



FIGHTING BY NOT THROWING PUNCHES

The Kingwood Church of Christ exists to
fearlessly make and grow committed disciples of
Jesus.

1 Peter 5

9 Resist him, **standing firm in the faith**, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

James 1

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

2 Corinthians 12

7 Therefore, in order to **keep me from becoming conceited**, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly **about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me**. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For **when I am weak, then I am strong**.



Perseverance is a process...

1. That allows you to
overcome by standing
firm.

2. Brings glory to God.

Nehemiah 5

Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. 2 Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.”

3 Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.”

4 Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.

Nehemiah 5

5 Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.”

Nehemiah 6

1 When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates— 2 Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.”

**people
abused**

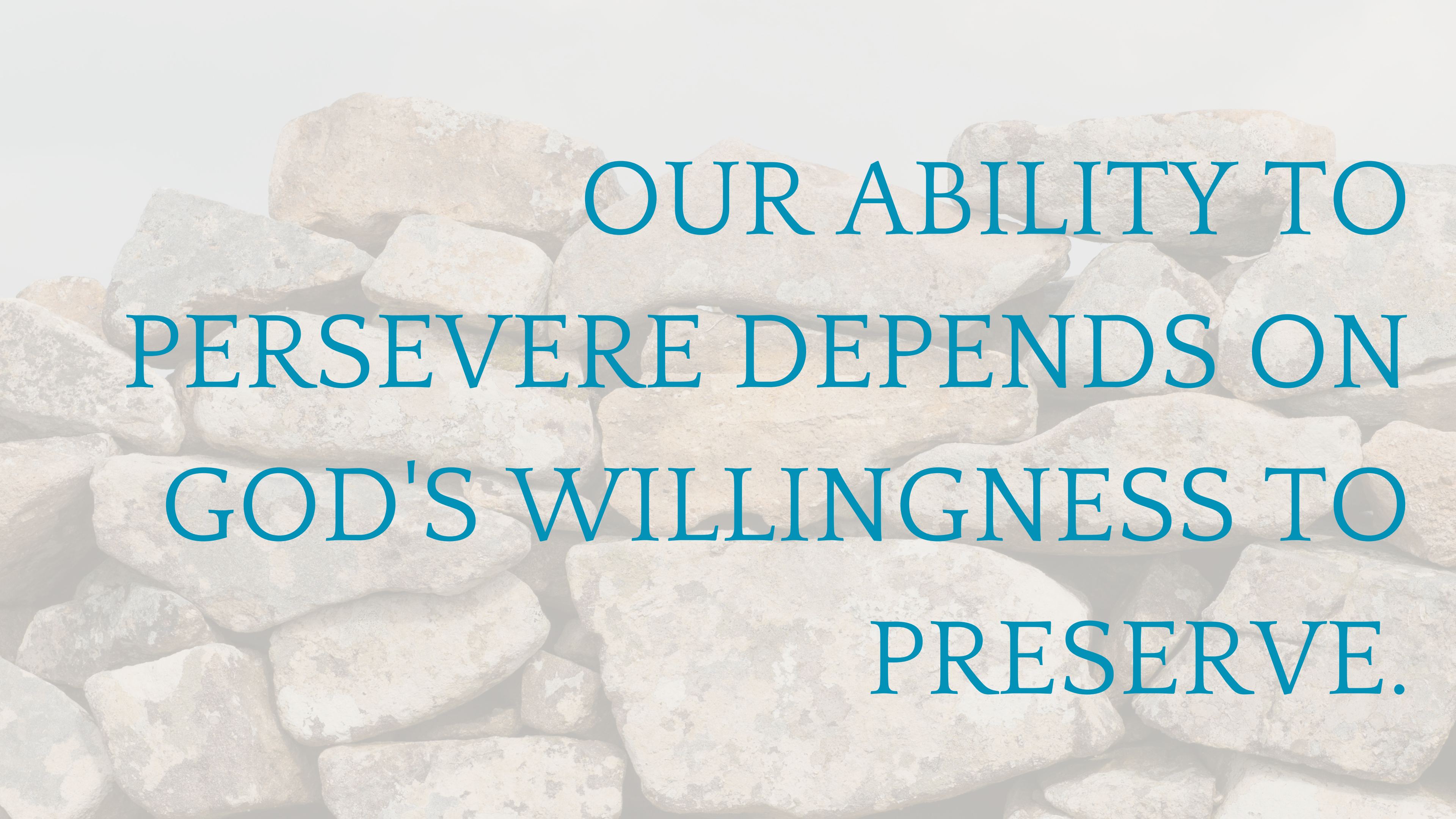
plot to kill

**outward
threats**

**people
losing hope**

slander





OUR ABILITY TO
PERSEVERE DEPENDS ON
GOD'S WILLINGNESS TO
PRESERVE.

Nehemiah 5

9 So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you **walk in the fear of our God** to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? 10 I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest!

Nehemiah 6

10 One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, “Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night they are coming to kill you.”

11 But I said, “Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!” 12 **I realized that God** had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.



If you want to persevere
Let God preserve.

Romans 5

3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces **perseverance**; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And **hope does not put us to shame**, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



WE HAVE TO FINISH

Doors and Bars and Bolts in Place

Nehemiah 3:1

Nehemiah 3:3

Nehemiah 3:6

Nehemiah 3:13

Nehemiah 3:14

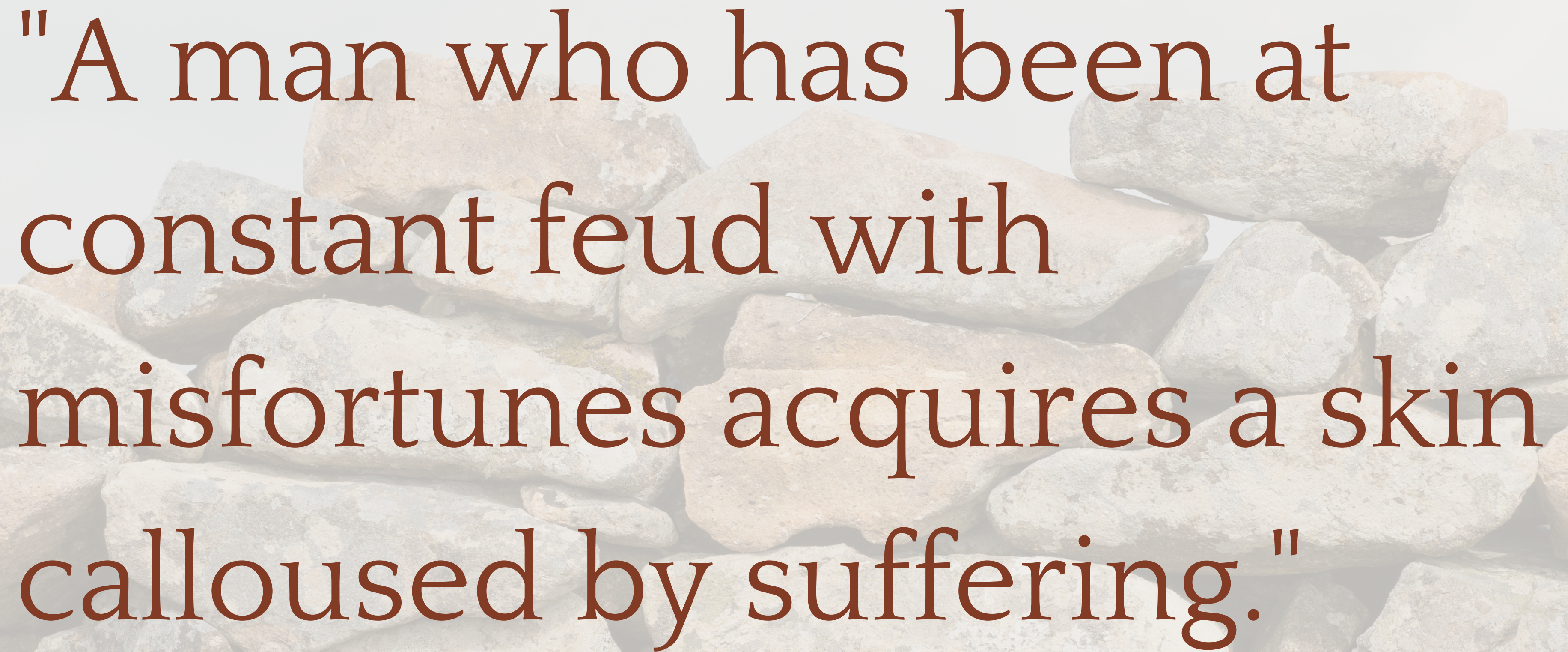
Nehemiah 3:15

Doors and Bars and Bolts in Place

Nehemiah 7:1 **After** the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers, the musicians and the Levites were appointed.

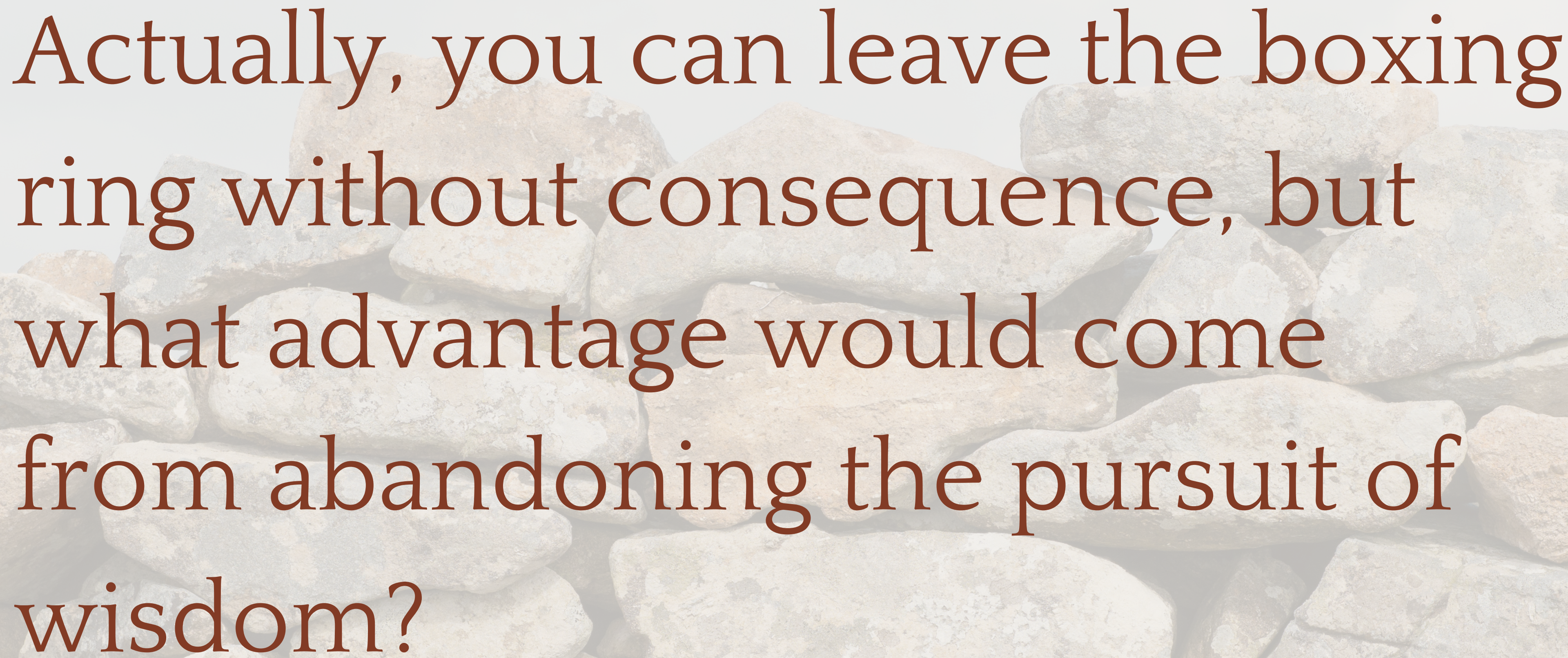
What Kind of Boxer are You?

1 Corinthians 9: 26 I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, **I strike a blow** to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



"A man who has been at
constant feud with
misfortunes acquires a skin
calloused by suffering."

Seneca



Actually, you can leave the boxing ring without consequence, but what advantage would come from abandoning the pursuit of wisdom?

Epictetus



Perseverance requires that
we know we're in a fight and
we're going to take a punch.

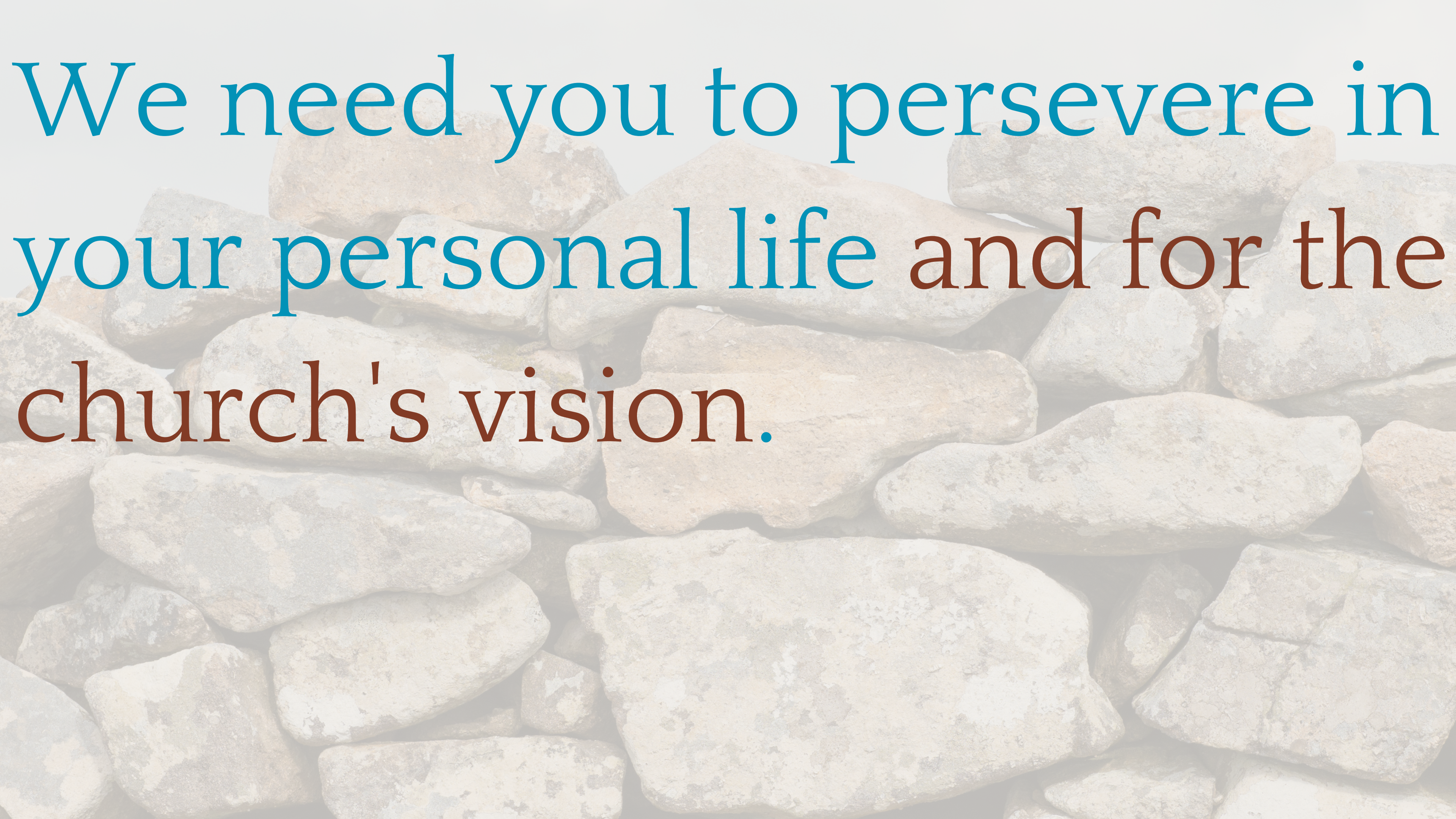
1 Corinthians 9

26 I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



1 Peter 4

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.



We need you to persevere in
your personal life and for the
church's vision.



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