

# The Providence of God

“God Always Has a Plan”

2 Timothy 1:5-12

**Romans 8:28** NASB

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

## 2 Timothy 1:5-12 <sup>NLT</sup> Greetings from Paul

- 1 This letter is from Paul, chosen **by the will of God** to be **an apostle** of Christ Jesus. I have been **sent out** to tell others about the life He has promised **through faith in Christ Jesus.**
- 2 I am writing to Timothy, my dear son. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you **grace, mercy, and peace.**

# Encouragement to Be Faithful

3 Timothy, I thank God for you—  
the God I serve with a clear conscience,  
just as **my ancestors** did.

Night and day

**I constantly remember you in my prayers.**

4 I long to see you again,  
for I remember **your tears** as we parted.  
And I will be **filled with joy**  
when we are together again.

5

I remember your genuine faith,  
for you share the faith that first filled your  
grandmother **Lois** and your mother, **Eunice**.  
& I know that same faith continues strong in you.

# Genuine Faith?

Census Christians

Member Christians

Practicing Church Christians

Committed Believers

Christian faith is central and life shaping

Strive to live out their faith (walk & talk)

Communicate their faith to others

Hidden Christians -- Insiders

6 This is why I remind you  
to **fan into flames** the **spiritual gift**  
God gave you when I laid my hands on you.

7 For God has not given us  
a spirit of **fear** and **timidity**,





HAUNTED  
BY FEAR

# *Fear Not*

ISAIAH 43:1-7

We must hope in things that are not fleeting:  
**salvation, eternity, and the vast love of God**

# Spiritual Surrender

A person with dark hair, wearing a black t-shirt, is seen from the back, standing with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or surrender. They are positioned in front of a large, bright, circular light source that creates a strong backlight effect, silhouetting their figure. The background is dark, and the overall mood is spiritual and contemplative.

True spiritual surrender  
is far from passive, giving up—  
it is an **aggressive willful act of obedience.**



# THE MOUNTAIN OF FEAR

**Christians don't like sharing their faith.**

**½ of U.S. adults**

**33% seldom; 16% never talk about religion outside**

**26% seldom; 13% never discuss religion  
with their immediate family.**

# THE MOUNTAIN OF FEAR

"What do you do when someone disagrees with you about religion?"

10% of evangelicals say they

**"try to persuade the person to change their mind"**

70% try to understand the person's beliefs  
and then **"agree to disagree"**

# THE MOUNTAIN OF FEAR

88% of evangelicals would not dare to challenge a non-Christian's beliefs.

18% say they "avoid discussing religion with the person" altogether.

At some point, we have to not only understand but also **challenge someone else's worldview.**

7 For God has not given us  
a spirit of fear and timidity,  
but of **power**, **love**, and **self-discipline**.

8 So **never be ashamed**  
**to tell others about our Lord**.  
And don't be ashamed of me, either,  
even though I'm in prison for Him.

With the strength God gives you,  
**be ready to suffer** with me  
for the sake of the **Good News**.

# Fear of Suffering & Persecution

1. Persecution is **normal**.
2. Persecution happens because **people give their lives to Jesus**.
3. Believers who **respond faithfully** to Jesus' call to **go and make disciples** will precipitate persecution, suffering, and martyrdom.
4. Persecution comes in many forms

**What moves us forward is the joy  
of seeing lives & families transformed.**

## **Faith at Home:**

Pathway exists to glorify God  
by equipping authentic disciples  
in Genuine relationships  
through **living out faith at home**,  
in our community & around the world.

A dramatic background image of a dark, stormy night sky with several bright, jagged lightning bolts striking down. The clouds are dark and textured, and the overall tone is somber and intense.

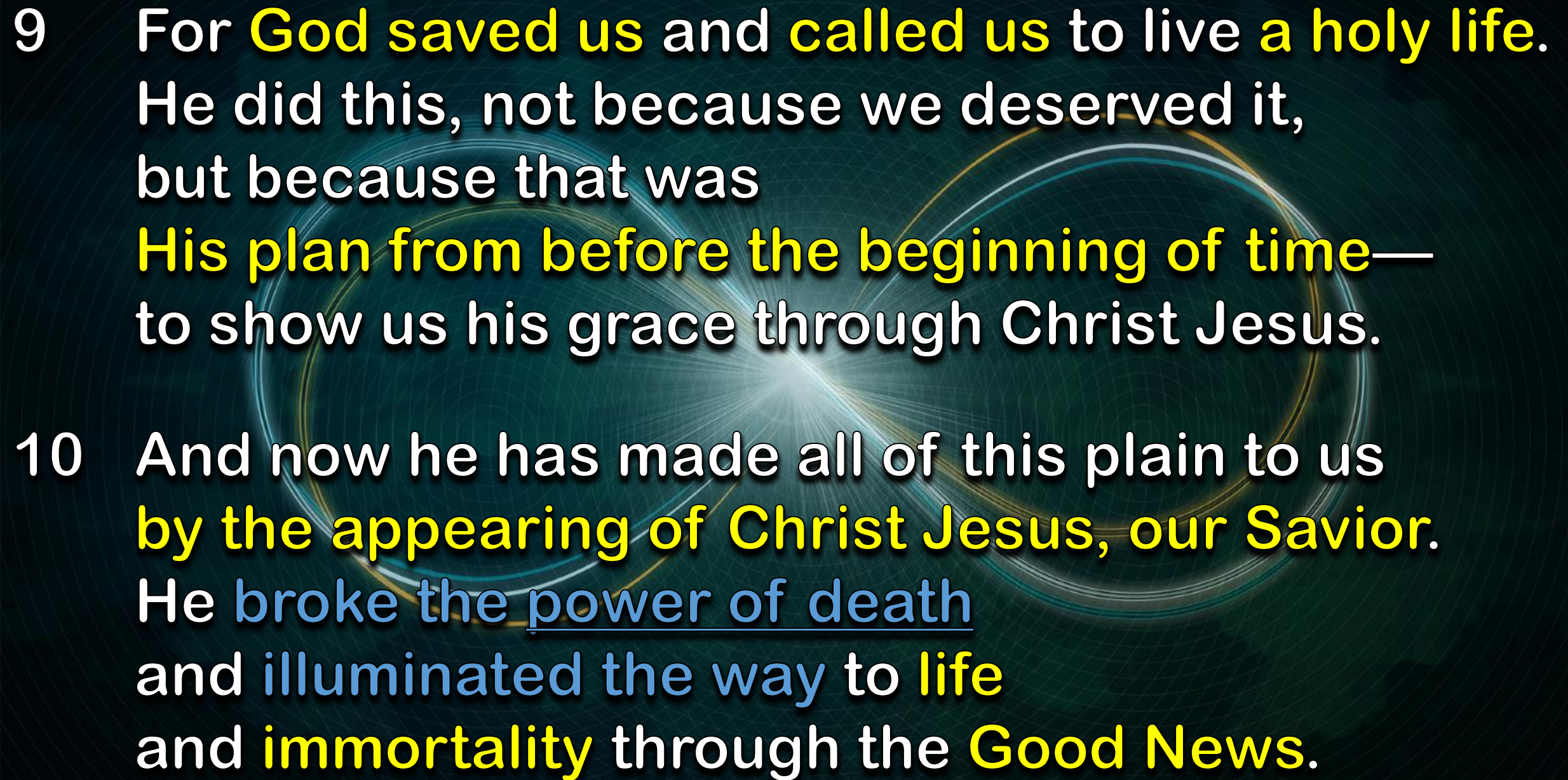
**Believers fear** rejection, ridicule, argument, embarrassment,

The **high cost for sharing our faith:**

**Ultimate goal of persecution** is to silence  
the witness of Christians & their Gospel.

Persecution denies people access to Jesus.

The **high cost for not sharing our faith:**

- 
- 9 For **God saved us** and **called us** to live **a holy life**.  
He did this, not because we deserved it,  
but because that was  
**His plan from before the beginning of time**—  
to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.
- 10 And now he has made all of this plain to us  
**by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior**.  
He **broke the power of death**  
and **illuminated the way to life**  
and **immortality** through the **Good News**.

11 And God chose me to be a **preacher**, an **apostle**,  
and a **teacher** of this Good News.

12 **That is why I am suffering here in prison.**  
**But I am not ashamed of it,**  
**for I know the One in whom I trust,**  
**and I am sure that He is able**  
**to guard what I have entrusted to Him**  
**until the day of His return.**

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