

A photograph of a window with a wooden frame, partially covered by dense green ivy. The window looks out onto a path leading through a lush green landscape. The text 'Welcome to Wonderland' is overlaid in a white, elegant serif font, with a thin white line underneath it.

Welcome to Wonderland

SHOW AND TELL

WHAT DO YOU WONDER?





WHY DO WE WONDER?

*We **wonder** because
our frame of reference
doesn't provide us
with all the **answers**.*

LIFE HAPPENS (**EXPERIENCE**)

- Childhood Experience
- Education Experience
- Religious Experience
- Sin, Guilt, Insecurity, Jealousy ...
- Anger, Fear, Anxiety, Greed ...
- Failure, Tragedy, Loss ...

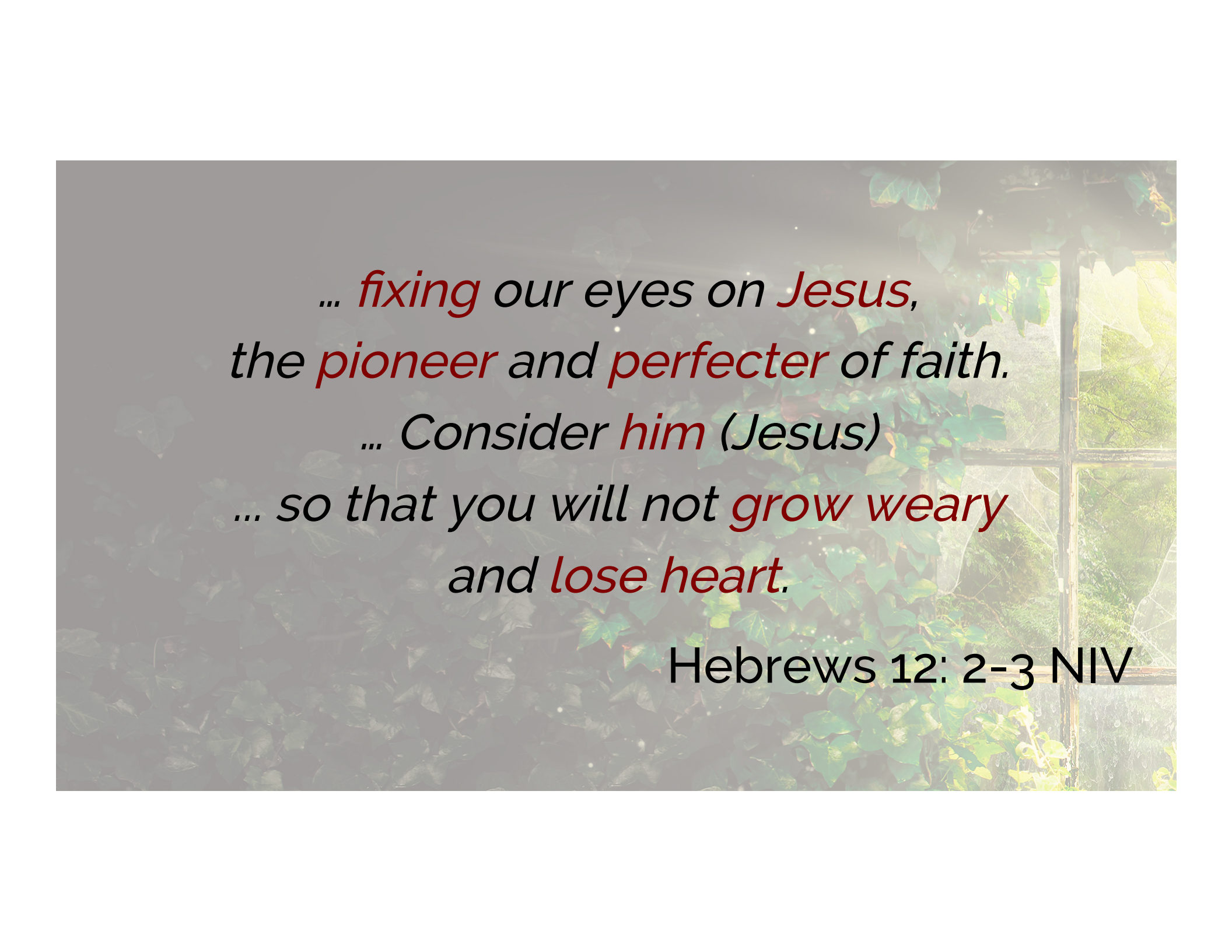
WONDERING **LEADS TO** WANDERING

- Our *experience* doesn't line up with the *version* of faith that we were raised on.
- When the *windowpanes* of our life get *clouded* and *distorted* by life.



GOD SENT JESUS TO US

God sent *Jesus*
to stand on *our side* of the *window*
to serve as our *reference*
and to *clarify* things for us.

The background of the slide features a close-up of green ivy leaves on the left and a window frame on the right. The window looks out onto a bright, green outdoor scene. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

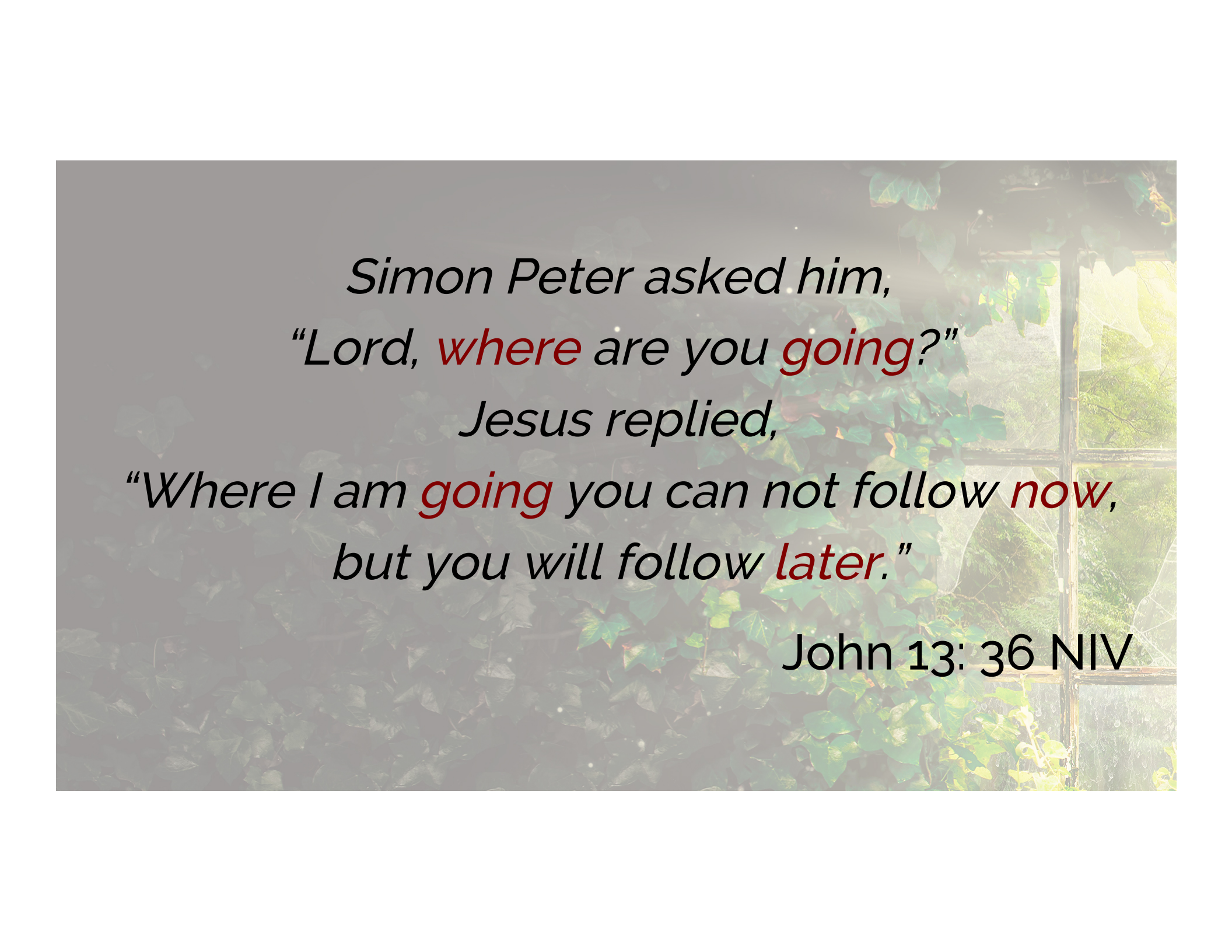
... *fixing* our eyes on *Jesus*,
the *pioneer* and *perfecter* of faith.

... Consider *him* (Jesus)
... so that you will not *grow weary*
and *lose heart*.

Hebrews 12: 2-3 NIV

WONDERING ABOUT FAITH

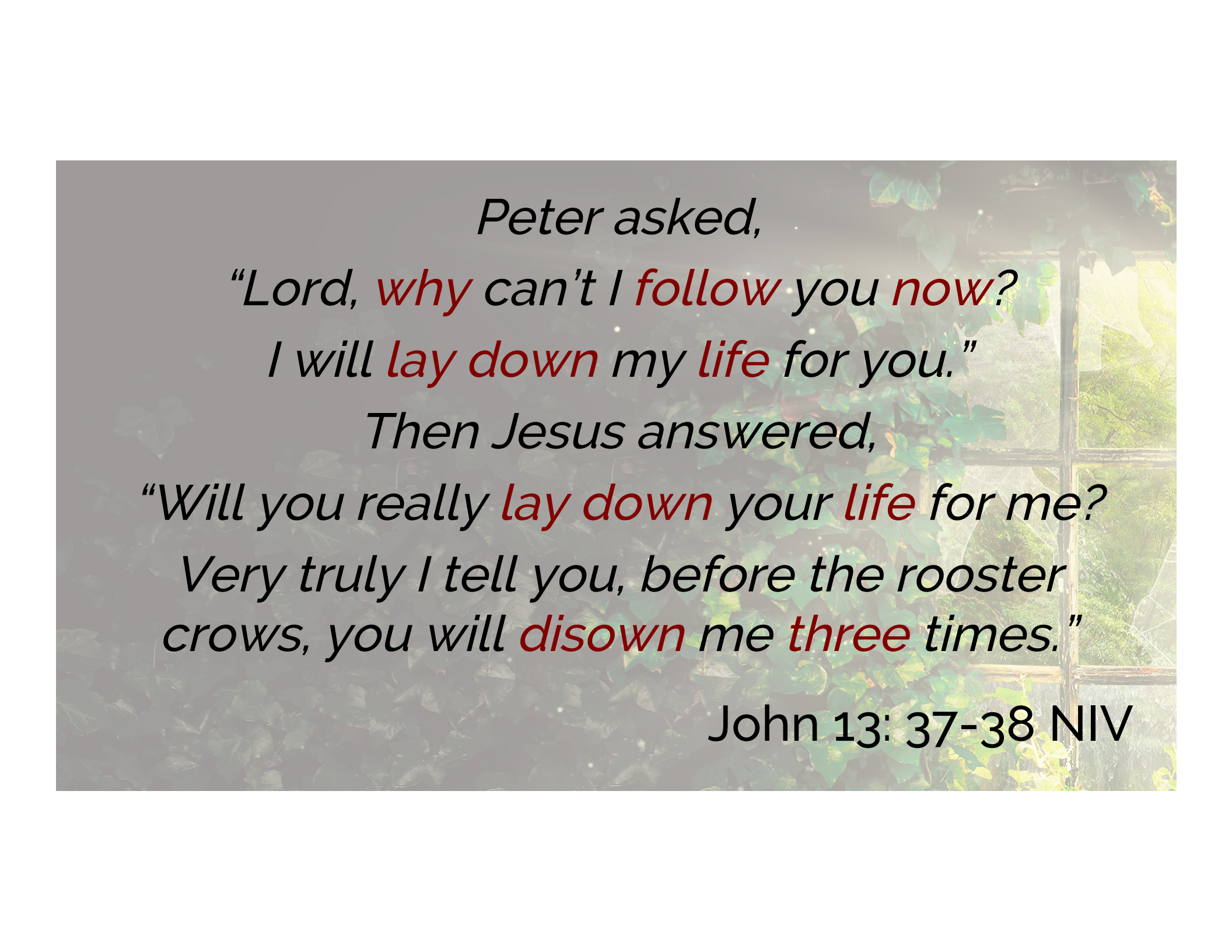
- You are *considering* faith (*free agent*) ...
 - You are *thinking* about *leaving* ...
- You *stepped away* from your faith (*none*) ...
- You have *left* faith (*de-conversion story*) ...



*Simon Peter asked him,
“Lord, **where** are you **going**?”*

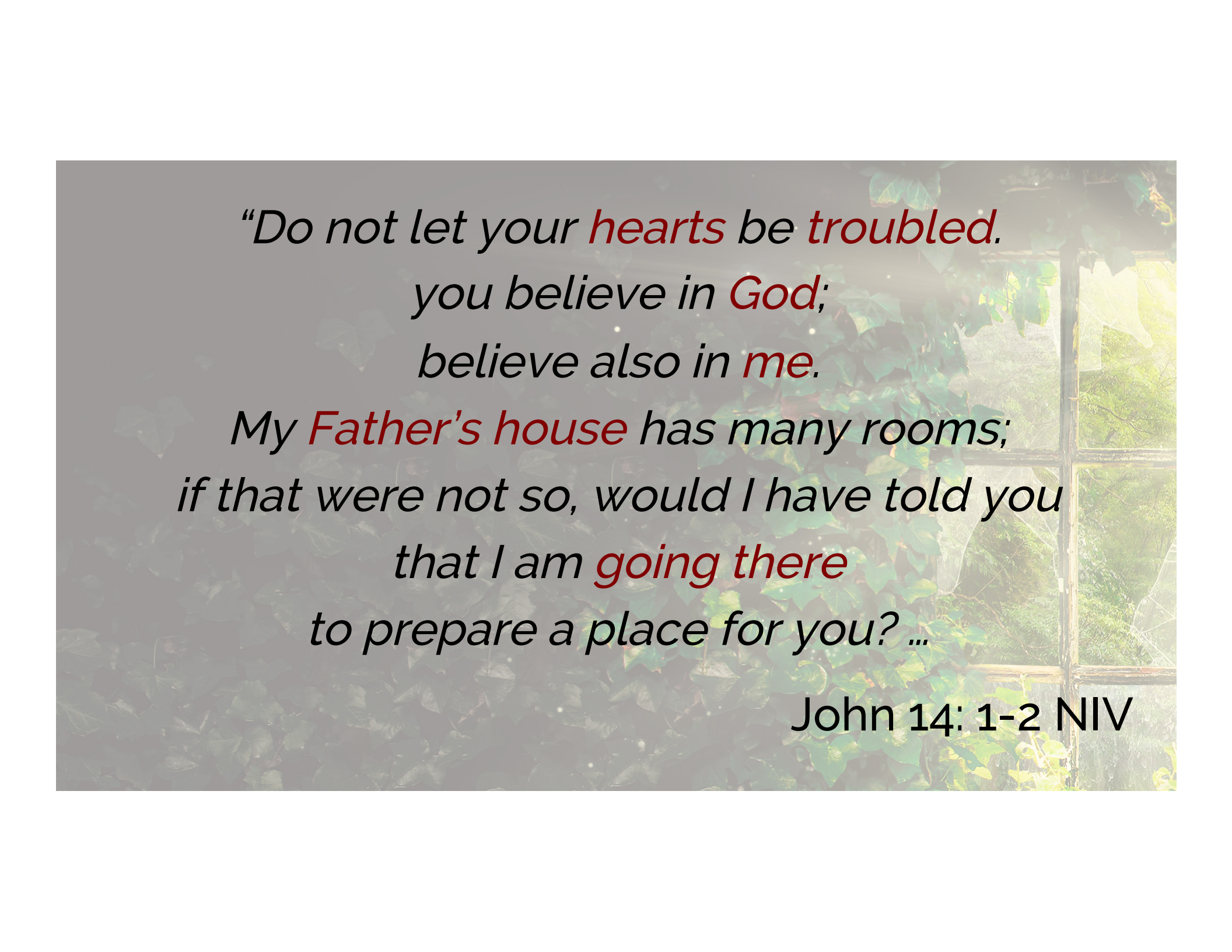
*Jesus replied,
“Where I am **going** you can not follow **now**,
but you will follow **later**.”*

John 13: 36 NIV



Peter asked,
*“Lord, **why** can’t I **follow** you **now**?
I will **lay down** my **life** for you.”*
Then Jesus answered,
*“Will you really **lay down** your **life** for me?
Very truly I tell you, before the rooster
crows, you will **disown** me **three** times.”*

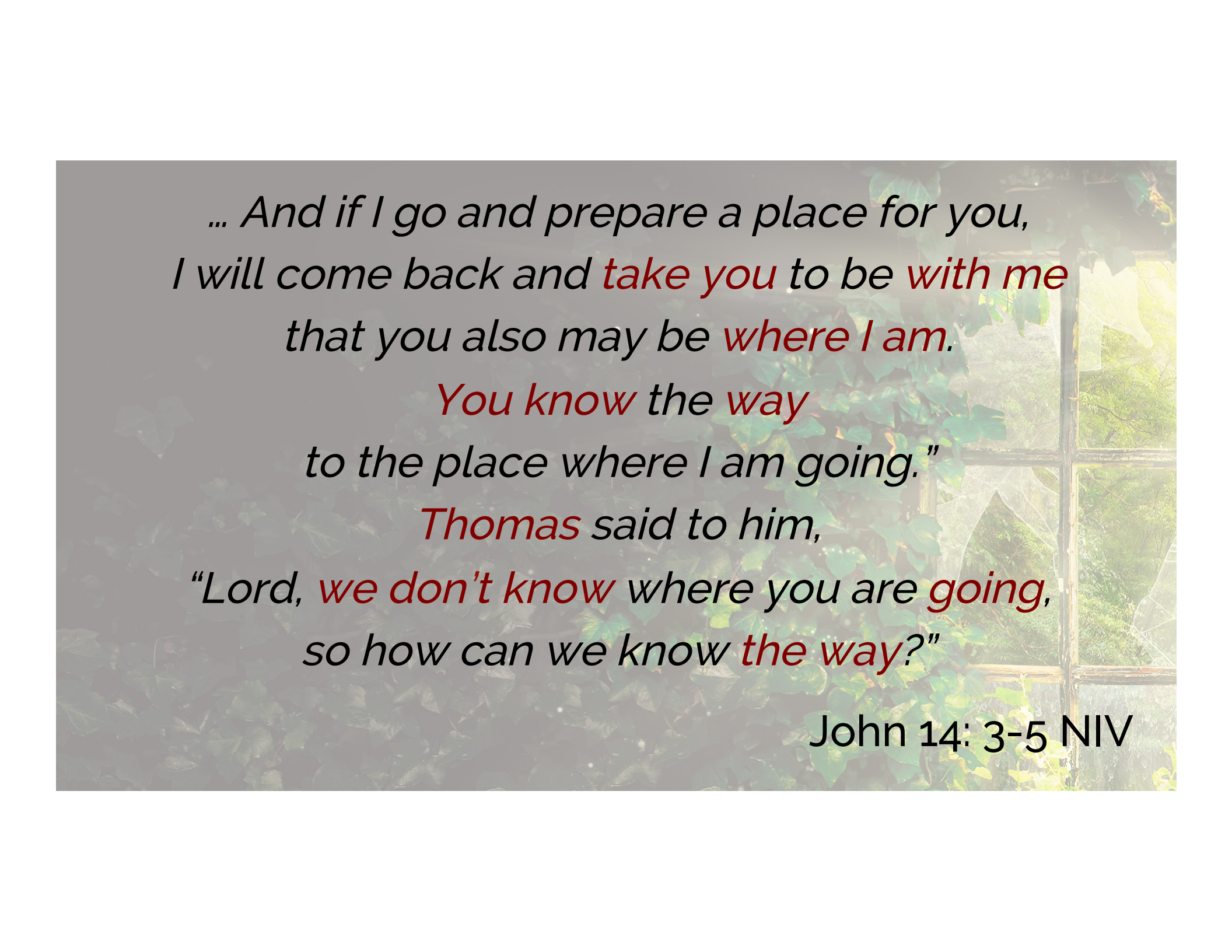
John 13: 37-38 NIV



*"Do not let your **hearts** be **troubled**.
you believe in **God**;
believe also in **me**.*

*My **Father's house** has many rooms;
if that were not so, would I have told you
that I am **going there**
to prepare a place for you? ...*

John 14: 1-2 NIV

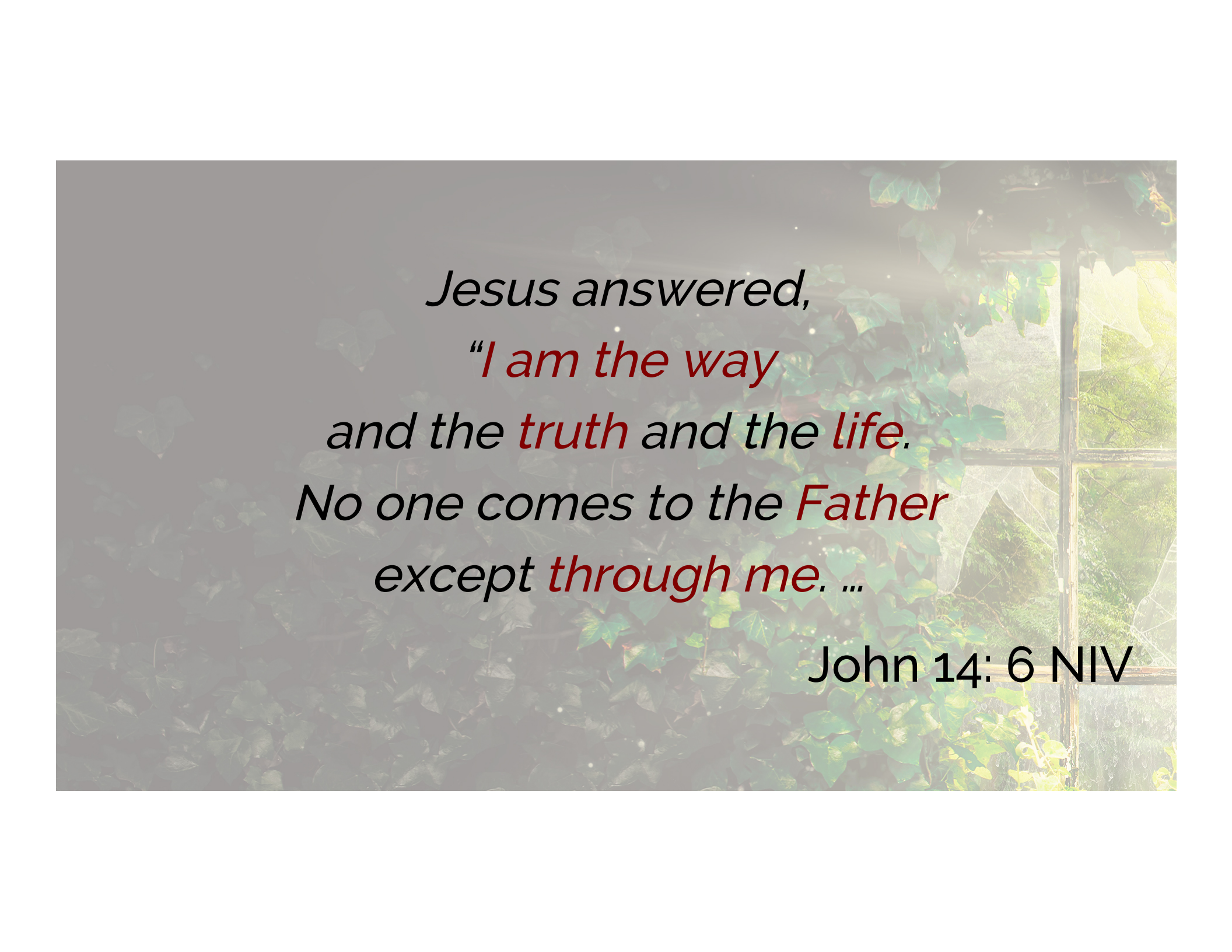


*... And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back and **take you** to be **with me**
that you also may be **where I am**.*

***You know the way**
to the place where I am going."*

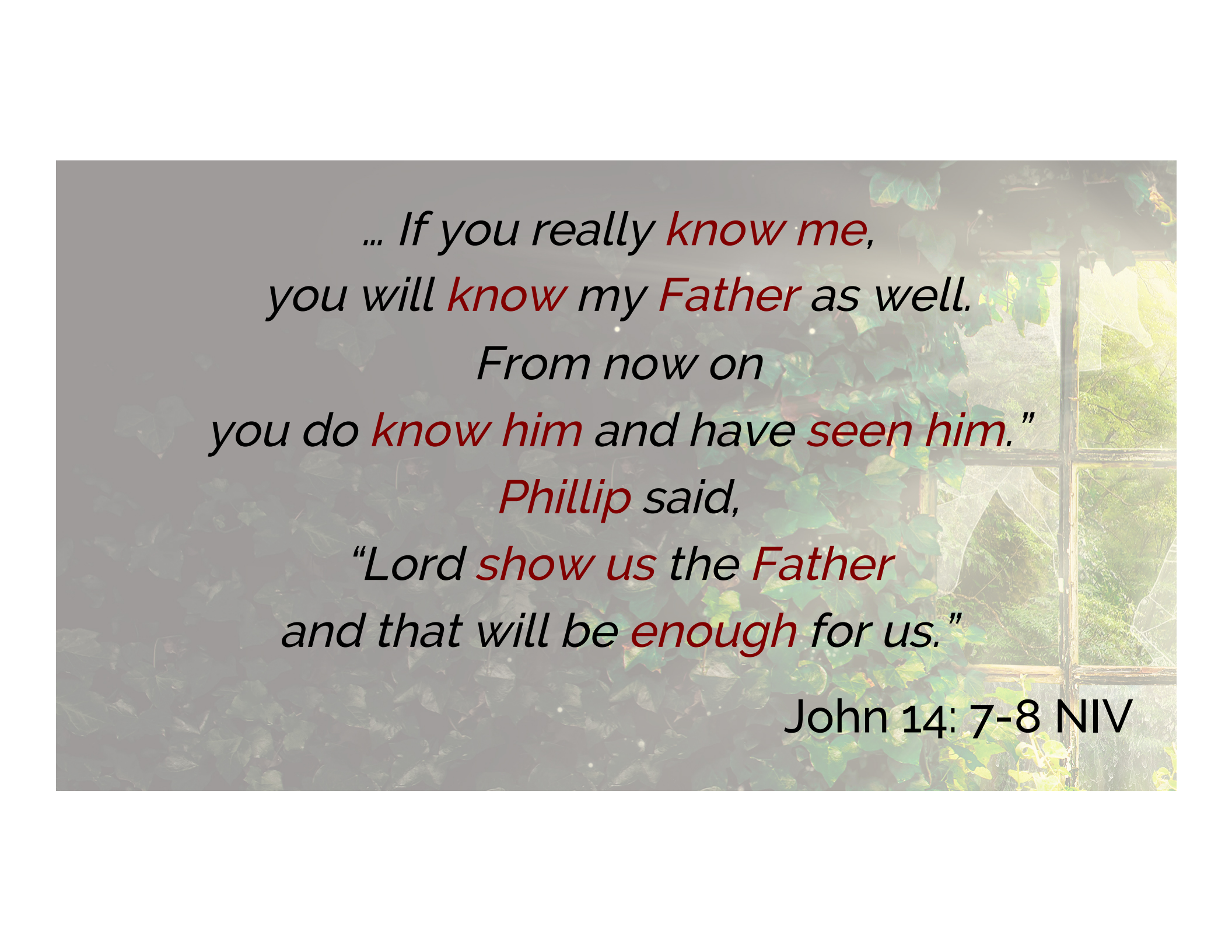
***Thomas** said to him,
"Lord, **we don't know** where you are **going**,
so how can we know **the way**?"*

John 14: 3-5 NIV



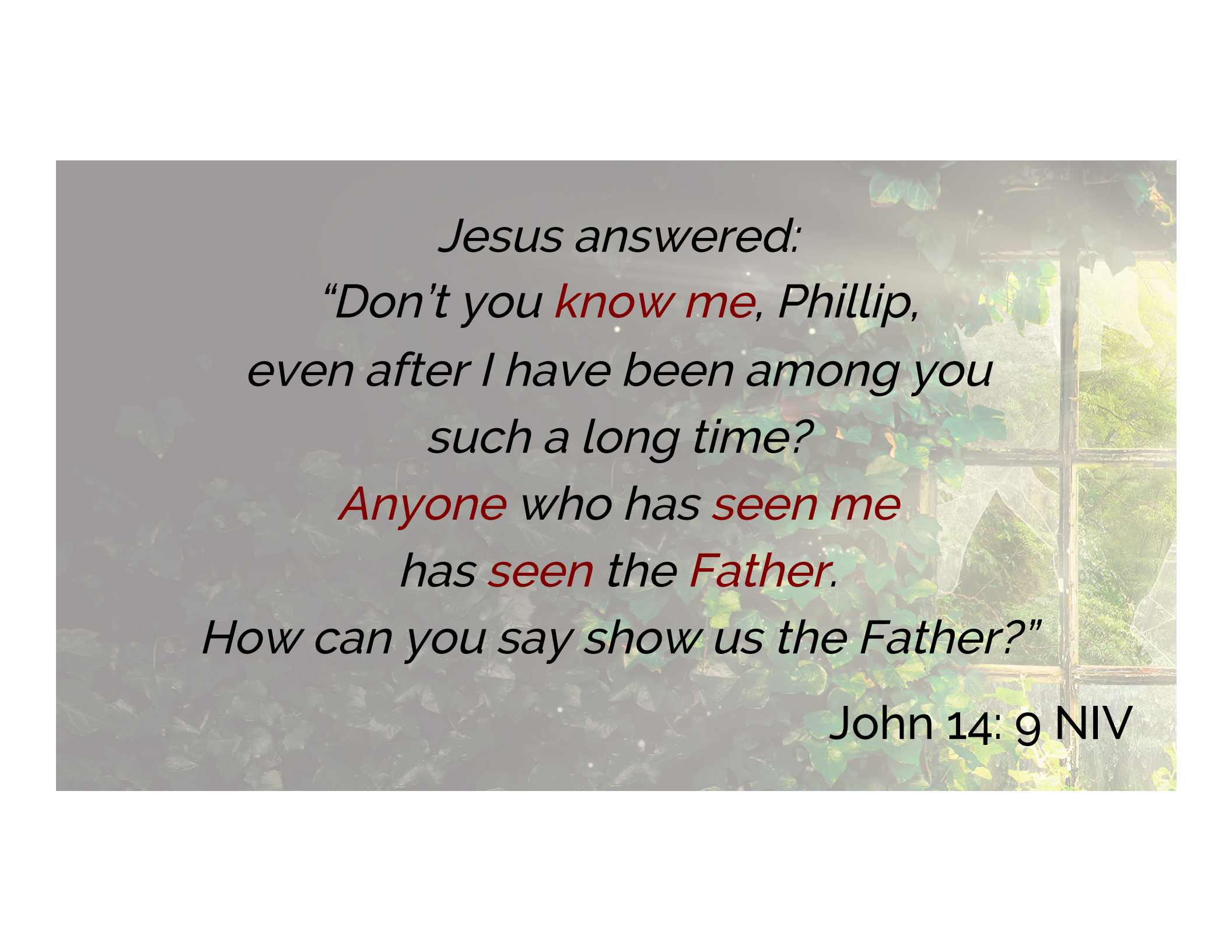
*Jesus answered,
“I am the way
and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through me. ...*

John 14: 6 NIV



*... If you really **know me**,
you will **know** my **Father** as well.
From now on
you do **know him** and have **seen him**.”
Phillip said,
“Lord **show us** the **Father**
and that will be **enough** for us.”*

John 14: 7-8 NIV



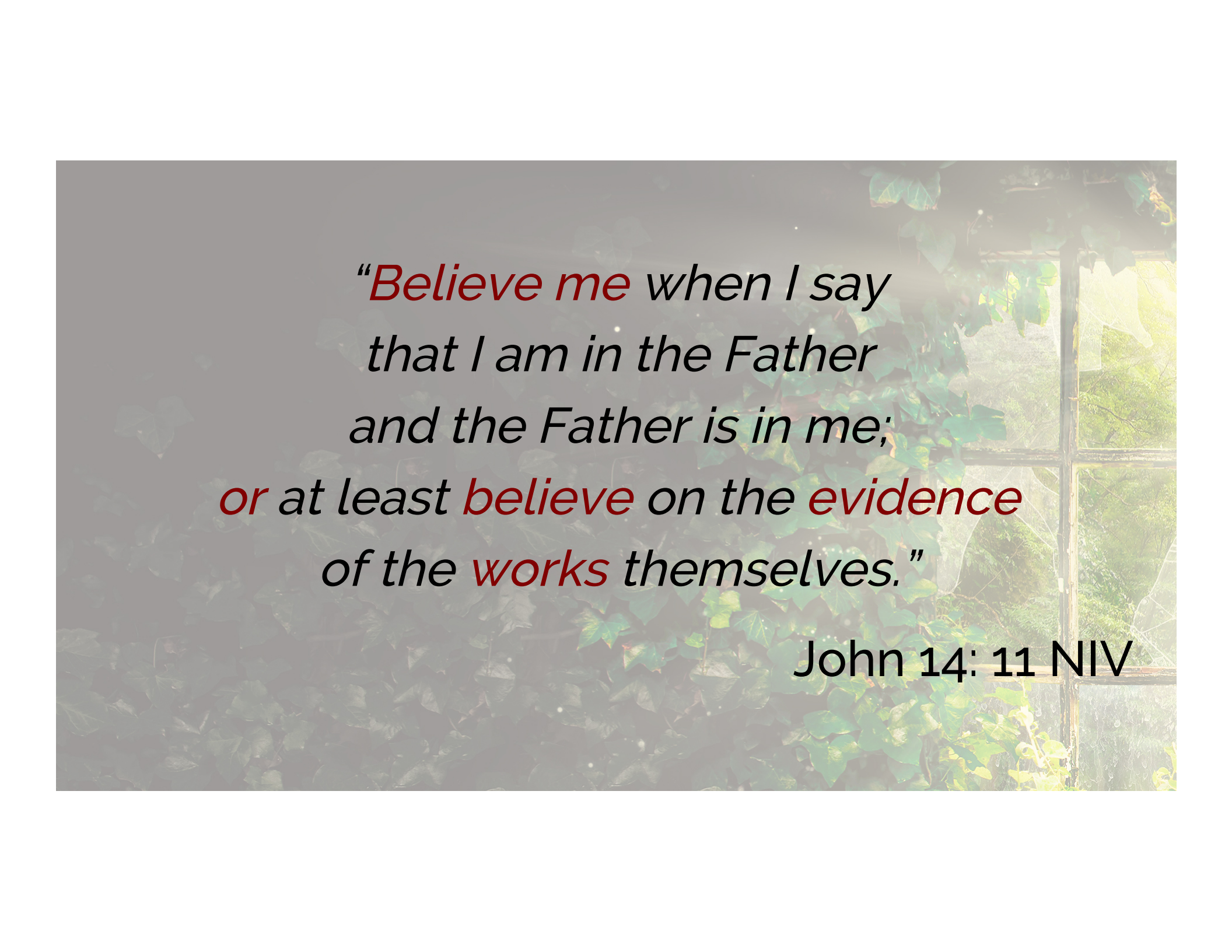
*Jesus answered:
“Don’t you **know me**, Phillip,
even after I have been among you
such a long time?
Anyone who has **seen me**
has **seen** the **Father**.
How can you say show us the Father?”*

John 14: 9 NIV



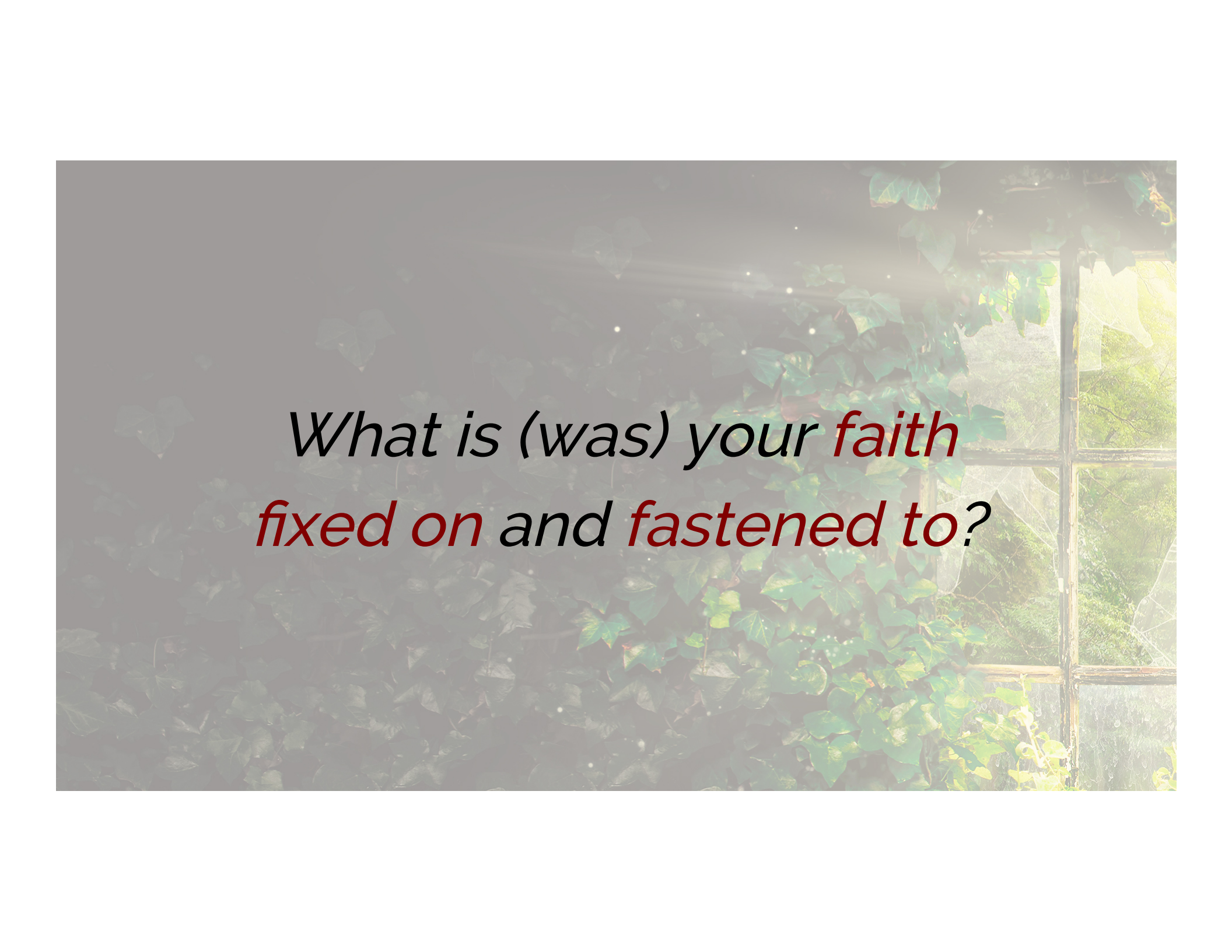
"Believe me ...

John 14: 11 NIV



***“Believe me** when I say
that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me;
or at least **believe** on the **evidence**
of the **works** themselves.”*

John 14: 11 NIV



*What is (was) your **faith**
fixed on and **fastened to**?*

ASSIGNMENT & CHALLENGE

- Read the gospel of Luke
 - BE RICH: Give \$40; Serve 3 hours
- 100% Participation (\$5K+)
- 100% to the Salvation Army