

## Courage in Persecution

1 Peter 4:15-19

If you understand God's plan for judgment and entrust yourself to Him, you will find courage and will glorify God when persecuted as a Christian.

1. Be sure you are suffering for the right reason.
  - a. Not because of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. But as a \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. Understand God's plan for judgment.
  - a. God has begun the judgment from \_\_\_\_\_ His house.
  - b. God is \_\_\_\_\_ final judgment for the unbeliever.
  
3. Entrust your soul to God.
  - a. Trust that He is your \_\_\_\_\_ Creator.
  - b. Trust that He knows the \_\_\_\_\_.

# First Peter

To God's Chosen Ones



A close-up, high-angle photograph of a silver fountain pen writing on a document. The pen is positioned vertically, with its nib touching the paper. The document has faint, cursive handwriting in dark ink. The lighting is soft, creating a gentle shadow of the pen on the paper to the right. The overall tone is professional and focused.

# Courage in Persecution

**1 Peter 4:15-19**

### **1 Peter 4:15-19**

Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer,  
or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;  
but if anyone suffers as a Christian,  
let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this respect.  
For it is time for judgment to begin with the house of God;  
and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome  
for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

### **1 Peter 4:15-19**

And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved,  
what will become of the godless man and the sinner?  
Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God  
entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

# Big Idea:

If you understand God's plan for judgment and entrust yourself to Him, you will find courage and will glorify God when persecuted as a Christian.

# Courage in Persecution

Be sure you are suffering  
for the right reason.

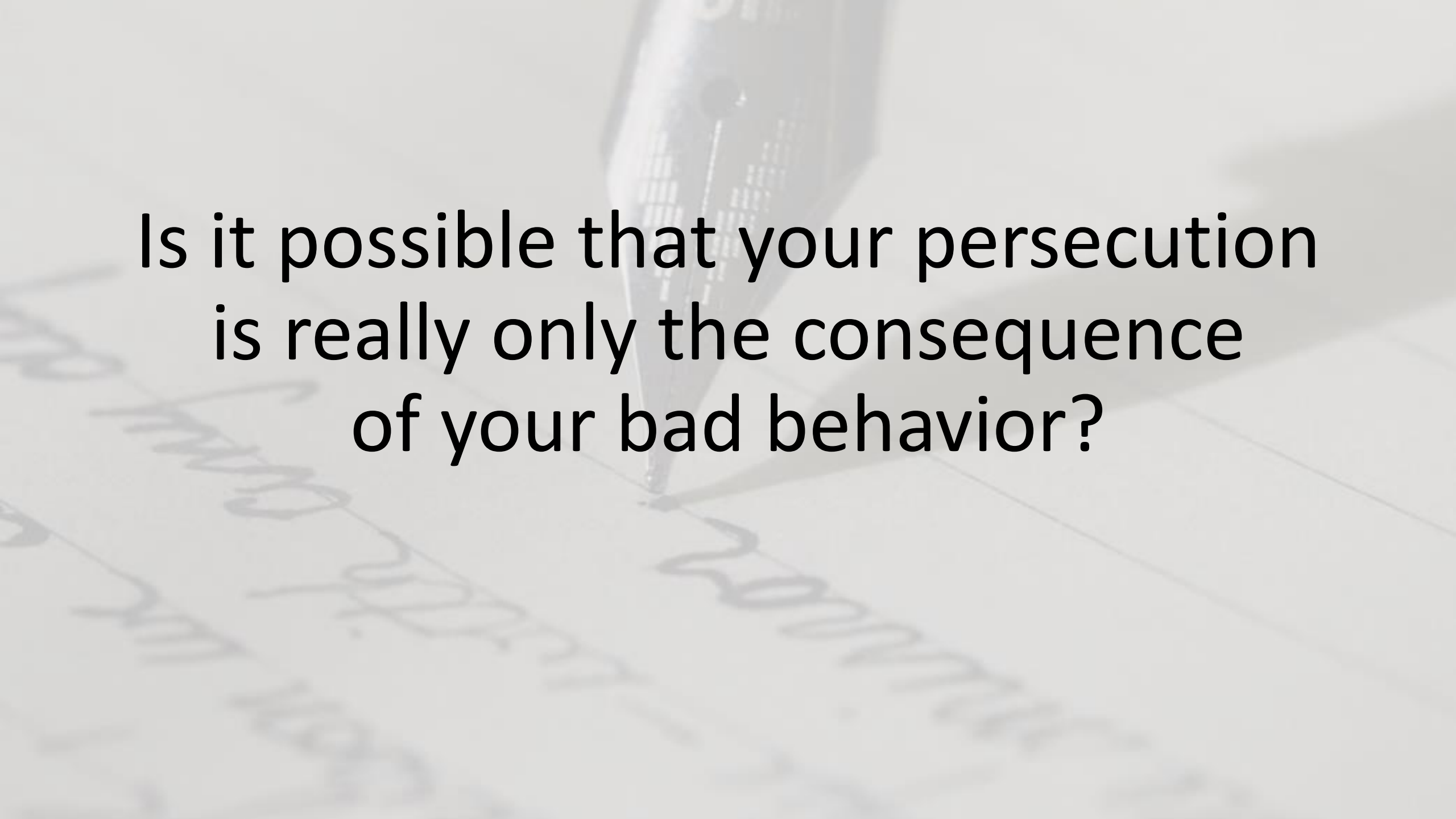
**Persecution for the right reason:**

*Do not be persecuted as an evil doer.*



### **1 Peter 4:15-17**

Do not let any of you suffer as a murderer,  
or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;  
but if anyone suffers as a Christian,  
let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this respect.  
For it is time for judgment to begin with the house of God;  
and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome  
for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

A close-up, slightly blurred image of a fountain pen writing on a document. The pen is positioned vertically, and its nib is touching the paper. The background shows faint, cursive handwriting on a lined document. The overall tone is light and professional.

Is it possible that your persecution  
is really only the consequence  
of your bad behavior?

# Persecution for the right reason:

*Do not be persecuted as an evil doer.*

*Be persecuted as a Christian.*

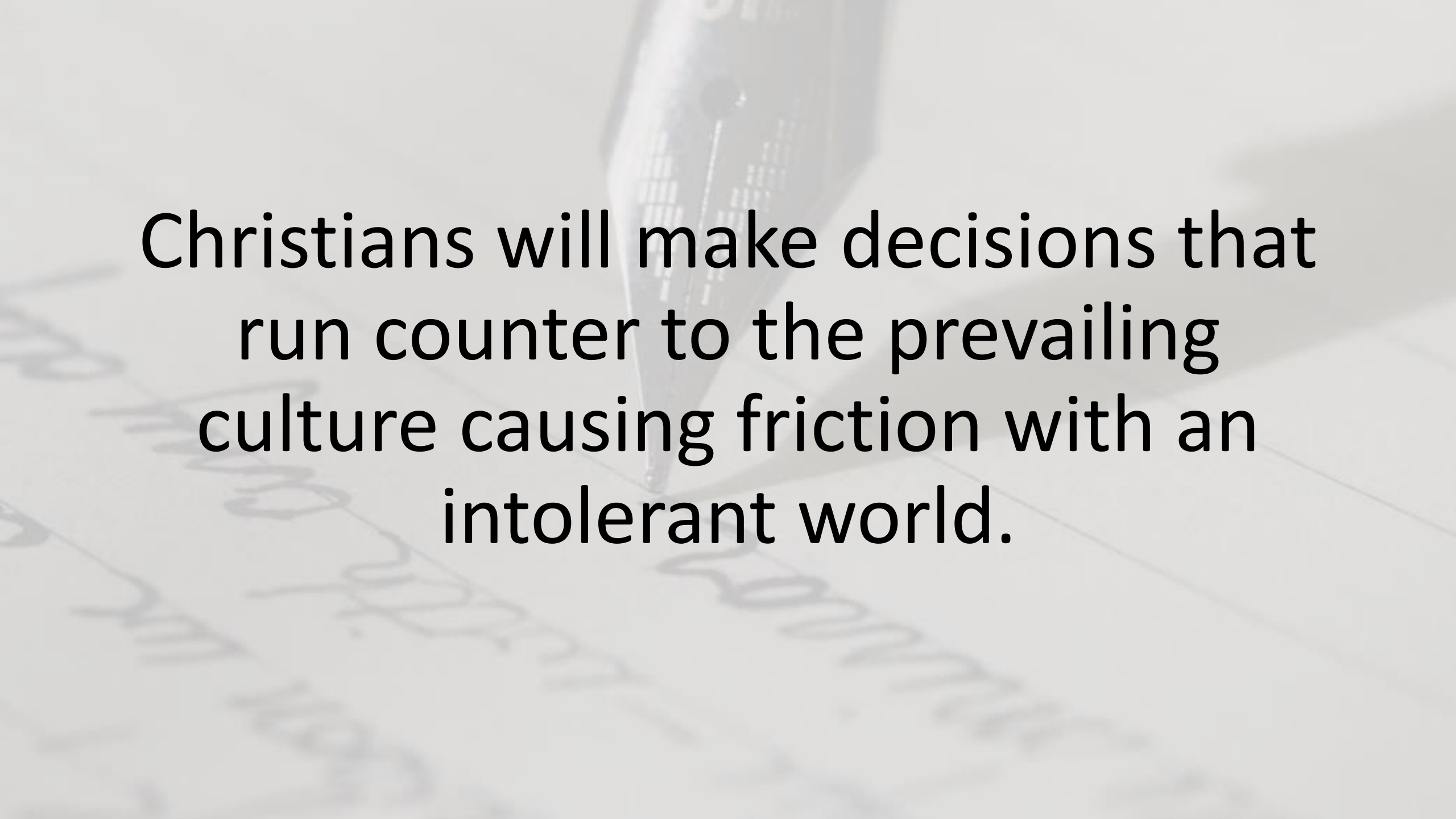
## **1 Peter 4:15-17**

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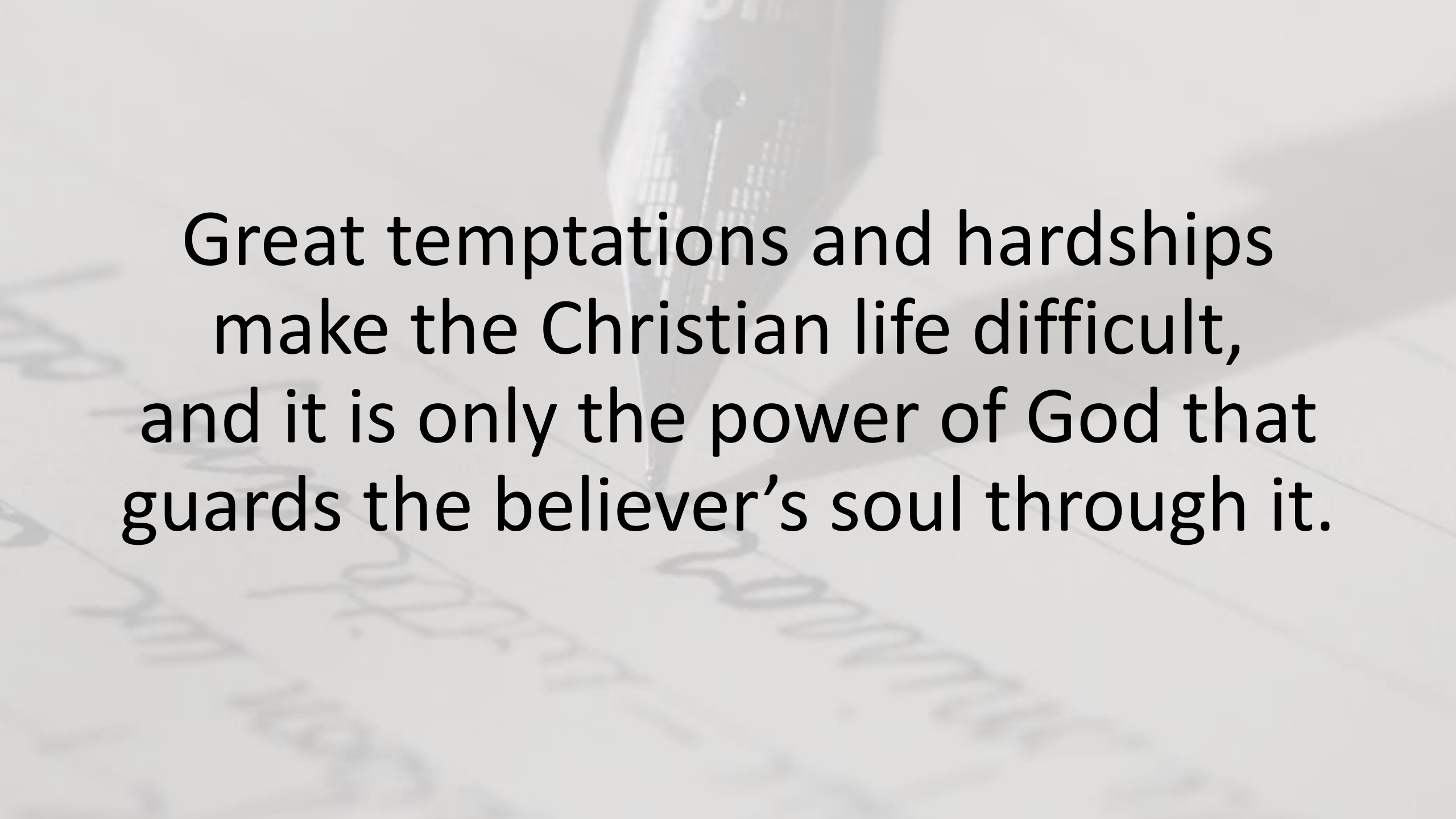
For it is time for judgment to begin with the house of God;  
and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome  
for those who do not obey the gospel of God?



Christians will make decisions that run counter to the prevailing culture causing friction with an intolerant world.

**1 Peter 4:18**

And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved,  
what will become of the godless man and the sinner?



Great temptations and hardships  
make the Christian life difficult,  
and it is only the power of God that  
guards the believer's soul through it.

## 1 Peter 1:5

...who are **protected by the power of God** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.



A close-up, grayscale photograph of a fountain pen's nib writing on a document. The pen is positioned vertically, and its nib is in contact with the paper, creating a small ink dot. The background shows faint, cursive handwriting on lined paper, which is out of focus. The overall tone is professional and contemplative.

# Courage in Persecution

Be sure you are suffering for the right reason.

**Understand God's plan for judgment.**

**1 Peter 4:16-17**

But if anyone suffers as a Christian,  
let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this respect.  
For it is time for judgment to begin with the house of God;  
and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome  
for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

# Understanding God's plan for judgment

*God has begun His judgment  
from within the Church.*

1 Peter 4:17

For it is time for judgment to begin **with the house of God;**

and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome  
for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

# Old Testament Background

## Malachi 3:1-3

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.

But who can endure the day of His coming?

And who can stand when He appears?

For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.

# Old Testament Background

## 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

# Old Testament Background

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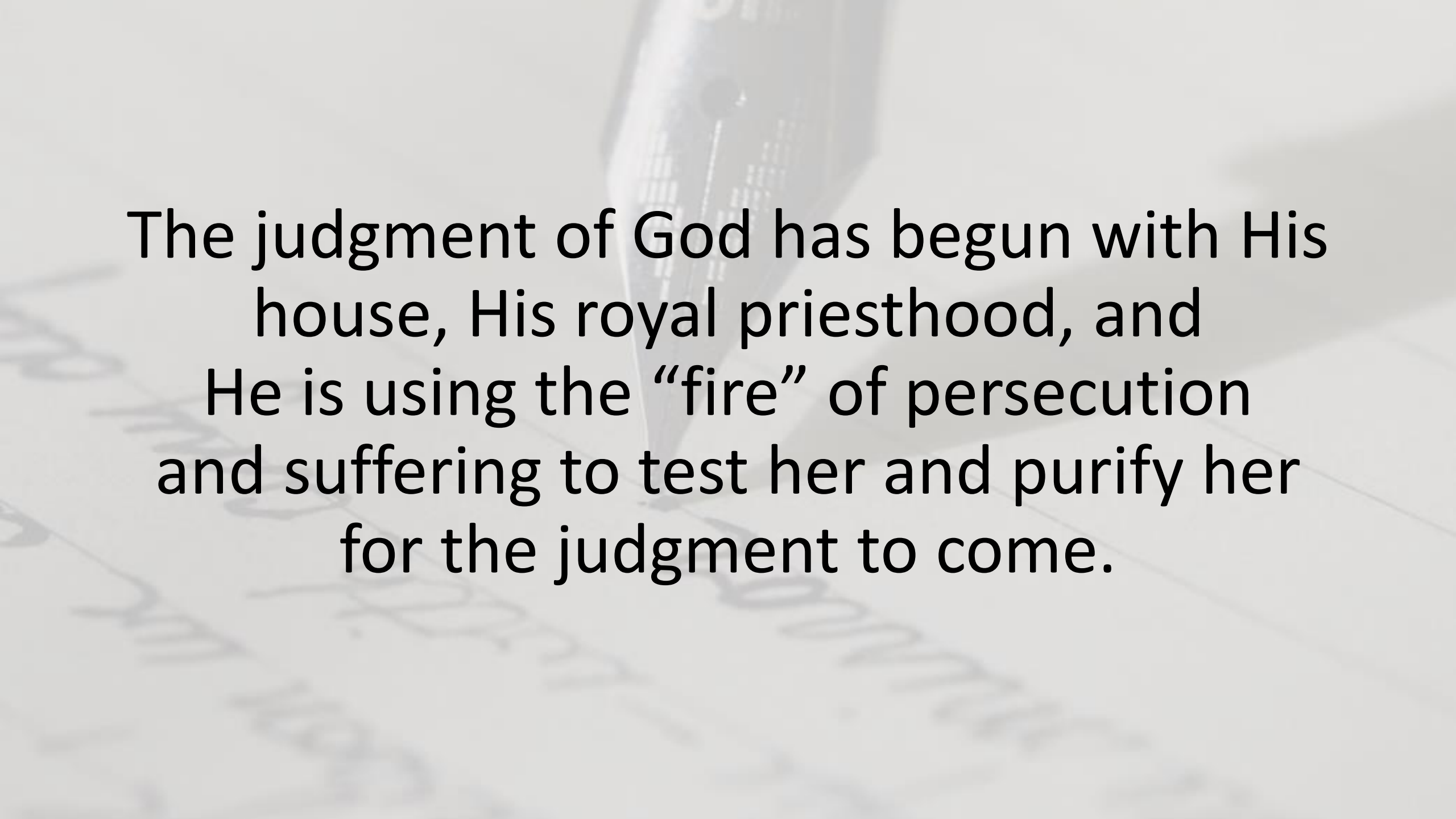
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**that they  
may present to the LORD  
offerings in righteousness.**

A fountain pen is positioned vertically in the center of the image, resting on a document. The document has faint, illegible handwriting. The background is a light, neutral color.

The judgment of God has begun with His house, His royal priesthood, and He is using the “fire” of persecution and suffering to test her and purify her for the judgment to come.



## 1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal** among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you.

God has always begun His work of purification from within His house.

## 1 Peter 4:17-18

For **it is time for judgment to begin with the house of God;**

and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome  
for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved,  
what will become of the godless man and the sinner?

# Understanding God's plan for judgment

*God has begun His judgment from within the Church.*

*God is delaying **final judgment**  
for the unbeliever to the end.*

# Final Judgment

**1 Peter 4:17-18**

For it is time for judgment to begin with the house of God;  
and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome  
for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved,  
what will become of the godless man and the sinner?

# Old Testament Background

Proverbs 11:31

If the righteous are being saved with difficulty,  
How will the wicked and the sinner appear!

God preserves those whom He has made  
righteous, but the wicked and the sinner  
will not stand in the judgment.

# Courage in Persecution

Be sure you are suffering for the right reason.

Understand God's plan for judgment.

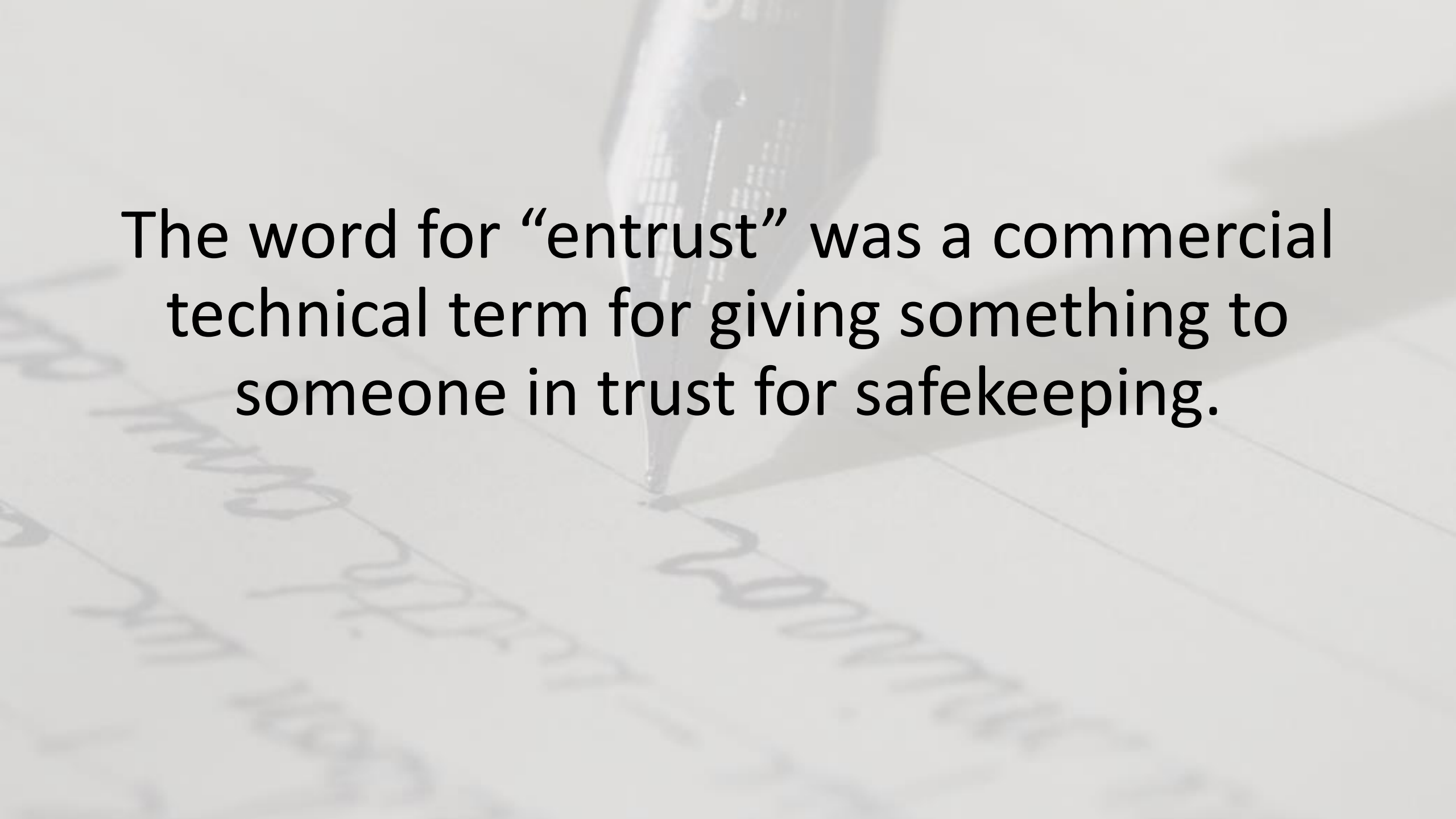
**Entrust your soul to God.**

## **1 Peter 4:19**

Therefore, let those also who suffer  
according to the will of God

**entrust their souls to a faithful Creator**

in doing what is right.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a fountain pen writing on a document. The pen is silver and black, and the ink is dark. The document has cursive handwriting, which is out of focus. The background is a light, neutral color.

The word for “entrust” was a commercial technical term for giving something to someone in trust for safekeeping.



# **Entrusting Your Soul**

*Trust that God is your  
faithful Creator.*

## 1 Peter 4:19

Therefore, let those also who suffer  
according to the will of God

entrust their souls **to a faithful Creator**  
in doing what is right.

# Entrusting Your Soul

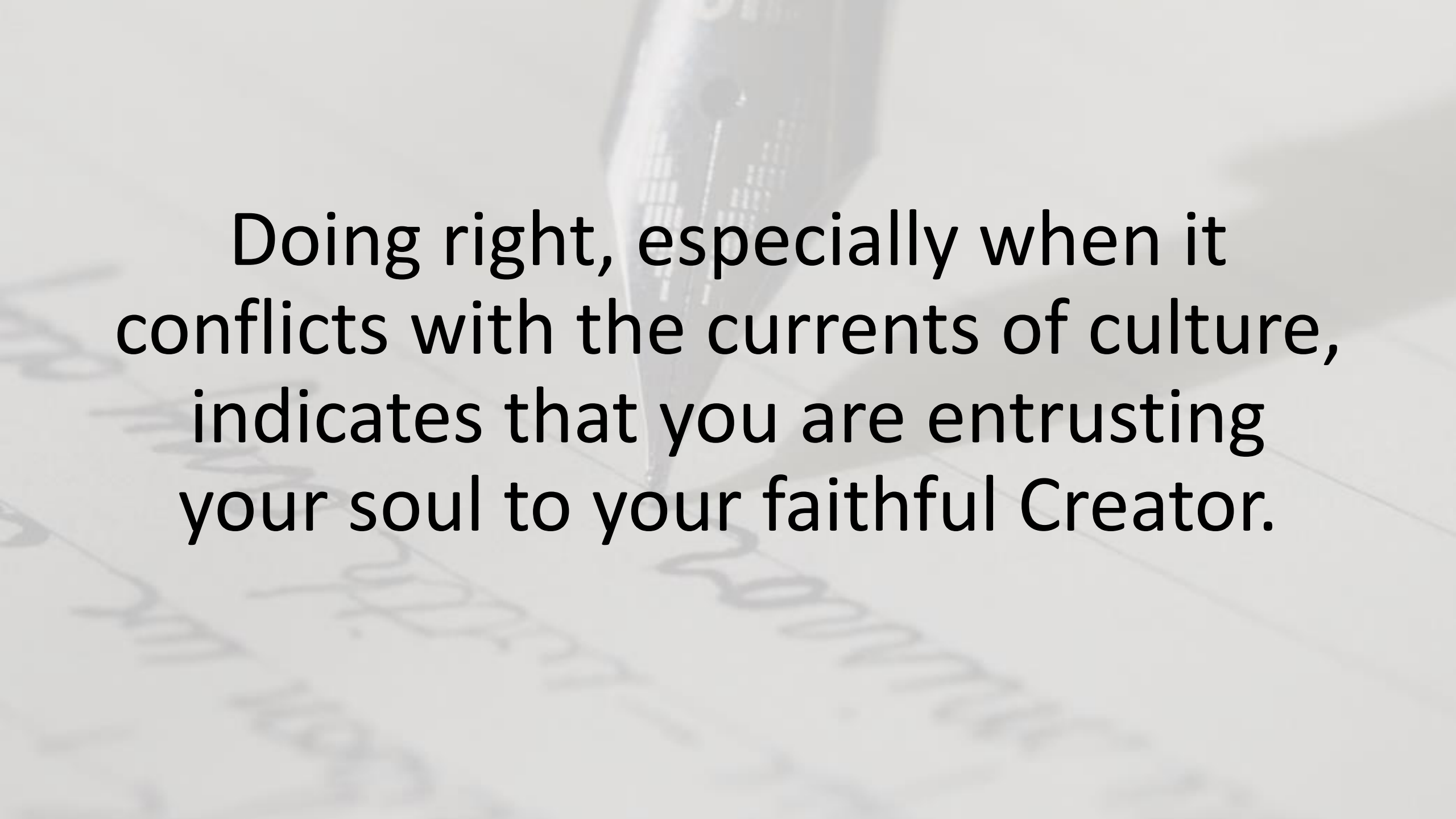
*Trust that God is your faithful Creator.*

*Trust that He knows the way.*

## **1 Peter 4:19**

Therefore, let those also who suffer  
according to the will of God  
entrust their souls to a faithful Creator

**in doing what is right.**

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Doing right, especially when it  
conflicts with the currents of culture,  
indicates that you are entrusting  
your soul to your faithful Creator.

# Conclusion:

When you entrust your soul to Christ and believe that He knows what He is doing, you will have courage to endure and will glorify God even in your sufferings.