



2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be **led astray** from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.



2 Corinthians 11:1

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness.



2 Corinthians 11:16

I repeat, let no one think me foolish.
But even if you do, accept me as a fool,
so that I too may boast a little.



2 Corinthians 11:17

What I am saying with this boastful confidence,
I say not as the Lord would but as a fool.



2 Corinthians 11:18–19

Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast.
For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves!



2 Corinthians 11:20

For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you,
or devours you, or takes advantage of you,
or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face.



2 Corinthians 11:21

To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!



2 Corinthians 11:21

To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—
I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that.



2 Corinthians 11:22

Are they Hebrews? So am I.

Are they Israelites? So am I.

Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I.



2 Corinthians 11:23

Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one
—I am talking like a madman—



2 Corinthians 11:23

Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one
—I am talking like a madman—

with far greater labors, far more imprisonments,
with countless beatings, and often near death.



2 Corinthians 11:24

Five times I received at the hands of the Jews
the forty lashes less one.



2 Corinthians 11:25

Three times I was beaten with rods.



2 Corinthians 11:25

Three times I was beaten with rods.
Once I was stoned.



2 Corinthians 11:25

Three times I was beaten with rods.

Once I was stoned.

Three times I was shipwrecked;
a night and a day I was adrift at sea;



2 Corinthians 11:26

on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers,



2 Corinthians 11:26

on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers,
danger from robbers,



2 Corinthians 11:26

on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers,
danger from robbers,
danger from my own people,



2 Corinthians 11:26

on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers,
danger from robbers,
danger from my own people,
danger from Gentiles, danger in the city,



2 Corinthians 11:26

on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers,
danger from robbers,
danger from my own people,
danger from Gentiles, danger in the city,
danger in the wilderness, danger at sea,



2 Corinthians 11:26

on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers,
danger from robbers,
danger from my own people,
danger from Gentiles, danger in the city,
danger in the wilderness, danger at sea,
danger from false brothers;



2 Corinthians 11:27

in toil and hardship,



2 Corinthians 11:27

in toil and hardship,
through many a sleepless night,



2 Corinthians 11:27

in toil and hardship,
through many a sleepless night,
in hunger and thirst,



2 Corinthians 11:27

in toil and hardship,
through many a sleepless night,
in hunger and thirst,
often without food,



2 Corinthians 11:27

in toil and hardship,
through many a sleepless night,
in hunger and thirst,
often without food,
in cold and exposure.



2 Corinthians 11:28

And, apart from other things,
there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety
for all the churches.



2 Corinthians 11:28,29

And, apart from other things,
there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety
for all the churches.

Who is weak, and I am not weak?

Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?



2 Corinthians 11:30

If I must boast, I will boast of the things
that show my weakness.



BOASTING IN MY WEAKNESS

2CORINTHIANS 11:16-33



2 Corinthians 11:31

The God and Father of the Lord Jesus,
he who is blessed forever,
knows that I am not lying.



2 Corinthians 11:32–33

At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas
was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me,
but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall
and escaped his hands.



BOASTING IN MY WEAKNESS

2CORINTHIANS 11:16-33



1. Suffering is the Path for God's Servants



Acts 9:15–16

But the Lord said to him,
“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name
before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.



Acts 9:15–16

But the Lord said to him,
“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name
before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.
For I will show him how much he must
suffer for the sake of my name.”



Acts 20:24

But I **do not account my life of any value nor as precious** to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.



Galatians 6:17

I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.



2 Timothy 2:3

Share in **suffering** as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.



1. Suffering is the Path for God's Servants



1. Suffering is the Path for God's Servants

2. Suffering is the Preparation for God's Servants



**“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly
until He has hurt him deeply.”**

AW Tozer



2 Corinthians 1:6

If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation;
and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort,



2 Corinthians 1:4

... comforts us in all our **affliction,**
so that we may be able to comfort those
who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which
we ourselves are comforted by God.



2 Corinthians 1:8–9

... For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.



2 Corinthians 1:8–9

... For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.

But that was to **make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.**



2 Corinthians 12:9

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses,
so that the **power of Christ may rest upon me.**



1. Suffering is the Path for God's Servants



1. Suffering is the Path for God's Servants

2. Suffering is the Preparation for God's Servants



1. Suffering is the Path for God's Servants

2. Suffering is the Preparation for God's Servants

3. Suffering is the Proof for God's Servants



2 Corinthians 4:8–10

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed,
but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed;
always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that
the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.



2 Corinthians 6:4–10

but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way:
by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,
beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;
...through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise.
We are treated as impostors... as unknown... as dying...
as punished... as sorrowful... as poor... as having nothing...



2 Corinthians 12:7

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.



2 Corinthians 6:4

... as servants of God we **commend** ourselves in every way:
by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,



2 Corinthians 4:7–9

... we have this treasure in jars of clay,



2 Corinthians 4:7–9

... we have this treasure in jars of clay,
to show that the surpassing power
belongs to God and not to us.



2 Corinthians 4:7–9

... we have this treasure in jars of clay,
to show that the surpassing power
belongs to God and not to us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted,
but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;



2 Corinthians 4:10

always carrying in the body the death of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

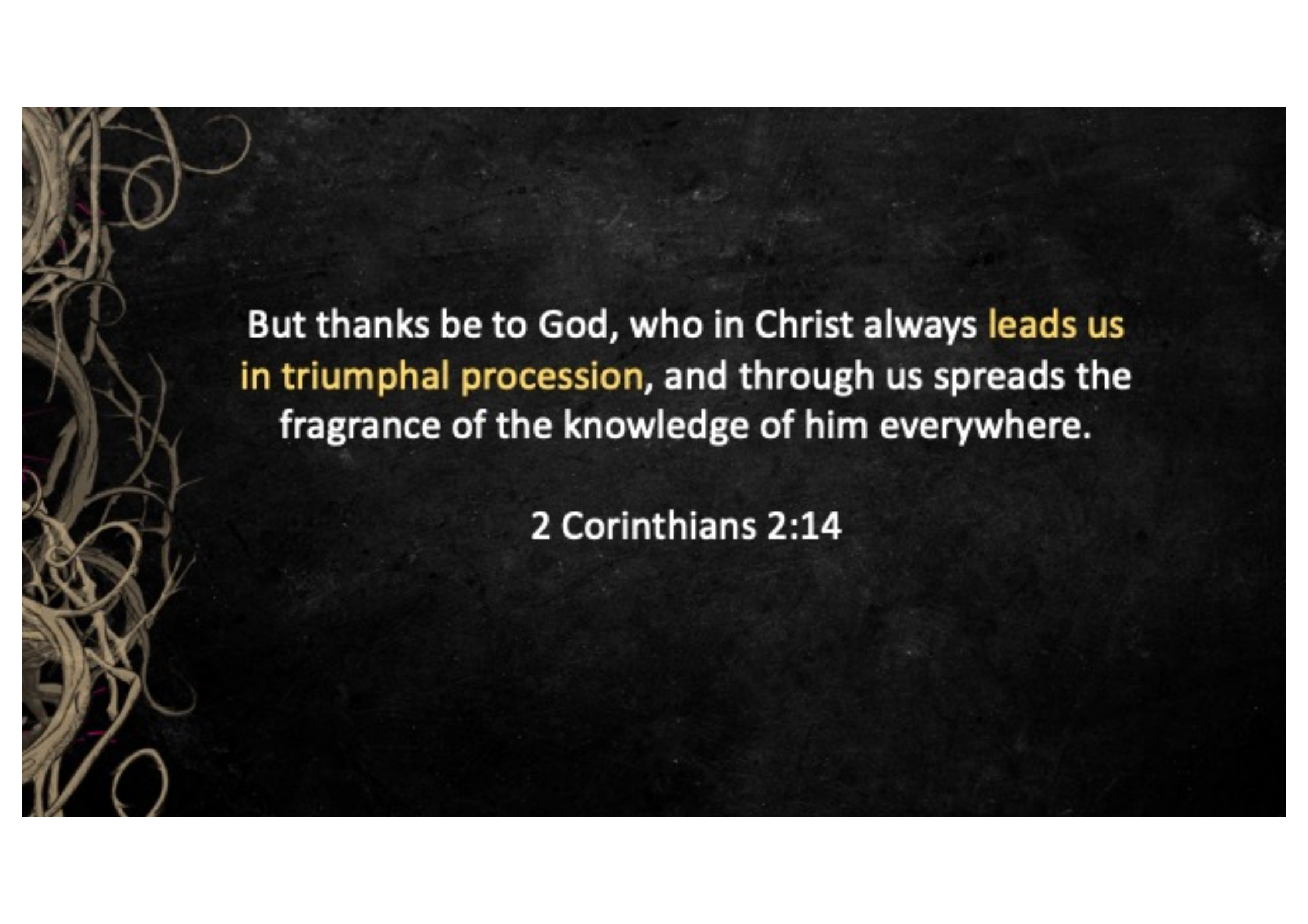


2 Corinthians 4:11

For we who live are always being given over to death
for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus
also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

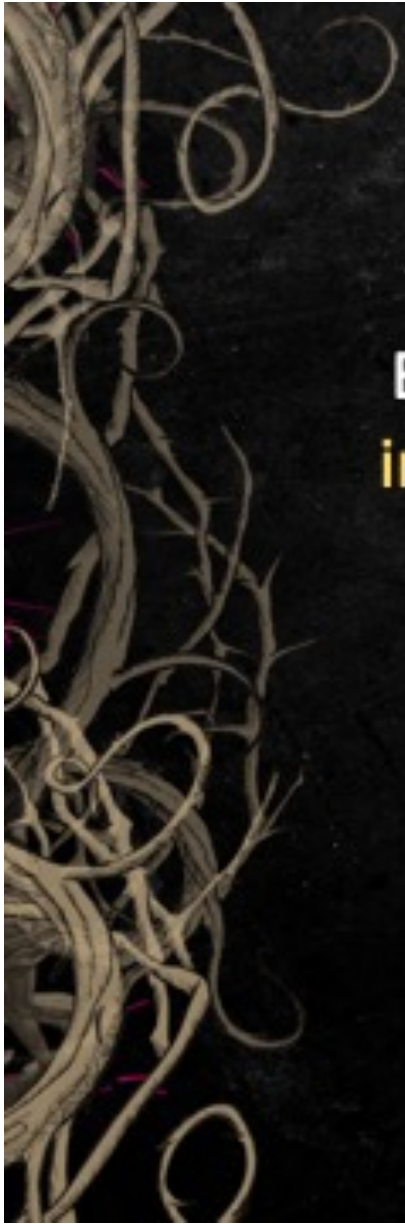






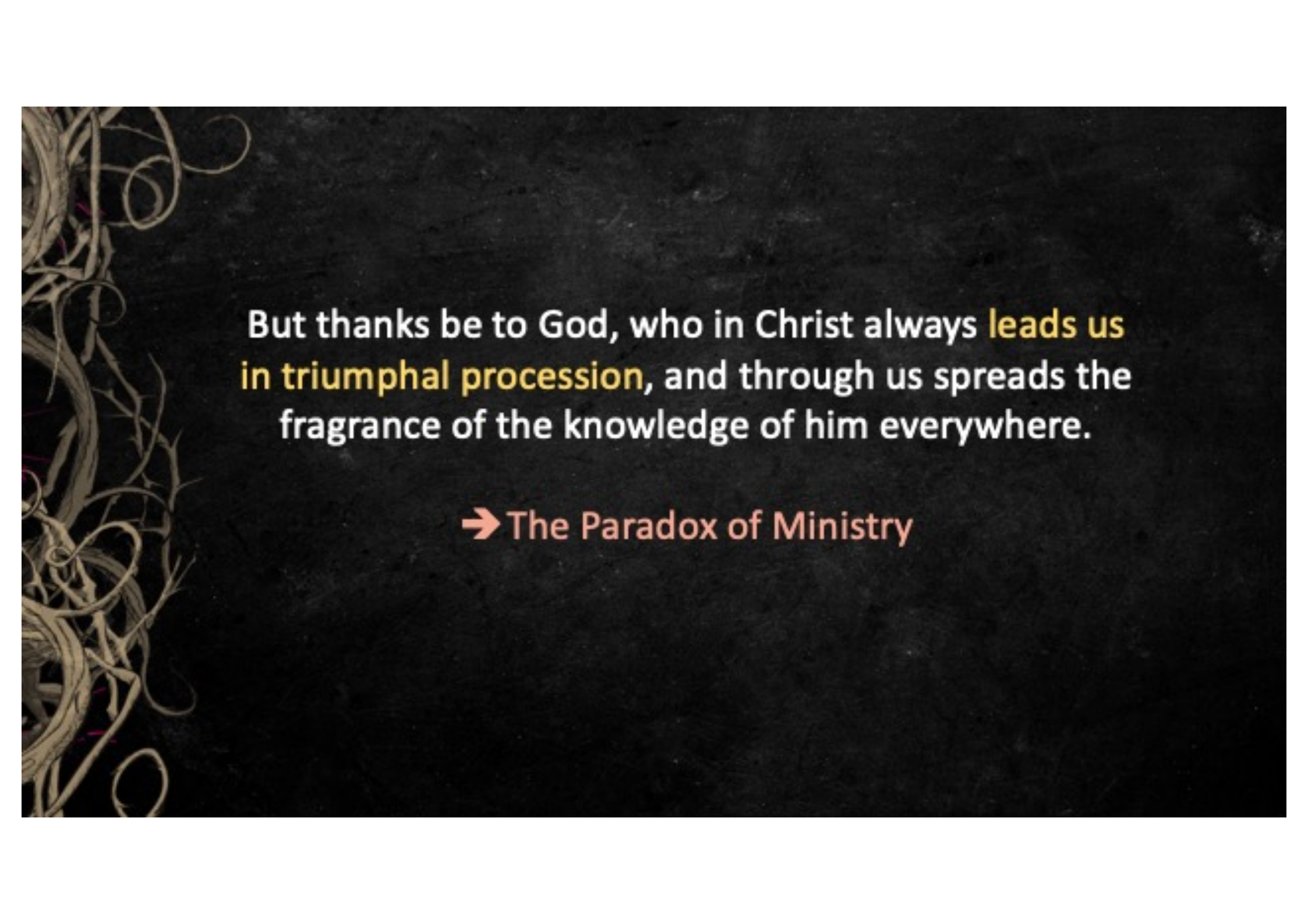
But thanks be to God, who in Christ always **leads us
in triumphal procession**, and through us spreads the
fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

2 Corinthians 2:14



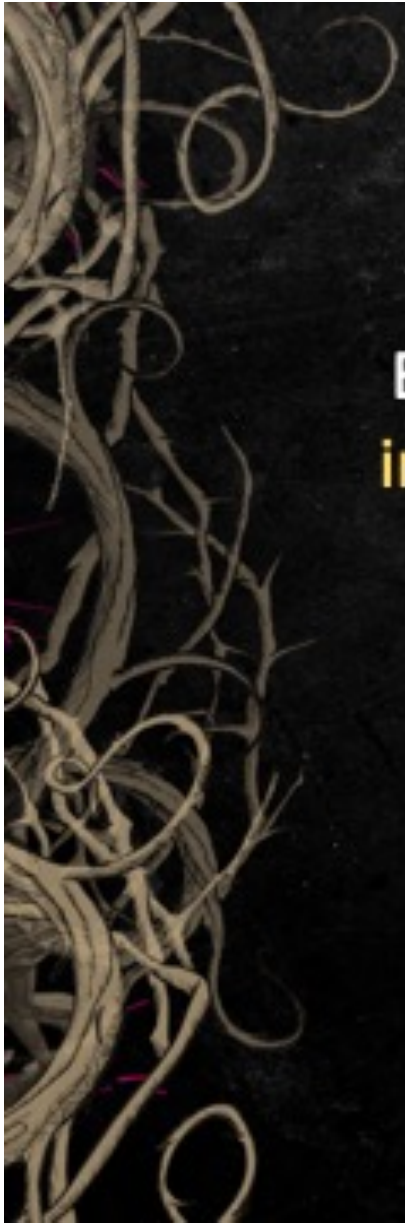
But thanks be to God, who in Christ always **leads us in triumphal procession**, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

“We, who were formerly the enemies of God, are now captives in a display that glorifies Him.”



But thanks be to God, who in Christ always **leads us in triumphal procession**, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

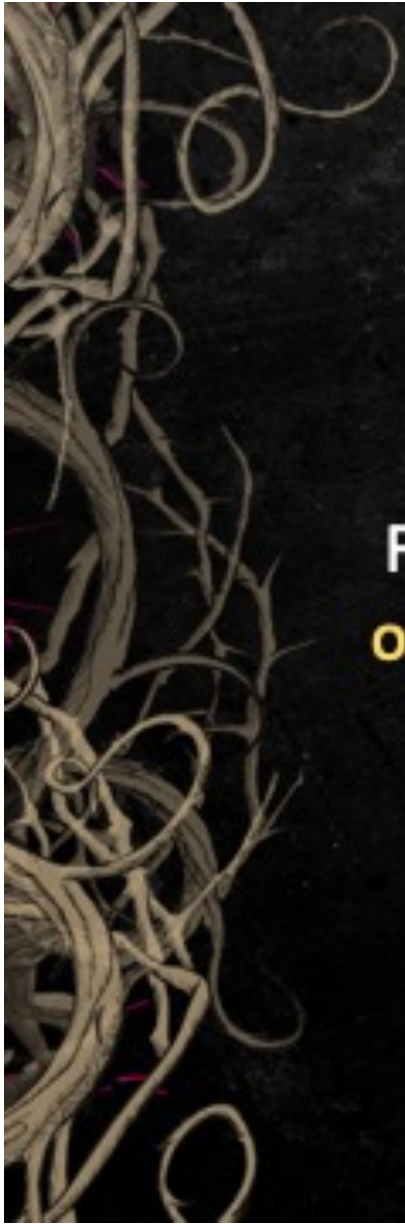
➔ **The Paradox of Ministry**



But thanks be to God, who in Christ always **leads us in triumphal procession**, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

➔ **The Paradox of Ministry**

The glory & power of God is seen through
the suffering & weakness of His servants



1 Corinthians 4:9

For I think that God has **exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death**, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.

What do we boast about?



What is our view regarding suffering?

