

EMBRACING GOD'S *grace*

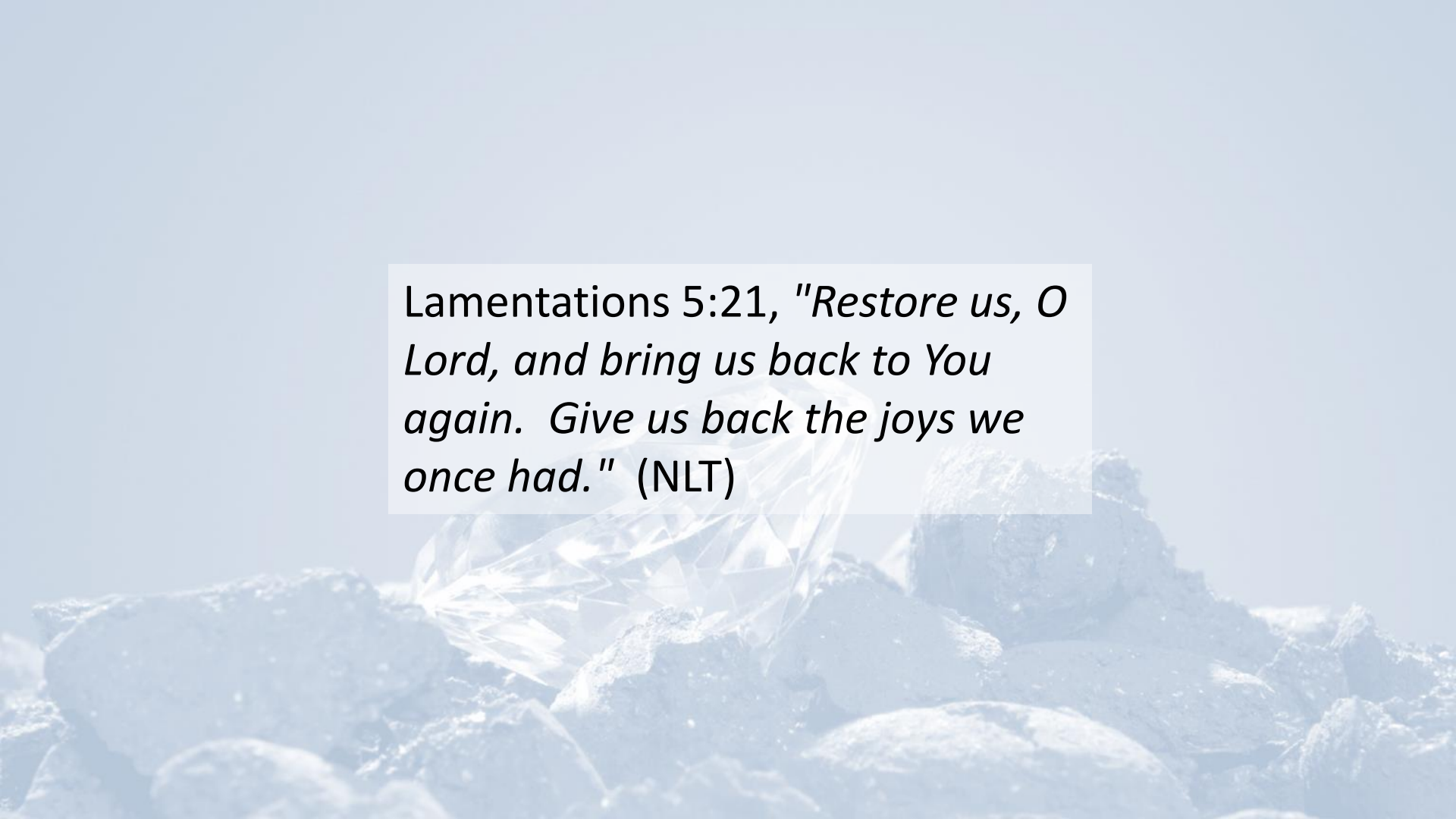
Restoring Grace
Lamentations 5:21



“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing ... ”



“Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love.”

A large, clear, faceted diamond is the central focus, resting on a pile of dark, rough, and jagged rocks. The diamond is highly reflective, with many facets catching the light. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue sky. The overall image has a serene and hopeful feel, symbolizing restoration and joy.

Lamentations 5:21, *"Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to You again. Give us back the joys we once had."* (NLT)

I. WHAT CAUSES BELIEVERS TO FALL AWAY? (Mk 14:27-72)

1. Over Confidence

"Everyone else may stumble in their faith, but I will not!"

Mark 14: 29 (NLT)

12 So be careful. If you are thinking, “Oh, I would never behave like that”—let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin.— 1 Corinthians 10:12 (LB)

I. WHAT CAUSES BELIEVERS TO FALL AWAY? (Mk 14:27-72)

1. Over Confidence

2. Laziness

"Couldn't you stay awake with Me for one hour?" vs. 37



I. WHAT CAUSES BELIEVERS TO FALL AWAY? (Mk 14:27-72)

1. Over Confidence

2. Laziness

3. Fear of Disapproval

"Peter followed Him at a distance..." vs. 54a

The fear of man brings a snare, ...— Proverbs 29:25 (NASB)

I. WHAT CAUSES BELIEVERS TO FALL AWAY? (Mk 14:27-72)

1. Over Confidence
2. Laziness
3. Fear of Disapproval
4. Convenience

“Then he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.” v 54b



I. WHAT CAUSES BELIEVERS TO FALL AWAY? (Mk 14:27-72)

Peter's Fall

Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by **67** and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, “You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.” **68** But Peter denied it. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed. **69** When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, “This man is definitely one of them!” — Mark 14:66–72 (NLT)

I. WHAT CAUSES BELIEVERS TO FALL AWAY? (Mk 14:27-72)

Peter's Fall

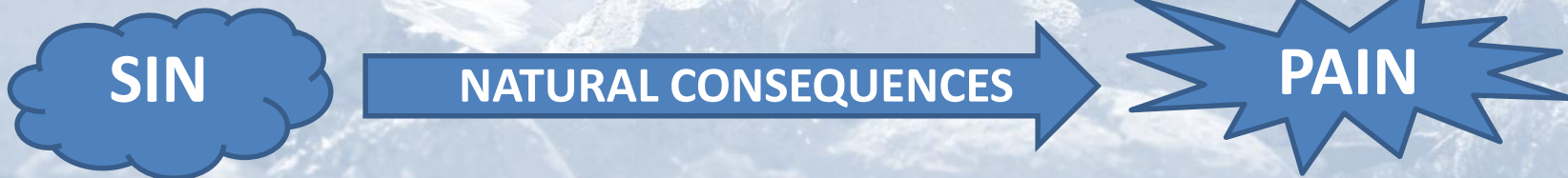
70 But Peter denied it again. A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.” **71** Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” **72** And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he broke down and wept.— Mark 14:66–72 (NLT)

God's Response:

"There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1 (NLT)

Restoration of Peter – John 21:1-17

Restoration of Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-32

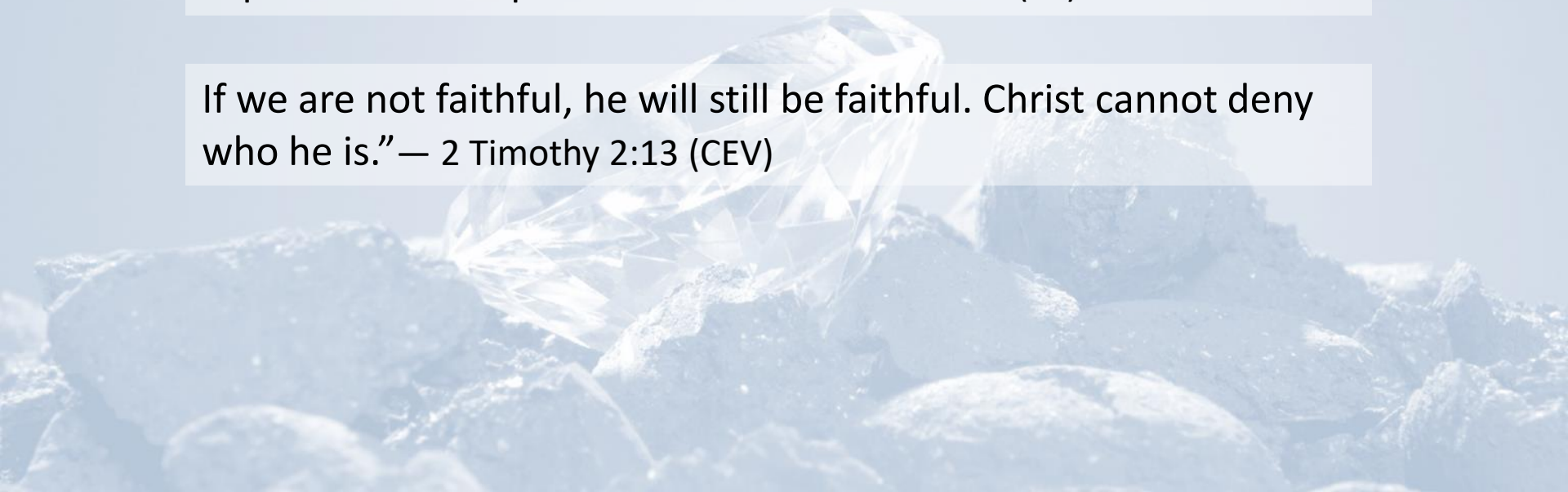


II. WHY DOESN'T GOD REJECT BELIEVERS WHEN THEY SIN?

1. BECAUSE HIS LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL

"God's compassion never ends. It is only His mercies that have kept us from complete destruction." Lam. 3:22 (LB)

If we are not faithful, he will still be faithful. Christ cannot deny who he is." — 2 Timothy 2:13 (CEV)



II. WHY DOESN'T GOD REJECT BELIEVERS WHEN THEY SIN?

1. BECAUSE HIS LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL

Who then can ever keep Christ's love from us? When we have trouble or calamity, when we are hunted down or destroyed, is it because he doesn't love us anymore? And if we are hungry or penniless or in danger or threatened with death, has God deserted us?— Romans 8:35 (LB)

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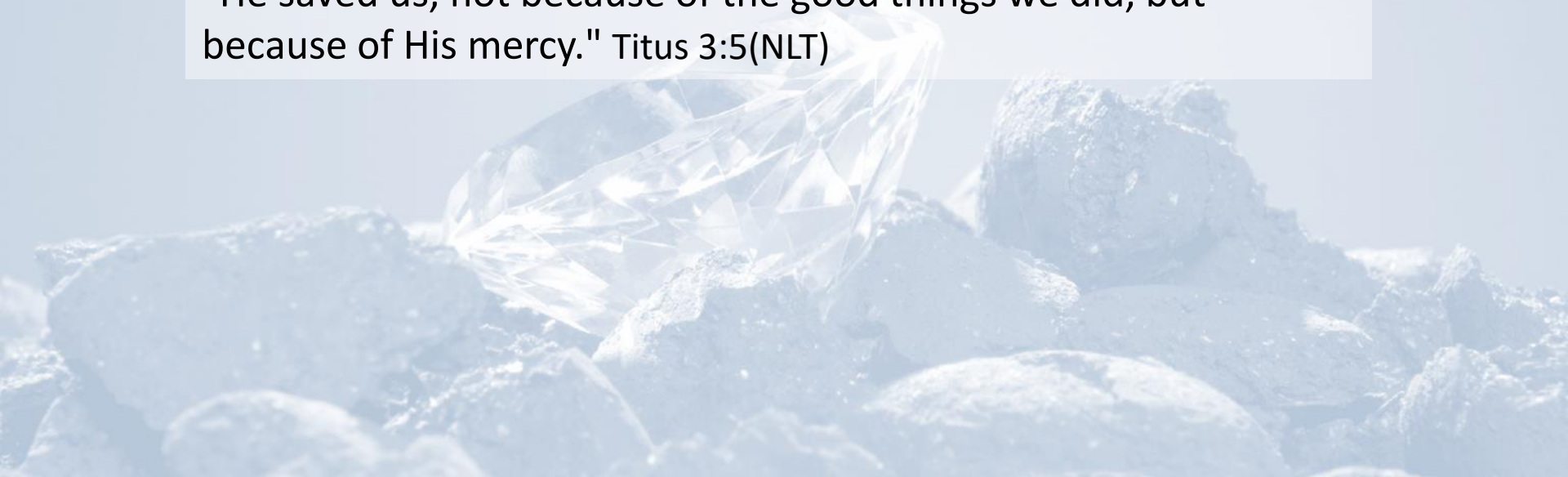
1. BECAUSE HIS LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL

For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, **39** or where we are—high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.— Romans 8:38–39 (LB)

II. WHY DOESN'T GOD REJECT BELIEVEERS WHEN THEY SIN?

1. BECAUSE HIS LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL
2. BECAUSE SALVATION ISN'T BASED ON MY PERFORMANCE.

"He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of His mercy." Titus 3:5(NLT)



II. WHY DOESN'T GOD REJECT BELIEVERS WHEN THEY SIN?

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2. BECAUSE SALVATION ISN'T BASED ON MY PERFORMANCE
3. BECAUSE JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN ON MY PUNISHMENT

“Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and the sins of all the world’s people.” 1 John 2:2 (CEV)



~AD 30



AD 1947

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4. BECAUSE JESUS UNDERSTANDS MY HUMAN WEAKNESSES

"(He) understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same temptations we do, yet He did not sin." Heb. 4:15 (NLT)

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4. BECAUSE JESUS UNDERSTANDS MY HUMAN WEAKNESSES
5. BECAUSE GOD DOESN'T HOLD GRUDGES

"God will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does He deal with us as we deserve ... He is like a father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him." Ps. 103:9-13 (NLT)

III. WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I SIN?

RETURN

"If you return to Me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve Me." Jer. 15:19 (NLT)

"No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you clean as freshly fallen snow." Isa. 1:18 (LB)

"With great compassion I will take you back." Isa. 54:7 (LB)

"Restore to me again the joy of your salvation." Ps. 51:12 (NLT)

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