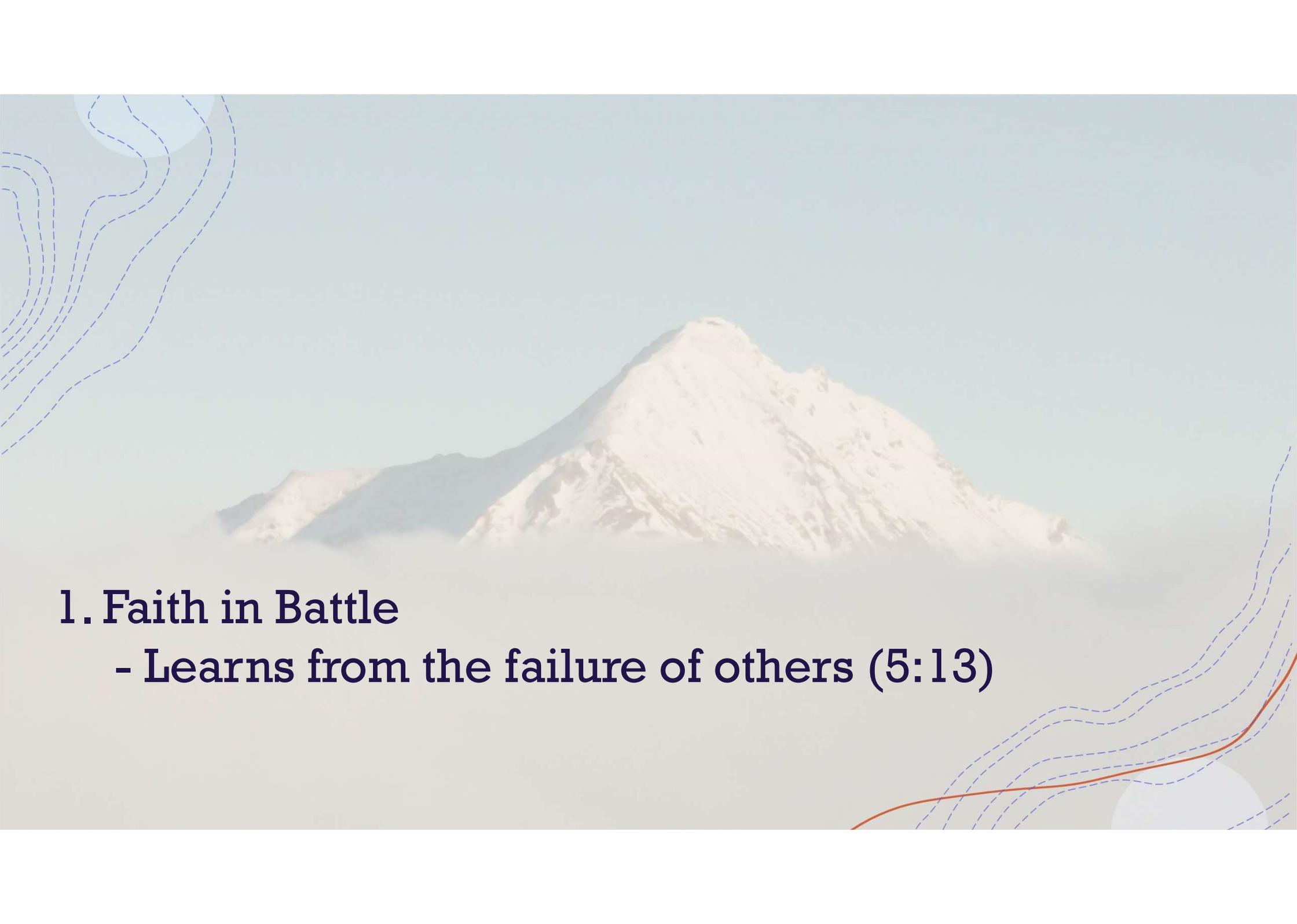


# Future Focussed Faith

## Faith and the Power of God (Hebrews 11:30-31)

Notes and slides from Julian Hardyman's sermon at the morning service  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021



# **1. Faith in Battle**

**- Learns from the failure of others (5:13)**

## Hebrews 3:15-19

**As has just been said:**

**‘Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts  
as you did in the rebellion.’**

**Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years?**

## Hebrews 3:15-19

**Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.**



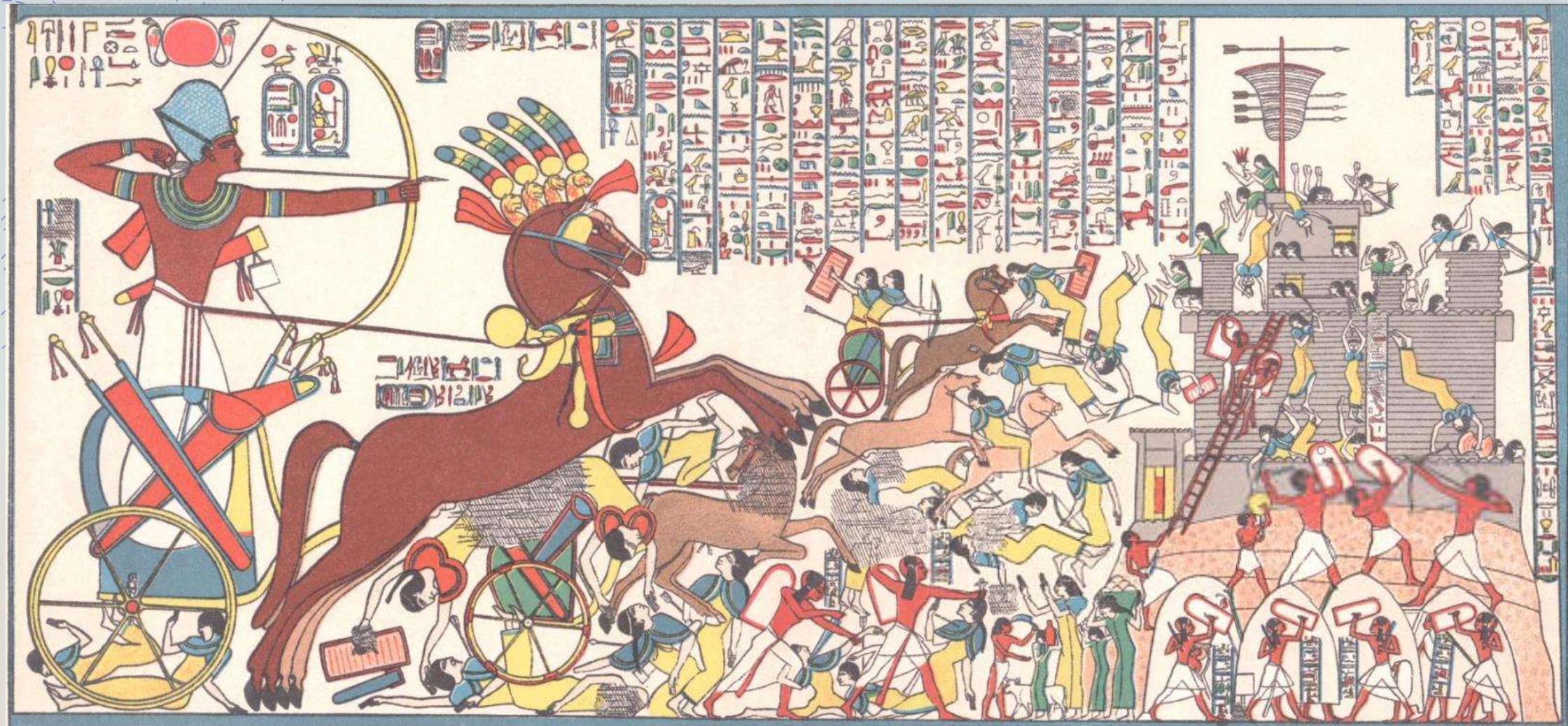
*What examples of sad spiritual failure can you use to spur you onto deeper faith?*



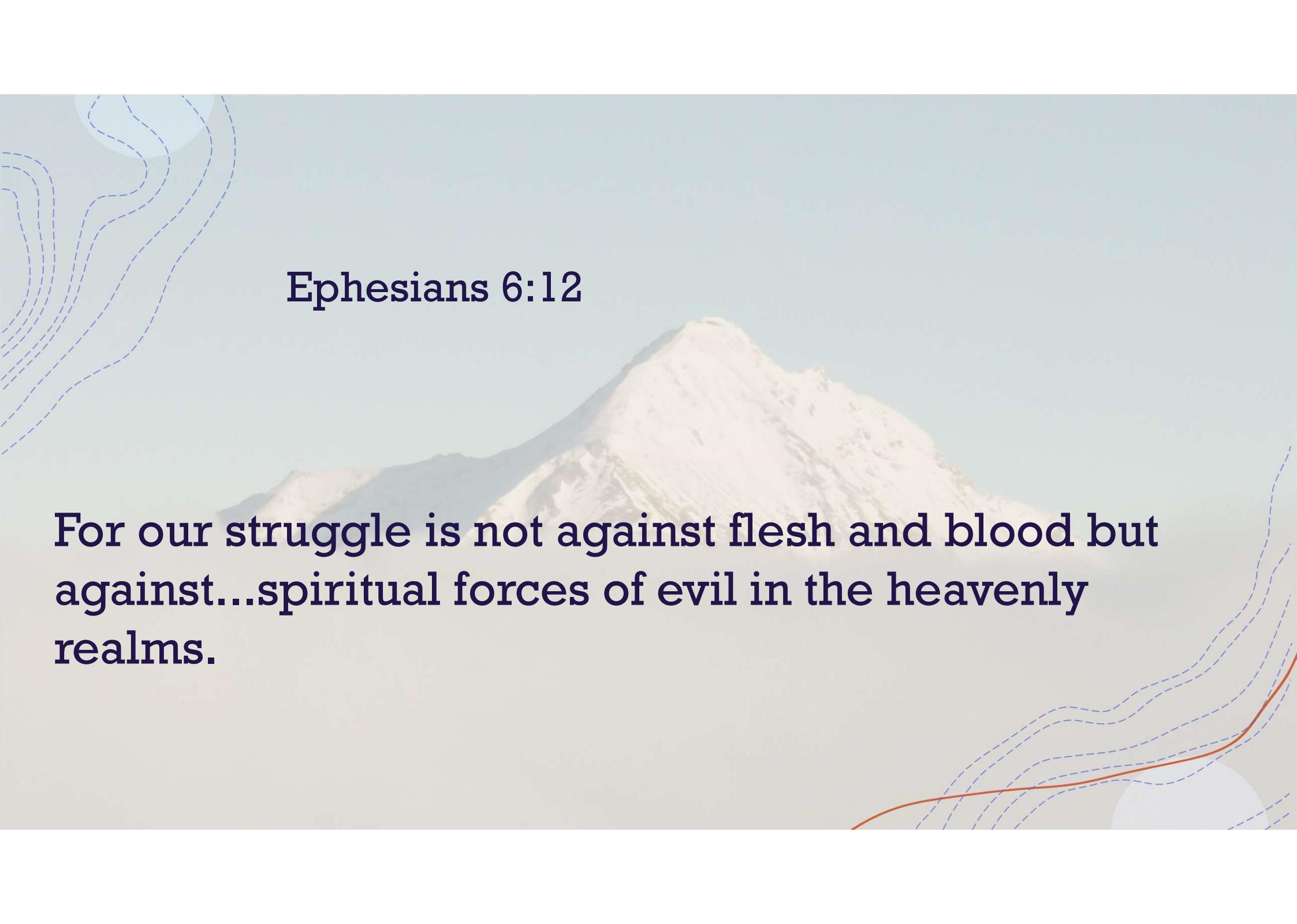


## **2. Faith in Battles**

- Learns to do God's work God's Way**







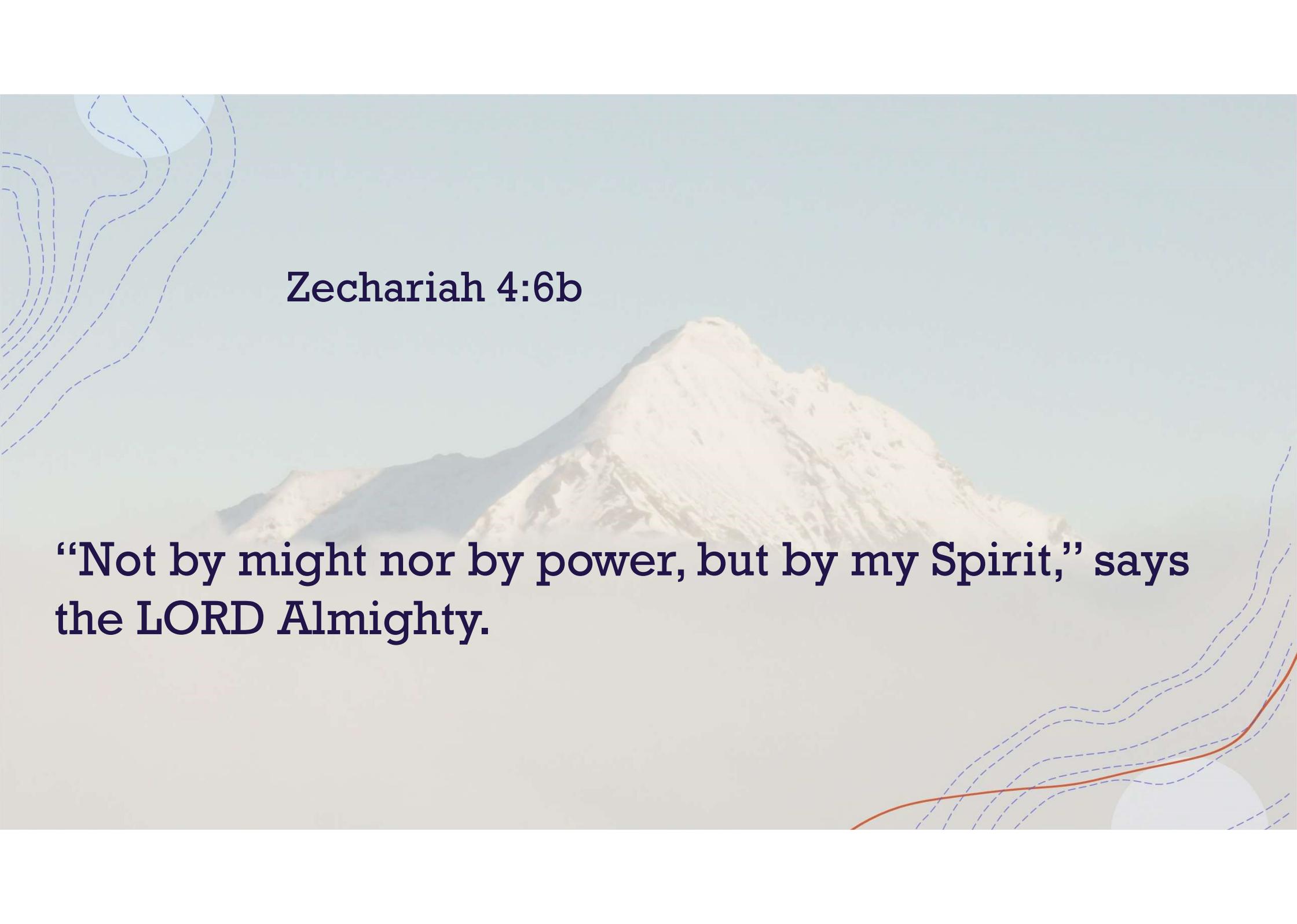
## **Ephesians 6:12**

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against...spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

## 2 Corinthians 10:4

**‘The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to destroy strongholds.’**

**‘Rather, the weapons we fight with are not worldly weapons, but as God empowers [us] we pull down fortresses.’**



## **Zechariah 4:6b**

**“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says  
the LORD Almighty.**



*What are the equivalents for you of walking round spiritual city walls trusting God, rather than attacking them with the weapons of this world?*





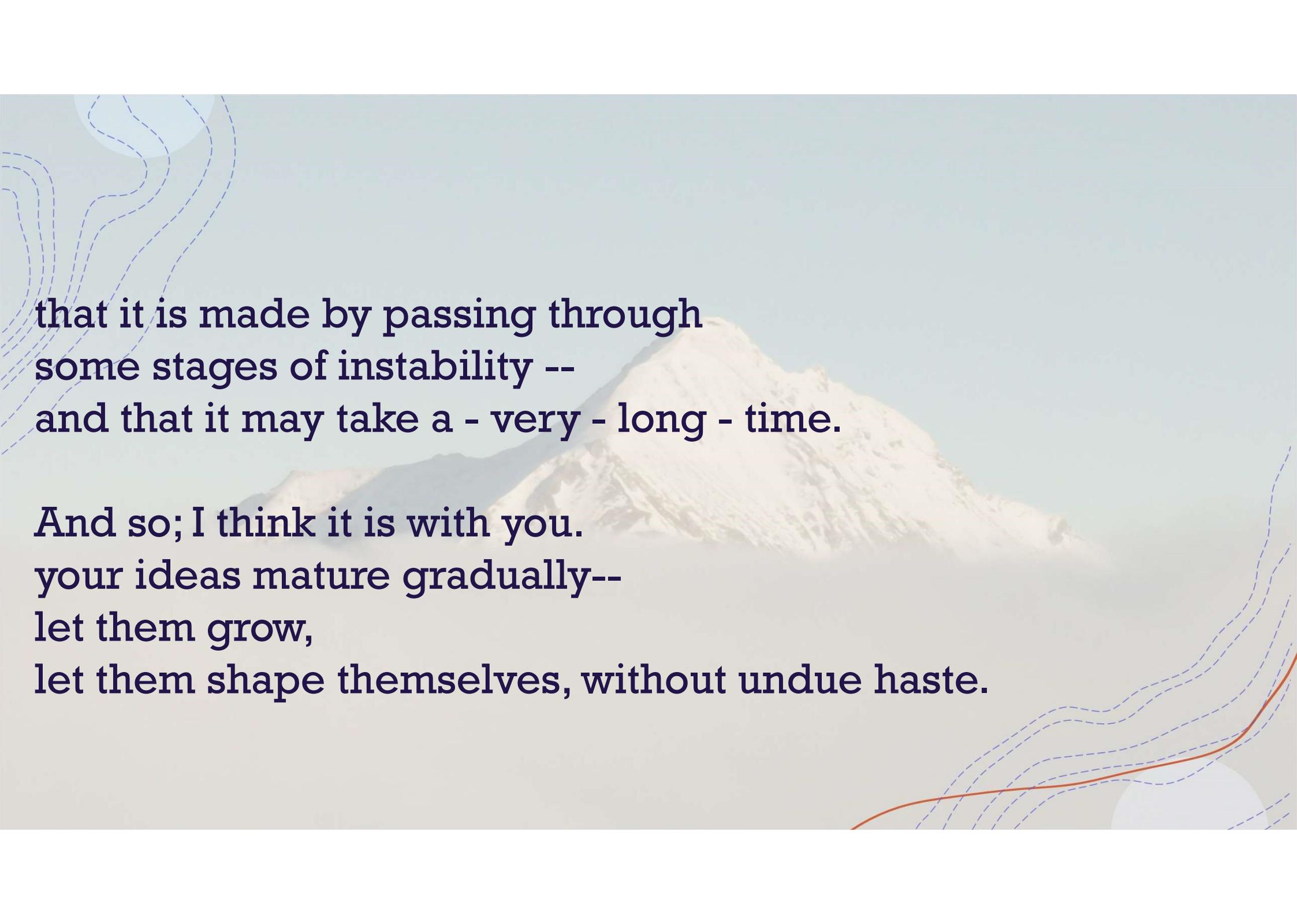
### 3. Faith in Battle

- **Learns to look beyond its difficult background**

*(Julian skipped this point in the sermon)*

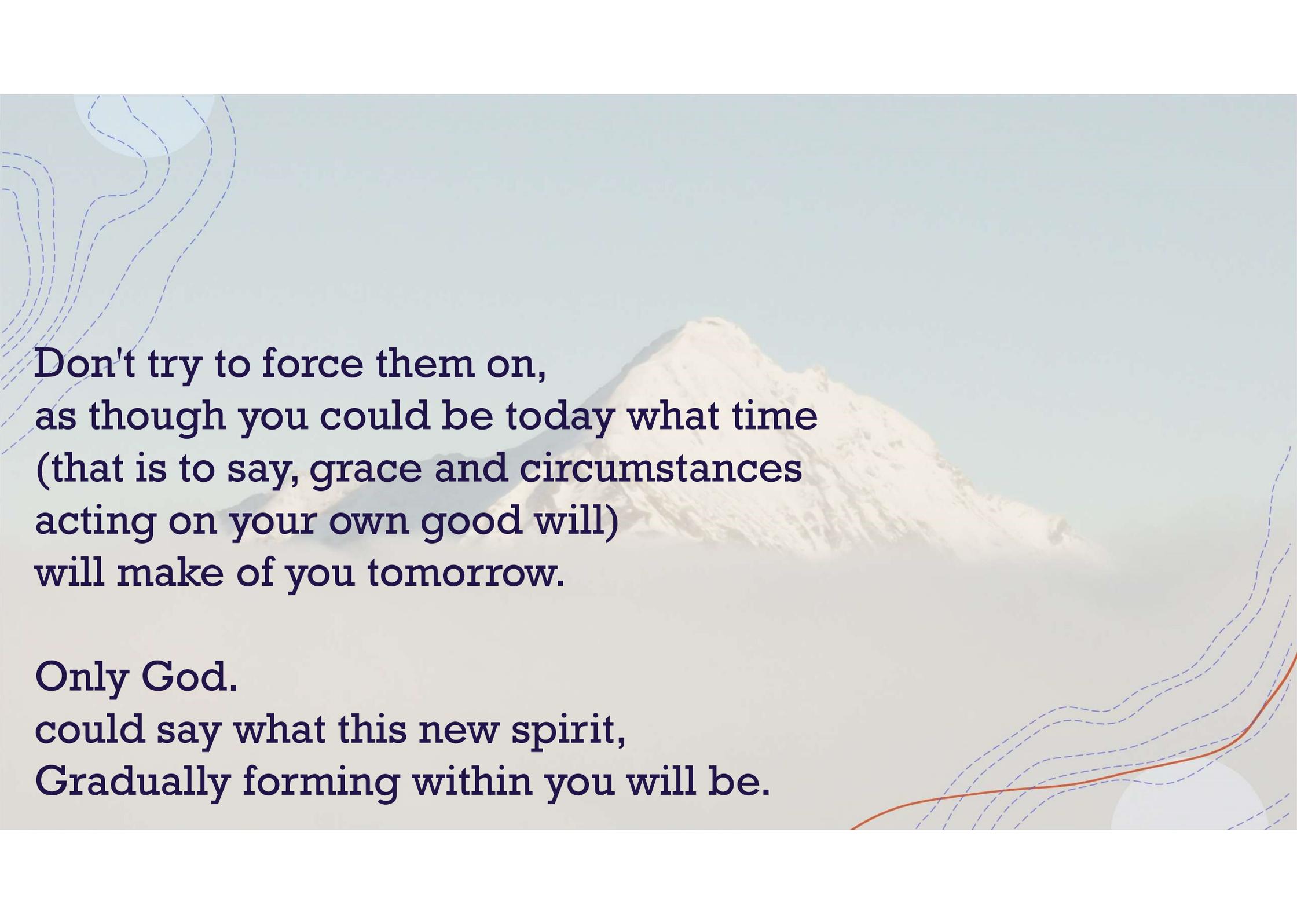


**We are quite naturally impatient in everything  
to reach the end without delay.  
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.  
We are impatient of being on the way  
to something unknown,  
something new.  
and yet.  
it is the law of all progress**



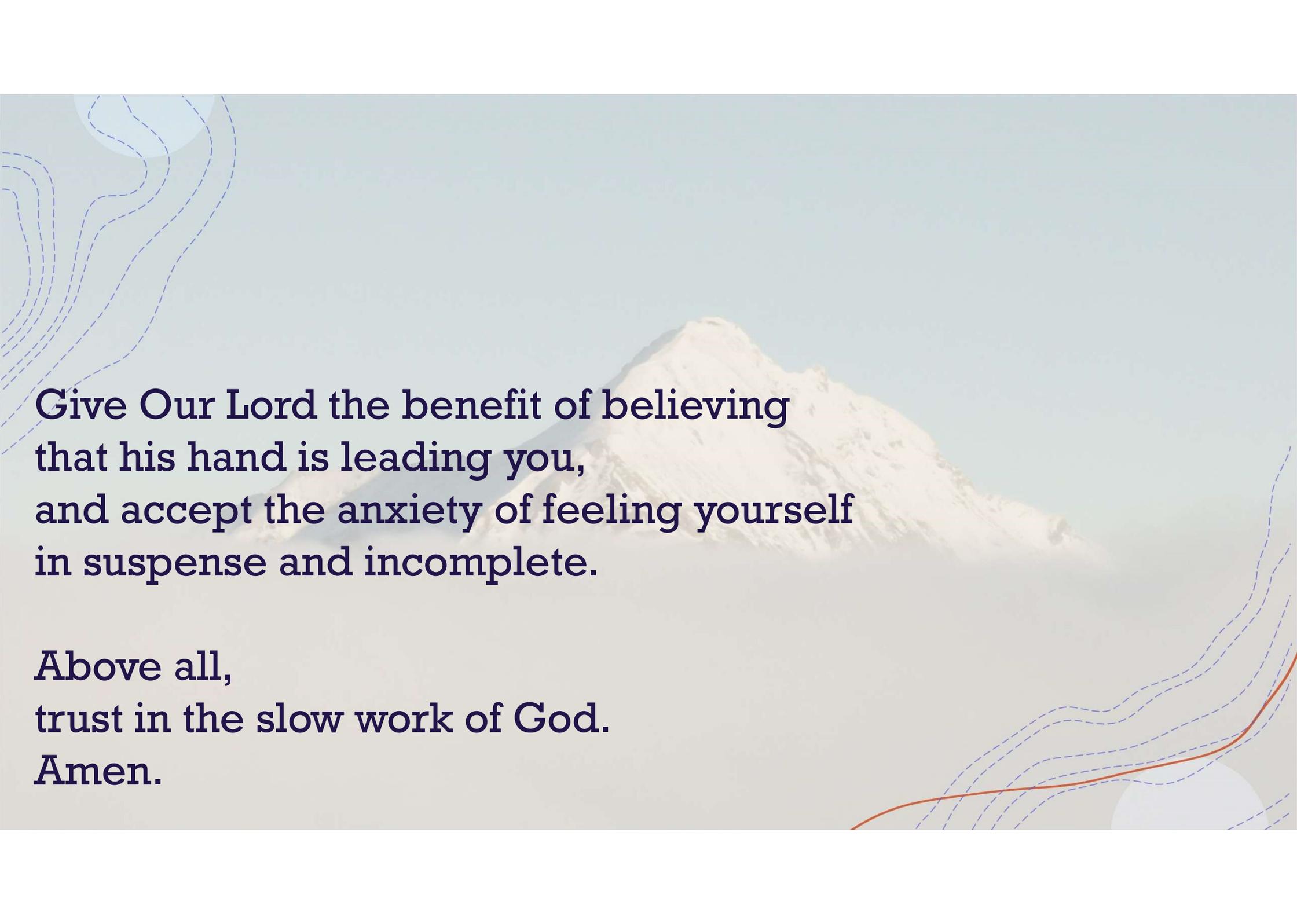
that it is made by passing through  
some stages of instability --  
and that it may take a - very - long - time.

And so; I think it is with you.  
your ideas mature gradually--  
let them grow,  
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.



**Don't try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
(that is to say, grace and circumstances  
acting on your own good will)  
will make of you tomorrow.**

**Only God.  
could say what this new spirit,  
Gradually forming within you will be.**



**Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete.**

**Above all,  
trust in the slow work of God.  
Amen.**