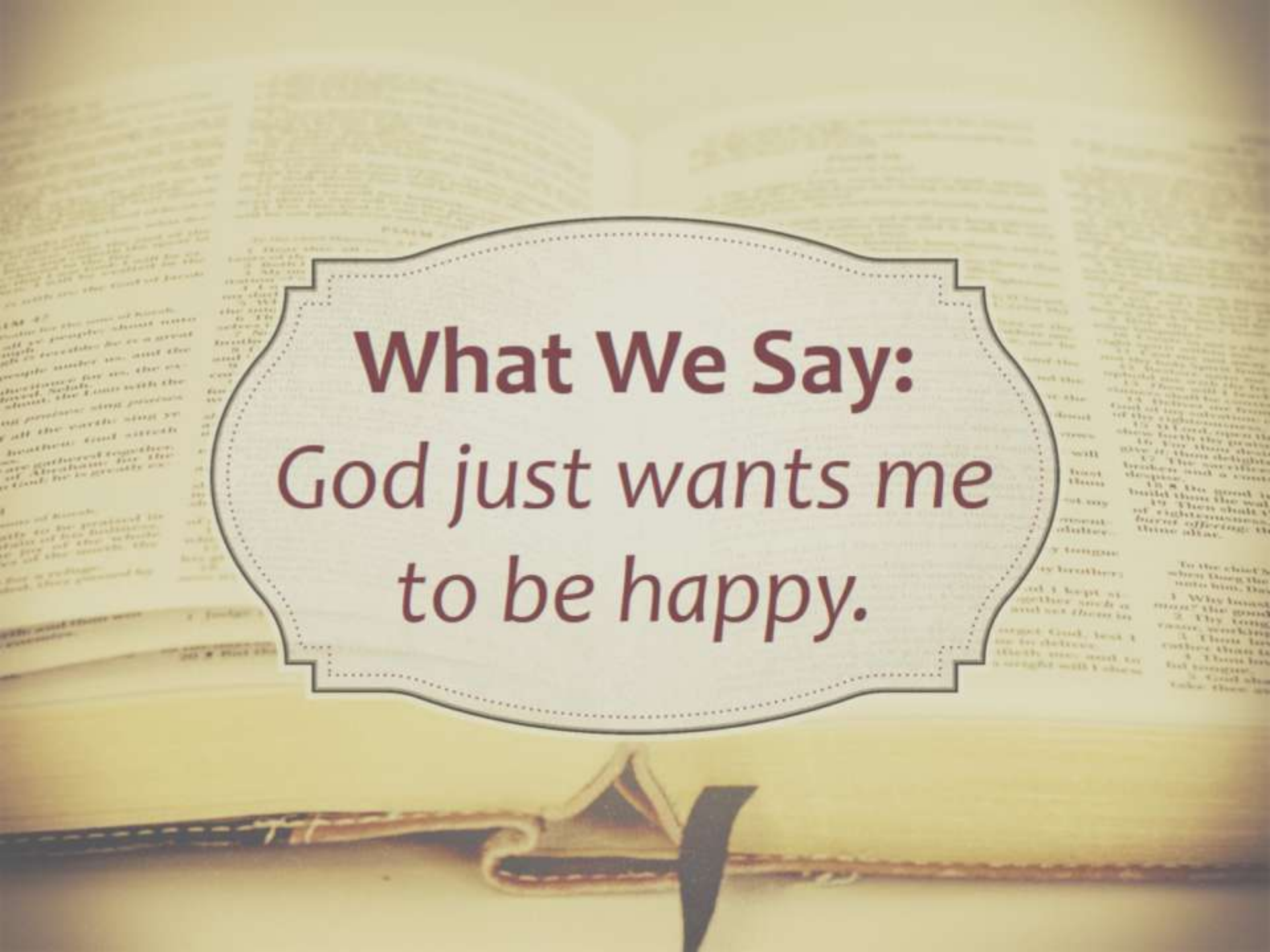

An open book with a central text overlay. The text is in a large, dark red font, enclosed in a decorative, scalloped-edged frame. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, suggesting the pages of an old book. The text is centered and reads:

Does the Bible Really Say That?


Week 2 – Pursuit of Happiness

An open book with a decorative frame containing text. The background is a close-up of an open book with yellowed pages. A decorative, scalloped frame with a dotted border is centered over the pages. Inside the frame, the text "What We Say: God just wants me to be happy." is written in a dark red, serif font. The book's spine is visible at the bottom, and the pages are filled with faint, illegible text.


What We Say:
God just wants me
to be happy.

An open book with a decorative frame containing text. The background is a blurred image of an open book with text on the pages. A decorative, scalloped frame with a dotted border is centered over the book. Inside the frame, the text "What God Says: God commands us to rejoice." is written in a dark red, serif font. The book's spine is visible at the bottom, and the pages are filled with faint, illegible text.

**What God Says:
God commands
us to rejoice.**

An open book with a decorative frame containing text. The background is a close-up of an open book with yellowed pages. A decorative, scalloped frame with a dotted border is centered over the pages. Inside the frame, the text "What We Often Think: My happiness is God's goal." is written in a dark red, serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "What We Often Think:" on the first line, "My happiness is God's" on the second line, and "goal." on the third line. The book's pages are filled with faint, illegible text, and a dark ribbon or bookmark is visible at the bottom of the frame.

What We Often Think:
My happiness is God's
goal.

An open book with a central text overlay. The text is in a large, bold, dark red font, enclosed in a decorative, light-colored frame with a dotted border. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, suggesting the pages of an old book.

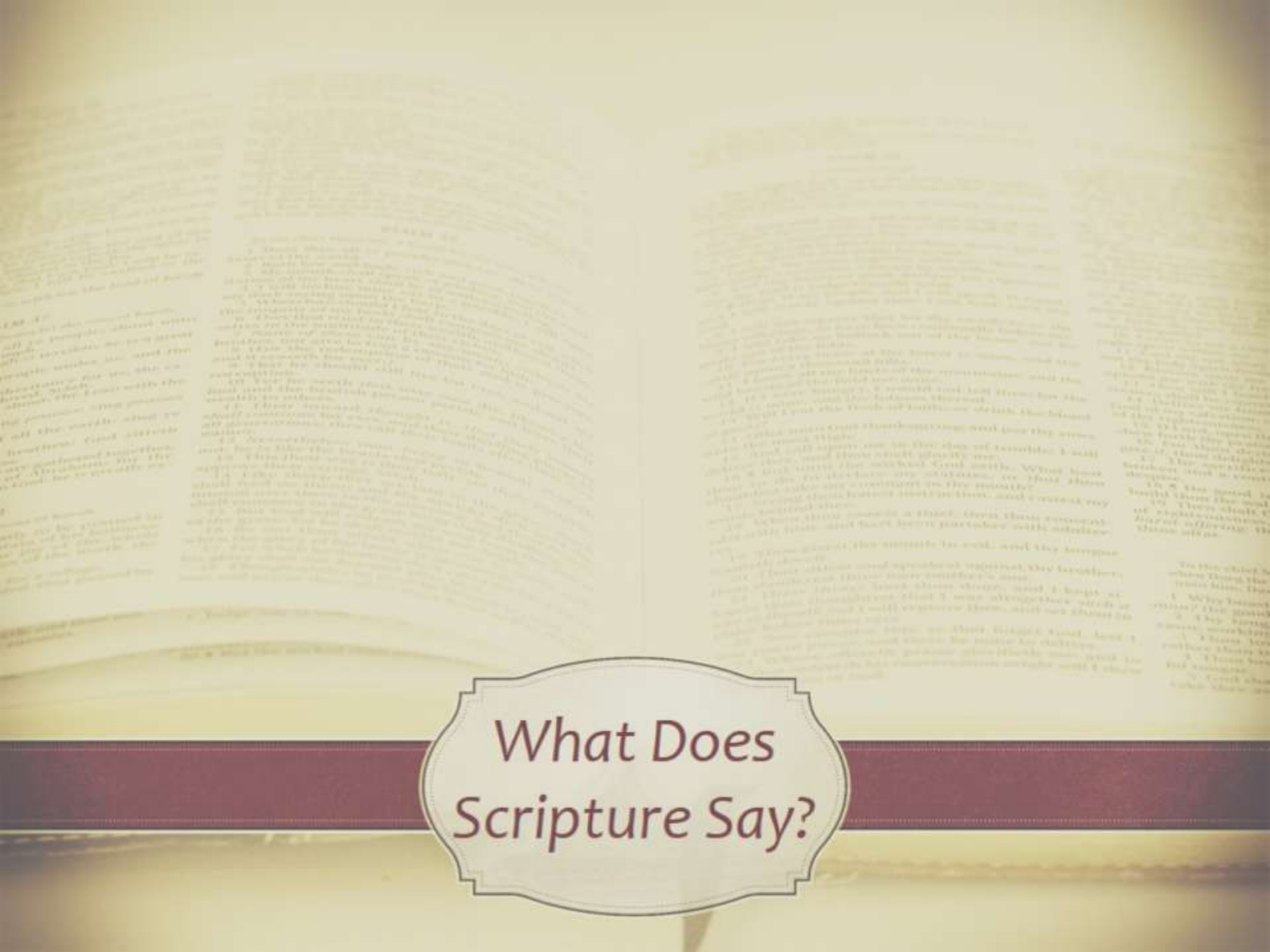
Does the Bible Really Say That?

Week 2 – Pursuit of Happiness

Philippians 4:4-9 –

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.



What Does Scripture Say?

1. God is pleased with our happiness.

What Does
Scripture Say?

1. God is pleased with our happiness.
2. Joy is different than happiness.

What Does
Scripture Say?

1. God is pleased with our happiness.
2. Joy is different than happiness.
3. God can sustain us in joy.

*What Does
Scripture Say?*

Why Does
It Matter?

1. If happiness becomes my god, then no unhappiness can be part of God's plan.

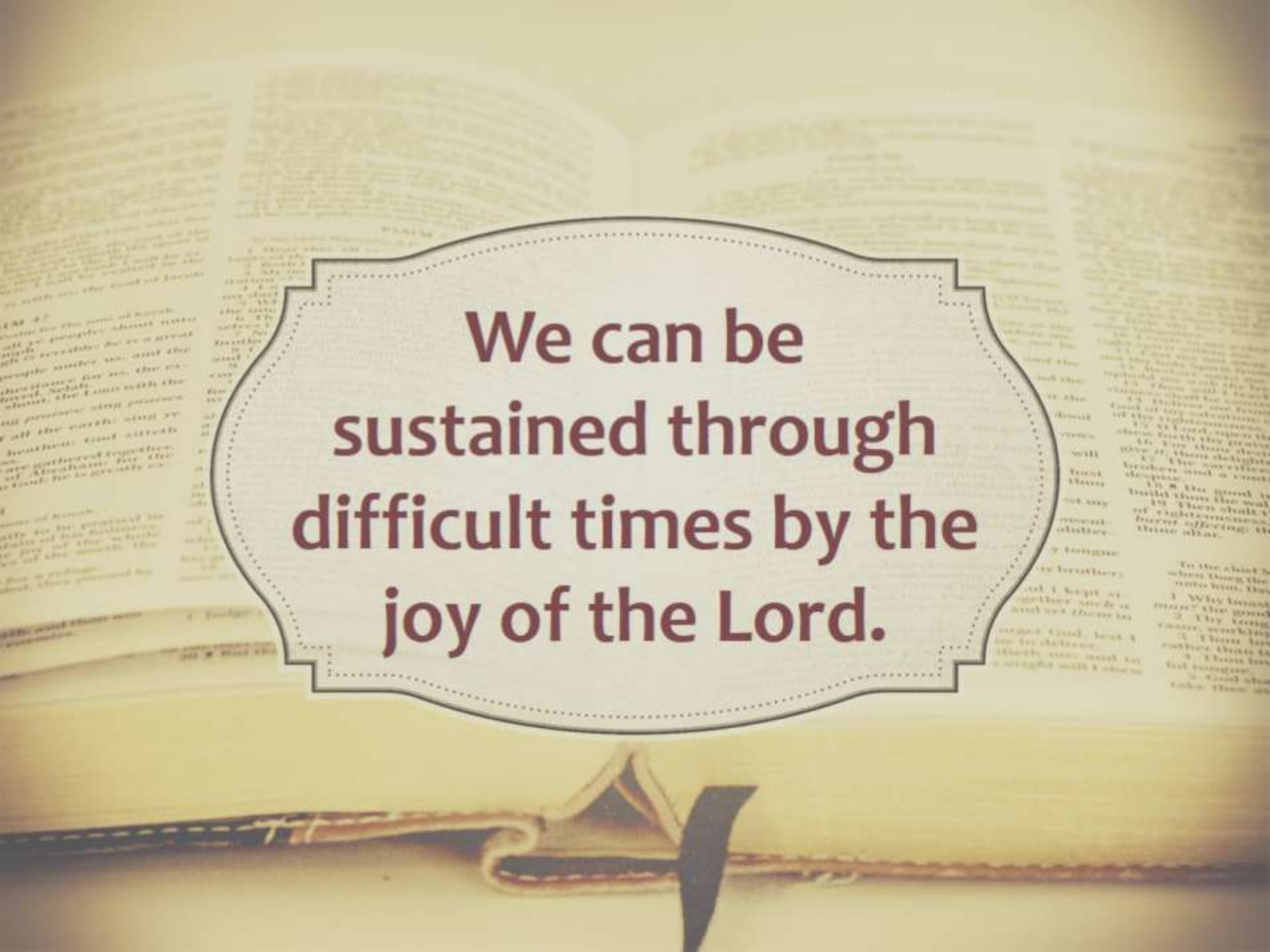
Why Does
It Matter?

1. If happiness becomes my god, then no unhappiness can be part of God's plan.
2. If happiness becomes my god, then I can justify sinful actions.

*Why Does
It Matter?*

1. If happiness becomes my god, then no unhappiness can be part of God's plan.
2. If happiness becomes my god, then I can justify sinful actions.
3. If happiness becomes my god, then unrealistic expectations will set me up for disappointment.

*Why Does
It Matter?*

An open book with a central text overlay. The text is enclosed in a decorative, scalloped-edged frame with a dotted border. The background shows the pages of the book, which are slightly blurred, and the spine of the book is visible at the bottom.

**We can be
sustained through
difficult times by the
joy of the Lord.**