



✘ GOOD

☀ GREAT

👑 GLORIOUS

💧 GRACIOUS

4Gs

4 TRUTHS ABOUT GOD:

HOPE FOR

CHANGE

4 GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GOD

God is good, so I don't have to look elsewhere for my satisfaction.

God is great, so I don't have to be in control.

God is glorious, so I don't have to fear others.

God is gracious, so I don't have to prove myself.



The Prodigal Son

Luke 15

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.



Luke 15

And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father.



Luke 15

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'



Luke 15

But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.



Luke 15

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there **he squandered his property in reckless living.**

Luke 15

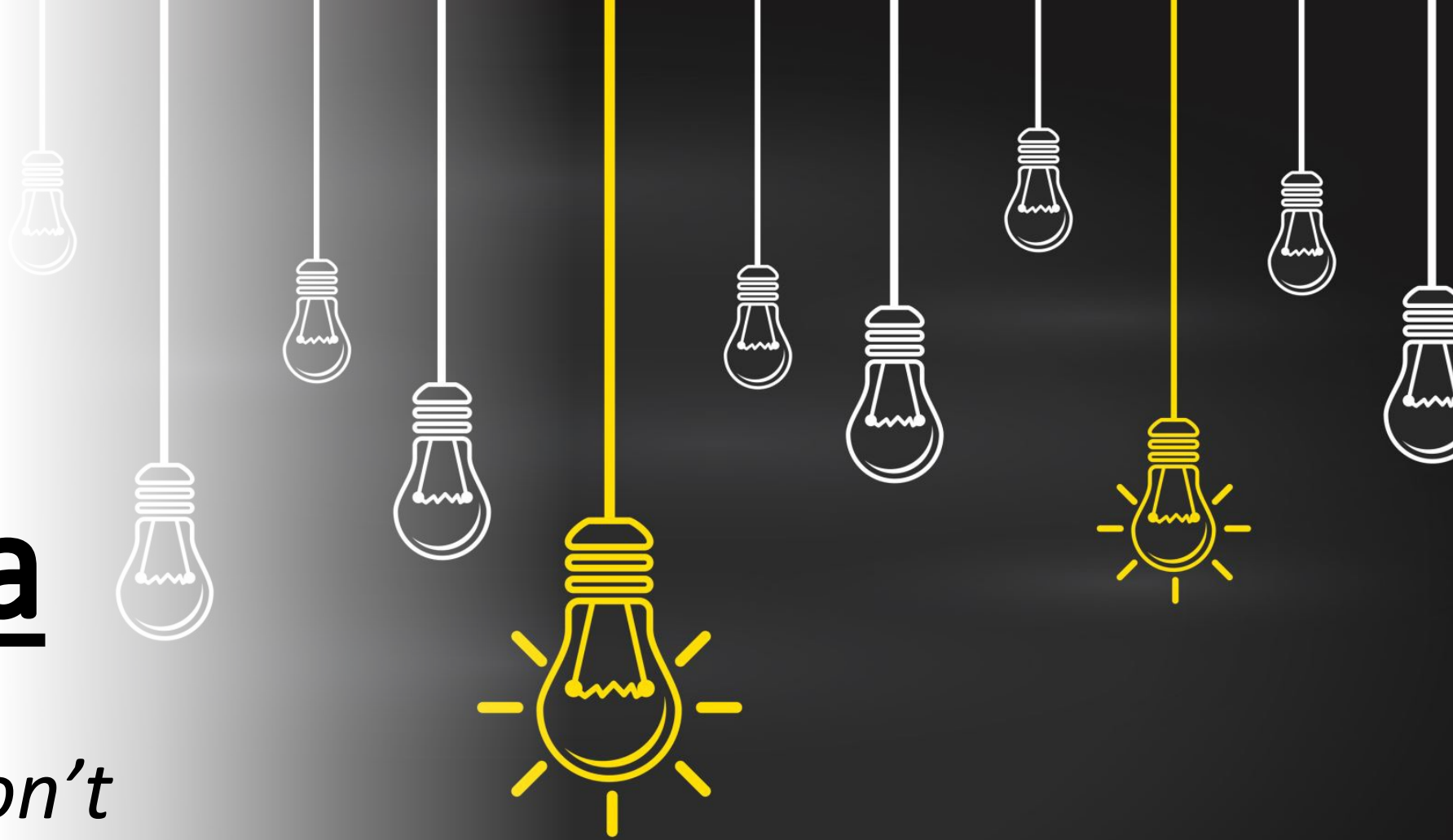
But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and **felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.** And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

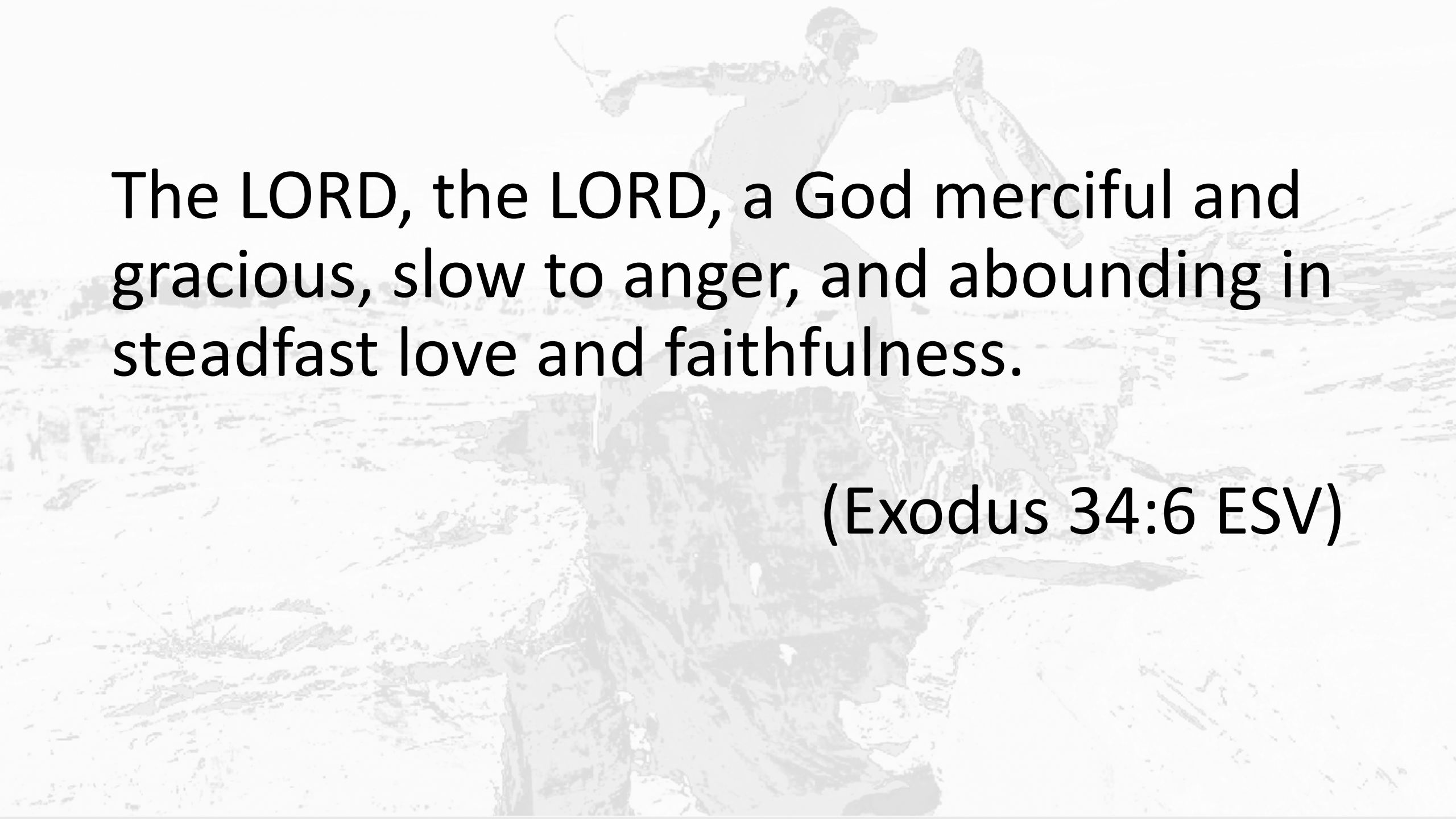
How do you envision God responding after you have messed up?

Do you feel like you have to work hard to prove yourself and get back into his good graces?

Big Idea

Since God is gracious, I don't have to prove myself.



A person wearing a cap and outdoor gear stands on a rocky outcrop, arms raised in a gesture of triumph or celebration. The background is a bright, hazy landscape. The text is overlaid on this image.

The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

(Exodus 34:6 ESV)

Luke 15

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in.

Luke 15

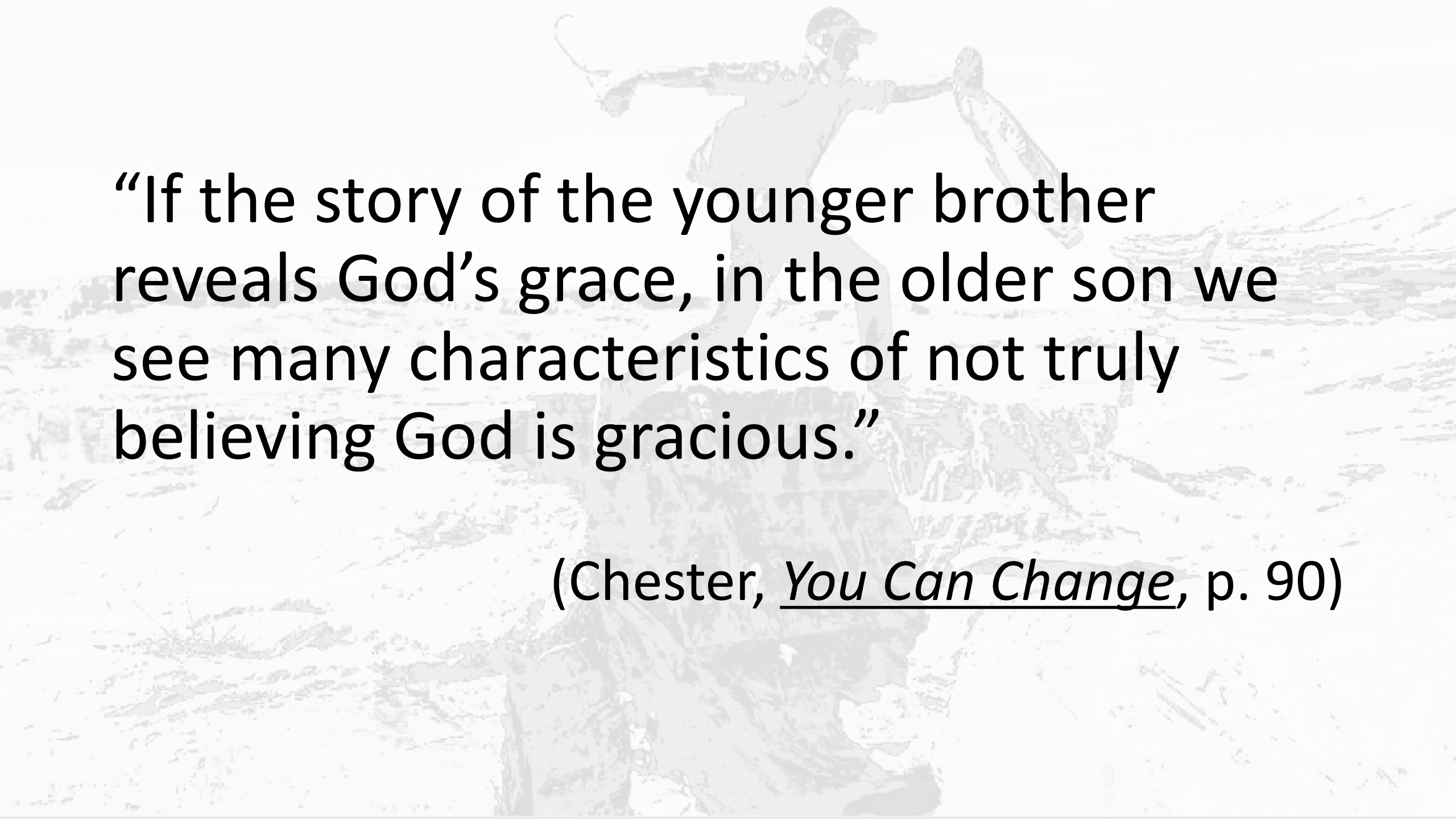
His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

Luke 15

And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Luke 15

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ **But he was angry and refused to go in.**



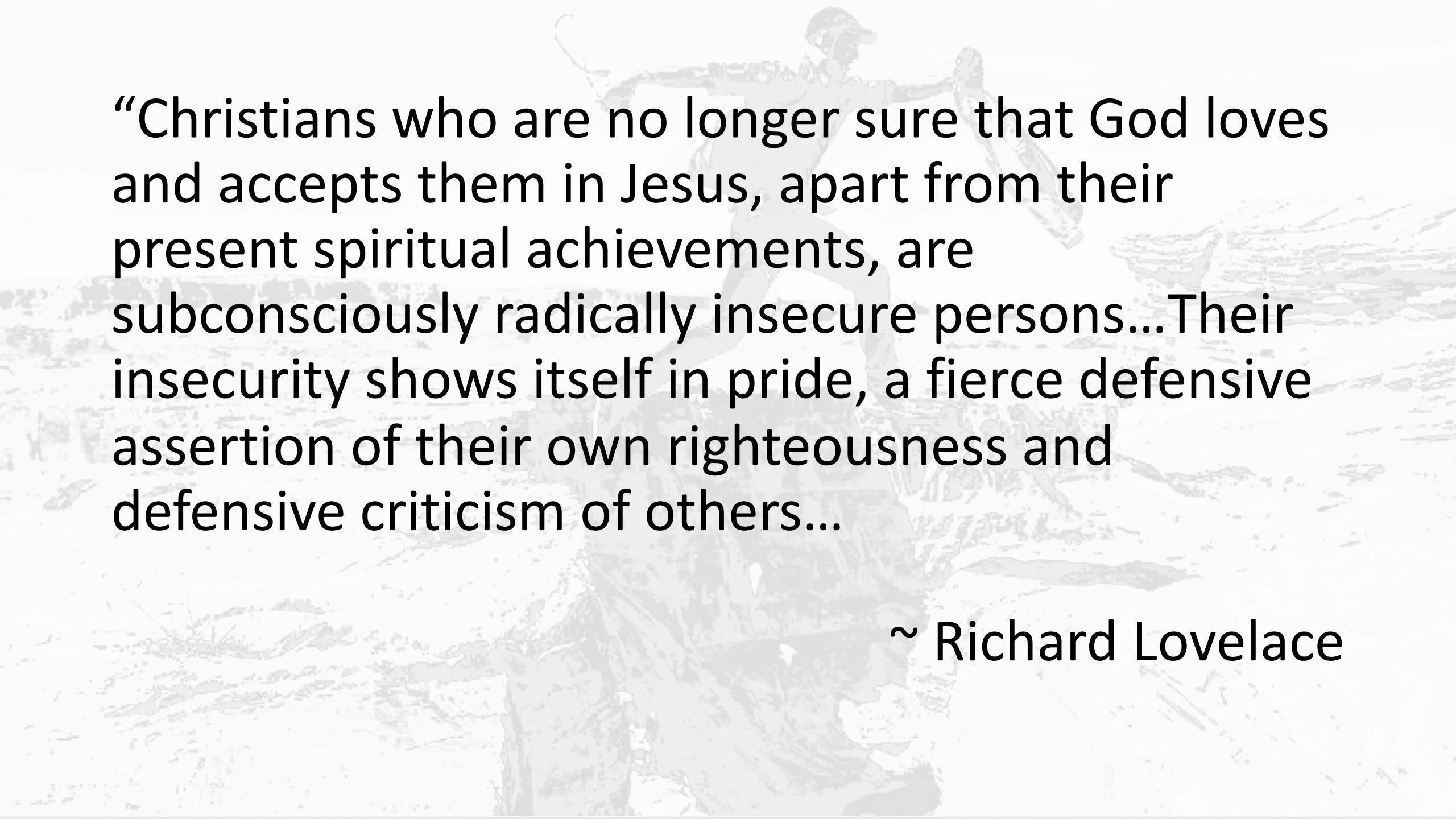
“If the story of the younger brother reveals God’s grace, in the older son we see many characteristics of not truly believing God is gracious.”

(Chester, *You Can Change*, p. 90)

Characteristics: Not Believing God is Gracious

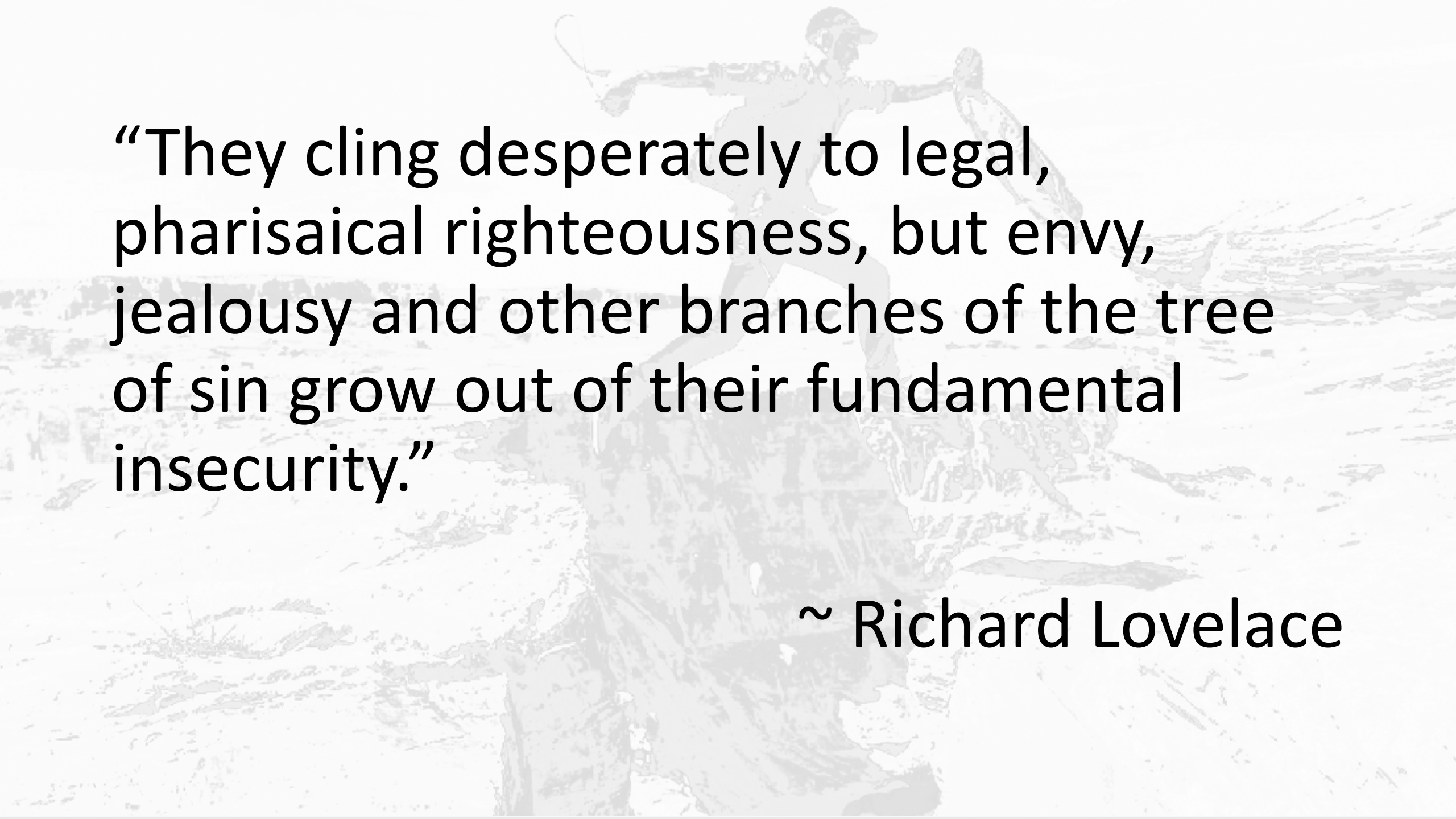
- We experience ***restless anger*** (15:28)
- The Christian life becomes ***joyless duty*** (15:29)
- We resort to ***anxious performance*** (15:29)
- We resort to ***proud comparisons*** (15:30)

(Chester, *You Can Change*, p. 90-92)



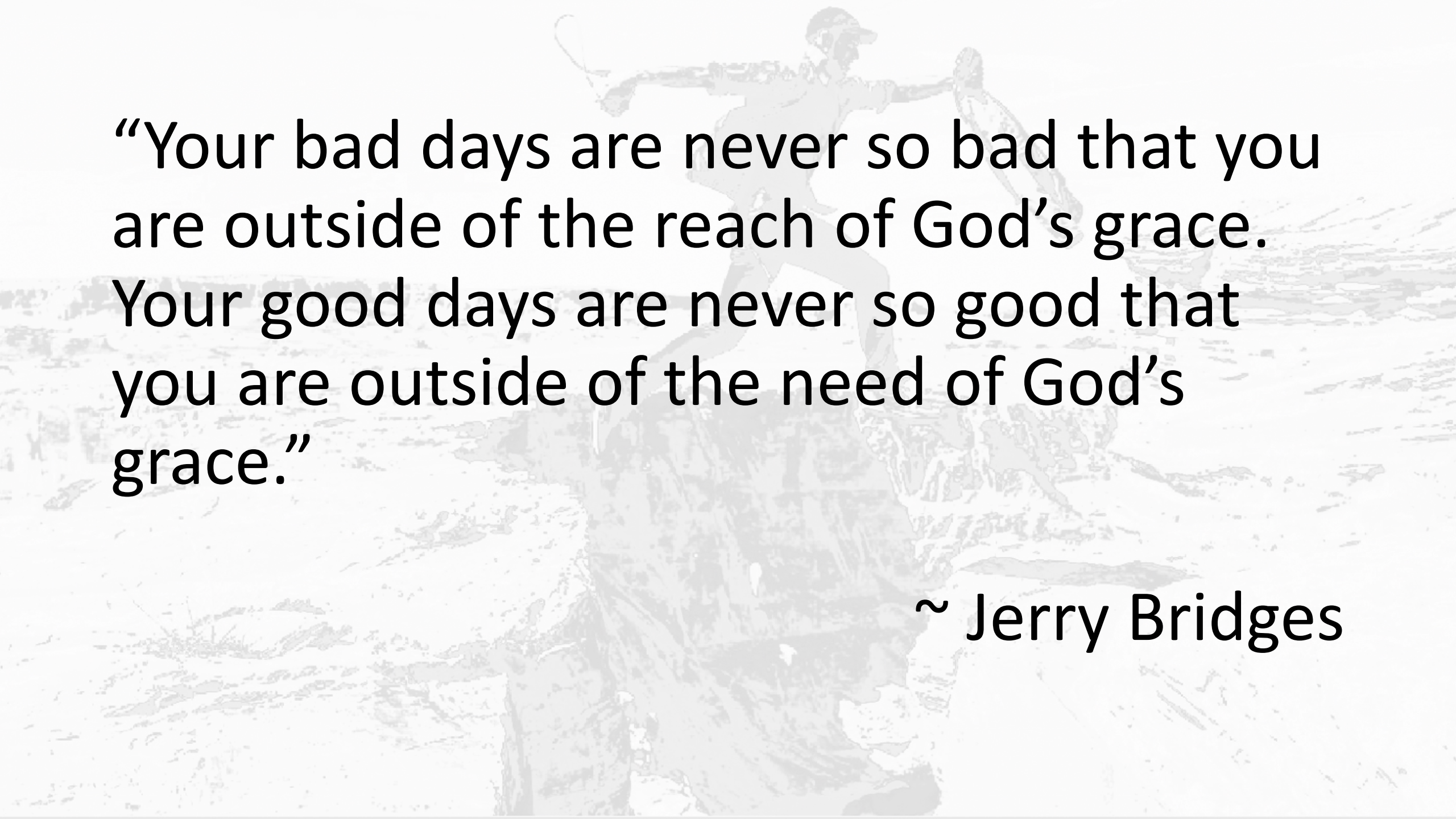
“Christians who are no longer sure that God loves and accepts them in Jesus, apart from their present spiritual achievements, are subconsciously radically insecure persons...Their insecurity shows itself in pride, a fierce defensive assertion of their own righteousness and defensive criticism of others...

~ Richard Lovelace

A faded, grayscale background image of a person rappelling down a rock face. The person is wearing a cap and a harness, and is in a dynamic, descending pose. The rock face is textured and appears to be part of a larger cliffside.

“They cling desperately to legal, pharisaical righteousness, but envy, jealousy and other branches of the tree of sin grow out of their fundamental insecurity.”

~ Richard Lovelace

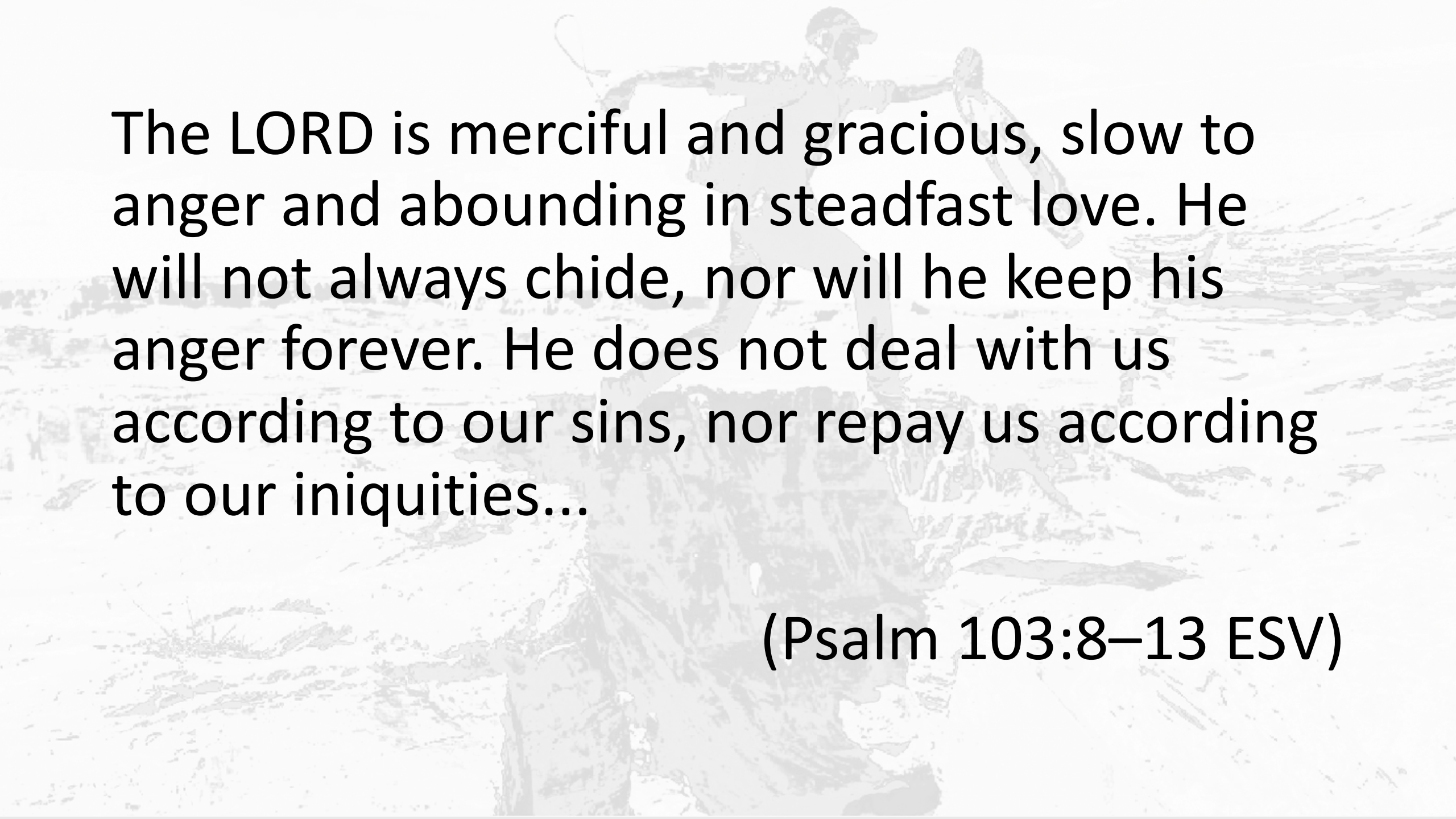


“Your bad days are never so bad that you are outside of the reach of God’s grace. Your good days are never so good that you are outside of the need of God’s grace.”

~ Jerry Bridges

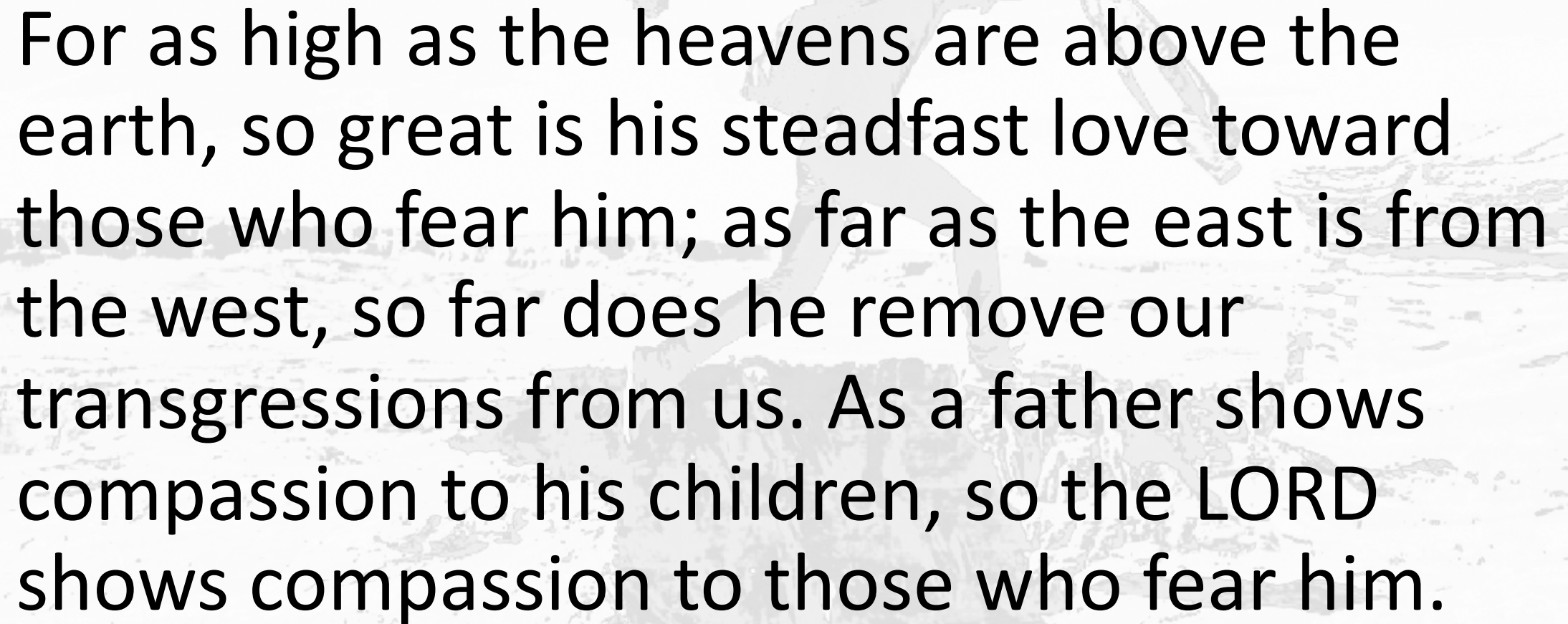
Luke 15

His father came out and entreated him... And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities...

(Psalm 103:8–13 ESV)

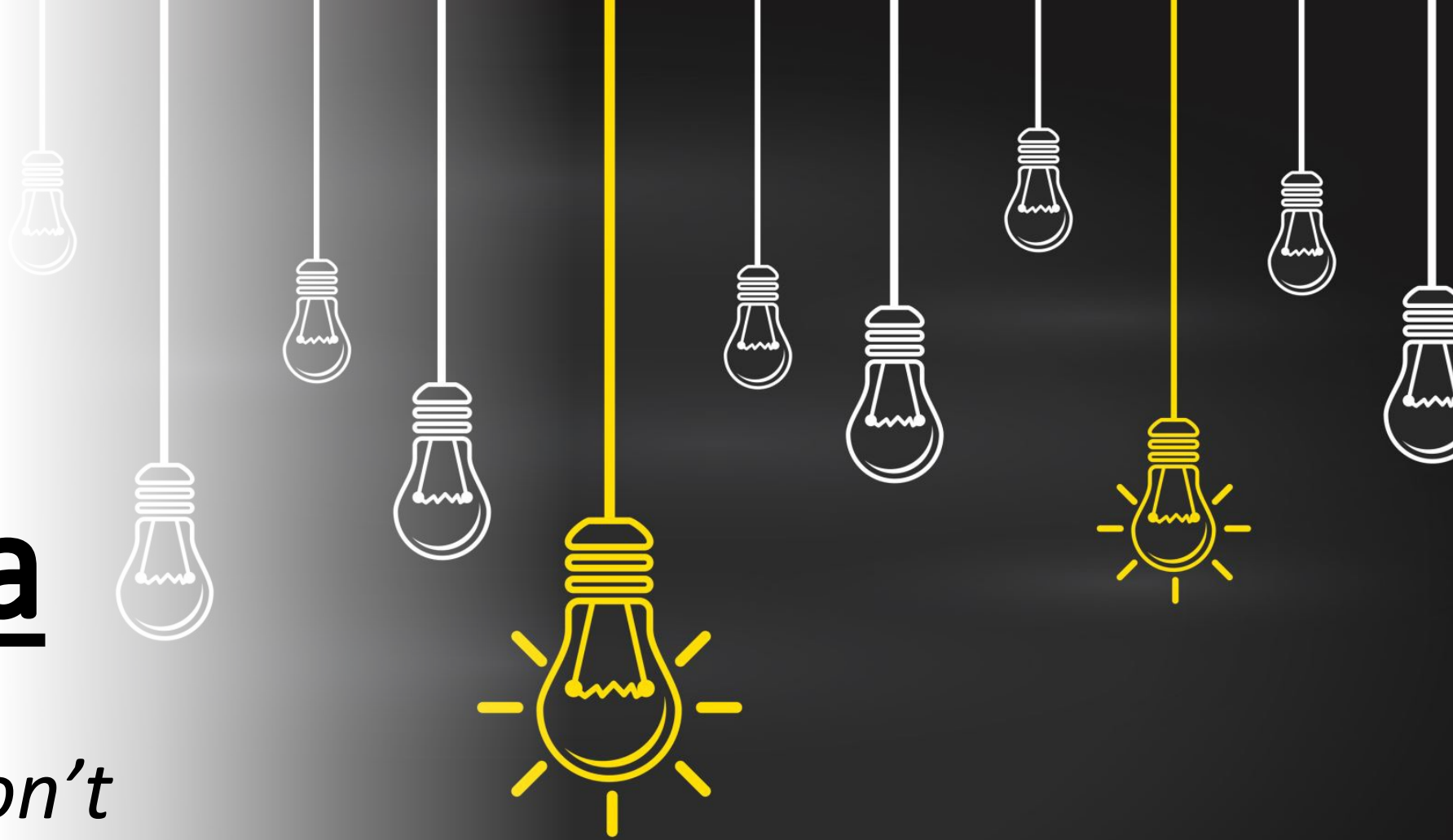


For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

(Psalm 103:8–13 ESV)

Big Idea

*Since God is
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