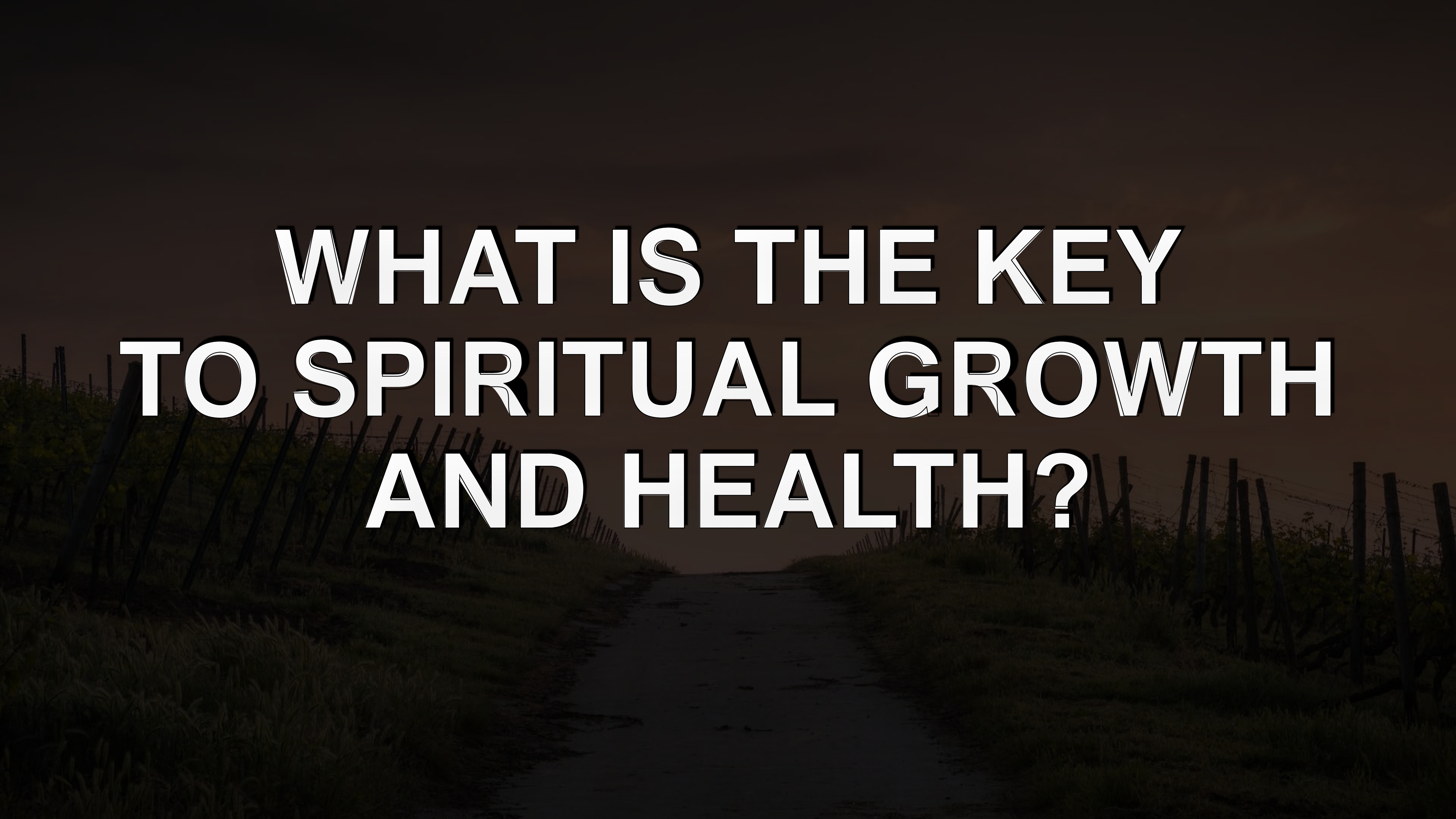


wisdom from proverbs

Pr. 9:10



**WHAT IS THE KEY
TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
AND HEALTH?**



The key to spiritual
growth and health:

Not achievement



The key to spiritual
growth and health:

Not **achievement**


But **astonishment**

A dark, atmospheric background image of a dirt road winding through a field with a fence, overlaid with the text "The fear of the Lord."

“The fear of the Lord.”

“**Happy** is the man that feareth
always...” *(Proverbs 28:14a, KJV)*





“The fear of the LORD leads to
life; then one rests content,
untouched by trouble.”

(Proverbs 19:23, NIV)

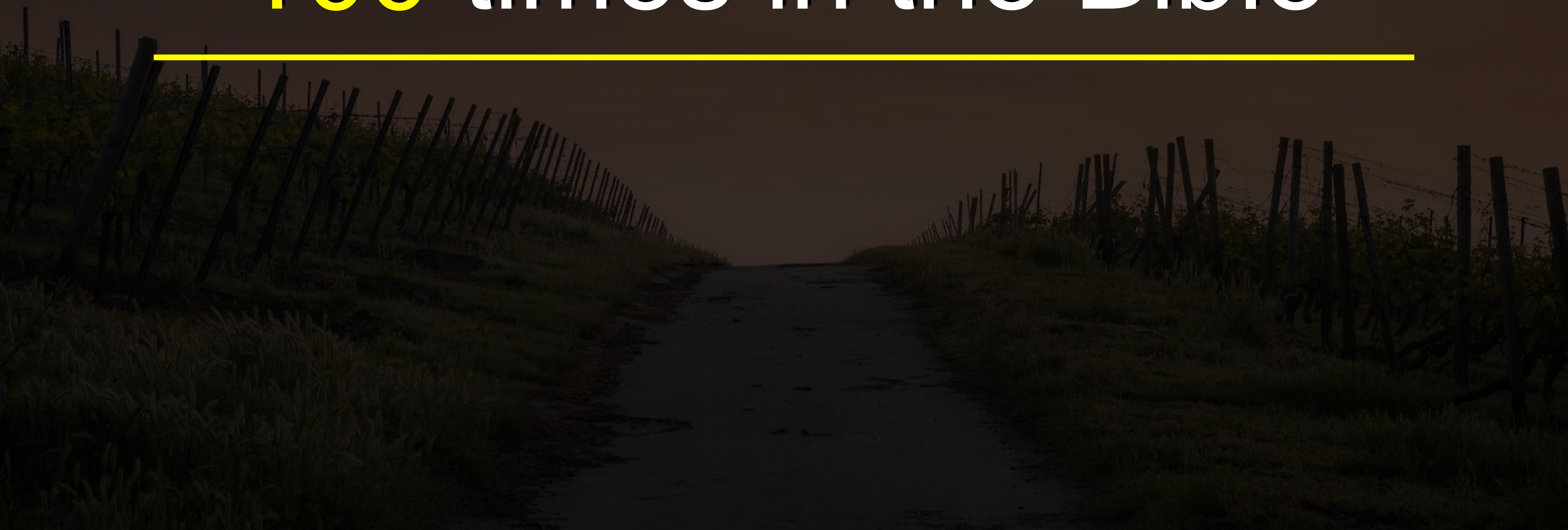
“The fear of the Lord is a life-
giving fountain...”

(Proverbs 14:27, NIV)



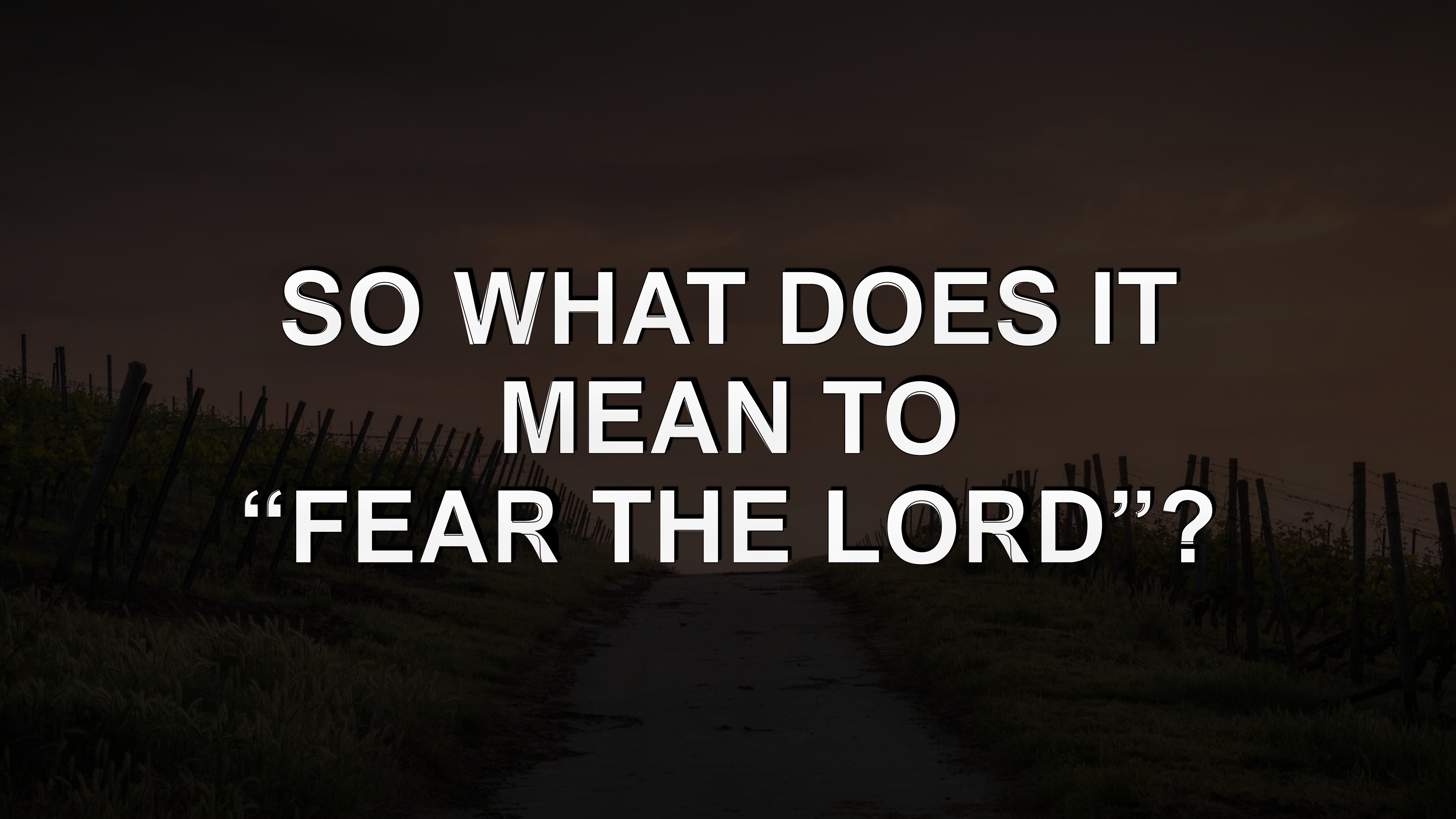
THE RIDDLE OF THE FEAR OF GOD

We are told to “fear God”
100 times in the Bible



We are told to “fear God”
100 times in the Bible

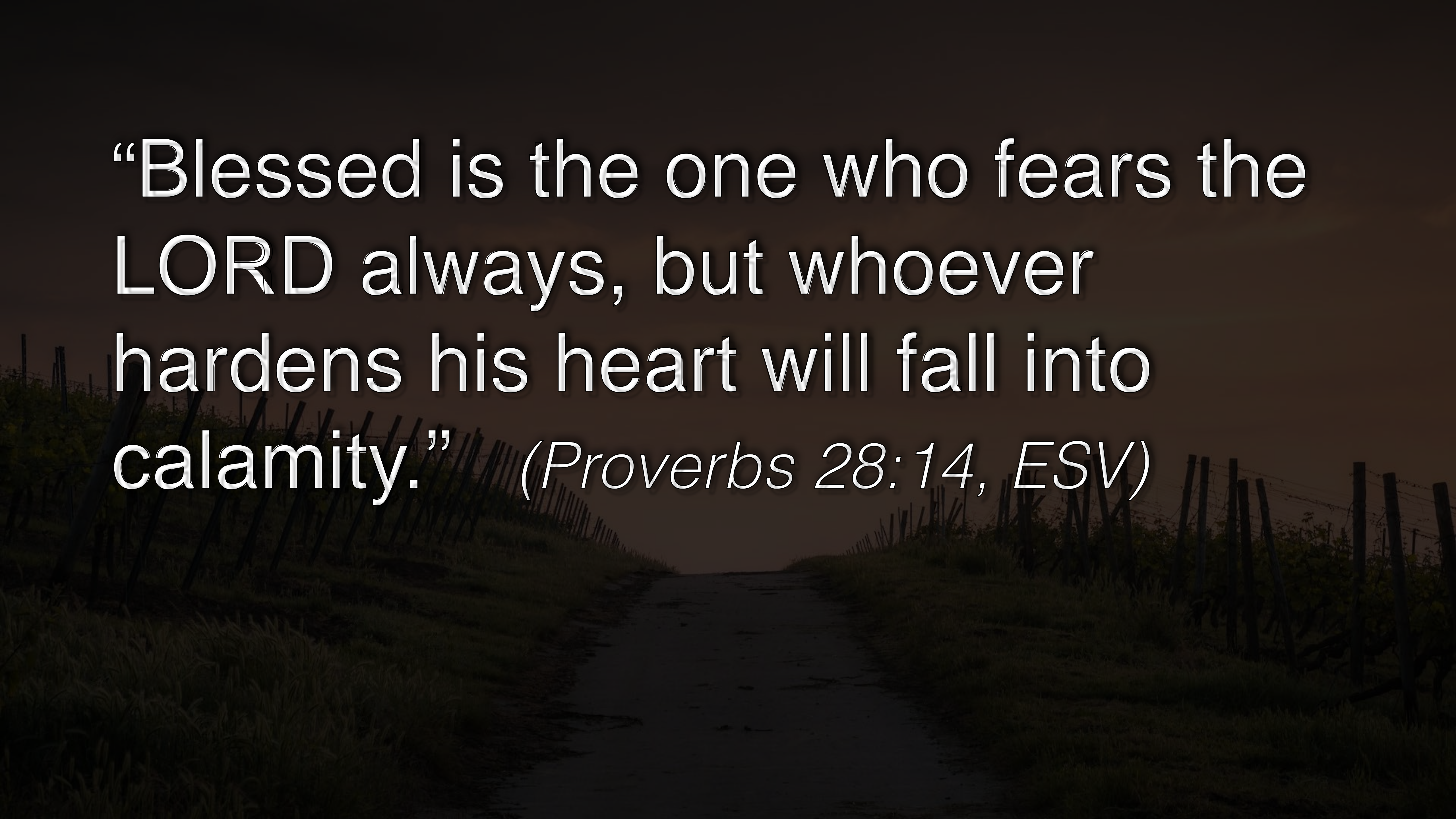
Yet God keeps telling
people to “fear not” when
he appears to them



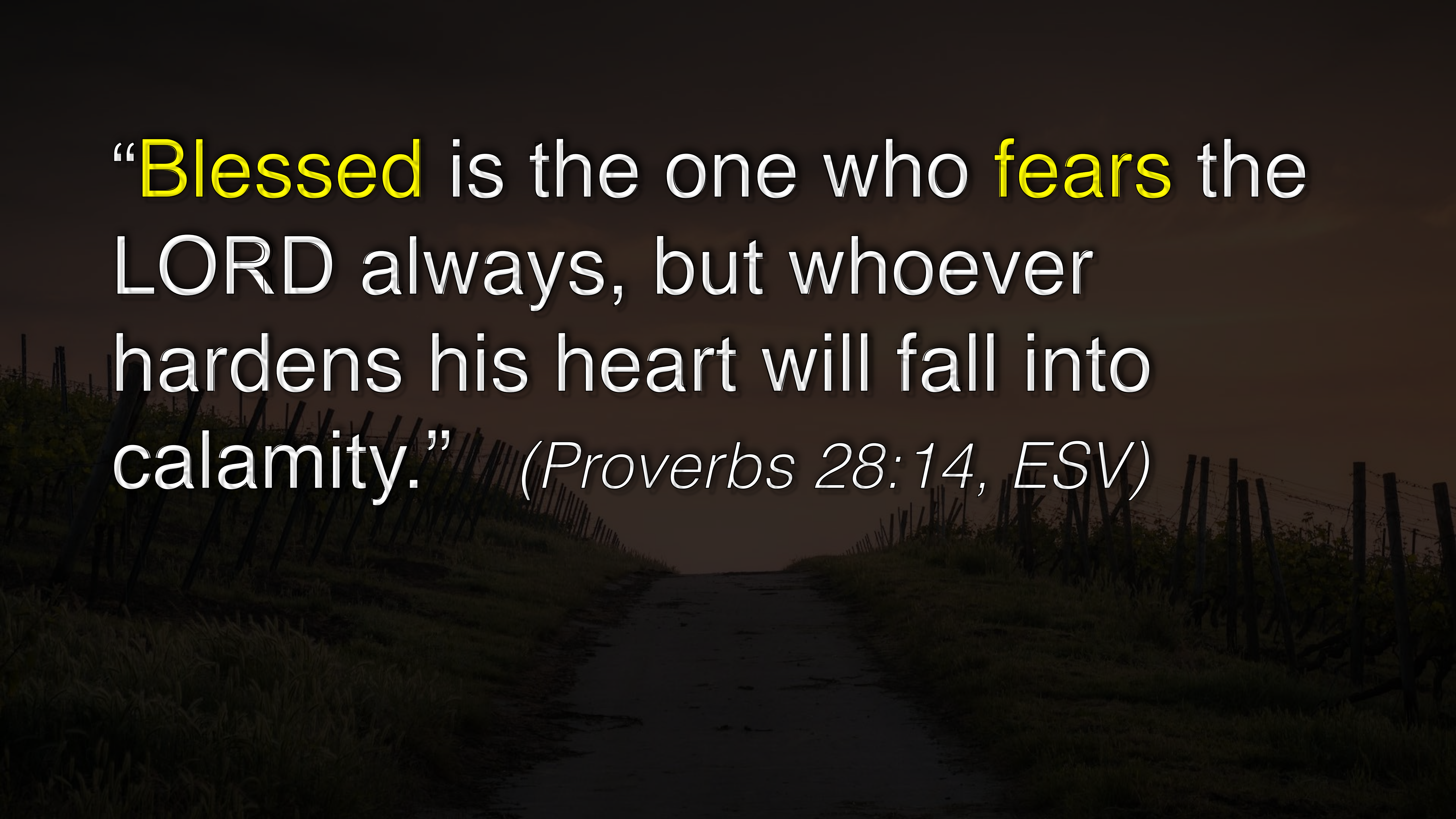
**SO WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO
“FEAR THE LORD”?**



1. It's about living in
awe



“Blessed is the one who fears the
LORD always, but whoever
hardens his heart will fall into
calamity.” *(Proverbs 28:14, ESV)*



“**Blessed** is the one who **fears** the
LORD always, but whoever
hardens his heart will fall into
calamity.” *(Proverbs 28:14, ESV)*

“Awe is a fundamental
part of being a healthy
human.”

Lani Shiota
Professor, ASU













“That indefinable mixture of reverence, fear, pleasure, joy and awe which fills our hearts when we realize who God is and what he has done for us.”

Sinclair Ferguson

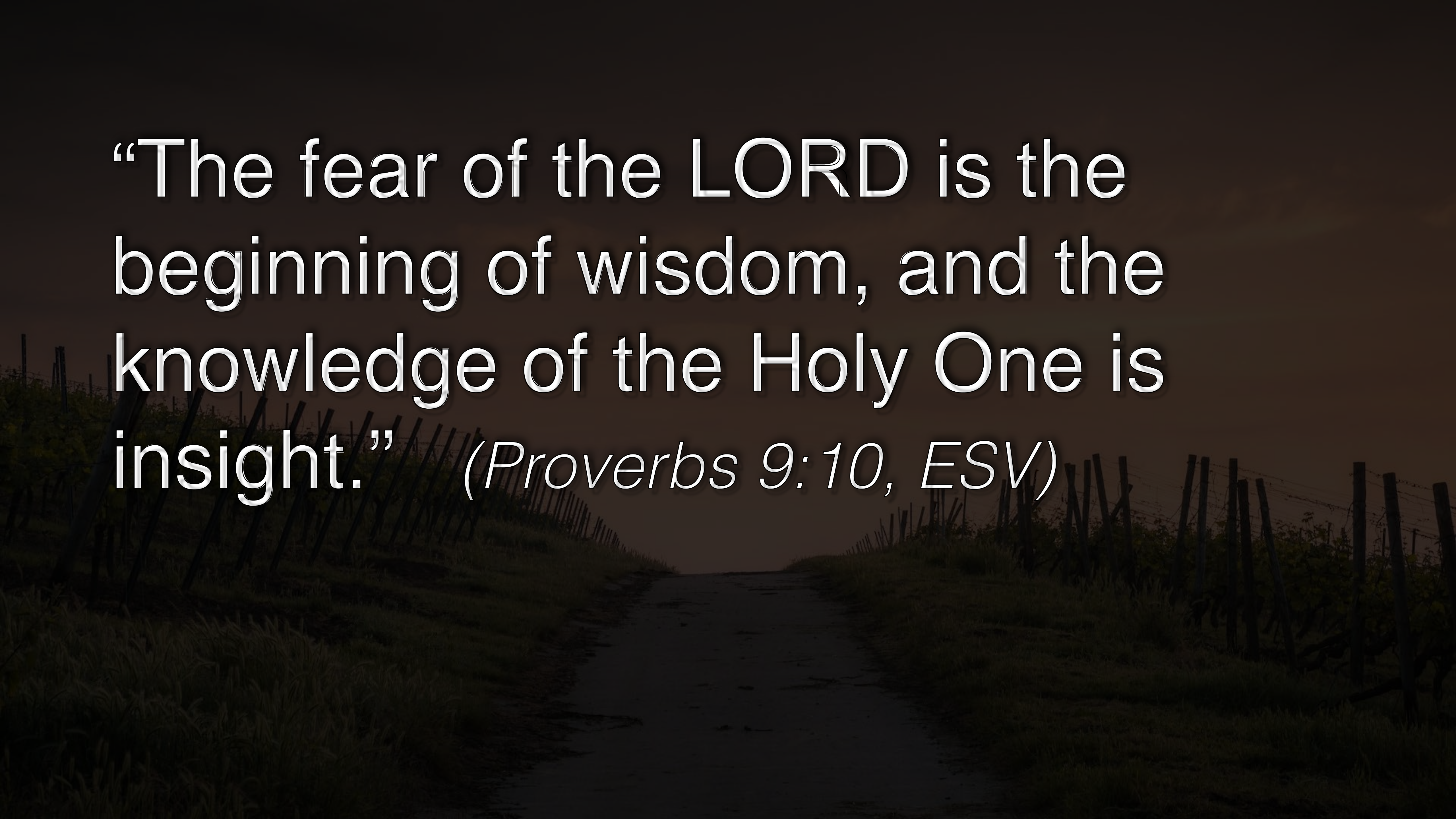


Why use the word “fear”?

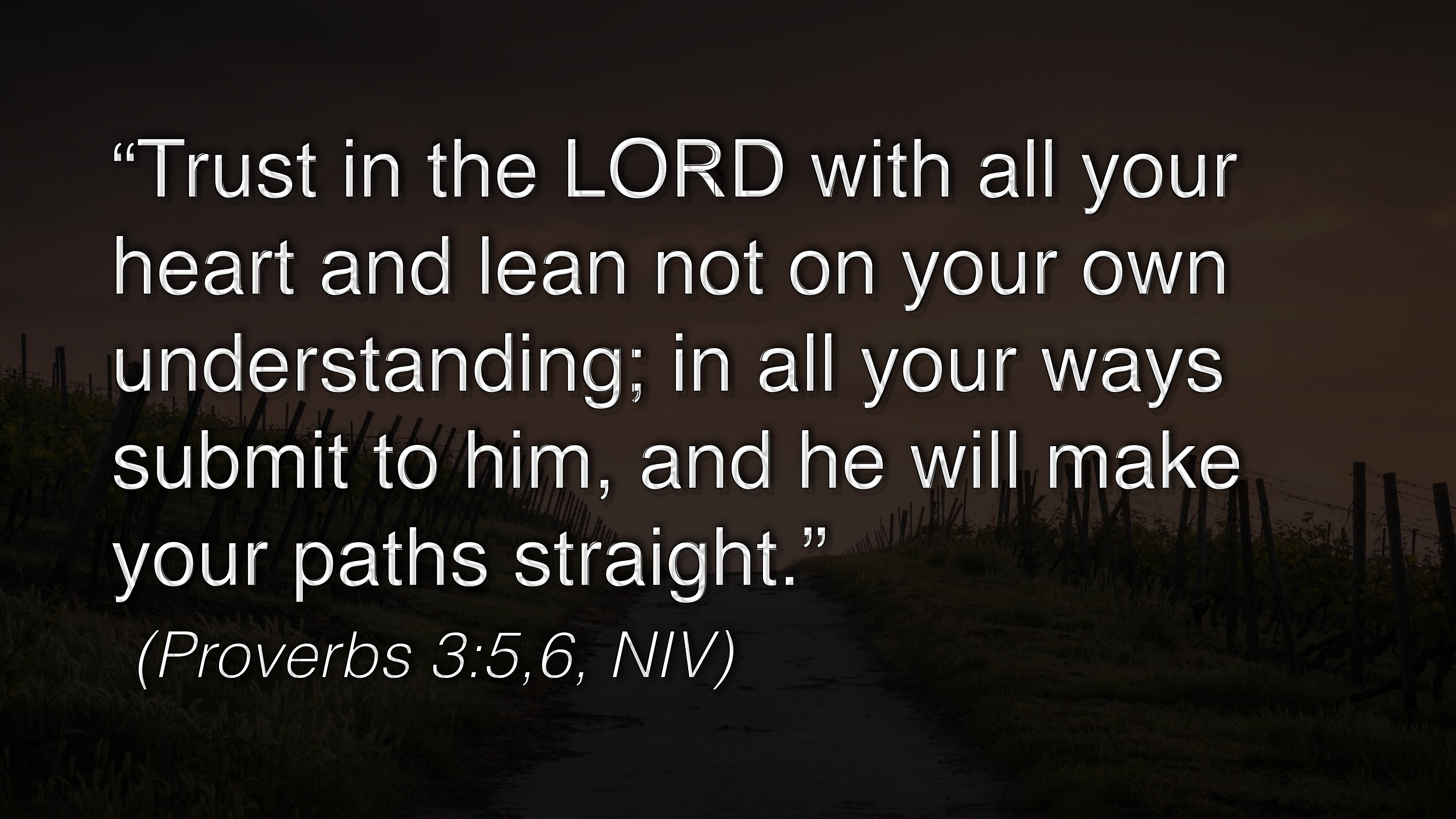
Fear is revealing



2. It's about choosing
a **perspective**

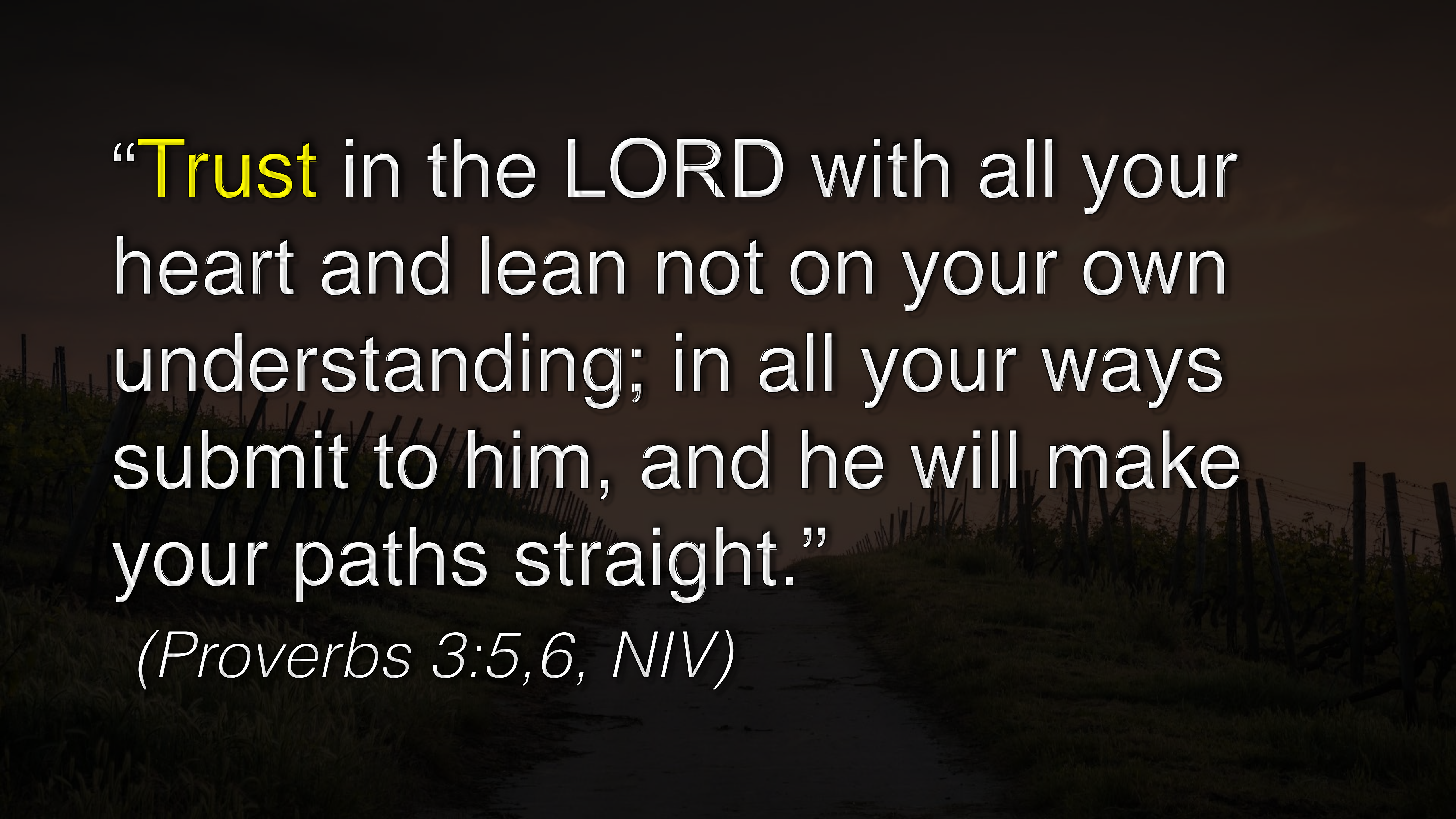


“The fear of the LORD is the
beginning of wisdom, and the
knowledge of the Holy One is
insight.” *(Proverbs 9:10, ESV)*



“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

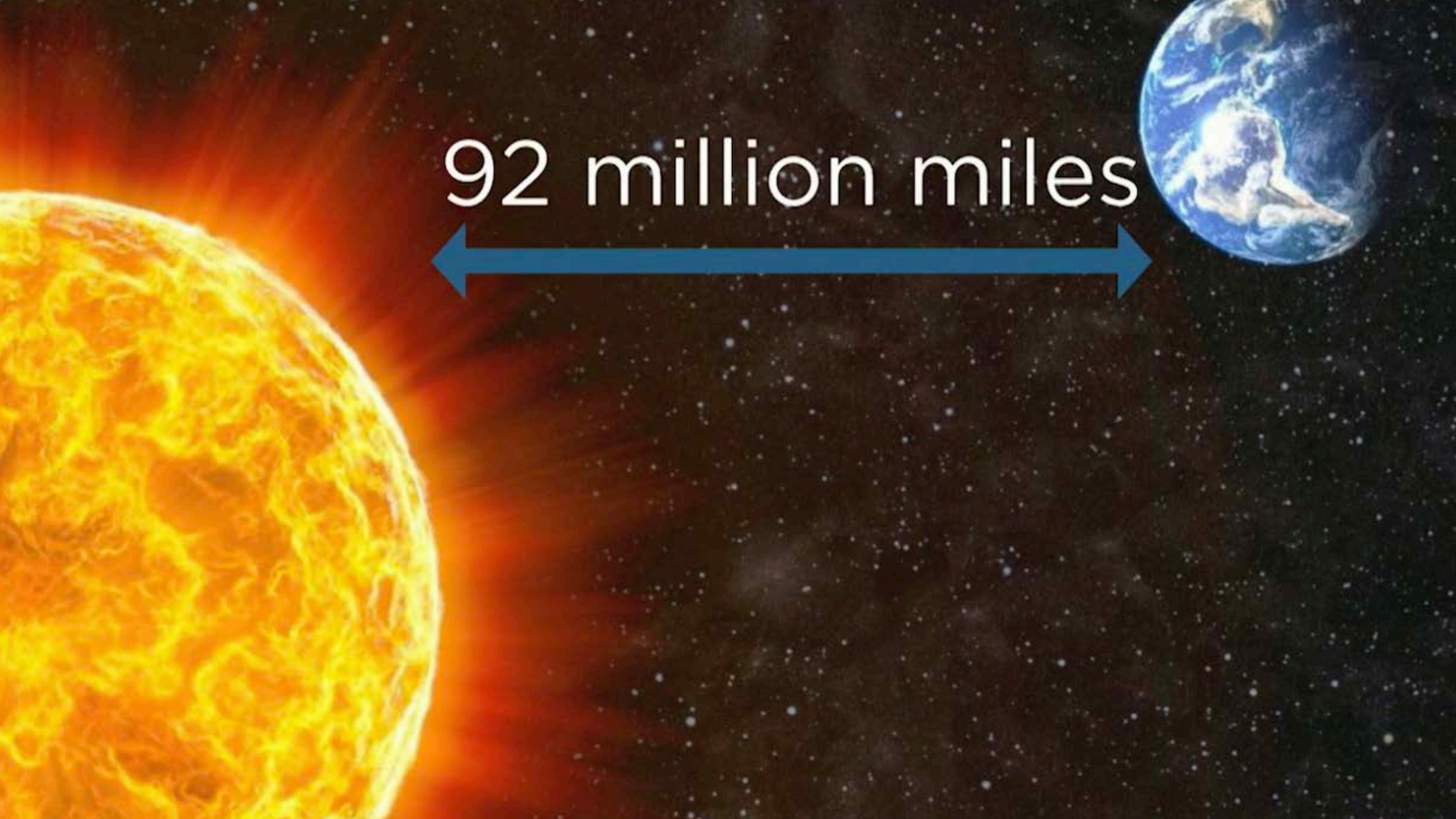
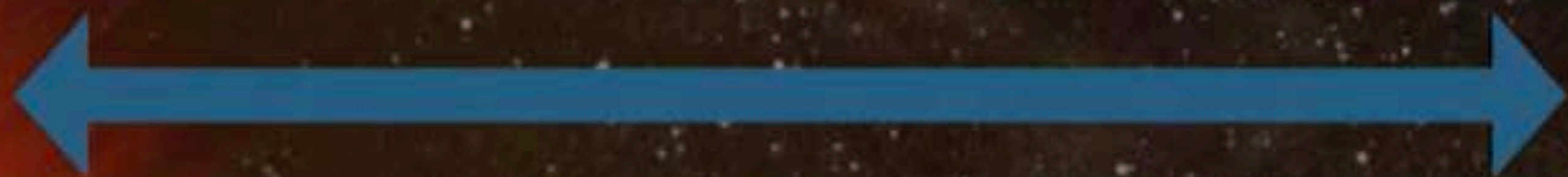
(Proverbs 3:5,6, NIV)



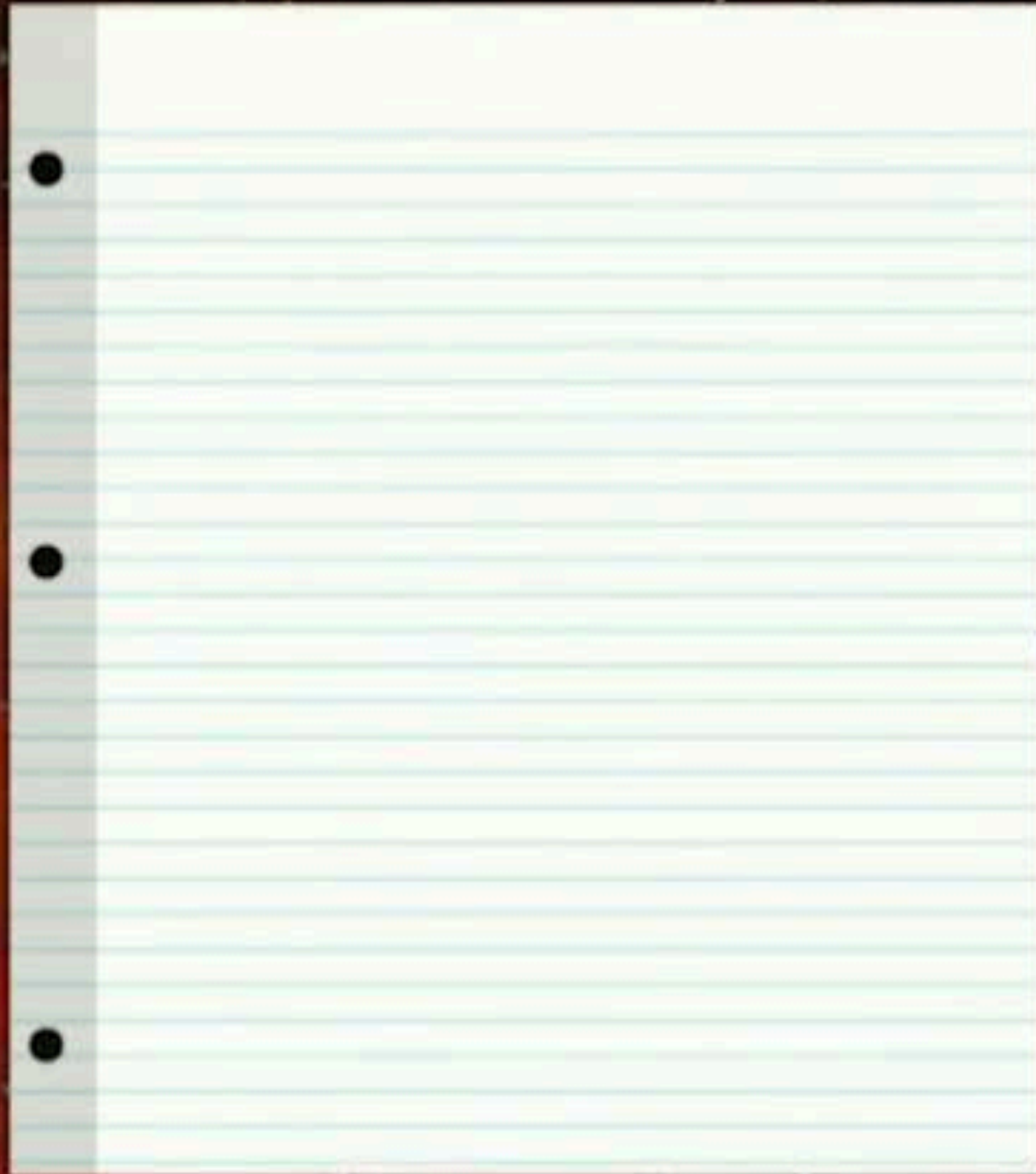
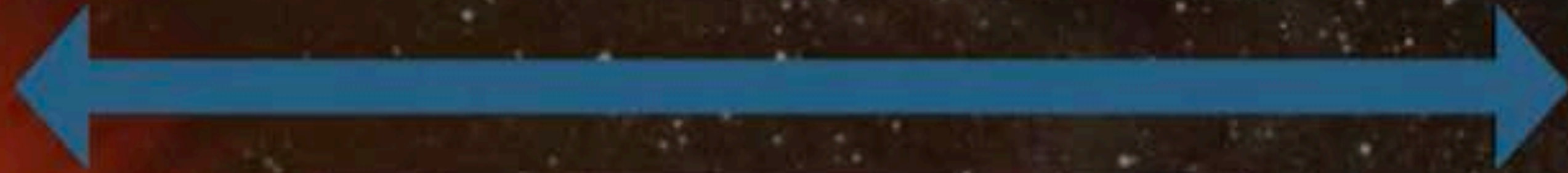
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

(Proverbs 3:5,6, NIV)

92 million miles



92 million miles









The background image is a dark, low-key photograph of a rural landscape. A dirt road or path leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. On either side of the road, there are fields and a fence made of wooden posts and wire. The sky is a dark, uniform grey. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Is God your consultant
or your Lord?

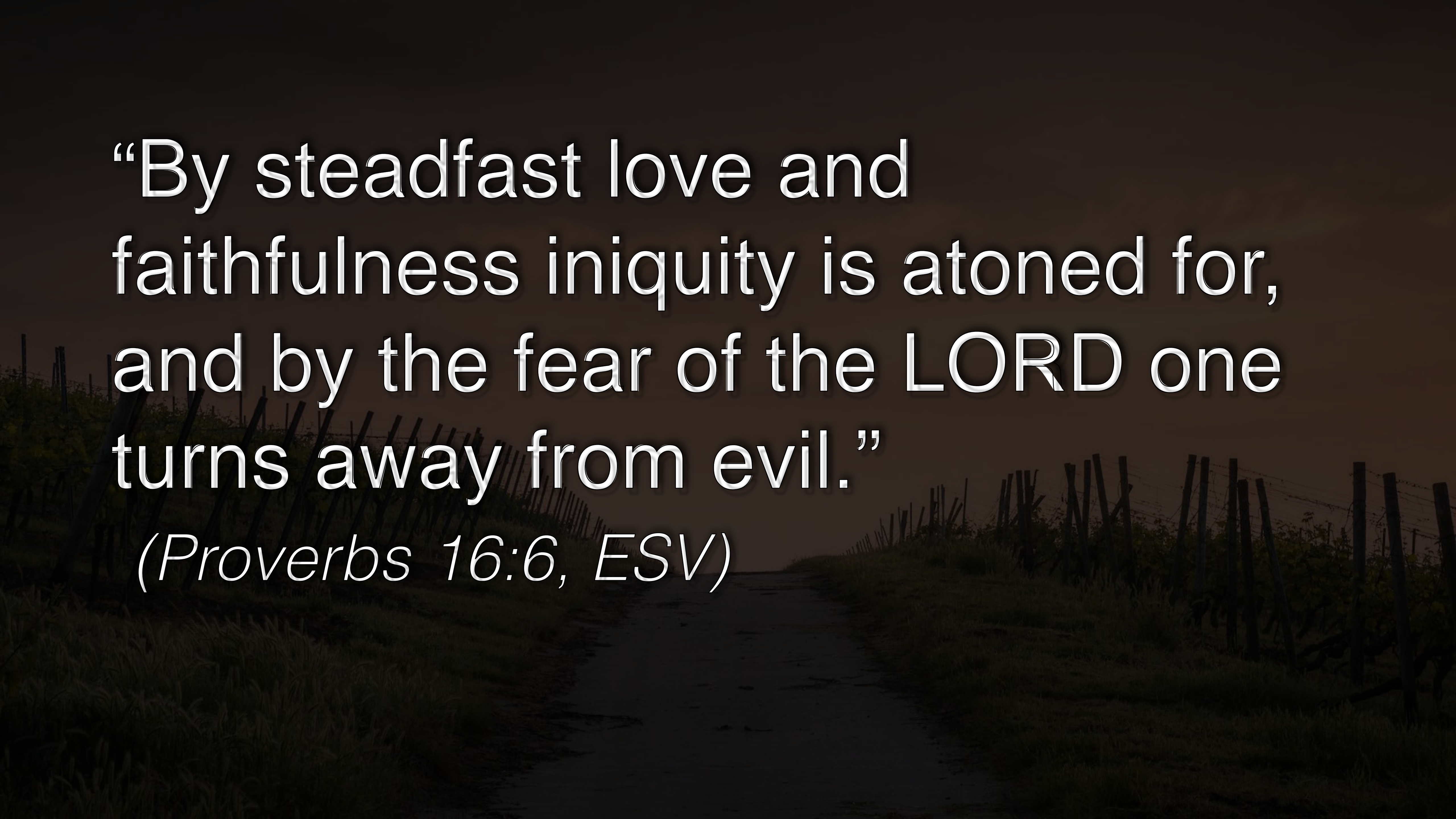


3. It's about being
astonished
at his grace



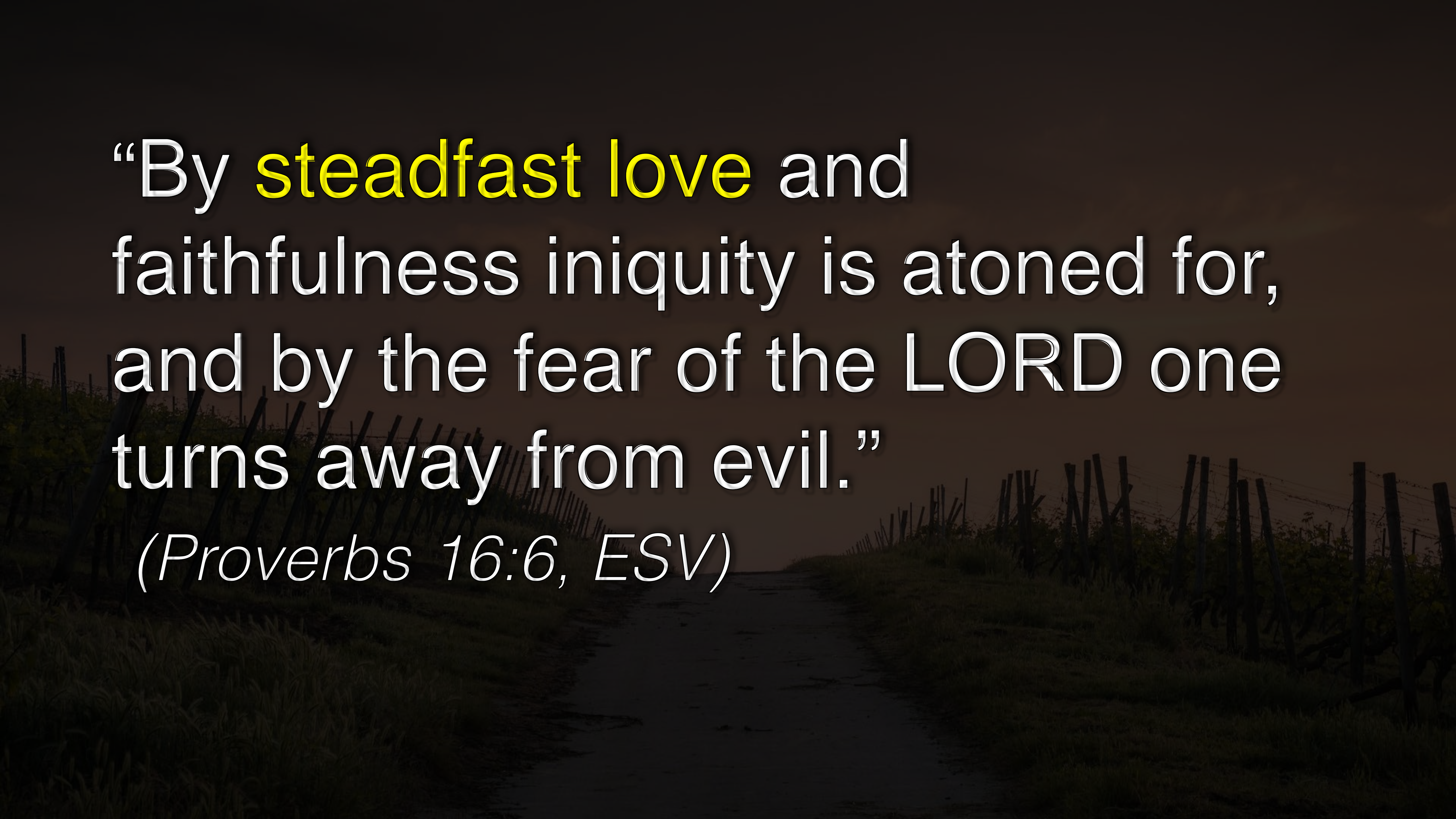
Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”? *(Proverbs 20:9, NIV)*





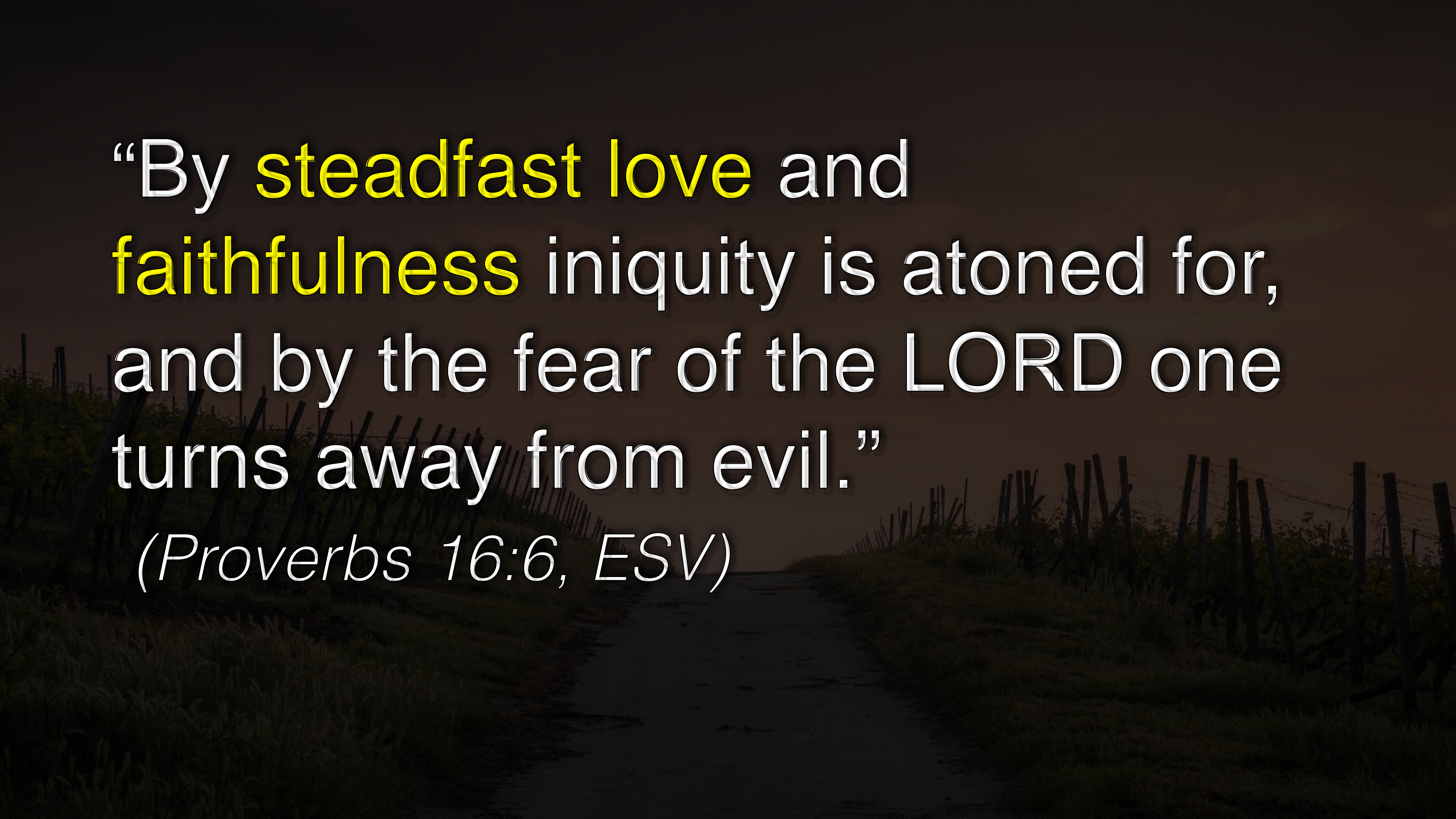
“By steadfast love and
faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,
and by the fear of the LORD one
turns away from evil.”

(Proverbs 16:6, ESV)



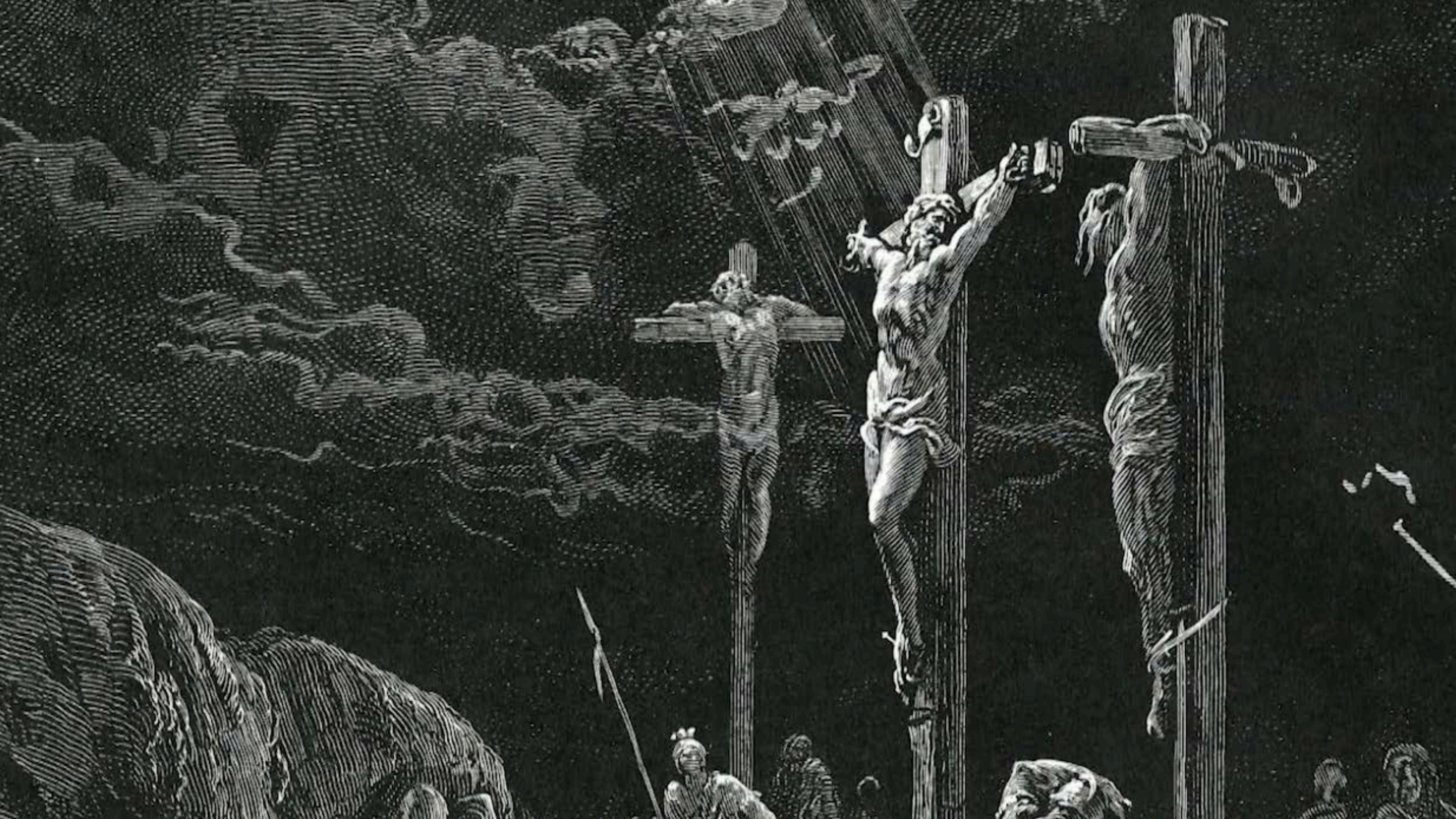
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faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,
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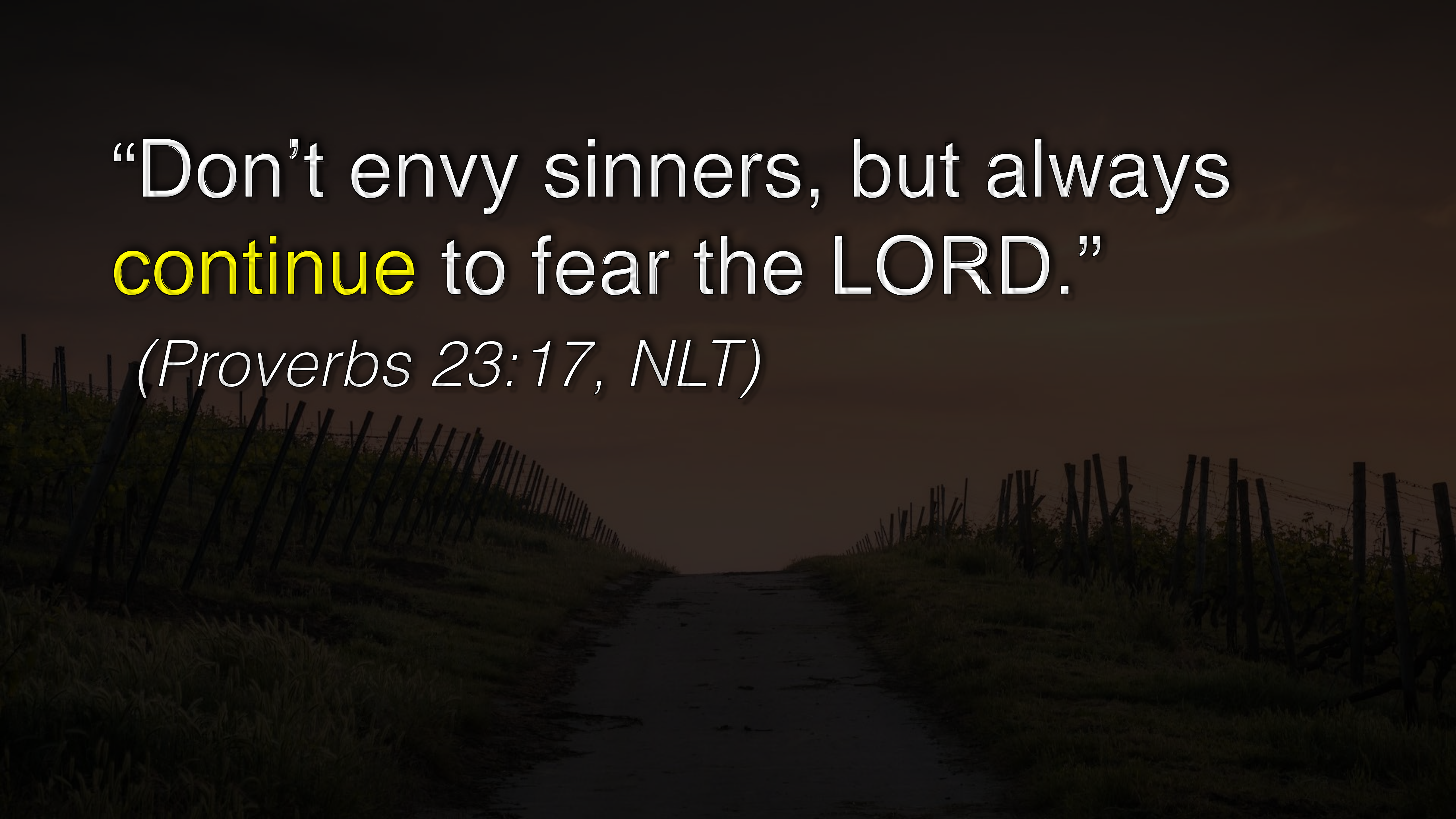




The key to spiritual
growth and health:


Not achievement

But astonishment



“Don’t envy sinners, but always
continue to fear the LORD.”

(Proverbs 23:17, NLT)



KEY:
Continue to have
this perspective

wisdom from proverbs

Pr. 9:10