



MALACHI

A Call For Pure Devotion

Why Study Malachi?

- **Relevant** ~ Covers topics we need to hear:
 - Call for authentic devotion to the Lord
 - Reminder about God's love, glory, & worthiness
 - Confront hypocrisy & offers cleansing
- **2025 Initiatives** ~ Our church has set priorities this year
 - He is worthy of our love, our life, & our all
 - Cultivate deeper love for Jesus
- **Timing** ~ Short book that fits our schedule



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Malachi: Theme

“They [Israel] were all too ready to make ethical compromises and to dilute the strenuous demands of proper worship. In response to the cynicism and religious malaise of his contemporaries, Malachi’s prophecy comes as a wake-up call to renewed covenant fidelity.”

(ESV Study Bible: *Introduction to Malachi*)

Malachi: Key Verses

You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

(Malachi 2:17-3:1 ESV)

Malachi: Key Verses

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

(Malachi 2:17-3:1 ESV)



The Problem of Hollow Worship

Malachi 1

Malachi 1

[1] The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. [2] “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob [3] but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”

Malachi 1

[4] If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the LORD of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.’” [5] Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!”

Malachi 1

[6] “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ [7] By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’s table may be despised.

Malachi 1

[8] When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. [9] And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1

[10] Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.

Malachi 1

[11] For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1

[12] But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food, may be despised. [13] But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.

Malachi 1

[14] Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.

Malachi 1

[1] The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. [2] **“I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?”** “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob [3] but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”



*How would you describe the
first problem addressed by
Malachi?*

*How has God loved Israel?
What was the evidence of His
love?*

Malachi 1

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[4] If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the LORD of hosts says, **“They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.’”** [5] **Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!”**

Deuteronomy 7:8

... but it is because **the LORD loves you** and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Jeremiah 31:1-4

[1] “At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.” [2] Thus says the LORD: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, [3] the LORD appeared to him from far away. **I have loved you with an everlasting love**; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. [4] Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.



*How do you & I fail to
recognize & respond to God's
love?*



*What is the evidence or proof
that God loves you?*

Steps Towards God

1. Recognize & recount the unconditional & faithful nature of His love towards us

Malachi 1

[6] “A son **honors** his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my **honor**? And if I am a master, where is my **fear**? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who **despise** my name. But you say, ‘How have we **despised** your name?’ [7] By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’s table may be **despised**.

*How would you describe the
second problem addressed by
Malachi?*

*How did Israel fail to honor
God? How did they despise
His name?*

Malachi 1

[8] When you **offer blind animals** in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you **offer those that are lame or sick**, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. [9] And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts.



Although we don't offer animal sacrifices, how do we "offer those that are lame or sick?"



*What is the solution to
dishonoring God?*

Malachi 1

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“Entreat” ~ *challah* (Hebrew)

“Chalah, with its spectrum of sickness, weakness, and pleading, serves Scripture as a vivid reminder of human frailty and divine mercy. From Jacob’s appeasing gifts to Hezekiah’s life-and-death prayer, the word tracks the entire account line of redemption: weakness exposed, repentance offered, compassion received, and health restored by the LORD who strikes and heals.”

From: <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2470.htm>

Steps Towards God

1. Recognize & recount the unconditional & faithful nature of His love towards us
2. Entreat the Lord by humbly recognizing our failures & needs

Malachi 1

[10] Oh that there were one among you who would **shut the doors**, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.

Steps Towards God

1. Recognize & recount the unconditional & faithful nature of His love towards us
2. Entreat the Lord by humbly recognizing our failures & needs
3. Refuse to settle for outward religiosity

Malachi 1

[11] For from the rising of the sun to its setting **my name will be great among the nations,** and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. **For my name will be great among the nations,** says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1

[12] ***But you profane it*** when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food, may be despised. [13] But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.

Malachi 1

[14] Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. **For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.**

*How would you describe the
third problem addressed by
Malachi?*

Steps Towards God

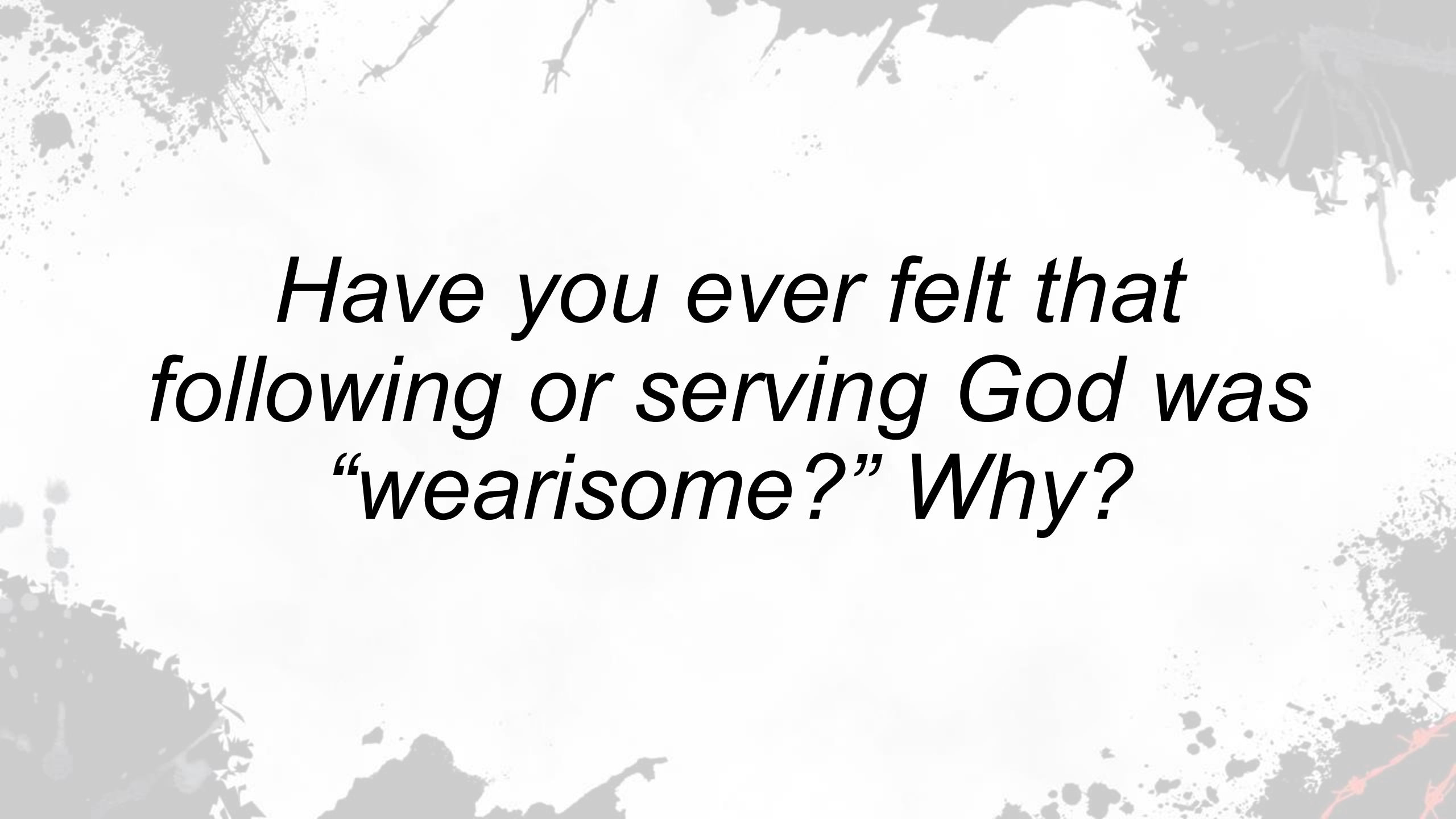
1. Recognize & recount the unconditional & faithful nature of His love towards us
2. Entreat the Lord by humbly recognizing our failures & needs
3. Refuse to settle for outward religiosity
4. Allow your mind & heart to be confronted by God's character, power, & glory

Malachi 1

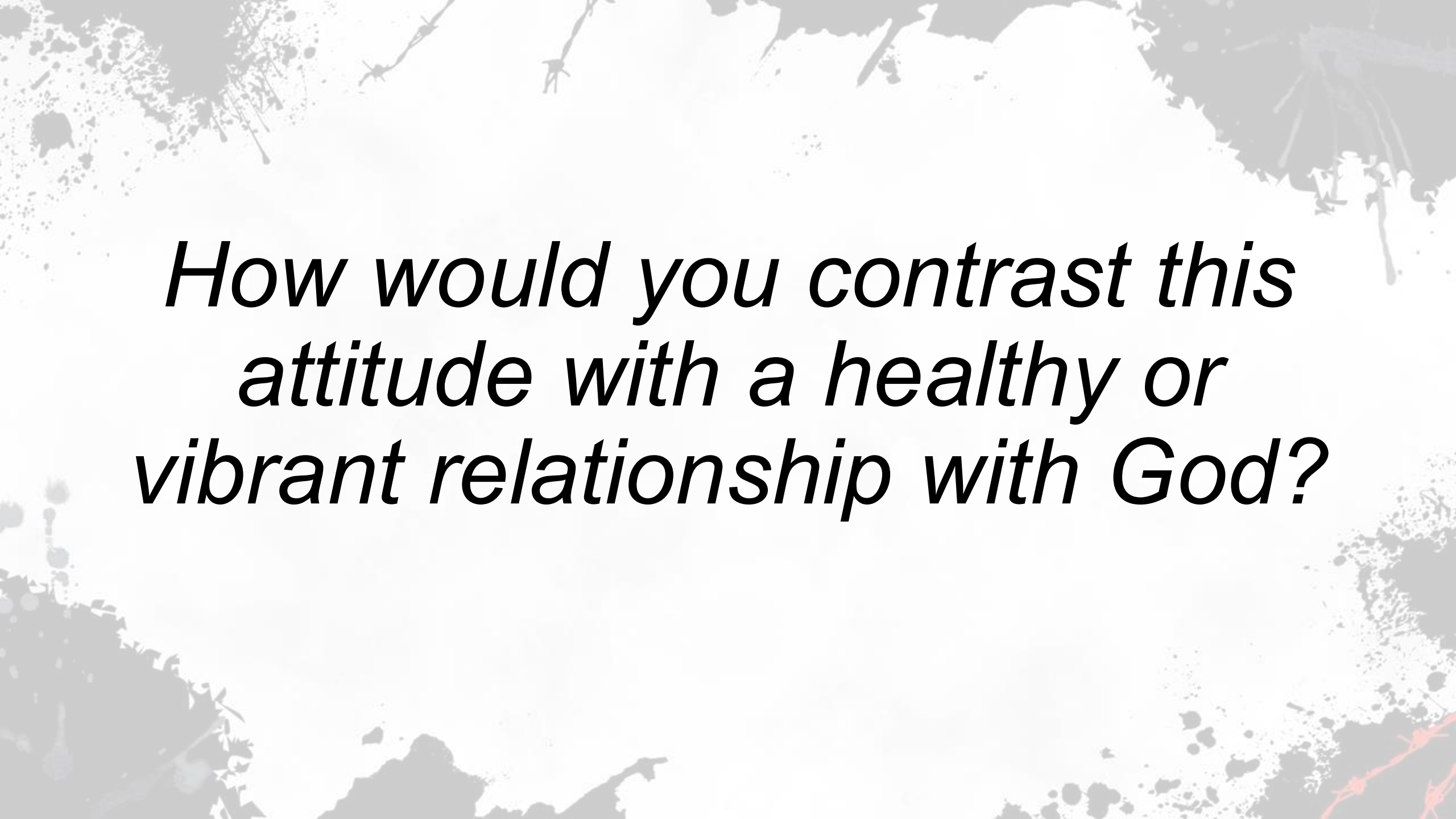
[12] But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food, may be despised. [13] But you say, **'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts.** You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.



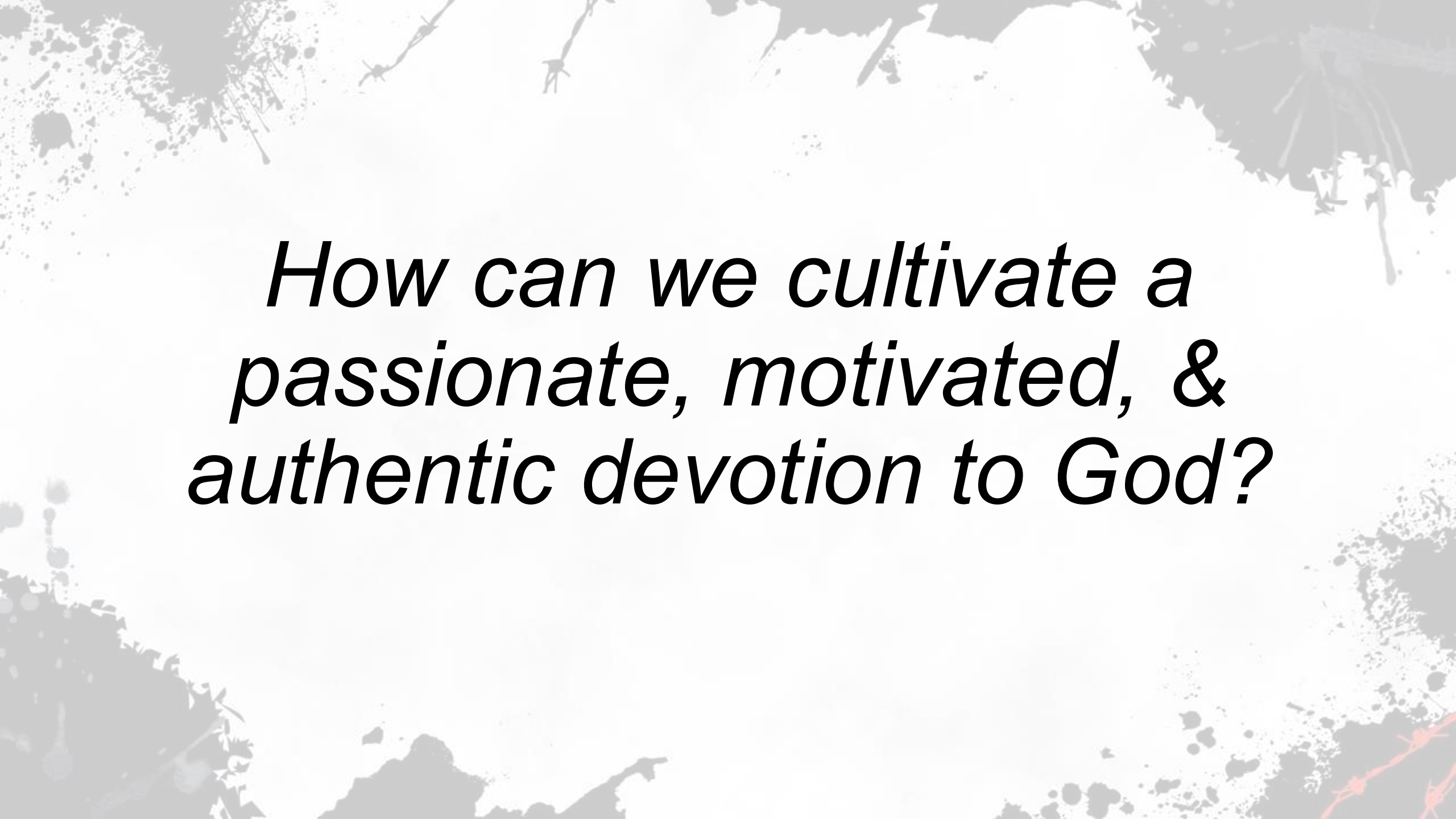
*What was the heart behind
these unworthy sacrifices?*



*Have you ever felt that
following or serving God was
“wearisome?” Why?*

The background of the slide features a light grey, textured surface with various dark grey and black splatters and blotches, particularly concentrated in the corners. Faint, thin lines of barbed wire are visible, running diagonally across the upper portion of the image.

*How would you contrast this
attitude with a healthy or
vibrant relationship with God?*



*How can we cultivate a
passionate, motivated, &
authentic devotion to God?*



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