

Living From What Christ Sustains, not what we maintain

FOUNDATION

BEFORE

PLATFORM

FORMING A LIFE THAT ENDURES

SESSION 10 – Faithfulness That Remains



A DISCIPLESHIP & FORMATION COURSE

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Faithfulness is not sustained by our ability to maintain it,
but lived from what Christ Himself continues to sustain.

Beyond the Dalet

Summoning Christ's Ekklesia
From Where We Are,
to Where We're Called to Be



WITH BETTY HALL

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WHEN FAITHFULNESS NO LONGER SETTLES

We have come to Zion,

to what has already been established in Christ—

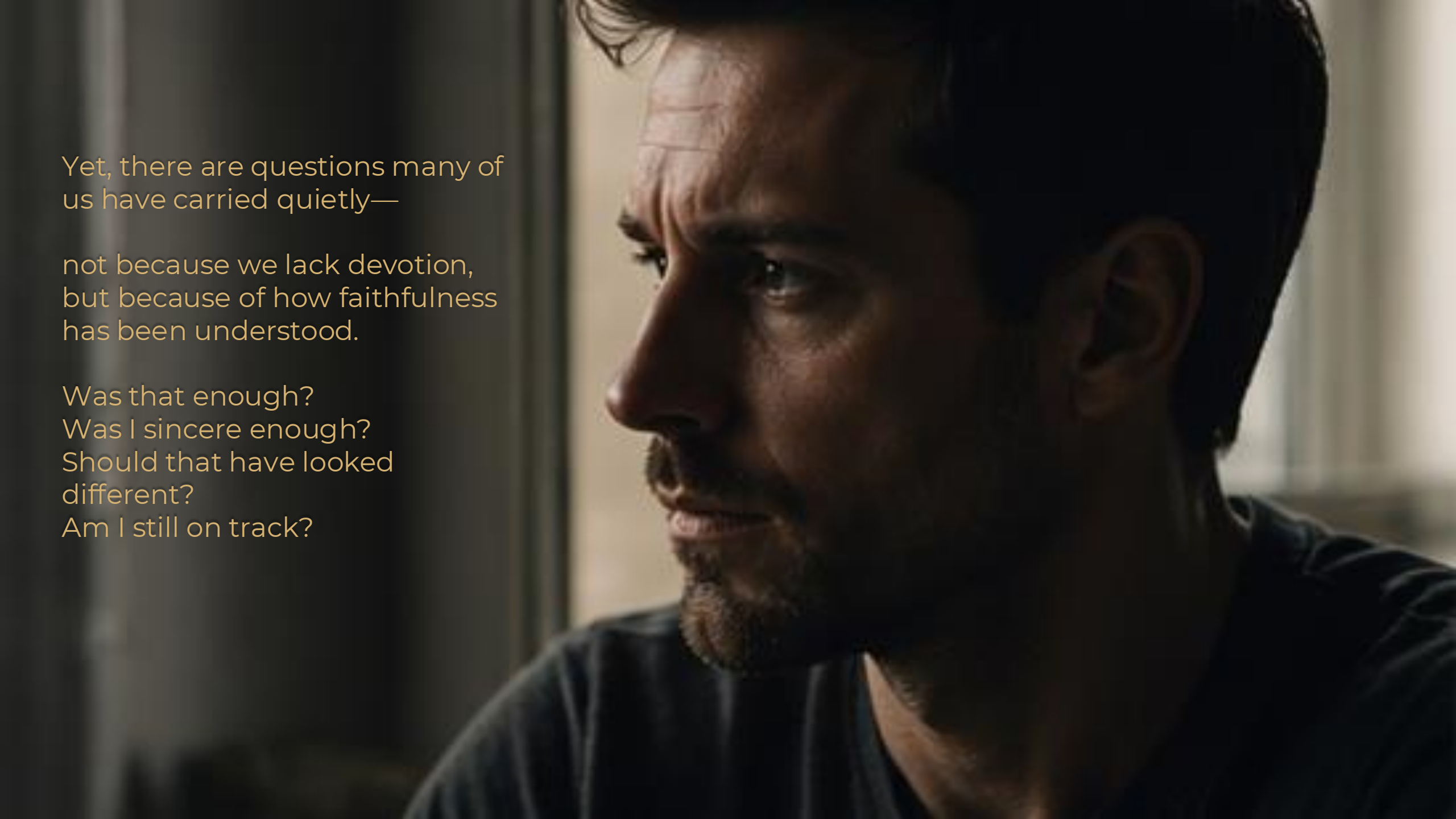
and does not move—

This is why our faithfulness is no longer something we generate toward Christ.

It is the expression of what He is already sustaining in us.



A BEYOND THE DALET COURSE



Yet, there are questions many of us have carried quietly—

not because we lack devotion, but because of how faithfulness has been understood.

Was that enough?
Was I sincere enough?
Should that have looked different?
Am I still on track?

There are moments where nothing is being said—
and yet something begins to turn within us.

We don't step away.

We don't disengage.

But our attention shifts.

And something tightens in our conscience.

Sometimes it shows up as questions:

Was that enough?

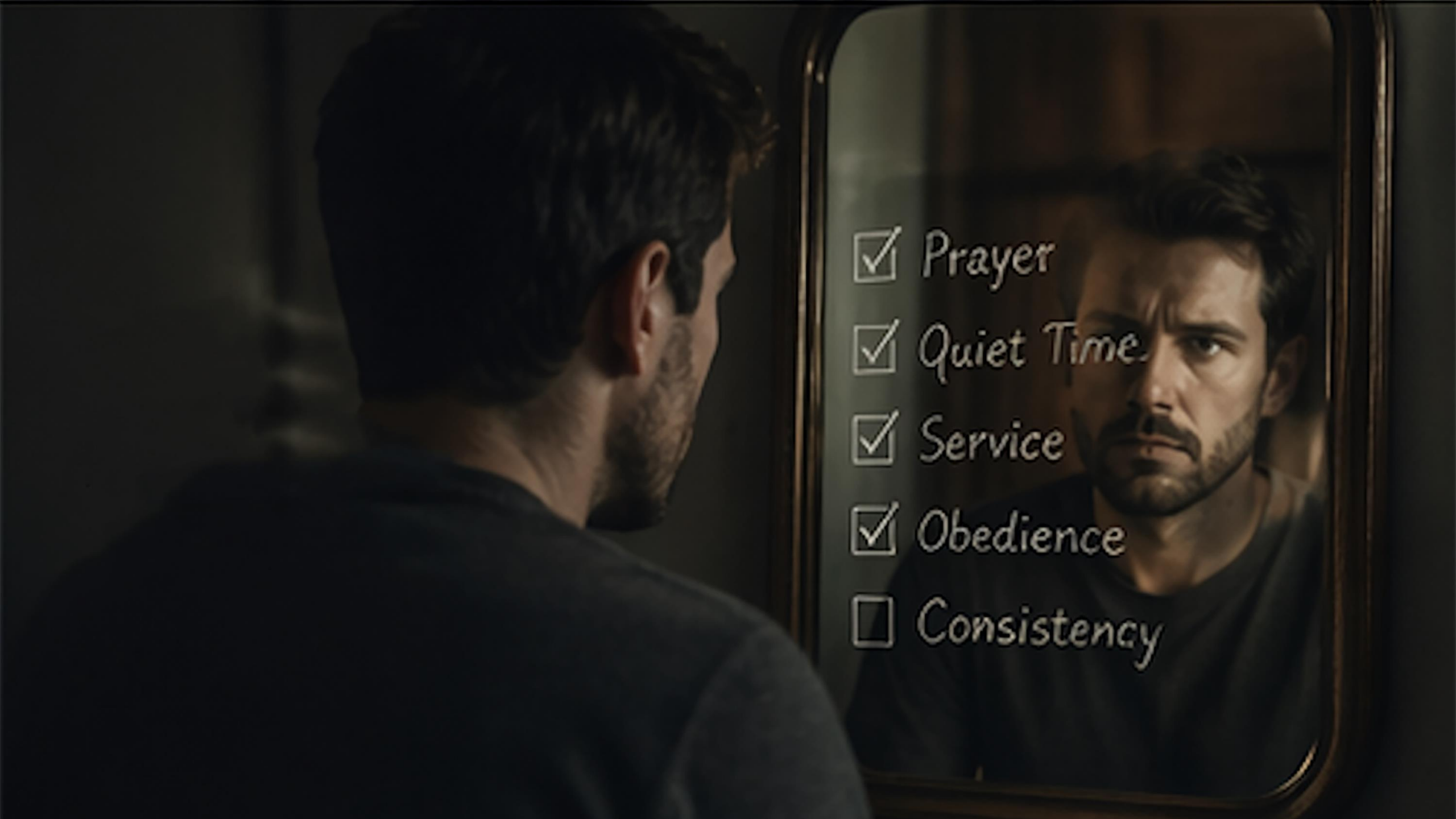
Was that sincere?

SPIRITUAL SCORE



STREAK
23 DAYS

CONSISTENCY
GOOD

A man with dark hair and a beard is shown in profile on the left, looking towards a mirror on the right. The mirror reflects his face and a checklist written on the glass. The lighting is dim and focused on the mirror and the man's face.

Prayer

Quiet Time

Service

Obedience

Consistency

And over time,
this becomes what we respond to—
even when we think we are responding to Christ.



WHAT WE LEARNED TO CALL FAITHFULNESS



And without realizing it,
what we have come to call faithfulness
has been shaped inside that environment.
Not by what Christ has established—
but by what we have learned to look for.
So we continue—present, engaged—
while something underneath has quietly shifted

But something underneath it all
has quietly shifted.

Faithfulness no longer feels
like something we are living within—

but something we are trying to keep from slipping.

And even if we would never say it this way,

we begin to relate to Christ

through what we can recognize in ourselves.

A man with dark hair and a beard is sitting in a wooden chair, looking out a window with sheer curtains. He is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window. In the background, there is a dark vase with dried branches on a table.

WHEN OUR ATTENTION TURNS INWARD

And over time,
that changes how we stand.

Not outwardly—
but inwardly.

Our attention begins to bend back on itself.

Not all at once—
but gradually.

Subtly.

We are still present.
We are still engaged.

But something underneath
is no longer at rest.

Our attention begins to settle more on ourselves
than in Him.

Not because we are trying to—

but because it is where our attention
has learned to go.

And over time,

that becomes the place we respond from.

Not from what has been established—

but from what we are still trying to confirm.

And even when we are turning toward Christ,
something within us is still checking—
still measuring—
still asking.

Not out loud.

But underneath.
And what once felt like devotion
slowly becomes awareness.

Not awareness of Him—

but awareness of whether we are where we should be.

Whether we are as present as we should be.

Whether what we are offering
is enough.

And without ever deciding to do so,

we begin to live

from that place.

WHEN WE BEGIN
TO SEE ONE ANOTHER
THIS WAY



And this does not stay confined
to how we judge ourselves.

It begins to shape how we see one another.

Not intentionally—
but over time.

In small ways.

Subtle ways.

What we notice.

What we affirm.

What we feel drawn toward.



We begin to recognize faithfulness
by what can be seen.

Consistency.
Presence.
Engagement.

And without ever saying it,
those things begin to carry weight.

Not because they are wrong—
but because they become what we respond to.

And over time,
that begins to form the atmosphere among us.

Not something we decided on—

but something we learned to live within.

And in that atmosphere,

we begin to relate to one another
through what appears steady.

Through what can be observed.

Through what feels consistent.



And without meaning to,
we begin to draw conclusions.

About where someone is.

About how they are doing.

About whether they are “in a good place.”


Not because we are trying to measure—

but because it is what we have learned to look for.

**And what began within us quietly
becomes something we carry together.**



Even encouragement
begins to take its cues from this.
What we affirm
begins to follow what we can see.
What feels steady.
What appears consistent.
What seems engaged.



And over time,
encouragement begins to gather around those things.

Not because they are wrong—
but because they are visible.

And without realizing it,
we begin to strengthen in one another
what can be recognized.

What can be pointed to.

What can be named.

And what remains unseen—
what is quiet...
what is hidden...
what is simply being sustained in Christ—
is not always what we know how to respond to.

Not because it is absent—
but because it does not draw attention to itself.
And over time,
more weight begins to settle on what appears outwardly
than on the inner life being sustained by Christ.

WHERE THIS TOUCHES SOMETHING DEEPER

THE LONGING
TO HAVE DONE WELL



Not because we have done well—
and not because the longing underneath those words
has ever been light.

For many of us,
it has touched nearly everything.
Not as ambition.
Not as recognition.
But as something deeply sincere.

We want our lives to please Him.

We want what we offer
to be received.

We want to know
that what has been lived before Him
has not been empty.

That what we have called faithfulness
has not been lacking in His sight.

And somewhere beneath so much of our attention,
our effort,
our quiet returning,
and our inward examination—
there is often this single longing:
that at the end,
we will not find
that what we called faithfulness
was not enough.

That we have not missed Him
while trying to follow Him.

That what has been lived
has been pleasing to Him.

This is why the weight runs so deep.

Because this has never been about outward recognition.

It has been about whether our life with Him
has been pleasing.

HOW THAT LONGING WAS SHAPED



And because this longing is so sincere,
we rarely question

what has formed around it.

We simply assume
that the weight we feel

belongs to the desire itself.

But over time,
that longing begins to be shaped by something else.

Not removed—
but slowly formed into something
we begin to carry differently.

The need to know.

The need to be certain.

The need to feel

that what is being lived

is enough.

And without ever deciding to do so,
we begin to return to that longing
not with rest—
but with attention.
And that attention begins to turn inward.

Not because we are trying to replace Christ—
but because we are trying to locate
what we hope is already true.

And over time,
what began as a longing to be pleasing to Him
becomes a quiet need
to confirm that we are.

WHERE
“HAVING DONE WELL...”
IS HELD



And because this has touched so much,
it has also shaped where we look
when we try to know if something is right.

And over time,
what we have been trying to confirm
begins to feel uncertain
if we cannot locate it within ourselves.

But what if what we have been trying to confirm
has never been uncertain to begin with.

What if “having done well”
has never rested on our ability
to measure whether we have.

What if what we have been trying to locate within ourselves
has never been sustained there at all.

Not because we have done well—

and not because that longing was ever misplaced—

but because what makes that word true

has never originated in us.

And if that is true,
then what we have been returning to
has never been where anything was being held together.

Not our attention.
Not our ability to remain aware.
Not our ability to feel sincere enough in the moment.

Not even our ability
to recognize whether we have done well.

And yet,
that is where our attention has so often settled.

Not because we chose it—

but because it is where we learned to look.

And over time,
what has always been secure in Christ
begins to feel uncertain to us
not because it has changed—
but because we are no longer looking
where it has been established.

We are looking inward—
trying to find confirmation
for something
that has never been sustained there.

And the more we look,
the more it can seem
like something is missing.

Not because it is—
but because what we are searching for
was never meant to be found in ourselves.



WHAT HAS NEVER BEEN AT RISK

And yet—
nothing has been missing.

Nothing has been at risk.
Nothing has been waiting
for us to secure it.

Because what remains in Him
has never depended
on our ability to keep it going.

It remains
because it is already alive in Him.

Sustained
not by our attention—
but by His.

Not by our ability to return—

but by His faithfulness
that has never ceased.

And what we have been trying to confirm
has never been fragile.

It has never needed reinforcement.

It has never depended
on whether we could feel it clearly enough
to know that it was still there.

It does not need to be kept alive.

Because it has never been sustained by us.

Only lived from.



WHEN WE STOP LOOKING TO OURSELVES

And when this begins to come into view,
something within us starts to settle.

Not because we are doing better—
but because we are no longer returning to ourselves
to determine whether anything is still intact.

What we had been trying to locate,
to confirm,
to feel clearly enough to trust—

is no longer being searched for within us.

And in that,
something quietly gives way.

Not effort—
but the need to keep checking.



Faithfulness
is no longer something
we maintain toward Him.

It is the life of Christ
continuing in us.

And what continues
is not sustained by our awareness of it—
but by His faithfulness to remain.

A man with dark, curly hair and a beard is sitting in a meditative pose, eyes closed, with his hands held out in front of him. He is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt. The room is brightly lit by natural light from a window on the left, with soft shadows cast across the wall. In the background, there is a wooden table with a vase of dried plants and a stack of books.

A PEOPLE

NO LONGER HELD TOGETHER

BY APPEARANCE

And when that shifts,
the life we share within the Ekklesia Assembly
begins to shift with it.

Because what we have been doing inwardly,
we have also been doing among one another.

And when the center changes within us,
it begins to change how we see
what is in front of us.

What holds us together
is no longer what we can observe in one another.

Not consistency.

Not visible engagement.

Not how clearly something appears to be present.

But what remains true in Christ—
whether it is seen clearly or not.

This does not mean
that nothing is seen.

It means that what is seen
is no longer being used
to determine whether something remains.

Jesus said,
“you will know them by their fruit.”

But fruit was never given
as something we measure
to establish worth—
or to confirm whether life is present.

Fruit is what grows
from what is already alive.

It is not what keeps life alive.

And it is not what we use
to decide whether something remains.

And because of that,
we don't tend to watch over one another
to determine
who is doing well
and who is not.

We are no longer relating
through visible consistency
as though that is what holds anything together.

Instead,
we begin to recognize one another
within what Christ Himself sustains—

even when what is outward
is still being brought into alignment.



There may be moments
where someone seems distant.
Not withdrawn—
but not as present as they once were.

And where we once would have begun
to quietly assess
what might be slipping,
something else now steadies us.

Not because we ignore what we see—
but because we are no longer interpreting it
as though something real has become uncertain.

And even when what appears is unclear,
we remain with them within what Christ
Himself sustains.

This does not remove discernment.

It restores it.

Because we are no longer discerning
from what appears steady or unsteady—
but from what has already been established in Him.

And in that,
fruit is no longer something we monitor
to determine whether life is present.

It is something we witness
as life continues.

And because of that,
we are no longer unsettled
by what appears inconsistent.
And even when something seems unclear,
we no longer respond
as though what is real has become uncertain.

And in that,
something begins to rest.

Not because everything feels settled—

but because what is real
is no longer being measured
against our ability to perceive it.

The center is no longer our response.

The center is Christ.

And because of that,

the life we share

is no longer sustained

by one another's consistency—

but by His.

And what is held in Him

does not become more secure when we feel aligned—

and it does not become less secure

when we do not.



WHAT REMAINS

And what remains in Him
has never depended on our ability to keep it going.

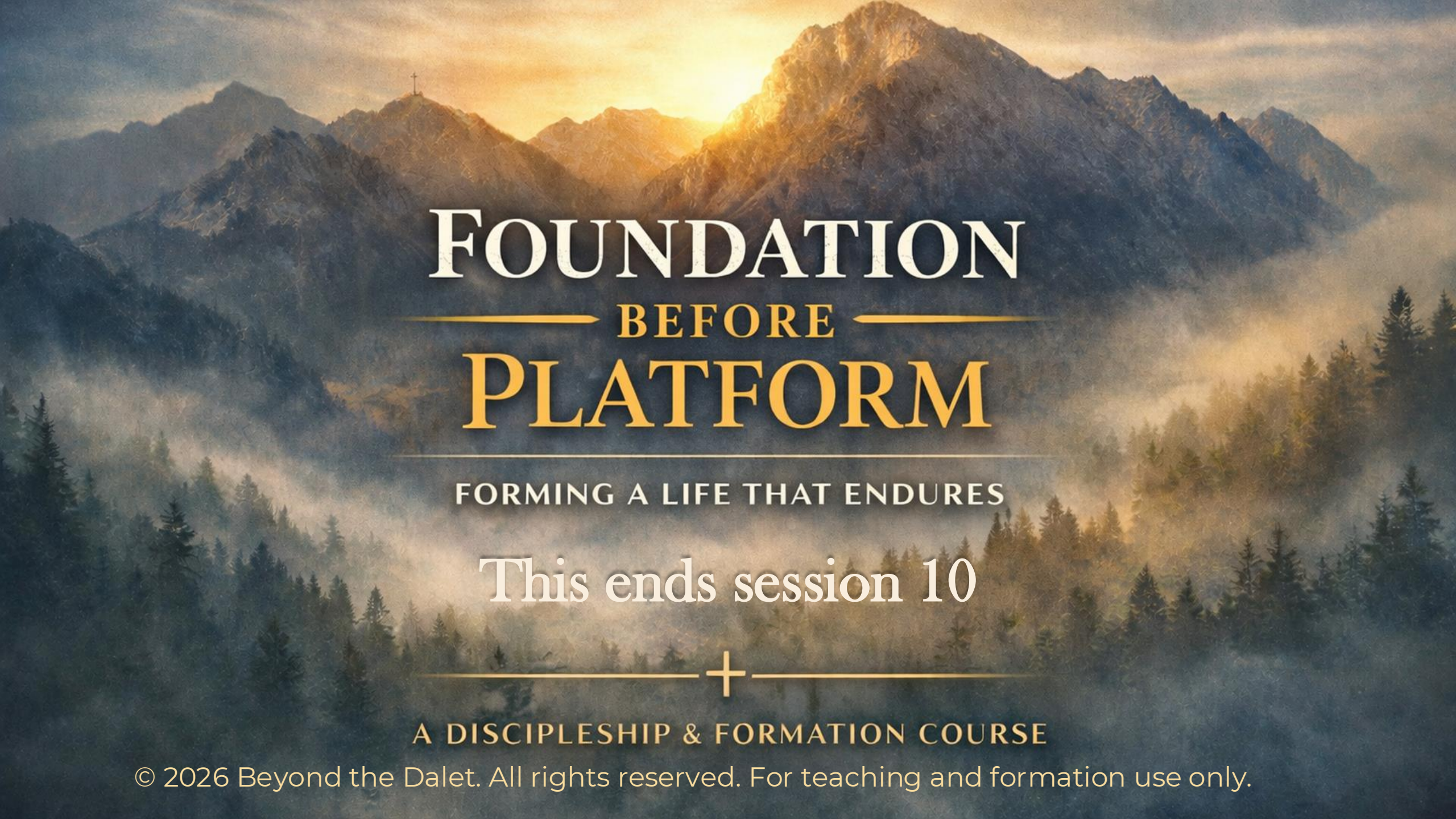
Because it is already alive in Him.

It does not need to be kept alive.

Only lived from.

And because of that,
nothing we see
has the authority to redefine
what He has already established.





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— BEFORE —
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This ends session 10



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