

# THE ASCENT

PSALMS 120-134

PART 9

## Happy Fear



# Psalm 128

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessing and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD. May the Lord bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you live to see your children's children—peace be upon Israel.

*“The easiest thing in the world is to be a Christian. What is hard is being a sinner.”*

**EUGENE PETERSON**



# *FIRST*

Being a Christian is  
what we were  
created for.



# SECOND

The Christian life has the entire created system arranged by the Designer to support it.

# *THIRD*

The Christian has at his disposal all the magnificent resources of redemption.

# FOURTH

God has repeatedly entered our journey to show us how and then empower us to live the life of faith.

# FIFTH

Disciples have continual access to the blessings bestowed upon those who fear and obey God.



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 and casting long shadows. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with wispy clouds. The text is overlaid on the scene.

Psalm 128  
*is a psalm of blessing*

# *three promises of blessing*

**VS.1**

*“Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him.”*

**VS.2**

*“Blessing and prosperity will be yours.”*

**VS.4**

*“This will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD.”*

# *one pronouncement of blessing*

**V3.5-6**

*“May the Lord bless you...continually...with prosperity...  
with old age and lots of grandkids.”*



# *a picture of blessing*

**VS.3**

*“Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.”*



The characteristic of  
blessing is **productivity**:

*Fruit, producing fruit, producing fruit.*



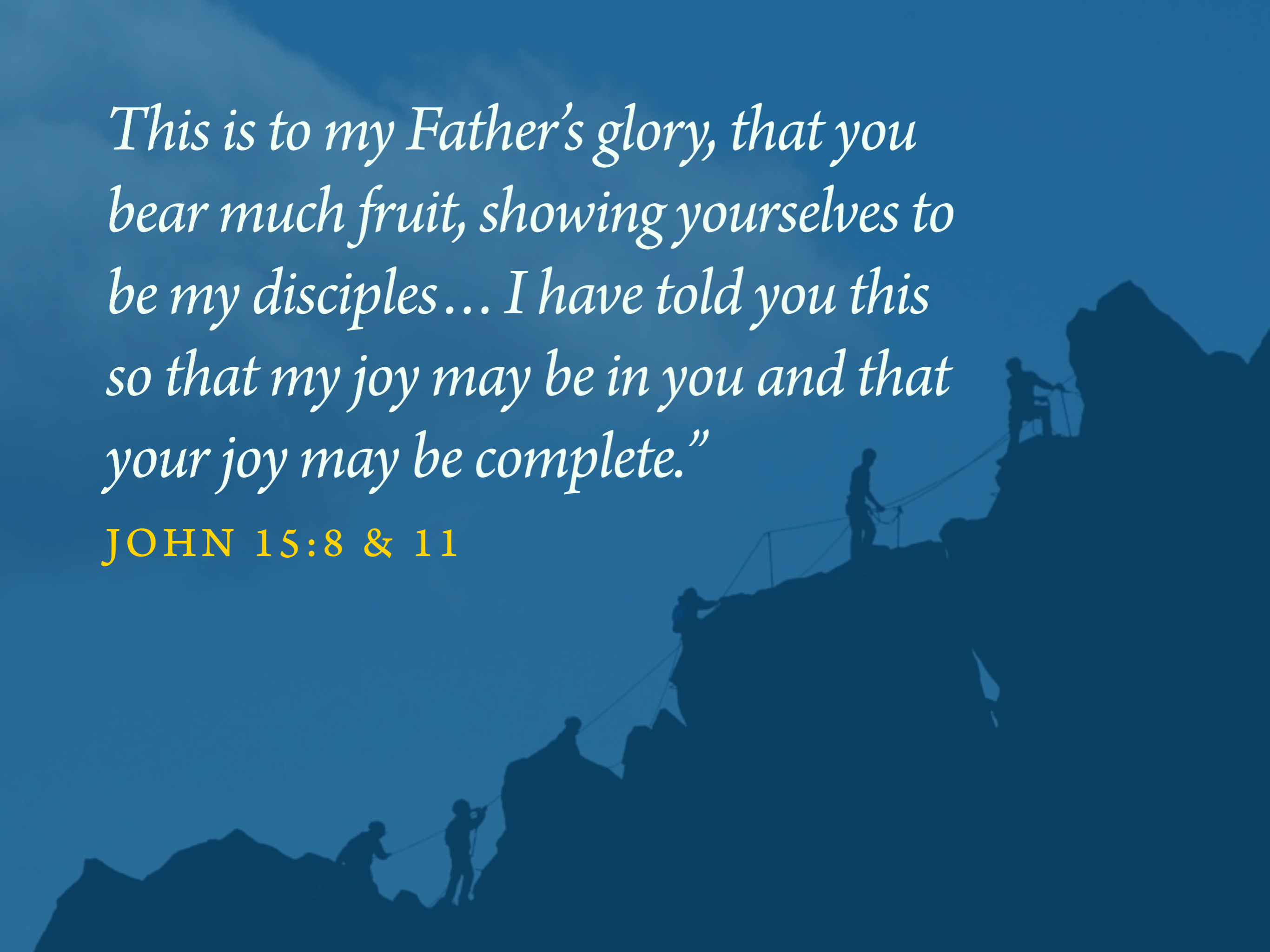
A sunset over a mountain range. The sky is filled with horizontal, wispy clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright horizon. A single tree is visible on the right side of the mountain range.

JOHN 10:10

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

**JOHN 15:8 & 11**



A person is silhouetted against a bright sunrise over a vast mountain range. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the center of the sky, casting a warm, golden light over the landscape. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth and distance. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with wispy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Scripture *is*  
one long exposition of divine blessing



*“He **blessed** them.”*

GENESIS 1:28

*“I will make you a fruitful nation and I will **bless** you... you will be a **blessing**.”*

GENESIS 12:1

*“All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what Jacob said to them when he **blessed** them, giving each the **blessing** appropriate to him.”*

GENESIS 49:28

*In **II Samuel 7**, God covenants with King David to make him richer in **blessing** than any other.*

*In **Matthew 5**, Jesus announced **blessing** (eight beatitudes) upon those who embraced & embodied the key characteristics of God's kingdom.*

***Revelation** wraps up the Bible with a cannonade of **blessing** upon the overcoming believer.*

A person's silhouette is visible on the right side of the image, looking out over a vast landscape of rolling mountains and valleys. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the scene. The sky is a deep blue with wispy clouds. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

The whole Bible stands  
*as a framework for your blessing!*

# Blessing

has little to do with  
worldly wealth, material possession,  
power or fame

*explicitly,*



# Blessing

has everything to do with

- Walking in intimate **fellowship** with God
- Enjoying **partnership** with God to fulfill his purposes on earth
- Having **confidence** that as a consequence, God will bless you with unimaginable fruitfulness in the world to come!

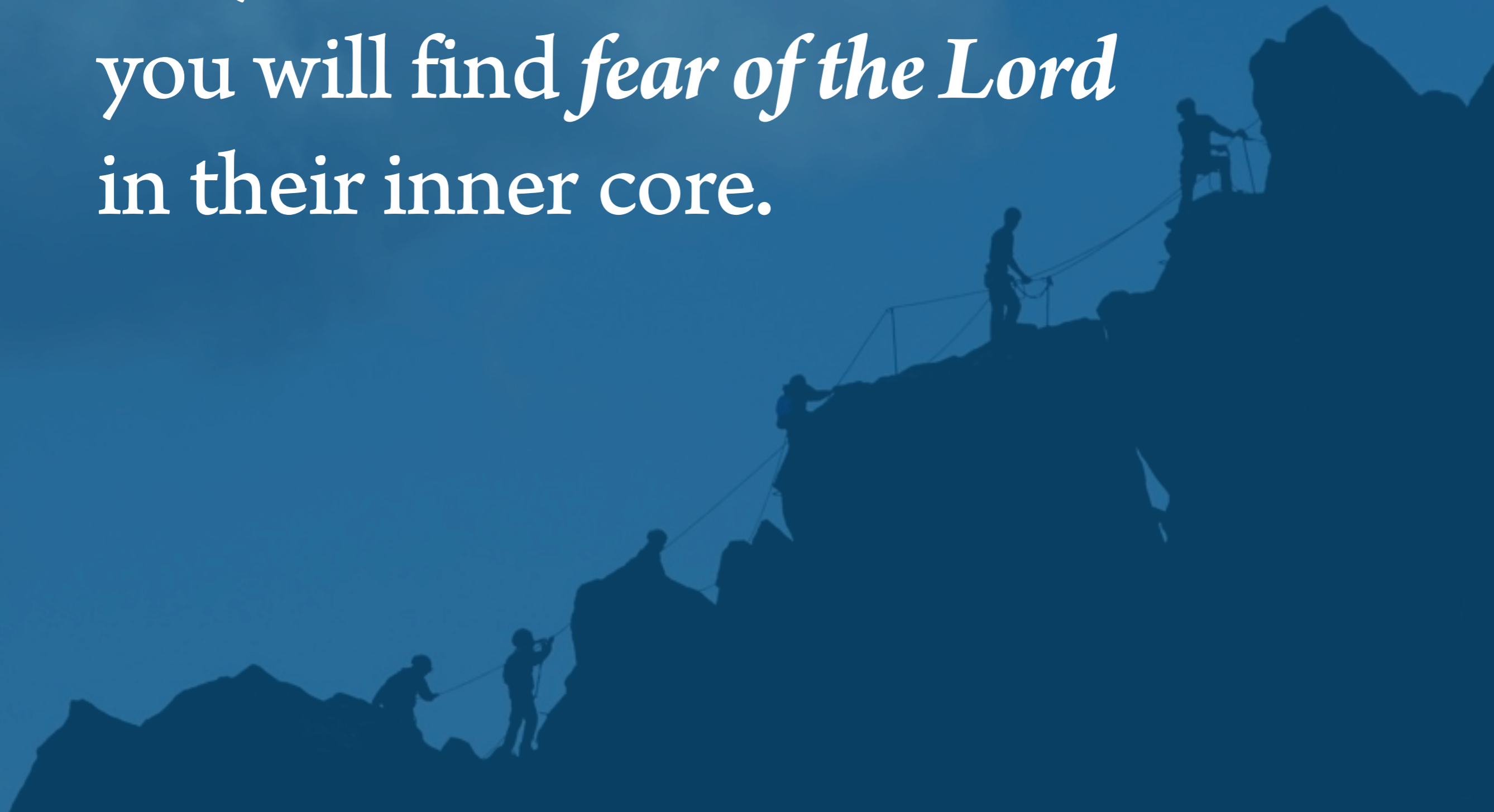
# How do you attain the *blessed* life?

*“Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who  
walk in obedience to him.”*

VERSE 1



For the person who lives a truly God-blessed life, there you will find *fear of the Lord* in their inner core.



# To **Fear** the Lord

*Is to be consumed by love for God's being.*

*Is to be fueled by trust in God's goodness.*

*Is to be characterized by obedience to God's rule.*



A person who arranges their life  
around outcomes of love, trust  
and obedience will know pure  
and unassailable joy





# *Recalibrate:*

take an honest look to see if  
the path you are traveling is  
not going south when the road  
to God's blessing has been cut  
going north.

# *Reflect:*

if the blessing is lacking in your life because of pain, disappointment and sorrow, don't ask, "Why?", ask "*Why hasn't this happened more often?*"

*Rejoice:*

...count your blessings;  
name them one-by-one.

How **has** he blessed you?

**Protection** in troubled times  
*Proverbs 19:23*

**Provision** for your every need  
*Psalm 34:9*

**Prestige** before people  
*Psalm 31:19*

**Peace** in an unstable world  
*Isaiah 33:6*