



**Watchful Expectations**

1. [OH, I know, I have been rash to talk out plainly this way to God!] I will [**in my thinking**] stand upon my post of observation and station myself on the tower or fortress, and will watch to see what He will say **within me** and what answer I will make [as His mouthpiece] to the perplexities of my complaint against Him.
2. And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by.
3. For the vision is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end [fulfilment]; it will not deceive or disappoint. Though it tarry, wait [earnestly] for it, because it will surely come; it will not be behindhand on its appointed day.

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**Habakkuk 2:1-3** (Amplified Bible)

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what He will say to me.

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## **Habakkuk 2:1**

“There is no waiting on God for help, and there is no help from God, without **watchful expectation** on our part. If we ever fail to receive strength and defence from Him, it is because we are not on the outlook for it. Many an offer of help and assistance from heaven goes past us, because we are not standing on our watchtower to catch the far-off indications of its approach, and to fling open the gates of our heart for its entrance. He whose expectation does not lead him to be on the alert for its coming will get but little. Watch for God in the events of your life.”

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**C.H. Spurgeon**

**1. Positive expectations and hope are closely intertwined.**

1. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**
3. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
4. and endurance produces character, and **character produces hope,**
5. and **hope does not put us to shame,** because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

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**Romans 5:1-5**

## **2. Biblical hope has as its foundation: faith in the God who cannot fail.**

**Batah** - Old Testament = confidence, security without care.

**Elpis/Elpizo** - New Testament = watchful hope, no doubt attached!

### **3. Biblical hope is a confident expectation or assurance based upon a sure foundation for which we wait with joy and full confidence.**

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

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**Hebrews 11:1** (Amplified Bible)

## **4. Our Biblical hope is a reality and not a feeling.**

- ▶ Biblical hope is the sure foundation upon which we securely anchor our lives, believing that God always keeps His promises.
- ▶ Hope or confident assurance can be ours when we trust His words.



Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

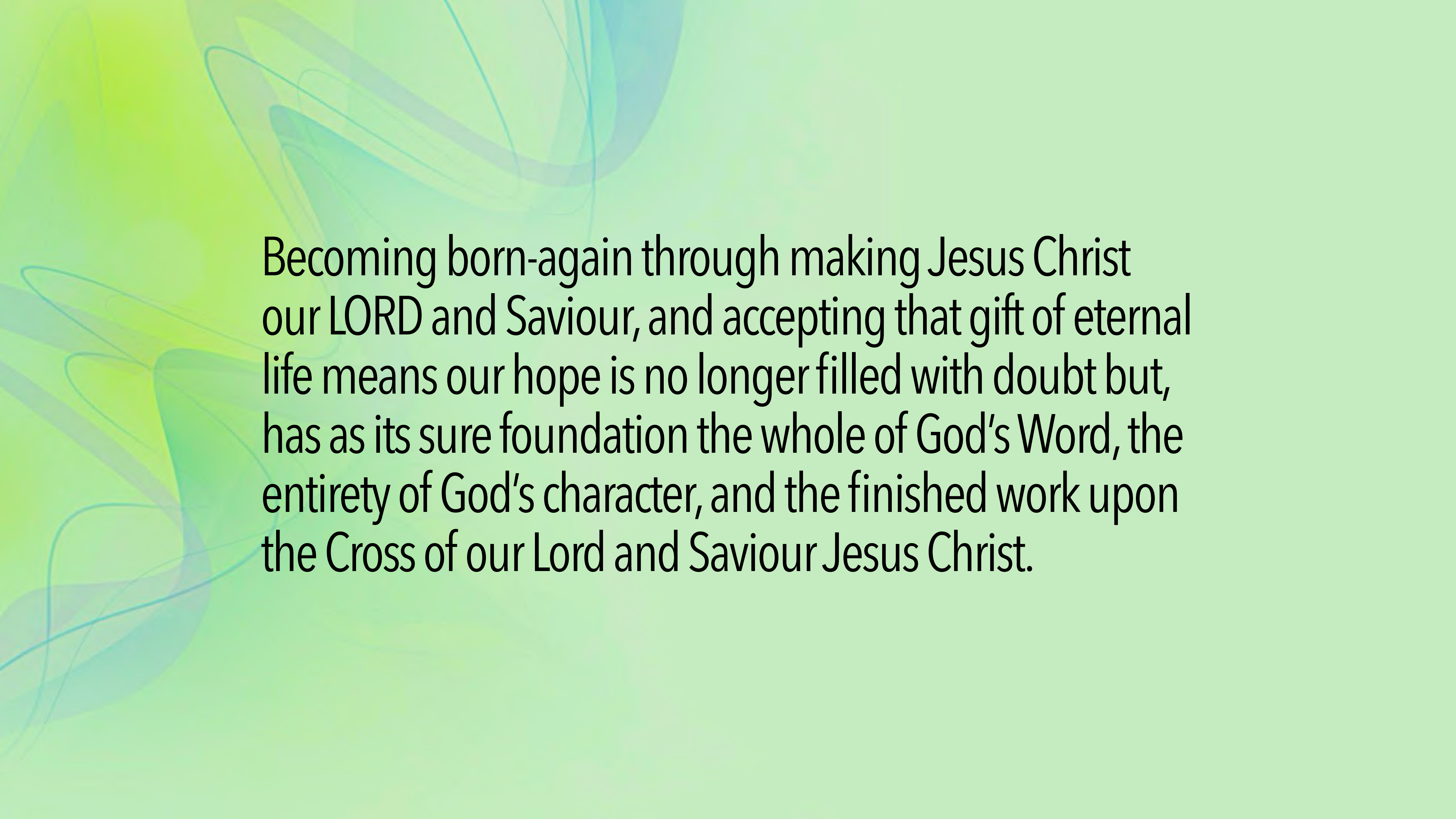
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## Hebrews 10:23

I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, he who believes in Me [who adheres to, trusts in, relies on, and has faith in Me] has (now possesses) eternal life.

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## Hebrews 10:23 (Amplified Bible)



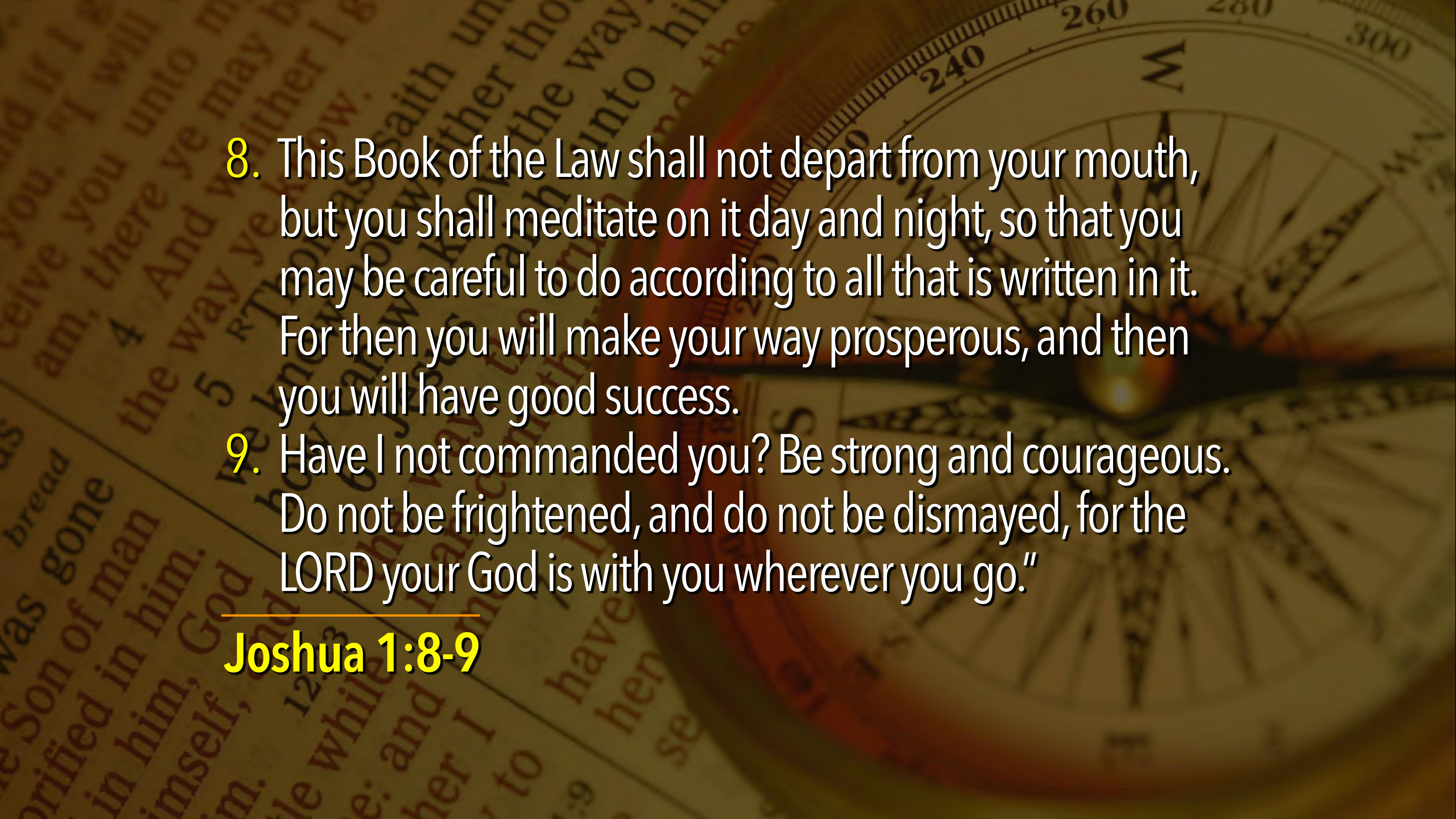
Becoming born-again through making Jesus Christ our LORD and Saviour, and accepting that gift of eternal life means our hope is no longer filled with doubt but, has as its sure foundation the whole of God's Word, the entirety of God's character, and the finished work upon the Cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**5. We MUST have that watchful expectation that He will guide and lead, hear and respond, and speak to us!**

5. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.
6. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.
7. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

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**Joshua 1:5-7**

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8. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
9. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

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**Joshua 1:8-9**

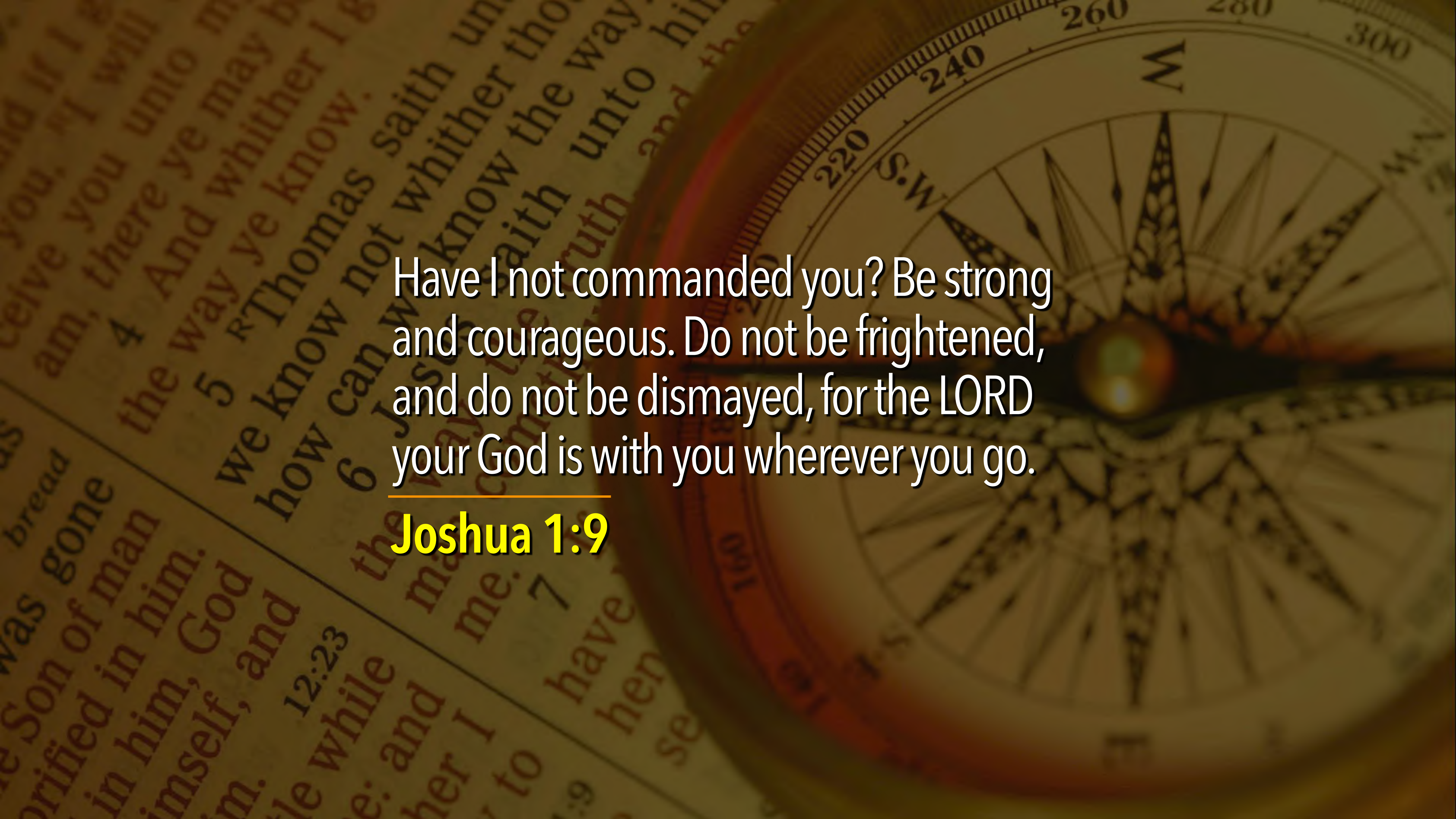
## **6. Immersing ourselves in Gods Word remains paramount!**

... I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

**Joshua 1:5**

Listening to God is absolutely vital to walking successfully with God and securing His plans purposes, outcomes and blessings in our lives.





Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

**Joshua 1:9**

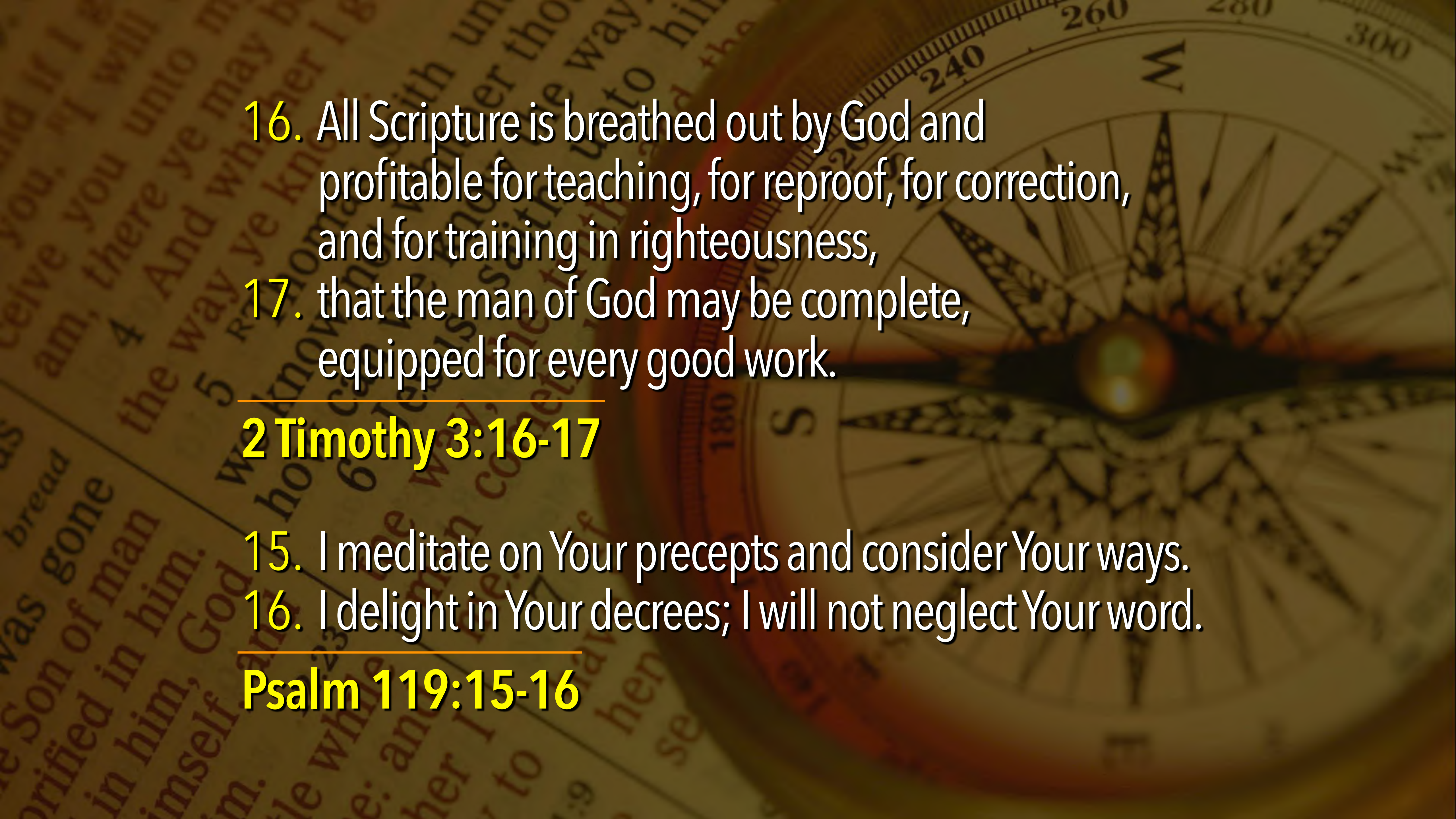
**7. Be Aware! Natural expectations  
are not always correct!**

## **How does God show us to be expectantly watchful?**

- ▶ listening, reading & meditating on God's Word
- ▶ being aware and alert, tuned in
- ▶ in patient stillness, sometimes passive
- ▶ being obedient and active
- ▶ with a heart of thanksgiving and worship

## **How does God show us to be expectantly watchful?**

- ▶ listening, reading & meditating on God's Word
  - John 8:47
  - Revelation 3:20
  - Proverbs 1:5

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16. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
17. that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

15. I meditate on Your precepts and consider Your ways.
16. I delight in Your decrees; I will not neglect Your word.

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## Psalms 119:15-16

## How does God show us to be expectantly watchful?

- ▶ being aware and alert, tuned in

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

**Ephesians 6:18**

- ▶ We must be alert because Jesus is coming back soon.
- ▶ We must be alert because of the opportunities God has put in our path.
- ▶ We must be alert because we know our own hearts, unless we are alert, we will always tend to drift from Jesus.

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

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**Hebrews 2:1**

# How does God show us to be expectantly watchful?

- ▶ in patient stillness, sometimes passive

Let be and be still, and know (recognise and understand) that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth!

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**Psalm 46:10**

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from Him.

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**Psalm 62:5**

# How does God show us to be expectantly watchful?

- ▶ being obedient and active

Make me go in the path of Your commandments, for in them do I delight.

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## **Psalm 119:35**

Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying His commands.

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## **Psalm 112:1**

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,  
who walk in obedience to Him.

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**Psalm 128:1**

Blessed are those who hear  
the word of God and obey it.

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**Luke 11:28**

## How does God show us to be expectantly watchful?

- ▶ with a heart of thanksgiving and worship
- 2. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!
- 3. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
- 4. In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.

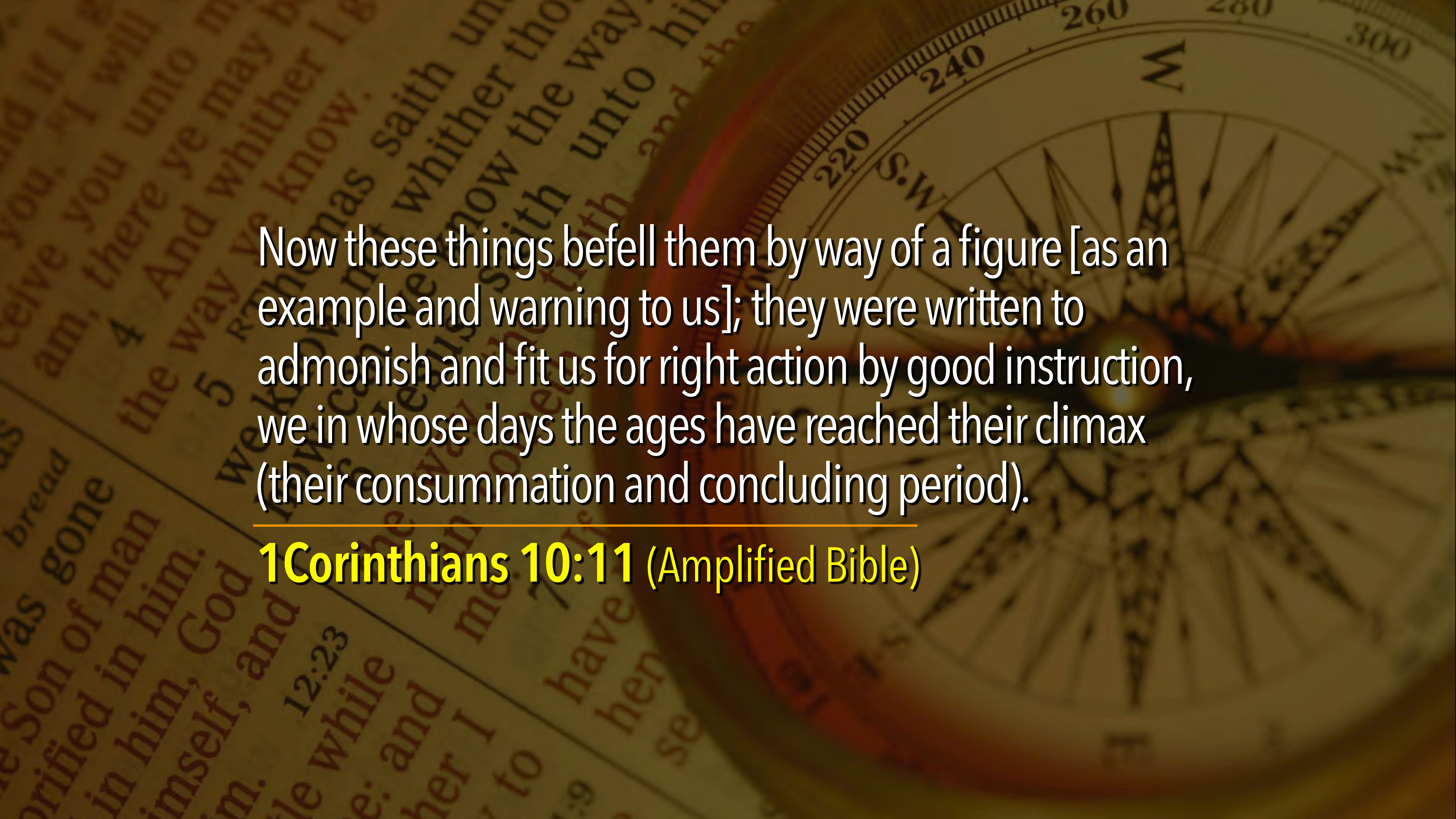
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**Psalm 95:2-4**

5. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.
6. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
7. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you hear His voice,
8. do not harden your hearts.

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**Psalm 95:5-8**



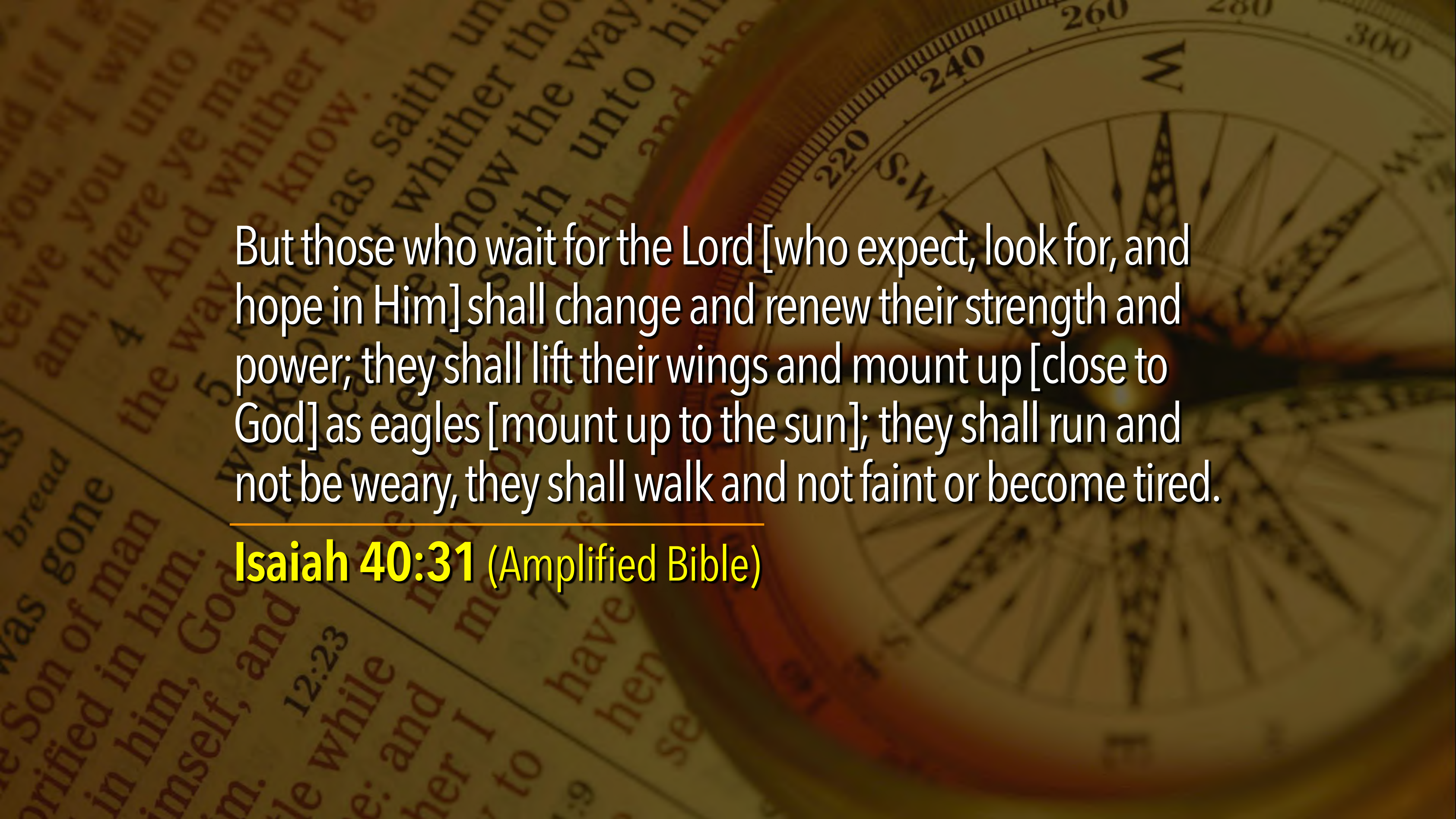
Now these things befell them by way of a figure [as an example and warning to us]; they were written to admonish and fit us for right action by good instruction, we in whose days the ages have reached their climax (their consummation and concluding period).

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**1Corinthians 10:11** (Amplified Bible)

**The time to be more watchful and expectant is NOW!  
The time to be fulfilling these things is NOW!**

- ▶ listening, reading & meditating on God's Word
- ▶ being aware and alert, tuned in
- ▶ in patient stillness, sometimes passive
- ▶ being obedient and active
- ▶ with a heart of thanksgiving and worship

The background consists of a circular compass rose with degree markings (220, 240, 260, 300) and cardinal directions (N, S, E, W). Overlaid on this is faint, semi-transparent text from the Bible, including phrases like "I will", "unto", "saith", "whither", "the way", "unto", "hill", "know", "with", "unto", "hill", "bread", "gone", "man", "him", "God", "and", "while", "and", "her", "I", "to", "have", "hen", "se".

But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.

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**Isaiah 40:31** (Amplified Bible)