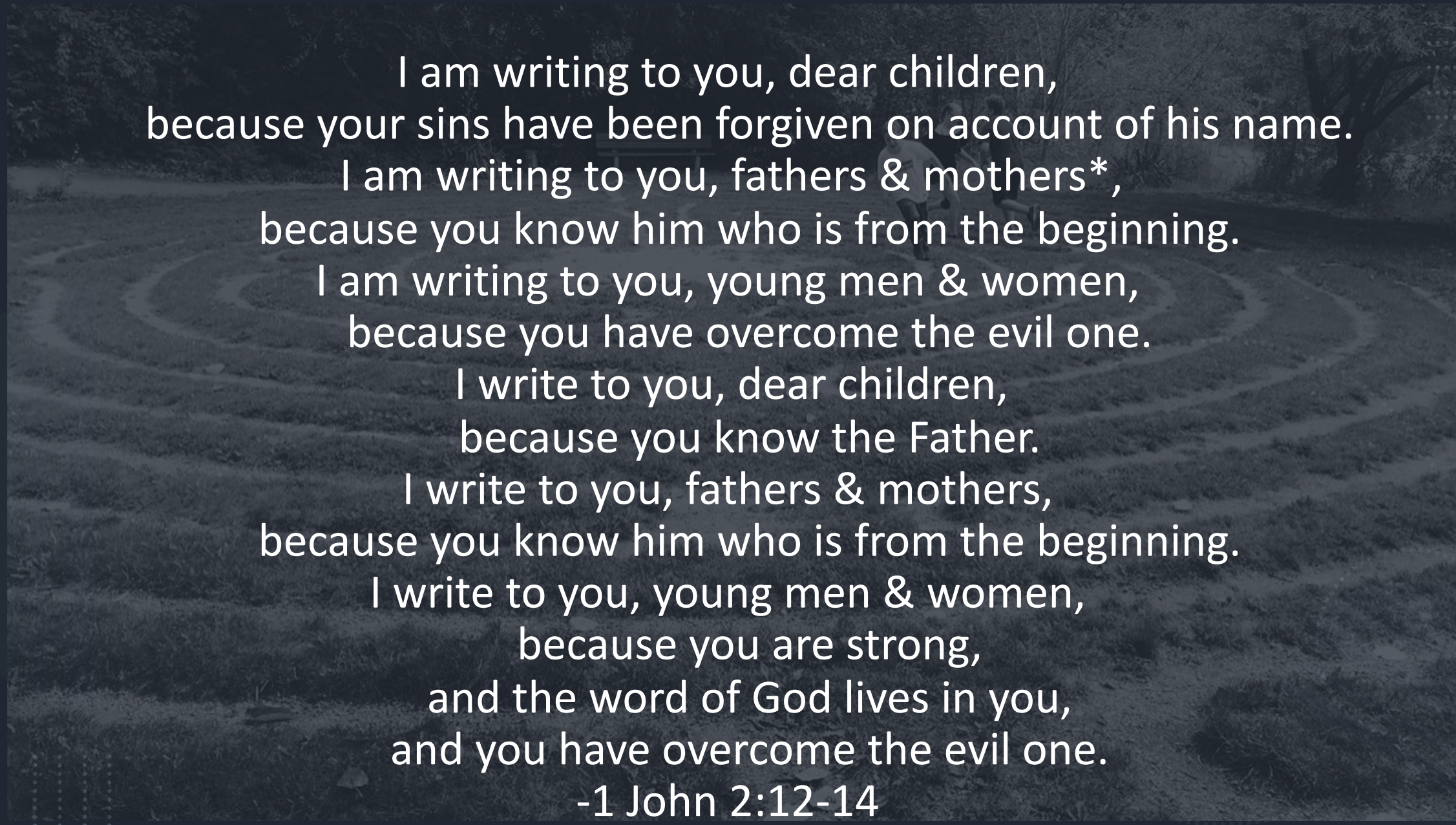
In The Middle



I am writing to you, dear children,
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.
I am writing to you, fathers & mothers*,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I am writing to you, young men & women,
because you have overcome the evil one.
I write to you, dear children,
because you know the Father.
I write to you, fathers & mothers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men & women,
because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.
-1 John 2:12-14

- Children: sins are forgiven, and they know the Father
- Fathers and Mothers: know him who is from the beginning
- Young men & women: have overcome the evil one, are strong, and the word of God lives in them

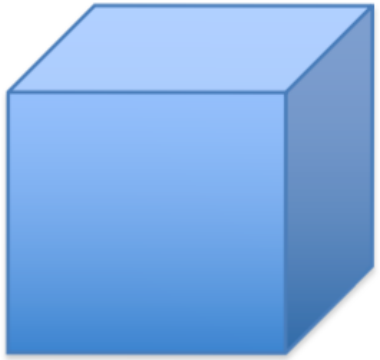
God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.
These are the words we dimly hear:
You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.
Flare up like a flame
and make big shadows I can move in.
Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don’t let yourself lose me.
Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.
Give me your hand.

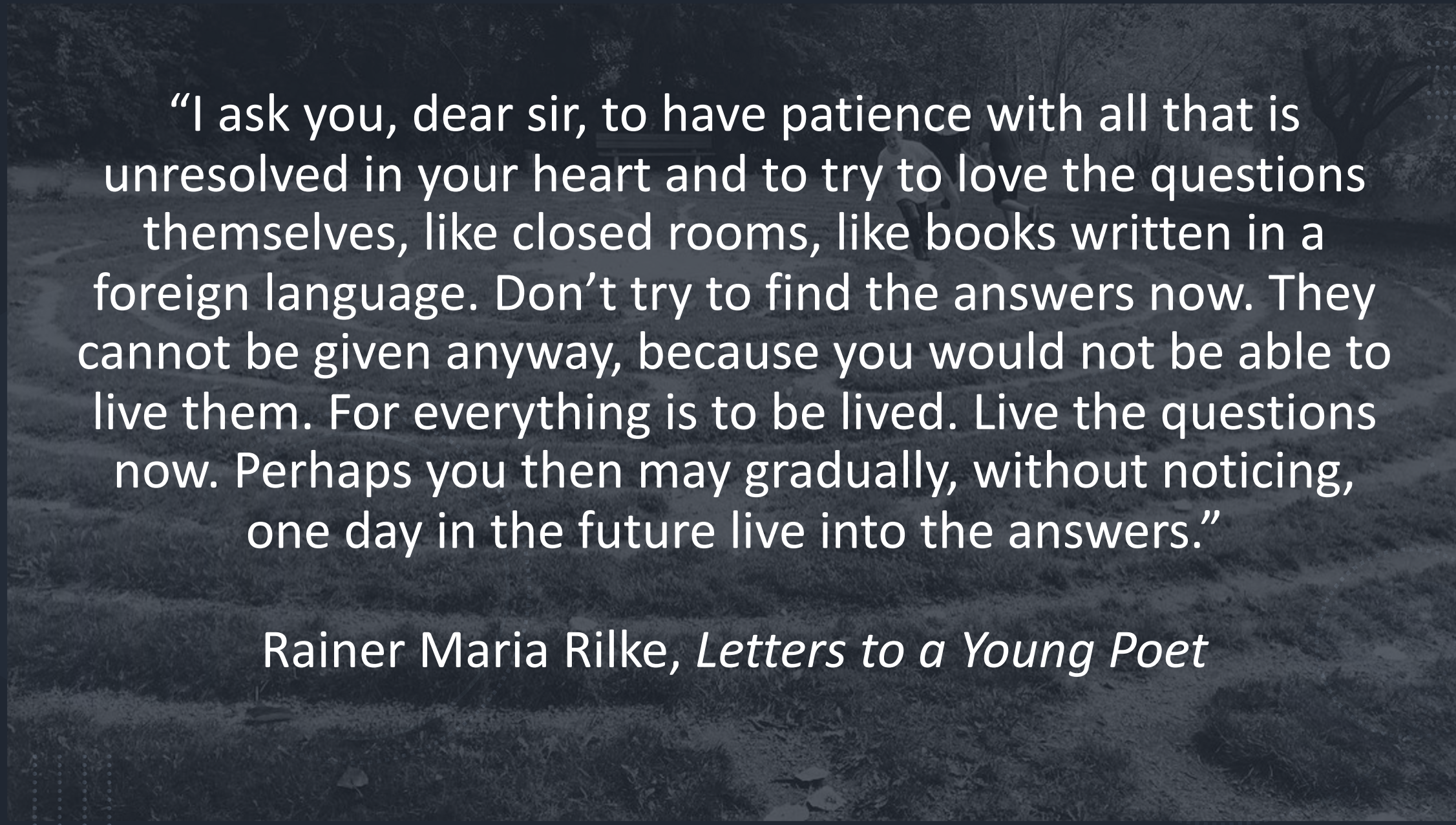
-Rainer Maria Rilke

Simplistic

Complicated

Simple





“I ask you, dear sir, to have patience with all that is unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves, like closed rooms, like books written in a foreign language. Don’t try to find the answers now. They cannot be given anyway, because you would not be able to live them. For everything is to be lived. Live the questions now. Perhaps you then may gradually, without noticing, one day in the future live into the answers.”

Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet*

It is because as we are our hearts are closed, and we cannot place the holy words in our hearts. So we place them on top of our hearts. And there they stay until, one day, the heart breaks and the words fall in.

-Parker J. Palmer

“May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God’s children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high God’s love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it of fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God herself.”

Ephesians 3:17-20, MSG