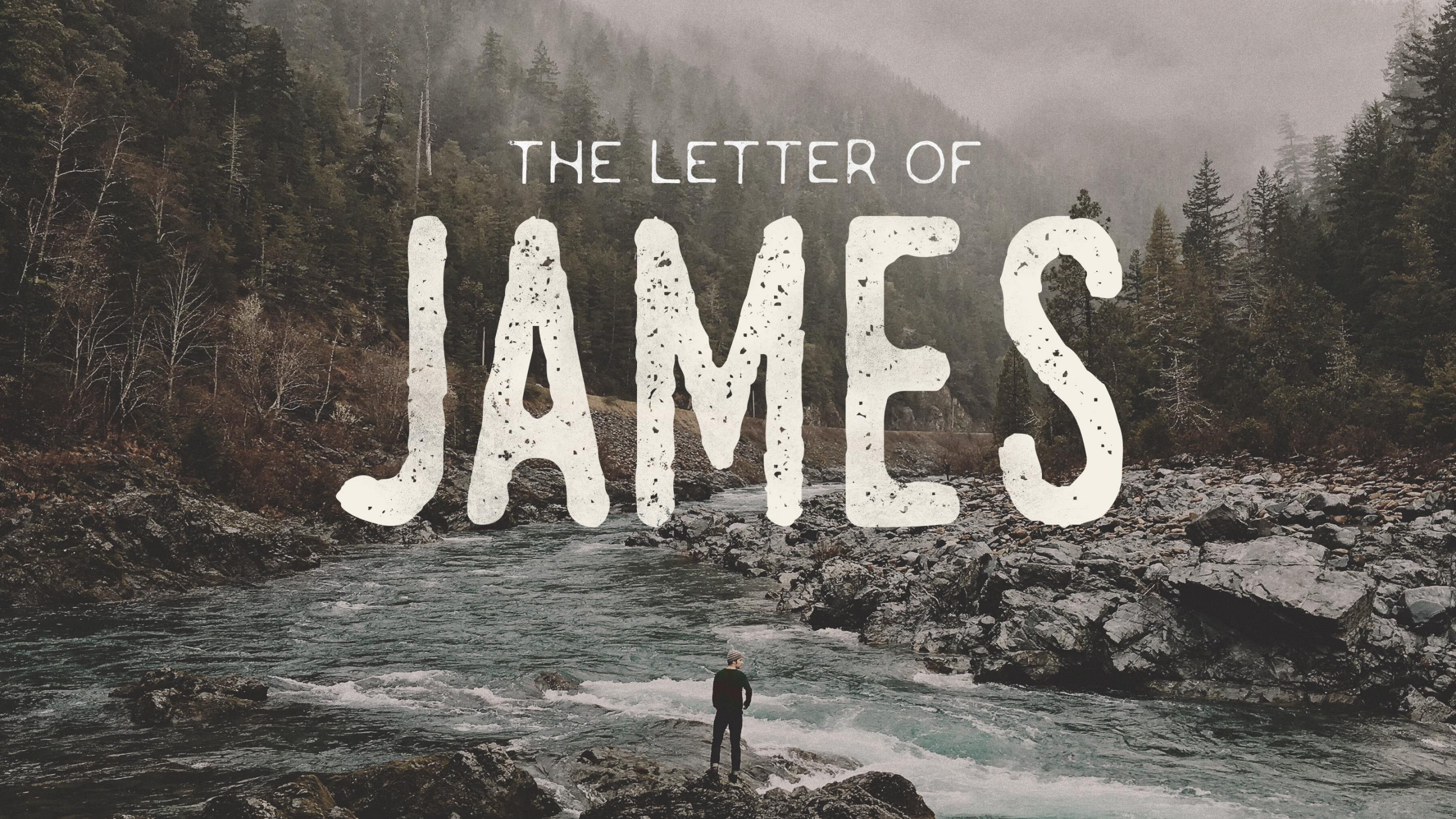


THE LETTER OF

JAMES



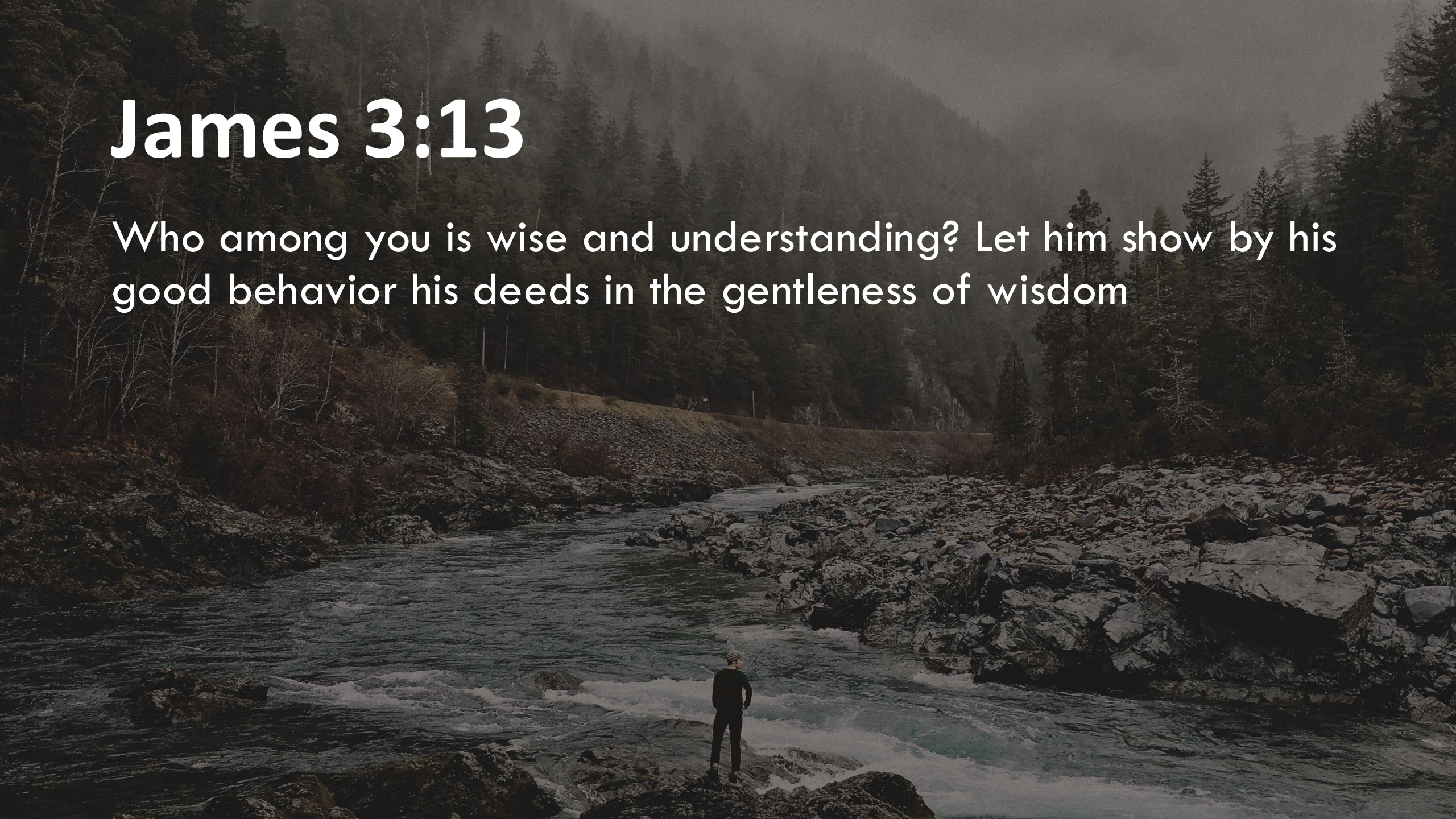
James 3:13-18

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



James 3:13

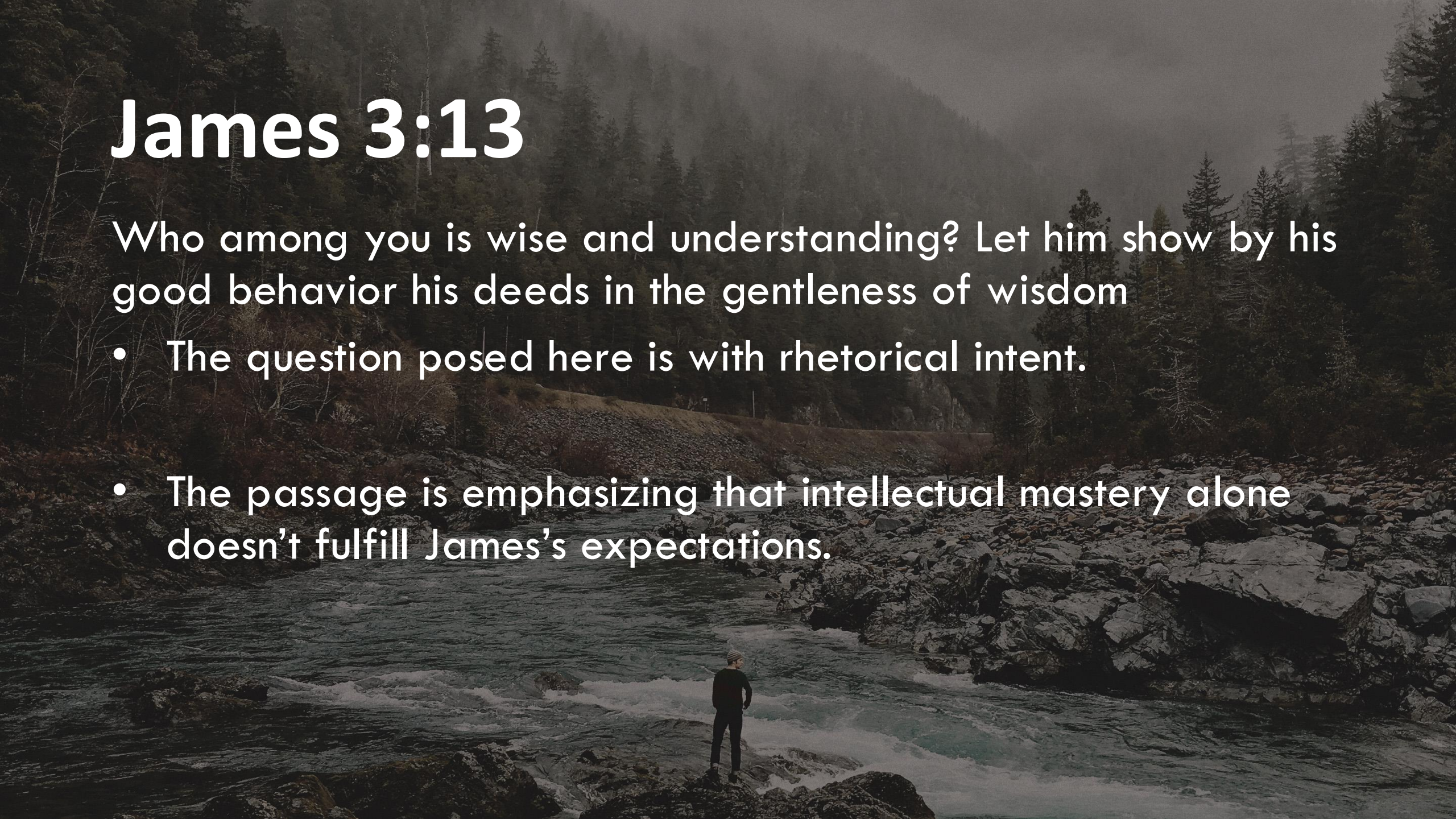
Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom



James 3:13

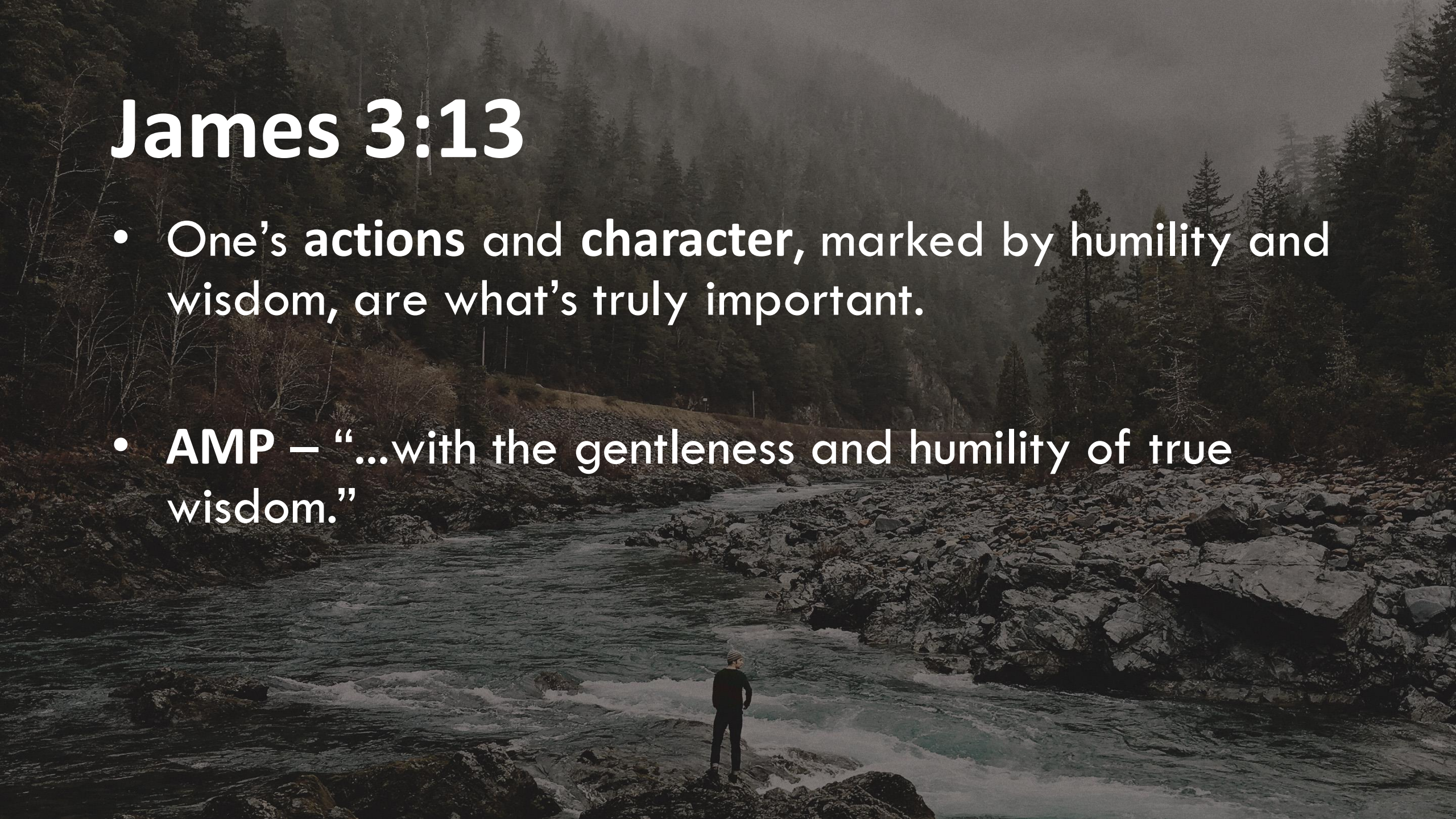
Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom

- The question posed here is with rhetorical intent.
- The passage is emphasizing that intellectual mastery alone doesn't fulfill James's expectations.



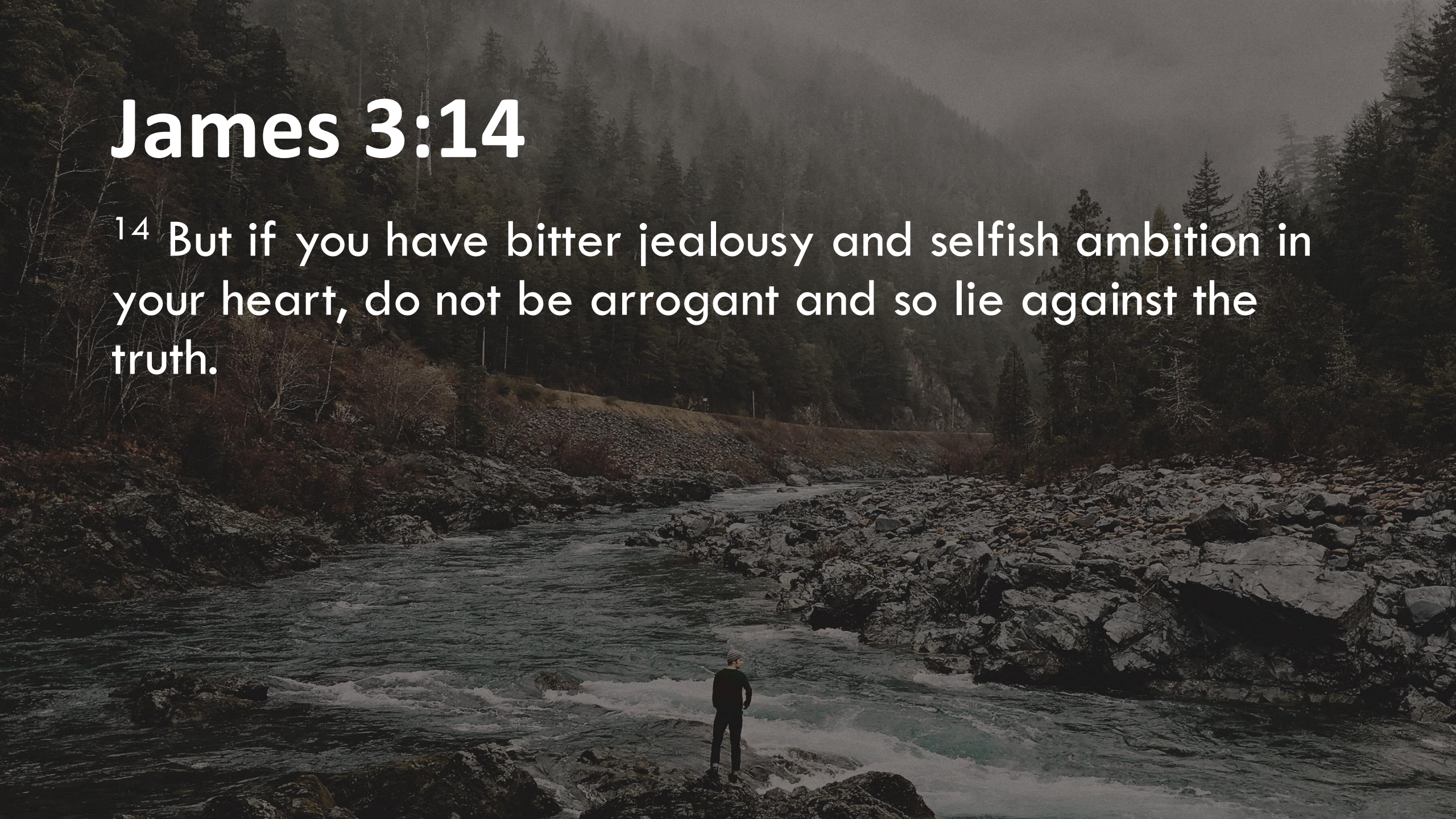
James 3:13

- One's actions and character, marked by humility and wisdom, are what's truly important.
- **AMP** — “...with the gentleness and humility of true wisdom.”



James 3:14

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.



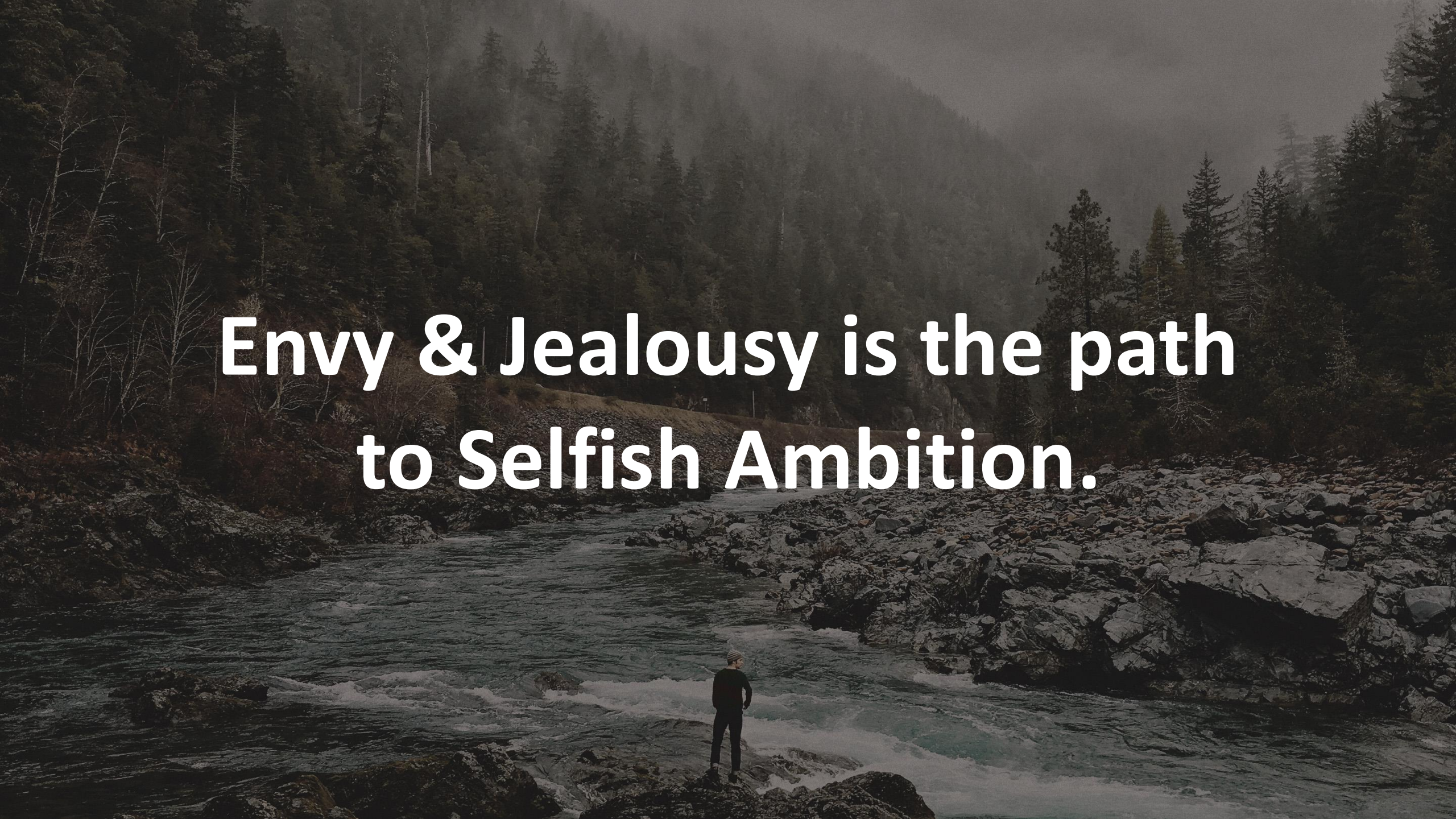
What is selfish ambition?

1. It is not ambition.

2. It is all about you.

- Your recognition
- Your validation
- Your image

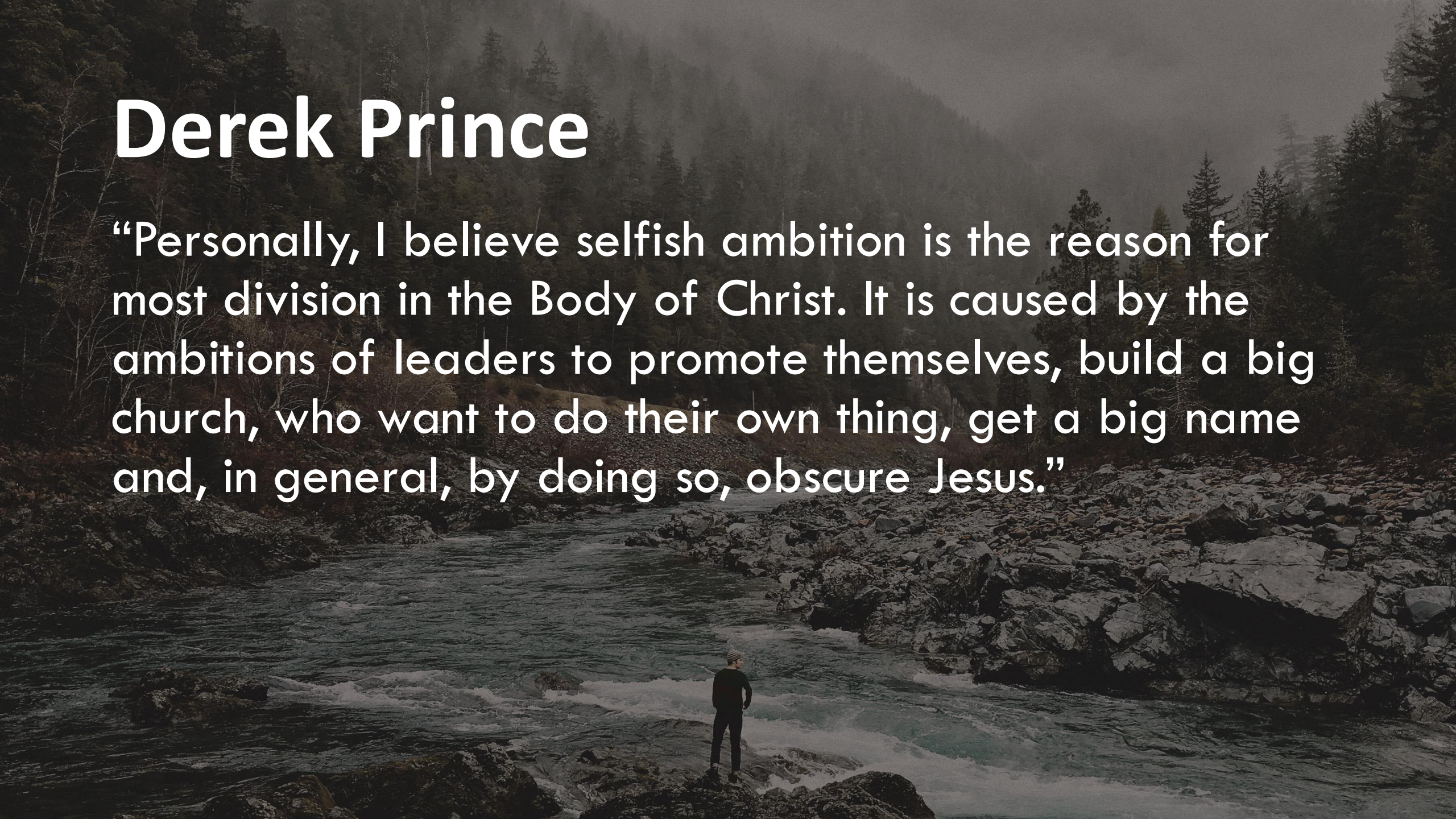


A person stands on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking down at a turbulent river that flows through a deep, forested valley. The river is surrounded by steep, rocky banks and dense evergreen trees. The scene is dimly lit, with a misty or overcast sky, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Envy & Jealousy is the path
to Selfish Ambition.**

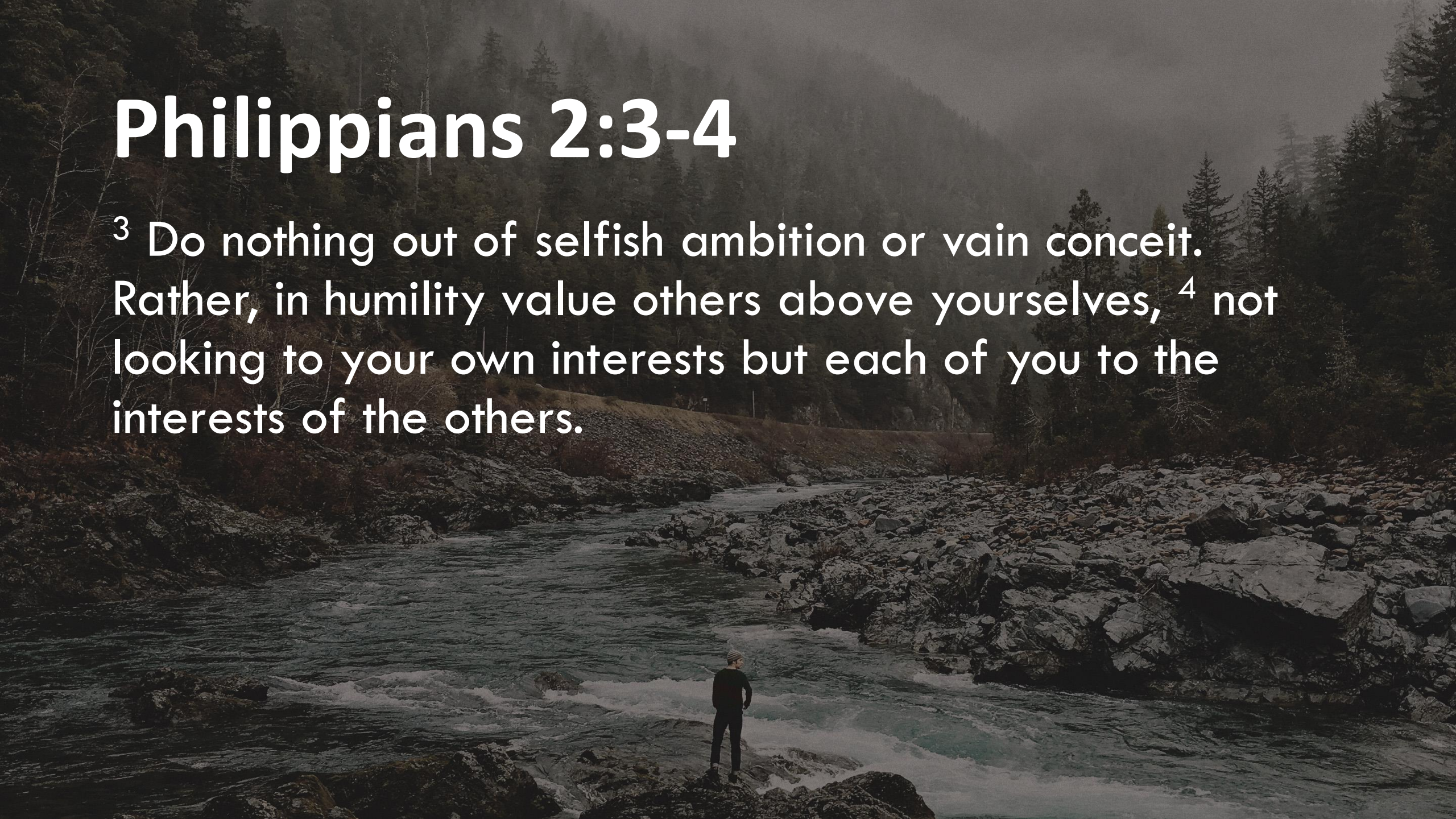
Derek Prince

“Personally, I believe selfish ambition is the reason for most division in the Body of Christ. It is caused by the ambitions of leaders to promote themselves, build a big church, who want to do their own thing, get a big name and, in general, by doing so, obscure Jesus.”



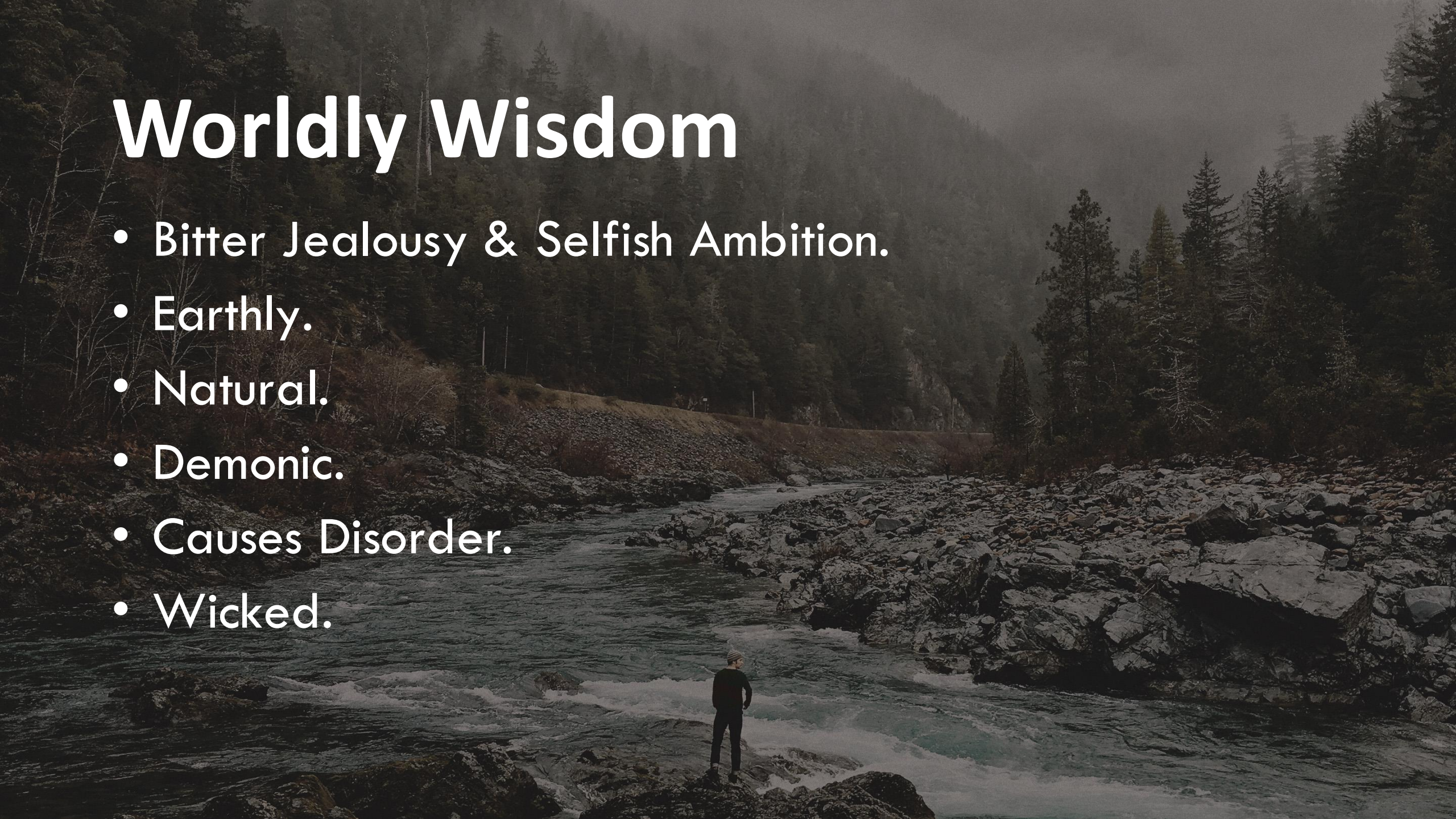
Philippians 2:3-4

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.



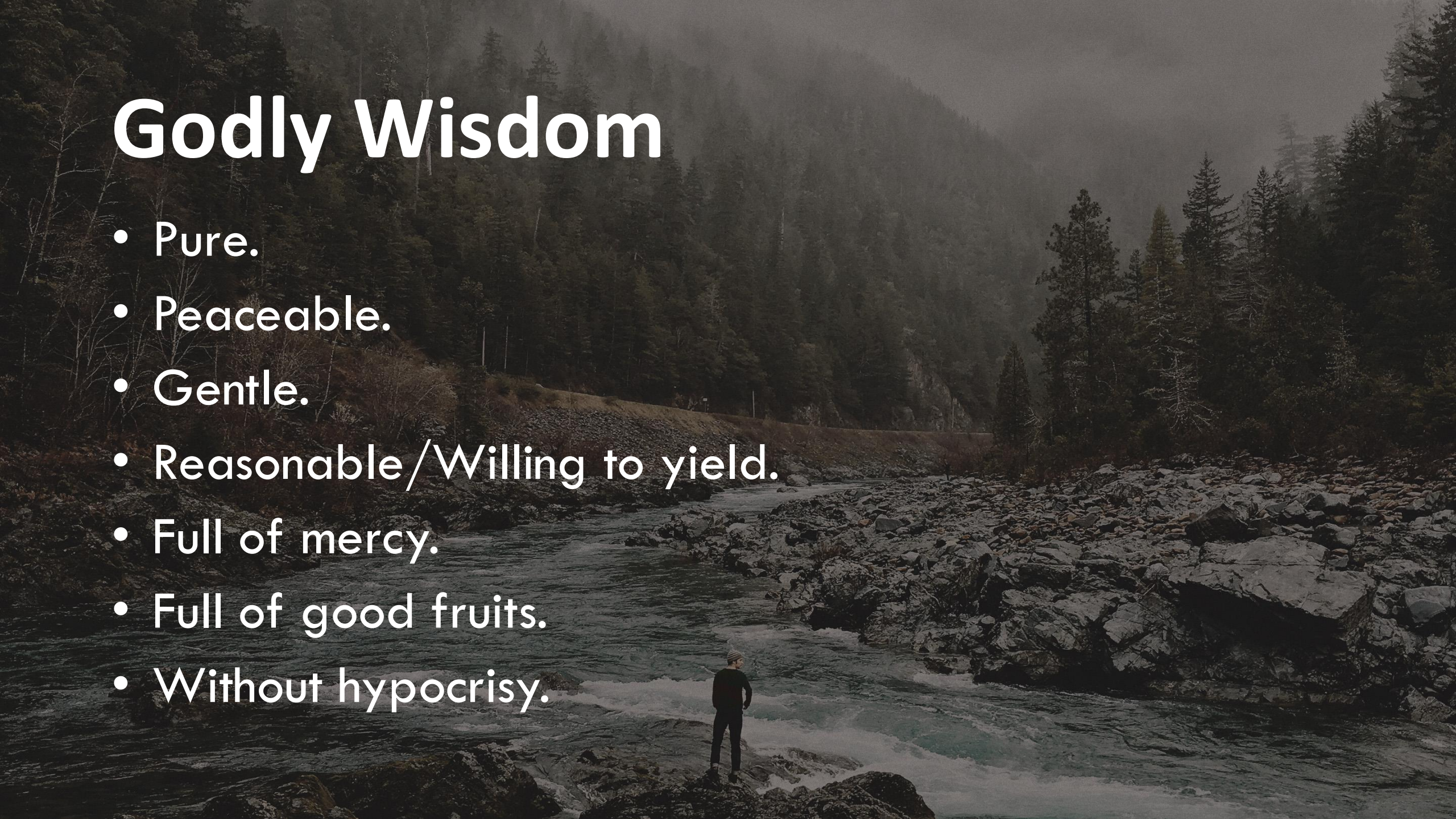
Worldly Wisdom

- Bitter Jealousy & Selfish Ambition.
- Earthly.
- Natural.
- Demonic.
- Causes Disorder.
- Wicked.



Godly Wisdom

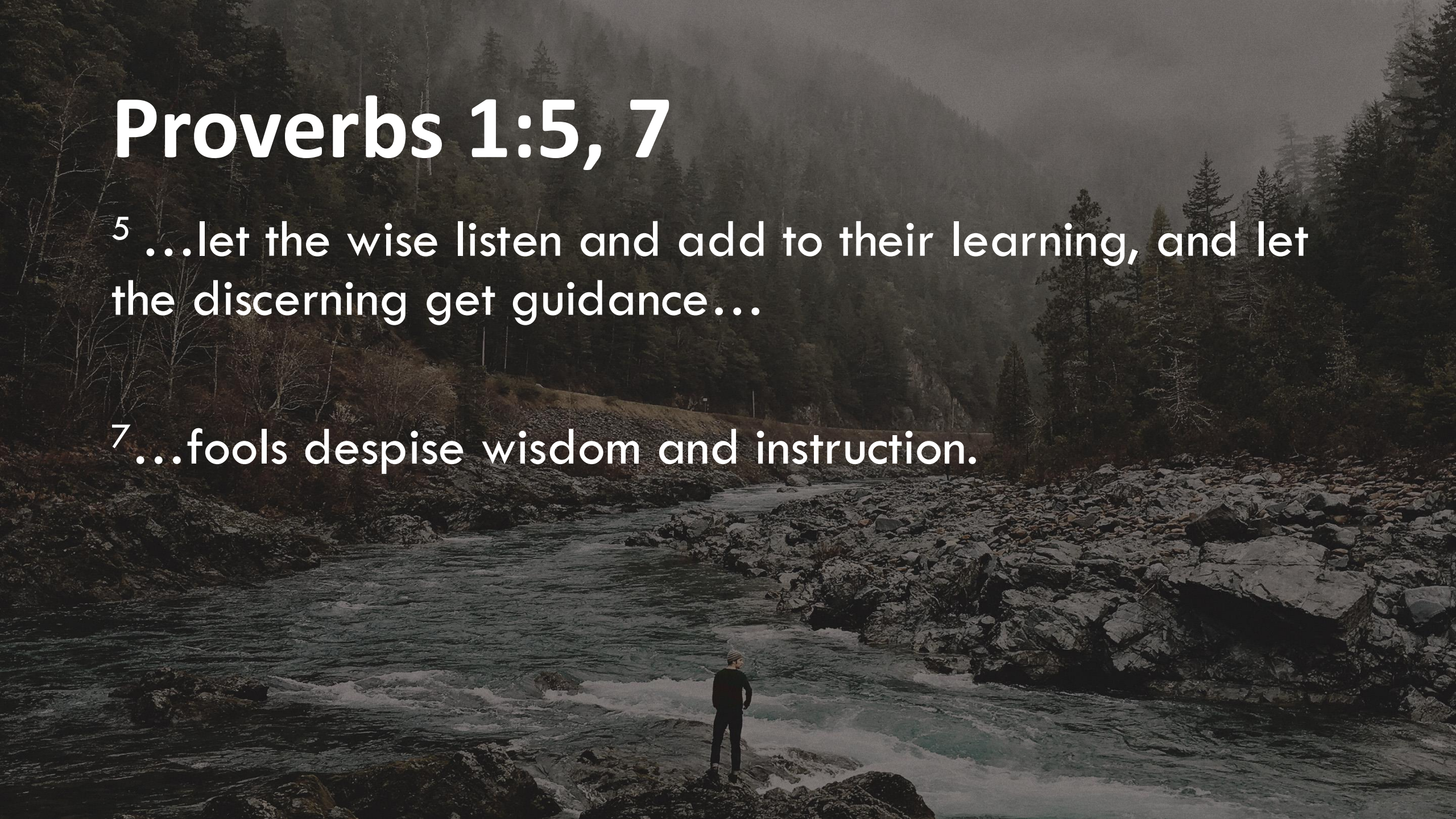
- Pure.
- Peaceable.
- Gentle.
- Reasonable/Willing to yield.
- Full of mercy.
- Full of good fruits.
- Without hypocrisy.



Proverbs 1:5, 7

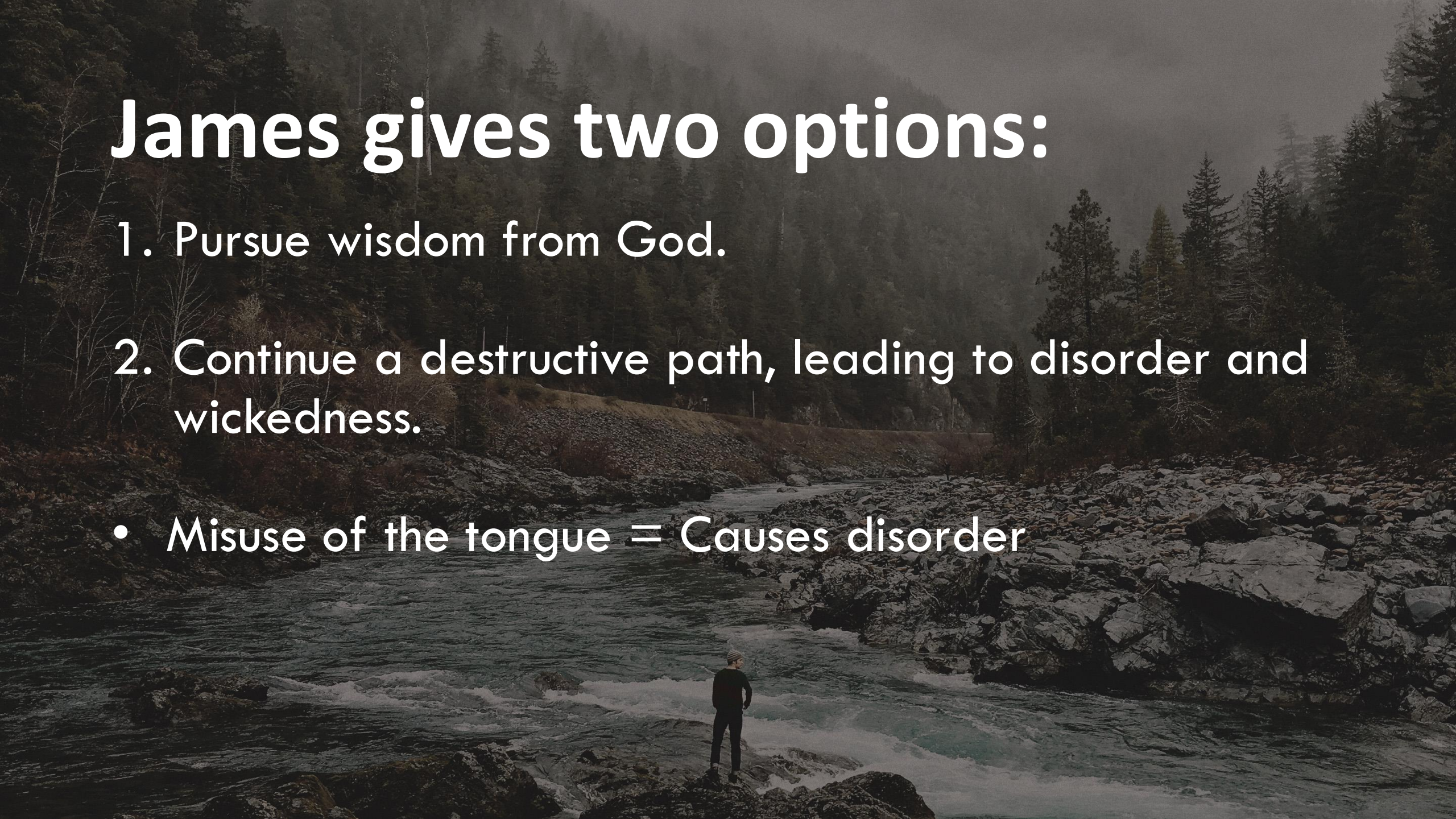
⁵ ...let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance...

⁷ ...fools despise wisdom and instruction.



James gives two options:

1. Pursue wisdom from God.
 2. Continue a destructive path, leading to disorder and wickedness.
- Misuse of the tongue = Causes disorder

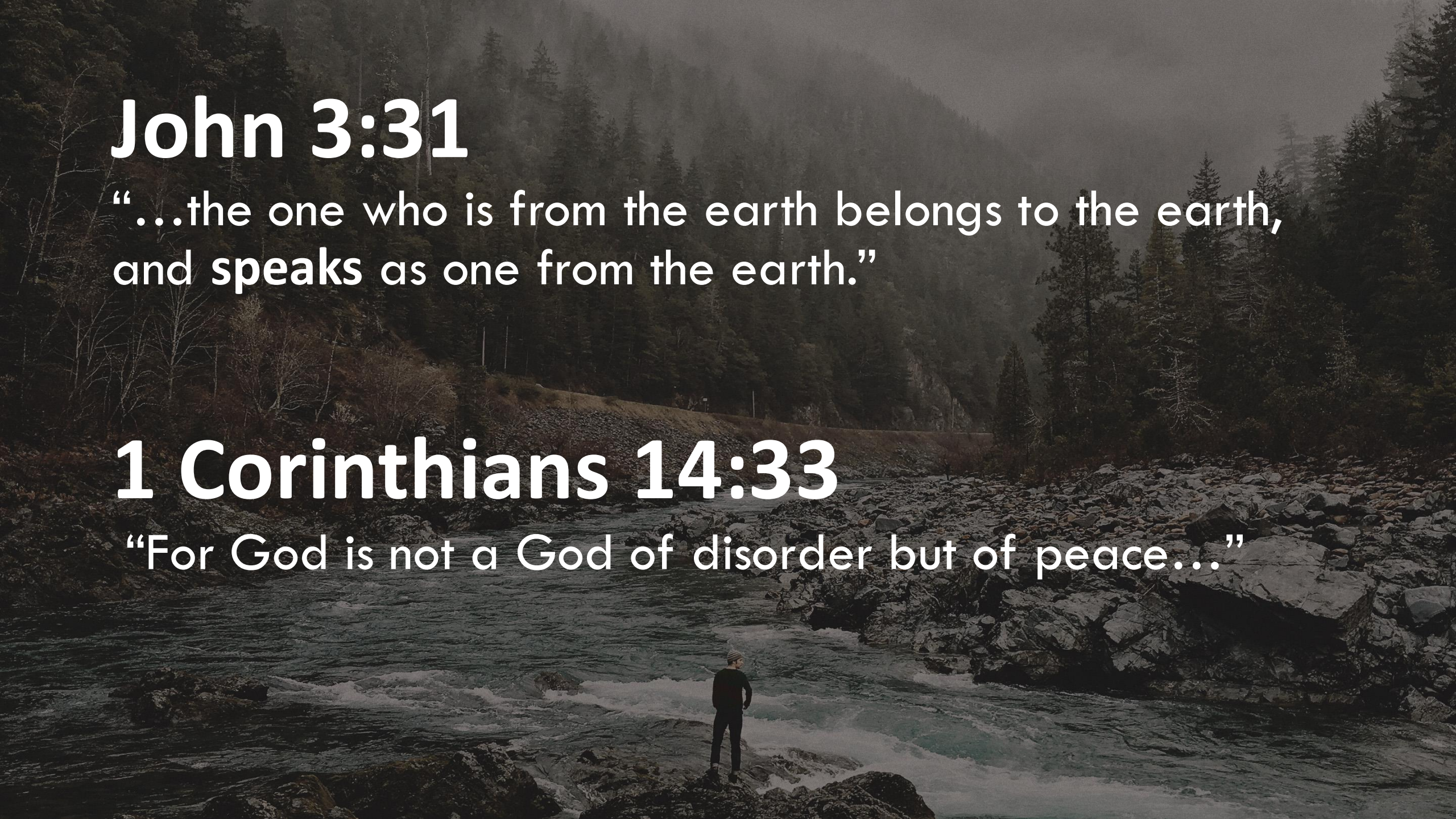


John 3:31

“...the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth,
and speaks as one from the earth.”

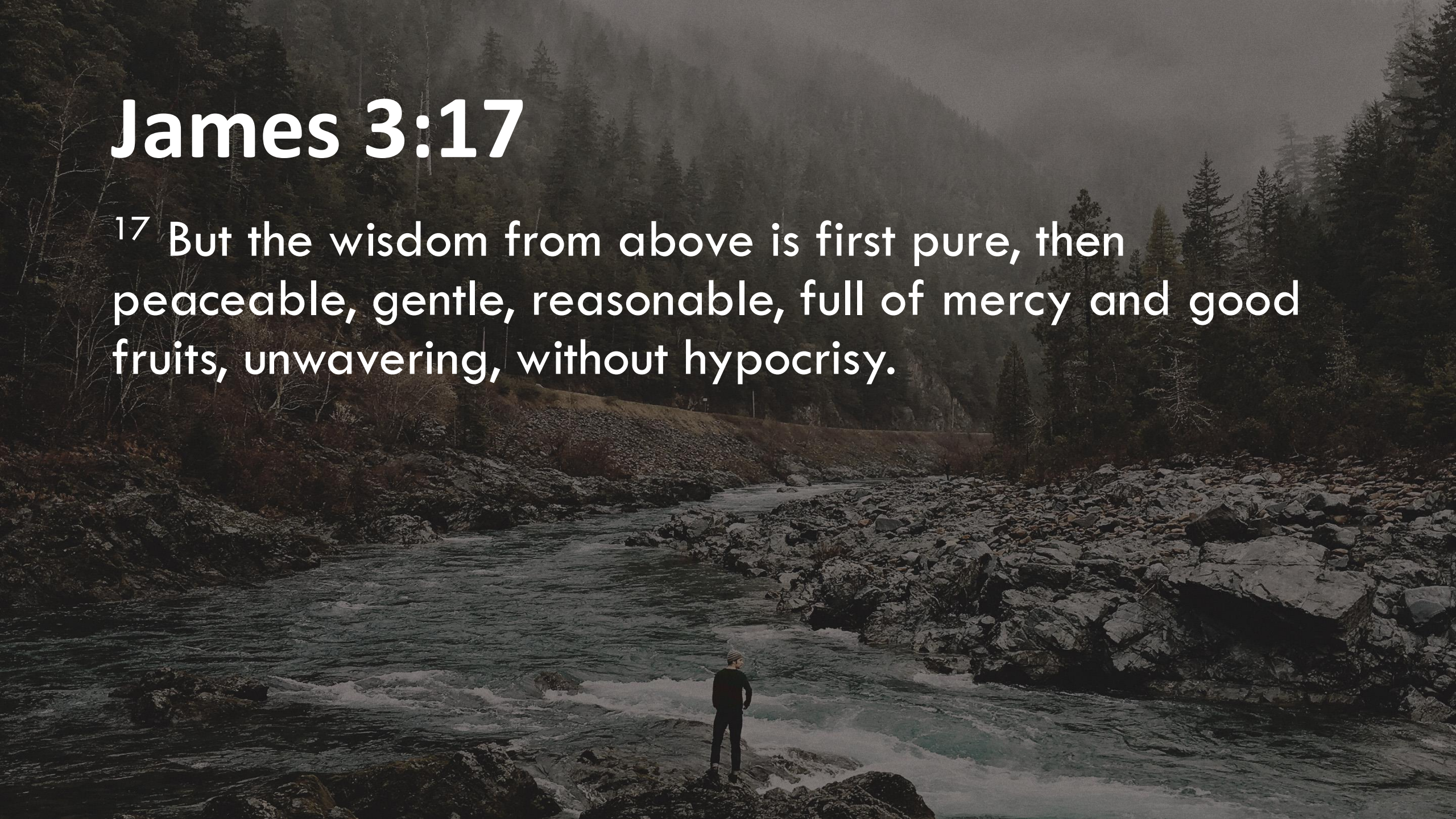
1 Corinthians 14:33

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...”



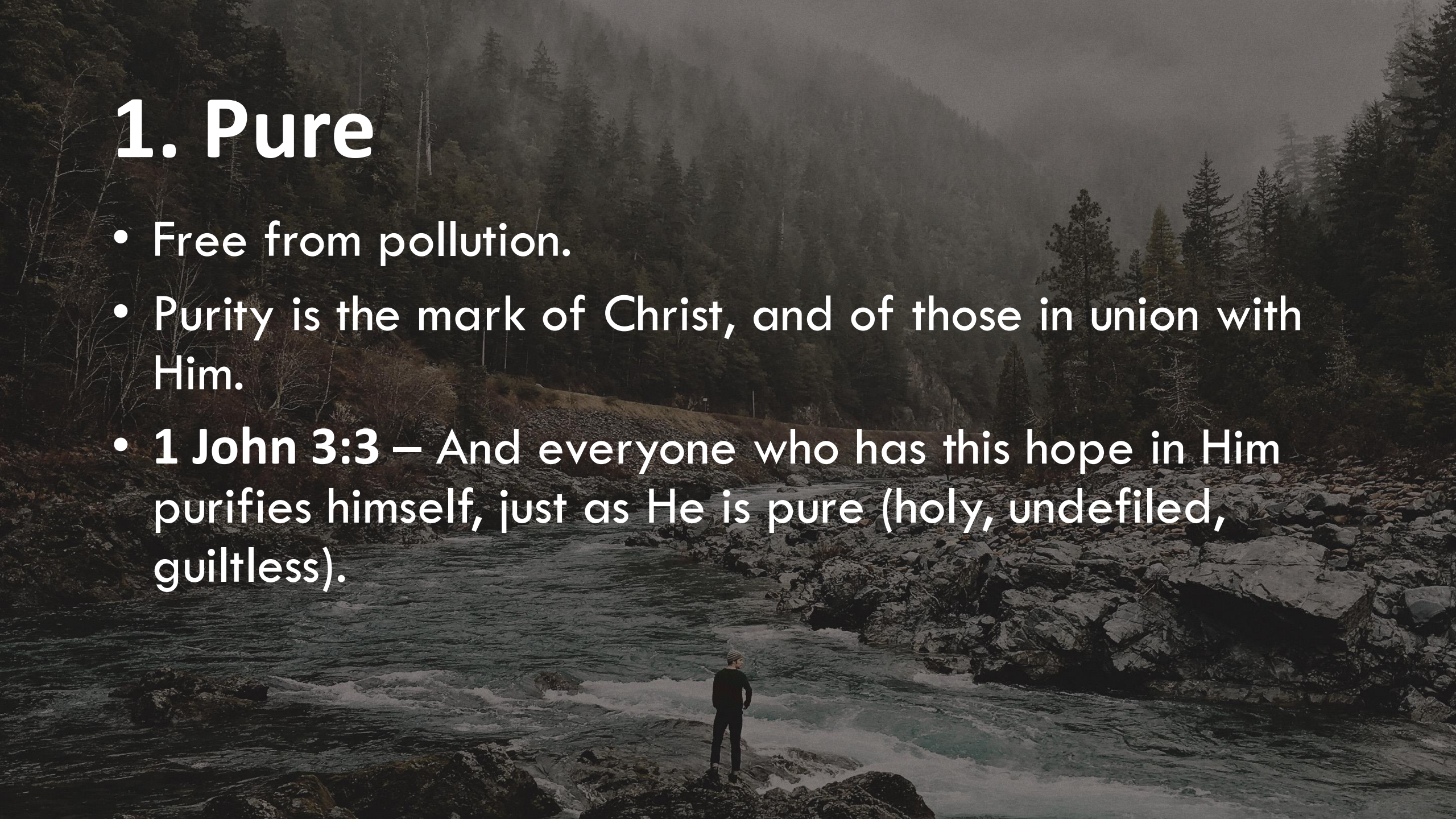
James 3:17

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.



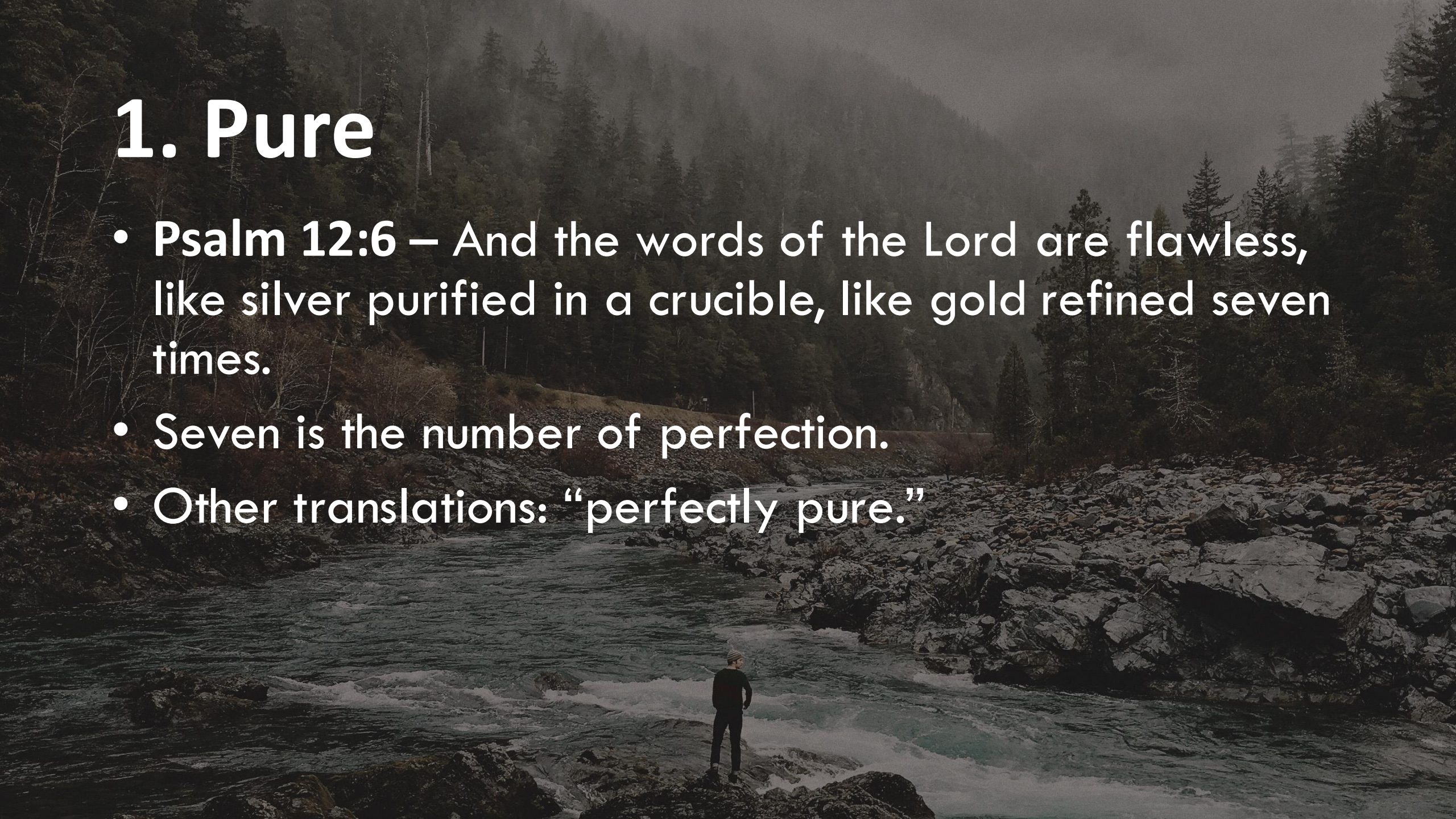
1. Pure

- Free from pollution.
- Purity is the mark of Christ, and of those in union with Him.
- **1 John 3:3** – And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (holy, undefiled, guiltless).



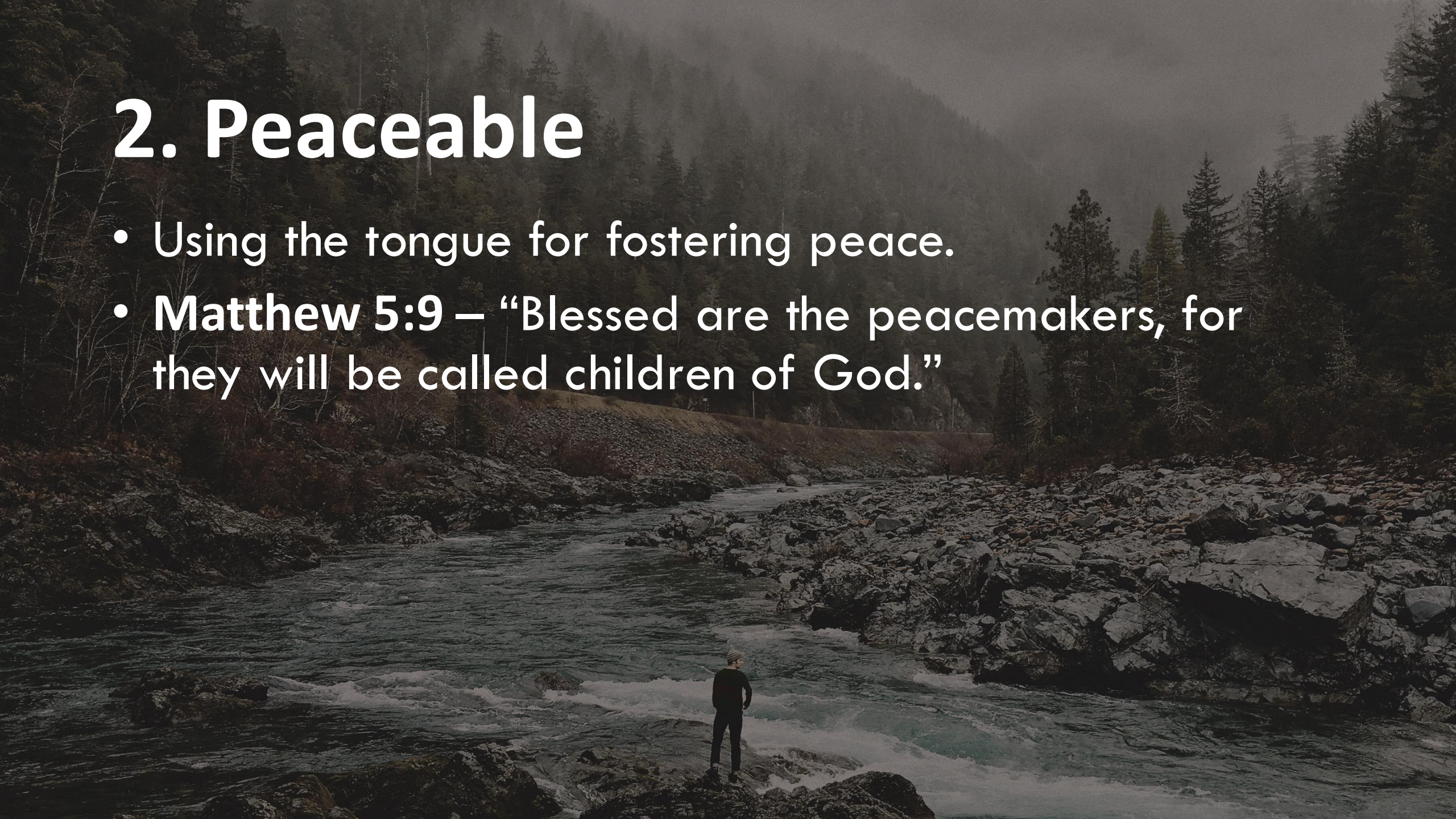
1. Pure

- Psalm 12:6 – And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.
- Seven is the number of perfection.
- Other translations: “perfectly pure.”



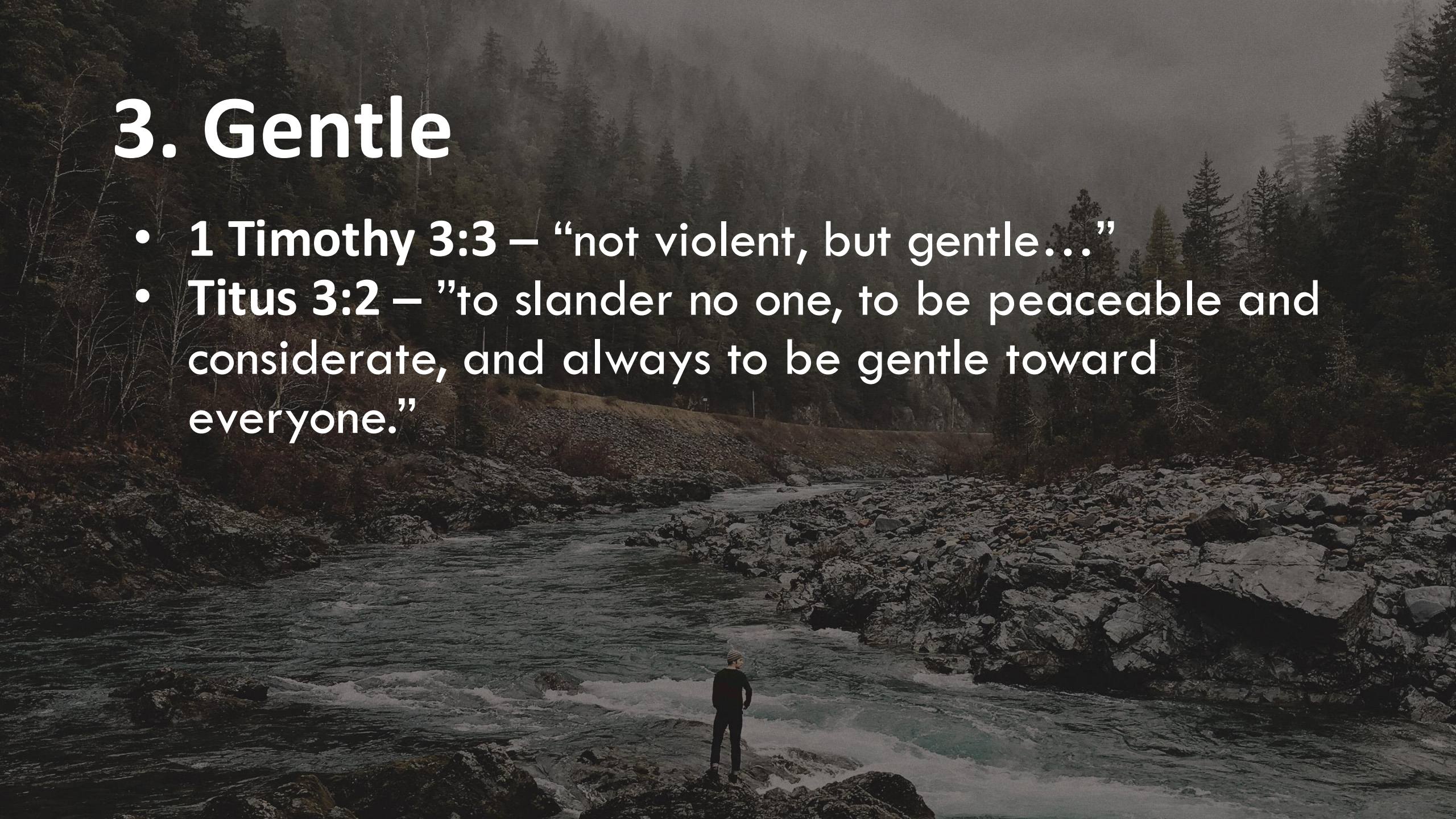
2. Peaceable

- Using the tongue for fostering peace.
- **Matthew 5:9** – “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”



3. Gentle

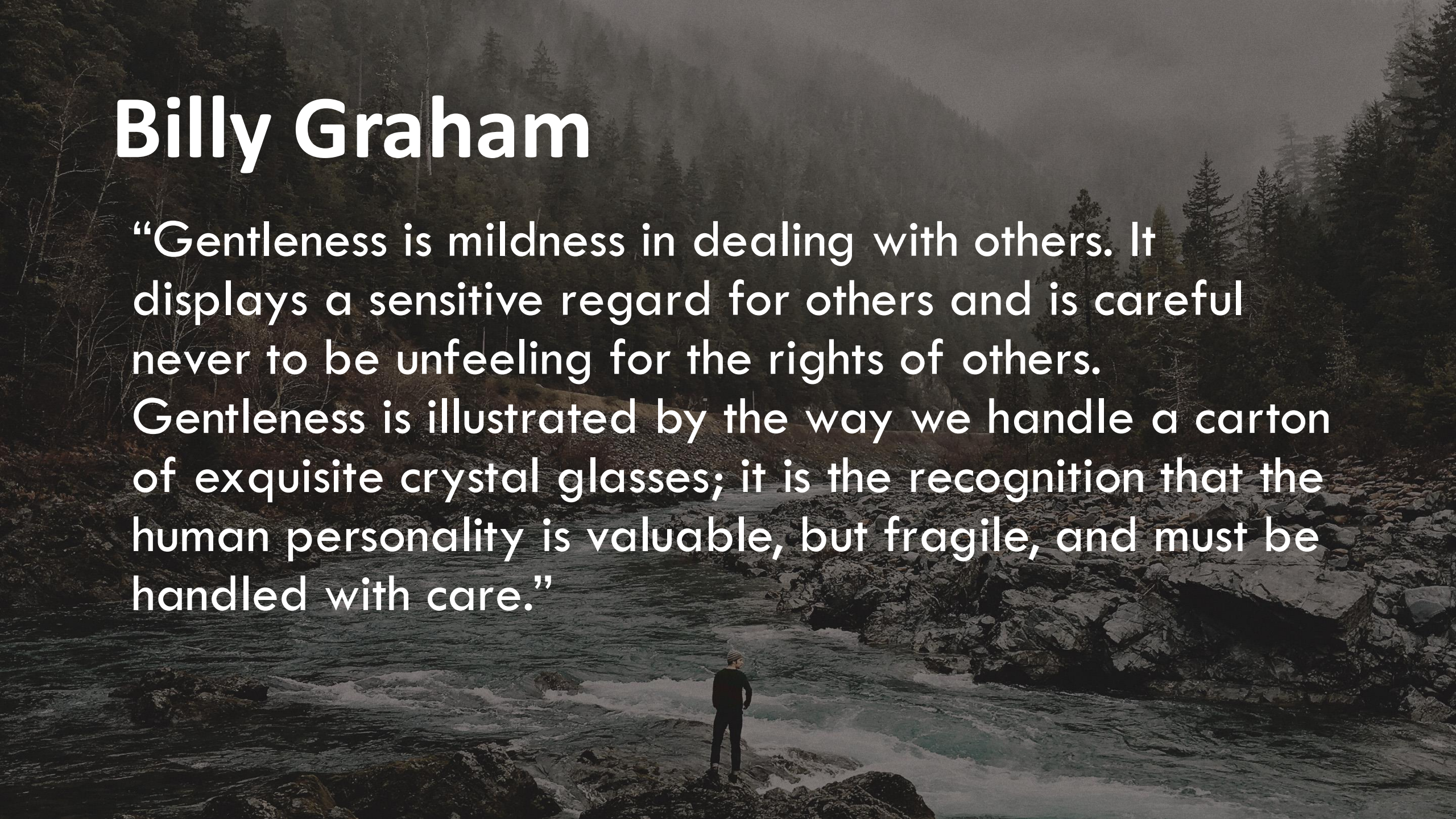
- 1 Timothy 3:3 – “not violent, but gentle...”
- Titus 3:2 – “to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.”



Billy Graham

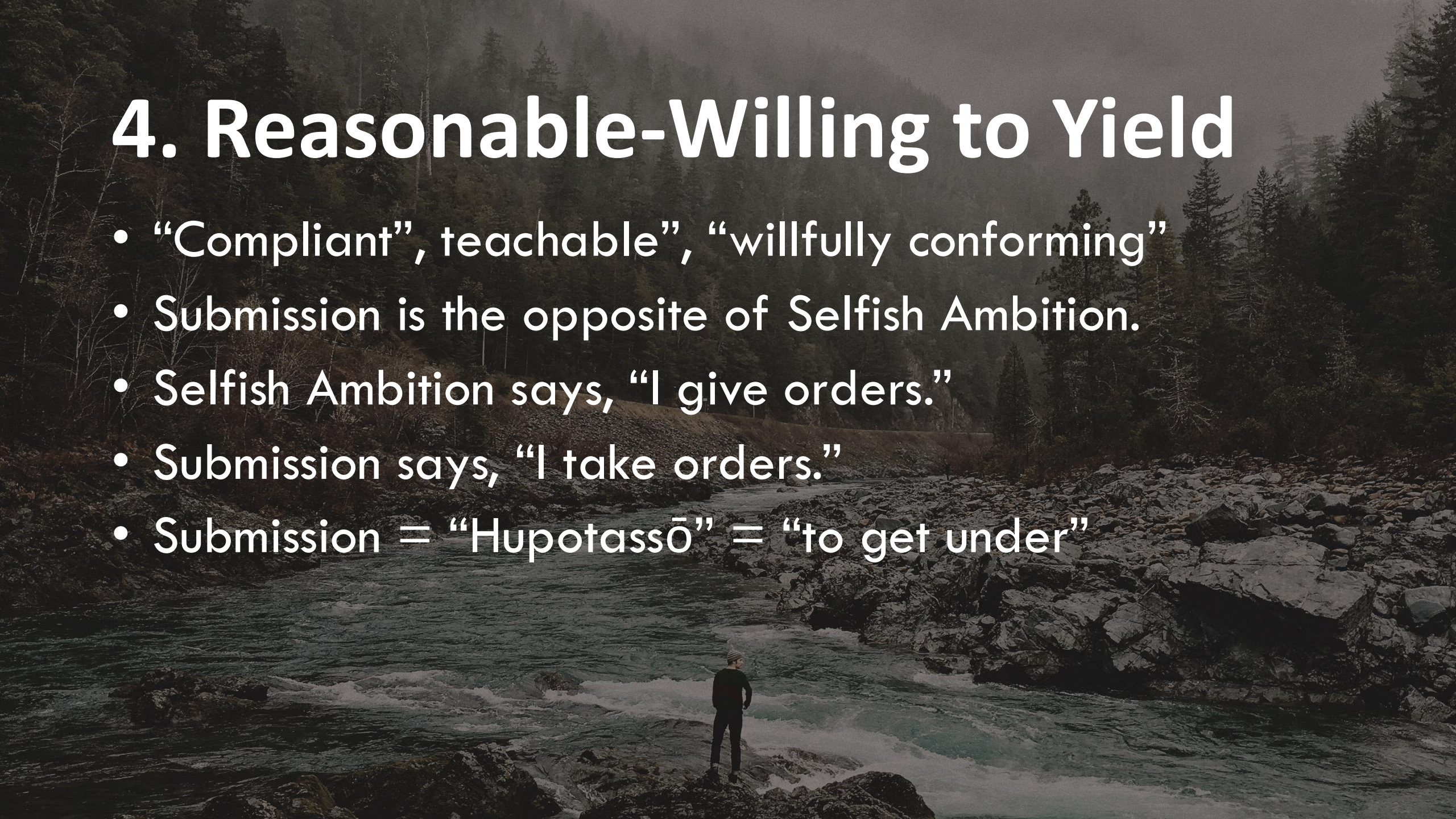
“Gentleness is mildness in dealing with others. It displays a sensitive regard for others and is careful never to be unfeeling for the rights of others.

Gentleness is illustrated by the way we handle a carton of exquisite crystal glasses; it is the recognition that the human personality is valuable, but fragile, and must be handled with care.”



4. Reasonable-Willing to Yield

- “Compliant”, teachable”, “willfully conforming”
- Submission is the opposite of Selfish Ambition.
- Selfish Ambition says, “I give orders.”
- Submission says, “I take orders.”
- Submission = “Hupotassō” = “to get under”



The Story of the Battleship

A battleship had been at sea on its routine maneuvers under heavy weathers for days. The captain, who was worried about the deteriorating weather conditions, stayed on the bridge to keep an eye on all activities. One night, the lookout on the bridge suddenly shouted, "Captain! A light, bearing on the starboard bow." "Is it steady or moving astern?" the captain asked.

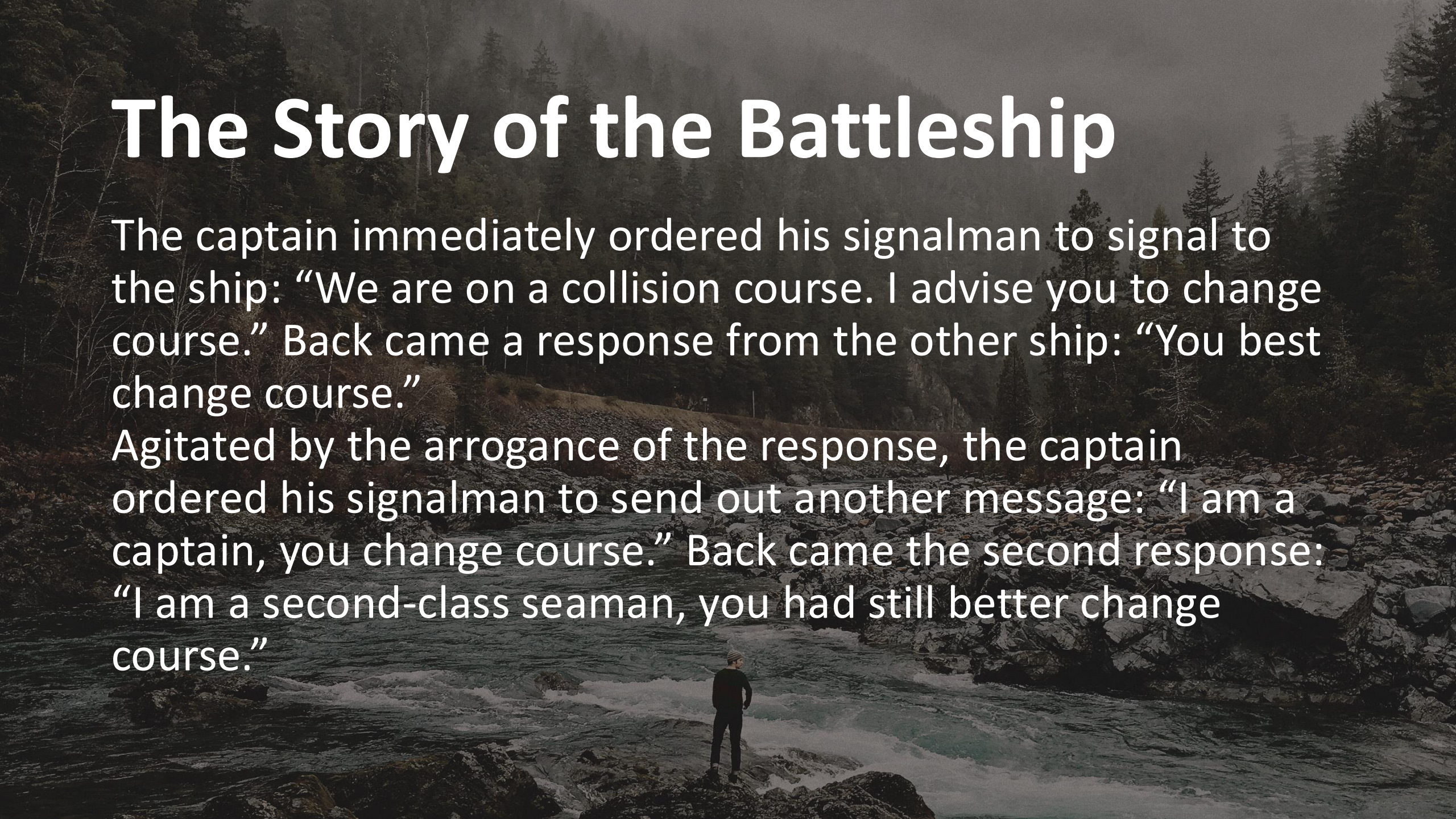
The lookout replied that it was steady. This meant the battleship was on a dangerous collision course with the other ship.



The Story of the Battleship

The captain immediately ordered his signalman to signal to the ship: “We are on a collision course. I advise you to change course.” Back came a response from the other ship: “You best change course.”

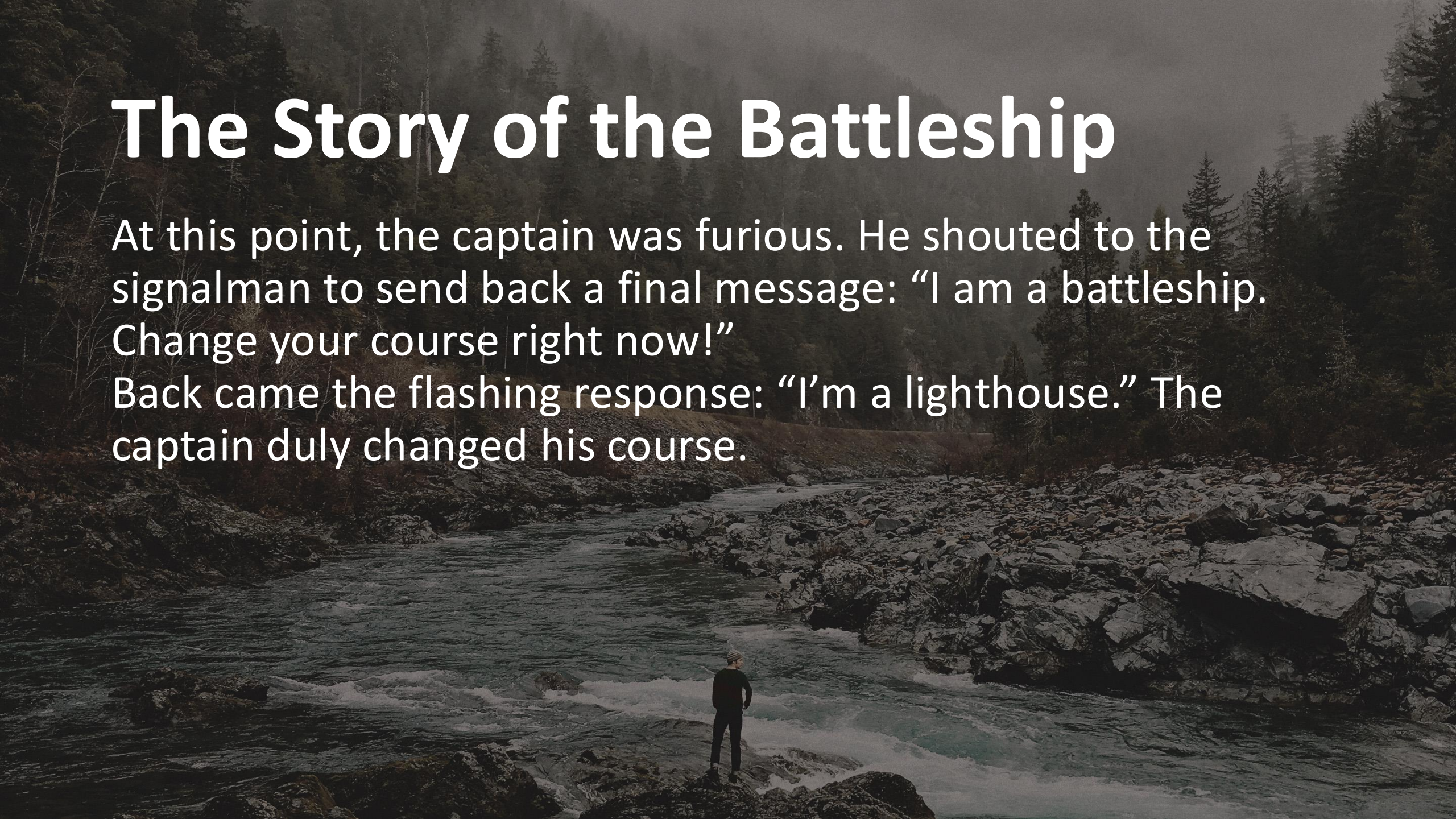
Agitated by the arrogance of the response, the captain ordered his signalman to send out another message: “I am a captain, you change course.” Back came the second response: “I am a second-class seaman, you had still better change course.”



The Story of the Battleship

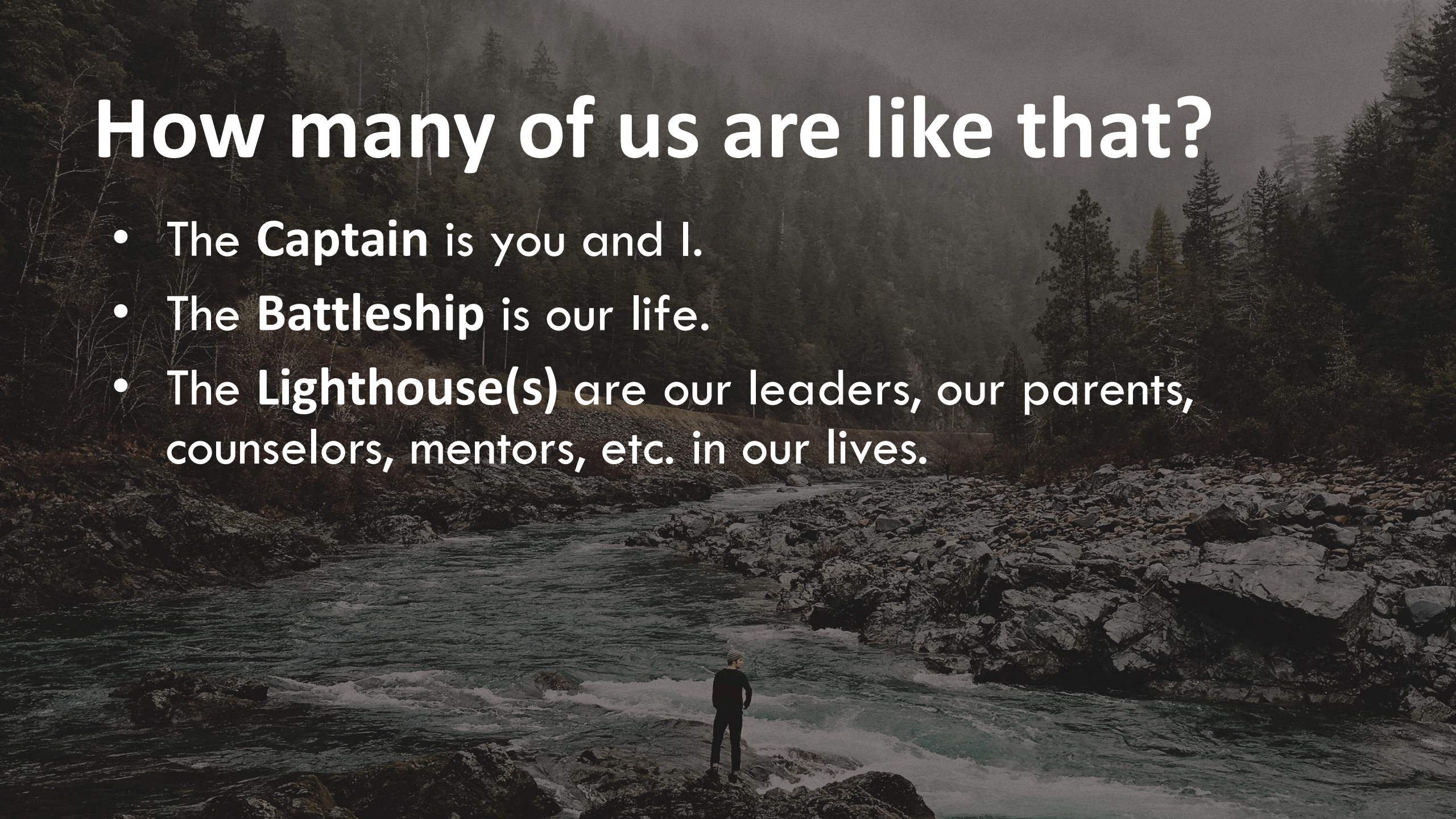
At this point, the captain was furious. He shouted to the signalman to send back a final message: "I am a battleship. Change your course right now!"

Back came the flashing response: "I'm a lighthouse." The captain duly changed his course.



How many of us are like that?

- The **Captain** is you and I.
- The **Battleship** is our life.
- The **Lighthouse(s)** are our leaders, our parents, counselors, mentors, etc. in our lives.



5. Full of mercy & good fruits

- **Matt. 23:28** – Jesus said the Pharisees were: “full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”
- **Romans 1:29** – Paul says the idolaters were: “filled with every kind of wickedness.”
- So James urges the teachers to be: “full of mercy and good fruits.”



6. Without partiality & hypocrisy

- “Impartial” or “non-judgmental”



A person stands on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking down a river that flows over a bed of large, grey rocks. The river is turbulent, with white water rapids. The surrounding landscape is a dense forest of evergreen trees, covering steep hillsides that rise into a misty or foggy sky. The overall tone is somber and atmospheric, with muted colors and soft lighting.

**Worldly Wisdom & Godly
Wisdom cannot coexist.**

James 3:18

- And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
- Psalm 97:11 – "Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart."
- Isaiah 32:17 – "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever."

THE LETTER OF

JAMES

