



# CHANGING THE STORY

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GROWTH // RAY HARMON



GROW UP!

Left to ourselves, our story is

**NOT SO GOOD.**

Fortunately, Jesus gives us hope!

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We can change our story and become

**MORE LIKE HIM.**

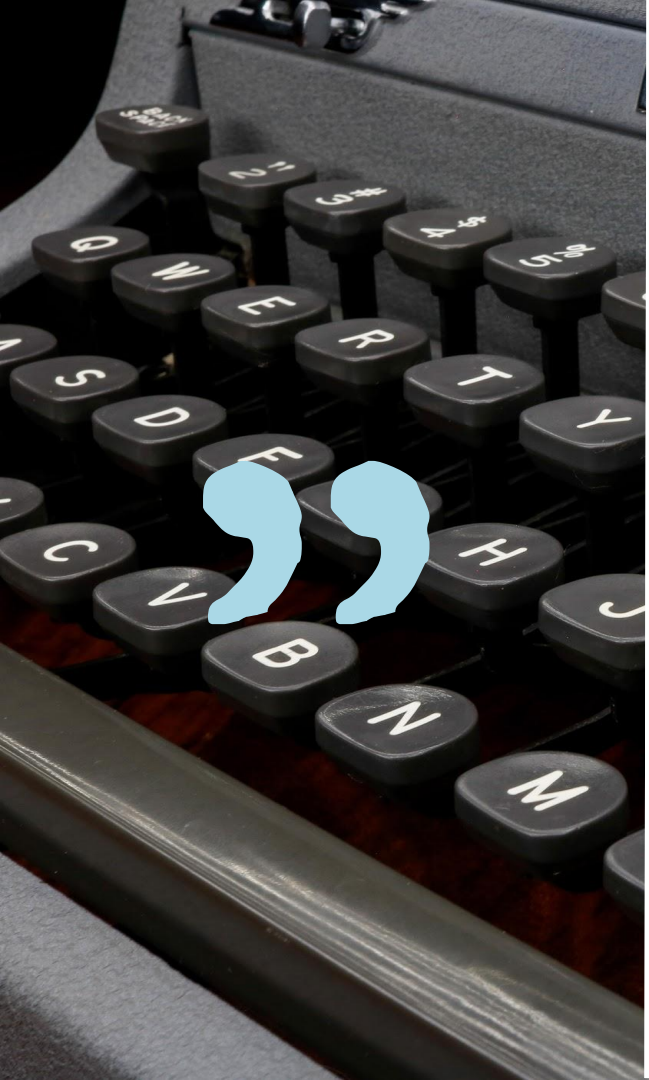
# A NEWBORN...

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- Needs complete care
- Relies completely on someone else to take care of them.

Upon salvation, the Holy Spirit begins to bring about transformation in our hearts and minds.





## GOD'S PART

he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus

**Philippians 1:6 NIV**

it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

**Philippians 2:13 NIV**

OUR GOD IS...

# AMAZING! FAITHFUL!

Suffered and died  
for us

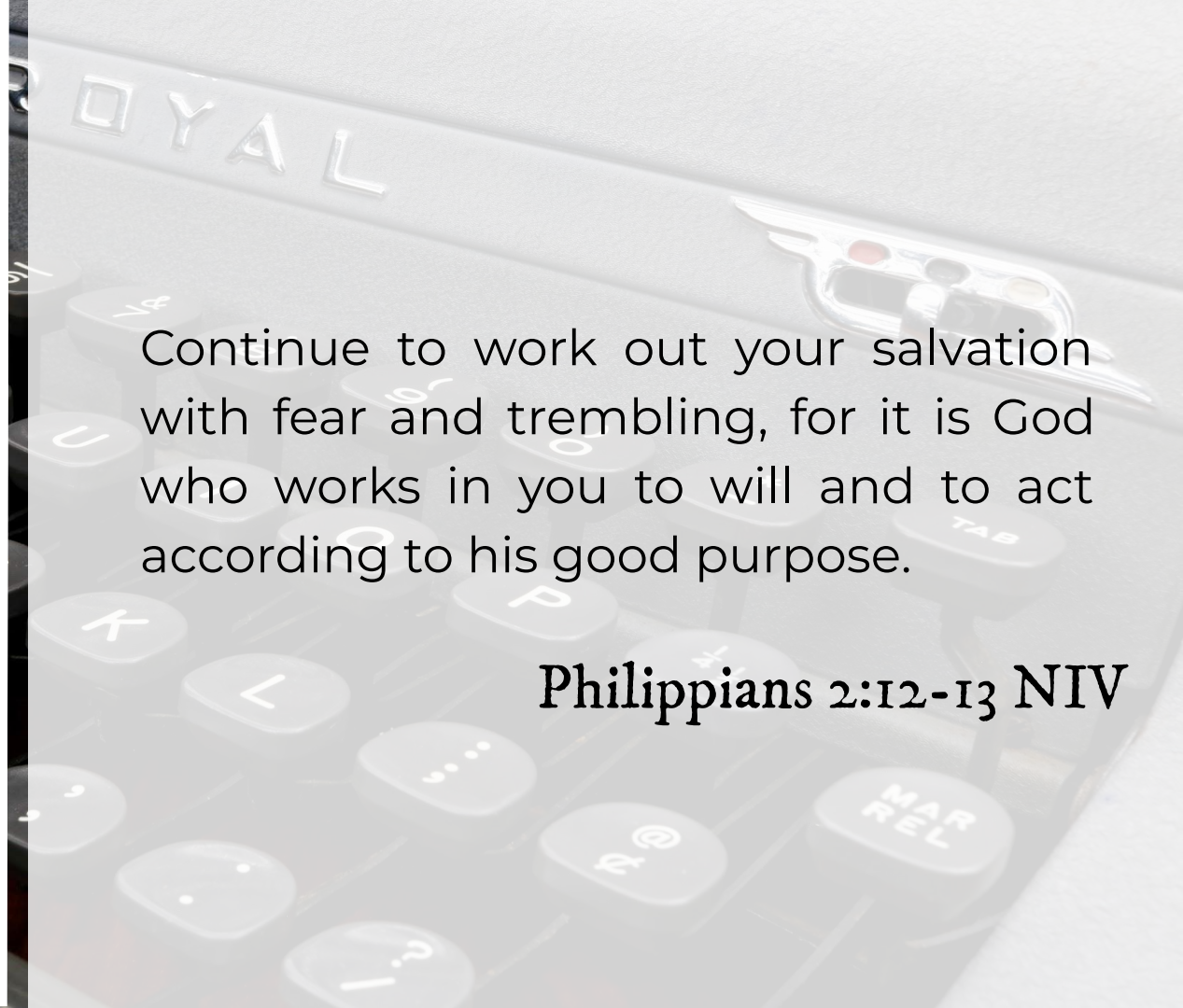
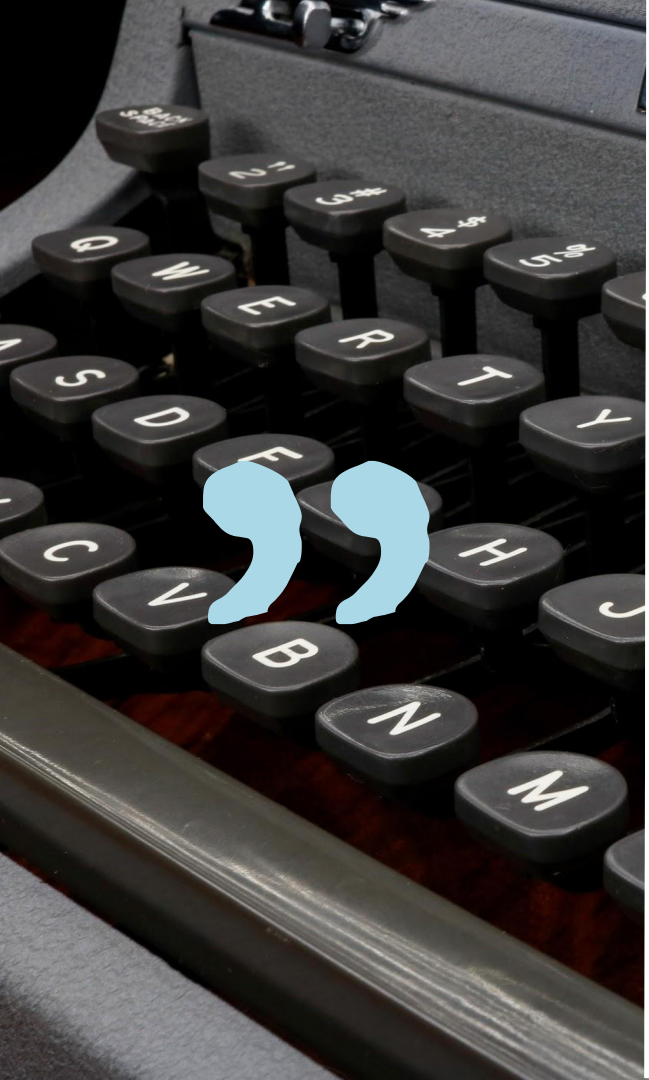
Drew us to  
Himself

Brought us to  
a place of  
repentance

Sanctifies us

Dwells within  
us

Continues to  
work in our  
lives



Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

**Philippians 2:12-13 NIV**



Our spiritual lives have a

**WONDERFUL**

beginning & ending...

What about the **MIDDLE?**



Do we act like a **BABY?**

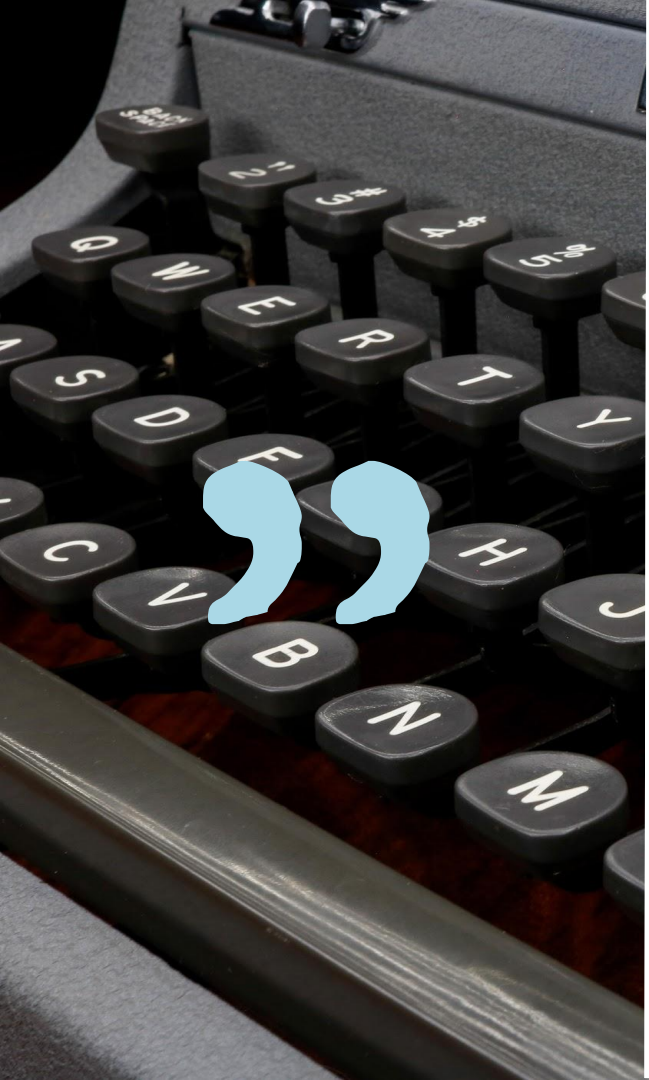
# BOOK OF JAMES

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Immature spiritual babies give in to:

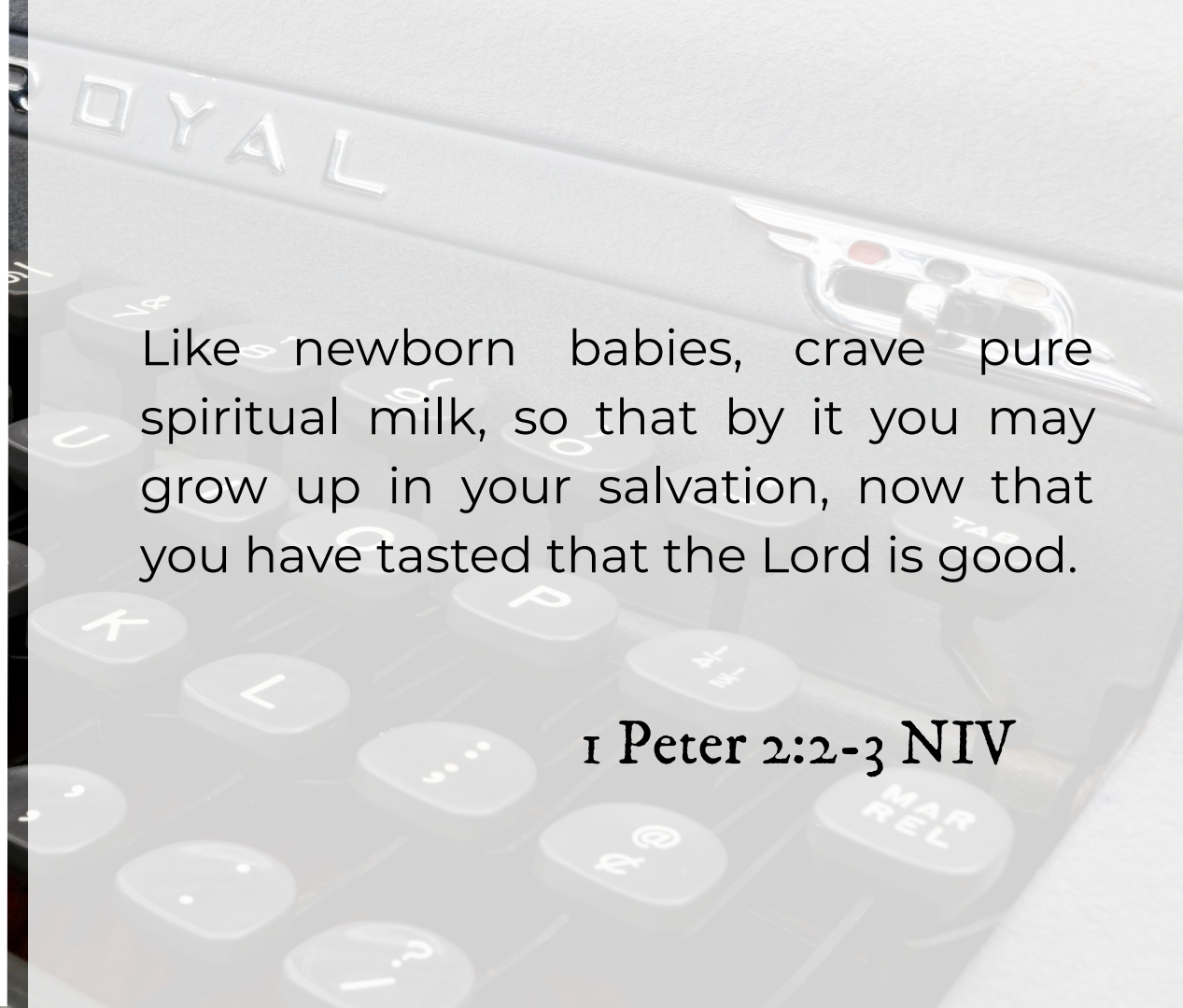
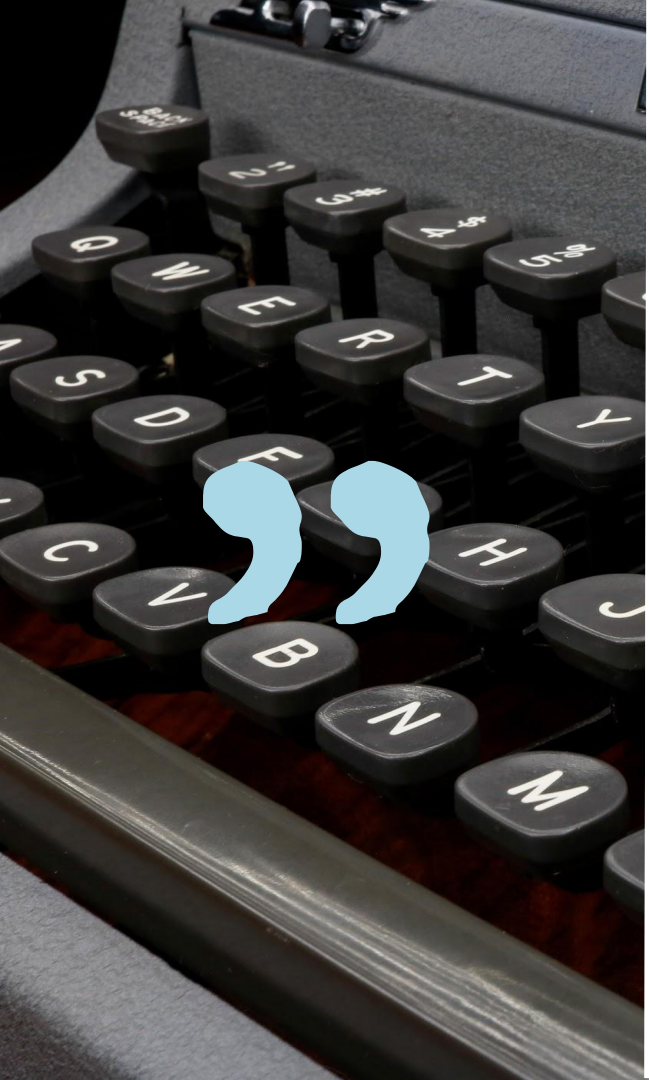
- Temptation
- Anger
- Favoritism
- Harsh & Prideful Speech
- Envy
- Selfish Ambition

*None of these are fitting for a believer!*



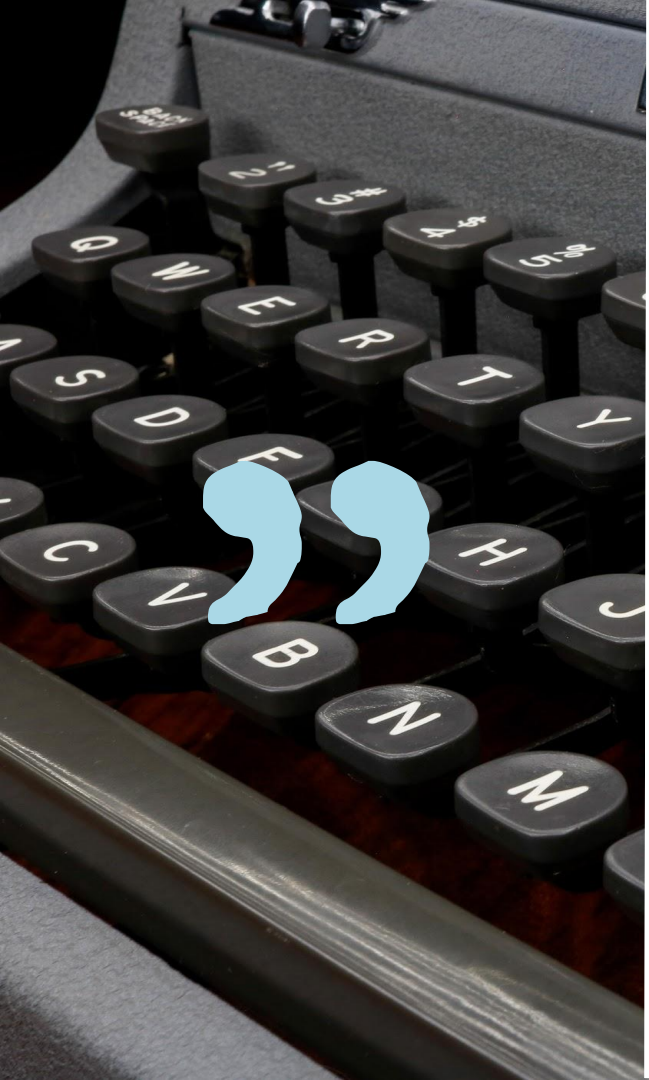
...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of deceitful scheming.

**Ephesians 4:13, 14 NIV**



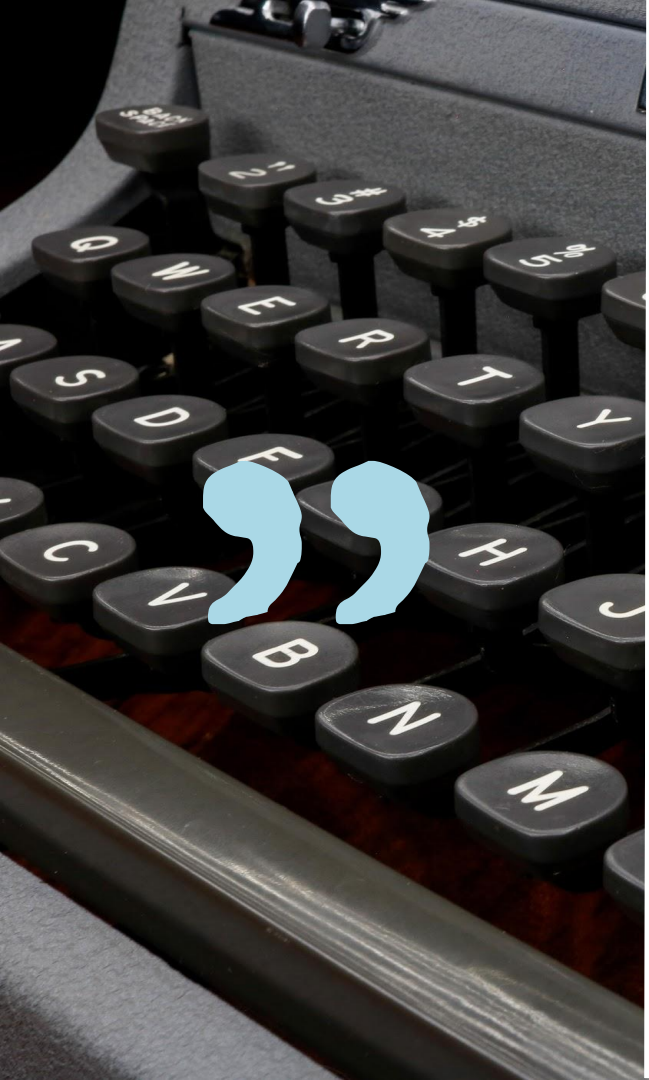
Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3 NIV



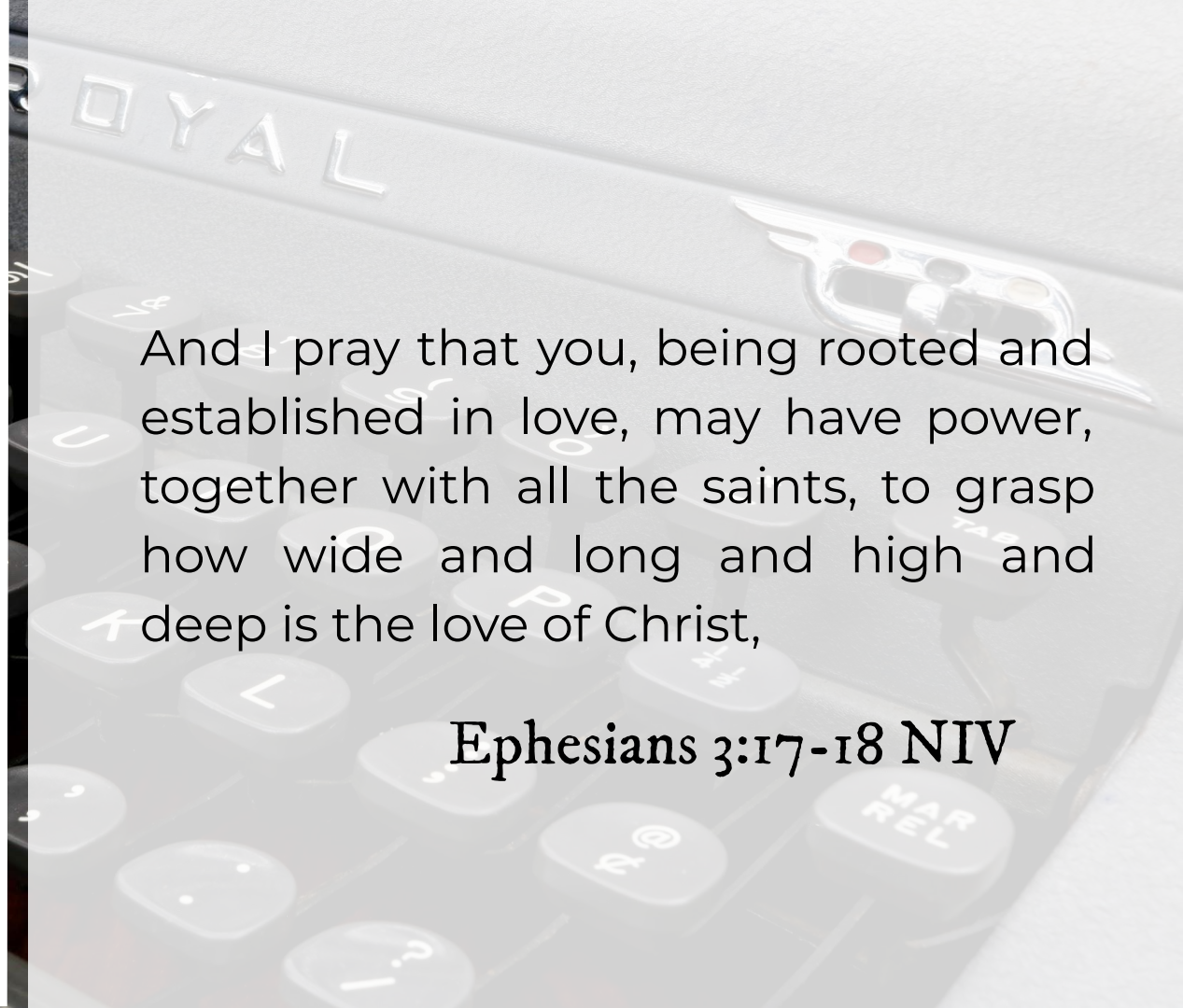
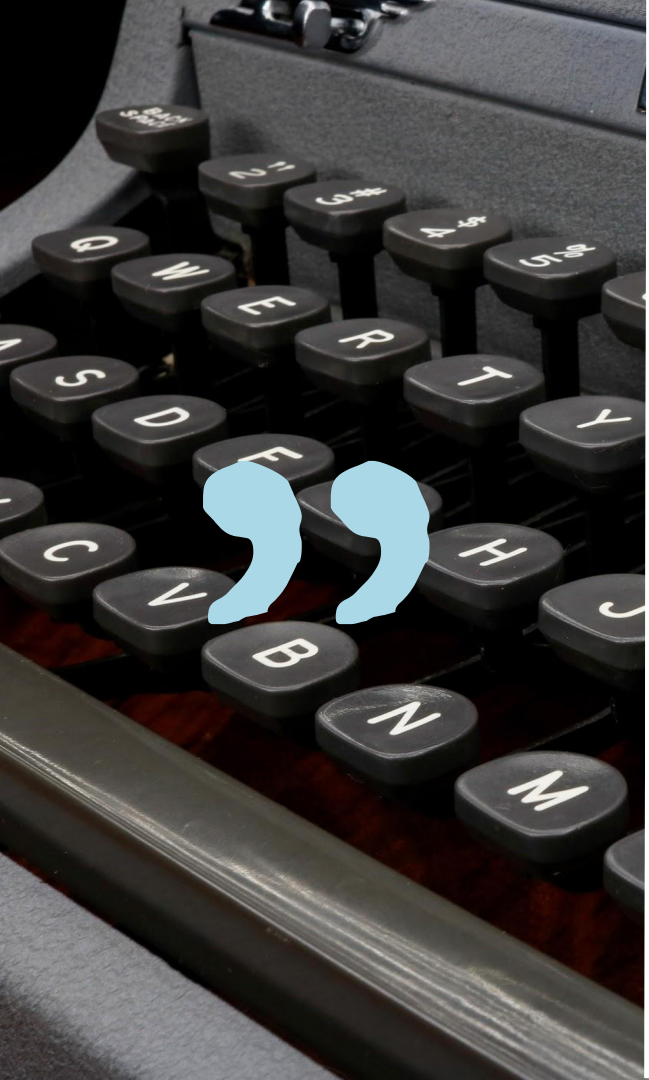
Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

**Ephesians 5:25-27 NIV**



For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

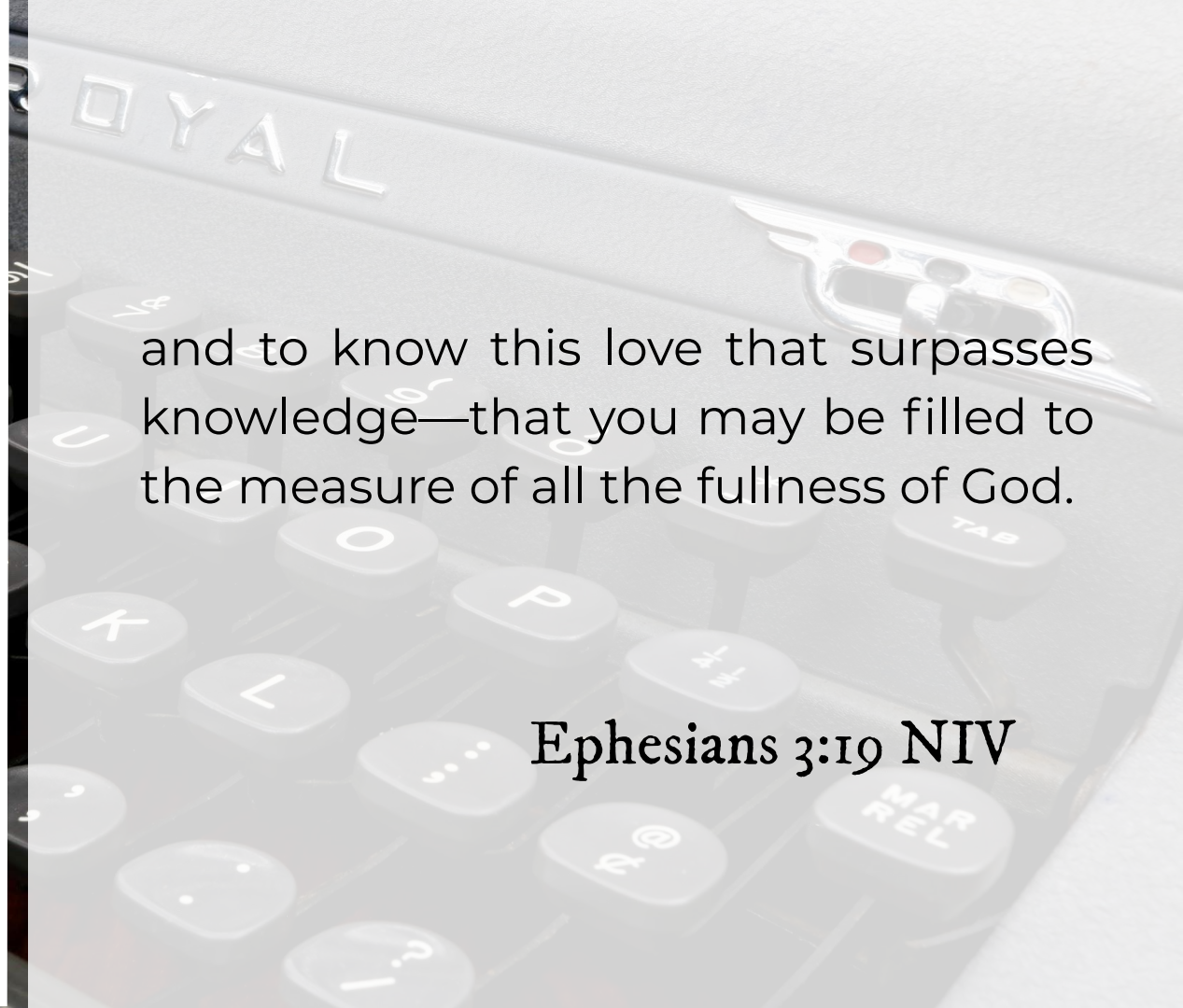
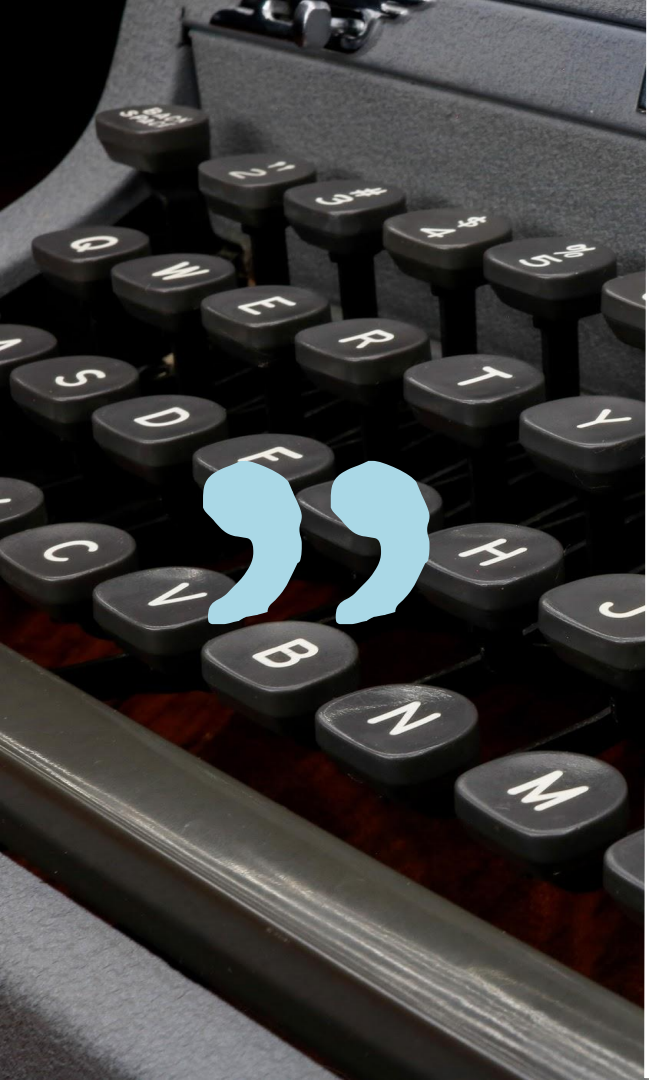
**2 Corinthians 5:14, 15 NIV**



And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

**Ephesians 3:17-18 NIV**





and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

**Ephesians 3:19 NIV**

Do you love Him with all your

HEART, SOUL, MIND, &  
STRENGTH?

Oh, the  
**EXCITEMENT**



of a baby Christian!

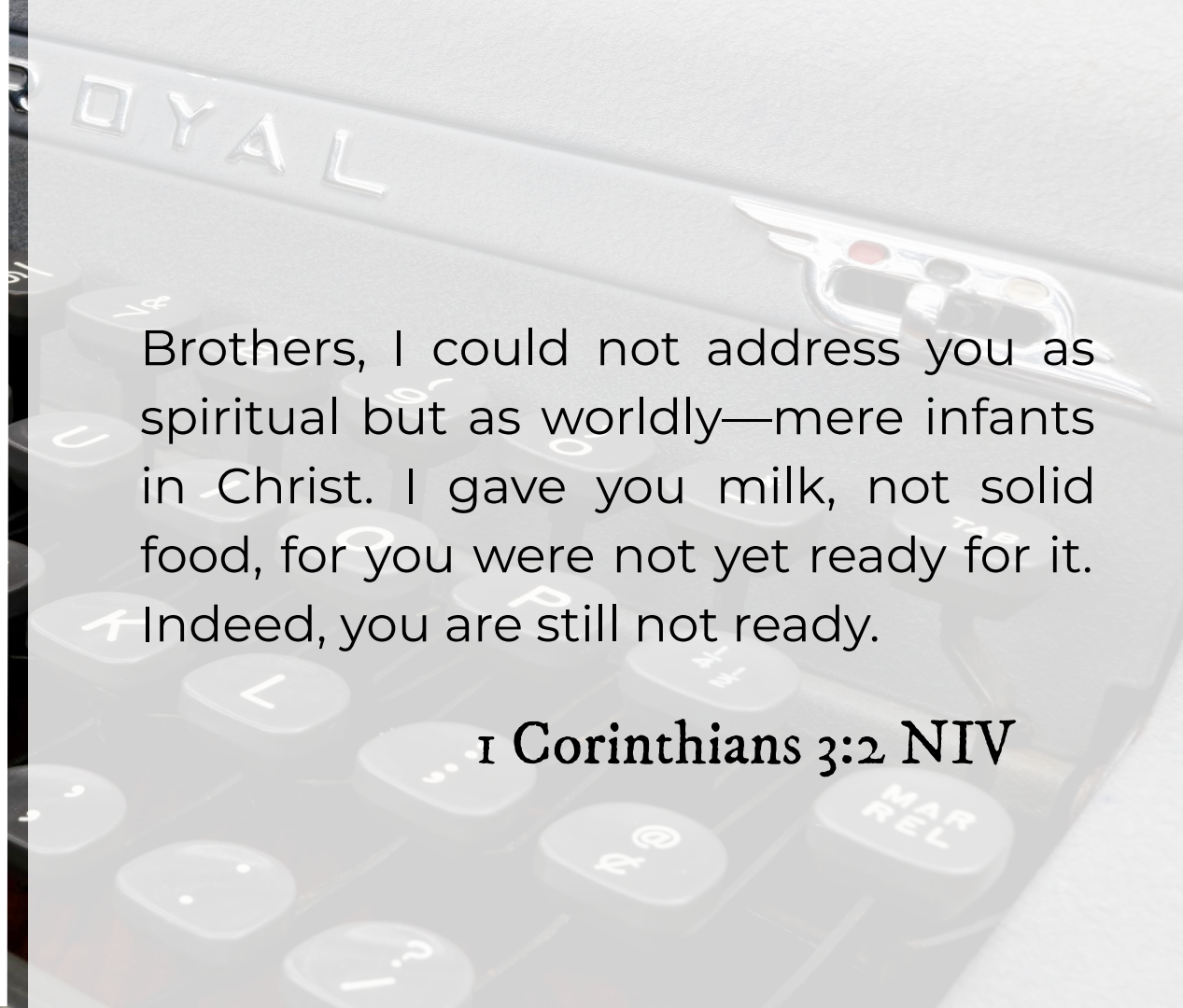
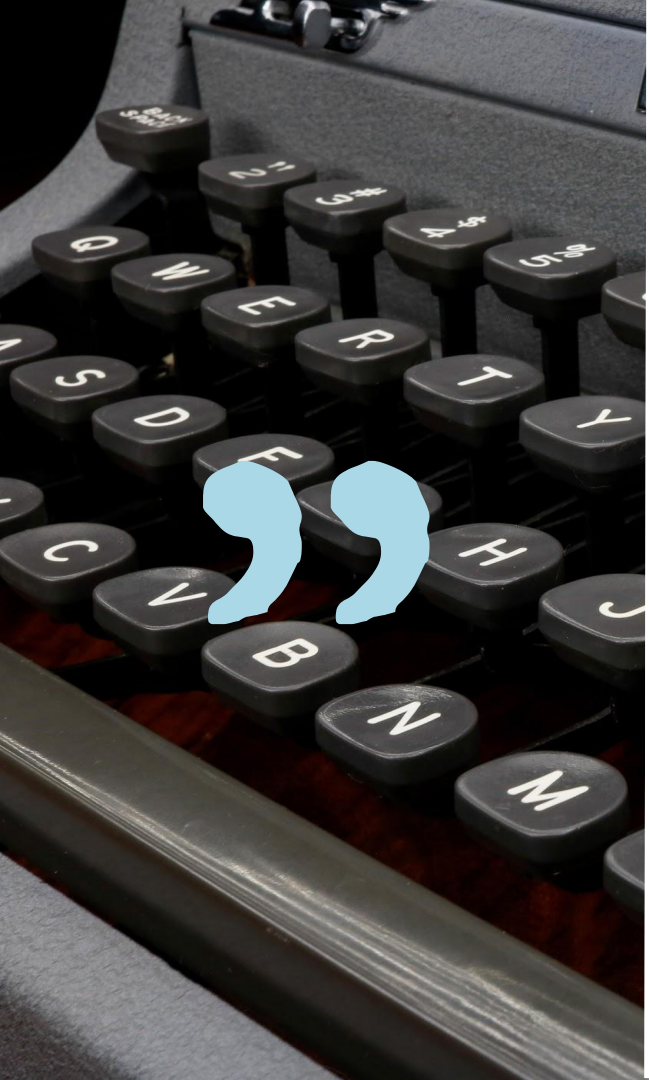
# NOW IS THE TIME

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Pour yourself into the Word of God!

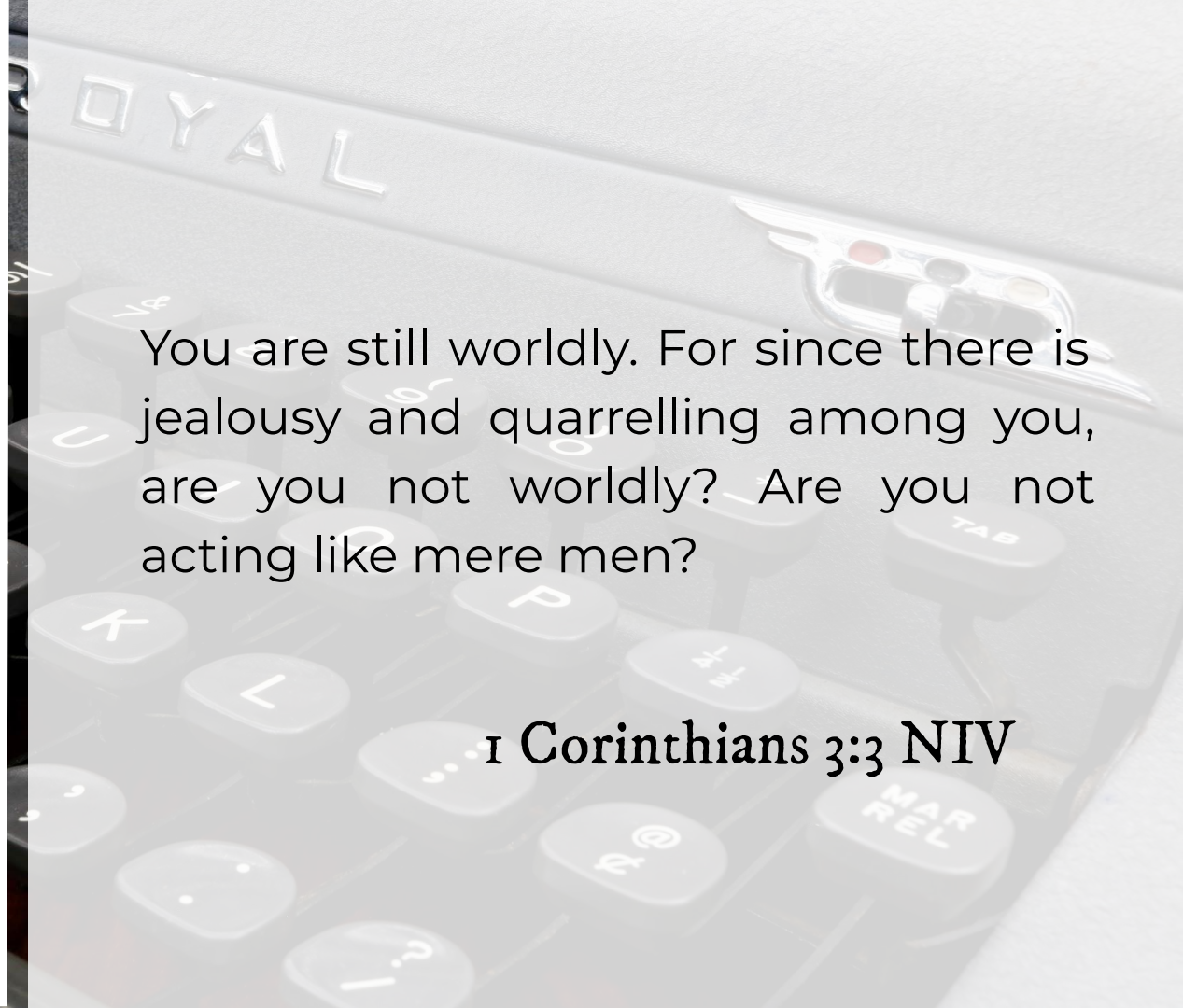
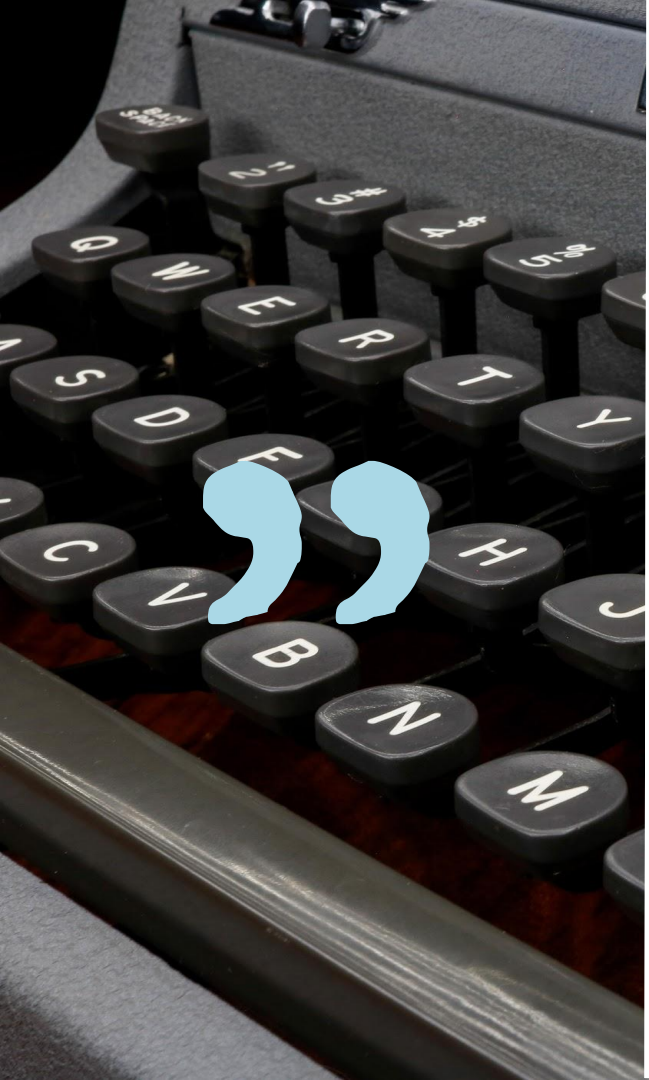
Read it, study it, pray over it, meditate on it,  
memorize it, DO IT!

*Don't be like the culture around you!*



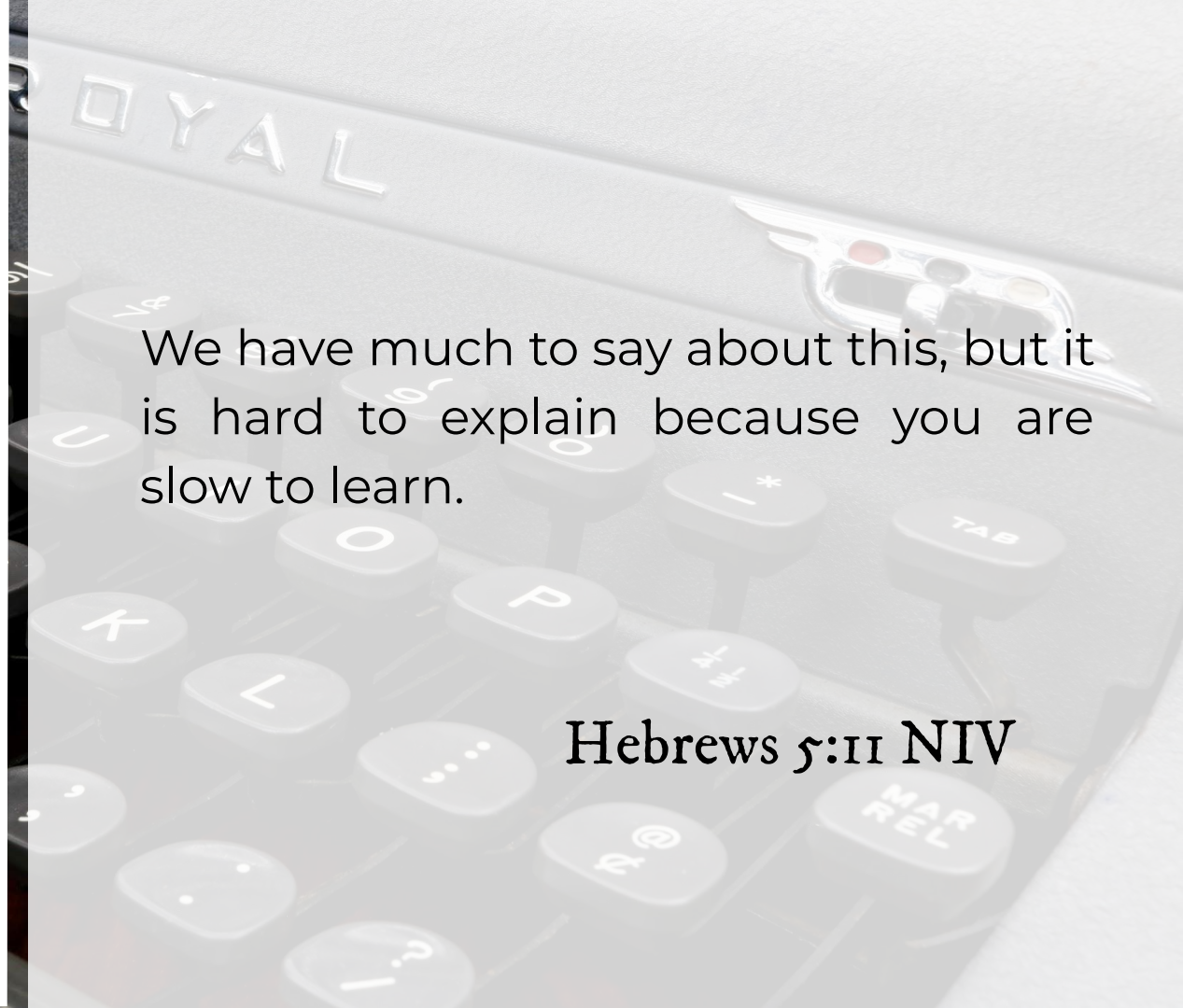
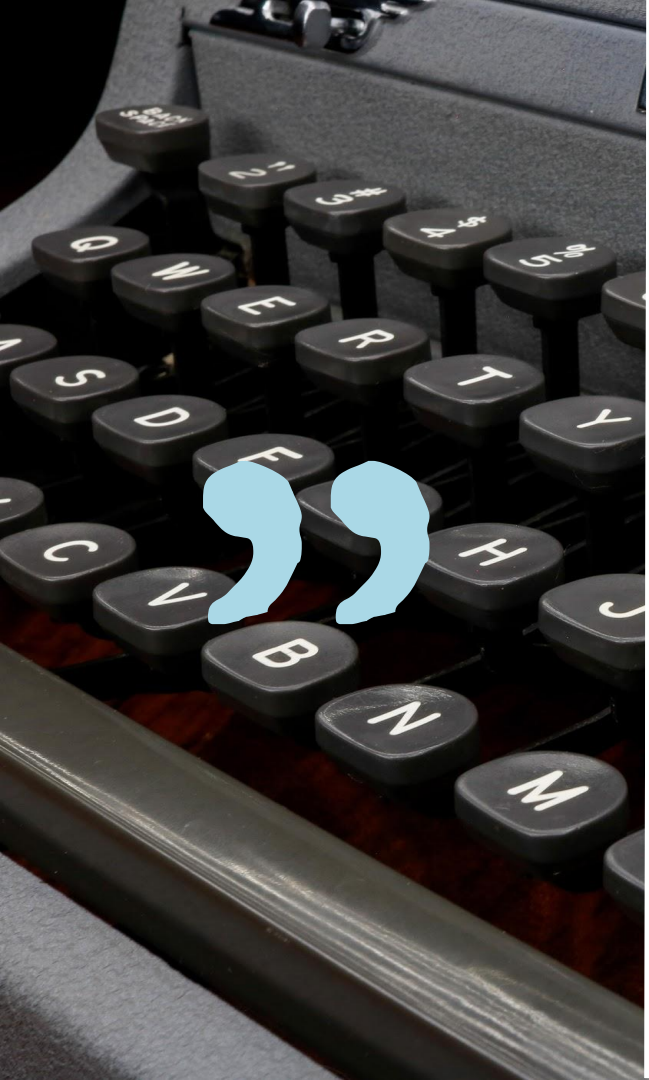
Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

**1 Corinthians 3:2 NIV**



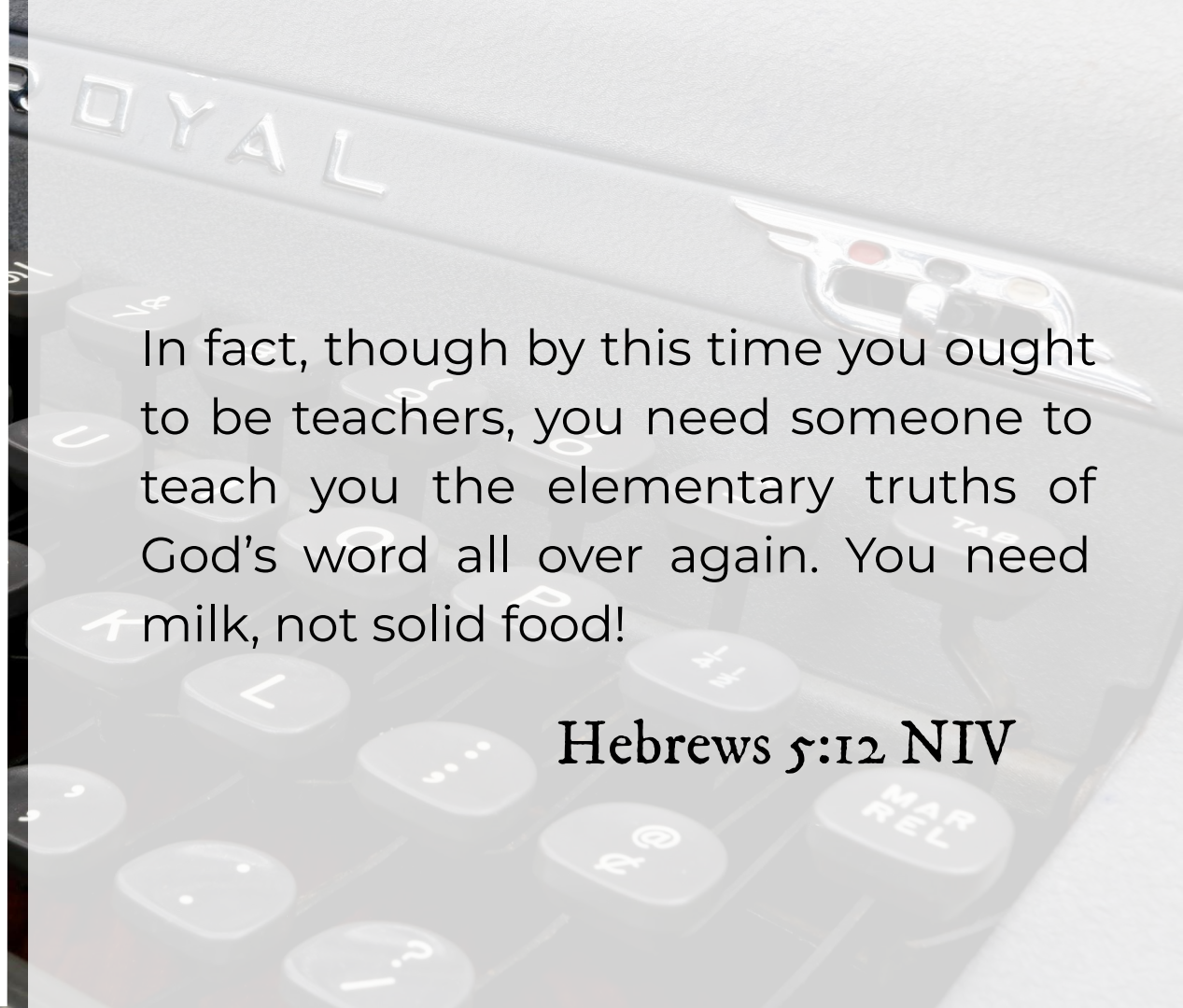
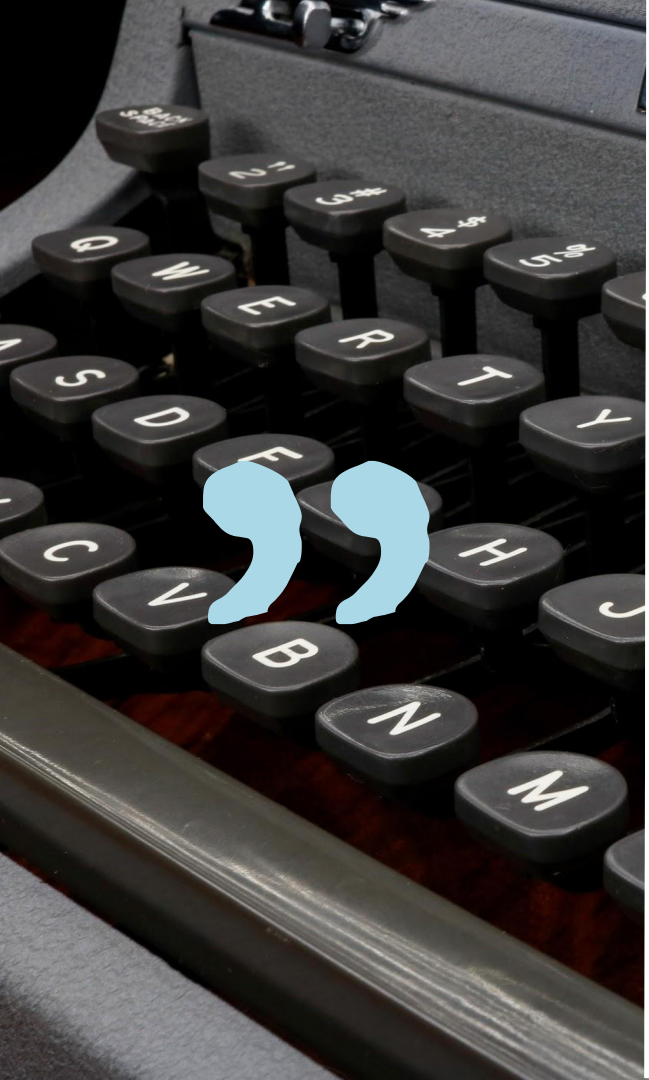
You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

**1 Corinthians 3:3 NIV**



We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.

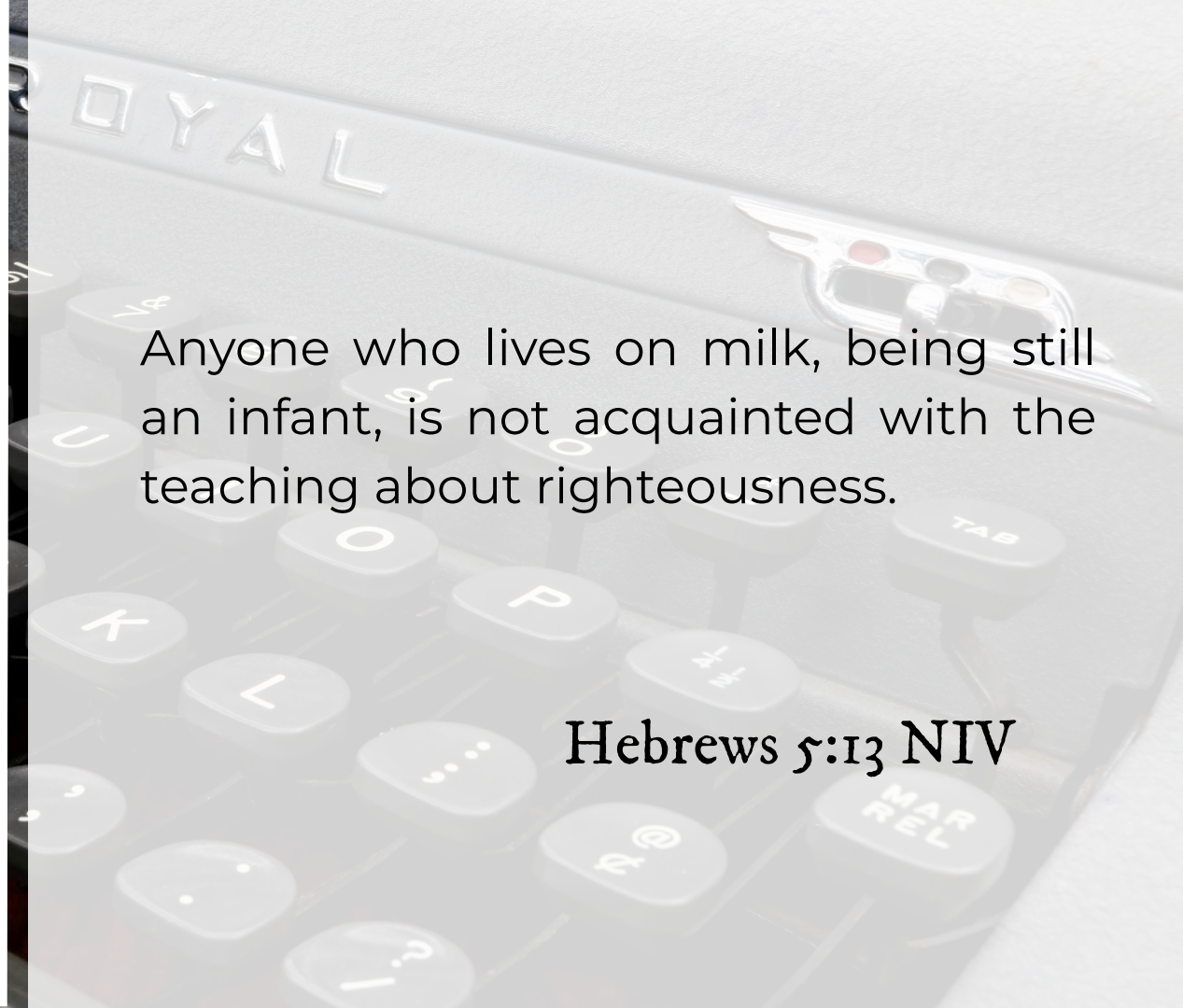
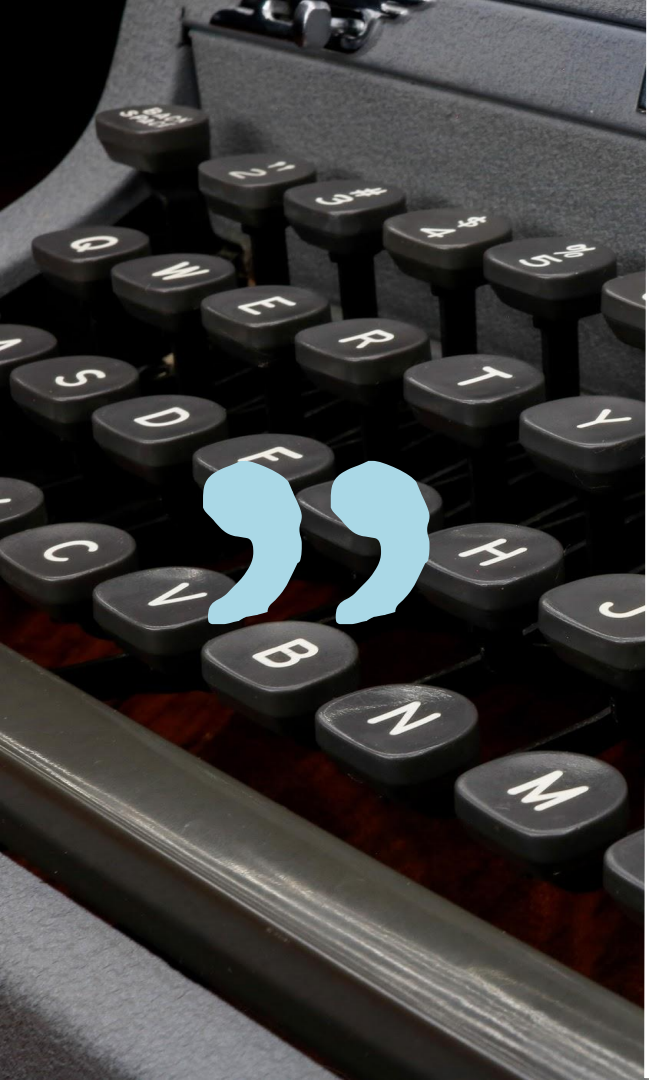
Hebrews 5:11 NIV



In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

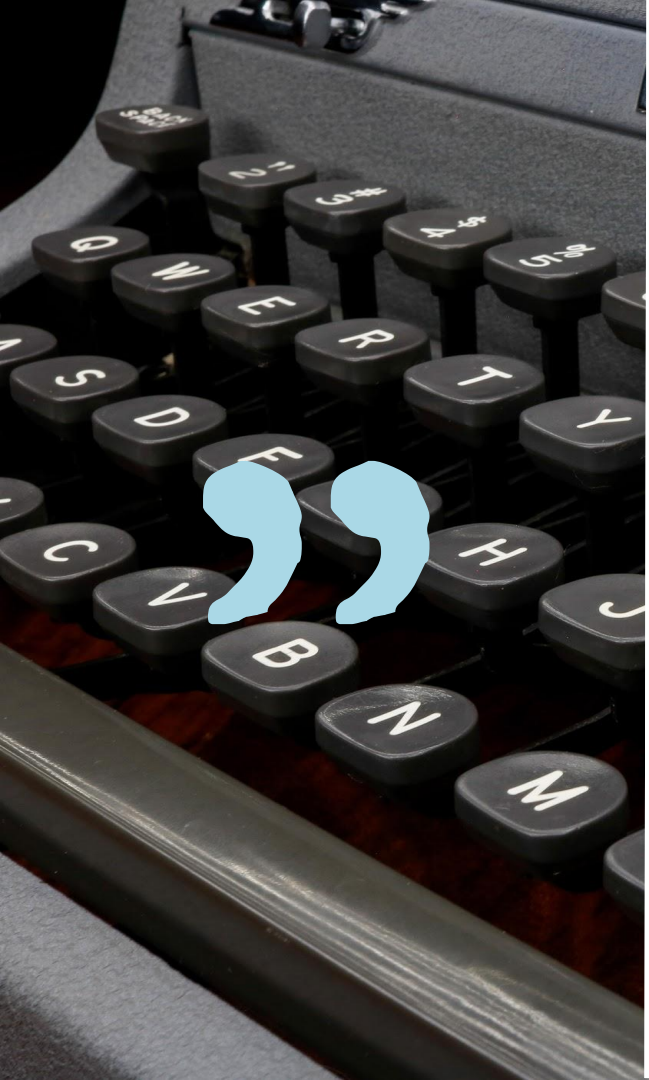
Hebrews 5:12 NIV





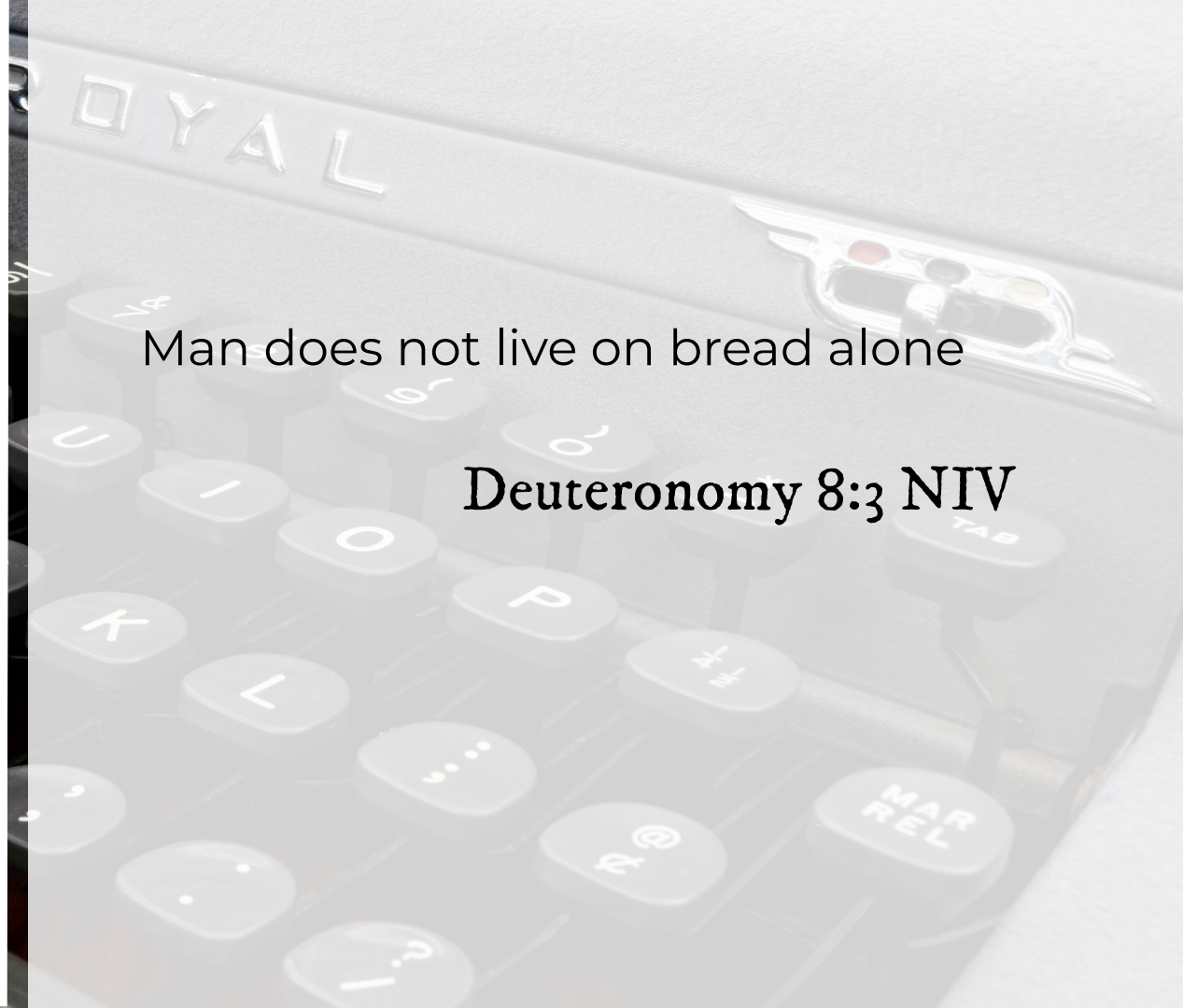
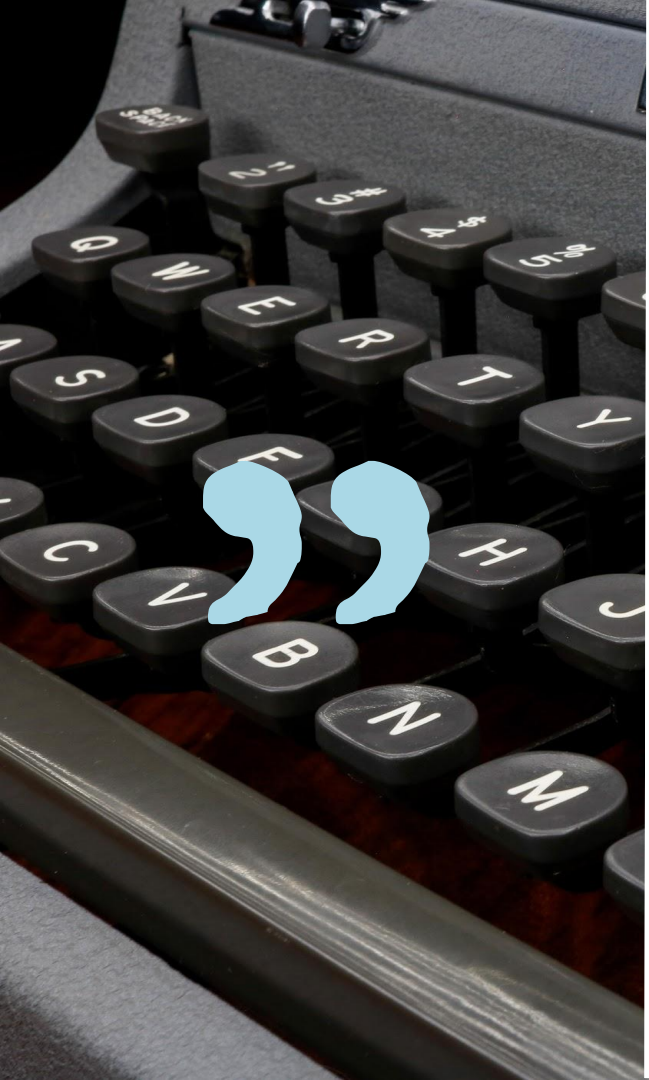
Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

Hebrews 5:13 NIV



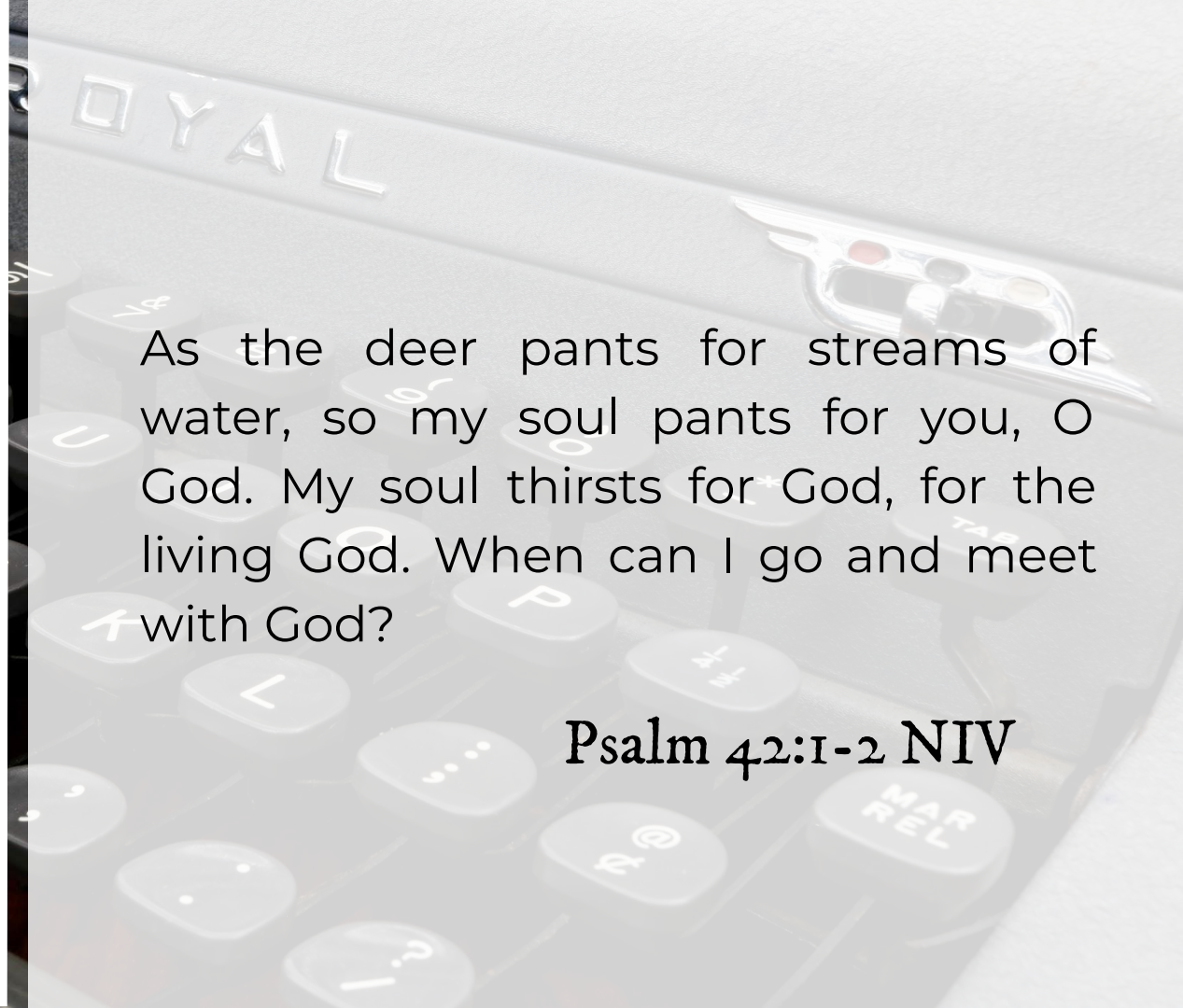
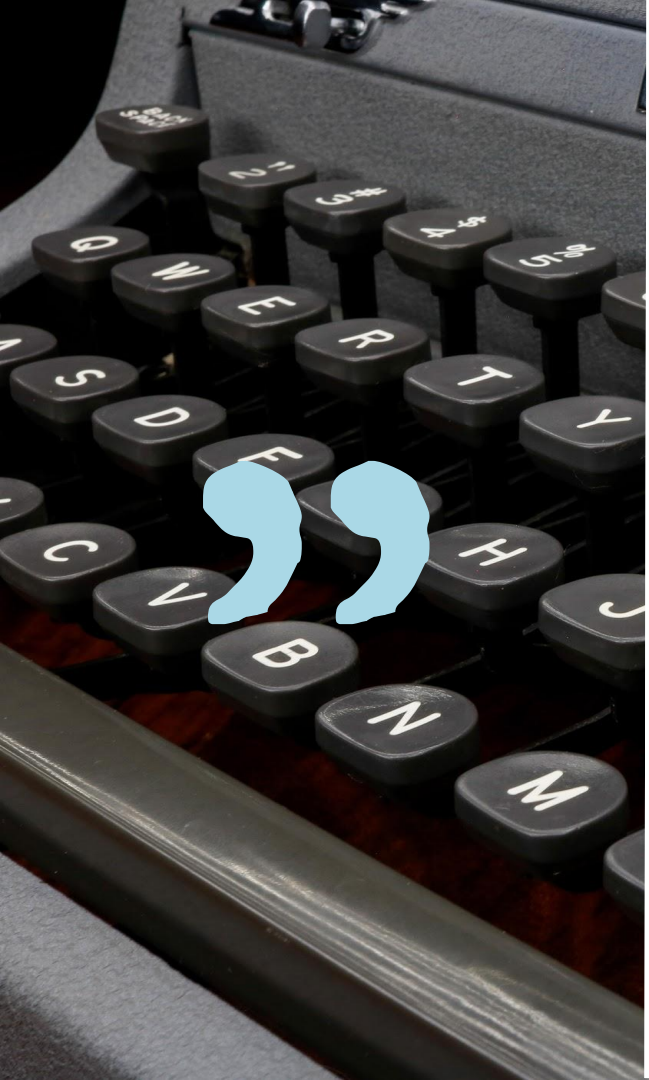
But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity,

**Hebrews 5:14, 6:1 NIV**



Man does not live on bread alone

**Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV**

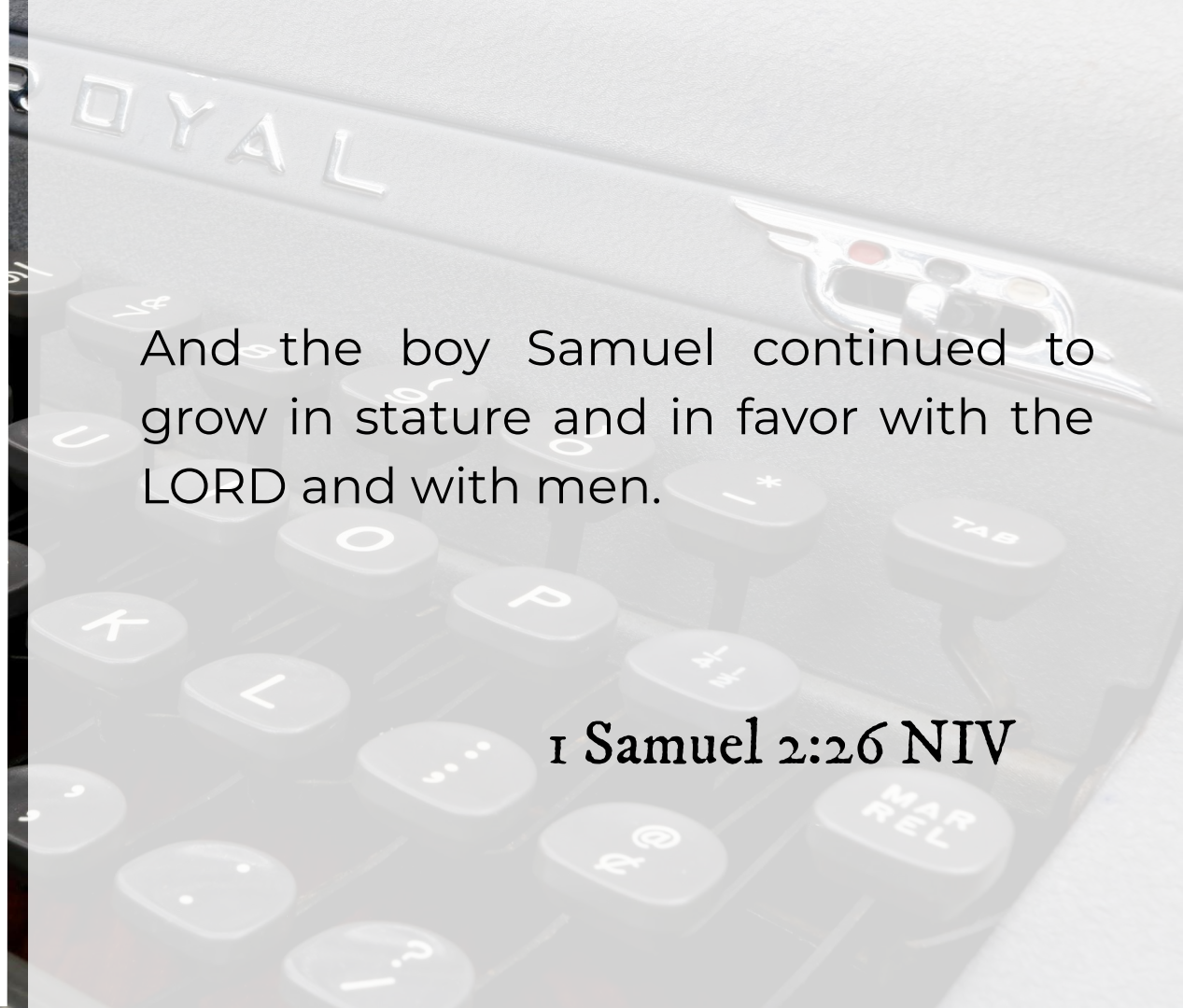
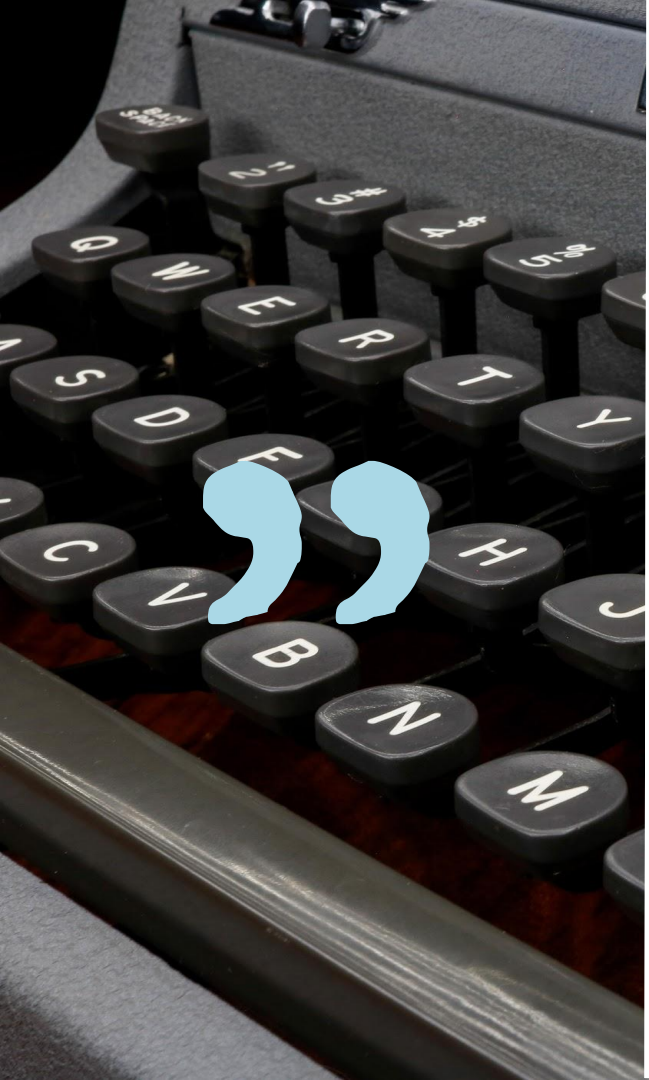


As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

**Psalm 42:1-2 NIV**

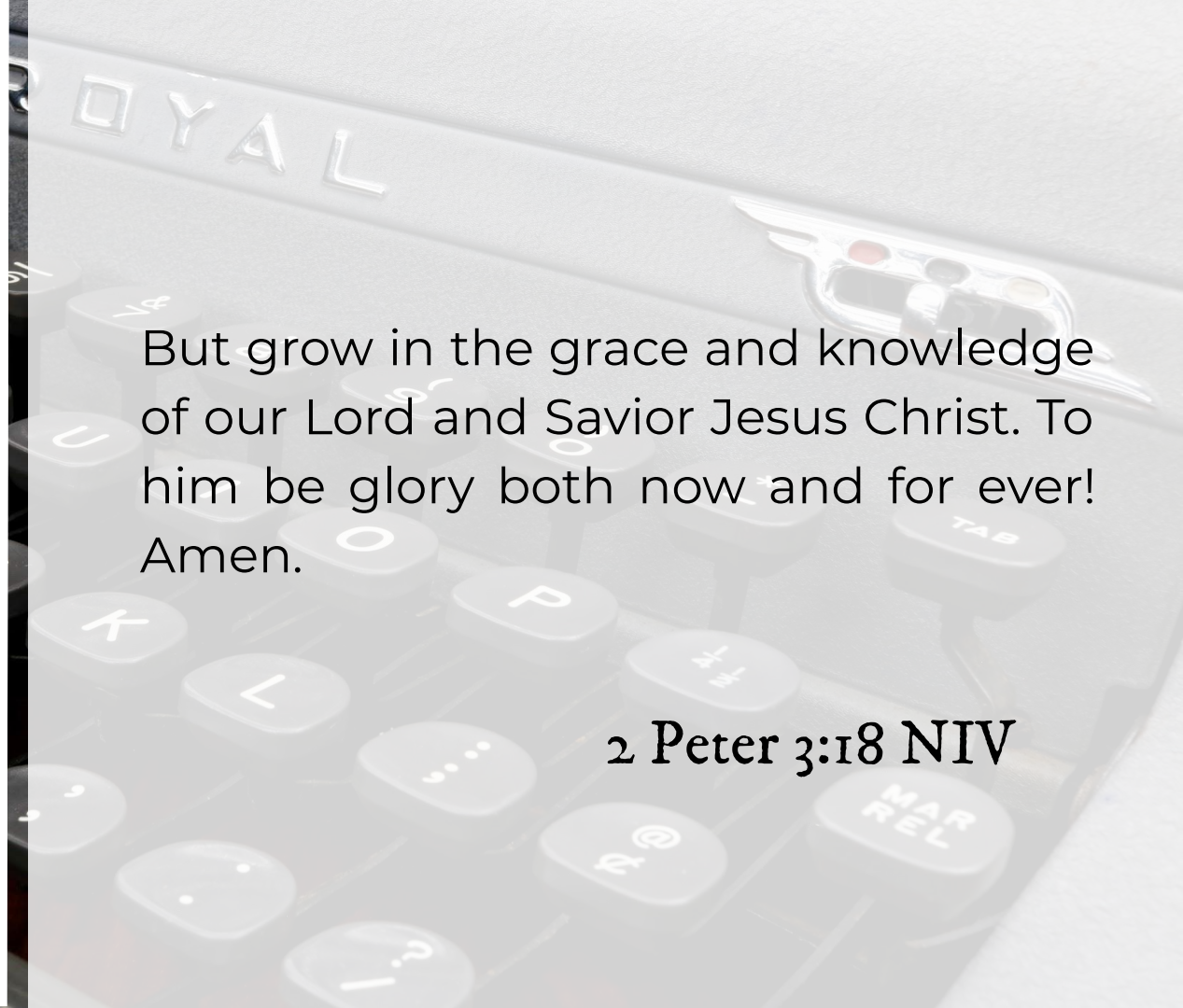
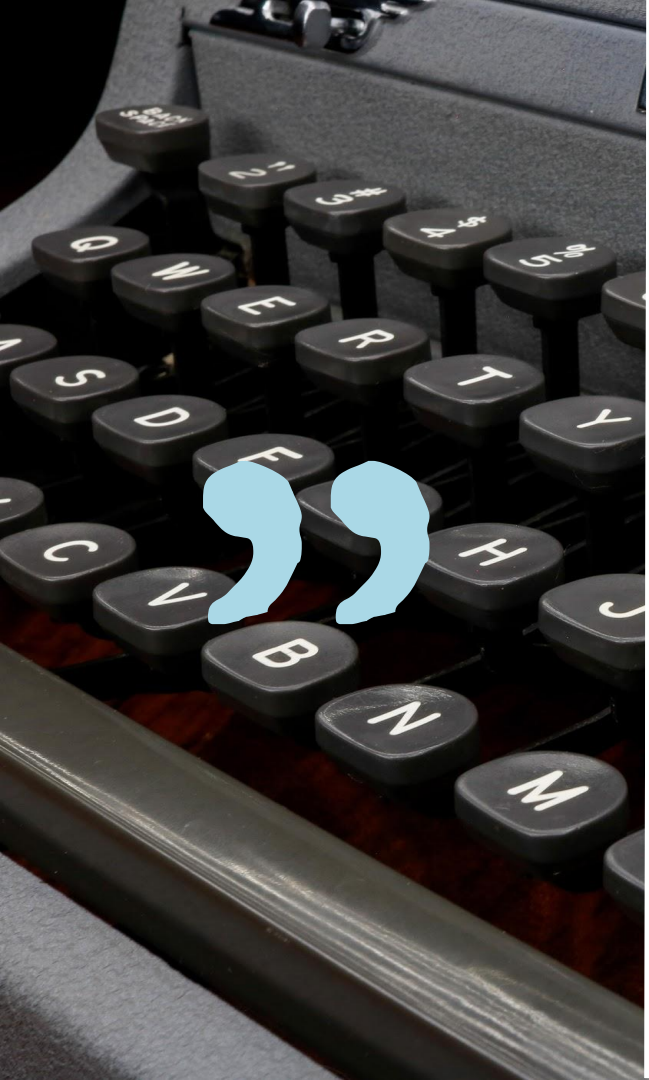
Pray without ceasing - 1 Thess 5:17

From our rising up to our  
laying down, God should be  
on our minds and hearts.



And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

1 Samuel 2:26 NIV



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

DO YOU HAVE AN  
APPETITE

FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH?