

UNDESERVED -

Grace
upon Grace

HEBREWS 13:9

Lee Pey Woan
18 May 2025



- **Grace: the unmerited, undeserved favour of God**



HEBREWS 13:9 (ESV)

Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefitted those devoted to them.



- Grace is at the heart of our faith.

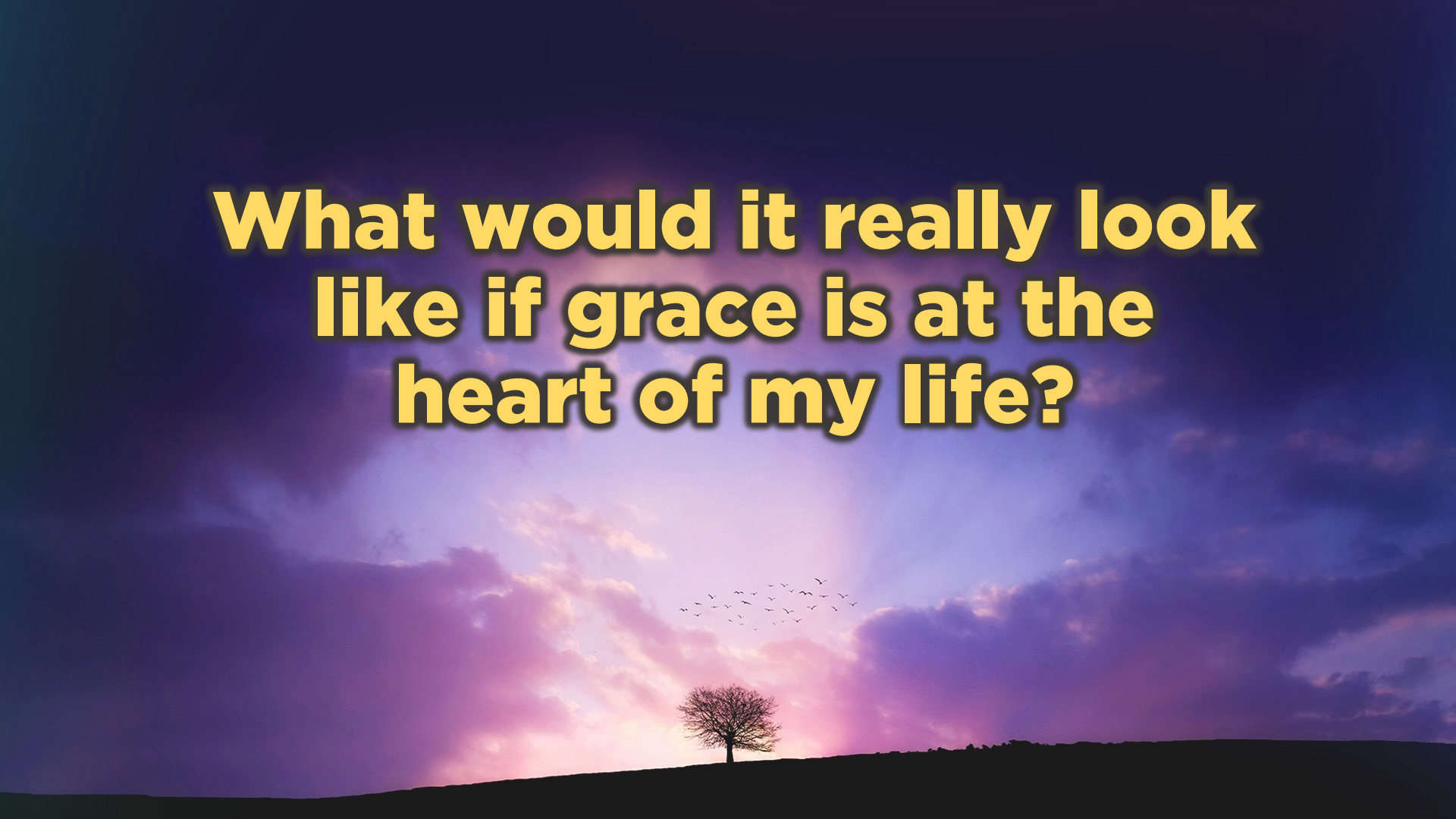


EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (KJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



**What would it really look
like if grace is at the
heart of my life?**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

Amazing Grace Hymn

- **timeless and so universally appealing**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

➤ **Childhood**

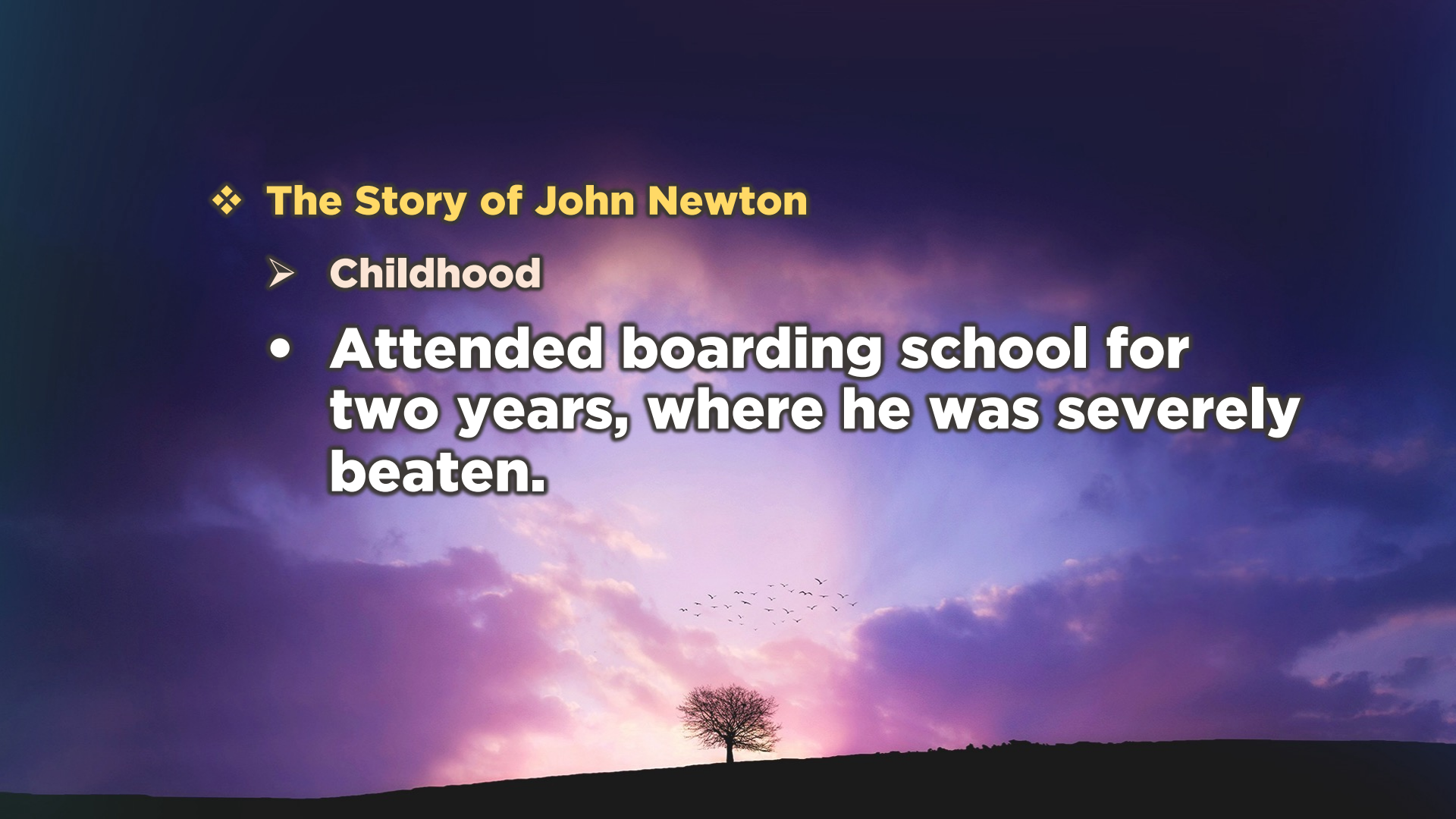
- **His mother died of tuberculosis when he was just 7 years old.**
- **Relationship with his father was distant and marked by fear.**



❖ The Story of John Newton

➤ Childhood

- **Attended boarding school for two years, where he was severely beaten.**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

➤ **Navy**

- **Forcibly enlisted (kidnapped) into the Navy.**
- **Started to reject Christianity and adopted free-thinking.**



❖ The Story of John Newton

➤ Navy

- **Publicly flogged, demoted to the lowest rank.**
- **Escaped to a slave ship heading for Africa.**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

➤ **Africa**

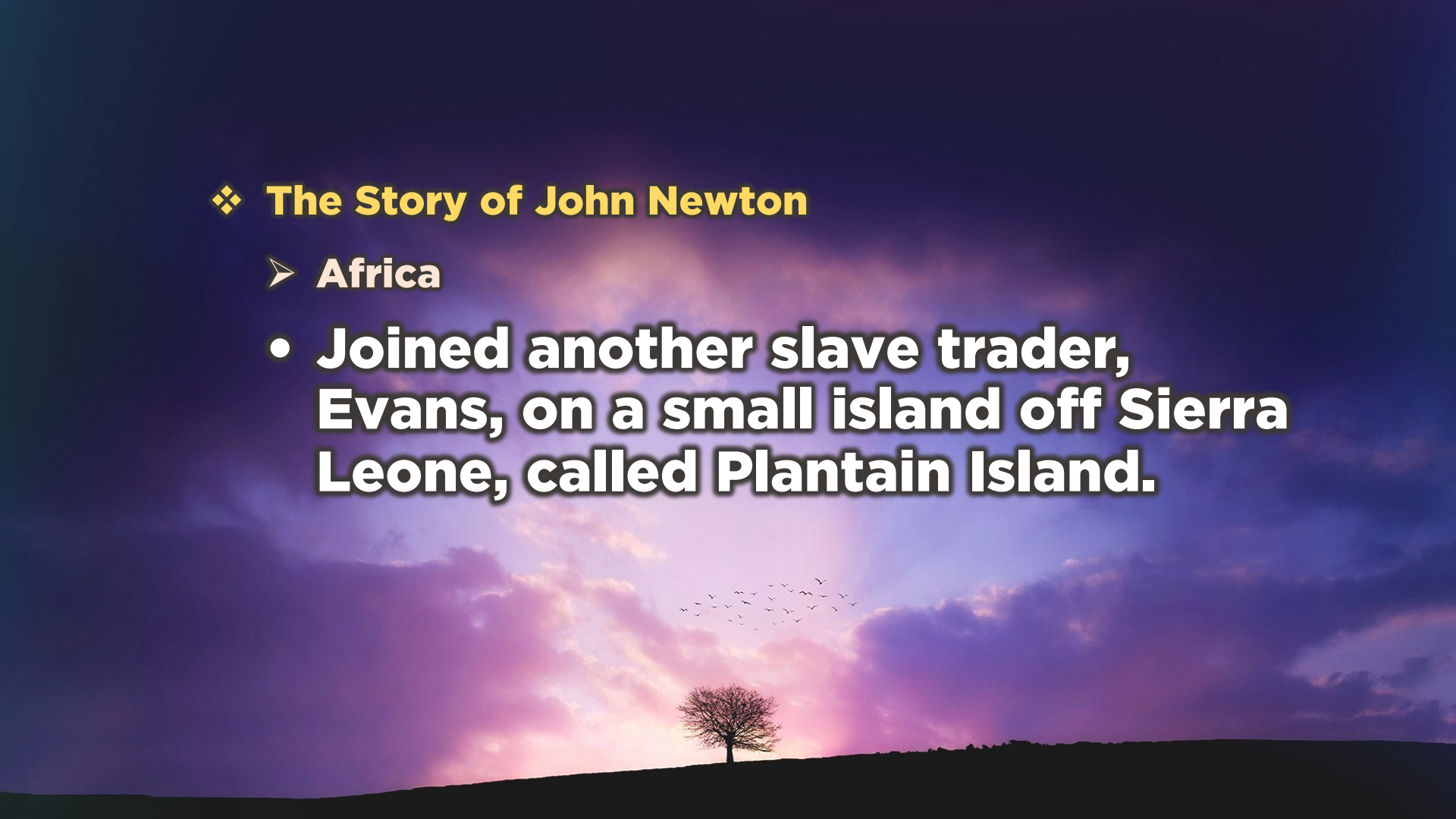
- **With regained freedom, he reverted to his arrogant and defiant ways, offending the captain and crew.**



❖ The Story of John Newton

➤ Africa

- **Joined another slave trader, Evans, on a small island off Sierra Leone, called Plantain Island.**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

➤ **Africa**

- **Evans' native mistress despised John and subjected him to abuse, starvation, and chained labour; he narrowly survived malaria.**
- **"A servant of slaves in Africa."**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

➤ **Africa**

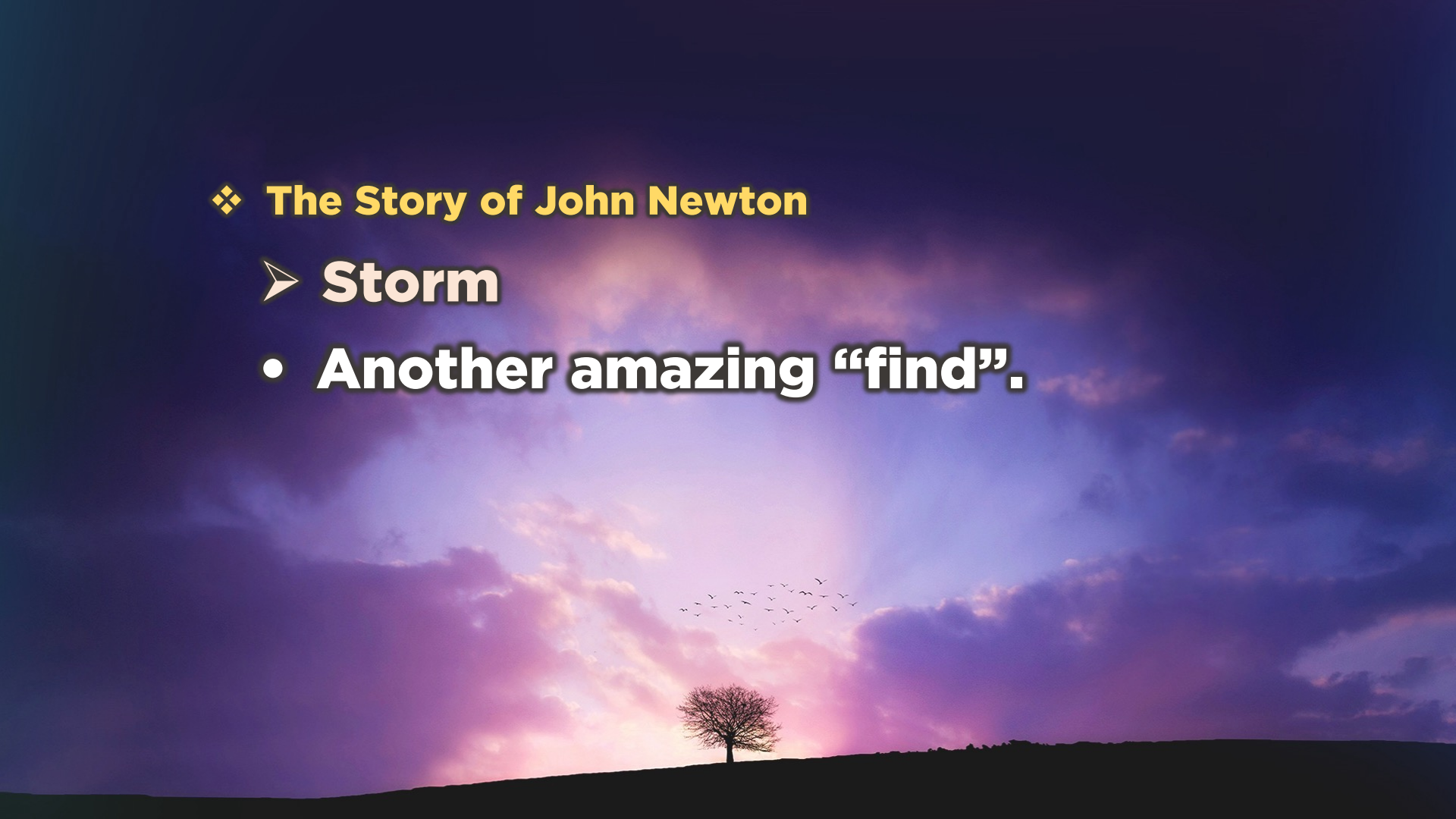
- **A British slave trader.**
- **Elevated to become a manager of a large factory.**
- **Regained confidence and dignity as a person.**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

➤ **Storm**

- **Another amazing “find”.**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

➤ **Storm**

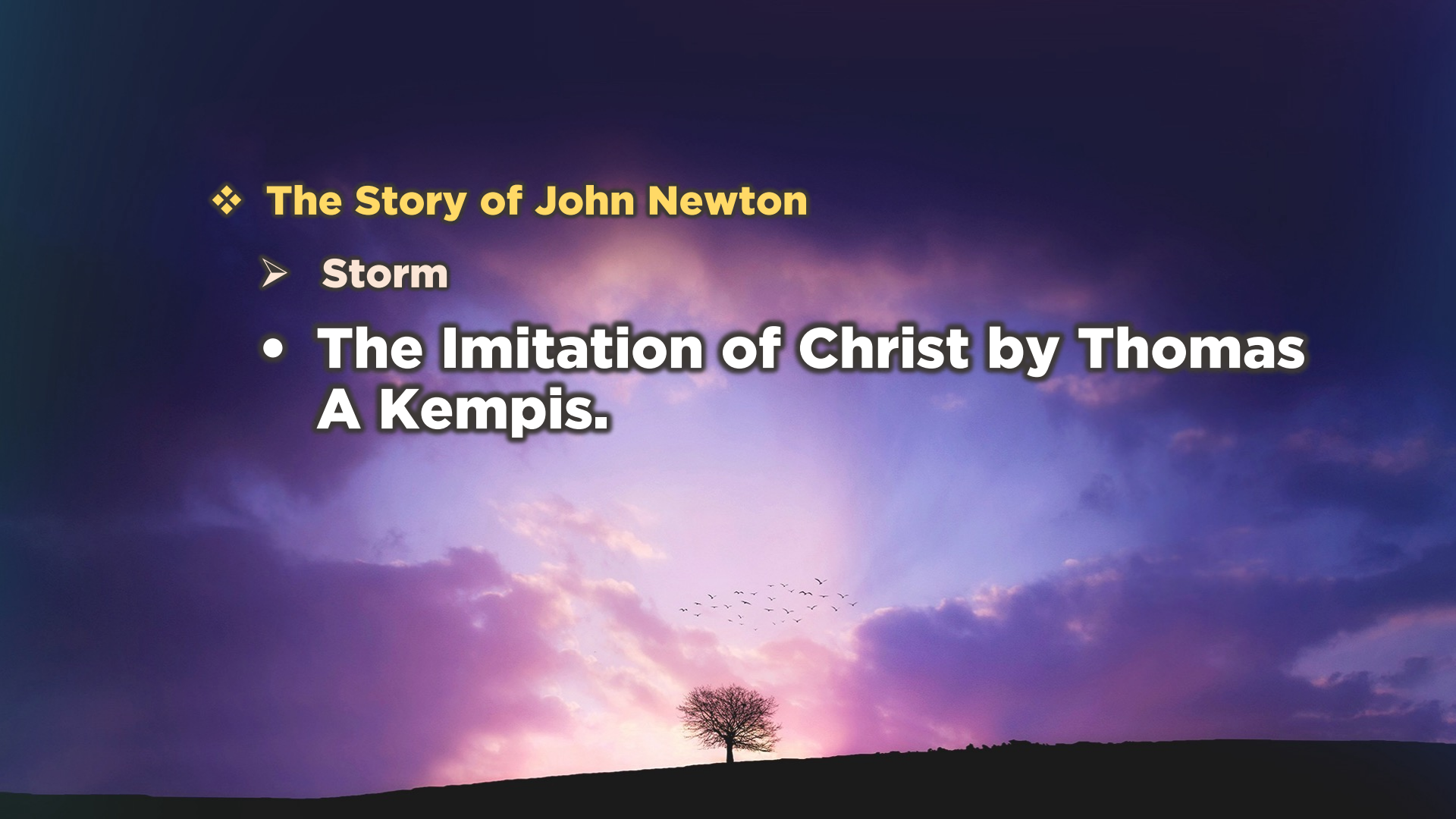
- **Another amazing “find”.**
- **Broken and ashamed, he was reluctant to return.**



❖ The Story of John Newton

➤ Storm

- **The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A Kempis.**



❖ **The Story of John Newton**

➤ **Storm**

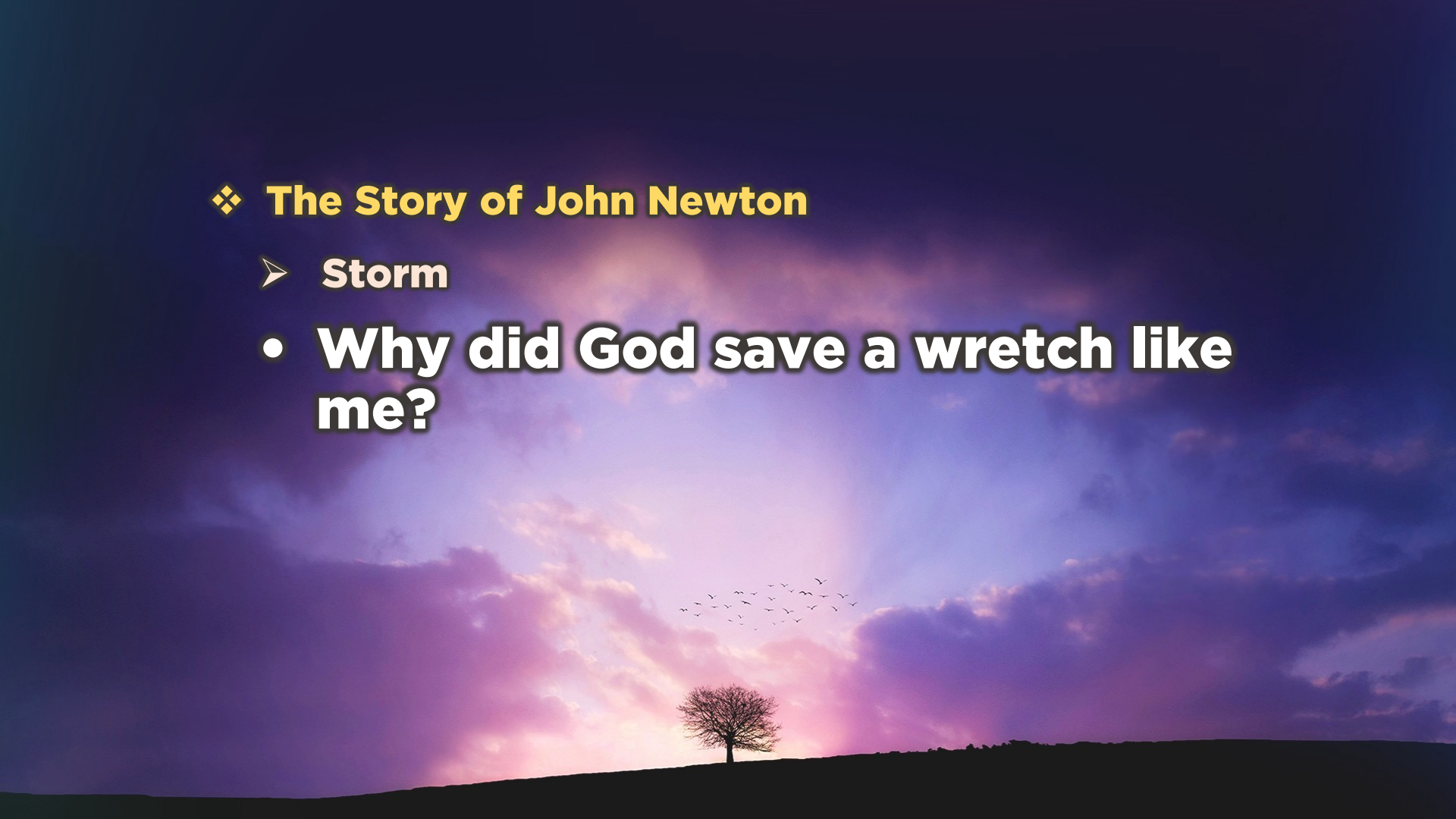
- **The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A Kempis.**
- **Why would God have mercy on me?**



❖ The Story of John Newton

➤ Storm

- **Why did God save a wretch like me?**



❖ **The Qualities of Grace**

a) Grace Abides

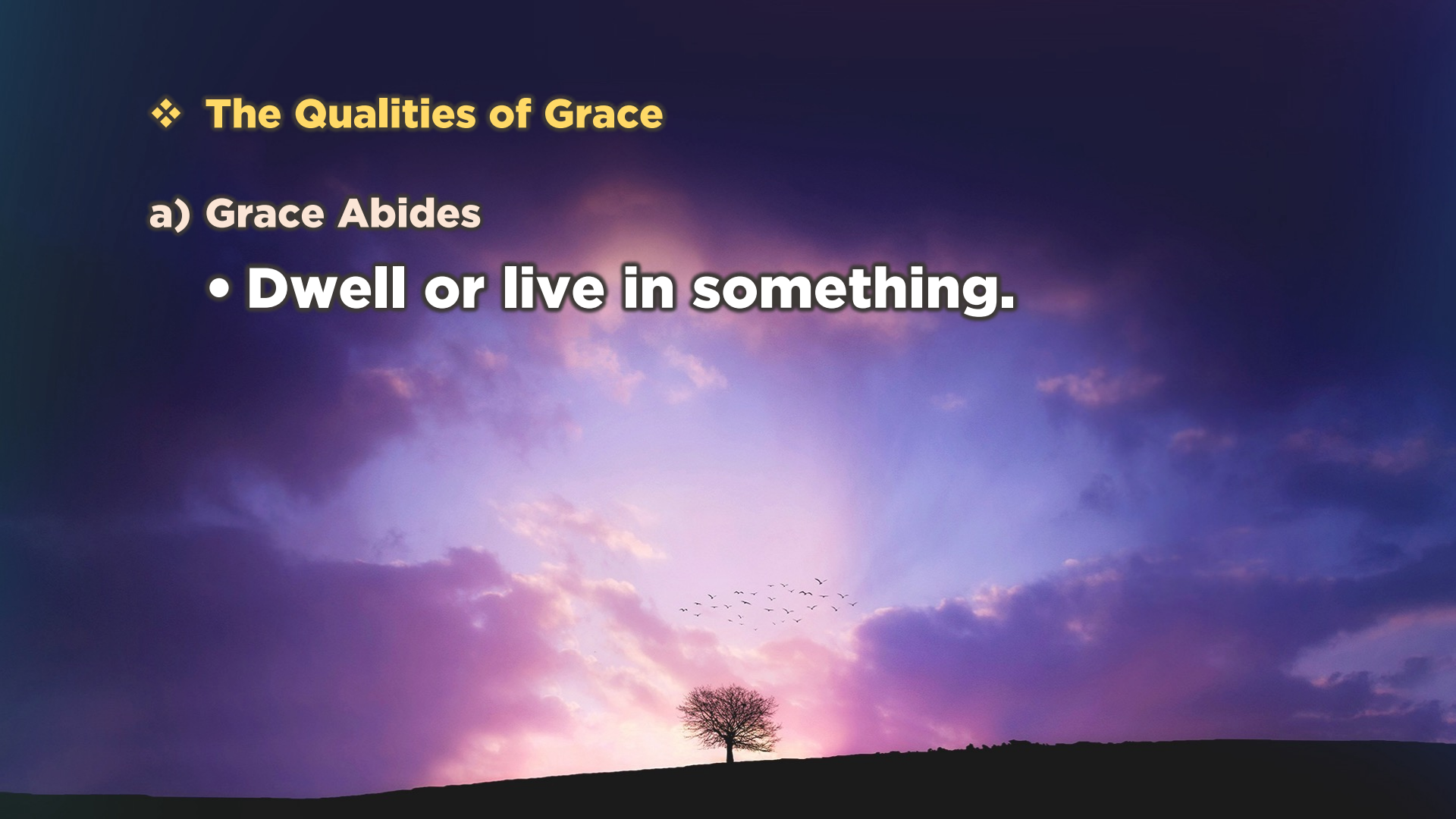
- **God's grace was present in his life long before he recognized it.**
- **God's grace was present and abiding.**
- **The word "abide" means to dwell or live in something.**



❖ The Qualities of Grace

a) Grace Abides

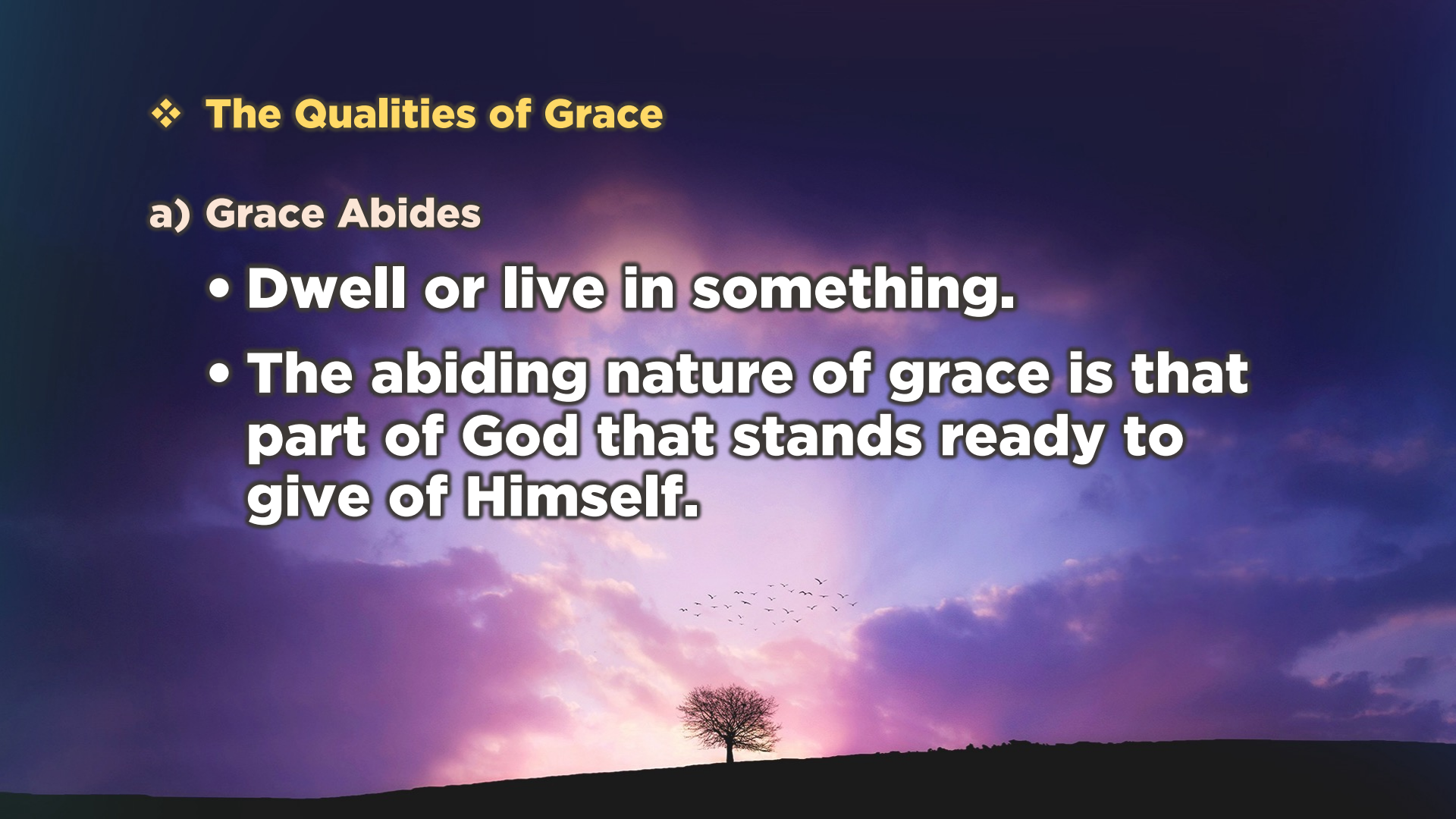
- **Dwell or live in something.**



❖ The Qualities of Grace

a) Grace Abides

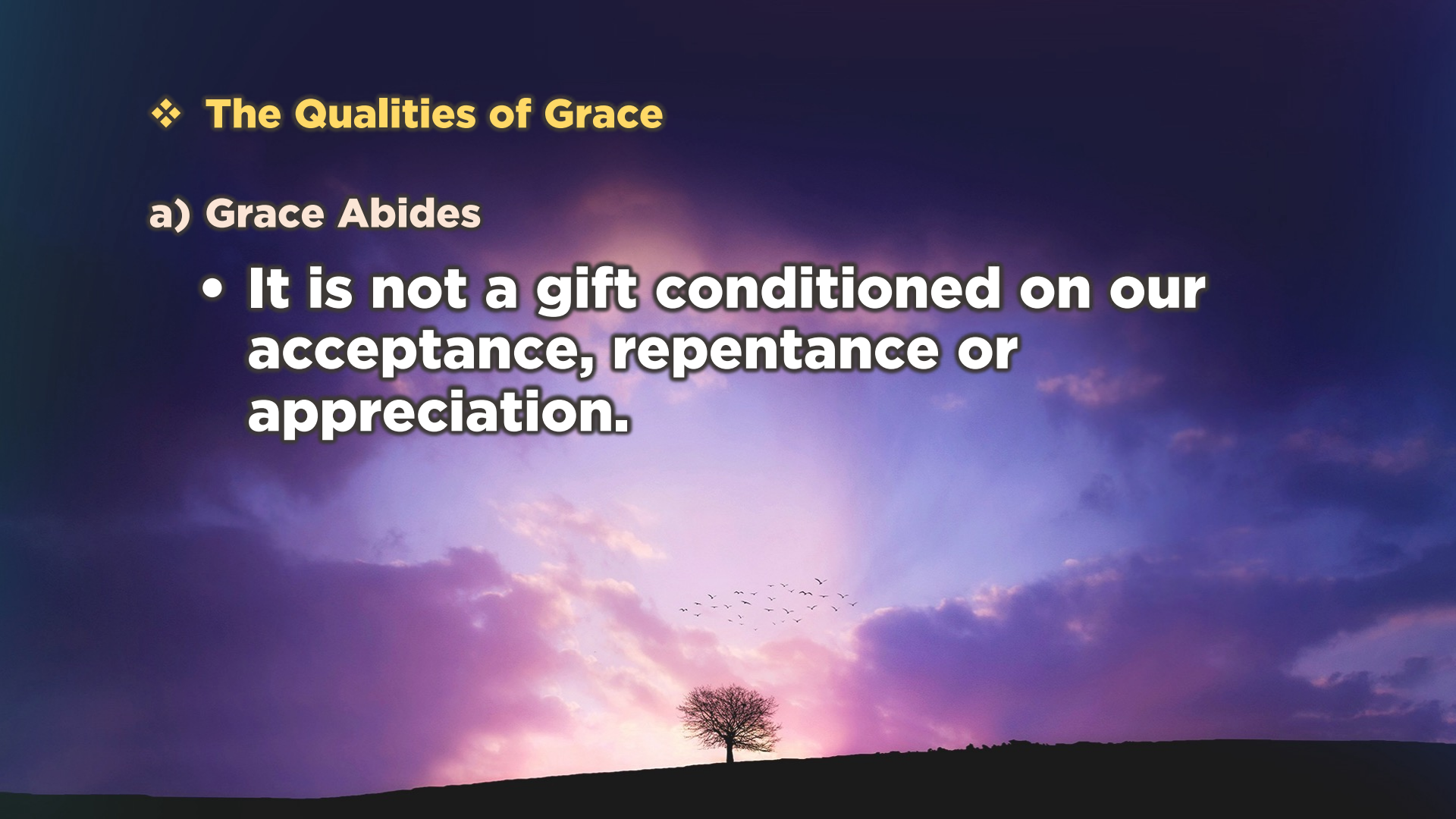
- **Dwell or live in something.**
- **The abiding nature of grace is that part of God that stands ready to give of Himself.**



❖ The Qualities of Grace

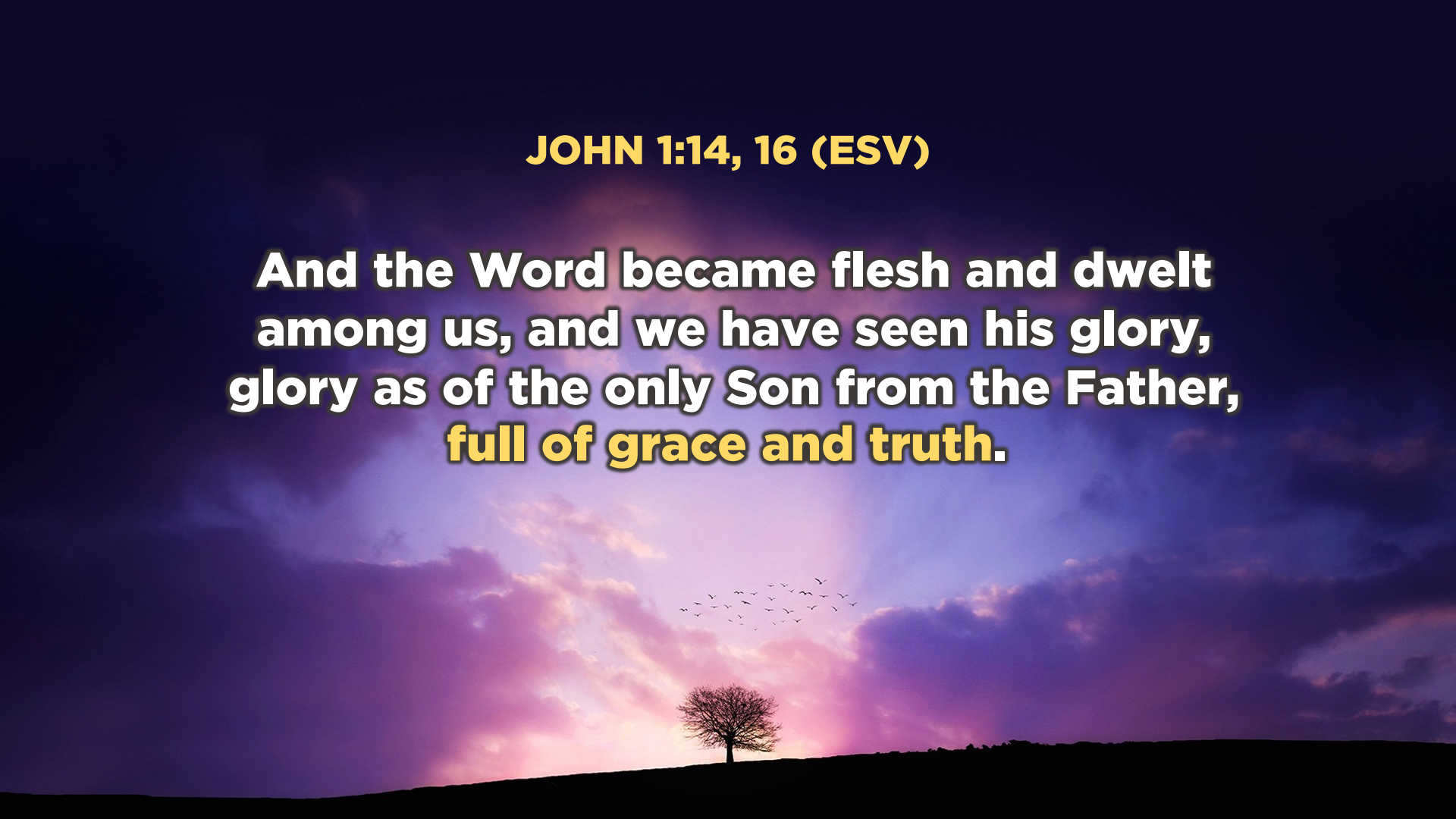
a) Grace Abides

- **It is not a gift conditioned on our acceptance, repentance or appreciation.**



JOHN 1:14, 16 (ESV)

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt
among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**



❖ The Qualities of Grace

a) Grace Abides

- The reason why God's grace is so amazing is that it abides **in all circumstances**, including and especially in the lowest points of our lives.



❖ The Qualities of Grace

a) Grace Abides

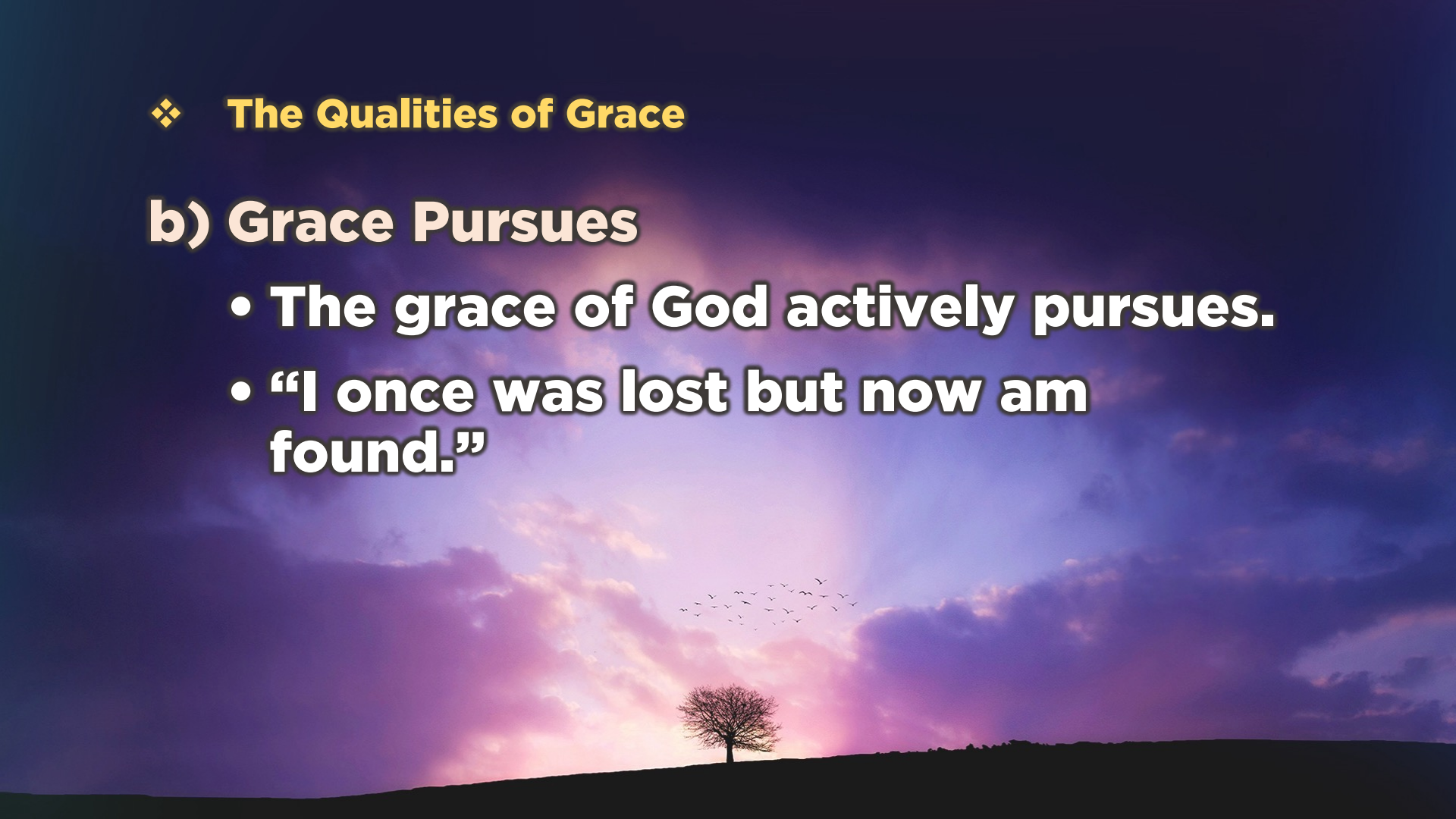
- **The grace of God is there with us – before we knew or accepted Him.**
- **No matter how low we go, Jesus is there at our lowest.**



❖ **The Qualities of Grace**

b) Grace Pursues

- **The grace of God actively pursues.**
- **“I once was lost but now am found.”**



LUKE 15:3-5 (ESV)

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.



LUKE 15:8-10 (ESV)

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?”



LUKE 15:8-10 (ESV)

9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



❖ The Qualities of Grace

c) Grace Abounds

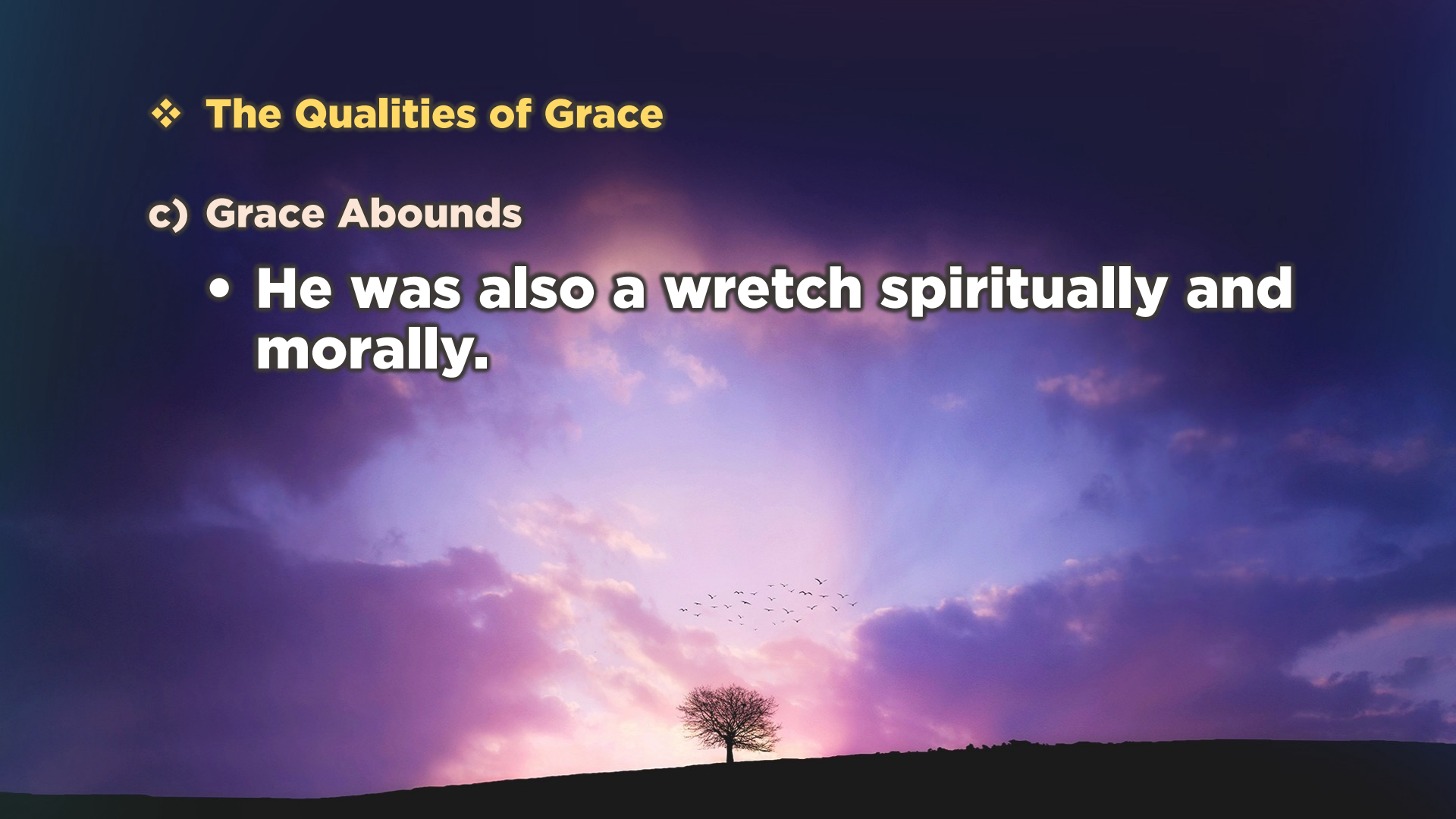
- **Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.**
- **He was a wretch because he had once been brought so low in his station in life – nothing but rubbish before other men.**



❖ The Qualities of Grace

c) Grace Abounds

- **He was also a wretch spiritually and morally.**



JOHN 1:16 (ESV)

**For from His fullness we have all
received, grace upon grace.**



JOHN 1:16 (AMPLIFIED VERSION)

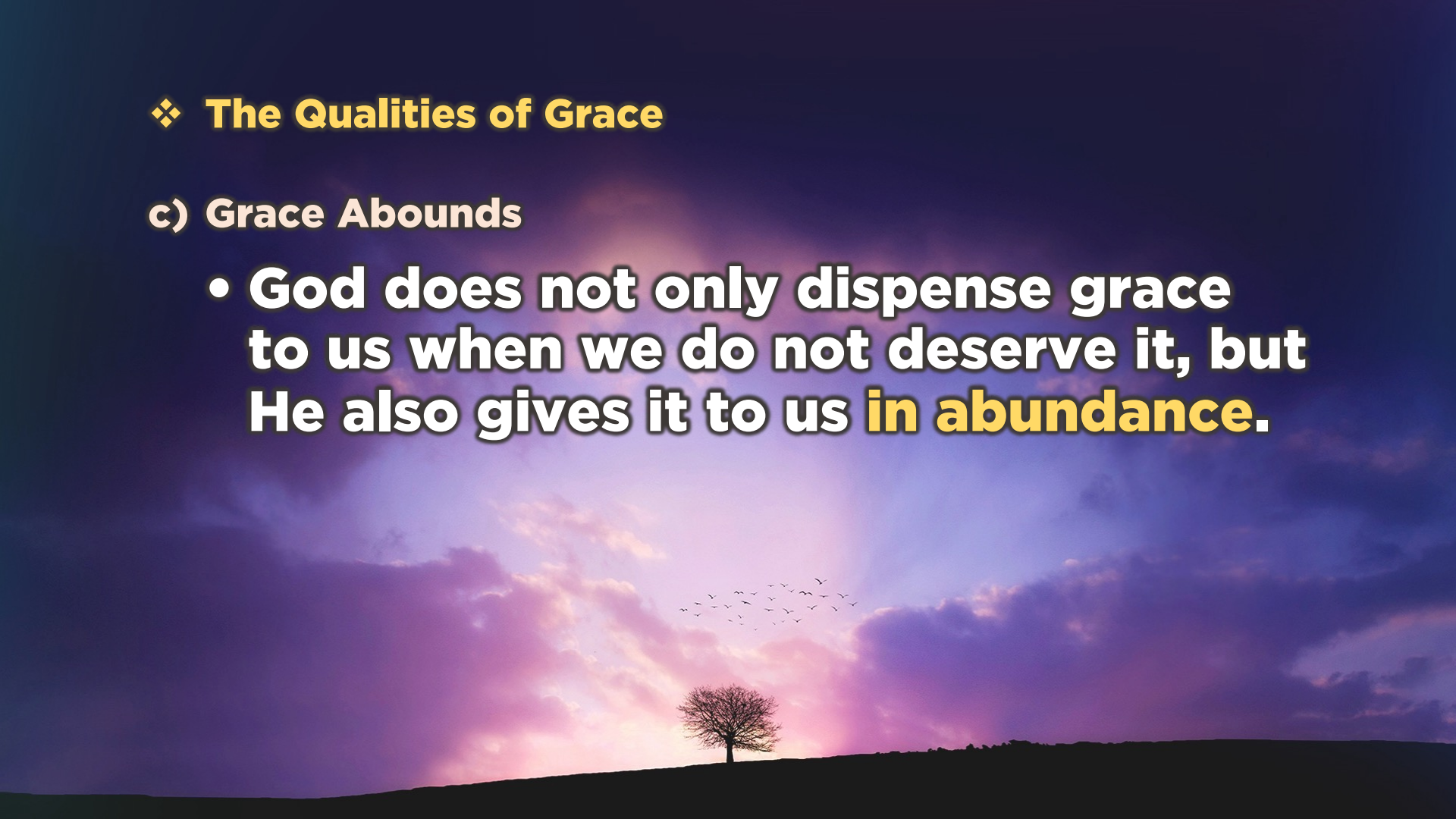
For out of His fullness [the superabundance of His grace and truth] we have all received grace upon grace [spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing, favor upon favor, and gift heaped upon gift].



❖ The Qualities of Grace

c) Grace Abounds

- **God does not only dispense grace to us when we do not deserve it, but He also gives it to us in abundance.**



ROMANS 5:15-17 (ESV)

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, **much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ **abounded** for many.**



ROMANS 5:15-17 (ESV)

16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.



ROMANS 5:15-17 (ESV)

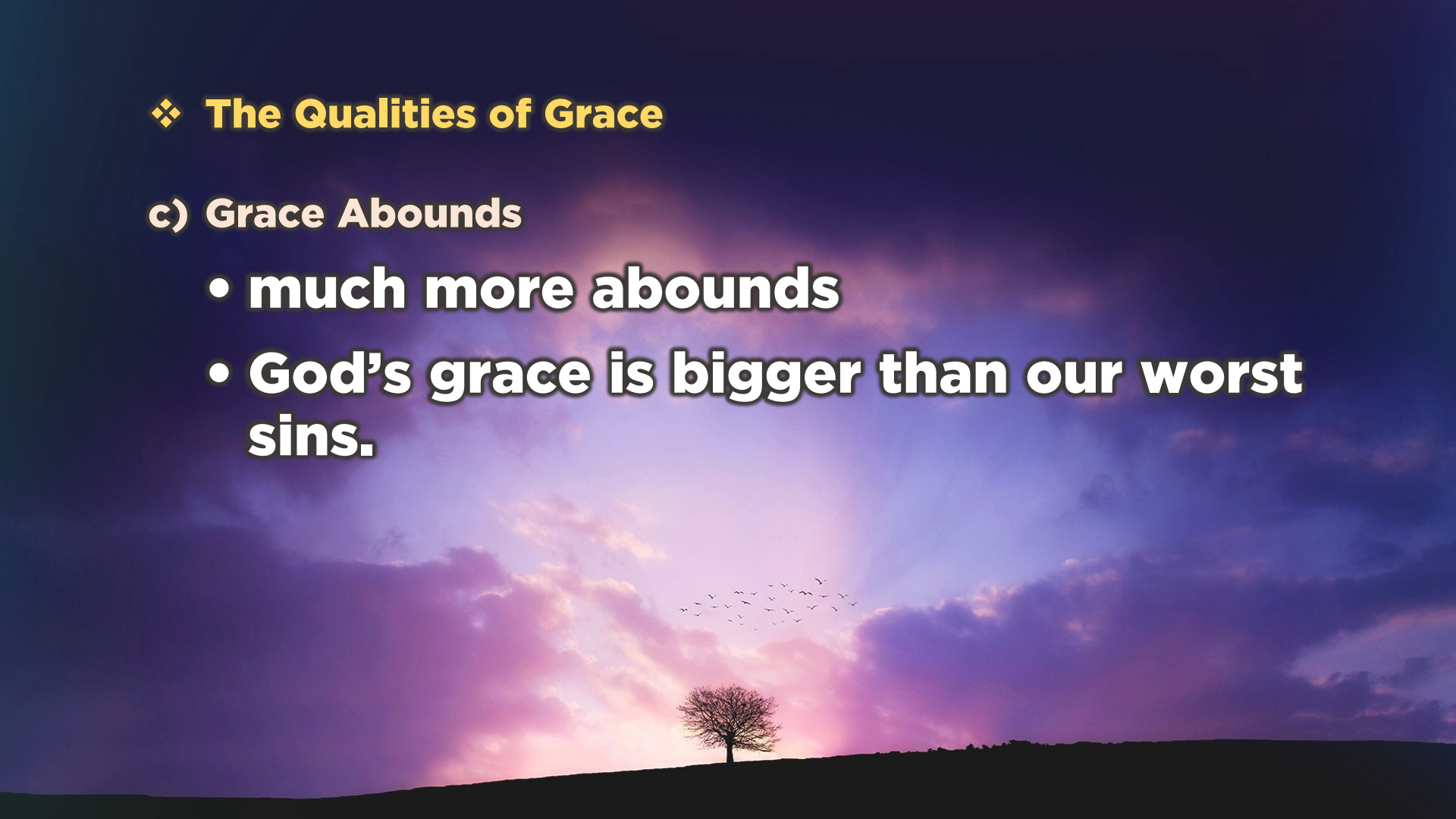
17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, **much more** will those who receive the **abundance of grace** and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.



❖ The Qualities of Grace

c) Grace Abounds

- much more abounds
- God's grace is bigger than our worst sins.



❖ The Qualities of Grace

c) Grace Abounds

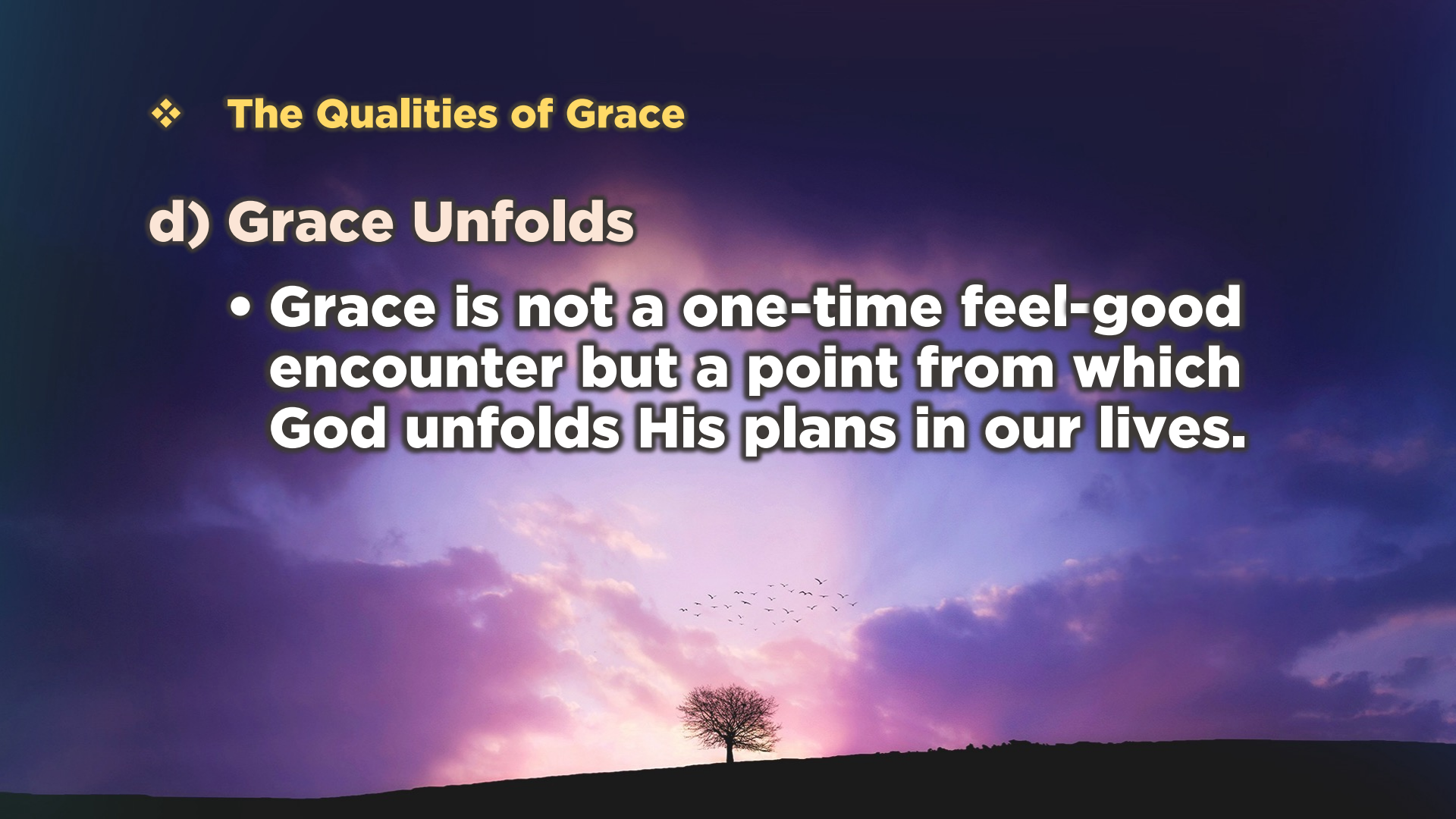
- **This passage reminds us to see our failures, wrongs or deficiencies:**
 - **not as a conclusion**
 - **not as a definition of who we are**
 - **but as an opportunity for God's grace to intervene**



❖ The Qualities of Grace

d) Grace Unfolds

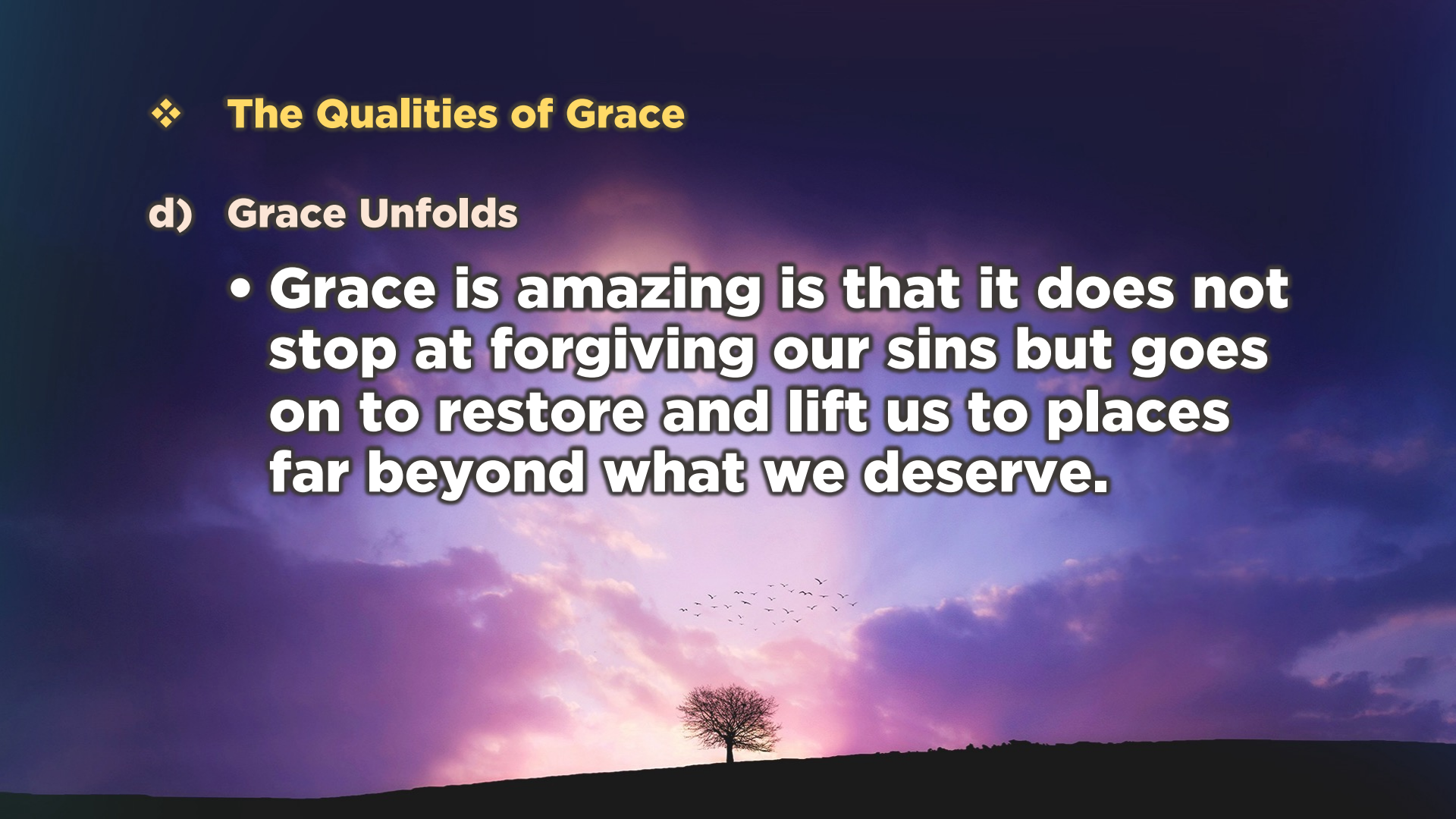
- **Grace is not a one-time feel-good encounter but a point from which God unfolds His plans in our lives.**



❖ The Qualities of Grace

d) Grace Unfolds

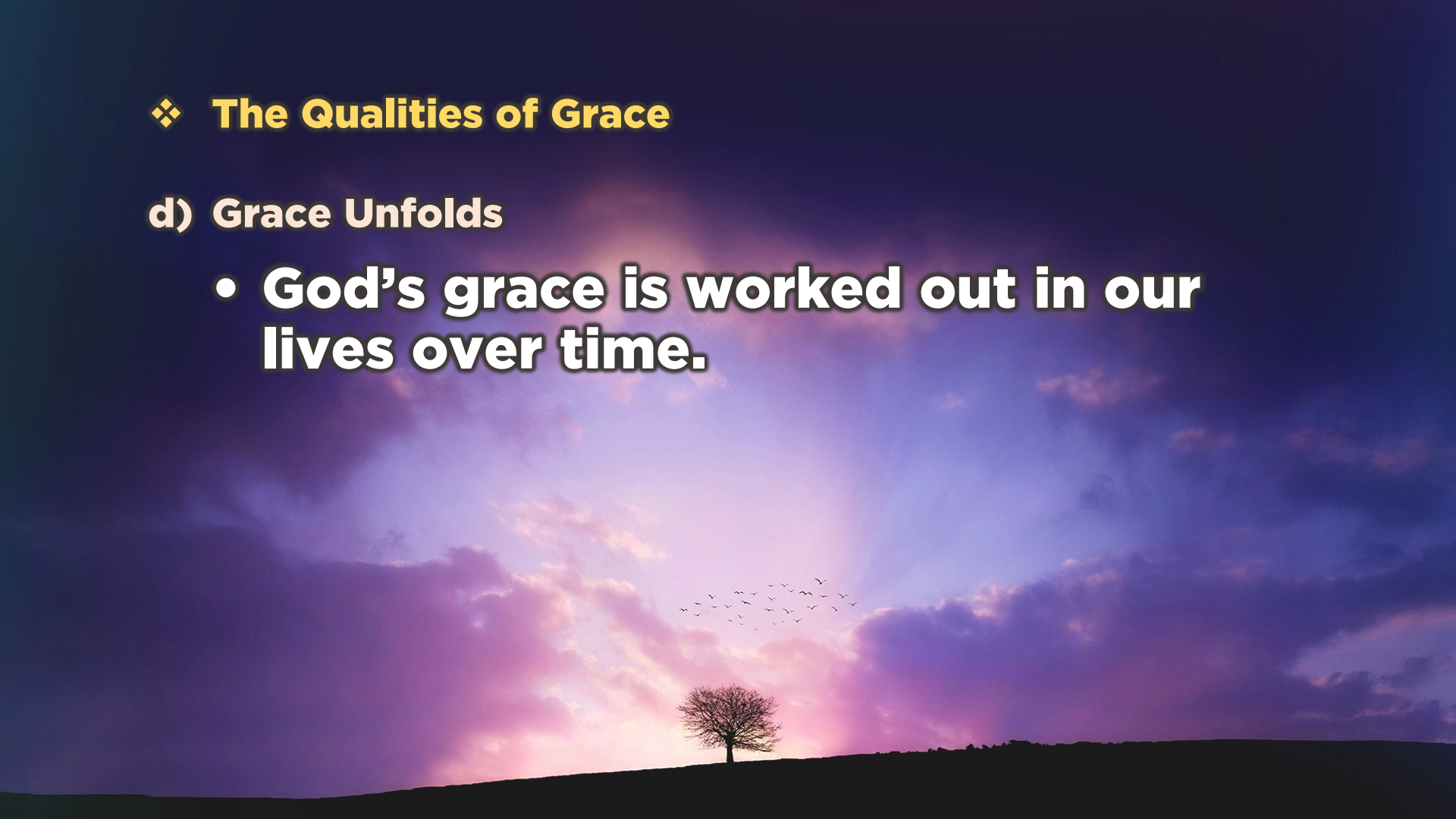
- **Grace is amazing is that it does not stop at forgiving our sins but goes on to restore and lift us to places far beyond what we deserve.**



❖ The Qualities of Grace

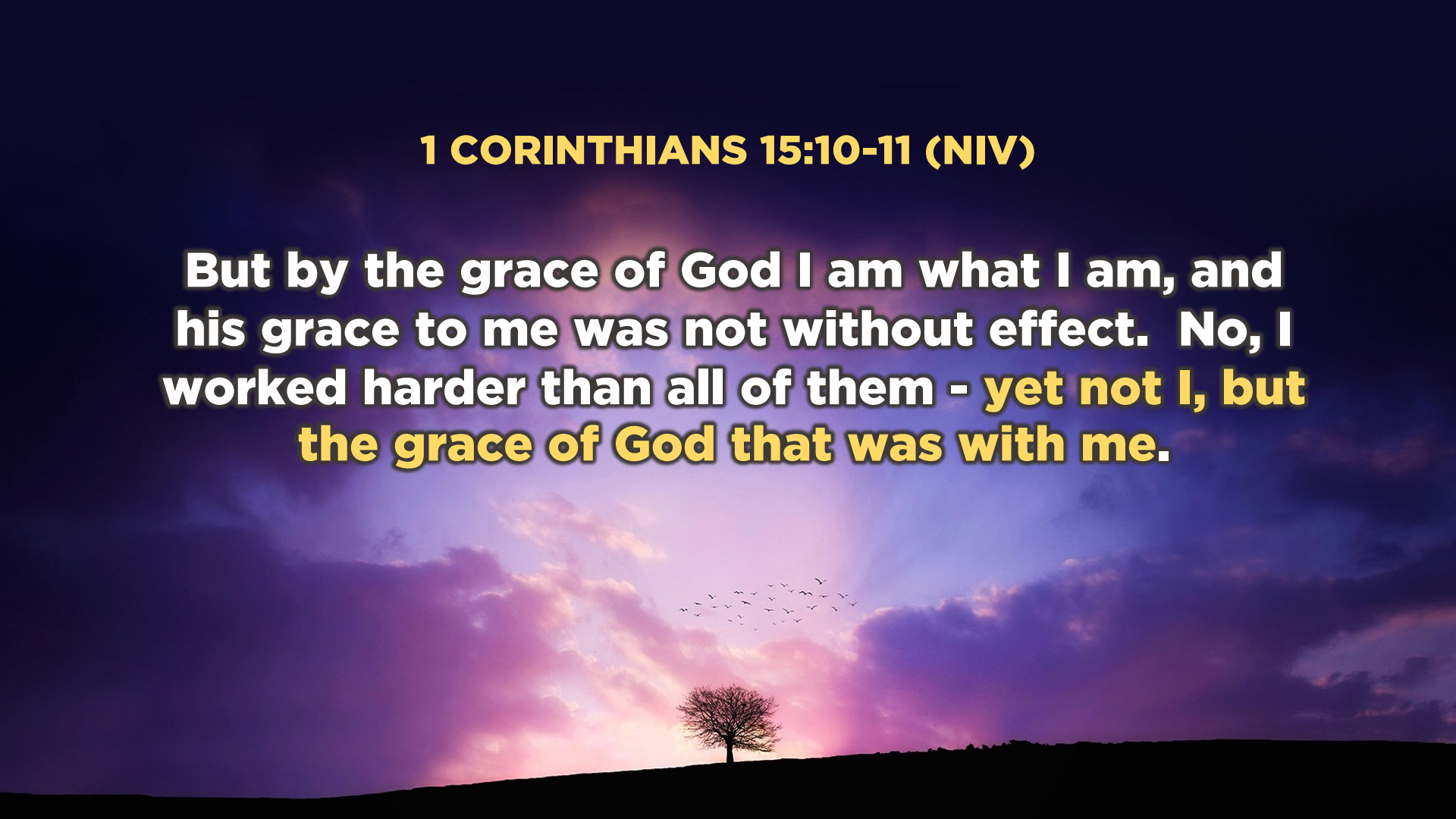
d) Grace Unfolds

- **God's grace is worked out in our lives over time.**



1 CORINTHIANS 15:10-11 (NIV)

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.



❖ **The Qualities of Grace**

d) Grace Unfolds

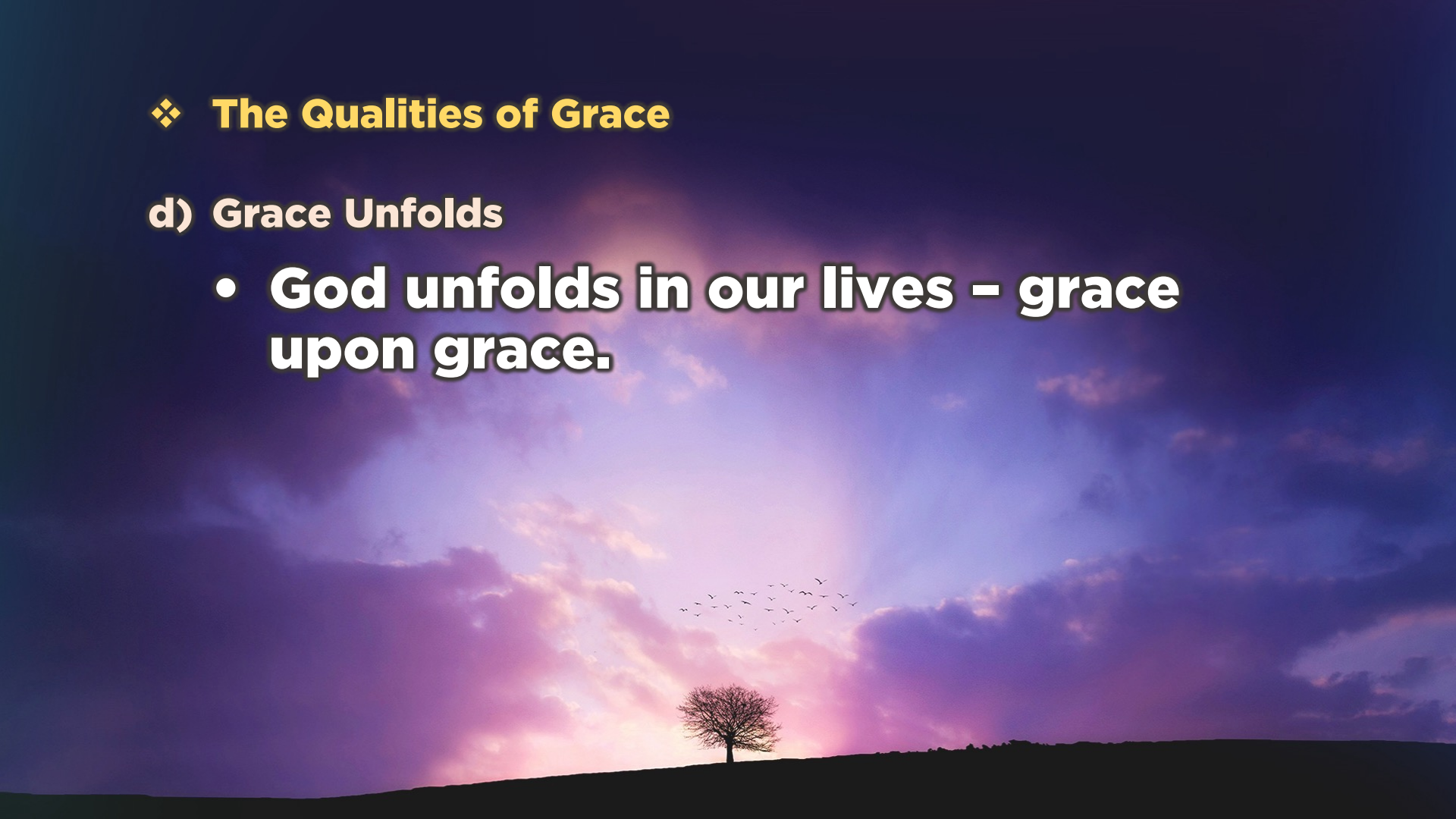
- **Grace ushers into our lives a virtuous cycle.**
- **When we enter the door of grace, we experience more grace.**



❖ **The Qualities of Grace**

d) Grace Unfolds

- **God unfolds in our lives – grace upon grace.**



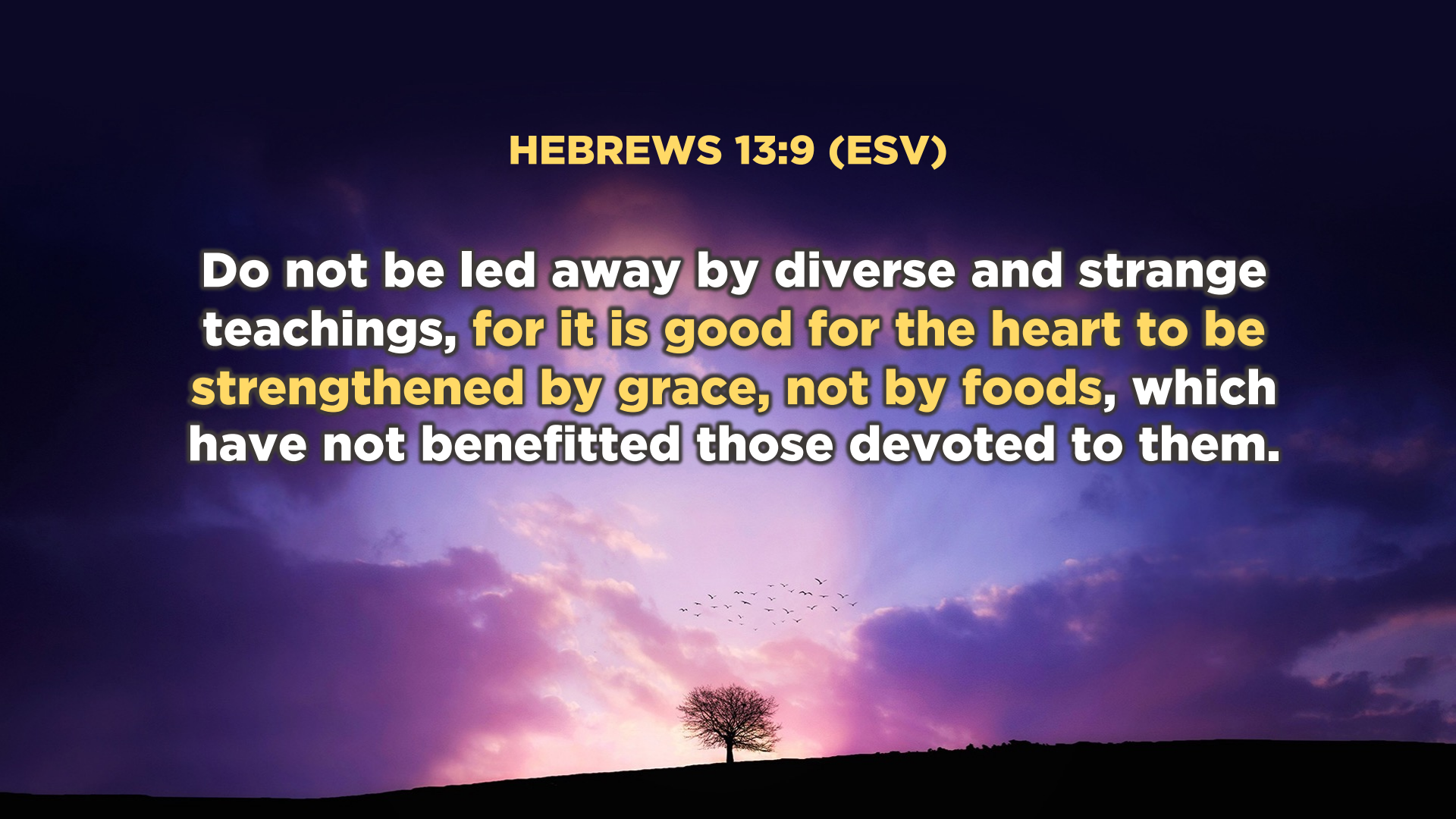
CONCLUSION

❖ **Strengthened by Grace**



HEBREWS 13:9 (ESV)

Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefitted those devoted to them.



CONCLUSION

❖ Strengthened by Grace

1) Remember where we came from

- To remember where we came from, is to permanently leave the door of our hearts wide open to grace and to prevent it from being suffocated by lesser things.**

CONCLUSION

❖ Strengthened by Grace

2) Operate in the Reality of Grace

- T'was grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved.**



CONCLUSION

❖ Strengthened by Grace

2) Operate in the Reality of Grace

- When we operate in the reality of grace, we get a clear picture of who we are and who God is.**



CONCLUSION

❖ Strengthened by Grace

2) Operate in the Reality of Grace

- And our fears are relieved,
because God relates to us based
on who He is, not who we are.**



2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 (ESV)

**My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.**



CONCLUSION

❖ Strengthened by Grace

2) Operate in the Reality of Grace

- Each time we are confronted with fear, we have the opportunity to choose to live and operate in the reality of grace, because that is the ultimate reality.**



CONCLUSION

❖ Strengthened by Grace

2) Operate in the Reality of Grace

- The Lord hath promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

