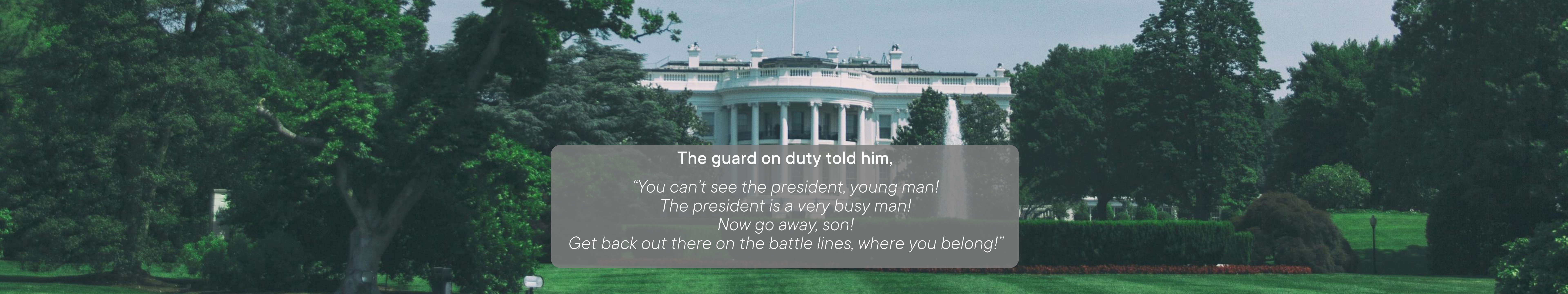


Experiencing the *Father's love*



A wide-angle photograph of the White House in Washington, D.C. The building is a large, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent portico supported by columns. It is surrounded by dense, mature green trees and a well-manicured lawn. The sky is clear and blue. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

The guard on duty told him,
*“You can’t see the president, young man!
The president is a very busy man!
Now go away, son!
Get back out there on the battle lines, where you belong!”*



The little boy listened and said
"I can help you, soldier."







“Good afternoon, Tad. Can you introduce me to your friend?”

And Tad Lincoln, the son of
the President of the United States, said,
“Daddy, this soldier needs to talk to you.”





We have **direct access** to our Father
in heaven because we know His Son.

“Paul a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ,
to further the faith of God’s elect and their
**knowledge of the truth that leads to
godliness in the hope of eternal life,**
which God, who does not lie, promised before
the beginning of time.”

Titus 1:1

JANUARY

Be an Overcomer
Be Prayerful
Be Grounded in the Word

FEBRUARY

Be Focused
Be A Blessing
Be in Awe of the Lord God

A Church of Good Order
A Church of Good Doctrine
A Church of Good Deeds

Experiencing Series

JANUARY

Be an Overcomer
Be Prayerful
Be Grounded in the Word

FEBRUARY

A Church of Good Order
A Church of Good Doctrine
A Church of Good Deeds

MARCH

Experiencing Father God
Experiencing the Holy Spirit
Experiencing Jesus

APRIL

Holy Week

Be Focused
Be A Blessing
Be in Awe of the Lord God

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32



**THE LAW
ENFORCER**

**THE
PUNISHER**



**THE
JUDGE**

**THE
ABSENT**



Our Father God is *perfect*.

Experiencing the Father's Love

1. Rejecting the Father
2. Remembering the Father
3. Returning to the Father
4. Receiving the Father
5. Realising the Father's blessings

Luke 15:11-13

¹¹ And He said, "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, **give me the share of the estate that falls to me.**' So he divided his wealth between them. ¹³ And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

- An inheritance is only given once the father has passed away.
- Such a request would have hurt the father.

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Sin moves us away from our Father God.

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Luke 15:14-16

¹⁴ Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and **he sent him into his fields to feed swine.** ¹⁶ And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and **no one was giving anything to him.**



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Luke 15:17-19

¹⁷ **But when he came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' "

SIN

causes us to be careless and unwise

robs us of our self worth

brings us death

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Grace brings us back to God.

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Luke 15:20-21

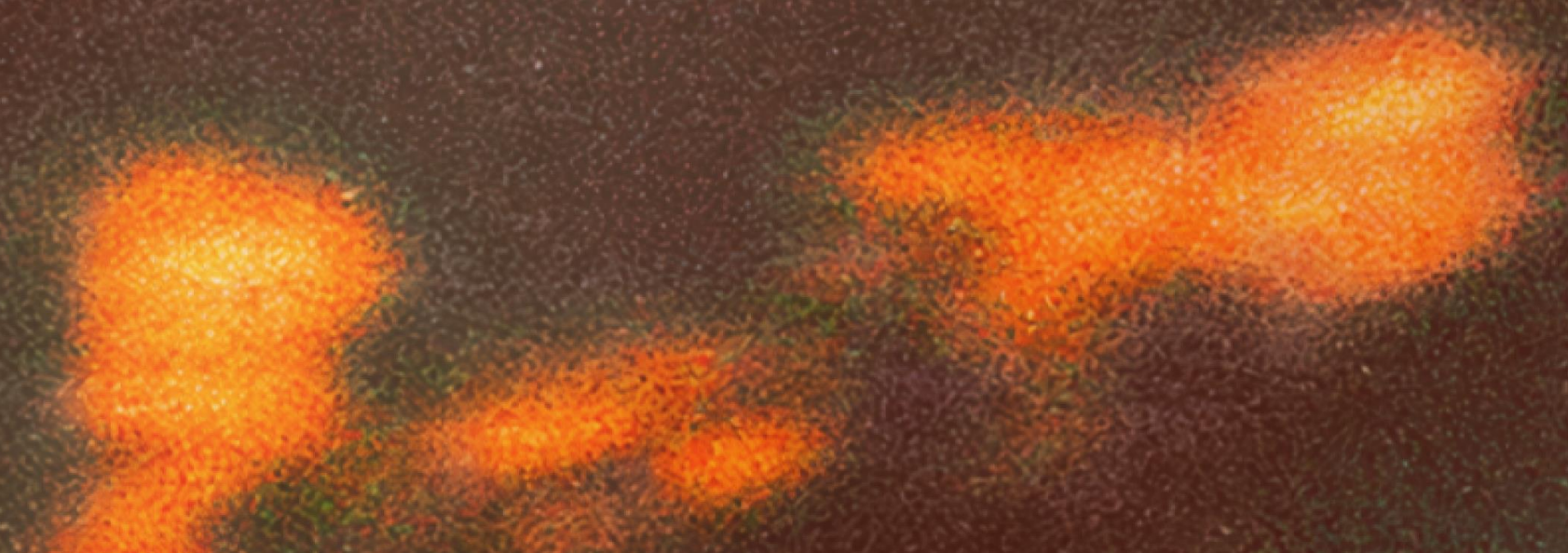
²⁰ So he got up and came to his father. But **while he was still a long way off**, his father **saw him and felt compassion** for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

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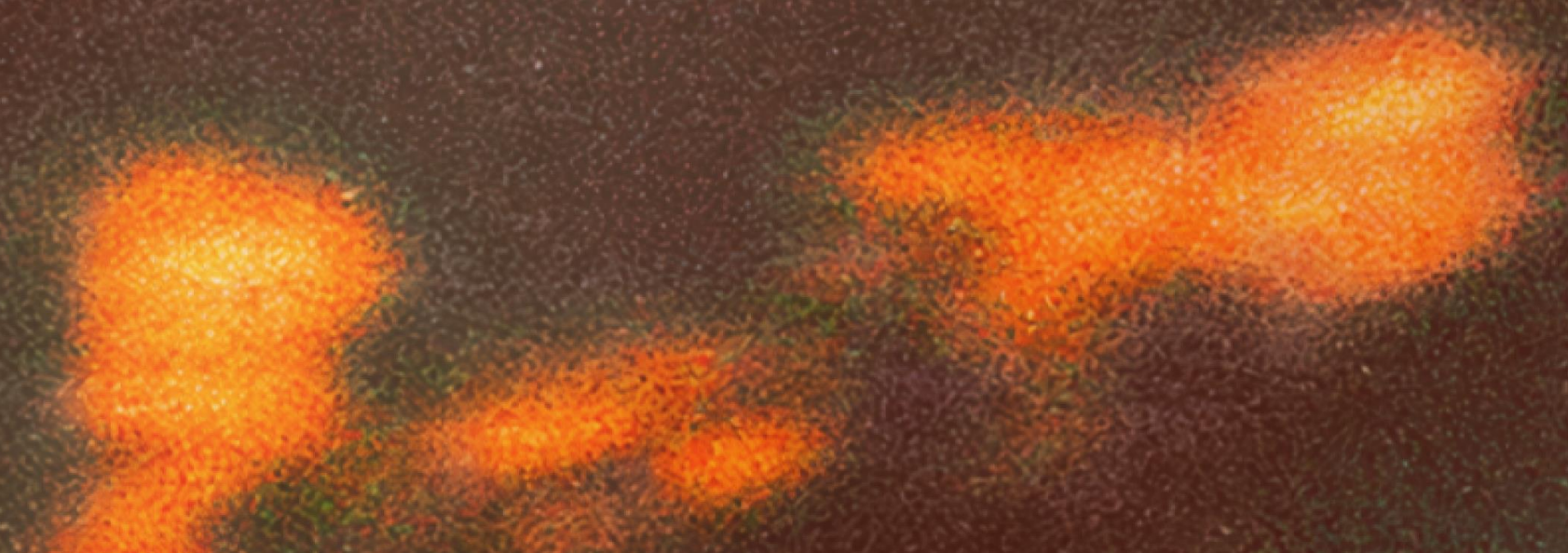


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Luke 15:22-24

²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet;
²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;
²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.



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Clothing items	Significance (Effects of grace)	Areas of restoration	Effects of sin
Robe	Dignity	Personhood	Shame
Ring	Royalty	Position	Unworthiness
Sandals	Destiny	Purpose	Hopelessness











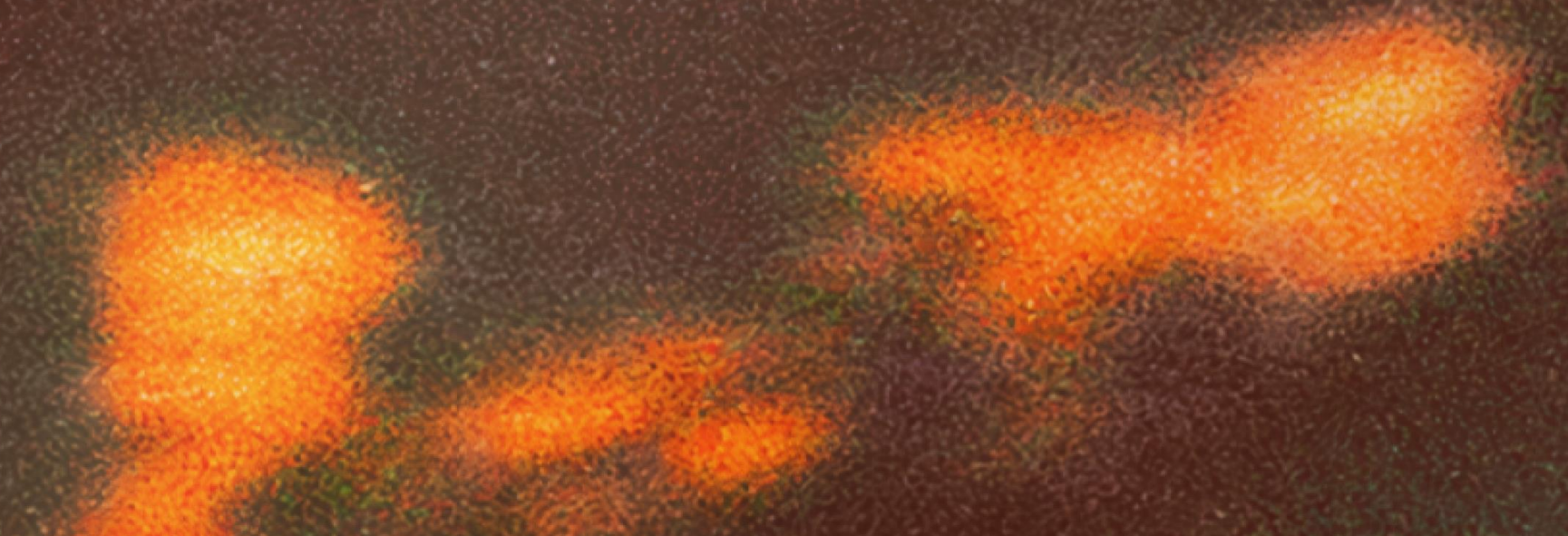
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Luke 15:25-29

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the **fattened calf** because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him.

²⁹ But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a **young goat**, so that I might celebrate with my friends;

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Luke 15:30-32

³⁰ but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"

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“and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven,

“You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

Luke 3: 22

Father God was proud of Jesus even *before*
He started His ministry.

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God's presence is a blessing. Don't miss it by comparing!

Experiencing the Father's Love

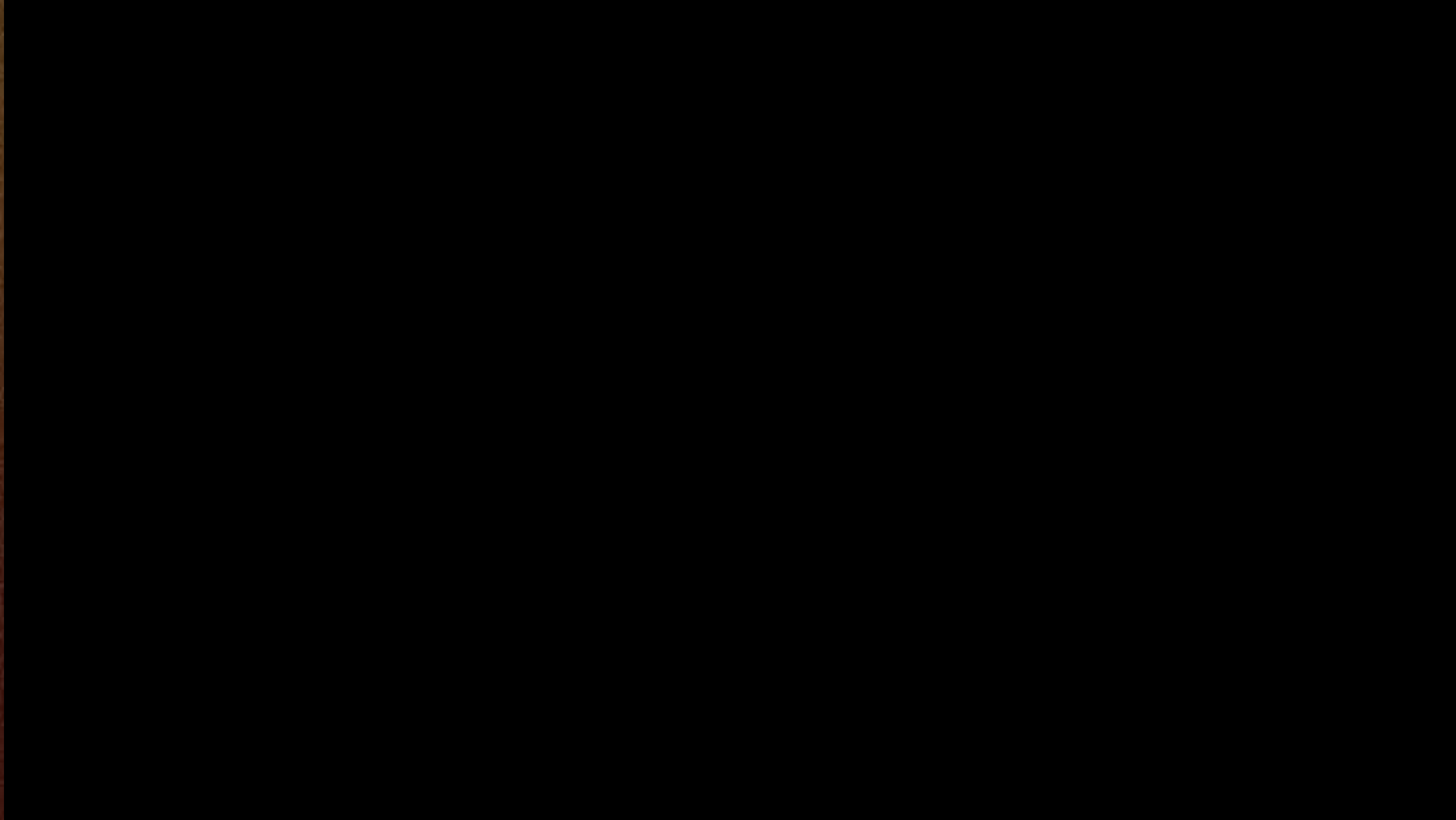
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“I chose You because I love you.
And I am already proud of you.
Not based on your performance.
But based on my love for you.”

1 John 4:10-11

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Focus on our Father who sent Jesus for us
He is here for us





My father was not God.

But he showed me what God is like that day.

His one act of grace changed my life and informed who I am.

I am so grateful God accepts me as I am—hurting, wounded, broken.

*I am glad He chooses me to be part of His family,
regardless of my past mistakes and sins.*

He wants me. He cares about me.

His arms are open to me at all times.



*Even when I am in the ruins, God stands watching the road,
eager for me to come to Him.*

God doesn't stop at ruin, it's where He begins.

And brokenness is a qualification for service to Him.

God does not hold in His hand a list of my failures.

He is not waiting to judge me.

He is waiting to be with me.

He is waiting to embrace me and welcome me home.