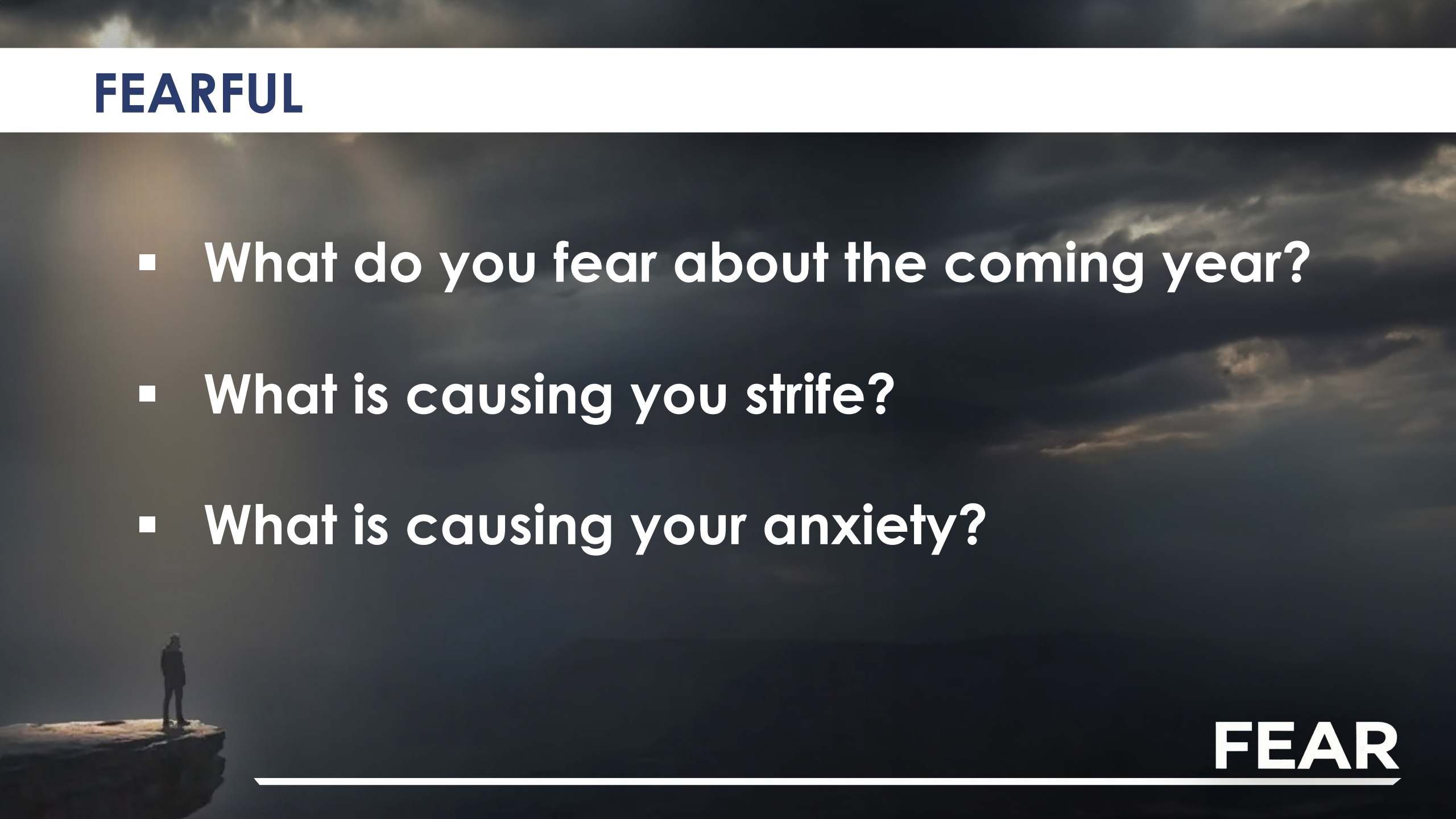
A person stands on the edge of a dark, rocky cliff, silhouetted against a bright, hazy sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow across the sky and the landscape below. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, and the overall atmosphere is one of solitude and contemplation.

# FEAR

| Living a Shadow Life |

# FEARFUL

- What do you fear about the coming year?
- What is causing you strife?
- What is causing your anxiety?

A person stands on the edge of a dark, rocky cliff, looking out over a vast, dark sea under a heavy, stormy sky. The scene is dimly lit, with light breaking through the clouds on the left side, creating a dramatic and somber atmosphere.

**FEAR**

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# FEAR GOD

## **Ecclesiastes 12:13 (ESV)**

“... Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

## **Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”



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# FEAR

# FEAR GOD

Why would a loving God  
command you to Fear Him?

**FEAR**

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# FEAR GOD

When God commands us to “Fear Him” in the Old Testament and the New, he means for us to have a “holy reverence”, to be in “awe”, to “respect” and to have a “joyful trust”.

- Quotations from Charles Spurgeon and Tim Keller



**FEAR**

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# FEAR NOT

Genesis 15:1	<b>“Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”</b>
Genesis 26:24	<b>“Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you...”</b>
Exodus 14:13	<b>“Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD...”</b>
Deuteronomy 31:6	<b>“Do not fear... for it is the LORD your God who goes with you.”</b>
Joshua 1:9	<b>“Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you.”</b>
Judges 6:23	<b>“Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.”</b>
1 Chronicles 28:20	<b>“Do not be afraid... for the LORD God... will not leave you or forsake you.”</b>



**FEAR**

# FEAR NOT

Isaiah 41:10	“Fear not, for I am with you... I will strengthen you...”
Isaiah 41:13	“Fear not, I am the one who helps you.”
Isaiah 43:1	“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name...”
Jeremiah 1:8	“Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you.”
Daniel 10:12	“Fear not, Daniel... your words have been heard...”
Joel 2:21	“Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice...”



**FEAR**

# FEAR GOD

“The fear of God is the death of every other fear; like a mighty lion, it chases all other fears before it.”

– **Charles Spurgeon**

“The love of the world cannot be expunged by a mere demonstration of the world’s worthlessness. But may it not be supplanted by the love of that which is more worthy than itself?”

– **Thomas Chalmers**

**FEAR**

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## ROMANS 8:28–39

## THE ANTIDOTE TO FEAR

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.



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# FEAR

## ROMANS 8:28–39

## THE ANTIDOTE TO FEAR

<sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?



**FEAR**

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## ROMANS 8:28–39

## THE ANTIDOTE TO FEAR

<sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?



**FEAR**

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<sup>36</sup> As it is written,  
“For your sake we are being killed all the day  
long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”



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# FEAR

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)



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# FEAR

# A CHOICE

Choose Fear of God and take on a life where in all things you are more than a conqueror

OR . . .

**FEAR**

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# A CHOICE

**Choose Fear of the Created and a life of ...**

Elevated cortisol and chronic stress hormones, muscle tension, headaches, digestive problems, sleep disturbances, fatigue, decreased ability to regulate emotions, decreased ability to keep and store memories, and decision paralysis.

- Mayo Clinic (repercussions of long-term fear)

**FEAR**

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**WHICH ARE YOU?**

**ROMANS 8:29**

**Are you the chosen of God,  
predestined to be His children?**

**OR**

**Are you lonely and bitter at the world for your  
rejection or rank among the created order?**

**FEAR**

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**WHICH ARE YOU?**

**ROMANS 8:29**

**Are you being transformed  
to be more like Jesus?**

**OR**

**Are you the victim of circumstance  
without hope of purpose?**

**FEAR**

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**WHICH ARE YOU?**

**ROMANS 8:30**

**Are you justified and found  
complete in the Lord?**

**OR**

**Are you fearful of rejection and being found  
lacking by the created things of this world?**

**FEAR**

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**WHICH ARE YOU?**

**ROMANS 8:30**

**Are you marked by the eternal unending hope  
that you will be glorified with Jesus?**

**OR**

**Are you fearful and crushed by the weight  
of some lacking tomorrow?**



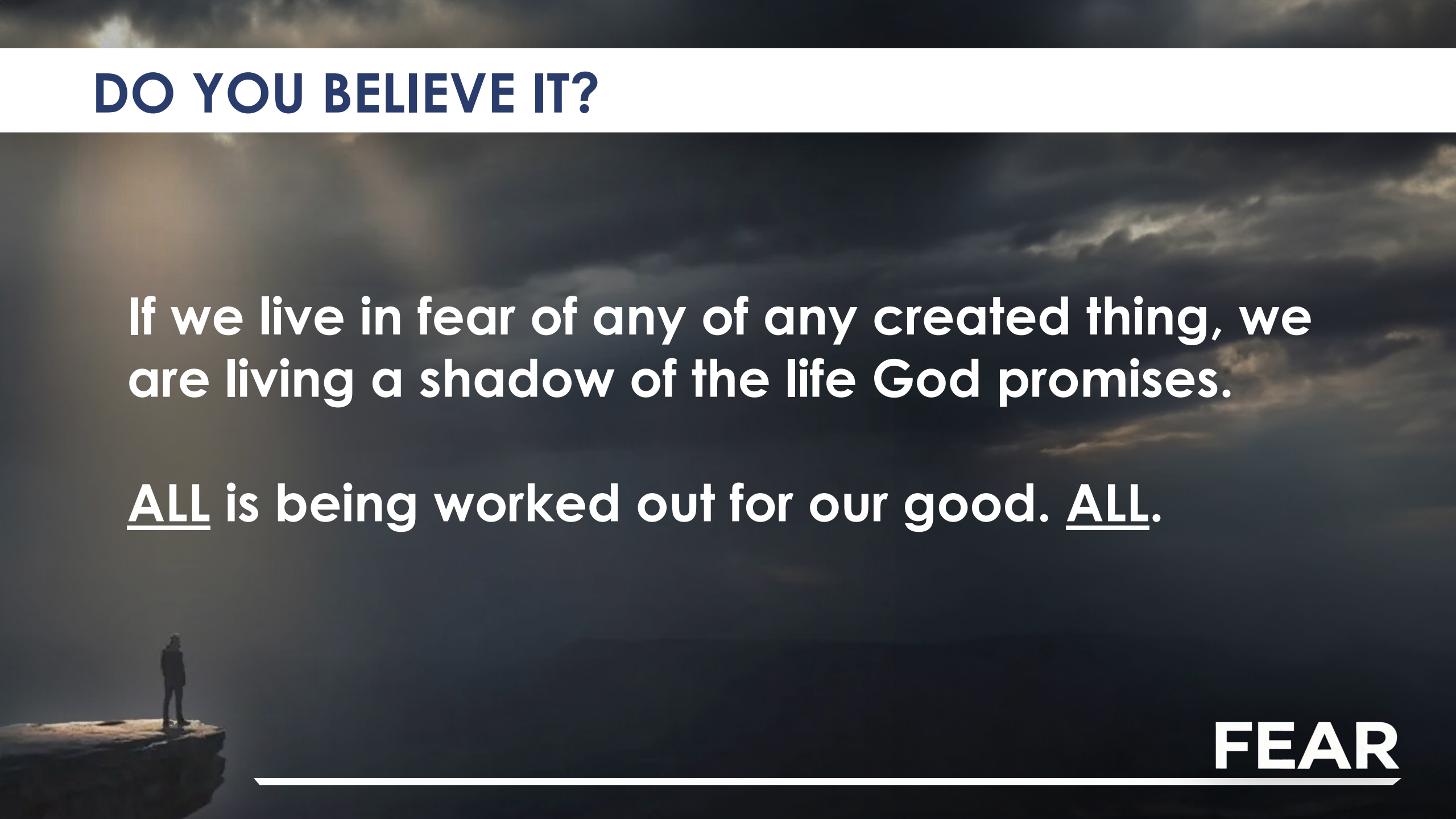
**FEAR**

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# DO YOU BELIEVE IT?

If we live in fear of any of any created thing, we are living a shadow of the life God promises.

ALL is being worked out for our good. ALL.



**FEAR**

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# CONCLUSION

Christians are not promised easy or carefree lives.

But we are promised “that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

– Romans 8:38-39

**FEAR**

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# APPLICATION

## 1. Choose to believe:

God is good.

God is in control.

God loves us.

→ This cancels out all fear.

## 2. Repent and turn away from fear of the created

## 3. In 2026, be a people known to Fear God



**FEAR**

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# FINAL THOUGHT

Do not live a life a half-life in shadow fearful.

He keeps His promises. Your fear lies.

**FEAR**

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A person stands on the edge of a dark, rocky cliff, silhouetted against a bright, hazy sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow across the sky and the distant landscape. The person is looking out over a vast, open area that appears to be a body of water or a flat plain. The overall mood is contemplative and dramatic.

# FEAR

| Living a Shadow Life |