

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and a full canopy of green leaves stands in the center of a landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow behind the tree and casting long shadows. The ground is rocky and uneven, with the tree's roots exposed and spreading out across the foreground. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a sky with scattered clouds. The text "SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image, with the tree's trunk acting as a central vertical element between the two words.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

A large, leafy tree stands in a landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The tree's roots are visible, spreading out across the ground. The background shows rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle.

# **GIVING TO THE LORD**

## **Acts 20: 25-38**

**[25] And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. [26] Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, [27] for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. [28] Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. [29] I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;**

**[30] and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. [31] Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. [32] And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. [33] I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. [34] You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. [35] In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said,**

**‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”**

**[36] And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. [37] And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, [38] being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship. (ESV)**



**Paul's last face to face message to his friends:**

**1. Remember the Gospel of Grace**

**2. [35] "It is more blessed to give than to receive"**

**"Believe the Gospel and live radically generous lives"**

**- Tim Keller**

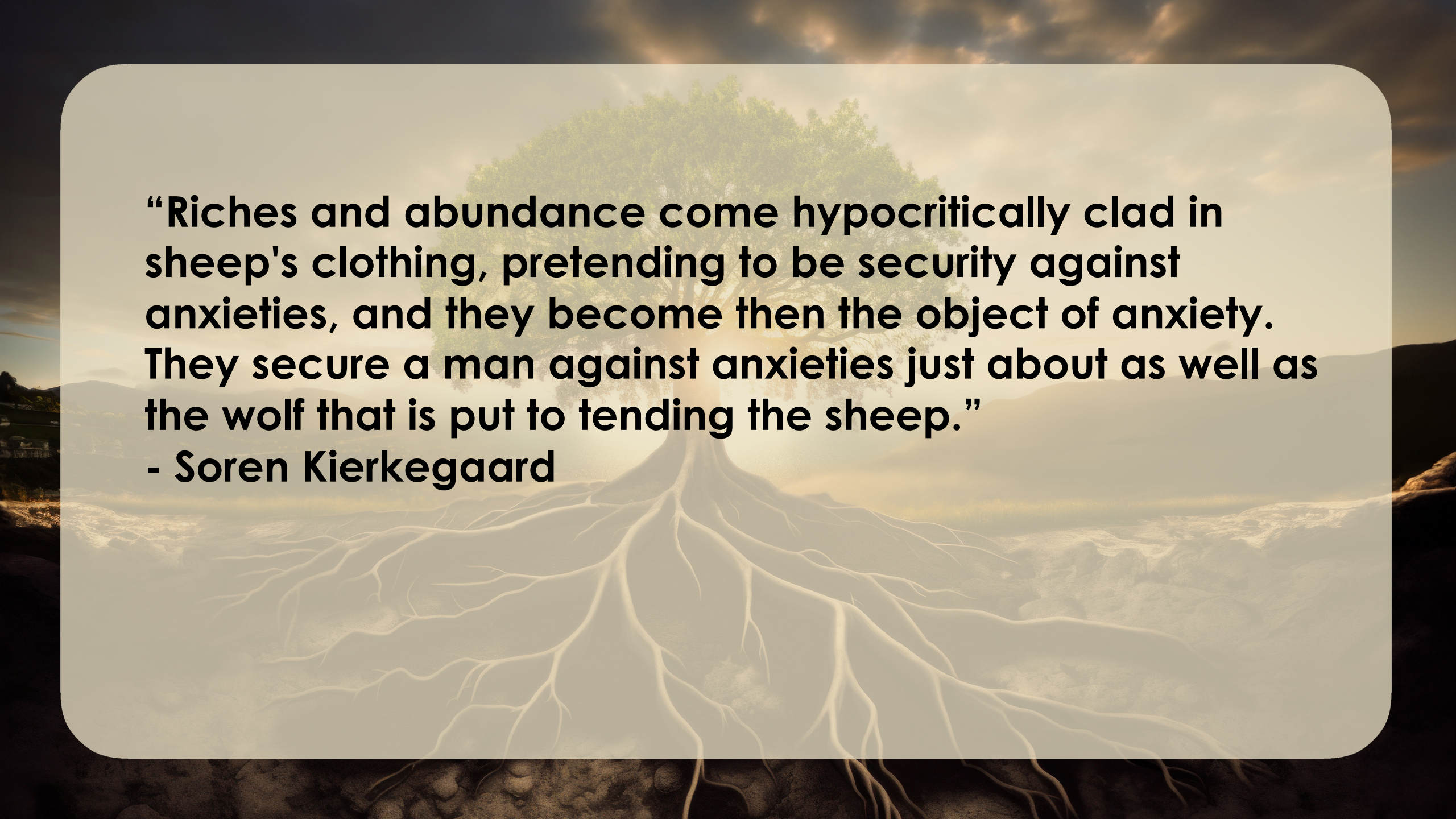
## **Greed is hard to self diagnose...**

**Only 8% of people with a net worth of more than \$1 million, not including retirement and their home, believe they are wealthy.**

**- Ameriprise Financial (2023)**

**In 1850, the average American annual income was \$10,000 in today's money**

**The average HHI globally was \$10,000-\$12,000 in 2023**

A large, leafy tree stands in a landscape, with its roots exposed and spreading across the ground. The scene is set against a backdrop of a sunset or sunrise, with a cloudy sky and distant hills. The overall mood is contemplative and somewhat somber.

**“Riches and abundance come hypocritically clad in sheep's clothing, pretending to be security against anxieties, and they become then the object of anxiety. They secure a man against anxieties just about as well as the wolf that is put to tending the sheep.”**

**- Soren Kierkegaard**



## **Philippians 4:4–7**

**[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. [5] Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; [6] do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)**

# Guidelines for Giving

- **Decide what to give, do it cheerfully.**  
**[2 Cor 6-7]**
- **Do it in secret, let your Father give the reward.**  
**[Mathew 6:1-4]**
- **Open your eyes to those in need**  
**[2 Corinthians 8:1-4]**
- **Do it first and regularly**  
**[2 Corinthians 8:1-4]**

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and a wide, spreading canopy of green leaves stands in the center of the image. Its roots are exposed and spread out across the ground, which appears to be a mix of soil and rocks. The background features a hazy, mountainous landscape under a sky with soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is serene and evokes a sense of growth and stability.

## **At BridgePoint:**

**Our mission is clear: making disciples of Jesus Christ from all nations. We want to imitate him, growing as his followers and helping others follow him, too.**

***You cannot imitate him, without giving generously***