

Scripture: 1st Samuel 13

1 “Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel,

2 Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent.

3 Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, “Let the Hebrews hear.”

4 And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.

5 And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and

encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven.

6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns,

7 and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8 He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him.

9 So Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering.

10 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him.

11 Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash,

12 I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”

13 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

15 And Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal. The rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army; they went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about six hundred men.

16 And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people who were present with them stayed in Geba of Benjamin, but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

**17 And raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual;
18 another company turned toward Beth-horon; and another company turned toward the border that looks down on the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.**

19 Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, “Lest the Hebrews make themselves swords or spears.”

20 But every one of the Israelites went down to the Philistines to sharpen his plowshare, his mattock, his axe, or his sickle,

21 and the charge was two-thirds of a shekel for the plowshares and for the mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening the axes and for setting the goads.

22 So on the day of the battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people with Saul and Jonathan, but Saul and Jonathan his son had them.

23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.”

***“The grass withers and the flower fades;
But the word of the Lord endures forever.”***

(Pastoral Prayer)

Title: **“Failure, Folly, Fear, Fleeing &
Faithlessness!”**

Chapter 13 of 1st Samuel is only 23 verses long...
That is not many, especially when you compare it to
chapter 14 which has 52 verses that must be
exegeted...

Chapter's 13 and 14 are very much connected in
that both chapters describe a king that is on his
own... and I believe you will see from the text what I
mean when I say that king Saul was on his own...

Saul was made king, he was given clear
instructions, but, as we will see he often ignores
those clear instructions, opting to make his own
path instead of obediently following what God had
told him through the prophet Samuel...

This results in Failure, Folly, Fear, Fleeing and Faithlessness!

When it comes to preaching, the Elder who teaches has the great responsibility to do three important things...

First we must give an explanation of the text... We do this by carefully reading the text and explaining to the contemporary Bible Student in the 21st century what was written hundreds to even thousands of years earlier...

Second we must share the Implications of the text... Even though the scriptures were written thousands of years ago, they are just as relevant today as they were when they were first penned.

Third, we must encourage the Application of the text... As we have stated before, God is not simply interested in supplying us with an accurate Historical record... God desires for us to apply the truths of scripture in our everyday lives for His glory and for our Good!

My responsibility today is to explain only chapter 13, glean its implications, highlight its applications

and then leave Ryan to connect the dots concerning chapter 14 next week...

So when it comes to explaining our text today, I believe there are these five Words that can be used to divide the chapter...

At first glance at chapter 13, one might think that it is filled with unnecessary information such as

- the choosing of men to be in the king's army
- the movement of Saul and the Philistines from one place to another...
- the blowing of a trumpet
- the cost of hiring a blacksmith to sharpen farm tools

Much of this seems random, but it actually is used to tell a story of a kingship and a kingdom marred with Failure, Folly, Fear, Fleeing and Faithlessness...

I believe if we pay close attention to all that is contained in this text, we can glean from this chapter all that the Lord intended for us to learn and to apply to our own personal lives...

Remember, Paul wrote in **1st Corinthians 10:13** that these things “**were written down for our instruction...**”

Paul also wrote these words in **Romans 15:4** “**whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, (WHY?) that through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE!**”

So when we read our text and see the Failure, Folly, Fear, Fleeing and the Faithlessness described concerning king Saul and the people of Israel, we can be encouraged to avoid such behavior and trust in the Lord and to **not lean into our own understanding!**

So first, let's look carefully at our Text to see if we can understand how it speaks concerning Failure, Folly, Fear, Fleeing and Faithlessness...

These are five words that I believe easily describes what we read are also helpful words so that we can remember the content of chapter 13...

I find that alliteration is a helpful Hermeneutical tool so that the Bible Student can remember the content of the chapters we study...

Now, After we have wrapped our brains and our hearts around this text, I hope to share with you Five other Words in scripture that will be helpful to combat the implications of these five words that begin with the letter “F” ...

So let us go verse by verse and I do not think you will have any trouble recognizing how these five words can be used to divide the content of chapter 13...

First, notice the Failure of the King in verses 1-9...

1 “Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel,

2 Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent.

3 Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear."

4 And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.

5 And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven.

6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns,

7 and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8 He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him.

9 So Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering.

In our text, there are two failures on Saul’s part that are clearly seen and give testimony to the carnal character of king Saul...

Now, the failure I see in the text is not that the king chose men to be in his army...

Surely a king is expected to have an Army of Soldiers!

This shouldn’t catch us by surprise because Samuel was very clear back in chapter 8...

Remember what Samuel said a fleshly king would do as Samuel warned the people about having a king like the other nations...

In Chapter 8 and verse 11 Samuel told the people...

11 “He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.

12 And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.”

So this is not failure on Saul's part because it is exactly in direct fulfillment of the warning Samuel gave the people of Israel concerning what a fleshly king would do...

But the two failures I see highlighted in the text is in **verses 3 and 4** where Saul takes credit for what his Son, Jonathan, did in defeating the Garrison of the Philistines at Geba...

There is no doubt that Saul took the credit instead of rightfully crediting his son with the successful destruction of the Philistines in Geba...

Have you ever taken the credit of someone else's success?

One of the hallmarks of a sincere follower of Christ is that they are truthful...

Psalm 15:2 says...

“He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;”

Proverbs 12:22 says that...

“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.”

Paul writes in Ephesians 4:25

“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”

And Jesus says in John 8:44...

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

So it is clear that the Lord expects His children to speak the truth...

I would encourage you to make this a big deal in your life...

Speak truth to your wife or your husband and to your children, and to your parents all the time no matter how painful it may be!

Speak truth to your employer or the people who work for you!

In John 14:17 Jesus told us that he would give us the Spirit of Truth that's would abide in us!

Do you realize how vexed and quenched the Spirit must be when a child of God lies!

There is a reason why Lying Lips are one of the six abominations the Lord says He hates in Proverbs 6

In our text, we begin to see cracks in the character of Saul... it seems the King does not hold truth in high regard!

Remember I told you there were two failures and **verses 3 and 4** show us the one about truth...and

now look at the second failure of the king in **verses 8 and 9...**

Saul failed in his obedience to the Word of the Prophet...

Remember, this was how **Hebrews chapter 1 and verse 1** told us God spoke to man in the Old Testament time period...

Hebrews 1:1 tells us that “**Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophet...**

And we know that Samuel stands out among the prophets because of what the scripture says of him...

We know he was dedicated to the Lord even before he was conceived...

We know that He lived in the temple and had his bed in close proximity of the Ark which represented the presence of God...

We also know that Samuel had a testimony of being honest, not taking any bribes and lived a life before the people that was beyond reproach!

And finally we know that he spoke the truth because we are told that none of his words fell to the ground!

God spoke through Samuel to Saul...

All Saul had to do was to obediently listen and do what God told him to do through the prophet Samuel...

Samuel told Saul in chapter 10:8 to wait 7 days in Gilgal and on the 7th day Samuel would come to him...

Samuel also told Saul in chapter 10 that He would make known to Saul what he should do.

This is indisputable... Saul was given clear instructions by the prophet.

Now let's be honest about something... today, most people would understand the position Saul is in and would not fault with his actions...

Dale Davis, in his book on first Samuel entitled “Looking On the Heart” makes the case for Saul by saying...

“Can we really fault Saul for his disobedience? Doesn’t the penalty seem arbitrary and overly severe? Must we not take Saul’s explanation more seriously? Given the facts that Saul had waited seven days or at least into the seventh day, for Samuel, that his army was evaporating by desertion, that for all he knew the enemy would be upon him momentarily, how can he be blamed or punished for acting as he did? Doesn’t he deserve understanding rather than censure? Doesn’t he need empathy rather than punishment? The reader can hardly fail to sympathize with Saul in his situation.”

But this is where the “Rubber meets the Road” when it comes to true Faith!

God did speak through the prophet and it was clear...

Samuel would come in 7 days and he would tell Saul what to do!

That was clear and it did not matter the circumstances... God spoke and that should have been enough.

Be careful when your sympathy becomes a reason for someone's disobedience!

And this happens all the time...

God gives clear direction that light is to have no fellowship with darkness, but here she is balling her eyes out because she has given her heart to a guy who is not a believer!

And you are tempted to sympathize with her and tell her... it's ok, God understands! Don't Do It!!!!

Sometimes the best thing you can do in the area of Counseling is to simply sing this song...

Verse 1

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus
Just to take Him at His word
Just to rest upon His promise
And to know thus saith the Lord

Chorus 1

Jesus Jesus how I trust Him
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus Jesus precious Jesus
O for grace to trust Him more

When it comes to counseling someone who is “between a rock and a hard place” do not let your sympathy cause you to give them a reason toward disobedience!

It didn't matter to God that the Philistine Army was drawing near...

It didn't matter that Saul's Army was dissolving...

It didn't matter that there was no weaponry...

God was still King and He had already told Saul what to do... Saul should have listened!

But notice the Folly of Saul in verses 10-13...

10 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him.

11 Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash,

12 I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”

13 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

So here is the core issue concerning what these verses reveal about the character of Saul...

The first thing we see is that God is teaching Saul to be Patient and to trust the Lord at all times and no matter the circumstances...

But this is not what Saul does....

What Saul actually does is that He is impatient and pridefully believes he can handle the matter himself!

These two presumptuous acts alone shows that Saul is unfit to be king... He is impatient and sinfully self-reliant.

Besides this, Saul was not a Priest or even a Levite and therefore was not qualified to legally offer a burnt offering...

This becomes a pattern of an excuse for Saul to be disobedient that results in God rejecting him from being King of Israel... God will soon say to Saul through the Prophet Samuel, "to Obey is Better than Sacrifice."

Each one of us should not act so foolishly when it comes to the subject of sacrifice and obedience!

Another song written close to 40 years ago says...

To obey is better than sacrifice
I don't need your money
I want your life
And I hear you say
That I'm coming back soon
But you act like I'll never return
Well you speak of grace
And my love so sweet
How you thrive on milk
But reject My meat
And I can't help weeping
And how it will be
If you keep on ignoring My words
Well you pray to prosper and succeed
But your flesh is something I just can't feed
To obey is better than sacrifice
I want more than sundays en wednesday-nights
Cause if you can't come to Me every day

Then don't bother coming at all
To obey is better than sacrifice
I want hearts of fire
Not your prayers of ice
And I'm coming quickly
To give back to you
According to what you have done

Now let me point out the “fear” seen in the text...

In verses 14-18 we can see the reason why there was fear among the people of Israel...

Let's read the next 5 verses...

14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

15 And Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal. The rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army; they went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about six hundred men.

16 And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people who were present with them stayed in Geba of Benjamin, but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

17 And raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual; 18 another company turned toward Beth-horon; and another company turned toward the border that looks down on the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

So the first fearful thing we see is that Samuel spoke the Words that limited the scope of Saul's kingdom...

This was not a specific rejection of Saul as King... Spoiler Alert! We, who are Bible students already know that that particular rejection is still to come!

Samuel simply tells Saul that no future king will be from his lineage...

Next we saw that in verse 15 that Saul numbered his men and there were only 600 of the 3000 he initially numbered...

If you remember the story of Gideon, of whom God used along with 300 men to conquer the enemy,

you would think that Saul would be encouraged to have twice as many men as what Gideon had...

But trust me when I tell you that Saul is no Gideon!

We have already seen back in verses 5-7 that the Philistines mustered over 30 thousand chariots, 6 thousand horsemen and an endless number of foot-soldiers like the sand on the seashore!

This already brought great fear to the people of Israel...

In fact, the fear was so great that the people began to hide in caves, cisterns, tombs and even holes in the ground.

Now in verses 17-18 we learn that the Philistines are terrorizing Israel by sending small bands of their army into different sections of the land and there is no one to stop them!

And adding to the fear of such a dire situation is the fact of what is said in **verses 19-22...**

19 Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, “Lest the Hebrews make themselves swords or spears.”

20 But every one of the Israelites went down to the Philistines to sharpen his plowshare, his mattock, his axe, or his sickle,

21 and the charge was two-thirds of a shekel for the plowshares and for the mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening the axes and for setting the goads.

22 So on the day of the battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people with Saul and Jonathan, but Saul and Jonathan his son had them.

According to what we just read, the people of Israel had no weaponry... only Saul and Jonathan had a sword each...

So when verse 6 tells us that the people saw they were in trouble and that they were hard pressed...

This lack of weaponry was designed by the Philistines to keep the people of Israel in fear of

them and to keep Israel from rising up against the Philistines...

So this brings up the question of how did Jonathan defeat the Garrison of the Philistines in Geba as mentioned in verse 3???

Well, he did this with His sword, and being the great leader that he was, the people took courage and were victorious over the Philistines with their Axes, Sickles and Plow-shares...

Great leaders can cause people to over-come fearful circumstances... and Jonathan was indeed a great leader unlike his father!

Evidence of Saul being a pitiful leader is seen in the fact that his Army had greatly dwindled...

Look at what was said in **verse 8...**

He (that's Saul) **waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal and the people were scattering from him."**

So where was the leader who back in chapter 11 chopped up his oxen and Fed-xed it all over Israel and threatened the people he would do the same to their oxen if they did not come out to meet him in preparation for Battle???

Unfortunately It seems that Saul has reverted back to his fearful disposition that he had in chapter 10 when he hid himself in the baggage!

And I want to point out something that should have produced the greatest fear in the heart of Saul and the people...

It was when Samuel said to Saul in verse 11...
“What Have You Done?”

Anytime you read the scriptures where God or one of His prophets asks the question “What Have You Done?” Hold on tightly because it is about to get rough!

Remember that in the Garden of Eden this question, “What Have You Done?” was asked of Eve... How did that turn out?

Remember not long after Adam and Eve were escorted out of the Garden and the same question, “What Have You Done?” was asked of Cain concerning the murder of his brother? That also did not turn out well!

From the disobedient actions of Saul, there are three things we can see that Saul should have learned...

1st, there is nothing hidden from the sight of God God knew and Samuel asked “what have you done?”

2nd, We are responsible for our actions... Saul tried to pin this on Samuel for not showing up in a timely manner.... But God held Saul accountable to obey His word!

3rd, Sin has consequences... Because of Saul’s disobedience, neither Jonathan or his other Sons would ever be king over Israel... that position would be given to another!

Let me ask you this... have you ever weighed out what you would say to God if he asked you the question “What Have You Done?”

Well, prepare your heart....

Listen to what 2nd Corinthians 5:10 says...

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Sounds similar to “What Have You Done?” Right?

It is things such as this that should strike fear in the heart of man...

As a matter of fact, in 2nd Corinthians 5:11 The very next verse after we are told we will all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, Paul says “Therefore knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men!”

But King Saul is showing fear for all the wrong reasons... He’s been caught using Sacrifice as an excuse for disobedience and all his Army is scattering!

It is only natural for the people to act fearfully when they see their King being fearful as well...

So according to verse 8, Saul watched the people begin to Flee from him... the verse says they began to break ranks and to scatter!

Now, This is exactly what Faithlessness looks like!

Faithlessness is Failure in action! Any act that is without faith is already a failure because **Romans 14:23** tells us “For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.”

So Faithlessness is Failure in action!

Faithlessness is also Folly (it is as foolish as traveling down a known dead end street yet believing you can still reach your destination)

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without Faith it is impossible to please God...

Faithlessness is also reacting to your circumstances with Fear because your eyes are on your circumstances and not on the faithful promises of God...

In addition, Faithlessness is responding to your circumstances by Fleeing because the enemy has convinced you there is no one able to rescue you and to make you victorious!

There was a Song written 35 years ago by the group 4-Him that had this chorus about our Faith in the God of scripture....

Where there is faith
There is a voice calling, keep walking
You're not alone in this world
Where there is faith
There is a peace like a child sleeping
Hope everlasting in He who is able to
Bear every burden, to heal every hurt in my heart
It is a wonderful, powerful place
Where there is faith!

So, as far as I can tell from Chapter 13, there is absolutely no Faith on the part of Saul and the people of Israel....

None, Zilch, Notta, Zero evidence of Faith on their part!

Now I have been faithful to preach and explain the content of Chapter 11...

We have also observed the implications in the text...

And concerning any application we might employ as a result of the explanation and the implication of the text, all I can say is...

Do not be Faithless!

But someone might say, well that is easy to say but hard to do, especially under certain circumstances in life...

Well, I hear you... but I am not going to sympathize with you since we have clear instructions concerning how not to be faithless...

Take your Bibles and go to Psalm 37:3-7 and settle in your heart that you will prayerfully obey what the Lord commands you to do...

There are 5 Commands the Lord gives his children to follow for His glory and for our good...

First, He says in verse 3 “Trust in the Lord”

Notice that this “Trusting” is tied to a testimony of doing that which is “Good”!

Also bloom where you are planted and do this without complaint!

Notice the connection with the word Faithfulness!

You can ask Genia, I would love to live in the North Pole and evangelize Eskimos and Polar Bears, but God planted me in the hot South!

I am to be faithful here!

Second, He tells us to “Delight in the Lord” in vs 4

This is the place where your total enjoyment in life is completely attached to Christ! The result of this Delight is that God places His righteous desires in your heart and you begin to ask for what you ought to ask for!

Third, He says in verse 5 to “Commit your way to the Lord.”

Settle in your heart that you are committed to obeying the Lord no matter the struggle or no matter the circumstances...

The scripture tells us that God will act righteously and justly on our behalf!

Fourth, Be Still and Wait for the Lord...

Do not be like Saul and exercise impatience and prideful self-confidence in your limited strength and abilities... you will be greatly disappointed!

Just learn what it is to wait patiently on the Lord...

Have you ever been in a Hospital Waiting Room?

(Testimony)

One of the most difficult places to be in this life is in God's waiting room?

Look at Saul.... He was in God's Waiting Room. As he watched his army scatter and the Prophet Samuel no where in sight and the Philistine Army getting closer and closer...

But we are commanded to wait...How? Patiently!

And last of all, We are to "Fret Not" or to "Not Worry!"

The idea is for us to have confidence in the One we cannot see and to not be fearful of what we actually can see because the One we cannot see is sovereign over all that we can see!

This is our application and may the Lord, by His Spirit, make us obedient to His commands for His Glory and for our Good!

23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.”

THE BOOK OF
1 SAMUEL
CHAPTER 13

*FAILURE, FOLLY, FEAR,
& FAITHLESSNESS*



A sword with an ornate crossguard and a scabbard, set against a background of green grass. The sword is positioned vertically, with the hilt and crossguard visible. The crossguard is highly decorative, featuring intricate metalwork and small red gemstones. The blade is partially visible, showing a scabbard with a decorative pattern. The background is a soft-focus image of green grass, creating a natural and serene setting.

Call: *The grass withers and
the flower fades,*

Response: *But the Word of
the Lord endures forever.*

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:8 and 1 Peter 1:24–25

INTRODUCTION

- When preaching the Elder must:
 - Give an explanation of the text
 - Share the implications of the text
 - Encourage the application of the text
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Romans 15:4

THE FAILURE OF THE KING VV.1-9

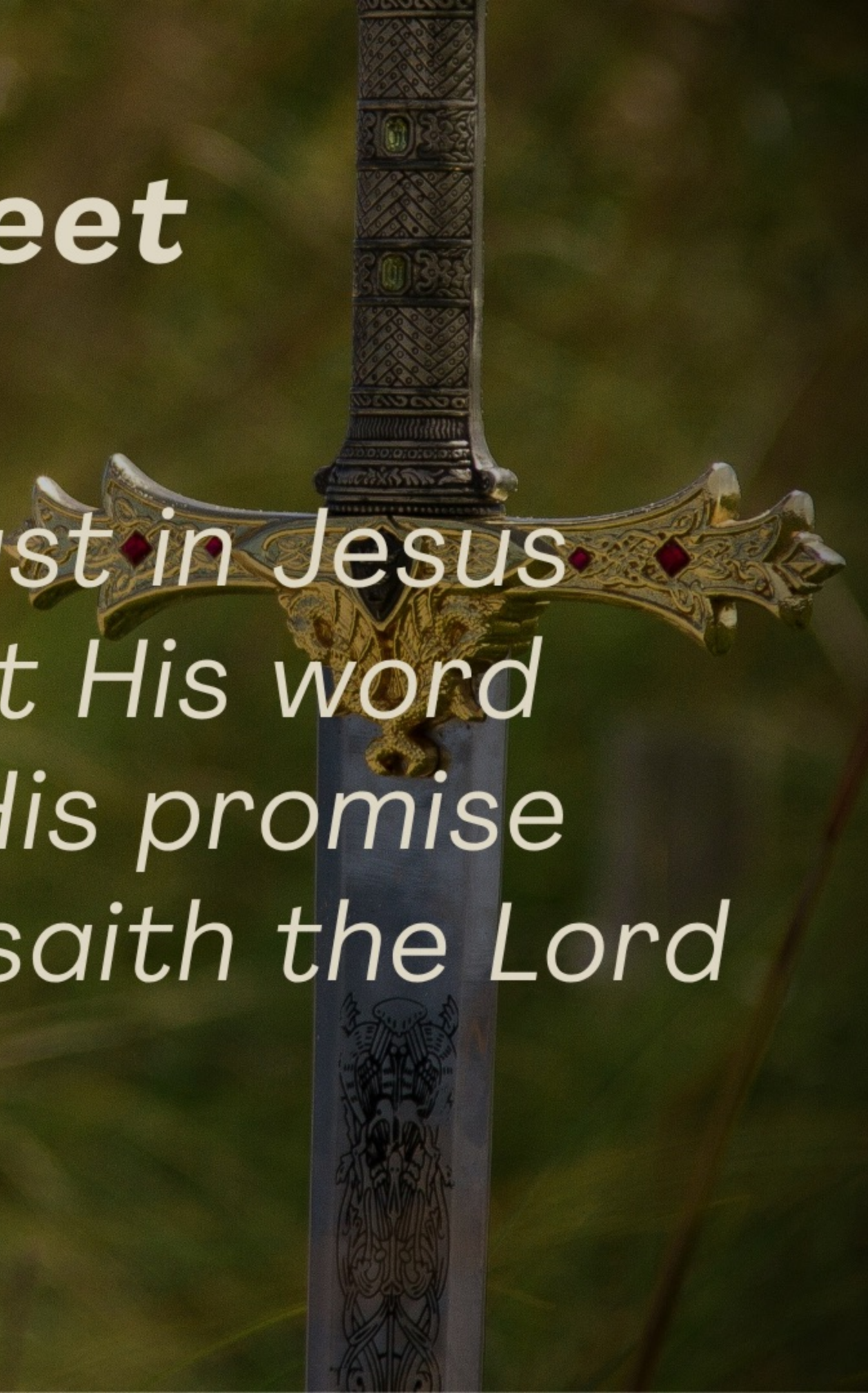
- 1 Samuel 8:11-12
- Saul takes credit for what Jonathan did.
- A sincere follower of Christ is truthful.
 - Psalm 15:2, Proverbs 12:22, Ephesians 4:25, John 8:44, John 14:17

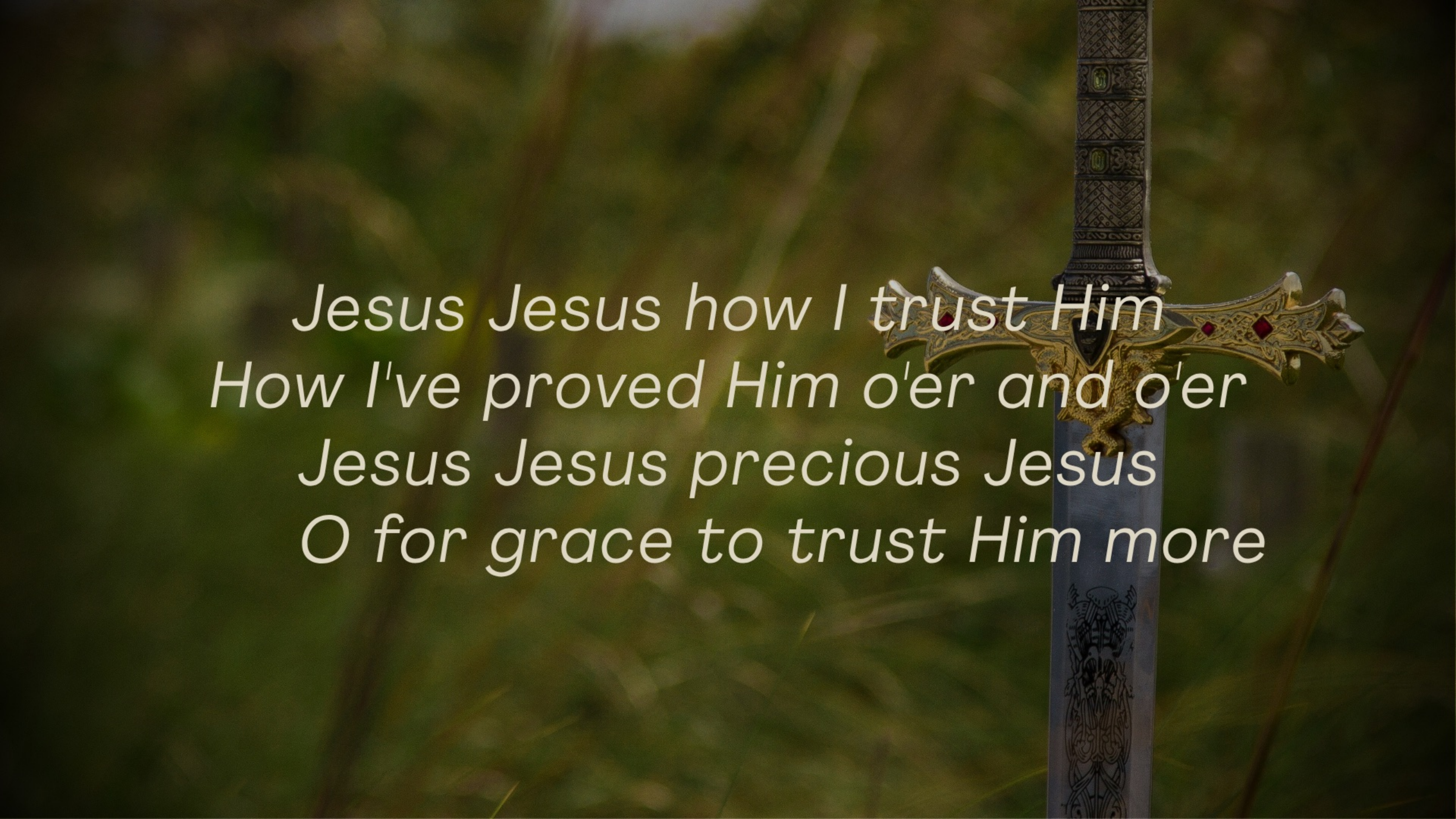
THE FAILURE OF THE KING VV.1-9

- Saul failed in his obedience to the Word of the prophet.
 - Hebrews 1:1
 - 1 Samuel 10:8
- God spoke and that should have been enough.

'Tis So Sweet

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus
Just to take Him at His word
Just to rest upon His promise
And to know thus saith the Lord*





*Jesus Jesus how I trust Him
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus Jesus precious Jesus
O for grace to trust Him more*

THE FOLLY OF SAUL

VV.10-13

- God was teaching Saul to be patient & to trust Him at all times, but Saul failed.
- Saul is unfit to be King because:
 - He is impatient
 - He is sinfully self-reliant
- Saul wasn't qualified to legally offer the burnt offering.

To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice

To obey is better than sacrifice

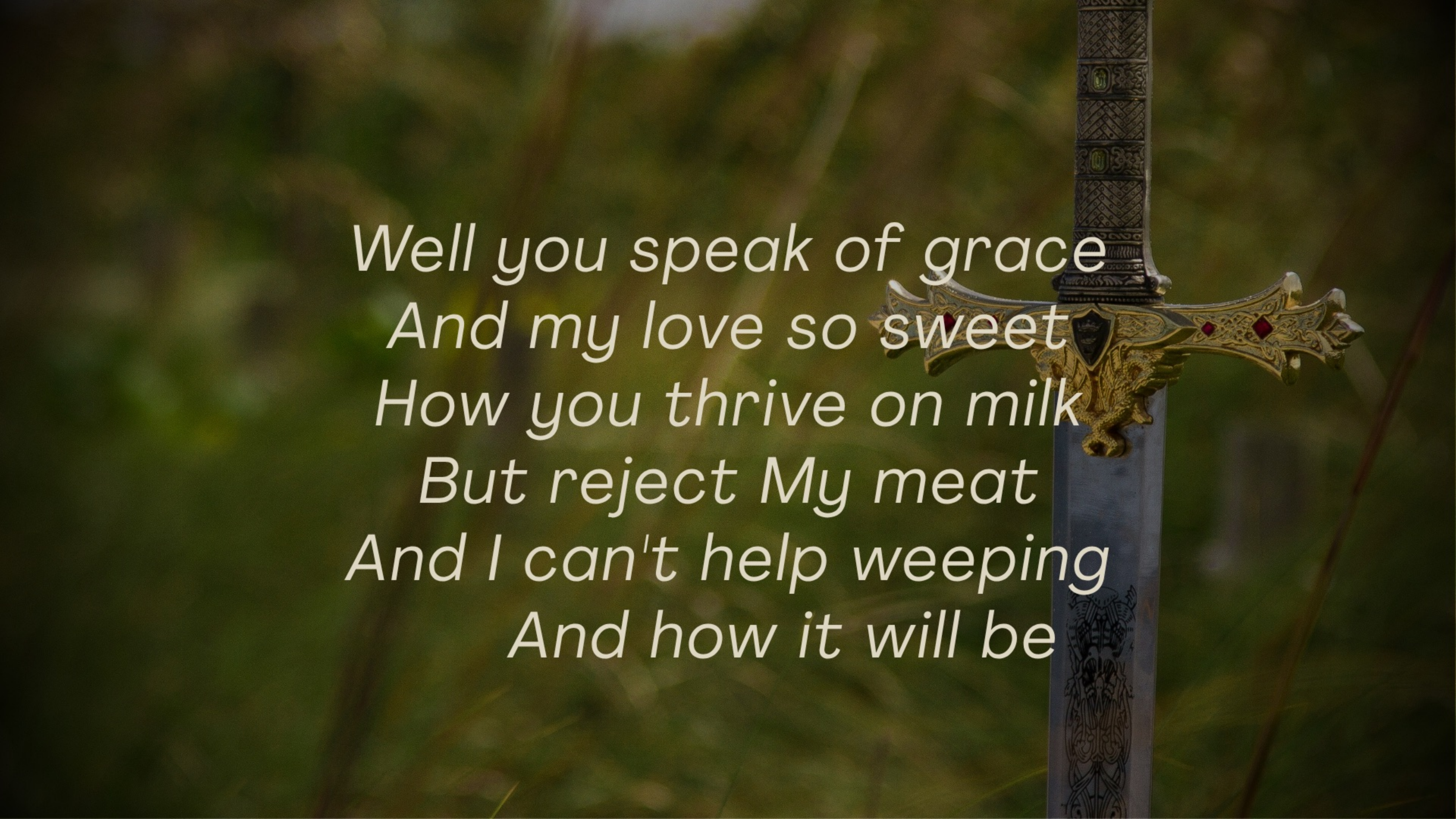
I don't need your money

I want your life

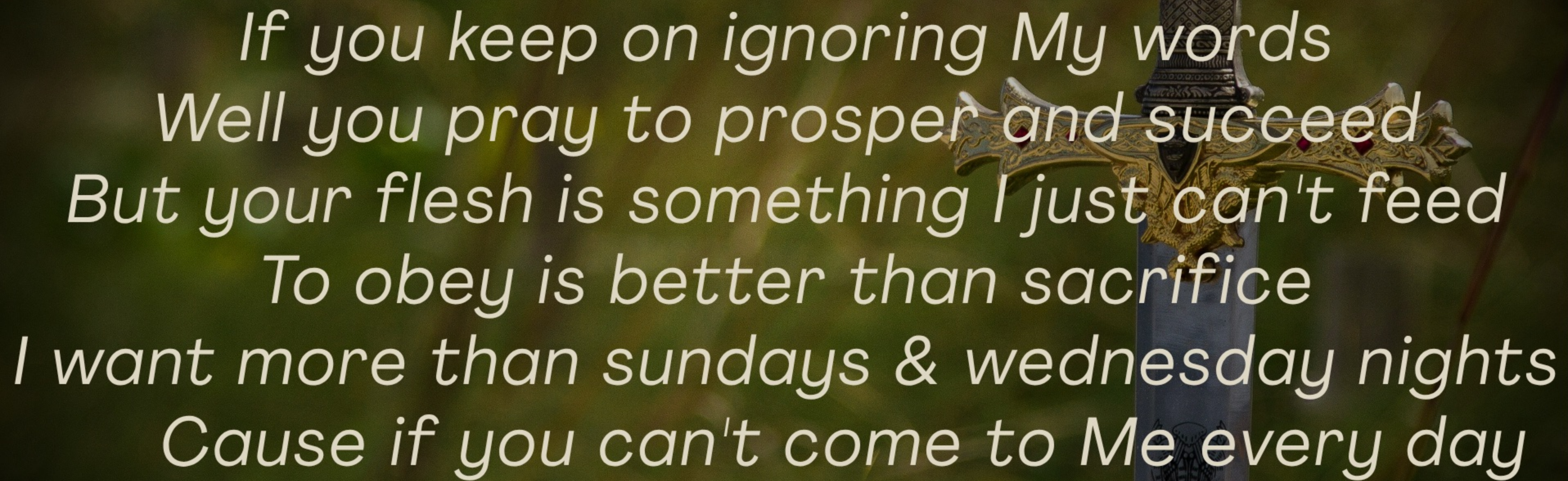
And I hear you say

That I'm coming back soon

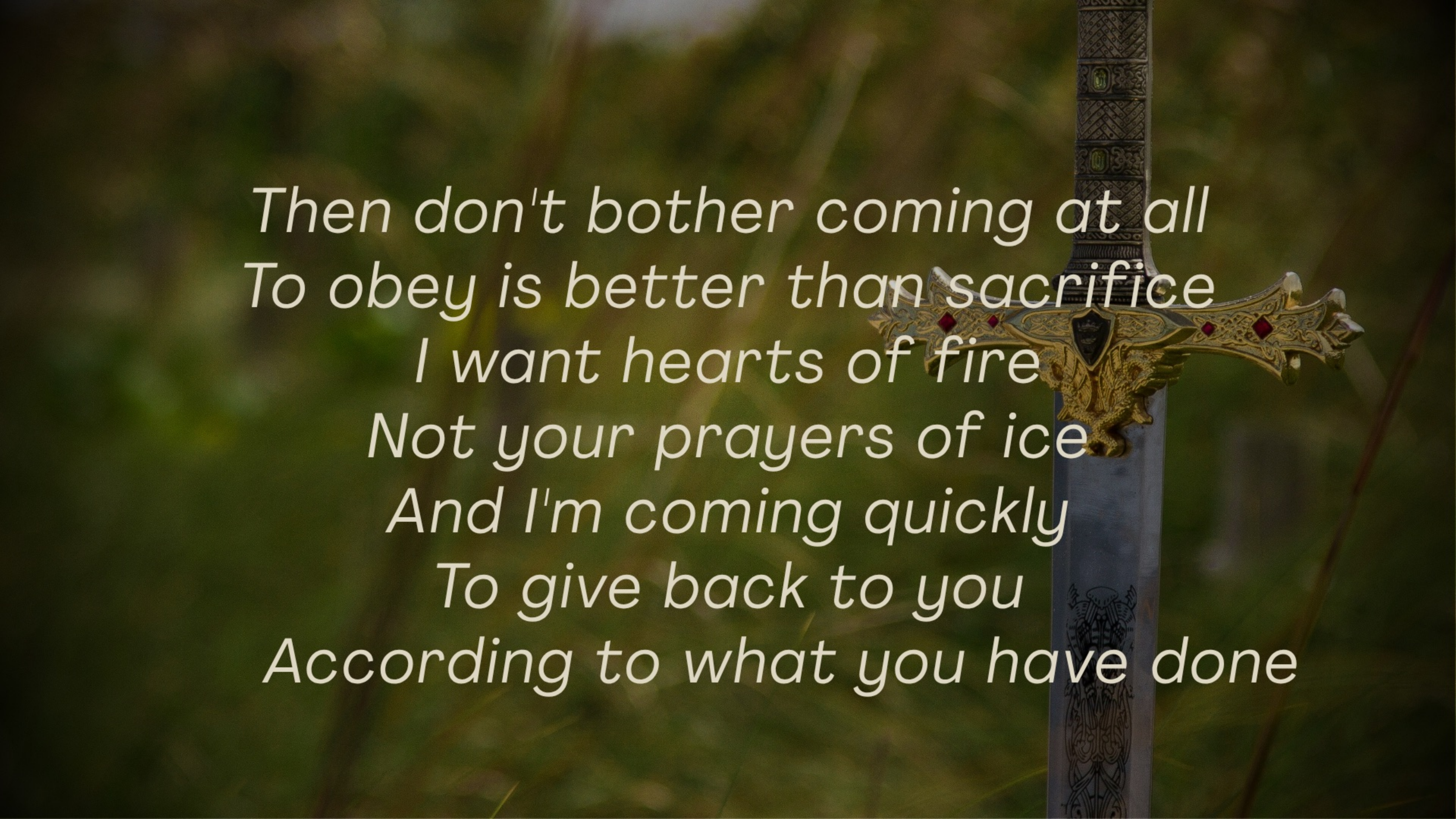
But you act like I'll never return

A sword with an ornate hilt and a scabbard, set against a blurred green background. The hilt is decorated with gold and red gemstones. The scabbard has intricate black and silver patterns. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

*Well you speak of grace
And my love so sweet
How you thrive on milk
But reject My meat
And I can't help weeping
And how it will be*



*If you keep on ignoring My words
Well you pray to prosper and succeed
But your flesh is something I just can't feed
To obey is better than sacrifice
I want more than sundays & wednesday nights
Cause if you can't come to Me every day*

A sword with an ornate hilt and a decorative blade, set against a blurred green background. The hilt is highly detailed with gold-colored metalwork and red gemstones. The blade is silver-colored with intricate engravings. The text is overlaid on the left side of the sword.

*Then don't bother coming at all
To obey is better than sacrifice
I want hearts of fire
Not your prayers of ice
And I'm coming quickly
To give back to you
According to what you have done*

FEAR VV.14-18

- The scope of Saul's kingdom is limited.
- Saul is left with only 600 of the 3,000 men he initially numbered.
- The people hid in caves, cisterns, tombs, & holes in the ground.
- The Philistines are terrorizing Israel with small bands of their army

FAITHLESSNESS VV.19-23

- The people had no weaponry apart from Saul & Jonathan.
- Lessons Saul should've learned:
 - Nothing is hidden from the sight of God
 - We are responsible for our actions
 - Sin has consequences

FAITHLESSNESS VV.19-23

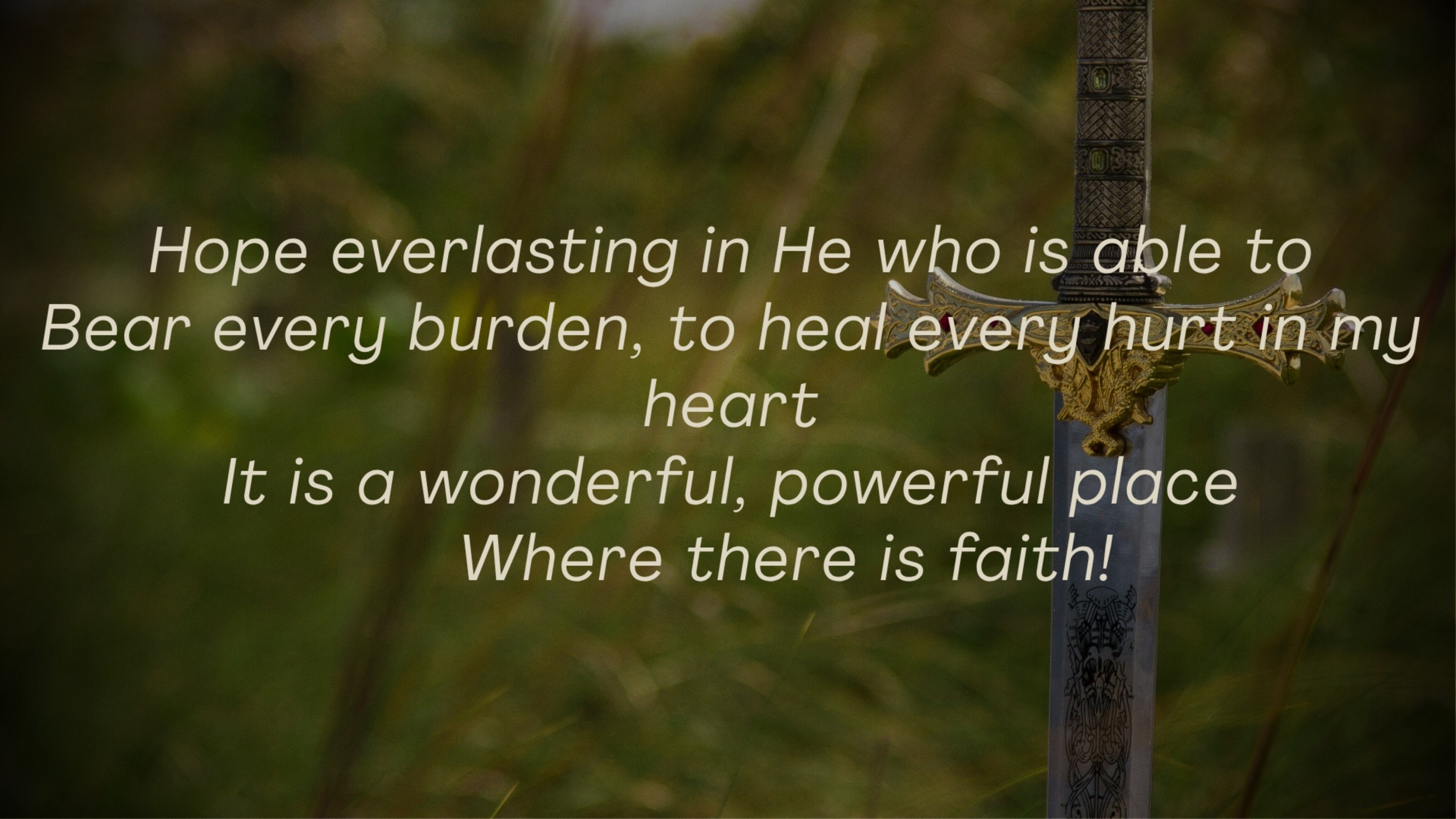
- 2 Corinthians 5:10-11
- Faithlessness is failure in action (Romans 14:23).
- Faithlessness is folly (Hebrews 11:6)

FAITHLESSNESS VV.19-22

- Faithlessness is reacting to your circumstances with fear.
- Faithlessness is responding to your circumstances by fleeing.

Where There is Faith

*Where there is faith
There is a voice calling, keep walking
You're not alone in this world
Where there is faith
There is a peace like a child sleeping*

A sword with a crossguard and a scabbard, set against a blurred green background. The sword is positioned vertically, with the crossguard in the center. The scabbard is visible at the top and bottom of the sword. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting foliage.

*Hope everlasting in He who is able to
Bear every burden, to heal every hurt in my
heart*

*It is a wonderful, powerful place
Where there is faith!*

APPLICATION

- Psalm 37:3-7
- 5 Commands we're given:
 - Trust in the Lord V.3
 - Delight in the Lord V.4
 - Commit your way to the Lord v.5
 - Be still & wait for the Lord V.7
 - Fret Not V.7