

EXPERIENCING GOD



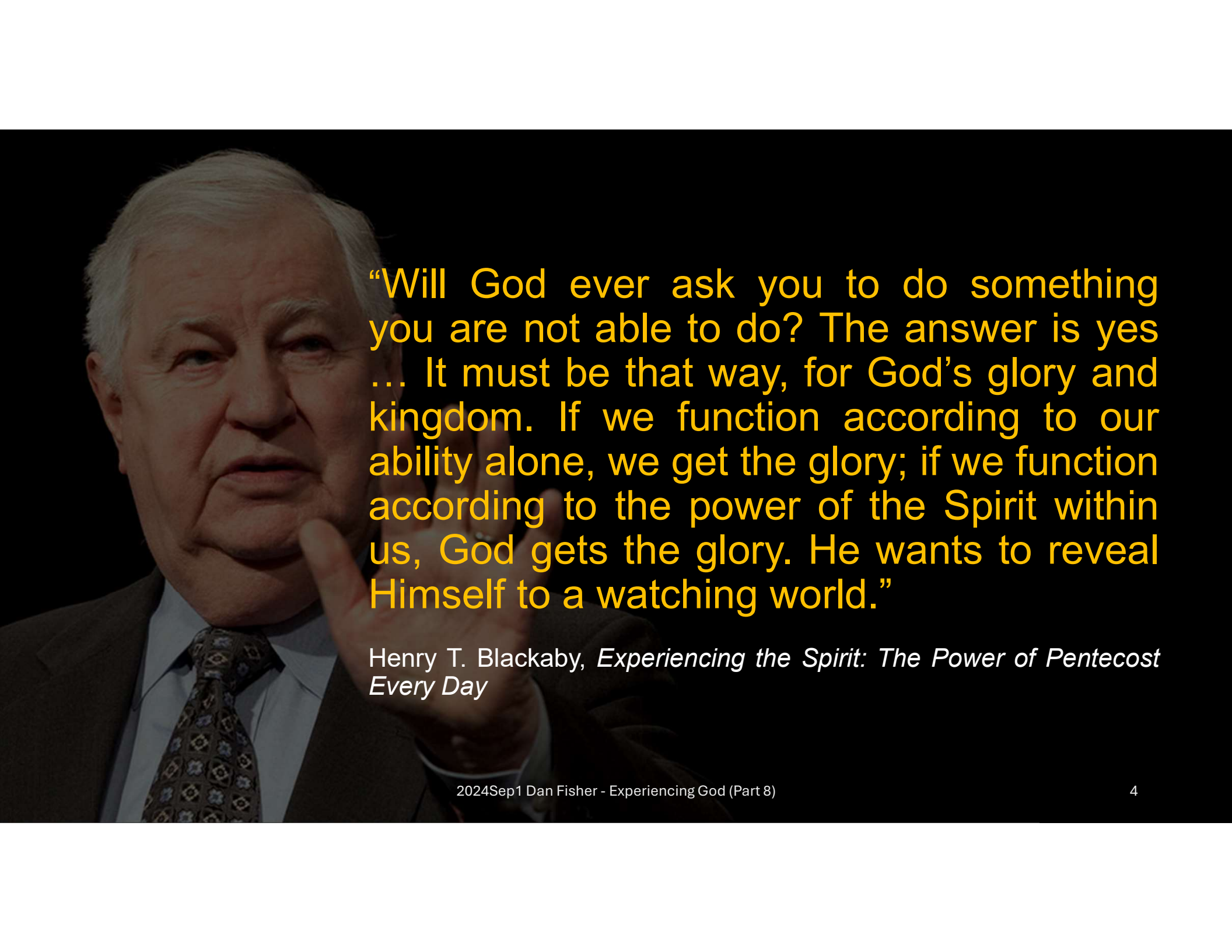
Part 8: Obeying God and the 'crisis of belief'



“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

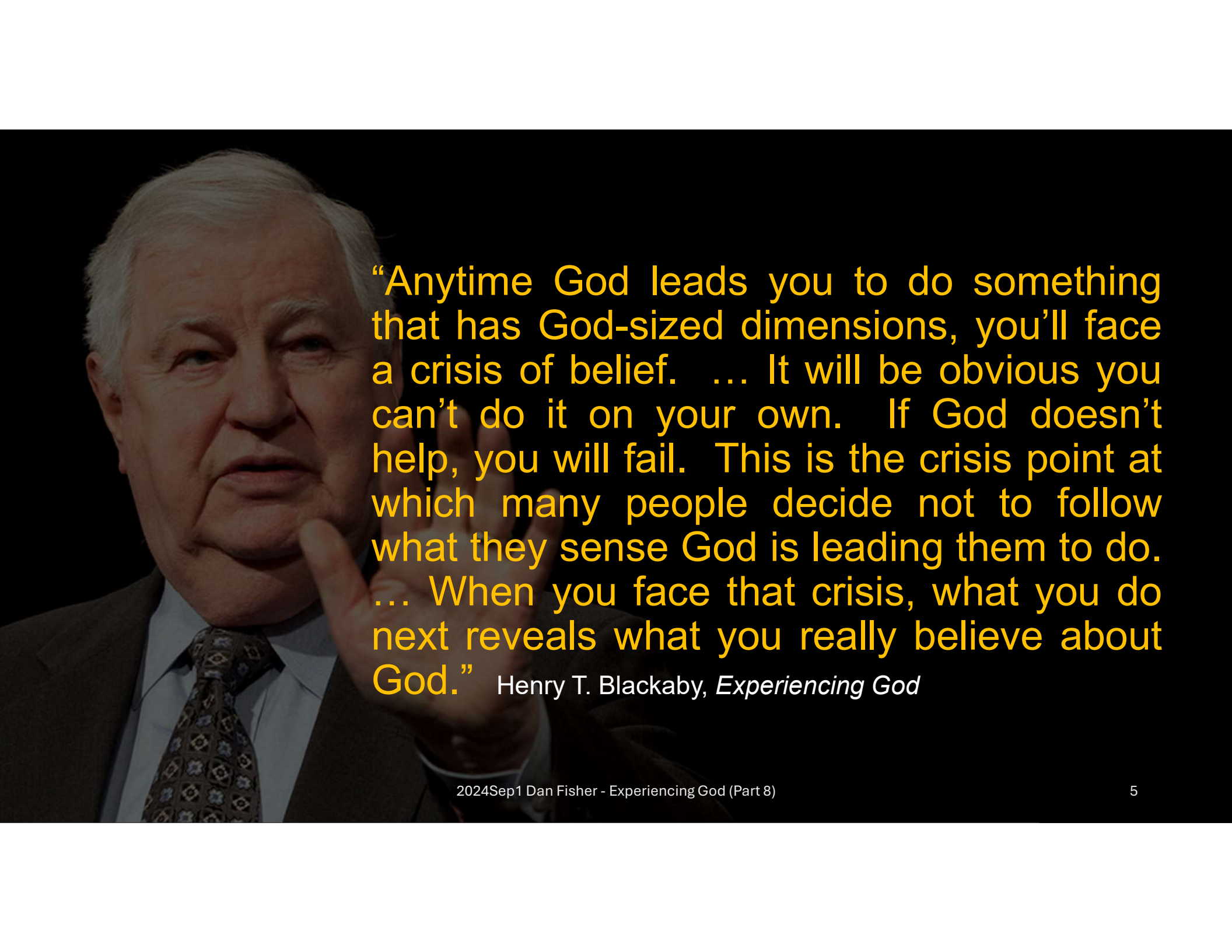
Heb 11:6



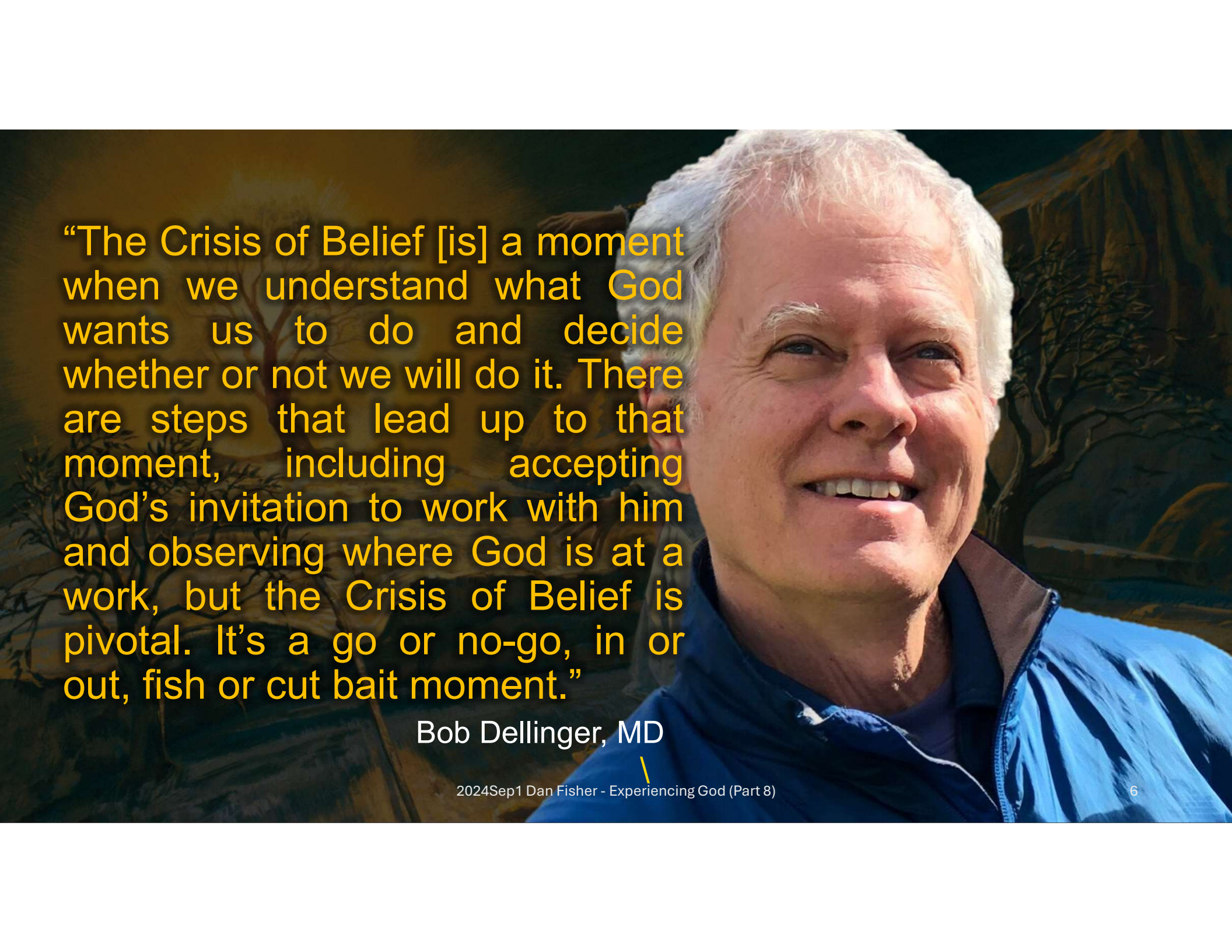
A photograph of Henry T. Blackaby, an older man with white hair, wearing a suit and tie. He is gesturing with his right hand, pointing upwards with his index finger. The background is dark.

“Will God ever ask you to do something you are not able to do? The answer is yes ... It must be that way, for God’s glory and kingdom. If we function according to our ability alone, we get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, God gets the glory. He wants to reveal Himself to a watching world.”

Henry T. Blackaby, *Experiencing the Spirit: The Power of Pentecost Every Day*

A portrait of Henry T. Blackaby, an older man with white hair, wearing a suit and tie, with his hand raised in a gesture. The background is dark.

“Anytime God leads you to do something that has God-sized dimensions, you’ll face a crisis of belief. ... It will be obvious you can’t do it on your own. If God doesn’t help, you will fail. This is the crisis point at which many people decide not to follow what they sense God is leading them to do. ... When you face that crisis, what you do next reveals what you really believe about God.” Henry T. Blackaby, *Experiencing God*



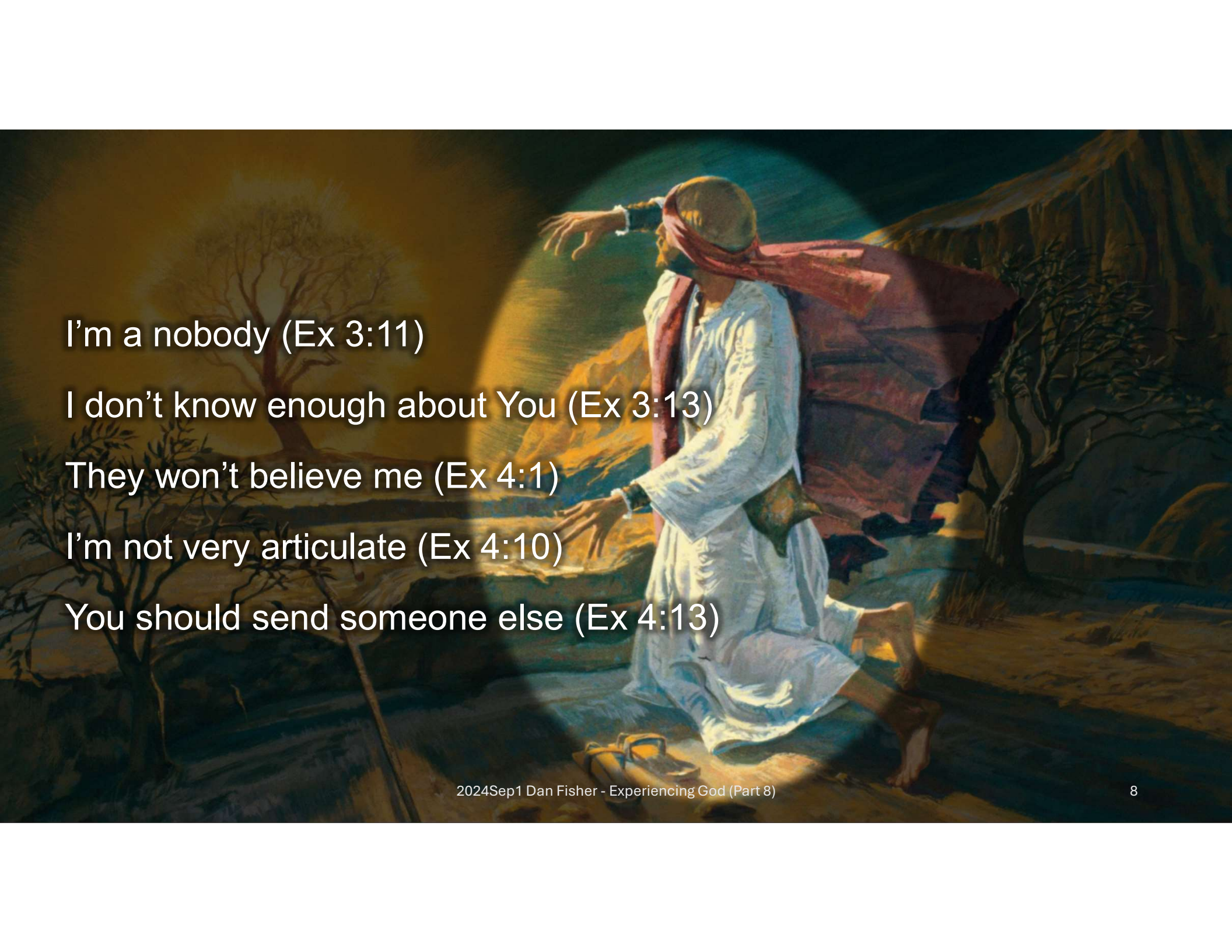
“The Crisis of Belief [is] a moment when we understand what God wants us to do and decide whether or not we will do it. There are steps that lead up to that moment, including accepting God’s invitation to work with him and observing where God is at a work, but the Crisis of Belief is pivotal. It’s a go or no-go, in or out, fish or cut bait moment.”

Bob Dellinger, MD



The word crisis comes from the Greek word “krinein” meaning “to decide” or “to judge.”

A “crisis of belief” is a turning point or a fork in the road that calls for a decision. What we do next reveals what we *really* believe about God



I'm a nobody (Ex 3:11)

I don't know enough about You (Ex 3:13)

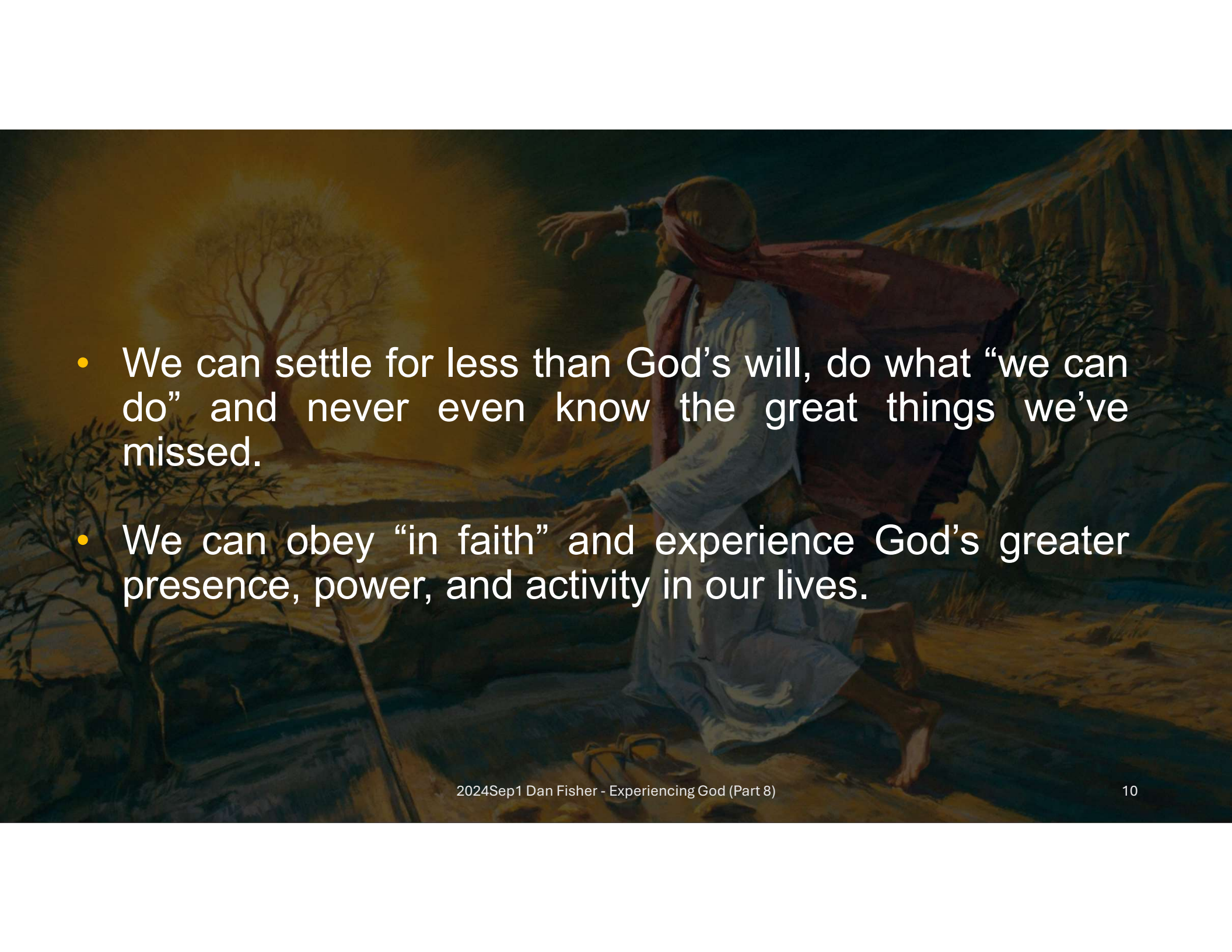
They won't believe me (Ex 4:1)

I'm not very articulate (Ex 4:10)

You should send someone else (Ex 4:13)

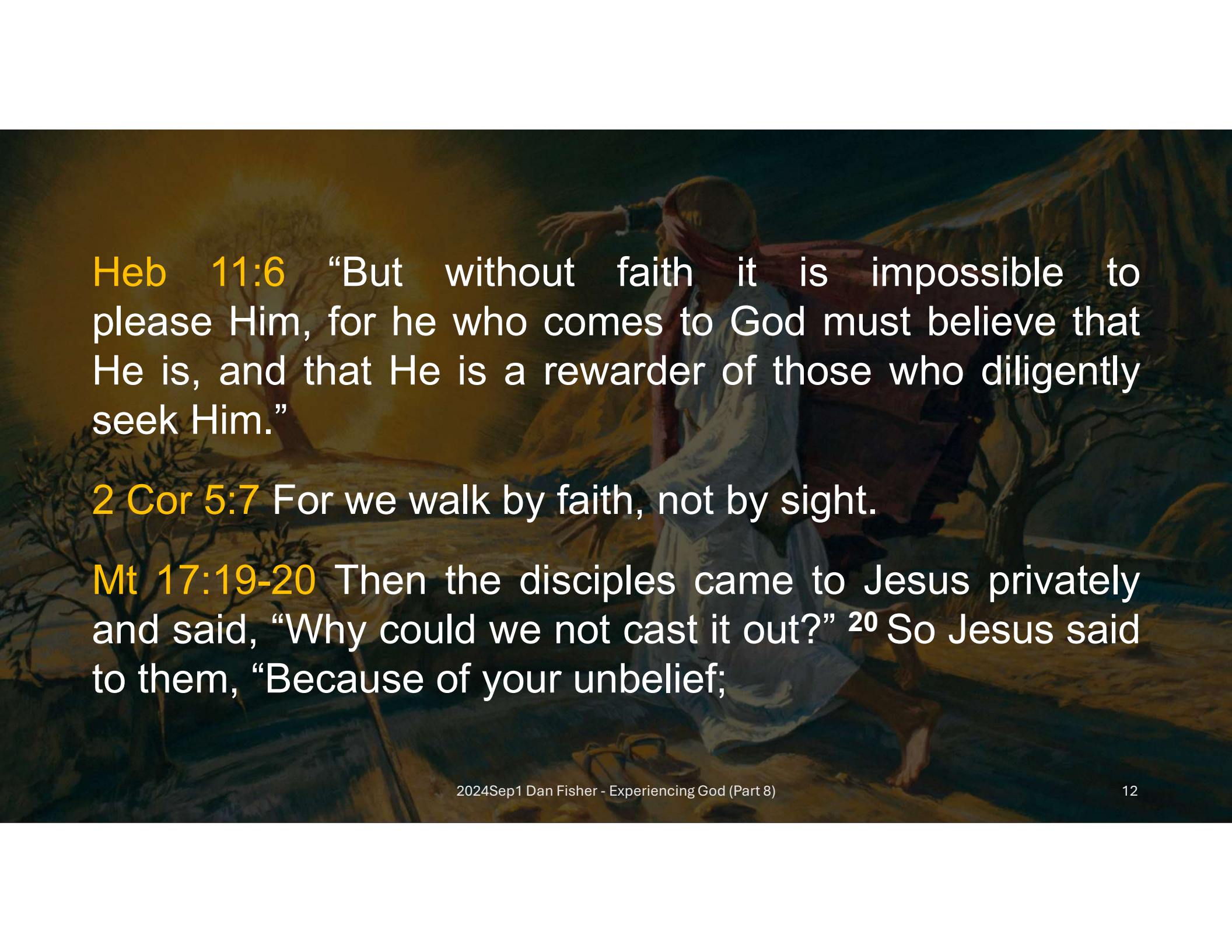


When we face a “crisis of belief” ...

- 
- We can settle for less than God's will, do what "we can do" and never even know the great things we've missed.
 - We can obey "in faith" and experience God's greater presence, power, and activity in our lives.



1. Obedience requires faith

A painting of Jesus walking through a landscape, carrying a large red cloth over his shoulder. He is wearing a white robe and a sash. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape with trees and a path.

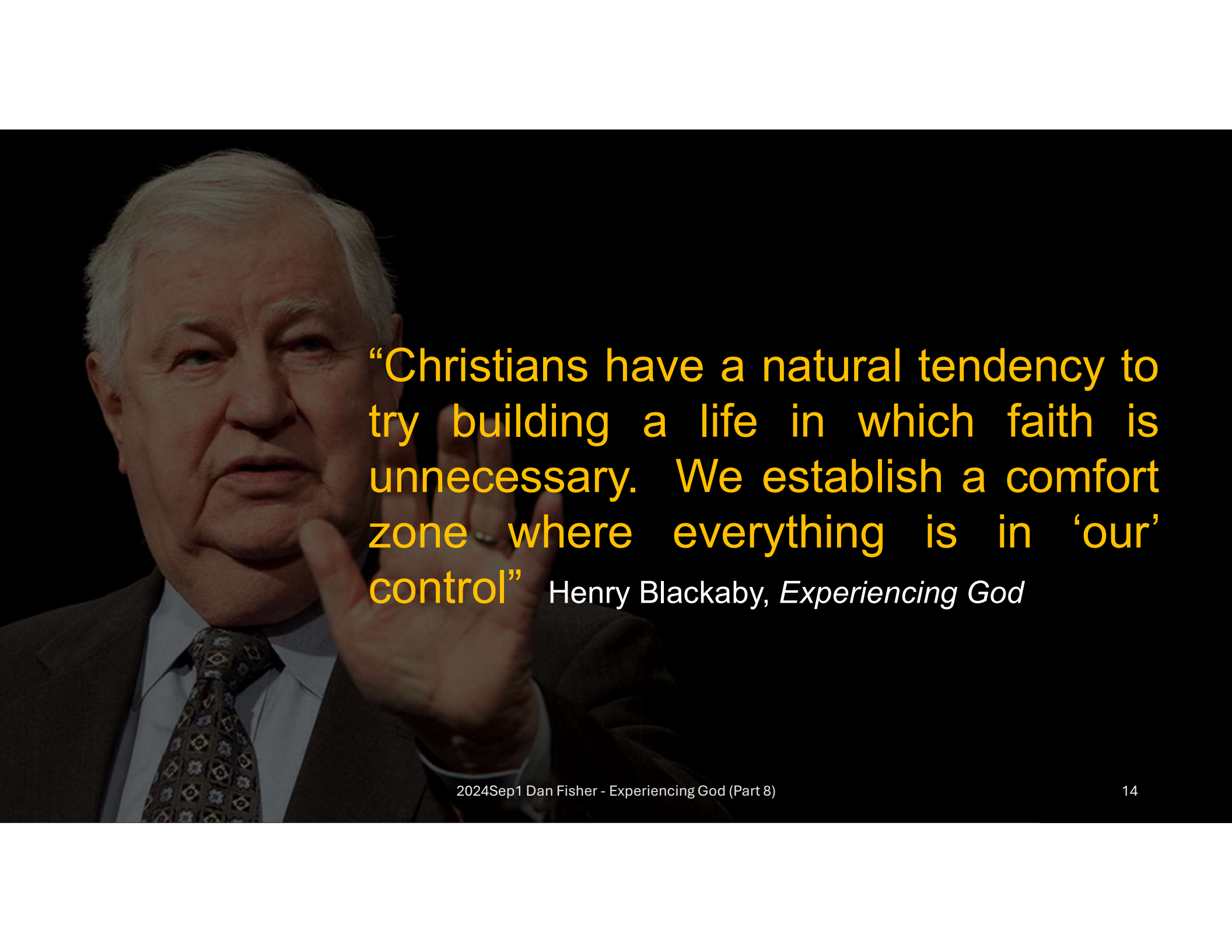
Heb 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Mt 17:19-20 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁰ So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief;



Faith is confidence that what God promised will come to pass. Sight is the opposite.

A photograph of Henry Blackaby, an older man with white hair, wearing a suit and tie. He is gesturing with his right hand, palm facing forward, as if speaking or emphasizing a point. The background is dark.

“Christians have a natural tendency to try building a life in which faith is unnecessary. We establish a comfort zone where everything is in ‘our’ control” Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God*

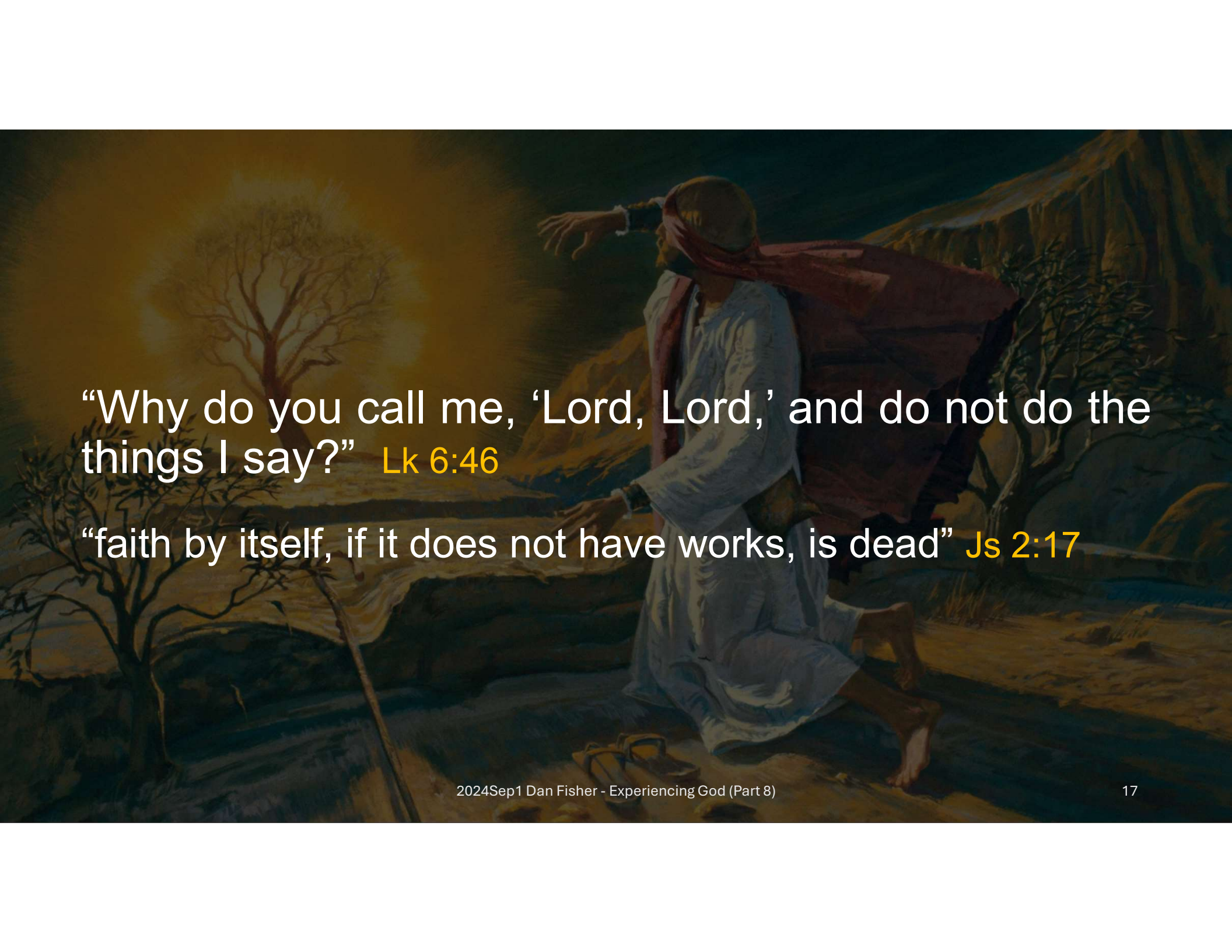


2. Obedience requires action



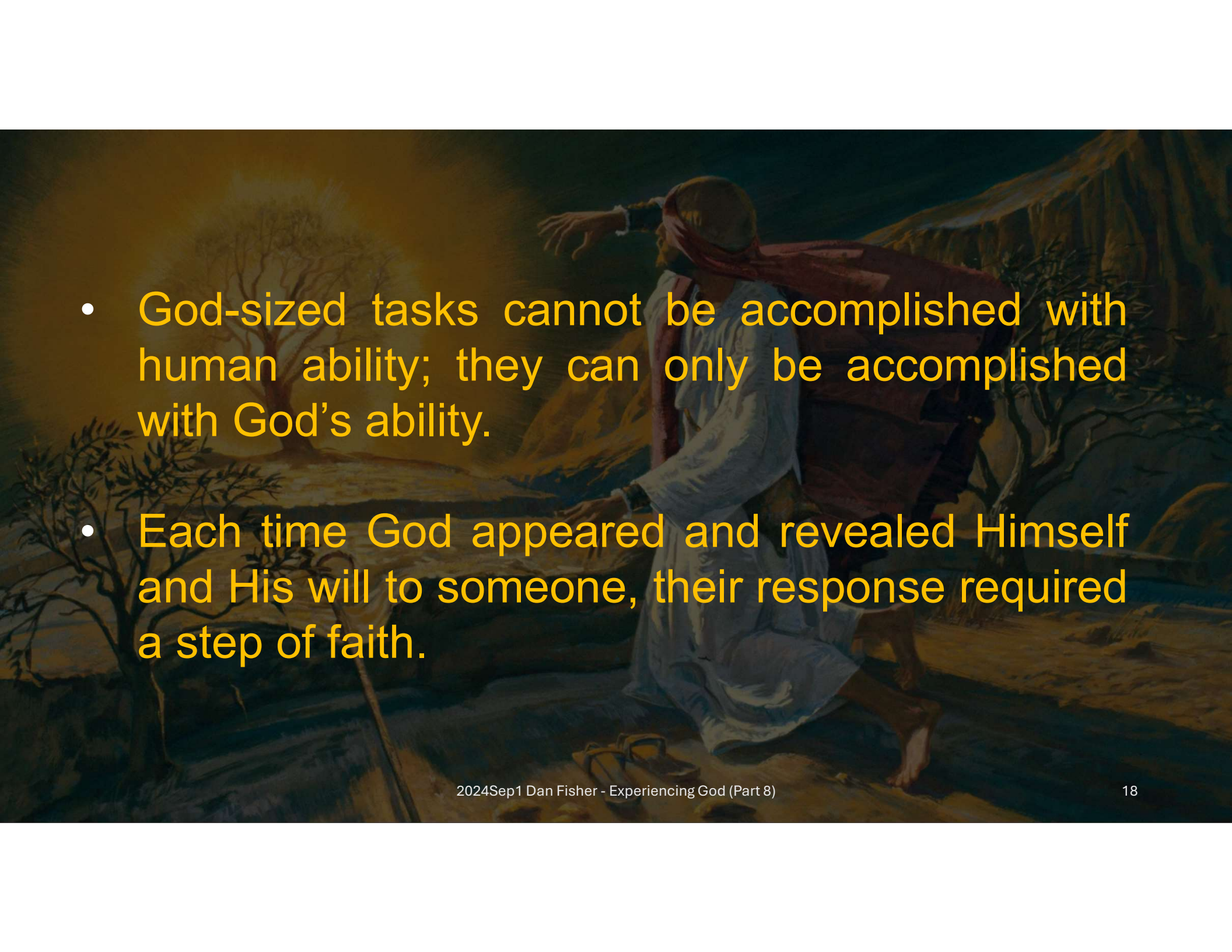
Obedience indicates faith in God —
disobedience reveals a lack of faith.

“What you do — not what you say you believe, reveals
what you *really* believe about God.” Henry Blackaby



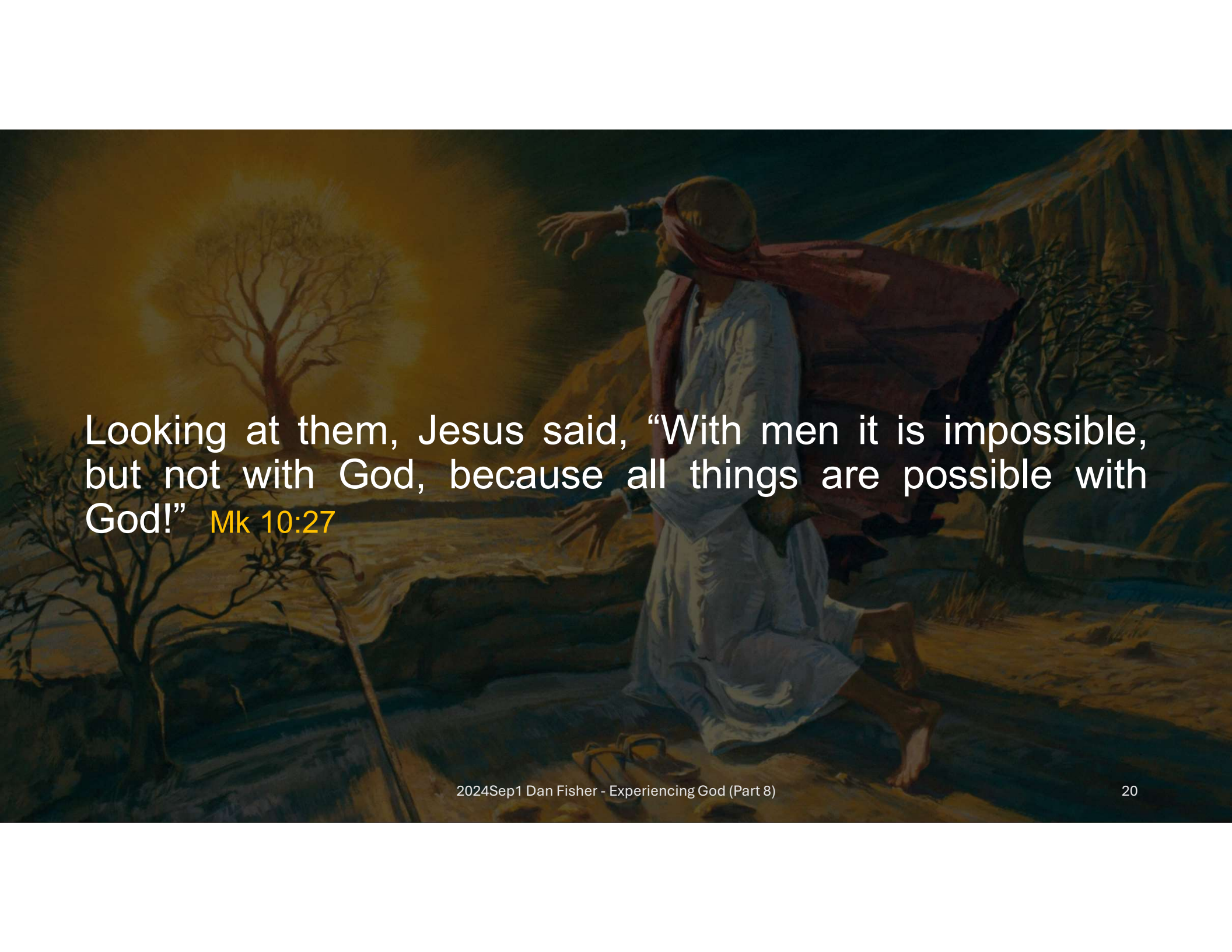
“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things I say?” **Lk 6:46**

“faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” **Js 2:17**

- 
- God-sized tasks cannot be accomplished with human ability; they can only be accomplished with God's ability.
 - Each time God appeared and revealed Himself and His will to someone, their response required a step of faith.




Moses
Joshua
David
Disciples



Looking at them, Jesus said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God!” **Mk 10:27**

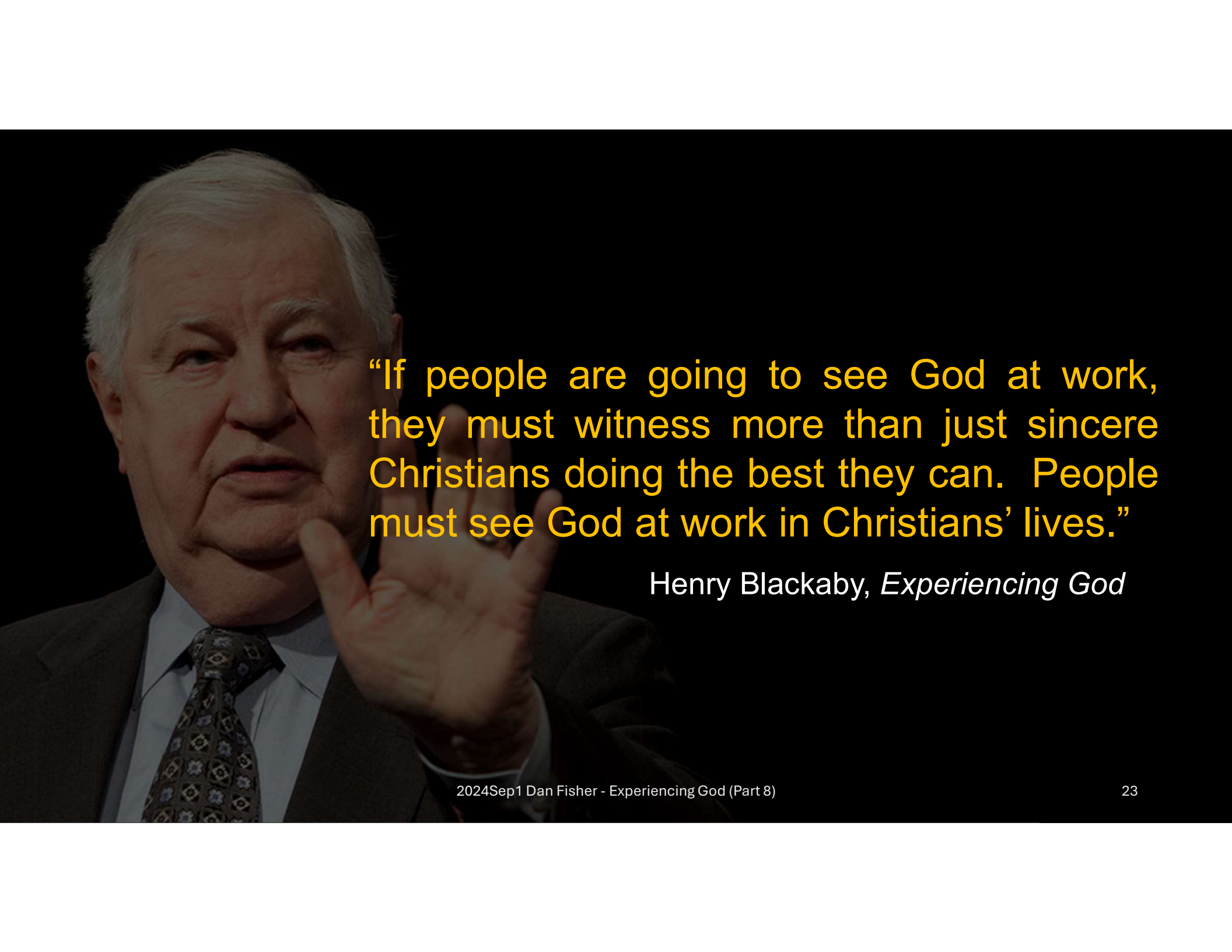
A painting of Jesus walking through a desert landscape. He is wearing a white robe and a purple cloak draped over his shoulder. He is gesturing with his right hand towards the horizon. The background shows a rocky, hilly landscape with sparse, leafless trees under a hazy, golden sky. The overall mood is one of journey and faith.

3. Obedience produces faith



Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Jn 12:32 “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

A photograph of Henry Blackaby, an older man with white hair, wearing a suit and tie. He is gesturing with his right hand, palm facing forward, as if speaking or emphasizing a point. The background is dark.


“If people are going to see God at work, they must witness more than just sincere Christians doing the best they can. People must see God at work in Christians’ lives.”

Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God*



Moses

Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord." ... ³⁰ So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses. **Ex 14:4,30-31**



Joshua

that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.” **Josh 4:24**



David

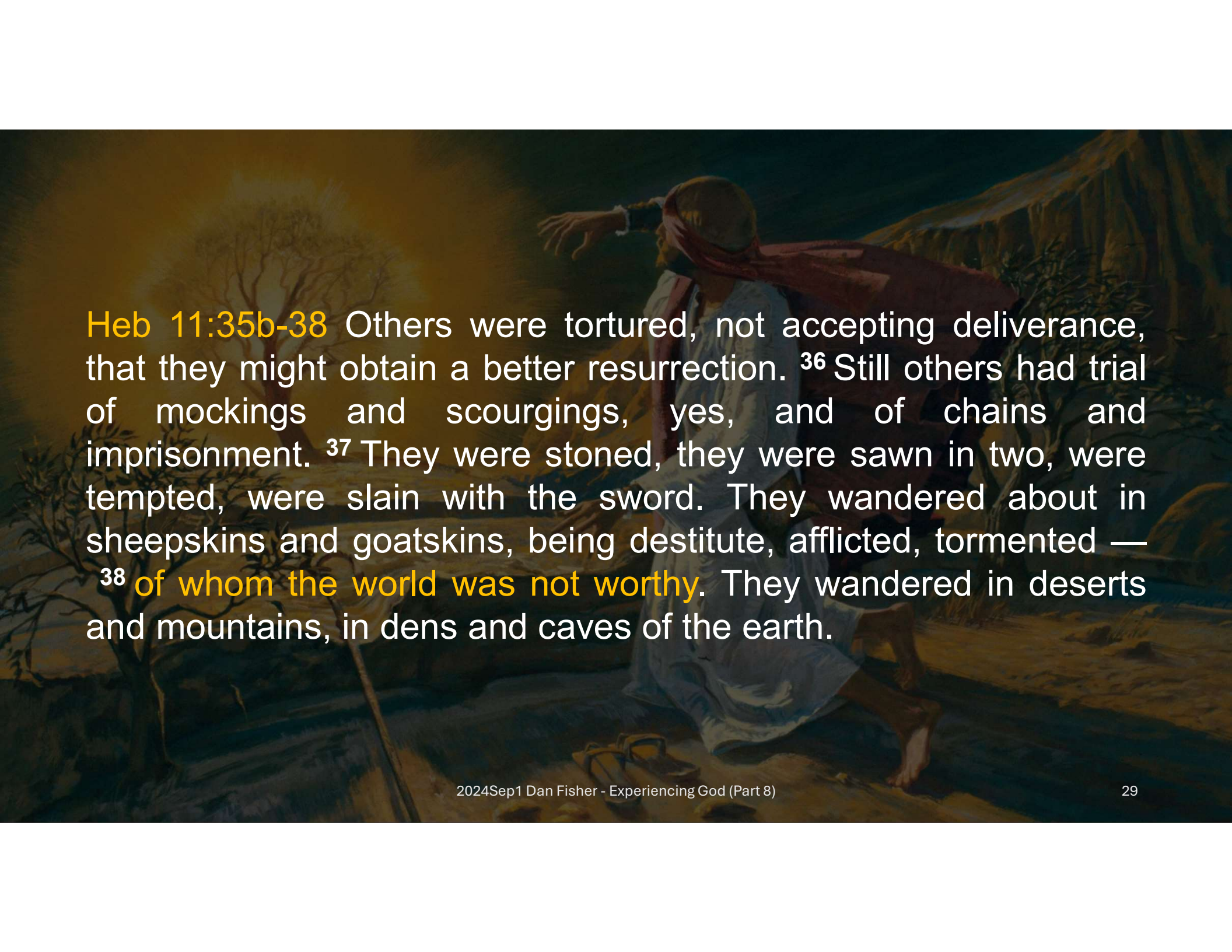
Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." [1 Sam 17:47](#)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

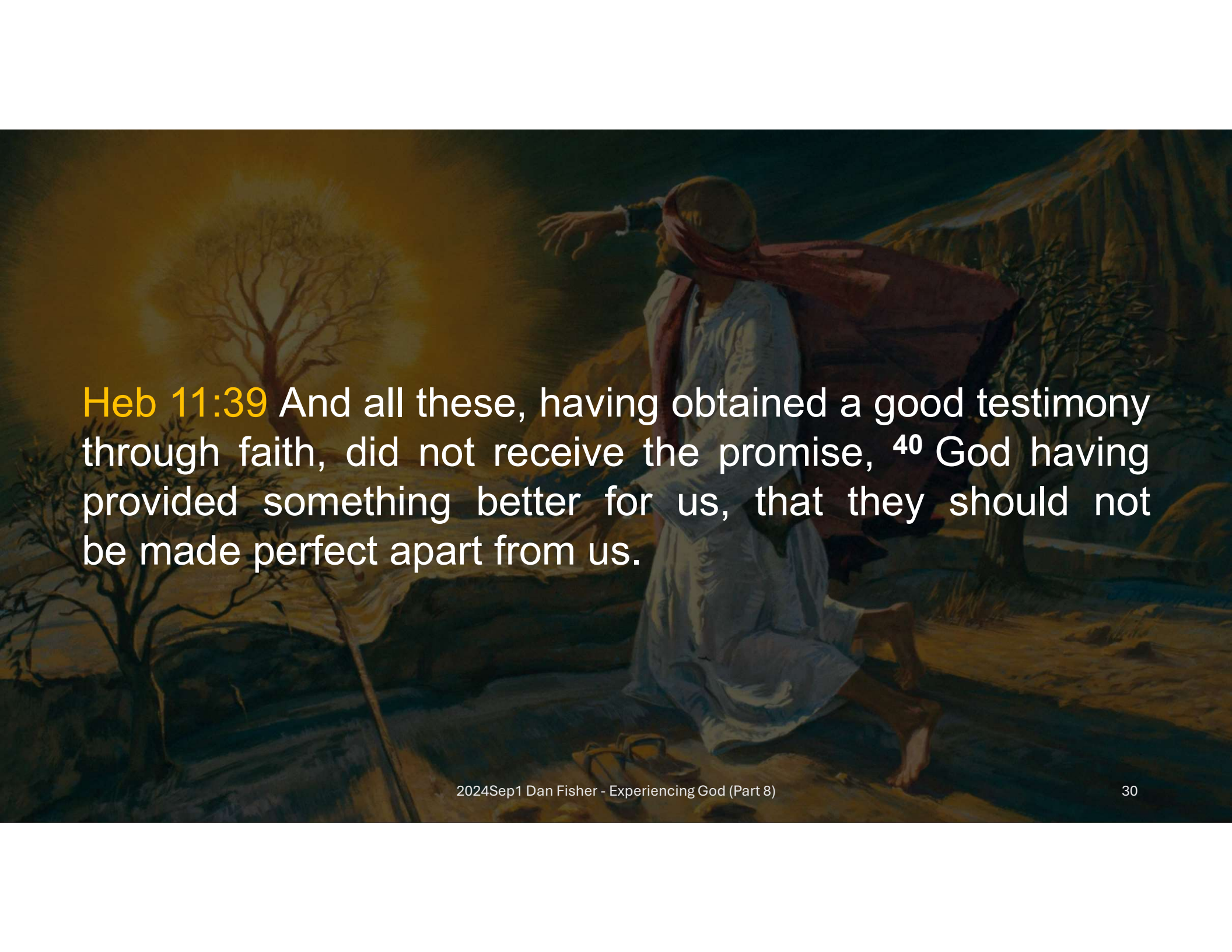
Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.” **Dan 3:28-29**



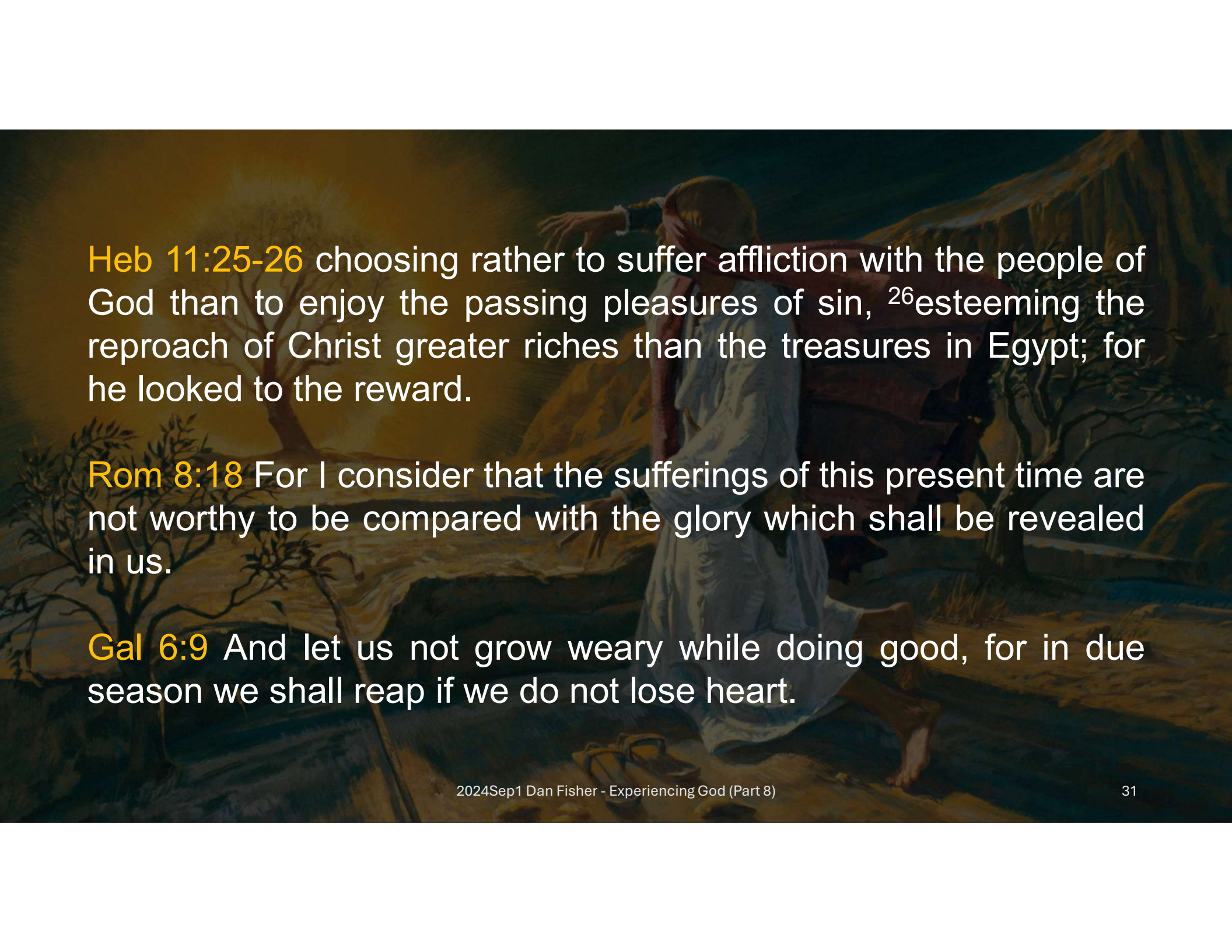
4. Obedience does not guarantee earthly success



Heb 11:35b-38 Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — ³⁸ **of whom the world was not worthy.** They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.



Heb 11:39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.



Heb 11:25-26 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.