A person wearing a vibrant, multi-colored shawl is shown from the side, blowing a long, curved horn. The scene is set against a dramatic sunset with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a warm orange and yellow glow. The background features silhouettes of mountains and a clear sky. The text is overlaid in the lower half of the image.

**Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;
reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience
and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)**



THE NECESSITY OF

the Joy of the Lord

IN CHRISTIAN LIFE & MINISTRY

1 Peter 2:9-10

- 9.** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, SO THAT you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- 10.** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9 (Amplified Bible)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, SO THAT you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Psalm 118:24

... This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Understand this says the Lord, this indeed is the day that I have made. I have made this day for you and I have made you for this day says the Lord. Therefore REJOICE in the midst of all that is going on. **For I will have a people in this hour who would stand in the joy of the Lord which is their strength. For while all around them are downcast and full of fear, I will have a people who walk in joy inexpressible and full of glory.** So will you rejoice in Me this day says the Lord in the midst of His people? For indeed this IS the day that the Lord has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Peter 1:8

Though you have not seen Him (Jesus), you love Him.
Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and
rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

Galatians 5:19-23

19. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20. idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,
21. envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **JOY**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23. gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The most important truth regarding the fruit of the Spirit is that ... **it is the Spirit's fruit.** It is that which the Holy Spirit in us manifests in us and through us **IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8) speaking of the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

We are often admonished to be more loving, to have joy, or to be kind, but **WE CANNOT DO SO WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US.** The fruit of the Spirit is manifested in the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 15:9-11

9. As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love.
10. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
11. These things I have spoken to you, that **My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**

Romans 14:17

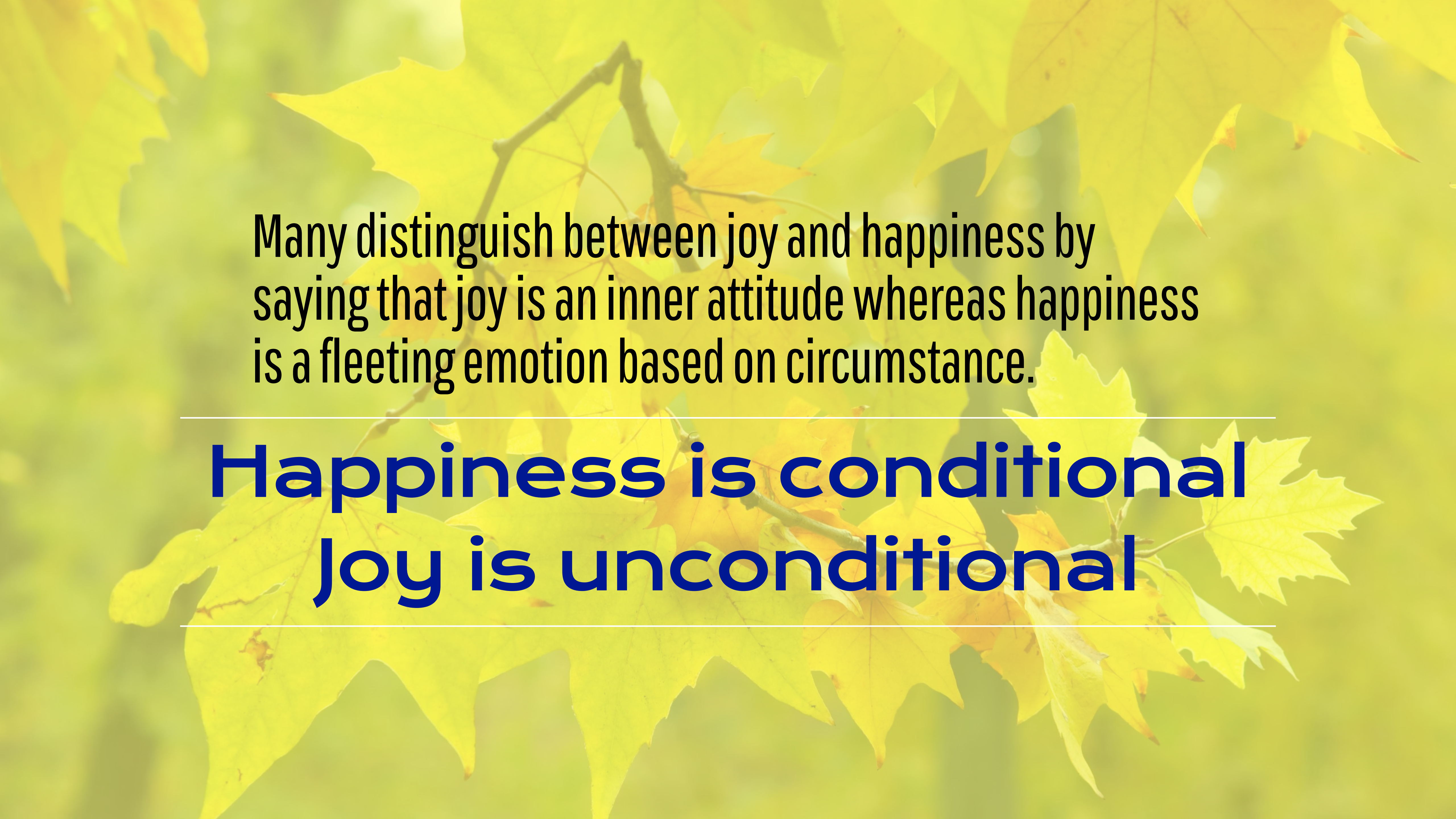
For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

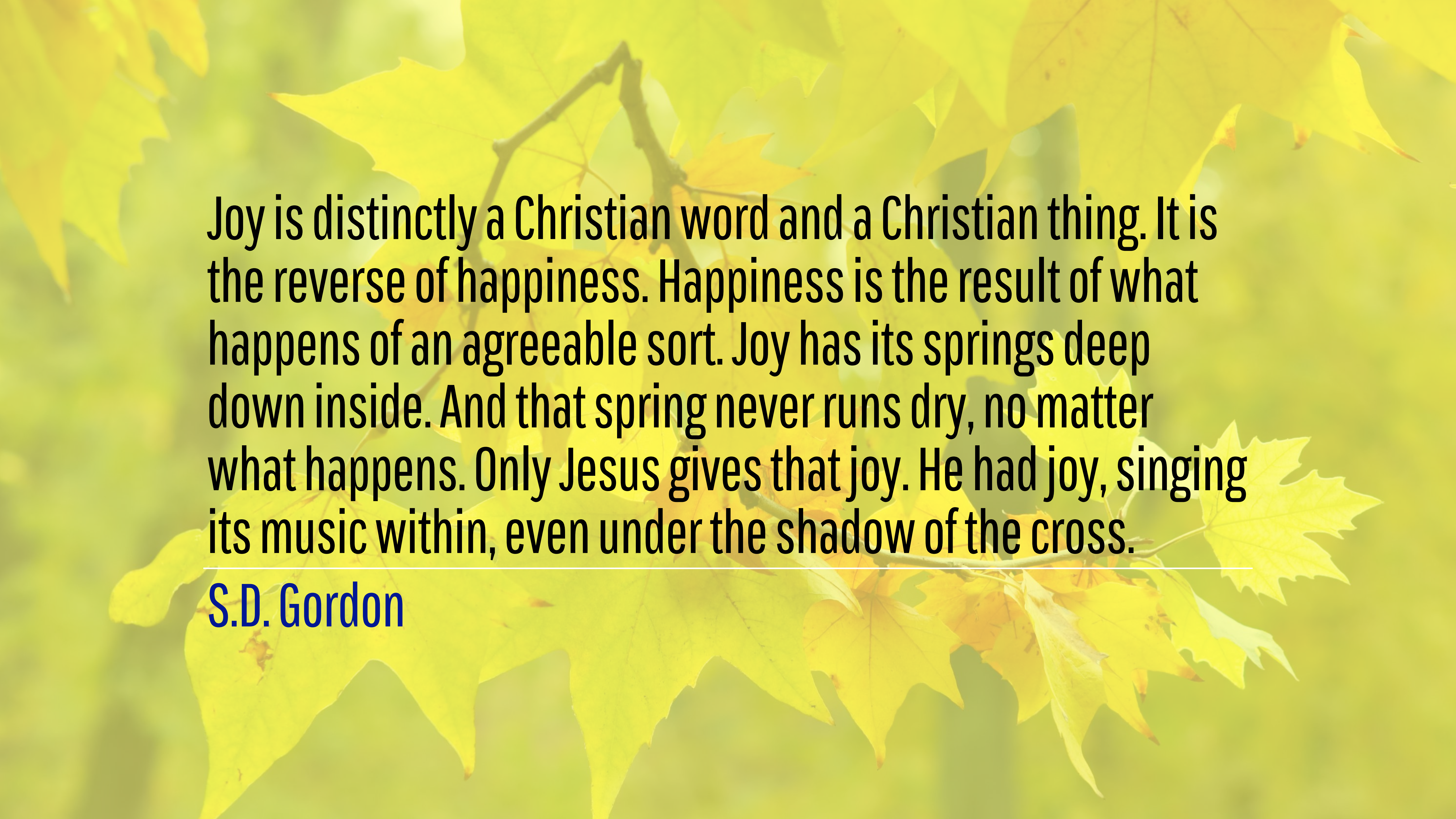


Many distinguish between joy and happiness by saying that joy is an inner attitude whereas happiness is a fleeting emotion based on circumstance.

Happiness is conditional
Joy is unconditional

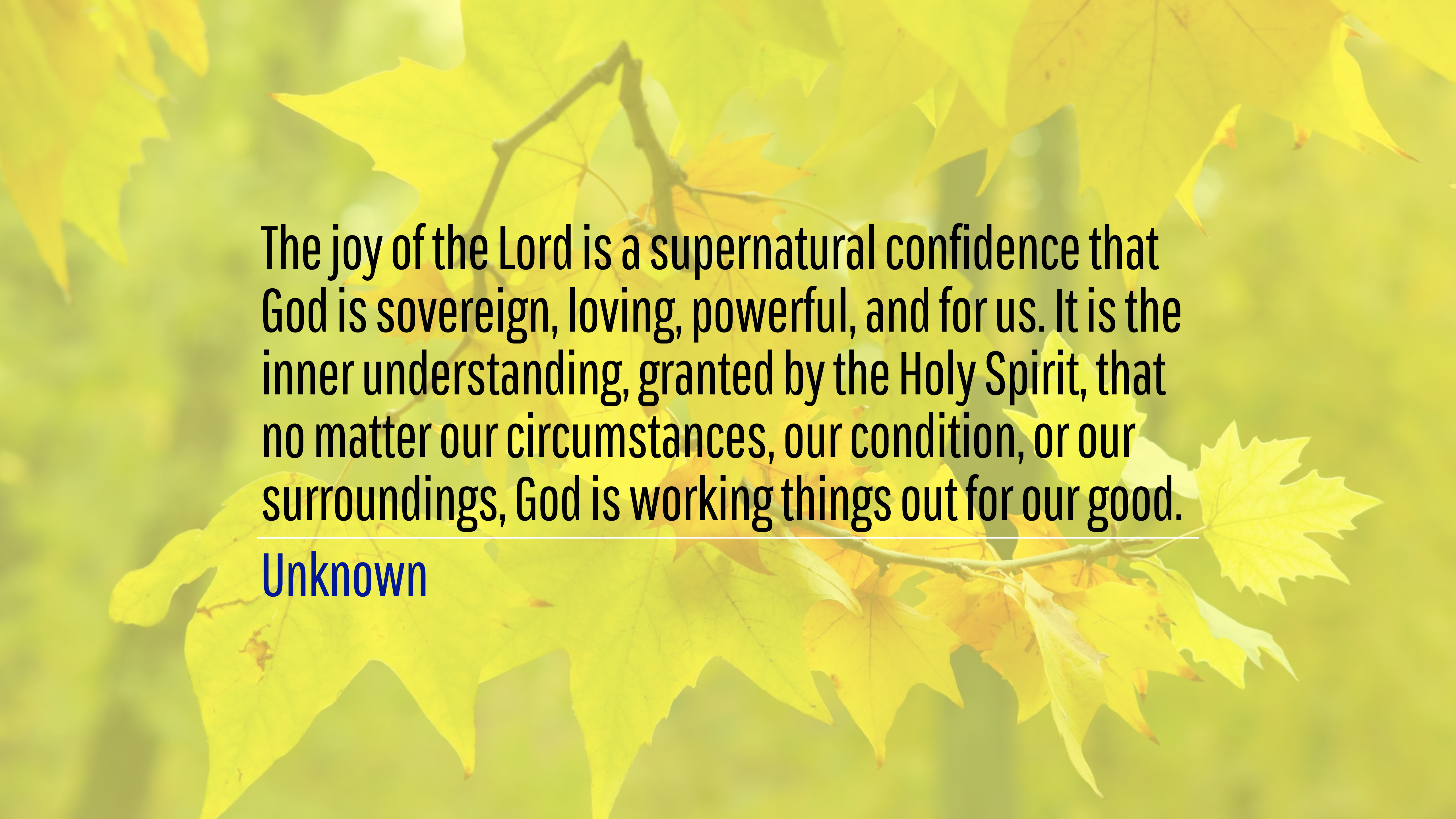
1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

- 16. Rejoice always,**
- 17. pray without ceasing,**
- 18. give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**
- 19. Do not quench the Spirit.**



Joy is distinctly a Christian word and a Christian thing. It is the reverse of happiness. Happiness is the result of what happens of an agreeable sort. Joy has its springs deep down inside. And that spring never runs dry, no matter what happens. Only Jesus gives that joy. He had joy, singing its music within, even under the shadow of the cross.

S.D. Gordon



The joy of the Lord is a supernatural confidence that God is sovereign, loving, powerful, and for us. It is the inner understanding, granted by the Holy Spirit, that no matter our circumstances, our condition, or our surroundings, God is working things out for our good.

Unknown

Proverbs 17:22

A joyful heart is good medicine,
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 4:23

Above everything else, guard your heart;
for it is the source of life's consequences.

Proverbs 14:30

A tranquil heart is life to the body,
but envy is rotteness to the bones.

Proverbs 15:13

**A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, but
when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.**

... but heartache crushes the spirit.

... but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, **for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**”

Psalm 40:1-3

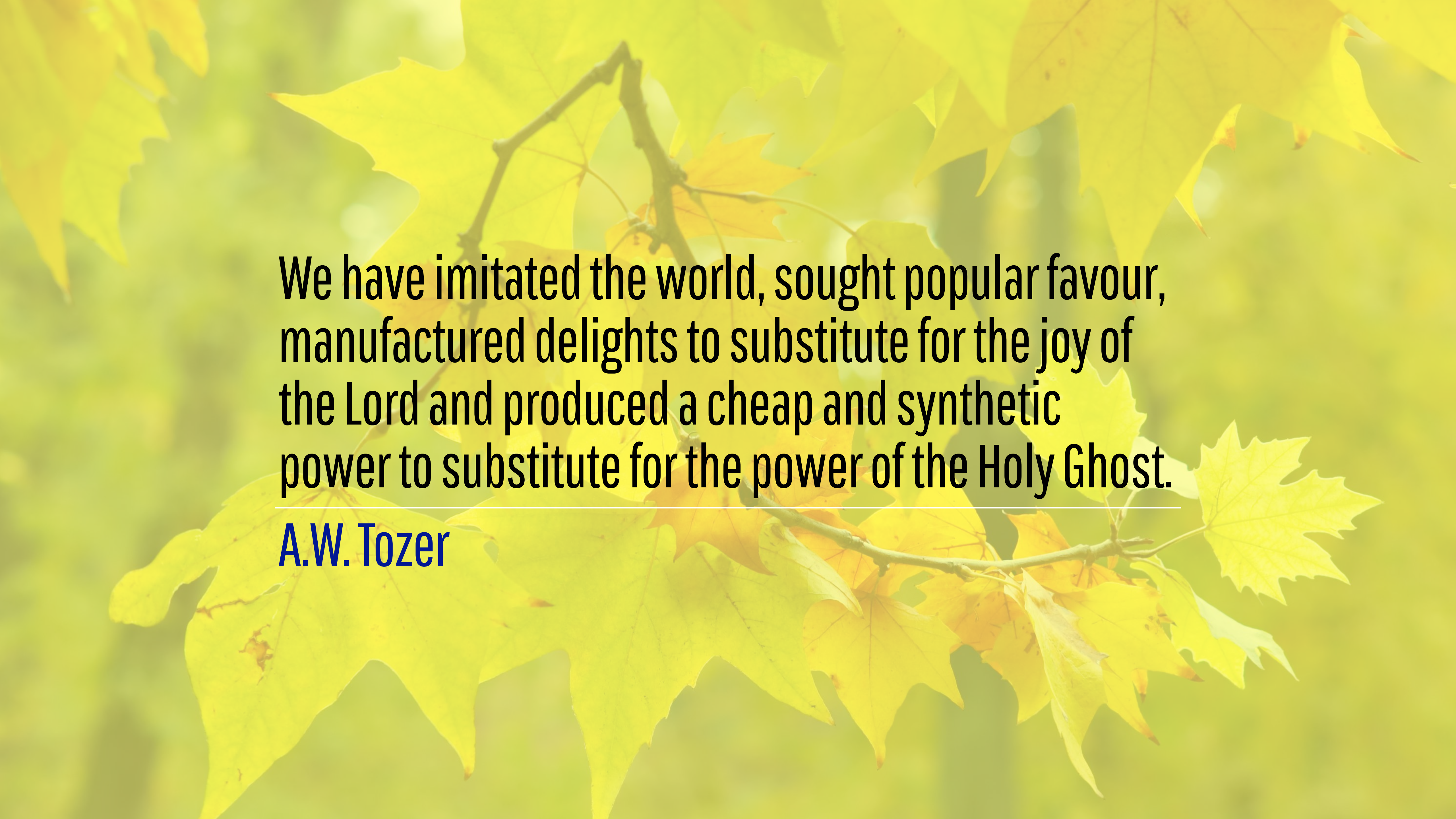
1. I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry.
2. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
3. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalm 51:11-13

11. Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
12. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
13. Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

Philippians 4:8-9

8. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things.**
9. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—**practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.**



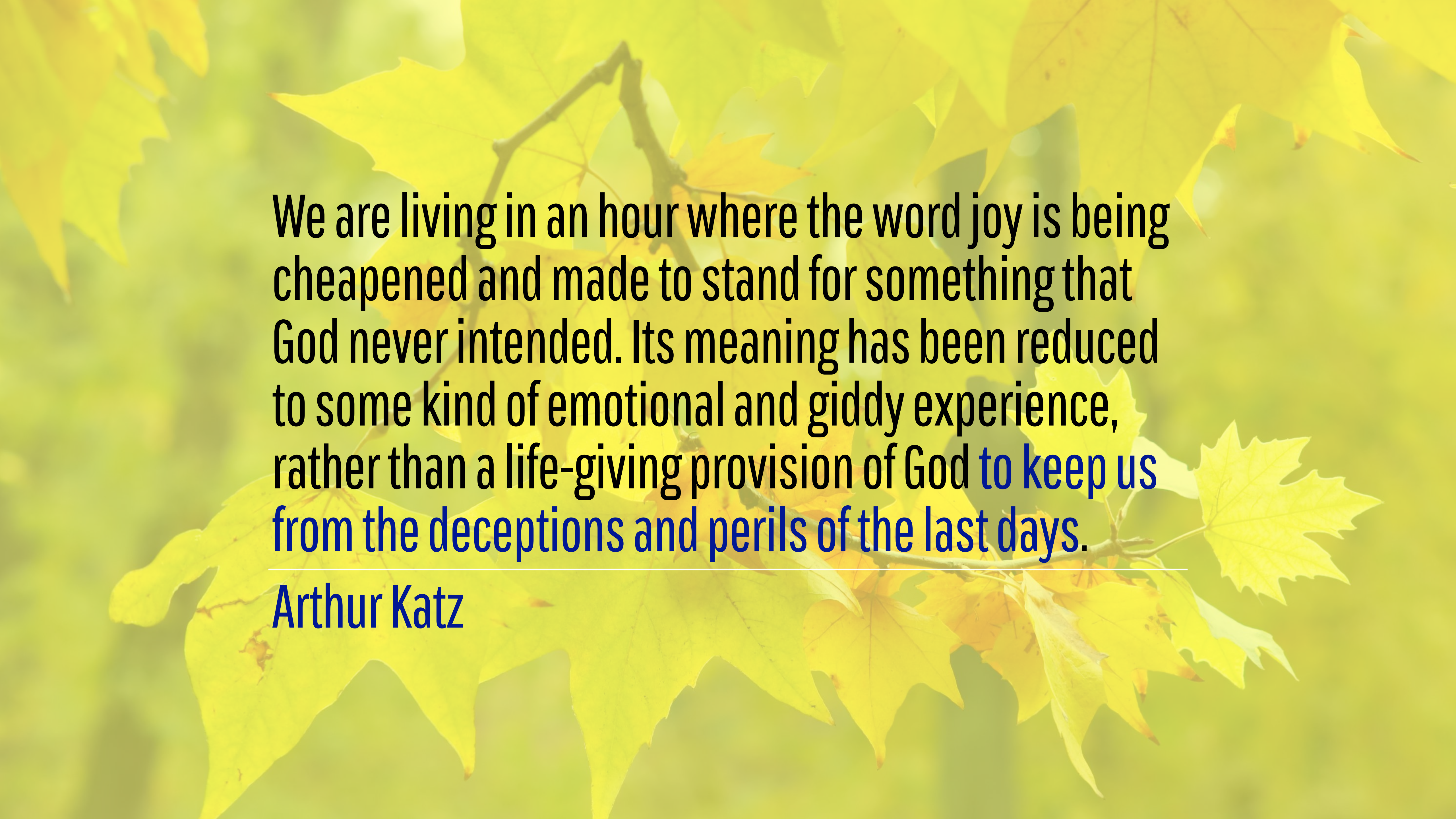
**We have imitated the world, sought popular favour,
manufactured delights to substitute for the joy of
the Lord and produced a cheap and synthetic
power to substitute for the power of the Holy Ghost.**

A.W. Tozer



The devil's substitute for joy is entertainment.

Leonard Ravenhill

The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of yellow autumn leaves, likely maple leaves, with some green still visible. The leaves are scattered across the frame, creating a warm and seasonal atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this background.

We are living in an hour where the word joy is being cheapened and made to stand for something that God never intended. Its meaning has been reduced to some kind of emotional and giddy experience, rather than a life-giving provision of God **to keep us from the deceptions and perils of the last days.**

Arthur Katz

Romans 15:13 (Amplified Bible)

May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] **SO THAT by the power of the Holy Spirit** you may abound and be overflowing with hope.

Colossians 1:9-12

9. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
10. so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
11. being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;
12. giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.