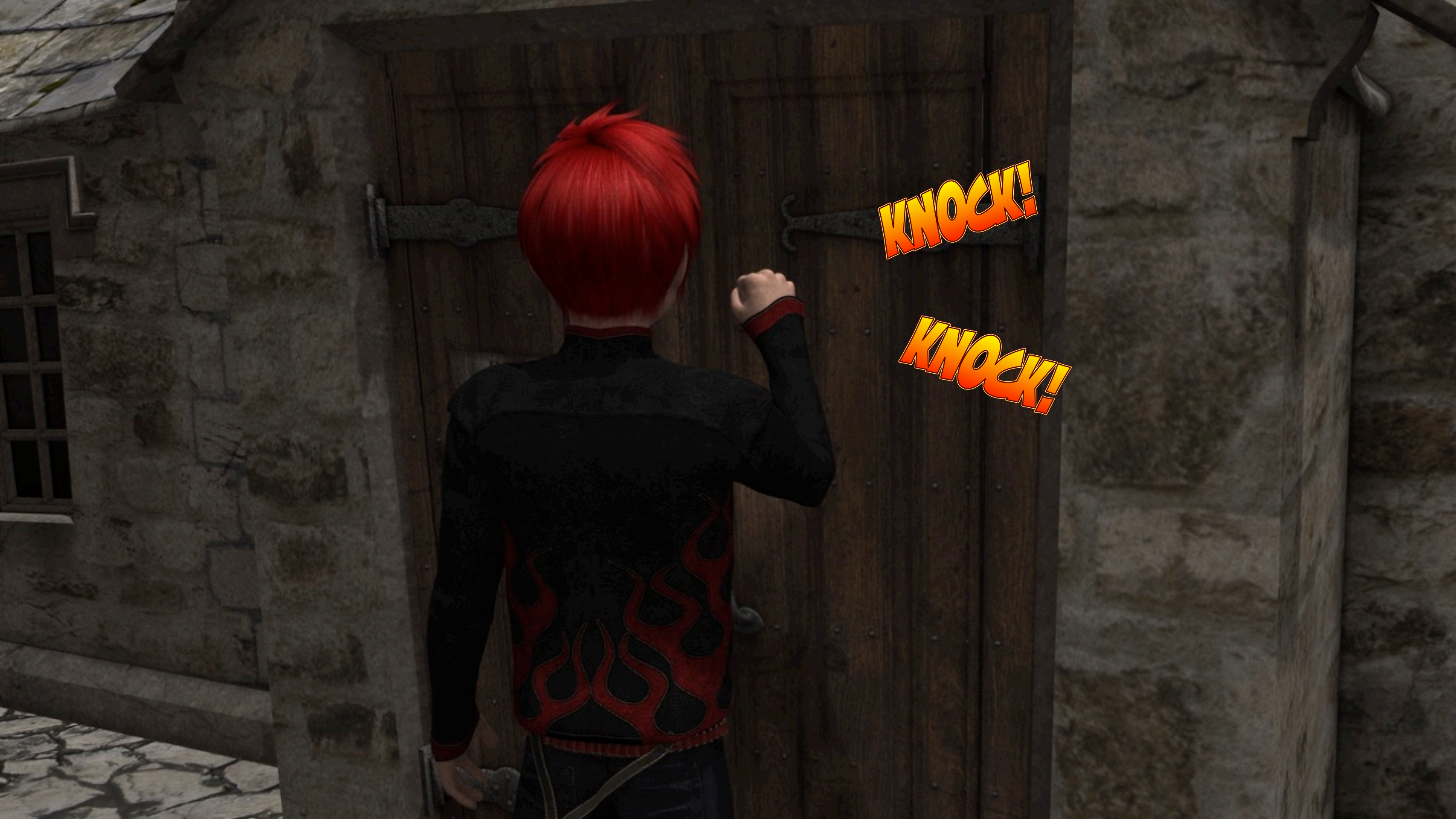


A high-angle view of a cobblestone courtyard in a European-style town. The courtyard is paved with irregular, light-colored stones. The surrounding buildings have textured, light brown walls and teal-colored shutters and doors. Several flower boxes filled with colorful flowers are mounted on the walls. In the background, a person's legs and feet are visible, standing in the courtyard. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

SACRIFICE

CHAPTER 17

THE NEXT MORNING...



KNOCK!

KNOCK!




PAUL!
COME IN!
COME IN!



HI, PAUL.


HI, SAMANTHA.



LOIS, I CAN'T
STAY LONG. I'M
AFRAID THE
AUTHORITIES ARE
LOOKING FOR
ME.


I HAD A
QUESTION ABOUT...
ABOUT YOU BEING
SAVED.

YES, I HEARD
ABOUT IT ON THE
NEWS.




ARE YOU AFRAID
OF GOING TO HELL?
IS THAT WHY YOU GOT
YOUR LIFE
STRAIGHTENED
OUT?

SURE, GO
AHEAD.



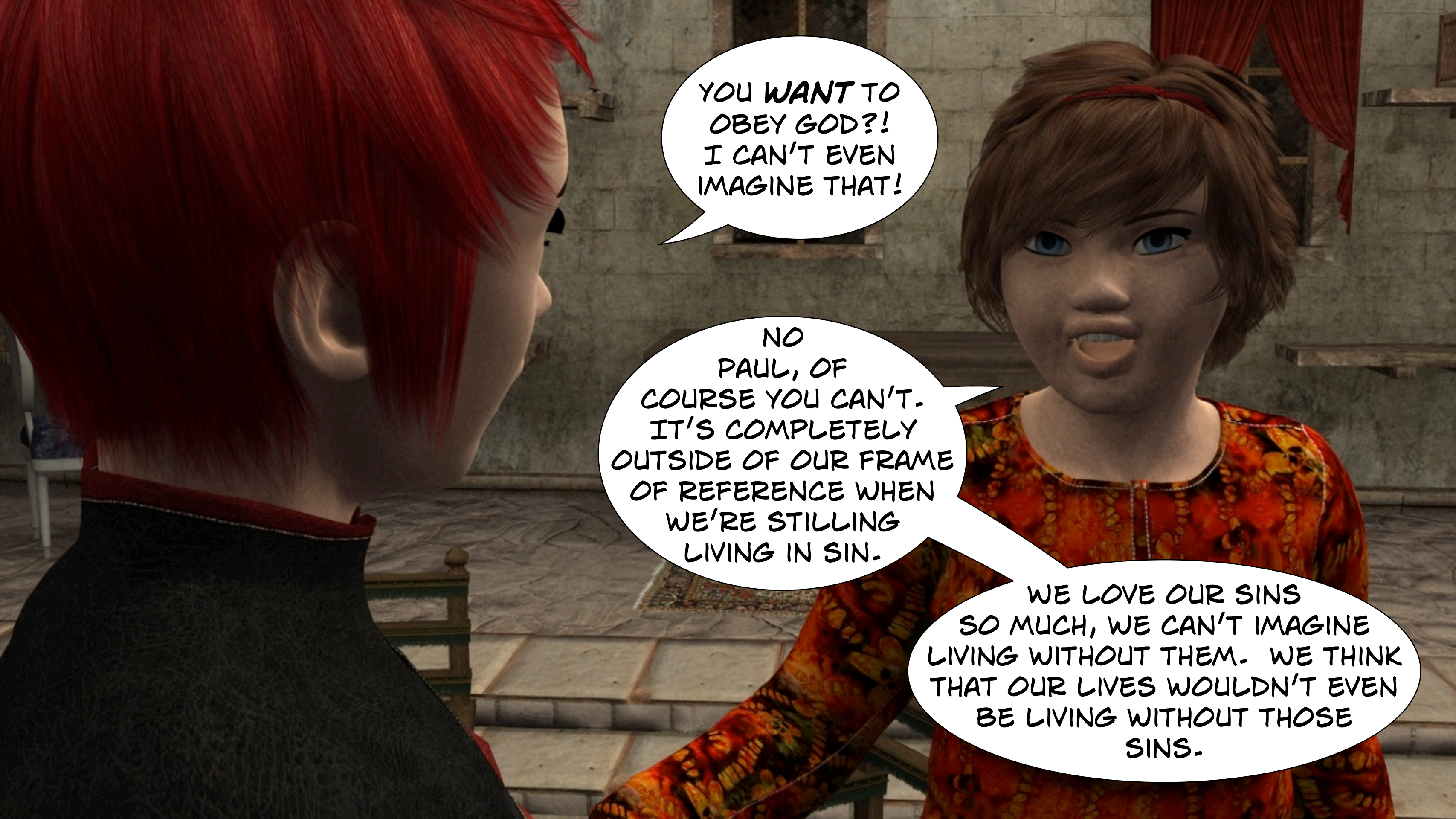
WELL, I WAS
SURE AFRAID OF
GOING TO HELL BEFORE
I GOT SAVED. THAT'S
WHAT DROVE ME TO JESUS.
GOD SHOWED ME THAT
JESUS WAS THE ONLY
WAY I COULD AVOID
HELL.

HE DIED FOR
ALL THE SINS I'VE
COMMITTED MY WHOLE
LIFE...AND HE CAME BACK
TO LIFE TOO!



BUT NOW THAT
I'M SAVED, I OBEY
GOD BECAUSE I WANT TO.
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT
GOING TO HELL. I KNOW
JESUS SAVED ME FROM
THAT.


NOW I
OBEY GOD BECAUSE
I WANT TO OBEY GOD.
IT'S CALLED
REGENERATION, PAUL. IT'S
WALKING BY THE SPIRIT.
THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW
YOU'RE SAVED!




YOU WANT TO
OBEY GOD?!
I CAN'T EVEN
IMAGINE THAT!

NO
PAUL, OF
COURSE YOU CAN'T.
IT'S COMPLETELY
OUTSIDE OF OUR FRAME
OF REFERENCE WHEN
WE'RE STILLING
LIVING IN SIN.

WE LOVE OUR SINS
SO MUCH, WE CAN'T IMAGINE
LIVING WITHOUT THEM. WE THINK
THAT OUR LIVES WOULDN'T EVEN
BE LIVING WITHOUT THOSE
SINS.



BUT IT'S
A LIE, PAUL.
IT'S A LIE
STRAIGHT FROM THE
DEVIL. THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT HE
WANTS US TO
BELIEVE. BUT IT
ISN'T TRUE,
PAUL.



I CAN TELL
YOU, NOT ONLY DON'T
I MISS THOSE SINS, IT
BOTHERS ME TO EVEN
REMEMBER I DID THEM. I
HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE
AROUND THEM, TO HEAR
ABOUT THEM, TO THINK
ABOUT THEM.

I'M
FREE FROM
THE BONDAGE OF
SIN, PAUL!
FREE!



knock!
knock!



OH NO!

OPEN UP!
THIS IS THE
POLICE! WE HAVE
WORD THAT YOU'RE
HARBORING A
WANTED
FUGITIVE!



PAUL, QUICK!
OVER HERE!

THE SIDE-PANEL IN THE CLOSET OPENS UP... THERE'S A SPACE BEHIND THE WALL. GET IN THERE AND STAY QUIET! WE'LL TRY TO GET HIM TO LEAVE.







OUTTA MY
WAY!

STOMP

STOMP







HMMMMM---







WHERE IS HE?!
I KNOW HE CAME THIS
WAY. NOW TELL ME
WHERE HE IS!




SOB
SNIFFLE



GASP

TALK!





MAYBE
THIS WILL
MAKE YOU
TALK!

SAMANTHA!

YOU HAVE 'TIL
THE COUNT OF THREE
TO TELL ME WHERE
HE IS OR YOUR
DAUGHTER DIES!

GASP

click





ONE!





SAM, YOU KNOW
JESUS WILL BE
WAITING FOR YOU,
DON'T YOU,
SWEETHEART?!

YES, MOMMA.






TWO!





NO.
PLEASE, NO.
PLEASE!
PLEASE,
NO!

A young girl with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a green dress, is looking at a hand holding a gun. She has a speech bubble that says "I'LL BE WITH YOU IN JUST A LITTLE BIT, SAMANTHA. I LOVE YOU!".

I'LL BE WITH
YOU IN JUST A
LITTLE BIT,
SAMANTHA. I
LOVE YOU!

I LOVE YOU
TOO,
MOMMA.



THREE!

BANG!




THUMP



SOB
CRY





EH!
MY MISTAKE. I
GUESS HE ISN'T
HERE AFTER
ALL.

SOB
CRY



SOB
CRY

SLAM!

SOB
CRY






WHY?!
WHY DIDN'T
YOU JUST TELL
HIM I WASN'T
HERE?!


PAUL, I
WON'T LIE.

YOU
WHAT?! YOU
WON'T LIE?!
WHY, BECAUSE OF
YOUR BELIEF IN
GOD?!


I
WON'T SIN
AGAINST
HIM.




THEN WHY DIDN'T
YOU JUST TELL HIM I
WAS HERE?!
YOU LET HIM KILL
YOUR DAUGHTER!



OH PAUL...
YOU STILL DON'T SEE.
SAM KNEW WHERE SHE
WAS GOING. I KNOW
WHERE SHE IS RIGHT
NOW...SHE'S WITH
JESUS.



SHE USED TO
TALK ABOUT HOW
WONDERFUL IT
WOULD BE TO SPEND
FOREVER WITH
JESUS.




BUT YOU, PAUL,
IF YOU DIED TODAY,
YOU'D BE IN HELL...
FOREVER.

BECAUSE YOU'RE
STILL BLIND. YOU
STILL WON'T GIVE UP
YOUR SINS AND GIVE
YOUR LIFE TO
JESUS.




YOU LET HIM KILL
HER SO THAT I
WOULDN'T GO TO
HELL?!?





PAUL, IT
WAS A CHOICE
BETWEEN SAM
GOING TO HEAVEN
OR YOU GOING TO
HELL.

I KNOW WHICH
CHOICE SAM WOULD
HAVE MADE...AND DID
MAKE.



PAUL,
SHE DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING
EITHER.



WE
COULDN'T LET
YOU GO TO HELL,
PAUL.