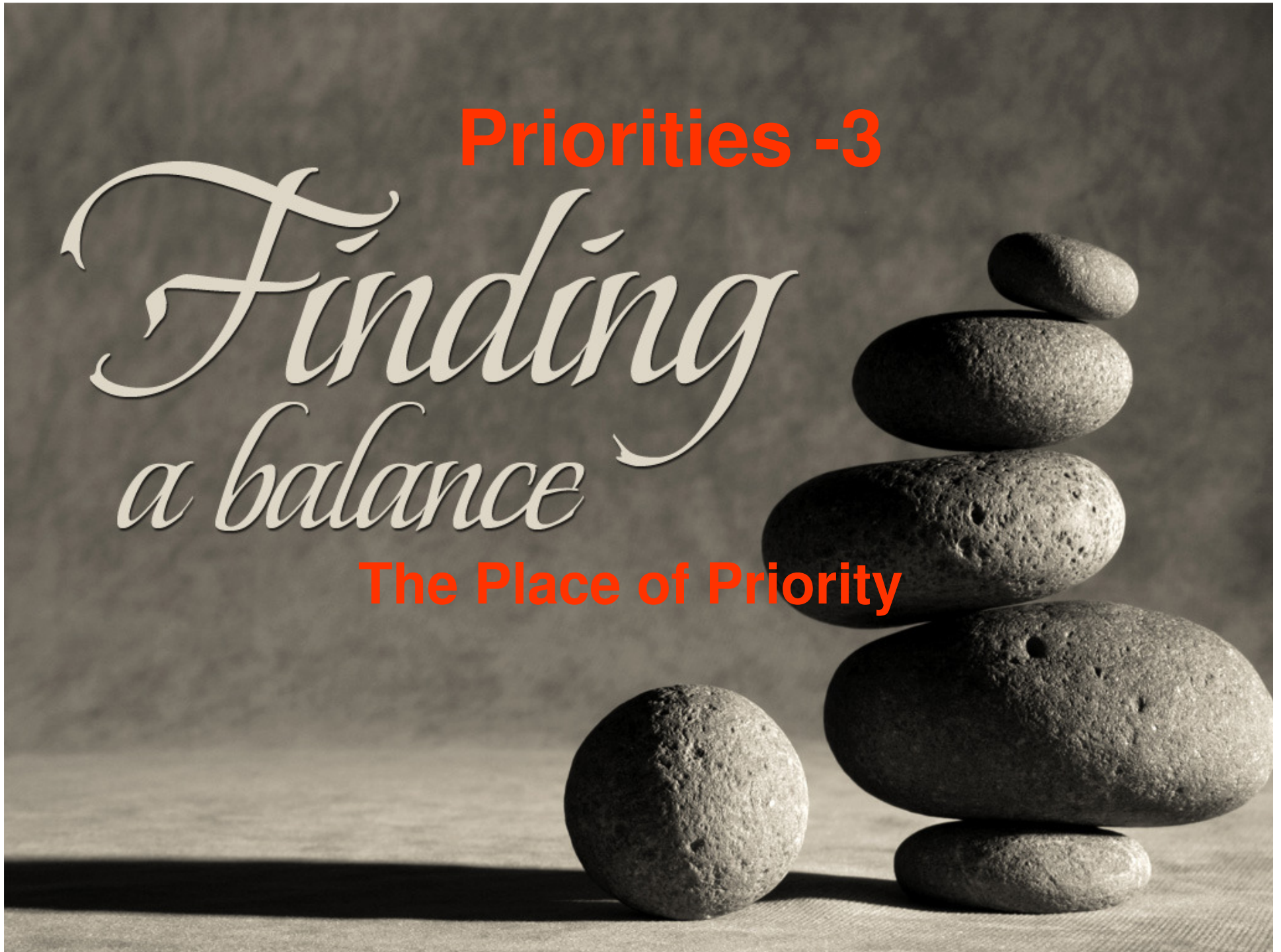


Priorities -3

*Finding
a balance*

The Place of Priority



I. What is an idol?

1. A representation or symbol of an object of worship; a false god.
2. A likeness of something.
3. A form or appearance visible but without substance.
4. An object of extreme devotion.
5. A false conception.

II. What is the problem with Idols?

1. No Idol can completely satisfy

Ecclesiastes 3:11. God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

Jeremiah 24:7 . I will give them hearts that will recognize me as the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me wholeheartedly.

2. No idol will meet your needs

1 Samuel 12:20-21 *“Don’t be afraid,” Samuel reassured them. “You have certainly done wrong, but make sure now that you worship the LORD with all your heart and that you don’t turn your back on him in any way. Don’t go back to worshiping worthless idols that cannot help or rescue you—they really are useless!”*

3. Our idols are an insult to God

Leviticus 19:4. *Do not put your trust in idols or make gods of metal for yourselves. I, the LORD, am your God.*

He is our God. He deserves first place.



III. What does it mean to put God first?

A. You love Him above everything else

Mark 12:30 . *And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.*

B. You trust Him completely

Daniel 3:16-18 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty can be sure that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."*



C. You obey Him wholeheartedly

1 Samuel 15:22 *But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. Listening to him is much better than offering the fat of rams."*

D. You focus on fulfilling His purposes

Ephesians 6:20 (NLT) *I am in chains now for preaching this message as God's ambassador. But pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.*

IV. Our Passion is our Priority

A. His lordship is the key.

"Wives, be subject unto your husbands as unto the Lord," - **Eph 5:22.**

"Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church," - **Eph 5:25a .**

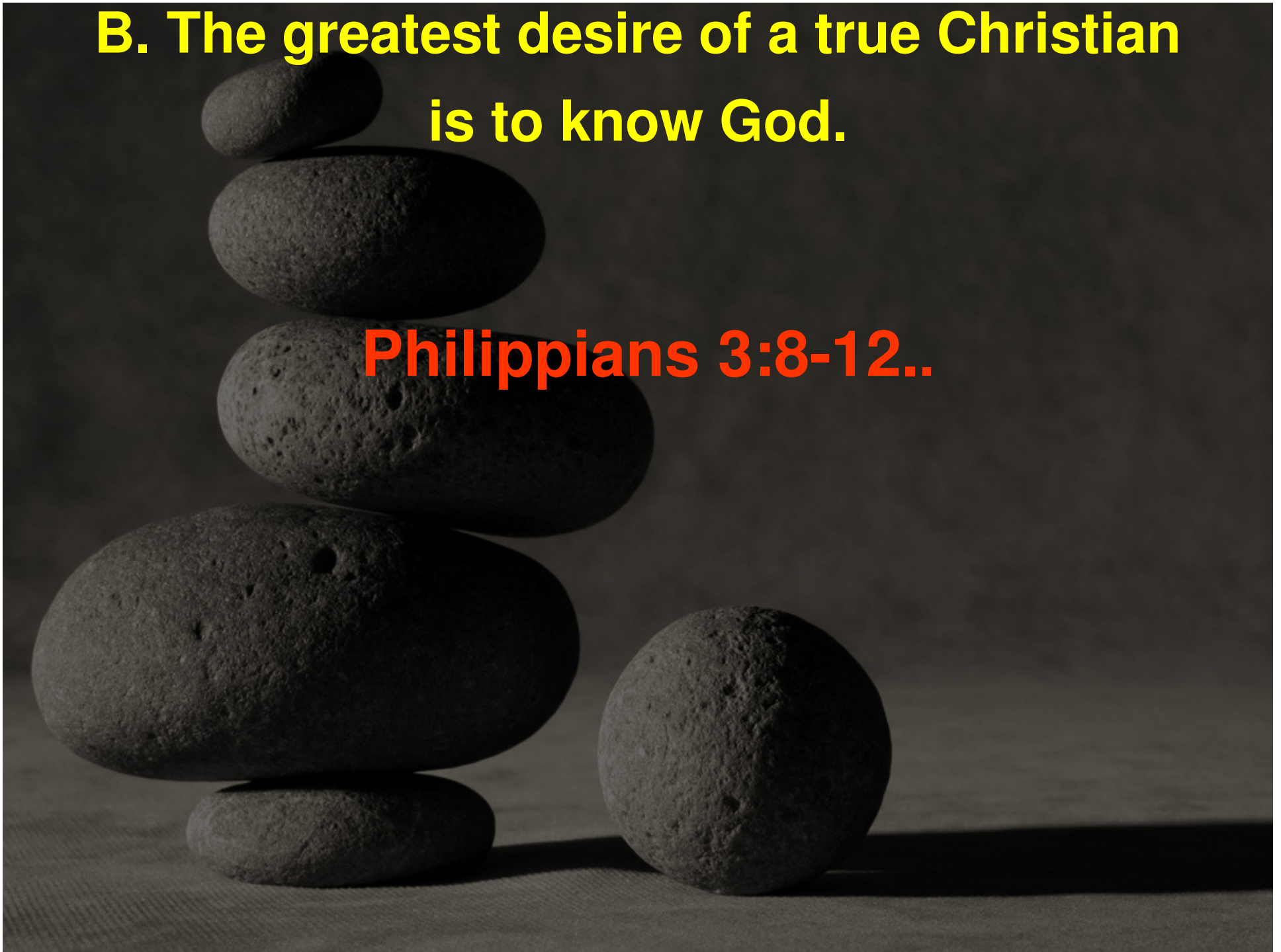
"Children obey your parents in the Lord," - **Eph 6:1.**

"Stop stealing for the Lord's sake," - **Eph 4:28.**

"Masters be kind to your employees for the Lord's sake," - **Eph 6:5-9.**

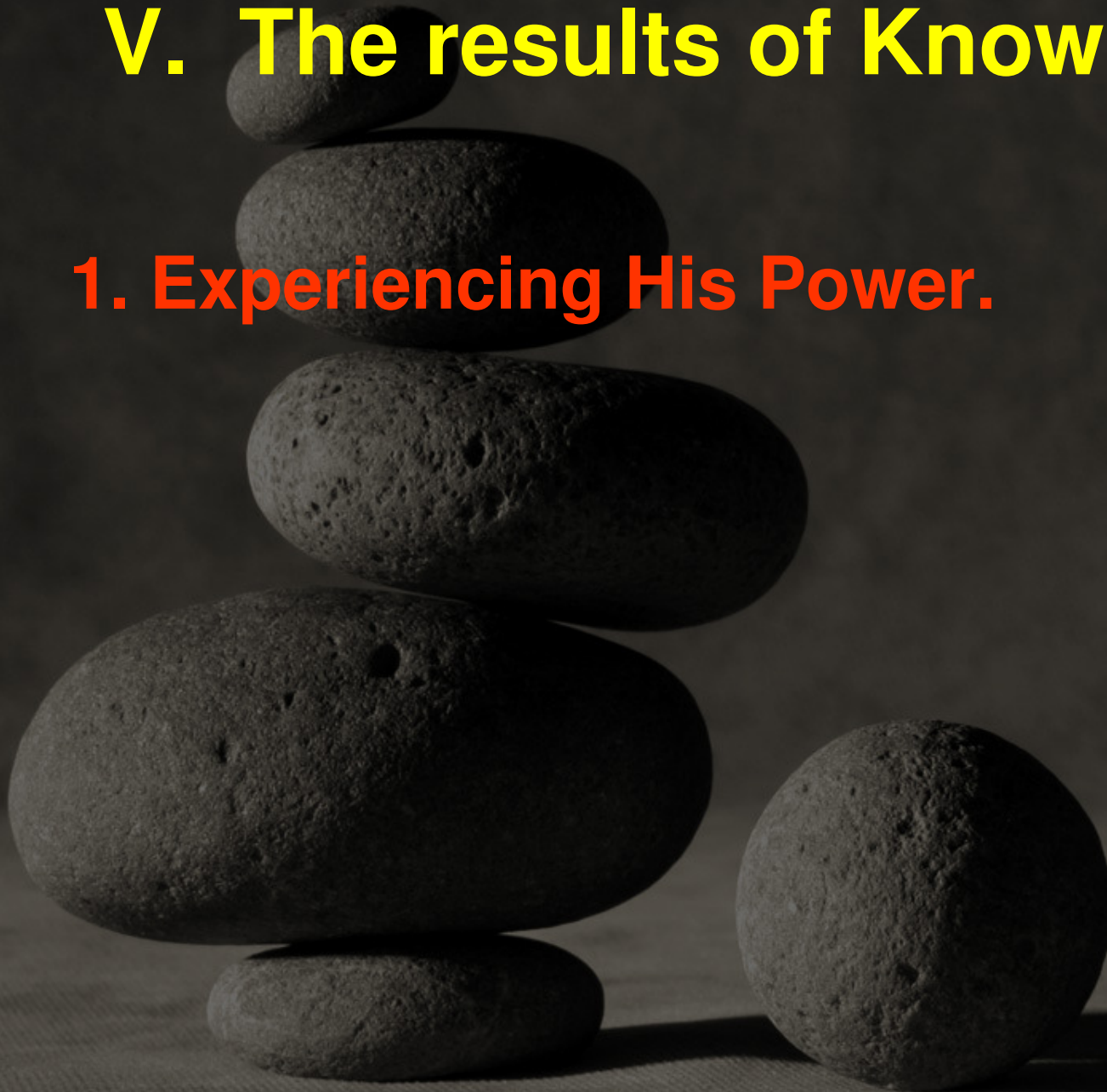
**B. The greatest desire of a true Christian
is to know God.**

Philippians 3:8-12..



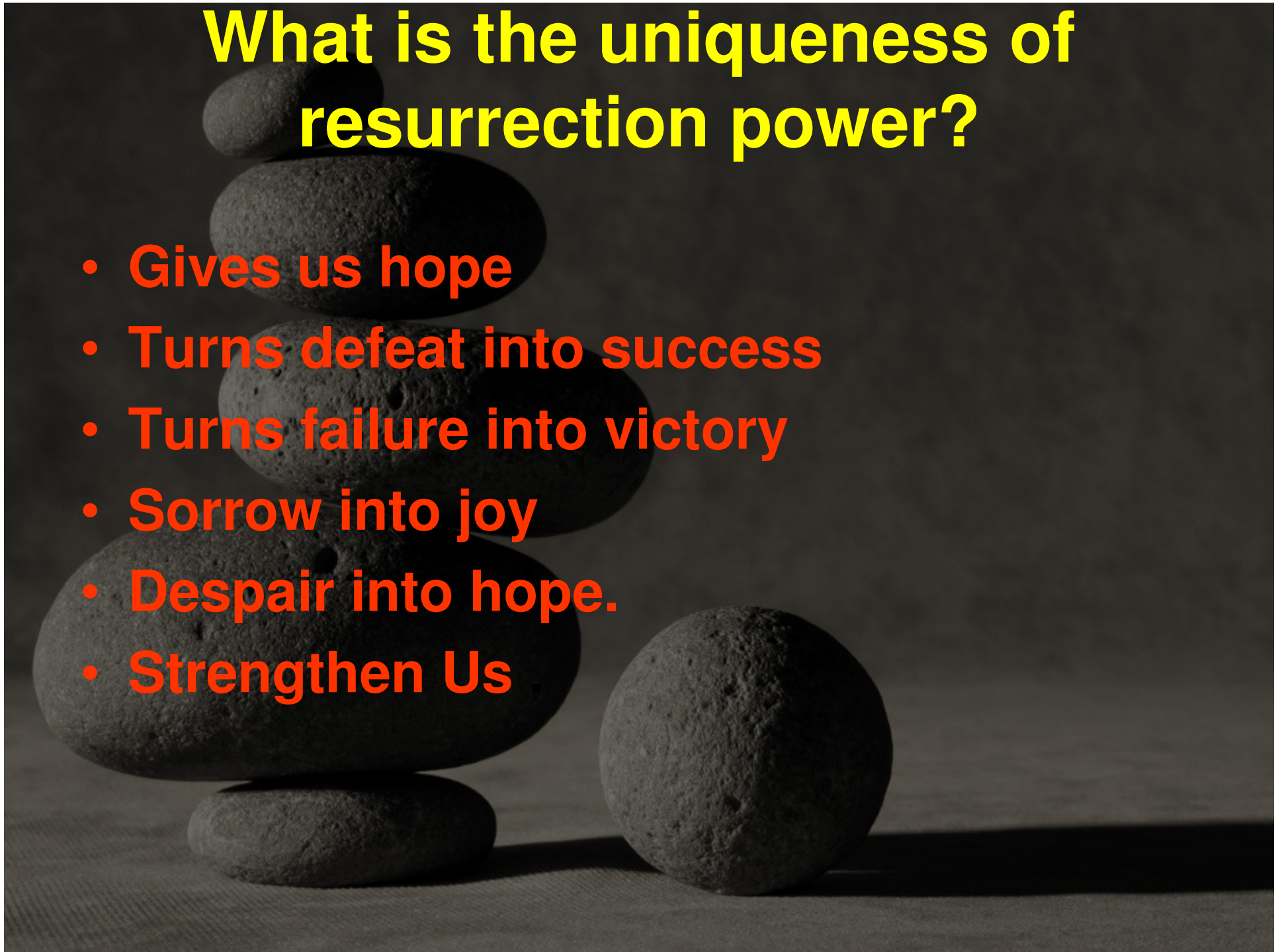
V. The results of Knowing God.

1. Experiencing His Power.



What is the uniqueness of resurrection power?

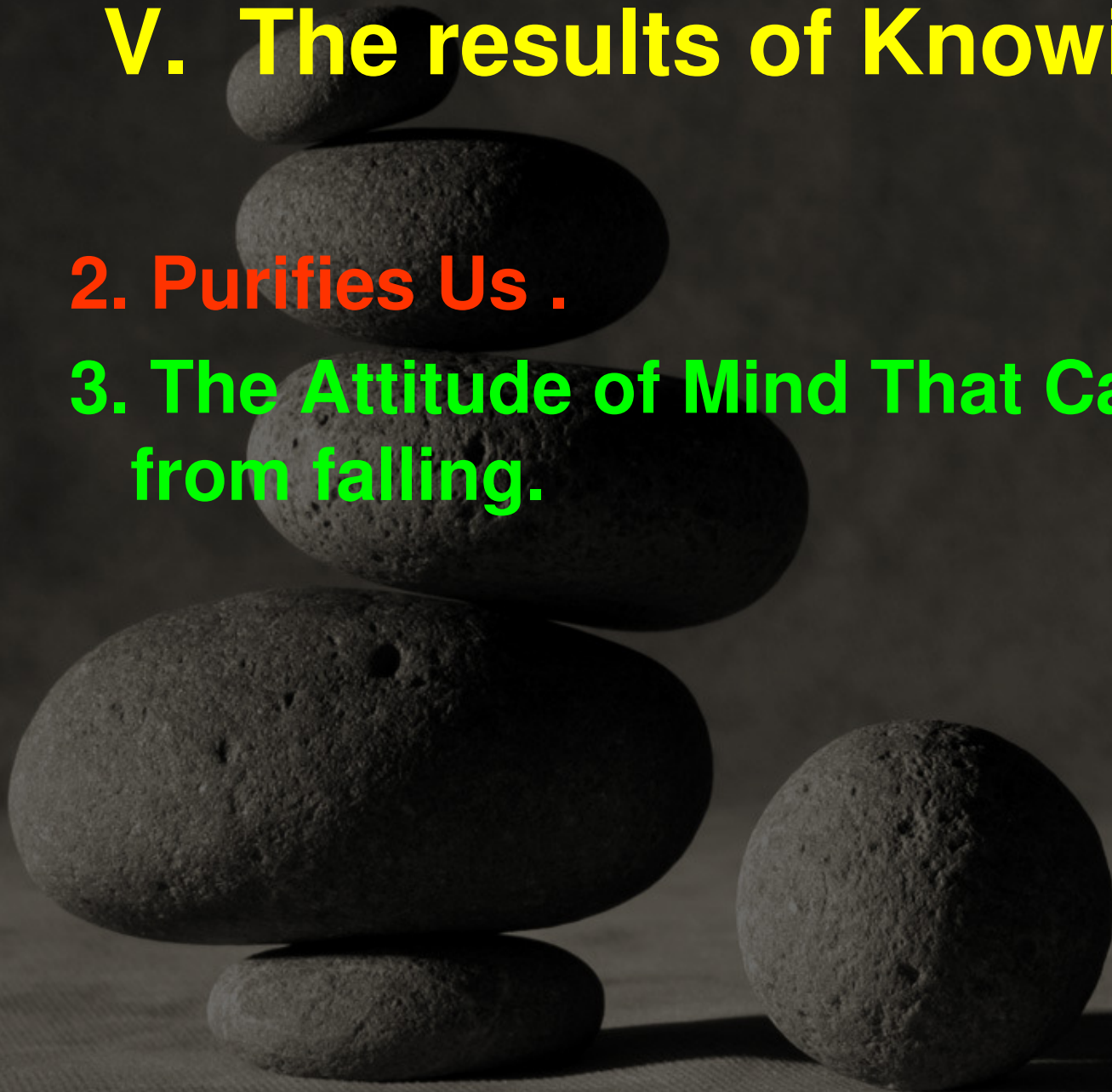
- Gives us hope
- Turns defeat into success
- Turns failure into victory
- Sorrow into joy
- Despair into hope.
- Strengthen Us



V. The results of Knowing God.

2. Purifies Us .

3. The Attitude of Mind That Can Keep Us from falling.





VI. Application

HOW DO I PUT GOD FIRST? ...

F – FINANCES

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord by giving him your money and the first part of all your crops. Then you will have more grain and grapes than you will ever need.

I – INTERESTS

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, you must do all for the glory of God.

R – RELATIONSHIPS

Proverbs 27:19 A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses.

S – SCHEDULE

Ephesians 5:16-17 Make the best use of your time, despite all the evils of these days. Don't be vague but grasp firmly what you know to be the will of the Lord.

T – TROUBLES

Psalms 50:15 Pray to me in time of trouble. I will rescue you, and you will honor me.

