

Motivation for doing what's **right**...
in a world that's going so **wrong**.



Elements Class: Psalm 37 (Part1)
Sunday, May 1. 10:45am





جيمز رايت فولي
James Wright Foley

أطالب أصدقائي وعائلي وأحبائي أن يقوموا على الحكومة الأمريكية التي قتلتني حقاً





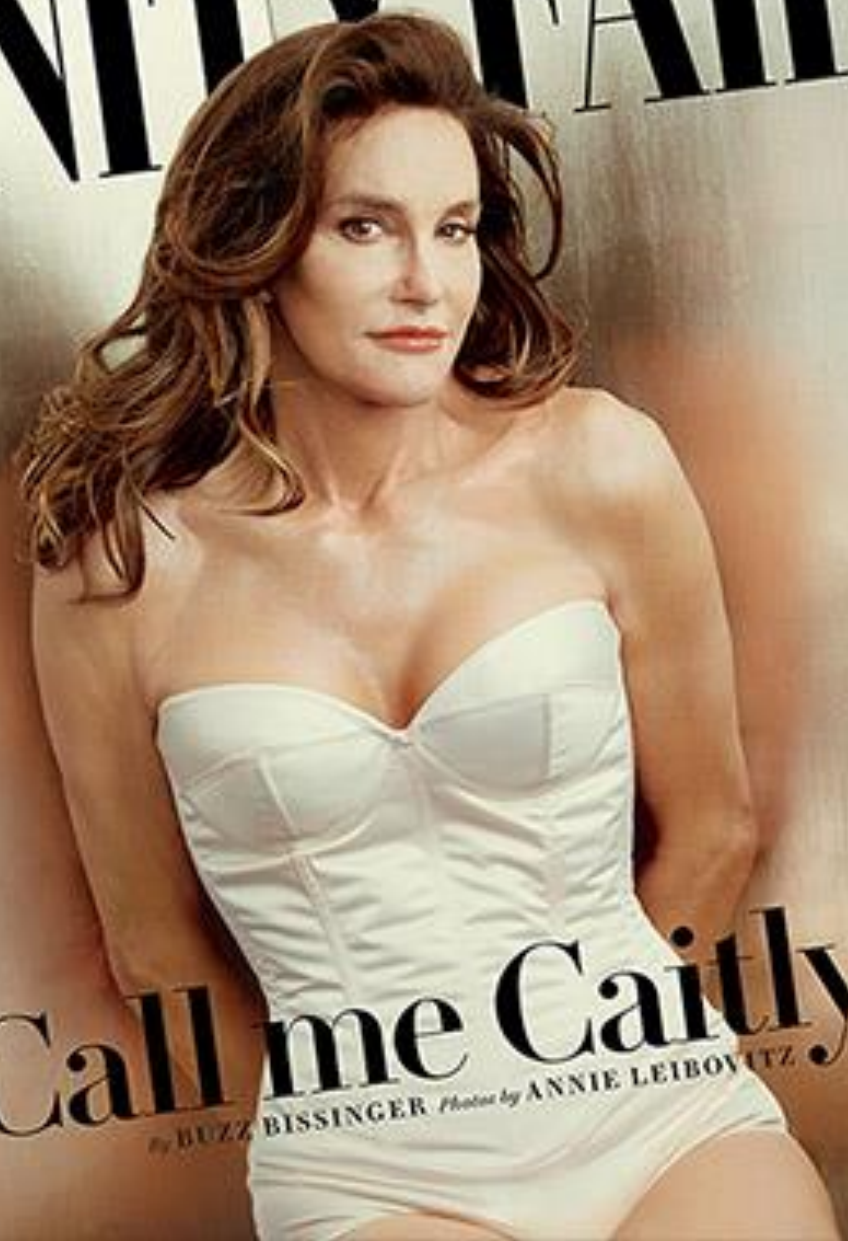




A woman in a black quilted jacket and beanie holds a white sign with the text 'BLACK LIVES MATTER' in large, hand-drawn black letters. She is in the center of a crowd of people at night, with city lights and blue decorative lights in the background. Other people are visible, some looking at their phones and others taking photos.

BLACK
LIVES
MATTER

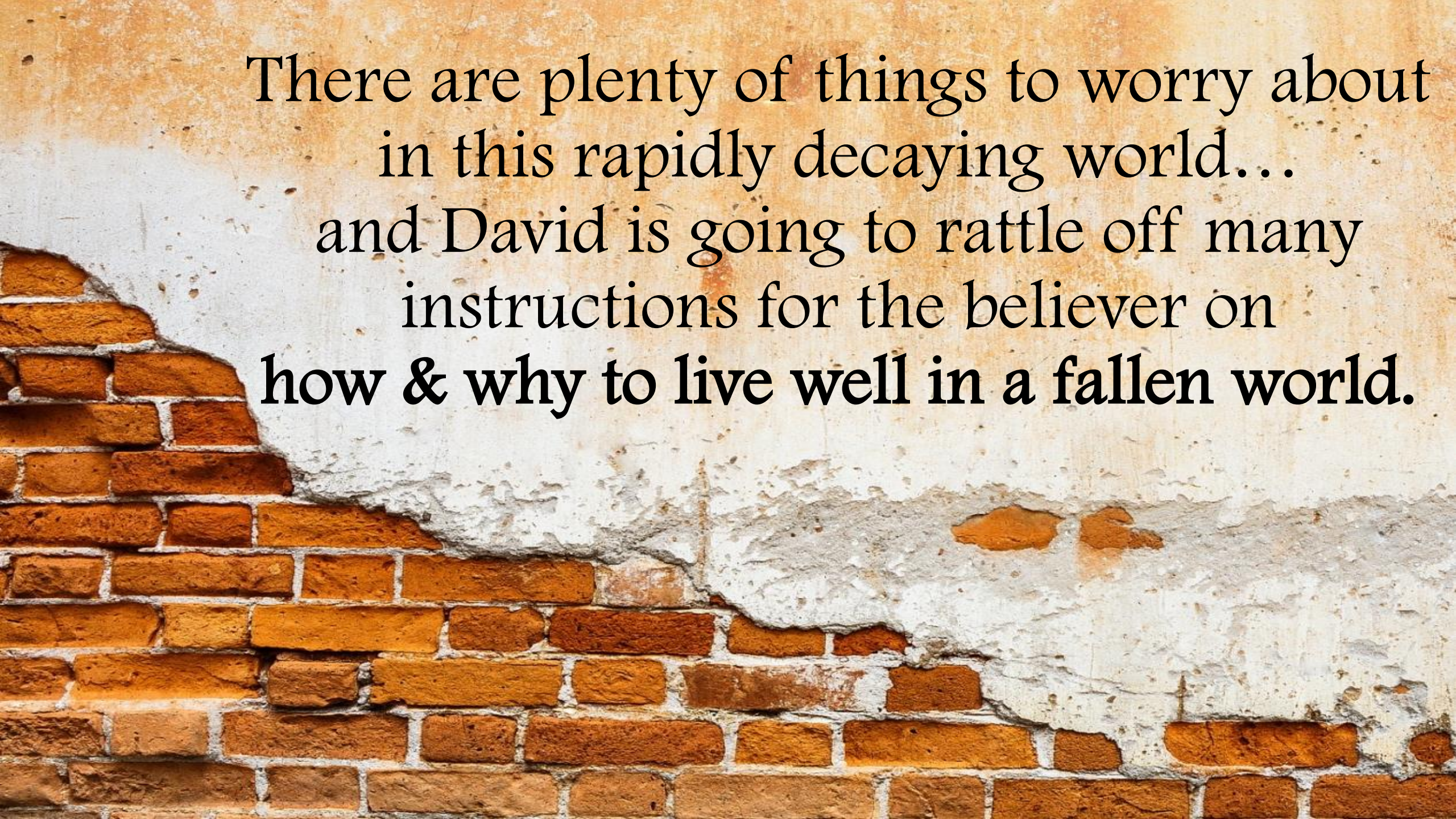
VANITY FAIR



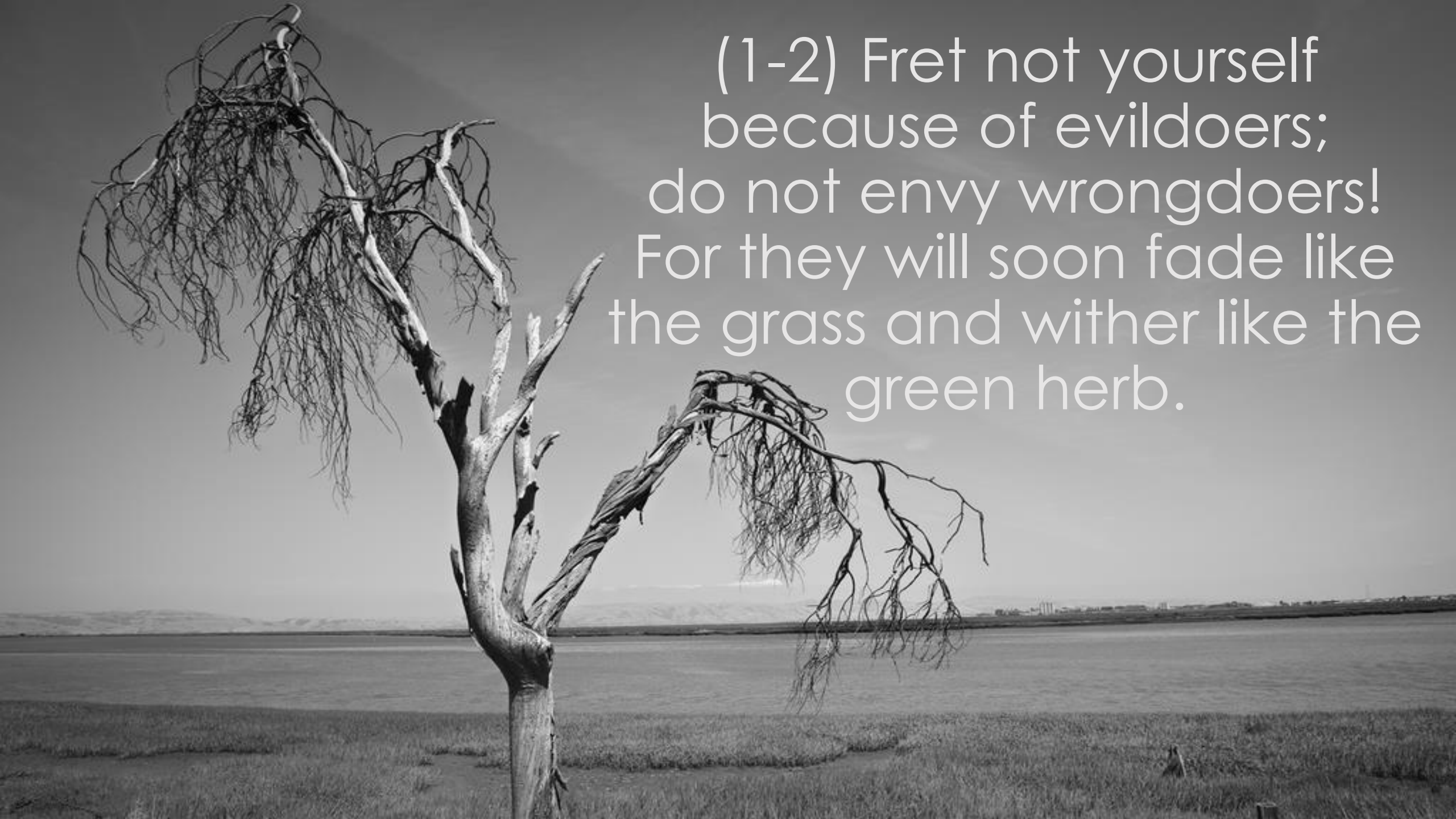
“Call me Caitlyn”

by BUZZ BISSINGER Photos by ANNIE LEIBOVITZ





There are plenty of things to worry about
in this rapidly decaying world...
and David is going to rattle off many
instructions for the believer on
how & why to live well in a fallen world.

A black and white photograph of a dead, bleached tree with exposed roots in a coastal landscape. The tree is the central focus, with its intricate root system and skeletal branches reaching out. The background shows a calm body of water, distant hills, and a small town on the horizon under a clear sky. The overall mood is one of desolation and the passage of time.

(1-2) Fret not yourself
because of evildoers;
do not envy wrongdoers!
For they will soon fade like
the grass and wither like the
green herb.

1. Fret not over evildoers (v1)
2. Be not envious of wrongdoers (v1)



IMPERATIVE

1. they will fade like grass (v1)
2. they will wither like herbs (v1)



Don't be jealous of the wicked
or desire what they have or do.

APPLICATION

Soon they will be gone.
They will wither away...there will be
nothing about them to envy.



(3-4) Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you
the desires of your heart.



3. Trust in the Lord (v3)
4. Do good (v3)
5. Dwell in the land (v3)



IMPERATIVE

6. Befriend faithfulness (v3)

7. Delight yourself in the Lord (v4)



IMPERATIVE

Instead of worrying and getting frustrated over the prosperity of the wicked; trust God, do good, stay near the Lord & be faithful in all you do.

APPLICATION

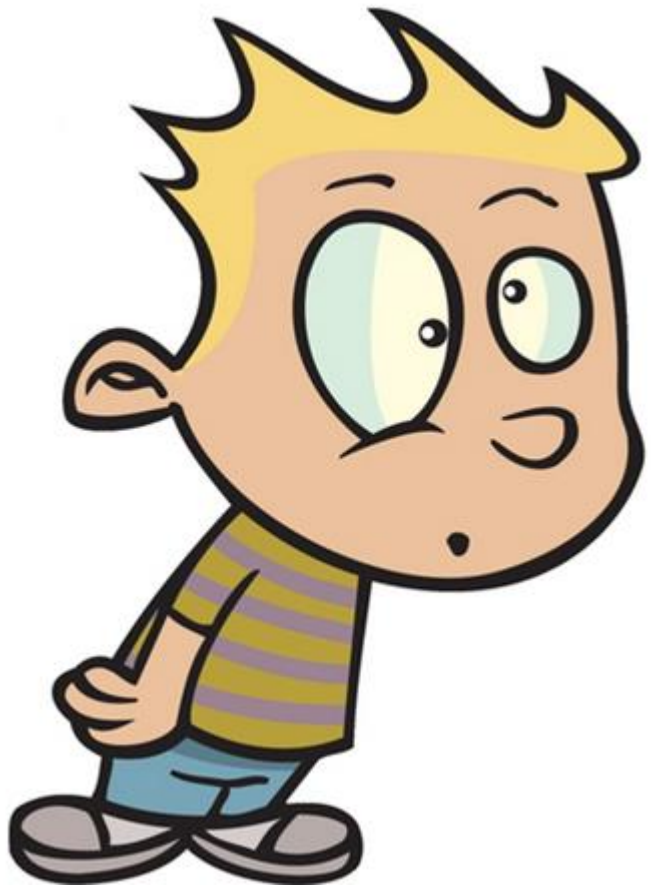
Focus your attention & energy on
delighting in the Lord.

APPLICATION

1-7. God will give you the desires
of your heart (v4)



What does it mean to
“delight in the Lord...”



What does it mean to
“delight in chocolate cake...”



What does it mean to
“delight in your children...”



What does it mean to
“delight in the Steelers...”



What does it mean to
“delight in money...”



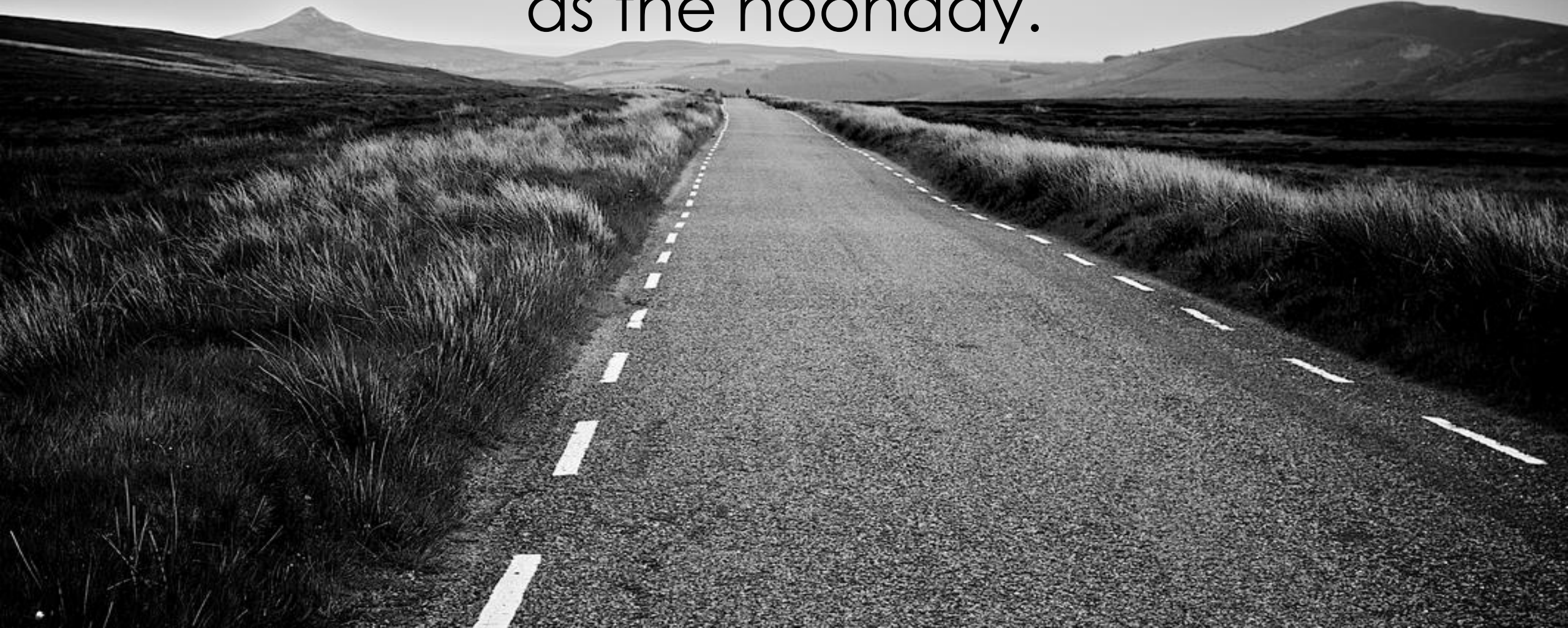
Essentially to delight in these
lesser things means;

taking real joy in being with and experiencing
with, desiring to be with and wanting to
experience the benefit of, being convinced of
the value of, trusting or hoping in the
perceived/promised reward/benefit of

When we delight in the Lord, he will give us the
'desire of our heart'...*not that he will give us all
that our heart currently desires*, rather he will give
our heart the desire for that which is ultimately
desirable (himself) and we will receive it.

REWARD

(5-6) Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth
your righteousness as the light, and your justice
as the noonday.



8. Commit your way to the Lord (v5)
9. Trust in the Lord (v5)



IMPERATIVE

8-9 God will act. (v5)

God will declare you righteous (v6)

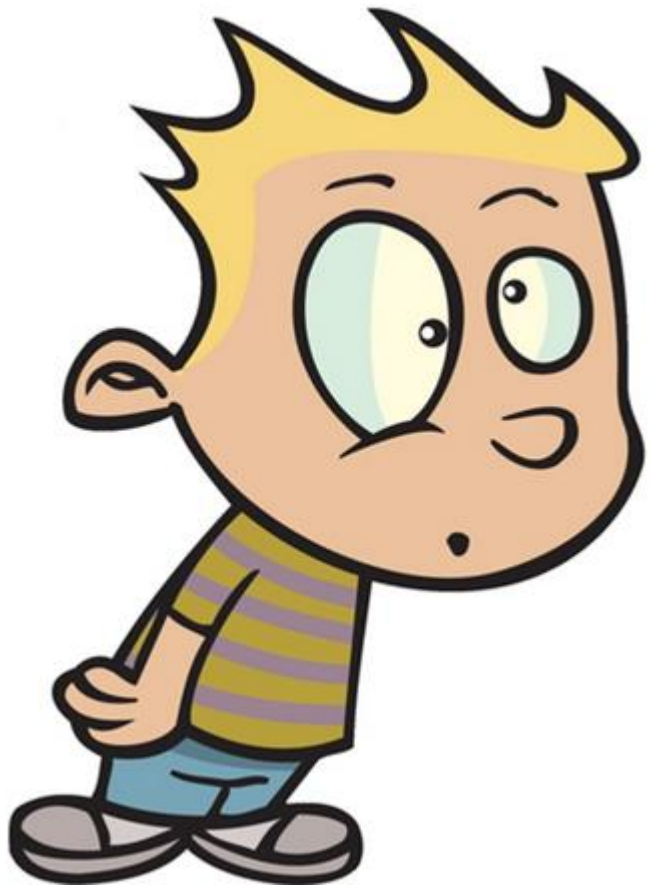
God will vindicate you (v6)



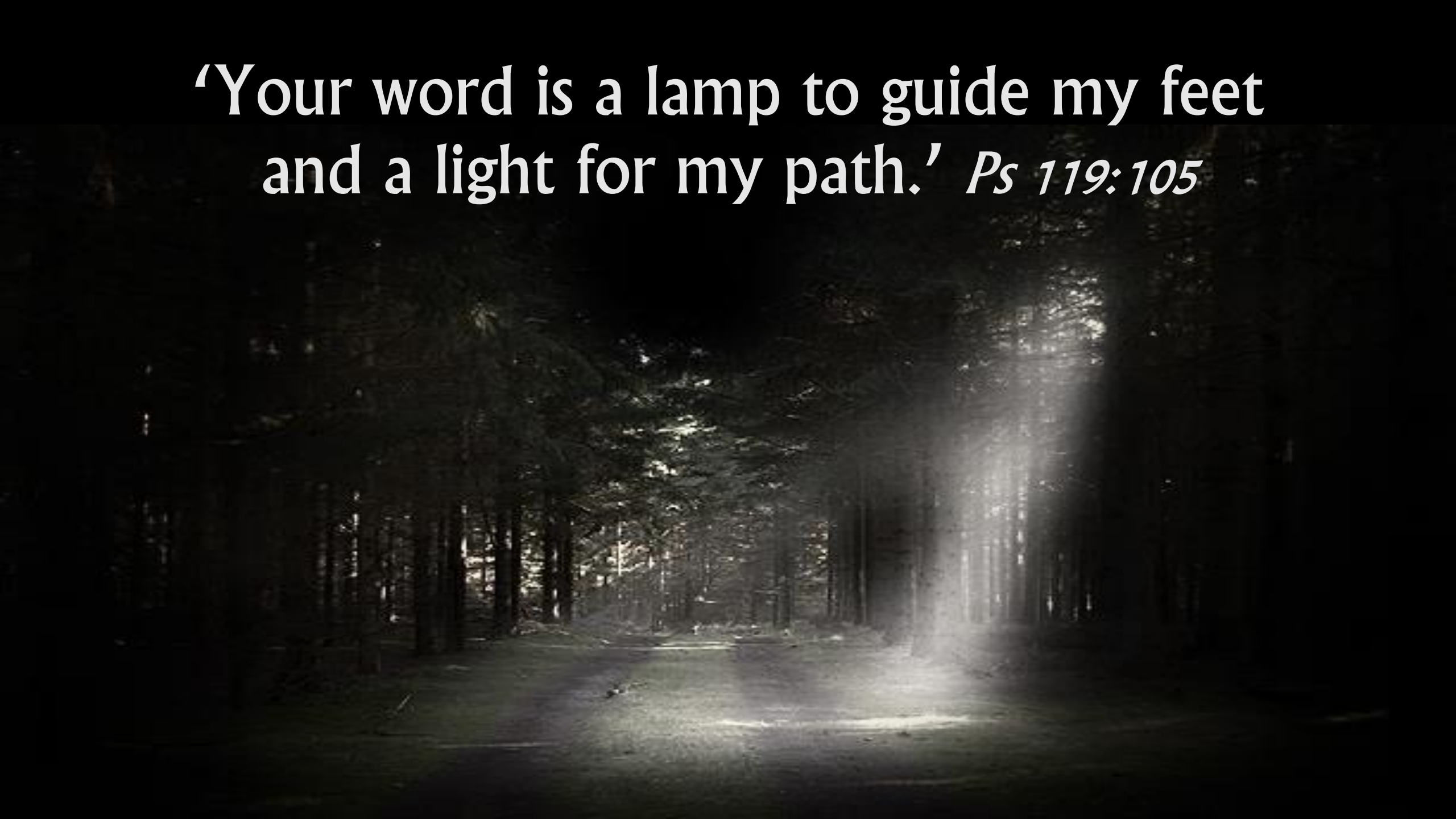
Commit your way to the Lord and trust
in him...and he will act on your behalf!

APPLICATION

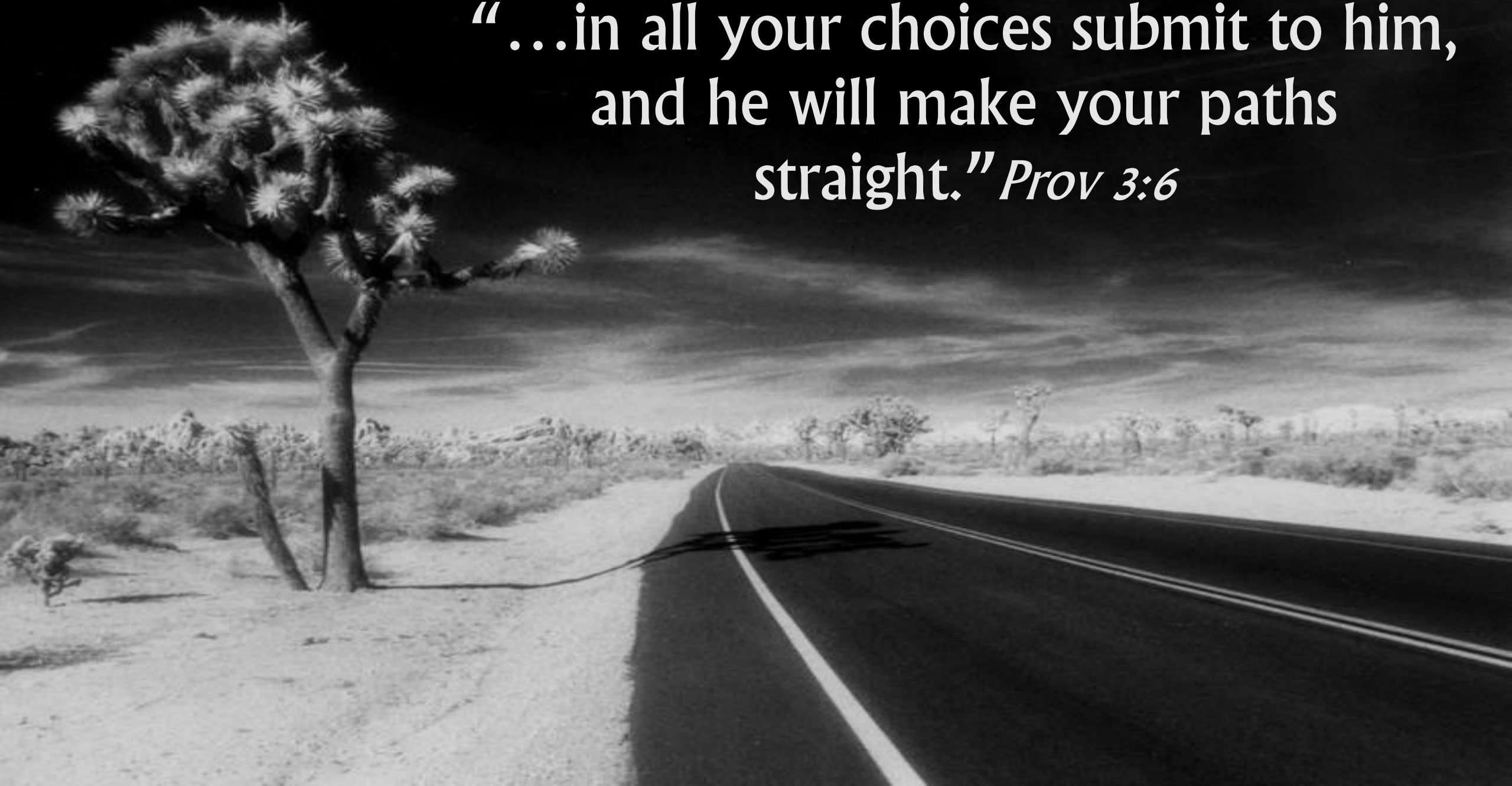
What does it mean to
“commit our way to the Lord...”



**‘Your word is a lamp to guide my feet
and a light for my path.’ *Ps 119:105***



“...in all your choices submit to him,
and he will make your paths
straight.” *Prov 3:6*



“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

Joshua 1:8



**When we commit our way to God
and we trust in him he will...**

- **Make us shine righteously**

(declare us to be righteous)

- **Vindicate our name**

(clear of blame or suspicion, prove to be right)

- **Before Himself and before the scoffers (v1-2, 7)**

(7) Be still before the LORD and wait patiently
for him; fret not yourself over the one who
prosperes in his way, over the man who
carries out evil devices!



- 10. Be still before the Lord (v7)
- 11. Wait patiently (v7)
- 12. Fret not over the wicked (v7)



IMPERATIVE

(8-9) Refrain from anger,
and forsake wrath!

Fret not yourself; it
tends only to evil. For the
evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for
the LORD shall inherit the
land.



- 13. Refrain from anger (v8)
- 14. Forsake wrath (v8)
- 15. Fret not (v8)
- 16. Wait for the Lord (v9)



IMPERATIVE

Be still and wait for God to act!

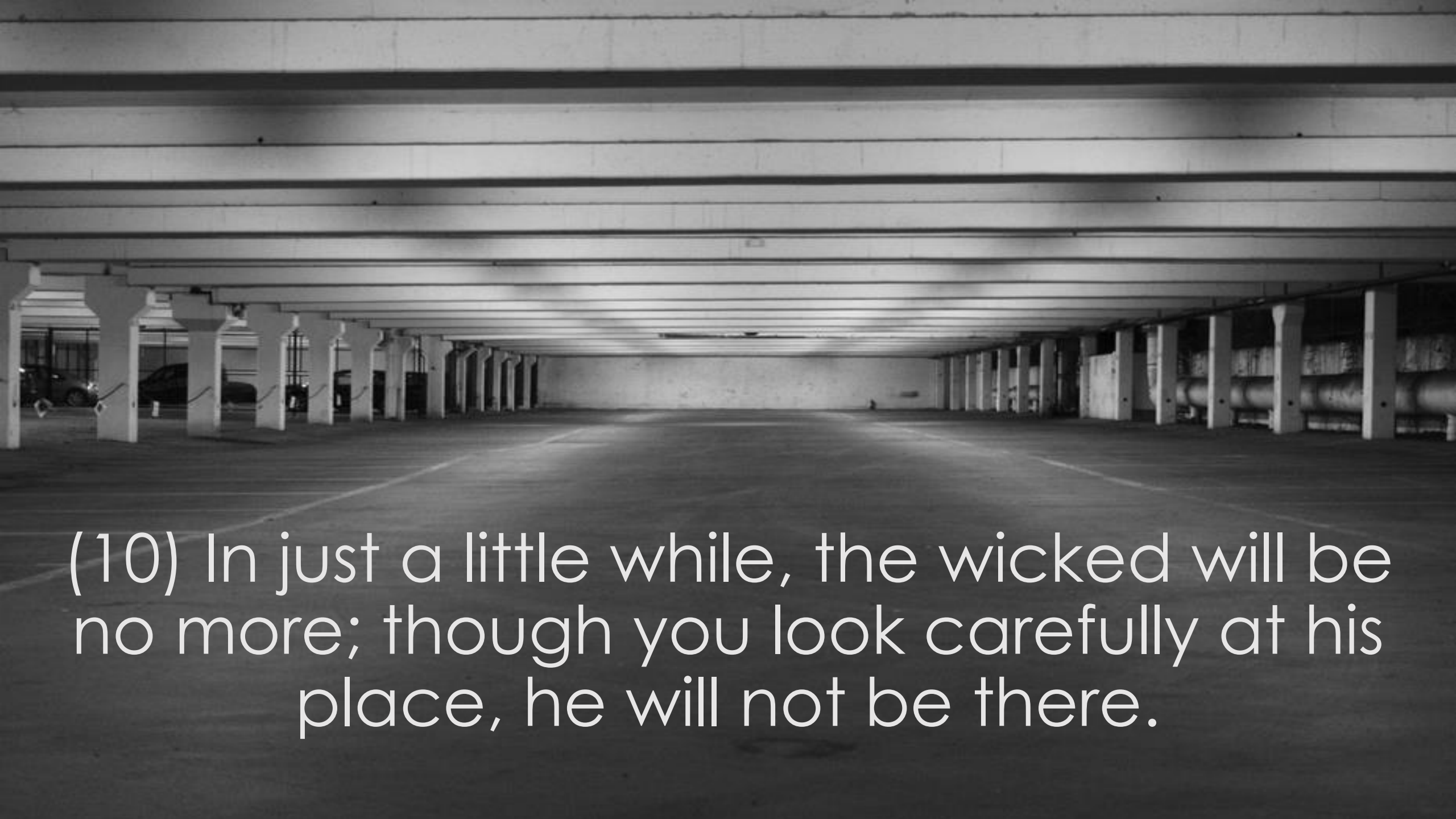
APPLICATION

Don't worry when the wicked prevail.
Resist anger, wrath & worry.

APPLICATION

10-16 Worry (fret) leads to evil (v8)
Evildoers will be cut off. (v9)
'Waiters' will inherit the land (v9)





(10) In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

In time the wicked will be no more (v10)
The wicked will be removed (v10)



Those who do not delight in the Lord, those who do not commit their ways to him, those who do not trust in him and do good...and persist in evil will be cut off, removed, judged and punished.



(11) But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.



The meek will inherit the land (v11)

They'll be happy in perfect peace (v11)



Those who do delight in the Lord, those who commit their ways to him by trusting & obeying him and persist in goodness will be vindicated, will be defended, will be raised up and will inherit the kingdom of God and receive ultimate joy.



The reason for not envying the lost when they succeed in disobedience and evil is to remember their utterly awful, joyless & 'successless' fate in the future.



summary

The motivation for enduring in glad obedience to God in the midst of suffering & lack of present results is to look to the reward of a promised future where all of God's children will be vindicated, rewarded and will receive endless joy!



summary

“The fight of faith in the Christian life a fight for delight. **It's a fight to believe God's promises of happiness over the false promises of happiness we hear from the world**, our fallen flesh, and the devil. And yes, it often involves denying ourselves pleasure, but only denying ourselves a lesser, viler pleasure in order to have a much higher pleasure.” **John Piper (Future Grace)**