

Making Prayer Simple

Questions about Prayer

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QUIZ
QUESTIONS
DISCUSSIONS





ALWAYS
OR **only when**



1. Our prayer reaches God's ears.

A. ALWAYS!

B. ONLY WHEN our prayer is sincere and persistent.

C. ONLY WHEN we are not in the state of sin.

D. ONLY WHEN we pray in Jesus' name.

E. ONLY WHEN we pray with one or two others gathered in the Lord's name.



2. The best prayer is the personal and spontaneous kind when we talk to God.

A. ALWAYS

B. ONLY WHEN it makes us grow closer to God.

C. ONLY WHEN we are tired of using formula prayers like the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

D. ONLY WHEN we can also pray in tongues.

E. ONLY WHEN we use the Bible as springboard.



3. God talks to us in our prayer.

- A. ALWAYS**
- B. ONLY WHEN we are humble and open.**
- C. ONLY WHEN God wants to.**
- D. ONLY WHEN we use Scripture.**
- E. ONLY WHEN during Holy Mass.**



4. God gives us what we ask for in prayer.

- A. ALWAYS!**
- B. ONLY WHEN** what we ask for is for others rather than ourselves.
- C. ONLY WHEN** our faith is strong enough.
- D. ONLY WHEN** God wants to.
- E. ONLY WHEN** we pray unceasingly.



**And behold,
the Lord passed by
and a great and strong wind
tore the mountains
and broke in pieces
the rocks
before the Lord.**

**But the Lord was
not in the wind.**

The Prayer

1 Kings 19:11-13



**And after the wind
an earthquake,
but the Lord was
not in the earthquake.**

**And after the earthquake
a fire,
but the Lord was
not in the fire.**

The Prayer

1 Kings 19:11-13

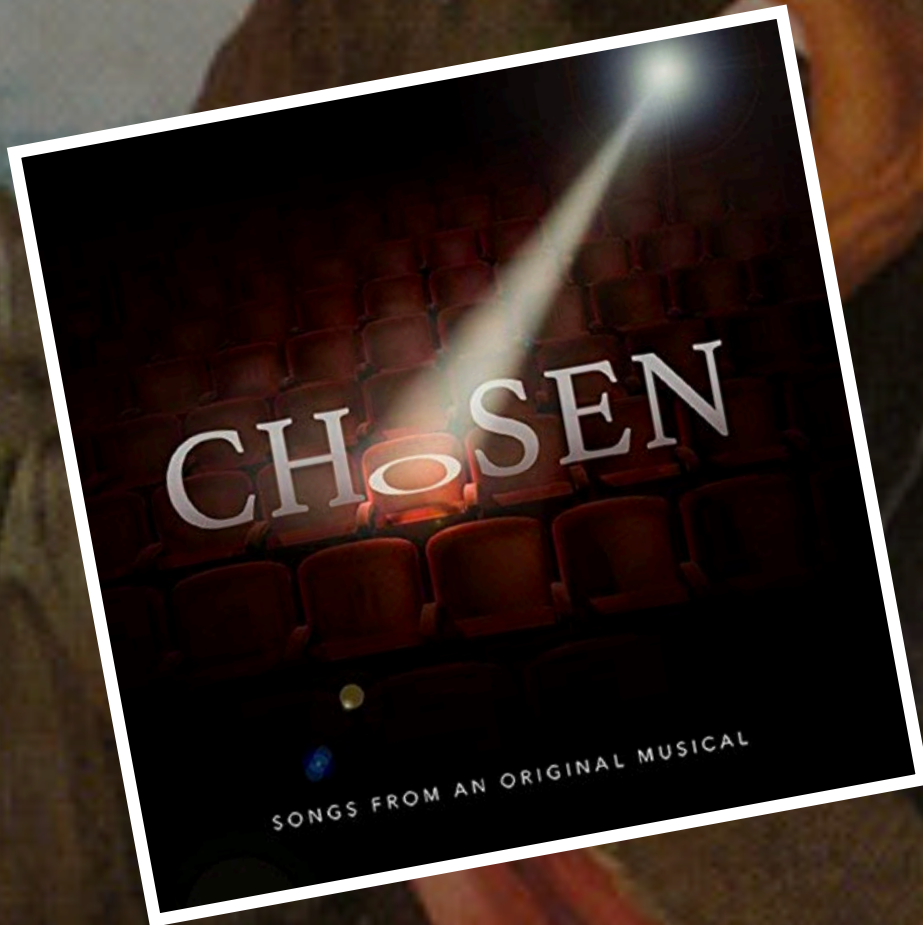


**And after the fire
the sound
of a low whisper.
And when Elijah heard it,
he wrapped his face
in his cloak and went out
and stood at the entrance
of the cave.
And behold,
there came a voice to him
and said, “What are you
doing here, Elijah?”**

The Prayer

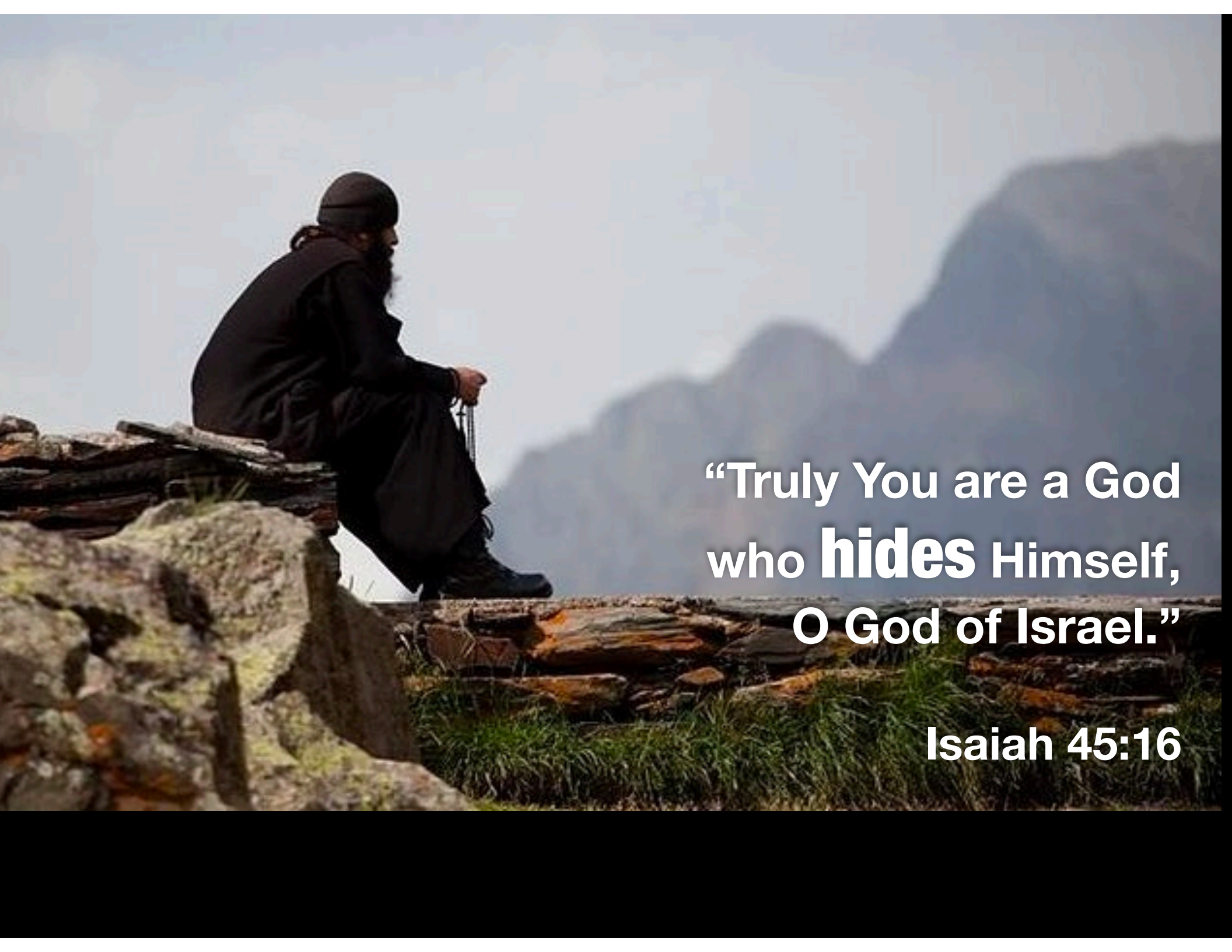
1 Kings 19:11-13

God's Whisper



HARD TO GET

(M Ong | J Go)
Martin Nievera



“Truly You are a God
who **hides** Himself,
O God of Israel.”

Isaiah 45:16

DESIRE +
SEEK GOD.



St. Ignatius of Loyola

“Find God in All Things.”

QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

Why do we need to pray?

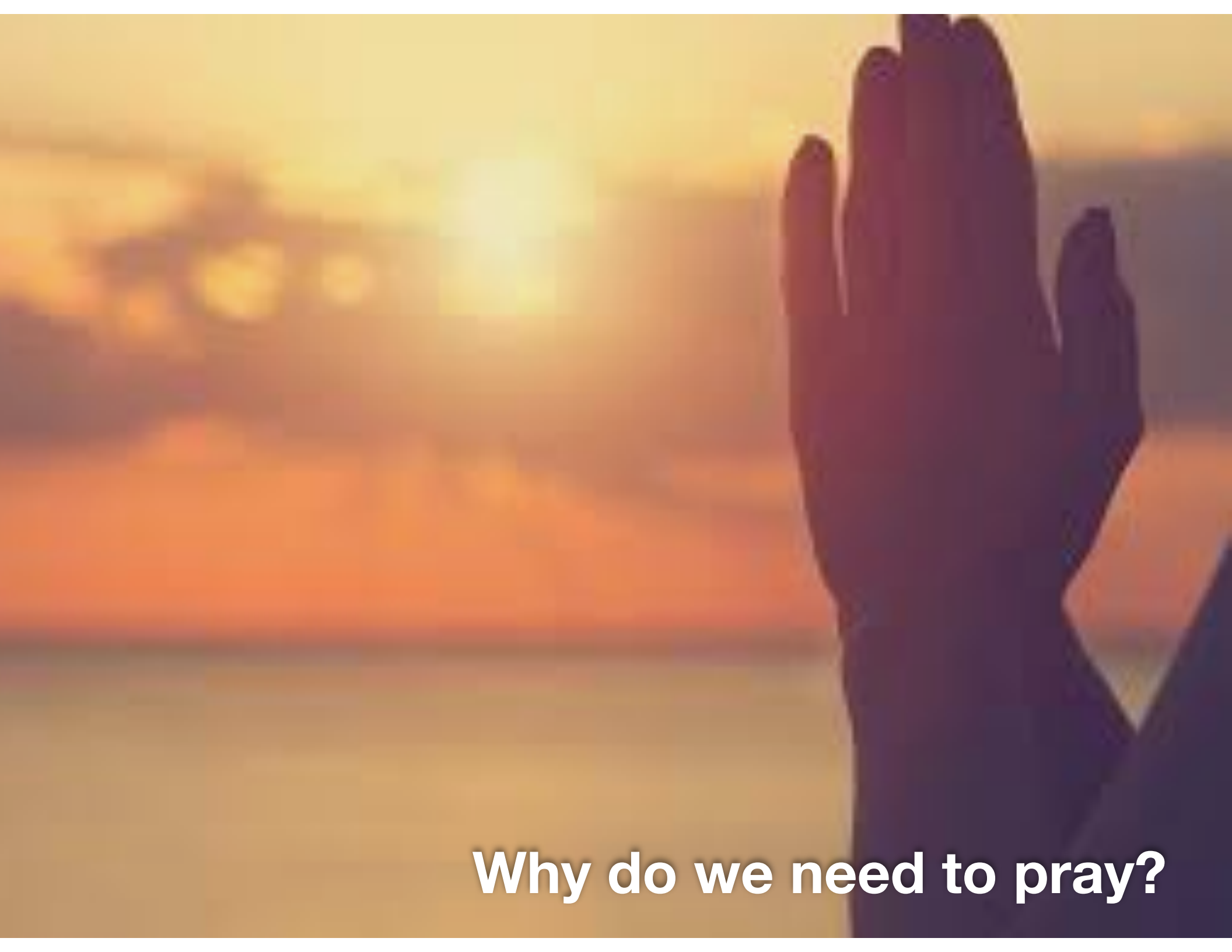
When should we pray?

How should we pray?

Does God hear our prayer?

Does God speak to us?





Why do we need to pray?



**What's the use of praying
if God already knows
what's going to happen?**



**God as
PUPPET MASTER**

Total Control
+ Involvement



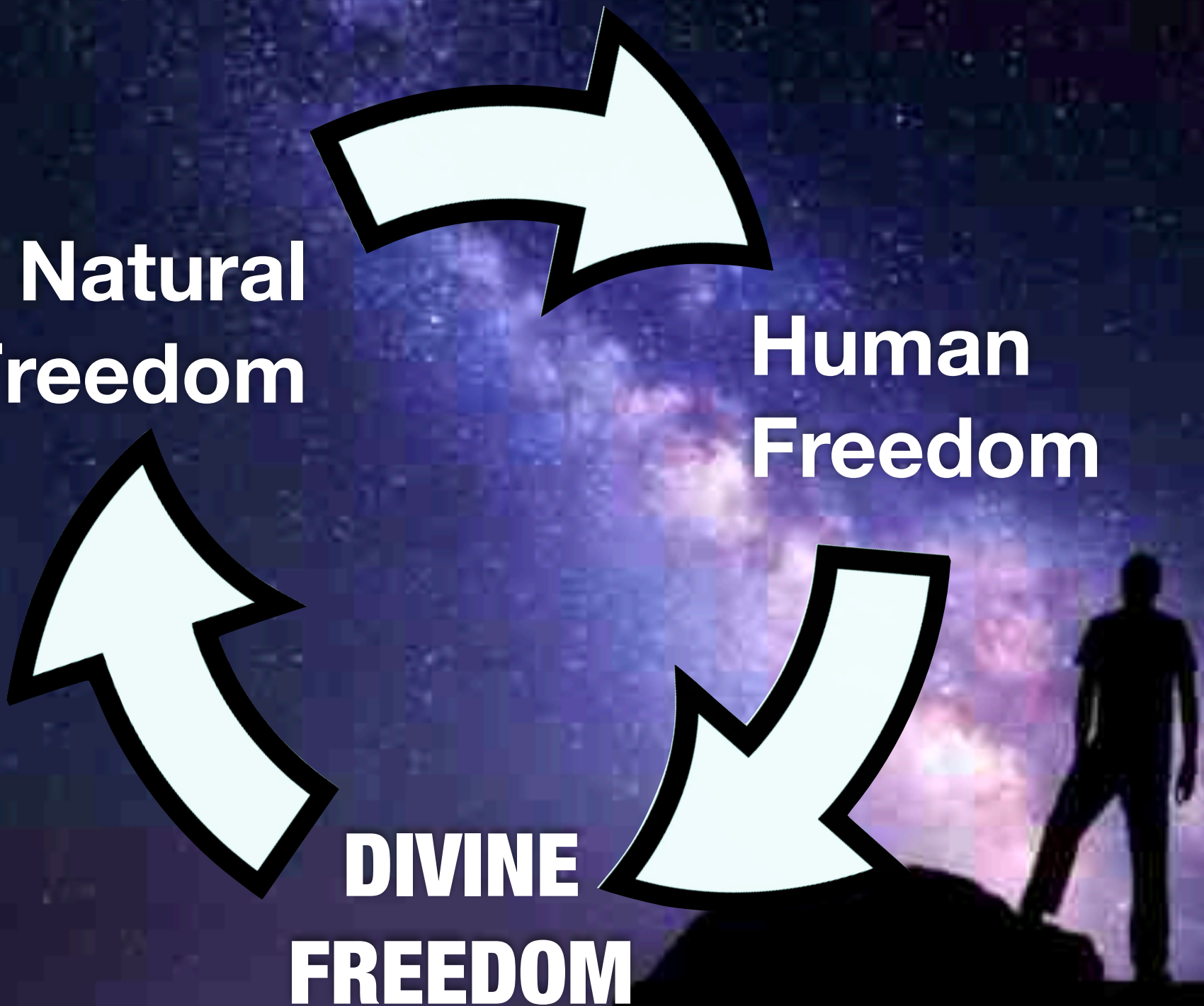
**God as
WATCHMAKER**

No Control
+ Involvement

**Natural
Freedom**

**Human
Freedom**

**DIVINE
FREEDOM**



A young child with dark hair, wearing a green patterned dress, is running joyfully in a grassy field. A colorful kite with pink, yellow, and blue sections is flying high in the sky, with its long, multi-colored tail trailing behind it. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, symbolizing freedom and joy.

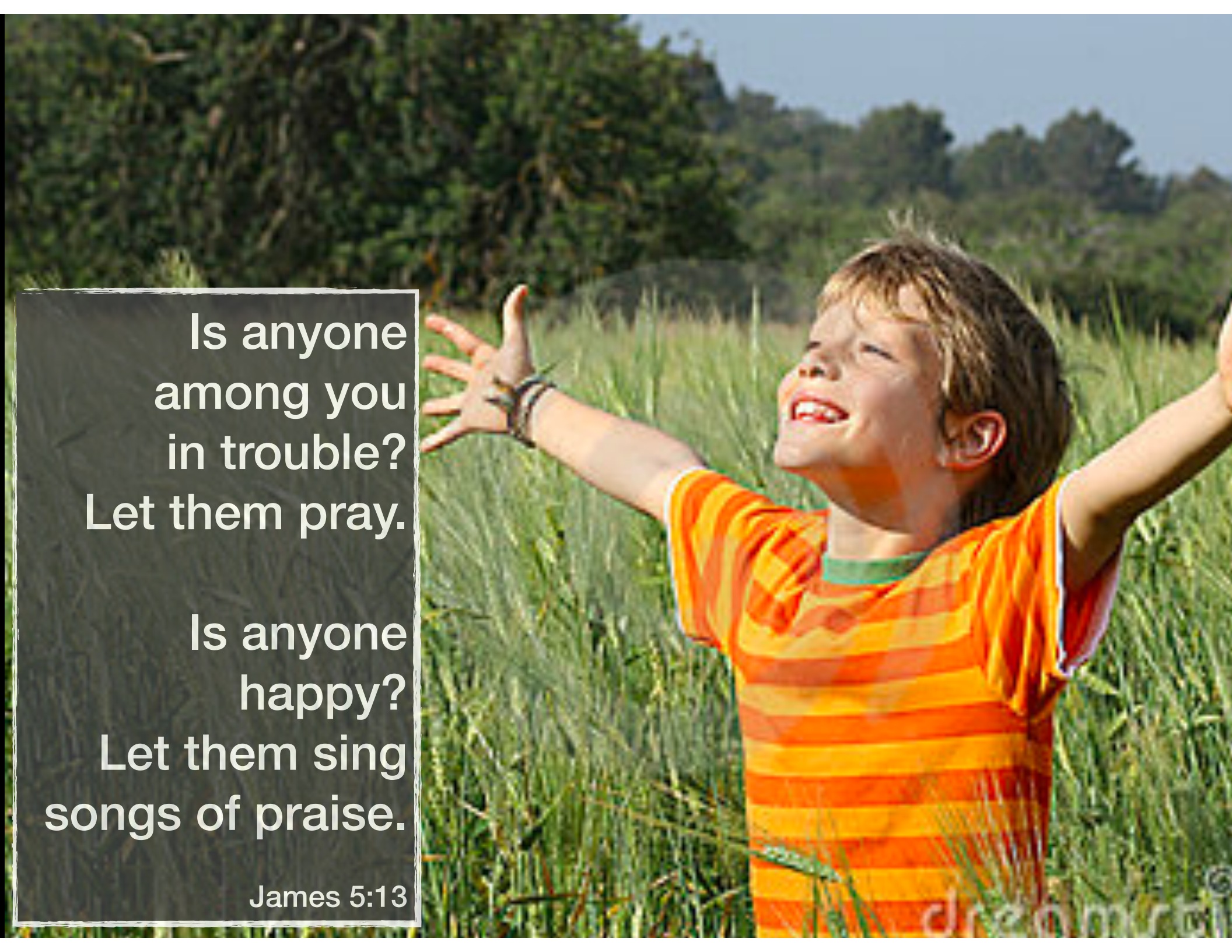
God respects
our **freedom**
and the freedom
of creation.

God is also free.

kite + wind



When should we pray?

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a bright orange and yellow striped t-shirt, stands in a lush green field. He has his arms raised high in the air and is smiling broadly, looking upwards towards the sky. The background is filled with tall green grass and a dense line of trees under a clear blue sky.

Is anyone
among you
in trouble?
Let them pray.

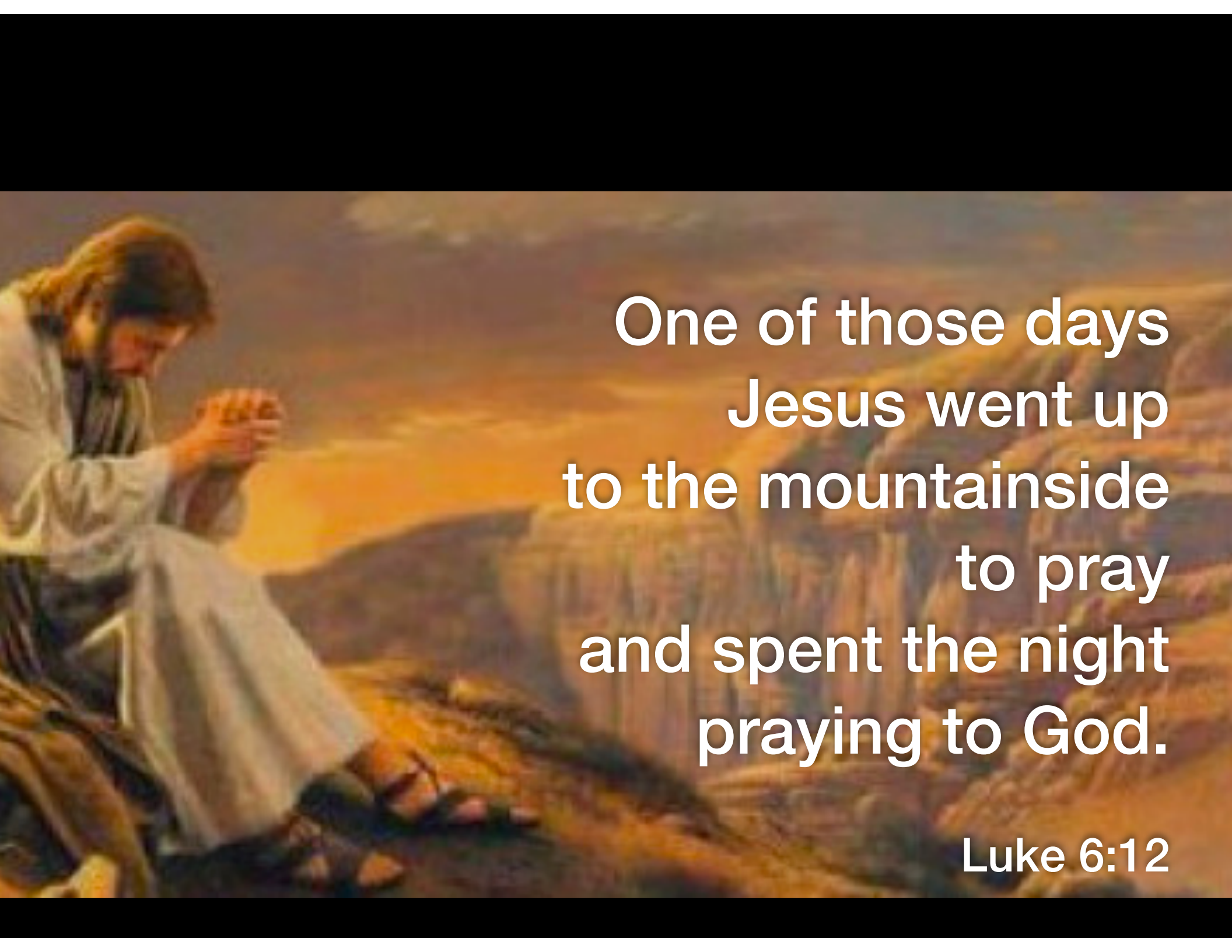
Is anyone
happy?
Let them sing
songs of praise.

James 5:13



Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17



One of those days
Jesus went up
to the mountainside
to pray
and spent the night
praying to God.

Luke 6:12

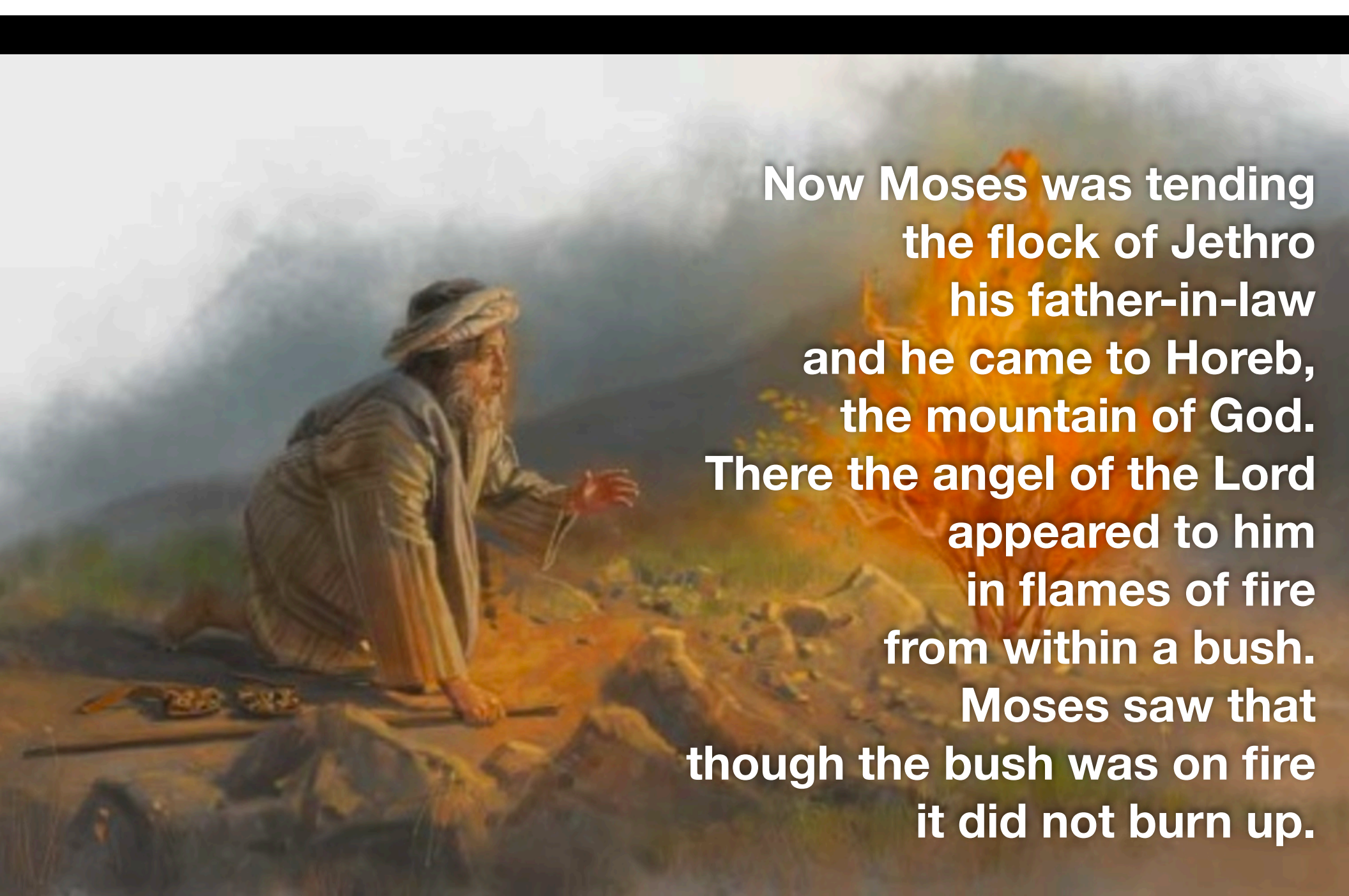


SOLITUDE

AN ENDANGERED SPECIES



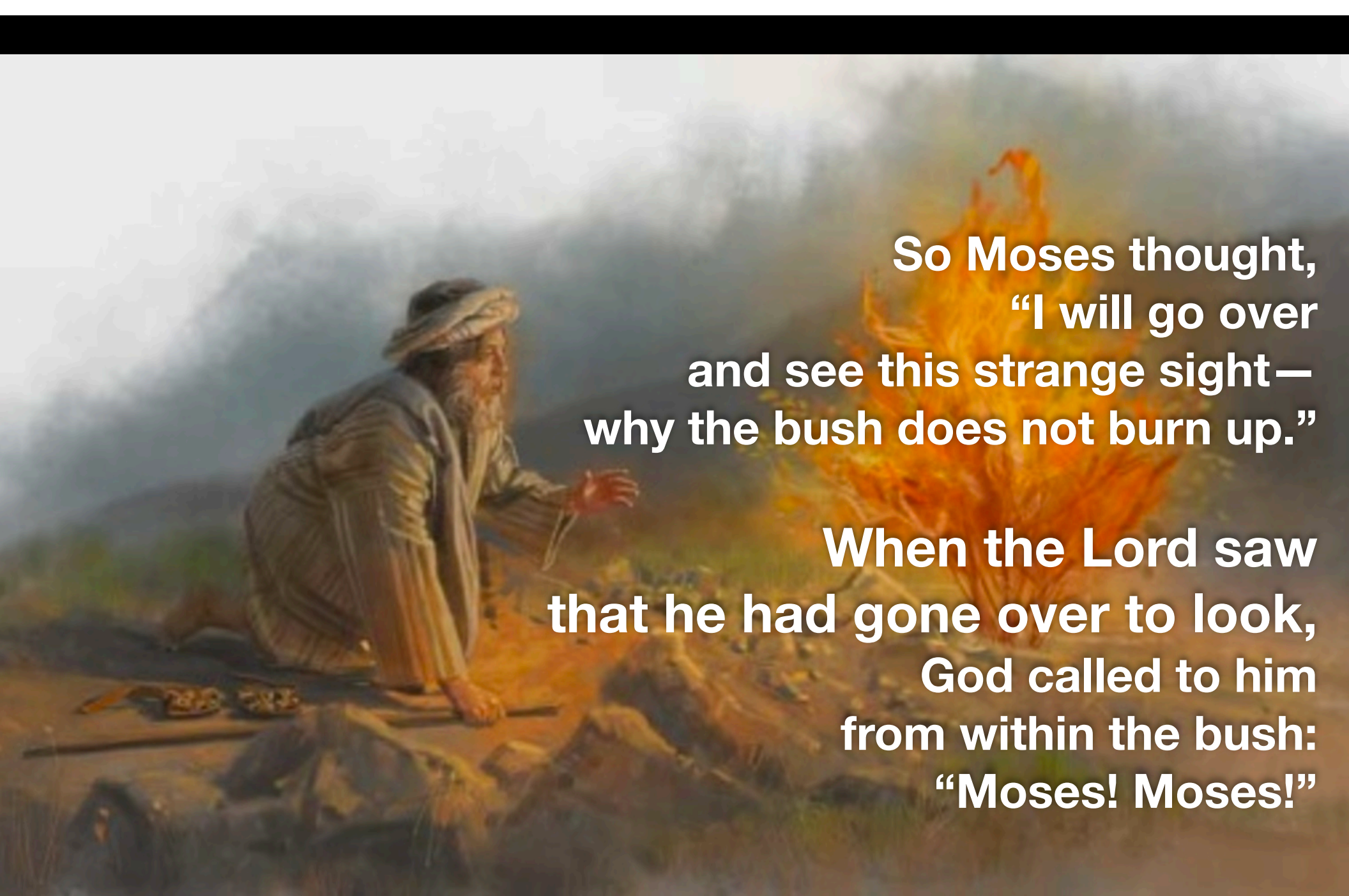
To be **alone** with your feelings
To feel your feelings and to **stay** with them
without digital distraction or support.

An illustration of Moses, an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe and a turban. He is kneeling on a rocky outcrop in a desert landscape, looking towards a large, glowing bush that is on fire. The background shows a hazy, mountainous terrain under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Now Moses was tending
the flock of Jethro
his father-in-law
and he came to Horeb,
the mountain of God.
There the angel of the Lord
appeared to him
in flames of fire
from within a bush.
Moses saw that
though the bush was on fire
it did not burn up.**

The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-4

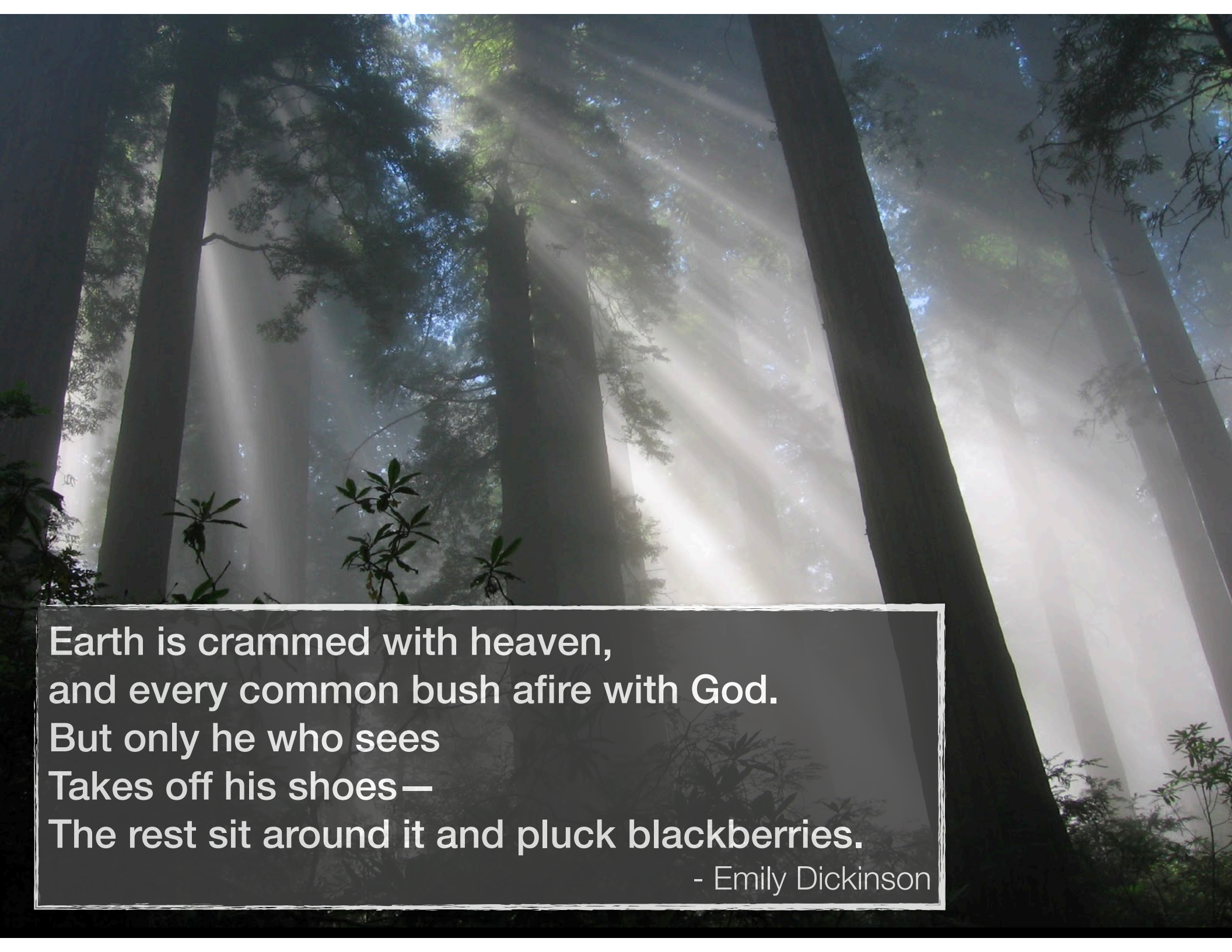
An illustration of Moses, an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe and a turban. He is kneeling on the ground, looking towards a large, glowing bush that is on fire. The background is a hazy, mountainous landscape. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**So Moses thought,
“I will go over
and see this strange sight—
why the bush does not burn up.”**

**When the Lord saw
that he had gone over to look,
God called to him
from within the bush:
“Moses! Moses!”**

The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-4

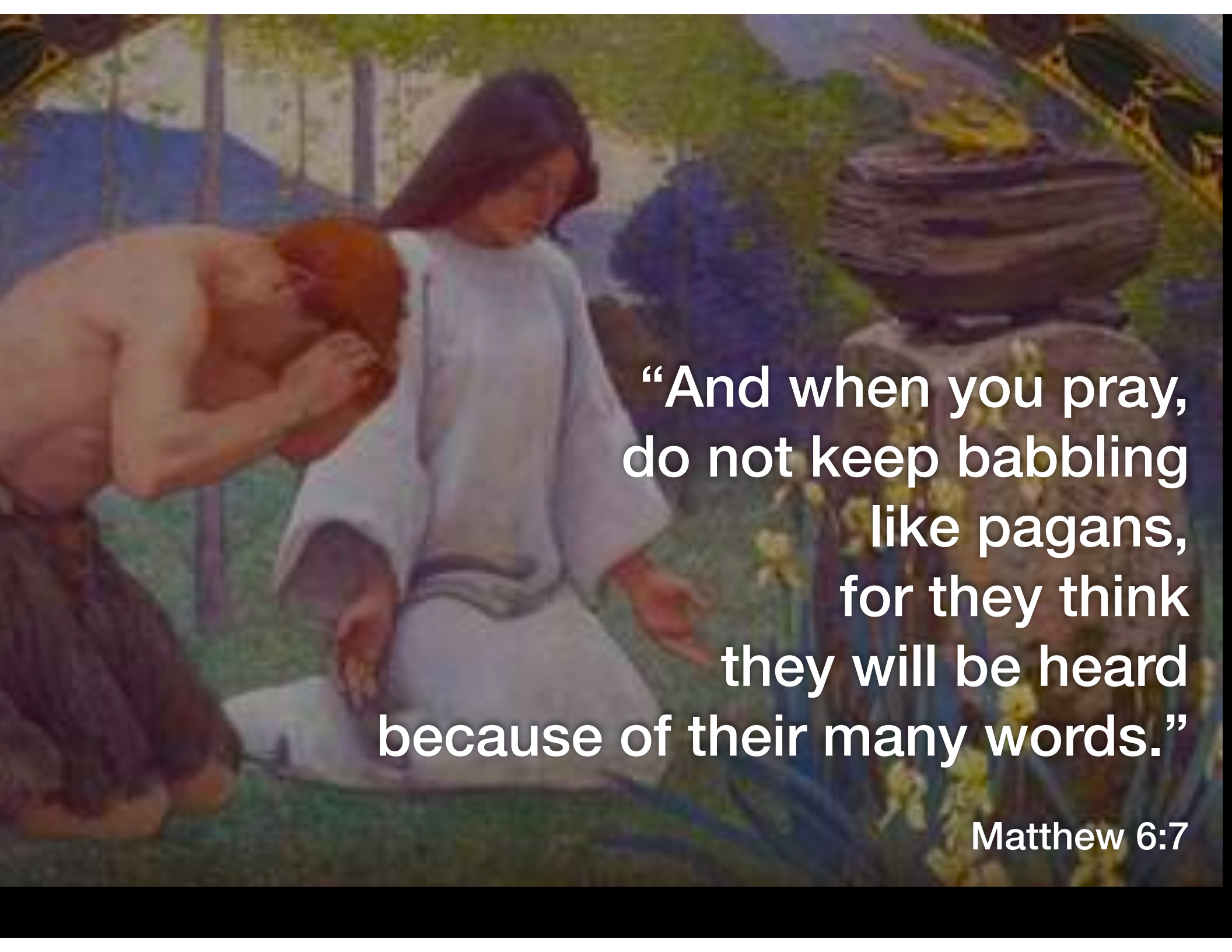


Earth is crammed with heaven,
and every common bush afire with God.
But only he who sees
Takes off his shoes —
The rest sit around it and pluck blackberries.

- Emily Dickinson

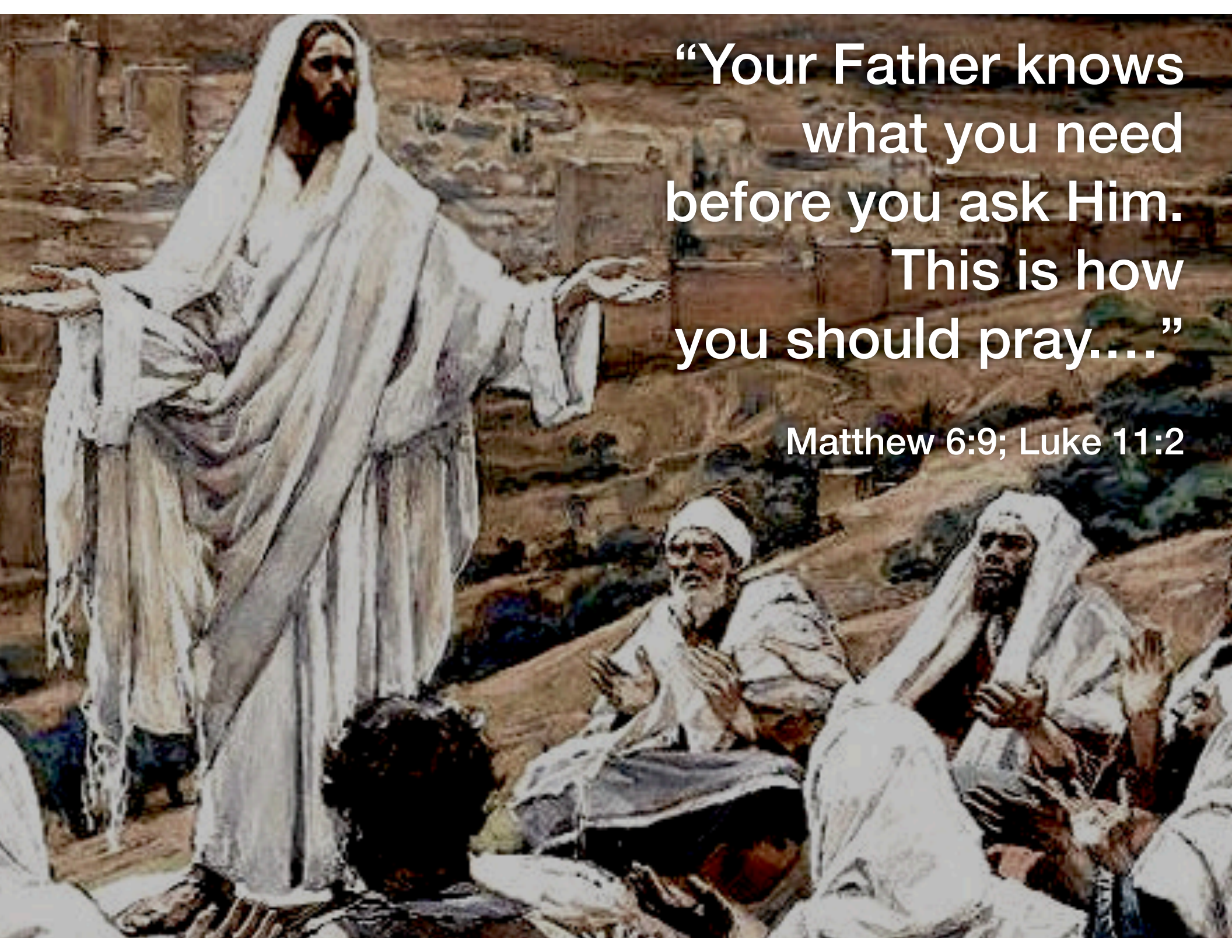


How should we pray?

A painting depicting a scene in a vineyard. Jesus, with long brown hair and a white robe, is kneeling on the ground in prayer, his hands held out. To his left, a man with reddish hair, shirtless and wearing a dark loincloth, is also kneeling in prayer, his head bowed. The background shows a vineyard with rows of grapevines and a stone wall. The overall style is classical, with soft lighting and a focus on the figures' expressions and postures.

**“And when you pray,
do not keep babbling
like pagans,
for they think
they will be heard
because of their many words.”**

Matthew 6:7

A religious painting depicting Jesus standing on the left, wearing a white robe and a white head covering, with his arms outstretched in a gesture of blessing or teaching. He is addressing a group of people seated on the ground in a desert landscape. The people are also wearing white robes and head coverings, and some have their hands raised in prayer. The background shows a rocky, hilly terrain with some sparse vegetation.

**“Your Father knows
what you need
before you ask Him.
This is how
you should pray....”**

Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2



“helpmehelpmehelpme!”

“thankyouthankyouthankyou!”

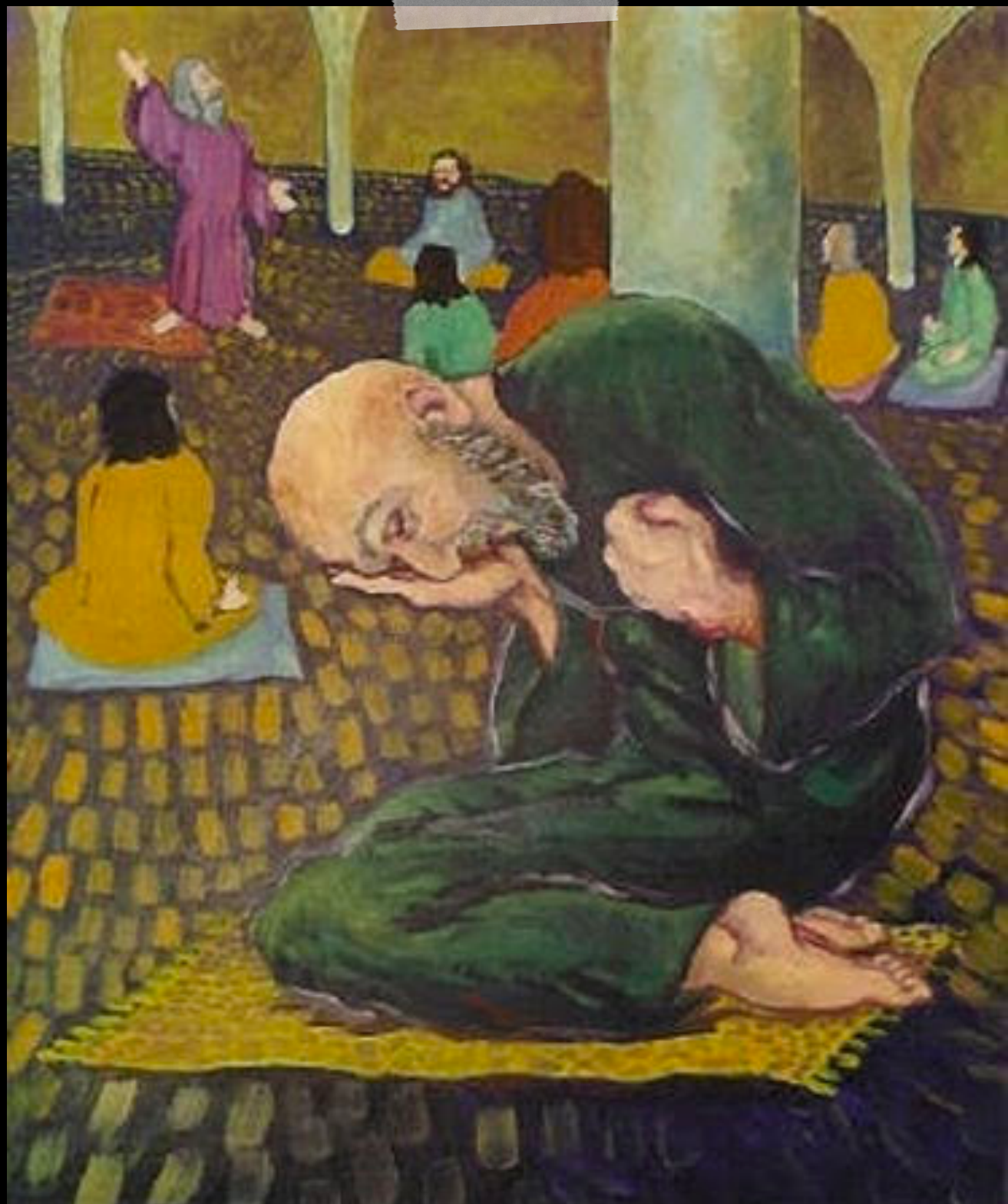
“sorrysorrysorry!”



**Not with the lips,
but with the heart.**

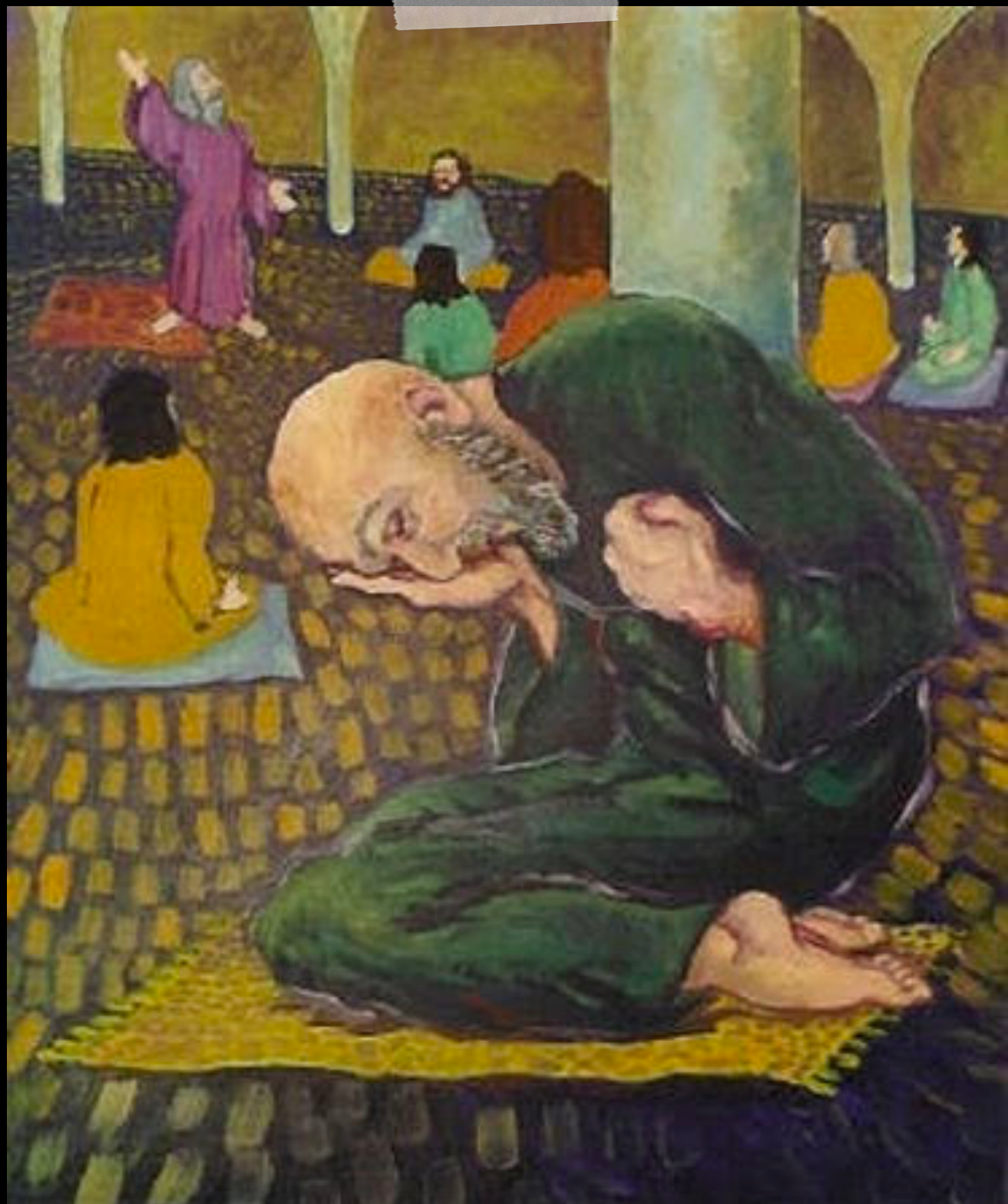
But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

Luke 18:13-14



**I tell you
that this man,
rather than the other,
went home justified
before God.
For everyone
who exalts himself
will be humbled,
and he who humbles
himself will be
exalted.”**

Luke 18:13-14



An iceberg floating in the ocean. The visible tip is a small, jagged mountain of white ice against a blue sky with light clouds. The water is a deep, clear blue. Below the surface, the submerged part of the iceberg is a massive, dark blue, jagged structure, illustrating the concept of hidden depths.

Living on the surface

**God dwells in the
mysterious depth within us.**



**DON'T GO CHASING
BUTTERFLIES.**



To pray is to
CONNECT.

Prayer is stealing away
to venture to the deep
and to connect to our deeper selves
and to God.



MAKE **SPACE** FOR GOD.



Does God hear or listen to my prayer?



**“Ask
and you shall
receive.
Knock
and the door
will be
opened.”**

Matthew 7:7

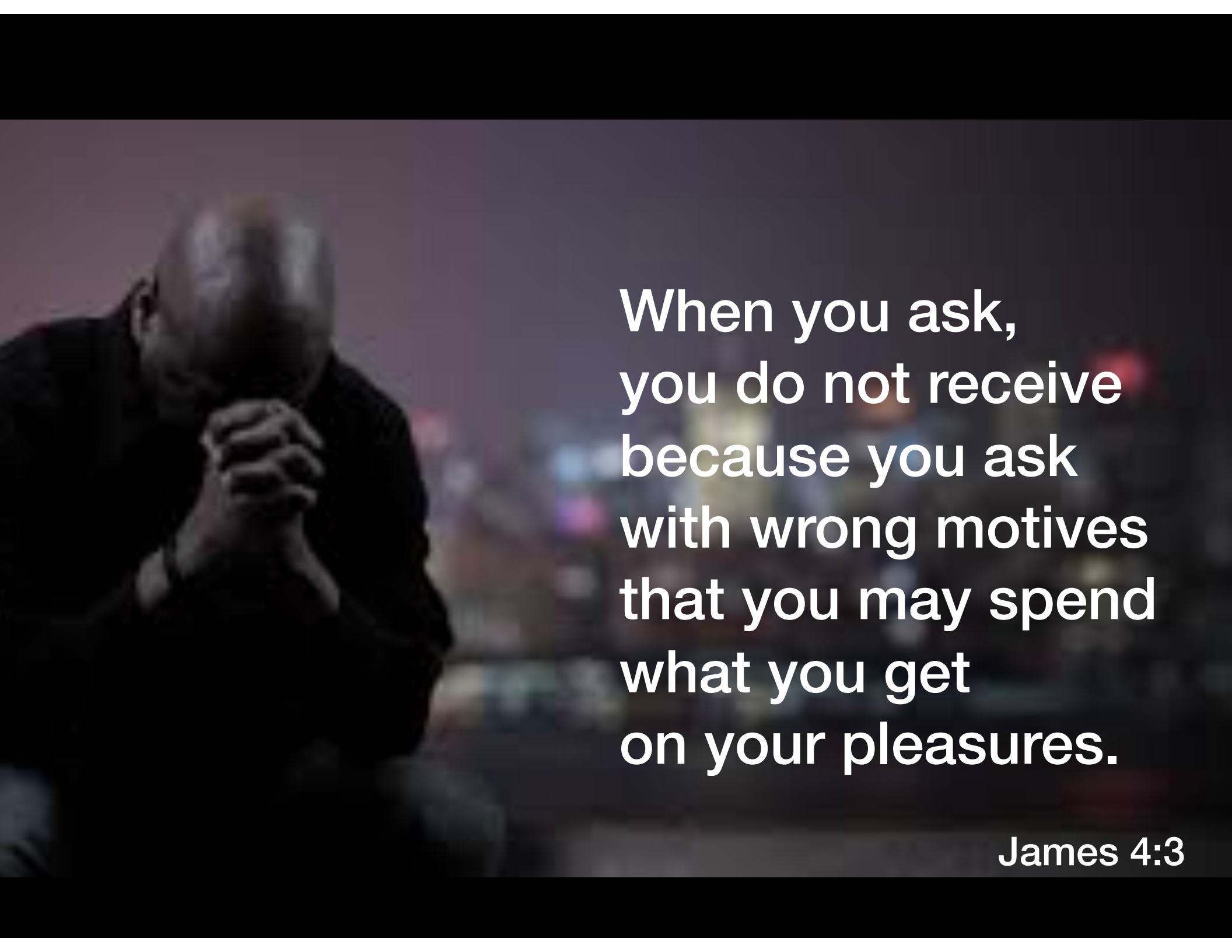
Therefore I tell you,
whatever you



for in prayer
believe that you have received it
and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24





When you ask,
you do not receive
because you ask
with wrong motives
that you may spend
what you get
on your pleasures.

James 4:3



To get what
you pray for,

PRAY more?

BELIEVE more?

BEHAVE more?

DIVINE
FREEDOM

GOD
is not a
vending
machine.



**WHAT CAN
HAPPEN
IN PRAYER?**

We pray to God for X.



God hears our prayer.

God does not hear.



God says "YES."

He grants X to us.



God says "NO."


He does not grant X.




We get X.

We don't get X.

DIVINE POWER & DIVINE TENDERNESS



**God knows
what's best for us.
He wants
what's best for us.**



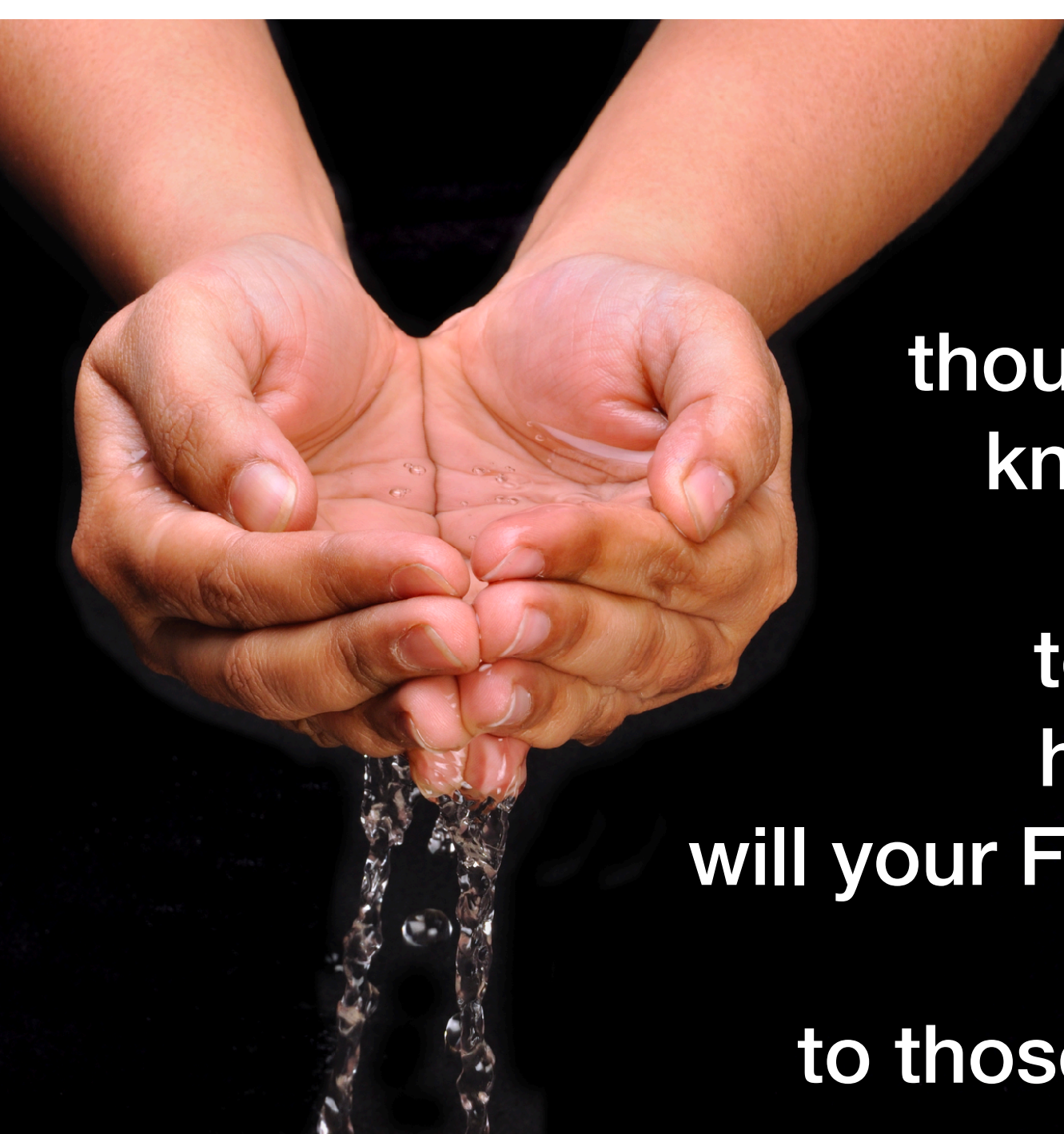
To get what
you pray for,

PRAY more?

BELIEVE more?

BEHAVE more?

TRUST more!



**If you then,
though you are evil,
know how to give
good gifts
to your children,
how much more
will your Father in heaven
give good gifts
to those who ask him?**

Matthew 7:11

SURRENDER TO GOD.

God Listens





Does God speak to me? How?

Examine your conversations.



Do you tend to TELL or ASK?

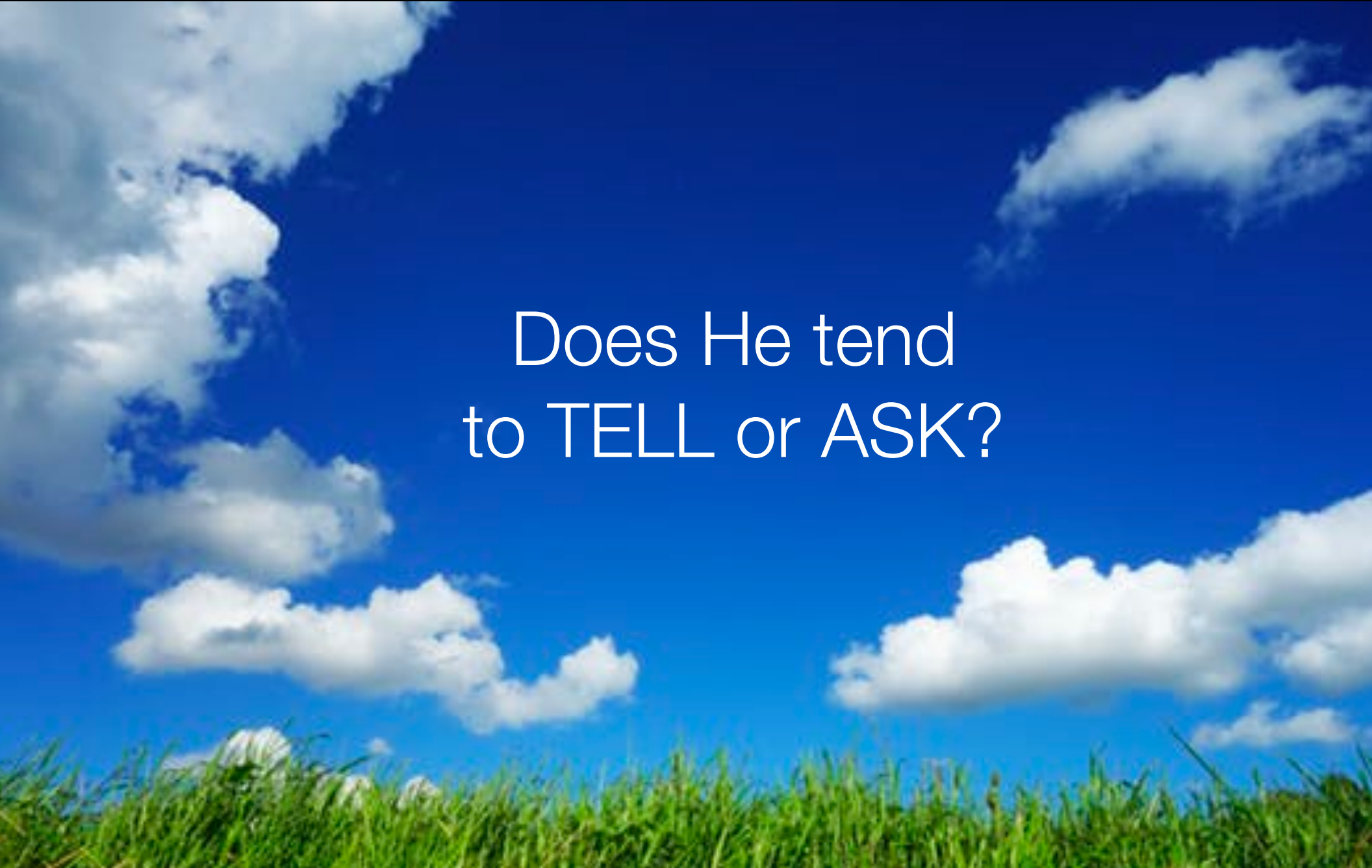


**Examine
your prayers.**

Do you tend to be a TELLER or ASKER?

How about God?

Does He tend
to TELL or ASK?



How God Communicates with Us

What GOD Does	Where He Does	How We Respond
TELL	Bible Church Teachings	Understand + Follow
SHOW	Bible History Current Events Personal Experiences “Signs of the Times”	Interpret
ASK	Prayer	Discern



**Prayer is learning the language
that God reserves for you.**



“No noise is good noise.”

SILENCE.



5 Tips for Prayer

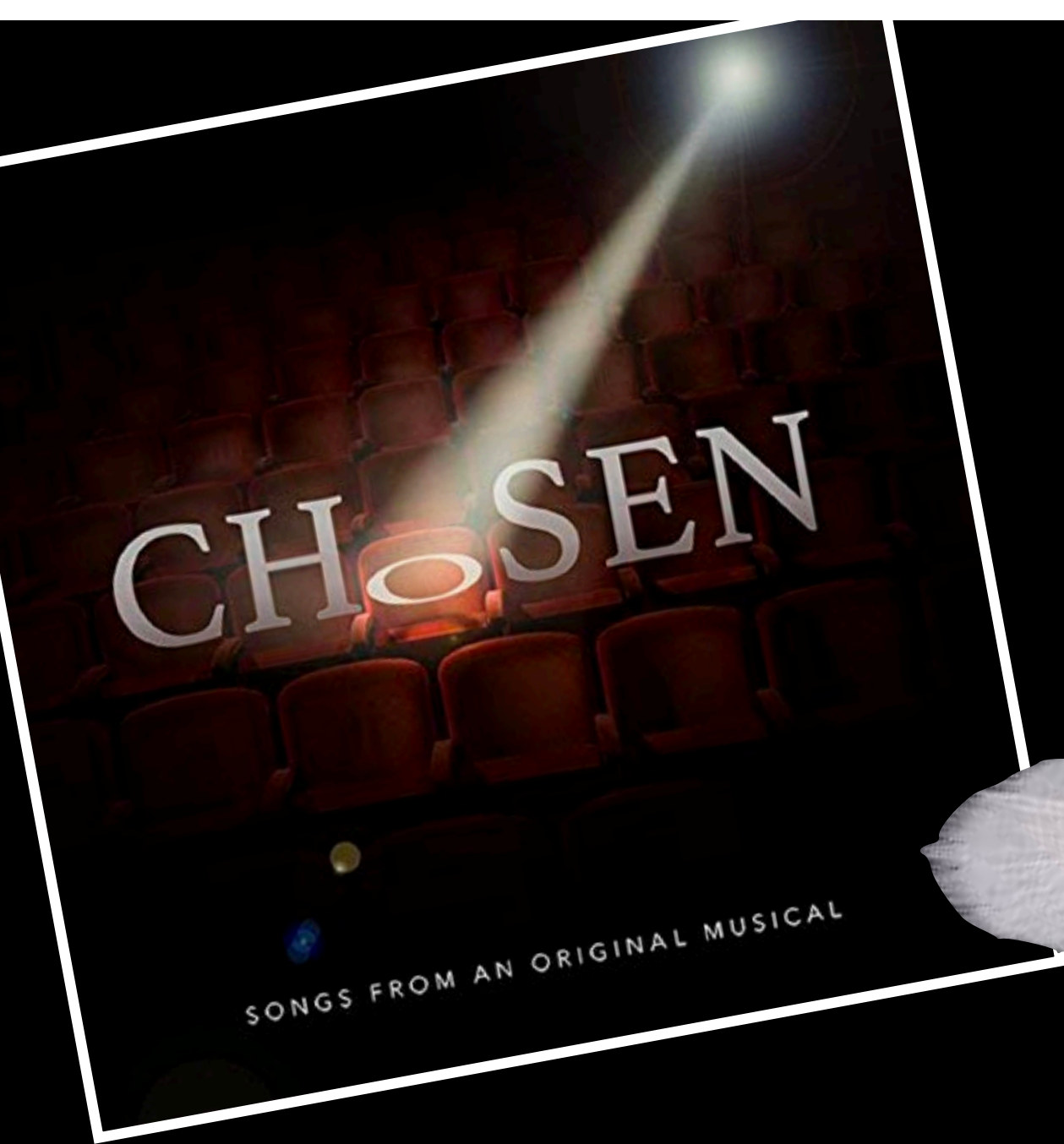
SEEK
SPACE
SURRENDER
SILENCE





Q+A





“Seek our better angels.”

BETTER ANGELS

(M Francisco | J Go)
Noel Cabangon