

JOY



GAUDET



JOY

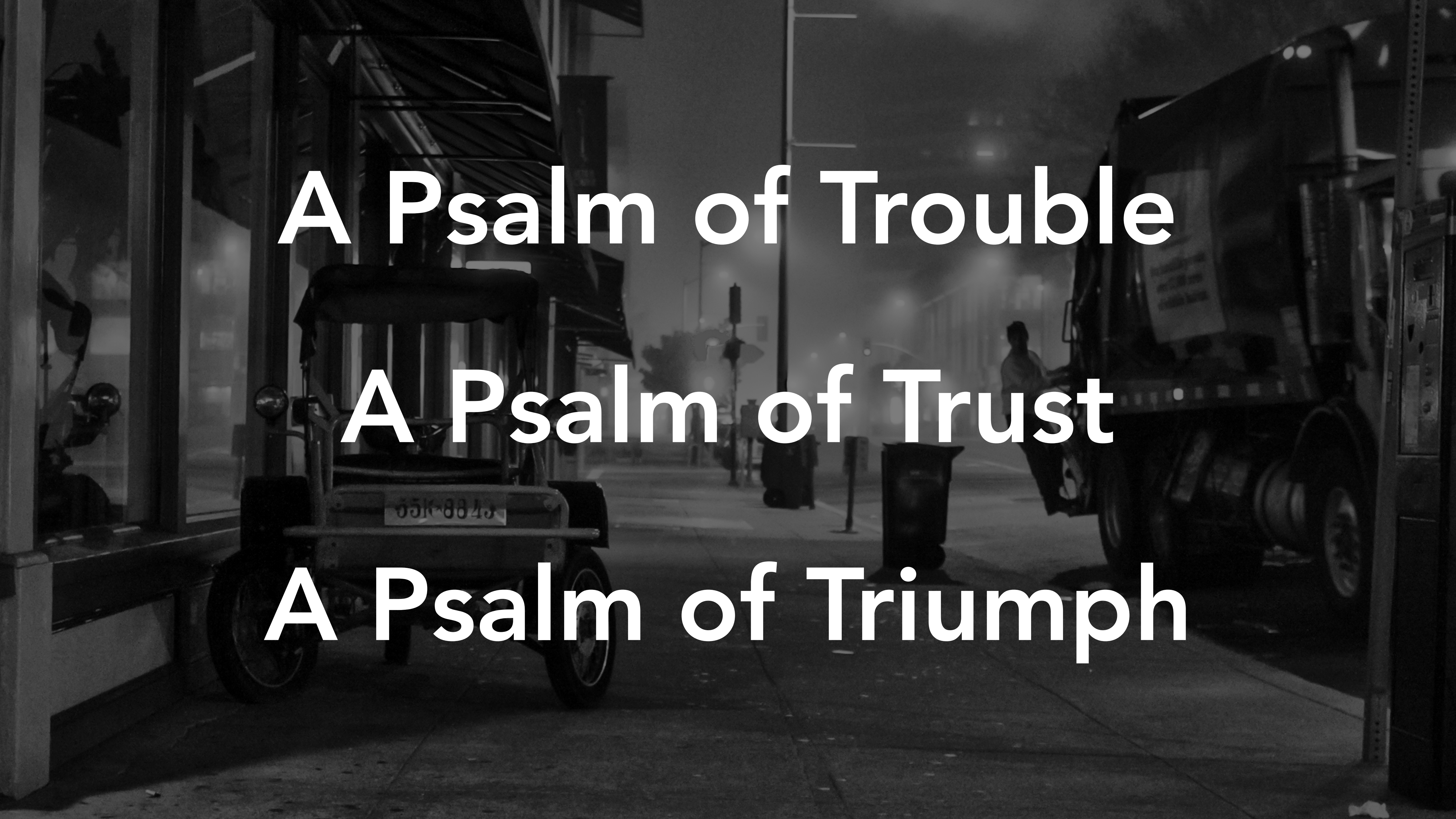


Psalm 126



Psalms of Ascent

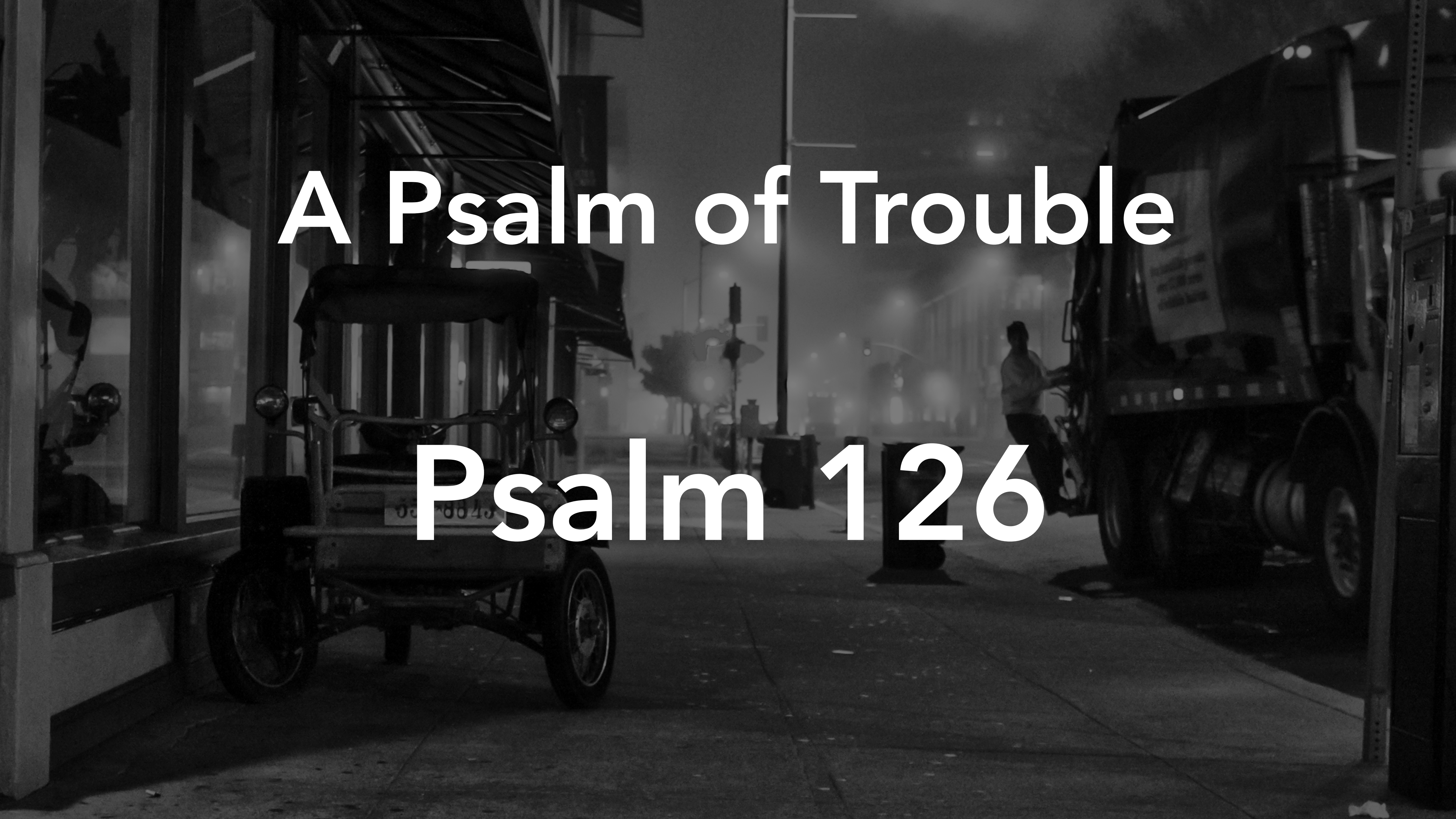




A Psalm of Trouble

A Psalm of Trust

A Psalm of Triumph

A dark, atmospheric street scene at night. In the foreground, a golf cart is parked on the left side of the frame. To the right, a large truck is partially visible. The background shows a street with distant lights and a person standing near the truck. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

A Psalm of Trouble

Psalm 126

Psalm 126

538 BC

Psalm 126:1-3

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

A Psalm of Trouble?



Psalm 126:4-6

Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.



Where is joy here?



Oh God...
Please do something
miraculous!

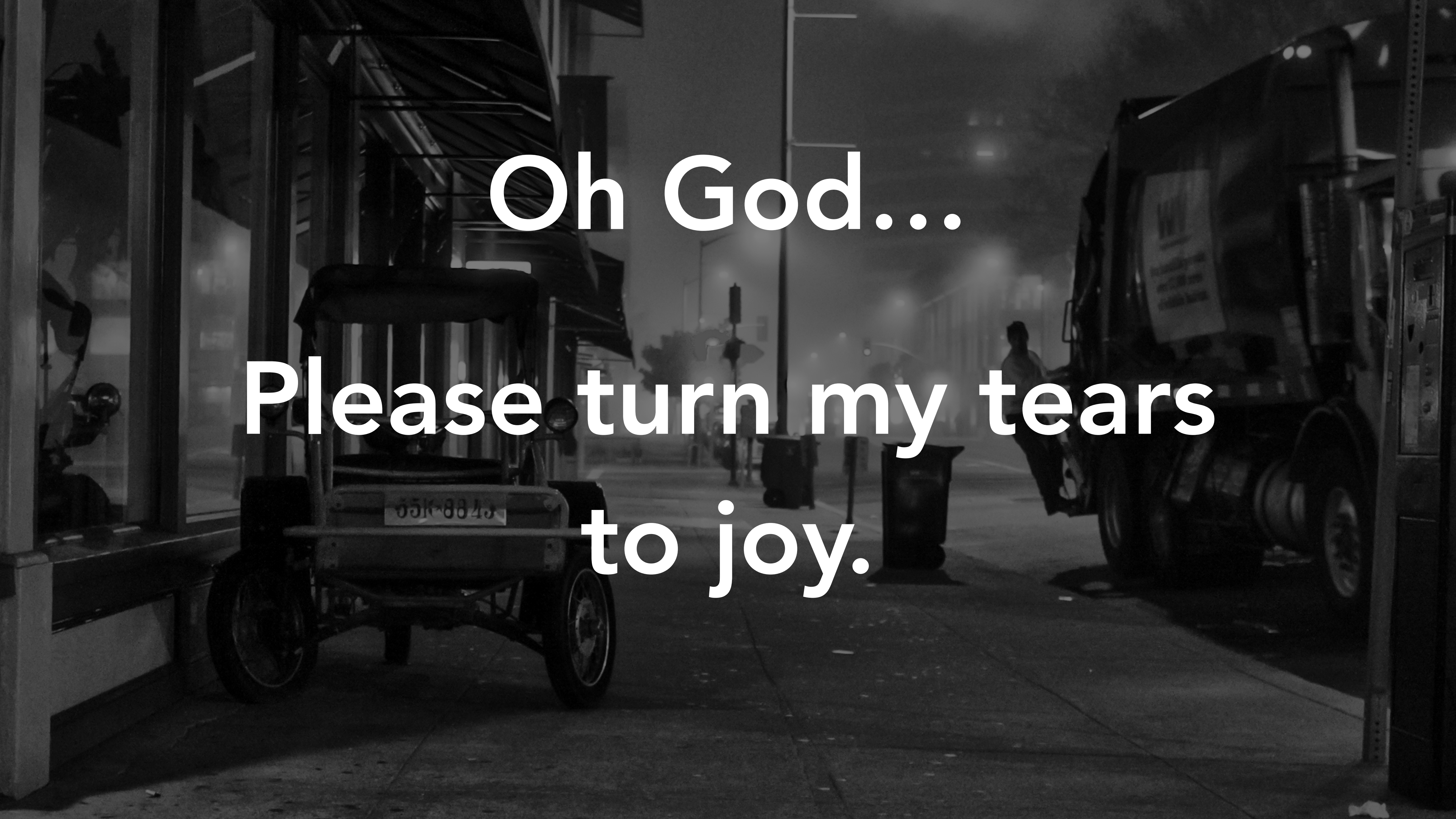


Oh God...
Please do something
immediate!

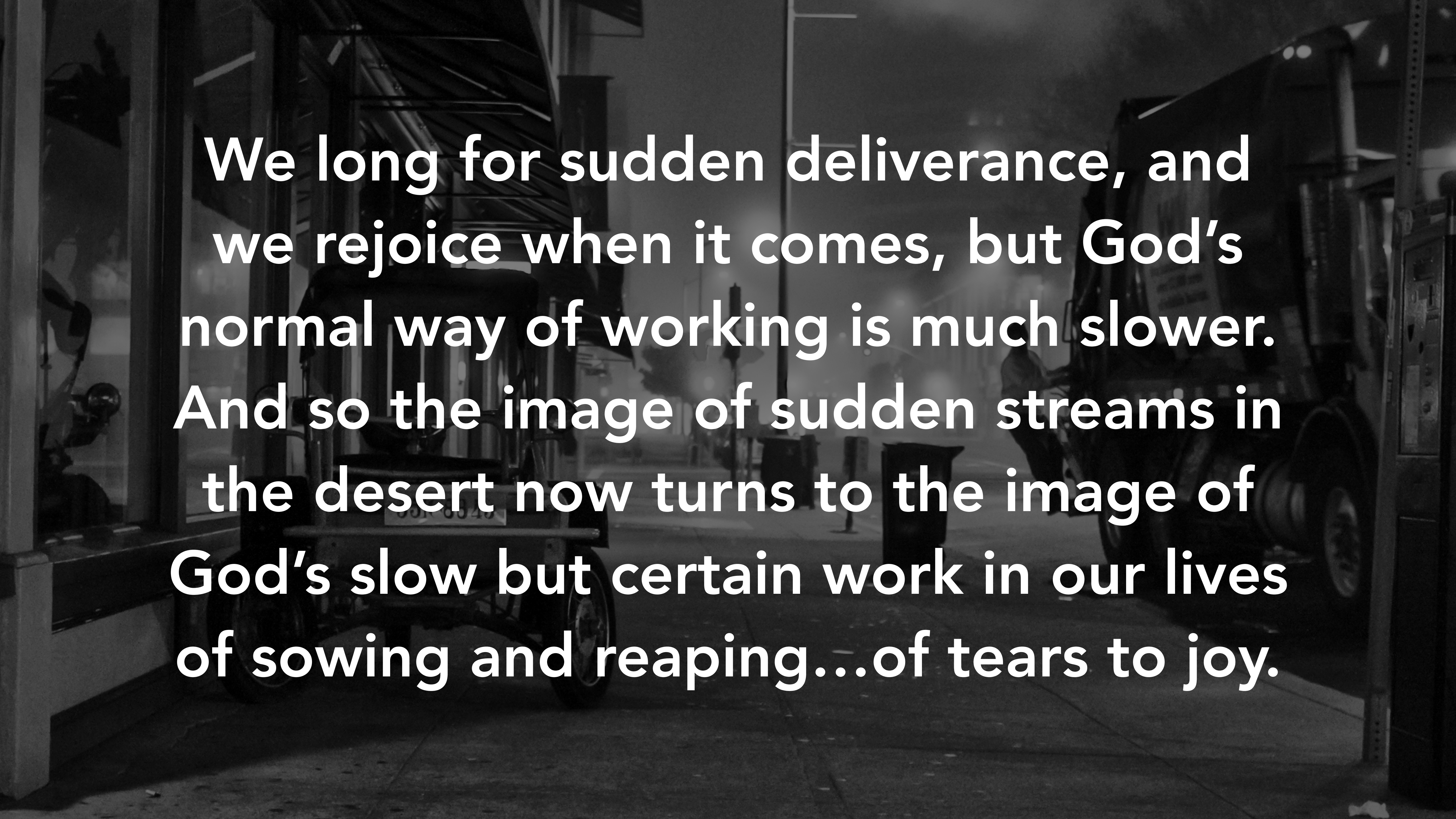


Oh God...

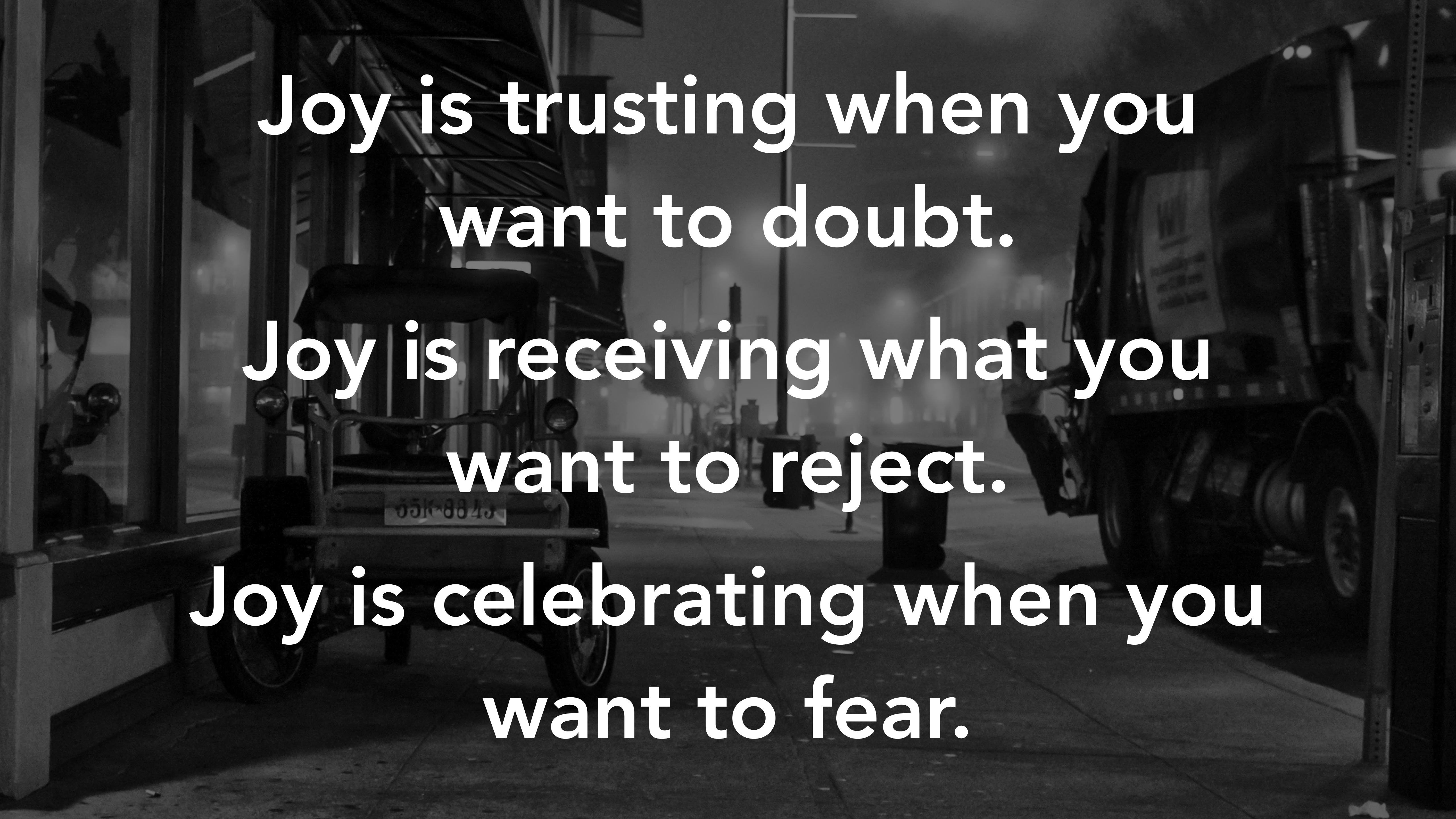
Please do something
in my heart.



Oh God...
Please turn my tears
to joy.



We long for sudden deliverance, and we rejoice when it comes, but God's normal way of working is much slower. And so the image of sudden streams in the desert now turns to the image of God's slow but certain work in our lives of sowing and reaping...of tears to joy.



Joy is trusting when you
want to doubt.

Joy is receiving what you
want to reject.

Joy is celebrating when you
want to fear.



1. Happiness & Joy are
not the same thing.

2. Tears matter to God.





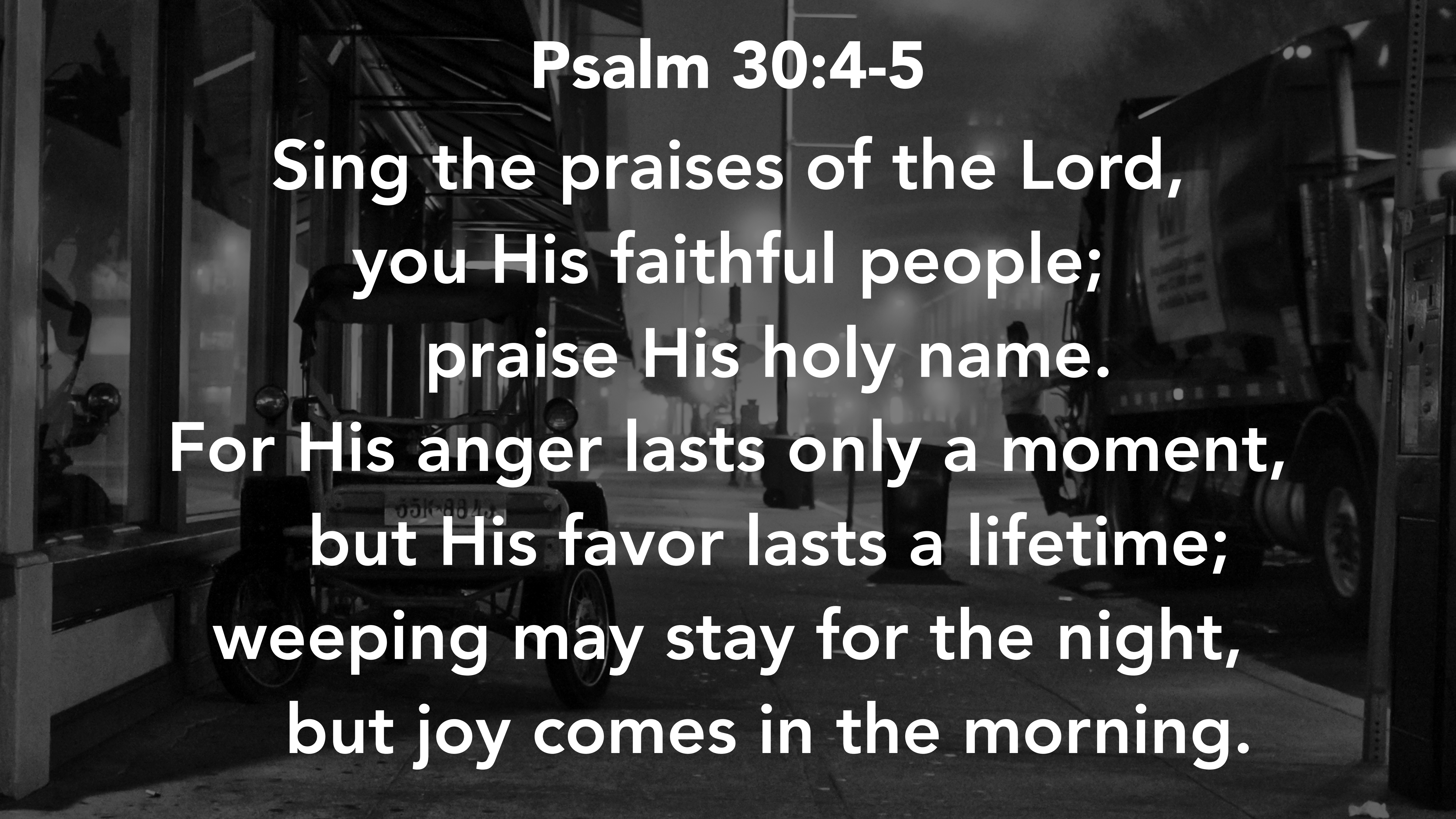
3. Joy is grieving with
HOPE!

4. Think about Jesus.



4. Think about Jesus.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



Psalm 30:4-5

Sing the praises of the Lord,
you His faithful people;
praise His holy name.
For His anger lasts only a moment,
but His favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but joy comes in the morning.

