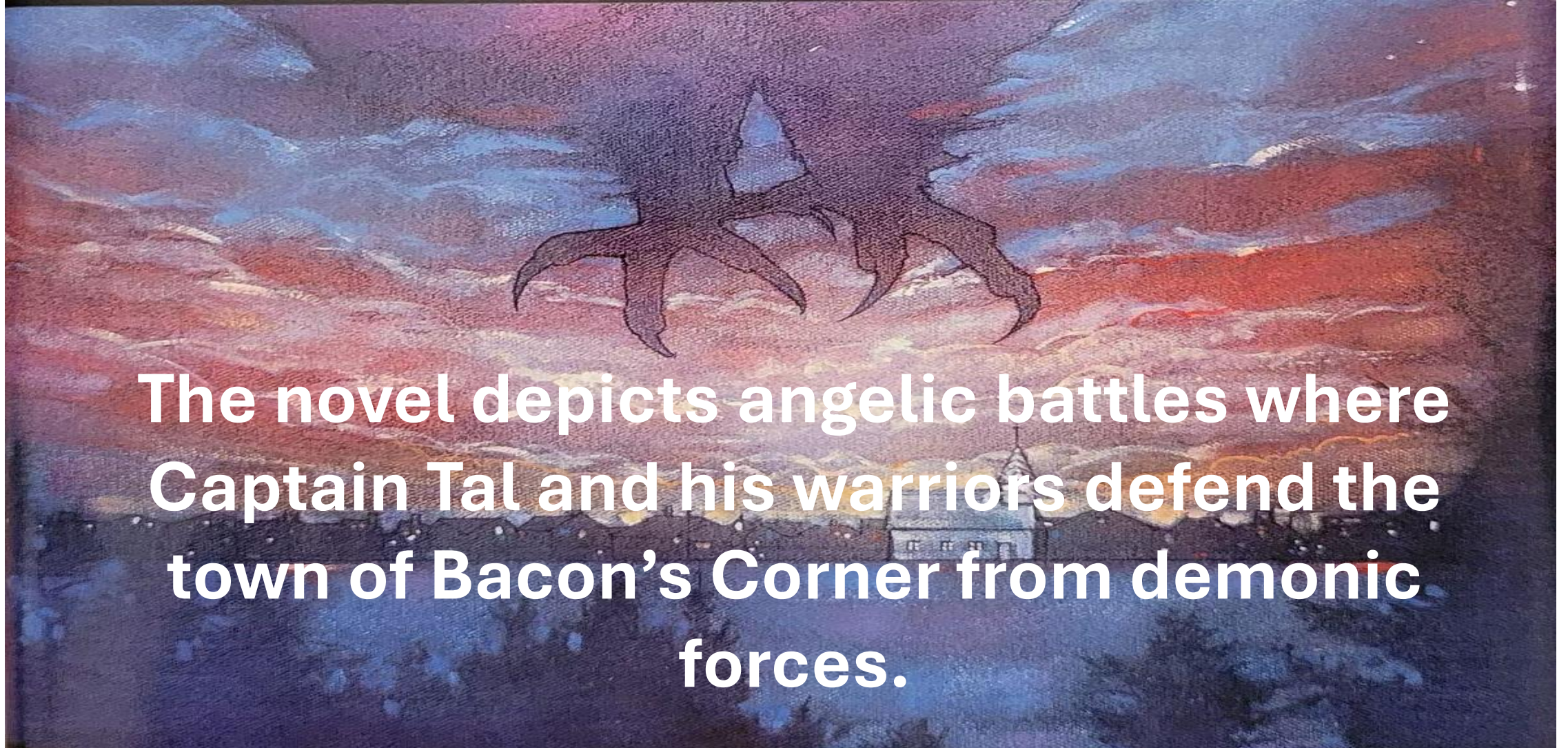


Piercing the Darkness by Frank Peretti



The novel depicts angelic battles where Captain Tal and his warriors defend the town of Bacon's Corner from demonic forces.



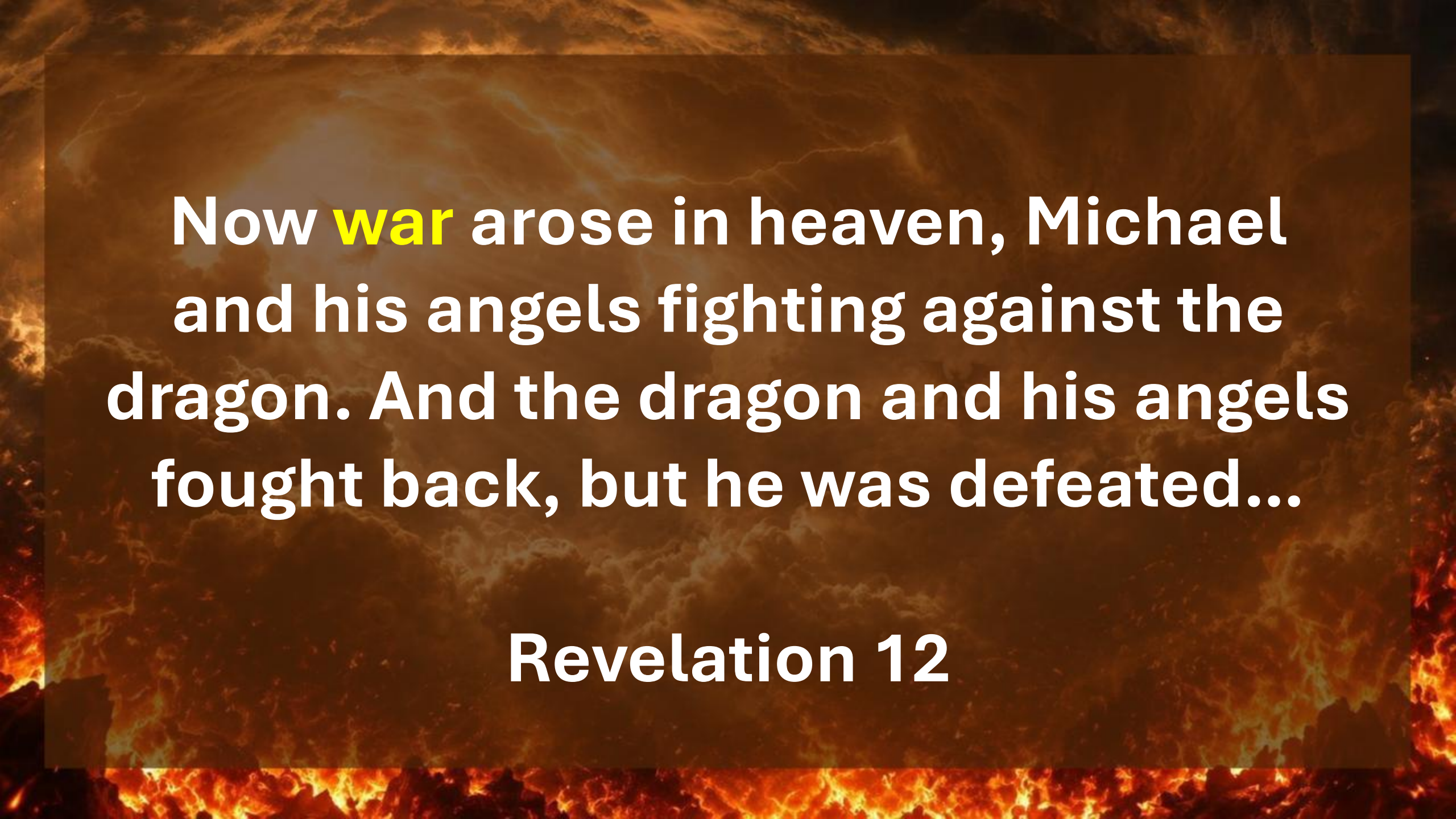
Spirit Wars

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood



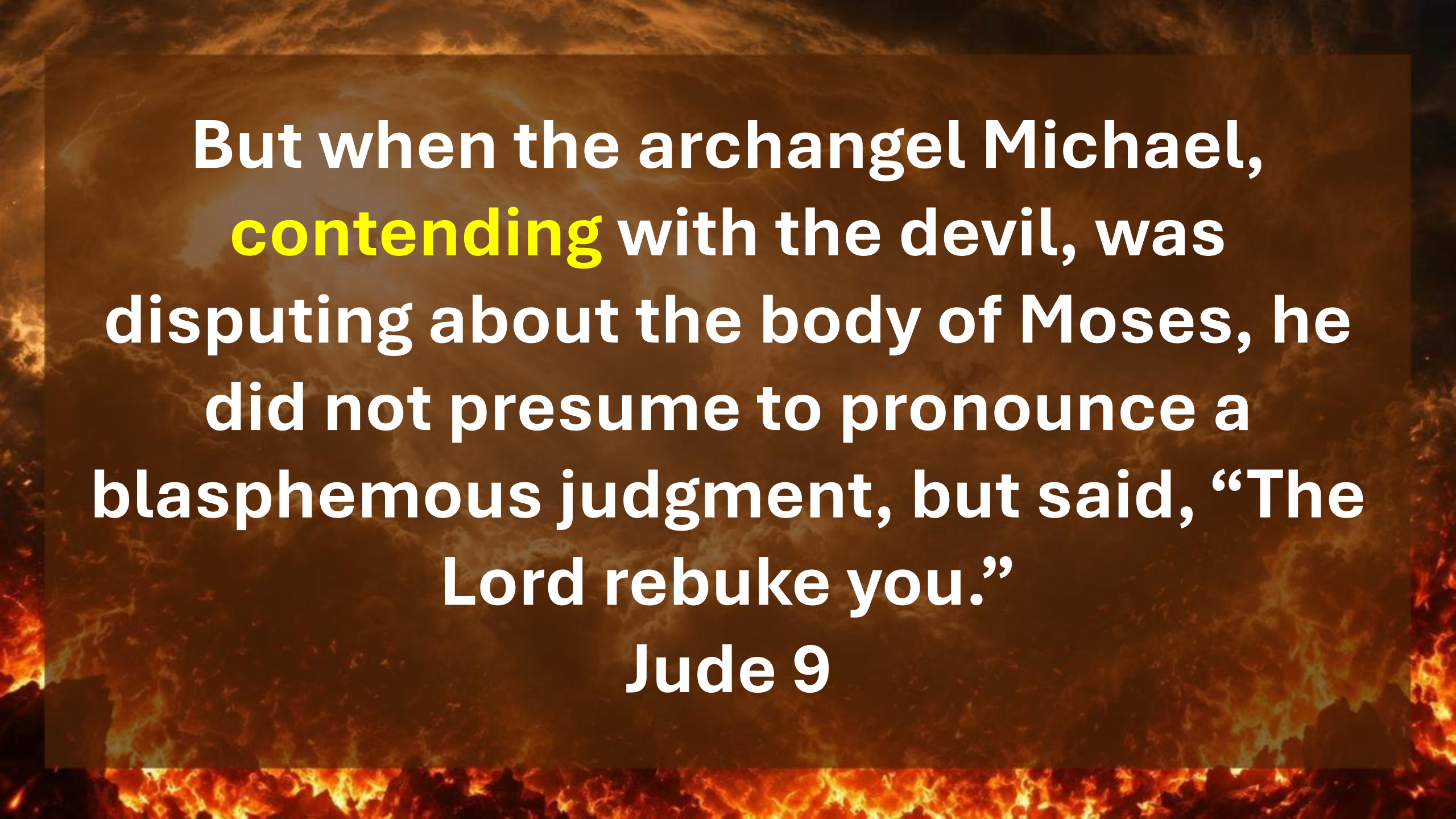
Spirit Wars

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood



Now **war** arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated...

Revelation 12



But when the archangel Michael,
contending with the devil, was
disputing about the body of Moses, he
did not presume to pronounce a
blasphemous judgment, but said, “The
Lord rebuke you.”

Jude 9

Before we begin this study...

Know this, the battle is real but not visible to our eyes.



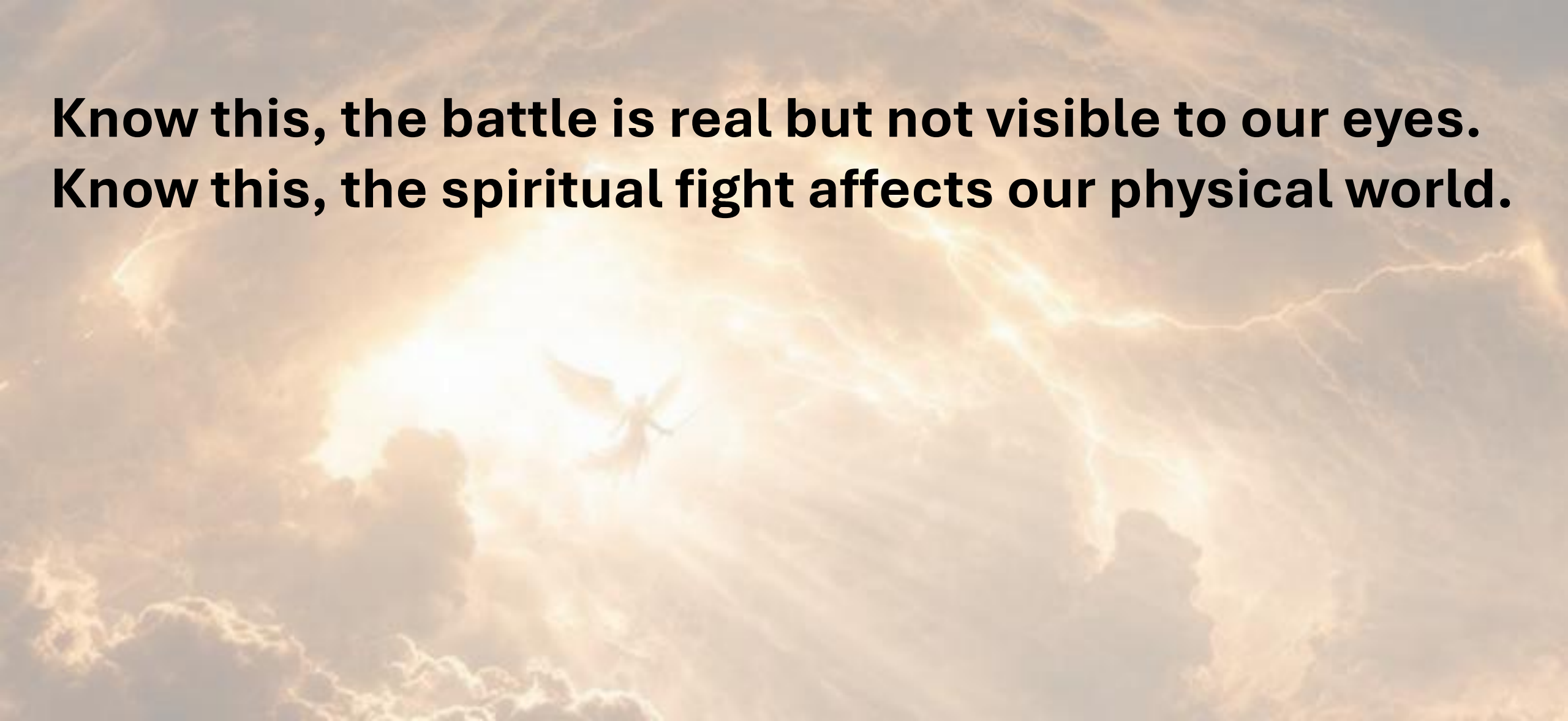
Before we begin this study...

Know this, the battle is real but not visible to our eyes.

Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha—2 Kings 6:17

Before we begin this study...

**Know this, the battle is real but not visible to our eyes.
Know this, the spiritual fight affects our physical world.**



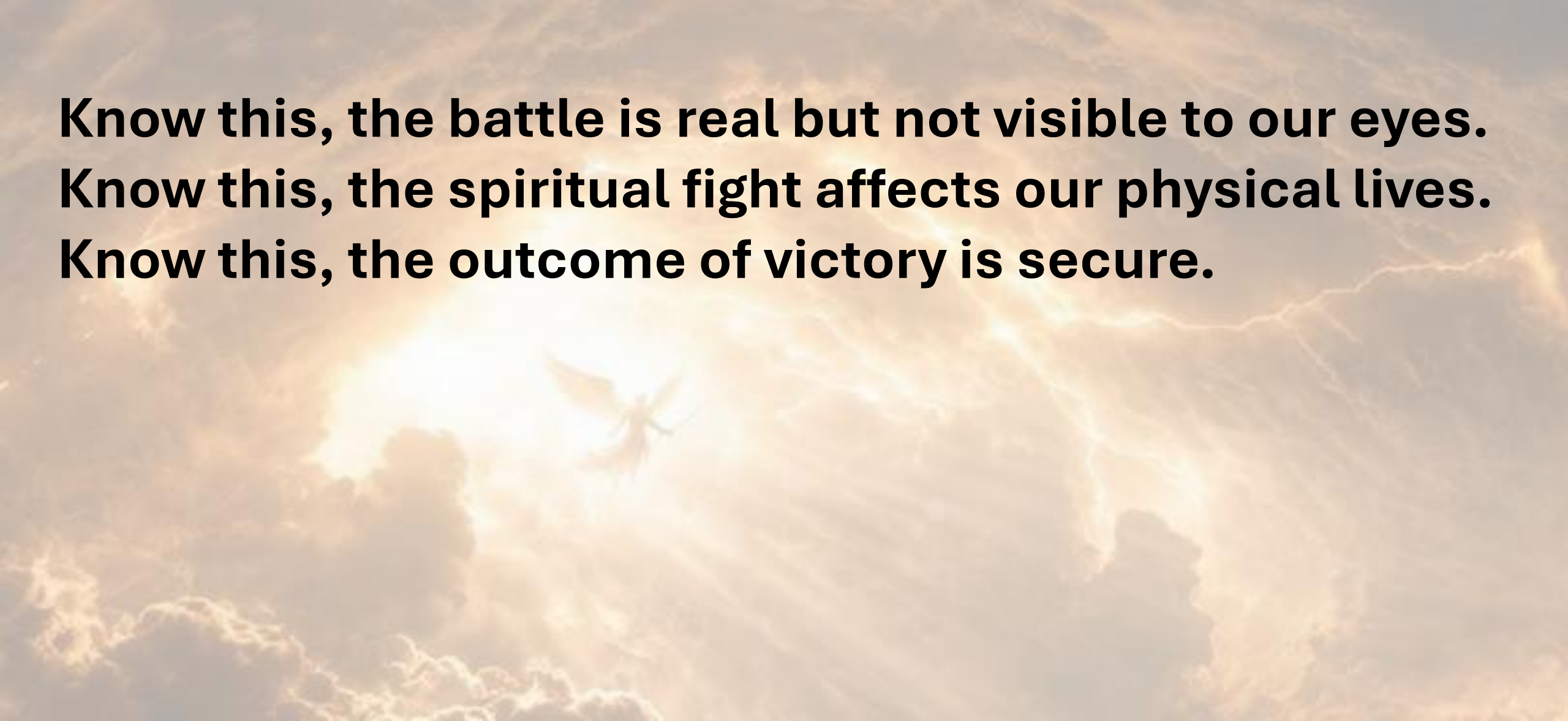
Before we begin this study...

**Know this, the battle is real but not visible to our eyes.
Know this, the spiritual fight affects our physical world.**

“Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.”—Daniel 10:12-13

Before we begin this study...

**Know this, the battle is real but not visible to our eyes.
Know this, the spiritual fight affects our physical lives.
Know this, the outcome of victory is secure.**



Before we begin this study...

**Know this, the battle is real but not visible to our eyes.
Know this, the spiritual fight affects our physical lives.
Know this, the outcome of victory is secure.**

And the devil was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur where...(he) will be tormented day and night for ever and ever—Revelation 20:10

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Spirit Wars First Briefing

I. Listen, Christians are part of a conflict.

**“On the day, you were saved,
Heaven and Hell, marked you down.
Angels praised, devils raged,
Life became a battle ground.”**

Spirit Wars First Briefing

I. Listen, Christians are part of a conflict.

a. Prepare yourself:

Be strong in the Lord

Put on the armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **Put on** the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **schemes** of the devil.

Spirit Wars First Briefing

I. Listen, Christians are part of a conflict.

a. Prepare yourself

b. Enemy wants to trap you

Schemes = methodeia, trickery or crafty

“It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out.”



Wormwood

Screwtape

Ephesians 6:12

For **we** do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



Ephesians 6:12

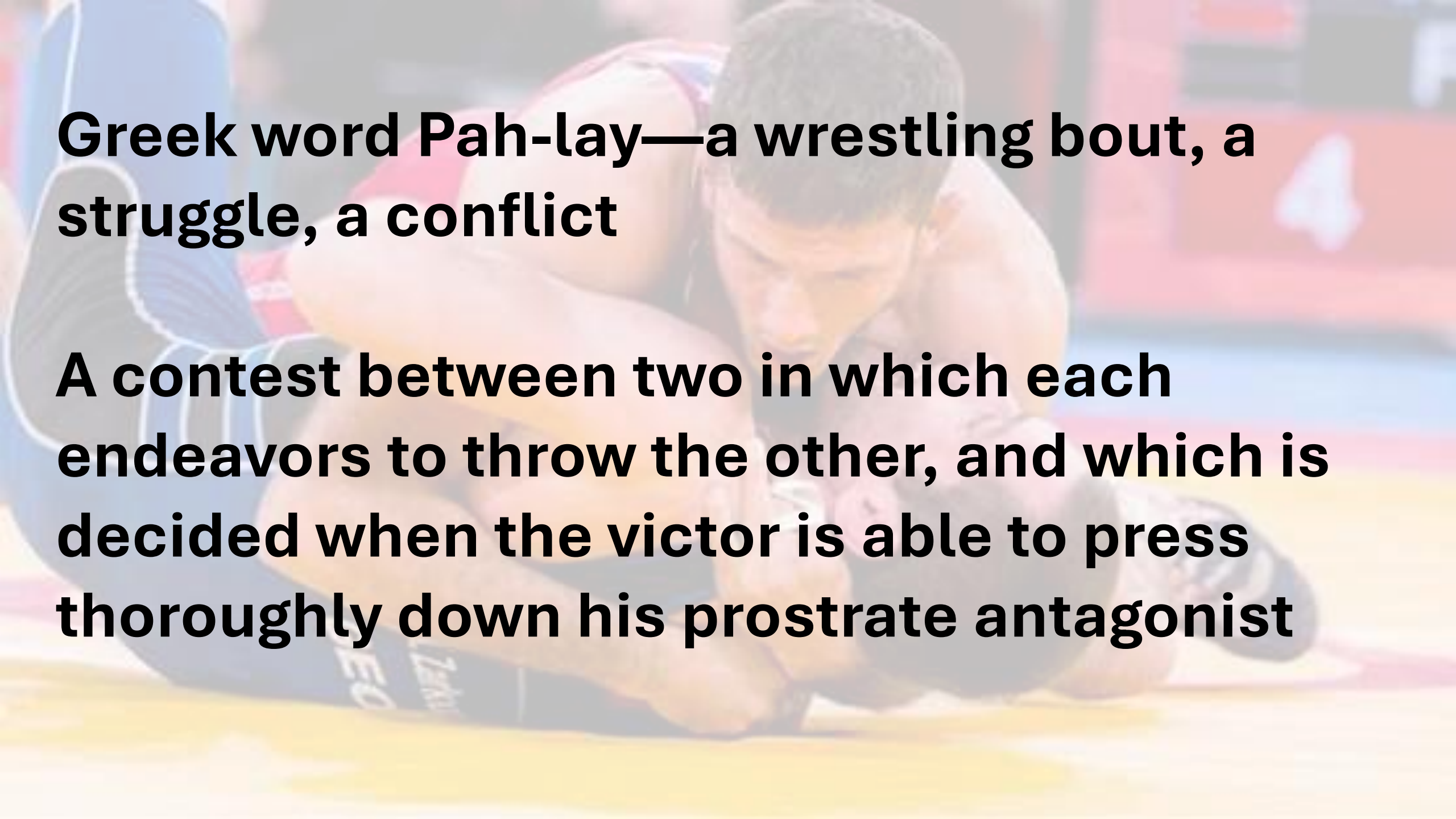
9x For we do not **wrestle** against...

11x For our **struggle** is not against...

3x For we are not **fighting** against...

1x For our **battle** is not against...

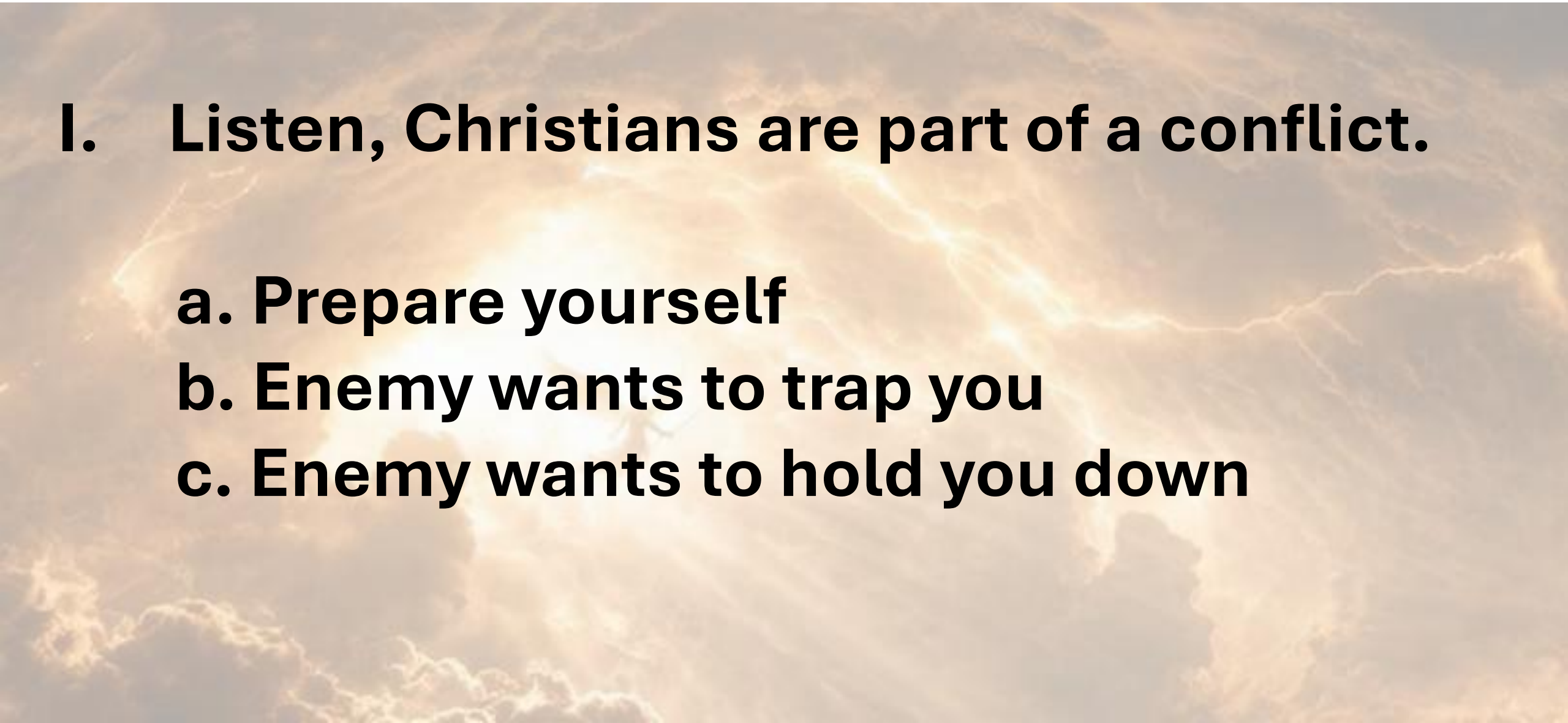
1x For ours is not a **conflict** with...



Greek word Pah-lay—a wrestling bout, a struggle, a conflict

A contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to press thoroughly down his prostrate antagonist

Spirit Wars First Briefing

- 
- I. Listen, Christians are part of a conflict.**
 - a. Prepare yourself**
 - b. Enemy wants to trap you**
 - c. Enemy wants to hold you down**

Soviet defense:

- *500k mines

- *pre-set kill zones

- *5K km of:

 - trenches

 - barbed wire

 - anti-tank ditches

Battle of Kursk
was a trap



Soviet defense:

- *500k mines

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Battle of Kursk
was a trap

German losses:

- *500k men**

- *1,300 aircraft**

- *Tanks/Assault guns**

 - 1,200 destroyed**

 - 3-6k damaged or
destroyed**



They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts **trained in greed. Accursed children!**

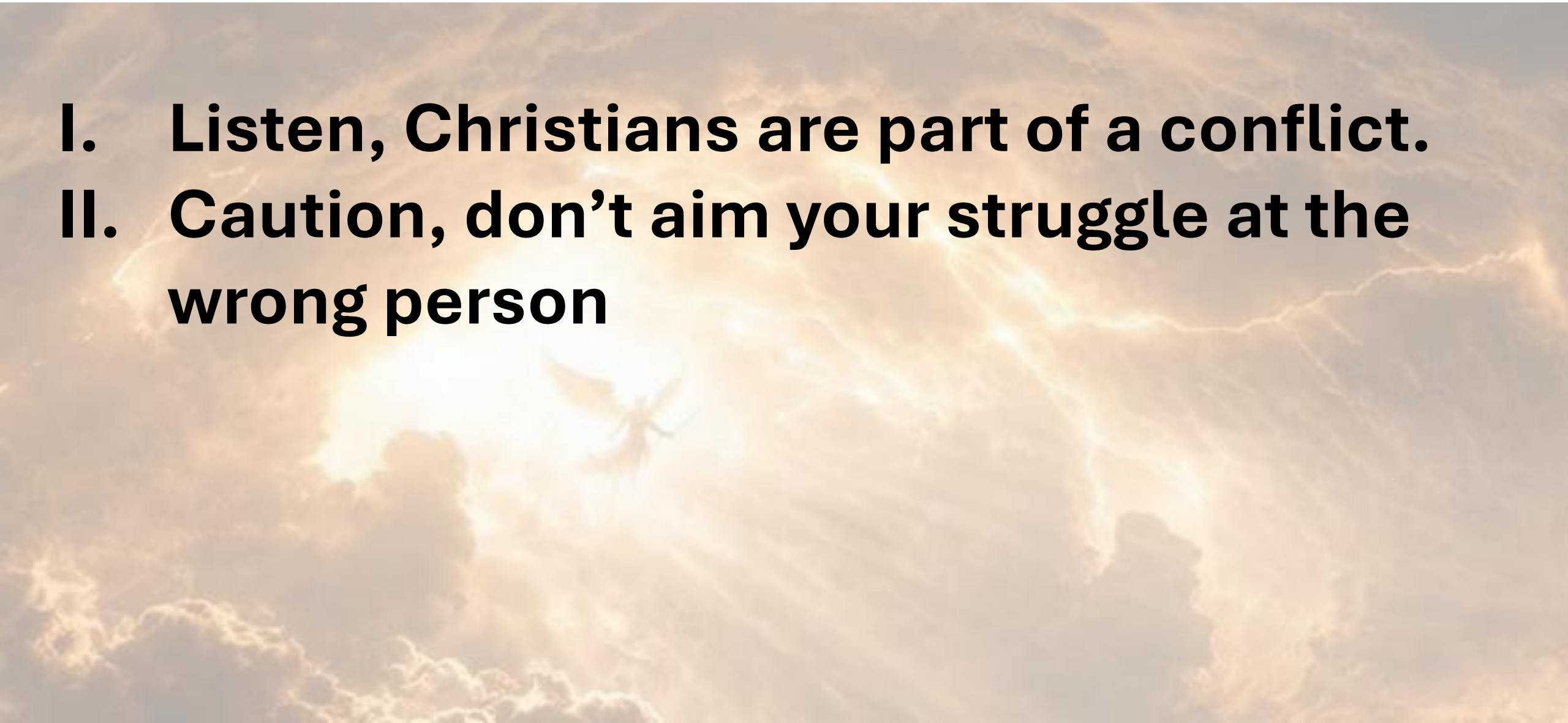
2 Peter 2:14



Ephesians 6:12

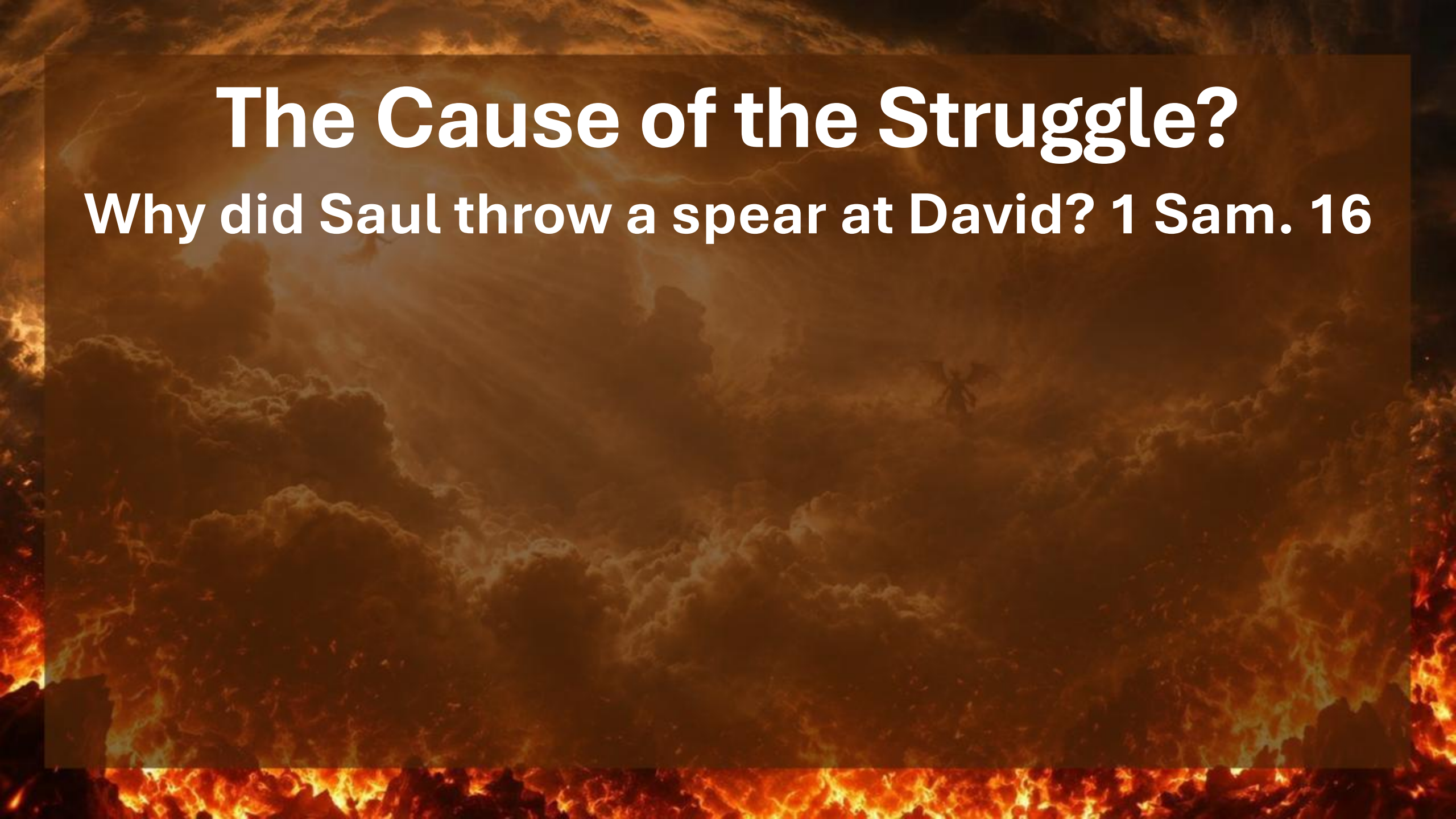
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Spirit Wars First Briefing

- 
- I. Listen, Christians are part of a conflict.**
 - II. Caution, don't aim your struggle at the wrong person**

The Cause of the Struggle?

Why did Saul throw a spear at David? 1 Sam. 16



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Why was a King enticed to war? 1 Kings 22

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Why was Daniel's prayer not answered? Dan. 10

Why did Job suffer so much loss in life?

Why did authorities kill my baby? Matt. 2

Spirit Wars First Briefing

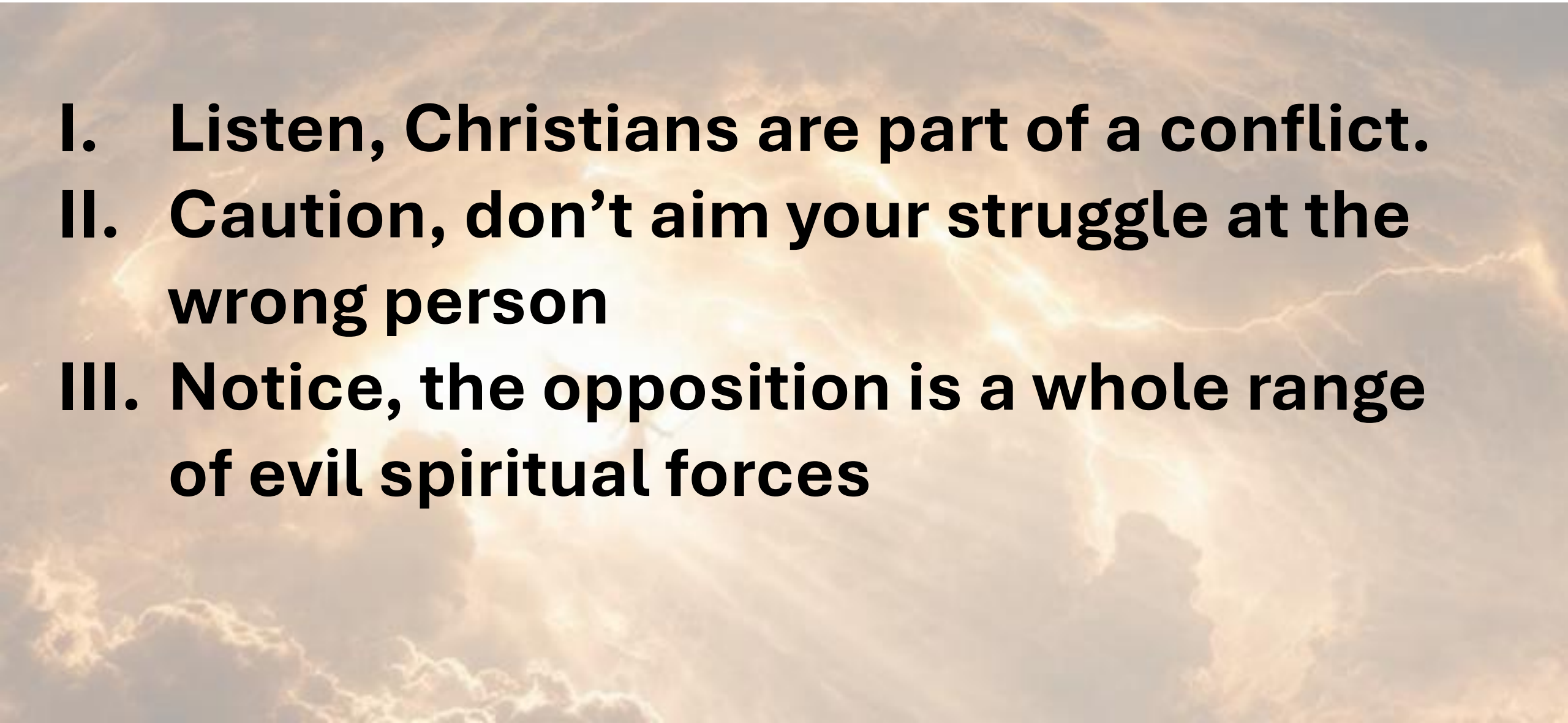
- I. Listen, Christians are part of a conflict.
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“Paul is here unmasking the ultimate source of many of the evils they experience—the influence *behind* the Roman Imperium.”

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, **but** against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **cosmic powers** over this present darkness, against the **spiritual forces** of evil in the heavenly places.

Spirit Wars First Briefing

- 
- I. Listen, Christians are part of a conflict.**
 - II. Caution, don't aim your struggle at the wrong person**
 - III. Notice, the opposition is a whole range of evil spiritual forces**

The organization of the enemy

Category 1. Rulers and authorities—Paul's most common expression for demonic spirits.

Ephesians 3:10

so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **cosmic powers** over this present darkness, against the **spiritual forces** of evil in the heavenly places.

The organization of the enemy

**Category 2. Cosmic Powers over this
present darkness/rulers of the darkness of
this world**

Powers/rulers = a dominion of authority

Darkness = thoroughly evil

Cosmic/world = location, area being ruled

The organization of the enemy

Category 2. Cosmic Powers over this present **darkness**/rulers of the **darkness** of this world

Ephesians 5:8

for at one time **you were darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

The Cause of the Struggle?

Why was Daniel's prayer not answered? Dan. 10

The **prince of the kingdom of Persia** withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the **kings of Persia**,

Daniel 10:13

The organization of the enemy

Category 2. Cosmic Powers over this present darkness/rulers of the darkness of this world

Prince = a dominion of authority

“withstood me” = opposes God

Persia = location, area being ruled

The organization of the enemy

**but they mixed with the nations
and learned to do as they did.
They served their idols,
which became a snare to them.
They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to the demons;**

Psalms 106:36-37

The organization of the enemy

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of **light**. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15



Ephesians 6:12

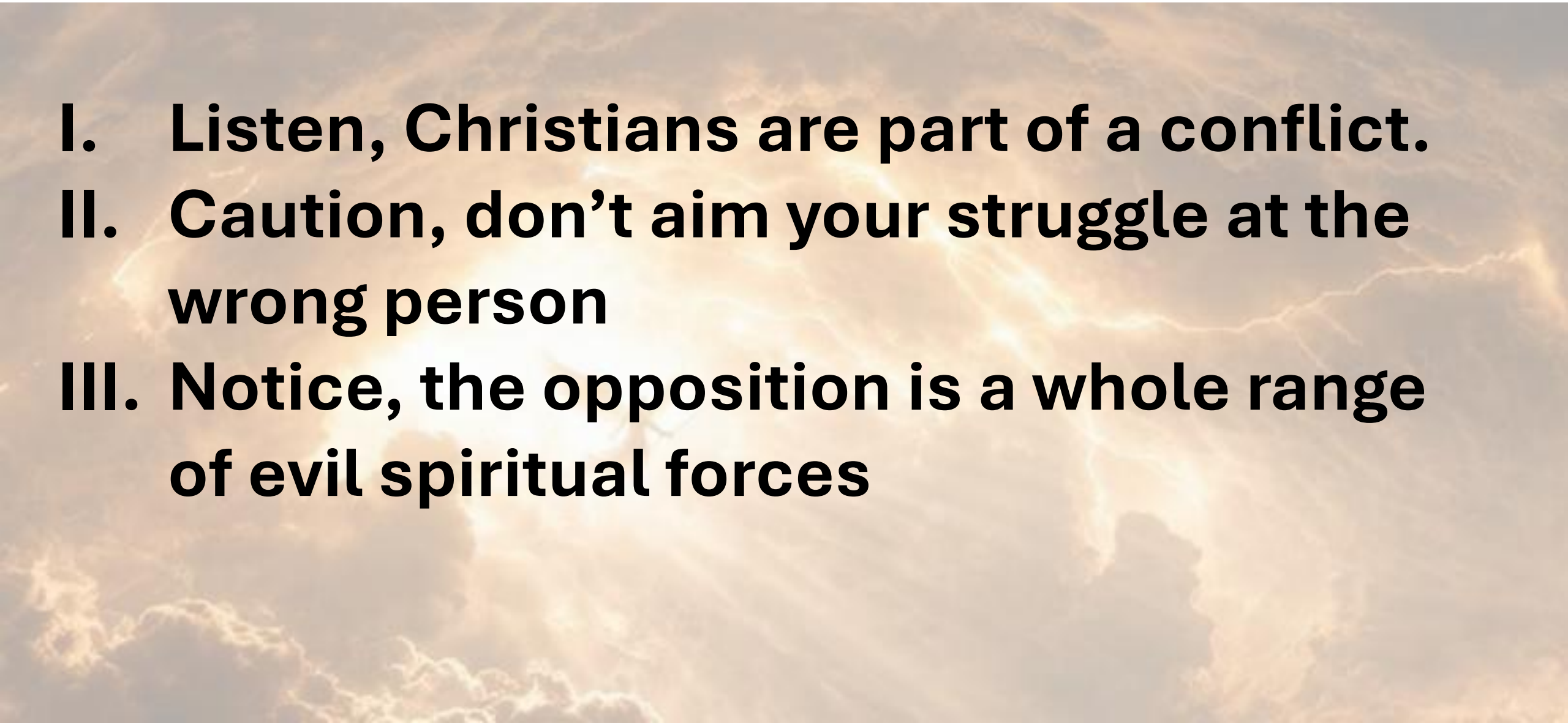
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Spirit Wars in the city of Ephesus

- **Holy handkerchiefs of Paul**
- **The Seven Sons of Sceva**
- **Burning of the magic scrolls**
- **20,000 people riot in the Temple of Artemis**

Questions?

Spirit Wars First Briefing

- 
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 - III. Notice, the opposition is a whole range of evil spiritual forces**

The single greatest response for you

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own

The single greatest response for you

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.



Spirit Wars

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood