

THE ASCENT

PSALMS 120-134

PART 1
Let The Journey Begin



Psalm 120

I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me.

Save me, O LORD, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues.


What will he do to you, and what more besides, O deceitful tongue?

He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows, with burning coals of the broom tree.

Woe to me that I dwell in Meshech, that I live among the tents of Kedar!

Too long have I lived among those who hate peace.

I am a man of peace; but when I speak, they are for war.



*"The journey of a
thousand miles begins
with a single step."*

ANCIENT CHINESE PROVERB



**The journey of life-long
discipleship begins with
a single action.**

Repentance



A blue-tinted photograph of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, a winding road curves through a valley. In the background, a large, rugged mountain peak rises against a clear sky. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

Since the disciple's journey is long and difficult,
along the way we need **inspiration** to keep us
going, **instruction** to keep us on the right path
and **warning** to alert us to danger.



VERSE 5

Lived in Meshech & Kedar

VERSE 2-3

Deceit was an acceptable way of
life in both places

VERSE 6-7

Both areas were known for violence



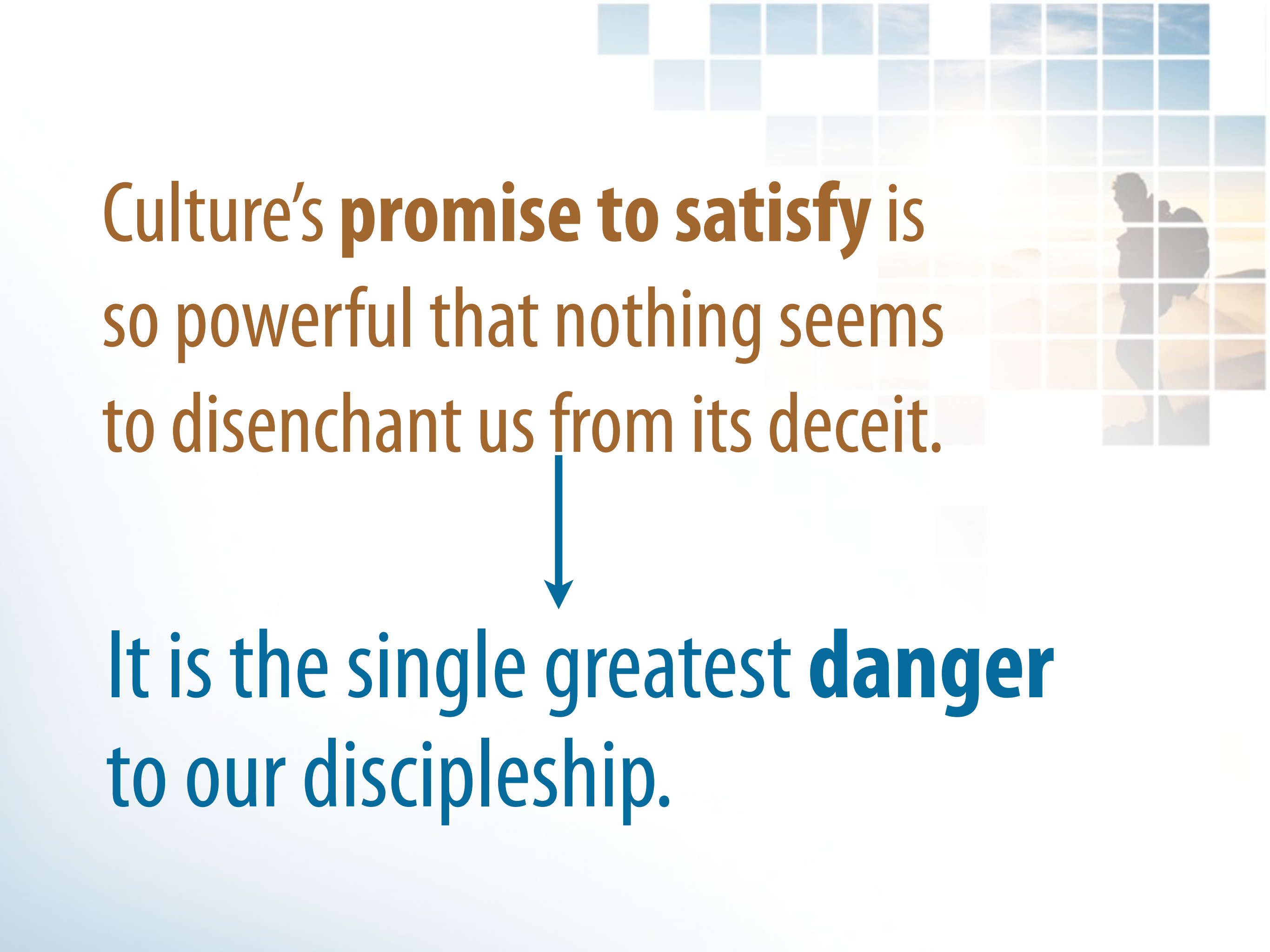
VERSE 1

"I call to the Lord in my distress."



If you are not dissatisfied or
distressed with the way things
are...

It will be difficult to get going
and stay motivated on
your way to God.



Culture's **promise to satisfy** is so powerful that nothing seems to disenchant us from its deceit.



It is the single **greatest danger** to our discipleship.

"I call on the LORD in my
distress, and he answers me.
Save me, O LORD, from lying lips
and from deceitful tongues."

VERSE 1-2



Psalm 120 is the **decision** to take a different path.

The **first step** toward God requires a **step away** from the lies of the world.

"Woe to me that I dwell in
Meshech, that I live among the
tents of Kedar!"

VERSE 5

"Too long I've lived here."

VERSE 6

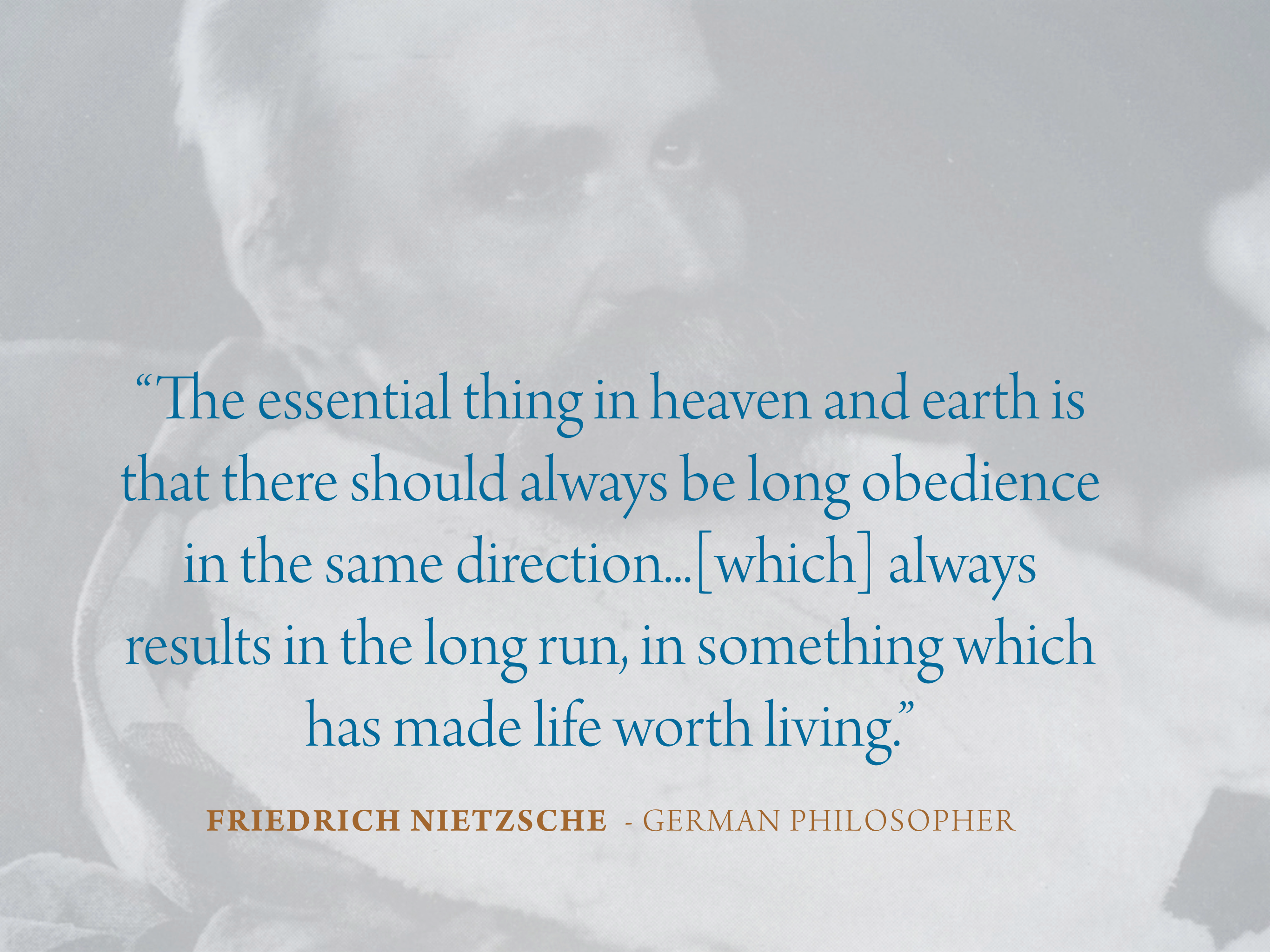


Repentance

not a word of **despair**...it is a word that **decides**.

Repentance

- It is not just reacting to an accusation of sin, it is **responding** to an invitation from God.
- It is not just a turning from something, it is a **turning toward** something better.
- It is not just a moment, it is a **movement**.
- It is not just an act, it is an **attitude**.



“The essential thing in heaven and earth is that there should always be long obedience in the same direction...[which] always results in the long run, in something which has made life worth living.”

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE - GERMAN PHILOSOPHER