

Worship in Fellowship  
 Worship in Music  
 Worship in Message  
 Worship in Giving

Wayne Braudrick

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**Love Reigns**
*Daniel 4**Love Is Series*

Life Change: We find true freedom in God's sovereignty.

**Free Bird**

The naturalist knows that the supposedly free bird actually lives its entire life in a cage made of fears, hungers, and instincts; it is limited by weather conditions, varying air pressures, the local food supply, predatory beasts...The freest bird is, along with every other created thing, held in constant check by a net of necessity. Only God is free. – A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, p.115-116.

Only God is fully free. Only He exists without a rival. Only He occupies an unthreatened throne.

– Charles R. Swindoll, *Stones of Remembrance*

**God is sovereign****4:19-27**

Nebuchadnezzar, like all of us, dreams he is at the center

God lovingly brooks no rival

Our own heresies make for hard ways

Our only way out is to recognize that God is Most High

**v. 37 applies God's sovereignty to my life.**

- How does the human desire to be in charge show itself in my daily life?
- What might be an idol to me?
- Humility is thinking properly of self. Which of these non-humble traits reside in me?
  - a. Inflated view of my importance
  - b. Deflated view of my value
  - c. Assuming I am unloved/unlovable
  - d. Narcissism
- What is one pet sin that I resist calling sinful?
- Of the popular heresies we discussed, to which am I most prone?
  - a. Open Theism (a limited God)
  - b. Legalism
  - c. Licentiousness
  - d. Easily or often offended
- In what area am I most likely to view myself as sovereign?
- What does it look like when I try harder in my own power?





PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE





courtesy soundcloud



For I must be traveling on, now  
 'Cause there's too many places I've got to see  
 'Cause I'm as free as a bird now  
 And this bird you can not change

“Free Bird” by Allen Collins and Ronnie Van Zandt

Freebird

The image shows handwritten musical notation for the song "Free Bird". At the top, the title "Freebird" is written in blue ink. Below it, there are two rows of fretboard diagrams, each with three diagrams representing different fret positions. The first row diagrams are labeled with green letters: G, D, and Em. The second row diagrams are labeled with green letters: F, C, and D. Each diagram shows a purple outline of a fretboard with a purple 'L' shape indicating the fretting hand position. To the right of each diagram is a sequence of notes and rests: "D long", "DDU", "D-DDU", "D-DDU-UP-DUDU", and "D-DDU-UP-DUDU". Below the diagrams are two staves of guitar tablature. The first staff contains the sequence: 2 / 12 | 11 12 11 | 11 12 12 11 9 \ 7 / 9. The second staff contains: 7 / 9 7 / 9 \ 7 9 | 10 10 10 9 | 10 10 9 10 10 / 12 | 10 12 10 12. There are blue arrows pointing up at the end of the second staff.



**Tapped in to human desire for absolute personal sovereignty.**

**“Free Bird” by Allen Collins and Ronnie Van Zandt**





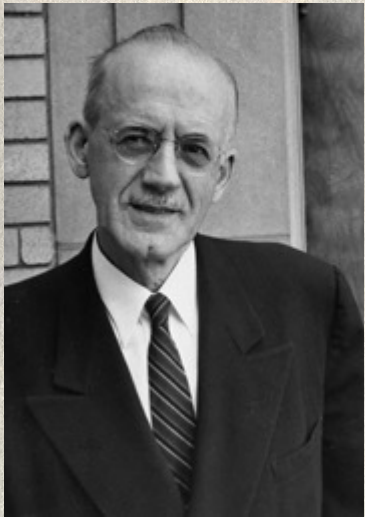
**Hey, little man, do  
you know what  
that song is  
about?**



**I'm as free  
as a bird...**



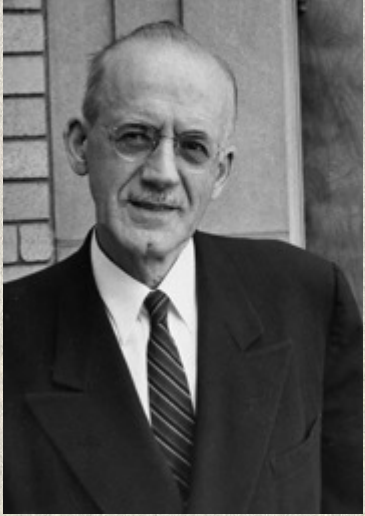
**The naturalist knows that the supposedly free bird actually lives its entire life in a cage made of fears, hungers, and instincts; it is limited by weather conditions, varying air pressures, the local food supply, predatory beasts...The freest bird is, along with every other created thing, held in constant check by a net of necessity. Only God is free.**



**– A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy***



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**– A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy***

**Only God is fully free. Only He exists without a rival. Only He occupies an unthreatened throne.**

**– Charles R. Swindoll, *Stones of Remembrance***







**That truth actually means more freedom for humans, not less. God's free reign and human limitations actually provide more liberty for people.**



**4:19** Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was stunned for a moment, and...answered, “My lord, may the dream apply to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your enemies!

**20** The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, whose top reached to the sky and was visible to the whole earth, **21** and whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant—and on it was food for all, under it the wild animals lived, and in its branches the birds of the sky lived—**22** that tree is you, Your Majesty. For you have become great and strong: your greatness has grown and even reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to the ends of the earth.

ISA

JER

LAM

EZEK

**DANIEL**

HOS

JOEL

AMOS

OBAD



**23 The king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump with its roots in the ground and with a band of iron and bronze around it in the tender grass of the field. Let him be drenched with dew from the sky and share food with the wild animals for seven periods of time.'** **24 This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree of the Most High that has been issued against my lord the king:**  
**25 You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals. You will feed on grass like cattle and be drenched with dew from the sky for seven periods of time,**

ISA

JER

LAM

EZEK

**DANIEL**

HOS

JOEL

AMOS

OBAD



until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants. <sup>26</sup> As for the command to leave the tree's stump with its roots, your kingdom will be restored to you as soon as you acknowledge that Heaven rules. <sup>27</sup> Therefore, may my advice seem good to you my king. Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy. Perhaps there will be an extension of your prosperity.”

Daniel 4 CSB

ISA

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LAM

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courtesy John Lund

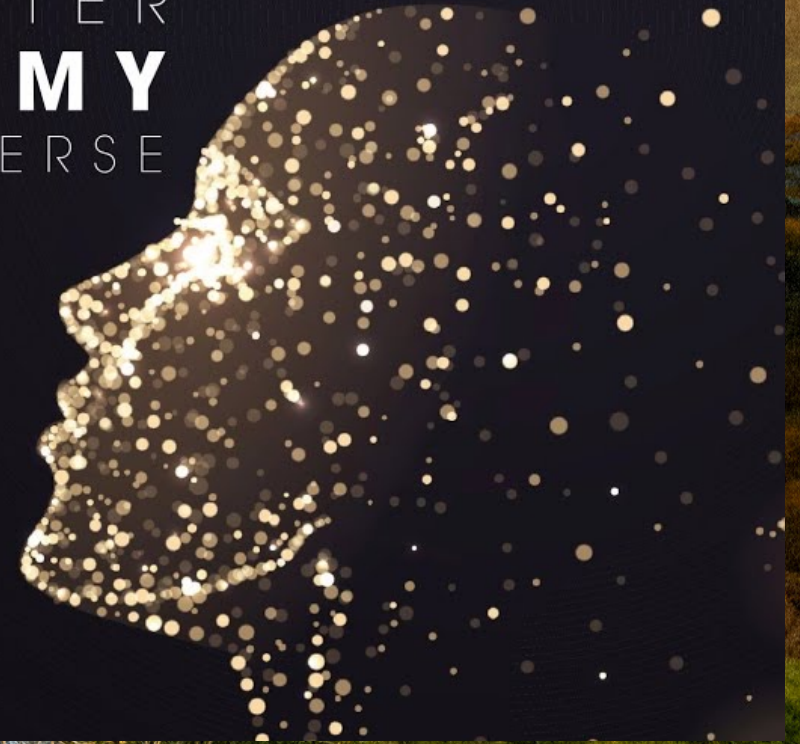






**Like Nebuchadnezzar, people  
imagine self as the primary  
provider, protector, and  
performer.**

CENTER  
**OF MY**  
UNIVERSE





**Like Nebuchadnezzar, people  
imagine self as the primary  
provider, protector, and  
performer.**





**<sup>2</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.**

**<sup>3</sup> Do not have other gods besides me.**

**<sup>4</sup> Do not make an idol for yourself.**

**<sup>7</sup> Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name.**

**Exodus 20 CSB**



**19 Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was stunned for a moment, and...answered, "My lord, may the dream apply to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your enemies!**

**27 Therefore, may my advice seem good to you my king. Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy. Perhaps there will be an extension of your prosperity."**

**Daniel 4 CSB**



**27 Therefore, may my advice seem good to you my king. Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy. Perhaps there will be an extension of your prosperity.**

**Daniel 4 CSB**

***When I determine my own “reality,” I do not separate from my sins. In fact, I refuse to even hear them labeled as sinful. I have written my own law, subject to review only by the emperor – me.***





*Wendy Pfeffercorn*  
Mike Oncley  
2007





courtesy Yale University Medical Center



## Daniel 4 CSB

**25 “You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals. You will feed on grass like cattle and be drenched with dew from the sky for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants. 26 As for the command to leave the tree’s stump with its roots, your kingdom will be restored to you as soon as you acknowledge that Heaven rules.**

**27 Therefore, may my advice seem good to you my king. Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy. Perhaps there will be an extension of your prosperity.”**





**27 Separate  
yourself  
from your  
sins by doing  
what is right.**





## Daniel 4 CSB

**<sup>28</sup> All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>29</sup> At the end of twelve months, as he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon, <sup>30</sup> the king exclaimed, “Is this not Babylon the Great that I have built to be a royal residence by my vast power and for my majestic glory?”**

**<sup>31</sup> While the words were still in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared that the kingdom has departed from you. <sup>32</sup> You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals, and you will feed on grass like cattle for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants.”**



## Daniel 4 CSB

**<sup>33</sup> At that moment the message against Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people. He ate grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky, until his hair grew like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.**

**<sup>34</sup> But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him who lives forever: For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.**



## Daniel 4 CSB

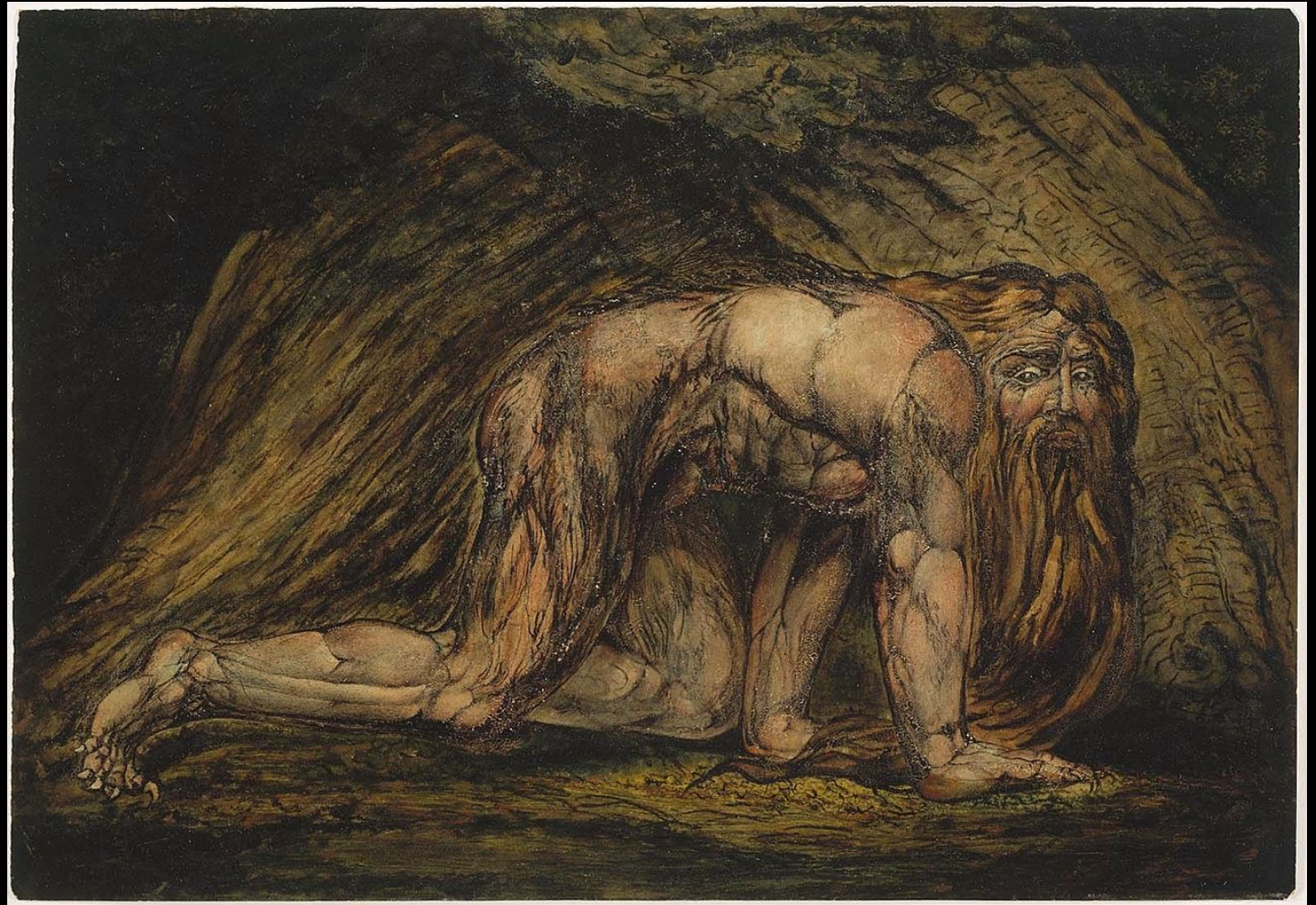
**<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing, and he does what he wants with the army of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth.**

**There is no one who can block his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”**

**<sup>36</sup> At that time my sanity returned to me, and my majesty and splendor returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and my nobles sought me out, I was reestablished over my kingdom, and even more greatness came to me. <sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and glorify the King of the heavens, because all his works are true and his ways are just. He is able to humble those who walk in pride.**



***Nebuchadnezzar***  
**William Blake**  
**1805**







**How does that happen to church people today? Nebuchadnezzar had some stinkin' thinkin' that took him down, but are there any modern ideas that do the same?**



# Open Theism



**Open theism has...adjusted its view of God to be culturally appealing at the expense of biblical fidelity. God's glory rests ultimately in his knowledge and control of all things. If this knowledge and control are diminished in order to elevate human 'freedom' and control of events...we are left with a God of lesser glory. – Bruce A. Ware, *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism***



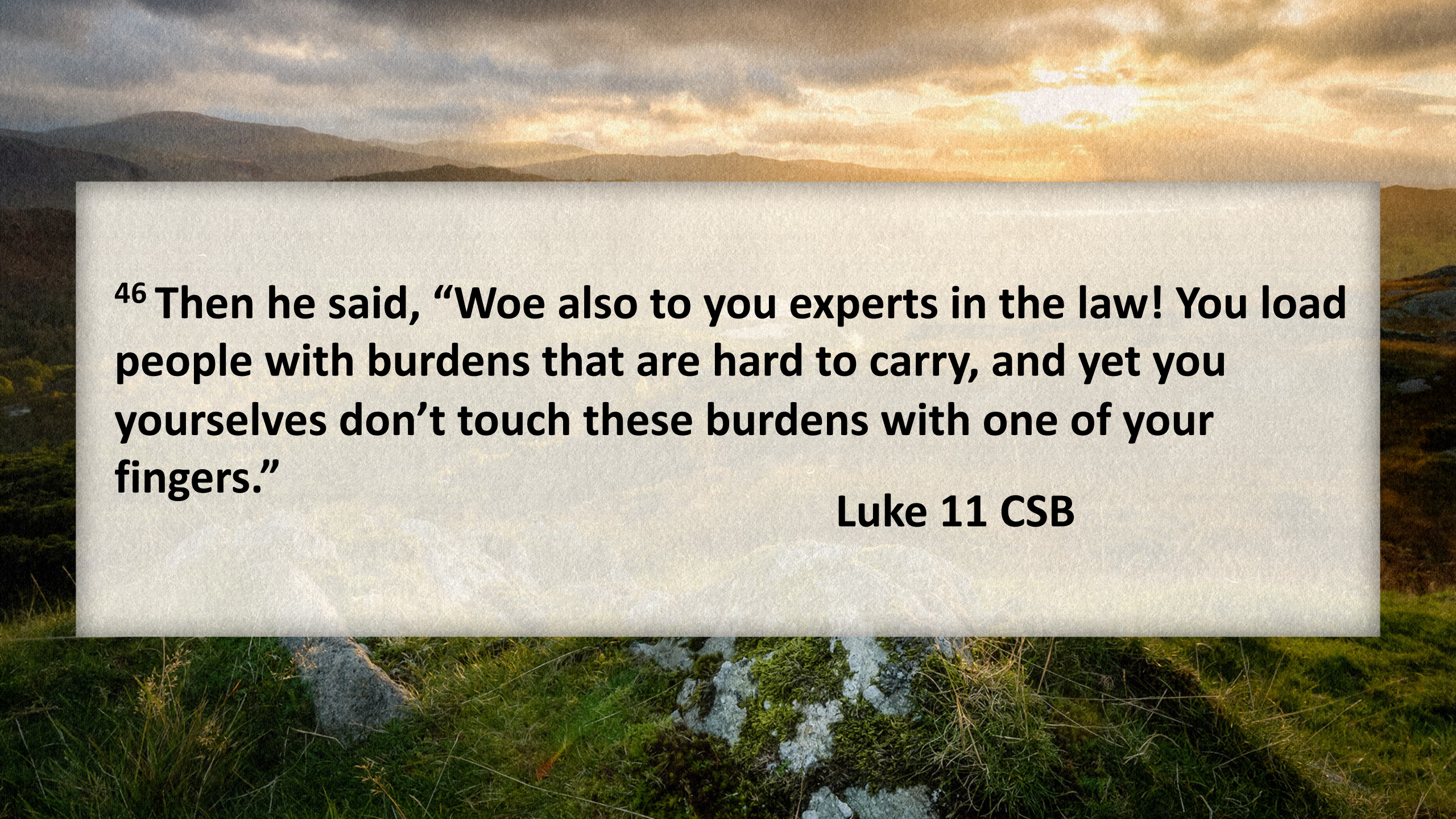


A black and white photograph of a hand holding a heavy metal chain. The hand is positioned at the top left, with fingers gripping a link of the chain. The chain is made of large, interlocking metal links and extends across the frame towards the right. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hand and the chain. The overall mood is one of constraint and rigidity.

# LEGALISM

courtesy ftaindia



A scenic landscape featuring rolling mountains under a dramatic, sunset-colored sky with golden and orange hues. The foreground shows green grass and a large, moss-covered rock. A white rectangular text box is centered over the middle of the image.

**<sup>46</sup> Then he said, “Woe also to you experts in the law! You load people with burdens that are hard to carry, and yet you yourselves don’t touch these burdens with one of your fingers.”**

**Luke 11 CSB**





***Young, sick Bacchus***  
**Caravaggio**  
**1594**

courtesy Galleria Borghese



## Romans 6 CSB

**<sup>1</sup> What should we say then?  
Should we continue in sin  
so that grace may multiply?  
<sup>2</sup> Absolutely not!**

***Young, sick Bacchus*  
Caravaggio  
1594**





## Heresies that make us like Nebuchadnezzar

**\$1000**

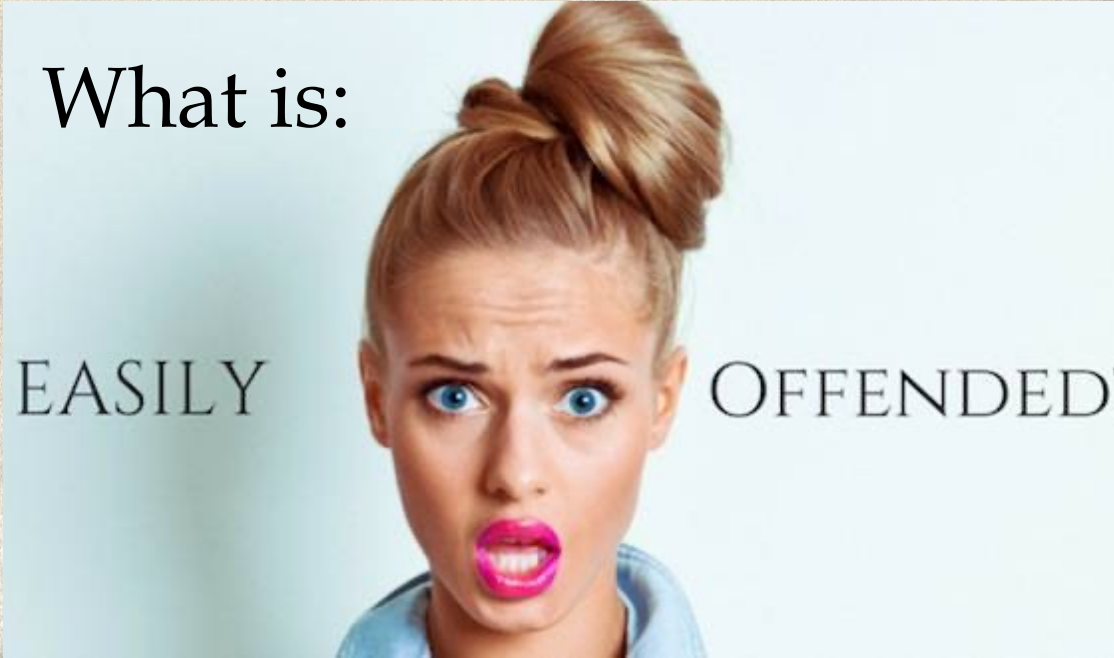
**Grievances never  
end, and others are  
always to blame.**



# Heresies that make us like Nebuchadnezzar



Grievances never  
end, and others are  
always to blame.





**19 An offended brother is  
harder to reach  
than a fortified city,  
and quarrels are like the  
bars of a fortress.**

**Proverbs 18 CSB**

**11 Good sense makes one  
slow to anger,  
and it is his glory to  
overlook an offense.**

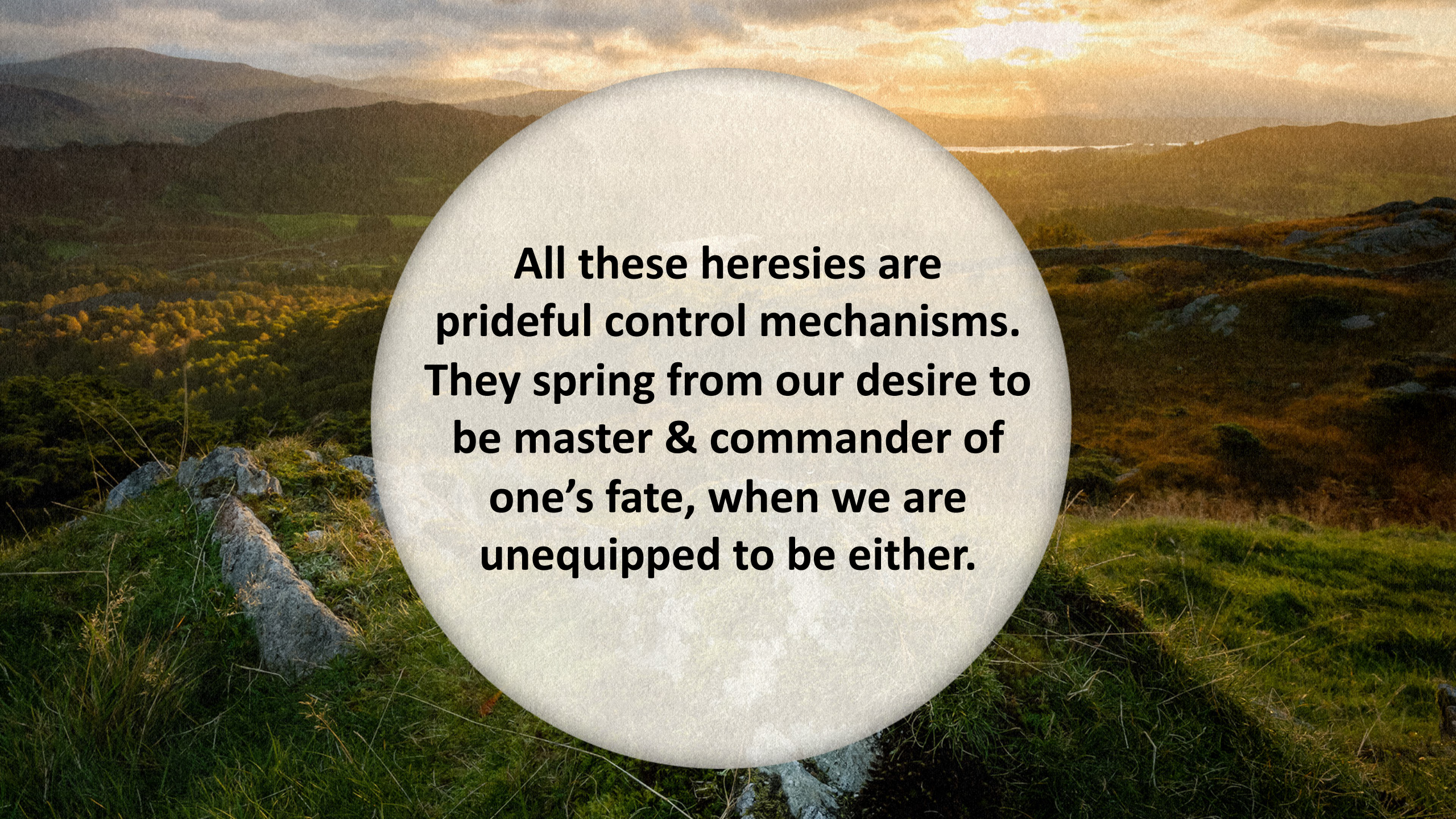
**Proverbs 19 ESV**



**They [those committed to being easily offended] have desks covered with crumpled papers and half-drunk cups of coffee as they labor sleeplessly to keep...conflict front and center [because] without constant, inventive grievance infusions it would fade away. – Andrée Seu Peterson, “Racism, Inc. and the Grievance Industry”**





A large white circle is centered on the page, containing text. The background is a scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise, with mountains and a valley. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**All these heresies are  
prideful control mechanisms.  
They spring from our desire to  
be master & commander of  
one's fate, when we are  
unequipped to be either.**



## Daniel 4 CSB

<sup>32</sup> until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants.”

<sup>34</sup> But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him who lives forever

Hebrew: עֲלִי = *most high, supreme*

עֲלִי is employed exclusively for the only and most high God. The word appears to be related to a Chaldean root with the same meaning. – Wilhelm Gesenius, *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures*



**The person sees self as creator & ruler of his life, insanelly refusing to acknowledge God's sovereignty.**



**God allows natural consequences which warp the expression of humanity.**



**Healthy personhood follows recognition of the true Most High.**





*Sisyphus*

Franz von Stuck

1920





*Sisyphus*  
Zsoro  
1997



courtesy Random



*Sisyphus*  
Mellapants  
2021







courtesy fanpop





courtesy inspiremore



**12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand  
or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand?  
Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure  
or weighed the mountains on a balance  
and the hills on the scales?**

**13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,  
or who gave him counsel?**

**25 “To whom will you compare me,  
or who is my equal?” asks the Holy One.**

**Isaiah 40 CSB**



**28 Do you not know?**

**Have you not heard?**

**The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the whole earth.**

**He never becomes faint or weary;  
there is no limit to his understanding.**

**29 He gives strength to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.**

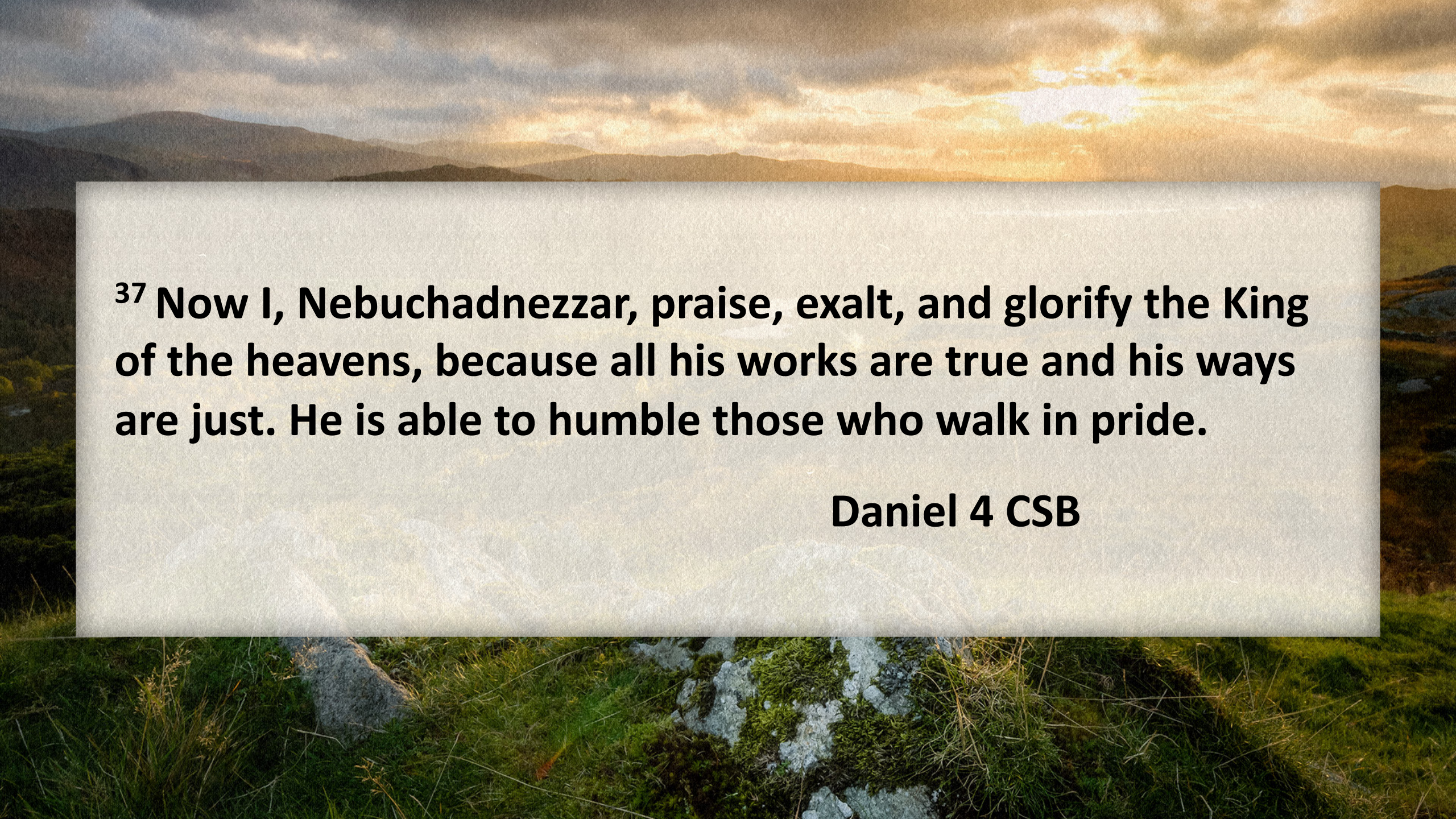
**Isaiah 40 CSB**



**30 Youths may become faint and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall,  
31 but those who trust in the LORD  
will renew their strength;  
they will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not become weary,  
they will walk and not faint.**

**Isaiah 40 CSB**

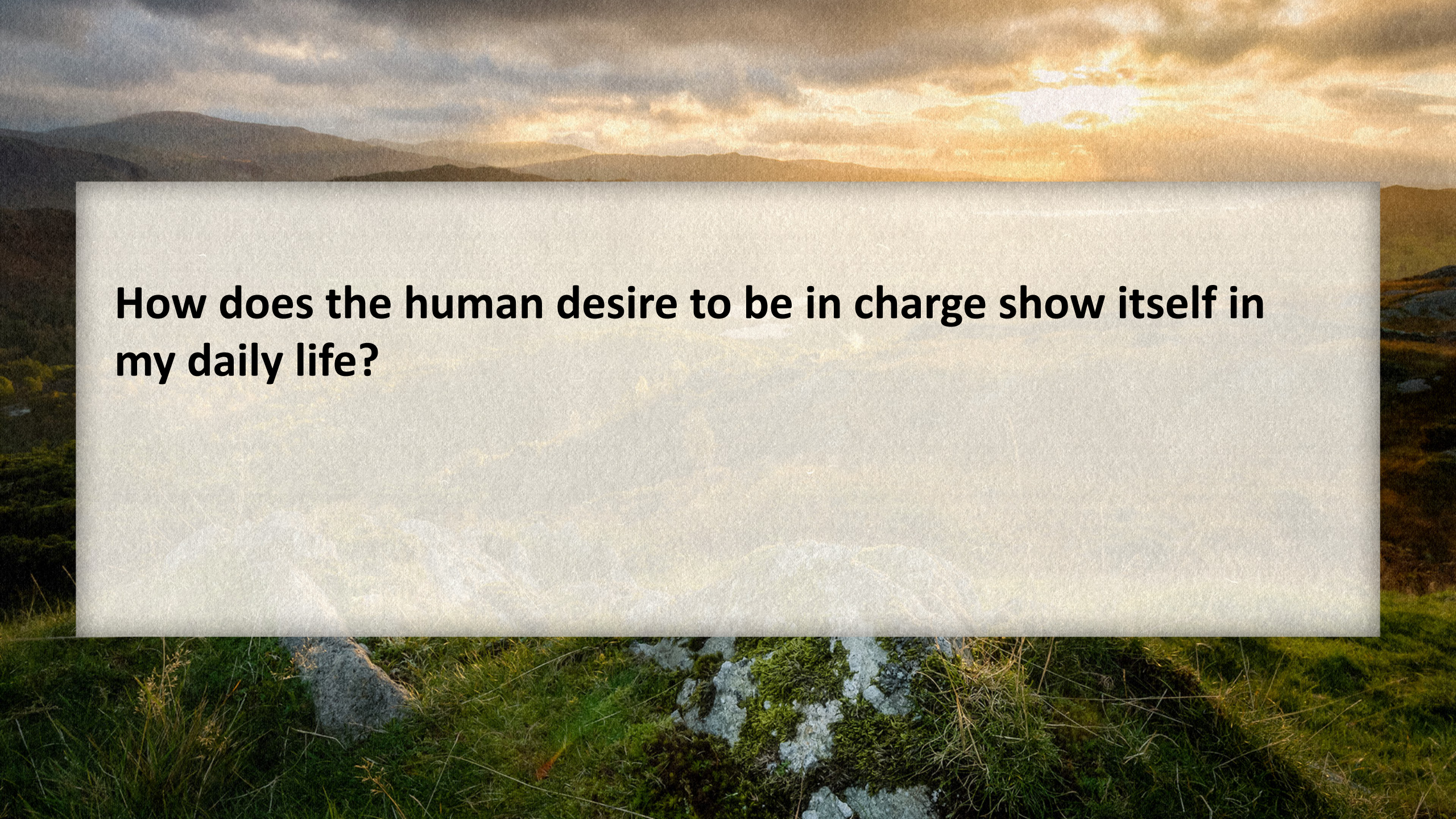




**<sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and glorify the King of the heavens, because all his works are true and his ways are just. He is able to humble those who walk in pride.**

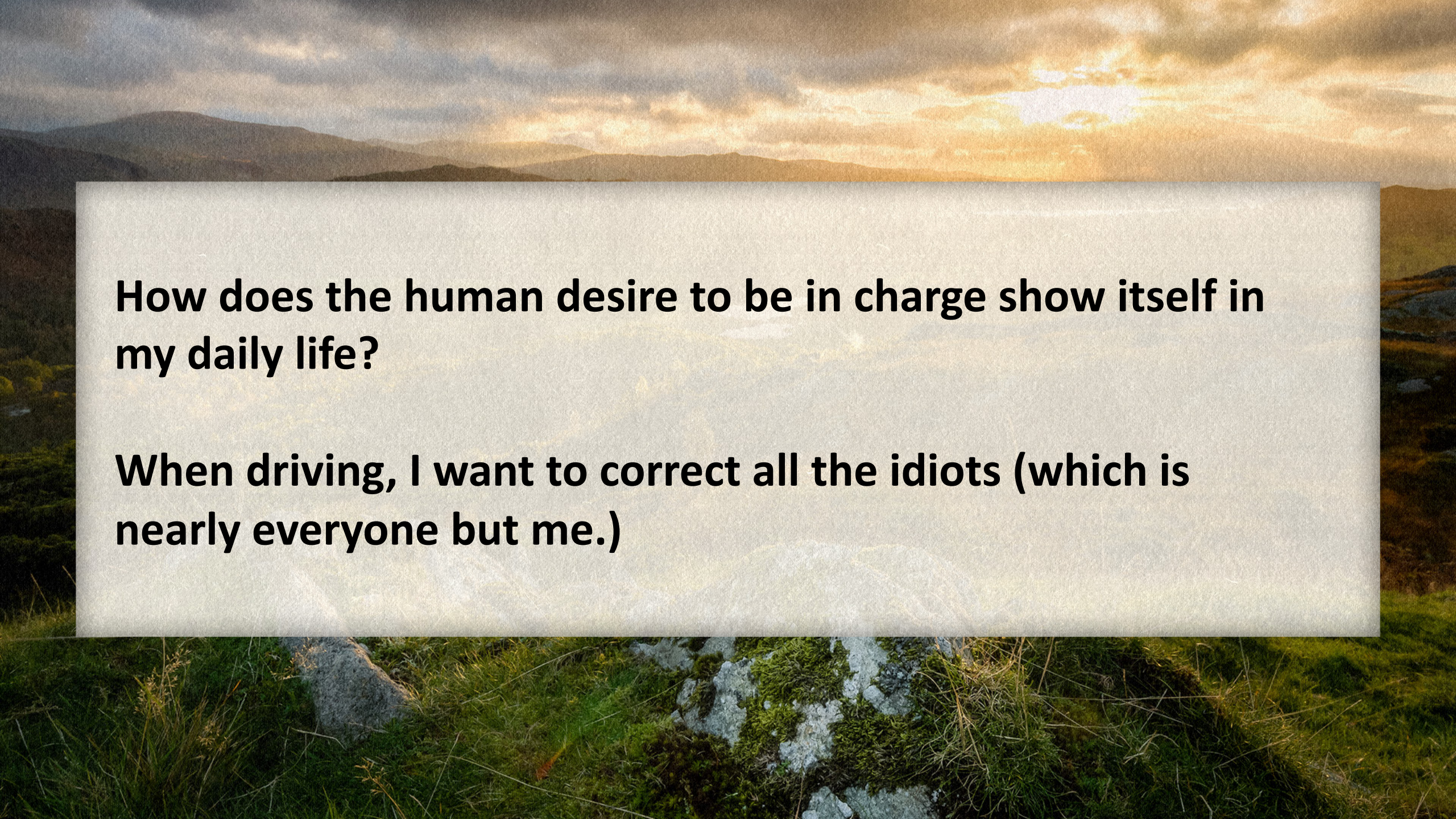
**Daniel 4 CSB**



A landscape photograph of a mountain range at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden light breaking through dark, heavy clouds. The mountains in the distance are silhouetted against the bright sky. In the foreground, there is a grassy slope with some rocks and moss. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the text.

**How does the human desire to be in charge show itself in my daily life?**

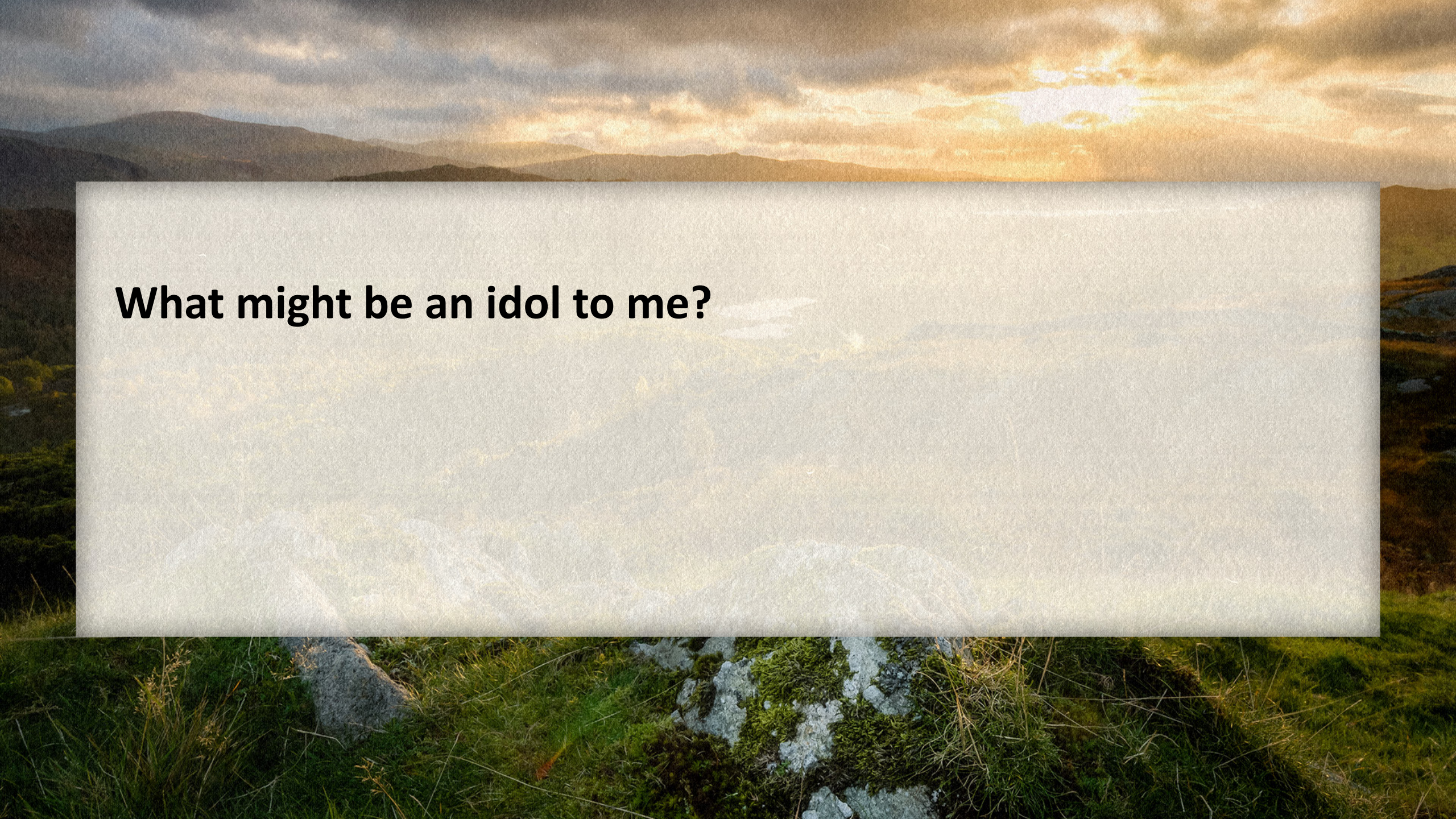




**How does the human desire to be in charge show itself in my daily life?**

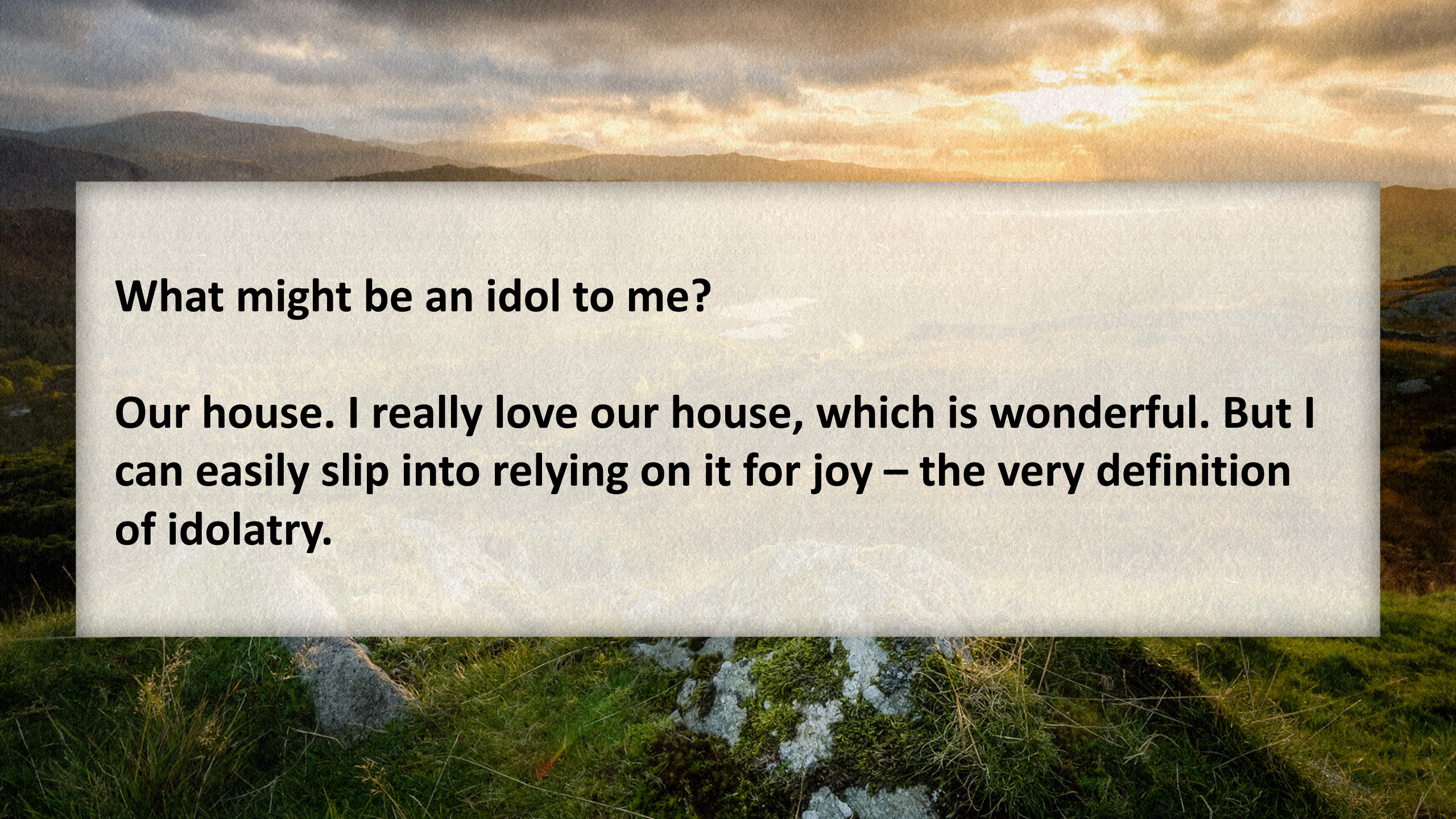
**When driving, I want to correct all the idiots (which is nearly everyone but me.)**



A scenic landscape featuring rolling mountains under a dramatic, sunset sky with golden and grey clouds. The foreground shows green grass and rocks. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the middle of the image, containing the text "What might be an idol to me?".

**What might be an idol to me?**

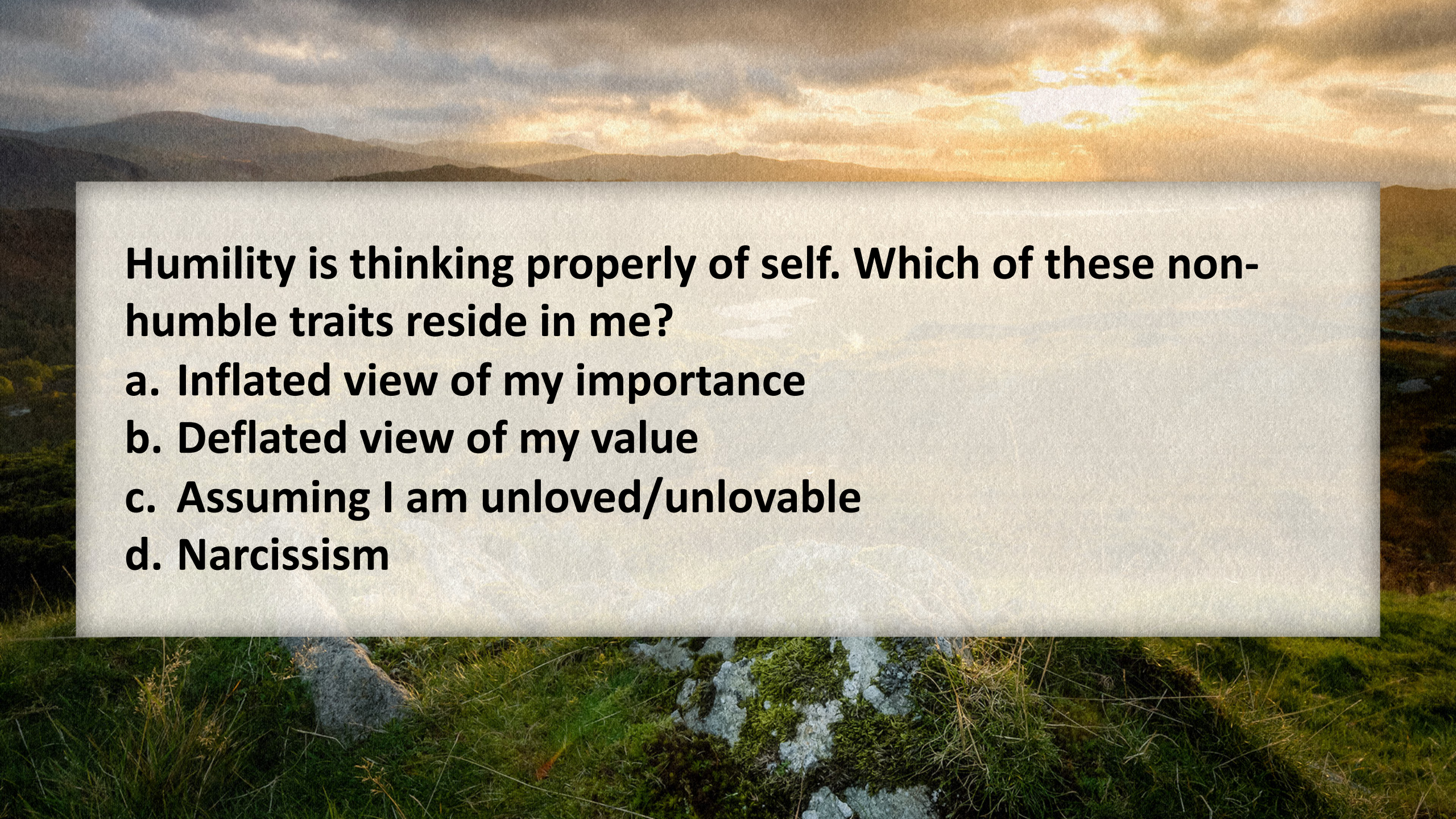




**What might be an idol to me?**

**Our house. I really love our house, which is wonderful. But I can easily slip into relying on it for joy – the very definition of idolatry.**



A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains under a dramatic, sunset-colored sky with golden and orange hues. The foreground shows a grassy hillside with some rocks and moss.

**Humility is thinking properly of self. Which of these non-humble traits reside in me?**

- a. Inflated view of my importance**
- b. Deflated view of my value**
- c. Assuming I am unloved/unlovable**
- d. Narcissism**



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**What is one pet sin that I resist calling sinful?**





**What is one pet sin that I resist calling sinful?**

**Judgmentalism. I call it 'not suffering foolishness' or 'discernment.' And those can be very good traits. But too often, I am actually judging another Christian.**

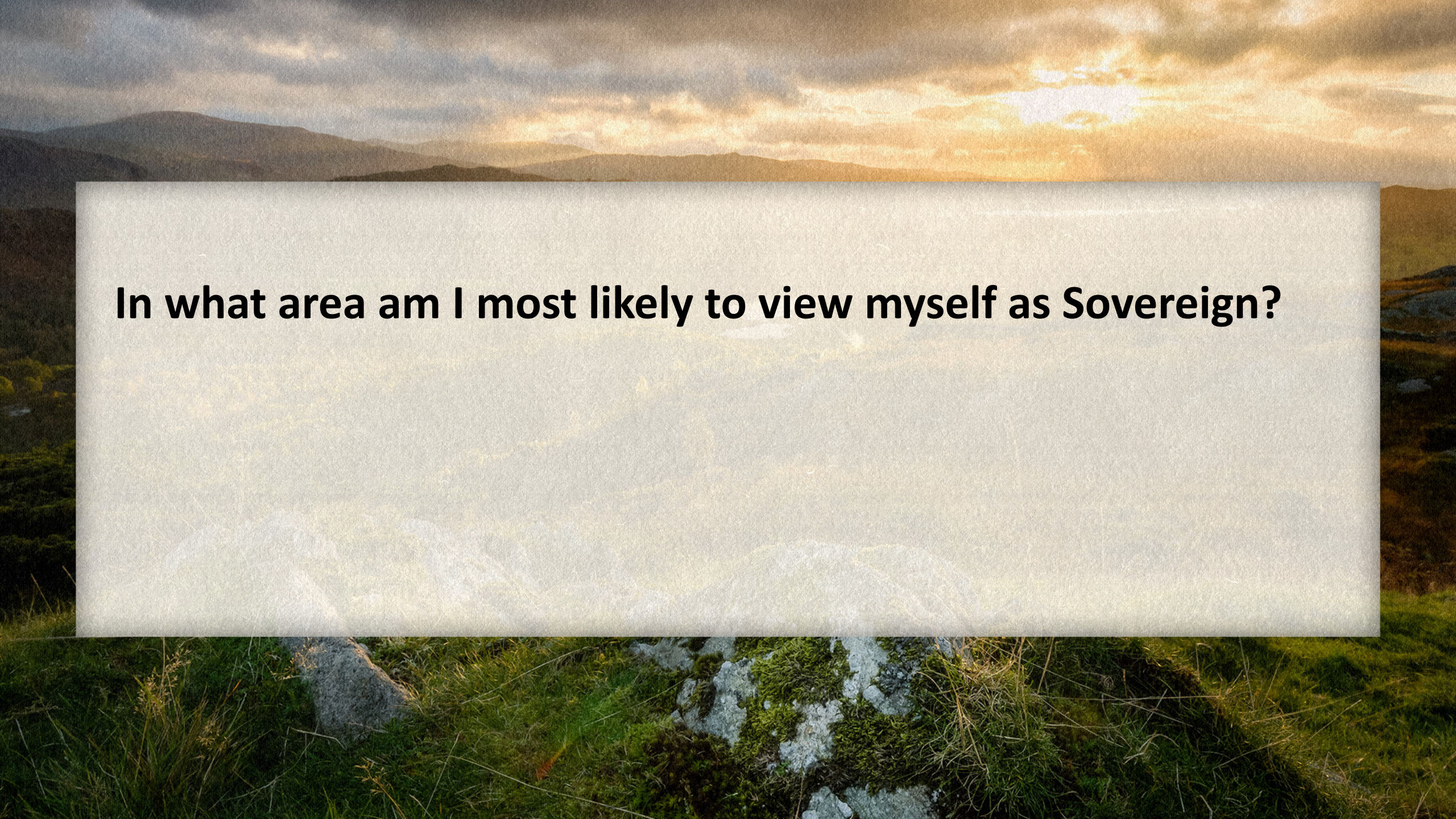




**Of the popular heresies we discussed, to which am I most prone?**

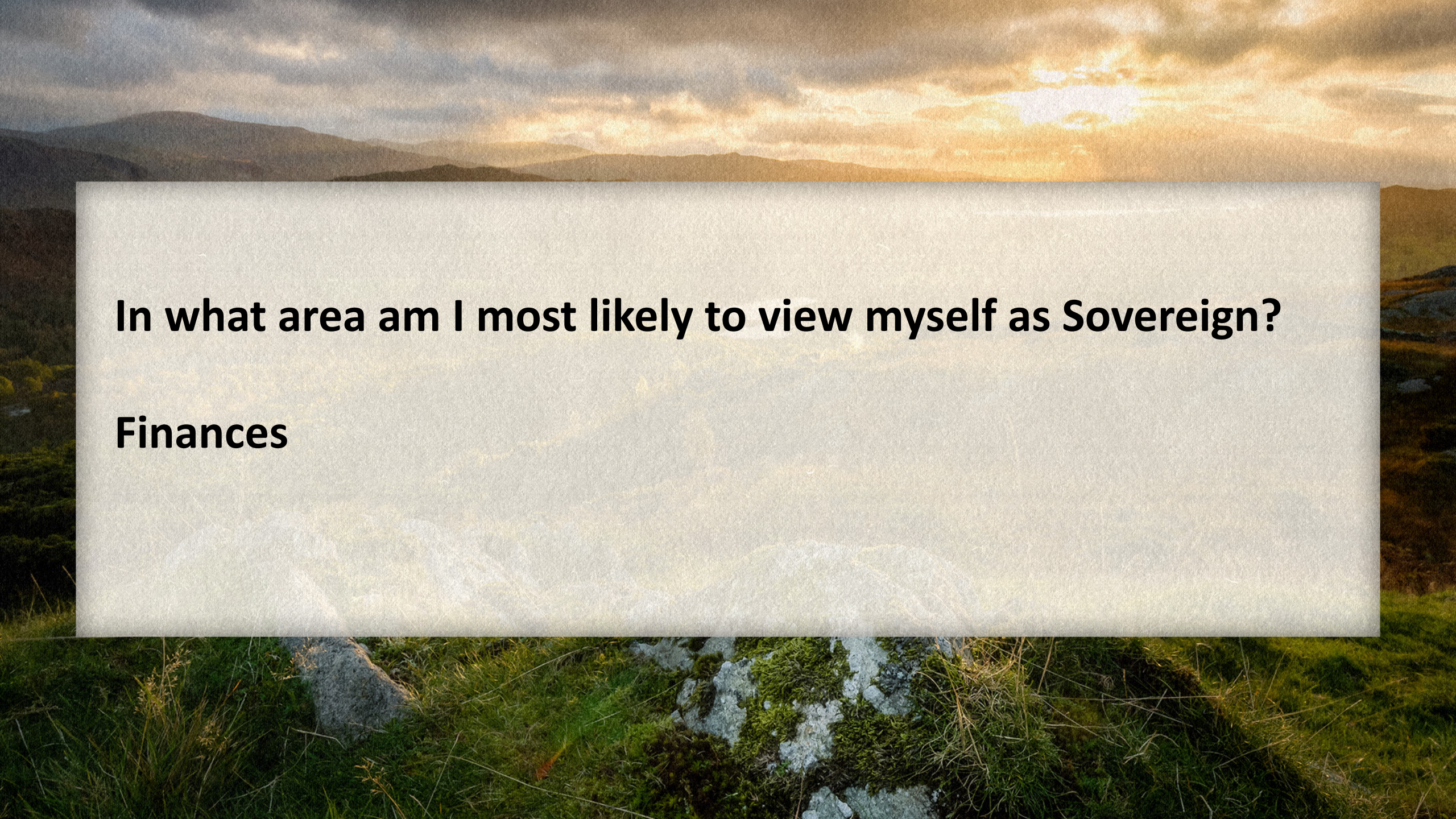
- a. Open Theism (a limited God)**
- b. Legalism**
- c. Licentiousness**
- d. Easily or often offended**



A scenic landscape featuring rolling mountains under a dramatic, sunset-colored sky with golden and grey clouds. The foreground shows green grass and rocks. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the middle of the image, containing the text.

**In what area am I most likely to view myself as Sovereign?**





**In what area am I most likely to view myself as Sovereign?**

**Finances**



**What does it look like when I try  
harder in my own power?**

**Sisyphus  
Zsoro  
1997**



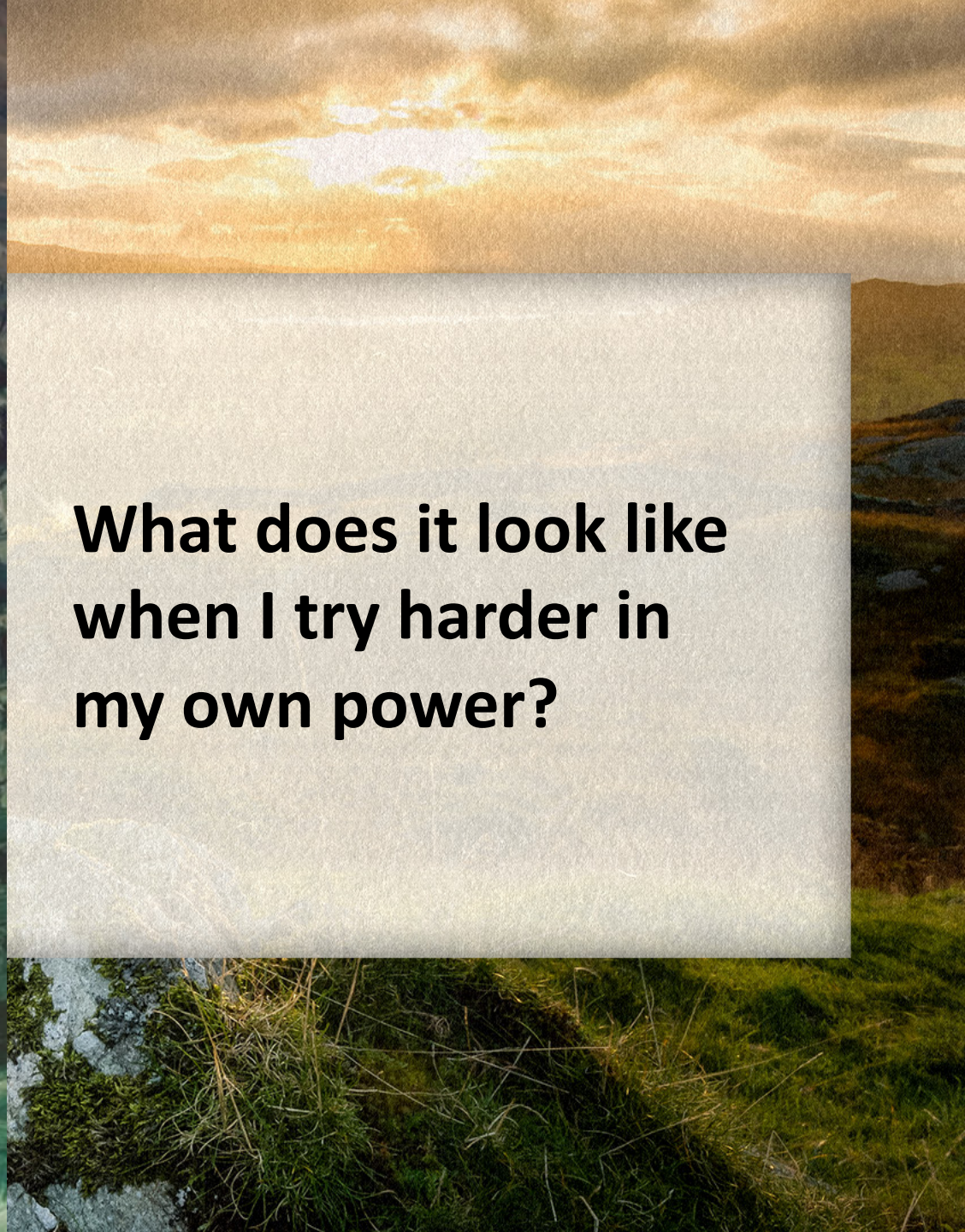




**♪ I'M AS FREE  
AS A BIRD NOW,  
AND THIS BIRD  
YOU CANNOT CHANGE.  
THE LORD KNOWS,  
I CAN'T CHANGE. ♪**

@rockarlosq

**LYNYRD  
SKYNYRD**  
**FREE BIRD**



**What does it look like  
when I try harder in  
my own power?**





**What does it look like when I try harder in my own power?**

**I show frustration and anger. Not appropriate anger, but the grumpy, entitled kind that rails against blockades.**



## Daniel 4 CSB

<sup>32</sup> until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants.”

<sup>34</sup> But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him who lives forever

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**<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.**

**<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.      Proverbs 3 NASB**

**<sup>31</sup> those who trust in the LORD  
will renew their strength;      Isaiah 40 CSB**





**Give a trusted person permission to sharpen you...to call you out when you are being idolatrous, trying in your own power, or acting sovereign.**



**The person sees self as creator & ruler of his life, insanelly refusing to acknowledge God's sovereignty.**



**God allows natural consequences which warp the expression of humanity.**



**Healthy personhood follows recognition of the true Most High.**





