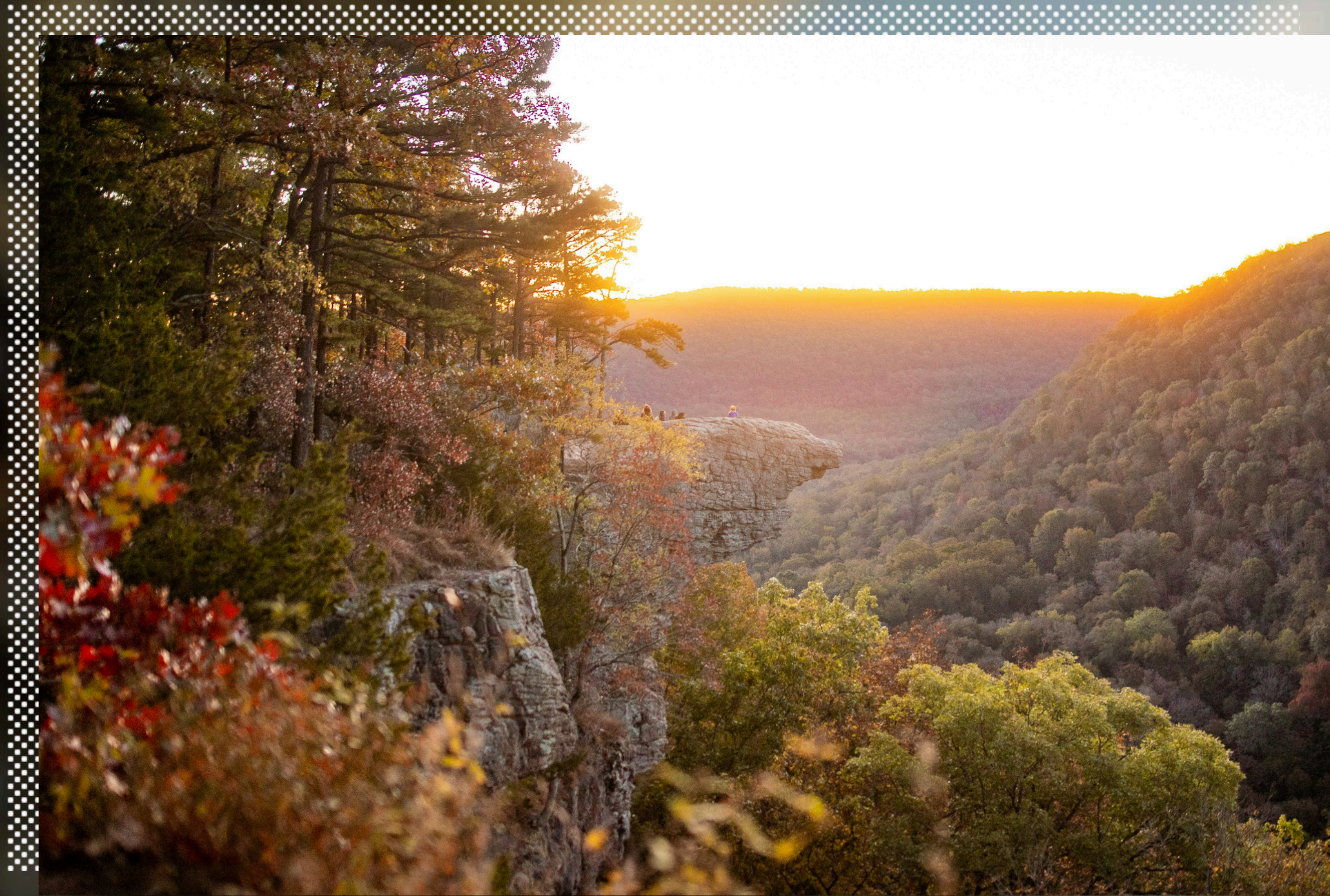


Acts.



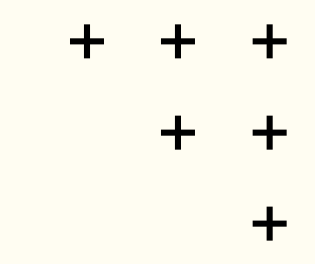


Acts 22:30-23:35

CHAOS

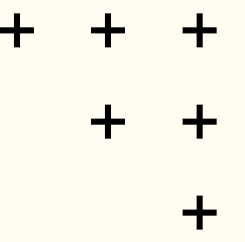
COMFORT

CONDUCTING



The commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews. So the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

ACTS 22:30 NIV

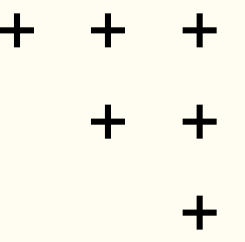


Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.”² At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.³ Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!”

⁴ Those who were standing near Paul said, “How dare you insult God’s high priest!”

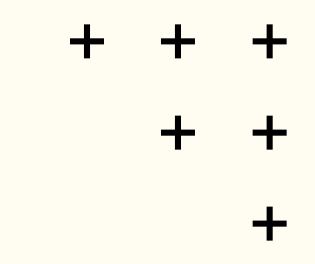
⁵ Paul replied, “Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: ‘Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.’”

ACTS 23:1-5 NIV



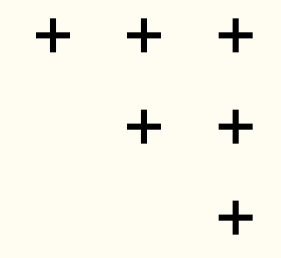
Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.”⁷ When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.⁸ (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)

ACTS 23:6-8 NIV



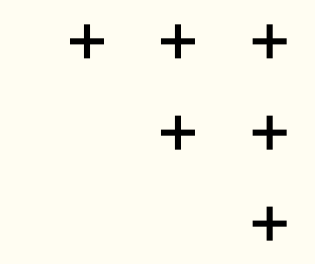
There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. “We find nothing wrong with this man,” they said. “What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?”¹⁰ The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

ACTS 23:9-10 NIV



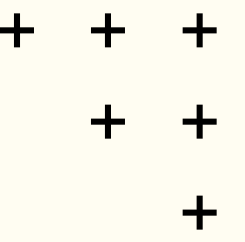
The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

ACTS 23:11 NIV



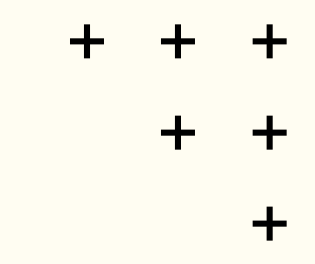
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ACTS 23:9-10 NIV



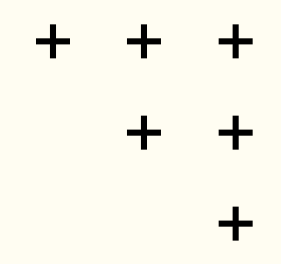
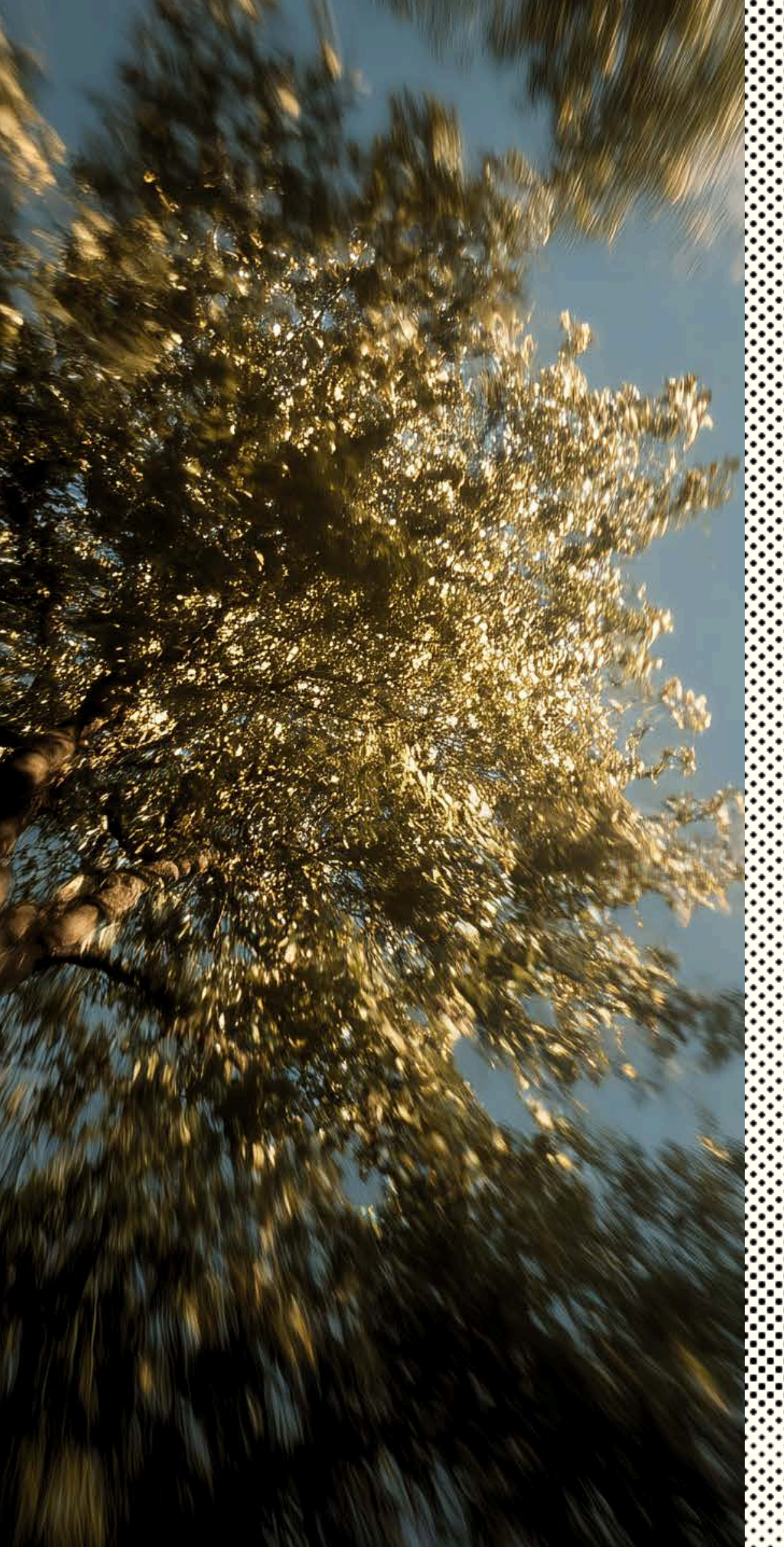
I plan to do so **when I go to Spain.** I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵ Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there... ²⁸ So **after I have completed this task** and have made sure that they have received this contribution, **I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.** ²⁹ I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

ROMANS 15:24-25,28-29 NIV



The following night **the Lord stood near Paul** and said, “**Take courage!** As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, **so you must also testify in Rome.**”

ACTS 23:11 NIV



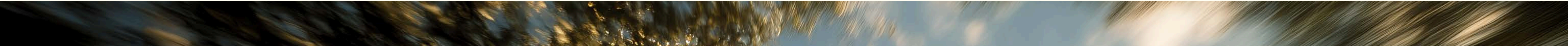
“I have told you these things, so that **in me** you may have **peace**. In this world you will have trouble. **But take heart!** I have overcome the world.”

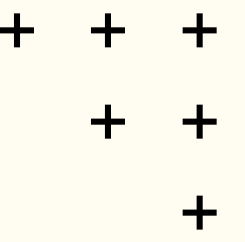
JOHN 16:33 NIV

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“**Courage** is fear that has said its prayers.”

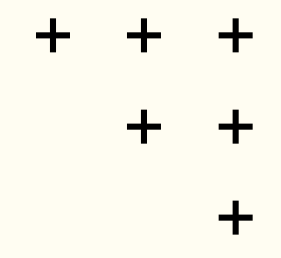
ANNE LAMOTT





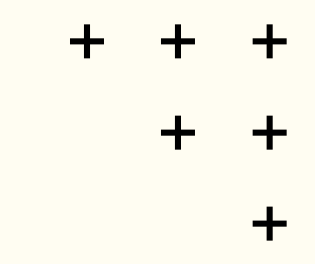
The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.¹³ More than forty men were involved in this plot.¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul.¹⁵ Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here.”

ACTS 23:12-15 NIV



But when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.

ACTS 23:16 NIV

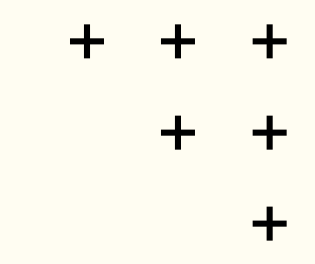


The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, “What is it you want to tell me?”

²⁰ He said: “Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him. ²¹ Don’t give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request.”

²² The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: “Don’t tell anyone that you have reported this to me.”

ACTS 23:19-22 NIV



Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a **detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen** to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. ²⁴ Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.”

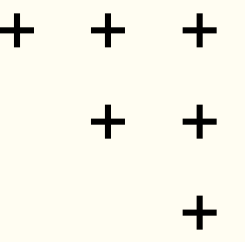
ACTS 23:23-24 NIV

He wrote a letter as follows:

²⁶ Claudius Lysias, To His Excellency, Governor Felix: Greetings.

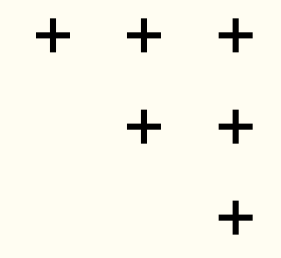
²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for **I had learned that he is a Roman citizen.** ²⁸ I wanted to know why they were accusing him, so I brought him to their Sanhedrin. ²⁹ I found that the accusation had to do with questions about their law, but **there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment.** ³⁰ When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him.

ACTS 23:25-30 NIV



When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him. ³⁴ The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. **Learning that he was from Cilicia,** ³⁵ **he said, “I will hear your case** when your accusers get here.” Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod’s palace.

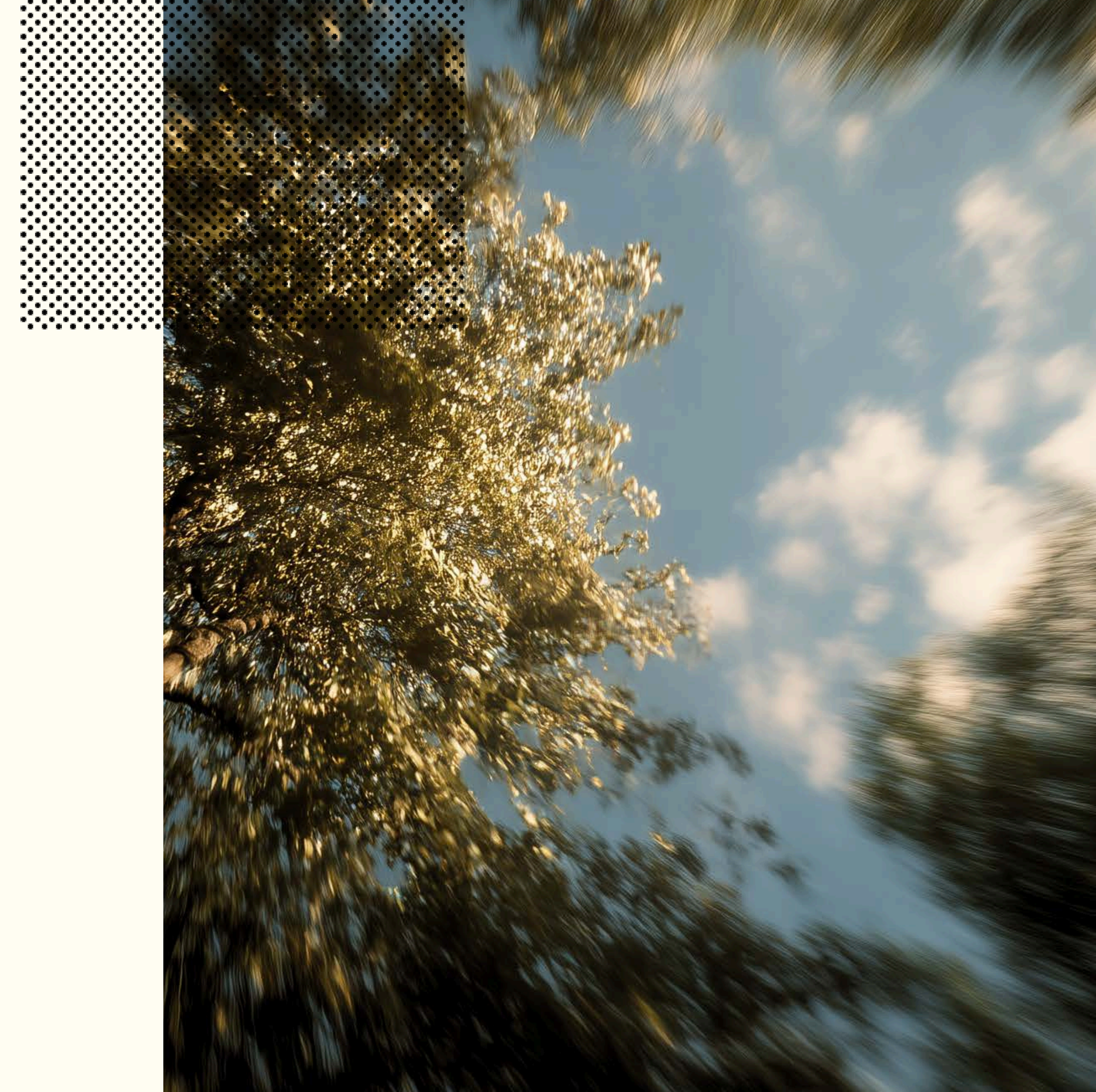
ACTS 23:33-35 NIV



The following night **the Lord stood near Paul** and said, “**Take courage!** As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, **so you must also testify in Rome.**”

ACTS 23:11 NIV

The Presence of Christ
comforts in the chaos,
grants **clarity** in the confusion,
and gives **courage** to carry on.



The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

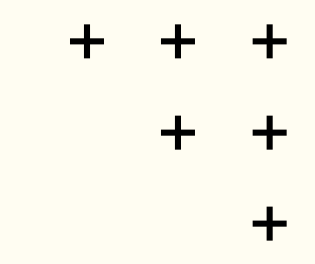
⁴ **Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

PSALM 23:1-6 NIV





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he leads me beside quiet waters,

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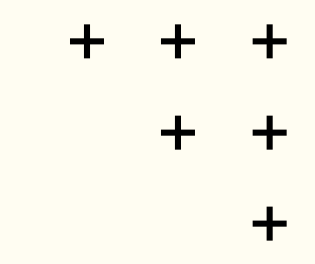
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You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

PSALM 23:1-6 NIV



The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

PSALM 34:18 NIV

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never
leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

DEUTERONOMY 31:8 NIV

“...In this world you will have trouble. But
take heart! I have overcome the world.”

JOHN 16:33B NIV