

THE GOD GAP

MOUSEMINDEDNESS





1. Three Investments

v14-15



**Everything you have and are has
been given to you.**



You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” Deuteronomy 8:17–18

What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? 1 Corinthians 4:7

It's not fair.



2. Two Responses

v16-18



The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work ... the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:16–18

They understand and are in sync with the heart and the intentions of the master.



Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.'
Matthew 25:24

You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. Matthew 25:26–27

3. One Tragedy

v28-30



So take the bag of gold from him ... 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 25:28,30

He had a small vision.



“A mouse-minded man.” J P Meier



**‘Master’ ... I knew that you are a hard man,
harvesting where you have not sown and
gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25
So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in
the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.
Matthew 25:24–25**

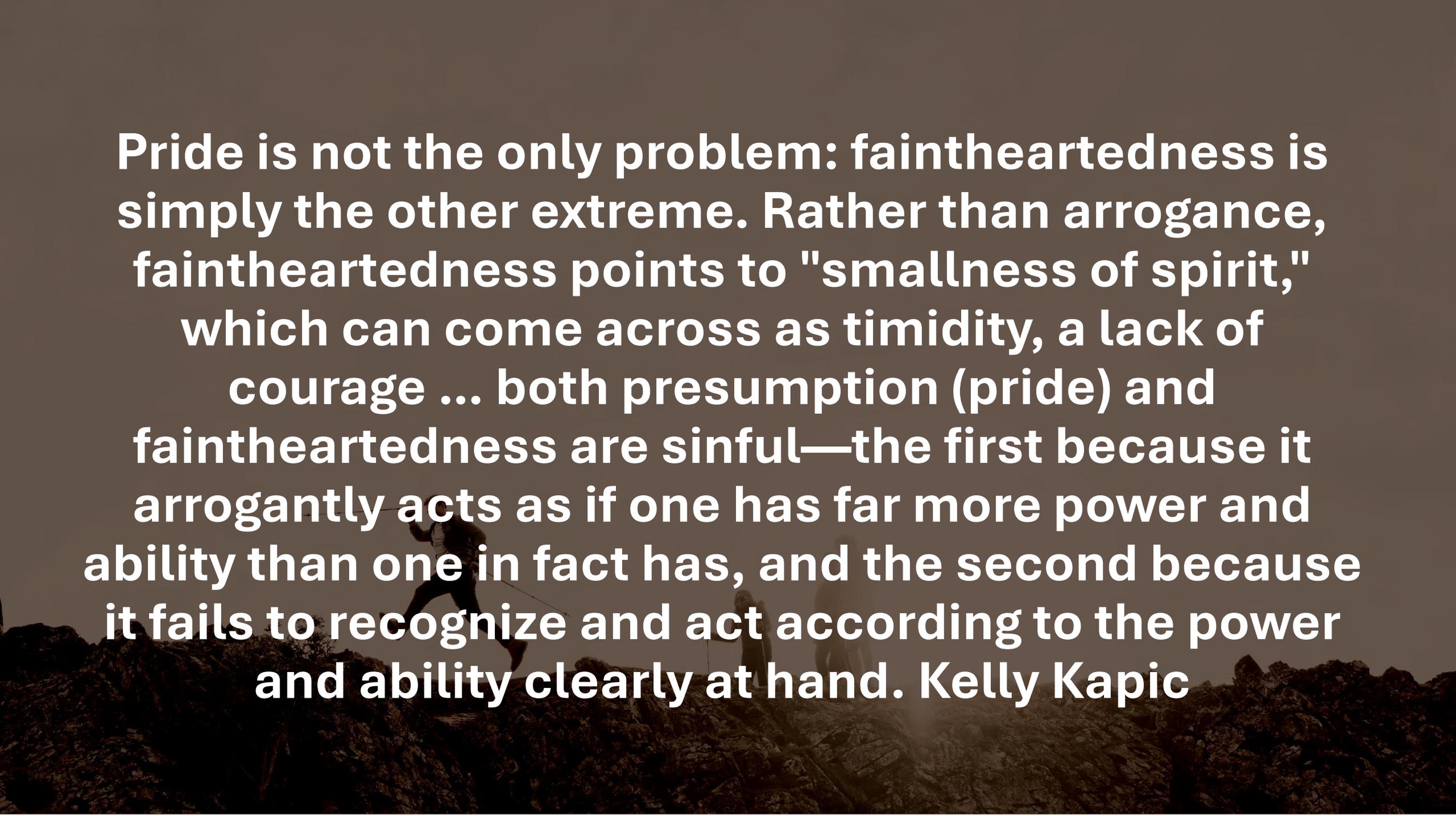
**When fear and self protection dominate,
faintheartedness is inevitable.**



**Life dominating fear and self protection
are simply the flip side of pride.**



Pride is not the only problem: faintheartedness is simply the other extreme. Rather than arrogance, faintheartedness points to "smallness of spirit," which can come across as timidity, a lack of courage ... both presumption (pride) and faintheartedness are sinful—the first because it arrogantly acts as if one has far more power and ability than one in fact has, and the second because it fails to recognize and act according to the power and ability clearly at hand. Kelly Kapic

A person is seen climbing a dark, rocky mountain peak. The person is in the lower-left quadrant of the image, wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants, and is using a rope to ascend. The background is a hazy, overcast sky, and the overall scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the ruggedness of the terrain.

**Well done, good and faithful servant.
Matthew 25:21**