


*the book of*  
**ACTS**

*The account of the growth of the Church*



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Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her.<sup>19</sup> Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. Acts 16:18,19



They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup> by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. Acts 16:20-23



After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.

Acts 16:23



“When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

Acts 16:24



“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

Acts 16:25



**1. In the face of suffering  
the Jailer sees their  
peace and joy.**





“Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.” Acts 16:26



“The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ”

Acts 16:27



“But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself!  
We are all here!” Acts 16:28



**2. In the face of harsh treatment Paul and Silas were kind and forgiving.**



“The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell  
trembling before Paul and Silas.”

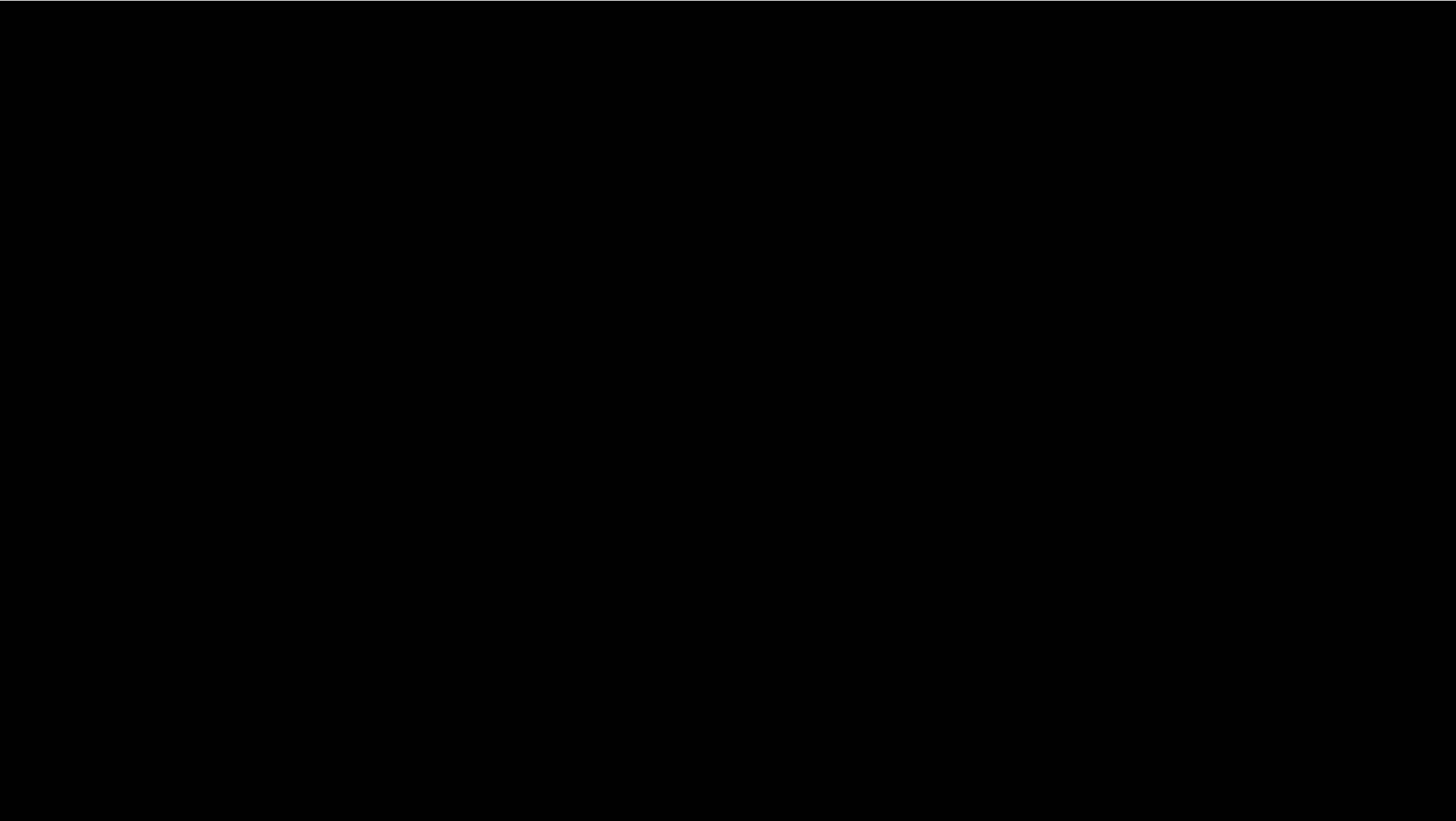
Acts 16:29



Do not be overcome by evil,  
but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21





NOW A LIFETIME MOVIE

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A GUIDE FOR  
DISCUSSION

# Amish *Grace*

*How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*

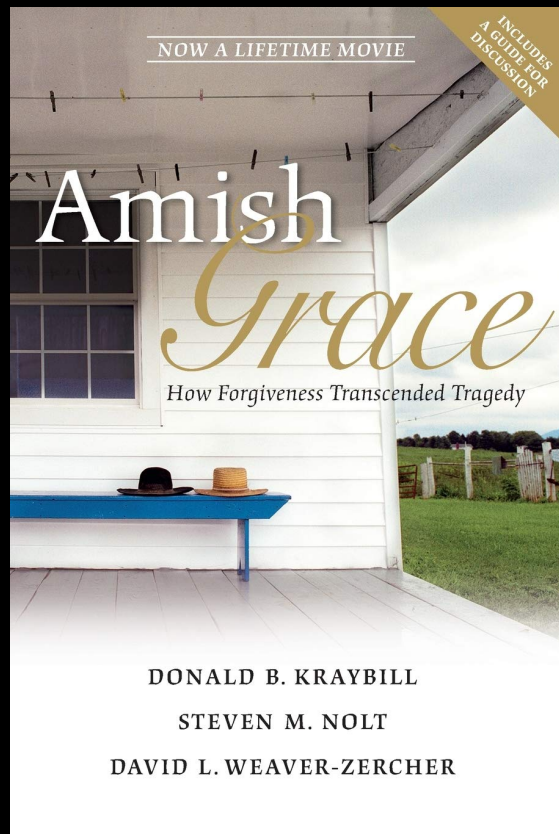
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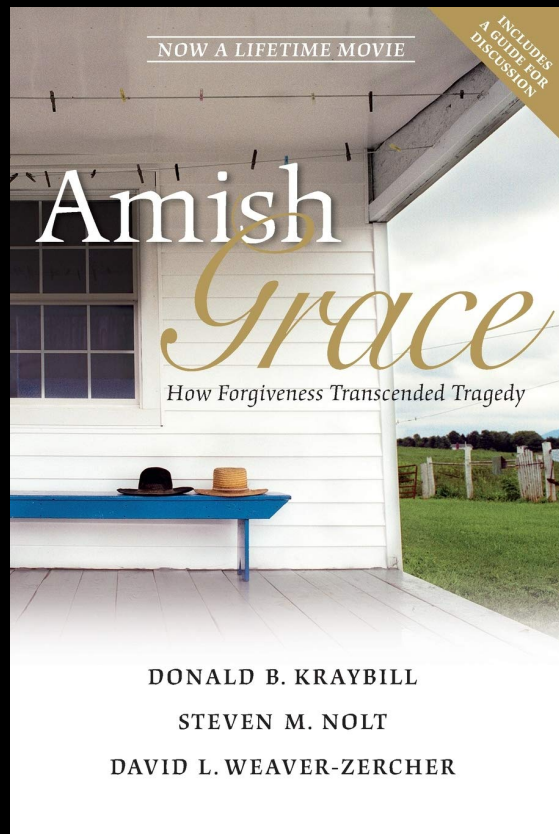
DAVID L. WEAVER-ZERCHER

Amish Grace  
recounts the Amish  
witness and  
connects it to the  
heart of their  
spirituality.

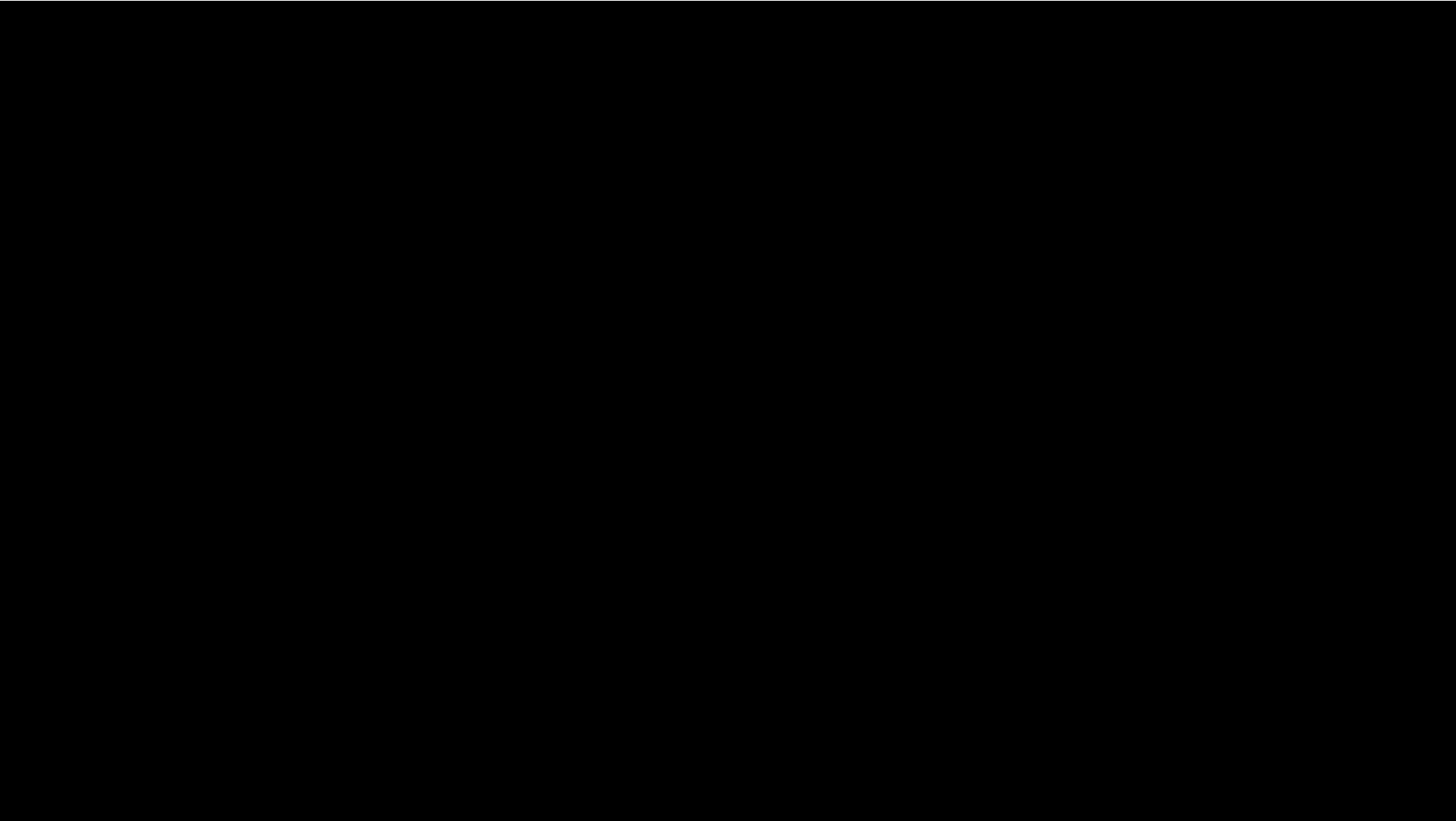




*"There is no other religion in the world that has a man dying for his enemies on the cross as the central principle of their faith. It was that truth, which was the first reason the Amish were able to forgive."*



*"We live in a culture of self-assertion. Every American child is told, "You have to assert yourself. Your freedom and your rights are important and if you harm someone in a culture of self-assertion, their response will be revenge, what the Amish were, when you harm them, was forgiveness."*



“What must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30



They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."  
Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

Acts 16:31,32

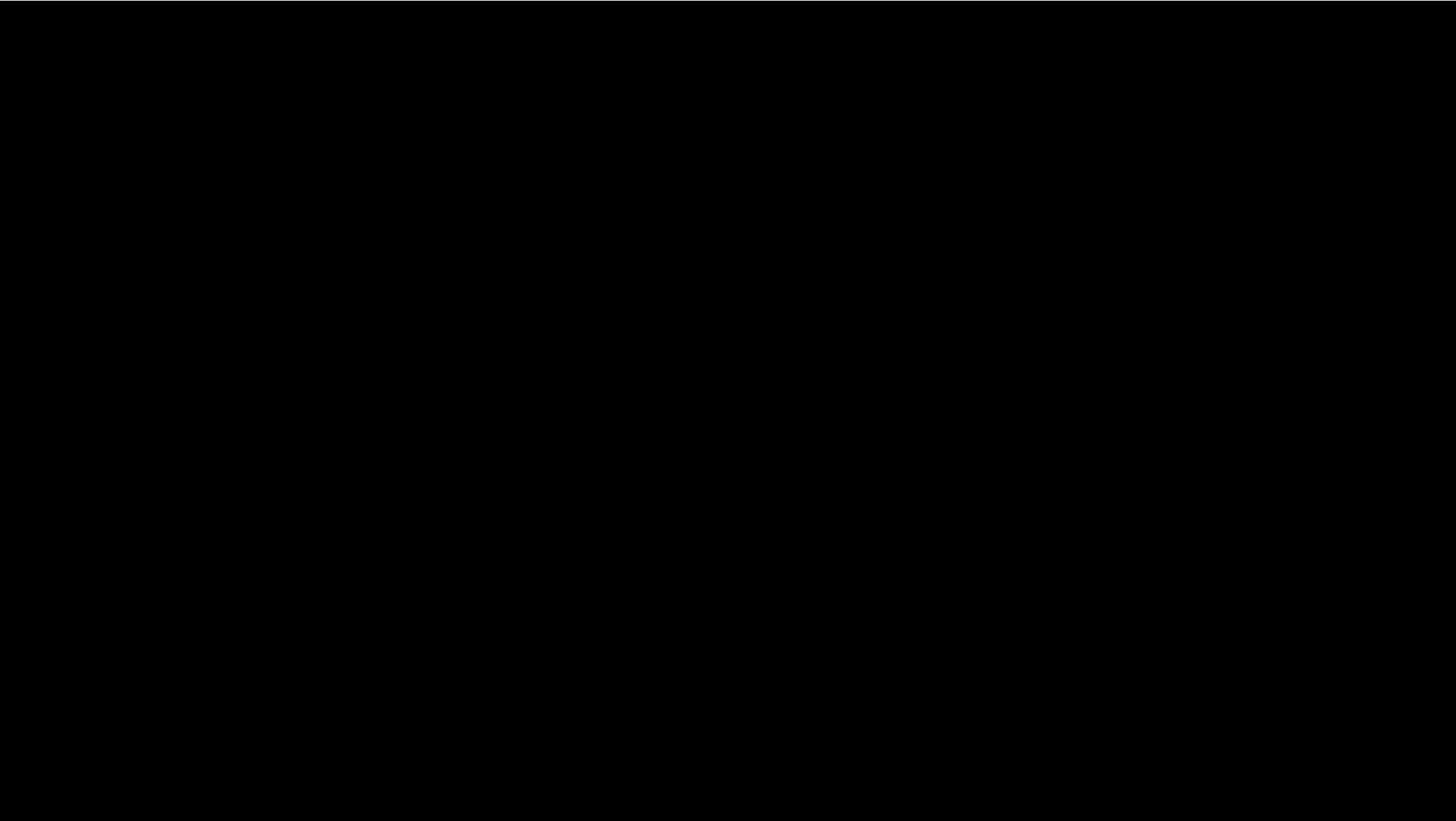


“As Moses raised up the bronze serpent on a pole in the wilderness, so when the Son of Man is lifted up, all who believe in him will have eternal life.” John 3:14



So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed! Numbers 21:9









CHARLES SPURGEON  
1834–1892

*Isaiah 45:22.*

*"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth ..."*

*""My dear friends, this is a simple text indeed. It says to be saved we only need to look. It ain't lifting your foot or your finger. It's just look. You needn't have gone to college to look. Even a child can look. You needn't be worth a thousand pounds a year to look. Anyone can look."*

*"Ah, but then the text says, 'Look unto me ...' Ay, now.  
Many of us are looking to ourselves, but it's no use looking  
there. The text says, 'Look unto me!'"*

*"Then the good man lifted up his arms. "Look unto me; I am sweating great drops of blood. Look unto me; I'm hanging on the cross. Look unto me; I'm dead and buried. Look unto me; I rise again. Look unto me; I ascend to heaven. Look unto me; I'm sitting at the Father's right hand. Oh, look unto me."*

*"Young man, you look very miserable, and you will always be miserable in life and miserable in death if you don't obey my text. Young man, you have nothing to do but look and live."*



*"I had been waiting to do 50 things to find God, but when I heard that word look, the cloud was gone. Like when the brazen serpent was lifted up, the people only looked and were healed. So it was with me."*

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household. Acts 16:33,34





**1. Real faith makes you  
compassionate.**

At that hour of the night the jailer  
took them and washed their wounds;  
and set a meal before them;



**2. Real faith makes  
you committed to  
community.**

Immediately he and  
all his household  
were baptized.



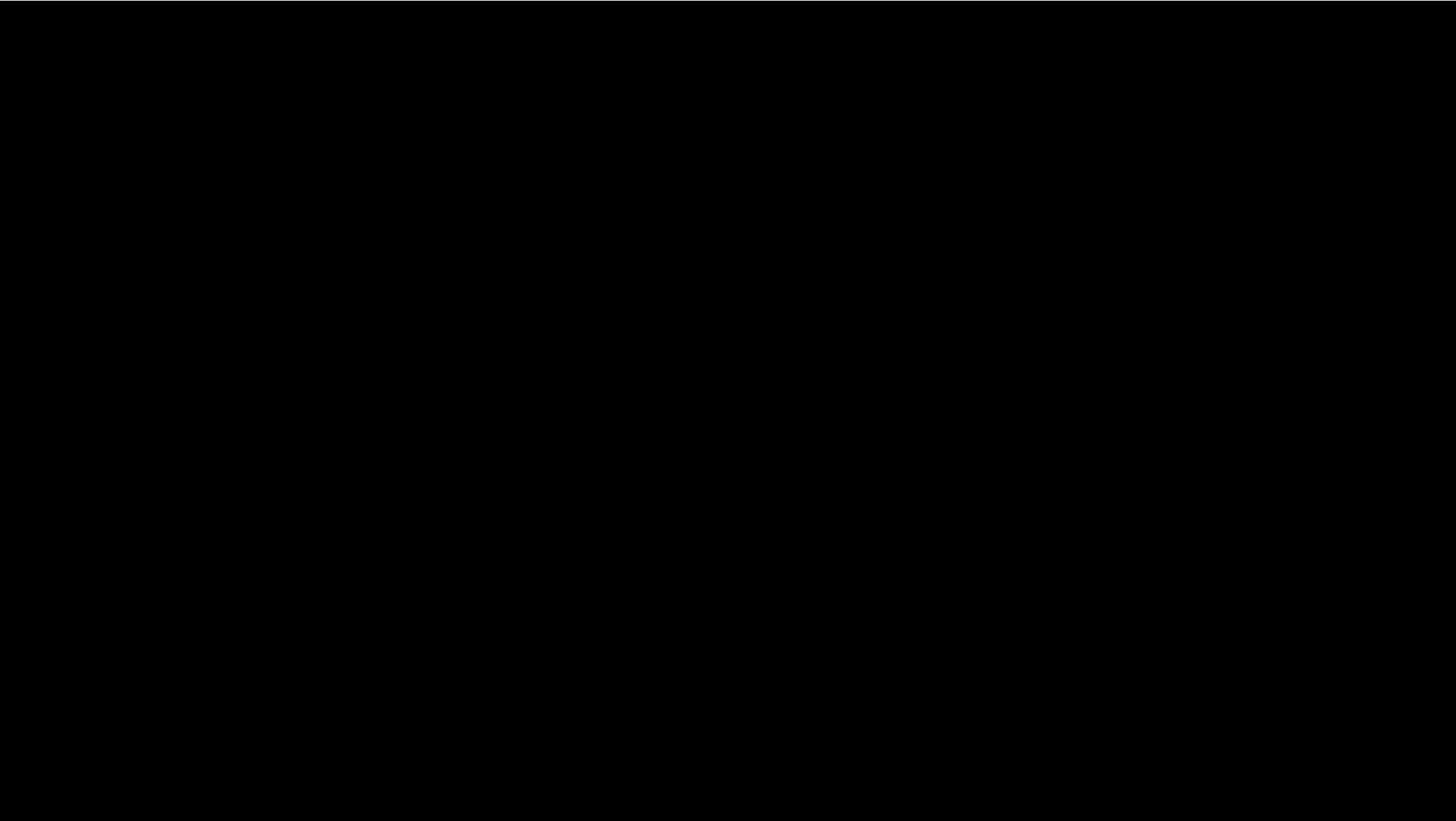
**3. Real faith fills  
you with joy.**

He was filled with joy because  
he had come to believe in  
God—he and his  
whole household.



When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men."<sup>36</sup> The jailer told Paul, "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace."<sup>37</sup> But Paul said to the officers: "They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out." Acts 16:35-37







**1. Paul is making them face their wrongdoing.**



**2. Paul gives the church  
political clout to fend off  
future abuse.**



The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. <sup>39</sup> They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city.

Acts 16:35-37



After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left. Acts 16:40



# Two Takeaways

1. Don't be surprised by opposition when serving God.

# Two Takeaways

2. Choosing to praise God during hard times reaps a harvest of Joy.

Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?<sup>14</sup> But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.<sup>15</sup> Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life.


1 Peter 3:13-15



Now, And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way. 1 Peter 3:15,16








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