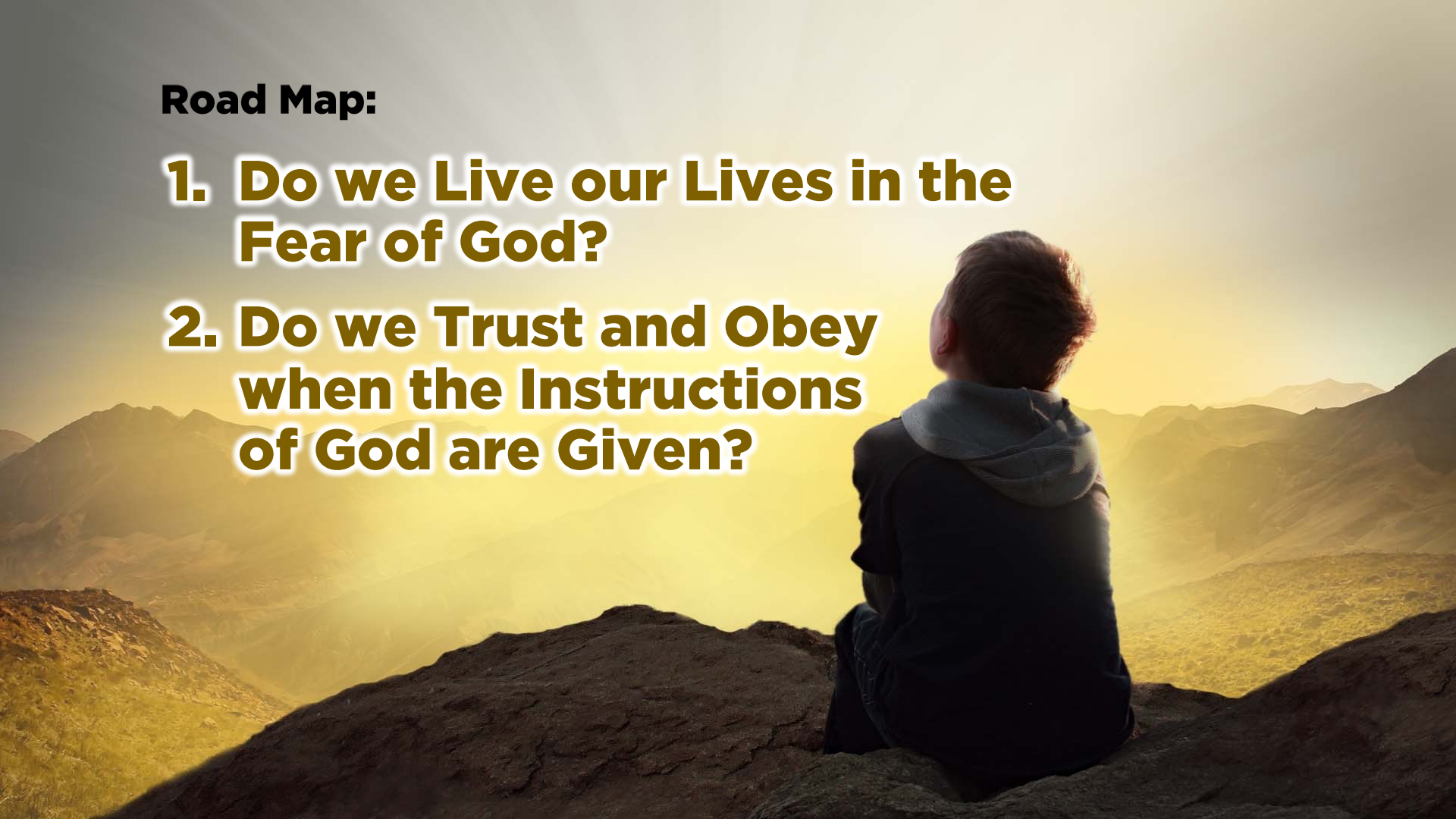
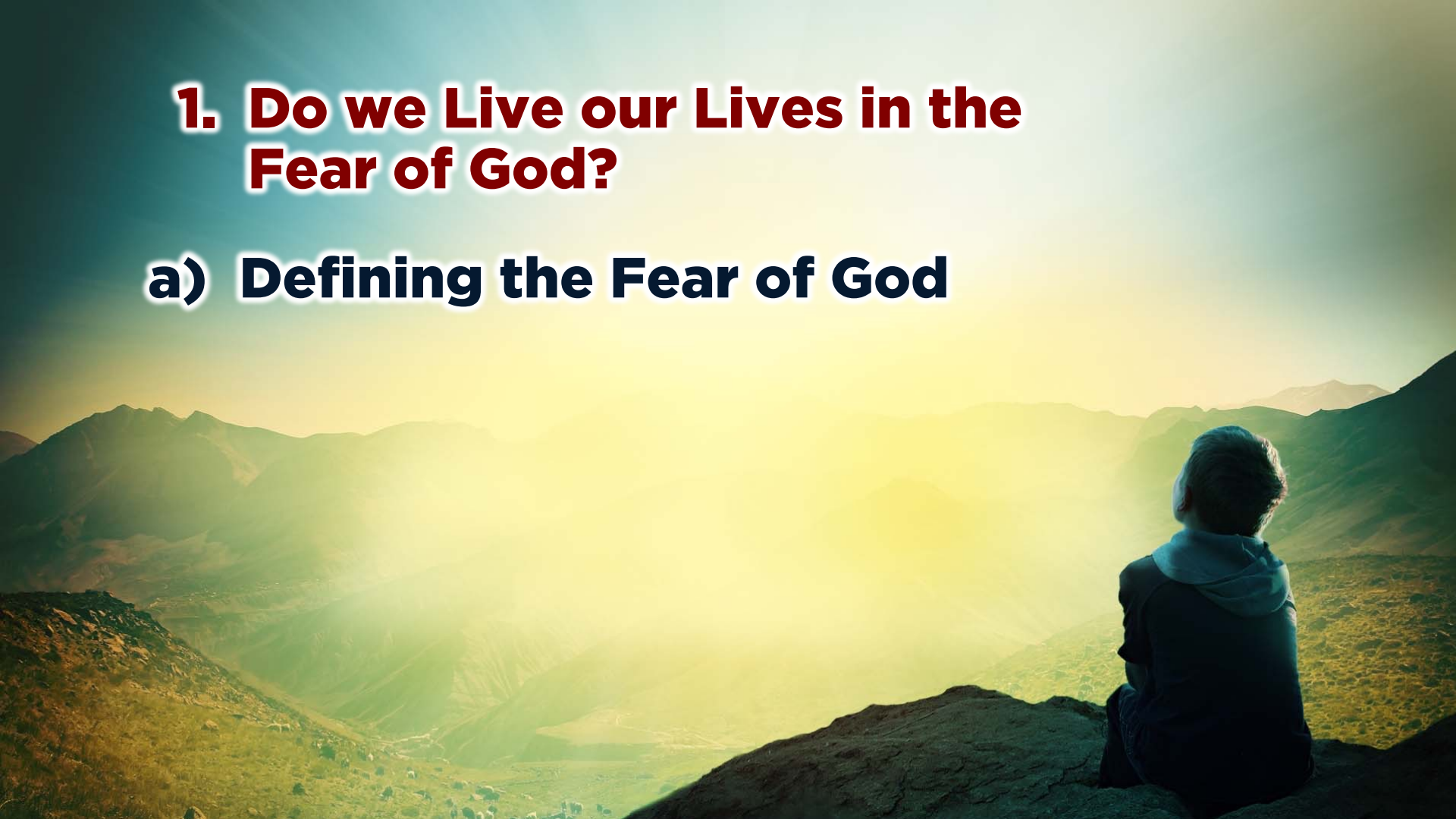
FEAR OF GOD,
TRUST
AND OBEDIENCE
DSP Melvin Gan
14 April 2024
Return and Reset Series - Part 3
Leviticus 25:10-55

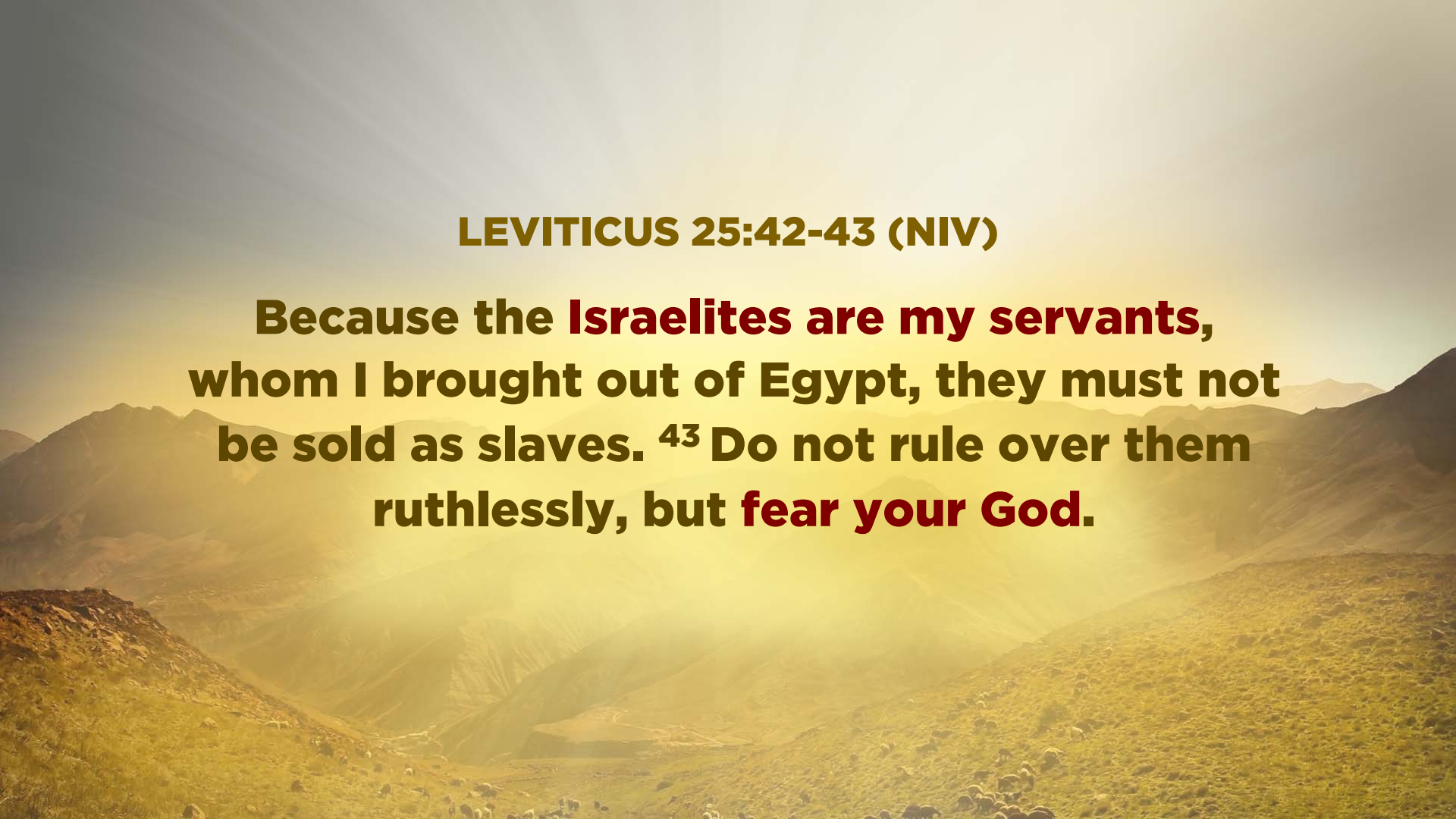

Road Map:
1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?
2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?


1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?
a) Defining the Fear of God

LEVITICUS 25:17 (NIV)
Do not take advantage of each other,
but fear your God. I am the Lord your God.

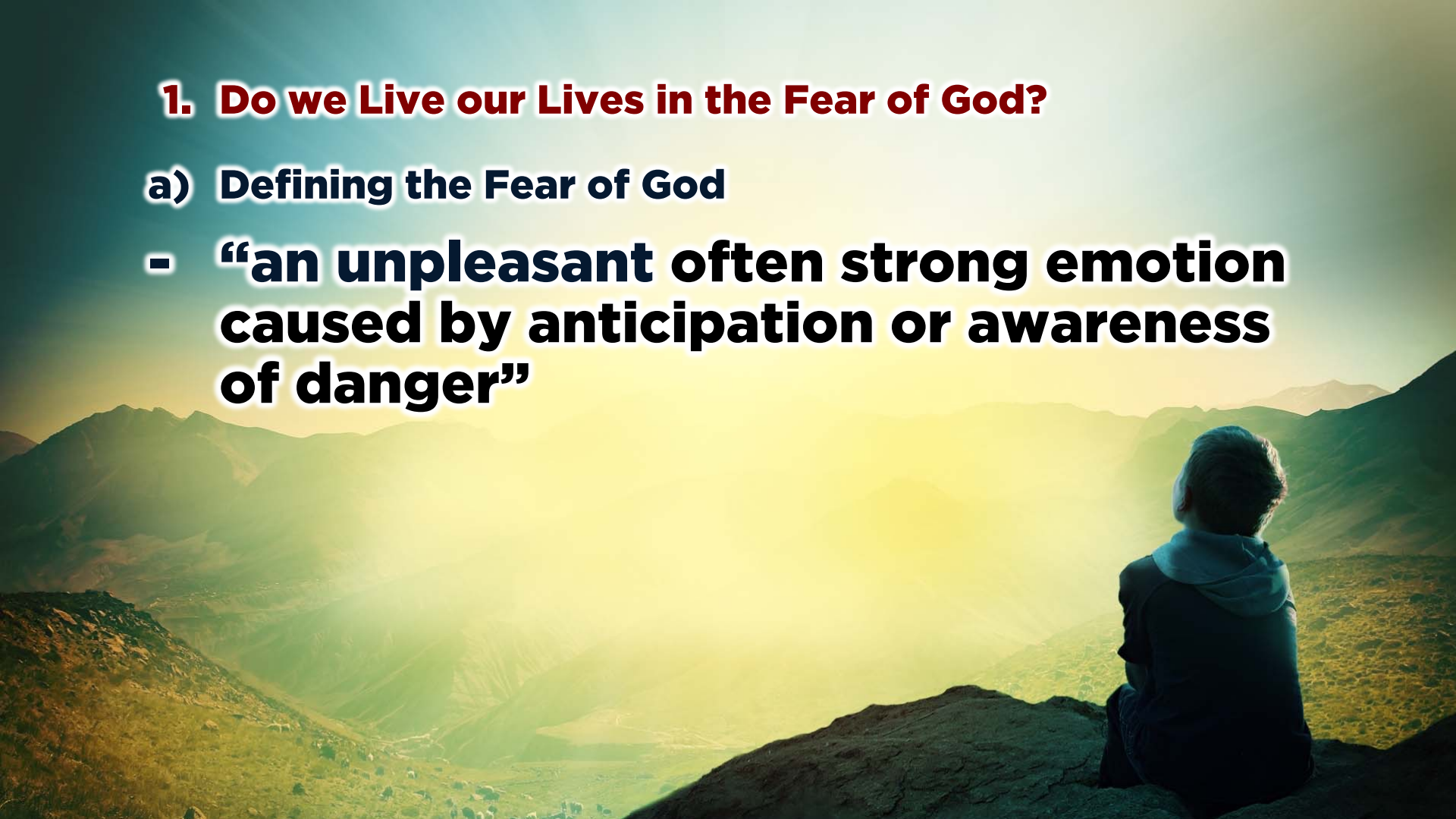
LEVITICUS 25:36-38 (NIV)

Do not take interest or any profit from them,
but fear your God, so that they may continue
to live among you. 37 You must not lend them
money at interest or sell them food at a
profit. 38 I am the Lord your God, who brought
you out of Egypt to give you the land of
Canaan and to be your God.



LEVITICUS 25:42-43 (NIV)

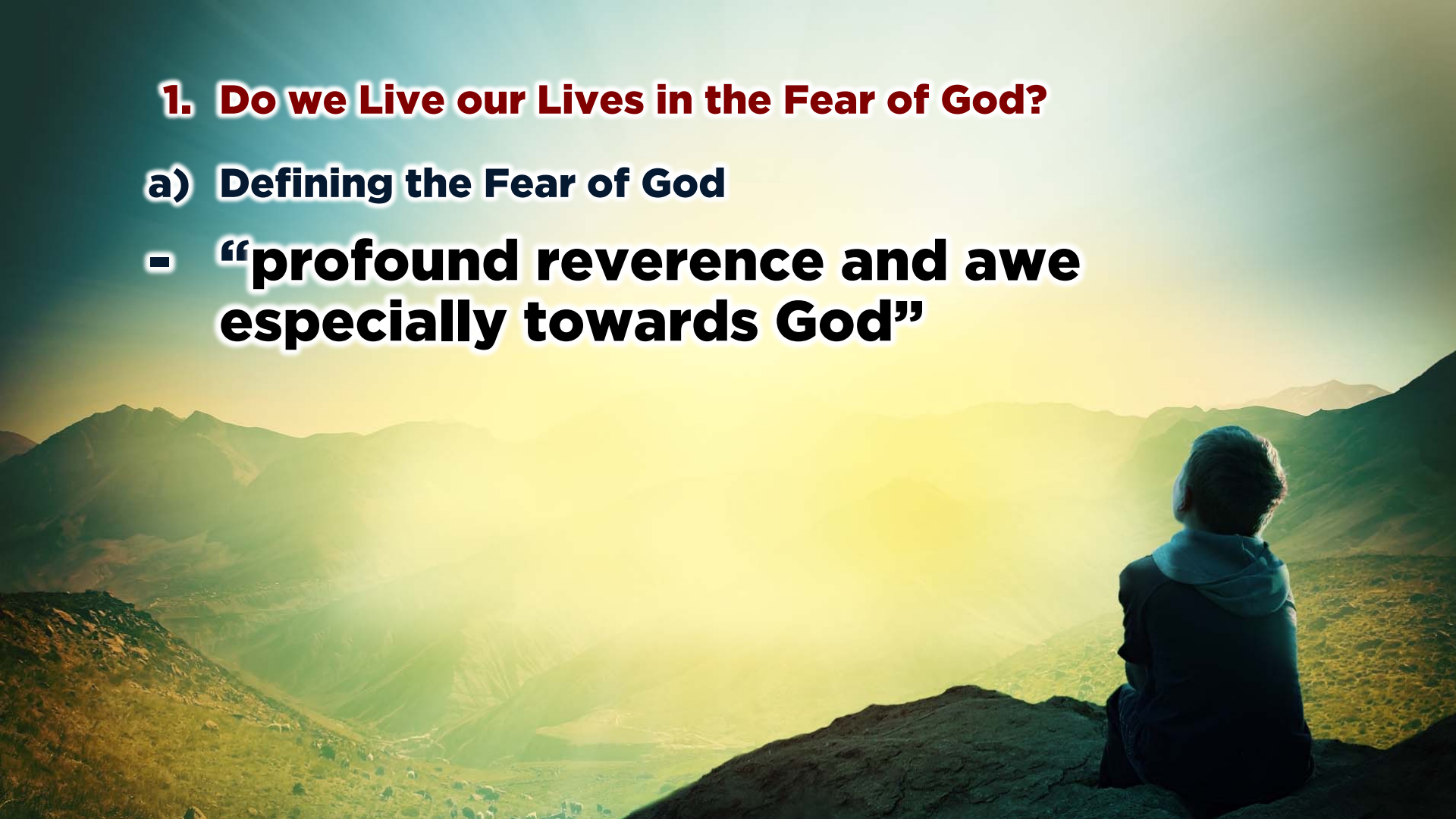
Because the **Israelites are my servants**, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. 43 Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but **fear your God**.



1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?

a) Defining the Fear of God

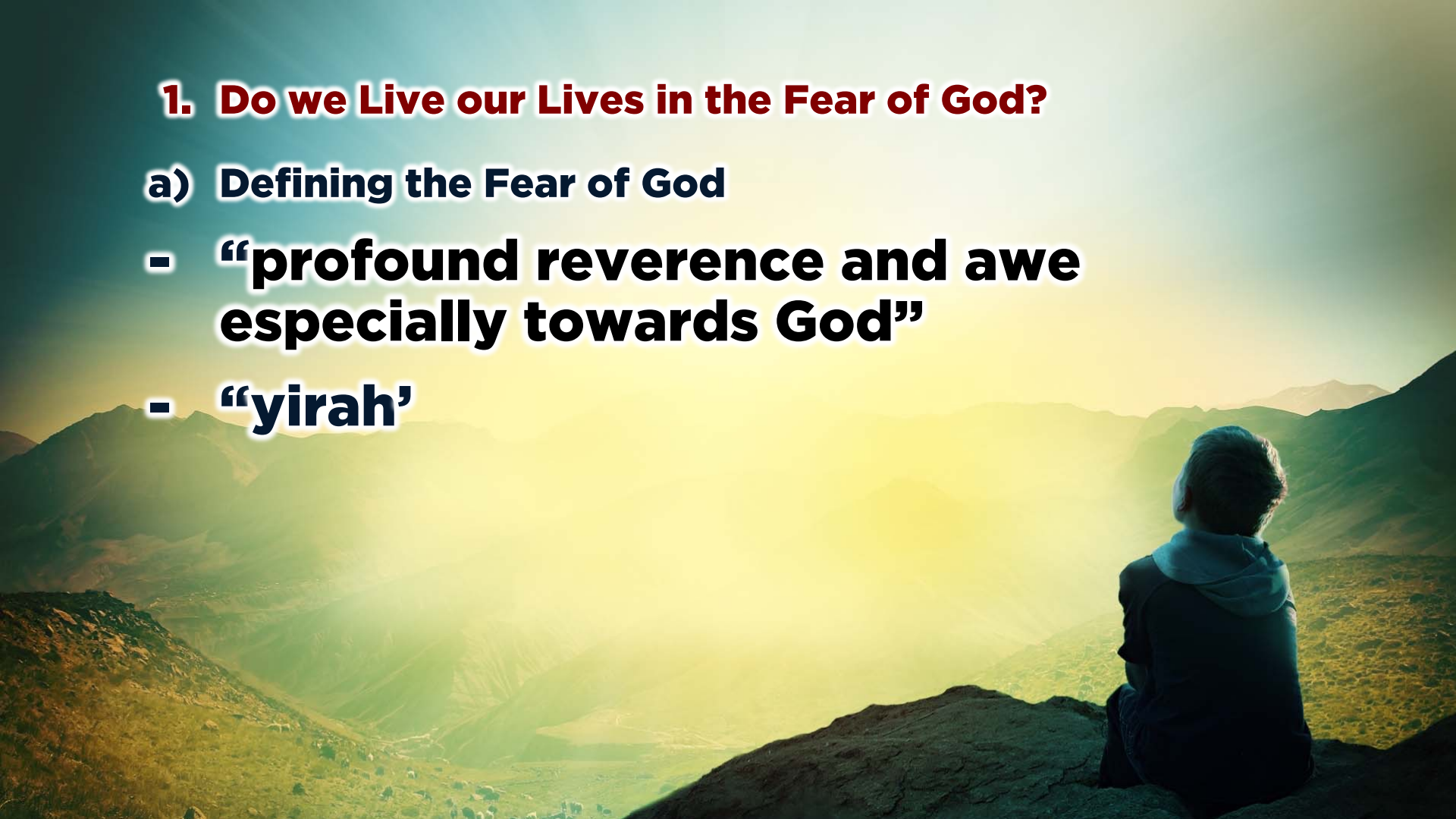
- “an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger”



1. **Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?**

a) **Defining the Fear of God**

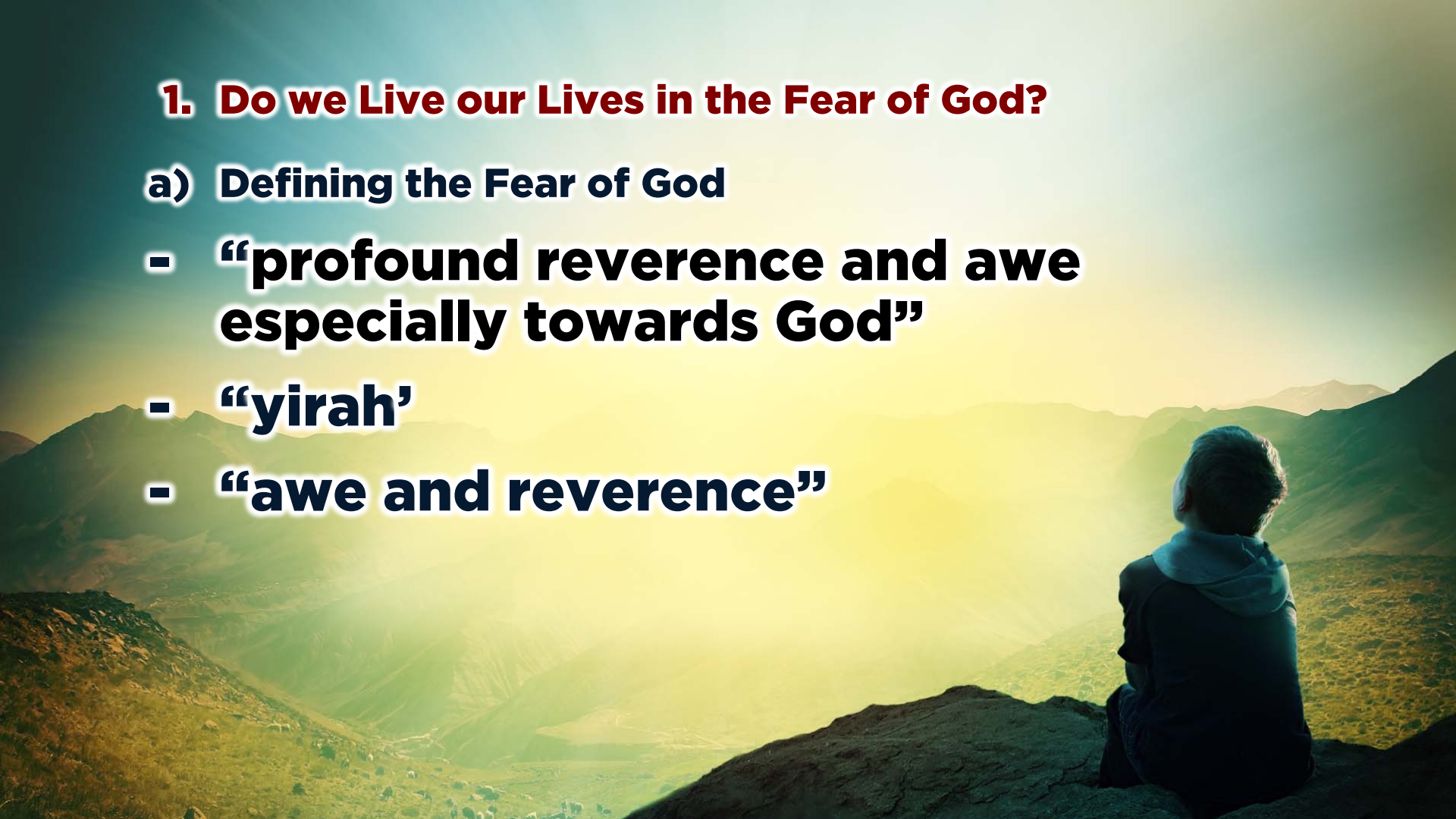
- **“profound reverence and awe especially towards God”**



1. **Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?**

a) **Defining the Fear of God**

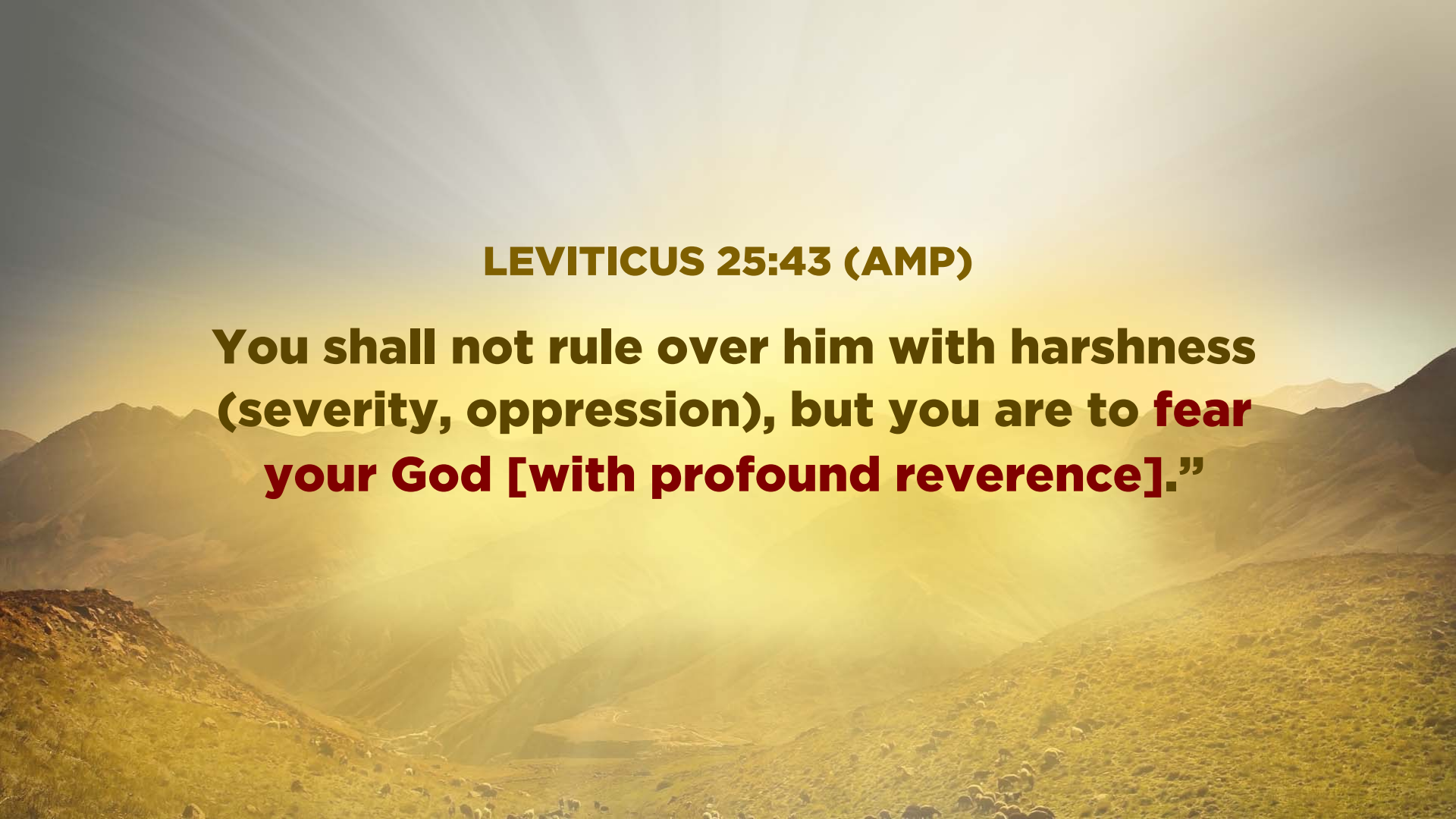
- **“profound reverence and awe especially towards God”**
- **“yirah’**



1. **Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?**

a) **Defining the Fear of God**

- **“profound reverence and awe especially towards God”**
- **“yirah’**
- **“awe and reverence”**


LEVITICUS 25:43 (AMP)
You shall not rule over him with harshness (severity, oppression), but you are to fear your God [with profound reverence].”

LEVITICUS 25:17 (NIV)
Do not take advantage of each other,
but fear your God. I am the Lord your God.

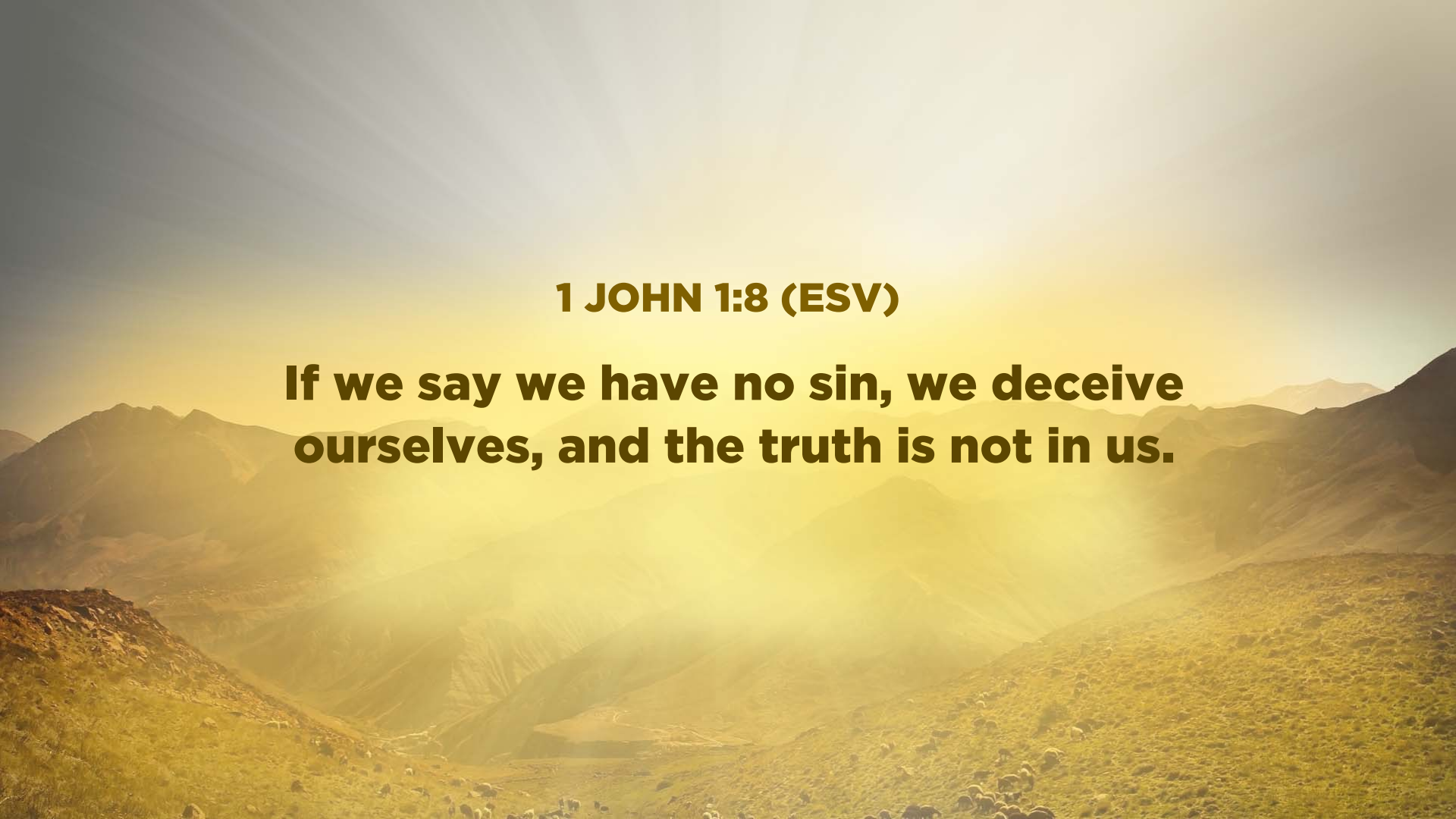
LEVITICUS 25:36-37 (NIV)

Do not take interest or any profit from them,
but fear your God, so that they may continue
to live among you. [37] You must not lend them
money at interest or sell them food at a profit.

LEVITICUS 25:43 (NIV)
Do not rule over them ruthlessly,
but fear your God.

1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?

b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God


1 JOHN 1:8 (ESV)
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

GALATIANS 5:17 (NIV)

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

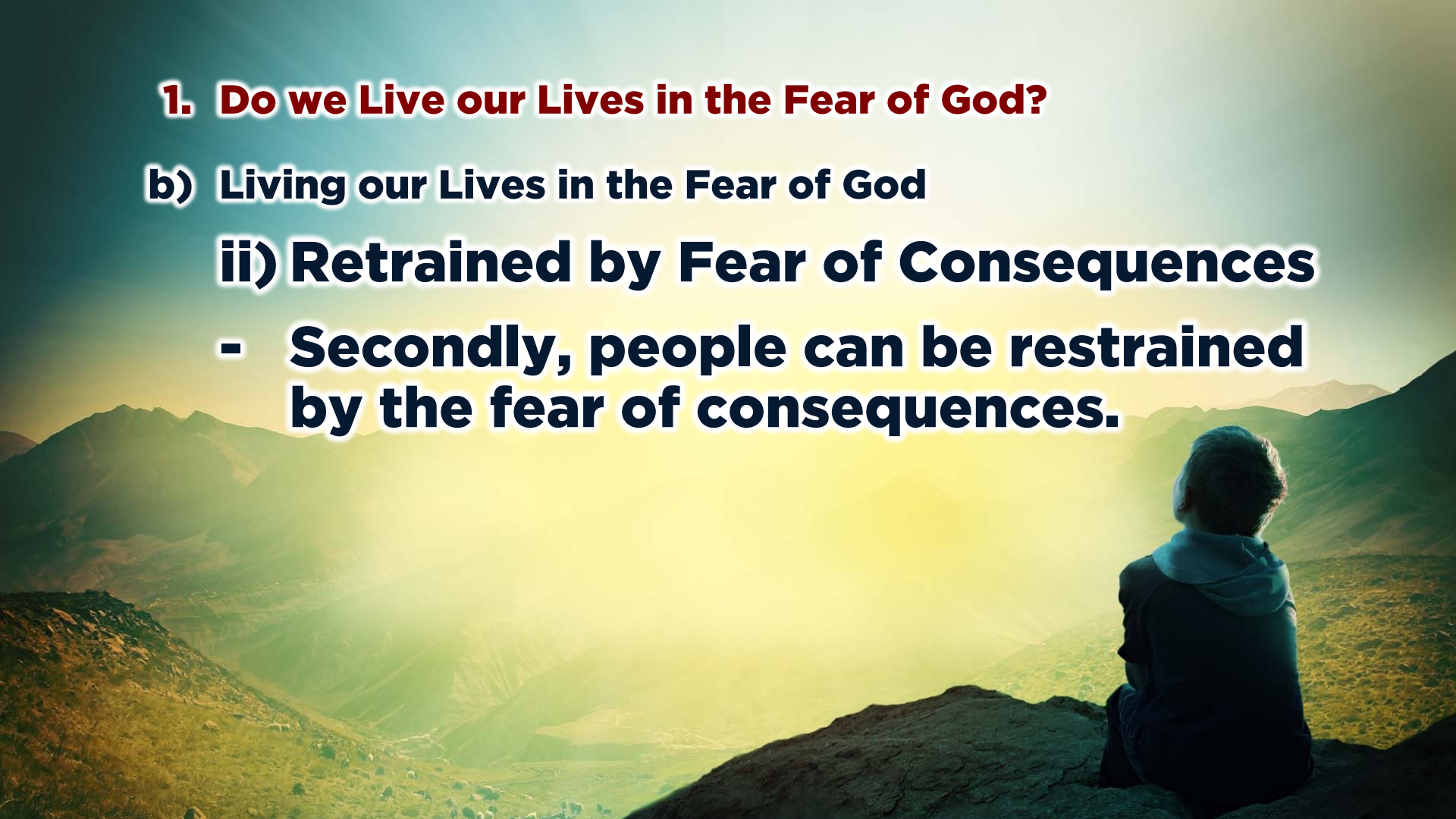
PROVERBS 29:18 (NIV)

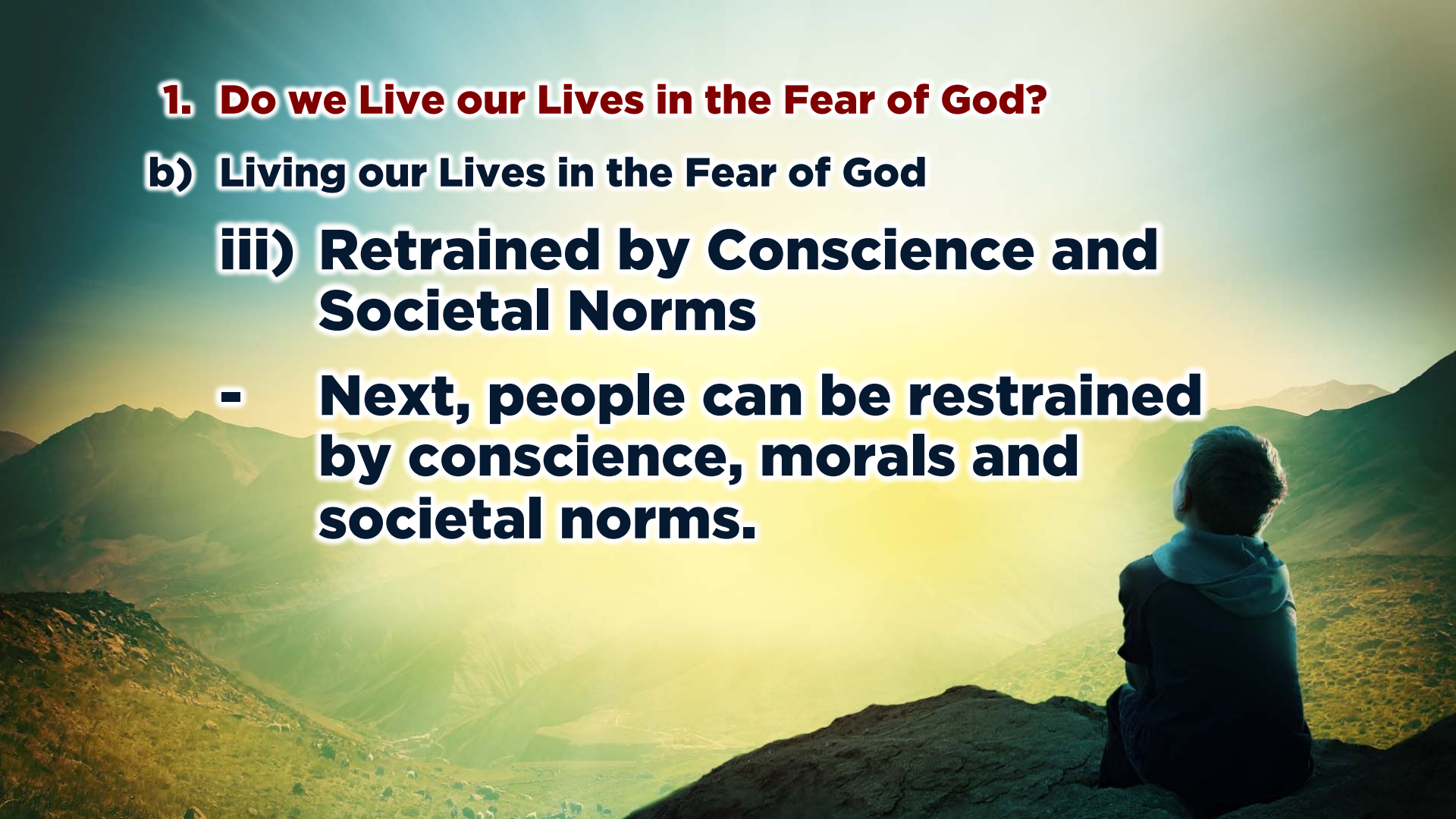
"Where there is no revelation, the
people cast off restraint;
But happy is he who keeps the law.

PROVERBS 29:18 (NLT)

"When people do not accept
divine guidance, they run wild.
But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?
b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God
i) Retrained by Laws and Rules
- Firstly, man can be restrained by laws and rules.


1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?
b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God
ii) Retrained by Fear of Consequences
- Secondly, people can be restrained by the fear of consequences.

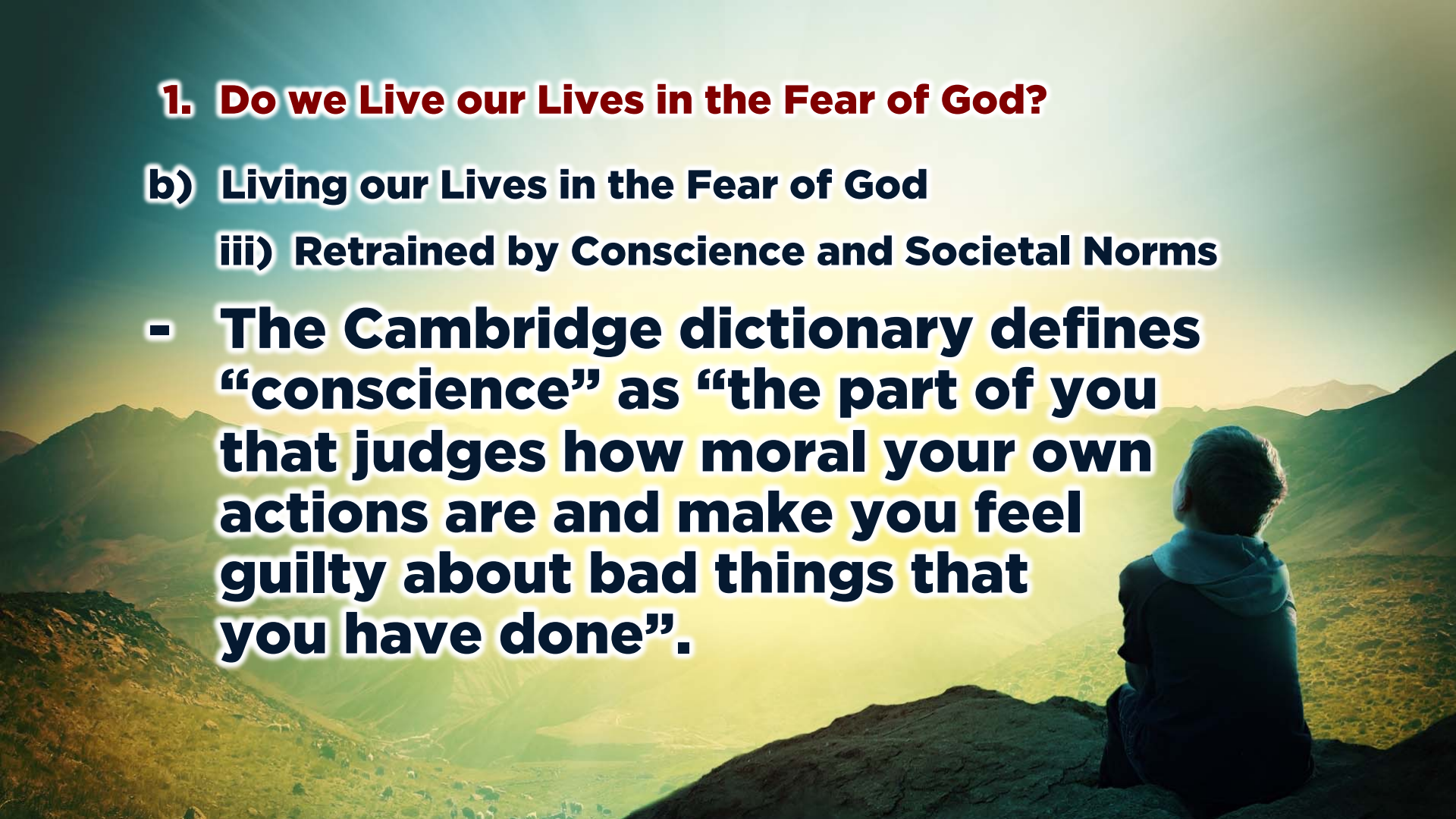


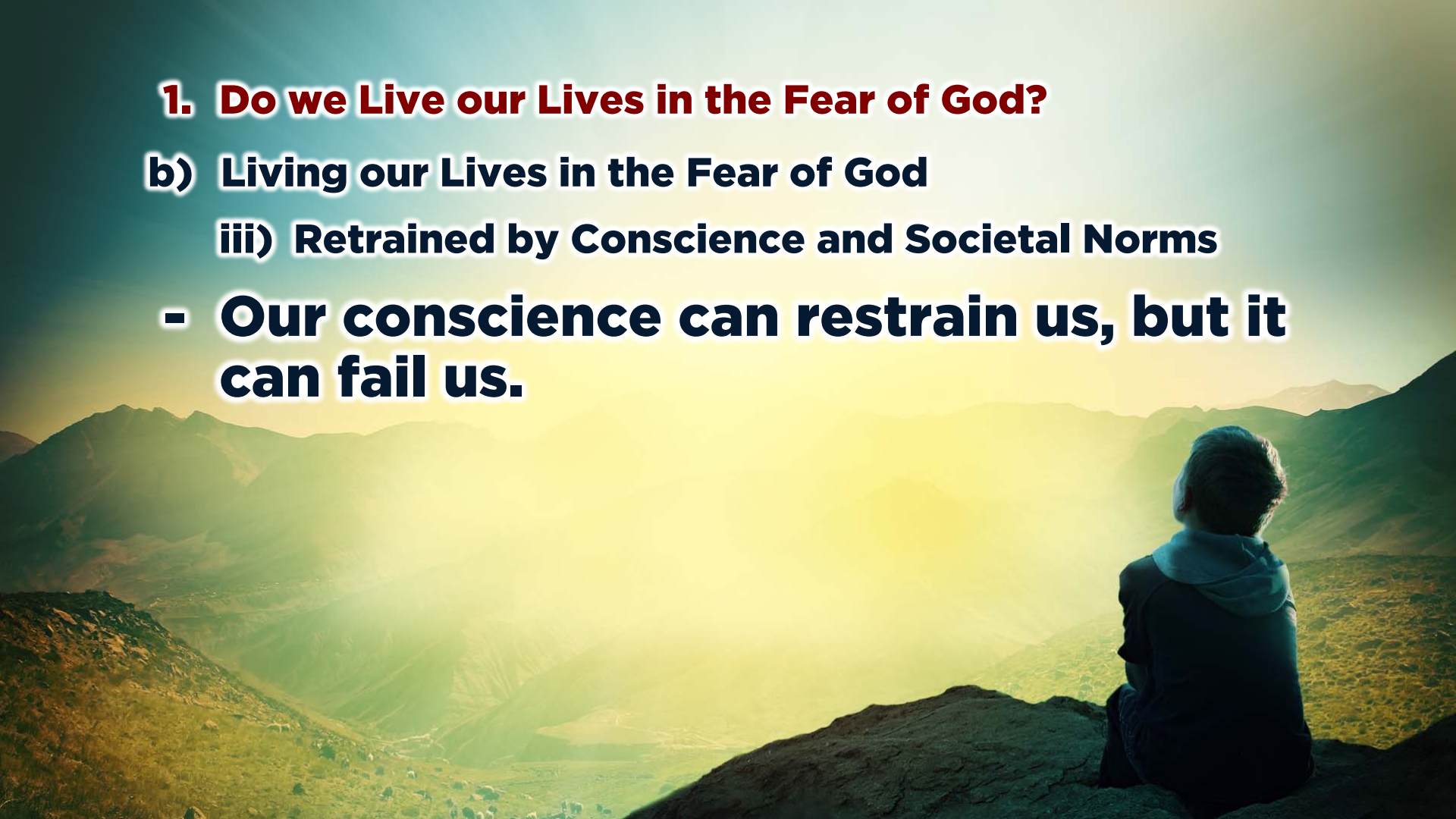
1. **Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?**

b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God

iii) Retrained by Conscience and Societal Norms

- Next, people can be restrained by conscience, morals and societal norms.


1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?
b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God
iii) Retrained by Conscience and Societal Norms
- The Cambridge dictionary defines "conscience" as "the part of you that judges how moral your own actions are and make you feel guilty about bad things that you have done".

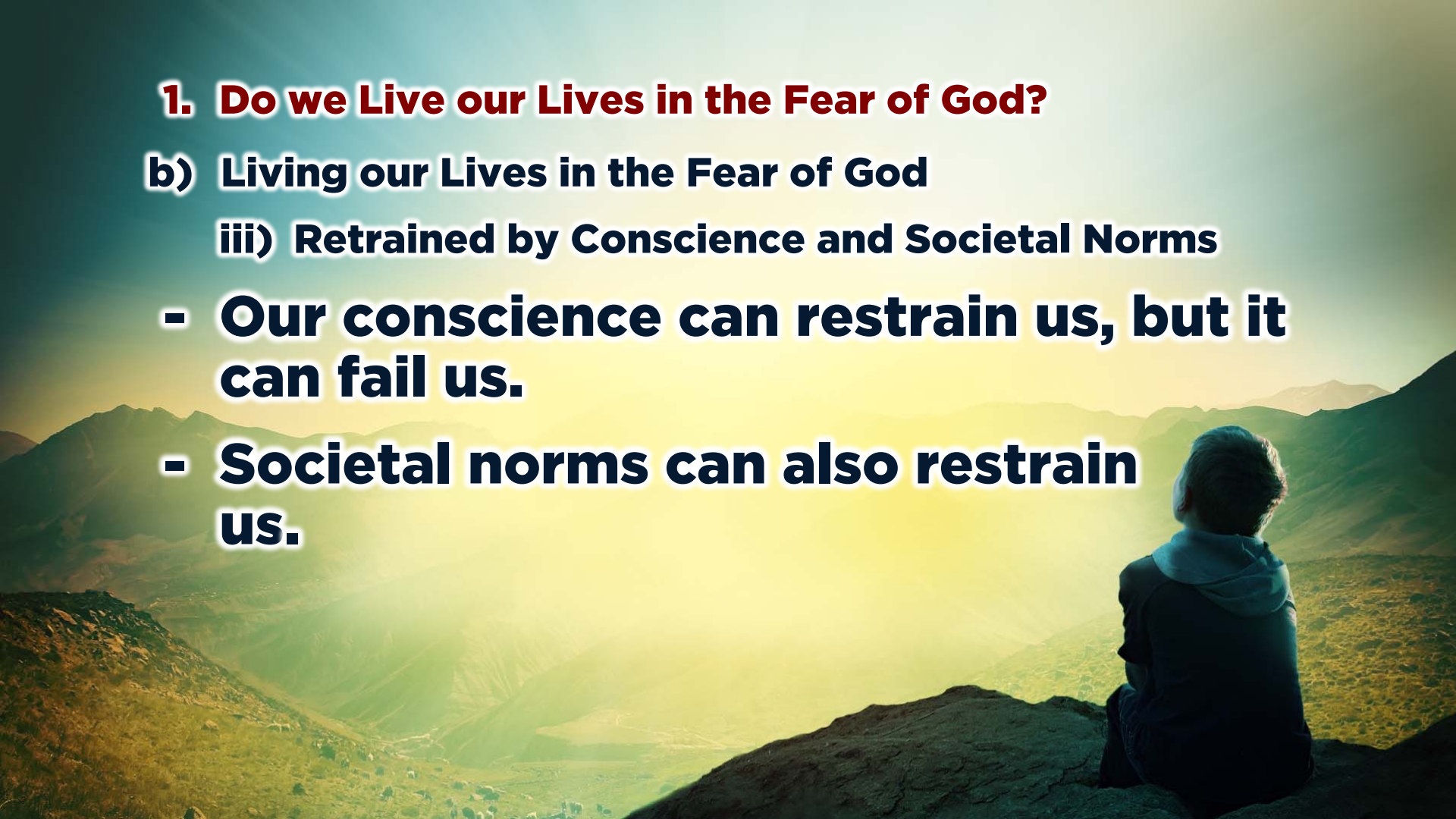


1. **Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?**

b) **Living our Lives in the Fear of God**

iii) **Retrained by Conscience and Societal Norms**

- **Our conscience can restrain us, but it can fail us.**

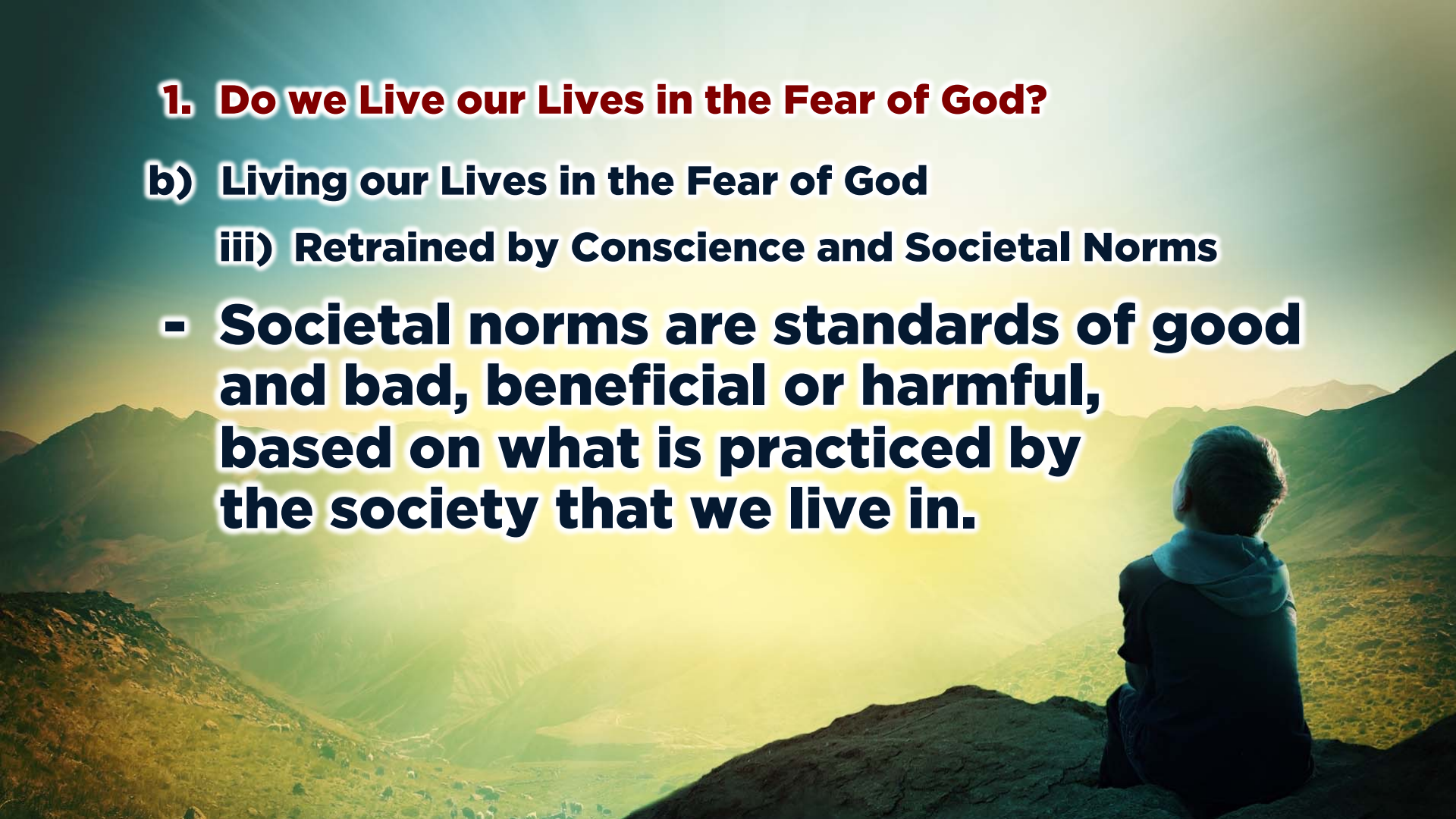


1. **Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?**

b) **Living our Lives in the Fear of God**

iii) **Retrained by Conscience and Societal Norms**

- **Our conscience can restrain us, but it can fail us.**
- **Societal norms can also restrain us.**

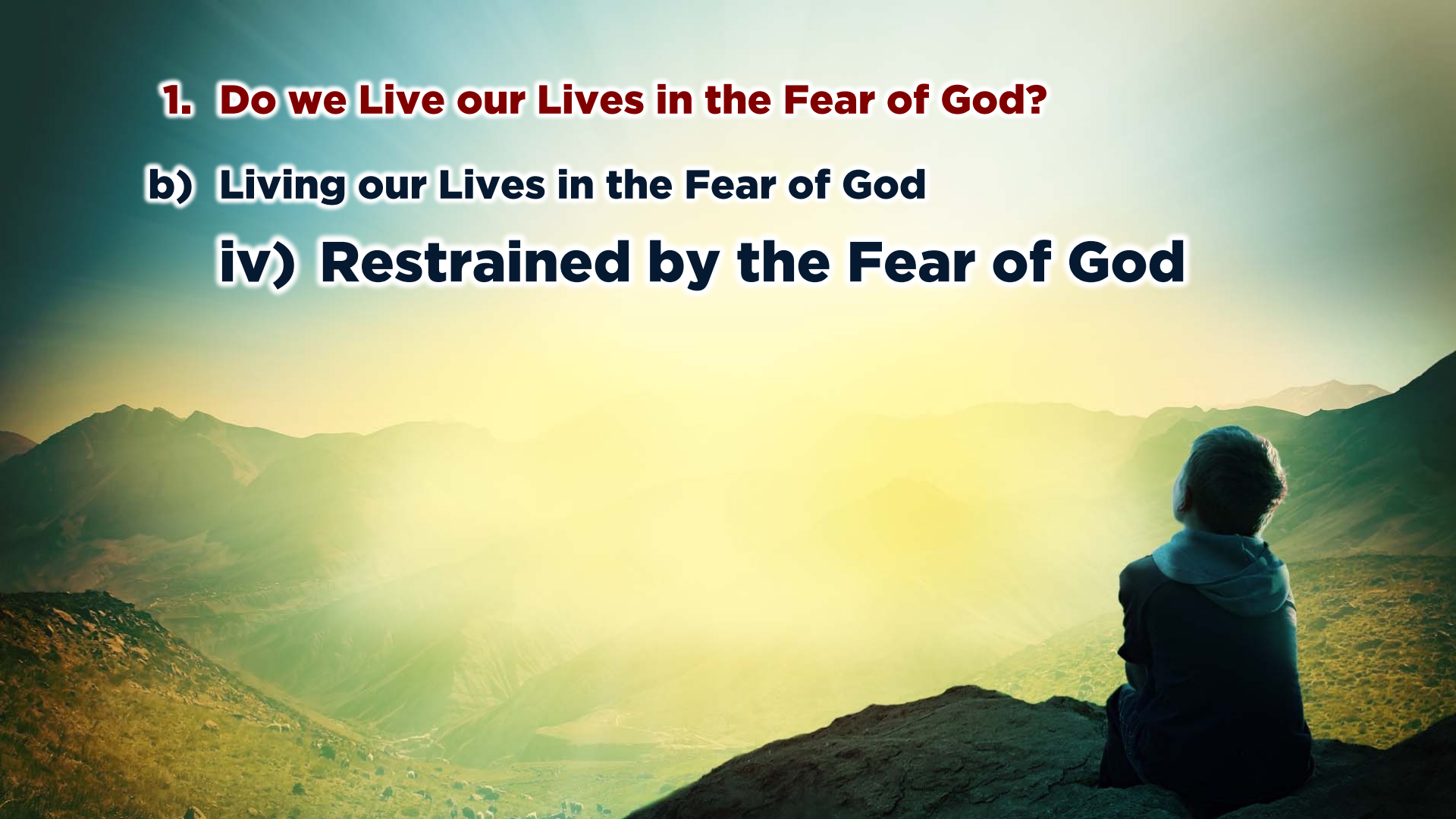


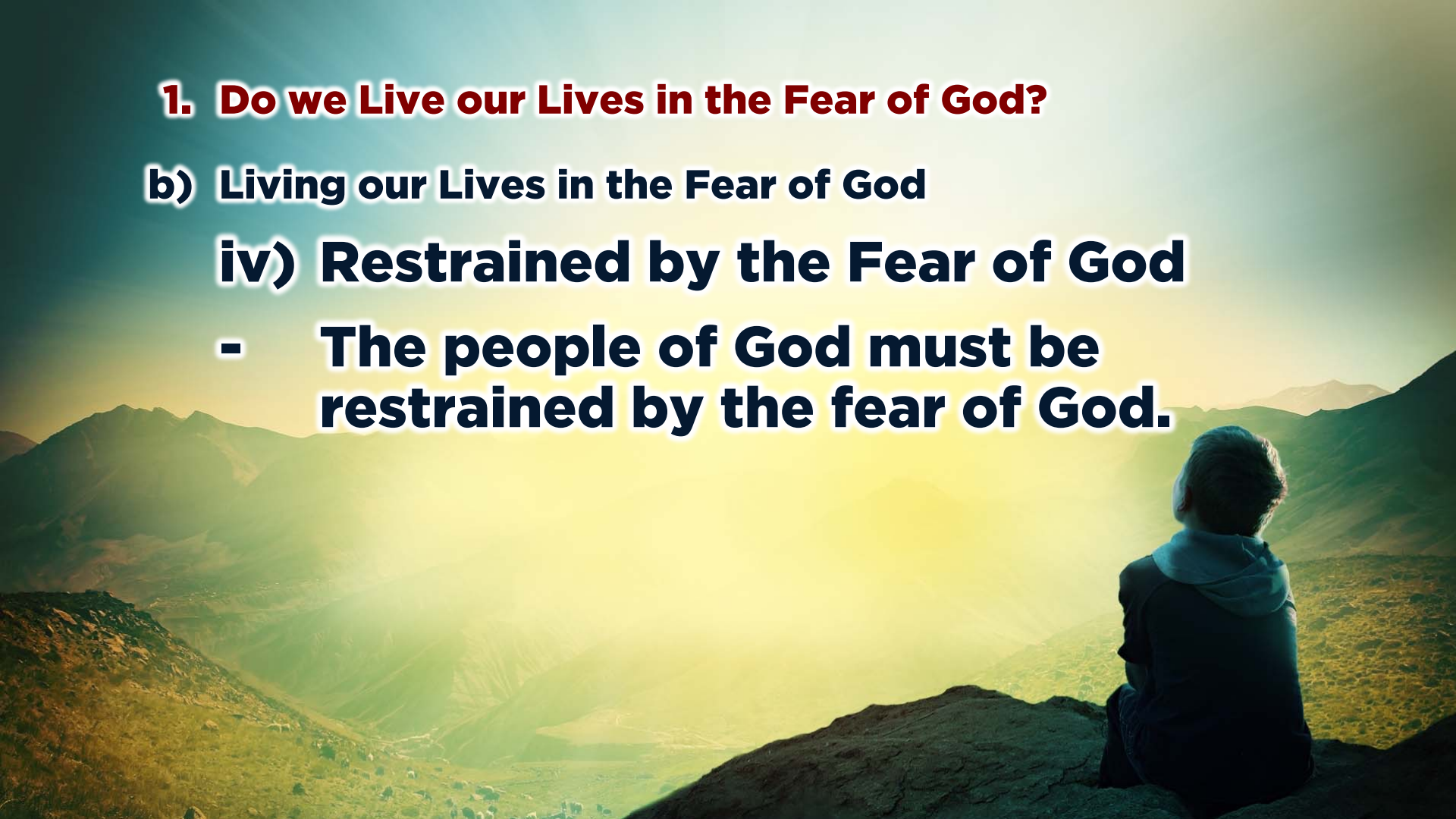
1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?

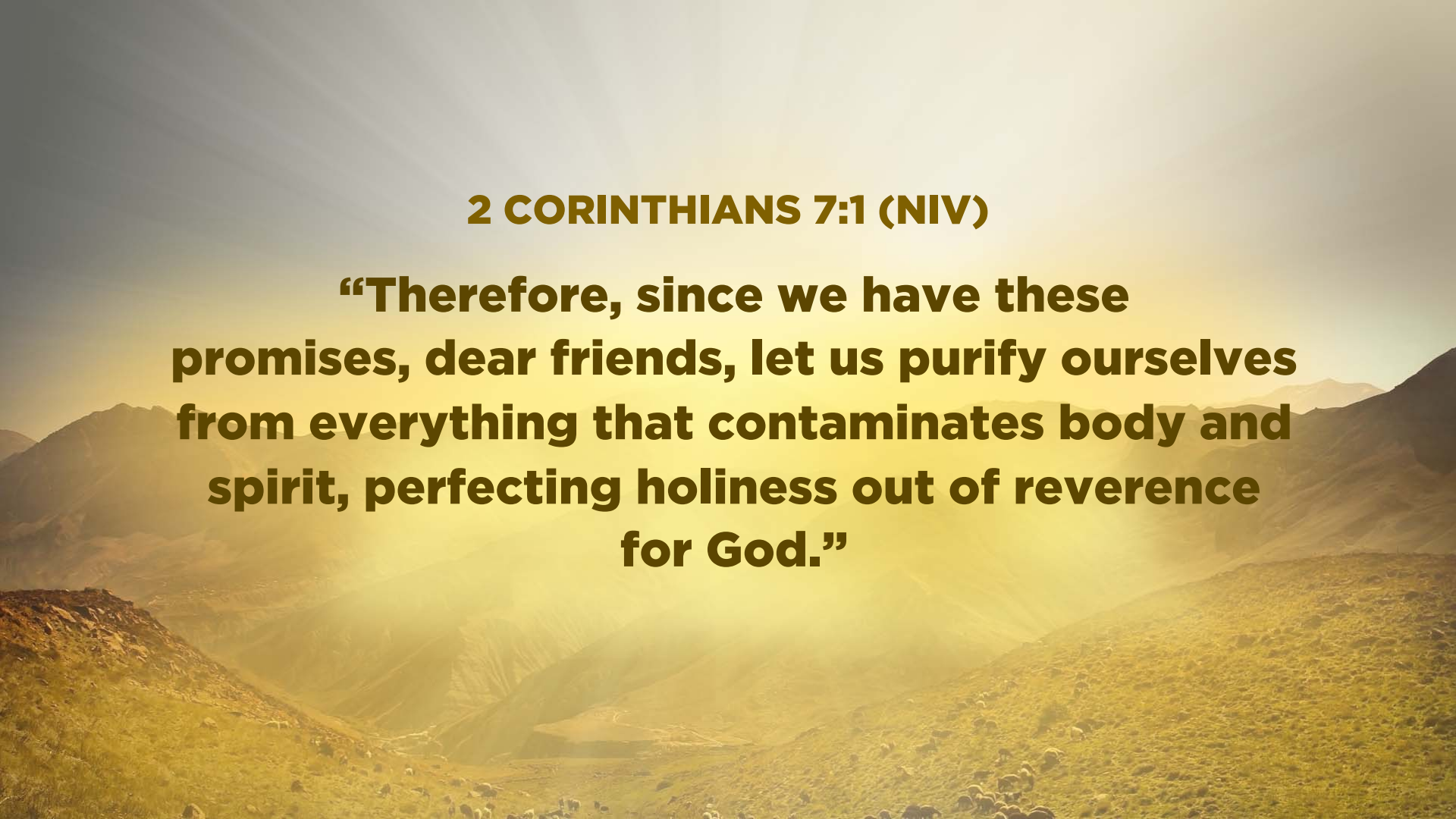
b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God

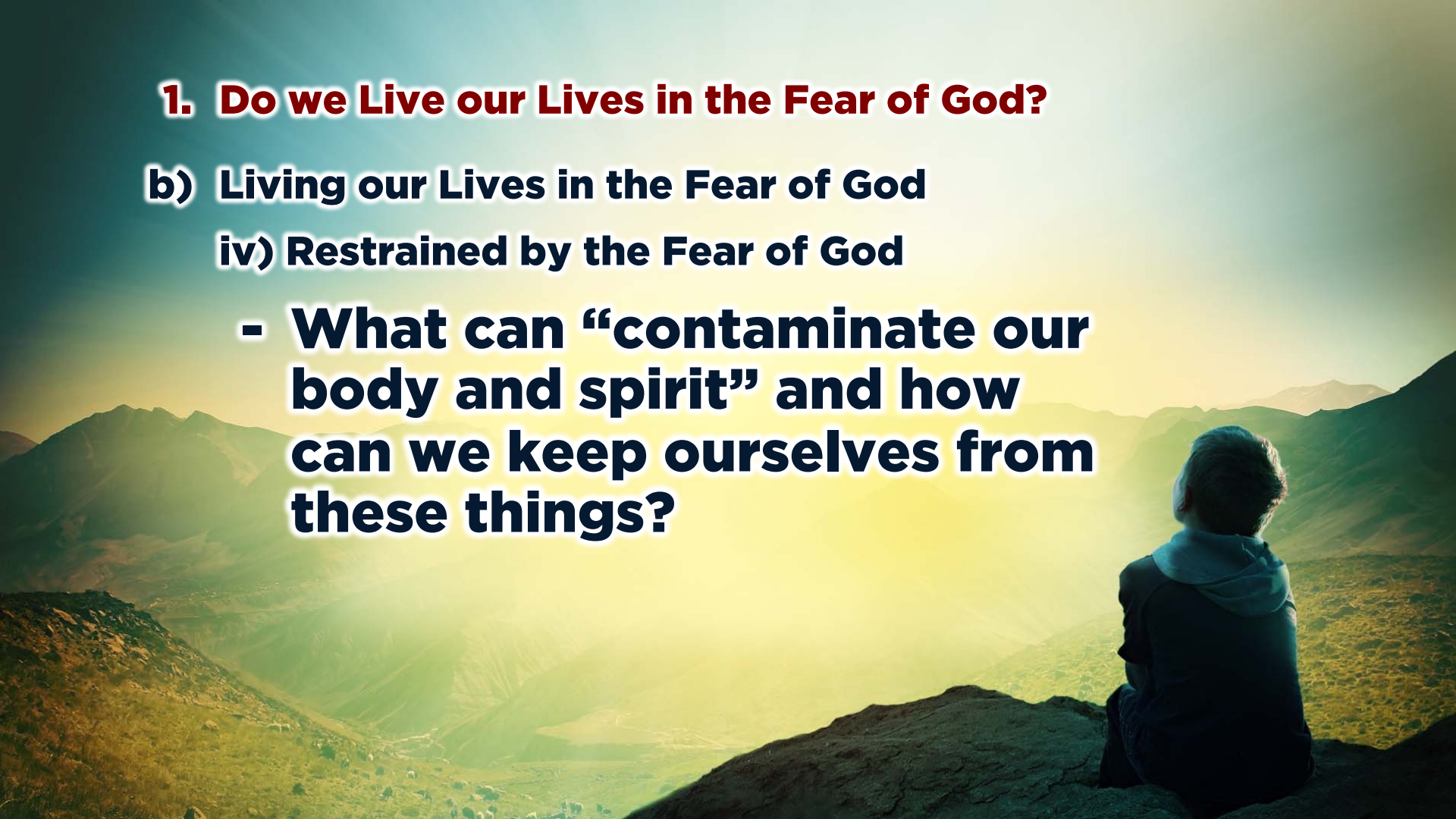
iii) Retrained by Conscience and Societal Norms

- Societal norms are standards of good and bad, beneficial or harmful, based on what is practiced by the society that we live in.

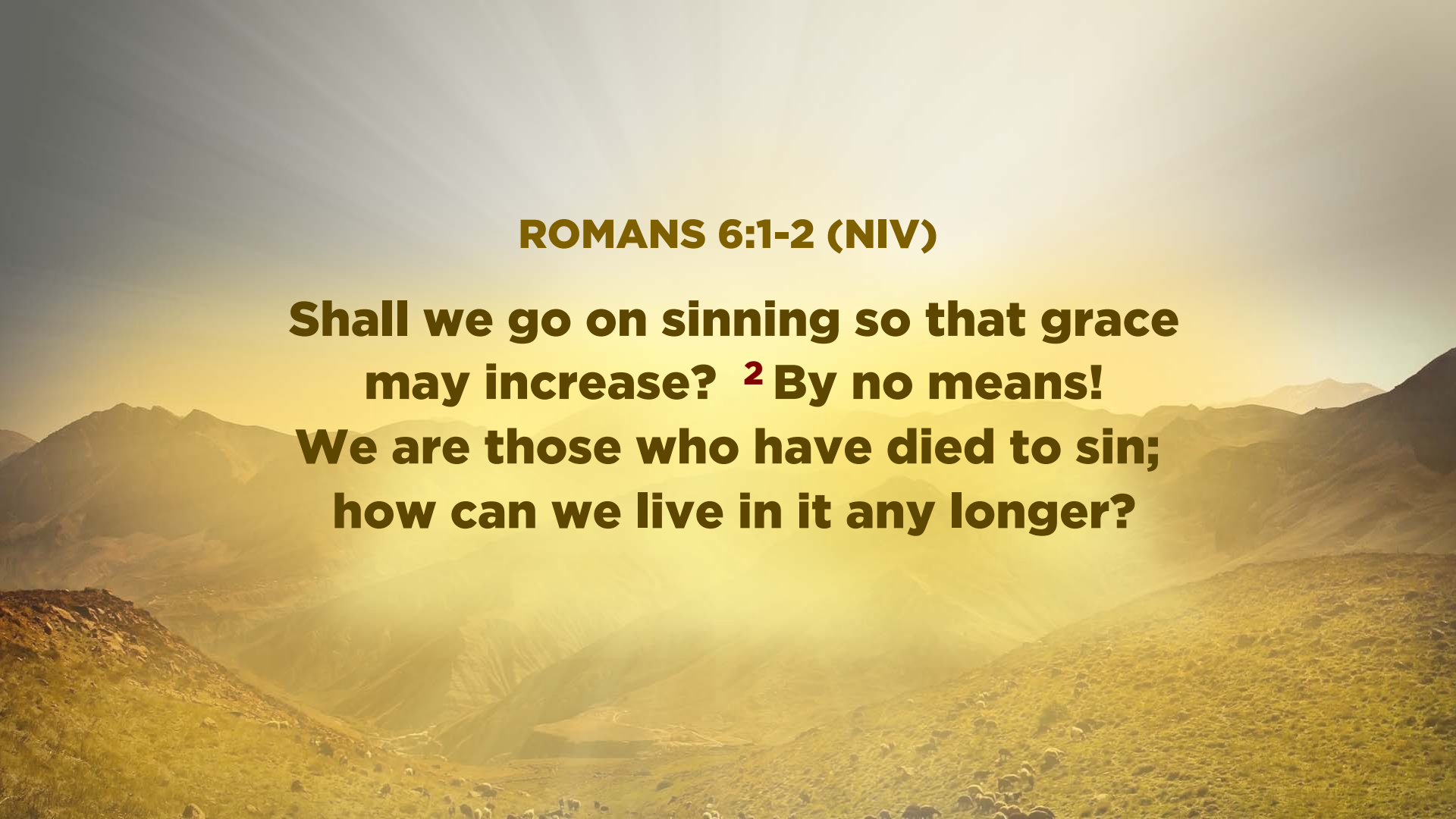

1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?
b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God
iv) Restrained by the Fear of God


1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?
b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God
iv) Restrained by the Fear of God
- The people of God must be restrained by the fear of God.


2 CORINTHIANS 7:1 (NIV)
“Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”

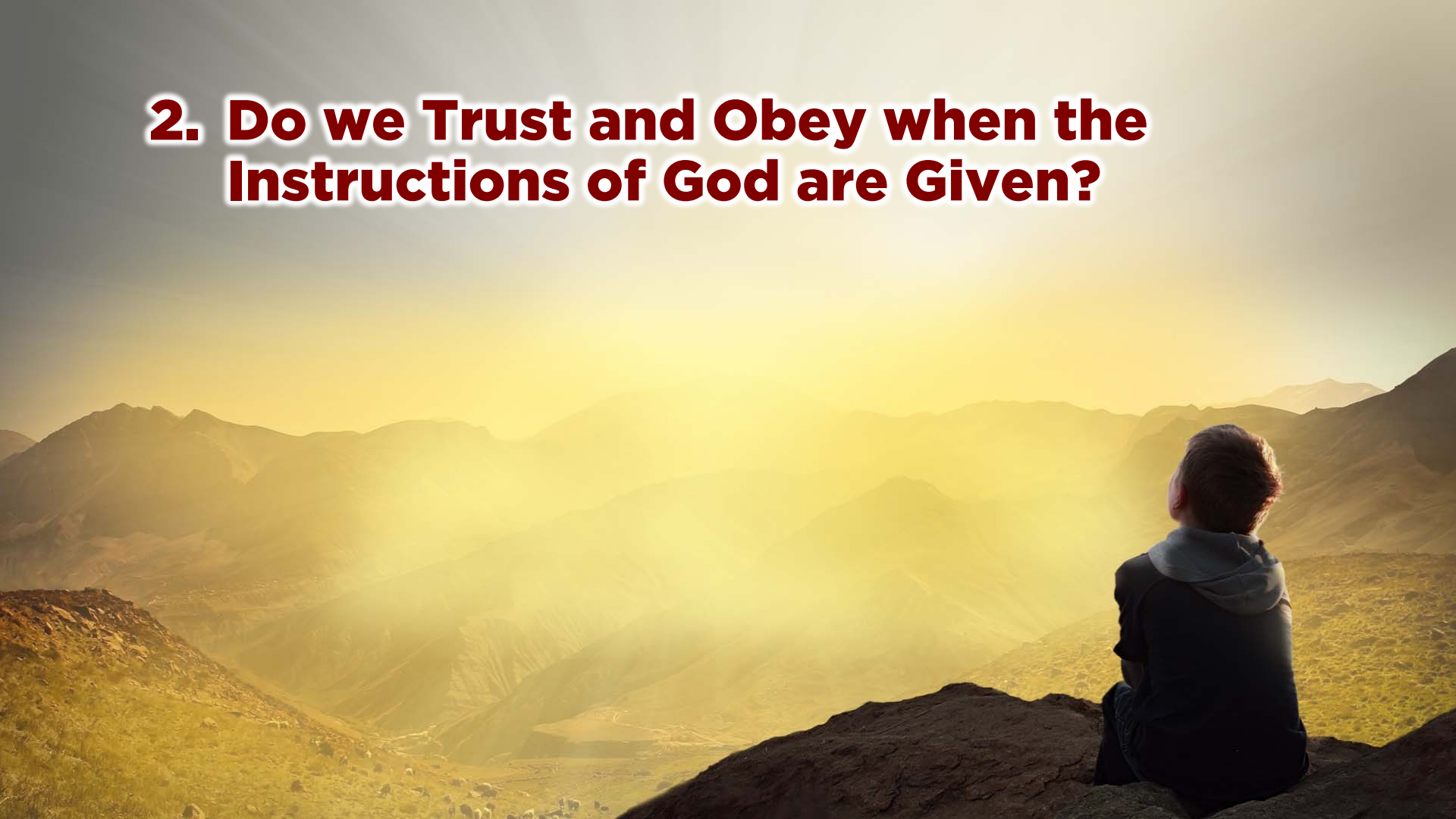

1. Do we Live our Lives in the Fear of God?
b) Living our Lives in the Fear of God
iv) Restrained by the Fear of God
- What can “contaminate our body and spirit” and how can we keep ourselves from these things?

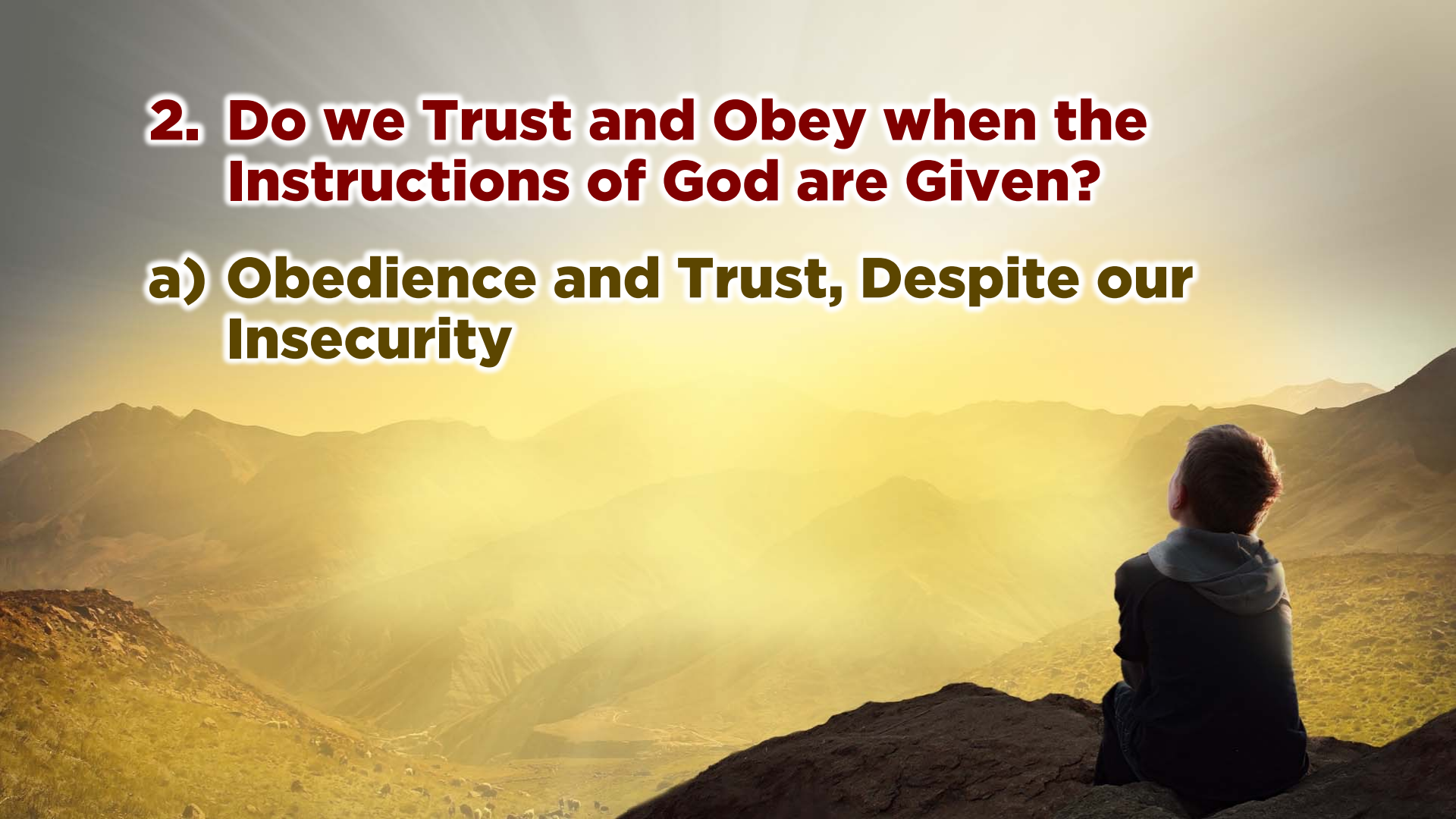
1 JOHN 1:9 (NIV)
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



ROMANS 6:1-2 (NIV)

Shall we go on sinning so that grace
may increase? 2 By no means!
We are those who have died to sin;
how can we live in it any longer?


2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

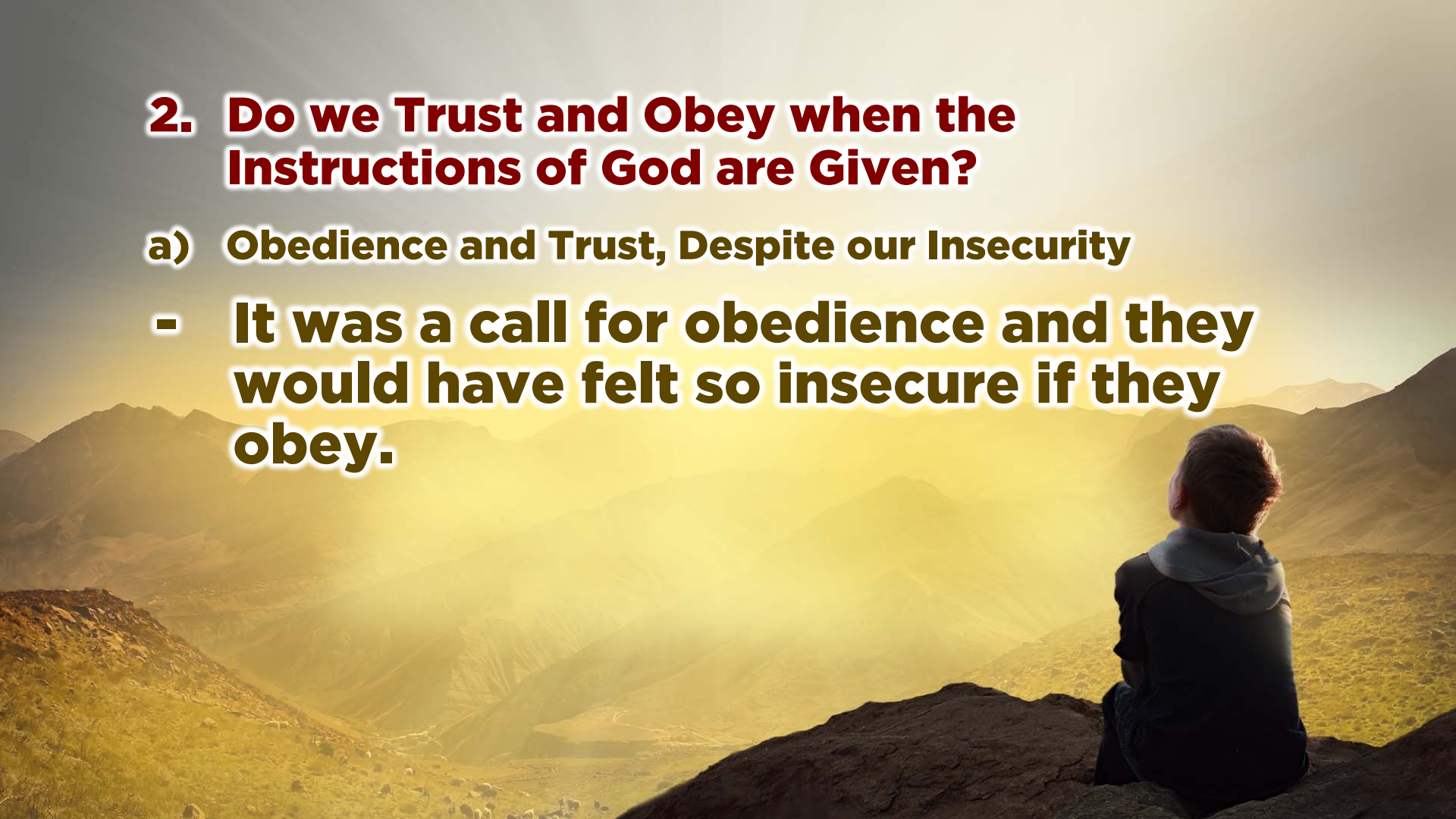

2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?
a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

LEVITICUS 25:11-12 (NIV)

“... do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. 12 For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.”

LEVITICUS 25:20-22 (NIV)

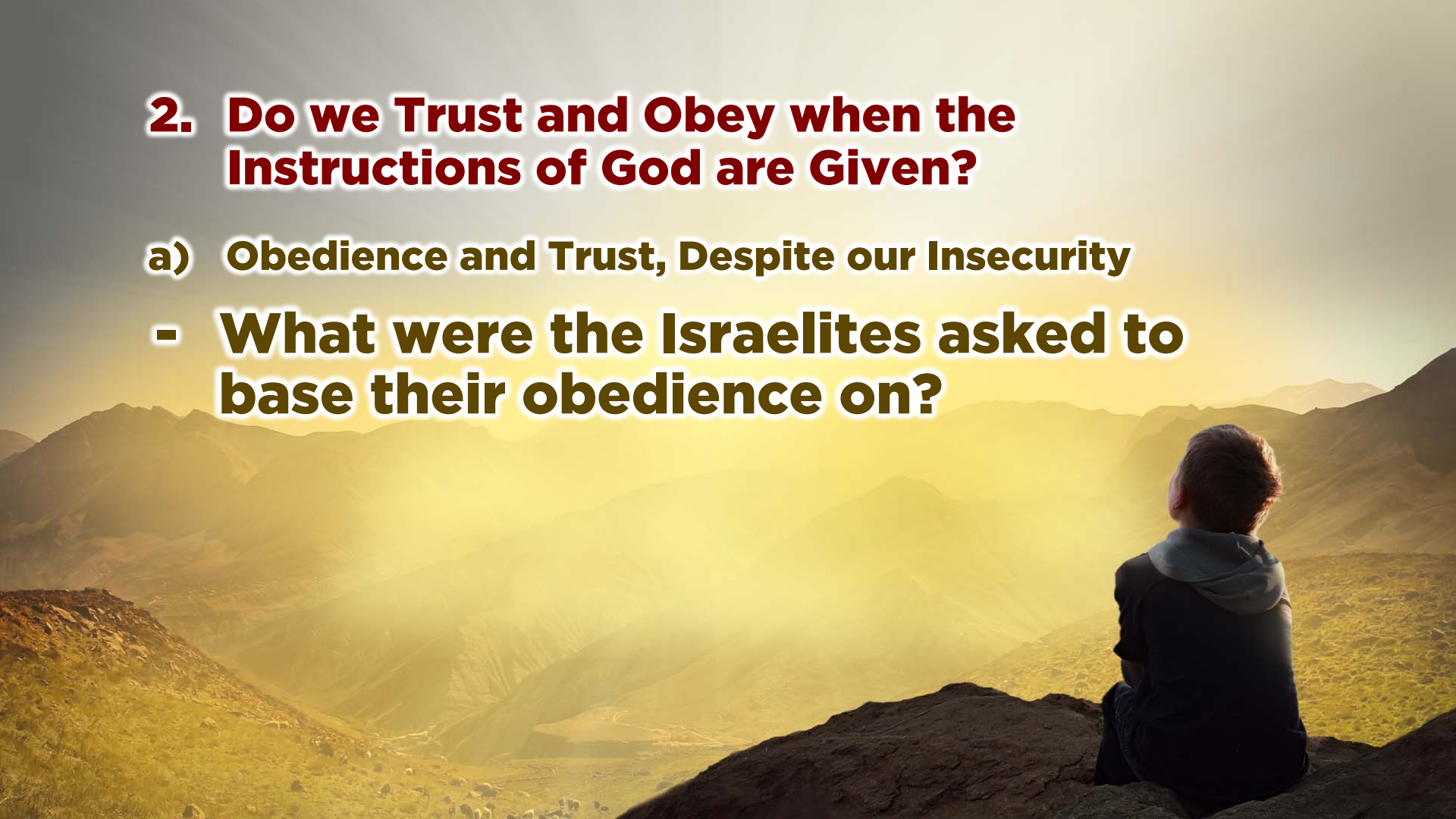
You may ask, “What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not plant or harvest our crops?” [21] I will send you such a blessing in the sixth year that the land will yield enough for three years. [22] While you plant during the eighth year, you will eat from the old crop and will continue to eat from it until the harvest of the ninth year comes in.



2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

- It was a call for obedience and they would have felt so insecure if they obey.



2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

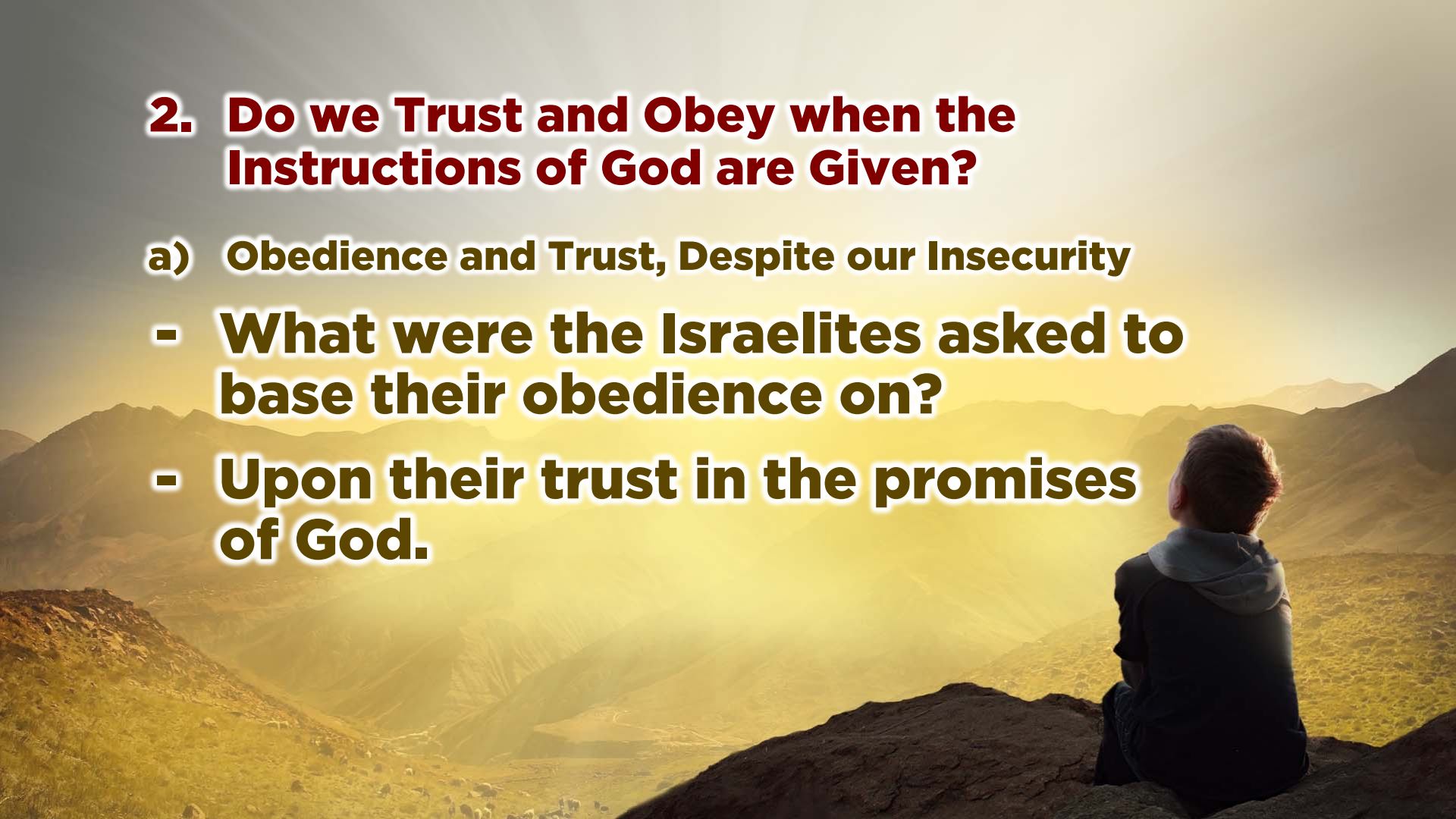
a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

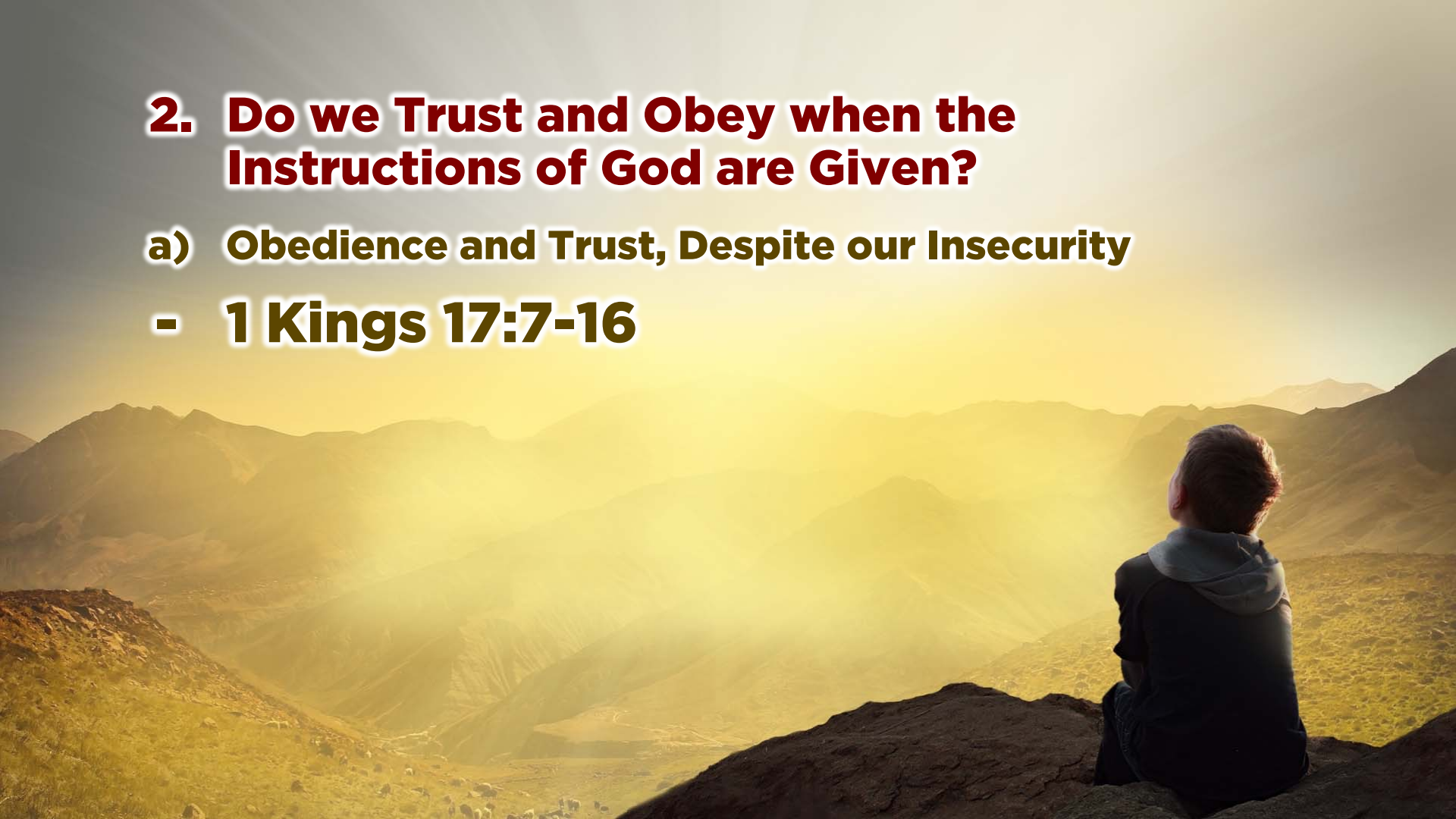
- What were the Israelites asked to base their obedience on?

2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

- What were the Israelites asked to base their obedience on?
- Upon their trust in the promises of God.





2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

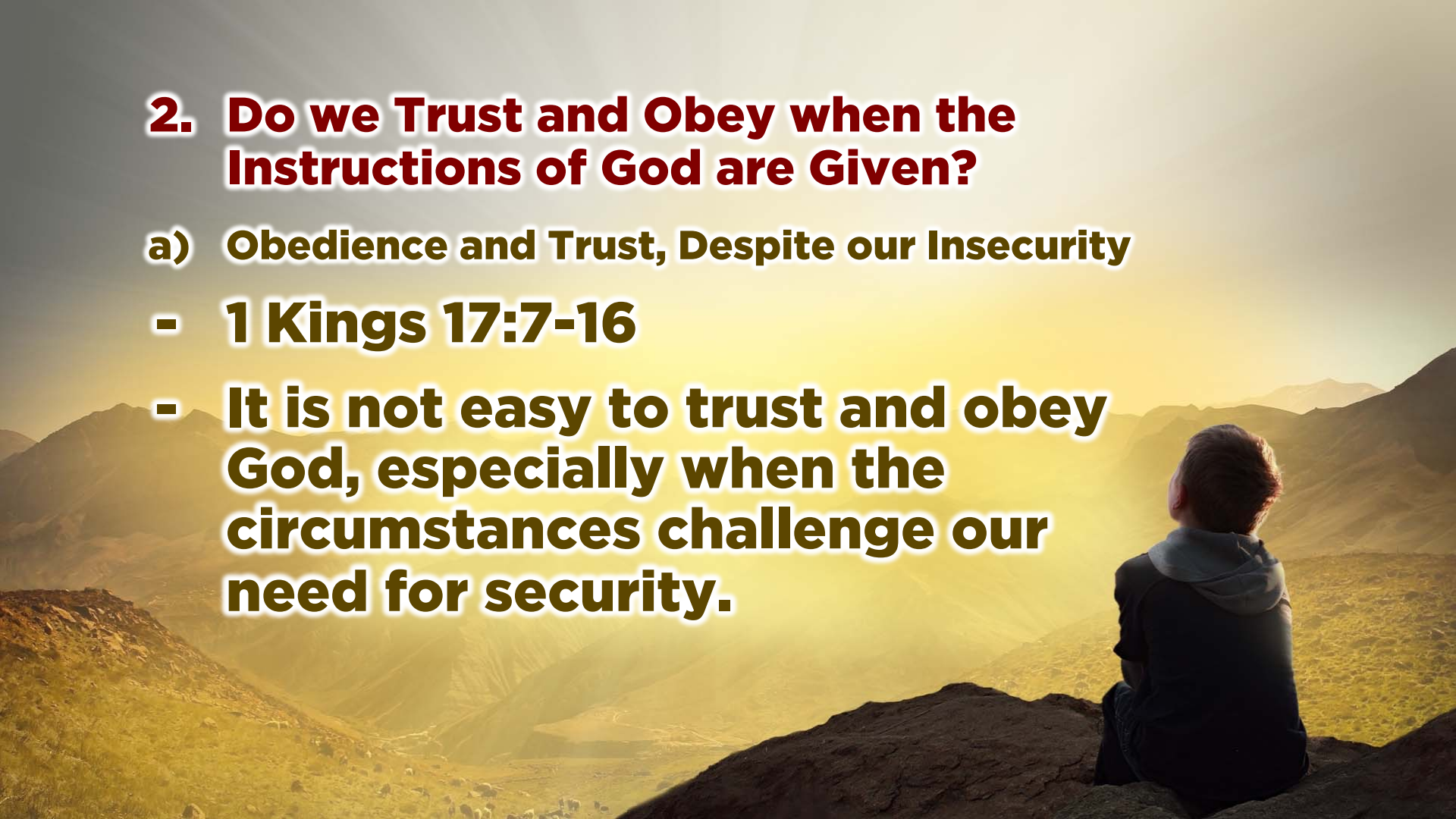
a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

- 1 Kings 17:7-16

2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

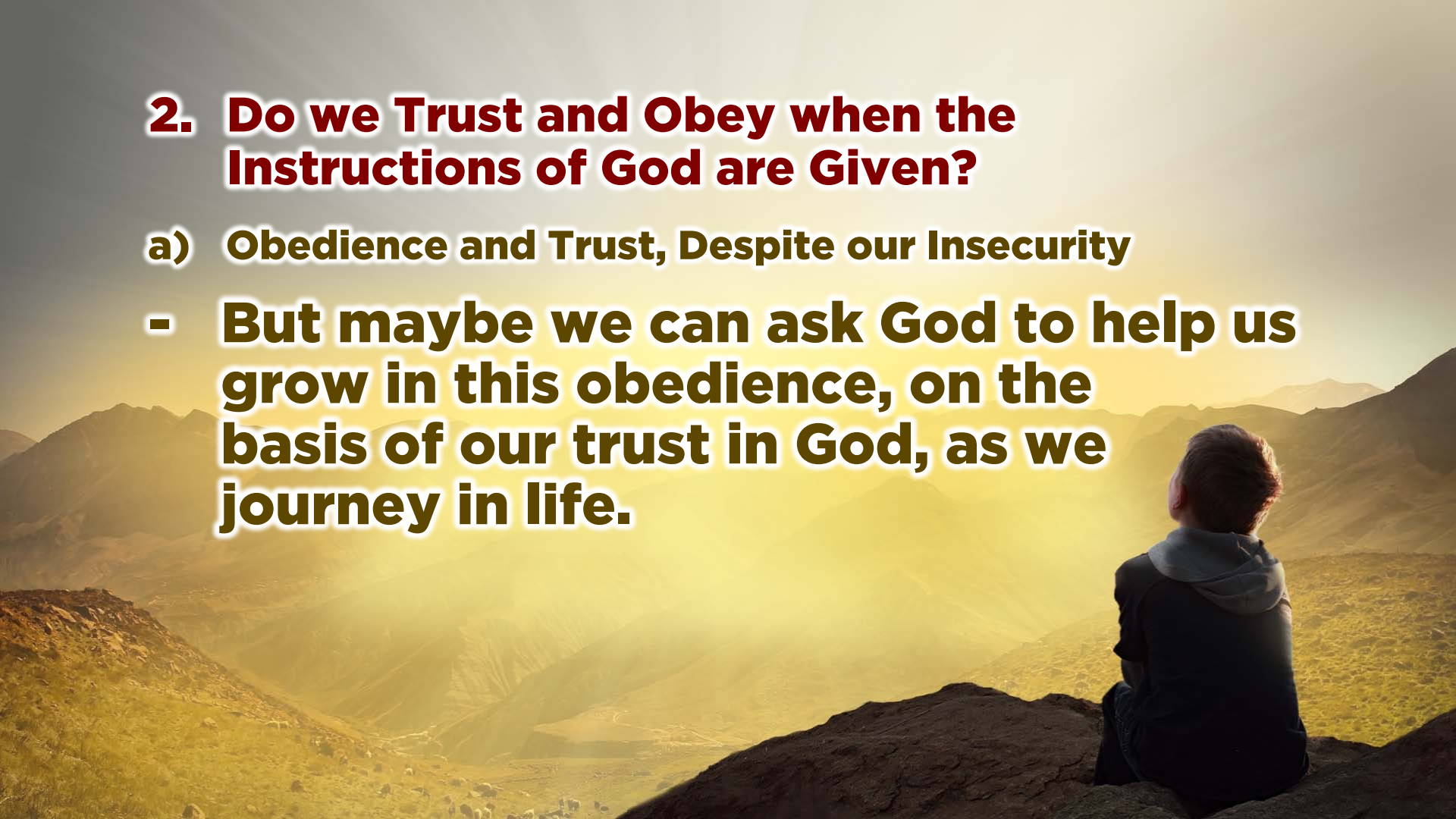
- 1 Kings 17:7-16
- It is not easy to trust and obey God, especially when the circumstances challenge our need for security.

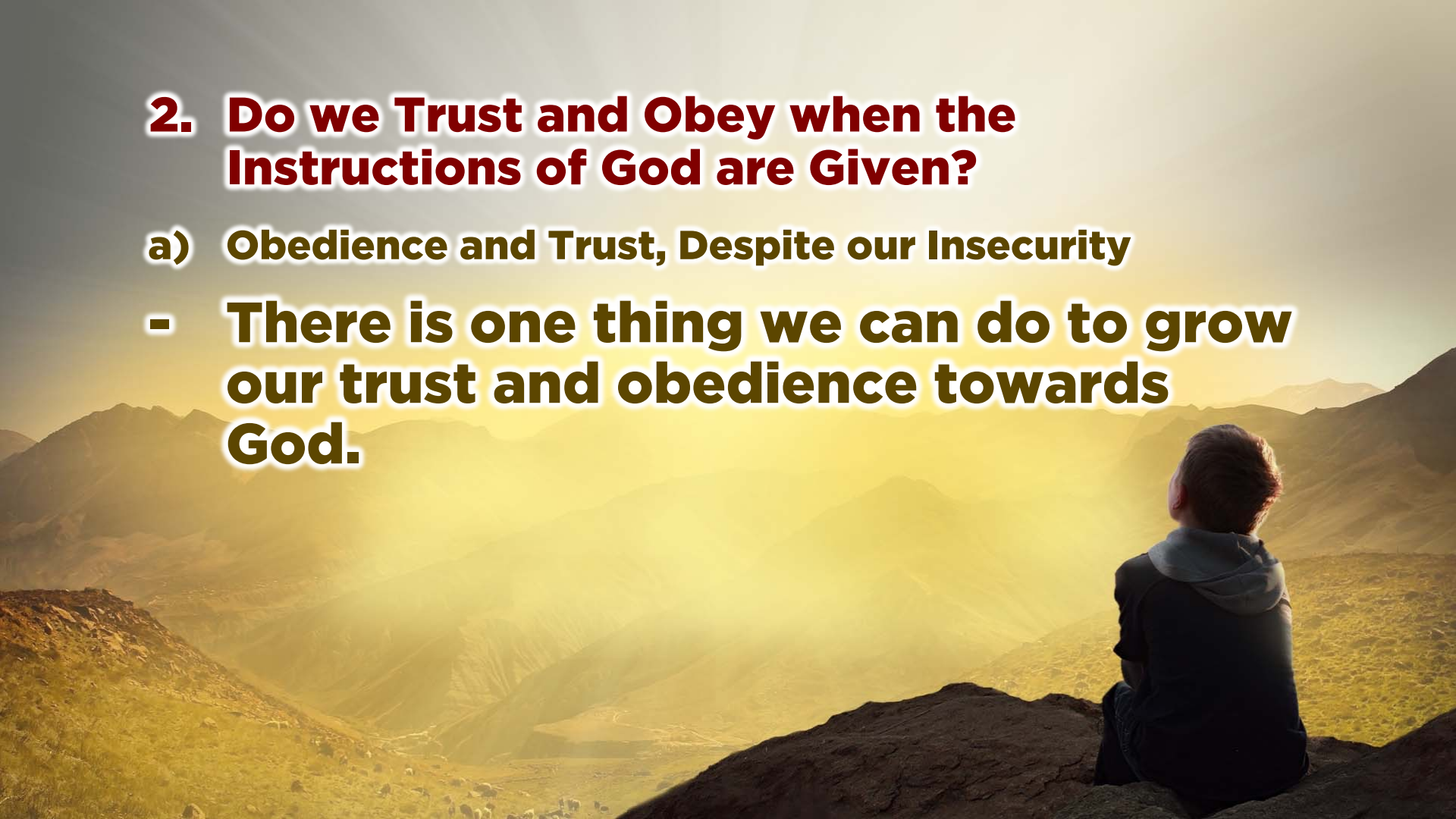


2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

- But maybe we can ask God to help us grow in this obedience, on the basis of our trust in God, as we journey in life.

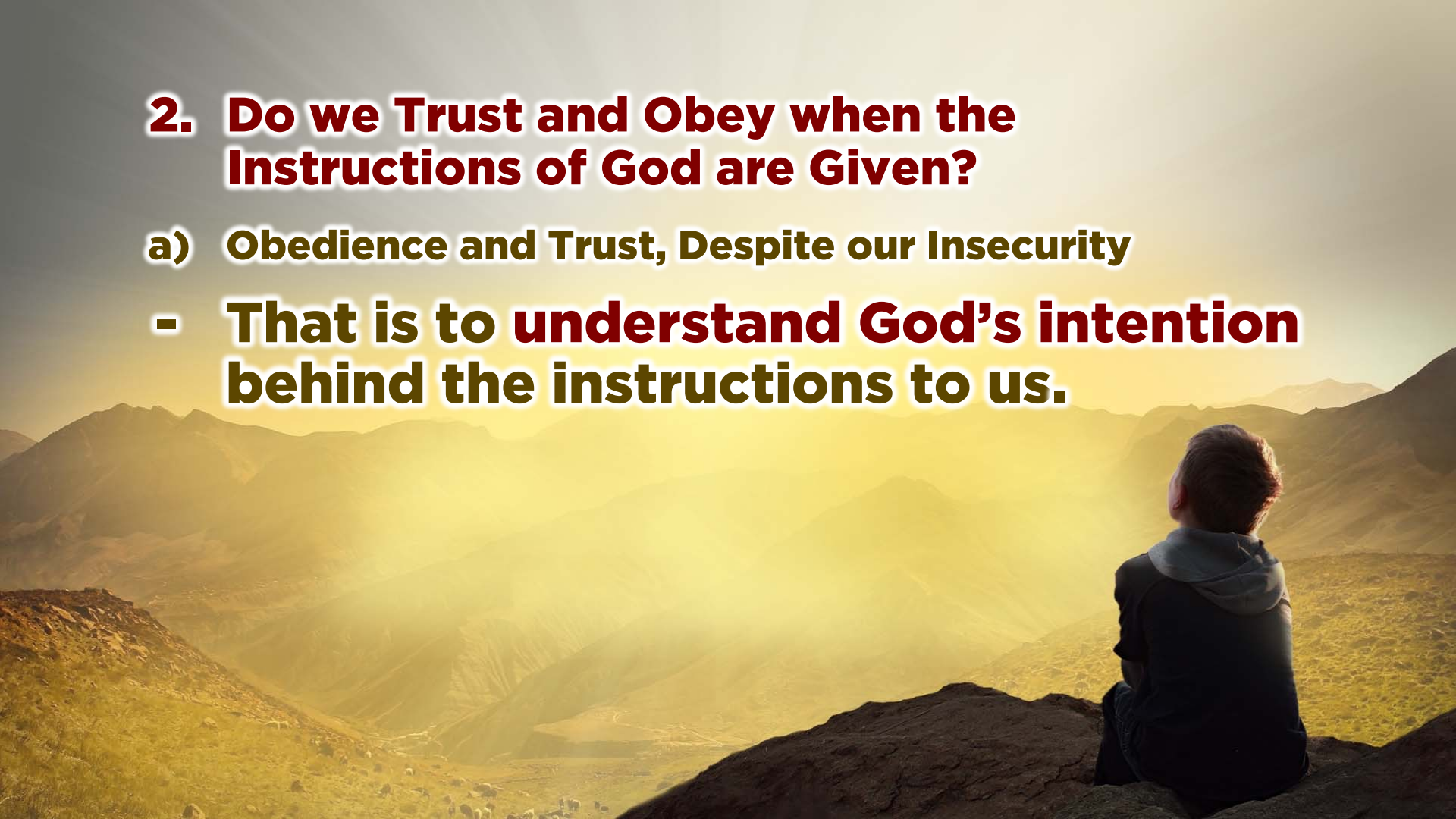




2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

- There is one thing we can do to grow our trust and obedience towards God.



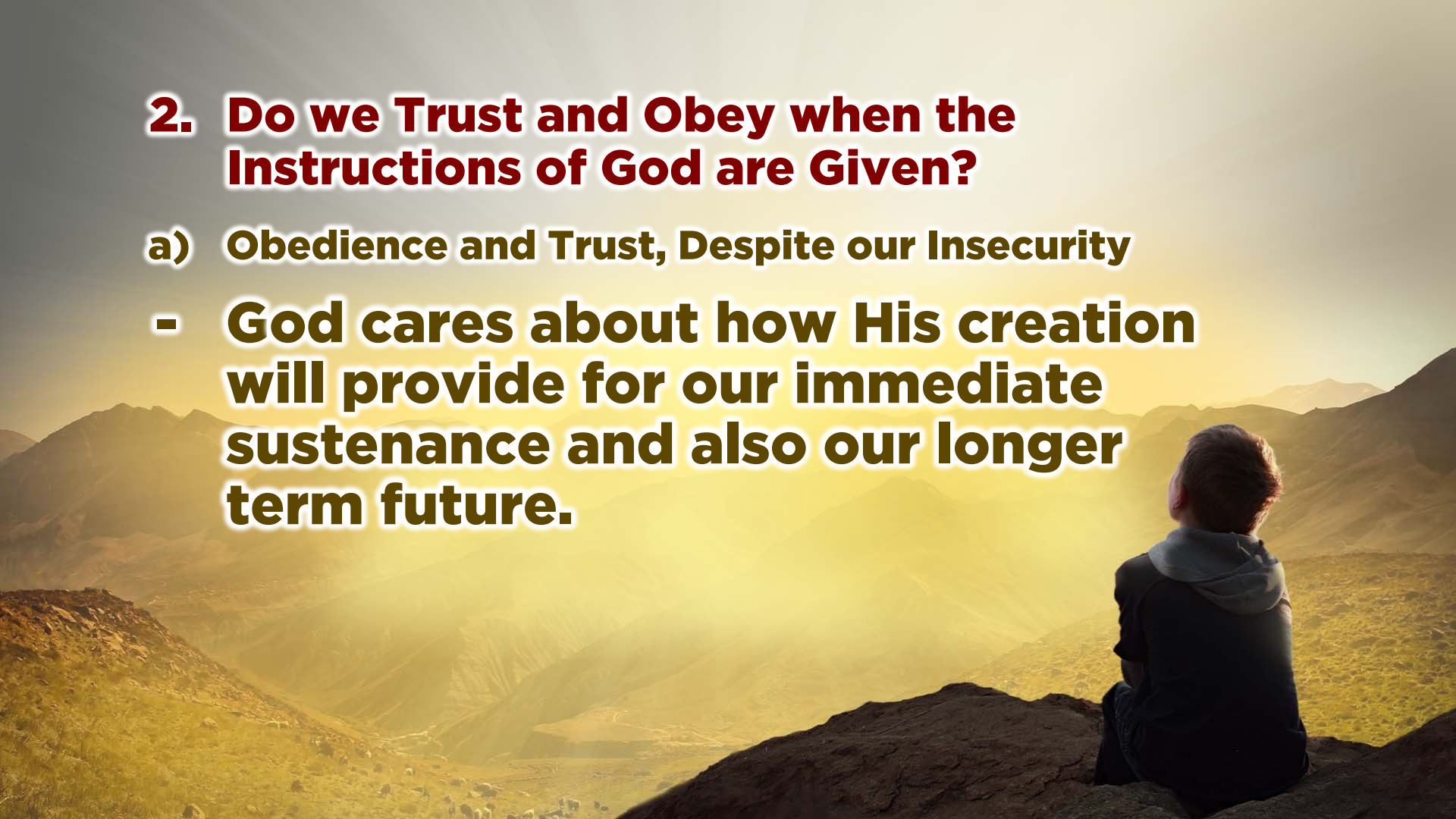
2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

- **That is to understand God's intention behind the instructions to us.**

LEVITICUS 25:4 (NIV)

But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord.



2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

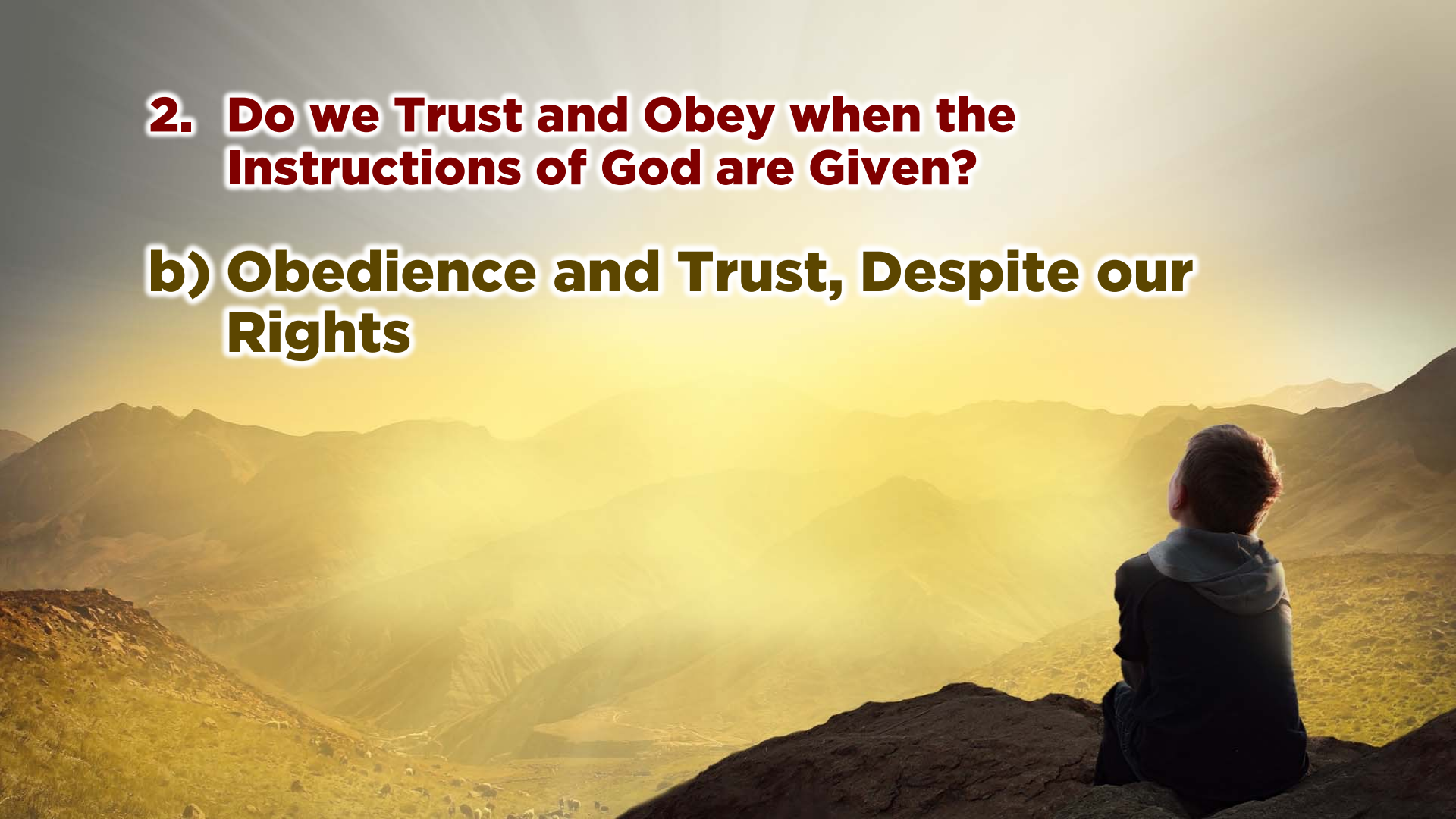
a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

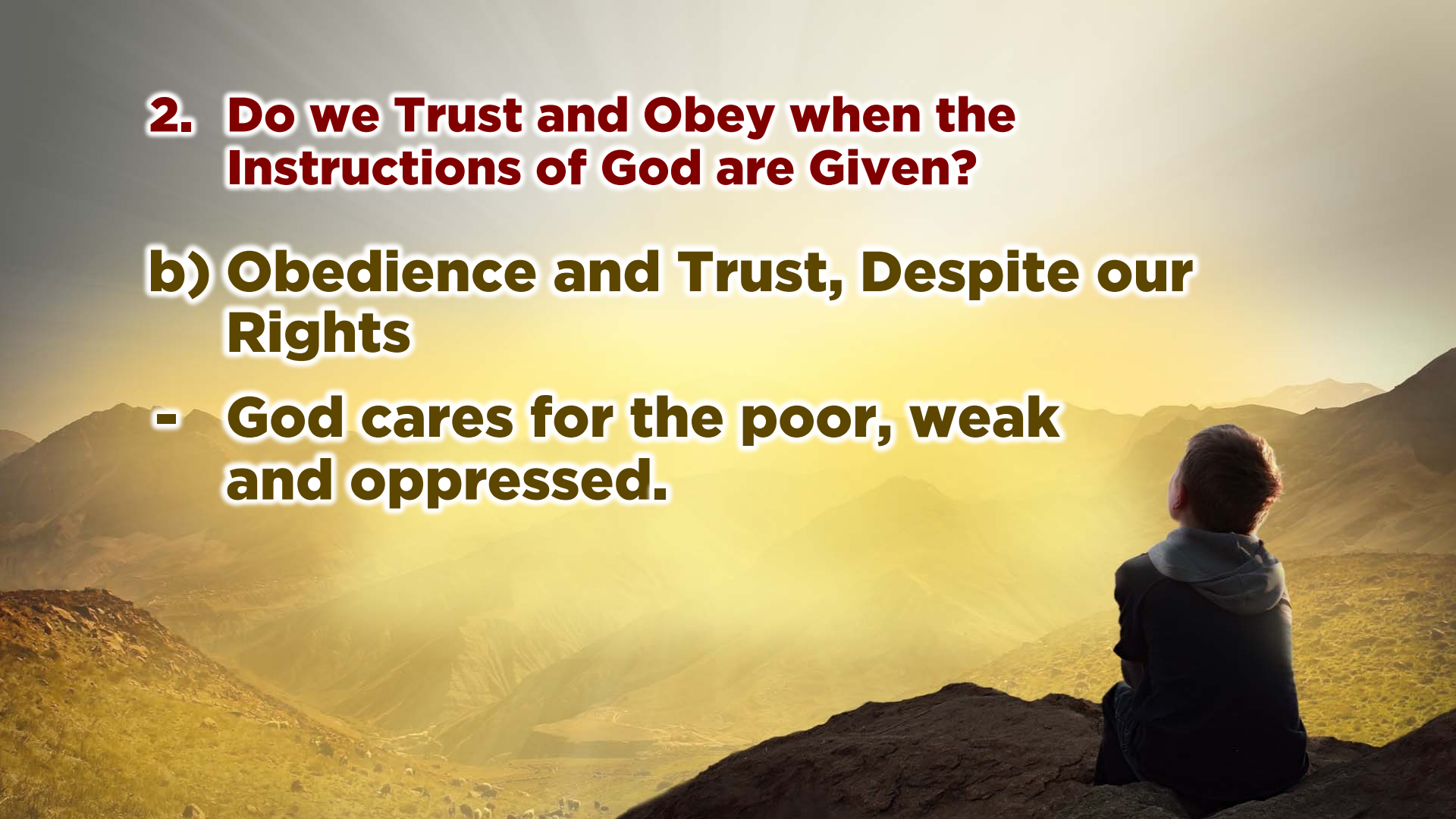
- God cares about how His creation will provide for our immediate sustenance and also our longer term future.

2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?

a) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Insecurity

- **While God cares for our longer term future, we can be only focused on immediate gratification.**


2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?
b) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Rights


2. Do we Trust and Obey when the Instructions of God are Given?
b) Obedience and Trust, Despite our Rights
- God cares for the poor, weak and oppressed.

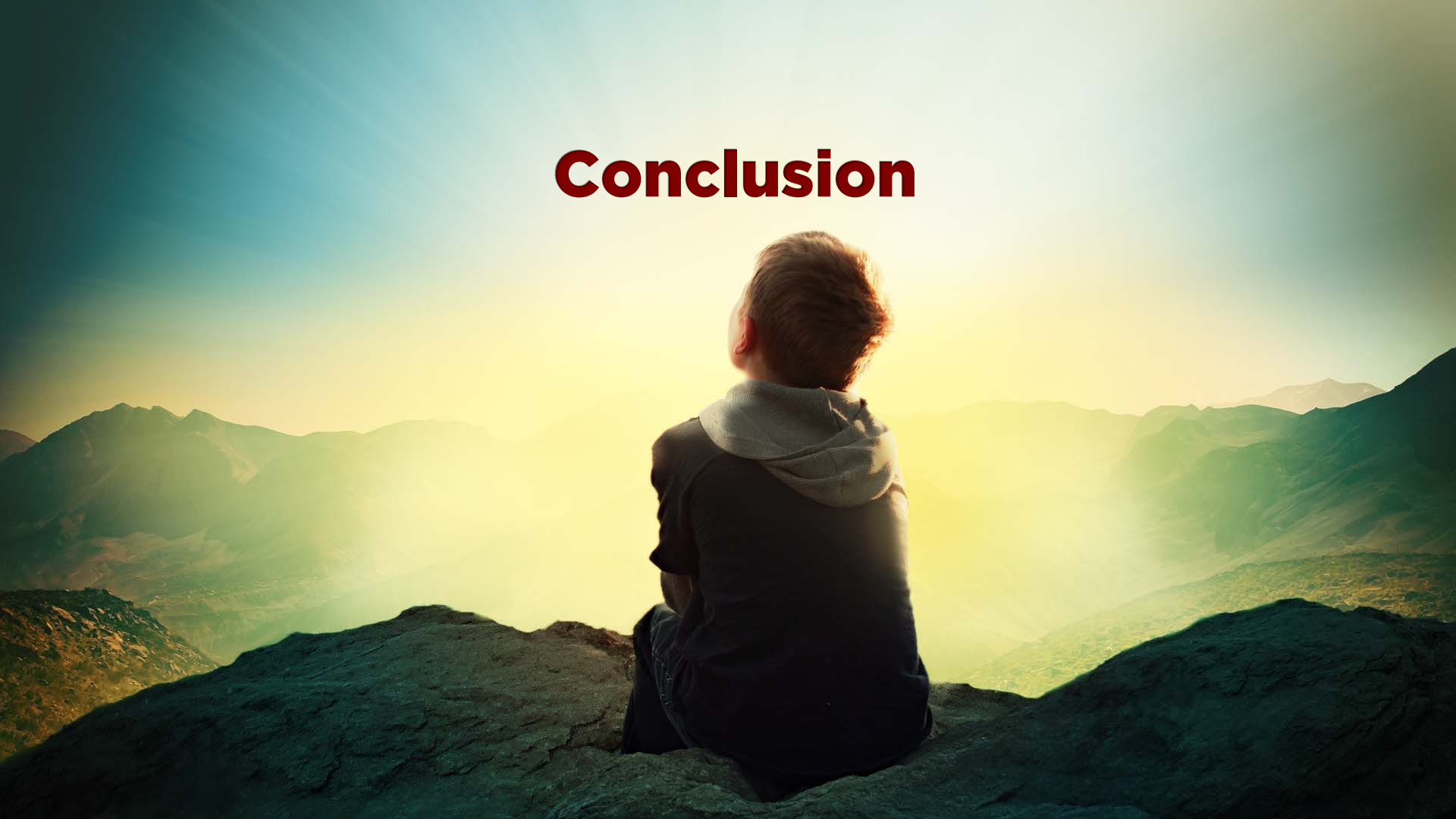
LUKE 4:16-21 (NIV)

He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. He stood up to read, [17] and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written:

LUKE 4:16-21 (NIV)

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoner and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

LUKE 4:16-21 (NIV)

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Conclusion