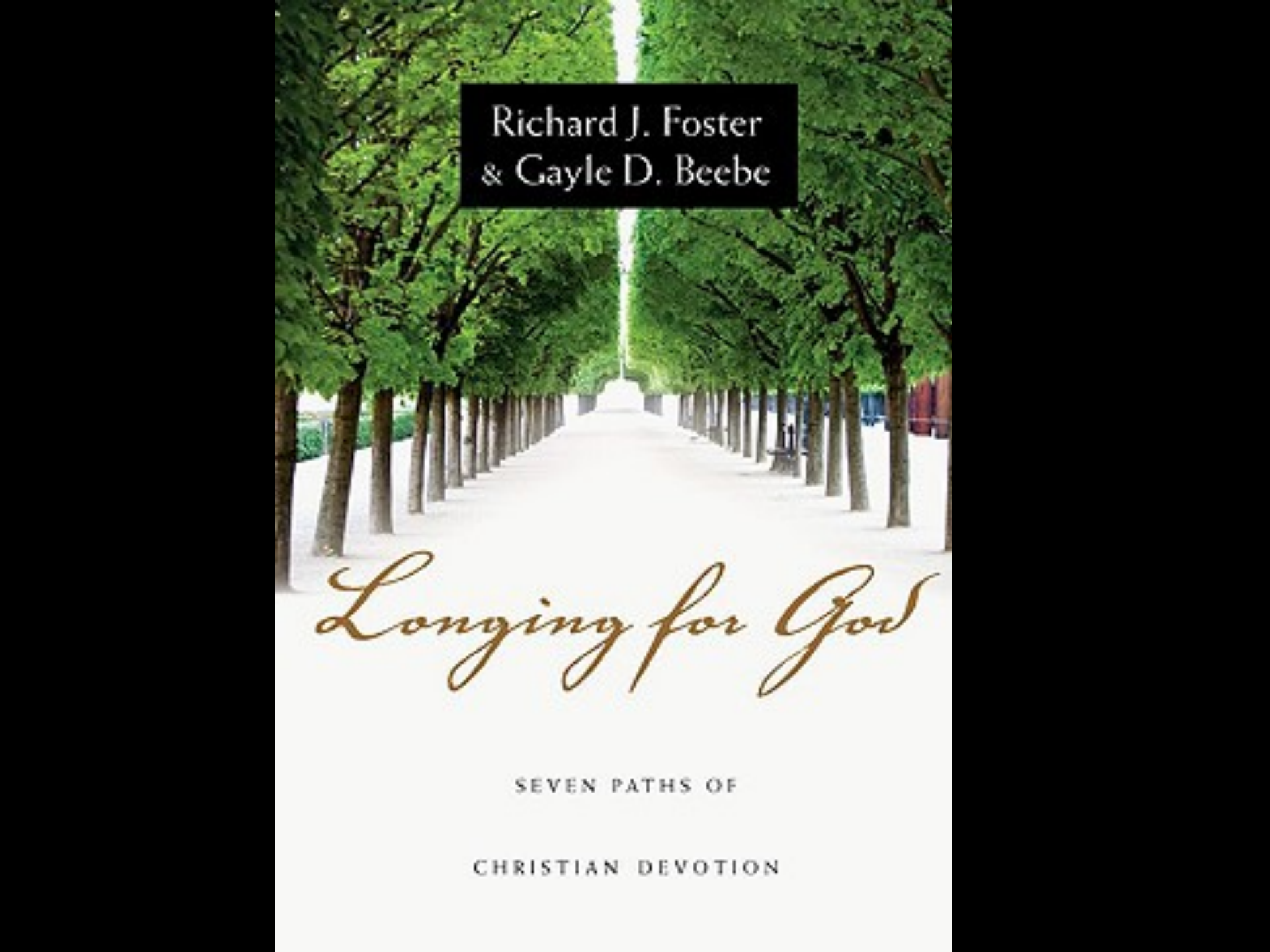


A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture, set against a black background. The hands are positioned centrally, with fingers interlaced. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the details of the fingers. Overlaid on the hands is the text "Sermon: The Right Ordering of Our Love for God" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

**Sermon: The Right Ordering
of Our Love for God**





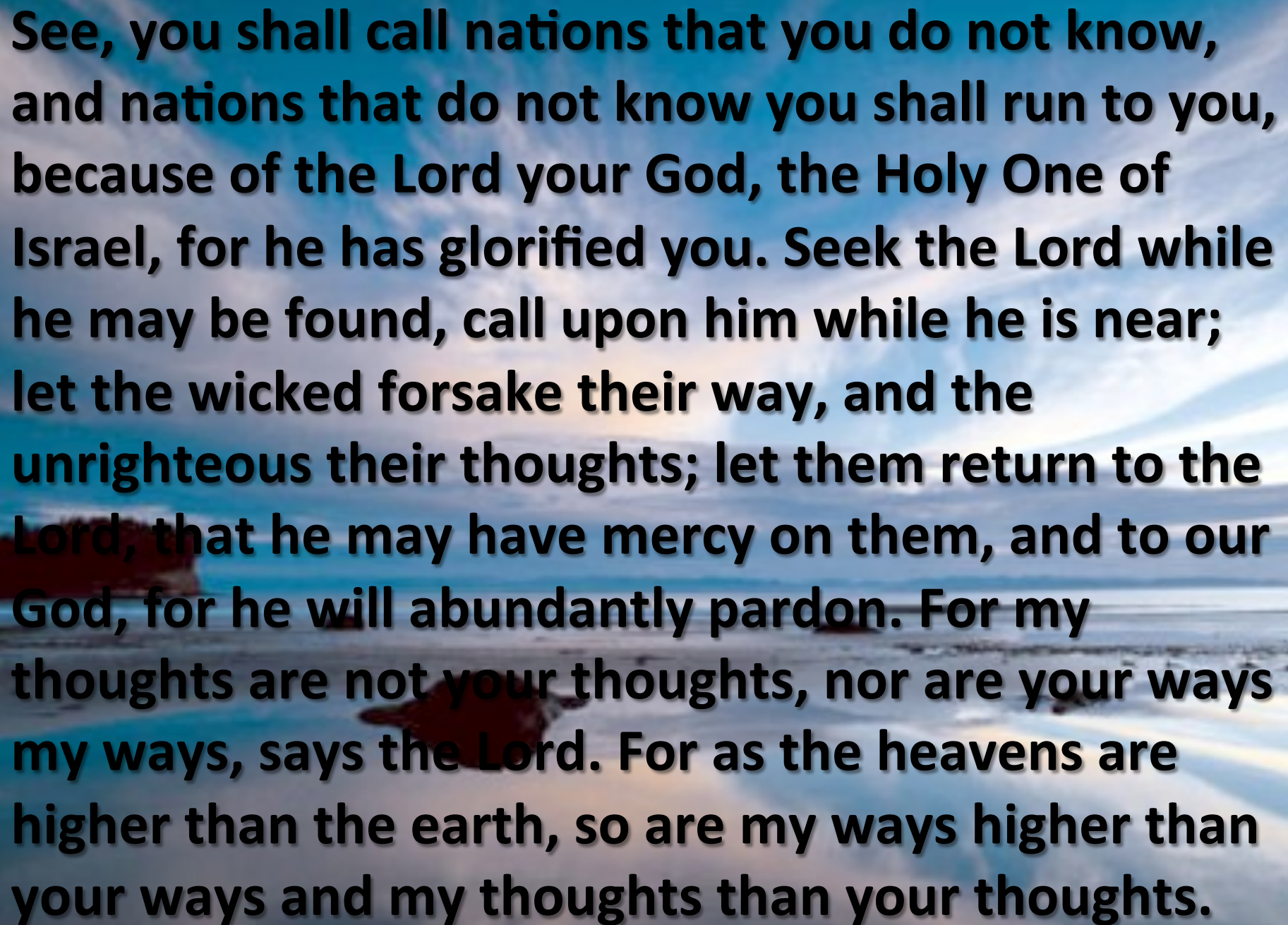
Richard J. Foster
& Gayle D. Beebe

Longing for God

SEVEN PATHS OF
CHRISTIAN DEVOTION

Isaiah 55:1-9 (NRSV)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and
without price. Why do you spend your money for
that which is not bread, and your labor for that
which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and
eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich
food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so
that you may live. I will make with you an
everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for
David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a
leader and commander for the peoples.

The background of the image shows a serene sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is a mix of soft blues and oranges, with wispy white clouds. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a person is visible, looking out towards the horizon. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.



Origen 185-254

ORIGENES.

The greatest challenge we face is not lack of belief but the enormous gravity of our egocentric desires.

To this Origen offers one of his greatest contributions.

WE NEED EACH OTHER!

Many people are obsessively focused on heaven when they die, and most have simply given up on any substantial character formation into Christlikeness.

But here is someone who keeps telling us that there is more: more **love**, more **power**, more **insight**, more **joy**, more **peace**. **WE CAN GROW**. We can learn. We can make progress forward.

Origen is inviting us into an ongoing, breathless experience of God's expansive-and ever expanding-love.

Longing for God

How do we grow?
Practice



