

THE LETTER OF

JAMES



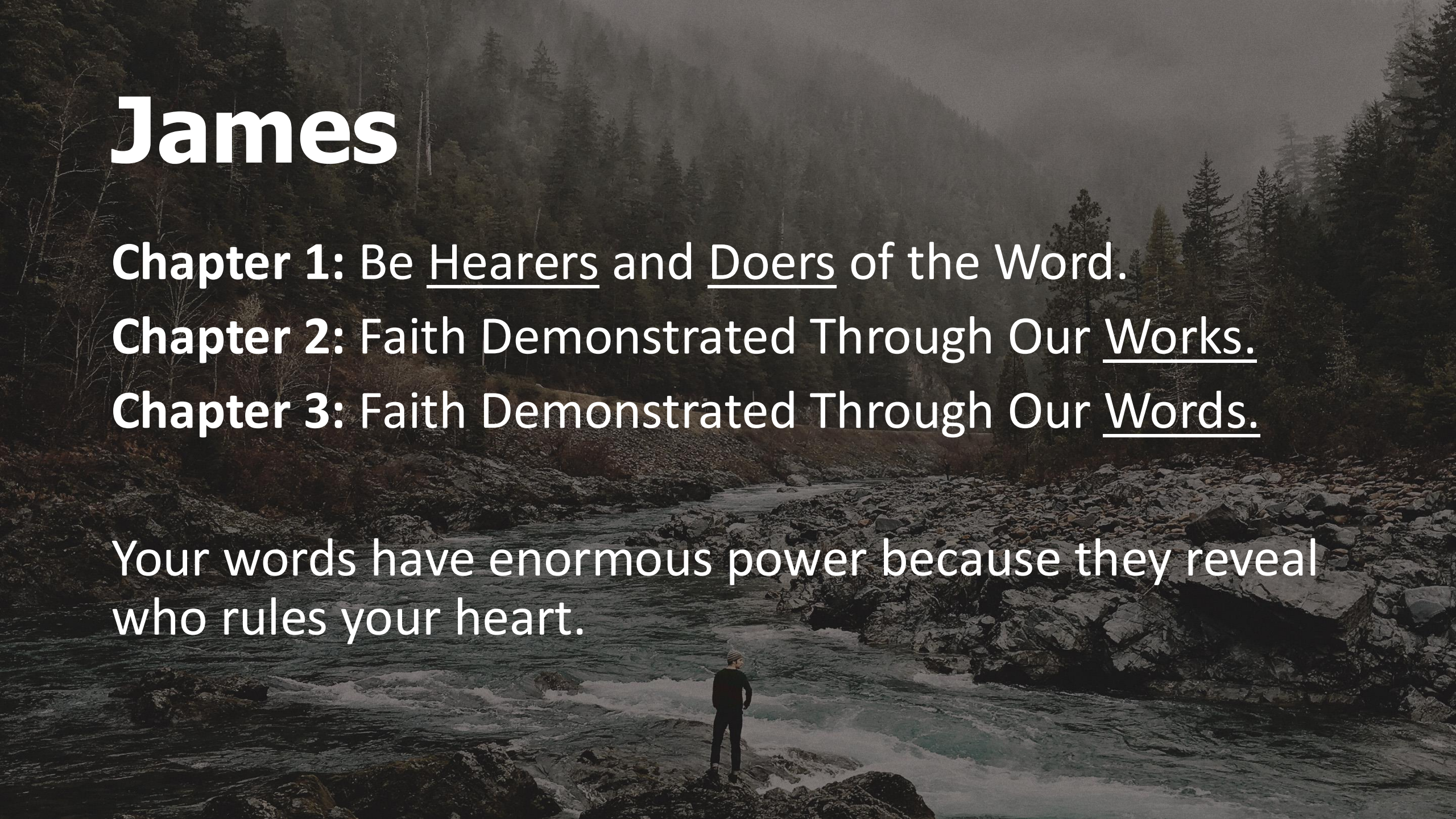
James

Chapter 1: Be Hearers and Doers of the Word.

Chapter 2: Faith Demonstrated Through Our Works.

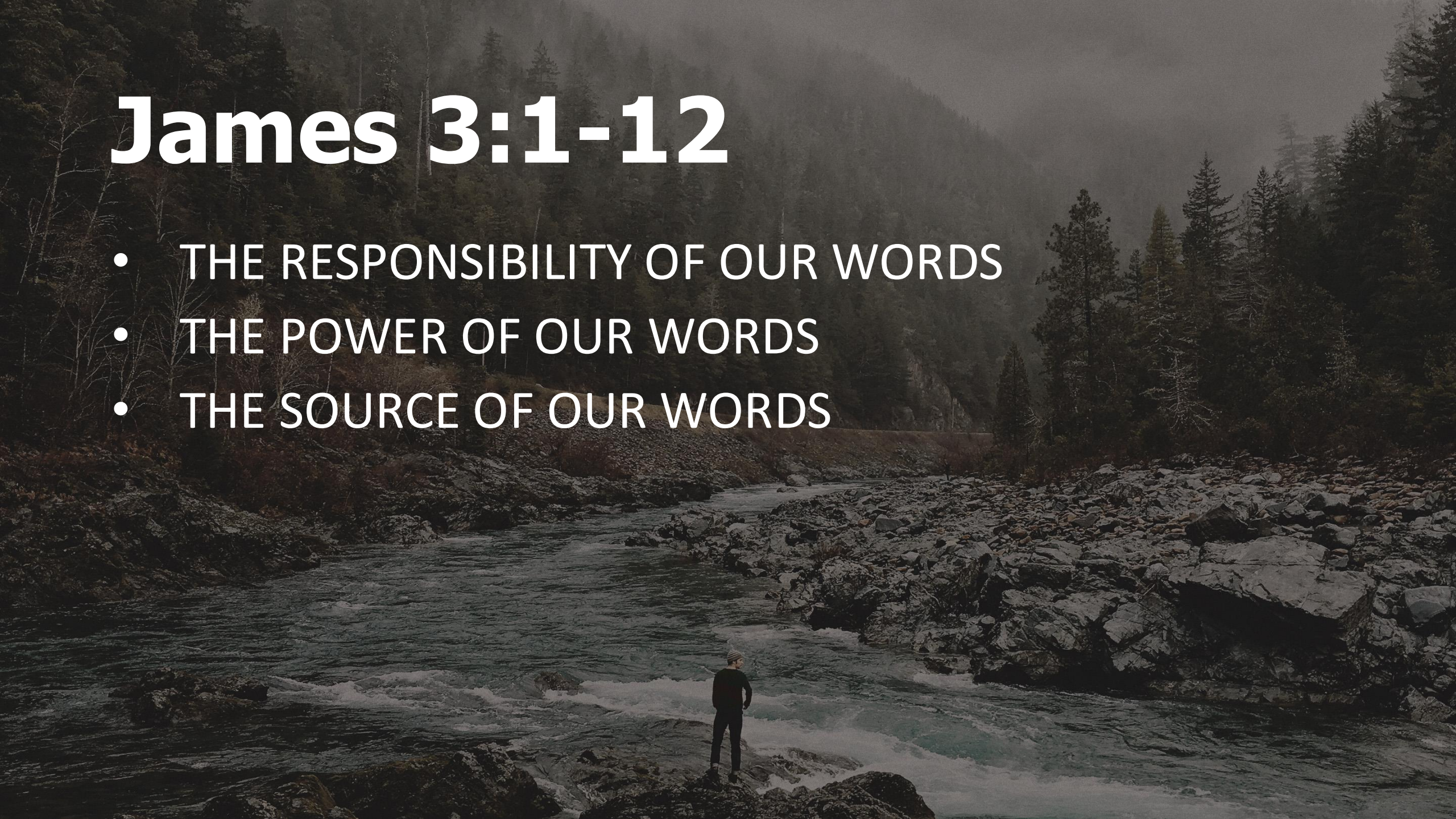
Chapter 3: Faith Demonstrated Through Our Words.

Your words have enormous power because they reveal who rules your heart.



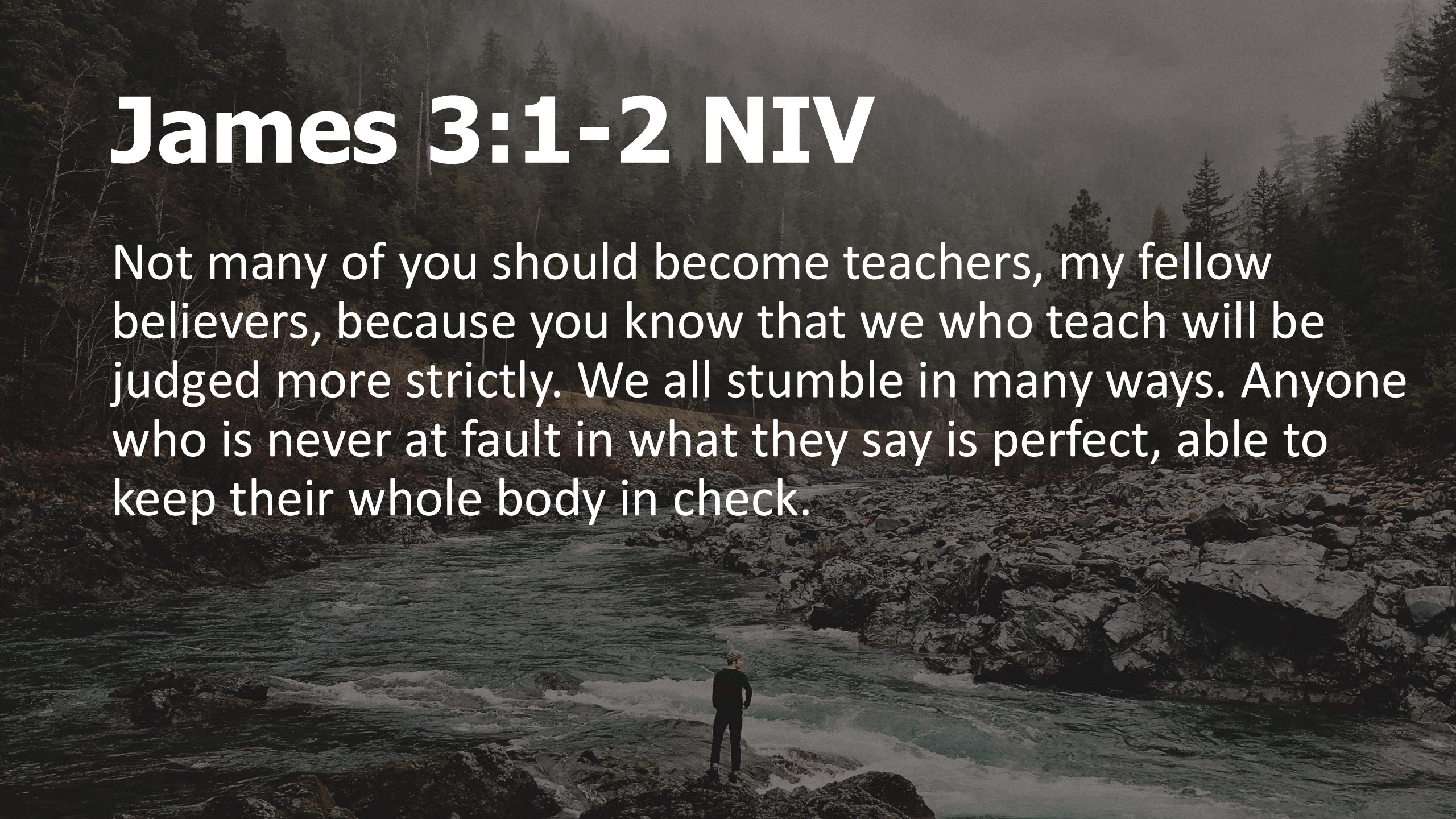
James 3:1-12

- THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR WORDS
- THE POWER OF OUR WORDS
- THE SOURCE OF OUR WORDS



James 3:1-2 NIV

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

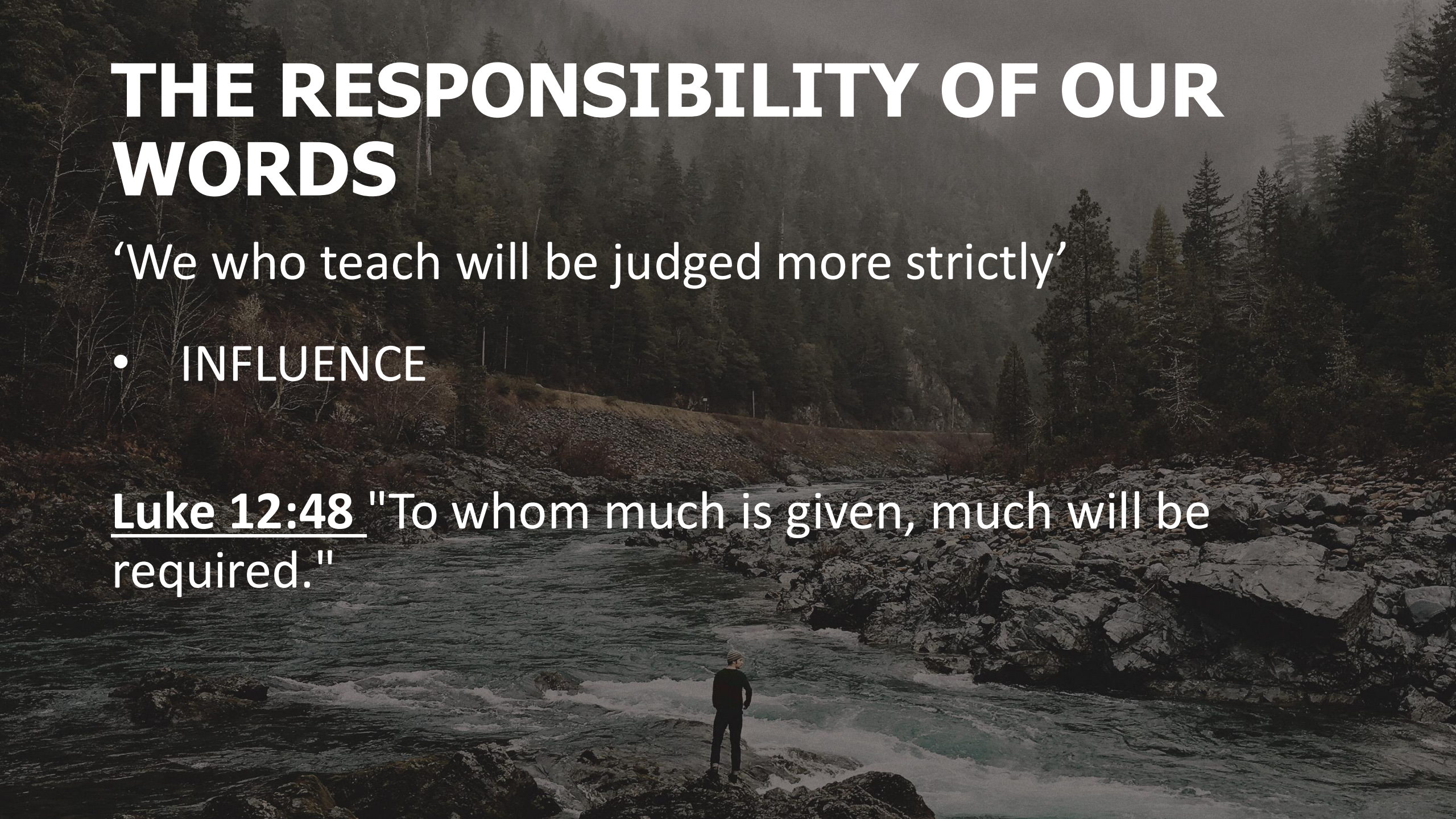


THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR WORDS

‘We who teach will be judged more strictly’

- INFLUENCE

Luke 12:48 "To whom much is given, much will be required."



THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR WORDS

‘We who teach will be judged more strictly’

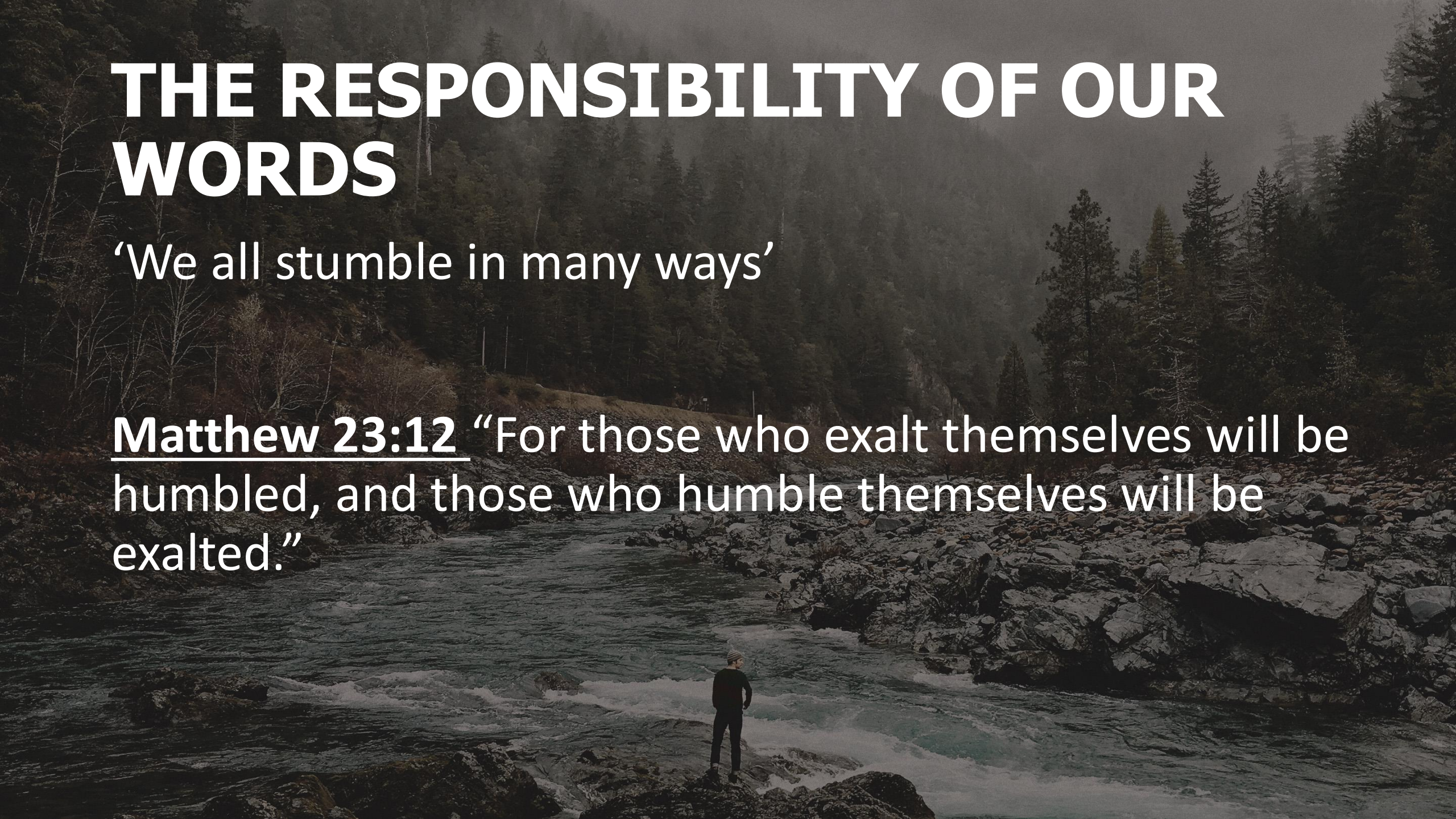
- INFLUENCE
- DIVISION OR UNITY?



THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR WORDS

‘We all stumble in many ways’

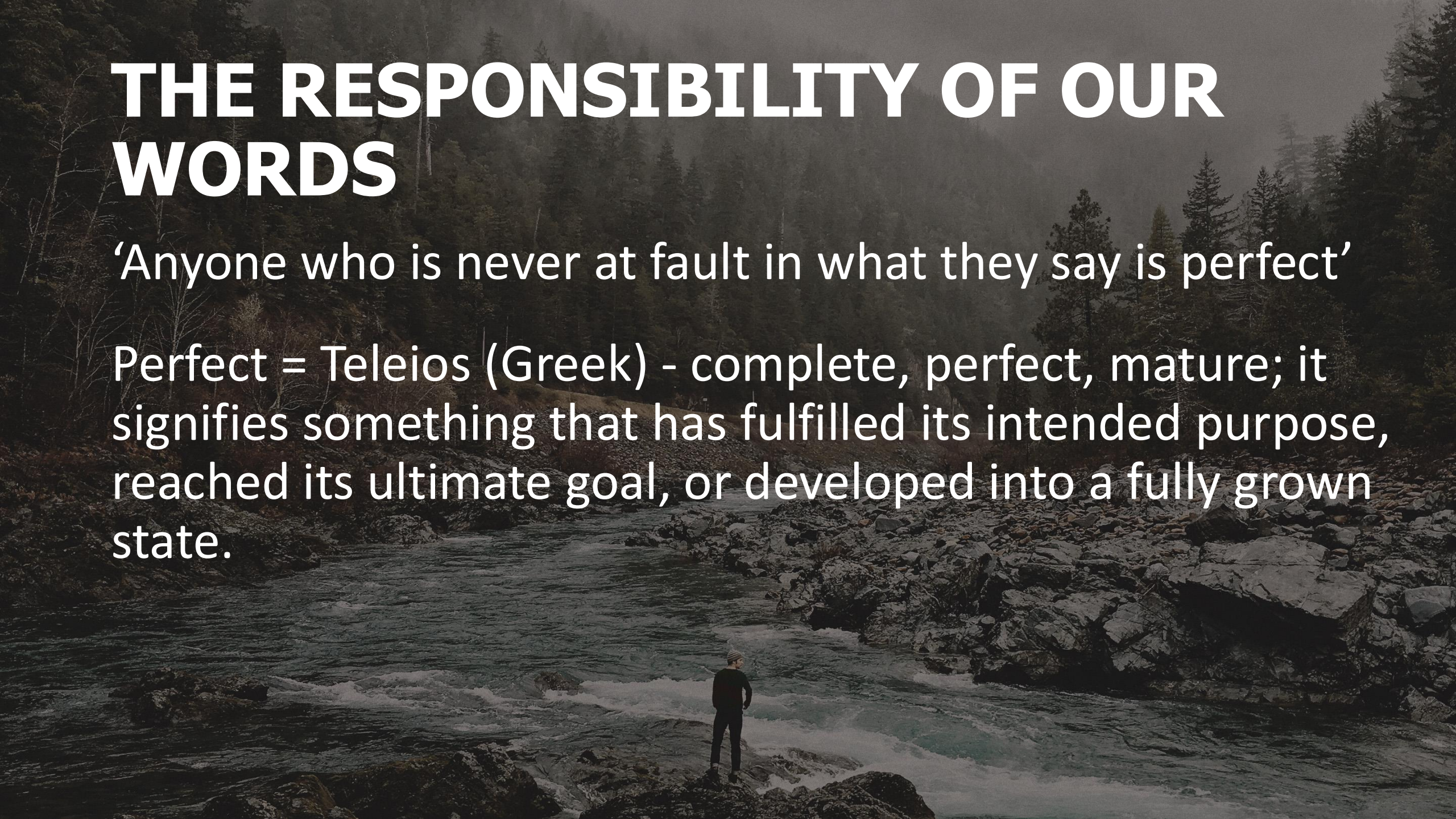
Matthew 23:12 “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”



THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR WORDS

‘Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect’

Perfect = Teleios (Greek) - complete, perfect, mature; it signifies something that has fulfilled its intended purpose, reached its ultimate goal, or developed into a fully grown state.



James 3:3-6 NIV

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.



THE POWER OF OUR WORDS

1. Our tongue (our words) controls the direction of our life!

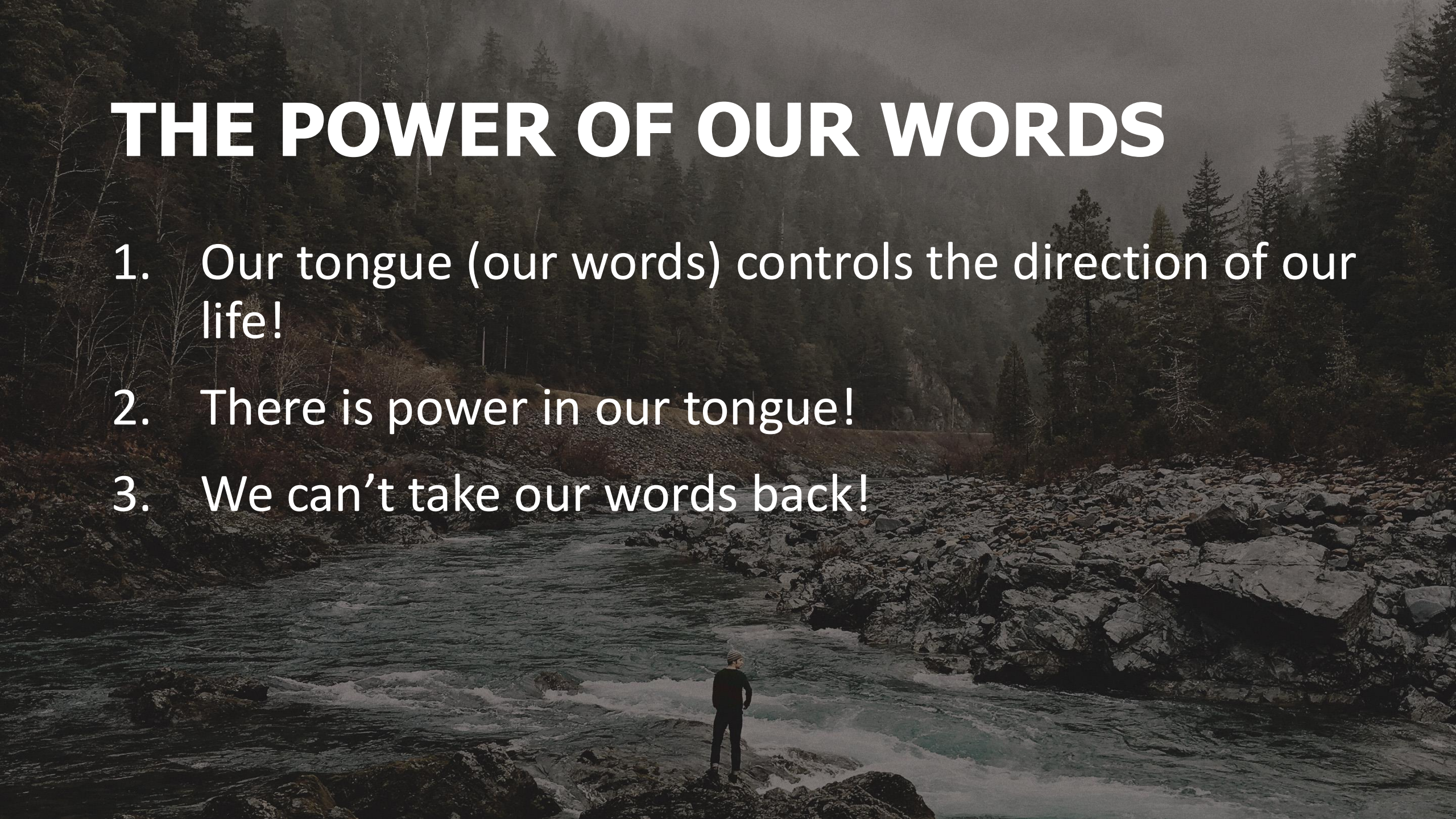
Proverbs 18:20-21 NIV

From the fruit of their mouth a person's stomach is filled;
with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied.

The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.

THE POWER OF OUR WORDS

1. Our tongue (our words) controls the direction of our life!
2. There is power in our tongue!
3. We can't take our words back!



James 3:7-12 NIV

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

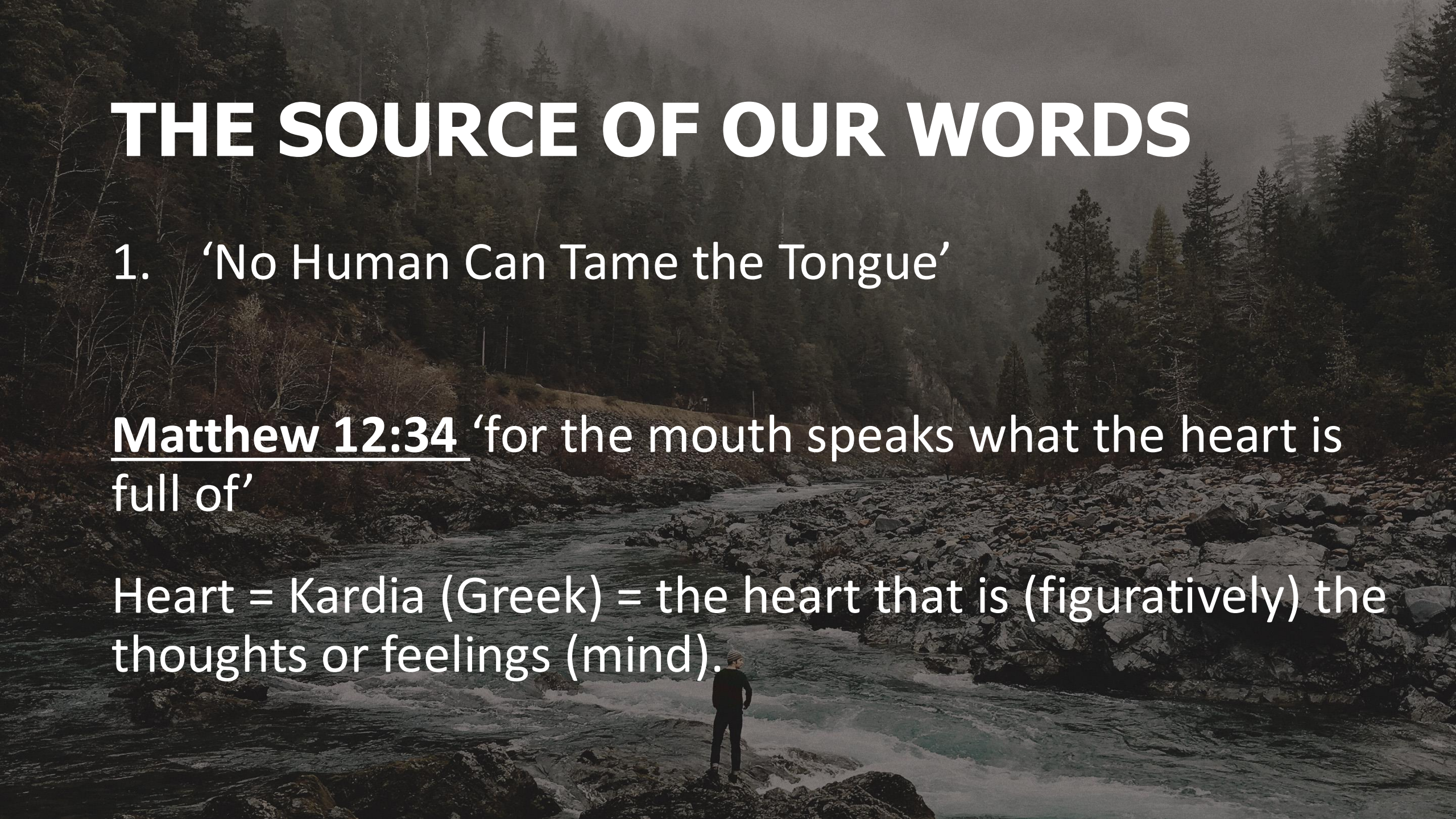


THE SOURCE OF OUR WORDS

1. 'No Human Can Tame the Tongue'

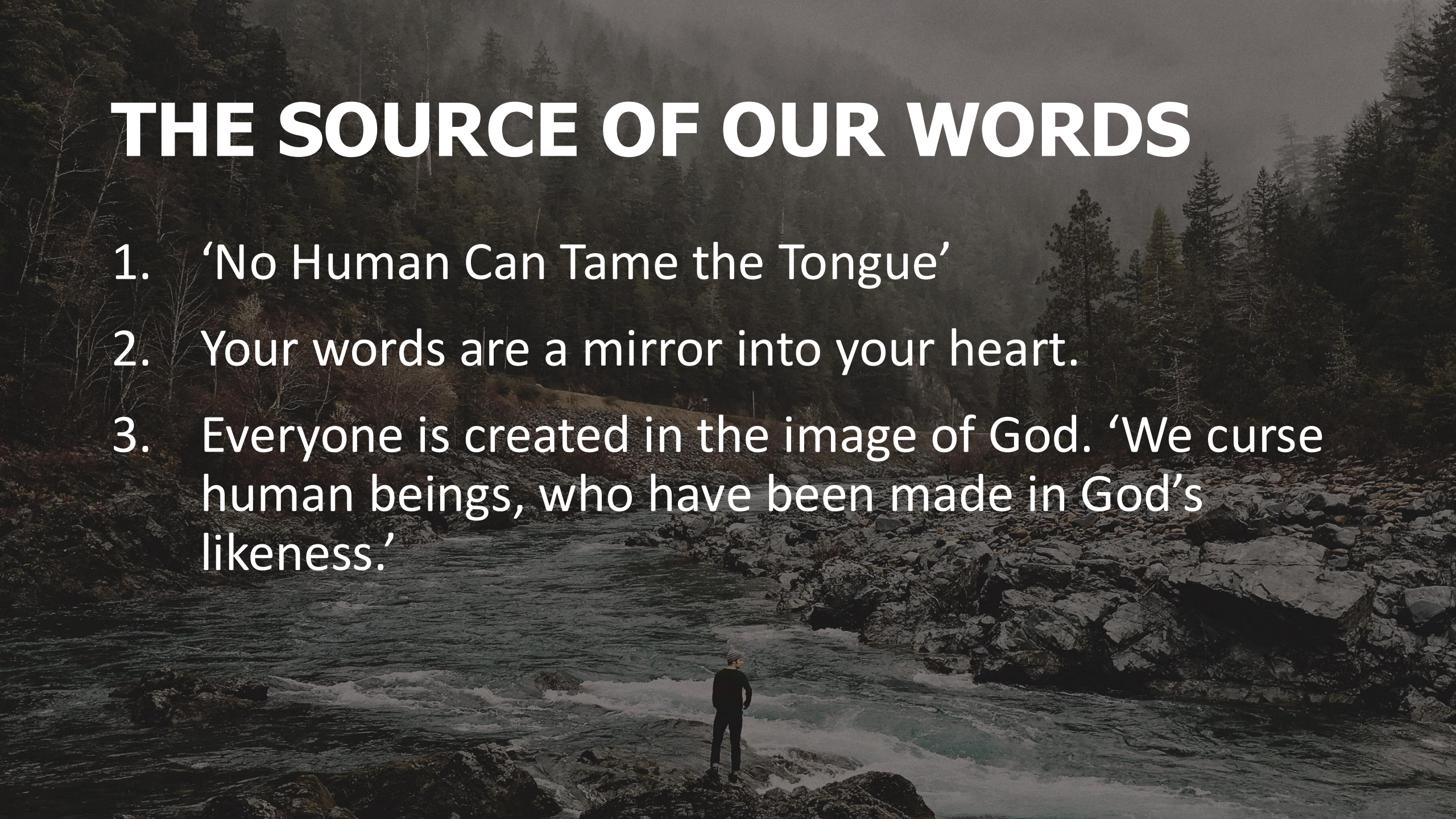
Matthew 12:34 'for the mouth speaks what the heart is full of'

Heart = Kardia (Greek) = the heart that is (figuratively) the thoughts or feelings (mind).



THE SOURCE OF OUR WORDS

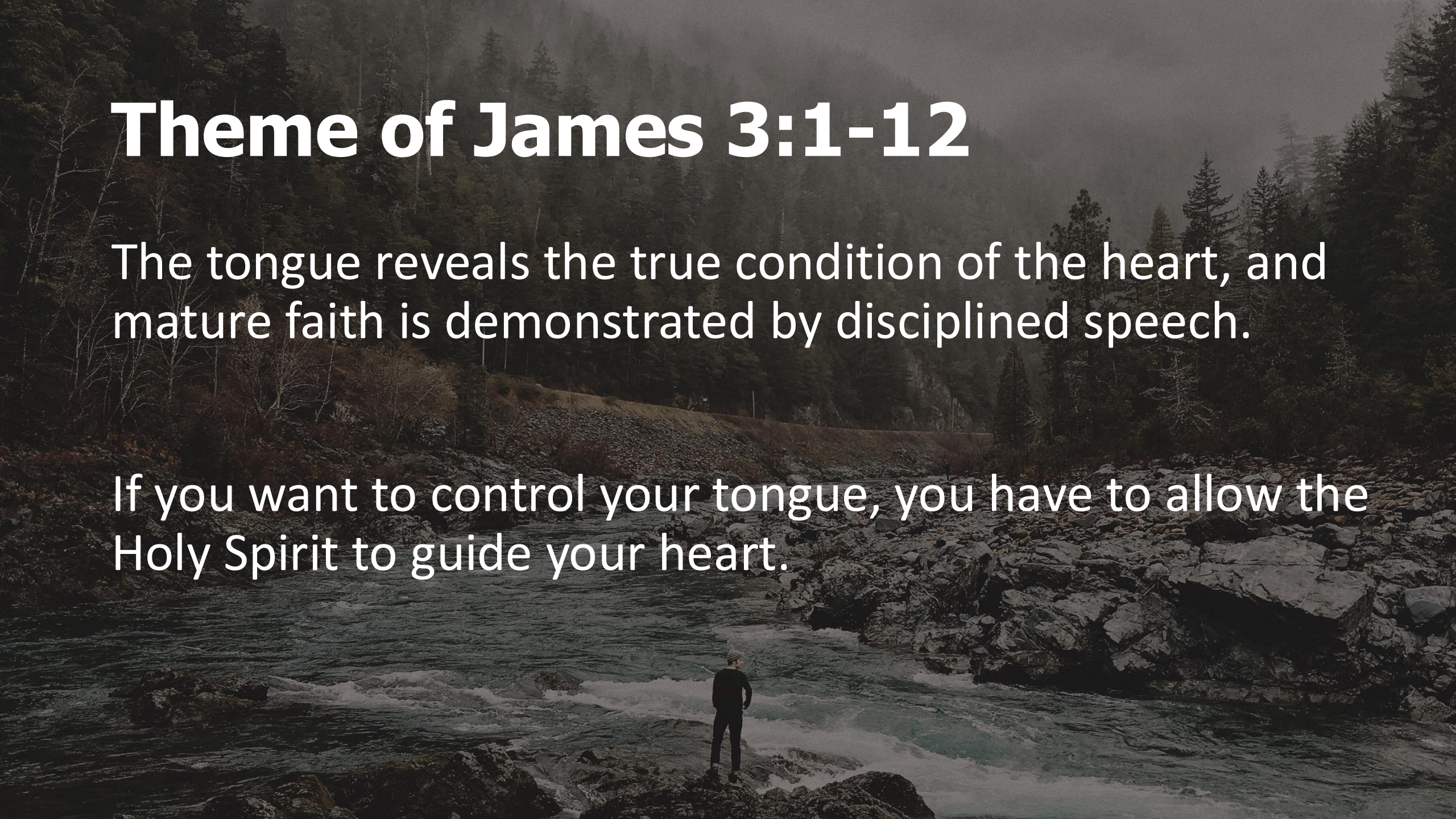
1. 'No Human Can Tame the Tongue'
2. Your words are a mirror into your heart.
3. Everyone is created in the image of God. 'We curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.'



Theme of James 3:1-12

The tongue reveals the true condition of the heart, and mature faith is demonstrated by disciplined speech.

If you want to control your tongue, you have to allow the Holy Spirit to guide your heart.



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