

THE ASCENT

PSALMS 120-134

PART 6

Security in an
Unstable World



Psalm 125

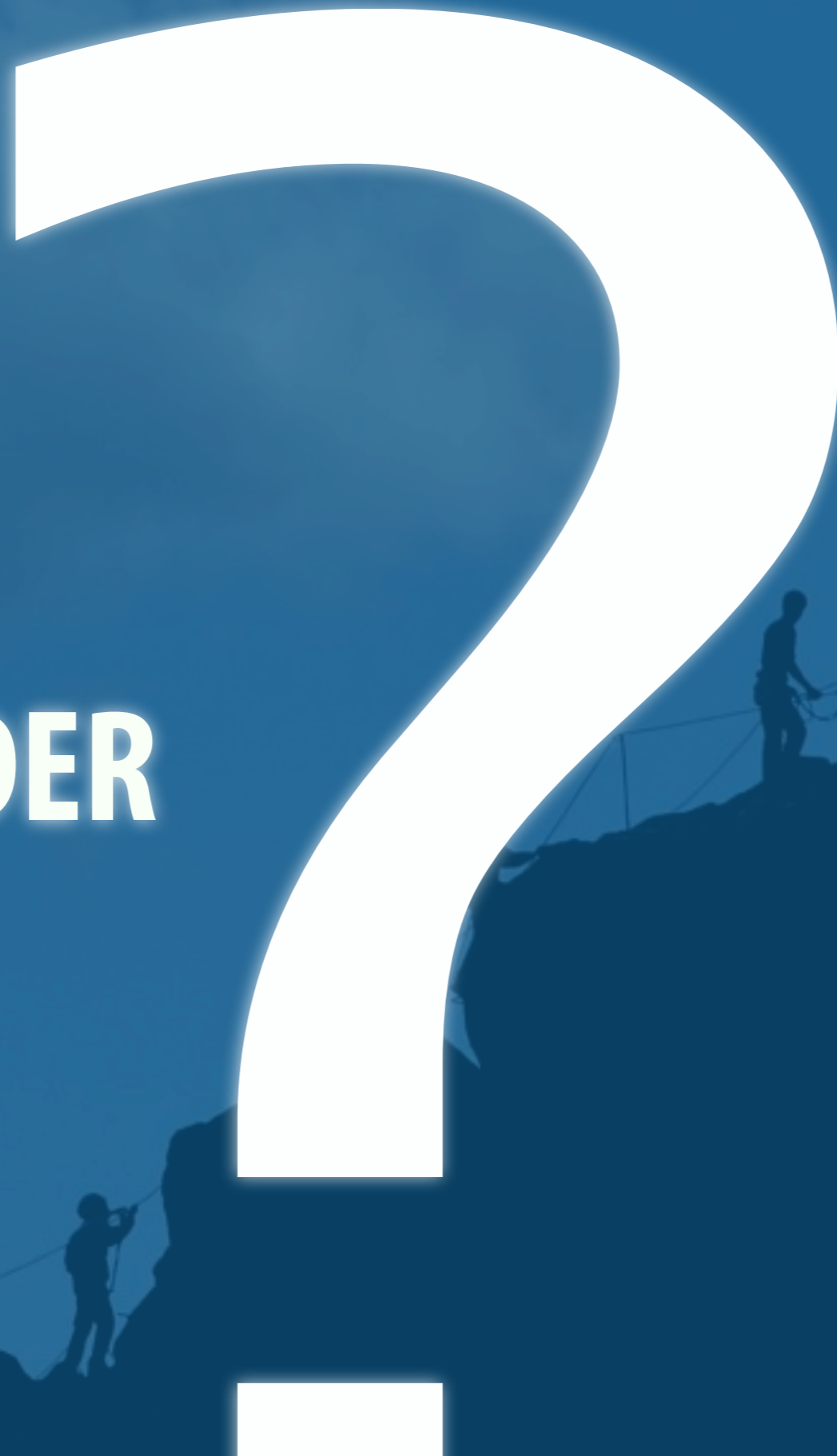
Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore. The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil. Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart. But those who turn to crooked ways the LORD will banish with the evildoers.

THE MESSAGE

*“God will round up the backsliders,
corral them with the incorrigibles.”*



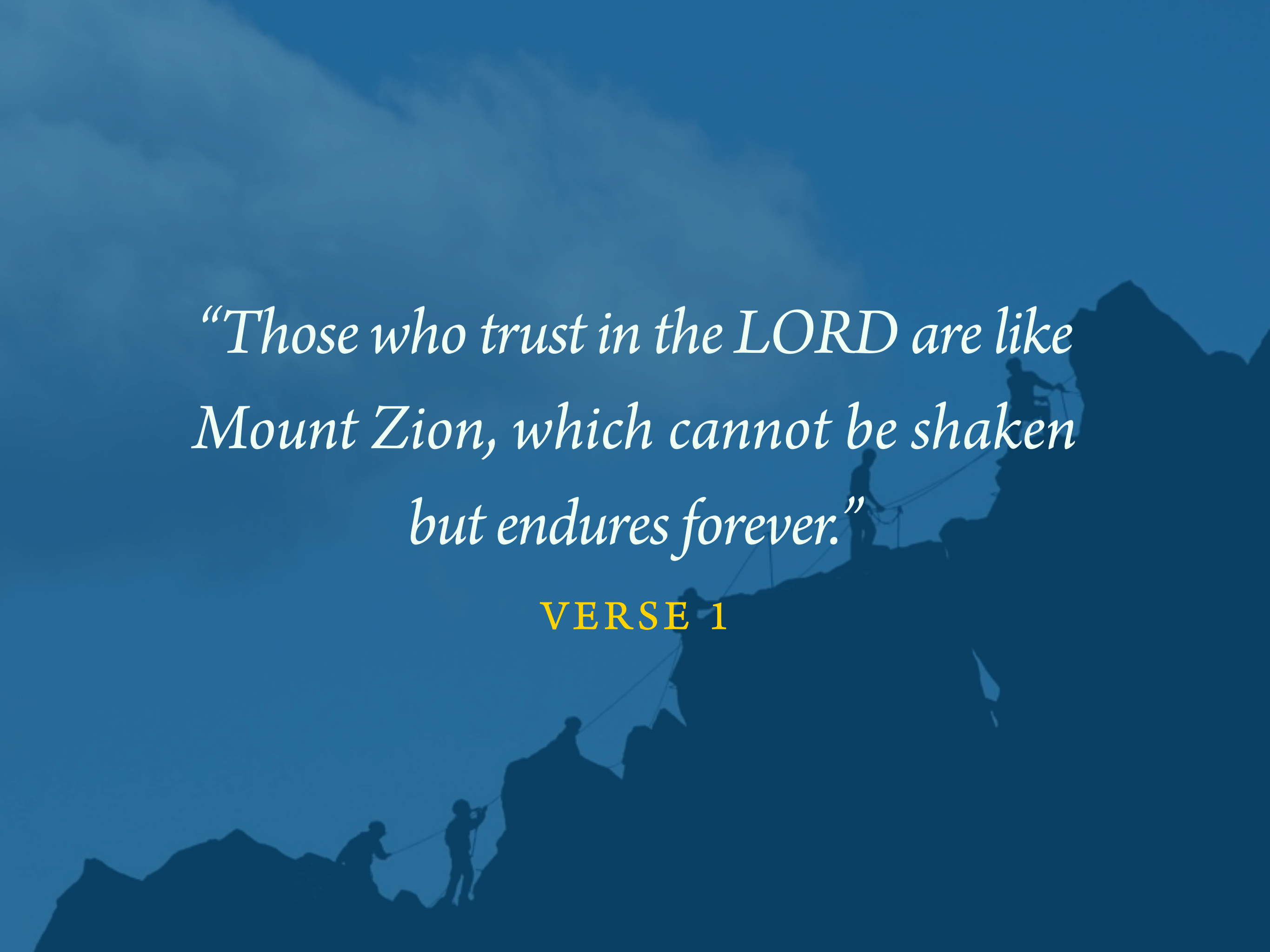
BACKSLIDER



A person's silhouette is visible on the right side of the image, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The text is overlaid on the sky.

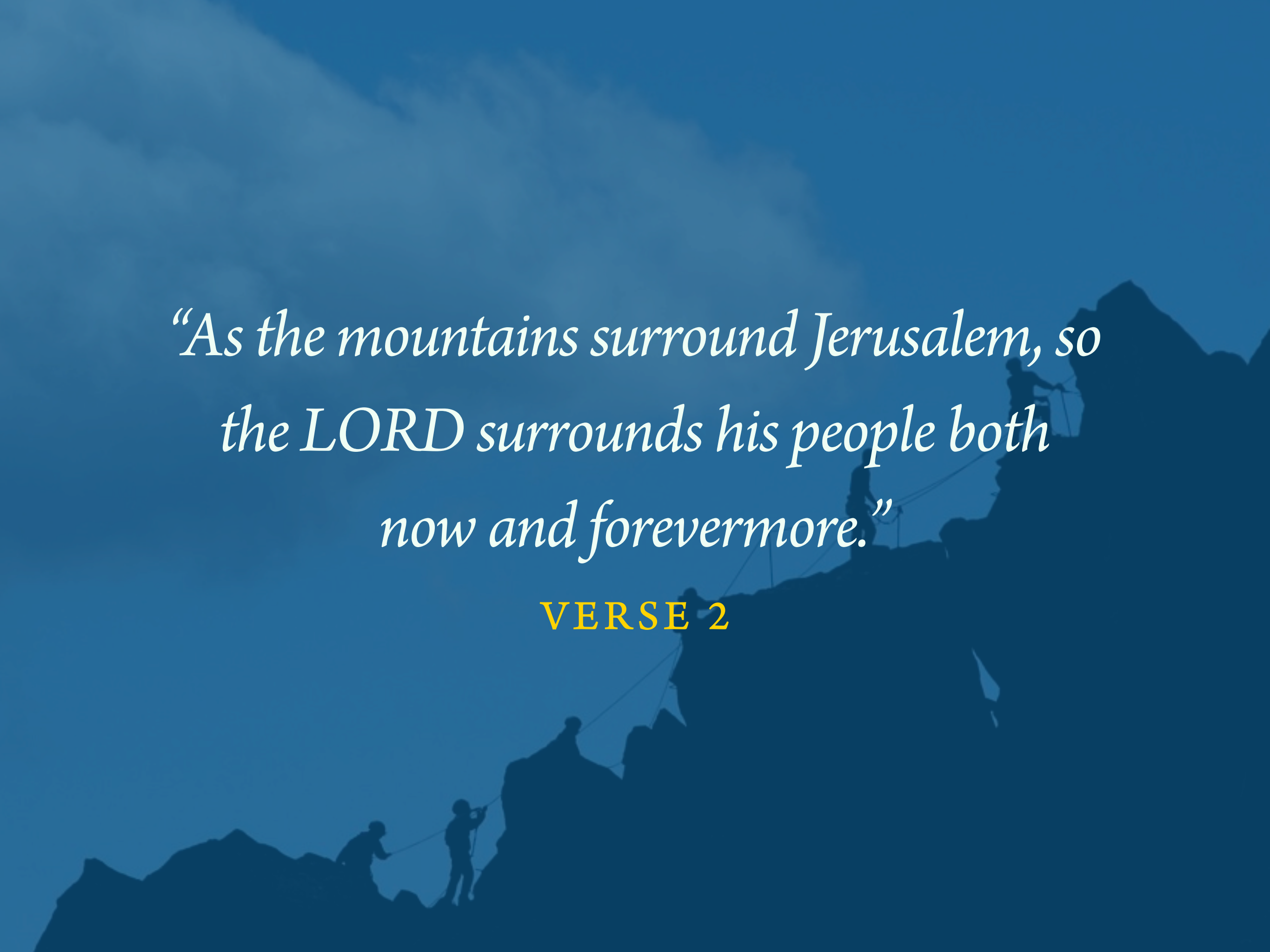
Psalm 125
is a psalm of security.

It is not about the precariousness of
the Christian life, but its solidity.

The background of the image is a solid blue color. In the lower half, there are dark silhouettes of several people climbing a jagged mountain range. They are using ropes and appear to be ascending the peaks. The overall scene is one of perseverance and challenge.

*“Those who trust in the LORD are like
Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken
but endures forever.”*

VERSE 1



*“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so
the LORD surrounds his people both
now and forevermore.”*

VERSE 2

“You go before me and follow after me.”

PSALM 139:5

“The LORD watches over you.”

PSALM 121:5

*“The eternal God is your refuge, and
underneath are the everlasting arms.”*

DEUTERONOMY 33:27

Then, inexplicably,
Three common
sources of spiritual insecurity

#1 Doubt

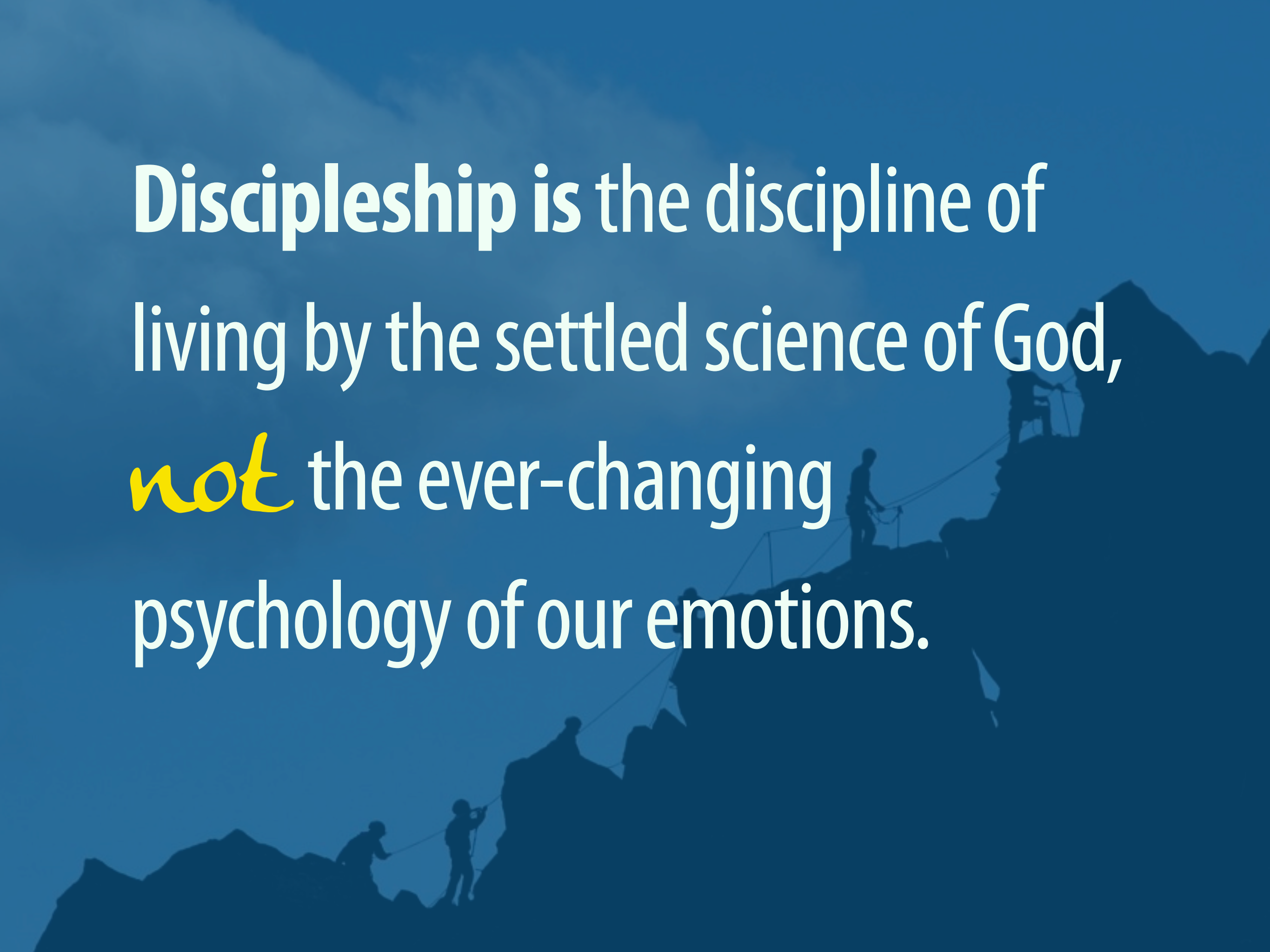
Our saw-toothed emotions
do not make us any less than
beloved children of God.



*“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so
the LORD surrounds his people both
now and forevermore.”*

VERSE 2





Discipleship is the discipline of living by the settled science of God, *not* the ever-changing psychology of our emotions.

Then, inexplicably, out!

Three common
sources of spiritual insecurity

#2 Danger

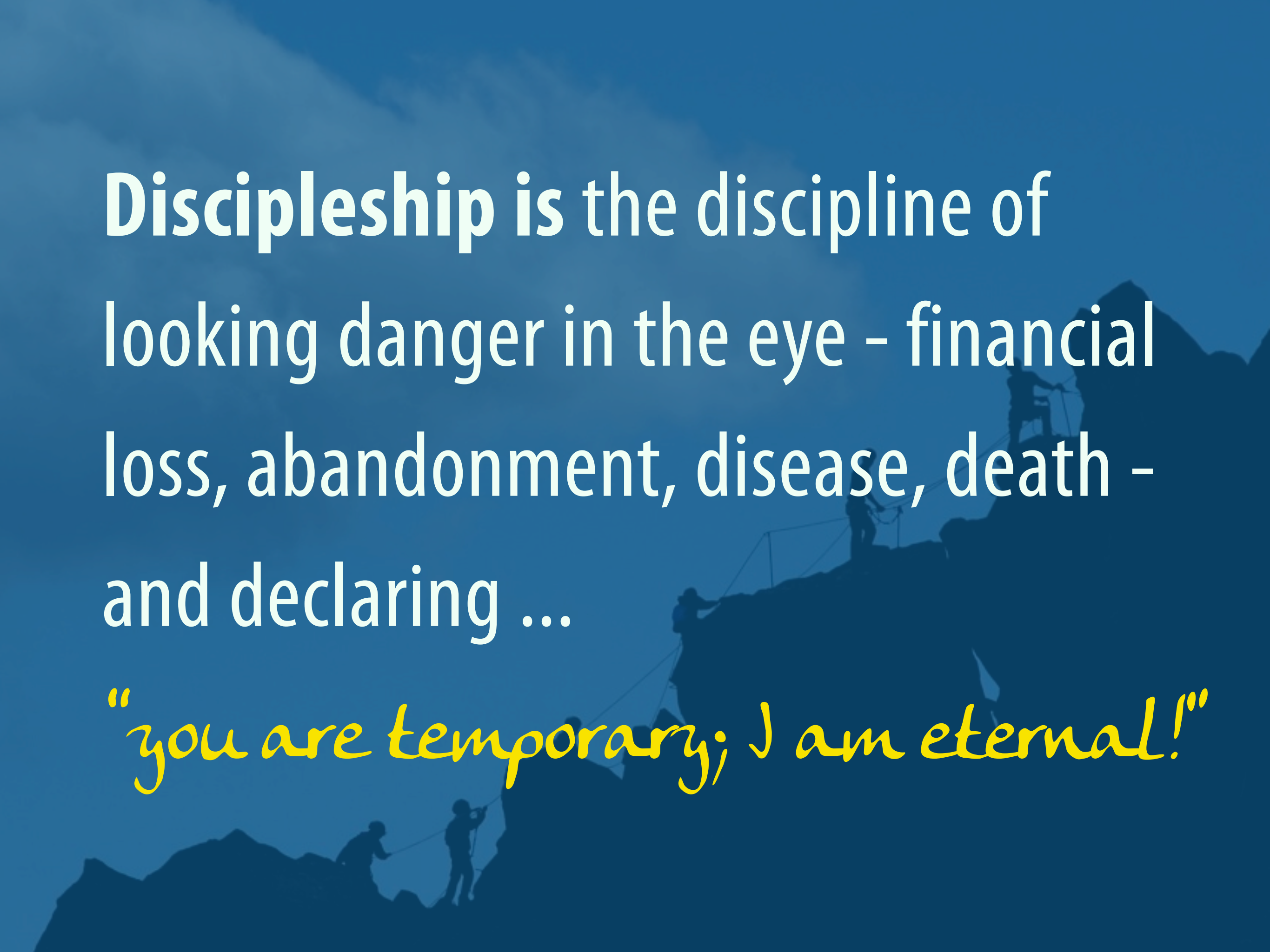
*“The scepter of the wicked will not remain
over the land allotted to the righteous.”*

VERSE 3



A person's silhouette is visible on the right side of the image, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the landscape. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with wispy clouds. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

God's purposes **cannot**
be cancelled as they are
being worked out.

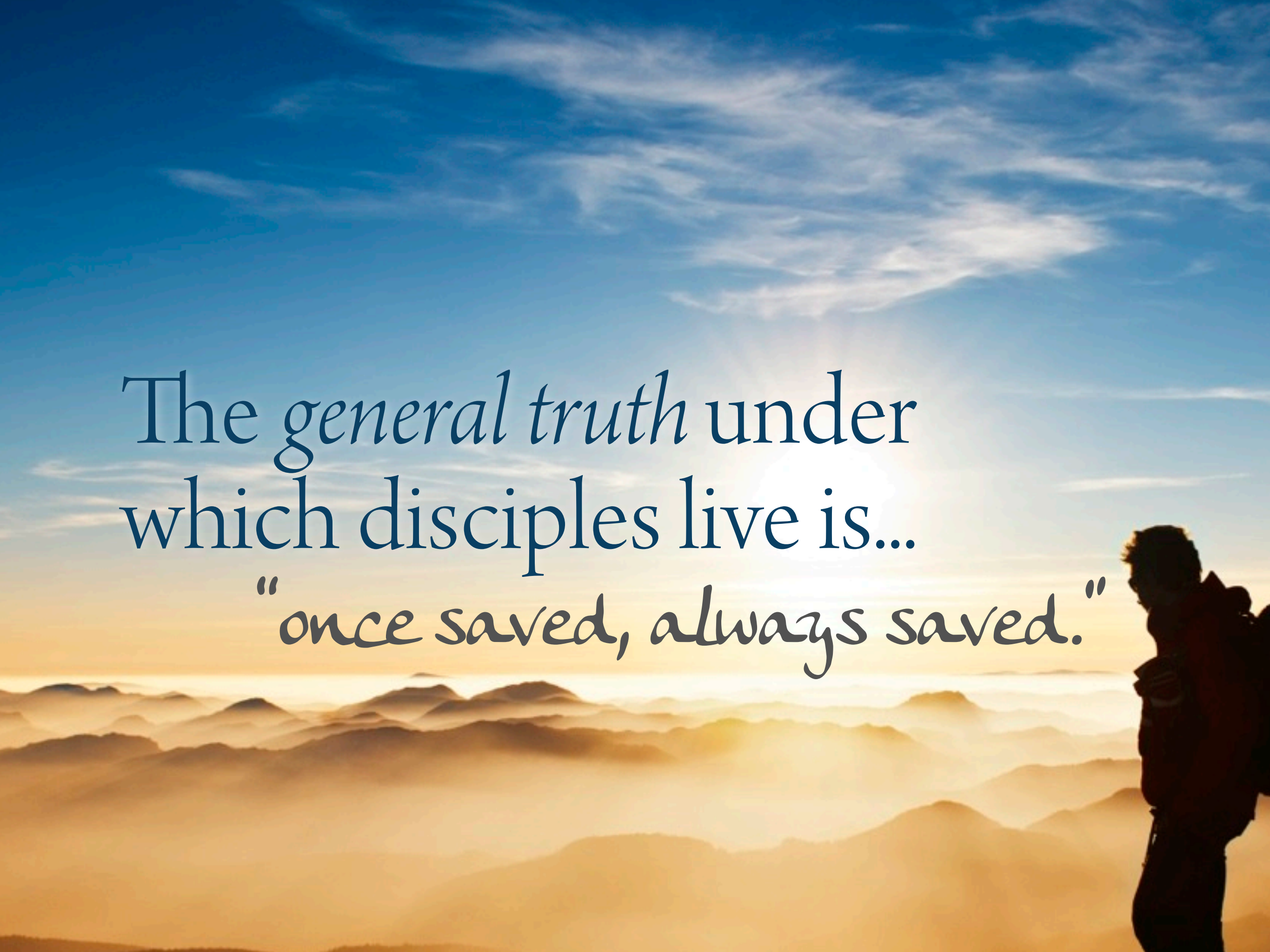


Discipleship is the discipline of
looking danger in the eye - financial
loss, abandonment, disease, death -
and declaring ...

"you are temporary; I am eternal!"

Then, inexplicably,
Three common
sources of spiritual insecurity

#3 Defection

A person with a backpack is silhouetted against a bright sunrise over a vast mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow and casting long shadows. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with wispy clouds. The person is on the right side of the frame, looking out over the landscape.

The *general truth* under
which disciples live is...

"once saved, always saved."



Don't allow your theology,
or your confidence, to be
tyrannized by the exception.

It is not possible to drift
unconsciously from faith to
perdition.

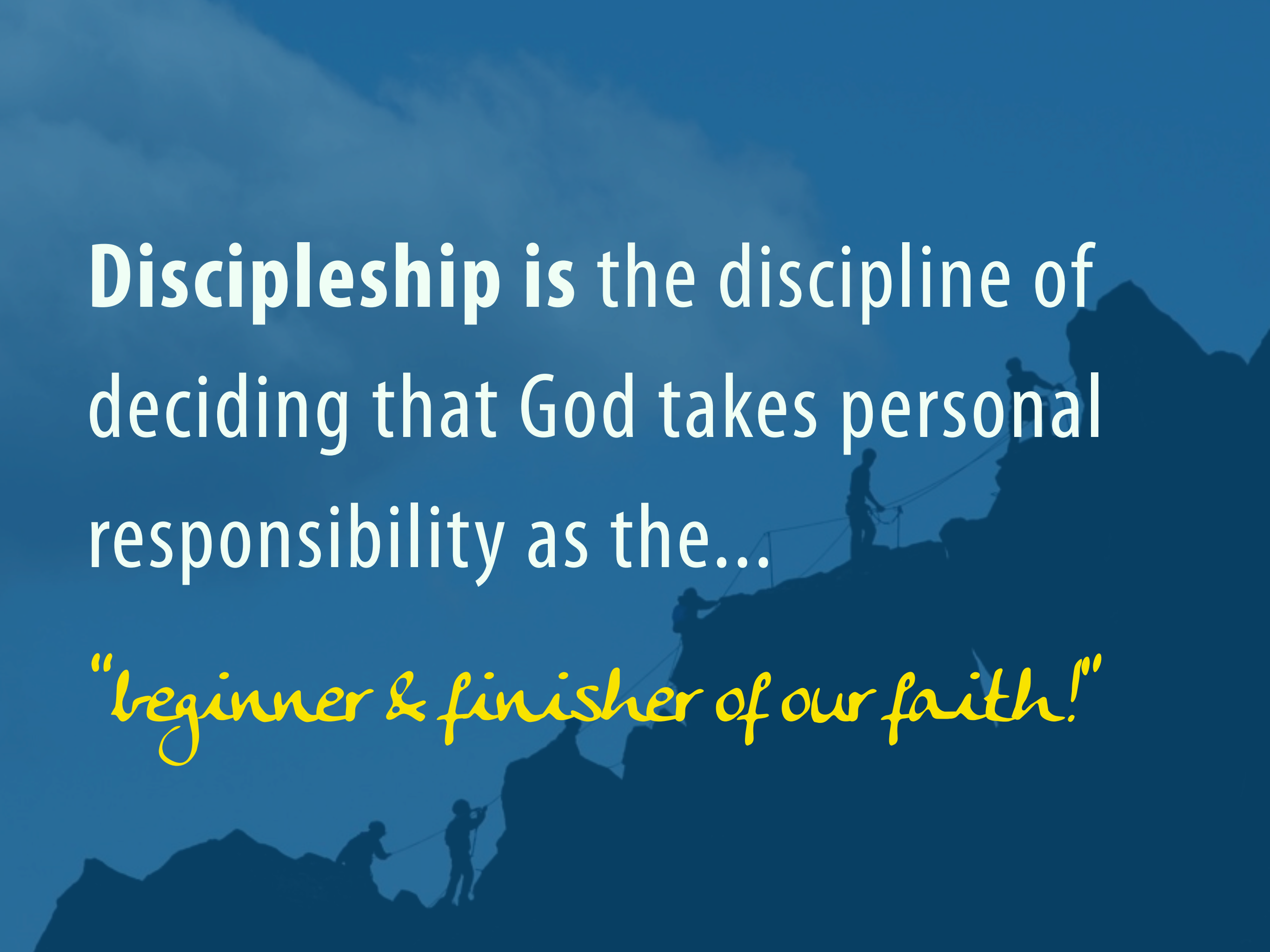
Defection requires a deliberate,
sustained and determined act of
rejection on our part.



Salvation is not a contract that
God will break if we violate our
part of the agreement...

It is a *covenant* in which
He guarantees the results.



The background of the slide features a blue gradient with silhouettes of several people climbing a jagged mountain peak. The climbers are positioned at various heights, with ropes visible, suggesting a team effort in a challenging environment. The overall tone is one of perseverance and teamwork.

Discipleship is the discipline of deciding that God takes personal responsibility as the...

"beginner & finisher of our faith!"

“Jesus is the author and the perfecter of our faith.” **HEBREWS 12:2**

“Fix your eyes upon Him”

“Peace be upon Israel!”

in other words...

Relax



A person's silhouette is visible on the right side of the image, carrying a child on their shoulders. The background features a vast landscape of rolling mountains under a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative.

Your salvation is on
this shoulders