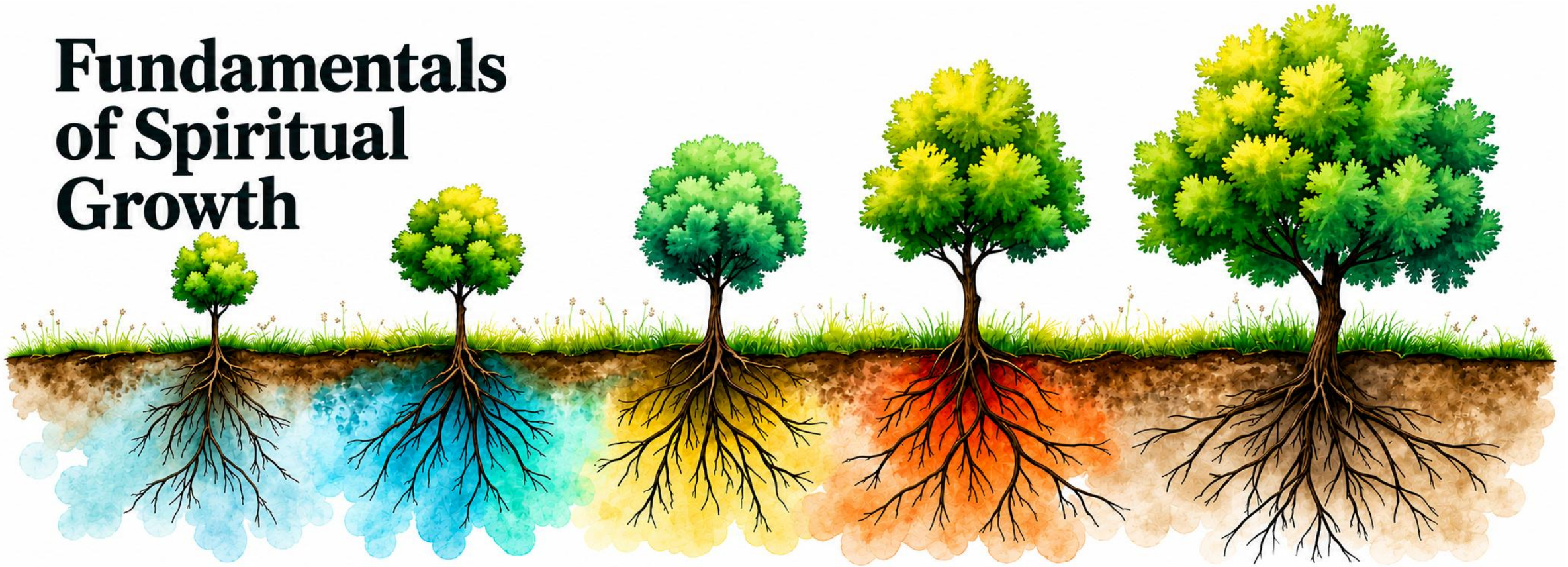


Fundamentals of Spiritual Growth



The Holy Spirit: Agent of Growth

Cultivation



Agenda

Recap

Central Question

Cultivation

Purpose

Course Preview

- 1: Introduction / Overview
- 2: Complete in Him
- 3: Appropriation
- 4: Understanding the Cross
- 5: The Atmosphere of Growth
- **6: Walking by Faith**
- **7: Cultivation**

Philippians 1:6

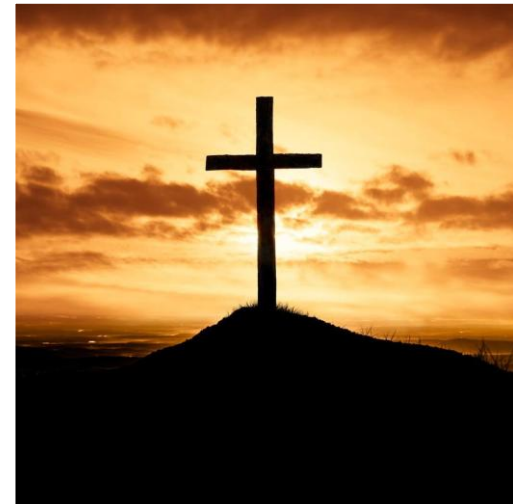
⁶ For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

A close-up photograph of a car's side-view mirror. The mirror is oval-shaped with a chrome or polished metal frame. It reflects a desert landscape with a long, straight road that stretches into the distance. The road is flanked by dry, sandy terrain. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The reflection is clear and detailed. The mirror is mounted on a dark, possibly black, surface. The overall lighting is warm, suggesting a sunny day.

OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE
CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

The Foundation



The atmosphere of Growth



Walking by

FAITH







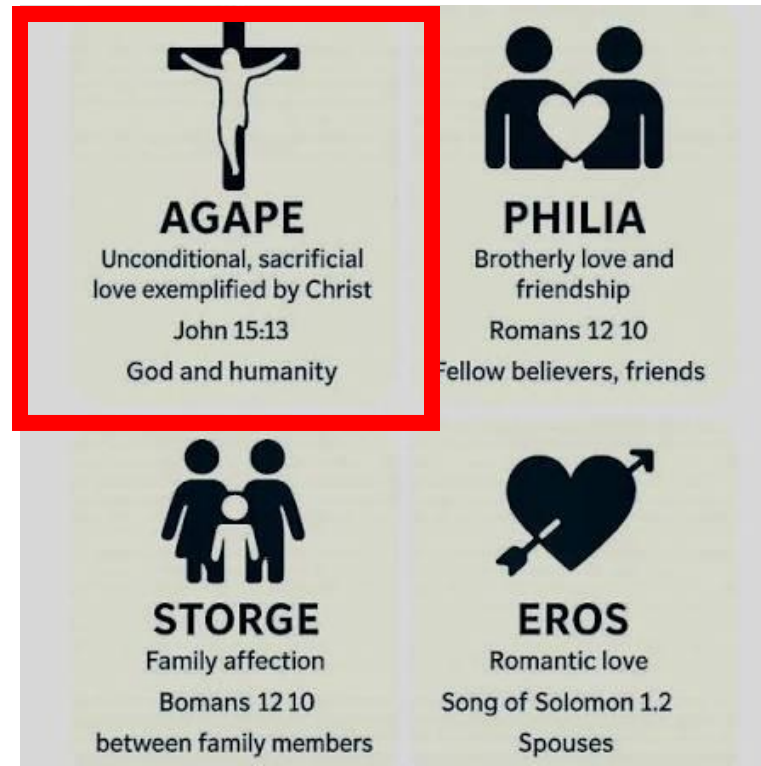
one, **13** If I speak in the tongues^d of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^e but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world
that He gave His only begotten
Son....



John 3:19

¹⁹ ...light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.





Four Aspects of Faith

Its Essence ➡ What faith is

“The Faith” ➡ Body of truth

Personal ➡ Our trust and rest

Principle ➡ How the whole system operates

Hebrews 11:1

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith = _____

Hebrews 11:1

¹ Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.

Faith = assurance

Faith = conviction

Hebrews 11:1

¹ Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.

- **Substance**
- **Confidence**
- **Reality**
- **Evidence**
- **Proof**
- **Certainty**

Hebrews 11:1

Faith = assurance of
things hoped for

Faith = conviction of
things not seen

Hebrews 11:1

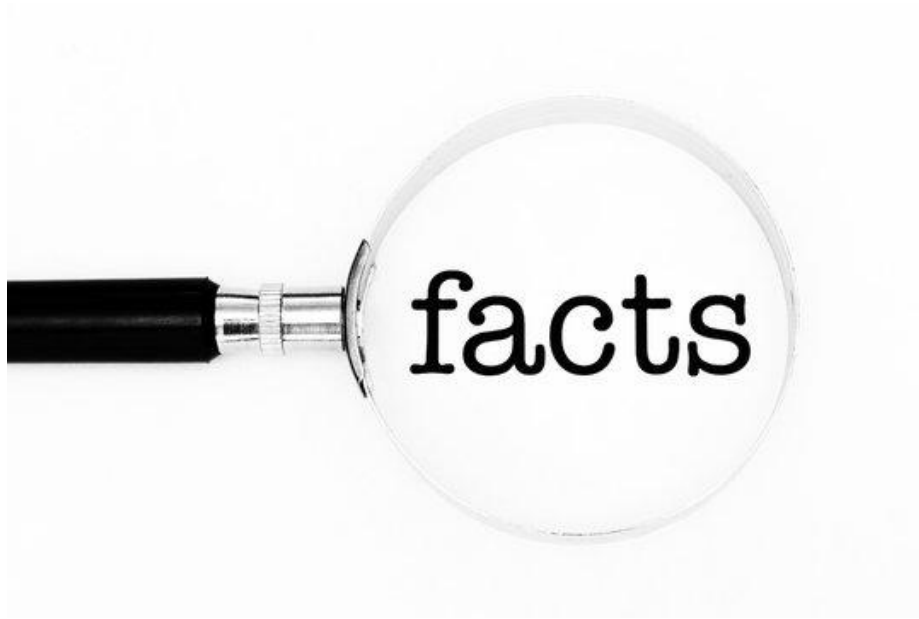
Faith = reality of
things hoped for

Faith = evidence of
things not seen

TL;DR

Faith = Reality

Faith Needs

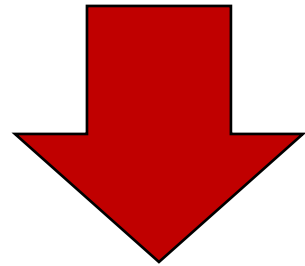


Faith Needs an Object

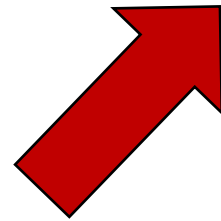


Object of Our Faith

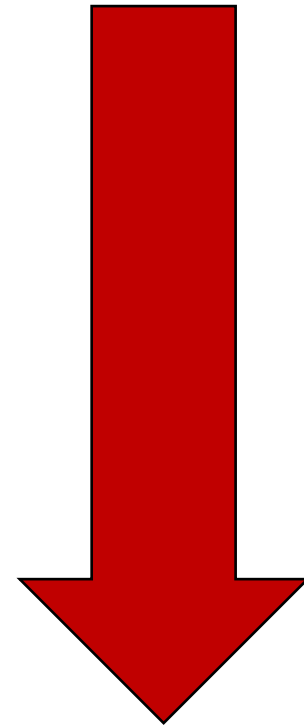
- Human wisdom
- Self-confidence
- Self-reliance
- Self-performance



UNREST

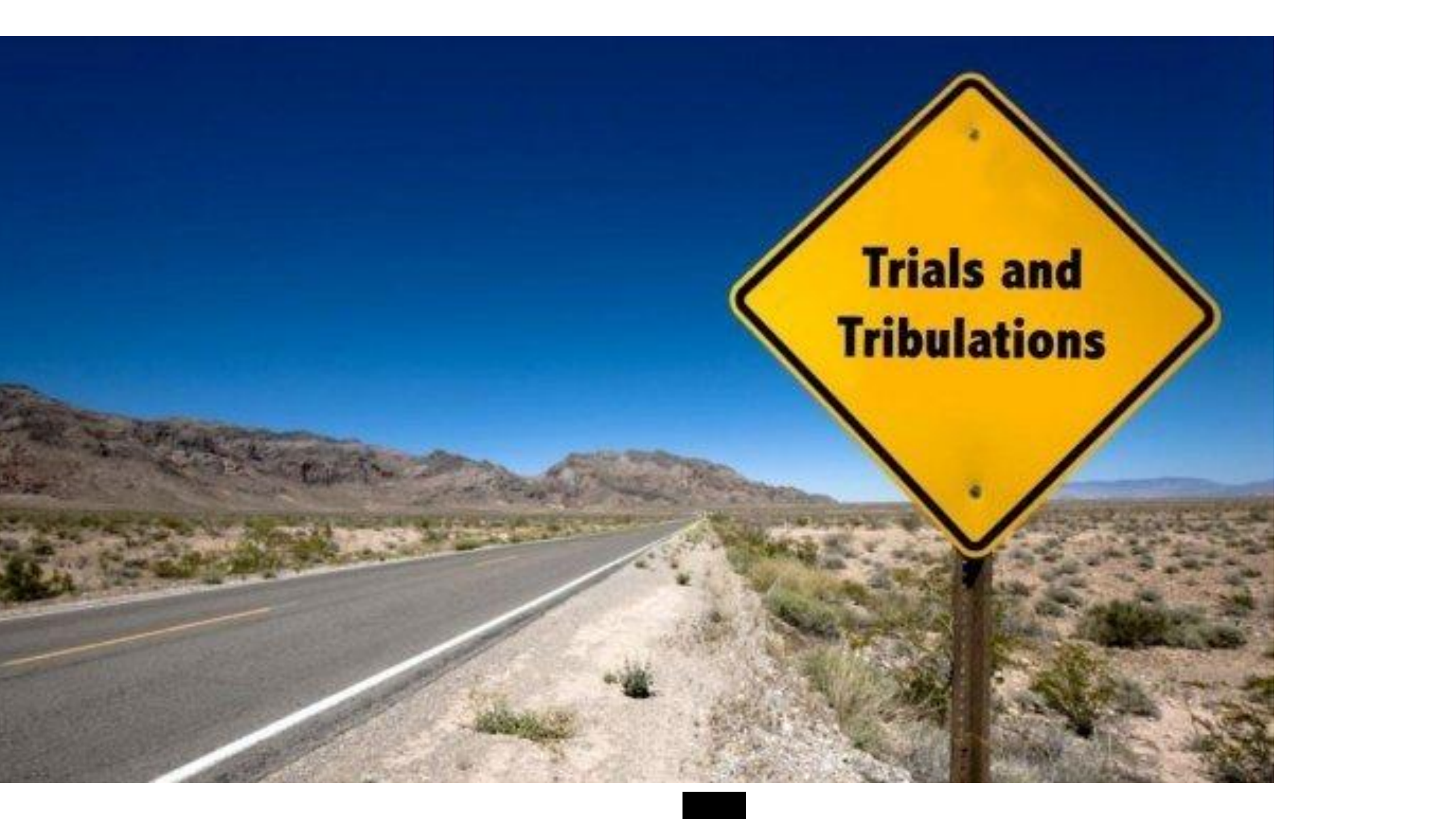


Jesus Christ



REST





**HOW GOD USES
OUR TRIALS
FOR GOOD**



Central Question



Last week we left standing on faith, but who does the growing?

The background of the image is a close-up photograph of green leaves and stems, possibly from a plant like a peace lily. The image is heavily overlaid with a dark, semi-transparent grey filter, which makes the green colors appear muted and dark. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Who is the Holy
Spirit?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT

AN ACTIVE
IMPERSONAL FORCE

Pneumatology

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

πνεῦμα

PNEUMA

+

λογία

LOGIA

SPIRIT • BREATH • WIND

The subject: the Spirit of God—who He is.

STUDY • DISCOURSE

The inquiry: an ordered account of truth.

PNEUMATOLOGY = THE STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Its framework asks two questions: Who is He? • What does He do?

The Person of the Holy Spirit

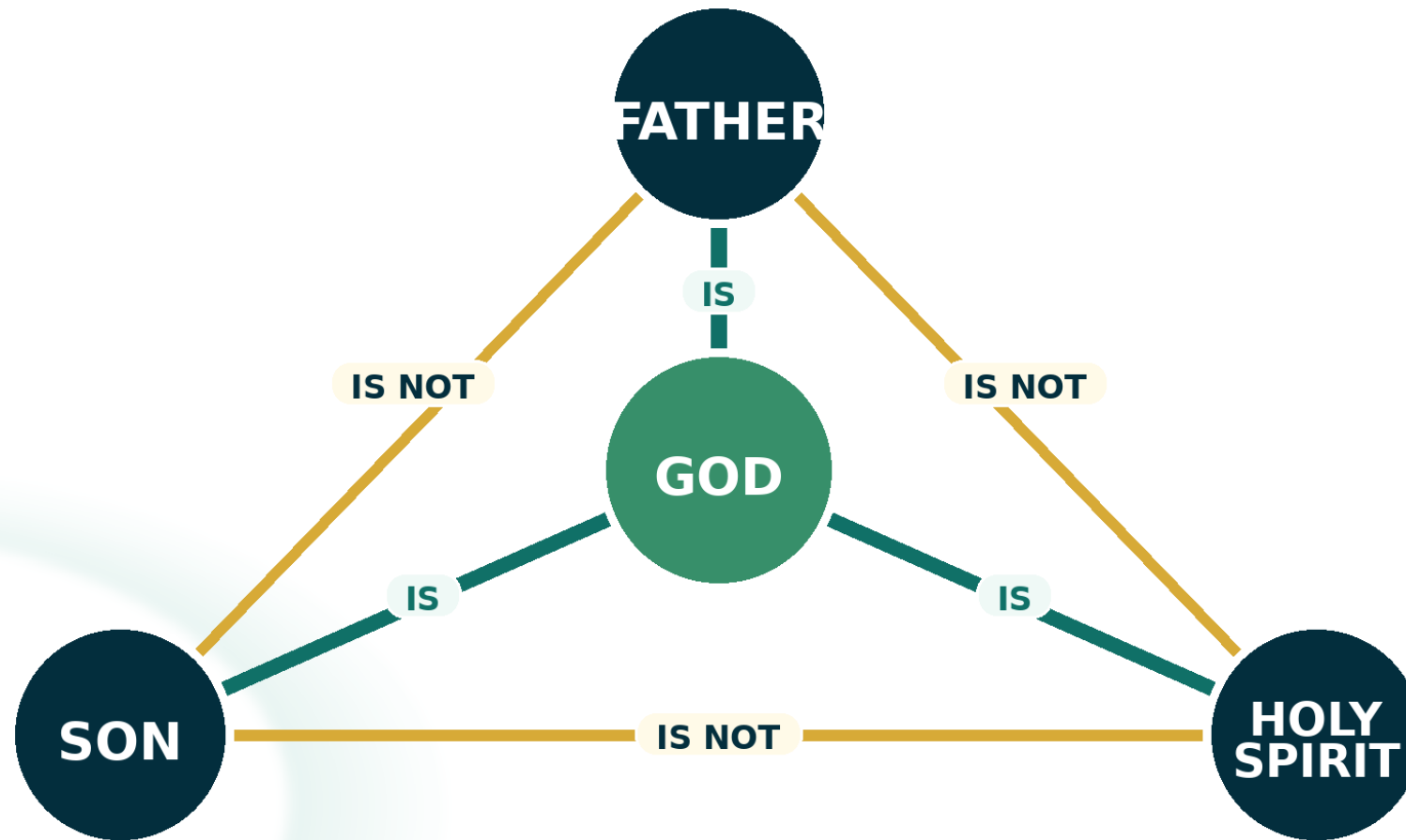
WHO HE IS

He is a divine Person—not an impersonal force.

Scripture describes the Spirit with intelligence, will, relationship, and divine identity.

01	PERSONAL	He speaks, wills, teaches, leads, and can be grieved. Acts 13:2 • 1 Cor. 12:11 • Eph. 4:30
02	DIVINE	He is called God and shares the divine nature and glory. Acts 5:3–4
03	TRINITARIAN	He is distinct from, yet equal with, the Father and the Son. Matt. 28:19 • 2 Cor. 13:14
04	RELATIONAL	He teaches, reminds, testifies, and brings believers to Christ. John 14:26 • 15:26 • 16:14

The Holy Spirit is “He,” not “it”—the third Person of the Trinity.



The Holy Spirit is God

ONE DIVINE NATURE

Scripture gives the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit the same divine attributes.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE	GOD THE FATHER	GOD THE SON	HOLY SPIRIT
ETERNAL	Psalm 90:2	Hebrews 13:8	Hebrews 9:14
OMNISCIENT	1 John 3:20	John 21:17	1 Corinthians 2:10–11
OMNIPRESENT	Jeremiah 23:23–24	Matthew 28:20	Psalm 139:7
CREATOR / LIFE-GIVER	Genesis 1:1	John 1:3	Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4

The Spirit shares God’s divine attributes

The Work of the Holy Spirit

WHAT HE DOES | He makes the saving work of Christ real in God's people. How?

01 REVEALS TRUTH

Inspires Scripture and guides into truth.

2 Pet. 1:21 • John 16:13

02 CONVICTS & REGENERATES

Exposes sin and gives new birth.

John 16:8 • 3:5–8

03 INDWELLS, SEALS & ASSURES

Lives in believers and guarantees their inheritance.

Rom. 8:9,16 • Eph. 1:13–14

04 SANCTIFIES & PRODUCES FRUIT

Forms Christlike character and holy living.

2 Thess. 2:13 • Gal. 5:16,22–23

05 GIFTS & EMPOWERS THE CHURCH

Equips every believer for service and witness.

1 Cor. 12:4–11 • Acts 1:8

06 GLORIFIES CHRIST

Directs attention, affection, and obedience to Jesus.

John 16:14

The Spirit reveals Christ, applies salvation, forms believers, and empowers the Church.

JOHN 16:14

15 “If you **love** me, you will **keep my commandments**.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever,

17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

The promise of the Helper

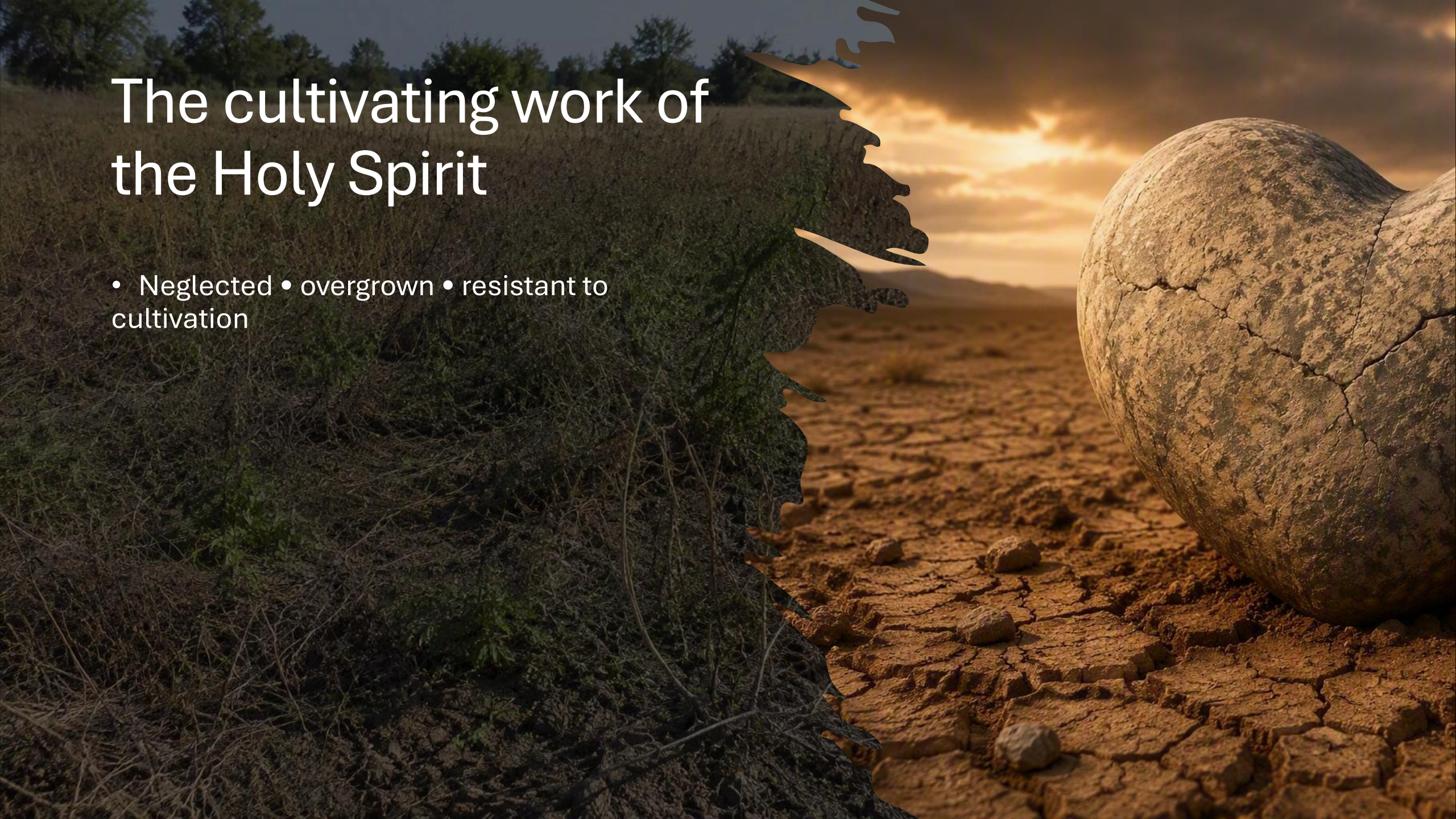


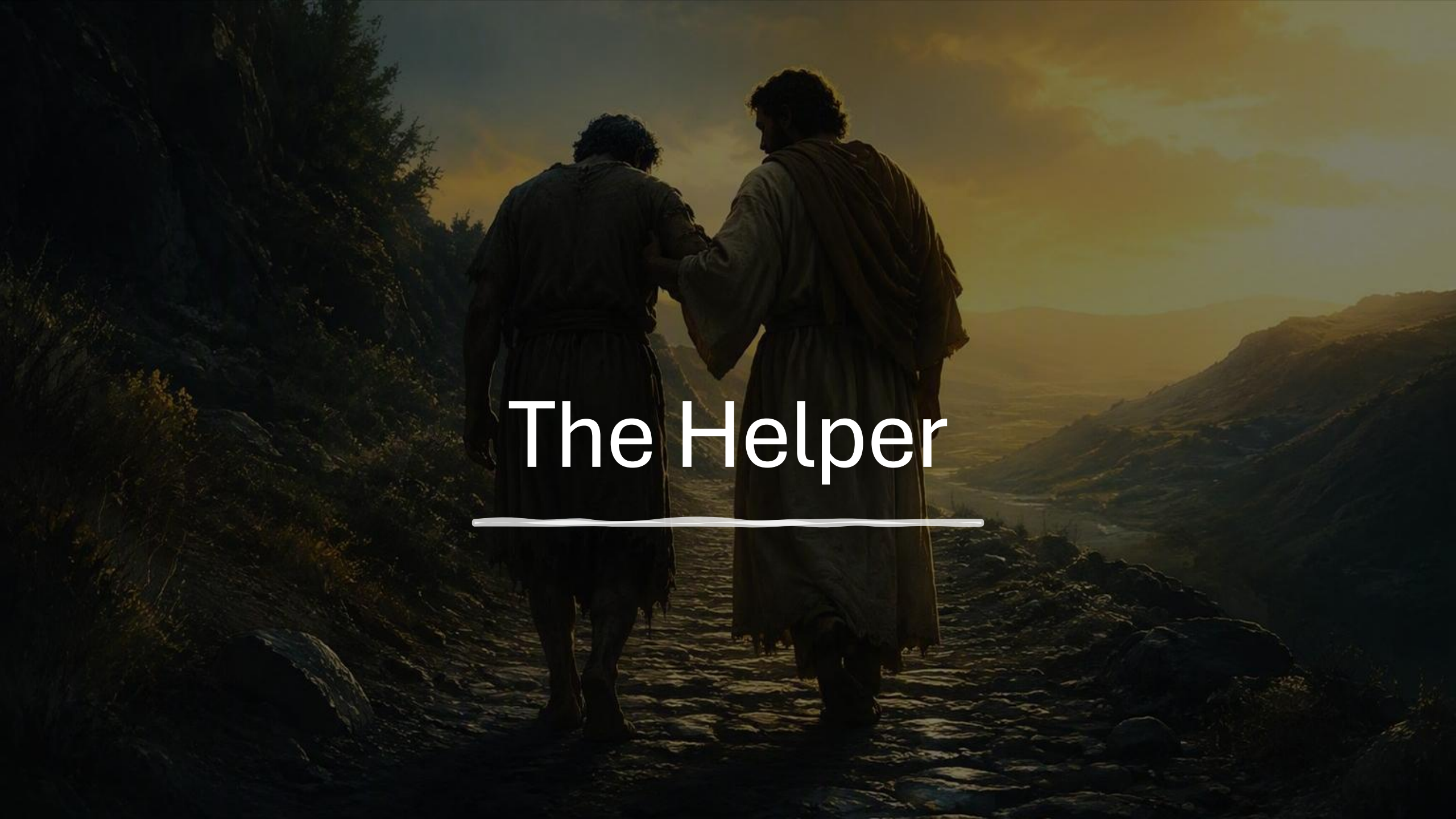
Advocate / Comforter / Helper



The cultivating work of the Holy Spirit

- Neglected • overgrown • resistant to cultivation



A cinematic photograph of two men in ancient-style robes walking away from the viewer on a rocky mountain path. The man on the right is placing his hand on the shoulder of the man on the left, suggesting support or guidance. The scene is set during a golden sunset or sunrise, with a vast, hazy valley and distant mountains in the background. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the silhouettes of the men and the textures of their clothing and the landscape.

The Helper

Pride exalts self; humility yields to God

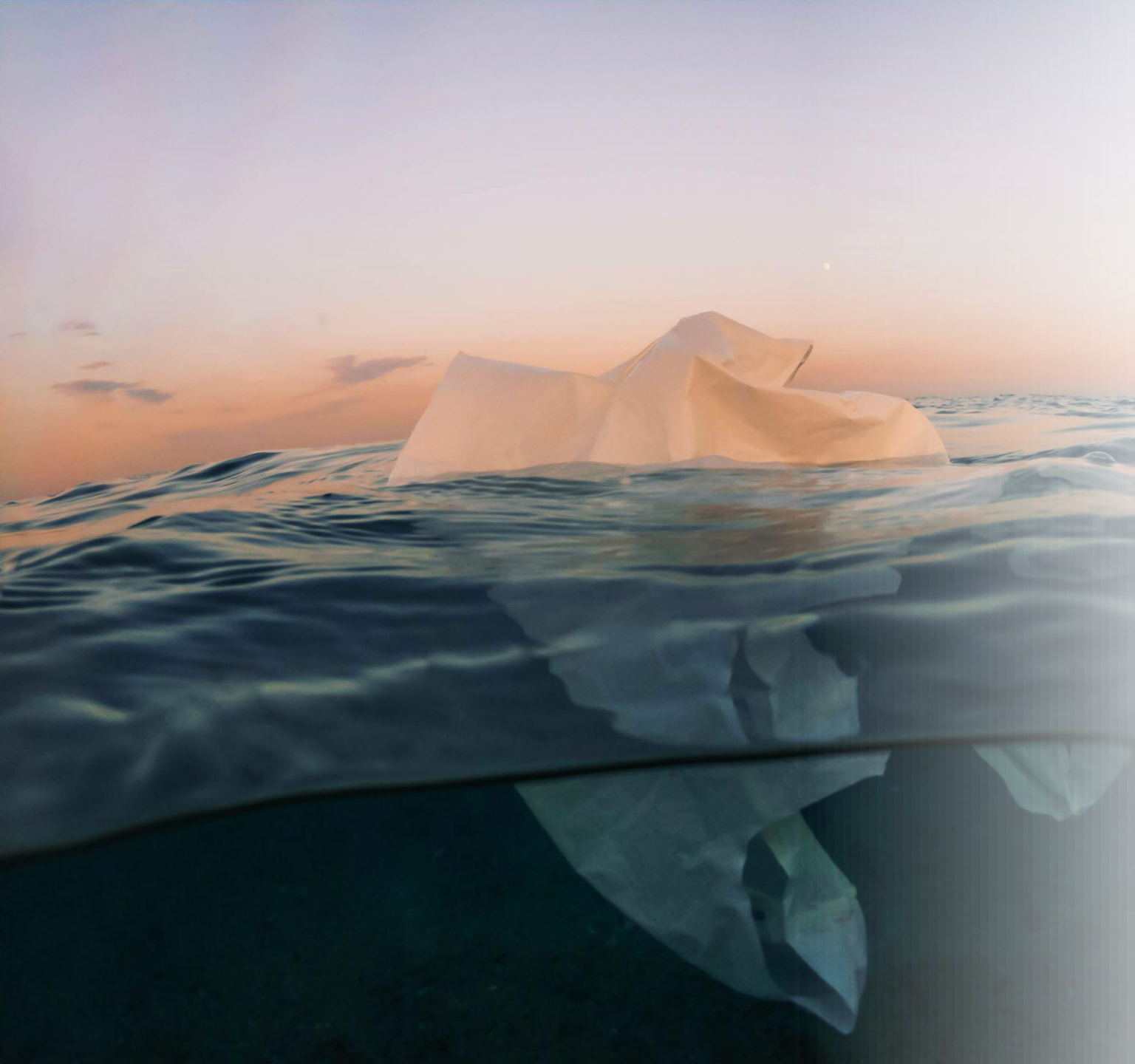
“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” — James 4:6

BIBLICAL CONTRAST	PRIDE	HUMILITY
Relationship to God	Exalts self; resists dependence and submission.	Recognizes God’s sovereignty; submits to His will.
View of self	Inflates importance; overlooks weakness and need.	Acknowledges limitations and receives grace.
Treatment of others	Compares, condemns, and seeks status.	Serves gently, bears with others, and pursues unity.
Spiritual effect	Hardens the heart and blocks spiritual growth.	Cultivates wisdom, obedience, peace, and love.
Scriptural picture	The Pharisee: self-righteous and contemptuous (Luke 18:9–14).	Christ: servant-hearted and obedient (Phil. 2:5–8).
Outcome	Opposition from God; destruction and a fall (Prov. 16:18; James 4:6).	Grace, honor, life, and exaltation by God (Prov. 22:4; James 4:6).

The background image shows a construction site. On the left, there is a large pile of cleared brush and trees. In the middle ground, a red tractor is parked on a cleared, brownish field. A person is visible near the tractor. In the foreground, another person is partially visible, seemingly working on the ground. The sky is overcast and grey. A decorative horizontal bar with orange and teal segments is located in the upper left corner.

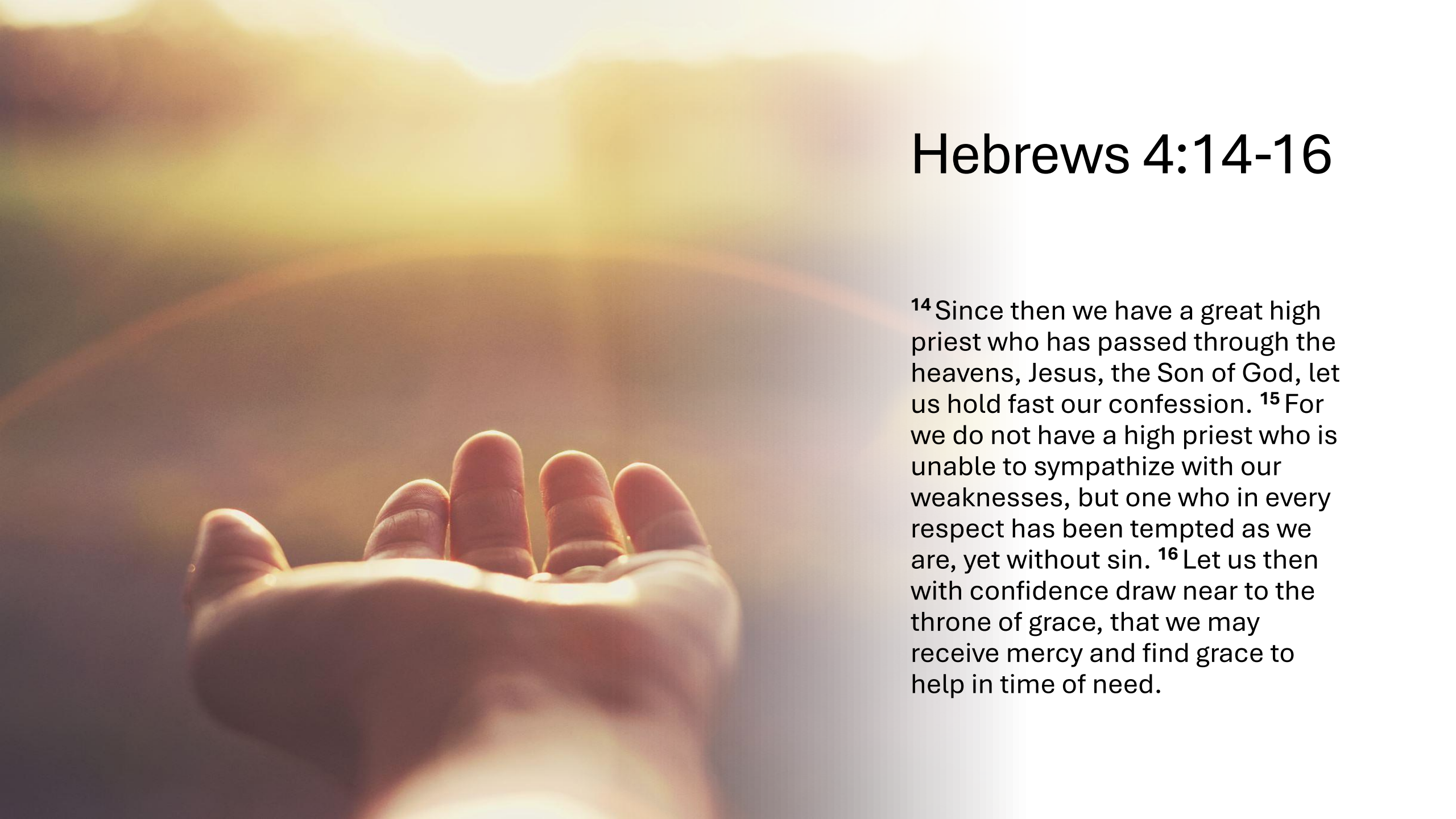
Preparing the Ground

CLEARED • ANALYZED • PREPARED FOR BREAKING UP

A photograph of an iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is visible above the water, while the much larger, jagged mass is submerged below the surface. The sky is a soft, hazy orange and pink, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The water is dark blue with gentle ripples.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ **Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.** ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**



Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



What is the purpose of a
cultivated heart?

After: Tilled Land and a Softened Heart

TILLED, KEPT LAND



Cultivated • maintained • ready to receive seed

A SOFTENED, TILLED HEART



Softened • receptive • prepared for new growth

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS
LOVE • JOY • PEACE • PATIENCE • KINDNESS
GOODNESS • FAITHFULNESS • GENTLENESS • SELF-CONTROL

"Against such things there is no law." **GALATIANS 5:22–23**

