



*For Unto Us*

The Promise of Christmas  
in the Book of Isaiah



<sup>1</sup> "Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan ...

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

...<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you, as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ...

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

...<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ...

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

...<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ...

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

...<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

# CHRISTMAS AND THE HOLIDAYS: WHAT DO YOU MOST LOOK FORWARD TO?

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Time with Friends and Family <b>67%</b>	Acts of Generosity <b>3%</b>
Religious / Church <b>11%</b>	Food / Drinks <b>2%</b>
People are Happy / Joyful <b>7%</b>	Winter Weather / Snow <b>1%</b>
Christmas Spirit <b>4%</b>	Shopping / Good Deals <b>1%</b>
Music / Decorations / Movies <b>4%</b>	Other <b>4%</b>
Giving / Exchanging Gifts <b>4%</b>	Nothing /End of Christmas <b>4%</b>
Vacation / Time to Rest <b>3%</b>	Don't Know / Refused <b>2%</b>

"When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?"

*Isaiah 8:19*

<sup>21</sup> "Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. <sup>22</sup> Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom..."

*Isaiah 8:21-22*

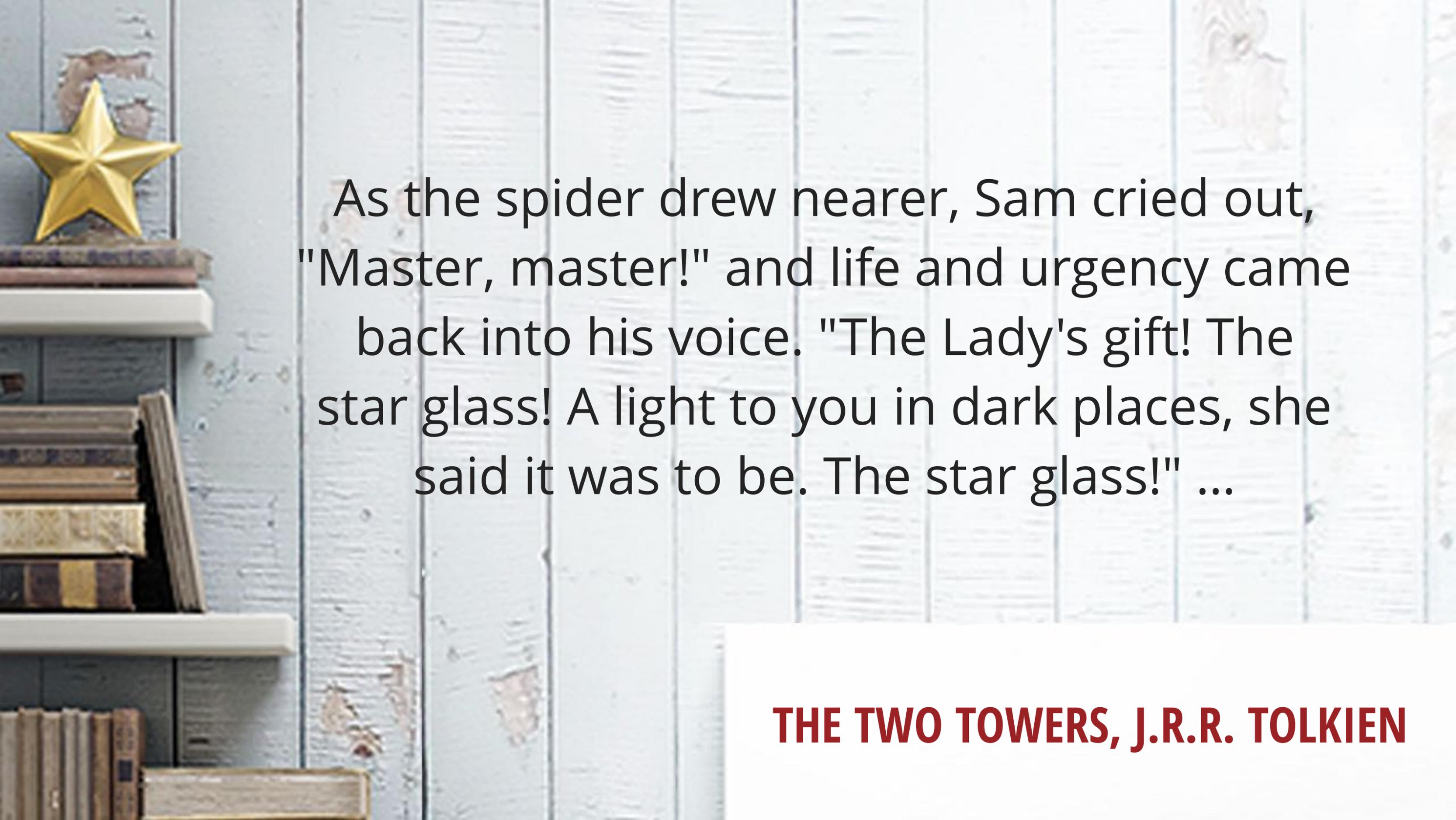
# CYCLE OF DARKNESS

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- ★ begins with a life oriented apart from God
- ★ that life become more distressed as it becomes less satisfied
- ★ instead of turning to God, that life looks "down into the earth"
- ★ that life is trying to solve its deepest problems with human solutions alone, *which only causes that life to move farther and farther from its true source of help*

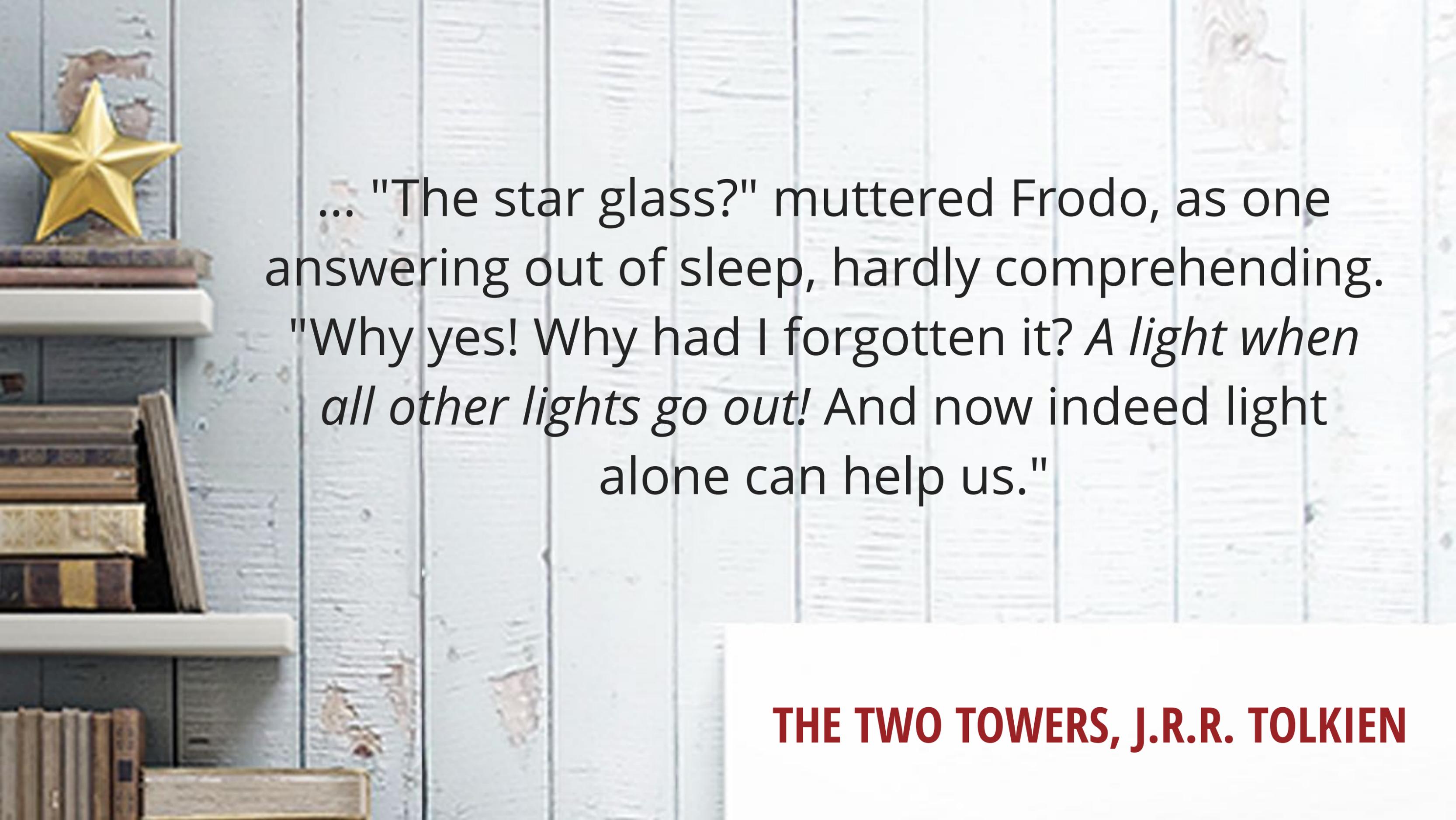
"...and they will be thrust  
into utter darkness."

*Isaiah 8:22*



As the spider drew nearer, Sam cried out, "Master, master!" and life and urgency came back into his voice. "The Lady's gift! The star glass! A light to you in dark places, she said it was to be. The star glass!" ...

**THE TWO TOWERS, J.R.R. TOLKIEN**



... "The star glass?" muttered Frodo, as one answering out of sleep, hardly comprehending. "Why yes! Why had I forgotten it? *A light when all other lights go out!* And now indeed light alone can help us."

**THE TWO TOWERS, J.R.R. TOLKIEN**

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*Isaiah 9:1-2*

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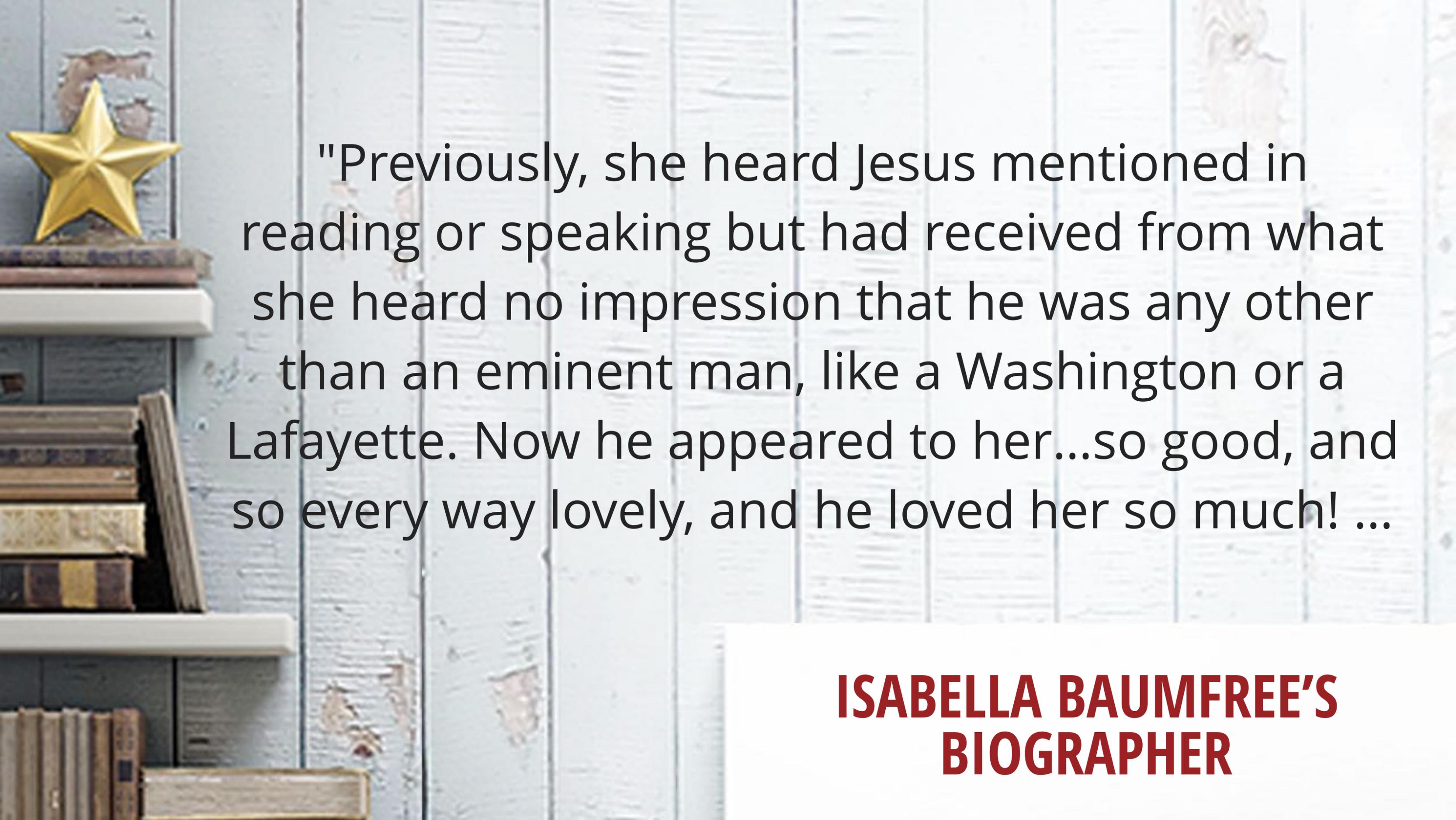
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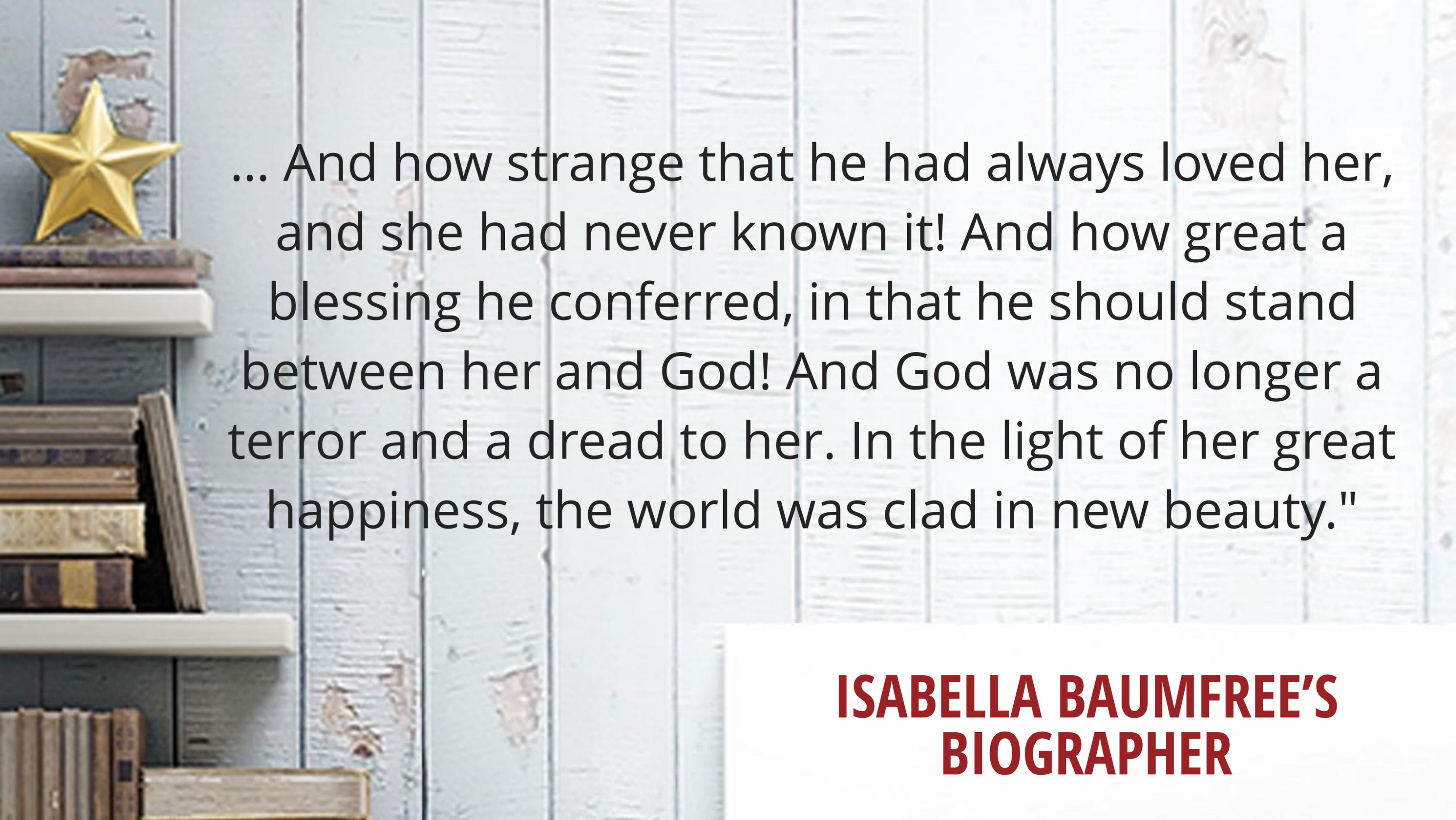
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*Isaiah 9:1-2*



"Previously, she heard Jesus mentioned in reading or speaking but had received from what she heard no impression that he was any other than an eminent man, like a Washington or a Lafayette. Now he appeared to her...so good, and so every way lovely, and he loved her so much! ...

**ISABELLA BAUMFREE'S  
BIOGRAPHER**

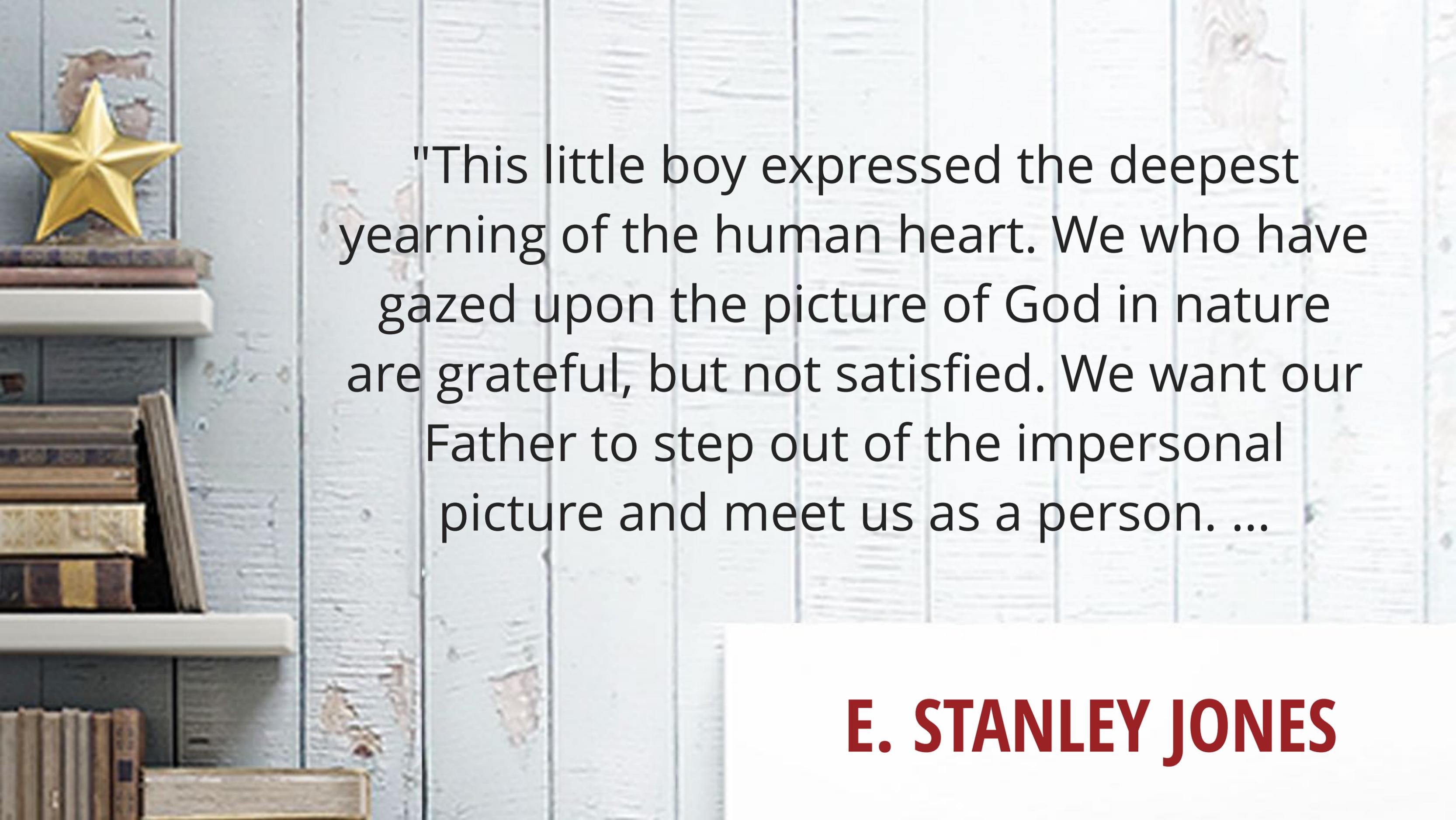


... And how strange that he had always loved her, and she had never known it! And how great a blessing he conferred, in that he should stand between her and God! And God was no longer a terror and a dread to her. In the light of her great happiness, the world was clad in new beauty."

**ISABELLA BAUMFREE'S  
BIOGRAPHER**

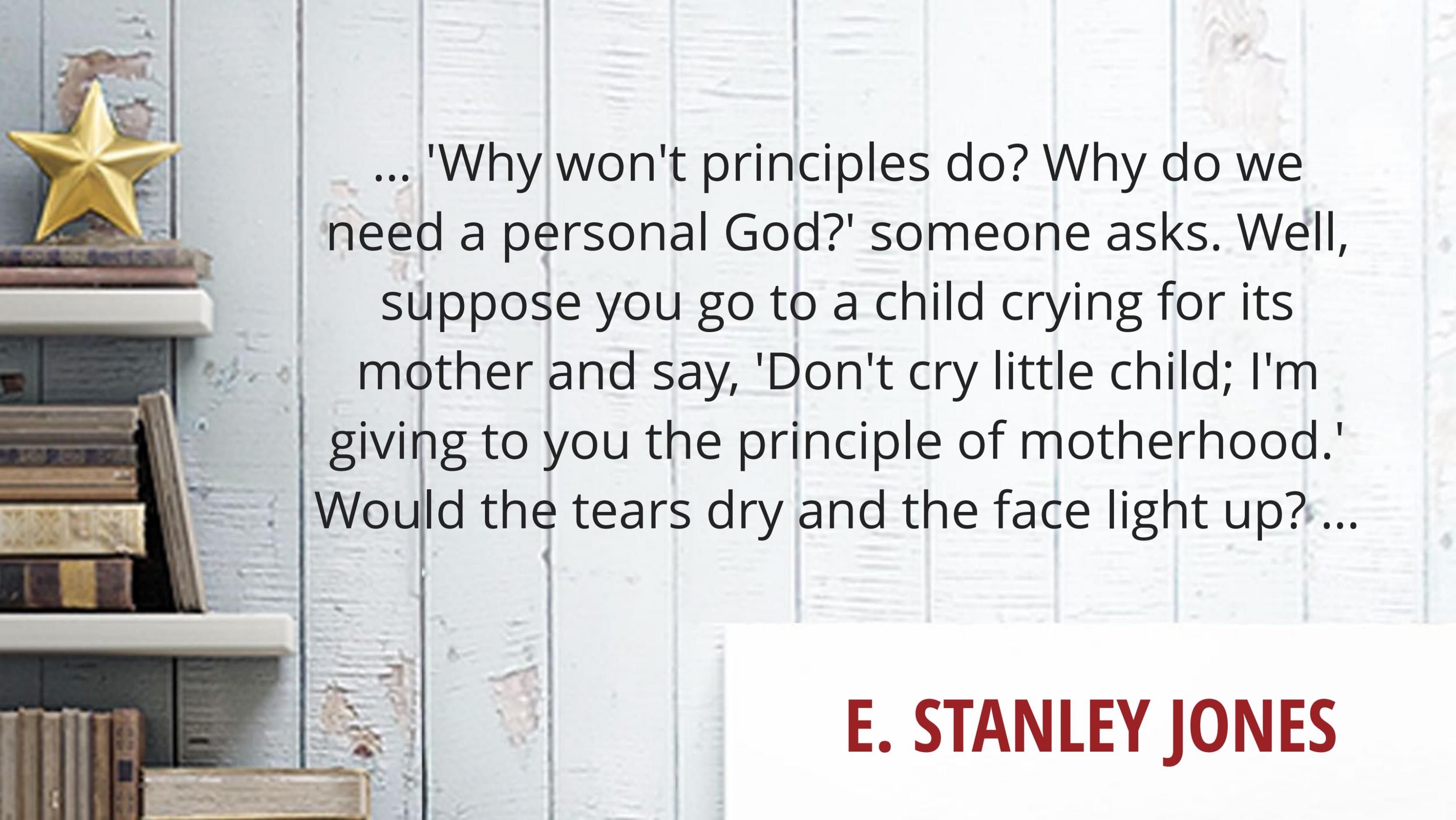
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*Isaiah 9:6-7*



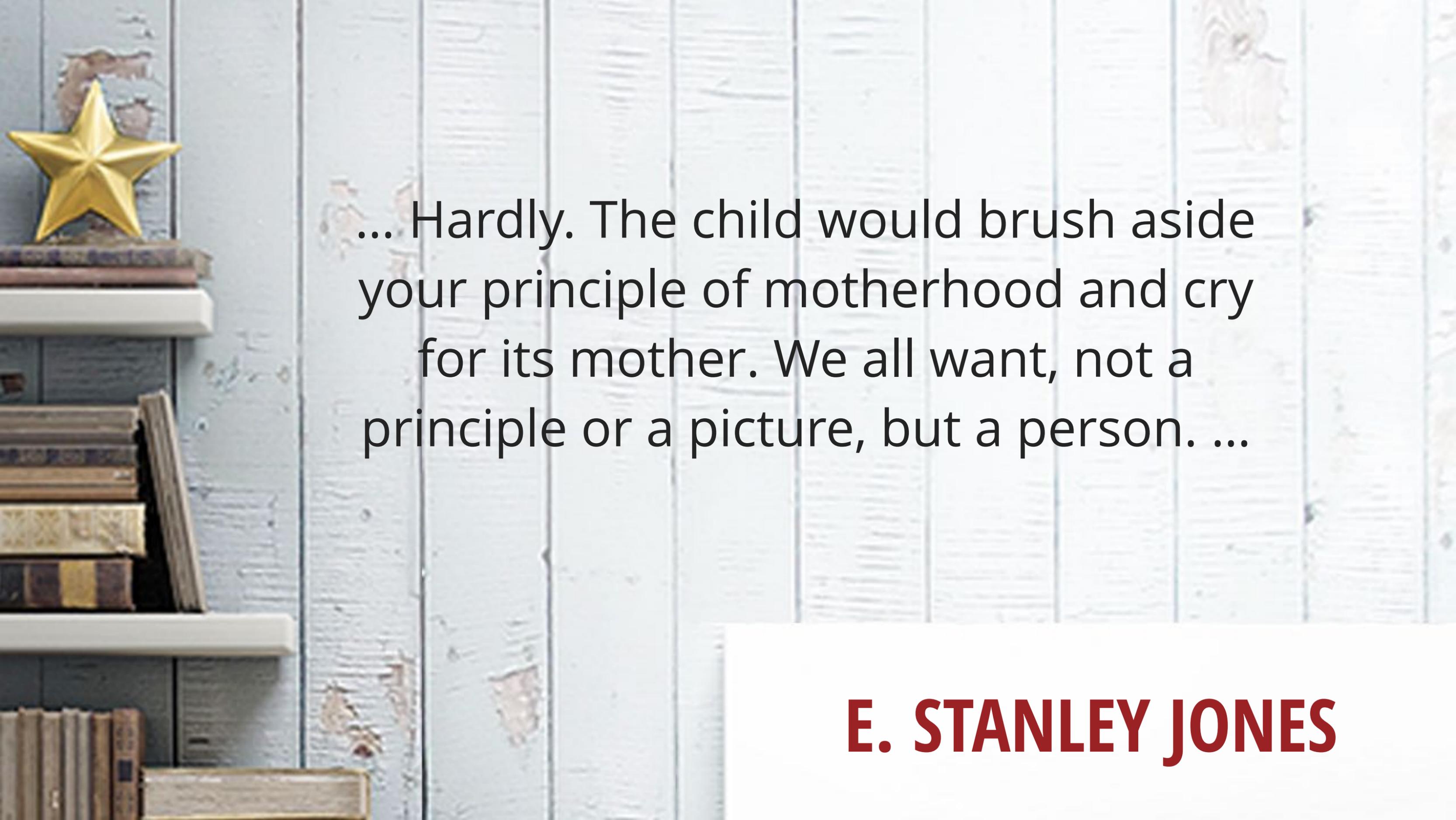
"This little boy expressed the deepest yearning of the human heart. We who have gazed upon the picture of God in nature are grateful, but not satisfied. We want our Father to step out of the impersonal picture and meet us as a person. ...

**E. STANLEY JONES**



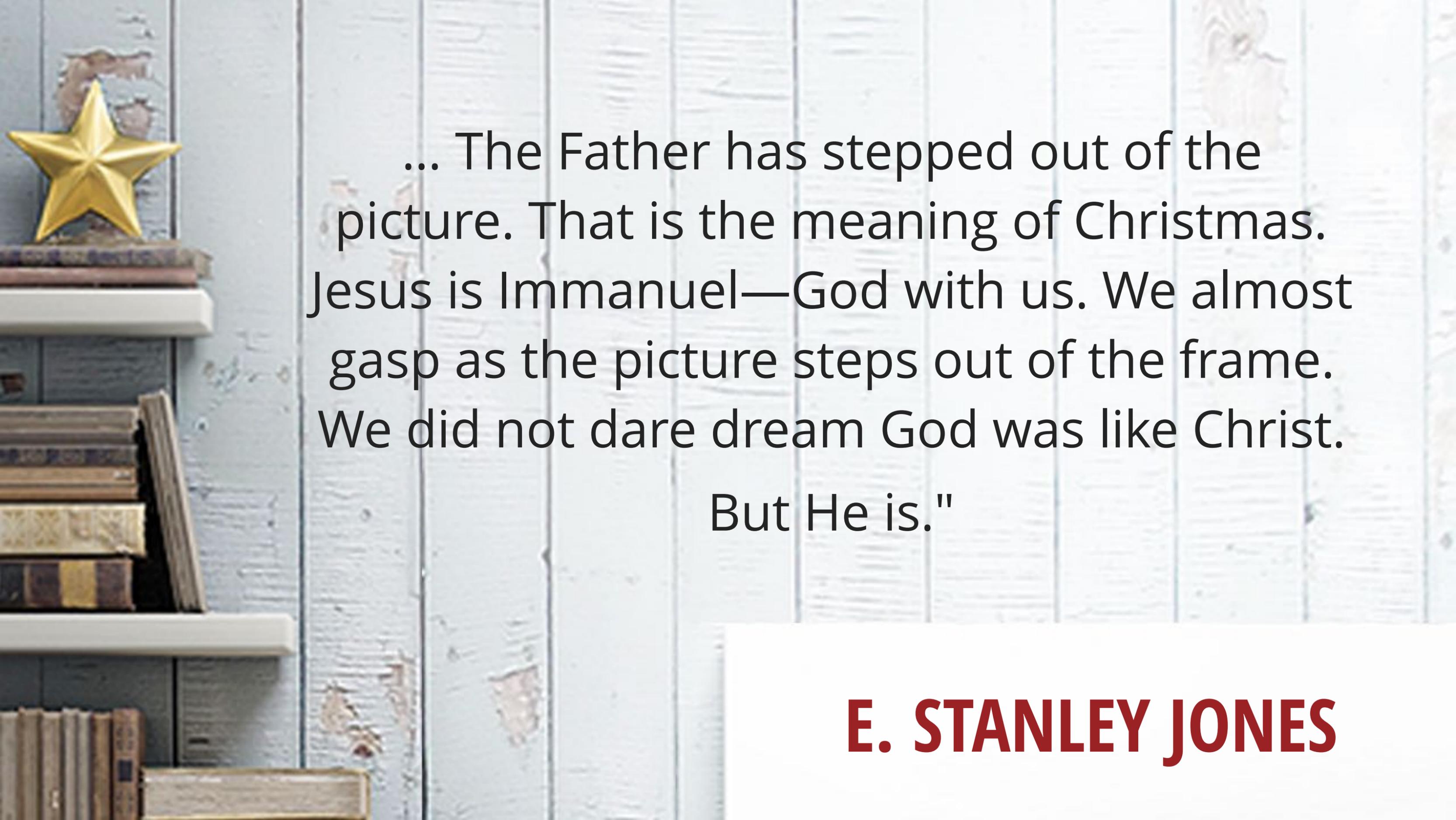
... 'Why won't principles do? Why do we need a personal God?' someone asks. Well, suppose you go to a child crying for its mother and say, 'Don't cry little child; I'm giving to you the principle of motherhood.' Would the tears dry and the face light up? ...

**E. STANLEY JONES**



... Hardly. The child would brush aside your principle of motherhood and cry for its mother. We all want, not a principle or a picture, but a person. ...

**E. STANLEY JONES**



... The Father has stepped out of the picture. That is the meaning of Christmas. Jesus is Immanuel—God with us. We almost gasp as the picture steps out of the frame. We did not dare dream God was like Christ.

But He is."

**E. STANLEY JONES**



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