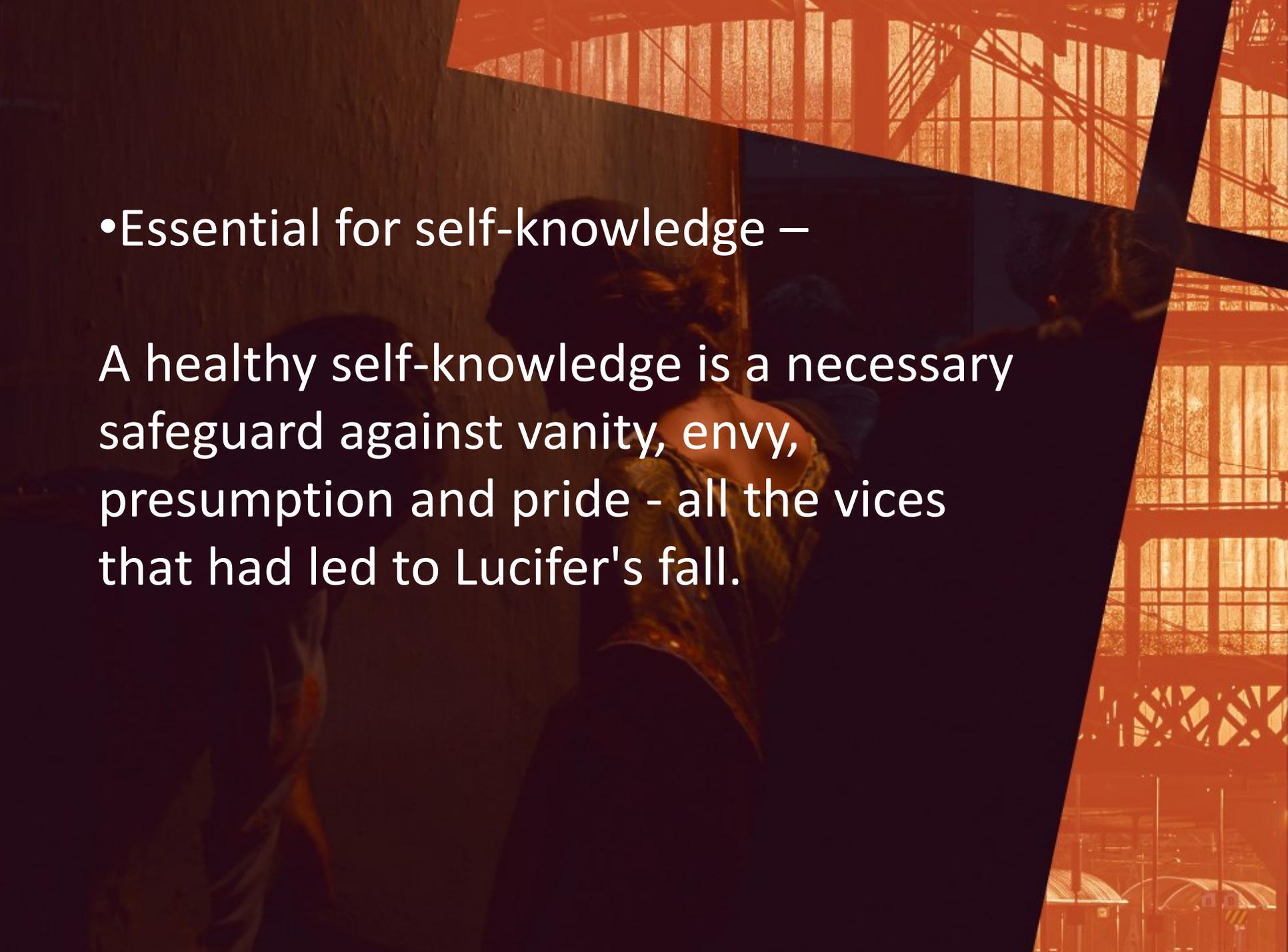


- Essential for self-knowledge –

Self-knowledge encompasses our identity question with reference to 'who' we are; and it speaks to our destiny question with reference to 'what' we are. The 'who' refers to character formation, while the 'what' is reference to the inherent competencies, skills and gifts an

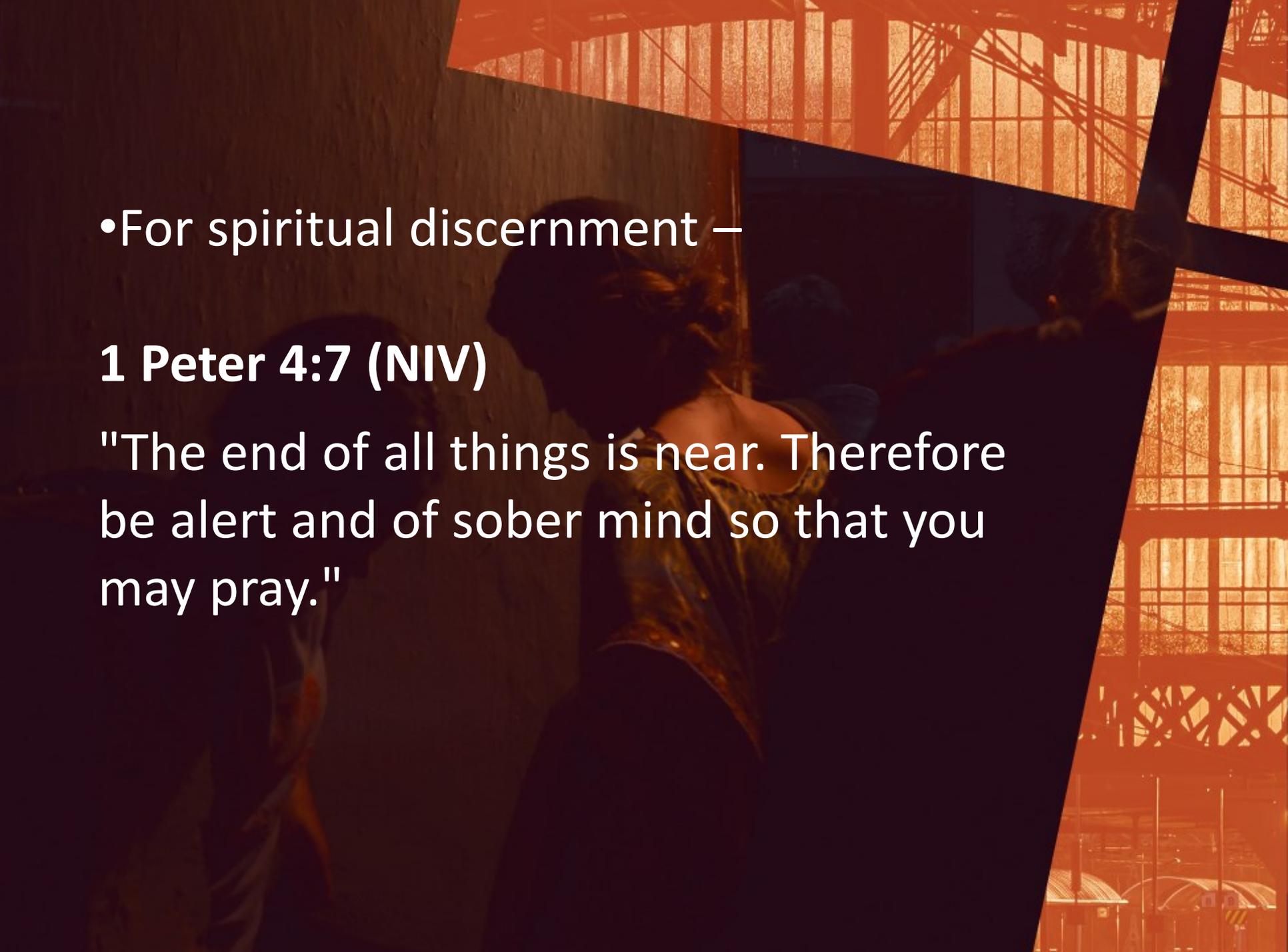
A person is seen from behind, looking towards a large, glowing orange structure that resembles a church interior or a large window. The structure is composed of many vertical and horizontal lines, creating a grid-like pattern. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the orange glow of the structure. The person is wearing a dark top and has their hair tied back. The background is dark, making the orange glow stand out prominently.

• Essential for self-knowledge –
individual is endowed with at birth and
is called to develop spiritually and
vocationally, figuratively speaking.
However, when we come to the place
where we're given the grace to begin to
discover the answers to these
questions, God can begin to engage us
on His future plans for us.



- Essential for self-knowledge –

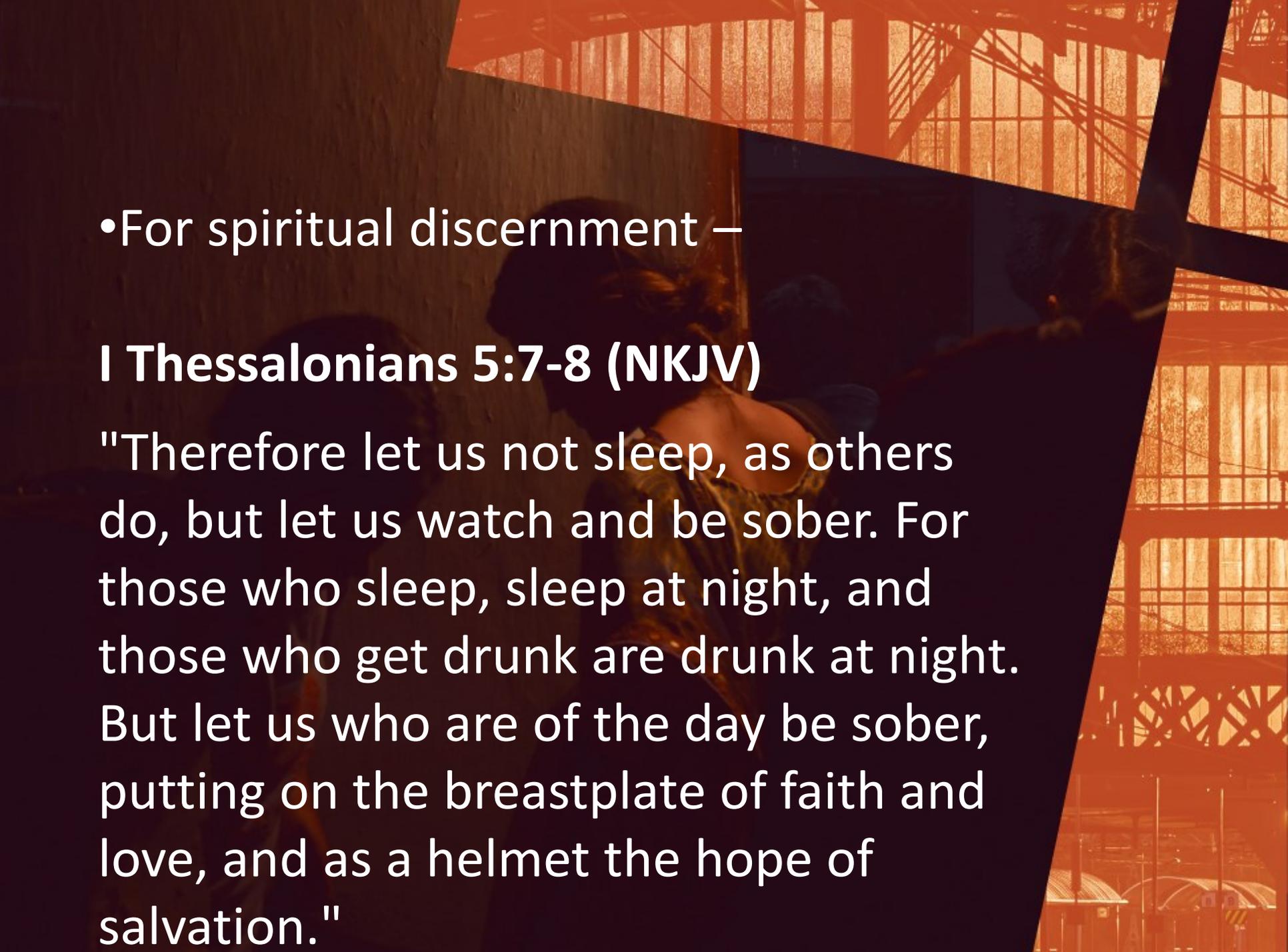
A healthy self-knowledge is a necessary safeguard against vanity, envy, presumption and pride - all the vices that had led to Lucifer's fall.



•For spiritual discernment –

1 Peter 4:7 (NIV)

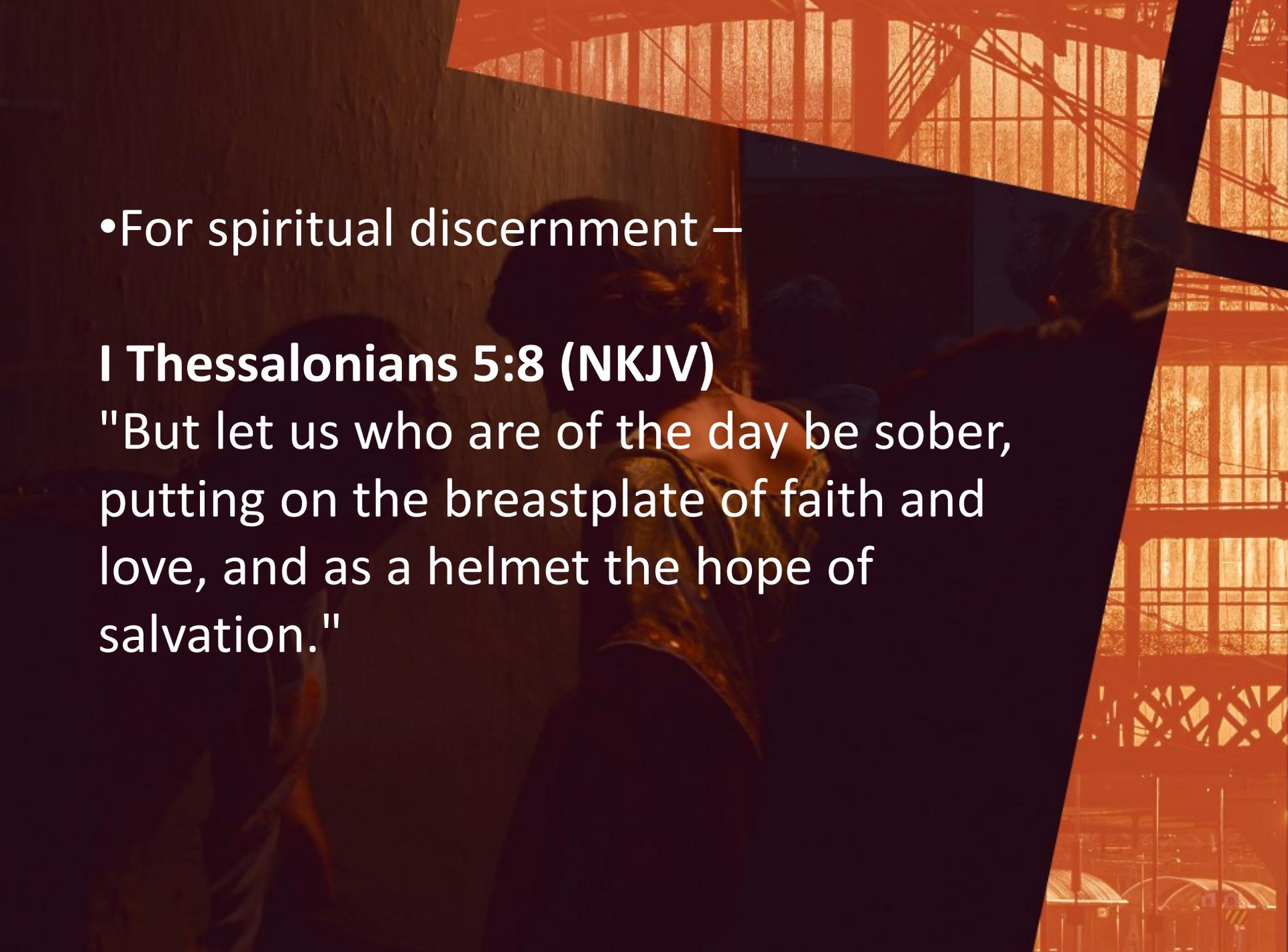
"The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray."



•For spiritual discernment –

I Thessalonians 5:7-8 (NKJV)

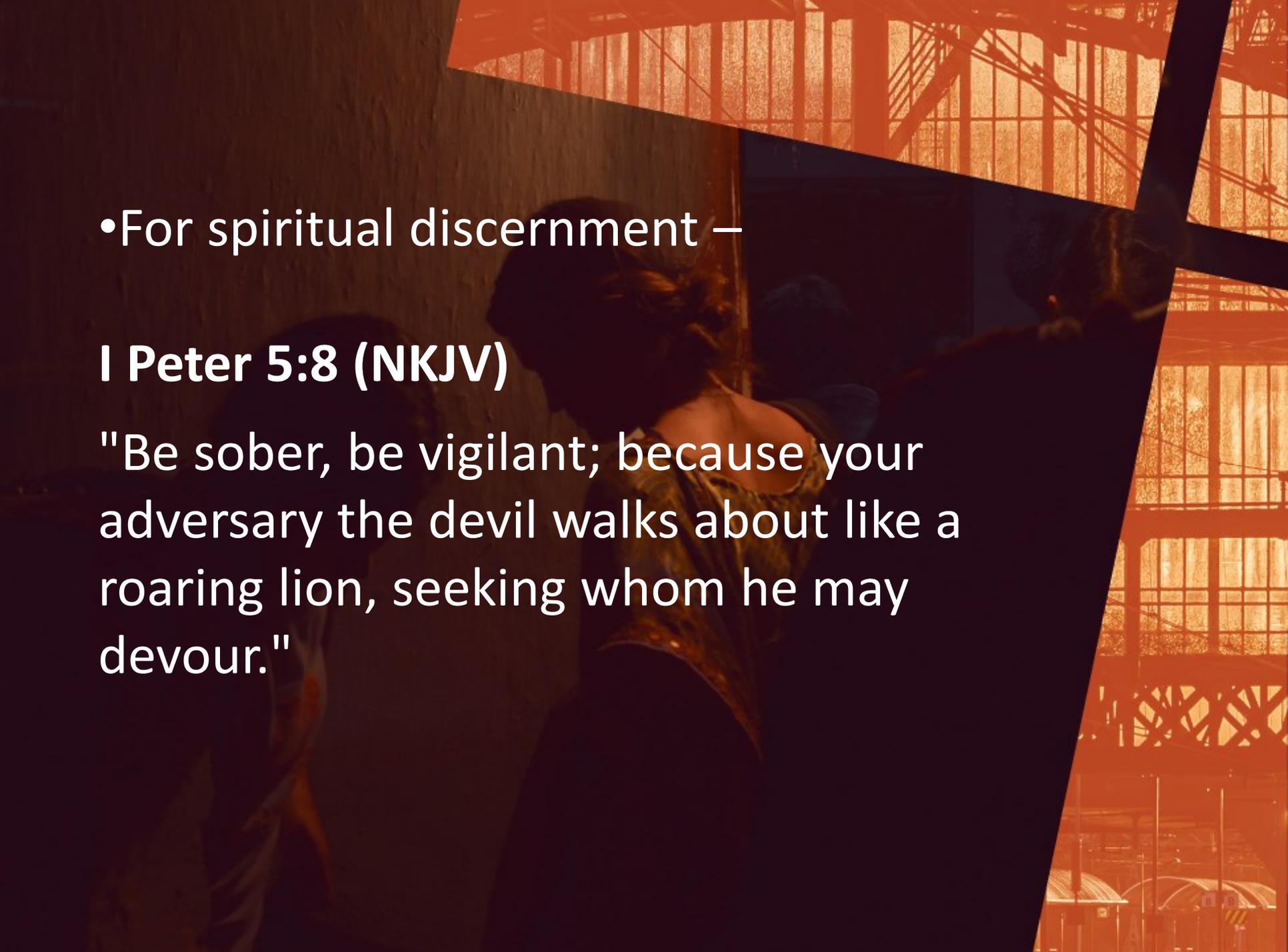
"Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation."



- For spiritual discernment –

I Thessalonians 5:8 (NKJV)

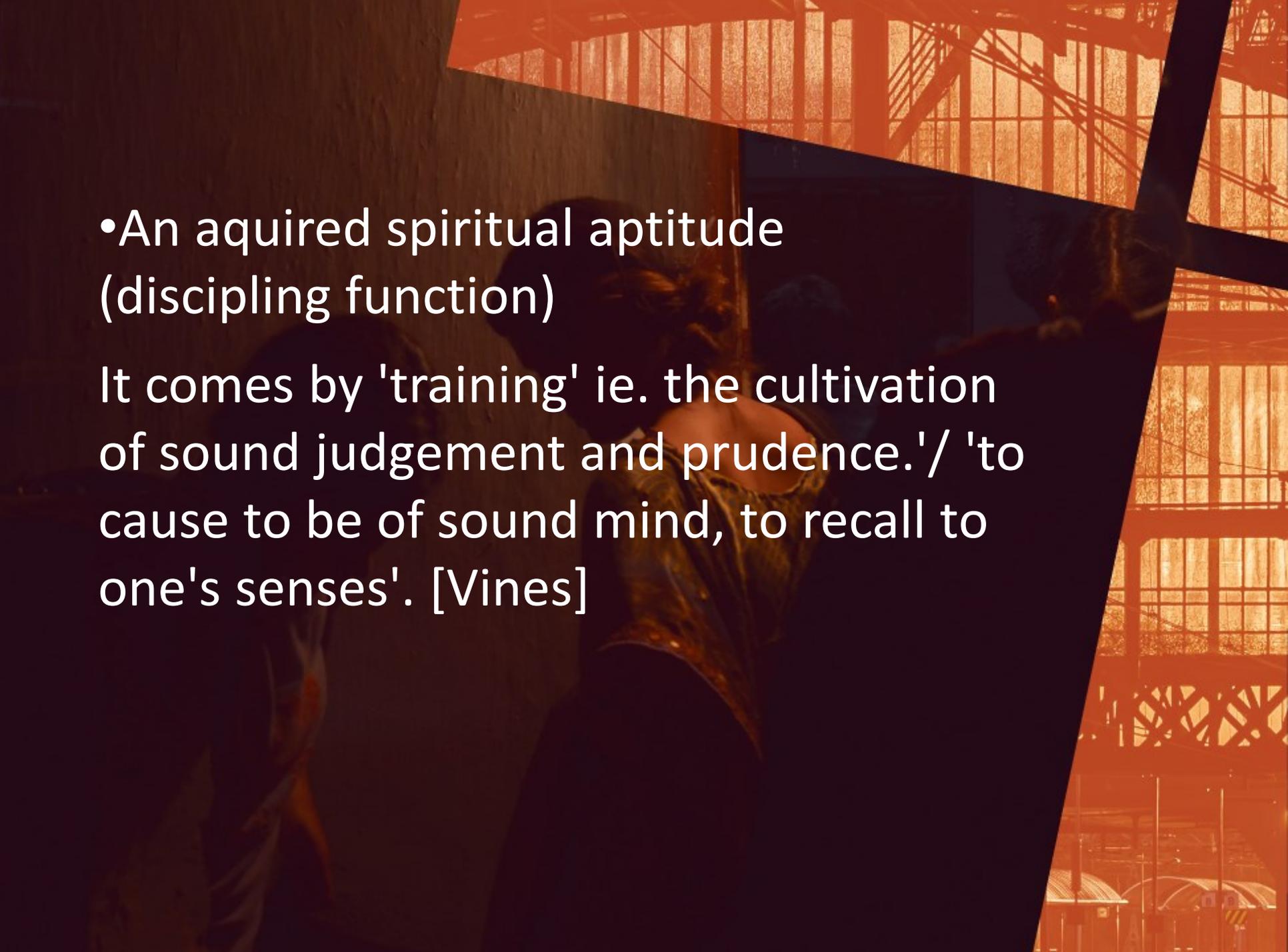
"But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation."



•For spiritual discernment –

I Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."



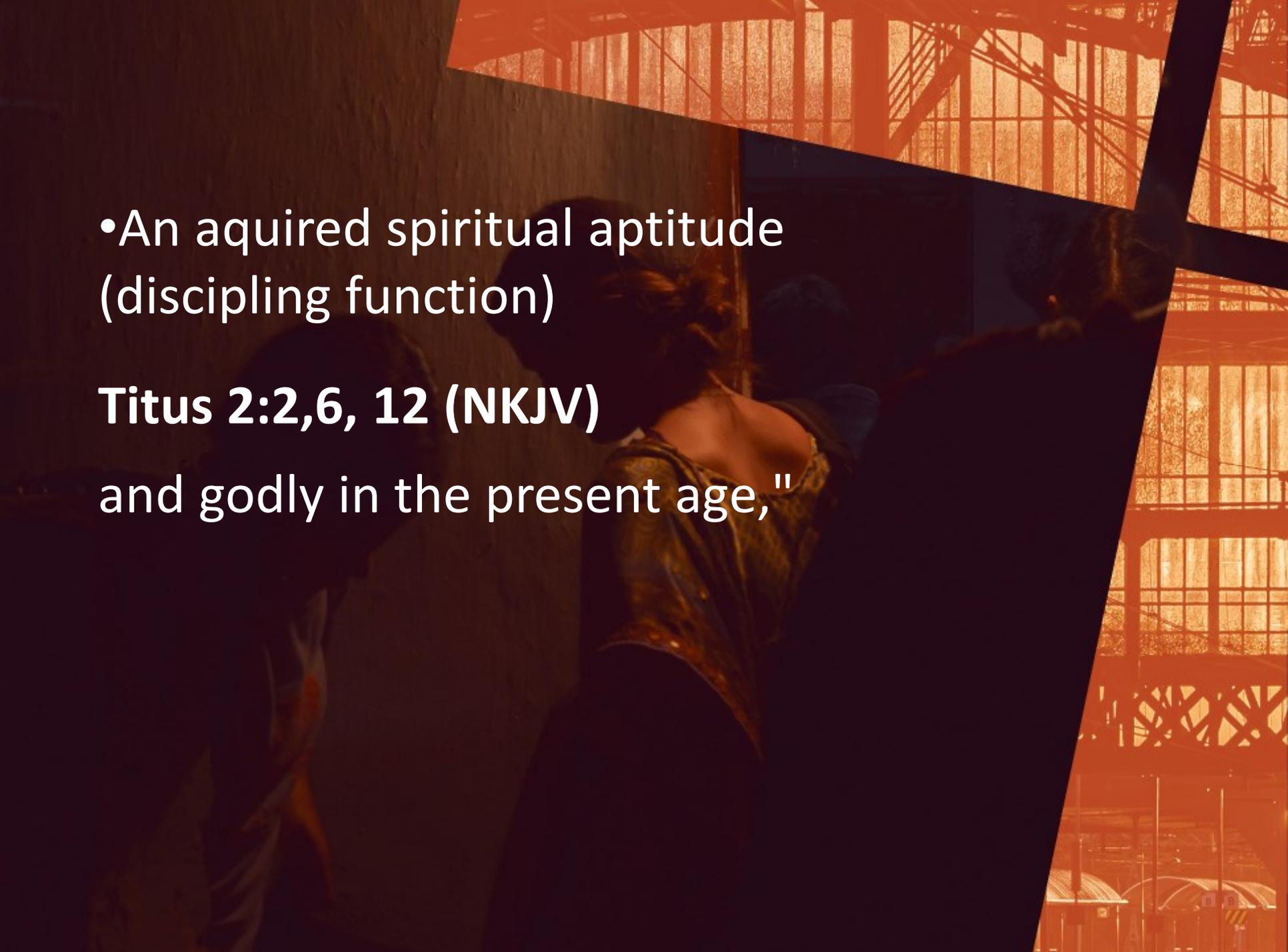
- An aquired spiritual aptitude (discipling function)

It comes by 'training' ie. the cultivation of sound judgement and prudence.'/ 'to cause to be of sound mind, to recall to one's senses'. [Vines]

- An aquired spiritual aptitude (discipling function)

Titus 2:2,6, 12 (NKJV)

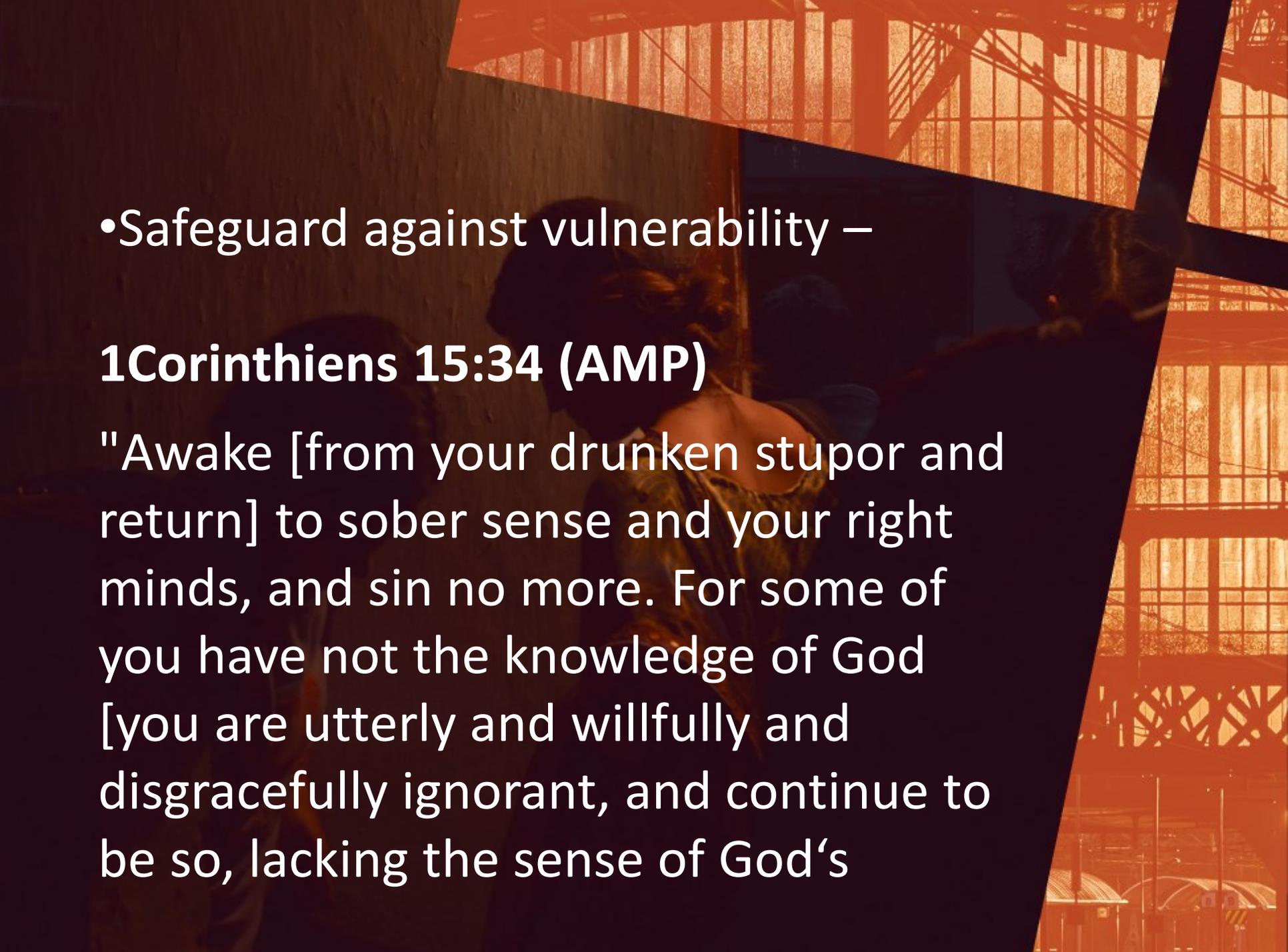
"that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, **teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously,



•An aquired spiritual aptitude
(discipling function)

Titus 2:2,6, 12 (NKJV)

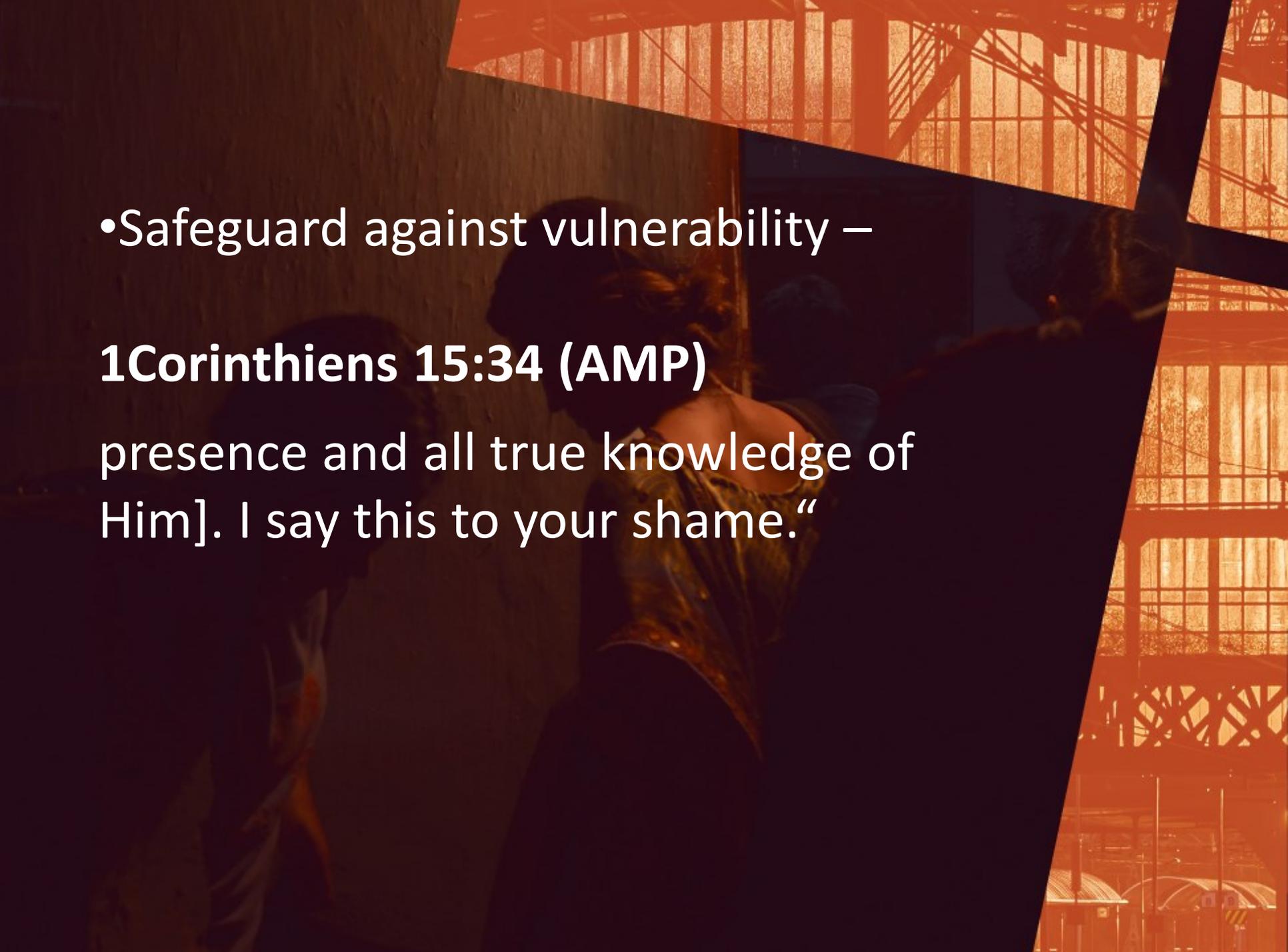
and godly in the present age,"



•Safeguard against vulnerability –

1Corinthiens 15:34 (AMP)

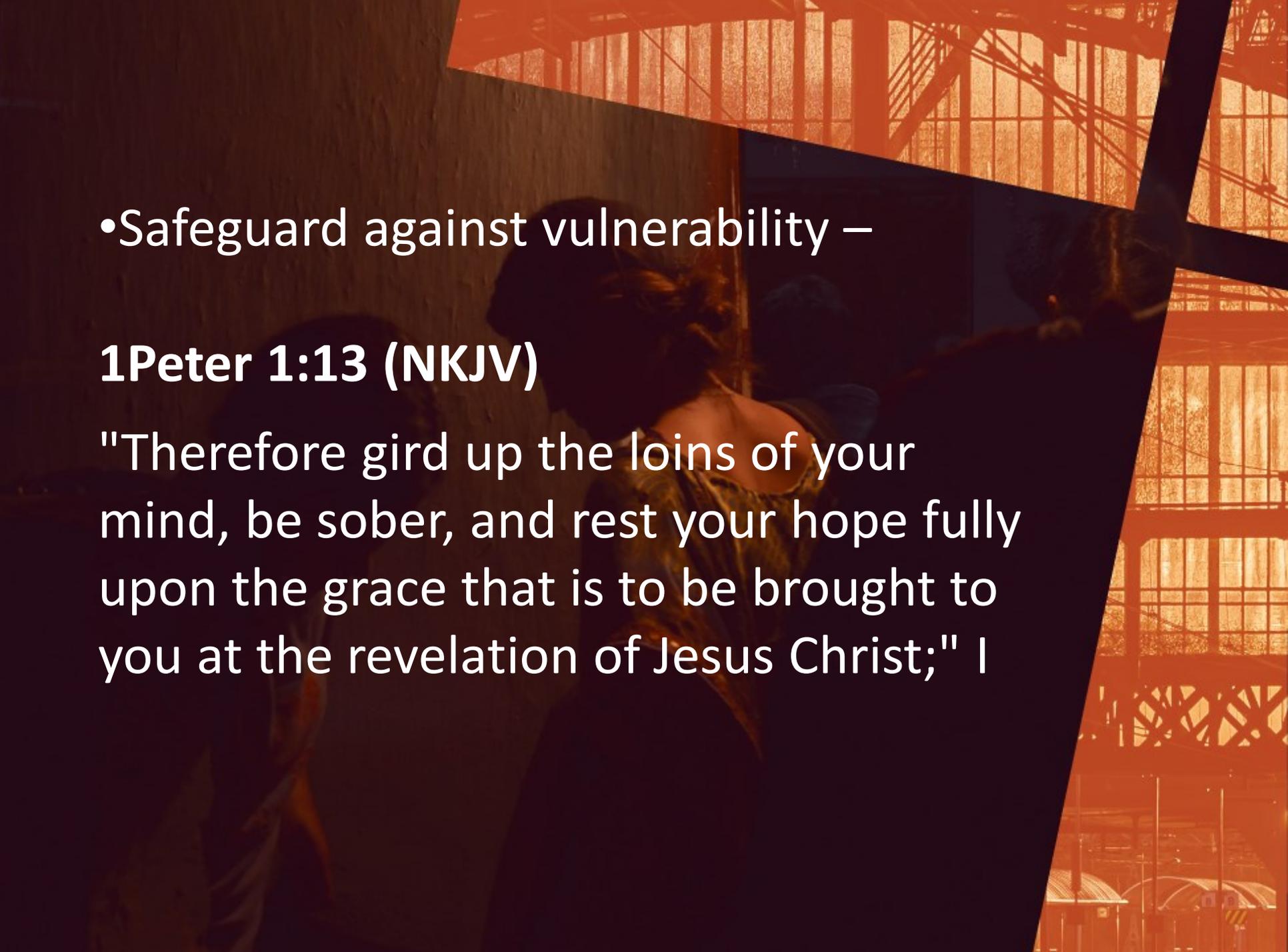
"Awake [from your drunken stupor and return] to sober sense and your right minds, and sin no more. For some of you have not the knowledge of God [you are utterly and willfully and disgracefully ignorant, and continue to be so, lacking the sense of God's



•Safeguard against vulnerability –

1Corinthiens 15:34 (AMP)

presence and all true knowledge of Him]. I say this to your shame.”



•Safeguard against vulnerability –

1Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;" I