

A black and white photograph of a person's profile in a car, looking out the window. The image is overlaid with large, orange, brush-stroke style text that reads "RIDING SHOTGUN".

RIDING SHOTGUN

Dr. Ed Laymance

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Numbers 11:1

The people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes

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Exodus 20:18-21

¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” ²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

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Exodus 32:1-4

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”² So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”

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Exodus 32:1-4

³ So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”

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If I do not allow God to constantly and continually inform how I feel and what I think, I will:

- Just exchange one form of bondage for another.
- Not live in the kind of enduring freedom I could and should enjoy.
- Self-sabotage the process of becoming the masterpiece God intends for me to be.
- Live with hand-me-downs from others concerning what I know of God – there will be no fire in the belly.

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James 4:1-8

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² 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. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

James 4:1-8

⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But he gives more grace.

James 4:1-8

Therefore, it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Every Day This Week

- Declare out loud morning, noon, and night:
Jesus is Lord and I choose to live accordingly!
- Read James 4:1-8 at least once a day
- Think about what you read
- Ask Jesus to show you how to apply truth from the passage in your day

1 John 5:12-13

¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

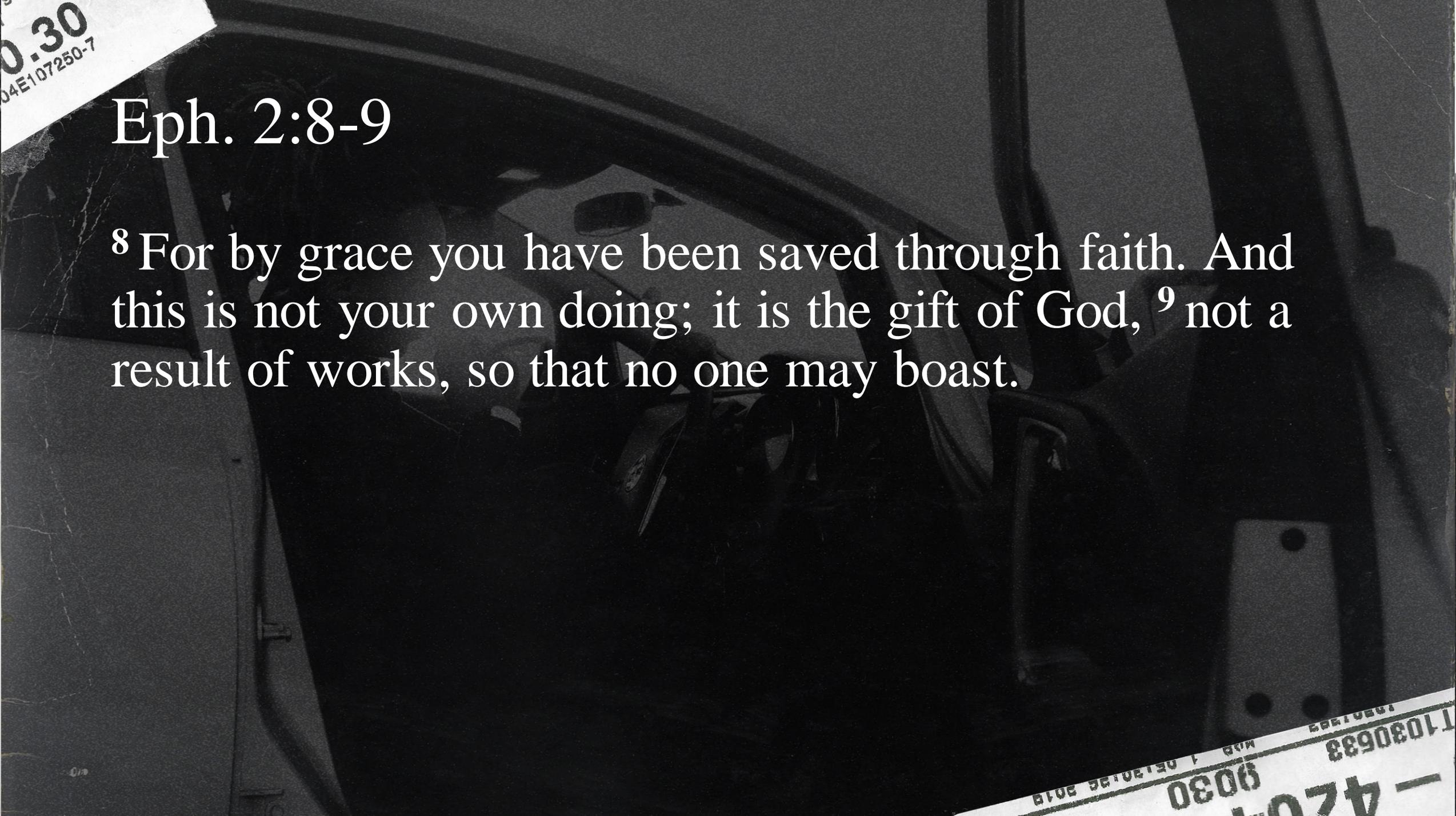
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Romans 10:9,13

⁹ if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹³ For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

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Eph. 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

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Lord Jesus, if you are already in my life, thank you. Forgive me for doubting. If I have never asked you to come into my life and forgive my sin, that's what I ask you to do right now. From today forward I want to know that you live in me. Thank you that you will never leave me nor forsake me. I put my trust in you alone. Amen.

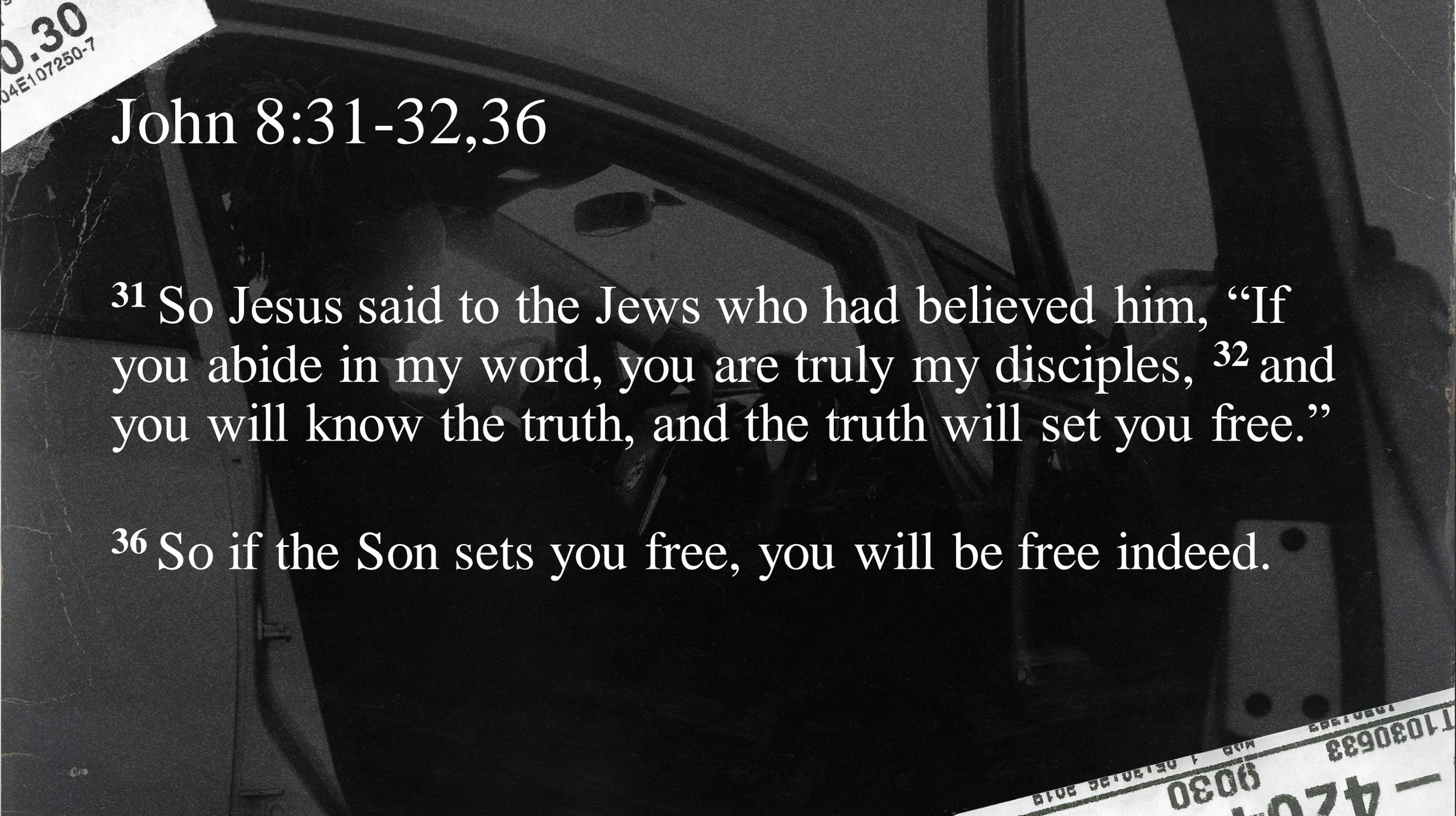
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Gal. 5:1

It was for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.

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John 8:31-32,36

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

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Jesus, I have doubted that I could be free.

I choose to believe your promise of freedom. Help me to listen to Your voice rather than the giants that seek to imprison and destroy me. Help me trust in Your truth, not how I feel. Guide me as I chose to release resentments, heal hurts, and eliminate anything in my life which is being used by Darkness to control me and keep me in bondage. Thank you! Amen.

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