



The Tears of Discipleship

*5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 He that
goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall
doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his
sheaves with him. Psalms 126:5-6*

*Thou therefore, **my son**, be strong
in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

*2 And the things that thou hast
heard of me among many
witnesses, the same commit thou
to faithful men, who shall be able
to teach others also.*

2 Timothy 2:1-2

The Heart of Discipleship



Disciples varied identities

1. A son (1:2)
2. A steward (2:2)
3. A soldier (2:3-4)
4. An athlete (2:5)
5. A husbandman (farmer) (2:6-7)
6. A teacher (2:11-14)
7. A student (2:15)
8. A vessel of honor (2:20-21)
9. A servant (2:24)

**The Heart of
Discipleship is
“Stewardship”**



⁸ *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*
¹⁹ ***Go** ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

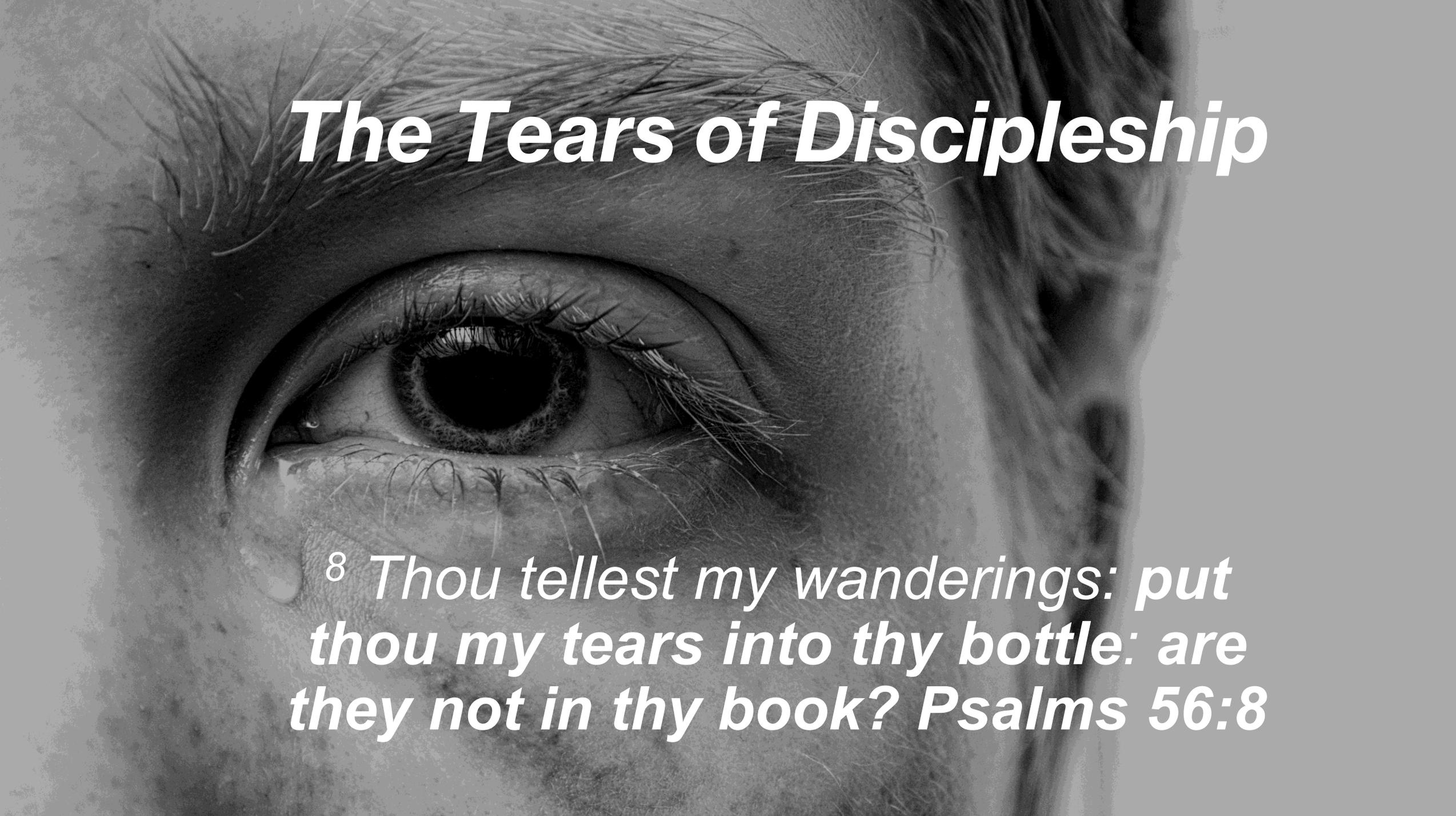
Matthew 28:18-20

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:

for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:1-5

A close-up, black and white photograph of a person's eye. The eye is looking slightly to the left. A single tear is visible on the lower eyelid, about to fall. The skin around the eye is wrinkled, and the eyelashes are clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

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⁸ Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? Psalms 56:8



The Tears of Discipleship

⁹ When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me. Psalms 56:9

The Tears of Discipleship

⁶ I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. ⁷ Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies. Psalms 6:6-7

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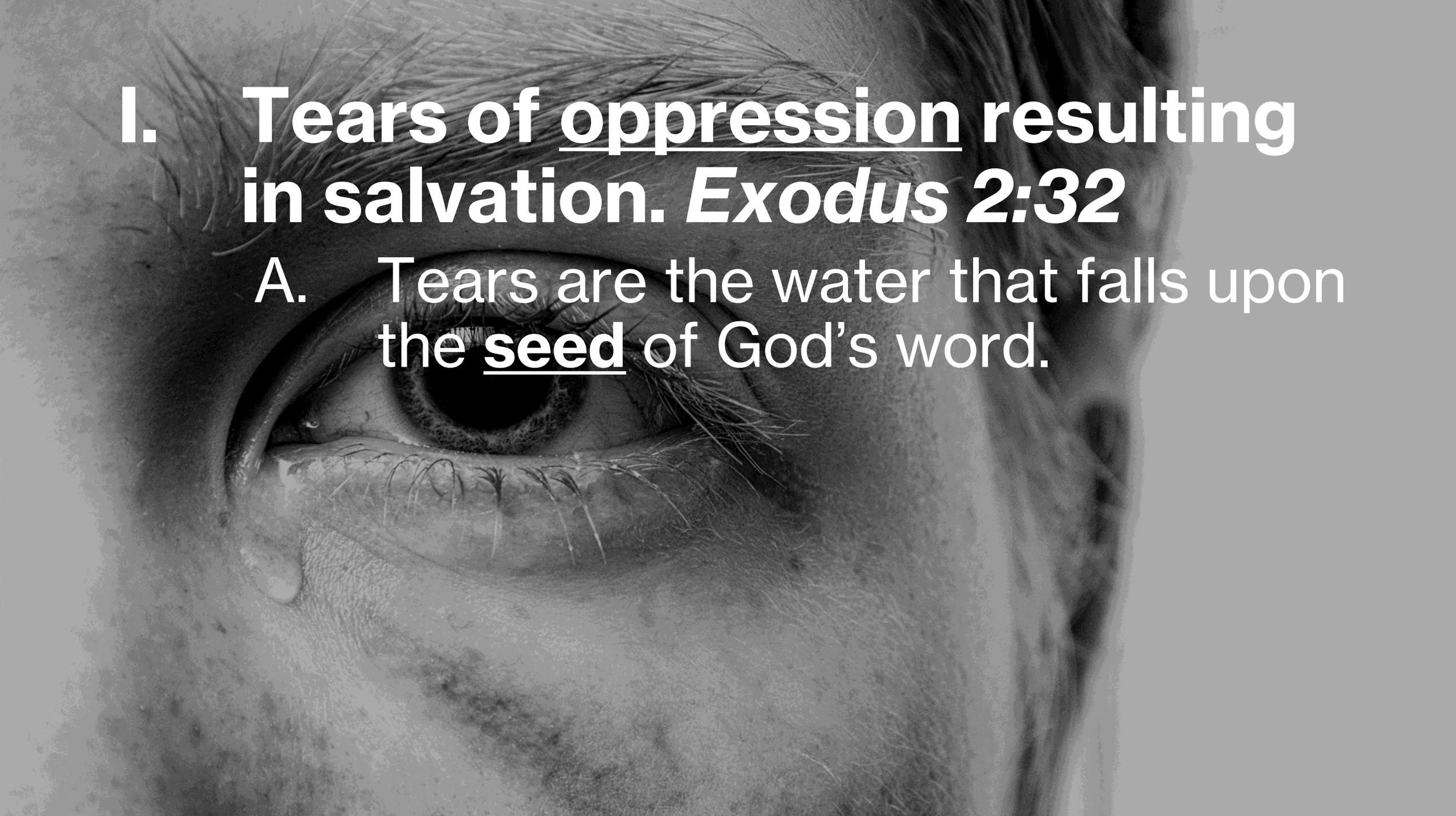
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I. Tears of oppression resulting in
salvation. *Exodus 2:32*



Tears of oppression resulting in salvation. *Exodus 2:32*

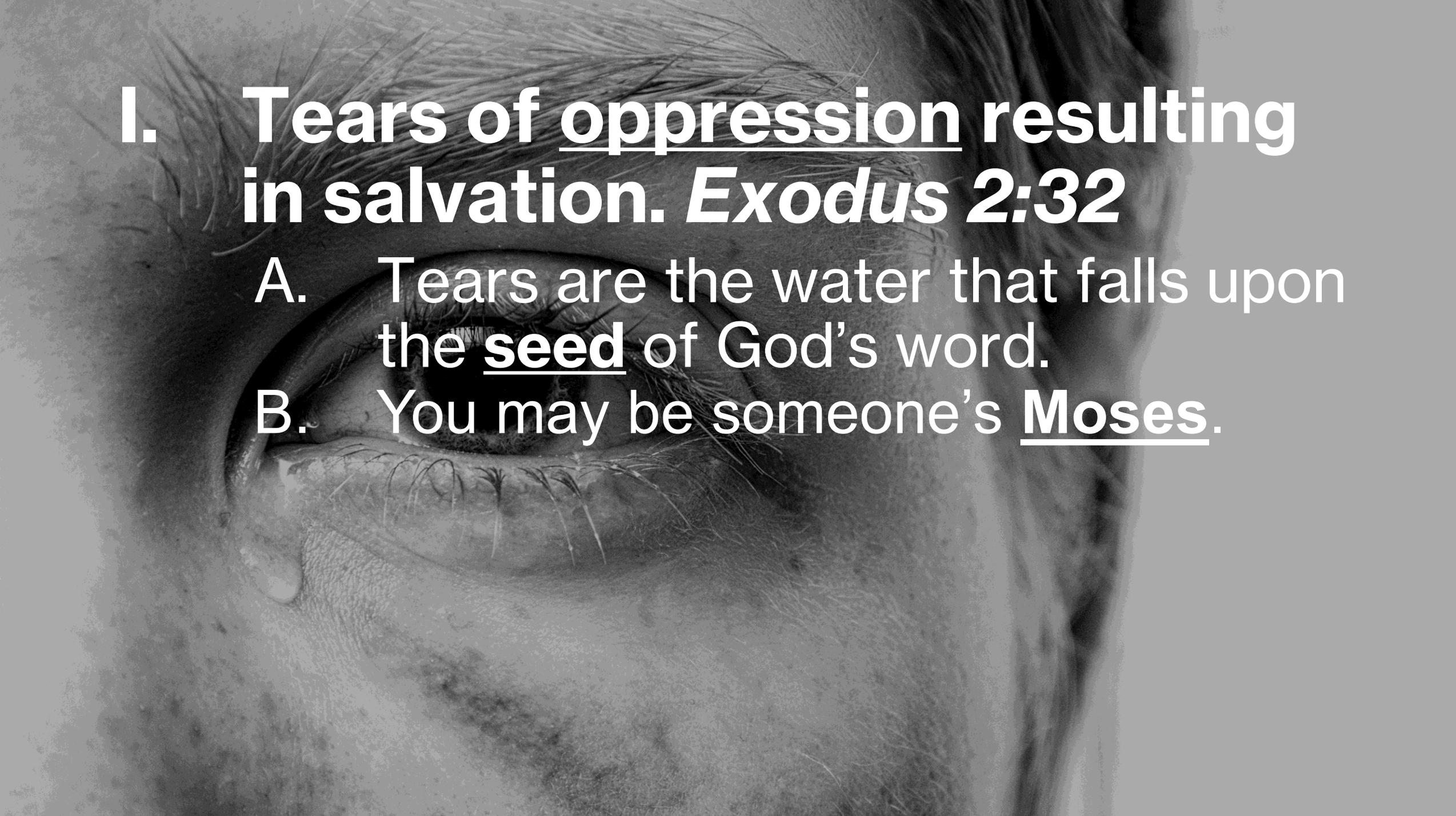
*²³ And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and **they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.** ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them. *Exodus 2:23-25**



I. Tears of oppression resulting
in salvation. *Exodus 2:32*

A. Tears are the water that falls upon
the seed of God's word.

*44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but **she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.** 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. 49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? 50 And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace. Luke 7:44-50***



I. Tears of oppression resulting
in salvation. *Exodus 2:32*

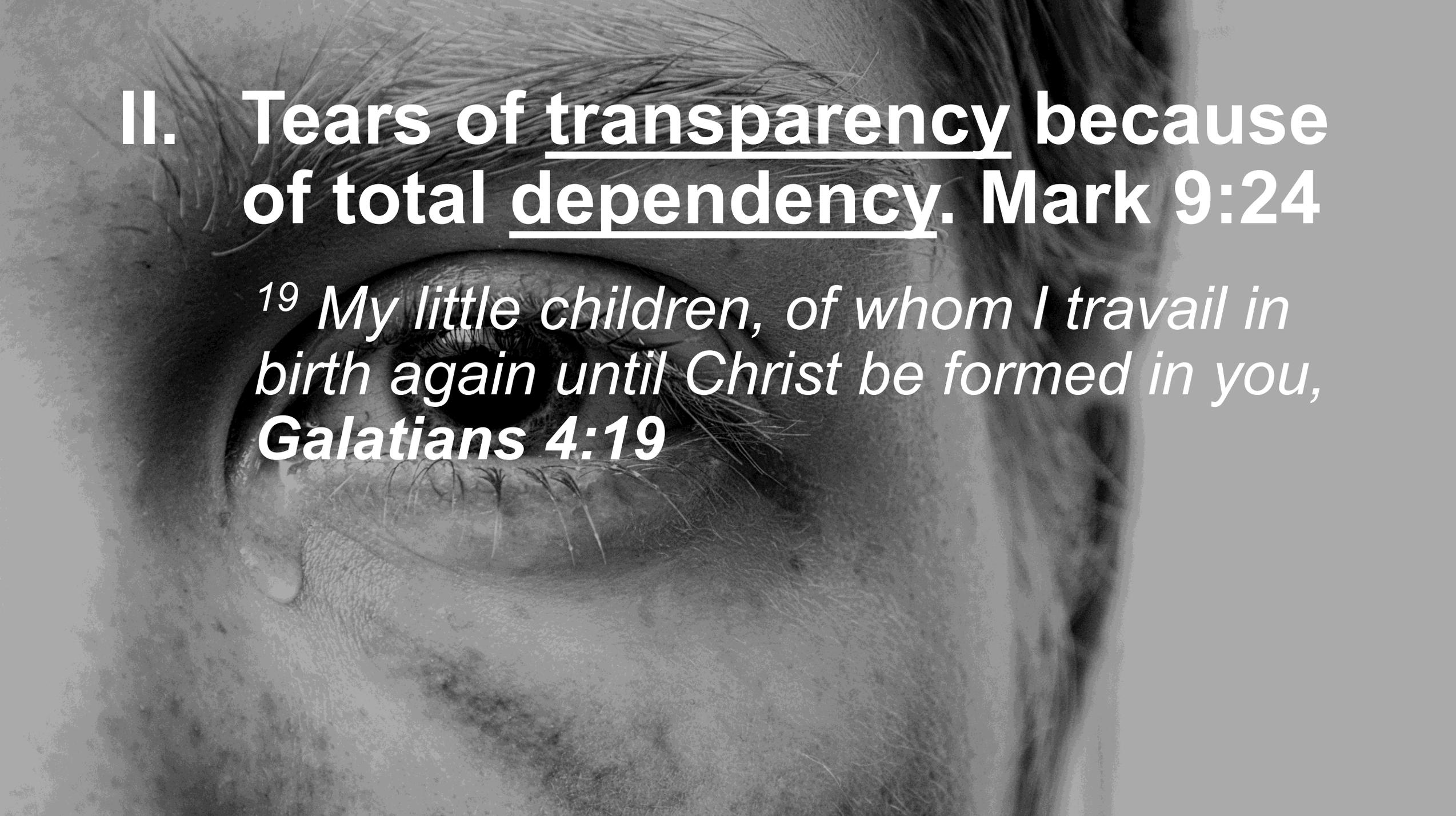
A. Tears are the water that falls upon
the seed of God's word.

B. You may be someone's Moses.

A black and white close-up photograph of a person's eye. A single tear is visible on the lower eyelid, about to fall. The image is used as a background for the text.

II. Tears of transparency because
of total dependency. Mark 9:24

*23 -- Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. 24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said **with tears**, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. 26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. 27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. 28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? 29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. **Mark 9:23-29***



II. Tears of transparency because
of total dependency. Mark 9:24

*¹⁹ My little children, of whom I travail in
birth again until Christ be formed in you,
Galatians 4:19*

*³⁶ And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. ³⁷ And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, ³⁸ And stood at his feet behind him **weeping**, and began to **wash his feet with tears**, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.*

Luke 7:36-38



**IV. Tears shared with our
disciples. Acts 20:18-21**

*¹⁸ And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, ¹⁹ Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with **many tears**, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: ²⁰ And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, ²¹ Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Acts 20:18-21

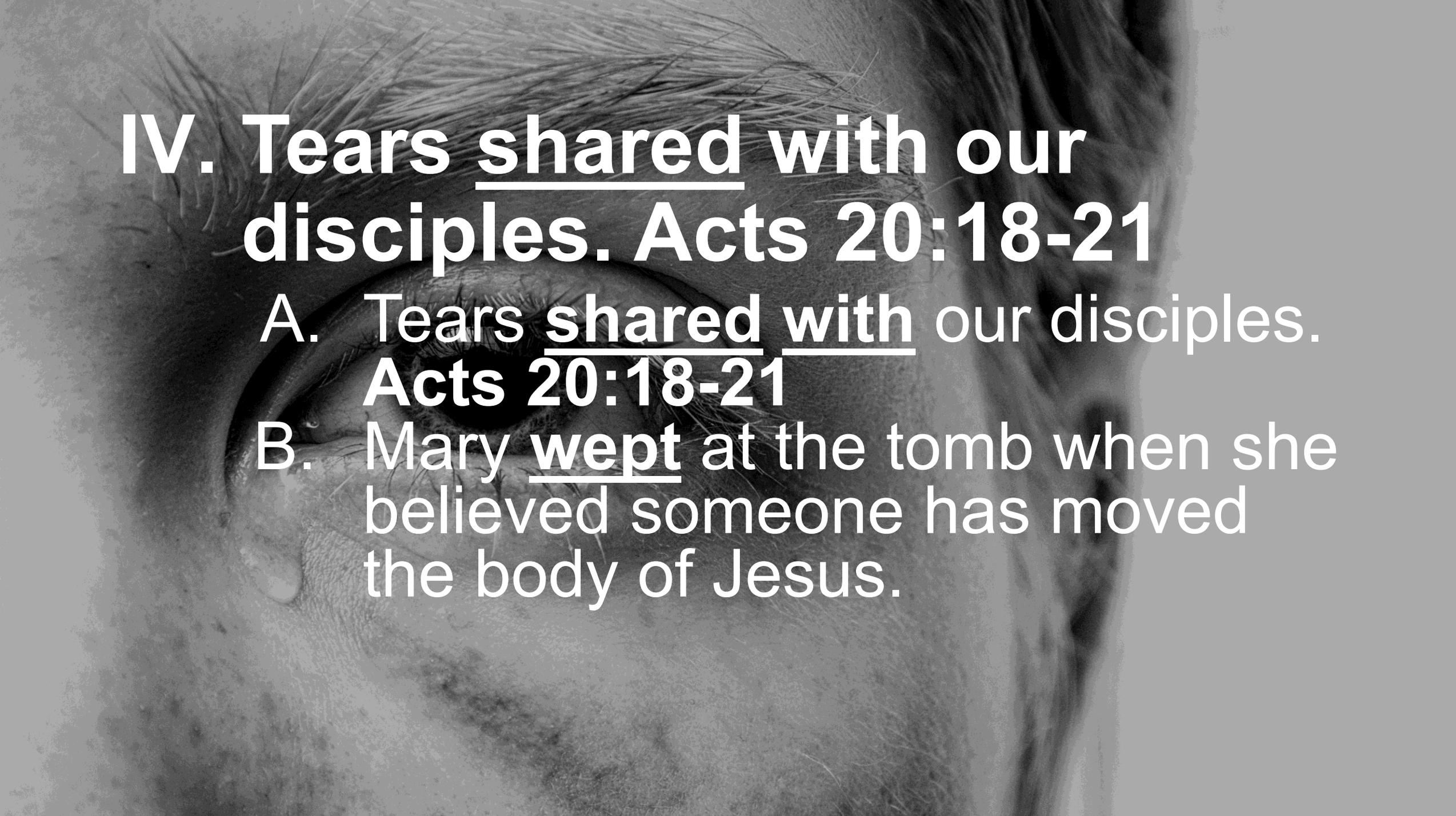


**IV. Tears shared with our
disciples. Acts 20:18-21**

**A. Tears shared with our disciples.
Acts 20:18-21**

*14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. 15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, **and weep with them that weep.** 16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

Romans 12:14-16



**IV. Tears shared with our
disciples. Acts 20:18-21**

**A. Tears shared with our disciples.
Acts 20:18-21**

**B. Mary wept at the tomb when she
believed someone has moved
the body of Jesus.**

***11 But Mary stood without at the
sepulchre weeping: and as she
wept, she stooped down, and
looked into the sepulchre,
John 20:11***



**V. Tears shed for our disciples.
Acts 20:31**

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 20:31-32



V. Tears shed for our disciples.

Acts 20:31

A. We sow tears for our disciples
because we desire fruit that
remains.

*2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy
patience, and how thou canst not bear them
which are evil: and **thou hast tried them
which say they are apostles, and are not,
and hast found them liars:***

Revelation 2:2



V. Tears shed for our disciples.

Acts 20:31

A. We sow tears for our disciples because we desire fruit that remains.

B. There are times when we weep over faithless fruit.

*4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with **many tears**; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.*

2 Corinthians 2:4

*1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault,
ye which are spiritual, restore such an one
in the spirit of meekness; considering
thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

Galatians 6:1-2



V. Tears shed for our disciples.
Acts 20:31

A. We sow tears for our disciples because we desire fruit that remains.

B. There are times when we weep over faithless fruit.

C. The sowing of tears by our disciples can be a great motivation for our ministry.

*¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; ⁴ Greatly desiring to see thee, being **mindful of thy tears**, that I may be filled with joy;*

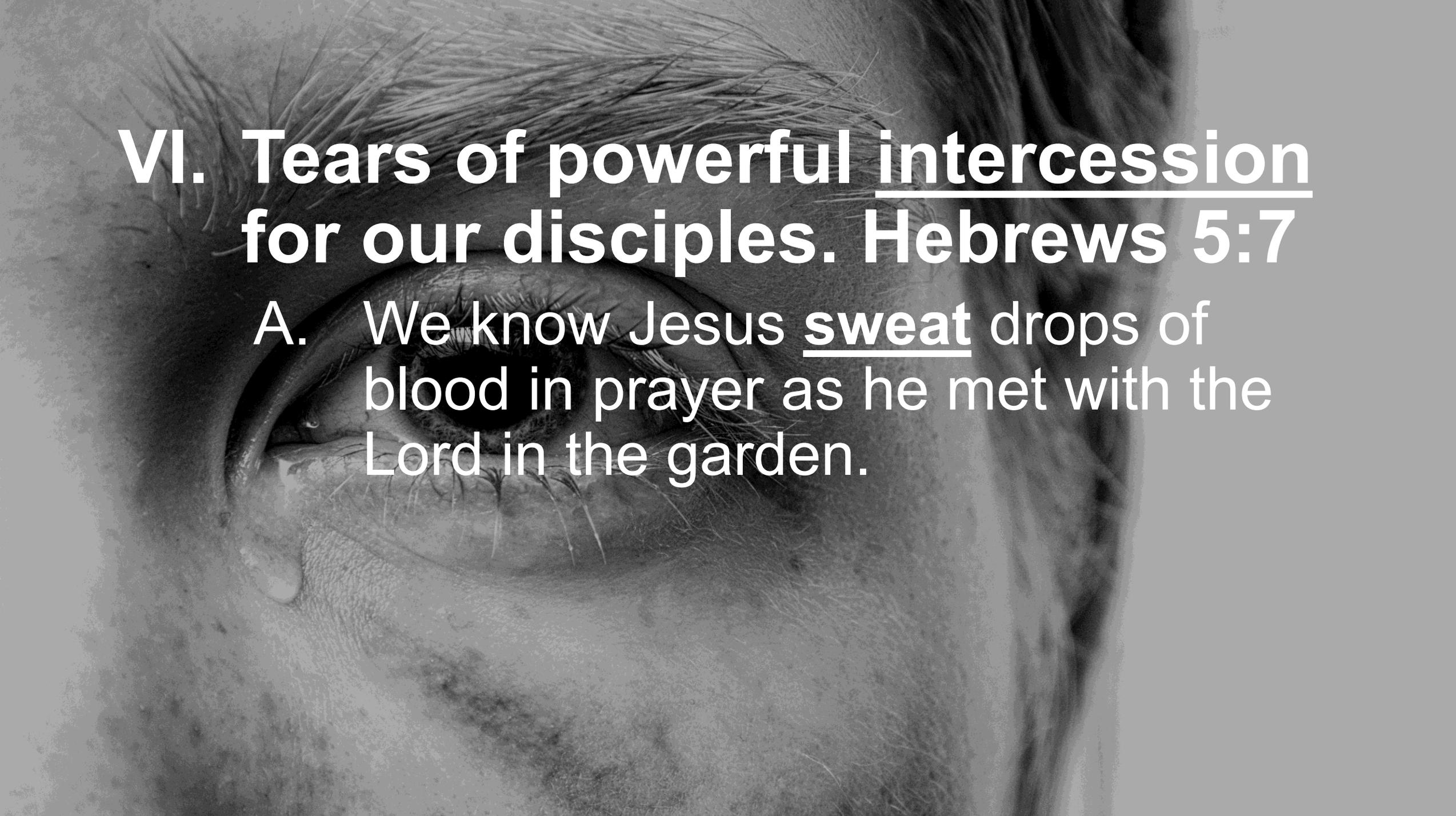
2 Timothy 1:1-4



**VI. Tears of powerful intercession
for our disciples. Hebrews 5:7**

*⁵ So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. ⁶ As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. ⁷ Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and **supplications with strong crying and tears** unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; ⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*

Hebrews 5:5-8



**VI. Tears of powerful intercession
for our disciples. Hebrews 5:7**

**A. We know Jesus sweat drops of
blood in prayer as he met with the
Lord in the garden.**

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:43-44

*34 Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them;**
for they know not what they do. And they
parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

Luke 23:34

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

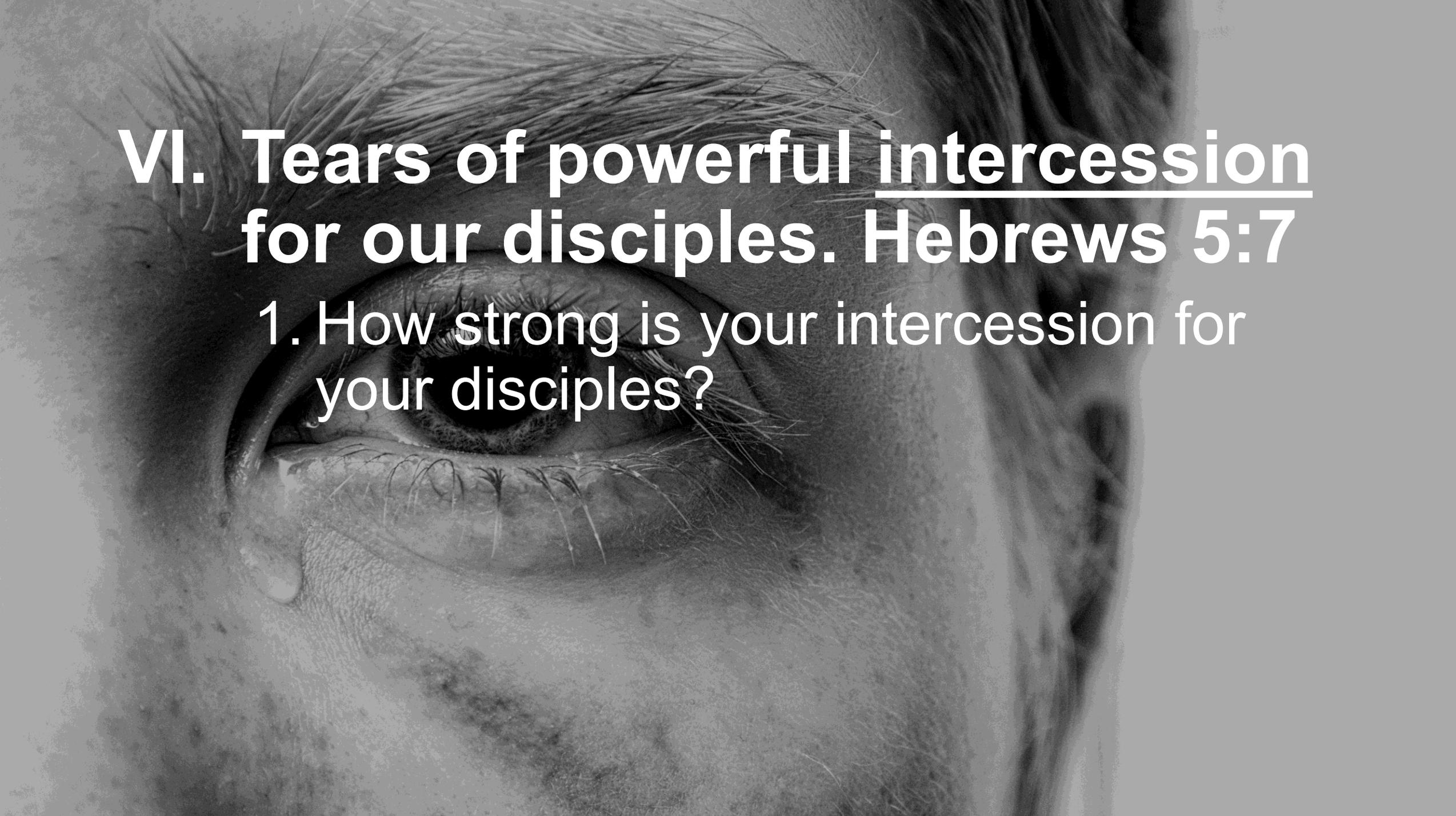
Mark 15:34



**VI. Tears of powerful intercession
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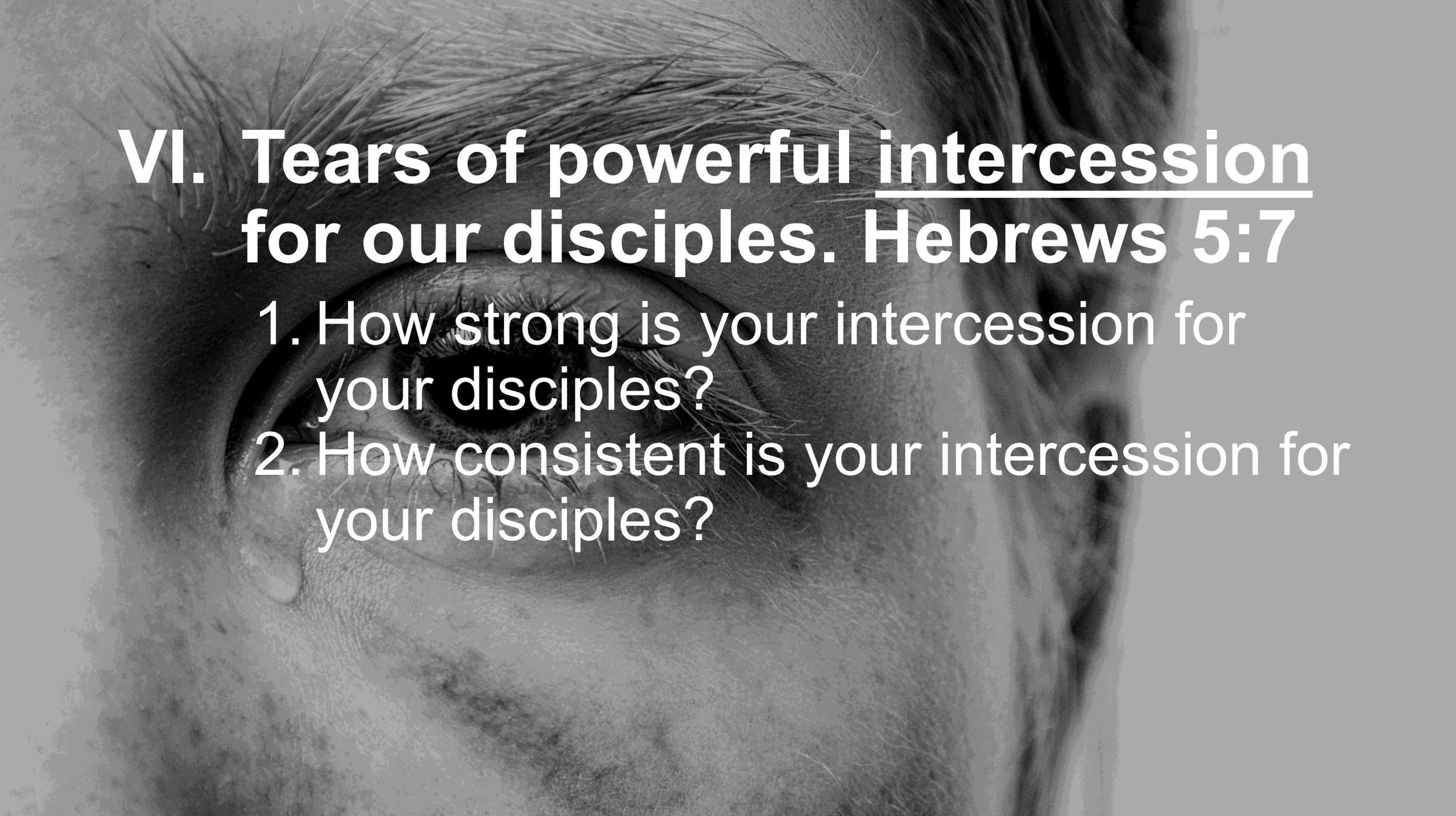
A. We know Jesus sweat drops of blood in prayer as he met with the Lord in the garden.

B. No one can intercede like God, but we should intercede like Paul for our disciples.



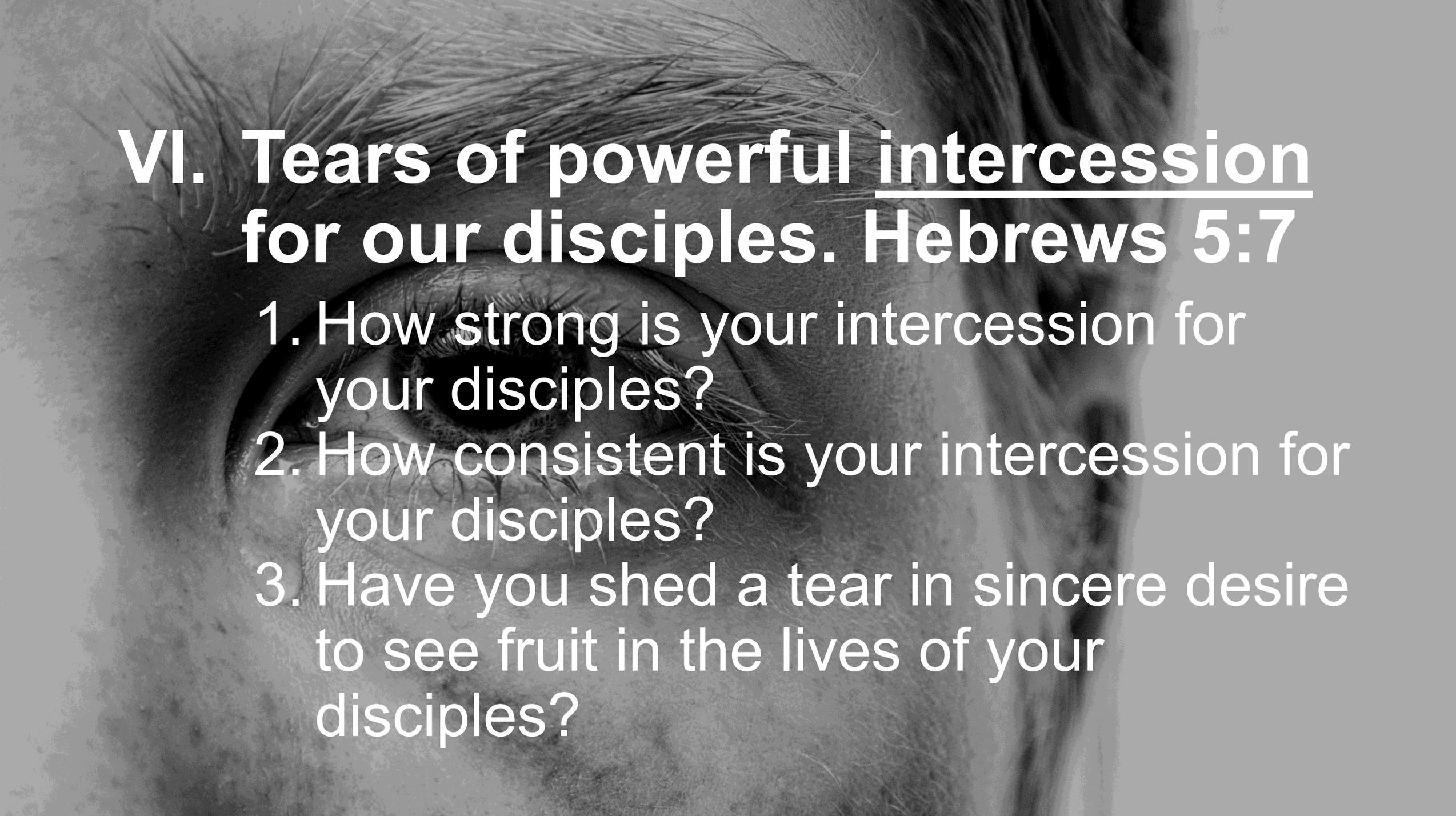
**VI. Tears of powerful intercession
for our disciples. Hebrews 5:7**

**1. How strong is your intercession for
your disciples?**



**VI. Tears of powerful intercession
for our disciples. Hebrews 5:7**

1. How strong is your intercession for your disciples?
2. How consistent is your intercession for your disciples?



**VI. Tears of powerful intercession
for our disciples. Hebrews 5:7**

1. How strong is your intercession for your disciples?
2. How consistent is your intercession for your disciples?
3. Have you shed a tear in sincere desire to see fruit in the lives of your disciples?



**VI. Tears of powerful intercession
for our disciples. Hebrews 5:7**

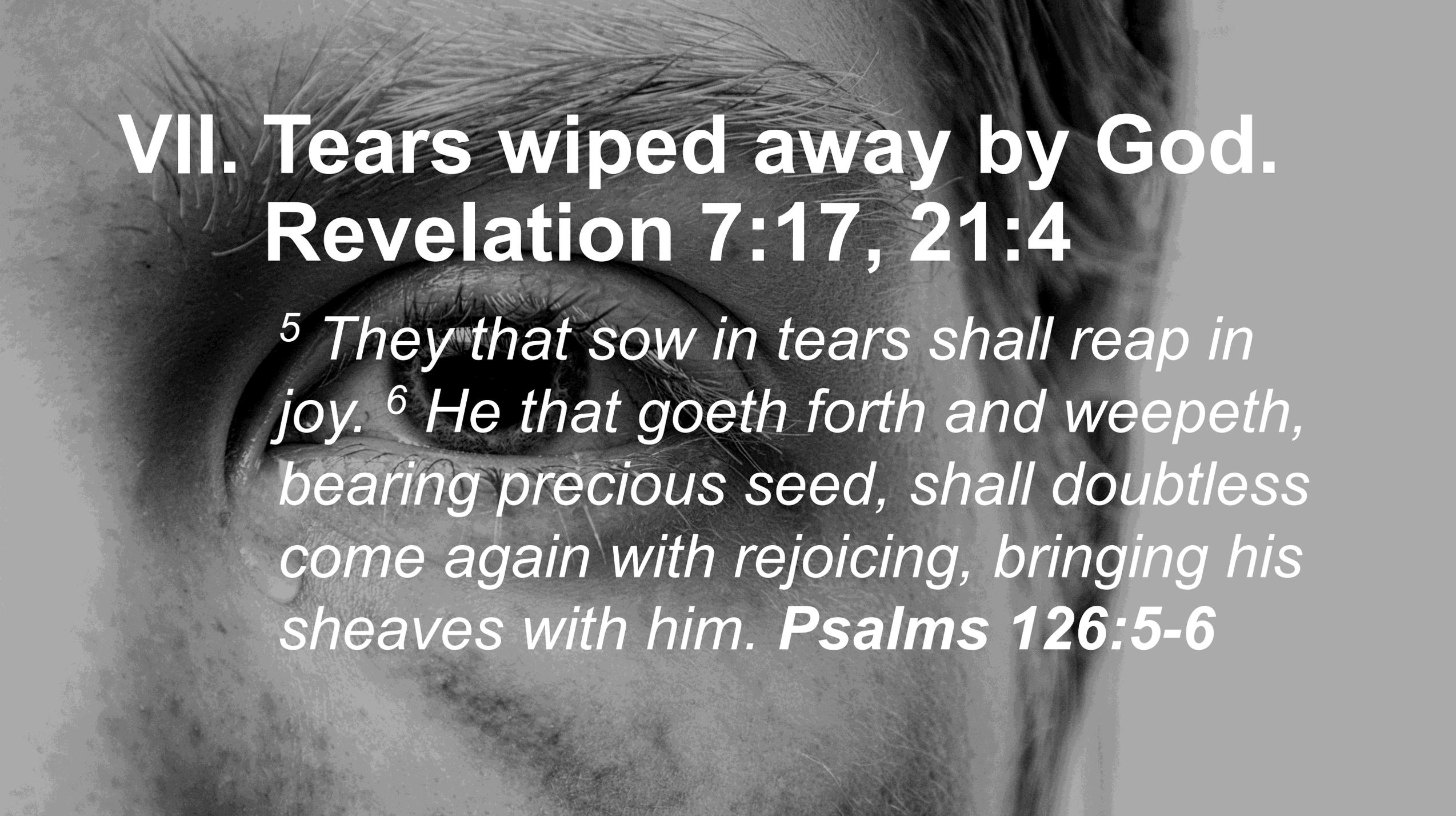
- A. We know Jesus sweat drops of blood in prayer as he met with the Lord in the garden.
- B. No one can intercede like God, but we should intercede like Paul for our disciples.
- C. Understanding how important fruitful discipleship is to God will provoke us to powerful intercession for our disciples.

*⁷ If ye abide in me, and **my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

John 15:7-8

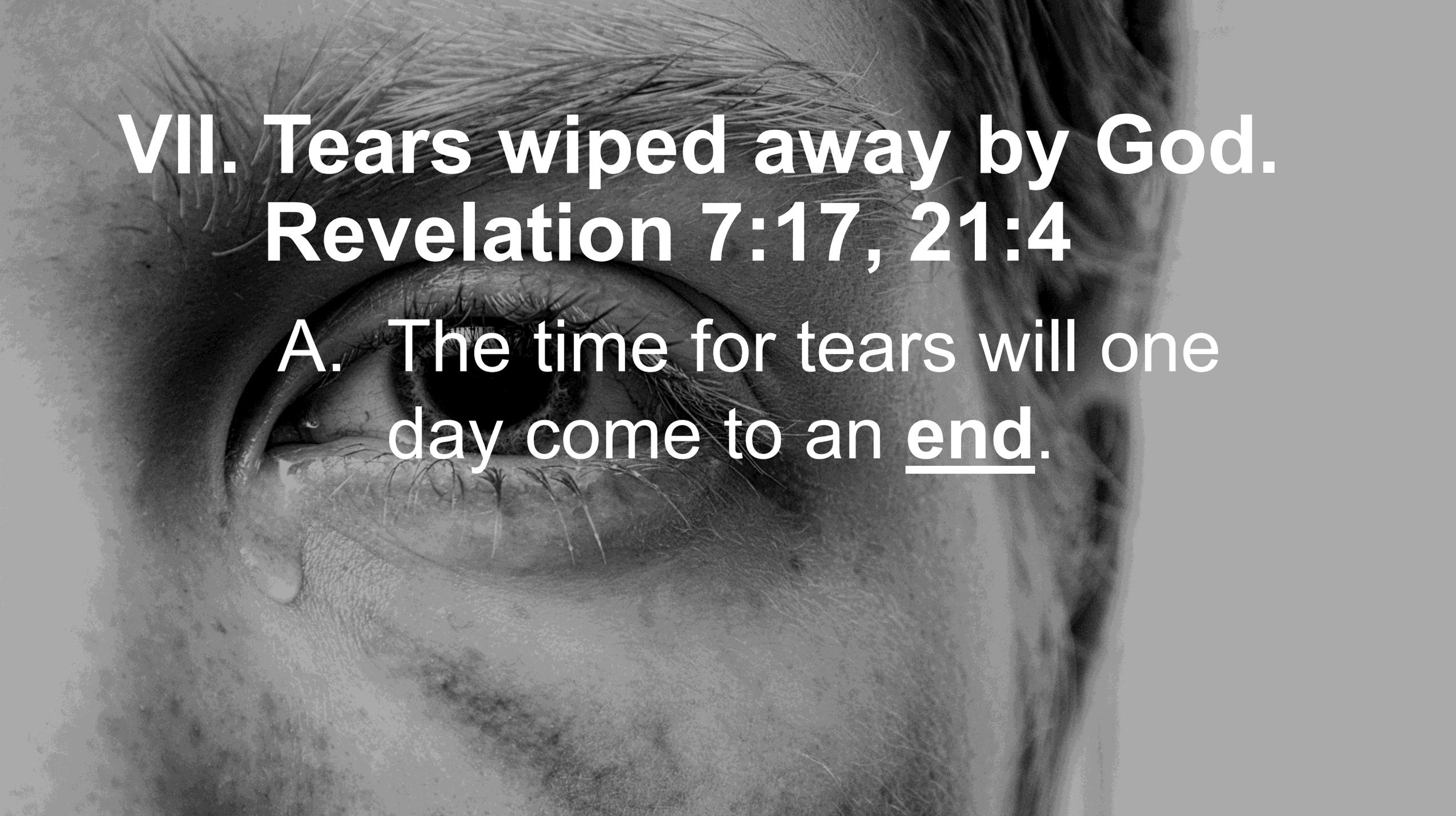
*27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.***

Matthew 9:27-29



**VII. Tears wiped away by God.
Revelation 7:17, 21:4**

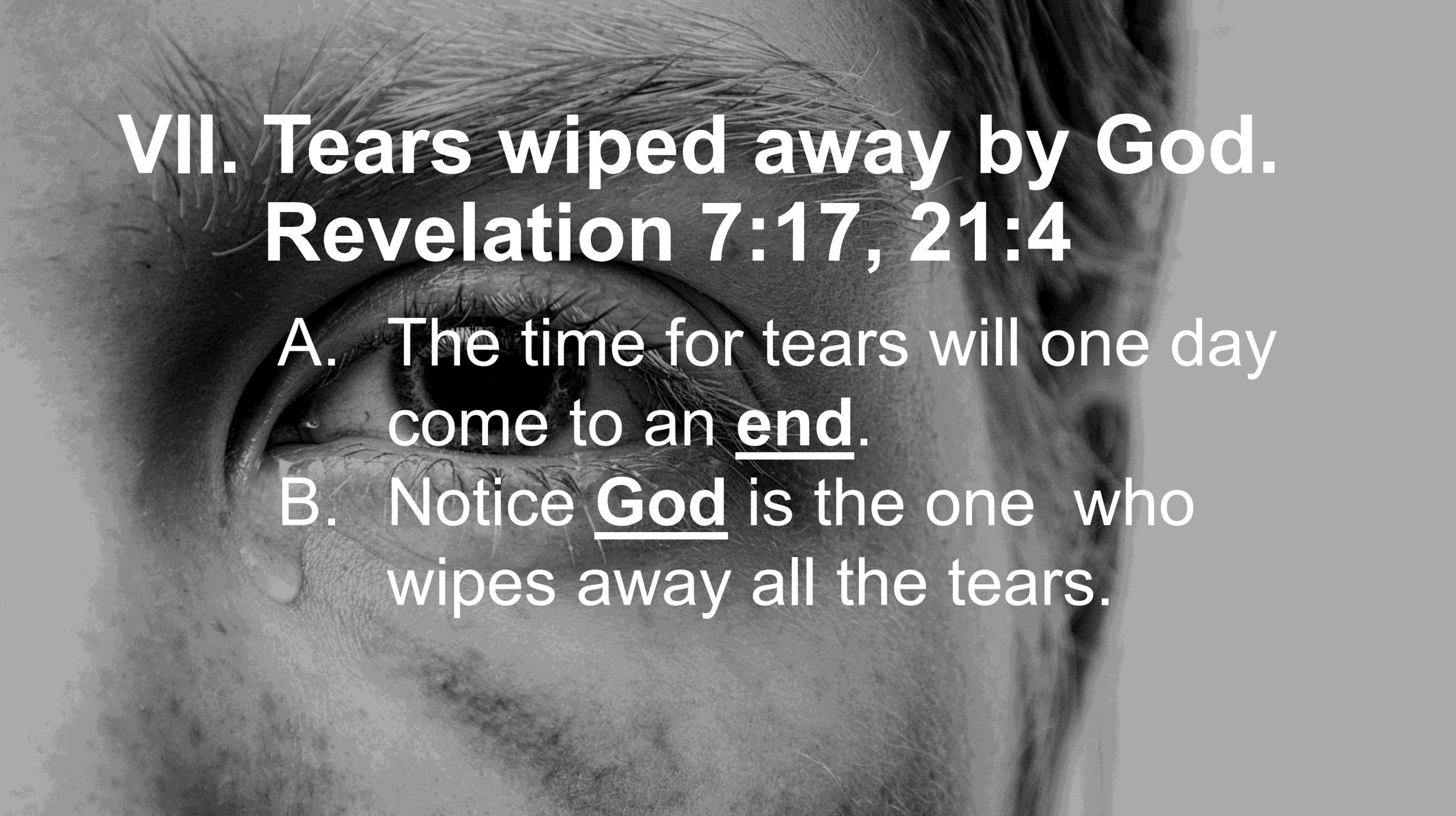
*⁵ They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. ⁶ He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. **Psalms 126:5-6***



VII. Tears wiped away by God.

Revelation 7:17, 21:4

**A. The time for tears will one
day come to an end.**



**VII. Tears wiped away by God.
Revelation 7:17, 21:4**

A. The time for tears will one day
come to an end.

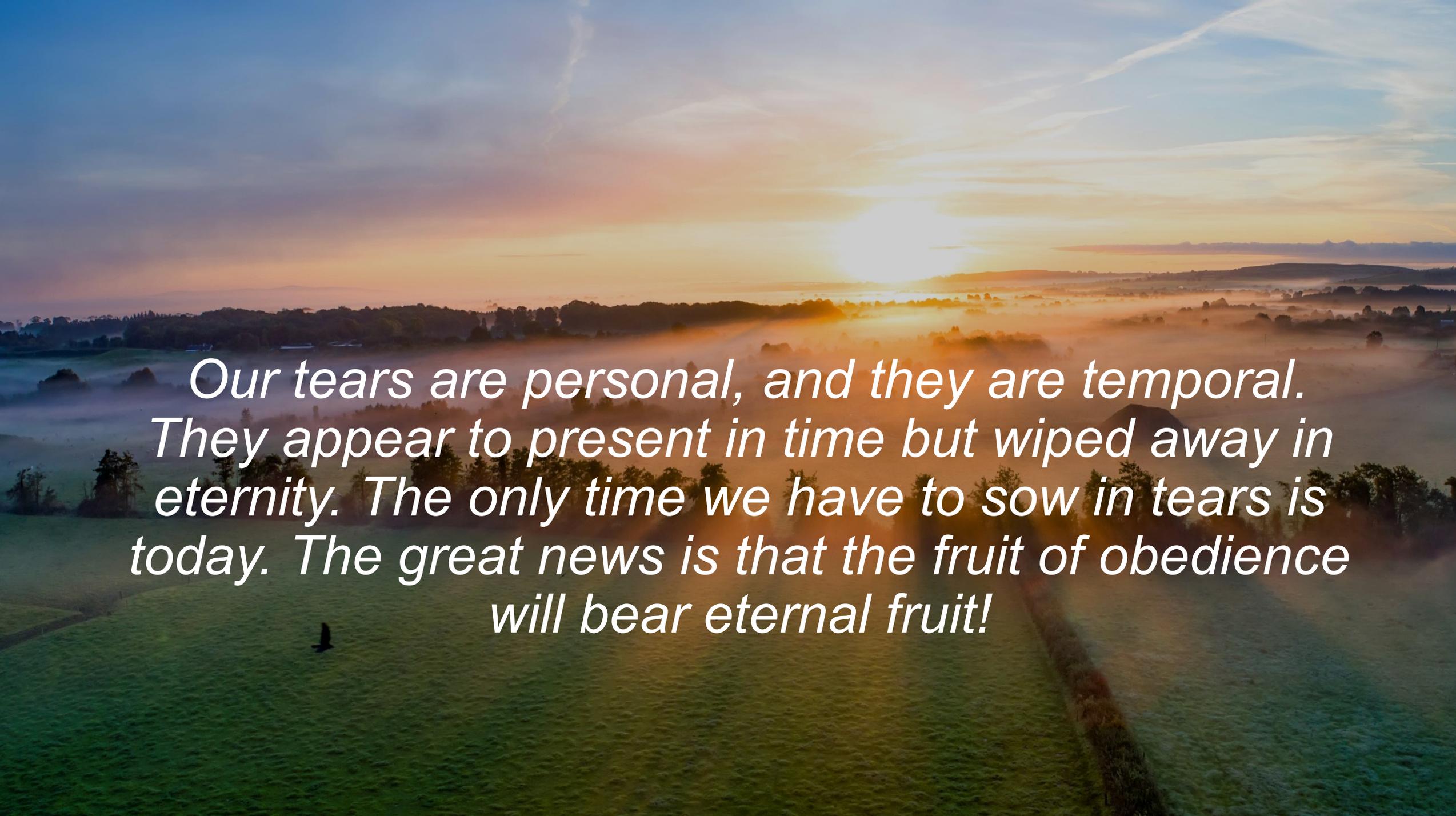
B. Notice God is the one who
wipes away all the tears.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and **God shall wipe away all tears** from their eyes.

Revelation 7:17

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:4

A scenic landscape at sunrise or sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over a misty valley. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills. A single bird is seen in flight in the lower left quadrant of the image.

Our tears are personal, and they are temporal. They appear to present in time but wiped away in eternity. The only time we have to sow in tears is today. The great news is that the fruit of obedience will bear eternal fruit!

A black and white close-up photograph of a person's eye. The eye is looking slightly to the left. A single tear is visible on the lower eyelid, about to fall. The skin around the eye is wrinkled, and the eyelashes are clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

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