

THE LETTER OF

JAMES











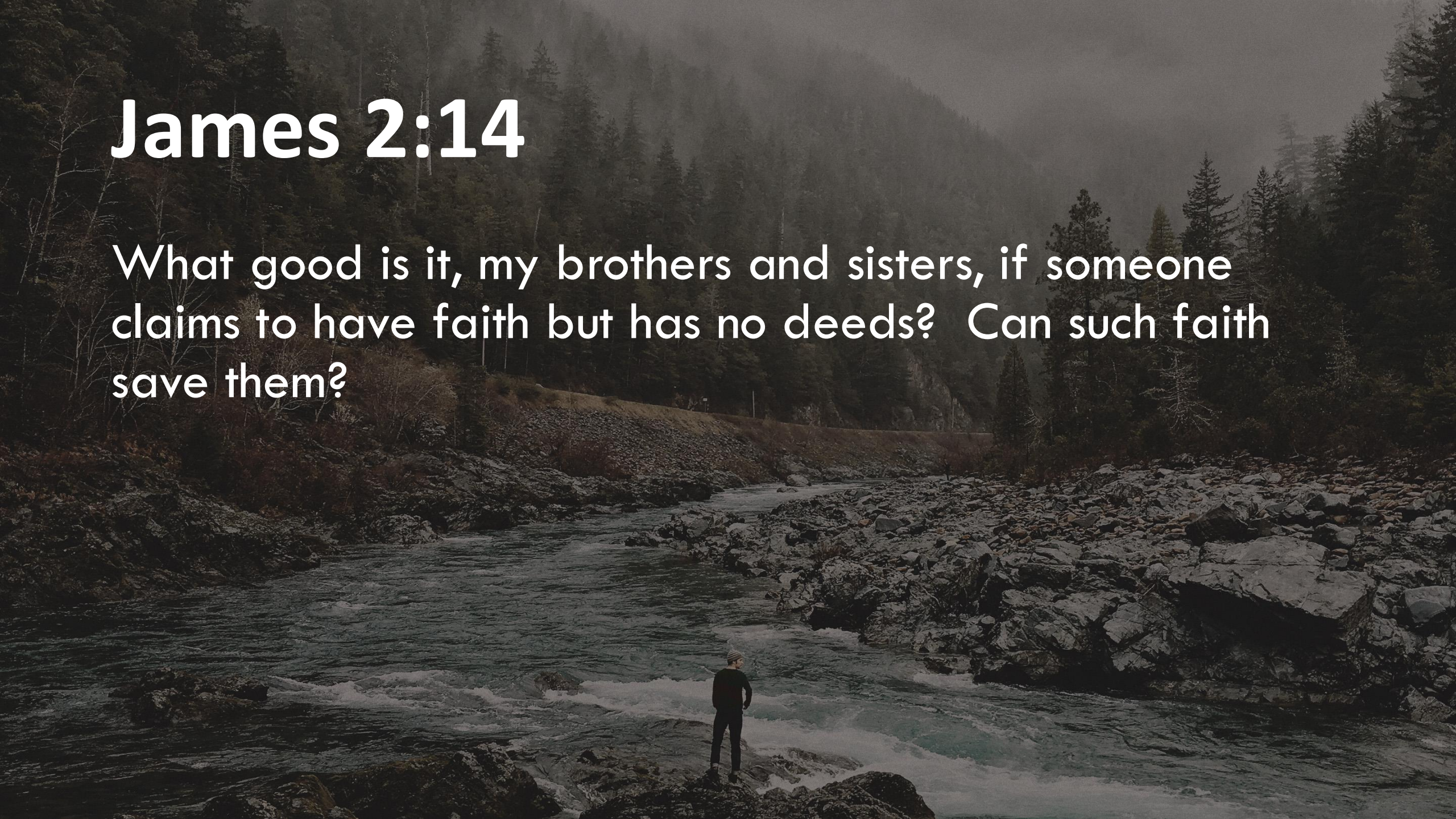
Matthew 7:20

Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.



James 2:14

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?



Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith...not by works, so that no man can boast.



James versus Paul

- James's question is people who make a profession of faith but don't have evidence of that faith, can that faith save them?
- Paul's question is how can an unjust person stand in the presence of a just and holy God.
- 2 different questions being answered.
- No contradiction.



Paul agrees with James

- Ephesians 2:10 -- For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Titus 3:8 — This is a faithful saying and these things I want you to affirm constantly that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.



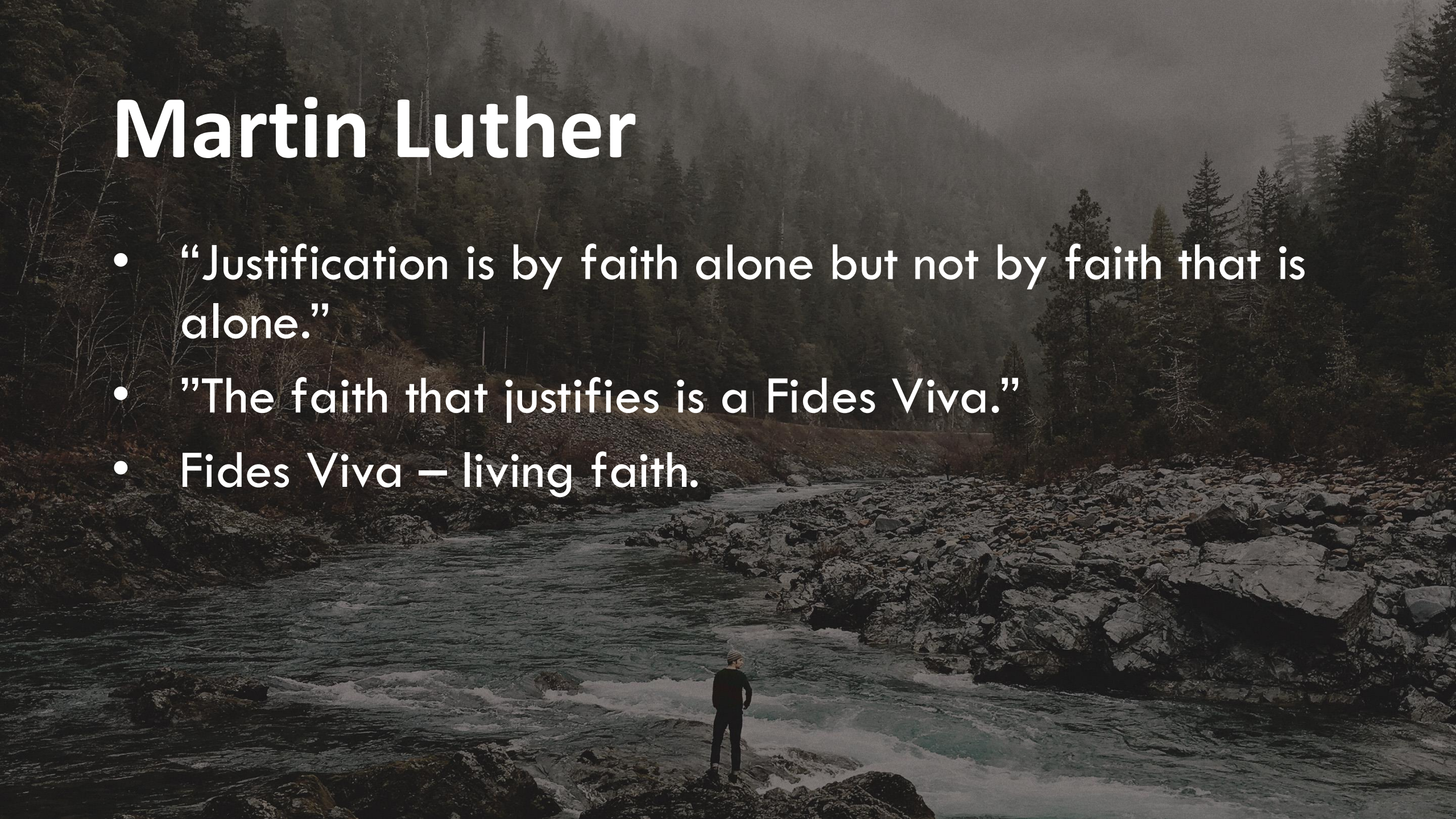
James 2:15-17

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

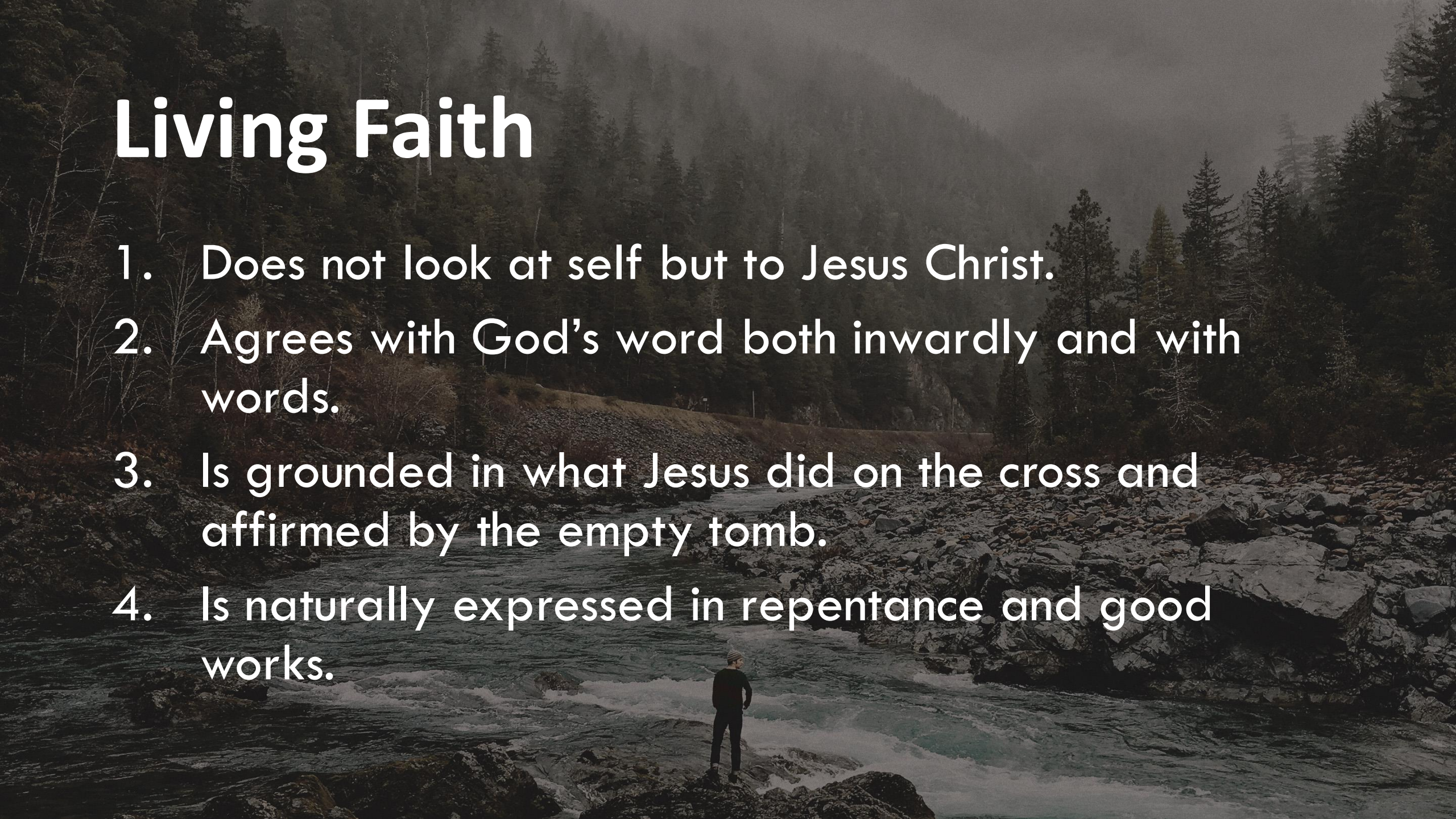


Martin Luther

- “Justification is by faith alone but not by faith that is alone.”
- “The faith that justifies is a Fides Viva.”
- Fides Viva – living faith.

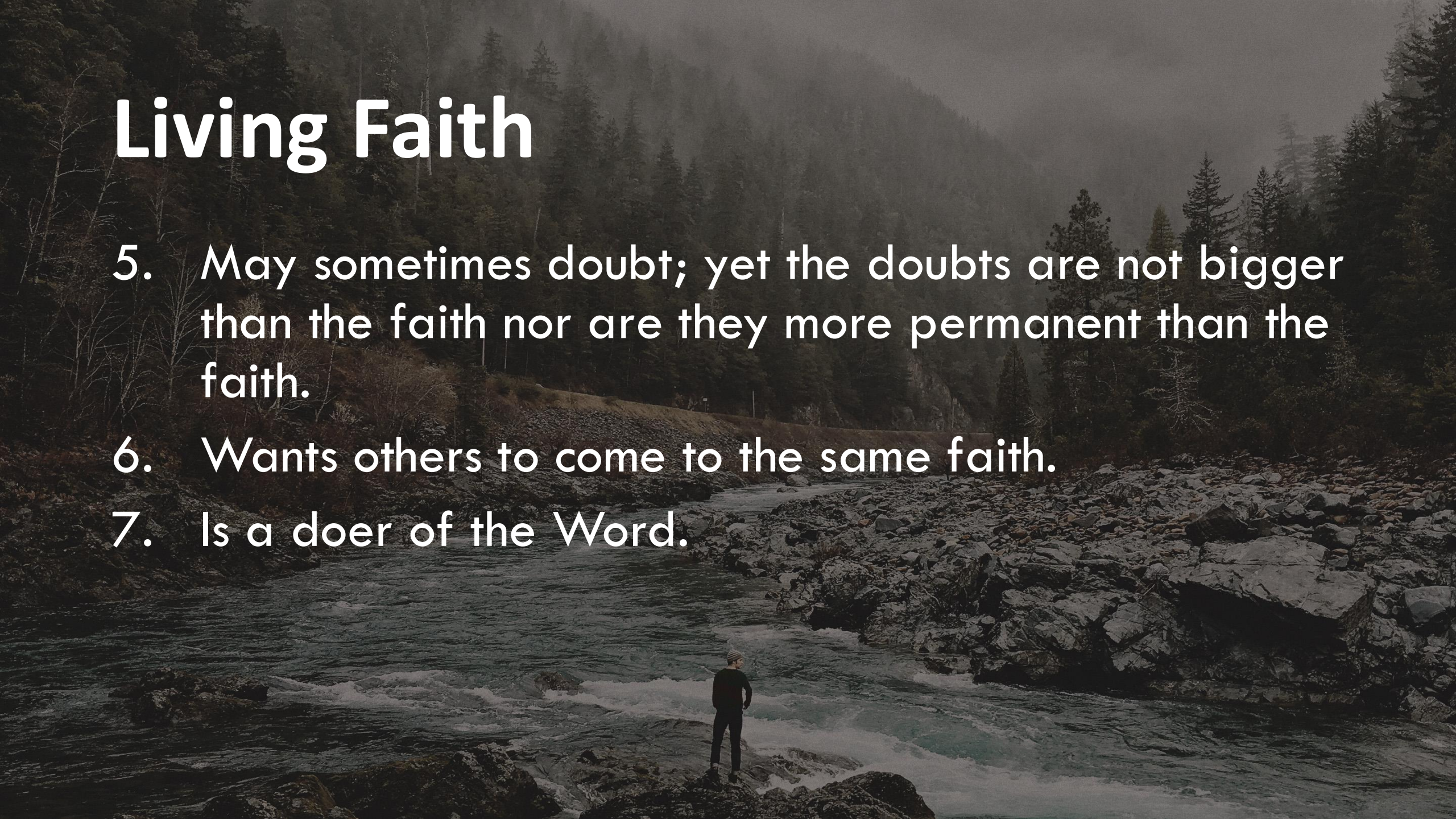


Living Faith

1. Does not look at self but to Jesus Christ.
 2. Agrees with God's word both inwardly and with words.
 3. Is grounded in what Jesus did on the cross and affirmed by the empty tomb.
 4. Is naturally expressed in repentance and good works.
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- A person is standing on a rocky riverbank, looking out over a turbulent river. The river is surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a misty or overcast day. The person is wearing dark clothing and a hat. The river flows through a valley, with large rocks visible in the foreground and middle ground.

Living Faith

5. May sometimes doubt; yet the doubts are not bigger than the faith nor are they more permanent than the faith.
6. Wants others to come to the same faith.
7. Is a doer of the Word.



James 2:18-19

But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without your deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.



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