

The Father's Forming Work Within What Has Already  
Been Secured in Christ

# FOUNDATION

— BEFORE —

# PLATFORM

FORMING A LIFE THAT ENDURES

Session 11

Discipline Reframed



A DISCIPLESHIP & FORMATION COURSE

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Discipline is the Father's forming work within those who have already been secured in Christ.

*Calling Forth Messiah's Ekklesia Assembly*

*Beyond the Dalet From Where We Are To Who We Are Called To Be*

*with Betty Hall*

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Discipline is the Father's forming work within those who have already been secured in Christ.

If even faithfulness is not defined by our effort, but sustained by Christ Himself—then we may need to take another look at how we've been interpreting God's correction.

As soon as we think about correction, the thought of it is processed through our brain's internal meaning system. A conclusion forms instantly and feels unquestionably true. Our brain doesn't pause. The second something happens it's already deciding what it means.

It's not sitting back and taking things in. It's firing off questions before we can even catch up: What just happened? Why? What does this say about me?

And it answers those questions so fast we don't even notice it's happening. There's no reflection, no careful sorting — by the time we're aware we're in the moment, meaning is already assigned.



And here's the thing: it's not starting fresh.

Our brain, like some kind of hyper-computer system is reaching for what it already knows — our beliefs, our history, the ways we've learned to keep ourself safe.

So instead of asking "What's really going on here?" it's asking "What does this remind me of?"

Then it picks a meaning that fits the pattern. Our emotions kick in and voila we have what feels like truth.

That meaning doesn't feel like an interpretation. It feels like the truth. We don't walk around thinking "I might be reading this wrong." We walk around thinking "This is just what's happening."

Our brain hands it to us as fact, and we accept it as fact.

It gets even faster when we feel exposed. When something pokes at us or knocks us off balance, our mind doesn't slow down to get it right — it speeds up to feel in control again.

In those moments, we're more certain, more locked in, and way less likely to question ourselves.

And once that meaning is set, it starts running the show.

We're not responding to what actually happened anymore — we're responding to the story our brain wrote about it. That story shapes how we feel, how we carry ourself, the choices we make, and eventually, how we see the world.

When God disciplines us, our brain does exactly what it always does — it doesn't wait. Before we've even had a chance to breathe, it's already assigned meaning. Something hard happens, something gets exposed, something we were holding onto gets shaken loose, and instantly our mind decides what it means.

And here's where it gets painful: most of us aren't interpreting God's discipline from Scripture.

We're interpreting it from our wounds.

From the father who was harsh. From the teacher who shamed us. From every time love came with a catch. So, when correction comes, our brain reaches for the framework it already has and hands us a meaning that feels obvious but isn't necessarily true.

When processed through our wounds rather than the truth found in Scripture, it tells us:

God is angry with me.

God is done with me.

God is punishing me.

God is pulling away.

And we don't feel like we're interpreting. We feel like we're seeing.

It lands as fact. "This is what's happening."

And just like before — the more exposed we feel, the faster it locks in.

The more the discipline touches something tender, the more certain we become that God is against us, when Scripture says the opposite is true.

Because Hebrews 12 tells us something our framework resists: "The Lord disciplines the one He loves." Not the one He's rejecting. Not the one He's finished with. The one He loves. It even goes further — "God is treating you as sons."

Discipline, in God's hands, is proof of belonging, not evidence of abandonment.

It's the Father's response to a child He's claimed, not a judge's sentence on someone He's dismissed.

But our preloaded framework can't hear that at first.

Hebrews 12 says it plainly:

**"Do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you."**

Which tells us something important — God knew we'd be tempted to interpret His correction as rejection. He knew we'd assign the wrong meaning. So, He names it before we can spiral into it.

And verse 11 is the one that exposes how much our interpretation drives our experience:

*"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."*

Notice the word **seems**.

Scripture is acknowledging that in the moment, our perception will say one thing. But perception isn't the whole story.

What feels like rejection is actually formation.

What feels like punishment is actually pruning.

What feels like God pulling away is actually God pulling us closer—  
just through a door we wouldn't have walked through willingly.

This is why David could say, "It was good for me to be afflicted, so that I might learn Your decrees" (Psalm 119:71).

He's not speaking from the moment of the affliction — he's speaking from the other side of it, after the false meaning wore off and the true meaning came through.

So here's what this means for us:

when discipline comes, we have to catch ourselves in the half-second where our brain is already writing the story.

Because when we don't, we won't be responding to what God is actually doing. We'll be responding to the meaning our wounds assigned to it. And we'll pull back from the very hand that's trying to shape us.

The invitation here isn't to stop feeling the weight of discipline. It's to stop trusting our first interpretation of it.

To slow down long enough to ask, "What does Scripture say this is?" instead of, "What does this feel like it is?"

Because God's discipline isn't Him walking away. It's Him refusing to leave us where He found us.





# MISUNDERSTOOD DISCIPLINE



When we hear that  
the Lord disciplines,  
*most do not hear  
formation.*

We hear  
CORRECTION.

We hear  
RESPONSE.

We hear  
GOD ADDRESSING  
SOMETHING THAT  
HAS GONE WRONG.

The difficulty is not with the word itself.  
It is with what that word has come to mean.

- NOT ENOUGH
- NOT RIGHT
- NOT FAITHFUL
- NOT STRONG
- NOT STEADY

and something inside of us tightens a bit.

For us, this reaction was not formed from Scripture, but through our lived experience.

Discipline was something that followed behavior.

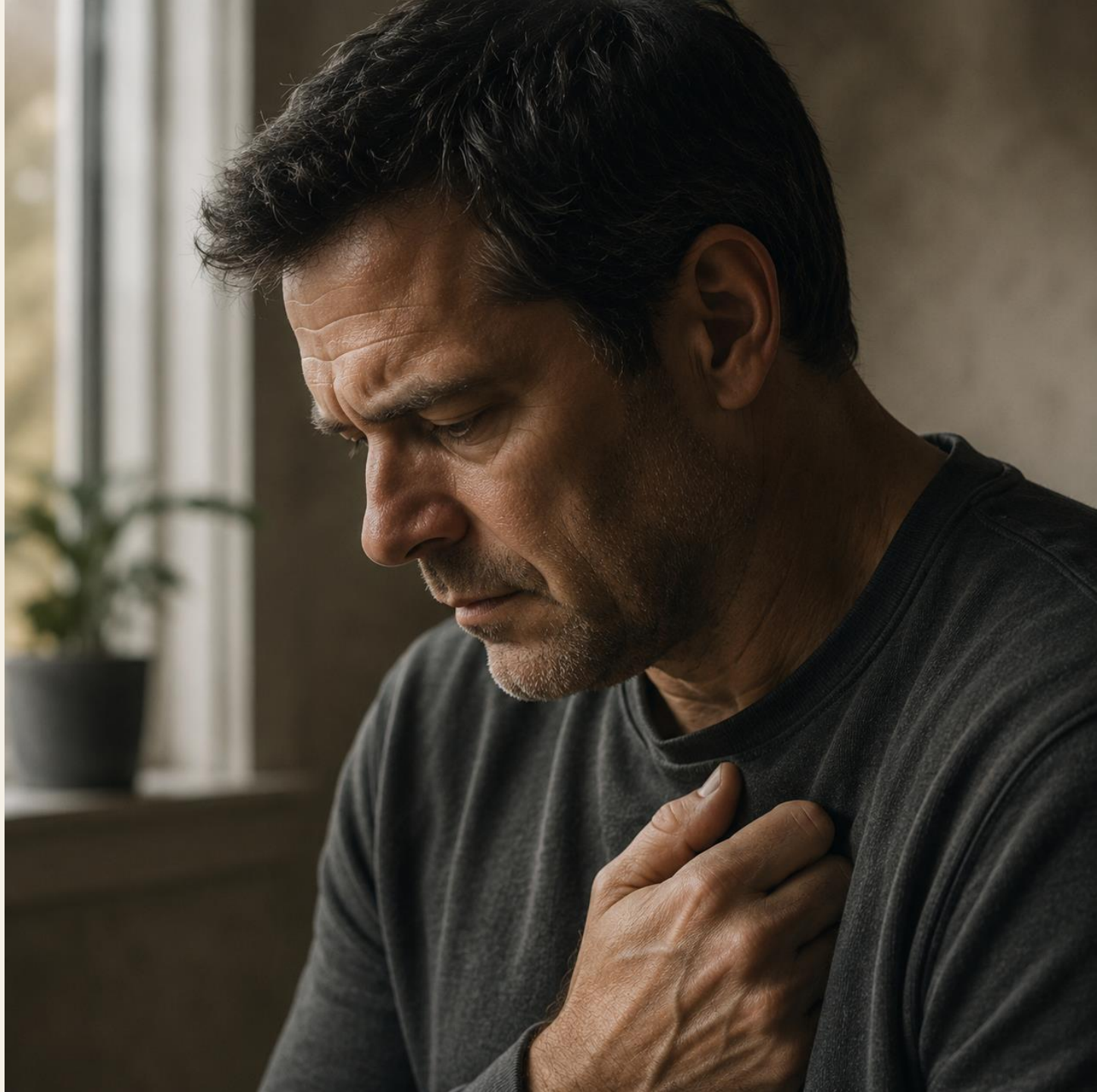
It was tied to response.

It was connected to failure.

So, when Scripture speaks of the Father disciplining His sons, it is not heard as loving and nurturing care.

It is heard through the gut.

It's interpreted through the experience of what it meant to not live up to someone else's definition of what was right or wrong.



So our issue is not necessarily with the word *discipline*.

The real issue is what the *thought of that* has come to mean.

## discipline

/ dis-uh-plin / noun

1. training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character.
2. instruction that punishes or restrains for the purpose of correcting.





# IDENTITY DISTORTION



The thought of God's discipline doesn't stay outside of us like some theological idea.

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It does not stay contained within how we would define a word or explain a passage.

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It *settles into our inner life*, and over time *it shapes how we think, how we approach God, and how we interpret what is happening within us.*

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It creates an image of how we see ourselves and becomes a voice that is not always spoken but is *consistently present.*

*Something is wrong with me.*

*I keep missing it.*

*I never get this right.*

*Why do I always fall short?*

*I should be further along by now.*



What may have begun as an understanding of discipline connected to moments of correction does not remain tied to what we do.

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*It begins to define how we see who we are.*

---

What was once associated with specific moments becomes a constant internal reference point, and because of that, we begin to live with an expectation—often unspoken but deeply formed—*that no matter how sincere we are, no matter how much we care, no matter how seriously we take our relationship with God,*

---

Even when nothing is being said externally, there is still an internal evaluation, a quiet measuring, a settled assumption that *something in us must not yet be right.*

*No matter  
how sincere  
I am...*

*No matter  
how much  
I care...*

*No matter how  
seriously I take  
my relationship  
with God...*

*Something in me  
is still going to  
be addressed.*





Over time, this shifts.

It is no longer just that something needs to change.

It begins to feel like something is *fundamentally wrong*.



This is why *what Hebrews establishes* before it ever speaks of discipline matters.



Hebrews does not introduce discipline into a relationship that is *uncertain*, nor does it speak into *instability* as though something is still being secured.



- It has already established that by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified (Hebrews 10:14).
- It has already declared that we have confidence to enter the holy places (Hebrews 10:19),
- that we are to *draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith* (Hebrews 10:22),
- and that we are to *come with confidence to the throne of grace* (Hebrews 4:16).



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So whatever Hebrews 12 means when it says that *the Lord disciplines the one He loves*, it cannot mean that access is *uncertain*, that standing is *unstable*, or that *punishment* is still waiting to be dealt with.

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Let's look at this plainly.

The punishment for sin has already been dealt with.  
God is not waiting to address what Christ has already finished.  
He is not holding something over us  
that has already been carried by Christ.

There is no punishment waiting for us  
when we draw near to God.

And yet this is where many still live internally.

The way has been opened,  
but there is still *hesitation*.

The conscience has been cleansed,  
but there is still an *expectation*  
*of being addressed*.

The relationship has been secured,  
but the internal world still braces  
as though something in us  
*remains under review*.



THE WAY  
HAS BEEN  
OPENED  
HEBREWS 10:19-22

This is why  
this cannot be treated as a  
*minor misunderstanding.*



This does not only  
affect how we  
define discipline.



This affects  
how we hear  
Scripture.



This affects  
how we approach  
God.



This affects  
how we understand  
ourselves in His presence.

HOW WE HEAR  
SCRIPTURE



HOW WE  
APPROACH GOD



HOW WE UNDERSTAND  
OURSELVES IN  
HIS PRESENCE



**If this is not brought  
into clarity,**

then when Scripture speaks of discipline, it will be heard through a conclusion that has already been formed—that something in us is still wrong and God is responding to it.



DISCIPLINE IS HEARD AS:

CORRECTION  
PUNISHMENT  
RESPONSE  
BECAUSE I FAILED

FAILURE  
NOT ENOUGH  
DISAPPOINTMENT  
CONDEMNED



And if that remains in place, then discipline will never be understood as the Father's forming work within those who have already been secured in Christ.



DISCIPLINE IS UNDERSTOOD AS:

FORMATION  
DEVELOPMENT  
SHAPING  
FROM LOVE



HEBREWS 12:11–12



WHEN  
DRAWING NEAR  
NO LONGER  
FEELS SAFE



Once discipline has been internalized this way,  
*it does not remain confined to how we see ourselves.*

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It can shape  
*how we approach God.*

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If discipline is understood as God responding to what is wrong in us, then drawing near to Him no longer feels like rest.

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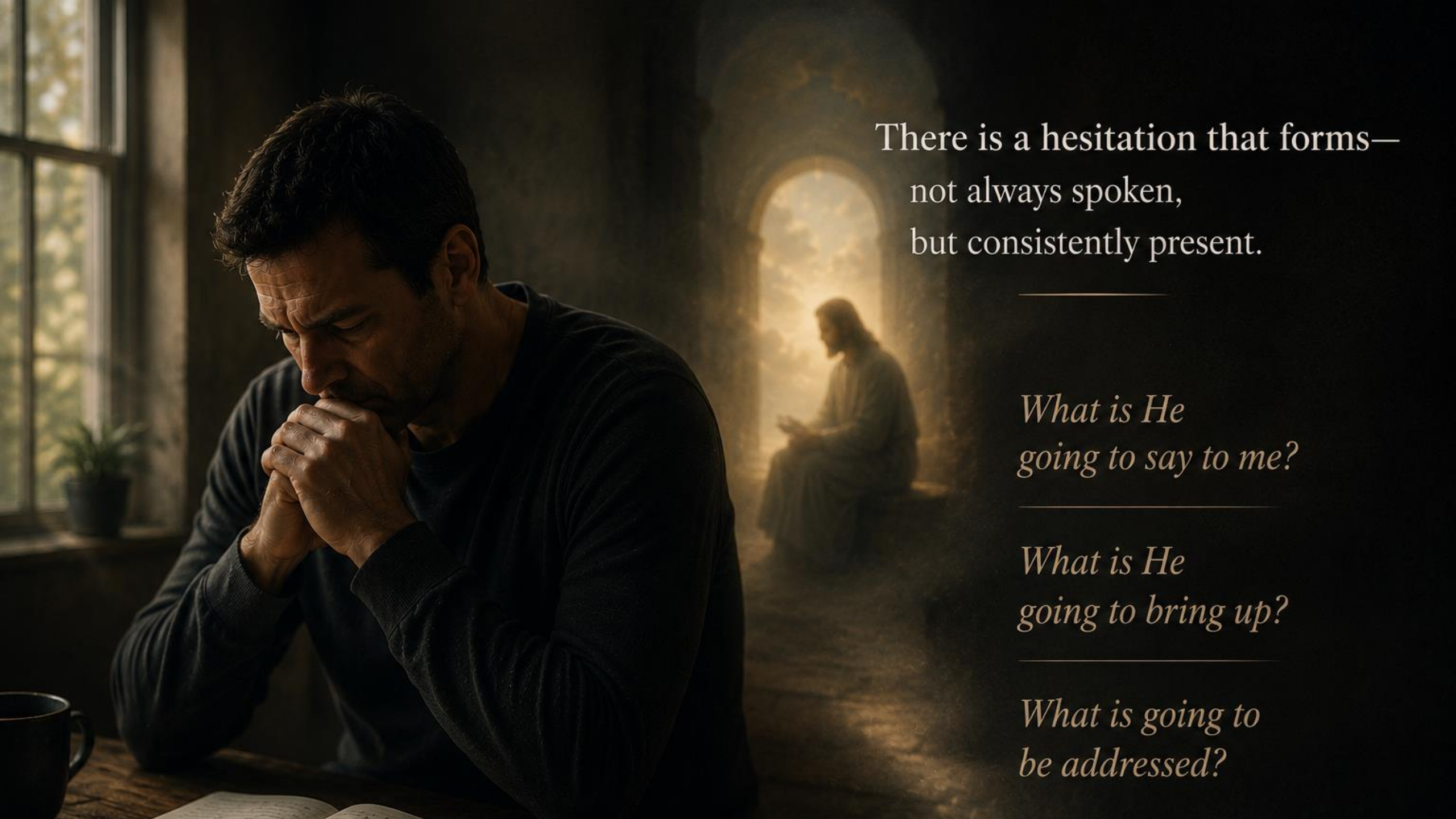
*It begins to feel like exposure.*

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DRAW NEAR  
WITH  
CONFIDENCE  
HEBREWS 10:22

---



There is a hesitation that forms—  
not always spoken,  
but consistently present.

---

*What is He  
going to say to me?*

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*What is He  
going to bring up?*

---

*What is going to  
be addressed?*

If somewhere within us we still believe that God is going to revisit our failure, *then we will not approach Him with confidence.*

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We will approach carefully, *or we will delay altogether.*

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The very place we are invited to come freely becomes the place we feel the need to *prepare* for.

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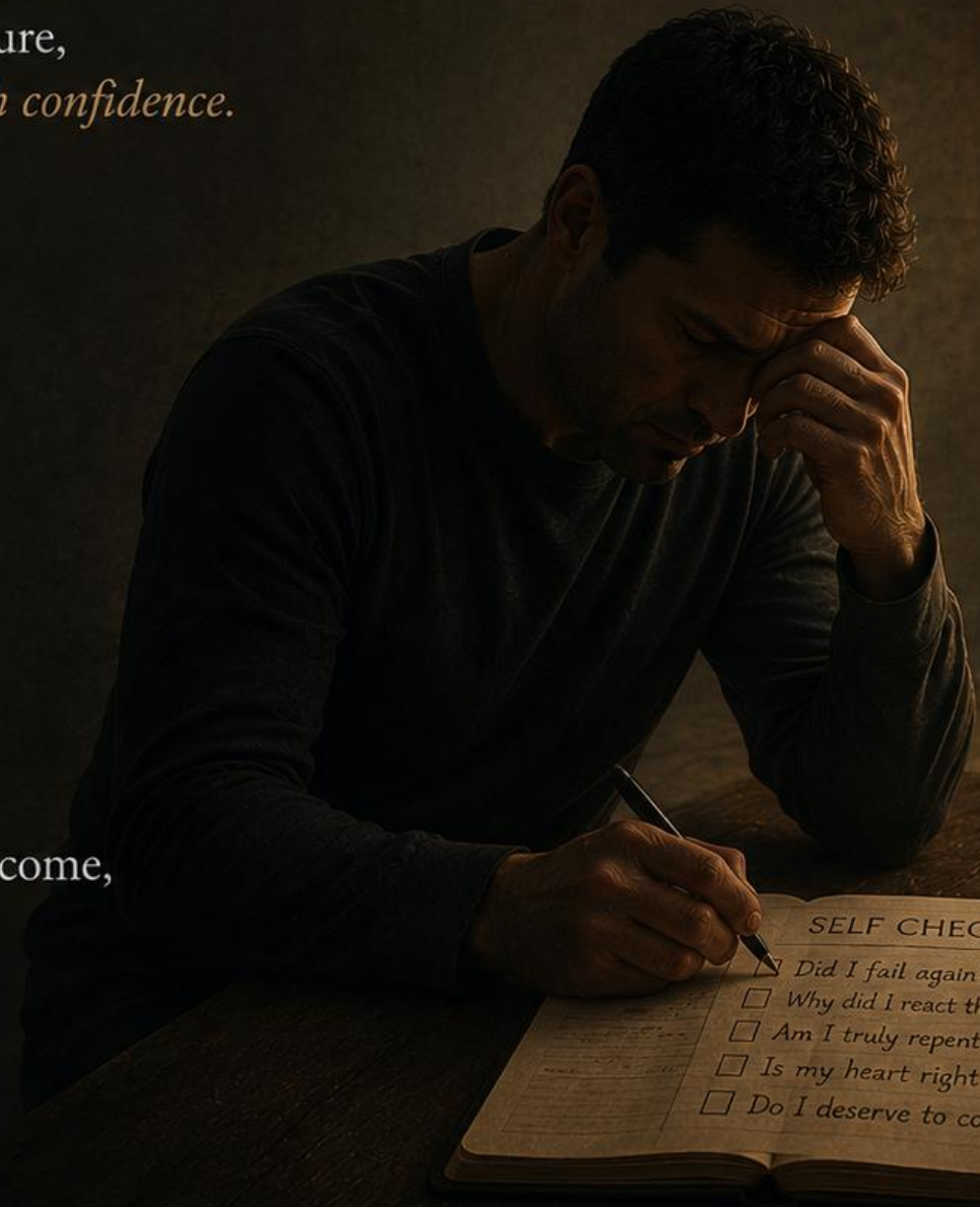
We *evaluate* ourselves first.

We *measure* our condition.

We try to *settle* ourselves before we come,

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as though something in us *needs to be managed* before we can stand before Him.



DRAW NEAR  
WITH  
CONFIDENCE  
HEBREWS 10:22

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And in doing so, we place **distance** where Christ has already removed it.

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The hesitation is not because the way has not been opened.

It is because we are still relating to God as though something remains **unresolved**.

---

The result is that drawing near is no longer natural.

It becomes **cautious**.

It becomes **delayed**.

It becomes **conditional**.

---

And what has been established as open access begins to be experienced as something that must still be approached carefully.

UNRESOLVED

NOT ENOUGH

NOT RIGHT

NOT FAITHFUL

CONDEMNED

ACCESS  
HAS BEEN  
OPENED

---

THROUGH  
CHRIST





# SCRIPTURE MISREAD



Once this internal lens is in place, it does not remain confined to **how we see ourselves.**

NOT ENOUGH  
NOT RIGHT  
DISAPPOINTING  
FAILURE  
NOT FAITHFUL  
CONDEMNED

INTERNAL LENS  
IN PLACE

SOMETHING  
STILL WRONG

GOD IS  
RESPONDING  
TO IT

Once this lens is in place, interpretation flows through what is **already assumed.**



ASSUMPTION



EXPECTATION



CONCLUSION



DISTORTION

It begins to shape **how we interpret Scripture.**

HEBREWS 12:5-11

My son, do not regard lightly the Lord's **discipline**, nor be weary when **reproved** by him. For the Lord **disciplines** the one he loves, and **chastises** every son whom he receives.

He's correcting me.

He sees what's wrong.

I need to do better.

Passages that speak of discipline, correction, or pruning are no longer received within the **context** in which they were given.



NOT FORMATION.  
NOT FOR MY GOOD.  
BUT BECAUSE I FAILED.  
BECAUSE SOMETHING  
IS STILL WRONG.

They are internalized through a conclusion that has **already been formed.**

Hebrews 12:6, "the Lord disciplines the one He loves,"

Is no longer heard as the expression of a Father forming those who are secure.

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It is heard as God responding to what something wrong.

HEBREWS 12:5-11

My son, do not regard lightly the Lord's discipline, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.

John 15:2, where the Father prunes the branch that bears fruit, is no longer understood as the ongoing care of a life already abiding in Christ.

*It is heard as God removing what is unacceptable.*

Revelation 3:19, “those whom I love, I reprove and discipline,” is no longer received as the expression of committed love toward those who belong to Him.

*It is heard as God confronting what needs to be fixed.*

The issue is not with what these passages say.  
*The issue is how they are being heard.*

Scripture itself is not creating this pressure.  
But it is often read that way.

The internal conclusion that something is wrong begins to govern interpretation, and once that happens, every passage that carries the language of discipline or correction *appears to confirm it.*



John 15:2

The Father prunes the branch that bears fruit.



Revelation 3:19

“Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline.”

# ASSUMPTION

PREEXISTING BELIEF  
ABOUT DISCIPLINE

# SCRIPTURE

INTERPRETED THROUGH THE LENS  
OF THE ASSUMPTION



Instead of allowing Scripture to define what discipline is, punishment is being assumed, and then Scripture is made to support that assumption.

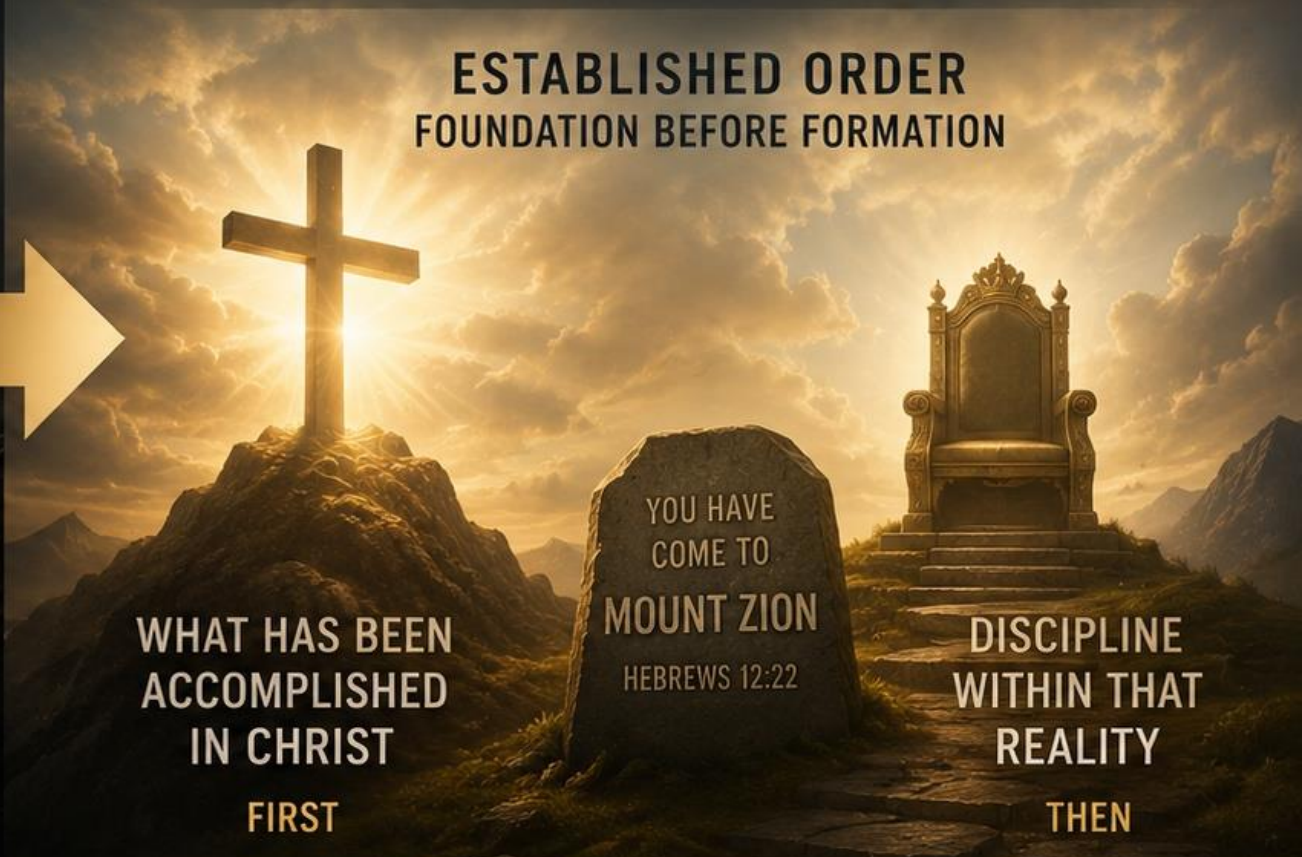
# This is why the order established in Hebrews matters so deeply.

Hebrews does not begin with **discipline** and then move toward **assurance**.

It begins with what has been **accomplished in Christ** and then speaks of **discipline** within that established reality.

REVERSED ORDER  
PRESSURE BEFORE FOUNDATION

ESTABLISHED ORDER  
FOUNDATION BEFORE FORMATION



The writer has already made clear that those who are in Christ have been perfected for all time (Hebrews 10:14), that access has been secured (Hebrews 10:19), and that we are to draw near in full assurance of faith (Hebrews 10:22).

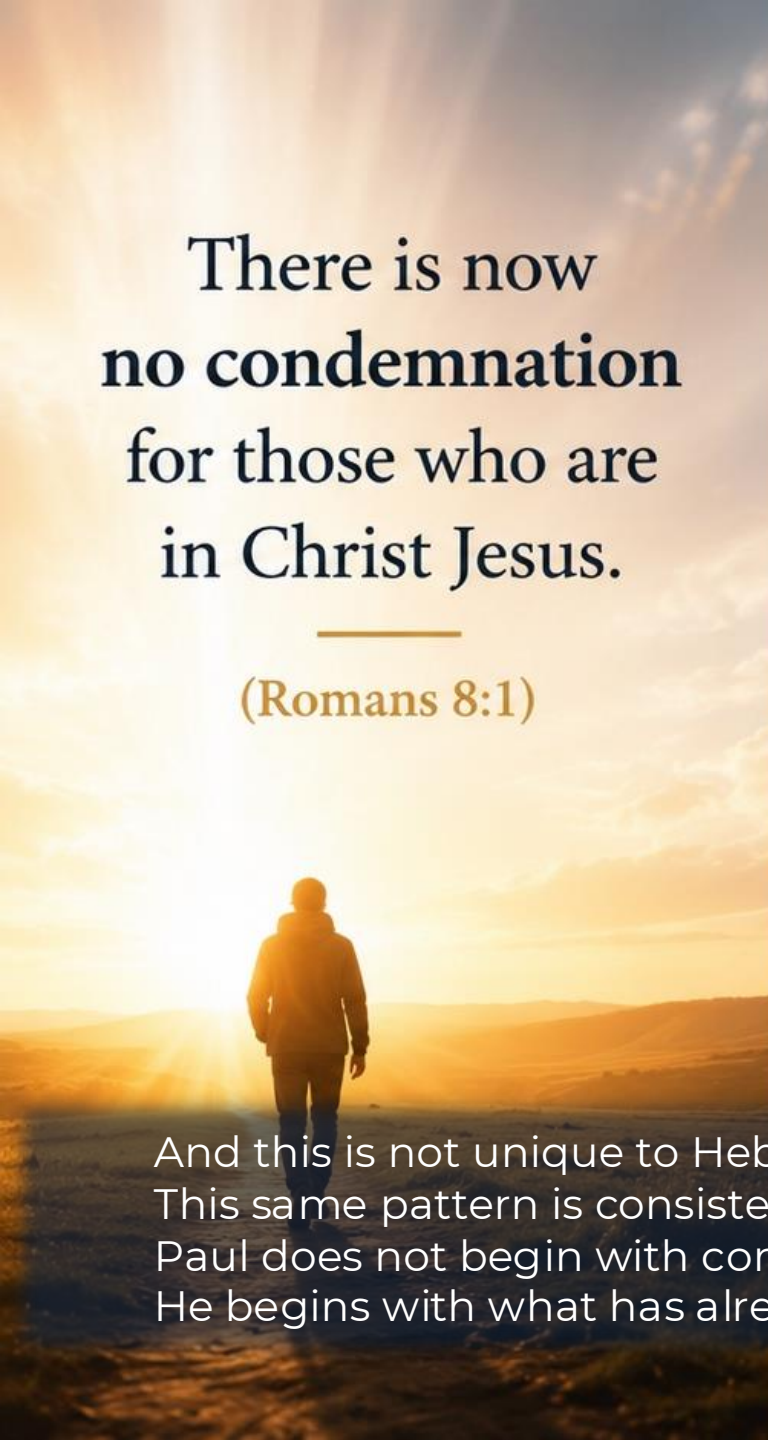
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When *Hebrews 12* speaks of discipline, it is *not* introducing correction into uncertainty.

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It is speaking into a relationship that has *already* been *established and secured*.

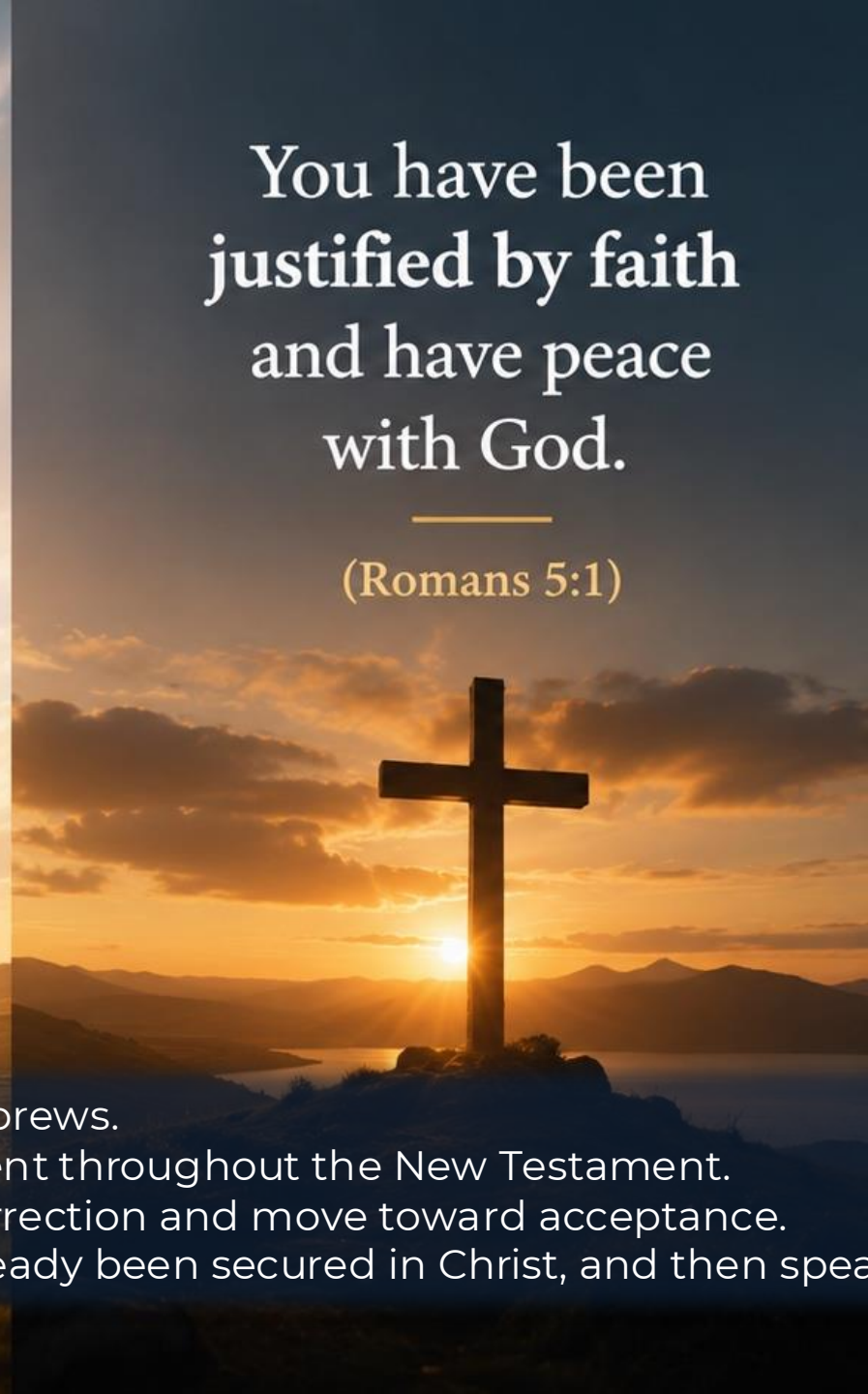




There is now  
**no condemnation**  
for those who are  
in Christ Jesus.

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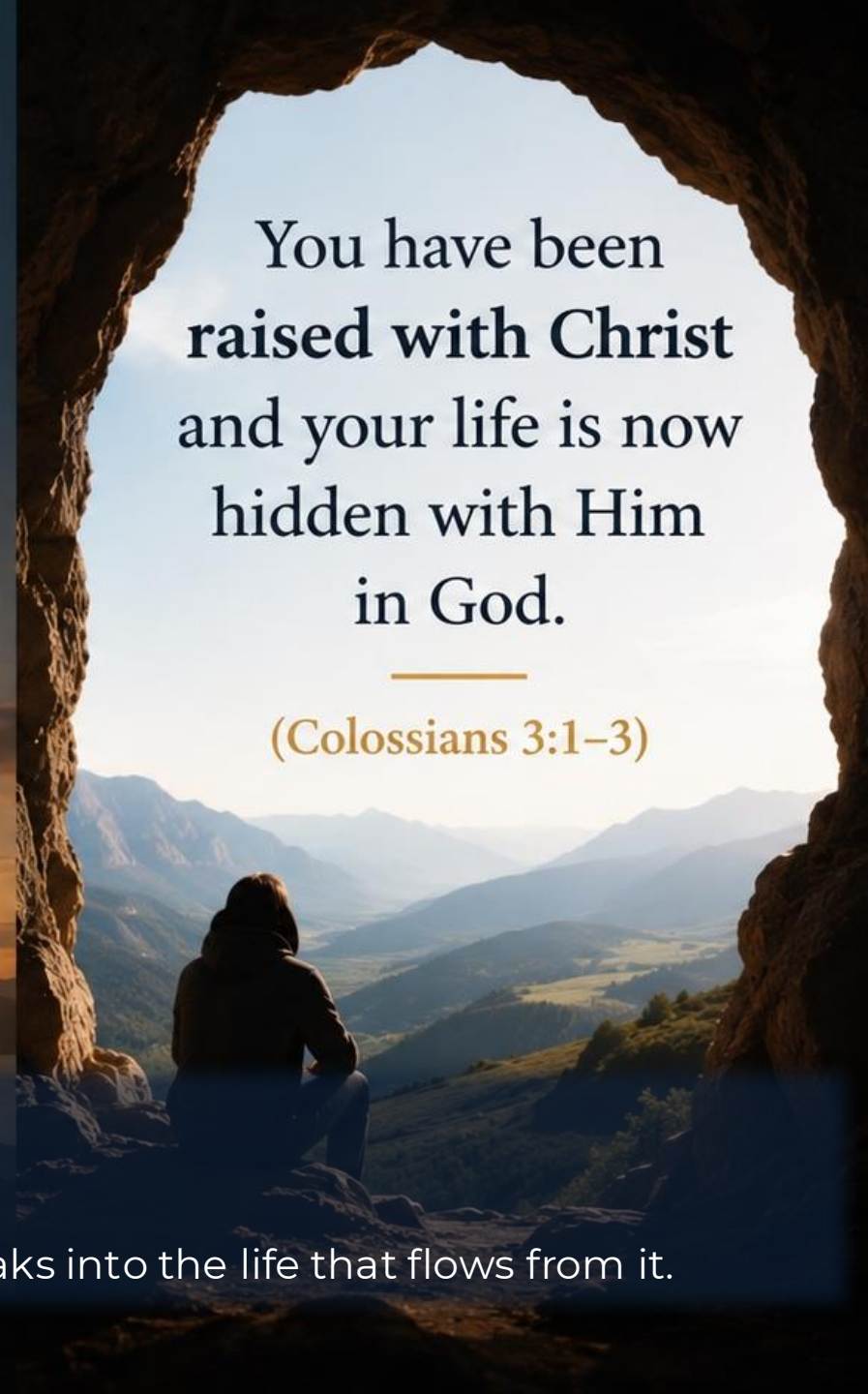
(Romans 8:1)



You have been  
**justified by faith**  
and have peace  
with God.

---

(Romans 5:1)



You have been  
**raised with Christ**  
and your life is now  
hidden with Him  
in God.

---

(Colossians 3:1–3)

And this is not unique to Hebrews.  
This same pattern is consistent throughout the New Testament.  
Paul does not begin with correction and move toward acceptance.  
He begins with what has already been secured in Christ, and then speaks into the life that flows from it.

Even when Paul addresses areas of correction, he does so within the reality of what has already been established, *not as a means of securing it.*

If that order is reversed in our understanding, then discipline will always be *heard through distortion.*

It will be heard as the means by which God addresses what is wrong in us, rather than the means by which the Father *forms life within what has already been made right through Christ.*

And once that reversal takes place, Scripture will no longer be read as *a witness to what has been accomplished.*

It will be read as *a continual evaluation* of what is *still lacking.*

Some of us remain there without realizing it. Not because we reject Scripture, but because we have learned to read it through *a lens that was formed long before* the text was carefully considered.

DISTORTED ORDER

DISCIPLINE  
ADDRESSES  
WHAT IS WRONG  
IN US



SECURITY



GOD'S ORDER

SECURITY  
ESTABLISHED  
IN CHRIST



DISCIPLINE  
FORMS LIFE  
WITHIN WHAT  
IS ALREADY  
MADE RIGHT



And unless that lens  
is brought into the light,  
even the clearest passages  
will continue to be heard  
as reinforcing a conclusion  
that Scripture itself  
is not making.



A stone archway with two wooden doors open, revealing a sunset over a valley. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light from the setting sun, which is positioned centrally behind the arch. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The stone walls of the archway are textured and show signs of age. The wooden doors are dark and have ornate metal hinges and handles. The ground in the foreground is paved with large, irregular stone tiles. In the distance, rolling hills and mountains are visible under the sunset sky. A decorative flourish is centered below the text.

# ACCESS RESTORED



MISUNDERSTOOD  
DISCIPLINE  
FEAR  
SHAME  
CONDEMNATION  
HESITATION  
DISTANCE



WHAT HAS  
ALREADY  
BEEN  
ESTABLISHED

ACCESS  
SECURED  
IN CHRIST



If the hesitation to draw near has been formed by a misunderstanding of discipline, then it must be answered by something that is **not internal**, **not subjective**, and **not dependent on how we feel in the moment**.



It must be answered by **what has already been established**.




Scripture does not describe access to God as something that **fluctuates** with our condition.

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It does not present nearness as something that must be **regained**, **reestablished**, or **approached cautiously**.

---



It speaks of access as something that **has already been secured**.

---

Hebrews is explicit about this.

By a single offering,  
**Christ** has  
**perfected**  
for all time  
those who are  
being **sanctified.**

---

HEBREWS 10:14

This is not partial.

This is not progressive acceptance. This is a completed work that establishes standing.

And because of that, Hebrews goes on to say that we have confidence to enter the holy places (Hebrews 10:19).

Not hesitation.

Not careful approach.

Confidence.

This is why the instruction follows:



The call to draw near is not an invitation to find out where we stand.  
It is a response to what has already been established.  
The assurance is not something we build.  
It is something we come from.

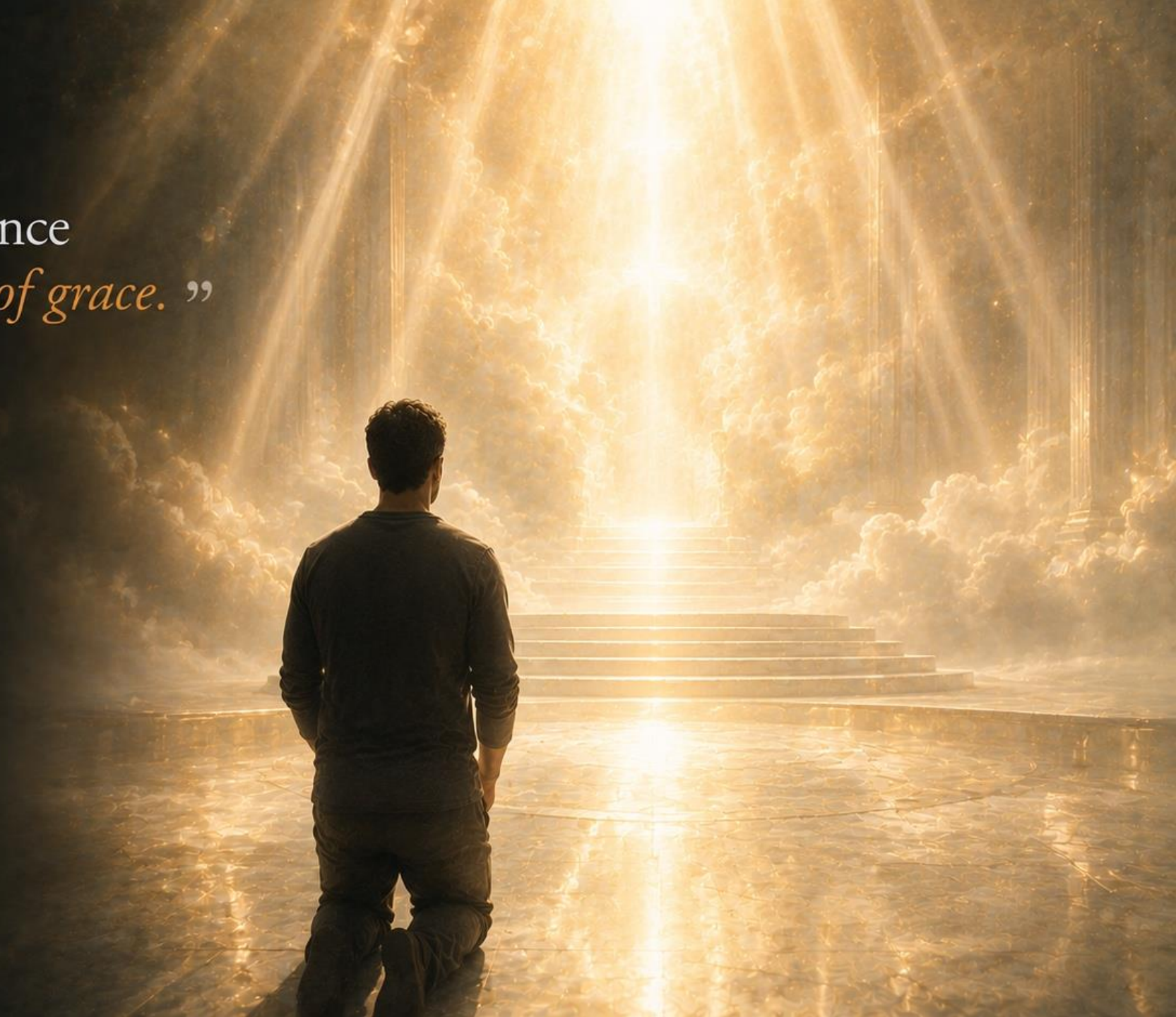
This is reinforced again in Hebrews 4:16.

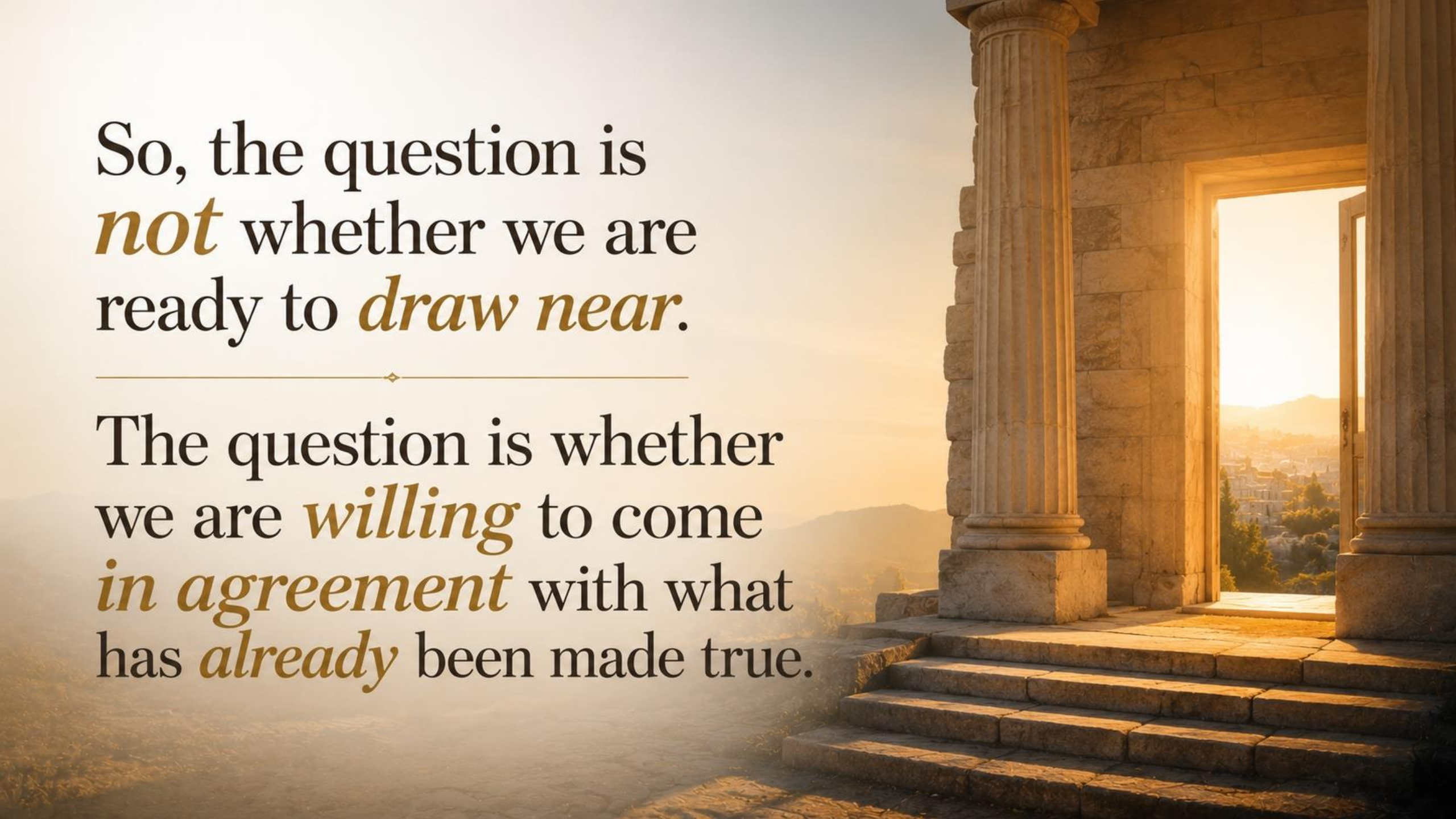
“ Let us then with confidence  
*draw near to the throne of grace.* ”

Not because we have reached  
a certain *level of consistency.*

Not because we have resolved  
everything that feels *unsettled within us.*

But because the throne we are  
approaching is *defined by grace,*  
and the access to that throne  
has *already been opened* through Christ.



A photograph of a stone building with classical columns and a doorway. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with warm golden light illuminating the architecture and the view of a city and hills in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

So, the question is  
*not* whether we are  
ready to *draw near*.

---

The question is whether  
we are *willing* to come  
*in agreement* with what  
has *already* been made true.

The way has been *opened*.

---

Not partially.

Not conditionally.

*Completely.*

---

The barrier has been *removed*.

Not managed.

Not reduced.

*Removed.*

---

Access to God is not something  
we are *moving toward*.

It is something we have *already*  
been *brought into*.



This means that drawing near is *not a risk*.  
It is not a moment where something  
unresolved might be exposed and dealt with.

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It is the place where what has *already*  
been *resolved in Christ* is the  
basis of our approach.

---

We do not come to God to  
determine our standing.  
*We come because our standing has  
already been established in Christ.*

---

We do not draw near to secure acceptance.  
*We draw near because acceptance  
has already been secured.*



And if this is true,  
then *hesitation*  
no longer has a  
*foundation* to stand on.

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The distance we have felt  
has *not* been created by God.

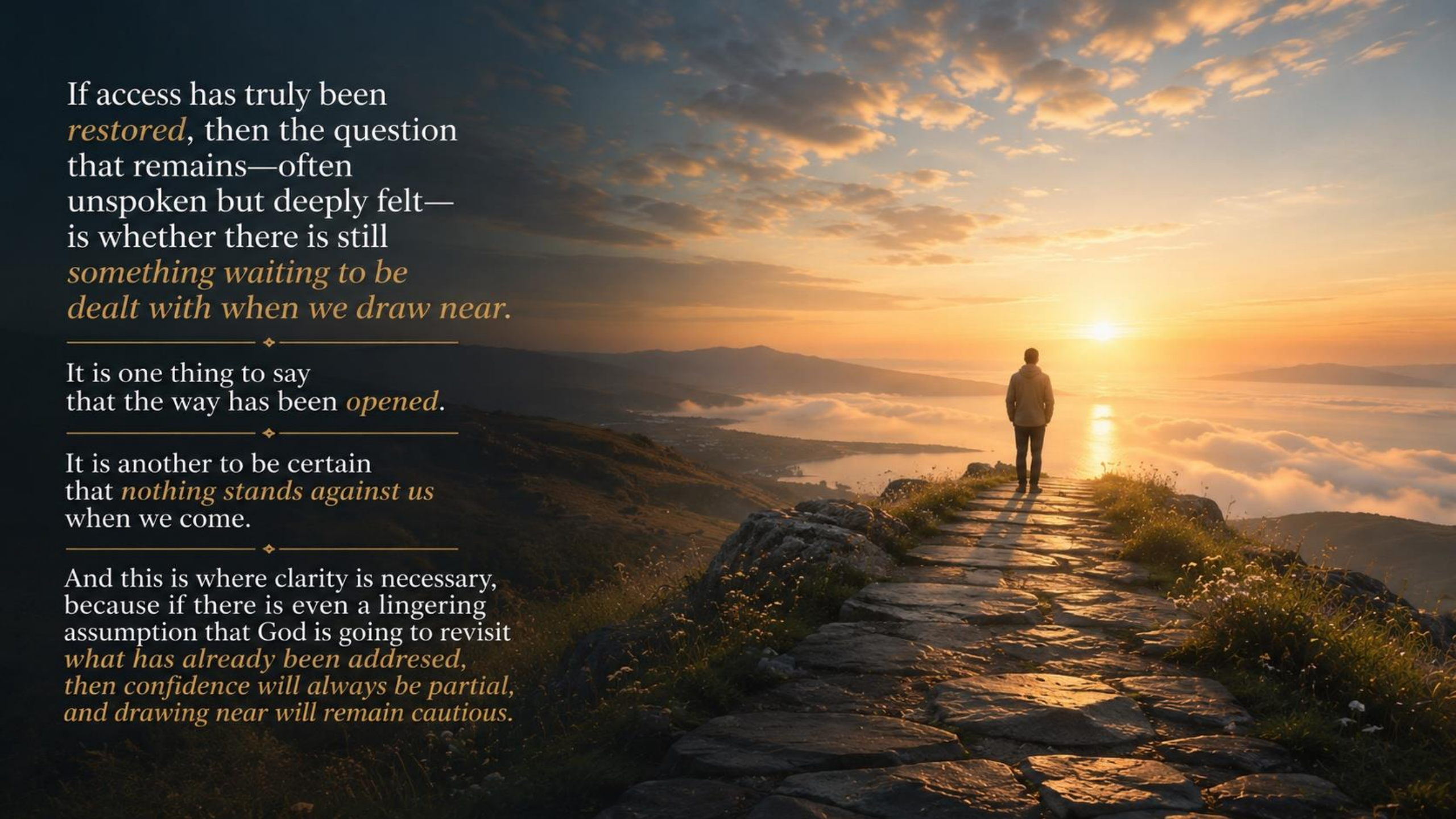
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It has been created by  
how we have *understood*  
Him.



# PUNISHMENT REMOVED



A person stands on a stone path leading to a sunset over a valley with a lake and mountains. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the scene. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the sun. The path is made of large, flat stones and leads towards the horizon. The valley below is filled with a layer of mist or low clouds, and a lake is visible in the distance. The mountains in the background are silhouetted against the sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

If access has truly been *restored*, then the question that remains—often unspoken but deeply felt—is whether there is still *something waiting to be dealt with when we draw near.*

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It is one thing to say that the way has been *opened.*

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It is another to be certain that *nothing stands against us* when we come.

---

And this is where clarity is necessary, because if there is even a lingering assumption that God is going to revisit *what has already been addressed, then confidence will always be partial, and drawing near will remain cautious.*

Scripture *does not* leave this uncertain.

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It speaks *directly* to it.

---

There is now *no condemnation*  
for those who are in Christ Jesus  
(Romans 8:1).

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📅 This is *not* a future promise.  
It is a *present* reality.

⊘ Condemnation is *not* postponed.  
It is *removed*.

---

🛡️ And if condemnation has been removed,  
then *punishment*—its expression—  
has been *dealt with* as well.





What Christ *accomplished*  
was *not* the possibility  
of *forgiveness*.

---

It was the full  
*dealing* with *sin*.

---

Hebrews has already  
made this clear.

**By a single offering,  
He has perfected for all time  
those who are being sanctified.**

(Hebrews 10:14)



**WHAT STOOD AGAINST US  
HAS ALREADY BEEN ADDRESSED—  
NOT PARTIALLY, NOT REPEATEDLY,  
BUT COMPLETELY.**



**THERE IS NO REMAINING CHARGE  
TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD,  
NO UNRESOLVED ISSUE  
WAITING TO BE REVISITED.**



**WHAT WAS AGAINST US  
HAS BEEN FULLY DEALT WITH.**



IT IS  
FINISHED  
JOHN 19:30

He is not waiting for the right moment  
**TO ADDRESS** what has already been judged.



**THE CROSS**  
WAS NOT A  
TEMPORARY COVERING.



IT WAS A  
**DECISIVE ACT.**



SIN WAS NOT  
**MANAGED.**



IT WAS  
**DEALT WITH.**

AND BECAUSE OF THAT, THERE IS  
**NOTHING LEFT FOR PUNISHMENT TO ADDRESS.**



This is why the conscience  
is spoken of as being *cleansed*  
(Hebrews 10:22).

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⊗ Not managed.

⊗ Not quieted temporarily.

✓ *Cleansed.*

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The internal expectation that  
something still needs to be dealt with  
is *not* coming from what God has done.

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It is coming from a *misunderstanding*  
of what has *already been accomplished*.





There is *no punishment* waiting for us when we draw near to God.

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There is *no moment* where we come into His presence and He begins to address what Christ has already finished.

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There is *no revisiting* of sin in the sense of judgment or penalty.

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What was required has already been *fulfilled*.





This does not mean that God is *indifferent*.

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It does not mean that He is *distant* or *uninvolved*.

---



It means that His involvement with us is no longer governed by judgment, but by what has already been *accomplished in Christ*.

---



His desire is not to revisit what has been judged, but to bring us into the *life* that has been *secured*.





When this is clear,  
then *discipline* can no longer  
be understood as God  
responding to what *is wrong*.

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It will be understood  
within *our relationship*  
with Him where  
*everything* that once  
stood against us has  
already been *removed*.

---





DISCIPLINE  
REDEFINED



Hebrews presents discipline within a relationship that has already been *secured*.



“*God is treating you as sons*”  
(Hebrews 12:7).



That statement does not follow correction.  
It *defines the context* in which discipline is taking place.



The starting point is *not failure*.  
The starting point is *sonship*.



Discipline is then understood within *this reality* alone.





Discipline is the  
Father's forming work  
within those who have  
already been *secured*  
*in Christ*.

---



It is not *reactive*.



It is not *situational*.



It is not triggered by *failure*.

---



It is *ongoing*.



It is *relational*.



It is consistent with *who He is*  
*as Father*, not with how we perform.





Hebrews goes on to say that He disciplines us “*for our good, that we may share His holiness*” (Hebrews 12:10).

---



This is not the language of correction for *wrongdoing*. This is the language of *formation*.

---



It is the *shaping* of life within what has *already been established*, not the repair of what has *gone wrong*.





It also says that discipline yields  
“*the peaceful fruit of righteousness  
to those who have been trained  
by it*” (Hebrews 12:11).

---



Again, this is not punishment  
producing compliance.  
It is *formation* producing *fruit*.

---



It is not the pressure to *fix*  
what is wrong.  
It is the steady work of *shaping*  
what is *already alive* in Christ.





This is why **discipline** must be *separated* completely from *punishment*.

---



**Punishment** deals with what is wrong.

---



**Discipline**, in this sense, forms what has already been made right.



# The difference is *not small*.

It changes everything about how we understand God's involvement in our lives.



IF DISCIPLINE IS PUNISHMENT



IF DISCIPLINE IS FORMATION



then it is tied to *failure*.

VS



then it is tied to *relationship*.



then it creates *distance*.

VS



then it takes place within *nearness*.



then it produces *fear and pressure*.

VS



then it produces *growth and fruit*.



This does not remove the reality that **discipline** can be *difficult*.



Hebrews is clear about that.  
“*For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant*”  
(Hebrews 12:11).



But the difficulty is not the result of **punishment**.  
It is the result of *formation*.



It is the *tension* that comes when what is being formed in us does not yet **align** with what we have come to rely on.



DISCIPLINE  
CAN BE DIFFICULT



THIS IS FORMATION,  
NOT PUNISHMENT



IT PRODUCES GROWTH  
THAT LASTS





So the experience may still feel *weighty*, but the *meaning* of that experience must be corrected.



It is *not God* dealing with what is wrong.



It is *God forming* what is already His through what Christ has accomplished.



ALREADY HIS THROUGH CHRIST

+



GOD'S DISCIPLINE = FORMING WORK

=



BEING SHAPED INTO HIS IMAGE



And once this is clear,  
discipline will *no longer*  
be seen as something  
that *threatens relationship*.



It will be viewed  
as something that  
unfolds *within* it.





THE VOICE OF  
THE FATHER

— THROUGH THE SPIRIT



If **discipline** is the Father's forming work within those who have already been **secured in Christ**, then it must be clear how that work is actually carried out.



The Father does not disciple from a **distance**. He is not removed from the life of His people, observing and responding from above.



His involvement is not **external**. It is not outside the life He is forming.



The Father is not far. He is for us. He is with us.



### HIS INVOLVEMENT IS:



#### PRESENT

He is with us in every moment.



#### ACTIVE

He is at work, shaping and forming our character.



#### INTERNAL

He works within us by His Spirit, transforming us from the inside out.

**HE IS FORMING US FROM THE INSIDE OUT.**



“I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

– Ezekiel 36:27

This is why Jesus speaks of the Spirit as the One who comes from the Father and *remains within us*.



The Spirit of Truth *proceeds* from the Father and *is sent* by the Son (John 15:26).



He *dwells* with us and is *in us* (John 14:17).



He *guides* us into *all truth* (John 16:13).



**THIS IS NOT A SECONDARY ROLE.  
THIS IS HOW THE FATHER'S  
VOICE IS MADE PRESENT.**





The Spirit is not a separate voice operating *independently*.



He does not introduce a *different perspective* or a *different posture*.



He *bears witness to Christ*, and in doing so, He carries the *unified will and intention* of the Father.



What the Father has *established in the Son*, the Spirit *makes known within us*.



**THERE IS NO DIVISION IN PURPOSE.**

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are united in will.



**THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE IN TONE.**

The message is the same because the heart is the same.



**THE FATHER IS NOT DISTANT WHILE THE SPIRIT ENGAGES.**

The Spirit is the Father's own presence at work within those who have been brought near.



The Spirit *glorifies* Christ and declares the Father's will within us.

One purpose.  
One voice.  
One presence.

Scripture names Him as the Helper—*paraklētos*—the One who *comes alongside* to comfort, to encourage, and to exhort.

This defines the nature of His voice.



**He does not approach us as an adversary.**  
He does not stand against us in order to correct us.



**He comes alongside us.**  
His presence is not opposing. It is strengthening.



**It is not reactionary. It is purposeful.**  
His work is directed by the goal that has been set—  
Christ being formed in us.



**He does not confront us in a way that destabilizes what has been secured.**  
He guards what the Father has already accomplished.



**He works within what has already been established.**  
He builds upon the foundation, not against it.



“I will ask the Father,  
and He will give you  
another *Helper*,  
that He may be  
with you forever—  
the Spirit of truth,  
*paraklētos*.”

John 14:16–17, 26

This is why His work must be *understood correctly*.



When the Spirit brings clarity, He is not **reacting to failure**.



He is not issuing a **verdict**.



He is not exposing something so that it can be **judged**.



The punishment for sin has **already been dealt with**.

There is nothing left for Him to address in that way.



Instead, He reveals *what is true*.



He brings alignment, not by pressure, but by **clarity**.



He does not produce **condemnation**.



He guides into **truth**.



You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry out, “**Abba, Father**.”

— Romans 8:15

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will *guide you into all truth*; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

— John 16:13



This is consistent with how Scripture describes the *expression of His work*.

“ The one who prophesies speaks to people for their *upbuilding and encouragement and comfort*.

1 Corinthians 14:3

”



This is not *separate from the Spirit's nature*. It reflects it. The Spirit does not contradict Himself.



**THE ONE WHO FORMS US IS THE SAME ONE WHO STRENGTHENS, ENCOURAGES, AND COMFORTS.**



What He *produces within us* is consistent with how He *speaks through us*.



He builds us up.  
(UPBUILDING)



He encourages us.  
(ENCOURAGEMENT)



He comforts us.  
(COMFORT)

When what is called *correction* produces *fear, instability*, or a sense that something in us is *still under judgment*, it is *no longer aligned* with how the Spirit speaks.



That does *not* mean that clarity is absent.



It means that clarity is being *misunderstood*.



The Spirit does *not* avoid truth. He reveals it fully.



But He reveals it within the context of what has already been *secured* in Christ.



**TRUTH WITHOUT CONTEXT CONDEMNS.  
TRUTH WITH CONTEXT TRANSFORMS.**



“There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

— Romans 8:1–2



The Spirit does not speak as an accuser.

He speaks as the One who has already secured us.

His goal is not to make us fear His voice.

His goal is to *form Christ* in us.

So when there is a *course adjustment*—  
when something becomes *clear*,  
when a direction *shifts*,  
when something within us  
is brought into *alignment*—  
it is not the result of *external pressure*.



It is not God responding  
to what is *wrong*.



It is the Spirit bringing *clarity*  
within us, *aligning* us with  
what is *already true*.



The movement is  
from the *inside out*.



It is not *imposed*.  
It is *revealed*.



Clarity is  
revealed  
within.



Alignment  
happens  
within.



Changed  
life *flows*  
outward.

Not imposed. Revealed. Realigned.



Something  
becomes *clear*



A direction *shifts*



Something within us  
is brought into  
*alignment*



The Spirit brings  
*clarity* within us

This is why discipline *cannot be separated* from the presence of the Spirit.



The Father's forming work is not carried out through **distance, pressure, or external correction.**



It is carried out through **His own presence within us.**



The One who forms us is not standing over us. **He is present within us.**



And His voice does not destabilize what has been secured. **It brings it into clearer expression.**



The Father's presence is not distant. **He is near. He is within. He forms.**

### DISCIPLINE THROUGH HIS PRESENCE



Secured in Christ  
(Foundation)



The Spirit's presence within  
(His means)



Clarity revealed within  
(His voice)



Aligned life expressed outwardly  
(Our response)

*This is not correction from a distance. This is formation from within.*

WHEN  
CORRECTION  
SPEAKS  
IN  
GOD'S NAME



“

If the Father’s voice is made present **within us through the Spirit**, then it is necessary to address how that voice is often represented among us.

---

Because for many, the understanding of **God’s voice** has not only been shaped by what happens **internally**—it has also been reinforced by what has been spoken **externally**. ”



“

When what is presented as the voice of God comes through others it naturally carries a tone **filtered through that individual.**

---

Statements can be made with declarative certainty—“*the Lord told me...*”—and what follows can often direct attention toward what is lacking, what needs to change, or what must be addressed.

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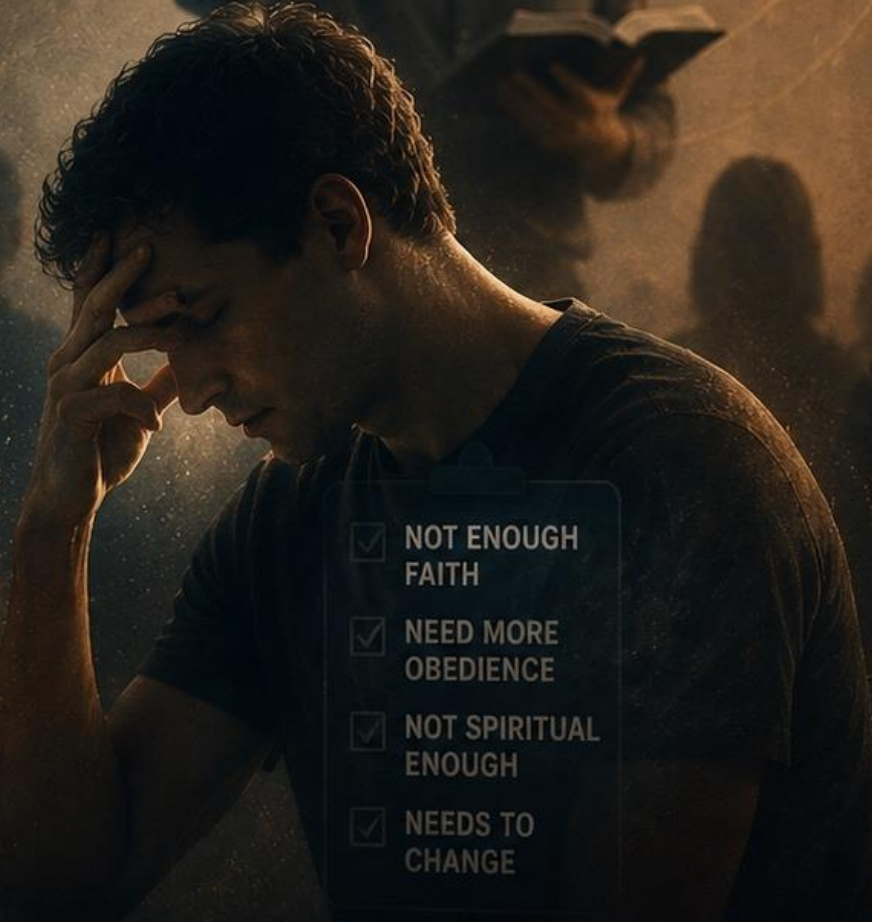
This does not always bring clarity. But it does have the potential to **produce pressure that isn't coming from the Spirit.**

---

It can reinforce the sense that something in us is **still under evaluation.** ”



THE LORD  
TOLD ME...

- 
- NOT ENOUGH FAITH
  - NEED MORE OBEDIENCE
  - NOT SPIRITUAL ENOUGH
  - NEEDS TO CHANGE

“

When what is spoken to us externally **aligns** with what is already being felt internally the result can be that the misunderstanding becomes **more deeply established**.

This does not only happen when we are on the receiving end.

Those who are speaking in this way have often been **formed by the same internal lens**.

The assumption that discipline is God addressing what is wrong has already **taken root** within them, and over time, that understanding begins to **shape how they discern and express** what they believe God is saying.

”



WHAT IS  
SPOKEN TO ME  
EXTERNALLY

WHAT I  
ALREADY  
FEEL

**THE INTERNAL LENS  
ALREADY IN PLACE**

-  Discipline = God addressing what is wrong
-  Rooted over time
-  Shapes discernment
-  Shapes what is expressed



When they speak, especially within the context of prophetic gifting, they are not necessarily intending to bring pressure or correction in a harmful way.



They are expressing what has already been internalized.



What they have come to believe about how God relates to them becomes the framework through which they interpret what they sense and how they communicate it.



*This is how God relates to me.*

*This is what He's saying.*

“

And because of that, what is spoken carries a tone that reflects that formation.

It directs attention toward what is lacking.

It reinforces the idea that something in a person is still under evaluation.

And even when it is sincere, even when it is meant to help, it often produces the same effect—pressure rather than clarity, instability rather than strengthening.

”



“

This is why  
**this matters.**

Because the issue is not simply **misuse** of a gift. It is the **formation** behind the use of the gift.

What has been **internalized** will eventually be **expressed.**

And when a misunderstanding of discipline has **taken root**, it will not remain internal.

It will find its way into how the **voice of God** is **represented.**

”



“

But Scripture gives a **clear definition** of how the Spirit speaks.



“The one who prophesies speaks to people for their **upbuilding** and **encouragement** and **comfort.**”

(1 Corinthians 14:3)



This is not a secondary characteristic. It is **foundational.**



It reflects **the nature** of the **Spirit Himself.**



“

So the question is **not** whether something was said with conviction, or whether it carried weight.

The question is **whether** it reflects the nature of the Spirit as revealed in Scripture.

Because the Spirit **does not** produce **fear** in order to create change. He does not apply **pressure** to bring about alignment.

He strengthens,  
He encourages,  
and He brings clarity  
within what has already  
been secured in Christ. ”



WITHIN WHAT HAS ALREADY  
BEEN SECURED IN CHRIST.





This does not **remove truth**.  
It establishes the context  
in which truth is revealed.



The Spirit does not  
**avoid what is real**.  
He reveals it fully.



But He does so  
in a way that is consistent  
**with the finished work**,  
not in a way that calls  
it into question.



**TRUTH IS REAL**

The Spirit does not  
avoid what is real.



**TRUTH IS REVEALED**

He reveals it fully.



**TRUTH IS REVEALED  
IN THE RIGHT CONTEXT**

In a way that is consistent  
with the finished work,  
not in a way that calls it  
into question.



“

So, when what is called the voice of God produces **instability**, **fear**, and the sense that something in us is being **brought under scrutiny**, it must be **carefully examined**.



Not dismissed, but **measured**.  
Not reacted to, but **tested**  
against what **Scripture** has  
already made clear.



Because the issue is not  
whether **God speaks**.  
The issue is whether what is  
being spoken **reflects how**  
**He has revealed Himself to speak**.

INSTABILITY  
FEAR  
UNDER SCRUTINY

MEASURED,  
NOT REACTED TO



TESTED AGAINST  
SCRIPTURE



ALIGNED WITH HOW  
GOD REVEALED  
HIMSELF TO SPEAK



“

And if the Spirit is the One who forms us, **then His voice**—whether within us or expressed through others—will always be consistent with who He is.



He will **strengthen**.



He will **encourage**.



He will bring **clarity**.



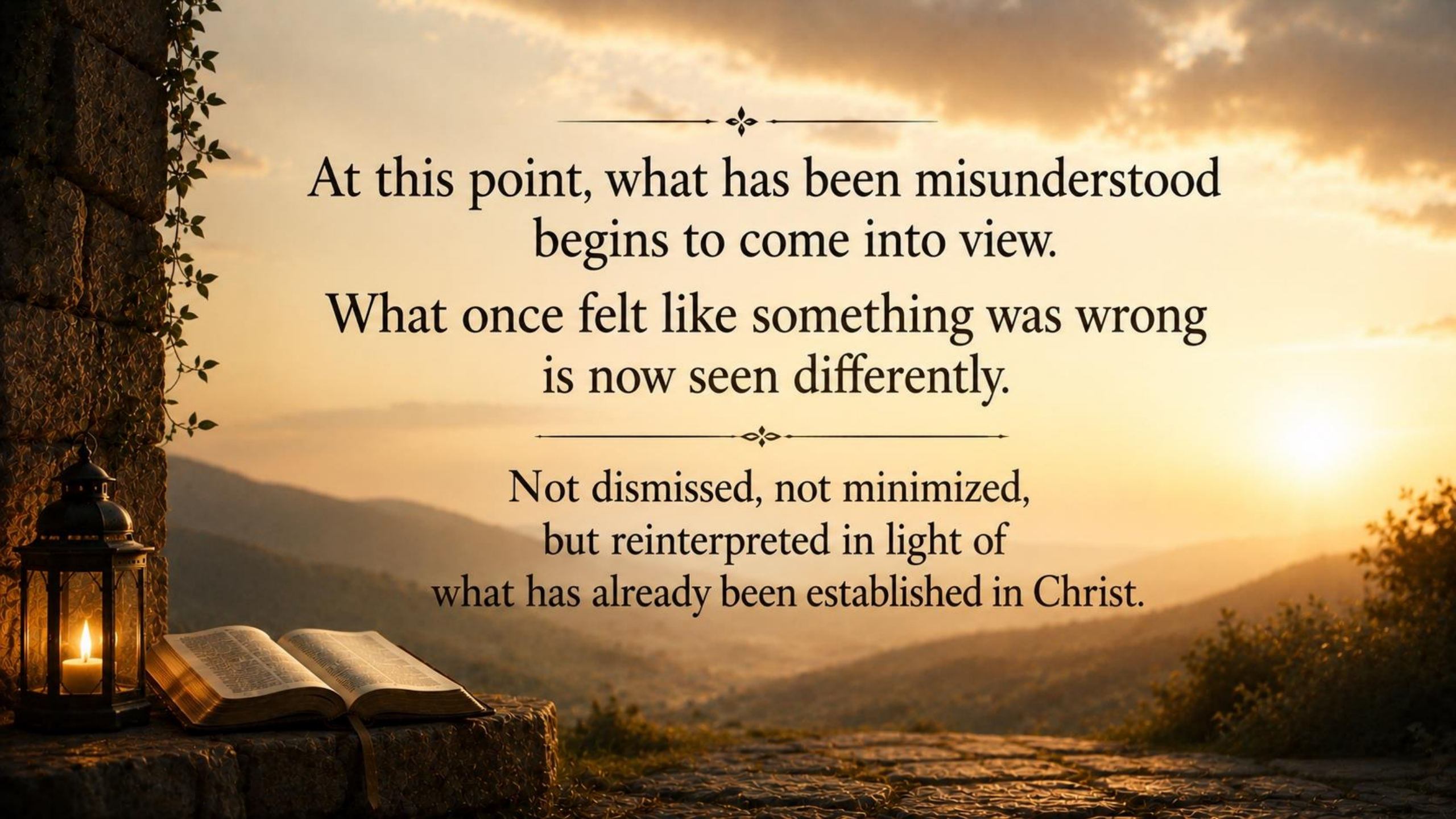
And He will do so within the reality of what has **already been secured in Christ**, not in a way that suggests that reality is **still uncertain**.





FORMATION  
CLARIFIED

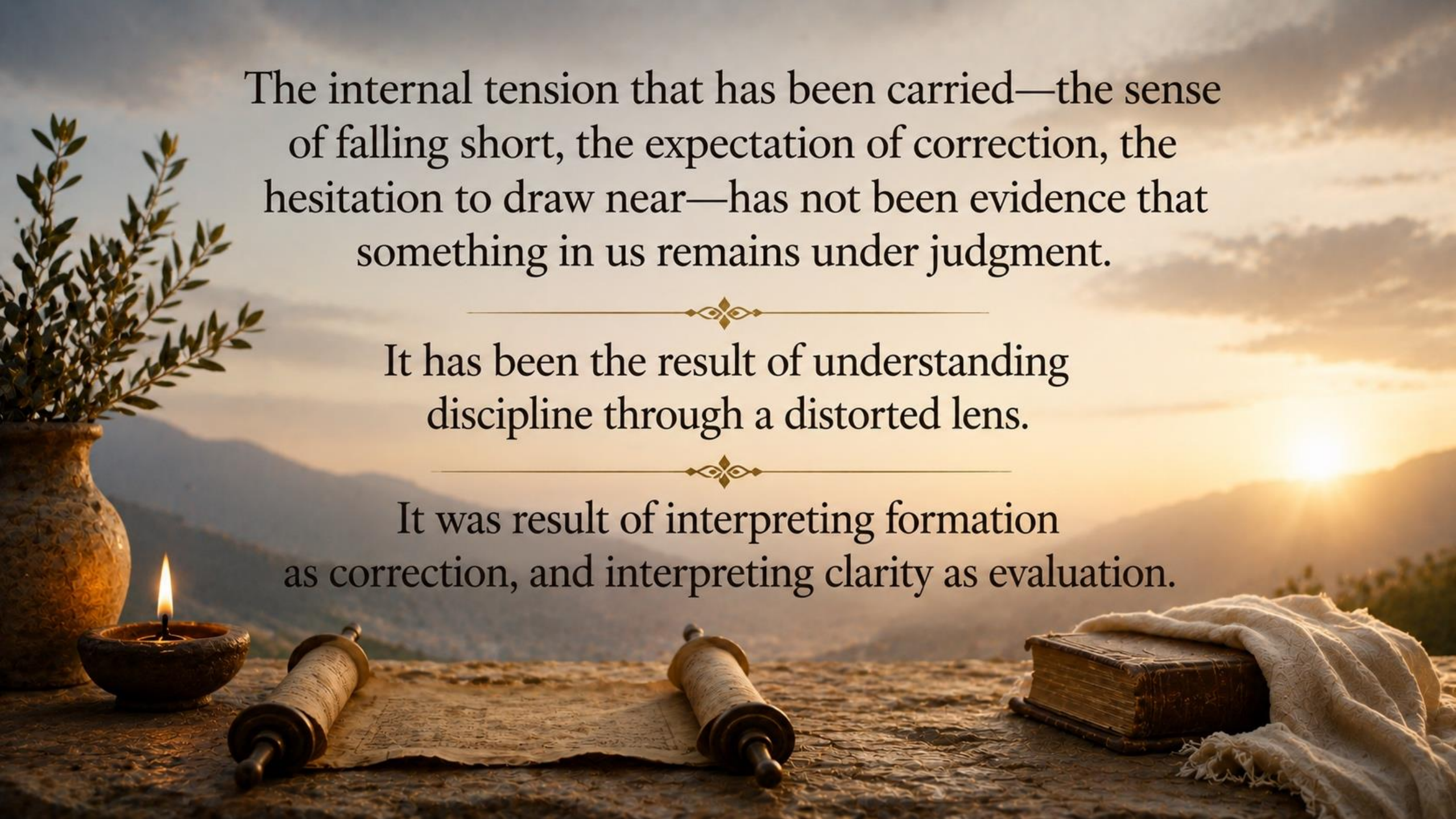




At this point, what has been misunderstood  
begins to come into view.

What once felt like something was wrong  
is now seen differently.

Not dismissed, not minimized,  
but reinterpreted in light of  
what has already been established in Christ.

A still life scene set against a sunset background. In the foreground, a lit candle in a dark, shallow holder sits on a rough stone surface. To its right are two rolled-up scrolls with dark wooden handles, resting on a piece of aged parchment. Further right is a thick, old book with a dark cover, partially covered by a white, fringed cloth. On the left, a rustic, textured vase holds a sprig of green leaves. The background shows a hazy landscape with mountains under a golden sky with soft clouds.

The internal tension that has been carried—the sense of falling short, the expectation of correction, the hesitation to draw near—has not been evidence that something in us remains under judgment.

---

It has been the result of understanding discipline through a distorted lens.

---

It was result of interpreting formation as correction, and interpreting clarity as evaluation.

What was assumed to be God *addressing what is wrong* was, in many cases, the experience of something *being formed* without a clear understanding of what was taking place.



The weight was *real*.

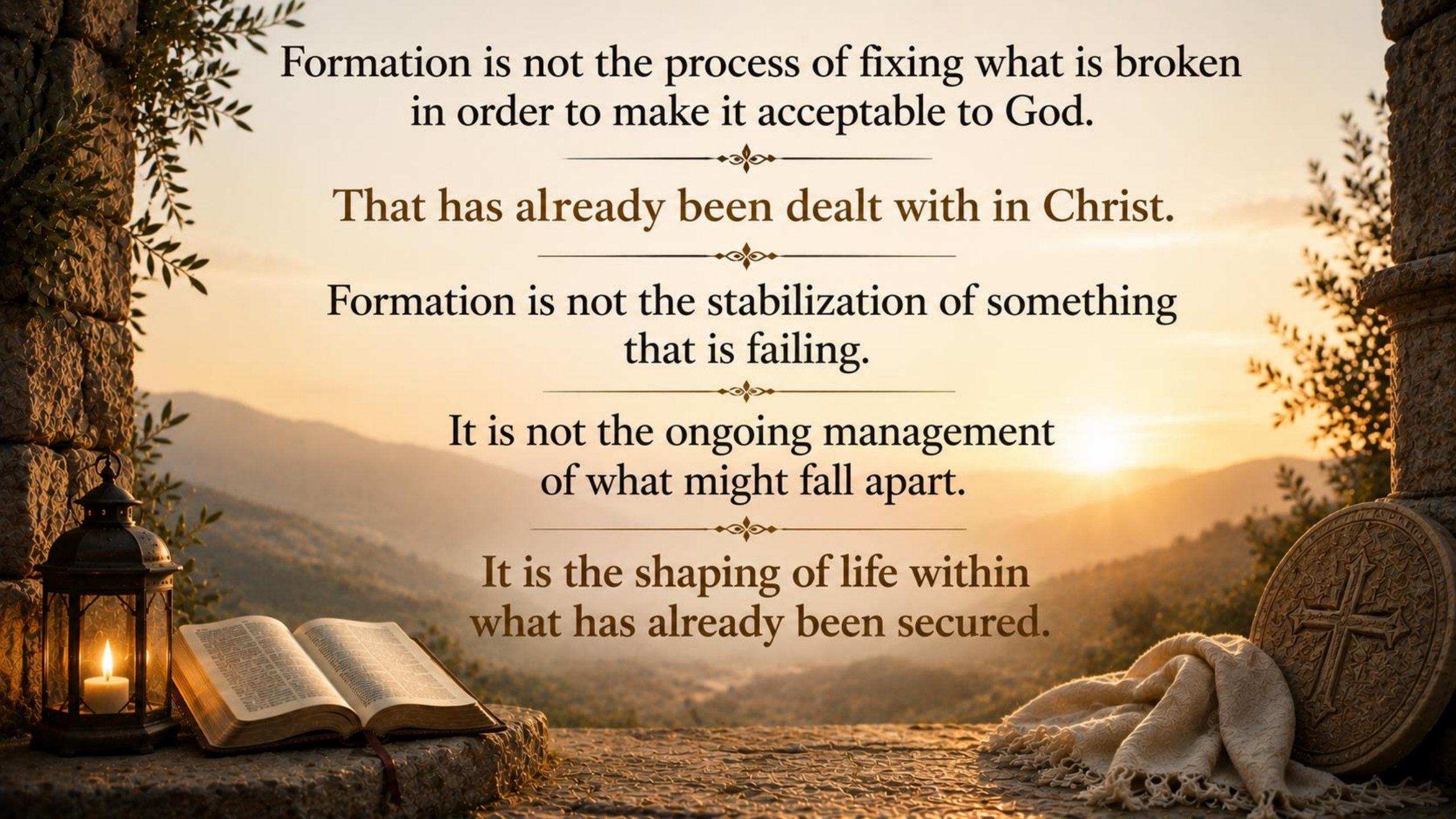


The tension was *real*.



But the meaning assigned to it *was not*.





Formation is not the process of fixing what is broken  
in order to make it acceptable to God.

— ♦ —  
That has already been dealt with in Christ.

— ♦ —  
Formation is not the stabilization of something  
that is failing.

— ♦ —  
It is not the ongoing management  
of what might fall apart.

— ♦ —  
It is the shaping of life within  
what has already been secured.

This is why it is important to understand discipline as *formation*.

*Not because it is less serious,*  
but because it is correctly defined.



The Father is *not* working to correct our standing.



He is *forming our life* within the standing that has already been established.



He is *not* bringing us into acceptance.



He is *forming us* within it.



This is also why the experience of discipline can feel weighty.

---

Hebrews is clear that for the moment it does not seem pleasant, but painful (Hebrews 12:11).

---

That weight is not the pressure of punishment.

---

It is the tension that comes when what has already been secured in Christ is being formed into how we actually live.

---

It is the friction between what we have relied on and what is now being made clear. It is the exposure of misalignment, not as a verdict, but as part of the process of bringing us into alignment.



So what is taking place is not God moving toward us  
in response to failure.



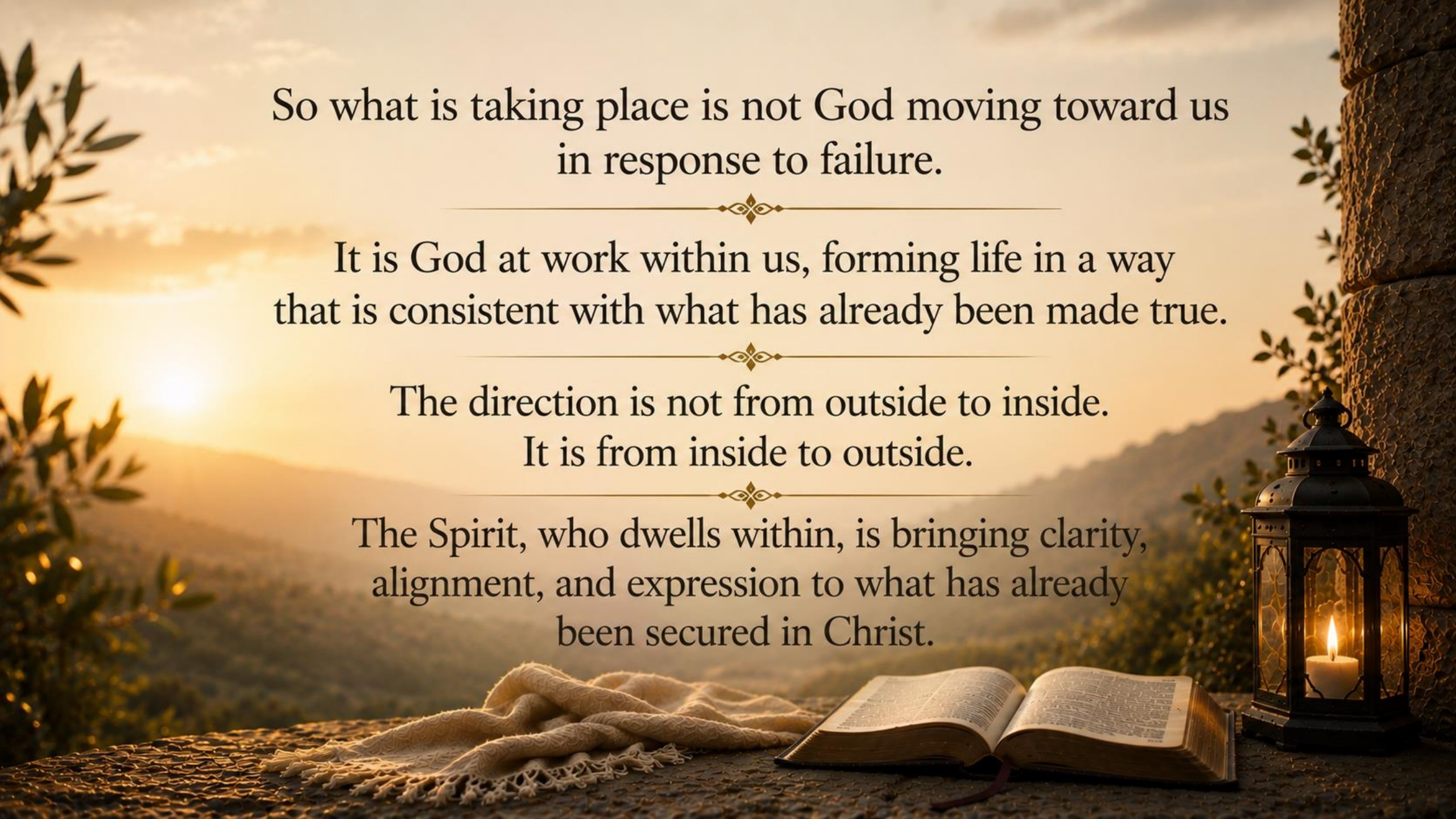
It is God at work within us, forming life in a way  
that is consistent with what has already been made true.



The direction is not from outside to inside.  
It is from inside to outside.



The Spirit, who dwells within, is bringing clarity,  
alignment, and expression to what has already  
been secured in Christ.





Discipline is no longer  
a *threat* to **relationship**.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD AS SOMETHING  
THAT UNFOLDS **WITHIN** IT.



The voice of God is no  
longer heard as something  
that *opposes* or *evaluates*.

IT IS RECOGNIZED AS THE PRESENCE  
OF THE SPIRIT BRINGING CLARITY  
WITHIN WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN  
**SECURED**.



# CLOSING



What has been secured in Christ  
has not been placed back into uncertainty.

The Father does not form us  
from distance.

*He forms us within nearness.*

And because of that,  
we no longer have to interpret correction  
as the threat of losing relationship.

*We draw near from acceptance,*  
not toward it.

The way has already been opened.  
The relationship has already been secured.

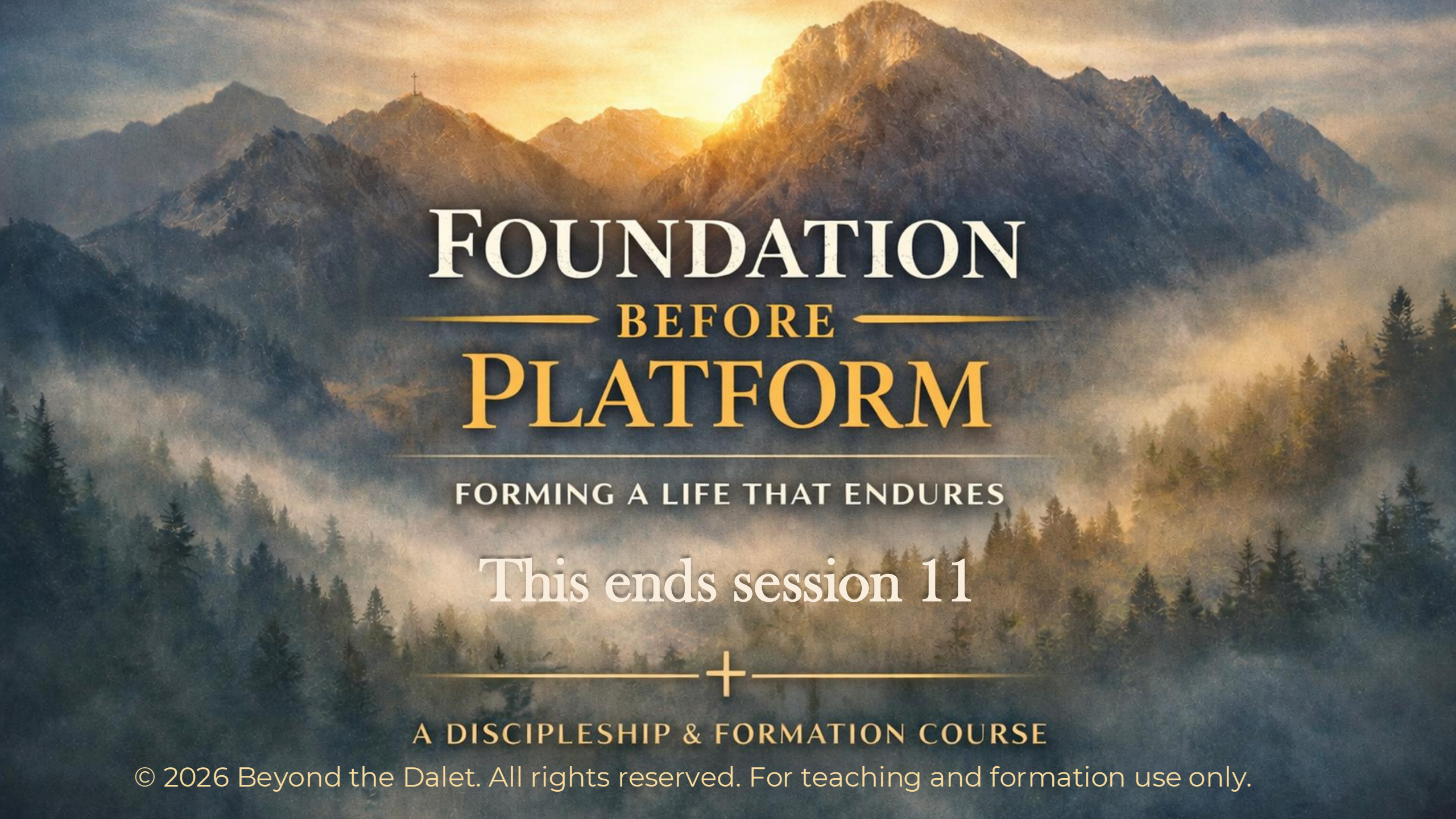
And within that security,  
the Father continues *His forming work.*



◆  
The Father never  
*questions* what Christ  
has already secured.

◆  
We draw near  
*from acceptance,*  
not toward it.





**FOUNDATION**  
— BEFORE —  
**PLATFORM**

FORMING A LIFE THAT ENDURES

This ends session 11



A DISCIPLESHIP & FORMATION COURSE

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