

T3 to Maturity



- ❖ Love God
- ❖ Love Others
- ❖ Bear fruit

Maturing in Christ



- A. **EVIDENCES** of spiritual immaturity
- B. **ENDANGERMENT** from spiritual immaturity
- C. **ENCOURAGEMENT** towards spiritual maturity

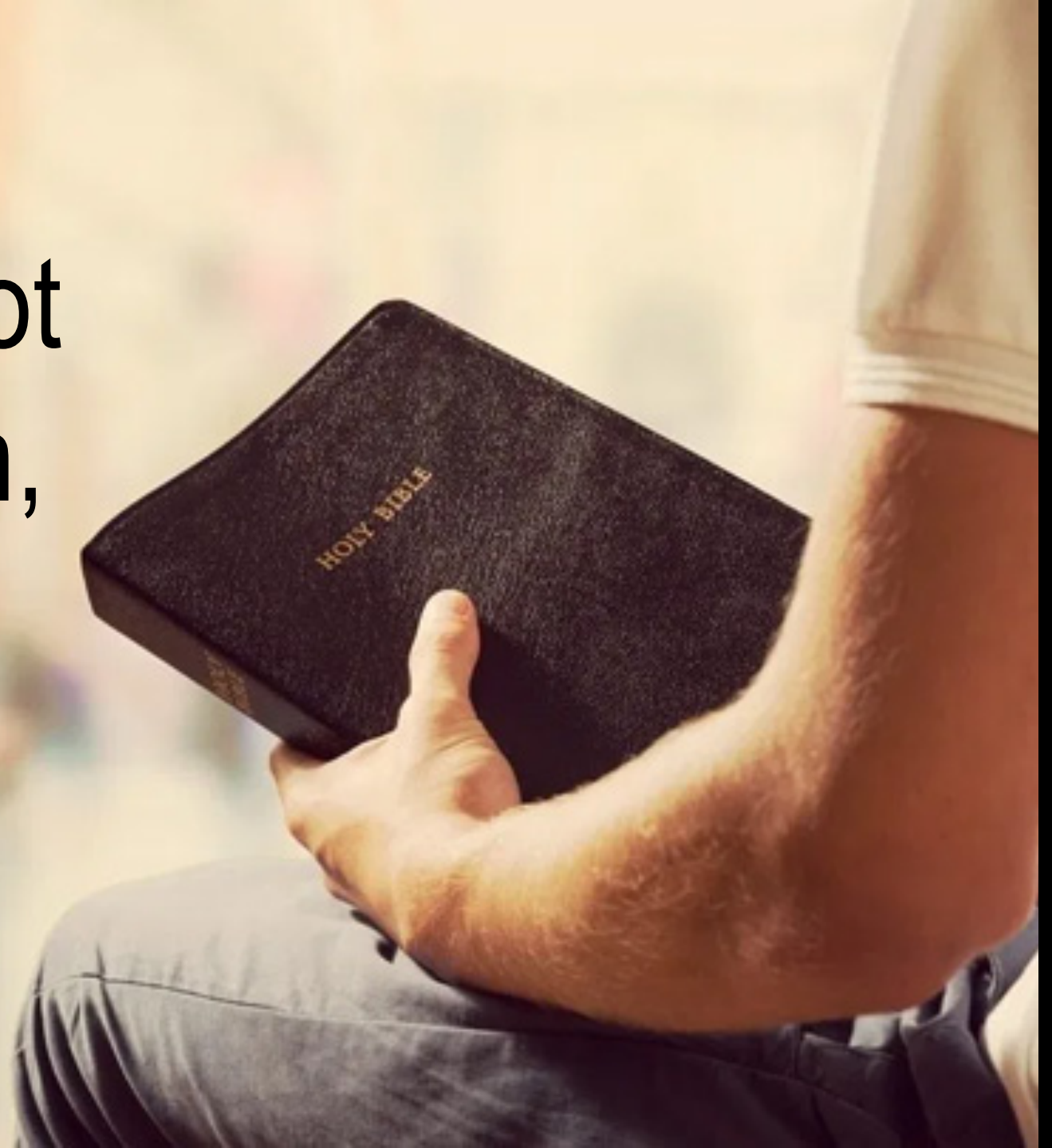


- **F**ocus on God
- **A**pply what you have learned
- **I**mitate the godly (learn from them)
- **T**rust God (be patient)
- **H**elp in serving the church





· God's Goal is not
your conversion,
it is your
ADULTHOOD.



THE LETTER OF JAMES

tion called "the Proverbs of the New Testament," the book of James practically and faithfully shows how to live. From perseverance to true faith to controlling one's tongue, submitting patience, this book aids readers in living authentically and wisely for James and the apostle Paul differed on the question of faith versus complementarity rather than contradictory. Possible (40-50), the book is believed to have

T3

Trials

Tenacity

Truths



James 1:1-25 (NIV)

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. **2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **5** If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **6** But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

James 1:1-25 (NIV)

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.

10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. **11** For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business. **12** Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. **13** When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14** but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

James 1:1-25 (NIV)

15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. **16** Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **18** He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. **19** My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, **20** because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. **21** Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

James 1:1-25 (NIV)

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. **23** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. **25** But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

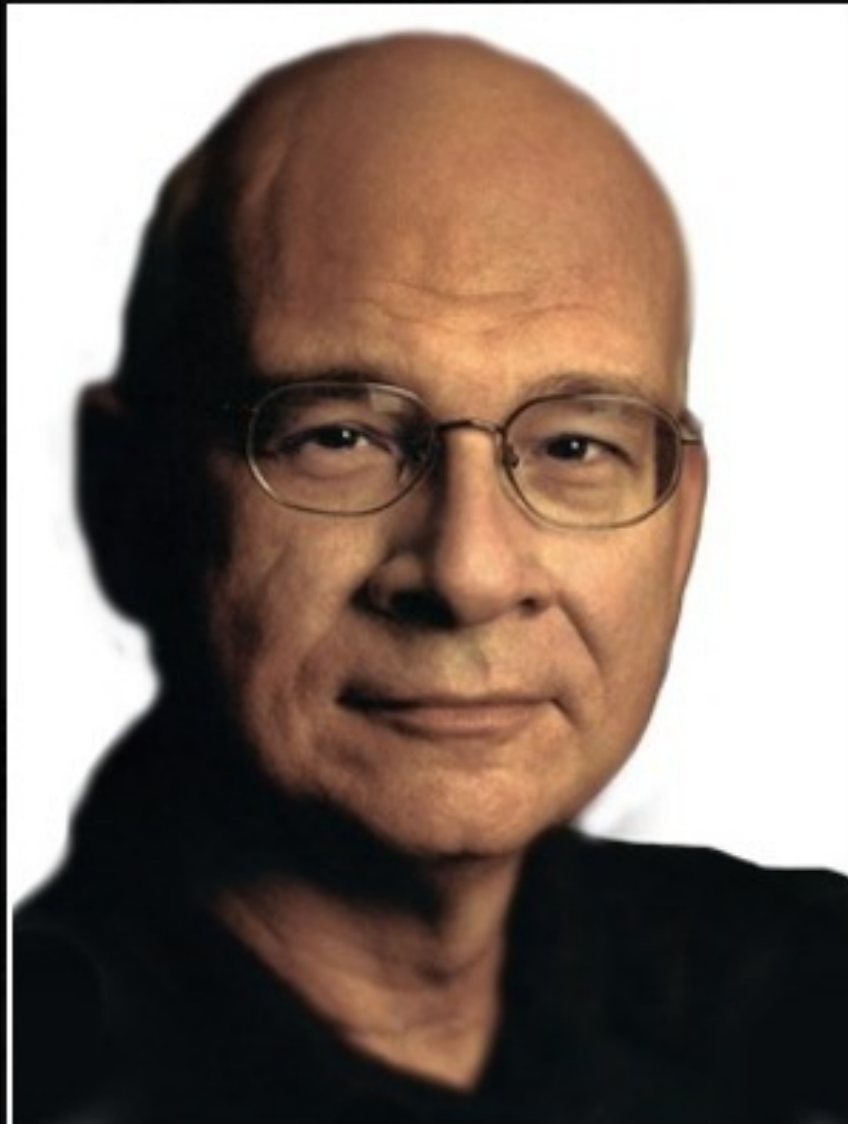
1. Trials

Trials

Tenacity

Truths





No one is exempt from trials and tribulations. In fact, this is often what happens to people God loves very much, for it is part of God's often mysterious and good plan for turning us into something great.

— *Timothy Keller* —

AZ QUOTES

1. TRIALS

REALITY OF TRIALS (v2)

RESPONSES OF TRIALS

RESULTS OF TRIALS



James 1:2 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, **whenever** you face trials of many kinds ...



TYPES OF TRIALS

Below are brief descriptions of some types of trials that every Christian will likely face:

- **Fiery trials**: intense encounters or struggles; bursts of anger, grief, or lust
- **Infirmities**: physical limitations and illnesses
- **Reproaches**: ridicule and rejection on account of faith or holiness
- **Persecutions**: harassment and oppression due to religious convictions
- **Necessities**: wear and care of daily responsibilities
- **Distresses**: disappointments and deep hurts
- **Tribulations**: unusual pressures and challenges



1. TRIALS

REALITY OF TRIALS (v2)

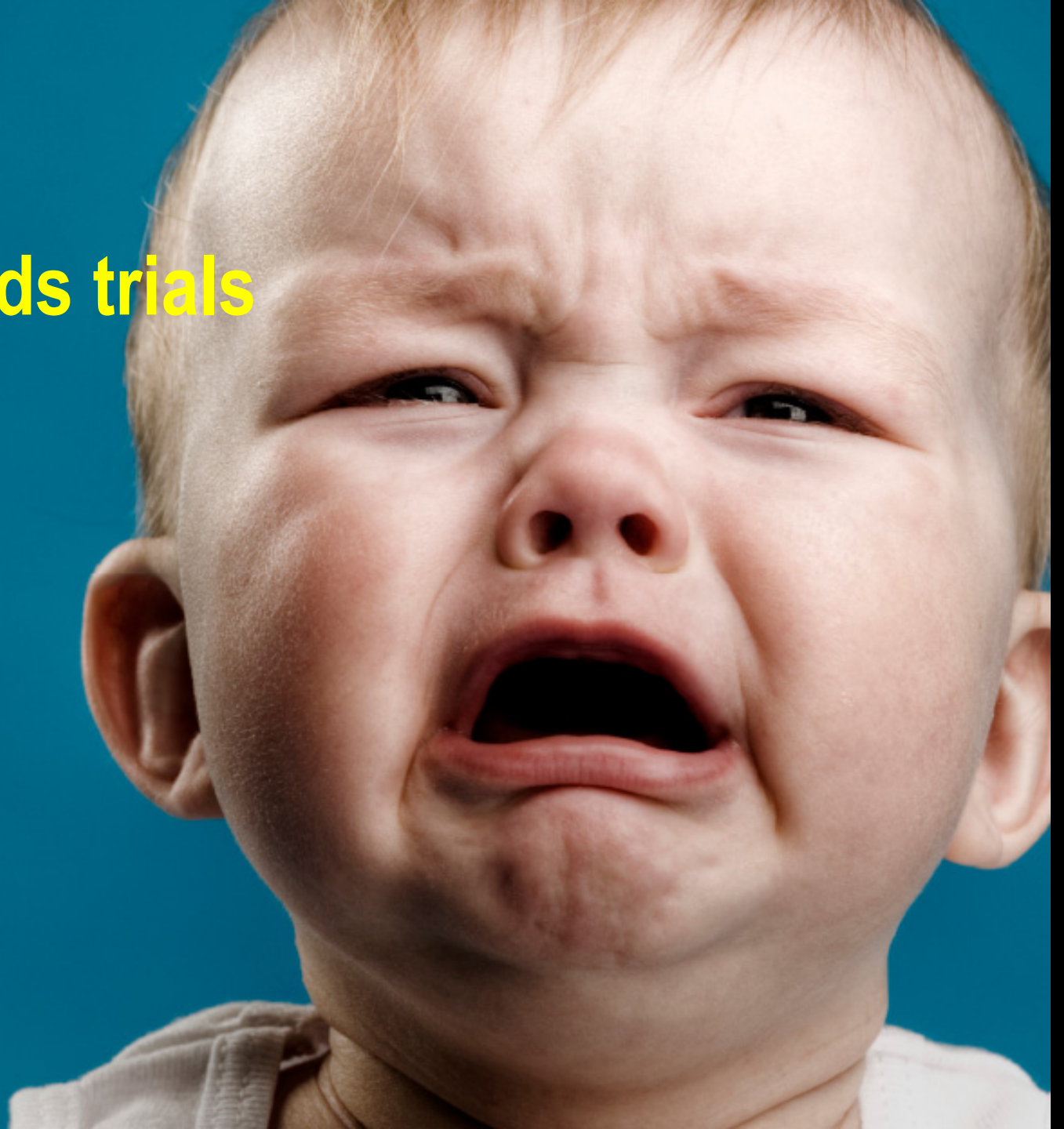
RESPONSES OF TRIALS (v2,4)

RESULTS OF TRIALS



Natural responses towards trials

- Whine
- Blame others
- Running away from it
- etc



Biblical responses towards trials

- Count it a joy

James 1:2 (NIV) **Consider it pure joy**, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds..

Example of Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy** set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Biblical responses towards trials

- Count it a joy
- Hang in there

James 1:4 (NIV) **Let perseverance finish its work** so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Biblical responses towards trials

- Count it a joy
- Hang in there
- Stay Humble

James 1:9-11 (NIV)

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. **10** But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.

11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.



1. TRIALS

REALITY OF TRIALS (v2)

RESPONSES OF TRIALS (v2,4 & 9-11)

RESULTS OF TRIALS (v4, 12 & 25)



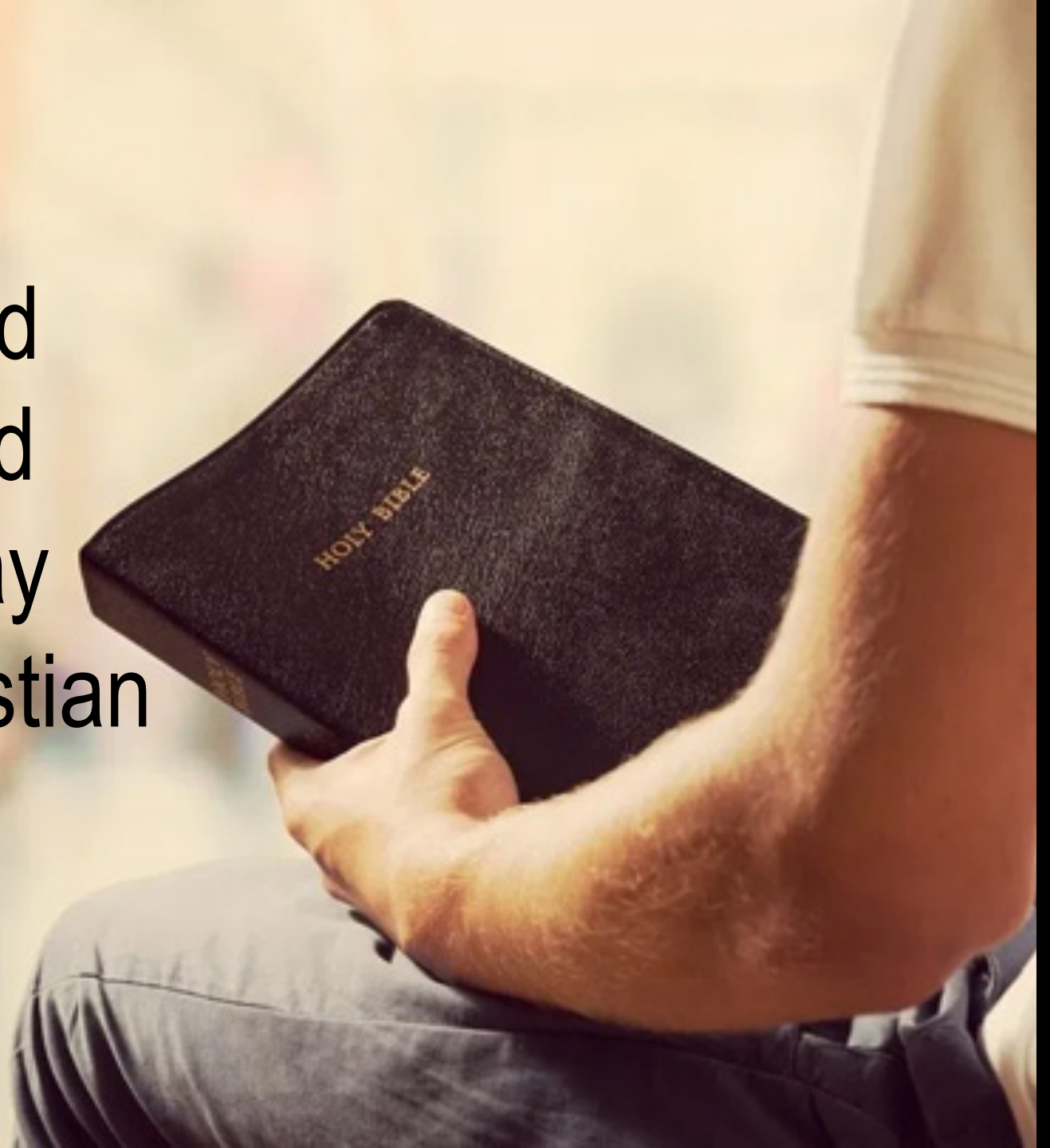
James 1:4, 12, & 25 (NIV)

4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete, not lacking anything**.

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will **receive the crown of life** that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will **be blessed in what they do**.

Maturity is not measured in church. It is measured outside - through the day to day living of the Christian life.



PEARL

A pearl begins with a grain of sand...

A pearl is a natural treasure that is of high value.

It is formed from a grain of sand. Each grain of sand is unique.

Some are rough and brown. Some are sharp, crystalline and sparkle like tiny diamonds.

Sand is shaped over time to become a pearl...

When a grain of sand enters an oyster shell, it becomes an irritant to the oyster.

The oyster secretes a special fluid that begins to cover the sand and causes it to take shape. Over time, with layer after layer of the fluid, it becomes a pearl.





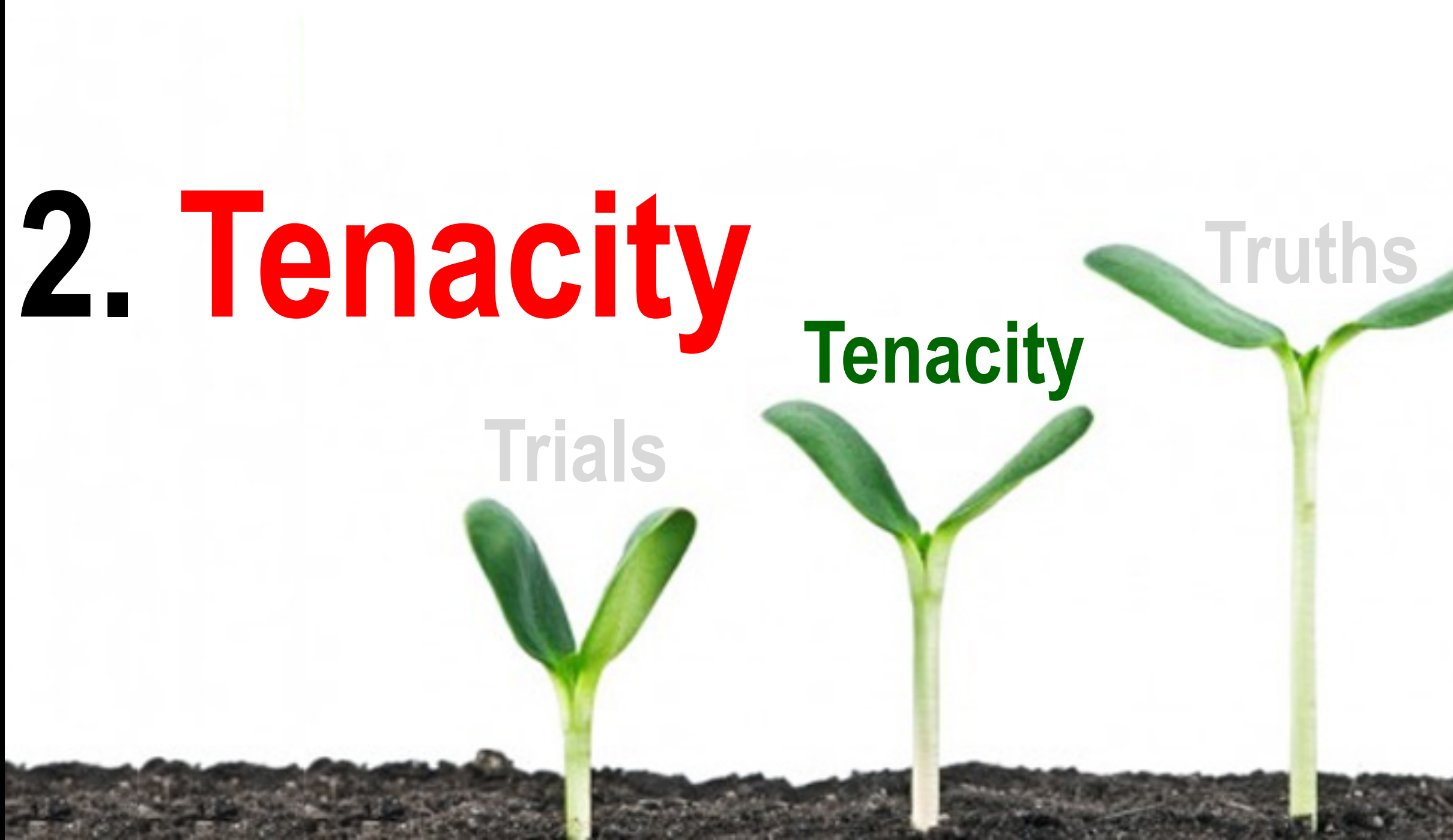
Video #1 of Pearl Formation

2. Tenacity

Tenacity

Truths

Trials



James 1:4 & 12 (NIV)

4 Let perseverance **finish its work** so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, **having stood the test**, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

2. **TENACITY**

Steadfastness (v4, 12)

- Stay under the trials
- Let it (perseverance) finished its work





We can decide to let our trials crush
us, or we can convert them to new
forces of good.

— *Helen Keller* —

AZ QUOTES

2. **TENACITY**

Patient (v12)

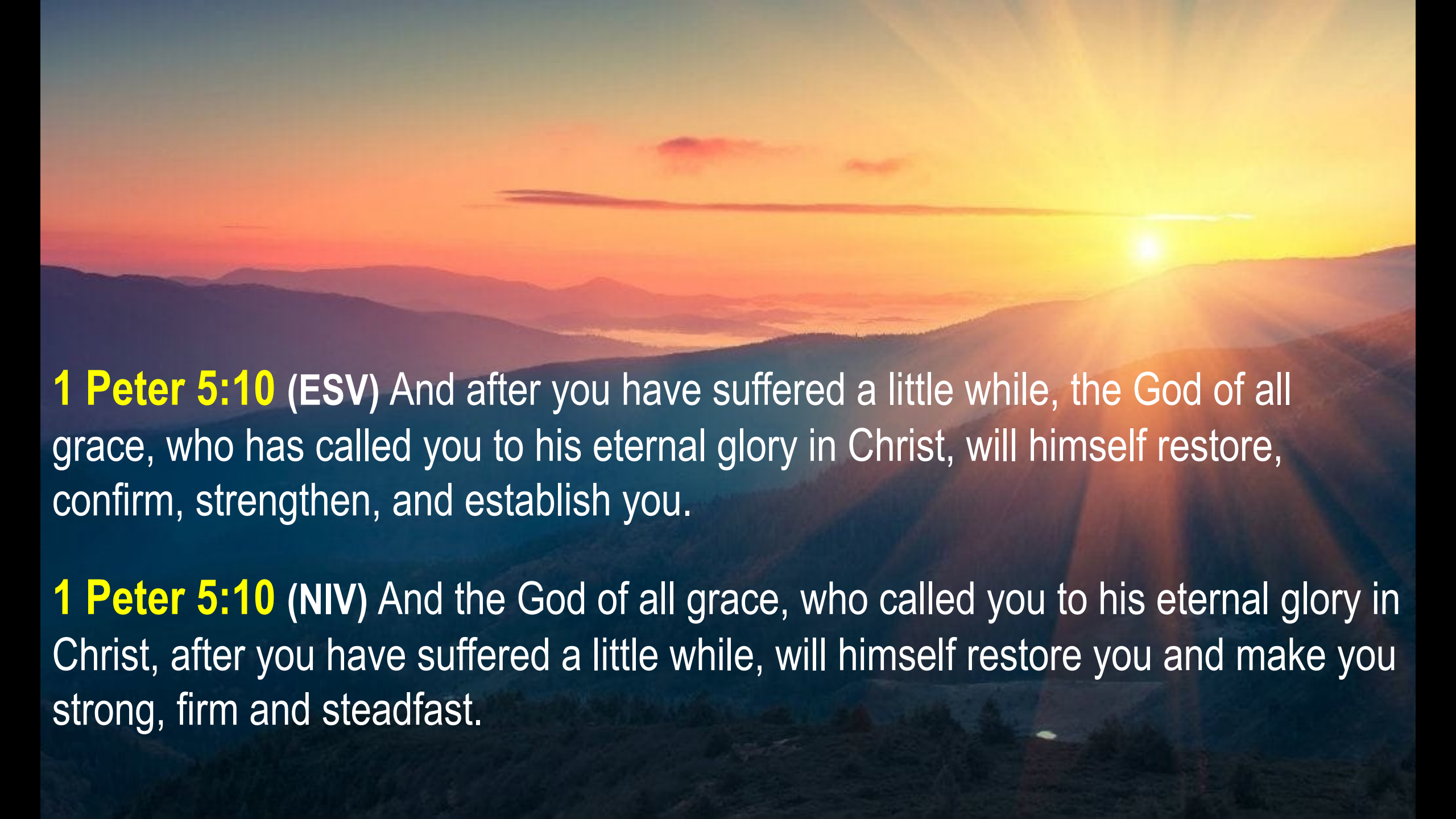
- Trust in God's timing
- Do not give up



A wooden bench is positioned in the foreground, facing away from the viewer. The background is a misty, hazy landscape with trees and bushes, creating a serene and contemplative atmosphere. The lighting is soft, suggesting dawn or dusk.

PATIENCE
is a fruit that only grows
under trials

- Joyce Meyer -



1 Peter 5:10 (ESV) And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

1 Peter 5:10 (NIV) And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

3. Truths

Trials

Tenacity

Truths



James 1:5-8 (NIV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who **gives generously** to all **without finding fault**, and it will be given to you. **6** But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

3. TRUTHS

Wisdom (v5-8)

- Ask GOD
- Do not doubt
- God will supply generously and graciously
- It is guaranteed



3. TRUTHS

Word of God (v19-25)

- Is the Word of God merely academic OR is it Life to you?
- Hear the Word of God
- Receive the Word of God
- Obey the Word of God



James 1:19-25 (NIV)

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, **20** because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. **21** Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly **accept the word planted in you**, which can save you. **22** Do not merely **listen to the word**, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says. 23** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. **25** But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

3. TRUTHS

Temptations (v13-18)

- Who He is
 - God is not the source of temptation
 - God is the source of ALL GOOD
(not shifting shadow - He never shift and never change)



James 1:13-18 (NIV)


13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does **he tempt anyone**; **14** but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. **16** Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17 Every good and perfect gift is from** above, coming down from **the Father** of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **18** He chose to **give us birth through the word of truth**, that we might be **a kind of firstfruits** of all he created.

3. TRUTHS

Temptations (v13-18)

- Who we are
 - We are His creation (birth through the word of truth)
 - We are His firstfruit - meaning “We are the best”
 - We are supposed to be the best for HIM!





Trials teach us what we are;
they dig up the soil, and let
us see what we are made of.

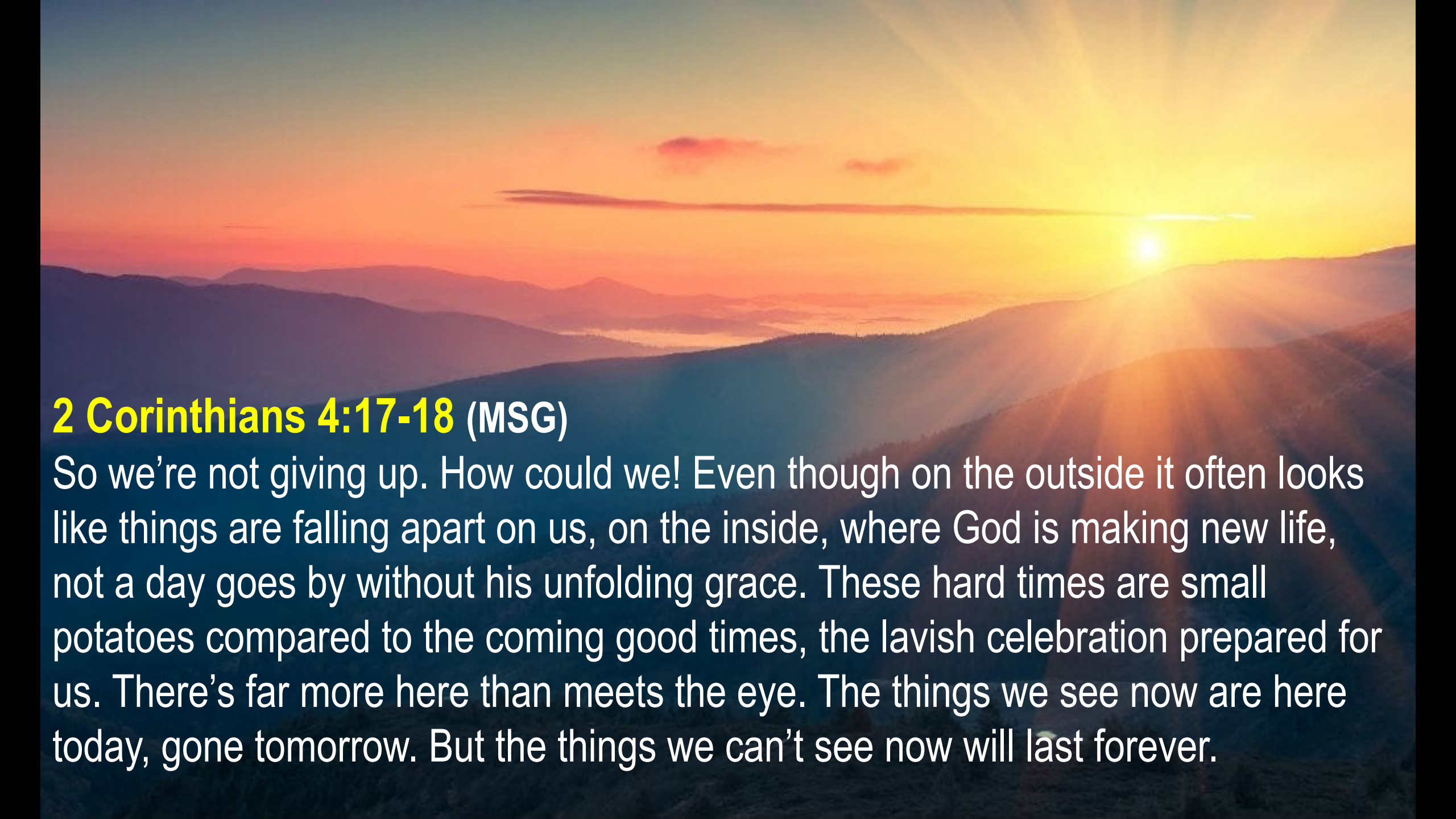
Charles H. Spurgeon

Video #2 of Jason & Judith



2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (MSG)

We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken.



2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (MSG)

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

OUR HOPE

When you discover **HE** is all you have,
you will also realize **HE** is all you need.

