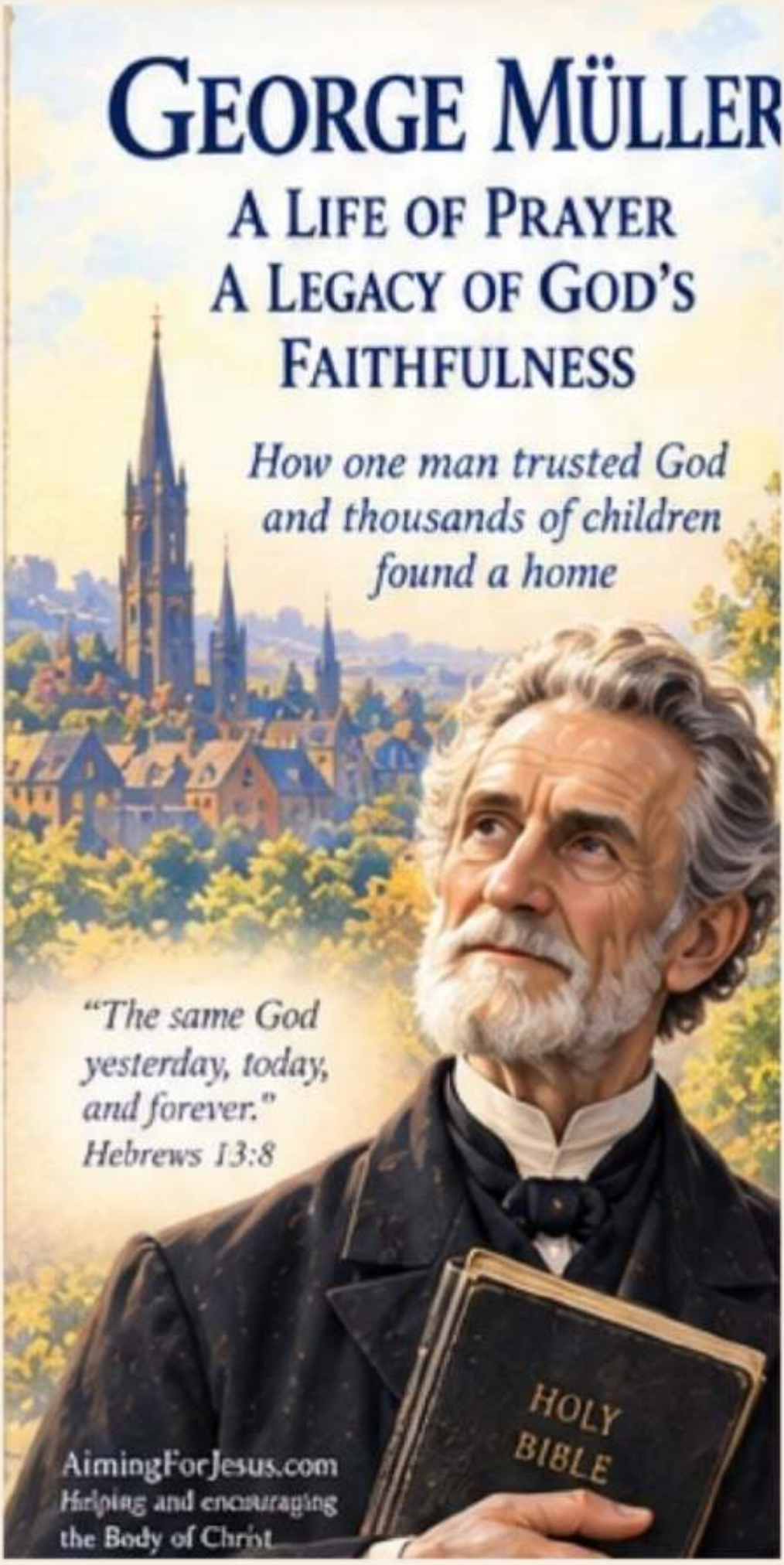
GEORGE MÜLLER

A LIFE OF PRAYER
A LEGACY OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

How one man trusted God and thousands of children found a home



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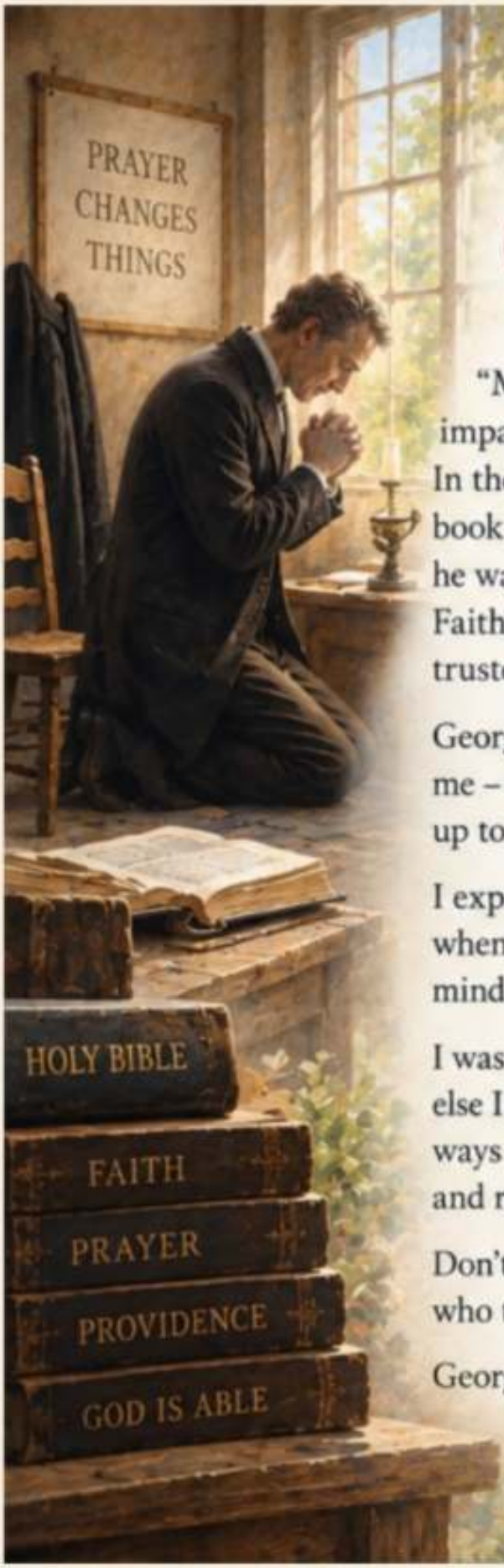


How I Met George Müller

"Meeting" George Müller has greatly impacted my life going back almost forty years. In the late 1980s someone suggested reading Müller's book and it took my breath away to see how faithful he was in prayer and much more so how Totally Faithful God is in responding to a man who fully trusted God to be God.

George Müller had two things that really spoke to me – don't ask people, ask God; and, leave the results up to God. He is able.

I experienced great failures after then but much later when God really got my attention George visited my mind and reminded me of how faithful God is.

I was not perfect in following his pattern (or anything else I have ever done) but when I did trust God in those ways – God always (and I mean always) showed up and revealed Himself in power and in truth.

Don't deprive yourself of this glimpse into a man who trusted God and God delivered.

George Müller, a man of faith in God.

— Hollis McGehee

The Backstory to the Orphanages

George Müller wrote that the first and primary object of 'the work' (the amazing care and feeding and spiritual health of thousands of children) was that God might be magnified. That without anyone being asked for help by George or those working with him – God fed and provided for every meal, ever stitch of clothing, every lesson, every act of love shown to these children came directly from God. The end goal being that the world may see that God is still just as faithful as ever and He still hears and answers prayer in God sized ways.



This is what it was all about

- **To glorify God.**
- **The Spiritual welfare of the orphans.**
- **The temporal welfare of the orphans.**



That the world may see that God is still just as faithful as ever.

A Rebellious Boy

George Müller was born in 1805 in Prussia (now Germany). As a boy he was clever and liked the approval of others, but he was also dishonest.

He learned early to lie, deceive, and steal. He often followed the wrong crowd, chasing pleasure instead of doing what was right.

He knew better, but he did it anyway.

A boy with great potential — but heading in the wrong direction.




Wrong choices
can take us far from God.

A Mother's Death

When George was fourteen years old, his mother became very ill. She was a godly woman who had prayed for him from his earliest days.

While she was dying, George was away, living in rebellion and far from home. He did not return in time to say goodbye.

Shortly after, she died.

Her prayers, however, were not in vain.

A mother's prayers often outlive the moments we cannot see.




Her prayers
followed him
long after
she was gone.

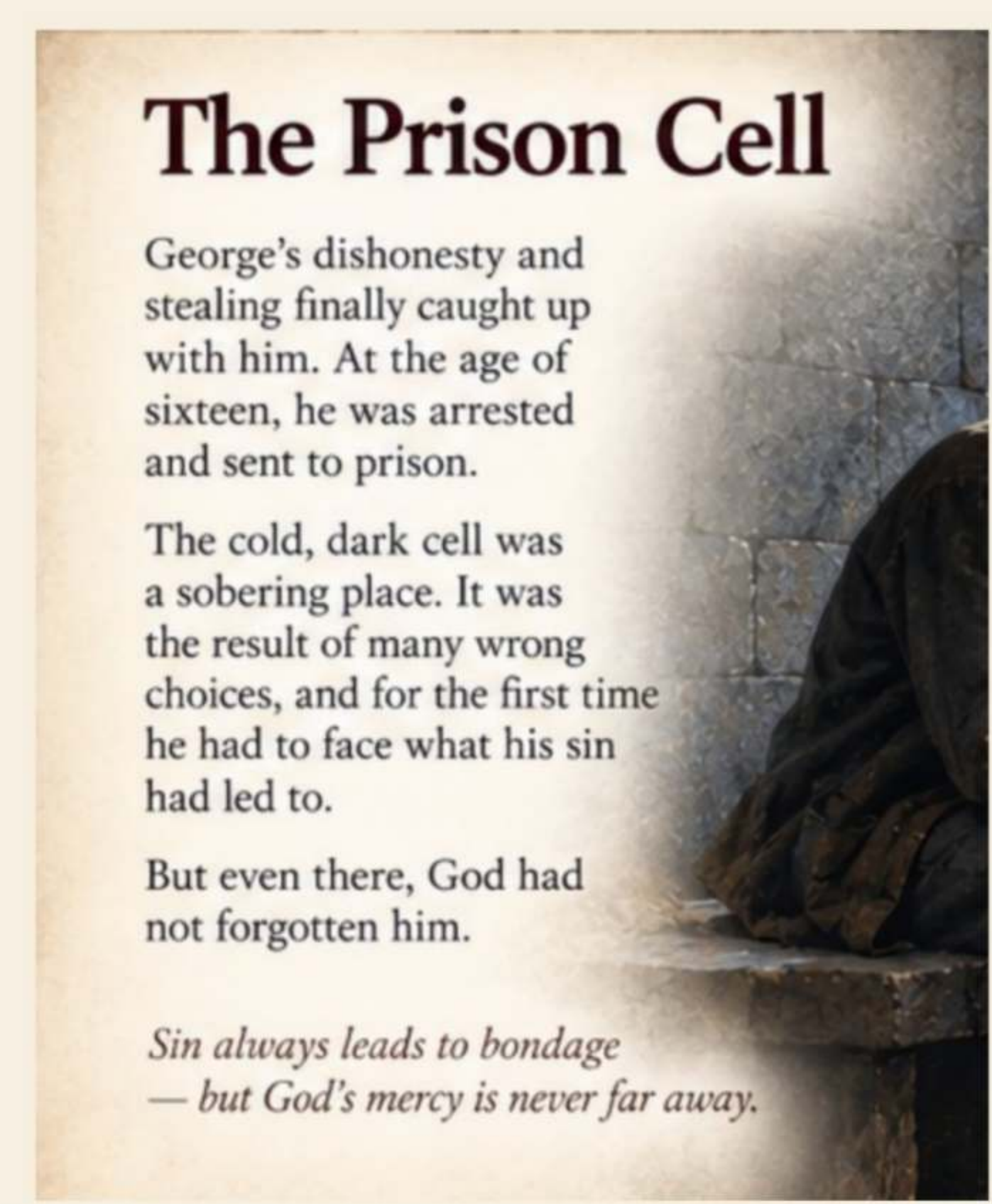
The Prison Cell

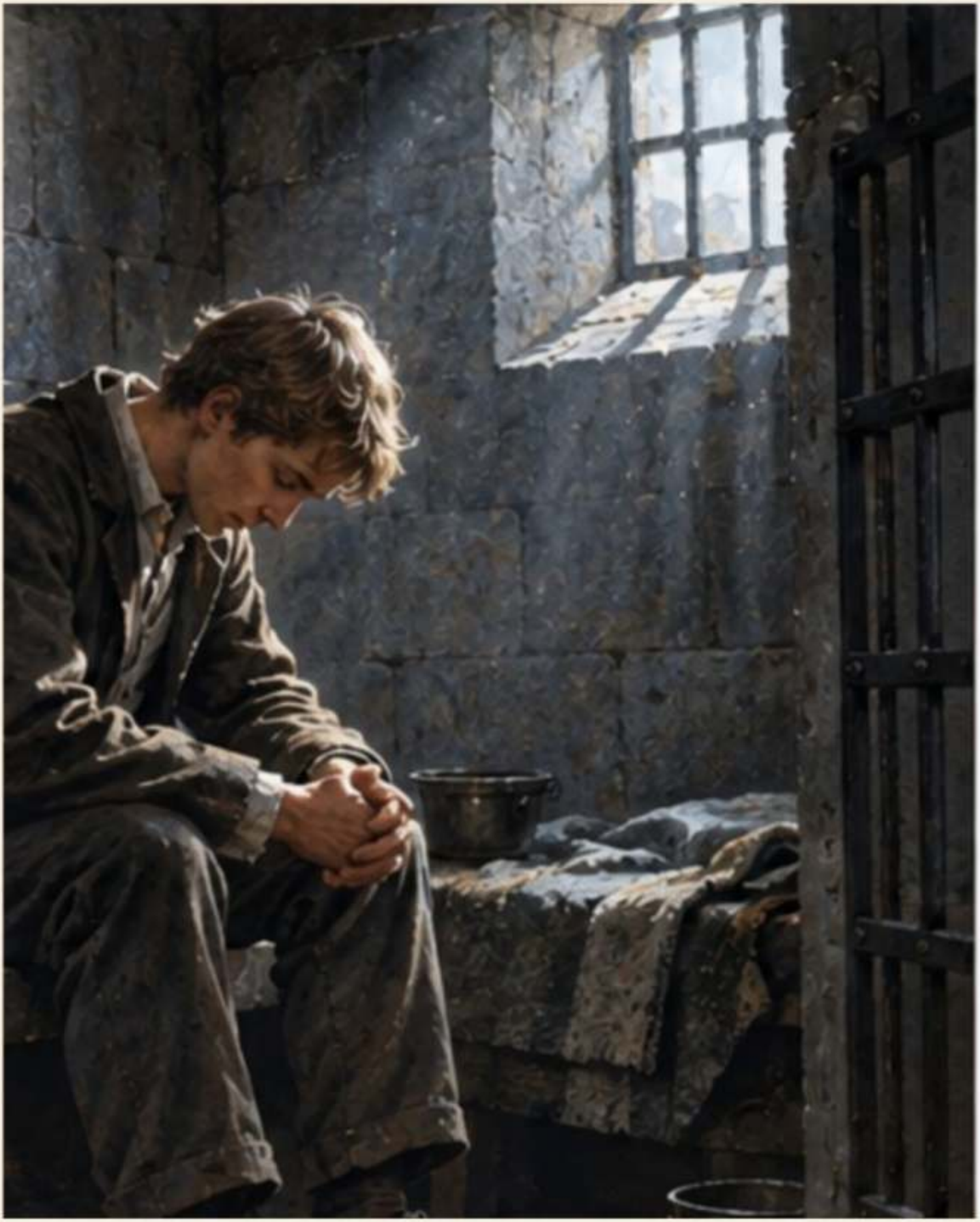
George's dishonesty and stealing finally caught up with him. At the age of sixteen, he was arrested and sent to prison.

The cold, dark cell was a sobering place. It was the result of many wrong choices, and for the first time he had to face what his sin had led to.

But even there, God had not forgotten him.

Sin always leads to bondage — but God's mercy is never far away.





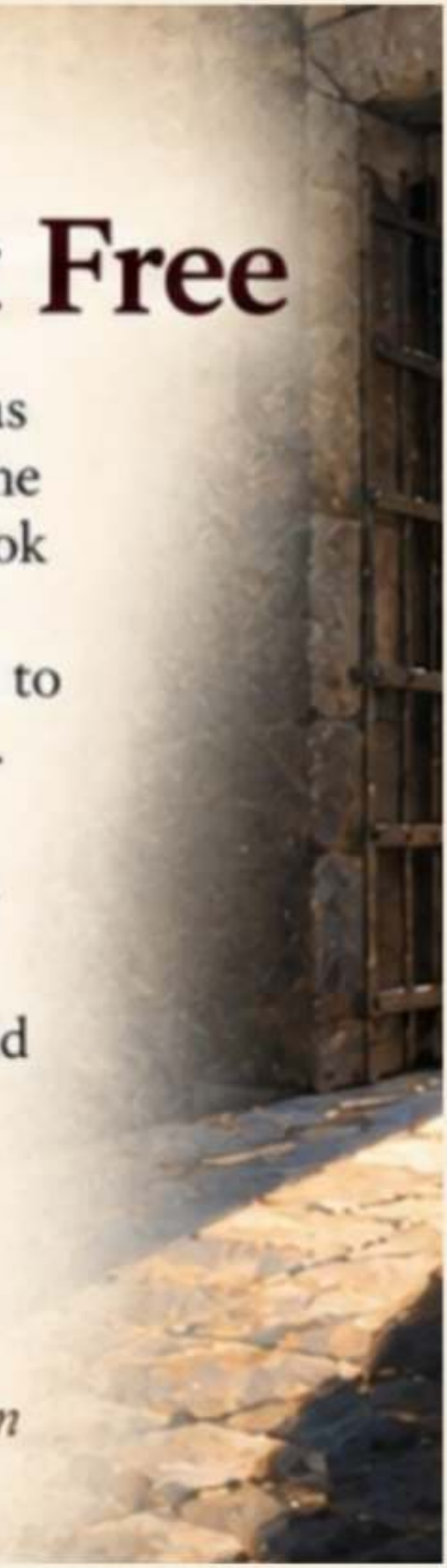
GEORGE MÜLLER ON

SURRENDER

Remember, these hands and feet and ears and eyes are not ours, they belong to Jesus-He bought them. Our tongue is His, and our brain is His; our time is His, all our talents are His. All He has given us belongs to Him, and at His feet we have to lay it down.

- George Müller

Out of Jail, But Not Yet Free

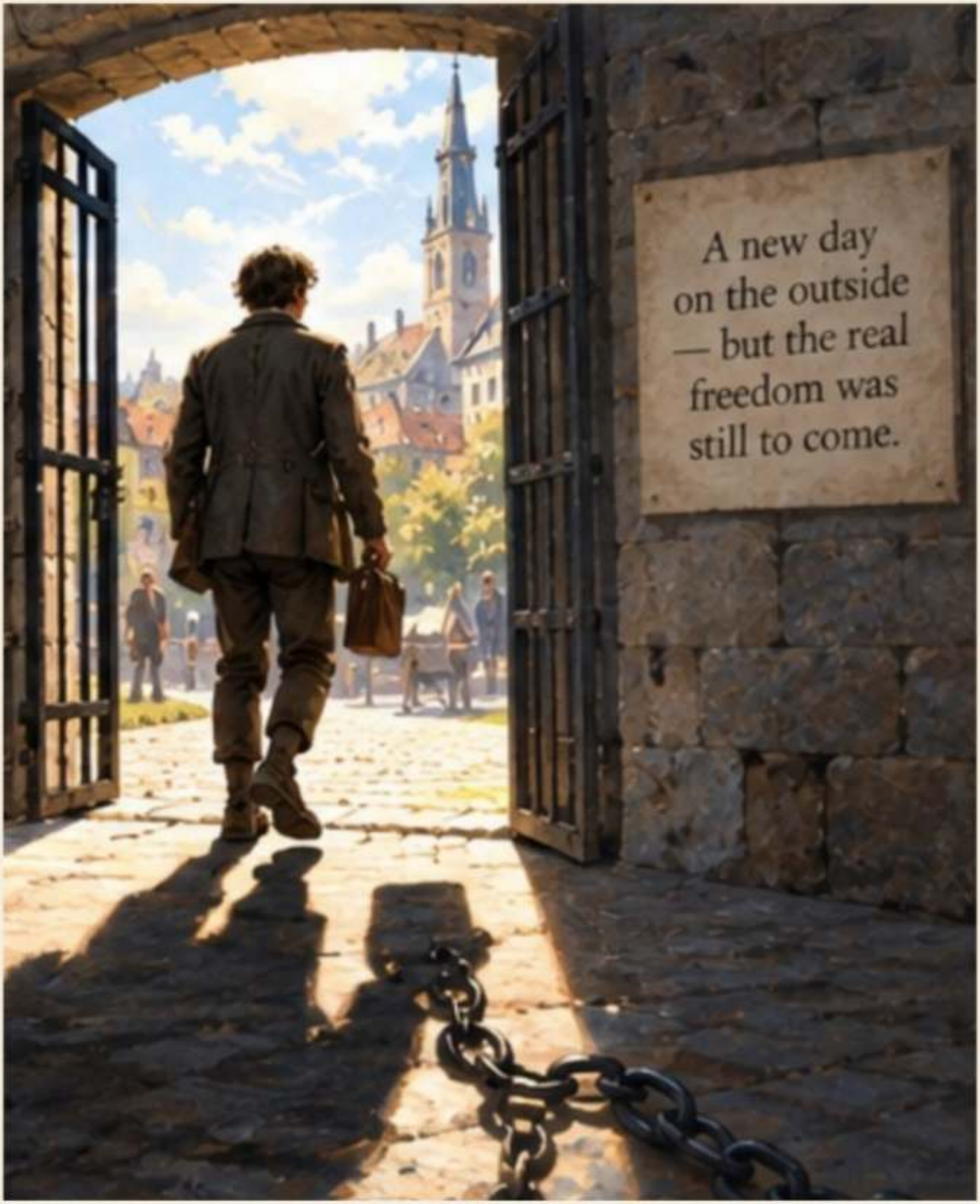


After two years, George was released from prison. On the outside, his life began to look better. He later became a theology student and tried to live a more respectable life.

But inside, he was still the same. He had not yet truly turned to God. Religion, while outwardly good, could not change his heart.

He was out of jail —
but not yet free.

It is possible to leave a prison and still be in bondage.

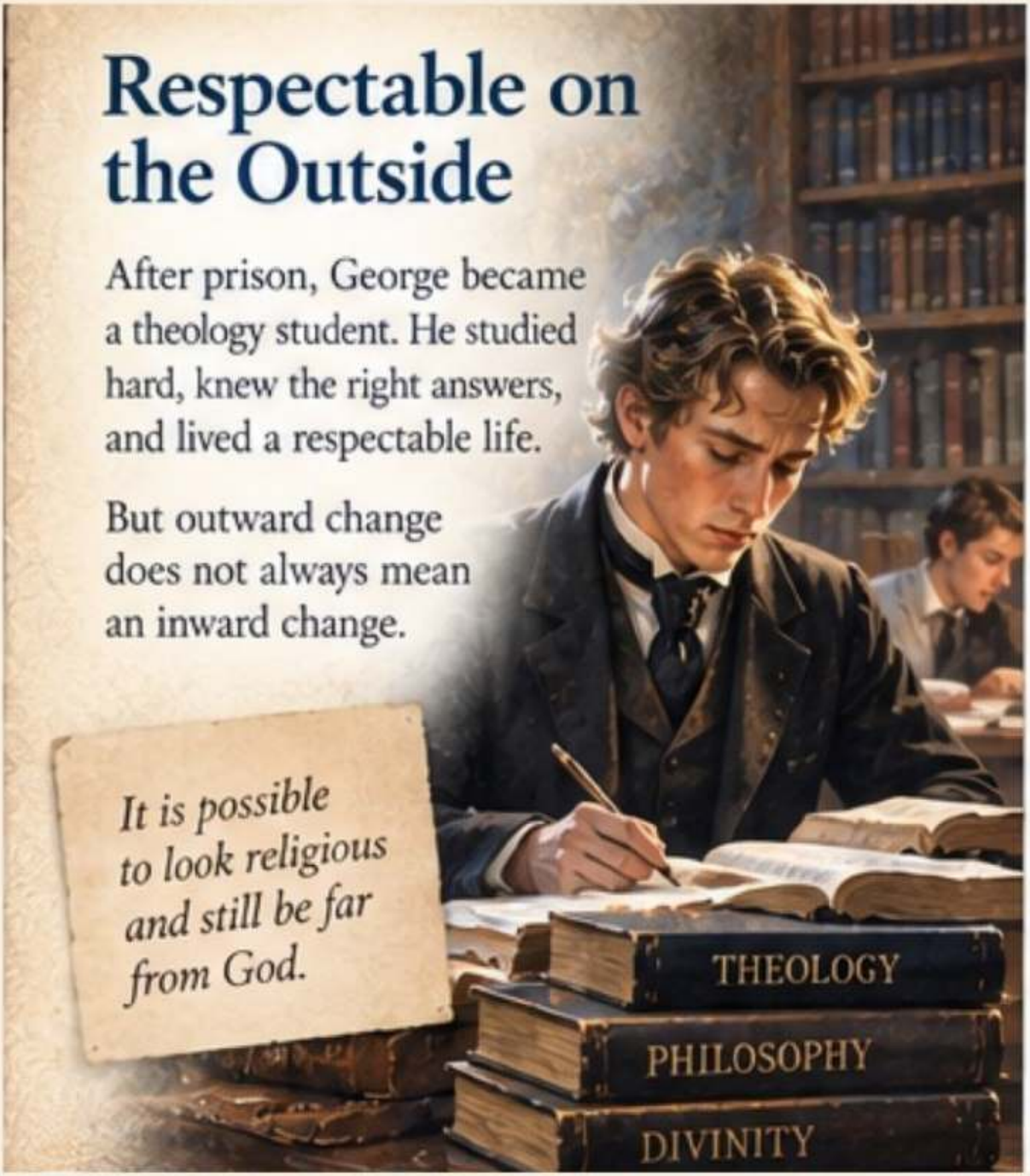

A new day
on the outside
— but the real
freedom was
still to come.

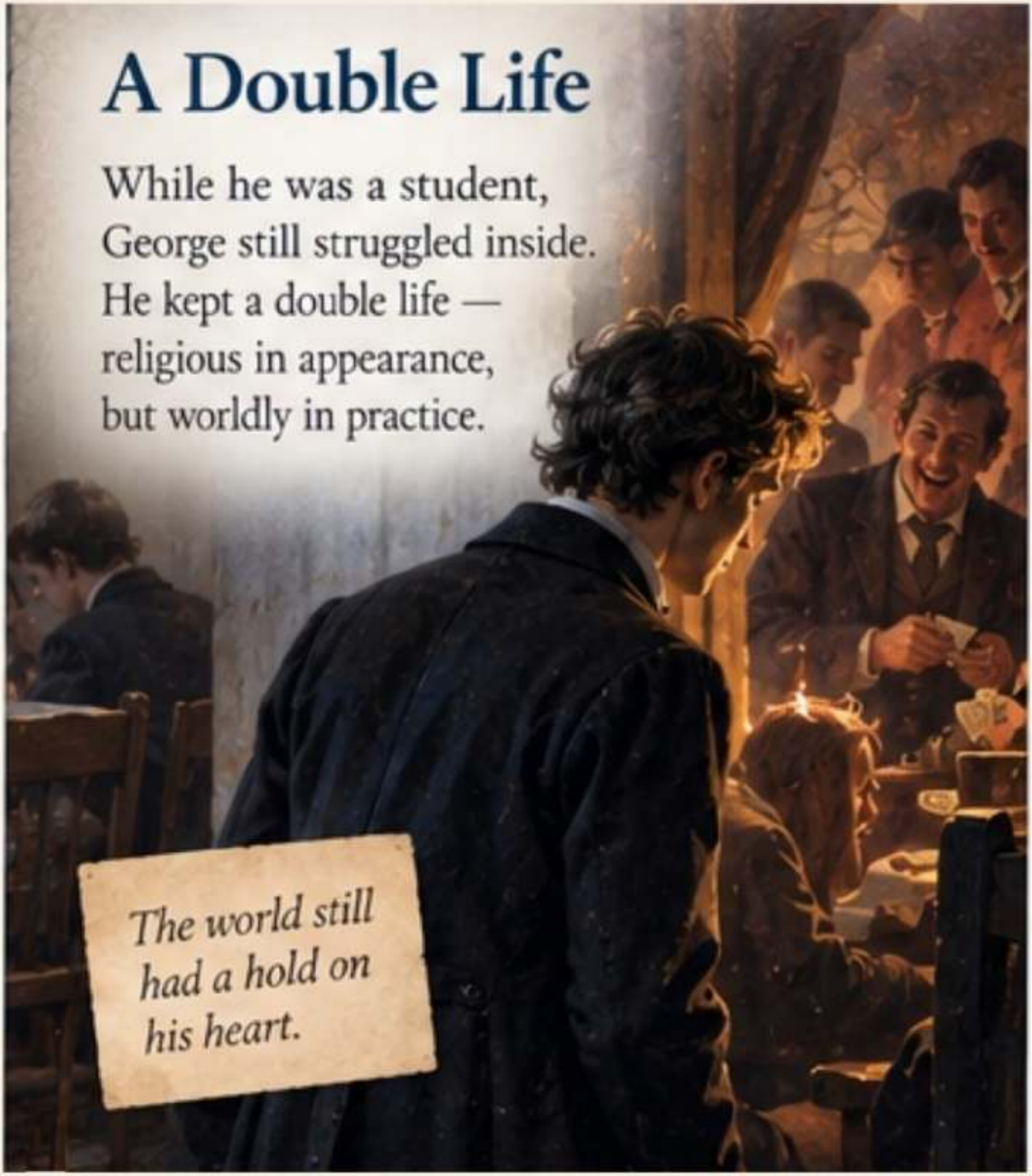
Respectable on the Outside

After prison, George became a theology student. He studied hard, knew the right answers, and lived a respectable life.

But outward change does not always mean an inward change.

It is possible to look religious and still be far from God.



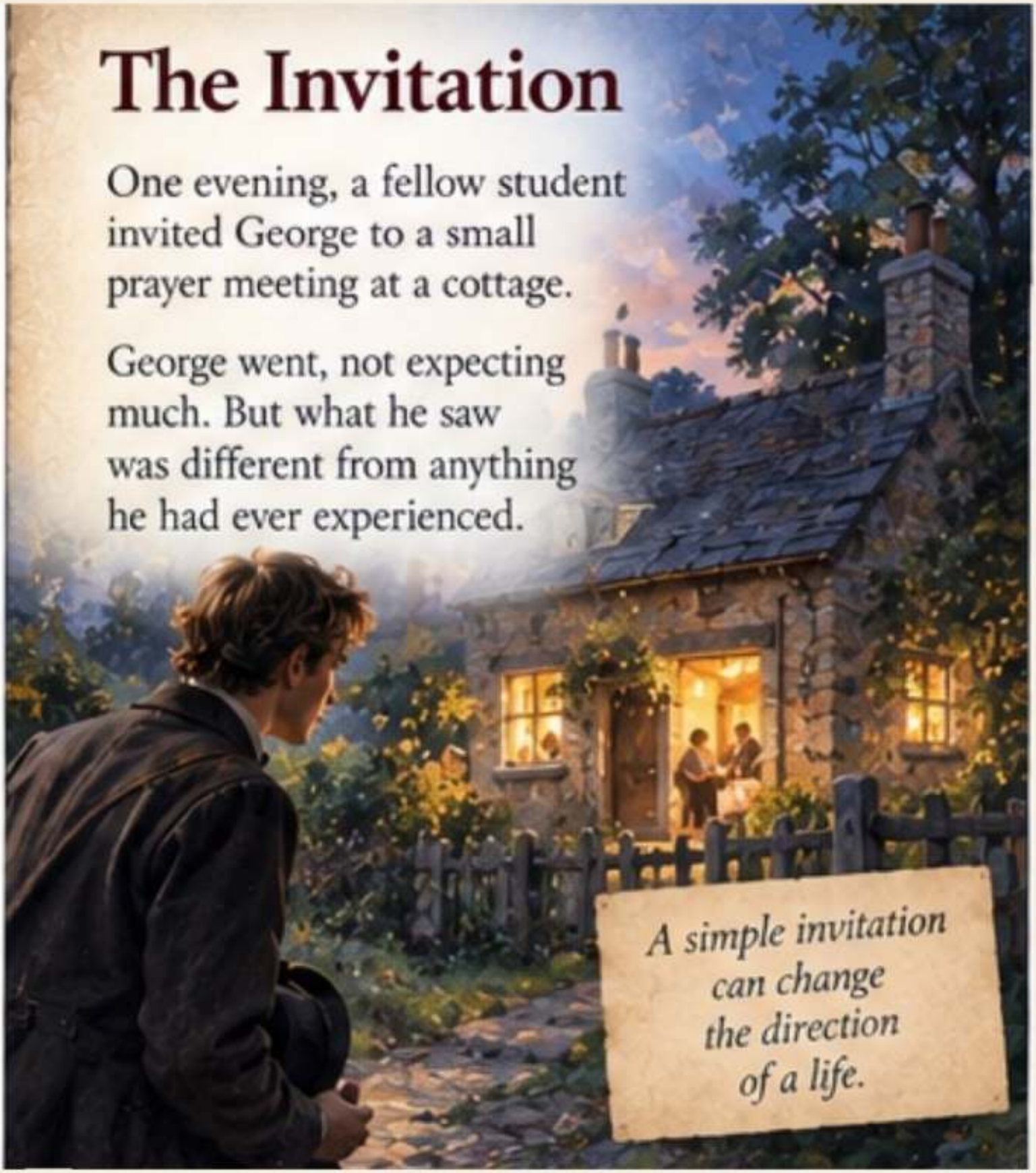

A Double Life
While he was a student,
George still struggled inside.
He kept a double life —
religious in appearance,
but worldly in practice.
The world still had a hold on his heart.

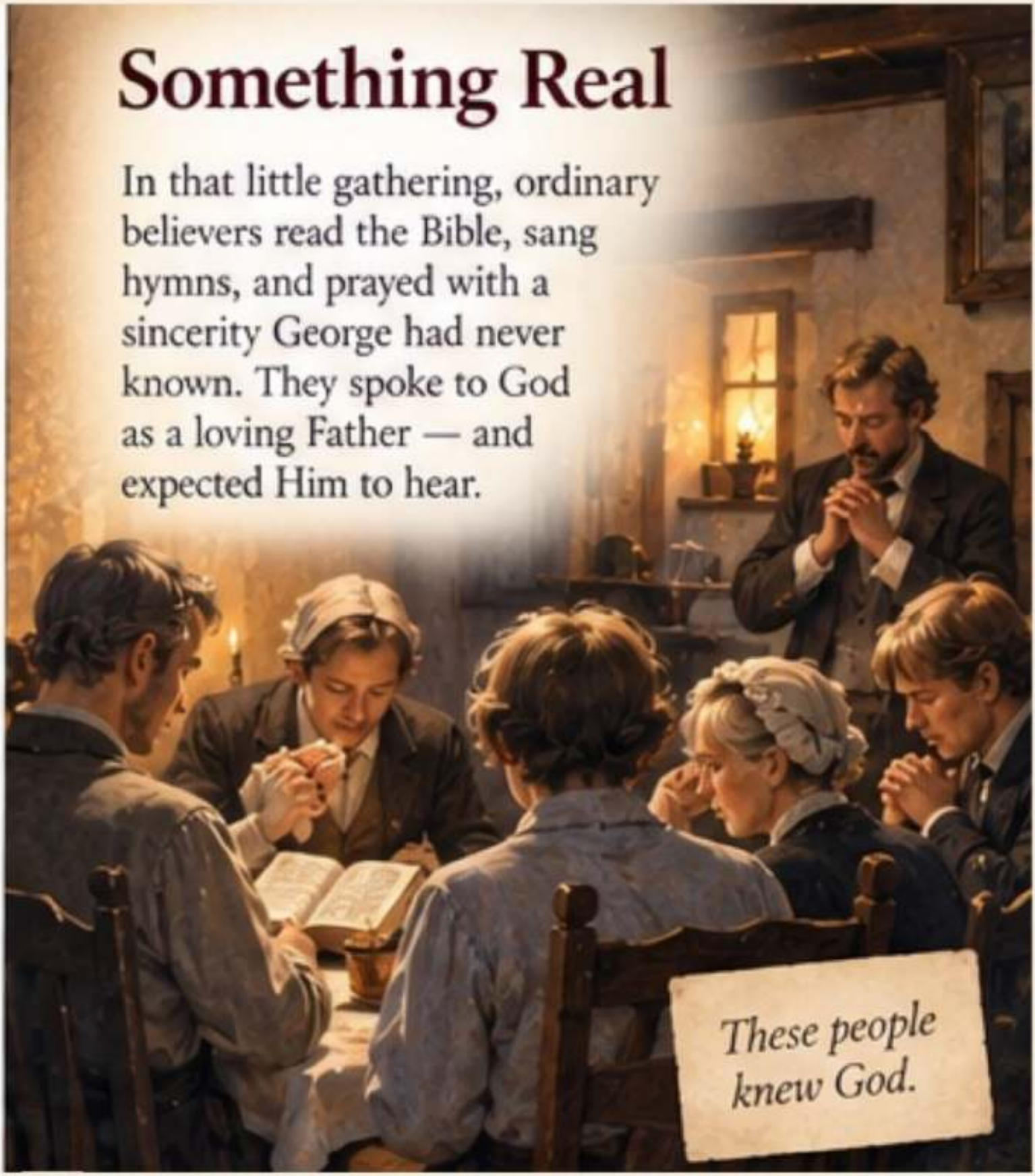
GEORGE MÜLLER ON

TRUST

Try to lean upon the arm of that blessed One, and you will find it never grows weary, but able to bear you up,-it never will fail. Oh! do but try it, and you will see.

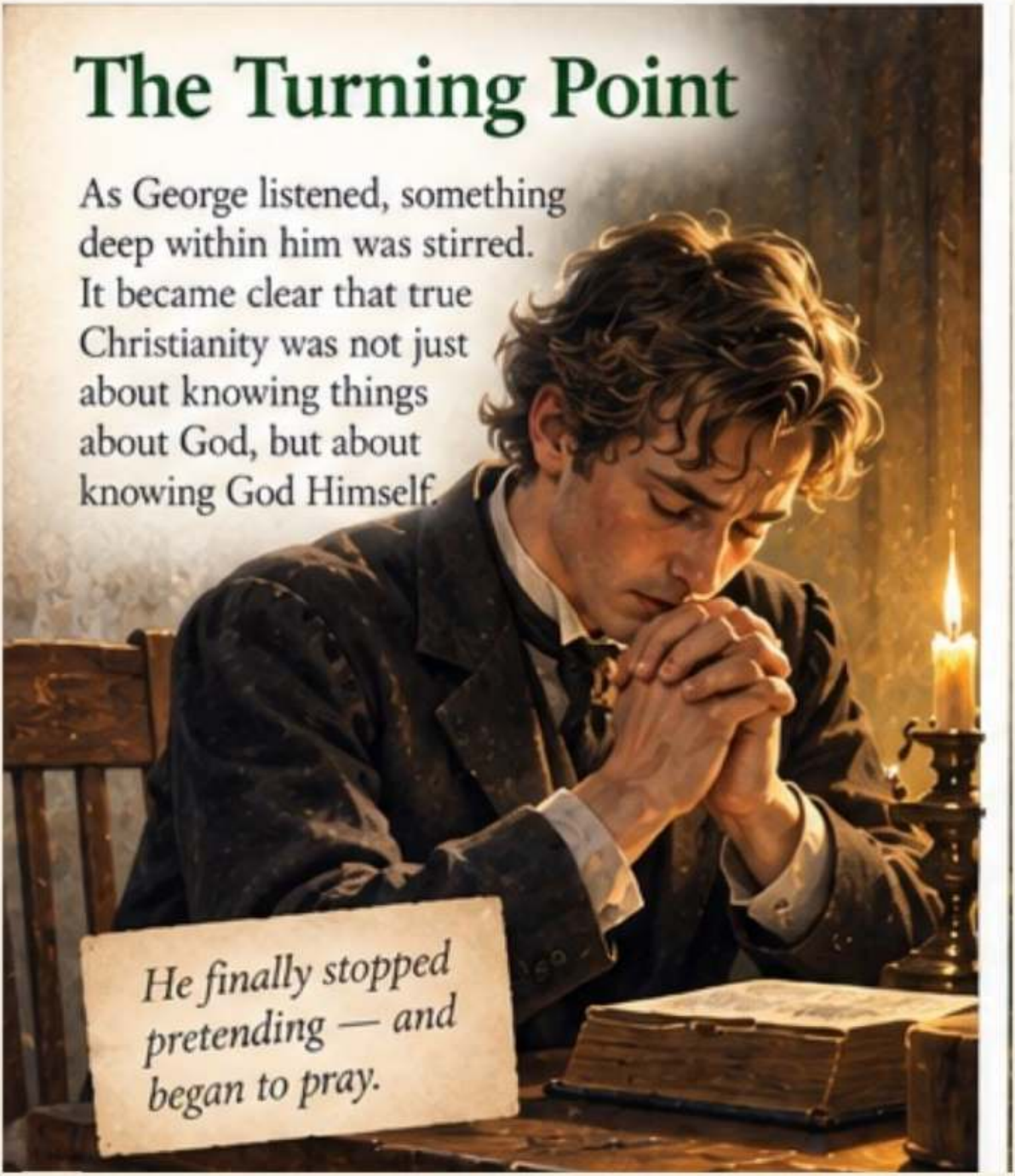
- George Müller


The Invitation
One evening, a fellow student invited George to a small prayer meeting at a cottage.
George went, not expecting much. But what he saw was different from anything he had ever experienced.
A simple invitation can change the direction of a life.


Something Real
In that little gathering, ordinary believers read the Bible, sang hymns, and prayed with a sincerity George had never known. They spoke to God as a loving Father — and expected Him to hear.
These people knew God.

The Turning Point

As George listened, something deep within him was stirred. It became clear that true Christianity was not just about knowing things about God, but about knowing God Himself.



He finally stopped pretending — and began to pray.

GEORGE MÜLLER ON

THE WORD OF GOD

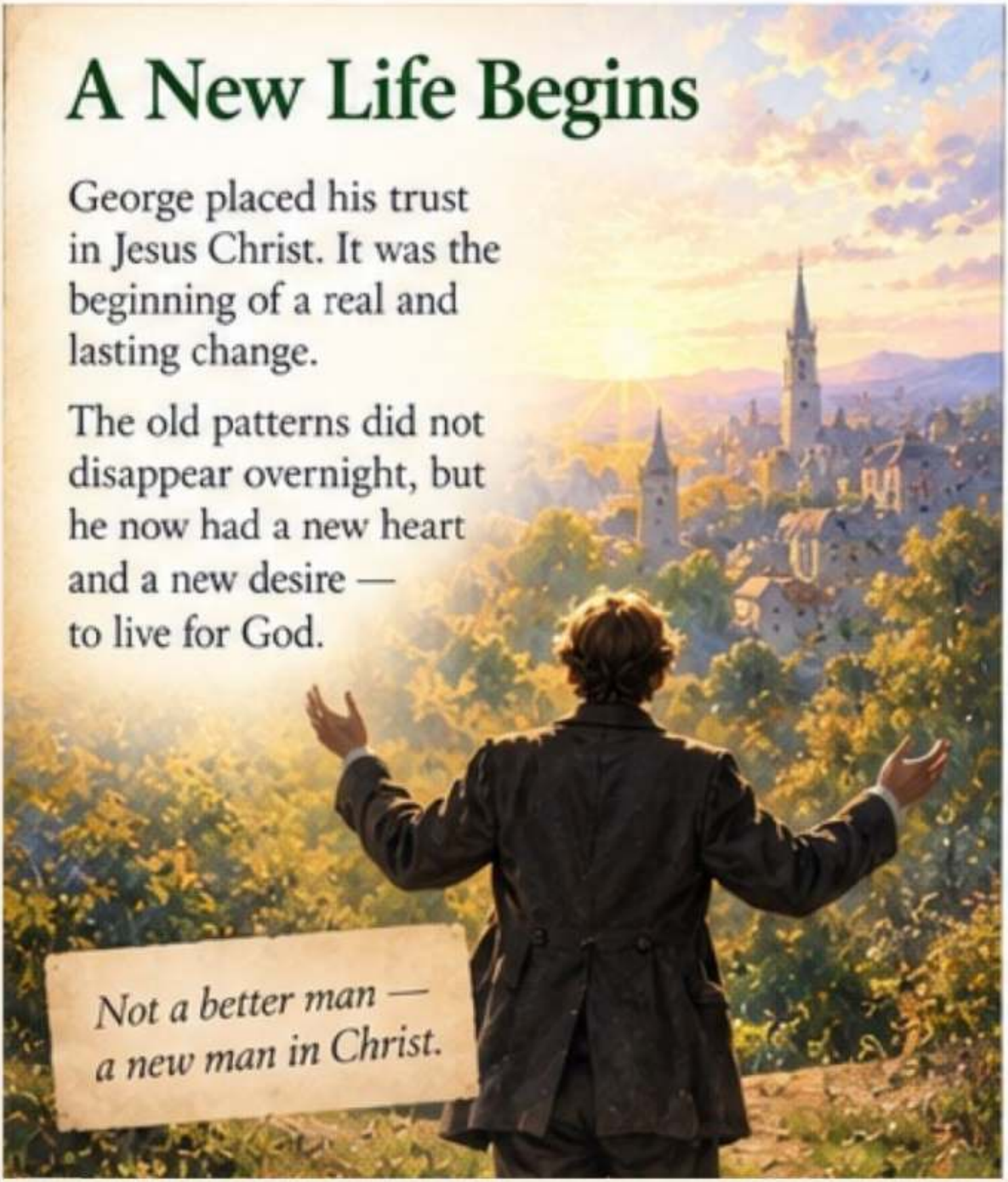
Day by day we are to seek to be nourished through the word of God. The child of God has to see to it that again and again and again he comes to this blessed book for nourishment for the inner man.

- George Müller

A New Life Begins

George placed his trust in Jesus Christ. It was the beginning of a real and lasting change.

The old patterns did not disappear overnight, but he now had a new heart and a new desire — to live for God.



Not a better man — a new man in Christ.

Learning to Know God

George discovered that God was not distant. He was a loving Father who heard and answered prayer.

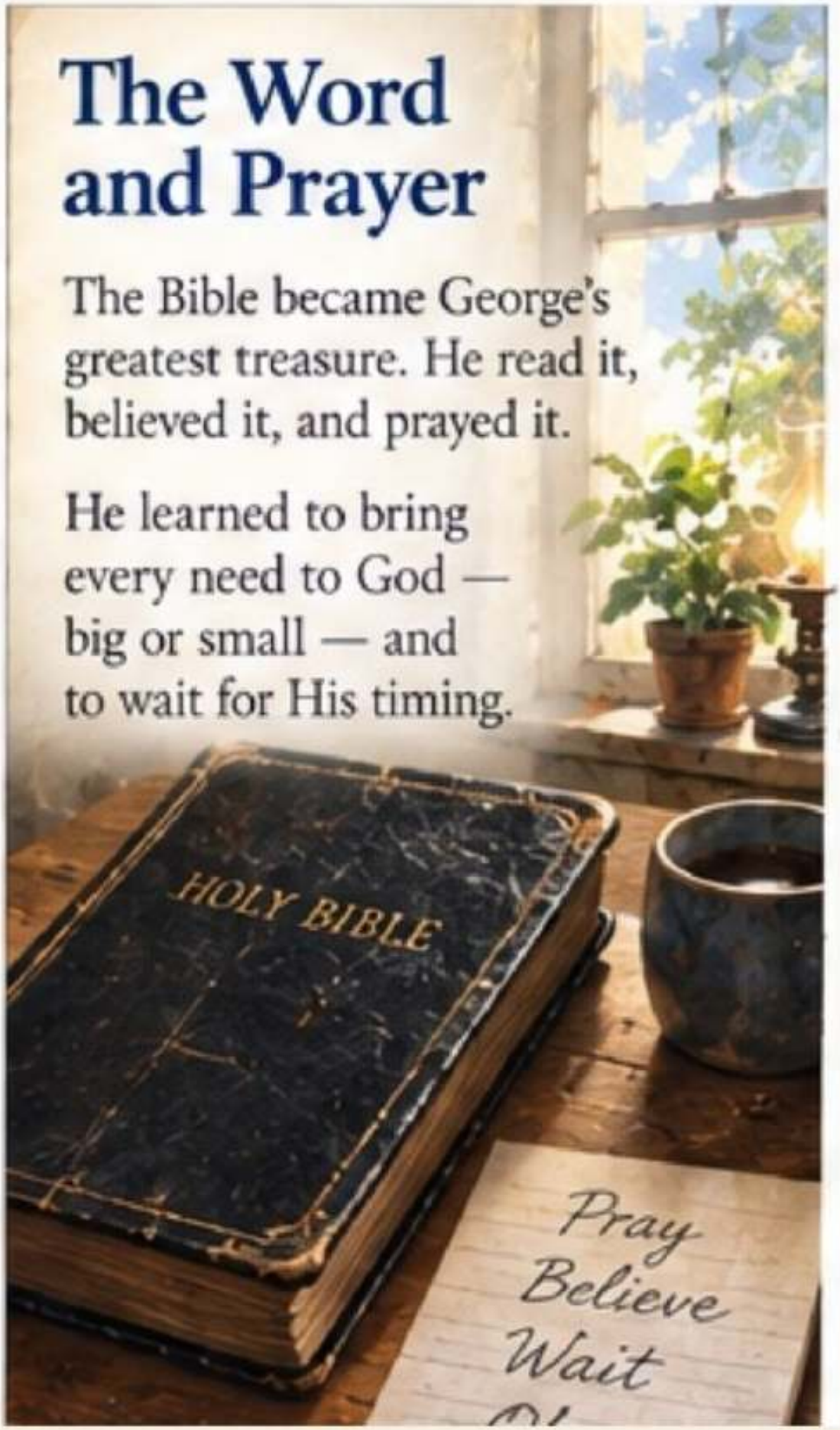
Through daily time in the Word and in prayer, George began to grow in real fellowship with God.



The Word and Prayer

The Bible became George's greatest treasure. He read it, believed it, and prayed it.

He learned to bring every need to God — big or small — and to wait for His timing.



GEORGE MÜLLER ON

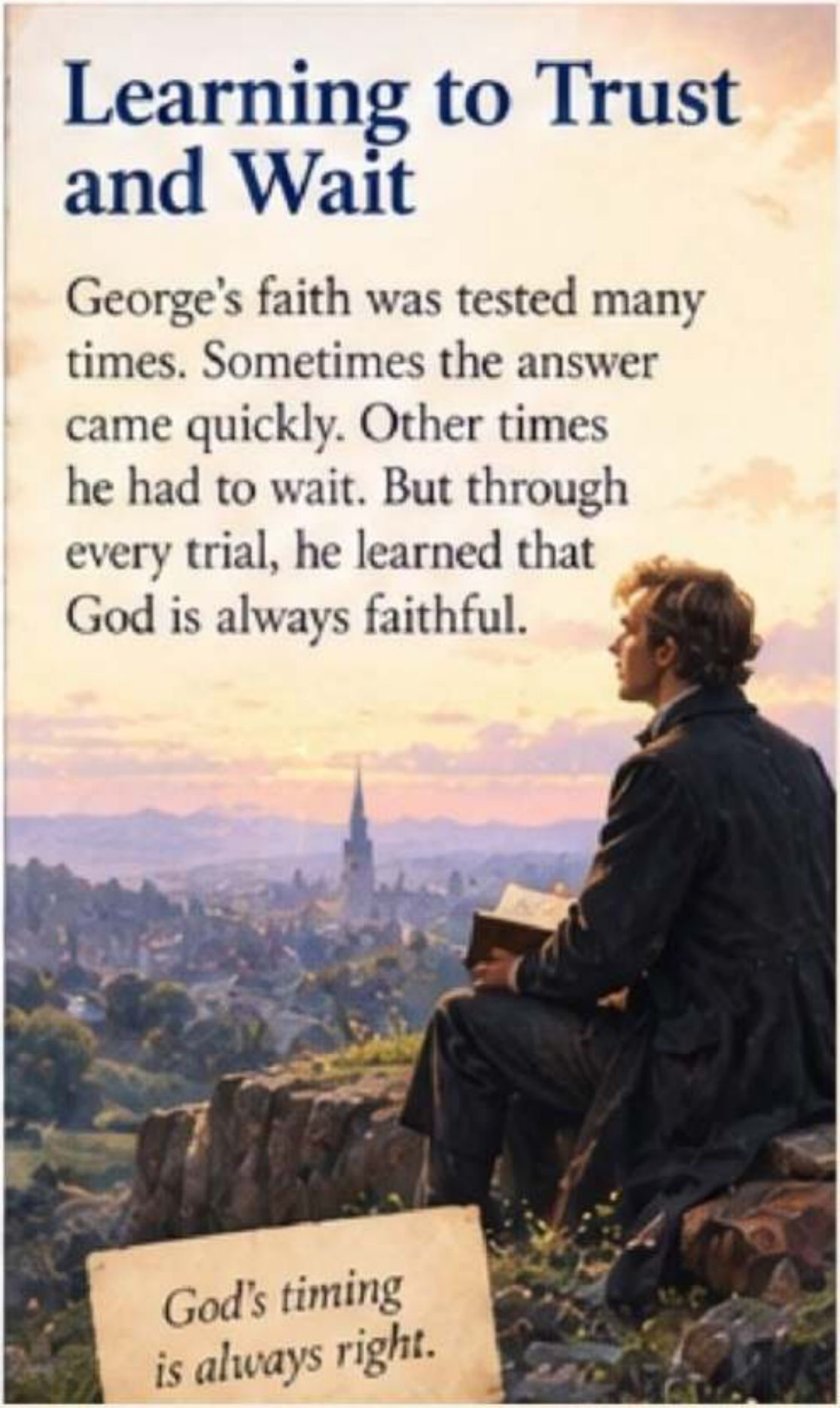
GOD'S TIMING

The Lord in His faithfulness helped us. Help was never more truly needed, nor did the help of the Lord ever come more obviously from Himself - His timing could not have been better. Praise the Lord for His goodness! Praise Him that He helped us trust in Him in this trying hour.

- George Müller

Learning to Trust and Wait

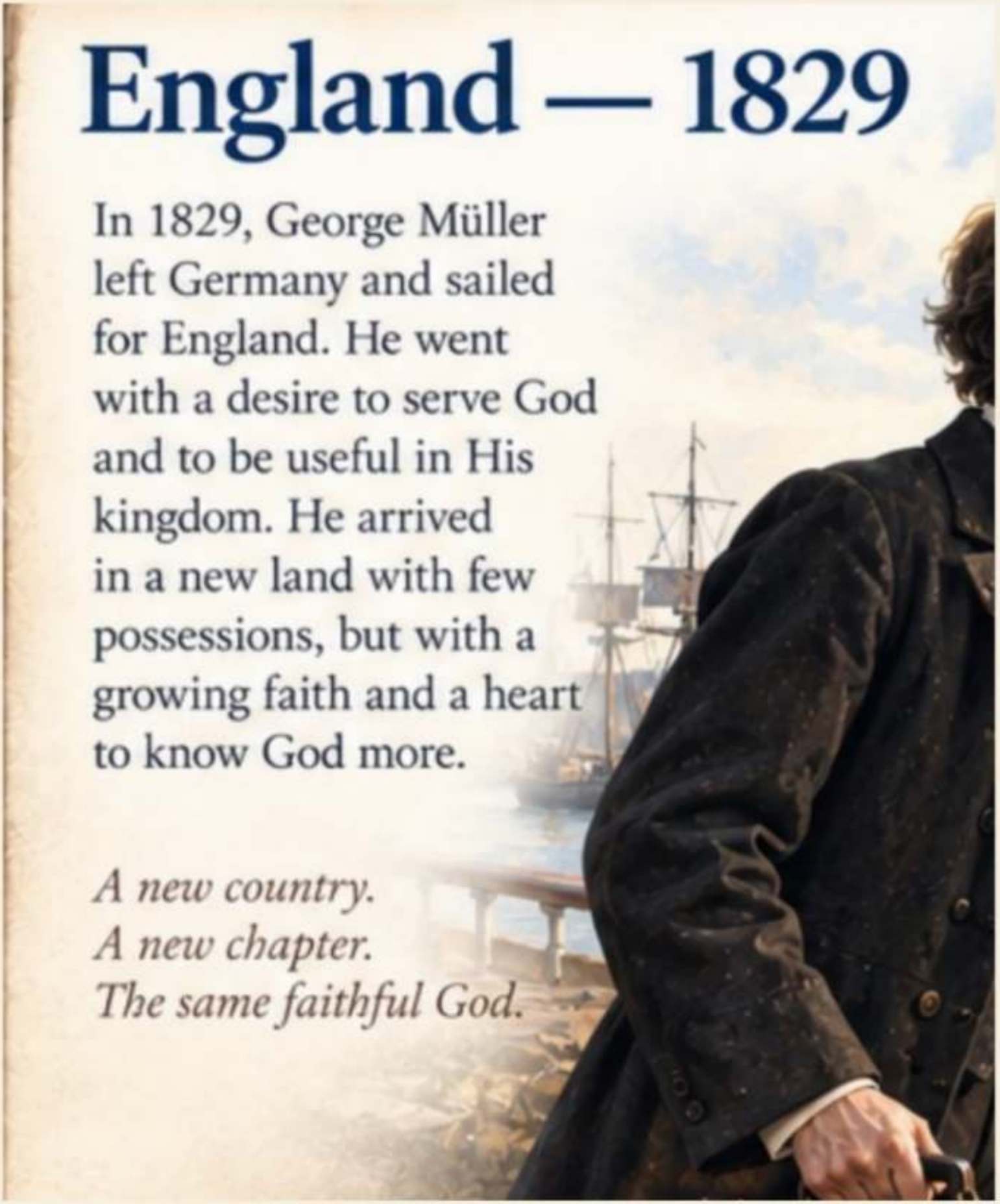
George's faith was tested many times. Sometimes the answer came quickly. Other times he had to wait. But through every trial, he learned that God is always faithful.

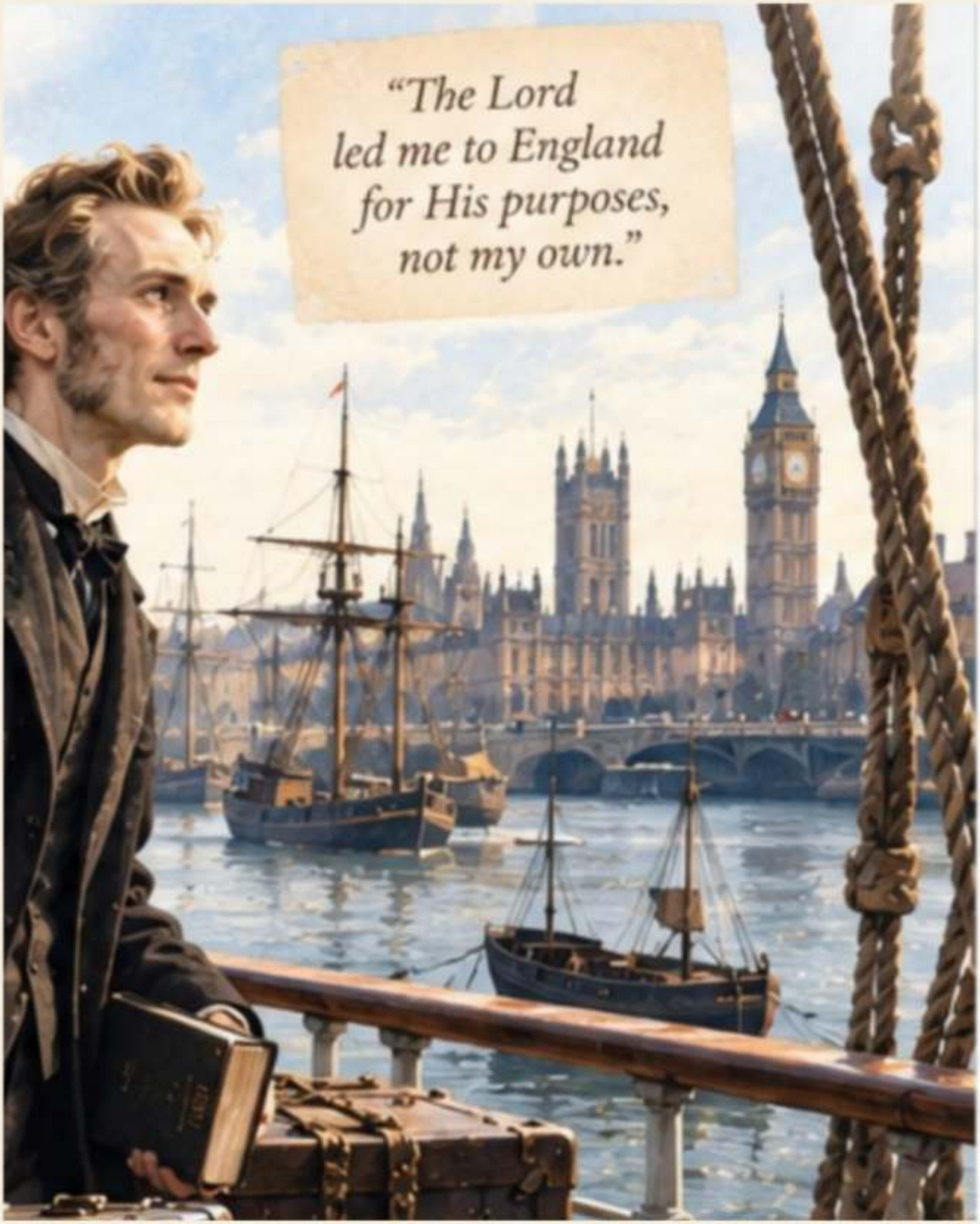


England — 1829

In 1829, George Müller left Germany and sailed for England. He went with a desire to serve God and to be useful in His kingdom. He arrived in a new land with few possessions, but with a growing faith and a heart to know God more.

A new country.
A new chapter.
The same faithful God.




"The Lord
led me to England
for His purposes,
not my own."

George and Mary

In England, George met Mary Groves, a godly young woman who loved the Lord. They shared a deep desire to live for Christ and to be used by Him.

They were married in 1830. Mary became a faithful helpmate, encouraging George in prayer, patience, and obedience.

A godly marriage is a gift from the Lord.




Two lives
One purpose
To serve
one Lord
Together
for a higher calling.

GEORGE MÜLLER ON

PROVISION

As our need is, so He remembers us. It is not now and then that He is mindful of us, but continually. We may have to pray again and again to our Father before the answer comes; but, amidst it all, as surely as we really need any thing, in His own time and way does He send help.

- George Müller

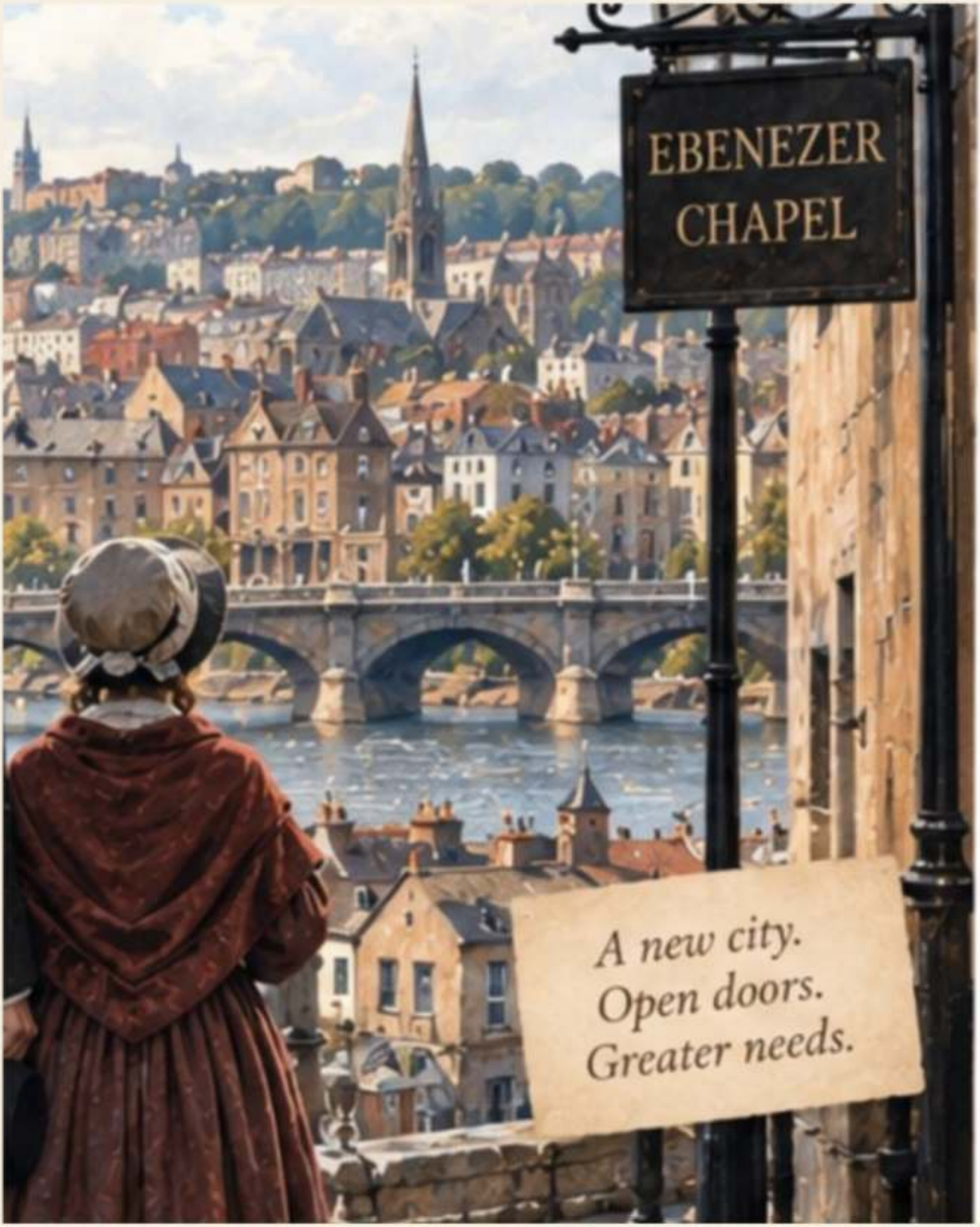
Bristol — 1832

In 1832, George and Mary moved to Bristol, where George served as an assistant to Henry Craik at Ebenezer Chapel.

Bristol was a busy city with great need. The Müllers quickly saw that many people were living in poverty and that countless children were without proper care.

God often places us where the need is great so we can see it.




EBENEZER
CHAPEL
A new city.
Open doors.
Greater needs.

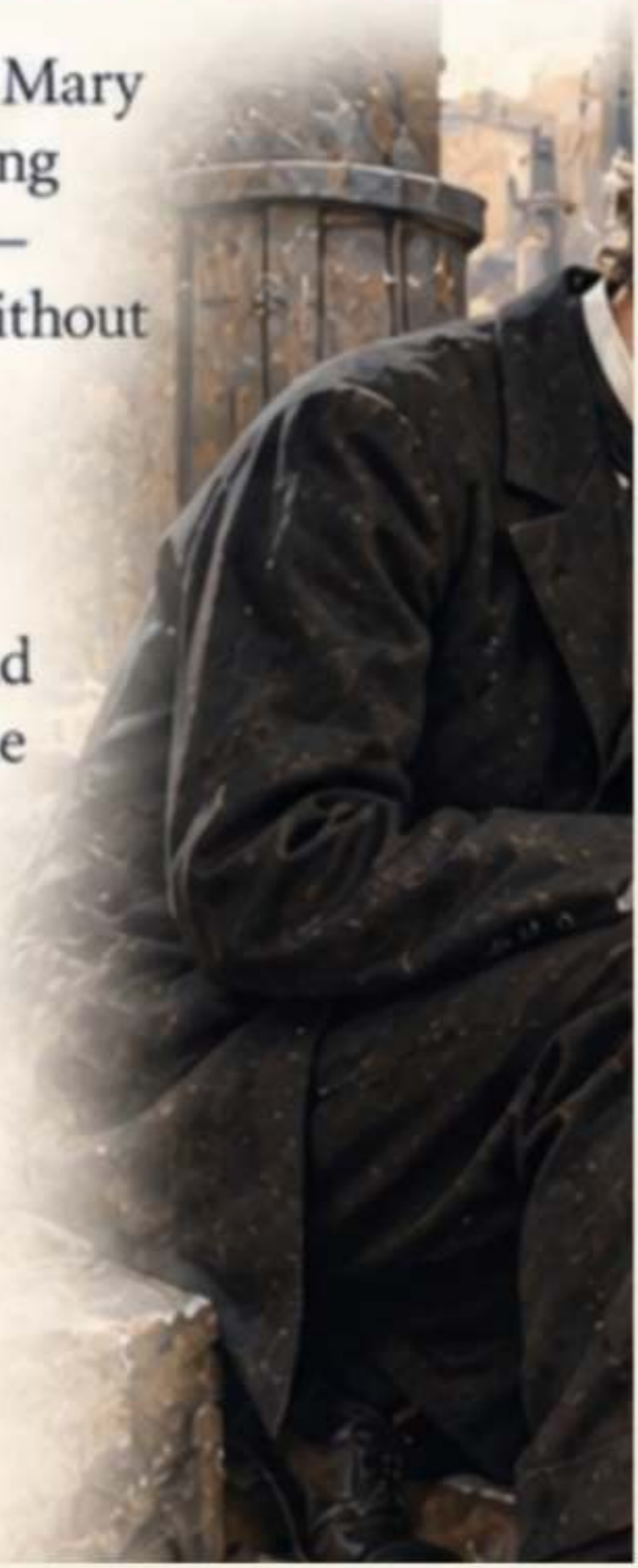
The Broken Child

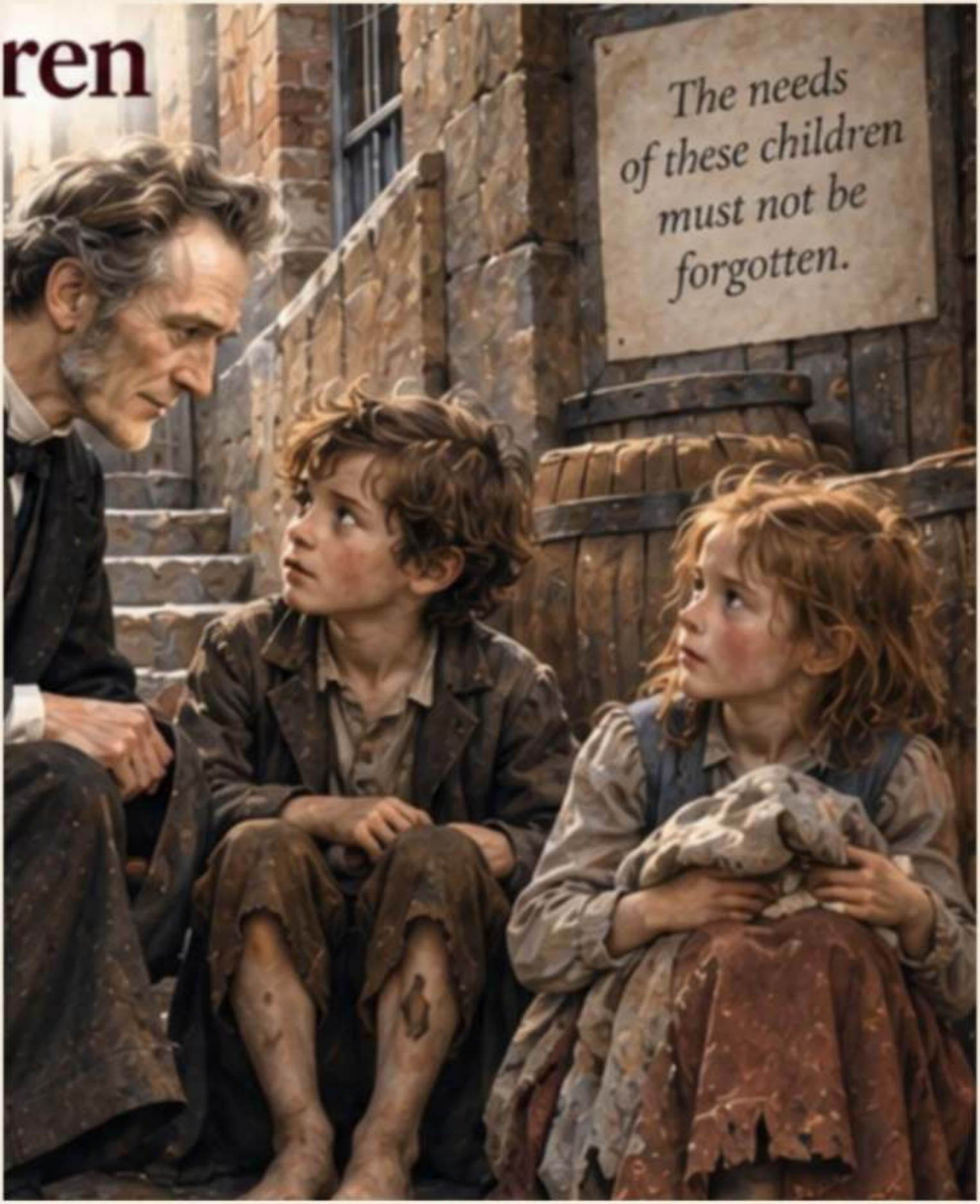
In Bristol, George and Mary saw many children living in terrible conditions — poor, neglected, and without a home.

These children were a constant reminder of a world broken by sin and in desperate need of the love of Christ.

The need burdened George's heart, and he began to ask God what He wanted him to do.

Their need grew into his prayer.




ren
The needs
of these children
must not be
forgotten.

A Burdened Heart — 1835

As George visited the poor in Bristol, the need for orphaned children grew clearer. Many had lost their parents and had nowhere to go.

The need gripped his heart. He knew this was a work God wanted him to do — but how?

Great needs often become great opportunities for God to show His faithfulness.



GEORGE MÜLLER ON

CARRY EVERY WANT TO GOD

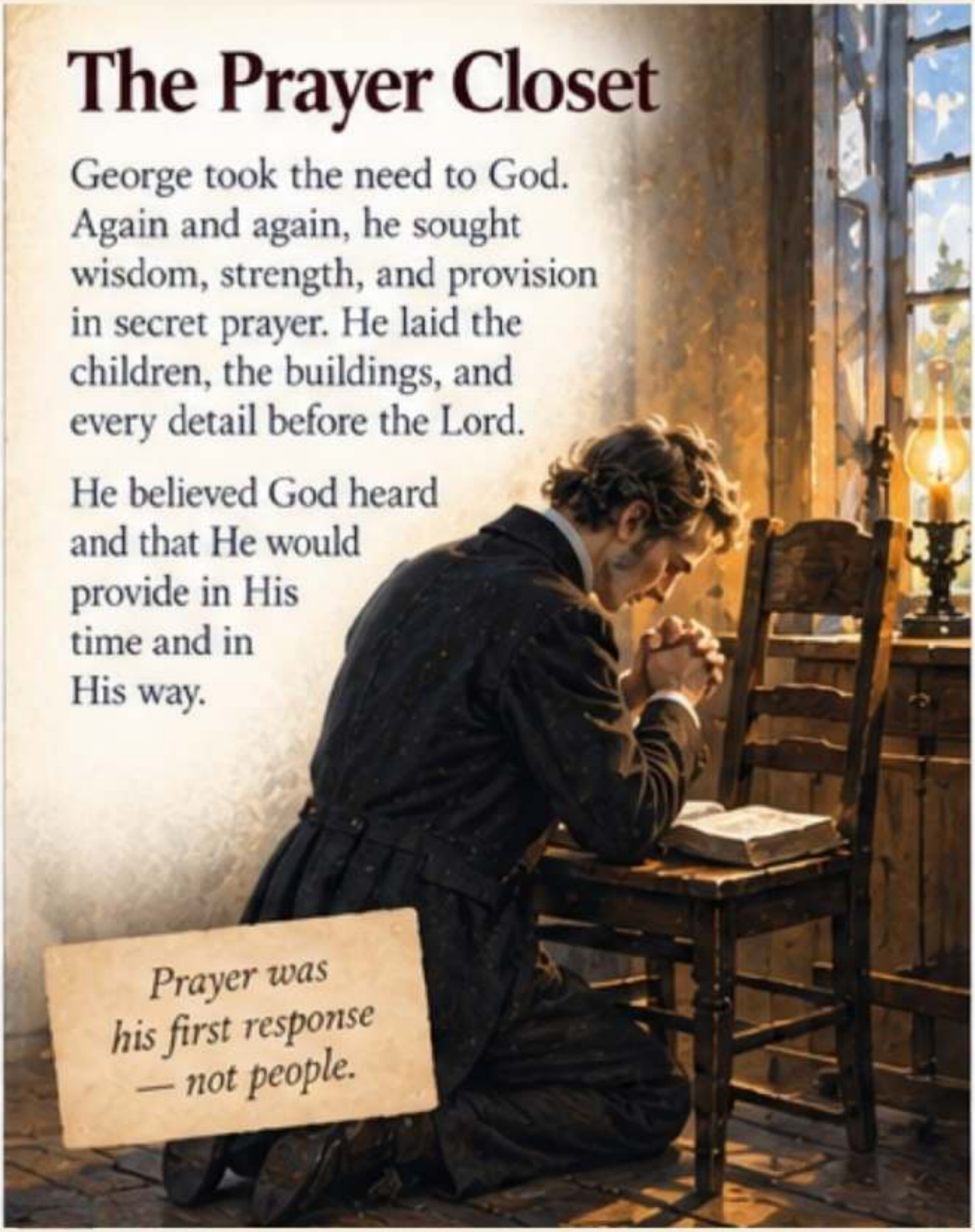
Prove the faithfulness of God by carrying your every want to Him. Only maintain an upright heart.

- George Müller

The Prayer Closet

George took the need to God. Again and again, he sought wisdom, strength, and provision in secret prayer. He laid the children, the buildings, and every detail before the Lord.

He believed God heard and that He would provide in His time and in His way.

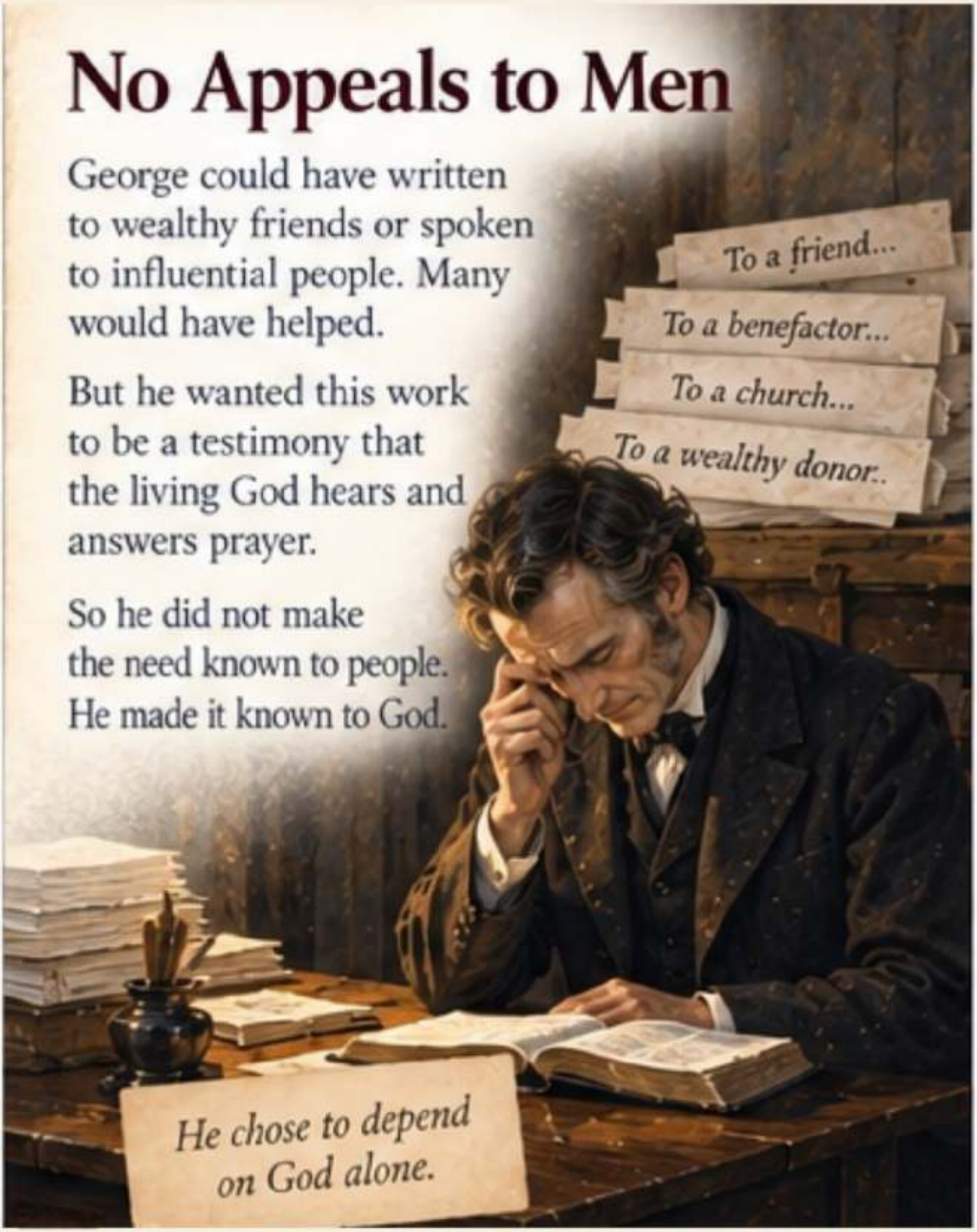


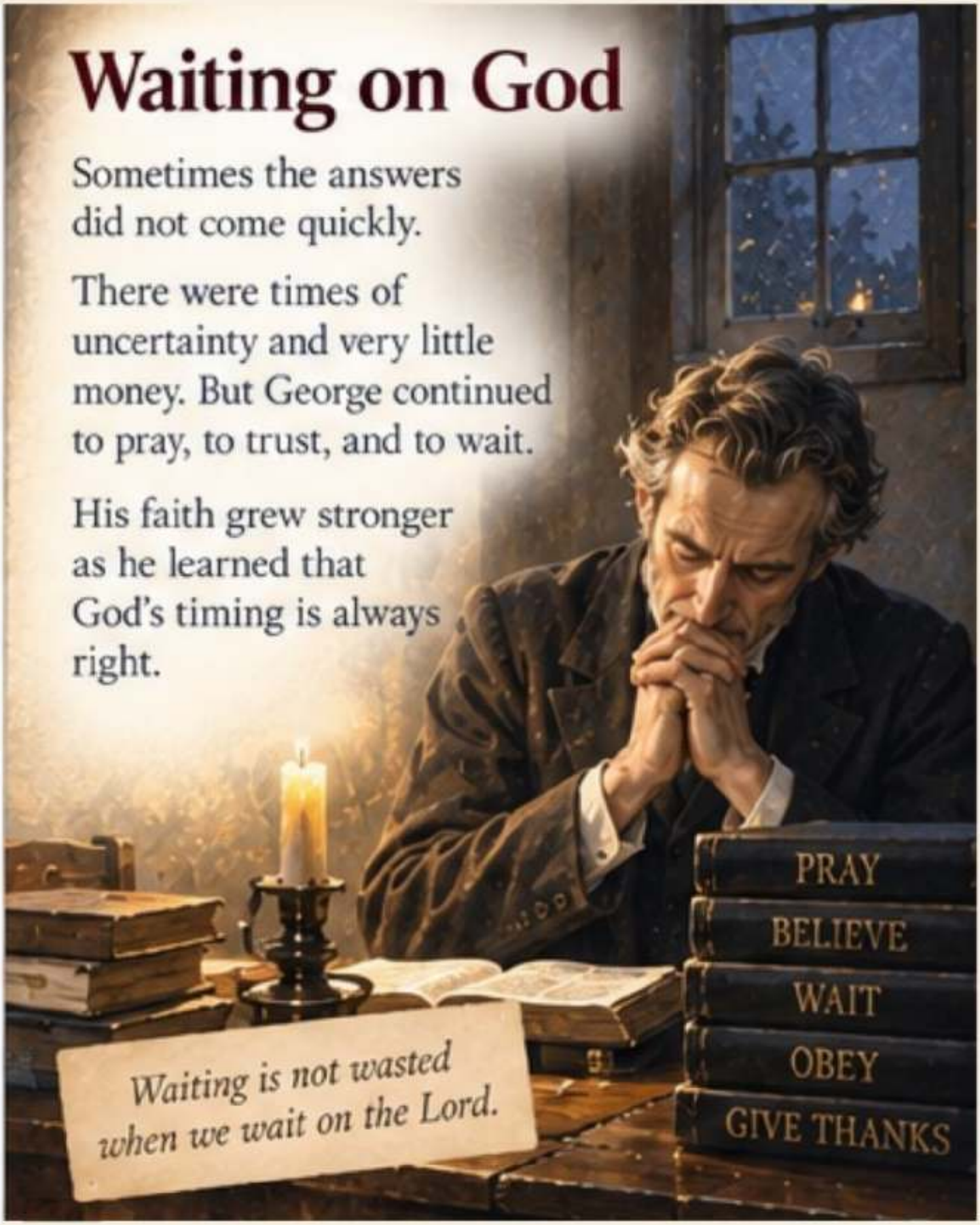
No Appeals to Men

George could have written to wealthy friends or spoken to influential people. Many would have helped.

But he wanted this work to be a testimony that the living God hears and answers prayer.

So he did not make the need known to people. He made it known to God.




Waiting on God
Sometimes the answers did not come quickly.
There were times of uncertainty and very little money. But George continued to pray, to trust, and to wait.
His faith grew stronger as he learned that God's timing is always right.
PRAY
BELIEVE
WAIT
OBEY
GIVE THANKS
Waiting is not wasted when we wait on the Lord.

GEORGE MÜLLER ON

WAITING FOR THE ANSWER

It is impossible to describe the abundance of peace and heavenly joy that often flows into my soul because of the answers I obtain from God after waiting on Him for help and blessing. The longer I have had to wait on Him or the greater my need, the greater the enjoyment when at last the answer came.

- George Müller

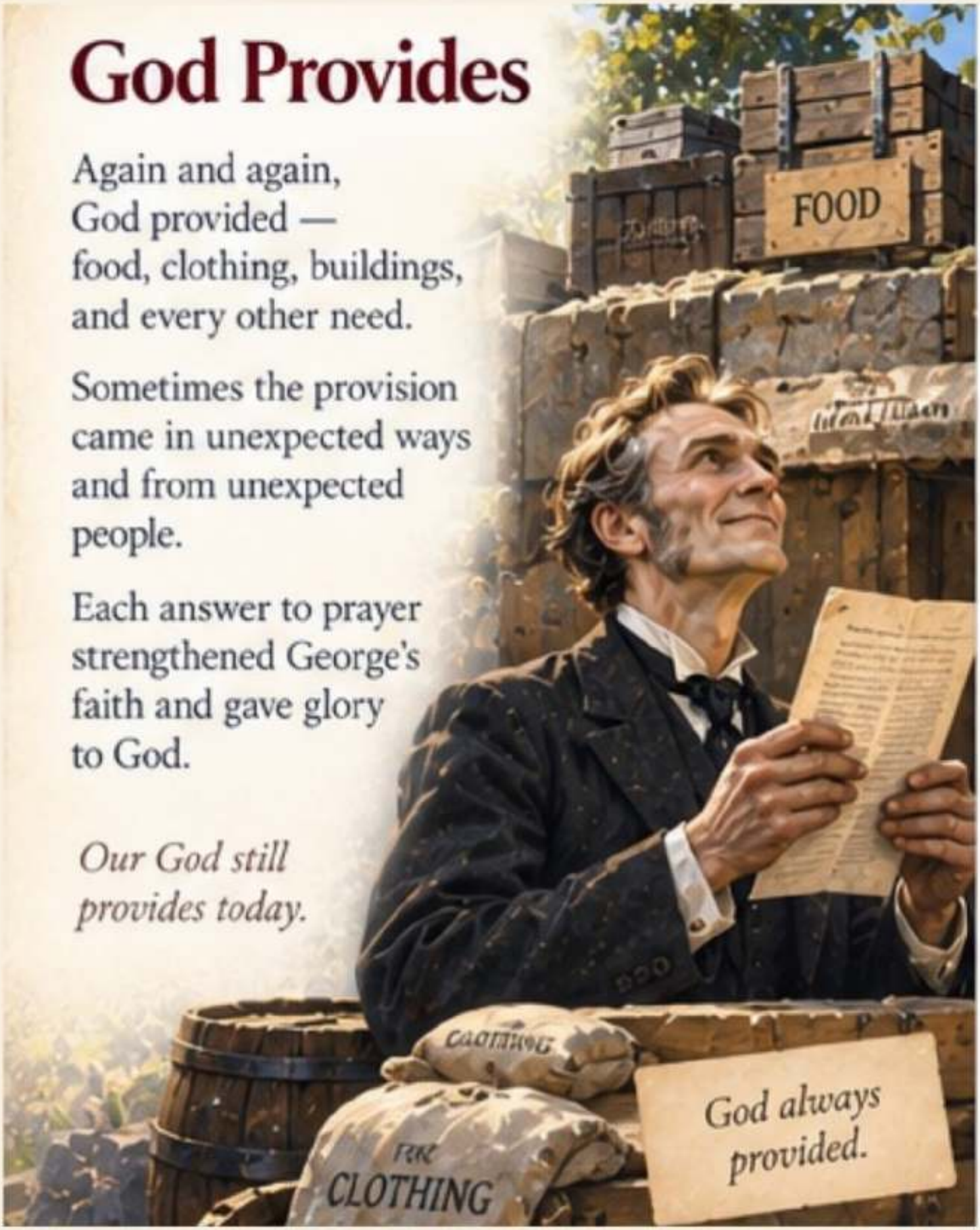
God Provides

Again and again,
God provided —
food, clothing, buildings,
and every other need.

Sometimes the provision
came in unexpected ways
and from unexpected
people.

Each answer to prayer
strengthened George's
faith and gave glory
to God.

Our God still
provides today.

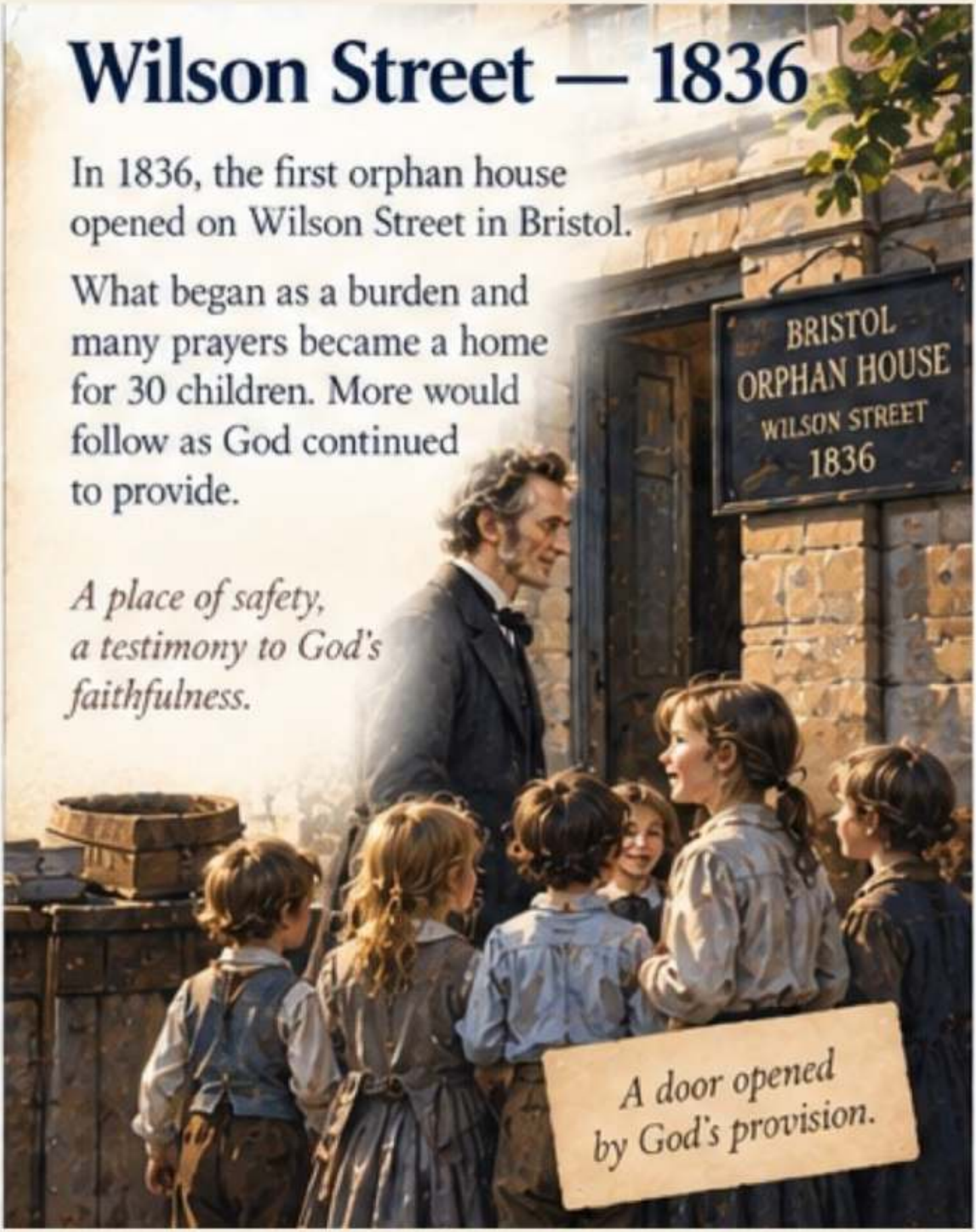


Wilson Street — 1836

In 1836, the first orphan house opened on Wilson Street in Bristol.

What began as a burden and many prayers became a home for 30 children. More would follow as God continued to provide.

A place of safety, a testimony to God's faithfulness.

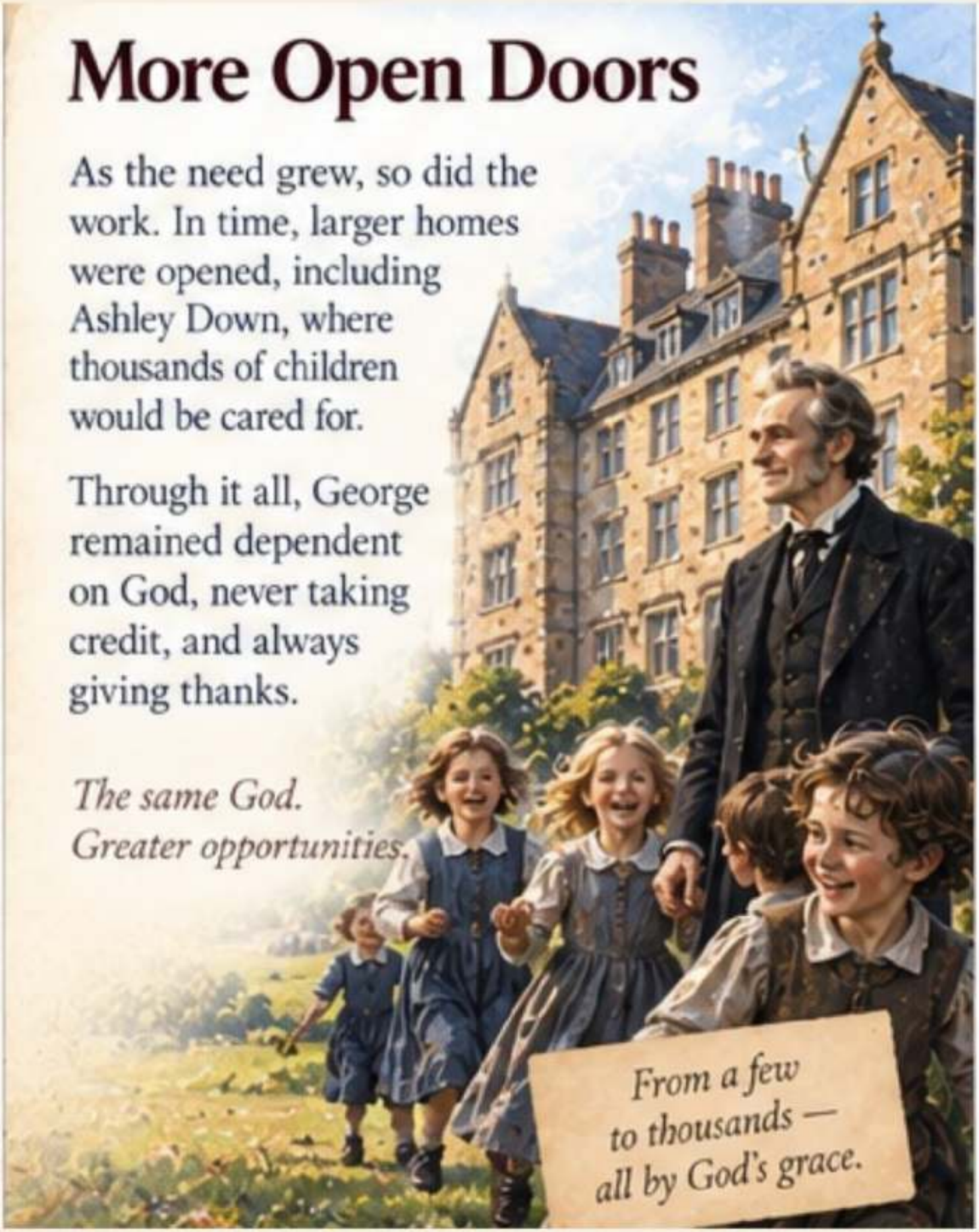


More Open Doors

As the need grew, so did the work. In time, larger homes were opened, including Ashley Down, where thousands of children would be cared for.

Through it all, George remained dependent on God, never taking credit, and always giving thanks.

The same God.
Greater opportunities.



GEORGE MÜLLER ON

INCREASE OUR FAITH

If there is then one thing that we need more than another, it is an increase of faith, in order that we may take right steps, surer steps, firmer steps; yea, run with alacrity in the ways of the Lord. To the end of our course we therefore should pray, "Lord, increase my faith!"

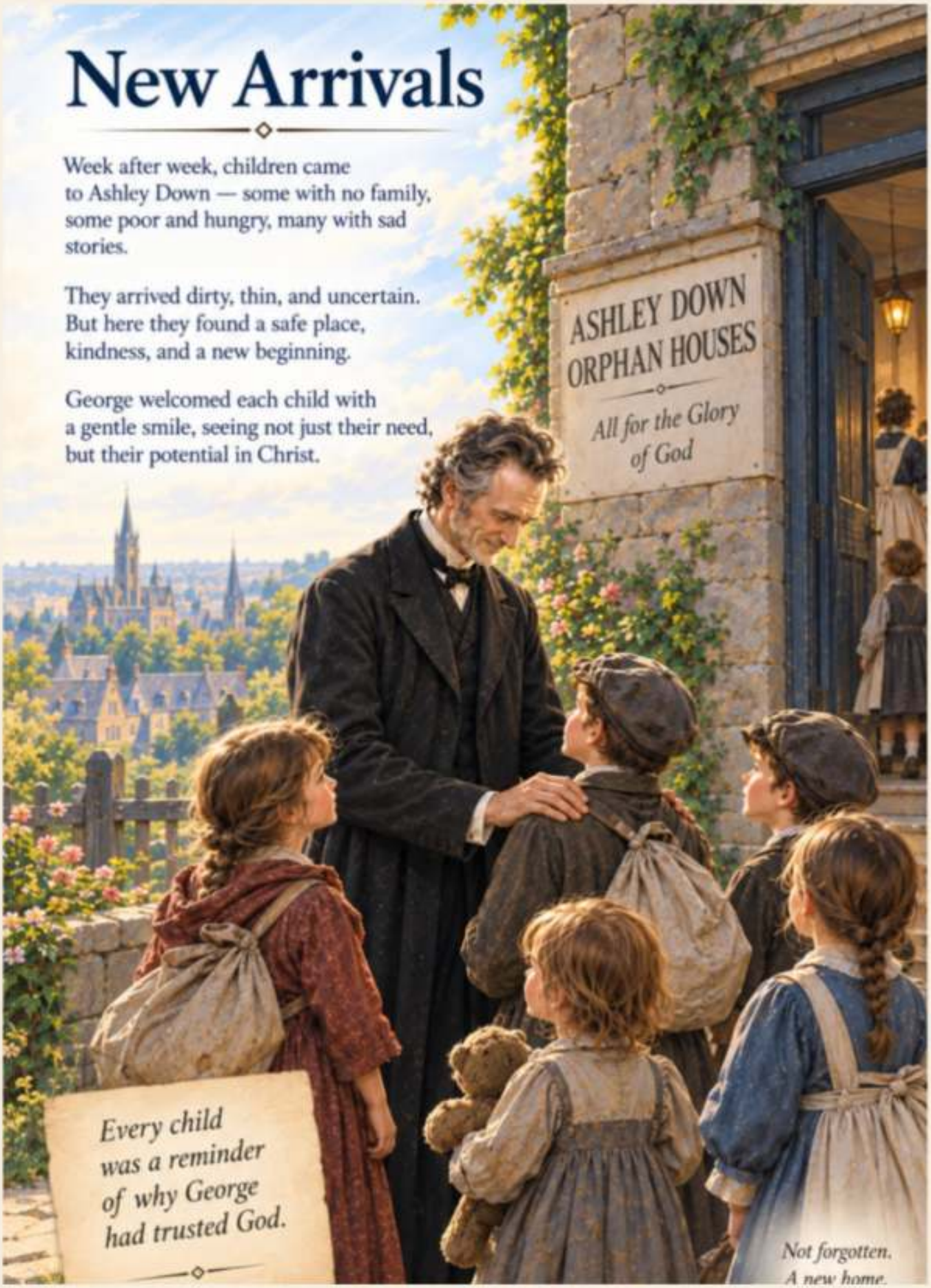
- George Müller

New Arrivals

Week after week, children came to Ashley Down — some with no family, some poor and hungry, many with sad stories.

They arrived dirty, thin, and uncertain. But here they found a safe place, kindness, and a new beginning.

George welcomed each child with a gentle smile, seeing not just their need, but their potential in Christ.



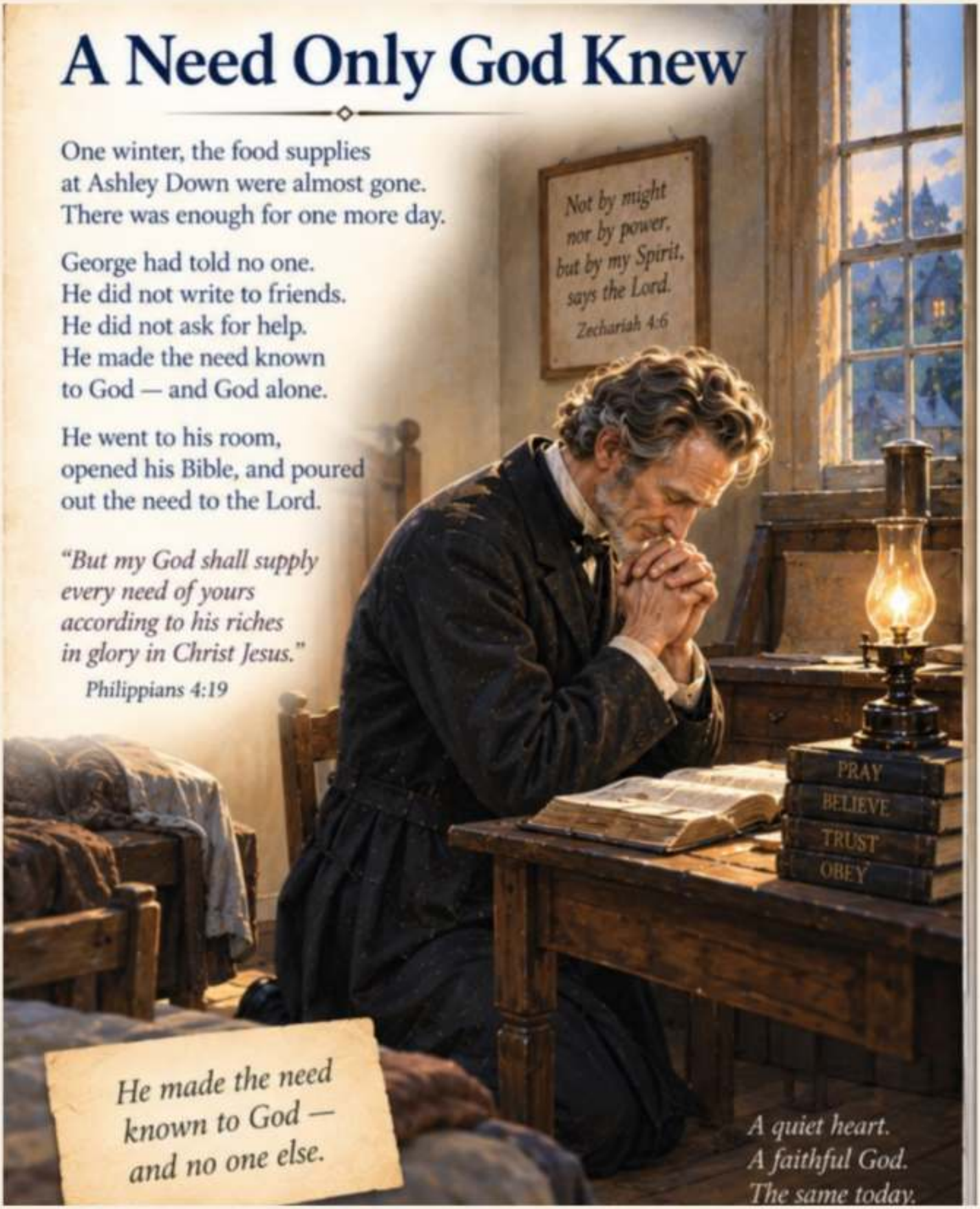
A Need Only God Knew

One winter, the food supplies
at Ashley Down were almost gone.
There was enough for one more day.

George had told no one.
He did not write to friends.
He did not ask for help.
He made the need known
to God — and God alone.

He went to his room,
opened his Bible, and poured
out the need to the Lord.

*"But my God shall supply
every need of yours
according to his riches
in glory in Christ Jesus."*
Philippians 4:19



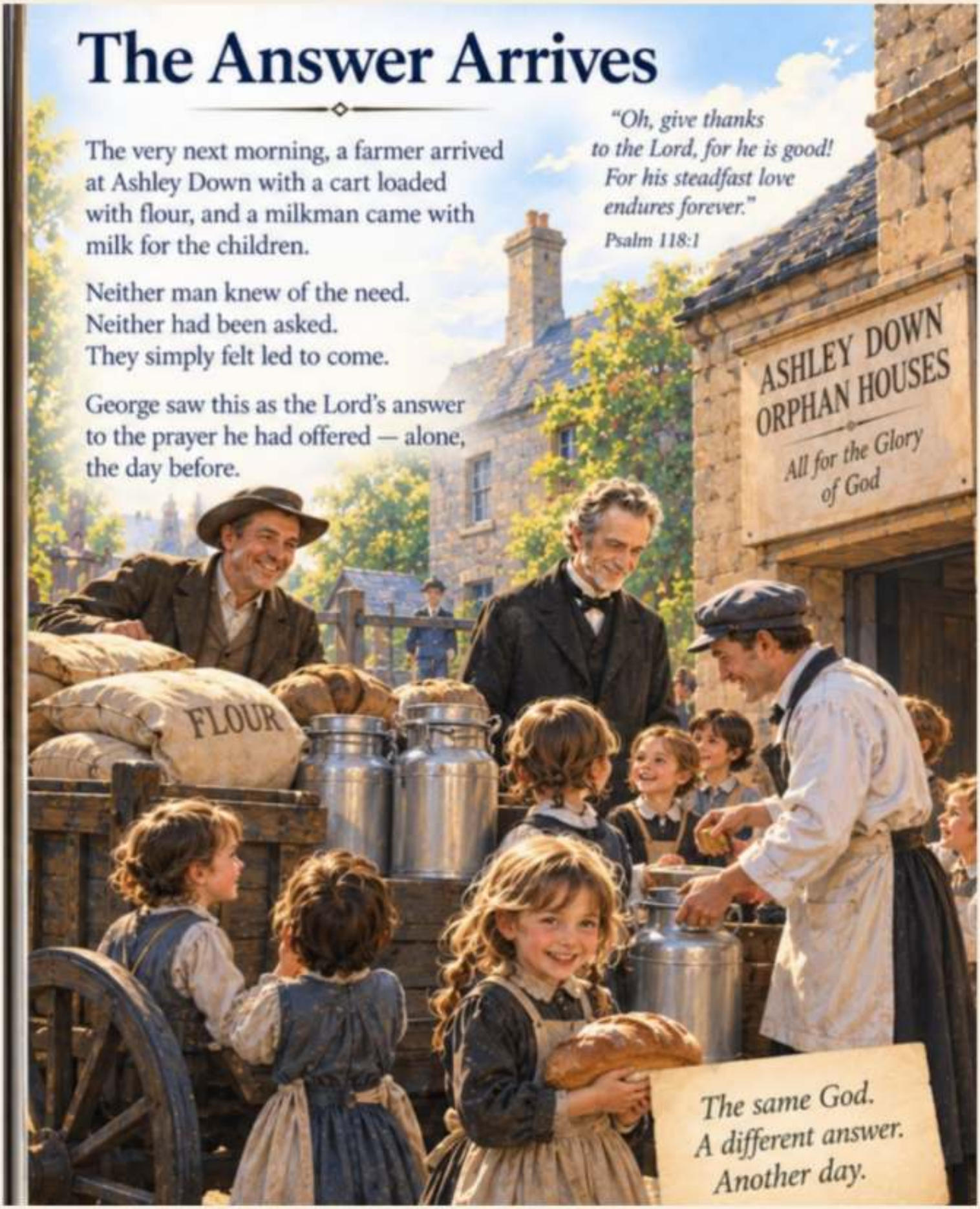
The Answer Arrives

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! For his steadfast love endures forever."
Psalm 118:1

The very next morning, a farmer arrived at Ashley Down with a cart loaded with flour, and a milkman came with milk for the children.

Neither man knew of the need.
Neither had been asked.
They simply felt led to come.

George saw this as the Lord's answer to the prayer he had offered — alone, the day before.



GEORGE MÜLLER ON

ONE LIFE FOR GOD

Brethren! we have only one life-one brief life; let us seek with renewed purpose of heart to consecrate that one life wholly to the Lord-day by day to live for God, and to serve Him with our body, soul, and spirit, which are His.

- George Müller

Life Inside Ashley Down

More Than a Place to Stay — A Place to Be Loved

Ashley Down was not just a place to provide food and shelter. It was a home where children were cared for, taught, and pointed to the Lord Jesus.

Each day had a rhythm. The children received good food, clean clothing, a safe place to sleep, and an education. They learned from the Bible, prayed together, and were taught to live useful lives.

George Müller believed that every child was a precious soul, created by God and loved by Him. His desire was not only to meet their physical needs, but to help them grow to know and serve the Lord.



"The object of the orphan houses is not merely to provide for the children's temporal needs, but to bring them up for God and to fit them for usefulness in the world."

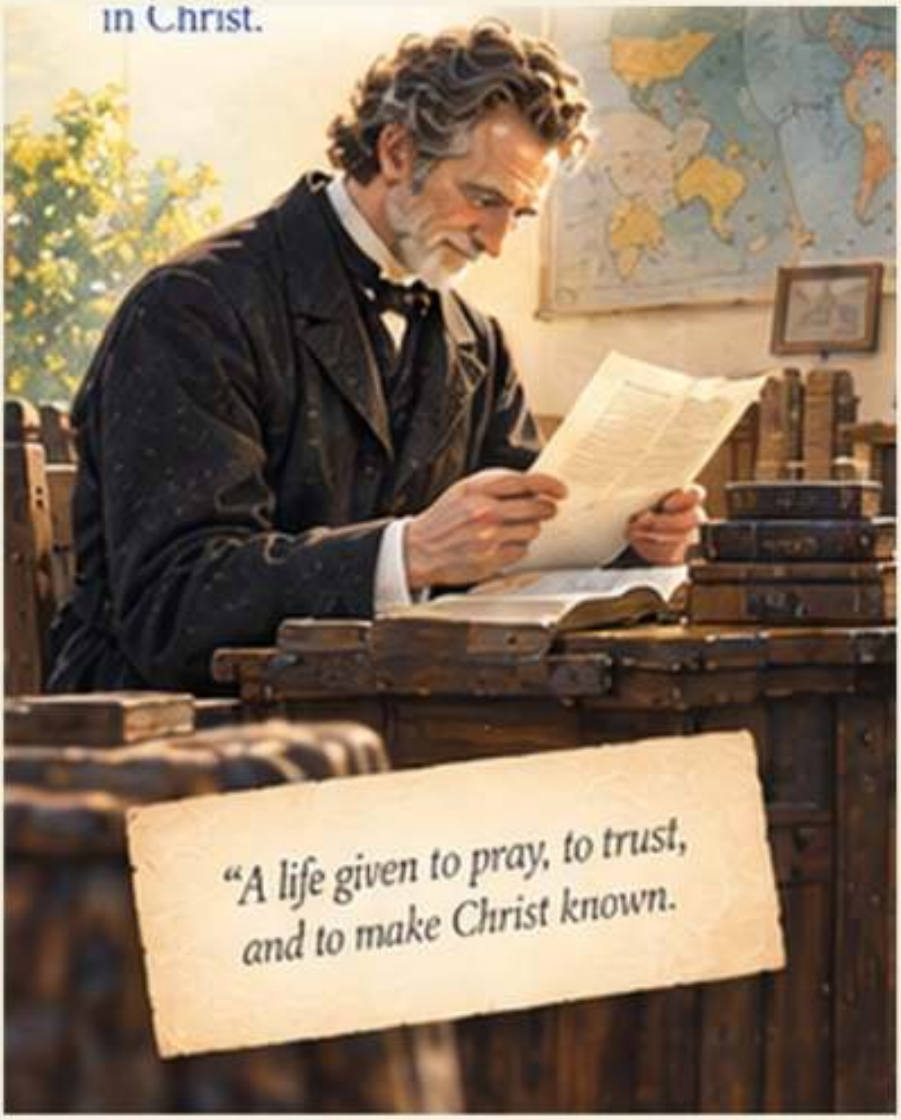
George Müller

The children received a good education — reading, writing, arithmetic, and most importantly, instruction from the Scriptures. Older boys learned useful trades, and older girls were trained in housekeeping and other life skills.

A Wider Ministry

George Müller also supported missionaries around the world, helped print and distribute millions of Bibles, and preached the gospel in many places.

He never sought popularity or wealth. His joy was to see others come to faith in Christ.

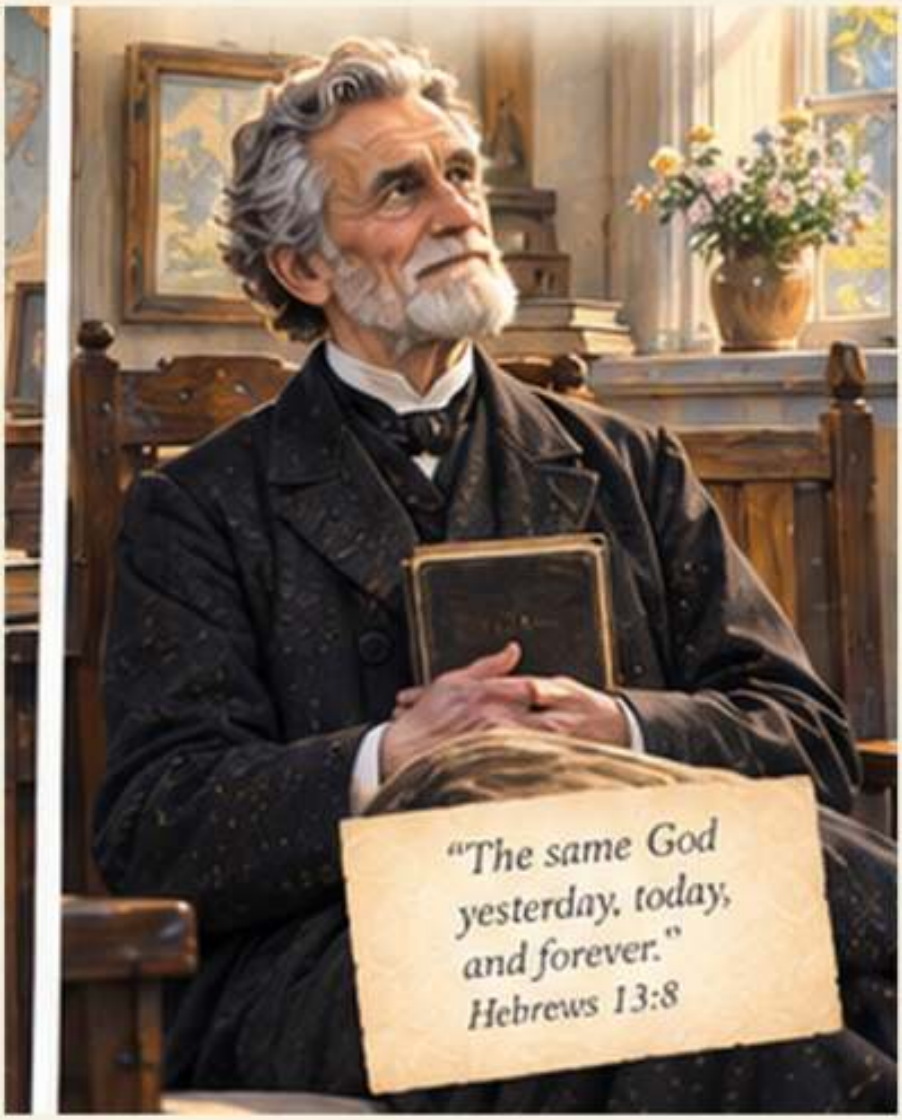


A life given to pray, to trust, and to make Christ known.

Later Years

Even in his older years, George Müller continued to pray, to trust, and to give thanks. His faith did not grow weak — it grew stronger.

He reminded others that the same God who had provided for the orphans would continue to provide for all who trust Him.

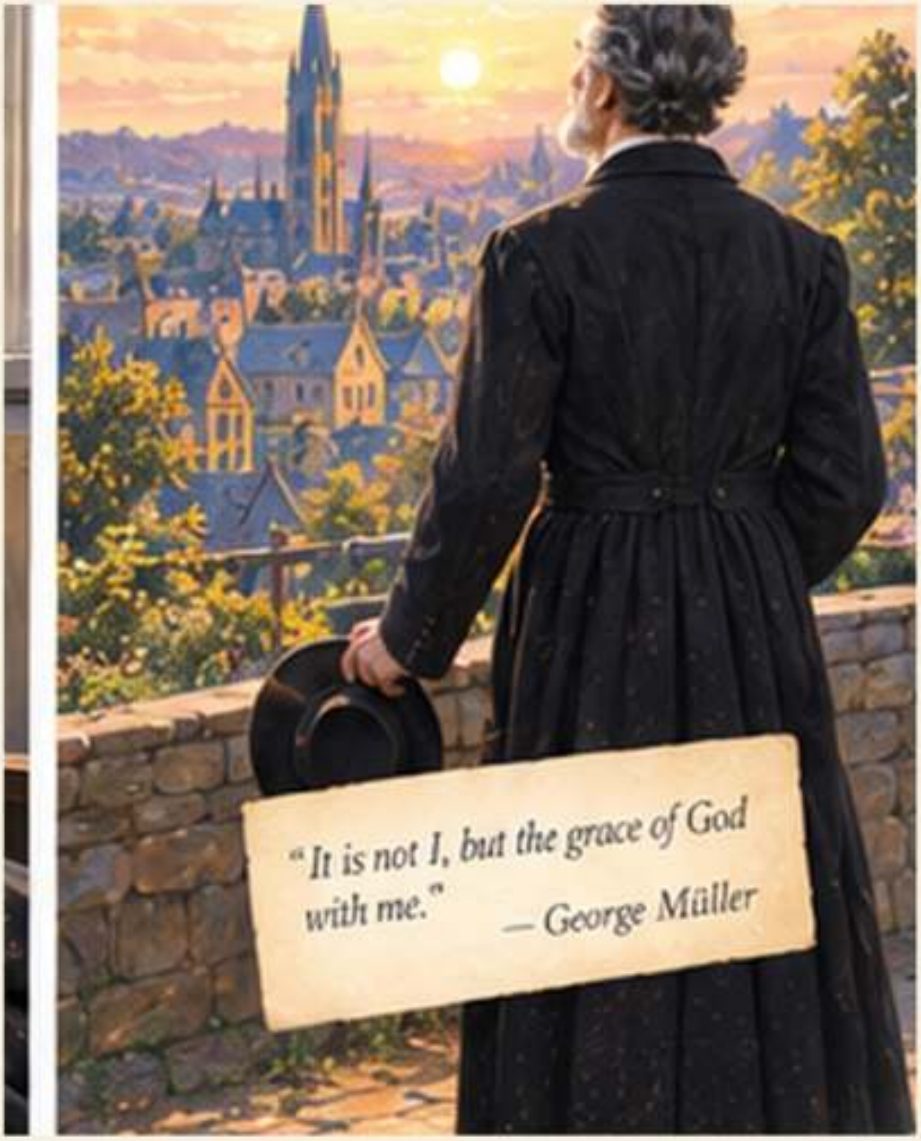


The same God yesterday, today, and forever. — Hebrews 13:8

A Lasting Example

George Müller's life shows us that God can be trusted — in every need, in every season, and for every generation.

He lived simply. He prayed continually. He gave generously. And he pointed always to the faithfulness of God.



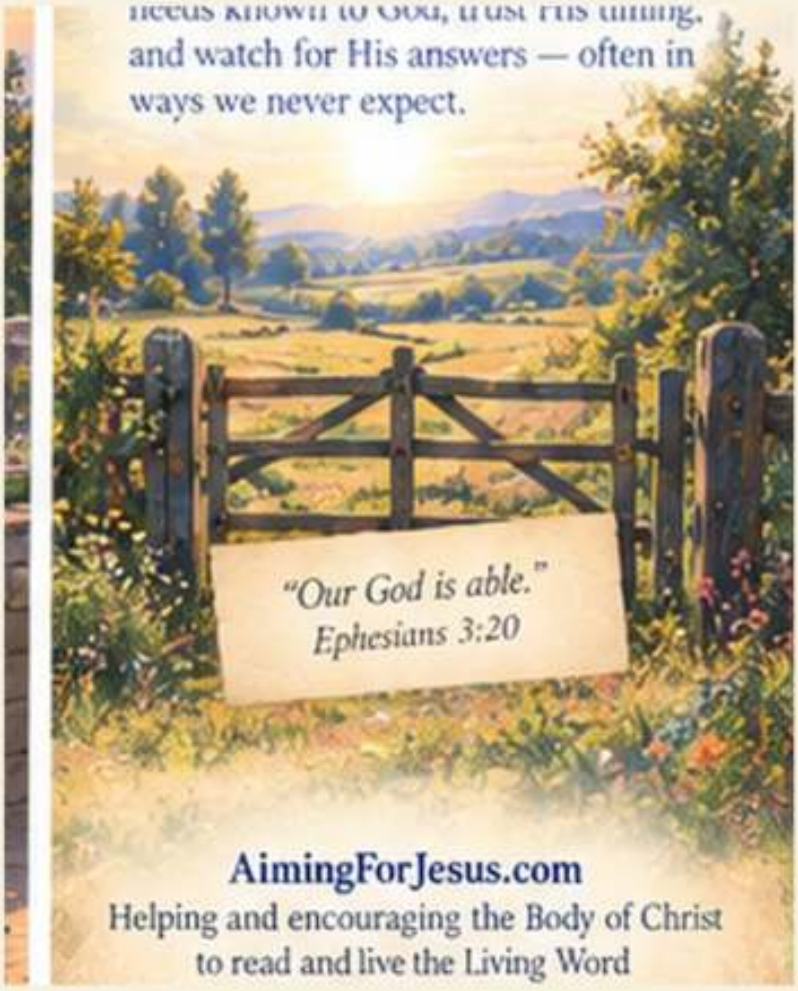
It is not I, but the grace of God with me. — George Müller

The Same God

George Müller's story is not just history — it is an encouragement for us today. The needs may be different, but the God is the same.

He still hears. He still provides. He still changes lives.

Let us, like George Müller, make our needs known to God, trust His timing, and watch for His answers — often in ways we never expect.



Our God is able. — Ephesians 3:20

GEORGE MÜLLER ON

JESUS CHRIST

Our eyes must be directed to the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom alone are found life, pardon for sin, and acceptance with God.

- George Müller

What His Life Has Meant to Others

The witness of George Müller did not end at Ashley Down.

> *"God has raised up … George Müller to be His witness that He is indeed the Hearer of prayer."*
>
> **— Andrew Murray**

> *"One of God's ripest saints … a living proof that a life of faith is possible."*
>
> **— Arthur T. Pierson**

> *"The first person by whose example she learned that there are some men who live by faith."*
>
> **— A former unbeliever who read Müller's reports**

> *"More faith-strengthening and soul-refreshing than many a sermon."*
>
> **— Another reader of Müller's reports**

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If this story has strengthened your faith, do not stop here.
Read more of Müller's life, journals, prayers, and testimony.

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A highly regarded modern biography, drawing on Müller's diaries and the memories of people who grew up in the orphan homes. An excellent next step for seeing the man, the ministry, and the life of faith in greater depth.

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May Müller's testimony send us beyond Müller - to the God he trusted