



The Future of the Church

Ted Ohrn, April 10, 2022

What
should we
look for?

**A church that shines, full of
love and unity**

**A church that grows
continuously**

**A church that is succeeding
even when it isn't apparent**

A church that
shines

Mic 4:1 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

2 Many nations will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

Jesus is
building His
Church

“I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” Mat 16:18b

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”. Mat 28:18b

“Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Mat 28:20a

“neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ... the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” John 4:21b, 23b

- Jesus

How does the church shine?

By being the answer to Jesus' prayer.

John 17:20 I am not asking on behalf of them alone, but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

The 5-fold
ministry must
do its part

Eph 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.



A Church that
Grows

The Kingdom of God is expanding

- Nations
- Geography and Numbers
- Influence
- Glory



Expanding to Nations (people groups)

- Matt 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. (NIV)
- Luke 16:16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one is forcing his way into it. (NAS)

Expanding in Geography and Numbers

- Dan 2:31 "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue-an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ... 34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. **But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.**



Babylonian Empire
(609-539 B.C.)

Medo-Persian Empire
(539-330 B.C.)

Greek/Macedonian
(333-63 B.C.)

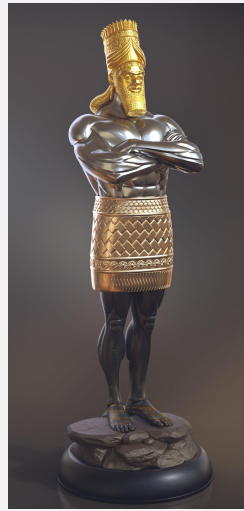
Roman Empire
(63 B.C.- 476 A.D.)



Dan 2:36-42



The Rock that fills the earth



Dan 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands-a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

1. Religious faith is growing faster than the irreligious.

There are fewer atheists around the world today (147 million) than in 1970 (165 million), according to the 2022 Status of Global Christianity report.

2. Christianity continues to grow.

Almost 2.56 billion people will identify as a Christian by the middle of 2022. By 2050, that number is expected to top 3.33 billion

In 1900, less than 1 million people around the world identified as Pentecostal or charismatic Christians. By 2050, that number will top 1 billion.

3. Growth is fastest in the global South.

Christianity is growing faster in Africa than any other place in the world and more Christians live in Africa than any other continent.

This year, 838 million live in the global North, while almost 1.1 billion Christians live in Africa and Asia alone.

4. Christianity continues to spread out.

In 1900, 95% of all Christians lived in a majority Christian country. In 2022, that number has fallen to 53.7%. By 2050, most Christians (50.4%) around the world will live in non-majority Christian nations.

5. The percentage of non-Christians who know a Christian is climbing.

In 1900, only 5.4% of non-Christians could identify a Christian they knew. That percentage has risen to 18.3% today. By 2050, 1 in 5 non-Christians (20%) will know a follower of Jesus.

In 1900, more than half of the world's population (54.3%) was unevangelized. That has now fallen to 28%.

6. More than 90 million Bibles will be printed this year.

Currently, almost 1.8 billion Bibles are in circulation around the world. That will climb to 2.3 billion by 2050.


This year, 93 million copies of God's word will be printed, up from 54 million in 2000 and 5 million in 1900.



Expanding influence

Matt 13:31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."



The Kingdom
will permeate
and expand
without end

Isa 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

Of the
increase of
Christ's Rule
there will be
no end.

- Obedience to Jesus and His commands
- Not a truce with the world (Mt 12:28)
- The increase of His peace
- The increase of His truth
- The increase of His justice
- The increase of His love

Expanding Glory

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Matt 11:2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"



The Danger of False Expectations



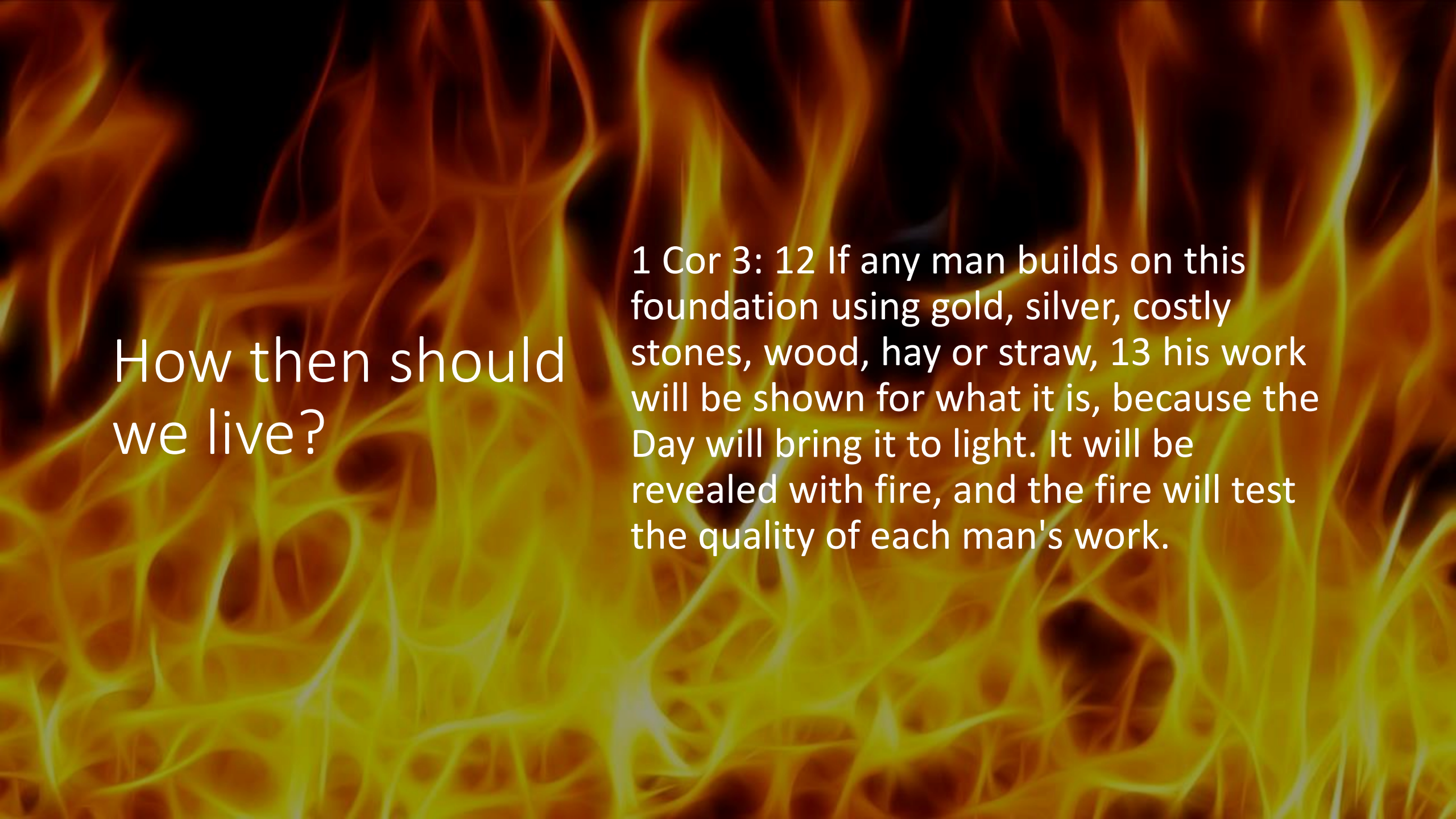
Will the church be triumphant or persecuted?

In God's
economy
suffering leads
to victory

Col 1:22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-...

24 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

The Kingdom of God is
expanding, sometimes
imperceptibly, yet
inevitably and
unendingly

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, high-contrast image of flames. The colors range from deep reds and oranges to bright yellows and whites, with a dark, almost black, background that makes the fire appear more intense. The flames are dynamic and swirling, creating a sense of heat and movement.

How then should
we live?

1 Cor 3: 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

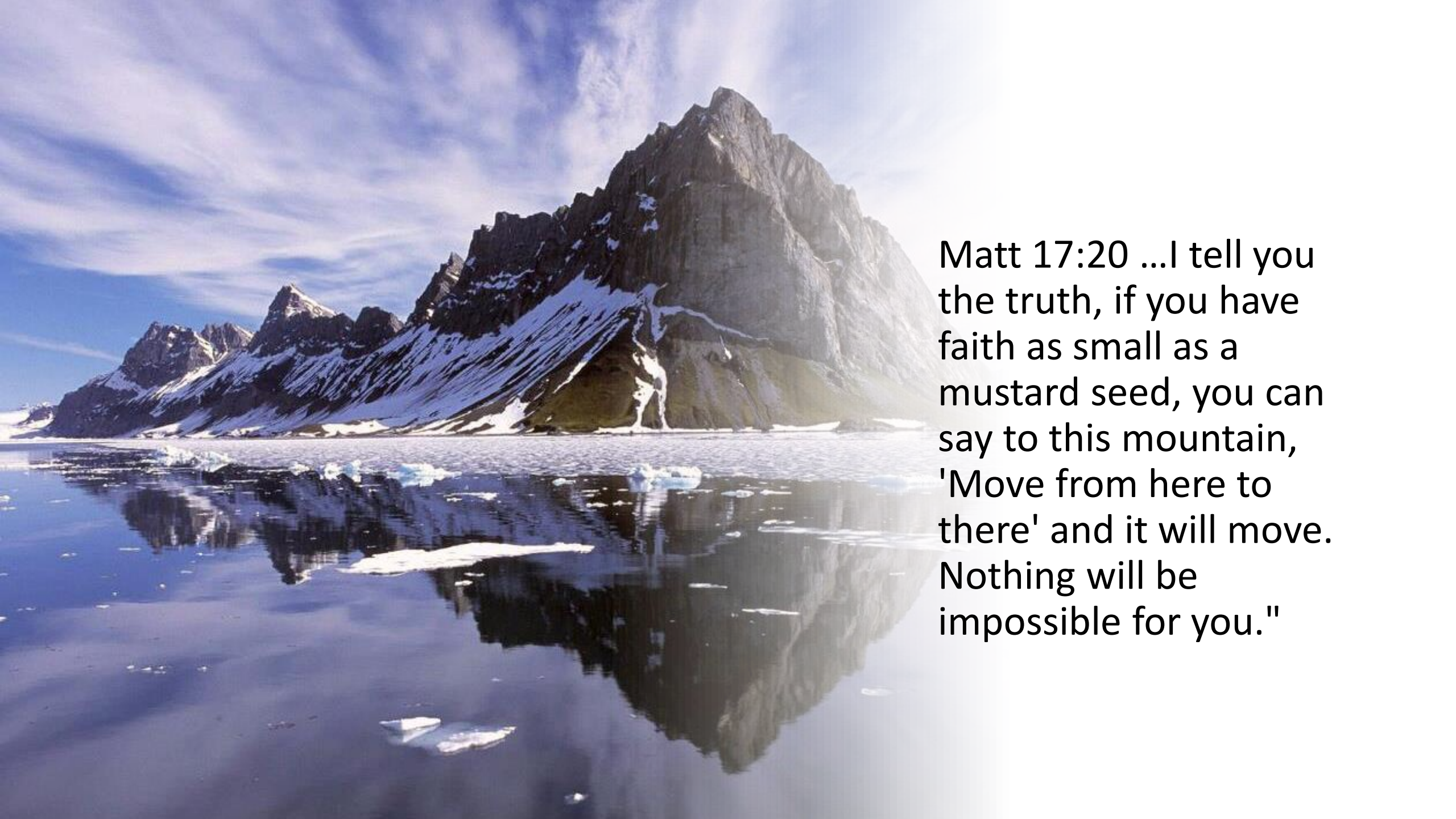


Build with quality

Build on the truth
of God's word –
Don't compromise

Don't be
discouraged by
apparent defeat

Remain faithful
and *Never Give Up*



Matt 17:20 ...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."