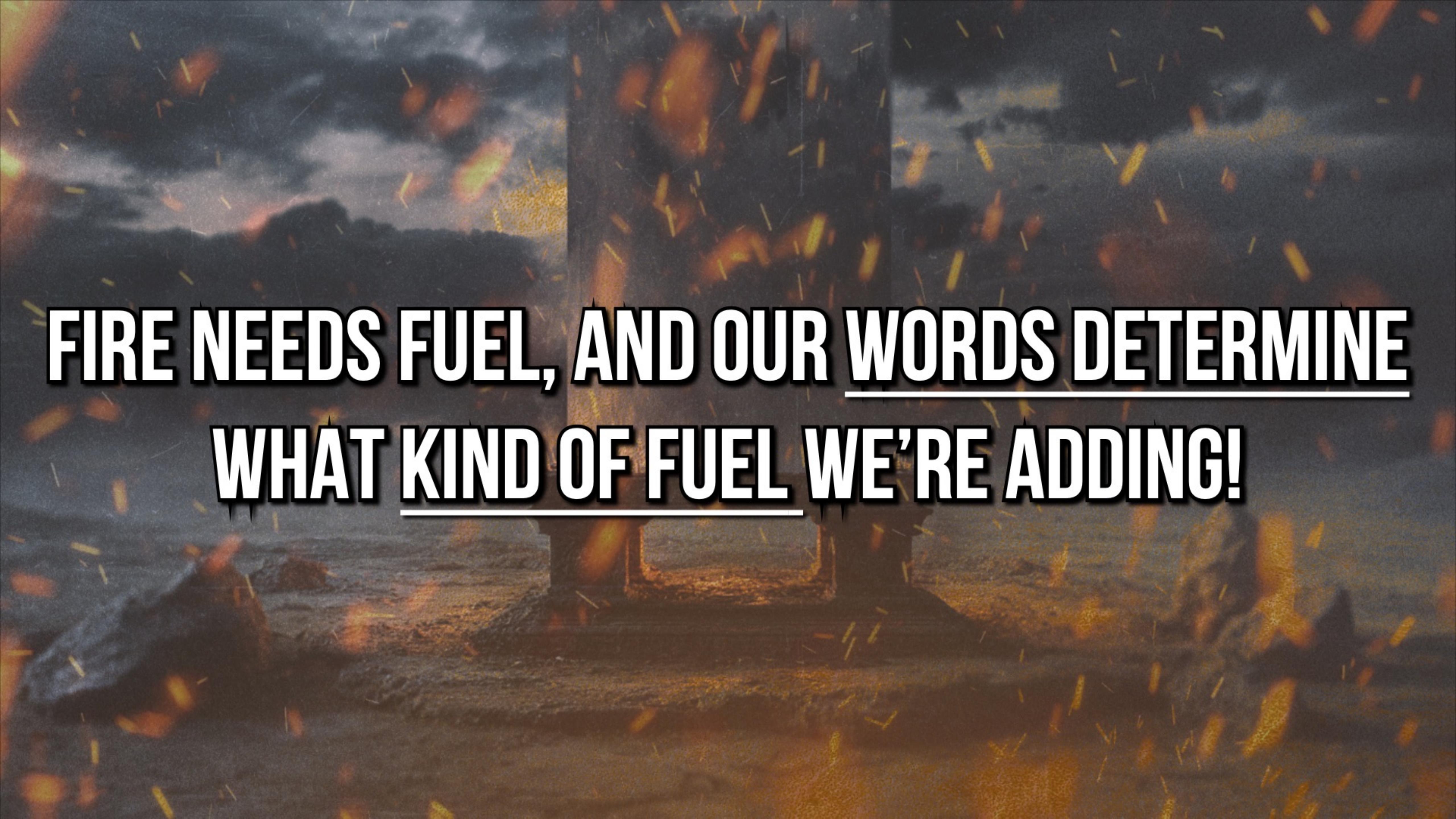
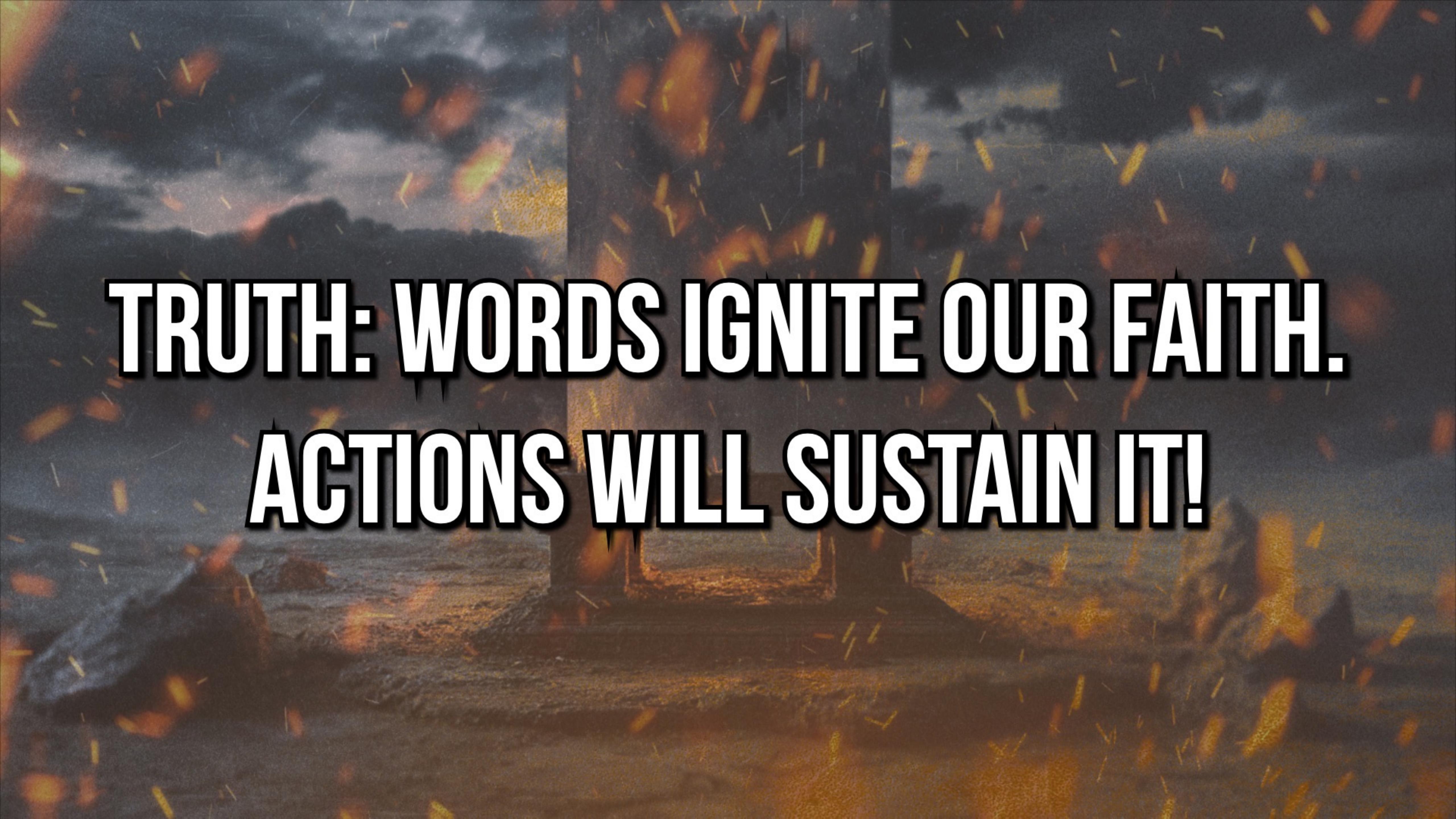


# ALTARS *and* EMBERS



**FIRE NEEDS FUEL, AND OUR WORDS DETERMINE  
WHAT KIND OF FUEL WE'RE ADDING!**



**TRUTH: WORDS IGNITE OUR FAITH.  
ACTIONS WILL SUSTAIN IT!**

**JAMES 1:22 NLT**

**BUT DON'T JUST LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD. YOU MUST DO WHAT  
IT SAYS. OTHERWISE, YOU ARE ONLY FOOLING YOURSELVES.**



**TALK IT... AND WALK IT!**

**JAMES 1:19-25 NLT**

**UNDERSTAND THIS, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS: YOU  
MUST ALL BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK, AND SLOW TO  
GET ANGRY.<sup>20</sup> HUMAN ANGER DOES NOT PRODUCE THE  
RIGHTEOUSNESS GOD DESIRES.<sup>21</sup> SO GET RID OF ALL THE FILTH  
AND EVIL IN YOUR LIVES AND HUMBLY ACCEPT THE WORD GOD  
HAS PLANTED IN YOUR HEARTS, FOR IT HAS THE POWER TO  
SAVE YOUR SOULS.**

# JAMES 1:19-25 NLT

<sup>22</sup> **BUT DON'T JUST LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD. YOU MUST DO WHAT IT SAYS.** OTHERWISE, YOU ARE ONLY FOOLING YOURSELVES. <sup>23</sup> **FOR IF YOU LISTEN TO THE WORD AND DON'T OBEY, IT IS LIKE GLANCING AT YOUR FACE IN A MIRROR.** <sup>24</sup> **YOU SEE YOURSELF, WALK AWAY, AND FORGET WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.**

JAMES 1:19-25 NLT

<sup>25</sup> BUT IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT  
SETS YOU FREE, AND IF YOU DO WHAT IT SAYS AND DON'T  
FORGET WHAT YOU HEARD, THEN GOD WILL BLESS YOU FOR  
DOING IT.

**TRUTH: YOU CAN SAY THE RIGHT  
THINGS AND STILL BE SPIRITUALLY  
MISALIGNED.**

**JAMES 2:17 NLT**

**SO YOU SEE, FAITH BY ITSELF ISN'T ENOUGH. UNLESS IT  
PRODUCES GOOD DEEDS, IT IS DEAD AND USELESS.**

**MATTHEW 7:20-24 NLT**

**YES, JUST AS YOU CAN IDENTIFY A TREE BY ITS FRUIT, SO YOU  
CAN IDENTIFY PEOPLE BY THEIR ACTIONS.<sup>21</sup> “NOT EVERYONE  
WHO CALLS OUT TO ME, ‘LORD! LORD!’ WILL ENTER THE  
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. ONLY THOSE WHO ACTUALLY DO THE  
WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN WILL ENTER.**

# MATTHEW 7:20-24 NLT

<sup>22</sup> ON JUDGMENT DAY MANY WILL SAY TO ME, ‘LORD! LORD! WE PROPHESIED IN YOUR NAME AND CAST OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME AND PERFORMED MANY MIRACLES IN YOUR NAME.’ <sup>23</sup> BUT I WILL REPLY, ‘I NEVER KNEW YOU. GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU WHO BREAK GOD’S LAWS.’ <sup>24</sup> “ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO MY TEACHING AND FOLLOWS IT IS WISE, LIKE A PERSON WHO BUILDS A HOUSE ON SOLID ROCK.

**LUKE 6:46 NLT**

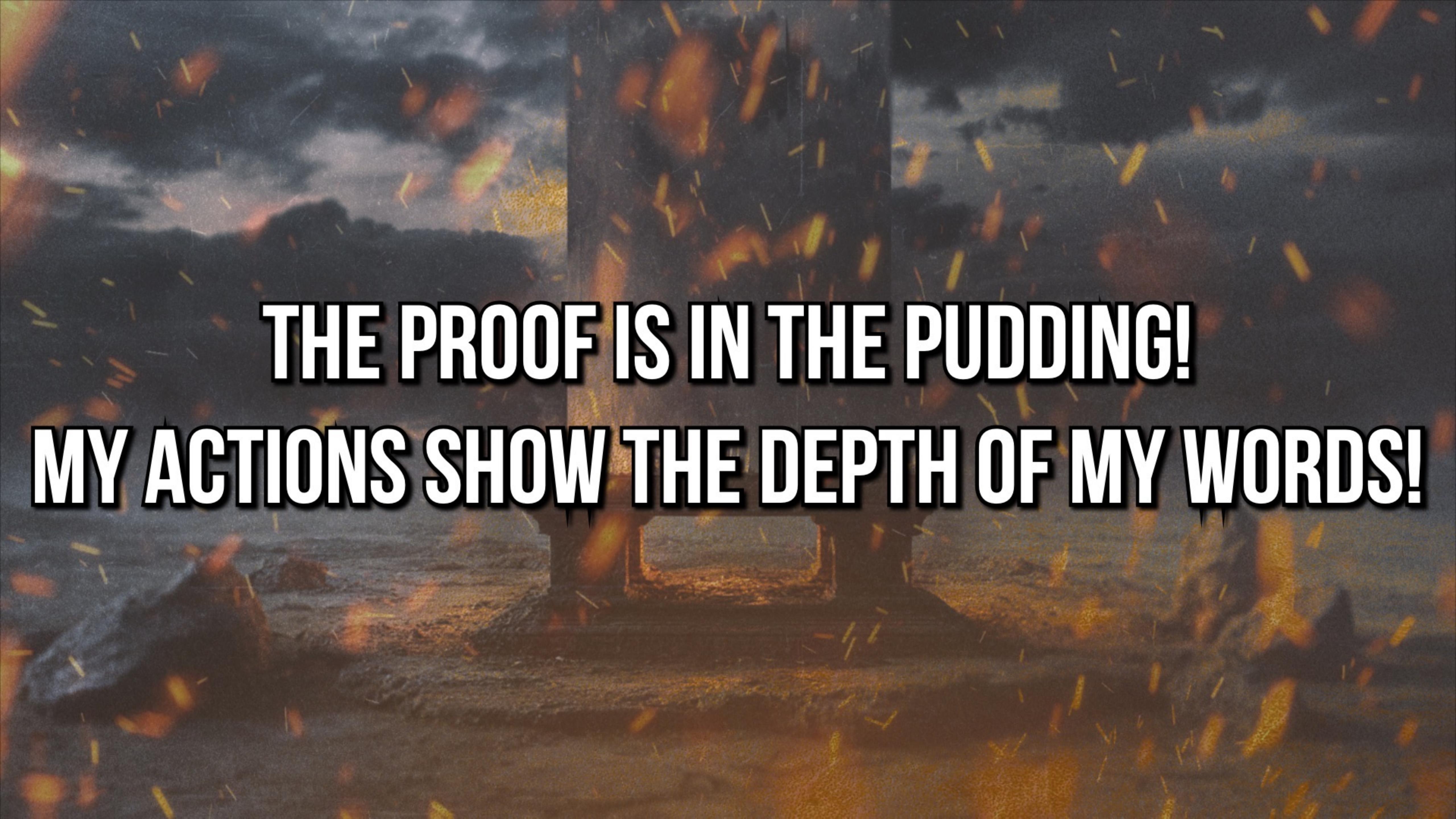
**SO WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME 'LORD, LORD!' WHEN YOU  
DON'T DO WHAT I SAY?**



**JOHN 14:15 NLT**

**IF YOU LOVE ME, OBEY MY COMMANDMENTS.**





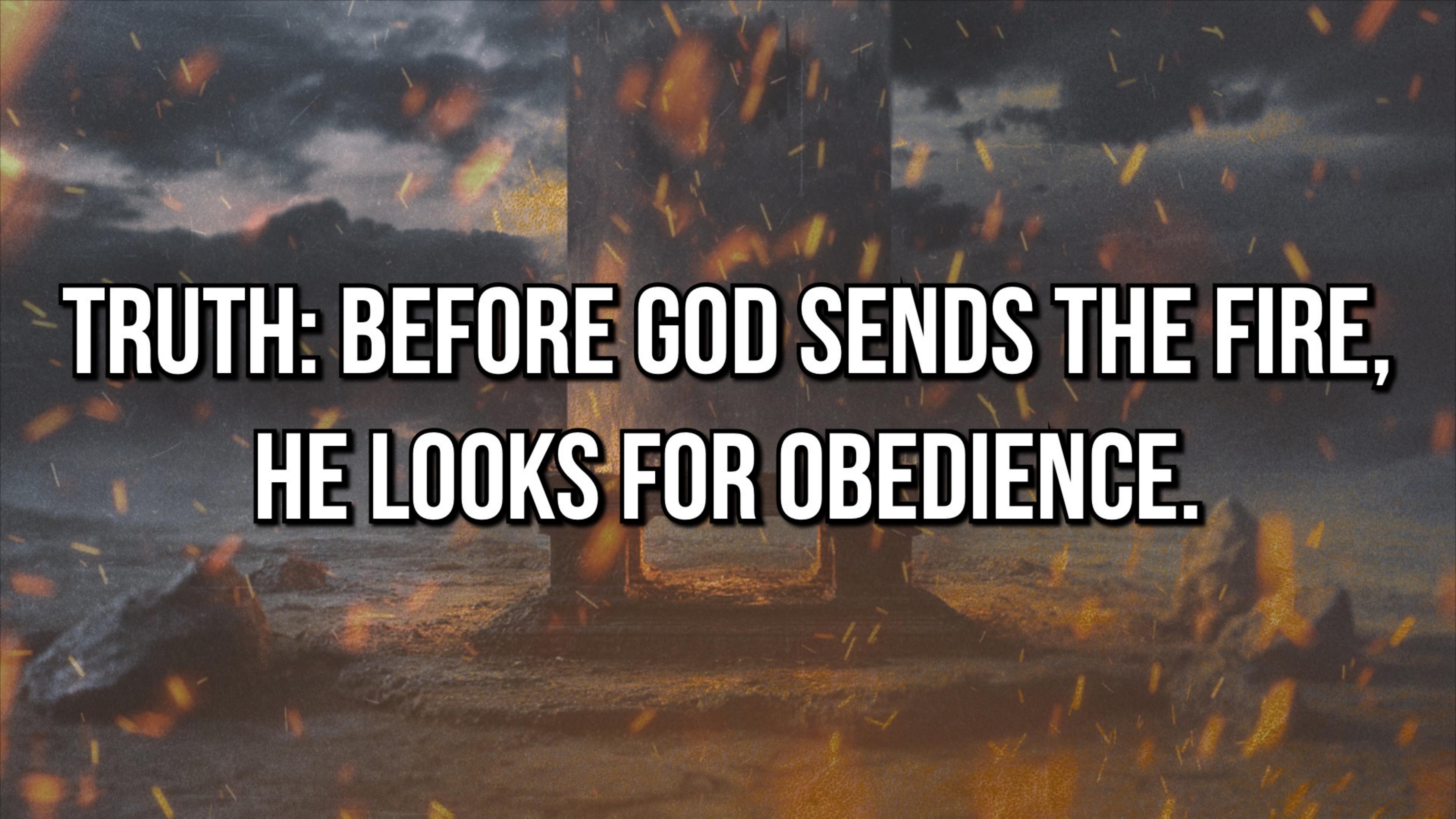
**THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING!  
MY ACTIONS SHOW THE DEPTH OF MY WORDS!**

A dark, atmospheric background featuring a campfire in the center. The fire is surrounded by numerous bright orange and yellow sparks that are falling downwards, creating a sense of motion and heat. The background is a dark, textured gray, suggesting a night sky or a smoky environment.

**TRUTH: WHEN TALK AND WALK ALIGN, THE  
ALTAR HOLDS AND THE FIRE STAYS!**



**TRUTH: GOD'S FIRE RESPONDS TO  
OBEDIENCE, NOT LIP SERVICE!**



**TRUTH: BEFORE GOD SENDS THE FIRE,  
HE LOOKS FOR OBEDIENCE.**

**1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT**

**SO OBADIAH WENT TO TELL AHAB THAT ELIJAH HAD COME,  
AND AHAB WENT OUT TO MEET ELIJAH.<sup>17</sup> WHEN AHAB SAW  
HIM, HE EXCLAIMED, “SO, IS IT REALLY YOU, YOU  
TROUBLEMAKER OF ISRAEL?”**

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

<sup>18</sup> “I HAVE MADE NO TROUBLE FOR ISRAEL,” ELIJAH REPLIED. “YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE THE TROUBLEMAKERS, FOR YOU HAVE REFUSED TO OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD AND HAVE WORSHIPED THE IMAGES OF BAAL INSTEAD. <sup>19</sup> NOW SUMMON ALL ISRAEL TO JOIN ME AT MOUNT CARMEL, ALONG WITH THE 450 PROPHETS OF BAAL AND THE 400 PROPHETS OF ASHERAH WHO ARE SUPPORTED BY JEZEBEL.”

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

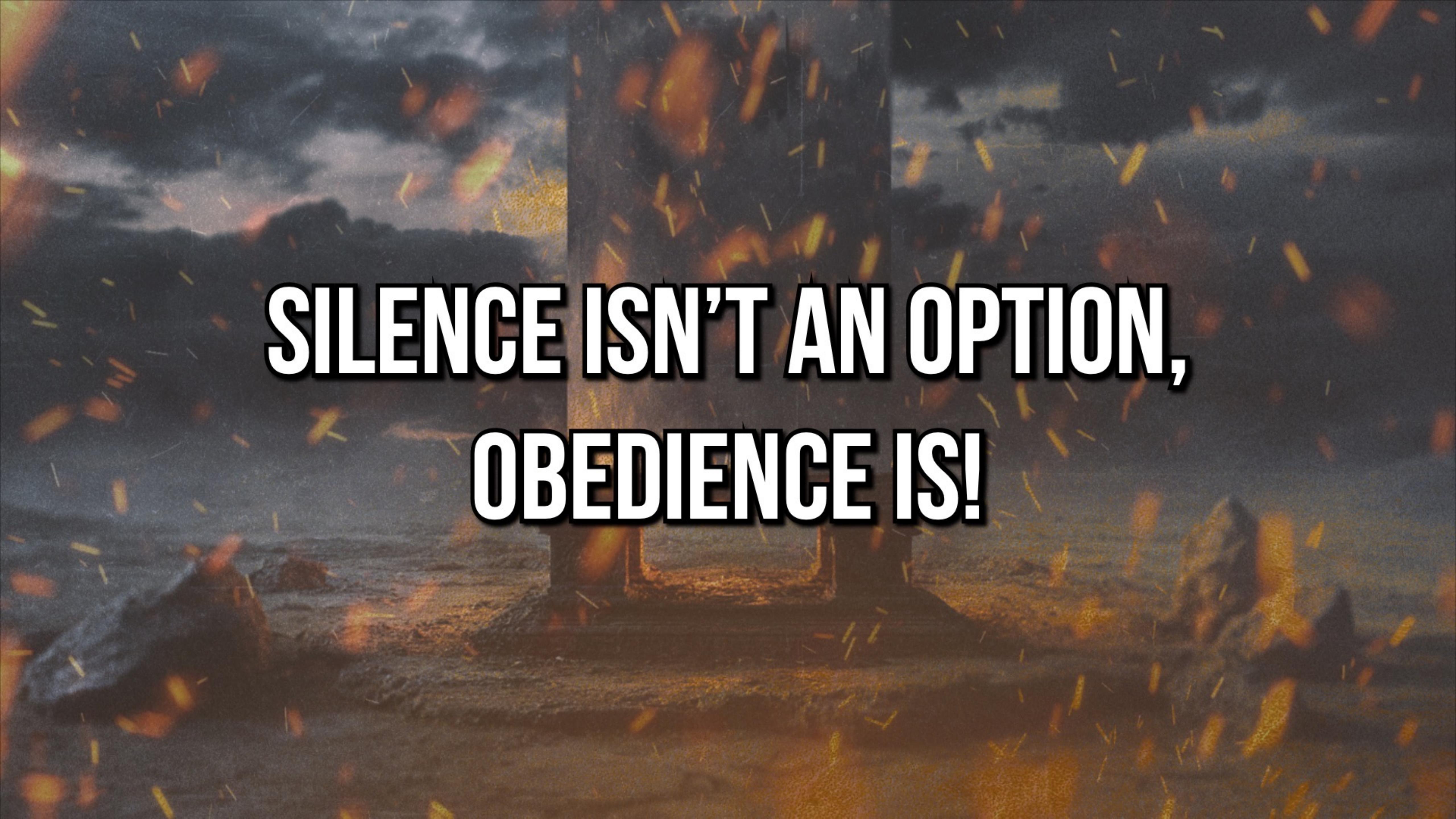
<sup>20</sup> SO AHAB SUMMONED ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND THE PROPHETS TO MOUNT CARMEL. <sup>21</sup> THEN ELIJAH STOOD IN FRONT OF THEM AND SAID, “HOW MUCH LONGER WILL YOU WAVER, HOBBLING BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS? IF THE LORD IS GOD, FOLLOW HIM! BUT IF BAAL IS GOD, THEN FOLLOW HIM!” BUT THE PEOPLE WERE COMPLETELY SILENT.



**FIRE FOLLOWS THE DECISION I MAKE!!!!**

1 KINGS 18:21

THEN ELIJAH STOOD IN FRONT OF THEM AND SAID, “HOW MUCH LONGER WILL YOU WAVER, HOBBLING BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS? IF THE LORD IS GOD, FOLLOW HIM! BUT IF BAAL IS GOD, THEN FOLLOW HIM!” BUT THE PEOPLE WERE COMPLETELY SILENT.

A dark, smoky landscape with a fire in the background.

**SILENCE ISN'T AN OPTION,  
OBEDIENCE IS!**

**TRUTH: WE MUST DECIDE IN OUR HEART  
HOW WE ARE GOING TO RESPOND TO GOD,  
THEN VERBALIZE IT, THEN WALK IT OUT!!!**

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

<sup>22</sup> THEN ELIJAH SAID TO THEM, “I AM THE ONLY PROPHET OF THE LORD WHO IS LEFT, BUT BAAL HAS 450 PROPHETS. <sup>23</sup> NOW BRING TWO BULLS. THE PROPHETS OF BAAL MAY CHOOSE WHICHEVER ONE THEY WISH AND CUT IT INTO PIECES AND LAY IT ON THE WOOD OF THEIR ALTAR, BUT WITHOUT SETTING FIRE TO IT. I WILL PREPARE THE OTHER BULL AND LAY IT ON THE WOOD ON THE ALTAR BUT NOT SET FIRE TO IT.

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

**<sup>24</sup> THEN CALL ON THE NAME OF YOUR GOD, AND I WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD. THE GOD WHO ANSWERS BY SETTING FIRE TO THE WOOD IS THE TRUE GOD!" AND ALL THE PEOPLE AGREED.**

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

**25** THEN ELIJAH SAID TO THE PROPHETS OF BAAL, “YOU GO FIRST, FOR THERE ARE MANY OF YOU. CHOOSE ONE OF THE BULLS AND PREPARE IT AND CALL ON THE NAME OF YOUR GOD. BUT DO NOT SET FIRE TO THE WOOD.” **26** SO THEY PREPARED ONE OF THE BULLS AND PLACED IT ON THE ALTAR.

1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

THEN THEY CALLED ON THE NAME OF BAAL FROM MORNING  
UNTIL NOONTIME, SHOUTING, “O BAAL, ANSWER US!” BUT  
THERE WAS NO REPLY OF ANY KIND. THEN THEY DANCED,  
HOBBLING AROUND THE ALTAR THEY HAD MADE.

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

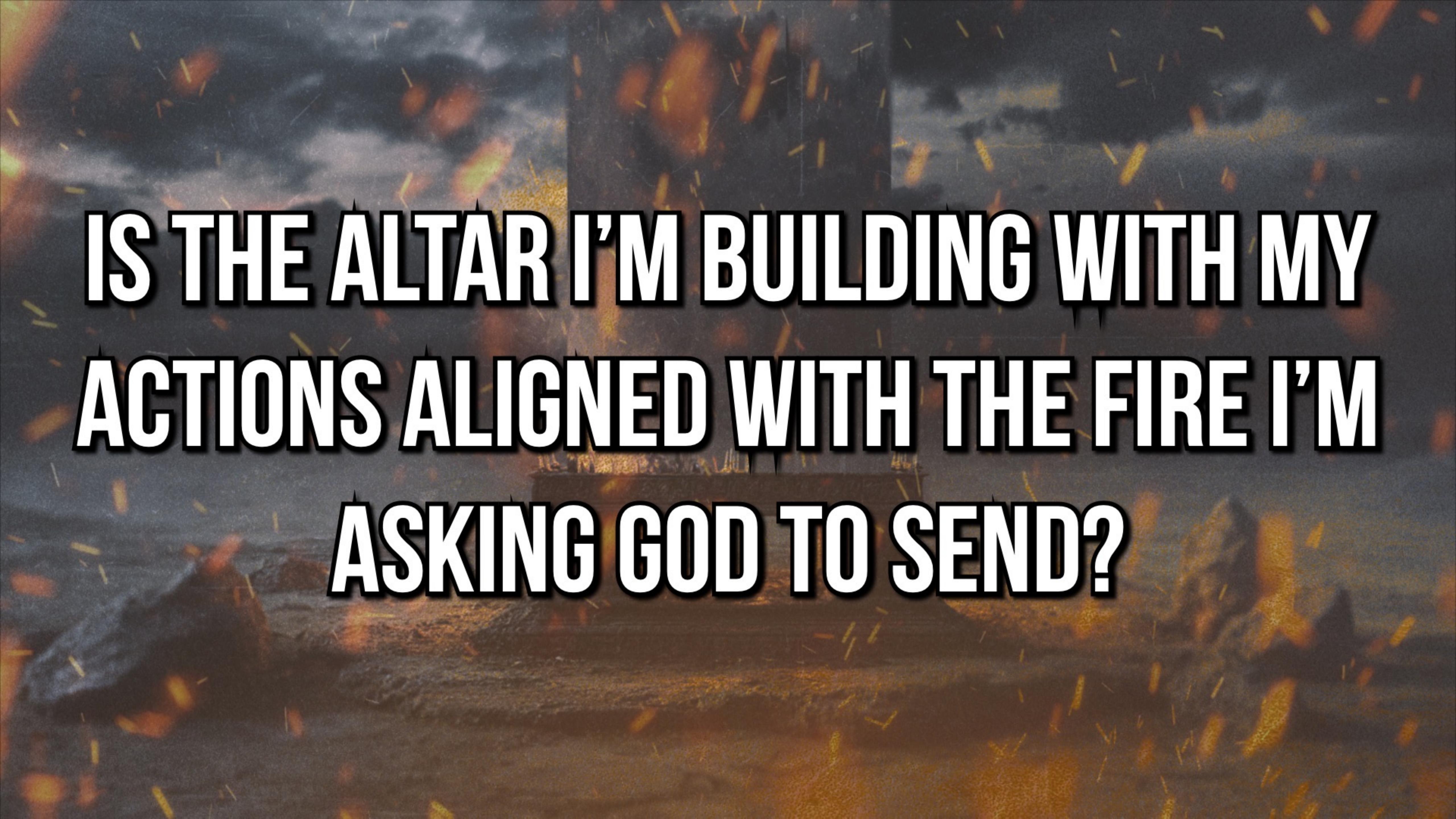
**27** ABOUT NOONTIME ELIJAH BEGAN MOCKING THEM. “YOU’LL HAVE TO SHOUT LOUDER,” HE SCOFFED, “FOR SURELY, HE IS A GOD! PERHAPS HE IS DAYDREAMING OR IS RELIEVING HIMSELF. OR MAYBE HE IS AWAY ON A TRIP, OR IS ASLEEP AND NEEDS TO BE WAKENED!”

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

<sup>28</sup> SO THEY SHOUTED LOUDER, AND FOLLOWING THEIR NORMAL CUSTOM, THEY CUT THEMSELVES WITH KNIVES AND SWORDS UNTIL THE BLOOD GUSHED OUT. <sup>29</sup> THEY RAVED ALL AFTERNOON UNTIL THE TIME OF THE EVENING SACRIFICE, BUT STILL THERE WAS NO SOUND, NO REPLY, NO RESPONSE.



**MOVEMENT MATTERS,**  
**BUT DIRECTION MATTERS MORE.**



**IS THE ALTAR I'M BUILDING WITH MY  
ACTIONS ALIGNED WITH THE FIRE I'M  
ASKING GOD TO SEND?**

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

<sup>30</sup> THEN ELIJAH CALLED TO THE PEOPLE, “COME OVER HERE!” THEY ALL CROWDED AROUND HIM AS HE REPAIRED THE ALTAR <sup>31</sup> OF THE LORD THAT HAD BEEN TORN DOWN. <sup>31</sup> HE TOOK TWELVE STONES, ONE TO REPRESENT EACH OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, <sup>32</sup> AND HE USED THE STONES TO REBUILD THE ALTAR IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. THEN HE DUG A TRENCH AROUND THE ALTAR LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD ABOUT THREE GALLONS.

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

**33** HE PILED WOOD ON THE ALTAR, CUT THE BULL INTO PIECES, AND LAID THE PIECES ON THE WOOD. THEN HE SAID, “FILL FOUR LARGE JARS WITH WATER, AND POUR THE WATER OVER THE OFFERING AND THE WOOD.” **34** AFTER THEY HAD DONE THIS, HE SAID, “DO THE SAME THING AGAIN!” AND WHEN THEY WERE FINISHED, HE SAID,

1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

“NOW DO IT A THIRD TIME!” SO THEY DID AS HE SAID,<sup>35</sup> AND THE WATER RAN AROUND THE ALTAR AND EVEN FILLED THE TRENCH.



**SPIRITUAL GROWTH REQUIRES  
REPETITION, NOT OCCASIONAL EFFORT.**

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

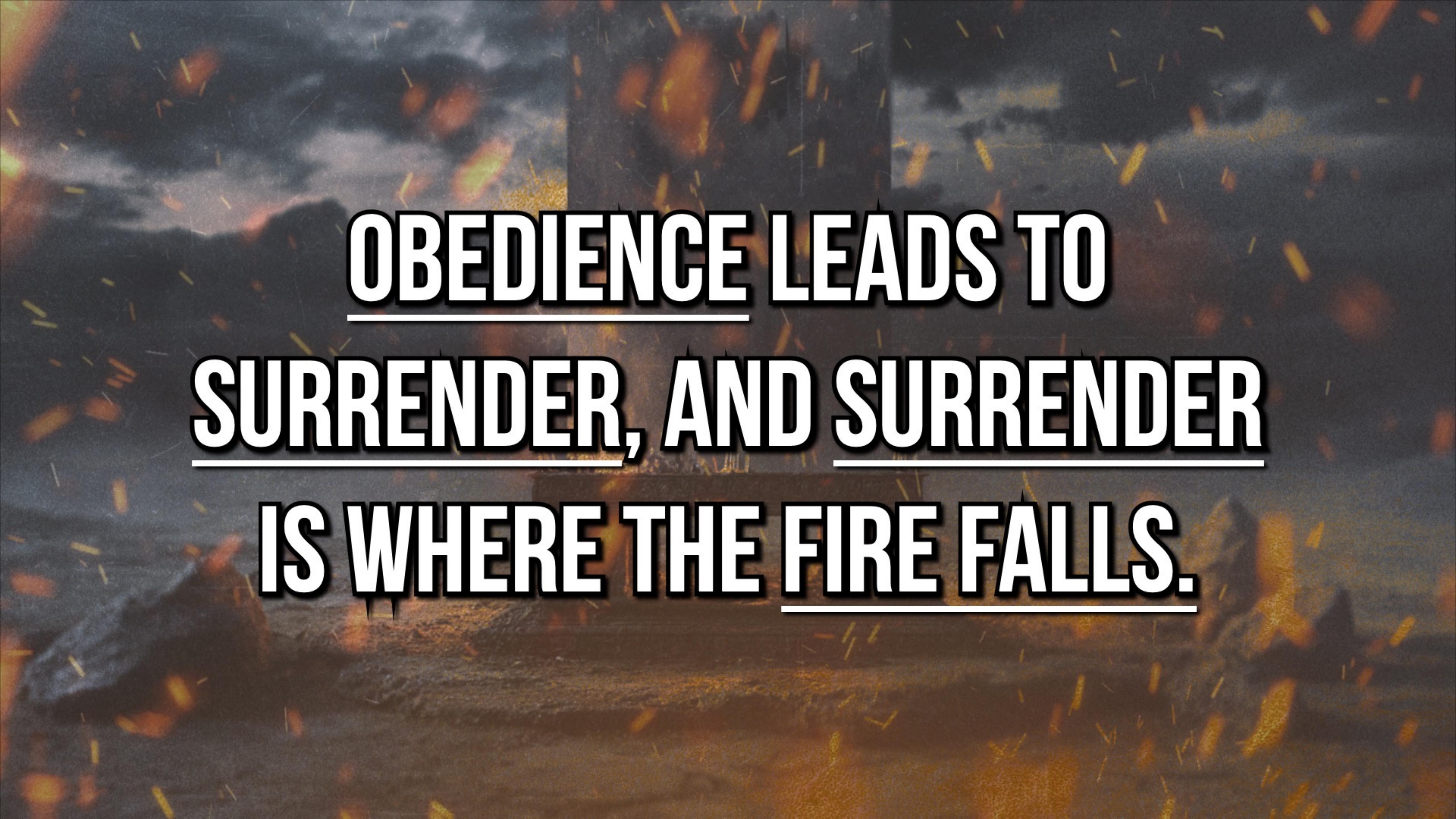
**<sup>36</sup> AT THE USUAL TIME FOR OFFERING THE EVENING SACRIFICE,  
ELIJAH THE PROPHET WALKED UP TO THE ALTAR AND PRAYED,  
“O LORD, GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, PROVE TODAY  
THAT YOU ARE GOD IN ISRAEL AND THAT I AM YOUR SERVANT.  
PROVE THAT I HAVE DONE ALL THIS AT YOUR COMMAND.**

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

**<sup>37</sup> O LORD, ANSWER ME! ANSWER ME SO THESE PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU, O LORD, ARE GOD AND THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT THEM BACK TO YOURSELF.”**

# 1 KINGS 18:16-40 NLT

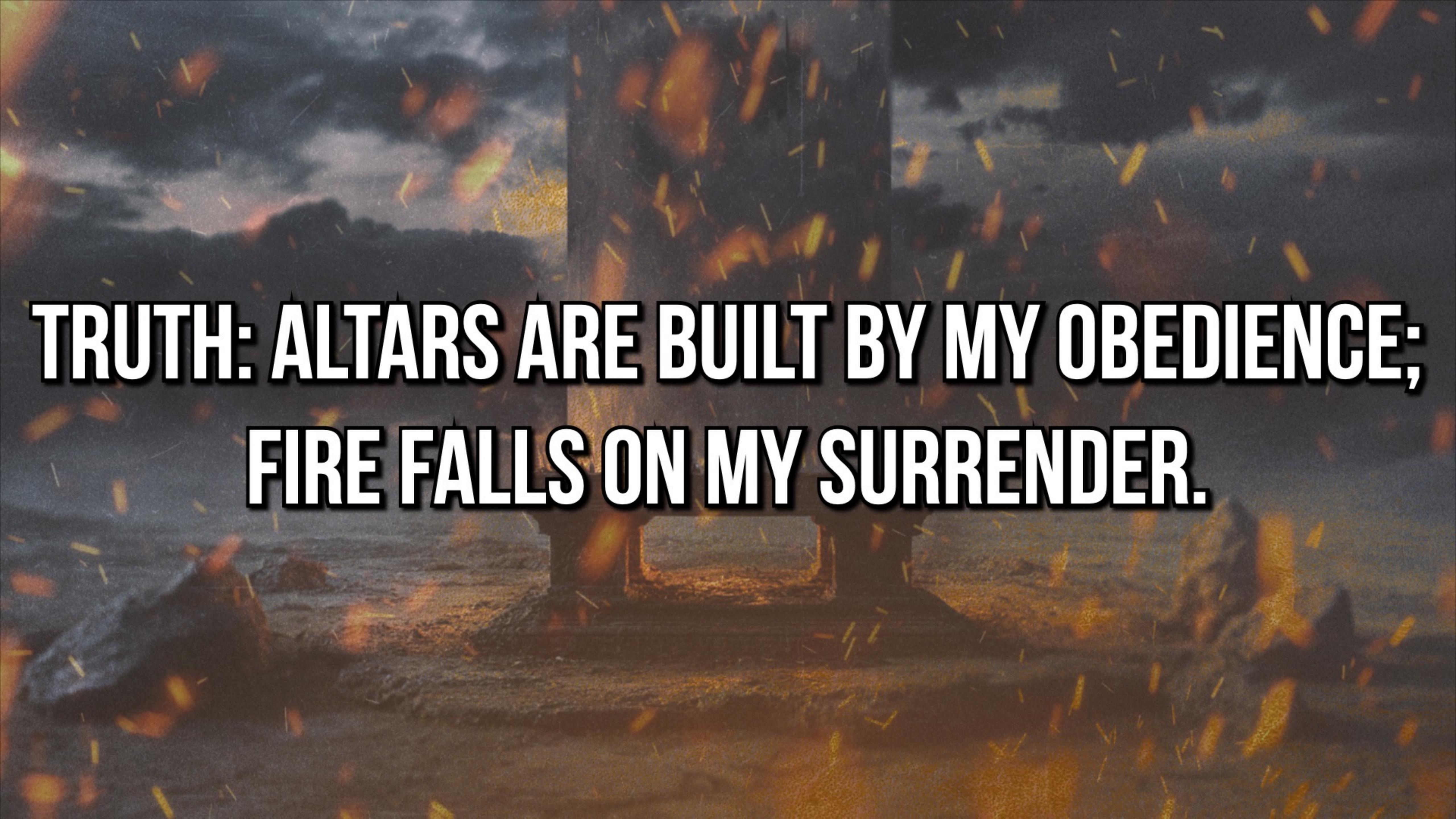
**<sup>38</sup> IMMEDIATELY THE FIRE OF THE LORD FLASHED DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND BURNED UP THE YOUNG BULL, THE WOOD, THE STONES, AND THE DUST. IT EVEN LICKED UP ALL THE WATER IN THE TRENCH! <sup>39</sup> AND WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE SAW IT, THEY FELL FACE DOWN ON THE GROUND AND CRIED OUT, “THE LORD—HE IS GOD! YES, THE LORD IS GOD!”**



**OBEDIENCE LEADS TO  
SURRENDER, AND SURRENDER  
IS WHERE THE FIRE FALLS.**

**JAMES 4:17 NLT**

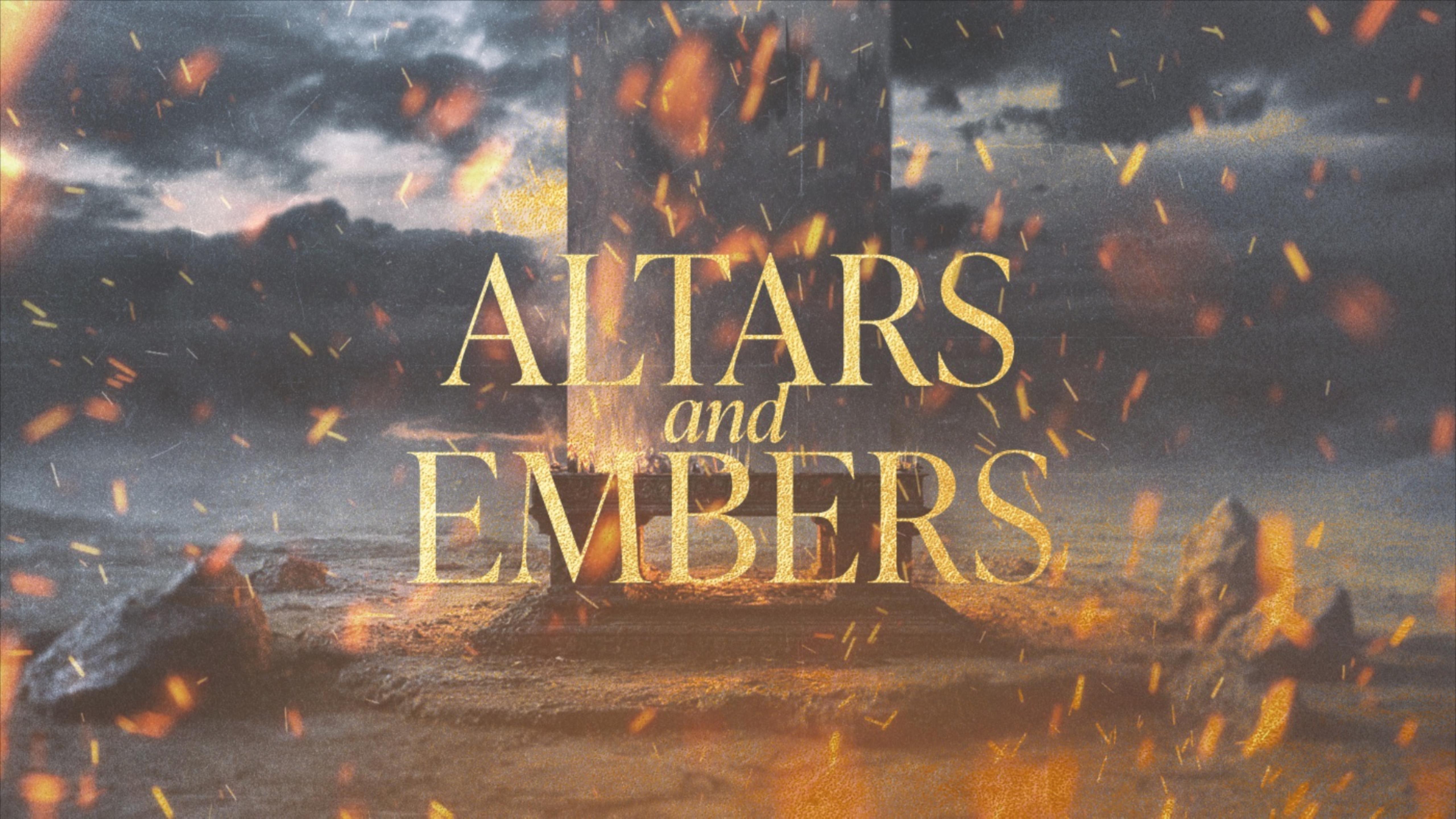
**REMEMBER, IT IS SIN TO KNOW WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO AND  
THEN NOT DO IT.**



**TRUTH: ALTARS ARE BUILT BY MY OBEDIENCE,  
FIRE FALLS ON MY SURRENDER.**



**TALK IT... WALK IT!**



# ALTARS *and* EMBERS