



Clear the Way and Run for Jesus!

Hebrews 12

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

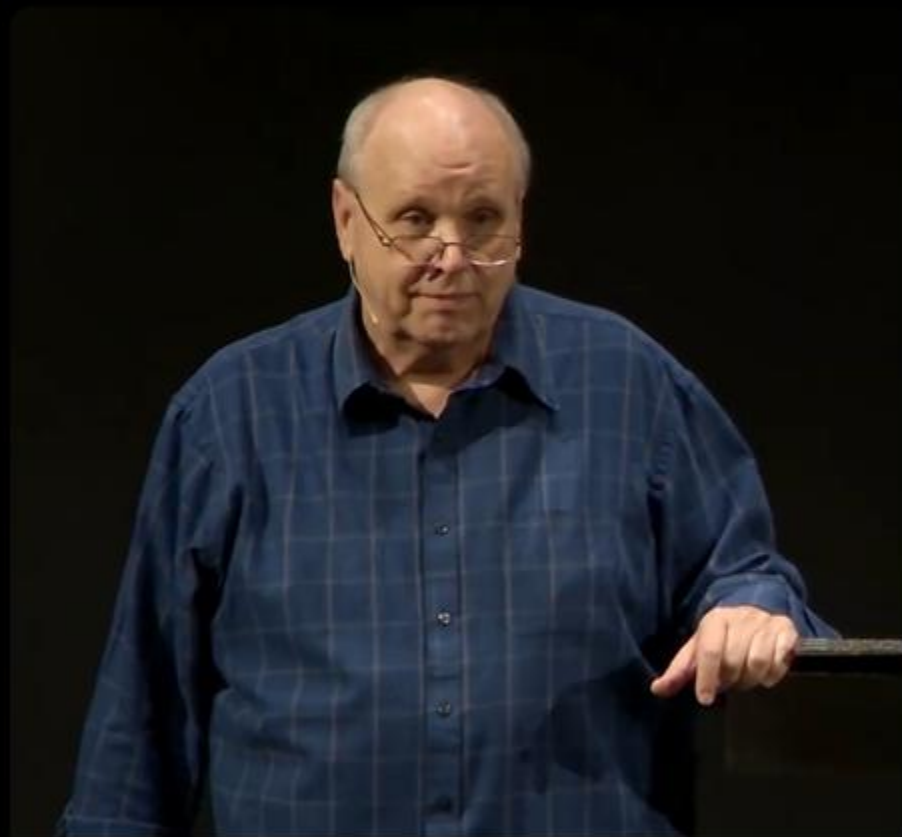



Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

1. God puts us through this hard life because he loves us and is forming holiness in us.
2. We need to run unencumbered by distraction, sin or bitterness.
3. Run in a way that watches out for your brothers and sisters.



“Faith makes what is unseen,
and our future hope so real
that it shapes the way we live.”



A man with a beard, wearing a blue t-shirt and black shorts, is running on a dirt path. The path is surrounded by dry, scrubby vegetation. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains under a clear sky. The lighting suggests it might be early morning or late afternoon, with a warm glow on the right side of the image.

God puts us
through hard
times because
he loves us and
is making us holy

Heb 12:5-9

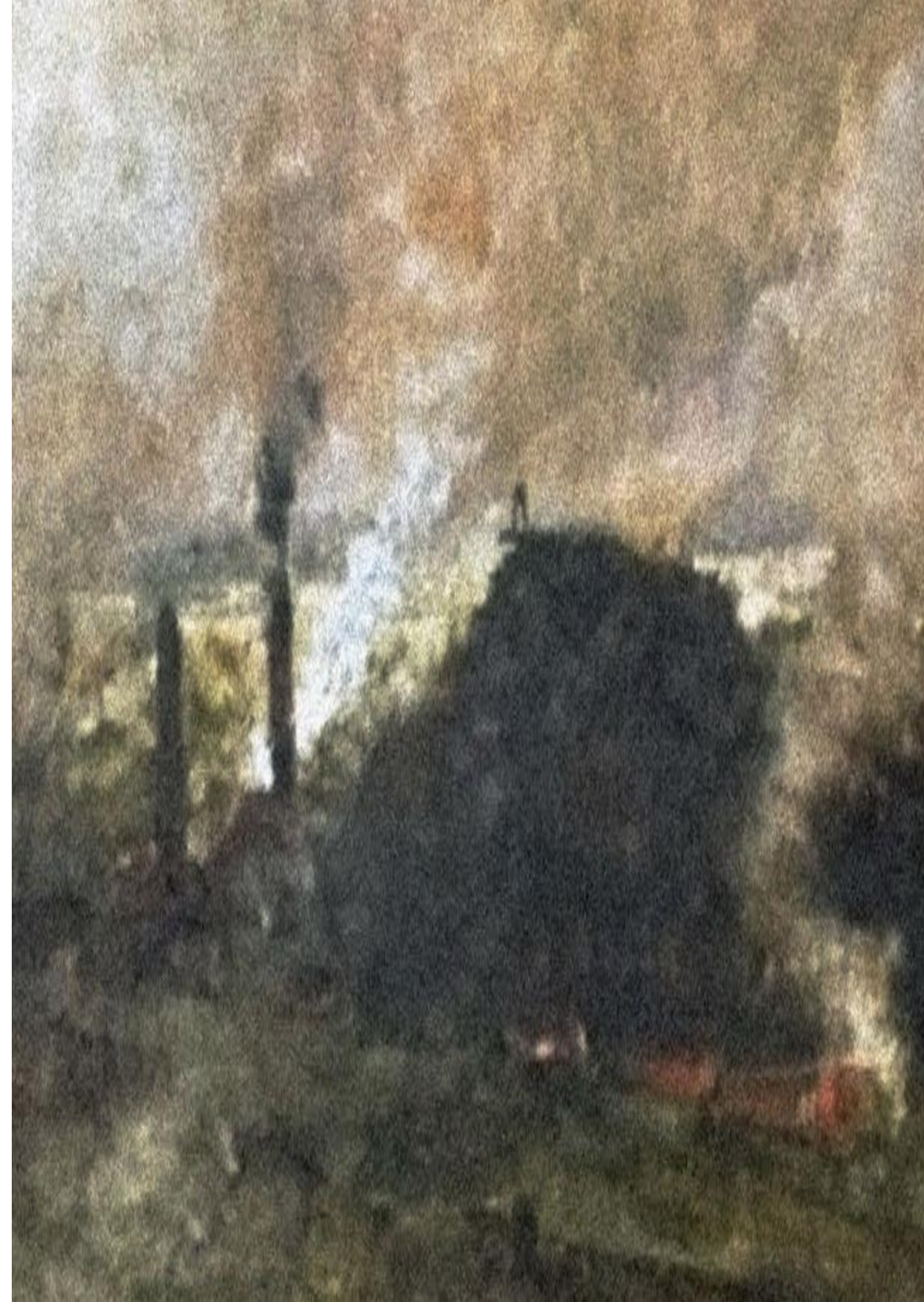


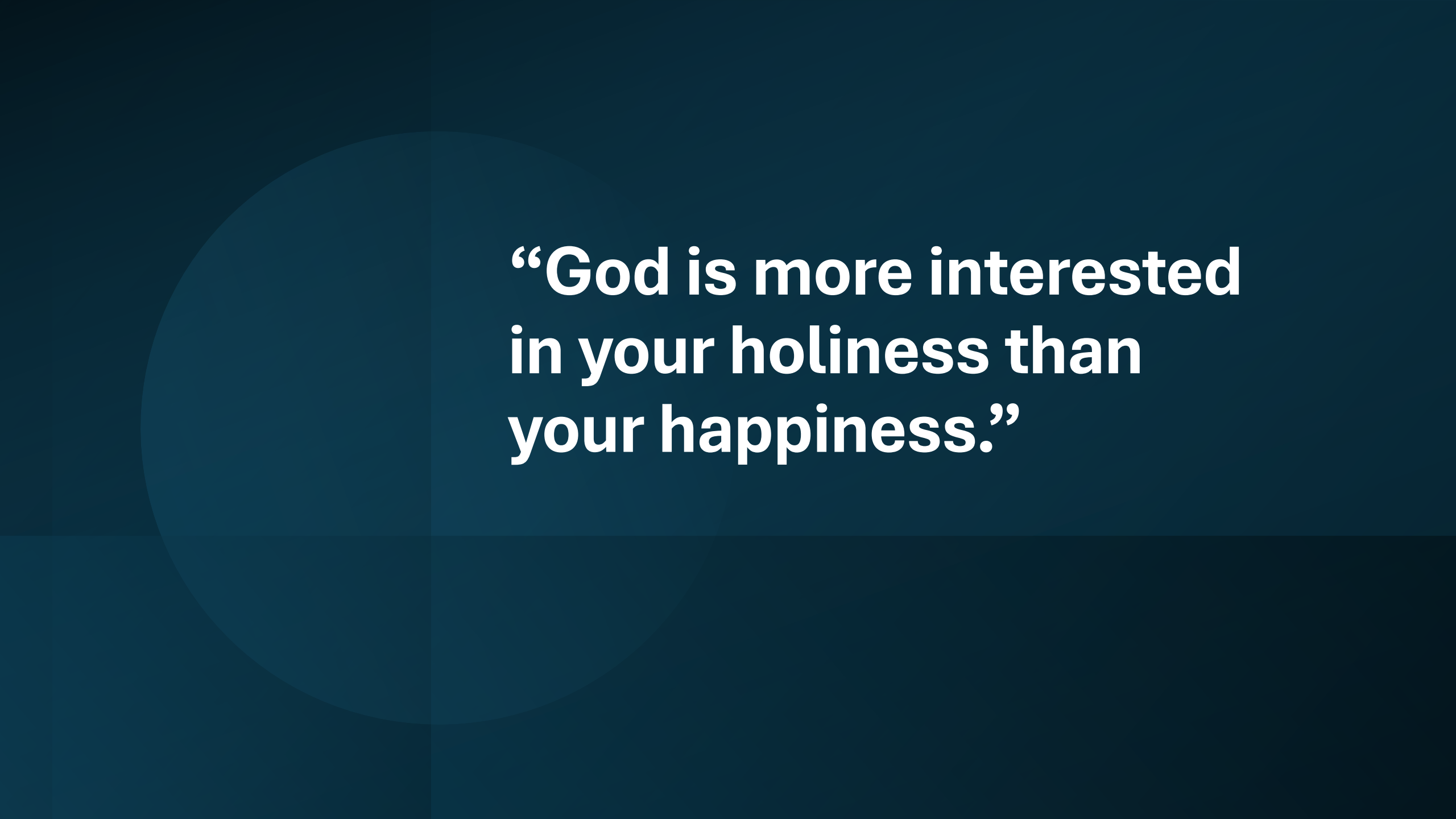
God's Discipline

- Growth and Instruction
- Develop knowledge and character
- To become what God has called us to be!

Why does God put us through hardships?

Heb 12:10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, **so that we might share in his holiness.** 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.





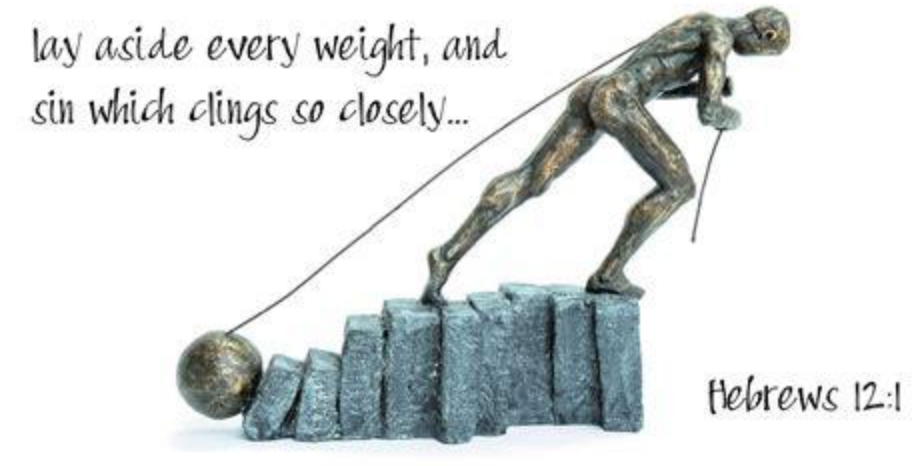
**“God is more interested
in your holiness than
your happiness.”**

**We need to run
unencumbered by
distraction, sin, or bitterness**

Heb 12:12 So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. 13 Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.



How do we get “untangled”?



Prov 4:23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

24 Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech.

25 Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you.

26 Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.

27 Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

THE STRAIGHT PATH



The background of the slide features a landscape with rolling mountains and a cloudy sky. The title 'THE STRAIGHT PATH' is overlaid on the sky portion of the image.

THE STRAIGHT PATH

The straight path
is a godly path

- Start a bible reading plan – even a verse a day
- Join a small group
- Connect with someone to hold you accountable

THE STRAIGHT PATH

The straight path connects us to others

Heb 12:14 Work at **living in peace with everyone**, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. 15 **Look after each other** so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that **no poisonous root of bitterness** grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

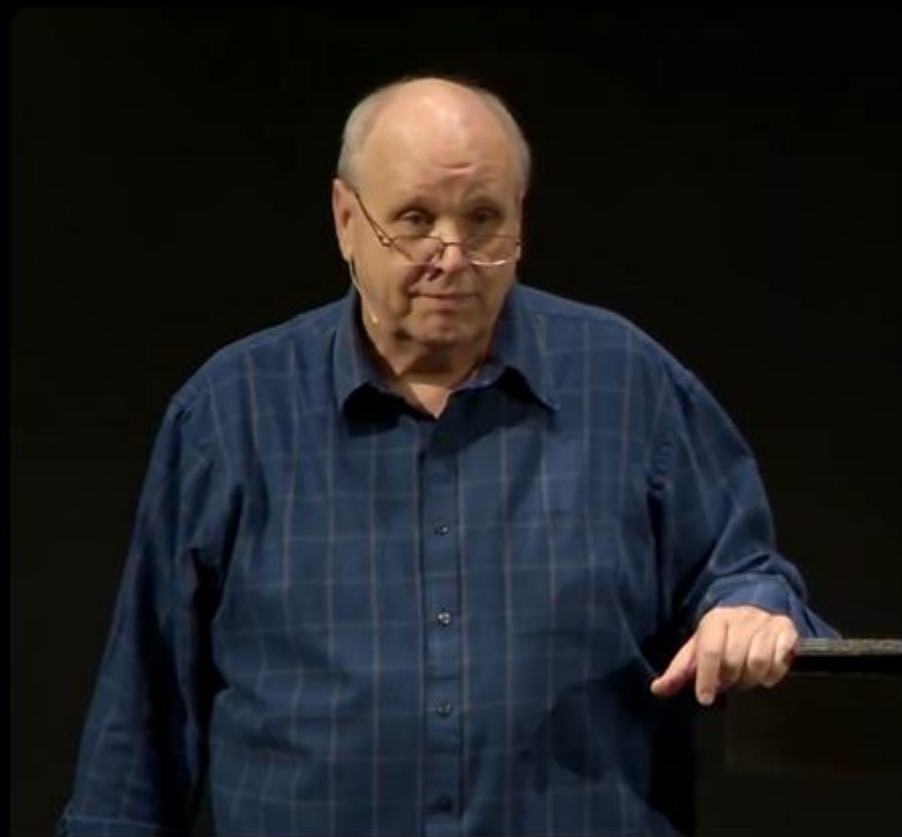
A dramatic scene of a volcanic eruption. A massive, dark mountain dominates the background, its peaks and ridges illuminated by a bright, fiery orange and red glow emanating from its summit. A large plume of white smoke or ash rises from the volcano into a dark, cloudy sky. In the foreground, a vast, flat landscape is dotted with numerous small, glowing orange and yellow lights, suggesting a city or a large camp. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and danger.

Heb 12:22-29



UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM

“Faith makes what is unseen,
and our future hope so real
that it shapes the way we live.”

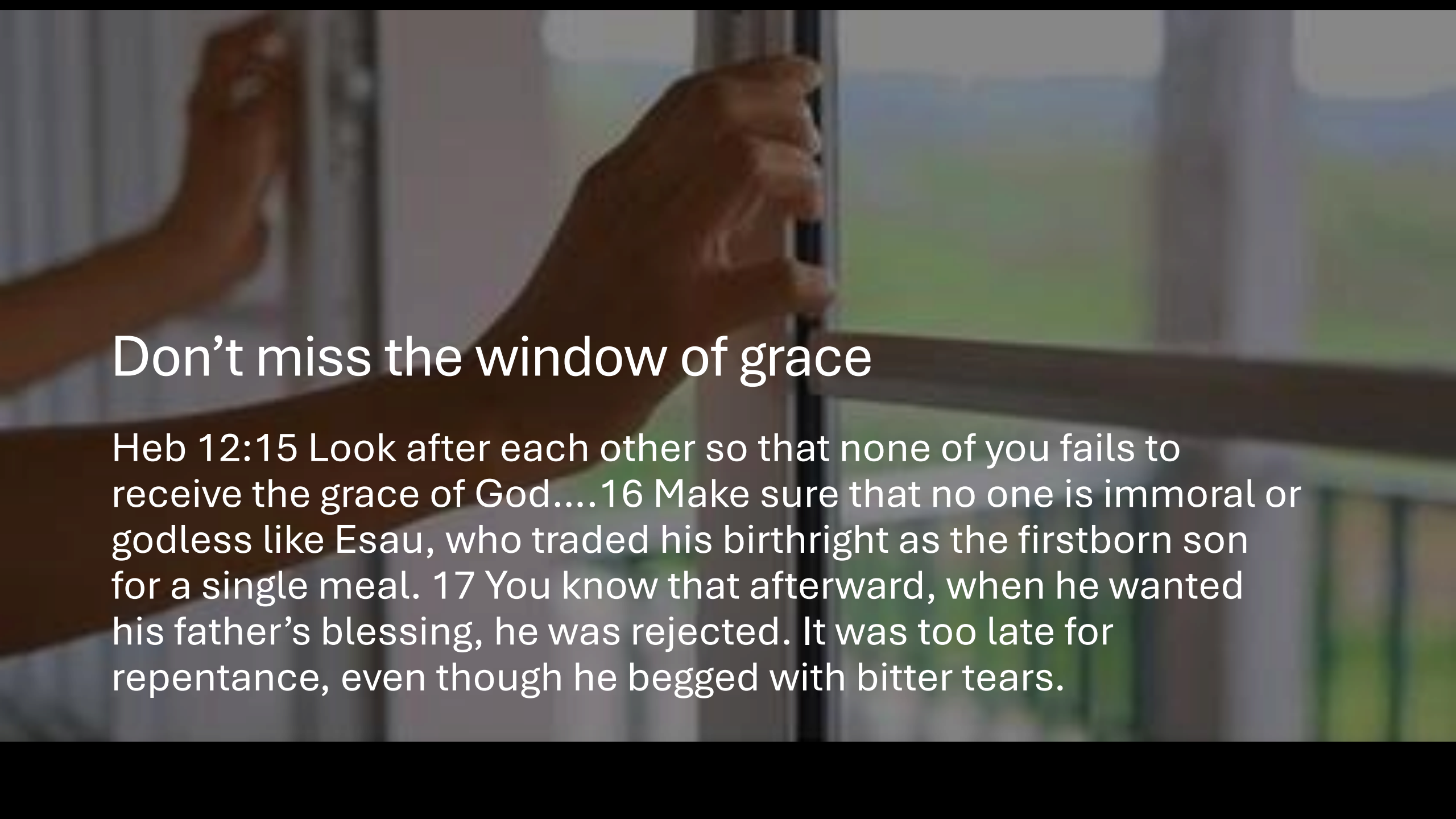


And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

Romans 12:1

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hand reaching out and touching a window pane. The hand is positioned in the center-left of the frame, with fingers slightly curled. The window pane is in the foreground, and through it, a bright, out-of-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a building is visible. The overall tone is contemplative and hopeful.

Don't miss the window of grace

Heb 12:15 Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God....16 Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal. 17 You know that afterward, when he wanted his father's blessing, he was rejected. It was too late for repentance, even though he begged with bitter tears.