

THE LETTER OF

JAMES



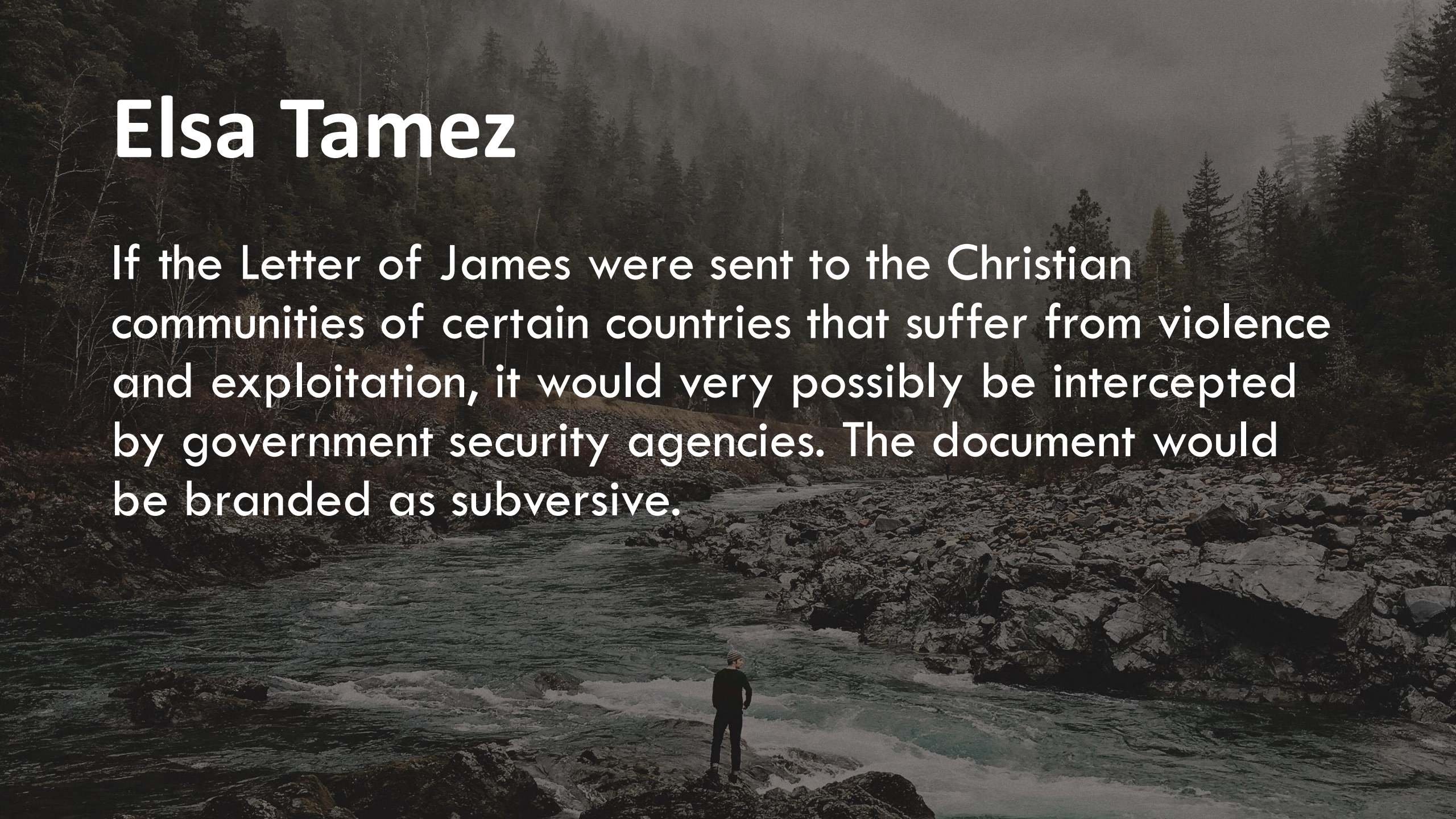
Background

- Written between 45-53 AD
- James, the half-brother of Jesus
- First Bishop of the first-century church in Jerusalem
- Mediator
 - Acts 15:19 - It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.



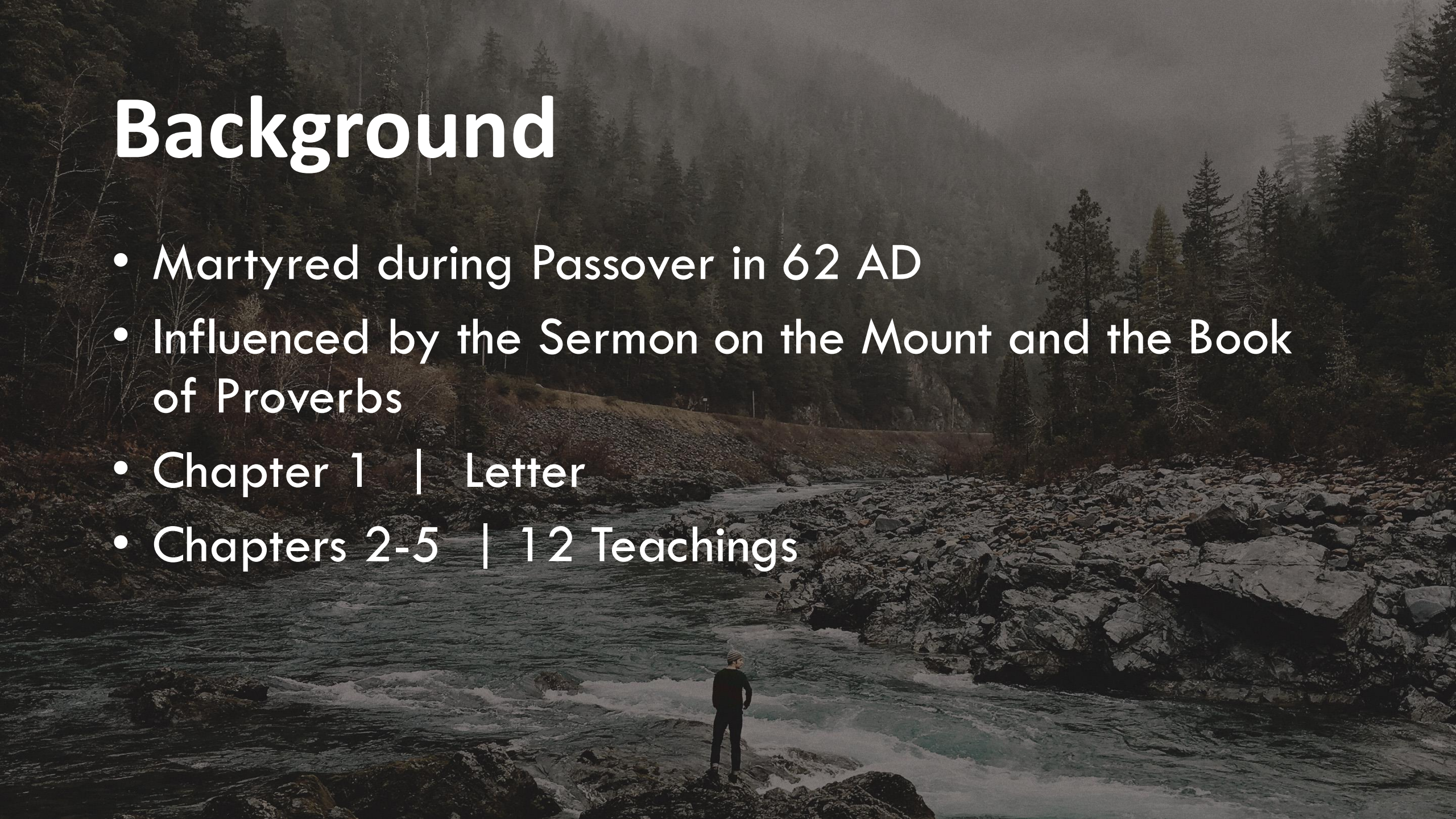
Elsa Tamez

If the Letter of James were sent to the Christian communities of certain countries that suffer from violence and exploitation, it would very possibly be intercepted by government security agencies. The document would be branded as subversive.



Background

- Martyred during Passover in 62 AD
- Influenced by the Sermon on the Mount and the Book of Proverbs
- Chapter 1 | Letter
- Chapters 2-5 | 12 Teachings



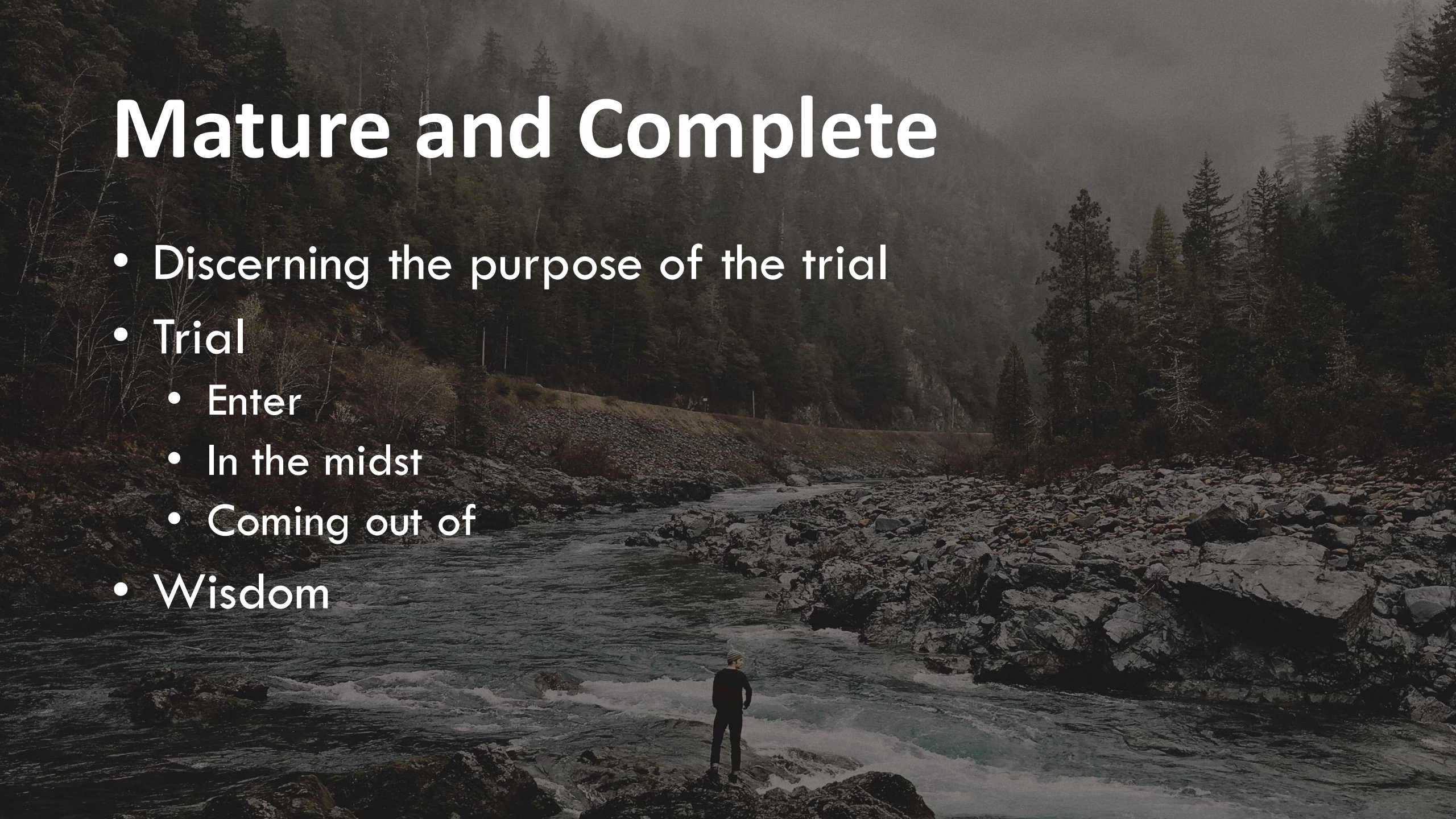
James 1:1-4

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings. Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature(**perfect**) and complete, not lacking anything.

Mature and Complete

- Discerning the purpose of the trial
- Trial
 - Enter
 - In the midst
 - Coming out of
- Wisdom



Mature and Complete

- Joy
- Faith



Acts 26:1-2,6

¹ So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense:

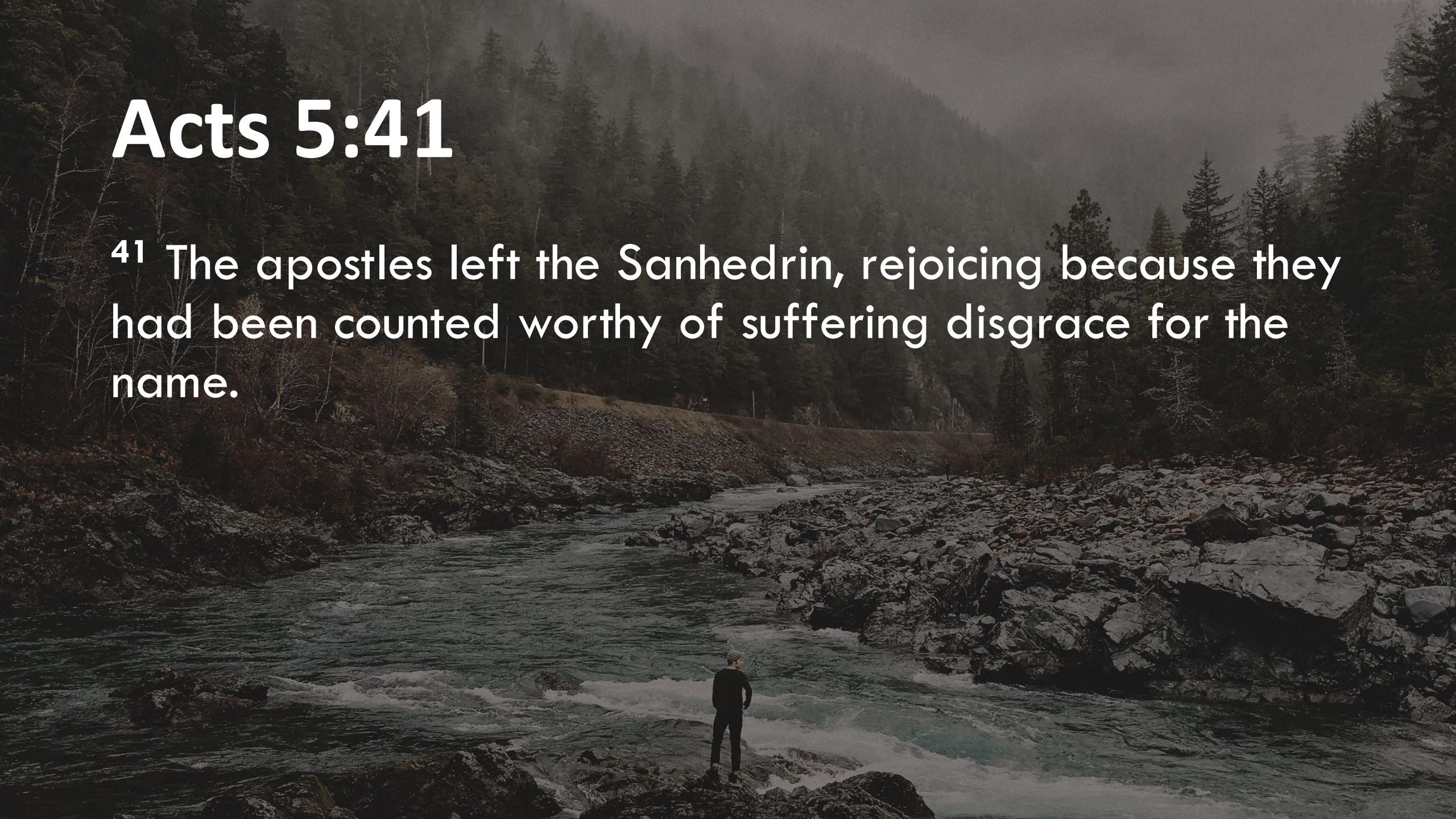
² “King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews.

⁶ And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today.



Acts 5:41

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name.



Trials Produce:

- Maturity
- Righteousness
- Love and Compassion
- Peacemaking



Scot McKnight

Commentators are prone to speak here of the development of character, but “perseverance/endurance” is like love and faith: they are not something acquired so much as ongoing acts that conform to God’s design.



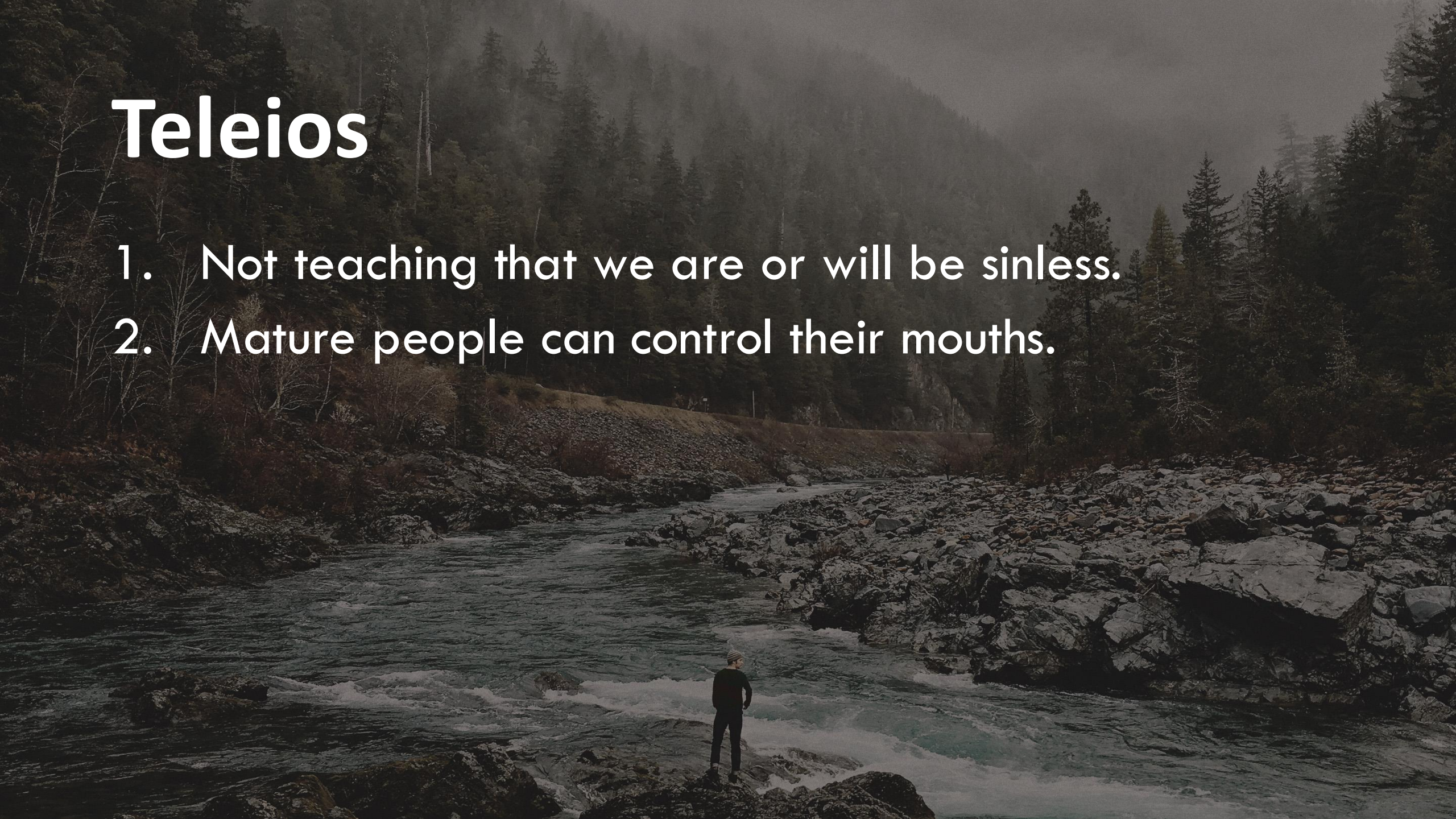
Verse 4 – Literal translation

- Let endurance do its maturing/perfect work so that you may be mature/perfect.



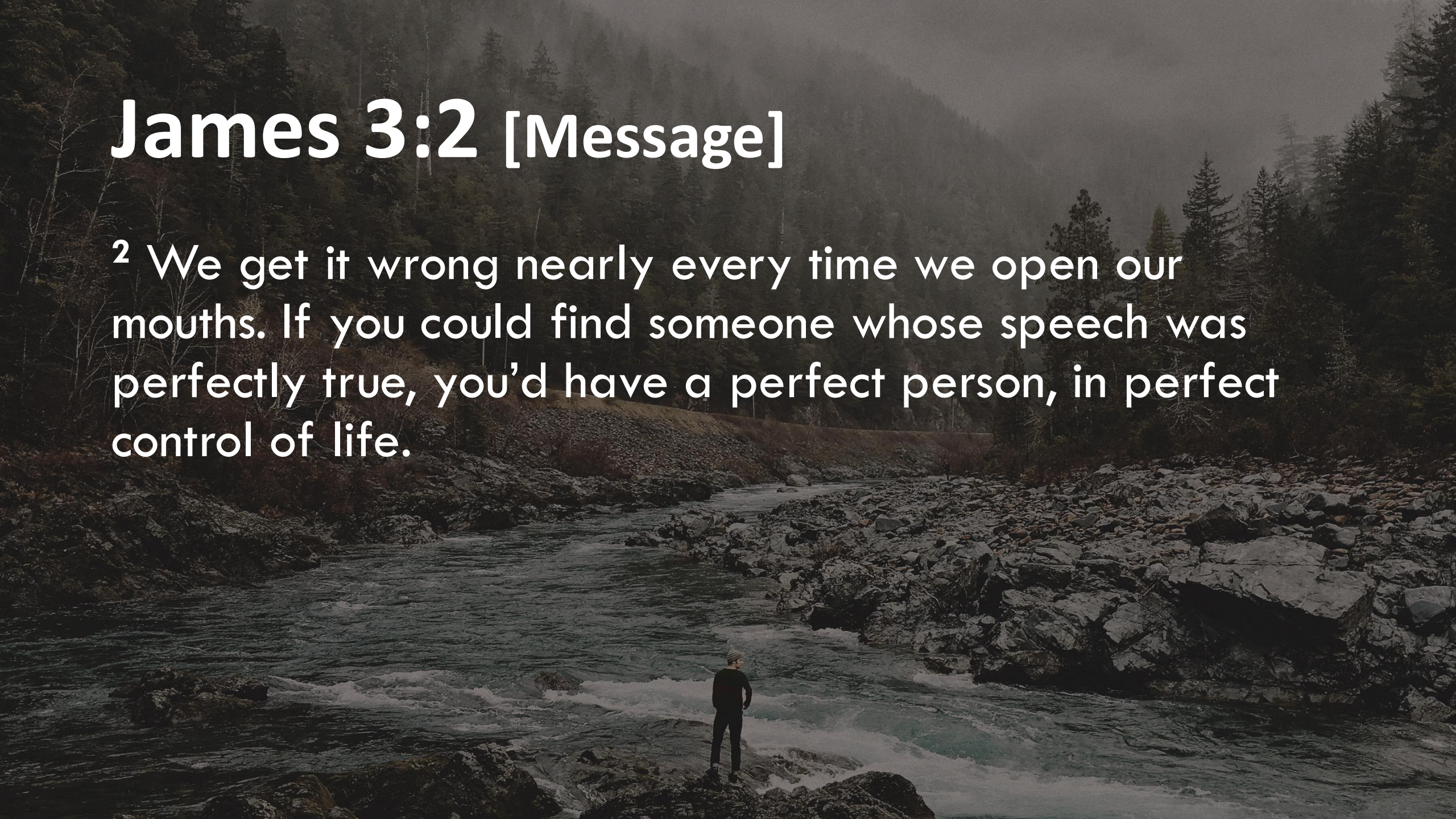
Teleios

1. Not teaching that we are or will be sinless.
2. Mature people can control their mouths.



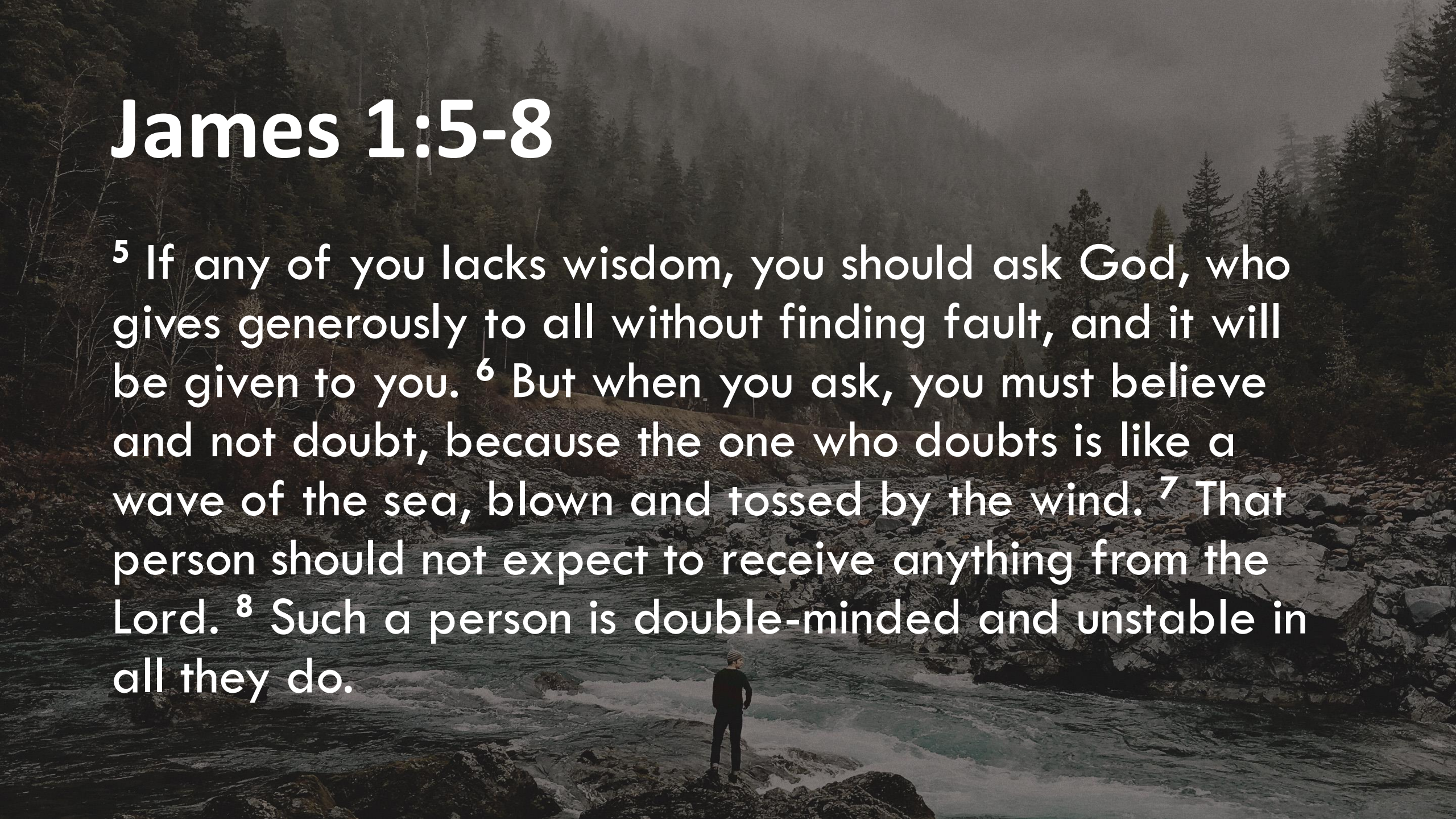
James 3:2 [Message]

² We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.



James 1:5-8

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

A person is standing on a rocky shore, looking out at a turbulent river. The river is surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. The scene is somewhat dark and moody, with a person standing on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking out at a turbulent river. The river is surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. The overall atmosphere is somber and contemplative.

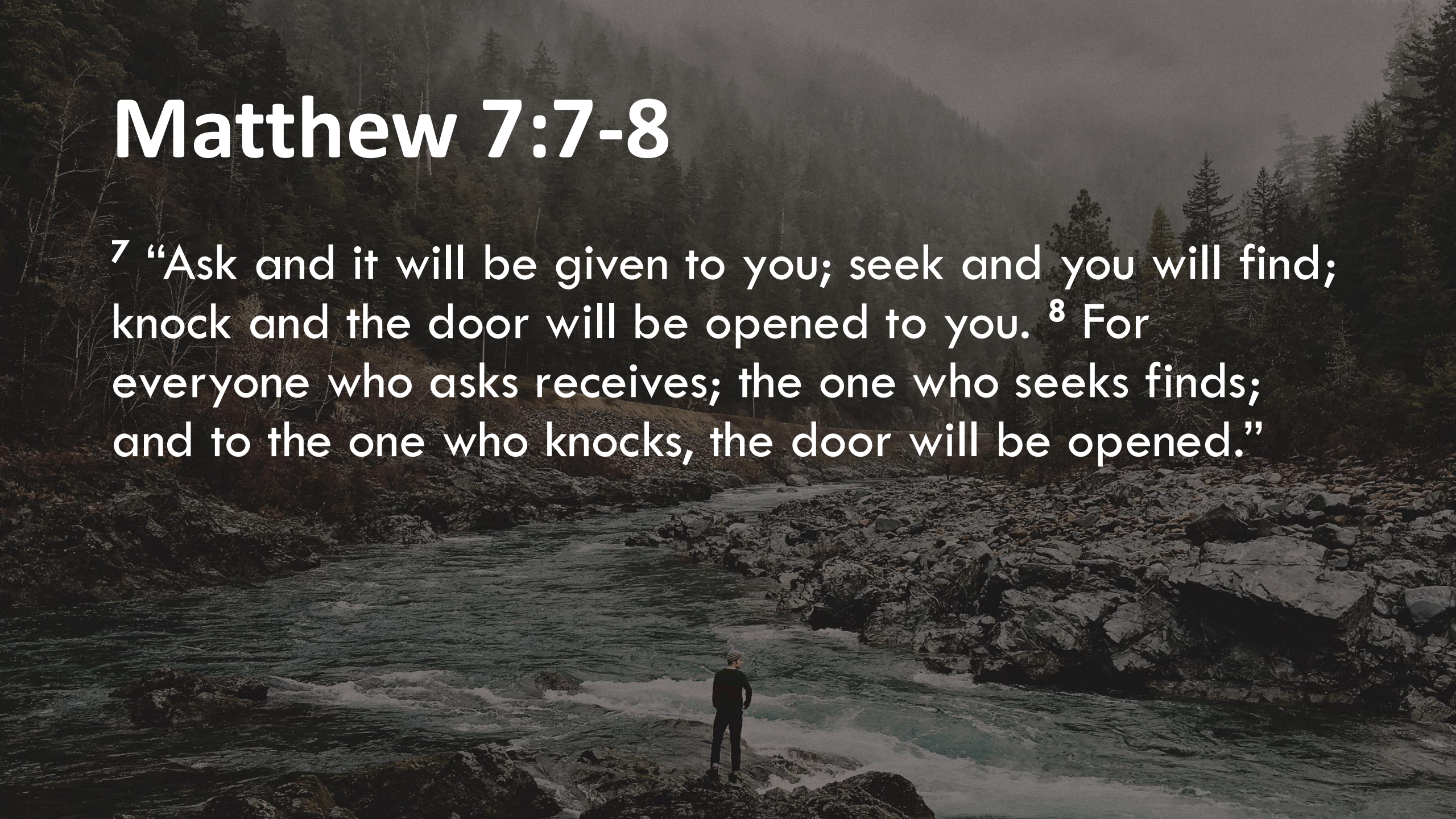
Wisdom

- Ask



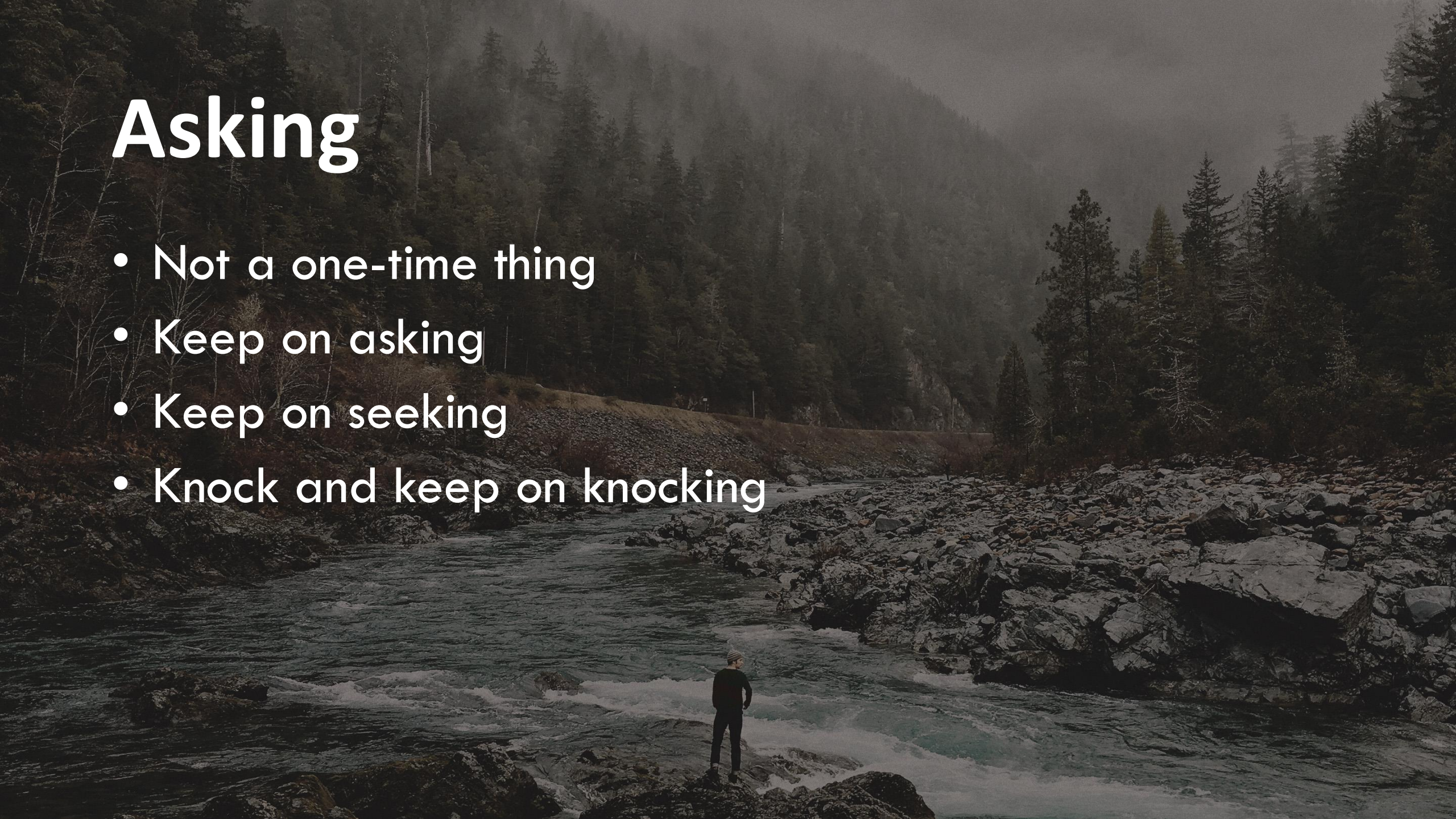
Matthew 7:7-8

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”



Asking

- Not a one-time thing
- Keep on asking
- Keep on seeking
- Knock and keep on knocking



Wisdom

A person stands on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking across a wide, turbulent river. The river flows through a valley with steep, forested hillsides. The water is white with foam, suggesting rapids or a narrow channel. The background is filled with dense evergreen trees under a hazy, overcast sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

- Ask
- Faith
- Doubt
 - Mr. Facing-both-ways
 - Two souled
 - Double-hearted
- Single-mindedness

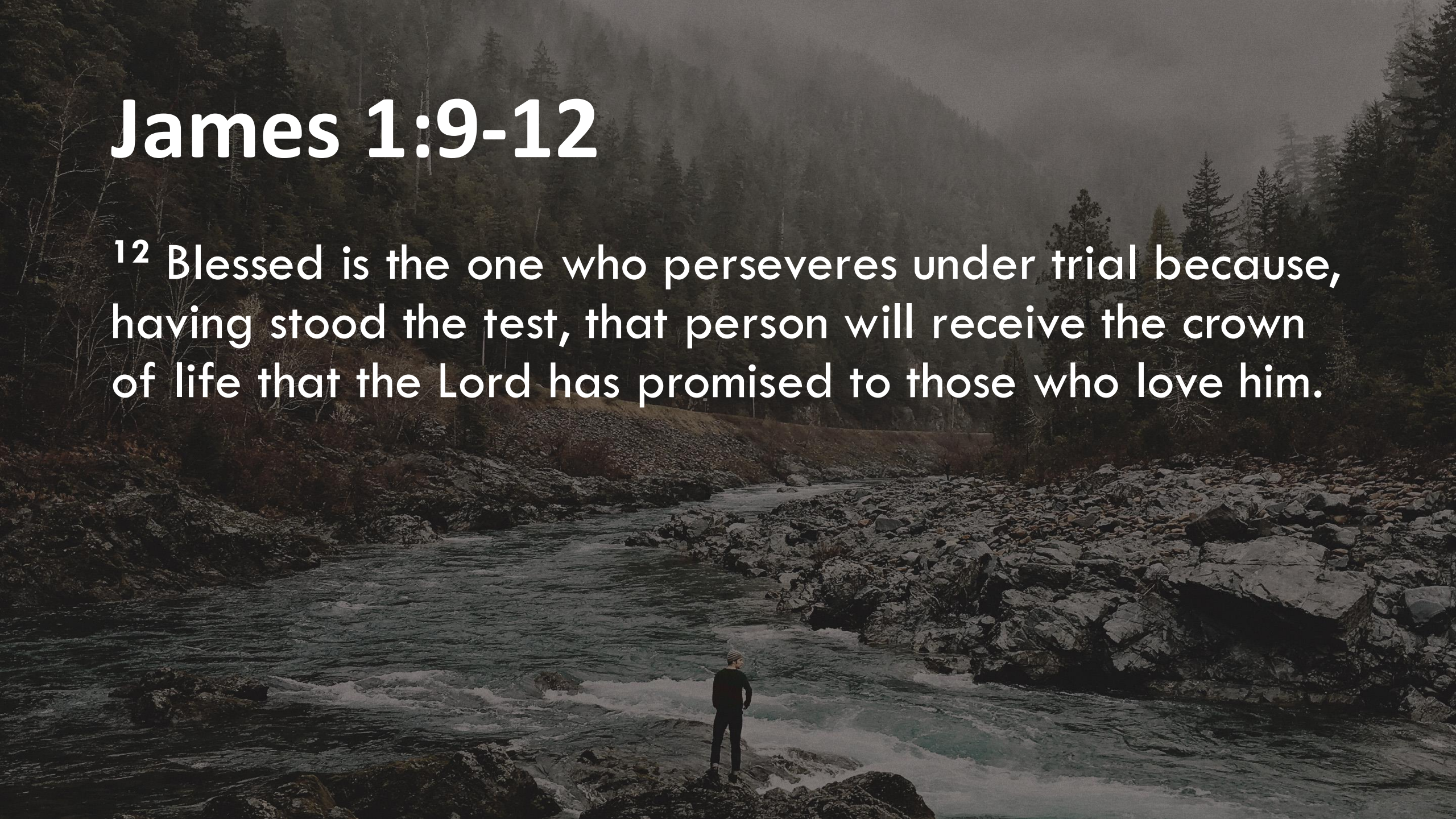
James 1:9-12

⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.



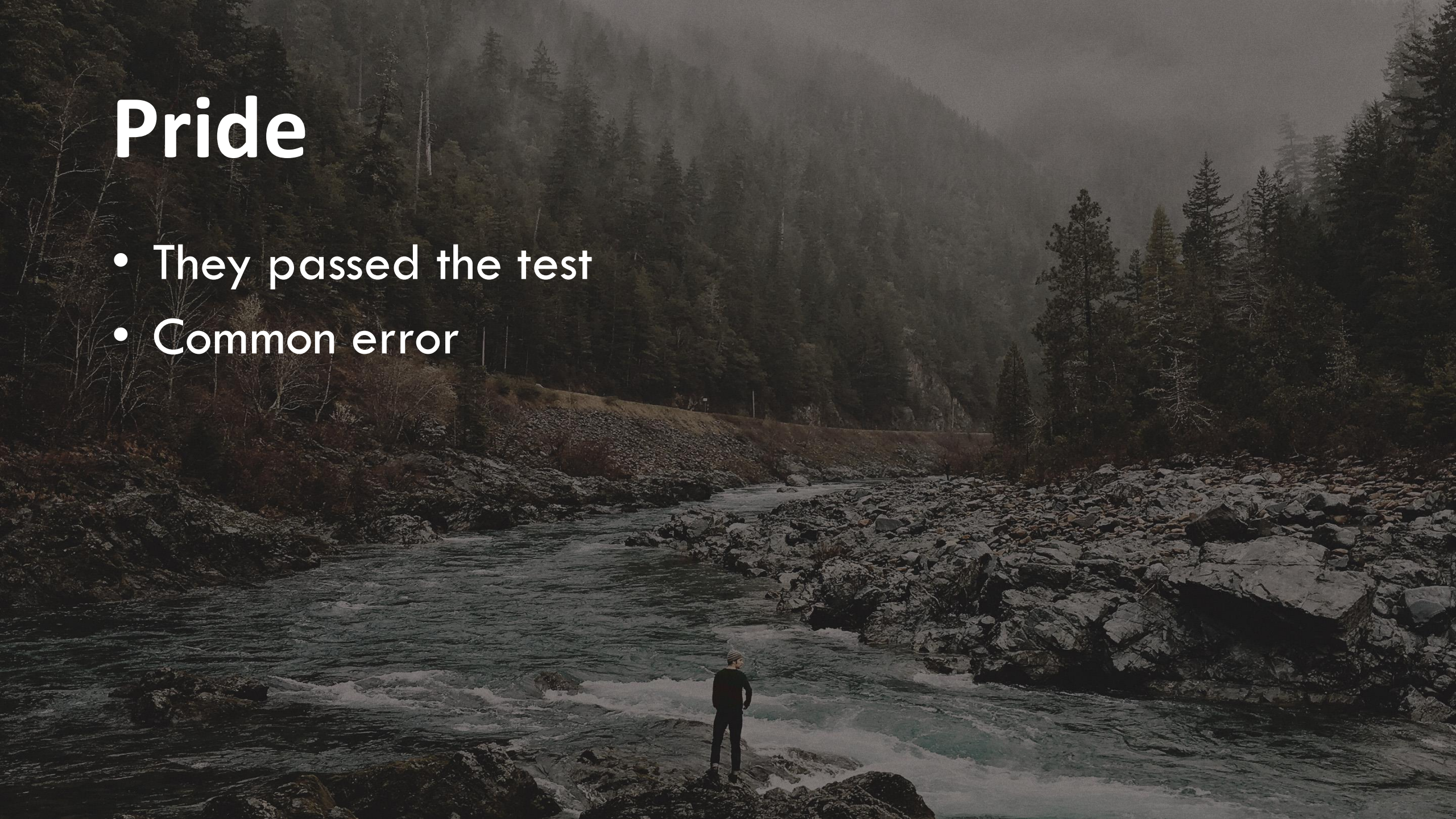
James 1:9-12

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.



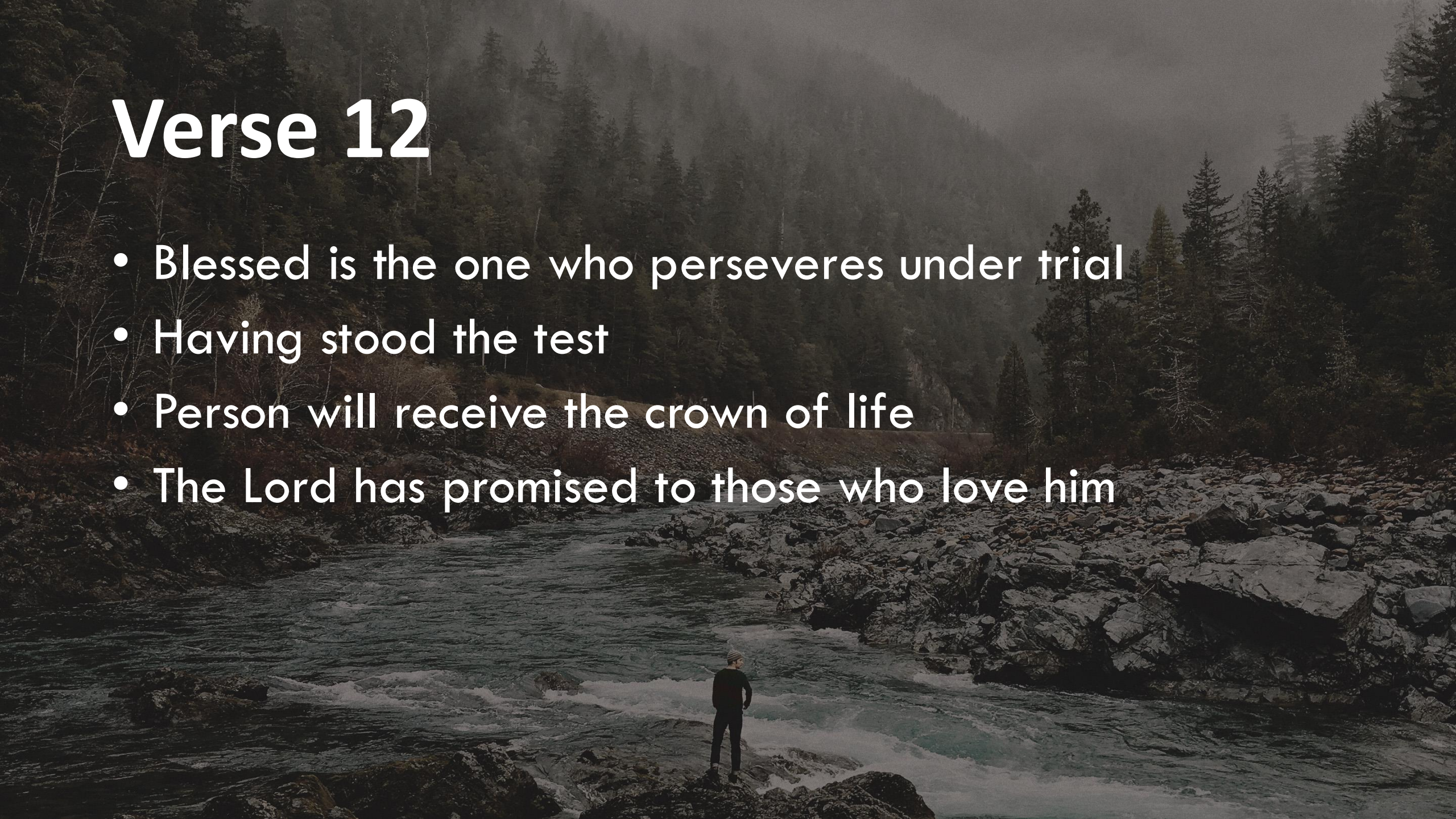
Pride

- They passed the test
- Common error



Verse 12

- Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial
- Having stood the test
- Person will receive the crown of life
- The Lord has promised to those who love him



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