

A small, vibrant green seedling with several leaves is growing out of a crack in a dark, textured rock. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the plant and the rock. The overall mood is one of resilience and hope.

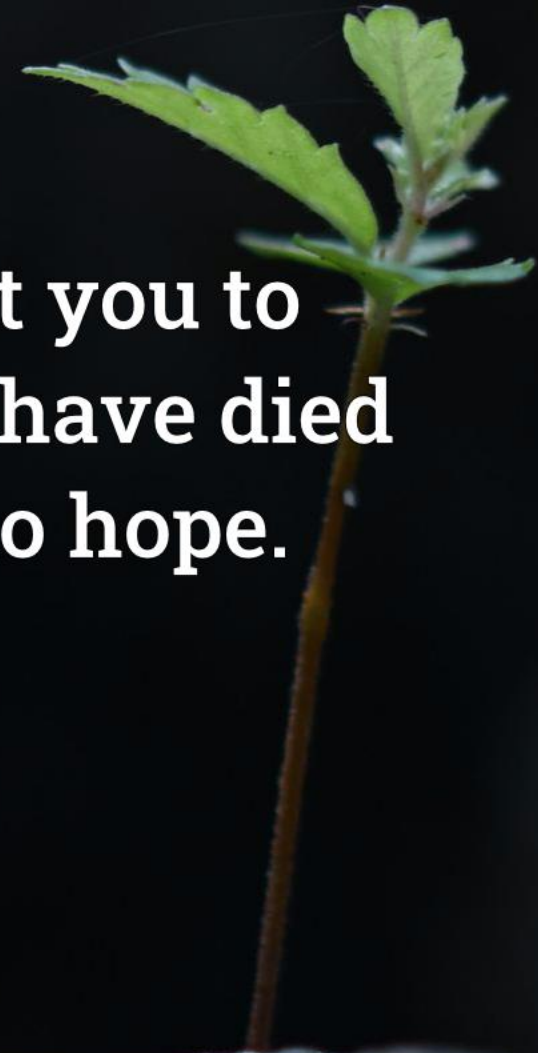
Unshakable Hope

Death and Unshakable Christian Hope
1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 5:11



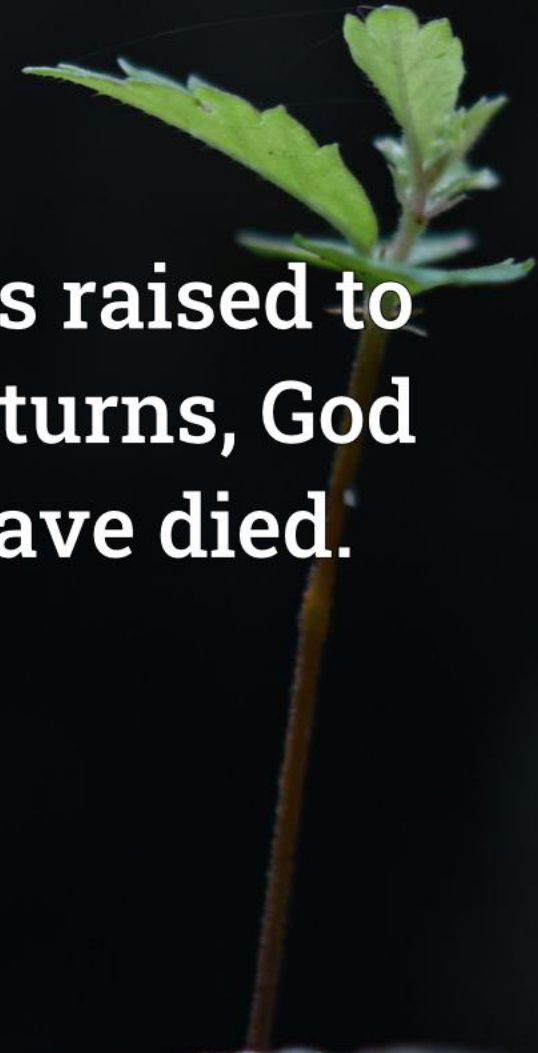
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

¹³And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.



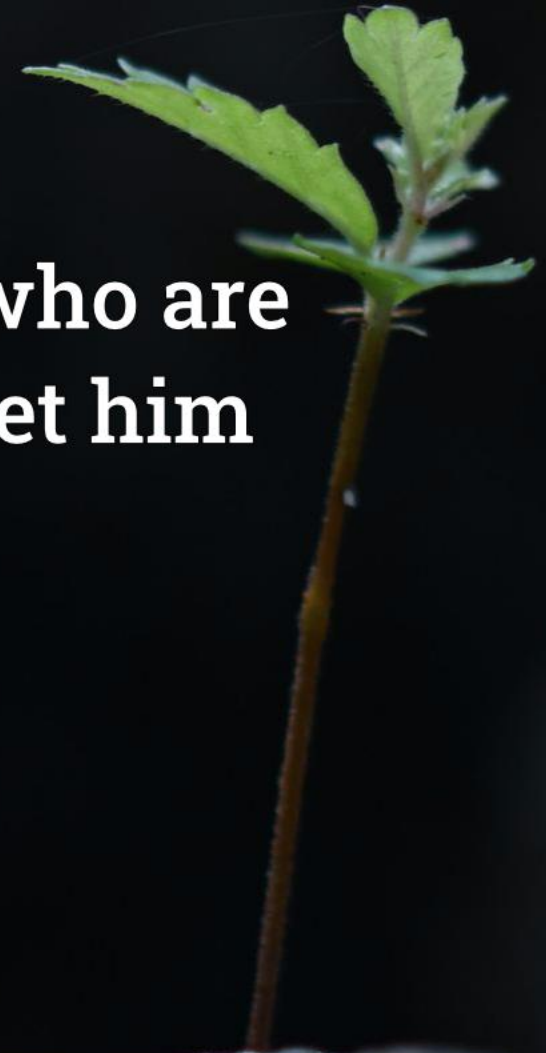
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.



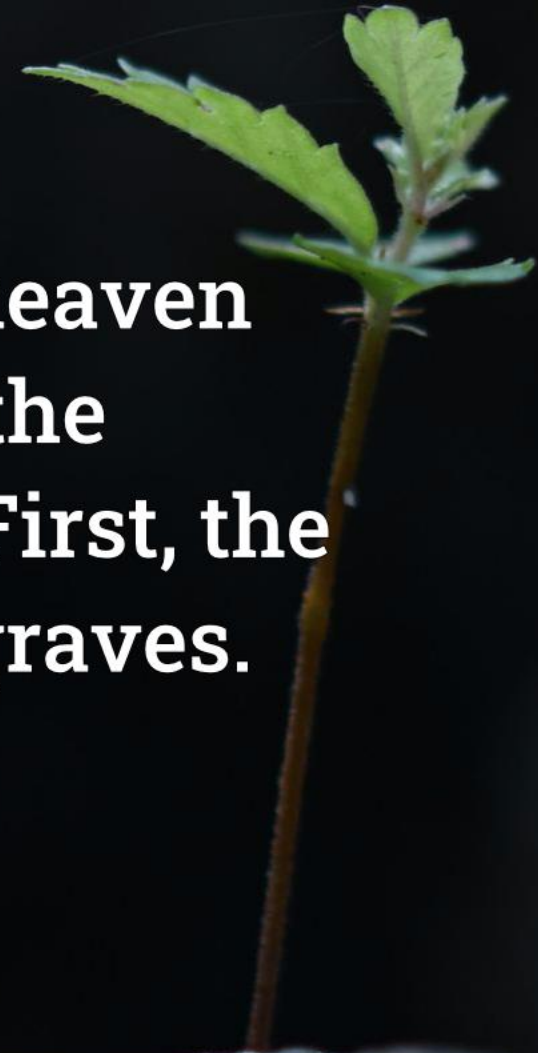
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

¹⁵We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died.



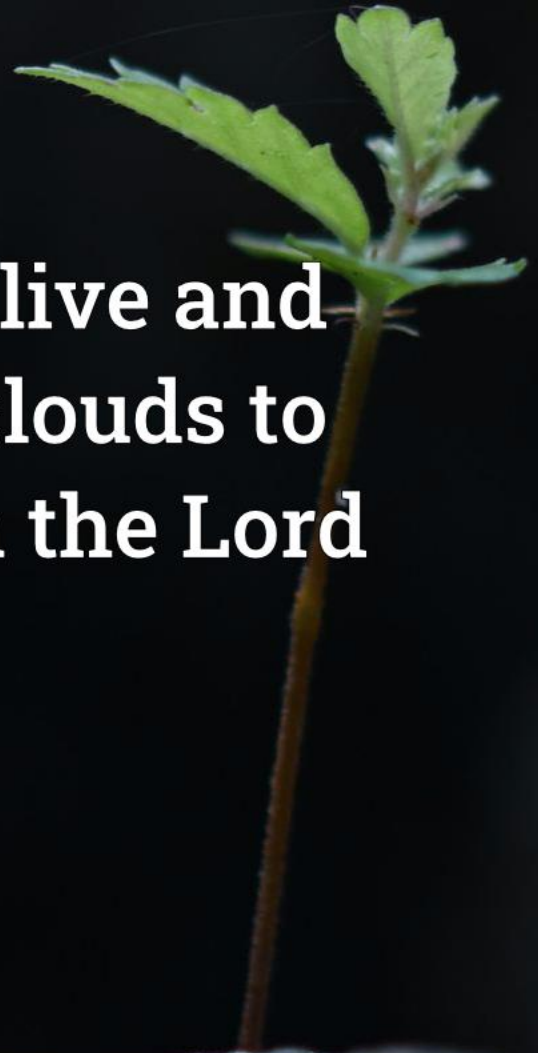
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.



1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

¹⁷Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.



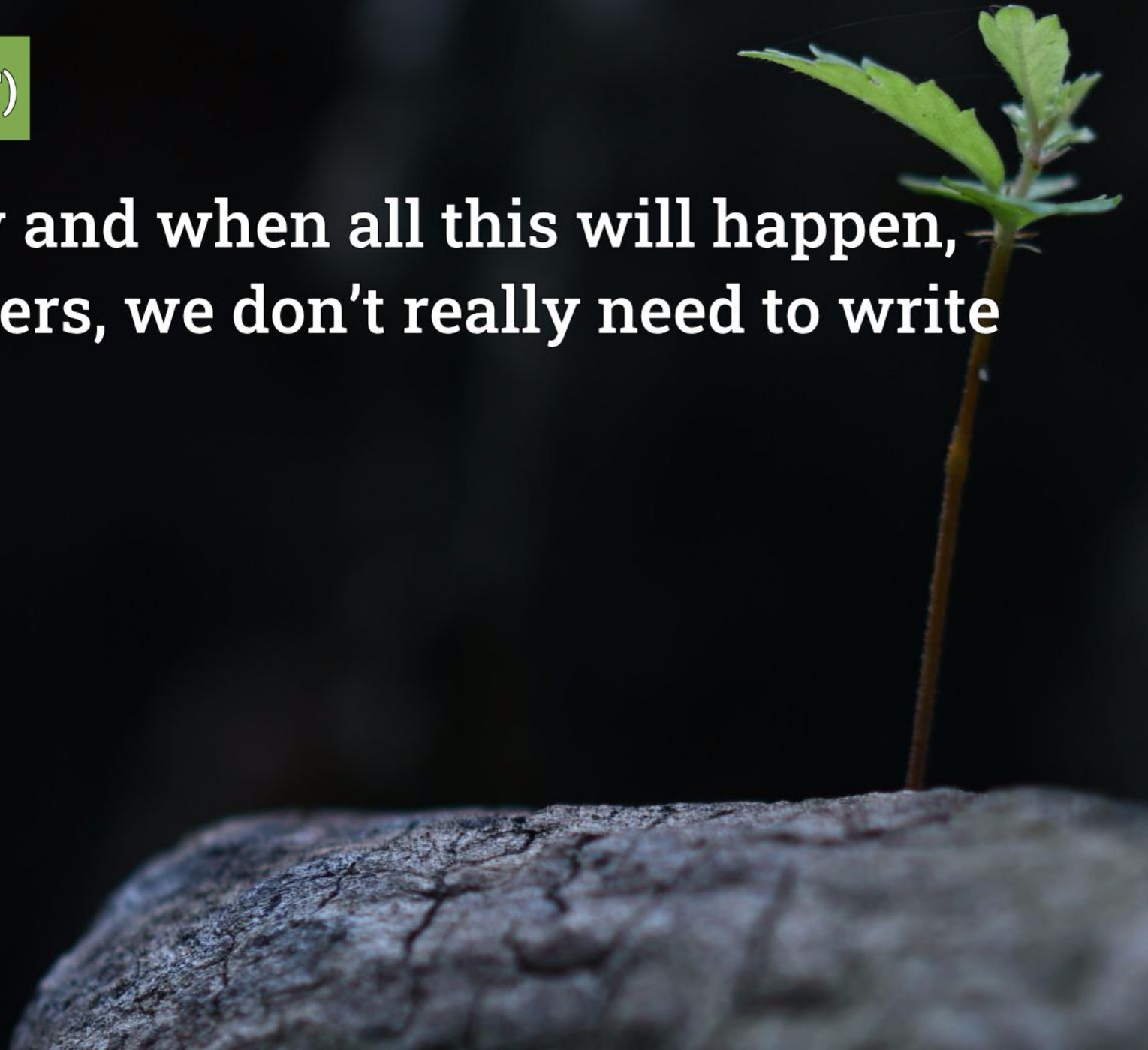
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

¹⁸So encourage each other with these words.



1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

¹Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you.



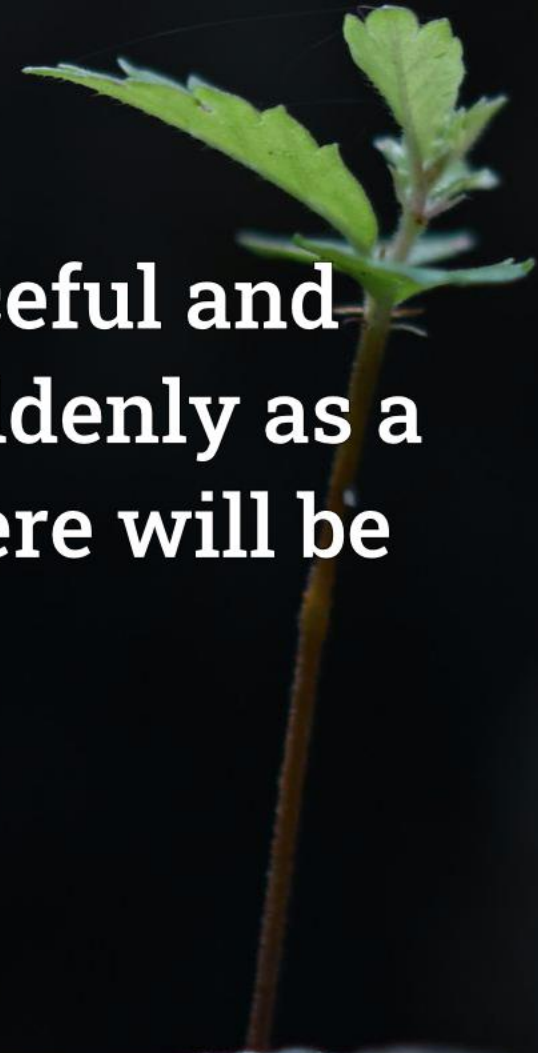
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

²For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.



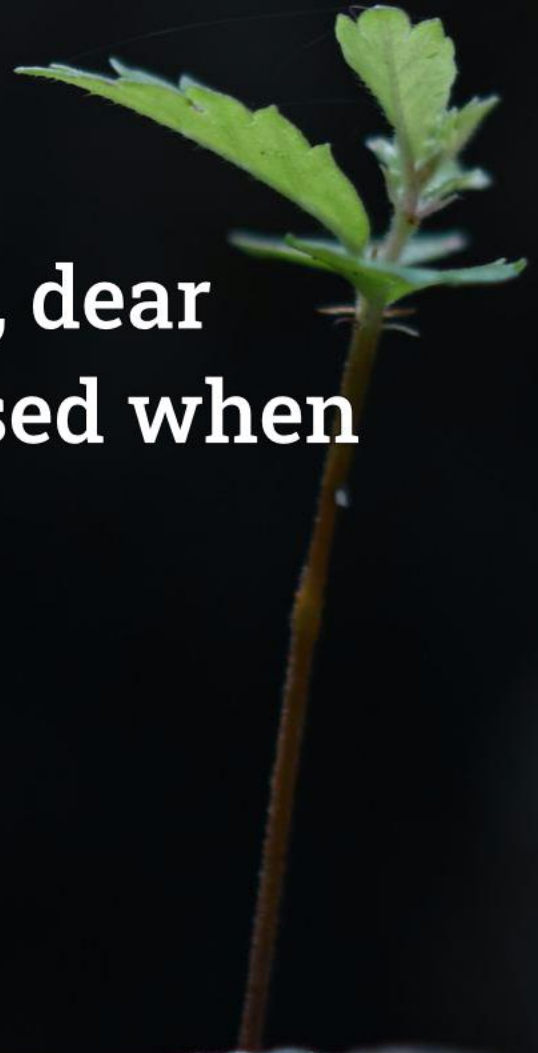
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³When people are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.



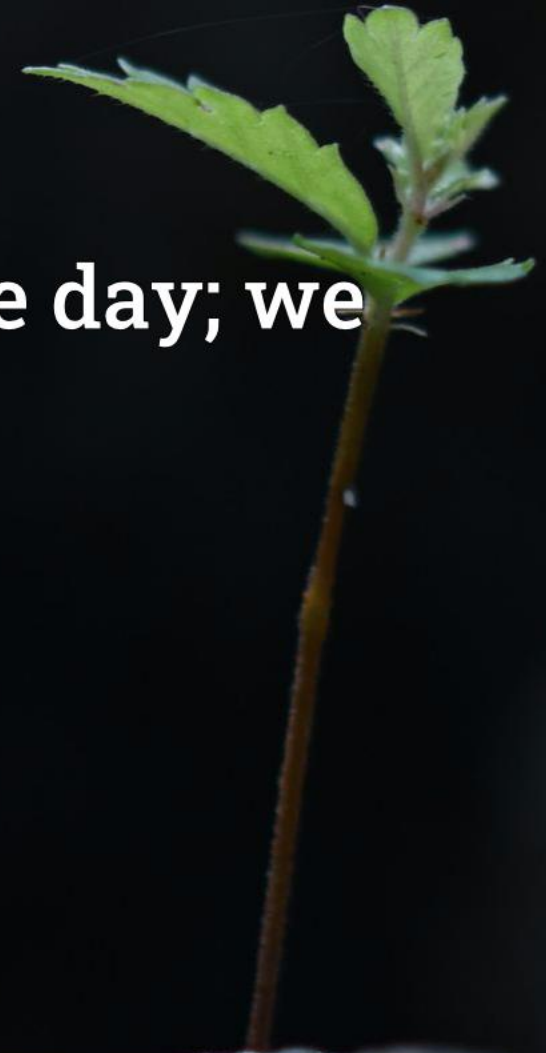
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

⁴But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.



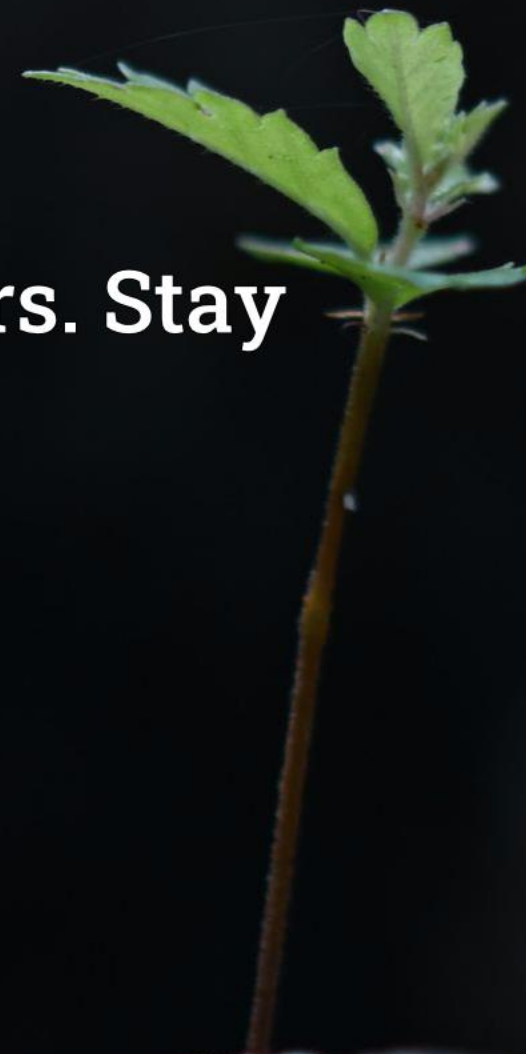
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

⁵For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night.



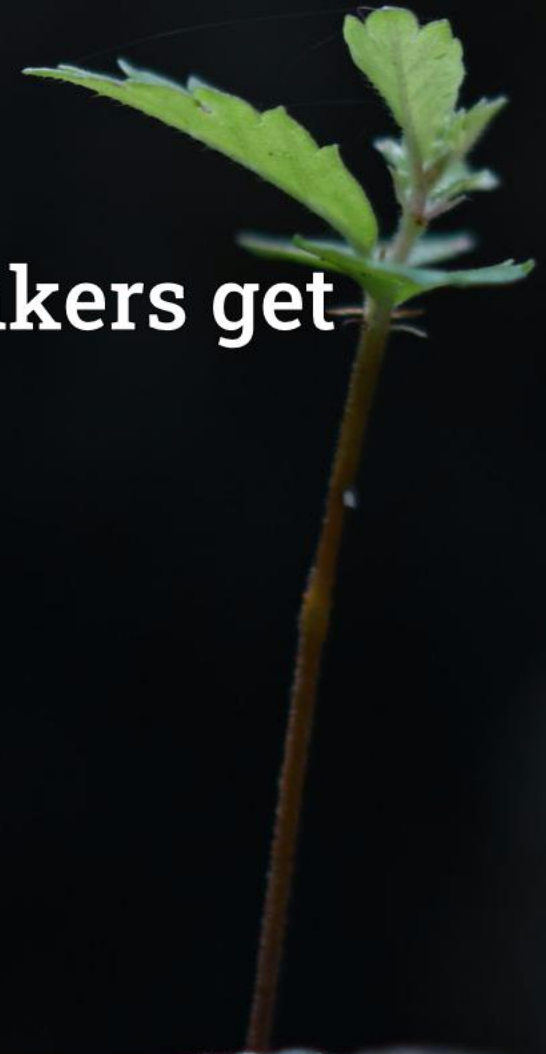
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6So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.



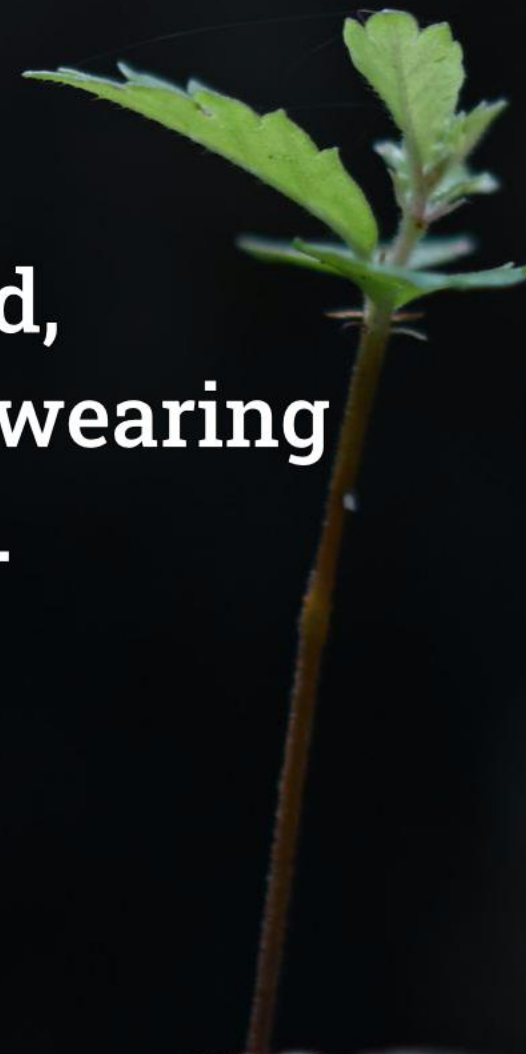
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⁷Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk.



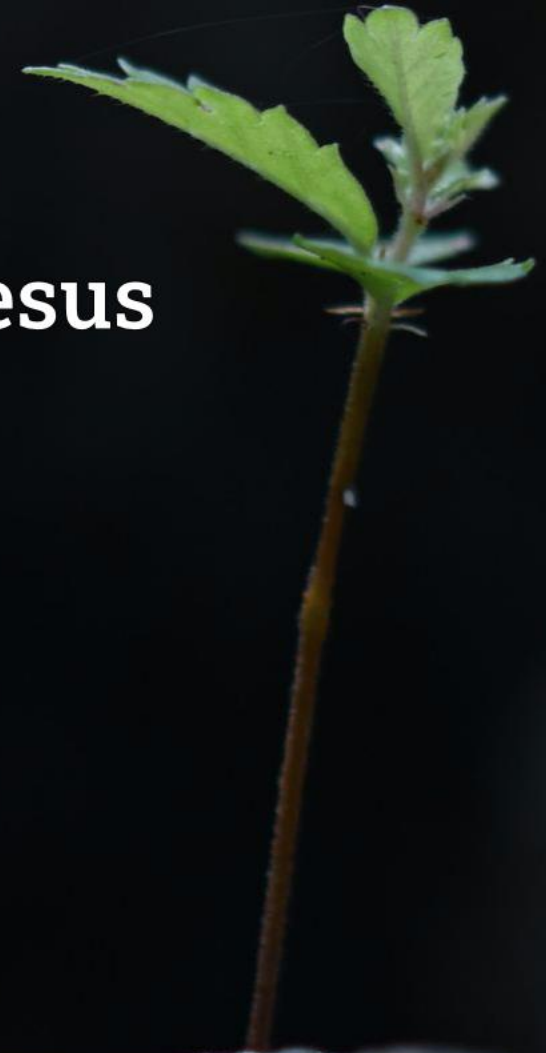
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8But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.



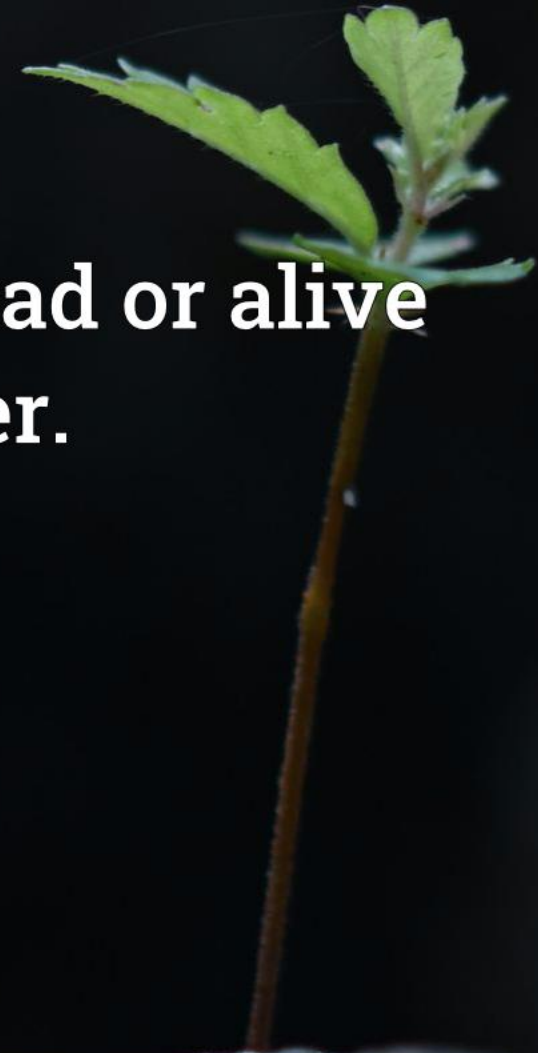
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

9For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.



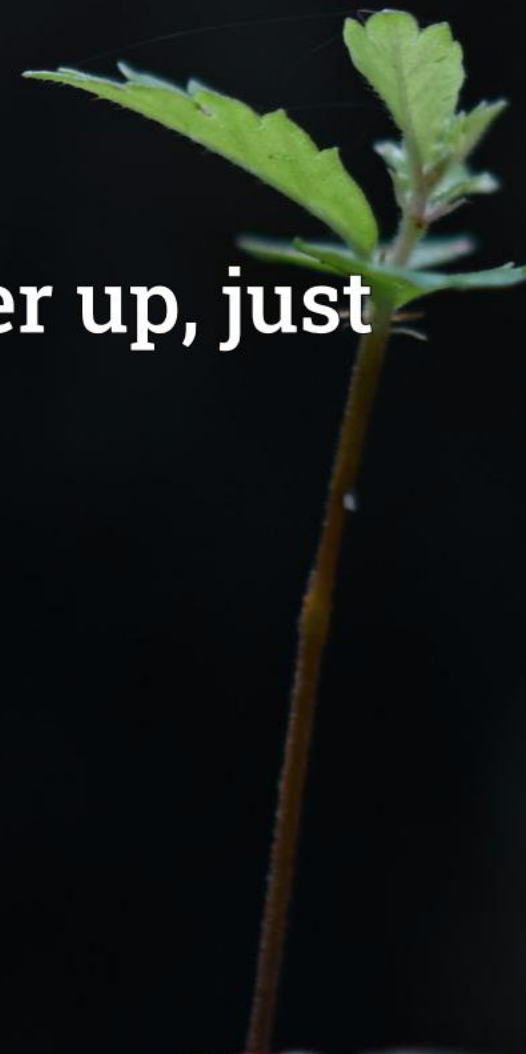
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

¹⁰Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever.



1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (NLT)

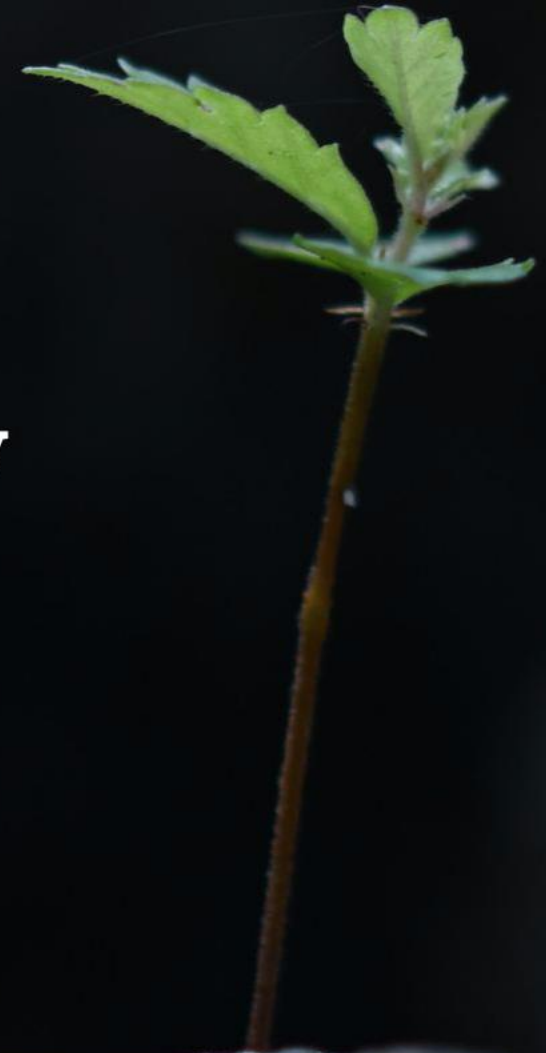
¹¹So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.



Death and Unshakable Christian Hope
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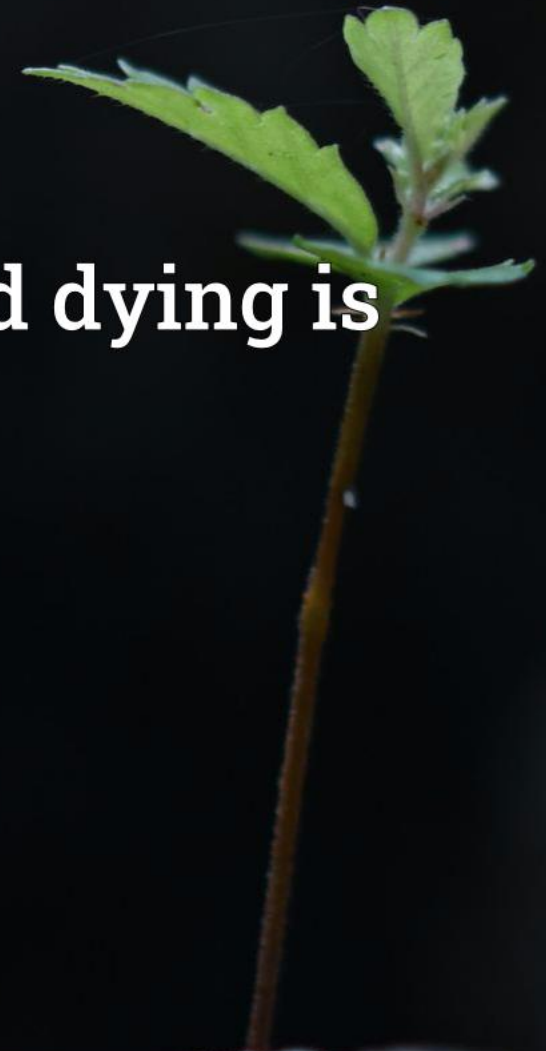


**1: How we handle death is determined by
how we view our future (Phil. 1:21-23)**



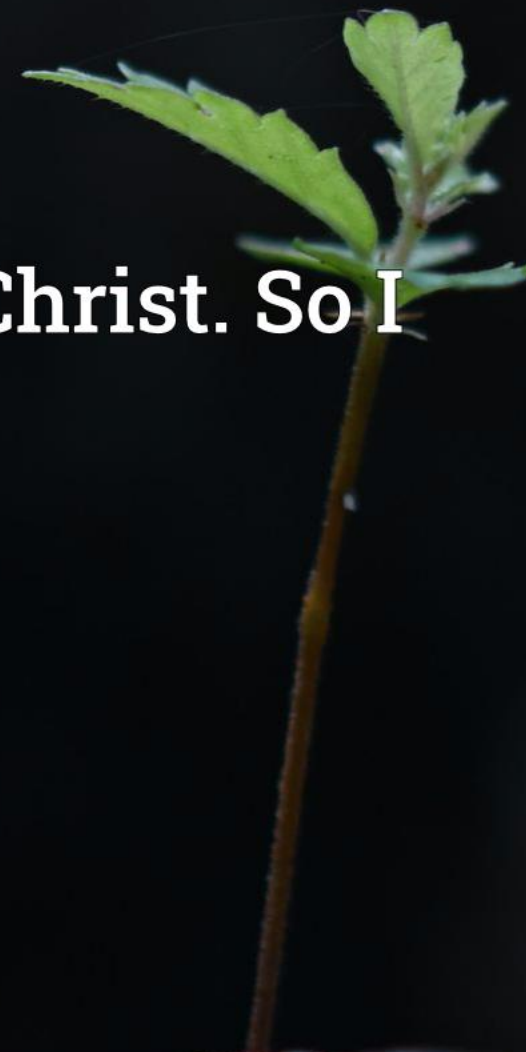
Philippians 1:21-23 (NLT)

²¹For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.



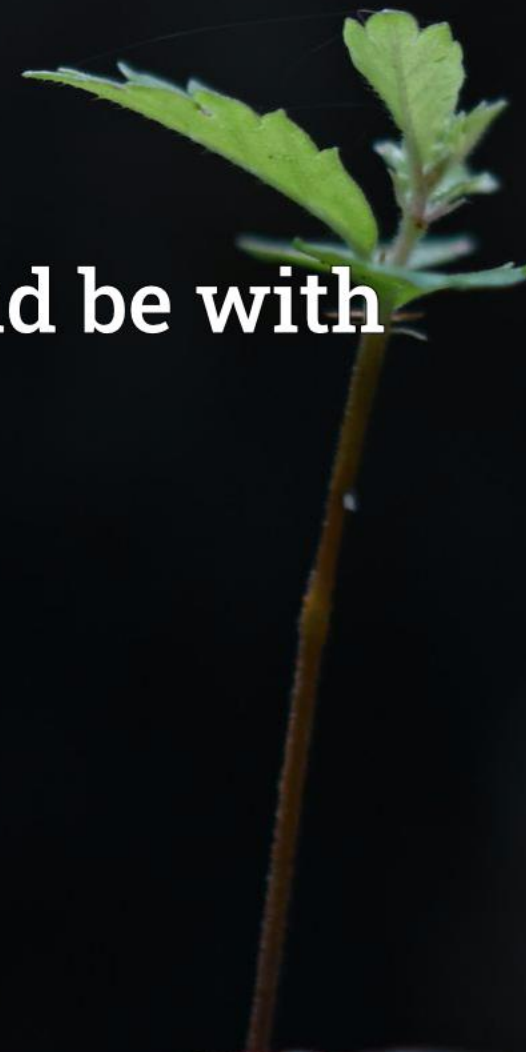
Philippians 1:21-23 (NLT)

²²But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better.



Philippians 1:21-23 (NLT)

²³I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.

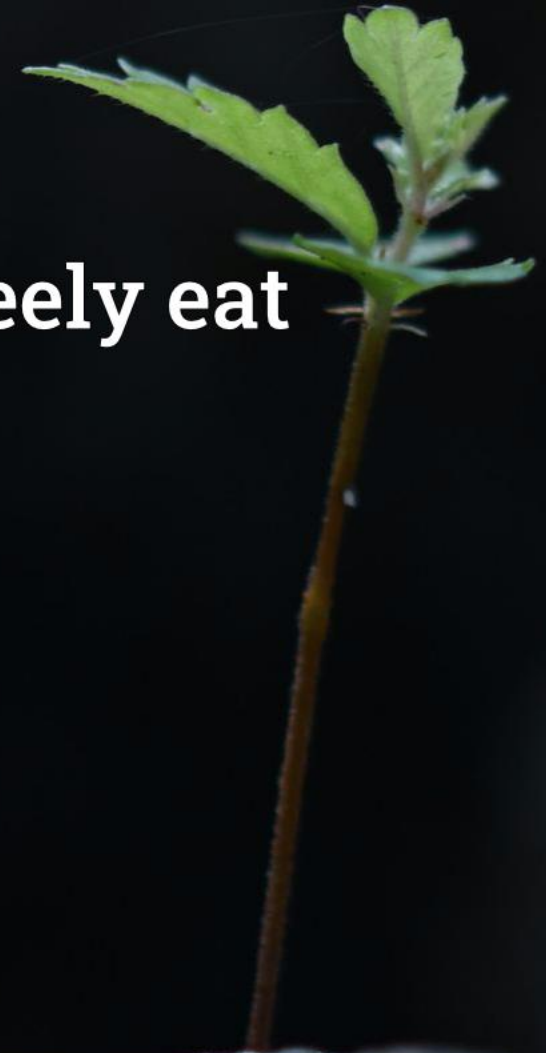


**2: Death is not Natural
(Genesis 2:16-17)**



Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT)

¹⁶But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—



Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT)

¹⁷except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

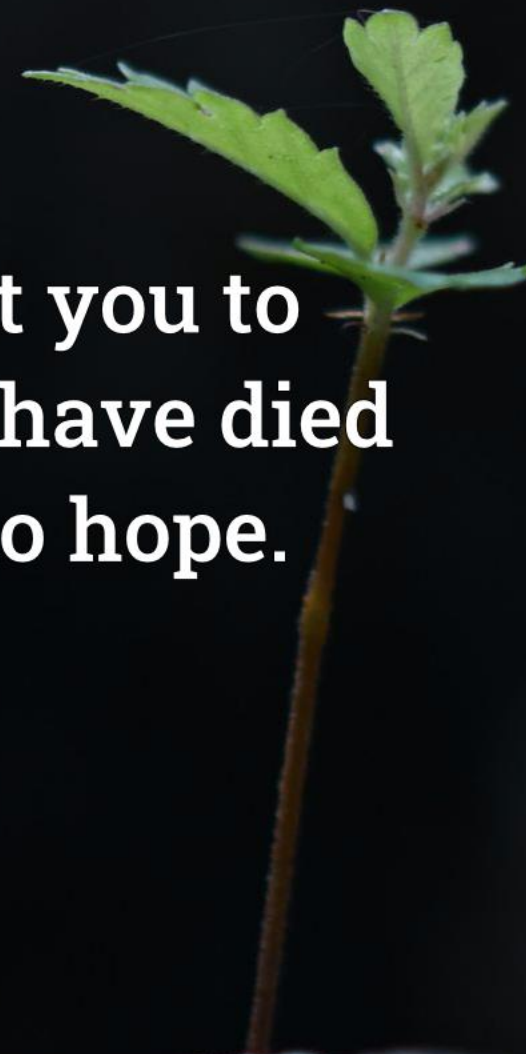


**3: Because Death is not Natural, Grieving
When Someone Dies is Natural**



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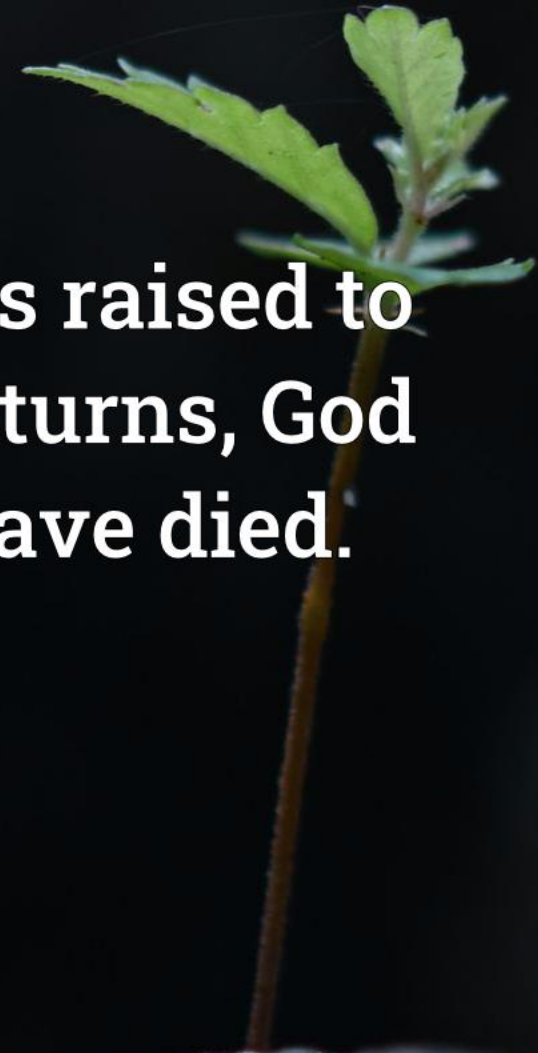


**4: Christian Hope is Not a Wish
but Assurance**



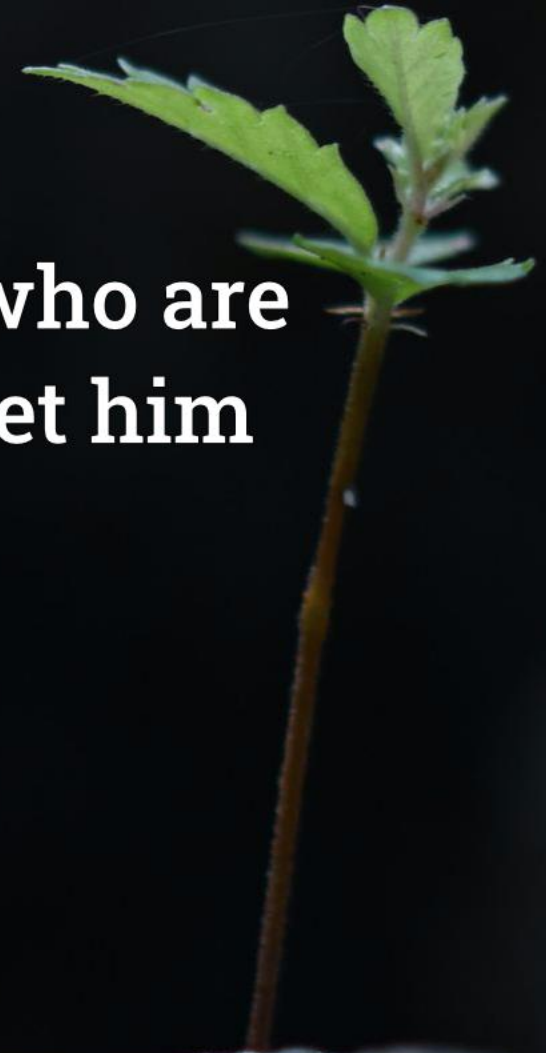
1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 (NLT)

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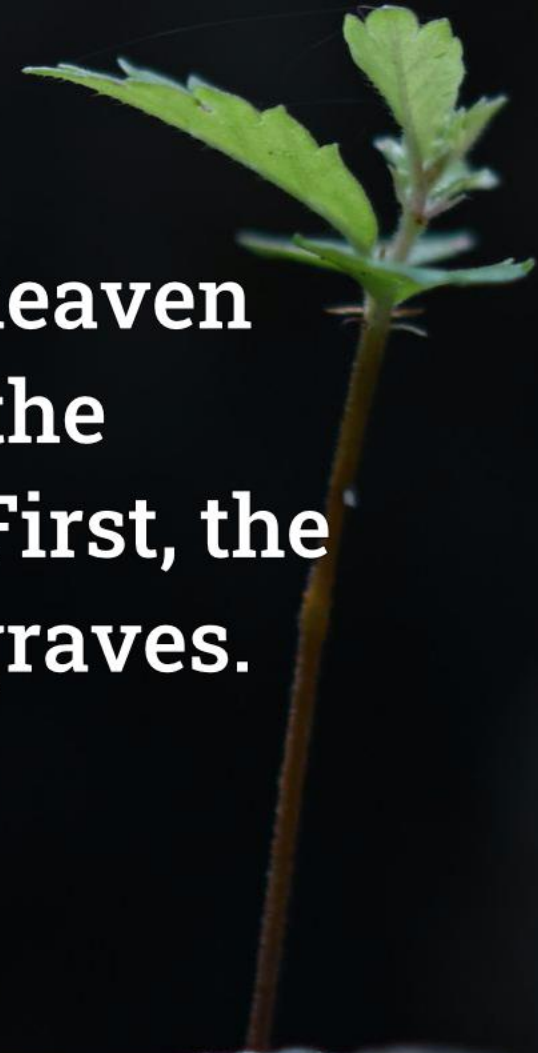
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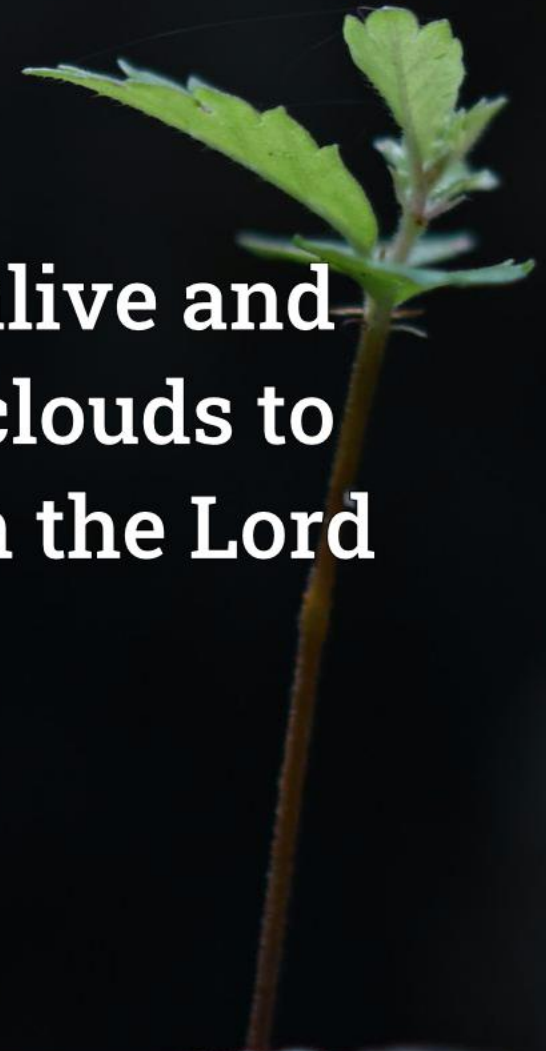
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